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Supreme Court declines Maharashtra's plea to close Enron case appeal  
 page 7



No useful information in CAG report on Rafale deal: P. Chidambaram  
 page 10; Editorial: page 8



Consortium of banks to acquire majority stake in Jet Airways  
 page 13



Former diplomats call for Brexit delay, May loses symbolic vote  
 page 12

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## NEARBY



U.P. Minister Rajbhar gives up portfolio in protest

LUCKNOW  
 After months of baiting, the BJP's disgruntled ally in Uttar Pradesh, Om Prakash Rajbhar, handed back the Backward Class Welfare Department to the Yogi Adityanath government on Thursday, accusing it of neglecting OBCs and discriminating against them.

NORTH ▶ PAGE 3



PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION  
 By C. Rajput  
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FRIDAY REVIEW ▶ 12 PAGES  
 (IN TABLET)  
 DELHI METRO ▶ 4 PAGES

## BJP, Cong. using 'state terror' says Mayawati

BSP chief slams govt. in U.P. and M.P.

### SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

LUCKNOW  
 Equating the Congress and the BJP, BSP chief Mayawati on Thursday said the governments run by them in Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh were engaged in "state terror."

Referring to the Congress government in Madhya Pradesh invoking the National Security Act (NSA) against Muslims on suspicion of cow-slaughter and the BJP government in Uttar Pradesh slapping "notorious" sedition charges on 14 students of Aligarh Muslim University, she said, "Both are examples of 'state terror' and condemnable."

People should decide what is the difference bet-

## 37 CRPF men killed in J&K suicide attack

Jaish militant rams explosives-laden vehicle into bus that was part of a convoy of 70 vehicles

PEERZADA ASHIQ  
 SRINAGAR

At least 37 CRPF personnel were killed on Thursday when a convoy in which they were travelling was attacked by a Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM) suicide bomber, who rammed his explosives-laden vehicle into one of the convoy's buses near Awantipora on the Srinagar-Jammu Highway.

The bombing in the Lethpora area of Pulwama district also left at least eight jawans critically injured and was the deadliest attack in terms of casualties in the last three decades of militancy in Jammu and Kashmir.

### Dastardly: Rajnath

In a post on Twitter, Home Minister Rajnath Singh blamed the "Pakistan-based, Pakistan-backed" JeM for the



Attack in the cold: Security men inspecting the incident site in Pulwama district. ■ NISSAR AHMAD

"dastardly" attack.

"The exact number of casualties is being ascertained," a CRPF spokesman said. "Thirty-seven casualties are confirmed. The in-

jured have been shifted to hospitals..."

However, hospital sources said the death toll was likely to rise "because the condition of eight injured jawans is

critical." The injured were shifted to the Army's 92 Base Hospital in Srinagar, an official said.

A security official, speaking on condition of anonymity,

said that at 3.15 p.m., a sports utility vehicle laden with 300 to 350 kg of explosives rammed into the CRPF convoy of 70 vehicles on the way to Srinagar from Jammu, as the highway had opened after a week-long closure due to snowfall.

"One of the vehicles of the convoy was targeted," said CRPF Inspector-General (Operations) Zulfiqar Hassan. "It inflicted damage on vehicles as well as our men," he said.

About 2,500 personnel were travelling to the Valley at the time of the attack. Gunshots followed the blast, locals said. The personnel under attack belonged to the 92, 17 and 54 Battalions of the CRPF.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 10  
**RESURGENT JAISH POSES**  
**NEW CHALLENGE** ▶ PAGE 11

## SC sends Delhi power tussle case to larger Bench

2 judges differ over control of services



A setback? Delhi CM Arvind Kejriwal and Deputy CM Manish Sisodia addressing the media on Thursday. ■ R.V. MOORTHY

### KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL

NEW DELHI

A Supreme Court Bench of Justices A.K. Sikri and Ashok Bhushan on Thursday gave a split opinion on whether the Delhi government has control over the administration's services and decided to refer the question to a larger Bench.

being sent to the LG. Observing that in case of a difference of opinion, the LG prevails, Justice Sikri said there was a need to evolve a "just and fair mechanism." The situation in Delhi was "peculiar," he said.

### Boards proposed

Justice Sikri also proposed the setting up of Civil Service Boards to take care of the service matters of grade one, two, three and four officers. The Boards for grade four and three officers could be led by the Services Secretary and the others by the Chief Secretary. However, one would have to wait for a final decision on this issue, the judge said.

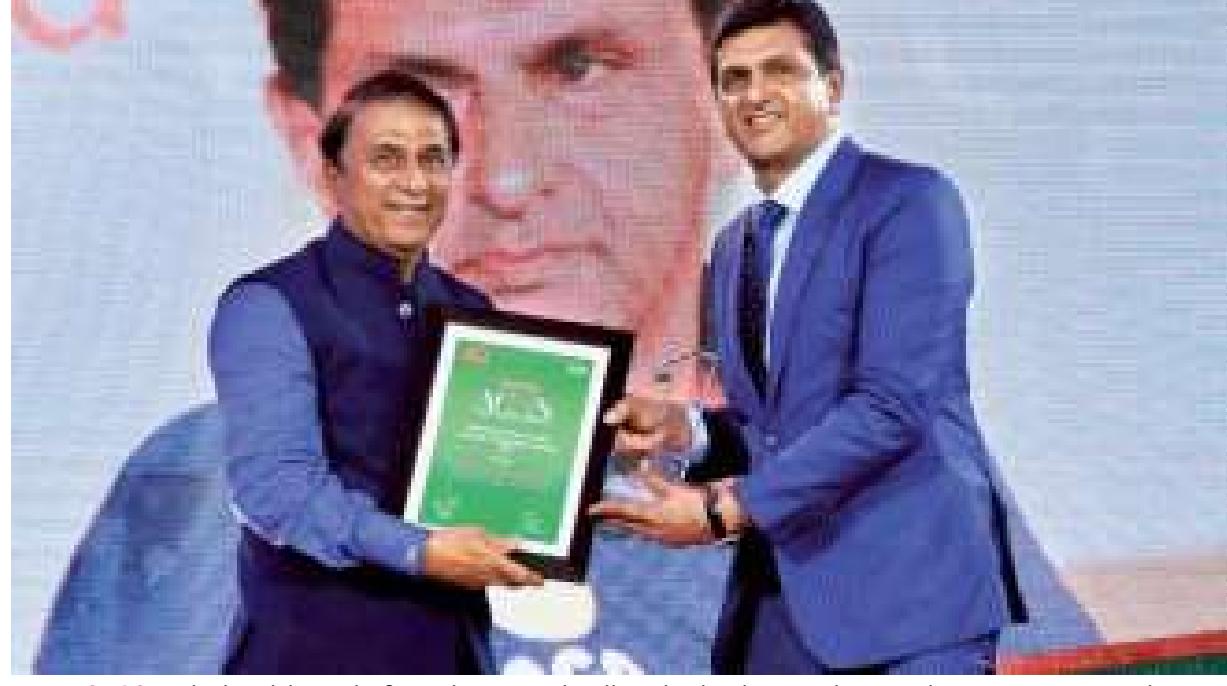
Thursday's judgment on individual appeals followed a verdict by the Constitution Bench on July 4, 2018, whe-

rein

the court held that the LG was bound by the aid and advice of the Council of Ministers of the National Capital Territory government. Interestingly, other than the question of services, the two judges agreed on all other questions raised in separate appeals.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 10  
**KEJRIWAL TERMS SC JUDGMENT**  
**"INJUSTICE"** ▶ PAGE 7  
**SEE ALSO** ▶ DELHI METRO PAGE 1

## From one legend to another



One to cherish: Prakash Padukone, the first Indian to win the All-England Badminton Championship in 1980, receiving the Sportstar Aces Lifetime Achievement award from Sunil Gavaskar in Mumbai on Thursday. ■ VIVEK BENDRE (REPORT ON PAGE 15)

## Wasted effort: half of India's waste-to-energy plants defunct

Unsegregated rubbish makes plants inefficient



Since 1987, 15 WTE plants have been established across the country.

these plants have shut down.

Apart from Delhi, these include plants at Kanpur, Bengaluru, Hyderabad,

Lucknow, Vijayawada and Karimnagar.

The key reasons for closure are the plants' inability to handle mixed solid waste and the high cost of electricity generated by them that renders it unattractive to power companies.

However, this has not stopped the government from betting big on WTE. The NITI Aayog, as part of the Swachh Bharat Mission, envisages 800 megawatt from WTE plants by 2018-19, which is 10 times the capacity of all the existing WTE plants put together.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 10

## Former cricketer Kirti Azad set to join Congress today

Darbhang MP hits out at BJP chief

### SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

Darbhang MP and former cricketer Kirti Jha Azad will be joining the Congress on Friday, ending months of speculation.

Speaking to *The Hindu*, Mr. Azad confirmed that he would be joining the Congress in the presence of party president Rahul Gandhi around noon and address a press conference thereafter.

"I was suspended from the BJP for no fault of mine. I had not indulged in any anti-party activity, my fight was against a private institu-

tion (the Delhi and District Cricket Association) and had nothing to do with the party. Amit Shah (BJP president) stabbed me in the back," he said.

Mr. Azad is a three-term MP from Darbhanga in Bihar and has been very publicly at odds with Union Minister Arun Jaitley over issues in the DDCA.

"The Mahagathbandhan (Grand Alliance) is on course to win the next polls... U.P. and Bihar constitute 120 Lok Sabha seats and they [BJP] will lose heavily there," said Mr. Azad.

## Gujjar stalemate continues in Rajasthan

### SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

JAIPUR

Stalemate over the ongoing Gujjarr agitation in Rajasthan demanding reservation in government jobs and education continued on Thursday after the State government

issued a notification to enforce the Bill passed by the Assembly, which cleared 5% quota for Gujjars and four other nomadic communities.

Gujjars occupying the Delhi-Mumbai railway tracks in

Sawai Madhopur district said they were studying all aspects of the Bill and would take a decision on calling off the agitation only after being satisfied with the "legislation's strength".

DETAILS ON ▶ PAGE 7

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 (Author Economy & IR)

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## CCTVs will join the fight to curb lecherous babus

Cameras in chambers are the best way to stop sexual harassment by 'black sheep', says judge

### LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

CHENNAI

Around 11.45 on Thursday morning, Justice S.M. Subramanian of the Madras High Court retired to his chambers for a short break before delivering his order on a batch of cases. A large number of lawyers, intelligence personnel, and journalists waited with bated breath for him to return.

The cases pertained to a sexual harassment complaint filed by a woman Superintendent of Police against an Inspector-General of Police in the Directorate



ILLUSTRATION: SATHEESH VELLINEZH

of Vigilance and Anti-Corruption (DVAC). Interestingly, the SP was the chairperson of the Internal Complaints Committee (ICC) on the day she lodged the complaint.

When the judge returned a few minutes past noon to read out his order, he took everyone by surprise. He issued a "strong recommendation" to the Chief Secretary of the Tamil Nadu government to install closed circuit television (CCTV) cameras inside the official chambers of all bureaucrats. This would avoid allegations of sexual

harassment and safeguard the interest of women employees, he said.

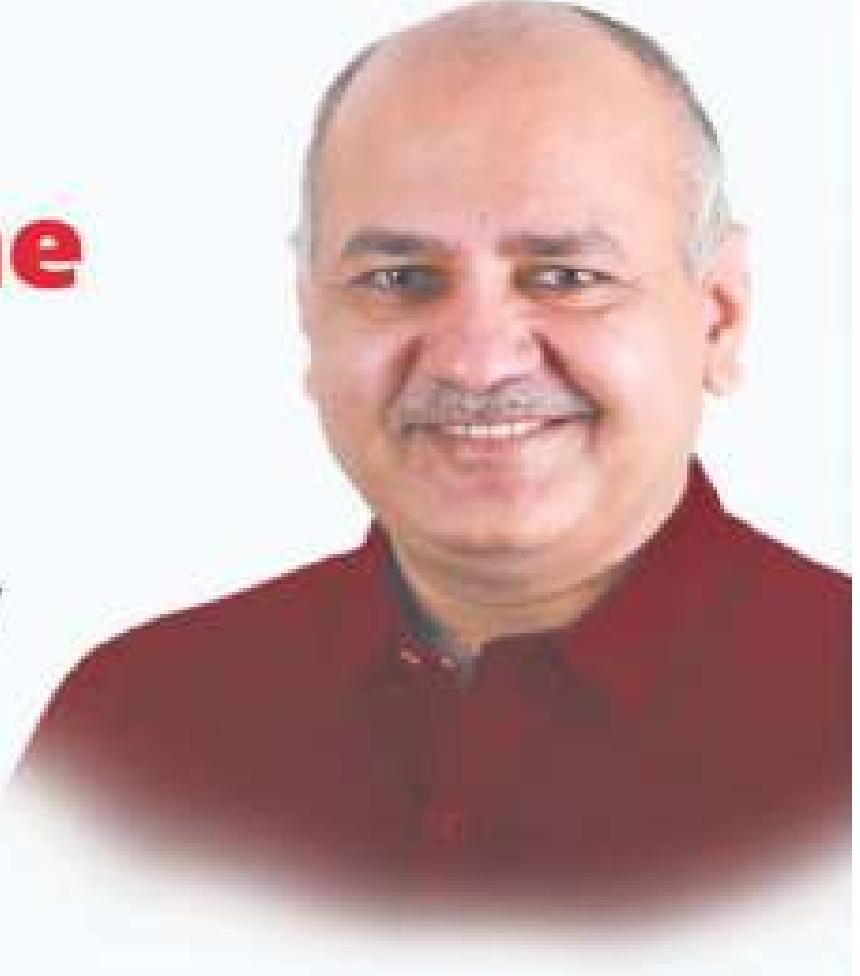
Quoting Mahatma Gandhi, who reportedly said, "an ounce of practice is worth more than tons of preaching," Justice Subramanian also issued a directive to the High Court administration to first install a CCTV camera in his own chamber within two weeks. The judge pointed out that the Police Department was promoting CCTV cameras in public places as well as in private properties to curb crime. "This being the preaching of the Police Department to the citizen at large of this great nation, what about the offenders and black sheep in the police offices, chambers and office rooms of the higher

offices? What measures are taken to nab such offenders inside the Police Department and other public offices and institutions?" he wondered.

New head for ICC As for the case concerning the woman SP, the judge ordered the reconstituted ICC, now headed by an Additional Director-General of Police, to continue the inquiry. The Crime Branch-Criminal Investigation Department was ordered to move ahead with criminal proceedings and report back on March 6.

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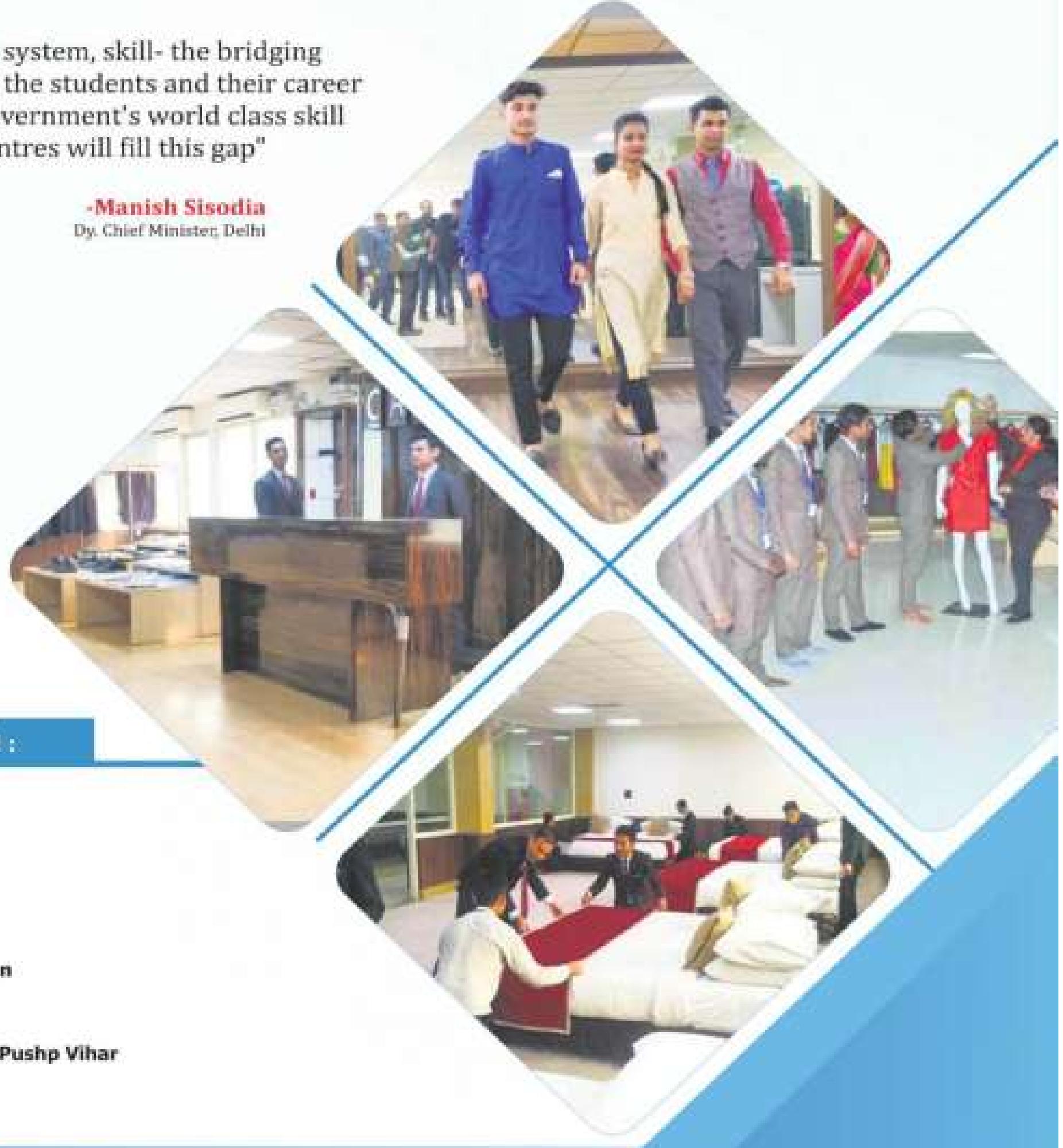
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Dy. Chief Minister, Delhi



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- WCSC, DPSRU Campus Pushp Vihar

DELHI Timings	
SATURDAY, FEB. 15	
RISE 07:00 SET 18:11	
RISE 13:39 SET 02:46	
SUNDAY, FEB. 16	
RISE 06:59 SET 18:12	
RISE 14:37 SET 03:49	
SUNDAY, FEB. 17	
RISE 06:58 SET 18:12	
RISE 15:41 SET 04:50	

**Delhi Weather** max min  
Delhi City 23 14  
Safdarjung 23 14  
Palam 22 14

**Delhi Palam Today**  
22°C Rain likely in Delhi and NCR. A pleasant day and cool evening likely. Pollution to remain poor.

**Delhi Palam Tomorrow**  
20°C Drop in minimum likely, moderate fog expected. Day will be pleasant.

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## IN BRIEF



### Hema urges farmers to use new agri techniques

MATHURA (U.P.)  
Actress-turned-politician and BJP MP Hema Malini has said farmers should adopt new agricultural techniques for increasing their produce. She was inaugurating a Kisan Mela in Petha village of the district on Wednesday. PTI

### Six more die of swine flu in Rajasthan

JAIPUR  
The death toll due to swine flu in Rajasthan has risen to 125 with six more people succumbing to the H1N1 virus on Thursday, the Health Department said. PTI

### Five killed, 1 injured as car rams truck in U.P.

RAE BARELI  
Five persons were killed and another injured on Thursday when their car rammed into a stationary truck in the Bachrawan area here, police said. The car was on its way to Hardoi from Allahabad, SP Sunil Singh said. PTI

### Two killed in lightning strikes in Patiala

PATIALA (PUNJAB)  
Two persons were killed after lightning struck them on Thursday at different places in the district. Jasdev Singh died after lightning struck him at Tejpur village. A woman also died in Patran after a lightning strike. PTI

### 3 more held in Ludhiana gang-rape case

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
LUDHIANA  
Three more persons were held on Thursday in connection with the gang-rape of a 21-year-old woman near Issewal village here, taking the total number of those nabbed in the case to six. "All six accused involved in the case have been arrested," DGP Dinkar Gupta said here.

**THE HINDU**  
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THE HINDU

# Restive Rajbhar drops portfolio

Accuses the Yogi govt. of neglecting and discriminating against the OBCs

OMAR RASHID  
LUCKNOW



After months of baiting, the BJP's disgruntled ally in Uttar Pradesh, Om Prakash Rajbhar, handed back the Backward Class Welfare Department to the Yogi Adityanath government on Thursday, accusing it of neglecting OBCs and discriminating against them.

A Cabinet Minister, Mr. Rajbhar will, however, retain the post of Disabilities Welfare Minister, of little political value in the run-up to the 2019 Lok Sabha election.

Mr. Rajbhar is the president of the Suheldev Bharatiya Samaj Party, an ally of the BJP in Uttar Pradesh. The two parties contested together in the 2017 Assembly elections, with the SBSP winning four seats, while additionally transferring its crucial Rajbhar vote for the BJP in Purvanchal.

In a letter to Mr. Adityanath, Mr. Rajbhar said there was anger among the OBC community as the BJP government had not implemented the subcategorisation of the 27% OBC quota as per the recommendations of

SBSP chief Om Prakash Rajbhar. •

a social justice committee and failed to give scholarships to students from these castes.

Mr. Rajbhar also rued that not a single member recommended by him was included in the committee of the Backward Class Panel.

"The people of the Backward Castes have a lot of expectations from me but due to the government's persistent disregard, I am not able to provide them what's due to them," said Mr. Rajbhar.

The SBSP chief's muscle-flexing comes a crucial time politically as the BJP faces the challenge of the Samajwadi Party-Bahujan Samaj Party in the State.

His main demand is the subcategorisation of the 27%

Deputy CM Dinesh Sharma rushed to his residence to apparently appease him. Since Mr. Adityanath is out on tour in Kerala, his office is yet to respond to the resignation.

However, the government got to work to publicise work done for the backward community. In a statement issued, the government said that it was working for all sections of the society and that it reflected in the increased budget under its tenure for the welfare of Backward Castes. If the budget allotted for Backward Castes in 2016-17, the final year of the Akhilesh Yadav government, was ₹1,300 crore, after coming to power the Yogi Adityanath government increased it to ₹1,654 crore in 2017-18 and ₹1,889 crore in 2018-19.

**Ultimatum**  
Mr. Rajbhar has given the BJP time till February 24 to fulfil his demands, after which he will decide whether to continue the alliance or not.

The government has so far remained silent on the report.

quota into three categories as per the report of the panel headed by retired Allahabad High Court Justice Raghavan-dra Kumar.

While the report has still not been made public or tabled in the Assembly despite being sent to the government in October, as per a leaked copy the panel has recommended the split of the 27% OBC quota into three parts: Pichda Varg (Backward Caste), who get 7%; the Ati Pichda (More Backward), who get 11%; and the Atyant Pichda (Most Backward), who get 9%. Rajbhars are a Most Backward Caste.

The BJP, however, is in a sticky situation over the report as it clubs Kurmis and Yadavs in the same bracket. While the BJP wants to isolate the Yadavs to polarise the non-Yadav OBC vote against the SP-BSP, it cannot afford to antagonise the Kurmis, who are the main vote bank of its ally Apna Dal, especially in areas around Varanasi, Prime Minister Narendra Modi's constituency.

The government has so far remained silent on the report.

# BJP to hold two-day OBC convention in Patna

Party's eight-point programme will be highlighted

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
PATNA



BJP chief Amit Shah will attend the meet. • FILE PHOTO

OB, would be the highlight of the convention," said State Agriculture Minister Prem Kumar.

State BJP spokesperson Nikhil Anand told journalists that about 5,500 OBC delegates from different parts of the country would attend the convention.

The BJP president will be the main speaker at the concluding session. Apart from him, Jharkhand Chief Minister Raghubar Das, former Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan, BJP national general secretary (organisation) Ram Lal, party's Bihar in-charge

Bhupendra Yadav, party's OBC Morcha national president Dara Singh Chouhan, Deputy Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh Keshav Prasad Maurya and State party leaders like Sushil Kumar Modi and Nitayanan Rai will attend the convention.

### PM visit

A day after the convention, Prime Minister Narendra Modi too would visit Bihar on February 17 to lay the foundation stone for the Patna Metro and several other projects.

The Prime Minister is scheduled to visit the State again on March 3 to address a NDA rally in Patna. Leaders of three NDA constituents – BJP, Janata Dal (United) and Lok Janshakti Party – would address the rally. "Like U.P., Bihar too is an important State for any national party in the Lok Sabha elections, so we are kicking off our programme early to reach out to the voters in time," said a senior State BJP leader.

## Punjab Assembly passes resolution for early SGPC polls

CM Amarinder Singh authorised to raise issue with Centre

VIKAS VASUDEVA  
CHANDIGARH



The Punjab Assembly on Thursday passed a resolution on speeding up the process of conducting elections to the Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee. The House also authorised Chief Minister Amarinder Singh to raise the issue with the Central government.

Capt. Amarinder said it was the democratic right of every Punjabi to vote in the SGPC elections which cannot be denied by Union government, while responding to the issue that was raised by MLA H.S. Phoolka.

**Akali, BJP protest**  
Amid protests by Shiromani Akali Dal and BJP members, the House authorised the Chief Minister to raise the issue with the Central government.

Capt. Amarinder said since the Gurdwara Act was

was a broad consensus in the House over the issue. "Only the Akalis and the BJP were not in favour," he said.

Leader of the Opposition Harpal Cheema said that the "Badals" stood exposed on the issue as they (Akali Dal) neither supported or rejected the motion.

The SAD asked Mr. Phoolka to clarify whether he had resigned from the Aam Aadmi Party or not. "Mr. Phoolka should disclose whether it was ethical and moral on his part to attend the Vidhan Sabha after resigning from AAP as well as the Assembly," said SAD MLA Bikram Singh Majithia. While Mr. Phoolka has left AAP, his resignation as an MLA is still pending with the Speaker.

Later, Speaker Rana K.P. Singh informed the House that till any decision is taken on the resignation, Mr. Phoolka will be the member of the House.

## Hooch deaths: accused held

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
GORAKHPUR (U.P.)

The main accused in the hooch tragedy in neighbouring Kushinagar district, which left nine people dead, has been arrested in Bhilwara district of Rajasthan, police

said.

The accused, Harendra Yadav, is a native of Bihar and was arrested on Wednesday evening. He is likely to be brought to Kushinagar on Friday, Kushinagar SP R.N. Mishra said.

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## IN BRIEF

**TDP MP joins YSRCP, blames Naidu**

VISAKHAPATNAM Anakapalle MP Muttamsetti Srinivas Rao, known as Avanthi Srinivas, quit the TDP and joined the YSR Congress Party in Hyderabad on Thursday. He was welcomed by YSRCP president Jagannath Mohan Reddy. Earlier, in the day he resigned as MP. Addressing the press immediately after joining the YSRCP, he trained his guns on Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu, saying nothing was going in the right direction in the party, which made him quit.

**Former Kerala imam seeks anticipatory bail**

KOCHI K. Sheeek, the Muslim preacher who has been accused of sexually abusing a 15-year-old girl, has approached the Kerala High Court seeking anticipatory bail. The imam submitted that the case against him was politically motivated and was instituted at the instance of the president of a mosque committee controlled by CPI(M). According to the accused, the girl was repeatedly tortured and persuaded to give a false statement against him.

**Efforts on to capture leopard trapped in hut**

KAKINADA Officials of the Forest Department, in association with the local police and the revenue personnel, launched operations to catch a leopard trapped in a hut at Balusulanka village near Mummidivaram in Andhra Pradesh on Thursday. The leopard entered the village and reportedly injured two farmers and fled into the fields. As the residents chased it, the animal ran into an abandoned hut.

**Kerala tourism going steady****2018**

TOURIST ARRIVALS 167 lakh

5.93% increase

ANTICIPATED 12-15%

FOREIGN TOURISTS 11 lakh

0.42% increase

**Highest shortfall in Thiruvananthapuram****2018**

TOURIST ARRIVALS 167 lakh

5.93% increase

ANTICIPATED 12-15%

FOREIGN TOURISTS 11 lakh

0.42% increase

**DOMESTIC 156 lakh****6.35% increase****HIGHEST NUMBER OF TOURISTS FROM****Tamil Nadu 13.79 lakh****Karnataka 10 lakh**

- Revenue from tourism sector ₹36,528.01 crore
- Increase in revenue ₹2,874.33 crore
- Forex from tourism sector ₹8,764.46 crore
- Increase in forex ₹372.35 crore

**2017**

FOOTFALL 157.67 lakh

10.94% increase

A promotional programme organised by Kerala Tourism in Hyderabad on Thursday.  
■ G. RAMAKRISHNA



## God's Own Country gets back visitors after deluge of issues

**Normality returns after floods, Nipah scare & Sabarimala stir****S. ANIL RADHAKRISHNAN**  
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Nipah scare. Foreign tourist arrivals showed a negative trend during August, September, October, and till November because of the floods. A positive trend was seen in December, indicating a return to normality.

The highest shortfall was registered in Thiruvananthapuram district (mainly to the beaches of Kovalam and Varkala) with a decrease of about 78,000 foreign tourists.

**Highest footfall from U.K.**

The highest footfall was from the U.K. with more than 2 lakh tourists. This is for the first time that footfall from a country is crossing 2 lakh. The U.S. came second, followed by France, Germany, and Saudi Arabia.

Negative growth was registered from almost all West Asian countries such as Saudi Arabia, Oman, the UAE, Kuwait, and Bahrain. From European countries, the footfall registered positive growth. In the case of domestic tourists, the growth

was 6.35%, with a footfall of 156 lakh. The growth rate of domestic tourists was around 20% up to May. From then on, it followed the pattern of foreign tourists. In December, a positive growth of 0.45% was registered.

**Impressive growth'**

Minister for Tourism Kadakkampally Surendran said, "It is significant that the number of tourists who visited Kerala almost touched half the State's total population. This impressive growth has been achieved despite adverse factors."

"It was through the hard work of Kerala Tourism, tourism trade, and the coordinated efforts of other departments that the State could achieve this impressive growth," said Rani George, Secretary, Tourism. "The State will be able to achieve better results this year on the strength of attractive products and new projects," says Director of Tourism P. Bala Kiran.

## Sabarimala case: Kerala govt. cites 1950 Travancore Act

**If women aged 35 can be part of TDB, what is logic behind bar on them to pray?****KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL**  
NEW DELHI

If women aged 35 could be part of the Travancore Devaswom Board to regulate the activities in the Sabarimala temple, what is the logic behind a bar on them to pray there?

This is the question raised by the Kerala government in its written submission filed on Thursday against the multitude of petitions seeking a review of the September 28 judgment of the Supreme Court lifting the ban on entry of women aged between 10 and 50 into the temple.

The submissions filed by senior advocate Vijay Hansaria, for the State government, pointed out that women aged 35 were part of the Devaswom Board from 1950 till 2007 as per the provi-

**A file photo of devotees waiting on the premises of the Sabarimala temple.** ■ H. VIBHU

sions of the Travancore-Cochin Hindu Religious Institutions Act of 1950.

"It is submitted that when under the statute, the members of the Board, who regulate the entire activity of the temple could be a woman of 35 years of age, it is conceivable to argue that women of 35 to 50 years cannot

enter the temple," Mr. Hansaria wrote in his submission filed in the apex court.

**Written submissions**

The review petitions have been reserved for orders. A Review Bench of five judges, led by Chief Justice Ranjan Gogoi, is to pass orders on their admission. The parties

were allowed to file written submissions.

"The Travancore Devaswom Board regulates and administers secular activities of the Sabarimala temple along with other temples in the Travancore region of Kerala," the Act says.

The State said the original intention of the 1950 statute shows that women aged 35 were considered to be eligible to be members of the Board.

"Section 4 nowhere debars women being a member of the Board and Section 6 prescribed minimum age of 35 years as qualification for membership of the Board, till 2007. Thus, under the Act, as originally enacted women of 35 years could be member of the Board," Mr. Hansaria contended.

## Give jobs to Kannadigas, govt. to tell pvt. firms

**Failure could lead to cut in concessions'****SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT**  
BENGALURU

Over three decades after the Sarojini Mahishi report was submitted recommending 100% jobs to Kannadigas in Group 'C' & 'D' jobs in the private sector, the State government on Thursday decided to ask private companies to "prefer" Kannadigas for such posts, subject to qualification and availability of posts.

The decision, which in the past generated heated debates, will have implications on private companies that have been established with direct and indirect con-

cessions from the State government.

"Failure to provide preference to Kannadigas in Group 'C' & 'D' jobs could lead to withdrawal of these concessions. We have created options to cut such concessions," Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Minister Krishna Byre Gowda told presspersons, after the Cabinet took the decision.

To provide legal teeth, an amendment would be brought to the Karnataka Industrial Employment (Standing Orders) Rules, 1961.

said. The Congress and the TDP, which fought the recent Telangana Assembly poll in alliance under the 'Mahakootami' banner, have decided to go for mutual divorce because of the disastrous results. Both parties feel that the voters will not accept the coming together of the TDP and the Congress.

Mr. Chandy hinted that during the 'yatra', many non-Congress leaders are expected to join the ranks. Mr. Chandy, since taking over, has been trying to woo back the Congress leaders who left for YSR Congress.

## Cong. to begin 'padayatra' in A.P. on February 19

**It will cover all 24 LS constituencies****SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT**  
NEW DELHI

The Congress is all set to begin a 13-day 'padayatra' in Andhra Pradesh from February 19. The 'yatra' will begin from Anantpur district and will traverse through all the 25 Lok Sabha constituencies.

The Congress currently does not have a single legislator or a Member of Parliament in the State.

"We are going to fight the election on our own in the State without an alliance with anyone," general secretary in charge of Andhra Pradesh Oommen Chandy



## Congratulations Jungpura !

### Replacement of old Sewer line in Basti Hazrat Nizamuddin starts

**Inauguration ceremony****On Friday, 15 February, 2019 at 6.00 P.M.****Venue: Markaz Road, Nizamuddin Basti, New Delhi****"We will make Delhi the best city in the world"**

**- Arvind Kejriwal**  
Chief Minister, Delhi

## IN BRIEF



## Himachal CM to oppose shifting of ARTRAC

SHIMLA Following reports that the Army is considering shifting its training command headquarters from Shimla, Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur on Thursday said he would raise the issue with Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and make every possible effort to ensure that the proposal does not materialise. PTI

## Two killed in roof collapse in Gonda

GONDA (U.P.) Two persons were killed and two others injured after the roof of an under-construction house collapsed in Uttar Pradesh's Gonda district, officials said on Thursday. Superintendent of Police R.P. Singh said the incident happened in Mahespur village when a boy was playing on the roof of the house. PTI

## IPS officer treating dad declared dead by docs

BHOPAL A senior IPS officer in Madhya Pradesh is administering Ayurvedic treatment to his father a month after a hospital declared him dead. ADG Rajendra Kumar Mishra claimed that Ayurvedic doctors checked his father's pulse and found "life in him". "We have given him oxygen support and jadi-booti (herbs). He is responding to the treatment," he said. PTI

## Maoist killed in encounter with security forces

KHUNTI (JHARKHAND) One ultra of the banned Peoples Liberation Front of India was killed in an encounter with the security forces in Khunti district on Thursday, police said. The encounter took place at Meramir forest and the security forces recovered the body and an automatic rifle from the spot. PTI

## NORTHERN RAILWAY Corrigendum

File No. CIIID/SLR/NLP/RP-VET/2019 Ref: Tender opening Date - 22.02.2019 (Through IREPS portal)  
1. Item No. 26 of Hindi and English NIT : NIT for (F-II) compartment in "Train no. 12722 Ex. HNZM - Hazrat Nizamuddin to HYB - Hyderabad Deccan" has been withdrawn due to technical reason.  
Other Particulars of NIT shall remain unchanged.

