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**9910812719****NEARBY****Kejriwal puts weight behind SP-BSP alliance**

NEW DELHI  
 Hitting out at the Congress, Delhi CM Arvind Kejriwal on Sunday threw his weight behind the SP-BSP alliance in U.P., Mamata Banerjee-led TMC in West Bengal and the DMK in Tamil Nadu, and said only these parties can defeat the BJP in their respective States in the Lok Sabha polls.

NORTH ▶ PAGE 2

**Man brandishes pistol at app-based driver, held**

NEW DELHI  
 A 41-year old man was arrested for allegedly brandishing his pistol at an app-based cab driver and damaging his vehicle in south-east Delhi's Amar Colony, the police said on Sunday.

DELI METRO ▶ PAGE 1

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EDGE ▶ 4 PAGES  
 DELHI METRO ▶ 6 PAGES

# Mamata goes on stir after CBI tries to quiz Kolkata police boss

Central government out to stage a coup in West Bengal, charges Chief Minister

**In protest mode:** West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, right, staging a dharna at Esplanade, Kolkata, on Sunday. ■ PTI

SUVOJIT BAGCHI  
 SHIV SAHAY SINGH  
 KOLKATA

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee went on an indefinite sit-in in front of the Metro Channel at Esplanade here on Sunday night, after CBI officials tried to enter Kolkata Police Commissioner Rajeev Kumar's residence to question him in connection with the chit fund scam cases.

Ms. Banerjee said her agitation was to "save democracy, the Constitution and the country." She blamed the Central government, particularly the BJP leadership and the National Security Adviser, for forcing her to go on an agitation.

**Duty to protect officers**  
 Trinamool Congress officials said "it could be a fast like in 2006" when Ms. Banerjee went on a 21-day agitation. Ms. Banerjee said it was her "duty" to protect her officials. "All police forces across the country, I stand by them. I have nothing against officials, and that is

why I have let them [CBI officials] leave the area. Rather, I would sit on a dharna in front of Metro Channel. I am not scared. I am going to Metro now. I appeal to the media to be neutral," the Trinamool leader said. "Gandhiji said satyagraha. I am going to satyagraha from tonight," she said and headed to the Metro Channel.

Ms. Banerjee alleged that she had been asked not to hold the meeting of the Opposition leaders in Kolkata on January 19. "We are being victimised for holding that rally... because the BJP knows that they cannot win. Their expiry date has arrived," she said.

She accused Prime Minister Narendra Modi and BJP president Amit Shah of trying to organise a coup, and NSA Ajit Doval of masterminding the demolition.

An unpreceded development, a number of CBI officers, who had gone to question Mr. Kumar were briefly detained. However, Ms. Banerjee denied this.

**CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 10**  
**CBI TO MOVE SC ▶ PAGE 11**

# Seemanchal Express derails in Bihar; 6 dead, 30 injured

Track fracture said to be reason for early morning accident

**Hard at work:** Rescue personnel at the site of the derailment in Vaishali district on Sunday. ■ RANJEET KUMAR**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT**

PATNA/NEW DELHI

Six passengers were killed and over 30 injured when 11 coaches of the Delhi-bound Seemanchal Express derailed early on Sunday in Vaishali district of Bihar. The coaches of the superfast Jagbani-Anand Vihar Seemanchal Express jumped the rails near Sahadai Buzurg in the Sonpur Division of East Central Railway (ECR).

Chief Public Relations Officer, East Central Zone, Rajesh Kumar said one general coach, one AC coach B3, three sleeper coaches – S8, S9 and S10 – and six other coaches derailed.

**Probe ordered**  
 While an inquiry has been ordered, a rail fracture is said to have led to the derailment, railway officials said.

The six victims have been identified as Ilcha Devi, 66, Indira Devi, 60, Shamsuddin Alam, 26, Ansar Alam, 19, Shaida Khatoon, 40, and Sudarshan Das, 60, the Government Railway Police (GRP) said.

Vaishali District Magis-

nounced an ex-gratia of ₹5 lakh to the kin of the deceased and ₹1 lakh to those grievously injured and ₹50,000 to those with minor injuries. Mr. Kumar said Latif Khan, Commissioner, Railway Safety (Eastern Zone), would conduct an inquiry into the accident.

Twelve unaffected bogies carrying 500 passengers left for Danapur at 9.52 a.m. where 11 coaches were added to the train bound for Delhi. Some passengers were also taken to Hajipur in 10 buses, officials said.

**AS RESCUE BEGINS, POLITICIANS TRADE CHARGES ▶ PAGE 7**

# + Payouts to ryots from this month itself: Garg

Beneficiary data already in place



Subhash Chandra Garg

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
 NEW DELHI  
 The government will start disbursing a substantial amount under the income support scheme for small farmers this month itself as beneficiary data are already in place, a top official of the Finance Ministry said.

In his interim Budget speech on Friday, Finance Minister Piyush Goyal announced the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN) Scheme, under which ₹6,000 per year would be provided to farmers holding cultivable land of up to 2 hectare.

Mr. Goyal has already earmarked ₹20,000 crore for disbursal among 12 crore farmers under the scheme in the current financial year.

"It has been decided to implement the scheme with

effect from December 1, 2018. The allocation of ₹20,000 crore, required for the current fiscal, has been made in the Budget. Land record data are available. We have all the information about small and marginal farmers," Economic Affairs Secretary Subhash Chandra Garg told PTI in a post-Budget interview.

**CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 10**

# Manipur film-maker to return Padma Shri

Joins protest against Citizenship Bill

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT**

GUWAHATI

Manipur-based film-maker and music composer Aribam Shyam Sharma has decided to return his 2006 Padma Shri award in protest against the Citizenship (Amendment) Bill, 2016.

The 83-year-old film-maker's decision comes less than a week after families of some of the 855 martyrs of the anti-foreigners Assam Agitation of 1979-85, returned the citation given by the Sarbananda Sonowal government in 2016. The government had also honoured these families with ₹5 lakh each for the martyrs' sacrifice.

"It would be morally wrong to keep an award from a government that does not seem to be heeding the concerns of the people



Aribam Shyam Sharma

about the Bill," Mr. Sharma said.

The Bill seeks to fast-track citizenship for non-Muslims fleeing religious persecution from Afghanistan, Bangladesh and Pakistan, who came to India till December 31, 2014.

**CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 10**  
**'IT IS NECESSARY' ▶ PAGE 10**

# Wedding gifts to warm hearts and cool the earth

A couple in Assam asks guests to give them old clothes and take back tree saplings

**RAHUL KARMAKAR**

GUWAHATI  
 When Bhupen Rabha tied the knot with Bobeeta Boro on January 30, they turned it into an occasion for social service and conservation of the environment. The exchange of wedding gifts two days later was the highlight.

On February 1, more than 6,000 guests turned up at the reception the newlyweds hosted at Mr. Rabha's residence in No. 2 Kataligaon (Rabhasupa), a village in western Assam's Baksa district.

About 350 of them received a sapling each in exchange for a bundle of old clothes they were requested to bring as a wedding gift.

About 90 km west of Guwahati, No. 2 Kataligaon is officially Baksa district's



The clothes were donated to the poor by Bhupen Rabha, left, and Bobeeta Boro. ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

cleanest village and seen as the best in performing community service.

"We had, before the marriage, met village elders and discussed the idea of using the reception party as a platform for encouraging people to donate clothes for the poor as well as to take a step towards greening our surroundings. The villagers liked the idea," the 34-year-old Mr. Rabha, who teaches

English at a college and acts in regional films, said on Sunday.

Sachin Das, the Batabari Range Officer of Baska Forest Division, saw in the couple's idea an opportunity to take the department's social forestry campaign to the backyard of the villagers.

"I gave them 350 saplings of local species of trees, such as *nageshwar* (Indian rose chestnut), *krishnachura* (flame tree), and *bokul* (Spanish cherry)," he said.

**More trees to give**  
 Mr. Rabha and Ms. Boro handed over a sapling each to 350 guests who brought old clothes. A record was kept of those who could not be given a sapling, and of those who promised to

bring old clothes later.

"We will try to carry on the programme of giving a return gift of a sapling until all the guests are covered," Mr. Rabha, who gifted new blankets to about a dozen homeless people in the area on his wedding day, said.

Ms. Boro, who teaches at a private school in a nearby town, hoped the sapling-for-old clothes idea would catch on with more people in the area. "Weddings mean gifting precious metals or cash or consumer durables. These things aren't as priceless as investing in the environment," she said.

Sandis Laime, Mr. Rabha's best mate at the wedding, came all the way from Latvia to cherish the moment. "This wedding has been special," he said.

# IS THIS THE END OF LIVELIHOOD FOR LAKHS OF GOANS?

**Discontinuation of Iron ore mining in Goa spells doom for livelihood and future of 3 lakh people.**

**LOSS OF LIVELIHOOD:**

- More than 3 lakh people are estimated to have lost livelihood.
- Mining, Trucking, Barging, Steel and Power Production Industry have been hugely impacted with a loss of employment.

**ECONOMIC IMPACT:**

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- Thousands of SMEs processing Iron Ore have been impacted directly.
- Debt burden will rise exponentially for future generations of the State.



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Last date of receiving the filled up application forms is 15-02-2019 at 3 P.M. by hand.  
Dated : Tamluk  
The 31st January 2019  
Sd/- Secretary  
Tamluk-Ghatal Central  
Co-operative Bank Ltd.

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**COURT NOTICE**  
UO 5 RULE 30 CPC  
In the Court Of Ms. Palwinder Kaur  
CJSD Faridkot  
CNR NO. PB002-2004-11-2018  
1. Punjab State Civil Supplies Corporation Limited Having its Registered Office At Sco No.36-40 Sec-34, Chandigarh Through Its Authorised Representative Dist Manager, Patiala Faridkot  
2. District Manager, Punjab State Civil Supplies Corporation Limited Plaintiffs. VS  
M/s Sandhu Rice Mill, Through Its Partners  
Nature: Suit For Recovery  
Publication Issued To Defendants To 6  
1. Ms Sandhu Rice Mill Through Its Partners  
2. Surjit Singh S/o Veer Singh  
3. Gurjeet Singh S/o Gurjeet Singh  
4. Devender Singh S/o Gurjeet Singh  
5. Sukhdev Singh S/o Gurjeet Singh  
6. Manjeet Kaur O/o Ranjeet Singh  
All Partners Of M/s Sandhu Rice Mill  
In Above Titled Case, The Defendant(s)/Respondent(s) Could Not Be Served. It is ordered That The defendant(s)/Respondent(s) Should Appear On 10/02/2019 Through Counsel  
Or Before 10/02/2019 At 10:00 A.M.  
For Details Log On To [http://highcourtindia.gov.in/?tis=district\\_notice&district=faridkot](http://highcourtindia.gov.in/?tis=district_notice&district=faridkot)  
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## DELHI ☼ Timings

MONDAY, FEB. 04
RISE 07:08 SET 18:03
RISE 06:45 SET 17:38
TUESDAY, FEB. 05
RISE 07:07 SET 18:03
RISE 07:26 SET 18:30
WEDNESDAY, FEB. 06
RISE 07:07 SET 18:04
RISE 08:03 SET 19:23

Delhi Weather	max	min
Delhi City	20	09
Safdarjung	20	09
Palam	18	10

Delhi Palam Today
22°C Dry weather will persist. Pollution will remain under 'moderate' category. A foggy and cold morning will occur.
Minimum Experience : 3 years Good knowledge in : Indesign, Illustrator, Mathtype, Coreldraw

Delhi Palam Tomorrow
25°C A significant rise in temperature is likely. Shallow fog/mist during morning will persist.

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## IN BRIEF

## Maoists torch 10 vehicles in Jharkhand

RANCHI

Maoists set on fire 10 vehicles in Jharkhand's Ramgarh district early on Sunday, police said. The Maoists, numbering around 15, raided a private road construction company premises and torched the vehicles. IANS

# Kejriwal puts weight behind SP-BSP alliance

Also, supports Mamata-led TMC in W.B. and DMK in T.N.

## PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

NEW DELHI

Hitting out at the Congress, Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Sunday threw his weight behind the SP-BSP alliance in Uttar Pradesh, Mamata Banerjee-led TMC in West Bengal, the DMK in Tamil Nadu, and said only these parties can defeat the BJP in their respective States in the Lok Sabha elections.

Similarly, Mr. Kejriwal added that only the Aam Aadmi Party can defeat the BJP in Delhi.

**'Cong. can't win'**  
He asserted that he was ready to leave all seven Lok Sabha seats in the city for the Congress, but the grand old party cannot win elections.

Addressing a gathering at an event here for the inauguration of development works in the Mustafabad area, he sought votes for AAP in the general election.

"In West Bengal, only Ma-



Delhi CM and AAP national convener Arvind Kejriwal.

mata Banerjee-led TMC can defeat the BJP (in 2019 Lok Sabha polls), not the Congress. In Uttar Pradesh too, only Akhilesh Yadav-Mayawati alliance can defeat the BJP, but not the Congress. Similarly, only the DMK can defeat the BJP in Tamil Nadu...," Mr. Kejriwal said.

Last month, Akhilesh Yadav and Mayawati announced the alliance between the SP and the BSP in Uttar Pradesh, which sends 80 MPs to the Lok Sabha. Ending months of specu-

lation, AAP last month ruled out the possibility of any alliance with the Congress for the Lok Sabha polls, and added it would field candidates on all parliamentary constituencies in Delhi, Punjab and Haryana.

"If I would be sure that the Congress can defeat the BJP in Delhi, I would have given up all seven seats (Lok Sabha) for the Congress... the Congress cannot beat the BJP in Delhi. Only AAP can defeat the BJP in Delhi," Mr. Kejriwal said.

AAP chief alleged that if the BJP wins the 2019 Lok Sabha elections, it would "ruin the country and change the Constitution".



CM Jai Ram Thakur .

February 11 and 13.

Voting on Demands for Grants would be held on the last day of the session on February 18 at 4 p.m., he said.

The session would have a total of 13 sittings and it has been decided to hold sittings even on Saturdays, he said, adding February 8 and 14 have been earmarked as private members days.

"Usually the budget session is convened from February-end to March-end or the first week of April. But this budget session has been convened earlier and cut short to 13 sittings due to the upcoming parliamentary elections," he said.

# Himachal Assembly session from today

CM will present the budget on Feb. 9

## PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

SHIMLA

The budget session of the Himachal Pradesh Assembly would begin from Monday and last till February 18, Speaker Rajeev Bindal said on Sunday.

The second budget session of the State's 13th Assembly would commence with the Governor's address on February 4, he said, adding that it would be followed by obituary references on the same day.

He said the discussion on the Governor's address would be held from February 5 to 7.

## Budget presentation

The Speaker said the Jai Ram Thakur government would present its budget for 2019-20 on February 9.

The budget would be presented by Chief Minister Thakur, who also holds the Finance Ministry portfolio, he said, adding the discussion on the budget proposals would be held between

read the point about farm loan waiver (announced by the newly elected Congress government) and read a BJP slogan which was not part of the written speech. She should resign immediately," Ms. Oza demanded.

The BJP defended Ms. Patel. "The Governor told people to keep paying attention to Modi. What is wrong with that? Narendra Modi is the Prime Minister of the country. He is PM to every citizen. She meant to say help implement and reap benefits of schemes launched by Modi like Clean India, Ujjwala, Ayushman Bharat, etc," said Bhopal MP and BJP leader Alok Sanjar.

**Political gimmick**  
"Such accusations (by the Congress) are just a political gimmick," he added.

"The BJP never disrespected the Governor appointed during the UPA government. The Congress should also learn to respect the Governor," he added.

# Congress slams M.P. Governor

After a video shows her telling people to keep PM in mind

## PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

REWA (M.P.)

The ruling Congress in Madhya Pradesh lashed out at Governor Anandiben Patel on Sunday after a video where she is purportedly seen telling a group of people to keep Prime Minister Narendra Modi in mind went viral.

Ms. Patel, a former Gujarat Chief Minister, was acting as if she was still a worker of the Bharatiya Janata Party and not a Governor, the Congress alleged.

**Rewa visit**

The video was apparently shot during Ms. Patel's visit to a solar power plant at Gudh in Rewa district on Saturday. During an informal chat with a group of local people, the Governor was heard saying, "This is an excellent project. It will benefit you all."

When a person said they were happy to meet her face-to-face, Ms. Patel said, "Aisa (mauka) kai (baar) aayega.



Madhya Pradesh Governor Anandiben Patel.

Modi sahab par dhyana rakhoh." (Such occasions will come often. Keep paying attention to Modi sahab.)

After the video circulated on social media, State Congress' media cell head Shobha Oza alleged that Ms. Patel was behaving as if she was still a BJP worker.

"If she wanted to work like a BJP worker, she should resign and fight Lok Sabha elections," Ms. Oza said.

"Earlier too she was seen advising BJP workers at Satna airport about how to win votes. During her address in the Assembly, she did not

# U.P. BJP leader's father killed in road accident

His car rammed a truck in dense fog

## PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

KANNAUJ

Two persons, including the father of a Uttar Pradesh BJP leader, died when their car rammed a truck here on Sunday due to poor visibility owing to dense fog, the police said.

Om Prakash Pathak (65) - father of BJP leader Subrat Pathak - along with his relative Mahesh Dubey (55) died in the accident on the Agra-Lucknow Expressway owing to fog," Additional Superintendent of Police K.C. Goswami said.

**Pile-up**

The accident, that took place in the Faghu Bhatta area under the Tirwa police station, led to a multi-vehicle pile-up, he added.

Bhilwara coldest in Rajasthan

## PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

JAIPUR

Night temperatures dipped by a few degrees in parts of Rajasthan where Bhilwara was recorded as the coldest place at 3.8 degrees Celsius.

Churu, Sikar and Vanasdhali recorded minimum temperatures of 4.1, 5 and 5.2 degrees Celsius, respectively, the Met Department said.

Alwar, Pilani, Bikaner and Sriganganagar recorded minimum temperatures of 5.4, 5.9, 6 and 6.6 degrees Celsius, respectively, it added.

Ghaziabad, were seriously injured and referred to Kanpur for treatment, they added.

"The accident took place around 4 a.m. on Sunday, when the car rammed a stationary dumper on the Agra-Lucknow Expressway owing to fog," Additional Superintendent of Police K.C. Goswami said.

**Five of trader's family end life in U.P.**

Were allegedly under pressure to repay huge loans

## PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

GORAHPUR

In a tragic incident, four members of a local trader's family, facing demands for repayment of loans from money lenders, were found dead on Sunday morning, while a fifth one died in the hospital during treatment.

Police said trader Ramesh Gupta's body was found near the railway tracks at Suraikund overbridge, while those of his wife Sarita (45), daughter Payal (15) and son Ayush (10) were found at his home in Sahebganj under the Raigat police station area of the district.

ta went towards the railway track to kill himself," the police officer quoted Rachna as saying before her death.

The bodies have been sent for post-mortem, he said, adding that the matter was being probed.

Local residents said Gupta had taken huge loans and had been facing demands from money lenders to clear his dues.

He was also facing losses in business.

**Suicide prevention helpline:** Sanjivini, Society for Mental Health, Telephone: 011-4076 9002, Monday-Saturday, 10 a.m.-7.30 p.m.

# Situation may turn 'volatile' if citizenship Bill is passed: Mahanta

Bill violates provisions of the Assam Accord, says former Chief Minister

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NEW DELHI

Former Assam Chief Minister Prafulla Kumar Mahanta on Sunday warned the Narendra Modi government that a "volatile" situation will arise in the State if the contentious Citizenship (Amendment) Bill, 2016, is passed by the Rajya Sabha.

The two-time Chief Minister and founder president of the Asom Gana Parishad said the State was witnessing a mass uprising, similar to the Assam agitation of 1979-85, against the Bill and the situation may worsen if the NDA government "does not respect" people's sentiment.

"The situation in Assam will be very volatile if the Citizenship (Amendment) Bill, 2016, is passed by the Rajya Sabha. The Modi government will be responsible for it," Mr. Mahanta, who is in the Capital to campaign against the Bill, said.

The Bill provides Indian nationality to persecuted non-Muslims of Pakistan, Bangladesh and



Prime Minister Narendra Modi and former Assam CM Prafulla Kumar Mahanta in Nagaon district. ■ FILE PHOTO

Afghanistan.

Mr. Mahanta said the Bill violates the provisions of the Assam Accord and basic tenets of the Constitution as it wants to give citizenship on the basis of religion to anyone who had come to India till December 31, 2014.

#### 'Violates SC verdict'

"When the Assam Accord was signed (1985), all political parties, including the BJP, had welcomed it. But the BJP-led government wants to ruin it now," he said.

Mr. Mahanta said the Bill

also violates the Supreme Court verdict on the famous Keshavanand Bharti case, which made it clear that basic structure of the Constitution is inviolable and hence can't be amended by Parliament.

Political parties, students groups and others have been protesting on the grounds that the Bill seeks to grant nationality to non-Muslims who have come to India up to December 31, 2014, thereby, increasing the deadline from 1971 as per the Assam Accord. According to the Accord, all illegal immigrants

who have come after 1971, irrespective of their religion, have to be deported and this Bill violates that.

An AGP delegation, including Mr. Mahanta, met a number of BJP and Opposition leaders in the last two days to impress upon them the strong sentiment of the people in Assam. They also met Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh and Congress leader Ghulam Nabi Azad.

The AGP has already quit its alliance with the BJP in the State protesting against the Modi government's decision on the Bill.

Mr. Mahanta alleged that the BJP was completely ignoring the sentiment of the Assamese people. "It talks about something but does something else," he said. He claimed that there were intelligence reports about the current unrest in the Northeast and that the Central government was aware about them. "If the government goes ahead with the Bill, the situation will be very difficult," he said.

## Naveen adds scholarship to ryots' scheme

Want farmers' children to pursue higher studies, says Odisha Chief Minister

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
BHUBANESWAR

Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik announced a scholarship scheme as a new component of the recently launched KALIA (Krushak Assistance for Livelihood and Income Augmentation) scheme on Sunday.

Addressing a farmers' conclave in Keonjhar district, Mr. Patnaik said that the children of the beneficiaries of KALIA will be provided scholarship under the KALIA Chhatra Bruti programme for pursuing higher education.

The Chief Minister said

that under the scholarship scheme, the State government will bear the educational expenses of the children of KALIA beneficiaries who are studying in government professional colleges on merit basis.

Mr. Patnaik said he had launched the scholarship programme under the popular KALIA scheme as he wanted the children to pursue higher studies in disciplines such as medicine, engineering, management and law.

The State government is implementing the KALIA scheme for the benefit of the small and marginal farmers,

sharecroppers and landless agricultural households.

During his visit to Keonjhar, the Chief Minister also inaugurated projects worth ₹66 crore and laid foundation stones for several projects worth ₹2,100 crore.

#### Mission Shakti

Mr. Patnaik, who has been focusing on welfare of farmers and women ahead of the upcoming simultaneous Lok Sabha and Assembly polls in the State, addressed a Mission Shakti conclave at Rairangpur in Mayurbhanj district earlier in the day.

Thousands women, members of self-help groups un-

der the Mission Scheme programme, attended the meeting where Mr. Patnaik inaugurated projects worth ₹45 crore and laid foundation stones for projects worth ₹960 crore.

A total of 7,453 SHGs formed since April 1, 2017, were provided with seed money of ₹15,000 each on the occasion.

Mr. Patnaik announced that the government hospital at Rairangpur will be developed and it will be made a 100-bed hospital in public-private partnership mode. A stadium with modern facilities will be built at Rairangpur, he announced.

## Ex-Cong. MLA joins BSP

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
BHUBANESWAR

Former Congress legislator from Koraput, Krishna Chandra Sagaria, formally joined the Bahujan Samaj Party here on Sunday.

Mr. Sagaria, a Dalit leader who had been recently expelled from the Congress, joined the BSP in the presence of party's Odisha in-charge Dharamveer Singh.

If the BSP allows him he will contest against Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik in the upcoming Assembly elections, Mr. Sagaria said.

On November 6, 2018, Mr. Sagaria had resigned from the legislator's post stating that he had no moral right to hold the position after the Kunduli gang-rape and suicide incident. He was expelled from the Congress on January 19, 2019. (With PTI inputs)

## Seven Rohingya arrested in Tripura

Detained from an Assam-bound train

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
AGARTALA

Seven Rohingya persons were arrested from an Assam-bound train here on Sunday, the police said.

They were detained at the Dharmanagar railway station in North Tripura district and later handed over to the Tripura police.

Assistant Sub-Inspector of Railway Police Force Laxman Debbarma, who is in charge of a RPF contingent at the Dharmanagar railway station, said the seven were detained after security personnel found them behaving in a suspicious manner in the station premises.

Those arrested – six girls and a boy – are in their teens.

## Two killed in Kamrup road accident

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
RANGIA (ASSAM)

Two persons, including a teenage girl, died while two others were injured on Sunday in a road accident in Kamrup district, police said. They said the accident took place on the National Highway-31 when a speeding bus hit a mini-truck, which then knocked down a motorcycle at Maranjan.

The pillion rider of the motorcycle, Mridusmita Sarma (20), and the driver of the mini-truck, Nasib Ali (55), were killed on the spot.

Mridusmita's father Banimukhi Sarma was driving the bike and was seriously injured. He has been shifted to Gauhati Medical College and Hospital in a critical condition.

## Army chief visits Arunachal Pradesh

Indian Army chief General Bipin Rawat on Sunday called on Arunachal Pradesh Governor retired Brig. B.D. Mishra at Raj Bhavan. Gen. Rawat is on a two-day visit to the State. He praised the people of the State and said they had always helped the Indian Army in a big way. Gen. Rawat, while acknowledging the efforts of the Governor in facilitating the recruitment of local youths in the Army, said there were many good officers from the State in the Indian armed forces. IANS

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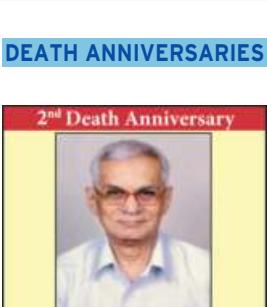
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## IN BRIEF



CJI inaugurates Andhra Pradesh High Court

VIJAYAWADA

Chief Justice of India (CJI) Ranjan Gogoi on Sunday inaugurated the High Court of Andhra Pradesh at Nelapadu village in Capital city Amaravati near here. He also laid the foundation stone for a judicial complex along with other Supreme Court judges, Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu and others. Mr. Naidu said there were about 2.70 lakh cases pending in the High Court.

## BJP may field S.M. Krishna from Bengaluru North

BENGALURU  
The BJP seems to be considering the possibility of fielding former Karnataka Chief Minister S.M. Krishna from the Bengaluru North parliamentary seat, sources told *The Hindu*. However, no decision has been made yet. A final decision would be made by BJP president Amit Shah and Prime Minister Narendra Modi, party insiders said. This comes amid reports that JD (S) supremo H.D. Deve Gowda was considering contesting from the same constituency. At present, the seat is represented by Union Minister D.V. Sadananda Gowda.

## French national with monkey fever improving

MANGALURU  
The 33-year-old French national who tested positive for Kyasanur Forest disease (KFD) or monkey fever is showing signs of recovery at the Kasturba Hospital in Manipal. According to sources in the Department of Health and Family Welfare, the woman seems to have been infected with the KFD during her visit to the tourist spot Yana in Uttara Kannada a fortnight ago.

# 3 golden crowns missing from Govindaraja Swamy temple

Alert sounded by TTD constable; six teams set up to inquire into incident

## SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

TIRUPATI



Shocking loss: A view of the TTD's Sri Govindaraja Swamy temple in Tirupati. ■ K.V. POORNACHANDRA KUMAR

The Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD) and the Andhra Pradesh police have begun investigations after three golden crowns were found missing from Sri Govindaraja Swamy temple in Tirupati on Saturday morning.

The theft of the jewels caused a flutter as the temple at the heart of Tirupati city is always crowded and there is little scope for a miscreant to hide valuables. The temple is also guarded by the TTD's security staff and has 12 CCTV cameras installed at crucial points.

## No CCTV camera

However, the CCTV camera installed at the Kalyana Mandapam, where the deities were placed, was reportedly removed recently due to a malfunction.

A woman constable in the

TTD's vigilance service was the first to notice that the jewels were missing and brought it to the notice of the priests, who alerted the officials. Joint Executive Officer (TTD) Pola Bhaskar, Chief Vigilance and Security Officer Gopinath Jatti and SP (Tirupati Urban) K.K.N. Anburajan visited the temple and questioned the temple staff and the priests.

TTD Executive Officer Anil Kumar Singh, who visited the temple on Sunday, said the investigation was moving in the right direction.

"We have searched the entire temple complex till midnight and probed the priests and staff. We will find the missing crowns soon," he told the media.

"Six teams, headed by

two Dy. SPs, are probing the case," Mr. Anburajan told *The Hindu*. Responding to a query, he said the probe would consider the possibility of an 'insider' being responsible for the theft.

YSR Congress general secretary and former TTD Chairman Bhumana Karunakar Reddy demanded a thorough inquiry and faulted the lack of accountability in the system.

## 1,300g of gold

BJP activists led by State general secretary G. Bhanuprakash Reddy squatted in front of the temple, demanding a white paper on security in the TTD's local temples.

The combined weight of the three crowns is put at 1,300g of gold. The crowns are used to adorn the processional deities of Sri Kalyana Venkateswara, his consorts Sridevi and Bhudevi in the Kalyana Mandapa.

# As Kerala govt. relents, endosulfan agitation ends

Pinarayi Vijayan agrees to compensation for more families

## SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM



A victory: Dayabai consoling Subaida and her daughter Fatima, a victim, after ending her fast on Sunday. ■ S. MAHINSHA

The representatives of the victims of Endosulfan poisoning in Kasaragod district called off their five-day-old sit-in in front of the Secretariat on Sunday after the Kerala government conceded to their demand to bring more affected families within the ambit of the State's compensation and rehabilitation programme.

## Reconciliatory talks

Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan invited the Endosulfan Peedita Janaki Munmani for reconciliatory talks on the weekend holiday after the forum staged a march to his official residence in the morning. The demonstrators included 30 mothers with health complications caused by pesticide exposure and their children, several of them handicapped by congenital deformities.

With Congress leader V.M.

Sudheeran and social activist Dayabai pitting themselves in the vanguard of the protest, the government did not want to risk allowing the agitation to acquire a political dimension. The marchers were piqued by Health Minister K.K. Shylaja's comment on Saturday that the Munmani had endangered Endosulfan-impaired children by parading them in pu-

blic. The Chief Minister's office proactively engaged the Munmani also to pre-empt the Opposition from making political capital out of the emotive issue in the run-up to the Lok Sabha election.

Mr. Vijayan's private secretary M.V. Jayarajan laid the groundwork for the reconciliation by holding informal talks with Munmani leaders.

# 'Micro tremors' felt in villages near Varahi hydel project in Karnataka

There is no damage to the Mani reservoir

## STAFF REPORTER

SHIVAMOGGA

Tremors of light intensity were experienced in villages around the Varahi hydro-electric project in Hosanagar and Thirthahalli taluks of Shivamogga district in Karnataka early on Sunday. There were no casualties and no damage was reported.

The tremors, having a magnitude of 2.2, were experienced at 1.33 a.m. Deputy Commissioner K.A. Dayanand said the epicentre was in Vithalanagar village of Thirthahalli.

There was no damage to Mani reservoir, the source of water for Varahi hydro-electric project, and the power generation infrastructure there. Engineers from Karnataka Power Corporation Ltd. inspected the reservoir and the hydel power generation units.

Asked about whether a stone quarry operating near Vithalanagar and the extraction of sand from riverbanks in the vicinity was making the region vulnerable to tremors, Mr. Dayanand said he would seek a report on the matter from the Department of Mines and Geology.

A Karnataka State Natural Disaster Monitoring Centre release said the incident was a "micro tremor" and such incidents were common because of crustal readjustments.

# Reach out to people, Antony tells partymen

Flags off party's 'Janamaha Yatra' that will tour all Kerala Assembly constituencies

## SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

KANNUR



'Protect values': Congress leader A.K. Antony flagging off the 'Janamaha Yatra' in Kasaragod on Sunday.

Senior Congress leader A.K. Antony has said that the upcoming Lok Sabha election is not just about change of guard at the Centre but about protecting the values of the country, its institutions and the Constitution.

Flagging off the 'Janamaha Yatra' led by Kerala Pradesh Congress Committee (KPCC) president Mullappally Ramachandran in Kasaragod on Sunday, Mr. Antony said the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS)-backed

Narendra Modi government should be defeated.

Stating that the CPI(M) and the BJP were trying to wean Hindus away from the Con-

gress, he called upon party workers to not forget the misinformation campaign of the CPI-M and the BJP during the Chengannur by-election.

The 'Janamaha Yatra' would tour all the 140 Assembly constituencies and culminate in Thiruvananthapuram on February 28.

# Kerala catching up with superfoods

Move to expand Millet Village scheme

## TIKI RAJWI

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

With 'superfood' and 'eat smart' strategies forming the main ingredients of the latest dietary mantras, the Kerala Agriculture Department is earmarking farm space in more districts for growing nutrient-rich millets.

Under the Millet Village scheme, the department had harvested ragi (finger millet), thina (foxtail millet), cholam (sorghum) and kuthiraivalai (barnyard millet) in 1,200 acres. Additionally, a pilot scheme for cultivating Chia, a Central American plant, which is gaining popularity in India as yet another superfood, was progressing at Attappady, Mr. Kumar said.

A happy combination of factors such as high protein content, short growing season, climate change resilience and low water requirement make millets an ideal crop for the State, he said.

Finance Minister T.M.

Thomas Isaac, in his State Budget presented on Thursday, had stated the government's intention to popularise the cultivation of these climate-smart crops.

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Finance Minister T.M.

## Useful waste



A delegate looks at a sculpture made from electronics and plastic waste at the venue of the national conference of the Material Recycling Association of India in Kochi on Sunday. ■ THULASI KAKKAT

# Hyderabad hand in ISRO's satellite success story

Firm played a role in several launches

## V. GEETANATH

HYDERABAD

When Indian Space Research Organisation's (ISRO) Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV-C44) successfully put Microsat-R and Kalamsat-V2 satellites into their designated orbits last month, joyous scenes were witnessed not only at Sriharikota but also at the city suburbs of Kandi in Sangareddy district.

## PS4 engines

Here, right opposite the Indian Institute of Technology-Hyderabad, is ASACO, a firm that has been playing a significant albeit low profile role in several of the launches – the company has mastered the manufacturing of complete integrated PS4 engines, or fourth stage engines of the PSLV under ISRO tutelage.

"We are the only company in India manufacturing the complete integrated PS4 engines of PSLV and we have been doing all the engine chamber parts since 1986. ASACO has been the sole supplier of these engines from 2008 and also the 'PS1 RCT Engines', including assembly of the first stage roll control system," said Mr. Mohandas, Joint MD, ASACO.

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## IN BRIEF



## 60% of U.P. vote share belongs to BJP: Maurya

MIRzapur  
Claiming that 60% of the vote share in the State belongs to the BJP, Uttar Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister Keshav Prasad Maurya on Sunday said the SP-BSP alliance will have no effect on the electoral fortunes of the party in the upcoming general election. Even if the Congress joins the SP and the BSP, the BJP will eventually be victorious," he said.

## Thakur thanks PM for laying stone of college

SHIMLA  
Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur on Sunday thanked Prime Minister Narendra Modi for laying the foundation stone of a college in Chamba online, officials said. PTI

## Internet de-addiction clinics at KGMU soon

LUCKNOW  
Special clinics to provide counselling to youngsters addicted to social media platforms will soon be set up by the King George Medical University here. The psychiatry department of the University will run the clinics targeted at adolescents. PTI

## 5 killed, 30 injured in road accident

DEOGARH (JHARKHAND)  
Five persons, including three women and a child, were killed and 30 injured when the bus carrying them overturned near Kachuaband village in Deoghar district on Sunday. Prima facie it appeared that the driver lost control over the steering at the turn following which the vehicle overturned, the police said. PTI

## Woman raped by youth on promise of marriage

MUZAFFARNAGAR  
A 27-year-old woman was allegedly raped by a youth on the false promise of marriage, the police said. Based on a complaint lodged by the woman on Saturday, a case was registered against the youth, Nitin Kumar, under relevant sections of the IPC. PTI

## Vintage beauties



Participants in their vintage car during the Vintage and Classic Car Rally, 2019, in Kolkata on Sunday. ■ PTI

## SAD-BJP to discuss strategy for LS polls soon: Sukhbir Badal

Akali Dal will contest 10 seats in Punjab, says party president

## PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

CHANDIGARH

The Shiromani Akali Dal and its ally the BJP will soon hold a meeting to firm up a strategy for the upcoming Lok Sabha polls, SAD president Sukhbir Singh Badal said here on Sunday.

Replying to a question on the seat distribution between the two allies, the Akali leader said the SAD and the BJP will contest the Lok Sabha polls on all 13 seats in Punjab.

## 3 seats for BJP'

Three seats will be contested by the saffron party while his party will contest on the remaining seats, he said.

"The SAD-BJP coordination committee will be



meeting soon after which we will hold joint rallies," Mr. Badal told reporters after the SAD's core committee meeting.

When asked about Akali leader Manjinder Singh Sirsa's recent remark of walking away from the alliance, alleging RSS interference in internal affairs of the Sikhs, he said he met BJP president Amit Shah in New Delhi on Friday and discussed the issue with him.

## Legal procedure

Mr. Sirsa and some other SAD leaders had objected to the change in legal procedure for appointment of the head of Nanded Gurdwara (Maharashtra) board by amending Takht Sri Hazur Abchalnagar Sahib Board Nanded Act, 1956.

"I had a meeting with Amit Shah, he has assured that the original Act will be restored immediately," Mr. Badal said.

Talking about the

Centre's announcement of a direct income support of ₹6,000 per year to farmers, he said a high-power delegation of his party will meet leaders of the Central government and will request them to double the amount.

Attacking the State government in Punjab, he accused the Congress of not fulfilling its promises made during the Assembly elections.

"Not only this, they have also failed to implement the Centrally-sponsored schemes. For instance, the Ayushman Bharat scheme has not been adopted by Punjab," he said.

He also accused the Amarinder Singh government of "playing negative politics" on every issue.

## Idols worth crores stolen from temple

## PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

BABRAKH

Three 'asthadhatu' idols worth crores of rupees have gone missing from a Lord Ram temple in Ram-purwa village of the district, the police said on Sunday.

Additional Superintendent of Police Ravindra Singh said: "The temple management told the police about the theft, which took place last night (Saturday)."

"Thieves had cut open the temple's channel gate and decamped with statues of Lord Lakshman, Lord Hanuman and Goddess Sita. The thieves, however, did not take away Lord Ram statue, besides some small ones. The cost of stolen statues is said to be crores of rupees," he said.

Mr. Singh said a case of theft has been registered and the investigation started. We hope to nab the thieves soon," he said.

## WEATHER WATCH

RAINFALL, TEMPERATURE & AIR QUALITY IN SELECT METROS YESTERDAY



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.30 HRS)

**Forecast for Monday:** Dense to very dense fog likely at many places over Haryana, Chandigarh, Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, Rajasthan, northwest Madhya Pradesh and Bihar.

