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## UPSC MOCK INTERVIEW PROGRAMME

February 16<sup>th</sup> Onwards

Office: Apsara Arcade, Nr. Karol Bagh Metro Station Gate #7  
For Free Registration SMS or WhatsApp <Mock\_Name> to

9873643487

## NEARBY



'Hotel staff was partying before fire broke out'

NEW DELHI

The staff of Hotel Arpit Palace at Karol Bagh was partying on the terrace before the fire broke out on Tuesday morning, said a Fire Department officer on Wednesday. He said liquor bottles were found on the terrace of the hotel.

DELI METRO ▶ PAGE 1

## Ex-CBI chief dropped from SRCC event

NEW DELHI

Former CBI Director Alok Verma has been dropped from the list of speakers at the Sri Ram College of Commerce Students' Union Business Conclave 2019, officials said.

DELI METRO ▶ PAGE 1

**Bhagirath IAS Academy**  
UPSC • MPSC  
By: Ranjan Kolambe

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DELI METRO ▶ 6 PAGES

## Rafale cost is 2.86% lower, but Dassault benefited without bank guarantee: CAG

Improvement in delivery schedule was only one month over UPA deal, the government auditor says

DINAKAR PERI  
NEW DELHI

The contract signed in 2016 to acquire 36 Rafale fighter jets from France through the Inter-Governmental Agreement (IGA) was 2.86% lower in value than "Audit's aligned price" of the bid received in 2007 when the then UPA government had sought to purchase 126 Medium Multi-Role Combat Aircraft (MMRCA), the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India said in its report, tabled in Parliament on Wednesday.

The CAG also observed that the price could have been reduced further had the benefits of waiving of the bank guarantees for the vendor (Dassault Aviation) been passed on to India.

## Varying claims

There have been varying claims from government officials on how much cheaper the 2016 deal was, with estimates ranging from 9% to 20%.

On the delivery schedule, the national auditor found that the 2016 deal's terms would ensure only a month's advantage over the timeline offered in the 2007 bid.

## Mixed bag

**Price comparison...** The price of the 36 Rafale aircraft in the 2016 deal was 2.86% lower than the comparable price based on the UPA-negotiated deal. The comparable price as of 2015 (aligned price) was arrived at by applying a price escalation formula to the June 2007 bid



The report, which had been widely awaited in the wake of a string of revelations on procedural deviations in the negotiations to acquire the French Rafale jets and political allegations of financial irregularities in the deal, was tabled in the Rajya Sabha on the last day of the 16th Lok Sabha. In its performance audit report on 'Capital Acquisition of the Indian Air Force', the CAG reviewed 11 contracts

Key highlights of the CAG report on the Rafale Deal

**Transfer of technology (ToT) costs...** The CAG did not consider the costs needed to manufacture 108 aircraft in India that was part of the 18 flyaway + 108 ToT aircraft deal in the 2007 bid. Only the 18 flyaway aircraft were considered for comparison

**Delivery schedule...** The CAG noted that there was an improvement of one month in the delivery schedule in the 2016 contract (71 months instead of 72 months for the earlier bid)

**Absence of bank guarantee...** The auditor said that Dassault, not the government, saved a sum by the non-inclusion of a bank guarantee in the deal. This sum should have been passed on to the government, the audit observed

**Government claims...** One of the government's claims was that each aircraft (without enhancements) was 9% cheaper in the 2016 deal. But the audit concluded there was no difference between the 2007 (escalated to 2015) and the 2016 offer in this regard

**126 to 36...** The CAG said that it could not find any proposal with the Ministry for filing the wide gap in the operational preparedness of the IAF (by reducing aircraft to be bought from 126 to 36). It noted that the Ministry of Defence informed CAG that it had issued a fresh Request For Information (RFI) for new fighter aircraft to fill this gap

signed between 2012-13 and 2017-18 with an approximate value of ₹95,000 crore.

On the Rafale's India Specific Enhancements, which cost more than ₹1.3 billion of the ₹7.87 billion deal, the CAG stated that there was a saving of 17.08%. However, the audit noted that four enhancements were "stated not to be required in the technical and staff evaluations" and that the cost of these four

items constituted about 14% of the ISE estimated cost.

"The Ministry has stated that scaling down the requirement to limit cash outgo cannot be considered as saving," the CAG said. The auditor redacted all price figures from the report – done, it said, at the insistence of the Ministry of Defence which had cited the Indo-French Agreement of 2008 and the provisions of the IGA.

On the overall delivery schedule of the 36 jets as per the 2016 deal, compared with the delivery of 18 jets in flyaway condition plus another 18 produced in India under licence under the terms of the MMRCA proposal, CAG noted that there was an improvement of only one month in the 2016 contract.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 10

MORE REPORTS ON ▶ PAGE 11

### Dissent note said it: Cong.

Quoting a dissent note by three members of the negotiating team published by *The Hindu* on Wednesday, Congress president Rahul Gandhi said it demolished the two key factors of price and speedy delivery of aircraft on which the government's entire argument for the new Rafale deal was based. He questioned why the dissent note was not included in the CAG audit report that was tabled in Parliament on Wednesday. The CAG findings belied the government's claim, he said. ▶ PAGE 11



Time for cheer: Celebrations in Guwahati after the Citizenship Bill lapsed. ■ PTI

## Citizenship, triple talaq Bills lapse

Bid to push one Bill through RS fails

SOBHANA K NAIR  
NEW DELHI

The Citizenship (Amendment) Bill, 2019, that had set off a series of violent protests across the northeastern States, lapsed on Wednesday as the government failed to push it through Rajya Sabha despite a last-ditch effort on Tuesday.

Along with the Citizenship Bill, the triple talaq Bill that criminalises instant divorce in a Muslim marriage has also lapsed.

There have been widespread protests against the Citizenship Bill that proposed to grant citizenship to six religious minorities – Hindus, Jains, Sikhs, Parsis, Christians and Buddhists – from Pakistan, Afghanistan and Bangladesh, who came to India before December 31, 2014. The Bill was seen as violating the terms of the 1985 Assam Accord that had set March 24, 1971 as the cut-off for granting citizenship.

## Black flag protest

On Sunday, Prime Minister Narendra Modi faced black flags and nude protests during his trip to Guwahati. Mr. Modi has consistently reiterated the BJP's commitment

towards the Bill. At a rally in Jammu recently, he said it was essential to "save children of Ma Bharat" under attack in Pakistan, Afghanistan, Bangladesh. He reiterated the concept of Akhand Bharat, a core principle of the RSS and its affiliated organisations.

In a bid to have a smooth Budget session, the government had, at the very commencement, told the Opposition that controversial legislations including the Citizenship Bill and the triple talaq Bill, will not be moved.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 10

SEE ALSO ▶ PAGE 3

## Majority govt. is a must for stability, PM tells Lok Sabha

A full majority govt. has enhanced the status of country globally'

NISTULA HEBBAR  
NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi in his last speech to the Lok Sabha, ahead of the general elections, made a strong pitch for a majority government at the Centre, stating that a full majority government in the last five years had enhanced the status of the country globally.

Faced with an opposition grouping, the Prime Minister Modi's statement is part of the BJP's move to project a "decisive leadership" against an agglomeration of ideologically diverse opposition parties.

</

2 NORTH

THE HINDU  
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2019

# Haryana Cabinet gives nod for 10% reservation to EWS

To be directly recruited to Group A, B, C and D posts

## SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

CHANDIGARH

The Haryana government on Wednesday decided to grant 10% reservation to persons belonging to the economically weaker sections in direct recruitment to Group A, B, C and D posts in all departments, boards, corporations and local bodies of the State government, besides in admissions to all government and government-aided educational institutions.

The decision was taken at a meeting of the State Cabinet chaired by Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar.

## Income from all sources

An official statement said only those whose gross income is below ₹6 lakh per annum would be eligible. "Income will include income from all sources. That is salary, agriculture, business and profession and income for the financial year prior to the year of application," it said.

Moreover, a family will in-

clude the person who is seeking reservation – his/her parents, spouse and children and siblings below the age of 18 years, the statement said.

The statement added that persons whose family owns or possesses five acres of agricultural land and above; residential flat of 1,000 square feet and above; residential plot of 100 square yards and above in notified municipalities; residential plot of 200 square yards and above in areas other than the notified municipalities; and any immovable property worth more than ₹1 crore would be excluded from the quota irrespective of the family income.

The Cabinet also approved the draft of the Haryana Laws (Special Provisions) Bill, 2019, to make special provisions for all districts of Haryana falling under the National Capital Region for a period of one year. "This Act will be called

the Haryana Laws (Special Provisions) Act, 2019. It will help to phase out specified agricultural and allied activities – tractors and combine harvesters – using diesel as fuel from the districts of Haryana falling in the NCR gradually in compliance with the directions of the Supreme Court without causing hardship to farmers and allied in the districts falling in the NCR," said the statement.

## Textile policy

The Cabinet also gave its nod to amend the Textile Policy-2018. "Anchor units have been defined as an enterprise with fixed capital investment of ₹100 crore or more which provides employment to 1,000 people or more, with at least 70% of the total unskilled employment to the people of Haryana domicile and at least 30% of overall employment to the people of Haryana domicile," the statement added.

Question Hour derailed, proceedings adjourned repeatedly; SP, BSP members meet Governor

## PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

LUCKNOW

The issue of denial of permission to Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav to fly to Allahabad rocked the Uttar Pradesh legislature on Wednesday as angry SP and BSP members stalled the proceedings of both the Houses.

The entire Question Hour was derailed in both the Assembly and the Council as proceedings had to be adjourned repeatedly and then for the day as the agitated members were in no mood to relent.

## Protests galore

Protests by the SP and the BSP members on the issue started as soon as the two Houses met for the day.

The pre-lunch sitting of the Assembly saw two adjournments as the Opposition members vociferously raised the issue. Amid the uproar, Speaker Hriday Narain Dixit adjourned the House, first for 30 minutes and then for the entire question hour.

SP leader Narendra Verma



Samajwadi Party SC/ST Cell members during a protest in Lucknow on Wednesday. •PTI

ma tried to raise the issue during Question Hour. He was supported by BSP leader Lalji Verma, who said: "Lathi charge was done in the entire State by the police and fake cases were lodged against protesters. SP MP Dharmendra Yadav was injured in the lathi charge."

"There is 'Hitlershahi' in the State as the government is resorting to activities which demean democracy," he claimed.

Countering Mr. Verma,

Parliamentary Affairs Minister Suresh Kumar Khanna said as the Opposition does not have any issue, it was creating anarchy.

When the Speaker did not allow discussion on the matter during Question Hour, the Opposition members trooped into the Well raising anti-government slogans.

During Zero Hour, the Opposition members again raised the matter and demanded that "fake cases" be withdrawn. They also de-

manded that an FIR be lodged against policemen involved in "atrocities", besides a judicial probe by a retired High Court judge.

SP member Sangram Singh Yadav said, "I was myself present there. The police targeted SP workers during the lathi charge and also resorted to firing. They pulled off the nail of a worker and beat up student leader Richa Singh, who is in hospital."

The Speaker then said the matter was taken on Tuesday as well and the SP-BSP members did not allow the House to function. "Lies were stated by them. A letter was sent to SP chief Akhilesh Yadav and the same was received by his personal assistant. It is a planned conspiracy to create anarchy in the State. SP workers were involved in stone pelting, banner with photos of the Prime Minister and the Chief Minister was burnt," he said.

A delegation of SP and BSP leaders earlier in the day called on Governor Ram Naik and handed over a memorandum seeking his intervention in the matter.

The matter also figured in the Legislative Council, where Leader of the Opposition Ahmad Hasan raised the matter.

When Leader of the House Dinesh Sharma tried to answer, the Opposition members protested leading to adjournment of Question Hour. When the House met again similar scenes prevailed, prompting Chairman Ramesh Yadav to adjourn for the day.

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## HC upset with Uttarakhand govt. over rent waiver

## Terrorists open fire, injure civilian

Srinagar: Terrorists on Wednesday shot at and injured a civilian in the Tral area of Jammu and Kashmir's Pulwama district, police said. PTI

## DELHI Timings

THURSDAY, FEB. 14	
RISE 07:01	SET 18:10
RISE 12:48	SET 01:45
FRIDAY, FEB. 15	
RISE 07:00	SET 18:11
RISE 13:39	SET 02:46
SATURDAY, FEB. 16	
RISE 06:59	SET 18:12
RISE 14:37	SET 03:49

Delhi Weather	max	min
Delhi City	25	11
Safdarjung	25	11
Palam	25	13

Delhi Palam Today  
20°C Few spell of rain with strong gusty winds and hailstorm. Pollution level to improve.

Delhi Palam Tomorrow  
20°C Scattered rain and thunder shower will continue over the area. Pollution level to remain good.

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## Working towards environmental conservation

Most of us would have enjoyed walking around the sprawling green campuses of our college, but how many of our colleges had a club that students today and we work on different aspects that affect the environment," says Dr. Vincent.

One of the areas that they



worked towards preserving the environment with a professor at the helm, encouraging students to become ambassadors, spreading the message of the importance of a clean green environment?

The Enviro Club at the Loyola College, Chennai is one such club which has been working tirelessly towards environmental conservation.

At the forefront of this club, mentoring and guiding the students is Dr. S. Vincent, Professor of Zoology at Loyola College, who has also done his doctorate in the field of environmental conservation. "As a professor, I knew how we could use youth to impact the environmental conservation efforts and that is how we started the Enviro Club. What started with just 300 students, has over 1500

harvesting measures are capable of storing 12 lakh litres of water within just 10 minutes of good rain.

The Chennai Corporation has made a special visit to the college to understand the Club's initiatives, and implemented some of the concepts initiated by Dr. Vincent across all other wards of Chennai city. They have introduced the unique concept of using red and green segregation bins to achieve successful waste segregation at-scale, enabling the Government for better solid waste management.

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SUBMIT YOUR STORY AT WWW.THEHINDU.COM/UNDERMYWATCH

# Chaos in U.P. House over Akhilesh issue

Question Hour derailed, proceedings adjourned repeatedly; SP, BSP members meet Governor

## PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

LUCKNOW

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The Speaker then said the matter was taken on Tuesdays as well and the SP-BSP members did not allow the House to function. "Lies were stated by them. A letter was sent to SP chief Akhilesh Yadav and the same was received by his personal assistant. It is a planned conspiracy to create anarchy in the State. SP workers were involved in stone pelting, banner with photos of the Prime Minister and the Chief Minister was burnt," he said.

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## Amarinder moots fast-track courts to try rape cases

Would approach Punjab and Haryana HC Chief Justice

## PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

NAINITAL

The Uttarakhand High Court on Wednesday expressed dismay at the State government's decision to give rent waiver to former Chief Ministers who had occupied government accommodations for years together after demitting office.

The Division Bench of Chief Justice Ramesh Ranjanathan and Justice R.C. Khulbe expressed surprise and dismay when the Advocate-General informed the court that the government had decided to waive all the unpaid rent of the former CMs and amounts spent on extending other facilities to them, the petitioner's counsel said. The petitioner had raised objections to the "meagre" rent paid by Vijay Bahuguna and Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank.

## Building blocks



## 7 days' police custody for accused

## PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

LUDHIANA

A court in Ludhiana on Wednesday remanded the three men, arrested in connection with the gang rape of a woman here, for seven days in police custody even as the accused were manhandled by the Akali Dal supporters. A group of protesters owing allegiance to Youth Akali Dal led by Meepal Singh Duggi hurled shoes and also manhandled the accused while they were being taken to the court, the police said.

Responding to the issue raised by Simarjeet Singh Bains of the Lok Insaaf Party and Kular Singh Sandhuwan of the Aam Aadmi Party, the Chief Minister assured the House that he would also request the Chief Justice to try all such cases in a fast-track court on a day-to-day basis.

He stressed the need for prompt dispensation of justice to the victims, besides exemplary punishment to the convicts in such dastardly acts.

The Chief Minister in-

formed the House that of the six persons involved in the heinous crime, three had already been arrested and the remaining would be nabbed soon.

Earlier during Zero Hour, AAP MLA Sarabjit Kaur Manna raised the issue, saying that crimes against women

were rapidly rising in the State. "Had the police acted upon the input provided by the survivor's friend, the incident could have been averted. The government must sack all the police personnel involved for dereliction of duty to send out a message to others," he said.

Mr. Gehlot said the revenue expenditure during 2019-2

# NE erupts in joy as Centre fails to table Bill

People take out victory rallies; Meghalaya CM emerges 'tallest leader' for his stand against legislation

RAHUL KARMAKAR  
GUWAHATI

The Centre's failure in tabling the Citizenship (Amendment) Bill in the Rajya Sabha on Wednesday triggered euphoria across the northeastern States.

It also made leaders in the States ruled by the BJP singly or in alliance with regional parties heave a sigh of relief because of widespread protests, while Meghalaya Chief Minister Conrad K. Sangma emerged as the "tallest leader" for his stand against the legislation. Mr. Sangma's National People's Party is an ally of the BJP and heads the coalition government in Meghalaya. His party is a minor partner of the BJP in Manipur and Nagaland.

As soon as the news of the Bill not being passed in the Rajya Sabha came in, people across Assam and neighbouring States took to the streets bursting firecrackers, singing, dancing and organising victory rallies.

"The Northeast came together as one against the Bill. Their spontaneous protests prevented the Centre from tabling the Bill, thus saving democracy and the secular fabric on the country," All Assam Students' Union chief advisor Samujjal K. Bhattacharya said.



**Elated:** Activists burn firecrackers to celebrate the lapsing of the Bill, in Dibrugarh on Wednesday. ■ PTI

AGP mulls renewing ties

The Assam Gana Parishad, which had pulled out its support to the Sarbananda Sonowal government after the Bill was introduced in the Lok Sabha last month, said the people of the Northeast showed how powerful they can be when united. "The BJP will think twice before trying to impose the Bill later," AGP president Atul Bora said. AGP leader Manoj Saikia said the party would discuss renewing ties with the BJP since the Bill has been "virtually shelved".

The Assam unit of the Congress celebrated the "victory of the people" by distributing sweets. Party veteran and former Chief Minister Tarun Gogoi said people of the Northeast thwarted the BJP despite Chief Minister Sonowal and Finance Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma "trying

## Curfew lifted in Manipur

IBOYAIMA LAITHANGBAM  
IMPHAL

The Manipur government lifted curfew from Imphal East and Imphal West districts and restored Internet connection on Wednesday shortly after the Rajya Sabha adjourned sine die without passing the Citizenship (Amendment) Bill.

Chief Minister N. Biren Singh while lifting the curfew tendered his apology to the people for taking "such drastic steps". He said the credit for the Bill not getting tabled in the Rajya Sabha

should go to the people of the Northeast in general and Manipur in particular.

Normal life in Imphal city was restored within minutes of lifting of the curfew with women vendors, who have been on strike since Sunday, resuming their business. Activists in Imphal West demanded immediate release of some youth taken into custody on Tuesday. They also demanded that the Manipur People's (Protection) Bill, 2018, which was passed by the State Assembly, be cleared by the President.

their best to destroy the State" by endorsing the Bill.

Mr. Sarma said the party will try to push the Bill in the Rajya Sabha as and when it has the numbers there. "We brought the Bill to prevent 17 of Assam's 33 districts from becoming a Bangladeshi Muslim majority State by 2021. The Bill is our commitment and it will remain so during the Lok Sabha elections," he said.

Manipur Chief Minister N. Biren Singh thanked Prime

Minister Narendra Modi and BJP president Amit Shah for not tabling the Bill and opting for a "consensus-driven approach". He tweeted: "I sincerely appreciate and congratulate the people of Manipur and NE in general for winning on CAB. The efforts of students, meira paibis (women's groups), NGOs and different political parties of the State were remarkable. Because of your genuine demands, Central government has reviewed CAB."

## Puri seer convenes meet

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
PURÍ

The Shankaracharya of Govardhan Peeth, Puri, Swami Nischalananda Saraswati, has convened a meeting of all stakeholders to discuss the problems plaguing the Sri Jagannath Temple here for the past few years, the seer's spokesman said on Wednesday. The meeting will be held on February 17, ahead of Supreme Court appointed Amicus Curiae Ranjit Kumar's visit to Puri on February 22.

## Meghalaya puts cap on weight of school bags

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
SHILLONG

In a major relief to students, the Meghalaya government has put a cap on the weight of school bags for all classes and set restrictions on homework for classes I and II.

"The weight of school bags for classes I and II has been capped at 1.5 kg, while bags for those studying in classes III to V should not exceed 3 kg," said a notification issued by the State education department.

The Odisha government has already handed over 692 acres of land for the port project and the construction work would start after some more land is handed over in the near future.

## Foundation stone laid for Subarnarekha port in Odisha

Port will generate employment for 12,000 people, says CM



Naveen Patnaik

### Home guard on way to CM event meets with accident

BALASORE  
A home guard working with the Odisha Police lost both his legs after he slipped from the platform in front of a moving train at a station in Balasore district, police said. Natabara Nayak Nayak was going to attend CM Naveen Patnaik's meeting in the town. The CM has announced an assistance of ₹1 lakh for him. ■ PTI

₹5,000 crore will be spent on the construction of the port which will generate employment for 12,000 people.

The Subarnarekha port will help speed up industrialisation in Odisha and contribute to the State's economic growth, said Mr. Patnaik.

The all-weather port on the Subarnarekha river mouth on the Bay of Bengal, with 12 berths, would have an initial capacity of 25 million tonnes per annum, which is to be raised to 55 MTPA in phases.

Tata Steel will use the port for its steel plant at Jamshedpur in Jharkhand, apart from other steel plants in Odisha and West Bengal.

## Civic body takes leaf out of green group's book

Asks firm to replant uprooted trees

SIB KUMAR DAS  
BERHAMPUR

A number of trees proposed to be cut for road widening in Odisha's Berhampur are being saved through their replantation, thanks to the exemplary initiative by Berhampur Sabuja Bahini, a group of young nature lovers.

Impressed with their work, the Berhampur Municipal Corporation (BeMC) has now decided to get the trees replanted at proposed children's parks and other open spaces around the city. BeMC commissioner Chakravarti Singh Rathore issued a notice on Tuesday to the construction firm concerned to minimise cutting of trees for road widening and drain construction.

"When it is an extreme necessity, the construction firm can carefully uproot the grown trees with its machinery and replant them at other places. If the firm violates this order, action will be initiated against it," said Mr. Rathore.

**Praise for group**  
The BeMC commissioner was all praise for the youth activists of BSB, who on their own had replanted four trees, which were over seven years old, without using any machinery. The contractor involved in the road widening work had agreed to help the group by uprooting the trees with its excavator.