448/2019

## SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

## NORTHERN RAILWAY NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Name of work and its location:- Tender No.: 30-ELECT-47-T-R1-18-19-E3 Provision of lift in 15 new patients cabin and separate food lift in Central Hospital, Northern Railway, New Delhi. Approx cost of the works in - Rs. 57.22 lacs. Address of the office : Sr. Civil Engg. Engineer/General, New Delhi. Earnest Money : Rs.114500.00, Date & time of submission of tender : 07.03.2019, 15.00 Hrs., Opening of tender : 07.03.2019, 15.30 Hrs., Website & notice board : www.ireps.gov.in & Sr. Div. Elect. Engineer/General, New Delhi.

429/19

## SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

## ASSAM POLICE HEADQUARTERS ULUBARI :: GUWAHATI E-TENDERING CANCELLATION NOTICE

The notice inviting tender published vide this office NIT No. SAV-693/2018-19/MPFB/10 dated 01.12.2018 for supply of 5 (five) nos. of Ballistic Blanket ( Bomb Blanket) is hereby cancelled due to non-receipt of sufficient bids.

Addl. Director General of Police (M&L).  
Janasanyog/C/8794/18

## OFFICE OF DISTRICT AGRICULTURE OFFICER, RANCHI

Very Short e-Tender Notice for Invitation of Bids  
e-tender is being invited in two bid system:- (1)Technical bid (2) Financial bid from manufacturers/authorized distributors/ dealers/ registered suppliers/ reputed firms / government undertakings respectively for supply of laboratory Machinery/ Equipment's / Lab furniture's / General lab items etc. & CAMC of equipments for Quality Control (Fertilizer) Lab, Ranchi & Soil Testing Lab Ranchi, Jharkhand.

A Complete set of e-Tender Documents may be downloaded from website - http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in

Details are given below:-

1.	Tender Reference No.	e-Tender/DAO/FQCL/STL-1-2018-19
2.	Name of Work	Supply of laboratory Machinery/ Equipment's / Lab furniture's / Chemicals / Glassware / Plastic ware / General lab items etc. / CAMC of equipments, for Quality Control (Fertilizer) Lab, Ranchi & Soil Testing Lab Ranchi, Jharkhand
3.	e-Tender Document Cost (Non-Refundable)	Rs. 1,000
4.	Date of Publication of e-Tender Document on website	15.02.19
5.	Document Download Period Starts	15.02.19
6.	Online Bid Submission Period	15.02.19 to 26.02.19 (11.00 AM )
7.	Last date of submission of Original Hard copy of e-Tender Fee, EMD & One Copy of Uploaded Document	26.02.19 (11.00 AM )
8.	Technical Bid Opening Date	27.02.19 (2.00PM )
9.	Opening of Place	Office of District Agriculture Officer, Ranchi District Agriculture Combined Building, Krishibhawan, Campus, Kanke Road, Ranchi Pin. No. - 834008, (Jharkhand)
10.	Name & Address of the Inviting Tender	Ashok Kumar Sinha, District Agriculture Officer, Ranchi District Agriculture Combined Building, Krishibhawan, Campus, Kanke Road, Ranchi Pin. No. - 834008, (Jharkhand)
11.	Helpline no. of e-procurement cell	6203263764

Address for Communication, Place of Submission of Documents  
Office of District Agriculture Officer, Ranchi  
District Agriculture Combined Building, Krishibhawan, Campus, Kanke Road, Ranchi Pin. No. - 834008, (Jharkhand)  
Sd/  
District Agriculture Officer, Ranchi  
PR202067 Agriculture(18-19)D

## No evidence yet to support sedition charge against AMU students: police

If we fail to get anything to substantiate the charge, it would be dropped, says SSP

## PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ALIGARH

Police on Thursday said they had so far not found any evidence to support the sedition charge levelled against 14 Aligarh Muslim University students after protests broke out on the campus earlier this week.

The AMU authorities suspended eight students late Wednesday night in connection with the protest during which a motorcycle, allegedly belonging to a member of the Bharatiya Janata Yuva Morcha, the BJP's youth wing, was set on fire.

Police had booked the students on sedition charge after BJYM activist Mukesh Lodhi filed a complaint alleging that he was assaulted by the students amid chants of anti-India and pro-Pakistan slogans on Tuesday.



The AMU authorities suspended eight students on Wednesday night in connection with a protest on the campus. ■ FILE PHOTO

Senior Superintendent of Police Akash Kulhari said all pieces of evidence, including video clippings of the clash at the university circle between AMU students and those belonging to the ABVP, had launched a protest against reported plans by AIMIM lawmaker Asaduddin Owaisi to visit the AMU campus. The BJYM members held a separate demonstration against the visit,

sedition charge, it would be dropped, the SSP said.

## Owaisi visit protest

The ABVP, the BJP's students' wing, had launched a protest against reported plans by AIMIM lawmaker Asaduddin Owaisi to visit the AMU campus. The BJYM members held a separate demonstration against the visit,

demanding that the MP be banned from the campus. There were counter-protests then by the AMU students. Mr. Owaisi did not come to the university.

When contacted, AMU spokesman confirmed that Mr. Lodhi, the complainant, was the same person who had issued an ultimatum to the Vice-Chancellor last week, warning him that if land for constructing a temple on the campus was not allotted within 15 days, they would themselves "begin the construction".

The SSP confirmed that the police are preparing a list of 55 AMU students against whom non-bailable warrants would be issued shortly.

He said the police would then ask the university authorities to take disciplinary action against such students.

Cong. likely to go for alliance with Left, JMM in Odisha

## PRESS TRUST OF INDIA BHUBANESWAR

The Odisha Pradesh Congress Committee has negotiated with the State leadership of the CPI, the CPI(M) and the JMM for seat sharing for the upcoming simultaneous Lok Sabha and Assembly elections in Odisha, party sources said on Thursday.

The State Congress leadership has already completed several rounds of talks with like-minded parties for an alliance, they said. "Yes, we have been in touch with like-minded parties for seat sharing for the coming Lok Sabha and Assembly elections," OPCC president Niranjan Patnaik said. Odisha has 21 Lok Sabha seats and 147 Assembly seats.

Sources in the Congress said the party could leave three Lok Sabha seats and 20 Assembly seats for the alliance partners.

CPI national council member Ramakrishna Panda said: "Though we have not yet finalised the seat-sharing arrangement with the Congress, the party has proposed to field its candidates in 12 Assembly seats and two Lok Sabha seats."

The CPI(M) has also talked to the Congress and sought at least one Lok Sabha seat, including Bhubaneswar, and about seven Assembly seats, sources said.

JMM supremo Sibu Soren during his recent visit to Baripada in Mayurbhanj district said the party will take a decision soon on a possible alliance with the Congress in Odisha.

The ECI team is scheduled to discuss the law and order situation with the State Chief Secretary, Director General of Police and other officials concerned on the last day of their visit on Friday.

## WEATHER WATCH

RAINFALL, TEMPERATURE & AIR QUALITY IN SELECT METROS YESTERDAY



**Forecast for Friday:** Thunderstorm accompanied with hailstorm and gusty winds likely at isolated places over Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, east Madhya Pradesh, Jharkhand, Vidarbha, Chhattisgarh, Bihar and Telangana

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	... 31.3	13.0	...	Kozhikode	... 35.6	24.6	...
Ahmedabad	... 29.7	16.2	...	Kurnool	... 36.1	20.5	...
Aizawl	... 30.8	14.8	...	Lucknow	... 23.8	14.2	...
Allahabad	... 24.2	13.8	...	Madurai	... 34.4	22.1	...
Bengaluru	... 31.6	17.2	...	Mangaluru	... 36.5	22.0	...
Bhopal	... 32.0	17.4	...	Mumbai	... 32.2	19.2	...
Bhubaneswar	... 34.6	15.8	...	Mysuru	... 32.8	16.4	...
Chandigarh	... 23.3	13.2	...	New Delhi	... 23.0	13.9	...
Chennai	... 31.2	23.6	...	Patna	... 26.0	12.1	...
Coimbatore	... 34.6	20.4	...	Port Blair	... 30.9	24.9	...
Dehradun	... 1.9	18.1	13.2	Puducherry	... 31.8	21.8	...
Gangtok	... 17.6	8.5	...	Pune	... 34.3	15.4	...
Goa	... 34.7	21.4	...	Rajpur	... 33.0	16.7	...
Guwahati	... 30.5	12.7	...	Ranchi	... 30.0	13.0	...
Hubballi	... 33.0	20.0	...	Shillong	... 19.7	8.8	...
Hyderabad	... 33.0	18.5	...	Shimla	... 12.0	7.2	...
Imphal	... 27.0	6.6	...	Srinagar	... 2.4	4.7	1.0
Jaipur	... 28.8	16.4	...	Trivandrum	... 34.0	24.2	...
Kochi	... 32.2	23.2	...	Tiruchi	... 33.7	22.2	...
Kohima	... 20.0	8.6	...	Vijayawada	... 31.6	19.2	...
Kolkata	... 30.5	15.8	...	Visakhapatnam	... 29.6	20.6	...

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

## Pollutants in the air you are breathing

Yesterday

CITIES	SO <sub>2</sub>	NO <sub>x</sub>	CO	PM <sub>2.5</sub>	PM <sub>10</sub>	CODE
Ahmedabad	56	.62	28	.136	....	■■■■■
Bengaluru	.8	.89	34	.74	.92	■■■■■
Chennai	26	18	33	.305	....	■■■■■
Delhi	25	111	69	.379	.316	■■■■■
Hyderabad	.2	153	39	.152	.138	■■■■■
Kolkata	27	173	33	.372	.283	■■■■■
Lucknow	21	.77	42	.396	....	■■■■■
Mumbai	21	.41	81	.89	.88	■■■■■
Pune	38	.19	30	.116	.111	■■■■■
Visakhapatnam	10	.74	33	.199	.156	■■■■■

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

**SO<sub>2</sub>:** Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues

## IN BRIEF



Centre hikes minimum price of sugar to ₹31/kg

NEW DELHI  
In a bid to help sugar mills clear their mounting arrears to cane farmers, the Centre has hiked the minimum sale price of refined sugar by mills from ₹29 to ₹31 per kg, Food Minister Ram Vilas Paswan said on Thursday.

**12-year prison term for ex-wrestler in drugs case**

CHANDIGARH  
A special CBI court in Mohali has awarded 12 years' rigorous imprisonment to former wrestler Jagdish Singh Bhola in a multi-crore drugs smuggling case.

**CBDT chief made Election Commissioner**

NEW DELHI  
President Ram Nath Kovind on Thursday appointed Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) Chairman Sushil Chandra as an Election Commissioner. Mr. Chandra is the second Indian Revenue Service official to hold the post after T.S. Krishnamurthy.

**Police aspirant dies during fitness test**

HYDERABAD  
A 22-year-old aspirant, G. Ekambaram of Mettila village of Ibrahimpatnam, collapsed after suffering a cardiac arrest during a physical fitness test for police recruitment. He died while undergoing treatment at a hospital.

**Revert to old roster system in varsities: Rahul**

NEW DELHI  
Congress president Rahul Gandhi has written to HRD Minister Prakash Javadekar urging him to revert to the earlier roster system for faculty reservation in universities.

**Seven-year jail for IT officer in assets case**

DEHRADUN  
A special CBI court here has sentenced a serving Income Tax Commissioner to seven years' rigorous imprisonment in a 14-year-old assets case, besides imposing a fine of ₹3.50 crore.

# SC verdict 'injustice to people of Delhi,' says Arvind Kejriwal

'Ruling on govt. powers unfortunate'

STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI

Terming it "unfortunate," Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Thursday said the Supreme Court judgment that the elected government did not have the power to transfer officers was "injustice to the people of Delhi."

On Thursday, a two-judge Bench of the apex court gave its decision in the Delhi government vs Centre case, with one judge saying that the elected government had no powers over service matters and the other saying that the files regarding DANICS officers could be routed through the Council of Ministers to the Lieutenant Governor. However, for a final call, the matter was referred to a three-judge Bench.

Reacting to the development, Mr. Kejriwal said at a press conference at his residence: "We respect the Supreme Court, but the judgment is injustice with Delhi and the people of Delhi. Delhites elected a government by giving one party 67 out of 70 seats. Today's judgment says that the elected government does not have power to transfer officers."

The Chief Minister added that the judgment led to the question, "If a government cannot even transfer its officers, then how will that government function?"

"The government that the public elected with such a big margin, if that government does not have the powers to work, what kind of democracy is this? What kind of order is this," he asked.

He added that not only was the judgment against the people of Delhi, "it is against the Constitution and democracy." Mr. Kejriwal said the government would seek legal opinion.

## Tussle for power

The six contentious issues before the Supreme Court on the division of powers between the Delhi government and the Centre, represented by the Lieutenant Governor:

### The three areas over which the Delhi government will enjoy powers:

#### Appointment of Special Public Prosecutors or law officers:

This power was given to the Delhi government by the High Court in 2016. Before that, both governments used to make the appointments, but the standing counsel for the AAP government stated that each time the Delhi government was forced to assert its right

#### Fixing land revenue rate:

Earlier, this power was with the L-G. In 2015, the then L-G Naseeb Jung stayed the Delhi government's notification on revised circle rates of agricultural land. The HC, in its 2016 verdict, had handed this power to the Centre. This was challenged by the Delhi government in the SC

#### Power to appoint or deal with electricity commission or board:

In September 2016, the then L-G Naseeb Jung rejected the Delhi government's appointee Krishna Saini as chairperson of the Delhi Electricity Regulatory Commission as it was done without his approval. Besides, the appointment of Delhi government-nominated directors on the boards of three power discoms were termed illegal by the HC in 2016 as they didn't have the LG's approval

### Powers given to the Centre:

#### Delhi Anti-Corruption Branch cannot probe Central government employees:

Earlier, the Delhi government claimed control over the ACB but the L-G exercised authority over it. Delhi's counsel said that till 2014, this power was with the Delhi government until the NDA government brought a notification in 2014 to take away this right. Delhi challenged this notification in the High Court but it was decided in favour of the Centre

#### Centre has the power to appoint Enquiry Commission:

This power was vested with the Centre even before the verdict

#### Issue referred by the SC to a larger bench:

Control over service matters involving transfers and posting of officers

## Delhi BJP welcomes SC judgment

Manoj Tiwari says CM Kejriwal should focus on work

STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI

The Bharatiya Janata Party's (BJP) Delhi unit on Thursday welcomed the Supreme Court judgment over the division of powers between the city government and the Centre, saying it was a lesson for "urban naxals" like Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal.

Delhi BJP president Manoj Tiwari said it was a "lesson" for Mr. Kejriwal, who always tried to cross the boundaries by adopting "unconstitutional" means.

"This verdict is a slap on the face of urban naxals like Arvind Kejriwal. Why, after all, he wants to go across



Manoj Tiwari, Delhi BJP president.

learn the history of former Chief Ministers of Delhi like Madan Lal Khurana and Sahib Singh Verma, he said.

There should no scope for "confusion or conflict" and the AAP government should humbly accept the Supreme Court judgment, BJP Leader of Opposition in the Delhi Assembly Vijender Gupta said.

"We welcome the Supreme Court decision removing ambiguities in the powers of the Delhi govt. After this verdict there shouldn't be any scope for confusion or conflict. The Delhi government should humbly accept it," he said on Twitter.

## Gujjar stalemate continues in Rajasthan

Caste leaders studying legislation details

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

JAIPUR

Stalemate over the ongoing Gujjar agitation in Rajasthan demanding reservation in government jobs and education continued on Thursday after the State government issued a notification to enforce the Bill passed by the Assembly, which cleared 5% quota for Gujjars and four other nomadic communities.

Governor Kalyan Singh had signed the Bill late on Wednesday night. Gujjars occupying the Delhi-Mumbai railway tracks in Sawai Madhopur district said they were studying all aspects of the Bill and would take a decision on calling off the agitation only after being satisfied with the "legislation's strength". As the Gujjars' protests entered the seventh day, senior IAS officer Neeraj K. Pawan carried copies of the Bill, a resolution passed

Kirori Singh Bainsla, who is leading the agitation, said the stir would be called off only after the community is satisfied the statute will withstand judicial scrutiny. "We are simple people. We don't want to get involved in litigation at a later stage. We have faced it earlier when the previous Acts were challenged in the courts," Col (retd.) Bainsla said.

The Rajasthan Backward Classes

(Reservation of Seats in Educational Institutes and of Appointments and Posts in Services) Amendment Bill, 2019, has amended an Act of 2017 and made a provision of 5% reservation to Gujjars and others, terming them "extremely backward classes".

## SC dismisses 2 staff members for tampering with order

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court has dismissed two court staff members for allegedly tampering with the text of a January 7 order passed by a Bench led by Justice Rohinton Nariman on a contempt petition filed by Swedish telecom equipment major Ericsson against Reliance Communications Ltd. chairman Anil Ambani.

Chief Justice of India Ranjan Gogoi exercised his disciplinary powers as the administrative head of the Supreme Court and passed the order of dismissal of Manav Sharma and Tapan Kumar Chakraborty.

Ericsson's lead lawyer in the contempt case Dushyant Dave said the CJI had sent a "powerful message."

by the State Assembly recommending the legislation's inclusion in the Ninth Schedule of the Constitution and the government-issued notification to the agitators.

Kirori Singh Bainsla, who is leading the agitation, said the stir would be called off only after the community is satisfied the statute will withstand judicial scrutiny. "We are simple people. We don't want to get involved in litigation at a later stage. We have faced it earlier when the previous Acts were challenged in the courts," Col (retd.) Bainsla said.

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The Rajasthani Backward Classes



## Auditor's account

The CAG report does not allay all doubts about the Rafale deal

**T**he price-redacted audit report on the process to acquire 36 Rafale fighter jets is unlikely to bring closure to the controversy over the deal. The report of the Comptroller and Auditor-General of India tabled in Parliament comes in the midst of a vigorous campaign by the Opposition that is questioning the process, based on media revelations about possible lapses and deviations and significant points raised by dissenting members of the Indian Negotiating Team (INT). The Modi government can draw comfort from the fact that the CAG report concludes that the 2016 agreement is slightly better in terms of both pricing and delivery than what was under negotiation in 2007 during the UPA regime. However, the report does not allay all doubts. Pegged at 2.86%, the price advantage in the contract over the 2007 offer is marginal. It is a far cry from the 9% saving claimed by the government. The delivery schedule is only one month sooner than the estimated outer limit in the earlier process. The CAG has found fault with Dassault Aviation being allowed to retain the gains made by the absence of a bank guarantee, which, if executed, would have come with significant charges. Disappointingly, the CAG has not quantified this amount, though it declares that it should have been passed on to the Defence Ministry. The 2007 price offered by Dassault included bank charges, and its absence in the 2016 contract is a clear benefit to the company. In other words, the 'advantage' is lower than the 2.86%.

While the key question of pricing is sought to be resolved by the CAG by comparing the auditors' aligned price with the INT's computation, some issues remain unaddressed. The original issue of bringing down the total acquisition from 126 to 36 aircraft does not draw much comment. Also, the huge outgo on the India-Specific Enhancements (ISEs), despite the final figure being projected as a 17% saving on the aligned offer, is something that requires deeper examination. While auditing the earlier process, the CAG found that ISEs were upgrades allowed to be made so that Dassault's bid would be compliant with qualitative requirements. Even a team of Ministry officials that examined in March 2015 the integrity of the earlier process concluded that "the acceptance of [Dassault's] additional commercial proposal after bid submission date... was unprecedented and against the canons of financial propriety." Dassault was not the lowest bidder in the earlier process, and its technical bid had been rejected. Perhaps, this presented an opportunity to the present regime to reopen the entire process to buy Medium Multi-Role Combat Aircraft (MMRCA) and invite fresh bids. However, it chose the IGA route with France, possibly for diplomatic reasons. The CAG identifies as a major problem the fact that the technical requirements are too narrowly defined for most vendors to comply with. The message from the report is that defence acquisition processes require reforms and streamlining.

## Common and minimum

Opposition parties will have to make compromises to build a cohesive front

**P**olitical stability is a necessary but not sufficient condition for good governance. But the promise of stability is now such a recurring theme in the speeches of senior BJP leaders, including Prime Minister Narendra Modi, it is almost as if nothing else matters. As Opposition parties of different persuasions are beginning to stitch together a motley coalition, the response of the BJP is in the form of raising visions of the years of instability in the latter half of the 1990s when neither the BJP nor the Congress could get a majority in the Lok Sabha. The BJP would like to believe that 2014, when it became the first party to win a majority on its own since the Congress in 1984, was no aberration. A call to vote for stability used to be the Congress's slogan in the 1990s, but it is now appropriated by the BJP as the biggest party on the political landscape. The more the prospect of a united Opposition draws close, the greater the BJP harps on the need for stability. In Maharashtra and Goa, the BJP runs coalition governments without too much trouble, but it is acutely conscious of the possibility of a coming together of Opposition parties if it falls short of a majority. Finishing as the single largest party might not be enough for the BJP in a situation where it has alienated even its existing allies. The Shiv Sena is a difficult ally, and the Janata Dal (United) an undependable one. A post-poll polarisation of smaller parties could hurt the BJP more than the Congress.

The rhetoric around stability is forcing a response from the major Opposition parties. After the rally organised by the Aam Aadmi Party in New Delhi, the push seems to be towards forming pre-poll alliances and formulating a common agenda as part of developing a more cohesive coalition. Congress president Rahul Gandhi is now talking of a common minimum programme, and of working together with Mamata Banerjee of the Trinamool and Arvind Kejriwal of the AAP, and Sharad Pawar of the Nationalist Congress Party. The AAP rally may have just turned out to be more than a show of hands. But for the Congress, the challenge is to build alliances with different parties in different States to take on the BJP. In Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh, where it is the dominant party, it might still need the support of the BSP to maximise the yield in terms of seats. In Punjab and Delhi, it could do with the help of the AAP. In Karnataka, it would have to deal with a demanding partner in the Janata Dal (Secular). In Bihar and Tamil Nadu, it is the smaller partner in alliances. A common minimum programme might thus have to be truly minimum in order to remain common.

# Stress points of democracy

In this election year in India, we need to keep a sharper eye on the weakening of institutions



M.K. NARAYANAN

**T**hese are difficult, as also unsettling, times. It is not the complexity of issues that confront the world as much as the steady undermining of institutional and knowledge structures that are posing a threat to the world.

Across the world, democracy is in obvious retreat, with authoritarian tendencies on the ascendant. Russia's Vladimir Putin, China's Xi Jinping and Turkey's Recep Tayyip Erdogan are constantly projected as the faces of authoritarianism, but many democratic leaders reveal a similar authoritarian streak, which adds to democracy's woes. It may be too early to predict the demise of democracy, but the reality is that it is not a good time for democratic institutions, or for those who see democracy as the answer to the world's problems.

### Examples everywhere

Several examples exist worldwide on how decisions today are handed down, rather than being the outcome of discussion and debate. Hallowed international institutions such as the World Bank are facing the heat today for not conforming to the prescriptions of certain powerful members. At the same time, there are enough examples of democracy going awry. Brexit, and the Brexit debate, in the U.K. and Europe is a good example.

The U.S., which prides itself as a leading democracy, is setting a bad example today. Under President Donald Trump, arbitrary decision-making has replaced informed debate. His diatribe against what he

calls a "ridiculous partisan" investigation against him is an indication. Another is his determination to build a wall to keep out Mexican immigrants, even risking an extended shutdown of the U.S. government. The decision of the U.S. to withdraw from the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty – a key pact signed in 1987, and hailed as the centrepiece of European security since the Cold War – without a detailed internal discussion appears to be setting the stage for Cold War 2.0.

It is, however, the ignoring of democratic conventions nearer home that are cause for greater concern. In a pluralistic, multi-party federal system, disdain for democratic conventions and the violation of well-entrenched behavioural patterns are causing irreparable damage to the polity.

### Federal fallout

Currently, we are witnessing vituperative exchanges between the Prime Minister and some Chief Ministers which involve accusations such as fomenting riots and running extortion rackets. This damages the fabric of democracy. Centre-State relations are already under strain, and face the threat of still greater disruption.

Selective interpretation of information is a fallout of such situations. Those in authority deem all information not acceptable to them as nothing but disinformation. Those opposed to the government, on the other hand, insist that the government suffers from a lack of probity. The current sulphurous exchanges between the ruling dispensation and the Opposition over the purchase of Rafale aircraft are an example. The casualty is truth, and the veracity of official facts and statistics.

Many instances of this kind can be quoted, but one specific instance that has caught the fancy of



the public is the current debate on jobs and unemployment. The Central government has effectively rejected a report by the well-regarded National Sample Survey Office – which showed that unemployment in 2017-18 was at a 45-year high – without giving any valid reason for doing so. The government's only reasoning for rejecting the report is that it is a 'draft', which has only added to existing doubts about its real intentions. Similarly, doubts are being raised about the validity of the government's revised GDP estimates.

Breaches of democratic conventions are adding to the already existing disquiet. Adherence to democratic norms has for long been perceived as crucial to maintaining the independence of institutions and processes. An impression exists today that attempts are being made to effect changes in the existing system. Two instances during the past year when the government breached long-held conventions have raised questions about the intentions of those in authority.

One was the brouhaha concerning the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), and a perceived attempt to reduce its functional independence, to compel it to fall in line with the views of the government. The resignation of the RBI Governor put a temporary quietus to these concerns, but it is widely believed that the RBI has been brought into line with the government's wishes. The second instance relates to the Interim Bud-

get in an election year. The Interim Budget announced on the eve of the 2019 general election clearly breaches certain long-settled conventions, by including many substantial measures that ordinarily would form part of a regular Budget. The intention is plain, viz. build more support for the ruling dispensation in an election year.

Alongside the decline in democratic conventions, another cause for concern is the virtual collapse of key institutions such as the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI). Touted as India's premier investigation agency, its reputation has of late suffered a near mortal blow, mainly on account of internecine quarrels, as also external interference in its internal affairs. Created out of the Delhi Special Police Establishment in 1963, a brainchild of then-Home Minister Lal Bahadur Shastri, the agency was earlier headed by persons with impeccable integrity and ability. It had also adhered previously to the salutary principle of not carrying out arrests, except in the most exceptional of circumstances. Over time, the quality of the CBI leadership and the tribe of proven investigators has witnessed a decline, which has impacted the image of the organisation.

An agency of the government, part of the Ministry of Personnel functioning under the Prime Minister, supervised at one step removed by the Central Vigilance Commission, and constantly under the watch of the Supreme Court, the CBI serves many masters. The choice of Director, following the Vineet Narain case, by a committee headed by the Prime Minister, with the Chief Justice of India and the Leader of Opposition as the other members, has hardly helped the CBI maintain a reputation for independence. The recent unsavoury drama, which witnessed a 'Kilkenny cat fight'

between the Director and his No. 2, reflects the lack of institutional culture in the organisation.

Compounding the situation arising from the lack of trained and competent investigators is the fact that supervisory officers, who come and go, are most often not in a position to provide proper guidance to investigating officers. At times, they also tend to tinker with the investigation reports sent to them, to reject the findings of investigating officers.

### A changing work culture

What is worse is that while earlier the CBI used to carry out arrests of so-called accused persons only as a measure of last resort, today it is overturning this on its head. As its investigating officers' skills have declined, it is increasingly resorting to peremptory arrests, often on very slender evidence, in anticipation of securing approvals to build, or strengthen, a case. The law generally disapproves of approving evidence, but this has become the stock in trade of the CBI. In many instances, the CBI has also been resorting to pressure tactics while questioning individuals, even when they are not accused persons, setting aside legal niceties and requirements. In a few instances recently, the CBI has even resorted to intimidatory tactics, taking recourse to a battery of investigators to question a witness, let alone an accused, in the hope of securing useful leads. The recent incident where a posse of CBI personnel went to question the Kolkata Police Commissioner at his residence late in the evening, though he was only a witness, reflects the changing mores of the CBI. This should be a matter of concern for one and all.

M.K. Narayanan is a former National Security Advisor and a former Governor of West Bengal

## The Karnataka model of politics

Its Assembly constituency-level leadership can operate independent of a political party



NARENDRA PANI

**T**he repeated confinement of Karnataka MLAs in resorts suggests that the State's elected representatives have to literally be physically prevented from selling themselves to their ideological opponents. Given the moral compass of our elected representatives, it would be foolhardy to rule out this possibility. Yet viewing the State's political events entirely in such commercial terms ignores the larger transition taking place in grassroots politics in Karnataka, one that political parties are struggling to keep pace with.

### Rural politics

An often underestimated aspect of Karnataka has been its success with rural decentralisation. Unlike its urban governance, which continues to be dominated by lobbies at multiple levels, from garbage collectors to elite industrialists, the administration of rural Karnataka has a prominent place for its panchayat institutions. Its experi-

ments with decentralisation gathered momentum in the 1980s, well before the 73rd Amendment to the Constitution.

Administrative decentralisation was accompanied by a similar process in the State's rural politics. Unlike some other States, like Kerala, where administrative decentralisation has taken place under rather more centralised party control, the process in Karnataka has resulted in a greater opportunity, and hence competition, for local political office. The leaders who emerge from this intense competition are typically more confident of their political roots and are not afraid to make this known in Bengaluru.

The BJP, or more accurately B.S. Yeddyurappa (in picture), was the first to recognise the emergence of Assembly constituency-level leadership which could operate independent of a political party. In his first term as Chief Minister, he launched what has come to be called Operation Lotus. In this operation, an Opposition MLA resigned his seat in the State Assembly and was promptly re-elected as a member of the ruling party. This enabled Mr. Yeddyurappa to convert his minority go-

vernment into a majority one.

A decade later, the same pro-



cess of decentralisation has worked against the BJP leader. With local competition throwing up even more leaders in each constituency, the number of MLAs who can be confident of re-election has declined. The BJP also needs more MLAs to cross over than it did the last time. But Mr. Yeddyurappa, having previously used the emergence of new local leaders to bring the BJP to power, probably feels he can do it again.

In trying to deal with the new set of previously unknown and ideologically promiscuous leaders, parties in Karnataka have usually fallen back on caste. The Janata Dal (Secular) relies quite heavily on its core base of Vokkaligas. The BJP is relatively more broad-based but takes extra care to protect its Lingayat flock. The Congress strategy is to absorb as many caste groups as possible.

This ensures that caste conflicts are internalised within the party, and the possibility of sabotage at election time in the Congress is probably the highest among the State's parties.

Using caste to net emerging local leaders is also not immune to the pressures of effective political decentralisation. Competition among emerging political leaders exists within castes as well. Taking one leader into a party often means the exit of his opponent from the same caste. In some constituencies, in the 2018 Assembly election, the main candidates were the same but they had exchanged parties.

### Battle within castes

What is of greater concern to Karnataka's political parties is that the battle within castes can take on a longer-term ideological colour. This is most evident in the case of Lingayats. The caste has for some decades been under a leadership that would like to take it deeper into the Hindu fold. They tend to treat the 12th century poet-saint Basavanna as no more than an important footnote in the history of the caste. This has been challenged by the historically less privileged sections of Lingayats who see Basavanna as one who chal-

lenged the basic tenets of the caste system and hence Hinduism itself. Their demand to treat the followers of Basavanna as belonging to a different religion has become a major bone of contention.

Karnataka's political parties are struggling to come to terms with this division. The conventional wisdom is to pretend it does not exist. The BJP would like to see a continuation of the status quo so that Lingayats remain a part of the Hindu community and there is no division in the major support base of the party. The Siddaramiah-led Congress government supported the case for the followers of Basavanna to be treated as a separate religion. This led his opponents in the party to blame its poor performance in the last election on this decision, though the party did worse in the non-Lingayat regions of coastal and southern Karnataka.

The way out of the current confusion of parties running helter-skelter to capture 'winning' leaders would be the emergence of a new vision, one that new leaders would gravitate towards. But there is no such vision, or visionary, on the horizon.

Narendra Pani is a Professor at National Institute of Advanced Studies, Bengaluru

## 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.

### Reservation mania

There seems to be a

reservation mania in India

("Rajasthan clears 5% quota

for Gujjars", Feb. 14).

The hope was that with time

reservations would be

phased out gradually. What

is happening is exactly the

opposite. Communities

have realised that they can

get any government to

accept their demands. The

scant regard for the upper

limit mandated by the

Supreme Court is highly

reprehensible.

K.V. SEETHARAMIAH,

Hassan

chants of 'Jai Shree Ram'

rang in the Lok Sabha

("MPs bid adieu amid

Mulayam's twist", Feb. 14).

Politicians are so

unpredictable. I wonder

what pushed Mr. Yadav to

say this, especially when his

son is fighting against the

BJP. Are father and son

going different ways? His

statement undermines the

SP's credibility.

B. GANGA RAJU,

Hyderabad

Setting a precedent

M.A. Sneha has taken a

courageous step; hopefully

more people will follow suit

("It's official: Tirupur

woman gets 'no caste



## FROM PAGE ONE

## 37 CRPF men killed in J&K suicide attack

"Preliminary inputs suggest that it was a remote-controlled detonation with a group of militants overseeing the operation," said a senior police officer, who declined to be identified.

The explosion was so powerful that it was felt in Srinagar, about 30 km away. Two vehicles, including the one carrying the bomber, were blown to smithereens. Eyewitnesses said only the skeletal frames of the vehicles hit by the blast were seen on the roadside, while several buses in the convoy sustained severe damage.

The attack raises questions over security on the national highway, which is patrolled three agencies –

the local police, the CRPF and Army – on a daily basis.

Immediately after the attack, the JeM claimed responsibility and released a picture of its local operative who had carried out the attack. He was identified as Adil Ahmad Dar alias 'Waqas Commando', a resident of Pulwama's Kakapora. According to the police, Dar joined the outfit in 2018 and was a Class 10 dropout.

In 2001, 38 people were killed when a three-member JeM squad blew up a car outside the J&K Assembly.

The toll in Thursday's attack exceeded the fatalities inflicted by militants in Uri, in 2016, when 19 Arymen were killed near the LoC.

## Half of waste-to-energy plants in India defunct

### Wasted opportunity?

- India generates 1.43 lakh TPD (tonnes per day) of waste, of which 21,370 TPD (approximately 15%) can be classified as non-biodegradable, non-recyclable and high-calorific value waste
- The total waste treatment capacity for 48 existing, under-construction and proposed plants is over 37,000 TPD
- The minimum combustible waste feed requirement for a Waste-to-Energy (WTE) plant to be viable is 300 TPD, or 1,00,000 tonnes/year



It also proposes setting up a Waste-to-Energy Corporation of India, which would construct incineration plants through PPP models. Currently, there are 40-odd WTE plants at various stages of construction.

"The fundamental reason (for the inefficiency of these plants) is the quality and composition of waste. MSW (municipal solid waste) in India has low calorific value and high moisture content. As most wastes sent to the WTE plants are unsegregated, they also have high inert content. These wastes are just not suitable for burning in these plants. To burn them, additional fuel is required which makes these plants expensive to run," said Swati Singh Sambyal, author of the report and researcher on waste management, at the CSE.

