



India has registered an improved sex ratio, says health survey
page 9



CPI leader and trade unionist Gurudas Dasgupta passes away
page 12



U.S. House approves rules for Trump's impeachment
Page 14



Rohit Sharma looking forward to playing in India's first D/N Test
page 18

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NEARBY



City continues to choke under 'severe' pollution

NEW DELHI
A thick blanket of smog covered the Capital on Thursday with the air quality remaining in the 'severe' category for the second consecutive day. The level of PM2.5, which is a chief pollutant, was almost five times (286.7 ug/m³) the safe limit (60ug/m³) in Delhi and NCR at 8 p.m.

CITY ▶ PAGE 5

Over 100 govt. officials compulsorily retired

NEW DELHI
Over a hundred officials from multiple government departments in the Capital have been compulsorily retired as per the recommendation of review committees formed by L-G Anil Baijal. The government said the step is in line with its aim to "strengthen the administrative machinery" for rendering citizen services in an "honest manner".

CITY ▶ PAGE 3

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FRIDAY REVIEW ▶ 8 PAGES
(TABLOID)

Inferno on wheels



Locals gather near a burning train near Rahim Yar Khan in Punjab province in central Pakistan on Thursday. At least 74 people were killed when gas cylinders used by passengers exploded. ▪ AFP/PAKISTAN'S PUNJAB EMERGENCY SERVICE RESCUE 1122 (REPORT ON PAGE 14)

NSCN-IM back in talks on Naga peace deal, says Ravi

Accord has not been finalised yet, but discussions on track'

VIAJITA SINGH
NEW DELHI

Naga interlocutor R.N. Ravi said on Thursday that discussions to finalise the Naga accord were continuing and the National Socialist Council of Nagaland (Isak-Muivah) [NSCN-IM] had come on board.

Mr. Ravi, who is also the Nagaland Governor, told *The Hindu*, "The accord has not been finalised yet. Matters are under discussion. NSCN-

IM has come on board."

Prime Minister Narendra Modi had been apprised of the latest developments and some kind of agreement with all groups, including the NSCN-IM, would be signed soon, a senior government official said. It is not clear if the accord would be signed before November 2 when Mr. Modi leaves for Thailand or upon his return.

On October 18, Mr. Ravi had said that the Naga peace process would conclude by October 31, adding that there would be no separate flag or constitution for the Nagas as being demanded by the NSCN-IM.

He had also accused the NSCN-IM – with which the Centre had signed a framework agreement on August 3, 2015 – of delaying the talks to find a solution to the decades-old Naga issue.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 12

A WhatsApp spokesperson confirmed to *The Hindu* that Indian users were among those impacted by the spyware and contacted by the company this week to assist them.

Privacy safeguards

On Thursday, Information Technology Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad said the government had asked WhatsApp to "explain the kind of breach and what it is doing to safeguard the privacy of millions of Indian citizens."

He said government agen-

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

The Centre has sought an explanation from messaging platform WhatsApp after the Facebook-owned company confirmed that some Indian users of its app came under surveillance using an Israeli spyware.

Most of those targeted in India were journalists, Dalit and human rights activists and lawyers.

WhatsApp filed a complaint in a U.S. court earlier this week attributing the intrusion to NSO Group, an Israeli technology firm, which claims on its website that its products are used "exclusively" by government intelligence and law enforcement agencies "to fight crime and terror".

A WhatsApp spokesper-

son confirmed to *The Hindu* that Indian users were among those impacted by the spyware and contacted by the company this week to assist them.

It is clarified that the go-

vernment of India operates strictly as per provisions of law and laid down protocols.

There are adequate safe-

guards to ensure that no in-

nocent citizen is harassed or his privacy breached," the official said.

Both the Ministries did not say if any government agency had sought NSO's services.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 12

An MHA official said the

Nirbhaya case convicts told to file mercy plea

Notice says they have exhausted all legal remedies; victim's mother hopes for justice

SAURABH TRIVEDI

NEW DELHI

The Tihar jail administration has sent notices to the four convicts in the Nirbhaya gang-rape case informing them that they have exhausted all legal remedies and are only left with the provision of applying for mercy before the President within seven days.

"All the legal proceedings regarding the case against you [convicts] have been completed. However, the only option remaining in your defence is 'mercy petition'. Hence, the jail administration

seeks to inform you that if you have not filed your 'mercy petition' before the President,

The notices, in Hindi and En-

lish, were handed over to the convicts on October 29. They were read out to them and the process was video-

graphed, he said.

'Convicts restless'

"After getting the notices, the convicts became restless. Fol-

The counsel for the con-

victs, A.P. Singh, said he got a call from Tihar Welfare De-

partment about the notices.

"I will first apply for mercy for convict Akshay Thakur and then the others," he said.

On July 9 last year, the Su-

preme Court had dismissed review pleas filed by three

convicts – Mukesh, Pawan Gupta and Vinay Sharma.



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Data reflect severity of the slowdown

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

NEW DELHI

Output of eight core infrastructure industries contracted by 5.2% in September, indicating the severity of the economic slowdown.

As many as seven of eight core industries saw a contraction in output in September. Coal production fell steeply by 20.5%, crude oil by 5.4%, and natural gas by 4.9%. Output of refinery products (-6.7%), cement (-2.1%), steel (-0.3%), and electricity (-3.7%) too declined.

Sole growth sector

The only segment to post growth in September was fertilizers, where production increased by 5.4%.

The eight core sectors expanded by 4.3% in September 2018, according to official data released on Thursday. During the April-September period, the growth of core industries slowed to 1.3%, against 5.5% in the year-earlier period. "This clearly indicates the severity of the ongoing industrial slowdown," In-

dia Ratings and Research said.

ICRA expects the Index of Industrial Production (IIP) to report a contraction of 2.5-3.5% in September. "Manufacturing may report a year-over-year contraction in September," it added.

Earlier this month, the RBI cut its GDP growth forecast for the current fiscal to 6.1% from the previous estimate of 6.9% after the first-quarter economic growth slipped to an over six-year low of 5%.

LGs take charge in J&K, Ladakh

Valley sees complete shutdown

AMIT BARUAH

SRINAGAR

Jammu & Kashmir became the first State of the Indian Union to be reduced to a Union Territory (UT), with former IAS officer Girish Murmu being sworn in as its first Lieutenant Governor (LG) on Thursday. bifurcated from the former State, Ladakh also became a UT, with former civil servant R.K. Mathur taking over as its LG in Leh.

The Kashmir Valley saw a complete shutdown as Mr. Murmu, a Gujarat cadre IAS officer handpicked by the Centre, became the executive authority of the UT, which will now be directly administered by the Union Home Ministry.

The Indian Union now has 28 States and nine UTs. Former Chief Ministers Farooq Abdullah, Omar Abdullah and Mehbooba Mufti continue to be under detention from August 4, a day before the Rajya Sabha voted to end special status to J&K.

Hours before the swearing-in ceremony at the Raj

Bhavan on the outskirts of Srinagar, this correspondent saw all roads leading to it being sealed off by security forces. There was heavy security in the area.

All shops and business establishments downed their shutters. In earlier weeks, shops were open in the morning and downed shutters by 10 a.m. But on Thursday, all of them were closed.

(With inputs from Peerzada Ashiq)

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 12

Honour 50:50 pledge: Uddhav

TANVI DESHPANDE

MUMBAI

Shiv Sena chief Uddhav Thackeray on Thursday reminded the BJP to keep its word on power sharing in Maharashtra. Mr. Thackeray was speaking after a meeting of Sena MLAs elected senior party leader Eknath Shinde as legislative party leader.

Detailed on ▶ PAGE 13

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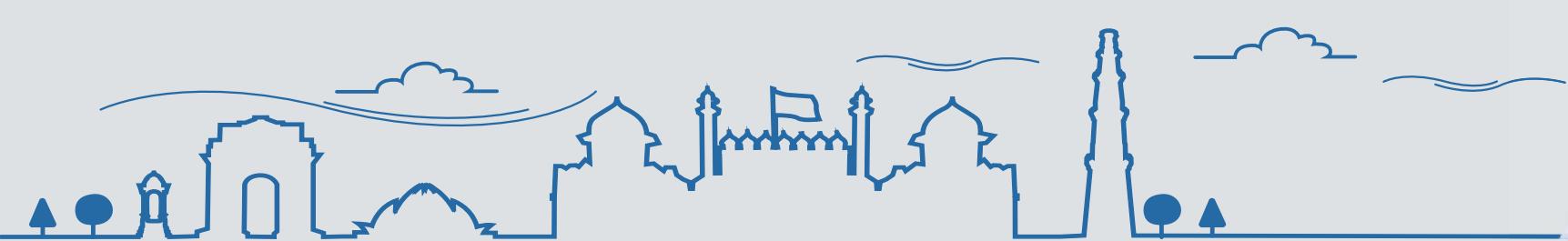
DELHI'S POLLUTION IS DOWN BY 25%

BUT SMOKE FROM STUBBLE BURNING IS COMING TO DELHI
SO, ODD EVEN IS BEING INTRODUCED ONCE AGAIN



Dip/shabdarth/d/0220/19-20

1. On odd dates - 5, 7, 9, 11, 13, 15 November - only vehicles with number plates ending with an odd number - 1, 3, 5, 7, 9 - can ply on the roads
2. On even dates - 4, 6, 8, 12, 14 November - only vehicles with number plates ending with an even number - 0, 2, 4, 6, 8 - can ply on the roads.
3. This rule is applicable from Monday to Saturday, from 8am to 8pm
4. Odd Even rules are not applicable on two-wheelers
5. Cars with only women commuters or cars carrying children wearing school uniform will be exempt
6. Violation of Odd Even will attract a fine of Rs 4,000



IN BRIEF



Pregnant woman hurt
after ambulance overturns

NEW DELHI
A pregnant woman and a senior citizen were injured when an ambulance, in which they were travelling, overturned in Saket on Thursday morning, the police said. The driver, who sustained minor injuries, had lost control of the vehicle. A case has been registered, they added.

Hansraj College embarks on '100 million' campaign
NEW DELHI
Hansraj College tied up with the Kailash Satyarthi Children's Foundation for a campaign to fix the accountability of law enforcement authorities towards the safety and education of children on Thursday. The college would work as a "nodal agency" on the "100 million" campaign in DU for the next two years. The students marched from Hansraj College to Vivekananda statue at Arts Faculty as a part of it.

| Air quality of Delhi-NCR | | | | | |
|---|---------|---------------|---------|--|--|
| Delhi | 410 | Gurugram | 341 | | |
| Ghaziabad | 482 | Faridabad | 402 | | |
| Noida | 452 | Greater Noida | 473 | | |
| Good | 51-100 | Moderate | 101-200 | | |
| 0-50 | | 51-100 | 101-200 | | |
| Poor | 201-300 | Very poor | Severe | | |
| | 301-400 | | >401 | | |
| AIR QUALITY INDEX AT 4 P.M. YESTERDAY (AVERAGE OF PAST 24 HOURS) SOURCE: CPCB | | | | | |

DELHI TODAY

Music: "A Passage to India" a concert by the Vienna Boys Choir. They will perform Classical favourites by Mozart, Rossini and Schumann and an Indian blend with renditions of Qawwali and Bhajans at The Stein Auditorium, India Habitat Centre (IHC), 7.30 p.m.

Exhibition: "Old Delhi", an exhibition of charcoal works by Yuvraj Patil at Delhi 'o' Delhi, India Habitat Centre (IHC), 11 a.m. - 7 p.m.

Exhibition: "An art of feeling workshop", solo photography exhibition by Ashok Kochhar at Experimental Arts Gallery, India Habitat Centre (IHC), 11 a.m. - 8 p.m.

Exhibition: "Ethereal Harmony", an exhibition of recent paintings by Tanu Yadav at Triveni Kala Sangam, 205, Tansen Marg, 11 a.m. - 8 p.m. (Mail your listings for this column to cityeditor@thehindu.co.in)

Over 100 govt. officials compulsorily retired

Decision based on recommendations of panel formed by L-G

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Over a hundred officials from multiple government departments in the Capital have been compulsorily retired as per the recommendation of review committees formed by Lieutenant-Governor Anil Baijal.

The government said the step is in line with its aim to "strengthen the administrative machinery" for rendering citizen services in an "honest, efficient and effective manner" and follows the recommendation of committees to remove "deadwood" and "dark sheep".

Among those who have been retired are 14 officials from the Delhi Development Authority, 61 from the three

civic bodies, 14 from the Services Department, five from the Transport Department, 1 each from the from the DSIDC, I&FC, and Power Departments, seven from the Delhi Jal Board and four from DUSIB, the government said.

"The 'review committees', with the approval of the L-G, were constituted for assessment of officials of the organised cadres like DANICS, DASS, Steno as well as ex-cadres under various departments of the government of NCT of Delhi have compulsorily retired, 14, 61, 14 and 19 officials, respectively, at various levels," the statement added. Meanwhile, 39 officials at various levels of the engineering department of the North Delhi Municipal Corporation were compulsorily retired on Thursday following a review of their performance.

'Against public interest' The directions were to remove those officials whose continuation would be "against public interest", north body Commissioner Varsha Joshi said.

MBA graduate arrested for duping man of ₹80,000 in Gurugram

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
GURUGRAM

An MBA graduate has been arrested for allegedly duping a man of over ₹80,000 on the pretext of booking air tickets online, the police said on Thursday.

The case came to fore when Roli Bawa, a Sector 5 resident, lodged a complaint with the Cyber Crime police station in April this year stating that the accused had duped him of ₹83,843 on the pretext of booking air tickets from Delhi to Kuala Lumpur. Mr. Bawa said he was surfing the Internet for a tour and travel agency when he came across the accused's company and contacted him for booking three air tickets.

The victim said he had paid the accused but neither did he get the tickets nor any refund amount.

A case was then registered and during probe, the police arrested Surya Kanton October 29.

Surya allegedly told the police that he used to generate air tickets online after filling the details, which the victims gave him, and then send its screenshot to seek money from them but never made the payment.

SHAHEED HASAN KHAN MEWATI GOVT. MEDICAL COLLEGE, NALHAR, NUH

Notice Inviting E-Tender

SHKM/NIT-215/2019 (Outsourcing of Laundry Service at, SHKM Govt. Medical College, Nalhar, Nuh)

Dated: 24.10.2019

The Director, Shaheed Hasan Khan Mewati, Govt. Medical College, Nalhar, Nuh, invites online bids under two bid system (Technical & Financial) from eligible and reputed firms, Agencies, Company, co-operative society, contractor for providing the Laundry Services, at Shaheed Hasan Khan Mewati Govt. Medical College Nalhar, Nuh, through e-tendering on web portal www.haryanaeprocurement.gov.in. The Bidder must be having its office in Delhi & NCR, alongwith its Branch Office in Haryana or anywhere in the State of Haryana. The Detail is as under:-

| Description of Work | EMD to be deposited by bidder | Tender document fee and E-Service fee(Rs.) | Start date and time of bid preparation and submission | Expiry date and time of EMD submission | Expiry date and time of bid preparation adn submision |
|--|-------------------------------|--|---|--|---|
| Outsourcing of Laundry Services at SHKM Govt. Medical College, Nalhar, Nuh as described in scope of work | 40,000/- | 3000+1000 | 05/11/2019 upto 05:00pm | 20/11/2019 upto 05:00pm | 21/11/2019 11:00 AM |

Note-The bids will be opened in the presence of the prospective parties on 21.11.2019 at 11:00 A.M. in the office of Director Shaheed Hasan Khan Mewati Govt. Medical College Nalhar, Nuh .

- For participating in above e-tenders, the agencies/tenderer shall have to get themselves registered with <https://etenders.hry.nic.in/nicqep/app> and get user ID and password. Class 2/3/digital signature certificate(DSC) is mandatory to participate in e-tendering process. Amendment if any shall be hosted only on website and not through advertisement. Conditional and incomplete tenders will not be accepted.
- The approximate cost of tender is Rs.20 Lak(Approx annually).
- Earnest money of tender will be 40000(Forty Thousand only). Tender fee & E-services charge for tender will be 3000+ 1000=4000 (Four Thousand only) which to be deposited online.
- Date & time of opening of financial bid will be decided later on.
- Any Corrigenda / Addenda will be uploaded on <https://etenders.hry.nic.in/nicqep/app> only not pressed in Newspaper.
- If the tender opening date happens to be a holiday then next working day will be considered as tender opening date.

Director,
SHKM Govt. Medical College, Nalhar,
Nuh

PRDH-79031

Dated: 24.10.2019

(Outsourcing of Laundry Service at, SHKM Govt. Medical College, Nalhar, Nuh)

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Director,
SHKM Govt. Medical

Shah inaugurates Delhi Police headquarters in Lutyens' Zone

Built at a cost of ₹286 crore, building has 17 floors with state-of-the-art facilities

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

After 44 years, Delhi Police gets its own new headquarters, a 17-storey environment-friendly building, in Lutyens' Zone. The building was inaugurated by Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Thursday.

Congratulating the Delhi Police, Mr. Shah said, "Finally, after so many years, they got their own house. It was delayed but it happened for good. Delhi Police now has its own headquarters."

The event marked the 144th birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel.

Delhi Police Commissioner Amulya Patnaik said that Delhi Police in the post-Independence era got the blessings of the first Home Minister Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel on many occasions and is privileged to have its own headquarters inaugurated on the occasion of his birth anniversary.

The current building of



Union Minister Amit Shah being welcomed with a sapling by Police Commissioner Amulya Patnaik at the inauguration of the Delhi Police Headquarters on Thursday. ■ SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

Delhi Police Headquarters at ITO belongs to PWD and was insufficient to house all the required offices.

The new police headquarters on Jai Singh Road has been built at a total cost of ₹286 crore under public-private partnership, officials said.

The state-of-the-art complex is spread over an area of about eight acres and the

building has 17 floors.

The entire building has been fitted with latest LED lights and windows with double glazed unit glasses for minimum power consumption, the officials said, adding it has received green rating for Integrated Habitat Assessment.

The building has twin towers, along with 12 residential

quarters for officers.

Speaking at the inauguration, Mr. Shah said that internal security is the top priority of the Modi government and to ensure it, the government had taken several steps, including improving vigil on the borders and cracking down on fake notes.

"The image of police need to be changed. The police are perpetually projected in a negative light in the media. But the sacrifices made round-the-clock by officers and jawans to ensure the safety of citizens are seldom highlighted. Such kind of negative projection demoralises our police force," the Union Minister said.

He paid tributes to Delhi police personnel, who lost their lives in the 2001 Parliament attack and to inspector Mohan Chand Sharma, who was killed during the Batla House encounter.

Minister of State for Home G. Kishan Reddy and L-G Anil Baijal were also present.

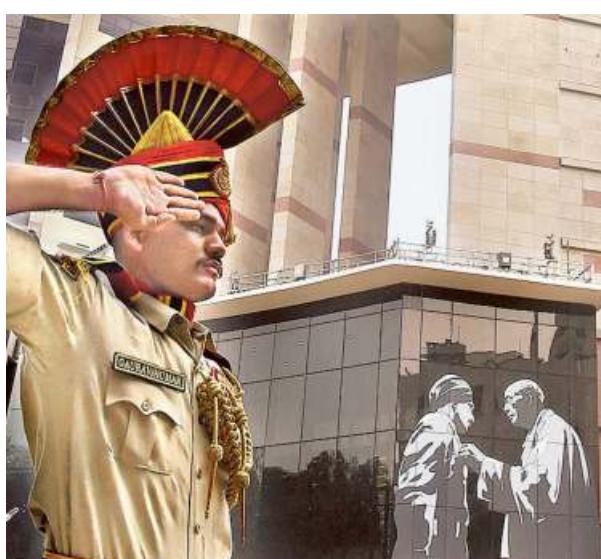
Who is the officer with Sardar Patel?

The picture on the facade is of Sardar Kartar Singh, who was honoured for his service

HEMAMI BHANDARI
NEW DELHI

A huge facade of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel honouring an officer is what welcomes visitors at the new Delhi Police Headquarters on Jai Singh Road alongside the facade of Mahatma Gandhi. But who is this officer?

To those who wonder who the officer is: he is former Delhi Deputy Superintendent of Police Sardar Kartar Singh and the picture, according to government records, was taken in 1950 when he was being honoured by Patel, the then Home Minister and Deputy Prime Minister, for his meritorious service post-Independence. The ceremonial parade was held at Irwin Stadium, now Major Dhyan Chand Stadium, on March 19, 1950.



The new building of the Delhi Police Headquarters on Jai Singh Road. ■ SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

available in the government archives which showed Patel's connection with Delhi Police.

The story
Narrating the story behind how the photo was selected, sources told *The Hindu* that though the citation of his services is currently not available, this photograph was among the three pictures

were rare pictures, which were not publicly available. This is the first time that these pictures have been shared for public viewing.

That is when we came across these three photographs and considered to put a facade of Patel along with Mahatma Gandhi," said a police officer, adding that these three pictures are the only ones relat-

ed to Delhi Police vis-a-vis Patel.

Sources said that the first photograph was taken when he was honouring a Superintendent of Police of Delhi, second was Sardar Kartar Singh and the third was when he was honouring a Delhi Police martyr's widow.

Commissioner of Police Amulya Patnaik, who is said to have micromanaged the entire construction, decided to select the particular photograph. While all the three pictures are displayed in the gallery in the new headquarters, Singh's was selected to depict 'nativity of the rank which makes it one of its kind'.

Permanent memory

Speaking to *The Hindu*, Mr. Patnaik said, "It is a great honour that some of the Delhi Police officers were honoured by Patel when he was Deputy PM and Home Minister. We wanted to keep it as a permanent memory that he had honoured a Delhi Police officer. This is the theme we want to keep at our police headquarters."

Patel's anniversary observed as National Unity Day

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Delhi government on Thursday observed the birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel as Rastriya Ekta Diwas or National Unity Day.

Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, on this occasion, administered the pledge to Delhi government officers and officials at the Delhi Secretariat. Principal Secretaries, Secretaries, HODs, Heads of the Autonomous Bodies and Undertakings and Corporations and other government employees took the pledge on

national unity, integrity and security of the nation.

"I solemnly pledge that I dedicate myself to preserve the unity, integrity and security of the nation and also strive hard to spread this message among my fellow countrymen. I take this pledge in the spirit of unification of my country which was made possible by the vision and actions of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel. I also solemnly resolve to make my own contribution to ensure internal security of my country," read the pledge administered by Mr. Kejriwal.

BJP questions Kejriwal for not implementing poll promise

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The BJP Opposition on Thursday questioned Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on why he was "dithering" over the implementation of his 2015 election promise to provide free DTC bus passes to senior citizens, students and differently abled.

Leader of Opposition in the Delhi Assembly Vijender Gup-

ta announced that if voted to power, the BJP will provide free rides to these "vulnerable categories" in 2020.

"Why is Kejriwal after so many years saying that every step cannot be completed at once. After all, in the 2015 election manifesto, AAP had promised to provide concessional passes in metro trains and DTC buses to these vulnerable categories," he said.

INDIRA GANDHI NATIONAL CENTRE FOR THE ARTS
(An Autonomous Trust under the Ministry of Culture, Govt. of India)
11, Mansingh Road, New Delhi - 110011

WALK-IN-INTERVIEW

IGNCA intends to engage one position of Web Developer on contractual basis in Cultural Informatics Laboratory (CIL) for a period of One year.

| | | |
|----|--------------------|--|
| 01 | Date of Interview | 11.11.2019 |
| 02 | Time of Interview | 11:00 am |
| 03 | Reporting Time | 10:00 am |
| 04 | Venue of Interview | Office of the Director (CIL), 1 st Floor, No. 11 Man Singh Road, New Delhi - 110011 |

Application form and other details are available at www.ignca.gov.in

Director (Admn)

Skill Development and Industrial Training Department, Haryana
Kaushal Bhawan, Plot No. IP-2, Sector-3, Majri Chowk, Panchkula, Haryana. website: itiharyana.gov.in

Recruitment Notice – Extension of last date

With reference to the recruitment notice published in various Newspapers on 19.09.2019, the last date for submitting applications for the following posts, proposed to be filled up on purely contractual basis initially for a period of one year and extendable until the funds are available under World Bank assisted STRIVE project for setting up of State Apprenticeship Monitoring Cell in this Directorate at Panchkula, have been extended upto 20.11.2019:

| Sr. No. | Name of posts | No. of posts | Lump sum / Fixed Salary per month |
|---------|----------------------------------|--------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1 | Consultant Manufacturing Sector | 2 | 70,000 |
| 2 | Consultant Service Sector | 1 | 70,000 |
| 3 | Consultant IT Sector | 1 | 70,000 |
| 4 | Apprenticeship Executive Officer | 2 | 45,000 |
| 5 | Technical Assistant | 1 | 25,000 |
| 6 | Assistant | 2 | 25,000 |
| 7 | Account Assistant | 1 | 25,000 |

Application form, essential qualifications, age, selection criteria and other terms & conditions for the above posts can be downloaded from recruitment link on www.itiharyana.gov.in website. The filled up application form along with self-attested copies of all documents and application fee of Rs. 500/- in form of demand draft must reach to this directorate on or before 4:00 PM on 20.11.2019. Applications received after fix date/time shall be rejected for which the applicant himself will be responsible.

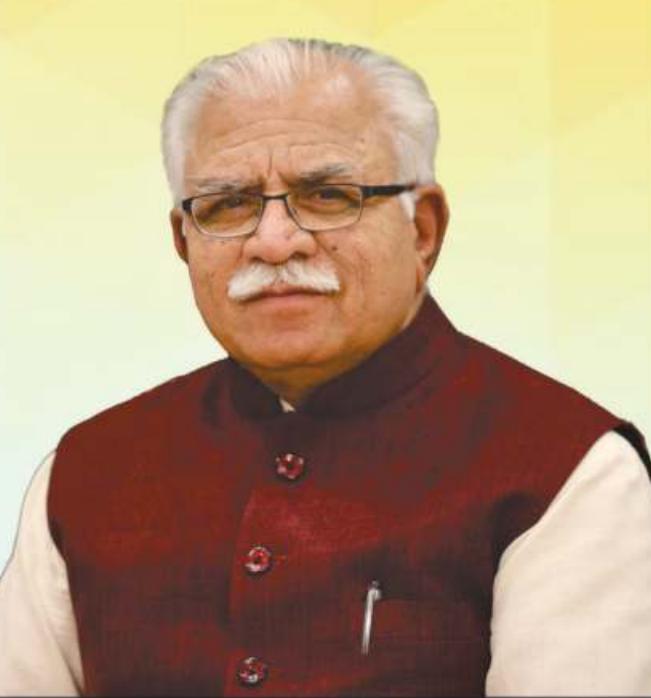
Phone: 0172-5229205 PROH-79038

Director

Mhara Haryana Nyara Haryana

"Let us pledge to work together for prosperity, development and progress of Haryana."