A tree being replanted by BSB activists at Nilakantheswar cremation ground. ■ LINGARAJ PANDA

## ADMISSION OPEN for ALS IAS 2020

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## GENERAL STUDIES

Batch begins with OPEN SESSION

SHALIMAR PLACE

FEB 15 | 7:30 AM

KAROL BAGH

FEB 15 | 6:30 PM

Alternative Learning Systems Ltd

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Rina Mitra appointed Bengal's security adviser

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
KOLKATA

Retired IPS officer Rina Mitra has been appointed as the Principal Adviser, Internal Security, of West Bengal.

Ms. Mitra's name featured in the media recently as a probable candidate to head

the CBI on the basis of her seniority. Following her retirement on January 31, Ms. Mitra, a 1983-batch Madhya Pradesh-cadre IPS officer, claimed that in order to ensure that she does not get the top CBI post, despite having necessary qualifications, the

Appointments Committee meeting was held a day after her retirement.

Ms. Mitra, the first woman IPS officer of Bengal, said she was grateful to Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee for appointing her as the State's security adviser.

## GOVT. OF NATIONAL CAPITAL TERRITORY OF DELHI DIRECTORATE OF EDUCATION; SCHOOL BRANCH OLD SECTT. DELHI-54

### E-Procurement Tender Notice

(TENDER ID-2019\_DE\_168397\_1)

Online Tenders through e-procurement system on behalf of Government of national Capital Territory of Delhi are invited up to or before 19.03.2019 till 12:00 noon under Two-Bid Systems (Technical and Financial bid) for Spoken English Project for students of DoE schools & to conduct third party impact assessment.

The prescribed tender form along with applicable terms and conditions has been published on the Government e-procurement website on 12.02.2019 and can be downloaded from <http://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in>

**Bids will be accepted on-line only.**

### SCHEDULE OF DATES OF E-TENDER

Date of publishing of Tender	12.02.2019
Date of Pre-bid Meeting	18.02.2019 at 03.00 pm
Clarification and amendment in Tender, if any, in pursuance to pre-bid meeting	25.02.2019
Last date of submission of E.M.D	19.03.2019 at 12.00 Noon
Opening of Technical bid of the tender	19.03.2019 at 03.00 PM

**Opening of Financial Bid will be decided later on**

DIP/Shabdharth/2953/18-19

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FRONTLINE

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## IN BRIEF



## 5-day monthly rituals begin at Sabarimala

PATHANAMTHITTA  
The Sabarimala temple witnessed heavy rush as the five-day monthly rituals in the Malayalam month of 'Kumbham' began on Wednesday. 'Laksharchana' was performed in the forenoon with as many as 18 priests chanting mantras. The 'Brahmaikalasapuja' was performed prior to the 'Uthchupuja'.

## Kerala High Court stays construction at Munnar

KOCHI  
The controversial construction of a shopping complex on the ecologically sensitive banks of the Muthirappuzha river by the Munnar grama panchayat was stayed by the Kerala High Court on Wednesday on a petition filed by O.Y. Ouseph, a former president of the panchayat.

## 2 in custody in Telangana NRI murder case

HYDERABAD  
Police on Wednesday took into custody K. Rakesh Reddy and D. Srinivas, the two accused in the case relating to the murder of businessman Chigurupati Jayaram. Police confirmed that they had questioned Surya Prasad, who is said to be a film artiste. Jayaram was found dead in his car last month.

## Health is wealth

## Action plan against unhealthy foods

## Creating awareness

- Campaigns will be held on the ill-effects of trans fat and HFSS<sup>1</sup> foods at public places, hospitals & cinemas
- IEC<sup>2</sup> campaigns will rope in celebrities as ambassadors of healthy food



## Enforcement activities

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| • Identify manufacturers and suppliers of PHVOs <sup>3</sup> to bakeries and restaurants; collect samples   | • Monitor oils and fats used for frying and making snacks; test samples            |
| • Monitor retail sales of PHVOs and test samples of various brands  | • Testing of a range of food products to assess trans fat content                  |
| • Scientific sessions on TFA <sup>4</sup> and training on using TFA-free alternatives   | • Meetings with bakers, restaurant owners and unorganised sector FBOs <sup>5</sup> |
| 1. HIGH FAT, SUGAR, SALT<br>2. INFORMATION, EDUCATION, COMMUNICATION<br>3. PARTIALLY HYDROGENATED VEGETABLE OILS<br>4. FOOD BUSINESS OPERATORS   5. TRANS FATTY ACIDS |  |

## Kerala takes the lead in the fight against trans fat

## Action plan to create awareness and suggest solutions

C. MAYA  
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

In a first, the Health Department has drawn up an action plan to generate public awareness on the harmful effects of trans fatty acids (TFA) in commercially available food items and to encourage the local food industry to meet the current statutory limits set for TFA.

The draft is expected to be finalised and released shortly. The initiative has been launched after the Health Department's various studies suggest that an un-

healthy diet with a high TFA content is a significant factor that pushes up metabolic syndrome and the burden of its associated complications.

## Scientific sessions

The year-long action plan has specific components on building awareness on trans fat among food business operators and giving them scientific sessions and training on how they can keep their food TFA-free.

Clear time lines are being set as to when each of the components of the plan should be completed and

when enforcement should begin. Salt being a major contributor to hypertension and stroke, the action plan also plans to address the high salt content in processed foods, pickles, padds and condiments by encouraging manufacturers to move to low sodium options.

The Health Department is being supported in this initiative by Vital Strategies, the nutrition wing of the World Bank; the WHO; the FSSAI; and the State Food Safety wing, which will be in charge of enforcement.

## Surrendered Maoist blames leadership

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD

Lumpenisation was crippling the Maoist movement in Bihar and Jharkhand while top leaders were unable to do anything about it, said the Communist Party of India-Maoist Central Committee member Sathwaji

alias Sudhakar on Wednesday.

Presented before the media by the Telangana police following his surrender along with his wife V. Aruna, Sathwaji said the lumpen elements and his party moving away from the people compelled him to quit.

"There is patriarchal domination in the party. Under tremendous pressure due to multiple reasons, some women activists of the party committed suicide," he said. Among the women members who ended their lives was the present CPI-Maoist party chief (CC Secre-

tary) Nambala Keshava Rao's wife Ramakka alias Sharada, he claimed. These women killed themselves due to undue demands from party leaders and male colleagues, he said. Replying to a question, he said there was no physical harassment of the women cadre.

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## IN BRIEF



Close shave for Bihar Governor at Kumbh

PRAYAGRAJ  
Bihar Governor Lalji Tandoor escaped unhurt after a fire broke out at a tent located on the Kumbh Mela campus here, fire officials said on Wednesday. The fire, which started around 2.30 a.m. from a tent at Triveni Shankul in Arail area where the Governor was also staying, soon engulfed two other nearby tents, said Chief Fire Officer Pramod Kumar Sharma. PTI

## Three killed in car accident near Muktsar

MOKA  
Three persons were killed on Wednesday when the car they were travelling in collided with an oil tanker on the outskirts of Muktsar town, the police said. The men, aged between 22 and 25, were going towards Muktsar from Bathinda when the incident took place, they said. PTI

## Three robbers arrested, stolen goods recovered

BERHAMPUR (ODISHA)  
Three persons were arrested by police on Wednesday in connection with a robbery in Khalikote in Ganjam district, a police officer said. Several stolen goods, including gold and silver ornaments, which were looted about 13 days ago were also recovered from the accused, said the police. PTI

## Miscreants loot ₹1.67 lakh from finance company

MOTIHARI  
Armed miscreants on Wednesday looted ₹1.67 lakh from a private finance company in East Champaran district, Chakia DSP Shailendra Kumar said. Two miscreants have been identified as per the CCTV footage installed at the company's branch in Sahebganj, he said.

## 14 AMU students booked for sedition after protests on campus

Owaisi was supposed to visit varsity; students had an altercation with TV channel crew

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
ALIGARH

Fourteen Aligarh Muslim University students, including their union chief, were booked under sedition charges after protests on the campus following reports of a planned visit by AIMIM lawmaker Asaduddin Owaisi, officials said on Wednesday.

On Tuesday, some AMU students allegedly had an altercation with a TV channel crew which had come to film the visit that ultimately did not take place, they said.

Brhati Janata Yuva Morcha members held a separate demonstration against the visit, demanding that the MP should be banned from the campus.

The students were booked under sedition charges after a complaint was filed by BJYM activist Mukesh Lodhi, alleging that he was assaulted amid chants of pro-Pakistan slogans by some students, the police said.

Protesting the police ac-

AMU teachers have sought the President's intervention.

tion, a "class boycott" call has been given by the students' union.

The Aligarh Muslim University Teachers' Association on Wednesday passed a resolution condemning the booking of 14 student leaders under sedition charges.

AMU teachers urged President Ram Nath Kovind, who is also the university's Visitor, to take suo motu cognoscence of this action of the State government.

Meanwhile, security has been beefed up in the area and the Rapid Action Force deployed around the campus amid other protests, including one in which a mo-

torcycle belonging to a BJYM member was set on fire, a senior police officer said.

## Approach road closed

The main approach road leading to the university campus at IG Khan Crossing was closed by the police as a precautionary measure.

Official sources said Internet services will also be off in the city.

BJYM activists staged a protest near the Faiz Gate of the university after some media reports claimed that Mr. Owaisi was invited to address a function organised by the AMU Students' Union.

They demanded that he be not allowed to enter the campus. Mr. Owaisi, however, did not turn up.

An AMU spokesman said a TV channel team, which had come to cover the anticipated event, had an altercation with some students while they were filming inside the campus.

The spokesman said the channel had not sought permission from authorities for

live coverage and when the university staff pointed this out, there was a heated exchange in which some students were also involved.

The media persons claimed they were roughed up by some students while they were filming on the campus and their camera was smashed.

Complaints were lodged at the Civil Lines police station by both the AMU authorities and the TV channel crew.

A complaint was also filed by BJYM members which alleged that they were beaten up near the Faiz Gate and a motorcycle, belonging to one of them, was set on fire.

Late on Tuesday night, cases under Sections 124-A (sedition), Section 307 (attempt to murder) and eight other sections of the IPC were registered against 14 students, including the president of students' union, Salman Imtiaz, and vice-president Huzaifa Aamir on the complaint of BJYM's Mukesh Lodhi.

## Newborns to get horoscopes at Rajasthan hospitals?

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
JAIPUR

Rajasthan hospitals will hand over new mothers their baby's horoscope when they send them home after the delivery, if a proposal being mulled by the State government is implemented.

The hospital-delivered horoscope would also suggest what the newborn should be named, the proposal says.

The proposal was initiated at a meeting on January 3 by the State's Education Department.

The Jagadguru Ramanandacharya Rajasthan Sanskrit University, Jaipur, was made the nodal agency to prepare the proposal.

The department was following up on the Congress election manifesto that promised to encourage the study of Sanskrit, and also set up a 'Vedic Sanskar evam Shiksha Board' to promote Vedic knowledge.

The proposal on horoscopes has been prepared and forwarded to the government for further action, Ashok Sharma, the university's registrar said.

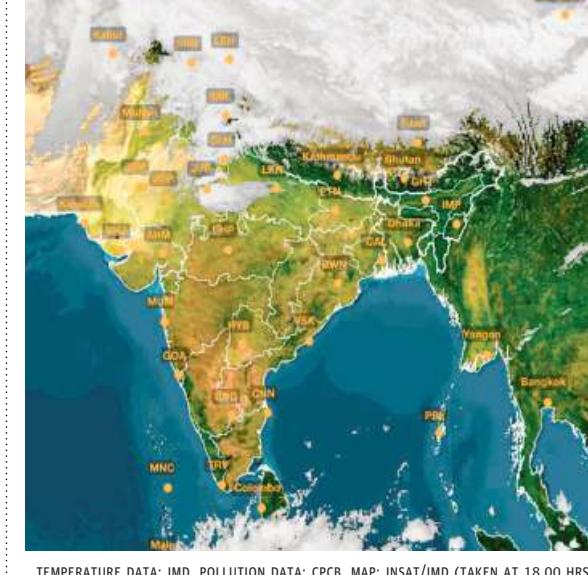
The proposal has suggested six names for the horoscope scheme with 'Rajiv Gandhi Janmapatri-Naamkaran Yojna' being one of them.

The scheme's pilot project will be rolled out in five government hospitals in Jaipur as a free service, says the proposal.

At a later stage, the scheme will be implemented in all government and private hospitals if the proposal is accepted. New parents will pay ₹51 for this at government hospitals and private hospitals will charge ₹101.

## WEATHER WATCH

RAINFALL, TEMPERATURE & AIR QUALITY IN SELECT METROS YESTERDAY



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

**Forecast for Thursday:** Heavy rain/snow likely at isolated places over Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Punjab and Chandigarh. Thunderstorm accompanied with hailstorm/gusty winds likely at isolated places over Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, north Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	—	30.3	11.4	Kozhikode	—	35.6	25.0
Ahmedabad	—	33.7	16.6	Kurnool	—	34.8	21.2
Aizawl	—	29.5	—	Lucknow	—	26.3	9.9
Allahabad	—	29.8	10.0	Madurai	—	33.8	22.6
Bangalore	—	30.0	17.2	Mangaluru	—	36.4	22.0
Bhopal	—	32.0	13.8	Mumbai	—	33.4	19.6
Bhubaneswar	—	32.6	14.3	Mysuru	—	31.6	17.8
Chandigarh	—	23.4	12.0	New Delhi	—	25.3	11.4
Chennai	—	30.3	12.4	Patna	—	26.5	11.8
Coimbatore	—	33.6	20.6	Port Blair	—	30.9	26.2
Dehradun	—	25.0	12.3	Puducherry	—	31.6	21.6
Gangtok	—	17.5	7.7	Pune	—	34.3	16.7
Goa	—	36.0	22.8	Raipur	—	31.6	15.6
Guwahati	—	29.7	12.4	Ranchi	—	28.8	11.0
Hubballi	—	33.0	21.0	Shillong	—	20.2	8.0
Hyderabad	—	31.8	19.3	Shimla	—	18.8	8.5
Imphal	—	27.5	6.5	Srinagar	—	1	4.6
Jaipur	—	25.8	13.2	Trivandrum	—	34.5	23.7
Kochi	—	33.4	25.0	Tiruchi	—	32.9	23.0
Kohima	—	19.8	11.6	Vijayawada	—	30.6	21.4
Kolkata	—	29.2	15.6	Visakhapatnam	—	29.8	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	PM <sub>2.5</sub>	PM <sub>10</sub>	CODE
Ahmedabad	93	111	32	171	—	—
Bengaluru	8	.92	50	97	105	—
Chennai	15	.18	40	204	—	—
Delhi	10	128	58	381	432	—
Hyderabad	2	142	32	151	129	—
Kolkata	18	144	32	289	218	—
Lucknow	3	.71	43	344	—	—
Mumbai	30	.45	88	176	159	—
Pune	41	.20	47	128	104	—
Visakhapatnam	8	.40	35	102	.116	—

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Noida, Uttar Pradesh recorded an overall AQI score of 402 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Vijayawada recorded a healthy AQI score of 80

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.

**PM<sub>2.5</sub> & PM<sub>10</sub>:** 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

## Shutdown over Article 35A paralyses Valley

## SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

SRINAGAR

the State. Separatist amalgam Joint Resistance Leadership, comprising Syed Ali Geelani, Mirwaiz Umar Farooq and Yasin Malik and several civil society groups, had called for a two-day shutdown over the issue.

It is imperative to register a strong protest against any change in the demography of the State by rolling back hereditary State subject laws of 1927," said the separatists in a joint statement.

"The J&K government will be seeking adjournment since there is presently no elected government in J&K.

The JRL has, however,

called off the strike for February 14. "Senior lawyers of the Kashmir Bar Association are closely monitoring the case in the Supreme Court," said M. Shoeib Alam, J&K's standing counsel in the Supreme Court.

## State govt. plea

The J&K government, which was incorporated in the Constitution by a 1954 Presidential order, accords special rights and privileges to the citizens of Jammu and Kashmir and bars people from outside from acquiring any immovable property in the State.

The Article 35A, which was incorporated in the Constitution by a 1954 Presidential order, accords special rights and privileges to the citizens of Jammu and Kashmir and bars people from outside from acquiring any immovable property in the State.

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## IN BRIEF



HC grants Mukul Roy protection from arrest

KOLKATA  
The Calcutta High Court on Wednesday directed the West Bengal police to not arrest BJP leader Mukul Roy till March 7 in connection with the murder case of Trimool MLA Satyajit Biswas. The court, however, refused to grant interim bail to Mr. Roy, "keeping in mind the gravity of the crime".

## Three sisters killed in fire in Amritsar

AMRITSAR  
Three sisters were charred to death in a fire that broke out in the heavily populated Mochi Bazar area here on Wednesday evening, the police said. Additional Deputy Commissioner of Police Jagjit Singh Walia, who visited the spot, said foul play could not be ruled out behind the deaths as the bodies were found under mysterious circumstances. The deceased were identified as Indu (45), Preeti (32) and Vandhana (30). Nobody else was with them at home at the time of the fire.

## BJP MLA's wife, woman friend come to blows

YAVATMAL  
A BJP MLA from Maharashtra's Yavatmal district was left red-faced after his wife and a woman he was allegedly living with fought at his birthday function. The incident took place at Pandarkawda in MLA Raju Todsam's Assembly constituency, Arni, on Tuesday night. PTI

## Air India cancels leave of pilots

MUMBAI  
Air India on Wednesday cancelled the leave of all pilots, a day after they refused to accept any changes made to the duty schedule already announced for this month.

## 99.82% projects in forests got nod

Only 5 of 687 proposals rejected since August 2014

## JACOB KOSHY

NEW DELHI

India's apex National Board for Wildlife (NBWL) – charged with allowing forest land in Protected Areas to be diverted for industry, cleared 99.82% projects that came up for scrutiny since August 2014.

## Quick pass

The National Board for Wildlife, charged with allowing forest land in Protected Areas to be diverted for industry, cleared 99.82% projects that came up for scrutiny since August 2014.

Forest clearances during NDA rule (2014-2019):

**682 recommended, 5 rejected**

Forest clearances during UPA rule (2009-2013):

**260 recommended, 68 rejected**

NBWL member from 2007-2010 and managing trustee, Wildlife First.

The NBWL, formally headed by the Prime Minister, adjudicates on industrial projects, road diversions or the like that could encroach into Protected Areas or eco-sensitive zones of forests. A smaller Standing Committee of the NBWL is charged with deliberating on the merits of projects that come to it for scrutiny; the committee comprises scientists and government officials and is chaired by Union Environment



## Under a cloud

- In July 2014, the NBWL had just two conservationists and one NGO. This was a contravention of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 that specifies that the body must consist of 10 eminent ecologists and five NGOs
- NBWL, in Aug. 2014, cleared 133 proposals pending from UPA term
- After an uproar, the SC put all clearances on hold and this led to a reconstitution of the board

ment Minister Harsh Vardhan.

## Streamlined processes

Officials said the increased clearances were due to streamlined processes. "For one, we have regular meetings since 2014, and filling applications have largely gone online. Problematic projects are now usually dealt with at the level of State and what ultimately comes to NBWL is one that has already passed scrutiny," said Siddhanta Das, Director General, Forests.

## AIADMK will go it alone in the LS poll: OPS

## SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

CHENNAI

If every party were to contest the [Lok Sabha] elections on its own, the AIADMK too would follow suit, Deputy Chief Minister and party co-ordinator O. Panneerselvam told the Assembly on Wednesday.

He was responding to a remark by Congress Legislator Party leader K.R. Ramasamy during a debate on the State budget, on whether the

ruling party would face the polls on its own.

Mr. Panneerselvam also told Mr. Ramasamy that the Congress party had managed, over the years, only by "riding piggyback on the shoulders" of either of the Dravidian parties - the DMK or the AIADMK.

While Local Administration Minister S.P. Velumani pointed out that the AIADMK, in the 2014 Lok Sabha elections, won 37 out

of 39 seats by contesting independently, School Education Minister K.A. Sengottaiyan said that his party had put up candidates in all 234 Assembly constituencies [in the 2016 polls] and secured a majority.

## Prove strength'

Mr. Ramasamy said members of the ruling party had got elected to the House only on the basis of an appeal from former Chief Minister

Jayalalithaa, and added that the party in power should immediately pave the way for elections so that its strength could be proved.

Agreeing that he and his colleagues had made it to the House on the strength of Jayalalithaa's popularity,

Chief Minister and AIADMK

co-coordinator Edappadi K.

Palaniswami asked Mr. Ra-

masamy whether he had

won the election without the support of his party.

Parliament on Wednesday passed a Bill removing leprosy as a ground for divorce under five personal laws, including the Hindu Marriage Act.

The Rajya Sabha on the last day of the Budget session passed the Bill without debate after consensus on the issue.

The Personal Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2018 sought to remove leprosy as a ground for divorce in five



complete the same. On September 3, 90 days were completed since the date of arrest of the respondents," the Maharashtra government petition filed through State counsel Nishant Katneshwar said.

The petition argued that under Section 43-D (2) of the UAPA Act, the trial court may, on the report of the public prosecutor, extend the detention of the accused for another 90 days.

On September 2, the trial court had allowed an extension of 90 days, following which Mr. Gadling and the others moved the High Court, which set aside the trial court order. The High Court order, on October 24, had opened the window for Mr. Gadling, Nagpur University professor Shoma Sen, activists Sudhir Dhawale, Mahesh Raut and Rona Wilson to seek default bail.

They were arrested on June 6 by the Pune Police and a case was registered against them under the various provisions of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967 and the Indian Penal Code.

"The police started the investigation but could not

## Rajya Sabha clears law removing leprosy as ground for divorce

## PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

NEW DELHI

Parliament on Wednesday passed a Bill removing leprosy as a ground for divorce under five personal laws, including the Hindu Marriage Act.

However, consensus eluded on the Consumer Protection Bill which the government sought to push on Wednesday.

The Upper House first passed the Personal Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2018 by voice vote and then Chairman M. Venkaiah Naidu took

up the Consumer Protection Bill but the same was met by vociferous protest from Trinamool Congress and Left parties, forcing a 10-minute adjournment of proceedings.

When the House reassembled, Mr. Naidu said there was a communication gap on the Consumer Protection Bill and the same would not be taken up.

The Consumer Protection Bill 2018 would replace the Consumer Protection Act, 1986.