About 1.43 lakh tonnes per day (TPD) of municipal solid waste (MSW) is generated across the country. Of

this, 1.11 lakh TPD (77.6%) is collected and 35,602 TPD (24.8%) processed.

In addition, India generates close to 25,940 TPD of plastic waste of which 15,342 remains uncollected, according to the Central Pollution Control Board.

As per the Union Ministry of Environment and Forests, MSW generation will reach 4.5 lakh TPD by 2031 and 11.9 lakh TPD by 2050.

The WTEs have also triggered widespread opprobrium among citizens. For instance, there has been a continuous protest against the Okhla WTE plant for polluting the environment.

In 2016, the National Green Tribunal (NGT) slapped environmental compensation fine of ₹25 lakh on the plant.

Moreover, the plants are expensive because they produce power at nearly ₹7 per unit, which is more than the ₹3.5 offered by thermal as well as solar sources.

## SC sends power tussle case to larger Bench

The court upheld as "legal" the Ministry of Home Affairs' notifications of May 21, 2015, and July 23, 2015, authorising the LG to exercise powers in relation to services and directing the Anti-Corruption Branch (ACB) police not to take cognisance of offences against Central government officials.

The court was unanimous in its decision that the Delhi government should have taken the views of the LG before issuing the circular dated August 4, 2015, revising minimum rates of agricultural land (circle rules) under the provisions of Indian Stamp Act, 1899, and the Delhi Stamp (Prevention of Undervaluation of Instrument) Rules.

## BJP, Cong. using 'state terror' says Mayawati

In Aligarh, 14 students of the AMU, including the student union president, were booked under sedition charges after protests on the campus following reports of a planned visit by AIMIM lawmaker Asaduddin Owaisi, officials said on Wednesday.

On Tuesday, some AMU students allegedly had an al-

tercation with a TV channel crew which had come to film Mr. Owaisi's visit that ultimately did not take place, they said. The students were booked under sedition after a complaint was filed by BJYM (the BJP's youth wing) activist Mukesh Lodhi, alleging that he was assaulted amid chants of pro-Pakistan slogans by some students.

On Tuesday, some AMU students allegedly had an al-

**Points of difference** The evaluation of the Rafale deal's key parameters in the CAG report and in the dissent note (of 3 members in the Indian Negotiating Team) varied significantly

**BENCHMARK PRICE****CAG REPORT**

■ The benchmark price estimated by the INT was 57% lower than the initial offer of the French Team. Report calls this "unrealistically low benchmark prices"

**INT DISSENT NOTE**

■ The final price of € 7.87 billion offered by the French side, which is escalation-based, is 55.6% higher than the firm and fixed benchmark price of € 5.06 billion set by the INT

**OVERALL PRICE****CAG REPORT**

■ The price of the 36 Rafale aircraft in the 2016 deal was 2.86% lower than the "aligned price" in 2015, which was arrived at by applying a price escalation formula to the June 2007 bid (cost of the 18 flyaway aircraft multiplied by two to account for 36 aircraft)

**INT DISSENT NOTE**

■ Without considering the lack of a bank/sovereign/government guarantee in the 2016 deal, the INT team found that the final price offered by the French team was 2.35% less than the aligned cost of € 8.06 billion in 2015

**INDIA SPECIFIC ENHANCEMENTS****CAG REPORT**

■ ISE costs amounted to 17.08% savings for the Indian side based on differences in the final offer and the aligned prices, but these upgrades as ISEs were allowed so that Dassault's bid would be compliant with qualitative requirements

**INT DISSENT NOTE**

■ ISEs costing € 1.4 billion were "exorbitant and unnecessary" and "the price has been further escalated in the final offer and then reduced factoring in global discounts given by the French side..."

**BANK GUARANTEE****CAG REPORT**

■ The absence of bank guarantee was a saving for Dassault Aviation and should have been passed on to the Indian side

**INT DISSENT NOTE**

■ The commercial impact of bank guarantees worked out to 7.28% and would amount to approximately € 574 million for a total procurement cost of € 7.87 billion. Taking into account the financial impact of the bank guarantees (without even factoring in the effect of escalation), the final price offered by the French side was still 5.3% higher than the aligned offer

**DELIVERY SCHEDULE****CAG REPORT**

■ There was an improvement of one month in the delivery schedule of the 2016 contract. (71 months instead of 72 months for the earlier bid). But delivery time for the 2007 bid was broken as that for the 18 flyaway aircraft and the 18 to be manufactured in India by HAL. This was compared directly with the delivery time for the 36 Rafales in the new deal

**INT DISSENT NOTE**

■ Comparison was made between the 18 flyaway aircraft in the 2007 bid and 18 of the 36 in the new deal. Delivery schedule in the final deal was found to be five months

COMPILED BY: THE HINDU DATA TEAM

## CAG report makes no sense: Chidambaram

Audit a joke, he says, reiterating demand for JPC probe

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT**

NEW DELHI

The CAG's report on the Rafale fighter aircraft deal is significant not for what it has said but for what it has not said. Congress leader P. Chidambaram alleged on Thursday, criticising the audit body for allowing itself to become a "joke".

The report contains no useful information or conclusion and its motive is to hide the truth, he told reporters. He reiterated his party's demand for a joint parliamentary committee to probe the deal, saying only such a panel can call for all relevant records.



P. Chidambaram

The former Finance Minister said the actual information was not in the 33 pages of the CAG report but in the preface. Quoting from the preface, he said that on the insistence of the Defence Ministry, commercial de-

tails, including the price of the aircraft, were redacted on the grounds of security concerns. Thanks to the redacted portion, the report made no sense at all, he said.

The report, Mr. Chidambaram alleged, failed to answer six questions including what is the monetary gain to Dassault due to amortisation of the India-specific enhancement costs over 36 aircraft rather than 126 aircraft. It also fails to answer what is the hidden purpose of waiving the mandatory anti-corruption clauses? Or even the basic question on when the first and last of the 36 aircraft will be delivered.

The envoy stated that they (France) had never signed anything stronger

## Mamata for national pre-poll tie-up

Will help in government formation after election, says Trinamool chief

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT**

NEW DELHI

Pitching the forthcoming Lok Sabha election as a battle between the BJP and a united opposition with the sole motive to oust the Narendra Modi government, West Bengal Chief Minister and Trinamool Congress president Mamata Banerjee said irrespective of the political differences in the State, there has to be a pre-poll alliance at the national level.

"There are political compulsions in the States. At the national level, we must go for pre-poll alliances so that after elections we can claim to form the government," Ms. Banerjee told reporters.

**Pawar dinner**

Her comments come a day after Opposition leaders – Congress' Rahul Gandhi, TDP's Chandrababu Naidu



Strategy time: West Bengal CM Mamata Banerjee addressing the press in New Delhi on Thursday. ■ SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

and AAP's Arvind Kejriwal – met for dinner at NCP leader Sharad Pawar's residence along with Ms. Banerjee.

Hinting at the Samajwadi Party (SP) and the Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP), who have shown reluctance to be part of any such alliance at the Centre, the West Bengal Chief Minister said, "Howev-

er, the parties which cannot take a decisions on pre-poll alliances, it's okay; I respect that they have political compulsions."

The SP did not send any representative to the Pawar dinner and BSP's Satish Chandra Misra came in for a few seconds.

The Left leaders were also

conspicuous by their absence. Asked about the CPI (M), a prime opponent of the Trinamool in West Bengal, Ms. Banerjee said, "I do not know whether the Left will come with us or not. They did not come for yesterday's [Wednesday's] meeting."

CPI(M) general secretary Sitaram Yechury has maintained that their alliances will depend on equations at the State level and has virtually ruled out being part of any "mahagathbandhan" (grand alliance).

To a query on the Bengal government denying BJP leaders permission to hold rallies in the State, Ms. Banerjee said they were "liars". "They are lying about us not allowing them to carry on rallies. He (Amit Shah) had swine flu, discharged himself from hospital and still held a rally."

## CAG pulls up IAF for helicopter deal

Says it favoured a particular vendor

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT**

NEW DELHI

The Comptroller and Auditor General in its report has pulled up the Indian Air Force (IAF) for framing its service specifications in the tenders for heavy-lift and attack helicopters to suit "products of a particular vendor." The IAF had chosen Chinook and Apache helicopters of Boeing from an evaluation process.

To a query on the Bengal government denying BJP leaders permission to hold rallies in the State, Ms. Banerjee said they were "liars". "They are lying about us not allowing them to carry on rallies. He (Amit Shah) had swine flu, discharged himself from hospital and still held a rally."



A Chinook heavy-lift helicopter and an Apache chopper (top). ■ AFP

response to the Request for Information issued to them.

Under the \$3 bn deal in September 2015, India contracted 22 AH-64E Apache attack helicopters and 15 CH-47F Chinook heavy-lift helicopters from Boeing through the U.S. Foreign Military Sales programme.

Deliveries are set to commence later this year and completed by mid-2020.

As per specifications, the rockets and missiles for the Apache helicopters should have a minimum life of 10 years extendable to 20 years. The missiles were to be delivered in 2018. Thus Ministry had procured missiles that were 14 to 16 years old at the time of delivery," the report stated.

## Rahul takes on Modi on home turf with Valsad rally

Industrialists benefit, while tribals and farmers are ignored

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT**

AHMEDABAD

Congress president Rahul Gandhi on Thursday continued his attacks on the BJP government and particularly on Prime Minister Narendra Modi, alleging massive irregularities in the deal to procure 36 Rafale fighter jets from French company Dassault.

Launching the campaign for the Lok Sabha election from Prime Minister Narendra Modi's home State of Gujarat, Mr. Gandhi said the "Rafale deal has exposed how PM Modi helped Anil Ambani get a lucrative deal at the cost of HAL, a central government PSU."

"It is easier to declare alliances in Delhi but difficult to work it out at the ground level. For example, in West Bengal, Raiganj is CPI(M) leader Mohd Salim's constituency and he will contest from there. It is also the constituency of our prime candidate Deepa Das Munshi," a senior leader said.

According to the sources, Gujarat has been chosen as the venue for the meeting to kick start the Congress's campaign for the Lok Sabha poll. Two venues, Ahmedabad and Valsad, have been shortlisted. This will be the second meeting of the CWC to be held outside Delhi.



Warm welcome: Rahul Gandhi being kissed by a party worker in Lal Dungri village of Valsad district, Gujarat. ■ PTI

ministration of insulting the tribals, farmers and favouring a few industrialists. He also talked about how only a select few industrialists were benefiting under the Modi government while farmers, tribals and poor were left to fend themselves.

"We need more seats than other parties of the al-

liance as we had joined the RJD-led team before them," Mr. Manji said in Patna. He said he would meet RJD chief Lalu Prasad on February 23 in this regard.

The State Congress leaders, too, have taken a tough posture on seats. "The Congress will not be a pichlaggu (hanger-on) to any other party as we have decided to play on the front foot in the Lok Sabha poll," MLA Sanjay Tiwari said.

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## Manjhi demands more seats in Bihar

**Spreading terror**

Some big suicide attacks carried out by JeM in Jammu and Kashmir since 1999



**Nov. 3, 1999:** JeM carries out first fidayeen attack by recruiting a local boy, Afad Ahmad Shah. Six security personnel are killed

**Oct. 1, 2001:** Three JeM militants attack the Legislative Assembly complex in Srinagar. 38 persons are killed

**Dec. 5, 2014:** JeM's Guru squad carries out attack on the Mohura camp in Uri

near the Line of Control. Seventeen killed, including 11 security personnel

**Jan. 2, 2016:** JeM militants target the Pathankot airbase. Three security personnel are killed

**Nov. 29, 2016:** JeM militants attack the Nagrota Army camp. Ten soldiers are killed

**Aug. 26, 2017:** Three Jaish terrorists storm the District Police Lines, Pulwama. Eight security personnel are killed

Police Lines, Pulwama. Eight security personnel are killed and assailants are shot dead

**Dec. 31, 2017:** Fidayeen target the District Police Lines in Pulwama once again. Five CRPF personnel are killed

**Feb. 10, 2018:** JeM carries out a fidayeen attack on the Sunjwan Army camp in Jammu. Eleven soldiers, 4 attackers and 1 civilian are killed

**July 14, 2018:** Militants attack the District Police Lines in Pulwama. 8 security personnel are killed

**February 14, 2019:** A blast rips through a bus carrying CRPF personnel near Pulwama on the Srinagar-Jammu Highway. At least 37 security personnel are killed



Injured CRPF personnel being rushed to a hospital on Thursday. ■ NISSAR AHMED

# Resurgent Jaish poses new challenge to security apparatus

Outfit is jockeying for power among militant groups to take centre stage: police

PEERZADA ASHIQ  
SRINAGAR

The Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM) militant outfit, with a cadre strength of zero in 2015 and six in 2016, is regrouping in Kashmir again and has carried more attacks on the security forces than the Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) and the Hizbul Mujahideen (HM) outfits in the past two months, according to the police data.

In a "desperate bid" to take centre stage, The JeM has carried out around 10 grenade attacks, with four grenades triggered in capital Srinagar this year so far, according to the police report. The attacks left around 20 security personnel injured. The JeM attacks come at a time when the LeT and the HM's abilities were "heavily dented" with the killing of around 20 militants in the past two months by the security forces in back-to-back operations, the police said.

Eight JeM militants have also been killed between December 30, 2018 and February 1, 2019, out of 19 killed

## JeM enjoys full freedom in Pakistan, says India

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

India blamed Pakistan-based Jaish-e-Mohammed for the terrorist attack in Pulwama on Thursday.

"This heinous and despicable act has been perpetrated by Jaish-e-Mohammed, a Pakistan-based and supported terrorist organisation

proscribed by the United Nations and other countries. The terror group is led by the international terrorist Masood Azhar, who has been given full freedom by the government of Pakistan to carry out attacks in India and elsewhere with impunity," a statement from the Ministry of External Affairs stated.

for the same period. "Of the eight killed, only two were foreigners and the others were local recruits from JeM axis of Tral-Awantipora-Pulwama in south Kashmir," said a senior police officer.

### Close third

According to the police data, the JeM has emerged as a close third in 2019 with its ranks swelling to over 60 local recruits compared to 100-plus recruits of the LeT

and the Hizb each. The outfit attempted a major comeback in October last year when it introduced high-calibre M4 carbine for sensational attacks in Srinagar and Pulwama, killing three security personnel.

Top police officers in Srinagar suggest that in post-Burhan Wani killing situation, the JeM started recruiting young boys in 2017 from rallies carried out in favour of slain militants. Otherwise,

in 2015, Adil Pathan, a resident of Pakistan, and his associate, Abdul Rehman alias Chota Burmi, were the last active militants killed in Pulwama's Tral.

The JeM introduced first ever fidayeen or suicide attack in Jammu and Kashmir on November 3, 1999, when a Srinagar boy, Afad Ahmad Shah, along with another militant, drove an improvised explosive device-laden car into the Badamibagh Cantonment in Srinagar, killing six security personnel.

Thursday's attack was the second fidayeen attack in Lethpora in Pulwama. On December 31, 2017, the JeM employed a local youth, Fardeen Khanday, 16, from Tral to carry out a fidayeen attack on a CRPF camp and later upload the video.

The JeM and the LeT are jockeying for power among the militant groups and use more ferocious attacks to take centre stage and recruit more locals," the police report, accessed by *The Hindu*, warned the security establishment in 2018.

# Suicide car bombing returns to the Valley after 18 years

38 were killed in 2001 when a car drove into Assembly complex

VIAJITA SINGH  
NEW DELHI

Suicide car bombing returned to the Kashmir Valley after 18 years on Thursday, when a vehicle loaded with explosives rammed into a CRPF bus near Pulwama. While there were 2,547 CRPF personnel in the 78-vehicle convoy, the bus that bore the direct impact of the explosion was transporting 37 troops.

Officials said they were struggling to count the dead as the bodies had been mutilated beyond recognition by the explosion.

In 2001, at least 38 people were killed when a car full of explosives drove into the J&K legislative Assembly complex. That attack was claimed by the Pakistan-based Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM).

Thursday's incident, in which 37 personnel were killed, was also claimed by the JeM.

K. Vijay Kumar, advisor to J&K Governor Satyapal Malik, told *The Hindu* that while this was not the first time such an attack had taken place in the Kashmir

Valley, it had happened after "a gap."

According to a senior Home Ministry official, the explosives-laden car had been driving beside the convoy and after moving ahead of it had suddenly turned back and rammed into one of the buses.

Mr. Kumar said more than 2,500 personnel had been travelling together as the roads had been blocked for many days due to snowfall and subsequent pile-up of traffic. "Due to snow and lot of blockade, the movement of vehicles was barred on the road leading to Srinagar. The convoy was coming from Jammu and the road opening party [which sanitises the route] was in place," he said.

**Expert team**

On reports that the suicide bomber's car had been laden with RDX, Mr. Kumar said an expert team would reach the site of the attack on Friday to ascertain the nature of explosives used in the terror attack.

A National Investigation Agency (NIA) team, with a

suitable forensic component, would also be leaving on Friday to assist the J&K police in forensic evaluation of the scene of crime.

JeM released a video claiming credit for the attack. They identified the attacker as Adil Ahmed Dar, a resident of Kakpora in Pulwama, who joined the outfit last year. In the video, Dar, who was seen sitting with sophisticated weapons in front of a backdrop of a black and white flag, was heard saying that by the time the video was released, he would be in heaven. JeM, headed by Masood Azhar, is backed by Pakistan.

Last year, 614 terrorist-related incidents were reported in J&K, the highest in the past six years. A total of 91 security personnel were killed in these incidents.

Home Minister Rajnath Singh tweeted, "today's dastardly attack on CRPF in Pulwama (J&K) is extremely painful and disturbing. I bow to each and every CRPF jawan who has sacrificed his life in service to the nation. I pray for the speedy recovery of the injured."

## India signs defence pacts with Germany and Sweden

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

India concluded defence cooperation and security protection agreements with Germany and Sweden during the ongoing visit of Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman there.

"The agreement that Nirmala Sitharaman and I signed today is an important step in implementing the action plan on deeper cooperation with India," Peter Hultqvist, Swedish Minister for Defence said after signing the security protection agreement between the two countries.

### Classified information

The agreement will enable both the countries to share classified information with each other, a Swedish Embassy release said.

India and Sweden have had a memorandum of understanding on cooperation in the area of defence since 2009.

### Germany visit

Earlier in Germany on February 12 to 13, Ms. Sitharaman met her counterpart Dr. Ursula von der Leyen and signed an implementing arrangement on enhanced defence and defence industry cooperation to strengthen military to military engagement as well as defence industry and research and development linkages.

Both Germany and Sweden are important suppliers of defence equipment to India and their companies are currently in the race for multi-billion tenders to supply submarines and fighter aircraft.

# Citizenship Bill fallout roils BJP

+ Party may have to contend with its political cost in coming LS polls

NISTULA HEBBAR  
VIJAYA SINGH  
NEW DELHI

The Centre's failure to introduce the Citizenship (Amendment) Bill in the Rajya Sabha on the last day of the 16th Lok Sabha on Wednesday is attributed to reasons ranging from serious apprehensions expressed by security agencies about disturbances in northeast India to the government backing away from contentious Bills in order to ensure smooth passage for the motion of thanks for the President's address.

The fallout from this failure, however, has been felt by the ruling BJP's leaders and allies across the region's States. While Manipur Chief Minister N. Biren Singh's stock has been lifted by his early decision to demand a rethink on the Bill, Assam Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal has ended up losing on most counts – from being attacked by the Bill's critics for his silence, despite having expressed misgivings to the party in internal fo-

rums, to having to contend with the disappointment of Bengali Hindus for the lapsed legislation.

The political cost from having first championed the Bill and then failing to get it pushed through Parliament is something that the BJP will have to contend with in the coming general elections, said senior party leaders, who spoke on condition of anonymity. The top party officials said Mr. Sonowal, a former leader of the All Assam Students Union who had been at the forefront of struggles for Assamese identity in the past including having been the petitioner in the case that led to the striking down of the Illegal Migrants (Determination by Tribunal) Act, had been uncomfortable with the situation from the outset.

**Painted as villain**  
"He has, inadvertently, been painted as a villain among a large section of people who expected him to protest the Bill to the party vocally, and [instead he] re-

mained silent," said a party official, declining to be identified. "On the other hand, N. Biren Singh was vocal in asking for a rethink and, with the Bill lapsing, has claimed some moral high ground," the official added.

"Our local units in Manipur and Meghalaya were vocal in their opposition, so the political situation there is retrievable, but in Assam, that is not so, with Finance Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma pushing the Bill, and therefore disappointing the Bengali Hindus for not getting it through, and Mr. Sonowal, by keeping silent alienating regional aspirations," said the official. "In a line, the handling of the withdrawal of the Bill has also created a mess," said the party office-bearer.

The Home Ministry had also been reluctant to push for the Bill as reports from the security agencies had said that the Bill had caused "irreparable damage" and noted that there was a strong emotional upsurge against the legislation.

# Hero's welcome for Conrad Sangma

Stand against Citizenship Bill boosts Meghalaya CM's image

RAHUL KARMAKAR  
GUWAHATI

Meghalaya Chief Minister and National People's Party (NPP) president Conrad K. Sangma was accorded a hero's welcome at Guwahati's Lokapriya Gopinath Bardoloi International Airport on Thursday afternoon. He landed from New Delhi after a day of "victory for the people of the Northeast".

The 'victory' was related to the Centre's failure in bringing the contentious Citizenship (Amendment) Bill, 2016 in the Rajya Sabha.

### Face of the northeast

Some regional political parties and non-governmental organisations have hailed Mr. Sangma as the "face of the northeast". "We cannot but thank Conrad Sangma who managed to unite all the regional forces to thwart the BJP's communal politics," Assam Ganjam Parishad (AGP) president Atul Bora said.

The All Assam Students' Union (AASU) acknowledged Mr. Sang-



Conrad K. Sangma

ma's "crusade", which made his Meghalaya Democratic Alliance Cabinet comprising a BJP Minister (out of two MLAs of the party) pass a resolution opposing the Bill last year. This, the union said, shook the region out of slumber.

"His bold stand despite being a part of the BJP-led North East Democratic Alliance was crucial in the region's collective fight against the bid to make the anti-Northeast Bill a reality. He has made us realise what the indigenous people of the region can do if they are together," AASU advi-

sor Samujjal Bhattacharyya said. Leaders of the North East Students' Organisation have found in the Meghalaya Chief Minister glimpses of his father, former Lok Sabha Speaker Purno A. Sangma, one of the tallest leaders the region has produced.

Mr. Sangma, however, downplayed his role. "The outcome of the anti-Bill movement was the result of teamwork, where people from across seven States, irrespective of their political affiliation, ethnicity, religion and language, joined hands and showed no challenge is big enough if we are with each other for a common cause," he said.

The Congress said Mr. Sangma was not the only reason why the BJP failed to table the Bill in the Rajya Sabha.

"We mobilised people and various organisations, facilitated meetings with various parties across the nation and ensured the support of 16 MPs against the Bill," Assam Pradesh Congress Committee president Ripun Bora said.

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MSETCL invites offers by SRM e-tendering in TWO bid system (Techno-Commercial Bid and Price Bid) from the eligible registered bidders for the following work on turnkey basis as detailed below.

Establishment of 400/220 kV substation at Karjat Dist. Ahmednagar along-with associated transmission lines under Nashik zone.

Interested bidders may obtain further information available on the website <https://sppmtender.mahatransco.in>

The date of downloading of Bid documents available on the website is from 13.02.2019

Chief Engineer (C&M), MSETCL

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No. SPPh/A-II/Adv./2018-19/6471  
निविदा आमतंगा सचिवा / Notice Inviting Tender (NIT)

मुहरबंद निविदा की आमति के लिए पाल और योगी निविदाकर्ता से आमतिले दिये जाएँ हैं:

क्र.सं SI. No.	माल / वेश्याएं का संकेत विवरण Brief Description of Goods / Services	निविदा सं. Tender No.	माल / अवधि Quantity /Period For Receipt of Tenders
1	Hiring of 4 Seater Staff Car and 7 Seater Passenger Car.	6000012477	One year on 01-03-2019
2	Procurement of MS Chequered Plates - Fabrication & Fixing of Chequered		



## ELSEWHERE

Pak. court grants bail to Shehzad Sharif

Lahore High Court on Thursday granted bail to Shehzad Sharif in two corruption cases, in a major relief to the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz chief and Leader of Opposition in the National Assembly. Mr. Sharif, who is currently lodged in a Lahore prison, declared the verdict "a victory of truth". PTI

23 feared dead in flood at Zimbabwe gold mine

At least 23 illegal miners are feared dead in Zimbabwe after shafts and underground tunnels they were working in were flooded by water from a burst dam. The miners had entered shafts in battlefields, 175 km west of Harare, on Tuesday night, but a dam wall collapsed, flooding the shafts and tunnels. REUTERS

Amazon drops plan for New York headquarters

New York Amazon abruptly abandoned plans on Thursday for a big new headquarters in New York that would have brought 25,000 jobs to the city, reversing course after politicians and others objected to the nearly \$3 billion in tax incentives promised to the company. AP

Guaido announces new board for State oil firm

CARACAS Venezuela's opposition leader Juan Guaido took another step on Wednesday in an international bid to economically starve President Nicolas Maduro's regime, announcing the appointment of a new board for Cito, the U.S.-based arm of State oil firm PDVSA. AFP

# House passes resolution to end U.S. support for Yemen war

Says any troops that could affect the war should be withdrawn in 30 days

SRIRAM LAKSHMAN

WASHINGTON DC

The House of Representatives passed a resolution on Wednesday to end U.S. support for the Saudi-led war in Yemen. The resolution, introduced by Representative Ro Khanna (incidentally, an Indian American) of California, passed 248 to 177, with 18 Republicans and 230 Democrats supporting it.

"If you care about the outrage that the Saudis are inflicting on Americans and on the world, the only patriotic thing to do is to vote for this resolution," Mr. Khanna said.

The U.S., while not directly involved in combat in Yemen, has, since 2015, provided the Saudi-led coalition with support and intelligence for its war against Houthi rebels, who have some backing from Iran. In November, the U.S. announced that it was stopping to refuel coalition aircraft engaged in Yemen.

The resolution calls for the U.S. to withdraw any troops that affect the Yemen war within a period of 30 days. It grants an exemption to forces fighting al-Qaeda and its associates. The Resolution also formalises and mandates the Department of Defense policy of halting aircraft refuelling.

The war has left some 50,000 dead, according to an independent estimate, millions displaced, and spawned a famine.

**Rebuke to Trump**  
The House resolution is a rebuke to the Trump administration which has shielded Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman (MBS) from any personal fallout as-



Rare move: A file photo of tribesmen loyal to Houthi rebels, in Sanaa, Yemen. • AP

sociated with the murder of Saudi dissident and *Washington Post* columnist Jamal Khashoggi. Khashoggi was killed, and his body dismembered on October 2 last year by Saudi agents at the Kingdom's consulate in Istanbul, according to Turkish investigators.

American intelligence agencies had concluded that MBS had ordered the murder of Khashoggi – a conclusion that many lawmakers, including prominent Republicans, accepted but President Donald Trump and his top Cabinet officials had pushed back against. Reports emerged last week that MBS had said he would use "a bullet" on Khashoggi if the journalist did not stop criticising the Kingdom and return to it.

The House resolution passed on a day when the Foreign Ministers of Saudi Arabia, the U.S., and the UAE met in Warsaw to discuss the Yemen situation. It invokes the War Powers Act (1973), which requires

Congressional approval for military action that lasts beyond 60 days unless there has been a formal declaration of war.

Congress has not used this Act since 1973.

## Virtual blank cheque

"Article I of the Constitution gives Congress the responsibility to declare war. Yet we've given Presidents of both parties a virtual blank cheque to send our brave service-members into harm's way while we've stood on the sidelines," House Foreign Affairs Committee Chairman Eliot Engel said on the House floor.

"With the measure we're considering today, we take some of that power back."

Republicans, who controlled the House last year, prevented a similar Bill from passing a House vote although the Republican-controlled Senate passed a similar Bill in December. Nancy Pelosi, who was then Speaker Presumptive, had promised to bring it to vote after

she took the gavel.

The House resolution passed with two amendments – one condemning anti-Semitism and the second, allowing intelligence sharing in the Yemen conflict when "appropriate in the national security interest of the United States".

## Anti-Semitism

The anti-Semitism amendment, which was put forth by House Republicans in an unusual procedural tactic called a "motion to recommit", is seen as a reaction to Representative Ilhan Omar's controversial comments last week on U.S. foreign policy towards Israel.

If the Senate passes a similar Yemen Bill, it could lead to the President to veto it. The Trump administration had, earlier this week, called into question the premise of invoking the War Powers Act, saying U.S. forces are not directly involved in the Yemen conflict and that invoking it would harm bilateral relationships.

## Lawmakers defeat May in symbolic vote

REUTERS

LONDON

British lawmakers defeated Prime Minister Theresa May in a symbolic vote over her Brexit strategy on Thursday, undermining her pledge to European Union leaders that she can get the unpopular divorce deal approved if they grant her concessions.

Lawmakers defeated the government 303-258 on the main motion. While the vote does not force the government to change tack, the numbers will undermine EU leaders' confidence that Ms. May can win Parliament's support for a revised agreement.

The latest twist in the negotiation to leave the EU underlines the deep divisions in Parliament over how, or even whether, Britain should leave the bloc. It also increases the possibility of Britain leaving without a deal, a nightmare scenario for many businesses, but also of Brexit being delayed or potentially never happening at all.



Dutch Foreign Minister Stef Blok tweeted a picture of himself with the 'Brexit monster' on his desk in Hague. • REUTERS

ment. While the PM has rejected accusations that she was running down the clock in an attempt to force politicians to back her deal when faced with the alternative of a no-deal exit, a journalist at ITN News overheard Britain's chief negotiator Olly Robbins discussing the government's Brexit strategy in a bar.

However, they have ruled out any changes to the backstop in the withdrawal agreement. Speaking on BBC Radio 4, Britain's Trade Secretary Liam Fox called for those MPs to abandon their "ideological purity" and vote with the government.

According to the reporter, Mr. Robbins had suggested the final vote on Ms. May's withdrawal deal would only happen shortly before

March 29, when Britain is due to leave the EU. Ms. May would then give MPs a choice between backing her deal or a lengthy delay to Brexit, Mr. Robbins reportedly said. Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn accused the Prime Minister of engaging in the "pretence of working across Parliament to find solutions," and of risking people's livelihoods, jobs and investment in a "desperate" attempt to push her "deeply flawed" deal through Parliament.

## + Ex-diplomats call for Brexit delay

43 former British envoys urge the government to consider a second referendum

VIDYA RAM

LONDON

Forty-three former British Ambassadors and High Commissioners have added their voice to calls for the government to delay Brexit and consider holding a new referendum on whether to remain in the EU. Signatories include former Ambassadors to Germany, France, the U.S., Canada, Japan and Russia, who joined forces to appeal to the government to not leave the EU without "clarity about our final destination", pointing to their "clear understanding" as former diplomats of "what contributes to Britain's influence in the world".

"It is clear that Brexit has turned into a national crisis. There is no possible deal that will be a sensible alternative to the privileged one we have today as members of the EU, with a seat at the table, inside the single market and customs union but outside the Euro and Schengen," they wrote.

Pressure has been mounting on the government to consider delaying Brexit, as

politicians in the U.K. struggle to reach consensus on a withdrawal strategy that would be acceptable to Brussels and other EU nations.

## Revised deal

The government has attempted to rally support for an endorsement of Prime Minister Theresa May's strategy (which has been to continue attempts to get a revised Brexit deal), arguing that unless MPs support the motion on Thursday, it would be almost impossible for the government to extract further concessions from the EU on the Irish backstop. The EU has repeatedly insisted that without the British government and Parliament clearly signalling what there is a majority of support for, any movement forward is impossible.

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Dutch Foreign Minister Stef Blok tweeted a picture of himself with the 'Brexit monster' on his desk in Hague. • REUTERS

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## Netanyahu tones down Iran talk – in English

PM said in Hebrew of 'war' with Iran, his office alters comment in English transcript to 'combating' Iran

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

JERUSALEM

Israel's Prime Minister's office has toned down talk by Benjamin Netanyahu of a shared interest with Arab states in "war" with Iran, replacing the word with "combating" in its English-language transcript. Mr. Netanyahu made the comments on Wednesday on the sidelines of an international conference in Warsaw organised by the U.S. to discuss Iran and the region, and attended by the Foreign Ministers of Gulf Arab states.

Mr. Netanyahu and his U.S. ally have sought to play



Lost in translation: U.S. Vice President Mike Pence and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu in Warsaw. • REUTERS

up the rare public appearance of senior Arab officials at a common forum with an Israeli Prime Minister.

Both have highlighted the shared hostility towards Iran

comments that remained on his official Twitter account on Thursday. Mr. Netanyahu clearly speaks of a shared interest in war with Iran, using the Hebrew word "milhamah".

"What is important about this meeting – and this meeting is not in secret, because there are many of those – is that this is an open meeting with representatives of leading Arab countries, that are sitting down together with Israel in order to advance the common interest of war with Iran," he said.

The Prime Minister's office also used the word "war" in its first English-lan-

guage translation of his comments. But two hours later, it published a "reissue" of its transcript, altering the English translation of the final phrase to "combating Iran".

It gave no explanation for the change. Mr. Netanyahu has repeatedly pledged to use all means at his disposal, including military, to prevent Iran acquiring advance bases on Israel's doorstep.

In recent months, he has broken with the conventional ambiguity of Israeli leaders about military operations to speak openly of Israel's air war against Iranian targets in neighbouring Syria.

## Manafort lied to investigators in Russia probe, judge finds

Enough evidence to suggest 'he broke his plea agreement'

ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON

Paul Manafort, U.S. President Donald Trump's former campaign chairman, intentionally lied to investigators and a federal grand jury in the special counsel's Russia probe, a judge has ruled.

U.S. District Judge Amy Berman Jackson's decision was another loss for Mr. Manafort, a political consultant who rose to lead Mr. Trump's 2016 campaign. He now faces years in prison in two criminal cases brought by special counsel Robert



Paul Manafort

Mueller's investigation.

The ruling hurts Mr. Manafort's chance of receiving a reduced sentence, though Judge Jackson said she would decide the exact impact during his sentencing next month.

Prosecutors have made

clear that they remain deeply interested in Mr. Manafort's interactions with a man the FBI said has ties to Russian intelligence. But it's unclear exactly what has drawn their attention and whether it relates to election interference because much of the dispute has played out in secret court hearings and blacked out court filings.

In her ruling, the judge found there was sufficient evidence to say Mr. Manafort breached his plea agreement by lying about three of five matters that prosecutors had singled out.