Manohar Lal
Chief Minister, Haryana



Information, Public Relations And Languages Department, Haryana
www.prharyana.gov.in

EAST DELHI MUNICIPAL CORPORATION
Education Department
419, Udyog Sadan, F.I.E., Industrial Area, Patparganj, Delhi-92
NOTICE INVITING TENDER
No. DDE/Edu/EDMC/2019/D-5500 Dated : 31.10.2019
East Delhi Municipal Corporation invites tenders for supply and installation of Water Cooler with inbuilt RO/Purifier in schools of Shahdara South Zone. The detailed tender document is available at EDMC e-tender website (<http://mcddetenders.com>). Last date for submission of bid is 14.11.2019 upto 01:00 PM. All willing bidders are advised to keep in touch with the aforesaid website for updates in respect of this tender. Further, all the interested bidders are advised to get themselves registered with I.T. Department, 24th Floor, Dr. Shyama Prasad Mukherjee Civic Centre, J.L.N. Marg, New Delhi-110002 for participation in this tender.
Dy. Director (Purchase)
R.O. No. 85/DPI/East/2019-20
EDMC's Citizens Helpline No. : 155303

**Office of the Executive Engineer
Road Construction Department,
Road Division, Garhwa.**
**e-Procurement Notice
For National Competitive Bidding
Retender (PR-No.-215419 Road (19-20) D**
e-Tender Reference No. : RCD/GARHWA/1054/19-
20(3rdCall) Date: 26.10.2019

| | | |
|-----|--|---|
| 1. | Name of the work | Widening & Strengthening/Reconstruction of Dandai Bazar to Panghatia PWD Road via Lawahikala Road. (Total Length 10.05 km.) |
| 2a. | Approximate Value of Work | Rs. 35,40,23,415.00 (Rupees Thirty Five crore Forty Lac Twenty Three thousand Four hundred Fifteen) only. |
| b. | Bid Security* | Rs. 35,41,000.00 (Rupees Thirty Five Lac Forty One Thousand) only. |
| 3. | Time of Completion | 15 (Fifteen) Months. |
| 4. | Last date/Time for receipt of bids | 14-11-2019, 12.00 Noon |
| 5. | Date, Time & Venue of Pre-bid Meeting | 04-11-2019, 11.30 A.M. Office of the Chief Engineer (Comm.), R.C.D., 1st Floor, Engineering Hostel No.-2, Dhrura, Ranchi -834004 |
| 6. | Date of Publication of Tender on website | 31-10-2019, 10.30 A.M |
| 7. | Name & address of office Inviting tender | Executive Engineer, RCD, Road Division, Garhwa, Pin Code - 822114 |
| 8. | Contact no. of Procurement officer | 06561-223543 |
| 9. | Helpline number of e-Procurement cell | 0651-2401010 |

Note:- The Bid Amount & Bid security will be decrease or increase.

Further details can be seen on website <http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in>

UCAN registration is mandatory for the bidders who are already registered in appropriate class with road construction department Govt. of Jharkhand.

Executive Engineer,
Road Construction Department,
Road Division, Garhwa.

P.R. 221202 Road(19-20)-D

JHARKHAND STATE ELECTRICITY EMPLOYEES MASTER TRUST
Engineering Building, HEC, Dhrura, Ranchi - 834 004
Contact no.: 0651-2401933, e-mail : adm.jseemt@gmail.com

Cancellation of e-application for Empanelment

Due to unavoidable circumstances, the Invitation for e-application for "Empanelment of Primary Dealers/ Investment Arrangers/ Intermediaries for investment of Trust funds" vide Notice No.- 3 and tender ID no. 2018 JSEB_34683_1 , dated 17/12/2018 is hereby cancelled. Participants who had submitted EMD amount Rs. 2,00,000.00 are requested to collect the same from office of Administrator, JSEEMT or they may provide bank details to Administrator, JSEEMT on e-mail ID- adm.jseemt@gmail.com for refund of EMD amount through RTGS/NEFT.

प्राचीन एवं सम्पर्क में कल्यान कार्यालय अपनी सिक्कायों को ढॉल को नं 1600 345 6570 पर दर्ज कराया।
Sd/-
Administrator
PR 221210 (Jharkhand Urja Vikas Nigam Ltd)19-20#D

SEARCH FOR MISSING


Pooran Chand
General Public is hereby informed that a person namely **Pooran Chand S/o Sh. Ganga Ram R/o H.No.C-4/493, Sultanpur, Delhi** has been missing since 07.10.2019 from the area of P.S. Patparganj Ind. Area, Delhi. In this regard a DD No. 14A dated 19.10.2019 has been lodged at PS, Patparganj Ind. Area, Delhi. The description of missing person is as under:
Name: Pooran Chand, Father's Name : Sh. Ganga Ram, Age : 32 years, Height : 5'5", Face : Long, Complexion : Shallow, Wearing : Green colour Shirt & Blue colour Jeans Pant.
If anyone having any clue/information, kindly inform the undersigned at following phone numbers.
Website : <http://cbi.nic.in> SHO e-mail : cic@cbi.gov.in P.S., Patparganj Ind. Area, Delhi Ph : 011-24368639, 24368641 DP/7106/ED/19 Ph. : 011-22146490, 22146491

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR
Resident Commission
5, Prithviraj Road, New Delhi - 110011
Telephones: 011-2461108, 24611210, Fax Nos.: 24601277, 24627047
E-mail: jkhsdelhi@gmail.com

TENDER NOTICE

For & on behalf of Principal Resident Commissioner Govt. of J&K New Delhi, sealed tenders affixed with Rs. 5.00 revenue stamps are invited from the authorized dealers/ firms dealing in the supply of House Hold Electrical and Electronic Appliances.

The tenders should reach in the office of **Principal Resident Commissioner, Government of Jammu & Kashmir, 5 Prithvi Raj Road, New Delhi** within 07 days from the date of publishing of this notice for below listed work.

"Recharging of Tata Sky DTH Connections installed at J&K House, Chanakyapuri & 5, Prithviraj Road, New Delhi, Chandigarh and Amritsar"

For detailed tender documents, tenderers can obtain the same from the Assistant Engineer, Resident Commission, Government of Jammu & Kashmir, 5-Prithvi Raj Road New Delhi on a cash payment of Rs. 200/-.

Chief Pay Accounts Officer, Resident Commission, Government of J & K New Delhi
No.: KBI/Advt/1861-62/2019
Dated: 30/10/2019

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Market Info
NALCO HONOURED FOR EXCELLENCE IN CSR

NALCO has been recognized with 'Honourable Mention' for Excellence in the field of CSR for its flagship project 'NALCO Ki Ladli' at the National CSR Awards ceremony held in New Delhi. Hon'ble President of India, Shri Ram Nath Kovind, Hon'ble Minister of Finance and Corporate Affairs, Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman and Hon'ble Minister of State for Finance and Corporate Affairs, Shri Anurag Singh Thakur graced the occasion. Shri Basant Kumar Thakur, Director (HR), NALCO received the Award from Hon'ble Minister of State for Finance and Corporate Affairs, Shri Anurag Singh Thakur. Congratulating the NALCO Collective on this achievement, Dr. T.K.Chand, CMD, NALCO, said, we have been recognized by Govt. of India for putting our heart and soul into implementing the 'NALCO Ki Ladli' CSR initiative, which is empowering the girl child in villages and becoming a powerful trigger for women empowerment.

TWO BROTHERS OF JAGA-BALIA JOIN KISS

Two elder brothers of the once-conjoined twins Jaga-Balia, Ajit (11) and Datya (8) have taken admissions in KISS. Dr. Achyuta Samanta, MP, Kandhamal came to know about two elder siblings of the twins Jaga-Balia when he visited SCB Medical College, Cuttack in September to enquire about the health of the twins. He had assured to facilitate the education of all the four brothers in KISS. Once Jaga-Balia will be declared medically fit, they will also join KISS.

DRIVE AGAINST ILLEGAL VENDING TO BE INTENSIFIED, SAYS ECOR

After receiving good response from public and the media and strict vigil by East Coast Railway, the cases of unauthorised vending have reduced sharply. This happened due to support from passengers and public. In June-September in 2018, ECOR had arrested 4741 persons whereas in 2017, this figure was 5250. In 2019, the cases have been reduced to 1451. Consequently, passengers need not fear spurious food. Furthermore, the trains are cleaner, there is less littering in the compartments, passengers benefit from more space in the trains and most significantly, there is a reduction in the cases of theft and chain-snatching. This drive is an aim to provide better service during train journeys without hassles and to serve in a better way to look after passengers' health, safety, security, comfort and cleanliness.

VIGILANCE AWARENESS WEEK BEGINS AT PPT

PPT is observing Vigilance Awareness Week from 28th Oct 2019 to 2nd Nov. 2019. The week long function started with the administering of the pledge by Dr P. Panda, CMO, PPT to the employees of PPT. Various competitions like essay writing, painting, elocution, and quizzes among PPT employees, local school students and other activities relating to Vigilance Awareness are scheduled. PPT Employees are also taking the Integrity - e-pledge through the PPT Website and website of CVC. Each Department of PPT is also conducting a stakeholder's meet during the week, for awareness on corruption issues relating to the functioning of their particular departments.

Office of the Executive Engineer Road Construction Department Road Division, Garhwa

e-Procurement Notice (Very Short Tender)

Tender Reference No. : RCD/GARHWA/1028/19-20 Date:-22.10.19

| | | |
|----|--|--|
| 1. | Name of the work | Construction of 'C' Type Quarter (1 Block 6 unit) at R.C.D., Road Division Campus at Garhwa. |
| 2. | Estimated Cost (Rs.) | Rs. 1,36,420,04.00 (One Crore Thirty Six Lac Forty Four thousand Two hundred Four only). |
| 3. | Bid Security (Amount) | 2,72,900.00 (Two Lacs Seventy Two Thousand Nine hundred Only). |
| 4. | Time of Completion | 05 Months |
| 5. | Date of Publication of Tender on website | 30.10.2019 from 10.30 A.M. |
| 6. | Last date/Time for receipt of bids | 06.11.2019 Up to 12.00 Noon |
| 7. | Name & address of office Inviting tender | Executive Engineer, RCD, Road Division, Garhwa |
| 8. | Contact no. of Procurement officer | 06561-223543 |
| 9. | Helpline number of e-Procurement cell | 0651-2401010 |

Contractors registered under R.C.D Jharkhand and also register in UCAN PORTEL can only participate in this tender.

Further details can be seen on website <http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in>

Executive Engineer
Road Construction Department
Road Division,Garhwa

SEARCH FOR KIDNAPPED


Asma
General Public is hereby informed that a girl namely **Asma D/o Zakir R/o K-135, New Seelam Pur North East, Delhi** Age-about 11 years, Height-3'9", Complexion-Wheatish. Built-Medium, Wearing: Cream Colour Frock and Pajami has been Kidnapped from his house since Dated 19.05.2016. In this regard a case FIR No. 289/16 Dated 19.05.2016 has been registered at P.S. Seelam Pur, Delhi.

Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the girl but no clue has come to light so far. If any one having any information about this girl please inform undersigned.

E-mail : cic@cbi.gov.in SHO

Ph.: 011-23014046, 23015229, P.S. Seelam Pur, Delhi.

23015218 Extn. 210 Ph.: 011- 22562035, 8750870721

Fax : 011-23011334 AHTU/Crime Branch

Tel. No.22829503, 22829504

झारखण्ड सरकार

(पर्यटन, कला-संस्कृति, खेल-कदम एवं युवा कार्य विभाग)

बिरसा मुण्डा फुटबॉल स्टेडियम, मोरहाबादी, झंगी

शुद्धि-पत्र

एवं द्वारा सुचित किया जाता है कि दिनांक 25.09.2019 को प्रकाशित पुस्तक ई-निविदा सूचना (PR No. 217856) के माध्यम से 1. Repair of Birsa Munda Football Stadium (A,B,C,D,E,F,G & H) Block, Morhabadi, Ranchi, 2. Renovation of Compound wall, RCC Drain with cover & Paving work etc. at Birsa Munda Football Stadium (A,B,C,D,E,F,G & H) Block, Morhabadi, Ranchi and 3. Repair of Plumbing & Sanitation Work at Birsa Munda Football Stadium (A,B,C,D,E,F,G & H) Block, Morhabadi, Ranchi का विस्तृत भाग का निष्पादन अपरिहार्य कारण से दिनांक 30.10.2019 को पूर्वान्तर 11:00 बजे के बाद द्वारा सुचित किया जाएगा। दू-/- PR 221168 Art Culture Sports and Youth Affairs (19-20)_D कार्यालयी निवेदन

DELHI Timings

| | |
|------------------|-----------|
| FRIDAY, NOV. 1 | |
| RISE 06:33 | SET 17:37 |
| RISE 10:39 | SET 21:16 |
| SATURDAY, NOV. 2 | |
| RISE 06:33 | SET 17:36 |
| RISE 11:35 | SET 22:09 |
| SUNDAY, NOV. 3 | |
| RISE 06:34 | SET 17:35 |
| RISE 12:24 | SET 23:04 |

Delhi Weather max min
Delhi City 32 17
Safdarjung 32 17
Palam 31 17

Delhi Palam Today

31°C Mist during morning is likely. Day will be warm with partly cloudy sky. Pollution will be very poor to severe.

Delhi Palam Tomorrow

PDD

Government of Jammu & Kashmir
Office of the Director of Electrical & RE Wing,
Canal Tower House, Canal Road, Jammu
Email: cmrjammu2@gmail.com
Telephone Nos: 0191-2554426, Fax: 0191-2505708
EXTENSION-II

In view of no/poor response the last date for online e-BID submission for below mentioned e-NIT issued from this office is hereby extended for as per mentioned details:-

| S. No. | Particulars of e-NIT | Last date for Submission of e-Bid (extended) | Last date for submission of Hard Copies (extended) | Opening of Technical bid (extended) |
|--------|--|--|--|-------------------------------------|
| 1 | e-NIT No: CEMPRJMU/06 of 2019 Dated: 09.09.2019 for "Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning Job of 33 KV Line on 11 mtr ST Poles, for Laying of 22.5 kms (approx.) New 33 KV Line from Lalyana to Rangpur Camp via Ramgarh with 200 mm Sc ACSR, for reliable power supply to Rangpur camp and Ramgarh." | 19.11.2019 up to 04:00 p.m. | 20.11.2019 up to 04:00 p.m. | 28.11.2019 up to 02:00 p.m. |

All other terms and conditions remain the same as per original NIT.
Chief Engineer,
Electric M&E Wing, Jammu
DIP/J-8458

SEARCH FOR KIDNAPPED

General Public is hereby informed that a Boy namely **Aditya Mathew S/o Jose J. Mathew**, R/o H.No. 314, Asia House K.G. Marg, New Delhi has been Kidnapped since 24.10.2013 at about 11:30 AM From His House. In this regard a **FIR No. 181/13 u/s 363 IPC** has been registered at PS, Parliament Street, New Delhi. This case is pending investigation in Anti Human Trafficking Unit, Crime Branch, Sector-16, Rohini, Delhi. The description

of missing Boy is as under : Name: Aditya Mathew, Father's Name : Jose J. Mathew, Age : 17 years, Height : 5'10", Built : Thin, Complexion : Whitish, Face : Round, Wearing : Violet colour shirt, Khaki Pant and Black sport Shoes, Polo wrist watch.

If anyone having any clue/information, kindly inform the undersigned at following phone numbers.

**Anti Human Trafficking Unit
Crime Branch, Sector-16,
Rohini, Delhi
DP/1015/Crime/19
Ph.: 011-27892866, 27892844**

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|---------------------------|--------------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|
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| AIR-222 ANUPAM KUMAR | AIR-290 SHREYA KUMARI | AIR-432 SHREYA KUMARI | AIR-538 SHREYA KUMARI | AIR-628 SHREYA KUMARI | AIR-725 SHREYA KUMARI |

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KUMAR AMIT

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NEAR HUSARIYA CHAURAH, GOMTI NAGAR, LUCKNOW

CM YK

AAP, BJP lock horns over Chhath ghat**STAFF REPORTER**

NEW DELHI

The Aam Aadmi Party on Thursday protested at a temporary Chhath ghat in Kalkaji, alleging that a BJP councilor was not allowing construction at the site. It said the construction of the ghat started only on late Thursday evening.

AAP MP Sanjay Singh said, "This is not the first incident but Purvanchalis have been killed, beaten up, and thrown out of the BJP-ruled States

like Maharashtra and Gujarat."

Delhi BJP chief Manoj Tiwari said: "The government wants to create law and order problems. It is spreading hatred and provoking people through its frivolous act. Arrangement for 20 lakh worshippers can be made on 6 km long Yamuna Bank of Sonia Vihar itself." For the last many years, Chhath Puja has been organised in a park at J3 block of Greater Kailash, AAP said. "BJP local councillor

Subhash Bhadana, along with others, beat up the construction workers at a ghat site and stopped the preparations on Wednesday," said AAP Greater Kailash MLA Saurabh Bharadwaj.

Over 1,000 ghats

Revenue Minister Kailash Gahlot on Thursday inspected several ghats in the city. The Minister said the number of ghats this year is more than 1,100 and termed it as a "record for Delhi".

Court extends judicial custody of former Ranbaxy promoters

The accused allegedly siphoned off over ₹2,000 crore

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

A Delhi court on Thursday extended the judicial custody of former Ranbaxy promoters Malvinder Singh and Shivinder Singh and the three co-accused in a cheating case involving Religare Enterprises Limited and Religare Finvest Limited.

CMM Deepak Sherawat ex-

tended till November 14 the custody of the Singh brothers and Sunil Godhwani, Kavi Arora and Anil Saxena. They have been charged with siphoning off ₹2,397 crore at Religare Finvest Limited, the lending arm of the Religare Enterprises Limited. The Economic Offences Wing of

the Delhi police arrested them earlier this month. The accused, having absolute control over Religare Enterprises Limited and its subsidiaries, put Religare Finvest Limited in a poor financial condition by distributing loans to companies having no financial standing, and controlled by them.

JNU students continue protest against draft hostel manual

Registrar warns students of strict action

STAFF REPORTER

NEW DELHI

A large number of students from Jawaharlal Nehru University continued their protest against draft hostel manual at freedom square, which is outside the admin block, on Thursday.

'Draconian measures'

They started a signature campaign and have drafted a letter to the Vice-Chancellor rejecting the hostel fee hike, imposition of dress code and curfew timings, policy of lockdown and other "draconian measures", which the draft manual proposes.

The students said the administration was trying to pass the new hostel manual

illegally without inviting them for meetings.

They alleged that the administration was not willing to listen to their concerns and are being told that the police would be called to the campus to pacify them.

In response to the protests, the administration said a group of students has been creating a nuisance by disrupting classes and blocking the entry point of important buildings.

"The administration has taken a very serious note of this behaviour and the student community is being strongly advised to adhere to the rules and regulations of the university," the Registrar said.

Jammu Smart City Limited
CIN-U70200JK2017SGC010105

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER, JAMMU SMART CITY LIMITED
ADDRESS DEPUTY COMMISSIONER OFFICE, WAZARAT ROAD, JAMMU

NOTICE INVITING TENDER (NIT)

No.- CEO/Smart city/2019-20/38

Dated:- 29-10-2019

Notice Inviting Online Bids for:

"Engineering, Procurement and Construction (EPC) of Vertical Garden on the Columns below Flyovers at Jammu under Smart City Mission with 03 (Three) years of Operation & Maintenance after 3 Months of Defect Liability Period"

The Chief Executive Officer, Jammu SmartCity limited, on behalf of Governor of Jammu & Kashmir invites bids, through e-procurement portal <http://jktdenders.gov.in>, from eligible bidders registered with the State Governments and Central Governments for the execution of the work mentioned in the table below on PPP Model.

| | |
|--|--|
| Name & Address of JSCL | Chief Executive Officer Jammu Smart City Limited, Jammu Jammu & Kashmir, INDIA C/O The Deputy Commissioner, Jammu, Wazarat Road, Jammu-180001 |
| Subject Matter of Procurement | Notice inviting Online Bids for Engineering, Procurement and Construction (EPC) of Vertical Garden on the Columns below Flyovers at Jammu under Smart City Mission with 03 (Three) years of Operation & Maintenance after 3 Months of Defect Liability Period. |
| Approx. value of the Project | Rs.519 Lakh (Five hundred & Nineteen lacs) inclusive of GST |
| Period of Completion | 06 months |
| Bid Document Fee | Rs.1000/- (Rupees Ten Thousand only) |
| Period of on-line availability of Bid Documents (Start Date/ End Date) | From: 30-10-2019, 11:00 AM To: 26-11-2019, 11:00 AM |

(Sushma Chauhan), IAS
Chief Executive Officer,
Jammu Smart City Ltd.

DIP/J-8552

Jammu Smart City Limited
CIN-U70200JK2017SGC010105

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER, JAMMU SMART CITY LIMITED
ADDRESS: DEPUTY COMMISSIONER OFFICE, WAZARAT ROAD, JAMMU

NOTICE INVITING TENDER (NIT)

No:- CEO/SmartCity/2019-20/39

Dated:- 29-10-2019

Notice Inviting Online Bids for:

"Expression of Interest for Development and Operation & Maintenance of Public Toilets in Jammu City - Phase 1."

The Chief Executive Officer, Jammu Smart City Limited, on behalf of Governor of Jammu & Kashmir invites bids, through e-procurement portal <http://jktdenders.gov.in>, from eligible bidders registered with the State Governments and Central Governments for the execution of the work mentioned in the table below on PPP Model.

| | |
|---|---|
| Name & Address of JSCL | Chief Executive Officer Jammu Smart City Limited, Jammu Jammu & Kashmir, INDIA C/O The Deputy Commissioner, Jammu, Wazarat Road, Jammu-180001 |
| Subject Matter of Procurement | Notice inviting Online Bids for Expression of Interest for Development and Operation & Maintenance of Public Toilets in Jammu City (Phase-1). |
| Period of on-line availability of Bid Documents (Start Date/End Date) | From: 30-10-2019, 11:00 AM To: 26-11-2019, 11:00 AM |
| Date and time for Pre-bid Meeting | Date/Time : 07-11-2019, 3:00 PM Place : Office of the CEO, Jammu Smart City Limited, Jammu |
| Manner, Start Date for submission of Bids | Manner: Online on e-Procurement website http://jktdenders.gov.in Start Date & Time : 30-10-2019 11:00 AM |
| End Date for submission of Bids | End Date & Time : 28-11-2019 12:00 PM |
| Date and Time of submission of Hard copies of Bids | Start Date & Time : 30-10-2019 11:00 AM End Date & Time : 28-11-2019 12:00 PM |

(Sushma Chauhan), IAS
Chief Executive Officer,
Jammu Smart City Ltd.

DIP/J-8566

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- Arvind Kejriwal
Chief Minister, Delhi



IN BRIEF



Veteran Telugu actor Geetanjali dead

VIJAYAWADA
Veteran Telugu actor Geetanjali Ramakrishna died of cardiac arrest on Thursday at a private hospital in Hyderabad. She was 72. In an illustrious film career spanning over six decades, Geetanjali acted in Telugu, Tamil, Malayalam and Hindi films and is remembered for her roles in the movies like *Sitarama Kalyanam*, *Dr. Chakravarthy*, *Murali Krishna*, *Abbayigaru Ammayigaru* among others.

Dreaded red sanders smuggler held in A.P.

CHITTOOR
The Sri City police nabbed three red sanders operatives on Thursday at Rachakandri village near Tada-Chennai National Highway, after intercepting their SUV while feeling towards Chennai, giving the police a slip. One of the trio, Siva Sankar, is a notorious operative wanted in as many as 64 cases in various police stations in Rayalseema and elsewhere in the South.

'I am a people's person & not engaged in political activity'

Telangana Governor Tamilisai Soundarajan says she tries to resolve issues within her constitutional limits

PRASHANTH CHINTALA
RAVI REDDY
HYDERABAD

Telangana Governor Tamilisai Soundarajan says she is a social person, always positive in her outlook and as a Governor, she is not engaged in any political activity.

"As a Governor I know my constitutional powers and I will act according to it only. Nothing is there that the Governor should not do or should do," she said in an exclusive interview to *The Hindu*.



Tamilisai Soundarajan

du. Close to a month after being named Governor of Telangana and assuming office on September 2, the

+ Cyclone Maha batters Lakshadweep and Kerala coast

759 people moved to shelters in islands, where 100 fishermen have sought refuge

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The Lakshadweep Islands and, to a relatively lesser extent, the coastal districts of Kerala on Thursday bore the brunt of Cyclone Maha, which continues to cut a furious swathe across the Arabian Sea.

As many as 759 people were evacuated to shelters in Lakshadweep where Bitra, Chetlat, Kiltan and Kadmat islands remained the worst-hit. Nine fishing boats with around 100 fishermen from Kerala and Tamil Nadu have sought refuge in the islands.

In Kerala, several districts reported heavy rainfall on Thursday. Four fishermen sustained minor injuries in Kasaragod after their boats collided with a breakwater at Azhithala near Nileswaram. All four have been rescued. In Kozhikode, two fishermen

from Vadakara are feared stranded in the sea off Ezhimala.

In Thrissur, a fishing boat, which ventured into the sea from Chettuvu, was found destroyed off Ponnani. While six fishermen were rescued, one person is missing. Around 100 people in Chellanam and Vypeen in Ernakulam district have been shifted to relief camps opened by the district administration since the early hours of Thursday.

According to the Kerala State Disaster Management Authority, 2,060 people (670 families) have been moved to 20 camps in the districts of Thiruvananthapuram (1), Alappuzha (2), Ernakulam (7), Thrissur (4), Palakkad (2), Malappuram (3) and Kozhikode (1). One death has been reported, while eight are missing in Thrissur.