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	—	28.6	12.0	Kozhikode	—	35.0	23.5
Ahmedabad	—	28.2	13.2	Kurnool	—	32.1	18.7
Aizawl	—	28.6	—	Lucknow	—	22.7	9.8
Altafabad	—	24.5	10.4	Madurai	—	34.7	21.1
Bengaluru	—	30.0	16.0	Mangaluru	—	33.8	20.9
Bhopal	—	28.3	12.8	Mumbai	—	31.6	17.8
Bhubaneswar	—	32.3	12.2	Myssuru	—	30.9	15.2
Chandigarh	—	20.6	8.2	New Delhi	—	19.9	9.4
Chennai	—	30.3	22.8	Patna	—	27.2	10.6
Coimbatore	—	33.0	19.7	Port Blair	—	30.7	25.6
Dehradoon	—	25.2	7.3	Puducherry	—	31.5	21.5
Gangtok	—	14.6	6.0	Pune	—	31.7	14.2
Goa	—	34.8	19.8	Rajpur	—	29.7	15.4
Guwahati	—	28.0	10.6	Ranchi	—	28.0	11.0
Hubballi	—	30.0	18.0	Shillong	—	16.8	5.2
Hyderabad	—	29.4	16.9	Shimla	—	15.2	3.3
Imphal	—	25.6	4.8	Srinagar	—	9.9	1.2
Jaipur	—	22.2	7.7	Trivandrum	—	34.0	22.7
Kochi	—	31.6	24.8	Tirupati	—	33.9	21.6
Kohima	—	21.2	6.8	Vijayawada	—	30.0	19.0
Kolkata	—	29.8	14.7	Visakhapatnam	—	29.6	21.2

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

## Pollutants in the air you are breathing

Yesterday

CITIES	SO <sub>2</sub>	NO <sub>x</sub>	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	74	.84	.27	....	—	■
Bengaluru	.7	.50	.67	—	150	■
Chennai	5	.10	.48	38	—	■
Delhi	21	.70	.55	349	230	■
Hyderabad	2	101	.32	141	122	■
Kolkata	40	.81	.28	382	331	■
Lucknow	3	.45	.36	389	—	■
Mumbai	27	—	106	139	206	■
Pune	45	.23	.36	145	.108	■
Visakhapatnam	12	.81	.32	172	.202	■

Air Quality Code: ■ Poor ■ Moderate ■ Good (Readings indicate average AQI)  
SO<sub>2</sub>: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO<sub>x</sub>: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

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

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

## A GREETING TO REMEMBER

Be it an anniversary, a birthday, an academic accomplishment or even a promotion. Now you can surprise your loved ones with wishing them on

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## Brand connect initiative

## Hope for the underprivileged

Guru Prasad, the Founder of Adarane Trust, has been changing lives of the underprivileged children for more than a decade now. Adarane Charitable Trust, located in the serene location



of the IT City Bangalore, has opened its door not only for the destitute, necessitous children but also for those children whose parents are affected by HIV.

As he grew up seeing the plight of illiteracy in his village, he started taking free classes for 5 students. This gradually crossed 300 within a short period.

Guru Prasad then received huge support from all of those parents and nearby surroundings, which made him realize his potentiality and started contributing more.

Guru Prasad and his team's prime focus areas include running home for destitute Children, empowering girl

nutritious healthy food, better clothes to wear, shelter and quality education. Along with these, the team also conducts regular fun events to have a happy ambience across their homes.

The team also specialises in community development projects and computer literacy. Now

they have a centre in Chittoor with 125 kids and have started supporting 18 HIV affected families in Shimoga Center in North Karnataka.

With a strong belief and mission, Guru Prasad and entire 'Adarane' team go forward as they complete more than a decade of services to the mankind.

Under My Watch is an initiative by The Hindu that celebrates conscious and responsible citizens who make India better, one small act at a time. Tell us your story and get a chance to be featured in The Hindu

SUBMIT YOUR STORY AT WWW.THEHINDU.COM/UNDERMYWATCH

## Himachal Pradesh Public Works Department Under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) CORRIGENDUM

The tenders for the works of PMGSY were published vide this office letter No.12516-60, No. 12567-12610 both dated 29.01.2019 and vide letter No. 12635-690, No. 12704-54 both dated 30.01.2019 and further released for publication in various news papers vide RO No.4389/2018-19, No. 4388/2018-19 both dated 30.01.2019 and RO No. 4443/2018-19, No. 4444/2018-19 both dated 01.02.2019. The bidders are advised to note other details of tenders from the website www.pmgstenders.gov.in instead of department website www.hptenders.gov.in. Other conditions will remain unchanged.

Director, Engineering, 8th Circle, HPPWD, Hamirpur.

HP / 4479/18-19

## THE HINDU

DISCLAIMER: Readers are requested to verify and make appropriate enquiries to satisfy themselves about the veracity of an advertisement before responding to any published in this newspaper. THIS PUBLISHING PVT LTD, the Publisher & Owner of this newspaper, does not vouch for the authenticity of any advertisement or advertiser or for any of the advertising claims made by them. The publisher & owner of this newspaper shall not be liable in any manner whatsoever for any claims and/or damages for advertisements in this newspaper.

## CORRIGENDUM EXTENSION OF TENDER SUBMISSION DATE NOTICE INVITING TENDER (NIT)

The last date of submission of E-tenders and physical submission of EMD/Cost of tender & Technical bids for purchase of "Liquid Nitrogen Gas of 99.99% Purity" for the financial year 2018-19 against the tender notice published on times of India and other leading News paper as on 12th January 2019 has been extended from 31st January 2019 to 7th February, 2019 ( 2.00 PM) due to administrative reason. The Technical bids shall be open on 8th February 2019 at 2.00 PM.

&lt;p

## IN BRIEF



## Centre steps in to boost air quality by 2024

**NEW DELHI**  
The Centre is aiming to install 300 more ambient air quality monitoring systems across the country by 2024 as the country battles deteriorating air quality. A senior official of the Union Environment Ministry said that 150 real-time and 731 manual stations are currently installed in 70 cities across the country. PTI

## Several injured in vehicle pile-up in Rajasthan

**JAIPUR**  
Several people were injured on Sunday in a pile-up involving more than 40 vehicles in Rajasthan's Sikar, police said. The vehicles, including cars, jeeps and buses, collided into one another due to low visibility.

## CBI books two of its officials in land scam

**NEW DELHI**  
The Central Bureau of Investigation has registered a case against two of its officers and two other officials of the Uttar Pradesh government in connection with the Yamuna Expressway Industrial Development Authority land scam. ANI

## Jumbo home restored after years in Assam

**GUWAHATI**  
The Assam government has notified a wildlife habitat near the Kaziranga National Park as a reserved forest 20 years after it was proposed and eight years after a refinery had used a part of it to build a wall that blocked an elephant migration route. The notification was issued on January 19, but the official announcement was made on Saturday.

## Red alert in U.P.'s Dudhwa Tiger Reserve

**LAKHIMPUR KHERI**  
A red alert has been sounded in Uttar Pradesh's Dudhwa Tiger Reserve after authorities received reports of illegal wildlife trafficking through the porous India-Nepal border, an official said Sunday. PTI

## Visually impaired to get Braille voter slips

**NEW DELHI**  
Visually impaired and blind voters will be provided with Braille voter slips in the coming Lok Sabha elections, the Election Commission has said. Electronic voting machines already have the Braille feature. PTI

## Centre's crackdown hits Greenpeace

NGO cuts workforce, shuts two offices

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE  
NEW DELHI

Greenpeace has been forced to close two of its regional offices and "considerably" reduce its staff in India because of a government crackdown on allegedly unlawful foreign funding of NGOs.

The organisation has been campaigning on environmental issues in India for nearly two decades but has clashed in recent years with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government, which has accused the watchdog of violating the country's foreign funding laws.

Greenpeace India announced on Saturday that the crackdown had forced the organisation to "shrink in size considerably" and close its offices in New Delhi and Patna.

Nearly 40 employees – one-third of its staff – across India have been asked to leave. ■ AFP

## As rescue work continues, accusations fly thick and fast



**Searching for survivors:** Locals and rescue workers looking for survivors in the coaches of the Seemanchal Express some 30 km north of Patna, on Sunday; right, police personnel inspecting the site. ■ AP; RANJEET KUMAR

## Politicians trade charges over mishap

Govt. priorities misplaced, say Opposition leaders; Paswan blames Lalu's policies

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
PATNA

Opposition leaders in Bihar on Sunday squarely blamed the Narendra Modi government at the Centre for the derailment in Vaishali district of the Delhi-bound Seemanchal Express earlier in the day, which left six persons dead.

However, former Union Railway Minister and chief of NDA ally, Lok Jansakthi Party, Ram Vilas Paswan hit back, claiming that rail tracks across the country were under tremendous

pressure because of "reckless increase in number of bogies" that took place during the tenure of RJD supremo Lalu Prasad at the helm of the Ministry.

## A mismatch

"This government has misplaced priorities. It is trying to introduce bullet trains, running at very high speeds with the help of sophisticated technology. On the other hand, there is a crying need for proper upkeep of ordinary trains like the Seemanchal Express," Loktantrik

Janta Dal leader and former Union minister Sharad Yadav said.

Former Bihar Chief Minister Jitan Ram Manjhi also held the Modi government responsible for the mishap and demanded compensation of ₹20 lakh to each injured passenger."

Bihar Congress working president Kaukab Qadri issued a statement, seeking the resignation of Railway Minister Piyush Goyal.

Later, at a rally organized by the Congress in Patna, opposition leaders led by Rahul

Gandhi and RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav, besides the Chief Ministers of Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh Ashok Gehlot, Kamal Nath and Bhupesh Baghel respectively, observed a one-minute silence to mourn the tragedy.

However, talking to reporters at Sahdei Bujurg, the mishap site in his Lok Sabha constituency of Hajipur, Mr. Paswan said, "Lalu Prasad's tenure as Railway Minister was marked by increase in bogies for trains without track augmentation."

## Jolted awake by a violent bang

Survivors recall horror of early morning derailment

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
SONPUR

A deafening bang and a powerful jolt flung sleeping passengers off their berths as the Delhi-bound Seemanchal Express jumped the tracks here in the early hours of Sunday, survivors recalled.

Imarati Devi, who had boarded the train at Kishanganj on Saturday night, said she was fortunate to have escaped unhurt as her compartment was among the 11 derailed coaches.

She and her mother-in-

law had settled in for the long journey ahead and dozed off.

"Suddenly, I found myself hitting a hard surface, my ears still ringing from an explosion-like sound. It took me a few seconds to realize that I had fallen on the floor of the compartment," Ms Imarati said.

She added that men broke open the window panes and helped her crawl out.

Basawan Singh, a resident of Sahadei Buzurg in Vaishali district, said that he initially mistook the accident for a

bomb explosion. "We were asleep when we heard the loud bang. Initially suspecting that a bomb had exploded nearby, I and other neighbours cautiously ventured out carrying lathis in our hands... The tracks were a few yards away and we could sense that a train was stranded, but it was dark and we took time to figure out what happened."

Another local resident, Rameshwar Rai, said, "Luckily, the site of the mishap wasn't a remote or a sparsely-populated area."

## 26/11 case: warrant against two Pakistan Army officials

The accused were present at meetings to select targets'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
MUMBAI

A sessions court here has issued non-bailable warrants against Pakistani Army officials Major Abdul Rehman Pasha and Major Iqbal in the 26/11 Mumbai terror attacks case.

While Major Pasha has retired, the prosecution believes Major Iqbal is still serving as an ISI official in Pakistan, as disclosed by U.S.-born Lashkar-e-Taiba terrorist David Coleman Headley, an approver in the case.

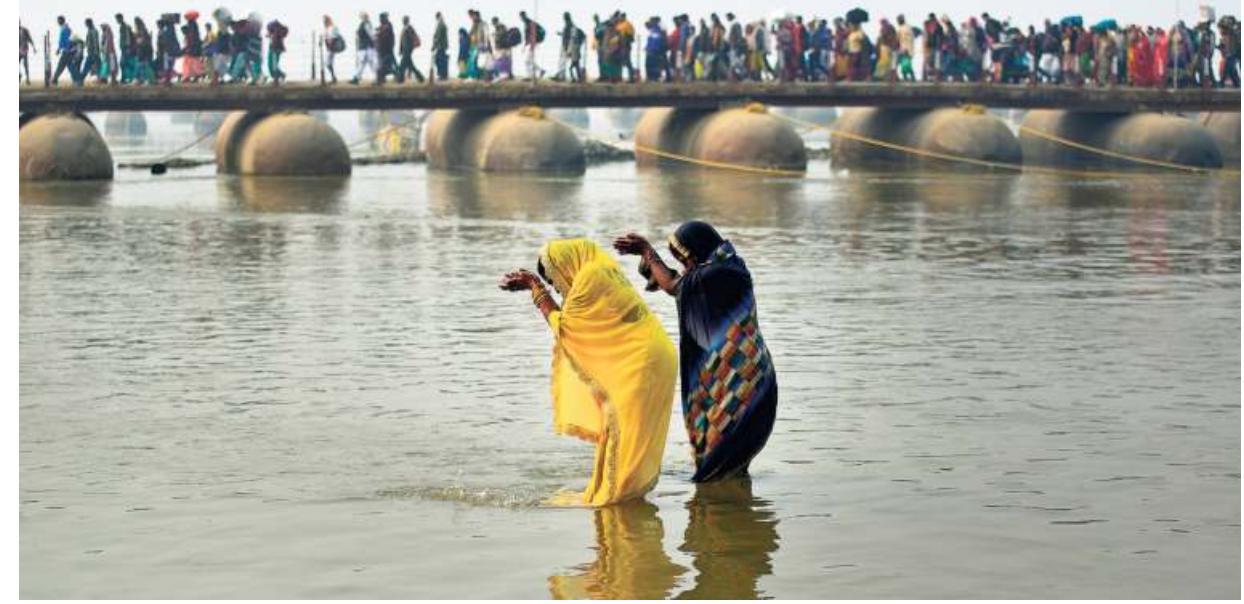
The officials are shown as wanted accused in the chargesheet filed by the city police.

Additional sessions judge S.V. Yarlagadda on January 21 allowed an application filed by special public prosecutor Ujjwal Nikam. The court is presently conducting trial against alleged LeT operative Sayyed Zabiuddin Ansari alias Abu Jundal in the 26/11 Mumbai terror attacks.

Mr. Nikam said the role of the two Pakistani Army officials was revealed further

during Headley's testimony. Headley had claimed that during the conspiracy to commit the terror attacks in Mumbai, Major Iqbal and Major Pasha were present at the meetings where targets were selected. Let's Saeed Mir, Abu Kaahfa and Zaki-ur-Rehman Lakhvi were also present at the meetings. Mr. Nikam said Headley's testimony is not the only evidence against Major Pasha and Major Iqbal, and that the prosecution also has in its possession corroborative documentary evidence.

## In devotion



**Paying obeisance:** Women offering their prayers in the Ganga as devotees travel on a pontoon bridge over the Sangam in Allahabad's Kumbh Mela on the eve of Mauni Amavasya on Sunday. ■ RITU RAJ KONWAR

## Retracing their roots to Southeast Asia

First-of-its-kind event in Bangkok

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
GUWAHATI

About 400 people would be travelling to Thailand to retrace their cultural roots and also promote trade and tourism, at a first-of-its-kind event in Bangkok on February 9 and 10.

The initiative, aimed at bridging ties between India's northeastern region and Southeast Asia, is based on historic links snapped by political boundaries. Many

communities in the northeast, such as the Ahoms and the Shyams in Assam, had migrated from the Thailand-South China-Myanmar region centuries ago.

"Apart from meetings on trade and investment, the focus is on cultural exchanges. Top scholars from northeastern States will interact with about 20 Thai historians and academics," said Shyamkanu Mahanta, chief organiser of the event.

## Goyal's claim on OROP misleading, say veterans

They claim several allowances have not been sanctioned

DINAKAR PERI  
NEW DELHI

In his Budget speech last week, Finance Minister Piyush Goyal said the government had implemented the long-pending One Rank One Pension (OROP) scheme and increased other allowances for soldiers. But the remark has not enthused the veterans. A section of them says several other allowances,

like Non-Functional Upgrade (NNU), have not been sanctioned yet.

## The previous govern-

ment announced it [OROP] in three Budgets, but sanctioned a mere ₹500 crore in the 2014-15 interim Budget; in contrast, we have already disbursed over ₹35,000 crore after implementing the scheme in its true spirit," Mr. Goyal had said.

Indian Ex-Servicemen Movement chairman Maj. Gen. Satbir Singh (retired), who has been spearheading a protest for removing the anomalies in OROP, said the comments were "misleading."

"Mr. Goyal is misleading the ex-servicemen and the nation. He has not given the break-up of the ₹35,000 crore that he said was disbursed."

## Law Ministry nod to arraign Chidambaram

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NEW DELHI

In what could spell fresh trouble for Congress leader P. Chidambaram, the Law Ministry has told the Centre that the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) can be granted sanction to prosecute him in the INX Media case.

A senior government functionary said the Ministry's opinion was sought on whether the CBI's demand to prosecute Mr. Chidambaram was legally sound.

It has responded to the Home Ministry that there was "no legal infirmity" in the CBI's request.

The Ministry, he said, gave its opinion based on evidence provided by the investigative agency.

The CBI has already been granted approval by the Centre to prosecute Mr. Chidambaram in the Aircel Maxx case.

The agency registered an FIR on May 15, 2017, against alleged irregularities in FIPB clearance to INX Media for receiving overseas funds of ₹305 crore in 2007 when he was the Union Finance Minister.

The veteran Congress leader's son Karti Chidambaram was also arrested in the matter for allegedly receiving funds of ₹10 lakh in the case.

## Village school in Maharashtra welcomes 'Alexa teacher'

Virtual assistant, the third teacher in Waruda's primary school, is being seen as a game changer

ADITYA ANAND  
AMRAVATI

Unlike other municipal primary schools in Maharashtra's Badnera town, the one in Waruda has 'three teachers' for its 42 students studying from Classes I to IV.

For a similar school, the ratio may have been only two teachers. In Waruda, besides teacher Amol Bhuyar and headmistress Sushma Kapse, there is also Alexa. Amazon's 'virtual assistant' is the 'third teacher' in the Marathi medium institution.

## Slow net speeds

Sharing the one-time investment cost with Ms. Kapse,



**Helping hand:** Primary school students in a classroom with the virtual assistant. ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Mr. Bhuyar has independently built a mannequin around an Amazon Echo device, giving a face to Alexa. Poor Internet speeds in the hinter-

land notwithstanding, students speak to Alexa in English, and are now learning math, poems, general knowledge, weather infor-

mation and more, from the device. Bollywood music now forms a part of the school's extra-curricular activity.

Mr. Bhuyar said he realised very early that Alexa could be a game changer for his students.

"It was during a 'go digital drive' by the Amravati municipality in its schools that I had this brainwave of trying to push boundaries using technology," he explained.

Mr. Bhuyar discovered the technology on the Internet.

The initial challenge, according to Mr. Bhuyar, was that the children only converse in Marathi, a language

that the device does not offer. "We have in the last 11 months trained students in the structure of posing Alexa a question. Students ask about 15 questions a day. They prepare these questions at home and come to school," Ms. Kapse explains.

"Voice interface is set to transform the way we use technology in our everyday lives... since its launch, Alexa has been at the forefront of this disruption," said Puneesh Kumar, Country Manager, Alexa Experience and Devices.

The veteran Congress leader's son Karti Chidambaram was also arrested in the matter for allegedly receiving funds of ₹10 lakh in the case.

## NGO denies allegations

Since coming to power in 2014, the Modi government has cancelled the licences of nearly 15,000 charities to receive money from abroad.



## Standard deviations

Delay in releasing key employment data has undermined the credibility of data officialdom

The resignations of the National Statistical Commission's acting Chairperson P.C. Mohanan and member J.V. Meenakshi appear linked to the Centre's refusal to release new data on employment that were due to be made public in December 2018. They could also be related to unease about the recently unveiled back-series data on the economy, which recorded slower growth during the UPA-led government's rule, and were released by the NITI Aayog bypassing convention and the commission's views. Reports suggest that the findings of the new Periodic Labour Force Survey, for July 2017-December 2018, are not too flattering, with unemployment registering a five-decade high. The government has said no such reservations were expressed by Mr. Mohanan or Dr. Meenakshi during NSC meetings and that the report will be released after 'quarterly' data for the survey period is processed. A key role of the NSC, set up in 2006, is to verify whether data being put in the public domain are reliable and adequate. Information has been collected and disseminated by successive governments under laid-down schedules, earning Indian data greater global trust than most other emerging market peers, especially China.

On the question of job-creation for the youth, the Prime Minister and his Cabinet have been building an argument that jobs abound, but credible data are missing. The National Sample Survey Organisation's quinquennial employment surveys were to be conducted in 2016-17. The year was switched to 2017-18 as the new Labour Force Survey was being prepared to replace it. Separately, a quarterly survey of select employment-intensive sectors initiated by the Labour Bureau after the 2008 global financial crisis, that provided some clarity on ground realities, was inexplicably jettisoned. Instead, proxy data from enrolments into social security schemes for formal sector employees are being touted as a sign of job-creation: economists have rightly called them out as inaccurate. Even then, Arun Jaitley, in his last year's Budget speech, cited 'an independent study' to claim seven million formal jobs will be created in 2018-19. The Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy has pegged job losses in 2018 at 11 million based on its regular employment surveys. The government's coy approach to jobs-related data may be due to its disastrous demonetisation gambit which hurt supply chains and informal jobs in the economy and whose effects have lingered. Contrast this with the NSSO surveys of 2009-10 that revealed little good news on household incomes and job-creation, thanks to after-effects of the global financial crisis. The UPA didn't dither from releasing the data, took criticism on its chin, explained it was an exceptional situation and commissioned another set of surveys in 2011-12 to correct for the timing. The Modi government should have treaded the same path without upending India's statistical integrity.

## Hawkish move

The U.S.'s unilateral withdrawal from a nuclear treaty threatens to kick-start a new arms race

The Donald Trump administration's decision to withdraw from the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces (INF) treaty with Russia is a retrograde step. Signed in 1987 by Ronald Reagan and Mikhail Gorbachev, it barred both countries from deploying land-launched cruise missiles in the 500- to 5,500-km range. However, Russia appears to have been covertly violating it in letter and spirit. The U.S. in 2008 expressed concern over the Russian Novator 9M729 missile tests and in 2014 alleged that Moscow was testing a ground-based cruise missile. Yet, the U.S. response cannot be regarded as purely retaliatory. Both Mr. Trump and his National Security Adviser John Bolton are on the record expressing what some consider to be a sense of disregard for arms control agreements. Before taking up the NSA role, Mr. Bolton said in his book that the U.S. "arms control theology" had been "kept on life support during the Clinton presidency by devotion and prayer rather than hard reality". Mr. Trump, who scuppered the nuclear agreement with Iran, has hinted he would refuse to abide by a treaty that other parties were disregarding. There is now a sense of alarm that the New Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (START), which limits both countries' arsenals of intercontinental ballistic missiles, and will lapse in 2021, might be scrapped next.

At the heart of this worrisome echo of the Cold War years is the changing balance of power in global nuclear politics heralded by China's rise as a regional hegemon; its growing arsenal poses a threat in the eyes of strategists in Washington. In 2018, the U.S. Nuclear Posture Review noted that Beijing was steaming forward with the expansion of its cruise-missile arsenal, potentially neutralising the capability of American warships that could seek to approach the Chinese coastline during a standoff. Shifting geo-politics also requires that European concerns be factored into strategic discussions on the INF, particularly because it is Europe that is most immediately threatened by the Russian stockpile. However, going by the surprised reactions from European officials, it appears that Mr. Trump may not have consulted with European allies before announcing the suspension of the treaty. Mr. Trump's thinking may rest on the fact that he could now develop ground-launched missiles, and perhaps keep Moscow's aggression in check through a military-posture superiority, and also save the exchequer some cash, for this option is cheaper than cruise missiles that can be fired from aircraft, ships, or submarines. Nevertheless, in pulling out of the INF, Washington is effectively throwing away leverage it may have had with Russia on an issue of global concern.

# Legitimacy of the basic structure

The doctrine may be derived from the abstract. But it exists within the Constitution itself



SUHRITH PARTHASARATHY

**I**t has now been more than 45 years since the Supreme Court ruled in *Kesavananda Bharati v. State of Kerala* that Parliament's power to amend the Constitution was not unlimited, that the Constitution's basic structure was inflexible. But as entrenched as this doctrine might now be, it remains, to some, a source of endless antipathy. There have already been grumblings over the rule's legitimacy in certain quarters in response to challenges made to the recently introduced 103rd Constitutional Amendment, which provides for reservations based on economic criteria in government jobs and education.

### Unwarranted censure

The common criticism is that the doctrine has no basis in the Constitution's language. The phrase "basic structure", it's argued, finds no mention anywhere in the Constitution. What's more, beyond its textual illegitimacy, its detractors also believe the doctrine accords the judiciary a power to impose its philosophy over a democratically formed government, resulting in something akin to what Union Minister Arun Jaitley once termed as a "tyranny of the unelected".

Unquestionably, some of this censure is a result of the Supreme Court's occasionally muddled interpretation of what the Constitution's basic structure might be. But to reject the doctrine altogether because the judiciary sometimes botches its use is to throw the baby out with the bathwater. For not only is the basic structure canon legally legitimate, in that it is deeply rooted in the Constitution's text

and history, but it also possesses substantial moral value, in that it strengthens democracy by limiting the power of a majoritarian government to undermine the Constitution's central ideals.

Ever since the Constitution was first amended in 1951, the true extent of Parliament's power to amend the document has been acutely contested. But the dangers inherent in granting untrammeled power to the legislature were perhaps best brought out in a lecture delivered by a German professor, Dietrich Conrad. His talk "Implied Limitations of the Amending Power", delivered in February 1965 to the law department of the Banaras Hindu University, came at an especially fraught time. Only months earlier Parliament had introduced the contentious 17th Constitutional Amendment. Through this, among other things, a number of land reform legislations had been placed into the Constitution's Ninth Schedule. This meant that those laws, even when discriminatory, were immunised from challenge.

But it wasn't the merit of the amendment that troubled Conrad. He was concerned with the suggestion that Parliament's power to alter the Constitution was plenary. Influenced by the theoretical scholarship of the jurist Carl Schmitt, Conrad believed that even if a legislature were bestowed with the widest of powers to amend the Constitution, its authority was always subject to a set of inherent constraints. Parliament, he contended, was, after all, a creature of the Constitution. It could not, therefore, make changes that had the effect of overthrowing or obliterating the Constitution itself.

As A.G. Noorani has pointed out, Conrad was affected by his own country's history. In Germany, the virulent end brought to the Weimar Republic by Nazism had meant that when the country adopted its Basic Law in 1949, it quite explicitly placed checks on



the legislature's powers. This included a bar on lawmakers from amending those provisions of the Basic Law that concerned the country's federal structure, that made human rights inviolable and that established constitutional principles such as the state's democratic and social order.

### Questions to ponder

In his lecture, Conrad said India hadn't yet been confronted with any extreme constitutional amendment. But jurists, he warned, ought to be mindful of the potential consequences inherent in granting Parliament boundless power to change the Constitution. How might we react, he wondered, if the legislature were to amend Article 1, for example, by dividing India into two. "Could a constitutional amendment," he asked, "abolish Article 21," removing the guarantee of a right to life? Or could Parliament use its power "to abolish the Constitution and reintroduce... the rule of a Moghul emperor or of the Crown of England?"

Although it was delivered to a limited audience, M.K. Nambyar, who was to soon lead arguments in the Supreme Court against the 17th amendment in Golaknath's case, was alerted to Conrad's urgings. Devoid of any direct precedent from other Commonwealth nations, where an amendment had been subject to the rigours of

judicial review, Nambyar thought the German experience carried with it a set of important lessons. Were Parliament's powers considered infinite, he argued, the parliamentary executive can be removed, fundamental rights can be abrogated, and, in effect, what is a sovereign democratic republic can be converted into a totalitarian regime.

### Interpreting 'amendment'

The court, in *Golaknath*, didn't quite feel the need to go this far. But, ultimately, just four years later, in *Kesavananda Bharati*, it was this formulation that shaped Justice H.R. Khanna's legendary, controlling opinion. While the judge conceded that it wasn't possible to subscribe to everything in Conrad's arguments, this much, he said, was true: "Any amending body organized within the statutory scheme, howsoever verbally unlimited its power, cannot by its very structure change the fundamental pillars supporting its Constitutional authority." Yet, the limitation, wrote Justice Khanna, wasn't as much implicit from a reading of the Constitution as a whole as it was evident from the very meaning of the word "amendment". According to him, what could emerge out of an amendment was only an altered form of the existing Constitution and not an altogether new and radical Constitution.

We must remember that constitutions are not like ordinary laws. Interpreting one is always likely to be an exercise fraught with controversy. But such is the nature of our political design that the court, as an independent body, is tasked with the role of acting as the Constitution's final interpreter, with a view to translating, as Justice Robert H. Jackson of the U.S. Supreme Court once wrote, abstract principles into "concrete constitutional commands". It may well be the case that the basic structure doctrine is derived from the abstract. But that scarcely means it doesn't exist within the Constitution.

Constitution", naturally a change made under Article 368 cannot create a new constitution. Such a construal is also supported by the literal meaning of the word "amendment", which is defined as "a minor change or addition designed to improve a text". Hence, for an amendment to be valid, the constitution that remains standing after such a change must be the Constitution of India; it must continue to possess, in its essence, those features that were foundational to it even at its conception.

Now, consider Conrad's extreme example: were an amendment to be introduced relinquishing control over India to a foreign power, would it not result in the creation of a constitution that is no longer the Constitution of India? Would not such an amendment strike at the root of the Constitution's Preamble, which, in its original form, established India as a sovereign democratic republic? On any reasonable analysis it ought to, therefore, be clear that the basic structure doctrine is not only grounded in the Constitution's text and history, but that it also performs an important democratic role in ensuring that majoritarian governments do not destroy the Constitution's essential character.

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Suhrit Parthasarathy is an advocate practising at the Madras High Court

## Afghanistan at a crossroads

Any agreement between the Taliban and the U.S. at the expense of the Afghan government and people is doomed to fail



DAWOOD MORADIAN

**A**fghanistan is seeing growing national, regional and global attempts to seek a peaceful settlement to the conflict. The U.S. is desperate to extricate itself from the war, heightened by an unpredictable President and an ambitious negotiator, Zalmay Khalilzad. This desperation is matched by growing fears in Afghanistan that the Taliban will seek to overthrow the government, as it did in 1994, and that the government, the political class and the democratic constituency will be betrayed by a hasty deal between a desperate U.S. and an overconfident Pakistan. Desperation, fear and hubris may produce a peace agreement, but such an agreement may not bring inclusive and sustainable peace.

### Key questions

Addressing the main drivers of the conflict are the principal tenets of any sustainable peace settlement. The causes of the Afghan conflict are religious, ethnic and external in nature. The conflict has been fought over the identity, legitimacy and sovereignty of the Afghan state and society: Should it be a Pashtun-dominated entity or a pluralistic state? Is an Islamist/theocratic emirate a true identity of

the nation or a constitutional republic? Should it be a puppet state of Pakistan or a sovereign and independent state? Should it be a representative or plutocratic state?

There have been numerous peacemaking efforts and agreements since the beginning of the conflict in 1979. The leftist Najibullah Ahmadzai, the Mujahideen-led government of Burhanuddin Rabbani, and the Western-installed governments of Hamid Karzai and Ashraf Ghani all pursued political settlements based on the principles of power-sharing and democratic governance but failed.

Since its formation in 1994, the Taliban has remained consistent in its ambition of total victory and establishing a "pure Islamic government". The Taliban is not primarily a nationalistic insurgency fighting a foreign occupation, but an ideological movement determined to re-establish a political order that is in alignment with Pakistan's geo-strategic ambitions. The presence of international troops is an obstacle to the Taliban's goal.

The key questions are (a) whether the Taliban's goal of establishing a "pure Islamic government" is compatible with the principles of pluralism, power-sharing and election-based politics; (b) whether Pakistan will accept a sovereign, independent Afghanistan; (c) whether the potential peace settlement is to be built upon the fragile achievements in the fields of state-building, democratisation, pluralism and connectivity; and (d) whether there will be an effective guarantee and me-



chanism for ensuring the sustainability of any peace agreement.

### The role of the U.S.

In March 1979, the U.S. began covertly supporting the Mujahideen via and with Pakistan through 'Operation Cyclone'; it has remained a party to the conflict ever since. However, the U.S.'s Afghan policy has been driven by instinct rather than deliberation. Its current peace efforts are mainly driven by Washington's selfish instincts and ever-changing moods rather than the realities on the ground, particularly the role of the Afghan government and people. U.S. President Donald Trump follows his predecessors in changing the goals posts from conditions-based engagement to cater to the U.S.'s domestic impulses and/or emerging geopolitical attractions.

Neither the current military environment nor the political structure is conducive for a sustained peace process. Unlike the Afghan and the coalition forces, the Taliban is not militarily and politically exhausted and/or desperate. The leadership of the Taliban and their Pakistani enablers have more sta-

mina, resources and reasons to be hopeful of total victory. Their confidence has been reinforced by the Trump administration's 'all bark no bite' approach in dealing with Pakistan.

The Afghan presidential election, in which 17 candidates from different political backgrounds have registered to compete, is scheduled to take place in July. The speedy talk between the U.S. and the Taliban has created a parallel process in competition with the planned presidential election. Many in Kabul rightly fear that the U.S. may sacrifice Afghanistan's nascent democracy and sovereignty to attain its objectives.

Any agreement between the Taliban and the U.S. at the expense of the two principal stakeholders – the Afghan government and the people – is doomed to fail. The Afghanistan of 2019 is fundamentally different from the Afghanistan of the 1990s. Despite many shortcomings, the state of Afghanistan enjoys significant capacity and legitimacy and is endowed with a formidable and growing national security force. On the other hand, both Pakistan and the Taliban remain despised and distrusted by an overwhelming majority. In 2018, the Asia Foundation's annual Afghanistan survey and the nationwide survey conducted by the Afghan Institute for Strategic Studies found that over 90% of the population do not support the Taliban's cause.

In the words of the Taliban, Afghanistan is "the school of jihad" for jihadists around the world.

Therefore, any arrangement with the Taliban would have direct implications for other violent Islamist groups. Separating the Taliban from wider global Islamist movements is the product of Western political duplicity and intellectual naivety.

A trilateral agreement involving Pakistan, the U.S., and the Taliban's Quetta Shura will not be acceptable to other stakeholders in Afghanistan and the region. Inclusivity, realism, sustainability and Afghan ownership should drive the efforts for the peace settlement. For this to succeed, India should join other like-minded and concerned stakeholders to ensure that Afghanistan moves forward rather than be forced to return to the dark age of the 1990s.

The people of Afghanistan want a peaceful, pluralistic and prosperous country. The Taliban can have a role and a place in building and living in such a polity, similar to other Afghan citizens or political groups. A peaceful and prosperous Afghanistan, a peaceful and developed region, and the defeat of the ideology of violent Islamist groups are all interlinked.

But the people of Afghanistan should not be forced to choose between an imposed peace or independence and a constitutional order. An imposed peace will achieve brief victory for one party, but cause long-term suffering and will eventually break down.

Davood Moradian is Director General, Afghan Institute for Strategic Studies, Kabul

## 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.

### Detained in the U.S.

It is unfortunate that some students and their agents are spoiling the name of India by resorting to fraud and unethical means in getting U.S. student visas (Page 1, "U.S. visa fraud: India demands release of students", February 3). A student visa to the U.S. is much coveted as it opens the door to quality education and, possibly, a well-paying job. This has led unscrupulous individuals, sometimes in collusion with institutions, to defraud the system. It is necessary for parents and students to be vigilant and not give room to acts that

bring disrepute to the country and the system.

D.B.N. MURTHY,  
Bengaluru

**The CBI gets a Director**  
The controversy over the selection of the new CBI Director is a continuation of the cold war that refuses to dissipate over the posting of a Director to head the premier investigating agency as well as the intransigent stand of the government, which is bent upon having its own way irrespective of the consequences of not having an independent institution.

V. PADMANABHAN,  
Bengaluru

**■ The dissent by Congress leader Mallikarjun Kharge is not surprising as he, just like his leader and Congress president Rahul Gandhi, will always be dissenting, attacking and accusing the government on everything that it does. When the Chief Justice of India was also one of the committee members who cleared the name of the new appointee, Mr. Kharge's dissent has no value.**

V.S. GANESHAN,  
Bengaluru

**Guide to leadership**  
One of the essential qualities that our leaders should have is the ability of succession planning ('ColumnWidth'

"What qualities should we expect from our leaders?", February 3). In most of our political parties, the assumed and presumed next lines of leadership are family members of leaders. In certain cases, it is a case of "After me, the deluge". Leaders in all spheres should have the acumen, foresight and selfless courage to encourage and develop the best among their followers to take up their mantle when the situation warrants this. For this to happen, we must have leaders with unimpeachable integrity, rectitude and patriotism. Unfortunately, India has seen

leaders equating themselves with the country.

C.G. KURIAKOSE,  
Kothamangalam, Kerala

**Herbal formulation**  
The report on the siddha drug, *Nilavembu kudineer*, showing antiviral activity and immunomodulation was interesting ('Science & Technology' page, "Nilavembu kudineer kills dengue virus, protects from chikungunya", February 3). If anything, it reinforces a fact of singular importance in medical research – the urgent concerns of clinical care and the trial and error experiences that these concerns beget that have

been the source of several great medical discoveries. Ancient medical texts can serve as a rich repertoire of such researchable, if not employable, clinical experiences. The Nobel-winning discovery of the anti-malarial drug, artemisinin, had as its source a 2,000-year-old clinical experience documented in a treatise of traditional Chinese medicine. It is heartening to see that our researchers too are working on indigenous drugs to verify and establish their efficacy.

Ds. G.L. KRISHNA,  
Bengaluru

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# Imagining alternative futures

Why the Young India Adhikar March calls for greater civic solidarity



DEBADITYA BHATTACHARYA & RINA RAMDEV

The caricaturing of scientific inquiry at the recent Indian Science Congress (ISC) is only symptomatic of the larger ideological thrust through which institutions of higher education in India are now sought to be governed. Further, the choice of venue for the ISC this year – a private university in Punjab – highlights the boost that investors of private capital in higher education receive even as funding cutbacks at public universities have threatened the closure of 167 centres for women's studies and 35 centres for studies in social exclusion. That a proposed Jio Institute was granted the 'Institute of Eminence' status much before it could even open is a grim reminder of state support now being unambiguously willed upon the private model.

It is the same political imperative that is directing public-funded institutions towards 'graded autonomy' – duly recognised as a covert entry point for privatisation. The threat to autonomy is writ large in the recent moves to scrap the University Grants Commission (UGC) as a funding body for higher education, in keeping with the World Trade Organisation's mandate that views education as a tradable commodity, not as a right that every citizen can demand of the state.

#### Right versus privilege

In 2015, the UGC, citing a fund crunch, resolved to scrap the non-NET fellowship altogether. After student protests across universities (hashtagged on social media as 'Occupy UGC'), articulated how research fellowships were not state doles but instead sought to incentivise knowledge creation, the government was forced to retract the move. But soon after, the release of similar non-NET fellowships for Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes and minority students – namely, the Rajiv Gandhi National Fellowship and Maulana Azad National Fellowship – came to be stalled, pending a new set of guidelines that severely curtailed eligibility.



GETTY IMAGES

The Ministry of Human Resource Development's All India Survey on Higher Education (AISHE) Report 2017-18 notes that the Gross Enrollment Ratio across institutions of higher education has risen to 25.8% from 19.4% in 2010-11. The GER is an index of the proportion of citizens between 18 and 23 years – in every sample size of 100 – who have structurally secured entry into tertiary education, while exit figures (dropouts) are left unaccounted for.

The inflationary tendencies of AISHE figures notwithstanding, the report points out that the GER is 21.8% for SCs and 15.9% for STs "as compared to the national GER". However, deeper scrutiny shows that though the standard formula for calculating GER must take the population census in the relevant age group as the base sample size, the GER for Dalit-Advisis is produced by altering the methodology.

Instead of taking the Census total as base figure, it is the fractional enrolment count that is used to produce fictions of inflated SC/ST GER. When population data (Table 38 of the report) is read in consonance with enrolment data (Table 14), the arithmetic shows a GER of 3.72% for Dalits and 1.35% for Advisis. But in an identical age sample of 100 students, a minimum of 17 are from Dalit backgrounds and nearly nine from Advisi communities. In actual terms, therefore, less than four out of 17 SC students and one out of every nine ST students appear to have entry-level access to higher education. The GER for minority students from non-Hindu backgrounds is a meagre 1.87% (against the official 7.2%). Analysed against Census 2011 data, less

than two out of every 20 minority students move to tertiary education. Ironically, the enrolment ratio for Hindu upper castes is 8.47%, implying that more than eight out of every 10 caste Hindus access higher education. The government's recent electoral gimmick of enabling 10% reservation in educational institutions for "economically weaker" upper-caste sections only performs a complete inversion of affirmative action policies, especially when documented data point to an entrenched legacy of caste-based discrimination.