भारत सरकार / GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, अंतरिक्ष विभाग / DEPARTMENT OF SPACE विक्रम साराधाई अंतरिक्ष केंद्र / VIKRAM SARABHAI SPACE CENTRE तिरुवनंतपुरम / THIRUVANANTHAPURAM - 695 022				
विज्ञापन सं. वीएसएससी/पी/विज्ञापन/274/2018 दिनांक 13.02.2019 ADVT. NO. VSSC/P/ADVT/274/2018 DT. 13.02.2019				
भारत के लिए तथा उनको आयोगी और से, विशेष प्रधान, क्रय एवं बंडल, विक्रम साराधाई अंतरिक्ष केंद्र (वीएसएससी), तिरुवनंतपुरम, नियन्त्रित के लिए, मोहरबंद निवारण (क्रम सं. 1 के लिए, इ-प्राप्ति के जरूर निवारण (क्रम सं. 2 से 17 तक) तथा (क्रम सं 18 से 20 तक) अभियाचि आयोग करता है। For & on behalf of the President of India, the Sr. Head Purchase & Stores, Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC), Thiruvananthapuram invites Sealed Tender (for Sl. No. 1), Tenders through e-procurement (for Sl. No. 2 to 17) & Expression of Interest (Sl. No. 18 to 20) for the following:-				
क्रम सं SI No.	निवारा सं. Tender No.	वर्णन/Description	मात्रा Qty.	निवारा शुल्क Tender Fee
01.	4548-2018005228-01 [दो भाग/ TWO PART]	ऐलुमिनियम मिश्रधातु 5056 ग्रेड ट्रैड छत्ताकार क्रोड Al. Alloy 5056 Grade Rigid Honeycomb core ऐलुमिनियम मिश्रधातु 5056 फ्लैटक्रेकोर Al. Alloy 5056 Grade Flexcore	80 शीट/ Sheets 20 शीट/ Sheets	रु. 560/-
नोट :- विनियोग तथा विस्तृत विवरण एवं शर्तें निवारण के अनुसार Note :- Specification and detailed terms & conditions as per Tender document				
02.	VSSC/ADMNAUX/2018E1399901 [दो भाग/ TWO PART]	द्रवचालित प्रत्यक्षों का पुनःप्राप्तकरण Reconditioning of Hydraulic Actuators	91 सं./No.	
03.	VSSC/AVN-PUR/2018E1347201 [दो भाग/ TWO PART]	3 अक्ष स्थितिक 3 Axis Positioner	1 सं./No.	
04.	VSSC/AVN-PUR/2018E1394802 [दो भाग/ TWO PART]	रोलर स्क्रू Rollerscrew		

## MARKET WATCH

	14-02-2019	% CHANGE
Sensex	35,876	-0.44
US Dollar	71.16	-0.51
Gold	34,000	-0.15
Brent oil	63.87	0.53

## NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Ports	349.10	7.45
Asian Paints	1399.20	-24.95
Axis Bank	695.00	-2.50
Bajaj Auto	2823.10	-0.85
Bajaj Finance	6035.60	-92.05
Bharti Airtel	300.80	-9.75
BPCL	315.65	-13.80
Cipla	542.90	-0.60
Coal India	217.20	-3.05
Dr Reddy's Lab	2667.25	18.55
Eicher Motors	20016.40	-142.30
GAIL (India)	307.95	-7.55
Grasim Ind	718.90	1.75
HCL Tech	1061.30	-8.85
HDFC	1900.70	-29.80
HDFC Bank	2110.20	-33.25
Hero MotoCorp	2776.20	24.75
Hindalco	191.75	-6.45
HPCL	220.70	-4.40
Hind Unilever	1785.05	-13.90
Indiabulls HFL	656.60	37.70
ICICI Bank	343.95	4.20
IndusInd Bank	1517.50	19.05
Bharti Infralet	297.20	-7.10
Infosys	740.05	-14.85
Indian Oil Corp	124.65	-5.25
ITC	277.90	1.05
JSW Steel	280.65	9.45
Kotak Bank	1286.80	-11.50
L&T	1227.60	10.95
M&M	634.40	-7.10
Maurti Suzuki	7017.50	-10.75
NTPC	131.25	0.15
ONGC	132.15	-1.25
PowerGrid Corp	174.95	-1.60
Reliance Ind	1224.20	-21.75
State Bank	267.10	-1.10
Sun Pharma	440.90	9.65
Tata Motors	159.85	4.85
Tata Steel	482.55	-1.45
TCS	2044.60	-20.80
Tech Mahindra	805.90	-3.80
Titan	1042.25	-8.70
UltraTech Cement	3494.90	22.65
UPL	821.05	3.85
Vedanta	151.75	1.05
Wipro	375.10	-2.35
YES Bank	221.25	51.80
Zee Entertainment	433.45	25.25

## EXCHANGE RATES

Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on February 14

CURRENCY TT BUY TT SELL

US Dollar ..... 70.96 71.28

Euro ..... 79.98 80.35

British Pound ..... 91.00 91.41

Japanese Yen (100) ..... 63.68 64.17

Chinese Yuan ..... 10.48 10.53

Swiss Franc ..... 70.34 70.67

Singapore Dollar ..... 52.22 52.46

Canadian Dollar ..... 53.50 53.74

Malaysian Ringgit ..... 17.41 17.50

Source: Indian Bank

## BULLION RATES CHENNAI

February 14 rates in rupees with previous rates in parentheses

Retail Silver (1g) ..... 42.8 (42.8)

22 ct gold (1g) ..... 3145 (3141)

## In rescue effort, banks to acquire majority stake in Jet

Board okays bank-led provisional resolution plan for restructuring to meet funding gap of ₹8,500 crore; airline reports ₹732 crore Q3 net loss

LALATENDU MISHRA  
MUMBAI

A consortium of commercial banks led by State Bank of India (SBI) will acquire a majority stake in Jet Airways and promoter Naresh Goyal, for consideration.

Lenders will convert debt into 11.4 crore shares of ₹10 each by allotment of such number of equity shares at an aggregate consideration of ₹1.

The BLPRP is subject to the company receiving requisite approvals from shareholders at its EGM to be held on February 21, 2019.

## Debt to shares

Jet Airways said the conversion of lenders' debt into equity shares would result in the lenders becoming the largest shareholders in the company and they would appoint nominees to the board.

"Such allotment/conversion of lenders' debt to equity shares of the company will

## Veering off the runway

2018

May 23: Posts first quarterly loss in 12 quarters, says it has a negative net worth that 'may create uncertainties'

Aug. 3: Jet dismisses conjecture of stake sale

Aug. 9: Airline defers board meet for first-quarter results

Aug. 27: Jet posts loss for June-quarter, says it will inject funds and cut costs by more than ₹2,000 crore in two years

Oct. 4: Rating agency ICRA downgrades Jet's long term loans and NCDS

Oct. 18: Report says Tata Group is in talks to buy stake in Jet. Jet calls report "speculative"

Nov. 12: Jet posts third straight quarterly loss

Nov. 16: Tata Sons says discussions on Jet 'preliminary' and no proposal has been made

Dec. 5: Reports say Jet and Etihad Airways have been holding rescue talks with Jet's bankers

Dec. 7: ICRA cuts Jet rating yet again

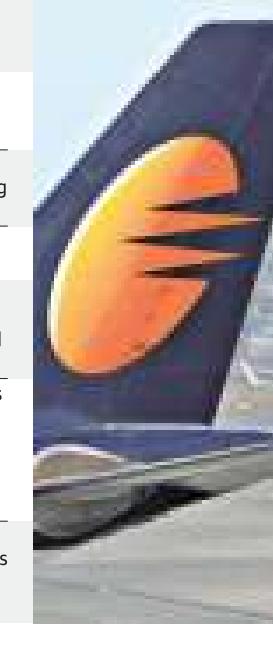
2019

Jan. 2: Airline delays payment to a consortium of Indian banks, led by SBI; ICRA cuts rating again

Jan. 10: Jet proposes to creditors that it will catch up with debt payments in arrears by September and from April will meet debt payments as they come due

Feb. 8: Jet Airways grounds four aircraft after failing to pay lessors

Source: Reuters, media reports



nounce the quantum of stake the banks would pick up. However, Mr. Goyal's stake is likely to be reduced substantially to about 20%, post debt recast from 51%.

"The bank-led resolution plan is a win-win for all stakeholders. However, composition and the quality of the board is key to the outcomes," said Kapil Kaul, CEO, South Asia, Centre for Asia Pacific Aviation (CAPA).

## 'Interim arrangement'

"I don't see lenders running Jet Airways for long and this is an interim arrangement. Expect a new ownership order to emerge in the near term," Mr. Kaul added.

Jet Airways Group on Thursday reported a net loss of ₹732 crore (standalone net loss ₹587 crore) for the third quarter ended December 31, 2018, against a net profit of ₹186 crore for the same period last year. Total revenue

for the quarter was flat at ₹6,411 crore, compared to ₹6,412 crore in Q3 FY18.

Vinay Dube, CEO, Jet Airways said, "Jet Airways continues to make steady progress on its operational and financial turnaround and with the approval of the bank-led provisional resolution plan by the board of directors of the company, we remain confident of delivering a more strategic, efficient and financially viable airline."

## Network restructuring

During the quarter, the airline restructured its network, moving capacity away from unviable routes to profitable ones.

As part of its strategy to enhance efficiencies and reduce costs, the airline announced strategic changes to its current distribution process, which will be effective from April 1, 2019.

## Jaitley 'ready to take over' at Finance Ministry

Waited for Parliament session to end'

TCA SHARAD RAGHAVAN  
NEW DELHI

Union Minister Arun Jaitley is "ready to take over" at the Finance Ministry again, according to a senior official, who added that he had been waiting for the Parliament session to conclude before rejoining.

"Mr. Jaitley is ready to take over at the Finance Ministry," the Ministry official told *The Hindu*. "He was just waiting for the Parliament session to finish. He is likely to take charge soon."

The Budget session of Parliament ended on Wednesday. The government had, on January 23, an-



Arun Jaitley

nounced that Piyush Goyal would take charge as Finance Minister during Mr. Jaitley's "period of indisposition," alluding to the fact that he had travelled to the U.S. for medical treatment.

## Yes Bank shares surge 31%

Rise after RBI did not find any divergence in provisioning

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
MUMBAI

Shares of private sector lender Yes Bank surged almost 31% to ₹221 on Thursday – a day after the bank reported that the Reserve Bank of India's annual inspection report did not find any divergence in provisioning or in bad loans, compared with what the bank had reported for the financial year 2017-18.

According to RBI norms, banks have to disclose divergences if the additional provision requirement exceeds 15% of the net profit and/or additional gross NPAs identified by RBI exceed 15% of the published gross NPAs for the reference period.

On Thursday, Yes Bank

Oswal said in a report, adding that clarity in this regard would help the bank clear the air on one of the key overhangs and start a fresh journey under the new MD and CEO, Ravneet Gill.

However, Yes Bank shares are currently down nearly 39%, or ₹141, compared with the August 30 close of ₹361.90. Shares have been falling sharply since September after the RBI decided not to extend MD and CEO Rana Kapoor's term for three years as endorsed by the board. For the fiscal 2016-17, the bank had reported gross NPAs of ₹2,018.6 crore against RBI's assessment of ₹8,373.8 crore in the same period.

## Bank clears the air

"This development comes after months of speculation on the magnitude of divergence that the bank was expected to report, particularly after its MD and CEO was forced to step down by the RBI," brokerage firm Motilal

## Wholesale inflation eases to 10-month low of 2.76%

Softening fuel prices slow WPI in Jan.

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

Wholesale inflation eased to a 10-month low of 2.76% in January due largely to cooling fuel prices, official data showed.

Growth in the Wholesale Price Index (WPI) fell for the third consecutive month in January from 5.54% in October 2018, 4.47% in November, and 3.8% in December.

Within the overall index, the primary articles category saw inflation quickening to 3.54% in January from 2.28% in December 2018.

Inflation in the crude petroleum and natural gas segment slowed sharply in Jan-

uary to a one-year low of 3.87% from 16.8% in December.

Similarly, inflation in the fuel and power segment slowed to a 27-month low of 1.85% in January, driven in large part by the fact that the mineral oils segment also saw inflation slowing to a 27-month low of 0.11%.

Wholesale inflation in the food segment quickened to a one-year high of 2.34% in January from a contraction of 0.07% in December 2018.

Inflation in the overall food group – a combination of wholesale food as well as manufactured food – also quickened to 1.84% in January, a 13-month high.

## + Low velocity of cash circulation in large States hints at sluggish economy: report

'Higher denomination notes are not getting adequately circulated'



said the report authored by Soumya Kanti Ghosh, Group Chief Economic Adviser, SBI.

It estimates bank notes in circulation by March 2019 ought to have been at ₹22,45 lakh crore, but given the present trend of growth, it is expected to reach only ₹20.9 lakh crore by then. It further said with income velocity of money having shown a 'sharp plunge', it possibly implies that currency of higher denomination (₹2,000) is not getting adequately circulated in the economy. "We are in a state of paradox as higher CIC cannot be taken as a proxy of

economic activity as is being claimed," it said.

It added that in larger States like Maharashtra, U.P., and Karnataka, income velocity is far lesser than the national average, while in States like Chhattisgarh, M.P., A.P. and J&K, the velocity is much higher than the average. "A declining income velocity of money clearly suggests that a pick-up in economic activity remains elusive. Rural economy still remains depressed, with latest inflation numbers suggesting any meaningful pick-up in food inflation is still at a distance," it added.

Currency in circulation] is still short of trend by at least ₹1.5 lakh crore. Thus, any argument of cash coming back aggressively into the system and financing informal activities is not entirely correct,"

## IN BRIEF



## Glenmark to spin off innovation business

**NEW DELHI** Drug firm Glenmark Pharmaceuticals said its board has given an in-principle approval to spin off its innovation business into a new company in the U.S. Setting up of the new company, which will be the firm's wholly owned subsidiary, will provide an enhanced focus to the innovation business and help accelerate the pipeline towards commercialisation, the firm said in a filing. PTI

## RBI penalises three PSBs for violating norms

**MUMBAI** The RBI has imposed penalties on three public sector banks for violation of various norms. A penalty of ₹1.5 crore has been imposed on Oriental Bank of Commerce and ₹1 crore each on Punjab National Bank and Bank of India. The penalty has been imposed for non-compliance with various directions on monitoring of end use of funds, exchange of information with other banks, and on restructuring of accounts, the RBI said.

## Sundram Fasteners buys 1.82% stake in TVSI

**CHENNAI** Sundram Fasteners Ltd. (SFL) has acquired 1.82% of equity shares of its subsidiary firm TVS Infotech Ltd. (TVSi). With this acquisition, SFL's equity stake gets enhanced to 56.43%. Besides, SFL's wholly owned subsidiary Sundram Fasteners Investments Ltd. (SFIL) holds 11.23% of TVSi's share capital. Sundram Fasteners Ltd., along with its subsidiary, hold 67.66% in TVSi, said the company in a regulatory filing.

## Zoho to hire 1,000 engineers

Cloud services company is eyeing markets such as Amsterdam and Mexico

N. ANAND  
CHENNAI

Cloud services firm Zoho Corporation has planned to recruit 1,000 engineers in the next 18 months, tripling its headcount at its Tenkasi and Renigunta development centres, said a top official.

"Currently, there are about 300 people working in Tenkasi and about 70 in Renigunta development centres," said Sridhar Vembu, chief executive officer, Zoho Corporation Pvt. Ltd. "We are planning to ramp it up to 700 and 200 respectively in 18 months."

**More sales persons**  
The privately-held and profitable firm employs more than 7,000 people at its three centres, of which more than 6,500 are in Chennai. Zoho is planning to slow-



Second tier on top: Zoho has about 300 employees in Tenkasi and 70 in Renigunta, says Sridhar Vembu. • BIJOY GHOSH

down hiring at Chennai campus due to space constraint.

At the same time, the firm is also going to enter newer markets such as Singapore, Amsterdam, Dubai, and Mexico and increase the number of sales persons in existing markets such as China, Japan, Australia and New

Zealand. It also has a sales office in rural Japan

"Our focus is to become a large global Indian company by expanding our domestic and global footprint. At the same time, we are increasing our headcount in rural areas such as Tenkasi and Renigunta to reverse brain

drain," he said. "Though, we will have offices around the globe, 80% of employees will be based in India. Our revenues have been growing at 30% and soon, we will be a \$1 billion firm," he said.

On Thursday, Zoho launched a new version of Zoho Office Suite, which includes Cloud-based productivity software applications such as Zoho Writer and Zoho Notebook, all enhanced with Zoho AI-powered assistant ZIA.

Zoho Office suite is available to single users for free and at ₹99 per user per month for SMEs.

## 'Growth likely to reach 7.5% next fiscal'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NEW DELHI

The economic growth is likely to accelerate to 7.5% in 2019-20, from 7.2% projected for the current fiscal, Chief Economic Adviser K.V. Subramanian has said.

"We have done the projections. All the external agencies and internally our estimates are also 7.5% (2019-20). The nominal rate we are expecting is 11.5% and inflation of about 4%", he told PTI.

Talking about average growth in the last four years, Mr. Subramanian said the GDP growth rate had been 7.3%, the highest across all governments since liberalisation.

## Careless staff expose firms to cyberattacks: EY

Companies ready to spend on security

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

Organisations in India consider careless or unaware employees as the biggest vulnerability that exposes the firms to cyberattacks, according to EY's 'Global Information Security Survey 2018-19 – India edition.'

A maximum of about 32% respondents cited careless or unaware employees as their topmost vulnerability.

Other vulnerabilities cited include outdated security controls (21%), unauthorised access (19%), related to cloud computing use (8%), related to smartphones/tablets (8%) and related to social media (8%) and related to Internet of Things (4%).



• GETTYIMAGES/ISTOCK

Burgess Cooper, partner-cybersecurity, EY India, said, "In comparison to the previous years, organisations are planning to spend more on cybersecurity...With the rise in digital movement there is a growing realisation that security is also about maintaining the continuity of business operations."

## Chawla to be Spencer's Retail MD

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
KOLKATA

Spencer's Retail Ltd. (SRL) has roped in Devendra Chawla, former Walmart India chief operating officer, as its chief executive officer and managing director for a three-year term.

The appointment of Mr. Chawla was mentioned in a regulatory filing by the company, which said that Debanjan Mandal, senior partner of law firm Fox & Mandal had been appointed as independent director and Rama Kant as company secretary and compliance officer.

Sanjiv Goenka will be chairman and his son Shashwat Goenka, a non-independent director.

## Coffee Day's MindTree shares released

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NEW DELHI

Coffee Day Enterprises on Thursday said the Income Tax Department had released 74.90 lakh attached shares of IT firm Mindtree, owned by the company and its promoter VG Siddhartha, but attached Siddhartha's 46.01 lakh shares in Coffee Day Enterprises over potential tax demand.

Last month, Income Tax Department had attached 74.90 lakh shares of Mindtree.

"The company and the promoter, VG Siddhartha, have received orders dated February 13, 2019, for release of provisional attachment of Mindtree shares under section 28IB of IT Act, 1961 vide ordered on January 25, 2019," Coffee Day said in a filing.

## Ashok Leyland net slips 21.45% on higher costs

Pricing pressure also hits performance

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
CHENNAI

Commercial vehicles manufacturer Ashok Leyland Ltd. has reported a 21.45% drop in its standalone net profit for the third quarter ended December 2018, to ₹380.84 crore against ₹484.86 crore registered during the year-earlier period, due to pricing pressure and higher input cost.

Other income slid from ₹41.73 crore to ₹20.80 crore.

Commercial vehicles sales were down by 6.2% in the third quarter to 43,763 against 46,652.

**Exceptional item**  
The third quarter results included exceptional item of cost of ₹6.09 crore.

The company's revenue from operations dipped

Metrics	Q3FY19
Revenue from operations	₹6,346.04 cr
Profit	₹380.84 cr
Earning per share (EPS) (basic)	₹1.30
Commercial vehicles sales (Number of units)	43,763

12.26% to ₹6,346.04 crore from ₹7,232.39 crore.

"Our financial performance has been satisfying given the twin challenges of pricing pressure and higher input costs as we continue to post double digit EBITDA margins.

"Our strong balance sheet position continues, and we are preparing for growth next year," said Gopal Mahadevan, chief financial officer, Ashok Leyland.

## Grover Zampa Vineyards buys Four Seasons, 2 other assets

Company draws up ₹200-crore investment plan



diary of United Spirits Ltd; Charosa Vineyards, an asset of Hindustan Construction Company; and Bengaluru-headquartered Myra Vineyards.

## Expansion programme

"With the acquisition of these brands our portfolio gets strengthened. We will run the new vineyards in full capacity that will enhance the capacity to six million cases next year.

"Most of the investment for the acquisition has already been made. The expansion programme will be met through internal accruals and bank loans," he said.

## Kendriya Vidyalaya AGCR Colony, Delhi-110092

## Registration of Firms

Registered and Reputed firms may register for 2019-20 within 30 days from the date of advertisement for Supply of various items to this Vidyalaya such as Sports items, Printing of flex etc. Supply of Transport i.e. Cars, Buses, RTV etc., Computer AMC and its items, CCTVs, Furniture, Maintenance and Repair Work and Material, Sanitary Items, Electrical Items, Laboratory Material.

## GMVN GARHWAL MANDAL VIKAS NIGAM LTD

(A Government of Uttarakhand Enterprise) CIN U31161UttR/7850C/2004/059

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## Invite Request for engagement of agency to execute the programme of 3 Guinness world records for gmvn!

More information is available at Website - international yogafestival.co.in. Forms available from 15.02.2019 to 21.02.2019. Last Date of submission is 21.02.2019 1:00 PM. Mail us at gmvnpublicity@gmail.com

General Manager- Tourism

## Kendriya Vidyalaya AGCR Colony, Delhi-110092

## Tender Notice

Sealed tenders are invited from registered firm having valid GST, ESI, EPF etc. for following :

1. Stationary Items, Printing Services.
  2. Security Services, Housekeeping & Conservancy Services.
  3. Canteen Services.
- Tender forms will be available on payment of Rs. 500/- each on all working days between 10.00 AM to 01.00 PM on 06.03.2019 and are to be submitted upto 07.03.2019 in office within 20 days of the publication of this notice (including the day of advertisement). Also see the vidyalaya website www.kvagcr.edu.in

Principal

## WESTERN RAILWAY-RATLAM DIVISION

## TENDER FOR CONTRACT OF CLEANING AND HOUSEKEEPING

No.: C331/MCC/NAD. Date: 11.02.2019. Divisional Railway Manager (Commerce) Western Railway, Ratlam, invites open e-tenders (two packet systems) for the following works: If for any reason the due date of opening of tenders is declared holiday, then the tender letters will be opened on the next working day at the scheduled time. (1) Name of the work with location: Mechanized cleaning, Manual cleaning, Rag picking and Peg & Rodent control with Housekeeping Service contract at Nagda Railway Station for period of 04 years. (2) Approx. cost of work: ₹ 4,05,48,373/- (Excluding GST) (3) Cost of Tender Form: ₹ 10,000/- The tender form is not transferable. The validity of the tender will be 60 days, the tender with lesser period will be rejected. (4) Earnest Money to be deposited: ₹ 3,52,800/- (5) Completion period of work: 04 Years (6) Address of the office where the tender will be opened: Office of the Divisional Railway Manager, (Commerce), Do Batti, Ratlam (Western Railway) (7) Date & time for submission and opening of tender: Submission upto 15.00 Hrs. on 07.03.2019, Opening Time: 07.03.2019 at 15.30 Hrs. (8) Website particulars & notice board location: Tender documents can also be seen on the Western Railway website viz. www.reps.gov.in. Any other information required by the tenderer can be obtained from the office of Divisional Railway Manager, (Commerce), Ratlam (Western Railway) during working hours.

Divisional Railway Manager (Commerce)

SHO P.S. Seemapuri, New Delhi

Ph: 22599394, 0765036030

## North Eastern Railway

## E-Auction Program for the Month of March-2019

All prospective bidders are invited to participate in the on-line public auctions being conducted for sale of scrap material.

E-Auction Dates	Jurisdiction of lots	Contact No.
5, 12, 19, 25, 27, 29 & 30 March 2019	Dy. CMM/GSD/ Gorakhpur	0551-2283558
1, 8, 15, 20, 26, 28 & 30 March 2019	Dy. CMM/GSD/ Izzatnagar	0581-2547173
4, 8, 11, 15, 19, 23, 26, 28 & 30 March 2019	Dr. DMM/Lucknow	0522-2233113
2, 7, 14, 20, 26, 28 & 30 March 2019	Dr. DMM/Varanasi	0542-2224819
5, 12, 19, 25, 27, 29 & 30 March 2019	Dr. DMM/Izatnagar	0581-2547327

Type of material : Scrap Rail, Cast Iron, Melting, MS, Condemed Rolling Stock (Coaches, Wagons and Locomotives), Turning & Boring. Non-Ferrous such as Copper, Aluminium, Batteries etc. In the event of Auction not being completed on the same day, Auction March be continued on the subsequent days also. Details of Auction Catalogue, Procedure and Conditions of Sale are available at [www.reps.gov.in](http://www.reps.gov.in). This Auction Programme is also available on North Eastern Railway website [www.ner.indianrailways.gov.in](http://www.ner.indianrailways.gov.in). Principal Chief Materials Manager CPR/S-78

Never travel on roof and foot boards

**RESULTS OF THE "ARTICLE WRITING COMPETITION" AS PART OF SAKSHAM 2019 BEING OBSERVED IN ASSAM**

**1<sup>st</sup> Best Entry Marthili Goswami**  
**2<sup>nd</sup> Best Entry Prasiti Barma**  
**3<sup>rd</sup> Best entry Lisa Baruah**

(NB: Winners will be informed about the process of collecting prizes)

**Bharat Nirman through Rural Roads**  
**Chief Engineer, JSRRDA, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, FFP Building, Dhurwa, Ranchi**

BHARAT NIRMAN  
UNDER PRADHAN MANTRI GRAM SADAK YOJANA (PMGSY)-(W.B.)  
Short-e-Procurement Notice  
Refender (PR-No.-20286)

The Government of India has received a loan/credit facility "Ln 7995-IN/Cr.4848-IN/Cr.4848-IN" from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development /International Development Association towards the cost of Rural Roads Project (Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana) and intends to apply a part of the funds to cover eligible payments under the contracts for construction of works as detailed in the Invitation for Bids. Bidding is open to all bidders from eligible source countries as defined in the bidding document.

The Chief Engineer, JSRRDA, Ranchi, Jharkhand for J.S.R.R.D.A. on behalf of Governor of Jharkhand, invites the item rate bids in electronic tendering system for construction of Bridges, Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana under Xth phase, in the district of Palamau -1 Pkg.Cost Rs. 1,903 Cr. for total 1 Number of packages with



Fire and fury: Jasprit Bumrah receives the Sportsman of the Year award from ICC Chairman Shashank Manohar. • VIJAY SONEJI



Run machine: Smriti Mandhana gets the Sportswoman of the Year award from Kamlesh Mehta. • VIJAY SONEJI



Extra special: N. Ram presents the Chairman's Choice award to Cheteshwar Pujara. • VIJAY SONEJI



Best State for Sport: Odisha CM Naveen Patnaik receives the award from chess legend Viswanathan Anand. • VIVEK BENDRE

## Sportstar Aces Lifetime Achievement Award for Padukone

Kohli and Bumrah share the Sportsman of the Year (cricket) accolade; Pujara gets Chairman's Choice award; Neeraj, Sharath, Hima and Mary Kom among winners



SHREEDUTTA CHIDANANDA MUMBAI

Prakash Padukone was honoured for Lifetime Achievement while Virat Kohli and Jasprit Bumrah shared the Sportsman of the Year (cricket) accolade at the Sportstar Aces Awards ceremony here on Thursday. It was a warm, heartfelt applause that Padukone received his award, before an audience of stars on a grand evening.

"As a child, I used to buy Sportstar every month for the posters. So, getting this award from Sportstar is like reviving childhood memories," said Kohli as he received his award, in absentia, from Shane Warne.

The former Australian leg-spinner and Rajasthan Royals brand ambassador hailed the fact that Kohli placed primacy on Test cricket. "Virat is a very inspiring cricketer all around the world. He stands up for what he believes in and speaks his heart," he added.

It was a golden 2018 for Bumrah, Ishant Sharma and Mohammed Shami, who became the most successful pace trio in a calendar year in Test cricket. "That an Indian pace trio broke the record of the great West Indies pacers is a very proud thing for us," said Bumrah. "We wanted to win abroad. For that, you have to have a good

bowling attack."



A night to remember: Prakash Padukone with his family members after receiving the Sportstar Aces Lifetime Achievement Award. • VIVEK BENDRE

The Awards, which were previously conferred between 1994 and 2003 in their first avatar, were revived as Sportstar completed 40 years in 2018. Alongside Ga-

vaskar on the Awards jury were sporting legends M.M. Somaya, Anju Bobby George, Anjali Bhagwat, and N. Ram, Chairman, The Hindu Group of Publishing.

Cheteshwar Pujara be-

batsmen," said Ram. "He has shown that he has all the credentials to step into Rahul Dravid's shoes."

### Parents' role

Pujara spoke of his parents' role in moulding his life. "I lost my mother to cancer at 17. When I was young, she told me, 'You'll have a great career but it's important to be a nice human being. It hardly matters whether you are famous or not.'

"My father has been a strict coach; but I'm grateful he has been there for me."

Sunil Chhetri, P.V. Sindhu, Neeraj Chopra, Mary Kom, Hima Das, Smriti Mandhana, Sharad Kamal, Bajrang Punia, Manu Bhaker and Deepa Malik were some of the other awardees on the occasion, an event graced by sporting greats of the likes of Viswanathan Anand, Gagan Narang, Mithali Raj and Kamlesh Mehta, and Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik, whose State was declared the best for promotion of sports.

Mukund Padmanabhan, Editor, The Hindu, was also present.

Ayon Sengupta, Editor, Sportstar, welcomed the awardees while N. Murali, Chairman, KSL, also addressed the gathering. K.C. Vijaya Kumar, Sports Editor, The Hindu, proposed a vote of thanks.

Not just Qatar's WC, your's too: Al Khater



Words of wisdom: Nasser Al Khater wants India to be patient in its quest for success on the global stage. • VIVEK BENDRE

"We had put down a strategy in 2004. We were not able to qualify for the FIFA World Cup before hosting it but we won the Asian Cup. It was great that India almost qualified for the knockout stages of the Asian Cup."

Al Khater spoke of the close ties between India and his land, bonds built not least because of the presence of a huge sub-continental population of migrant workers in Qatar.

"We have a large Indian community in Qatar. Our doctors, teachers, and engineers are Indians. You stand side by side with us."

"Doha is closer (to Mumbai) than some Indian cities. This is not just Qatar's World Cup. This is your World Cup too."



Guts and glory: Deepa Malik gets the Parathlete Sportswoman Award from M.M. Somaya. • VIVEK BENDRE



Bull's eye: The 16-year-old Manu Bhaker receives her award from ace shooter Anjali Bhagwat. • VIJAY SONEJI



### Sportstar Aces Awards winners

#### POPULAR AWARDS

Sportsman of the Year (Cricket)	<b>Virat Kohli &amp; Jasprit Bumrah</b>
Sportswoman of the Year (Cricket)	<b>Smriti Mandhana</b>
Sportsman of the Year (Racquet Sport)	<b>A. Sharath Kamal</b>
Sportswoman of the Year (Racquet Sport)	<b>P. V. Sindhu &amp; Manika Batra</b>
Sportsman of the Year (Track and Field)	<b>Neeraj Chopra</b>
Sportswoman of the Year (Track and Field)	<b>Hima Das</b>
Sportsman of the Year (Other Team Sport)	<b>Sunil Chhetri</b>
Sportswoman of the Year (Other Team Sport)	<b>Gurjit Kaur</b>
Sportsman of the Year (Other Individual Sport)	<b>Bajrang Punia</b>
Sportswoman of the Year (Other Individual Sport)	<b>M.C. Mary Kom &amp; Vinesh Phogat</b>
Sportsman of the Year (Motorsport)	<b>K.P. Aravind</b>

#### JURY AWARDS

Team of the Year	Vidarbha Ranji Team
Coach of the Year	Massimo Costantini
Lifetime Achievement Award	Prakash Padukone
Best Young Athlete (Male)	Saurabh Chaudhary
Best Young Athlete (Female)	Manu Bhaker
Parathlete Sportsman of the Year	Suyash Yadav & Manoj Sarkar
Parathlete Sportswoman of the Year	Deepa Malik
Best State for Promotion of Sports	Odisha

#### NOMINATED AWARDS

Best University for the Promotion of Sports	Army School
Best PSU / Corporate House for the Promotion of Sports	Railways

Chairman's Choice Award: Cheteshwar Pujara



P. V. Sindhu

## A stadium is an iconic city centre: Al-Naama

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT MUMBAI

Rayyan football club," said Al-Naama.

Sheth noted that a stadium was more than just a sporting venue.

"A stadium is an iconic city centre. It's about preparing and having plans. With our dense population, we can turn all our stadia into iconic city-centres. How to get stadia utilised for more than just football, how to make the experience sustainable, that's what we need to focus on," he said.

### Role of technology

Bharadwaj spoke of the role technology could play. "A lot of legacy infrastructure in India is vastly under-utilised," he said.

"The way forward is to enrich spectator experience. Virtual reality and immersive experiences are not far off."



Up and away: Akshay Karnewar takes the aerial route on way to a timely century. • S. SUDARSHAN

## Karnewar's maiden century gives Vidarbha the lead on a day of attrition

Rest of India fights back in the second innings on a rapidly deteriorating pitch to neutralise the equation

### IRANI CUP

M.R. PRAVEEN CHANDRAN NAGPUR

Akshay Karnewar's maiden First Class century (102) gave Vidarbha the unlikely lead but Rest of India, through two of its most accomplished batsmen, fought back to neutralise it and open up the contest at the end of the third day's play in the Z.R. Irani Cup tournament at the VCA Stadium here on Thursday.

After conceding a first innings lead of 95, Rest of India was 102 for two with Hanuma Vihari (40 batting) and Ajinkya Rahane (25 batting) surviving a tricky last session on a rapidly deteriorating pitch.

**Pattern on view**  
Over the three days, a pattern had emerged wherein batting has been at its easiest

in the opening session and the left-handed Karnewar made optimum use of the good conditions and ordinary bowling to pulverise the rival bowling into submission and enabled Vidarbha take a handy lead.

Rest of India openers Mayan Agarwal (27) and Anmolpreet Singh (6) perished in the deep, trying to play the attacking strokes but Hanuma Vihari and Ajinkya Rahane showed calmness and patience on a pitch showing variable bounce and turn to forge an unbroken 56-run partnership for the third wicket.

In the morning, any thought the Rest of India captain Rahane might have had of wrapping up the Vidarbha innings quickly went up in smoke before the aggressive intent of both Akshay Karnewar and Akshay Wadkar.

Wadkar had an edgy start but Karnewar was more assured and picked the balls to be hit. Ankit Rajpoot, who was given an extended spell in the first session, bore the brunt of Karnewar's aggression. The allrounder smashed three boundaries in an over to wrest control. Wadkar (73) and Karnewar took their seventh-wicket stand to 79 before the former played on to a fuller ball from Rahul Chahar.

However, Karnewar found an ideal ally in Akshay Wadkar who was willing to graft. After surviving a close shout for lbw off Chahar on 32, Karnewar went into the attack mode. The left-hander thrived on the width offered by spinners and scored freely.

The pleasing backfoot punches were interspersed with lusty blows through

midwicket and he completed his century with a cross-batted heave over midwicket for a six off Dharmendrasinh Jadeja. The opening session yielded 132 runs with Karnewar accounting for 87.

Soon after lunch, Chahar trapped Karnewar (102) in front with a ball that didn't bounce as much as the batsman shaped for a pull. But the eighth-wicket pair of Karnewar and Wadkar added 76 runs to enable Vidarbha take the lead.

Chahar bowled Wadkar (20) with a googly, but Gurubani (28 n.o.) and Yash Thakur (10) added 39 runs to further frustrate Rest of India.