Hyderabad figures in Unesco list

Selected as Creative City in the category of gastronomy

SERISH NANISSETTI
HYDERABAD

Hyderabad, the city of biryanis, kebabs, haleem, kallu, shikampur and chowki dinners, has now been officially designated as a Unesco Creative City of Gastronomy. Hyderabad is among the 66 cities named by the Unesco in the list of new Creative Cities, which aims at pushing the Sustainable Development Goals through innovative thinking and action.

"Glad to announce that Hyderabad is selected as @UNESCO CREATIVE CITY in Gastronomy category, on the occasion of World Cities Day today. It's among the 2 cities from India in list of 66



Foodies' delight: The incredible range of food in Hyderabad got it Unesco recognition. ■ SERISH NANISSETTI

cities, other being Mumbai in Film category," K.T. Rama Rao, Municipal Administration and Urban Development Minister, tweeted thanking the MAUD Principal Secretary Arvind Kumar while making the announcement.

The designation of Hyde-

bab in the creative cities' list would bring new opportunities and turn the focus on the city's rich culinary heritage and tradition.

"Pre-Islamic Kakatiya cuisines (12th century) have interacted in an incredible fashion with the arrival of Turks in 15th century, fol-

'Change of colours' lands A.P. panchayat secretary in trouble

He replaced the tricolour with the colours of YSRCP

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
ANANTAPUR

The enthusiasm of a panchayat secretary of Andhra Pradesh to please some political leaders has proved costly for him.

The tricolour was painted and the Ashok Chakra embossed on a wall of the Thammadevalli Gram Panchayat office building.

However, panchayat secretary R. Prakash, apparently in a bid to be in the good books of the ruling party leaders, got the colours of the YSR Congress Party painted over the tricolour two days ago.

When it came to the notice of the district officials through social media, they got it corrected and painted



Right hues: Tricolour on the Thammadevalli Gram Panchayat office building in A.P. being restored. ■ SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

the building white by Wednesday evening. On Thursday morning, the tricolour was restored.

Cabinet meet to focus on RTC strike

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD

Telangana Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao has convened a meeting of his Cabinet on Saturday to discuss the State Road Transport Corporation strike.

Sources said the meeting was likely to explore alternative transport system by invoking provisions of the new Motor Vehicles (Amendment) Act, 2019, which gave the government teeth to extend permission to private stage carriers. The government was considering giving such permission on 4,000 to 5,000 routes.

The strike, demanding merger of the RTC with the government, recruitment to various posts, among others, began on Oct. 5.

Burial of Maoists' bodies stayed till Nov. 4

Plea was filed by close relatives of two of those killed

STAFF REPORTER
PALAKKAD
The district and sessions court here on Thursday stayed the disposal of the bodies of the Maoists killed in encounters with the police in the Attappady forests on Monday and Tuesday.

Principal sessions judge K.P. Indira ordered that the bodies of Manivasakam, Karthi, Rema and Aravind should not be cremated or buried until November 4. She issued the order after a petition was filed by close relatives of Karthi and Manivasakam.

'Guidelines violated'
Karthi's brother and Manivasakam's sister moved the district and sessions court, pointing out that the police had violated the Supreme Court guidelines that ought to have been followed in the event of an encounter killing.

The Supreme Court, in 2014, had issued a 16-point list of guidelines "to be followed in the matters of investigating police encoun-



Keeping vigil: Security personnel on guard at the mortuary where the bodies of the Maoists have been kept. ■ K.K. NAJEEB

Chennithala seeks answers from Pinarayi

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Leader of the Opposition Ramesh Chennithala on Thursday raised the issue of the gunning down of four Maoists by Kerala police commandos in the Agali forests and demanded an explanation from Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan. He said the repeated encounter killings of Maoists was worrying.

(PUC) that made the court issue the guidelines.

The relatives of Karthi and Manivasakam complained that the police had failed to comply with the 16-point guidelines, and demanded action against the guilty.

The court posted the petition to November 2 for detailed examination. By that time, the post-mortem examination reports are expected. The sessions court will dispose of the complaint only after examining the post-mortem reports.

Similarly, she said not giving salaries to the striking RTC employees is a concern. "As a social person, it is a concern for me. But the government might have so many difficulties. I am not a person to interfere. I always convey my concern."

The Governor is planning to fix one day when people and general public can come and meet her. "Raj Bhavan can be a Praja Bhavan. I will tour the districts shortly," she said.



Silent protest: School students taking out a march to express their solidarity with the Walayar victims, in Thiruvananthapuram on Thursday. ■ S. MAHINSHA

Walayar case: child rights panel flays govt.

Registers case suo motu, to send summons to Collector, SP

ABDUL LATHEEF NAHA
PALAKKAD

The National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) has registered extreme displeasure over the way the Kerala government and its machinery handled the sensational Walayar case, in which two minor sisters were found dead after having allegedly been raped.

NCPCR member Yashwanth Jain blamed the government on Thursday for keeping the parents of the victims away from the Commission.

"I came to Palakkad to meet the parents of the victims. But they were summoned to Thiruvananthapuram by the Chief Minister. I suspect they were called to Thiruvananthapuram deliberately to avoid a meeting with the Commission," he said, adding he would try to meet them before returning to New Delhi on Friday.

The Commission also blamed Collector D. Balamurali and district police chief Shiva Vikram for not extending

Victims' parents meet CM

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan on Thursday met the parents of the Walayar child rape and murder case victims. Kerala Pulayam Maha Sabha president Punnala Sreekumar accompanied them to the CM's chamber. He later told the media that Mr. Vijayan had told the

parents that the government was not averse to a CBI inquiry. The State would not oppose the demands of the parents.

The government found itself in a spot after a Palakkad court let off the suspects for want of evidence. The Opposition had alleged that the accused were CPI(M) members and had State support.

lakkad POCSO court judgment. He said it was a poorly constructed case and the police had failed in gathering evidence. "If the police had acted when the first child was found dead, the death of the second child could have been prevented."

According to Mr. Jain, the police acted stupidly by not conducting medical and DNA tests in time. He said it was sad that such a shameful incident had taken place in a highly educated State like Kerala.

Guntur woman killed mother, say police

Trio conspired with eye on property

STAFF REPORTER
GUNTUR

In a chilling incident, a 28-year-old woman allegedly killed her mother at Nagarampalem here recently, with an eye on her property.

The case bears a striking similarity to an earlier incident in Hyderabad, in which a girl allegedly killed her mother because the latter objected to her conduct.

According to the police, Mannam Bhargavi, 28, along with her husband, Ramesh and their employer Sivaram, the owner of a hotel at Atchampet, reached the house of Alapati Lakshmi, 45, at the Mudu Bommalu centre on the intervening night of October 10.

Even as they were having a conversation, Bhargavi allegedly grabbed her mother and pinned her down, and Ramesh and Sivaram strangled her with her sari. The Nagarampalem Police have registered a case based on a complaint by the woman's cousin Alapati Lakshmi.

'Clinching evidence'
During the investigation, the trio confessed that they had killed the woman with an eye on a property of 17 cents at Kunchanapally near Tadepalli and half an acre of farmland in the same village. The woman and her mother were having a dispute over the property and the latter sought time to settle the issue, sources said.

"Apart from technical evidence such as call data, we collected clinching evidence as the accused had mortgaged the gold chain of Lakshmi at a bank in Atchampet," said Nagarampalem Station House Officer Venkat Reddy.

Change of colours' lands A.P. panchayat secretary in trouble

He replaced the tricolour with the colours of YSRCP

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
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Right hues: Tricolour on the Thammadevalli Gram Panchayat office building in A.P. being restored. ■ SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

the building white by Wednesday evening. On Thursday morning, the tricolour was restored.

Collector S. Satyanarayana, apart from serving a notice on the panchayat secretary, suspended him.



Foodies' delight: The incredible range of food in Hyderabad got it Unesco recognition. ■ SERISH NANISSETTI

cities, other being Mumbai in Film category," K.T. Rama Rao, Municipal Administration and Urban Development Minister, tweeted thanking the MAUD Principal Secretary Arvind Kumar while making the announcement.

The designation of Hyde-

IN BRIEF

HC to hear Facebook's appeal in Ramdev case

NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court on Thursday agreed to hear social media giant Facebook's appeal challenging a single-judge order directing it to globally remove, block or disable links to a video containing defamatory allegations against yoga guru Ramdev. A Bench posted the case to December 7.

Green light for 2.31 lakh more PMAY homes

NEW DELHI

The Union Housing and Urban Affairs Ministry approved the construction of 2.31 lakh more homes under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (urban) scheme. Housing and Urban Affairs Secretary Durga Shanker Mishra said the total houses sanctioned under the scheme, which has a target of 1.1 crore homes, had crossed 93 lakh.

Sex ratio improves in country; birth and death rates dip

Total fertility rate in 12 States has fallen below two children per woman

BINDU SHAJAN PERAPPADAN
NEW DELHI

India has registered an improved sex ratio and a decline in birth and death rates with non-communicable diseases dominating over communicable in the total disease burden of the country, according to the Central Bureau of Health Intelligence's (CBHI) National Health Profile (NHP) 2019.

"This information is essential for health system policy development, governance, health research, human resource development, health education and training," Union Health Minister Harsh Vardhan said.

As per the NHP, sex ratio (number of females per 1,000 males) in the country has improved from 933 in 2001 to 943 in 2011.

In rural areas the sex ratio has increased from 946 to 949.

"The corresponding in-

Vital stats

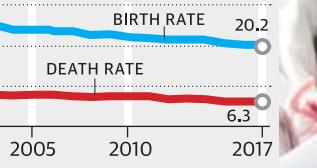
Both birth and death rates in India have consistently decreased over the years.

However, wide gaps among States exist in both.

The graph plots both the rates from 1991 to 2017

Highest & lowest rates in 2017 among key States

| Birth rate | Death rate |
|------------|--------------|
| Bihar | Chhattisgarh |
| 26.4 | 7.5 |
| Kerala | J&K |
| 14.2 | 4.8 |



that the estimated birth rate, death rate and natural growth rate are declining.

The estimated birth rate reduced from 25.8 in 2000 to 20.4 in 2016 while the death rate declined from 8.5 to 6.4 per 1,000 population over the same period. The natural growth rate declined from 17.3 in 2000 to 14 in 2016 as per the latest available information.

As per the report, the total fertility rate (average number of children that will be born to a woman during her lifetime) in 12 States has fallen below two children per woman and nine States have reached replacement levels of 2.1 and above. Delhi, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal have the lowest fertility rate among other States.

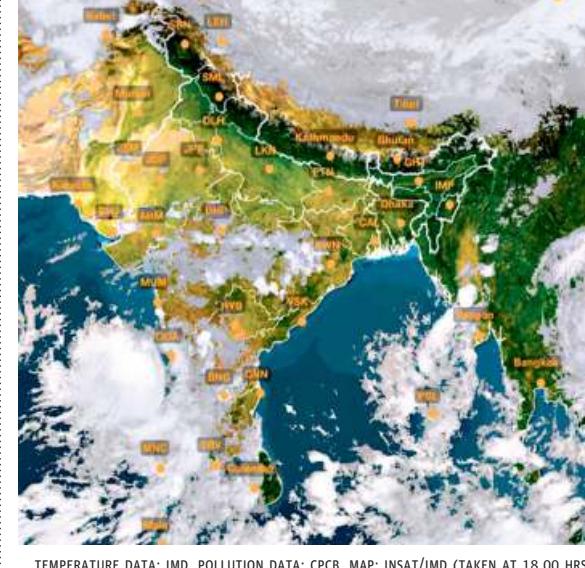
It was also observed that non-communicable diseases dominated over the communicable in the total disease burden of the country.

The NHP also compiled a detailed data on health manpower availability in public sector.

The total number of registered allopathic doctors (up to 2018) is 11,54,686. Number of dental surgeons registered with Central/State Dental Councils of India was 2,54,283. There is an increasing trend in the number of dental surgeons registered with the Central/State Dental Council of India from 2007 to 2018. The total number of registered AYUSH Doctors in India as on January 1, 2018 was 7,99,879," the report noted.

WEATHER WATCH

RAINFALL, TEMPERATURE & AIR QUALITY IN SELECT METROS YESTERDAY



Forecast for Friday: Heavy to very heavy rainfall likely over Lakshadweep, Kerala, Mahe, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, Karaikal, coastal Andhra Pradesh, Yanam and southern Karnataka.

| CITY | RAIN | MAX | MIN | CITY | RAIN | MAX | MIN |
|-------------|---------|---------|------|--------------------|------------|---------|------|
| Agartala | ...32.7 | 22.3 | - | Kozhikode | 23.4... | 26.2... | 23.2 |
| Ahmedabad | 33.4 | 22.0 | - | Kurnool | 3.1... | 28.5... | 22.2 |
| Aizawl | ...24.8 | - | - | Lucknow | ...19.7 | 29.7... | 19.4 |
| Allahabad | ...31.2 | 20.6 | - | Madurai | 16.8... | 22.2... | 22.4 |
| Bangalore | 26.0 | 19.7 | - | Mangaluru | 15.2... | 23.1... | 23.6 |
| Bhopal | 31.2 | 20.8 | - | Mumbai | 36.4... | 24.6 | - |
| Bhubaneswar | 32.2 | 23.0 | - | Mysuru | 25.6... | 19.8 | - |
| Chandigarh | 29.9 | 16.6 | - | New Delhi | ...31.6... | 16.8 | - |
| Chennai | 12.4 | 30.6 | 24.5 | Patna | 31.2... | 21.4 | - |
| Coimbatore | 3.5... | 28.9... | 22.2 | Poorni Blair | 0.4... | 31.8... | 25.2 |
| Dehradoon | 28.4 | 16.1 | - | Puducherry | 39.2... | 29.3... | 21.6 |
| Gangtok | 18.4 | 12.7 | - | Pune | 7.5... | 26.7... | 20.5 |
| Goa | 34.0 | 24.5 | - | Raipur | 0.4... | 32.0... | 22.8 |
| Guwahati | 31.5 | 22.0 | - | Ranchi | ...28.8... | 16.7 | - |
| Hubballi | 27.0 | 21.0 | - | Shillong | ...23.2... | 10.8 | - |
| Hyderabad | 29.1 | 22.1 | - | Shimla | ...20.0... | 10.6 | - |
| Imphal | 29.4 | 17.7 | - | Srinagar | ...28.8... | 16.7 | - |
| Jammu | 34.0 | 19.5 | - | Thiruvananthapuram | 76.7... | 22.1 | - |
| Kochi | 68.4 | 25.0 | 23.0 | Tiruchi | 14.6... | 30.4... | 23.0 |
| Kohima | 23.8 | 12.6 | - | Vijayawada | 5.3... | 30.4... | 24.4 |
| Kolkata | 31.1 | 22.2 | - | Visakhapatnam | ...32.4... | 25.6 | - |

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Yesterday

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 482 indicating a hazardous level of pollution. In contrast, Patna recorded a healthy AQI score of 20.

Plea in SC to stop deaths in borewells

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

A petition has been filed in the Supreme Court against the continued deaths of children who fall into borewells and the negligence shown by authorities to prevent such tragedies.

The petition was filed by Supreme Court advocate G.S. Mani in the wake of the death of two-year-old Sujith Wilson, who got trapped in an abandoned borewell near Tiruchi in Tamil Nadu recently.

Mr. Mani said authorities remain negligent about safety measures concerning borewells despite Supreme Court directions in 2010. He cited several news reports of borewell deaths in Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, Tamil Nadu and Maharashtra over the years after the court issued directions.

The petition said the negligence, which led to the death of the two-year-old near Trichy, once again brings to the forefront the dangers of open borewells. The petition sought a report from the Centre and States on the steps taken to prevent such accidents.

Herculean task to find new host for UN meet

COP unlikely to take place this year

JACOB KOSHY
NEW DELHI

With Chile withdrawing its offer to host the 25th edition of United Nations Conference of Parties (COP), it's unlikely that there will be a meeting this year, according to experts that *The Hindu* has conversed with.

The COP is the pre-eminent climate meet, where world leaders decide on actions that must be taken to address global warming. Since it was first held in 1995 it has never once been cancelled.

The COP 25 was to be held in Santiago, Chile from the 2nd-13th December until Chilean President Sebastián Piñera announced on Wednesday morning, local time, that Chile would not be hosting the talks.

The decision followed student protests in Santiago since October 18, over a hike in rail metro fares and wealth inequality. This year's COP was originally to be hosted by Brazil but they themselves backed out before Chile stepped in.

UN climate chief Patricia Espinosa released a state-

ment on Wednesday stating,

"I was informed of the decision by the government of Chile not to host COP25 in view of the difficult situation that the country is undergoing. We are currently exploring alternative hosting options." The UN Secretariat didn't offer fresh comment on Thursday, when *The Hindu* requested an update.

A top official in the Union Environment Ministry, who represents India in UN climate negotiations, told *The Hindu* that it would be "near impossible – given the logistics involved" to find a new host country.

A typical COP has participants in the tens of thousands and includes ministers, bureaucrats, activists and journalists from nearly 200 countries.

Ease of accommodation and smooth transport to the venue and places of residence are critical factors in a country's ability to organise the COP.

In 2017, the COP was held in Bonn even though the presidency of the quorum was held by Fiji.

Dalit women 'denied' entry in U.P. temple

STAFF REPORTER
GAZIABAD

Dalit women of a village in Bulandshahr say they are not being allowed to enter a temple by people of "higher caste", in an alleged case of caste discrimination. Police have promised to look into the case after members of the community protested and a video lending credence to the charge went viral on social media.

Women in Rakehra village of Kurja belonging to the Valmiki community were stopped at the gates of Chamad Mandir and allegedly assaulted by "local hooligans" when they protested. In the video, the women are seen confronting a young man stopping them outside the temple. When he tells them the temple is a private property, the women remind him that they have been praying there every year. The man is heard saying they could very well go to the police or the local politicians and the women retort that they are not afraid of anybody and threaten to sit a dharna.

Army to continue to try its personnel for adultery

'Moral turpitude has no place here'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Army will continue to try personnel for adultery and homosexuality under the provisions of the Army Act for "unbecoming conduct," despite the Supreme Court decriminalising both, according to outgoing Adjutant General (AG) of the Army Lt. Gen. Ashwani Kumar.

The AG has sent recommendations to Defence Ministry on tweaking the rules for award of disability pension and also capping the exemption limit.

"SC judgment is law of the land and is abiding... We will not charge anyone on those provisions mentioned by the SC. There are enough provisions in the Army Act to deal with it," Lt. Gen. Kumar told journalists. "We are in uniformed profession and moral turpitude and corruption have no place here," he said.

Lt. Gen. Kumar also the Colonel of Regiment of Corps of Military Police superannuated on Thursday. The AG is the senior-most administrative officer, who looks after manpower planning.

ning and discipline, among others

On disability pension, which has caused protests from the veteran community, Lt. Gen. Kumar said: "There are cases where there were impropriety by some senior officers in maintaining their medical records. They were given due punishment for the offence."

Recently, a Major General-ranked officer from the Army Education Corps was court-martialled for falsifying medical records to earn disability pension and several other senior officers were awarded censures. He said 70-80 officers retire every month, of whom about 35% are in low medical category. "Out of the 35%, nearly 50-60 ultimately get disability pension." Lt. Gen. Kumar said army headquarters was tweaking its rules to bring more checks and balances into the system.

Not everyone with disability "should be exempted" from income tax and there should be an "upper limit" on tax exemption for disability pension.

CBI chargesheets ex-Bol chief manager for fraud

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The CBI has arraigned a former chief manager of the Bank of India (BoI) in a chargesheet alleging that he conspired with two firms and their director to cheat the bank of over ₹51 crore. The agency had in March 2018 registered the case against the then BoI chief manager Sunil Kumar

Nigam, Panache Furniture & Interiors Private Limited, Stone Export House Private Limited, their common director Mehfuz M. Khan and others. In the chargesheet, the CBI alleged that the accused had entered into a conspiracy and cheated the bank through disbursals against unauthorised and fraudulent cheque purchases.

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Telangana State, India. Website: www.nin.res.in

TRAINING IN NUTRITION

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Relief for Pehlu's sons

The finding that they weren't smuggling cows exposes the perversity of blaming the victims

The Rajasthan High Court's order quashing the cow smuggling case against the sons of Pehlu Khan, a dairy farmer lynched by cow vigilantes in 2017, grants much-needed relief to the family. The Khans are yet to get any semblance of justice for Pehlu Khan's murder, as all those sent up for trial were acquitted in August. Of particular significance is Justice Pankaj Bhandari's finding that Khan and his sons, Irshad and Arif, besides truck driver Khan Mohammed, were not transporting cattle for slaughter; rather, the cows and calves in their possession were meant for dairy farming. Although High Courts do not normally intervene after the filing of the charge sheet, they have the power to do so if there is manifest abuse of the process. In this case, the police appear to have tried to show that milch cows and calves were animals meant for slaughter. It is quite apparent that they were trying perversely to build a narrative that it was the victims who were primarily at fault. Pehlu Khan and his sons had bought the animals at a cattle fair in Jaipur and were taking them to Nuh in Haryana, when they were attacked by a mob on April 1, 2017. Khan succumbed to his injuries in hospital two days later. Though it was under the erstwhile BJP government that a case was registered against Pehlu Khan and others under the Rajasthan Bovine Animal (Prohibition of Slaughter and Regulation of Temporary Migration or Export) Act, the charge sheet was filed by the police only in May this year, after a change of regime.

The development caused some embarrassment to the Congress regime of Ashok Gehlot, but the government subsequently made up for it by enacting an anti-lynching law. Further, soon after the six suspects in the murder case were acquitted, the government set up a committee to probe the lapses in the investigation. It also filed an appeal in the High Court against their acquittal. The invalidation of the cow smuggling case is a face-saver for the present regime too. The Pehlu Khan murder case attained emblematic significance not only because it was one of the earliest instances of the wave of vigilante attacks across the country in the name of cow protection; it was also because it contained all the ingredients of a hate crime: unplanned violence, ideological motivation, intolerance towards sections of society and interference with dietary choice. The manner in which the murder case was allowed to collapse in court, possibly due to planned lapses, shows how the system was rigged to favour the mob. What is now left for the State government is to make a sincere effort to salvage the murder case. If there is sufficient evidence that the real perpetrators were dropped from the case deliberately, it should try to get a fresh trial ordered against those responsible and secure appropriate punishment for them.

Another election

The December polls are an opportunity for Labour to clarify its views on Brexit

As Prime Minister Boris Johnson's European Union (EU) withdrawal agreement hangs in the balance, the general election he has called for December 12 is, self-evidently, to obtain a mandate to deliver Brexit. Indeed, the Tory government's objectives are hardly ambiguous this time, unlike in the 2017 snap poll, which was mainly to shore up Theresa May's position as a democratically elected leader in her own right. In June 2017, the contours of the complex nature of unwinding the country's partnership with Europe were not quite as apparent. But the prolonged impasse during the several months since has underlined and, in turn, amplified the sheer inability of Britain's two main political parties to articulate a clear stance on the U.K.'s European membership. In the event, the task of infusing substance into the June 2016 vote has led hard-line eurosceptics to purge moderate MPs, sympathetic to a softer exit, and wrest control of the Tories. The rightward shift has enabled the current leadership to position the Conservatives as the predominant force for Brexit, as opposed to Nigel Farage's Brexit Party.

Mr. Johnson has thus emerged as the most decisive U.K. Prime Minister who can take the country out of the EU and will seek a vote for his exit agreement. Conversely, the Liberal Democrats and the Scottish National Party are avowed champions of remaining in the EU. But matters are less straightforward with the Labour Party, which continues to prevaricate on the European question and would only go as far as to promise a second referendum. Paradoxically though, the party's leftist agenda under Jeremy Corbyn appears more closely aligned to the EU's own priorities than that of new Labour under Tony Blair. Mr. Corbyn's main grounds of opposition to Mr. Johnson's deal are the uncertainty around safeguards on labour rights and environmental protection. Similar are his apprehensions about the risks to Britain's National Health Service under trade negotiations with the U.S. in a post-EU scenario. While Mr. Corbyn has said that these issues would dominate Labour's campaign, it is less certain that those concerns will force the party to abandon its reservations on staying in the EU. But having backed Mr. Johnson's bid for an election that is explicitly designed to elicit the people's verdict, Labour is obliged to spell out to voters its stand on Europe. Labour would moreover have to try and influence its constituency in potentially leave-supporting regions based on mounting evidence that Britons will be rendered poorer outside of the bloc. An end to the excruciating uncertainty of the last three years is the most urgent concern for U.K. and EU citizens and businesses. That is not an unreasonable expectation.

Deciphering Greta's climate message

There is more to the Swedish teenager-activist's point of view than mere emotion and passionate commitment



KRISHNA KUMAR

She is being looked at as an emotionally charged icon of environmental struggles, but there is more to Greta Thunberg's point of view than mere emotion and passionate commitment. If we decipher all the issues raised in her brief presentation at the UN General Assembly, we can notice how it expands the familiar contours of the discussion over climate change. Some of the issues she raised were a regular feature in many debates over natural resources, but there were other, new issues as well.

One well-recognised issue is the direct connection between economic growth and the state of the environment. Devotees of speedy and high economic growth have been indifferent to the limits that nature imposes on the theoretical scope of growth. Nearly half a century has passed since the idea of 'limits to growth' was recognised and proposed as a ground for change in development policies. Apparently, political leaders and the civil servants who serve them do not feel constrained by that idea. The younger ones may not be acquainted with the 1972 report wherein the paradox of economic development was examined.

Victims of indifference

"All you can talk about is money and fairy tales of economic growth," Ms. Thunberg told her audience at the UN headquarters in New York. She accused world leaders of ignoring or deliberately looking away from the responsibility they have towards the young today and in the future. Her argu-

ment would have pleased Mahatma Gandhi. He too thought that economics concerned solely with wealth undermines ethical responsibilities. It ignores justice as a primary human yearning and, in today's terminology, a right.

This was also the underlying theme of Ms. Thunberg's presentation to the leaders and representatives of different countries. She presented herself as a victim of their indifference to climate change. "You have stolen my childhood with your empty words," she said. As an activist-teenager, she had reasons to feel that way. Her campaign on climate change had cost her more than just school attendance.

Being young implies being part of a future. Ms. Thunberg was referring to the collective future of those who are young today and also to future generations. These futures are bleak – not in the context in which economic slowdown affect prospects of prosperity and comfort. Ms. Thunberg's focus was on climate change, a composite idea that imparts bleakness to everybody's future. She suggested that higher income or status would not help to avoid the consequences of climate change. That is an important point, and not everyone today is convinced about its correctness. Not only the richer nations, but also the richer people in every nation continue to believe that they can buy relief and escape from the consequences of climate change for their progeny.