The withdrawal of non-NET fellowships for the socially marginalised (accompanied by reservations for dominant caste groups) is informed by a policy transition from a public-funded model of inclusive economic planning to a private user-pay principle. It follows from the reform measures proposed by the Ambani-Birla Report on higher education (2000), and subsequently vindicated by the National Knowledge Commission's emphasis on "need-blind admissions" in higher education. The assumption behind a near-complete withdrawal of research funding begins by linking the quest for higher knowledge with an illusion of proportionately higher employment opportunities. But the reality is that with unemployment rates soaring to a 45-year high, the government's disinvestment from the higher education sector can only end up creating a highly skilled, lowly paid, indebted workforce.

The AISHE report contains traces of more statistical falsification – adjusting "growth" in the number of teaching positions by changing the base year for comparison (to 2010-11

from 2013-14). As the report shows (Table 50), there is a sharp annual decline in the number of teachers employed since 2015-16. In the past three years, teaching strength in higher education institutions has fallen from 15.19 lakh to 12.85 lakh, with most of the losses reflected against reserved permanent posts. The move to a 13-point roster in appointments will only aggravate these losses, till teaching becomes an exclusively upper caste profession. Alarmingly, through this period of reduction in teaching jobs, 104 new universities have been instituted, 66 of which are "privately managed". It is no surprise that many of the brightest minds from the best public institutions are now lapped up by elite private universities "equipped with world-class infrastructure".

#### A pushback

It is clear that a nationalist crusade is only mortgaging public education systems to transnational capital. This is also articulated in the "impatience" that Amartya Sen spoke about in the context of the recent ISC, an impatience that is fomenting student unrest in campuses. It is the same impatience – in the form of anger at being sidelined by iniquitous government policies that are supplanting the vision and promise of the public university – which is fuelling the student-led 'Young India Adhikar March' (to be held on February 7). In the last year or so, one has seen collective rights assertions in the form of well-publicised rallies by farmers, the marginalised and women – all signs of the anger of different constituencies reeling under the policies of an indifferent government. The 'Young India Adhikar March' is a representation of over 40 youth organisations demanding, among other things, an end to fee hikes, gender discriminatory laws, a syllabus free of "saffron" taints, alongside the guarantee of employment and academic, intellectual freedoms of teaching and learning.

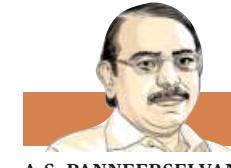
If the 'publicness' of public education must come to occupy our idea of the 'nation', it is time we march with our youth and demand the right to imagine alternative futures.

Debaditya Bhattacharya teaches at Kazi Nazrul University, West Bengal. Rina Ramdev teaches at Sri Venkateswara College, Delhi University

#### FROM THE READERS' EDITOR

## We need a validation of good reporting

People suspect claims of policy success that are not backed by field reports



A.S. PANNEERSELVAN

A news ombudsman is in a bind when his criticism of journalism is proved right. While there is an element of personal satisfaction, there is also the pain of witnessing professional shortcomings. In my column, "Discussing an editorial" (Dec. 3, 2018), I had expressed my reservations about the editorial "Number theory" (Nov. 30), which I felt had granted the benefit of doubt on the contentious GDP back series data to the government without subjecting the numbers to close scrutiny.



REUTERS

#### The practice of data torture

When two members of the National Statistical Commission resigned recently after disagreement with the government on certain issues, including the release of a labour report by the National Sample Survey Office for 2017-18, readers pointed out that the issue of data torture had been addressed in this column. One reader even sent a short sequence from the British sitcom, *Yes Minister*, to show how data are deliberately suppressed by the government. In the sequence, the Prime Minister (PM) asks his officer: "Suppose the report is cautious?"

Sir Humphrey: Well, in that case we don't publish it.

PM: You mean we suppress it?

Sir Humphrey: No, we simply don't publish it.

PM: What's the difference?

Sir Humphrey: Oh, big difference! Suppression is the instrument of totalitarian dictatorships. We don't do that in a free country.

The role of journalism is to cut through the rhetorical clutter and help the reader understand the truth. Reports and opinion pieces are together expected to help us understand reality. Reporting is the bedrock of journalism, while opinion pieces provide a certain gravitas to the profession. Opinion pieces immediately resonate with readers, who either agree or disagree with the piece. The opinion pieces that remain in a reader's memory are those that are also validated by solid reporting. If the findings of a reporter

contradict the opinion writer, as a journalist I tend to trust the reporter rather than the expert.

German sociologist Max Weber contextualised the role of journalism in relation to academic scholarship. He wrote: "Not everyone realises that to write a really good piece of journalism is at least as demanding intellectually as the achievement of any scholar. This is particularly true when we recollect that it has to be written on the spot, to order, and that it must create an immediate effect, even though it is produced under completely different conditions from that of scholarly research. It is generally overlooked that a journalist's actual responsibility is far greater than the scholar's." While many recognise the act of verification as the central function of journalism, very few recognise journalism's role of bearing witness to events. It remains the voice of the people.

#### Reports and opinions

All the rhetoric to justify demonetisation and the multiple revisions of official numbers to generate a positive narrative for the government failed to work because field reports did not validate the claims of the centres of power. Let's look at an important reporting section, *Ground Zero*. Two months before demonetisation, on September 17, 2016, *The Hindu* carried a field report, "The bane of a bumper crop", which documented how the farmers in Maharashtra's onion belt were getting an unprecedented low price for their produce. A week after demonetisation, a long report, "The warp and woof of demonetisation", documented the crisis in the garment industry in Tirupur. In 2017, there was another report, "Maximum support, maximum price", which attempted to make sense of agricultural marketing operations.

The gap between reportage and opinion writers is worrying. In *Liberty and the News*, Walter Lippmann wrote: "It does not matter that the news is not susceptible of mathematical statement. In fact, just because news is complex and slippery, good reporting requires the exercise of the highest scientific virtues." If claims of policy success are not backed by field reports, people suspect the claims. No amount of data suppression can help build trust with the government's pronouncement.

readerseditor@thehindu.co.in

#### SINGLE FILE

## Smartphone tourism

Tourism apps have nearly destroyed the joy of discovering places through word of mouth and local lore

SAMIR NAZARETH



It is peak tourist season in Goa and, according to reports, the footfalls have considerably reduced compared to last year. While many reasons are being cited for this, what is interesting is the change in attitude among tourists over the years. While oftentimes the confident strut that a tourist acquires in Goa could be due to an excess of the Goan party spirit, a more cavalier approach has now become the hallmark of not just Goan but Indian tourism. Rather than approach tourist destinations with sensitivity and contemplation, there is now a sense of bravado, a reckless thirst for adventure, and a mercenary undertone in interactions with locals.

This could be partly due to the rise of information technology, particularly online maps and other applications made available through smartphones that provide tourists a sense of confidence and purpose in unfamiliar places. Bravado and confidence come from knowing that you cannot get lost easily, that all your eating and drinking options are available on the palm of your hand, that even if something were to happen, help can be summoned immediately.

Smartphones and apps have become the bane of Goa. It is commonplace, for instance, to spot motorcycle-borne tourists staring intently at their phones or taking selfies while meandering across public roads, unmindful of the risk to their lives and others' lives. The uploading of such photos, filtered or unfiltered, on social media also means that few places remain untouched by crowds.

Online apps have made local knowledge and folklore dispensable. Today's sense of adventure comes from following online recommendations of unknown people – even if those suggestions only reinforce stereotypes. What place then for the wonder of serendipitous discovery on tourist trails?

Online maps and tourism advisory portals also increase visitors' Fear of Missing Out. Every potential location to visit is annotated with a certain number of stars, which creates a self-fulfilling prophecy for the place and seems to bestow bragging rights for having been there and done that. Do people even truly enjoy these visits any more?

Easy access to online information makes tourists presumptuous, gives them the false sense of knowing the place, or, worse still, becoming locals. It also makes tourism invasive and the tourist akin to a predator or parasitic species.

Online information such as tourism apps has nearly killed the inherent value and worth of word-of-mouth stories and local lore and brought clichés to the fore. While ignorance may not longer be bliss, the Goan experience makes it hard to argue that knowledge is power, at least the kind that is in harmony with its surroundings.

The writer is the author of *1400 Bananas, 76 Towns & 1 Million People*

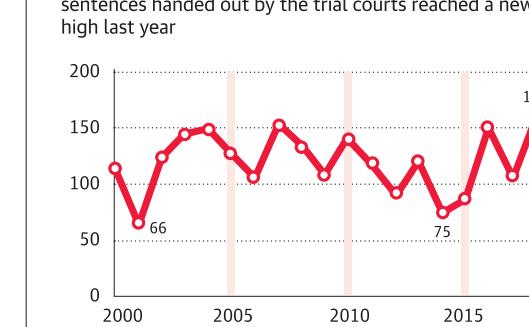


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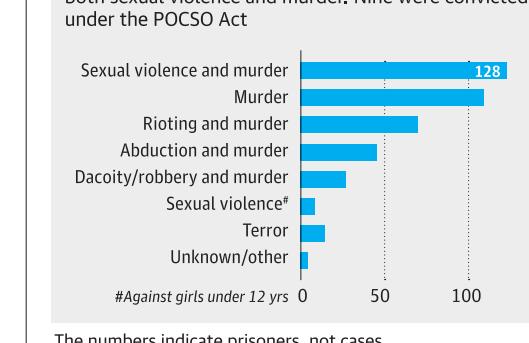
## Crime and punishment

In 2018, 162 death penalty verdicts were pronounced by Indian courts, the highest since the turn of the millennium. Varun B. Krishnan looks at the types of crime for which the death penalty was given, and where the death row convicts are lodged at present

**More on the death row** | The number of death sentences handed out by the trial courts reached a new high last year

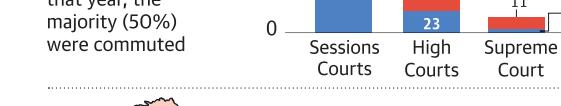


**Rap sheet** | The highest number of death sentences between 2015 and 2018 were given for cases involving both sexual violence and murder. Nine were convicted under the POCSO Act



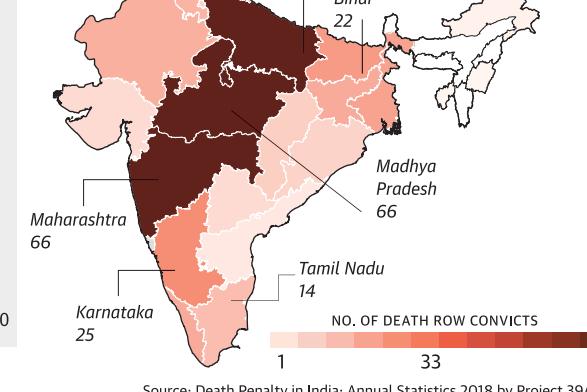
#### Across courts

In 2018, the Sessions Courts awarded 162 death sentences. Of the 114 death penalty cases handled by the High Courts that year, the majority (50%) were commuted



#### Where are the convicts?

Jails in U.P., M.P. and Maharashtra have the highest no. of death row convicts as on Dec. 31, 2018



#### FROM The Hindu ARCHIVES

FIFTY YEARS AGO FEBRUARY 4, 1969

## Lakhs pay homage to Annadurai

Several lakhs of grief-stricken men and women from all over the State to-day [February 3] made a pilgrimage to the Government Estate to pay their last respects to Mr. C.N. Annadurai. It was a vast surging humanity jampacking all the approach roads to the Government Estate, demonstrating the fact that the charismatic leader of the South held sway over the hearts of millions of people. Never before had such a mammoth crowd been seen paying homage to a departed leader. In fact, the onrush of people towards the Rajaji Hall in Government Estate where Mr. Annadurai's body lay in state, was so great that repeated attempts to hold them and organise them into orderly queues failed. Mr. Annadurai's body was brought to the Rajaji Hall by about 7 a.m. when thousands of people had already collected to have a glimpse of their "Anna".

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO FEBRUARY 4, 1919

## 'Capital' Libel Suit. Plaintiff Awarded Damages.

At the [Calcutta] High Court to-day [February 3] Mr. Justice Rankin, delivered a lengthy judgment in the Libel Suit brought by Mr. C.J. Hallifax, against "Capital", Ltd., claiming one lakh of rupees as damages. His Lordship said Mr. Hallifax was a member of the Punjab Legislative Council, he had served 30 years in the Indian Civil Service and in the course of his career he had held high offices and posts of exceptional responsibility and was Commissioner of Lahore when the paragraph complained of was published.

## FROM PAGE ONE

## Mamata goes on stir after CBI move

The State-Centre crisis related to the chit fund scam investigation by the CBI took a sharp turn around 7 p.m. when CBI officials reached the residence of the Police Commissioner in south Kolkata. They tried to enter the residence to question him.

The Shakespeare Sarani police station, half-a-km from the police chief's house, was immediately informed. Officials from the station reached Mr. Kumar's house and stopped the CBI officials from entering it. The Kolkata police told the CBI officers that they needed to approach the station for permission. When the CBI officials went there, they were bundled into a police vehicle. The police and CBI officials engaged in a fist fight as the latter were pushed into the vehicle.

Meanwhile, the city streets under South Division of KP were shut down and the Chief Minister, who reached the police commissioner's residence by 7.30 p.m., convened a high-level meeting of the Ministers, government officials and her advisers. The incident is described as "unprecedented" in the history of the Kolkata police.

Within minutes of Ms. Banerjee's announcement to go on a dharna, a stage was erected for her and her colleagues. The area falls under the Metro Channel Control Post, Hare Street Police station, and a police official said "as far as indications go, she may continue with her protest."

Ms. Banerjee also said

## Manipur film-maker to return Padma Shri

Mr. Sharma has bagged several national awards for iconic films such as *Imagi Ningthem* (My Precious Son, 1981), *Ishanou* (The Chosen One) and *Sangai - The Dancing Deer* over more than four decades. He is credited with having revolutionised cinema in Manipur during the 1970s.

**CM's appeal**  
Manipur has been on the boil for more than a fortnight with several protests over the Citizenship Amendment Bill. Chief Minister and BJP leader Nongthombam Biren Singh had a few days ago appealed to the Centre that Manipur be exempted from the purview of the Bill.

Meanwhile, Meghalaya

## Payouts to farmers from this month itself: Garg

The government last year released Agriculture Census 2015-16 and most States have moved to electronic record-keeping. Mr. Garg said the Agriculture Department would now relate the holdings to the families which will receive assistance.

"They (Agriculture Department) expect to make disbursements of substantial amounts in the month of February itself. That is the expectation and confidence of the (Agri) department," he said. Supplements would be presented in the current session to seek Parliament's nod for spending an additional ₹20,000 crore for the scheme, he said.

The ongoing budget session is scheduled to conclude on February 13.

The PM-KISAN scheme has been approved by the Cabinet and therefore the administrative department can go ahead with it, Mr. Garg said.

He said 12 crore beneficiaries have been identified with the help of Agriculture Census Data 2015-16.

"The census has detailed data which is divided into groups – people owning land up to 0.5 hectare, 0.5-1 hectare, 1-2 hectare, 2-4 hectare and beyond and every 'khesra' of land in the coun-

## Stalin backs protest

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
CHENNAI

DMK president M.K. Stalin on Sunday came to the support of West Bengal CM Mamata Banerjee. "The independence of every institution has been compromised under this fascist BJP Government. I stand with @MamataOfficial Didi in her fight to protect the federal structure of this country and to save democracy," Mr. Stalin tweeted.

that "a makeshift room will be constructed by the dharma mancha" for her to do daily meetings. "I will not be able to attend Monday's [State] Budget presentation in the Assembly but will do the necessary meeting in the makeshift room," Ms. Banerjee said.

The atmosphere was electric as hundreds of supporters of the Trinamool Congress reached the area late on Sunday night. They were shouting slogans against the Prime Minister: 'Modi Hatao, Desh Bachao.'

The entire Trinamool Cabinet and all senior State government officials reached the dharma mancha by 10 p.m. Ms. Banerjee confirmed that Samajwadi Party leader Akhilesh Yadav, Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal and Congress veteran Ahmed Patel called her and expressed solidarity.

Ms. Banerjee also said

## Manipur film-maker to return Padma Shri

Chief Minister and National People's Party leader Conrad K. Sangma said a delegation of leaders representing various political parties in the Northeast had met Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh in New Delhi on Saturday.

"We expressed the concerns of the people about the Bill. He said he is taking the sentiments of the people of the region into consideration and will consult organisations, political parties, Chief Ministers of the North-eastern States on this," Mr. Sangma said on Sunday.

"He said the Bill is important at the national level, but a decision would be taken after consultations with all the stakeholders in the Northeast," he added.

Meanwhile, Meghalaya



Farmers holding cultivable land up to 2 hectare will get ₹6,000 every year.

try has been counted. This is data of operational holdings," he said.

**Interest subsidy**  
Apart from direct income support to farmers, Mr. Goyal had also announced extended interest subsidy on loans availed for animal husbandry and fishery as well as to those farmers affected by severe natural calamities.

Consequently, the total budget allocation for agriculture and allied activities is projected higher at ₹1,49,981 crore for 2019-20, when compared to the revised estimate of ₹86,602 crore for 2018-19.

The fertilizer subsidy is pegged at ₹74,986 crore for the next fiscal as against ₹70,075 crore.

## Suggestion boxes, portal to reach out to 10 crore voters

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

The BJP on Sunday launched a large-scale process of crowdsourcing suggestions for the party's manifesto for the Lok Sabha election, with plans to reach out to 10 crore people over the next one month.

Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh, who is the chairperson of the manifesto committee of the BJP, and party president Amit Shah launched a portal, bharatke-mannkibaat.com, a toll-free number and flagged off one of the 300 modified trucks as raths to cover over 4,000 As-

sembly constituencies where 7,700 suggestion boxes would be kept.

**First suggestion is in**  
Mohan Chandra Pandey, waiter at Hotel Ashok in New Delhi where the event took place, was the first to drop his ideas into the suggestion box. Mr. Shah and Mr. Singh released the slogan "Kaam Kare Jo, Ummeed Usi Se Ho" (Expectations are only from the one who delivers) at the event.

The final draft of the manifesto will be released be-

fore the last date of withdrawal of nominations for the election.

**Inclusive growth**

Mr. Singh, addressing a press conference at the event, said inclusive growth would be the guiding light of the ma-

nifesto and the Modi government had given ample proof of it in its tenure. "Our government wants inclusive development. In order to give 10% reservation to those who never received it before, the government made amendments to the Constitution. We will not let any section be ignored," Mr. Singh said.

Mr. Shah defended the government's record on employment creation stating that large-scale infrastructure development and promotion of entrepreneurship had created jobs and needed to be looked at. "If you confine the definition of employment to only government jobs then we can never show high levels of employment through any dataset. The government has created a lot of infrastructure, supported entrepreneurship and job creation," he said.

**What kind of country people want and what is their suggestion? This exercise will help in reaching out to them to seek their views**

AMIT SHAH, BJP president

**The farmers have faith in the Prime Minister. Since Independence, many governments have made promises to uplift the situation of farmers. Our government is the one working towards this**

RAJNATH SINGH, Home Minister

**I would like to assert that unlike other parties where inner party democracy has been sacrificed to the altar of dynasty, the BJP has robust inner party democracy, and we are making sure that our country's democracy is strengthened by this exercise," he said.**

Mr. Shah defended the government's record on employment creation stating that large-scale infrastructure development and promotion of entrepreneurship had created jobs and needed to be looked at. "If you confine the definition of employment to only government jobs then we can never show high levels of employment through any dataset. The government has created a lot of infrastructure, supported entrepreneurship and job creation," he said.

**Party president Amit Shah said a 20-member team had been set up in all States to review the suggestions and forward them to the manifesto committee. The manifesto committee has been divided into 12 sub-heads based on subjects like inclusive growth, skill development and education, culture and infrastructure.**

"The attempt is to fully democratise the exercise of putting together a manifesto.

**Team player: Congress chief Rahul Gandhi with party veterans and RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav at the Gandhi Maidan in Patna on Sunday.**

RANJEET KUMAR

**New take: Prime Minister Narendra Modi at a public rally after laying the foundation stone for AIIMS and other projects in Samba district of J&K on Sunday.**

PTI

**Modi invokes 'Mother India' at Jammu rally**

**'Citizenship Bill is to help those sundered by Partition'**

**Jawan's father joins BJP**

**PRESS TRUST OF INDIA VIJAYPUR**

The father of Army jawan Aurangzeb, who was abducted and killed by militants last year in Pulwama, joined the BJP on Sunday in the presence of Prime Minister Narendra Modi at a rally.

Rifleman Aurangzeb's father Mohammad Hanif, a resident of Rajouri, joined the BJP along with a former Army officer, Lt. Gen. Rakesh Kumar Sharma.

**Cong. indifferent**

He said the Congress did not pay any attention to the pain of "our brothers and sisters when it was power".

Without naming Pakistan,

This could be Mr. Modi's last visit to the State ahead of the general elections. In a bid to reach out to all sections, he visited all regions of the State—Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh—and inaugurated multiple projects including new campuses of the IIT, IIM and AIIMS.

In Kashmir, most markets were closed and traffic was sparse after separatists called a bandh in protest against Mr. Modi's visit.

Mr. Modi avoided any direct statement on Pakistan or the separatists. He also steered clear of controversial local issues or announcements on policies on the return of Kashmiri migrants.

However, Mr. Modi said India will never forget the pain suffered by Kashmiri Pandits at the hands of terrorists.

"Kashmiriyat suggests Pandits must return with dignity to the places where they owned their homes, their lands and where the memories of their ancestors are."

**Cong. DBT scheme was for brokers**

**STAFF REPORTER BHUBANESWAR**

BJP president Amit Shah on Sunday continued his attack on the Congress, saying unlike the Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) announced by the NDA, DBT for the UPA meant 'Dealer Broker Transfer', with money credited into the accounts of middlemen.

Addressing the national executive of the BJP's tribal wing at Puri, Mr. Shah said, "Former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi used to say that when he was sending ₹1, only 15 paise was reaching people. Mr. Modi has now started DBT where money is directly credited into the account of the beneficiaries. But the Congress too had a DBT yojna – Dealer Broker Transfer – where the money was credited into the accounts of the middlemen."

Mr. Jaitley recalled in a blog post that the Leader of

Opposition in the Lok Sabha, Mr. Kharge, had dissented when Alok Verma was appointed the CBI Director, dissented when Mr. Verma was transferred and has now dissented when Mr. Shukla has been appointed.

"The only thing constant in the High Powered Committee comprising the Prime Minister, the Chief Justice of India and the Leader of the Opposition which deals with the CBI Director's appointment and transfer, is the Kharge dissent."

The position of Shri

Kharge as the Leader of Op-

position entitles him to sit in the Committee but the political colour of that office has to be left outside... Unfortunately, that does not seem to have happened," he said.

**Congress chief Rahul Gandhi with party veterans and RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav at the Gandhi Maidan in Patna on Sunday.**

RANJEET KUMAR

**Rahul promises farm loan waiver across the country**

**Says party will play on the front foot with its allies**

**AHMADABAD**

**Farmers have to pay from their pocket for crop insurance but even that goes into others' pockets**

**RAHUL GANDHI**

**Congress president**

"With Nalanda University and Patna University, Bihar earlier was the seat of learning in the country and the world. Now it has become the centre of unemployment...but, again Bihar will be the centre of education when our government is formed," Mr. Gandhi said.

"Along with (RJD leaders) Tejashwi [Yadav] and Lalu Prasad, we will now play on the front foot and form governments at the Centre and in Bihar soon as the Congress would now play on the 'front foot' along with its alliance partners".

He got loud cheers from the crowd when he promised that Patna University would be accorded the status of a Central university, if the Congress coalition was voted to power. Earlier, in a programme at the university, Prime Minister Narendra Modi had declined Chief Minister Nitish Kumar's appeal for the same.

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Chief Ministers of Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh too addressed the rally, along with leaders of the Grand Alliance constituents like Tejashwi Yadav, Sharad Yadav, Jitan Ram Manjhi, Rashtriya Lok Samata Party president Upendra Kushwaha couldn't attend as he was injured in a clash with police on Saturday.

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Mr. Gandhi alleged that "there was a debt of ₹1 lakh crore on Anil Ambani which is three times the total MGNREGA funding...PM Modi gave ₹30,000 crore to Anil Ambani in the Rafale deal and only ₹3.50 to each member of a farmer's family in the country".

He said a Congress-led government at the Centre would waive loans of farmers of the entire country as it did in three States where it recently came to power.

"Earlier, 27% of the sugar in the country was provided by the farmers of Bihar but now they could give only 2%...farmers have to pay from their own pocket for insurance of their crops but even that money goes into the pockets of Anil Ambani and Nirav Modi," he alleged.

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**"Along with**

## IN BRIEF



## Yogi addresses Bengal rallies over telephone

BALURGHAT  
The West Bengal government on Sunday denied permission to Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath's chopper to land in the State to let him address two scheduled rallies. Mr. Adityanath later addressed the rallies telephonically and said the days of Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee's rule were "numbered." PTI

## Hazare threatens to return Padma Bhushan

RALEGAN SIDDIH  
Social activist Anna Hazare, whose indefinite hunger strike entered the fifth day on Sunday, warned that if the Narendra Modi government did not fulfil its promises, he would return his Padma Bhushan. Mr. Hazare has been on a hunger strike since Wednesday, demanding appointments of Lokpal and Lokayuktas and resolution of farmers' issues. PTI

## 'NDA govt. has done nothing for T.N.'

VEDASANDAR (DINDIGUL)  
AIADMK propaganda secretary and Lok Sabha Deputy Speaker M. Thambi Durai on Sunday charged that the Centre had done nothing tangible for the people of Tamil Nadu in the past five years. He was speaking in Dindigul on the occasion of former Chief Minister C. N. Annadurai's 50th death anniversary.

## Cong. issues whip to MPs to be present in Lok Sabha

NEW DELHI  
The Congress has issued a whip to all its members in the Lok Sabha for their compulsory presence in the Lower House throughout the week from Monday. Sources said Congress MPs had been directed to be present during the discussion on the Motion of Thanks on the President's address and the discussion on the interim Budget. PTI



Sunday suspense: CBI officials being detained by the Kolkata Police on Sunday and, right, City Police Commissioner Rajeev Kumar outside his residence. ■ ASHOK NATH DEY, PTI



## The return of the street fighter

SUVOJIT BAGCHI  
SHIV SAHAY SINGH  
KOLKATA

Within hours of the CBI knocking on the doors of Kolkata Police Commissioner Rajeev Kumar, Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee was back in her fiercest avatar – a street fighter and a formidable adversary – not shying away from protests and dharnas.

Straight after holding a meeting with Mr. Kumar and other senior officials of Kolkata, she arrived in front of Metro Channel at Kolkata's Esplanade area and sat in protest. With a shawl wrapped around her head and accompanied by a few senior police officers, she took a hurriedly arranged plastic chair and announced that it was a "Satyagraha" to save the Constitution.

This was the same venue where Ms. Banerjee had held a hunger strike during her protest against forcible land acquisition for the Singur small car factory in 2006.

Within minutes hundreds of people gathered at the venue and the crowd swelled to thousands in a couple of hours. People started shouting slogans in support of the Chief Minister.

Senior Trinamool Congress leaders, including Mayor of Kolkata Firhad Hakim, arrived at the venue in the next few minutes and sat around the Chief Minister in circles. Construction of a stage started next to the venue and it is likely to be completed by Monday morning.

## We stand with Mamata, says Rahul

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NEW DELHI

Congress president Rahul Gandhi on Sunday called up West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee and extended support to her, saying the entire Opposition was together and it would defeat the fascist forces.

He alleged that the events in West Bengal were part of an unrelenting attack on India's institutions by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the BJP.

He said the Congress stood shoulder to shoulder with Ms. Banerjee.

Party spokesperson Abhishek Singhvi said the antipathy of Mr. Modi and Mr. Shah towards Ms. Banerjee is "visceral." He alleged that the BJP and the PM were desperate to create a controversy for "cheap publicity and divisiveness" to get some space in the 2019 election.

## Denial of consent can't stall ongoing probes

KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL  
NEW DELHI

The high drama over the CBI's move to question Kolkata Police Commissioner on Sunday in the chit fund scam cases raises questions about the agency's jurisdiction in a State which has already withdrawn "general consent" for its investigations.

The CBI has been investigating the Saradha scam after the Supreme Court transferred the case to it in the *Subrata Chatterjee versus Union of India* judgment on May 9, 2014.

## Prospective effect

The withdrawal of general consent to the CBI to exercise jurisdiction within its territory applies prospectively in Andhra Pradesh and West Bengal, both of which withdrew consent last year. In the latter, the then Left Front govern-



ment gave the consent in 1989.

But the withdrawal of consent would not have retrospective effect.

The Supreme Court clarifies the position of law in *Kazi Lhendup Dorji vs CBI*, a reported decision of 1994.

The court reasoned that the State government's withdrawal should not be allowed to stall a pending case.

The withdrawal of general consent means CBI officers lose police powers under the Criminal Procedure Code in the State con-

cerned and for registering a case. "The case should be allowed to reach its logical conclusion... notwithstanding the withdrawal of consent during pendency of investigation," the court had held in the Dorji case.

The Dorji case had dealt with a notification issued by the Sikkim government withdrawing consent to the CBI to probe a corruption case against the then Chief Minister.

In 1961, the Supreme Court in the Major E.G. Baray judgment held that "no member of the Establishment (CBI) can exercise powers and jurisdiction in any area in a State without the consent of the government of that State".

The act of withdrawal of consent can be judicially reviewed. Besides, withdrawal of consent is no bar for a court to order a CBI probe.

## Scene set to shift to Supreme Court today

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

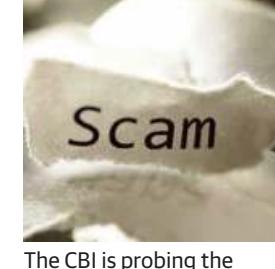
The CBI is ready to move the Supreme Court against the West Bengal government and its police for impeding an ongoing court-ordered investigation into multi-crore chit fund cases, including the Saradha scam.

It is learnt that the matter would be mentioned on Monday for urgent hearing by Solicitor-General Tushar Mehta before the Chief Justice of India.

## Officers harassed

The premier agency has accused the West Bengal government and police of harassment and detention of its officers.

It has accused the State government of violating the rule of law and an apex court judgment of May 9, 2014. The Supreme Court had transferred the probe into the Saradha chit fund cases to the CBI in 2014 and



The CBI is probing the Saradha scam. ■ GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

directed the State Police to provide every kind of assistance to the agency.

"Needless to say that the State police agencies currently investigating the cases shall provide the fullest cooperation to the CBI, including assistance in terms of men and material to enable the latter to conduct and complete the investigation expeditiously," a Supreme Court Bench of Justices (both retired) T.S. Thakur and C.S. Nagappan had ordered the State government.

## NIA questions couple via WhatsApp

Now based in Yemen, they allegedly 'brainwashed' Hadiya into converting

VIJAITA SINGH  
NEW DELHI

In a first, the National Investigation Agency (NIA) questioned an Indian couple based in Yemen in the Hadiya case through WhatsApp

## Seeking clarity

The NIA questioned an Indian couple based in Yemen in the Hadiya case through WhatsApp



## What is the case?

NIA is probing allegations that the couple, Shirin Shahana and Fasal Musthafa, "brainwashed" Akhila Asokan, alias Hadiya (in photo), a homoeopathy student from Kerala and converted her to Islam

**Developments so far**

- Ms. Hadiya's father moves the Kerala High Court in 2016 alleging that she was radicalised and forcibly married to a Muslim man
- The court annuls her marriage
- Ms. Hadiya's husband, Shafin Jahan, moves the Supreme Court
- The SC asks the NIA to

investigate the case

- The court restores her marriage on March 8, 2018, but allows the NIA to continue its probe into any criminality involved
- In a status report submitted last year, the agency tells the court that Ms. Hadiya was "brainwashed in difficult academic conditions to embrace Islam" by the couple

the marriage and her husband Shafin Jahan moved the Supreme Court, which asked the NIA to investigate the case.

In the apex court restored Ms. Hadiya's marriage to Mr. Jahan on March 8 last year, but allowed the NIA to continue its investigation into any criminality involved. It asked the agency to steer clear of Ms. Hadiya's choice to marry Mr. Jahan. The NIA said it

had not closed the investigations in the case and it would continue the work.

In a status report to the Supreme Court last year, it said the agency had evidence that Ms. Hadiya was brainwashed by the couple who met her at Sathyasari, a religious institution affiliated to the Popular Front of India (PFI) in Malappuram district of Kerala.

During their investiga-

tions, the NIA found that the couple were now based in Yemen where they were pursuing religious studies. The official said they were unlikely to return to India and their questioning was critical for the ongoing probe.

The NIA had also told the Supreme Court that Ms. Hadiya was "brainwashed in difficult academic conditions to embrace Islam" by the couple.

## Left calls for ouster of Modi, Mamata

Senior leaders of several parties meet at rally in Kolkata

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
KOLKATA

Senior leaders of several Left parties on Sunday came together at the Brigade Parade Grounds here on Sunday, and called for the removal of the BJP government at the Centre and the defeat of the Trinamool Congress in West Bengal.

Slogans of "BJP hatao desh bachao, Trinamool hatao Bangla bachao" (Remove BJP save country, defeat Trinamool save Bengal) were raised by workers of the Communist Party of India (Marxist), the Communist Party of India, the All India Forward Bloc and the Revolutionary Socialist Party at the rally.

Former West Bengal Chief Minister and veteran CPI(M) leader Buddhadeb Bhattacharjee, who



Show of strength: Leaders of Left parties participating in a rally in Kolkata. ■ ASHOK NATH DEY

has been ailing for some time, made a public appearance after several months. Mr. Bhattacharjee, however, did not come on stage or address the gathering.

In the well-attended rally, several Left leaders made repeated references to the united Opposition rally, where leaders from 23 parties came together at the same

venue on January 19 and called for the defeat of the BJP in the Lok Sabha poll. "I have seen photographs of the rally held here, where leaders gave a call to remove [Prime Minister Narendra] Modi... There is a need to remove both the governments – BJP from Centre and Trinamool from Bengal," CPI(M) general secretary Sitaram Yechury said.

Mr. Yechury said the country did not need a leader but proper policies ("Neta nahin, niti ki jaaroot"). Referring to comments made by Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee accusing Prime Minister Narendra Modi of "orchestrating riots and killing people", Mr. Yechury asked why the Trinamool chairperson had become a Minister in the NDA government after the riots in Gujarat.

## TNPL TAMIL NADU NEWSPRINT AND PAPERS LIMITED UNIT 2

## GLOBAL NOTICE INVITING BIDS FOR DESIGN, MANUFACTURE AND SUPPLY OF CHLORINE DIOXIDE PLANT

Tamil Nadu Newsprint and Papers Limited (TNPL), which owns and successfully operates a 200,000 tpa Multilayer Coated Board Mill at Mondipatti, Tiruchirappalli District (Unit 2) in the State of Tamil Nadu, India, is embarking upon a Mill Expansion Plan.

TNPL invites sealed Bids for design, engineering, supply of 12 tpd Integrated Process Technology based Chlorine Dioxide Plant including Spare Parts, Supervision of Erection, Start-up and Commissioning, as per the scope specified in the Bid Document. The Bidder shall be a reputed manufacturer having designed, manufactured and supplied at least two (2) Chlorine Dioxide Plants complete with Integrated Process Technology of capacity not less than 10 tpd in the past ten (10) years, which are in successful operation.

The average turnover of the bidder shall not be less than Euro 200 million in each of the last three (3) completed financial years. A complete set of Bid Document may be purchased by any interested vendor on the submission of a written application to TNPL and upon payment of a non-refundable fee (including GST) of US Dollars 420 or Euro 370 or Indian Rupees 30,000 by way of Banker's Cheque/Demand Draft in favour of Tamil Nadu Newsprint and Papers Limited, payable at Trichy, from the following address:

Project Management Division  
Tamil Nadu Newsprint and Papers Limited  
Kagithapuram 639 136, Karur District, Tamil Nadu, India  
Phone : 04324-277001 (10 lines) Extn: 2402/2568  
Telefax : 04324-277027

E-mail : pm2@tnpl.co.in, Web : www.tnpl.com  
Alternatively, the bidders can request for the Bid Document through e-mail from the links available in TNPL's website.

A single stage, two-envelope (Technical Bid and Price Bid envelopes) bidding procedure will be followed. All bids must be delivered to the above office of TNPL not later than 15.00 hours on 18<sup>th</sup> March 2019. Technical Bids will be opened at 16.00 hours on the same day in the presence of the Bidder's representatives who choose to attend.

TNPL reserves the right to qualify the bids received and/or reject any or all the bids, without assigning any reasons therefor.

DIPR/75/Tender/2019

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Website: www.osdma.org

**Advertisement No-561/OSDMA, Date: 02.02.2019**

Sealed quotations are invited from intended bidders having valid GST registration for supply of emergency responder kit and emergency stock pile of different items to this office. The details can be found in OSDMA website (tender section) ([www.osdma.org](http://www.osdma.org)).

103-F:  
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Chief General Manager**

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Ref : RFP NO. 03/OSCSC/2019/Date : 10.01.2019  
"For Selection of Recruitment Agency to Conduct Computer Based Test (CBT) For Recruitment to Different Posts for & on behalf of OSCSC LTD."

**No. 1720**  
The last date for submission of Bids for the Request for Proposals invited for "Selection of Recruitment Agency to Conduct Computer Based Test (CBT) for Recruitment to Different Posts for & on behalf of OSCSC LTD." has been extended till 08.02.2019 up to 1700 Hours. For details one may refer to the corrigendum published on dt.02/02/2019, in the official website [www.foododisha.in](http://www.foododisha.in), [www.oscsc.in](http://www.oscsc.in), [www.odisha.gov.in](http://www.odisha.gov.in), [www.tendersodisha.gov.in](http://www.tendersodisha.gov.in).  
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'Navratna' - Government of India Enterprise  
Regd. Office : First Floor, No. 5, Mayor Samudram Road,  
FSD, Egmore Complex of Food Corporation of India, Chennai - 600 031.  
Corp. Office : Block-1, Neyveli-607 801, Cuddalore District, Tamil Nadu.  
CIN No.: L93090TN1956G01003507, Website: [www.nlcindia.com](http://www.nlcindia.com)

## INTERNATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING

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Sealed bid in English (One original and seven identical copies) are invited by NLC India Limited (NLCL), Neyveli, for the WORK OF DESIGN, ENGINEERING, MANUFACTURE, SUPPLY, ERECTION, COMMISSIONING etc., OF FLUE GAS DESULPHURISATION SYSTEM PACKAGE FOR ITS THERMAL POWER STATION-II (7×210 MW): STAGE-I (3×210 MW) & STAGE-II (4×210 MW)/FGD/2019, dt. 31.01.2019

**B.G. Amount:** ₹ 12,72,50,000/- (or) USD 17,90,000 (or) EUR 15,65,000  
**Cost of Tender Document**: ₹ 30,000/- (or) USD 430 (or) Euro 370  
**Tender Document Sale Period**: 08.02.2019 to 02.04.2019  
Upto 14.30 Hrs. (IST)  
**Last Time for Bid Opening**: 03.04.2019  
At 15.00 Hrs. (IST)

## A new arms race?

The U.S.'s pullout from the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces (INF) treaty with Russia, a move that met with a tit-for-tat response from Moscow, could launch a new arms race between the two countries

▪ The U.S. alleges that a new Russian cruise missile, Novator 9M729, violates the pact

▪ Russia denies the allegation; it says the missile's range is well within the pact's limits

▪ The U.S., in its nuclear policy unveiled in 2018, reported that it plans to buy two new nuclear missiles, which could potentially violate the INF

▪ China too has intermediate-range missiles. About 95% of its missiles could be in violation of the INF

**The Big 9:** The world's nine nuclear powers have, in their possession, about

**15,000 NUCLEAR**

warheads, approximately

**9,600** of them in military service

Over 90% of the warheads are in the arsenal of the U.S. and Russia

**90%**

What is the INF?