## ALL INDIA COUNCIL FOR TECHNICAL EDUCATION

(A STATUTORY BODY OF THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA)

Nelson Mandela Marg, Vasant Kunj, New Delhi - 110067

Ph. No.: 011-26131578, 011-26131580, 011-29581000 Website: www.aicte-india.org

## PUBLIC NOTICE

## EXTENSION OF LAST DATE FOR SUBMISSION OF APPLICATIONS FOR NEW PHARMACY INSTITUTIONS ONLY, FOR THE AY 2019-20.

It has come to the notice of the AICTE that many of the Trusts / Societies / Companies are under the impression that they need to apply only to Pharmacy Council of India for approval for running Pharmacy Courses from the Academic Year 2019-20 because of the media publicity about the decision taken at the Ministry level to conduct joint inspections of Pharmacy Institutions by both Pharmacy Council of India and All India Council for Technical Education.

It is hereby informed that Pharmacy Institutions have to seek Approval from both the Regulatory Bodies - PCI & AICTE. Requests have been received from many Trusts / Societies / Companies for allowing them to submit their applications for approval for the AY 2019-20 from AICTE.

Therefore, it has been decided by AICTE to open the portal for New Pharmacy Institutions only to submit their applications for approval from AICTE for the AY 2019-20 for 3 days only - from 14.02.2019 to 16.02.2019, without late fee.

Advt. No: Approval/02/2019

Member Secretary, AICTE

## Government of Rajasthan

## National Health Mission

## Directorate of Medical Health &amp; Family Welfare Services

Swasthya Bhawan, Tilak Marg, Jaipur, Rajasthan Email ID: md-nrhm-rj@nic.in

No. F/2438/NHM/FEFA/2018-19/CSR-589

Dated 08-02-2019

UBN No.MHS18195LOBO181

## Notice Inviting for EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

Rajasthan State Health Society, Rajasthan, Jaipur (NHM) invites expression of interest in sealed envelopes from Scheduled Commercial Banks for developing and simplifying the financial and budgetary management with banking services along with IT inputs. The expression of interest document containing detailed proposal may be submitted as per timeline mentioned in document. The last date to submit the EoI proposal is 28-02-2019 till 3:00 p.m.

The detailed document of EoI is available on sppr.rajasthan.gov.in and departmental website rajswasthya.nic.in

(Dr. Samit Sharma)

Mission Director (NHM)

DIPRC/1779

## National Agri-Food Biotechnology Institute (NABI)

(An Autonomous Institute under Department of Biotechnology, Govt. of India)

Sector 81, Knowledge City, Mohali - 140 306 Punjab (INDIA)

Tel.: 91-172-5221300 Fax : 91-172-5221100 E-mail : purchase@nabi.res.in

## Notice Inviting E-Tender

E-tenders are invited on behalf of Executive Director, NABI, Mohali from the reputed manufacturers/authorized distributors/authorized dealers for the purchase of Lab Equipment Viz., Plant Growth Chambers and Mini-Fermenter and the details of the tender documents are in the NABI website ([www.nabi.res.in](http://www.nabi.res.in)) and CPP Website ([www.eprocure.gov.in](http://www.eprocure.gov.in)).

Any changes in the tender document relating to the submission of tender docs, due date and time, change in Specifications etc. shall be available only in the CPP Website and NABI Website. Interested parties may see the CPP Website ([www.eprocure.gov.in](http://www.eprocure.gov.in)) and NABI Website ([www.nabi.res.in](http://www.nabi.res.in)) before quoting the same. NABI reserves the right to reject any or all the tenders without assigning any reason or to accept them in part or full.

Stores and Purchase Officer

## GOVERNMENT OF ANDHRA PRADESH

## PANCHAYAT RAJ DEPARTMENT

## ANDHRA PRADESH DISASTER RECOVERY PROJECT

## WORLD BANK FUNDED PROJECT - CREDIT NO : 5694-IN

## INVITATION FOR BID (IFB)

## NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING (NCB)

IFB NOs: 175 to 193 / AP/PR/APDRP/RRC/PRED/2017-18, Dt: 12-02-2019

Government of India have received a credit from the international Development Association towards the cost of Andhra Pradesh Disaster Recovery Project and intends to apply a part of the funds to cover eligible payments under the contracts for construction of works. The Project Manager, Panchayat Raj, PIU, APDRP invites 1<sup>st</sup> call (Roads) and 4<sup>th</sup> call (Bridge) through online item rate e-bids from the registered bidders of Government of Andhra Pradesh or other State Governments / Government of India, or State / Central Government undertakings for the construction of Roads

18 packages in Visakhapatnam, East Godavari, Vizianagaram and Srikakulam Districts and 1 bridge package in Srikakulam District through website of Central

Public Procurement Portal <https://eprocure.gov.in> from 27.02.2019 onwards.

Sd/- Project Manager,

PIU(PR), APDRP, Visakhapatnam

DIPR 750PP/CL, Dt: 13/02/2019

SD/- CEO

GVSCL

For more details contact:

E-mail: siddhartha.ambaty@apurban.in

Cc: visakhapatnamsmartcity@gmail.com,

MoB No: 9704077779, 772995934

Sd/-xxx

MD & CEO

GVSCL

## GREATER VISAKHAPATNAM SMART CITY CORPORATION LIMITED

Ref.No:GVSCL/Projects/128(E-bike)/2018-19 Dt:12-02-2019

## Notice Inviting Tender

GVSCL desires to call RFP for Engagement of Agency for Supply, Installation, Commission, Operation & Maintenance of Public E-Bicycle Sharing System for places of Tourism Importance in Visakhapatnam under Smart City Mission. The detailed tender documents can be downloaded from our website of [www.gvscl.com](http://www.gvscl.com) from 13th Feb 2019 onwards.

> Last date for submission of bids is 27th Feb 2019 upto 5:00 PM.

For more details contact:

E-mail: siddhartha.ambaty@apurban.in

Cc: visakhapatnamsmartcity@gmail.com,

MoB No: 9704077779, 772995934

Sd/-xxx

MD & CEO

GVSCL</p

**Bad call**

The BJP's impatience to return to power in Karnataka might send it down a slippery slope

**F**ailure to win ought to hurt less than outright loss, but try telling that to B.S. Yeddyurappa. Unable to reconcile himself to the failure to wrest Karnataka from the grip of the Congress in last year's Assembly election, the BJP strongman is adopting desperate measures to get another shot at becoming Chief Minister. The H.D. Kumaraswamy government has now announced the appointment of a Special Investigation Team (SIT) to go into the veracity of an audio clip in which someone is heard offering money and ministership to win the support of a Janata Dal (Secular) MLA. Mr. Yeddyurappa has admitted it is his voice in the clip, but claims that it has been edited and doctored. Another BJP leader, Shivanagouda Nayak, was allegedly recorded as having said that the Speaker of the House, K.R. Ramesh Kumar, had been "booked" for ₹50 crore to rule favourably on dissident legislators of the ruling coalition. Unsurprisingly, the BJP is opposing the constitution of the SIT; instead it has called for a judicial inquiry or a probe by a House panel. But since the statements made in the audio recordings allude to transactions that are criminal in nature, law enforcement agencies are better-equipped to uncover the truth. In 2018, the BJP finished as the single largest party, but a post-poll coalition of the Congress and the JD(S) denied Mr. Yeddyurappa the chance to form the government. After being forced to step down in 2011 as Chief Minister in the wake of corruption charges, Mr. Yeddyurappa may have seen the 2018 Assembly election as his chance at political redemption. The prospect of sitting out another five years in the Opposition may have prompted the use of such underhand methods to return to power.

The release of the audio clips shines a light on the Congress and the BJP herding their MLAs into resorts some weeks ago. Accusations that the BJP was trying to buy up dissidents in the Congress have now gained credence. Seven Congress MLAs and one JD(S) MLA stayed away from the Assembly proceedings, raising the suspicion that the BJP was actively wooing dissidents in both the parties to bring down the government. But BJP leaders are now the victims of their own design, as points of contact have recorded conversations offering money and giving assurances for switching sides. The JD(S)-Congress government is by no means a cohesive unit, but the BJP's covert attempts to engineer defections have certainly backfired. The wiser course for the BJP would have been to politically capitalise on the internal contradictions of the coalition government rather than resort to covert means to destabilise it. Desperate measures are aimed at immediate rewards, but these invariably result in long-term damage. The Congress outsmarted the BJP by cobbling together an opportunistic alliance with the JD(S). The BJP will be better served by time and patience, not money power and corruption.

**Well oiled**

It is easy to see why the Saudi Crown Prince has chosen to include India in his Asia tour

**S**

MBS is expected to announce Saudi investments in both India and Pakistan. Saudi Arabia, which has traditionally exercised great influence over Pakistan, had recently offered a \$6 billion loan to Islamabad to stabilise the economy. In India, Saudi Arabia and the UAE have acquired a 50% stake in a refinery complex in Maharashtra. The project remains stalled amid protests against land acquisition, but it shows Saudi Arabia's interest to make long-term investments in India's energy sector. Another subject that will come up in bilateral talks is Iran. MBS has made containment of Iran his top foreign policy priority, and has U.S. support in this pursuit. India is certain to come under U.S. pressure to cut oil imports from Iran: it has so far walked the tightrope between Saudi Arabia and Iran. Even as its ties with the Kingdom improved over the past decade, India deepened its engagement with Iran, be it on oil trade or the Chabahar port. This is driven by the conviction that while Saudi Arabia is vital for India's energy security, Iran is a gateway to Central Asia. New Delhi is sure to continue this balancing act even as it seeks to strengthen the Saudi pillar of India's West Asia policy.

# Dealing with the thought police

It is vitally important that the courts remain free of the discourse on 'urban Naxals' and 'anti-nationals'



GAUTAM BHATIA

**O**n February 5, an Additional Sessions Judge in Punjab sentenced three young men to life in prison. Arvinder Singh, Surjit Singh and Ranjit Singh were convicted under a little-known provision of the Indian Penal Code concerning "waging war against the government of India".

In what heinous manner had the three men waged war against the government, which justified a sentence of life imprisonment? A perusal of the 64-page-long judgment reveals the following. They did not commit any physical violence, and nobody was harmed in any way. They were not caught in possession of weapons. They were not overheard planning any specific terrorist attack, nor were they on their way to commit one when they were apprehended. What did happen was that the men were caught with literature supporting the cause of Khalistan, a few posters that did the same, and some Facebook posts (whose content we do not know) on the subject.

With this being the sum total of what passed for "evidence" in the case, it is clear that the verdict of the Additional Sessions Judge is unsustainable, and will be reversed. It is important, however, for the higher courts to recognise not only that the judgment is fatally flawed but also that it represents a dangerous moment for the judiciary: this is not the first occasion in recent times when a court has abandoned constitutional values in favour of a crude nationalistic rhetoric that belongs more to the demagogue's pulpit rather than to

the courtroom. And in that context, the judgment of the Additional Sessions Judge marks the beginning of a trend that, if left unchecked, can swiftly erode our most cherished liberties.

**Of speech and association**

The first – and most glaring – aspect of the judgment is its apparent disregard for the Constitution. At the heart of the Constitution's fundamental rights chapter is Article 19, which guarantees, among other things, the freedom of speech and association. Of course, the state may impose "reasonable restrictions" upon these fundamental freedoms, in the interests of, for example, the security of the state.

In a series of careful decisions over five decades, the Supreme Court has articulated the precise circumstances under which a restriction on the freedom of speech or association is "reasonable". After the famous 2015 judgment in *Shreya Singhal*, in which Section 66A of the Information Technology Act was struck down, the position of law has been clear: speech can be punished only if it amounts to direct incitement to violence. Everything short of that, including "advocacy" of any kind, is protected by the Constitution.

Not only is this consistent with the Supreme Court's jurisprudence, it also harks back to a venerable Indian tradition of civil liberties. In the early 1920s, Mahatma Gandhi famously wrote that the "freedom of association is truly respected when assemblies of people can discuss even revolutionary projects", and noted that the state's right to intervene was limited to situations involving actual outbreak of revolution. The logic is simple: in a pluralist democracy, no one set of ideas can set itself up as the universal truth, and enforce its position through



coercion. Consequently, as the American judge, Louis Brandeis, memorably observed, "If there be time to expose through discussion the falsehood and fallacies... the remedy to be applied is more speech, not enforced silence." The Indian Supreme Court's "incitement to violence" standard responds to this basic insight about civil liberties in a democracy.

Nor is the test diluted just because the issue at stake may involve national security. In three judgments in 2011 – *Raneef, Indra Das, and Arup Bhuyan* – the Supreme Court made it very clear that the incitement test applied squarely to the provisions of the Terrorist and Disruptive Activities (Prevention) Act (TADA) and the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA), India's signature anti-terror legislation. In particular, the court cautioned that vaguely-worded provisions of these statutes would have to be read narrowly and precisely, and in accordance with the Constitution. So, for example, "membership" of a banned organisation – a punishable offence both under the TADA and the UAPA – was to be understood as being limited to "active membership", i.e. incitement to violence. In particular, in *Raneef*, mere possession of revolutionary literature was categorically held to be insufficient to sustain a conviction, something that was blithely ignored by the Additional Sessions

Judge in his judgment of February 5.

In fact, not only did the Additional Sessions Judge ignore Gandhi, Supreme Court precedent on free speech and association and Supreme Court precedent on the interpretation of anti-terror legislation, he also – staggeringly – managed to ignore categorical precedent on the issue of pro-Khalistani speech! In *Balwant Singh v. State of Punjab* (1995), the Supreme Court had set aside the sedition convictions of two men who had raised pro-Khalistan slogans outside a cinema hall in Punjab, in the immediate aftermath of Indira Gandhi's assassination. Even a situation like that was deemed insufficient to meet the high "incitement" threshold, while here the Additional Sessions Judge managed to hold that Facebook posts amounted to "direct incitement".

**Judicial objectivity**

There is, however, a further point to consider. In the last few years, a discourse has arisen that seeks to paint a set of oppositional ideas as beyond the pale, and those who hold those ideas as being unworthy of civilised treatment. Two phrases have come to dominate this discourse: "urban Naxal" and "anti-national".

Neither "urban Naxal" nor "anti-national" is a term defined by law. These terms have nothing to do with incitement to violence or creating public disorder. But they are also boundlessly manipulable, and exploited by their users to vilify and demonise political opponents without ever making clear what exactly is the crime (if any) that has been committed. Their very elasticity makes them ideal weapons for shoot-and-scoot attacks, and for coded dog-whistles.

It is one thing for these terms to be thrown around in a political dogfight. It is quite another when

they begin to percolate into law-enforcement and legal discourse, where precision is crucial, because personal liberty is at stake. Indeed, it is vitally important that the courts, above all, remain free of this discourse, because it is the courts that are tasked with protecting the rights of precisely those individuals who are demonised and vilified by the ruling majority of the day.

While the Additional Sessions Judge does not use either of these specific terms, his entire judgment, however, is of a piece with this governing philosophy, where conjecture, association, and innuendo take the place of rational analysis. In that context, his judgment is reminiscent of the Delhi High Court judgment that granted bail to Kanhaiya Kumar, while embarking upon a bizarre disquisition involving cancer and gangrene, and the police press-conference in the ongoing Bhima Koregaon case which did use the "urban Naxal" term.

**Case for care**

There is little doubt that the life sentence of Arvinder Singh, Surjit Singh and Ranjit Singh cannot stand the test of law. However, when an appeals court considers the issue, it should take the opportunity to reiterate a hoary truth: a democracy does not jail people simply for reading books, painting posters, or posting on Facebook.

And in adjudicating cases involving the life and personal liberties of citizens, courts must take special care to ensure that the temptation to get carried away and forget what the Constitution commands is held firmly in check. That reminder may come when the three men have already lost some years of their lives to prison – but it could not come soon enough.

Gautam Bhatia is a Delhi-based lawyer

# Every drop matters

The regulatory framework must be reformed to ensure access to safe and sufficient blood

KEVIN JAMES &  
SHREYA SHRIVASTAVA

**A** ready supply of safe blood in sufficient quantities is a vital component of modern health care. In 2015-16, India was 1.1 million units short of its blood requirements. Here too, there were considerable regional disparities, with 81 districts in the country not having a blood bank at all. In 2016, a hospital in Chhattisgarh turned away a woman in dire need of blood as it was unavailable. She died on the way to the nearest blood bank which was several hours away. Yet, in April 2017, it was reported that blood banks in India had in the last five years discarded a total of 2.8 million units of expired, unused blood (more than 6 lakh litres).

**Vigil after collection**

To prevent transfusion-transmitted infections (TTIs), collected blood needs to be safe as well. Due to practical constraints, tests are only conducted post-collection. Thus blood donor selection relies on donors filling in health questionnaires truthfully. The collected blood is tested for certain TTIs

such as HIV and if the blood tests positive, it has to be discarded. However, these tests are not fool-proof as there is a window period after a person first becomes infected with a virus during which the infection may not be detectable. This makes it crucial to minimise the risk in the first instance of collection. Collecting healthy blood will also result in less blood being discarded later.

Blood that is donated voluntarily and without remuneration is considered to be the safest. Unfortunately, professional donors (who accept remuneration) and replacement donation (which is not voluntary) are both common in India. In the case of professional donors there is a higher chance of there being TTIs in their blood, as these donors may not provide full disclosure.

In the case of replacement donation, relatives of patients in need of blood are asked by hospitals to arrange for the same expeditiously. This blood is not used for the patient herself, but is intended as a replacement for the blood that is actually used. In this way, hospitals shift the burden of maintaining their blood bank stock to the patient and her family. Here again, there could be a higher chance of TTIs because replacement donors, being under pressure, may be less truthful about diseases.

The regulatory framework which governs the blood transfu-



sion infrastructure in India is scattered across different laws, policies, guidelines and authorities. Blood is considered to be a 'drug' under the Drugs & Cosmetics Act, 1940. Therefore, just like any other manufacturer or storeroof of drugs, blood banks need to be licensed by the Drug Controller-General of India (DCGI). For this, they need to meet a series of requirements with respect to the collection, storage, processing and distribution of blood, as specified under the Drugs & Cosmetics Rules, 1945. Blood banks are inspected by drug inspectors who are expected to check not only the premises and equipment but also various quality and medical aspects such as processing and testing facilities. Their findings lead to the issuance, suspension or cancellation of a licence.

In 1996, the Supreme Court directed the government to establish the National Blood Transfusion

Council (NBTC) and State Blood Transfusion Councils (SBTCs). The NBTC functions as the apex policy-formulating and expert body for blood transfusion services and includes representation from blood banks. However, it lacks statutory backing (unlike the DCGI), and as such, the standards and requirements recommended by it are only in the form of guidelines.

This gives rise to a peculiar situation – the expert blood transfusion body can only issue non-binding guidelines, whereas the general pharmaceutical regulator has the power to license blood banks. This regulatory dissonance exacerbates the serious issues on the ground and results in poor coordination and monitoring.

**Towards a solution**

The present scenario under the DCGI is far from desirable, especially given how regulating blood involves distinct considerations when compared to most commercial drugs. It is especially incongruous given the existence of expert bodies such as the NBTC and National AIDS Control Organisation (NACO), which are more naturally suited for this role. The DCGI does not include any experts in the field of blood transfusion, and drug inspectors do not undergo any special training for inspecting blood banks.

In order to ensure the involvement of technical experts who can

complement the DCGI, the rules should be amended to involve the NBTC and SBTCs in the licensing process. Given the wide range of responsibilities the DCGI has to handle, its licensing role with respect to blood banks can even be delegated to the NBTC under the rules. This would go a long way towards ensuring that the regulatory scheme is up to date and accommodates medical and technological advances.

Despite a 2017 amendment to the rules which enabled transfer of blood between blood banks, the overall system is still not sufficiently integrated. A collaborative regulator can, more effectively, take the lead in facilitating coordination, planning and management. This may reduce the regional disparities in blood supply as well as ensure that the quality of blood does not vary between private, corporate, international, hospital-based, non-governmental organisations and government blood banks.

The aim of the National Blood Policy formulated by the government back in 2002 was to "ensure easily accessible and adequate supply of safe and quality blood". To achieve this goal, India should look to reforming its regulatory approach at the earliest.

Kevin James and Shreya Srivastava are Research Fellows at the Vidhi Centre for Legal Policy, New Delhi

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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

**Rafale deal**

*The Hindu* has to be commended for providing greater details in the Rafale deal. Though the article may not be a reader's delight in terms of understanding it in depth, it would serve greatly those readers who deal with such subjects (Page 1, 'Exclusive', Rafale deal not on 'better terms' than UPA-era offer", February 13).

One has to see whether the series of reports can affect the government. At the same time, one wonders whether they will be able to help the main Opposition party, given its track record in defence deals.

ARUN KUMAR MAHADEVAN,  
Chennai

The CAG report on the Rafale deal was tabled on the last working day of Parliament probably to avoid

an elaborate discussion on the subject. The Opposition has already expressed its reservations, including the point that the CAG should have recused himself. For the government, the CAG report gives a boost to its claim of everything being hunky dory. However, it certainly does not help in putting an end to the political tussle over the deal.

K.R. JAYAPRAKASH RAO,  
Mysuru

■ The 'parallel negotiations' by the Prime Minister's Office, the "waiver of anti-corruption clauses" from the terms of the deal and "secret meetings" of the businessman in question now lead to the point: it would be ingenuous to suppose that the selection of the businessman as the offset partner was not a quid pro quo for the "major and

unprecedented concessions" made to the French. The government has not been able to convincingly counter the Congress's accusation that the Prime Minister acted as, what the Congress calls, the businessman's 'middleman'. The only line it has to defend itself is to call the Congress president a 'lobbyist' for defence firms. Even if the Supreme Court and the CAG have found nothing seriously wrong with the deal, the government should agree to a JPC probe in order not to lose the perception battle.

G. DAVID MILTON,  
Maruthancode, Tamil Nadu

■ The series shed much light on the murky happenings at the political level. After reading the file notings, one wishes to applaud the uprightness of various Defence Ministry officials for

recording their views without fear or favour. It is evident that a muddying of the deal's waters began at the political level.

R. NAGARAJAN,  
Chennai

■ With claims and more counter-claims, the deal is becoming confusing for the layman. The daily's investigations do counter certain claims made by the government. However, it is time the government agrees to a probe into the full deal.

D.B.N. MURTHY,  
Bengaluru

■ It is stated that three out of seven members of the Indian Negotiating Team gave dissent notes. Even in the Supreme Court, in a 3- or 5-judge Bench, they go by the majority judgment, even when there is a dissenting judgment. So, in the case of

the Rafale deal, is there anything wrong if they went by the majority opinion?

U.N. BHAT,  
Bengaluru

**A performer**

Legendary Indian cricketer Gundappa Viswanath, who turned 70 recently, was a connoisseur's delight. He raised the standard of his batting when others failed.

