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- Mock Interview by Eminent Civil Servants
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- One to One Discussion with the experts
- Video Recording of the Mock Interview

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Interview Locations: Delhi, Bangalore, Chennai & Hyderabad

Mock INTERVIEW Programme
January 10th Onwards

For Registration Call
9241333666

NEARBY



92 heinous crimes in first week of 2019 in Capital

NEW DELHI
Ninety-two cases of heinous crimes, including 11 murders and 22 rape incidents, have been reported in the first week of January in the Capital, Delhi Police data show.

DELHI METRO ▶ PAGE 1

PRELIMS 2019
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DIARY OF EVENTS 2018
'Diary of Events 2018', a special annual supplement listing important regional, national, international and sports field news developments during the year, will be published and distributed with The Hindu on Thursday, January 10, 2019.

OPPORTUNITIES ▶ PAGE 2
DELHI METRO ▶ 6 PAGES

SC reinstates Alok Verma as CBI Director, but clips his wings

Court asks the PM-led panel to consider the question of his divestment in a week

KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL

NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Tuesday "reinstated" exiled CBI Director Alok Verma, but ordered him to "cease and desist" from taking any major policy decisions till a high-power committee led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi decides the question of his divestment in a week.

Now, with just a few days left before the end of his tenure as CBI Director, Mr. Verma's fate hinges on the decision of this committee comprising Mr. Modi, Chief Justice of India Ranjan Gogoi and Congress MP Mallikarjun Kharge, as Leader of the Opposition.

Asthana's complaint
Their call would be based on the allegations levelled against him in a complaint filed by rival CBI officer R.K. Asthana. The complainant had led to a Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) inquiry and his divestment from office. The court itself has not commented on the merits of these allegations.

Key instructions

ON VERMA'S ROLE

* CBI Director should desist from taking any major policy decisions till a committee takes a call on his divestment

* His role is confined to the "exercise of the ongoing routine functions without any fresh initiative, having no major policy implications"

ON DIVESTMENT OF POWER

* The panel, comprising the PM, the CJI and the Leader of the Opposition, have to decide on divestment of power of CBI chief in a week

The clear legislative intent is to ensure complete insulation of the office of CBI Director from all kinds of extraneous influences - SC BENCH

The judgment, delivered by a three-judge Bench led by Chief Justice Gogoi, however concluded that the CVC and the government acted outside their authority to unilaterally divest Mr. Verma and appoint M. Nageshwar Rao as the interim CBI Director in back-to-back decisions taken overnight on October 23 last year. The court set aside both orders.

The judgment was written by Chief Justice Gogoi, who

was on leave. The puisne judges on the Bench, Justices S.K. Kaul and K.M. Joseph, presided over the pronouncement of judgment in open court. Justice Kaul read out excerpts.

Only routine works
Thus the court, though placing Mr. Verma back on the saddle, has effectively clipped his wings. His authority as CBI Director would be confined to "ongoing rou-

Verma's return likely today

CBI Director Alok Verma is likely to resume charge on Wednesday after the Supreme Court set aside the "overnight" stripping of his powers. Union Finance Minister Arun Jaitley described the verdict as balanced, saying the decision to send Mr. Verma and Rakesh Asthana on leave was "perfectly bona fide." The Congress has hailed the ruling. ▶ PAGE 11

tine functions" till the Prime Minister-led committee decides. The court ordered him not to undertake "any fresh initiative" with major policy or institutional implications in the interregnum.

It dismissed the claims of superintendence over the CBI made by the government and the CVC.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10
SEE ALSO ▶ DELHI METRO PAGE 1
REINSTATED, CONDITIONALLY
► EDITORIAL

gladness for protection of minorities, it had not happened." Even former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, while speaking as Leader of the Opposition in the Rajya Sabha, had asked the then BJP-led government to be more liberal in dealing with

Lok Sabha passes Citizenship Bill amidst Congress walkout

Rajnath stresses need to shelter persecuted minorities

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

The Lok Sabha on Tuesday passed the contentious Citizenship (Amendment) Bill, 2019, that seeks to provide citizenship to non-Muslims from Bangladesh, Pakistan and Afghanistan.

Home Minister Rajnath Singh, who introduced the Bill in the Lok Sabha, said the six communities – Hindus, Jains, Christians, Sikhs, Buddhists and Parsis from Bangladesh, Pakistan and Afghanistan – faced "discrimination and religious persecution" and they "have no place to go, except India."

The Congress said many States opposed the Bill and it should be sent to a select committee. As the government rejected the demand, the party MPs walked out.

Nehru cited

Quoting former Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru as being in favour of giving shelter to persecuted minorities in the neighbouring countries, Mr. Singh said, "Although Indian leaders signed pacts with leaders of Pakistan and Ban-

A divided House

Parties which voiced their support and opposition to the Bill

Key critics
▪ Congress
▪ Trinamool Congress
▪ CPI(M)
▪ AIUDF
▪ IUML
▪ RJD
▪ AIMIM

You are giving citizenship on the basis of the religion. You can't run India like Israel. This government is making a mistake

ASADUDDIN OWaisi, AIUDF

Vocal supporters

▪ BJP
▪ BJD (wanted Bangladesh out of the Bill)

Key critics
▪ Congress
▪ Trinamool Congress
▪ CPI(M)
▪ AIUDF
▪ IUML
▪ RJD
▪ AIMIM

Protests rock northeastern States

Agartala during a highway blockade called by the Northeast Students Organisation. Incidents of violence were reported from Assam. Protesters damaged vehicles and blocked rail track. ▶ PAGE 10

the issue of persecuted minorities in Bangladesh," Mr. Singh said. The Bill seeks to grant citizenship to members of the six communities who have come to India till December 31, 2014.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10

10% quota for the poor gets LS approval

319 members vote in favour of the measure; Rajya Sabha will take it up today

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

The Lok Sabha on Tuesday passed a Bill allowing 10% quota in employment and education for the general category candidates who belong to the economically weaker sections.

The Constitution (124th Amendment) Bill, 2019, introduced by Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment Thawar Chand Gehlot, was cleared with a majority of the members (319) voting for it, and four against. The Rajya Sabha will take it up on Wednesday.

However, the Opposition questioned the haste with which the government introduced the Bill, on the last day of the winter session.

Speaking in the Lok Sabha, Finance Minister Arun Jaitley said: "I request all to support the motion. The Bill is aimed

Modi calls it a landmark moment

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi described the passage of a Bill to provide 10% quota in jobs and education for the general category candidates as a "landmark

moment in our nation's history." It is our endeavour to ensure that every poor person, irrespective of caste or creed, gets to lead a life of dignity, and gets access to all opportunities," he said.

at equality for all." He said the manifestos of most parties promised quotas for the economically weaker sections, and "their commitment to their promise is put to test today." The Congress, in its 2014 Lok Sabha election manifesto, had promised reservation for the economically weaker sections," he said.

Congress member K.V. Thomas said the Centre was introducing the Bill in haste with an eye on the general election. He said the Con-

gress was not opposed to the Bill, but wanted the measure sent to a Joint Parliamentary Committee.

The 10% reservation will be over and above the 50% stipulated by the Supreme Court and is expected to benefit a huge section of upper castes, including Brahmins, Rajputs (Thakurs), Jats, Marathas and Bhumihars and trading castes such as Kapus and Kammas.

The economically deprived among the poor in the

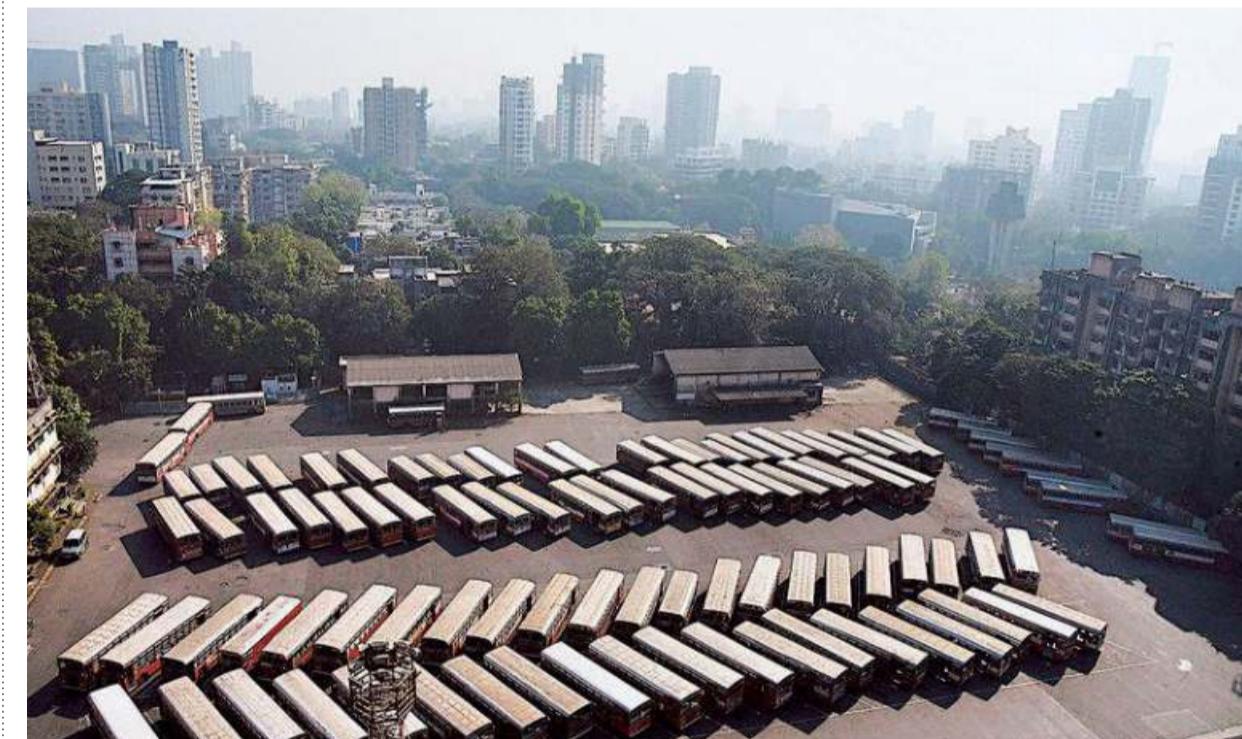
other religions will also benefit.

Minister for Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution Ram Vilas Paswan said, "The country is more important than caste" and demanded that reservation be extended to the private sector and judicial service. "People who were opposing reservation are now part of this 10% reservation," he said. "So now they will not oppose reservation."

Sudip Bandyopadhyay of the Trinamool Congress asked why the government did not take up the women's reservation Bill with the same priority. This Bill was not only about jobs but also about misleading the youth with false hopes and fake dreams, he said.

CHALLENGES ▶ PAGE 10
QUOTA QUESTIONS ▶ EDITORIAL

Parked to protest



Switched off: Buses lined up in the Mulund depot as 32,000 employees of Brihanmumbai Electricity Supply and Transport (BEST) started a strike on Tuesday over various demands. The protest coincided with the nationwide strike called by trade unions. ■ VIBHAV BIRWATKAR (PAGE 7)

Mayawati hails reservation but questions the timing

Describes decision as a 'political illusion' and an 'election stunt'



Mayawati

net, she said. The four-time Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh also demanded that the 50% cap on quota for SC/ST and OBC also be reviewed with "good intent" and the reservation for these groups be increased according to the rise in their population over the years. "It would have been bet-

ter had the government taken the decision much earlier. So that this new reservation policy could be implemented in a proper way or provide true benefits to poor savarnas," said Ms. Mayawati. The Union Cabinet on Monday approved a Constitution Amendment Bill to provide 10% reservation to the economically backward sections in the general category. The Bill will also cover those from the Muslim, Sikh, Christian, Buddhist and other minority communities. The quota will be over and above the existing 50% reservation to the Scheduled Castes, the Scheduled Tribes and the Other Backward Classes (OBC).

Time for a single-party rule to deal with problems of the State, says NC leader PEERZADA ASHIQ SRINAGAR National Conference vice-president and former Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Tuesday said the experiment of coalitions in Jammu and Kashmir has not worked and time has come for a single-party rule to deal with the problems of the State.

Omar Abdullah

broad hints on his party not forging any pre-poll alliance. "Terse message" Mr. Abdullah said people were dejected by the PDP-BJP misrule of over three years and were yearning for early elections to send out a terse message to the Centre about its misadventure in thrusting an insensitive and

anti-poor government upon the State. He said "a favourable wave" was emerging for his party in the three regions of Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh. "The party intends to turn the youth of the State into a resource to take J&K to new heights of prosperity. It pains me to see militancy gaining foot again. Killing militants will not end militancy," he said. On Peoples Democratic Party president Mehbooba Mufti's recent invite to the youth to join her party, Mr. Abdullah said she cannot make such offers given how she had pushed them into a cycle of violence.

Mufti backs coalition

Meanwhile, Ms. Mufti threw her weight behind the formation of coalition

Five-judge SC Bench to hear Ayodhya pleas

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Tuesday notified that a five-judge Bench, consisting of the incumbent Chief Justice of India Ranjan Gogoi and the next four future Chief Justices of India in line of seniority, will hear the Ayodhya title dispute appeals on January 10.

The Bench, besides Chief Justice Gogoi, would have Justices S.A. Bobde, N.V. Ramana, U.U. Lalit and D.Y. Chandrachud. On January 10, this Bench would decide the future dates for hearing the appeals.

On January 4, a two-judge Bench led by Chief Justice Gogoi had observed that an "appropriate Bench" would take up the appeals on January 10.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10

OPPORTUNITIES

WEDNESDAY • JANUARY 9, 2019

HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT • JOBS • TECHNOLOGY

The path to effective meetings

It is paved with the right mix of content and form

LIFFY THOMAS

A meeting can be formal or informal, face-to-face or electronically moderated.

The form does matter, but not as much as the content of the meeting. When we get the content right, which includes clarity about the purpose of the meeting, the form is invariably chosen rightly too. And when the right combination is in place, the form and the content will shape each other effectively.

Here are three corporates that seem to have thought through this, and have an effective "meeting culture".

The Morning Circle

Every Tuesday, ToneTag, a fintech start-up with offices in Bengaluru and Mumbai, meets at 10.30 a.m. for what is called the Morning Circle.

The objective of the meeting is to instil the company's culture in the employees, and forge a sense of unity around this.

The first 10 minutes of the meeting consists of meditation or prayer, followed by the singing of the National Anthem.

In the next 20 minutes, the participants discuss their personal lives.

Football strategy

When a creative solution is required, Interbrand India,

a leading brand consultancy, structures its meeting on

something of a football strategy.

All employees across teams who are part of the

meeting, are given tight time

And, there is form to it, which includes a dress code. All participants attend the meeting, wearing Indian attire.

Stand-up meetings

And then, every department at ToneTag has to conduct a meeting based on a three-point format - issues, suggestions and an update on the work already done. These are stand-up meetings: There are no chairs. A meeting can't extend beyond 30 minutes.

"Earlier, our meetings would go on for as long as two hours. With this format, we have managed to keep our discussions crisp and sharp. People come prepared and everyone has to speak," says Vinay Trivedi, Head - Human Resources, ToneTag.

The company has reserved long meetings only for ideation, and not for operations.

Football strategy

When a creative solution is required, Interbrand India,

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strategy.

All employees across

teams who are part of the

meeting, are given tight



ILLUSTRATION: SREEJITH RAVIKUMAR

cut-offs to generate initial ideas. Everyone is then required to build on that central idea and make it stronger. This rule is applicable across the board, for the junior-

most visual designer to the senior strategy director.

They use mind-maps to create sketches of ideas in order to visually engage everyone.

"We call this the 'Total Football' meeting tactic, just like in the golden era of Dutch football made famous by legendary Johan Cruyff. All hands on the deck," says

C All employees across teams who are part of the meeting, are given tight time cut-offs to generate initial ideas.

Ashish Mishra, Managing Director - Interbrand India.

Tech tools

DBS Bank, which has 26,000 employees globally, has adopted a well-etched system, where roles are assigned, to improve the quality of its meetings.

Irrespective of the size of the team and the location, "Meeting Mojo" is used for a discussion.

While MO (Meeting Owner) sets the agenda, the expected outcome of the meeting and encourages everyone to speak up, JO (Joyful Observer) keeps track of the time and gives honest feedback.

One of the highlights is the "Phone Jenga" that makes participants place their phones in the centre of the table, to avoid those digital distractions.



Eliyahu Goldratt

In *The Goal*, Goldratt observed that just as the strength of a chain is dictated by its weakest link, the overall performance of any company is dictated by its constraint.

"Constraints are the key to unlocking performance at the workplace," says Ira, adding that the workshop will help participants become better managers as well as improve their interpersonal skills.

The session is open for business leaders, functional heads, HR heads, L&D leads, startup, product and project managers.

For details, visit www.timencash.com/toc-thinking-processes-2019.

Workshop on Goldratt's Theory of Constraints

Eliyahu Goldratt's "Theory of Constraints (TOC) Thinking Processes" are effective management tools that enable individuals to resolve significant issues in any domain, without making a compromise.

In an attempt to popularise this, TOC Institute in India is conducting a two-day workshop in Bengaluru on January 31. The Theory of Constraints (TOC) is a suite of management concepts developed by Goldratt as introduced in the book *The Goal*.

"It is a structured problem-solving methodology that allows an individual or group to solve problems and resolve conflicts using cause-and-effect logic, beginning with the symptoms and ending with a detailed action plan for implementing the solution," says Ira Gilani Lal, Director of Goldratt India, who will be facilitating the workshop.

The sessions would enable the participants to analyse conflicts and challenge the limiting assumptions that prevent individuals/ organisations from achieving a quantum improvement in their performance.

Ira says several organisations have used TOC to empower their employees, and that has in turn led to quicker, improved decision-making, breaking silo mentality, and challenging deep-rooted mindsets.

QUOTING THE GURU

Barnard on organisational development



ence of the three elements in general, and their mutual dependence in specific cooperative systems, are matters of experience and observation."

Chester Barnard in *The Functions of the Executive*

AI can enable rapid reskilling, says report

Other technologies such as augmented and virtual reality and blockchain can also help people learn new skills quickly, efficiently and cost-effectively

IANS

India may have to forgo as much as \$1.97 trillion in gross domestic product (GDP) growth promised by investment in intelligent technologies over the next decade if the country fails to bridge the skills gap, says a new report from Accenture.

Advanced technologies such as Artificial Intelligence (AI), augmented/virtual reality (AR/VR) and Blockchain can enable rapid reskilling and upskilling, says the report titled "Fueling India's Skill Revolution".

These technologies can help people learn new skills quickly, efficiently and cost-effectively, the report adds.

The report notes that skills such as complex reasoning, creativity, socio-emotional and sensory perception can't be taught through



Digital technologies can augment human capabilities. FILE PHOTO

C We must offer more experiential on-the-job training and help people adopt life-long learning.

traditional teaching and learning.

The report includes a framework that combines a suite of innovative learning methods grounded in neuroscience research to make skill development more effective.

The framework suggests that an individual's learning journey can be augmented by a combination of digital technologies.

For example, AI can help with content curation and dissemination to ensure that students are aware of the

skills they need. An AI-based adaptive programme can build specific pathways to tailor learning to individual needs, says the report.

Similarly, AR/VR technologies can enable immersive training to make people job-ready. Blockchain-based micro-credentials can help individuals stay on the path to lifelong learning and build deeper expertise, the report says.

The report recommends that stakeholders in India – including government departments, industry bodies, academia, non-profit organisations and corporates – need to create, among other things, a comprehensive skill-based learning path in schools and colleges and adapt curriculum in institutions of higher learning to cater to the broader needs of the digital economy.

| DELHI PUBLIC SCHOOL, VIJAYAWADA (Under the aegis of the Delhi Public School Society, New Delhi) H.H.G. Nidamanuram - 521104, Andhra Pradesh Tel: +91-484-24481000 Fax: +91-484-24481001 Website: www.dpsvijayawada.org Email: director@dpsvijayawada.org | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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| <small>For further details visit our website : www.dpsvijayawada.org Pro Vice-Chairman</small> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

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DELHI ☀ Timings

WEDNESDAY, JAN. 09
RISE 07:15 SET 17:42

RISE 09:26 SET 20:35

THURSDAY, JAN. 10
RISE 07:15 SET 17:42

RISE 10:02 SET 21:28

FRIDAY, JAN. 11
RISE 07:15 SET 17:43

RISE 10:56 SET 22:20

Delhi Weather max min
Delhi City 20 07
Safdarjung 20 07
Palam 19 08**Delhi Palam Today**
20°C Pollution will remain very poor. Shallow to moderate fog is likely. Day will be pleasant.**Delhi Palam Tomorrow**
20°C Day will remain pleasant with sunny sky. Pollution will continue to remain very poor.Copyright Skymet Weather 2018.
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Khaira floats new party in Punjab

Says Punjabi Ekta Party will fight against Congress, AAP, Akalis; six AAP rebels attend event

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHANDIGARH

Former Aam Aadmi Party leader and Bholath MLA Sukpal Singh Khaira on Tuesday floated a new political outfit – Punjabi Ekta Party – which he said would fight against the Congress, the AAP and the Shiromani Akali Dal.

Mr. Khaira, who had on Sunday resigned from the AAP's primary membership claiming that the party had deviated from "its ideology and principles", said here that "the Congress and the Akali Dal were responsible for destroying Punjab in the past two decades".

"The Punjabi Ekta Party would focus on State-centric is-



New challenge: Former AAP leader Sukpal Singh Khaira announces his political party in Chandigarh on Tuesday. ■ PTI

sues and will be a regional outfit. Our party will focus on issues of youth, farmers and women," he said at a press conference. Six rebel AAP MLAs – Kanwar Sandhu, Master Baldev Singh, Pirmal Singh, Nazar

Singh Manshahia, Jagdev Singh Kamal and Jagtar Hissowal – were also present at the event.