It is in adult-child relations that Ms. Thunberg struck a new, unfamiliar note. It is hardly surprising that this aspect of her presentation has elicited no commentary. One reason is its novelty; another is the unsettling nature of her point. Human beings are used to deriving hope from their progeny. Children give us a sense of continuity, a symbolic conquest over death.



They also give us the prospect of our unfinished tasks being pursued after us. As parents, we not only want to do the best for our children, but we also want their lives to go beyond ours in terms of worldly gains and fulfilment.

Childhoods stymied

Parents invest huge amounts of money in their children's education to make sure that they lead better lives. So do nations. Their leaders talk eloquently about the younger generation taking the nation forward. Societies expect their long-pending problems to be solved by members of the young generation, with their creative and intellectual strength. It was this sentiment that Ms. Thunberg was referring to when she said: "You all come to us young people for hope. How dare you!"

Ms. Thunberg reminded her audience that carbon emissions are crippling the capacities of the young in the early years. This is a familiar note to us in India. In cities like Delhi, doctors have been warning us that children suffering from asthma cannot be expected to have a normal adolescence and youth. The limits that air and water pollution place upon a young person's health and capacities are all too palpable to citizens in many parts of India. What Ms. Thunberg

did was to place these limits in a newer, more public context.

It is easy to miss her message or misconstrue it because her presentation was strident. While she was so visibly emotional during her brief speech, her message was that we must stop being emotional about our children. Although she was addressing an audience of political leaders, she wanted all of us to recognise and accept the bitter truth that we – and those who represent us – have compromised the future of our children. It is not the distant generations that will face the consequences of climate change. No, the crisis is already upon us. It will unfold in the lives of those who are growing up today. The steps currently under consideration for containing the consequences of climate change are far too inadequate to cope with the crisis. And even these modest steps are being taken with great reluctance, which proves Ms. Thunberg's point was that we are not mentally ready to accept the challenge.

It is perhaps obvious that Ms. Thunberg was not speaking on behalf of the children and youth in any particular country. She was representing the voice of the young in a generic sense. This is a paradox worth dwelling on. Among millions of teenagers like her, not all are as apprehensive about the impending future. Nor is everybody as dissatisfied or disgusted with the hypocrisy of politicians and the policies they have framed, nationally or globally. Indeed, the contrary may be true and youngsters like her may be an exception. The growth-centric model of progress and the promise of greater production of consumer goods probably appeals to the vast population of the young in many countries today. They might also feel quite confident that their leaders will find the way forward against

climate change. Nationalist sentiments do inspire a vast section of the young to have positive feelings when it comes to the future.

Ms. Thunberg does not represent this vast crowd. But she does represent the young in a deeper, generic sense as she is someone who has overcome the illusions that childhood and adolescence usually create, often in the garb of idealism. Her Swedish education has made her critically aware of what is going on, imparting to her a sense of urgency and impatience to act. This is not exactly an exceptional case. Nor is Ms. Thunberg alone any more. In many countries, countless children have begun to identify with her. Thanks to the new curricular initiatives taken in all national systems of education, school-going children know a lot more about the meaning of climate change than their parents have the leisure to learn.

It is the adults and older people today who might feel rattled by Ms. Thunberg's speech. When she spoke in the UN General Assembly, many in the audience could be heard laughing. They saw her more as a spectacle than as a real person. They were accustomed to routine expressions of concern about climate change.

Many such leaders are quite pleased with the efforts by the UN and its various bodies to pursue the policies related to sustainable development. They find long, comfortable targets for reduction of carbon emissions quite sufficient and satisfactory. We can hardly imagine that Ms. Thunberg woke them up. If that were possible, we wouldn't be where we are in our encounter with nature's fury for which we have coined the euphemism of 'climate change'.

Krishna Kumar is a former director of the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT)

Substance across the Arabian Sea

Amid turbulence in West Asia, India-Saudi Arabia ties have not only remained steady but kept their positive trajectory



MAHESH SACHDEV

Even by its volatile standards, our Southwest Asian sub-region has lately been unusually turbulent, as reflected in issues ranging from India-Pakistan tensions to the approaching denouements of crises in Yemen, Syria and Afghanistan. The oil market, too, has been inclement. Against this disorderly context, it is no small wonder that India-Saudi Arabia relations have not only remained steady, but kept their positive trajectory. Indeed, following their third summit in as many years earlier this week, the respective leaderships should be complimented for their sagacity in focussing on leveraging their intrinsic bilateral synergy instead of chasing the various wild geese. It demonstrates their maturity and strategic construct.

This is not to claim perfect bilateral harmony: the joint statement was significant not only for covering areas of agreement of the two parties, but circumscribing their well-known differences. Nevertheless, both sides believe that what joins them bilaterally is far more significant. They also realise that this *entente cordiale* does not only help them attain their bilateral po-

tential, it also widens their respective geostrategic options.

Acknowledging core interests

Politically, New Delhi and Riyadh acknowledged each other's core interests and accommodated them. Thus, Saudi Arabia showed an "understanding" of recent Indian actions in Jammu and Kashmir and India "strongly condemned" the various attacks on Saudi civilian facilities. Their bilateral defence, security and anti-terror cooperation has intensified and the first naval exercise is to be held soon.

The Riyadh Summit acquired added importance as it coincidentally preceded two domestic developments in India with considerable traction in the Islamic world: the conversion of Jammu and Kashmir into two Union Territories that happened on Thursday and the Supreme Court verdict on the Ayodhya dispute.

Despite vigorous efforts, the bilateral commercial and economic ties have still remained range-bound. Trade has drifted downwards largely due to lower crude prices. According to the latest Indian data, the bilateral trade in the first nine months of 2019 stood at \$22,416 million, having fallen by 9.2% over the corresponding figure in 2018. It was 5:1 in kingdom's favour and was dominated by the traditional commodities, revealing the need for greater Indian export promotion efforts.



The Saudi investment in India, too, remains far below potential. The kingdom's cumulative investments in India are only \$229 million, or 0.05% of the total inbound FDI. Though the kingdom's Indian community has come down marginally to 2.6 million, they, nevertheless, are still the largest foreign community and their annual remittance levels remain steady at \$1 billion.

There is growing room for optimism, however. The kingdom's Vision 2030, a strategic document, lists eight major partner countries including India, the world's third largest oil importer. Saudi Aramco is to be one of the two strategic partners in the proposed \$44 billion, 1.2 mbpd PSU refinery at Raigarh on India's west coast. It is also to acquire a fifth of the Reliance refinery at Jamnagar and to participate in India's Strategic Petroleum Reserves. If realised, these investments could total nearly \$30 billion, catapulting the kingdom to fourth position among countries investing in India.

Earlier, Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman had committed to investing \$100 billion in India. As the 12 bilateral documents signed in Riyadh Summit show, India and Saudi Arabia have already commenced leveraging opportunities across a vast eco-space, from energy to agriculture and from fintech to skilling. In his keenly awaited speech at the Future Investment Initiative forum in Riyadh, Prime Minister Narendra Modi listed five "trends" in India with global investors' remit: technology and innovation, infrastructure development, human resource development, environment and business-friendly governance. His persuasive narrative is likely to win converts, particularly in the Saudi private sector.

New bilateral council

Setting up of a bilateral Strategic Partnership Council (SPC) to be co-chaired by the Indian Prime Minister and the Saudi Crown Prince is a defining development. Given the centralised nature of executive

at both ends, it would, hopefully, expedite the decision-making process. The SPC would be a permanent bilateral platform with two verticals jointly serviced by the two Foreign and Trade and Industry Ministries.

Among the potential areas for next stage of bilateral cooperation could be greater bilateral synergy in Indian infrastructure, agriculture, start-ups, skilling and IT. Shifting some labour-intensive establishments from Saudi Arabia to India would serve the respective national priorities by reducing the kingdom's expatriate population and boosting 'Make in India'.

The World Bank's recently published "Ease of Doing Business" rankings included both India and Saudi Arabia in its ten "most improved economies". Indian ecstasy at a 14-place jump to the 63rd rank this year would have to be tempered by the knowledge that Saudi Arabia was at the top of the "most improved" economies having leapfrogged 34 places to stand at 62nd rank, one ahead of India. When the sub-region's two largest, top-performing and complementary economies join hands, shouldn't the sum be greater than the total of the parts? After the Riyadh Summit, hopes have risen for an emphatic affirmative answer.

The author is a retired IFS officer who handled Indo-Saudi ties for over a decade. He is currently president of Eco-Diplomacy and Strategies, New Delhi

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.

Kashmir divided

The division of Jammu and Kashmir into two Union Territories (UTs), unilaterally done without consulting the people of Kashmir or any political leader in India, has finally taken effect. How far this bifurcation leads to better governance remains to be seen. Coinciding with this development, a delegation of mostly right-wing Members of European Parliament visited Kashmir at a time when permissions were denied to India's own MPs. How some of them came to such a quick conclusion that the Centre's move to dilute Article 370 has been effective is debatable (Editorial "Visiting Kashmir," Oct. 31).

The visit, just like the August 5 decision itself, is another instance of the Modi-Shah duo working on their own without involving any other party. More such examples of unilateral behaviour can be expected during the remainder of the Narendra Modi government's second term in office.

D.B.N. MURTHY,
Bengaluru

Revisiting Tipu
The question whether Tipu Sultan was a patriot, an internationalist or a bigot is unsettled as he sought the French to replace the British to retain his power. He was a product of his times and has to be understood in the

background of political exigencies prevalent at that time. Like all conquerors, he could not afford to antagonise his constituents and caring for Hindu institutions was part of his statecraft. The Carnatic region was of great strategic significance for the British expansion in south India and Tipu was the principal obstacle and an opponent of British hegemony. Reviewing history, as the Karnataka government proposes to do, will not solve India's problems. Forward-looking thinking is what will make our nation great (South page, "Lessons on Tipu will be reviewed: Yediyurappa," Oct. 31).

H.N. RAMAKRISHNA,
Bengaluru

End of an epoch
The demise of veteran Communist Party of India leader and former Member of Parliament Gurudas Dasgupta signals the end of an eventful epoch in the annals of Indian politics as well as the country's trade union movement. An ardent patriot, a brilliant orator, an astute parliamentarian and an able organiser, the late leader epitomised the principles of simple living, high thinking and wide reading and was the ideal practitioner of the Communist ideology. A towering leader of impeccable integrity who maintained probity in public life, Dasgupta would be remembered for his

unflinching commitment to the ideology he believed in and his ability to maintain a close rapport with the masses communicating with them as one among them. At a time when the scourge of religious fanaticism and neoliberal forces threatens the very foundations of the nation, his demise is certainly a major setback for secular and progressive forces in the country.

B. SURESH KUMAR,
Coimbatore

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CORRECTIONS & CLARIFICATIONS: >>In the report headlined "Biggest 'diplomatic blunder', says Congress," (Oct. 31, 2019), the reference to Jairam Ramesh's tweet should have read as "Howdy Modi", not "Howdy Modit".
>>A Business page story on Bharti Airtel (Oct. 31, 2019) erroneously said that the company's subscriber base for mobile services in the country fell to about 2.79 lakh. It should have been 2.79 million.
>>In the story titled "Tamil Nadu Day to be observed tomorrow" (some editions, Oct. 31, 2019), the penultimate paragraph needs to be corrected to say: "The Madras State was formed on November 1, 1956 from the erstwhile Madras Presidency. The State was eventually renamed Tamil Nadu in 1969." The blurb should have referred to the renaming of Madras State and not Madras Presidency.
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Do voters differentiate between State and national polls?

PARLEY

The Modi factor looms large in national elections, but States are more competitive

The fact that the BJP and its allies won the Assembly election in Maharashtra with a reduced majority and the BJP emerged only as the single largest party in Haryana has raised questions about whether a section of the voters favoured the Opposition due to the performance of the ruling government on the economic front. In a conversation moderated by Srinivas Ramani, Suhas Palshikar and Irfan Nooruddin discuss how the BJP's hyper-nationalist campaign on cultural and national security issues did not yield it the same dividends as it did in the 2019 Lok Sabha election. Excerpts:

The BJP and Shiv Sena won 161 of the 288 seats in Maharashtra and the BJP won 40 of the 90 seats in Haryana. This performance is being termed as 'below expectations'. On the one hand, if you look at the BJP alone, it won 63% of the seats it contested with a 44% vote share in those seats in Maharashtra. On the other, its vote share dropped significantly compared to the Lok Sabha election (by 22 percentage points in Haryana). What caused such a dramatic shift in voter preferences so soon?

Suhas Palshikar: Let us first put the 'dramatic' part in perspective. The BJP contested fewer seats this time. In comparison to 2014, its wins-to-seats-contested ratio has increased quite satisfactorily for it. The BJP's vote share in the seats it contested is not bad at all. So, there are two parts to the story. One, the expectations created by the party of a sweep in both States. Two, if you make a comparison with the Lok Sabha polls, most major parties would get a reduced vote share at the Assembly level as there are many other players who are not as important during the Lok Sabha polls.

Substantively, yes, the BJP has shed a lot of votes compared to the Lok Sabha polls. The BJP will look at the outcome and say it is satisfied with its performance, but in public perception these results will be seen as a setback to the party.

Irfan, the BJP suffered defeats

in three States late last year, but managed a much higher vote share in the Lok Sabha election. Its vote share reduced again in these Assembly polls. Is there a difference in how voters see State and national elections? Do they associate the state of the economy more with the performance of the State government while choosing who they support at the Central level based on national security and cultural issues?

Irfan Nooruddin: Yes, there might be something to that. But we are also at a point in Indian politics with the presence of maybe one of the most successful vote aggregators in Narendra Modi. The Lok Sabha elections of 2014 and 2019 associated the success of the BJP with Mr. Modi's personality, charisma, popularity. The contrast with his presumed alternative, Rahul Gandhi, is quite dramatic in that at the State level, the contrasts between the BJP and its competitors are not such polar opposites. The difference between a Sharad Pawar or Devendra Fadnavis provides Maharashtra a much more plausible set of alternatives; so does the choice between Manohar Lal Khattar and Bhupinder Hooda in Haryana. This is unlike what was perceived as differences between Mr. Modi and Mr. Gandhi.

So, on the one hand, it is fair to say that national elections emphasise issues of national security and maybe the cultural Hindutva messaging of Mr. Modi, besides an effective contrast being drawn with Mr. Gandhi. But with the economy slowing down, there might be a bit of saturation of the 'nationalist wave' that followed the Balakot attacks in February this year. Now it's October and that's a long time to sustain that narrative in the face of bad economic news. There are a number of things going on, but I would say that the biggest explanation for the difference at the State and national levels is still the Modi factor.

Suhas, you recently wrote that there has been some voter fatigue with the charisma factor of Mr. Modi's leadership. At the same time, the



Opposition was also somewhat weaker in the run-up to the elections due to various reasons. If not for the BJP's organisational advantage, would the elections have been closer in Maharashtra?

SP: In Maharashtra, yes, but not in Haryana. Haryana is a smaller State and the Congress was controlled by Mr. Hooda. Even the Janayak Janta Party of Dushyant Chautala was quite organised. They were not as disorganised as the Congress in Maharashtra. Besides the lack of sufficient organisation, non-intervention of the Central leadership and its abdication of responsibilities for the State... a new Congress chief was appointed much later after the Lok Sabha polls. This also contributed to what happened in Maharashtra.

IN: Just to go back to Suhasji's first point, Mr. Fadnavis and his supporters have emphasised that we must focus on the BJP's strike rate in Maharashtra rather than its seat tally. On the one hand, it is true that there is no party as capable as the BJP in winning a majority of votes in a given seat. But it is also worth asking what the calculus was in terms of the pre-electoral alliance with the Shiv Sena. Why did the BJP feel the need to give up so many seats to its alliance partner? Having a good strike rate is good, but to use a cricket analogy, if the goal is to score a 150 runs and you only score 75, no one would really care about your strike rate as you didn't get up to the goal! Right now the Shiv Sena really feels like it has the upper hand.

SP: Irfan is right. Why did the BJP feel it was necessary to have an alliance with the Shiv Sena in the first

place? Especially in the case of the Assembly election and not just the Lok Sabha election. It must have realised that it had many organisational weak spots. With respect to social bases, the strategy of the BJP has always been to bring together the 'upper' castes and 'lower' OBCs. In Maharashtra, Lokniti surveys have shown that 'lower' OBCs tend to vote more for the Sena, which means the BJP realised that it doesn't have enough of a constituency if it had to win only on the basis of this social strategy if it contested alone. So, besides the political background and the social base factors, it realised that its performance in the State was not adequate to reach 150 on its own.

Irfan, some say that it is because the economy is in poor shape that there is a reduced margin of victory for the BJP compared to its performance in the Lok Sabha election. Is this right or did the alignment of social and political forces matter in the drop in vote share for the BJP and its allies?

IN: One of the frustrations in studying Indian electoral politics is that votes are overdetermined. We have powerful social bases of voting logic that operate in the States. But we also know from lots of election surveys that Indian voters have a sophisticated understanding of the economy and of their pocketbook considerations of who they see as credible people to vote for. There was indeed a caste and community

logic at play, but we also see an emerging split between the urban and rural vote in terms of the BJP being able to generate votes at the State level. That hints at the fact that the economy and rural distress do loom large in the mind of voters. They particularly resonate among some groups who feel that their views and concerns are not represented in Cabinets and Ministries where there is no one from their community as part of the winning coalition. Optimism over the economy that voters had five years ago has vanished. There are increasing questions about where jobs will come from, can agriculture be sustainable, etc. The BJP has, in a way, done much better than it deserved to, in these elections. The Opposition has not been able to mount an effective challenge, while the BJP has in Mr. Modi and in Mr. Fadnavis once-in-a-generation popular leaders at the national and State levels. The BJP has retained power but it is a lot more compromised, especially in Haryana, where the alliance with the JJP seems short-term and tactical.

SP: I think the economy and social bases get intertwined when it comes to voter choice. If you look at agrarian distress, there was disappointment in the Maratha community, which were exploited by the NCP in western Maharashtra. But to say that only Maratha votes were responsible for the BJP's reduced majority is inaccurate. In the Marathwada region, which has a higher number of Marathas, the BJP did not face as much of a setback as in western Maharashtra. I agree that agrarian distress and the economic question mattered, but this election showed that smart leadership and good organisation may not be just enough to sweep elections.

The RBI's regular consumer survey shows an increasingly pessimistic outlook towards not just the current state of the economy but also future expectations in urban areas. At the same time, it is in the urban areas that the BJP has done better compared to rural areas. How does the organisational advantage play itself out - more footsoldiers, better social media and television presence? And despite a more pessimistic

outlook, how does the BJP fare better among urban voters?

SP: In urban areas, the NCP and the Congress have been particularly absent for a long time and they have not been able to do much to gain acceptance among the electorate. Historically, opposition to the Congress has emerged in the urban areas and the BJP and the Shiv Sena have managed to appropriate this legacy since the 1990s. They have a better base and organisational structure in urban areas and not just social media and advertisements. Another important reason is that among urban youth, there still continues to be greater expectations from the BJP than objective conditions would actually allow them to have. That might have helped the BJP there.

What lessons can the Opposition take from these elections?

SP: They need to have a better organisation and effectively function as a true Opposition to be seen as alternatives to the BJP. There is a slight opening that has been provided by these elections in terms of political competitiveness. But there is a larger problem – while competition has opened up, it is still limited. The Opposition parties don't seem to have the ability to convince the public on any alternative strategy on handling questions of the majority versus the minority. The larger point still remains: the BJP has been able to draw out a majoritarian tendency among the public and it doesn't seem like the Opposition will contest this in the near future.

IN: Where the BJP is most vulnerable is that the centralisation of power within the party means that State-level leadership is not going to be a great strength for it any longer. While it has managed to leverage Mr. Modi's unique stature and charisma to get votes, it is vulnerable in States where the Opposition has a credible leader and party organisation. If the Opposition has to dent the strengths of the BJP, it has to be able to do it State by State. Nationally, as long as Mr. Modi is as popular as he is, if the Opposition can't come up with a prime-ministerial alternative, there will remain a divergence between the State and national outcomes for sometime to come.

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Cleaning up the Kashmir mess

Nehru can't be blamed for the flawed policies that New Delhi designed for J&K since the 1990s

SHAIKH MUJIBUR REHMAN

The Prime Minister and Home Minister have cited two reasons to justify the dilution of Article 370. The first is the need for a new approach to end the violence in Jammu and Kashmir. The second is that the abrogation of Article 370 has been the core agenda of the Bharatiya Jana Sangh since the early 1950s. It is worth recalling that even Atal Bihari Vajpayee argued in 1996 before the trust vote that his party, if it got the majority, would remove Article 370. The government has found the fact of sustained violence in J&K a legitimate basis to pursue an ideological agenda. Will the dilution of Article 370 mark the end of violence or lead to more killings? No one knows.

On August 8, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said that by diluting Article 370, the government had fulfilled the wishes of Sardar Patel, Syama Prasad Mookerjee and B.R. Ambedkar. A day later he blamed Jawaharlal Nehru for creating the crisis in J&K.

Understanding Nehru

For an objective assessment of Nehru's role in J&K, we need to bear the following facts in mind. One, Nehru was an anti-imperialist with a clear ambition to shape a new world order beyond the rivalry of the U.S. and the Soviet Union. Given this conviction, he was sensitive to global opinions and obligations. His approach to J&K was clearly dictated by such an understanding. Two, Nehru strongly believed that Pakistan was not a workable idea. Talking about Pakistan in 1960 to Leonard Mosley, he said, "We were tired men... Few of us could stand the prospect of going to prison again and if we had stood out for a united India..., prison obviously awaited us. We saw the fires burning in Punjab and heard of the killings. The plan of Partition offered a way out and we took it. We expected that Partition would be temporary, and that Pakistan was bound to come back to us." He reasoned that Article 370 would gradually hollow out, creating conditions for J&K's complete integration into India.

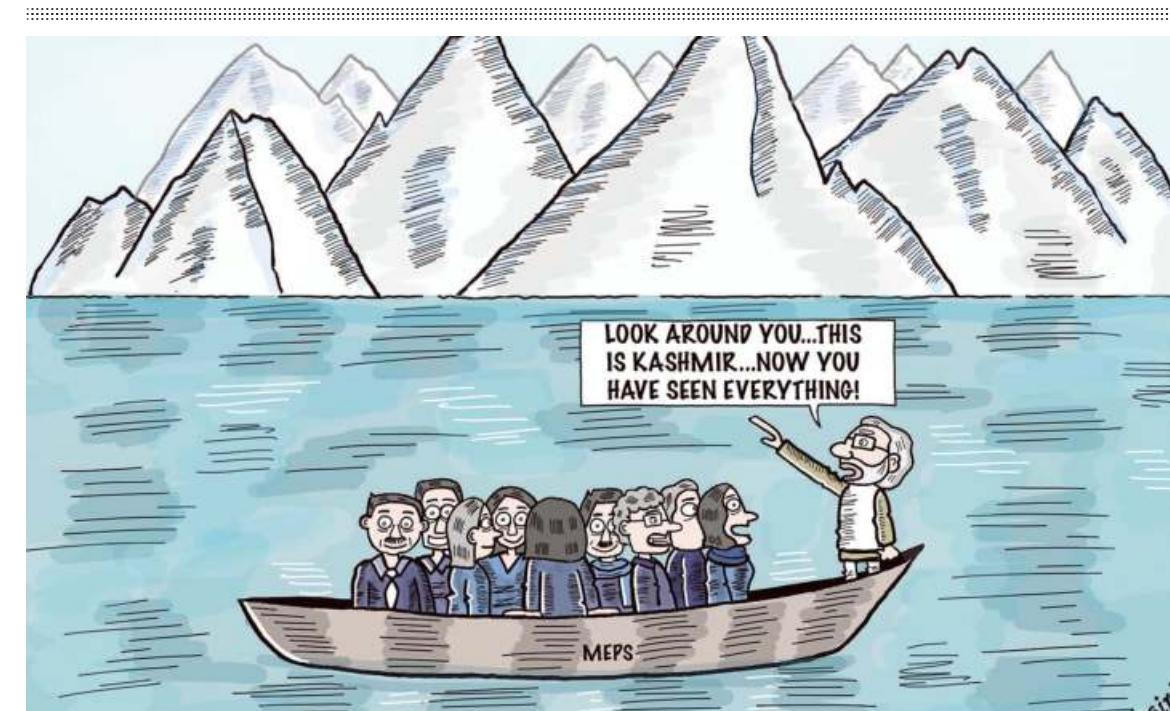
What is crucial to recognise is this: Nehru had no role to play in the

flawed policies that various regimes in New Delhi have designed for J&K since the 1990s. India's policies were largely dictated by its deep state. Former Minister Jairam Ramesh acknowledged this in an interview when he was in the Cabinet after a visit to the Valley in 2013. When former Chief Minister of J&K, Omar Abdullah, made several appeals to lift the Armed Forces Special Powers Act in select regions, it fell on deaf ears in New Delhi. At a book launch a few months before his incarceration, P. Chidambaram acknowledged that it was a mistake for him to not have implemented the interlocutor's report prepared by Radha Kumar and others when he was Home Minister. National Security Adviser Ajit Doval's video after the dilution of Article 370 only reconfirms how decisive the role of India's deep state is. A similar video with the Prime Minister or Home Minister might have had a different connotation for India's political leadership. Therefore, we need to pause before we nail Nehru down for the Kashmir mess, and see these facts in context.

Many concerns

The dilution of Article 370 has come at a time when the relationship between Indian Muslims with India's fast eroding secular polity is facing severe strain. Furthermore, the relationship between Muslims in the rest of India and Kashmiri Muslims since independence has not been shaped by solidarity. In post-Partition India, Muslims rejected any effort by the Muslim League to revive itself in India thus denouncing the politics of separatism in its entirety. Except in Kerala, the party was completely rejected in the rest of India. It is not surprising that Indian Muslims have no support for the *azadi* aspirations of Kashmiri Muslims, though human rights violations have caused empathy among all Indians. The Indian Muslim community is at the moment disorganized. Being lynched is among the main concerns of Muslims today. One wonders how New Delhi intends to integrate Kashmiris without grappling with such concerns.