### The scores:

**Rest of India – 1st innings:** 330.

**Vidarbha – 1st innings:** Faiz Faizal c Ishan b Gowtham 27, Sanjay Ramaswamy c Vihari b Jadeja 63, Atharwa Taide lbw b

Chahar 15, Ganesh Satish lbw b Jadeja 48, Mohit Kale c Ishan b Gowtham 1, Akshay Wadkar b Chahar 73, Aditya Sarvate lbw b Rajpoot 18, Akshay Karnewar lbw b Chahar 102, Akshay Wadkar b Chahar 20, R. Gurubani (not out) 28, Yash Thakur lbw b Rajpoot 10; Extras (b-6, lb-12): 18; Total (in 142.1 overs): 425.

**Fall of wickets:** 1-50, 2-84, 3-146, 4-149, 5-168, 6-226, 7-305, 8-381, 9-386.

**Rest of India bowling:** Rajpoot 25-3-84-2, Tanveer 25-6-55-0, Gowtham 10-33-2, Dharmendrasinh 40-8-111-2, Chahar 40-9-113-4, Vihari 2-0-12-0.

**Rest of India – 2nd innings:** M. Agarwal c Kale b Wadkar 27, Anmolpreet c Wadkar b Sarvate 6, Hanuma Vihari (batting) 40, Ajinkya Rahane (batting) 25; Extras (b-4): 4; Total (for two wkt.s in 35 overs): 102.

**Fall of wickets:** 1-25, 2-46.

**Vidarbha bowling:** Sarvate 16-2-45-1, Gurubani 4-1-14-0, Wadkar 8-0-31-1, Karnewar 8-3-8-0.

**Up and away:** Akshay Karnewar takes the aerial route on way to a timely century. • S. SUDARSHAN

## TV PICKS

**NBA:** Sony Ten 1 (SD & HD), 6.30 a.m.  
**Irani Cup:** Star Sports 2 (SD & HD), 9.30 a.m.  
**South Africa vs Sri Lanka:** 1st Test, Sony ESPN (SD & HD), 1.30 p.m.  
**ISL:** Star Sports 1 (SD & HD), 7.30 p.m.  
**Bundesliga:** SS Select 1 (SD & HD), 1.30 a.m. (Saturday)  
**New Zealand vs Bangladesh:** 2nd ODI, SS Select 1 (SD & HD), 3.30 a.m. (Saturday).

**Steyn helps SA fight back**



Dale Steyn.  
■ LEE WARREN/GETTY IMAGES

**AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE DURBAN**

Dale Steyn and his fellow fast bowlers enabled South Africa battle back against Sri Lanka on the second day of the first Test at Kingsmead on Thursday. Steyn took four for 48 as South Africa took a first innings lead of 44. It stretched the lead to 170, reaching 126 for four at close.

Sri Lanka was bowled out for 191, unable to build on a good first day when its inexperienced bowlers surprised the home batsmen.

Steyn took his career tally to 437 Test wickets, passing India's Kapil Dev (434) and drawing level with Stuart Broad of England in joint seventh place on the all-time list.

## SCOREBOARD

**South Africa — 1st Innings:** 235.

**Sri Lanka — first Innings:** D. Karunaratne lbw b Philander 30, L. Thirimanne c de Kock b Steyn 0, O. Fernando lbw b Steyn 19, K. Mendis c du Plessis b Philander 12, K. Perera c sub b Steyn 51, N. Dickwella c Steyn b Olivier 8, D. de Silva c Olivier b Rabada 23, S. Lakmal c du Plessis b Steyn 4, L. Embuldeniya c Steyn b Rabada 24, K. Rajitha (run out) 12, V. Fernando (not out) 1, Extras (b-3, lb-3, w-1): 7; Total (in 59.2 overs): 191.

**Fall of wickets:** 1-19, 2-51, 3-53, 4-76, 5-90, 6-133, 7-142, 8-152, 9-184.

**South Africa bowling:** Steyn 20-7-48-4, Philander 10-2-32-2, Rabada 12-2-2-48-2, Olivier 13-2-36-1, Maharaj 3-0-16-0, Elgar 1-0-5-0.

**South Africa — 2nd Innings:** D. Elgar c & b Embuldeniya 35, A. Markram c Mendis b Rajitha 28, H. Amla c Thirimanne b V. Fernando 16, T. Bavuma lbw b Embuldeniya 3, F. du Plessis (batting) 25, Q. de Kock (batting) 15, Extras (lb-2, nb-1, w-1): 4; Total (for four wkts. in 37 overs): 126.

**Fall of wickets:** 1-36, 2-70, 3-77, 4-95.

**Sri Lanka bowling:** Lakmal 9-1-25-0, V. Fernando 9-1-32-1, Rajitha 7-1-31-1, Embuldeniya 12-1-36-2.

# India-A bowlers call the shots, force Lions to follow on

The English batsmen seemed to be in a hurry and folded up rather cheaply after restricting the Indian innings

**RAYAN ROZARIO**  
MYSURU

It's all about getting heads down and playing with patience while chasing a big total. England Lions failed to do that and had to pay the price by having to face the follow-on against India-A on day two of the second 'Test' at the SDNRW grounds here on Thursday.

Chasing the first-innings total of 392, the Lions played in a hurry and folded up rather cheaply much to the disappointment of a few of the English spectators who had come to cheer the team.

After the top three did a fantastic job for India-A, steering the team to 282 for three the other day, the middle and tail crumbled like stale cookies shortly after lunch.

It came as a shocker, but the Englishmen were pleased to have cut short the dreams of the team in posting a strong total.

After a disappointing day one, pacer Zak Chappell planned his moves this time around.

Bowling with a lot of fire, he snared three wickets in the first hour, which sparked



One up: Navdeep Saini generated express pace that left the Lions rattled. ■ SUDHAKARA JAIN

some hope of staging a comeback.

Karun Nair was the first to go fidgeting a ball that was drifting outside the leg stump and Ollie Pope

plucked the dolly in a flash from behind.

Siddesh followed suit, playing a full-length delivery that crashed into his stumps. Jalaj Saxena failed to hang on

as well.

It could have been worse still for India-A had Dominic Bess (mid-off) and Ben Duckett (first slip) grabbed on to chances offered by K.S. Bha-

rat and later Mayank Markande.

But there was no major damage done as left-arm spinner Danny Briggs cleaned up the tail in no

## First NBA games in Mumbai in October

Pacers take on Kings in two pre-season matches

**ASHWIN ACHAL**  
INDIANAPOLIS

In October this year, history will be made when Indiana Pacers and Sacramento Kings face off in two pre-season games in Mumbai.

This will mark the first NBA games to be played in India.

World-class action awaits fans at the NBA India Games 2019 on October 4 and 5 at the NSCI Dome.

Pacers coach Nate McMillan believes these are exciting times for basketball in India.

## Excited

"The Pacers ownership team – players and coaching staff – are all excited about showcasing NBA basketball to Indian fans. Both owners – Herb Simon (Pacers) and Vivek Ranadive (Kings) – were keen on bringing NBA basketball to India, and so was the NBA," McMillan said here.

McMillan expects both Pacers and Kings to compete hard.

"We want to draw Indian fans in, so we will go out there and try to entertain everyone. The pre-season games are important, as it serves as training ahead of the regular season. We will use our starters, but all our guys will get some playing time."

"Off the court, we will participate in community events. We want to conduct some clinics, where we can teach our style of play to

young players," he said.

Pacers' star centre Myles Turner is keen on making the trip.

## Global sport

"Basketball does not belong just to the United States. It's a global sport."

"It will be my first time in India; it's always cool to discover new cultures. The biggest thing for me will be interacting with the locals, and experiencing Indian culture," Turner said.

Asked what fans could expect from Pacers, Turner said, "We are a high-energy team, which takes pride in

defence. We will bring this same ethic to Mumbai."

Pacers Sports & Entertainment president and COO Rick Fuson said, "I know that basketball is popular in India. The people there are quite knowledgeable about the sport. I'm sure they can easily differentiate between good and bad play."

"As for the entertainment acts like our dancers and slam dunk showmen, Mumbai can expect to see the same things that you see in games held in the USA."

(The writer is in Indianapolis on invitation from NBA)



New ventures: Myles Turner of Indiana Pacers says he looks forward to playing in India. ■ AFP

1 Finally the ethics at work – pleases the eye (9)

3 Hold devise (5)

12 One from the younger generation, close to home in French city (5)

4 Maybe polo match with formal wear (7)

13 Vatican's correct – yes, go through the opening (4,3)

5 I go all out for college admission, makes sense (7)

15 Right to stop boy getting fat (4)

6 Reading on road, as a recollection of D.H. Lawrence's work (6,3)

18 Girl's European husband missing (4)

7 Struck the top off a glove (6)

20 Intervene with press note (7)

8 Key to a playing side (6)

23 A small part about Arden, once in the beginning (5)

14 Astor's making money on clothes (9)

24 Rile about basic structure, get angry (9)

16 It's possible for one who is learned to accept mistake, that's capital! (8)

26 Struck down as discerned, perhaps (9)

17 Sellers, for example criticise him for his immaturity (5,3)

27 Halter picking up pieces (5)

19 Do Spanish agree to hold back Germany? (7)

28 Post without selfie on top, that's it (3)

20 Wind makes the Queen and I trade places (7)

29 Undated register made out at home – it's a trick (11)

21 Seldom threatens on the phone (6)

■ DOWN

22 A man's old, kept in good humour (6)

1 Second long complaint (8)

25 Group of people – they vote as they're told (5)

## SUDOKU

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

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★

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

Solution to puzzle 12549

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

## FAITH

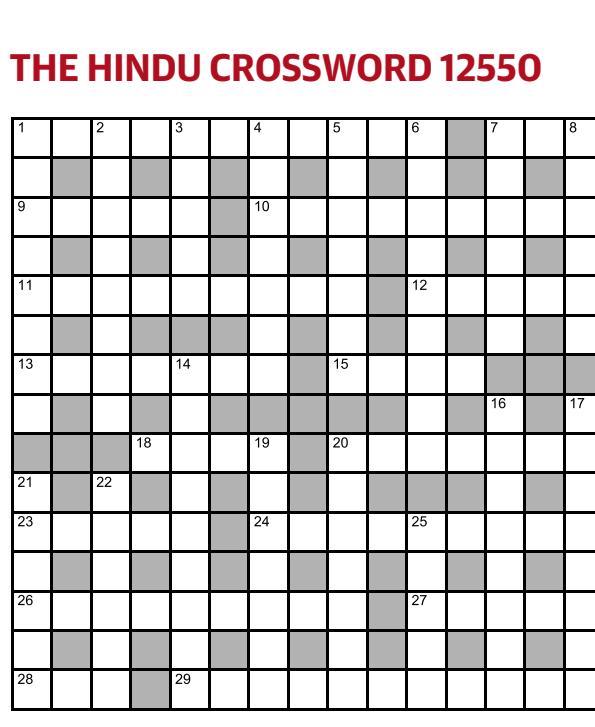
## Battle against desire

Fire is present everywhere, even inside us. This is the gastric fire. Some people have an urge to acquire knowledge, and this urge too is like a fire. Elements of fire are there in the sky too, in the form of the Moon and the Sun. Fire is beneficial, but it can also harm. Kama (desire) is a fire that hurts and burns. In other words, kama destroys. But jnana is a fire too, and this helps us exit the samsaric cycle. The fire that destroys is an undesirable fire, but the fire that grants us liberation is a desirable fire, said M.A.Manickavelu in a discourse. Kama is a fire that destroys silently, which is why it is dangerous. We are not even aware of the dimensions of this ever-present danger. And before we become aware that it is leading us in all the wrong directions, it would have done its mischief, resulting in misery for us.

For a jnani, what he experiences is not a fire that harms, but a fire that saves. After his marriage, Gnanasambandar, along with his wife, his father, his father-in-law, and other devotees like Tiruneelakanta Yazhpanar, merged into a glow that appeared in the temple. So here the glow was one that saved. Jnana is a light that saves. This jnana comes only when the senses have been controlled. Indra lusted after Ahalya, wife of sage Gautama, and he was, therefore, cursed. He is an example of what happens to a person with uncontrolled desires.

So what is the way to get rid of desire? Thiruvalluvar says that the only way is to have love towards God, the One who is without desire. God's love will turn us away from harmful attachments. Thiruvalluvar also says that those who turn their thoughts towards His feet will cross the ocean of samsara. Others will not be able to achieve this. The battle against desire can be won only with His help.

## THE HINDU CROSSWORD 12550



## ACROSS

- 1 Plenty of song and dance – not hard for these Bollywood stars (11)
- 7 Low satellite loses direction... (3)
- 9 ...space traveller caught me napping (5)
- 10 Name great ground enveloped in smoke (9)

## DOWN

- 1 Second long complaint (8)
- 2 Doctor is calm, one lost number of bodies, it's said (8)
- 5 Group of people – they vote as they're told (5)

(set by Arden)

## SUDOKU

9	4</td

## IN BRIEF



## Injured Sharapova out of Indian Wells

**FLORIDA** Russian tennis player Maria Sharapova has withdrawn from the upcoming Indian Wells Masters due to an injury in the right shoulder. "The shoulder hasn't been much of a secret in the past year. That's been something I have been struggling with and had to shut down the season after the US Open", WTA quoted Sharapova, as saying. **ANI**



## Hazlewood confident of being fit for World Cup

**SYDNEY** Australian pace spearhead Josh Hazlewood said on Thursday he was confident of being fit for the World Cup, with scans this week set to determine when he can make a comeback. "Everything feels fine so training's coming along nicely, progressing every week. I think we'll just work back from the World Cup really and make sure everything's right for that, which gives me plenty of time," he said. **AFP**

## Gold Cup polo semifinals postponed to Saturday

**NEW DELHI** The semifinal matches of the Jiwaji Rao Scindia Gold Cup polo tournament, scheduled for Friday, will now be played on Saturday owing to wet weather. In the semifinals, Rajnigandha Achievers will play LA Pegasus Polo at 2 p.m. at the Jaipur Polo ground on Saturday, followed by the second semifinal between Jindal Panther and 61st Cavalry.

IAAF rebuts *The Times* charges

## Real battles past Ajax

Asensio and VAR help in its triumph; Spurs rock Dortmund



On hand: Marco Asensio scores Real Madrid's second goal against Ajax. ■ LARS BARON/GETTY IMAGES

## CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

**AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE**  
AMSTERDAM

Real Madrid needed a late winner from Marco Asensio and VAR's debut in the Champions League to beat a spirited Ajax 2-1 in the first-leg of the last 16.

Ajax has not beaten Madrid in 24 years and thought it was on its way when Nicolas Tagliafico headed home after a Thibaut Courtois error.

But referee Damir Skomina judged Dusan Tadic to be offside upon review and Madrid showed no pity on its youthful opponent, Karim Benzema and Asensio scoring two precious away goals in the second half.

Hakim Ziyech's equaliser

at least keeps Ajax in touch heading into the second-leg but Asensio's 87th-minute winner was a sucker-punch.

UEFA later tweeted Ajax's goal was "correctly overturned for offside" but Tadic's intervention on Courtois was minimal and it seemed

Ajax 1 (Ziyech 75) lost to Real Madrid 2 (Benzema 60, Asensio 87).

Tottenham Hotspur 3 (Son 47, Vertonghen 83, Llorente 86) bt Borussia Dortmund 0.

Ajax 1 (Ziyech 75) lost to Real Madrid 2 (Benzema 60, Asensio 87).

generous to deem it enough for a call to be reversed.

## The results:

Tottenham Hotspur 3 (Son 47, Vertonghen 83, Llorente 86) bt Borussia Dortmund 0.

Ajax 1 (Ziyech 75) lost to Real Madrid 2 (Benzema 60, Asensio 87).

The truth is that, given the result, I'd be lying if I said it wasn't something I had in mind," Ramos had said after the game.

Ramos backtracks on yellow card

**AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE**  
AMSTERDAM

Real Madrid captain Sergio Ramos has rowed back on his suggestion he deliberately earned a yellow card against Ajax on Wednesday to ensure he would be banned for the second leg. "The truth is that, given the result, I'd be lying if I said it wasn't something I had in mind," Ramos had said after the game.

Later, Ramos appeared to backtrack on Twitter. He wrote: "I want to make clear that it hurts me more than anyone, I have not forced the card, as I didn't against Roma in my Champions League game."

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## EB pumps in five past Shillong

## I-LEAGUE

**PRESS TRUST OF INDIA**  
KOLKATA

Landanmawia Ralte struck a hat-trick as a rampaging East Bengal toyed with Shillong Lajong FC for a 5-0 thrashing, its fourth consecutive win in the I-League, here Thursday.

## Ralte scores three

Ralte struck in the 8th, 27th and 61st minutes while Joby Justin (28th) and Enrique Esqueda (45th) scored one each in the first half, helping East Bengal cut the deficit to three points with lead-

er Chennai City FC with a match in hand.

Its fourth win on the trot took East Bengal past its Sunday's opponent Churchill Brothers to the third place in the table, giving its maiden I-League title pursuit a huge boost in front of about 25,000 turnout.

Real Kashmir is second in the table with 32 points, having played 16 matches, compared to East Bengal's 15.

By denying Shillong Lajong a single goal, East Bengal's goal difference (14) also got a big fillip.

Chennai City has a goal difference of 15.

## Sriram-Kadhe duo in semis

**SPORTS BUREAU**  
BANGKOK

Sriram Balaji and Arjun Kadhe beat Harri Heliovaara and Toshihide Matsui 4-6, 7-5, [10-3] to make the semifinals of the \$54,160 Challenger tournament here on Thursday. In the semifinals, the Indian pair will challenge the top seeds Cheng-Peng Hsieh and Christopher Rungkat.

**Other results:** \$15,000 ITF men, Sharmin El Sheikh, Egypt: Doubles (quarterfinals): Oleg Khotkov & Oleksiy Kolosnyk (Ukr) bt Rishab Agarwal & Aryan Goveas 6-4, 6-3.

\$15,000 ITF women, Sharmin El Sheikh, Egypt: Singles (pre-quarterfinals): Anna Morgina bt Zeel Desai 6-2, 1-6, 6-3.

No competition can match the Olympics.

"Here I am, aiming again not just for the quota this time, but the Olympic medal, *Inshallah*," he said.

Despite the stiff competition, Mairaj expressed confidence about securing the Olympic quota. "The way I am shooting and preparing, it looks easy for me to win the quota."

Trained by Olympic gold medalist Ennio Falco in recent years, Mairaj has confidence borne out of clarity on the competitive path.

"Ennio Falco always believes in focusing on one target at a time. That is my mantra."

"My next target is station one, High house single, in Acapulco, Mexico."

Mairaj will not be single any more as he is going to marry Zarah, a station head for a Russian Air Carrier at the Delhi airport, on February 16.

## Mairaj looks ahead to Tokyo with confidence

Tops the selection for the first three World Cups of the season

**KAMESH SRINIVASAN**  
NEW DELHI

It was possibly one missed bird that cost him Olympic glory. Mairaj Ahmad Khan shot 121 out of 125 in skeet shooting in the 2016 Olympics in Rio, and missed the final.

In fact, five were tied on that score for the last two berths in the final. Mairaj lost the shoot-off, while Gabriele Rossetti of Italy, who made it with 121, went on to clinch the gold.

By shooting 122 out of 125, Mairaj had won the World Cup silver on the same range in Rio in 2016. Months later, it was a heart break in the Summer Games.

Out in the wilderness as he could not make it to the Indian team for the Commonwealth Games and the Asian Games last year, Mairaj is firmly back on the saddle, galloping towards another start to Olympic dreams.

Mairaj topped the selec-



Mairaj Ahmad Khan. ■ KAMESH SRINIVASAN

tion for the first three World Cups of the season, which offer Olympic quota places for the 2020 Tokyo Games.

"The reason behind me not making the national team for the two important competitions last year was that I was trying a new gun which did not suit my shooting style," said Mairaj.

## Good season

He did have very good season in 2017 after the Olym-

pics, shooting good scores. He is happy to get back to that rhythm.

"I am very happy and thrilled again the same way I was in 2015 and 2017. I am back on my high average scores," said Mairaj, who could strike an average of 121 for national selection, spread over the national championship and three trials.

"It is the way I planned my training and technique.

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Bid Fee : 400/- Processing Fee : 1000/-

1 The Bid documents can be downloaded from web site <http://eproc.rajarshi.gov.in>. Details of this Bid notification and pre-qualification criteria can also be seen in BBW exhibited on website [www.dpronline.org](http://www.dpronline.org) as well as [www.sppr.rajarshi.gov.in](http://www.sppr.rajarshi.gov.in). Bids are to be submitted online in electronic format on website <http://eproc.rajarshi.gov.in>.

2 Pre Bid Meeting will be held on date & time: 11-02-2019 - 1.00 PM.

3 Publishing Date & Time :- 01-02-2019 - 3:00 PM.

4 Document Download start date & time :- 01-02-2019 - 3:15 PM.

5 Document Download end date & time :- 07-03-2019 - 10:00 A.M.

6 Bid submission start date & time :- 15-02-2019 - 4:00 PM.

7 Bid submission end date & time :- 07-03-2019 - 10:30 A.M.

8 Technical Bid opening date & time :- 07-03-2019 - 11:30 A.M., RNT Medical College, Udaipur

9 Technical Bid opening date & time :- 07-03-2019 - 11:30 A.M., RNT Medical College, Udaipur before stipulated date and time of opening of Technical Bid.

10 Rates should be quoted only in INR. Foreign Currency rates will not be accepted and Bid liable to rejected.

11 All representations regarding Pre Bid will be accepted before Pre Bid meeting time.

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# बुन्देलखण्ड में आयेगी समृद्धि मिलेगी अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय पहचान

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--

## का स्थितान्यास

एवं

## का लोकार्पण

# नरेन्द्र मोदी

प्रधानमंत्री द्वारा

गरिमामयी उपस्थिति

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### योगी आदित्यनाथ

मुख्यमंत्री, उत्तर प्रदेश

### उमा भारती

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भारत सरकार

### डॉ० महेन्द्र नाथ पाण्डेय

सांसद  
चन्दौली

### सुरेश कुमार खन्ना

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सांसद, जालौन

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सांसद, बांदा

### स्वतंत्र देव सिंह

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दिनांक : 15 फरवरी, 2019 | समय : पूर्वाह्न 11:00 बजे | स्थान : विशिष्ट कृषि उत्पादन मण्डी स्थल, भोजला, झाँसी

# FRIDAY REVIEW

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## Sen & Sensibility

Aparna Sen on her craft  
and concerns  
**Pages 6 & 7**

■ SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

### INSIDE



**Revival of classics**  
Celebrating Marathi theatre's 175th year with a musical **P5**



**The Indian idiom**  
Liesbeth Pankaja Bennink has dedicated three decades decoding the culture of this land **P9**



**Making an impression**  
Bharatanatyam exponent Justin McCarthy and pianist Nadine Crasto talk about their unique collaboration **P10**

## TIME OUT



Celebrating Carnatic music: Manda Sudharani

## INDIA HABITAT CENTRE

FEBRUARY 15

## CONVENTION CENTRE FOYER

"Duet Painting" an exhibition by Dipnarayan Paul and Moinuddin Mullick.

## CASUARINA HALL

Talk: "Science, Technology and Society: The challenge of reaching out" by Prof. M. Sai Baba.

## INDIA INTERNATIONAL CENTRE

FEBRUARY 15

## CONFERENCE ROOM-I

Book discussion on "An Intimate Portrait of a Great Mughal" written by Parvati Sharma. Discussants: Dr. Anubhuti Maurya, Dr. Swarna Liddle and Dr. Vijay Tankha.

## LECTURE ROOM-II

Talk on "Understanding Personality Disorders" by Dr. Kushal Jain, Dr. Rajesh Sagar and Muzammil Karim.

## THE RAVI SHANKAR CENTRE

FEBRUARY 15

A 4-day festival of Indian classical music &amp; dance 2019, celebrating the 99th birth anniversary of Bharat Ratna Pandit Ravi Shankar and a dedication to George Harrison for his 76th birth anniversary. Today's event will feature Sawani Mudgal on vocal, Gaurav Mazumdar on sitar and Sanjeev Shankar on shahnai. Tomorrow's event will feature Nanditha Mazumdar on Bharatanatyam, Malini Awasthi on vocal.



A photograph by Achin Biswas

## INDIA HABITAT CENTRE

FEBRUARY 16

## GULMOHAR HALL

"Roots of my Chorographies: Sources of Inspiration" an illustrated talk by New York City-based Kathak dancer/choreographer Janaki Patrik.

## CONVENTION CENTRE FOYER

"Moodscapes 2019", a photography exhibition by Achin Biswas.

## INDIA INTERNATIONAL CENTRE

FEBRUARY 16

## LECTURE ROOM-II

Purandardasa Thyagaraja Festival: Carnatic vocal recital by Manda Sudharani from Vishakapatnam, accompanied by G. Radhavendra Praath (violin); Kumbakonam N. Padmanaban (mridangam); and N. Hari Narayanan (ghatam).

## What a range!

Sangeet Natak Akademi's five-day festival of music, dance and drama showcased the best of folk and classical music

MANJARI SINHA

The presentation of Sangeet Natak Akademi (SNA) Awards 2017 was followed by a five-day festival of music, dance and drama at the Meghdoot theatre complex.

Parvathy Baul and Anwar Khan Manganiyar received the award for folk music of West Bengal and Rajasthan respectively. Trained in Baul singing in the traditional Guru Shishya Parampara of the Vaishnav Darvesh Sampradaaya of Baul Akhadas, Parvati honed her skills and the Baul song repertoire under Santan Das Baul and Shashank Goshai. Equally adept in visual and performing arts like painting, wood-cut painting, Hindustani music, Kathak dance, Kalaripayattu and Hatha Yoga, she sounds and seems a real ascetic while singing the mystical Baul songs in her full-throated, melodious voice drenched in devotion. Strumming the dotara held in one hand and the duggi (percussion) with the other, she sings the Baul (Sufi) songs and dances in ecstasy, leaving even her audience in a state of trance.

Opening with a song written by Lalan Fakir she went on to sing "Mon hobe dei..." written by her guru that talks of creating a Brindavan in one's own heart, where there is no ahankara, the false ego, just the divine love of the gopis and Radha for their beloved Krishna. The most mesmerising aspect of her singing, apart from her hypnotising voice, is her instant rapport with the audience and the concluding Sankirtan was its melodious proof, when she invited them all to sing along by just repeating her "Radhe Govinda jai jai..." and surprisingly they all followed her going from medium tempo to fast where she



Showcasing their class (Clockwise from top) Gundecha Brothers, Pt. Rajendra Prasanna and Parvathy Baul ■ THE HINDU

took over and brought it back to the meditative chanting of 'Avadhoota....'. Parvati said, "There are different ways of praying; some do japa, some tapa" and confessed innocently, "I just sing and dance!"

Anwar Khan Manganiyar and troupe, dressed in their festive attires, mesmerised the audience with the lively folk songs of Rajasthan. Each and every member of his troupe, whether they were accompanying him on Kamaicha, the range and the unbelievable acrobatics of his totally tuneful voice inspired his whole team, responding with their individual instrument on the same wavelength. He kept informing the audience about it, before rendering each song like the "Banara" which is sung on the occasion of wedding. He surprised everybody when he said they were not trained singers.

"The music runs in our family and the whole community and we have mastered the art by just listening and following the elders." He has a song for every occasion and every season and festival, and he demonstrated many of them at the festival.

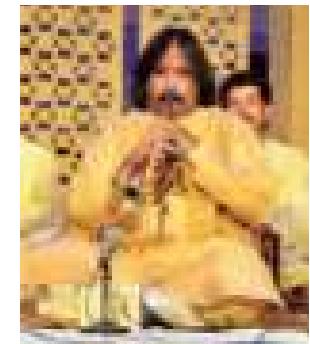
The classical slot took the audience to another level. The Gundecha Brothers, accompanied by yet another brother (Akhilesh Gundecha) on pakhawaj, left their mark even before the beginning of the reposed Dhrupad alaap, with just the incredible sound of the finely tuned pair of taanpuras and the thaap of pakhawaj that echoed the swayambhoo (self-sounding) Gandhaar in the 'shadja'. The choice of raga Marwa was most apt for both, the timely evening hour and the medita-

tive genre of Dhrupad. The detailed alaap-jod-jhala of Been Ang found both the brothers complimenting each other, where the Mandra Vistar by Umakant was remarkable. The Dhrupad composition "Anaahat Naad..." was set to Chautala, followed by a Sool-Tala Bandish "Karam kar dino..." where Akhilesh also showed his strength with sensitivity.

Yogesh Samsi, the gifted son of Pt. Dinkar Kaikini and able disciple of Ud. Alla Rakha Khan is a shining star of the Punjab Baaj of tabla. The musicality of his tabla adds to his technical prowess, which was evident in his striking performance of Teentala. He played the choicest repertoire of his gharana in the vilambit (slow) and medium tempos of Teen-tala. The inspiring lehera played by Vinay Mishra on harmonium was an added attraction.

Pt. Rajendra Prasanna of Benaras Gharana offered a double bill concert playing both the flute and shehnai. Trained under his grandfather Pt. Gauri Shankar and father Pt. Raghunath Prasanna, he is carrying forward the family tradition. It was evident in the appropriate flute support by his sons and disciples Rajesh and Ritesh Prasanna in the melodious rendition of raga Yaman that opened in Khayal style with an auchar (an introductory alaap) followed by the bada and chhota khayal set to vilambit Ek-tala and Teentala respectively ending with a tantrakari ang jhala.

Rajendra offered his shehnai recital as a tribute to the memory of his departed guru Late Pt. Kishan Ram accompanied by Lokesh and Kapil



on shehnai and Abhishek Mishra on tabla who had given him a brilliant support with flute as well.

## Yuva Shastriya festival

Bhuvanesh Komkali inaugurated the 'Yuva Shastriya' festival of Raza Foundation organised with an aim to celebrate the young talent. Opening with the timely raga Madhuwanti, he sang a traditional bada khayal set to vilambit Ek-tala, but the chhota khayal in Teentala had an interesting anecdote about its creation. Once Pt. Vasantrao Deshpande, a good friend of Pt. Kumar Gandharva sent him a two line note: "Main aaun tote mandirwa/ Painyan padoon mein more Mann-basiya". Making it into an sthayee, Kumar composed the antara in next two lines: "Arre mero mandaiya toh aahe/ dharo charan more mann-Basiya!" and set it into the notes of raga Madhuwanti that Bhuvanesh sang as a chhota khayal in Teen-tala.

The total tunefulness of the taanpuras enhanced his vibrant recital from the very beginning till the concluding "Kaise aaun re Kisan tori Brij-nagari...". Bhuvanesh was ably accompanied on tabla by Shambhunath Bhattacharya and on harmonium by Chetan Nigam.

# Story of a fearless warrior

Staged at the 20th Bharat Rang Mahotsav, "Buxi Jagabandhu" showcased the heroic resistance of Odia people against the East India Company



**Standing for rights** A scene from the play ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

DIWAN SINGH BAJELI

It was heartening to watch "Buxi Jagabandhu", one of the celebrated plays of Manoranjan Das, an eminent literary figure of Odisha, at the ongoing 20th Bharat Rang Mahotsav. The Odia production was presented by Dynamic Platform, Bhubaneshwar, at the Kamani auditorium.

Artistically impressive, the play glorifies heroic resistance of Odia people against the East India Company's predatory wars, exploiting the greedy and mutually hostile feudal chiefs, making them its allies and defeated patriotic forces.

Set in 1817, the play depicts the great Paika Rebellion which is led by Buxi Jagabandhu, the commander of the forces of the King of Khordha. The East India Company is led by Colonel Harkot. Resorting to its perfidious tactics, the Company manages to bring one of the rulers of the state into its fold which enables it to arrest King Mukunda Dev II. The king's generals do not surrender and a fierce battle ensues, resulting in the victory of the Company.

In the face of defeat, Buxi Jagabandhu takes over the leadership of a defeated people. He organises the

scattered and demoralised forces and youth and gives them rigorous training in the guerilla warfare. Buxi has developed the skill to fight in the dense forest as well as to attack from deep water. He trained his men in indigenous warfare like shooting arrows from trees with bow. He and his army fight heroically against a superior force equipped with powerful weapons assisted by traitors who fight against their own people.

#### Youthful vision

The play is directed by Debabrata Pattanayak, a postgraduate in drama (direction) from the Utakal University of Culture, Odisha, who has undergone training under Rudra Prasad Sengupta, Satyabrat Rout and Subodh Patnaik.

His youthful vision and understanding of theatrical craft are very much in evidence in his production under review. He has explored the space horizontally and vertically to create the illusion of a vast mountainous landscape where war is fought. On the left centre stage, there is space for Odia forces and its people.

The space in the right centre is shown as under the control of the East India Company. The decisive battle takes place on the downstage.

on violin and Kalaimamani Vidwan Srimushnam V Raja Rao on mridangam. A. Kanyakumari is a disciple of three legendary gurus, Ivaturi Vijayeshwar Rao, M. Chandrashekaran and Dr M.L.Vasanthakumari.

The Sunday event will feature a Raagayala, led by vocalist Vidwan Adarsh Nair. Followed by a vocal recital by Sangeetha Kalanidhi Dr. T.V. Gopalakrishnan.

Dr. Gopalakrishnan, a dedicated scholar in music, has performed with celebrated musicians like George Harrison, Dave Brubeck, Billy Preston, Pandit Ravi Shankar and Bob Dylan. The event will be held at Thiruvalluvar Kalai Arangam, Delhi Tamil Sangam, R.K. Puram from 5 p.m. onwards.

This device of designing by Pranjyadutta Sahoo enables the audience to view the dramatic action, which flows uninterruptedly, with clarity

Most of the characters are historical. To add some romantic colour and show, the sacrifice of true lover in the cause of freedom, the playwright has conceived a female character, a young and beautiful girl, who loves Buxi Jagabandhu because he is a fighter and loves freedom. When King Dev II is arrested by the Company, his minister Jai Rajguru is killed while fighting the aggressor. Buxi is obsessed with the gnawing sense of defeat. She inspires him to fulfil his historic role as a hero to defeat the enemy. This creative element is revealed in a fantasy sequence, capturing romantic aura that transforms Buxi and he awakens from his depressed state of mind. The same female character sacrifices herself for the sake of motherland. The director has aptly projected two traitors as caricatures who meet their end at the hand of patriotic forces.

#### Thrilling martial arts

One of the highlights of the production is the way war scenes are conceptualised. These scenes are choreographed on the pattern of Raiku Nrutya of Khondha martial art form of Odisha. These scenes impart vitality to the production and offer moments of thrilling visuals. Music score by Pratap Chandra Rout is drawn from folk music of Odisha which is aptly used to reinforce action and leaves emotional impact on the audience.

In the lead role of Buxi Jagabandhu, Udit Guru Mohapatra gives a brilliant performance, imparting to his portrait a great deal of martial force and commitment to the cause of the freedom of the motherland. Saunika Sahu as the young woman in love with Buxi Jagabandhu blends her portrayal with boldness, tender romantic sensibility and patriotic fervour. In fact, the large cast gives creditable performances, giving momentum to the action to move to the climax with intensity.



**Showing the way** N. Vijay Siva

## Warmth of melody

N. Vijay Siva and Neyveli R. Santhanagopalan enthralled music lovers with scintillating performances

VENKATESAN SRIKANTH

Rains during peak winters are not welcome as they aggravates the miseries. But this year rains also brought Carnatic music to the Capital. Two popular vocal artistes from Chennai, N. Vijay Siva and Neyveli R. Santhanagopalan enthralled the music lovers with their scintillating performances. While Vijay Siva sang under the aegis of the Delhi Tamil Sangam as part of Pongal celebrations, Santhanagopalan performed during the Tyagaraja Festival organised jointly by the Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts and Shanmukhananda Sangeetha Sabha. Inclusion of ragam-talam-pallavi by these two artistes brought the flavour of Madras music festival where ragam-talam-pallavi is an integral part.