Mr. Khaira, who has not yet resigned as MLA, was removed from the post of Leader of the Opposition in Punjab Assembly

in July last year by the AAP central leadership and replaced by Harpal Singh Cheema. Later, Mr. Khaira and Mr. Sandhu were suspended from the AAP for anti-party activities.

AAP's rebel problem

Reacting to the formation of the Punjabi Ekta Party, Mr. Cheema said: "People will not support him [Mr. Khaira]. He was an opportunist, who always thought of his own gains."

The AAP last year saw a rebellion by eight of its 20 MLAs after Mr. Khaira was removed as the Leader of the Opposition. One of the rebel MLAs, Jai Kishan Singh, however, recently returned to the AAP fold.

Cong. MLA Prajapati elected M.P. House Speaker amid Oppn. protest

BJP stages walkout for not being allowed to name candidate

ANUP DUTTA
BHOPAL

Congress legislator N.P. Prajapati was on Tuesday elected Speaker of the Madhya Pradesh Assembly by voice vote following a walkout by BJP members over not being allowed to propose the name of their candidate for the post.

The Opposition BJP proposed the name of its candidate, Vijay Shah, for the Speaker's post which was rejected by the pro-term Speaker, Deepak Saxena.

This triggered protests in the House with the BJP legislators rushing to the Well, forcing the pro-term Speaker to adjourn the proceedings.

After the House reassembled, the BJP members announced their opposition to Mr. Prajapati's nomination and walked out of the House. In their absence, Mr. Saxena



Pro-tem Speaker Deepak Saxena congratulates N.P. Prajapati as CM Kamal Nath looks on, in Bhopal on Tuesday. ■ A.M. FARUQI

ordered a voice vote in which Mr. Prajapati, MLA from Gotaegaon, secured all 120 votes of the Congress (114 MLAs) and its allies – SP (1) and BSP (2) and four independents – in the 230-member House.

The BJP members accused Mr. Saxena of adopting "indiscriminate method" in the election process while former Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan termed the development a "black day for democracy".

"We will march to Raj Bhavan and submit a memorandum to the Governor [Anandiben Patel]," he said.

For the last five decades, election to the Speaker's post in Madhya Pradesh Assembly has been conducted unopposed and the post of Deputy Speaker has been given to the Opposition party.

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PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT****e-Procurement Notice****INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)**

1. The Executive Engineer, Gohar Division, HP-PWD-Gohar, on behalf of Governor of H.P invites the online bids on item rates, in electronic tendering system, in 2 Cover System for the under mentioned work from the eligible and approved contractors/Firms registered with HPPWD Department.

Sr. No. Name of Work Estimated Cost EMD Cost of Tender Eligible Class of Com-contractor Time Limit

| Sr. No. | Name of Work | Estimated Cost | EMD | Cost of Tender | Eligible Class of Com-contractor | Time Limit |
|---------|--|----------------|----------|----------------|----------------------------------|------------|
| 1. | Construction of Nihandigali Jhungi road including bridge over Jhungi Khad km.0/0 to 2/250 (SH- Improvement of narrow and stand reaches R.O.F.D., C.D. Works, Providing and Laying G-I, G-II, G-III and Tarring, Clo V-Shape Pucca drain, Sign Board and 19.75 mtrs span RCC T-Beam Bridge under NABARD RIDF-XXIV). | 11045379/- | 143000/- | 5000/- | Class-B & A | One Year |

2. Availability of Bid Document and mode of submission:-The Bid document is available online and bid should be submitted in online mode on website <https://htenders.gov.in>. Bidder would be required to register on the website, which is free of cost. For submission of bids, the bidders are required to have Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) from one of the authorized Certifying Authorities (CA). Aspiring bidders who have not obtained the user ID and password for participating in e-tendering in HPPWD may obtain the same from the website: <https://htenders.gov.in>. Digital signature is mandatory to participate in the e-tendering. Bidders already possessing the digital signatures issued from authorized CAs can use the same in this tender.

3. Key Dates:-

1. Date of on line publication. 16-01-2019 17.00 HRS

2. Document Download Start and End Date. 16-01-2019 17.00 HRS to 30-01-2019 17.00 HRS.

3. Bid Submission Start and End Date. 16-01-2019 at 17.30 HRS upto 30-01-2019 17.00 HRS.

4. Physical Submission of EMD and Cost of Tender Document. 31-01-2019 upto 11.00 HRS

5. Date of Technical Bid opening, Evaluation of Technical Bid followed by Opening of Financial Bid. 31-01-2019 11.30 HRS

4. TENDER DETAILS:-

The Tender Documents shall be uploaded online in 2 Covers:

i) Cover 1: shall contain scanned copies of all 'Technical Documents/ Eligibility Information'.

ii) Cover2: shall contain 'BOQ/Financial Bid', where contractor will quote his offer for each item.

5. SUBMISSION OF ORIGINAL DOCUMENTS:- The bidders are required to submit (a) original demand draft towards the cost of bid document and (b) original bid security/Easement Money Deposit (EMD) and other Technical Documents in the O/O Executive Engineer, Gohar Division, HP-PWD. Gohar, as specified in Key dates (Sr. No. 4 on Tender Opening Date), failing which the bids will be declared non-responsive.

6. BID OPENING DETAILS:- The bids shall be opened on 31-01-2019 at 11.30 HRS in the office of Executive Engineer, Gohar Division, HP-PWD. Gohar. In their interest the lenders are advised to be present along with original documents at the time of opening of the tenders. If the office happens to be closed on the date of opening of the bids as specified, the bids will be opened on the next working day at the same time and venue.

7. The bids for the work shall remain valid for acceptance for a period not less than 120 days after the deadline date for bid submission.

8. Other details can be seen in the bidding documents. The officer inviting tenders shall not be held liable for any delays due to system failure beyond its control.

Even though the system will attempt to notify the bidders of any bid updates, the Employer shall not be liable for any information not received by the bidder. It is the bidders' responsibility to verify the website for the latest information related to the tender.

On behalf of Governor of Himachal Pradesh

Sd/-

HIM SUCHANA

AVAM JANSAMPARK

Executive Engineer

Gohar Division,

HP-PWD, Gohar.

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सामान्य फाउंडेशन बैच 2019
अध्ययन
15 JAN | 4 PM से बैच प्रारम्भ...

मिलिं सेवा परीक्षा में सफलता की परंपरा ही हमारी ध्यान है...

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IN BRIEF



Police to deploy drones to check cockfights in A.P.

VIJAYAWADA
Police are going hi-tech to check cockfights, a banned game, by deploying drones during the upcoming Sankranti festival in Andhra Pradesh. They will track the movements of organisers, identify arenas and conduct raids. Those involved in the game will be tracked by drones, the police said.

JD(S) wants 12 LS seats, but negotiable at 10'

BENGALURU
Reiterating that the party was "flexible" over its demand for 12 Lok Sabha seats in a possible seat-sharing agreement with the coalition partner Congress, Janata Dal (Secular) leader H.D. Deve Gowda on Tuesday said he will hold discussions with the Congress Central leaders soon on the issue.

Jagan to end yatra with public meeting today

SRIKAKULAM
YSR Congress Party president Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy will address a public meeting at Ichapuram in Srikakulam district of Andhra Pradesh on Wednesday to mark the end of 'Praja Sankalpa Yatra' which he has been undertaking for the last 14 months.

HC poser to govt. on Sabarimala

'Clarify whether women who entered temple were devotees'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
KOCHI

A Division Bench of the Kerala High Court on Tuesday asked the Kerala government to clarify whether there was any 'hidden agenda' in facilitating the visit of two young women to Sabarimala in the early morning of January 2, 2019.

The Bench of Justice P.R. Ramachandra Menon and Justice N. Anilkumar passed the directive when a report filed by the High Court-appointed panel of observers regarding the entry of the two young women came up for hearing.

The court asked the State government to clarify whether the young women were genuine devotees. The court orally observed that it had been a smooth pilgrimage for Ayyappa devotees. In fact, the number of pilgrims visiting the temple had gone up recently and there was absolutely no problem at Sabarimala.

The court said Sabarimala was a place for pilgrimage and not a place for 'demonstrations' of the police or the government or any other activist. The court also wanted



Burning issue: A video grab of Bindu and Kanakadurga visiting the Ayyappa temple at Sabarimala on January 2.

to know whether the visit of the two young women was an attempt to create problems and put the blame on the government and the police.

The court said if the government could not come out with satisfactory clarifications, the court might have to consider ordering a probe by Central agencies into the issue.

It adjourned the matter to January 16.

Active opposition

The Sabarimala Special Commissioner on Tuesday informed the Kerala High Court that individuals opposed to the entry of young women devotees have become more active at the Sanidhanam and Pampa.

In a report filed, the Com-

missioner said the aggravated risks involved in providing police protection to young women devotees, particularly when the pilgrim inflow was expected to rise in the remaining period of the Makaravilakku festival.

The Commissioner also noted that the two young women who visited the temple had not ascended the hilly 18 steps and had accessed the upper Thirumuttam through the staff gate of the Sanidhanam complex on January 2.

On January 4, a transgender came to Pampa for darshan. Transgenders had darshan several times earlier without resistance.

But this time, there were protests at Pampa following which the individual had to return.

'Vavar mosque is open to all women'

STAFF REPORTER
KOTTAYAM

Amid reports of a few women activists of a right wing group attempting to forcibly enter the prayer hall of the Nainar Mosque (Vavar Palli) at Erumely, its management has clarified that devotees of all religions, gender and age groups can visit the mosque as part of their pilgrimage to Sabarimala.

P.H. Shahajan, president, Erumely Mahalla Muslim Jamaat, which manages the mosque, said here on Tuesday that no restrictions had been imposed.

Recently, the police had arrested six people, including three women from Tamil Nadu, while on their way to visit the mosque. They were booked under various Sections, including attempts to promote enmity between different religious groups, and were remanded.

In the wake of reports that some women would attempt to enter the prayer hall, additional police personnel were posted to prevent a disturbance.



First flight: A.P. Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu alighting from the trial flight at Orvakal airport in Kurnool district on Tuesday. • U. SUBRAMANYAM

Tourism boost for A.P. as Kurnool gets new airport

CM says State invested ₹88.5 crore to make it operational

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
KURNool

Tourism will get a major boost with the inauguration of the regional airport with a 2,000-metre runway at Orvakal, about 35 km from Kurnool, said Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu on Tuesday.

Promising to fulfil his assurance of setting up a High Court Bench at Kurnool, Mr. Naidu said very soon Orvakal and Kurnool town would get merged with a number of industries coming up as part of the government promoting it as an 'Industrial Hub'.

A five-road junction would turn the place into a

real hub for tourists with the Belum Caves, Mahanandi, Srisailam and the Orvakal Rock Garden bringing several tourists from Amaravati, Hyderabad, and Bengaluru with small aircraft landing here.

An MoU was signed for starting a training programme in paragliding for adventure sports lovers. He said 7,200 acres had been earmarked for the industrial hub but 2,500 acres more would be kept aside for future demand.

"Currently Jairaj Ispat has laid foundation, and we will ask them to start operations soon," Mr. Naidu said.

Jain Irrigation and Ramco Cement had set up units near Kolimikuntla providing jobs to at least 1,000 persons.

By bringing water from the HNNS canal, Kurnool had risen to the third place in horticulture crops, he said, and advised farmers to start their own units for value addition of their produce.

Criticising the Centre for not taking up the Orvakal airport project despite assured revenue from the operations, he said the State government had invested ₹88.5 crore for the amenities and making the airport operational for small aircraft.

25 held for 'social boycott' in Telangana village

Development panel objected to the construction of Ambedkar Sangam building

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
HYDERABAD

Twenty-five people were arrested earlier this week for the alleged social boycott of members of a Scheduled Caste community over the construction of an Ambedkar Sangam building in Nizamabad district of Telangana, the police said on Tuesday.

Members of the village development committee of Marampally allegedly began a social boycott of the SC people since December 24 last year after the latter ignored threats and began constructing

tion on open land near the village tank, the police said.

During talks to resolve the issue, the committee members told the members of the SC to deposit ₹50,000 as they did not have permission for construction of the building. However, even after the

amount was paid, the boycott continued, the police said. Thereafter, the SC community sought police action and a case under relevant Sections of IPC and SC/ST Prevention of Atrocities Amendment Act, 2015, was registered.

Rights body flays Andhra varsity V-C remarks

Says his claims at the Science Congress amount to an advocacy of pseudo-science

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
VISAKHAPATNAM

The Human Rights Forum on Tuesday strongly condemned Andhra University Vice-Chancellor G. Nageswara Rao's remarks at the Indian Science Congress (ISC) in Jalandhar earlier this

week that the Kauravas in the epic *Mahabharata* were test tube babies, and that India possessed knowledge of guided missiles thousands of years ago. Mr. Rao had also claimed that Ravana had 24 different types of aircraft and that Sri Lanka had air-

ports aeons ago.

The Forum said such outlandish assertions were completely unsustainable and amount to an advocacy of pseudo-science. "These unfounded claims have no basis in science and are clearly incompatible with scientific methods and thinking. These assertions... amount to a denigration of science. Such gibberish can undermine the integrity of the scientific process," said V.S. Krishna, HRF coordination committee member for A.P. and Telangana.

UPSC - Civil Services Interview Capacity Building Training Programme - 2019 at YASHADA, Pune

A Capacity Building Training Programme for the candidates who qualified for the interview of the Civil Services Examination-2018 is organized at YASHADA, Pune, from 16 to 19 January 2019. Candidates from past ACEC, YASHADA batch & other Candidates having Maharashtra domicile, who qualified for the CSE-Interview are invited to participate in this **FULLY NON-RESIDENTIAL** programme. All the past and present ACEC candidates as well as those from SC, ST and Minority categories will be given training free of cost. Registration for the Programme will begin from 10th January 2019. All interested candidate are requested to visit our website (www.yashada.org/acec)

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- PUNCHKUAN ROAD, Garwal Bhawan, (Near Jhandewalan, Gole Chkr.)
- WAZIPUR A-5, Near Richi Rich Banquet (Opp. Shalimar Bagh)
- JANAKPUR B-1/2, Main Najafgarh Road, Opp. Metro Pillar 543
- NOIDA, Nirula's Sec-2, Near Metro Station, Sec-15, Noida, UP
- LAJPAT NAGAR, 49, Main Ring Road, Adj. Haldi Ram, Near Moolchand Crossing

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Watch out for your child's safety

Farida Rizwan, Psychotherapist and Counselor concentrates on awareness programmes to inform



parents of the uncommon circumstances that may be confusing for children at a tender age to identify as an abuse. She observes that, during most of the cases, the child remains in a perplexed state of mind to merely identify the abuse. "Most of the times, offenders take advantage over the non-defensive factor in children and continue performing undesirable acts," she says.

"Children find it difficult to express what they went through because they are unaware and assume that it was an acceptable act," added Rizwan. In order to help parents and children tackle this, she kick starts her sessions by giving a brief

introduction about the uncommon case histories that took place and how it can be monitored and rectified. Rizwan also educates parents on watching out for unusual signs from the behavior of the child which could be very significant in the later stages of their lives.

Since the year 2000, she has been actively hosting sessions on various topics, but throws light on child safety, a heinous crime that has been taking place for several de-

cades now. Rizwan brings out interesting power point presentations, supported by pictures which will make it easier for children to understand the concept closely.

"Sometimes children do not know what sexual abuse is. So, despite knowing that they are being mishandled, they are unsure of how it can be put across to their parents," says Rizwan.

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SUBMIT YOUR STORY AT WWW.THEHINDU.COM/UNDERMYWATCH

THE HINDU PRESENTS SCHOOL BUZZ
A Newspaper exclusively curated for School Students

ASN'S ANNUAL FUNCTION

ASN Senior Secondary School celebrated their Annual Function on 29th December. The Chief Guest was Mr. Ajay Choudhary, IPS, Joint Commissioner of Police, Delhi. Other dignitaries were also present. All guests were welcomed and felicitated with planters. Principal, Ms. Swarnima Luthra, welcomed the guests and the Chairman addressed the gathering. This was followed by the Prize Distribution Ceremony. The cultural began with Shankhaad, which was a blend of classical dance from six states, a symphonic orchestra, music, yoga and 'Mere Sapnon Ka Bharat' a ballet inspired by Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam, presented by the students. The Vote of thanks was proposed by the Managing Director.

UNTAPPING CREATIVITY

The students of Bhatnagar International School participated in the British Council ISA activity 2018-19 Media and Marketing - a creative field of study. The students created catchy taglines, designed innovative packages, enacted advertisements, wrote blogs and covered various elements of marketing. They reflected very cleverly at the benefits of advertisement in creating the brand value of the product in India, China and USA. They dressed up as cartoon characters, super heroes, celebrities and created innovative packaging designs to market their products.

FUEL FOR INTELLECT BY CAMBRIDGE SCHOOL

Cambridge School, Indirapuram, hosted the 6th Cambridge Model United Nations. The Chief Guests were Mr. Akash Tomar, Superintendent of Police, Ghaziabad and Mr. R. C. Chadha, Lieutenant Colonel (Retd.). Over 250 students from 10 schools participated. There were six committees: Security Council, General Assembly, UNESCO, AIPP, ECOSOC and the Press Council of India. The student delegates debated on interesting topics. The Best Delegation award was bagged by Cambridge School, Noida.

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THE HINDU GROUP

IN BRIEF



Ajay Chautala escapes unhurt in road mishap

JIND (HARYANA)

Janayak Janata Party patron Ajay Singh Chautala escaped unhurt on Tuesday after his car's rear tyre came off and the vehicle jumped onto a divider, a party spokesman said. Mr. Chautala and party State unit chief Nishan Singh were on their way to Jind when the mishap took place, he said. PTI

Five of family die after drinking poisonous milk

PILIBHIT (U.P.)

Five members of a family died on Tuesday after allegedly consuming poisonous milk in Benipur village here, the police said. According to the villagers, a man had come to meet the head of the family, Begraj, on Tuesday morning and gave him some milk, they said. The deceased were identified as Begraj, his wife Ramwati, their son Nem Chandra, daughter-in-law Mamta and daughter Gayatri, the police said. PTI

Gold worth ₹2.5 crore stolen from train

JAIPUR

Gold worth ₹2.5 crore was allegedly stolen from a Bandra-Udaipur train, the police said on Tuesday. Two passengers, Narendra Tailor and Vipul, travelling with eight kg gold, alleged that it was stolen near the Nimbhra railway station in Chittorgarh district on Monday, the police said. The complainants were supposed to deliver the gold to traders in Udaipur, the police said. PTI

No photography inside Golden Temple: SGPC

AMRITSAR

The Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee has banned photography and videography in the precincts of the Golden Temple here. The decision was taken to avoid any 'disturbance' to the spiritual atmosphere inside the Golden Temple, an SGPC official said. PTI

Mixed response to ST status to 6 Assam groups

CM, Finance Minister welcome move; leaders of communities concerned sniff an 'election gimmick'

RAHUL KARMAKAR
GUWAHATI

Assam Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal on Tuesday welcomed the Union Cabinet's nod for granting Scheduled Tribe status to six communities listed as Other Backward Classes in Assam.

Leaders of these communities, however, were more sceptical than happy with the announcement and sniffed an 'election gimmick'.

These six communities - Chutia, Motok, Moran, Koch-Rajbongshi, Tai-Ahom and Tea Tribes/Advisors -- have been agitating for a long time demanding ST status.

Soon after Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh said

that a draft Bill, adopted by the Union Cabinet, would be tabled in Parliament, Mr. Sonowal said granting ST status would go a long way in protecting land and political rights of the indigenous people of Assam.

Finance and Health Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma said the decision would - along with the constitutional status to Clause 6 of Assam Accord - "protect us from demographic invasion".

Once bitten
Biswajit Roy, leader of the All Koch-Rajbongshi Students' Union, said they would believe the Centre only when the Bill is passed by both Houses of Parliament and



Sarbananda Sonowal in Sonitpur. ■ FILE PHOTO

gets the President's nod.

"The Koch-Rajbongshis have been victims of half-hearted decisions. We were given ST status during the Congress rule in 1996 through a Presidential Ordinance that was re-promulgated thrice but lapsed as the Bill was not enacted in time. If there is no intention to enact laws, we will take it as a political gimmick ahead of the Lok Sabha polls," he said.

Adivasi leader Rupesh Goyal also sniffed a poll-oriented design in the move. "This is a lollipop being doled out to the six communities with a message that they will get the ST status if the BJP is voted back to power. We have come to know that of the more than 100 groups within the Tea Tribe or Adivasi community, only 36 are being considered. This will create division within the community," he told *The Hindu*.

Patna HC notices over bungalows to ex-CMs

Why shouldn't govt. rules be set aside, allotment for lifetime be quashed: court

AMARNATH TEWARY
PATNA

Nitish Kumar currently possesses three bungalows ■ FILE PHOTO

The Patna High Court on Tuesday issued notices to the Bihar government and all former Chief Ministers of Bihar, including Nitish Kumar, for being allotted official bungalows for lifetime. The court fixed the next date of hearing on February 11.

While taking suo motu cognisance of the rules for providing a government bungalow for life to former Chief Ministers, a Division Bench of the Patna High Court, comprising Chief Justice Amreshwar Pratap Sahu and Justice Anjana Mishra, issued notices to the State government and all former CMs asking them why such rules should not be set aside and allotment of their bungalows quashed.

Rules framed in 2010

Once a public representative demits his office, he becomes a common citizen, observed the court.

The rules to provide go-

him as a former Chief Minister in May 2014. Huge amounts were allegedly spent on renovating 7 Circular Road, when Mr. Kumar was living there as ex-CM.

Crores spent

According to the government documents, ₹1.74 crore were allotted only for the construction of the conference hall at the 7 Circular Road-residence while ₹9.92 lakh were spent for the construction of a garage.