Shaikh Mujibur Rehman teaches at Jamia Millia Central University, New Delhi



NOTEBOOK

All creatures great and small

On the joy of reporting on new species of plants and animals

SHIV SAHAY SINGH

Every year on World Environment Day, the Botanical Survey of India and the Zoological Survey of India, set up in the colonial era in Kolkata to record the flora and fauna of the country, publish a list of new species of animals and plants discovered the previous year. About seven years ago, when I began visiting these organisations as a reporter, I found it difficult to get the scientists and taxonomists to explain their work in common parlance to me. I had no formal training in zoology or botany and was full of questions and doubts about the scientific jargon in their explanations. But what I funnily found as difficult was convincing them that what appeared as routine work to them could in fact be of interest to common people. For instance, in 2015, the Zoological Survey updated

its list of raptors (birds of prey) in India. I was interested in knowing how many of the world's raptors were found in the country. It turned out that India was home to 106 species of raptors, which is 18% of the number of species found in the world. These included raptors that can only be found in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands. Similarly, I found out that there exists a new species of banana, which is edible and sweet and with orange coloured pulp. The scientist was not convinced that this species, found in a tropical rainforest on the Little Andaman Islands, would be of interest to anyone but scientists. It turns out that the story was interesting enough to make it to the Civil Services Examination in the form of a question later.

Over numerous conversations with taxonomists over the years, I realised that every new discovery of

a plant or an animal species had the possibility of becoming a news story, not only because it would reveal something new to the world, but also expand our knowledge beyond flagship species that always make it to the news. The publications of these survey organisations are a treasure trove, opening a floodgate to fascinating, weird and exciting information about India's biodiversity. For instance, I was excited to discover that water striders have appendages that are designed to enable them to walk on water. Similarly, the discovery of several ginger and balsams species in the Northeast highlights the importance of these biogeographic zones.

A single new discovery on the basis of morphological features or genetic diversity highlights the importance of conservation. Many species may be lost without ever being disco-

vered. It also shows us the importance of ecological hotspots such as the Western Ghats, the Himalayas, and the Northeast, where most of these discoveries are made.

The fact that both these organisations are headquartered in Kolkata is useful to me as I am able to interact with scientists directly. The principle I follow is that I write a story only after details of the discovery are published in a science journal or a book and are available in the public domain.

For reporters on every 'beat', every assignment is a dot on a learning curve. For me, it has been a unique experience. When the news is otherwise almost always about losses – of lives, biodiversity – the thrill of publishing stories on gains – of new species and the ways in which they add value to the ecosystem – is of a different kind.

The Hindu

FROM THE ARCHIVES

FIFTY YEARS AGO NOVEMBER 1, 1969

Millionaire for a day

A computer drove a Frenchman to the brink of a nervous breakdown by making him a multi-millionaire and then rendering him penniless overnight. The hapless Frenchman, trapped in the heartless electronic signals of his bank's computer, now risks prosecution under France's tough *dud cheque* laws. The Paris Commercial Court heard how the computer ran amuck last summer and credited the account of the suburban bookshop owner with a massive 6,140,000 francs (about Rs. 9 million). Once he had recovered from his surprise the man alerted the bank about the mystery millions. In a flash the computer took away the man's new wealth, and then the trouble started. For the Frenchman was horrified to find all his cheques suddenly returned with the ominous "no funds" stamp on them. As passing *dud* cheques in France is a criminal offence the police were automatically informed. The bookshop owner hastily consulted the bank which calmly told him that bank charges on the computer's credit and debit operations were 22,822 francs (Rs. 34,200) and that his account was now empty. Nothing could be done, the bank told him, until the obstinate computer had finished its current programme, which was set for the next three months.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO NOV. 1, 1919.

Sir M. O'Dwyer.
(From an Editorial)

Sir Michael O'Dwyer's evidence before the Joint Committee has after all proved to be not half so exciting as it was generally expected it would be. But the event has resulted in exposing his real animosity towards the people of India, though he tried his best to conceal it by appearing to be on the side of reform. He was in favour of the declaration of August 1917 and considered duality a danger and naturally preferred the Governors' scheme. He was minutely and ably cross-examined on this scheme both by Mr. Montagu and Lord Sinha with the consequence, as our London correspondent says, that it was shown to be nothing more than a 'pretentious fraud.' Sir Michael could not of course conceal his hatred of, and contempt for the educated people of India and he misused the opportunity afforded of appearing before the Joint Committee for denouncing them, assisted as he was in this occupation by Lord Sydenham. He made much of the alleged opposition of educated classes to his recruiting campaign.

FROM PAGE ONE

Government questions WhatsApp over spyware

In an attack on Opposition parties, including the Congress, Mr. Prasad pointed to the incidents of bugging of former Finance Minister Pranab Mukherjee's office during the UPA regime and spying on the then Army chief Gen.V.K. Singh. "These are instances of breach of privacy of highly reputed individuals, for personal whims and fancies of a family," he stated.

'Very secure'
Dr. Gulshan Rai, former National Cyber Security Coordinator in the Prime Minister's Office, said WhatsApp is not a very secure system.

"It is accessed by millions of users the world over through different platforms and tools. Their systems are amenable to breaches due to their own weakness and also because of others. In the past, there have been several instances of weakness in their systems. It is very evident that if NSO has exploited weaknesses in their system, their [WhatsApp's] systems and checks are very weak," Dr. Rai told *The Hindu*.

Meanwhile, in a response to an RTI request filed by activist Saurav Das on October 23, asking questions whether or not the government had purchased Pegasus or intends to do so in the future, the MHA stated that it had no information.

The use of the spyware in question, Pegasus, via WhatsApp was first identified in May this year.

The spyware exploited a vulnerability in WhatsApp's video-call feature that allowed attackers to inject the spyware on to phones simply by ringing the number of

a target's device.

The person did not even have to answer the call. Once Pegasus is installed, it can access the targeted users' private data, including passwords, contact lists, calendar events, text messages, and live voice calls from popular mobile messaging apps.

Following this, the U.S.-based firm announced that it had addressed the vulnerability and issued an update for its application.

In the investigations that followed, WhatsApp found that a total of 1,400 mobile numbers and devices were impacted globally. These included those belonging to attorneys, journalists, human rights activists, political dissidents, diplomats and other senior foreign government officials.

In its complaint filed with the federal court, WhatsApp has stated, "According to public reporting, Defendants' [NSO Group] clients include, but are not limited to, government agencies in the Kingdom of Bahrain, the United Arab Emirates, and Mexico as well as private entities."

Meanwhile, the Citizen Lab at the University of Toronto, which had volunteered to help WhatsApp identify cases in which the suspected targets of this attack were members of civil society, such as human rights defenders and journalists, said it believed that at least 100 members of civil society, "which is an unmistakable pattern of abuse", were targeted in these attacks globally.

This number may grow as more victims come forward, it added.

Lieutenant Governors assume office

Residents of the Valley continue to have no access to both fixed-line and mobile Internet services, which were snapped on the midnight of August 4.

There was palpable anger on the streets. A bunch of people told this correspondent on Residency Road that ending the special status was an "act of betrayal" by the BJP government.

'Spontaneous action'
"No bandh call has been given by separatists or militants, but people have spontaneously downed shutters in protest against the ending of our special status. It is the people who have taken over as leaders of this movement," one shopkeeper said.

"How can we believe full statehood will be restored when so many promises made on autonomy have not been honoured," asked another, who preferred anonymity like his colleague.

While the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir will have a 114-member elected Assembly, up from 107 earlier, and a Chief Minister, the Union Territory of Ladakh will be controlled directly by the Lieutenant Governor.

Soon after being sworn in, Mr. Mathur said, "We will chalk out a blueprint to push development in different sectors. Health and education will remain a key focus."

NSCN-IM back in talks on peace deal, says Ravi

Mr. Ravi had been meeting leaders of other delegations, including the six Naga National Political Groups (NNPG), in the last leg of meetings in Delhi.

The NNPG in a statement claimed the Centre has "endorsed the usage of Naga emblem/flag specifically for cultural identity within the Naga homeland."

"The Naga flag is a political symbol and cannot be confined to socio-cultural activities. Therefore, together in one voice, Nagas would pursue it politically and democratically," NNPG said.

Alezo Venuh, a senior member of NSCN/GPRN, another Naga group, who was engaged in discussions with Mr. Ravi this week, said, "We do not know the details of the agreement but we have agreed in principle to join the peace process and all issues have been worked on. The agreement can be signed soon."

The NSCN-IM has been fighting for 'Greater Nagaland' or Nagaland - it wants to extend Nagaland's bor-

ders by including Naga-dominated areas in neighbouring Assam, Manipur and Arunachal Pradesh - to unite 1.2 million Nagas. The Centre has, however, ruled out disintegration of the neighbouring States.

Ministry assurance
The MHA said in a statement that rumours were being spread on social media that a final Naga settlement has been arrived at and it was creating anxiety and concern in some parts of the country. "It is clarified that before any settlement is arrived at with Naga groups, all stakeholders, including Assam, Manipur and Arunachal Pradesh, will be duly consulted," the MHA said.

On October 18, Mr. Ravi held detailed consultations with the apex leadership of all the 14 Naga tribes of Nagaland, all the minority non-Naga tribes of Nagaland, the Nagaland GB Federation, the Nagaland Tribes Council, the Church leaders and civil society organizations in Kohima.

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ders by including Naga-dominated areas in neighbouring Assam, Manipur and Arunachal Pradesh - to unite 1.2 million Nagas. The Centre has, however, ruled out disintegration of the neighbouring States.

Former Congress chief Rahul Gandhi, who is abroad, tweeted, suggesting that it was a government operation and called it "WhatsA-Ops".

"The Govt seeking WhatsA-Ops' response on who bought Pegasus to spy on Indian citizens, is like Modi asking Dassault who made money on the sale of RAFALE jets to India!" he said.

PM dedicates Article 370 move to Patel

Centre has fulfilled his dream of full integration of Jammu and Kashmir with India'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
AHMEDABAD

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday dedicated the government's "historic" decision of withdrawing the special status to Jammu and Kashmir under Article 370 to Sardar Vallabhhai Patel on his birth anniversary, and said the Centre had fulfilled Patel's dream of full integration of J&K with India.

Paying glowing tributes to Sardar Patel at the Statue of Unity built by the Gujarat government on an island on the Narmada near the Sardar Sarovar dam at Kevadia, Mr. Modi said that with the abrogation of Kashmir's special status under Article 370, Patel's dream of unifying India was now complete.

Human cost
"The country took the decision of abrogation of [special status to J&K under] Article 370, which had only given separation and terrorism to that State and over 40,000 people lost their lives in

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This number may grow as more victims come forward, it added.

Priyanka says desperate BJP adopting Patel

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

As Congress leaders on Thursday took to social media to offer respects to the first Home Minister Sardar Vallabhhai Patel on his 144th birth anniversary and former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi on her 35th death anniversary, party general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra accused the BJP of adopting Patel as its leader as it did not have its own freedom fighter.

"Sardar Patel was a stalwart of the Congress who was devoted to the ideology of the party. He was a close companion of Jawaharlal Nehru ... and was opposed to the RSS, the ideological mentor of the BJP," she tweeted.

Union Minister Babul Supriyo hit back at Ms. Vadra: "This tweet proves that for you, the party always comes before India and two, the Congress doesn't have copyright to every second freedom fighter. Every freedom fighter is first an Indian."

Mr. Kumar said the MEPs who visited Kashmir wanted to know India's concerns over

Cong. wants a probe under court watch

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Congress on Thursday accused the Centre of "snooping" after social media giant WhatsApp claimed that journalists and human rights activists in India have been targets of surveillance, and asked the Supreme Court to take *suo motu* notice of the illegal hacking.

At a press conference, Congress's chief spokesperson Randeep Surjewala demanded a court-monitored probe into the allegations.

"Instead of digressing from the issue of illegal, unconstitutional and unauthorised surveillance of citizens of India by asking WhatsApp to explain, let Ravishankar Prasad and the BJP government, who are sworn to protect the Constitution, answer which agency of the government had purchased and deployed the Pegasus surveillance software," Mr. Surjewala said.

Former Congress chief Rahul Gandhi, who is abroad, tweeted, suggesting that it was a government operation and called it "WhatsA-Ops".

"The Govt seeking WhatsA-Ops' response on who bought Pegasus to spy on Indian citizens, is like Modi asking Dassault who made money on the sale of RAFALE jets to India!" he said.



Towering leader: Narendra Modi paying tributes to Sardar Patel at the Statue of Unity. ■ ANI

three decades of terrorism," he said, adding that it was Patel who had inspired him to take the decision to dilute Article 370 and that he was dedicating the decision "at the feet of" the first Home Minister of the country.

Comparing the move on Article 370 with the act of

destroying a wall, Mr. Modi said the 'temporary wall' between Indians and those living on the other side had been brought down.

While lauding Patel for his efforts at integrating the hundreds of princely States after Independence, Mr. Modi also took a swipe at the country's

first Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru, indirectly blaming him for the way Jammu and Kashmir had been handled.

"Patel had once said that he had handled the Kashmir issue, it would not have taken so long to resolve it," Mr. Modi said, implying that the

new system in Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh, both now Union Territories after the State was bifurcated following the dilution of Article 370 in August, was not meant to draw a line on the land or create a boundary but to build a strong link of trust between the government and the people of both regions, Mr. Modi said.

He also announced that, as promised by the government in August, government employees of Jammu and Kashmir would be treated on a par with other government employees and the Seventh Pay Commission's scales had come into force from Thursday.

"We will definitely look at such requests. It should, however, be kept in mind that what will be the deciding factor will be the intent, content and the ground situation before a decision is taken on such visits," he said, asked whether the government would encourage more such visits to dispel growing global concern.

"Such exchanges promote people-to-people contact, and as part of this, we have engaged and continue to do so with members of civil society, Parliament and the media and so on."

He also argued that sharing India's perspective did

Maharashtra officials deny any role

Phone tapping is carried out through a committee of senior officials'

SHARAD VYAS
AJEET MAHALE
MUMBAI

Senior officials of the Maharashtra Home Department said the government is not in the know of any activity involving private or government organisations snooping on activists and lawyers in the State.

The process of phone tapping is carried out through a committee of senior officials, while any procurement of international products - if at all a spyware was bought from Israel as is being alleged - is carried out with the permission of at least five senior secretaries of the government, they claimed.

"We have nothing to do with this issue, and if at all this has happened, it was outside the ambit of the government protocols and systems," said a senior secretary of the Maharashtra government.

Senior NCP leader Dhannayak Mundu said: "This is a serious breach of personal privacy and the honourable Governor should initiate a probe to get to the bottom of this."

Others said they were surprised at being targeted even as they were mildly associated with splinter progressive movements.

"I have been associated with many movements but never thought would be tar-



If at all this happened, it was outside the government system, says an official.

to hack into his email since 2017 and before.

Heads of state and government departments have been trying to contact me," said former Ph.D student of Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS) Ajmal Khan. Mr. Khan has also been working closely with the Bhima-Koregaon activists and Dalit movements in Mumbai.

"It was only today when the news broke I realised I should have taken the calls from the Toronto-based Lab more seriously. They had been trying to contact me," said former Ph.D student of Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS) Ajmal Khan. Mr. Khan has also been working closely with the Bhima-Koregaon activists and Dalit movements in Mumbai.

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Jadhav case: Pak. violated its obligations, ICJ tells UN

Judge elaborates on aspects of the court's ruling

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

UNITED NATIONS

Pakistan violated its obligations under the Vienna Convention in the arrest and detention of Indian national Kulbhushan Jadhav, Justice Abdulqawi Yusuf, International Court of Justice (ICJ) President, told the UN General Assembly here.

Mr. Jadhav, 49, a retired Navy officer, was sentenced to death by a Pakistani military court on charges of "espionage and terrorism" after a closed trial in April 2017.

Presenting the report of the ICJ to the 193-member General Assembly on Wednesday, Justice Yusuf said that in its judgment of July 17, the principal judicial organ of the UN found that Pakistan had violated its obligations under Article 36 of



Kulbhushan Jadhav

the Vienna Convention and that appropriate remedies were due in this case.

The Bench led by Justice Yusuf had ordered an "effective review and reconsideration of the conviction and sentence of Kulbhushan Jadhav".

He said one of the issues that the Court had to examine was the question of whether the rights relating

to consular access were in any manner to be excluded in a situation where the individual concerned was suspected of carrying out acts of espionage. The Court noted that there was no provision in the Vienna Convention containing a reference to cases of espionage; nor did the Article concerning consular access, Article 36, exclude from its scope certain categories of persons, such as those suspected of espionage. Therefore, the Court concluded that the Article was applicable in full to the case at hand, he said.

The Court noted that Pakistan's making of the notification some three weeks after Mr. Jadhav's arrest constituted a breach of its obligation to inform India's consular post without delay.

With Eknath Shinde elected legislative party leader, Sena may soften stand on rotating CM post

TANVI DESHPANDE

MUMBAI

Shiv Sena chief Uddhav Thackeray on Thursday urged the BJP to keep its word on power sharing in Maharashtra.

Mr. Thackeray was speaking after a meeting of newly elected Sena MLAs elected senior party leader Eknath Shinde as legislative party leader. Mr. Shinde's name was proposed by Aaditya Thackeray.

Addressing the MLAs at Sena Bhavan, Mr. Thackeray said he had not yet received any power-sharing proposal from the BJP. "Nobody should think they are immortal as Chief Minister," Mr. Thackeray said.

Slams Fadnavis

The Sena chief also expressed unhappiness over Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis's statement that sharing the top post did not fi-

gure in talks between the Sena and BJP leaders ahead of the Assembly elections.

"The Chief Minister should have refrained from making such statements. We still consider the BJP as our ally. Whatever was spoken between Amit Shah and me must be fulfilled and there will be a stable government in Maharashtra," Mr. Thackeray said.

Sources have indicated that the Sena may relent on its demand to share the CM's post and settle for some plum Cabinet portfolios instead.

Sena veteran and former Chief Minister Manohar Joshi told a TV channel, "Talks have started. Uddhav Thackeray and Devendra Fadnavis have met each other." However, he added, "I was not present at the meeting."

The Sena unanimously elected Mr. Shinde as its legislative party leader. His



Suspense continues: Sena chief Uddhav Thackeray and his son and newly elected MLA Aaditya Thackeray leaving after a meeting of the party legislators in Mumbai on Thursday. •PTI

name was proposed by Aaditya Thackeray and seconded by five Sena MLAs.

A day ahead of the meeting, there was speculation that Aaditya Thackeray might be a contender for the post. The Sena also named Dindoshi MLA and former

Koshari at Raj Bhavan with a memorandum to declare a wet drought in Maharashtra and provide immediate relief to farmers.

"Heavy post-monsoon showers in various parts of Maharashtra prompted this demand," Worli MLA Aaditya Thackeray told reporters after meeting Mr. Koshari.

Asked if visiting the Governor with all MLAs was a show of strength, party chief whip Sunil Prabhu said, "The people of Maharashtra are suffering due to unseasonal rainfall and Cyclone Kyarr. Every MLA has experienced this."

The memorandum stated, "We request you to take these losses personally, provide immediate relief to the people and declare a wet drought in the State. All forms of help should be provided immediately without administrative complications."

BJP questions Rahul's foreign trips

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

The BJP on Thursday said Congress leader Rahul Gandhi should disclose details of his visits abroad and it was a matter of public interest as he was a public representative.

It also questioned his "frequent" foreign visits and the "secrecy" about those, asking if he was involved in some secret operation.

Party spokesperson G.V.L. Narasimha Rao, speaking to the press here, said that Mr. Gandhi had travelled abroad on 16 occasions in the past five years.

Mr. Rao cited a letter written by Parliamentary Affairs Minister Pralhad Joshi on July 3 to inform MPs that they should, in advance, inform Parliament about their foreign visits, even if those were purely for private purposes, he said.

Mr. Rao said the Lok Sabha secretariat had not received any information from Mr. Gandhi about his foreign visits.

Uncertainty over RCEP continues

Government hopes that negotiations over the weekend will 'clarify' matters

SUHASINI HAIDAR

NEW DELHI



Concerns from the field: Farmers staging a protest against the proposed RCEP in Hyderabad. ■ G. RAMAKRISHNA

Singh, Secretary (East) in the Ministry, said.

"India remains engaged to find a resolution of these issues, and we expect greater clarity after the ministerial meeting and RCEP summit."

Diplomats from other RCEP countries – which includes the ASEAN and their FTA partners, India, China, Japan, South Korea, Australia and New Zealand – have said India is now the only country holding out against committing to concluding the RCEP on Monday during the summit.

"There are obviously some critical issues still outstanding and efforts are being made to try and resolve them to provide a fair and transparent trading environment. These issues are extremely important for our economy and livelihood of our people," Vijay Thakur

RCEP ministerial meeting, where a last attempt will be made to bring India on board. According to an official from one of the countries tasked with convincing India to sign, they are hopeful that even if Mr. Modi refuses to sign on to the main RCEP agreement, India will initial an "agreement in principle" to join, along with a commitment to "continue negotiations" with the others.

Only outstanding issue

Government officials travelling to Bangkok said the main RCEP announcement agreement draft has been finalised

by the RCEP secretariat, while diplomats of other countries said the only question remaining was "whether India would join on Monday or will discuss joining at a later date".

Asked about the possibility that India would be left out of the RCEP agreement with other nations going ahead, Ms. Singh said that she could not "speculate when negotiations are still going on".

If concluded, the RCEP FTA will create the world's largest economic bloc and cover half of its economy. The government has been hesitant to join the grouping for a number of reasons including that the RCEP will necessitate a lowering of tariffs and ease access for Chinese goods to flood the market, which has been opposed by Indian industry bodies, farmers and trade unions.

In particular agriculture groups including the All India Kisan Sabha and Indian Coordination Committee for Farmers Movement have announced protests against any move by the government to join the Partnership.

trials, suspects, missing persons and unknown deceased persons. It has proposed DNA sampling and profiling of citizens accused of crime or reported missing, and storing their unique genetic information for administrative purposes.

A member told *The Hindu* that flagging the malware infection at the Kudankulam Nuclear Power Plant, an Opposition leader asked: "If the Kudankulam nuclear power plant can be infected with malware, then what is the definition of a suspect and pointed to the absence of a sunset clause to expunge DNA samples. "We have been given only three months to examine the hugely controversial and contentious Bill. We want to do the widest possible consultations before finalising the report," Mr. Ramesh said.

MPs grill officials on DNA Bill

It seeks to create a data bank of suspects, missing persons

SOBHANA K. NAIR

NEW DELHI

A parliamentary panel headed by Congress leader Jairam Ramesh began hearing the contentious DNA Technology (Use and Application) Regulation Bill, 2019 with members grilling officials from the Department of Biotechnology on scope for violations of privacy in the proposed DNA data bank.

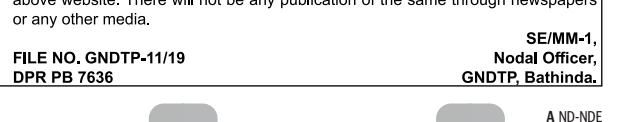
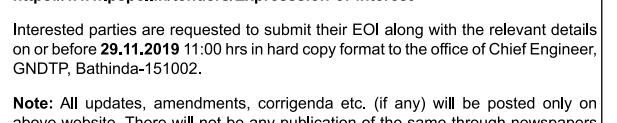
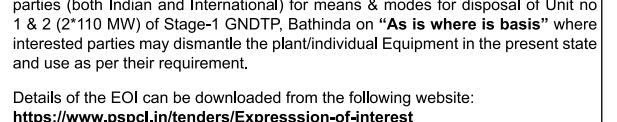
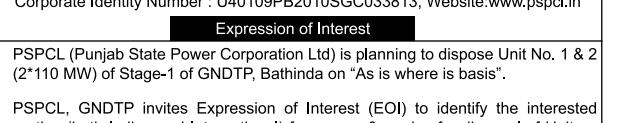
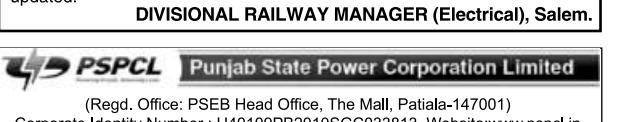
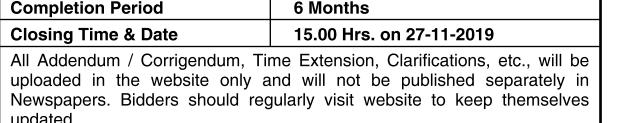
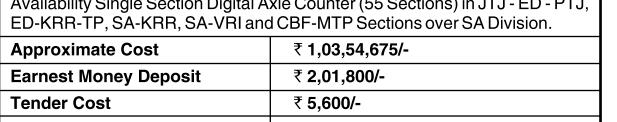
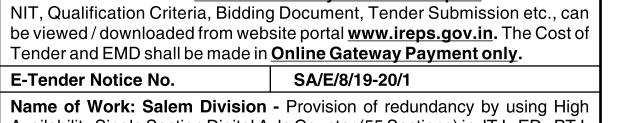
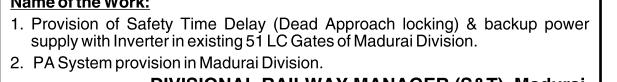
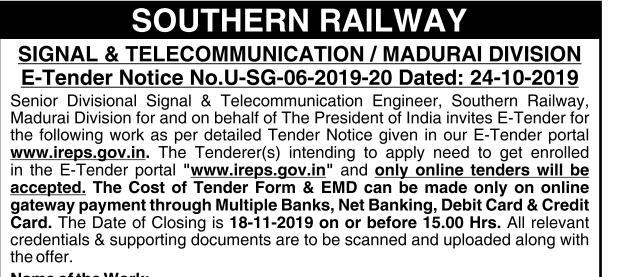
Renu Swarup, Secretary, Biotechnology Department, gave a presentation to the Standing Committee on Science and Technology on Thursday.

The Bill seeks to create a national data bank, and regional data banks which will have DNA samples of under-

trial, suspects, missing persons and unknown deceased persons. It has proposed DNA sampling and profiling of citizens accused of crime or reported missing, and storing their unique genetic information for administrative purposes.