▪ Signed on Dec. 8, 1987, the treaty required both

parties to eliminate all ground-launched cruise missiles with a range of 500 km to 5,500 km

▪ It came into force on June 1, 1988

▪ The two sides completed their reduction by June 1, 1991, destroying

a total of 2,692 missiles

▪ Both the United States and Russia have repeatedly raised concerns about the other side's non-compliance with the INF Treaty, leading to the present pullout by the two last week

From a peak of 63,476 in 1986, the number of warheads deployed by the two has reduced to about 9,000 in 2014

The overwhelming majority of the reduction happened in the 1990s

42K  
-2K  
1946 1981 2014  
New START remains the only limitation treaty in force

40,159  
31,255  
4,300  
4,760

Treaties negotiated by the U.S. and USSR/Russia to limit their nuclear stockpile

a) Strategic Arms Limitation Talks

▪ Negotiations began in 1969

▪ By 1972, SALT had produced the Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty (ABM) and an executive agreement capping the number of intercontinental ballistic missiles (ICBM) and submarine-launched ballistic missiles (SLBM)

b) Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty I

▪ Signed in 1991, it required the two countries to reduce their deployed strategic arsenals to 1,600 delivery vehicles and 6,000 warheads

▪ Limits the number of launchers to 800

▪ Came into force on Feb. 1, 2011, and will expire in 2021

▪ Both parties met the treaty's central limit by Feb. 2018

The reductions were completed in December 2001

c) New START

▪ Signed on April 8, 2010, the new START limits each side to 1,550 strategic warheads and 700 delivery systems

▪ Came into force on Feb. 1, 2011, and will expire in 2021

▪ Both parties met the treaty's central limit by Feb. 2018

SOURCES: ARMSCONTROL.ORG, FAS.ORG, SIPRI

REUTERS  
WASHINGTON

## Sending the military to Venezuela is an option, says Trump

U.S. President Donald Trump said that sending the military to Venezuela was "an option" and that he had turned down President Nicolás Maduro's request for a meeting.

"Certainly, it's something that's on the... it's an option," Mr. Trump said in an interview with CBS to be broadcast on Sunday.

Mr. Trump said Mr. Maduro requested a meeting months ago and he turned down the Venezuela leader.

"I've turned it down because we're very far along in the process," he said in excerpts from a CBS "Face the Nation" interview.

"So, I think the process is playing out – very, very big, tremendous protests."

**Pressure on Maduro**

As domestic and international pressure mounts on Mr. Maduro to step down, a senior Air Force General disavowed him in a video that circulated earlier on Saturday, expressing his allegiance to Parliament head and self-proclaimed interim President Juan Guaidó.

Meanwhile, Russia's Foreign Ministry said on Sunday that the international community should focus on helping to solve Venezuela's economic and social problems and refrain from any

day, expressing his allegiance to Parliament head and self-proclaimed interim President Juan Guaidó.

Meanwhile, Russia's Foreign Ministry said on Sunday that the international community should focus on helping to solve Venezuela's economic and social problems and refrain from any

"destructive" interference.

"The international community's goal should be to help (Venezuela solve socio-economic problems), without destructive meddling from beyond its borders," Alexander Shchetinin, head of the Ministry's Latin American department, was cited by Interfax as saying.

## I am not in that picture: Northam

Virginia Gov. says 'blackface' photo did not feature him

ASSOCIATED PRESS  
RICHMOND



Virginia Governor  
Ralph Northam. • AFP

Resisting widespread calls for his resignation, Virginia's embattled Governor on Saturday pledged to remain in office after disavowing a blatantly racist photograph that appeared under his name in his 1984 medical school yearbook.

In a tumultuous 24 hours, Gov. Ralph Northam on Friday apologised for appearing in a photograph that featured what appeared to be a man in blackface and a second person cloaked in Ku Klux Klan garb. In a video posted on Twitter, he said he could not "undo the harm my behaviour caused

then and today".

But by Saturday, he reversed course and said the racist photo on his yearbook profile page did not feature him after all. The Governor said he had not seen the photo before Friday, since he had not purchased the commemorative book or been involved in its preparation more than three de-

cades ago. "It has taken time for me to make sure that it's not me, but I am convinced, I am convinced that I am not in that picture," he told reporters, calling the shot offensive and horrific.

While talking with reporters, Northam admitted that he had previously worn blackface around that time, saying he once had used shoe polish to darken his face as part of a Michael Jackson costume he fashioned for a 1984 dance contest in San Antonio, Texas, when he was in the U.S. Army. Mr. Northam said he regrets that he didn't understand "the harmful legacy of an action like that."

## Netanyahu's party uses Trump photo on election billboard

U.S. President popular in Israel because of his policies

REUTERS  
TEL AVIV

A giant billboard of a smiling Donald Trump shaking hands with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu loomed over a main entrance to Tel Aviv on Sunday, part of the Israeli leader's re-election campaign.

Mr. Trump is popular in Israel because of his tough policies towards the Palestinians and Iran and his transfer last May of the American Embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem, which he recognised as Israel's capital in a break from long-standing U.S. policy. "Netanyahu. In another league," read the Hebrew-language billboard, in a swipe at the calibre of the veteran Prime Minister's opponents in the April 9 national election.

A spokesman for Mr. Netanyahu's right-wing Likud party, whose logo adorns the sign over Tel Aviv's busy Ayalon highway, did not immediately respond to a query on whether the White



Like-minded: A billboard showing Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and U.S. President Donald Trump. • AFP

House had authorised it to use the photograph.

**Favourite to win**

Mr. Netanyahu is favourite to win the election but opinion polls show one of his toughest challengers, former General Benny Gantz, making gains. The Prime Minister is facing possible charges in three graft cases. He denies any wrongdoing and has called the investiga-

tions a witch-hunt.

On Friday, Israel's Attorney-General said there was no legal reason to prevent him from announcing, before the election, any intention to indict Mr. Netanyahu on corruption charges should he decide such a move was warranted.

Formal indictment in court would depend on pre-trial hearings, likely to be held only after the poll.

## U.S. envoy on N. Korea in Seoul for talks

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE  
SEOUL

A U.S. negotiator arrived in Seoul on Sunday for meetings with North and South Koreans ahead of a much-anticipated second summit between President Donald Trump and the North's Kim Jong-un slated for later this month.

The agenda of the summit, as well as its location and date, are expected to be settled during the talks between Washington and Pyongyang, according to the South's Yonhap news agency. The U.S. special representative on North Korea, Stephen Biegun, met with his South Korean counterpart Lee Do-hoon and discussed "pending issues" and included working-level talks with North Korea's Foreign Ministry said.

Yonhap reported that he will meet with the South's National Security Adviser Chung Eui-yong on Monday before heading to Panmunjom the following day for talks with the North Koreans.

## Taliban to meet Afghan Opposition in Moscow

Talks to be attended by Ghani's rivals, including Karzai

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE  
KABUL

The Taliban said on Sunday that it will send a delegation to Russia for a rare meeting with Afghan Opposition leaders, just days after peace talks with the U.S. that excluded the Kabul government.

The two-day sit-down in Moscow, starting on Tuesday, will be attended by some of President Ashraf Ghani's chief political rivals, but none of the government envoys tasked with Taliban negotiations. Mr. Ghani has appealed to the insurgents to talk after being frozen out of six days of discussions between the Taliban and the U.S. in Doha last month that sealed the outlines of a peace deal. "It shows the peak of depression, and beginning to terrorise," said Amrullah Saleh, who is running as Vice-President on Mr.



Taking guard: Soldiers at the Afghan Military Academy in Kabul in October last year. • AP

Ghani's ticket in elections slated for July.

**'Non-political'**

Among those who have confirmed their attendance in Moscow is Haneef Atmar,

who is running against Mr. Ghani in the elections.

Former warlord Atta Muhammad Noor and former Afghan president Hamid Karzai – both Ghani rivals – are also attending.

A senior Taliban official said it would send a delegation, but described the meeting as non-political and "arranged by some organisations based in Moscow".

The Russian Embassy in Kabul issued a statement late on Saturday on behalf of the "Afghan Society of Russia". The group said it had invited "influential figures" to the dialogue in the President Hotel in Moscow.

## Queen Elizabeth to be evacuated in case of Brexit unrest: British media

REUTERS  
LONDON

British officials have revived Cold War emergency plans to relocate the royal family should there be riots in London if Britain suffers a disruptive departure from the European Union (EU) next month, two Sunday newspapers reported.

"These emergency evacuation plans have been in existence since the Cold War, but have now been repurposed in the event of civil disorder following a no-deal Brexit," The Sunday Times said, quoting an unnamed



Queen Elizabeth II. • AP

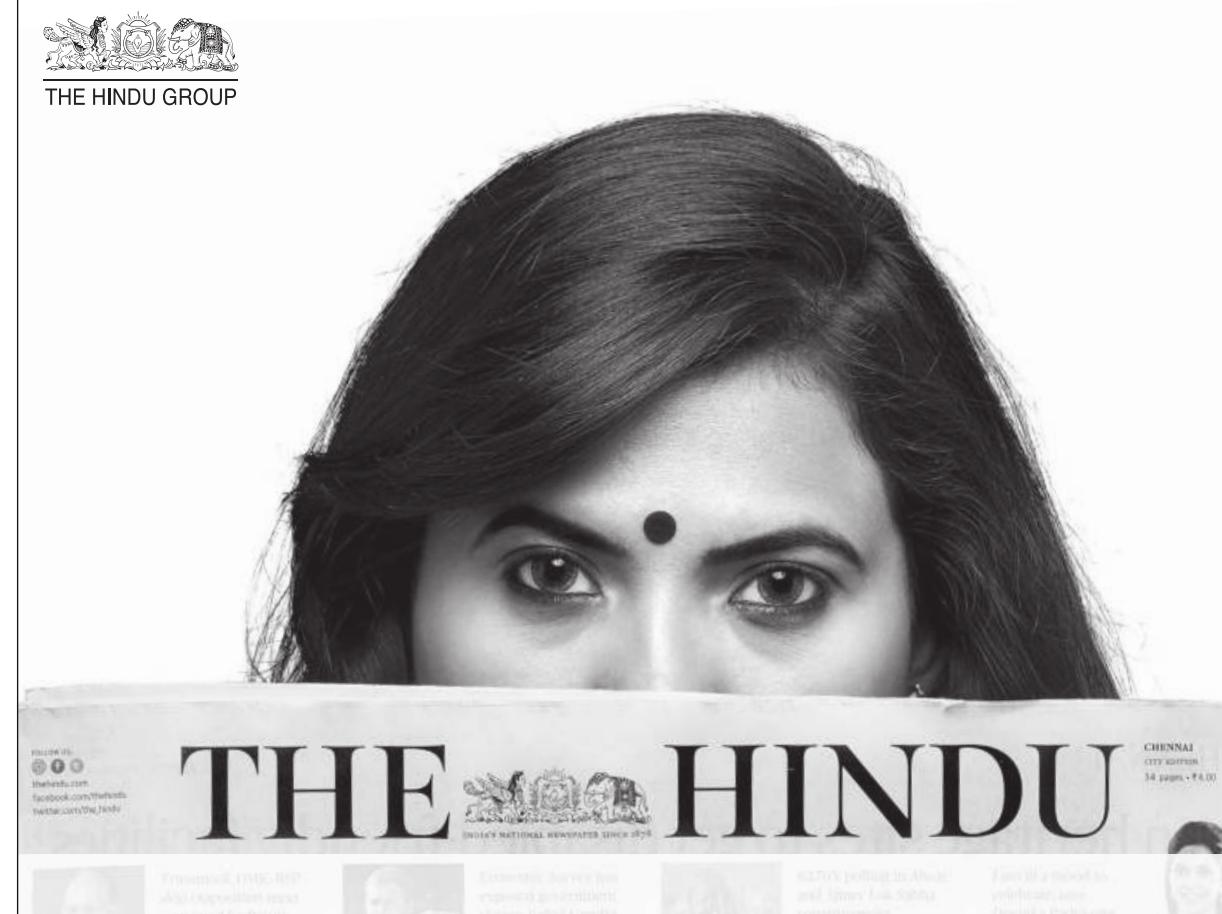
source from the government's Cabinet Office, which handles sensitive administrative issues.

The Mail on Sunday also said it had learnt of plans to move the royal family, in-

cluding Queen Elizabeth, to safe locations away from London.

Britain's government is struggling to get parliamentary support for a Brexit transition agreement with the EU before the departure date of March 29, and the government and businesses are preparing contingency plans for a 'no-deal' Brexit.

Last month, an annual speech by the 92-year-old Queen to a local women's group was widely interpreted in Britain as a call for politicians to reach agreement over Brexit.



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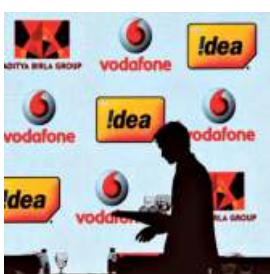
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## IN BRIEF



## Vodafone Idea: 25% of network integration over

NEW DELHI  
Vodafone Idea has completed integration of mobile network in eight telecom circles post merger of the two entities, leading to two-times improvement in 4G services, the company said. "Vodafone Idea successfully consolidates 25% of its nationwide radio network in just five months." The firm claimed that its 4G network covers over 75 crore population. PTI

## Goyal to address RBI board on February 9

NEW DELHI  
Finance Minister Piyush Goyal is scheduled to address the customary post-Budget meeting of the central board of the Reserve Bank of India on February 9 and highlight the key points of the Interim Budget. The meeting will take place two days after the sixth monetary policy review, which is expected to take a call on policy rates. The board meeting on February 9 would also take up Centre's request for interim dividend for the current fiscal. PTI

## IRDAI to fix time for LIC to cut IDBI Bank stake

HYDERABAD  
Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) will set a timeline for LIC to bring down its stake in IDBI Bank to below 15%, chairman Subhash Chandra said. He clarified that the insurance giant had been given the approval to acquire 51% stake on the condition of bringing it down to below 15% over a period of time but the timeline would depend on the business plan of LIC for the tender. PTI

## RCom to lay out new debt resolution plan

Says fresh proposal under NCLT is similar to earlier plan, which was affected by legal tangles

PIYUSH PANDEY  
MUMBAI

Reliance Communications (RCom), with outstanding debt of ₹42,000 crore, plans to propose a similar Debt Resolution Plan in the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) process, as was earlier being pursued outside NCLT to repay dues. It then plans to exit the telecommunications business altogether.

Under the NCLT, the firm aims to overcome challenges raised by the need for 100% approvals by all lenders earlier. Within the ambit of NCLT, a 66% majority rule will help quicken resolution, said an RCom spokesperson.

The company's Debt Resolution Plan under NCLT will include sale of all telecom infrastructure assets



**Debt debacle:** RCom has total debt of ₹42,000 crore, of which ₹19,800 crore is owed to Indian lenders. ■REUTERS

and spectrum, strategic monetisation of subsidiaries GCX, IDC and Indian Enterprise Business, and development of 30 million sq ft at the Dhirubhai Ambani Knowledge City (DAKC) complex and sale of other real estate assets, he said.

"The company has been faced with various, mostly untenable issues raised by the Department of Telecommunications. These issues inter alia resulted in numerous legal issues at High Courts, TDSAT and the Hon'ble Supreme Court, which frustrated the existing plan and can now be addressed/resolved under the NCLT process," said the spokesperson.

## Extinguishing debt

The board of RCom expects substantial unsustainable debt and liabilities to stand extinguished under the NCLT process, he added.

"The RCom board will actively participate (without voting rights) in the NCLT resolution process, as clarified by a recent judgment of Hon-

ble Supreme Court," said a company statement

In December 2017, the firm had entered into a pact with Reliance Jio to sell its telco assets for ₹25,000 crore. However, it could sell assets worth ₹5,000 crore only. The remaining ₹20,000 crore in the deal with Reliance Jio fell through as it failed to get DoT approval for the sale of spectrum. Reliance Jio had refused to take responsibilities for the past dues of RCom.

"What was till now being pursued under SDR will now be pursued under NCLT. This will help us in time-bound resolution and overcome through the NCLT's 66% majority rule, against the 100% lenders approvals rule outside," a senior RCom official told *The Hindu*.

## Essel Group gets time till Sept. 30. to avoid default

Lenders give formal consent to group

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
MUMBAI

Lenders, holding shares pledged by Essel Group companies, have agreed that there will not be any event of default declared till September 30, the Subhash Chandra-led group said.

Following the second round of meeting with the lenders that include mutual funds and NBFCs, Essel Group had secured a formal consent from them. Essel Group shares came under selling pressure after debt servicing issues surfaced.

"Essel Group's management, today, has secured a formal consent with lenders, which are having a pledge on shares held by the promoters in Zee Entertainment," said Subhash Chandra.

ment Enterprises Ltd. (ZEEL) and Dish TV India Ltd., the group said in a statement.

"As per the consent, the lenders have agreed that there will not be any event of default declared till 30th September 2019, due to the movement in the stock price of Essel Group's mentioned listed corporate entities."

The group said the consent provides the required amount of time to complete the strategic sale process of its key assets without any compromise on the value.

"As one team, we are now positively focused on completing the strategic sale process, with the esteemed support of our lenders," Essel Group chairman Subhash Chandra said.

## Tata Tele to surrender spectrum sans auction

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NEW DELHI

Tata Teleservices has offered to surrender spectrum allocated to it without auction in about 15 circles before its merger with Bharti Airtel is approved by the Department of Telecom, an official said.

Spectrum in the 800 MHz band can be used for 4G services but the airwaves held by Tata Tele can be used for 2G services and these frequencies cannot be transferred to Airtel.

The property is scheduled for opening in 2020 and will be operated by Deutsche Hospitality under a 20-year lease contract.

Tata Teleservices is re-

quired to pay market rates to make the airwaves allocated without auction usable for 4G services or for transferring them to Airtel.

## Govt. to cut process time for stake sale in 35 CPSEs

'We now understand how to go ahead'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NEW DELHI

With 35 Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs) being lined up for strategic sale, the Finance Ministry is planning to streamline processes to cut down the time for the outright sale of such state-owned companies.

Taking a cue from the ongoing strategic sale of Pawan Hans, the Department of Investment and Public Asset Management (DIPAM) is keen that the long-drawn sale process of CPSEs be simplified so that more than one company could be taken up for the sell-off simultaneously. "We are going to correct the procedure [for strategic sale]. It is a bit long and long-winding, which

## Hospitality sector needs low-cost funds'

Investments are heavy, returns lower, says T14H managing director Ahamed

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
KOCHE

The hospitality industry requires funding at a lower interest rate than other sectors because of the heavy investments involved and the lower rate of return on investments, said Adeeb Ahamed, managing director of Twenty14 Holdings (T14H).

He was speaking to *The Hindu* on the immediate business plans laid out by T14H, the hospitality investment wing of the Abu Dhabi-based LuLu Group International.

Low-cost loans can attract more investors into the hospitality sector, which is a great employment generator even as India grapples with unemployment problem, he said.

Such loans must be given to those investing in two and



Adeeb Ahamed

the three star segments, which are more essential for the growth of tourism industry in the country.

## Processing delay

Mr. Ahamed said the development of the tourism and hospitality industry required a different model from what is currently in place.

He suggested, for example, that once a suitable spot is identified, government or an agency so entitled, should be able to develop the basic infrastructure for the area, get all clearances and then sell the space to the investors.

This will make life easier for the investors and help do away with the long-drawn process of getting clearances even for acquiring the land, getting permission for buildings, environmental sanctions etc.

Mr. Ahamed said that in the current situation it takes five to six years to get all clearances, which is a drag on investments.

Frequent changes in regulations too play a role in keeping investors away from the hospitality industry.

## Mobiistar to export smartphones to Gulf cooperation nations

Haryana plant has capacity to produce 1.5 million phones

N. ANAND  
CHENNAI

Mobiistar, a Vietnamese smartphone brand, will start exporting Made in India phones to Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries from this year, said a top official.

"We are currently producing and selling our mobile phones in India," Carl Ngo, global CEO and co-founder, Mobiistar.

"From day one, we are producing mobile phones at our Bawali plant in Haryana. It has a capacity to produce 1.5 million phones per annum."

"As we are a new entrant, currently our production numbers are limited. But, it is growing. Since August 2018, we have been posting 20% growth month-on-



Carl Ngo ■ Carl Ngo

month. We will start exporting to GCC countries from this year onwards," he said.

## To be trend spotter

On strategy, he said though there were many Chinese and other smartphone makers in the country, they produced phones based on customers' needs and feedback.

"We want to be a trend spotter rather than trend setter," he said.

Mr. Ngo said their aim was to be ranked among top five brands in India. To achieve this goal, it was producing and selling smartphones under ₹10,000, which was a mass market.

"We are almost there. We have 32,000 multi-brand outlets in the country, in which we are having close to 5% market share," he said.

"We also changed our strategy from offering our products only through online to offline too."

Today, we sell only two products through online and seven through offline. Right now, offline accounts for nearly 90% of our sales and we don't wish to discontinue online," he added.

## Amazon evaluating changes to FDI rules

To avoid 'unintended consequences'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NEW DELHI

U.S. e-tail giant Amazon sees "very good long-term prospects" in the Indian market but is evaluating recent changes in FDI rules for online marketplaces to ensure there are no "unintended consequences" for customers and sellers on its platform, a top company official has said.

With the new rules coming into effect from February 1, Amazon.in has removed a number of products, including mobile accessories and batteries, from its platform.

Its 'Pantry' service that delivers grocery items is also now unavailable in India.

## Much uncertainty

"...there is much uncertainty as to what the impact of



the government rule change is going to have on the e-commerce sector there."

"We remain committed to complying with all laws and regulations, we will, but we're evaluating the situation," Amazon CFO Brian Olsavsky said during a recent investor call.

New rules bar online marketplaces that have foreign investments from offering products of sellers in which they hold a stake.

## Laurus Labs gets USFDA approval for HIV drug

TLD is first-line regimen for patients

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD

Pharma firm Laurus Labs has received tentative approval from the United States Food and Drug Administration for Tenovofir/Lamivudine/Dolutegravir (TLD) 300/300/50mg fixed dose combination drug.

The product is the preferred first-line regimen for the treatment of people living with HIV.

It will be available in the generic form in low and middle income countries, the company said on Sunday.

The U.S. health regulator had given the tentative approval under the Presidential Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief.

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Panel as well as WHO re-

commend TLD as one of the preferred first line regimen for such people.

Laurus Labs said it expected to commercialise "this important medicine in the access markets." The product will be manufactured at the company's Unit 2 located at APSEZ, Atchutapuram, Visakhapatnam.

Company founder and CEO Satyanarayana Chava described it as a significant approval for Laurus Labs, which has forayed into finished dosage forms recently.

"This product would demonstrate the company's capability to develop fixed dose combinations of ARVs," he said.

Meanwhile, the company has received an Establishment Inspection Report (EIR) from USFDA for its Unit 6 on February 2.

## TRANSCENDING TIME

The journey of an Inimitable Sage traced through lens and letters



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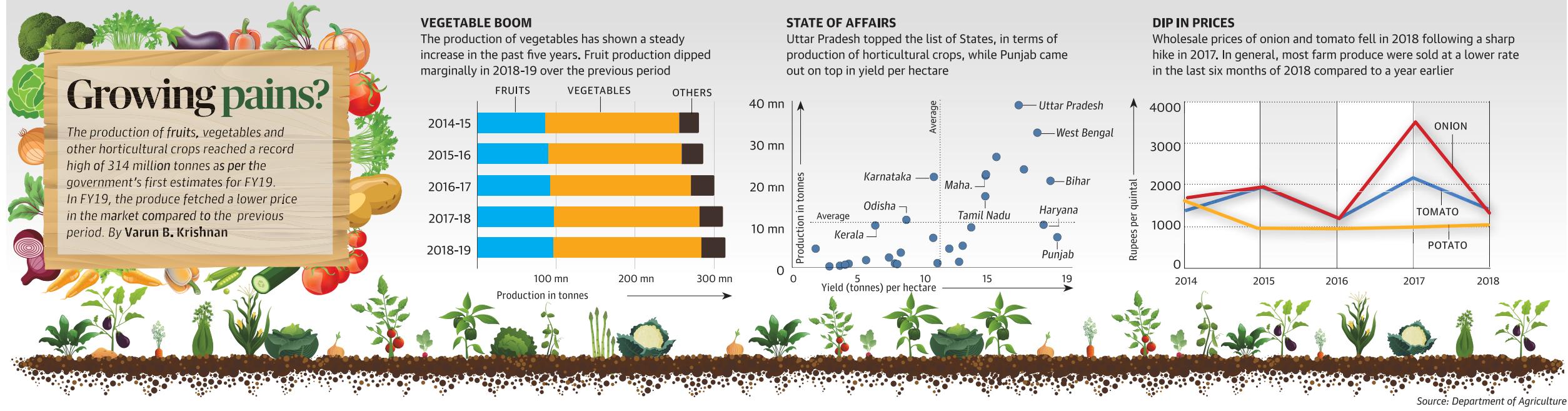
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## A booster dose for consumption, investment

Focus must now be on relentless implementation of the reforms announced in the Interim Budget



ASHU SUYASH

The Interim Budget should spur consumption that, in turn, would impel the private investment cycle.

After three years of prudence, the NDA government slipped on the fiscal deficit target in fiscal 2018, and then again in 2019. For fiscal 2020, in the Interim Budget, it has pencilled in fiscal deficit at 3.4% of GDP, or 30 basis points (bps) more than envisaged under the Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management (FRBM) Act.

No surprise there, because persuasions of a battle of hustings typically preclude fiscal rectitude.

In the milieu, the Interim Budget's focus on rural India and agriculture was expected. The pension and personal tax proposals come as the icing. This should push up consumption, especially in the social strata that has a higher propensity to consume, and in the process, animate a slothful private-sector investment cycle. That is important because the government, which gamely drove investments in the past couple of years, will have to take a back seat with the fiscal slippage showing.

What will be helpful here is that capacity utilisation has ticked up and the corpor-



**For a bountiful harvest:** The PM Kisan scheme alone could inject ₹95,000 crore into the farm economy during the current and next fiscals. ■ K. MURALI KUMAR

rate deleveraging cycle is progressing well. The Interim Budget also promises to leave more money in hinterland hands. The PM Kisan scheme alone could inject ₹95,000 crore into the farm economy in the current and next fiscals. CRISIL estimates this would boost profit from farming by 22%. Add the impact of proposed interventions on insurance, credit and calamity relief, interest subvention on animal husbandry and fisheries, and agriculture, the economy already looks reassuring.

### Tax rebate

Then, there is something for the middle class, too. The tax rebates for those earning up to ₹5 lakh, the ₹10,000 increase in standard deduction, and the hike in the TDS threshold on interest earned on deposits up to ₹40,000 are also consumption trig-

gers. The focus should now be on relentless implementation of announced reforms by getting the State machinery moving at full tilt.

Sectorially, the consumption boosting measures augur well for low-value consumer durables, fast-moving consumer goods and select automobile segments. Sales of mobile phones, smaller-sized television sets and entry-level two-wheelers should be positively impacted. Higher rural income will also spur demand for packaged food items such as biscuits and bakery products.

**Focus on road building** under National Highway Authority of India and Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana will spur demand for commercial vehicles and tractors, respectively. Construction of roads has payoffs as it is highly labour-intensive and in addition to

job creation, is productivity-enhancing.

Without doubt, consumption would be on a firm lead if these measures are pursued in the post-election budget as well. As the Finance Minister indicated, the Budget is best read in the context of India's development journey.

So what does all this mean for India's growth next fiscal?

Coming after two years of slowing private consumption, continuing sluggish rural demand and wage growth – both on and off the farm – the measures in the Interim Budget can help re-invoke demand from middle and lower strata. That would be opportune because the global economy is witnessing weak and asynchronous growth, with risks tilted to the downside. Export growth, which had made a

comeback in 2018, faces risks of weakening global trade growth owing to escalating trade wars, this year.

Next fiscal, therefore, India's growth will have to be driven largely domestically. At this juncture, India needs good luck on crude oil and monsoons as well as relentless execution of budgetary proposals to fire growth.

Private consumption, which accounts for over 55% of GDP, can be that domestic driver. If the monsoon turns out to be adequate for the fourth straight season, and crude oil prices remain leased as now, India's GDP could grow at 7.3% in fiscal 2020.

With higher growth comes higher inflation. Higher demand will maintain the pressure on core inflation which continues to hover around 5.5%. Food inflation too is expected to move up from a very weak base of fiscal 2019 as global food prices move up and efforts to improve the realisations of farmers bear fruit. CRISIL estimates inflation could move up from 3.7% in fiscal 2019 to 4.5% in fiscal 2020.

The focus of the full Budget in June-July next, irrespective of political outcome, needs to be generously on the lower- and lower-middle income strata. The next leg of growth can then be materially inclusive and therefore more sustainable.

Bharat deserves that.

(The writer is the MD and CEO of CRISIL Ltd.)

## A date with prosperity

A farmer finds his calling in the Barhee variety

### M. SOUNDARIYA PREETHA

Surrounded by industries, this farm stands out in Vanjipalayam area, less than 10 km from the knitwear town of Tiruppur. Bunches of golden yellow fruits hang from the trees in the months of June, July and August.

K.G. Murugavel grows the Barhee variety of dates on his 2.5-acre plot. Switching over from turmeric, vegetables and cotton about a decade ago, Mr. Murugavel of K.G. Fresh Dates today exports fresh dates and supplies Barhee tissue culture plants to interested farmers across the country.

"I wanted to go for a change from the normal crops. Based on information that I gathered in the media, I decided to import tissue culture of the Barhee variety in 2009 and planted 180 plants. Each tree now yields 150 kg to 200 kg of dates a year," he says.

Mr. Murugavel, who sells in the wholesale and retail markets in India and also exports, says the trees flower in February-March and the fruits can be harvested in four months from then.

**Door-to-door marketing**  
"In the first few years, my wife and I used to take the fresh dates to Tiruppur and do door-to-door marketing," he says.

These fresh dates have several health benefits and with increasing awareness, the demand has also grown. "We sell 40 tonnes to 50 tonnes a year now." Aware-



**Rich yield:** Each tree yields 150 to 200 kg of dates a year, says K.G. Murugavel. ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

ness among farmers has picked up in the last five years. If climatic conditions are suitable, farmers can raise them on 1.5 to 2 acres.

**Investment quite high**  
The Barhee variety grows only in specific weather conditions and the investments are quite high. The yield goes up gradually and the growers will start seeing profit in five years. The average life of a tree is about 35 years.

"About 40 farmers in Tamil Nadu grow the Barhee dates now. We supply the tissue culture plants and guide them on how to grow. We encourage the farmers to market directly," he says.

Since it is a perishable commodity and can be harvested only during three months a year, its availability in the market is restricted to that period.

Dates consumption is high in the country and a

substantial quantity is imported, he adds.

Mr. Murugavel studied the possibility of growing other varieties of dates here before deciding on the Barhee. "We studied it in detail. The other varieties are not commercially viable," he said.

The Barhee variety needs good land, plenty of water, and suitable weather conditions," he adds.

"The night temperature during the winter months (December to February) is crucial for these dates. Even in Tamil Nadu, it cannot be raised in all places. It can grow well in Gujarat and Rajasthan. "I guide interested farmers on these details before they decide to go in the Barhee dates."

The annual maintenance cost, including inputs and labour, works out to almost ₹1 lakh. This would be viable for farmers as the realisations are much higher, especially from the fifth year.

## A 'pink revolution' quietly takes shape in Maharashtra

High quality pork to benefit farmers, consumers

### LALATENDU MISHRA

A 'pink revolution' is quietly taking shape in Maharashtra. The objective is to breed imported pigs to address the problem of protein deficiency in a sizeable section of the population that has been deprived of access to affordable meat besides providing livelihood to farmers.

Mumbai-based Gargi Genetics Pvt. Ltd., supported by the Maharashtra government's policy, is gearing up to create an ecosystem for supply of high quality pork.

The company is planning to partner with farmers by supplying them pigs imported from Canada. They would be bred under hygienic conditions for production of high quality meat.

Many consumers stay away from consuming pork as local pigs are mostly bred under unhygienic conditions.

Gargi Genetics is planning to address this concern through supply of hygienic pork produced from imported breeds in clean environment and is launching an education campaign.

The company plans to build a fully-equipped international-standard piggery that would support animal husbandry, food and medical industry.

While it would create a comprehensive value chain for pork production, it would also supply high quality animals for medical and



research industry (organ transplant and insulin), top officials said.

In five years, over 1,000 Maharashtra farmers, in a cooperative format, are expected to learn about commercial animal farming with international best practices.

The project has been mooted by finance professional Sandeep Mistry and genetics healthcare exponent Nitin Malekar who have been working on this for years. They had achieved a litter (number of offspring) size of 10 to 14, which is probably the best under Indian conditions.

**Profitable idea**  
"Commercial pig farming in India for meat production is one of the best and profitable business ideas. But the main issue is Indian pig breeds are not suitable for high quality pork production," Dr. Malekar said.

The initiative is scheduled to be officially kicked off in the second quarter of 2019 and the company is in process of raising \$2 million in equity funding in phase I.

The company had already acquired land in Wada in Palghar district of Maharashtra to start the project.

"We studied breeds from various countries and zeroed in on three pig breeds from Canada, which are the most suitable for commercial meat production according to the weather and climatic conditions of India," he added.

Indian pork is sold at about ₹250 per kg compared with international quality processed pork which is sold at ₹1,200-3,000 per kg.

"The need of the hour is genetically superior quality animals, to enhance the farmer's potential, meet consumers' demand for safe and healthy meat and health industry's requirement for quality animals. It is an industry with huge potential," Dr. Malekar said.

The 'pink revolution' targets to produce five lakh high quality pigs over a period of 5-6 years.

"Pink revolution" plans to offer 'farm to market' solution. We are planning to initiate a franchisee chain of signature shops/eateries to promote healthy pork products," Dr. Malekar said.

The initiative is scheduled to be officially kicked off in the second quarter of 2019 and the company is in process of raising \$2 million in equity funding in phase I.

"So, we decided to select high quality meat producing pig breeds available around

## Indian phones pale before Chinese dragon

Chinese products, marketing savvy have pushed Indian brands to 9% market share, from 50% in 2014

### YUTHIKA BHARGAVA

Once among the go-to smartphone brands for Indian consumers, home-grown mobile phonemakers such as Micromax, Lava, Karbonn and Intex are now struggling to make a mark. These brands have been unable to challenge the flurry of quality products at affordable prices from China-based smartphone manufacturers over the past few years.

Indian brands, which together commanded almost 50% of the total smartphone market towards the end of 2014, now account for less than 9% of the market. Chinese brands, on the other hand, have been able to corner nearly 60% of the smartphone market at the end of fourth quarter of 2018, according to Counterpoint Research.

"When they started out, local manufacturers had very good command of the Indian market," Upasana Joshi, analyst at IDC India said. "For example, Indians wanted phones with good battery back-up, and Micromax capitalised on that. Second, their reach in terms of retail counters in the country was pretty good."

**Chinese quality**  
However, gradually, better quality products from Chinese makers helped tilt demand in their favour. In the fourth quarter of 2016, the Indian smartphone market saw some significant changes. Chinese brands accounted for a whopping 46% of the

total smartphone market "riding on aggressive portfolio strategies and substantial marketing spends." It was also the first time that no Indian brand figured among the top five smartphone rankings, as per data from Counterpoint.

Ms. Joshi said Xiaomi was the first brand which launched a flash sale in India and the concept became an instant hit, and Xiaomi grew as an online brand. On the other hand, brands like Oppo and Vivo, took the offline route "pumping a lot of money in retail channels and promotional activity". Hanish Bhatia, senior analyst, devices & ecosystem, Counterpoint Research, said a key reason for the growth of Chinese brands "is their affordable offerings with stand-out features, including strong design language and their ability to leverage deeper access to the Shenzhen-based manufacturing

and supply chain ecosystem."

Fiery battle: Makers from India's neighbour have built a good original-design manufacturer and supplier network.

"Chinese suppliers are now experts in hardware design, software and user interface integration," he said. "They have built a robust original design manufacturer and supplier network."

"Some of them [Chinese firms] were not successful as they tried to implement their China model in India without understanding local market needs. At the same time, successful Chinese brands were very cautious in their moves," Mr. Bhatia said. While it may be a tough climb back for Indian brands, analysts said Micromax and Lava may still be able to do well in the entry-level smartphone space. Besides, Reliance Jio is the local brand to keep an eye on.

**Future bleak?**  
"If Indian OEMs want to survive, they need to capitalise on the opportunity that the sub-₹5,000 segment offers."

Currently, no player dominates that segment and China-based sellers are also not focussing on this segment," Ms. Joshi said.

She said a lot of consumers are yet to move from feature phones to smartphones. "These consumers need a device priced at ₹3,000... which is also of good quality." Handset makers, she said, may look at bundling smartphones with operators such as Airtel and Reliance Jio, wherein there is an upfront subsidy on the device with a lock-in period of a year or two. But, the going may only get tougher for the

Indian device manufacturers as more and more online Chinese player take to the offline market. The omnichannel presence for handset makers has become very important, Ms. Joshi said.

"Some of them [Chinese firms] were not successful as they tried to implement their China model in India without understanding local market needs. At the same time, successful Chinese brands were very cautious in their moves," Mr. Bhatia said. While it may be a tough climb back for Indian brands, analysts said Micromax and Lava may still be able to do well in the entry-level smartphone space. Besides, Reliance Jio is the local brand to keep an eye on.

"In the last quarter, feature phones and smartphones were divided 50-50... 43 million smartphones and 43 million feature phones. Currently, the feature phones segment is led by 4G Jio phones. The price gap between feature and smartphone is huge. Who ever bridges this gap can take the game away," she said.

# India stutters at the start, recovers and canters home

Rayudu, Vijay Shankar and Pandya revive the batting, while bowlers keep New Zealand on a leash

## INDIA IN NZ

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
WELLINGTON

India overcame a disastrous start to earn a hard-fought 35-run win over New Zealand in the fifth One-Day International on Sunday to finish the series with a 4-1 scoreline, proving the heavy loss at Hamilton was an aberration.

At 18 for four, India was heading towards another sub-100 total before Ambati Rayudu (90, 113b) and Vijay Shankar (45, 64b) forged a 98-run stand to ensure India ended with a fighting 252.

Hardik Pandya's 45 off 22 balls also went a long way in India posting a challenging target and his two wickets later on showed why he is such an important member of the team.

### Failing to build

The New Zealand batsmen, including skipper Kane Williamson (39), squandered their starts in the chase but the home team remained in the contest until Jimmy Neesham (44, 32b) was dismissed in the 37th over.

His freak run out, which was effected by the ever so sharp M.S. Dhoni from behind the stumps, came after an lbw appeal was turned down.

New Zealand eventually ended with 217 in 44.1 overs despite Matt Henry's unbeaten 17 off nine balls in the final overs.

Leggie Yuvzendra Chahal took three timely wickets conceding just 41 runs in 10



**Dazzling display:** The Men in Blue celebrate yet another series victory. ■ AFP

overs. Rayudu played one of the most significant knocks of his career and made a compelling claim for a World Cup spot.

After Rohit Sharma decided to bat on a testing surface and the top four falling cheaply, Rayudu and Vijay Shankar produced an innings-reviving stand under immense pressure.

Pacer Matt Henry was the standout bowler, taking four for 35 while Trent Boult picked up three for 39.

India made three changes. A fit-again Dhoni was back in place of Dinesh Karthik while Mohammed Shami and Vijay Shankar replaced Khaleel Ahmed and Kuldeep Yadav.

The ball swung at the Westpac Stadium, like it did at Hamilton, and troubled the batsmen. Boult and Henry swung the ball at express pace and shared two wickets each to leave India reeling at 18 for four in the 10th over.