Besides Mr. Kumar, former CMs - Satish Kumar Singh, Jagannath Mishra, Rabri Devi and Lalu Prasad (both living in one bungalow at 10 Circular Road) and Jitan Ram Manjhi - were allotted government bungalows.

Earlier in a similar case, the Supreme Court had quashed the Uttar Pradesh government rules which had allowed the State's former CMs to retain government bungalows along with other official perks. Former U.P. CMs Akhilesh Yadav and

Government bungalows for life to former CMs were framed in 2010 when the NDA government led by Nitish Kumar was in power. Chief Minister Nitish Kumar currently possesses three palatial government bungalows - two in Bihar and one in Delhi.

He lives in 1 Anne Marg, the government bungalow notified for the State's CM and has also been retaining the bungalow at 7 Circular Road, which was allotted to

Mayawati had to vacate their official bungalows after the SC order.

On Monday, while rejecting a plea by Leader of the Opposition in the Bihar Assembly Tejaswi Yadav to retain his official bungalow, the Division Bench of the Patna High Court had said that it had taken suo motu cognizance of the government rules which has provisions to allot official bungalows to former CMs for life and asked the State government to come prepared in the court on Tuesday.

Mr. Tejaswi Yadav had challenged the Single Bench order of the Patna HC which had, earlier, dismissed his plea to retain the bungalow 5 Deshratna Marg, which was allotted to him when he was the Deputy Chief Minister during the Grand Alliance government.

"We'll now approach the Supreme Court against the Patna High Court order," Tejaswi Yadav had said on Monday.

The couple entered into a scuffle following a quarrel after which Nikita fell from the terrace and died," said City DCP Akhileshwar Singh, adding that the police are yet to establish whether Mr. Sahu pushed her from the terrace.

Based on circumstantial evidence and from the statements of the family and neighbours, the police decided to arrest Mr. Sahu. He was remanded in judicial custody after he was denied bail by a lower court.

His parents have also been booked for domestic violence, they added.

WEATHER WATCH

RAINFALL, TEMPERATURE & AIR QUALITY IN SELECT METROS YESTERDAY



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

Forecast for Wednesday: Cold wave conditions likely at isolated pockets over north central Maharashtra

(See also Page 10)

TV actor's husband held

CORRESPONDENT
CUTTACK

The City police on Tuesday arrested and produced in court Lipan Sahu, the husband of TV serial actor Laxmipriya Behera alias Nikita. She died last week after falling from the rooftop of her parents' house at Mahanadi Vihar under the Chauliaganj police station.

"The couple entered into a scuffle following a quarrel after which Nikita fell from the terrace and died," said City DCP Akhileshwar Singh, adding that the police are yet to establish whether Mr. Sahu pushed her from the terrace.

Based on circumstantial evidence and from the statements of the family and neighbours, the police decided to arrest Mr. Sahu. He was remanded in judicial custody after he was denied bail by a lower court.

His parents have also been booked for domestic violence, they added.

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

Yesterday

| CITIES | SO ₂ | NO _x | CO | PM _{2.5} | PM ₁₀ | CODE |
|----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----|-------------------|------------------|------|
| Ahmedabad | 61 | 95 | 31 | .201 | — | ■ |
| Bengaluru | 6 | 44 | 35 | .153 | — | ■ |
| Chennai | 27 | 23 | 40 | .105 | — | ■ |
| Delhi | 28 | 55 | 63 | .373 | .256 | ■ |
| Hyderabad | 5 | 116 | 36 | .159 | .150 | ■ |
| Kolkata | 23 | 130 | 12 | .338 | .254 | ■ |
| Lucknow | .9 | 42 | .27 | .274 | — | ■ |
| Mumbai | 43 | 72 | .88 | .112 | .161 | ■ |
| Pune | 88 | 17 | .59 | .229 | .177 | ■ |
| Vishakhapatnam | 37 | 167 | 72 | .297 | .259 | ■ |

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)
In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Gaya, Bihar recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 395 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Durgapur, West Bengal recorded a healthy AQI score of 57

Air Quality Code: ■ Poor ■ Moderate ■ Good (Readings indicate average AQI)
SO₂: Sulphur Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_x: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

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

PM_{2.5} & PM₁₀: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

Electricity Department
NEW DELHI MUNICIPAL COUNCIL
Vidya Bhawan, Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam Road, New Delhi - 110011

E-Procurement Tender Notice

Tender ID No. - 2019_NDMC_165319_1

Name of the work: Purchase of Window Type ACs.

Estimated Cost : ₹ 23,21,396/-

Date of release of tender : 07.01.2019

Last date/time for receipt of tenders : 15.01.2019 at 03:00 PM

Further details can be seen at www.ndmc.gov.in or <https://gevlpprocurement.delhi.gov.in>

Note: To participate in e-tender in NDMC, registration with e-tendering system, Government of NCT of Delhi, is mandatory.

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SHER-I-KASHMIR INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES, SOURA (SRINAGAR)
Department of Microbiology

eNIT NO: SIMS 01 (NCDC) OF 2019, DATED: 02/01/2019

Abbreviated Notice Inviting Tenders for supply/installation of following equipment for the project, "National Programme for Surveillance of Viral Hepatitis" funded by NCDC. For and on behalf of Governor of Jammu & Kashmir state, e-tenders under two bid systems are invited through Director Sher-i-Kashmir Institute of Medical Sciences from Original Manufacturers/their authorized distributors/dealers for supply/installation of below mentioned equipment's for the project "National Programme for Surveillance of Viral Hepatitis" funded by NCDC.

| Group | Item Description | Qty | Tender Fee | EMD |
|-------|---|-----|------------|-------------|
| A. | Single Channel MicropipettesVolume: 0.1-2µl | 01 | | |
| 2 | Single Channel MicropipettesVolume: 1-10 µl | 01 | | |
| 3 | Single Channel MicropipettesVolume: , 2-20 µl | 01 | | |
| 4 | Single Channel MicropipettesVolume: 20-200 | 01 | Rs.500/- | Rs. 2,000/- |
| 5 | Single Channel MicropipettesVolume: 100-1000 µl | 01 | | |
| B. | 8 channel PipettesVolume: 5 to 50µL | 01 | | |
| 2 | 12 channel PipettesVolume: 5 to 50µL | 01 | Rs. 500/- | Rs. 2,000/- |
| 3 | 8 channel PipettesVolume: 30-300 µL | 01 | | |
| 4 | 12 channel PipettesVolume: 30-300 µL | 01 | | |
| A. | Hot Air Oven | 01 | Rs.2,000/- | Rs.2,000/- |
| B. | Water Bath | 01 | Rs.500/- | Rs.2,000/- |
| C. | BOD Incubator | 01 | Rs.1000/- | Rs.2,000/- |
| D. | Vortex Mixer | 01 | Rs.1000/- | Rs.2,000/- |
| E. | Vertical Autoclave | 01 | Rs.1000/- | Rs.3,000/- |
| F. | Water Purification System | 01 | Rs.1000/- | Rs12,000/- |

The detailed tender document is available on www.jktenders.gov.in & on SKIMS website www.skims.ac.in and the NIT schedule is as following

Last Date for submission of online bids 07/02/2019 upto 3:00 pm

Last Date for submission of hard copy (Technical bids only) 09/02/2019 upto 4:00 p.m.

Opening of technical bids 12/02/2019 at 11:30 a.m.

Complete bidding process will be online on e-tendering portal <a href="http://www

IN BRIEF

Sabyasachi Bhattacharya,
noted historian, no more

KOLKATA
Sabyasachi Bhattacharya, one of Bengal's erudite academics, passed away after prolonged illness at JNU (1976-2003) and V-C of Visva-Bharati University (1991-1995), among other positions. Prof. Bhattacharya edited *Indian Historical Review*, co-published by the Indian Council of Historical Research.

Sambhaji Brigade set to enter poll arena

PUNE
The Sambhaji Brigade, which played a pivotal role in the Maratha quota agitation, is set to contest 30 of the 48 Lok Sabha seats in Maharashtra. The outfit's leaders announced on Tuesday that it would also contest 100 of the 288 seats in the Assembly polls to be held this year.

Journalist Upendra Rai gets bail in CBI case

NEW DELHI
The Delhi High Court has granted bail to journalist Upendra Rai, arrested by the CBI in May for his alleged involvement in dubious financial transactions, but will remain in jail in a case filed by the Enforcement Directorate.

Miscreants break ATM, decamp with ₹19 lakh

AMBALA (HARYANA)
Unidentified persons broke an ATM here and looted ₹19 lakh, officials said. "Unidentified persons made the guard smell a chemical and he fell unconscious. The robbers used electric cutters to break the ATM," they said. PTI

General strike evokes mixed response, affects PSU banks

25 lakh commuters face hardship due to indefinite stir by BEST staff in Mumbai

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The two-day general strike call issued by 10 central trade unions evoked a mixed response in different parts of the country on Tuesday.

In Mumbai, Kerala, parts of Karnataka, West Bengal and Odisha, public transport was affected, and commuters faced hardship. According to unions, steel and coal production units in parts of the country were affected, with the strike also impacting several industrial belts and engineering clusters. Banking operations in some public sector banks came to a standstill, as well as postal and insurance services. Rallies and demonstrations were held in many places.

'Indication of anger'

"The active participation of the workers in the strike is a clear indication of the extent of anger and resentment of the workers against the government's policies," said the Centre of Indian Trade Unions in a statement, claiming that 20 crore workers participated.

Banking operations were hit in 19 public sector banks, as employee unions joined the strike, even while officer unions did not participate.

In Mumbai, the national strike coincided with an indefinite strike by 32,000 employees of the city's transport undertaking, the Brihanmumbai Electricity Supply and Transport



Labour power: (Clockwise from top) Workers holding a demonstration during a strike called by central trade unions in Bhubaneswar on Tuesday; A protest rally in Bengaluru and a railway track being blocked in Palakkad, Kerala. ■ BISWARANJAN ROUT, V. SREENIVASA MURTHY & K. K. MUSTAFAH

(BEST). With the strike affecting nearly 25 lakh daily commuters, the State government was forced to invoke the Maharashtra Essential Services Maintenance Act against them.

In Kerala, public transport was affected as buses kept off the roads. Unlike previous shutdowns, retail traders kept their shops open at several places, leading to tension in some areas. Peo-

ple had to rely on private vehicles to commute. At the State Secretariat, only around 100 employees reported for duty. Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan and his Cabinet colleagues did not turn up.

In West Bengal, there were stray incidents of violence, including stone-pelting at a school bus and vandalism in a few places. Strike supporters burnt effigies of

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and burnt tyres in some parts of the State.

As many as 22 policemen were injured in Rajasthan following clashes at the manufacturing plant of a Japanese company as workers, who were supporting the strike, tried to enter its premises, police said. Union leaders claimed that 50 workers were injured.

(With PTI inputs)

HAL faces severe cash crunch as IAF delays payment

Dues from Air Force is around ₹14,000 crore

MADHUMATHI D.S.
BENGALURU

A rare cash crunch in its 80-year history, triggered largely by unpaid bills of around ₹14,000 crore from the Indian Air Force, has led defence aircraft manufacturer Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd. to worry if it can sustain a vital function after a month or two: that of servicing the IAF's aircraft.

As a result, in the new year, HAL has proposed cost-cutting measures such as reducing 20% contract workers and curbing non-es-

sential travel. The Defence Minister is slated to meet HAL CMD R. Madhavan and the three Services chiefs on Wednesday. Will the meeting iron out some of the burning issues, such as payments and production orders for the DPSU?

Normally payments used to come from the IAF, its largest and main customer, within one to three months. Now, as it lives in the hope of getting back the money spent on delivering aircraft and maintenance services to the IAF over a period, the ₹18,600-crore navaratna company says it will soon run out of money to buy spares and materials for servicing military planes and

In doldrums

Weighed down by unpaid defence dues, HAL has taken an overdraft of ₹962 cr. to pay salaries & meet routine expenses



helicopters. At the end of March this year, after delivering some more fighter including five Light Combat Aircraft Tejas, the bill will mount to ₹19,000-20,000 crore.

Last week, HAL CMD R. Madhavan had told *The Hindu*, "Our main worry is the liquidity position. We have no budget for payments. It may delay serviceability of aircraft. [Maintenance and re-

pair of aircraft] could go down next year because any money must go towards procuring spare parts and raw material."

Some 2,500 small and medium-sized vendors supply to the defence PSU as their main customer.

The company was debt-free until now. About a month back, HAL took an overdraft of ₹962 crore to meet such mundane expenses as staff salaries.

Immediately after that, in the new year, it has also proposed to tighten the belt on internal activities, among them cutting a chunky 20% or 2,200 of its 11,000-strong contract labour across all centres and restricting its of-

ficers from travelling within and outside the country for training, seminars or conferences. Advertisements and publicity are another casualty of the austerity exercise.

Built up over a period

Apparently the overdue money has built up over a period. In the financial year 2017-18, it was ₹7,000 crore. An interim ₹2,000 crore was paid. Now the dues have ballooned to around 14,000 crore.

Two other factors also led to the cash crisis: HAL paid a total of ₹11,500 crore to the government over two occasions in the past five years -- as dividends and to buy back its shares.

SC sets aside Delhi HC ruling against Monsanto

Allows U.S. firm to pursue patent suit on Bt cotton variants

KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Tuesday set aside a Delhi High Court Division Bench decision that held that U.S. agro major Monsanto did not have patent for its genetically modified BT cotton seed variants and had allowed it to claim registration under the Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers' Rights Act of 2001.

The Supreme Court Bench of Justices Rohinton F. Nariman and Navin Sinha held that the High Court's Division Bench had no business to go into the merits of the patent rights and should have just confined itself to the validity of an injunction granted earlier by a Single Judge of the High Court in March 2017.

The judgment, authored by Justice Sinha, restored the decision of the Single Judge. It remanded the case back to the Single Judge for disposal of the patent suit between Monsanto and Indian end-users like Nuziveedu.

Monsanto had sought a restraint on these Indian companies from selling, using seeds/hybrid seeds bearing its patented technology.

Sub-liscence agreement
The issue dates back to 2004 when Monsanto entered into a sub-liscence agreement with companies like Nuziveedu for an initial period of 10 years. The agreement had



Monsanto sought a restraint on Indian companies from selling, using seeds/hybrid seeds bearing its patented technology.

Agri-tech firms hail order

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

An alliance of seed and agriculture technology companies, including major global players, has welcomed Tuesday's Supreme Court verdict regarding Monsanto's patent claim as a victory for research and innovation in agriculture.

However, the company which had challenged the claim, Hyderabad-based Nuziveedu Seeds, insists that the Supreme Court has not actually adjudicated on the validity of the patent.

"The Supreme Court has

restored the order of the Single Judge Bench of the Delhi High Court which prima facie validates our patent and has sent it back for a full trial by evidence considering the complexities involved," said a spokesperson of Bayer, the global giant whose crop science division acquired Monsanto last year.

Bayer and Monsanto are founding members of the Federation of Seed Industry of India (FSII), an association "driven by the fundamental value of respecting research and intellectual property of each other."

patent suit. The Single Judge, in March 2017, in an interim relief, restored the agreement and ordered the parties (Monsanto and companies like Nuziveedu) to adhere to their obligations under it.

Now, the Supreme Court has restored this Single Judge decision.

Parliamentary committee pulls up Defence Ministry

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Parliamentary Standing Committee on Defence has made serious observations on the limited budgetary allocations made by the Ministry of Defence for the armed forces, which do not even meet the requirements.

"... the amount allocated under the capital budget for 2018-19 does not even fulfil the Ministry of Defence's obligations towards committed liabilities," it said in

the action taken report by the government on the recommendations/observations in the 41st report, which was presented in Parliament on Monday.

The Ministry of Defence projected a requirement of ₹1,72,203.30 crore, including ₹1,10,043.78 crore for committed liabilities and ₹31,434.88 crore for new schemes. However, only ₹93,982.13 crore was allocated by the Ministry of Finance.



On Friday the 25th January, 2019 at 9.30 a.m.

at CSIR Madras Complex, Chennai.

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CORRIGENDUM

In reference to our earlier EOI notification issued vide Advt. No. 1 /CIPET/ ACADEMIC / EOI / 2018-19 dated 27/12/2018, Published in The Hindu on 28.12.2018 & Times of India 30.12.2018 hereby we issue the following modification / addition which can be included in the notification: The last date for submission of EOI is 21/01/2019 upto 12.00 Hrs and the bidder submitting the EOI have to make a presentation (About 15 minutes) on the same day at 14.00 Hrs onwards and the selection / short listing will be based on QCBs where the quality will be evaluated by the selection committee during the presentation.

The price bid document format is also available at our website www.cipet.gov.in, can be downloaded and submitted along with EOI. Shortlisted bidder's commercial offer only will be opened on the same day.

Director (Academics)



210 approved, only 62 completed

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Tardy implementation of projects under the Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme (AIBP) between 2008-2017 led to an almost threefold jump in the cost of these projects to ₹1.20 lakh crore, according to a report by the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG), tabled in Parliament on Tuesday.

The AIBP was initiated in 1996 as a Central scheme to speed up the implementation of large irrigation projects, including dams and canals, especially those which were beyond the resource capability of the States.

The Union Ministry of Water Resources is responsible for framing policy guidelines for implementation while State Governments are associated with planning and implementing irrigation projects and schemes.

From 2008-2017, of the 201 major and medium projects approved, only 62 were completed. Of the 11,291 minor irrigation schemes sanctioned, only 8,014 were completed. As a result, only about 35% of India's irrigation potential was utilised. Of the 118 major projects surveyed by the CAG, 105 suffered from a "time overrun" with some projects being delayed by more than 18 years.

Ex-BJP MLA shot dead in Gujarat

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
AHMEDABAD

A senior Gujarat BJP leader and former MLA Jayanti Bhanushali was shot dead by unidentified assailants when he was travelling from Kutch to Ahmedabad in Bhuj Dadar Express.

He was apparently shot dead between Gandhidham and Surajbari stations in the neighbouring Kutch district, Morbi district's SP Karanraj Vaghela said.

"When the train reached Maliya station of Morbi, we recovered the body and sent it for post-mortem," he said.

'Reply to plea on Rath Yatra'

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Tuesday asked the West Bengal government to respond to a petition filed by the BJP seeking permission to take out a Rath Yatra in the State.

The court passed the order on a petition filed against a Calcutta High Court Division Bench decision to deny the party to hold a yatra across West Bengal to make voters aware of their rights in a democracy.



Quota questions

Moves for reservations on economic grounds are more about politics than social justice

Rattled by the erosion in upper caste votes in the recent Assembly elections in Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh, the BJP government has attempted to recover this traditional vote base through an unapologetic political manoeuvre. It has sought to provide a 10% quota for economically weaker sections in public employment and educational institutions. That this is more an election-time signal to upper castes than a genuine attempt to revisit social justice policy is clear for at least two reasons. The 124th Constitution Amendment Bill will have to be passed by two-thirds of the MPs present and voting, and the challenge will be to drum up the numbers in both Houses. And, it is doubtful if it will stand judicial scrutiny. If enacted, the 50% limit on total reservation laid down by the Supreme Court will be breached. (The court did allow for a higher percentage in extraordinary situations, but it does not apply in this case.) Even if it is arguable that such a move will create deserving opportunities to those outside the purview of caste-based reservations, in *Indira Sawhney* a nine-judge bench had struck down a provision that earmarked 10% for the economically backward on the ground that economic criteria cannot be the sole basis to determine backwardness. Any attempt to amend the Constitution to extend what is limited to the "socially and educationally backward" to those economically weak is problematic.

If the amendment is challenged, a question that will arise is whether financial incapacity warrants special treatment. With the income ceiling for eligibility likely to be fixed at ₹8 lakh a year – the same as the 'creamy layer' limit above which OBC candidates now enjoying reservations become ineligible – an uneasy parity has been created between socially and educationally backward classes with limited means and those who are socially and educationally advanced with the same limitation. The other issue that has come up frequently when quotas are increased by State governments is that exceeding the 50% limit offends the equality norm. In *Nagaraj* (2006), a Constitution Bench ruled that equality is part of the basic structure of the Constitution. It said the 50% ceiling, among other things, was a constitutional requirement without which the structure of equality of opportunity would collapse. There has been a string of judgments against reservations that breach the 50% limit. Another issue is whether reservations can go to a section that is already adequately represented in public employment. It is not clear if the government has quantifiable data to show that people from lower income groups are under-represented in its service. Reservations have been traditionally provided to undo historical injustice and social exclusion suffered over a period of time, and the question is whether they should be extended to those with social and educational capital solely on the basis of what they earn.

Reinstated, conditionally

Supreme Court rejects the Centre's contention in the CBI Director's case, but softens the blow

In setting aside the orders divesting Alok Verma of his functions and duties as Director of the CBI, the Supreme Court has strengthened the principle that the head of the agency should be insulated against any form of interference. The court took up the matter in the midst of an unseemly tussle for supremacy between Mr. Verma and Special Director Rakesh Asthana, with corruption charges being traded. However, the court's interim order asking for a time-bound inquiry into the charges against Mr. Verma is now of no avail, as the Bench, headed by Chief Justice Ranjan Gogoi, has chosen to deal only with the major question of law involved. The decision has gone against the government, with the court holding that the action taken against Mr. Verma amounted to a 'transfer', something that cannot be done by any authority except the high-powered selection committee headed by the Prime Minister in terms of the 2003 amendments to the law. It has rejected the government's contention that stripping the CBI Director of his duties did not amount to a transfer, but only a measure to deal with an extraordinary situation. It has gone into the legislative intent behind the amendments to the Central Vigilance Commission Act in 2003, which included changes to the Delhi Special Police Establishment Act before coming up with its finding.

