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## NEARBY



### Fatal accidents see 300% dip in Capital

NEW DELHI  
The national Capital witnessed a 300% dip in cases of fatal accidents after the amended Motor Vehicles Act came into effect from September 1. A senior Delhi Traffic Police officer said the city witnessed major drop in all categories of traffic violations.

CITY ▶ PAGE 4

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## Govt. seeks review of SC/ST creamy layer

It urges the Supreme Court to refer the matter to a seven-judge Bench

KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL  
NEW DELHI

The Centre on Monday asked the Supreme Court to refer the Nagaraj case judgment to a seven-judge Bench. The question whether the creamy layer concept should apply or not to the Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes while providing them reservation in promotions.

On September 26 last year, a five-judge Bench in the Jarnail Singh case unanimously agreed with a 2006 judgment of another five-judge Bench in the M. Nagaraj case, which had upheld the application of the creamy layer principle in promotions. The 2018 judgment, authored by Justice Rohinton F. Nariman, had also refused the government's plea to refer the 2006 Nagaraj case ruling had misread the creamy layer concept by applying it to the SCs/STs.

"The whole object of reservation is to see that the

Attorney General K.K. Venugopal urged the court to reconsider the ruling and refer the Nagaraj case judgment to a seven-judge Bench. A Bench, led by Chief Justice of India Sharad A. Bobde, agreed to hear the case after two weeks.

**Plea rejected**  
The 2018 judgment, modifying the part of the Nagaraj case verdict which required the States to show quantifiable data to prove the "backwardness" of Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe in order to provide quota in promotion in public employment, had, however, rejected the Centre's argument that the Nagaraj case ruling had misread the creamy layer concept by applying it to the SCs/STs.

On Monday, however, At-

### Case history

Salient points from the past verdicts which dealt with the application of creamy layer concept in reservation

#### ■ Nine-judge Bench in 1992 Indra Sawhney case:

SCs/STs are the most backward among backward classes. Once part of the Presidential List under Articles 341 & 342,

there is no question of showing their backwardness again

#### ■ Five-judge Bench in 2006 M. Nagaraj case:

Quota benefits should go to the weakest of weak and not be snatched away by members of the class who are in the "top creamy layer"

■ Five-judge Bench in 2018 Jarnail Singh case:

Creamy layer ensures that only the deserving among the SCs/STs get the benefits of reservation

backward classes of citizens move forward so that they may march hand in hand with other citizens of India on an equal basis. This will not be possible if only the creamy layer within that class bag all the coveted jobs in the public sector and perpetuate themselves, leaving the rest of the class as backward as they always were," Justice Nariman had said,

upholding the Nagaraj case ruling. The 2018 judgment said that when a court applies the creamy layer principle to the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes, it does not in any manner tinker with the Presidential List under Article 341 or 342 of the Constitution. The caste or group or sub-group named in the list continues exactly as be-

fore, Justice Nariman had reasoned.

"It is only those within that group or sub-group, who have come out of un-touchability or backwardness by virtue of belonging to the creamy layer, who are excluded from the benefit of reservation," he had explained.

He had observed that unless the creamy layer principle was applied, those genuinely deserving reservation would not access it and those who were underserving within the same class would continue to get it. The court held that the principle was based on the fundamental right to equality. "The benefits, by and large, are snatched away by the top creamy layer of the backward caste or class, keeping the weakest among the weak always weak and leaving the fortunate layers to consume the whole cake," Justice Nariman had observed.

## Centre ready to strengthen rape law, says Rajnath

Uproar in Parliament over vet's death

SANDEEP PHUKHAN  
NEW DELHI

The government is "ready to make more stringent provisions in law", Defence Minister Rajnath Singh told the Lok Sabha on Monday after members expressed outrage over the rape and murder of a 26-year-old veterinarian in Hyderabad last week.

The members, cutting across party lines, not only demanded the hanging of the accused but also argued to have the death penalty as the "only punishment" for the offence of rape.



Nurses staging a protest, demanding justice, in Patna on Monday. PTI

## Protests continue

A Shadnagar court has posted for Tuesday a police petition for 10-day custody of the four persons arrested for the rape and murder of a veterinarian. Protests continued in parts of Telangana and nationwide, demanding the death penalty for the accused. An official said the probe would be completed in a time-bound manner. ▶ PAGE 8

discusses what issues should be taken up on the floor of the House, would discuss the possibility of a formal debate on the subject.

Starting the discussion, Congress member from Telangana Uttam Kumar Reddy termed the incident inhuman and criticised the State Home Minister for allegedly making insensitive remarks, and narrated the ordeal the victim's family had to undergo to register a police case.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 12  
LYNCHING, CASTRATION  
MOOTED IN RS ▶ PAGE 12

## 17 killed as wall falls on three houses in Mettupalayam

Newly constructed 15-foot structure collapses amid heavy rains in Coimbatore district

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
COIMBATORE

Seventeen persons, including three children, were killed in sleep when three houses collapsed after a 15-foot compound wall fell on them at Nadur in Mettupalayam in Coimbatore district early on Monday.

The victims were all casual labourers from the Scheduled Caste community that had lived in the houses for over 60 years.

Officials and the police said that following heavy rains that had lashed the area in the past few days, the newly constructed compound wall at the rear of textile trader S. Sivasubramanian's house in Cooperative Colony fell on the tile-roofed

houses of the labourers, killing the inhabitants instantly.

R. Rathinam, a neighbour, said he woke up to the loud noise. "When I stepped out, I could not see the houses. The lights, too, were missing, and I realised something had happened."

The villagers, who soon realised the gravity of the accident, could begin searching for the survivors only after daybreak. However, they could only find bodies amid the rubble. Rescuers and the police arrived much later, Nadur residents said. Two fire tenders and four earth-movers were brought in to remove the debris and locate any survivor.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 12



Hard at work: Rescuers working at the site at Nadur in Mettupalayam on Monday. ■ M. PERIASAMY

## Security breach at Priyanka's residence; inquiry ordered

Trespassers wanted to click pictures with her: police officer

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

Seven persons in a vehicle allegedly trespassed on Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra's residential premises in the Lodhi Estate area here on November 25. The seven occupants of the black SUV – four women and three men – wanted to click photographs with Ms. Vadra, a senior police officer said.

They managed to cross the main gate of the bungalow, but were stopped a few metres inside by the Central Reserve Police Force

personnel.

The officer said the group was questioned by the CRPF and were released subsequently. No police complaint was made.

#### 'Miscommunication'

Another police officer said the vehicle managed to pass through the security gates due to a "miscommunication" with the CRPF, as both the forces are deployed there.

Union Minister for State for Home G. Kishan Reddy said he was not aware of the incident and would seek a report from the relevant officials. The Rajya Sabha will discuss the SPG Amendment Bill, 2019 on Tuesday.

According to the report, the bullet injuries to security personnel may have been caused by friendly fire. It said villagers were assaulted

ficer.

Last month, the Centre removed the Special Protection Group (SPG) security cover of the Gandhi family, including Ms. Vadra, and replaced it with Z-plus security cover of the CRPF. On Monday, a police team was also sent to Ms. Vadra's residence.

Union Minister for State for Home G. Kishan Reddy said he was not aware of the incident and would seek a report from the relevant officials. The Rajya Sabha will discuss the SPG Amendment Bill, 2019 on Tuesday.

According to the report, the bullet injuries to security personnel may have been caused by friendly fire. It said villagers were assaulted

## Panel picks holes in police 'encounter' story

'Slain Bijapur villagers not Maoists'

SIDHARTH YADAV  
BHOPAL

A one-member judicial commission inquiring into the alleged encounter deaths of 17 villagers, including six minors, at Sarkeguda in Bijapur district of Chhattisgarh in June 2012 has said in its report that there is no evidence to suggest the slain villagers were Maoists. The report was tabled in the Assembly on Monday.

The report, authored by Justice V.K. Agarwal, former Judge of the Madhya Pradesh HC, was submitted to the government earlier this month. It was discussed late on Saturday at a Cabinet meeting, attended by the Director General of Police and the Chief Secretary.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 12

and killed from close quarters, and one of them was killed the day after the alleged encounter. It said there was a "clear manipulation of investigation" by security forces.

The report, authored by Justice V.K. Agarwal, former Judge of the Madhya Pradesh HC, was submitted to the government earlier this month. It was discussed late on Saturday at a Cabinet meeting, attended by the Director General of Police and the Chief Secretary.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 12

## 'Bulandshahr killing was planned lynching of an officer on duty'

Justice eludes Subodh Singh's wife a year after the incident

ANUJ KUMAR  
GHAZIABAD

For Rajini Singh, 2019 has been a year of "upheaval" and "betrayal". On December 3, 2018, her husband, Station House Officer Subodh Singh, was assaulted and then shot dead by a mob in Syana area of Bulandshahr after a protest by right-wing groups at Chirangwadi police post over alleged bovine carcasses found strewn in a field in the Mahav village nearby turned violent.

In the past year, Yogesh Raj, convenor of the local Bajrang Dal unit, and Shikhar Agarwal, former president of the BJP's youth wing in Syana, the alleged conspirators for instigating violence, along with several others, have been granted bail by the Allahabad High Court, and the U.P. government has yet to file an appeal against the order.

The strap-on motors provide additional thrust to the rocket at launch and are the first to be separated after the rocket lifts off from the launch pad, following which the first and second stages separate in sequence. "These stages fall into the ocean after separation. It is very rare for them to wash ashore," Mr. Kumar said.

The ISRO is sending a team from Sriharikota to retrieve the casing. (With inputs from T. Singaravelu)

marked on the casing was the date of the final assembly. The strap-on motors provide additional thrust to the rocket at launch and are the first to be separated after the rocket lifts off from the launch pad, following which the first and second stages separate in sequence. "These stages fall into the ocean after separation. It is very rare for them to wash ashore," Mr. Kumar said.

Describing it as "planned lynching of an officer on duty", Ms. Singh said, "I wait-

ed for a year, for it was for society and his department that he laid down his life. I thought society and the system will get him justice but he was let down."

Senior U.P. Police officers, Ms. Singh claimed, had told her that they could not push the case further and she had to take it forward herself.

She said that a day before the mob attacked the police station, he had requested his seniors for reinforcements. "I had called him a day before the incident but he put my call on hold to speak to his seniors asking for more personnel as he could gauge the impending threat," she said.

**Akhlaq case**  
Ms. Singh suspected that there was a link between his killing and him being the first investigating officer in the Akhlaq lynching case of

2015 when he was posted in Dadri. "I have been told that close relatives of those who were charge-sheeted in the Akhlaq lynching case live in Syana," she said.

The thing that hurt her the most was the response of society. "A police officer is neither a Hindu nor a Muslim. He is expected to uphold the rule of law. The way a communal narrative is being built around the case and the accused who got bail were welcomed show that my husband was wrong in believing that he was defending his own people," she said.

**The rot**  
Ms. Singh said that the fact that a temple has been built in the memory of the boy (Sumit Dala) who was throwing stones moments before he was killed by a stray bullet signifies how deep the rot is.

Raghvendra Kumar Mishra, Circle Officer (City), Bulandshahr, who investigated the case, said five of the accused, including Prashant Natt who allegedly killed Subodh Singh with his service revolver, are lodged in jail. "Yogesh Raj was slapped with Section 124A (sedition) along with charges for inciting violence. We would support cancellation of his bail in the Supreme Court," he said.

**DELHI WAQF BOARD TO GIVE RELIEF TO KIN** ▶ PAGE 4

## A strange catch for Puducherry fishermen

Casing of a strap-on motor of PSLV gets caught in fishing nets, creates a sensation on shore

T.K. ROHIT  
RAJESH B. NAIR  
PUDUCHERRY/CHENNAI

Some fishermen of Puducherry were delighted to feel the weight in their nets as they towed their catch home, figuring it might be a whale.

However, after they hauled it ashore, they discovered to their shock that their nets had been shredded, not by any fish, but by a long, rocket-like object with some markings on it.

As news spread of a rocket, battered by the waves, and a little rusty,

being brought ashore, crowds, especially from nearby hamlets, began thronging the place. Children played with the object and people came to take pictures, videos and selfies.

**Launch workhorse**  
The equipment, it turned out, was the casing of one of the strap-on motors of the PSLV, India's trusted workhorse satellite vehicle. 'PSOM XL' was marked on top of the casing, while the bottom part on the strap-on motors was dated "22/03/19". "This is just the casing



## IN BRIEF

## Amendment to Article 341 demanded

NEW DELHI  
The All India United Muslim Morcha which works for the rights of Dalit Muslims staged a protest demanding amendment to Article 341 of the Constitution, at Jantar Mantar on Monday. "After eight years a counter affidavit for Dalit Muslims' rights was deposited in the apex court by the Centre last month. It depends upon the court how early it restores justice," said Hafiz Ghulam Sarwar, the outfit's national spokesperson.

## DELHI TODAY

**Exhibition:** "Interpreting Temples: Lingaraj and Puri Temples", a photography show by Main Art Gallery, Kamaladevi Complex, India International Centre (IIC), 11 a.m.-7 p.m.

**Exhibition:** "Shaher", a solo painting show by Anil Tato at Convention Centre Foyer, India Habitat Centre (IHC), 11 a.m.-7 p.m.

**Exhibition:** "Grey", a group plastic sculptures exhibition by Eleni Stoelinga Tsipara, Pankaj Guru and Priyanka Gupta at Triveni Kala Sangam, 205, Tansen Marg, 11 a.m.-8 p.m.

**Exhibition:** "Mysterious Lines", a solo show of paintings by artist Dheeraj Yadav, at Art Konsult Gallery, Hauz Khas, 6 p.m.-8 p.m.

**Exhibition:** "Feminine Divine", a solo show of contemporary Madhubani art that celebrates feminine energy by Neelkant Choudhary at Gallerie Ganesh, E-557, Greater Kailash-II, 11 a.m.-7 p.m.

(Mail your listings for this column at [cityeditordelhi@thehindu.co.in](mailto:cityeditordelhi@thehindu.co.in))

# If wishes were horses, Mounted Police would have plenty of them

With two horses due to retire, the unit is staring at a strength of 13 for its 99 riders

HEMANI BHANDARI  
NEW DELHI



A Mounted Police horse in its stable. ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Within days, two horses - Marshal and Guru - of the Mounted Police are likely to retire. Doctors have declared the two 16-year-olds unfit for service. Their exit will reduce the number of horses in the unit to 13.

"Both Guru and Marshal were recruited in 2007 and have served the police for their tenure. Their doctors have given their opinion that they should retire and further procedure is under way.

Once their retirement is finalised, they will be given a warm farewell and sent to an NGO in Gurugram," said an officer who has been supervising the Mounted Police for the last 10 years.

The officer recalled that the number of horses when he had joined the unit was at its sanctioned strength of 95. Over the years, the number depleted and there were hardly any recruitments; the last recruitment he remembered was in 2008 when five

horses were inducted. "Proposals for recruitment of horses have been sent to higher authorities over the years but there are concerns over cruelty to the animal, and therefore there has been little movement on the requests. There are no plans of any recruitment as of now," the officer said. For the 15 horses in the unit, there are 99 riders, but many of them have been deployed for law-and-order duty.

The officer remembered the "glory days" of the Mounted Police when it was used for crime detection in

an underdeveloped, largely forested Delhi. "Around 15 years ago, Mounted Police was often used for patrolling in the forested area. In Badarpur, which was a wide forested area then, criminals used to smuggle and sell illicit liquor. A human can only walk so much and movement of vehicles was impossible in that area, so horses were used to patrol the forest and catch the suspects," he said, adding that Mounted Police back then was also used as the first shield for crowd control in case of mass agitations.

Now the role of Mounted Police has been reduced to being deployed during VVIP movements; on special occasions like Republic Day parade, Independence Day, Raising Day; for riding training of IPS officers and to participate in sports events.

"They are called sometimes for patrolling by police stations in the outskirts of Delhi," the officer said.

The horses share a special

bond with their riders and caretakers. Luv retired from the Mounted Police four years ago but its rider, Head Constable Vijay, still visits the horse at the Gurugram stable where the NGO is taking care of it.

He said he last visited Luv about two months ago and the horse immediately recognised him. Mr. Vijay had been Luv's rider for 14 years.

"It's your job but you get attached to the animal after spending day and night with it," he said.

The retired horses are missed the most by Ramesh Pal, their caretaker. The 52-year-old has been serving in the unit for over 25 years. He knows what amount of gram, bran and barley needs to be given to the horses, at what time and how, depending on the season. Dara, Ratan, Marshal, Kirtiman, Hans, Prince, Guru, Anmol, Tarzen, Rangeela, Sagar, Rozy, Rajni, Risky, Rupa - Mr. Pal calls them by their name and they neigh immediately.

# Delhi govt. bodies have thousands of crores of unpaid loans: CAG

Report notes 'substantial' delay in submission of certificates

STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI

'Rabies should be a notifiable disease'

NEW DELHI  
Rabies should be declared a notifiable disease with immediate effect, a Delhi Assembly panel said in its report. It has asked Chief Secretary Vijay Kumar Dev to initiate steps in this direction. It also directed all civic bodies to conduct an extensive census of monkeys and stray dogs.

# House passes university Bill

STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI

The Delhi Assembly on Monday passed a Bill to set up a Delhi Sports University (DSU), which will offer graduation, post-graduation and doctorate degrees in cricket, football, and hockey among other sports.

"DSU will establish world-class sporting infrastructure and produce finest sportspersons and coaches. It will be made one of the most sought after place for sports in the world. One day India will win more Olympic medals than China," said Chief Minister said.

# Some shortcomings

Mr. Kejriwal added that there were shortcomings in the system and sportspersons do not get the required support from the government. Ninety acres of land have been identified for construction in Mundka.

# Only 9% to be left out under regularisation Bill, says Hardeep Puri

Minister rebuts claims made by Congress

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

Centre is deceiving the people, says AAP govt.

NEW DELHI  
Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Monday said that he will do anything to provide registry to residents of unauthorised colonies and will send the leaders of the BJP, who are getting into politics over the matter, for pilgrimage under the Mukhyamantri Tirth Yatra Yojana. The Delhi Assembly also passed a resolution stating that the Centre was "deceiving" the people by offering registry to "just 100 properties".

zone around the Yamuna, Master Plan roads or existing operational roads etc. However, such areas have about 9% of the total population of UCs. [sic.] The government has introduced a Bill to facilitate the grant of ownership rights in 1,731 colonies in the ongoing session of Parliament.

# Illegal colonies to be main poll plank for Delhi BJP

JATIN ANAND  
NEW DELHI

prospects depend," a party leader said. "Surveys posit that the party's chances [of winning] are quite dismal. The regularisation of unauthorised colonies is more or less the only issue which we have in our arsenal," the leader added.

Leaders have been told to utilise morning walks, market visits and even snap meetings with commuters at bus stops to spread the word about the "positive impact" of the Centre's decision to bestow ownership rights on 40 lakh residents of such colonies.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi is scheduled to address a rally on the issue next week.

# No data to link pollution to deaths, diseases: govt.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NEW DELHI

Air quality of Delhi-NCR

Delhi	279	Gurugram	157
Ghaziabad	325	Faridabad	246
Noida	275	Greater Noida	298

Good █ Satisfactory █ Moderate 0-50 51-100 101-200  
Poor █ Very poor █ Severe 201-300 301-400 >401

AIR QUALITY INDEX AT 4 P.M. YESTERDAY (AVERAGE OF PAST 24 HOURS) | SOURCE: CPCB

for Environment and Forest Babul Supriyo told the Rajya Sabha. "There is no conclusive data available in the country to establish a direct connection of deaths/diseases, exclusively due to air pollution," he added.

**कर्मण्येवाधिकारस्ते मा फलेषु कदाचन । मा कर्मफलहेतुभूमा ते संगोऽस्त्वकर्मणि ॥**

**INTERNATIONAL GITA MAHOTSAV**  
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November 23 - December 10, 2019

**INAUGURATION**  
December 3, 2019

10:50 AM : Haryana Pavilion  
11:00 AM : Saraswati Heritage & Haryana Govt. Exhibition  
11:10 AM : Uttarakhand Pavilion  
11:15 AM : Exhibition on 550th Prakash Parv of Guru Nanak Dev Ji  
11:30 AM : International Gita Seminar at Kurukshetra University, Kurukshetra

Chief Guest  
**Sh. Satyadeo Narain Arya**  
Hon'ble Governor of Haryana

Presided Over By  
**Sh. Manohar Lal**  
Chief Minister, Haryana  
**Sh. Trivendra Singh Rawat**  
Chief Minister, Uttarakhand

**Guests of Honour**  
**Sh. Rajeev Bindal**  
Speaker, Himachal Pradesh  
**Dr. Godfrey C.**  
High Commissioner, Zimbabwe  
**Sh. Kanwar Pal**  
Education Minister, Haryana  
**Sh. Bharat Kumar Regmi**  
Deputy High Commissioner, Nepal  
**Sh. Subhash Sudha**  
MLA, Thanesar  
**Dr. H.S. Bedi**  
Chancellor, Central University, Himachal Pradesh

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'Crimes have risen under Shah's tenure'

STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI

The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) on Monday said Amit Shah is a "failed" Home Minister and claimed that crime has increased under his tenure.

"Ever since Mr. Shah took over the charge of the Home Ministry this year, we have witnessed a steep rise in crimes in Delhi. Cases of murders, rapes, dacoity and all other crimes have increased. These incidents prove that Mr. Shah is a failed Home Minister and he has failed to protect the women," said AAP national spokesperson Atishi at the party headquarters.

She added that a total of 458 murders had taken place this year till November 15 whereas the number was 439 in 2018 till November 15.

# Delhi Police to verify bus drivers, staff

Move comes in the wake of Hyderabad gang-rape case

SAURABH TRIVEDI  
NEW DELHI

In the wake of the Hyderabad gang-rape case, the Delhi Police has instructed personnel to carry out extensive patrolling and conduct a verification drive of vehicles used for public transport across the city.

A senior officer said all district DCPs and PCR units have been instructed to extensively patrol highways, dark stretches and locations infamous for consumption of liquor in the open.

"We have also instructed all Station House Officers [SHOs] to conduct verification drive of drivers and other staff of gramin seva, private buses and heavy vehicles coming from other States," said the officer.

He added that policemen

will visit parking areas for such vehicles and prepare a databank of driver and staff members by clicking their photo and taking a photocopy of their IDs.

"Random checking has been ordered at unauthorised parking areas and at borders where commercial vehicles usually park before entering the city. We have also instructed the officers to check the status of CCTVs installed in various locations under their jurisdictions," the officer added.

The police said instructions were issued after the Hyderabad incident and an urgent meeting of all senior officers was called.

In the meeting, the massive drive was ordered on four points that include pa-

## Incredible India

The sand is exactly as white as shown in this picture.

The ocean of white sand stands out stark and pristine in its colourlessness, interrupted only by passing herds of camels.

On moonlit nights, the desert reveals another colour.

Something that can hardly be described in words.

Which colour of Kutch will catch your eye?

Maybe one that I couldn't find!



## Start courses to sensitise boys on crimes against women, says CM

Delhi Assembly urges Centre to ensure prevention of such cases

STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI

Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal at the Assembly House on Monday asked Education Minister Manish Sisodia to look into whether there is a need to sensitise male students on crime against women and also said the government should start courses on the issue.

"I request the Education Minister to look into whether there is need to sensitise, especially boys, in all schools in Delhi and we have to start some courses on this issue [crime against women]," he said.

He added: "Along with the system, the society that we



CM Arvind Kejriwal arrives to attend a session of Delhi Assembly on Monday.

■ SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

live in needs to change as well. What is happening to our youth? The men should be taught to respect women, they should be made to realise the consequences of such an act." The Delhi Assembly also passed a resolution urg-

ing the Centre to seriously think about its responsibility of law and order, police in the Capital and ensure preventive and corrective measures to avoid recurrence of crime against women and other heinous crimes.

"The Government of India should immediately fill up all the vacant posts in Delhi Police and strengthen its working so that it can instill confidence in the people of Delhi which is lacking as on date," the resolution said.

Leader of Opposition Vijender Gupta said the AAP government did not take any concrete step to create a safe environment for women.

### IN BRIEF

NCW asks President to reject convict's plea

NEW DELHI

The National Commission for Women (NCW) has written to the President to reject the mercy petition of one of the rape convicts in the 2012 incident of gang rape and murder of a 23-year-old paramedic student in Delhi. The mercy petition was filed by one of the convicts – Vinay Sharma.

### TO ADVERTISE PLEASE CONTACT

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### Session 1 Facing the UPSC Interview

Ways to answer questions based on DAF, viz. interests, extra-curricular activities, education, selection, resignation, gap etc.

By a team of 4-5 highly experienced faculties/experts having varied background led by Mr. B. Singh (CMD, MADE EASY Group)

### Session 4 Current Affairs

Major current issues of national and international importance, Govt. policies, schemes, budget, science & technology, environment, administrative policies, ways to answer opinion based questions on such issues.

By Ms. Ruchika Bharadwaj and Mr. A.P. Singh

### Session 7 Practice Mock (1 No.)

To practice answering questions in front of panel.

By inhouse team of experts and faculty members of Next IAS

### Session 2 Cadre Policy & Service Preferences

In-depth analysis of new cadre policy, rational choice, cadre preferences etc.

By Dr. Gaurav Saini (Current Civil Servant)

### Session 5 Home State

Issues related to home states. All major states will be covered.

By Mr. A.P. Singh, Ms. Ruchika Bharadwaj, Mr. Mohit Sharma and Mr. Rahul Sengar

### Session 8 Mock Interviews (2 Nos.)

For engineering graduates an expert from respective technical background will be present to help in better preparation. Get recorded mock interviews for self analysis.

By retired Civil Servants, personality and HR experts, psychologists and senior subject matter experts.