A member told *The Hindu* that flagging the malware infection at the Kudankulam Nuclear Power Plant, an Opposition leader asked: "If the Kudankulam nuclear power plant can be infected with malware, then what is the definition of a suspect and pointed to the absence of a sunset clause to expunge DNA samples. "We have been given only three months to examine the hugely controversial and contentious Bill. We want to do the widest possible consultations before finalising the report," Mr. Ramesh said.

As per Ms. Swarup's presentation, the DNA regulato-



SOUTHERN RAILWAY

(Construction Organisation)

Tender Notice No.LOHE/CN/DY.CEE/

2019-20 Dated: 29-10-2019

For and on behalf of The President of India, The Deputy Chief Electrical Engineer/O/H/Construction, Southern Railway, Chennai Egmore invites E-tender for the following works:

"OHE modification works in connection with the proposed reconstruction of ROB 9R demolishing the existing ROB 9R at Km.12/26-30 between Chennai Central and Basin Bridge Junction Stations in Chennai Division of Southern Railway".

Date of Opening of Tender: 22-11-2019

For more details, visit www.reps.gov.in

Deputy Chief Electrical Engineer/O/H/ Construction/Chennai - 8.

CODINGHURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE

Office of the Executive Engineer, Project (South) Division, Jayanagar 2nd Block, Bengaluru - 11.

No: EE/P/W/S/P.T.N/PR/07/2019-20 Date: 31.10.2019

POSTPONEMENT OF TENDER NOTIFICATION

Sub:- Regarding dates postponement of tender notification of this office through e-procurement.

Ref:- This office tender postponement notification no:

EE/PS-e-proc/PR/07/19-20 Dated 30.09.2019

This is in connection with above subject and reference, the tender was invited under reference number EE/PS-e-proc/PR/07/19-20

by this office on 30.09.2019 through e-procurement, due to technical reasons of e-procurement portal for the works of the same, dates are postponed as detailed below.

The pre-bid meeting will be held on 05.11.2019 at 3:00 pm at the office (Hall) of the Executive Engineer (South).

For more details, please visit our website www.cochinport.gov.in

www.eprocure.gov.in/cppr_e-tender

Sd/- Chief Mechanical Engineer Cochin Port Trust

COCHIN PORT TRUST

Willingdon Island, Cochin - 682 009

Tel: 0484-258-2300/266639, Fax: 0484-2666639

cme@cochinport.gov.in, dcmepr@gmail.com

TENDER NOTICE

TENDER NO. D3/T/14/TUG HIRING/2019-20

M/R/T DATE: 28-10-2019

Electronic Tenders (e-tenders) in Single Stage Two Cover bidding procedure (Technical bid and Price bid) are invited by the Chief Mechanical Engineer, Cochin Port Trust for Hiring of Two numbers Tugs of Bollard Pull not less than 50 Tons and age not more than 10 (ten) years (as on due date of submission of tender) for a period of Five years and extendable by two more years at the discretion of Cochin Port Trust, due on 26-11-2019.

For more details, please visit our website www.cochinport.gov.in

www.eprocure.gov.in/cppr_e-tender

Sd/- Chief Mechanical Engineer Cochin Port Trust

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At least 74 killed in Pakistan train inferno

Fire was triggered when two gas cylinders that passengers were using to cook breakfast exploded

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

RAHIM YAR KHAN

At least 74 people were killed and dozens injured after cooking gas cylinders exploded on a train packed with pilgrims in Pakistan on Thursday, some dying after leaping from carriages to escape the inferno, authorities said.

Television footage showed flames pouring out of three carriages as people could be heard crying during the incident, in a rural area of central Punjab province.

Some of the passengers had been cooking breakfast when two of their gas cylinders exploded, Ali Nawaz, a senior Pakistan Railways official, said.

Minister admits mistake

Many Pakistanis carry food on long train journeys, but gas cylinders are supposedly banned.

Railways Minister Sheikh Rasheed Ahmed said it had been "tradition" for authorities to allow people travelling to the festival to board trains carrying cooking cylinders. "I admit our mistake... this will not happen in



Rescue effort: Workers looking for survivors on the train in Liaquatpur. ■ AP

the future," he told journalists in televised comments from the nearby city of Multan.

"A tragedy that could have been avoided but ever since I can recall while travelling by train no baggage check or restrictions enforced," Human Rights Minister Shireen Mazari tweeted.

Dozens of people crowded along the tracks staring at the burning carriages, which had been disconnected from the rest of the train, televi-

sion images showed.

Firefighters rushed to the scene near Rahim Yar Khan district. Rescue workers and soldiers could also be seen, as bodies were carried away covered in white sheets.

"A cylinder exploded and I don't know how, fire erupted everywhere," one survivor, Muhammad Imran, told AFP from a hospital.

"I jumped out of the train to save my life. There was a whole line of people behind me, they pushed," he said.

Muhammad Nadeem Zia, a medical superintendent at the hospital in Liaquatpur, the nearest town, said some of the victims were killed by head injuries sustained as they leapt from the moving train. He said at least 44 people had been injured.

Those hurt were being rushed to hospitals in the nearby city of Bahawalpur and elsewhere in Rahim Yar Khan district. Officials said many of the bodies were charred beyond recognition.

Prime Minister Imran Khan said he was "deeply saddened" by the tragedy and had ordered an urgent inquiry. Mr. Khan said the train was the Tezgam, one of Pakistan's oldest and most popular rail services, which runs between the southern port city of Karachi to the garrison city of Rawalpindi, neighbouring Islamabad.

Religious pilgrimage

It had been diverted to facilitate the religious pilgrims travelling to Lahore.

Passengers were travelling to attend the annual Tablighi Jemaat, one of Pakistan's biggest religious gatherings, which each year sees up to 4,00,000 people descend on a tented village outside Lahore for several days to sleep, pray and eat together.

The majority of those killed were pilgrims from southern Sindh province, Mr. Nawaz said.

The Tablighi Jemaat, which begins on Thursday and concludes on Sunday, was founded by religious scholars over five decades ago and focuses exclusively on preaching Islam.

U.S. House approves rules for Trump's impeachment

The voting was the first formal test of support for the inquiry

REUTERS

WASHINGTON

A deeply divided U.S. House of Representatives took a major step in the effort to impeach President Donald Trump on Thursday when lawmakers approved rules for the next stage, including public hearings, in the Democratic-led inquiry into Mr. Trump's attempt to have Ukraine investigate a domestic political rival.

In the first formal test of support for the impeachment investigation, the Democratic-controlled House voted almost entirely along



Donald Trump

party lines – 232 to 196 – to move the probe forward in Congress.

Republicans accused Democrats of using impeachment to overturn the results

of his 2016 victory.

"The Greatest Witch Hunt In American History!" Mr. Trump wrote on Twitter after the vote.

The probe focuses on a July 25 telephone call, in which Mr. Trump asked his Ukrainian counterpart, Volodymyr Zelensky, to investigate Mr. Trump's Democratic political rival Joe Biden, a former U.S. Vice-President, and his son Hunter.

Republicans have largely stuck by him, blasting the effort as a partisan exercise that has given them little input.

Democrats have largely stuck by him, blasting the effort as a partisan exercise that has given them little input.

IS names Baghdadi successor

Militant group warns U.S. it will avenge leader's death

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

BEIRUT

The Islamic State jihadist group confirmed the death of its leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi in a statement on Thursday and named Abu Ibrahim al-Hashimi al-Qurashi as his replacement.

"We mourn you... commander of the faithful," said Abu Hamza al-Quraishi – presented as the jihadist group's new spokesman – in an audio statement.

Baghdadi, who led the IS since 2014 and was the world's most wanted man, was killed in a U.S. special forces raid in Syria's north-western province of Idlib on Sunday.

The group also confirmed the killing in another raid by Abu Hassan al-Muhajir.

"The Islamic State shura council convened after confirming the martyrdom of



Ground zero: Gen. Kenneth McKenzie giving detailed account of the U.S. raid that resulted in the death of IS chief Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi. He also released videos of the operation. ■ AP

In the audio message, the new IS spokesman described Donald Trump as "a crazy old man" and warned the U.S. that the group's supporters would avenge Baghdadi's death.

Little is known about Hashimi. "We don't know much about him except that he is the leading judge of IS and he heads the Sharia (Islamic law) committee," said Hisham al-Hashemi, an Iraqi expert on IS.

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Twitter bans political advertisements

Decision to 'curb misinformation' wins Democrats' praise, scorn from Trump campaign

ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW YORK

Twitter announced an end on Wednesday to political campaign and issue ads on its service, calling it an important step in reducing the flow of election-related misinformation.

Twitter CEO Jack Dorsey said in a series of tweets that paid political messages in the targeted environment that social media enables

can be fraught.

"While internet advertising is incredibly powerful and very effective for commercial advertisers, that power brings significant risks to politics, where it can be used to influence votes to affect the lives of millions," he wrote.

Security and privacy researchers and some Democratic politicians hailed Twitter's decision as an

important way to prevent campaigns from feeding streams of misinformation to targeted voters. The move drew a sharp contrast between Twitter and its much larger rival Facebook, which has come under fire in recent months for its policy of not fact-checking political ads.

Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg shot back quickly, using an earnings conference

call on Wednesday afternoon to offer an impassioned defence of what he called his company's deep belief "that political speech is important."

U.S. President Donald Trump's campaign manager Brad Parscale, in a statement, called Twitter's change a "very dumb decision". "This is yet another attempt to silence conservatives," Mr. Parscale said.

Premadasa vows to complete constitutional reform

He also promises to release military-held land to civilians

MEERA SRINIVASAN

COLOMBO

Sri Lanka's Presidential hopeful Sajith Premadasa on Thursday promised to complete the constitutional reform process initiated by the current government, if elected to the office.

The ruling United National Party's (UNP) candidate released his election manifesto in the central city of Kandy, a fortnight ahead of Sri Lanka's presidential election.

"The Constitution reform process on the executive President acting with the concurrence of the Prime Minister, devolution and

electoral systems begun by this Parliament will be completed without delay, along with all stakeholders," his manifesto said, adding that the "new constitution" will be approved by the people through a referendum.

Addressing pending concerns of war-affected communities in the island's north and east, Mr. Premadasa promised to release the remaining military-held land belonging to civilians; to appoint task forces for development in the regions; and to release persons who had been detained for long periods without being charged.

The manifesto would be

closely read by Tamils who voted against former President Mahinda Rajapaksa in 2015.

While acknowledging the initiatives of the successor government, which many argue were inadequate and slow, the Tamil constituency remains sceptical. Sri Lanka's Tamil National Alliance (TNA), the main political grouping representing Tamils of the north and east in Parliament, is yet to endorse any of the presidential candidates. Its leader R. Sampanthan earlier said the alliance would decide after looking at the manifestos of all key candidates.

U.S. slams Russia over S-400 deals

Military Affairs envoy says Moscow is exploiting countries' security requirements

SRIKANTH LAKSHMAN

WASHINGTON

A month after External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar said he was "reasonably convinced" that he could persuade the U.S. of India's decision to buy the S-400 Russian missile defence system, the top U.S. diplomat for Political Military Affairs, Clarke Cooper, called out Russia and China for exploiting countries' security requirements.

India had decided to buy the S-400 for \$5.2 billion in 2018 – a decision that could potentially attract U.S. sanctions under a law called Countering America's Adversaries Through Sanctions Act (CAATSA). While the U.S. President has the authority to grant waivers under various conditions, the admiral

Meridian International Center, a Washington-based think-tank on Thursday.

"Through the targeted marketing of systems like the S-400, Russia seeks to exploit the genuine security requirements of partners to create challenges in our ability – legal and technological – to provide them with the most advanced defensive capabilities."

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Clarke Cooper

nistration has repeatedly (including earlier in October in response to Mr. Jaishankar's comments) cautioned countries, including India, that it is at risk of sanctions if it goes ahead with the Russian deal.

However, Mr. Cooper said

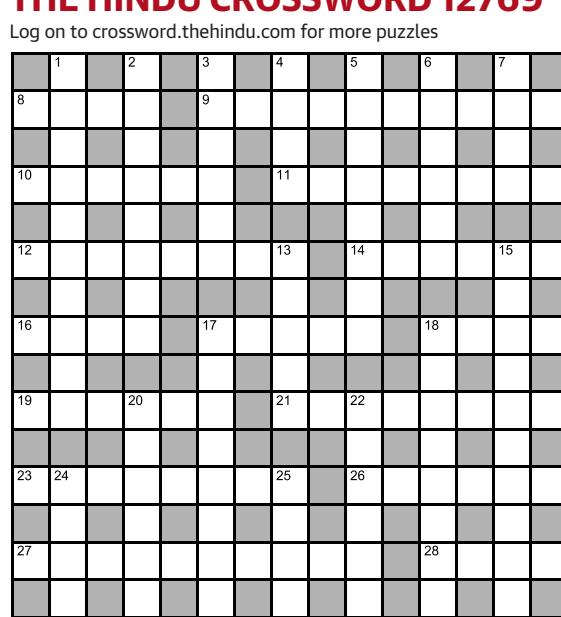
on Thursday that there was no "blanket application" of CAATSA laws.

"It can be scalable depending on what the issue is, scalable as far as application of when it's issued, timeline-wise, and to what sections would be applied where."

The U.S. has warned Turkey, a NATO ally that is buying the S-400, of CAATSA sanctions, though these have not yet been imposed. Turkey was, however, kicked out of a programme to build American F-35 jets, in July this year. Mr. Clarke clarified that CAATSA was not intended to target historical "sustaining" lines countries had with Moscow but designed to "mitigate new significant acquisitions".

THE HINDU CROSSWORD 12769

Log on to crossword.thehindu.com for more puzzles



ACROSS

- 8 Repeatedly laugh and ditch (2-2)
- 9 Parliamentarians? They are often seen in Tirumala (10)
- 10 The Hulk's advertisement (6)
- 11 What witches learn at school? (8)
- 12 Not at home: taken on a social engagement. That's passé! (8)
- 13 Punctually, mine explodes (14)
- 14 Around beginning of tunnel after one (2,4)
- 15 Doubtful part of Cardiff yeomanry (4)
- 16 Land badly managed, in paying guest accommodation (5)
- 17 Stowe's famous uncle with some education gets a book (4)
- 18 She, after losing a bit of attraction, may still be a heavenly creature (6)
- 19 Aroused? No! (6,2)
- 20 Cut a member in front of upper gallery (8)
- 21 Pitch tent on American university grounds (6)
- 22 Place where you have to sign..... (6,4)
- 23 Throws a crustacean without hesitation after losing temper initially (4)
- 24 Fair type of share (6)
- 25 Stone an alien and get a fire-cracker (6)
- 26 Initially Military Headquarters of War? In Madhya Pradesh? (4)
- 27 Heroic nature of electronic picture reduced (4)

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(set by Incognito)

- 4 Weapons used to slaughter gnus? (4)
- 5 Sticking, this time, with her band, after loss of some respect (8)
- 6 Hostel leper's holding back a small piece of metal (6)
- 7 Fabulous garden found in Thaxted, England (4)
- 13 Gave out cards, after agreement, with a hint of trickery (5)
- 15 Silent elephant has body odour. Claptrap! (5,5)
- 17 Red army characters' signboards (8)
- 18 Warm clothes for rising hot air currents? (8)
- 20 Fair type of share (6)
- 22 Stone an alien and get a fire-cracker (6)
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SUDOKU

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

MARKET WATCH

| | 31-10-2019 | % CHANGE |
|-----------|------------|----------|
| Sensex | 40,129 | 0.19 |
| US Dollar | 70.92 | -0.03 |
| Gold | 39,017 | 0.30 |
| Brent oil | 60.15 | -1.67 |

NIFTY 50

| | PRICE | CHANGE |
|-------------------|----------|--------|
| Adani Ports | 395.80 | -2.30 |
| Asian Paints | 1809.60 | -11.70 |
| Axis Bank | 736.35 | -11.05 |
| Bajaj Auto | 3247.35 | 24.45 |
| Bajaj Finance | 8134.35 | 51.95 |
| Bharti Airtel | 4027.55 | 35.55 |
| BPCL | 526.60 | 1.50 |
| Britannia Ind | 3266.60 | -23.50 |
| Cipla | 466.85 | 1.85 |
| Coal India | 207.55 | 1.30 |
| Dr Reddys Lab | 2783.20 | 23.30 |
| Eicher Motors | 22538.10 | 26.60 |
| GAIL (India) | 137.35 | 3.75 |
| Grasim Ind | 768.75 | 33.80 |
| HCL Tech. | 1162.75 | 16.00 |
| HDPC | 2131.90 | 24.45 |
| HDFC Bank | 1230.35 | -18.00 |
| Hero MotoCorp | 2704.20 | 19.70 |
| Hindalco | 187.90 | 0.70 |
| Hind Unilever | 2175.35 | 5.95 |
| ICICI Bank | 463.05 | -8.10 |
| IndusInd Bank | 1313.20 | 16.00 |
| Bharti Infratech | 189.70 | 6.50 |
| Infosys | 685.60 | 25.00 |
| Indian Oil Corp | 146.80 | -0.35 |
| ITC | 257.65 | -1.75 |
| JSW Steel | 228.00 | -6.40 |
| Kotak Bank | 1574.50 | -4.40 |
| L&T | 1473.05 | -1.20 |
| M&M | 606.45 | -10.10 |
| Maruti Suzuki | 7559.40 | 2.45 |
| Nestle India Ltd. | 14947.00 | -20.80 |
| NTPC | 122.40 | 1.45 |
| ONGC | 141.70 | 1.15 |
| PowerGrid Corp | 198.35 | -1.60 |
| Reliance Ind | 1464.35 | -14.75 |
| State Bank | 312.40 | 22.50 |
| Sun Pharma | 433.40 | 3.75 |
| Tata Motors | 177.70 | 5.80 |
| Tata Steel | 380.55 | -7.45 |
| TCS | 2269.65 | 16.85 |
| Tech Mahindra | 739.00 | -15.40 |
| Titan | 1331.20 | 15.05 |
| UltraTech Cement | 4143.20 | 20.50 |
| UPL | 596.45 | 12.30 |
| Vedanta | 148.35 | -1.75 |
| Wipro | 259.30 | 4.55 |
| YES Bank | 70.40 | 13.60 |
| Zee Entertainment | 260.60 | 25.45 |

| | EXCHANGE RATES | |
|---|----------------|---------|
| Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on October 31 | | |
| CURRENCY | TT BUY | TT SELL |
| US Dollar | 70.72 | 71.04 |
| Euro | 78.86 | 79.22 |
| British Pound | 91.64 | 92.06 |
| Japanese Yen (100) | 65.39 | 65.69 |
| Chinese Yuan | 10.04 | 10.09 |
| Swiss Franc | 71.62 | 71.94 |
| Singapore Dollar | 51.95 | 52.18 |
| Canadian Dollar | 53.70 | 53.95 |
| Malaysian Ringgit | 16.92 | 17.01 |

Source: Indian Bank

+ Vodafone Idea shares plummet to 52-week low

Parent firm denies reports on exit

PIYUSH PANDEY

The shares of Vodafone Idea tanked on Thursday to hit the 52-week low of ₹3.31 in a firm Mumbai market on Thursday, after news reports of Vodafone exiting from India following mounting losses and of the telco conveying to its lenders that it won't be able to honour commitments for long.

When asked for comments, Vodafone Group spokesperson, in an e-mail reply to *The Hindu*, said, "Vodafone is aware of the unfounded and baseless rumours circulating that we have decided to exit the market. We would like to categorically state that this is not true and is malicious. Vodafone is actively engaging with Government and we are fully supportive of our local management."

Vodafone Idea shares fell 2.1% to ₹3.89, valuing com-

Cognizant to lay off up to 7,000 staff

Firm moves to bring growth back on track; annual savings will be \$500-\$550 million: CEO Humphries

MINI TEJASWI

BENGALURU
Cognizant will reduce headcount in a bid to streamline its global operations.

During the third quarter earnings announcement, CEO Brian Humphries said, there would be a net employee reduction of 5,000 to 7,000 people. Those identified for lay-offs are in the mid-to-senior category and more than half of these will be in India.

Mr. Humphries told *The Hindu*, "The people reduction exercise will be completed by mid 2020. It will cost the company \$150 to \$200 million, however it will also bring in an annualised saving of \$500 to \$550 million."

"The idea is to get the company back on growth track and we hope to hire more after some quarters,"



Severance will cost Cognizant \$150-\$200 million, says CEO Brian Humphries. ■ K. MURALI KUMAR

he added. Earlier, during an investor call, Mr. Humphries said: "In any people-intensive business, cost reduction always involves difficult choices. To free up capacity to invest in growth, the company has made the decision to remove approximately

10,000 to 12,000 mid-to-senior level associates from their current roles in the coming quarters." This would include a net reduction of about 5,000 to 7,000 roles (about 2% of its total headcount) and re-skilling and redeployment of about

5,000 of the total associates impacted.

These numbers exclude another 6,000 jobs that will be impacted by the company's decision to exit a subset of its content moderation business, which involves screening for objectionable or violent content. Exiting this subset would impact its financial performance in the coming year.

Cognizant added it would work with partners to help transition these roles to alternative vendors to find suitable outplacement for these 6,000 employees.

On content moderation business, Mr. Humphries said, "We are only exiting a subset of it, as we've determined that this subset is not in line with our strategic vision for the company." The company also said it

has identified a series of investments that require funding, including hiring 500 client-facing revenue-generating associates over the coming year.

In Q3, Cognizant raked in revenue of \$4.25 billion, a 4.2% (5.1% in constant currency) growth over the corresponding quarter a year ago. However, operating margins declined to 15.7% from 18.3% a year ago.

Net profit stood at \$497 million compared to \$477 million. Digital revenue, growing at 25%, accounted for about 35% of the company's revenue.

On guidance, the firm expects full-year revenue growth of between 4.6% and 4.9%, compared with its earlier guidance of a growth of between 3.9% and 4.9%. (With PTI inputs)



In the tests, Maruti's Ertiga achieved three stars for both adult and child occupant protection.

WagonR, Santro score poorly in crash tests

Global NCAP gives models 2-stars only

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

The two popular small cars in India – Maruti Suzuki's WagonR and Hyundai's Santro – scored a low of two stars, while Datsun RediGo got just one star in the latest crash tests conducted by a U.K.-based charity Global NCAP as part of its 'safer cars for India' initiative.

Maruti Suzuki's multi-purpose vehicle Ertiga received three stars in the test.

"The latest results in our #SaferCarsforIndia crash tests show a mixed safety performance, and disappointingly, there are no five-star performers," David Ward, CEO and president of Global NCAP said.

According to the agency, both WagonR and Santro achieved two stars for adult occupant protection and two stars for child occupant protection. Their structures were rated as 'unstable'.

On the other hand, RediGo achieved just one star for adult occupant protection and two stars for child occupant protection. Its structure was also rated 'unstable'.

For Ertiga, the structure was rated as 'borderline unstable' performance which can and should be improved, according to Global NCAP.

Yes Bank surges 24% on \$1.2 bn investment offer

Lender needs funds to spur growth

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

MUMBAI

Private sector lender Yes Bank on Thursday informed the stock exchanges that it had received a binding offer from a global investor for an equity investment worth \$1.2 billion in the bank – a development which bolstered its stock price by 24% to ₹70.45.

Fresh equity issue

"The bank would like to inform that it has now received a binding offer from a global investor for an investment of \$1.2 billion in the bank through fresh issuance of equity shares, subject to regulatory approvals/conditions as well as bank's board



and shareholders approvals," the bank said in a filing with the exchanges.

If the deal sails through, it will address the lender's near-term equity capital requirement, needed to fund growth.

RBI creates new verticals for supervision and regulation

Departments with specialised cadre to go live from today

MANOJ SAHA

MUMBAI

Two new departments, with specialised cadre on supervision and regulation within the Reserve Bank of India, will start functioning from November 1, indicating the changes in the central bank's approach to these two crucial issues of the financial system that has dominated public discourse in recent times.

These departments have been created by merging the respective supervision and regulation departments on banks, non-banks and cooperative banks. For example, the departments of banking

supervision, non-banking supervision and cooperative bank supervision will come under the new vertical department of supervision. The same will happen for the three regulatory departments so far.

The executive director (ED) looking after banking supervision, Uma Shankar, retired on October 31. The executive director of non-banking and cooperative bank supervision is Rabi Mishra. It is to be seen if the department of supervision will have only one ED in charge. Central bank sources indicated that there could be more than one executive director for the department of regulation.

Executive director Lily

Vadera will remain in-charge of department of regulation. She was handling all the three regulatory departments so far.

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A decade back, Bajaj Auto had filed a case to restrain TVS Motors from selling its two-wheeler TVS Flame in the market as it believed that TVS Motor had infringed its patent on DTS-i (Digital Twin Spark Plug ignition) in this bike. Bajaj Auto had claimed that TVS Flame's CCVT technology was a copy of its DTS-i technology. TVS had denied Bajaj's allegation and filed a ₹250-crore defamation case against Bajaj.

Bajaj Auto shares rose 0.79% to ₹3,246.75 while TVS Motor's fell 2.13% to ₹484.40 on the BSE.

demands and actions in respect of the pending proceedings."

None of them is required to pay any compensation or penalty to the other as part of the settlement. There will be no impact on the financial position of Bajaj Auto due to the pact, they said.

A decade back, Bajaj Auto had filed a case to restrain TVS Motors from selling its two-wheeler TVS Flame in the market as it believed that TVS Motor had infringed its patent on DTS-i (Digital Twin Spark Plug ignition) in this bike. Bajaj Auto had claimed that TVS Flame's CCVT technology was a copy of its DTS-i technology. TVS had denied Bajaj's allegation and filed a ₹250-crore defamation case against Bajaj.

Bajaj Auto shares rose 0.79% to ₹3,246.75 while TVS Motor's fell 2.13% to ₹484.40 on the BSE.

"Along expected lines, the benchmark indices are inching upwards on attractive equity yields, in a falling interest rate environment. A bearish outlook for oil and commodities in general, monsoon onslaught at its fag-end and government's intent on less government in



business, are offering strength to Indian equities," said Amar Ambani, head of research, Institutional Equities, Yes Securities.

"However, we still opine that the broader market is in a consolidation phase that began in 2018 and may likely last till mid-2020. Our one-year target for Nifty is placed at 12,330," he added.

Manav Chopra, head of research, Equity, Indiabulls Ventures, said, "Index has been trending hard for the past few sessions. Market breadth has been the focal point as mid and small caps

join the party. We continue with our bullish stance and believe index is headed for new highs soon. 11,600 is the immediate downside support."