### Poor shot selection

It was a combination of top-class fast bowling and questionable shot selection that led to the top-order failure. Rohit (2) was undone by a beauty from Henry, the one that moved away from the middle stump line to dislodge the off-stump.

Dhoni (1), playing Sunday's match after missing the last two games due to injury, was bowled by Boult off a peach of a delivery that

swung back sharp and late.

Dhawan (6) slashed one hard to be caught at third-man while the young Shubman Gill (7) scooped a simple catch to cover.

Just when India looked down in the dumps, Rayudu and Vijay Shankar showed admirable fight to weather the storm. Initially, Vijay Shankar looked more comfortable while Rayudu focused on defence.

However, Vijay Shankar missed out on a well-deserved fifty as he got run out after a mix-up with Rayudu. Rayudu, at the other end, began to play his strokes and hammered Colin de Grandhomme for two consecutive boundaries to bring up his

10th ODI fifty.

A little later, he smashed Colin Munro for successive sixes before he perished trying to hit another one out of the park. Rayudu's crucial knock comprised eight fours and four sixes.

### Brute force

Pandya then took centre-stage and once again showed what he brings to the table.

Pandya's brute power was on full display when he whacked leggie Todd Astle for three sixes off as many balls. The all-rounder did not spare Boult either, pulling him over mid-wicket for another maximum. His cameo included two fours and five sixes.

**1** First time in 11 ODI series Rohit has failed to score a century, the last one too coming against New Zealand at home in 2016 (five ODIs)

**2** The second occasion India has won an ODI after losing four wickets under 20 runs (18 for four against NZ, 2019). The previous instance was in 1983 at Turnbridge Wells against Zimbabwe in the 1983 World Cup when Kapil Dev remained unbeaten on 175

**3** Indian pacers who have won the Man-of-the-Series awards:

■ Bhuvneshwar Kumar 10 wks (WI/Ind/SL tri-series, WI), 2013

■ Jasprit Bumrah 15 (SL), 2017

■ Mohammed Shami 9 (NZ), 2019

\*excluding all rounders

The last time India was bowled out in two consecutive ODIs before this series was against Bangladesh in Mirpur in June 2015, its first two ODIs after the 2015 World Cup

**4** Number of times Hardik has hit three consecutive sixes in an ODI game:

■ vs Imad Wasim (Pak), group

match, Champions Trophy 2017

■ vs Shadab Khan (Pak), final, Champions Trophy 2017

■ vs Adam Zampa (Aus), 2017

■ vs Todd Astle (NZ), 2019

■ 4-1 India's biggest series win in New Zealand, eclipsing the 3-1 triumph in 2008-09

**5** Number of times no century has been scored by a batsman from either side in a bilateral series of five matches, involving India. India won four of those series

**C** After we lost four wickets, we needed somebody to show application. Rayudu and Vijay Shankar did that. The way Hardik and Kedar played in the end was magnificent ■ ROHIT SHARMA

## Stat attack



**C** Credit to India, they showed us a lesson and they deserve the series win ■ KANE WILLIAMSON

## SCOREBOARD NEW ZEALAND VS INDIA, FIFTH AND FINAL ODI

<b>India:</b> Rohit Sharma b Henry 2 (16b), Shikhar Dhawan c Henry b Boult 6 (13b, 1x4), Shubman Gill c Santner b Henry 7 (11b, 1x4), Ambati Rayudu c Munro b Henry 90 (113b, 8x4, 4x6), M.S. Dhoni b Boult 1 (6b), Vijay Shankar run out 45 (64b, 4x4), Kedar Jadhav b Henry 34 (45b, 3x4), Hardik Pandya c Boult b Neesham 45 (22b, 2x4, 5x6), Bhuvneshwar Kumar c Taylor b Boult 6 (6b), Mohd. Shami run out 1 (1b), Yuzvendra Chahal (not out) 0 (1b); Extras (b-5, lb-7, w-2, nb-1); 15; Total (in 49.5 overs): 252 (Bhuvneshwar, 49.4).	(w-3); 3; Total (in 44.1 overs): 217.
<b>New Zealand bowling:</b> Henry 10-1-35-4, Boult 9.5-2-39-3, Neesham 5-0-33-1, de Grandhomme 7-0-33-0, Munro 10-47-0, Santner 3-0-18-0, Astle 5-0-35-0.	<b>Fall of wickets:</b> 1-18 (Nicholls, 3.3), 2-37 (Munro, 9.1), 3-38 (Taylor, 10.2), 4-105 (Williamson, 25.4), 5-119 (Latham, 28.3), 6-135 (de Grandhomme, 30.6), 7-176 (Neesham, 36.2), 8-194 (Astle, 40.5), 9-204 (Santner, 43.1).
<b>New Zealand:</b> Colin Munro b Shami 24 (19b, 2x4, 1x6), Henry Nicholls c Jadhav b Shami 8 (15b, 1x4), Kane Williamson c Dhawan b Jadhav 39 (73b, 3x4), Ross Taylor lbw b Pandya 1 (4b), Tom Latham lbw b Chahal 37 (49b, 3x4), James Neesham run out 44 (32b, 4x4, 2x6), Colin de Grandhomme lbw b Chahal 11 (8b, 2x4), Mitchell Santner c Shami b Pandya 22 (37b), Todd Astle lbw b Chahal 10 (16b, 1x4), Matt Henry (not out) 17 (9b, 1x4), Trent Boult c Shami b Bhuvneshwar 1 (3b); Extras 252 (Bhuvneshwar, 49.4).	<b>India bowling:</b> Bhuvneshwar 71-0-38-1, Shami 8-0-35-2, Hardik 8-1-50-2, Vijay Shankar 4-0-19-0, Chahal 10-0-41-3, Jadhav 7-0-34-1.
<b>Toss:</b> India.	<b>Man-of-the-Match:</b> Ambati Rayudu.
<b>Man-of-the-Series:</b> Mohd. Shami.	<b>India won by 35 runs to clinch series 4-1.</b>

## Joseph loses mother, but plays on

## Windies on the prowl again

Roach, Holder lead the rout against England in second Test

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE  
NORTH SOUND

Kemar Roach and captain Jason Holder led another rout of the England batting line-up as the West Indies completed a crushing series-clinching 10-wicket victory after tea on the third day of the second Test at the Sir Vivian Richards Stadium in Antigua on Saturday.

Joseph decided to continue playing even though his ailing mother Sharon died early in the morning. His arrival at the crease was greeted by a sympathetic applause from the fans and England players.



Alzarri Joseph. ■ AP

Trailing by 119 runs at the start of the second innings after Darren Bravo's ultra-patient half-century extended the West Indies first innings total to 306, England was demolished for 132 with Roach and Holder claiming four wickets each.

Openers Kraigg Brathwaite and John Campbell then knocked off the 14 runs required for victory in 2.1 overs, Campbell sealing the re-

## SCOREBOARD WEST INDIES VS ENGLAND, SECOND TEST

**England – 1st innings:** 187. **West Indies – 1st innings:** 306.

**England – 2nd innings:** R. Burns c Campbell b Holder 16, J. Denly b Joseph 17, J. Bairstow b Holder 14, J. Root c Dowrich b Joseph 7, J. Buttler lbw b Holder 24, B. Stokes b Roach 11, Moeen b Roach 4, B. Foakes lbw b Roach 13, S. Curran (not out) 13, S. Broad lbw b Roach 0, J. Anderson c Joseph b Holder 0; Extras (lb-3, w-10); 13; Total (in 42.1 overs): 132.

**Fall of wickets:** 1-35, 2-49, 3-

4-56, 5-58, 6-96, 7-118, 8-118, 9-125.

**West Indies bowling:** Roach 13-2-52-4, Gabriel 10-3-22-0, Holder 12.1-2-43-4, Joseph 7-4-12-2.

**West Indies – 2nd innings:** K. Brathwaite (not out) 5; J. Campbell (not out) 11; Extras (lb-1): 1; Total (for no loss in 2.1 overs): 17.

**England bowling:** Anderson 1.1-0-10-0, Broad 1-0-6-0.

**Man-of-the-Match:** Roach.

• This is the Windies' first series triumph over a major Test-playing nation, home or away, since the win over New Zealand in 2012. That series was also the last time it won back-to-back Tests against a side other Bangladesh and Zimbabwe

• It is also West Indies' first series victory over England since 2009

• England has never won a Test in Antigua; this was its 10th attempt

• England has the ignominy of being the only team to have lost 300 Test matches

• Darren Bravo, at 33 minutes, recorded the slowest ever half-century by a West Indian

• England batted for 103.1 overs in two innings. Bravo was at the crease for 78.2 overs



**Most people in India love the West Indies but this Test series victory for the West Indies against England is fantastic for test cricket. Guts, grit and some real determination for a really comprehensive Test series win**

VIRENDER SEHWAG

**Congratulations @windiescricket for a memorable Test series win against England. Loved the determination to do well and this certainly augurs well for their future**

V.V.S. LAXMAN

## Khawaja helps Aussies set Sri Lanka big target

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE  
CANTERBURY

Usman Khawaja finally found form again to stroke a fine century on Sunday and steer Australia to a massive lead over Sri Lanka as the tourists battle to stay in the second Test.

At stumps, the visitors were 17 without loss, chasing a huge 516 to win with two days remaining after Tim Paine declared Australia's second innings at 196 for three.

Dimuth Karunaratne and

## SCOREBOARD AUSTRALIA VS SRI LANKA, SECOND TEST

**Australia – 1st innings:** 534 for five.

**Sri Lanka – 1st innings:** D. Karunaratne c Patterson b Starc 59, L. Thirimanne c Khawaja b Lyon 41, D. Chandimal c Paine b Starc 15, K. Mendis b Cummins 6, Kusal Perera (retd. hurt) 29, Dhananjaya hit wkt, b Starc 25, N. Dickwella lbw b Labuschagne 25, C. Karunaratne c Starc b Lyon 0, D. Perera c Paine b Starc 10, K. Rajitha (not out) 0, V. Fernando b Starc 0; Extras (lb-4, b-1); 5; Total (in 68.3 overs): 215.

**Fall of wickets:** 1-90, 2-101, 3-120, 4-180, 5-181, 6-182, 7-215, 8-215, 9-215.

**Australia bowling:** Starc 13.3-2-54-5, Richardson 15-4-49-0, Cummins 14-3-32-1, Lyon 24-6-70-2, Labuschagne 2-1-5.

**Sri Lanka bowling:** Fernando 11-1-43-1, Rajitha 13-2-64-2, D. Perera 15-3-52-0, C. Karunaratne 4-1-18-0, de Silva 4-0-19-0.

**Sri Lanka – 2nd innings:** D.

## 16 SPORT

# Saurashtra has reason to smile

Restricts Vidarbha by inducing bad shots and denying meaningful partnerships



Caught short: Saurashtra wicketkeeper Snell Patel celebrates the dismissal of Faiz Fazal. ■ VIVEK BENDRE

**RANJI TROPHY**

AMOL KARHADKAR

NAGPUR

Accurate bowling by the visiting outfit, a reckless run-out and a couple of bad shots by the home team was the highlight of an absorbing first day's play of the Ranji Trophy final here on Sunday.

Despite the toss favouring Vidarbha, the Saurashtra camp was the happier of the two at the VCA Stadium, having restricted the home team to 200 for seven.

On a slow Jamtha pitch, Vidarbha had to make the most of the coin landing in Faiz Fazal's favour by digging deep.

**Nagging line and length**  
However, the left-arm pace duo of captain Jaydev Unadkat and Chetan Sakariah bowled nagging lines and length to stifle Fazal and his opening partner R. Sanjay.

Sakariah softened Sanjay up with a bouncer that thudded into his helmet.

And, in the next over, San-

jay poked at Unadkat and Arpit Vasavada took an excellent low catch at first slip.

**Harakiri**

Even before run-machine Wasim Jaffer could get his eye in, Fazal committed harakiri while running between the wickets to leave Vidarbha reeling at 29 for two.

With a defensive prod off Unadkat deflecting to backward square-leg, Fazal called Jaffer for a second, but perhaps thinking that the throw would be at the veteran partner's end, Fazal slowed down half-way down the pitch.

Sakariah, instead, targeted the striker's end. Fazal was taken by surprise and well short of his crease when Snell Patel dislodged the bails.

Jaffer then started 'mission resurrection', flicking Prerak Mankad through square-leg and charging down the wicket to lift left-



**Only good stand**  
Then came the only 50-plus partnership, between Aksh-

ay Wadkar and Akshay Karnewar. But with three overs remaining for stumps, Wadkar's mistimed cut off Sakariah lobbed to point and ensured none of the five Saurashtra bowlers went wicket-less for the day.

With Saurashtra opting for the second new ball only in the last over, the Vidarbha tail has the tall task of bailing the team out of trouble on the second morning.

**The scores:**  
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## TV PICKS

**Australia vs Sri Lanka:** 2nd Test, Sony Six (SD & HD), 5 a.m.  
**NBA:** Sony Ten 1 (SD & HD), 5.30 a.m.  
**Pro Volleyball League:** Sony Six (SD & HD), 7 p.m.  
**ISL:** Star Sports 1 (SD & HD), 7.30 p.m.

## IN BRIEF



Tandon wins Seattle Open

SEATTLE  
Ramtin Tandon defeated Egyptian Mohamed El Sherbini in the final to win the Seattle Open, a PSA Challenger squash Tour event on Saturday. The top-seeded Indian, who has risen to a career-high ranking of 58 in the latest February list, won 11-4, 11-7, 2-11, 11-2 for his first PSA title this year, and fourth overall. Tandon was fluent right through except for a minor blip in the third game. However, he recovered quickly to seal the issue. PTI



Harden goes past Chamberlain

WASHINGTON  
James Harden posted his 26th game with at least 30 points for the third-longest streak in NBA history as Houston Rockets rolled over Utah Jazz 125-98 on Saturday.  
**The results:** Timberwolves 106 lost to Nuggets 107; Spurs 113 bt Pelicans 108; Cavaliers 98 lost to Mavericks 111; Heat 88 lost to Pacers 95; Kings 115 bt 76ers 108; Suns 112 bt Hawks 118; Jazz 98 lost to Rockets 125; Hornets 125 bt Bulls 118; Magic 102 bt Nets 89; Wizards 115 lost to Bucks 131; Warriors 115 bt Lakers 101; 101 Pistons lost to Clippers 111. AFP

# Lanzarote's strikes silence Jamshedpur

The ATK forward propels the side to a 2-1 win

## ISL

AMITABHA DAS SHARMA  
KOLKATA

Manuel Lanzarote's spectacular free kicks helped ATK return to winning ways with a 2-1 victory over Jamshedpur FC (JFC) at the Salt Lake Stadium here on Sunday. The result saw ATK revive its play-off hopes after remaining winless in its last three matches. Jamshedpur's only reply came from Mario Blasco.

ATK translated its dominance in the opening session, slamming home two goals off set-pieces. The home side benefited from the speedy incursions of attacker Edu Garcia, who took a December transfer to ATK from a Chinese club.

The host went ahead in the third minute when JFC right-back Dhanachandra Singh tripped Garcia while trying to stop the latter's dazzling run. Lanzarote made good use of the free-kick awarded just outside the JFC box, sending a shot to the far corner of the framework and giving goalkeeper Subrata Paul no chance.

Garcia made two more incisive runs after the side had



Over the moon: Manuel Lanzarote was unstoppable in the match against Jamshedpur FC. ■ SPORTZPICS/ISL

taken the lead, but the visitors' defence thwarted the attempts. JFC forward Farukh Choudhary had a golden opportunity off a corner in the 20th minute but failed to find the target off a header.

ATK doubled the lead in the 33rd minute, virtually repeating the process that had

brought it the opening goal. Dhanachandra brought down Garcia once again while attempting to prevent the ATK striker from gaining access into the box.

The resultant free-kick was put into the net by Lanzarote with the same precision as the first goal.

The host went into consola-

tion mode after the break, allowing Jamshedpur enough space to launch a comeback.

The visitor seemed to be missing its injured star striker Tim Cahill as a majority of its attacks ended much before the opposition box.

Jamshedpur's efforts bore fruit in the 82nd minute

when Blasco nodded home a cross from left-winger Bikash Jairu. Had the crosspiece not blocked Sumeet Passi's attempt a minute before Blasco's goal, it could well have been a different script for Jamshedpur.

**The result:** ATK 2 (Manuel Lanzarote 3, 33) bt Jamshedpur FC 1 (Mario Blasco 82).

## TN dominates day one

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

Tamil Nadu dominated day one at the Schools India Cup National athletics championship at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium warm-up track here on Sunday.

The Tamil Nadu athletes led with eight gold medals with Punjab bagging four. Uttar Pradesh and Andhra Pradesh claimed two gold each in the overall tally.

The TN athletes held sway in most of the events in both track and field. In 100m for boys under-16, V.

## Hockey Punjab puts it past Hockey Chandigarh

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
GWALIOR

Defending champion Hockey Punjab continued its winning run in the Senior men's National hockey championship with a comfortable 3-1 win over Hockey Chandigarh here on Sunday.

In Pool A, Hockey Punjab beat Chandigarh for its third win of the competition, riding on goals from Sukhdev Singh (2), Ramandeep Singh (25) and Rupinderpal Singh

(41). For Chandigarh, Arshdeep Singh (11th) scored the only goal.

**The results:**

**Pool-A:** Mumbai 3 bt Association of Indian Universities;

**Pool-B:** PSPB 5 bt CAG 0; Hockey Haryana 4 bt Hockey Bhopal 1.

**Pool-C:** RSPB 1 bt Punjab & Sind Bank 0; Hockey Gangpur-Orissa 4 bt Uttar Pradesh Hockey 3.

**Pool-D:** Air India SPB 6 bt Hockey Odisha 3; Hockey Karnataka 3 bt Namdhari XI 2.

## Imanishi triumphs

SPORTS BUREAU  
JODHPUR

Seventh seed Miharu Imanishi of Japan beat Jodie Anna Burrage of Britain 6-3, 3-6, 6-3 to clinch the title in the \$25,000 ITF women's tennis here on Sunday.

**The results (finals): Singles:**

Miharu Imanishi (Jpn) bt Jodie Anna Burrage (GBR) 6-3, 3-6, 6-3.

**Doubles:** Mana Ayukawa & Haruka Kaji (Jpn) bt Eri Hozu-mi & Miyabi Inoue (Jpn) 7-6 (4), 4-6, [10-5].

## FC Goa eyes play-off spot

Dynamos will look to garner as many points as possible

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NEW DELHI

FC Goa would look to inch closer to the play-off spot when it meets Delhi Dynamos FC in an Indian Super League clash at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium here on Monday.

After going 11 matches without a win since the start of the season, Dynamos picked up two wins in their last two games and Josep Gombau's men will want to accumulate up as many points as they can before the season draws to an end.

Goa finds itself in the thick of an intense battle to secure a top-four spot and is third in the standings with 24 points from 13 games. Only a point separates it from fourth-placed North-East United, although the Highlanders have played an extra game.

"We are playing good football. We are creating a lot of chances and not scoring so much. That is a problem. "We also have to improve our defence as we are conceding goals. Even when we are playing away from home, we are creating chances but not getting the results which is frustrating," said Gombau.

The coaches are known to stick to their philosophy regardless of their opponents and that could lead to an open game with midfielders battling for possession.

Delhi has only won three times in the 11 meetings between the two teams and there has only been one draw when these two have locked horns.

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## Hat-trick of golds for Sandeep

Mulder halts Mehuli's superlative run

SPORTS BUREAU  
THE HAGUE

It was a hat-trick of gold medals for Sandeep Singh of the Army as he swept the honours in men's air rifle in the InterShoot international shooting championship here on Sunday.

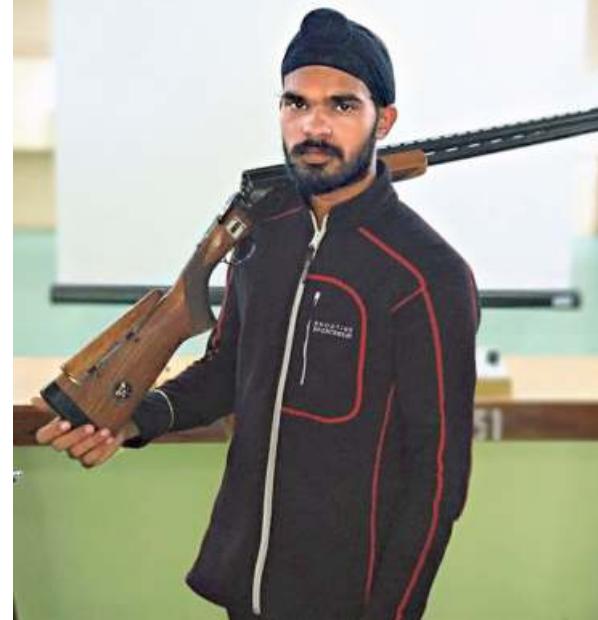
Sandeep shot 249.7 in the final, on the third and final day of competition, to beat compatriot and Asian Games silver medallist Deepak Kumar by 1.2 points, after both had shot an identical 627.5 in qualification.

Sandeep had dominated the finals on the earlier two days with scores of 251.5 and 251.7. He was equally consistent in qualification, if not spectacular like the way Mehuli Ghosh did with high scores ranging up to 633.0.

In women's air rifle, Mehuli's superlative show was checked by Mandy Mulder of the Netherlands, who won the gold beating the Commonwealth Games silver medallist by 0.8 point.

Mehuli had shot two golds on the earlier two days.

World University champion Vinita Bhardwaj wound



**Marksman:** Sandeep Singh of the Army who swept the honours in men's air rifle. ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Delhi later in the month.

**The results:** Men: Air pistol: 1. Julio Almeida (Bra) 242.0 (580); 2. Dharmendra Singh 241.2 (576); 3. Ravinder Singh 220.3 (575).

Junior men: 1. Jerome Son (Bel) 240.3 (568); 2. James Miller (Wal) 235.8 (574); 3. Deepak Dharwal 214.2 (560); 5. Milan Chaudhary 174.0 (560).

Air rifle: 1. Sandeep Singh 249.7 (627.5); 2. Deepak Kumar 248.5 (627.5); 3. Benjamin Karlens (Nor) 227.5 (622.4); 6. Saurabh Singh 165.1 (622.0); 7. Vishwanath Singh Jhala 143.3 (622.6); 8. Pankaj Kumar 121.9 (621.4); 9. Rahul Lal Chauhan 618.4.

Junior men: 1. Jon-Hermann Hegg (Nor) 246.7 (620.4); 2. Aleksander Teisrud (Nor) 245.8 (624.9); 3. Jeff Van Venrooij (Ned) 223.9; 5. Akshat Seth 179.5 (617.0).

Women: Air pistol: 1. Zhang Mengxue (Chn) 241.0 (579); 2. Ji Xiaojing (Chn) 240.9 (570); 3. P. Shri Nivetha 216.1 (583).

Junior women: 1. Karen Quezada (Mex) 240.8 (563); 2. Harriet Watson (Eng) 229.1 (531); 3. Lucy Thomas (Wal) 207.5 (536); 5. Mufaddal Desawala 167.9 (550).

Air rifle: 1. Mandy Mulder (Ned) 250.9 (628.7); 2. Mehuli Ghosh 250.1 (627.6); 3. Vinita Bhardwaj 227.8 (624.5); 6. Ayonika Paul 164.0 (625.8).

Overall, the three days of competition in Den Haag proved an encouraging outing for the strong Indian contingent.

It would serve as a good preparation for some of the shooters who will be competing in the World Cup in

up her European sojourn with the bronze behind Mehuli, after having competed with a lot of success in Germany.

Olympian Ayonika Paul also made her third successive final, even though she had to bow out in the sixth place.

Sandeep told reporters. Sarfaraz's fate as Pakistan captain hangs in the balance because of Pakistan Cricket Board's (PCB) existing policy of naming captains on a series-by-series basis.

Asked whether he was aware of PCB's policy, the wicketkeeper-batsman said he was comfortable with the board's policy. He also declined to talk on the issue of leaving the Test captaincy.

"Our next Test series is eight months away, let us talk about it when the time comes. As it is we will enter a new phase after the World Cup for sure," he said.

Sarfaraz also dismissed reports that his teammates were unhappy with his behaviour and that the players gelled more under stand-in skipper Shoaib Malik in South Africa.

"I don't think this is the case, everyone is giving their best in the team. Whether I am captain or Shoaib, everyone gives 100%," he said.

Sarfaraz personally apologised to Phehlukwayo. He said the South African was more upset with the inappropriate comments directed at his mother.

"I explained to him that as Muslims, it is our belief ... any player in our cricket team has reached here because of the prayers of his mother," Sarfaraz said.

## 'Hopeful of leading Pakistan after ban ends'

Suspended Sarfraz hopeful and ready to learn from his mistakes

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
KARACHI

Suspended Pakistan skipper Sarfraz Ahmed, who was caught making racist comments against a South African player, said on Sunday he was hopeful of captaining the side after his ban ends.

Sarfraz was suspended for four matches by the International Cricket Council (ICC) for his racist comments against Andile Phehlukwayo during the second ODI in Durban on January 22.

"It is the PCB which will decide about the captaincy. But I am hopeful and ready to learn from my mistakes,"

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- Internal Auditor
- Registered Valuer
- GST Professional
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- Governance Professional
- Corporate Compliance & Risk Manager
- Advisor to the Board of Directors
- Expert under Companies Act, 2013
- Appearance before Tribunals

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IN BRIEF  
Alfonso Cuarón wins at Directors Guild for Roma

LOS ANGELES  
Alfonso Cuarón was named best director by his peers for his semi-autobiographical film *Roma*, cementing his front-runner status ahead of the Oscars in three weeks time. The Directors Guild of America awarded its top prize to the Mexican director for his critically-acclaimed black and white movie about a domestic worker in 1970s Mexico. REUTERS



NASA's Hubble telescope discovers dwarf galaxy

LONDON  
The Hubble Space Telescope has made an unexpected discovery of a never-before-seen dwarf galaxy in our cosmic backyard, located just 30 million light-years away. An international team of astronomers used the NASA/ESA Hubble Space Telescope to study white dwarf stars within the globular cluster NGC 6752. PTI



'Repetitions the key to forming good habits'

NEW YORK  
If you want to form good habits – such as going to the gym and eating healthy – then you need to train your brain by repeating actions until they stick, says a study. Researchers created a model for the study, published in *Psychological Review*. IANS

# 'Inkjet' solar panels set to reshape green energy

Perovskites-coated cells are light, flexible and inexpensive

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE  
WROCŁAW

What if one day all buildings could be equipped with windows and facades that satisfy the structure's every energy need, whether rain or shine?

That sustainability dream is today one step closer to becoming a reality thanks to Polish physicist and businesswoman Olga Malinkiewicz.

The 36-year-old has developed a novel inkjet processing method for perovskites – a new generation of cheaper solar cells – that makes it possible to produce solar panels under lower temperatures, thus sharply reducing costs.

"In our opinion, perovskite solar cells have the potential to address the world energy poverty," said Mohammad Khaja Nazeeruddin, a professor at Switzerland's Federal Institute of Technology Lausanne.

Solar panels coated with the mineral are light, flexible, efficient, inexpensive and come in varying hues and degrees of transparency.

They can easily be fixed to almost any surface – be it laptop, car, drone, spacecraft or building – to produce electricity, including in the shade or indoors.

Though the excitement is new, perovskite has been known to science since at least the 1830s, when it was first identified by German mineralogist Gustav Rose while prospecting in the Ural mountains and named after Russian mineralogist Lev Perovski.

**'Bull's eye'**  
In the following decades, synthesising the atomic



Solar boom: Physicist and businesswoman Olga Malinkiewicz with a printed solar panel in Wroclaw, Poland. • AFP

structure of perovskite became easier. But it was not until 2009 that Japanese researcher Tsutomu Miyasaka discovered that perovskites can be used to form photovoltaic solar cells.

Initially the process was complicated and required ultra high temperatures, so only materials that could withstand extreme heat – like glass – could be coated with perovskite cells.

In 2013, while still a Ph.D student at the University of Valencia in Spain, Ms. Malinkiewicz figured out a way to coat flexible foil with perovskites using an evaporation method.

Later, she developed an inkjet printing procedure that lowered production costs enough to make mass production economically feasible. "That was a bull's eye. Now high temperatures are no longer required to coat things with a photovoltaic layer," she said.

Her discovery earned her an article in the journal *Nature* and media attention, as well as the Photonics21 Student Innovation award in a competition organised by the European Commission.

She went on to cofound the company Saulé Technologies – named after the Baltic goddess of the sun – along with two Polish businessmen.

The company is building an industrial-scale production site.

"This will be the world's first production line using this technology. Its capacity will reach 40,000 square metres of panels by the end of the year and 1,800,000 square metres the following year," Ms. Malinkiewicz said.

## Self-sufficient buildings

The Swedish construction group Skanska is testing the cutting-edge panels on the facade of one of its buildings in Warsaw. It also inked a licensing partnership with Saulé for exclusive right to incorporate the technology in its projects in Europe, the U.S. and Canada.

"More or less transparent, the panels also respond to design requirements. Thanks to their flexibility and varying tints, there's no need to add any extra architectural elements," said Adam Targowski, sustainability manager at Skanska.

# Japan wants more women in office, but household chores get in the way

They can help meet the labour shortage caused by a rapidly ageing population

MOTOKO RICH  
TOKYO

The paperwork never ends for Yoshiko Nishimasa.

There are the meticulous logs she must fill out every day, not to mention the pages of work she carefully checks and approves. She even keeps daily records of conversations, activities and meals. But none of this is for her job as a marketing professional. It's all for her children's preschool.

Like so many working mothers in Japan, Ms. Nishimasa, 38, is swamped by onerous, bureaucratic tasks that have nothing to do with her profession but constrain her participation in the workforce at a time when the country says it desperately needs more from women like her.

Prime Minister Shinzo Abe has a goal of energising his nation's sputtering economy by elevating women in the labour force. At the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland, in January, Mr. Abe boasted that 67% of women were working in Japan, an all-time high.

## Opposed to immigration

With a declining and rapidly ageing population, Japanese employers are struggling with a severe labour shortage. Mr. Abe has underscored the importance of working women to shore up the economy.

But more than half of working women are employed part time, and about a third are on temporary contracts. Women in Japan represent fewer than 1% of management positions, compared with an average of 4.6% among the world's most developed nations.

And Japanese women often face a double-edged sword. They ambition – and the nation's as a whole – is the disproportionate burden women shoulder at home.

It is a legacy of the country's domestic expectations and rigid gender roles for who performs them. While Japanese women have entered the workforce at historic levels, their avalanche of domestic responsibilities is not shrinking – and men in Japan do fewer hours of household chores and child care than in any of the world's wealthiest nations.

But Japan's economy needs educated women like Ms. Nishimasa to work to their full potential. After Second World War, as the nation entered a period of rapid economic growth, Japanese women typically quit work when they married or gave birth, taking care of the home while their husbands worked punishingly long hours.

The publisher where she landed a job later did not ask her marital status.

After giving birth, Ms. Nishimasa graduated, she worked for a textbook publisher as a sales associate. She married four years later. Much to her shock, the company converted her employment status to part time, she said. "My boss started saying, 'You are not long for this job because you're probably just going to go off and have kids, right?'" she recalled. She looked for another job, but prospective employers said, "You probably can't work late, right?"

The publisher where she landed a job later did not ask her marital status.

After giving birth, Ms. Nishimasa never thought of quitting. But because her husband is expected to meet rigorous targets for raises and promotions, she cut back on work to take care of the children. NY TIMES



Overstretched moms: Yoshiko Nishimasa collecting her children's belongings from preschool. • NYT

Like many Japanese companies, Ms. Nishimasa's employer accommodates her towering domestic responsibilities. Until her youngest child, 2, enters second grade, she can work a shortened seven-hour day, albeit for 30% lower pay. She is never asked to do the kind of overtime she regularly put in before her children were born, when she was often at the office until 10 p.m. or later.

After Ms. Nishimasa graduated, she worked for a textbook publisher as a sales associate. She married four years later. Much to her shock, the company converted her employment status to part time, she said. "My boss started saying, 'You are not long for this job because you're probably just going to go off and have kids, right?'"

The publisher where she landed a job later did not ask her marital status.

After giving birth, Ms. Nishimasa never thought of quitting. But because her husband is expected to meet rigorous targets for raises and promotions, she cut back on work to take care of the children. NY TIMES

## World War grenade found in potato shipment



The German First World War hand grenade. • AFP

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE  
HONG KONG

A German First World War hand grenade was found among a shipment of French potatoes imported for a Hong Kong crisp factory, police said.

The grenade was safely

destroyed after it was discovered at the Calbee snacks factory on Saturday.

"The grenade was in an unstable condition because it has been previously discharged but failed to detonate," Superintendent Wilfred Wong Ho-hon said.

Police detonated it on site. A police video showed bomb disposal officers packing the grenade in a drainage channel at the factory before blowing it up.

The grenade was 8 cm wide and weighed about 1 kg.

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# Peppa back in China's good graces

The cartoon character is enjoying stardom as the country ushers in the Year of the Pig

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE  
BEIJING

Roasted as a subversive symbol and chopped from a video streaming website in China, it seemed Peppa Pig, the loveable but imperious British cartoon character, faced a bleak future in the Communist-led country.

But her popularity has risen unabated, and now just months after state media slammed her as an emblem of the counterculture, she is playing a starring role as the country ushers in the Year of the Pig on Tuesday.

A new film titled *Peppa Pig Celebrates Chinese New Year* is being released on the first day of the holiday.

The movie shows Peppa celebrating Lunar New Year with two new friends – "Jiaozhi" (dumpling) and "Tang yuan" (glutinous rice ball) – named after popular local delicacies.

The animation, which follows the daily adventures of a bright pink piglet, her



Pepped-up: A girl playing an interactive game in the Peppa Pig World of Play, an indoor theme park in Shanghai. • AFP

brother George and her parents, is hugely popular with Chinese children.

Last year, five-year-old twins Mi Ai and Mi Ni made a video asking to meet Queen Elizabeth II after seeing their porcine heroine visit the monarch in an episode.

The clip garnered more than nine million views. The pair were then invited for tea by the British Ambassador to Beijing and promised a tour of Buckingham Palace.

The cartoon's focus on family values has resonated with parents who strictly

monitor their children's TV time, agreed Li Xin as she bought a Peppa toy for her four-year-old at a store.

Peppa Pig first broadcast in China in 2015 but last May some 30,000 clips of the cartoon were removed from a popular video streaming site, following criticism from State media.

Papers affiliated to the Communist Party wrote harsh columns about Peppa Pig being hijacked by gangsters and subversives to create videos that reject mainstream values.

The film has already earned 12 million yuan (\$1.8 million) in presale tickets.

In a country where the pig is a symbol of wealth, Peppa merchandise is in high demand. But the success of the Peppa brand has also brought headaches for the cartoon's creators. Copycat merchandise – from cookies to pencil cases – can be easily found in corner stores in Chinese cities.

## Decoded: why you feel sleepy when unwell

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
WASHINGTON

Scientists, including one of Indian origin, have identified a gene that makes a person sleepy when they are sick.

Researchers from the University of Pennsylvania found that a single gene, called nemuri, fights germs with its inherent antimicrobial activity and drives prolonged, deep sleep after an infection.

"Our study directly links sleep to the immune system and provides a potential explanation for how sleep increases during sickness," said Amita Sehgal, a professor at the University of Pennsylvania.

Kenneth Toft-Hansen took the gold medal at Bocuse d'Or



Kenneth Toft-Hansen celebrating his win. • AP

side hotel in Denmark's Jutland region. "Nordic style is plain and simple," Team Finland chef Jouni Sipiläinen said. "Local

ingredients are also very different." Mr. Sipiläinen's and Jouni Kurkela's Team Finland won the best platter prize.

Associated Press

LYON

Team Denmark took the gold medal at the biennial Bocuse d'Or competition in the French city of Lyon last week ahead of Sweden, Norway and Finland.

Danish chef Kenneth Toft-Hansen had chosen theme "Flora Danica" for his dishes in the competition, in reference to their local ingredients, including juniper and wild thyme, which are found along the country's coasts.

Toft-Hansen has run a highly praised restaurant at Svinkloev Badehotel, a sea-



# EDGE

■ ARCHANA SUBRAMANIAN

Raghavendra Rathore is a leading name in luxury men's wear in India. His royal lineage and 1,200 years of family history is the very foundation of his brand and creative calling. After completing his formal education from the Parsons School of Design, New York, Rathore worked in Manhattan under international designers Oscar de la Renta and Donna Karan, before launching his own label in 1994.

The Rathore Jodhpur brand was the genesis of his journey of fashion and lifestyle design. Rathore has been recognised for his contribution to global fashion; he is credited for placing the quintessential Jodhpur badgala jacket on the fashion map.

Last year, Rathore launched The Gurukul School of Design (GSD), to help students adapt to the changing design needs of the ever-evolving society and to nurture and hone creative future-ready design professionals. One of the things that inspires him to venture into education was a serendipitous meeting with a gentleman named Robert Valtz, who helped him sustain a world class education in New York. "His support, with a condition that I would also help others garner quality education in the future, has led me to conceive the idea of establishing a design college," he says.

Rathore talks to EDGE about the business and academics of fashion.

**How is GSD different from other design school in India?**

The core of each school is different. GSD will teach the value of world culture through design and equip students with technical and non-technical skills to enable them to become entrepreneurs, if they wish to do so, as soon as they graduate. The GSD pedagogy allows students to sharpen their in-



SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT



## Tailor-made for success

Raghavendra Rathore's Gurukul School of Design fuses rich craft traditions from the East into a modern curriculum to meet the needs of an ever-evolving society

teraction with modern tools and indirectly prepares them for working on a cyclic approach which will become the norm as they start their own businesses. This methodology allows ample opportunity to apply knowledge in real decision-making situations revolving around design. The knowledge of design will be clubbed with the understanding of public relations, marketing and management of the business, and how to build a brand.

### What is the need for fashion education?

The design landscape around us is changing and young design enthusiasts must be shown the path to re-calibrate the learning process. Students need to be nurtured to be more than just mundane designers; that is what we aim to do at GSD. The curriculum allows students to replicate what a designer does in real life; it is contemporary and simultaneous-

ly exciting for students who are used to instant gratification and find the old methodology of design teaching lethargic and lacking in creativity.

**How should education be tailored to supplement the business of fashion?**

Innovation and the depth of knowledge are the need of the hour. The instinct and the ability



- GSD offers an integrated four-year Bachelor's Degree in Design.
- It includes courses in design, management, business of design, and "Gurukul Well-Being" — time management, personal grooming, and professional ethics.
- The selection process includes a self-portrait, creative essay, design portfolio, and situation exam.



to think beyond Google searches to create original idea of design, will differentiate one brand from the other.

Words for aspiring young designers...

Manage your time well, be pa-

tient, and let the growth be organic. Don't be afraid to experiment with your passion. Being a designer today is not just about being creative but also about being able to establish your signature, to be able to present and speak well, and ensuring that the designer brand will be a success.

### SCHOLARSHIPS

#### Maker's Asylum D.I.V.E. Programme 2019

Maker's Asylum in partnership with Xavier-Em Lyon Business School is conducting a one-month long, project-based experiential learning programme in the areas of frugal innovation, BOP economics, social innovation, social enterprise, CSR and many others.

**ELIGIBILITY:** Students, entrepreneurs and corporate organisations can apply.

**PRIZES AND REWARDS:** Course fee waiver of 50-75%.

**DEADLINE:** February 10

**APPLICATION MODE:** Online

b4s.in/EDGE/DMA2

#### IGLP Residential Fellowship Program, Harvard Law School 2019-20, USA

Institute for Global Law and Policy, Harvard Law School is offering the scholarship to encourage the development in international law, society and political economy.

**ELIGIBILITY:** Doctoral or post-doctoral scholars who are currently pursuing research in the areas of global law, economic policy and social justice.

**PRIZES AND REWARDS:** Stipend, shared office and related resources like

computer and printer.