## Civil Services Interview Guidance | 2019

### Session 3 Leadership, Achievements & Extra-Curricular Activities

Answering questions related to areas like hobbies, extra-curricular activities, educational achievements and sports.

By Mrs. Roopa Agnihotri

### Session 6 Sessions for Engineering Students

Basic concepts and areas of application of engineering subjects of your respective stream. Discussion on previous interview questions of technical genre.

By a team of experts in different subjects

### Session 9 One to One Discussion on DAF

Discussion on strengths, weaknesses, prizes, scholarships, optional subject selection. Technical background candidates can discuss questions and aspects related to engineering subjects. Personal support to confront fear of interview.

By team of experts from General and Technical sections.

## COURSES OFFERED BY NEXT IAS

### General Studies

#### Foundation Course for CSE 2021

Batches commencing in April, 2020

### Optional Foundation Course

#### Philosophy, Sociology, Mathematics

Batches commencing in Nov-Dec  
Admission Open

### Engineering Optional through Questions

#### CE, ME, EE

Batches commencing in June, 2020



DELHI Timings	
TUESDAY, DEC. 03	
RISE 06:57 SET 17:24	
RISE 12:22 SET 23:37	
WEDNESDAY, DEC. 04	
RISE 06:58 SET 17:24	
RISE 12:57 SET 00:00	
THURSDAY, DEC. 05	
RISE 06:59 SET 17:24	
RISE 13:29 SET 00:29	

Delhi Weather	max min
Delhi City	23 08
Safdarjung	23 08
Palam	23 09

**Delhi Palam Today**  
26°C Shallow/mist during very cool morning. Day will sunny and windy.

**Delhi Palam Tomorrow**  
25°C Will be pleasant and sunny. Dry weather with moderate north westerly winds to prevail.

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**THE HINDU**  
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## IN BRIEF

### Delhi Cong. protests rising price of onions

NEW DELHI  
The Delhi Congress on Monday protested against the rising price of onions outside the residence of Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal. Delhi Congress chief Subhash Chopra said the consumers are suffering due to the shadow boxing between the Modi government and the Kejriwal government.

# Make HRD committee report public: JNUTA

Teachers disappointed over Ministry's refusal to meet them

#### SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI



Members of JNUTA during their protest in New Delhi on Monday. ■ SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

The Jawaharlal Nehru University Teachers' Association (JNUTA) on Monday protested outside the Human Resource Development Ministry demanding that the report prepared by the three-member high-power committee set up by the Ministry to bring back normalcy at the university be made public.

The JNUTA had sought an appointment with the Minister but did not receive any date and had then called for a march to demand a meeting.

The JNUTA said that it was disappointed at the refusal of the MHRD to even meet a delegation of the JNUTA after a large number of teachers marched under the JNUTA's banner in the 'MHRD

had made a massive arrangement to 'greet' the peaceful march of teachers," the JNUTA said.

"If the MHRD had accepted by constituting the three-member high-power committee (HPC) that restoration of normalcy in JNU through a process of dialogue was necessary and that the JNU V-C was incapable of doing that on his own, why has the process not been carried to its logical conclusion despite its objective remaining unfulfilled?" the teachers' body said.

It also questioned if the formation of the HPC was only a diversionary tactic and not a genuine attempt at resolving the crisis if its report and action on that basis are being held back despite a week having passed since it was ready.

#### Jawab Do March'.

"It is a deliberate decision to avoid answering the questions the delegation was going to raise and which had been submitted in the form of a memorandum earlier. The response, or lack of it, of the MHRD stands out in interesting contrast with that of the Delhi police, which

## Ratul Puri gets bail in chopper case

NIRNIMESH KUMAR

NEW DELHI

A Delhi court on Monday granted bail to businessman Ratul Puri in AgustaWestland money laundering case.

Granting bail on a personal bond of ₹5 lakh with two sureties of a like amount, Special Judge Arvind Kumar said,

"The accused is 46 years

old and has roots in society. He is residing in Delhi along with his family members, has three children and aged parents and has his business in India and is an income tax assessee. Therefore, the contention of Enforcement Directorate that accused may abscond does not appear to have much substance."

"As regards the dismissal

of application for anticipatory bail of accused, it is worthwhile recording that same was dismissed at the stage of investigation and since then circumstances have changed and sixth supplementary complaint has been filed by the Directorate and the accused has been in custody for about 90 days," the judge also noted.

## Supreme Court stays execution of blast convict

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday stayed the execution of death penalty awarded to a convict in the 23-year-old case of bomb blast in a bus at Samleti in Dausa district, in which 14 persons were killed.

A Bench of Chief Justice S.A. Bobde and Justices B.R. Gavai and Surya Kant ordered that condemned convict Abdul Hameed be not executed until further orders and agreed to hear his appeal against the Rajasthan High Court judgment upholding his death penalty in the 1996 terror attack case.

"Until further orders, there shall be stay of operation of the impugned judgment(s) and order(s) passed by the High Court and stay of execution of the death sentence. List these matters after four weeks. In the meantime, the Registry of this Court is directed to call the Original Record of these appeals from the courts below," the Bench said.

The High Court, in its July 22 judgment, had acquitted six persons while upholding the death sentence awarded to one and the life term to another in the bomb blast case. The six acquitted persons included five Jammu and Kashmir natives Javed Khan, Latif Ahmed, Mohammad Ali Bhatt, Mirja Nissa Hussain and Abdul Ghani. The sixth one, Rais Beg, who was acquitted is from Agra in Uttar Pradesh.

**Trial court sentence**  
A trial court at Bandikui in Dausa had awarded death penalty to one person, Abdul Hameed, and life terms to seven others in the case.

The High Court upheld the death penalty awarded to Abdul Hameed, saying he was the key person behind planting of the bomb in the bus going to Bikaner from Agra on May 22, 1996. It had also upheld the life term awarded to Pappu alias Salim, holding him to be responsible for supplying the explosives.

After two-three days, she was taken to Mr. Yadav's house, where he too allegedly raped her. Two days later, she was taken to Auraiya district in U.P. from where she was recovered by the police, the charge sheet said.

maximum punishment for the offences is life imprisonment.

#### Victim's statement

Quoting the rape survivor's statement recorded before a judicial magistrate in Unnao, the CBI has said in the charge sheet that on June 11, 2017, she had come out of her house to fetch water at night when Mr. Singh and Mr. Tiwari, along with three others, pulled her inside a car. After travelling for some distance, Mr. Singh and Mr. Tiwari allegedly took turns to rape the victim in the car. She was taken to a house on the way to Kanpur where two unknown persons, with muffled faces, again raped her, the charge sheet said.

After two-three days, she was taken to Mr. Yadav's house, where he too allegedly raped her. Two days later, she was taken to Auraiya district in U.P. from where she was recovered by the police, the charge sheet said.

The trial court upheld the death penalty awarded to Abdul Hameed, saying he was the key person behind planting of the bomb in the bus going to Bikaner from Agra on May 22, 1996. It had also upheld the life term awarded to Pappu alias Salim, holding him to be responsible for supplying the explosives.

Other conditions relating to smart cards, concessions etc as notified from time to time shall remain unchanged.

Sd/- Executive Engineer,  
Gohar Division,(B&R),  
HP.PWD.Gohar

HIMACHAL PRADESH  
PUBLIC WORKS  
DEPARTMENT  
CORRIGENDUM

The following Amendment/correction is hereby made in the Notice Inviting Tender this office letter No:-PW/GHR/CB/EA/I.N.I.T/E-Tendering/2019-13534-73 dated 27-11-2019.  
Job No.2:-  
The Estimated Cost may be read as 1,82,69,26/- instead of 1,82,79,26/-

All other terms & conditions will remain unchanged.

Sd/- Executive Engineer,  
Gohar Division,(B&R),  
HP.PWD.Gohar

HIM SUCHANA AVAN JAN SAMPAK  
HP/3252/19-20

## CAMPUS 'FEE'VER | JNU students on why fee hike should be rolled back

### I could study because of govt. institutions



DEEPAK KUMAR  
PhD programme (third year), Centre for the Study of Law and Governance

I am a third-year PhD student at JNU. I belong to a marginalised community (SC) and my parents are agricultural labourers in Meerut. I, too, used to work in the fields back home. My family owns a buffalo which helps us just a little bit. We sell around 2 litres of milk daily. My parents and grandparents (maternal and paternal) are illiterate. Because of socio-economic constraints, my elder siblings also could not study.

I am the first person from my family to complete school and college education. I studied at a government school with the help of scholarship. After that, I completed my BA LLB from Meerut's Chaudhary Charan Singh University, and LLB from Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia National Law University, Lucknow. Recently, I completed my MPhil from Centre for the Study of Law and Governance, JNU.

Throughout my education I received government scholarships. I could continue my education only because of government institutions, otherwise I would not even have gone to school. I joined JNU in 2015 for research because of its world-class facilities and affordable fee. Here I found accommodation in the hostel for married research students, which is a unique feature of this campus. My wife had studied till primary school. After our marriage, I helped her clear Class X examination. Now she is preparing for her Class XI exam. At present, I am getting Junior Research Fellowship, which helps me sustain my life in Delhi. JNU transformed my life and provided me a better understanding of research.

The fee hike will make the situation very difficult for me as the charges in married research students' hostel will also go up.

### JNU's character is being changed forever



RAJU KUMAR  
MA in Chinese, School of Language, Literature and Cultural Studies

The fee hike is one of the several policies that have changed in JNU. The university has ended deprivation points for PhD and MPhil courses and now the administration is talking about ending this for graduation and MA programmes too. This will be detrimental to students from Odisha, Chhattisgarh, Bihar and Jharkhand who benefit from the deprivation points in the entrance examination.

We do not just pay mess charges, we also pay for crockery, newspapers, establishment cost and security money. The security money used to be ₹2,700 till a few years ago, and now it is ₹5,400. Engineering courses have become self-financed. School of Engineering has begun enrolling self-financed students, which is very difficult for students from rural backgrounds. I am from Jharkhand which is among the most backward States in India. My father ran a ratty shop and sold vegetables. I borrowed money to study in Ranchi and got admission in JNU because of deprivation points.

Now JNU is giving more weightage to English, which has begun to hurt students who come from rural backgrounds. A student from a rural background takes time to build a rapport with teachers. The progressive admission policy of JNU has ended and it will hurt not just me but a whole generation of students. JNU will now be available to homogeneous crowd, like in the IITs. Earlier, JNU's research used to be very diverse and rich but that tradition will now change as diversity of students will end. It is not just about fee hike but a whole ecosystem of academics. JNU's character is being changed forever.

As told to Kallol Bhattacharjee | The series is concluded

Put an end to uncertainty over ad hoc employment'

#### STAFF REPORTER

NEW DELHI

The Delhi University Students Union (DUSU) on Monday appealed to the Vice-Chancellor to put an end to the uncertainty over employment of ad hoc teachers in the university and to ensure that the upcoming semester examinations take place smoothly.

Following a recent decision of the university's principal's association, to put on hold the appointments of ad hoc teachers until certain clarifications were received from the university administration regarding its directive to appoint "guest teachers" against vacancies arising in the current academic session, the Delhi University Teachers' Association (DUTA) has warned of an indefinite strike starting Wednesday.

Various colleges, including Vivekananda College, Motilal Nehru College issued notices on Monday stating that all ad hoc appointments were to be put on hold. Identifying the university's directive in a letter dated August 28 as the root of the issue, DUTA has been demanding that the letter be withdrawn, failing which the teachers would go on strike, apart from carrying out an evaluation boycott.

The DUSU on Monday made the same demand.



DIRECTORATE OF TOURISM KASHMIR  
www.jamamtourism.gov.in, email id:dirtsmju@gmail.com  
Tel No.0191-2520409, Fax: 0191-2548358

#### CORRIGENDUM

Due to poor response the last date for submission of online bids invited in reference to EOI No.91 of 2019 dated 29/10/2019 issued vide this office No. DT/JAE/05-36 dated 29/10/2019 is extended for 15 days up to 14th December, 2019.

The last date for submission of online bids is 14/12/2019 upto 14.00 hrs.

Sd/-  
Director Tourism  
Jammu



DISTRICT POLICE HEADQUARTERS JAMMU  
Phone No. 0191-2561578, Fax No. 0191-2547807  
E-mail: ssjpjammu@jpolice.gov.in

#### LOOK OUT NOTICE

As reported by SHO P/S Gandhi Nagar, Jammu applicant name Noor Mohd S/O Gulshan Ground, Jammu had lodged written report at PS Gandhi Nagar his son namely Zahid Noor, age 15 yrs has been missing since 16.11.2019, regarding which case FIR No. 287/2019 u/s 363 RPC has been registered at P/S Gandhi Nagar. Despite thorough search his whereabouts are still unknown.

As such photograph of missing Zahid Noor S/O Gulshan Abas/R/O Gulshan Ground, Jammu is being published with consent of his legal heirs for the information of Police establishments/public in general and if anybody having any clue related to his whereabouts / present location, kindly communicate the same on the below mentioned contact/Telephone numbers.

#### Description Roll-

Name	Zahid Noor S/O Gulshan Abas
Permanent Address	Gulshan Ground, Jammu
Police Station	Gandhi Nagar, Jammu
Age	15 years
Complexion	Whitish
Eyes	Black
Hair colour	Black
Contact/Telephone Numbers:	1. DPO, Jammu : 0191-2547807, 0191-2561578 2. SSP Jammu Mail ID : ssjpjamnu@jpolice.gov.in 3. PCP Jammu : 0191-2542000 4. SP City South : 0191-2430002 5. SP City North : 0191-2547038 6. SDPO City South : 0191-2430528 7. Landline of P/S Gandhi Nagar : 0191-2597344 7. Contact of Legal Heirs : 98585-54117

DIP/J- 10057

HIMACHAL PRADESH PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)  
The Executive Engineer Bilaspur Division No.2, HP-PWD, Bilaspur on behalf of Governor of H.P invites the item rate bids, in electronic tendering system, from the eligible class of contractors registered with HPPWD for the works as detailed in the table.

The bidders are advised to note other details of tenders from the department website www.hptenders.gov.in

Sd/- Executive Engineer  
Bilaspur Div.No.2, HP-PWD, Bilaspur  
Tel:

# DO YOU DREAM OF BECOMING A DOCTOR, ENGINEER OR AN IAS OFFICER, BUT CAN'T AFFORD COACHING CLASSES?

JAI BHIM  
MUKHYAMANTRI  
PRATIBHA VIKAS  
YOJNA



NOW DELHI GOVERNMENT WILL PAY FOR THE BEST COACHING FOR YOU!

AFTER 1 YEAR OF SUCCESSFULLY RUNNING THIS SCHEME FOR SC/ST/OBC STUDENTS, DELHI GOVERNMENT HAS NOW EXTENDED THIS SCHEME TO INCLUDE GENERAL CATEGORY STUDENTS WHO WANT TO MAKE THEIR DREAMS COME TRUE

## ELIGIBILITY FOR JAI BHEEM MUKHYAMANTRI PRATIBHA VIKAS YOJNA

SC, ST, OBC	GENERAL CATEGORY
Secondary and Sr. Secondary passed from Delhi.	Secondary and Sr. Secondary passed from Delhi.
Family income should not exceed 8 lakhs.	Family income should not exceed 8 lakhs.
Caste Certificate (Issued by Distt. Magistrate Office)	Income/EWS Certificate (Issued by Distt. Magistrate office )

Note: Under this scheme, 75% of beneficiaries will be Delhi Government school students

**“We will not let shortage of money become  
a roadblock for talented students”**

- Arvind Kejriwal  
Chief Minister, Delhi



# LIST OF COACHING INSTITUTES EMPANELLED UNDER THE JAI BHIM MUKHYAMANTRI PRATIBHA VIKAS YOJNA

S.No.	Name and Address of the Coaching Institute	Name of Competitive Examination	Contact Number
1	<b>Aastha IAS</b> M-2, JyotiBhawan, Mukherjee Nagar, Delhi-09 <a href="http://www.aasthaias.com">Website: www.aasthaias.com</a>	UPSC Civil Services Examination	8800233080 9810664003
2	<b>AJAB'S Academy Pvt. Ltd.</b> 202, 2 <sup>nd</sup> floor, Dr. Mukharjee nagar Delhi-09. Also having other centers at Mukharjee Nagar and Old Rajender nagar Delhi.	UPSC, Group A,B,C	011-45524887 011-45527887 08447557386 08929994301
3	<b>Alternative Learning Systems Ltd (ALS)</b> 1st and 2nd floor, Aggarwal Auto Mall, A Block, Plot-II, Shalimar Place, District Center, Delhi-88. also having centers at Mukharjee Nagar, Pusa Road Karol Bagh, Vardhman Central Mall Nehru Vihar Delhi. <a href="http://www.alsias.net">Website: www.alsias.net</a>	UPSC Civil Services Examination & Law Judicial	9999343999 9899975666 9891990011
4	<b>Bharti Concept</b> 1st Floor, Batra Cinema Complex, Dr. Mukharjee Nagar, Delhi-09. also having centers at Uttam Nagar, Tajpur Badar pur Delhi. <a href="http://www.bharticoncept.com">Website: www.bharticoncept.com</a>	One day exam SSC, DSSSB, Railway etc.	9250291082 9136335283
5	<b>Bhartiya Sarvodaya computer and management educational society.</b> 1449/21A, Durgapuri, Delhi-93. Also having centers at Sangam Vihar, Uttam Nagar, Munkaka Delhi.	Group A, B, C Exam of SSC etc.	011-22130322 8750295007 011-22120322
6	<b>Bright Brain Academy</b> RZ D-6, Palam Dabri Main Road, Mahavir Enclave, N.Delhi-45 Also having centers at Raj nagar palam, Najafgarh Delhi. <a href="http://www.brightbrainacademy.co.in">Website: www.brightbrainacademy.co.in</a>	SSC, Bank, Railway, CLAT, NDA, DSSSB, MBA etc.	9868384354 8375919139
7	<b>BSC Academy Pvt. Ltd.</b> C-37, 2nd Floor, Ganesh Nagar, Pandav Nagar Complex, Delhi-92 Also having center at Rohini Delhi. <a href="http://www.bsacademy.com">Website: www.bsacademy.com</a>	Bank PO/Clerk, SSC, Insurance, MBA, CLAT, NDA/CDS, Medical/Engineering	011-22484910-14
8	<b>Career Plus Educational Society.</b> 301/A,-37,38,39 Ansal Building, Comm. Complex Dr. Mukherjee Nagar Delhi-09. <a href="http://www.careerplusgroup.com">Website: www.careerplusgroup.com</a>	UPSC Civil Services, SSC, CLAT	9891186435 9811069629
9	<b>Chanakya IAS Academy</b> 124, 2nd Floor, SatyaNiketan, New Delhi-110021. Also having centers at Outram lines and Rajendra Park Delhi. <a href="http://www.chanakyaiasacademy.com">Website: www.chanakyaiasacademy.com</a>	UPSC Civil Services Examination	18002745005
10	<b>Classic IAS Academy,</b> UG 33-34, Ansal Chamber-1, BhikajiCama Place new delhi-66. Also having centers at Karol Bagh and Old Rajender Nagar Delhi. <a href="http://www.classiciasacademy.com">Website: www.classiciasacademy.com</a>	UPSC Civil Services Examination	9310034050 9310034060 011-40563010 011-40536473
11	<b>Cyber information technology society</b> NIC Institute, BarejaSadan, Main Mathura Road, Badarpur, New delhi-44. Also having other center at badarpur and Shahdara Delhi. <a href="http://www.nicinstitute.com">Website: www.nicinstitute.com</a>	Entrance Exam for professional courses Engg., Medical, Management, Law etc., All Group-A,B, C, Exams.	9582752030 8700844955
12	<b>Dhyeya IAS,</b> 102, A-12-13, Ansal Building, Mukharjee Nagar, Delhi. Also having centers at Old Rajender nagar and Laxmi Nagar Delhi. <a href="http://www.dhyeyaias.com">Website: www.dhyeyaias.com</a>	UPSC Civil Services Examination	011-49274400 9205274746
13	<b>Dr. Lakshmaia IAS Study Circle</b> 57/17, Above Kaventers, Bada Bazar Road, Old Rajinder Nagar, New Delhi-60. Also having center at Mukharjee Nagar Delhi. <a href="http://www.drpvlakshmaiah.com">Website: www.drpvlakshmaiah.com</a>	UPSC, ENGINEERING/NEET	9052265819, 8008497933
14	<b>ELITE IAS</b> A-1, Chandra House, Top Floor, Opp. ICICI Bank, Mukherjee Nagar Delhi-09. Also having center at Old Rajender Nagar Delhi. <a href="http://www.eliteias.in">Website: www.eliteias.in</a>	UPSC Civil Services Examination	8899999931/ 34
15	<b>Evolution Educare Pvt. Ltd.</b> B-11, first floor, commercial complex, Mukharjee Nagar, Delhi <a href="http://www.evolution.co.in">Website: www.evolution.co.in</a>	UPSC Civil Services Examination	
16	<b>GS Mentors</b> 636, Ground Floor, Mukharjee Nagar, Delhi-09. <a href="http://www.gsmmentors.com">Website: www.gsmmentors.com</a>	UPSC Civil Services Examination, SSC, Bank PO , Bank Clerk	784088666 784088777
17	<b>GS World</b> 629, Main Road Mukharjee Nagar, Delhi. <a href="http://www.gsworldias.com">Website: www.gsworldias.com</a>	UPSC Civil Services Examination	011-27658013 7042772062/ 63
18	<b>Helping Hands Welfare Society</b> Gali Number 13, Sona Sweets, second and third floor, sangamvihar, New Delhi. Also having centers at Shahdara, Begum pur, Budh vihar Delhi. <a href="http://www.hhwskills.in">Website: www.hhwskills.in</a>	SSC, Group C	8178675397 9811920711
19	<b>IES Academy PVT LTD</b> 28 B/7,2nd Floor, Jia Sarai Near IIT HauzKhas, New Delhi-110016. Also having center at Muniraka Delhi. <a href="http://www.iesacademy.com">Website: www.iesacademy.com</a>	IES, GATE, AE/JE.	9810958290 011-26537570
20	<b>Ignited Minds</b> A-2, 1st floor commercial complex, Mukharjee Nagar Delhi-09. Also having centers at Old Rajender Nagar and JJ Colony Tigris Delhi. <a href="http://www.ignitedmindsias.com">Website: www.ignitedmindsias.com</a>	UPSC Civil Services Examination	8744082373 011-40109868
21	<b>Jai Sri Ram Educational Society</b> A-70, HardevPuri, Gali number 5, 100 feet road, shahdara, Delhi-93. Also having centers at Dilshad Garden, Laxmi Nagar, Johri pur extension, Yamuna Vihar and Mandoli Extension Delhi.	Group B&C Exams by SSC, DSSSB, Railway, Banking, Police etc. , CTET, teacher recruitment	8447476274
22	<b>K D Campus Pvt. Ltd.</b> 1997, Outram Lines, GTB Nagar, New Delhi-09. Also having centers at Mukharjee Nagar, Gandhi Ashram Kingsway, Muniraka, Uttam Nagar, Badarpur , Laxmi Nagar, Delhi. <a href="http://www.kdcampus.org">Website: www.kdcampus.org</a>	UPSC/ Engg./ Medical and Various Group A,B, C Exams conducted by SSC, Bank, Railway, DSSSB Etc.	09555108888 9654346771 9821890425