He added colour to the Indian

# A clarion call to combat climate change

The Green New Deal acknowledges the responsibility of the U.S. for its historical emissions



SUJATHA BYRAVAN

When almost all news about climate change concerns catastrophic events, there are a few shining lights in the U.S. and Europe. One is Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, 29, the newly elected member of the U.S. House of Representatives. The other is Greta Thunberg, a 16-year-old Swede whose school strike outside the Swedish Parliament, in a clear-minded effort to force politicians to act on climate change, has inspired students in many countries to walk out of their classrooms and make similar demands. If Ms. Thunberg's voice is inspiring for the way it has roused the youth, Ms. Ocasio-Cortez is daring in her imagination and policies.

The Green New Deal "is a four-part programme for moving America quickly out of crisis into a secure, sustainable future". It takes its name from U.S. President Franklin Roosevelt's famous New Deal, a series of economic and social measures launched in the 1930s to end the Great Depression. The Green New Deal audaciously aspires to make sweeping changes to the environment and economy and meet all of the U.S.'s power demand from clean, renewable and zero emission energy sources by 2030, while at the same time addressing racial and economic justice. Thus, in many ways, it is more than just a climate change plan. Ms. Ocasio-Cortez along with Massachusetts Senator Edward Markey introduced the resolution in the House and Senate on February 7.

## What the deal says

The resolution acknowledges the 1.5° report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and the U.S. Fourth National Climate Assessment. It identifies the worldwide effects from warming, the disproportionate responsibility borne by the U.S. as a result of its historical emissions, and calls for the country to step up as a global leader. It speaks about the fall in life expectancy, economic stagnation, erosion of workers' rights, and



"The Green New Deal is an acknowledgement by politicians that economic growth, the environment and social well-being go together." Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (left) and Ed Markey at a news conference about the Green New Deal, in Washington. ■ THE NEW YORK TIMES

rising inequality in the U.S. Climate change that will asymmetrically affect the most vulnerable sections of U.S. society and ought to be considered a direct threat to national security.

The resolution goes on to recognise the momentous opportunity available to take action. It states that it is the responsibility of the federal government to create a Green New Deal, which would meet its power demand through renewable sources in 10 years. It calls for a 10-year national mobilisation that would build infrastructure, eliminate pollution and greenhouse gas emissions, as much as is technologically feasible, and reduce risks posed by the impacts of climate change.

These goals entail dramatic changes in manufacturing, electricity generation, education, livelihoods, sustainable farming, food systems, an overhaul of transportation, waste management, health care, and strong pollution-control measures. The resolution also calls for international action by the U.S. on climate change. It recognises that public funds would be needed for these changes and need to be leveraged. It

states that the federal government needs to take the full social and environmental costs of climate change into consideration through new laws, policies and programmes. Importantly, the Green New Deal calls for a federal jobs guarantee for all.

## A welcome surprise

How far this resolution will go and whether and how it will be diluted in the U.S. Congress is unclear. Many details of the proposal still need to be worked out. It has been called "ridiculous" by some Republicans and has made some Democratic leaders uneasy as well.

But various progressive elected officials, groups, and some activists have lent their support. Almost all Democrats who have announced their candidacy for the 2020 election have backed the resolution. A poll conducted by Yale and George Mason Universities showed that there was support for the deal among most Democratic voters and a majority of the Republicans. One does not know if this appetite for the deal will be sustained, but if extreme events related to climate change continue, people are likely to view radical change

as essential. If we look at the political situation when Roosevelt passed the New Deal, both Houses of Congress were under the Democrats. On the other hand, the Clean Air Act and the Clean Water Act were passed by President Richard Nixon and were regarded as being radical in their time.

If any country has the "capability" to increase its commitment in renewables, it is the U.S. This clarion call by Ms. Ocasio-Cortez and Mr. Markey is therefore a welcome surprise. The share of fossil fuels in total electricity generation in the U.S. in 2017 was 63%, the share of renewables was 17%, and the share of nuclear was 20%.

## The future

It should be noted that until now no U.S. agency or civil society group has publicly acknowledged the responsibility of the country for its historical emissions. The Green New Deal is the sort of resolution the U.S. should have passed after the Kyoto Protocol in 1997. Instead, the U.S. Senate unanimously passed the Byrd-Hagel Resolution, according to which the U.S. ought not to be a signatory to any protocol or agreement regarding the United Nations Climate Convention that would reduce greenhouse gas emissions for Annex I Parties, the wealthy countries, unless developing countries were also similarly required to limit their emissions.

Meanwhile, Ms. Thunberg's school boycott movement has inspired protests in the Netherlands, Belgium, Germany, Sweden, Australia and elsewhere. If this spreads to many more countries, it can help apply pressure on governments and the fossil fuel industry and create a bottom-up movement led by the youth for major changes in dealing with climate change.

The Green New Deal is an acknowledgement by politicians that economic growth, the environment and social well-being go together. While these bold moves by two young women have opened windows to winds of change, how far these can progress and whether they will bring the scale of change needed as rapidly as it is required to deal with the world's dire challenge remains to be seen.

Sujatha Byravan is a scientist who studies science, technology and development policy

## SINGLE FILE

### The ABC of sustainable consumption

It will necessarily draw in producers and government agencies through their goods and services

SOHINI MITRA

**GETTY IMAGES STOCKPHOTO** Expert opinion is that the recent Coastal Regulation Zone Notification 2018 disregards the vulnerabilities of coastal regions to climate change. While the hospitality/tourism industries and local economies stand to gain from the changes, the lives and livelihood of thousands of citizens continue to be at risk.

India's vulnerabilities to climate challenges can no longer be ignored. Government, businesses and civil society have the responsibility of constructive action to address this environmental challenge. It is no secret that governments in India do not prioritise climate change mitigation, fearing that it will impede economic growth and efforts to alleviate poverty. On the other hand, several businesses have already established sustainable mitigative measures in their operations. It is time now for civil society to recognise our contribution to climate catastrophes and commit to containing an already precarious situation.

The role for civil society is to establish efficient and sustainable patterns of consuming essential and luxury products and services and, in the process, improve quality of life in multiple dimensions – physical environment, health and finance, for example. If we hope to make a significant difference, there must be a change in consumption-related thinking and behaviour. This requires that we embed the term sustainability deeply in our thinking and vocabulary, so that it becomes the default mode in which we operate. That implies making mobility choices that result in efficient fuel use and lower carbon emissions. It calls for considering alternative sources of domestic electricity. We need to observe and alter the use of cooling devices and power. How do we consume and manage water in homes and communities? How do we deal with household waste and other items that have outlived their intended utility?

Making changes in our consumption habits will necessarily draw in producers and government agencies through the goods and services they make available. Their involvement offers tremendous opportunity for citizens' needs to be heard. We ought to engage with manufacturers and marketers to co-create products and services that support efficient, sustainable consumption. With policy makers and regulators, we must force a shift in the current stance, to address climate challenges with much greater urgency. Civil society should be more assertive about being included in shaping the country's climate policy.

It is difficult enough for individuals to change entrenched habits and attitudes. Mobilising a large number of diverse people to think differently and learn new ways would likely be a herculean task. Yet, it is possible, demonstrated by instances of positive and sustained civic action by the public.

Altering our lifestyles for sustainability has a silver lining – we have a valuable chance to re-orient our lives for substantive improvement. The sooner we act, the more significant the gain.

The writer is Bengaluru-based and interested in climate change



## FAQ

### A political stand-off

Amid a grim economic crisis, the power struggle weakens Venezuela further

STANLY JOHNY

#### What is happening in Venezuela?

Venezuela has been going through a turmoil for the past couple of years amid an economic meltdown and growing Opposition protests. The crisis took a dangerous turn on January 23 when Juan Guaidó, president of the Opposition-controlled National Assembly, declared himself interim President of the oil-rich South American country, directly challenging the authority of President Nicolás Maduro, who began his second six-year term in January. Immediately after Mr. Guaidó's announcement, the U.S., Canada, Brazil and some other South American nations recognised him as Venezuela's legitimate leader. Mr. Maduro rejected the "coup" attempt and said he was the President of Venezuela. European powers gave Mr. Maduro an ultimatum to announce fresh elections, which he rejected. Later, a host of European countries also backed

Mr. Guaidó. The U.S., meanwhile, imposed new sanctions on Venezuela's state-run oil company, PDVSA – all properties of the company subject to U.S. jurisdiction was blocked and American citizens were barred from trading with the company. The sanctions are expected to cost Mr. Maduro's government \$11 billion in lost export proceeds.

#### Who is the legitimate leader?

Mr. Guaidó says the Venezuelan Constitution allows the president of the National Assembly to take power as interim President in the absence of an elected President. The Opposition doesn't recognise the 2018 presidential election which Mr. Maduro won. The main Opposition had boycotted the election. Mr. Guaidó and his supporters argue that since the election was a sham, Venezuela doesn't have a legitimate leader, and in such a context as president of the National Assembly, he could take power. This is a contested

claim. Article 233 of the Constitution, which Mr. Guaidó has invoked, lists the circumstances, such as the President's death, dismissal or resignation, where the Parliament chief can assume power and call for fresh elections. The current crisis, triggered by economic woes, government repression and a disputed election, is different. Besides, most constitutional institutions in the country, including the armed forces, back Mr. Maduro. So do Russia and China.

#### How bad is the economic crisis?

Very bad. The country's inflation is estimated to reach 10 million per cent this year. Venezuela has also been facing severe food and medicine shortages for months. The nation's GDP, which was growing at near 10% in 2006, at the height of Hugo Chavez's "Bolivarian revolution", contracted 14.3% in 2018. Almost 90% of the country's population is living in poverty, while per capita income has been

# The PM-KISAN challenge

The top-down, rushed approach of the government in reaching out to farmers is likely to end in failure



APARNA ROY

This year's Interim Budget is being regarded as a big spread for farmers. The government announced its decision to transfer ₹6,000 every year directly to 12 crore farmers holding cultivable land up to 2 hectares through the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN) scheme. While this is a progressive step, is it enough to mitigate India's severe agrarian distress?

The agriculture sector employs over 50% of the workforce either directly or indirectly, and remains the main source of livelihood for over 70% of rural households. However, the droughts of 2014 and 2015, ad-hoc export and import policies, lack of infrastructure, and uncertainty in agricultural markets have adversely affected agricultural productivity and stability of farm incomes. Consequently, agriculture growth rates have been inconsistent in the last five years – 5.6% in 2013-14, (-) 0.2% in 2014-15, 0.7% in 2015-16, 4.9% in 2016-17 and 2.1% in 2017-18. This is a major concern. PM-KISAN is aimed at boosting rural consumption and helping poor farmers recover from distress. Although the scheme is valuable in principle, without adequate focus on proper strategy and implementation, it is unlikely to make any meaningful impact.

## Inadequate financial support

The merit of cash transfers over loan waivers and subsidies lies in their potential greater efficiency in enabling poor households to directly purchase the required goods and services as well as enhance their market choices. Therefore, the impact of a welfare measure such as PM-KISAN can only be realised through financial support that provides farmers with adequate purchasing power to meet their daily basic necessities. Given that India's poverty line is ₹32 per person per day in rural areas and ₹47 in urban areas, according to the Rangarajan Committee, the income support of ₹17 a day for a household, which is the amount offered by PM-KISAN, is largely insufficient for even bare minimum sustenance of vulnerable farmers. Therefore, to be effective, any cash transfer scheme should first ensure that there is enough cash provided to help bring an affected community out of poverty. For instance, the Rythu Bandhu in Telangana, the Centre is said to have replicated, provides ₹4,000 per acre to each farmer in each

season, and the Krushak Assistance for Livelihood and Income Augmentation scheme in Odisha offers a direct cash transfer of ₹5,000 for a farm family over five seasons, among other benefits.

Moreover, given the volatile market and price fluctuations in different regions, it is important to index the cash transfers to local inflation. The failure of an ambitious plan of Direct Benefit Transfer in kerosene in Rajasthan is a case in point, where the cash transferred to families has been insufficient to purchase kerosene, as the market price increased substantially.

## Implementation issues

While cash transfers to households may appear simple, the scheme requires significant implementation capabilities. In a country where a majority of the States have incomplete tenancy records and land data are not digitised (for instance, in Jharkhand, Bihar, Gujarat and Tamil Nadu), identification of beneficiaries is daunting.

The results of a joint study conducted by NITI Aayog and the Union government's Department of Food in 2016 suggest that the government's pilot programmes to replace subsidised food grains with cash in three Union Territories (Chandigarh, Dadra and Nagar Haveli, and Puducherry) have failed due to data inconsistencies. While 50% of the people received less cash, 17% received more than they were entitled to. More than 40% of the money transferred could not be verified to have reached the beneficiaries. In the absence of updated land records and complete databases, the scheme may end up benefiting only those who hold land titles and not the small, marginal or tenant farmers who are the most vulnerable. Besides, the scheme does not provide a clear design of transfers and a framework for effective grievance redress. In the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme, for instance, State governments still struggle to resolve complaints and curb corruption.

PM-KISAN is an ambitious scheme that has the potential to deliver significant welfare outcomes. However, the current top-down, rushed approach of the government ignores governance constraints and is therefore likely to result in failure. An alternative bottom-up strategy and well-planned implementation mechanism would allow weaknesses to be identified and rectified at the local level. The most effective modalities can then be scaled nationally and ensure success.

Aparna Roy is Associate Research Fellow, Observer Research Foundation

## FROM The Hindu ARCHIVES

FIFTY YEARS AGO FEBRUARY 14, 1969

### Union Cabinet reshuffled

Without dropping anyone or inducting any new incumbent, the Prime Minister, Mrs. Indira Gandhi has made a major reshuffle of her 23-month-old Central Cabinet on the eve of the Budget session of Parliament. The Prime Minister has divested herself of the portfolio of External Affairs and has transferred the charge to Mr. Dinesh Singh, till now Minister of Commerce. She has also promoted Mr. B.R. Bhagat to Cabinet rank. The Commerce Ministry has been renamed Ministry for Foreign Trade and Supply and Minister of State for External Affairs B.R. Bhagat has been put in-charge of the new Ministry. Mrs. Gandhi was working on the changes since early yesterday [February 13] and conveyed the changes to the concerned Ministers when they called on her or through telephone. The changes which came as a surprise to many of her colleagues were announced in the early hours of this morning [February 14, New Delhi]. There is no change in the portfolios of Deputy Prime Minister Morarji Desai, Home Minister Y.B. Chavan, Food Minister Jagjivan Ram, Labour Minister J.L. Hathi, Defence Minister Swaran Singh and Transport and Civil Aviation Minister Dr. Karan Singh.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO FEBRUARY 14, 1919.

### Death Duty in Ceylon.

A Colombo message dated February 9 says: The much debated Bill, which had for its object increasing of revenue from duty on estates of deceased persons has been drafted and appears in yesterday's Gazette. The only duty which is under the existing law payable after the death of a person is the probate duty under the Stamps Ordinance Bill recently introduced in the Legislative Council, which increased the rate of probate duty. It was referred to a Select Committee and the Committee came to the conclusion that it would be advisable to bring the local law up-to-date. The present Bill is based on the Finance Act 1894 of the Imperial Parliament as amended by series of other Acts. The important section of the Bill lays down the manner in which the value of an estate is to be arrived at. The value to be estimated by the Commissioner of Stamps is to be the price which it would fetch in the open market, subject to the deduction of reasonable funeral expense, bona-fide debts, and other items set out in the section.

## CONCEPTUAL

### Square-cube law

PHYSICS

Also known as the cube-square law, this refers to the mathematical principle that states that when the size of an object increases, its volume increases by a greater proportion than its area. This principle has been used to explain the anatomy of various living organisms as well as the limits to the construction of certain man-made structures. The bones and muscles of large animals, for instance, are disproportionately larger than those of smaller animals in order to help them withstand the stress exerted by the disproportionately high volume of their bodies. The square-cube law was first proposed by Italian physicist Galileo in his 1638 book *Two New Sciences*.

## MORE ON THE WEB

Inside the National Museum of Indian Cinema

<http://bit.ly/NationalMuseumCinema>

## FROM PAGE ONE

## Rafale deal value of 2016 is 2.86% lower, says CAG

The Centre has made repeated assertions that under the IGA, better terms had been achieved in terms of "better pricing, better maintenance terms and better delivery schedule."

The CAG also observed that in respect of bank guarantees, the French government had not agreed to an escrow account and had contended that the "guarantees already provided by the government of France were far reaching and unprecedent."

The finally approved Article 5 of IGA by the Defence Acquisition Council (DAC), provided that the advance payments were to be made directly to the bank accounts of the French vendor that were opened in a French government con-

trolled bank, over which the French government was to exercise control and monitoring for effective implementation of IGA and the supply protocols, the auditor noted in the report.

Underscoring the importance of a sovereign guarantee to this deal, the CAG observed that in case of a breach of agreement, the Indian party (Ministry) would have to first settle it through arbitration directly with the French vendors.

"If the arbitration award were in favour of Indian party and the French party fails to honour the award, Indian party should exhaust all available legal remedies. Only then the French government would make these payments on behalf of the vendors," the CAG noted.

## Citizenship, triple talaq Bills lapse

Despite the assurance, the Citizenship Bill was listed for Tuesday, the penultimate day of the session.

The government claimed that three hours were allotted for debate on the legislation at a meeting in August 2016. But the contentious Bill could not be taken up because of disruptions.

On Wednesday, the government made a last-ditch effort. However, at a meeting chaired by Rajya Sabha Chairman Venkaiah Naidu, the Opposition told the government in no uncertain terms not to provoke them.

"We told the government

if they press for moving the Citizenship (Amendment) Bill, then we will not allow the Finance Bill to be cleared which would have set a wrong precedent," a senior Opposition MP said.

As a quid pro quo, the Interim Budget was cleared by the Upper House without any debate in two hours.

The triple talaq Bill that criminalises instant divorce among Muslims has also lapsed. The numbers were clearly stacked against the government with the entire Opposition, except the Biju Janata Dal, ranged against it.

## Majority govt. a must for stability, PM tells LS

"As a new Member of Parliament I learnt many new things including the difference between a genuine and a forced hug," he said in an apparent reference to Congress president Rahul Gandhi's impromptu hug given to Prime Minister Modi during the no-confidence motion moved against his government last year.

He pointed out that while there had been 13 Prime Ministers in India so far, his seat had a plaque naming only three. "Liberals should think as to why that is?" he said.

Mr. Modi also asked for pardon with the Jain religious invocation "Micchami Dukkadam" for any hurts he may have caused.

He praised Speaker Sumitra Mahajan's leadership

## Rajasthan clears 5% quota for Gujjars

The stir entered the six day on Wednesday, with widespread disruption in rail and road traffic continuing.

The Rajasthan Backward Classes (Reservation of Seats in Educational Institutions in the State and of Appointments and Posts in Services under the State) Amendment Bill, 2019, has sought to amend a statute of 2017 and increase the quota for backward classes from the present 21% to 26%. This will result in the reservation exceeding the 50% upper limit mandated by the Supreme Court.

The 2017 legislation was enacted by the then Vasundhara Raje government, giving 5% reservation to Gujjars as a Most Backward Class. Four other nomadic communities getting the quota benefit along with Gujjars are Banjara, Gadia-Lohar, Raika and Gadariya.

### Voice vote

The Amendment Bill was passed by a voice vote in the Assembly after a debate for two hours. The Bill's statement of objects and reasons said the five castes were "most backward" and re-

quired 5% separate reservation. It also made a mention of the Constitution Amendment Bill passed by the Union government to extend quota to the poor, which had breached the 50% ceiling. A resolution tabled in the House and supported by all the MLAs cutting across the party lines, after the Bill was passed, recommended that the Centre take steps to protect the legislation so as to extend the benefit to Gujjars and others.

Energy Minister B.D. Kalla introduced the Bill on the last day of the Assembly's Budget session, while affirming that it was a "path breaking step" aimed at resolving the quota issue to the satisfaction of Gujjars and meeting their demand.

Deputy Chief Minister Sachin Pilot said the Congress MLAs were willing to meet BJP president Amit Shah, due to visit Jaipur shortly, with the request to protect the legislation with a Constitutional amendment. Mr. Pilot criticised the previous BJP government for not drafting the reservation Bill with sufficient legal safeguards.

Restoration workers at Srinagar Fort, 35 km from Pune, have stumbled upon the original commemorative memorial of Tanaji Malusare, the brave Maratha warrior after whom Shivaji is said to have named Srinagar Fort (Lion's fort).

Malusare died in 1670 after being seriously wounded in the Srinagar battle. The stone structure, found buried under cement, concrete, and layers of oil paint, is believed to be around 350 years old.

Workers were restoring a more recent memorial for Malusare, erected in 1941, consisting of a bronze statue and a concrete canopy. "The canopy had become dilapidated. So we recently started a project to remake

## MPs bid adieu amid Mulayam's twist

SP leader wishes for PM Modi's return at valedictory meeting ahead of the Lok Sabha election

NISTULA HEBBAR  
BINDU SHAJAN PERAPPADAN  
NEW DELHI

### Performance graph

A comparison of the business transacted during the 15th and 16th Lok Sabha – the last session of the latter was held on Wednesday

Source:  
Lok Sabha Speaker's office

Business transacted	15th Lok Sabha	16th Lok Sabha	Increase in %
Unstarred questions	73,160	73,405	0.33
Matters under Rule 377	4,019	4,689	16.67
Matters taken up during Zero Hour	3,316	6,198	86.91
Committee reports	652	715	9.66
Starred questions replied	650	1,169	79.84
Number of statements	598	659	10.2
Private members Bills introduced	372	1,117	200.26
Government Bills passed	181	200	10.49
Calling Attention motions	37	18	-
Half-an-hour discussions	7	5	-
Adjournment motions admitted and discussed	2	1	-



### 'Yadav's blessings'

"It has been my experience that Prime Minister Modi has helped me every time I have sought it and I wish him a second term," said Mr. Yadav, to some discomfort amid the Opposition benches which have been working for a unified grouping against the BJP.

While Nationalist Con-

gress Party leader Supriya Sule said Mr. Yadav had expressed the same hopes for former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and Mr. Yadav himself later tried to play down the words outside Parliament. Mr. Modi acknowledged what he termed as Mr. Yadav's "blessings".

Speaker Sumitra Mahajan

presented a report on her tenure as presiding officer of the House and confessed to mixed feelings at the end of her stint.

"I have mixed feelings as I leave today. We must remember that this is the temple of democracy, and we have to make it work maintaining its dignity and keep

ing in mind the aspiration of the people," she said.

The 16th Lok Sabha has seen MPs being suspended for "disorderly conduct" in 2015 and 2016.

Telangana Rashtra Samithi MP Jithendra Reddy, who heads the food committee of Parliament, brought in a lighter moment to the pro-

ceedings, claiming the distinction of having introduced biryani to the menu.

While Congress president Rahul Gandhi made a brief appearance in the House, senior party leader K.C. Venugopal spoke on behalf of the party making a case for the functioning of the Opposition. "We have tried to put across our point to the country as best we can... We have tried to give our best as Opposition," he said.