**DEADLINE:** February 22

**APPLICATION MODE:**

Online applications.

b4s.in/EDGE/IRF4

Online

#### HP Udaan Scholarship Programme 2018-19

HP Inc. India is giving this scholarship to students of economically weaker section. A total of 750 scholars will be selected; 50% seats reserved for women.

**ELIGIBILITY:** Students who have cleared class X in 2018 and currently enrolled for one-year diploma/ITI or two-year HSC/Diploma/ITI programmes. Students who

have cleared class XII in 2018 and currently enrolled for three-year diploma or three-year UG programmes. Candidates must have minimum 60% marks in last qualifying examination and having family income less than ₹4L p.a. are eligible.

**PRIZES AND REWARDS:** For class XI-XII/ITI/Diploma, ₹20,000 p.a.; for three-years degree/diploma, ₹30,000 p.a.; one-time ₹20,000, for one Year ITI/Diploma.

**DEADLINE:** February 26, 2019

**APPLICATION:** Online applications.

b4s.in/EDGE/HUS2

Courtesy: www.buddy4study.com

### ETCETERA

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#### AISTF Scholarship 2019

The All India Scholarship Test Foundation is offering scholarships to students who are willing to take MBA, PGDM admission in Indian institutes. There will be an entrance test held for the scholarship.

**ELIGIBILITY:** Candidates must be Indian and not hold any other country's passport. The minimum acceptable age is 17 years and the maximum age is 25 years. Final year appearing students can apply. Students must have completed education, as per accepted Indian standards.

**VALUE OF THE AWARDS:** Up to ₹30,000

**DEADLINE:** February 27, 2019

**EXAM DATE:** March 3, 2019

**RESULT DATE:** March 10, 2019

aistf.org

### VOICES

## Rooting for quality over quantity

The All Indian Council for Technical Education has refused approval to new engineering colleges in the academic sessions 2020-2022. What could be the potential outcome of this directive?

■ NEHA RUEPJA



**RAJBIR SINGH**, GRADUATE 2017, INDIAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY (IIT), PATNA

This unprecedented move will force the government to use the existing resources more judiciously rather than expanding them. Also, the step to focus more on emerging technologies rather than traditional disciplines will make students eligible for more employment opportunities. On the other hand, we need to handle the growing number of engineering aspirants given the fixed number of colleges. Whether the government will increase its investment on existing colleges to cope up with this situation, is something that needs to be seen.

**ADITYA KADIAN**, III, M.Sc GEOPHYSICS, IIT, KHARAGPUR

Considering there are thousands of engineering colleges in India, and many graduates of which are unemployed, such decisions need to be taken.

Moreover, the profession of engineering does not enjoy the status and aspiration it used to. I think it is a reasonable decision on AICTE's part to take a pause in approving new engineering colleges. But they should instead focus more on the quality of the existing engineering colleges.

**This unprecedented move will force the government to use the existing resources more judiciously...**

RAJBIR SINGH

**MAITYREE KUMARI**, B.A (PES), MOUNT CARMEL COLLEGE, BENGALURU

Ameliorated quality of existing colleges should be the focus rather than approving new ones. Resources should be allocated to improve facilities like labs and upgrade the technical programmes which would help reduce unemployment to some extent. This would also bridge the industry-academia gap and save unnecessary wastage of money, time, and energy. Furthermore, increased competition will enhance the quality of education offered.


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  - 8<sup>th</sup> All India in Top Govt. B-Schools (Competition Success Review 2018)
  - 1<sup>st</sup> Best B-School in Hyderabad, The Week 2018
  - 22<sup>nd</sup> All India (Careers 360 2018)
  - 31<sup>st</sup> Rank All India (Times B-School Ranking 2018)
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# Evolve, but consciously

If you pause to consider, our individual evolution is as grand as that of Planet Earth's



## LIVE LIGHTLY

NIVEDITA DAS NARAYAN

Evolution is growth and progress; it takes place when some old, seemingly impermeable parts in us find new dimension, as altered perspective and better ways within us. I will call it change, change that is steadily progressive. In my own life, change has been both wilful and involuntary. What is common across much of the change is that they are not conscious adoption from experiences and influences – in fact, changes are akin to morphing of the old into, somewhat, new ways of perceiving and discerning. I also suspect that some aspects of the change would have been dormant within me and found their way out of the hole, as I opened up to potential and possibilities. If we view

change in a continuum, it will not be linear and would have begun its slow amble, jousting with oblivion and resistance, toying with acknowledgement before it met acceptance within us.

**Self reflection**  
Let us sample it. Roughly seven-to-eight years back and until before, I would rue my inability to deliver a clever, sharp repartee in an exchange that I thought, required a demonstration of my views. Until much after the exchange, I would replay a sharper, smarter version of the response in my mind, all the while miserable about the failure to perform in that moment. In a continuum of life situations, I seem to have lost that urge to speak until specifically asked and when unable to, I regret a lack of restraint on getting caught in a conversation where I could have avoided voicing myself. Clearly, the urge to be sharp has morphed into one for softness. As on today, I enjoy listening

to and observing the other person, in monologue. It also allows me to note my reactions to what is being said and gain insights into me.

Philosopher Hannah Arendt has called this state *Being v/s Appearing*, a gradual dilution of our *impulse to self-display*. Poet, philosopher Kahlil Gibran explores this as interplay between *our seeming selves and our being selves* – and the waning of the aspirational (idealised) self, as we get closer to our inner wholeness.

This is evolution – a gradual shift from involuntary to conscious living. The word has been grand in its usage, but is far more ordinary in occurrence. In fact, we are continuously evolving in

bits and bytes, as we go about experiencing each day. As Marcus Aurelius says, "No experience really goes wasted". The question to ponder is if we can make each experience improve and expand us.

How do we recognise the minute changes and become better at living in awareness? It is key to note that evolution marries change with topicality. Like I said that it all existed within us, but begins to manifest once we are primed for it. A big part of being primed is to slow down, to pause: when we naturally begin to notice the shifts in our own interplay with everyday experiences.

Does this view make me feel tight or bring lightness?

Are the 1,000 friends on Facebook giving me joy anymore or is the select set on messenger those who I value?

Am I growing to understand and appreciate people differently, even those who I considered insufferable?

- Evolution is a gradual shift from involuntary to conscious living
- A big part of being primed is to slow down, to pause
- Yes and no answers to simple questions indicate evolution – getting closer to *who we really are*

Does holding on to this belief (judgement, assumption) sit heavily on my chest?

Yes and no answers to such simple questions indicate evolution – getting closer to *who we really are* in our daily occupations. Evolution is certainly not only about the big changes; it is central to the simplicity of daily life. And beginning to be conscious of change is growth.

Frankly, we do owe it to ourselves to make the best of our own evolution.

The author is a freelance writer, blogger, and life coach.  
nivedita@lifealigncoaching.com

**How do we recognise the minute changes and become better at living in awareness? It's key to note that evolution marries change with topicality.**

## Forgive and let go

Harbouring rancour or hostility on a long-term basis exacts a toll on our physical and mental well-being



## THINK

ARUNA SANKARANARAYANAN

Your best friend starts cold shoudering you, all of a sudden. A professor grades you unfairly because you corrected her in class. Your parents make a big deal of your sister's achievements, but when you do well, they barely seem to notice. You find out that your fiancé is cheating on you and you break off the engagement. A colleague, who is vying for your position, spreads false rumours that slander your character, in the office.

Each one of these involves a transgression, albeit to varying degrees. It is a fact of life that people let us down. When we have been wronged, we may experience a smorgasbord of emotions. While we may feel hurt, angry or violated soon after the offense, these feelings may simmer down to a pervasive state of bitterness or resentment, depending on the perceived degree of wrongdoing. But harbouring rancour or hostility, on a long-term basis, exacts a toll on our physical and mental well-being. So, when others injure us, we are doubly stung; first by the misdemeanor inflicted on us and second, by the cauldron of negative emotions that stew inside us. However, this need not be the case.

**Faster healing**  
Psychological research indicates that when we learn to forgive, our bodies and mind heal faster. In a study conducted by Robert Enright and colleagues, the researchers provided forgiveness therapy to men who were admitted in the cardiac ward of a hospital. The men who were selected to participate in the study were also deeply angry with another person for a perceived injustice, and were asked to narrate the story of the unfair treatment they were subjected to, while the blood flow to their hearts was measured. Before forgiveness therapy, blood flow to their hearts reduced when they were talking about their hurt; whereas following therapy, when the men recounted



the same story, the blood flow remained unchanged.

In another study, middle-school students who were doing poorly in academics, due to inattention, were selected. Children's "level of anger and dissatisfaction in life" were assessed, using psychological scales. Then, they were given forgiveness counselling. Subsequently, their ability to focus, grades, and relationship with others improved.

So, what exactly does forgiveness entail? First, it goes beyond words, and can be done without thoughts being verbalised. It does not, in anyway, condone the offence or crime, but instead, allows you to see the offender "as fully human, in spite of what he or she did." Further, the person forgiving has to do so voluntarily.

Even if your offer of reconciliation is spurned by the other party, Enright says that you may "willingly and deliberately offer goodness to those who have been unfair" to you.

Like any other skill, learning to

- Forgiveness goes beyond words, and can be done without thoughts being verbalised
- Learning to forgive also takes practice
- Forgiveness makes you recognise that "You share a common personhood with the one who hurt you."

**Psychological research indicates that when we learn to forgive, our bodies and mind heal faster.**

forgive also takes practice. Initially, it may be tough for you to feel anything other than loathing for the person who offended you. But, if you persist in trying to let go of your malice, bit and bit, and gradually substitute negative thoughts with positive ones, you will find that forgiveness gets easier with time. No matter what the crime, forgiveness makes you recognise that "You share a common personhood with the one who hurt you."

Further, we are all culpable for hurting others. While we may feel that we would never inflict the kind of harm that was meted out to us, perhaps, we can't be so sure if we were born and raised under entirely different circumstances.

This outlook will probably allow you to forgive those who have perpetrated more heinous injuries.

A reporter once asked the Dalai Lama if he was angry with the Chinese for having taken over Tibet. The Dalai Lama responded, "They have taken everything from us, should I let them take my mind as well?"

The author is Director, PRAYATNA. arunasankara@gmail.com

## Time to play with a full deck



### KNOW YOUR ENGLISH

S. UPENDRAN

What is the difference between 'postpone' and 'adjourn'? (L. Sethuraman, Chennai)

Most of us are familiar with the word 'postpone'; it is the more common of the two. When you 'postpone' doing something, you delay doing it. You put it off to another day or another time. A meeting scheduled to be held on Monday may be postponed to Thursday. Postponing a meeting usually happens before the meeting actually takes place. It could be a few hours or a few days before the scheduled time. The word 'adjourn' brings to mind the Parliament sessions in our country. When you 'adjourn' a meeting, you are bringing it to a close temporarily; you are making it clear to everyone that the meeting will resume at a later time or on a later date.

Unlike in the case of 'postpone', the meeting has already begun;

it is not possible to adjourn something before it has begun. As for the pronunciation of 'adjourn', the first vowel sounds like the 'a' in 'China', and the following 'dj' sounds like the 'j' in 'jam', 'juice' and 'jump'.

The final 'ourn' rhymes with the 'urn' in 'burn', 'turn' and 'churn'. This rather formal word is pronounced 'e-JURN'

with the stress on the second syllable. It comes from the French phrase 'a-journ' meaning 'to another day'.

*Kohli, Federer and Ronaldo are elite athletes.*

*According to this report, the wealthy elite is unhappy with the PM.*

What is the meaning and origin of 'not playing with a full deck'? (K. Nandini, Mysuru)

The expression is mostly used to show disapproval in American English, and its use is limited to informal contexts. When you say that someone is 'not playing with a full deck', what you are suggesting is that the person is not bright; he is, in fact, rather dull or stupid. The expression can also suggest that the person in question is not mentally sound – in everyday language, he is 'crazy'. The deck in the expression refers to a deck of playing cards. The person is being compared to a deck that does not contain the 52 cards that are required to play any game – something is missing in both the person and the pack of cards.

*I don't wish to work with Pankaj. I don't think he's playing with a full deck.*

*The way she behaved at the party makes me suspect that she's not playing with a full deck.*

\*\*\*\*\*

*Insanity doesn't run in my family – it gallops. Cary Grant*

The author teaches at the English and Foreign Languages University, Hyderabad. upendrankye@gmail.com

## KNOWLEDGE

Q1

The United Service Organisation, or USO, is a non-profit charitable corporation that provides live entertainment through comedians, actors and musicians. Since its founding on this day, in 1941, it has relied heavily on private contributions, goods, and services from corporate or individual donors. This organisation, only provides these services to a select group of people, and was founded to make those people feel like they were 'home away from home.'

Considering its year of establishment, which set of people does it entertain?

Q2

"Firelight" is a 1964 science fiction adventure film written and directed by a legendary director at the age of 17, with a budget of just \$500. It was shown in a local theatre, where 500 people had come to see the show, paying \$1 in admission fees. However, the director says they made a profit of \$1, thinking someone had accidentally paid an extra dollar. Although it is the first film he made, his directorial debut is considered 'Duel', as it was his first full-length film.

Who is this director, who is the highest-grossing film director in history?

Q3

James Gosling (pictured) created this software platform in June 1991. The software was initially called 'Oak', after an oak tree that stood outside Gosling's office. It was later changed to 'Green', and was finally named after a blend of Indonesian coffee. Later acquired by Oracle Corp., this language is ubiquitous in the majority of computers in the world.

What is the software called?

Q4

Native only to an island nation, off the coast of Africa, these animals were named by Carl Linnaeus (pictured), after the Roman word for ghosts or spirits, because of their slow pace and nocturnal habits.

Which animal?

Q5

In standard usage, this word's meaning has narrowed from earlier, and now describes a non-existent society that is intended to be viewed as considerably better than contemporary society. This word comes from Greek, and means both 'good place' and 'no place', as a humorous angle, to say that a perfect society doesn't exist. Nowa Huta (pictured), in Poland, serves as an unfinished example of this concept.

What word is this?

Q6

Chinese sport brand Qiao Dan (pronounced cheow dahn) was embroiled in controversy in 2016, when a popular American athlete claimed that the brand was falsely portraying his affiliation with the brand. After a landmark court case, the athlete won, and the brand conceded. Early last year, the brand countersued the athlete, claiming their brand was hurt by his malicious slander.

Who is the athlete?

COURTESY: WALNUT KNOWLEDGE SOLUTIONS

ANSWERS

## VIDEO CAFE

INDIRA TIRUMALA



## Improving mental organisation

We live in a world where we are constantly fed information and inputs from various sources. While this is great for us to expand our knowledge and generate new ideas, a downside is that too much information in our minds will lead to mental cluttering. So, how do we organise information and increase our ability to recall and use different bits of information easily? In this talk, Trisha Bindu, a student, offers her experience as a self-proclaimed scatterbrain, and the techniques she uses to manage the storage and recall of information in her mind. With interesting ideas such as the Method of Loci and S.A.I. being discussed, this talk is a must for those seeking to improve their mental dexterity.

Watch the video here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cmV75DrTX6w>

## EAR SHOT

ASHOK RAJAGOPALAN





MADHUVANTI S. KRISHNAN

When the ground is covered by a thick blanket of snow and more of it falls incessantly, all you would want to do is stay safe indoors and perhaps, curl up with a book and a piping hot cup of coffee. However, there are innumerable youngsters who, braving all odds, go out into the open and find their way to schools – across snowy, mountainous terrain, boulders, and harsh weather, to quench their thirst for knowledge and heighten their chances of quality education. And it is to provide an impetus to such students that Sujata Sahu and her husband Sandeep founded 17,000 ft Foundation, an NGO that maps schools in Ladakh, in a bid to try and improve the quality of education there.

"Everyone knows Kargil only because of the infamous war; no one has the faintest idea about what exactly is happening here. There are thousands of enthusiastic children who fervently want to go to school and make it big in life. But the difficulties they experience are unimaginable," elaborates Sujata. So, what led to founding 17,000 ft Foundation? Her trigger to start the NGO was a trek that she undertook to Ladakh in 2010. She trekked to Leh, stayed in a house in a tiny village that was completely cut off from the rest of the town, and was awestruck to see children's hunger for education.

She explains, "I visited two schools there. The first, a primary school, Sku-Kaya, had just five children and



- 17,000 ft Foundation maps schools in Ladakh to improve the quality of education.
- The biggest challenge was encouraging donors to focus on Ladakh's remote regions.
- They have set up libraries in 230 schools, trained over 1,500 teachers, conducted over 500 reading workshops and improved infrastructure in 134 schools.

two teachers. It had two rooms which were being rebuilt. One teacher stayed in the village, while the other had gone to Leh to get uniforms and mid-day meal supplies for the kids. The second school had eight children and three teachers, two of whom I met – they were walking back to Leh for textbooks and uniforms. Though it was July, the temperature at those altitudes was cold, but it didn't deter children from going to school. One of them even brought his barely two-year-old brother along. These instances became my inspiration to drop everything and help these amazing people."

**Challenges**  
The decision to leave the school she had been working in, Sujata explains, was possibly the hardest she had to make, primarily because she was planning to take on a

**C Today, we are working to make our adopted schools models for the local administration to adopt.**

SUJATA SAHU

seemingly Herculean task, in possibly one of the world's toughest terrains. She had no inkling about where she would get the funds from and how much of an impact she alone could make. There was also no precedence to what she wanted to attempt, nothing that she could learn from. When they started off, the team's biggest challenge was encouraging donors to focus on Ladakh's remote regions. While corporates were sympathetic to the cause, the remoteness of the project sites deterred them from extending support, which put Ladakh at a disadvantage.

So, what was the immediate solution? "To counter this, we encouraged employees to spend their vacation in Ladakh with us, which generated awareness about our projects and gave them the confidence to support our programmes," she explains.

One of the other challenges included being on the road for two to three weeks a month without connectivity. Travelling in winter was arduous. With temperatures dipping to negative 25°C, packing snow chains, clearing snow paths and carrying

stoves to warm up the fuel tanks was no mean feat. Roadblocks, landslides, broken bridges and snowed-in villages were just some of the problems they had to face. Now, being stuck in a village due to unexpected problems has become a part of the job. This is no different from how Ladakhis have lived, for generations, and has now become part of the culture of 17000 ft. "It is little wonder that most of our team is composed of young Ladakhis – they are from the same villages that they are trying to improve, and draw inspiration from the hardships they see in the villages that they regularly travel to," adds Sujata.

And the team's efforts have reaped rich dividends. "Today, we have set up libraries in 230 schools across Leh and Kargil, trained over 1,500 teachers in different methodologies, conducted over 500 reading workshops and improved infrastructure in 134 schools. In our biggest programme yet, the Digilab, we solarised 105 schools and set up fully furnished digital labs with tablets, servers, a TV, and digital content in each of the schools. Our pro-

grammes have now been adopted by the local administration and work is being carried out to make it sustainable," reels off Sujata, the excitement in her voice unmistakeable.

#### Busting myths

Sujata reminisces about the first time they went to Kargil and set up their first library in Lattoo, a village, a few kilometres off the Pakistan border. "Many families had been separated during the Kargil war, and have experienced trauma, despite which they are dedicated towards a bright future for their children. On our visit, we were surprised to find the entire village waiting for us," she recalls. "They were extremely grateful that we had adopted their school, and promised to utilise the library to the fullest. But what touched us the most was their simple pleasure at seeing us, non-Kargilis, come all the way from our homes, to visit their village, and their eagerness to convey to the rest of the country that they were as Indian as the rest of us. It is unfortunate that most of us relate to Kargil only as a place of war, while the reality is that it is an extremely beautiful and peaceful region, with people who value education."

"Today, we are working to make our adopted schools models for the local administration to adopt. Someday, we may replicate our solution in other remote, Himalayan mountain states such as Arunachal Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, and others," signs off Sujata, on a hopeful note.

#### LEVEL UP

## Measure your GOALS

When you are setting a target, make yourself accountable and motivated towards achieving it

VINEY KIRPAL

# SMART



- SMART is an acronym for: specific; measurable; action-oriented; realistic; time-bound.
- SMART goal-setting will mathematically calculate whether or not we are on track to attaining our aspirations.
- The more measurable an objective is, the more realisable will be the end goal.

considering that she has a fairly busy schedule at college? Or is her plan doomed for failure?

Not at all. Smriti can set SMART objectives for each day and each week. Her SMART objective could be: "I

will study and revise one chapter in ten days by mastering the concepts and practising problems for one and a half hours every day." If she sticks to this, then she should be able to complete her course successfully in six months. The more measurable an objective is in the specific actions to be taken, the amount of time (hours) to be spent, and the amount of work to be com-

pleted daily, the more realisable will be her end goal of completing the course with good grades.

Two habits will help Smriti meet her challenge: First is self-discipline. She must keep on working on her daily objectives and adhere to them with determination. Second, she must cultivate the ability of beating off the initial inertia that sets in the first few days. If she can overcome the temptation of giving up midway and continue to study with steadfastness, she will surely succeed.

SMART goal and objective-setting is easy. It is pragmatic. It allows us to mathematically calculate whether or not we are on track to attaining our aspirations. This simple technique can easily be turned into a habit. Its benefits in school, college, career and in life itself are many. As we succeed in our goals one by one, we acquire a positive and confident outlook. We stay motivated to achieve more.

Viney Kirpal is a trained coach and corporate consultant.

RK Narayan, one of India's beloved and best known writers, author of *The Guide* and *Malgudi Days*, wrote several novels, short stories, essays, diaries, and mythological re-tellings during his lifetime. Many of us wish to write like Narayan but we never get down to it. Our usual explanation is that we do not have the time. The reality is, we set goals but show little reflection on how we plan to achieve them.

#### On target

In *My Days*, a diary, Narayan shares his daily routine as a writer. He would sit at his desk every morning at 9 a.m. and continue to write until 1 p.m. He would write approximately 700 words during this period. Each of his books is around 200 printed pages. He published a book almost every year or two. In his lifetime, he wrote 33 books and produced minimum 6,600 printed pages! Not only was he a prolific writer but he was also very creative.

Although Narayan does not mention it, there is an unstated, perhaps unconscious plan and method in his productivity. It reveals his ability to set goals and objectives for his writing, and accomplish his task with ease. Setting "SMART" goals and objectives is the way to fulfil one's aspirations.

Goals are different from objec-

**SMART goal and objective-setting is easy. It allows us to mathematically calculate whether or not we are on track to attaining our aspirations.**

tives. While goals are our end-point intentions, objectives are the day-to-day milestones that we wish to cover in our journey to the larger goal. For example, wanting to improve one's English vocabulary is a general, non-specific, long-term goal. Alternately, deciding to add 900 new words to one's English vocabulary in three months is a specific end-point goal. The goal can be achieved by setting the short, time-based objective of learning 10 new words by spending one hour on the task every day for three months.

SMART is an acronym for: specific; measurable; action-oriented; realistic; time-bound.

Let us understand this concept with the example of Narayan. His general goal, it seems, was to write a new book but his specific objective was to write it by penning 700 words every day. Since this objective was

specific, measurable, had an action plan and time frame for action, it was a SMART objective. Plus, it was also attainable.

**In practice**  
Narayan, a well-established author, could stick to his objective and achieve his goals. But, can students do it too? Can they plan and achieve their aspirations through SMART goals and objectives?

Take the instance of Smriti, a third year engineering student. She wishes to learn an additional course such as Introduction to Artificial Intelligence (AI) being taught on weekends. Her purpose in doing so is to enhance her knowledge and add to her resume. Will she be able to do it?

the amount of work to be completed daily, the more realisable will be her end goal of completing the course with good grades.

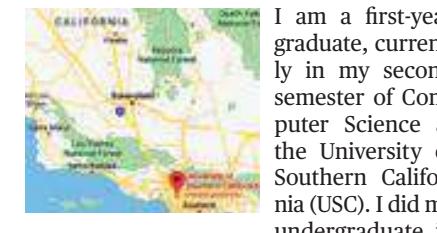
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SMART goal and objective-setting is easy. It is pragmatic. It allows us to mathematically calculate whether or not we are on track to attaining our aspirations. This simple technique can easily be turned into a habit. Its benefits in school, college, career and in life itself are many. As we succeed in our goals one by one, we acquire a positive and confident outlook. We stay motivated to achieve more.

#### POSTCARD FROM...CALIFORNIA

## Greetings from the Golden State

Studying at the University of Southern California has taught Alekhya what independence truly means



I am a first-year graduate, currently in my second semester of Computer Science at the University of Southern California (USC). I did my undergraduate in Computer Science from Osmania University, Hyderabad.

If this is the first time you are leaving home and studying abroad like me, you will take some time to acclimatise to the new environment. As clichéd as it may sound, the first and the foremost thing living abroad has taught me is being independent. You learn to do a lot of things by yourself, unlike back in India, where you would depend on someone else to do things for you. I have learned to do chores on my own. You will have to juggle a lot and manage things as and when they pop up. On one hand, we need to manage academics, and on the other hand, you need to manage your time among things like doing the dishes, cooking, laundry, and so on. But, trust me, it is worth it. You will learn things the hard way, and gradually, find yourself growing stronger. The things that used to trouble you earlier will now seem very manageable.

Coming to academics, time management is crucial. The education system here is quite different when compared to the Indian education system. You will get to choose your subjects and will not have classes every day from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. like in India. Every assignment counts towards the final grade, apart from the exams. The quality of education is good and I have learned a great deal doing assignments. Each assignment pushes you to the edge of your comfort zone. Plagiarism is a serious offence and you will have to submit your original work. The education is more practical than theoretical where you implement what you learn. You need to learn to manage stress.

**Exposure**  
USC has produced many successful people such as Neil Armstrong. It is an amazing place to be. The campus keeps buzzing with many events every day, ranging from fun-filled activities to career-related events. You meet many people, from different socio-economic and cultural backgrounds. The



**Alekhya Kondapuram**  
COLLEGE:  
University of Southern California  
COURSE:  
MS  
Computer Science

global exposure that you get is unparalleled. The libraries are wonderful places to study and the campus has various good resources for students to accelerate their career.

Since one stays thousands of miles away from home, it is very important to make some good friends. It is really necessary to cultivate healthy friendships because you need some time to take your stress off of your studies and have fun, go to places and make some amazing memories that you could cherish forever.

That being said, I stay in Los Angeles, California. It is a really big city, with a lot in store for those who would love to explore. The view of the city at night is a visual delight to the eyes, with bright lights. The climate is more or less like Hyderabad, so it's a really good place where one has an easier time adjusting than compared to the people on the East Coast. I look forward to experiencing so much more!

Alekhya Kondapuram is currently pursuing her graduate degree in Computer Science at the University of Southern California.

#### ADMISSIONS

##### International MBA in Business Analytics

[www.mahindraecolecentrale.edu.in/](http://www.mahindraecolecentrale.edu.in/)

##### Studio Masterclass Certificate programme

**INSTITUTE:** InGame Academy, Gurgaon

**PROGRAMME:** Studio Masterclass in Character Modelling

**DURATION:** 6 months full time

**ELIGIBILITY:** Candidates should have 3D/fine arts background.

**DURATION:** 12 months (Six months in Great Lakes Institute, Chennai. Five months online with IIT Chicago. One month face-to-face at IIT Chicago)

[greatlakes.edu.in/](http://greatlakes.edu.in/) [character-gurgaon.org/](http://character-gurgaon.org/) [Chennai/analyticsimba](http://Chennai/analyticsimba)

##### B.Tech

Mahindra Ecole Central has announced admissions for the 4-year B.Tech degree with specialisations such as computer science and engineering, electrical and electronics engineering, mechanical engineering and civil engineering.

**DEADLINE:** May 10  
[www.mahindraecolecentrale.edu.in/](http://www.mahindraecolecentrale.edu.in/)

##### Bachelor's, master's and diploma in Fashion Design

**INSTITUTE:** International School of Design, New Delhi

**ELIGIBILITY:** Class X pass for diploma, Class XII pass for bachelor's and diploma, UG for master's and diploma

**DEADLINE:** February 20

[instd.edu.in/apply-online.html](http://instd.edu.in/apply-online.html)

#### Just Released



**HINDI EDITIONS ARE ALSO AVAILABLE**



CM YK

## 4 EDGE

## OFFBEAT CAREER...LASER THERAPIST



GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCK PHOTO

■ DR. AJAY RANA

Laser medicine is an advanced programme that educates one about the use of lasers in the fields of dermatology and aesthetic medicine. The field of lasers is predicted to grow significantly in the near future and aims at addressing the requirement for highly skilled doctors to work globally at high responsibility levels in this area.

Laser therapies are medical treatments which use focused light. Lasers permit surgeons to work at high levels of precision by focusing on a small area and not damaging the surrounding tissue. Through laser therapy, a person may experience less pain, swelling, or scarring when compared to conventional therapy, though, laser therapy can be expensive and may require multiple sessions.

Hair transplant is the go-to remedy for those who have lost their hair and even for those who want to alter their hairlines or acquire a stunning mane.

**Skills required**

A successful laser or hair transplant technician/physician requires both talent and skill. They generally work with a team to recover the client's self-esteem and health. Apart from having great customer service skills, they must have better hand-eye coordination, they should have knowledge

of working with computer-based equipments, and excellent interpersonal and verbal skills.

Professionals must have the ability to make decisions and recognise the conditions they can treat, and those which require experts; the willingness to consistently stay updated with the constantly evolving technology and techniques.

**Course content**

The course empowers both soft skills and with hard skills required to deal with clients in order to survive in this competitive business. The Institute of Aesthetic Medicine (ILAMED) offers a diploma in aesthetic laser therapy (DALM). It is the only university-based programme in aesthetic laser medicine in the world, and it has international extensions, notably with the University of Alabama, the U.S., and the American Academy of Cosmetic Surgery.

For hair transplantation, the institute offers a master's course in hair transplantation to licensed physicians who are currently practising in different fields and have

**The course empowers both soft skills along with the hard skills required to deal with clients in order to survive in this competitive business**

an interest in hair restoration.

**Eligibility and responsibilities**

**Laser therapist:** A candidate may require a high school diploma or its equivalent. Laser therapy coursework includes hands-on training and various subjects such as regulatory laws and safety recommendations, laser skin rejuvenation, laser hair removal, cellulite improvement, laser tattoo removal, laser vein removal and so on.

After the completion of a recognised laser training programme, laser therapists meet all requirements to take a qualifying exam. Once the candidate passes the exam, they qualify for certification from a variety of major certification bodies.

His/her responsibilities include:

- In-depth knowledge and skill of FUE and FUT method of hair transplantation.
  - Advise appropriate treatment to patients.
  - Correct and complete documentation of patient's files and records.
- His/her responsibilities include:
- Performing skin analysis and evaluation to decide laser treatments.
  - Handling laser procedures including treatments of pigmented lesions and thread veins, facial or skin rejuvenation, hair removal, chemical resurfacing, wrinkle reduction, active acne and so on.
  - Developing plans for the treatment of patients with ongoing follow-ups.
  - Advising and coordinating with patients on all aspects of procedures and answering their queries in a very professional and friendly manner.

The author is the founder and director of The Institute of Aesthetic Medicine (ILAMED), www.ilamed.org.

**Learning a language: More than just communication.**

- Language learning: fun as well as challenging
- Blended learning and innovation, key to product success or failure
- Interactions between teacher, classmates, colleagues, are vital

the key factor for a product to be a success or a fizz out. Another important factor is the price, and, of course, not to forget the value adds that make the customer feel special. Learning had never been so simple, and yet so complicated (for those who design these solutions), as in today's time and age. My batches of students would be happy with a creative teacher, who somehow just knew each student's strengths and pain areas. Says Parth Sakhalkar, "Learning with EnglishBolo, was a superb experience. Speaking English has become so easy. Now, when someone speaks with me in English, I don't fumble. Neither do I get scared to talk; I speak confidently." So, how does this solution function? I am enlightened by a colleague, who goes to great lengths to explain to me that months, and even years of research are hidden behind such an app or solution that make learning a language not only simple, but also fun, in addition to combining elements such as virtual interaction and flexibility.

Has the digitalised world taken over? No, explains the good-hearted team member; it's called blended learning or a mix of the best of both worlds. Food-for-thought, indeed.

The writer is advisor, communications and media outreach, IL&FS Education and Technology Services.

**Blended learning is here**

Innovation and interaction that are developed by gauging the pulse of the target audience, serve as key factors for the success or failure of a product

■ SARAH BERRY

Learning a language can be as much a challenge, as it can be fun, depending on a wide variety of factors. For me, personally, learning a new way of communication always meant learning a new culture. In school, learning Hindi and English, and later Punjabi and Sanskrit, served as catalysts to understand whole new worlds of thought processes, and expressions, revealing to me the fact that speaking a language opens a million doors of thoughts, feelings, and expressions – something unparalleled.

Hailing from a mixed heritage meant that a diversity of languages was always a way of life; sometimes, a wee bit challenging too, as far as discovering one's identity was concerned, and, in addition, realising that mastering several

tongues, almost together, can be quite exasperating, at times. However, the desire to learn new languages remained, till life's humdrum took its toll, and the desire evaporated with pressing timelines, deadlines, and other lines.

A recent assignment brought me in touch, once again, with teaching methodologies pertaining to learning a language; for me, teaching, and more so, teaching a language had always been a passion. So, when I got to know of a solution called EnglishBolo that offered blended learning, I wondered if it would be possible to learn effectively this way. Curiously got the better of me, and I began exploring this solution more closely.

**Practice makes perfect**

In today's dog-eats-dog world, flexibility is a key word, and apps

or solutions or services like the above, offer that bit as a USP, besides understanding the fact that just EdTech solutions does not meet the requirement of learning a language. Interactions are vital; interactions with a teacher, classmates, and application of the language in day-to-day situations are vital for learning of a language effectively. So, besides grammar, enunciation, pronunciation, structure of sentences, vocabulary, what is crucial is to shed one's inhibitions and apply the learnt elements of the language. Plus: Practice, practice, and practice.

In the age of anytime, anywhere, virtual and blended learning, innovation and interaction that are developed by feeling the pulse of the target audience, serve as

**Hailing from a mixed heritage meant that a diversity of languages was always a way of life; sometimes, a wee bit challenging too, as far as discovering one's identity was concerned**

**IN BRIEF****Culture and cuisine quiz**

The Institute of Management Studies, Noida recently organised a quiz programme on the French language, culture and cuisine under the auspices of its School of Language. About 90 French Language students participated in the programme, which was divided into three phases. It was organised to promote the learning of French as a foreign language, since it is considered a valuable skill. Both professional courses such as diplomas, degrees and certifications, as well as language courses can boost employment opportunities.

**AYDA 2018, India edition**

Nippon Paints recently concluded the Asia Young Designer Award, 2018, India edition, over the course of two days in Chennai, where the grand finale was held. More than 1,300 students of architecture and interior design participated in the competition, and four won.

Several renowned architects were invited to the grand final to judge the shortlisted projects and select winners.

**Fuel your dreams****OFF THE EDGE**

NANDINI RAMAM

My son is in the eighth semester of BE mechanical engineering. His average CGPA in all previous seven semesters is 8.36. He has done three internships so far. He has now been selected for a job in Japan through campus placement. For this, he is required to complete three levels (N3, N4, N5) in the Japanese-Language Proficiency Test course which will cost ₹58,500. He has already availed an education loan. Kindly help me assess the genuineness of the job. - M. Srinivasa Reddy

Dear Mr. Reddy,

Congratulations! Your son has done well indeed. As you have not mentioned which company he is joining in Japan, I wouldn't really know the genuineness of the job. However, you must write/call and meet the concerned HR of the company that have reassured him of this assignment and discuss this further.

The Japanese-Language Proficiency Test, or JLPT, is a standardised criterion referenced to test, evaluate and certify Japanese language proficiency for non-native speakers, covering language knowledge, and reading and listening ability. N4 and N5 measure the level of understanding of basic Japanese mainly learned in class. N3 is a bridging level between N4/N5.

I understand the fee is steep indeed but perhaps it is a basic criterion for him to understand and become language proficient in Japan in order to work there. Wishing your son and you the very best.

I am 23. I graduated in mechanical engineering in 2017. For the last one year, I have been preparing for banking exams, but I have still not been able to clear any of the preliminary ex-

ams. I am also apprehensive that I do not have any work experience since, immediately after my graduation, I joined bank coaching and have been preparing for it. Now, I am confused about whether to continue my preparation or try to find a job so that my future won't be ruined. Is it possible to find a job in the private sector after a long gap? - Abhishek Natikar

Dear Abhishek,

We won't really know till we try. Nothing is ruined, please relax. One year is hardly a huge gap, but the lesser it is, the better! I think it is indeed a great idea to start applying to companies that you might like to work with (they will induce you and teach you all that they want you to know) and also keep studying in your free time and taking the bank exam. Either one of these is bound to click, and then you can decide on what you really want to pursue. Once you are employed, you will be financially stable and feel confident and good about yourself. Good luck!

I am 18 and pursuing my bachelor's degree with math and economics, in a rare combination, as a non-colleague. I wanted to pursue my degree from DU, but because of financial problems I couldn't. I couldn't prepare well for my first-year exams and subsequently, failed math. I want to become an IAS officer and have started basic preparations. My parents can't send me for coaching. I am confused as to what should I do next – should I focus on my degree or give up pursuing UPSC?

- Manish

Hi! You are 18 and so ambitious that you should be using this to 'fuel' your dreams; not giving up and second guessing yourself. So what if you failed the math exam? Take it again, prepare harder this time and crack it. Use your resilience and perseverance as your strength – to work harder. There are many UPSC toppers who come from humble and rather impoverished backgrounds and do not have the luxury of attending fan-

cy coaching classes. Do they still top the exam and make it? Sure they do!

You have no time for confusion. Get on and complete your degree and study for the UPSC exam. There are libraries, free on-line support and tutorials available. Don't doubt your capability. You can do it!

I am 26. I completed my B.Tech and M.Tech from an IIT. I am currently working, but I have always wanted to become a professor (History/English Literature). It is intimidating to go back and start afresh with a bachelor's degree in either of these subjects. Is it possible to start from the master's level and eventually become a professor, or is a bachelor's degree in the same subject a must for that goal? - Shreya

Dear Shreya,

That is really a dilemma. Unfortunately, given our educational system, you might need to go back and do your M.A in English-Lit/History. You will first need to take an entrance exam to solicit the course and the university that you choose. Each educational institute has its own entrance criteria. Identify the college and find out the process accordingly.

Would a teaching fellowship interest you? Teach for India Fellowship, Young India Fellowship, Azim Premji Foundation Fellowship Programme could perhaps give you the edge and the needed credentials to join a college of your choice, eventually.

You could also do a master's programme, specialisation and/or a certification in English Literature / history from a credited university abroad. Good luck!

**Disclaimer:** This column is not a substitute for long-term therapy. It is merely a guiding voice. Some issues may need medical intervention.

The author is a practising counsellor and a trainer. She will answer questions sent to eduplus.thehindu@gmail.com. The subject line should be: 'Off the edge'

**MY INTERNSHIP****A taste of the real deal**

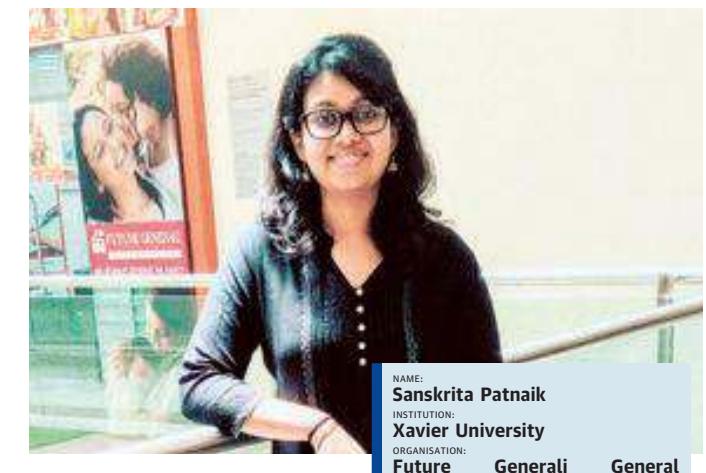
With live projects to work on, Sanskrita's internship put her in the shoes of an HR personnel

During my second year undergraduate management programme at Xavier University, Bhubaneswar, interning was mandatory. I got lucky with an opportunity to interview at Future Generali General Insurance in Mumbai.