Vijay Siva's central item was Papanasam Sivan's "Saravanabhava guhane" in the raga Madhyamavati. Taking full advantage of this beautiful raga which lends itself for detailed exploration, Siva brought out the nuances of the raga to the fore in a delightful manner. Apart from singing the song to a riveting kalparamanam, Siva's depth in creative music came to the fore when he presented the kalpanaswaras.

Earlier, Siva took up Papavinasu Mudaliyar's composition "Nadamadi thirinthu" in Khamboji, a song not heard frequently in concerts, for detailed presentation. The detailed raga alapana that he presented was scintillating. Besides, he took the phrase "Shakthi sivakamavalli tanpadam nogumendre taraiyil adi vaikka tayangi nindraadu" for neraval. Siva's RTP session, in which he presented the Pallavai "Padamendru nambinen amma uma ninadhu pangayar", composed in Charukesi raga and set to tisra jathi tripuda tala, was enthralling.

Veteran R.K. Shreeramkumar on the violin, Siva's younger sibling N. Manoj Siva on the mridangam and young Sai Subramaniam on the morsing (all

Chennai-based) teamed to provide excellent support to Siva. While Shreeramkumar's takes of Khamboji, Madhyamavati and Charukesi were captivating, the riveting percussion support of the duo was delightful throughout. The duo's tani avartanam in tisra tripuda too was enjoyable. Vijay Siva's disciple S.R. Vigneshwaran provided vocal support in an appropriate manner.

If Vijay Siva had enthralled the music lovers with an 'all-Tamil compositions' concert, Santhanagopalan enthralled with predominantly Tyagaraja's composition in which he included some rare compositions of the legendary saint. Santhanagopalan's central item was "Nagumomo ganaleni" in Abheri. He also took up "Siva siva siva yanarada" in Pantuvarali and "Rama nannu brovara" in Harihambhoji for detailed presentations and delighted the music lovers while presenting these songs. "Sanatana Paramapavana" in Phalamanjari and "Tatva meruga tarama" in Garudadhwani, which are not frequently heard in concerts, were thoughtful and welcome inclusions.

**Delightful presentation**  
Santhanagopalan's RTP session too was an enthralling one in which he sang a Pallavi composed in Todi raga and set to Rupakam tala. The kalpanaswaras in Behag, Hamsanandi and Darbari kanada, besides in Todi both in forward and backward directions were skilfully and delightfully presented.

Delhi-based young G. Ragavendra Prasath rose to the occasion and provided excellent support to the veteran vocalist. His delightful takes of raga alapanas, tanams and swarakalpanas were greeted with thundering applause of the music lovers. Kumbakonam N. Padmanabhan on the mridangam and N. Hari Narayanan provided understanding percussion support. On the whole, a good beginning of enthralling concerts in the initial phase of the New Year.



A. Kanyakumari

## Swar Sangam is here

Gurukulam Foundation, a charitable trust that promotes young talent in Indian classical music is hosting "Swar Sangam", a two-day festival of classical music, this weekend. "Swar Sangam" is an annual event, that brings vidwans, seasoned artistes here in Delhi, from down South, which is considered as a hub for Carnatic classical music. The first day event will feature a violin recital by Sangeetha Kalanidhi Kum. A. Kanyakumari. She will be accompanied by Vidwan Vittal Rangan

# 4 VOICEOVER

Rising star

## Experiments with rhythm

Cousins and percussionists Vinod and Sunaad speak about legacy and layam

LAVANYA NARAYANAN

**I**t's in our blood," mridangist Vinod Anoor smiles as I begin talking to him and his cousin and ganjira artiste Sunaad about why they've pursued careers in percussion. A minute later, I realise it's somewhat of a no-brainer. Fifth-generation musicians and the children of percussionist-fathers, music chose these Bengaluru-based boys before they could choose it.

"We can't remember a day that the house hasn't been filled with music. And that holds true even today," says Sunaad. So the choice to pursue it professionally was an easy one for both.

"I knew that whatever I pursued academically shouldn't come in the way of my pursuit of music," Vinod says. A commerce graduate with a busy performance schedule, he was often joined on stage by Sunaad, a media student, strengthening a creative bond.

"On stage, we ensure that we stay in sync. Our main focus is to enjoy the experience and have a good time – the experience of each concert is

what inspires the best in us," Sunaad shares.

The camaraderie the cousins share with their contemporaries comes through in their performances as part of the percussion ensemble LayaLavanya, conceptualised by their Guru Anoor Anantha Krishna Sharma. In their effort to look beyond the repertoire, they have experimented with a variety of genres. Their most recent venture? Kalarava.

"Kalarava is a fusion band that focuses on world music," says Sunaad. "Taking up challenges and learning from our time on stage is a must as artistes – we head home after every concert with new lessons," adds Vinod.

Having dabbled in a host of projects, both classical and non-classical, they are gearing up for more exciting musical outings.

They feel the audience today are receptive of all good music and that creative minds should make the most of every opportunity.

"We want to enjoy what we do and share our love for music with listeners," say the cousins.



Creative bond Vinod and Sunaad



Picturesque The Bandhar Poonch and Kala Naag peaks. (Below) Temple for River Yamuna and Upper Tons valley

### Hidden in the Himalayas

## Peak with a puranic link

Bandarpooch in the Himalayas is believed to be where Bheema and Hanuman met during the former's quest for a flower

J. RAMANAN AND VRINDA RAMANAN



The Pandavas, tired of their nomadic life, during their period of exile, decided to rest in the Narayanashrama forest in the Himalayas.

The story goes that, one day, drawn by the sweet fragrance and beauty of the Saugandhika flower, Draupadi entreated Bhima to fetch it for her. Bhima, while searching for the flower came across an old monkey whose unusually long tail lay on his path. He requested the monkey to move its tail. But the monkey refused to budge. This insolence annoyed Bhima. Puffed with pride, he introduced himself as a mighty Kshatriya warrior of the Kuru race, as the son of Kunti and the wind God and as the brother of the mighty Hanuman. The monkey in all humility asked Bhima to move his tail from the path and cross over as he was very tired. He claimed his ignorance of all the big names that Bhima had mentioned. When Bhima could not move the tail, he realised that it was none other than Chiranjeevi Hanuman himself. Bhima apologised for his actions and explained about his quest for the Saugandhika flower. On learning about Draupadi's wish for the flower, Hanuman offered to help Bhima in finding the Saugandhika flower. He also revealed the viswaroopam

with which he crossed the Indian Ocean and promised to support him in the Kurukshetra war. Being the Pandava's mascot, his image decorates their flag. The mountain on which this incident took place, came to be known as Bandar Poonch – the monkey's tail.

### The three peaks

The Bandar Poonch massif in the Garhwal Himalaya consists of three peaks – Bandar Poonch I, (6,316 m), Bandar Poonch II (6,102m.) and the Kala Nag, Black Cobra or Black Peak (6,387m). The River Yamuna originates on the West end of the Bandarpooch cirque Glacier. The Eastern slopes of the Bandarpooch Mountain feed the River Ganga. This is a unique mountain that feeds both Yamuna and Ganga. Yamuna travels 1,376 kms. from her source before merging with the Ganga at Allahabad. The sacred

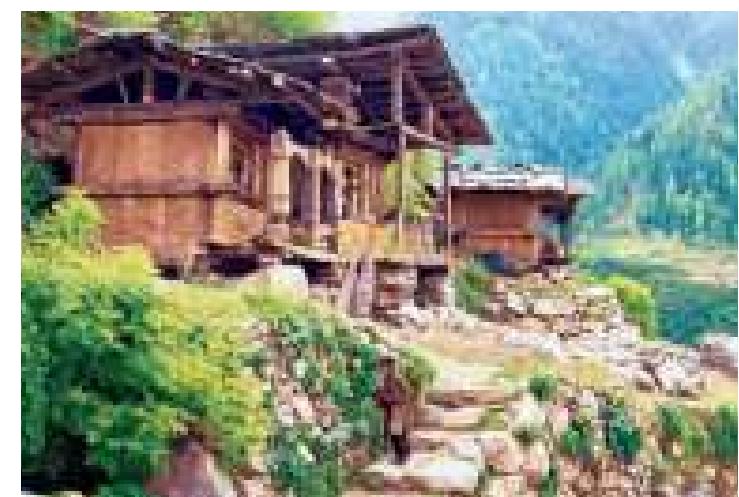
shrine of Yamunotri lies at an altitude of 3,615 m on one side of the Bandarpooch Peak.

River Yamuna is accorded a very important place in the Vedas and Puranas. She has many names, Suryatanaya, as she is the daughter of Surya and Saranya; Yami, as she is the sister of Yama; and Kalindi, the dark one.

Yamuna is revered as she washed the lotus feet of Krishna and it is on these waters that the Lord sported with his dear cowherd friends and gopikas.

The Varaha Purana declares that when the waters of the Ganges gets sanctified one hundred times, it is Yamuna.

The legendary mountaineer, Tenzing Norgay was a member of the team that first climbed Bandar Poonch in 1950. It lies within the Govind Pashu Vihar National Park and Sanctuary.



Mind your Yoga

# Dealing with fire

The principle of adaptation is of central importance in Ayurvedic Dietetics

INDRA MOHAN AND  
NITHYA MOHAN

Ayurveda is a limb of Yoga. Ayurvedic medicine is made using a combination of natural plant products, such as roots, stems, leaves, flowers or fruits of plants, then transformed through a specific process of cooking. The same basic principles of medicinal preparation are applied in the preparation of food. Both food and medicine are to be taken at the right time and in the right quantity. For example, when you are ill, you cannot reasonably expect to get better immediately simply by drinking a bottle of medicine or taking a couple of pills. Medicine must be taken in the proper doses and must be given time to work. The same is true with food. Whenever any medicine is given to a person for treatment, dietary advice conducive to solving that same problem is also given, and both must be followed for real healing to occur.

## Food combination

Generally speaking, good food is both healthy and desirable in taste. To make sure that food was not only agreeable but also flavourful, various food combinations were developed after taking into consideration the nature of the individual food items involved. The combinations also needed to consider whether they would heat or cool the system. The purpose of a combination was, and is, to utilise the best characteristics of both foods. In such a scheme, it was only sensible that taste would not be the only consideration. It is not a simple matter of, for example, adding sugar to lime juice in order to change its taste, because both sugar and lime can increase the heat in the system and lead to imbalance.

Incidentally, the food combinations found in North India were, and still are, very different from those found in South India or Western India. Both the climate and the food items that grow in these diverse regions are different, and their respective cooking protocols were adapted based on place. In this context, it must be cautioned that not all present-day Indian cooking necessarily conforms to Ayurvedic principles, either in terms of the combination of foods or the methods of cooking. The important point is that Ayurvedic dietetics can be adapted to the Western context, by taking into account the foods that are grown and the type of diet with which the person is familiar. However, the combination of the different pro-

ducts available and the method of cooking must be founded on traditional Ayurvedic principles. For example, during winter in the northern countries of the West, it may be better to have toast and warm porridge rather than cold cereal for morning breakfast, or to take soup or boiled vegetables in the evening rather than salad. Simple changes like these will help to improve both digestion and assimilation.

The plants, fruits and vegetables that we eat have, in a way, already been cooked by the sun. Even so, while fruits can generally be eaten raw, the leaves, stem and so on should be cooked using external fire. During the process of cooking, heat brings about a transformation of the food product. Thus, in addition to the external cooking of the sun, food should be prepared such that it matches the internal fire (metabolism). Food items that are heavy or difficult to digest can be made light or easy to digest through application of heat during the process of cooking. This is exactly analogous to adapting a posture to suit the person. If a person has a history of back pain, then we should strengthen his back by adapting the posture. We cannot simply forbid the person from bending down.

Similarly, we need to adapt a food item to the person and strengthen the digestive fire if needed with the support of herbs. This principle of adaptation is of central importance in Ayurvedic Dietetics. We change the product through cooking to match the condition of the internal fire. For example, the internal fire (Agni) is not very strong in an infant, but it becomes very active during adulthood and finally is of reduced activity in old age. Therefore, we must match the food product to suit the internal fire. The same food item will need to be cooked differently in order to match the person and purpose. If an old person is ill and wants to eat an apple, it may be best to bake the apple and remove the skin before they eat it. In the case of young person who is sick, the apple may be eaten raw without the skin. And for a baby, it may have to be baked, the skin removed, then mashed and finally served with a little honey.

Indeed, changing the final edible product through cooking to match the condition of the internal fire (metabolism) of a person forms one of the most important concepts of Ayurvedic dietetics.

Again, we emphasise: This is similar to adapting the posture for the person in asana or changing the ratio of breathing in Pranayama or changing the method of meditation.



A scene from the musical 'Chi Sau Ka Rangabhumi' and (below) Anant Panshikar

DEEPA GAHLOT



To celebrate the 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Marathi theatre, producer Anant Panshikar has come up the musical, 'Chi Sau Ka Rangabhumi,' on the relationship between Rangbhumi (stage) and Rasik Raj (audience), narrating their life together, through a selection of songs and scenes from classic Marathi plays. As the nephew of the legendary Prabhakar Panshikar, Anant has seen the glorious days of Marathi theatre.

"It was in 1843 that the first sangeet natak, 'Sita Swayamwar' was staged, so our production covers a period from then to 1980. Nobody has attempted to do a retro project in a play format."

The idea for the play took root, when Panshikar was commissioned to do a production of Vasant Kanetkar's classic 'Matsyagandha' (the story of Satyavati from the Mahabharat). "I asked Sampada Joglekar Kulkarni, with her background in dance and theatre to direct this; also because I thought a play about such a fascinating woman from the Mahabharat should be directed by a woman, and she did prove herself. We wanted to promote youngsters, so we spread the word through social media for audition. We received over 150 videos on WhatsApp and the selections were done by eminent people.

The cast, all aged between 20-30, was so talented that the play turned out very well. The Goa Hindu Association that as-

signed me the play wanted only 25 shows. So we had to do another musical quickly to retain this wonderful bunch of actor-singers. I thought, Marathi sangeet natak has a fascinating history, why not do something with that?"

Sampada came up

with the idea of the theatre-audience marriage, which she wrote, directed and acted in as Rangbhumi (in Marathi Rangbhumi is referred to in the feminine gender). After a lot of research, plays, songs, and scenes were shortlisted, which were incorporated into the lavish production.

"We tried to incorporate as much as we could. There is so much material, that I can do another version of this play with different songs and scenes. Sangeet Natak is so popular, that even today, there are revivals of 100-year-old plays such as 'Sangeet Saubhadra', 'Sanshay Kallo' and 'Ekach Pyala'."

## Uncle's influence

Anant's parents were classical musicians, but it was his uncle who drew him to theatre. "When I was in the tenth standard, I joined Amrut Natya Bharti, at the Mumbai Marathi Sahitya Sangha – a two-year diploma course in theatre, introduced by Kamlakar Sontakke, who had returned from the National School of Drama with a gold medal. A popular venue for Marathi theatre, I learnt a lot there, and also saw a lot of plays, some of them several times. In every middle-class family, it is important to have a job, so I went to college and also got into inter-collegiate theatre. I directed and acted in quite a few plays, but soon realised that acting was not my forte."

After spending years working in the advertising and corporate world, in 1996, Anant decided to quit his job and do something connected with theatre. "Luckily, a Marathi channel, Tara, was launched, headed by Rathikant Basu, and I produced a lot of classic plays for television, including some by Prabhakar Panshikar, which got me closer to him. Then, around 1999, I saw an interview with him on television, in which he said, he would close down his company Natyasampa-

da, because there was nobody to run it after him. I told him, what if I took over? That's how I got involved with Natyasampa-

da" in 1967, for 40 years, there had been no new musical. It gave me a lot of confidence. My interest in *prayogic* (experimental) theatre, led to my production of 'Waiting For Godot,' in which for the first time Tom Alter acted in a Marathi play."

Over the next few years, Anant produced some new plays and many revivals of the classics, like 'Vichcha Majhi Puri Karaa' by Vasant Sainis, 'Varyavarchi Varaat' by Pu La Deshpande, 'Lekure Udand Zaali' by Vasant Kanetkar, 'Lagnachi Bedi' by P. K. (Acharya) Atre. "Prabhakar Panshikar was with me till his death in 2011; he had retired from the stage, but he toured with us. Now, of course, the company is called Natyasampa- da Kala Manch, because I want to work with the new generation. With every production, I introduce a new actor, director or playwright."

Anant also invests his own money into his productions. He confesses that not all his plays have been hits. In fact, the failure of two consecutive productions – 'Sangeet Jagne Vhave Gaane' and 'Begum Memory Athvan Gulam' – landed him in soup. "I drew on my provident fund and gratuity till the next productions pulled me through. Every business has its ups and downs. But in any other business, a down can devastate a person; at least in theatre, the creative satisfaction is very high," he says.

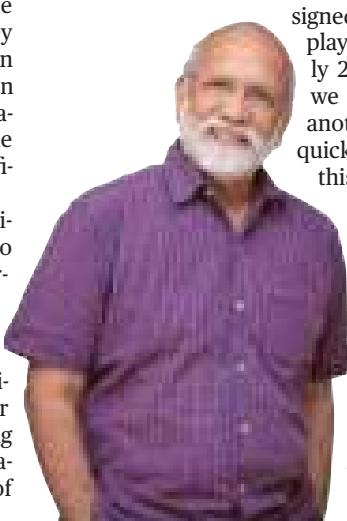
One big hurdle that he sees is that Marathi theatre is losing a young audience. "The youngest viewer must be 40; I have been trying for many years, but the average age of the audience is just not coming down. That's why I try to work with new people and fresh concepts – young people can make a major difference to the kind of plays we do."

He is also content being a producer, the man who brings the right talent and the right project. "The producer is usually taken for granted and seldom gets enough credit, but I am happy to stay behind the scenes. When the audience appreciates a play, there is a kind of satisfaction, a 'kick' in that."

# Theatre Talk

## A new look at classics

Anant Panshikar's latest musical is an ode to Marathi theatre



ANUJ KUMAR

Like her films, Aparna Sen has a lot to say. Like her films, it is seldom on the surface; it is only when you process it that you get the essence. The celebrated actor-director was in Delhi recently to participate in an international symposium on 'Creativity and Freedom', organised by the Kolkata-based CIMA Gallery, Ashoka University and India International Centre. As a film writer, one is always keen to know what was playing on the director's mind when she shaped certain characters. For Aparna, one has a long list. From trivial details like why did she name the photographer in "Paroma" as Rahul Rai? Did the fact that Aparna was herself photographed by a celebrated photographer for Life magazine play on her mind when she was writing the Rakhee-starrer? Aparna says, "no", with a smile. She reveals that she met Raghu Rai much later though she was aware of his work. During the course of the interview, she admits that some things that exist in the subconscious mind do slip into the narrative. Perhaps, it addresses the more complex questions like the bond between the mother-in-law and her daughter-in-law in her "Paromitar Ek Din" (House of Memories) or giving a woman agency in a communal riot-like situation in "Mr. & Mrs. Iyer".

**Edited excerpts:**

**What are your thoughts on the theme: 'Creativity and Freedom'?**

Well, not only cinema but in every sphere! I believe this is the raging topic of the day because your creative freedom is being suppressed in so many areas. At the drop of a hat, people have begun to take offence. You can't write, paint, make films without worrying about some faction or other whose 'sentiments' will be hurt! If you critique the state of affairs in your country in any way, you are branded an anti-national. Freedom of expression, which is a fundamental democratic right granted to us by our constitution, is under threat today.

Many different groups of people have become more sensitive than they used to be. They are well within their rights to object to something a filmmaker may have said, but they often



In between, I was in New Jersey with my husband and suddenly one night, I started crying. When he asked why, I said, I was missing them so much. He asked, "Who?" 'Deepak and Anusuya,' I said, 'I haven't seen them for so long!' I get emotionally involved with my characters

# 'I deal only with individuals; even if an 'ism' surfaces, it is not underlined'

In a freewheeling chat, ace actor-director Aparna Sen talks about the importance of creative freedom, the subtext in her narratives, and how the actor and director in her inform each other

indulge in rioting or vandalising cinema halls or forcibly stopping entry into theatres. The various state governments, which should be dealing with such law and order problems, put a stay on the release of the film. For a creative person, the atmosphere is stifling!

**Did you ever face censorship?**

During 'Mr. and Mrs. Iyer', some dialogues were cut out in Mumbai and Pune if I remember correctly. The consensus was that what had been said about Muslims in the film would enrage them and create law and order problems.

But you have to take into account the intent of the film. One person or a character saying something derogatory about a Muslim doesn't mean that the filmmaker herself is against the community. In fact, she is trying to say that such comments should not be made. Unfortunately, a scene or a piece of dialogue in a film is taken out of context and judged.

**Your films had female characters at the centre of the narrative much before it became a trend. What were your concerns?**

Look, I make films about individuals. But I do have my politics. No person is apolitical. The very act of voting is a political act. But I don't make film as a platform for my politics. My real interest is the psychology of the individual. The individual herself is part of the system, part of many converging political ideologies. When I make film about a woman, it is possible that my feminist politics surfaces somewhere but it is not with the intention of propagating feminism. I certainly am a feminist but, in cinema, I don't talk about any 'isms'. I deal only with individuals; even if an 'ism' surfaces, it is not underlined.

**How it has evolved over the years and if we could compare it with the present?**

It is very interesting because earlier when we were making such films, many men were also making women-centric films. But most of them and many feminist filmmakers, in particular, were talking about women negotiating space for themselves in a male-dominated society. Women were mostly shown as persons trying to

fulfil their own potential. A notable exception is 'Mahanagar' by Satyajit Ray. Here you find a very early feminist narrative where the man and the woman are treated as equal. At the end of the film, when both are without jobs, both stand looking out at the city stretched out before them, and the husband says, 'In such a great metropolis, surely at least one of us will find a job?' They are treated as equals by the filmmaker. Even if one of them finds a job, they can function as a family. It is one of the best feminist films I have ever seen.

After that, it was more about women trying to realising their own potential and their fight to do so. Any talk about female desire or sexual choice was strictly taboo. That's why in 1985, my second film 'Paroma' created such a furore! Many people wanted it taken out of theatres. They felt that women's freedom didn't mean licence for adultery! My point is, licence according to whom? The male-dominated patriarchal system where the moment a woman exercises her sexual choice, it is called a 'licence'?

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**There is a lot of subtext in your narratives; one could draw different meanings...**

'36 Chowringhee Lane' was about an Anglo-Indian school teacher and her dilemma about remaining in India. She chooses to remain. There is no jingoism here. She is not talking about her motherland, which she will not leave because she is patriotic. It was simply a personal decision of a woman who is unwilling to leave a place she has known all her life. She opts for the country that she was born and brought up in. In that sense, she is a true Indian. So, you



**Chronicler of human experiences** Aparna Sen has a deep and abiding faith in human goodness ■ THE HINDU, SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

can read the text that way too, if you wish. But I made it as a human being's personal choice, which I find much more interesting. 'Paroma' was about a woman who exercised her personal choice and in the process came across the wrath of the family. Eventually, she realises who she is. She realises that she is a person in her own right. To that extent, it was about a woman discovering her own identity.

**In "Mr. & Mrs. Iyer", the female protagonist rises above the barriers of caste and religion for a bigger cause.**

She was going to Kolkata, and she didn't know that the bus would be caught in a riot. Had she known, she would not have gone. I didn't plan to make the characters as Hindu and Muslim to start with. I was just going to make a love story about two strangers who meet during a journey. They surfaced because of my deep involvement with secular politics. Meenakshi Iyer tells the rioters that she is the wife of her co-passenger, who is a Muslim, just to save his life. She herself had not known until that moment she would do so! In a physical journey, which is a wonderful metaphor for a journey into oneself, the woman discovers that humanity is more important to her than her caste or religion or gender identities. In spite of so much corruption and violence around us, I

still have a deep and abiding faith in human goodness.

**In some of your films, we find women smoking? Isn't it bad for both men and women?**

Of course, it is! But, people do smoke in real life you know! In any case, I haven't shown women smoking that much in my films. Some women do smoke, yes.

For a long time, women smoking publicly became a kind of political statement. But, of course, it is bad for you. In 'Paroma', one of my characters smokes, but she is not the central

character. In 'Sati', 'Yugant' or '36 Chowringhee Lane', or 'The Japanese Wife', for instance, there are no such scenes.

**In 'Sonata', you resisted giving a name to the simmering desire between two women...**

There really was no 'simmering desire'. There was just the hint of a grey area. It is left open. I like to leave such things open. Why should I always tell the audience what to think?

**How much do you invest in your characters?**

Hugely. In the process of fleshing them out in

**What are your memories of Mrinal Sen?**

To me, he was always a young man, even when he was old. He was mentally the youngest person I have known. Always ready to try something new, always fresh. That was the most wonderful thing about him. He was not afraid of experimenting and that is so necessary in order to develop the language of cinema. He tried to experiment with cinematic form and language as well as subject matter. I worked with him in two films, but he and his wife were family friends as well - friends of my parents.

**You also tried to experiment with the form in Arshinagar...**

It is not an easy path because when you are experimenting, you are running into orthodox thought.



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Meenakshi Iyer tells the rioters that she is the wife of her co-passenger, who is a Muslim, just to save his life. She herself had not known until that moment the she would do so!

## A mystical chord

Headlined by the inimitable A.R. Rahman, the second edition of The Sufi Route nourished the soul

SHRINKHLA SAHAI

Traversing a spectrum of Sufi music traditions, the second edition of The Sufi Route brought the capital on its feet on a breezy winter night at the Garden of Five Senses. The travelling global festival organised by Friday Music Project in association with Delhi Tourism, featured maestros A R Rahman, Sami Yusuf, Satinder Sartaaj, Nooran Sisters and Dhruv Sangari. The festival captured an array of Sufi styles in one evening, providing an eclectic mix to regale connoisseurs and the uninitiated alike. Ranging from popular devotional songs to rarely heard ancient compositions, the evening balanced primeval mysticism with new-age sounds. The rich treasure trove of Sufiana music was explored, evoking the glory of mystics like Baba Farid, Bulleh Shah, Sultan Bahu, Shah Hussain and others.

A unique and heartening aspect of the festival was its inclusiveness for the hearing-impaired. A platform near the grand stage had three sign language interpreters, translating the musical action through sign system throughout the concert. Making music accessible to all within mainstream music festivals is a critical step in the direction of making the city disability-friendly and other festivals could take a cue from this. Priyanka Arora of Friday Music Project said, "Being India's first all-inclusive concert and having the hearing impaired community be part of our journey is not just gratifying but very humbling. We will be back soon with another unforgettable experience."

Beginning mid-afternoon, the *ma haul* or ambience was set by lyricist and poet Manoj Muntashir. Appearing with snippets from the history of Sufism, he interspersed the performances with his poetry. Nooran Sisters brought the stage alive with their energetic renditions of 'Sayoni', 'Allah Ho Fakira', and the much-loved 'Pattakha Guddi'. Next up, Dhruv Sangari interpreted the works of saints and poets like Kabir with refreshing simplicity and depth.

A scholar and musical icon representing the Punjab Sufiana tradition, Satinder Sartaaj presented some lesser known musical gems before giving in to the audience request for his chartbuster composition with which he shot to fame in 2010—'Sai'. Beginning with a bang, the performance curiously tapered off towards the end.

British singer, songwriter and multi-instrumentalist, Sami Yusuf, was performing in India for the first time. He delved into the East-West confluence with his opening composition titled 'Dawn'. Arranged and orchestrated to dig into a plethora of sounds, the selected compositions were diverse and soulful. Accompanied by master musi-



One with the divine A.R. Rahman  
■ NISHANT MATTIA

cians of traditional music, his line-up included some of his greatest hits from albums such as "Ya Rasul Allah", "Hasbi Rabbi", "Lament", "You Came To Me", "Sari Gelin", "Maulana", "Ya Hayyu Ya Qayyum", "Ya Ummi and Healing". As the penultimate act just before Rahman, it was a challenging one, and lived up to its promise as he concluded with the audience singing along to 'Alalah hu'.

### Springing a surprise

A full house braved the cold late into the evening to experience the music of the virtuoso – A R Rahman. The maestro never ceases to surprise. His popular oeuvre includes numerous Sufi compositions yet he refrained from belting out a known playlist. Instead of getting the audience on its feet, he chose to create an introspective, sombre and immersive mood, ripe with inspiration and reflection. As a youngster, Rahman was deeply influenced by his Peer Sahib – Syed Karimullah Shah Qadri, who introduced him to the world of qawwali. His interpretation of spirituality as an ego-destroying and inward-looking journey came through as he focused on primordial sounds, chants and soulful alaaps from the Sufi soundscape in the first part.

The evening slowly segued into the realm of familiar compositions like 'Duma Dum Mast Qalandar', 'Kun Faya Kun', 'Allah Huma Salle Alla', 'Arziyaan Sari Main' and others. Renowned percussionist Sivamani enthralled with rhythm play in his solo sections, balancing depth and sobriety with intensity.

The sets, screen projections and graphics were spectacular, making the event visually rich. Although the capital boasts many Sufi concerts through the year, this festival attempts to string together a series of musical styles, giving it an edge.

According to Gagan Takyar of Friday Music Project, "Sufi is a popular genre in Delhi but surprisingly enough, while there are several independent venues that organise Sufi evenings, there is no Sufi-specific music event. The idea behind The Sufi Route is to cater to this demand and we believe we have been successful. The event celebrated music which in turn celebrated the universal human values that the event propagates of peace, love, faith in an increasingly chaotic world."

## Fresh approach to mythical themes

Ayana Mukherjee and Himanshu Srivastava adapted the purity of their dance forms to present something creative and original

RANEE KUMAR

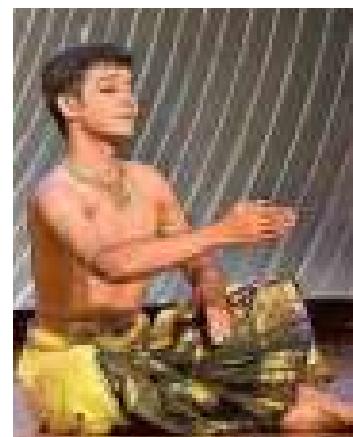


Aesthetic touch Ayana Mukherjee; (below) Himanshu Srivastava

Two emerging dancers rose to the expectations at the prestigious Raza Foundation's 'Yuva Shastriya (classical) festival' with commitment and adherence to the classicality of their respective genre, viz. Kuchipudi and Bharatanatyam. The duo Ayana Mukherjee and Himanshu Srivastava did not adopt the time-worn traditional format but adapted the purity of their dance forms to present something creative and original which is what the new breed of dancers are expected to do.

### Convincing act

Ayana who opened her Kuchipudi recital with 'Mahadeva Shiva Shambho,' presented the mighty lord of dance in several combinations of gestures (hasta mudra) and footwork, bringing in the story elements to underline the omnipotence and omnipresence of lord Shiva with the Markandeya episode. Her expressive best came out in showing the tightening of the noose of death at the rishi's throat as he fervently sends up a prayer to his lord to rescue him. The pain and anguish of a young boy in the jaws of death was convincingly acted out. So was lord Yama's gait to crisp and powerful footwork as he enters on his deathly mission. The footwork turned lilting, heralding the 'Parameswara, gangadhara...' (emergence of lord Shiva). At this juncture, the dancer could have been a little more careful in showing her feet to the audience



in the course of dancing as Shiva which is a deviation from 'auchitya' (decency) as per the Shasthra.

The Ashtapadi 'Radhika Krishna.' which actually speaks of Radha, Krsna and the intermediary Sakhi (friend) was handled excellently through abhinaya as a solo piece by Ayana. The physical state of Radha, torn in passion and love for the lord who is not with her, Krsna's response and the Sakhi's appeasement – three different emotional states were shown by the artiste with aplomb. She chose to present the archetypal Kuchipudi piece - 'Dasavataram' (Telugu lyrics) as conclusion where she went through the jatis perfectly but the depiction of the first three avatars could have been done with greater clarity as far as gestures went.

Ayana should look into her balancing power on stage when she has to stand on one foot for a brief duration of time as the song demands. The live orchestra with guru Vanashree Rao on the nattuvangam enhanced the recital.

### Graceful gait

Creativity is Himanshu Srivastava's forte and it does well for him to exploit his potential. Themed 'Venu' (bamboo flute), it ran on esoteric lines where the flute with its seven apertures is akin to the seven chakras (nerve centres) of the human body whose quest is to reach the ultimate reality (param atma).

The enigmatic content found a similar expression on Himanshu's countenance (amazement) as he adapted the alarippu (first piece in traditional margam repertoire) to interpret his theme. The ecstasy that a spiritual seeker experiences as the kundalini (serpent power) rises within the unseen layers of his spinal column was pictured with astounding clarity by the dancer

through the metaphor of intertwined serpents which is what Radha-Madhav concept is all about. The second phase led us into 'Abhisarika Radha'. Here the ashtavidha nayika wasn't shown on the physical plane. A local Bengali myth which depicts Radha as being married away to far east into a Bengali family was adopted to drive home the point of the quest within human being to merge with its source either surreptitiously or overtly – that is abhisarika, hampered as she were by a husband (material world and encumbrances) secretly approaching her Krsna (Param Atma) during the dark fortnight.

There are few hassles in her sojourn – the metaphor of a snake, a giant which gave the dancer ample scope to display the story like the kaliya mardhan and the Putana annihilation which were crisp and very convincing.

Himanshu left no stone unturned as far as the format of Bharatanatyam goes – his kulukku nadai (graceful gait) with lovely footwork to bhol at the refrain – *chali chali Radhika...* is one such. A new feature was the merger of goddess Kali and Krsna who are from the Shakta point of view are one and the same both on physical and spiritual levels. The dancer alternated between the two contrasting yet similar aspects in quick succession with vivid abhinaya.

This near-perfect dance with all its essential elements intact had one minor flaw – the dancer would do better to enrich his presentation with a little more care towards the adage – 'yatho hastha tatho drishti' (the eye should fully dwell on the mudra of the hand). A live accompaniment with S.Vasudevan on the vocals enriched the show which was hosted at Triveni Kala Sangam.