The realisation that elections were round the corner was evident at the valedictory session. NDA ally Shiv Sena, despite very public differences with the BJP, expressed its hopes, via its MP Anandrao Adsal, that the NDA would return to power.

Lok Janshakti Party (LJP) leader Ram Vilas Paswan, acknowledging his now famous skills at picking the winning side in every poll, said, "I am known as a *mausam vigyanik* (someone who senses which way the wind is blowing) and I say that there is no vacancy – Prime Minister Modi will return."

## Chit Fund Bill: govt. breaches Oppn. unity

NISTULA HEBBAR  
NEW DELHI

The government managed to expose the fissures in opposition unity as it introduced and managed to pass the Banning of Unregulated Deposit Schemes Bill, 2018, in the Lok Sabha on Wednesday. The debate pitted the Congress and the Communist Party of India (Marxist) [CPI(M)] against the Trinamool Congress (TMC).

The Bill seeks to ban chit funds and has resonance in the politics of West Bengal where several members of the TMC, among other politicians, have been accused of involvement in the Sarada and Rose Valley ponzi scams.

Acting Finance Minister Piyush Goyal introduced the Bill on Tuesday amid protests by the TMC, Samajwadi Party (SP) and the Telugu Desam Party (TDP) MPs after SP leader Akhilash Yadav was prevented from visiting Prayagraj.

All this changed however, when Congress leader Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury spoke in support of the Bill and launched a blistering attack on the TMC.

"I support this Bill because 'loot ka choot nahin hona chahiye' (there should not be open season of looting)," he said. These people, he said, pointing to the protesting TMC MPs, are "the ruling party of West Bengal and together with chit fund companies, looted the poor people of the State." Mr. Chowdhury said.

This session would have ended up without clearing any bill if five bills had not been cleared on Wednesday without any discussion.

According to Mr. Naidu, out of 48 hours in the Budget session, the house functioned only for eight hours.

"Obstruction of proceedings can't be allowed to emerge as the preferred form of parliamentary expression substituting informed debates," he added.

On both occasions, BJP members, engaged in a political slugfest with the TMC over Saradha scam and other issues, were seen thumping their desks.

## Venkaiah presents 'report to people'

Says the performance of the Rajya Sabha during NDA's tenure rankles him

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

On the last day of the 16th Lok Sabha session on Wednesday, Rajya Sabha Chairman M. Venkaiah Naidu presented a "report to the people", citing statistics that highlighted the below-par performance of the Upper House and asserting that there was a need for legislatures to be accountable. His closing remarks at the end of the Budget Session came at a time when questions are being raised on the utility of the Rajya Sabha. The Upper House has been problematic for the BJP government, stalling many of its Bills.

Mr. Naidu said the performance of Rajya Sabha rankled. "This Session being the

last one before the general election, we need to know as to what extent this august House lived up to its role and responsibilities," he said.

Mr. Naidu said that since June 2014, the Rajya Sabha

held 18 sessions and 329 sittings till date and passed 154 Bills – which comes to less than one Bill in two sittings.

The legislative output of the Rajya Sabha during the Modi regime has been far

lower than during the UPA years. In 2009-2014, it cleared 188 Bills and in 2004-09 it cleared 251 Bills.

In contrast, since 2014, the Upper House has been unable to function for 40% of its allotted time due to disruptions.

This session would have ended up without clearing any bill if five bills had not been cleared on Wednesday without any discussion.

According to Mr. Naidu, out of 48 hours in the Budget session, the house functioned only for eight hours.

"Obstruction of proceedings can't be allowed to emerge as the preferred form of parliamentary expression substituting informed debates," he added.



Closing remarks: Rajya Sabha Chairman M. Venkaiah Naidu conducting the proceedings. ■ PTI

## 16 students injured in Pulwama blast

10 seriously wounded persons shifted to Srinagar; probe ordered

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
SRINAGAR

Sixteen students were injured in a blast at a private school in Pulwama on Wednesday. In a separate incident, two Hizbul Mujahideen militants, including a known recruiter, were killed in Budgam by security forces. The explosion inside a classroom at the Falai-e-Millat coaching centre in Pulwama's Narbal area took place around 2.30 p.m.

"At least 16 students were injured in the blast. Around 10 grievously injured students were shifted to a Srinagar hospital. The rest are un-

dergoing treatment at different medical facilities in Pulwama district and are stable," Senior Superintendent of Police, Pulwama, Chandan Kohli said.

The police refrained from divulging any detail on the nature of the blast.

The staff at a local public health centre suggested that the students were hit by splinters, usually triggered by a grenade blast. "Most students were hit in their limbs," said an official at the hospital.

Recalling the incident, Jawed Ahmed, a teacher at the coaching school, said he

was teaching when the blast shook the building and "left many students in a pool of blood". Blood was splattered all over the floor of the classroom where the impact of the blast was maximum, locals said.

The incident sparked spontaneous street protests in Kakpora. Security forces fired teargas shells to control the situation.

### 2 militants killed

In a separate incident, security forces killed two militants in Budgam, a district adjacent to Pulwama. "The two militants, Hilal Ahmad Wani

and Shoib Muhammad Lone alias Mursi, were trapped after receiving credible inputs about their presence in Gopalpora in Budgam. Both the militants were killed in a gunfight," said the police.

The police said the slain militants were affiliated to the Hizbul Mujahideen.

"Wani was responsible for the recruitment into the terrorist fold and was longest surviving terrorist who was operating across the southern and central belts of the Valley since he had joined the militant ranks in 2015," said the police.

Recalling the incident, Jawed Ahmed, a teacher at the coaching school, said he

was teaching when the blast shook the building and "left many students in a pool of blood". Blood was splattered all over the floor of the classroom where the impact of the blast was maximum, locals said.

The incident sparked spontaneous street protests in Kakpora. Security forces fired teargas shells to control the situation.

"There were always rumours about Malusare's samadhi in Sinhagad. But until now, no one knew where it was. We have taken a conscious decision to restore the samadhi to its original form," said Dr. Tejas Garge, director of the Directorate of Archaeology and Museums, Maharashtra.

we were able to match the structure with a 1917 picture of Malusare's samadhi in Sinhagad. But until now, no one knew where it was. We have taken a conscious decision to restore the samadhi to its original form," said Dr. Tejas Garge, director of the Directorate of Archaeology and Museums, Maharashtra.

It so happened that the canopy, in addition to the

superstructure and a part of the memorial," said Mr. Samel, adding that it must have got detached and moved away from the original structure several years ago.

**C** It [the CAG report] is neither complete nor fully correct in the eyes of public... Is it the BJP's [idea of] service of national interest and serving national security?

MAYAWATI  
BSP chief



**C** Rahul Gandhi has been constantly lying. If someone has to be given a tag of mahajhootha, or an award for it, then he will be the first contender. He has no shame. The way he had lied in Rafale matter, all his facts and documents are turning out to be false

SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUDHARI  
BJP leader

**C** ... the crux of the matter is that rules and procedures have been violated in this deal. The delivery schedule for 36 jets is longer than for 126 jets

DIGVIJAYA SINGH  
Congress leader



**C** [Rajiv] Mehrahi was part of the Rafale negotiations, and he himself is CAG now. So, the question is the authenticity or truthfulness of the CAG report.

The conflict of interest is there

SANJAY Tatkare  
NCP spokesperson



# Dissent note deflates govt. stand: Rahul

Says *The Hindu* report demolished argument of lower price and speedy delivery of Rafale jets

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT**  
NEW DELHI

Quoting a dissent note by three members of the negotiating team published by *The Hindu* on Wednesday, Congress president Rahul Gandhi said it demolished the two key factors of price and speedy delivery of aircraft on which the government's entire argument for the new Rafale deal was based. Even if the CAG finding that the deal was 2.86% cheaper than the previous one was taken to be true, it belied the government's claim about a 9% to 20% reduction, he said.

Mr. Gandhi said the argument given by the Prime Minister, the Defence Minister and the Finance Minister on the need for a new deal was based on the issue of price and that the Air Force required the planes quickly.

**Order backlog**  
However, three members of the negotiating team in their eight-page dissent note had



Against the deal: Rahul Gandhi, Sonia Gandhi and A.K. Antony with party MPs protesting outside Parliament on Wednesday against the Rafale deal. ■ SANDEEP SAXENA

said the updated financial statement of Dassault Aviation revealed that the company had a backlog for 83 Rafale aircraft.

"At the production rate of eight aircraft per year, the company would take at least 10 years to complete its present backlog," Mr. Gandhi

said.

He asked why the dissent note was not included in the CAG audit report, tabled in Parliament on Wednesday.

**Cong. chief must apologise, says Minister**

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT**  
NEW DELHI

Law Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad on Wednesday criticised Congress president Rahul Gandhi after the government tabled the CAG report on the Rafale deal, saying it "caught" the Opposition leader's "lies" and demanded an apology.

"We never imagined Indira Gandhi's grandson and Rajiv Gandhi's son will lie so shamelessly," he said. "The BJP demands that Rahul Gandhi apologise as the Supreme Court order and CAG report on the deal have exposed his lies."

"The process has been examined by the SC and the CAG and found to be correct, and the price is lower than the one UPA was negotiating," he said.

# 'Limiting ISEs to cut outgo not a saving'

MoD asserted in reply to CAG's query

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT**  
NEW DELHI

The Comptroller and Auditor-General's audit report of 2016 has observed that an issue raised by the auditor with regard to four India Specific Enhancements (ISEs) found inessential in technical and staff evaluations was dismissed by the Defence Ministry as being "a temporary deferment only for cost reduction measure".

"Scaling down the requirement to limit cash outgo cannot be considered as saving," the Ministry contended after the CAG raised the issue of the four enhancements – whose cost constituted about 14% of the contracted ISE transaction value – by asking whether paring those items would have helped to reduce the cost of the Rafale deal with France through an Inter-Governmental Agreement (IGA).

The final terms of the 2016 deal had resulted in a 17.08% saving on account of the ISEs when compared with the equivalent value as per the bid received in 2007, when the I26 MMRCA proposal had been opened, the CAG observed in its report tabled in Parliament on Wednesday.

## Postponing 6 ISEs

"In August 2016, before submission of the note to the approval of the Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS), DCAS (with the approval of CAS) intimated the Ministry that the ISE scope could be reduced by postponing six enhancements, which could be included if more Rafale aircraft were procured in future," the CAG noted.

However, the MoD did not accept this proposal contending that it would have been tantamount to dilution of the Air Staff Qualitative Requirements, which would have gone against the basic framework of the joint statement of April 10, 2015, by the Defence Acquisition Council stressing that the aircraft ought to have the same configuration.

# A month's gain on delivery, even that unsure'

CAG says 2016 deal schedule would see 36 Rafales delivered in 71 months vs 72 months in MMRCA bid

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT**  
NEW DELHI

One of the key reasons cited by the Centre for entering into an Inter-Governmental Agreement (IGA) with France for 36 Rafale fighter jets was to ensure quick availability of aircraft to meet the IAF's critical operational needs. However, an audit report of the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) has revealed that there is an improvement of only one month when compared with the terms as per the 2007 proposal for the supply of 126 jets under the



Dogfight continues: The CAG report is unlikely to quell the disquiet over the Rafale deal. ■ AFP

MMRCA tender.

"Audit noted that as against the delivery period

of 72 months in the earlier offer the contracted delivery schedule for 36 Rafale air-

craft was actually 71 months," the CAG said. The auditor also noted that the Indian Negotiation Team (INT) had apprehensions about the achievement of "even this delivery schedule."

According to the original delivery schedule offered by Dassault Aviation in 2007, first 18 flyaway aircraft were to be delivered between 37-50 months from the signing of the contract and the next 18 jets, licence produced in Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL), were to be delivered 49-72 months from the

signing of the contract, CAG noted in its report.

During the IGA negotiations, the INT pressed for an earlier delivery time frame but finally the delivery schedule offered by the French side was 18 aircraft by 36 to 53 months after the contract and the remaining 18 jets by 67 months.

The Indian Specific Enhancements (ISEs) on the first jet would be completed 63 months from contract signing and integration on the next 35 aircraft would be completed in the next eight months, CAG noted.

# Centre to seek advice on deletion of UID data

To allow a person to exit Aadhaar on reaching 18



ment, then how will that operate."

"Maybe that data could be kept somewhere separate, but how that will function, we will have to take legal opinions," Mr. Pandey said.

The Aadhaar Act was not passed during the just-concluded Budget session of the Lok Sabha, and so it will have to be reintroduced under a new government. The proposal to allow those turning 18 to withdraw from Aadhaar will not benefit those who want to file income tax returns as it is now mandatory to provide Aadhaar details while filing taxes.

(With inputs from Yuthika Bhargava)

# We are always angry, says CJI

Gogoi was reacting to a remark by Ashwani Kumar



to preserve human dignity," Justice Gogoi asked, "How will we look in the eyes of the world if we do something like that?"

The Chief Justice urged Mr. Kumar to point out the specific directions he was seeking from the court.

When Mr. Kumar countered that he had never been properly heard in the case, a visibly irritated Justice Gogoi remarked that the Bench would only hear Mr. Kumar's case and none other listed for the day.

Observing that the court cannot issue a writ to the Government of India to "honour its constitutional promise

# Cong. joins hands with Mahan Dal in U.P.

Priyanka and Jyotiraditya Scindia describe it as a step towards politics of inclusion

**OMAR RASHID**  
LUCKNOW

The Congress on Wednesday joined hands with the Mahan Dal in Uttar Pradesh, two days after its general secretaries in charge of the State, Priyanka Gandhi Vadra and Jyotiraditya Scindia, took over the election campaign.

Both leaders described it as a step towards politics of inclusion. Ms. Vadra said the two parties would contest the election together.

The Mahan Dal, a regional force based in western U.P., claims influence among the backward caste Maurya-Shakya-



Strategy session: Priyanka Gandhi Vadra and Jyotiraditya Scindia at the Congress office in Lucknow on Wednesday. ■ RAJEEV BHATT

Saini communities.

The Congress has allied with the Mahan Dal in the 2009 and 2014 Lok Sabha elections. In

2014, the party was allotted three seats as part of an alliance with the Congress but forfeited deposits on all three – Badaun,

Ethah and Nagina.

Mahan Dal president Keshav Dev Maurya said he hoped that if the Congress came to power in 2019 it would implement sub-categorisation of Other Backward Caste and Scheduled Caste quotas so that communities deprived of the facility are benefited.

Mr. Maurya, interestingly, targeted the SP and BSP, accusing them of not giving enough representation to Dalit and OBC castes apart from their own. "They mobilised OBC and Dalits in the name of representation but forgot about it after coming to power," Mr. Maurya said.

DELHI JAL BOARD, GOVT. OF NCT OF DELHI OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (E&M) CHANDRAWAL WATER WORKS NO.1, CIVIL LINES, DELHI-110054						
PRESS NOTICE INVITED TENDER NO. 21 (2018-19)						
S. No	Subject	Estimated Cost	Earnest Money (in Rs.)	Tender fee (in Fee)	Date & ID of Release Tender in e-procurement solution	Last date of submission of Tender
1	S.I.T.C of Submersible P/ Sets along with allied (E&M) Equipment at Haiderpur WTP	Item Rate	86000/-	500/-	13.02.2019 2019_DJB_168483_2	22.02.2019 at 2.15 PM
2	S.I.T.C of Submersible P/ Sets along with allied (E&M) Equipment at Sonia Vihar WTP	Item Rate	63000/-	500/-	13.02.2019 2019_DJB_168483_1	22.02.2019 at 2.15 PM
	S.I.T.C of Submersible P/ Sets along with allied (E&M) Equipment at Bhagirathi WTP	Item Rate	63000/-	500/-	13.02.2019 2019_DJB_168483_3	22.02.2019 at 2.15 PM

The tender is available at the E-Portal website : <https://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in>

ISSUED BY P.R.O. (WATER)

Adv't No. J.S.V. 809/2018-19

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, RWS&S DIVISION, ATHAGARH	
At/Post : Athagarh, Email: erwsathagarh@gmail.com	
1 <sup>st</sup> Corrigendum to Tender Call Notice No. RWS/ATH/21/2018-2019	
The e-Procurement Notice No. RWS/ATH/21/2018-19 & letter No.177, dt.01.02.2019 of RWSS Division, Athagarh is hereby modified due to unavoidable circumstances.	
1. The Bid ID No. RWS/Ath/21/2018-19 may be read as Bid ID RWS/Ath/22/2018-19.	
2. The Estimated cost may be read as Rs.96.58 lakh instead of Rs.104.90 lakhs.	
3. The EMD to be deposited Rs.1.00 lakh instead of Rs.1.10 lakhs.	
All other terms & conditions shall remain unchanged.	
1680-Q:	Er.P.K.Mohapatra
25165/11/0030/1819	Executive Engineer, RWS&S Division, Athagarh

Government of Odisha

Social Security & Empowerment of PwDs Department  
SIDR Building, Capital Hospital Campus, Unit-6, Bhubaneswar-751001

22-gg OPEN TENDER NOTICE

for Procurement of readymade items of Aids/Applications under BBSCA

No. 1403 SSEPD-DA-6-MISC-0005-2019 Date: 12.2.19

The Tender aims to approve successful bidder/bidders that will be responsible for supply of different readymade Items of Aids/Applications under different schemes of SSEPD Deptt. The details of scope of work, eligibility criteria and submission of details can be downloaded from website <http://www.ssepd.gov.in>

- Availability of Tender document : SSEPD web site [www.ssepd.gov.in](http://www.ssepd.gov.in)
- Date of Issue of Tender Document : up to 25/02/2019 (within 11 AM to 5 PM of all working days.)
- Date and time for submission : By speed post / Registered post / courier/ hand in all working days up to 3:00 PM of 26/02/2019

This Tender does not entail any commitment on the part of SSEPD Deptt, Govt. of Odisha either financial or otherwise. SSEPD Deptt, Govt. of Odisha reserves the right to accept or reject any or all Tenders without incurring any obligation to inform the affected applicant/s of the grounds. The Tender Bids will be evaluated based on the information provided.

46001/11/0040/1819 Director, SSEPD, Odisha



**Yameen charged with money laundering**  
Colombo  
Maldives's former President Abdulla Yameen was charged with money laundering on Wednesday, according to a local media report. The case stems from an allegedly shady deal to lease islands for tourist resort development and the discovery of \$1 million in his bank account. The case has been filed at the criminal court, the Prosecutor General's office tweeted on Wednesday. PTI

#### Thai EC moves to dissolve Raksa Chart party

BANGKOK  
The Thai Election Commission on Wednesday asked the constitutional court to dissolve the Raksa Chart party, which last week proposed Princess Ubolratana as its candidate for Prime Minister, a potential blow to the political aspirations of the kingdom's powerful Shinawatra clan. The nation is hold election on March 24. AFP

# Trump signals support for border deal

President is unhappy with the agreement, but says another government shutdown is unlikely

SRI RAM LAKSHMAN  
WASHINGTON

U.S. President Donald Trump has indicated that he is likely to sign a bipartisan border security deal from Congress that will keep the federal government open past Friday. Mr. Trump, however, indicated he was not happy with the terms, which provide him with far less funding for shorter stretches of a "border wall" than he had initially demanded.

"Am I happy at first glance? The answer is no, I'm not, I'm not happy," Mr. Trump said to reporters at the White House on Tuesday.

However, he indicated the deal would go through. "I don't think you're going to see a shutdown," Mr. Trump said about the possibility of another shutdown that will begin Friday if no deal is reached.

Several media outlets reported on Wednesday morning that sources had confirmed that the President would sign the deal.

The deal provides \$1.375 billion for 55 miles of new border fencing as opposed to the \$5.7 billion for the 234



**Say 'No' to wall:** Anti-Trump protesters taking part in a march in El Paso, Texas, earlier this week, around the same time the President was speaking at a rally. • AFP

miles of steel walls Mr. Trump had demanded. The funding is also less than the \$1.6 billion a Senate Bill offered last year and substantially less than what the \$25 billion offered for border security as part of a Bill that had some bipartisan support in the Senate in early 2018.

"It's not going to do the trick, but I'm adding things to it, and when you add whatever I have to add, it's all going to happen where we're going to build a beautiful, big, strong wall," Mr. Trump said on Tuesday.

#### Executive order

CNN reported that Mr. Trump could be considering an executive order as one of the options to allocate additional funding for the border. Mr. Trump has also threatened to declare a national emergency – something that is highly likely to be challenged in court – to divert funds from other sources for his wall.

The proposed deal will also keep parts of the government that will run out of funding on Friday open until September 30. The country has just emerged from a record 35-day partial government shutdown, which impacted some 8,000,000 federal workers.

Both parties are touting the deal as a victory. The Republicans did so because they have got funding for some length of a physical barrier at the border, and the

Democrats because the funding is a fraction of what the President has been demanding.

#### Detention beds

The deal also maintains funding for detention beds at the border (i.e., the capacity to detain migrants) at 40,520 beds. However, there is no cap on this as part of the new deal. This could potentially allow additional funding to get up to 52,000 beds, as Mr. Trump has wanted. The Democrats have also let go of a demand for a cap on the number of interior (i.e., not at the border) beds.

The Bill also allocates \$1.7 billion for border security via the Department of Homeland Security. Democrats have said they are in favour of stronger border security.

While some conservative commentators have balked at the deal, Hill Republicans have been pushing the President to accept it. "I hope he'll sign it," Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell told reporters on Tuesday. "I think he got a pretty good deal."

# Britain denies plotting last-minute Brexit vote

Govt. says it will stick to the timeline

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE  
LONDON

The British government denied on Wednesday that it was secretly plotting to force MPs into a last-minute choice on Brexit between a rejigged deal and a lengthy delay.

ITV television reported that it had overheard Prime Minister Theresa May's chief Brexit negotiator Olly Robbins in a Brussels bar saying the EU would probably let Britain extend its March 29 departure date.



Olly Robbins, Prime Minister Theresa May's chief Brexit negotiator. • REUTERS

"The issue is whether Brussels is clear on the terms of extension. In the end, they will probably just give us an extension," he was quoted as saying.

A government spokesman said: "We would not comment on alleged remarks from a private conversation which is said to have been overheard in a hotel bar."

Brexit Secretary Stephen Barclay denied that the reported comments reflected official government policy. "We are committed to leaving on March 29," he told BBC radio.

# Sanctions-hit Venezuela seeks to double oil exports to India

U.S. has warned buyers against dealing with Caracas

REUTERS  
HOUSTON/MOSCOW

Venezuelan oil company PDVSA is looking to double exports to India as U.S. sanctions hobble deliveries to the U.S. and Europe.

The country's oil exports since the sanctions took effect on January 28 have fallen to 1.15 million barrels per day (bpd) of crude and refined products, Refinitiv Eikon data showed, down from about 1.4 million bpd.