The selection process involved a resume screening followed by a telephonic interview. It was a short interview with questions related to the courses I had covered in the previous semester, and my area of interest in human resources. I was looking forward to working on recruitment and selection since I already had a fair knowledge of it and a practical exposure would have enhanced it. However, they had an upcoming project on onboarding and wanted me to work on it with other HR managers. Subsequently, I was offered an internship for two months.

I was assigned two projects – implementation of a new onboarding policy and developing a job description for off-roll employees.

The onboarding policy intended to make the work environment friendlier and less hectic. To do so, two additions – buddy allotment and customer-centric experience – were made to the existing policy. Under the former, new recruits were introduced to a co-worker to facilitate their job, and the latter required them to work with a seasoned employee from another department and observe the working.



**Sanskrita Patnaik**  
INSTITUTION:  
Xavier University  
ORGANISATION:  
Future Generali General Insurance  
DURATION:  
Two months

**Hands-on experience**

I worked closely with the assistant manager, HR, on the onboarding policy. I would confirm the joining date of new recruits and take care of their joining formalities – verification of documents, running a background check, and introducing them to their managers. This, not only helped me experience the responsibilities of an HR, but also made me realise the vitality of those tasks. After few weeks of their joining, I would record their onboarding experience and suggestions.

I prepared job descriptions for off-roll employees, who are hired through consultants, which required me to interact with respective managers to understand all job-related details along with qualifications, key skills, and competencies that the applicants for those roles should

have. Initially, I found it overwhelming to communicate with senior managers, but with time, I developed my communication skills. I also learnt to keep calm in every situation.

I took on a bunch of other responsibilities too such as making a presentation on employee activities and coordinating with other branches of the company in Maharashtra to organise International Blood Donor Day and International Yoga Day. Afterwards, I made a report on these activities. This helped me understand the work culture in detail and boosted my confidence.

Sanskrita Patnaik is currently working as an HR associate at VICE Media.

Courtesy: Internshala.com



**Fight to end stigma**

Vagavathai Narsappa, who was abandoned as a child for being affected by leprosy, shares his experience [Page 2](#)

**Museums more necessary now'**

Nicholas Coleridge, chairman of a London-based museum, is upbeat about the number of visitors in 2018 [Page 4](#)

**Moonstruck at night**

Does moonlight have a weird effect on certain people? Read on to find more [Page 5](#)

**Circle of support**

On World Cancer Day, take a look at these services and products that may offer relief and comfort [Page 6](#)

**IN BRIEF****Slum dwellers live amid debris after HC stay**

NEW DELHI

Most of the 90-odd houses – part of the jhuggis built below the Safdarjung flyover – had been demolished by the Railways by the time the HC issued directions to cease action and maintain status quo on February 1.

[CITY ▶ PAGE 3](#)**After 8 years, 3 doctors jailed for negligence**

GURUGRAM

A local court in Haryana's Jhajjar has sentenced three doctors of a private hospital to imprisonment of two years and six months each in a case pertaining to the death of a teenager eight years ago owing to medical negligence.

[CITY ▶ PAGE 3](#)

Air quality of Delhi-NCR		
Delhi 289	Gurugram 221	
Ghaziabad 343	Faridabad -	
Noida 274	Greater Noida 359	
Good 0-50	Satisfactory 51-100	Moderate 101-200
Poor 201-300	Very poor 301-400	Severe >401
AIR QUALITY INDEX AT 4 P.M. YESTERDAY (AVERAGE OF PAST 24 HOURS)   SOURCE: CPCB		

**Man stabs wife over 40 times in Gurugram**

GURUGRAM

A man allegedly killed his wife by stabbing her over 40 times in Ashok Vihar, the police said Sunday. Pankaj Bhardwaj and his associate have been arrested, said Gurugram police PRO Subhash Bokan. Vanshika Sharma was found dead on February 2, he said. [PTI](#)

# 'Regular visits by cops give feeling of security to elderly'

Delhi police undertakes several steps to ensure safety of registered senior citizens

SAURABH TRIVEDI  
NEW DELHI

To curb crimes against the elderly, Delhi police personnel visit the homes of registered senior citizens once a week and also keep in touch over the phone. However, it is the duty of neighbours and Residents' Welfare Associations to contribute to the safety and security of the elderly, said a police officer.

**Once a week**  
Beat constables are given a standing order to visit the homes of registered senior citizens living in their area once a week.

"We have instructed the beat constables to make the visit and extend any help that they might require. Frequent visits by policemen give the elderly a sense of security and confidence," said a senior officer.

In 2018, the police conducted 34,097 security audits.

Beat officers made cumulative 5,23,056 visits to senior citizens and 3,78,794 tele-



The police said it is the duty of neighbours and RWAs to contribute to the security of the elderly. [FILE PHOTO: V. SUDERSHAN](#)

phone calls were made to the registered elderly.

A total of 3,650 new senior citizens were registered in 2018 by the Senior Citizen Cell of the Delhi Police.

"Security audit includes verification of tenants, domestic helps and attendants. We hold meetings in the neighbourhoods and ask the neighbours and RWAs to take care of the senior citizens living alone and inform the police in case of an emergency," said the officer.

The visits and security audits are closely monitored by SHOs and DCPs of each district.

To further improve securi-

ty, senior citizens are advised to install security equipment such as door-chains, 'magic eyes', iron grills and safety locks. In some cases, the equipment is provided free of cost, said the officer.

**Cybersecurity**

In order to educate senior citizens about cybersecurity, an awareness programme 'Cyber Safety & Digital Awareness Programme' was organised where over 2,500 elderly were given information about cyber threats and safe online habits.

"We also have a Senior Citizen Mobile App to facilitate

easy registration by senior citizens and easy access to names and telephone numbers of respective beat officers. It also has an 'SOS' button for emergency calls, which connects the senior citizen to helpline no. 1291," said the officer.

So far only 13,448 senior citizens have downloaded the application.

The Delhi Police's Senior Citizen Security Cell was set up in June 2004.

Each district of the Delhi Police also has a Senior Citizen Cell, which runs parallel to the security cell, which is monitored by Delhi Police Headquarters.

days in a semi-decomposed state. The case came to fore when the victims' son, settled in abroad, could not contact them and requested a relative to visit their house.

The killer managed to sneak into the high-security flat located on the ninth floor and also flee with the robbed items after the crime.

"I met Sarala a month ago for a short time. In high societies, neighbours do not interfere in each other's lives. In 2017, I had gone to pay my condolences when their younger son died due to illness," said a next-door neighbour.

Meanwhile, police said the domestic helps in the

building are verified.

**Collective responsibility**  
"It is the collective responsibility of society to take care of senior citizens living alone in their neighbourhood," said an officer.

In November 2018, the police arrested a 51-year-old driver in connection with the murder of a senior citizen in south-east Delhi's Sarita Vihar.

In September 2018, two women, including a senior citizen, were brutally murdered by a plumber and his three associates in outer district's Mianwali, the police said, adding that the accused have been arrested.

## HC comes to senior citizen's aid in flat allotment case

Flat booked in 1976 but told to pay 2013 rate; HC quashes demand-cum-allotment letter

**SOIBAM ROCKY SINGH**

NEW DELHI  
The Delhi High Court has come to the rescue of a senior citizen, who had applied for a flat in 1976 but was asked to pay the market rate of a flat that was given possession to him in 2013.

Justice C. Hari Shankar remarked it was "difficult to understand how, if the priority of an applicant has been missed, the blame for which would squarely lie at the doors of the DDA – the applicant could be made to suffer by having to pay a higher cost for the flat".

Settling the dispute as to whether flat buyer Subodh Kumar was entitled to possession of the flat at the new rate or at an earlier rate, Justice Shankar quashed the demand-cum-allotment letter

issued by DDA on July 10, 2013, asking Mr. Kumar to pay the current market cost for the flat.

The Delhi Development Authority (DDA) had put out a scheme for allotment of flats in Delhi under the "New Pattern Registration Scheme, 1979" (NPRS).

Advocate Ajay Verma, who represented Mr. Kumar, said a priority number was assigned to each applicant under the scheme, according to which the applicant was allotted flats.

While Mr. Kumar was not asked to participate in any draw, two decades later, he came to know through a query made under the RTI act that the DPRS was closed.

He then moved the High Court in 2010. A year later, the court directed the DDA to process the case of Mr. Kumar. Subsequently, he was al-

otted a flat in Dwarka in 2013 but was asked to pay the then market rate for the flat.

**Entitled to possession**  
Advocate Verma argued the High Court in the September 2011 verdict directed that his client's case be considered in accordance with his pre-existing priority number.

Hence, he argued that his client was entitled to possession of the Dwarka flat at the rate applicable according to his pre-existing priority number under the DPRS.

Taking note of advocate Verma's submission, the court directed DDA to rework the cost at which Mr. Kumar would have to pay for the flat that he had been allotted the flat in normal course on the basis of his pre-existing priority number.

Mr. Kumar applied for the flats in September 1979.

A draw was conducted for allotment of flats under the DPRS on March 29, 1986, resulting in Mr. Kumar being allotted a MIG flat in Nand Nagri.

However, Mr. Kumar opted to surrender the allotment in the same year. He again opted for consideration of his name afresh for allotment of a flat under the Scheme.

While Mr. Kumar was not asked to participate in any draw, two decades later, he came to know through a query made under the RTI act that the DPRS was closed.

Advocate Verma argued the High Court in the September 2011 verdict directed that his client's case be considered in accordance with his pre-existing priority number.

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# Battling more than just a disease

The fight to end discrimination, stigma and prejudice against people afflicted with leprosy rages on in India, which reported the highest number of new cases in the world in 2017. *Bindu Shajan Perappadan* speaks to Vagavathali Narsappa, who was abandoned as a child due to his medical condition, about the changing dialogue around leprosy

**"**Leprosy does not kill, but the social discrimination, isolation and disability associated with the disease do not allow people to reach their potential, which is worse than death," said Vagavathali Narsappa, who works with the Association of People Affected by Leprosy (APAL-India), a support group for leprosy patients.

The 55-year-old activist was abandoned by his parents at the age of nine when he was diagnosed with the disease. Left to fend for himself on the streets, the disease quickly spread to his fingers, which eventually had to be amputated.

"I met my wife at the leprosy hospital where we were both being treated. We have been blessed with two girls... we now work for APAL to support people afflicted with leprosy," said Mr. Narsappa, who was recently in the Capital to participate in leprosy eradication-related programmes.

#### Timely treatment

One of the biggest challenges in the battle against leprosy is that one in every 10 new leprosy patients is a child, he said, adding: "Unlike other diseases, leprosy does not have a vaccination or a preventive pill... the fact that leprosy can cause childhood disabilities makes awareness and timely treatment vital."

**C** My dream and mission is to work towards zero disability, and for that to happen we need to create awareness, remove misconceptions about leprosy, and have early detection and voluntary reporting

VAGAVATHALI NARSAPPA,  
Association of People Affected  
by Leprosy (APAL-India)



Older patients are also vulnerable, with untreated ulcers often proving to be fatal. "The government and various organisations working in this area are doing their bit but the stigma attached to leprosy still remains... though people are more open to diagnosis and treatment now," said Mr. Narsappa.

While welcoming the passing of a Bill excluding leprosy as grounds for divorce, the activist said that society's mindset needs to change too.

"My dream and mission is to work towards zero disability, and for that to happen we need to create awareness, remove misconceptions about leprosy, have early detection and voluntary reporting.

School curriculum should make children aware that early detection can prevent disability. People afflicted with leprosy should be made partners in policy making," said Mr. Narsappa.

Last-mile efforts in leprosy eradication will need en-

abling environments where people afflicted by the disease feel comfortable in coming forward and seeking treatment, he said, adding that till this happens eradicating leprosy "will remain a distant dream for India".

#### World Leprosy Day

In India, World Leprosy Day is celebrated on January 30 to commemorate the death anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi. The date was chosen by French humanitarian Raoul Follereau as a tribute to the life of the Mahatma, who had compassion for people afflicted with leprosy.

This year's theme was 'ending discrimination, stigma, and prejudice'.

Several reports have revealed that a majority of leprosy patients have experienced some form of social stigma and discrimination and nearly 50% end up suffering from mental health issues such as depression or anxiety.

#### Know the disease

• Leprosy is a chronic infectious disease caused by *Mycobacterium leprae*

• Leprosy is a major cause of physical disabilities. Timely detection and treatment of cases, before nerve damage sets in, is the most effective way of preventing disabilities due to the disease

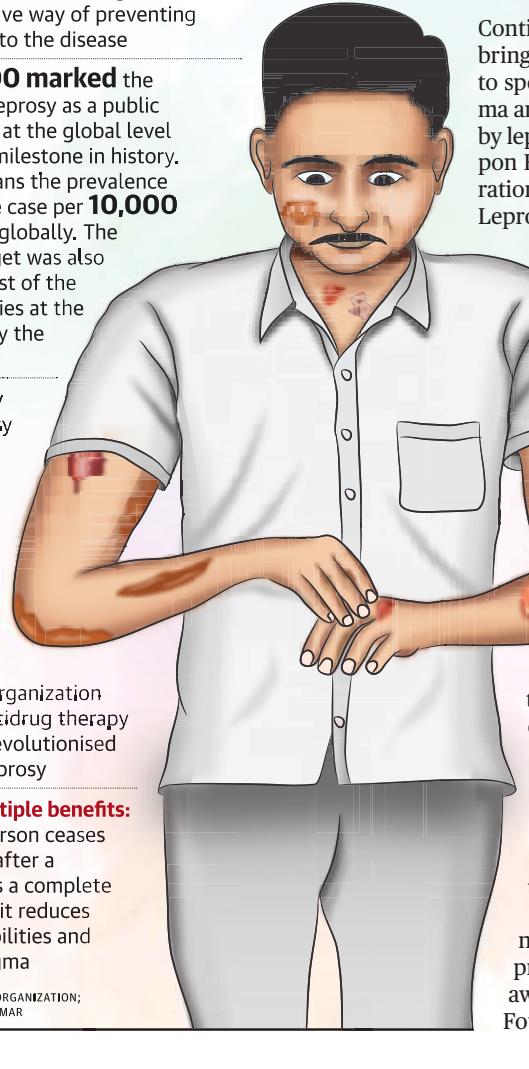
• The year **2000** marked the elimination of leprosy as a public health problem at the global level – a significant milestone in history. Elimination means the prevalence of less than one case per **10,000 population**, globally. The elimination target was also achieved by most of the endemic countries at the national level by the end of 2005

• Approximately **96%** of leprosy cases are limited to **15 countries**, which report more than **1,000** new cases annually

• In the early **1980s**, the World Health Organization introduced multidrug therapy (MDT), which revolutionised treatment of leprosy

**MDT offers multiple benefits:** The infected person ceases to be infective after a single dose; it is a complete treatment; and it reduces the risk of disabilities and consequent stigma

SOURCE: WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION;  
ILLUSTRATION: RITESH KUMAR



## A global appeal to raise awareness

Nippon Foundation launches Global Appeal 2019 in its effort to end discrimination against leprosy patients

Continuing its efforts to bring together stakeholders to speak up against the stigma and discrimination faced by leprosy patients, The Nippon Foundation, in collaboration with Sasakawa-India Leprosy Foundation (S-ILF), recently organised the annual event 'Global Appeal 2019'.

The event, endorsed by the International Chamber of Commerce, will spread awareness about leprosy, including the fact that the bacterial disease is among the least infectious ailments, it is not hereditary, and disabilities can be avoided through early detection and treatment.

Highlighting the need for a nationwide programme to increase awareness, The Nippon Foundation chairman Yo-

hei Sasakawa, said: "We are proud of our annual initiative to speak up against the stigma and discrimination faced by leprosy patients. The Nippon Foundation, in collaboration with Sasakawa-India Leprosy Foundation (S-ILF), recently organised the annual event 'Global Appeal 2019'.

The event, endorsed by the International Chamber of Commerce, will spread awareness about leprosy, including the fact that the bacterial disease is among the least infectious ailments, it is not hereditary, and disabilities can be avoided through early detection and treatment.

Speaking about the event, Vineeta Shanker, executive director of S-ILF, said: "Social stigma and failure to detect cases early are hurdles in eradicating leprosy. There are known practical problems in detection too. Hence, increased resource allocation towards leprosy awareness and control is imperative." "Leprosy, if detected in time, is treatable and it becomes non-infectious within 24 hours of starting treatment. Initiatives such as passing of a Bill excluding leprosy as grounds for divorce, and this summit are part of the efforts to make the world a better place for leprosy patients. These steps will contribute to improve the social environment and wipe out negative perception about the disease," she said.

60% of new cases in 2017.

The first edition of the Global Appeal initiative was launched in New Delhi on January 29, 2006, with the backing of world leaders, including Nobel Peace Prize laureates the Dalai Lama, former U.S. President Jimmy Carter, and Archbishop Desmond Tutu.

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#### INTERVIEW | D.M. MAHAJAN

## 'Correct clinical diagnosis of leprosy at an early stage of infection is vital'

Delay in seeking treatment can lead to permanent physical disability, disfigurement, and permanent nerve damage, warns D.M. Mahajan

D.M. Mahajan, senior consultant (dermatology) at Indraprastha Apollo Hospitals, Delhi, speaks to Bindu Shajan Perappadan about leprosy and its cure

#### What is leprosy?

■ It is a chronic, progressive infection in which a person's skin, eyes, respiratory tract and peripheral nerves are affected. It is caused by *Myco-*

*bacterium leprae*, and while the disease is not highly contagious, repeated contact with the infected person can lead to infections.

#### How does it spread?

■ The pathogen spreads through droplets released in the air when the infected person sneezes or coughs. These air-borne mucosal secretions, if inhaled by a

healthy person, can lead to leprosy infection. The disease progresses slowly as its incubation period is five years. Symptoms

may not appear for as long as 20 years. Skin lesions, granulomas (bumps on skin), numbness of appendages, muscle weakness are some of the common symptoms associated with leprosy.

Lepromin skin test is used to determine the contraction of the disease, as well as its type and stage. A correct

D.M. Mahajan

clinical diagnosis at an early stage of infection is vital.

#### Can delay in treatment harm the patient?

■ Delay in seeking treatment for leprosy can have dire consequences for the patient.

It can lead to permanent physical disability, disfigurement, and permanent nerve damage, which can lead to

inability to use arms, legs, hands and feet, loss of hair (even from brows and eyelashes), glaucoma (damage to optic nerve in eye), inflammation of iris, blindness, infertility due to erectile dysfunction, kidney failure, severe nasal congestion, and many other complications. It is of utmost importance that the disease is diagnosed and treated early to stop its progress before it leads to severe

tissue damage.

#### Is leprosy curable?

■ Leprosy is curable. Multi-drug therapy developed by the World Health Organization in 1995 has proven to be highly effective in treating the infection. India provides free treatment for leprosy. However, many people do not come forward to seek treatment as they are afraid

of the stigma and discrimination attached to the disease. While it is true that as a precaution, long-term physical contact with an infected person should be avoided, there is no need to completely isolate a leprosy patient. After the course of treatment, when a person is free from infection, he/she is no longer contagious. They can resume their role as a productive member of society.

## Lack of basic amenities on KMP Expressway annoy commuters

Drivers complain there are no petrol pumps or food plazas even months after completion of the whole Kundli-Manesar-Pawal Expressway stretch

#### ASHOK KUMAR

GURUGRAM  
Forty-three-year-old trucker Jamshed Khan, a resident of Alwar in Rajasthan, has been travelling on the Manesar-Palwal section of the Western Peripheral Expressway almost every third day for the last two years. What worries him during the long trips is the lack of basic amenities on the stretch.

Jamshed mostly travels from Kotputli in Rajasthan to Sikandrabad in Uttar Pradesh carrying concrete chunks used for making cement via Western Peripheral Expressway, also known as Kundli-Manesar-Pawal Expressway (KMP), that stretches upto 136 km.

He has to travel around 60 km on the Eastern Peripheral Expressway as well to reach his destination.

"It has been two years since Manesar-Palwal section of the KMP e-way became operational, but there are no petrol pumps or food plazas on the stretch. Since there are no designated stops, mostly truckers and motorists park on the highway to attend to nature's call or take a break," he said.

#### No progress yet

Kamal Deep, Project In-charge of Jai Singh & Company, which collects toll on the Manesar-Palwal stretch, said there were two designated

sites each for petrol pump and food plaza, but despite repeated requests to Haryana State Industrial and Infrastructure Development Corporation (HSIIDC), there is no headway on developing them over the last two years.

"Earlier, we were told that the facilities will be made available after the entire expressway becomes operational. It has been almost three months since the remaining portion of the Kundli-Manesar stretch was opened to the public, but there is no progress on providing basic facilities for the e-way users," said Mr. Deep.

He said around 30,000 passenger car units use the 53-km-long stretch everyday on an average, adding that the opening of 83-km Kundli-Manesar section had little

impact on the traffic on this stretch.

#### Fail to check menace

He also pointed out that two-wheeler and tractor-trolleys ply on the highway in violation of the norms and police had failed to check the menace. Though the police had put barricades on the expressway at several points to check overloading, the truckers alleged that they mostly indulged in extortion.

#### Dip in vehicle volume

Vijay Tiwari, Project Manager, Prakash Asphaltings & Toll Highways (India) Ltd, the company that collects toll on Kundli-Manesar section, said that in view of facilities such as petrol pumps, drinking water, toilets and lighting on this stretch, the traffic vol-

ume had come down since the tolling started on December 12 last year. "Almost one-fourth of the vehicles plying on highways now use FASTag, an electronic toll collection system. But there is no facility to use FASTag on this expressway. Therefore, such vehicles have automatically diverted to Eastern Peripheral Expressway, which has all the basic facilities. There is also lighting on this stretch making it unsafe to travel at night," said Mr. Tiwari.

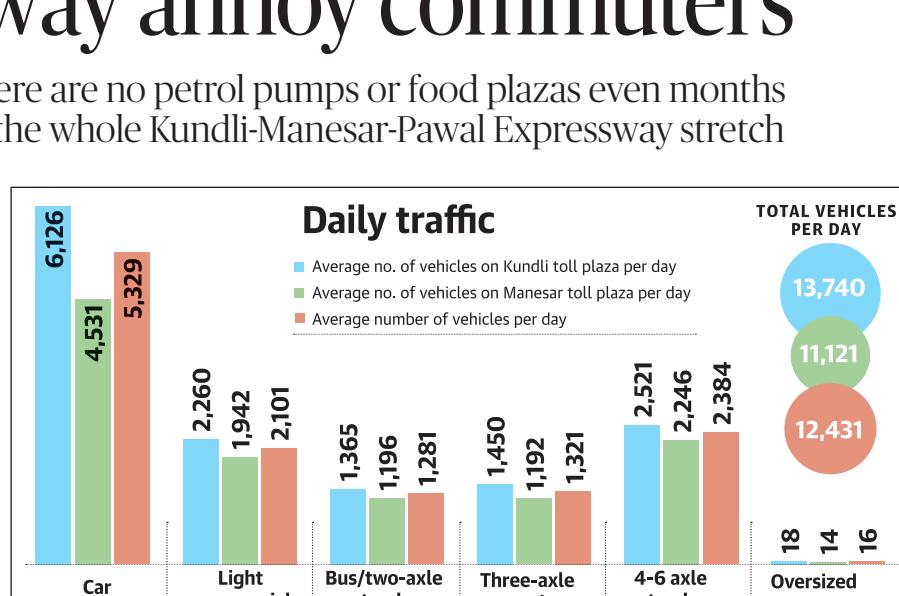
#### Tenders floated

HSIIDC managing director Narhari Bangar told *The Hindu* that there were four sites each for petrol pumps and food plazas on the expressway and tenders were already floated for the petrol pumps.

"The sites will be allocated to government oil companies and it would take them around one month to start the petrol pumps after the tenders are given. Though it may take another three-four

months for the entire infrastructure to be ready," said Mr. Bangar.

He added that deliberations were on to decide on the format of the food plazas and the same would be finalised in a next couple of days. For the lighting on the Kundli-Manesar stretch, we had already approved the scope changes for the project and the concessionaire was supposed to finish the work by



Vehicles plying on the Kundli-Manesar-Pawal Expressway in Gurugram on Sunday. ■ MANOJ KUMAR



An employee collecting toll at the KMP Expressway in Gurugram; and a board displaying the toll rate. ■ MANOJ KUMAR



first week of April, he said. Mr. Bangar said the modalities were being discussed to make toll collection more viable, profitable and the expressway comfortable for the vehicle users.

## IN BRIEF



## Development works started in 12 colonies

**NEW DELHI** Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal inaugurated development works in 12 unauthorised colonies of Mustafabad Assembly constituency on Sunday. The government said that lanes and drains would be constructed under the project at an expense of ₹26 crore. A total of 222 streets covering 28 km will be constructed and the length of drains will be 56 km. The works are expected to be completed by August. The project is expected to benefit around three lakh people.

STAFF REPORTER

## Swaraj India leader attacked, case lodged

**NEW DELHI** The Delhi Police has registered a case after a leader of the Swaraj India party, Anupam, was attacked on February 1 with a sharp weapon by unidentified bike-borne men, who also snatched his mobile phone, in southeast Delhi, the police said on Sunday. PTI

## Man arrested for killing, robbing friend

## STAFF REPORTER

**NEW DELHI** A 22-year-old man has been arrested for allegedly bludgeoning a friend to death before robbing him in south-east Delhi's Amar Colony, the police said on Sunday.

The accused has been identified as Farman, a resident of Haldiauni in Noida. He is unemployed and under debt, they said.

Farman intoxicated the victim, hit his head with a stone and slit his throat. He later robbed the victim of his mobile phone and other articles, the police said.

The police received a call regarding a man's body lying near a railway track on January 21, Deputy Commissioner of Police (South-East) Chinmoy Biswas said. On reaching the spot, they found a decomposed body of a man aged 22 to 24. A crime team inspected the spot after which the body was shifted to AIIMS for preservation and identification, he said.

The deceased was identified as Arshad Ali (23), a resident of Gandhi Camp, SN Puri.

Ali had been missing since January 10 and was last seen with accused Farman, the officer said.

Investigations revealed that Ali's mobile phone was being used by one Farhan, a resident of Haldiauni in Noida. Subsequently, the mobile phone was recovered from his possession. Farhan told the police that he has purchased it from Farman.

After Farman's house was found to be locked, raids were conducted in Noida and Delhi, the police said.

Farman was finally arrested from Okhla Sabji Mandi on February 1 and the knife used in the crime was also recovered, Mr. Biswas said.

## DELHI TODAY

**Talk:** Lecture on "Universal Health Services" by Lt. Gen. Sanjeev Chopra, Director General, Hospital Services at Seminar Rooms - I, II & III, Kamaladevi Complex, India International Centre (ICC), 6 p.m.

**Exhibition:** "Delhi's Colour" - an exhibition of paintings by Swapna Das at Delhi 'o' India Foyer, India Habitat Centre (IHC), 11 a.m. - 7 p.m.

**Exhibition:** "Flying Colours", a group show of contemporary artists at All India Fine Arts & Crafts Society (AIFACS), 1, Rafi Marg, 11 a.m. - 7 p.m.

**Screening:** "Toni Erdmann", German film screening with English subtitles at Library, Max Mueller Bhavan, Kasturba Gandhi Marg, 4 p.m.

(Mail your listings for this column at cityeditordelhi@thehindu.co.in)

# Three docs sentenced to over two years in jail for medical negligence

In 2011, a teen had succumbed to injuries after no one in hospital attended to him

## ASHOK KUMAR

## GURUGRAM

A local court in Haryana's Jhajjar has sentenced three doctors of a private hospital to imprisonment of two years and six months each in a case pertaining to the death of a teenager in Bahadurgarh eight years ago for medical negligence.

Each of the accused has been sentenced to a two-year jail term for causing death due to negligence and two terms of three months each on charges of act endangering life, and breach of contract to attend on helpless person, but the sentences will run concurrently.

Rahul, a resident of Chhotu Ram Nagar in Bahadurgarh, was going to attend a computer class on January 21, 2011. He was walking along a railway track, when he fell on the stones due to the air pressure created by a fast-approaching train and sustained serious head injuries. He was rushed to Jeevan

**S** The deceased belonged to a poor family, but his parents decided to fight for justice despite all odds. It was not easy to fight against the mighty and resourceful people, but the parents did not give up

**SOMWATI KADIAN**  
Counsel for complainant

Jyoti Hospital where he was allegedly not attended to for hours and ultimately he succumbed to the injuries.

## Gross negligence

In a 19-page judgment, holding doctors Deepak Sharma, Ritesh Kumar and Manish Pal responsible for the death of the Class X student, Judicial Magistrate (First Class) Vivek Kumar relied on the inquiry report of the medical board constituted under the chairmanship of N.K. Mundra, the then Deputy Civil Surgeon.

Saying that the prosecu-

tion had successfully proved the guilt of the accused beyond "shadow of reasonable doubt", the court noted that Rahul had suffered skull fracture and multiple rib fractures, and a CT scan was necessary for further medical aid.

The medical board found that no such tests were conducted on the injured since these facilities were not available at the hospital.

Quoting the medical board's report, the court said: "This patient should have been referred to higher institute after the initial

## management."

The court noted: "The accused did not exercise due care and caution as they could have transferred Rahul to the trauma centre at a government hospital, Bahadurgarh... but the accused were indifferent to the patient's safety and thus committed gross negligence."

The court also rejected the contention of the defence regarding a five-month delay in registration of the FIR, saying that it was not "tenable" in the present case. "This court is practical enough to understand that in a country like ours, it is quite difficult for a common man to get an FIR registered against a hospital for committing an act of gross negligence as the police are also reluctant to register the FIR," the order stated.

The court, however, said the prosecution had failed to prove the charge of criminal conspiracy against the accused.

## Centre refusing to hand over land to shift school: Delhi govt

Tells HC students will be relocated from next academic year

## STAFF REPORTER

## NEW DELHI

The Delhi government has told the High Court that students studying in a 99-year-old school, whose building is in a dilapidated state, would be relocated to other schools from the next academic year as the Centre was refusing to hand over land to shift the school.

In an affidavit submitted before a Bench of Chief Justice Rajendra Menon and Justice V.K. Rao, the Directorate of Education (DoE) has said that in view of the stand taken by the Ministry of Defence (MoD), it has no other option but to relocate the students to other schools in the next academic year.

According to the minutes of meeting held on November 28 last, the MoD has said that the Rajputana Rifles Heroes Memorial Senior Secondary School was currently located on defence land which was not in accordance with the Cantonment Land Administration Rules. The delegation representing the Army and the Ministry said no land was available to be handed over to the DoE to shift the school and suggest-

dwellers are being deprived of their rights, he said.

Mr. Goel said that if someone wants to see hell, all they need to do is visit Daya Basti slum in Delhi as there are no drains, sewer or proper roads.

"People are living here in great danger as if there is a fire. The lanes are so narrow that it will be difficult to save lives," he said.

"[Arvind] Kejriwal is misleading slum dwellers on electricity and water. Before he came to power, the slums got water from the tankers or handpumps without even paying for the water. Now, residents of the slums are being forced to pay high electricity and water bills under his governance," said the Minister.

The DoE has urged the court to direct the Ministry to provide an alternate piece of land to construct a school

## People need to rise up against divisive politics of BJP govts'

Division and falsehood are in their DNA, says Surjewala

## SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

## NUH

Senior Congress leader Randeep Singh Surjewala on Sunday said people needed to unite to rise against the divisive politics of 'phoot, jhoot (division, falsehood) and loot', which has become the face and the DNA of the BJP governments in the State and at the Centre.

Addressing 'Jan Aakrosh Rally' at Badkali Chowk here, the party's core committee member called upon the people to end the BJP misrule that, he said, was spearheading the divisive politics of mutual hatred on caste, religion and religious lines.

The nation belonged to all of us and our fight was not against the individuals, but the divisive policies of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar, are trying to divide the society, he added.

The rally was organised by local Congress leader and former Deputy Speaker Azad Mohammad.

Randeep Singh Surjewala addresses a 'Jan Aakrosh Rally' at Badkali Chowk in Nuh on Sunday. ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Mr. Surjewala said the people were angry with Modi and Khattar governments as they had failed to deliver on their pre-poll promises and tried to divide the society.

## Attacks INLD, JJP

Referring to the Indian National Lok Dal (INLD) and the Janayak Janata Party (JJP), the Kaithal MLA said both INLD and Dushyant Chautala had been supporting the BJP and vote for any of them was an indirect vote to the BJP, Mr. Modi and Mr. Khattar.

"How can we forget that Mr. Chautala, INLD MPs and MLAs voted for BJP candi-

date in President's election against Meira Kumar, the daughter of Babu Jagjivan Ram? How could we forget that they never opposed BJP and Modi?" said the senior Congress leader.

Mr. Surjewala announced that the Congress, on forming the government in Haryana, would ensure resumption of the Rajiv Gandhi Rainy Well project and establish a university in Nuh.

"We will also request Maruti to set up a factory at IMT Mewat. Gurugram-Alwar rail line will also be started once the Congress takes over at the Centre," he said.

## Only Congress can restore rule of law: Sheila

'Party ready for upcoming LS polls'

Delhi Congress chief Sheila Dikshit addresses a convention at Adarsh Nagar on Sunday. ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

## STAFF REPORTER

## NEW DELHI

Delhi Pradesh Congress Committee President Sheila Dikshit on Sunday said that it was imperative for the Congress to come back to power to restore the rule of law in the country to save it from the dictatorial clutch of the Modi government at the Centre.

Ms. Dikshit said that the morale of Congress workers was high and that the party was all geared up to face the upcoming Lok Sabha elections unitedly to defeat the "corrupt, communal, casteist and divisive forces". The former Chief Minister was addressing a convention at Adarsh Nagar in Rani Bagh.

"The real strength of the Congress is unity, and we are all foot soldiers of the party who are striving hard to bring the party into power by uprooting destructive and anti-social elements such as the BJP and AAP from power," Ms. Dikshit told workers and asked them to go door to door to

make people aware of the true face of the BJP and AAP, while also educating them about the developmental works undertaken by the Congress in Delhi.

She said that the BJP had ruined the lives of the people of Delhi through demonetisation, GST and the sealing and demolition drives and that the Kejriwal government, in its four-year rule in Delhi, has not done any development works. "AAP government has been taking credit for the works completed and projects started by the Congress government during its 15-year rule in Delhi. The Congress government had made it one of the best cities in the world," Ms. Dikshit said.

She further said that the people of Delhi are fed up with the "corruption-ridden rule" of the BJP government at the Centre and in the municipal corporations of Delhi, thriving "on lies and hollow promises", and the "inefficient and directionless governance" of AAP government in Delhi.

## CMO employee's two-wheeler stolen

Office accuses police of callousness

## STAFF REPORTER

## NEW DELHI

taken and that compensation would be demanded for not doing the same.

Mr. Shakeel, who has also been coordinating with various sources of volunteering efforts after the issue was highlighted on the social media, said that the response has been phenomenal. He said that several people were making donations and volunteering help. For instance, the Human Rights Law Network had taken up the case pro bono and on Sunday, students from St Stephen's College distributed food along with NGO Robin Hood's Army.

The High Court has set the next date of hearing for Friday.

said, "We are checking CCTV footage from the vicinity to trace the accused. A case has been registered."

An official from CM's office said that there have been repeated incidents of theft near the CM's house. "On February 1, someone broke the glass of one of the party worker's car and fled with valuables, including cash and documents. The second incident took place on Sunday. The police have not been able to trace the accused in any of the cases," the official said, requesting anonymity.

Mr. Prasad, however, said that they did not receive any call regarding the alleged theft on February 1. "We will start an investigation as soon as we get a complaint," she said.

## Slum dwellers reside amid debris after High Court stay

Most of the 90-odd shanties below the Safdarjung flyover have been demolished by the Railways

## SIDHARTH RAVI

## NEW DELHI

Most of the 90-odd shanties, part of the jhuggi jhopri cluster built below the Safdarjung flyover next to the railway tracks, had been demolished by the Railways by the time the High Court issued directions to cease action and maintain status quo on February 1.

As of Sunday, residents of the area continue to reside amid the rubble that until a few days ago used to be their homes.

"We did not get any notice. They said they would be erecting barricades one day and the next thing we saw they came with bulldozers and started demolishing everything," said Sunita, who has been continuing her tailoring work on what used to be the front room of her house.

"We cannot go anywhere now since two of my children have their exams going on," she added.

The wall of Bitti's house lay in a pile next to her, while she swept the floor of what used to be her residence. She cleaned a brick stove kept in a corner,



The shanties were demolished before the High Court issued directions to cease action and maintain status quo on February 1. ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

while complaining that the utensils have got buried under the debris. "We did not even have time to collect our belongings," she sighed.

Several homes built over many years have now turned into rubble. Bimal, a worker who lives there, says he has no plan of moving elsewhere. "We have grown up here. There is no place where we can shift to. We did not have much and now most of it is gone. But we

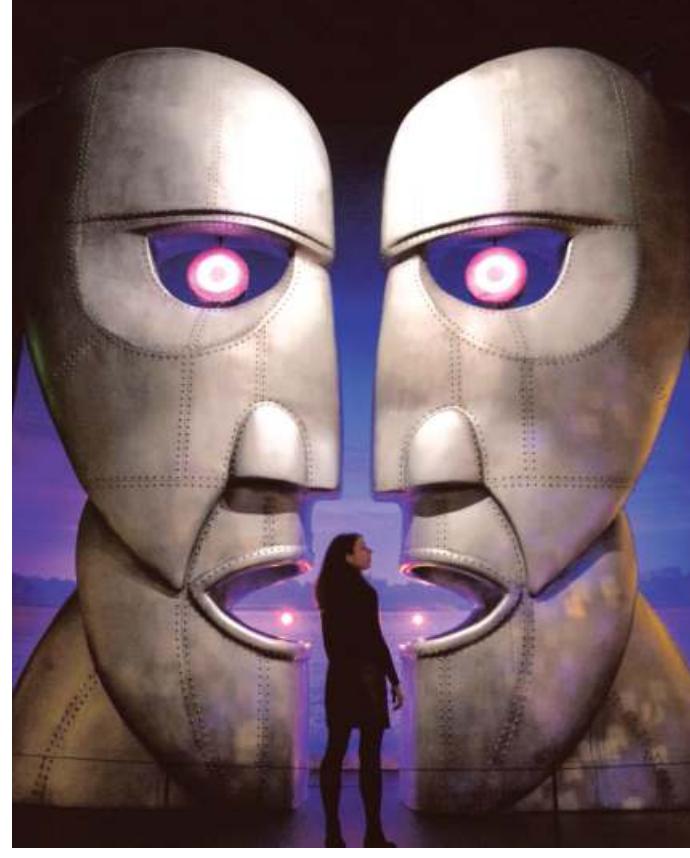
will have to make do with whatever is left somehow." Multiple residents of the area hold ration and voters ID cards, which has the address "JJ cluster below the Safdarjung flyover" mentioned on it. Some even date back to the 1990s. In its submission to the court, the union said that the slum had been established in 1990 and in 1996 it was included in a survey carried out by the Central government.

Abdul Shakeel, part of Basti Suraksha Manch, a housing rights group that works in the area and is assisting the residents, said that the particular settlement figures in a list of JJ clusters prepared by the Delhi Urban Shelter Improvement Board and should be eligible for resettlement. He added that at least three months of notice should have been given before the action was

The High Court has set the next date of hearing for Friday.

Deputy Commissioner of Police (North) Nupur Prasad

## 4 SHOWCASE



## 'Museums are more necessary than ever'

Nicholas Coleridge, chairman, Victoria and Albert Museum, London, is upbeat about the record-breaking number of visitors last year

SHAILAJA TRIPATHI

At a time when museums world over are believed to be battling low footfalls, Nicholas Coleridge says, we need them more than ever. Coleridge, who was appointed a Commander of the Order of the British Empire in 2009, will be in India as one of the speakers at the two-day International Symposium on Creativity and Freedom presented by CIMA Gallery, Ashoka University and India International Centre, Delhi, on February 5 and 6.