The Bench has noted that the amendments flow from the principles laid down by the Supreme Court in 1997 in *Vineet Narain* to protect the agency, especially its Director, from external interference. As the law is clear that any transfer of the Director can only be made by the selection committee, and there being no provision for any other interim measure, the only way the government can divest the head of the agency of his powers is to let the same committee make the decision. The court has been mindful of the fact that an officer could be stripped of his power without being formally transferred to another position, thereby achieving the objective of interfering with the agency's functioning by oblique means. Its decision will further strengthen the CBI's independence. However, it is intriguing that the court passed a consequential order to the selection committee to meet within a week and consider Mr. Verma's powers and authority. Until then, he has been restrained from making any policy decisions. Having set aside the orders of the government divesting Mr. Verma of his powers, as well as the CVC's order recommending the action, the court could have reinstated him unconditionally. What it has done, instead, is to soften the blow it had dealt the government by giving it an opportunity to achieve through the committee route what it could not do successfully through its midnight 'coup'.

A renewed attack on privacy

The Aadhaar Bill, allowing private bodies to use Aadhaar as a means to authenticate identity, poses huge dangers



SUHRITH PARTHASARATHY

On Friday, the Lok Sabha, without any attendant discussion, passed the Aadhaar and Other Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2018. On any reasonable reading it ought to be plainly apparent that the Bill flagrantly flouts both the Constitution and the Supreme Court's judgment which gave the Aadhaar programme a conditional imprimatur. It is therefore entirely likely that the government is banking on a sense of political fatigue having set in over the project, and perhaps it believes it has made the programme so ubiquitous that a few additional legislative tweaks are unlikely to shock and jolt the dissenters. But the present move is so brazen that we will be failing in our collective duties were we to allow the amendments to be carried out without any debate. For, if enacted, the law will once again allow private corporations, including banks and telecom operators, to use Aadhaar as a means to authenticate identity.

Astonishingly, this change has been proposed despite the government's abject failure to enact comprehensive legislation protecting our data and our privacy. Therefore, unless the Rajya Sabha places a constraint on the government's impudence, the consequences will prove devastating.

Between September and now
There is no doubt the Supreme Court's judgment, delivered last September, enjoined Parliament to make certain specific legislative changes. To that end, some of the court's concerns are addressed by the Bill, such as the inclusion of a clause intended at ensuring that

children are not denied benefits on account of a failure to possess Aadhaar. But the essential object of the law is to countermand those portions of the judgment that the regime deems inconvenient. So in contrast to the Bill was introduced, as the lawyer Vrinda Bhandari has argued in *The Wire*, by altogether overlooking the state's own "pre-legislative consultative policy".

This policy places an onus on the ministry introducing a law to publish the draft of any proposed legislation, together with, among other things, the objectives behind the law and an estimated assessment of the impact that such legislation may have on fundamental rights, and to thereafter invite comments from the public. Yet, here, the Bill, which makes amendments not only to the Aadhaar (Targeted Delivery of Financial and Other Subsidies, Benefits and Services) Act, 2016, but also to the Indian Telegraph Act, 1885, and the Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002 (PMLA), was introduced without any prior consultation, leading to a credible belief that the proposed changes are an act of subterfuge.

Originally, Section 57 of the Aadhaar Act allowed both the state and private entities to use the programme to establish an individual's identity pursuant to a law or a contract. It was on this basis that various notifications were issued allowing corporations of different kinds, including telecom operators, e-commerce firms and banks, to use Aadhaar. But when the Supreme Court ruled on the validity of the legislation, although it upheld vast portions of the law through a 4:1 majority, it unanimously struck down Section 57 insofar as it applied to private entities.

Commercial exploitation
Justice A.K. Sikri, in his judgment for the majority, wrote: "Even if we presume that legislature did



not intend so, the impact of the aforesaid features would be to enable commercial exploitation of an individual biometric and demographic information by the private entities. Thus, this part of the provision which enables body corporate and individuals also to seek authentication, that too on the basis of a contract between the individual and such body corporate or person, would impinge upon the right to privacy of such individuals. This part of the section, thus, is declared unconstitutional."

Although this leaves little room for doubt, the government, for its part, may well defend the Bill by arguing that the majority's judgment nonetheless permits the enactment of a new law allowing the use of Aadhaar by private entities so long as a person voluntarily consents to such authentication. In its aid, the government will likely point to paragraph 367 of Justice Sikri's opinion. "The respondents may be right in their explanation that it is only an enabling provision which entitles Aadhaar number holder to take the help of Aadhaar for the purpose of establishing his/her identity," he wrote. "If such a person [voluntarily] wants to offer Aadhaar card as a proof of his/her identity, there may not be a problem."

But this passage scarcely expresses an opinion on private entities. To the contrary, it merely reaffirms the position that even for the state to utilise Aadhaar, in cases not involving the drawing of subsidies, benefits or services

from the Consolidated Fund of India, the authentication must be voluntary and backed by separate legislation. While there are indeed portions of the majority's ruling that are vague and indeterminate, on Section 57 the opinion is unequivocal. Inasmuch as the provision allows private companies the authority to authenticate identity through Aadhaar, even by securing an individual's informed consent, the clause, Justice Sikri held, disproportionately contravened the right to privacy.

Since the Supreme Court has found that the operation of Aadhaar by private entities violates fundamental rights, there is today no avenue available for fresh legislative intervention, unless the government chooses to amend the Constitution. In any event, the proposed legislative amendments virtually seek to impose Aadhaar as a prerequisite for the availing of certain basic services. For example, the amendments proposed to the Telegraph Act and the PMLA state that service providers – telecom companies and banks, respectively – ought to identify their customers by one of four means: authentication under the Aadhaar Act; offline verification under the Aadhaar Act; use of passport; or the use of any other officially valid document that the government may notify.

Issue of fraud

Therefore, if the government fails to notify any new form of identification, a person's identity will necessarily have to be authenticated through Aadhaar or through her passport. Given that only a peripheral portion of India's population possesses passports, Aadhaar is effectively made compulsory. Allowing private corporations to access and commercially exploit the Aadhaar architecture, as we have already seen, comes with disastrous consequences – the evidence of reports of fraud emanating out of seeding Aadhaar with different

services is ever-growing. Hence, the amendments not only fly in the face of the Supreme Court's verdict but are also wholly remiss in attending to the dangers both of slapdash data protection and of corruption and scamming.

This move, to restore the use of Aadhaar by telecom companies and banks, however, is not the Bill's only problem. There is a hatful of other concerns, including the re-introduction of a marginally refurbished Section 33(2). In its original form, the clause had allowed an officer of the rank of Joint Secretary to the Government of India to direct disclosure of Aadhaar information in the "interest of national security". The Supreme Court declared the clause unconstitutional and ruled that while disclosure in the interest of national security may be important, such disclosure should spring out of a request of a "higher ranking officer". What is more, in order to avoid any misuse of the provision, requests of this kind, the court held, ought to require separate scrutiny, and, therefore, "a Judicial Officer (preferably a sitting High Court judge) should also be associated with" the process. However, the Bill, merely seeks to substitute the words "Joint Secretary" with "Secretary" in Section 33(2), completely disregarding the Supreme Court's order demanding inquiry by a judge.

Ultimately, the Bill seeks to pave the path for Aadhaar to permeate through every conceivable sphere of human activity, transferring all authority over our bodies, in the process, from the citizen to the state, and, in many cases, from the citizen to private corporations. The Rajya Sabha, therefore, should resist any developing sense of ennui around the programme, and reject this Bill, for the utter contempt of democracy that it represents.

Suhrith Parthasarathy is an advocate practising at the Madras High Court

Staggering backwards

The Modi government's reservation gambit is neither sound policy nor smart politics



SAJJAN KUMAR

India presents a classic case of proto-politics. Nothing that is institutional has an appeal and the insatiable clamour for quick surprises is a constant. While on Sunday at a Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) event as part of its Dalit outreach, a world record was attempted by cooking 5,000 kg of 'khichdi', on Monday the Central government announced 10% reservation for 'economic backward' to reach out to upper castes. The announcement is clearly aimed at the 2019 general election. However, it needs to be seen whether playing the reservation card in its inverted form would be a 'zero sum game' or a 'win-win' situation for the BJP?

In the last decade, India has been witnessing the interplay of the agrarian crisis and demands for reservation by dominant peasant castes, Jats in the north, Marathas and Patidars in the west, and Kappus in the south. The resultant political crisis leads to absurd complexities whereby reservation is sought and promised as the remedy for agrarian distress. Similarly, the BJP's recent electoral reverses in three Hindi heartland States signalled that a section of

the upper castes, the core support base of the party, had drifted away. This seems to have necessitated the proposed policy-cum-political measure of reserving 10% seats for them to woo them back. However, here too the party may be drawing the wrong inference. A significant section of the Other Backward Classes (OBCs) and Dalits accompanied upper caste voters in moving away from the BJP in Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and Rajasthan. While, anti-reservation forums like SAPAKS, or Samanya Picchdaa Evans Alpansankhyak Samaj, had campaigned against the BJP on account of controversies related to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, in reality they merely deflected the root cause of the anger due to agrarian and rural distress. The fact that the BJP performed better than the Congress in the Baghelkhand region of Madhya Pradesh, the core region of SAPAKS activity, indicates this.

Subaltern, Hindutva, Bahujan
The key to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's 2014 electoral success lay in meticulously fusing the social support bases of two antagonistic discourses of 1990s emanating from Mandal and Mandir politics. By the early 1990s, Mandal evolved into a Bahujan experiment wherein the 'Other' were the upper castes, while the Hindutva discourse attempted to forge a so-



lid social support base by giving thick political representation to subaltern Hindus to constitute Muslims as the common 'Other'. It succeeded vis-à-vis Bahujan discourse on account of the two-fold internal social contradictions: between Dalits and OBCs on the one hand, and between dominant OBCs and lower OBCs on the other. In fact, by the late 1990s, the BJP managed to shed its anti-reservation image and emerged as a platform for the lower OBCs, who felt left out from the benefits of Mandal politics. By 2014, Mr. Modi (along with allies) took the logic of subaltern Hindutva to its zenith by winning 73 out of 80 seats in Uttar Pradesh without fielding a single Muslim. Subaltern Hindutva seemed deeply entrenched as lower OBCs got thick political representation out of the seats denied to Muslims besides occupying crucial organisational posts in the BJP and other Hindutva groups. It must be noted that a majority of Dalits and

dominant OBCs were less fluid as compared to the lower OBCs, whose political alignment has of late emerged as the determinant of electoral outcomes, especially in the Hindi heartland. It is this section that appeared too to have become the core support base of the BJP with the ascendancy of subaltern Hindutva.

However, since the Gorakhpur and Phulpur bypolls in Uttar Pradesh, the original claimants of the Bahujan experiment, the Samajwadi Party and the Bahujan Samaj Party, have tactically revised their approach by giving more representation to lower OBCs, thereby hitting the comfort zone of the BJP.

It is against this backdrop that when the BJP faces the Mahagathbandhan in U.P. and Bihar, its policy priority should be the lower OBCs whose electoral fluidity may stem trouble for the party. Appealing to upper castes through a judicially unviable proposition at this juncture is neither good policy nor smart politics. All it would end up doing is denting the already weakened image of Mr. Modi as a leader of backward sections and giving electoral ammunition in the hands of the Mahagathbandhan, which may not oppose the reservation openly but will position itself to emerge as the beneficiary of the possible reaction by Bahujans.

Judicially unviable

The proposed Bill flies in the face of constitutional provisions and

court verdicts. Even if a constitutional amendment inserts 'economic backwardness' as the basis for reservation besides existing social and educational backwardness in Article 15(4), it cannot make a persuasive case to breach the 50% cap for reservations, as the constitutional provision is clear that the scale of reservation under Article 16(4) has to be minority in nature.

This would mean that either the proposed Bill would be nullified, or the 10% reservation would have to be accommodated in the existing 50% cap. Either way it would be a dead-end for the BJP.

Reservation is neither an instrument of poverty eradication, nor does it have the scale to cope with the agrarian and other economic crises afflicting India today. At a time when a deep institutional response is warranted, going for the easy and lazy measure of earmarking reservation amounts to policy escapism. The trend of making public policies and institutional response subservient to electoral exigencies as a norm is tantamount to treating India as a proto-state. And on a pragmatic note, elections are fought and won by appealing to fence-sitters rather than hypnotising the 'core' again and again, as the BJP now seems to be doing.

Sajjan Kumar is a political analyst. He is associated with Peoples Pulse, a research organisation specialising in fieldwork-based political study

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.

Quota plan

It is no surprise that there are mixed reactions to the Narendra Modi government's proposal for

10% reservation to economically backward sections in the general category ("Centre plans 10% quota for the poor", January 8). Wasn't the Congress's farmers loan waiver a gimmick? If the Bill is passed, the Modi government will have to make sure that benefits and aid reach those who truly deserve it.

The Opposition has no other option but to ensure its support for the Bill. For those who lament the development, they must understand that a nation like ours is deeply rooted in

a caste and religious system. Ours is a society that runs on this "fuel".

M. PRADYU,
Thalikavu, Kannur, Kerala

■ It is clear that the NDA government is desperate to retain power at any cost given the ambivalent and evasive attitude of the Prime Minister over the issue of an ordinance to start construction of a Ram Mandir. The BJP has failed to keep its poll promises of 2014, which is why it is resorting to such gimmicks in order to fool the discerning electorate.

V. PADMANABHAN,
Bengaluru

■ The Indian Railways recently called for

applications for about 63,000 vacancies and drew a response of over 1.9 crore people for jobs such as "helper, porter, cleaner, gatekeeper, track maintainer and assistant switchman". In India, the paradox is that though it is one of the fastest growing global economies, it is unable to generate enough jobs, let alone good ones.

Right now, demonetisation has created endless problems, and it is all the more important that these are addressed especially with more numbers of educated young people entering the workforce. So how will quotas for the backward or forward classes help? Growth has proved elusive with unemployment, inflation and lower growth

rates, however much we may wish to sanitise the facts.

Quotas are not the answer.

H.N. RAMAKRISHNA,
Bengaluru

■ What is unfortunate is the way the Centre has demeaned the purpose of affirmative action. Such actions, by different governments, have not only reduced the system of reservation to a mere political tool to appease certain communities but have also undermined the role of the government as just a jobs-haven rather than an able caretaker of the country. Taking into account this proposal along with existing quotas, is this all the value the country gives to merit and talent? It is no

wonder that India is a victim of brain-drain.

M.B. BHARGAV,

Bengaluru

Australia win

The Indian cricket team's Australian triumph is a testimony to the squad's unfaltering dedication and hard work. The boys had to

CORRECTIONS & CLARIFICATIONS:

>>In the report headlined "10% quota Bill may fail legal test" (Jan. 8, 2019), there was an erroneous reference to the 11-judge Kesavananda Bharati judgment. It was actually a 13-judge Bench. The report talked about the proposal to bring a 10% quota for the poor over and above the 7% for SCs and 15% for STs and 27% for Socially and Educationally Backward Classes. It should have been 15% for Scheduled Castes, 7.5% for Scheduled Tribes and 27% for Socially and Educationally Backward Classes.

>>In "Navy's new air base in north of Port Blair" (Jan 8, 20

FROM PAGE ONE

SC reinstates Alok Verma as CBI Director

The judgment said the pivotal question was whether the government and the CVC should have obtained prior consent of the PM committee, set up under Section 4A (1) of the Delhi Special Police Establishment (DSPE) Act, before divesting him as CBI Director on October 23. It reasoned that the legislative intent had been all along to completely insulate the CBI Director from extraneous influences.

It termed the requirement to get the prior approval of the committee to either transfer or even to divest a sitting CBI Director as a "compelling necessity." The prior approval provided "an adequate safeguard to ensure the independence of the office." This legislative intent was apparent from the fact that Parliament, on its own volition, amended the DSPE Act through the Lokpal and Lokayukta Act, 2013.

These amendments had included Section 4A, which set up the PM committee,

and Section 4B.

Section 4B(2) of the DSPE Act required the government to take the prior consent of the PM committee before transferring a CBI Director mid-tenure.

Protests lock down northeast

Shutdown called by several organisations against Citizenship (Amendment) Bill

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
GUWAHATI/AGARTALA

Violence marked Tuesday's 11-hour shutdown across States in the northeast, called by several organisations against the Citizenship (Amendment) Bill, 2019.

In Tripura, at least six tribal protesters were injured, two critically, as violence erupted near Agartala during a highway blockade called by the Northeast Students Organisation (NESO). The Twipra Students Federation (TSF), a constituent of the NESO, said the students were injured when security personnel opened fire. The Indigenous Peoples Front of Tripura, a partner of the Bharatiya Janata Party-led coalition government, has extended support to the NE-SO blockade.

'BJP betrayal'

Incidents of sporadic violence were reported from Assam, with the All Assam Students' Union (AASU) among the first groups to call for the shutdown against the Bill. Protesters belonging to at least 35 organisations affiliated to the AASU damaged vehicles and squatted on railway tracks, forcing the rescheduling of 26 long-haul trains.

The protesters burnt Prime Minister Narendra



In a flux: People catch up on news in Guwahati on Tuesday during the Assam bandh. Protesters are calling for the resignation of the BJP government. ■ RITU RAJ KONWAR

Modi and Assam Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal in effigy. The police in Dibrugarh and Golaghat of eastern Assam clashed with crowds of protesters who stormed the local BJP offices and set fire to posters, banners and furniture.

Crowds gathered around Mr. Sonowal's residence in Dibrugarh and shouted slogans, accusing him of betraying the very people whose *jati, maati, bheti* (race, land and hearth) the BJP had promised to protect. They demanded his resignation.

The shutdown affected

(AGP) leader and former Chief Minister Prafulla Kumar Mahanta dared the BJP to go in for mid-term polls. "We demand the BJP dissolve the government and go for an election if they have the guts," he said. Three AGP ministers and some MLAs serving as heads of various corporations are scheduled to resign on Wednesday.

The Krishak Mukti Sangram Samiti, which is spearheading the anti-Citizenship Bill protests, threatened an economic blockade to "save Assam from the BJP's evil designs".

cuted migrants eligible to apply for citizenship. Citizenship will be given to them only after due scrutiny and recommendation of district authorities and the State Government," Mr. Singh said.

To become a law, the Bill will have to be cleared by the Rajya Sabha on Wednesday, the last day of its current session.

Opposition warning

Trinamool lawmaker Saugata Roy said the Bill was "divisive and insidious that goes against the basic tenets of the Constitution." "This is the worst form of vote-bank politics," Mr. Roy said.

Rejecting the Bill, Badruddin Ajmal of the AIDUF asked, "You may have the majority to pass the Bill. Have you delivered the basic facilities to all Indians that you want to grant citizenship to foreign nationals?"

Rajya Sabha adjourned six times

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Rajya Sabha on Tuesday witnessed six adjournments due to protests by members of the Samajwadi Party, the Bahujan Samaj Party and the Rashtriya Janata Dal, alleging misuse of the CBI against the Opposition parties.

Soon after the House resumed business, the protesting members gathered in the well of the House shouting slogans leading to adjournment till 2 p.m. Requests by Chairman M. Venkaiah Naidu went unheeded. The members also held a sit-in.

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu on Tuesday said Opposition leaders will discuss the future course of action on January 19 when they meet in Kolkata to participate in a political rally organised by the Trinamool Congress.

Mr. Naidu met a host of Opposition leaders including Congress president Rahul Gandhi at Mr. Gandhi's residence here.

He also met Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) supremo Sharad Pawar, NCP's Pravind Patel and National Conference leader Farooq



Forging ties: Congress president Rahul Gandhi with Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu on Tuesday. ■ PTI

Abdullah at Mr. Pawar's residence.

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal called on him at Andhra Bhavan.

"On 19 January, all of us will meet in Kolkata and discuss our future course of action. If necessary, we will have more meetings in Delhi."



Rajnath Singh

cils," he added.

The Centre's decision evoked mixed reactions in the State with the leaders of six communities sceptical of the intent, while CM Sarbananda Sonowal welcomed the move.

The Coordination Committee of Tribal Organisations of Assam representing 56 tribal groups has been opposing ST status for the six communities, fearing it would eat into their rights and privileges. Meanwhile,

the Congress in Manipur has reminded PM Narendra Modi of the demand of the dominant Meiteis to be granted ST status. "When will your Cabinet send recommendation to the Centre for the Meitei community to be made ST," Congress leader Ningombam Bupenda Meitei asked the Manipur CM.

(With inputs from Rahul Karmarkar)

Six Assam groups to be accorded ST status

Bill to be introduced in current session

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

In a bid to calm tempers in Assam in the wake of vociferous protests against the Citizenship Amendment Bill, 2019, Home Minister Rajnath Singh said on Tuesday that a Bill to declare six communities in Assam as Scheduled Tribes (ST) would be introduced in the current session of Parliament.

Speaking on the Citizenship Amendment Bill, passed by the Lok Sabha on Tuesday, Mr. Singh said the communities that the Centre proposes to give the status to are Kochi, Rangbongshi, Tai Ahom, Chutia, Matak, Moran and Tea Tribes.

The legislation will change the demographic status of Assam, making it a tribal-majority State.

"Full safeguards will be provided to protect the interests, rights and privileges of the existing Scheduled Tribes of Assam," the Minister said. A separate Bill would be introduced to grant the ST status to Bodo Kacharis in the hill districts of Assam and Karbis in the rest of Assam, he said. "The Sixth Schedule of the Constitution is also proposed to be amended to strengthen the Autonomous District Coun-

DMK demands resolution against quota

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI

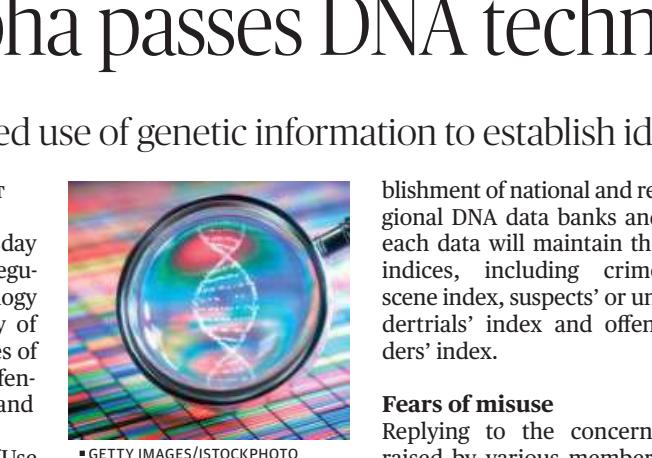
A day after the Union Cabinet approved a Constitution Amendment Bill to provide 10% reservation to economically backward sections in the general category, DMK president and Leader of the Opposition M.K. Stalin on Tuesday urged the AIADMK government to oppose the BJP-led Centre's decision on behalf of Tamil Nadu.