S.No.	Name and Address of the Coaching Institute	Name of Competitive Examination	Contact Number
23	<b>Khan Study Group</b> 2521, Hudson Lane, Near GTB Metro Station, Delhi-09. Also having center at old rajender Nagar Delhi. <a href="http://www.ksgindia.com">Website: www.ksgindia.com</a>	UPSC Civil Services Examination	011-4552607 9811293743
24	<b>Kiran Institute of Career Achievement.</b> 3rd floor, A-4 hemkund building, opp. Chawla Restaurant, Mukharjee nagar, Delhi-09. <a href="http://www.kicaonline.com">Website: www.kicaonline.com</a>	Various Group B and C Exams conducted by SSC, Bank, Railway, DSSSB Etc.	9999816446 7503213123
25	<b>KRM Foundation (Dr. Ramaswamy IAS Academy)</b> Flat Number 22, Rajinder Park, Rajindra Place Metro, Delhi. Also having centers at Rajender nagar and Mukharjee Nagar Delhi. <a href="http://www.ramaswamyiasacademy.org">Website: www.ramaswamyiasacademy.org</a>	UPSC, Judiciary, Group A,B, CLAT	9999605344 9350933144
26	<b>My Mission IAS Academy</b> N-1, Dr. Mukharjee Nagar, Delhi-110009. <a href="http://www.missioninstitute.co.in">Website: www.missioninstitute.co.in</a>	UPSC Civil Services Examination	9811334429
27	<b>NIRMAN IAS</b> a. 996, 1st floor, Mukherjee Nagar, Near Gandhi ViharBandh, Delhi-09. <a href="http://www.nirmanias.com">Website: www.nirmanias.com</a>	UPSC Civil Services Examination	011-47058219, 9717767797
28	<b>Pahuj Law Academy Pvt. Ltd.</b> 211-212, D-1, Second Floor, ViratBhawan, Dr. Mukharjee Nagar, Delhi-09. <a href="http://www.pahujlawacademy.com">Website: www.pahujlawacademy.com</a>	Judiciary and Law Entrance (CLAT etc.)	9821593226 9821593229
29	<b>Parinam Coaching center Pvt. Ltd.</b> 207, 2nd floor, Satija House (A-23-24), Commercial complex, Mukharjee Nagar, Delhi. <a href="http://www.theparinam.com">Website: www.theparinam.com</a>	UPSC, Judicial, Clat, NDA/CDS	8810244737, 8368337869
30	<b>Photon IAS Academy.</b> Chamber number 3, 2nd floor, South Portion, Batra Cinema Complex, Mukharjee Nagar, Delhi-09. <a href="http://www.photonsias.com">Website: www.photonsias.com</a>	UPSC, SSC (JE/AE)	9958489709
31	<b>Ravindra Institute of Indian Civil Services (OPC) PVT. LTD.</b> 102, Second Floor,8-9, Ansal Building, Chawla, Restaurant Lane, Mukherji Nagar, Delhi-110009 <a href="http://www.ravindrasinstitute.com">Website: www.ravindrasinstitute.com</a>	UPSC Civil Services Examination, Other Group B and C Exams conducted by SSC, Railway, DSSSB etc.	9953101176 8700170483
32	<b>Sachdeva Colleges Ltd.</b> 29, South Patel Nagar, New Delhi. Also having centers at Uttam Nagar , Jasola Delhi. <a href="http://www.sachdevagroup.co.in">Website: www.sachdevagroup.co.in</a>	SSC, Engineering, Medical, NDA/CDS	011-45063080 011-25848070
33	<b>Sagar</b> 83, basement, ground and 3rd floor, Mall Road, Kingsway Camp Delhi. <a href="http://www.sagarindia.org">Website: www.sagarindia.org</a>	Civil Services, NDA, CDS, CAPF, SSC DSSSB, CTET, Police.	7065900011, 7065900022, 8060450671
34	<b>Samarpan for Education and Welfare Society,</b> Shar Study Circle, 28 Jia Sarai, Near IIT Gate New Delhi-110016. Also having center at Kondali Delhi. <a href="http://www.samarpangno.in">Website: www.samarpangno.in</a>	UPSC Civil Services, SSC, Bank, CLAT	9205158136
35	<b>Saraswati IAS</b> A-20,102, Indraprasth Tower, Dr. Mukherjee Nagar, Delhi-09 <a href="http://www.saraswatiias.com">Website: www.saraswatiias.com</a>	UPSC Civil Services Examination	9899156495 011-27651250
36	<b>Sihanta IAS Academy</b> B-14, First Floor, Dr. Mukharjee Nagar, Delhi-09 011-42071098. <a href="http://www.sihantaias.com">Website: www.sihantaias.com</a>	UPSC Civil Services Examination	011-42875012 8743045487
37	<b>SIMTECH Education and Welfare Society</b> Adarsh Building, 1449/9A, Durgapuri Chowk, Shahdara, Delhi-93. Also having center at Chajjupur, Shahadara Delhi. <a href="http://www.simtech.in">Website: www.simtech.in</a>	UPSC, Group A,B,C	9315650970 7217875618
38	<b>Sri Chaitanya Educational Institute (Managed by varsity Education Management Pvt. Ltd.)</b> 63/3, Ghuman' House, Kalusarai, Sarvapriya Vihar, New Delhi-16. Also having centers at Vikas Puri and Punjabi Bagh Delhi. <a href="http://www.srichaitanyadelhi.com">Website: www.srichaitanyadelhi.com</a>	SSC, Engineering, Medical	9891337255 9555514995 9540763311 9953926783
39	<b>St. Joan's Education Society,</b> Lodhi Road Complex, Near new Barat Ghar, New Delhi-03. <a href="http://www.stjoanscoaching.com">Website: www.stjoanscoaching.com</a>	Engineering/Medical Entrance Examination	011-24610155 011-24610133
40	<b>Sunrise Education and Welfare Society.</b> 1/3716, Ram Nagar, Loni Road, Shahdara, Delhi. Also having centers at Kirti Nagar and Mundka Delhi.	UPSC, Group A,B,C	9250109187
41	<b>Takshila Academy Pvt. Ltd.</b> D-11/154, Sec-8, (Opp. Metro Pillar No.389), Rohini, Delhi-85 Also having centers at Janak puri, Kalusarai, Nirman Vihar, Preet Vihar, Punjabi Bagh, Burari Delhi. <a href="http://www.takshilainstitute.in">Website: www.takshilainstitute.in</a>	Engineering/Medical Entrance Examination	9810477303 8882-145-145
42	<b>The Cavalier</b> C-73, shardapur, Marbel Mkt. Ramesh Nagar, N.D.-15. Also having centers at Mukharjee Nagar Delhi. <a href="http://www.cavalier.in">Website: www.cavalier.in</a>	NDA, CDS, AF, Navy etc.	8448443353 011-41446601 011-41446602
43	<b>The Success IAS</b> 110, 2nd floor, Jaina extension, Mukharjee Nagar, Delhi-09 <a href="http://www.thessuccesias.com">Website: www.thessuccesias.com</a>	UPSC Civil Services Examination	9971250993 9971250938
44	<b>Think &amp; Learn Pvt. Ltd.(Byju's Classes)</b> 1-B, 3 <sup>rd</sup> Floor, Near Karol Bagh Metro Station Gate No. 8, Pusa Road Karol Bagh Delhi-110060 Also having center at Vardhman Mall Nehru Vihar Delhi. <a href="http://www.byjus.com">Website: www.byjus.com</a>	UPSC Civil Services Examination, SSC	9873643487
45	<b>Vajirao and Reddy Institute PVT Ltd.</b> 19/1A, Shakati Nagar, Nangia Park, New Delhi-07. Also having center at Roop Nagar DU Campus Delhi. <a href="http://www.vajiraoinstitute.com">Website: www.vajiraoinstitute.com</a>	UPSC Civil Services Examination	
46	<b>Vajirao IAS Academy Pvt. Ltd.</b> B-365, second floor, Nirman Vihar Metro Gate number 4, opp. V3S Mall, Delhi-092. Also having center at Bhalswa dairy area. <a href="http://www.vajiraoiasacademy.com">Website: www.vajiraoiasacademy.com</a>	UPSC Civil Services, NDA/CDS/DEFENCE, Group B&C exams by SSC, DSSSB, Banking Railway etc.	8800307444 8800301222

For full details, please visit Department website:  
[scstwelfare.delhigovt.nic.in](http://scstwelfare.delhigovt.nic.in)



Note: The applicant coaching institutes whose application for empanelment could be considered on technical grounds will be processed shortly

## IN BRIEF



Gowda rules out any tie-up with Cong., BJP

BELAGAVI Though a few Congress leaders have expressed interest in allying with the JD(S) again if the BJP fails to get the required number of seats in the December 5 bypolls in Karnataka, JD(S) supremo H.D. Deve Gowda on Monday made it clear that his party had no such plans. "My party and I have suffered owing to our alliances with the BJP and the Congress in the past. That is why there is no question of any alliance," he told presspersons here.

## Tahsildar's attender succumbs to burns

HYDERABAD Attender Chandraiah, who sustained burns while trying to rescue Tahsildar (Mandal Revenue Officer) Vijaya Reddy when she was burnt alive nearly a month ago, died on Monday at a hospital. With this, the death toll in the attack on the MRO rose to four. The attacker, K. Suresh, had poured petrol on the tahsildar and set her on fire over a dispute over land ownership. Suresh and the MRO's driver, Gurunatham, died within a few days of the incident.

## Hospital booked for giving baby in adoption

BENGALURU The Halasuru police have filed an FIR against doctors and staff of a private hospital here for allegedly giving a 17-day-old baby girl for adoption illegally without the consent of her mother. The mother is 23 years old and unmarried. Fearing that the family would be ostracised, her grandmother told the doctors that they did not want the baby. "The baby was then handed over to a childless couple," said the police. The police have restored the baby to the mother.

# Protests against vet's rape and murder continue in Telangana

Police seek custody of the four accused; students demand the death penalty



One voice: Students taking part in a protest in Hyderabad on Monday seeking justice for the vet's rape and murder. ■ K.V.S. GIRI

## STAFF REPORTER HYDERABAD

A petition filed by the Cyberabad police in the Shadnagar court on Monday seeking custody of the four accused in the vet's rape and murder case was posted for Tuesday for orders, even as protests seeking justice continued across Telangana.

The investigators sought custody of the accused for 10 days to reconstruct the crime scene and gather further evidence to connect them with the crime.

The court could not pass any order on the petition on Monday as the Public Prosecutor was not available.

Speaking to *The Hindu*, a senior officer said: "We are hopeful that the court will grant custody of the accused on Tuesday, as we have to

connect the dots in the case."

Telangana Director General of Police M. Mahender Reddy, who reviewed the progress of the case on Sunday night, instructed police officials to ensure police-bound completion of the investigation.

**Fast track court** Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao on Sunday directed that a fast track court be set up for speedy trial in the case.

Meanwhile, protests against the heinous crime continued in the city and other parts of Telangana on Monday with students, lawyers and others taking out rallies and holding demonstrations demanding death penalty for the four accused.

Raising slogans such as "We want justice" and holding placards that read "Hang the rapists", the protesters condemned the incident.

Advocates under the banner of the Telangana Advocates Joint Action Committee also held protests and observed a candlelight vigil near the High Court here.

Protests were also held by school students and different student groups and others at various places in the State, demanding capital punishment for the accused.

The charred body of the woman, working as an assistant veterinarian at a State-run hospital, was found under a culvert at Shadnagar on November 28 morning, a day after the 26-year-old went missing.

Four men, all lorry work-

ers, aged between 20 and 24, were arrested on November 29 on charges of raping and killing the woman by smothering her and later burning the body.

## In solitary confinement

They were sent to judicial custody for 14 days on Saturday. The four, who faced violent protests while being taken to the prison, are now kept in solitary confinement at the Cherlapally prison in the city.

The Mahabubnagar district court Bar Association and the Ranga Reddy Bar Association have decided not to represent the accused citing "moral and social responsibility" in view of the "heinous crime committed by the accused."

(With PTI inputs)



A.P. Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy interacts with a patient at a Guntur hospital on Monday. ■ T. VIJAYA KUMAR

## A.P. Chief Minister reaches out to patients

## Launches post-operative allowance

## STAFF REPORTER GUNTUR

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy on Monday launched the YSR Aasara scheme under which post-operative sustenance allowance of ₹225 each per day will be paid for the period of treatment to those covered by the Aarogyasri healthcare programme.

"During padayatra, I heard your pleas and promised that I would stand by you. I have already announced that all families whose annual income is below ₹5 lakh per annum will be covered under the Aarogyasri scheme. Any medical treatment above ₹1,000 will be covered. In addition to that, we are extending the scheme to cover 2,000 types of diseases from January 1, 2020, and give a monthly allowance of ₹10,000 each to all those afflicted with kidney disease and thalassemia," said Mr. Reddy after launching the new scheme on the Guntur Medical College premises.

**Chemotherapy covered** In a major relief for cancer patients, cycles of chemotherapy and radiotherapy have been brought under the ambit of the scheme.

The Chief Minister also rolled out the cochlear implant surgery scheme to benefit children suffering from the congenital disease. The State government would bear the entire burden which comes to ₹12 lakh per child, he said.

**Facelift for PHCs** All healthcare facilities ranging from PHCs to teaching hospitals would be given a complete facelift, Mr. Reddy said, adding that 1,060 ambulances would be procured by April next.

Announcing a series of measures to revamp Aarogyasri, launched in 2008 by his father Y.S. Rajasekhara Reddy, the Chief Minister said new QR code-enabled Aarogyasri Cards, which would have medical records of the patients, would be made available from January 1, 2020.

The scheme would be launched in West Godavari district on January 1, 2020, and later extended to all other districts. The Chief Minister interacted with 10 patients who have been given the allowance.

Among them is Satya Leela, who is recuperating after an orthopaedic surgery on November 25. She was given the allowance for 60 days.

## Guruvayur Kesavan comes alive on a field in Kerala

## Farmer uses rice paddy art to replicate image

## E.M. MANOJ KALPETA

A 3D replica of the legendary elephant, Guruvayur Kesavan, is taking shape on a farmland in Kerala's Wayanad district.

Praseed Kumar, a progressive farmer at Thayyil in Sultan Bathery, is using rice paddy art, a 3D art form, to depict the celebrated Guruvayur temple elephant that died in 1976.

## Four varieties used

Mr. Kumar has used the violet-coloured Krishna Kamod, a Basmati rice variety, and Karuvachi, an indigenous rice variety of Wayanad, to give shape to the image. He also used Gandhakasala and Jeerakasala, two rice varieties of the district known for their aroma, for setting the border of the artwork.

## Mother hands

Over four of six children to child welfare council

## SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The Kerala State Council for Child Welfare on Monday took into its care four children of a family, living in the State capital, that was on the verge of starvation.

The plight of the family with six children came to light on Saturday after local people dialled 1517 and alerted the Thanal project under the Council, which extends assistance to children in trouble.

A team, including Thanal State coordinator Bahuleyan Nair K., and social workers rushed to Kaithamukku in Thiruvananthapuram where the family was living in a



An aerial view of a field with the 3D art of Guruvayur Kesavan in Wayanad district. ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

This is the third consecutive year that Mr. Kumar is creating eye-catching shapes in his rice field at Nambikkolli under the Nenmeni Krishni

Bhavan. "The farmers of Inakadate village in Japan started using paddy art, a landscape design, to beautify their fields three decades

ago. They drew huge replicas of famous paintings, including Mona Lisa, by growing rice with fronds of different colours. This art form is

called Tanbo Art or rice paddy art," Mr. Kumar said.

"Today, Inakadate art forms draw over 2,000 visitors a year to the small

## Govt. steps in to help starving Kerala family



In penury: The shanty where the family lives at Kaithamukku in Thiruvananthapuram. ■ S. MAHINSHA

the Council took charge of the four older children – two boys aged seven and five, and two girls aged four and three – and shifted them to the rescue shelter run by it.

The two younger children – aged one-and-a-half years and the three months – were left with the parents as they required maternal care. The Council has ensured an

adequate supply of milk powder and other essentials for the infants, Mr. Deepak said.

"The mother, in her letter to us, said the children would die of hunger unless we took over their responsibility," Mr. Deepak said.

## Alcoholic father

According to the mother's petition, the father of the children, a daily wage labourer, was an alcoholic. He was also abusive, she said.

After news broke of the abject conditions of the family, Mayor K. Sreekumar visited the family and promised a temporary job for the mother from Tuesday. Stating that the family would be allotted a unit in one of the completed flats, he added that the Thiruvananthapuram Corporation would take responsibility for the children's education.

textbooks should be changed". The lessons related to the Mysuru ruler are there in the sixth, seventh and tenth standard books.

The controversy over this was raked up by Madikeri MLA Appachu Ranjan who wrote to the Department of Primary and Secondary Education seeking removal of lessons on Tipu as he was a 'fanatic'. The first meeting on this was held on November 7 which saw a protracted debate between subject experts and Mr. Ranjan who argued that Tipu was a cruel leader and demanded that all lessons be removed and he shouldn't be glorified.

The subject experts, however, said only facts pertaining to him and his regime had been presented and no attempt had been made to glorify him.

## Kerala govt. 'harassing' women going to Sabarimala: petitioner

State acting in gross contempt of court, Supreme Court told

## LEGAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

A woman alleged in the Supreme Court on Monday that the Kerala government was giving a "free hand" to unlawful elements to harass and attack women devotees between 10 and 50 years of age en route to the Sabarimala temple.

Bindu A. noted that the Supreme Court judgment of September 28, 2018 has not been stayed in review. By not allowing entry of women of all ages, the Kerala government was acting in gross contempt of court, she said.

Ms. Bindu, represented by advocate Prashant Padmanabhan and in a petition settled by senior advocate Indira Jaising, narrated her own experience, saying she was attacked and even confined in a hospital.

The police had refused to



Bindu A. being attacked with pepper spray outside the office of the Police Commissioner in Kochi last week. ■ PTI

of protection. She was sprayed on the face with a chemical substance by a man, whom she had identified. Women like her were subjected to violence, which was not only physical but also psychological, she said.

Ms. Bindu urged the court to direct Kerala to ensure safe passage to women to the Sabarimala temple, regardless of their age or reli-

gion. "Direct immediate cessation of age verification and counselling done by the police officials at the behest of State of Kerala discouraging women of menstruating age from visiting Sabarimala and initiate appropriate proceedings against any State officials or private individuals who act in defiance of the orders of this court," her plea said.

## Intel's design and engineering facility opens in Hyderabad

## SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD

Intel India on Monday opened a 3,00,000 sq ft Design and Engineering Centre in Hyderabad, a facility in the tech major expects will make significant contributions to its critical global products, technologies across next-generation SOCs, graphics, hardware platforms and software.

One of the important tasks the 1,500-seater facility will focus on is the Exascale Computing project.

Describing it as the begin-

ning of a significant chapter, Intel Corporation chief architect and GM of Architecture, Graphics and Software Raja M. Koduri said "the U.S.'s first Exascale computer is going to be built here."

It would take about a year for all seats at the centre to be filled up, he said, even as IT Minister K.T. Rama Rao, who inaugurated the centre, expressed the hope that "it will be done in six months."

Intel India Country Head Nirvuthi Rai said "we will look at all kinds of skills, not just focusing on AI... we will

build a complete organisation here." "Our new design facility will enable us to further boost innovation," she said. Exascale Computing has the ability to process large amounts of data and Intel was in discussion with a few partners, she added.

An Intel release said the Design and Engineering Centre also consists of 40,000 sq. ft. labs and an incubation centre for hardware and systems start-ups of Hyderabad to "advance Intel's engagements with Hyderabad's ecosystem".

village, which has a population of only 7,985," Mr. Kumar said.

"Farm tourism is gradually flourishing in the district too and the art form will help farmers get a share of the tourism industry's profits," Mr. Kumar said.

"If the Japanese farmers can attract the attention of a huge crowd, we can also replicate it here with the support of governments," the young farmer said. It would also encourage local youth to take up agriculture seriously, in turn ensuring food security, he said.

## ₹5,000 spent on artwork

Mr. Kumar has spent nearly ₹5,000 on the artwork on 20 cents of farmland.

A. Prasad, an artist of AI Art at Sultan Bathery, drew the outline.

Mr. Kumar has also cultivated 51 rare varieties of rice seeds on his six acres of land and has a website to market the seeds.

## Lessons on Tipu will stay, says draft report

## TANU KULKARNI BENGALURU

The special committee formed to deliberate on whether lessons pertaining to Mysuru ruler Tipu Sultan should be dropped, retained, or modified in Karnataka school textbooks is learnt to have concluded that they should be retained.

The committee members, consisting of subject experts, are likely to submit a report to the Karnataka Textbook Society on December 6. But sources pointed out that there would be at least two reports – one pertaining to primary school textbooks and another related to high school textbooks – that would be submitted.

The draft states that "not a single word in the existing

IN BRIEF



ED concludes arguments on plea in Mallya case

NEW DELHI  
The Enforcement Directorate has concluded arguments on a plea for confiscation of ₹14,000 crore assets linked to businessman Vijay Mallya, who was declared a runaway under the Fugitive Economic Offenders Act (FCOA) in January. Proceedings on the question of confiscation are under way before a Mumbai court.

Arun Shourie suffers brain injury, hospitalised

PUNE  
Former Union Minister Arun Shourie sustained a brain injury after he fainted and fell near his home in Lavasa and was admitted to a private hospital here in Maharashtra, a doctor said on Monday. Mr. Shourie, 78, fell near his bungalow in Lavasa while out on a walk on Sunday night, leaving him bleeding and unconscious, he said. PTI

SIT starts probe into Kunduli gang-rape case

BERHAMPUR  
A three-member SIT formed by the Orissa High Court started its investigation into the Kunduli gang-rape case in Odisha's Koraput district on Monday. On October 10, 2017, the 15-year-old girl had alleged that she had been gang-raped by four armed persons dressed in uniforms of paramilitary forces near Kunduli under Pottangi police station limits.

## SC declines plea against polygamy

'Will consider listing the case after the winter vacation'

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI  
The Supreme Court on Monday did not accede to a request to urgently list a petition seeking a declaration that the practice of polygamy and *nikah halala* are unconstitutional.

A Bench led by Chief Justice of India Sharad A. Bobde told petitioner-advocate Ashwini Upadhyay that the court would consider listing the case after the winter vacation.

The petition wants the court to declare Section 2 of



of polygamy and *nikah halala*.

**'Need of the hour'**  
Mr. Upadhyay has contended that a "ban on polygamy and *nikah halala* has been the need of the hour to secure basic rights and in the interests of public order, morality and health".

"Injury caused to women through practice of triple talaq, polygamy and *nikah halala* is violative of Articles 14, 15 and 21 of the Constitution, insofar as it seeks to recognise and validate the prac-

tice of polygamy and *nikah halala*.

The Muslim Personal Law (Shariat) Application Act, 1937, unconstitutional and in violation of Articles 14, 15 and 21 of the Constitution, insofar as it seeks to recognise and validate the prac-

## SC notice to Centre, IMA on doctors' strike

Stir in June was against 2014 order: NGO

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI  
The Supreme Court on Monday asked the Union government and the Indian Medical Association (IMA) to respond to a contempt petition filed by NGO People for Better Treatment blaming them of turning a blind eye to a nationwide strike called by doctors despite a 2014 court prohibition.

A Bench led by Chief Justice of India Sharad A. Bobde issued the notice on the petition filed by the

NGO. The plea said neither the government nor the IMA tried to prevent the doctors' strike on June 17, 2019 that left patients in dire straits.

The strike was held to demonstrate solidarity with the striking doctors of West Bengal following the assault on two junior doctors at NRS Hospital in Kolkata.

The petition said the strike was held despite the November 11, 2014 court order, which "held that doctors should not resort to strike under any condition".

A Bench led by Chief Justice of India Sharad A. Bobde issued the notice on the petition filed by the

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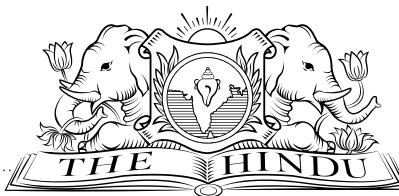
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## Winning the peace

India must ensure Sri Lanka makes certain security, dignity, and prosperity for the Tamils

The visit last week of Sri Lanka's new President Gotabaya Rajapaksa to India and his extended talks with Prime Minister Narendra Modi was an affirmation by the two nations to make good bilateral ties a priority for each. Mr. Rajapaksa is aware of the proximity between India and Sri Lanka, and the interlinked and complicated peoples' histories. In comments to *The Hindu*, he made it clear that he wants consistency and constant communication to avoid the problems of the past. In the last decade, these have included India's concerns about the pace of reconciliation in the Tamil-majority North and East, the welcoming of Chinese investment for major projects including the Hambantota port and Colombo harbour and military engagement, unhappiness over the slow pace of clearance for Indian projects, and other bilateral issues. In Colombo there has been the overhanging suspicion that Indian intelligence agencies play a role in domestic politics, including the 2015 defeat of Mahinda Rajapaksa. In the hour-long conversation the two leaders had, it seemed apparent that there was some clarity on all issues and a will to build a new future. There was also a recognition that after working together closely against the LTTE, there were new threats, especially in the wake of the Easter Day bombings by an Islamic State-affiliated group that has Indian links. India's announcement of \$50-million in aid along with an additional \$400-million in development aid is proof of that. India's and Sri Lanka's security is "indivisible" Mr. Modi said, indicating the need for more high-level contacts. Mr. Rajapaksa accepted Mr. Modi's invitation to make his first presidential visit abroad to New Delhi, and has invited the Indian leader to be the first State guest he welcomes to Colombo.

However, the next few months will reveal how much the new regime will actually work to engage New Delhi's concerns. Apart from clearances for infrastructure projects in the north, port projects in Trincomalee, and the airport in Mattala, Mr. Rajapaksa will be judged on how far he regulates investment and manage debts to China. Above all, his attitude towards the less developed areas of the North and East, where most minorities did not vote for him, will be keenly watched. His stated desire to place development over devolution commitments will be a cause for worry for New Delhi as well as Chennai, that have consistently urged the Sri Lankan government to ensure what the MEA called "dignity, peace, equality and justice" for Tamils; they suffered devastating losses during the three decades of war and remain less prosperous than the rest of the Island country. While a war can be won in a defined and short span, winning the peace and healing people is an extended process that takes decades, a process that India will follow closely in Sri Lanka.

## Terror in London

Efforts to stop lone-wolf attacks must use community leaders, deradicalisation plans

The knife attack on Friday near London Bridge that killed two and injured three others is yet another reminder of the threat lone-wolf assaults pose to public security. The attacker, Usman Khan, who was born in the U.K. to immigrants from Pakistan-held Kashmir, was a convicted terrorist. He was released in December 2018 with conditions after serving half his jail term. On Friday, Khan was attending a prisoner rehabilitation programme at Fishmongers' Hall, a historic building on the northern end of London Bridge. Wearing a fake explosive vest, he first threatened to blow up the building and then went on a killing spree. He was driven out of the hall by members of the public and was later shot dead by the police. This is the latest in a series of terror attacks the U.K., especially London, has seen in recent years. In June 2017, terrorists had rammed a van into pedestrians on the Bridge and stabbed people in nearby bars and restaurants. In the same month, a van ran into pedestrians outside a London mosque. In May that year, a suicide bomber killed 22 concert-goers in Manchester. With the latest attack, which the Islamic State has claimed responsibility for, Khan at least succeeded in keeping the threat of terror to London alive.