Commenting on the market Sanjiv Bhasin, director, IIFL Securities said, "We are in a bull market. The economy is coming back on track and we are clearly overdone on consumption pessimism. The cut in tax rate is also boosting market sentiment. And with its ambitious disinvestment plan, the government has set the



Better together Promoting craft tourism is a key aspect of the programme ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

ORGANISATIONS ELIGIBLE TO APPLY

- Crafts organisations, associations, cooperatives and unions of artisans
- National representative bodies for craft, such as crafts councils or Government ministries
- Organisations, including NGOs that work with designers, craftspeople and artisans
- Universities, educational institutes and technical or vocational schools with art or design specialisations
- Museums or other cultural heritage bodies which present craft work
- Media platforms (traditional and/or digital) that feature craft and design
- Non-craft focused platforms who work in related fields and have a desire to extend their partnerships in craft, such as fashion weeks, design events, youth/women's organisations, arts and culture festivals, cultural heritage organisations and more.

When artisans meet technologists

British Council's Crafting Futures programme invites partner organisations from the U.K. and India to collaborate and empower artisans

SWETA AKUNDI

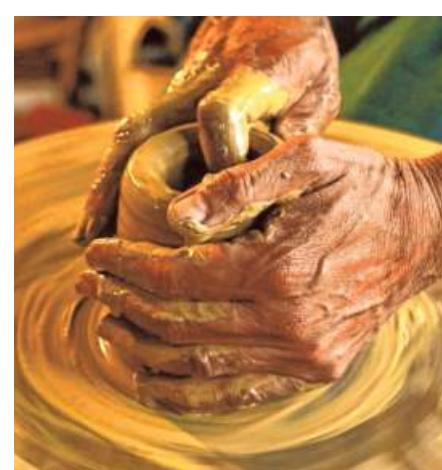
When communities of two countries collaborate, could it mean more empowerment for them? The British Council's Crafting Futures, a three-year programme will be an experiment into that. Launched earlier this year as a means to boost India-U.K. collaboration, the programme is inviting its final applications, before its deadline of November 11.

"The collaboration we are looking for is between artisan organisations, NGOs, people working within the craft sector in both India and the U.K. They can be well-known institutions as well as small collectives," says Jonathan Kennedy, Director Arts, British Council In-

dia. "India has a vibrant art and craft sector and we are excited to bring the Crafting Futures India-U.K. Collaboration Scheme here."

Interested organisations – across the fields of textiles, jewellery, sustainable fashion, handicrafts, furniture, pottery and more – can partner with one from the U.K., working on a similar theme, and present a joint project proposal. Six of the winning organisations will then be chosen for the programme, and given technical support as well as grants up to £20,000.

For the next 12 to 14 months, the organisations can collaborate with partner organisations in the U.K. to explore new avenues in India. "One of our main aims for the



APPLICATION CRITERIA

Each proposal must have one primary applicant from India and one secondary applicant from the U.K. Only joint applications will be considered. The projects must take place in India. Last date for submission of proposals is November 11.

programme is the empowerment of craftsmen, through digital technology," says Jonathan, explaining how they will make global trade easier by connecting buyers, designers and artisans on web portals.

The programme will work towards bringing traditional pieces of work to the contemporary marketplace, with the help of design experts.

"Another key aspect is developing craft tourism between India and the U.K.," he says. "So that the buyers can visit the places where these objects come from, and experience it from the inside."

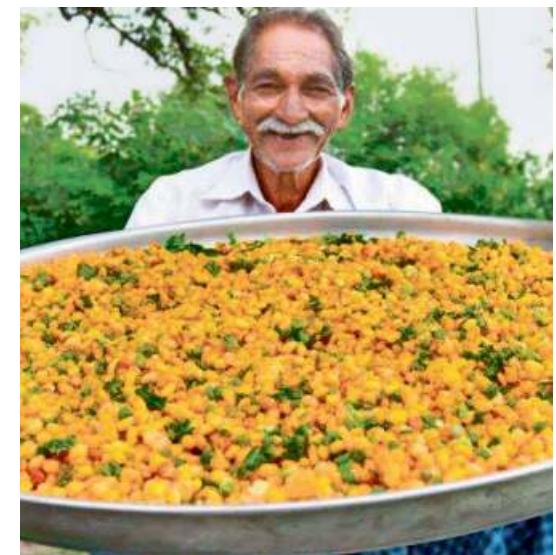
Jonathan adds that the programme was hoping to receive projects that address global environmental challenges. "For instance, I saw one in Delhi... a visual installation of a terracotta honeycomb. It is supposed to work in tandem with an electricity generator in factories. Once the generator is turned on, recycled water is pumped through it, cooling the air around it and making the environment friendlier for people working in the factory," he recalls. "This is how you solve a modern issue, by combining craft, design, technology and science."

For details and to apply, visit www.britishcouncil.in/programmes/arts/crafting-futures

PEOPLE

A toast to Grandpa

Narayana Reddy, who kept millions hooked to his YouTube channel as he cooked food for orphans, passed away earlier this week



On October 27, a beloved grandfather who loved feeding little children, passed away in his Telangana home. When the news reached the Internet three days later, condolences began pouring in from around the world – the US, Israel, Trinidad and Tobago – with people calling him "Grandpa" and describing how his cooking warmed their hearts. Those who probably miss him the most, however, are not likely to pour their grief out on social media. These are the numerous orphaned children regularly treated to handcooked meals by Narayana Reddy, the late protagonist of YouTube channel Grandpa Kitchen.

Set up by his son Shrikant Reddy, the channel has been documenting Grandpa's large scale, heartfelt, kitchen-free cooking for a little over two years. From mutton leg biryani to veggie burgers to a gigantic fudgie brownie, everything Grandpa has cooked so far has been in open air, surrounded by trees and green grass, in iron vessels atop wood fires.

It is the sheer scale of his cooking that draws in viewers by the million, and his crinkly-eyed affection coupled with the term that keeps them returning loyalty. His last video, one of white sauce macaroni pasta posted on October 26, has garnered over four lakh views. Most of his videos cross that mark within a week.

However, the love Grandpa garnered was not just because of his videos' mouth-watering culinary visuals, or his oft-quoted refrain "loving, caring, sharing... this is my family". The Patreon page linked to his YouTube channel drew in donations from his fans around the globe, and was used to buy schoolbooks, uniforms, and other essentials that the children needed.

Amid the stream of love and condolence, many well-wishers expressed their confidence that his son would continue the father's work. They also expressed their unwavering support for the work, and their hope that the channel, the recipes, and Grandpa's legacy will live on.

MEGHNA MAJUMDAR

PRODUCT

Natural pop



Delhi-based beverage brand Jade Forest has launched with tonic water and ginger ale, made with zero artificial flavours, colours, or preservatives, they claim. Their tonic water is a light citrus-flavored drink with soft bitter tones, while their ginger ale infuses caramel notes into a citrus-and-ginger flavour profile. The brand is also available at dine-in restaurants like Lavaash by Saby, Bo Tai, Townhall, Sidecar, Pings, and Jamun.

Available at Modern Bazaars across the city and jadeforest.in; upwards of ₹960 for a pack of 12, 270 ml. bottles

Contact us at delhimetro@thehindu.co.in

FOOD SPOT

Piping hot pooris and potatoes

Guptaji Puriwalley is a roadside kiosk that serves just what the name promises: **pooris, aloo**, and few other vegetarian accompaniments



RAHUL VERMA

The problem with food is that everybody is connoisseur. I get something from somewhere – say Kulchey Chholey from a little known handi-wallah in one corner of the city – and I have barely managed to say, "Oh, this is good," when someone pipes up saying, "It needs a bit of lime juice." Another person has a differing view. "You think so?" he asks. "I think it could have done with some tamarind chutney." By the time the last mor-

sel has gone, everybody's 'free and frank' view has been aired. Barring mine, that is.

But never mind. As Confucius said: Have food, will opine. I don't really feel bad about all those holding forth on food, for I do manage to get some information out of these discussions. The other day, for instance, a friend's friend visiting Delhi from Mumbai was raving about the *poori-aloo-chholey* that he had eaten at some roadside stall near Hauz Khas.

So the friend told me about it, and on Diwali – when the roads were relatively traffic-free – I zoomed off in search of the



Wholesome food Pooris with chholey and kofta ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

stall, I was told, was near Annapurna, the sweet shop at the DDA market in Yusuf Sarai. I like that area, as that is where my favourite samosa wallah can be found.

I reached there a little before lunch time, and found a group of young men gorging on what looked like poori and chholey to me. I was right – that was my destination.

It is a kiosk on the roadside. Called Guptaji Puriwalley (reachable at 8826252023), it is clearly a place that has its die-hard poori lov-

ers. A small sign on a tree gave the rates: You could get a plate of five *pooris* with *chholey* and *kofta*, *potato sabzi*, *raita*, pickles and sliced onions for ₹35. The same package, but with three *pooris*, costs ₹25. You can buy extra *chholey* or *aloo*, if you wish to. The *pooris* are fried in a big kadhai right there.

I had it for lunch, and decided that I had to pardon the friend's friend. He is from Mumbai, after all; what did he know about *pooris* or *aloo sabzi*?

Guptaji's Potato Sabzi was really hot, and I had to go in search of a fire extinguisher after I'd had my first mouthful. The *chholey* with *kofta* were, however, rather nice. The *chholey* was runny and mildly spiced, and the *besan koftas* had soaked in the gravy. The *pooris*, however, were disappointing. I think the oil was too hot when he fried them, as they were a bit too brown, and much too crisp.

Still, it wasn't a bad lunch for Diwali – when *pooris* are meant to be eaten with potato *sabzi* and *chholey*. On my way back home, I also picked up some Double Fried Pork and Chicken in Hot Garlic Sauce from Ichiban, my favourite Chinese restaurant in the Pandara Road Market, for dinner. And I got some Hot and Sour Soup which we all relished that evening. The weather was turning, I had a bad cold, and the soup warmed my heart. For Diwali, this was quite a nice mix of cuisines. I ended my Chinese meal with a soft besan ka laddoo – and the world lit up around me.

The writer is a seasoned food critic



The writer is a seasoned food critic

5 EVENTS WORTH YOUR WHILE



Literary classics

Publisher Penguin Random House India returns with the second edition of The Penguin Classics Festival starting today. This month long festival will see retail stocks of selections from more than 1,900 classics across genres and eras, including Penguin U.K. Black Classics, Penguin Indian Classics, Vintage and Premium Classics.

VENUE: Bahrisons Store in Delhi/NCR

TIME: 10:30 a.m. - 7:30 p.m.



Nature paintings

Of Sea Breeze and Flowers, a solo painting exhibition by Anjali Mittal is on display at the India Habitat Centre. A self-taught artist, Anjali paints on re-purposed paper and cardboard. The collections celebrates nature by focusing on the beauty of the sea breeze and the fragrance of summer flowers.

VENUE: Convention Centre Foyer, IHC

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



FOOD

Bengali special

Seasonal Tastes has organised a 10-day Bengali food festival called Essence of Bengal. On from 9th November, the festival will feature quintessential Bengali dishes prepared by guest chef Samir Sen. These include Kosha Mangsho, Machher Jhol, Chingri Machher Chop, and Posto Pyazer Bora, among others.

VENUE: The Westin Gurgaon, New Delhi

TIME: 7 p.m. - 11:30 p.m.



THEATRE

English drama

Ruchika Theatre Group will stage *Gathered Leaves*, a family drama in English. Originally written by playwright Andrew Keatley, and adapted to the Indian context by director Feisal Alkazi, the play revolves around the story of a reunion, and the events that transpire when three generations of a family meet after 17 years.

VENUE: C.D. Deshmukh Auditorium, IIC

TIME: 6:30 p.m.



FILM

Hollywood

The American Center will screen *Moneyball*, a 2011 English feature film. Directed by Bennett Miller. This film tells the story of Oakland A's general manager Billy Beane and his successful attempts to assemble a baseball team on a lean budget, employing computer-generated analysis to acquire new players.

VENUE: 24 Kasturba Gandhi Marg

TIME: 6 p.m.



ART

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SHONALI MUTHALALY

It looks like India will trend like a turmeric latte, in 2020. Granted, that is high praise mainly for an avocado toast-eating, moringa-quaffing demographic. However, it is undeniably interesting that the first official set of food predictions for next year – released by Amazon Whole Foods – has many ideas that are already integral to *desi* kitchens.

Flour power

This will be a year of alternative flours, which Whole Foods says are entering the market, making baking more inclusive and adventurous. The report states that “2020 will bring more interesting fruit and vegetable flours into home pantries...” They predict that packaged goods will start using tigernut flour (a root vegetable that grows in Northern Africa) in snack foods, and pastries will be made with seed flour blends.



What's new? Homemade, fridge-stored food; nut butters; fruit-based flours are some trends predicted by Amazon Whole Foods ■ GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCK

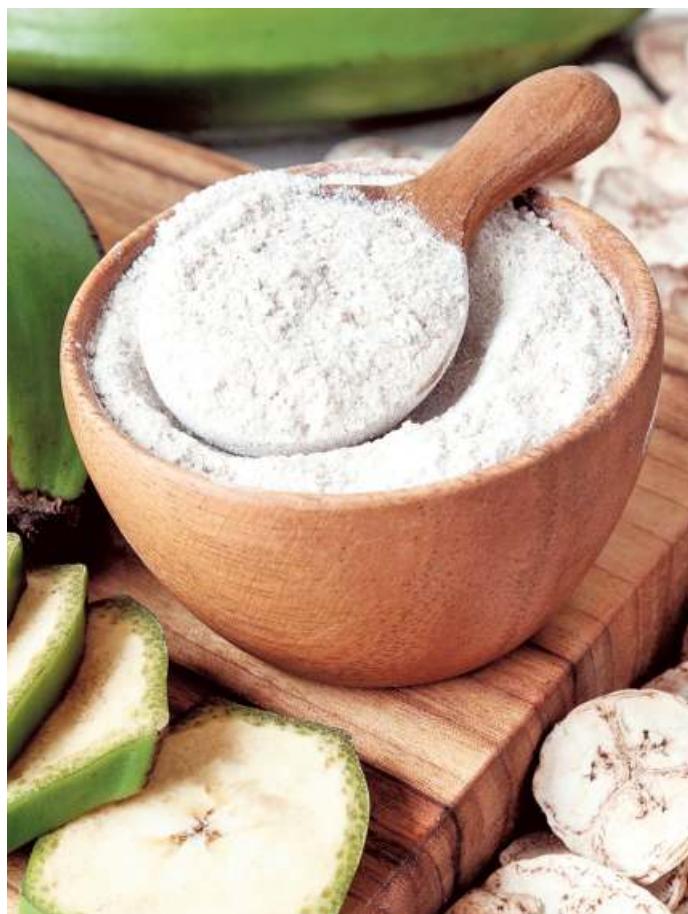
nana flour, which surfaced last year in cafés. As for seed flour pastry: *kaju katli* anyone?

go into their food, manufacturers are vying with each other to create ‘clean’ snacks. Think of every tiffin box your grandmother and mother have ever packed. Indians cornered the market on freshly made, ‘Out-of-the-Box, Into-the-Fridge’ snacks decades ago, which is not unusual. After all, before the flood of heavily processed packaged food, children everywhere had no option but to “eat a banana” when they were hungry between meals.

However, Indian households are not that different today – even

The year of the FLOUR

2020 brings banana flour, clean snacks and gourmet kid menus. But how many of these predicted trends are already the norm in India?



ALSO ON THE LIST

REGENERATIVE AGRICULTURE: Farmers, academics, Government agencies and retailers are joining hands, looking at land and animal management practices to improve soil health, encourage biodiversity and address climate change.

FOODS FROM WEST AFRICA: Brands are looking to West Africa for superfoods like moringa and tamarind, as well as cereals such as sorghum, fonio, teff and millet.

PLANT-BASED, BEYOND SOY: In 2020, the trendiest brands are slowing down on soy, replacing it instead with innovative blends (like grains and mung beans) to mimic the creamy textures of yoghurts and other dairy products.

EVERYTHING BUTTERS AND SPREADS: Expect to see watermelon seed butter, chickpea butter and creamy vegan spreads touted as paleo- and keto-friendly.

ZERO-PROOF DRINKS: Unique non-alcoholic options are popping up everywhere. Recreate classic cocktail flavours using distilling methods typically reserved for alcohol. Alt-gin for gin and tonics and botanical-infused faux spirits for a faux martini, for example.

range of flavours and textures, whether it is a bitter gourd fry, fermented *kanji* or healthy stir fries made with local varieties of spinach. It helps that we have a food culture that is so diverse, you never really run out of meal options, especially if you swap recipes with friends and relatives around the country.

Not-so-simple sugars

First there was sugar. Then came a rush of substitutes. Then, they were replaced by stevia, honey and maple syrup.

Next year, expect “syrupy reductions from fruit sources like monk fruit, pomegranate, coconut and dates,” says the report, adding they will contribute “concentrated, unique flavours into recipes for desserts, meat glazes and marinades.” They also expect to see syrups made from starches like sorghum and sweet potato.

Meanwhile, back home, jaggery still reigns supreme. Most often used for traditional desserts like *payasams*, *chikkis* and *halwas*, it is increasingly replacing white sugar in even more westernised recipes, like granola, cakes and cookies.

Check out your local market and organic stores to shop a wide variety, in different forms from bricks to syrups. In winter, source Kolkata’s delicious *nolen gur*, made from the date palm. Another option: Locally made, high-quality coconut sugar.

Meat-plant blends

Butchers and meat brands will get on board the “plant-based” craze, according to the Whole Foods report. But they are not going vegetarian. The report quotes James Beard Foundation’s Blended Burger Project, a movement to make burgers healthier, more environment friendly and economical by blending in fresh mushrooms.

The Indian kitchen has always been frugal with meat, finding practical ways to make it go further – motivated more by economics than health, to be honest. Which is why fish and meat cutlets are made with potato, and heavily flavoured with onions, chillies and *garam masala*.

There are also many dishes that cleverly combine nutritious vegetables with meat to create more balanced meals, like the Bengali prawn and pumpkin curry, or Naga *galho*, a soupy blend of rice, seasonal greens and smoked pork.

POOCH CAFE



PEANUTS



HAGAR THE HORRIBLE



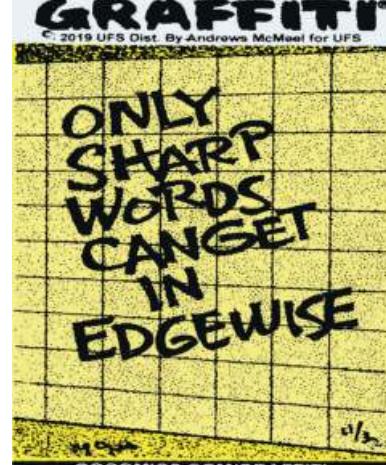
CALVIN AND HOBBES



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- 3 Of the same period – alcove (anag) (6)
- 4 Impartial (8)
- 5 Ancient vessel with three banks of oars on each side (7)
- 6 Aid (10)
- 9 Excessive (10)
- 12 Charlotte Brontë novel (8)
- 14 Toxophilites (7)
- 16 Clothing worn in an operating theatre (6)
- 19 Should (5)
- 20 Veracious (4)

Solution will appear in The Hindu dated November 2, 2019

Solution No. 13212

WUMO



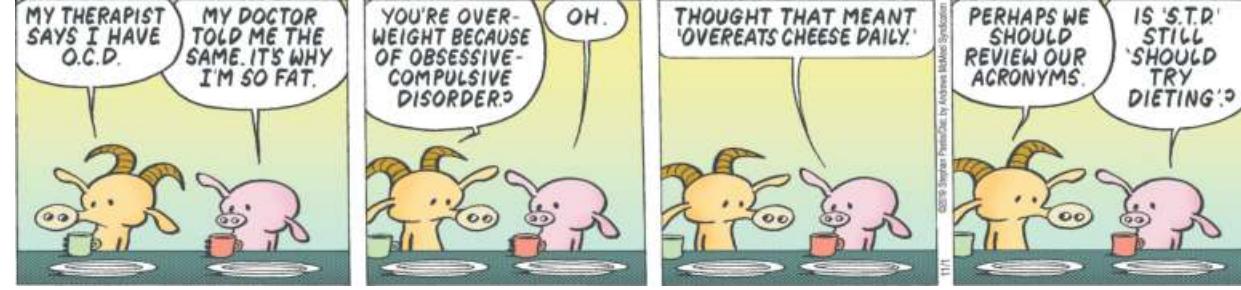
HEALTH CAPSULES by Bron Smith
WHAT ARE TATTOO INKS MADE OF?
Both phthalates and benzene derivatives can have been linked to cancer.
TATTOO INKS ARE MADE FROM A VARIETY OF COMPOUNDS, INCLUDING: TITANIUM DIOXIDE, LEAD, CHROMIUM, NICKEL, IRON OXIDES, ASH AND CARBON BLACK. SOME OF THE PIGMENTS ARE ALSO USED IN AUTO PAINT. TATTOO INKS MAY FIND THEIR WAY INTO THE LYMPH NODES, WHICH CAN ADVERSELY AFFECT THE IMMUNE SYSTEM.

Health Capsules is not intended to be a diagnostic resource.

- 17 Item of jewellery (8)
- 18 Complain (4)
- 21 DVD player button (5)
- 22 Vertical (7)
- 23 Evaluation (10)
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- 1 Black-and-white bear (5)
- 2 Sign of things to come (4)
- 15 Decapitate (6)

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PEARLS BEFORE SWINE



Pink ball Test will be exciting: Rohit

'We will try to play our best and get those 60 points'

ANANT KAUR
NEW DELHI

Rohit Sharma sounded excited at the opportunity to figure in India's first-ever Day/Night Test. The match, against Bangladesh, is to be played at the Eden Gardens in Kolkata from November 22.

"It will be an exciting experience. I have played one match in my career with a pink ball in the Duleep Trophy (September 2016). It was a new experience for me at that time. We will try to play our best and get those 60 points."

Honour

Rohit, who has led India in 15 T20Is and 10 ODIs, said it was an honour to be selected as a captain, even if it's temporary, for the upcoming T20 series against Bangladesh. He was not perturbed with the number of matches he was to lead in.

"If someone's made a captain – be it for 10 matches or one match or 100 matches – it's a very big honour. When we were young, we used to dream about playing for In-



On a roll: Rohit Sharma, a revelation as an opener in the Test series against South Africa, will be keen to replicate the form against Bangladesh. ■ FILE PHOTO: RAJEEV BHATT

dia. We never thought about captaining the team. This is a big honour. Whenever I get the chance to be captain, I accept it with happiness and will try to set an example," said Rohit.

Pollution no issue

The current India captain said the pollution would not have any effect on the sche-

duled match at the Ferozeshah Kotla on November 3. "I just landed today and haven't had the time to assess the situation. As long as the game is scheduled to be

played on 3rd November, it will be played on 3rd," he emphasised.

Rohit believed it was his job to keep performing at his best. He wants to continue his recent success with the bat. He wants to keep moving forward, especially in the upcoming series against Bangladesh, West Indies and New Zealand. "We are now looking forward to the Bangladesh series," said the 32-year-old at an event organised by Trusox here on Thursday.

On his recent interaction with newly-appointed BCCI president Sourav Ganguly, Rohit added, "I've known Dada for so many years. I've played with him also. It was a great time to catch up with him. I congratulated him about this wonderful opportunity, and then discussed about the selection issues, that's all."

On Dhoni's retirement, a visibly irritated Rohit said, "It's you (media) who create stories and ask questions. I haven't heard anything about it."

Focus is on the series: Das

Air quality not a concern, says wicketkeeper-batsman

RAKESH RAO
NEW DELHI

For over two hours, Bangladesh cricketers practised at the Ferozeshah Kotla ground here on Thursday afternoon ahead of the November 3 opener of the three-match T20I series against India. A day after landing in the Capital, where the air quality continues to worsen, the cricketers had a 'feel' of the venue.

Sporting a mask

Dashing wicketkeeper-batsman Liton Das, who briefly sported a mask, told mediapersons the team was not thinking about air quality.

"Briefly, I was not feeling good so I wore a mask. Everything else is OK. At present, the team is focusing on performing well in the T20 series," he said in Bengali.

The days leading up to this tour has been tough for Bangladesh cricket. The recent players' strike threatened the tour. Earlier this week, skipper Shakib Al Hasan was found guilty by the ICC's Anti-Corruption Tribunal.

As a result, the mental



In right earnest: Bangladesh players go about their drill despite the worsening air quality. ■ PTI

placed Bangladesh in the shortest format of the game. "India was lucky to win every time (in some close games)," said Das, adding, "We always try our best."

Responding to another question, he said, "Most of us are new-comers. The team wants the youngsters to play their natural game and contribute. It is not seen as the responsibility of only the seniors to perform. The team understands that contributions have to come from across the board."

Team India, under Rohit Sharma, is scheduled to practise on Friday afternoon, after the visiting team's nets in the morning.

Delhi match as scheduled, says Ganguly

Not enough time to make a change: BCCI chief

AMITABHA DAS SHARMA
KOLKATA

Board of Control for Cricket in India president Sourav Ganguly said India's opening T20I match against Bangladesh would be played in Delhi as scheduled.

There had been growing concern that the deteriorating air quality in the Capital would necessitate a change of venue.

Difficult time

Ganguly said there was not enough time to reschedule the match (to be played on Sunday), but in future the BCCI would be "a bit more practical in scheduling matches in Delhi post Diwali".

"We have spoken to the authorities in Delhi and they are expecting the match to go through. It cannot be cancelled at the last minute as a lot of preparations go into the holding of matches," Ganguly said.

"Post Diwali is a difficult time in the North. There is smoke and dust everywhere. In future when we schedule



Sourav Ganguly. ■ REUTERS

matches in the North at this time of the year, we have to be a bit more practical," he added.

Shastri's NCA involvement

He also called for greater coordination between the National Cricket Academy (NCA) and the National team and sought the involvement of Ravi Shastri as long as he is India coach.

"They reached the Champions Trophy final in 2017 where they lost to Pakistan. And then they lost the World Cup semifinal. It is a great side and just needs to get past the last hurdle. We will deal with it as it comes," he added.

Skilled bunch

"He (Shastri) will be with us for the next two years. India needs to win a world tournament. They have the ability," Ganguly said.