# 'World needs India'

Long and intense research leaves Liesbeth Pankaja Bennink sure that this is the only land, where Dharma consciousness prevails

GEETHA VENKATARAMANAN

**Your parents sowed the seeds of spiritual interest in you, your mother taught you Dharma, you have said. Can you expand on that?**

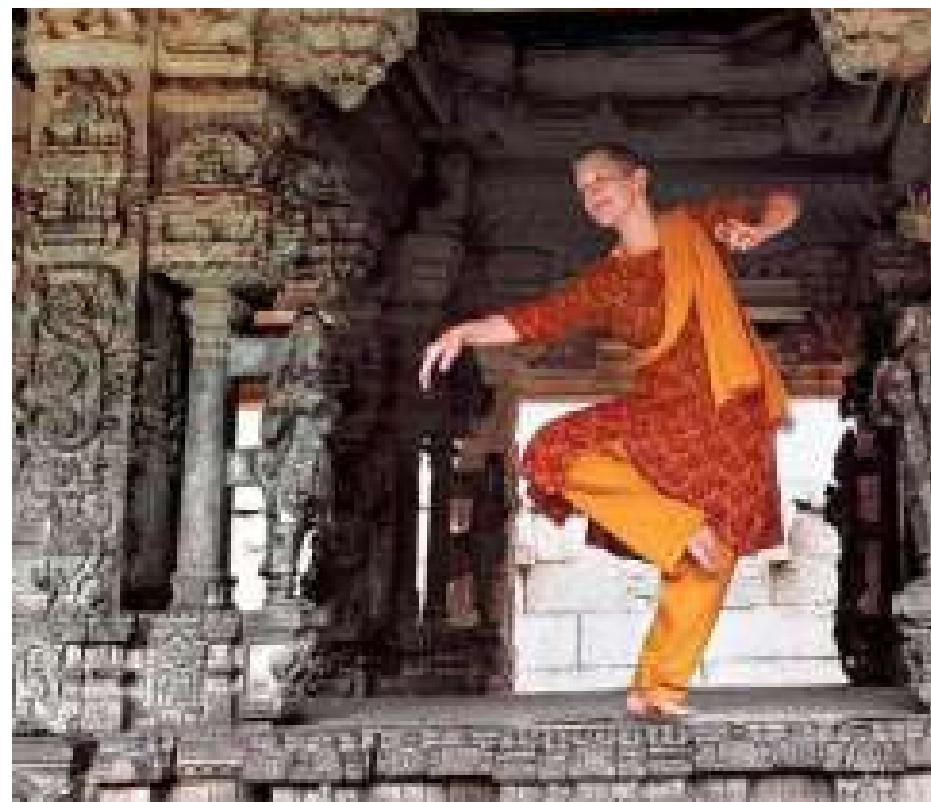
● My mother was a theosophist, although I was too young to realise it. Righteousness – doing the right things and in the right way – and honesty were the two things she insisted on. My father was a seeker. He would be engaged in conversations with Raja Deekshitar, whenever he visited the Netherlands. Both parents were spiritually inclined and I must have imbibed it.

#### Why India?

● I love ancient civilisations. And I'm curious. Yes, it could have been any place – Greece, Africa... Bharatanatyam brought me here and well, the rest, as they say, is history. I love the food, the spicy flavours of the South and the sweets... and of course the warm weather. But that is at the superficial level. What binds me to this land is its heritage, the tradition.

#### What, according to you is the essence of Indian tradition/culture?

● Dharma – that would be the essence of the culture of this land. The consciousness about the right and the wrong. And taking responsibility for the actions – Karma. I agree that there is corruption and malpractice but peo-



**Endless mission** Liesbeth Pankaja Bennink, during her recent visit to C.P. Art Centre, Chennai.

■ PHOTO: K.V. SRINIVASAN

ple are aware of it. It is awareness of Dharma and Karma, which enables us to realise the wrong and the right. Our wrong choices have led to climate change and political upheavals. But course-correction is possible, provided we take the responsibility. This is the best gift India has for humanity and it is for this reason that the rest of the world needs India. In the Gita, Lord Krishna speaks of the dark Kali Yuga and we are already in it. Also this is the land of the Ramayana and the Mahabharata, which have so

much to teach. It is here that people are living the principle of Dharma.

#### What are the temples you have visited, apart from Chidambaram?

● I have visited several temples, names of which I cannot easily recall... My guru Rajamani took me to Tirupati, where we participated in rituals. It was a beautiful experience. And Narthamalai...

#### You are convinced that the beliefs as practised in India are not

#### superstitions. Please explain

● This is the land of Sanatana Dharma – it is a way of life. It lays down do's and don'ts and emphasises on purity – everything to elevate a human being at the spiritual level. To teach people, impart knowledge about so many things – astronomy, astrology, biology and so on. I would say that Man primarily is an Intellectual being and secondarily a Material being. It is the material that creates Maya and distracts him and it is to raise above that, a discipline was put in place. It is connected to the Universe, a kind of code. Failure to understand the code leads to doubts. For instance, Saturday is not the preferred day to buy new clothes. The reason is that the day belongs to Saturn and it would be appropriate to purchase metals instead on that day.

#### And we have lost a lot in the past few years?

● The invasion and occupation of foreigners have robbed the country of its amazing wealth, not only material but intellectual. Knowledge. Sadly most of it has been lost for ever. The people of this land were made to believe that they were inferior to the West. Gradually, the people succumbed and started doubting themselves. It was all a part of an agenda to destroy India and its glory. The brain drain, which has

happened in the past three decades, has taken away precious talent. Inside temples, I find the original granite replaced with marble, which takes away the Energy and those harsh tubelights. With the abolition of the Devadasi system, an inherent part of temple heritage has been wiped out. Wootz steel has completely disappeared from the Tamil land, although attempts are being made to revive it. Prof. Sharada Srinivasan has been conferred Padma Shri for her efforts in this direction.

#### Certain things can only be felt and not explained. Do you agree?

● Well, what first is a feeling or intuition gets a shape if you search for the science behind it. Words and images do emerge. From the Unknown to the Known. But yes, some concepts, say Upanishadic or Advaitic can only be realised and not described. There could be things, which are beyond the human level of expression. Quite possible.

#### How difficult or easy has been your research? In India, information generally is tough to access and documentation not really meticulous. Often riddled with suspicion and scepticism. Especially when the seeker is not an Indian.

● No, it was not easy at all. First, the topic of my research was not just history or philosophy, per se. It dated back centuries and often the information was not direct. It had to be decoded and this



Pankaja - the Lotus - was the name my mother gave, long before I arrived here. So beautiful, and that was how Raja Deekshitar called me

required help. Especially way back when Internet was not known and communication was not advanced. It was difficult to access texts and books. Raja Deekshitar showed me the way and his family was wonderful.

#### You are sure Aryan invasion never happened. Can you explain?

● Well, as a young student, even I subscribed to the theory that light-skinned people crossed the mountains to overthrow the natives and occupy their spaces. But that was before I came to India, met Raja Deekshitar and learnt about the way the Rishi is lived, the Vedas and so on. There was a huge gap between the India I read in text books and what I saw and learnt from guru Rajamani and Deekshitar. I read books debunking that theory. Thirty years of research has taught me that Sanatana Dharma was a way of life on this land thousands of years ago, when people lived with Nature and had mastered the movements of planets. They belonged here.

#### History, Spiritualism, Art – you straddle all spheres. Are they exclusive or complement each other in your research?

● There are no contradictions here. Specialising in one aspect is a Western concept, which doesn't work. Things are interconnected. One leads to another. Ayurveda, Yoga, dance, Sanskrit, art, astronomy, astrology, metaphysics... they are all linked, holistic. Like the Cosmos. Like a temple. The outer *prakara* leads to the inner corridors and deeper the niches and still deeper the *sanctum* or the centre. The Chit Sabha of Chidambaram. Like Indra's Net, the multifaceted jewel, where each face reflects the others infinitely.

#### Have you been to the North of India?

● I have not seen the North. So can't talk about it.

#### How do you keep in touch with Bharatanatyam?

● Through practice. At least to keep myself flexible. I meet some of my friends in the field. And I read books. I would mention *Unfinished Gestures* of Devesh Soneji as one of the brilliant works on the subject in recent times.

## In full bloom

The ongoing Mela Phulkari reflects the new awakening in Punjab about its rich crafts

MADHUR TANKHA



**I**t is an embroidery technique from Punjab that literally transports the discerning to a pristine world where flowers of all shapes and sizes mesmerise you.

Mela Phulkari, the ongoing exhibition at India Habitat Centre, is an attempt to showcase the art form in all its hues.. The twelve installations are named after months of the Punjabi calendar as Chet (Chaitra), Vaisakh (Baisakhi), Jeth (Jyeshta), Asaarth (Aash-aadha), Saavan (Shravan), Bhadon (Bhadon) and Phagun (Phal-gund)

"It is a question of identity, women's politics, feminism, empowerment and memory. It is a way of telling that women also weave their dreams and their desires. They also stamp their identity while making it. Earlier, it was seen as women doing it in their homes. But now it has come to denote women's empowerment," says curator Alka Pande.

Dr. Pande, who lived for two decades in Punjab and visited virtually every village, says: "Earlier, Phulkari was seen as something that women did in their homes. Today, it is being done to seek employment. So the cloth is handmade, hand-dyed, even the thread is hand-dyed. Everything is done with hand only. It highlights the power of women and gives them an identity."

Among the artists and designers whose work is on display at IHC is Pratima Pandey, a fashion designer and an alumna of NIFT. She has done interesting installations such as Soni, the epitome of beauty, elegance and the women of today. Her lehenga with a blouse and jacket was lapped by art aficionados.

"Inspired by the rich, ancient heritage of Punjab and its craft, the ensemble aims to draw attention to a woman's inner consciousness of love and the desire to dress up with care."

Pandey says it is a beautiful craft but very difficult to make as only a few craftspersons are around. "The more orders we get the better it would be for its revival. It is also very expensive so we use it in a way that it is viable."

Artist Jagdeesh Singh is showcasing the magic of Phulkari through two installations. "Phulkari is a treasure trove for us since time immemorial. Rather than display my mastery in Phulkari, I have taken a different and difficult trajectory to showcase it on my canvas. Delineating this ancient embroidery in a four feet by seven feet long painting was time consuming yet creatively an extremely gratifying task. It took me an entire month but I managed to showcase embroidery, design appeal and aesthetics of this centuries-old tradition. The uniqueness of my painting is that the look is exactly the same as the fabric in which women unleash their creative spark."

This year, Mela Phulkari is special as it is celebrating the 555<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Guru Nanak's birthday."

On the significance of Mela Phulkari 6, co-founder Harinder Singh says it revolves around the theme of "Jaago Panjab." "Time has come for Punjab to wake up and show the world what it is capable of. The word jaago is also synonymous with a wedding tradition of waking up the community of a new bride as she readies to enter a new phase of life."

### New lease of life

Describing the 12 installations as living beings, Dr. Pande says these are the living traditions. "By the way, the awakening programme about the rich craft is still being done in the villages of Punjab. They Harinder and Kiran have a shop at Janpath in New Delhi and Amritsar. That is their commercial side but what they do through this mela is commendable.

Phulkari is not dying, it is vibrant. And people like Harinder are keeping it alive by putting it in the form of digital prints on different fabrics."

The exhibition concludes on February 17.



## Making an impression

Bharatanatyam exponent Justin McCarthy and pianist Nadine Crasto talk about their unique collaboration

ANURADHA VELLAT

**C**ollaborations are the norm of the day, and it is no time to shy away from engaging with other arts and artistes. A pianist himself, and a Bharatanatyam dancer, Justin McCarthy's four-decade-long journey with the arts is testimony to his engagement and commitment. In a collaborative work, an upcoming performance this week will showcase McCarthy with pianist Nadine Crasto. McCarthy says, "Though I do find some similarities between Bharatanatyam and piano, I am not necessarily always drawn to (them together). In fact, this time it was I who suggested the four-hand recital, and Nadine suggested the Bharatanatyam, then we both came up with the idea of doing piano music inspired by



**In harmony** Nadine Crasto; (below) Justin McCarthy

dance forms and rhythms."

As a young musician, Crasto has worked with numerous vocalists, instrumentalists and choirs, touring India and London. "Being a chamber musician has always been my passion, and I have been fortunate enough to make music with many talented people. I enjoy trying different ways to communicate with audiences today, especially after my experiences studying at the Academy. I had selected historical performance as one of my subjects and was given the opportunity to explore anachronistic chamber performance on various historical instruments. One of my new projects is exploring classical music performance through visual aids," she says.

Crasto began learning the piano at the age of nine under Myrna Fernandez in Mumbai. She went to the Royal Academy of Music in London, for a masters in piano performance where she studied with Colin Stone, Mark Troop and many others. Though she has worked with dancers before, this is the first time she is working alongside an exponent of an Indian classical dance.

"In my final year at the Academy, we were asked to curate unique recitals as part of our portfolio, and I envisioned a piano recital consisting of impressionist compositions combined with Bharatanatyam dancers. Three years later I was fortunate enough to meet Justin and make this a reality. You can expect a very unique

and exciting approach to a western classical duet recital," says Crasto. "Being a western classical musician there has never been an opportunity like this before and I very much look forward to it," she adds.

Before venturing into Bharatanatyam, McCarthy was exposed to the piano from the age of five. He learnt under musicians Ruth Kuipers and Heather Halsted in the US, and at the University of Michigan, later Ruth Liebich (Germany). He later trained extensively under Subbarayan Pillai in Chennai and Leela Samson at the Shriram Bharatiya Kala Kendra, Delhi.

For this week's performance, there will be two pianists and two dancers, dancing for one section of the recital. The music by Debussy, a French composer from approximately the same period as Impressionism in painting. "All music is based on dance forms and rhythms. The dance is more a response to the music than a fusion," says McCarthy. The performance will also showcase works by Stravinsky, Dvorak, Ravel and others. McCarthy understands that like any performing art, dance also is kept alive by the approaches taken by artistes and what the rasikas take away from a performance. "It is also only as good as the performers and the people who watch them. The state of any performing art is necessarily affected by what is going in the world around," adds McCarthy.

**(McCarthy and Crasto will showcase their work on 16th February, India International Centre, 6:30 p.m.)**



## Promising debut

Seasoned Bharatanatyam exponent Dr Yamini Krishnamurti conducted arangetram of her disciple Sharvi Maheshwari, last week at India International Centre in New Delhi.

Sharvi gave a good account of herself and her performance was applauded by the august gathering.

She received praise from her Guru Dr Yamini Krishnamurti. "Sharvi is talented and has natural flair. She certainly has bright future as an excellent performer," said Dr. Krishnamurti.

The event was attended by the chief guest P. Mahendru, former Special Director of IB. Noted sarod



**Promising start** Sharvi Maheshwari (centre) with Dr. Yamini Krishnamurti player Dr Chandrima Majumdar was also present. Sharvi thanked her Gu-

ru and promised to put in her best to excel in the dance form.

## Going Native

# Confluence of a thousand desires

In his insightfully edited and meticulously translated anthology, Anisur Rehman captures different contours of the Urdu ghazal

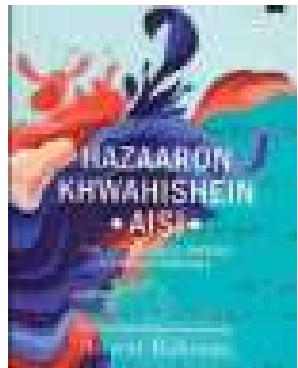
SHAHEY KIDWAI

**I**t looks incredible that a genre firmly located in distinct cultural, literary and social moorings transcends its generic and language specific constraints and offers an immersive human experience to differing social groups across the globe. It is what the most longed for genre of Urdu ghazal has been doing with remarkable ease across languages. The widespread adulation of the ghazal cuts across the barriers and "tyranny of genre" and widens the horizons of expectations of people speaking German, Spanish, English, Hindi, Punjabi, Gujarati, Marathi and Kashmiri.

Renowned Spanish poet Garcia Lorca composed ghazals called *gecelos* and Johann Wolfgang Von Goethe also tried his hand at this genre. It has been made known by a reputed scholar, translator and poet Anisur Rehman in his insightfully edited and meticulously translated anthology "Hazaaron Khwahishein Aisi" (The Wonderful World of Urdu Ghazals) recently released by the Harper Collins, India.

## Exploring the genre

At a time when genre is being reckoned more than a rhetorical construct and accepted as a social action, Anisur Rehman brilliantly explores the inherent potentiality of ghazal that exhibits an extraordinary sensibility to all the vicissitudes of life. The ghazal



Anisur Rehman is a celebrated poet and his translations always produce a compelling read. Ghalib's widely known Urdu couplet, "Hazaaron khwahishein aisi ke har khwahish pe dam nikle" is stunningly translated into English as "Desires in thousands I had, for each I would die / with many I had luck, for many I would sigh."



Delineating growth of ghazal Anisur Rehman

has emerged as a semiotic social contract that is invested with the infinitely modified potential.

Divided into seven equally focused chapters, the anthology zeroes in on sixty five poets of proven creative dexterity and astutely showcases how ghazal responds to the changing dynamics of human experience and draws its sustenance from different cultural ideologies and how it emerged as laconic narrative of love with no traces of hatred and intolerance. Anisur Rehman, with his through groundings in both the western and eastern poetries, does not attempt to produce a chronological account of this immensely popular genre but spells out nuanced contours of its cross cultural roots. The historical perspective aptly juxtaposes with its classical foundation. A vibrant and evocative rendering of a mind that oscillates between belief and disbelief sums up its semantic structure.

Noted author Tabish Khair in his impressive introduction talks about Urdu poets' obsession with three L words: lover, loser and lamenter and the author took pains in showing that the poets committed to new poetries and beyond pull the

plug on the triple L persona frequently.

Anisur Rehman in his in-depth and perceptive introduction effortlessly narrates the whole history of evolution of ghazal but one wishes to see an intense debate on the immense contribution of Indian composite culture to the growth of Urdu ghazal. The author does refer to the current reading practices and for him the ghazal rightly qualifies for multifaceted readings. The ghazal responds to recurring themes with a deep sense of aesthetic manoeuvrings. Text produces context and context also gives birth to text and in this connection the author rightly observes, "It is now providing new contexts of writings and readings, of linguistic liberalism, literary historiography, socio-political historicising and critical readings. In its modern form, it has obliterated the distinction between the poetic and the non-poetic, the formal and the non-formal, and has gone beyond the spatial confines of a given location or centre."

## Compelling read

The first chapter of the anthology titled metaphysical beginnings carries the translation of the three promi-

nent early poets - Quli Qutub Shah, Wali Dakni and Mirza Mazhar Jan-e-Janan and the second chapter "Towards Enlightenment" turns attention to Sauda, Siraj Aurangabadi, Dard and Mir Taqi Meer. Many Urdu poets such as Nazir Akbarabadi and Hasrat Mohanni paid glowing tributes to Krishna and wrote poems but Anisur Rehman discovered a ghazal of Siraj Aurangabadi that creatively uses Mohan as an end-rhyme and this ghazal is brilliantly rendered into English that may invoke interest:

Of your lock, each hair, O  
Mohan  
like a garland, I wear, O  
Mohan  
I think of your fluid beauty  
Tear drops roll to sear, O  
Mohan  
till my end, I am a lover, no  
less

My breath A Brahmin's  
thread-wear, O Mohan

Many famous Urdu poets  
such as Mushafi, , Bahadur  
Shah Zafar Nasikh, Ghalib,  
Momin and Daagh are fea-  
tured in the third chapter.

Anisur Rehman is a celebrated poet and his translations always produce a compelling read. Ghalib's widely known Urdu couplet, "Hazaaron khwahishein aisi ke har khwahish pe dam nikle" is stunningly translated into English as "Desires in thousands I had, for each I would die / with many I had luck, for many I would sigh."

The anthology has separate chapters on 'Advent of Modernism', 'Progressive Poetics', 'New Poetics and beyond New Poetics' that includes wonderful translation of several Urdu poets such as Haali, Shad Azzemabadi Shakib Jalali, Shahryar, Adil Manssori, Nida Fazli, Irfan Siddiqui, Kishwar Naheed, Khurshid Akbar and the like.

## Accolades well deserved

Translations are preceded with an introduction that manifest the author's critical acuity. If one sifts through the translation, he will find that translations are engaging but occasionally they seem pedantic and turgid. The anthology eschews chronological build up and instead emphasised the unforgettable moments of epiphanies highlighted by the ghazal over a longer period of time and for this the author rightfully deserves accolades.

## Telling Voices Optimism in adversity

Kate Bowler believes that everything that happens in humans is for a reason, as she recounts her experience of being a health expert while she is battling cancer

SUDHAMAHI REGUNATHAN

**K**ate Bowler has articulated what many feel but find difficult to put down in her book, 'Everything Happens For A Reason and other lies I have loved'.

"Everything happens. Period," says Bowler, going against the adage and belief that everything happens for a reason. "Things just happen and somethings go apart and somethings come together. If I could pick one thing it would be that everyone simmers down on the explanations for other peoples sufferings and just steps in..." and we have more cliches like, God is writing a better story. Heaven is your true home. God needs another angel...

Bowler says the book was like excavating her deepest and truest feelings, "I wrote a book about the weird experience of being an expert in the Prosperity Gospel (The prosperity gospel is a movement that grew out of Pentecostalism that said that God rewards the faithful with health and wealth within the course of their human life if they have the right kind of faith), who then got stage IV cancer at 35. So, I wanted to be the first person to notice the ridiculous irony of specialising in divine promises where God, in this movement, assures believers of health and



wealth and happiness within the course of human life...Here I was having written the first history of that movement facing down death in a culture that says everything happens for a reason..."

Bowler says she thought, "It was certainty, plain and simple, that God had a worthy plan for my life in which every setback would also be a step forward. I wanted God to make me good and make me faithful with just a few shining accolades along the way. Anything would do if hardships were only detours on my long life's journey. I believed that God would make a way. I don't believe that anymore...I had to rethink what trust and hope looks like if I'm just living scan to scan... what does it mean to experience - proximity to God or a sense of faithfulness without actually thinking that my life is supposed to be better because of it?

## Honesty her virtue

I don't know if a lot of people think this, but at least the hope is that if you're a good Christian or you're a good anybody maybe you will somehow get some sort of advantage at least in terms of spiritual enrichment or, life-changing perspective. And in the end... I don't know if there's really any advantage to being spiritual except that you get to know a little something about the presence of God..."

Bowler's honesty is touching, "I like to be open to lovely things happening, just as now I'm trying to be open to the idea that terrible things happen...And I felt like I learned something about not being so heavily rationalistic, that I assume that the world always operates in this very predictable way. So I'm open to being surprised. And I pray for health..."

Will Bowler find a good reason? Will God intervene?



Flawless performance Anita Ratnam

## Tribute to the saint-poetess

**“Andal” brought alive the mystic’s life and times to today’s audience**

RANEE KUMAR

Andal and her story has inspired many a dancer. The Tamil Vaishnav saint-poetess (an Alvar) of the 8<sup>th</sup> century is revered as a deity in many a Vaishnavite household. Her 30-hymn collection, known as the ‘Tiruppavai’, is a very popular garland of verses on lord Krsna, which to this day are religiously recited in many families in the sacred month of Marghazi (Dec 15-Jan 16) for higher good of mankind.

Recently, Delhi’s Taj Mahal hotel hosted ‘Andal’, a theatrical one-hour evening show of dance and narration. The select audience were treated to unique delicacies with a south-Indian flavour - the Venn Pongal (a cashew-pepper-tempered khichdi sans vegetables) and Chakra Pongal (a jaggery cooked rice with loads of cashew and ghee). These two traditional items are the customary offering to deity Andal in the auspicious month, post recitation. The flavour of Andal having been created at the threshold, we were ushered in to an equally delightful performance which placed us on a time machine where we are taken back and forth from present day perpetuation of Andal’s 30 hymns for 30 days as a mandatory observance to a peek into the visual biographical details of the saint-poetess through traditional Bharatanatyam and then into the more revolutionary romantic outpouring of the poetess’s later work, “Nachiyar Tirumozhi” (a dream poem where she professes her passion for lord Ranganatha/Krsna).

### Pure dance

Geeta Gopalakrishnan, the producer and narrator of “Andal” recited chosen verses from “Tiruppavai”, interspersed with sweet memories from her childhood where her grandma would wake all the grandchildren up by dawn as stipulated in the scriptures to purify themselves through a customary bath and recitation of “Tiruppavai”, followed by tempting ‘Pongal’. Ace dancer Anita Ratnam was Andal embodied through her pure dance and clarity of hasta mudras that were a joy to behold. The digital screen flashed pictures of Srivilliputtur temple where Andal was born and deified along with English translation of her verses for a non-south Indian audience. Akhila Ramnarayan lent the third dimension to the theatrical with her sonorous rendition of the bold and beautiful song of the second literary work of Andal enhanced by Anita’s mime and dance. Together the awesome threesome, with an excellent live orchestra, brought alive the saint of Southern India for the Delhi elite.

MURTAZA ALI KHAN

National Award-winning actor Rajeshwari Sachdev was recently in Delhi as part of the promotions for second season of *Dil He Toh Hai* - a romantic family drama about the modern-day entrepreneurial Noon family. Rajeshwari would be reprising her role of Mamta Vijaypath Noon, the male protagonist’s step-mother, from the first season. The show had ended on Sony Entertainment Television late last year but Balaji Telefilms decided to renew it for a second season exclusively for its digital platform ALTBalaji.

Here, Rajeshwari talks about her acting journey, her television stint which started quite late, and her upcoming films.

### Excerpts:

**What can we expect from you during the second season of *Dil Hi To Hai*? How do you see the show’s transition from television to web?**

Well, I am just taking it forward from what had happened in the first season. The show’s two leads were separated because of my mistake but now I want them to come together. Then things start taking care of themselves. The second season is not about us. It’s more about what’s after us. So I am not the part of the bigger plan, only a part of the idea that takes the story forward. Now that it will be exclusively on the web, I believe there would be no compulsions of trying to please everybody. On television, you are often forced to do festival specials and what not which can take the focus away from the story but when you are on the web you just need to focus on the content.

**How has television evolved as a medium over the years?**

I remember when we were kids the likes of Aziz Mirza and Kundan Shah used to make some amazing serials. Since they were never in hurry they shot them like films. But when satellite television came in there was a little bit of chaos as everyone wanted to do everything. But today we live in an age of discerning viewers. Now there are so many options available that you really can’t take your viewers for granted. Also, you can tell the stories that you want to and in the kind of way you want to.

**OTT has become a buzz word these days. But don’t you think that a lot of the content on the web is high on cusswords and obscenity?**

I think that we have been kept silent for so long owing to censorship that we are now rebelling. Having said that, regardless of how virtuous we are in a familial set up, we are a different person when we step out of our homes. And this applies to everyone. Now, as a viewer, I may not be in a position to prevent a certain type of content from getting made but I can always exercise my right and choose not to watch it. Also, I believe the content must be created keeping the genre in mind. We may get away occasionally but sooner or later eve-



I was only 17-18 when I started working with Shyam Benegal. When at that young age you are regularly conversing with one of the most intelligent, well-read, articulate persons it rubs off on you in a way

# ‘We live in an age of discerning viewers’

As Rajeshwari Sachdev returns with the second season of *Dil Hi To Hai*, the actor talks about her journey as an actor

rything reaches a saturation point. It’s still early days for the web but somewhere I think that self-censorship will come in and it will be from both the sides - content creator as well as the viewer. I, for example, haven’t yet watched ‘Aparahan’, which is said to have a lot of cusswords, as I have a eight-year-old kid at home. But I may watch it when I am all alone in the house.

**In many of your early movies such as “Sardari Begum”, for which you also won a National Award, and “Mammo” you worked with Shyam Benegal. Tell us about your experience of working with him.**

I was only 17-18 when I started working with Shyam Benegal. When at that young age you are regularly conversing with one of the most intelligent, well-read, articulate persons it rubs off on you in a way. So it becomes your world view at that point. He is a deeply opinionated man who has a point of view on everything and perhaps that’s why he can make films on so many varied topics. I think he kind of empathises with every person, every community and so he is able to tell their story and so convincingly.

Now the trouble is that once you are finished with the project you are still looking for something similar which becomes a very difficult proposition for you as an actor because such kind of work isn’t readily available. So that’s when you start making choices. You make some just to be visible while others you make because you want to do good work. Luckily, for me a lot of good films have come my way in the recent years, especially in Marathi cinema such as ‘Samhita’ and ‘Ek Sangaychay’, which released two months ago.

**It’s been a long time since your first music album. Can we expect something anytime soon? Also what all acting projects do you have in the pipeline?**

As of now I have no plans for an album but I do this play called “Gauhar” which involves a lot of singing. It will be here for the NSD Festival. Also, I have two films that are coming up. One is Aruna Raje’s ‘Firebrand’ about which I am not allowed to talk much. Then there is ‘Dombivli Return’ which is releasing on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of February.

**Back on the small screen** Rajeshwari Sachdev



**BJP observes 'Black Day'**

Delhi BJP observes the fourth anniversary of AAP government in Delhi as a 'Black Day' **Page 2**

**Red Line extension**

After approval from the CMRS, Red Line extension to Ghaziabad to begin passenger operations soon **Page 2**

**Blaze at Archies unit**

Fire breaks out at Archies greeting card factory in Naraina on Thursday. Cops say no casualties **Page 3**

**The emperor's new clothes**

As Baoshun turns one, its chief patron tells us how the food on the menu has evolved **Page 4**

**IN BRIEF****'I resigned to avoid overlapping of work'**

NEW DELHI  
Delhi Congress chief spokesperson Sharmista Mukherjee resigned from her current party post on Thursday even as she expressed willingness to contest the upcoming Lok Sabha elections. Ms. Mukherjee, the daughter of former President Pranab Mukherjee, categorically rejected rumours of her joining some other party.

**CITY ▶ PAGE 2**

Air quality of Delhi-NCR		
Delhi	340	Gurugram
Ghaziabad	348	Faridabad
Noida	331	Greater Noida
Good 0-50	Satisfactory 51-100	Moderate 101-200
Poor 201-300	Very poor 301-400	Severe >401
AIR QUALITY INDEX AT 4 P.M. YESTERDAY (AVERAGE OF PAST 24 HOURS) [SOURCE: CPCB]		

**Delhi court grants bail to Saxena in chopper case**

NEW DELHI  
A Delhi court on Thursday granted interim bail to Rajiv Saxena for seven days on medical grounds in the ₹3,600-crore AgustaWestland money laundering case. The court had on Wednesday directed the AIIMS to file a report on Mr. Saxena's medical condition.

**CITY ▶ PAGE 3**

# Cong more or less said no to alliance: Kejriwal

'There is a lot of concern in our minds for the country'

DAMINI NATH  
NEW DELHI

A day after the Congress attended a joint Opposition rally hosted by the Aam Aadmi Party – in a first – AAP national convener Arvind Kejriwal on Thursday said the Congress had "more or less" decided not to align with his party in Delhi for the Lok Sabha elections.

When asked if he was appearing eager for an alliance with the Congress, the Delhi Chief Minister said: "There is a lot of concern in our minds for the country. In the past five years, they have ruined brotherhood, taken many wrong decisions like demonetisation, lakhs of people have been rendered jobless, there is mob lynching and one after the other, institutions are being ruined. That is why we are more or less said no".



Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal addresses a press conference in New Delhi on Thursday. **AP**

more or less said no".

**Joint Opposition rally**

On Thursday night, after the joint Opposition rally at Jantar Mantar, Mr. Kejriwal and Congress president Rahul Gandhi were among the Opposition leaders who met at Nationalist Congress Party leader Sharad Pawar's residence.

Though Mr. Gandhi did not attend the rally, Congress leader Anand Sharma, represented the party at Jantar Mantar.

Since AAP was formed in 2012, emerging from the anti-corruption movement that targeted the then-Congress-led government in 2011, Wednesday's appearance by Mr. Sharma at an AAP-organised event was a first.

After meeting at Mr. Pawar's residence, Mr. Gandhi and West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee both announced the Opposition's plan to work towards a common minimum programme for the Lok Sabha elections, facing media cameras while sitting next to Mr. Kejriwal.

AAP Rajya Sabha MP Sanjay Singh, who had attended the meeting at Mr. Pawar's house, said on Thursday: "Being the largest national Opposition party, the Congress should be worried about defeating the BJP. In Uttar Pradesh, the Congress is not coming together with the Bahujan Samaj Party and the Samajwadi Party, and that will only benefit the BJP. In Delhi also, it's a similar situation."

When asked if there were any talks about sharing seats with the Congress, Delhi AAP convener Gopal Rai said: "We are preparing for all seven seats. We are open. We will have to see what decision the Congress takes".

After meeting at Mr. Pawar's residence, Mr. Gandhi and West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee both

We are preparing for all seven seats. We are open. We will have to see what decision the Congress takes

GOPAL RAI  
Delhi AAP convener

# SC judges differ but services still beyond AAP govt

Justice Sikri sees role for CM, Justice Bhushan rules out any such power with govt

STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court verdict on the power tussle between the Lieutenant-Governor and the Delhi government put to rest several of the contentious issues barring the issue of control of services in the Capital.

The two-judge Bench of Justice A.K. Sikri and Justice Ashok Bhushan agreed to the point that Entry 41 of List II of the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution, which deals with "State Public Services; State Public Service Commission", is not available to the Delhi Legislative Assembly. Justice Sikri ruled that the transfers and post-

In case of difference of opinion between the L-G and the CM, the view of the former should prevail and the Ministry of Home Affairs can issue a suitable notification in this regard

A.K. SIKRI  
Supreme Court Justice

ings of Secretaries, Head of Departments (HoDs) and other officers in the scale of Joint Secretary to the Government of India and above can be done by the Lieute-

nant-Governor and the file submitted to him directly. For other levels, including Delhi, Andaman and Nicobar Islands Civil Service (DANICS) officers, the files can be routed through the Chief Minister to Lieutenant-Governor, Justice Sikri said.

"In case of difference of opinion between the Lieutenant-Governor and the Chief Minister, the view of the former should prevail and the Ministry of Home Affairs can issue a suitable notification in this regard," Justice Sikri added.

Justice Bhushan, however, was of the opinion that since Entry 41 is not available to the Legislative Assembly of NCT of Delhi.

GNCTD, there is no occasion to exercise any Executive power with regard to "services" by the Delhi government.

Justice Bhushan also cited Balakrishnan Committee Report which opined that services in connection with the administration of the Union Territory of Delhi will be part of the services of the Union even after the setting up of a Legislative Assembly with a Council of Ministers.

He also upheld the August 2016 verdict of the Delhi High Court which said that matters connected with "services" fall outside the purview of the Legislative Assembly of NCT of Delhi.

Justice Bhushan said, "Take a decision in three days, failing which, the Vice-Chancellor shall be personally present in court on the next date." The High Court has posted the case for further hearing on February 26.

The university, represented by the Centre's Standing Counsel Monika Arora, assured the court that a decision would be taken within the fixed time.

The court's order came on a plea by Dean of School of Arts and Aesthetics at JNU, Kavita Singh, who was yet to be granted leave by the university to travel abroad for a fellowship programme.

In her plea, Ms. Singh has

sought a direction to the university to consider her application for extraordinary leave from April 6 to July 22 and earned leave from July 23 to July 26.

On February 8, the High Court had directed the university to consider Ms. Singh's leave application within five days.

However, on Thursday, it was informed that no decision was taken on the matter yet and the application would be put up before the JNU Executive Council for consideration on Friday.

In her plea, Ms. Singh has

# Women commission seeks report on mass failure of MBBS students

31 final-year students failed paper at Sonipat college

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
GURUGRAM

The Haryana State Commission for Women has sought a detailed report into the mass failure of MBBS (final year) students of Bhagat Phool Singh Medical College for Women in Sonipat.

Thirty-one students of the college had failed in the subject of Internal Medicine in December last.

The aggrieved students and their representatives, including parents and guardians, had approached the commission on February 5 on this matter.

Most of these students are academically brilliant and never had to repeat any exam during their entire course.

The institute had shot into fame when one of its alumni Manushi Chhillar had won the coveted Miss World-2017 title.

Following the complaints,

the commission wrote to Vice-Chancellor Pandit Bhagat Dayal Sharma, Post-Graduate Institute of Medical Sciences (Rohtak) O.P. Kalra, seeking constitution of a committee to conduct a probe into the matter.

"Because of this poor and dreadful result, many students have gone under depression. They have developed negative tendencies considering the bleakness of their future aspects within this medical college," read the letter.

The commission had sought a report in the matter within five working days in view of the supplementary exam likely to be held by the end of this month but the report was not received till Thursday afternoon.

The commission's chairperson Pratibha Suman told *The Hindu* that they would write to the V-C's office if the report was not received till

evening. Ms. Suman also said several students in the case had alleged harassment by the faculty in the wake of the complaint to the Commission.

The college authorities claimed that they had given all details in this regard to the V-C's office.