He insisted that a resolution be passed in the House against the move.

"The first and the loudest dissenting voice should come from Tamil Nadu, which has been successfully implementing 69% reservation [for OBCs, MBCs and SCs/STs]. A resolution against the Central government, which is intending to shake the pillars of social justice, must

come from the Tamil Nadu Assembly, which has been a breeding ground for social justice on the path laid by Periyar [E.V. Ramasamy], Perarignar Anna and Karmaveer Karanagar," Mr. Stalin said in the Assembly.

He contended that the Centre's nod for 10% reservation for economically backward sections in the general category was "not only against the principles of social justice but would also destroy it".



blishment of national and regional DNA data banks and each data will maintain the indices, including crime scene index, suspects' or undertrials' index and offenders' index.

Fears of misuse

Relying to the concerns raised by various members about the law being misused to carry unregulated DNA profiling, Dr. Harsh Vardhan said, "The potential misuse of DNA samples is not res-

pected to the biological material, which is collected under the provisions of this DNA Bill alone. Any and every blood sample collected by clinical laboratory has the same potential for misuse".

Kalyan Banerjee of the Trinamool Congress said the Bill was a good step in the criminal justice system but cautioned about a possible scenario where it could be misused by investigative agencies while collecting DNA samples.

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The move may have some appeal to upper castes in States where the BJP is weak, but one does not know the extent of the political benefit.

The moot question is the impact on the existing reserved categories in States where the BJP is strong and takes a chunk of OBCs.

While the government says the quota will be above the existent 50% reservation, the Supreme Court-mandated cap may make some OBCs wary, as they may feel it may eat into their pie if in case the apex court refuses to relax the cap.

The SC Bench also stayed an order passed by the Madurai Bench of the Madras High Court that the status quo "as on today" should be maintained till January 21 in respect of reopening of the plant. Vedanta, which runs the plant, had moved the top court against the Madurai Bench's decision.

The Court said the process of reopening the plant as per the NGT's order can continue. This would mean

Lok Sabha passes DNA technology Bill

It allows regulated use of genetic information to establish identity of persons

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Lok Sabha on Tuesday passed a bill that allows regulated use of DNA technology to establish the identity of certain defined categories of persons, including offenders, suspects, and undertrials.

The DNA Technology (Use and Application) Regulation Bill allows the use of the technology to establish the identity of persons in matters of crime, parentage dis-



pute, emigration or immigration and transplantation of human organs.

The Bill provides for esta-

blishment of national and regional DNA data banks and each data will maintain the indices, including crime scene index, suspects' or undertrials' index and offenders' index.

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Five-judge SC bench to hear Ayodhya appeals

The Ayodhya appeals were previously heard by a seven-judge Constitution Bench.

The majority verdict, in its last paragraph, had further directed the Supreme Court to start hearing the pending appeals from the week commencing October 29.

This direction in the September judgment had also triggered questions on whether the court intended to deliver a judgment in the appeals before the May 2019 Lok Sabha election.

CPI(M) members walked out in protest.

Trade union Bill introduced in Lok Sabha

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Amid protests, the government on Tuesday introduced a Bill in the Lok Sabha to amend the Trade Unions Act, 1926.

The Bill, the government said, would grant recognition to trade unions, ensure representation of workers in tripartite bodies and check arbitrary nomination by the government.

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The Bill provides for estab-

lishment of national and regional DNA data banks and each data will maintain the indices, including crime scene index, suspects' or undertrials' index and offenders' index.

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If the Supreme Court rejects the idea, the reservation can be provided only by eating into the SC, ST and OBC quota share

VIKAS PATHAK

Who will the new 10% quota apply to?

To all those who are not covered in existing quotas and have a family income below ₹8 lakh a year or agricultural land below 5 acres. Those who have a house above 1,000 square feet or a 100-yard plot or above in a notified municipal area or a 200-yard plot or above in a non-notified municipal area are not eligible.

CBI vs CBI

The events leading up to the midnight divestment of charges of CBI Director Alok Kumar Verma and Special Director Rakesh Asthana and the subsequent court battle:



April 2016: Gujarat-cadre IPS officer Rakesh Asthana appointed Additional Director of the CBI

Dec. 3: Asthana made interim CBI Director as Director Anil Sinha retires

Jan. 19, 2017: Alok Verma appointed CBI Director for a tenure of two years

Oct. 22: Asthana appointed Special Director

Nov. 2: Advocate Prashant Bhushan moves the Supreme Court on behalf of Common Cause, an NGO, challenging Asthana's appointment

Nov. 28: Court dismisses the petition

July 12, 2018: While Verma was abroad, the Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) calls a meeting to discuss promotions, seeks to know who will attend it. The CBI replies that Asthana has no mandate to represent Verma

Oct. 15: The CBI lodges an FIR with bribery allegations against Asthana, Deputy Superintendent of Police Devender Kumar, Dubai-based investment banker Manoj Prasad and his brother Somesh Prasad

Oct. 16: The CBI arrests Manoj Prasad

Oct. 20: The CBI raids Devender Kumar's residence and office at its headquarters, says his mobile phones and iPads seized

Oct. 23: Late in the night, DoPT divests Verma of all his statutory obligations, appoints M. Nageswara Rao interim CBI Director

Oct. 24: Verma moves the Supreme Court

Oct. 25: Common Cause files a PIL petition, seeking a Special Investigation Team probe into allegations of corruption against CBI officials, including Asthana

Nov. 12: The CVC files a preliminary probe report in a sealed cover in the Supreme Court

Nov. 29: Verma tells the Supreme Court that his fixed tenure of two years cannot be altered

Dec. 5: Fight between two top CBI officers exposed the probe agency to ridicule, the Centre tells the court

Jan. 8, 2019: The court sets aside the Centre's decision divesting Verma of his powers and sending him on leave, but restrains him from taking policy decisions

SOURCE: PTI



Verma likely to resume office today

Balanced verdict, says Jaitley; Congress, Opposition parties welcome ruling to restore CBI Director

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

Central Bureau of Investigation Director Alok Verma is likely to resume charge on Wednesday, following the Supreme Court judgment setting aside the "overnight" stripping of his powers on the intervening night of October 23 and 24.

Union Finance Minister Arun Jaitley on Tuesday described the verdict as balanced, saying the government's decision to send Mr. Verma and CBI Special Director Rakesh Asthana on leave – based on the Central Vigilance Commission's recommendation – was "perfectly bona fide", and that it was done to protect the integrity of the CBI. He said the decision was legal as the two officials were at loggerheads.

"No one can save PM"

The Congress and other Opposition parties welcomed the judgment. Talking to presspersons outside Parliament, Congress president Rahul Gandhi said no one could save Prime Minister Narendra Modi from the Rafale investigation. He said the CBI Director was ousted at 1 a.m. as he was about to begin an investigation into the Rafale deal. "The CBI chief has been reinstated, and we have



In a cage: Congress workers protesting outside the CBI headquarters in October. ■ R.V. MOORTHY

got some relief. Now let us see what happens," he said. "They cannot run away from Rafale, as it is impossible. Modiji ran away from a debate. He should have discussed with

us the Rafale issue, in the people's court. No one can save them from Rafale, as Rafale is the truth. No one can run away from the truth."

"The truth of Rafale will

destroy Mr. Modi. It's only a question of time before full evidence of his role in the theft of ₹30,000 crore becomes public. Congratulations to the SC for upholding

the law," he later tweeted.

CPI(M) general secretary Sitaram Yechury demanded that the Prime Minister quit on moral grounds as the verdict was a "direct indictment" of Mr. Modi and his office.

'Indictment of Modi'

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal tweeted: "SC reinstating CBI director Alok Verma is direct indictment of the PM. Modi govt has ruined all institutions and democracy in our country. Wasn't CBI director illegally removed at midnight to stall the probe in Rafale scam which directly leads to PM himself?"

Senior advocate Prashant Bhushan, who represented one of the petitioners in the case, said it was a "partial victory", as the CBI Director had not been given full powers.

Mr. Bhushan said: "But, strangely, after quashing the orders divesting him as CBI Director and despite restoring him, the court has said that he will not take major policy decision till such time that this high-power committee comprising the Prime Minister, the Leader of the Opposition, and the Chief Justice of India meets and considers the matter."

(With PTI inputs)

Globalisation has not benefited all: Norway PM

Exclusion can undermine faith in institutions: Erna Solberg

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

The loss of faith in the international order and institutions is one of the big challenges the world faces, Norwegian Prime Minister Erna Solberg said on Tuesday, inaugurating the Ministry of External Affairs' (MEA) annual "Raisina Dialogue".

"Many people feel left out by globalisation," said Ms. Solberg, kickstarting the conclave organised by the Observer Research Foundation (ORF). "It can undermine confidence in international institutions and cooperation. Eventually, it could weaken respect for international law, human rights and even our security architecture," she added.

In remarks apparently aimed at U.S. where President Trump has threatened to walk out of the WTO, and



Warm welcome: Norwegian PM Erna Solberg with Narendra Modi at the Rashtrapati Bhavan on Tuesday. ■ SANDEEP SAXENA

at China for violating the international rules-based order in maritime disputes, Ms. Solberg said both Norway and India would "stand to lose" if rules-based international law is undermined.

Taking "exception" to the remarks, Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Sergey Ryabkov said European countries had contradicted their own push for "rules-based order".

The exchange set the course for the first day of the three day conference that will include more than 600 delegates from 93 countries.

The theme for the 2019 edition of the conclave is "A World Reorder: New Geometries, Fluid Partnerships, and Uncertain Outcomes".

Modi and Trump discuss security issues in Afghanistan

PM calls up U.S. President, extends New Year greetings

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and US President Donald Trump discussed strategic cooperation on Afghanistan and trade issues on Monday.

The conversation came days after the American leader argued for greater Indian contribution for ending the civil war in Afghanistan.

A White House readout on the conversation said that the two leaders discussed security issues.

"President Trump received a call today from Prime Minister Narendra Modi of India on the occasion of the New Year. The leaders agreed to strengthen



cooperation in Afghanistan," said a readout from the White House.

The two leaders also exchanged greetings for the New Year.

The call came just hours after President Vladimir Putin of Russia spoke to Mr. Modi and wished the latter for the upcoming Indian general election.

"They expressed satisfaction at the progress in India-U.S. strategic partnership in 2018. They appreciated developments such as the launch of the new 2+2 Dialogue mechanism and the first-ever Trilateral Summit of India, the U.S. and Japan," said the Ministry of External Affairs in a press statement.

The U.S.-India strategic partnership in 2019 and exchanged perspectives on how to reduce the U.S. trade deficit with India, expand security and prosperity in the Indo-Pacific, and increase

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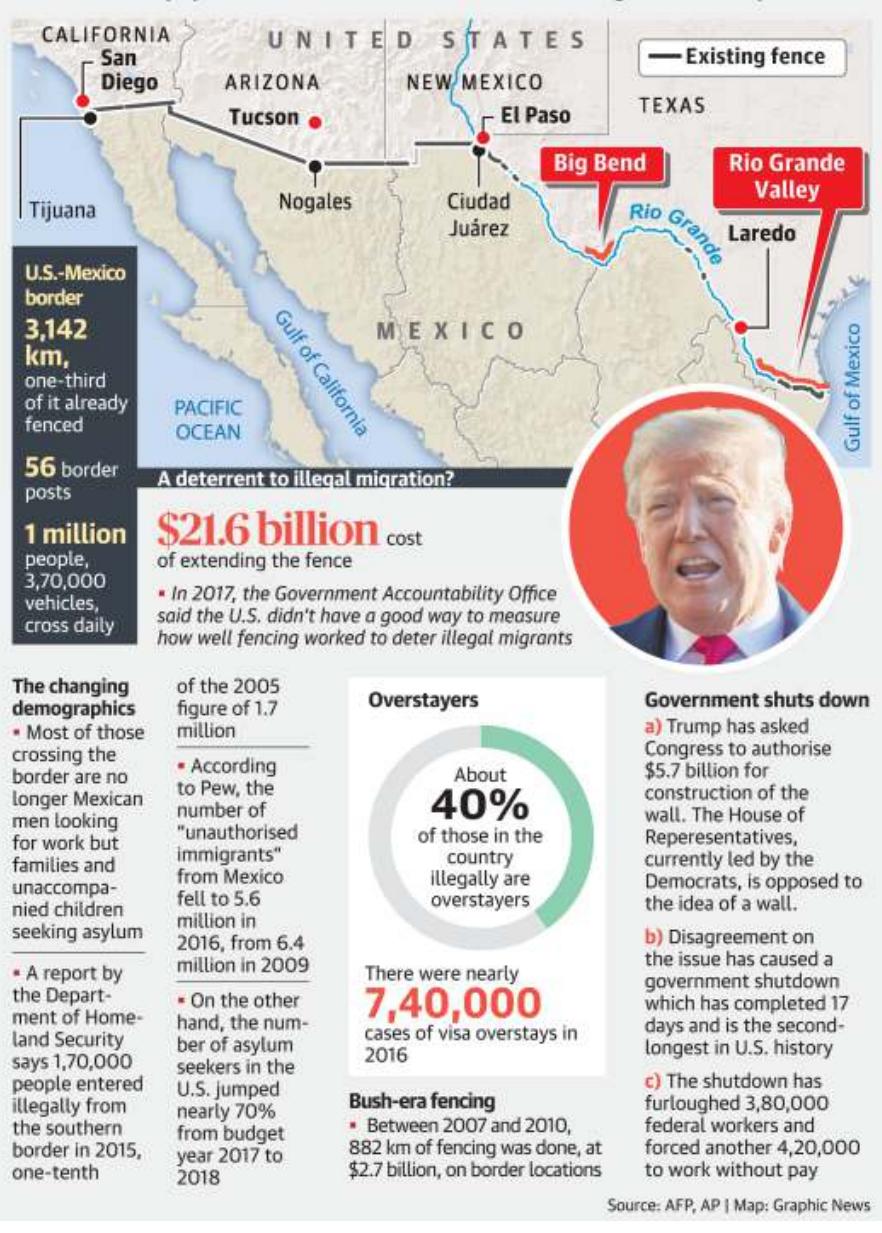
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Fencing the border

U.S. President Donald Trump says that there is a security crisis at the southern border that can be addressed only by a wall. A look at some of the issues concerning border security



Trump to press U.S. border 'crisis' in televised address

All the major U.S. television networks agree to air speech

REUTERS
WASHINGTON

President Donald Trump was to make his case to Americans on Tuesday that a wall is urgently needed to resolve what he calls a crisis at the U.S.-Mexico border.

Mr. Trump's prime-time address, scheduled for 9 p.m. (7.30 a.m. IST on Wednesday) was to be his latest attempt to persuade Democrats to back his push for a steel barrier on the southern border.

Amid his talk of crisis, Mr.

ELSEWHERE



Erdogan slams Bolton over remark on Kurds

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan on Tuesday slammed as a "grave mistake" comments by U.S. National Security Adviser John Bolton over the Kurdish militia. Mr. Bolton earlier held more than two hours of talks with Mr. Erdogan's adviser Ibrahim Kalin. Mr. Bolton had said on Sunday that a U.S. withdrawal from Syria was conditional on the safety of Kurdish fighters, considered terrorists by Turkey. AFP

'MPs will hold Brexit vote on January 15'

British MPs are set to hold a critical vote on January 15 on the Brexit agreement negotiated by Prime Minister Theresa May with the European Union, her spokesman said Tuesday. The House of Commons will on Wednesday resume a debate on the deal that was halted in December when Ms. May postponed the vote in the face of opposition. AFP

Heathrow halts flights after drone sighting

London's Heathrow Airport, Europe's busiest hub, said it has suspended all departing flights on Tuesday following a drone sighting. "We are responding to a drone sighting at Heathrow and are working closely with the Met Police to prevent any threat to operational safety," the airport's Twitter account said. The incident comes just over two weeks after drone sightings at Gatwick caused suspension of flights for three days. Reuters

IS won't be allowed to return, says Pompeo

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE AMMAN

U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo arrived on Tuesday in Jordan on a West Asia tour to show commitment to the region after President Donald Trump's surprise decision to withdraw troops from war-torn Syria.

Mr. Pompeo, on his longest trip since taking the post last year, pledged that the Islamic State group (IS) would not be allowed to regroup following a string of battlefield defeats.

But in a stark reminder of the lingering threat, a war monitor reported that the jihadis had killed 23 U.S.-

backed fighters in a counter-attack in eastern Syria aimed at defending their last bastion.

After setting off on the trip to eight countries, he told reporters he would show that "the United States is still committed to all the missions that we've signed up for with them over the past two years".

Highlighting that the IS emerged during the tenure of Mr. Trump's predecessor Barack Obama, Mr. Pompeo said the campaign to destroy the movement's self-styled "caliphate" in war-battered Syria has been "enormously successful."

The equipment was used in an artillery brigade in Tibet during the 2017 China-India stand-off at Doklam, it said.



Mahinda Rajapaksa. ■ REUTERS

Rajapaksa named Oppn. leader

TNA MPs challenge speaker Karu Jayasuriya's decision

MEERA SRINIVASAN COLOMBO

Former President Mahinda Rajapaksa was on Tuesday named the Leader of Opposition in the Sri Lankan Parliament, amid pending questions about his eligibility to hold the position.

The announcement came as a reaffirmation of Speaker Karu Jayasuriya's earlier position acknowledging Mr. Rajapaksa as Opposition leader, which MPs of the Tamil National Alliance (TNA) and some other parties had challenged on two grounds.

Intervening in Parliament sessions mid-December, legislators of the TNA - whose leader R. Sampanthan had held the post since 2015 - asked how Mr. Rajapaksa, staking his claim for the Opposition Leader's post from the President Maithripala

Kim arrives in Beijing for talks with Xi

Chinese media report the N. Korean leader is seeking advice and help ahead of likely talks with U.S.

ATUL ANEJA BEIJING

North Korean leader Kim Jong-un arrived in the Chinese capital in the early hours on Tuesday for consultations with Beijing ahead of a likely second round of talks with U.S. President Donald Trump.

The talks are taking place amid signs that the dialogue between Mr. Kim and Mr. Trump could be held either in Hanoi, Bangkok or Hawaii. The two leaders had last met in Singapore for their first meeting last June.

Last week, Mr. Trump was emphatic in stating that both Pyongyang and Washington wanted another round of talks.

"They do want to meet, and we want to meet, and we'll see what happens," the U.S. President said on Sunday. Regarding the venue of the dialogue, he added: "It will be announced probably

in the not too distant future."

But ahead of the North Korean leader's visit to Beijing, Pyongyang had made it plain that its willingness for talks with Mr. Trump could not be taken for granted. On the contrary, Mr. Kim announced during his New Year message that his readiness to meet with Mr. Trump was linked to the lifting of sanctions that have been imposed on North Korea.

'Concrete steps'

The North Koreans say their earlier dismantling of an atomic weapon test site as well as their pledge to denuclearise, made explicit during the Singapore talks with Mr. Trump, was sufficient for the lifting of sanctions.

But the Americans want Pyongyang to take concrete steps such as declaring the number of nuclear weapons in their arsenal, before sanctions can disappear.



All-weather friends: North Korean leader Kim Jong-un with Chinese President Xi Jinping in Dalian in May 2018. ■ AP

Nevertheless, the *South China Morning Post* quoted a South Korean researcher as saying that a discussion between Mr. Kim and Chinese President Xi Jinping on shipping North Korea's intercontinental ballistic missiles out of the country to dismantle them, cannot be ruled out.

In Beijing, the state-run Xinhua news agency reported

ward denuclearisation and engagement with the U.S. is mainly because of its trust in China," said Wang Sheng, a professor of international relations and expert on the peninsula issue at Jilin University.

Mr. Kim is also expected to seek further support for his country's economic development, the daily observed. Mr. Kim held three summits last year with Mr. Xi, prior to talks with Mr. Trump and South Korean President Moon Jae-in.

In South Korea, the presidential Blue House spokesperson Kim Eui-kyeom said on Tuesday that Seoul hoped Mr. Kim's visit would help secure permanent peace on the peninsula.

Earlier on Monday, Mr. Kim left for China on a private green train with a yellow stripe. His wife, Ri Sol-ju, and senior North Korean officials accompanied him.

Taliban calls off peace talks with U.S.

REUTERS
PESHAWAR

The Afghan Taliban said on Tuesday that it had called off peace talks with U.S. officials in Qatar this week due to an "agenda disagreement", especially over the involvement of Afghan officials as well as a possible ceasefire and prisoner exchange. Two days of peace talks had been set to start on Wednesday.

"The U.S. officials insisted that the Taliban should meet the Afghan authorities and both sides were in disagreement over declaring a ceasefire in 2019," a Taliban source said.

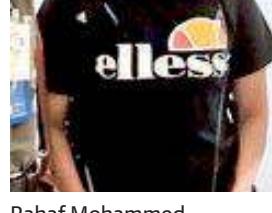
about what Saudi Arabia will do after Thai authorities reversed a decision to expel her and allowed Ms. Qunun to enter the country under the care of the UNHCR. "The father is now here in Thailand and that's a source of concern," Phil Robertson, Human Rights Watch's deputy director for Asia, said.