In response, Venezuela is turning its focus to buyers paying in cash, especially in India, its second-largest customer after the U.S.

#### Reliance among buyers

Before the sanctions, PDVSA shipped over 5,00,000 bpd to the U.S., its largest cash market, followed by India at above 3,00,000 bpd and



Venezuela's President Nicolás Maduro. • AFP

then China. Venezuela has sent its Oil Minister, Manuel Quevedo, to India to convince refiners, including Reliance Industries Ltd and Nayara Energy Ltd, to double their oil purchases. "We are selling more than 3,00,000 bpd to Indian buyers," Mr. Quevedo said on Monday in New Delhi. "We want to double that amount."

# U.S. charges ex-Air Force officer with spying for Iran

Accused of sharing classified information

REUTERS  
WASHINGTON

The U.S. on Wednesday charged former U.S. Air Force intelligence officer Monica Witt with helping Iran in a cyberspying operation that targeted her former colleagues. As part of its action, the U.S. also charged four Iranian nationals who it said were involved in the cyberattacks.

Washington additionally sanctioned two Iran-based firms – New Horizon Organization and Net Peygard Samava Company – and several individuals associated with them. U.S. officials said Witt, who defected to Iran in 2013, supplied classified information about U.S. intelligence officers she had worked with in her military career. She remains at large.

Witt, 39, was recruited for the operation after attending two conferences in



Monica Witt, a former U.S. Air Force officer. • Reuters

Iran organised by New Horizon, which supported efforts by Iran's Revolutionary Guard's Quds Force to recruit and collect intelligence from foreign attendees. Witt served as a counterintelligence officer in the Air Force from 1997 until 2008 and worked as contractor for two years after that.

During that time, she was granted high-level security clearances.

# Instagram deletes gay comic strip after Indonesia outrage

Govt. warned the company that the content violated the law

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE  
JAKARTA

Instagram on Wednesday shut down an account that published comic strips about the struggles of a gay Muslim in Indonesia after it sparked a backlash in the world's biggest Islamic nation. The move comes after Indonesia's Communications Ministry sent a letter to the social media giant warning that the "pornographic" content violated an electronic information law.

The now-deleted account, which had about 6,000 followers, published a dozen posts depicting a gay Muslim man named Alpantuni who talked about discrimination and his life in a conservative family. "My family is very religious. I have to pray five times a day, but I've got a secret," the character said in



The comic strip was about a gay man named Alpantuni.

one strip that has since been deleted. "I'm very pious in front of others, but in private I'm gay." Homosexuality is not illegal in Indonesia but a backlash against the LGBT community is growing and same-sex relationships are widely frowned upon.

The comic strip sparked heated online debate with some conservatives branding it immoral. "Please remove this account and put whoever runs it in prison –

this is indecent," one Instagram user wrote.

Others said it was an honest portrait of gay life in the world's biggest Muslim majority country. "Gay Muslims are real. Gay Muslims being persecuted by people in their neighbourhood and their conservative families is real," said one Twitter user.

In October, an Indonesian was arrested for running a Facebook page that catered to the gay community.

# Revolution @ 40

It is 40 years since the 1978-79 protests in Iran culminated in an 'Islamic revolution' that upended the Pahlavi dynasty and brought in a theocratic regime

FEB. 11, 1979: Rebel troops overwhelm royalists in street-fighting, bringing Ruhollah Khomeini to power



NOVEMBER 1979-1981: U.S. imposes sanctions after Iranian students demanding extradition of the Shah seize its Embassy  
SEPT. 1980-AUG. 1988: Iran fights a war with Iraq after Saddam Hussein invades the country. About 5,00,000 troops from both sides are killed  
1995: The U.S. government bans American companies from investing in Iran's oil and gas sector over Tehran's alleged support to terror groups and its nuclear programme  
2003: U.S. invades Iraq  
OCTOBER 2007: U.S. announces sweeping sanctions  
2006-2010: UN ratifies four rounds of sanctions  
JULY 2015: Iran reaches a deal on limiting nuclear activity with the U.S. EU and 5 other countries  
OCTOBER 2012: Rial loses 80% of its value against the dollar due to sanctions, causing a financial crisis

Iran's crude oil production, which makes up for more than 70% of the country's exports, saw a major fall following the Islamic revolution of 1979. However, it has remained fairly steady ever since, falling only during the 2012-2016 peak of sanctions

Iran export-ed about two-thirds of the crude oil produced up to 2005. Exports as a % of production saw a fall thereafter, the reduction being steep between 2012 and 2016 as sanctions hit its economy

Among all the nations suffering from oppression, few make an effort to launch a revolution; and among those nations that have risen and launched a revolution, few have been witnessed to have pursued it to the end... Our revolution is the greatest and most popular revolution of the contemporary era

—AYATOLLAH ALI KHAMEINI, Supreme Leader

REUTERS

AP

## MARKET WATCH

	13-02-2019	% CHANGE
Sensex	36,034	-0.33
US Dollar	70.80	-0.14
Gold	34,050	-0.88
Brent oil	63.53	1.60

## NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Ports	341.65	14.85
Asian Paints	1424.15	-27.95
Axius Bank	697.50	-8.10
Bajaj Auto.	2823.95	-8.40
Bajaj Finance	6127.65	31.25
Bharti Airtel	310.55	-0.70
BPCL	329.45	-9.85
Cipla	543.50	0.20
Coal India	220.25	-2.80
Dr Reddys Lab	2648.70	-3.80
Eicher Motors	20158.70	-97.80
GAIL (India)	315.50	-10.20
Grafix Ind	717.15	-1.70
HCL Tech	1070.15	11.35
HDFC	1930.50	25.45
HDFC Bank	2143.45	13.75
Hero MotoCorp	2751.45	-48.10
Hindalco	198.20	-0.15
HPLC	225.10	-8.95
Hind Unilever	1796.95	4.45
Indiabulls HFL	618.90	20.00
ICICI Bank	339.75	-4.55
IndusInd Bank	1498.45	1.25
Bharti Infratel	304.30	-8.55
Infosys	754.90	4.45
Indian Oil Corp	129.90	-4.85
ITC	276.85	1.55
JSW Steel	271.20	-0.55
Kotak Bank	1298.30	-0.35
L&T	1216.65	-30.20
M&M	641.50	-7.20
Maurti Suzuki	7028.25	-134.25
NTPC	131.10	-2.15
ONGC	133.40	-4.05
PowerGrid Corp	176.55	-4.70
Reliance Ind	1245.95	-10.45
State Bank	268.20	-7.20
Sun Pharma	431.25	-5.35
Tata Motors	155.00	3.20
Tata Steel	484.00	-3.40
TCI	2065.40	13.80
Tech Mahindra	809.70	4.55
Titan	1050.95	-15.30
UltraTech Cement	3472.25	19.90
UPL	817.20	21.00
Vedanta	150.70	-2.15
Wipro	377.45	2.45
YES Bank	169.45	-3.20
Zee Entertainment	408.20	-6.50

## EXCHANGE RATES

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	70.60	70.92
Euro	79.86	80.22
British Pound	90.93	91.34
Japanese Yen (100)	63.77	64.06
Chinese Yuan	10.44	10.49
Swiss Franc	70.20	70.52
Singapore Dollar	52.04	52.29
Canadian Dollar	53.33	53.57
Malaysian Ringgit	17.35	17.44

Source: Indian Bank

## BULLION RATES CHENNAI

February 13 rates in rupees with previous rates in parentheses

Retail Silver (1g)	42.8... (43.1)
22 ct gold (1 g)	3141... (3145)

Source: Indian Bank

## U.S. to discuss trade, e-com rules with India

U.S. Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross cancels scheduled trip to India due to inclement weather

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

U.S. Ambassador Kenneth I. Juster will lead a delegation of officials to hold talks with Union Commerce Minister Suresh Prabhu on Thursday to resolve several sore trade points, including the concerns of American CEOs regarding doing business in India and bilateral trade imbalance.

The status of the review of India's eligibility for the Generalised System of Preferences (GSP) is also likely to come up in the light of recent developments where the U.S. has again threatened to withdraw the export exemptions for India. U.S. Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross would participate in the discussions "remotely" as he had to cancel his scheduled trip to In-



Trade tangle: Donald Trump had raised the issue of unequal trade and tariffs between the two countries several times. ■ AP

dia due to inclement weather and logistical issues, the U.S. Commerce Department said in a statement.

Other issues that had particularly incensed American businesses are India's new data localisation rules that

force foreign companies to store Indians' data within the country, and rules amending FDI rules in e-commerce that had hurt American giants like Amazon and Walmart. These are likely to be high on the agen-

da of Thursday's Indo-U.S. CEO Forum.

Trade tensions between the two countries rose last March when U.S. President Donald Trump notified the imposition of higher import tariffs on steel and aluminum, which affected several countries, including India.

In retaliation, India announced counter-tariffs on 29 American goods, worth about \$235 million, but has delayed implementing them in the hope of resolving the matter.

## GSP review

President Trump's order was followed closely by the office of the U.S. Trade Representative (USTR) announcing that it was putting India's eligibility for GSP – under which India is allowed duty-free ex-

ports to the U.S. for about 2,000 product lines – under review.

"GSP boosts the competitiveness of American manufacturers by lowering their costs," Sanjay Budhia, chairman, CII National Committee on EXIM, said.

"Approximately two-thirds of U.S. imports under GSP are raw materials, components, or machinery and equipment used by U.S. companies to manufacture goods in the U.S. for domestic consumption or for export. These benefits are real."

Mr. Ross will also try to find ways to resolve the trade imbalance between India and the U.S., a sore point raised by President Trump. India's exports to the U.S. in 2017-18 stood at \$47.9 billion and imports at \$26.7 billion.

## Trouble looms for AI subsidiary divestment

High bids' may put spanner in works

JAGRITI CHANDRA  
NEW DELHI

The Airports Authority of India's (AAI) tender inviting bids for ground handling services for 76 of its airports may impact the disinvestment of Air India (AI) ground handling arm AIATSL, say potential bidders.

Within hours of the government inviting interest for 98% stake sale of Air India Air Transport Services Limited (AIATSL) on Tuesday, the Bird Group wrote to the transaction adviser Ernst & Young (EY), enquiring if the high royalties to the AAI, quoted by some entities which are likely to be awarded contracts for the 76 airports, would have to be

matched by AIATSL's new owner, according to its spokesperson.

If the response to our query is yes, then AIATSL becomes unviable," the Bird Group spokesperson added.

AIATSL offers services to a total of 46 airlines at almost all of these 76 AAI airports.

According to sources, some bidders, likely to be awarded ground handling contracts, had quoted royalties of 15%-22% to the AAI.

According to AAI's new regulations on ground handling, "at all airports, the joint venture or the subsidiary of Air India shall match the lowest royalty paid by the other ground handling agencies."

## Axis Bank OFS subscribed 3.68 times

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
MUMBAI

The offer for sale (OFS) of Axis Bank shares by the Specified Undertaking of the United Trust of India has been subscribed 3.68 times, according to data from the National Stock Exchange.

The portion reserved for retail investors opened for bidding on Wednesday and received bids for 16.41 lakh shares. Bidding for the institutional segment opened on Tuesday and was subscribed about 2.56 times. While the total offer size is in excess of ₹5,300 crore, 10% of the offer for sale has been reserved for retail investors. The floor price for the OFS was fixed at ₹689.52.

## HC refuses stay on RPL share sale by Edelweiss

But court will hear damages claim

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
MUMBAI

Anil Ambani-owned Reliance Power Ltd. (RPL) failed to get any relief in the matter related to the sale of pledged shares by Edelweiss as the Bombay High Court dismissed the company's petition seeking a stay on further sale of such shares.

While Justice K. R. Shriram dismissed the petition seeking the stay, he would hear the matter relating to damages claimed by RPL and also the plea for declaring the share sale illegal and void.

The judge said he will hear the petition in detail on merit over other prayers made by RPL such as declaring the above sale illegal and void, and seeking compensation from Edelweiss for the financial and reputational losses following the liquidation of its shares.

void, and seeking compensation from Edelweiss for the financial and reputational losses following the liquidation of its shares.

## Rcom's bankruptcy

RPL moved the high court after Edelweiss and L&T Finance sold shares of RPL pledged with them.

The sale followed a steep fall in the share price of the company after Reliance Communication filed for bankruptcy.

Incidentally, the petition was filed only against Edelweiss and not L&T Finance.

Appearing for Edelweiss, senior advocate Janak Dwarakadas said that Edelweiss was well within its rights to sell the pledged shares.



RCOM chairman Anil Ambani leaving court on Wednesday.

only paid ₹780 crore as the first transfer of money in the ₹18,100 crore deal. This had gone directly to the escrow account maintained by 46 lenders, who had used the money to provide bank guarantees to the DoT to keep RCom's licences alive.

The counsel asserted that the undertaking given by Mr. Ambani was an offset partner of Rafale maker Dassault Aviation. "If one company is sinking, other companies are making money in crores," Mr. Dave submitted, referring to the group led by Mr. Ambani. "They live like emperors, stay in luxury hotels." Terming the Swedish telecom equipment major's contempt petition as "abuse", Mr. Ambani's lawyer, senior advocate Mukul Rohatgi, said the action was meant to "pressurise a client".

The court had ordered that the demand drafts be deposited with the court registrar. Ericsson had sought contempt action against Mr. Ambani, who was present in the courtroom for the second consecutive day of hearing, Reliance Telecom chairman Satish Seth and chairperson of Reliance Infrastructure Chhaya Virani.

## IndiGo cuts back on flights until March end

Cancels flights for seventh day

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

For the seventh day in a row, IndiGo cancelled 49 flights on Wednesday and announced a curtailed schedule until March end.

To a query on whether the airline was facing shortage of pilots, an airline source said that it was trying to optimise crew utilisation.

"Going forward, IndiGo has decided to curtail its schedule for the remaining period of February by approximately 30 flights a day. As a proactive measure, IndiGo has decided to continue its curtailment until the end of March," the airline said in a statement.

The operations will be back to normal only when the summer schedule begins from March 31, 2019.

The airline has been

forced to cancel flights since February 7.

It had attributed the cancellations to weather-related disruptions and runway repair work at Bengaluru and Mumbai airports.

## China operations

Meanwhile, the airline's Chief Commercial Officer Willy Bouler said on Wednesday that IndiGo will start operations to China and mount as many as 14 flights this year.

## Authorities' failure

"Due to failure of the authorities mentioned... ₹20,855 crore was booked as expenditure under minor head 800 – Other Expenditure 800 relating to 'Other Receipts/ Other Expenditure' is to be used only in cases when the appropriate minor head has not been provided for in the accounts.

## Wasting court's time costs Tata shareholders ₹14 lakh

Petitioners in Wadia case withdrew suit, offered no reason

ASHISH RUKHAIYAR  
MUMBAI

A three-year-old legal tussle between the Tata Group and some of its minority shareholders in a matter related to the ouster of Nusli Wadia as an independent director has cost the shareholders ₹14 lakh. The Bombay High Court has imposed costs on the entities for wasting "substantial judicial time" after the petitioners decided to withdraw their suit without offering any reason.

## Substantial costs

In an order on February 6, Justice K.R. Shriram ordered the four plaintiffs to pay a total of ₹14 lakh after the defendants, including the Ministry of Corporate Affairs, highlighted the fact that due



today for defendants, except

## IN BRIEF



## Skoda Auto unveils Monte Carlo Rapid

**MUMBAI** Skoda Auto India has announced plans to reintroduce its sports car brand Monte Carlo with Skoda Rapid at a starting price of ₹11.16 lakh. The top-most variant is priced at ₹14.25 lakh ex-showroom India. Zaz Hollis, director - sales, service, and marketing, Skoda Auto India Pvt. Ltd. said, "It is positioned at the upper end of its segment and targets discerning customers who want a premium experience."

## DHFL chief executive officer Mehta resigns

**NEW DELHI** DHFL said its CEO Harshil Mehta has decided to resign with immediate effect. "However, he would continue to be associated with the company and shall hold the designation of executive president-retail business with effect from February 14, 2019," DHFL said in a filing. Besides, the board has recommended the appointment of Surjy Joshi as an independent director and Srinath Sridharan as a non-executive director. PTI

## Loans worth ₹20,900 cr. sanctioned for MSMEs

**NEW DELHI** Loans to the tune of ₹20,900 crore have been sanctioned under the 100-day outreach programme for MSMEs across 104 districts announced in November, a top official said. Secretary in the Department of Financial Services Rajeev Kumar said 33 lakh MSMEs have been provided facilities under the 100-day outreach programme. Out of these, 6.36 lakh MSMEs are in the textiles sector. PTI

## Venkat resigns from Tata Trusts

Noel N. Tata, chairman, Trent Ltd., appointed trustee of Sir Ratan Tata Trust

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
MUMBAI

R. Venkataaraman, the managing trustee of Tata Trusts, which owns 66% of Tata Sons, has resigned.

The resignation has come at a time when Mr. Venkataaraman's annual salary of ₹2.66 crore is under the income tax department's scanner, leading to the withdrawal of tax exemption given to Sir Dorabji Tata Trust – the largest among a dozen Tata Trusts – in December 2018.

Ratan Tata's half brother Noel Tata has been appointed the trustee of Sir Ratan Tata Trust, the second-largest among the Tata Trusts.

"The managing trustee of the Tata Trusts, Mr. R. Venkataaraman, had informed the chairman and the Trustees of the Tata Trusts that



R. Venkataaraman

he had been considering other options, given that he was completing five years as the trusts' executive trustee/managing trustee, and sought to be relieved," said a Tata Trusts' statement.

It added that at the meeting of the trustees of the Tata Trusts held on Wednesday, the trustees 'regretfully' accepted his request.

Mr. Venkataaraman will relinquish responsibilities as the managing trustee/trustee of the Tata Trusts on March 31, 2019.

## Panel constituted

A committee of trustees, comprising Mr. Ratan N. Tata, chairman of the trusts, and Vijay Singh and Venu Srinivasan, vice-chairmen of the trusts, has been established with immediate effect to oversee the operations and select a chief executive for the trusts.

Besides Mr. Noel N. Tata, the trustees also appointed Jehangir H.C., who is currently spearheading the healthcare mission at the Jehangir Hospital, Pune.

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) had in May 2018 booked, among others, Mr. Venkataaraman, also a

director in AirAsia India, for allegedly paying bribes to government officials to obtain a flying permit for AirAsia India and to enable the airline to operate international flights even as it commenced operations.

AirAsia India is a joint venture of Tata Sons and AirAsia Berhad. Mr. Venkat, as he is popularly known, holds 1.5% stake in the firm. An FIR had been filed against him.

The CBI had, in June 2018, also conducted searches at the Tata Trusts office of Mr. Venkataaraman in Mumbai. He had denied all the charges levelled by the CBI.

## HP targets millennials with 'luxury' devices

Unveils Spectre range of laptops

YUTHIKA BHARGAVA  
NEW DELHI

Encouraged by strong double-digit growth in the premium notebook segment, technology giant HP is now eyeing a share of the \$30 billion luxury goods market in India.



Sumeer Chandra

be targeting millennials as well as high-net-worth individuals for the products.

"What these customers are really buying is something that reflects their lifestyle and sense of style. So, whether you buy a high-end purse or a high-end folio, it goes beyond meagre functionality," he added.

He added that HP would

## Recession looms large: Krugman

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
DUBAI

There is "quite a good chance" of a global recession late this year or next year, Nobel Prize-winning economist Paul Krugman has warned, citing a lack of preparedness among economic policymakers.

Speaking at the World Government Summit here, Mr. Krugman said it was unlikely that just "one big thing" would prompt a downturn. He said a range of economic headwinds would increase the likelihood of a slowdown. "... there is quite a good chance we will have a recession late this year or next year," he said.

"The main concern ... We don't seem to have a safety net," the eminent academic said.

## GoAir CEO Vrieswijk quits

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
MUMBAI

Cornelis Vrieswijk (Cor), the CEO of GoAir has quit. Jeh Wadia, managing director, GoAir, will assume the CEO's role until a suitable replacement is found.

In a statement on Wednesday, the airline said that at the nominations and remuneration committee meeting held by the board on February 8, Mr. Vrieswijk expressed his desire to step down.

"It is unfortunate that despite best efforts, my family did not shift to India but rather wants me to be back with them in Amsterdam. In the end, my family demands were creating unfair pressure on all the stakeholders," he was quoted as saying in the statement.

## Austrian firm Muenzer sets up biodiesel plant

Unit capable of processing 3,000 MT

PIYUSH PANDEY  
MUMBAI

Muenzer Bioindustrie GmbH, a company in Central Europe, has set up a 'energy from waste' biodiesel plant in Navi Mumbai.

Muenzer Bharat Pvt. Ltd., the wholly owned subsidiary of Muenzer Bioindustrie GmbH, a privately-held Austrian company, has invested ₹10 million in setting up the facility, which is capable of processing 3,000 metric tonnes of waste-based biodiesel.

"We have taken the biggest internationalisation step in our family history by setting up the facility in India," Ewald Marco Munzer told *The Hindu*. He added

## Strides arm to tap more towns in south

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD

Strides Consumer Pvt. Ltd. plans to cover 50 towns in the southern region over the next few months.

Bengaluru, Hyderabad and Chennai are the three major cities where its products – an oral (lozenge) nicotine replacement therapy (NRT) and a joint pain relief cream – are available at present. The company plans to strengthen its position in the southern markets by covering 50 towns in three months, CEO Subodh Marwah said.

Noting that the two products were formally launched recently, he said the firm wanted to go national subsequently.

## Dr. Agarwal's Healthcare eyes doubling hospital count to 150

Raises ₹270 crore from Singapore-based Temasek

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
CHENNAI

Dr. Agarwal's Healthcare Ltd. (DAHCL) plans to double the number of its super-speciality eye hospitals over the next five years, said a top official.

"As part of our expansion plan, we have raised ₹270 crore from the Singapore-headquartered global investment company Temasek," said Amar Agarwal, CMD, Dr. Agarwal's Group of Eye Hospitals.

**Latest technology**  
"It is a primary investment and [the money] will be used for expansion and in-

vestments in latest technology," he said. Currently, DAHCL has 76 hospitals in 10 States and African nations. It is planning to add another 75 eye hospitals in three phases. In the next 15 months, it will add 25 hospitals, followed by another 25 each in three years and five years respectively.

"Since 2016, we have raised ₹700 crore for our expansion programme. From a single hospital in 2006, we have added 75 hospitals in 10 years. Our vision is to deliver high quality eye care at affordable prices at people's doorsteps," he said.