While radicalisation is the primary problem, Friday's attack also points to security, intelligence and systemic failures. While the British intelligence is often credited for foiling dozens of terrorist attacks since the 2005 London train bombings that killed 56, less sophisticated, less coordinated, often lone-wolf attacks are on the rise. Usman was convicted in 2012 for being part of an al-Qaeda-linked plot to bomb the London Stock Exchange. He was sentenced under the imprisonment for public protection (IPP) programme, which allowed the authorities to keep him, or convicts considered a threat to the public, in prison indefinitely. But when the Conservative-Liberal government withdrew the IPP, he got the verdict overturned and was sentenced to 16 years. Under the automatic early release scheme, he was freed in 2018 with an electronic tag and supposed to be monitored. But the police still could not prevent the knife attack. And with hardly two weeks to go before the parliamentary election, both Labour and the Tories have taken the issue to the political battle and promised to address the systemic issues – making policing more efficient and reviewing the early release scheme. While these could take time and are up to the next government, what is needed is a good counter-terror plan to tackle both extremism among youth and prevent lone-wolf attacks that often go undetected. For this, state agencies need to work with civil society groups as well as community leaders and have deradicalisation programmes. There is no one-stop solution to terrorism.

# Taking stock of the anti-AIDS fight

The slowdown, which places targets out of reach, calls for a renewal of political commitment, finances and engagement



K. SRINATH REDDY

**T**he Sustainable Development Goals (SDG), adopted by member countries of the United Nations in 2015, set a target of ending the epidemics of AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria by 2030 (SDG 3.3). The key indicator chosen to track progress in achieving the target for HIV/AIDS is "the number of new HIV infections per 1,000 uninfected population, by sex, age and key populations". In the terminology of HIV prevention and control, the phrase "key populations" refers to: men who have sex with men; people who use injected drugs; people in prisons and other closed settings; sex workers and their clients, and transgender persons.

### Bridging gaps

In order to infuse energy and urgency into global efforts to combat HIV/AIDS and complement the prevention target set by the SDGs, an ambitious treatment target was also adopted through UNAIDS, the lead UN agency that coordinates the battle against HIV. The "90-90-90" target stated that by 2020, 90% of those living with HIV will know their HIV status, 90% of all people with diagnosed HIV infection will receive sustained anti-retroviral therapy and 90% of all people on such therapy will have viral suppression. The gaps in detection, initiation of drug therapy and effective viral control were to be bridged to reduce infectivity, severe morbidity and deaths from undetected and inadequately treated persons already infected

with HIV, even as prevention of new infections was targeted by SDG 3.3.

Where are we, at the end of 2019, on the road to the 2020 and 2030 targets? While much success has been achieved in the past 20 years in the global battle against AIDS, there has been a slowdown in progress which seems to place the targets out of reach. There has to be a fresh surge of high-level political commitment, financial support, health system thrust, public education, civil society engagement and advocacy by affected groups – all of which were part of the recipe for rapid progress in the early part of this century.

### High and low points

It is the confluence of those ingredients that made it possible for the world to achieve a reduction in new HIV infections by 37% between 2000 and 2018. HIV-related deaths fell by 45%, with 13.6 million lives saved due to Anti-Retroviral Therapy (ART). Not only were effective drugs developed to combat a disease earlier viewed as an inescapable agent of death but they also became widely available due to generic versions generously made available by Indian generic manufacturers, led by the intrepid Yusuf Hamied. A rush of public and private financing flowed forth in a world panicked by the pandemic. Ignorance and stigma were vigorously combated by coalitions of HIV-affected persons who were energetically supported by enlightened sections of civil society and the media. Never before had the world of global health resonated so readily to the rallying cry for adopting a rights-based approach and assuring access to life-saving treatments. According to a recent report by UNAIDS, of the 38 million persons now living with HIV, 24 million are receiving ART, as



compared to only 7 million nine years ago.

Why then the concern now? At the end of 2018, while 79% of all persons identified as being infected by HIV were aware of the fact, 62% were on treatment and only 53% had achieved viral suppression – falling short of the 90-90-90 target set for 2020. Due to gaps in service provision, 770,000 HIV-infected persons died in 2018 and 1.7 million persons were newly affected.

There are worryingly high rates of new infection in several parts of the world, especially among young persons. Only 19 countries are on track to reach the 2030 target. While improvements have been noted in eastern and southern Africa, central Asia and eastern Europe have had a setback, with more than 95% of the new infections in those regions occurring among the 'key populations'. Risk of acquiring HIV infection is 22 times higher in homosexual men and intravenous drug users, 21 times higher in sex workers and 12 times more in transgender persons.

### Complacency, new factors

There are several reasons for the slowdown in progress. The success achieved in the early part of this century, through a determined global thrust against the global threat, led to a complacent assumption of a conclusive victory. The expanded health agenda in the SDGs stretched the resources of national health systems, even as

global funding streams started identifying other priorities. Improved survival rates reduced the fear of what was seen earlier as dreaded death and pushed the disease out of the headlines. The information dissemination blitz that successfully elevated public awareness on HIV prevention did not continue to pass on the risk-related knowledge and strong messaging on prevention-oriented behaviours to a new generation of young persons. Vulnerability of adolescent girls to sexual exploitation by older men and domineering male behaviours inflicting HIV infection on unprotected women have been seen as factors contributing to new infections in Africa.

Even the improved survival rates in persons with HIV bring forth other health problems that demand attention. Risk factors for cardiovascular disease are high among survivors as they age, with anti-retroviral drugs increasing the risk of atherosclerosis. Other infectious diseases, such as tuberculosis can co-exist and cannot be addressed by a siloed programme. Mental health disorders are a challenge in persons who are on lifelong therapy for a serious disease that requires constant monitoring and often carries stigma.

### Need for vigil in India

The Indian experience has been more positive but still calls for continued vigilance and committed action. HIV-related deaths declined by 71% between 2005 and 2017. HIV infection now affects 22 out of 10,000 Indians, compared to 38 out of 10,000 in 2001-03. India has an estimated 2.14 million persons living with HIV and records 87,000 estimated new infections and 69,000 AIDS-related deaths annually. Nine States have rates higher than the national prevalence figure. Mizoram leads with

204 out of 10,000 persons affected. The total number of persons affected in India is estimated to be 21.40 lakh, with females accounting for 8.79 lakh. Assam, Mizoram, Meghalaya and Uttarakhand showed an increase in numbers of annual new infections. The strength of India's well-established National AIDS Control Programme, with a cogent combination of prevention and case management strategies, must be preserved.

Drug treatment of HIV is now well founded with an array of established and new anti-viral drugs. The success of drug treatment to prevent mother-to-child transmission, pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) and post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP), and male circumcision, especially among MSM population, is well-documented. Given the wide diversity of the HIV virus strains, development of a vaccine has been highly challenging but a couple of candidates are in early stage trials. However, mere technical innovations will not win the battle against HIV/AIDS. Success in our efforts to reach the 2030 target calls for resurrecting the combination of political will, professional skill and wide-ranging pan-society partnerships that characterised the high tide of the global response in the early part of this century.

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**K. Srinath Reddy** is President, Public Health Foundation of India, and author of *'Make in India: Reaching a Billion Plus'*. The views expressed are personal

## In telecom, time to send the right signals

The government needs to take bold action like it did in 1999; it is critical to have multiple players



ASHOK JHUNJHUNWALA

**I**n the early 1990s, India had merely seven million telephones with a waiting time of seven to eight years to get a connection. The simple reason was that the cost of installing a landline telephone was too high and the required average revenue per user (ARPU) just to break even was ₹1,250 per month, which was too high for most Indians at that time.

Indian telecom grew at a slow pace through government policies and subsidies. It is in this context that wireless telephony was introduced. This would bring down the capital cost, make telephones affordable in India, would be easier to install and bring in private investments for a potentially profitable business.

### Rapid growth

The results have been nothing short of dramatic. The telecommunications sector has grown at a rapid pace, riding on a virtuous cycle of growing demand and increasing competition that has pushed down prices to levels not seen anywhere else in the world.

Today, the sector is at a turning point. The troubles of today are rooted in the fast-paced growth of yesterday and regulation that increased tele-density by pushing down ARPs. This drove businesses to work with a single mind focus on consumer acquisition as the base of users ballooned. It is im-

portant to take a historic look if one is to understand the imbroglio of today.

The first telecom auctions for private players were in 1995. The financial bids were unbelievably high; some international consultants proposed large licence fees without understanding Indian affordability. As the dust settled, the winners realised that the bids were economically unsustainable. Several legal ploys were used to stop the payment against bids, cases multiplied, and the telecom dream was stillborn. In 1999, when Atal Bihari Vajpayee became Prime Minister, a group of telecom academics and professionals advised him that the only way out of this imbroglio was to cancel the licence fees due to the government and introduce the "revenue-share" model. He was worried that he would be accused of selling the country and causing huge "loss of revenue". But this group egged him on saying that India needed this bold step for telecom to thrive and he could do this only in his first hundred days. The Prime Minister took the bold step and licensees were offered an option to switch to revenue-share instead of upfront licence fees.

This bold step got mobile telephony going. The installation cost of wireless telephony was less than one-fourth of a landline telephone. Low ARPU was no longer a big concern. By around 2003, India had around 300 million telephone lines and the urban market was saturating. Airtel, Vodafone and Idea, with their GSM mobile licence, were the leaders. The CDMA mobile licensees had grown slowly, stuck with a technology without a future and could not

compete. Rural markets required lower tariff, but the GSM trio were happy with the urban market and resisted reduction in tariffs. The market grew at a slow pace since then.

It was around 2007 that the then government saw this imbroglio and found ways to give new GSM licences using primarily revenue-share. These newcomers, primarily Reliance Communications (RCOM) and Tata Teleservices, dropped tariffs and introduced per-second billing. Others had to follow. The market grew quickly to 900 million lines. Indian telecom was thriving. The operators were making decent money, even with lower tariffs. Till then, India was using only 2G telephony. Data and Internet was at very low speed; 3G telephony was just being introduced and operators were haggling for more 3G spectrum in 900 MHz and 1800 MHz bands. The government was periodically conducting auctions since 2010, fetching large spectrum bids.

### Old versus new players

Around 2013, the Government made available some spectrum in the 2300-2500 MHz band. This was not considered suitable for 3G telephony then; 4G was in its infancy and there was some concern about technology standards and technology readiness. A new com-

pany, Reliance Jio, betted on it and won the whole spectrum pan-India through a partner company at a relatively lower price as there was little interest from established operators. Jio had to wait four years to get the technology ready and launched the 4G service late in 2016 and caught the imagination of users. It made voice calls almost free and offered good quality video on smart handsets at very low tariffs. Others did follow suit but paid higher amounts for spectrum in later auctions. Jio has been gaining market share since then. The older operators have been on the defensive, facing serious erosion in market share and profitability. RCOM and Tata Teleservices have been wiped out. Vodafone and Idea merged to just about survive. Airtel, the strongest operator two years back, continues to lose market share and profitability.

### Issue of penalties

It is at this time that the revenue-sharing agreement that companies like Airtel, Idea, Vodafone and others signed in 2001 has come to haunt them. The Supreme Court ruled this October that these companies are liable to pay revenue share not just on telecom revenue but all revenues of the company – sales proceeds on handsets, renting of their towers, infrastructure sharing, and even on dividend incomes from any investment. Furthermore, they have to pay huge late-fees and penalties, totalling ₹1.3 lakh crore.

While the court has rightly interpreted the written agreement of 2001, the amounts are enormous that when paid, is likely to bankrupt these players. The industry is already saddled with debt of

₹7 lakh crore. Once again India is faced with the prospect of a telecom monopoly or duopoly. Further, except that it says so in a contract, it makes little sense to pay revenue share to the government on unrelated businesses. If the operators ever thought otherwise, they would have hived off these businesses to a sister company as many have done since then.

It is precisely in such a precarious situation, that the government needs to act, just like it did in 1999. They could offer the operators payment of principal in instalments and waive off interest and penalties. It is critical for the nation to have multiple players compete in telecom services. Besides, the time has come to relook the role of telecom in the country. The Prime Minister has rightly emphasised the role digital connectivity plays in society. If India is to reap the benefit of being fully digital, government's taxes and earnings from telecom should be limited. Today, in addition to corporate taxes, the government's telecom revenue includes Goods and Services Tax, spectrum auction, revenue share as licence fees, amounting to about 30% of customer bill. The government should not look at the telecom sector primarily as a revenue-earner. The money could be better spent by operators to improve today's average service-quality. This would help telecom reach the remotest parts of the country and the service needs to continue to be affordable.

**Ashok Jhunjhunwala**, a Padma Shri for his work on wireless telephony, is a Professor at IIT Madras and has advised the government on the telecom sector in the past. Through The Billion Press

## 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.

**How safe?**  
India is a study in contrasts – it attempts to address rising aspirations by bringing women on a par with men in terms of participation in society, the economy and political spheres. At the other end, there has hardly been any progress in making India a safe place for women. Incidents of rape and harassment are being reported every other day, bringing shame to the nation. What is worrying is growing apathy. Small steps need to be made standard across India – active policing at public places is one. There also needs to be

a better police response time. Behavioural change and gender sensitisation programmes should be conducted in schools.

ROHAN DIXIT,  
New Delhi

■ The monstrous incident of the rape and murder of a young woman in Hyderabad has undoubtedly shocked the nation. Special fast track courts are essential to render speedy justice to survivors and their families. That the wheels of justice usually move slowly is obvious from the fact that those involved in the Nirbhaya case are yet to undergo extreme punishment. Measures to

help women such as imparting physical self-defence training, in all schools and colleges, need to be up immediately taken. Another idea would also be looking at arming women with mild chemical sprays which could help give them time to seek police help after immobilising their attackers.

A. MOHAN,  
Chennai

**Reviving Air India**  
While the government is on the look out for an interested buyer for Air India and new capital infusion to revive the airline has proved "ineffective, it is time that the authorities find able

managers to turn things around. People with job experience in managerial positions in private airlines must be engaged to manage the debt-stricken airline with absolute autonomy. Air India is most often the face of India and we cannot portray a poor image of the country even before travellers land on our soil (Editorial page, "Making Air India's disinvestment work", December 2).

SOURIYA RAY,  
Kolkata

**In print and the reality**  
The article, "The fountainhead of India's economic vitality" (OpEd,

December 2), comes at a time when the economy is in a tailspin, unemployment is at a record high, and industries are struggling to survive in general, the selling of some profit-making public sector units... the list can be endless. Whatever facts and figures the writer has provided may be good to look at in print, but the reality is that the life of the common man is stressful. Talk of a \$5-trillion economy is good to hear, but blunders

**CORRECTIONS & CLARIFICATIONS:**  
In the report titled "BJP puts up a brave face amid tribal discomfort" (Dec. 2, 2019), there was an erroneous reference to 22 ST reserved seats. It should have been 28.

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# The dubious legal case for an NRIC

The provisions that empower the government to carry out such an exercise smack of arbitrariness



JAIRAM RAMESH & MUHAMMAD KHAN

On November 20, 2019 the Union Home Minister, Mr. Amit Shah, answered a starred question in the Rajya Sabha thus: "Preparation of National Register of Indian Citizens (NRIC) is governed by the provisions of Section 14A of The Citizenship Act, 1955 and The Citizenship (Registration of Citizens and Issue of National Identity Cards) Rules 2003. Section 14A of the Citizenship Act, 1955 provides for compulsory registration of every citizen of India and maintenance of NRIC. The procedure to prepare and maintain NRIC is specified in The Citizenship (Registration of Citizens and Issue of National Identity Cards) Rules, 2003."

This answer is mischievously misleading inasmuch as it suggests that a nationwide NRIC is mandated by law. Section 14A in the Citizenship Act of 1955 provides in sub-section (1) that "The Central Government may compulsorily register every citizen of India and issue national identity card to him". The word "may" implies a discretion contingent on other factors that is at odds with the supposed "compulsory" nature envisaged immediately thereafter. A statute which issues a compulsory command must necessarily use the word "shall" and not the suggestive "may". It may be worthwhile to note that this section was introduced in January 2004 in the last days of the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) government.

**Rules that authorise an NRIC**  
Let us now examine the 2003 Rules cited by the Home Minister in the response given. Three Rules are of particular interest, Rules 11, 6 and 4, which seem to grant some vague sort of authority for a nationwide NRIC.

Rule 11 states that the "Registrar General of Citizen Registration shall cause to maintain the National Register of Indian Citizen in electronic or some other form which shall entail its continuous updating on the basis of extracts from various registers specified under the Registration of



A protest against Assam's National Register of Citizens in Kolkata, West Bengal, in July 2018. • AFP

Births and Deaths Act, 1969 and the [Citizenship] Act [1955]." It, therefore, confines the Registrar General's responsibility to a periodic revision of the National Register by updating it with the information available with the Registrar of Births and Deaths. No action or duty is enjoined upon the citizens to apply for (or prove) their citizenship afresh.

However, Rule 4 places the responsibility to carry out a census-like exercise on the Central government and not on citizens. This deals with the "Preparation of the National Register of Indian Citizens" which provides that the Central Government shall carry out a "house-to-house enumeration for collection for particulars related to each family and individual including the citizenship status". This is a distinctly passive process compared to the gruelling exercise that was forced upon citizens in Assam. In fact, the Assam exercise of making "residents" register vis-à-vis a specific cut-off date (in the form in which it was done) was an explicit exception, inserted by amendment through Rule 4A in 2009, and not the norm.

In direct conflict with both the above rules, Rule 6 provides that every individual must get himself/herself registered with the Local Registrar of Citizen Registrations during the period of initialisation (the period specified as the start date of the NRIC). Note that this does not begin with a non-obstante clause or words that give it overriding effect over all

other clauses. What this means is that this rule is circumscribed by the other clauses in the Act.

Herein arises the dilemma, as a direct consequence of contradictory provisions in the Rules. We have Rule 11, which says that updating the NRIC entails updating the information available with 'Registrar of Births and Deaths' with no *de novo* process envisaged. Then, we have Rule 4, which says that a census-like exercise shall be carried out and, if the Central government wants to exclude a citizen, it will give him/her a hearing. And then, we have Rule 6, which says that a citizen shall have to get himself/herself registered once a start period is specified. These Rules are in direct contradiction with one another, and smack of non-application of mind and arbitrariness.

#### Not mandatory

To conclude, the blunt answer as to whether the NRIC exercise is mandatory and inescapable is 'no'. The rules, as currently drafted, do envisage other less destructive scenarios to register "citizens" (not "residents") which, one can argue, are redundant in the wake of the Aadhaar Act and not mandatory. This ambiguity is also clear from the answer given in Parliament which, in a typically too-clever-by-half fashion, does not cite the exact rules that empower the Central government to carry out this exercise. However, under the Act, the Centre continues to enjoy rule-making powers and could issue

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Muhammad Khan is an advocate

rules which could make it mandatory in the Assam format.

There are other questions as well. Under the Foreigners Act of 1946, the burden of proving whether an individual is a citizen or not, lies upon the individual applicant and not on the state (Section 9). Will the proposed NRIC strip bona fide citizens of basic legal protections by inverting the burden of proof just to satisfy the nefarious political agenda of the ruling establishment?

The last time the Central government tried to make an identity enrolment mandatory was the Aadhaar project and this was struck down as excessive (except in limited and justifiable cases). The NRIC scheme, as proposed, would thus be directly in violation of the K.S. Puttaswamy judgment. Furthermore, not acquiring an Aadhaar number does not subject a citizen to the serious penal consequences envisaged in the case of an NRIC, i.e., the loss of citizenship. Can a piece of delegated legislation do so? The short answer is no. Not without violating Articles 14 and 21 of the Constitution.

The NRIC exercise promises to inflict a long period of insecurity on well over a billion people. The individuals most likely to suffer are those at the very margins of poverty, who risk being rendered stateless and worse, being incarcerated in detention camps which are truly a blot on our democracy. But what is all this in aid of? What public interest is sought to be achieved? Such a register (NRC) has existed since 1951 only in Assam, as a special case. Incidentally, that NRC – implemented under Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)-ruled Central and State governments – has debunked hugely the BJP's own exaggerated numbers regarding the extent of such 'illegal migration'. Now, the clamour is for a new NRC in Assam. It appears that facts must be made to fit prejudices and propaganda. The truth of the matter is that the Prime Minister and the Home Minister are always in search of divisive issues which have little relevance to day-to-day concerns of livelihoods. Their abject failures in economic management are being sought to be covered up by constantly harping on NRIC and citizenship issues.

# Creating an Indo-Pak. trade corridor through Punjab

A free trade area can tap into the idea of *punjabiyat*



PRABHASH RANJAN

India-Pakistan relations have always been viewed through the prism of Kashmir. But, as noted security expert C. Raja Mohan argued, the opening of the Kartarpur corridor has unlocked the possibility of looking at bilateral relations through the prism of Punjab and the idea of *punjabiyat*. While some believe that Pakistan's interest in opening this religious corridor is to revive the Khalistan movement, others look at this as a harbinger of normal relations between the countries.

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While the Article's obligations apply to all trade agreements in goods entered into by all WTO member countries, paragraph 11 of the article exempts the application of these requirements to a trade deal that India and Pakistan may enter into. The GATT contracting parties recognised that India and Pakistan

have long constituted one economic unit and thus should be allowed to enter into special agreements. Paragraph 11 allows India and Pakistan to do two things. First, the two countries can enter into special trading arrangements pending the establishment of mutual trade relations on a definitive basis, and such an arrangement need not meet the requirements of the entire GATT. Second, even after the two countries agree upon trade arrangements, they may depart from GATT rules. The only requirement is that these arrangements should in general be consistent with GATT's objectives – a condition that would not be difficult to satisfy.

#### Peace dividend

Liberal internationalists argue that there is a positive correlation between trade and peace. Free trade fosters better economic relations between countries and boosts ties of interdependence between the private sectors and the governments. This interdependence creates new constituencies which demand and lobby for peace as it serves their interests. The overall net-effect is fewer conflicts, thus more peaceful relations. In the context of India-Pakistan ties, researchers have long argued that augmenting bilateral trade can yield a 'peace dividend'. India needs to appreciate that there is not one but several 'Pakistan' to deal with. While it should deal resolutely with the Pakistani deep state, it also needs to reach out to the business community, including in Pakistani Punjab, and nurture these peace constituencies, as part of a larger political process. Boosting trade can be one way to cultivate such peace constituencies.

India and Pakistan have to collectively fight against the scourge of poverty. Trade can play an important role in this. Bilateral trade is today languishing at around \$2.5 billion annually, while the potential, according to the World Bank, is \$37 billion. Trade ties between the two countries hit rock bottom when Islamabad, recklessly, suspended all trade ties after the Article 370 decision in August. Earlier, India had unilaterally increased custom duties on all Pakistani products to 200%, post the Pulwama terror attack in February. On its part, Pakistan did not honour its most favoured nation obligation towards India for a very long time. Creating a new trade corridor from Chandigarh to Lahore, and a free trade area across the Radcliffe Line can be the first principal move towards normalising trade interactions.

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## Bigger is not necessarily better

Policies aimed solely at economic growth may fail to address more structural issues

PULAPRE BALAKRISHNAN

At an election rally in Pune in October, Prime Minister Narendra Modi is reported to have said that the economy is on course to achieve the \$5 trillion mark by 2024, a target set by him in his last Independence Day speech.

Having emphasised his government's role in expanding India's economy, Mr. Modi went on to say that the bigger the economy the easier it was to eradicate poverty and fulfil the aspirations of the youth. He said that India's economy was full of opportunities for the youth and recent policy decisions, including tax reform and allowing foreign direct investment, would further boost its growth. Three pieces of evidence, all from public sources, douse this ebullient narrative.

First, we have the national accounts statistics showing a slowing of growth after 2016-2017. Growth has been lower in the following two years and has now begun slowing in successive quarters. If this continues, the attainment of the \$5 trillion mark within the next five years is not assured. However, it is two other pieces of evidence that matter more to our assessment of the progress allegedly being made. They point to the possibility that the \$5 trillion economy may not be such a happy destination whenever it may be reached.

**Data on jobs, consumption**  
The evidence are the unemployment figures contained in the Periodic Labour Force Survey released in May and the consumption figures in the latest consumer expenditure survey of the National Statistics Office yet to be released. A report in a prominent financial daily presented the main findings of the latter, which we are informed was cleared for release in June but will no longer be released due to its "adverse" findings.

Earlier, the government had dragged its feet in releasing the employment report mentioned above. The reason for the reluctance is not difficult to see. These surveys report data for 2017-2018 showing unemployment to be at a 45-year high and consumption falling for the first time in over 40 years.

Between 2011-2012, the previous

year of both the surveys, and 2017-2018, the unemployment rate for rural men more than trebled while that for urban women more than doubled. The fall in consumption is less drastic than the rise in unemployment and the decline is confined to rural India.

It is not possible to say in which year since 2011-2012 these trends have set in but it is clear that the policies of the Modi government aimed

at expanding the size of the economy have not been able to reverse them. On the other hand, we know that 2017-2018 was the year of the introduction of the Goods and Services Tax and followed the one in which the demonetisation was implemented. There is, then, *prima facie* evidence that some of the policies of the government have had adverse effects for many Indians.

#### Persisting hardship

The observed rise in unemployment and decline in consumption don't just crimp growth, they both reveal persisting hardship in the economy and indicate that the pursuit of growth may fail to address it. The rise in unemployment is far higher in rural India and it is in this segment that consumption has fallen. The two policies that Mr. Modi took credit for in his Pune speech, namely tax reform and foreign direct investment, have no role here and can do little for the rural population.

Our recently derived public statistics agency has now presented data that enable an assessment of material well-being in the country. They converge in pointing to a poor record of the government in delivering it. We must engage with them, encourage them to raise their output to the global standard and to serve the public without fear or favour.