Application for asylum

Ms. Qunun is staying in a Bangkok hotel while the UNHCR processes her application for refugee status, before she can seek asylum in a third country. UNHCR staff were interviewing her on Tuesday after meeting her the day before. "It could take

several days to process the case and determine next steps," UNHCR's Thailand representative Giuseppe de Vincentis said.

Lawmakers and activists in Australia and Britain have urged their governments to grant asylum to Ms. Qunun.



Rahaf Mohammed al-Qunun. ■ AFP

Qunun fled to Thailand, saying that she feared her family would kill her if she were sent back to Saudi Arabia.

Activists are concerned

about what Saudi Arabia will do after Thai authorities reversed a decision to expel her and allowed Ms. Qunun to enter the country under the care of the UNHCR. "The father is now here in Thailand and that's a source of concern," Phil Robertson, Human Rights Watch's deputy director for Asia, said.

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The Australian government said it had asked Thailand and the UNHCR to process Ms. Qunun's claim quickly, and it would consider her application for a humanitarian visa once the UNHCR had made its decision.

Saudi Arabia's Embassy in Thailand denied reports that Riyadh had requested her extradition.

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about what Saudi Arabia will do after Thai authorities reversed a decision to expel her and allowed Ms. Qunun to enter the country under the care of the UNHCR. "The father is now here in Thailand and that's a source of concern," Phil Robertson, Human Rights Watch's deputy director for Asia, said.

Application for asylum

Ms. Qunun is staying in a Bangkok hotel while the UNHCR processes her application for refugee status, before she can seek asylum in a third country. UNHCR staff were interviewing her on Tuesday after meeting her the day before. "It could take

several days to process the case and determine next steps," UNHCR's Thailand representative Giuseppe de Vincentis said.

Lawmakers and activists in Australia and Britain have urged their governments to grant asylum to Ms. Qunun.

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MARKET WATCH

| | 08-01-2019 | % CHANGE |
|-----------|------------|----------|
| Sensex | 35,981 | 0.36 |
| US Dollar | 70.21 | -0.76 |
| Gold | 32,690 | 0.12 |
| Brent oil | 58.07 | -0.73 |

NIFTY 50

| | PRICE | CHANGE |
|-------------------|----------|--------|
| Adani Ports | 378.75 | -2.90 |
| Asian Paints | 1401.25 | 5.25 |
| Axis Bank | 650.90 | 13.45 |
| Bajaj Auto | 2694.85 | 36.30 |
| Bajaj Finserv | 6443.05 | 35.90 |
| Bajaj Finance | 2537.05 | -16.55 |
| Bharti Airtel | 329.25 | 4.30 |
| BPLC | 351.95 | -3.60 |
| Cipla | 513.65 | -0.40 |
| Coal India | 233.30 | -1.20 |
| Dr Reddys Lab | 2570.50 | 11.85 |
| Eicher Motors | 20044.65 | 214.25 |
| GAIL (India) | 354.60 | -2.50 |
| Grasim Ind | 836.60 | 15.95 |
| HCL Tech | 945.15 | 3.60 |
| HDPC | 1958.95 | -13.95 |
| HFDC Bank | 2103.00 | -17.65 |
| Hero MotoCorp | 2970.30 | 12.35 |
| Hindalco | 206.50 | -2.05 |
| HPLC | 247.95 | -1.85 |
| Hind Unilever | 1770.85 | -14.10 |
| Indiabulls HFL | 812.55 | 18.65 |
| ICICI Bank | 380.15 | 12.45 |
| IndusInd Bank | 1577.75 | 18.60 |
| Bharti Infratel | 297.95 | 4.20 |
| Infosys | 670.05 | -1.65 |
| Indian Oil Corp | 134.00 | 0.55 |
| ITC | 284.25 | 2.60 |
| JSW Steel | 293.90 | 4.05 |
| Kotak Bank | 1228.90 | -17.70 |
| L&T | 1382.20 | -1.60 |
| M&M | 723.40 | -6.15 |
| Maurti Suzuki | 7439.50 | 77.45 |
| NTPC | 146.95 | -1.65 |
| ONGC | 147.45 | -0.40 |
| PowerGrid Corp | 197.35 | -1.10 |
| Reliance Ind | 1104.65 | -0.10 |
| State Bank | 305.30 | 9.00 |
| Sun Pharma | 448.05 | 17.25 |
| Tata Motors | 179.95 | 4.60 |
| Tata Steel | 491.35 | 5.85 |
| TCS | 1893.55 | -4.35 |
| Tech Mahindra | 689.85 | 2.35 |
| Titan | 946.15 | 2.10 |
| UltraTech Cement | 3916.30 | -10.45 |
| UPL | 752.20 | -11.55 |
| Vedanta | 195.65 | 2.20 |
| Wipro | 325.55 | 1.30 |
| YES Bank | 192.35 | 5.20 |
| Zee Entertainment | 451.65 | -11.30 |

EXCHANGE RATES

| CURRENCY | TT BUY | TT SELL |
|--------------------|--------|---------|
| US Dollar | 70.00 | 70.32 |
| Euro | 80.17 | 80.53 |
| British Pound | 89.32 | 89.73 |
| Japanese Yen (100) | 64.35 | 64.65 |
| Chinese Yuan | 10.21 | 10.26 |
| Swiss Franc | 71.38 | 71.71 |
| Singapore Dollar | 51.54 | 51.78 |
| Canadian Dollar | 52.73 | 52.97 |
| Malaysian Ringgit | 16.99 | 17.08 |

Source: Indian Bank

BULLION RATES CHENNAI

January 08 rates in rupees with previous rates in parentheses

| | | |
|--------------------|------|--------|
| Retail Silver (1g) | 42.1 | (42.6) |
| 22 ct gold (1 g) | 3037 | (3044) |

NMDC: nod for ₹1,000-cr. buy-back

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD

Mining major NMDC Ltd. will buy back up to 10.2 crore equity shares at ₹98 each, according to a regulatory filing made by the company.

Approved by the public sector giant's board on Tuesday, the buy-back will be for an aggregate consideration of not more than ₹1,000 crore.

This would be the second buy-back by the PSU in recent years; the previous one was undertaken in September 2016. The buy-back then was for up to 80.08 crore shares at ₹94 each for an aggregate amount not exceeding ₹7,527.76 crore.

The Centre holds 72.43% in the firm, while the remaining 27.57% is held by the public and institutional investors, including 12.47% by the LIC. The firm has fixed January 18 as the record date for determining names of eligible shareholders to whom the offer letter will be sent.

RBI: Jalan panel holds first meeting

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA NEW DELHI

A high-level panel led by former RBI Governor Bimal Jalan on Tuesday held its first meeting to decide on an appropriate size of reserves that the central bank should maintain and the dividend it should give to the government.

The six-member committee is likely to submit its report in April, sources said.

The panel has been entrusted with the task of reviewing the best practices followed by central banks worldwide in making assessments and provisions for risks to which a central bank's balance sheet is subject to.

Customers cannot be charged for availing tokenisation service: RBI

Allows card payment networks to offer the facility to third-party app providers

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT MUMBAI

The Reserve of India (RBI) has allowed all card payment networks to offer tokenisation service. However, the central bank has made it clear that no charges should be recovered from the customer for availing this service.

Tokenisation involves a process in which a unique token masks sensitive card details. The token is then used to perform card transactions in contact-less mode at Point Of Sale (POS) terminals, Quick Response (QR) code payments, etc.

The RBI has allowed card payment networks to offer card tokenisation services to any token requestor, that is, a third party app provider. A card holder can avail of these services by registering the card on the token re-



Taking no chances: The token requestors (app providers) are not allowed to store PAN or any other card details. ■ REUTERS

questor's app and after giving explicit consent'.

"All extant instructions of Reserve Bank on safety and security of card transactions, including the mandate for additional factor of authentication (AFA) / PIN entry shall be applicable for tokenised card transactions also," the RBI said in a release.

ment etc.). For the present, this facility shall be offered through mobile phones/tablets only. Its extension to other devices will be examined later based on the experience gained," the RBI said.

Safety measures

"Adequate safeguards shall be put in place to ensure that PAN cannot be found out from the token and vice versa by anyone except the card network," the RBI said.

"Moreover, actual card data, token and other relevant details shall be stored in a secure mode and the token requestors are not allowed to store PAN or any other card detail," the release added. The ultimate responsibility for the card tokenisation services rendered rests with the authorised card networks, the RBI said.

Rupee tumbles 53 paise to 70.21

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA MUMBAI

The Indian rupee on Tuesday plunged by 53 paise to close at 70.21 against the U.S. dollar amid renewed concerns over widening of current account deficit following constant rise in global crude oil prices.

Besides, strong demand for the American currency from importers also weakened the rupee performance. The U.S. dollar's gains against major rival currencies such as yen, pound and euro too impacted the domestic currency market sentiments.

At the foreign market on Tuesday, the rupee opened on a sluggish note at 69.83. It weakened further to hit a low of 70.23 (intraday), before finally closing at 70.21, showing a loss of 53 paise.

This was the first loss for the Indian currency unit in three sessions. It had risen by 52 paise in the previous two trading days.



Nandan Nilekani

ty governor, RBI, Kishor Saasi, former MD & CEO Vijaya Bank, Aruna Sharma, former secretary, Ministry of Information Technology and Steel, and Sanjay Jain, Chief Innovation Officer, Center for Innovation, Incubation and Entrepreneurship (CIIE), IIM Ahmedabad.

The panel will also suggest measures to strengthen the safety and security of digital payments and provide a roadmap for increasing customer confidence while accessing financial services through digital modes.

Gopinath joins IMF as chief economist

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA WASHINGTON

Mysore-born Gita Gopinath has joined International Monetary Fund as its chief economist, becoming the first woman to occupy the top IMF post. Ms. Gopinath joined last week at a time, when she believes the world is experiencing a retreat from globalisation, posing challenges to multilateral institutions.

The John Zwaanstra professor of International Studies and Economics at Harvard University succeeds Maurice (Maury) Obstfeld as Economic Counsellor and Director of the IMF's Research Department.

Mr. Obstfeld retired on December 31.

MF outflows at three-month high in Dec.

Huge outflows from liquid and money market schemes cited as reason

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT MUMBAI

Mutual funds saw investors pulling out a significant amount of money in December, especially from money market schemes, even as the number of folios from retail investors continued to rise.

According to data from the Association of Mutual Funds in India (AMFI), mutual funds saw net outflows of nearly ₹1.37 lakh crore in December, compared to net inflows of ₹1.42 lakh crore in the previous month.

The outflows are primarily attributed to the huge outflows from liquid and money market schemes that typically see outflows at the end of any quarter due to advance tax payment obligations.

In December, such liquid



N.S. Venkatesh

and money market schemes saw outflows totalling nearly ₹1.49 lakh crore. Incidentally, the December outflows were the highest since September that saw outflows of ₹2.30 lakh crore.

The overall assets under management (AUM) at the end of December was pegged at ₹22.85 lakh crore, lower than the previous month's ₹24.03 lakh crore.

Equity inflow

Equity schemes, meanwhile,

saw net inflows of ₹5,765 crore in December, but still remained lower than November inflows of ₹7,579 crore in such schemes.

Other exchange traded funds (ETFs), which exclude gold ETFs, were in the lime-light in December, registering net inflows of ₹10,878 crore in December, which were significantly higher than the previous month inflows of ₹1,634 crore.

Interestingly, the number of folios crossed the eight crore mark for the first time ever in December. The number of folios has risen 21% between December 2017 and December 2018. "Continued upward trend in retail AUM and monthly SIP contributions are the bright spots [in December]," he added.

"Considering the volatility that we saw in December, mutual fund flows have shown reasonable resilience to the vagaries of the market," Mr. Venkatesh said.

"Due to the market volatility and the political scenario slowly unfolding, people are remaining cautious and not getting into investment mode. Despite that, mutual funds have shown some pockets of excellence."

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Task overwhelms some, a few tend to be devious: analysts

TCA SHARAD RAGHAVAN NEW DELHI

The number of tax filers failing to file their returns has been increasing in the 17 months of GST implementation until November 2018, according to an answer submitted by the Finance Ministry to the Lok Sabha.

While the number of people required to file monthly returns has grown 32% from July 2017 to about 98.5 lakh in November 2018, the number of people not filing these returns has grown 167% during that time, the latest Goods and Services Tax filing data showed.

The data also shows that this is not just the case for monthly filers, but also for those under the composition scheme, which allows for quarterly return filing.

While the number of people required to file quarterly returns increased about 55% from July 2017 to 17.74 lakh in November 2018, the number of people who have not filed returns increased about 162% during this period.

In other words, the number of people failing to file returns has grown faster than the tax base itself for both regular and composition filers.

"What happens is that a lot of small vendors get onto the system because their large clients force them, because the client can avail of input tax credits only if their supplies are from a GST-registered vendor," a tax analyst with a large consultancy told *The Hindu* on the condition of anonymity.

"However

IN BRIEF



JLR India 2018 sales rise 16% to 4,596 units

MUMBAI

Jaguar Land Rover (JLR) India has sold 4,596 units in 2018 as against 3,954 units in the previous year, an increase of 16%. "The growth in JLR sales in India has been driven by models such as Land Rover Discovery Sport, Range Rover Evoque, Jaguar F-PACE, XE and XF with over half of the sales driven by SUVs," the company said. The company has launched 10 vehicles, which boosted the sales in 2018.

Anantha Padmanaban elected as GJC chairman

CHENNAI

The All India Gem & Jewellery Domestic Council (GJC), the national apex body of the gems and jewellery industry, has elected Anantha Padmanaban as chairman and Shaankar Sen as vice-chairman for a period of two years. Mr. Padmanaban was instrumental in addressing many issues pertaining to excise, GST, custom duty and Prevention of Money Laundering Act.

Appointed chairman of Board of Trustees, CRMF

CHENNAI

Jayaraman Balasubramanian has been appointed as an Independent Trustee of Canara Robeco Mutual Fund (CRMF) effective December 20, 2018, as also the Chairman of the Board of Trustees of CRMF. Canara Robeco Asset Management Co., the investment manager of Canara Robeco Mutual Fund, is a joint venture between Canara Bank and Robeco of the Netherlands, an asset management firm.

'Hardware exports poised to grow 7-8%

Large players looking to relocate factories from China to India in backdrop of trade war: ESC official

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD

Hardware exports are poised to reverse the declining trend of the past few years with a 7-8% growth this fiscal, a senior official of the Electronics and Computer Software Export Promotion Council (ESC) said on Tuesday.

"We are seeing some revival... this will be reversal of the trend," ESC Executive Director D.K. Sareen said during a media interaction on IndiaSoft 2019 international exhibition and conference scheduled to be held here on February 4-5.

New areas

The growth is coming on the back of traction for products in new areas, "specially in the areas of power electron-



Past perfect: Hardware exports touched a peak of \$7.2 billion a couple of years ago. • GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCK

ics, UPS systems, electronic energy meters. These are new upcoming items of export from India," he said, adding that these would drive growth in the next two to three years.

Hardware exports touched a peak of \$7.2 billion a couple of years ago. Last

year, they were around \$6 billion, he said, attributing the decline to shutting down of large facilities such as those by Nokia for cellphone manufacturing in Chennai. On the prospects, Mr. Sareen said some larger players were likely to relocate their factories from China to India

in the backdrop of the ongoing U.S.-China trade war.

"Once that happens, we can expect good growth from the hardware side also," he said, pointing out how the low export base was a function of the level of ease of doing business and the perception about India being a difficult country to do business.

Earlier in the meeting, he said many of the companies moving out of China were going to Vietnam.

On IT and ITeS exports, Mr. Sareen expected them to grow 8-10% this fiscal.

The performance in the first two to three quarters had been up to expectations, he said, adding that the U.S. market remained the growth driver, notwithstanding the challenges pertaining to visa

that Indian companies battled there.

"We have seen challenging times in our principal U.S. market. We are pretty much on track. Not to the extent we are talking about, anyway the target was revised. Nasscom had projected the software and services exports to grow 7-9% in 2018-19 to \$137 billion. IT exports in 2017-18 were \$126 billion," he said.

IndiaSoft 2019 will bring over 500 foreign ICT buyers from 60 countries, said a release from ESC. "More and more foreign companies are showing interest in taking part in the show, because of its unique appeal and focus on small and medium IT segment," said Nalin Kohli, Chairman of Indiasoft Organising Committee.

Gruh Finance shares slide on merger plan

Decline 16.4%, Bandhan shares fall 4.8%

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

Shares of Gruh Finance and Bandhan Bank tumbled on Tuesday, with the former plunging up to 16.6% following the announcement of merger plans.

The stock of Gruh Finance tanked 16.39% to close at ₹ 256 on the BSE. Intraday, it plummeted 17.35% to ₹ 235.05.

On the NSE, shares of the company dived 16.59% to end at ₹ 255.50.

Shares of Bandhan Bank fell 4.8% to end at ₹ 477.05 on the BSE. Intraday, it dropped 6% to ₹ 470.85.

On the NSE, the bank's shares slumped 3.68% to close at ₹ 479.70.

Bandhan Bank, on Mon-

day said it had agreed to acquire Gruh Finance through a share-swap deal.

7% discount'

"The boards of Bandhan Bank and Gruh Finance announced the merger of the two entities wherein shareholders of the latter would receive 568 shares of the former for every 1,000 shares held. The deal values Gruh at ₹209 billion, which is at a 7% discount to [Monday's] market capitalisation," Yes Securities said in a report.

Gruh Finance, promoted by the country's largest mortgage company HDFC Ltd., is into the business of financing in the affordable housing segment.

Undisclosed assets of ₹6,000 cr. detected

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

Undisclosed assets totalling ₹6,000 crore have been detected under the foreign black money law enacted by the government in 2015, Parliament was informed on Tuesday.

"As an outcome of actions taken by the I-T Department under the Black Money (Undisclosed Foreign Income and Assets) and Imposition of Tax Act, 2015", as on October 31, 2018, undisclosed foreign assets and income valued at over ₹6,000 crore have been detected," Minister of State for Finance Shiv Pratap Shukla said in a written reply in the Rajya Sabha.

Celebi Aviation lands Hyderabad airport deal

Gets 10-year ground handling licence

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD

Celebi Aviation Holding has won the ground handling licence for Hyderabad's Rajiv Gandhi International Airport (RGIA) for 10 years under a competitive bidding process.

Celebi said it would be investing \$5.6 million and partner RGIA to offer modern and technologically-backed services to over 20 million passengers. The contract was won on the basis of a highly competitive bidding process that assessed the technical and financial qualifications of multiple global ground handling players who participated in the bid, Celebi said in a release. This is the third

win for Celebi since last year – it has bagged the licence for Bengaluru and Kannur airports.

The year gone by marked the 10th anniversary of the Indian operations of Celebi Aviation.

The CEO of Indian operations of Celebi Aviation Holding Inc. Murali Ramachandran said, "India is a key market for us. The partnership with RGIA is an important benchmark in our decade-long journey as it sets another milestone towards our efforts to strengthen presence in the India aviation market."

In India, Celebi is present across India's top three airports – Mumbai, Delhi and Bengaluru.

Indians' Swiss bank deposits down 34.5%

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

Loans and deposits of non-bank Indians in Swiss banks decreased by 34.5% in 2017 as compared with the previous year, Parliament was informed.

There was a significant reduction in Swiss non-bank loans and deposits of Indians by as much as 80.2% between 2013 and 2017. "The data collected by Swiss National Bank in collaboration with Bank for International Settlements (BIS) shows that the loans and deposits of Indians, other than banks, in the Swiss banks decreased by 34.5% in the year 2017 as compared to 2016," MoS for Finance Shiv Pratap Shukla said in Rajya Sabha.

IBM gets 9,100 patents in 2018, India second highest contributor

Inventors from India received more than 800 patents

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

Tech giant IBM on Tuesday said it had received 9,100 patents in 2018 across areas such as artificial intelligence (AI), cloud computing and cybersecurity, with India being the second highest contributor to the global record tally.

"In 2018, IBM employee inventors received a record number of 9,100 patents, marking the company's 26th consecutive year of the U.S. patent leadership. IBM also led the industry in the number of AI, cloud computing, security and quantum computing-related patent grants, with more than 4,000 patents," it said.



Ginni Rometty

IBM inventors from India received over 800 patents, the second highest contributor to the global record tally, it added.

It is committed to leading the way on technologies that change the way the world works and solving problems

The patents were granted to a diverse group of more than 8,500 IBM inventors in over 40 countries

which many people have not even thought of yet, IBM chairman, president and CEO Ginni Rometty said.

"Our clients and their customers are the beneficiaries of these innovations, particularly our leadership in AI, cloud, blockchain and security for business," Ms. Rometty added.

Overall, the patents were granted to a diverse group of more than 8,500 IBM inventors in over 40 countries.

NORTH DELHI MUNICIPAL CORPORATION

OFFICE OF THE EX. ENGINEER (ELECT-IV)/KBZ
TOURIST CAMP SITE, J.L. NEHRU MARG, NEW DELHI-110002
NIT No.16/EEE-IV/KBZ/2018-19
Notice Inviting e-Tenders
Date: 07.01.2019

Executive Engineer (Electrical)/KBZ on behalf of Commissioner, North Delhi Municipal Corporation, invites Dual bid stage e-tenders i.e. Pre-bid conference, Technical Bid and Financial Bid from all the eligible OEM or Authorized Dealer/Distributor/SI of the OEM of major offered product (i.e. Camera and NVR) for below mentioned work in sealed cover is under from MCD contractors registered in appropriate class and the same will be received as per time table and opened on 23.01.2019 at 2.30 PM on website <http://www.tenderwizard.com/>

NORTHDMCTENDER

S.No.:1, NAME OF WORK: Supply and installation of IP based CCTV cameras in 30 Nos Model school sites of North Delhi Municipal Corporation, **HEAD OF A/C:** XL-II-A-II, **Estimated Amount:** Rs.1,24,99,345/-, **TENDER AMT.:** Rs.1,21,35,287/-, **E/M:** Rs.2,42,700/-, **TENDER COST:** Rs.1000/-, **TIME OF COMP.:** 6 months + 5 year CAMC, **RATE HOLD GOOD FOR:** 150 days.