"We need about ₹5 crore

INDIAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY MANDI  
MANDI-175001 (HIMACHAL PRADESH), INDIA

Tender No.: IIT Mandi/SO/E-Tender-2019/1036 Dated : 12th Feb; 2019

Notice inviting tender's for Security Services at IIT Mandi

Online tenders are invited from the eligible & interested bidders for above mentioned services. For detailed terms & conditions, Bidder can download the tender document from Central Public Procurement Portal website [www.eprocure.gov.in](http://www.eprocure.gov.in) & IIT Mandi website <http://www.iitmandi.ac.in/administration/tenderseoi.php>. Bidders need to submit the bids online by uploading all the required documents through [www.eprocure.gov.in](http://www.eprocure.gov.in).

The last date for submission of bids through above mentioned portal is 5th March, 2019 till 03:30 P.M. and Technical Bids will be opened on 6th March, 2019 at 03:30 P.M.

For all further corrigendum's/addendums in this regard, please regularly visit [www.iitmandi.ac.in](http://www.iitmandi.ac.in) & [www.eprocure.gov.in](http://www.eprocure.gov.in)

sd/-  
Assistant Registrar (S & P)

HIMACHAL PRADESH  
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT  
NOTICE INVITING TENDERS\*

Sealed item rate tenders are hereby invited by the Executive Engineer, Bilaspur Division No. I, HP-PWD, Bilaspur, for the following works from the registered contractors of appropriate class enlisted in HP-PWD, whose registration stood renewed as per the revised instructions and also registered dealers under the Himachal Pradesh, General Sales Tax Act, 1968. The important dates of the tenders are as under:-

Date of application 06/03/2019  
Date of sale of tender form 08/03/2019  
Date of opening of tender 11/03/2019

The tenders shall be received up to 10.30 A.M. on 11/03/2019 and will be opened on the same day at 11.00 A.M. in the presence of intending contractors or their authorized representatives, who may like to be present. The tender forms can be had from this office against cash payment as shown below (Non-refundable) during the working hours on 08/03/2019.

The Earnest money in the shape of National Saving Certificate/Deposit at call/ Time Deposit Account in any of the Post Office /Nationalised Bank in H.P. duly pledged in favour of Executive Engineer, Bilaspur Division No. I, HP-PWD, Bilaspur must accompany with the each application. Conditional tenders and the tenders received without earnest money will simultaneously be rejected. The offer of the tender shall be kept open for 120 days. The XEN reserve the right to accept or reject the tenders without assigning any reason.

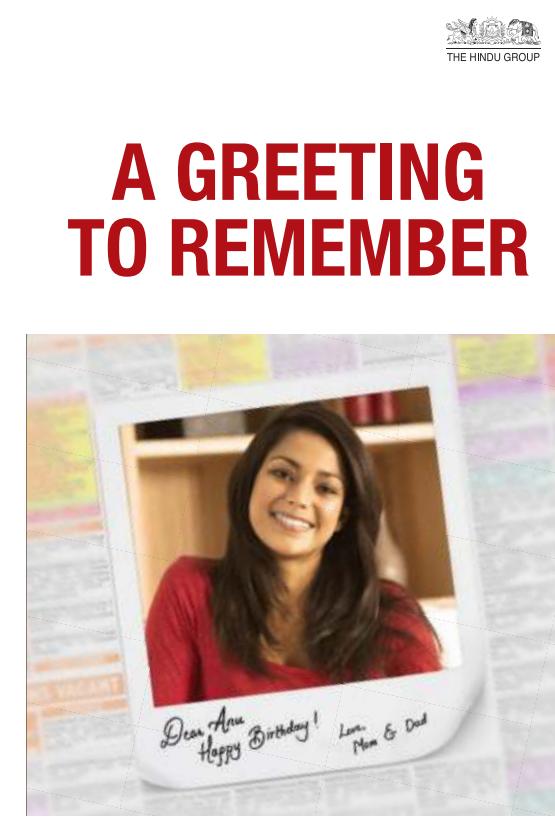
Sr. No.	Name of work	Estimated Cost (In Rs.)	Earnest Money (In Rs.)	Cost of tender form (InRs.)	Time Limit
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Restoration of rain damages on Kungerhati Benla road Km. 0/0 to 7/0. (SH- C/o R/wall at RD.1/500 to 1/515, L-15 mtrs height 3.50 meters)(JAN MUNCH).	1,33,525/-	2,700/-	350/-	One month
2.	A/R & M/O HPPWD Rest House at Dholra.(SH:- Providing roof treatment in PWD Rest House Dholra).	1,56,644/-	3,200/-	350/-	One month
3.	Construction of U-shape/V-shape drain to Mukti Dham Bhartpur Bilaspur Distt. Bilaspur at RD. 0/0 to 2/20.	1,99,672/-	4,000/-	350/-	One month

## TERMS &amp; CONDITIONS:-

The contractors should have executed two similar type of works 1/3 of each amount put to tender or single work of amount equal to the amount put to tender within last 3 years.

- The list of similar type of work executed & work done performance certificate issued by the concerned Executive Engineer should be accompanied with application.
- The Earnest money should be accompanied with application. Application without earnest money will be rejected.
- The photo copy of PAN Number/GST Number should be attached with the application otherwise tender form will not be issued.
- The cost of tender form in prescribed form (Non-refundable) in form of cash in favour of Executive Engineer, Bilaspur Division No. I, HP-PWD, Bilaspur.
- Copy of contractor registration should be attached with the application.
- The copy of Tin No should be attached with the application otherwise tender form will not be issued.

HP/4652/18-19 ...HIM SUCHNA AND JAN SAMPAK



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## TV PICKS

**NBA:** Sony Ten 1 (SD & HD), 6.30 a.m.  
**Irani Cup:** Star Sports 2 (SD & HD), 9.30 a.m.  
**South Africa vs Sri Lanka:** 1st Test, Sony ESPN (SD & HD), 1.30 p.m.  
**I-League:** Star Sports 3, 5 p.m.  
**ISL:** Star Sports 1 (SD & HD), 7.30 p.m.  
**Europa League:** Sony Ten 1 & 2 (SD & HD), 1.30 a.m. (Friday)

## IN BRIEF



Windies aiming to become World No. 1: Holder

GROS-ISLET (ST. LUCIA)

West Indies captain Jason Holder said that his side's main goal is to become the world's number one team after its impressive series victory over England. "We have to keep improving in the three facets of the game and be a lot more consistent. Our number one goal is to be the number one team in the world," he said. AFP



Gabriel banned for four ODIs for homophobe remark

GROS-ISLET (ST. LUCIA)

West Indies fast bowler Shannon Gabriel was banned for four ODIs by the ICC after allegedly making a homophobic remark in an exchange with England captain Joe Root during the third Test. The ICC said Gabriel had been charged with a breach of its code of conduct in relation to the "personal abuse". AFP

Lakers stumble despite James triple

LOS ANGELES

LeBron James produced a 28-point triple double but it was not enough to prevent Los Angeles Lakers from sliding to a 117-113 defeat against lowly Atlanta Hawks on Tuesday.

**Other results:** Boston Celtics 112 bt Philadelphia 76ers 109; San Antonio Spurs 108 bt Memphis Grizzlies 107; Orlando Magic 118 bt New Orleans Pelicans 88; Golden State Warriors 115 bt Utah Jazz 108. AFP

# Wadkar leads Vidarbha's late fightback

Rest of India marginally ahead as its spinners chip away on a day of intense action



Stand and deliver: Akshay Wadkar's unbeaten 50 kept Vidarbha in the hunt in reply to Rest of India's 330.

■ S. SUDARSHAN

## IRANI CUP

M.R. PRAVEEN CHANDRAN  
NAGPUR

Late-order revivals have been the cornerstone of Vidarbha's success this season. Against Rest of India, it was the turn of wicketkeeper-batsman Akshay Wadkar (50 batting) to lead the fightback on an intense day that saw Rest of India spinners chip away at the Vidarbha top-order.

The host, in reply to RoI's first innings total of 330, was 245 for six at stumps on the second day at the VCA Stadium here on Wednesday. Ankit Rajpoot struck with the new ball late in the day to end an enterprise 68-run sixth-wicket stand between Wadkar and Aditya Sarvate (18) to have the visitors in front.

## Teasing bowling

The RoI spinners teased and tempted the home batsmen to their doom. They began the slide after Vidarbha's captain Faiz Fazal and Sanjay Ramaswamy had given their side a solid start with a 50-run stand for the first wicket.

After blunting the new ball from medium-pacers, Fazal and Sanjay scored with

a little more freedom against the spinners. But K. Gowtham had Fazal feathering a catch to Ishan Kishan when the batsmen pushed forward to a delivery which held its line.

Atharwa Taide, who replaced Jaffer in the squad, looked ill at ease at the start but was slowly getting into his groove when he played across to a straight ball from Rahul Chahar and was trapped in front.

Ganesh Satish joined Sanjay to begin a phase in which the home side dominated the bowling. Satish was adventurous. He thwacked a full toss from Chahar over the bowler's head to show his intentions clear. Satish continued to attack and it rubbed on to his partner Sanjay who hit a few crisp drives on the onside to reach his fifty.

## Slice of luck

Sanjay had a slice off luck on 63 when Chahar couldn't latch on to a return catch. But the batsman couldn't cash in on the reprieve as he drove in the air to be caught by Vihari at short-cover for 65.

**Fall of wickets:** 1-50, 2-84, 3-146, 4-149, 5-168, 6-226.

**Rest of India bowling:** Rajpoot 16-3-43-1, Tanveer 14-4-29-0, Gowtham 10-3-32, Dharmendrasinh 27-6-63-2, Chahar 23-5-68-1.

an's body and the keeper completed the catch while falling over. Umpire Nandan, who was unsure initially, referred the decision after consulting his partner Nithin Menon. Kale didn't look happy with the decision.

Satish (48), after hammering Jadeja for a boundary, played back and was trapped in front to leave Vidarbha in trouble at 168 for five. However, Gowtham's absence due to a shoulder injury saw the sixth-wicket stand prosper.

Wadkar punished the loose offerings from both Dharmendrasinh Jadeja and Chahar to reach his fifty.

## The scores:

**Rest of India – 1st innings:** 330.

**Vidarbha – 1st innings:** Faiz Fazal c Ishan b Gowtham 27, Sanjay Ramaswamy c Vihari b Jadeja 65, Atharwa Taide lbw b Chahar 15, Ganesh Satish lbw b Jadeja 48, Mohit Kale c Ishan b Gowtham 1, Akshay Wadkar (batting) 50, Aditya Sarvate lbw b Rajpoot 18, Akshay Karnewar (batting) 15; Extras (lb-6); Total (for six wkts. in 90 overs): 245.

**Fall of wickets:** 1-50, 2-84, 3-146, 4-149, 5-168, 6-226.

**Rest of India bowling:** Rajpoot 16-3-43-1, Tanveer 14-4-29-0, Gowtham 10-3-32, Dharmendrasinh 27-6-63-2, Chahar 23-5-68-1.

Over the last couple of years, Karthik has emerged as one of the most effective finishers for India in the shorter formats. He faltered at Hamilton but it was only him and Kru-

Genuinely believed I could hit a six: Karthik

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NEW DELHI

"I genuinely believed that I could hit a six," Indian wicketkeeper-batsman Dinesh Karthik said as he reflected on refusing a single to non-striker Krunal Pandya in the series-deciding third T20 International against New Zealand.



nal who took the game to the final over after India was 145 for six in the 16th over, needing another 68 off 28 balls.

"As a middle-order batsman, a lot of times you have to trust your ability to play those big shots under pressure. It is also important to trust your partner at that time. It did not come off on that occasion but those things happen in the game of cricket."

Both Krunal and Karthik shared an unbeaten 63-run stand off 28 balls but it was not enough to save the series. India lost the game by four runs and series 1-2.

## Ton-up Guptill powers Kiwis to victory

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE  
NAIPER

Martin Guptill returned to form with an unbeaten century as New Zealand powered to an eight-wicket win over Bangladesh in the first ODI on Wednesday.

Bangladesh set New Zealand a modest run chase of 233 after suffering an early collapse and the Black Caps overhauled it in 44.3 overs, losing two wickets.

**The scores:**

India-A:

K.L. Rahul c Pope b

Chappell 81, Abhimanyu Easwaran c Pope b Bess 117, Priyank Panchal b Bailey 50, Karun Nair (batting) 14; Extras (w-2, b-8, lb-10); 20; Total (for three wkts. in 84.5 overs): 282.

Fall of wickets:

1-178, 2-252,

282.

England Lions bowling:

Gregory 13-1-52-0, Bailey 18.5-5-46-1, Briggs 9-1-43-0, Chappell 14-4-32-1, Mullaney 12-6-20-0, Bess 18-3-71-1.

Bangladesh 232 in 48.5 overs (Soumya Sarkar 30, Mohd. Mithun 62, Mohd. Saifuddin 41, Trent Boult three for 40, Mitchell Santner three for 45) lost to New Zealand 233 for two in 44.3 overs (Martin Guptill 117 n.o., Henry Nicholls 53, Ross Taylor 45 n.o.).

**The scores:**

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232 in 48.5 ov

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Mithun 62, Mohd. Saifuddin 41, Trent Boult three for 40, Mitchell Santner three for 45) lost to New Zealand 233 for two in 44.3 overs (Martin Guptill 117 n.o., Henry Nicholls 53, Ross Taylor 45 n.o.).

**Fall of wickets:** 1-178, 2-252, 282.

England Lions bowling:

Gregory 13-1-52-0, Bailey 18.5-5-46-1, Briggs 9-1-43-0, Chappell 14-4-32-1, Mullaney 12-6-20-0, Bess 18-3-71-1.

Bangladesh 232 in 48.5 overs (Soumya Sarkar 30, Mohd. Mithun 62, Mohd. Saifuddin 41, Trent Boult three for 40, Mitchell Santner three for 45) lost to New Zealand 233 for two in 44.3 overs (Martin Guptill 117 n.o., Henry Nicholls 53, Ross Taylor 45 n.o.).

**The scores:**

India-A:

K.L. Rahul c Pope b

Chappell 81, Abhimanyu Easwaran c Pope b Bess 117, Priyank Panchal b Bailey 50, Karun Nair (batting) 14; Extras (w-2, b-8, lb-10); 20; Total (for three wkts. in 84.5 overs): 282.

Fall of wickets:

1-178, 2-252,

282.

England Lions bowling:

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Fall of wickets:

# PSG gives United a reality check

Roma has the edge over Porto, courtesy a Zaniolo double

## CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE  
MANCHESTER

Manchester United caretaker manager Ole Gunnar Solskjaer admitted his side was shown how much it still has to improve after being swept aside by an injury-hit Paris Saint-Germain 2-0 in the first-leg of their Champions League last-16 tie on Tuesday.

Presnel Kimpembe and Kylian Mbappe struck in a seven-minute spell just before the hour mark as PSG displayed its credentials to finally become champion of Europe for the first time, especially once it gets the world's most expensive player Neymar and Edinson Cavani back from injury.

After a run of 10 wins and

one draw in 11 games since Solskjaer replaced the sacked Jose Mourinho in December, a first defeat for the Norwegian is a reality check for United's revival and it has a mountain to climb when the sides meet again for the second-leg on March 6.

### Pogba sees red

The English giants will also have to cope without Paul Pogba in three weeks' time as he was sent off a minute from time to round off a terrible night for the host.

"Today we weren't at the level, this is a level up from what we have played against. We have had a great run, we came into this game in a great frame of mind, great form, but it's a big step up," said Solskjaer.

PSG showed it still retains

plenty of world class talent despite their big name absences as United struggled to contain the slick passing of Thomas Tuchel's men in midfield and the pace of Mbappe in attack.

Angel di Maria was roundly booted by the home support on his return to Old Trafford after an unhappy one-season spell with United after signing for a then club record £60 million in 2014.

### Silencing detractors

But the Argentine silenced his detractors by setting up both goals and also mocked the throwing of a beer bottle at him by pretending to drink from it.

For all PSG's injury problems, a double blow also rocked United in the seconds before half-time and at the

break as Jesse Lingard and Anthony Martial limped off to be replaced by Alexis Sanchez and Juan Mata.

Teenage sensation Nicolo Zaniolo bagged a brace as Roma beat Porto 2-1 in their last-16, first-leg clash at the Stadio Olimpico in Rome.

The 19-year-old got his first ever Champions League goal in the 70th minute in Rome on Tuesday, adding a second six minutes later to inflict a first defeat on Porto in this year's top-tier European competition.

But Adrian Lopez pulled a vital goal back for the Portuguese club after 79 minutes.

**The results (last-16: first-leg):**  
Manchester United 0 lost to Paris Saint-Germain 2 (Kimpembe 53, Mbappe 60); Roma 2 (Zaniolo 70, 76) bt Porto 1 (Adrian Lopez 79).



Overjoyed: Presnel Kimpembe, right, celebrates after scoring PSG's opener against Manchester United. ■ MICHAEL REGAN/GETTY IMAGES

## Borges and Ogbeche strike; NEUFC tames Mumbai City in its own den

The win helps the North-East outfit climb to the second spot while MCFC slips to third



In the thick of things: Bartholomew Ogbeche, who troubled the Mumbai City defence no end, netted the second goal for NEUFC in its 2-0 win. ■ VIVEK BENDRE

## ISL

NANDAKUMAR MARAR  
MUMBAI

NorthEast United FC powered ahead in the first half with two early goals and backed it up with committed and organised defence to inflict a 2-0 defeat on Mumbai City FC in their ISL fixture on Wednesday.

India international Rowlan Borges and Nigerian striker Bartholomew Ogbeche were on target as NEUFC's seventh win in 16 games took it to the second spot.

Mumbai slipped to third, level on points, goal difference and goals scored (27, +4, 21) with NEUFC. Its head-to-head saw the North-East side move to No. 2.

The two goals happened partly due to first-time shots on target and partly due to sluggish defending. Keegan Pereira burst down the left and changed the point of attack with a deft tap. Borges connected at first touch, finding the roof with a crisp right-footer past a diving Amrinder Singh.

The MCFC goalkeeper found himself at the other post and helpless when the ball rolled in the second time. Reagen Singh, this time, did the damage from the right flank with a relay into the goalmouth for Ogbeche to deflect home with ease as no defender was at hand to hustle him.

Pawan Kumar, at the other end, faced a similar situation

when Marko Klisura slipped into space near the NEUFC goal to trap an airborne pass, but the ball struck the player's leg and bounced out of range.

The hosts were punished by the visitors in the fourth minute after yielding space on the left flank and allowing Borges the time and space to strike.

Romanian central defender Lucian Golan's absence was clearly felt – he was out with yellow cards – as his replacement, Serbia's Klisura, took time to adjust.

### Unlucky

Rafael Bastos almost got the equaliser for Mumbai, arriving at the right place to direct a pass back goalwards. The ball whizzed away from cus-

todian Pawan Kumar onto the crossbar and bounced away, leaving the Brazilian holding his head in anguish. A goal would have been just reward for team effort, but instead of being on level terms, Mumbai leaked a second.

On resumption, Mumbai stepped up the pace and created chances, but the sharpness in finishing seen in earlier games was missing.

Arnold Issoko got into position for a header off a Basson pass, but was ruled offside.

Klisura moved from defence to attack and got to the business-end of a Rayner Fernandes pass before losing the ball.

**The result:** NEUFC 2 (Borges 4, Ogbeche 33) bt Mumbai City 0.

## Dr Logan expected to score

**BENGALURU:** Dr Logan, who has been well tuned, is expected to score in the Chattrapathi Trophy (1,600m), the main event of the races to be held here on Thursday (Feb 14). False rails will be declared on the race day.

**1 MAN 'O' WAR PLATE** (1,200m), 1 maiden 3-y-o only, (Terms), 2.15 p.m.: 1. Karadeniz (1) Irvan 55, 2. Mega Ikon (4) Vivek 55, 3. Renegade (6) Dhebe 55, 4. Tonys Pet (5) P.S. Chouhan 55, 5. Animal Queen (2) Suraj 53.5, 6. Cosmic Feeling (8) T.S. Jodha 53.5, 7. Genuine Star (3) Khurshad Alam 53.5 and Invicta (7) Akshay K 53.5.

**1. INVICTA,** 2. ANIMAL QUEEN, 3. KARADENIZ

**2 MELKOTE PLATE** (2,000m), rated 45 to 65, 2.45: 1. Setaglow (4) Sandesh 60, 2. Super Success (3) Akshay K 59.5, 3. Bach Of Beyond (5) Md. Asif Khan 56, 4. Masada (2) Arshad 56, 5. Salvador Dali (1) David Allan 56 and 6. War Envoy (6) Chisty 56.

**1. SALVADOR DALI, 2. SETAGLOW**

**3 SAPTHARISHI PLATE** (1,200m), rated 15 to 35, 3.15: 1. Andra King (9) Kiran Rai 60, 2. Soviet Union (2) Rajesh K 60, 3. Harmonia (6) Dhebe 59, 4. Amalfi Coast (1) Raghu 57.5, 5. Touch Your Destiny (12) P.S. Chouhan 57, 6. Je ne Sais Quoi (7) Irvan 55.5, 7. Simply Magical (4) Suraj 55.5, 8. 2. SUPER SMART, 3. SAGRADA

**6 DANDEL PLATE** (1,100m), rated 15 to 35, 4.45: 1. Baymax (4) Md. Akram 60, 2. Don Dela Vega (1) Praveen Shinde 60, 3. Princess Pride (5) Darshan 58.5, 4. Lovely Sierra (1) Md. Asif Khan 58, 5. Arrogance (9) Suraj 55.5, 6. Odyssey (3) Dhebe 55.5, 7. Pride Of Place (6) Antony 55, 8. Shivalik Kiss (10) Chetan K 55, 9. Le Marc (12) Nazerul 54.5, 10. Songkran (2) P.S. Chouhan 54.5, 11. She's Starving (8) Rajesh K 53.5.

**1. ARROGANCE,** 2. SONGKRAN, 3. SHIVALIK KISS

**7 CHARMUDI PLATE** (1,600m), rated 00 to 20, 5-y-o & over, 5.15: 1. El Matador (1) Rayan 60, 2. Wonderlust (2) Anjar Alam 60, 3. Indian Fury (6) Md. Asif Khan 59.5, 4. Amazing Angel (4) L. Chisty 59, 5. Attaboy (8) T.S. Jodha 57.5, 6. King Kid (3) Sat Kiran 56.5, 7. Securing Smiles (12) M. Naveen 56.5, 8. One To Note (11) P. Mani 55, 9. Classic Speed (10) Sandesh 54.5, 10. Secret Prayer (7) Rajesh K 53.5, 11. Track Striker (9) Nazerul 53.5 and 12. Santa Fe (5) N. Ganesh 51.5.