Pulapre Balakrishnan is Professor, Ashoka University, Sonipat and Senior Fellow, IIM Kozhikode



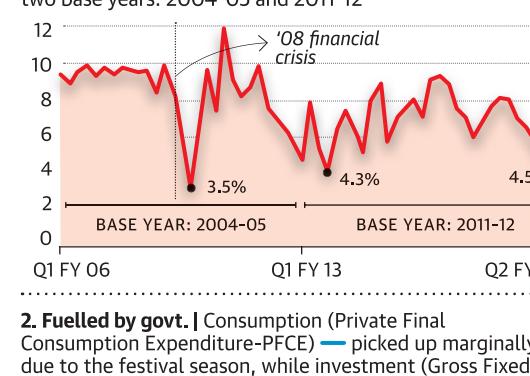
#### DATA POINT

## A new low

In the latest quarter, India's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) grew at the slowest pace in 6.5 years. Also, the growth was not fuelled by private consumption or investment, the prime drivers of the economy, but through government spending which surged in recent quarters.

By Suman Sen and Vignesh Radhakrishnan

**1. Among the slowest |** GDP grew at 4.5% in the latest quarter (July-Sept. FY20). It is the third slowest rate of growth since FY06. Graph shows GDP growth rate across two base years: 2004-05 and 2011-12



## FROM PAGE ONE

## 'Centre ready to strengthen rape law'

He also blamed the sale of liquor in Telangana for the unfortunate incident and alleged that the State government continued to violate Supreme Court guidelines.

DMK leader T.R. Baalu and Congress MP from Tamil Nadu, S. Jothimani raised the recent incident of rape of a school girl in Coimbatore.

Saugata Roy of the Trinamool Congress said even after the enactment of strict laws after the Nirbhaya case, rapes were still taking place. "You bring a law and make the offence of rape punishable only by death then [rape] convicts."

Telugu Desam Party member Ram Mohan Naidu agreed with such a stand on rape punishment and talked about gender sensitisation.

## Ayodhya case: Muslims file review plea

In fact, the court seems to have granted a mandamus to destroy the Babri Masjid and allowed the construction of a Ram temple on the disputed land, he said.

The petition said through its judgment, the court seems to have acknowledged "few of the several illegalities committed by the Hindu parties, particularly in 1934 [damaging the domes of the Babri Masjid], 1949 [desecrating the masjid] and 1992 [demolition of the masjid]". The court had erred in "rewarding" these crimes.

The plea stated the court had even gone on to "condone those very illegal acts and has awarded the disputed site to the very party which based its claims on nothing but a series of illegal acts". It had equated wanton acts of destruction and

and teaching boys. "A boy must be taught the meaning of 'No means No,'" he said.

This prompted Congress president Sonia Gandhi to thump her desk in approval.

Pinki Misra of the Biju Janata Dal said that enacting laws to have the deterrent effect would have little effect if they were not carried out fast.

He cited the Nirbhaya case where the death penalty to the rapists was confirmed by the Supreme Court and their mercy petitions were rejected. "But the authorities in Tihar don't know what to do with them [rape convicts]."

Government ally and Anna Dal MP Anupriya Patel said the State governments and even the Centre couldn't instil a sense of security among women.

## BJP, Congress spar over 'infiltrator' comment

trespass committed by the Hindu parties to acts of assertion of claim over the disputed site, the plea said.

With its judgment, the court had violated the settled legal principle that it cannot shelter parties who based their claim on an illegal act. "Further, this Court has, in an attempt to balance the reliefs between the parties, while condoning illegalities of the Hindu parties, has allotted alternate land admeasuring five acres to the Muslim parties, which was neither pleaded nor prayed for," the 217-page review plea contended.

The court wrongly applied its extraordinary constitutional powers under Article 142 of the Constitution to do complete justice, which in this case, was the reconstruction of the Babri Masjid.

## 17 killed as wall falls on 3 houses in Mettupalayam

The victims were identified as Anand Kumar, 40, his wife Nathiya, 30, and children Akshaya, 7, and Loguram, 7; Arukkani, 50, her mother Chinammal, 70, sister Rukmani, 40, and children Harisudha, 16, and Mahalakshmi, 10; Sivakami, 45, her daughter Vaidegi, 20, her husband Palanisamy's nephew Ramanathan, 20 and niece Nivedha, 18, mother Obiammal, 50; Thilagavathi, 50, Gurusamy, 45, and Mangalammal, 60.

Coimbatore Collector K. Rajamani told journalists that the government had ordered ₹4 lakh compensation for kin of the deceased.

He added that the villagers had informed him about the controversy over the construction of the compound wall. If found illegal,

(With PTI inputs)

## Panel picks holes in police 'encounter' story

Based on intelligence inputs of the presence of Maoists at Sarkeguda, a joint team of paramilitary and the State police launched an operation in the area on the night of June 28, 2012. On stumbling upon a "Maoist meeting", the security forces were allegedly fired upon, and in retaliation, killed some of the participants.

On the contrary, the villagers of Sarkeguda, Kottaguda and Rajapenta, who held the meeting, contend they had assembled to discuss the "Beej Pandum" festival, when security forces fired at them indiscriminately.

Cautioning that statements "from either parties suffer from discrepancies and shortcomings," the 75-page report stated circumstances and evidence on record will have to be "consi-

dered and discussed."

It noted, "It has not been proved that the persons killed and injured in the incident other than security personnel were Naxals, as there is no satisfactory evidence in that regard."

Yet, the Commission has cast doubts on the purpose of the meeting. "In view of the presence of anti-social elements also in the meeting, as also the timing and venue of the meeting and as it was being held in a clandestine manner, it appears highly doubtful that it was being held for the arrangement of festivity for Beej Pandum."

Had there been firing from the direction of the meeting, "senior officers who were fully armed would have certainly fired in retaliation and self-defence," noted the report.

## Rajya Sabha in rage over rape

Members moot drastic punishments including lynching and castration

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI



**Vociferous demand:** In her speech in the House, Samajwadi Party member Jaya Bachchan demanded lynching of rape accused. ■PTI

## Offenders' list

DMK member P. Wilson wanted the government to enact a law to castrate convicted rapists. "The courts should be empowered to surgically and chemically castrate convicted rapists before they are released from jails so as to check repeat offenders," he said. Mr. Wilson said the list of sexual offenders should be made public.

AIADMK member Vijila Sathyaran sought "immediate justice", and demanded that the four persons accused in the Hyderabad case be tried and hanged before December 31.

Members cutting across party lines sought a speedy trial and the death penalty for the rapists.

Rajya Sabha Chairman M. Venkaiah Naidu rejected adjournment motions, but allowed members to make

brief mentions on the Hyderabad case and other such incidents.

Mohammad Ali Khan of the Congress wanted a timeline to be set for trial in fast-track courts, and urged that the religious identities of the accused not be used to give the crime a religious colour.

AKALI DAL MP Naresh Gujral said "fear of law" was no longer a deterrent.

The debate saw the Communist Party of India, which

is opposed to capital punishment, demand the death penalty for the accused. "I do not believe in the death penalty, but these accused should be hanged for such a heinous crime," party member Binoy Viswanath said.

Mr. Naidu questioned the mercy petition system. "Can anyone think of giving mercy to such people," he said. He also suggested that laws treating a 'juvenile' accused lightly ought to be revisited.



M. Venkaiah Naidu

Those absent were Dharmapuri Srinivas of the TRS, Ravi Prakash Verma of the SP, Ronald Sapa Thau of the Congress, M.D. Nadimul Haque of the Trinamool, Sasikala of the AIADMK, Binoy Viswanath of the CPI and Pradip Bhattacharya of the Congress.

"I met the Chairman and told him that I had stepped out to go to the washroom since there were four names ahead of mine. When I returned, I saw that the questioned listed against my name had already been skipped," Mr. Viswanath said.

## Venkaiah upset at absence of members

Rajya Sabha adjourned earlier

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

The absence of seven members who raised starred questions led to the adjournment of the Rajya Sabha five minutes earlier on Monday.

House Chairman M. Venkaiah Naidu called it a "sorry state of affairs".

The Question Hour is held between noon and 1 p.m.

"I am sorry, I have to make an observation... There were 15 starred questions... Members were absent. After having asked the question, they are absent... It is a sorry state of affairs," Mr. Naidu said.

All the seven belonged to the Opposition parties.

"I hope the media will publish the names of those absent, those who are not coming to the House despite posing the questions, which is a serious matter. Today is Monday, the first working day," the Rajya Sabha Chairman said.

## Bill banning e-cigarettes passed

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

A Bill banning the manufacture and sale of electronic cigarettes, but not their possession and use, was passed by Parliament on Monday.

The Rajya Sabha passed the Prohibition of Electronic Cigarettes (Production, Manufacture, Import, Export, Transport, Sale, Distribution, Storage and Advertisement) Bill, 2019 by voice vote after four hours of discussion. The Bill, which was passed by the Lok Sabha on November 27, will replace an ordinance brought by the government on September 18.

Opposition MPs, however, alleged that the ban was enacted to benefit tobacco companies.

## BJP, Congress spar over 'infiltrator' comment

Sonia's foreign origin raised again after Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury's remark on Modi, Shah

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

BJP members in the Lok Sabha, including Parliamentary Affairs Minister Pralhad Joshi, on Monday raised the issue of Congress president Sonia Gandhi's foreign origin after party leader Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury refused to apologise for calling Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah *ghuspetia* (infiltrators).

Terming Mr. Chowdhury's remark an insult, Mr. Joshi and his deputy, Arjun Ram Meghwal, demanded an apology. When Mr. Chowdhury demanded that the Treasury benches should first hear him out and the context in which the infiltrator comment was made and refused an unconditional apology, Mr. Joshi referred to Ms. Gandhi's Italian origin.

On Sunday, speaking to the news agency ANI, Mr. Chowdhury termed the Prime Minister and the Home Minister "infiltrators" in Delhi as they had come from Gujarat and were now living in the national capital.

The comments triggered a fracas in the Lok Sabha during the Question Hour, when Mr. Chowdhury rose to ask a supplementary related to the Steel Ministry. BJP members tried to mock him by shouting the word "infiltrator" several times.

"Yes, I am an infiltrator, I am a *deemak* [termite – a reference to Mr. Shah's labelling illegal migrants as termites]. Modi is an infiltrator. Amit Shah is an infiltrator. L.K. Advani is an infiltrator," the Congress leader responded.

Union Petroleum and



**War of words:** Congress leader Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury speaking in the Lok Sabha on Monday. ■PTI

Steel Minister Dharmendra Pradhan shot back by saying, "Sab khulengi, aap ki paribhasha se desh nahi chalega (Everything will be exposed. The country will not run by your definitions)."

While BJP MPs did not disturb the proceedings after Mr. Chowdhury's exchange with Mr. Pradhan, they

raised the issue again just before the House broke for lunch after the discussion on the rape and murder of the Hyderabad veterinarian.

The Congress leader then sought to explain that his remarks were in the context of the National Register of Citizens (NRC) and how his family, too, had moved to India

## We listen to criticism, says Sitharaman

Minister cites corporate tax cut as instance of quick actions on the economy

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

The Lok Sabha on Monday cleared the Taxation Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2019 that seeks to replace the ordinance issued on September 20.

The Bill aimed to bring in more investment in the manufacturing sector by bringing down the corporate tax rate to 22% without incentives and 15% for new manufacturing entities.

Currently, domestic companies with an annual turnover of up to ₹400 crore pay income tax at the rate of 25%. For other domestic companies, the tax rate is 30%.

Speaking during the de-



**Making a point:** Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman during a debate in the Lok Sabha on Monday. ■PTI

bate on Monday, and responding to the timing of the Bill (seeking to replace the ordinance), Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said the government was not merely a reactive government which waited for the Budget every year to provide

remedy to a situation. "We are a government that listens, even to criticism, and takes immediate steps to adapt to a dynamic global situation," she said.

"We have learned from the past and are in dialogue with people. We are a go-

vernment that gives answers. This Bill is our response to the emerging global challenges around us," the Minister added.

Ms. Sitharaman said the government's decision was also necessary to attract investment from multinational companies, which wanted to shift operations from China in view of ongoing trade war with the U.S.

Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury, Leader of the Congress in Lok Sabha, attacked the government over the falling GDP numbers. The debate in the Lower House mostly hovered around the GDP slipping to a six-year low of 4.5% in the July-September quarter.

In his dissent note the BJD member had asserted that the Bill would "open the floodgates" and accentuate the discontent in Assam.

"Already, the population density in Assam is very high and if the present bill is enacted and brought into force, illegal immigrants, who have entered Assam and built their residences in the State and even encroached upon government land, will become entitled to Indian citizenship," he wrote.

The Bill proposes to grant citizenship to members of six religious minorities from Pakistan, Afghanistan and Bangladesh – Hindus, Jains, Sikhs, Parsis, Christians and Buddhists – who had come to India before 2014.

Home Minister Amit Shah had on Saturday sought to assure civil society groups and the political class from the northeastern States that tribal areas in Assam, Meghalaya and Tripura and States protected by the Inner Line Permit system would be out

## BJD may back new citizenship Bill version

Party okay with excluding tribal areas

SOBHANA K. NAIR  
NEW DELHI

**Will expel every infiltrator by 2024: Shah**

CHAKRADHARPUR/BAHARAGORA  
BJP president Amit Shah on Monday set a 2024 deadline for implementing a nationwide National Register of Citizens (NRC), asserting that "each and every" infiltrator will be identified and expelled before the next Lok Sabha election.

The Union Home Minister told poll rallies at Chakradharpur and Baharagora in Jharkhand that the nationwide exercise will be conducted despite reservations voiced by the opposition parties. Mr. Shah said: "Today, I want to tell you that before the 2024 polls the NRC will be conducted across the country." Mr. Shah added that national issues such as uprooting terrorism and construction of a Ram temple were as important in Jharkhand as local matters. ■PTI

of bounds for any one acquiring citizenship through this legislation.

"We do not have the new Bill so far," Mr. Mahtab told *The Hindu*. "But if they do remove tribal regions of Assam and other northeastern States then our objection to the Bill will be nullified," he added. The BJD has seven members in the Rajya Sabha.

"We have serious reservations but we can't comment till we have seen the final Bill," said Anand Sharma, Deputy Leader of the Congress in the Rajya Sabha.

The Samajwadi Party, which has nine members in the Upper House, remains staunchly opposed to the legislation.

## Limit raised for PMC Bank depositors

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

Small depositors of the Punjab and Maharashtra Cooperative Bank would be given priority to withdraw their deposits and nearly 78% of them fell under this category, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman told the Lok Sabha.

The current ceiling on withdrawal was ₹50,000, and the depositors could withdraw up to ₹1 lakh, she said, citing the "hardship allowance" clause.

"Hardship allowance can be invoked to meet emergencies like medical treatment or household expenses," she said.

## Yet to receive Cyclone Bulbul relief fund from Centre: Mamata

'Loss was calculated to be about ₹23,000 crore'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
KOLKATA

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Monday informed the Assembly that the State is yet to get any help from the Centre for providing aid to people affected by super cyclone Bulbul.



## Pankaja not quitting, says BJP

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

MUMBAI

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has denied reports that senior leader and former Cabinet Minister Pankaja Gopinath Munde was quitting the party to join the Shiv Sena.

In an emotional post on Facebook last Sunday, Ms. Munde had addressed party cadre asking them to be present at her father Gopinath Munde's Samadhi on December 12 on the occasion of the 70th birth anniversary of the party leader.

The BJP leader said she was likely to take a call on her future by then, and would declare it to the supporters the same day at Gopinath Gadh.

"Mawale yetil he nakki (I expect all the foot soldiers of Chhatrapati Shivaji to turn up that day)," she had said in the post.

She had also changed the Twitter bio on one of her two handles, removing the party reference from it completely. "There is no truth in these reports and rumours," BJP State chief Chandrakant Patil responded to the speculation.

## Plea against WhatsApp withdrawn

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

Former RSS ideologue K.N. Govindacharya on Monday withdrew his petition seeking perjury action against instant messaging platform WhatsApp in connection with the NSO Group snooping scandal. The petition had also sought a National Investigation Agency (NIA) probe into the scandal.

The petition was withdrawn after a Bench led by Chief Justice Sharad A. Bobde said there were several mistakes in it. The court also asked Mr. Govindacharya's side why they did not approach the High Court concerned before moving the Supreme Court.

The petition had pointed out that allegations of breach surfaced despite WhatsApp, a subsidiary of Facebook, claiming end-to-end encryption.

The controversy relates to software created by the Israeli firm NSO called 'Pegasus', which was used to spy on mobile phone users, including their activity on WhatsApp, globally and in India.

# Will BJP's plan to go solo backfire?

The party has bet on multi-cornered contests in Jharkhand, but 2014 results don't buttress the idea

NISTULA HEBBAR  
RANCHI

With the first of the five phases of polling in the Jharkhand Assembly election concluded, the question that emerges is will the BJP's punt on multi-cornered contests pay off or end up hurting its electoral prospects. The ruling party's decision to go it alone this time led the All Jharkhand Students Union (AJSU) to part ways with it and field candidates for at least 45 seats.

Even as seat adjustment talks were going on, the BJP's central leadership bet that the party was likely to benefit from multi-cornered contests and therefore announced candidates for 79 of the 81 seats, including in constituencies previously won by the AJSU.

### Not so rosy

An analysis of the 2014 results, however, shows that the BJP may need to temper its confidence in the strategy.

First, in 2014, the Jhark-



**Big gamble:** The BJP's decision to go it alone made the AJSU parting ways with it. ■PTI

hand Mukti Morcha (JMM) allied only with the Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD), while the Congress and the Jharkhand Vikas Morcha (JVM) fought independently. This time, a coalition featuring the JMM, the Congress and the RJD is expected to pose a formidable challenge, the three-party alliance's problems in seat sharing notwithstanding.

Second, in 2014, there

were five seats where the margin of victory was less than 1,000 votes – the BJP pocketed two of these, while the JMM, the Congress and the AJSU won one each. The JMM and the Congress were runners-up in three of these seats, whereas the AJSU and the BJP were runner-up in one seat each.

In the 13 seats won by margins between 1,000 and

5,000, the BJP won five, the JMM two and the AJSU, the JVM and two others one each.

And the JMM and the BJP were runners-up in four constituencies each among these 13, with the RJD and the Congress finishing second in one seat each.

Looking at this break-up, the BJP's hope that a multi-cornered contest will be be-

nificial to it, is likely to get tested. It is in seats where the victory margin was more than 30,000 (16 in all) that the BJP fared well. Party leaders but contend that vote transfer is not a given in Jharkhand.

### Vote transfer

"Just because there is an alliance among leaders does not mean that the support base will follow," said Jharkhand Chief Minister Raghubar Das. Psephologist Abhay Kumar, formerly with the Centre for Study of Developing Societies, supports this view. The 2014 results "cannot be extrapolated on 2019", Mr. Kumar said. "The BJP's stability in governance will be important," he added.

Home Minister Amit Shah has been referring to the AJSU as an old ally still a "friend" at rally, a comment interpreted by JMM chief Hemant Soren as proof that the BJP's solo act is set to land it in trouble.

# No funds diverted to Centre: Fadnavis

MP's remarks spark a controversy

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

MUMBAI/BENGALURU

Former Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis on Monday denied "secretly" clearing files pertaining to transfer of funds to the Centre during his short-lived second innings.

The BJP leader said not a single penny of the State's share was diverted as claimed by former Union Minister and Uttara Kannada MP Anantkumar Hegde.

A video clip of the MP's words went viral on Monday.



Devendra Fadnavis

everything was planned – if need be, create a big drama. So we did some adjustments and swore in the Chief Minister. Within 15 hours after he was sworn in, the Chief Minister ensured the fund will not be misused and gave it back to the Union government. If not, the next Chief Minister would have ...you know what...," he adds.

Mr. Hegde's statement drew widespread criticism from parties including the Shiv Sena and the Congress, which hit out at the BJP and also demanded an investigation.

### False allegations

Denying the allegations, Mr. Fadnavis said, "Not a single penny from the State's kitty has been diverted. I assure you, no major policy decision has been taken in this regard. All allegations are false. Let me tell you the bullet train project is being carried out by the Centre and the State has no role in it, except acquisition of land. I want to reiterate: no money was given, no money was taken from the Centre during the 80 hours I was the Chief Minister".

## CBI registers case against officials for ₹100 bribe

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

The CBI, which usually takes up high-profile cases of corruption and financial frauds, has registered an FIR against two postal officials at Pratapgarh in Uttar Pradesh for allegedly demanding a ₹100 bribe from a commission agent.

The agency's Lucknow unit has registered the case on a complaint from the agent's husband who al-

leged that superintendent Santosh Kumar Saroj and postal assistant Suraj Mishra had demanded ₹100 as "processing fee" on every ₹20,000 deposit collected as postal savings from villagers.

It was alleged that when the agent's husband went to deposit ₹99,400 and ₹59,920 on November 25 and 26, the postal official collected from him excess amounts of ₹500 and ₹300.

## KARNATAKA POWER CORPORATION LIMITED

CIN : U85110KA1970SC001919

No. CECD/Nagjhari PH/19-20/Call-2 Date: 26.11.2019

### ABSTRACT TENDER NOTIFICATION (CALL-2)

(Only Through Electronic Tendering System)

Item tenders are invited through GoK e-Procurement platform [www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in](http://www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in) from the Individuals/Agencies worked in Govt./PSUs/Corporate/Any other reputed Institutions having adequate experience for the work of "Providing ring stiffener to exposed portion of penstock lines of units No. 1 to 6 at Nagjhari Power House-Kali Hydro Electric Project-I". Period of completion: 6(Six) Calendar months including monsoon. Those who have not registered in e-procurement portal [www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in](http://www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in) may do so in order to participate in the tender. The brief bid notification containing the pre-qualifying criteria for the bidders, EMD, Calendar of bid activities and other details can be accessed from e-procurement portal. Further details can be had from the office of the Chief Engineer(Civil Designs) KPCL, No. 22/23, Sudarshan Complex, 1st Floor, Seshadri Road, Bengaluru - 560 009.

## ONGC Petro additions Limited

Reg. Office: 4<sup>th</sup> Floor, 35, Nutan Bharat Co-operative Housing Society Limited, R.C. Dutt Road, Alkapuri, Vadodara - 390007, Gujarat, Ph: 0265 6192600 CIN No.: U23209GJ2006PLC06282

### TENDER NOTICE

OPAL invites the sealed tender under Open Tender Single Bid System for: Tender Number: 1910C00770; Tender Description: ARC for Refractory Repair & reapplication services for heaters & boilers at OPAL, Dahej (Contract duration-Three Years); Tender Sale Period: 03.12.2019, 09:00 Hrs to 24.12.2019, 14:00 Hrs; Pre-bid conference time & date: NA; Closing date and time for Bid Submission: 24.12.2019, 14:00 Hrs.

The tender document can be downloaded from [www.opalindia.in](http://www.opalindia.in). For other details of this tender including corrigendum if any, Bidders should regularly visit OPAL website ([www.opalindia.in](http://www.opalindia.in)) for the latest information in this regard. In case of exigencies OPAL at its option may decide to extend tender sale/bid closing/opening date/time in future, which will be posted on the above referred website for information. Bidders should regularly visit OPAL website for the latest information in this regard.

## GOVERNMENT OF PUDUCHERRY

### PUDUCHERRY WATER RESOURCES ORGANIZATION

### NATIONAL HYDROLOGY PROJECT

### LAWSPET, PUDUCHERRY 605 008

### NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING FOR

The Supply, Installation, Testing, Commissioning and Maintenance of Digital Water Level Recorder (DWLRs) (hydrostatic pressure type) with Telemetry System in Existing piezometers for Puducherry Water Resources Organization, Puducherry.

(Two-Envelope Bidding Process with e-Procurement)

### INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)

### E-Procurement Notice

Bidding documents are available online on [www.eproc.puducherry.in](http://www.eproc.puducherry.in) website which is free of cost.

(a) Start Date of availability of bidding document: 03/12/2019, 11:00 AM

(b) Last Date of availability of bidding document: 23/12/2019 Up to 2.00PM

Senior Hydrologist

National Hydrology Project, Puducherry Water Resources Organization.

No.281/DIP/AD/Press/2019-20

## ONGC Petro additions Limited

Reg. Office: 4<sup>th</sup> Floor, 35, Nutan Bharat Co-operative Housing Society Limited, R.C. Dutt Road, Alkapuri, Vadodara - 390007, Gujarat, Ph: 0265 6192600 CIN No.: U23209GJ2006PLC06282

### TENDER NOTICE

OPAL invites the sealed tender under Open Tender Single Bid System for: Tender Number:

1910C00769; Tender Description: Appointment of RDAI registered Composite Insurance Broker/ advisor for insurance requirements for OPAL, Dahej (Contract duration-Three Years); Tender Sale Period: 03.12.2019, 09:00 Hrs to 23.12.2019, 14:00 Hrs; Pre-bid conference time & date: NA; Closing date and time for Bid Submission: 23.12.2019, 14:00 Hrs.

The tender document can be downloaded from [www.opalindia.in](http://www.opalindia.in). For other details of this tender including corrigendum if any, Bidders should regularly visit OPAL website ([www.opalindia.in](http://www.opalindia.in)) for the latest information in this regard. In case of exigencies OPAL at its option may decide to extend tender sale/bid closing/opening date/time in future, which will be posted on the above referred website for information. Bidders should regularly visit OPAL website for the latest information in this regard.

## SOUTHERN RAILWAY

### MATERIALS MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT CHENNAI - 600 008

### E-TENDER NOTICE FOR THE SUPPLY OF STORES - No.16/2019 dated 29.11.2019

Southern Railway has implemented an e-system. All advertised tenders will be dealt through e-procurement system only. No manual offer/postal offer will be entertained. These tenders can be accessed under the link [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in)→SR→COS

Sl. No.	E-Tender No.	Description	Tender Closing date & time
1.	82/19/6239/A/EOT	Provision of supply of 20 mm thick Eco-Friendly/Crib, Team Crib (Acid Resistant)	02.01.2020 @ 14.30 Hrs.

Railway reserves the right to issue any corrigendum to the tenders. Important Notice to Vendors: e-procurement is in the link [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in).