Note: - a) Detailed information can be downloaded from MCD website portal <http://www.tenderwizard.com/NORTHDMCTENDER>
b) If any Corrigendum issue in above NIT will be displayed only on MCD website portal <http://www.tenderwizard.com/NORTHDMCTENDER>, or <http://mcdonline.gov.in>

Sd/-
(Satpal Mehta)
Director-cum-Warden of Fisheries, Himachal Pradesh, Bilaspur.
E-mail : fisheries-hp@nic.in
Tel/Fax: 01978-224068
HP/3953/18-19

Directorate of Fisheries Himachal Pradesh CORRIGENDUM TO AUCTION NOTICE

It is hereby notified that vehicle with registration No. HP07-A-0618 (*Maruti Esteem 2007*) of this Department was scheduled to be put to public auction on **10-01-2019** at 11.00 am at Directorate of Fisheries H.P., Matsya Bhawan, Chander Sector, Bilaspur vide Auction Notice ad. No. 3821(H.P.) published in "The Indian Express", dated 29-12-2018. Due to some administrative reasons the above vehicle will now be put to public auction on 22-01-2019. Other Terms & Conditions will remain unchanged

Sd/-

(Satpal Mehta)

Director-cum-Warden of Fisheries, Himachal Pradesh, Bilaspur.

E-mail : fisheries-hp@nic.in

Tel/Fax: 01978-224068

HP / 3954/18-19

HIMACHAL PRADESH IRRIGATION & P.H. DEPARTMENT CORRIGENDUM

The online tender for the work "Engineering, procurement, construction, testing, commissioning, trial run and operation and maintenance of various components of Multi Village Lift Water Supply scheme Ghar Jarot for Block Nagrota Surian District Kangra (HP) for ultimate capacity of bringing 3.81 MLD treated water (16 hours pumping) from the source 5 Nos. Tubewell on left and right bank of Gaj Khad in village Suknara and Ghar Jarot to 20 Nos. villages of Block Nagrota Surian in single package on "Turn-Key job basis" including trial run, defect and liability period and running and maintenance of the entire scheme for 5 years, as called for vide this office NIT No. 7677-7720 dated 04.12.2018, the date of submission of e-bid may be read as 11-01-2019 upto 15.00 Hrs IST (GMT +5.30 hours) instead of earlier published as 7-01-2019 upto 11.00 Hrs IST (GMT +5.30 hours) and date of opening of e-bid may be read as 11-01-2019 at 16.00 Hrs IST (GMT +5.30 hours) instead of earlier published as 7-01-2019 upto 11.30 Hrs IST (GMT +5.30 hours) due to administrative reason.

**Project Director (PMU)
Cum Chief Engineer (D&M),
IPH Department Jal Bhawan
Shimla -171009**

HP / 3954/18-19
HIM SUCHNA AVAM JAN SAMPAK

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR, SHER-I-KASHMIR INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES, SOURA OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, MECHANICAL

Tel: 0194-2403679, 2401618-ext.No.2159, email:mechanicalskims@gmail.com

RE-01 SHORT TERM NOTICE INVITING e-TENDERS

Gist of e-NIT NO. 72 OF 2018-19 Dated. 04.01.2019

For and on behalf of Governor of Jammu & Kashmir State, Executive Engineer, Mechanical, SKIMS, Soura, Srinagar, invites online e-bids in two (02) cover system from Manufacturers or their authorized dealers/Reputed and registered firms having expertise as detailed in the tender document for the following works:

S.No. Name of the Work :-

1 Supply, installation, testing and commissioning of ETO Sterilizer in CSSD SKIMS, MCH, Bemina

Estimated Cost (Rs. in Lacs) 10.50

The complete tender document is available at website <http://jkttenders.gov.in>. bidders/tenderers may view, download the e-bid document, seek clarifications and submit their bids online up to the date and time mentioned in the table below. Tender Document contains qualifying criteria for bidders. Specifications, Bills of Quantities, & Terms and conditions of the contract and other relevant details.

i) Date and time of downloading/Sale of tender documents (Starting Date) 07.01.2019 from (11:00 Hrs)

ii) Date & Time of Bidding Queries/clarification/Pre-bid meet 12.01.2019 at 11:00 Hours.

iii) Last Date & Time of Bid Uploading 15.01.2019 upto 16:00 Hours

iv) Date of Submission of hard copies (only original EMD/DD for document fee) 17.01.2019 upto 14:00 Hours

v) Date & Time of Commercial/technical Bid (Cover-I) opening 18-01-2019 11:00 Hours (or next convenient day).

vi) Date & Time of Financial Bid(Cover-II) Opening of the qualifying Bidders 19-01-2019 11:30 Hours (or next Convenient Day).

'I love the way Virat plays and his humility is a sign of greatness'



Astute leadership: Australian pace legend Glenn McGrath says Virat Kohli helmed the team passionately and motivated his men well in the epoch-making series. ■ MARK EVANS/GETTY IMAGES

Cash bonus for team

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI
The BCCI on Tuesday announced cash awards of ₹15 lakh per match for each of the playing eleven that featured in India's maiden Test series win on Australian soil. Congratulating the team, the BCCI also announced cash awards for all the reserve players as well as the support staff.

IN BRIEF



Stumper Pant jumps 21 spots
DUBAI Cheteshwar Pujara has gained a spot to be third in the latest ICC batsmen rankings, following his man of the series show in India's Test series win in Australia. Rishabh Pant jumped 21 places to 17th, the joint-highest by a specialist India wicketkeeper along with Farokh Engineer, who did so in January 1973. M.S. Dhoni's highest Test ranking was 19th. Virat Kohli has maintained his No. 1 position in batsmen's rankings. PTI

USA Cricket becomes ICC's 105th member

DUBAI The International Cricket Council (ICC) on Tuesday announced USA Cricket as its 105th member. The latter is now eligible to receive funding in accordance with the ICC Development Funding Policy and can sanction domestic and international cricket in USA. PTI



Clean sweep for New Zealand
NELSON Ross Taylor and Henry Nicholls smashed centuries as New Zealand beat Sri Lanka by 115 runs in the third ODI on Tuesday to complete a 3-0 series whitewash.

The scores: New Zealand 364 for four in 50 overs (Ross Taylor 137, Henry Nicholls 124, Kane Williamson 55) bt Sri Lanka 249 in 41.4 overs (Thisara Perera 80, Niroshan Dickwella 46, Kusal Perera 43, Lockie Ferguson four for 40). AFP

Have the Australians dug themselves into a hole?

'Tampergate' has brought about a sea change in the players' on-field behaviour



Nice boys finish last! The typical Aussie aggro seemed to have been cold-stored during the series. ■ MARK KOLBE/GETTY IMAGES

ing at the opposition, the pressure keeps building. They hustle and sledge the opposition, play mind games.

But then after Tampergate, the Aussies have become so conscious of their on-field behaviour that the opposition is often having a go at them. Australia and aggression have a symbiotic relationship.

What happened in Tampergate was horrendous.

The three cricketers involved, including skipper Steve Smith and David Warner, were rightly punished. The matter should have ended there.

Yet, the issue travelled far beyond ball tampering and put the Australian cricket culture and its methods under the microscope.

Also, there is this imaginary line which should not be crossed. But then, these are days when words are spoken

by every team. Every team crosses the line at some point.

The events after Tampergate have had a huge psychological impact on Australian cricketers and the way they go about their game.

The Australians should play their cricket the Australian way, going hard at the opposition, employing gamessmanship, but comprehending the limits of their aggression.

■ The pride in the baggy green was not in view. You don't associate Australia with tame, limp cricket

If they play like 'nice boys', they won't win. It goes against their mindset and upbringing that considers every match a do-or-die battle.

Confused bunch

Against India, the Australians appeared a confused bunch led by a captain, Tim Paine, who didn't quite appear to have the personality to lead the side.

Australia, at this point, needs a strong character at the helm.

It was astonishing to see so many specialist batsmen getting starts – the first 20-30 runs are most difficult for any batsman – and then throwing their wickets away.

The pride in the baggy green was not in view. You don't associate Australia with tame, limp cricket.

Shockingly, the highest individual score in the series for Australia was 79. Batsmen were just not willing to build an innings.

On view was a lack of con-

centration, poor shot selection, the inability to build partnerships and the absence of mental fortitude for the longer version.

Twenty20 cricket is taking its toll on Australian cricket. And Cricket Australia has actually split Sheffield Shield into two phases – before and after the Big Bash – to accommodate the Twenty20 competition.

So when an important Test series is on – including the Boxing Day and the New Year Tests – the Australians selectors would find it hard to replace a player since there is no First Class cricket happening owing to the Big Bash.

In the process,innings-building skills in Tests have gone for a toss. And if you don't put runs on the board in Tests, your team is in trouble.

Blunt spearhead

Mitchell Starc's travails in the series summed up Australia's plight. Here was a strike bowler, the spearhead, bowling inept spells without control, hostility and intent.

Truth to tell, Starc's confidence is in his boots. And Australian cricket is in a hole.

Siraj to replace rested Bumrah



SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
SYDNEY

India's bowling coach Bharat Arun has often spoken about load management of the pacemen being critical to the country's performance in the ICC ODI World Cup.

The impressive Jasprit Bumrah has done plenty of bowling for India in the last 12 months. He is the country's most precious pace bowling asset, and needs to be protected from injuries.

In line with this thinking, the Indian selection panel has rested Bumrah for the ODI series against Australia and the limited-over tour of New Zealand.

Hyderabad paceman Mohammed Siraj will replace Bumrah in both these series. And seamer Siddharth Kaul has been added to the team for the three-match Twenty20 series in New Zealand.

IPL to stay in India this year

Schedule to be finalised after announcement of election dates

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

This year's Indian Premier League (IPL) will be held in India from March 23.

The decision was taken here on Tuesday following a meeting of the Committee of Administrators of authorities concerned.

The BCCI confirmed that the IPL will be staged in India despite the general elections.

Advance the dates

The two-member CoA – Vinod Rai and Diana Edulji – met government officials here and decided to advance the IPL dates on account of the ICC World Cup to be held in England from May 30.

The new BCCI constitution mandates a 15-day gap between the end of IPL and India's international assignments.

In the past, IPL was twice staged out of India. The 2009 edition was played entirely in South

Africa, while in 2014 some matches were held in the UAE.

According to the BCCI, the IPL schedule will be finalised once the dates for the elections are announced.

"Based on the preliminary discussions with the appropriate central and state agencies / authorities, it was decided that the 12th edition of the world's most popular and competitive T20 tournament will be played in India," said the BCCI statement.

To start on March 23
"It is proposed that the IPL 2019 will commence on March 23.

The detailed schedule will be finalised in consultation with the appropriate authorities. The CoA will have detailed discussion with all stakeholders before releasing the IPL 2019 schedule," it said.

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Kohli walks the talk, thanks to Pujara and Bumrah

The epic achievement down under is even a shade or two higher than the two first-time wins 47 years ago



BETWEEN WICKETS

SURESH MENON

Those of us of a certain vintage would remember the two first-time wins in 1971. The inaugural win in Australia is on a par, perhaps even a shade or two higher for the extra 4 years it took.

Some of India's greatest cricketers – from Sunil Gavaskar, Gundappa Viswanath and Kapil Dev to Bishan Bedi, Bhagwat Chandrasekhar and Erappalli Prasanna, to Sachin Tendulkar, Rahul Dravid, Virender Sehwag, Anil Kumble, V.V.S. Laxman and Sourav Ganguly have come and gone in that period. Forty seven years is a long time.

Those first wins in the West Indies and England in 1971 were conveyed to fans back home through newspapers and the radio. I was allowed to stay home from school the day following India's win in England. Those were simpler times; we rejoiced in simpler pleasures.

Different scenarios

When Abid Ali square cut Brian Luckhurst to the boundary to win at the Oval, it remained Indian cricket's most famous stroke for decades.

Skipper Ajit Wadekar, fast asleep in the dressing room (like a general who had laid his plans and knew there was nothing more to be done, said someone, perhaps Keith Miller) was woken up by Ken Barrington with the news.

It is difficult to imagine Virat Kohli sleeping at all, let alone at the moment of triumph. Victory, like justice, must not only be achieved but seen to be achieved. The handshakes at the end might look the same, but the victors' carries a different message.

When India beat New Zealand 3-1 to win their first series abroad in 1967-68, the captain was Tiger Pataudi the great amateur who, asked by Ian Chappell what he did for a living replied, "I am a prince." Half a century ago that explained everything. Pataudi might have been a fierce competitor, a great captain and inspiration, but he played for the love of the game; there were no material benefits.

His successor Wadekar came from the next strand of captains. He was a banker from Mumbai's middle class, and worked in the State Bank of India, which in the 1970s employed most of India's top players. Holding a job down was important in the uncertain world of sport.

In Australia, India had a captain who symbolised the following stage – the consummate professional who made millions from the game. Kohli has been telling us for a while now

that he had the team to beat the best in the world in their conditions.

This season he was expected to walk the talk. South Africa didn't pan out, England was a disaster. But Australia, where India arrived as the No. 1 team in the world, finally made up for it. As the poet Robert Southey said in another context, It was a famous victory.

In 1971, the churlish pointed out that the West Indies were a team in decline, that debutant Gavaskar who made 774 runs in four Tests was dropped often and so on.

This time, descendants of the churlish might claim that Australia were not at full strength, with top batsmen Steve Smith and David Warner under suspension for cheating in a Test match. But you can only play the team that turns up on the field.

The bats were not India's fault; and earlier, most memorably in 1977-78, India had failed to beat an Australian team that lacked its top players who had been bought by Kerry Packer.

Australia always held a special place in the affections of Indian fans. Unlike England, Australia always sent their best teams on Indian tours. Then there was Don Bradman, who never played in India, but was still a folk hero of sorts. As was Allan Border. In the 1980s, Australia toured the subcontinent ten times, and Border was in each of those teams.

Most fans carry memories of waking up early in the morning to listen

to the radio commentary, and later, telecasts of Tests from that country. Australian fans worshipped Bedi and Gavaskar, and later, Sachin Tendulkar and V.V.S. Laxman.

Success in Australia meant success against fast, bouncing deliveries unseen in India. Australia had the reputation for being tough but fair. Even as, in recent times, relationships on field soured occasionally, there was always respect for the brand of cricket Australia played and the challenge of playing on their storied grounds.

Above all, Australians always played with a passion that Indians recognised, something that the great Windies teams of the past had too. Teams from three different continents were united by a similar approach.

'I was there' moment

In the years to come, Cheteshwar Pujara might be spoken of in the manner Gavaskar was after Windies 1971, Jasprit Bumrah as Bhagwath Chandrasekhar was after England 1971. The tag of greatness hovering over Virat Kohli might settle on him – both as batsman and captain.

Forty seven years ago, very few Indians could say "I was there when history was made." Now, thanks to live television, every fan can make that claim. We were all there in Adelaide and Melbourne and Sydney as Kohli's team lent heft to their world ranking.

McGrath says the India captain is capable of matching Tendulkar in stature

OZ CHALLENGE

S. DINAKAR
SYDNEY

Glenn McGrath not just called Virat Kohli a great batsman but said the Indian captain was a good human being as well.

McGrath has been touched by the support Kohli has lent to the Pink Test that raised funds for the treatment of breast cancer patients.

Lovely gesture

The legendary fast bowler said to *The Hindu*, "The fact that Virat came out the other day, with pink on his gloves, the pads, the bat, the grip, was a very special and incredible gesture."

He added, "I love the way Virat plays the game, he is aggressive. When he walks off the field, he is a good human being, a really good person."

McGrath said, "Virat's humility, the fact that he is a humble person off the field, is a sign of greatness. It's not just on the field but how you carry yourself off the field too that is so important. I have a lot of respect for him."

'Bumrah has so much variety'

Glenn McGrath recalled

Glen McGrath said, "He's a freak in the manner he generates pace with his unique action."

"Bumrah's speed doesn't drop as the day progresses as I feared. He's become stronger and is able to maintain his speed. And he's got so much variety."

On his interactions with Kohli, McGrath said, "He's been very friendly, very respectful. A confident man on and off the field."

"He led the team passionately and motivated his men so well in the series."

Technically sound

The Aussie observed, "To me he is the best batsman in the world. He shows his quality when he is in the middle. Great technique, great temperament. When he gets a loose delivery, he puts it away. Never misses out."

That's the sign of a great batsman."

On Kohli being booed by the Australian crowds, McGrath said, "Sometimes if the opposition crowd gives you a hard time, it is a sign of respect. I think he has a lot of respect here in Australia."

"If Australians give you a hard time, then they respect you."

Comparing Sachin Tendulkar with Kohli, McGrath said, "Sachin was one of the greats of all time, played 200 Tests, scored so many runs.

"Whether Virat is up with

Sachin at this stage? Probably not."

He added, "But whether Virat will eventually get there, there is a good chance. He already has got his hundreds in quicker time than Sachin. He is well on his way."

Different personalities

Taking a look at their personalities, McGrath said, "Sachin was more quiet and soft-spoken on the field. Virat is a little more confident, more aggressive on the field."

Tendulkar had virtually no chinks in his technique. What

Nishant and Hans pair posts win

SPORTS BUREAU
CHANDIGARH

Nishant Dabas and Kabir Hans knocked out the second seeds Guy Den Ouden and Stijn Pel of the Netherlands 3-6, 6-0, 10-8 in the boys' doubles pre-quarterfinals of the ITF grade-3 junior tennis tournament on Tuesday.

The singles competition will resume on Wednesday with the pre-quarterfinals.

The results: Boys doubles (pre-quarterfinals): Younes Lalami Laaroussi (Mar) & Sacchitt Sharma bt Sushant Dabas & Krishan Hooda 6-3, 6-2; Alexander Gaponenko & Yair Sarouk (Isr) bt Dev Javia & Madhwin Kamath 4-6, 7-6(6), [10-8]; Credit Chaiyarin & Natthayut Nithithananon (Tha) bt Krish Patel & Denim Yadav 6-3, 6-4; Shashikant Rajput & Uddayvir Singh bt Thomas George Brun (Sui) & Adit Sinha (US) 6-2, 6-4; Nishant Dabas & Kabir Hans bt Gur Den Ouden & Stijn Pel (Ned) 3-6, 6-0, [10-8].

Girls doubles (pre-quarterfinals): Weronika Baszak (Pol) & Holly Fischer (GBR) bt Gauri Bhagia & Malvika Shukla 6-2, 6-3; Priyanshi Bhandari & Rutuja Chaphalkar (US) bt Harleen Kaur & Simran Pritam 6-2, 6-4; Lunda Kumhom (Tha) & Yu-Yun Li (Tpe) bt Jagmeet Kaur Grewal & Archita Mahalwal 6-2, 6-0; Melissa Boyden (Ned) & Sevil Yildasheva (Uzb) bt Japjot Kaur & Konika Singh Dhull 6-0, 6-1; Anastasia Astakhova (Kaz) & Iaqi Huang (Chn) bt Tanisha Kashyap & Kaavya Sawhney 4-6, 6-2, [10-5]; Meshkatolzahra Safi (Iri) & Shuruan Wang (Chn) bt Sandeepi Singh Rao & Prinkle Singh 6-1, 6-3; Mai Napatt Nirundorn (Tha) & Malika Ma-ratne bt Malaika Rapolu (US) & Nikita Vishwase 7-5, 6-3.

Debutant Pradosh comes good

TN sitting pretty after Delhi loses two wickets quickly before stumps

S. DIPAK RAGAV
CHENNAI

After Abhinav Mukund's brilliant century on day one, it was another left-hander, Pradosh Ranjan Paul, who starred for Tamil Nadu on day two against Delhi in the final Ranji Trophy Group B match here on Tuesday.

The 18-year-old debutant showed plenty of promise and wasn't awed by the stage of First Class cricket. He came up with a classy 78 that put TN - 432 in its first innings - in the driver's seat.

In reply, Delhi did the hard work of seeing off the first 11 of its 13 overs before two wickets in quick succession allowed the home side to finish on top with the visitors ending the day at 35 for two.

It was another long day in the field for Delhi and yet again it was largely self-inflicted with more dropped catches. It started with Vijay Shankar being dropped at slip by Kunal Chandela off Navdeep Saini before Abhinav was put down by Himmat Singh at mid-off. Later Pradosh got lucky when Chandela missed a tough half-chance running backwards towards the boundary.

Nervous start
Pradosh, who walked in after overnight batsman Vijay Shankar was dismissed leg-before for 17, began cautiously, taking 16 balls to get off the mark.

The youngster was edgy and nervous in search for his first run but once he got that, the left-hander quickly pounced on the Delhi bowlers, with his next five scor-



Talented: Pradosh Ranjan Paul kick-started his Ranji career with a classy knock. ■ K. PICHUMANI

ing shots being boundaries. Pradosh was not afraid to step down to the spinners and played beautifully off the back foot with half off his boundaries coming square off the wicket.

His first boundary came through a backfoot punch off pacer Subodh Bhati before he stepped out to loft off-spinner Shivam Sharma over the top. He had seven boundaries and a six before he got to his half-century.

The youngster later said he was distraught on missing out a hundred after he was trapped lbw off left-arm spinner Vikas Mishra (five for 142). He moved far too across to work it fine on the leg-side and missed an innocuous delivery.

At the other end, Abhinav, who resumed on 104, was dismissed for 134, caught at

cover driving Shivam. Later, Shahrukh Khan who joined Pradosh played a responsible innings before he was dismissed for 55 going for quick runs in the last session with the duo adding 82 for the fifth wicket.