**1. CLASSIC SPEED,** 2. ATTABOY,

3. SECURING SMILES

Day's best: INVICTA

Double: SHESMYSCRIPT - DR LOGAN

Jkt: 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7; Tr (i): 2, 3 and 4; (ii): 5, 6 and 7.

## Nominations for the 2019 Invitational races

**MUMBAI:** Following horses are nominated by the Royal Western India Turf Club Ltd (RWITC), Mumbai, for the Invitational races to be run at Hyderabad on March 2 & 3.

**Indian Turf Invitation Cup (Gr. 1):** Star Superior, Smasher and Desert God. **Reserve:** Pioneer and Sacred Roman.

**Major P.K. Mehra Memorial Super Mile Cup (Gr. 1):** New England, Costa Brava and Sergeant At Arms. **Reserve:** Your Royal Majesty, Pioneer and Big Orange.

**Dr. M.A.M. Ramaswamy Stayers' Cup (Gr. 1):** Star Superior, Smasher and Raees. **Reserve:** Frivolous and Sacred Roman.

**Sprinters' Cup (Gr. 1):** Ruffina, Captain Courage and St. Andrews. **Reserve:** Clymene, Holy Smoke, Bateleur and Lincoln.

## Tsonga off to a flier

Second seed Khachanov ousted

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE ROTTERDAM

Jo-Wilfried Tsonga laid down back-to-back aces on Wednesday to complete a 6-1, 6-4 defeat of Italy's Thomas Fabbiano in the first round of the Rotterdam Open.

Tsonga, ranked 140th as he fights back towards the elite, spent 66 minutes in dispatching qualifier Fabbiano.

Tsonga, 33, has been steadily lifting his ATP ranking from its low point of 210 and is playing Rotterdam for the first time since winning the title two years ago.

"I played well in the first set and kept my level in the second," he said. "My opponent raised in the second but I held on."

"I've been working hard and trying to spend my time on court in a good way,"

Earlier, top seed Kei Nishikori

was tested by a stubborn opponent before finally putting away Pierre-Hugues Herbert 3-6, 6-1, 6-4 on Tuesday.

Second seed Karen Khachanov, winner of the Paris Masters title last November, fell in a shock to Dutch wildcard Tallon Griekspoor, who recovered for a 3-6, 6-3, 6-2 upset of the Russian.

Victory marked the second Rotterdam upset for the 211th-ranked local, who put out Stan Wawrinka a year ago in his hometown for his first career ATP Tour-level win.

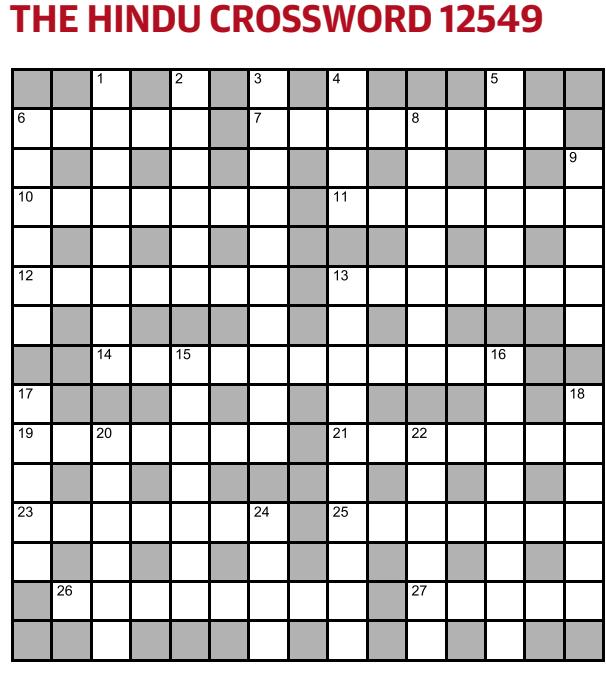
**The results (first round): Rotterdam Open:** Daniil Medvedev bt Jeremy Chardy 7-6(2), 6-2; Marton Fucsovics bt Martin Klizan 7-6(4), 6-4; Jo-Wilfried Tsonga bt Thomas Fabbiano 6-1, 6-4; Tallon Griekspoor bt Karen Khachanov 3-6, 6-3, 6-2; Kei Nishikori bt Pierre-Hugues Herbert 3-6, 6-1, 6-4.

## FAITH

### A beautiful incarnation

Indra placed on his elephant a garland that was given to him by sage Durvasha. The elephant flung the garland down and trampled upon it. Angered, Durvasha cursed Indra and said he would lose all his wealth. To get back his wealth, Indra sought Vishnu's help. The Lord asked him to churn the milky ocean, using the Mandara mountain as the churning rod, and the snake Vasuki as the rope. When the mountain sank, the Lord assuming the form of a tortoise (Kurma) supported it on His back. The Vishnu Sahasranama celebrates the Kurma avatara through many names, said M.A. Venkatakrishnan, in a discourse. It says the Lord is prAnadah – the One who gives strength to the celestials, to enable them to churn the ocean. He is apAm nidhih, because he sustained the ocean when it was churned. He is also called adhishAnam, which means support. This name is justified because He supported the Mandara mountain on His back during the Kurma avatara. He is apramattaah, because He is anxious to protect His devotees. He is pratisthitah, because He is self-dependent. He is skandah, because He destroys evil doers. He is skanda-dharah, because He supports Skanda, the chief of the celestial army. He is dhuryah, because He supports the world. He is Varada – the One who gives boons. He is vAyu vAhana – the One who has vAyu as His vehicle and also drives vAyu. Vedanta Desika in his Dasavatara stotra, paints a beautiful picture of this avatara. He says that when the Lord supported the Mandara mountain during the churning of the ocean, gave Him relief from the itches on His back. Soothed by this, the Lord went to sleep! The repeated movement of the Mandara mountain during the churning of the ocean, gave Him relief from the itches on His back. Soothed by this, the Lord went to sleep! Desika prays that the breath of this Kurma should protect all three worlds.

## THE HINDU CROSSWORD 12549



### ACROSS

- 6 About to start, stopped short by girl (5)
- 7 Rent changes hands, people are gone (8)
- 10 Silent about a match – can start a bit (7)
- 11 Show you agree – nothing but trouble, that's for sure (2,5)

### (set by Arden)

- 4 Picture framed in silicone (4)
- 5 Half step over full step is taught, as some would say (6)
- 6 Setter on first date – stops shy of becoming a show (6)
- 8 Set right soldier's uniform (7)
- 9 Condition in India, say (5)
- 13 Red stain over Smiley's bete noire – it spreads (10)
- 15 Animal's fat, swallowed scribe up (7)
- 16 Have without batter, middle teeth lack bite (8)
- 17 Preacher finds three directions to move around Brisbane (5)
- 18 Tangle with men, she's free (6)
- 20 Set up – dictator got in, front (6)
- 21 Pick from top to bottom, right name for a stand (7)
- 23 Breakaway flier? (7)
- 25 Letters exchanged for support (7)
- 26 Jumper can jump over a set grid (8)
- 27 Writing will make a mark, bring it all out (5)

### DOWN

- 1 Inclination of an ex-president to check exit (8)
- 2 I went for a point, kept calm (6)
- 3 Try an alternative after a fruit, it could be nourishing (10)

## SUDOKU

9	4			5		3		


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## IN BRIEF



## Ishant to lead

**NEW DELHI**  
India speedster Ishant Sharma will lead Delhi in the forthcoming Syed Mushtaq Ali T20 tournament. Nitish Rana will be his deputy.  
**The team:** Ishant Sharma (captain), Nitish Rana (vice captain), Dhruv Shorey, Himmat Singh, Unmukt Chand, Manjot Kalra, Hiten Dalal, Lalit Yadav, Pawan Negi, Navdeep Saini, Subodh Bhati, Pranshu Vijayran, Varun Sood, Anuj Rawat (wk) and Gourav Kumar.

## GoDaddy Inc., BWF extend deal

**HYDERABAD**  
GoDaddy Inc. announced extension of its partnership with the Badminton World Federation (BWF) as a sponsor of major badminton events over the next three years, according to a media release on Wednesday.

## Ravi Rathore on the rampage for Cavalry

**NEW DELHI**  
Ravi Rathore scored eight goals while powering 61st Cavalry to a 16-6-1/2 victory over Army Polo and Riding Club (APRC) in a league match of the 22nd Jiwaji Rao Scindia Gold Cup 10-goal polo tournament on Wednesday. It was the second win for 61st Cavalry which had earlier beaten LA Pegasus Polo. **The results (league):** 61st Cavalry 16 (Ravi Rathore 8, Krishna Inkiya 4, Anant Rajpurohit 3, Vishal Chauhan) bt APRC 6-1/2 (Saurabh Saharan, Yatin Kumar, Asish Samantaray, handicap 3-1/2); LA Pegasus Polo 8 (Samir Suhag 3, Pranav Kapoor 3, Dhruvpal Godara 2) bt Horse & Wagon 4 (Bashir Ali 3, Akhil Sirohi); Rajnigandha Achievers 10 (Matthew Philip Perry 8, Gaurav Sahgal, Salim Azmi) bt Sona Polo 5 (Abhimanyu Pathak 3, Siddhant Sharma 2).



Eye on welfare: Rohan Bopanna is busy with a project to benefit players in the long term. ■ AP

## Bopanna wants to strengthen Indian tennis

We need to have quality events for juniors and others'

**KAMESH SRINIVASAN**  
NEW DELHI

Out of the circuit for a week owing to the high cut-off at the ATP event in Rotterdam, and unwilling to take the long flight to New York for a week before Dubai, Rohan Bopanna is trying to make a significant contribution to the growth of Indian tennis.

"The cut-off for Rotterdam was 58 for doubles. Even on site waitlist was high. We were getting into New York, but did not want to travel to US and come back to Dubai the next week. We are going to US in any case, after Dubai."

"So, we decided to take this week off. I have been playing continuously from December," said Bopanna while expressing concern about the status of world tennis.

There is tension all around, especially among the Indians, as the new structure denies a chance to the players to compete in qualifying events.

Dozens of players have already written to the national federation to seek ITF revert to the healthy tournament structure.

"I had never heard of a four-player qualifying event. But, that is the new format. It is bad. The system is discouraging people from playing tennis," said Bopanna, aware about a Change-org petition that has already gained more than 10,000 signatures, seeking urgent changes to the current confusion.

## Strengthen the system

"At this stage, we need to strengthen the system in India. We need to have quality events for juniors and others. We can have the Masters like the ATP year-end championship. We are trying to work out a strong tournament-structure in consultation with the national federation," Bopanna said.

Apart from addressing the current crisis in the tennis world, Bopanna is also busy with a project to benefit players in the long term.

"We have tied up for tennis at The Sports School in Bengaluru. It is a big project for many games, with schooling, hostel etc. We have seven tennis courts with floodlights. We plan to conduct tournaments apart from training players to make the best use of the facility," Bopanna said as he mentioned about the impending launch in a few weeks.

The best way to take Indian sport forward is to have a nice amalgam of sport and education, which will encourage parents to take the plunge into sports without feeling that they are taking a huge risk with the career of their children.

Even though he had picked up tennis late, Bopanna understands the importance of good basics at an early age, and wants to make a significant contribution to strengthen the foundation of Indian tennis.

## + Bhandari assailant Dedha banned for life

There is zero tolerance for such violence and corruption: DDCA president Rajat

**VIJAY LOKAPALLY**  
NEW DELHI

Delhi and District Cricket Association (DDCA) president Rajat Sharma, on Wednesday, took a strict view of the assault on international cricketer Amit Bhandari and decided to ban Anuj Dedha, who allegedly led the attack at the St. Stephen's College ground on Monday. Dedha will not be allowed to play in any format of cricket in Delhi.

The incident took place when Bhandari, along with fellow-selectors Sukhvinder Singh and Mohan Chaturvedi, were engaged in picking the Delhi team for the forthcoming Mushtaq Ali T20 tournament.

"This is unacceptable. We had to take this action to

send a strong message to the cricket fraternity. There is zero tolerance for such violence and corruption and I have assured all the stakeholders connected with the game to have faith in DDCA," said Rajat.

The incident and the follow-up were discussed at the review committee. "I wanted to assure the selector and the support staff of all age groups not to fear anyone," added Rajat. It was also brought to his notice that Bhandari had received threats a few days ago.

"In future, selectors will have to inform us if they receive threats. Anyone receiving any threat can inform me personally. We have decided that no one, other than the player reporting for trials,

would have access to the ground. We will also inform the police in advance of the venue where the trials would be held. Security of the players is paramount," Rajat stressed.

**Trials in April**  
The DDCA is also planning to hold all trials in the month of April. "Normally they hold the trials in September but it would help everyone if we conduct the trials in April. The idea is to keep an eye on those picked so that they get ample opportunities before they are rejected," noted Rajat.

Delhi has had many incidents in the past where individuals have believed in muscle power to influence the selectors. Former Delhi

captain Vinay Lamba was assaulted at the Ferozeshah Kotla by father of a candidate. Delhi opener Manu Nayyar too had quit as selector following threats and had opted to become a match referee.

On another occasion, former India all-rounder Mandeep Lal and chief coach of the Delhi team, along with assistant coach Maninder Singh Jaggi, were threatened by a group of goons at the Kotla for rejecting a player. When the said player was picked by the selectors, the then DDCA president Arun Jaitley had sacked them all.

"The selectors have paid the price for being honest. They now have the support of the entire DDCA," assured Rajat.

"Your responsibilities will include advising the president on a day-to-day basis and assisting him in making strategic operational interventions and effecting structural reforms in the working of the DDCA. You may also be required to interact with DDCA officials on behalf of the president," his appointment letter said.

"The appointment shall be on a purely honorary basis. The term of your appointment shall be concurrent with the term of the current president," the letter said.

Seth has served DDCA in various capacities in the past.

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## Win for Myanmar



Acrobatic: India's captain and goalkeeper Zarzar Myint parries away a shot from Myanmar during their Hero Gold Cup match in Bhubaneswar on Wednesday. However, it was not enough to prevent the visitors winning 2-0. ■ BISWARANJAN ROUT

## Seth named advisor to Rajat

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT**  
NEW DELHI  
Salil Seth was appointed Advisor to the Delhi and District Cricket Association president Rajat Sharma on Wednesday, with immediate effect.

"Your responsibilities will include advising the president on a day-to-day basis and assisting him in making strategic operational interventions and effecting structural reforms in the working of the DDCA. You may also be required to interact with DDCA officials on behalf of the president," his appointment letter said.

"The appointment shall be on a purely honorary basis. The term of your appointment shall be concurrent with the term of the current president," the letter said.

Seth has served DDCA in various capacities in the past.

## Ramkumar bows out

**SPORTS BUREAU**  
NEW YORK

Qualifier Ramkumar Ramanathan was beaten 6-3, 3-6, 6-1 by Jason Jung of Chinese Taipei in the first round of the \$77,385 New York Open ATP tennis tournament here.

The 24-year-old Ramkumar had beaten the 29-year-old Jung in three sets in their last meeting in the Nottingham Challenger on grass last year.

In the Challenger in Bangkok, Sriram Balaji and Arjun Kadhe outplayed the Ratiwatana twins, Sanchai and Sonchat, for the loss of four games in the doubles pre-quarterfinals.

## Jeevan &amp; Purav advance

There was more success for the Indian players, in the Challenger in France, as top seeds Jeevan Nedunchezhiyan and Purav Raja cruised into the doubles quarterfinals.

## The results

**\$77,385 ATP, New York, USA:** First round: Jason Jung (Tpe) bt Ramkumar Ramanathan 6-3, 3-6, 6-1.

**\$54,160 Challenger, Bangkok, Thailand: Doubles (pre-quarterfinals):** Sriram Balaji & Arjun Kadhe bt Sanchai Ratiwatana & Sonchat Ratiwatana (Tha) 6-1, 6-3.

**€ 46,600 Challenger, Cherbourg, France: Doubles (pre-quarterfinals):** Jeevan Nedunchezhiyan & Purav Raja bt Nikola Cacic (Srb) & Tomislav Dragana (Cro) 6-3, 6-2.

**\$25,000 ITF men, Aktobe, Kazakhstan:** First round: Artem Dubrovny (Rus) bt Sidharth Rawat 2-6, 6-2, 6-3.

**\$15,000 ITF men, Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt:** Doubles (pre-quarterfinals): Rishabh Agarwal & Aryan Govinda bt Daniel Kossek & Maciej Smola (Pol) 3-6, 6-2, [10-8].

**\$15,000 ITF women, Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt:** First round: Zeel Desai bt Nora Niedmers (Ger) 6-0, 6-1; Barbara Matsova (Svk) bt Niditra Rajmon 6-0, 6-1.

World No. 57 Rituparna Das of PSPB and top seed Riya Mookerjee of the Railways booked a berth in the pre-quarterfinals of the Yonex-Sunrise 83rd senior National badminton championships on Wednesday.

Sourabh Verma and Lakshya Sen, too, advanced to the pre-quarterfinals.

**Important results:**

**Women:** Riya Mookerjee bt Gayatri Gopichand (Ts) 21-17, 21-17; Malvika Bansod bt Shikha Gautam 21-11, 21-16; Rituparna Das bt Namita Pathania 21-10, 21-7.

**Men:** Rahul Yadav bt Jaswanth 21-12, 21-11; Harshdeep Dani bt Kartikey 16-21, 21-18, 21-8; Lakshya Sen bt Arinpat Dasgupta 21-10, 21-10; Aryamann Tandon bt Priyanshu Rajawat 21-15, 21-10; Sourabh Verma bt Munawer Mohammed 21-13, 21-14.

The 14th-seeded Lakshya continued his good run with a facile 21-10, 21-10 victory

## TABLE TENNIS

## Teams to have a foreign coach

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT**  
CHENNAI

The Indian senior men's and women's table tennis teams will have a foreign coach sooner than later.

The Table Tennis Federation of India (TTFI), on Wednesday, sent two names to Sports Authority of India (SAI) for considera-

tion. Speaking to *The Hindu*, M.P. Singh, secretary, TTFI, said it has shortlisted the names of Dejan Papic of Canada and Vladimir Meovic of Serbia to SAI.

It is reliably learnt that Papic would get the nod as Meovic, now coaching in Germany, is quite old (80 years).

India's top paddler G. Sathiyan welcomed the development.

"Looking forward to working with whoever is the new coach and hope we can keep up the momentum."

"I hope everything is finalised as soon as possible," Sathiyan said.

## Rituparna, Riya advance

Lakshya's fine run continues



A battle: Riya Mookerjee was made to work hard by Gayatri Gopichand. ■ RITU RAJ KONWAR

## NATL. BADMINTON

**PRESS TRUST OF INDIA**  
GUWAHATI

Former champion Rituparna Das of PSPB and top seed Riya Mookerjee of the Railways booked a berth in the pre-quarterfinals of the Yonex-Sunrise 83rd senior National badminton championships on Wednesday.

Sourabh Verma and Lakshya Sen, too, advanced to the pre-quarterfinals.

The top shuttlers, led by

Saina Nehwal and P.V. Sindhu,

will begin their challenge on Thursday. The top eight seeds in singles have been directly placed in the pre-quarterfinals.

**Important results:**

**Women:** Riya Mookerjee bt Gayatri Gopichand (Ts) 21-17, 21-17; Malvika Bansod bt Shikha Gautam 21-11, 21-16; Rituparna Das bt Namita Pathania 21-10, 21-7.

**Men:** Rahul Yadav bt Jaswanth 21-12, 21-11; Harshdeep Dani bt Kartikey 16-21, 21-18, 21-8; Lakshya Sen bt Arinpat Dasgupta 21-10, 21-10; Aryamann Tandon bt Priyanshu Rajawat 21-15, 21-10; Sourabh Verma bt Munawer Mohammed 21-13, 21-14.

The 14th-seeded Lakshya continued his good run with a facile 21-10, 21-10 victory

## Indians get tough draw

**PRESS TRUST OF INDIA**

India's dream of breaking an 18-year-old title jinx at the All England championships in March got tougher after the country's shutters, including P.V. Sindhu and Saina Nehwal, were handed a tricky draw.

Sindhu, who had reached the semifinals last year, will open her campaign against South Korea's Sung Ji Hyun, while Saina takes on Scotland's Kristy Gilmour in the first round.

In men's singles, K. Srikanth will play Frenchman Brice Leverdez in the opening round while Sameer Verma will start his campaign against Viktor Axelsen of Denmark.

Among others, B. Sai Praneeth and H.S. Prannoy will face each other in the opening round.

Ashwini Ponnappa & N. Sikki Reddy will meet seventh-seeded Japanese pair Shiho Tanaka and Kōharu Yonemoto.



P.V. Sindhu. ■ RITU RAJ KONWAR

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**Prime Minister**

*in the august presence of*

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Uttarakhand

Minister of Agriculture  
and Farmers Welfare  
Govt. of India

**Thawar Chand Gahlot**

Minister of Social Justice  
and Empowerment  
Govt. of India

**Bhagat Singh Koshyari**

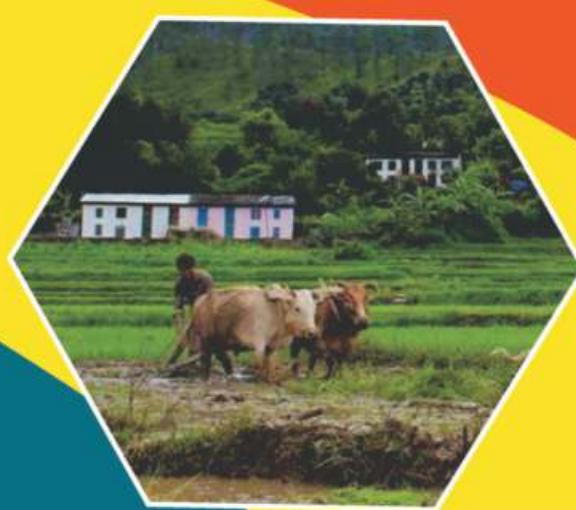
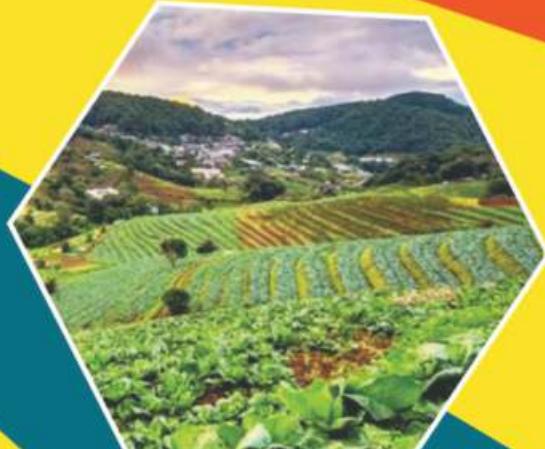
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