Deputy Chief Materials Manager, Construction, Egmore, Chennai - 600 008.

DIPR/DDU/1808/2019-20

A complete set of the original Bid Documents in English, may be purchased & collected or by Post by interested bidder on the submission of a written application to Executive Engineer (EAP)-III, Delhi Jal Board, Overhead Tank Ashok Vihar, Delhi-110052, India and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of INR 50,000/- or USD 800/- in shape of Demand Draft in favour of Delhi Jal Board.

Interested bidder may also obtain further information and inspect the bid Documents from the DJB Web site [www.delhijalboard.nic.in](http://www.delhijalboard.nic.in) under Expression of Interest. Any further corrigendum/ addendum/ clarification, if any, will be uploaded on website i.e. [www.delhijalboard.nic.in](http://www.delhijalboard.nic.in) under Expression of Interest only.

ISSUED BY P.R.O. (WATER) Advt. No. J.S.V. 607/2019-20

EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (EAP)-III

G-19941/2019

## No funds diverted to Centre: Fadnavis

MP's remarks spark a controversy

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

MUMBAI/BENGALURU

Former Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis on Monday denied "secretly" clearing files pertaining to transfer of funds to the Centre during his short-lived second innings.

The BJP leader said not a single penny of the State's share was diverted as claimed by former Union Minister and Uttara Kannada MP Anantkumar Hegde.

A video clip of the MP's words went viral on Monday.

The BJP leader said not a single penny of the State's share was diverted as claimed by former Union Minister and Uttara Kannada MP Anantkumar Hegde.

## ELSEWHERE



## U.S. Supreme Court to take up gun control case

WASHINGTON The U.S. Supreme Court will address gun control on Monday for the first time in nearly 10 years. In a country where guns kill nearly 40,000 people every year, the nine-member court will look at a case involving the Second Amendment to the Constitution, which enshrines "the right of the people to keep and bear arms." **AFP**

## At least 208 killed in Iran unrest: Amnesty

LONDON At least 208 people are believed to have been killed during a crackdown on protests in Iran last month that followed a sharp fuel price hike, Amnesty International said. "The organisation said the toll is based on credible reports. **AFP**

## Malta PM to resign over journalist's murder probe

Decision after two weeks of protests

## AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE VALLETTA

Malta's Prime Minister Joseph Muscat, under fire over his handling of the murder of journalist Daphne Caruana Galizia, said on Sunday he would step down after his replacement is chosen.

The announcement came after two weeks of mounting pressure and popular protests calling for Mr. Muscat to quit for his handling of the probe into Ms. Galizia's car bomb killing in 2017.

Mr. Muscat said he would resign after his successor is chosen by January 12.

On Sunday, the Labour leader got the unanimous backing of party MPs, a day after tycoon Yorgen Fenech was charged with complicity in the murder.

## UN chief opens climate summit with call for hope over 'surrender'

Representatives are in Madrid for a two-week meeting on tackling global warming

## REUTERS MADRID

The world must choose hope over surrender in the fight against climate change, UN secretary-general Antonio Guterres said on Monday, warning a summit in Madrid that governments risked sleepwalking past a point of no return.

Two weeks of talks aimed at bolstering the 2015 Paris Agreement to curb global warming began against a backdrop of unusually severe weather disasters this year, from fires in the Arctic, Amazon and Australia to intense tropical hurricanes.

Mr. Guterres, a former Portuguese Prime Minister and leading advocate of more ambitious action to reverse the upward march of



Antonio Guterres at the COP25 in Madrid. ■ GETTY IMAGES

greenhouse gas emissions, urged governments to avoid a "path of surrender" that would endanger the health and safety of all.

"Do we really want to be remembered as the generation that buried its head in the sand, that fiddled while the planet burned?" Mr. Gu-

terres told an opening session at the summit, held in a hangar-like conference centre.

**Youth-led activism**  
He urged delegates to resolve an important outstanding issue from the Paris accord: rules on carbon

trading, seen as vital for kick-starting faster action to reduce emissions.

Michał Kurtyka, Poland's Climate Minister who led the last round of U.N. climate negotiations in December last year, had earlier said a surge in youth-led climate activism underscored the urgency of the task.

"They have the courage to speak up and remind us that we inherited this planet from our parents," Mr. Kurtyka said.

Existing pledges made under the Paris accord fall far short of the kind of transformational action needed to avert the most disastrous consequences of global warming in terms of sea-level rise, drought, storms and other impacts, scientists say.

## China imposes sanctions on U.S. over Hong Kong unrest

It suspends U.S. warship visits to the city, slaps curbs on NGOs

## AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE BEIJING

China suspended U.S. warship visits and sanctioned American NGOs on Monday in retaliation for the passage of a Bill backing pro-democracy protesters in Hong Kong.

The financial hub has been rocked by nearly six months of increasingly violent unrest demanding greater autonomy, which Beijing has frequently blamed on foreign influence.

Last week U.S. President Donald Trump signed the Hong Kong Human Rights and Democracy Act, which requires the President to annually review the city's favourable trade status and threatens to revoke it if the semi-autonomous territory's freedoms are quashed.



Countermeasures: A file photo of crew members on the deck of the USS Blue Ridge during a port call in Hong Kong. ■ AFP

Mr. Hu said they would also apply sanctions to a number of U.S.-based NGOs, without giving much details.

Sanctions will apply to NGOs that had acted "badly" over the recent unrest in Hong Kong, she said, including the National Endowment for Democracy, Human Rights Watch and Freedom House.

## U.S. to impose tariffs on Brazil and Argentina

## ASSOCIATED PRESS WASHINGTON

President Donald Trump on Monday accused Argentina and Brazil of hurting American farmers through currency manipulation and said he'll slap tariffs on their steel and aluminum imports to retaliate.

Mr. Trump also called on America's central bank to take action to prevent other countries from devaluing their currencies.

Both South American nations were among a group of U.S. allies that Mr. Trump had exempted from steel and aluminum tariffs in March 2018. The President's threat to reverse that decision and impose the metals tariffs on Argentina and Brazil is another example of his mercurial approach to trade policy.

## 'Trump won't take part in impeachment probe'

White House cites lack of 'fairness'

## AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE WASHINGTON

The White House said on Sunday that U.S. President Donald Trump and his lawyers would not participate in a congressional impeachment hearing this week, citing a lack of "fundamental fairness."



Donald Trump

Mr. Trump's aides responded defiantly to the first of two crucial deadlines he faces in Congress this week as Democrats prepare to shift the focus of their impeachment inquiry from fact-finding to the consideration of possible charges of misconduct over his dealings with Ukraine.

"We cannot fairly be expected to participate in a hearing while the witnesses are yet to be named and while it remains unclear

whether the committee will afford the President a fair process through additional hearings," White House counsel Pat Cipollone wrote to Judiciary panel's Chairman Jerrold Nadler, according to a copy of a letter seen by Reuters.

Mr. Nadler has given the White House a Friday deadline to say whether Mr. Trump will mount a defense in broader impeachment proceedings.

## Gotabaya seeks Pakistan's help to fight drug trafficking, extremism

## MEERA SRINIVASAN COLOMBO

Sri Lanka's President Gotabaya Rajapaksa has sought Pakistan's help in tackling drug trafficking and Islamist extremism, his office said on Monday.

"Drug trafficking and addiction is a grave evil that my country is confronted with. We wish to seek Pakistan's assistance to eradicate this menace", the President said in a statement, following his meeting with visiting Pakistan Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi.

President Rajapaksa also requested the government of Pakistan to help Sri Lanka in the fight against Islamist extremism, the statement said.

"We already have very close, friendly and warm relations with Sri Lanka. Pakistan hopes to further develop

them widening the scope of cooperation," Mr. Qureshi said, adding that his government was willing to work with Sri Lanka to "conserve and develop" Buddhist heritage in Pakistan. "We are eagerly waiting for your visit to Pakistan at your earliest," Mr. Qureshi added, Mr. Gotabaya's office said.

The visit comes days after Mr. Gotabaya's meeting with Prime Minister Narendra Modi in New Delhi. The Pakistan Foreign Minister also met Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa to convey a special message from his Prime Minister Imran Khan, a statement said.

In a letter hand-delivered to Mr. Mahinda, Mr. Khan extended an invitation to him to visit Pakistan. Mr. Mahinda has accepted the invitation, his office said. "We're

happy Sri Lanka is back in experienced hands," Mr. Qureshi said.

The discussion focused on topics, including trade, fighting terrorism, youth affairs, unemployment, agriculture and cricket.

Several foreign dignitaries and envoys have been reaching out to the Rajapaksa brothers, Sri Lanka's newly-elected President and newly-appointed PM, over the last two weeks.

On Monday, Mr. Gotabaya tweeted: "I was pleased to meet with the Special Representative of the State Council of the People's Republic of China and Director-General of the Department of Asian Affairs of the Chinese Foreign Ministry, Mr. Wu Jiahao and had cordial discussions on #China - LKA relations."

## Siberia pipeline cements China-Russia bond



A worker at a gas processing plant under construction in Amur, Russia. ■ REUTERS

Russia has been a primary gas supplier to Europe, but the Power of Siberia is the first cross-border gas pipeline between Russia and China, adding a prominent eastern dimension to Moscow's energy blueprint.

Gas is being sourced from Chayandinskoye and Kovtuny fields in eastern Siberia, and is then piped to Blagoveshchensk – the last town on the Russian side of the border. From there, it is tunneled under the Amur River, before entering Heihe on the Chinese side.

Next year, Moscow will supply around 5 billion cubic meters (bcm) of natural gas, but the volume will gradually rise to 38 billion cubic meters per year, the China National Petroleum Corporation (CNPC) said on Monday in a statement.

From Siberia to China's Yangtze River delta in Shanghai, the massive pipeline will cover 8,000 km, with 5,111 km inside China, passing through nine provinces and municipalities.

Under the contract, Russia will deliver 1 trillion cubic meters (bcm) of natural gas to China over the next 30 years.

Analysts say that the brand new pipeline is an emblem of closer energy integration in Eurasia.

## Eight children among 13 from Pakistan killed in Jordan fire

'Electric fault in their corrugated metal home likely cause'

## AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE AMMAN

Thirteen Pakistanis, including eight children, died on early Monday when a blaze tore through their corrugated metal home in a rural area of western Jordan, authorities said.

Rescue services said "13 people died and three others were injured when fire broke out in a corrugated metal house" on a farm in South Shuna, around 50 km west of Amman.



The remains of the home razed by fire in South Shuna, Jordan. ■ AFP

The makeshift building was home to two Pakistani families working as agricultural labourers, they said.

Fire service spokesman Iyad al-Omari told state television channel Al-Mamlaka that eight children, four women and a man had died in the blaze at around 2:00 a.m., which was likely caused by an electrical fault.

Jordan is home to thousands of Pakistanis, many of them agricultural labourers.

House fires in Jordan are often caused by the use of cheap and dangerous forms of heating while the occupants are asleep.

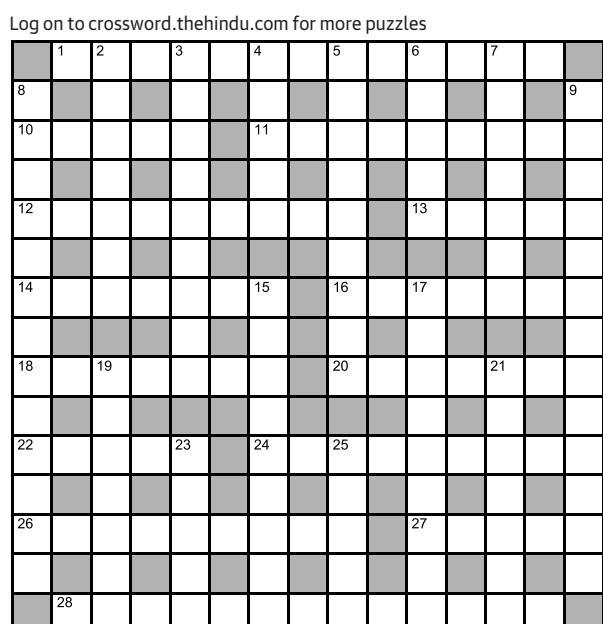
border with China, Alexi Miller, the head of the Russian gas giant Gazprom, which has played a leading role in conceiving and implementing the project, invited Mr. Putin and President Xi to the inauguration via a video link.

"Dear Vladimir Vladimirovich, allow me to give a command to open the pipeline valve," Mr. Miller said, addressing President Putin, the Russian news agency Tass reported.

On receiving Mr. Putin's

## THE HINDU CROSSWORD 12796

Log on to crossword.thehindu.com for more puzzles



## ACROSS

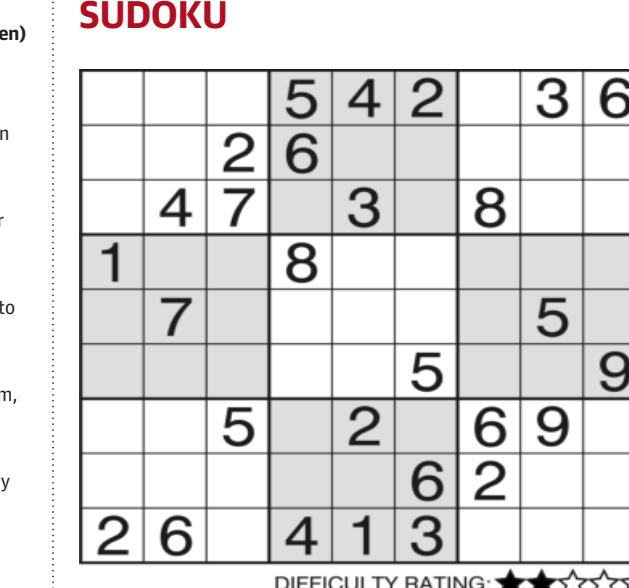
- 1 Prime Minister stops us work overtime – New Delhi shows how it's done (5,8)
- 10 Carried over, investment made totally (5)
- 11 Billy's plant, note plastic cover (9)
- 12 Magazine, carry to the top (9)

- 13 Dramatic capture of a violin maker (5)
- 14 That is having solid shape – worship (7)
- 16 According to media, no Italian in Spanish street (7)
- 18 Swing back in the breeze, partly (7)
- 20 Old story – finding Iodine in milk (7)
- 22 Back support, taking minutes for an insect (5)
- 24 Prince chose half the broadside (9)
- 26 Artilleryman's head over heels drinking French wine – not nice to see (9)
- 27 She even vacates in anger (5)
- 28 Tailor cuts up curtain, he will use needles (13)

## DOWN

- 2 Only ration distributed in the province (7)
- 3 Erode stole central funds earlier (9)
- 5 The last number had a billion short – count (9)
- 6 Capital account, one's under credit (5)
- 7 Outstanding on court, time to settle (3,4)
- 8 Old fashioned Kentish dictum, perhaps (5,2,3,3)
- 9 Patriotic, free, they carry an opposite charge (13)
- 15 Discharge under a river – master point, in a way (9)
- 17 Signal booster will adequately shoot, they say (9)
- 19 Annual investment by a normal man, actually (7)
- 21 Burden of work on media (7)
- 23 Insect gains height in fall (5)
- 25 Bar allowing others inside (5)

## (set by Arden)



DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★

## Solution to puzzle 12795

P	L	E	A	S	E	A	D	O	P	T	I	N	E
I	C	C	T	A	R	N	E						
A	L	L	H	E	W	R	H	A					
M	O	I	I	O	W	E	T						
A	N	G	E	L	U	N	E						
L	E	M	U	S	F	U	N						
T	U	L	T	A	I	E							
E	M	E	R	E	N	T							
M	E	R	E	R	E	N							
E	R	E	R	E	E	N							
E	R	E	E	E	E	N							
E	R	E	E	E	E	N							
E	R	E	E	E	E	N							
E	R	E	E	E	E	N							

## Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

8	4	9	3	6	5	7	2	1					
<tbl

## MARKET WATCH

	02-12-2019	% CHANGE
Sensex	40,802	0.02
US Dollar	71.66	0.11
Gold	37,876	-0.41
Brent oil	61.34	-1.97

## EXCHANGE RATES

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	71.45	71.77
Euro	78.68	79.03
British Pound	92.28	92.70
Japanese Yen (100)	65.21	65.51
Chinese Yuan	10.14	10.19
Swiss Franc	71.56	71.89
Singapore Dollar	52.20	52.44
Canadian Dollar	53.75	53.99
Malaysian Ringgit	17.09	17.18

Source: Indian Bank

## BULLION RATES CHENNAI

Retail Silver (1g)	47.6	(-47.9)
22 ct gold (1g)	3617	(3626)

## IN BRIEF



## Tata Motors bags orders to supply 2,300 buses

BENGALURU  
Tata Motors said it has received orders to supply 2,300 buses to various State transport undertakings (STUs) in the country, including RSRTC in Rajasthan, KSRTC, BMTC and NWKRTC in Karnataka, UPSRTC in Uttar Pradesh, IRT in Tamil Nadu and APSRTC in Andhra Pradesh. The delivery of these buses would be completed by February 2020, the company said.

## EPFO's ETF investment at ₹86,966 cr. till Sept.

NEW DELHI  
EPFO has invested ₹86,966 crore in exchange traded funds (ETFs) till September 2019, Parliament was informed on Monday. "The total amount invested by EPFO in ETFs as on September 30, 2019 is ₹86,966 crore," Labour Minister Santosh Gangwar said in a written reply to the Lok Sabha. The EPFO does not invest in shares and equities of individual companies, he added. PTI

## Uber opens centre of excellence in Andhra

NEW DELHI  
U.S.-headquartered cab aggregator Uber announced the setting up of its second centre of excellence (CoE) in India, which is expected to create 500 jobs by next year. The CoE in Visakhapatnam is being set up at a cost of \$8 lakh. The company already operates a CoE in Hyderabad with about 1,000 employees. The CoE provides customer support services to Uber riders as well as drivers.

## Ujjivan SFB IPO fully subscribed on Day 1

MUMBAI  
The initial public offer of Ujjivan Small Finance Bank, which opened for subscription on Monday, was subscribed 1.62 times on the first day of the issue. As per NSE data, bids were received for 20,14 crore equity shares as against 12.4 crore equity shares on offer in the price band of ₹36 to ₹37. While the portion reserved for retail investors was subscribed nearly nine times on Monday, the remaining segments were not fully subscribed on the first day of bidding.

## Reliance Jio may be the biggest gainer of tariff hikes

Bharti Airtel touches new 52-week high of ₹485.75

## PIYUSH PANDEY

MUMBAI  
Shares of Reliance Industries (RIL) and Bharti Airtel touched a new 52-week high of ₹1,614 and ₹485.75 on Monday, while shares of Vodafone Idea breached their upper circuit limits of ₹7.85 after the telcos announced tariff hike for pre-paid customers on Sunday.

RIL shares were trading up 2.28% at ₹1,586.3 in a flat Mumbai market on Monday, valuing the company at ₹10.05 lakh crore.

While Vodafone Idea and Bharti Airtel have increased tariffs by 15-47% across pre-paid plans from December 3, Reliance Jio will also hike tariffs by up to 40% from December 6. Shares of Bharti Airtel, on the BSE, rose

3.67% to close at ₹442.3, valuing the firm at ₹2.35 lakh crore, while Vodafone Idea shares rose 14.06% to close at ₹7.79, valuing the company at ₹22,384 crore.

The three telecommunication giants together account for over 90% of India's 1.18 billion mobile subscribers, with the market share of around 30% each split evenly among them.

"Tariff hike came as a lifeline for the debt-laden telcos like Vodafone Idea and Bhar-

ti Airtel. More hikes are anticipated in the coming quarters to keep the sector healthy and investors' wealth protected," Paras Bothra, president - Equities, Ashika Stock Broking, told *The Hindu*.

Jefferies Equity Research anticipates the revenue increase to be between 11% and 23%, lower than the 40% hike announced by the telcos. The lower hike is due to data elasticity resulting in downgrading and SIM consolidation, no increase in postpaid rates, and lower hike in voice call charges.

Shares of Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL) also closed up 2% at ₹9.17 before hitting its upper circuit limit of ₹9.43 on Monday.

Reliance Jio will have the strongest balance sheet and become virtually net debt-free company by March 31, 2020 with the exception of

spectrum-related liabilities while Vodafone Idea and Bharti Airtel are saddled with debt exceeding ₹1 lakh crore each.

Reliance Jio may continue to increase its market share as it offers to provide 300%

higher benefits to its custom-

ers compared with competition while Bharti Airtel is likely to retain its market share and may turn profitable at pre-tax level after reporting several quarters of losses.

But for Vodafone Idea, despite the hike in ARPU (av-

erage revenue per user), free cash flows are in the negative and market share is falling.

Negative cash flow

According to Motilal Oswal research report, worries linger on Vodafone Idea in spite of tariff hike, given the continued negative free cash flow (FCF) position.

Besides, AGR liability for Vodafone Idea and Bharti Airtel due to an adverse Supreme Court judgement has given Reliance Jio an advantage.

Hart Airtel has scheduled its board meeting for December 4 to look at potential fund-raising for AGR liability, which needs to be met in three months, subject to the outcome of review petition filed by the telcos.

Several banks, including State Bank of India and ICICI Bank, had classified the loans as non-performing, which prompted the banking regulator to initiate insolvency proceedings against the company.

CMYK

## Manufacturing PMI improves

Modest rise of 51.2 in November aided by growth in new orders and production

## SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

Manufacturing activity increased in November from a two-year low in the previous month, driven by a modest increase in the growth of new orders and production, a private sector survey report showed.

The Nikkei India Manufacturing Purchasing Managers' Index rose to 51.2 in November, up from 50.6 in October. A reading above 50 implies an expansion in activity, while a reading below 50 denotes contraction.

"Although business conditions in the Indian manufacturing sector improved in November, the upturn remained subdued compared to earlier in the year and the survey history," the report said.

Growth rates for new orders and production were modest, despite accelerating from October's recent lows, while firms shed jobs for the



Although business conditions improved, the upturn remained subdued compared to earlier in the year. ■REUTERS

first time in 20 months and continued to reduce input buying.

"The latest reading was below the survey average (53.8) and indicated only a slight improvement in the health of the sector," the report said.

The growth in the overall manufacturing sector was mainly propped up by

growth in the consumer goods segment, while the intermediate goods segment returned to expansion. However, the survey respondents reported a deterioration in the operating conditions in the capital goods segment.

"Anecdotal evidence suggested that growth was supported by the launch of new

products and better demand, though restrained by competitive pressures and unstable market conditions," the report added.

"After pulling back noticeably in October, manufacturing sector growth displayed a welcome acceleration in November," Pollyanna de Lima, Principal Economist at IHS Markit, said.

"Still, rates of expansion in factory orders, production and exports remained far away from those recorded at the start of 2019, with subdued underlying demand largely blamed for this." Ms. De Lima added that the PMI data continued to show a lack of inflationary pressures in the sector which, combined with slow economic growth, suggested that the Reserve Bank of India would likely extend its accommodative policy stance and further reduce the benchmark interest rate during December.

## Exchanges suspend Karvy

Clients will have to shift holdings to a different brokerage

## SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

MUMBAI

The National Stock Exchange (NSE) and BSE have suspended the membership of Karvy Stock Broking (KSB) with immediate effect for non-compliance with exchange regulations.

This comes close on the heels of regulator SEBI barring the Hyderabad-based entity from signing new clients, for alleged misuse of client funds.

While NSE has suspended KSB from all segments, BSE said that the trading terminals of KSB had been deactivated in the equity and debt segment, while it had been put on risk reduction mode (RRM) in the derivatives segment.

RRM refers to the mode wherein a member is allowed to square off the position but cannot create any fresh positions.

This assumes significance as the suspension of membership effectively means

added. However, KSB clients had something to cheer about as well on Monday as the National Securities Depository Ltd. (NSDL) said that securities of more than 82,000 clients of the broking firm had been transferred to the respective demat accounts, the NSDL said

that clients of Karvy Stock Broking will not be able to trade through the brokerage and will have to shift their holdings to a different broking firm.

"Investors need to open new trading account and shift their demat holdings to another entity," said Arun Kejriwal of Kejriwal Research & Investment Services.

"While the exchanges have taken action and suspended trading, it appears justice has not yet been done. Wrongs doings on the part of Karvy Stock Broking seem to be going on for quite some time and trust that has been lost is irreparable."

"This assumes significance as the suspension of membership effectively means

paid in full against these securities. The number of such clients who have received securities are 82,559," stated a release by NSDL on Monday.

Incidentally, as per the SEBI probe, securities worth approximately ₹2,300 crore of more than 95,000 clients were "unauthorisedly transferred" to this demat account of KSB.

## HDFC Bank's net banking services hit by tech glitch

Mobile banking application too down

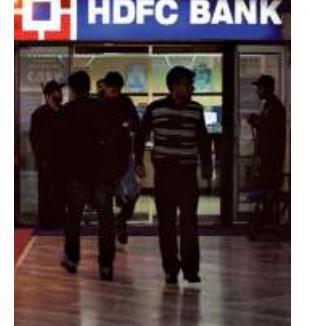
## SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

MUMBAI

Hundreds of HDFC Bank customers were unable to use the bank's Internet banking facility as well as mobile banking application following a technical glitch on Monday. The bank authorities, however, said they were confident that the services would be restored shortly.

Since salaries are credited mostly at the beginning of the month, there was a huge pressure on the Internet banking and mobile banking platforms of HDFC Bank, which has a significant number of customers who use the digital platform.

HDFC Bank has a customer base of around 49 million and 90% of the transactions are through digital channels. Many customers complained on social media that they were unable to use the services, with some claiming that the systems were



About 90% of HDFC Bank's transactions are through digital channels.

down since morning.