"They reached the Champions Trophy final in 2017 where they lost to Pakistan. And then they lost the World Cup semifinal. It is a great side and just needs to get past the last hurdle. We will deal with it as it comes," he added.

Pooja fought her way from a 2-4 deficit to win 8-4

Maxwell takes 'mental health' break

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
SYDNEY

Australian batting superstar Glenn Maxwell will take a "short" break from cricket to deal with mental health issues, Cricket Australia said on Thursday.

One of the world's best short-format batsmen, Maxwell leaves Australia's T20 squad during a series against touring Sri Lanka, after smashing a blistering 62 off 28 balls in the opening match.

"Glenn Maxwell has been experiencing some difficulties with regards to his mental health," Cricket Australia team psychologist Michael Lloyd said in a statement.

The new BCCI president said Shastri had done well with the team as its coach and hoped the national side starts winning top ICC tournaments once again.

Shastri's NCA involvement

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"They reached the Champions Trophy final in 2017 where they lost to Pakistan. And then they lost the World Cup semifinal. It is a great side and just needs to get past the last hurdle. We will deal with it as it comes," he added.

Pooja fought her way from a 2-4 deficit to win 8-4



Glenn Maxwell. ■ GETTY IMAGES

"As a result, he will spend a short time away from the game."

Maxwell will be replaced in the squad by fellow power-hitter Darcy Short.

"The well-being of our players and staff is paramount. Glenn has our full support," executive general manager Ben Oliver said.

Pooja enters finals

WORLD WRESTLING

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
BUDAPEST

Indian women grappler Pooja Gehlot (53kg) defeated Turkey's Zeynep Yetgil in a semifinal bout to make the final of the UWW under-23 World Championships here on Thursday.

In 57kg, Jyoti was blanked 0-10 by Russia's Nadezhda Sokolova.

In 57kg, Pinki Rani advanced to the quarters from the qualifiers after routing Arian Geralin Carpio of the USA 5-0.

against Yetgil, a gold medalist at the junior European Wrestling Championships in 2018.

In 50kg, Jyoti was blanked 0-10 by Russia's Nadezhda Sokolova.

In 57kg, Pinki Rani advanced to the quarters from the qualifiers after routing Arian Geralin Carpio of the USA 5-0.

Odisha FC stuns Mumbai FC

ISL

G. VISWANATH
MUMBAI

Odisha FC made the beautiful game of football spell-binding to watch, moving in top gear almost right from the start of the Hero Indian Super League match at Mumbai City FC's home ground at suburban Andheri.



Aerial tussle: Players of Mumbai City FC and Odisha FC vie for possession. ■ PTI

Singh under the bar for the first time this season.

A throw in from Aridane Santana began the collective and individual brilliance of Odisha in the sixth minute.

Splendid work

The home team pressed hard and created chances, but in the 21st minute it was the splendid work of Shubham Sarangi and Jerry Mawhmingtontha that offered a clear chance for Santana just outside the top of the box to send a pile driver past Amrinder.

Four minutes before half-time, Jerry Mawhmingtontha made the most of a chance when Amrinder just managed to get his finger

tips to repel a shot from Nandakumar Sekar.

A penalty conversion by Tunisian Mohamed Larbi helped the local team reduce the margin soon after the break, but Santana's header in the 73rd minute just about mirrored Odisha's excellent display.

Odisha picked up three full points, but not before its goalkeeper Francisco Dorronsoro made a weak attempt in the closing seconds of injury time to make it 4-2, with the goal being credited to the home team midfielder Bipin Singh.

Mumbai FC took the field without Rowlin Borges who was injured during the warm-up.

Mission Tokyo – it's time for the reckoning

Women lock horns with USA

OLYMPIC QUALIFIERS

UTHRA GANESAN
BHUBANESWAR

Over the next two days, compatriots Sjoerd Marijne and Janneke Schopman (of the Netherlands) will be in opposing camps, trying to go one-up on each other at the Olympic Qualifiers here. The two are in charge of teams that have had contrasting Olympic histories.

And, on the field, Rani Rampal and Kathleen Sharkey will hope to make preparations over the last 12 months count. Sharkey at 29 is five years older, but in every other aspect the India skipper is far ahead.

Lynchpin

Rani has been part of India's ascent over the last decade, the lynchpin of its success, a leader since her junior days and the talisman that drives the side.

She also has 60 matches more under her belt. Most importantly, she leads a side that has been together for a long time. Unlike Sharkey, who is one of only three USA women here with over 100 caps.

Numbers favour USA (22-4). India last won an en-



All the best! Rani Rampal and Kathleen Sharkey will hope to make the preparations over the last 12 months count. ■ BISWARANJAN ROUT

You just have to see how it goes," she shrugged.

It's the final step for both sides. "These two games are what we focused on and trained and waited for a whole year," Rani said.

Sharkey was unperturbed about the host crowd's reputation. "We played away in eight countries in the Pro League so I think we are prepared for that," she said.

The last time USA toured India, 18 years ago, it left without playing a game, citing security concerns. In 48 hours, India would be hoping to prove them wrong, both on and off the field.

Captain Manpreet Singh was more candid about guarding against complacency, being one of those who felt its full impact in the

Vastly superior, but Indian men not taking Russia lightly

UTHRA GANESAN
BHUBANESWAR

"In rankings we are 22nd but in our souls we are quite high. We came here to fight and it will be a good battle. That is a promise," Russia coach Vladimir Konkin declared, speaking through a translator.

It might appear bravado from a team expected to provide little resistance to the Indian men in the two-game hockey Olympic qualifiers here, but the host would do well to take it seriously.

Fifth-seeded India would do well to remember how Pakistan nearly pulled off an upset before succumbing to Dutch superiority last week.

Lesson learnt

That was one of the lessons learnt by the Indian management. "My message has been pretty much the same ever since I joined the team. Always treat everyone with respect, like you are playing the best in the world. We have prepared as well as we could and are ready," coach Graham Reid said on Thursday.

The last time USA toured India, 18 years ago, it left without playing a game, citing security concerns. In 48 hours, India would be hoping to prove them wrong, both on and off the field.

Captain Manpreet Singh was more candid about guarding against complacency, being one of those who felt its full impact in the



Warming up: The India men's team prepares for the Olympic qualifiers against Russia. ■ BISWARANJAN ROUT

Asian Games semifinals.

"Our mindset should only be about winning. The seniors like Rupinder Pal Singh or P.R. Sreejesh keep telling the youngsters to never think it would be easy. We cannot assume things on the basis of rankings," he said.

When the Russians last came here in June, they struggled to adjust to the searing heat and yet finished a respectable fifth, beat higher-ranked Poland and almost upset South Africa. The Indians were also guilty of leth-

argy in the first half back then.

Drag-flick specialist Se-men Matkovskiy was the joint top-scorer of the tournament with Varun Kumar and Harmanpreet Singh, the former out this time with injury. The conditions are a lot better this time around for the visitors.

India is still expected to have an easy outing over the two games.

The difference in quality, experience and skill-set is too vast. And yet, the team

has been going all out in its training sessions here with coach Reid prepared for all possible scenarios.

Always prepared

Asked if the team had shootouts at the back of its mind, Reid acquiesced.

"We have talked about it, we always practise shootouts. The players are always prepared," he agreed.

TV PICKS

New Zealand vs England: 1st T20I, Star Sports Select 1 (SD & HD), 6.30 a.m.

NBA: Sony Ten 1 (SD & HD), 8 a.m.

Deodhar Trophy: Star Sports 2 (SD & HD), 9 a.m.

Australia vs Sri Lanka: 3rd T20I, Sony Six (SD & HD), 1.30 p.m.

Rugby World Cup: Sony Ten 2 (SD & HD), 2.30 p.m.

T20 World Cup Qualifier: Star Sports 3, 3.40 p.m. & 9 p.m.

ISL: Star Sports 2 (SD & HD), 7.30 p.m.

Bundesliga: Star Sports Select 1 (SD & HD), 1 a.m. (Saturday)

FIFA U-17 World Cup: Sony Ten 1 & Sony Ten 2 (SD & HD), 1.30 a.m. (Saturday)

IN BRIEF



Suns rout Warriors; Curry breaks hand

SA FRANCISCO: Phoenix Suns ran away from Golden State 121-110 in San Francisco on a night when the Warriors lost Stephen Curry to a broken left hand.

The results: Cleveland Cavaliers 117 bt Chicago Bulls 111; Magic 95 bt New York Knicks 83; Philadelphia 76ers 117 bt Minnesota Timberwolves 95; Boston Celtics 116 bt Milwaukee Bucks 105; Indiana Pacers 118 bt Brooklyn Nets 108;

Toronto Raptors 125 bt Detroit Pistons 113; Houston Rockets 159 bt Washington Wizards 158; Portland Trail Blazers 102 bt Oklahoma City Thunder 99; Utah Jazz 110 bt Los Angeles Clippers 96;

Charlotte Hornets 118 bt Sacramento Kings 111;

Phoenix Suns 121 bt Golden State Warriors 110. **REUTERS**

Delhi State 6 Red snooker championship

NEW DELHI: The Delhi State 6 Red snooker championship will be held

from November 7. Top players are expected to participate in the championship to be

hosted by the Megapool Academy in Dwarka.

The championship has been

named after former State champion Tarun Chandra, who passed away recently.

The winner and runner-up

will qualify to represent Delhi at the National

championships early next year.

Gaikwad and Aparajith set up India-B's victory

India-A bowlers made to toil, Vihari runs out of support

DEODHAR TROPHY

Y.B. SARANGI
RANCHI

Centuries by Ruturaj Gaikwad and B. Aparajith provided the platform for India-B record a 108-run win over India-A in the opening match of the Deodhar Trophy at the JSCA Stadium here on Thursday.

Put in, India-B post 302 for six and restricted India-A to 194 in 47.2 overs.

Gaikwad (113) and Aparajith (101) notched up their sixth List-A hundreds. Even as opening partner Priyank Panchal fell cheaply to Jaydev Unadkat, Gaikwad batted with composure.

Smart batting

The 22-year-old Maharashtra batsman read the pitch well and adopted the right attitude for the morning conditions favouring seamers.

Gaikwad's 47-run partnership with promising Mumbai teenager Yashasvi Jaiswal, who played an entertaining 34-ball 31, revived India-B from a spell of sluggishness.

Gaikwad and Aparajith,



Sensible approach: B. Aparajith, joined up with Ruturaj Gaikwad, to play on merit without letting the scoreboard get stagnant. ■ FILE PHOTO

another level-headed batsman, played on merit without letting the scoreboard get stagnant.

Gaikwad, who got a life on 86, relied on his excellent footwork to gather eight crispy 4s and four 6s. Aparajith

carried forward his Vijay Hazare Trophy form. He worked the ball around to make an equally signifi-

cant contribution in the 158-run stand, spanning about 37 overs, with Gaikwad.

Gaikwad's departure, lbw attempting to reverse-sweep Ashwin, did not deter Aparajith. He drove and glanced with confidence to collect six 4s and two 6s and reached the three-figure mark while accelerating the pace.

He was run out at the non-striker's end.

Left-arm pacer Rush Kalaria's disciplined effort fetched him three wickets, including that of Devdutt Padikkal, who tried to cut too close to his body and played on. Mohammed Siraj, who mixed up his pace skilfully and extracted good movement to claim two wickets in his first five overs, seized further momentum for India-B.

Abhimanyu Easwaran lost his off-stump to a ball that cut in sharply and remained low, while Vishnu Vinod was bamboozled by a fast one in Siraj's consecutive overs.

Skipper Hanuma Vihari's determined innings (59 of 82) went in vain as India-A lost wickets regularly.

The scores: India-B: Ruturaj Gaikwad lbw b Ashwin 113, Priyank Panchal c Shahbaz b Unadkat 3, Yashasvi Jaiswal c Ashwin b Kaul 31, B. Aparajith run out 101, Kedar Jadhav c sub b Ashwin 5, Vijay Shankar c&b Unadkat 26, K. Gowtham (not out) 19; Extras (b-1, nb-1, w-2): 4. Total (for six wkts. in 50 overs): 302.

Fall of wickets: 1-16, 2-63, 3-221, 4-231, 5-265, 6-302.

India-A bowling: Unadkat 9-1-47-2, Warrier 8-0-49-0, Kaul 10-1-77-1, Ashwin 10-0-40-2, Shahbaz 7-0-52-0, Vihari 6-0-36-0.

India-A: Abhimanyu Easwaran b Siraj 20, Devdutt Padikkal b Kalaria 10, Vishnu Vinod c Parthiv b Siraj 11, Hanuma Vihari c Parthiv b Kalaria 59, Amandeep Khare run out 25, Ishan Kishan run out 26, Shahbaz Ahmed b Kalaria 18, R. Ashwin lbw b Gowtham 0, Jaydev Unadkat run out 1, Siddarth Kaul (not out) 7, Sandeep Warrier absent hurt 0; Extras (lb-5, w-12): 17. Total (in 47.2 overs): 194.

Fall of wickets: 1-32, 2-42, 3-52, 4-107, 5-168, 6-168, 7-169, 8-176, 9-194.

India-B bowling: Kalaria 8.2-0-20-3, Vijay 3-0-18-0, Siraj 8-0-30-2, Nadeem 10-0-39-0, Gowtham 10-0-40-1, Aparajith 5-0-30-0, Jadhav 3-0-12-0.

Ronaldo nets late winner

EURO LEAGUES

REUTERS
TURIN

Cristiano Ronaldo controversially won and then converted a stoppage-time penalty, seconds after having a goal chalked off for offside, as Juventus beat 10-man Genoa 2-1 and went back to the top of Serie A on Wednesday. Ronaldo went down under a challenge from Antonio Sanabria and, although they were minimal contact if any at all, the referee pointed to the spot and the VAR officials confirmed the decision.

The results: Serie A: Napoli 2 (Maksimovic 16, Milik 71) drew with Atalanta 2 (Freuler 41, Illicic 86); Juventus 2 (Bonucci 36, Ronaldo 90+6-pen) bt Genoa 1 (Kouame 40); Lazio 4 (Acerbi 25, Immobile 33, 70-pen, Belotti 90+1-og) bt Torino 0; Udinese 0 lost to Roma 4 (Zaniolo 13, Smalling 51, Kluivert 54, Kolarov 65-pen).

La Liga: Real Sociedad 1 (Willian Jose 47) lost to Levante 2 (Bardhi 24, Mayoral 40); Valencia 1 (Sobrino 81) drew with Sevilla 1 (Ocampos 45+3); Real Madrid 5 (Rodrygo 7, Kroos 8, Ramos 24-pen, Benzema 69-pen, Jovic 90+1) bt Leganes 0.

Anand may train young Indian talents

CHESS

S. DIPAK RAGAV
CHENNAI



With a legend: Viswanathan Anand with Raunak Sadhwani, P. Iniyan and Prithu Gupta at a felicitation function. ■ R. RAGU

and the second camp is likely to be held in December in Sitges, Spain and a third camp could be held in Chennai in February. It is also likely that the third camp could see an increase in the number of players.

"There is a chance that we may include a women player but I don't want to go far ahead in saying who she will

be," said Kailasanathan.

"I have to apply Microsense for the support they are giving our players. The systemic coaching and ability to work with people like Kramnik will make a huge difference. This kind of patient and long-term support will go a long way and we have agreed to see where I can chip in. I am happy a lot

of youngsters are getting support as this puts your head at ease," said Anand at the function in which the three new GMs were given a cash award of ₹ 1 lakh each.

On his upcoming tournaments, Anand said, "I am going to play 27 games in Romania (2019 Superbet Rapid & Blitz) and another 27 games in Kolkata (Grand Chess Tour). That is a lot of blitz chess and I don't think you have a lot of time to look at each game when you play nine games in a day. So I just want to be in the right frame of mind."

Earlier, Kramnik, the former World Champion, sent in a recorded message congratulating the three recently crowned GMs and said that he has been tracking their games and seen the improvement post the camp he held.

Thapa, Pooja punch their way to gold

Ashish finishes second-best as India picks up seven medals

BOXING

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
TOKYO



Thapa, left, and Pooja. ■ FILE PHOTOS

bronze-medalist Rani edged past Australia's Caitlin Parker in a split 4-1 decision to ensure that the women's contingent also had a gold in its kitty.

Asian bronze-medalist Ashish (69kg), however, lost to Japan's Sewon Okazawa 4-1 in the final.

Four-time Asian medallist and National champion Thapa out-punched Kazakhstan's national champion and Asian bronze-winner Satalay Tolayev 5-0 to claim the top honours.

Former Asian Games

bronze in the World Championships.

This year, Thapa has already won an Asian bronze, followed by an India Open gold before being crowned the National champion for a third time earlier this month.

"Shiva has matured quite a lot in the last one year and this is showing in the way he is performing.

"He will continue to grow," National coach C.A. Kuttappa said.

FIVB, VFI, PVL team owners and Baseline Ventures meet

VOLLEYBALL

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI

The Volleyball Federation of India has quite a few issues pending with Baseline Ventures, co-owner of PVL, putting a question mark on the conduct of the PVL's second edition scheduled early next year.

Worried over the developments, the International body of volleyball (FIVB) sent its representatives to New Delhi and held a series of discussions with officials of Ba-

seline Ventures, VFI and team owners of PVL on Thursday.

Those who attended the meeting include VFI president S. Vasudevan, VFI secretary Ramavtar Singh Jakhar, FIVB General Director Fabio Azevedo, FIVB Director Asia and Oceania Luis Alexandre Pontes Rodrigues, FIVB Head of Legal Department Stephen Bock, FIVB Technical and Development Department Hitesh Malhotra, and employees of Baseline Ventures Tuhin Mishra and Joy Bhattacharjya.

Plenty of issues were dis-

cussed including the evaluation of the 2019 season – PVL, National team programme (senior men's team, u-23 men's team), VFI Roadmap and VFI Governance matters.

Later in the day, PVL team owners met FIVB and the Roadmap for 2020 and beyond were discussed thredbare.

All issues were cordially discussed. We are very hopeful of a positive outcome. A media announcement will probably be made in Mumbai in the first week of November, said a VFI official.

While it was the left wrist injury of Malek Jaziri of Tunisia that fetched a walkover for the Indo-Japanese pair in the pre-quarterfinals, it was the right elbow injury of Sadio Doumbia that resulted in a walkover for Vishnu and Matsui.

All issues were cordially discussed. We are very hopeful of a positive outcome. A media announcement will probably be made in Mumbai in the first week of November, said a VFI official.

In the semifinals, Vishnu and partner will play Mikail Elgin and Ramkumar Ramanathan.

The results: \$135,400 Challenger, Shenzhen, China: Doubles (quarterfinals): Toshihide Matsui (Jpn) & Vishnu Vardhan w/o Sadio Doumbia & Fabien Reboul (Fra); Mikhail Elgin (Rus) & Ramkumar Ramanathan bt Adil Shamashdin (Can) & Jeevan Nedunchezhiyan 6-4, 7-6(3).

\$60,000 ITF women, Liuzhou, China: Doubles (quarterfinals): Rosalie van der Hoek (Ned) & Ankita Raina bt Anastasia Gasanova (Rus) & Chanel Simmonds (RSA) 6-0, 4-6, [10-7].

\$15,000 ITF women, Cancun, Mexico: Doubles (pre-quarterfinals): Madison Appel & Elle Christensen (US) bt Taylor Ng (US) & Ramya Natarajan (IND) 6-2, 6-2.

\$15,000 ITF men, Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt: Singles (pre-quarterfinals): Kacper Zuk (Pol) bt Aryan Goveas 6-3, 6-2.

\$15,000 ITF men, Meshref, Kuwait: Doubles (quarterfinals): Krittin Koaykul & irat Navasirisomboon (Tha) bt Kai Wehnelt (Ger) & Adil Kalayanpur 3-6, 6-3, [12-10].

Cruising ahead: Ashleigh Barty had the measure of Petra Kvitova with ease while sealing a semifinal spot. ■ AFP

against Karolina Pliskova on Wednesday.

Kvitova had a scare in the third game of the first set but saved two break points to hold her serve. But the Australian's consistency wore down an error-strewn Kvitova and she grabbed a decisive break in the fifth game.

Barty had break points against her serve in the sixth and eighth games but with-

stood Kvitova's attempts to get back. Kvitova, the oldest player in the draw, changed tactics early in the second set and attacked the net but the French Open champion had the answers to reach the semifinals on her WTA Finals debut.

The results:

American farmers hope for better 2020 as trade tensions ease

by Xinhua writers Yang Shilong, Chang Yuan, Pan Lijun

Following progress in the new round of trade talks between Washington and Beijing, farmers in the U.S. mid western state of Iowa, the country's leading producer of corn and soybean, are hopeful that trade will be back to normal soon and that 2020 will be a better year.

EXCITED & OPTIMISTIC

"(With) trade with China hopefully coming back quickly, the prices should improve. And that makes a farmer smile anytime that he can," Bill Pellett, 71, told Xinhua in a recent interview while overlooking a combine harvester stripping the soybeans from the pods beside his farm in Atlantic, a small city in Iowa.

The fifth-generation farmer said he felt encouraged by the news that the U.S.-China high-level economic and trade consultations on Oct. 10-11 in Washington D.C. concluded with progress in areas including agriculture, expansion of trade cooperation and dispute settlement.

The markets indicated that "it is a good deal," he said. "So we will make sure it comes to fruition for both countries, because it is important to



A combine works in a corn field of Grant Kimberley's family farm in Maxwell, Iowa, the United States, Oct. 17, 2019. (Xinhua/Wang Ying)

export trade with our partners in China," Grant Kimberley, marketing director of the Iowa Soybean Association, told Xinhua at his farm near Des Moines, the state capital.

CHINA MARKET CRUCIAL

Since 2018, the U.S. administration



A combine and a grain cart work in a soybean field of Pellett family's farm in Atlantic, a small city in Iowa, the United States, Oct. 16, 2019. (Xinhua/Wang Ying)

"Uncertainty has been the name of the game this year because of all the twists and turns, and almost like watching a movie of having the various plot points change in direction," he said.

"U.S. soybean exports decline this year, year over year, probably about 20 or so percent in this period of time. Now our exports to China have declined even more than that," he said, adding that the current price of soybeans is "getting better" but "not quite where we need to be for a break-even price."

The Iowa soybean farmers have



Farm owner Bill Pellett examines the harvested corn on a combine in a field of Pellett family's farm in Atlantic, a small city in Iowa, the United States, Oct. 14, 2019. (Xinhua/Wang Ying)

offset some of that loss by increasing their exports to other countries, Kimberley said, "but China certainly is one of the largest consumers of soybeans in the world, and so it's hard to offset all of that."

The financial aid programs set up by the U.S. government can only help farmers pay some bills "in the short term," he said.

"But (in the) long term we want to see the markets resume on a normal basis because that's what's best for farmers here and best for consumers in China."



Holstein cows are seen in Milk Unlimited Dairy Farms in Atlantic, a small city in Iowa, the United States, Oct. 16, 2019. (Xinhua/Wang Ying)



Farm owner Bill Pellett watches the harvested corn loading into a truck in a field of Pellett family's farm in Atlantic, a small city in Iowa, the United States, Oct. 14, 2019. (Xinhua/Wang Ying)

all of us. It's beneficial for both of us, because that's what the people need. That is really important to our world," Pellett said.

Kelly D. Cunningham, 52, a dairy farmer in rural Cass County of Iowa, agreed.

"We are very hopeful that the recent step forward will translate into actual movement of products and ships being loaded and unloaded and products leaving the United States," said Cunningham, managing partner of Milk Unlimited Dairy Farms, adding that hopefully, the two sides "can have things worked out in a year or two."

"We're excited and optimistic to be resuming a more normalized and hopefully an increased amount of

has imposed several rounds of additional tariffs on Chinese imports, initiating a prolonged trade dispute between the world's two largest economies.

As countermeasures, China levied tariffs on a list of items imported from the United States, including some agricultural products like dairy.

In the 2017 fiscal year, American farmers and ranchers exported about 22 billion U.S. dollars' worth of agricultural products to China.

The agricultural exports to China will fall to just 6.5 billion dollars in the 2019 fiscal year, according to projections by the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

The year 2019 has been a "challenging year" for soybean farmers, said Kimberley.



A worker milks cows in Milk Unlimited Dairy Farms in Atlantic, a small city in Iowa, the United States, Oct. 16, 2019. (Xinhua/Wang Ying)

Iowa's secretary of agriculture, told Xinhua via email.

"It signals that both recognize the value of our agricultural export market," Naig said. "I'm hopeful we can reach a long-term trade agreement to provide stability to both our countries and economies."

Kimberley also expressed the hope that once the two countries resolve their trade differences, both sides would have an even stronger economic and trade relationship down the road.

"The bottom line is conversations and engagement need to continue no matter what kind of ups and downs we see," he said.

Pellett said it would be "very difficult" to decouple the U.S. and China economies. "We want to remain as trade partners." "When you have the two largest economies in the world work together, we can do great things," he said. "We cannot let politics get in the way of our friendship."

The veteran farmer said both sides should respect each other and "we cannot impose what we do on anyone," and "it is good to talk and understand the basic needs of each of us in the world (and) move forward from that."

With the state-of-the-art facility to



Agricultural machinery work in a corn field of Grant Kimberley's family farm in Maxwell, Iowa, the United States, Oct. 17, 2019. (Xinhua/Wang Ying)

"About 15 percent of our production goes overseas," he said, adding that the nation aims to export 20 percent of its dairy products to overseas markets.

Mexico was the top importer of U.S. dairy products in 2018. China, the third-largest single-country market for U.S. dairy in the same year, has a huge long-range upside as it is expected to become the world's largest dairy marketplace within the next few years.

WORKING TOGETHER FOR WIN-WIN

"China is a critical trading partner for Iowa farmers. The ongoing trade talks... are encouraging," Mike Naig,

milk dozens of cows efficiently and to produce around 34,000 gallons (about 128,700 liters) of milk for the marketplace per day, Cunningham managed to sustain his business amid market volatility.

However, the 12 months ending in September turned out to be one of the least profitable years for his farm in the past few years, he said.

Cunningham worried that the price would be further dragged down if the stockpiles continue to accumulate.

"We need China, we need that international market to make sure prices stay good and we're able to keep producing like we are," Cunningham said.



Farm owner Bill Pellett operates a combine in a soybean field of Pellett family's farm in Atlantic, a small city in Iowa, the United States, Oct. 16, 2019. (Xinhua/Wang Ying)