The commission, in its eight-page letter, also talked about the alleged indirect pressure on the students and "apparent and rampant" discrimination against them "in the form of caste and creed".

The commission suggested that the supplementary exam be held under the guidance and directions of the Vice-Chancellor and confidence-building measures be taken since the students and their juniors were depressed. It also recommended holding of gender sensitisation programmes, among other things.

In her plea, Ms. Singh has

# Decide on Prof's leave in 3 days, HC tells JNU

Court to summon V-C otherwise

STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court on Thursday asked Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) to take a decision on the leave application of one of its professors within three days.

Justice Suresh Kait said, "Take a decision in three days, failing which, the Vice-Chancellor shall be personally present in court on the next date." The High Court has posted the case for further hearing on February 26.

The university, represented by the Centre's Standing Counsel Monika Arora, assured the court that a decision would be taken within the fixed time.

The court's order came on a plea by Dean of School of Arts and Aesthetics at JNU, Kavita Singh, who was yet to be granted leave by the university to travel abroad for a fellowship programme.

In her plea, Ms. Singh has

# Hotel fire: cops go hi-tech to preserve evidence

Use 3D laser scanning technology for the first time to collect critical proof

SAURABH TRIVEDI  
NEW DELHI

The Delhi police for the first time used 3D laser scanning technology to record and preserve evidence in Karol Bagh hotel fire incident that claimed the lives of 17 people, an officer said on Thursday.

This technology will overcome the possibility of missing critical evidence or getting a measurement wrong, the police said.

"For the first time, we are using 3D laser imaging to record evidence in the case. It will also help to preserve evidence that might decay or fade away due to rain or any other reason. The device rotates 360 degrees on the horizontal axis while scanning

It will also help to preserve evidence that might decay or fade away due to rain or any other reason. The device rotates 360 degrees on the horizontal axis while scanning the crime scene

RAJESH DEO  
DCP (Crime)



Hotel Arpit Palace, where a massive fire broke out on Tuesday morning killing 17 people, in Karol Bagh. **► SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT**

the crime scene," said Deputy Commissioner of Police (Crime) Rajesh Deo.

He said a team of Crime Branch, along with the two arrested in the case – general

manager Rajender Kumar and receptionist Vikas Kumar Takkar – visited the hotel, Arpit Palace, in Karol Bagh and seized DVRs and guest register from the

premises.

The police said a team inspected the hotel from outside and clicked photographs that would be fed into the 3D imaging software, which will recreate the shape and size of the building.

It will help to identify the spot from where the fire originated in the hotel on Tuesday.

**Create crime scene**  
"We tried to create the crime scene with the help of arrested persons. They helped us identify the place from where the fire started. It is a five-storey building that needs a thorough inspection. It also requires several visits to finish the evidence collection process," said Mr. Deo.

The officer added that they have also issued a lookout circular against the two owners – Rakesh Goel and Sharbendu Goel – in whose name the licence has been issued. They are on the run and their mobiles are switched off, the police said.

Their houses are locked and even the family members have left for some undisclosed location, they added.

**SEE ALSO ▶ PAGE 3**

# Delhi power tussle: difference of opinion stems from a Constitution Bench verdict

Matter will now be examined by a three-judge Bench

KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL  
NEW DELHI

Justice Ashok Bhushan's difference of opinion with Justice A.K. Sikri on the crucial point of who controls the services in the Capital is inspired by a recent judgment of a Constitution Bench headed by Chief Justice of India Ranjan Gogoi.

This is significant as the difference of opinion between the two judges will now be examined by a three-judge Bench.

The Constitution Bench judgment in Union Territory of Delhi in Bir Singh versus Delhi Jal Board, delivered on August 30 last year, had held that "services in the National Capital Territory are clearly Central Civil Services".

The Bir Singh judgment was authored by Chief Justice Gogoi. It was pronounced over a month after another Constitution Bench

Justice Bhushan opined that the term "services" means the Union Public Services Commission and not State Services/Commission.

The judge held that the executive power of the Delhi government in relation to "services" extends only to matters with respect to which the Legislative Assembly has power to make laws. The Entry 41 of List II (State Public Services/Commission) of the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution is not available to the Legislative Assembly of GNCTD.

## IN BRIEF



Lamp lighting ceremony held at city hospital

NEW DELHI  
School of Nursing, Sir Ganga Ram Hospital (SGRH), on Thursday held the 63rd Lamp Lighting Ceremony on the hospital campus. This ceremony formally declares entry of student nurses who have passed out from School of Nursing, SGRH, into nursing profession. MP Meenakshi Lekhi, the chief guest, distributed prizes to students. This year, 37 students have graduated and 40 students have joined.

STAFF REPORTER

## Parks, road named after freedom fighters

NEW DELHI  
Two parks and a road in Patel Nagar were named after freedom fighters by the North Delhi Mayor on Thursday. The parks were named Rani Lakshmi Bai Mahila Park and Amar Shaheed Chandra Shekhar Azad Park, while a stretch near Delhi Milk Services plant in Patel Nagar was named Lal Chand Panwar Marg.

STAFF REPORTER

## Scheme for property owners to be extended

NEW DELHI  
The amnesty scheme for property owners in unauthorised colonies and rural areas in East Delhi Municipal Corporation will be extended till March 31, a resolution passed on Thursday stated. Under the scheme, property owners in these areas will be allowed to pay their dues on a self-declaration basis. The scheme was to expire on February 15. The resolution states that the extension is required as a lot of people still do not know about the scheme.

STAFF REPORTER

## 800 vehicles impounded in Noida, Greater Noida

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Nearly 800 vehicles, including 741 autorickshaws, allegedly plying in violation of rules were impounded under a concerted action against them in Gautam Buddh Nagar on Thursday, the police said.

The drive – "Operation Checkmate" – was launched at 1.30 p.m. and continued till 5 p.m., during which 741 autorickshaws, 21 cars, 10 e-rickshaws, 18 motorcycles, and five buses were impounded in Noida and Greater Noida, they said.

Also, 1,867 e-challans and 357 normal challans were issued to drivers of vehicles found flouting traffic rules, without requiring documents of the vehicle, or with tampered number plates, an official said.

"The operation was launched to curb plying of illegal vehicles to further check crime," SSP Vaibhav Krishna said.

## Capital hosts The Hindu Young World Quiz

34 schools participate in the 19th edition of the event; 200 teams take part in preliminary round

STAFF REPORTER

NEW DELHI  
The 19th edition of The Hindu Young World Quiz, was held on Thursday with over 400 students participating in the event.

The event, powered by Eveready, saw students from 34 schools participate. In the preliminary round, 200 teams took part.

While the teams comprised two members each, the quiz was conducted in two categories – junior and senior.

Students from Classes IV to VI were eligible to participate in the junior category. Aryan Deswal and Deep Singh from Army Public School, Noida, bagged the first prize in the category,

## CM makes Delhi Statehood promise, BJP terms it another gimmick

AAP government has suffered for four years due to lack of power: Kejriwal

JATIN ANAND  
DAMINI NATH  
NEW DELHI

Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Thursday appealed to the people of Delhi to elect AAP MPs on all seven seats of Delhi in the upcoming Lok Sabha elections, so that they can push for granting full Statehood to Delhi.

Speaking at a press conference at his residence, Mr. Kejriwal said that the Supreme Court's two-judge Bench's decision on Thursday to refer the matter of who controls services – the elected government or the Lieutenant-Governor (L-G) – to a three-judge Bench was unfortunate. He said it was difficult for the elected government to function without having the power to transfer officers.

"There is one solution. The people of Delhi hold the key... I am appealing to the people of Delhi not to vote to elect a Prime Minister in the Lok Sabha elections. Vote for AAP on all seven seats and we will force whoever forms

This is just another way for the government to try and remain relevant

VIJENDER GUPTA  
Leader of Opposition in Delhi Legislative Assembly

the government at the Centre to grant Delhi full Statehood," Mr. Kejriwal said.

He also said that AAP government had suffered during the past four years due to the lack of power.

"The Chief Minister and other Ministers had to sit on a dharna for 10 days inside the L-G's house to get a file cleared. If we have to sit on dharna for every file, how will the government function?" he said.

When asked about former Chief Minister Sheila Dikshit's comment that Delhi did not have unlimited powers under the Constitution, Mr. Kejriwal said he appealed to her not to make such statements.

"We do not even have 10%

of the powers that her government had... However, in the past four years, we have done more than her government did in 15 years," he said.

Meanwhile, the BJP hit out at Mr. Kejriwal over the promise of Statehood. Union Minister and former Delhi BJP chief Vijay Goel argued that AAP seemed confused and was doing a disservice to the cause of Statehood.

"His negative politics of slinging mud against the Centre for not being able to govern and blaming it for his own mistakes, as well as the anarchic nature of his first term in office, have shown other political parties the danger of conferring full Statehood on the Capital," Mr. Goel argued.

"There is not a single registered political party, which will throw its weight behind the demand for full Statehood for Delhi because AAP has shown that parties like it can wreak immense havoc to the democratic framework of the country if given

charge of a full State," he alleged further.

Delhi BJP chief and BJP MP from North-East Delhi, Manoj Tiwari, questioned the intentions behind Mr. Kejriwal's demand.

"What has Mr. Kejriwal been able to achieve with the rights and authority that he already has? Someone demanding Statehood for Delhi, for instance, has not given go-ahead for prosecution sanction in a case relating to sedition, which is an offence against the State," said Mr. Tiwari.

Leader of Opposition in the Delhi Legislative Assembly Vijender Gupta alleged that the Chief Minister and AAP were attempting to save face by resurrecting the issue of Statehood for Delhi.

"This is just another way for a government, which has failed to deliver any governance throughout its term in office, to try and remain relevant; another gimmick like the promises made by AAP in its 70-point manifesto," Mr. Gupta argued.

## I resigned to avoid overlapping of work'

Sharmistha Mukherjee steps down

STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI

Delhi Congress chief spokesperson Sharmistha Mukherjee resigned from her current party post on Thursday even as she expressed willingness to contest the upcoming Lok Sabha elections.

Ms. Mukherjee, the daughter of former President Pranab Mukherjee, categorically rejected rumours of her joining some other party.

"My resignation is perfectly normal. There were similar rumours a few months ago and I just want to say, as I did last time, that I would rather quit politics than resign from Congress," Ms. Mukherjee said.

"A new committee has taken over, so I have resigned to avoid any kind of overlapping of responsibility and work," she said, adding that she also currently held the post of Delhi Mahila Congress president.

Ms. Mukherjee said nothing should be read between the lines, adding that she had "very good relations" with present Delhi Congress chief Sheila Dikshit, to whom she tendered her resignation.



Sharmistha Mukherjee

In an affidavit, UIDAI Deputy Director Ramesh Kumar said, "There are multiple layers of security at physical level in the UIDAI data centres and is being managed by armed CISF personnel round the clock".

The UIDAI's response came on a petition of Kerala-based lawyer Shammad Basheer alleging there were several breaches of the Aadhaar system leading to leakage of personal information of individuals. The UIDAI refuted his allegation.

## Aadhaar leak 'impossible', says UIDAI

SOIBAM ROCKY SINGH  
NEW DELHI

The UIDAI on Thursday told the Delhi High Court that media reports of Aadhaar data breach were "misleading", adding that it was "impossible" to crack its encryption technology.

The UIDAI, which collects a person's photograph, fingerprints and iris scans before he or she is issued a 12-digit unique identification number, has consistently denied several reports of alleged leakage of Aadhaar data.

In an affidavit, UIDAI Deputy Director Ramesh Kumar said, "There are multiple layers of security at physical level in the UIDAI data centres and is being managed by armed CISF personnel round the clock".

The Delhi Mahila Congress president said each seat was "extremely important" and many factors were involved in selecting the candidates. If the party gives ticket to someone other than her, Ms. Mukherjee said, she would continue to work "100%" for the official candidate.

## BJP observes 'Black Day' as AAP govt completes 4 years

'AAP failed to keep promises made before coming to power'

STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI



People take part in a dharna organised by the BJP at Parliament Street in New Delhi on Thursday. • PRADEEP KUMAR

pees for publicity and claims that he has made revolutionary changes... The reality, however, is quite different... He had promised to open 500 new schools and 20 new colleges, but even after four years, no school or college has been opened," he said.

"Before the elections Mr. Kejriwal had made 70 promises to the people of Delhi and after the completion of four years, not a single promise seems to have been fulfilled," Mr. Tiwari alleged.

"Education and health are two subjects on which Mr. Kejriwal spends crores of ru-

pees for publicity and claims that he has made revolutionary changes... The reality, however, is quite different... He had promised to open 500 new schools and 20 new colleges, but even after four years, no school or college has been opened," he argued.

"There are no ventilators in 62 hospitals in Delhi. During the tenure of the [AAP] government, starvations deaths have brought us shame," he argued.

Union Minister Vijay Goel said that except victory in one election, Mr. Kejriwal's party could not secure more votes than NOTA. "The people of the country have learnt lesson from the results in Delhi," he said.

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## IN BRIEF



## Foreigner held with 2 passports at airport

NEW DELHI A foreigner was nabbed by the CISF at the Delhi airport for allegedly possessing two passports in violation of rules, officials said on Thursday. The man, identified as M.B. Esmati, was intercepted on Wednesday night at the IGI airport after his activities were found to be suspicious and two passports of the United Kingdom and Afghanistan were recovered from him, a senior officer said. PTI

## Two held for killing history-sheeter

NEW DELHI Two criminals identified as Bhim alias Vishal alias Rahul (30), and Sohail Ahmed (30), have been arrested for allegedly killing Deepak, a history-sheeter of Nangloj, on February 7 in the presence of his wife. The police said that the two sides had previous rivalry and on the day of the incident, they had a heated argument after which the two accused allegedly stabbed him to death. The police said that Bhim has 12 cases registered against him while Sohail has three cases registered against him. STAFF REPORTER

## Man held with pistol at metro station

NEW DELHI A 23-year-old man was held at a Delhi metro station for allegedly carrying a country-made pistol in his bag, the officials said on Thursday. Rahul K. (23), a resident of Amroha in UP, was caught at the New Anand Vihar metro station after the X-ray baggage scanner detected the weapon in his bag. PTI

## Six employees of private firm robbed

GREATER NOIDA The management of Advant Company has written a letter to the SSP alleging that six employees of the firm were robbed at gunpoint in broad daylight on Monday at Sector 142. They have demanded increased patrolling and setting up of a police chowki in the region. STAFF REPORTER

## Cabbie held for 'raping' passenger

STAFF REPORTER GREATER NOIDA Police on Thursday arrested a cab driver for allegedly raping a 26-year-old woman during a ride to her home on the night of February 5.

The accused was identified as Aarav Yadav, a resident of Greater Noida. He was allegedly driving a vehicle, registered in the name of another man named Jigninder.

The victim had booked a cab using Uber application from a residential society in Greater Noida. According to the complainant, she boarded the cab at around 10:30 p.m. from her home at Bisrakhi. She wrote in her complaint that the cab driver allegedly turned the vehicle into the bushes where he raped her. Later he dropped her home after snatching ₹1,000 from her.

## DELHI TODAY

Talk: Helen Hobbs on "Genetic Disorders of Dietary Excess: Getting to the Heart of the Matter"; at AICTE Auditorium, JNU Campus, 4.30 p.m.

Talk: Viraj Lecture Series: "Freedom of Expression" by H. K. Dua, senior journalist at Gulmohar Hall, India Habitat Centre (IHC), 7 p.m.

Exhibition: 'Displace', a group show portraying Bangladesh through the lenses and artworks of photographer and artists at Exhibition Gallery, Korean Cultural Centre, A-25, Lajpat Nagar IV, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Exhibition: "Between the Lines", a solo painting exhibition of Khalil Chishti at Visual Arts Gallery, India Habitat Centre (IHC), 11 a.m. - 7 p.m.

Exhibition: "Fabulous", a solo show of paintings by Mahesh Kumar at Roop Chand Institute of Fine Art (RCIFA), 23, Central Market, Ashok Vihar, Phase-I, 11 a.m. - 7 p.m.

(Mail your listings for this column at cityeditor@thehindu.co.in)

# Safety check at hotels shows poor upkeep

Most hotels do not maintain fire safety equipment: officials

STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI

The Delhi Fire Service (DFS) teams on the first day of hotel inspection found that most of the hotels do not maintain fire safety equipment, said an officer on Thursday.

Six teams of DFS have visited more than 20 hotels in Karol Bagh for inspection of fire safety measures. During the inspection it was found that the fire exits of the buildings were blocked or found locked.

"Fire extinguisher cylinders, fire alarm and sprinklers were not found functioning in most of the hotels. We have given them two weeks to fix the issues before the next inspection. In case the hotels fail to fix the fire safety equipment as per the guidelines, No Objection Certificate (NOC) will be terminated," said a senior officer with the fire department.

## To inspect 380 hotels

On Wednesday, DFS Chief Fire Officer Atul Garg said that they have formed six teams for inspection of 380 hotels in and around Karol Bagh.

As per the rule, guest houses upto 15 meters do not require NOC from the fire department.

The DFS officer said that they can only conduct inspections if there are any specific complaint against any premises that falls under the category which requires an NOC from the DFS. In case of any violation of NOC guidelines, the violators are given time upto 180 days to fix the issues, he added.



Six teams have been formed for inspection of hotels in and around Karol Bagh. ■ FILE PHOTO: SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

## NHRC notice to Delhi govt, police, civic body

Rights panel seeks reports in 6 weeks

STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI

Stating that it looked like the authorities had not learnt any lessons from recent tragedies, the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) on Thursday issued notices to the Delhi government, the Delhi police and the North Delhi Municipal Corporation over Tuesday's fire at a Karol Bagh hotel.

Seventeen people were killed and three injured when a fire broke out at Hotel Arpit Palace in Karol Bagh early on Tuesday morning. Later, it emerged that there was unauthorised construction at the site and several other irregularities, including fire safety violations.

Taking suo motu cognizance of media reports, the NHRC issued notices to the Delhi government Chief Sec-

retary, Delhi Police Commissioner and North Corporation Commissioner, seeking detailed reports in six weeks.

## Form expert panel

The Chief Secretary was also asked to form a committee of experts to look into violation of norms by hotels, shops and others carrying out commercial activity in residential areas.

"The Commission is of the opinion that it seems the authorities have not learnt any lessons from the tragic incidents occurred in the recent past... This painful incident could have been avoided if the hotel management and the authorities concerned would have acted sincerely. This is indeed a very serious case of violation of human rights," an NHRC statement said.

## 1 held for supplying illegal firearms

107 pistols seized following his arrest, claim police

STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI

A 30-year-old man has been arrested for allegedly supplying illegal firearms. The police claim to have recovered 107 pistols following his arrest, they said on Thursday.

Deputy Commissioner of Police (Special Cell) Pramod Singh Kushwah said that the accused has been identified as Ramzan, a resident of Uttar Pradesh's Mathura. "On Wednesday, an information was received that Ramzan would come to deliver a consignment near DND flyway. A trap was laid and he was apprehended. A total of 10 illegal pistols was recovered from his possession," Mr. Kushwah said.

During interrogation, he allegedly told the police that he had to deliver the consignment to a resident of Meerut and had procured it



The accused, Ramzan, in police custody in the Capital. ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

from Madhya Pradesh's Barwani.

"On his instance, a car containing 97 semi-automatic pistols – which were to be supplied in Mewat – was seized from Mehrauli-Badarpur road," he said.

Police said that they have

identified the network which is supplying firearms. "The source of the pistol is a manufacturer in MP and the receivers are in Mathura who further supply the weapons to criminals of Haryana and western UP," Mr. Kushwah said.

## Man dies after assault by neighbour

STAFF REPORTER  
NOIDA

A 26-year-old man succumbed to his injuries on Thursday morning at a private hospital in Noida, two days after he was assaulted by a neighbour in a drunken rage. However, the kin of the deceased alleged that the

victim Mazroob Nawab was a police informer and that was the reason behind the murder.

On the evening of February 12, Mazroob was allegedly assaulted by a man named Salman at JJ colony in Sector 9. He was rushed to a local hospital and later to Safdar-

jung Hospital where he succumbed to injuries around 12:30 a.m. on Thursday, the police said.

The accused Salman lives in shanties in Sector 9 where the deceased also lived with his brother Saddam. Both of them were daily wage labourers, said the police.

## Sterling directors move court for cancelling NBW

Court directs counsel to furnish address of accused to ED within 15 days

NIRNIMESH KUMAR  
NEW DELHI

Three of the Sterling Biotech Ltd. (SBL) promoters on Thursday moved a Delhi court seeking cancellation of non-bailable warrants (NBW) against them in the ₹8,100 crore bank fraud case.

## Listed it for April 2

Nitin Jayantilal Sandesara, Chetankumar Jayantilal Sandesara and Dipti Chetan Sandesara filed applications in the court of Additional Sessions Judge Satish Kumar Aurora seeking the cancellation

proceedings against four SBL promoters, including, Hiteshkumar Narendrababai Patel. Another SBL promoter Hemant Hathi appeared in the court on summons and moved a bail application.

The court granted bail to him on furnishing a personal bond of ₹1 lakh with one surety of a like amount.

## 190 charged

So far, the agency has chargedheeted over 190 accused, including seven individuals and over 180 companies.

The court had on January 21 allowed the agency to go ahead with the extradition

## Fire breaks out at Archies factory in Naraina

Blaze contained in over 5 hours, no casualty reported as staffers were not present

STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI

On Valentine's Day, a major fire was reported at Archies greeting card factory in Naraina industrial area in west Delhi on Thursday. No casualties have been reported as the incident happened in the early hours of the day.

A medium category fire was reported in Naraina industrial area, Phase I, due to short circuit on the first floor. The security guards of the building attempted to douse the flame for an hour before informing the fire department about the situation. The fire broke out around 6 a.m.

## Wind plays spoilsport

"We almost got control of the fire but the fire extinguisher cylinders got empty and it started spreading due to heavy winds. We informed the fire department and the police about the incident," said a security guard of the building, who wished not to be named.

According to the fire department, the blaze spread rapidly to the ground and



Fire personnel dousing the fire that broke out at the Archies factory in Naraina on Thursday. ■ R.V. MOORTHY

other two floors of the building. Initially 20 fire engines were rushed to the spot. Fortunately, the incident was reported during the early morning hours and except security guards no other staff were present in the building.

"The factory manager

who was in the building on night shift informed that a telephone switchboard caught fire and the flames spread to other parts of the multi-storey building. The premises is used by Archies for manufacturing cards and other gifts," said a fire officer.

The fire was doused by

11.30 a.m. after four hours of firefighting. The cooling operation ended by evening. "Around 30 fire engines were pressed into service to douse the fire. The fire was of medium category and it was contained after four hours of effort," said Chief Fire Officer Atul Garg.

## 6 booked for duping man of ₹34 lakh

STAFF REPORTER  
GREATER NOIDA

Dadri police have booked six persons for allegedly duping a Jaipur-based businessman of over ₹34 lakh in the Bike Bot scam in Greater Noida in 2018.

According to the police, an FIR was registered against Sanjay Bhati, the alleged owner of the Bike Bot company along with its five directors named Rajesh Bharadwaj, Sunil Kumar Prajapati, Deepit Behl, Sachin Bhati, and Karan Pal Singh after a Jaipur-based businessman alleged the directors of duping him in the name of bike taxi service.

"We received information that the accused and his company allegedly took ₹34 lakh from the victim in the name of investing in the venture and promised high interests. As the company failed to credit the returns on time, the victim lodged a complaint with the police," said Station House Officer at Dadri, Ram Sen Singh.

The victim Sunil Meena, a native of Jagatpura in Jaipur alleged that the company offered him its franchise at ₹34 lakh, "I was told that I will be the CEO of the Bike Bot franchise in Jaipur where they promised to bring 51 bike taxis. I signed an agreement in January 16 when they found Animesh standing with his friends. They shot him from point-blank range," Mr. Alphonse said. The police said Ravi dropped out of the school after Class XI and joined Naveen Khatti gang; he extorted money on his behalf as well. The accused was arrested in 2016 by Special Cell in an attempt to murder case and also in 2017 for firing at a police party.

Delhi court grants bail to Saxena in chopper case

## Seeks his detailed report from AIIMS

NIRNIMESH KUMAR  
NEW DELHI

A Delhi court on Thursday granted interim bail to Rajiv Saxena for seven days on medical grounds in the ₹3,600-crore AgustaWestland money laundering case.

On Wednesday, Counsel for the Directorate submitted that it was not opposing Mr. Saxena's bail plea due to his medical condition and the fact that he was cooperating in the probe.

Granting bail to him on furnishing two sureties of ₹5 lakh each, Special Judge Arvind Kumar asked the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) to file a detailed medical report on Mr. Saxena's health and posted the matter for hearing on February 22. The court had on Wednesday directed the AIIMS to file a report on Mr. Saxena's medical condition.

The Enforcement Directorate said the medical re-

port submitted by the AIIMS was not a detailed one. The probe agency did not oppose his bail application.

On Wednesday, Counsel for the Directorate submitted that it was not opposing Mr. Saxena's bail plea due to his medical condition and the fact that he was cooperating in the probe.

Mr. Saxena sought bail on medical grounds submitting that he was suffering from heart disease and advanced stage leukaemia.

When all the other accused in the case, including Gautam Khatan, Ritu Khatan, S.P. Tyagi, and others were out on bail, there could be no justification to deny him bail, he further submitted.

"Based on the complaint and the circumstantial evidences, the six accused have been booked under various Sections of the Indian Penal Code. Arrest will be made soon," said the SHO.

## Land acquisition for Jewar airport to begin on February 21

Paperwork completed; landowners to be compensated

STAFF REPORTER  
NOIDA

The district administration is likely to start land acquisition for Jewar International Airport from February 21. The administration has completed almost all paperwork and compensation will be awarded from next Thursday.

The investigative agency has alleged that the group companies had taken loans of over ₹5,000 crore from a consortium led by Andhra Bank, which later turned into non-performing assets.

The ED is probing money laundering angle in the case.

does not want to leave any stone unturned before the PM's visit, it plans to slap the Gangster Act on colonisers, who had grabbed notified land for Jewar Airport project. The District Magistrate has written a letter to Yama-na Authority CEO to identify such land grabbers and register FIRs against them.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi is likely to reach Greater Noida this month end to lay foundation of the airport. As the administration

has issued a notification for the acquisition of land for the greenfield project. The district administration had on October 17, 2018, completed the proceedings at its level and sent a proposal to the government for the acquisition of 1,239 hectare of land from six villages in Jewar. "We are holding meetings with the farmers and realty players to make this dream come true," said District Magistrate Gautam Buddha Nagar B.N. Singh.

B.N. Singh

B.N. Singh

## 4 SHOWCASE

SUNALINI MATHEW

When Andrew Wong was invited to The Oberoi, New Delhi as mentor chef, he literally transported his Michelin-starred A. Wong from London to India's capital. Four months into 2018 he realised, "You can never pick up a restaurant from London and drop it into another international city and not have cultural sensitivity."

### Keeping the audience engaged

It wasn't just about avoiding beef, but also about the smaller things: the way the menu is formatted, for instance. "In London, we do 18 courses, so it takes about four hours to go through. In Delhi, people don't really want to eat for four hours, so we have to design or structure the menu accordingly." Then there's the level of spice. "In London, the flavour profile can be authentic, but sometimes the chilli levels, or the level of umami, needs to be tweaked a little bit, according to the local palate," says Wong.

This doesn't mean Delhi is further off from the Chinese mainland. In fact, the Sichuanese Aubergine is probably closer to what it is in Sichuan, "because in London we increase the sugar and slightly reduce the spice level. Indian sugar is sweeter than sugar that we get in London. So when we came over and made these recipes, a lot of them ended up being incredibly sweet. We toned down the quantity, and slightly upped the acidity." The idea is to expand people's repertoire of what they eat when they go to a Chinese restaurant – something that can be done only if they trust the menu.

Wong is open to these tweaks because he's not a purist, following recipes exactly how they 'should be', because food, he says, is meant to travel, imbibe what it encounters, and evolve. "I don't dislike Indian Chinese. I think it's magical that our culture comes to India and evolves in a small amount of time and it is embraced by the local culture," he says. It's as authentic as authentic can be.

### Interdisciplinary alliances

Working with an anthropologist for two years now has made all the difference, because food is then seen in a cultural context, rather than from a position of



# The emperor's new clothes

As Baoshuan at The Oberoi New Delhi turns one, its chief patron tells us how the food on the menu has evolved to take into account local tastes, cultural sensibilities, and nuanced flavour profiles

them versus us. It's probably the reason he acknowledges vegetarianism in India, not treating them as second-class diners, instead, digging into Chinese cuisine to find recipes – monk food, for instance, that's vegetarian. In fact, the Baoshuan menu is far more diverse in terms of vegetarian dishes when compared to what he has in London. It's not a one-way street though. Wong has taken elements of India to his

London restaurant. "Papads were designed to be dimsums! Those belong in China. In London, we fill them up with a very traditional Sichuanese dish, coated with a peanut essence. It's a one-mouthful biteful and it's massively popular."

Texts from the archives serve as inspiration and are for information. "We take that and translate it," he says. "My own personal style is to make it

### WHAT'S THAT RED FILM?

A thin red layer of oil on top of Szechuan food that people think of as unhealthy, actually displays the skill of the chef, says Wong. The oil from fermented chilli paste is coaxed out in the cooking process, so you're not going to find it in a bowl that's been hurriedly cooked. Brown or clear oil is a sign of quick cooking.

(food) a little bit lighter, a little more fun." So the Emperor's Soup, is made from traditional Chinese chicken stock. There are up to 40 spices and aromatics (fennel seeds, star anise, liquorice, cassia bark, angelica roots, bay leaf,



**Handle with care:** Andrew Wong at work

\* BY ARRANGEMENT

cinnamon, black pepper, Szechuan pepper, dried herbs, dates) added to about four litres of water, and a whole chicken is dunked in. The water is boiled down to as little as half a litre. Dried morels, goji berries, shimeji, Chinese pak choi, and mushrooms, are added to the rich broth, that's just right for the winter.

Traditional Chinese cuisine used cornflour, but as people look at eating lighter, Wong finds that if he must avoid it, he needs to invest more in flavours to



### A ROUGH GUIDE TO EATING IN CHINA...

\* In Taiwan's Din Tai Fung or Shanghai, try the soup (pork) dumplings (Xiao Long Bao)

\* In Hong Kong, dimsums or roast meats (soya chicken, crispy pork belly, roast suckling pork)

\* In Beijing, the Peking duck

\* In Lanzhou, hand-pulled noodles that are elastic and soft, great to watch the making of, and to eat

\* In Sichuan, the hot pot with spicy broth made from chilli and Sichuan peppercorns that a group dunks their ingredients into

\* Xinjiang, the Islamic part, the curried goat with Ottoman spices with naan

\* In Yunnan, glutinous rice cooked in bamboo with aromatics; food cooked in bamboo or banana leaves with garlic, coriander, lime; Yak cheese

give the food body. "I don't want our guests to feel tired after a meal. You should be able to continue the day feeling invigorated," he says.

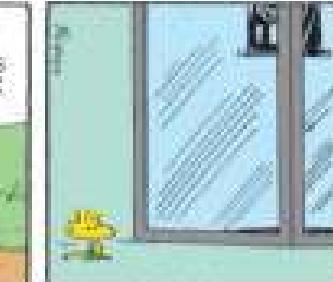
The brief though, is simple: "The menu, whether at A. Wong or Baoshuan, is about celebrating China as a very large country." As people begin to see it as a receptive culture – they took in Buddhism, chillies, tempura – that has international borders with 14 countries, menus will only evolve and go deeper.

(Dim sum lunches are priced at ₹2,500 and ₹2,900 that includes a house beverage, excluding taxes)

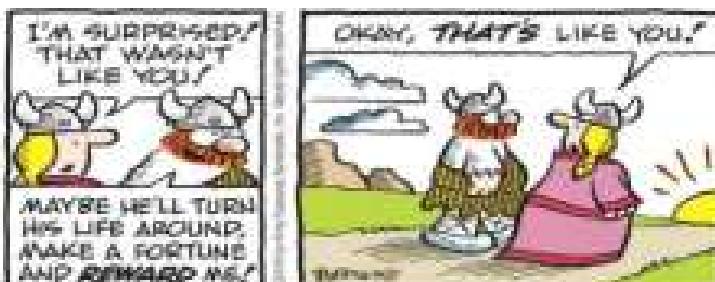
### POOCH CAFE



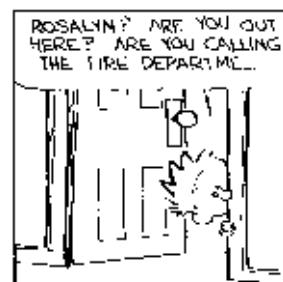
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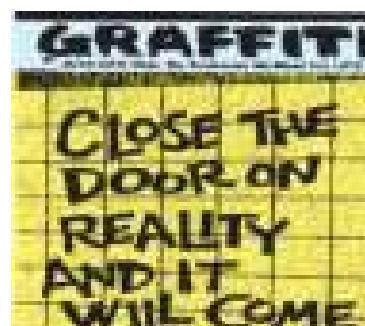
### HAGAR THE HORRIBLE



### CALVIN AND HOBBES



### TIGER



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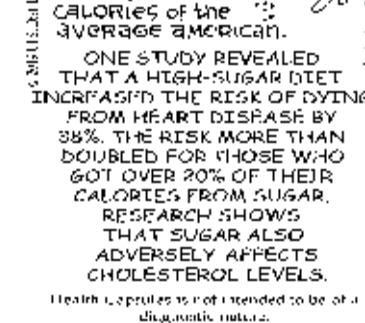
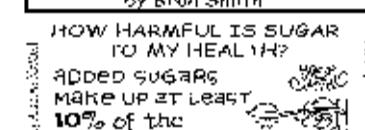
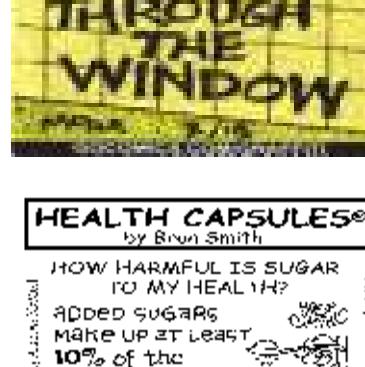
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7 Little stream (4)  
11 German shepherd (8)  
13 Skipper (7)  
14 Type of rice (7)  
16 Lure (5)  
17 Preliminary period (3-2)  
18 Old torture instrument (4)

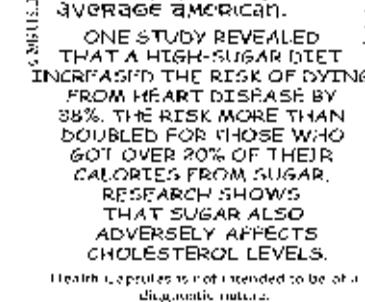
Solution will appear in Delhi Metro dated February 16, 2019.

Solution No. 12993

### WUMO



### PEARLS BEFORE SWINE



- ACROSS
- 1 Pure guess (4,2,3,4)
- 8 Peak (4)
- 9 Unexpected fortune (8)
- 10 Author of The Pilgrim's Progress (4,6)
- 12 Spiteful (6)
- 14 Combat (6)
- 15 Dull – walker (10)
- 19 Don Quixote's

region of Spain (2,6)

20 Finger feature (and tooth?) (4)

21 Swimming in one's birthday suit (6-7)

■ Down

2 Trance-inducing (8)

3 Poison (5)

4 North Cornish seaside resort (7)

5 Useful (5)

6 Extinct (7)

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