"Due to a technical glitch, some of our customers have been having trouble logging into our NetBanking and MobileBanking App. Our experts are working on it on top priority, and we're confident we'll be able to restore services shortly," HDFC Bank said in a statement.

"While we deeply regret the inconvenience caused, there's no cause for undue concern," it added.

## Telco shares zoom on tariff hike

Bharti Airtel touches new 52-week high of ₹485.75

## PIYUSH PANDEY

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But for Vodafone Idea, despite the hike in ARPU (av-

# 'It's all about perspective'

SANGEETHA DEVI DUNDOO

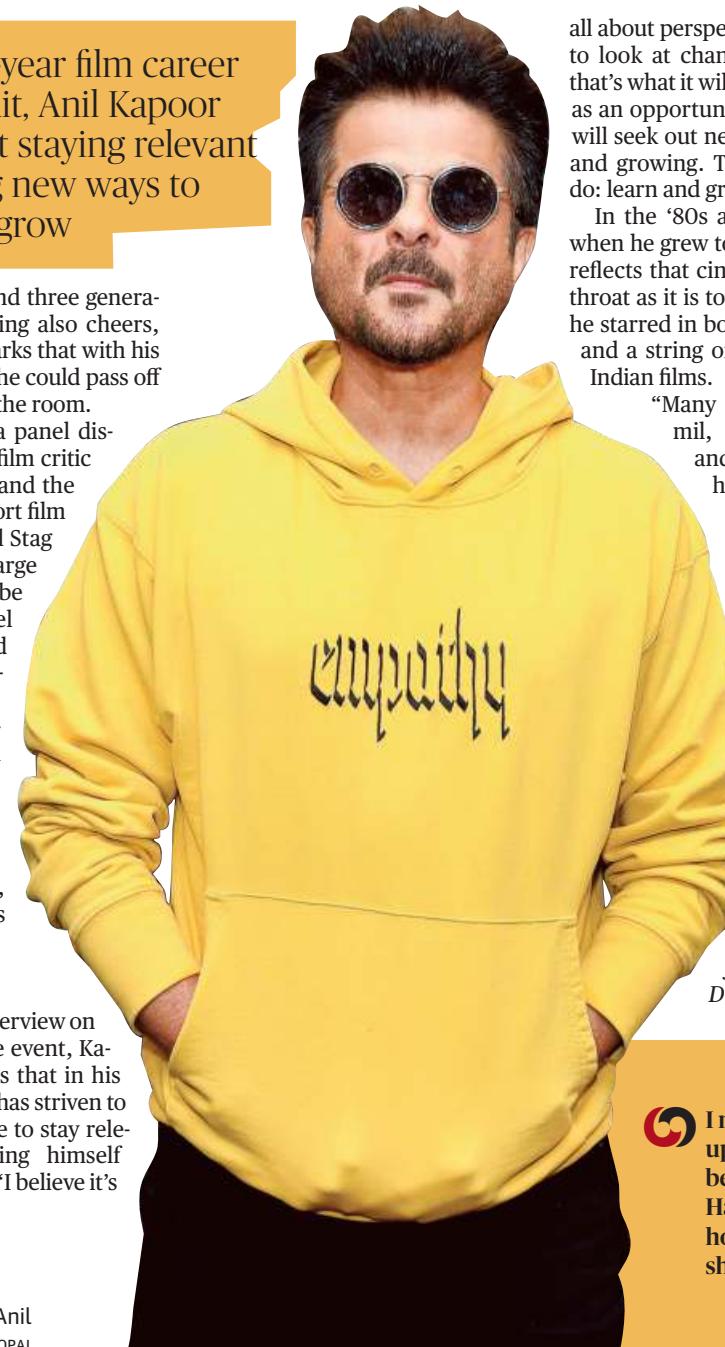
Actor-producer Anil Kapoor has gotten used to young actors, assistant directors, and technicians on film units walk up to him and tell him that their fathers have worked with him.

He recalls one such recent conversation and says, "I thought, good she didn't say her grandfather also worked with me, but she did, in the very next line," he says, laughing heartily. "But yes, I felt good that I have worked long

enough to transcend three generations." The gathering also cheers, and someone remarks that with his age-defying looks, he could pass off as the youngest in the room.

The event was a panel discussion hosted by film critic Anupama Chopra and the unveiling of the short film *Tinde* on the Royal Stag Barrel Select Large Short Films YouTube channel. The panel members included Anil Kapoor, choreographer-director Farah Khan, choreographer Seema Desai who has directed *Tinde*, and the short film's actors Adah Sharma and Tinnu Anand, both known names in Indian cinema.

**Adapt, reinvent**  
Later, in a quick interview on the sidelines of the event, Kapoor acknowledges that in his 40-year career, he has striven to adapt and continue to stay relevant by reinventing himself from time to time. "I believe it's



Calling the shots Anil Kapoor ■ NAGARA GOPAL

all about perspective. If you choose to look at change as a challenge, that's what it will be. If you look at it as an opportunity for growth, you will seek out new ways of learning and growing. That's what I try to do: learn and grow," he says.

In the '80s and the early '90s, when he grew to be a superstar, he reflects that cinema wasn't as cut-throat as it is today. He is glad that he starred in both original content and a string of remakes of south Indian films.

"Many of the films in Tamil, Telugu, Kannada and Malayalam have had potential to work in Hindi and as an actor, I chose the remakes based on my instinct. It wasn't a blind process of adapting something just because it was hugely successful in its original language," he says, while citing examples of *Woh Saat Din*, *Eeshwar*, *Virasat* and *Judaai*. "Woh Saat Din was *Anda Ezhu*

I need to keep up with my beautiful wife! Have you seen how gorgeous she is?

*Naatkal* in Tamil and director Bapu made it in Telugu as *Radha Kalyanam*, before making it in Hindi. It did well in all the languages. There were remakes that didn't work too," he says.

Besides the mainstream blockbusters like *Tezaab* and *Ram Lakhan*, his filmography has a repertoire of films that were considered risky at the time. He recall how Vidhu Vinod Chopra, the director of *Parinda*, had the caption 'the most powerful film ever made...' on the film's posters.

"I wondered if he was being too confident but when the film clicked and everyone was in praise of it, it was a reaffirmation that it was indeed a powerful film. The film has completed 30 years and still lingers in people's minds," he says.

1942 - *A Love Story*, *Taal* and *Lamhe* were among those films that were considered risky propositions when they were offered to him. These weren't going to be the formulaic crowd-pleasing vehicles. "In a lot of ways, those films were seen as risky undertakings. But they were risks I was willing to take because I believed in the story, the strength of the characters I was playing, and the talent of the teams behind the movies," he says.

## Surname, the supporting act

In the beginning of his career, he had striven to do some offbeat cinema, before the big budget entertainers came his way. This was his way of working around the expectations that came with the Kapoor surname. To the star kids that dot the Hindi cinema landscape today, Anil Kapoor says, "Focus on your craft and let your work speak for itself. When you work hard and are true to your art, your family name becomes the supporting act to the name you create for yourself."

Later this month, the actor will turn 63 and is among the fittest Indian actors. His Instagram feed has videos showing him sprint with agility that could match those who are decades younger.

The actor says it's less to do with showing that he can, and more about longevity: "The desire to live a long, healthy and happy life keeps me motivated to workout. But more importantly, I need to keep up with my beautiful wife. Have you seen how gorgeous she is?"

## PEOPLE Role model

Individuals and organisations who have promoted equal employment opportunities for people with disabilities won at the NCEDP-Mindtree Helen Keller Awards that were held yesterday



Over the last 17 years, Surender Singh has been with Muskaan, an NGO working towards training adults with Intellectual/Developmental Disability (IDD) and helping them gain access to mainstream employment opportunities in the corporate sector. He picked up the award for his organisation being a role model institution at the National Centre for Promotion of Employment for Disabled People (NCEDP)-Mindtree Helen Keller award. Here, Surender talks about the work and those he works with.

## How has working in Muskaan for 17 years changed you as a person?

There were many reason for me to join Muskaan. The first one being that it provided training and employment opportunities to young adults with IDD (in the field of IDD there aren't many such organizations). Second, there is freedom to experiment and people feel free to share their ideas and implement them. Everyone here works harmoniously and helps each other. This makes Muskaan an amazing place to work.

## Where do you think our country stands in sensitivity to people with intellectual disabilities?

In the past six years, there has been tremendous change, when trainees from our organisation started getting hired by mainstream companies like the Lemon Tree Hotels, Four Point By Sheraton Hotel, Radisson Hotel, Country Inn Hotel, CBRE, Microsoft, Egon Zehnder, Dominos, Hindustan Petroleum and more.

## How do you think more companies should hire and give opportunities to people with IDD?

About 30-35% people with IDD can be easily placed in the hospitality, retail and manufacturing sector. If any company or industry is ready to give trainees the opportunity, Muskaan is always there to guide and support.

## What have you learnt from those with IDD?

We learn every day from them. They teach us the true meaning of friendship, focus, patience, perseverance and thinking out of the box. They are the truly our role models.

## Are there any stories you'd like to tell us about some of the people with IDD?

We placed our first batch of trainees, five of our friends with Down Syndrome in the Lemon Tree Hotel, in Aerocity, Delhi. After a month we went to check on their progress, and were pleasantly surprised and extremely pleased that the manager found the team to be very happy and confident so they'd named them the Happy People. The reason was that they were always happy and spreading happiness. Whenever they saw any of team members upset or stressed, they'd come forward and say: "Don't worry, hum hain na. (We're here to help).

S. MANGALA RAMYA

## #DELHIMOVES

## Athletes all

Head out to support a half marathon open to people in wheelchairs and on prosthetic limbs

GAGAN DHILLON KULLAR

This weekend will see a chip-timed inclusive half-marathon in Delhi. The One Race SuperSikh Run is competitive for everyone across racing distance and physical ability. This means that those who have signed up for the One Race Sahas category (for those in wheelchairs, with prosthetic limbs, or anyone who falls in the "persons with disabilities – PWD" category) can compete for a medal and a timing certificate in distances of 5.5k, 10k and 21k.

This is rare in India. The Airtel Delhi Half Marathon for instance, does have a 'Champions with Disability' category, but the run is not timed, and it's about participation rather than competition. It's not the same abroad: The Chicago Marathon, for instance, has an Athletes With Disabilities (AWD) programme, with clear qualification criteria, open to people over 16.

Rajiv Virat, the race director for One Race Sahas, is a wheelchair athlete himself, and feels the diffi-

culty here "is probably a lack of awareness or knowledge of what a PWD can and can't do. When racing events fail to recognise PWDs as competitors, 'I've run those events by signing up in the general category to show that we can compete under same conditions, on the same track, covering the same distance,' says Major D. P. Singh, a Kargil war veteran who lost a part of his right leg to shrapnel injuries.

Popularly known as India's Blade Runner, Singh has run 26 half marathons using a prosthetic limb. In 2011, he started the NGO, The Challenging Ones (TCO) that has partnered with One Race SuperSikh Run to support runners participating in the 'Sahas' category. For this race, Virat says, "Aid stations catering to the specific needs of PWDs have been created." For instance those who use prosthetic limbs are susceptible to chafing, and those on wheelchairs may need technical support for their equipment.

The Challenging Ones motivates other amputees to overcome



the mindset of loss through sports and peer support groups. "The idea behind TCO is to inculcate a winning attitude using sports. We help people with disabilities rediscover and expand the potential of their ability by playing a sport," says Singh. Running is the easiest sport to get started in, as it requires no additional gear.

Today, he says TCO supports over 2,000 individuals. They have a network on Facebook and have

regional WhatsApp groups. Athletes get access to training plans, boot camps and peer-based support. "TCO is not a charity organisation that donates goods. We work to change an individual's attitude to make them independent and fearless," he says.

On December 8; start at Gurdwara Rakab Ganj Sahib near Parliament House, 5:30 a.m.; connect with TCO Facebook.com/TheChallengingOnes

## PRODUCTS

### By the hand



Craft maestros says it is India's first umbrella brand for handicrafts by National Awarded Master Craftsmen. The company hopes to create Centres of Excellence for each craft through this, in order to preserve and promote them. Designs fall under Home and Living, Jewellery, Accessories, Clothing and Wall Art. Expect shibori tussar silk sarees, block-printed bedsheets, brass rings and more. Each comes with a certificate of authenticity.

At Craftmaestros.com, upward of ₹560

Contact us at delhimetro@thehindu.co.in

## 5 EVENTS WORTH YOUR WHILE



## PERFORMANCE

**Piano recital**  
The Delhi Music Society, in association with the Austrian Embassy, is putting together a piano concert by Florian Feilmair from Austria. A second prize winner at the International Piano Competition Campillos 2017, Feilmair will present the compositions of Bach, Mozart, Stravinsky, Beethoven and Franz Liszt.

**VENUE:** Stein Auditorium, India Habitat Centre

**TIME:** 7 p.m.



## FOOD

**Sushi menu**  
Pa Pa Ya, a modern Asian bistro, has launched a sushi menu featuring over 45 variations of the dish. Some signatures from this new menu include Ama Ebi Sashimi, Avocado Sushi Roll, Salmon and Scallop Firepit Smoked Ikura, Fruits De Mer XO, Yasai Nikaki, Layered Sushi Pizza, Zucchini Carpaccio, and more.

**VENUE:** Select CityWalk, Saket

**TIME:** 12 noon - 1 a.m.



## EXHIBITION

**Canvas**  
An ongoing group show, titled Out of Line traces abstraction within contemporary art in Cambodia. Curated by Erin Gleeson, the exhibition draws attention to how artists have construed the line in their personal desire for new and different measures of abstraction: figural, partial, or total.

**VENUE:** Akar Prakar, D-43 Defence Colony

**TIME:** 11 a.m. - 7 p.m.



## MENU

**Pizza special**  
Cafe Roadies, a fast-food centre at Noida, has introduced special pizzas for the winter. The menu offers a variety of veg and non-veg pizzas, which include Cheesy Mushroom Pizza, filled with mushrooms and onions; Pesto Pizza, made with walnuts and broccoli; and Tandoori Chicken Pizza, which has sausages and chicken breast.

**VENUE:** Garden Galleria Mall, Sector 38

**TIME:** 11 a.m. - 12 midnight



## FILM

**French drama**  
Alliance Française de Delhi will screen *Corporate*, a French feature film today. Directed by Nicolas Silhol, this is the story of Emilie, a young manager in the Human Resources section of a French agro-food company. When one of her team members ends their life, the investigation suspects her of workplace bullying.

**VENUE:** M.L. Bhartia Auditorium, Lodhi Estate

**TIME:** 10 a.m.

Wind up 2019 on a planet-friendly note and think twice before you chuck your old mobile phones for shinier new ones — you could be doing the planet a great favour

# Making e-waste count

K JESHI

E-waste is a real threat, says Prasanth Omanakuttan during a tour of Green Era Recyclers, an e-waste recycling facility, located on the outskirts of Coimbatore. "It is the second-most threatening and hazardous waste, after radioactive or bio-medical waste. There are about 60 to 100 components in e-waste that are hazardous to consumers and the environment," he reveals, as we stop at a counter with CPUs and monitors neatly arranged on the shelves. "These are in perfect working condition and will easily last another three or four years," he says.

Founder Prasanth and his team are doing just that. They reduce, reuse, recycle, refurbish, replenish and recover gadgets and give them an extended lease of life. They either repair them or reclaim parts from them to be used in other products. The plastics and steel are recycled, he says.

One can only guess the volume of e-waste being generated. At the facility, electronic waste is piled up in every corner. Used computers, monitors, laptops, keyboards, printers, scanners, and tablets, share space with tonnes of wires and cables, and discarded refrigerators, washing machines, microwaves, AC compressors, music systems and ear phones. There are fluorescent lamps too. "We are designing a machinery to powder the

bulbs and trap the mercury content in it, before we send it to the hazardous waste disposal facility at Gummidi poondi in Chennai. One has to extract lead from computer monitors (every monitor has a lead coating) before we dispose them. Many electronics carry heavy metals such as mercury, lead, lithium, and other materials that pollute the air when incinerated or poison the ecosystem as they invade the landfills." There is no awareness or a channel to dispose e-waste, admits Prasanth.

"My focus is on integrated e-waste management, where the waste is used as a by-product to make something new. For example,



Eco champion (Below) Prasanth Omanakuttan of Green Era Recyclers ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT AND GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCK

making plastic tiles with recycled plastics and power banks from discarded batteries."

What led 25-year-old Prasanth, an environmental engineer, to e-waste, is the first question that pops up when we settle for a chat. He looks around his room and says, "There is a laptop, switch boxes, chargers, desktop... this small room alone has 100 kilograms of e-waste. Every household easily generates 100 to 200 kilograms."

Prasanth emphasises that all old, usable or unusable electronic items can be refurbished or can be disposed in an environment-friendly manner. "India is the fourth-largest contributor of e-waste after Europe, China and the US. We generate 2.5 million tonnes every year (with a 30% increase every year). Ta-



mil Nadu is the second-largest contributor at 13%, which is about 3.5 lakh tonnes. The e-waste hubs in Delhi and Mumbai are choked. We need better infrastructure to handle the tonnes of e-waste."

The three-year-old start-up has so far recycled over 150 tonnes of e-waste and has reduced carbon foot-

print emission by 0.0034%. Green Era Recyclers is chosen as one of the top three start-ups in the environment field and is incubated at Vel Tech Technology Business Incubator (TBI), Chennai. "We are ideating on automation and digitisation. We will go for a prototype first and then pitch for funding."

Government policies are in place, says Prasanth. For example, producers have to declare conformance to RoHS (Restriction of Hazardous Substances) in manufacturing, but more needs to be done.

"We have a guideline for manufacture and supply. But what about disposal? It is so easy to buy an iPhone, but when I want to dispose it, I do not know where to go. In a start-up ecosystem, there are investors for block chain technology or AI, but when it comes to e-waste management, there is always a concern about returns. The government should come forward and support us with subsidies."

Self-realisation is important, he says. "From ink pens, we have moved on to plastic ball pens. We use virgin paper instead of recycled paper. We have to value every single product, be it a bike or a gadget. Take an effort to

## 'Circuit' world

Fast computing devices like mobile phones, computers and laptops, use precious metals for quick transmission. The discarded circuit boards, processors, and rams are segregated, graded and then sent for recovery of those metals like silver, platinum, palladium and gold and other base metals like copper and aluminium. Then they are sent to recycling units in Chennai, Bengaluru and Mumbai. Steel, copper and aluminium are smelted and reused.

## Destroy

Data in the wrong hands is always a threat. Any CPU, laptop or USB, contains data, even after you format it. Anything deleted from a storage device can always be recovered. In corporates, IT companies and also those in manufacturing and design, data security is of foremost importance. The testing team secures confidential data in storage devices and ensures that data wiping, data sanitisation and physical shredding of data is done.

## Upcoming

Green Era Recyclers abides by the rules and regulations of the Central and State Pollution Control Board (CPCB and SPCB), Ministry of Environment and Forests (MoEF). They plan to upgrade the facility so as to handle 1,000 to 1,500 tonnes of e-waste per year, catering to clients pan-India.

On a pilot basis, they are working on a project along with the Coimbatore Corporation to channelise e-waste collection from households. Instead of an additional bin for e-waste, they can collect e-waste as a part of dry waste and then later segregate it. Once successful, this model can be replicated across the country.

To know more, visit [www.thegreenera.in](http://www.thegreenera.in) or call 8300223526 / 93613-28436

repair and reuse. Don't give in to temptation whenever a new mobile phone hits the market (you have to worry about the EMLs too!)."

Prasanth says, on an average, an individual generates 1.2 to 1.8 kilograms of e-waste, annually.

"My vision is to create a system for households to streamline e-waste. And, have a Waste Park where e-waste can be laid to rest."

## POOCH CAFE



## PEANUTS



## HAGAR THE HORRIBLE



## CALVIN AND HOBBES



## TIGER



## GRAFFITI



## THE GUARDIAN QUICK CROSSWORD-13240

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- away (7)
- 5 Does what one is told (5)
- 6 Excessive bureaucracy (3,4)
- 7 Homicide (very noisy when blue) (6)
- 8 Subject to improper coercion (5,6)
- 14 Enthusiastic and public praise (7)
- 15 Flavouring derived from a species of crocus (7)
- 16 Close-fitting necklace (6)
- 17 Moralising lecture (6)
- 19 Welsh vegetables? (5)
- 21 Go swimming (5)

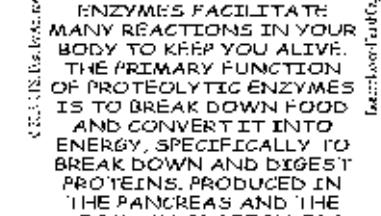
Solution will appear in The Hindu dated December 4, 2019.

Solution No. 13239

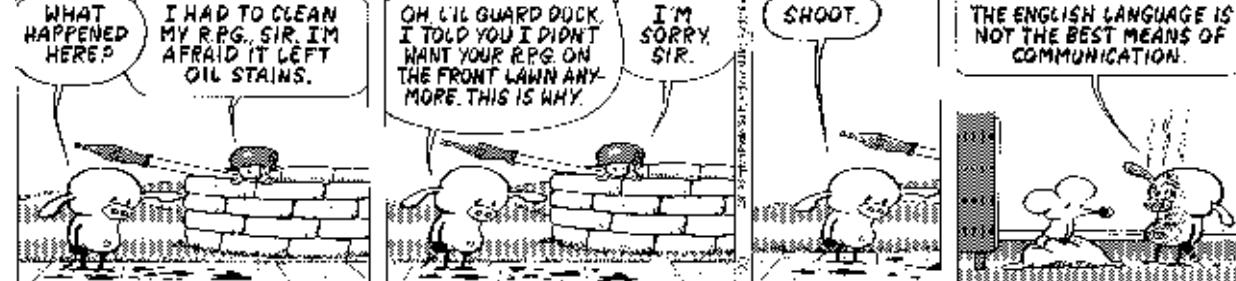
## WUMO



## HEALTH CAPSULES



## PEARLS BEFORE SWINE



## THE GUARDIAN QUICK CROSSWORD-13240

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- public speaker (7)
- 20 Coarse plant food, low in nutrients (5)
- 21 Court card (5)
- 22 Bed of sedimentary rock (7)
- 23 Presbytery (5)
- 24 Negligent (6)
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- 26 Down (7)
- 27 Bring into servitude (7)
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- 29 Medicated (5)
- 30 One barracking a

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# Lyon spins Australia to victory

Host completes innings win against Pakistan to sweep series 2-0

## PAK IN AUSTRALIA

REUTERS  
MELBOURNE

Nathan Lyon picked up five wickets to spin Australia to an emphatic innings and 48-run victory in the second Test against Pakistan on Monday as the hosts swept the series 2-0.

Asked to follow-on, Pakistan's batsmen battled hard to make Australia bat again but were bowled out for 239 in their second innings shortly after the dinner break of the day-night Test.

Four years after sweeping Misbah-ul-Haq's Pakistan 3-0, Australia maintained its perfect record against the South Asians on home soil.

### Docile pitch

Denied a wicket despite some good spells in Pakistan's first innings, Lyon got the better of the Pakistan batsmen on a docile pitch, removing Shaan Masood and Asad Shafiq before tea after both had scored defiant half-centuries.

He returned to break another stubborn 47-run partnership between No. 6 Iftikhar Ahmed and wicket-keeper Mohammad Rizwan, with Marnus Labuschagne finally catching a nick at short-leg after grassing three chances earlier.

With Iftikhar, Pakistan's last specialist batsman gone, it was only a matter of time



**Happy bunch:** The Australian players celebrate after thrashing Pakistan in the two-match Test series. ■ AP

for the tourists.

### Yasir wastes referral

Yasir Shah was unable to repeat his first innings heroics when he scored an unlikely ton. He fell for 13 when trapped lbw by Lyon and duly threw away a referral trying to overturn the decision.

The dinner break held up Australia's victory march but it took the second new ball shortly after the interval, allowing Josh Hazlewood to bowl Rizwan.

## SCOREBOARD

**Australia – 1st innings:** 589/3 decl.

**Pakistan – 1st innings:** 302.

**Pakistan – 2nd innings:** Shan

Masood c Starc b Lyon 68,

Imam-ul-Haq lbw b Hazlewood

0, Azhar Ali c Smith b Starc 9,

Babar Azam c Paine b Hazle-

wood 8, Asad Shafiq c Warner b

Lyon 57, Iftikhar Ahmed c

A comical mix-up bet-  
ween tail-enders saw Pat  
Cummins run out Moham-  
mad Abbas for the final wick-

et to wrap up the match.  
While Lyon enjoyed the

spoils on day four, the match

belonged to opener David

Warner, who scored an un-  
beaten 335 to drive Australia  
to a mammoth first-innings  
total of 589 for three.

**229, 9-235.**

**Australia bowling:** Starc 16-3-  
47-1, Hazlewood 23-4-63-3,  
Cummins 15-4-45-0, Lyon 25-  
7-69-5, Labuschagne 3-0-9-0.

**Man-of-the-Match & Series:**  
David Warner.

**Fall of wickets:** 1-2, 2-11, 3-20,  
4-123, 5-154, 6-201, 7-221, 8-

**Australia won by an innnings  
and 48 runs.**

# England ahead after Root double

Pope lends him good support; Wagner picks up a five-for



**Well-entrenched:** England skipper Joe Root held the visitor's innings together with a patient double-century. ■ AP

## ENGLAND IN NZ

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE  
HAMILTON

Joe Root's masterful 226 to highlight a return to form gave England a much-needed boost in the second Test against New Zealand on Monday as it ended day four believing it can square the series. It took a five-wicket haul for the tireless Neil Wagner to bring England's

first innings to an end at 476, a lead of 101.

At stumps, New Zealand was 96 for two and needing to bat late into the final day although rain may yet have the last word with further showers forecast for Tuesday.