Amidst writing his memoirs, *The Glossy Years*, to be published by Penguin, his engagement with V&A and his job as chairman, *Conde Nast Britain*, Coleridge in an email interview talks about repatriation of artefacts, the new entrance at V&A and upcoming

exhibitions.

**Compared to 2015-16, the number of footfalls in 2017-18 at Victoria and Albert Museum increased by 26%. What do you attribute the increase to?**

• Yes, V&A had a very strong year last year in visitor numbers – the best ever in our 160-year history. The Pink Floyd exhibition was a huge hit, with queues around the block. V&A has had a succession of hit shows in recent years – David Bowie, Alexander McQueen, Disobedient Objects, The Fabric of India... they have all helped build an audience. But the museum also stages smaller academic shows of scholarship; there is an excellent one on Persian art coming soon.

The new Sackler courtyard, Blavatnik entrance hall and underground Sainsbury Gallery have made a huge difference. It has enabled visitors to enter from a new, second entry on Exhibition Road, and it is less forbidding. In the summer, a lot of students sunbathe in the courtyard too. The new Exhibition Road Quarter (as it is called) was designed by architect Amanda Levete and cost £54 million. It has been transformative for the museum. What I love and admire about it, is the way it has fitted so naturally into the existing buildings. It isn't jarring. It has modernised V&A without spoiling its character.

**The Duchess of Cambridge was apparently stunned by**

### 'Creativity And Freedom'

Some of the other prominent speakers include Gopal Krishna Gandhi, Sabysachi Mukherjee, Catherine David (Deputy Director, Musee d'Art Moderne at The Centre Pompidou, Paris), Patrizia Asproni (President, Marino Marini Foundation, Florence), Deborah Swallow (Director, The Courtauld Institute of Art, London), Sergio Scapagnini (Italian filmmaker), Aparna Sen and Meeta Pandit among others.

A major highlight of the symposium is that it will witness the curtain raiser programme for the launch of 'The Academy of Classical and Folk Arts' at IIT Kharagpur, seen through a living aperture of world's oldest and sustainable habitat, Varanasi, identified as UNESCO City of Music. Says Rakhi Sarkar, Director CIMA, "Creativity and Freedom form the bedrock of every modern civilisation. This symposium, therefore, is extremely important for everything CIMA stands for; freedom of the mind and a holistic vision of life and arts."

### the new courtyard and entrance. Give us an insight into the latest architectural addition.

• The Duchess of Cambridge, our royal patron, thought it was spectacular. She is rather an expert on photography, and when she opened the new V&A photography galleries, she proved very knowledgeable.

The Exhibition Road Quarter was 10 years in the planning, and took six years to build. It is an extraordinary feat of engineering, an intervention we would never have dared to do in the past. It involved digging between two Grade One historic buildings. It has provided us with a vast new exhibition space.

**The Louvre in Paris also witnessed the number of visitors go up by 25% last year. That has been partly attributed to Beyoncé and Jay-Z's 'Apes\*\*t' song's video shot inside the Louvre, featuring seminal works of art. What do you make of it?**

• I am in favour of museums taking risks to draw attention to themselves, and to bring new audiences, providing it doesn't damage the treasures or art works. There is nothing sadder than an empty museum. After all, the treasures belong to the nation – to everybody.

A successful museum should be filled with scholars, students, tourists, locals, everybody. Once a month, V&A holds a Friday Late, when we stay open until 10 pm with music, drinks, a carnival atmosphere. It is very popular with the young and becomes quite a pickup event for the cultured young.

I have a theory about museums. These days, citizens live in smaller spaces, because property is so expensive. Museums provide spaces to meet, with huge galleries and a chance to see things in a different way, in real life, not dig-

itally. They can be meeting places with cafés and restaurants, as well as lecture halls and stimulating exhibitions. Museums can be very modern in that respect. They are more necessary than ever.

**In the last couple of years, the demand for repatriation of artefacts has become stronger. France, in fact, has said that it wants to return artefacts to their countries of origin. What do you think?**

• The British national museums are not allowed, by British law, to sell or give away our treasures, other than the return of any pieces which turn out to be the spoils of Nazi theft. We loaned to more than 200 museums last year, in Britain and around the world. We also loan long-term. We have offered to loan many of our Ethiopian pieces to Ethiopia, for example, providing we can be sure they will be well cared for.

### What are the highlights of 2019 at V&A?

• There is a major show on food coming up. An exhibition about Dior, the fashion house, opens in a few days. The advance ticket sales are huge. We have been adding extra dates and late night views. I suspect more than half a million people will come.

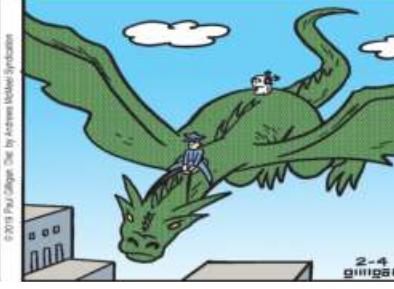
Then there is an important exhibition about cars, the photographer Tim Walker and about Mary Quant, the 60s fashion designer.

It is an incredibly exciting time for V&A. We opened a museum in China in 2017 – in Shekou, and an important museum in Dundee, Scotland in September last year. It is designed by the architect Kengo Kuma. And we are building two new museums in East London.

V&A has a new director, Dr Tristram Hunt, who joined nearly two years ago. He is excellent and adding to the sense of excitement currently surrounding the museum.

**A place for all:** (Clockwise from above) The Division Bell metal heads at the Pink Floyd exhibition, Victoria and Albert Museum and Nicholas Coleridge • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT, GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCK AND MIKE TROW

### POOCH CAFE



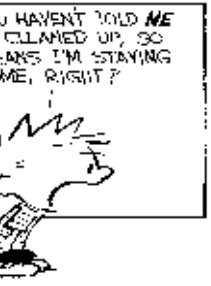
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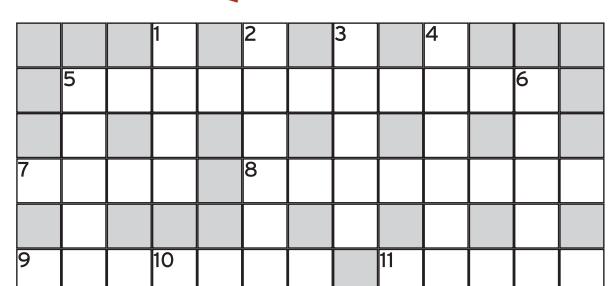
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### CALVIN AND HOBBES



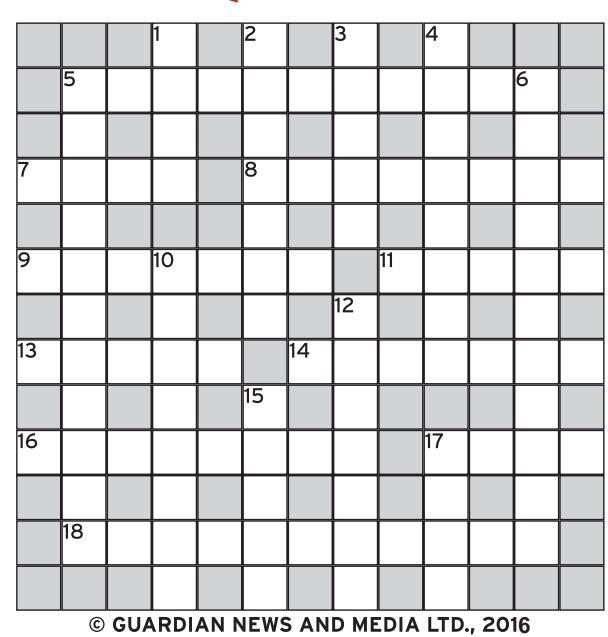
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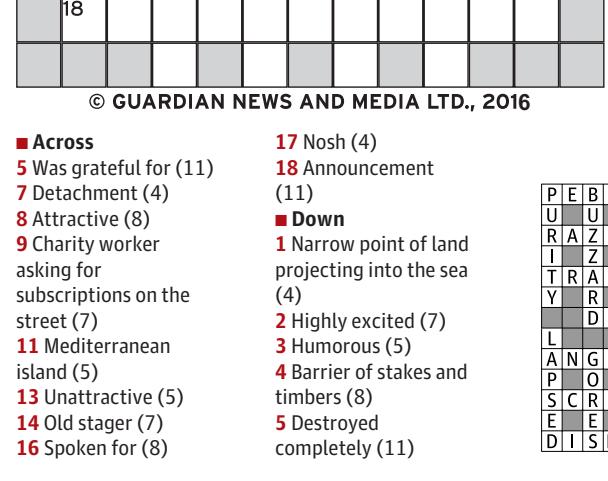
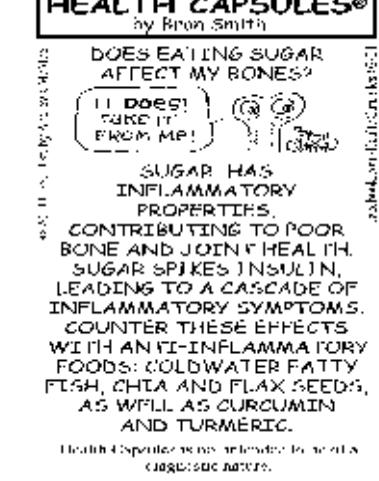
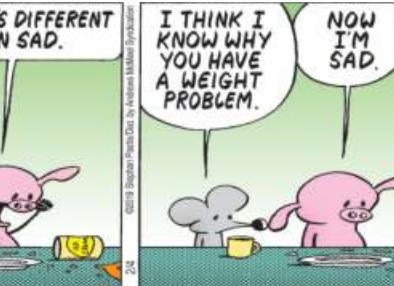


- 6 Cooked perfectly (4,2,1,4)
- 10 Leadership (8)
- 12 Forward progress (7)
- 15 Shoddy (5)
- 17 Fluent and plausible (4)

Solution will appear in Delhi Metro dated February 5, 2019.

Solution No. 12983

### PEARLS BEFORE SWINE



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# The actor and the writer coexist in me'

Vivaan Shah pens a murder mystery in his new avatar

MURTAZA ALI KHAN

Actor Vivaan Shah has recently come out with his debut novel titled *Living Hell*. Essentially a murder mystery, the novel is set against the backdrop of Mumbai's dark underbelly that comes alive at night. He likes to describe *Living Hell* as "Slacker noir in a Bum-baiya setting that takes a detour to the dark side." Also, he sees noir as a "psychological landscape where the universe conspires against you." Vivaan made his Bollywood debut with Vishal Bhardwaj's *Saat Khoon Maaf* which was in dark space and was interestingly based on a short story by Ruskin Bond. He has also directed a play titled *A Comedy of Horrors* featuring the works of Edgar Allan Poe.

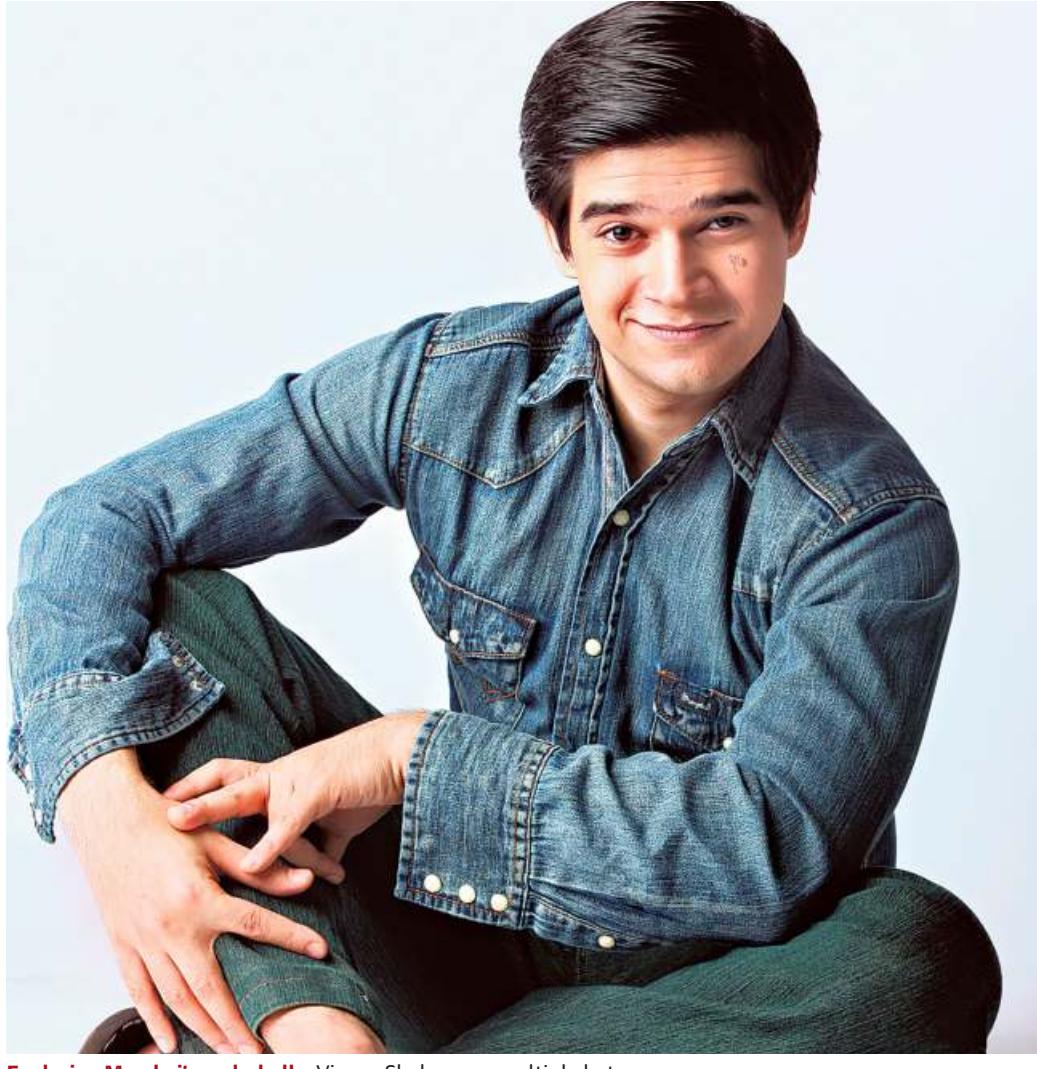
**Excerpts:**

**What is *Living Hell* about?**

The genre of crime fiction that I am trying to pay tribute to in *Living Hell* is the classic hard-boiled fiction associated with most pulp writers which oftentimes is not considered literary but it still is of the same merit in my opinion. It is about a guy called Nadeem Chipkali who has to solve a crime that has taken place in his own building. Now, there are two traditions of the detective genre. On one hand we have the British tradition of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle and Agatha Christie which is slightly more genteel. Nadeem Chipkali, on the other hand, is closer to a Raymond Chandler or a Philip Marlowe. He is an alley cat who goes more by the gut instinct than by logic, analysis and deduction.

**Were there other inspirations and influences beyond hardboiled fiction?**

The biggest literary influence on me has been Edgar Allan Poe who completely blew me at a very early age. He wrote a short story called *The Murders in the Rue Morgue* which is said to have inspired Doyle to create the character of Sherlock Holmes. Beyond the literary influences, *Living Hell* has actually drawn a lot from my own childhood experiences. Now, I grew up in Bandra in the '90s where there was a lot of bhaigiri kind of activity in the neighbourhood. They may not have been gangsters but there was definitely an underworld influence on them especially the way they talked and carried themselves and I just got acquainted with the whole scene. You can probably say that they were on the fringe of the underworld. Today Bandra has the im-



**Exploring Mumbai's underbelly:** Vivaan Shah wears multiple hats • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

age of a very posh kind of a place but back in the '90s it was a very different place. It really used to be very colourful place in terms of gangster activity and there are vestiges of that even today in Bandra.

When I was growing up and the kind of friends I made playing cricket in the neighbourhood I was really fascinated by the way they talked and behaved. Then I went to boarding school. When I came back home I reconnected with that whole world with an adult point of view. By then I had already read a lot of hardboiled fiction such as works of Raymond Chandler and more importantly

seen films like Scorsese's *Mean Streets* and Spike Lee's *Do the Right Thing* which influenced me greatly and then later I started discovering films of James Cagney and Humphrey Bogart which are also about the streets of New York. Those films were about goons and not about the big shot dons. I am talking about the foot soldiers, the shadier sort of marginal characters... the street corner gundas in a sense. That's when I realised that all the stuff that I have seen while growing up in Bandra can be made into some kind of art.

**Are you in the middle of a transition from acting to**

**creative writing?**

No, the actor and the writer coexist. In fact, the two of them have served each other quite well. My acting has helped my writing and my writing has helped my acting. In my early twenties I really started getting into literature in order to perform a lot of those pieces as an actor. So I studied them as an actor so as to communicate their ideas to the contemporary audience in order to make it work as a piece of drama. So that's where the acting helped the writing. Also, since I am a writer myself I am able to internalise it and understand it in a different way as an actor. At the end of the day an actor is speaking someone else's thoughts and so it's important to respect the words written on the page because the writer has put in a lot of thought into it.

**What kind of challenges did you face as a young and upcoming author in order to get your novel published?**

The first thing that I ever submitted to an editor was a collection of short stories which got rejected by a number of publishers. That was my first ever literary endeavour. I eventually did get an offer to publish it digitally which I declined as at the time I was a bit sceptical about it.

Now that I look back, it feels like a stupid thing as I have now

realised that digital publishing is

actually a fantastic thing. Now, interestingly, I had almost completed the first draft of *Living Hell* by



the time I was editing the short stories book. At the time the idea was to have the novel as a follow up to the collection of short stories. But by the time the deal with the short stories book fell through, I already had the first draft of the novel ready with me. I got a genuine response from the Penguin representative that while they like the short stories there wasn't any market for a collection of horror short stories. So I sent them the first draft novel. I was told that it required some work. Then each time I got back to them with the updated drafts I would get their detailed feedbacks. I think by the fourth pass it was finally accepted.

**You said that gangster movies have been a great influence on you. Why didn't you think of making a movie instead of writing a novel?**

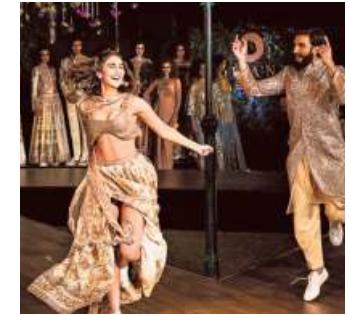
Actually my first attempt was to write a screenplay and I have written many screenplays about the whole milieu. But I think cinema is a different kind of a medium where you are dependent on many other persons and that's why I decided to transform a lot of my pursuits into prose. So that's when the whole literary journey kind of started. But *Living Hell* was never a screenplay transformed into a novel. It was written solely as a novel which also follows the structural framework of a novel.

**We haven't seen you in a movie for some time now...**

I am doing a movie called *Cat* wherein I play a Scheduled caste boy from Bihar who has the dream of wearing a coat. He is a pig farmer who in order to fulfil his dream starts a handicraft business of bamboo products.

It explores the caste politics and highlights the challenges that lower caste people have to encounter in order to rise above his circumstances and attain social mobility. It is directed by a young filmmaker from Bihar called Akshay Kushwaha who has no industry connection and has put together this project completely on his own.

**SHORT TAKES**



**Vaani on trolling**

Actress Vaani Kapoor, who was last seen in *Befikre* says trolling has become a norm of the social media. Her comments came days after her *Befikre* co-star Ranveer Singh was trolled after he posted a photograph of his along with several police officers at the Umang 2019.

The actor was picked up in the air by men in khakhee. Some on social media took offence saying that the *Simmba* actor has disrespected the men in uniform. "That's typical Ranveer Singh for you. I feel everybody gets trolled. There is no one who hasn't got trolled on social media. I guess trolling has become the norm of social media where people enjoy belittling everybody. Everybody is out there to pull the other person down but it will only bother if you let it bother you," said Vaani.



**Heroic cop**

Actress Shefali Shah plays DCP Vartika Chaturvedi in *Delhi Crime*, a seven-episode series based on the real-life Delhi cop who investigated the Delhi rape case and hunted the rapists in 72 hours. Directed by Richie Mehta, the series will stream worldwide on Netflix from 22<sup>nd</sup> March. Netflix has acquired worldwide rights of *Delhi Crime*.

**DOWN MEMORY LANE**

## Moonstruck at night

Does moonlight have a weird effect on certain people? Read on...

R. V. SMITH

"The Sun shall not smite thee by day nor the Moon by (at night)" says the blessing for the righteous in the Good Book. Others are adversely affected and, after the Sun's fury, find it a torture to sleep even in the moonlight, when wolves howl at the moon in the wilderness. Does moonlight have a weird effect on certain people? Last week's Super Blood Wolf Moon enchanted many and agonised some who found its effect overbearing on their senses. The death of 30 children in 40 villages of Pratapgarh, Jaunpur and Sultanpur districts of UP some years ago had created panic, with nobody sure about who killed them - man or beast. The authorities blamed wolves and hyenas, which shikaris had been unable to shoot, while the villagers felt a Manai (werewolf) was behind the killings. Who are werewolves? The belief is that they are humans who undergo a complete transformation from man to animal under the influence of moonlight, as seldom are such killings reported on dark nights.

There was Anu Kasai of Sindh who was one such. He was entombed in a fort wall for killing several people and selling their meat during Akbar's reign. C.A. Kincaid, ICS, has mentioned in his "Tales Told by the Tulsi Plant" about how two of his friends, both Europeans, encountered a khansma "who turned into a wolf at night" and killed their Goan cook in Sehwan.

**Fear of the full moon**

In the 1930s, Nawab Faiyaz Khan visited the Delhi Mental Asylum and found that one of the inmates, a seth, looked perfectly sane. He asked the hospital superintendent why the man had been interned there.

The superintendent asked him to wait and as soon as the noonday sun burst forth in all its glory on that summer's day, the man, who was talking very coherently, just rushed indoors in panic. He was scared that he would melt as he was obsessed with the idea that he was made of wax.

Another man, who also belonged



**More than what meets the eye!** The so-called Super Blood Wolf Moon

• REUTERS

to a rich family of businessmen of Chandni Chowk had a mortal fear of the full moon for he thought if he stayed outdoors on a full moon night he would freeze like the kheer that was cooled in the moonlight at the court of Wajid Ali Shah. Incidentally, Bahadur Shah I, who ascended the throne as Shah Alam I after his father Aurangzeb, became a mental patient in the last years of his short reign.

One of his obsessions was that the full moon was penetrating his brain to drive him to commit suicide. That is why he would get all the doors and windows of his palace closed on such nights and sat trembling in a corner, where he was generally found after midnight and persuaded to go to bed.

**Refuge in Red Fort**

A son of Shah Alam II (who came to the throne 50 years after Shah Alam I) would hide in the royal hammams as he was scared moonlight was searching for him in a bid to end his life. This fear also infected his old spinster sister, who sought refuge in the Mumtaz Mahal on full moon nights.

One doesn't find mention of this in any book but in oral history peppered with gossip and hearsay.

Nawab Faiyaz Khan, a great bibliophile, met an intellectual in a mental asylum in England, when he was studying at Oxford, who was a professor and sent learned articles to the Encyclopaedia Britannica on various subjects. The professor was asked by the publishers to meet them as his knowledge was phenomenal and they wanted to see him personally. The professor wrote back that he was not in a position to meet them as he was confined to a lunatic asylum.

The publishers questioned the superintendent as to the reason for the professor's confinement. The doctor said the patient was certainly very sane, except for the fact that he turned violent on certain moonlit nights and wanted to attack those near him. Once he had beaten up his sister-in-law. At another time he had attacked his wife and son and became a danger to his family.

The recent Superblood Wolf Moon brought these memories to mind when one saw pictures of it

casting its enchanting effect on monuments in the cities in which it was seen during the lunar eclipse. It's worth mentioning that the Mughal emperors were not immune to such beliefs and many of them, from Akbar to Bahadur Shah Zafar, bathed during solar and lunar eclipses and got themselves weighed in grain, which was distributed to the poor on the advice of their astrologer, one of whom was Pundit Pati Ram, after whom a kutchia is named in the Walled City.

**Dos and don'ts for royals**

Pati Ram always found a seat of honour in the Dewan-e-khas, where he was taken in the royal palanquin. Among his list of dos and don'ts was that royal inmates of the fort should avoid going out on full moon nights, especially at eclipses during one of which, incidentally, Ahmad Shah, successor of Mohammad Shah, was stabbed to death at a mazar he was fond of frequenting at night. His mother, Qudsia Begum, was imprisoned after the assassination for misguiding her son on the advice of fakirs and mendicants, who influenced both of them by their superstitious talk. One of them was the Fakir of Thatta who had conspired in the killing of courtier Hussain Ali with the connivance of Qudsia Begum, who used to send him disguised as a milkman to spy on the ill-fated nobleman. He had aroused the jealousy of her favourite Hyder Quli, whose haveli still exists in Chandni Chowk as a rabbit warren of many shops. Funny to say so, but the haveli is situated in such a way that very little moonlight permeates it, probably because Hyder Quli too was a superstitious man, branded by his erstwhile mentor, Hussain Ali, as a "Moonia" (one who acted abnormally under the influence of the moon) and not fit to be in-charge of artillery in the Red Fort. It was this candid observation that actually brought about the murder of the nobleman, notwithstanding the sinister belief in werewolves.

THE WRITER IS A VETERAN CHRONICLER OF DELHI

## Towards gender parity

An ongoing photography exhibition captures regular dads in a new light

LATA GIDWANI

Swedish Government in a landmark policy legislation replaced maternity leave with the parental leave in 1974. Against the backdrop of the social and economic dividends reaped by the Swedish society, Embassy of Sweden is holding an exhibition - "Delhi dads meet Swedish dads" showcasing the everyday lives of fathers on parental leave through their pictures and interviews. Indian photographer Srimon Chatterjee worked with the Swedish photographer Johan Bavman to capture moments of fatherhood in their work.

**Sharing stories**

"I am a father of two kids and I'm grateful for being able to live my children's childhood with my wife. I cherish the synergy and understanding I have developed towards my partner and my kids and her reciprocal confidence in me for being able to manage the household when she is away at work," says Johan.

"The dads in the photo-



**Doting dad:** Memorable stills from the exhibition

graphs aren't some superheroes, just regular dads, bathing their kids, changing diapers, cleaning their mess, feeding and lulling them to sleep. All we need are more role models that men can relate to," he adds.

Recalling his experience with the Delhi dads, Srimon says, "Throughout the project, I spent time with different families and explored the dynamics of the equation between children and their fathers. I reflected on my own relationship with my son."

Srimon shares after the birth of his son he changed his work schedule so that he could spend quality time



with him. "Dressing him up, telling him stories and putting him to sleep excites me a lot."

One of the photographs of a Swedish dad depicts the father putting nail-paint on the toes of a young daughter, with her legs dangling from a stool while the other relaxing on his left thigh. In a photograph of a Delhi dad, the father is dressing up his daughter for school while identifying animal names from a chart on the wall.

**Striking contrasts**

At the panel discussion, the participants discussed the social impact of the paid parental leave, the striking contrasts in the cultural and social mores of India and Sweden towards gender egalitarianism and corporate-political bottlenecks to policy-making in India.

Johan points out, "Love of parents is universal regardless of whether you're a mother or a father. With the aid of this project, I hope to facilitate discourse around dismantling the stigma attached to fathers babysitting their children and inspire introspection among men on their roles as partners and fathers."

**(The exhibition is on at DLF Promenade, Vasant Kunj, New Delhi)**

BND-NDE

## 6 HEALTH

**Headgear**

**Beanies from On My Terms**  
When a friend in the US shipped a bunch of beanies to Sujaya Walia, she'd wear them out everywhere she went, whether it was chemo daycare or a restaurant. "My kids (then 12 and 10) loved that I was able to look trendy," she says, thinking back to 2013, when she was getting treated. Meanwhile, other people undergoing treatment also asked for them. So

Sujaya began to import them, and then gradually to have them locally made. "People want to go out to break the monotony between home and hospital," she says, without having to declare to the world that they're undergoing treatment. Order at [facebook.com/onmyterms.in](http://facebook.com/onmyterms.in)

**Hair for Hope India**

A little before their launch in 2013, Nisha Jose donated her hair for a wig. Soon, she and a friend launched Hair for Hope to help people regain a little bit of what they'd lost. They operate all over India, but mainly in and around Kerala. Nisha says she's been to over 150 homes, to measure heads for a correct fit. That's the time people open up, she says, some crying, some venting – emotions they're not able to share even with closest family because they fear they'll get them worried.

She also organises donation drives at schools and colleges and is amazed at the way young women come forward to give a part of themselves. Hair collection and wig-making takes place through the Sargakshetra Centre. If you'd like to donate, you'll need to have at least 17 inches to give. Wash hair thoroughly so there's no oil, dry completely, put a rubberband at 16 inches and cut above. Then courier.

Her next project is to start a volunteering service for lower income groups, where a child has cancer. "It requires both parents to be there, and they lose out on employment," she says. So if one parent is with the child, they need another person to help with tasks around the hospital. Contact 9446835013.

If you've been freshly diagnosed, consider cutting your own hair and getting a wig made.

**Bras and swimwear**

"In the first three months, go with a sports bra, as you need something compressed so the scars don't expand, especially in a breast-saving surgery, where we make incisions on the breast," says Dr Ramesh Sarin, oncologist, Indraprastha Apollo Hospitals, Delhi. Thereafter, look at a mastectomy bra – the whole point is to restore body-image, but it's also of practical use, because your body may end up with a right-left imbalance and with back and neck pain. The Indian Cancer Society Rehabilitation Centre in Delhi provides a set of bras and prosthesis free of cost to anyone who has had a mastectomy. In addition, they offer imported, lightly-used silicone prostheses, from the UK, which cost in the ₹8,000 to ₹12,000 range when new. These can last upto 10 years, and are available at ₹500 along with bras. Or pair them with Marks and Spencer post-operation bras that are skin-friendly, sexy, and have pockets for the prostheses. Naturana, a 102-year-old company in Germany that ships to India, produces swimwear suitable for those who've had a mastectomy. They also do bras. Look up [naturana-shop.eu](http://naturana-shop.eu)



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**Learn and grow:** Some oncologists believe they are psychologically stronger when it comes to handling a family member diagnosed with cancer

Two oncologists share how cancer affected their lives

**IN THE FAMILY**

NEERAJA MURTHY

An oncologist, a cancer-care specialist, helps people with medical and emotional support. But we rarely consider what happens when an oncologist has a close family member or a friend diagnosed with the disease. Here, two Hyderabad-based oncologists share their story.

**Dr Sreekanth Kandikattu**

**Senior surgical oncologist**  
**Yashoda Hospitals**

Dr Sreekanth Kandikattu was newly married when his aunt was detected with malignant Esthesioneuroblastoma, a rare type of cancer in the nasal roof and skull base in 2000. "She was my pinni, my mother's sister. I was close to her," he says. He remembers with affection how much fun he, as a nine-year-old, had at her wedding. His first reaction when he heard she was diagnosed, was emotional distress, but being young, he was not demoralised. The positive side of having an oncologist in the family is that they are better informed, know the disease, prognosis and its extent. In a better frame of mind, they can communicate the truth and give straightforward answers to delicate questions. "We see situations where relatives multiply fear and convey things differently. Psychologically, we are stronger as we



have seen many patients. We know whether the cancer can be cured or if we can extend the lifespan," he adds. Dr Kandikattu's aunt eventually passed away due to cancer, but the positive side is the difference he was able to make during her cancer treatment. His faith and hope to beat cancer got strong when another aunt of his survived the fatal disease. "It has been 20 years since she survived

cancer and she also saw her daughter and son marry. We have to move forward in our fight against cancer." When he witnessed the agony of one of his professors while trying to find an oncologist for his daughter, it inspired him to take up oncology. "An oncologist in the family would make a difference emotionally and medically," he felt.

**Dr Umanath Nayak**

**Consultant head and neck oncologist**  
**Apollo Health City**

Dr Umanath Nayak never imagined he would have to deal with cancer in his own family. "As an oncologist, I never thought cancer would hit someone I had admired for so many years." He recollects two incidents during his father's battle

with colon cancer. "I realised something was not right when I saw my father in the airport. He had lost 20 kg and looked frail. During his colonoscopy, I saw a big tumour staring at me from the monitor. The images were disturbing." He heaved a sigh of relief for the first time only after surgery.

Witnessing a family member go through this ordeal is traumatic and oncologists navigate the situation because of their medical training. The person with the disease feels assured and hopeful with an oncologist in the family and the trust factor eases tension. "Your biggest worry is only when you think it is incurable, but I went about it with a practical approach." He considered it a time to fulfil his duties as a son. Although his father's diagnosis heightened anxiety, he was calm and composed, and explained the disease, its treatment and outcome to relatives. "None in the family had to go through the worry of whether he was being treated correctly as I had taken the responsibility. For all that my father had done for me, I could be there to support him. My father too felt relieved when he saw his oncologist son taking care of him."

His father survived cancer, but the psychological impact of the disease took a toll on his mental health and he is on anti-depressants. This experience has brought in empathy and a change in his approach. He feels one has to accept the fact that anyone can get this disease. "Some of us may be more knowledgeable, but one is still going to experience the anxiety and fear which patients and family members go through. In a way, this may help oncologists understand them and develop empathy."

**Tattoos**

After a stint in advertising, Sujatha Sriharan, from Chennai, trained as a tattoo artist. She got into medical tattooing quite by accident, when she was asked by a surgeon if she could do work on a patient with vitiligo. One thing led to another, and one day she was asked if she'd ever done a tattoo of an areola. Sujatha said she hadn't, but was confident of executing it. She did. Unfortunately, while the rest of her medical work continues, she faces a problem while finding work with breast cancer survivors. "There are few who consider reconstruction surgery, and even fewer who know that this is a possibility," she says. Also, it's difficult to advertise something like this: "You just don't, you can't," she says, hoping that even if women don't opt for reconstruction, they'll still consider tattooing their chests.

**When docs and patients come together**

In 2012, Shruti Sharma and Neeti Leekha Chhabra, both 31 then, were detected with breast cancer. They shared an oncologist, Dr Sarin, who put them in touch. The women realised they had several doubts around daily life: "Simple things like when is it okay to wax, or what to do when the medication has an impact on intimacy," says Neeti. So they formed a WhatsApp group with support from the doctor, to help other women who were newly diagnosed. Message at 9650456669 or 9958562277 to join the group.

In addition, Dr Sarin banded together with a group of doctors, to run an informal initiative forum4breastcancer, which does a number of educational talks. They recently made a video (on YouTube) called 'All the answers you seek when breast cancer strikes', that features Shruti, Neeti, and five other survivors, who tell you their stories and take you through the basics.

**Deadpool**

Deadpool, the pansexual merc with a mouth, made famous by the imitable Ryan Reynolds, is a character who, in a way, owes his superpowers to cancer. The man behind the mask, Wade Wilson, is a mercenary who, after developing cancerous tumours in multiple organs, is given an accelerated healing ability. This makes both his cancerous cells and normal cells regenerate rapidly, giving him a heavily scarred appearance, but at the same time, making him virtually unable to die. For the movie's promotions, Reynolds, in his red-and-black suit, did a PSA for testicular cancer, requesting 'Gentlemen, touch yourself tonight.'

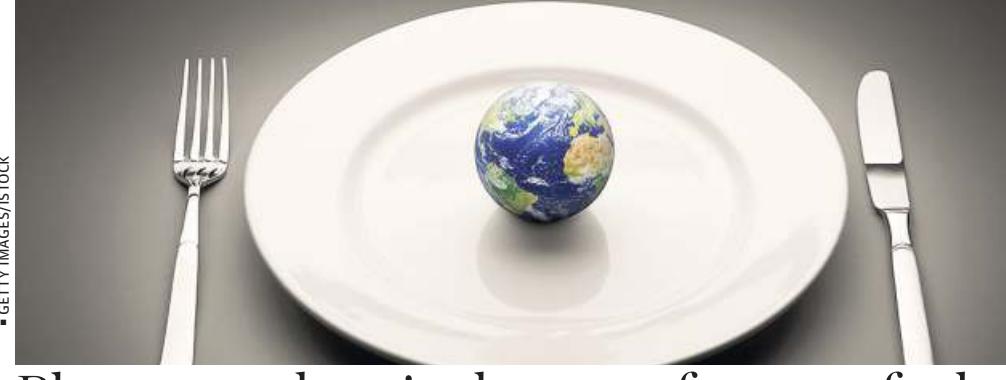
**Jane Foster/Thor**

Jane Foster is a doctor who Thor, the Asgard God of Thunder, falls in love with, when he is in his human form. She loses her mother to cancer when she is nine, and herself is diagnosed with breast cancer later. While hospitalised and undergoing chemotherapy, she represents Earth in the Congress of Worlds on Thor's invitation. Later, when Thor loses his ability to wield his hammer Mjolnir that holds the power of lightning, Jane picks it up, transforming into the Thunder Goddess herself.

**Captain Mar-vell**

Captain Mar-vell, of Marvel comics, was a member of the Kree, the alien humanoid warrior race. His passing away due to lung cancer, which he develops after fighting a major battle, is drawn poignantly. In the Marvel universe, another character, Carol Danvers, takes on the mantle of Captain Marvel. This is the character that will be played by Brie Larson in the upcoming movie of the same name.

— With inputs from Sweta Akundi

**COULD IT BE THAT****Planet-to-plate is the new farm-to-fork**

SUNALINI MATHEW

I started working in 1999 in what is today one of the biggest home-bred Internet companies in India. I was 23 and had a robust online life. Those were the days when my boss, a 'print person', was still trying to fathom why there was no space after a stop in www. Senior people from the marketing department commissioned a study to a consulting firm that charged them lots of money.

After months, marketing put together a presentation. The head, who had no doubt cleared many presentation-skill exams, grandly declared that the data had been a revelation: that email was the go-to thing for most people online. Puzzled, we asked why they hadn't just asked us. We were too young and naïve to understand the dynamics behind why people commission studies.

A couple of weeks ago, as I read the EAT-Lancet Commission on Food, Planet, Health, it's like déjà vu. The report traces the connection from farmer to plate, to health to planet. Yes, of course, our individual health is related to what we grow, and consequently, to what we eat, our community health, and the environment itself. Kind of obvious, isn't it? But much like the emperor's new clothes, we can't call it out, because *The Lancet*. The publication has declared 2019 as The Year for Nutrition, so one can only hope that this will be the start of something like the anti-tobacco move-

ment, where big corporations are curbed, and farmers put at the forefront.

"The intentions of the commission are great," says Sheela Krishnaswamy, a Bengaluru-based dietitian and erstwhile head of the Indian Dietetic Association. What are these intentions? To achieve planetary health diets for nearly 10 billion people by 2050, for which five strategies have been outlined. While the study puts out clearly that its guidelines are just that – guidelines – and shows us Instagram-worthy pictures of what the 'flexitarian' plate can look like (because they talk about a range), the core of the diet is lowering meat, sugar, and processed food; upping plant-based options (fruit, veg, legumes, nuts). Hello traditional Indian diet.

All this is based on a 2,500 kcal diet that most Indians don't have the luxury to consume, and the ones that do are making it up with junk food. The thing is, what's new? "...the Commission proposes boundaries that global food production should stay within to decrease the risk of irreversible and potentially catastrophic shifts in the Earth system," says the report. So will America opt out like it did from the Paris Agreement, referenced in the report?

Will Indian dieticians change what they're saying to us? No, because what they're currently advocating is just what the report stipulates. Will it change my obesogenic environment? Unlike, I'll need something stronger. In the meantime, on your plate, make sure only 1/4 to 1/3 is carbohydrate foods (unpolished rice or millets or rotis or potato or maize or oats); another 1/4 is protein (dal or dairy or lean meats or egg); and the rest is filled with some fruit and lots of veg, says Sheela. Basically, eat what your mother puts on your plate.