Earlier, Root controlled proceedings in a marathon innings in which he faced 441 deliveries in nearly 11 hours. It was his third dou-

ble century, his longest innings in terms of time and balls faced and it ended just 28 runs short of his Test best 254 against Pakistan three years ago.

He restored his own confidence and arrested England's slide in an initial partnership of 177 with Rory Burns for the third wicket followed by a convincing 193-run sixth-wicket stand with Ollie Pope.

Ravals

lbw b Curran 0, K. Willi-

amson (batting) 37, R. Taylor

(batting) 31, Extras: (b-1, lb-2,

w-2, p-5); 10; Total (for two

wkts. in 34 overs): 96.

**New Zealand bowling:** Southee

37-4-90-2, Henry 33-6-87-1,

Wagner 35.5-3-124-5, Mitchell

22-5-69-0, Santner 35-4-88-1.

**New Zealand – 2nd innings:** T.

Latham c Root b Woakes 18, J.

8, C. Broad b Wagner 0; Extras

(b-4, lb-14, w-1, nb-1): 20; Total

(in 162.5 overs): 476.

**Fall of wickets:** 1-11, 2-24,

3-201, 4-245, 5-262, 6-455, 7-

458, 8-460, 9-476.

**New Zealand bowling:** Southee

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Wagner 35.5-3-124-5, Mitchell

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**New Zealand – 2nd innings:** T

## TV PICKS

**NBA:** Sony ESPN (SD & HD), 8.30 a.m.  
**New Zealand v England:** 2nd Test, SS Select 1 (SD & HD), 3.30 a.m.  
**Big Bout League:** Star Sports 1 (SD & HD), 7 p.m.

## IN BRIEF



## Mavs halt Lakers' winning streak

LOS ANGELES Luka Doncic had 27 points, 10 assists and nine rebounds, and the visiting Dallas Mavericks snapped the Los Angeles Lakers' 10-game winning streak with a 114-100 victory here on Sunday. Doncic scored 21 of his points in the second half as the Mavericks captured their seventh win in eight games. Kawhi Leonard scored 34 points as Los Angeles Clippers routed Washington Wizards 150-125.

**The results:** Miami 109 bt Brooklyn 106, Boston 113 bt New York 104, Memphis 115 bt Minnesota 107, Dallas 114 bt LA Lakers 100, Detroit 132 bt San Antonio 98, Oklahoma City 107 bt New Orleans 104, Orlando 100 bt Golden State 96, Toronto 130 bt Utah 110, LA Clippers 150 bt Washington 125.



## Leclerc keeps third place, Ferrari fined €50,000

ABU DHABI Charles Leclerc retained his podium finish in Sunday's Abu Dhabi GP after a post-race stewards investigation into a fuel infringement, but his Ferrari team was fined €50,000. The Monegasque driver finished third behind Lewis Hamilton and Max Verstappen. The outcome is seen as a lenient sanction for the Italian team after a period during which its cars and performance had been the subject of much scepticism from rivals. AFP



## David Warner's wife quotes Mahatma Gandhi

ADELAIDE Australia opener David Warner's wife Candice used the words of Mahatma Gandhi to heap praise on her husband after his record-breaking 335. "Strength does not come from physical capacity. It comes from an indomitable will. (Mahatma Gandhi)," Candice wrote on Twitter after David's marathon innings. "It's not important what other people believe about you. It's only important what you believe about yourself." IANS

## Bengaluru extra race day on Dec. 13

BENGALURU The Stewards of Bangalore Turf Club have decided to conduct an extra race day on Friday (Dec.13).

## Top cueists for inter-unit PSPB meet

## SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT KOLKATA

Top cueists, including Panjaj Advani, Aditya Mehta, Brijesh Damani, Alok Kumar, Rupesh Shah, Sourav Kothari, Dhruv Sritwala and Manan Chandra, will be seen in action in the 16th Petroleum Sports Promotion Board (PSPB) inter-unit biliards and snooker tournament starting at the Bengal Rowing Club here from Tuesday.

With the addition of Hindustan Petroleum, the four-

## Devdutt Padikkal has quickly climbed the ladder

The youngster has offered enough evidence of his abundant talent

SHREEDUTTA CHIDANANDA  
BENGALURU

Last year, the senior India selector Jatin Paranjpe travelled to Mysuru for a Ranji Trophy game despite a bad back, because he wanted to watch a certain young Karnataka batsman in action. It is fair to presume Paranjpe walked away from the Ganga Glades duly impressed. For Devdutt Padikkal offered a glimpse of his bountiful talent on debut, stroking his way to an attractive 77 in the second innings.

If that was a sample of his potential, the 19-year-old has delivered a full batch this season, topping the run charts in both the Vijay Hazare Trophy (609 runs, 67.66 avg.) and the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy (580 runs, 64.44 avg.).

## Champion stuff

"He's been the find of the season," off-spinner K. Gowtham told *The Hindu*. "Last year, he started off fairly well



**On the way up:** Right from the time Devdutt Padikkal made his debut in 2018, he has grown by leaps and bounds. • VIJAY SONEJI

in the Ranji Trophy. Maybe things didn't go the way he wanted after that but this year he's been working really hard. He's shown he has what it takes to succeed at this level. What he's done is absolute champion stuff."

From a roster full of stars,

Karnataka picked a teenager to open (for the most part), and he did not disappoint. Back in October, in his second Vijay Hazare Trophy outing, Padikkal had fallen for 60 at a critical juncture in a run-chase against Hyderabad. Karnataka lost a low-

scoring game by 21 runs. "It changed him as a batsman," Manish Pandey said later. "That loss hit him quite a bit." Scores of 8 and 44 followed. In the five innings after that, Padikkal made 79, 103 n.o., 102 n.o., 50, and 92. "When I feel I am drifting

away, I am looking to concentrate more and get back to the game," he told reporters. "It is just about batting long."

## Delightful freedom

In the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy, Padikkal played with a delightful freedom, attacking from the outset, and finishing with a strike-rate in excess of 175. The tall left-hander hits sixes with what seems like minimum effort; he struck 33 of them during the tournament, 11 more than anyone else.

The former Karnataka captain R. Vinay Kumar, who handed Padikkal his Ranji Trophy debut in Mysuru, was never in any doubt about his ability. "The way he was tim-

ing the ball in that second innings in Mysuru, he never looked like a youngster to me," Vinay told *The Hindu*. "That day I felt, 'This guy will make it very big.' He looked ready for the next level. He is fearless. He is totally dominating the bowling. It won't be long before we see another Karnataka player in the Indian team."

## Bergamasco betting big on young talent

Says a star like Mary comes only once in about a 100 years

## BOXING

STAN RAYAN  
KANNUR



Raffaele Bergamasco  
• STAN RAYAN

She is the biggest name in boxing but she's 36 and may not hang around for long. The search is now on for girls who could step into M.C. Mary Kom's shoes.

Raffaele Bergamasco, the High Performance Director for Indian women's boxing, feels that there are plenty of talented girls in the country but it will not be easy to take over from 'Magnificent Mary', the six-time World champion.

"Mary is a very big name, something like Maradona in football. Talent like that comes only once in about a hundred years. We may not have a girl who could be another Mary but we have a very talented bunch of young boxers," said Bergamasco in a chat with *The Hindu* on the sidelines of the Elite National women's championship here on Monday evening.

"There are a number of talented girls among the youth bunch. Nitu and S. Kalaiyani (48kg), Nikhat Zareen, Jyoti (Guila) in 51kg, Manisha and Sakshi (57kg) are all good.

"And then we have Simranjit Kaur, though she is not a young girl she is performing very well now, Lovlina (Borgohain) and Pooja Rani," said the Italian who hails from Napoli.

Before taking over as the

Bergamasco has been travelling around the country hunting for young talent. "I went to Rohtak for their youth and junior championships, there are some girls who are very promising," he said.

"Also, the mentality of the girls towards sport has changed. Earlier they thought that boxing was a way to find jobs and support their families. And once they joined Railways or Police, they finished their career but now step by step, they have changed that mentality, they want to win gold in big competitions like the Olympics."

A former multiple Italian national champion, Bergamasco mixes the European and Asian style of boxing for Indians.

"Asia is very strong in women's boxing and Indian boxers have a very strong heart, they are very strong in their boxing but they have to work on their footwork. They understand this because when you combine speed with strong punches, the mix will carry you far."

## Rifle and pistol Nationals from Dec. 7

The men's air pistol is set to run for nine days

## SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

the same as 25m sports pistol for women.

The women's air rifle final will be on Dec. 19. The men's and women's finals in air events will also be followed by the finals in the junior and youth sections on the same day. The women's air pistol final will be on Dec. 24, along with the men's 25m rapid fire pistol. On Christmas, the mixed air pistol final will be staged as also the women's rifle 3-position final.

The non-Olympic events like rifle prone for men and women, apart from free pistol, will be held from Dec. 12 to 29. The men's air pistol is expected to beat all records as it is set to run for nine days from Dec. 27 for the qualification process, and the final will be held on Jan. 4.

The standard pistol and centre fire pistol events will be held from Dec. 28 to Jan. 1. Considering the examination for students, the National Rifle Association of India (NRAI) has announced that it would adjust the qualification dates for shooters, provided they apply for the same with their examination schedule and admit card, latest by Dec. 5.

The shooters would also be allowed to exchange their positions with same State shooters in different batches of the same event if they are able to justify their request with supporting documents by Dec. 5.

The shooters would also be allowed to exchange their positions with same State shooters in different batches of the same event if they are able to justify their request with supporting documents by Dec. 5.

event. Sidharth Rawat and Arjun Kadhe will play each other in the qualifying event on Tuesday, in search of a main draw berth. Twelve players will be joined by four qualifiers in the main draw.

Arjun Kadhe is scheduled to compete for the doubles wild card in partnership with Ramkumar Ramanathan.

In the concurrently held junior event, the 499th ranked Aaryan Zaveri is the other Indian entry.

This is the first time ever

HYDERABAD: Paso Robles (Suraj Narredu astride) clinched the Golconda 1000 Guineas, the first Classic of the season here on Monday (Dec. 2). The winner is the property of M/s. M. Rama Krishna Reddy & Meka Yugandhar and trained by L. D'Silva.

Paso Robles, who jumped out first, settled down to race third till the final bend when Suraj, who rode confidently, made his move in the straight. The filly responded well and took command in the last 250m to mark her gallop past long-time leader Ice Floe and take the honours comfortably ahead of the fast-finishing Cape Kidnappers.

GOLDEN DAGGER PLATE (1,400m), 3-y-o & over, rated 40 to 65 (Cat. II): PRINCE VALIANT (Ajeeth Kumar) 1, Marinetti (Akshay Kumar) 2, Midnight Dream (Kuldeep Singh) 3 and Artistry (Gaurav Singh) 4, 2, 3-1/2 and 3/4. Im, 25.31s, ₹7 (w), 5, 6 and 10 (p), SHP: 14, FP: 13, Q: 11, Tla: 50. Favourite: Prince Valiant. Owner: Mr. Ahmed Alami Khan. Trainer: D. S. Parekh.

3 GALLANT COMMANDER PLATE (1,400m), 3-y-o & over, rated 40 to 65 (Cat. II): N R I SYMBOL (Rohit Kumar) 1, Top Contender (P. Trevor) 2, Vancouver (Afroz Khan) 3 and Alexander the Great (Akshay Kumar) 4. Hd, 2, 3-1/2 and 2. Im, 25.98s, ₹31 (w), 10, 7 and 6 (p), SHP: 12, FP: 18, Q: 12, Tla: 41. Favourite: Alexander the Great (Surya Prakash) 4, 3-1/2, 5-3/4 and 1-1/2. Im, 39.05s, ₹9 (w), 5, 7 and 8 (p), SHP: 18, FP: 31, Q: 28, Tla: 128. Favourite: Paso Robles. Owners: M/s. M. Rama Krishna Reddy & Meka Yugandhar. Trainer: D. S. Parekh.

4 KUNTALA PLATE (1,400m), 3-y-o & over, rated 40 to 65 (Cat. II): BUTTONWOOD (Abhay Singh) 1, Solo Winner (Jitendra Singh) 2, Ajmal Birju (Gopal Singh) 3 and Alexander the Great (Surya Prakash) 4, 3-1/2, 5-3/4 and 1-1/2. Im, 7.96s, ₹16 (w), 7, 6 and 9 (p), SHP: 20, FP: 51, Q: 24, Tla: 41. Favourite: Buttonwood. Owners: M/s. M. R. Prashant Kumar, Ravinder Reddy Male & G. Anil. Trainer: R. H. Sequeira.

5 CH. V. LAKSHMI PRASAD RAO SIRDESAI SIRCILLA MEMORIAL CUP (1,600m), 3-y-o & over, rated 60 to 85 (Cat. II): NAYADEEP (Akshay Kumar) 1, Pon-

## RACING

## Pasro Robles obliges in Golconda 1000 Guineas



**Recognising excellence:** The HRC chairman R. Surender Reddy, right, with Paso Robles owner M. Rama Krishna Reddy, second from right, trainer L. D'Silva, left, and jockey Suraj Narredu. • K.V.S. GIRI

Boimireddy. Trainer: M.F. Alikhian.

3 GALLANT COMMANDER PLATE

2 DIV. II, (1,100m), 4-y-o &

over, rated 40 to 65 (Cat. II):

PRINCE VALIANT (Ajeeth Kumar) 1, Marinetti (Akshay Kumar) 2, Midnight Dream (Kuldeep Singh) 3 and Artistry (Gaurav Singh) 4, 2, 3-1/2 and 3/4. Im, 25.66s, ₹12 (w), 5, 6 and 11 (p), SHP: 15, FP: 50, Q: 10, Tla: 111. Favourite: Beyond Limits. Owners: M/s. Premanand Sugandhi, G. Raghunandan Chary & Subodh Kumar Ananthula. Trainer: Faisal Hassan.

4 GOLASTA PLATE (2,000m), 5-

3-y-o & over, rated 40 to 65 (Cat.

II): N R I SYMBOL (Rohit Kumar) 1,

Top Contender (P. Trevor) 2, Van-

couver (Afroz Khan) 3 and Alexan-

der the Great (Surya Prakash) 4, 3-1/2, 5-3/4 and 1-1/2. Im, 7.96s, ₹16 (w), 7, 6 and 9 (p), SHP: 20, FP: 51, Q: 24, Tla:

192. Favourite: Buttonwood. Owners: M/s. M. R. Prashant Kumar, Ravinder Reddy Male & G. Anil. Trainer: R. H. Sequeira.

5 GOLASTA PLATE (2,000m), 5-

3-y-o & over, rated 40 to 65 (Cat.

II): N R I SYMBOL (Rohit Kumar) 1,

Top Contender (P. Trevor) 2, Van-

couver (Afroz Khan) 3 and Alexan-

der the Great (Surya Prakash) 4, 3-1/2, 5-3/4 and 1-1/2. Im, 7.96s, ₹16 (w), 7, 6 and 9 (p), SHP: 20, FP: 51, Q: 24, Tla:

192. Favourite: Buttonwood. Owners: M/s. M. R. Prashant Kumar, Ravinder Reddy Male & G. Anil. Trainer: R. H. Sequeira.

5 GOLASTA PLATE (2,000m), 5-

3-y-o & over, rated 40 to 65 (Cat.

II): N R I SYMBOL (Rohit Kumar) 1,

Top Contender (P. Trevor) 2, Van-

couver (Afroz Khan) 3 and Alexan-

der the Great (Surya Prakash) 4, 3-1/2, 5-3/4 and 1-1/2. Im, 7.96s, ₹16 (w), 7, 6 and 9 (p), SHP: 20, FP: 51, Q: 24, Tla:

192. Favourite: Buttonwood. Owners: M/s. M. R. Prashant Kumar, Ravinder Reddy Male & G. Anil. Trainer: R. H. Sequeira.

5 GOLASTA PLATE (2,000m), 5-

# Leander Paes happy to keep India moving forward



**Triumphant:** Zeeshan Ali, Leander Paes and Rohit Rajpal on their return from the Davis Cup tie against Pakistan in Kazakhstan. ■ KAMESH SRINIVASAN

But says the country needs to nurture a young team

## DAVIS CUP

KAMESH SRINIVASAN  
NEW DELHI

The task was simple, but the challenge was enormous. Having served the country for 30 years, Leander Paes expressed satisfaction that the job of seeing India move forward was accomplished with a ruthless win over Pakistan in Nur Sultan, Kazakhstan.

Returning in the early hours of Monday from the 4-0 win over Pakistan, when the Indian team dropped a mere seven games in all, Paes met the media along with captain Rohit Rajpal and coach Zeeshan Ali after a warm reception at the

airport.

The 46-year-old Paes said that it was important not to forfeit the tie for whatever reason, which had looked a possibility at one stage, and thanked the Union Sports Minister Kiren Rijiju for supporting the team when the situation was not clear.

### Tricky situation

Beating Pakistan, which did not have a player in the top-1000 of world ranking was not a challenge, but handling the tricky situation when some of the Indian players expressed concerns about travelling to Pakistan was the key to India finding itself in a healthy position of facing the 2018 champion Croatia for a berth in the

World final.

Paes stressed that it was important for the younger generation not to be relegated in Davis Cup, and thus he was happy to play his part in ensuring a smooth journey to Croatia for the tie to be played in March.

Having made his Davis Cup debut in 1990 against Japan in Chandigarh, Paes acknowledged that Zeeshan had guided him through the long match when the Indian pair won 18-16 in the fifth set.

He also recalled how he had taken the place of Rajpal then, as the fourth member in the squad.

"I have lived my career, playing for my country," said Paes, who won the sin-

gles bronze in the Atlanta Olympics in 1996 apart from winning 18 Grand Slam doubles titles.

### Praise for physios

While both captain and coach were unanimous in rating Paes's immense experience very high, Rajpal praised the two physios – Anand Dubey and Yash Pandey – for ensuring a good preparation.

Looking at the challenge ahead, Zeeshan said that the Indian team would prepare well for Croatia, which has high ranked players.

"We have beaten Australia in Australia when it had four top-10 players in 1987," said Zeeshan, recalling the Indian team's ability to work the magic in Davis Cup.

**Significant role**

Paes had himself played a significant role in beating Goran Ivanisevic in the last tie against Croatia in 1995.

India won 3-2 then on grass at the NSCI in Delhi, when Paes won both his singles matches apart from the doubles with Mahesh Bhupathi.

"I should have been moved out by the younger generation. We need to nurture a young team," said Paes, even as he emphasised that it was not tough physically any more, in best of three sets, when a doubles rubber spanned about one and a half to two hours.

## 'Was getting ready to congratulate Warner'

It's great when records are broken by attacking players: Lara

### CRICKET

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
ADELAIDE

West Indies cricket legend Brian Lara has revealed that he was looking forward to congratulate David Warner had the Australian breached his record of highest individual Test score, just as Gary Sobers had done when he achieved the feat.

Lara broke the record of highest individual Test score twice, first when he overtook compatriot Gary Sobers' 36-year-old mark of 365 by scoring 375 against England in 1994 and then again when he bettered his own record to reach 400 in 2004.

On Saturday, Warner hit an unbeaten 335 during the second Test against Pakistan and looked set to pass Lara's 400 mark before Tim Paine declared the innings.

Lara, who was here to at-



Brian Lara. ■ GETTY IMAGES

**C**I still think Warner may have time to do it in his career. As soon as you get that 300 you know how to get 400. He may get another shot at iters. Being in Adelaide I would have got an opportunity to if not walk out, at least meet him at this opportune time," said Lara.

The 50-year-old said Warner could still achieve the milestone. "I still think Warner may have time to do it in his career. I know he is not a spring chicken but as soon as you get that 300 you know how to get 400. He may get another shot at it.

"He is a very attacking player and that is the sort of player who can always set you up for a win. I know you need stabilizers but you also need one or two players like David Warner and Sir Vivian Richards who can take the

game with their bats."

En route his 335 not out, Warner went past Sir Don Bradman and Mark Taylor's top scores of 334 to sit second behind Matthew Hayden's 380 as the second highest-ever score by an Australian.

"But after passing Sir Donald Bradman I would have loved to see him race towards me. I was getting dressed to come back near the end of his innings. I was listening to commentators say whether he would have a go at Matthew Hayden's 380 but I felt if he got to 381 he would have to have a go at my record," said Lara.

**More time**

He added that although he understood the captain's decision of declaring the innings, he would have liked if Warner was given a little more time to try and etch his name in history books.

## Blake severely critical of Coe's decision

I don't know if he is trying to build athletics or kill it, he says on a few events getting dropped from the Diamond League

### ATHLETICS

NANDAKUMAR MARAR  
MUMBAI

Jamaican sprint ace, Yohan Blake, in the city to promote Road Safety World Series T20, is looking to walk away from Olympic athletics stage on a victorious note at Tokyo 2020.

"It is going to be my last Olympics and definitely I am going for gold. I have got so much medals in the past, this will put the icing on the cake for me at this Olympics in Tokyo." He was among the medalists at his Olympic debut in 2012 London, and won a relay gold at 2016 Rio.

The 2011 World Athletics 100m champion was severely critical of the move to remove 200m, triple jump, 3000m steeplechase and discus from the schedule of disciplines for the Diamond League next year.

World Athletics chief, Sebastian Coe, endorsed the decision to streamline the league to increase the prize money league's appeal on television.

### Stupid move

"If he (Coe) can take away the 200 and triple jump, I don't know if he is trying to build it (track and field) or trying to kill athletics.

"It is a stupid move he is



**Upbeat:** Blake said everyone is looking forward to the 100m race in the 2020 Olympics, and so is he. ■ PRASHANT NAKWANI

making. He must enhance the sports, but is killing it. It is just madness."

The Jamaican is the second fastest sprinter in athletics history (9.69s at the 2012 Diamond League staged in Lausanne) and the youngest World champion (100m sprint gold at the 2011 World Athletics) at 21 years, 245 days, unveiled the West Indies jersey for RSWS T20 where Brian Lara is among the participants, alongside Sachin Tendulkar, Dilshan Tillakaratne, Brett Lee, Jonty Rhodes, to name a few.

the 29-year-old said: "I'm always the favourite, the second fastest man in the universe. Everyone has to look up to me."

"Definitely there are some good guys coming, I'll be looking forward for the challenge, I think it is going to be epic, this is the greatest show on earth and everyone is looking forward to that blue-carpet event, which is the 100 metre, so definitely I am."

Blake was felicitated by Ravi Gaikwad, Regional Traffic Office, Thane region and member of the Road Safety Cell of Maharashtra.

Mohd. Azharuddin, named mentor of RSWS, was also present.

**I'm the favourite**

Relying on his chances in the absence of fellow-countryman Usain Bolt at Tokyo,

**Smith is undermining Paine: Chappell**

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
ADELAIDE

Former Australian captain Ian Chappell feels Steve Smith undermined current skipper Tim Paine by trying to set the field in the second Test against Pakistan, which the home team won by an innings and 48 runs here on Monday.

Smith captained the team before losing the position in the aftermath of the ball-tampering scandal last year. Chappell said the batting mainstay should not be as involved in field placements as he seemed to be on Monday when Australia wrapped the 2-0 series triumph.

"I tell you what I don't like to see, Steve Smith is moving a few fieldsmen around," Chappell told Macquarie Sports Radio. "He did have a chat with Tim Paine, trying to talk Tim Paine into moving a fielder on the off-side, but I'm not sure Tim Paine moved him as far as Steve Smith wanted. Steve Smith started moving him, I hate to see that," he added.

Chappell said Smith's conduct amounted to "white-anting" Paine. White-anting is an Australian term to describe action which seeks to bring down from within. "England used to do it a bit."

## Our consistency will be put to test: Manpreet

### HOCKEY

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
BHUBANESWAR

India's consistency will be put to test in the second edition of the FIH Pro League, said captain Manpreet Singh whose team will make its debut against the Netherlands here in January next year.

The Indian men's hockey team will open its campaign

in the FIH Pro League against the Netherlands here on Jan. 18 and 19. India will then host Belgium on Feb. 8 and 9, followed by two more home fixtures against Australia on Feb. 22 and 23.

"I think the team has grown steadily in this past year with a number of youngsters getting very good international exposure. We have a good pool of players who can be further tested during the

Hockey Pro League," Manpreet said. "Although we have maintained our world ranking of five, our consistency will be put to test during the Hockey Pro League where we play top teams like the Netherlands, Belgium and Australia in the first three months of the season."

The Indian team will also play away games in Germany (April 25 and 26) and Great

## 'Some of my biggest wins came against Advani'

Aditya Mehta goes down memory lane and relives his rivalry with the ace cueist

### SNOOKER

Y.B. SARANGI  
KOLKATA

Reflecting on the World Team snooker title he won with his partner-cum-rival Pankaj Advani, cueist Aditya Mehta on Monday cherished his special bonding with the 23-time World champion.

The two iconic names in Indian cue sports showed good cohesion to claim the World crown in September.

Thirty-four-year-old Mehta looked back at the moment of glory with a lot of pride. "After we won the World Team title, Pankaj said, 'One day it had to happen.' We had not won anything together four times. The big one was the professional World Cup – we made it to the semis. We lost in the finals of a couple of Asian events."

Mehta and Laxman Ra-



**Winsome twosome:** Mehta cherishes his special bonding with the 23-time World champion Advani. ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

were here to attend a function organised in their honour by their employer Indian Oil.

years of age, said some of his 'biggest victories came against' the legendary cueist.

"It's the magnitude – millions of people watch it, 128 good players – that attracts me. I love the professionalism. Pro tour is where the livelihood can come in."

The only stumbling block for Mehta could be a five-year-old neck pain. "If I am not healthy, I am not going to go. My neck is still a major issue for me. I need to play to my standard which I have not reached. I need to be less dependent on painkillers," he said.

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