The Delhi innings began with opener Kunal Chandela starting positively, hitting left-arm pacer T. Natarajan for five boundaries before he was run out off the penultimate ball of the day, thanks to Vijay Shankar's brilliant pick-up and direct hit.

With the pitch at the M.A. Chidambaram Stadium offering good assistance for the spinners, TN will try and push hard with its two-left arm spinners on day three.

The scores:
Tamil Nadu - 1st innings: Abhinav Mukund c Rana b Shivam 134, N. Jagadeesan c Lalit b Vikes 8, B. Aparajith st Rawat b

Shivam 6, B. Indrajith c Shorey b Vikes 86, Vijay Shankar lbw b Bhati 17, Pradosh Ranjan Paul lbw b Vikes 78, M. Shahrukh Khan c Shivam b Vikes 55, M. Mohammed c Himmat b Shivam 14, R. Sai Kishore lbw b Vikes 21, Mohan Prasath c Rana b Shivam 0, T. Natarajan (not out) 0; Extras (lb-3, nb 4, b-6); Total (in 164.4 overs): 432.

Fall of wickets: 1-25, 2-42, 3-197, 4-234, 5-281, 6-363, 7-396, 8-427, 9-428.

Delhi bowling: Saini 26-68-0, Bhati 21-7-39-1, Vikes 45.4-3-142-5, Shivam 44-6-105-4, Lalit 14-1-36-0, Rana 14-3-33-0.

Fall of wickets: 1-35, 2-35.

Tamil Nadu bowling: Natarajan 4-0-23-0, Mohammed 3-1-5-0, Sai Kishore 3-1-4-1, Mohan Prasath 2.5-1-3-0.

Shubman Gill looks up to Pujara

Prolific Punjab batsman says youngsters can learn a lot from the India star



Grounded: Shubman Gill says Pujara has set a benchmark for aspiring young talent. ■ AP

Gill, who is having a fine Ranji season, said he would like to further improve his game. "I'm pretty happy

with the way I am batting. But I can work on the way I am getting out.

"In Tests, you tend to bat

in sessions. There will be a period when a bowler will do well and when I will score runs... You have to be smart to pick the ones where you can capitalise."

Gill, who got out for 91 after playing a fine innings in the match against Bengal here on Tuesday, said, "I am disappointed on missing out on a hundred. Had I batted longer, the team would have been in a better position. But it's part of the game."

India dreams

The 19-year-old is rated highly by experts, who feel he will be picked for the India side sooner rather than later.

Gill, nevertheless, understands the ground reality.

"I can just pray and hope. Every player has a dream of playing for India. But, our one-day team is strong and the World Cup is round the corner."

"We have won a very good Test series as well," he said.

"Nowadays batsmen look to score quick runs. There are few batsmen who can bat through the day. He has played over 1,200 balls on one tour, which is really phenomenal. To score 500 runs on a tour is possible, but to face so many deliveries is like setting a benchmark for youngsters."

Patience
"Nowadays batsmen look to score quick runs. There are few batsmen who can bat through the day. He has played over 1,200 balls on one tour, which is really phenomenal. To score 500 runs on a tour is possible, but to face so many deliveries is like setting a benchmark for youngsters."

East Bengal shoots past Indian Arrows

Vijay Sundar progresses

SPORTS BUREAU
ANNING (CHINA)

Vijay Sundar Prashanth beat Ray Ho of Chinese Taipei 6-3, 6-3 in the first round of the \$25,000 ITF men's Futures tennis tournament in China on Tuesday.

In the ITF women's event in Hong Kong, Prarthana Thombare made the doubles quarterfinals with Ana Veselinovic of Montenegro.

The results:

\$25,000 ITF men, Anning, China: Singles (first round): Vijay Sundar Prashanth bt Ray Ho (Tpe) 6-3, 6-3; Nitin Kumar Sinha 40, Thong Kit Wong (Hkg) 6-4, 6-1.

Doubles (pre-quarterfinals): Ti Chen & Ray Ho (Tpe) bt Anirudh Chandrasekar & Vijay Sundar Prashanth 6-1, 6-4.

\$25,000 ITF women, Hong Kong: Doubles (pre-quarterfinals): Ana Veselinovic (Mne) & Prarthana Thombare bt Joyana Jaksic (Srb) & Olivia Tjandramulia (Aus) 5-7, 6-2, [10-2].

before Jobby Justin (64th) doubled the advantage in the second half.

Ninthoi was the lone scorer for Arrows, bulging the net from the penalty spot in the 89th minute.

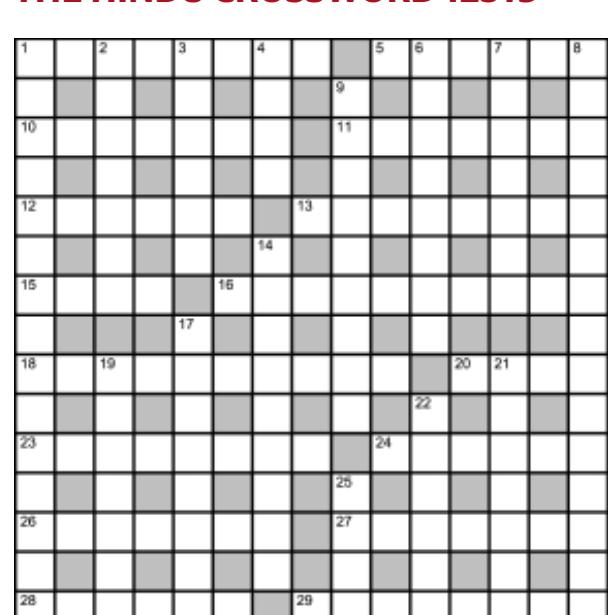
East Bengal remains at the fifth spot with 19 points from 10 matches.

Laldamnawia converted a penalty to give East Bengal the lead in the 26th minute



In the thick of it: East Bengal's Jobby Justin troubled the Arrows defence no end. ■ BISWARANJAN ROUT

THE HINDU CROSSWORD 12519



■ ACROSS

- 1 US money in closed-up part of classical building (8)
- 5 One who is correspondingly familiar to another (3,3)
- 10 Calling bird and fish (7)
- 11 Criticism of engineer's trial print (7)
- 12 Head for food? (6)
- 13 Cast, abroad, act badly with old way of playing (8)
- 15 # drug (4)
- 16 Hindi film actor without kickstart in bind needs persuasion (10)
- 18 Shakespearean woman not right getting picture of shrub (10)
- 20 Exercise by Left Front for money (4)
- 23 Rewritten preface about a headland (4,4)
- 24 Beat article about origin of rabi she has left unfinished (6)
- 26 Poorly matched a Parisienne to question young boy (7)
- 27 Recalled a quote about animal in bizarre collection (7)
- 28 Angry slater dismissed learner's last letter as 'not authentic' (6)
- 29 There's a lot to be heard from the newspaper section (8)
- 30 Informed and given a role in film (3,2,3,7)
- 31 Obedient, vehemently shouted husband out for you (7)

■ DOWN

- 1 Missed in the legislative measure – not featured in part of play... (4,3,2,3,3)
- 2 Place to eat for artist in race with limited ration served (9)
- 4 Fellow's ruling to you, friend; is adhering to truth (9)
- 7 You finally cut furs to pieces with the right to use another's property (8)
- 19 Wow one maiden with squeeze (7)
- 21 Learner exits timelier presentation of academic retirees (7)
- 22 Being particular, poor lad leaves day school that's ill-managed (6)
- 25 Without beginning to die, stay healthy (4)

(set by Gridman)

3 In essence, mother in Londonderry is disheartened (6)

4 Knight drops knight close by (4)

6 Voted to replace Liberal with unknown power that's due to arrive (8)

7 Validate will in favour of graduate and retell heartily (7)

8 Missed in the legislative measure – not featured in part of play... (4,3,2,3,3)

9 Place to eat for artist in race with limited ration served (9)

14 Fellow's ruling to you, friend; is adhering to truth (9)

17 You finally cut furs to pieces with the right to use another's property (8)

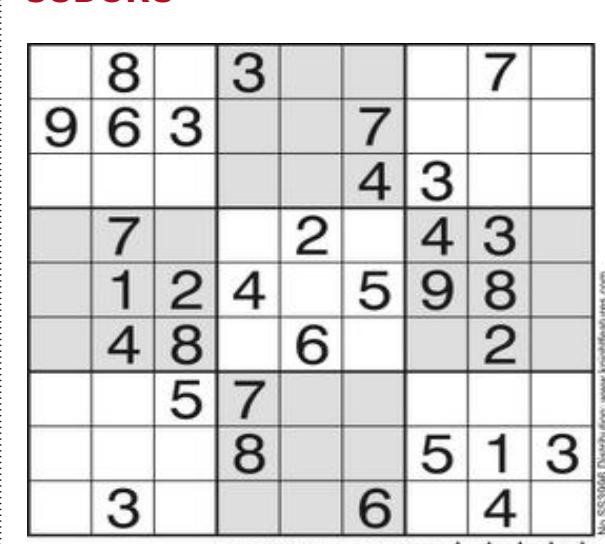
19 Wow one maiden with squeeze (7)

21 Learner exits timelier presentation of academic retirees (7)

22 Being particular, poor lad leaves day school that's ill-managed (6)

25 Without beginning to die, stay healthy (4)

SUDOKU



DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★

Solution to puzzle 12518

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Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

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TV PICKS

NBA: Sony ESPN (SD & HD), 6.30 a.m.
Ranji Trophy: Star Sports 1 (SD & HD), 9.30 a.m.
I-League: Star Sports 3, 2 p.m.
PBL: Star Sports 1 (SD & HD), 7 p.m.
AFC Asian Cup: Star Sports 3, 4 p.m., 7 p.m. & 9 p.m.

IN BRIEF



Ingram and Ball lift Lakers

LOS ANGELES
Young stars Brandon Ingram (in pic) and Lonzo Ball answered Los Angeles coach Luke Walton's call for more fire on Monday, leading Lakers to a 107-97 NBA victory over Mavericks in Dallas. Ingram scored 29 points, Ball added 21 and Lakers erased a 13-point halftime deficit to halt a three-game skid and post just their second victory in seven games.

Other results: San Antonio Spurs 119 bt Detroit Pistons 107; Boston Celtics 116 bt Brooklyn Nets 95; Houston Rockets 125 bt Denver Nuggets 113; Milwaukee Bucks 114 bt Utah Jazz 102; New Orleans Pelicans 114 bt Memphis Grizzlies 95; Portland Trailblazers 111 bt New York Knicks 101; Sacramento Kings 111 bt Orlando Magic 95.

A noble gesture!

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
ABU DHABI

The small amounts collected from the Indian footballers as fines for minor breach of discipline are being put to use for a noble cause as the team decided to donate ₹50,000 to the Indian Blind Football Federation.

The fines were collected from the National team members over the past few years for breach of discipline like arriving late for training sessions, carrying mobile phones for meals, wearing the wrong attire.

This money donated by the 'Blue Tigers' will be used by the IBFF to buy footballs.

Raptors tear apart Rockets

Win takes them closer to a semifinal spot

PBL

ASHWIN ACHAL
BENGALURU

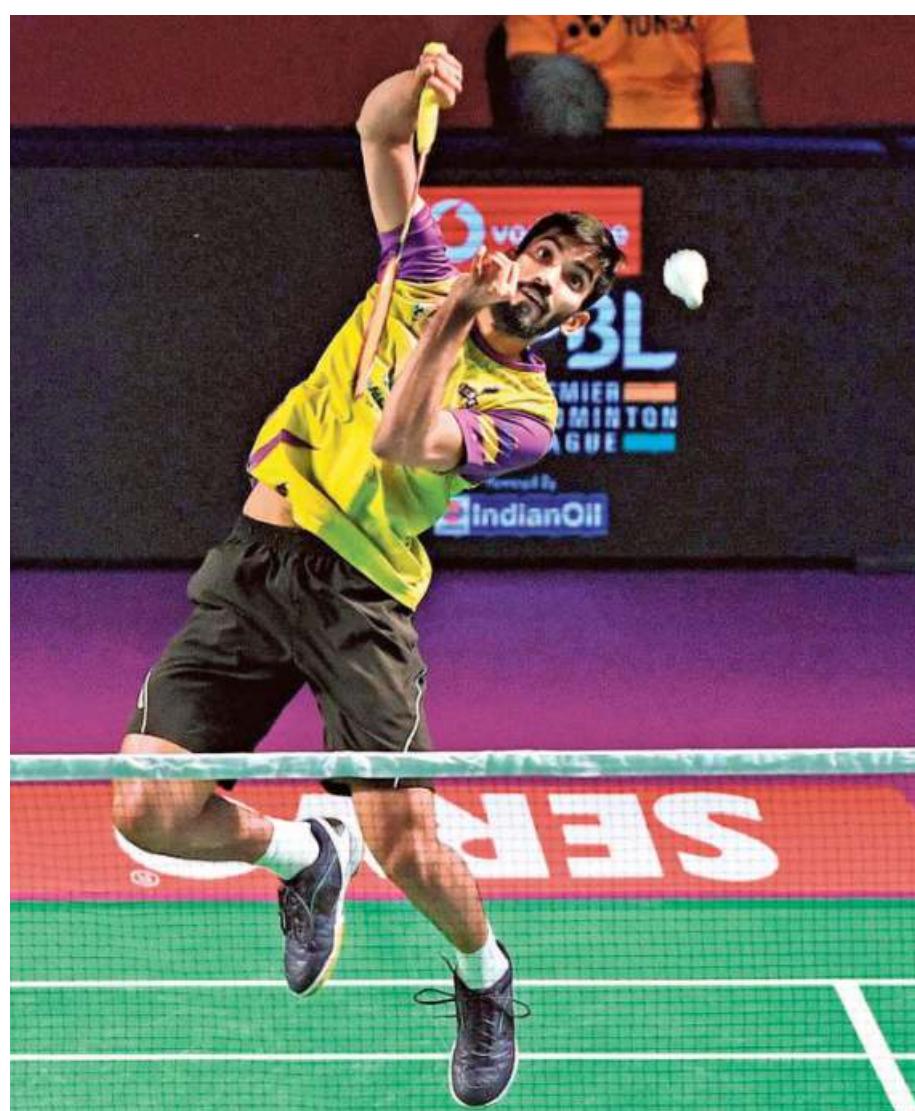
Bengaluru Raptors kicked off its home campaign in style, cruising past Mumbai Rockets 5-0 in the Premier Badminton League (PBL) at the Sree Kanteerava Indoor Stadium here on Tuesday. The victory took Bengaluru (18 points) to fourth on the points table, and one step closer to gaining a semifinal berth. Mumbai (19 points) stays in third-spot.

It was the marquee men's singles clash between K. Srikanth (World No. 8) and Anders Antonsen (World No. 18) which stood out as the highlight. Neither player was willing to concede an inch, but it was Bengaluru's Srikanth who came out on top 15-14, 15-14.

The rallies were exciting, with smashes and drops flowing from both ends of the court.

The net exchanges, in particular, brought the spectators to their feet. Srikanth, who showed unbelievable reflexes to make a few stunning retrieves, was at his best close to the net.

The Indian managed to claw his way back from being 13-14 down in the first game.



Exciting contest: K. Srikanth got Bengaluru Raptors off to a fine start by besting Anders Antonsen of Mumbai Rockets 15-14, 15-14. ■ K. MURALI KUMAR

Karnataka men beat Haryana, make semifinals after 18 years

Maharashtra overcomes Tamil Nadu in women's quarterfinals

NATL. VOLLEYBALL

K. KEERTHIVASAN
CHENNAI

The Karnataka men's team has been a revelation in the senior National volleyball championships here. Playing a tactically sound game during crunch situations and maintaining composure have been its biggest strengths.

Defeating Tamil Nadu and Punjab in the group matches, it sounded a warning to other teams. And Karnataka went one step further with an impressive 23-25, 25-18, 25-21, 25-20 win over Haryana to enter the semifinals after 18 long years.

Haryana was no pushover. With universal Shubham Chaudhary and veteran central blocker Sube Singh, and a



Steady going: Karnataka's Ganesh Gowda had an excellent game, especially in the second set, against Haryana. ■ R. RAGHAV

promising attacker in Amit Balwan Singh, it had some of the best in the business in its ranks. However, it was the consistent performance of blockers Ashwal Rai and A. Karthik that helped Karnataka script victory.

"When we last reached the semifinals way back in 2001 [in Raipur], I was a player in the universal position. This is a bright chance for us to win [the title] as the team is getting better and better. We have improved on our first

pass," said K.R. Lakshmi Narayan, Karnataka's chief coach.

"Today, our blockers Ashwal (Rai) and A. Karthik did a fantastic job in both blocking and attacking."

Punjab ousts Railways

Punjab men pulled off a sensational 25-27, 25-18, 25-23, 17-25, 15-12 win over Indian Railways to set up a semifinal clash with Karnataka.

In the women's quarterfinals, Maharashtra defeated Tamil Nadu 21-25, 25-15, 27-25, 25-20.

The Tamil Nadu women fought hard for every point with libero Saranya and setter Arya ensuring that the host stayed in the rallies as Maharashtra was far superior in attack.

When it looked like Mahara

stra would wallop Tamil Nadu in the fourth set after having taken a 12-8 lead, the host put in a rearguard performance.

Helped by Sangeetha and Aishwarya in a large measure and aided by some excellent blocking, Tamil Nadu, which was trailing all along, levelled the scores at 20-20. However, K. Aswami's five successive smashes derailed Tamil Nadu.

The results (quarterfinals):

Men: Karnataka bt Haryana 23-25, 25-18, 25-21, 25-20; Punjab bt Railways 25-27, 25-18, 25-23, 17-25, 15-12.

Women: West Bengal bt Karnataka 25-20, 25-17, 25-23; Maharashtra bt Tamil Nadu 21-25, 25-15, 27-25, 25-20.

Semifinal line-up: Men: TN vs Kerala, Karnataka vs Punjab; Women: Railways vs Maharashtra; Kerala vs West Bengal.

Sharath-Manika duo shocks Manav-Archana, takes title

Upsets galore in singles events as four of the top-eight seeds fall in the early stages



On the ball: Manika Batra and Sharath Kamal's experience came to the fore in the summit clash. ■ BISWARANJAN ROUT

10, 10-12, 11-6 in 20 minutes. Though Thakkar and Kamath gave glimpses of their

talent with some superb shots, they couldn't upstage their more experienced op-

ponents. Meanwhile, two women and three men in the top-eight failed to justify their billing.

In the men's fourth round, in what turned out to be the match of the day, West Bengal's Kiranjoy Pushilal made a remarkable comeback after trailing 3-1 to stun third seed Sudhan-shu Grover of PSPB in a thrilling decider.

Kiranjoy, one of two defensive players to have featured in the men's main draw, succumbed to West Bengal's Ronit Bhanja in straight games in the pre-quarterfinal.

Uttar Pradesh southpaw Abhishek Yadav continued

his scintillating run from the team event, shocking fifth seed Sushmit Sriram 4-2 in the fourth round.

But his winning streak was halted by Maharashtra's Siddhesh Pande in the round of 16. Seventh seed Sanil Shetty failed to convert a match point against 11th seed Harmeet Desai.

In the women's second round, fourth seed Divya Deshpande lost to Madhya Pradesh's Anusha Kutumbale 11-6, 4-11, 8-11, 6-11, 10-12, while Pooja Sahasrabudhe, the fifth seed, was sent packing by Railways' Shruti Amrute, who won the youth girls' crown last week, in the third round.

The prize money progression

| | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 |
|--------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-------------|
| Total prize-fund ₹ | 35,00,000 | 51,51,000 | 77,77,777 | 1,01,00,000 |
| (Rated players) | 12,50,000 | 18,17,000 | 27,77,777 | 35,00,000 |
| First prize | 3,00,000 | 4,00,000 | 5,00,000 | 6,00,000 |
| (1899 and below) | 11,50,000 | 17,17,000 | 25,00,000 | 33,00,000 |
| First prize | 1,50,000 | 2,00,000 | 2,51,000 | 3,01,000 |
| (1499 and below) | 11,00,000 | 16,17,000 | 25,00,000 | 33,00,000 |
| First prize | 1,50,000 | 2,00,000 | 2,51,000 | 3,01,000 |

entries, with 29 Grandmasters, 31 International Masters and three Woman Grandmasters from 20 countries forming the creamy layer of the 317-player field in Category A where ₹35 lakh is at stake. The event, beginning at the Indira Gandhi Stadium here on Wednesday, is the third stop of the four-city caravan that has already tra-

velled through Bhopal and Mumbai. Chennai hosts the concluding leg later this month. With most of the leading Indian players already committed to play in oth-

er elite events in different parts of the world, local boy Vaibhav Suri leads the home challenge as the fourth seed, behind favourite, Farrukh Amonatov (Tajikistan), Alexander Predke (Russia) and Levan Pantulua (Georgia).

Other title aspirants

Other leading Indian title-aspirants are former champion Abhijeet Gupta, young talent S.L. Narayanan and two-time former National champion M. Karthikeyan.

Among the women, it will be interesting to watch the progress of recently-crowned Asian champion Padmima Rout through the 10-round grind.

Kerala women prevail in a thriller

Tamil Nadu teams register wins

NATL. BASKETBALL

RAYAN ROZARIO
BHAVNAGAR

Strong contender Kerala held its nerve to score a 65-64 win over Chhattisgarh in Group 'B' women's clash in the senior National basketball championships at the Sidsar Sports Complex courts on Tuesday.

It was the team's third straight win but this one was sweeter as it came against last year's runner-up that had a superstar in 6'11" Poonam Chaturvedi.

Kerala coach P.C. Antony marked her with Stephy Nixon. "Stephy had played with her and she knows Poonam's big strengths. She did a great work today," said Antony.

Squeaking through

Once that was taken care of, the rest came easy. But Chhattisgarh kept hitting back every time Kerala took the lead and, the teams were locked 64-each in the dying seconds of the game.

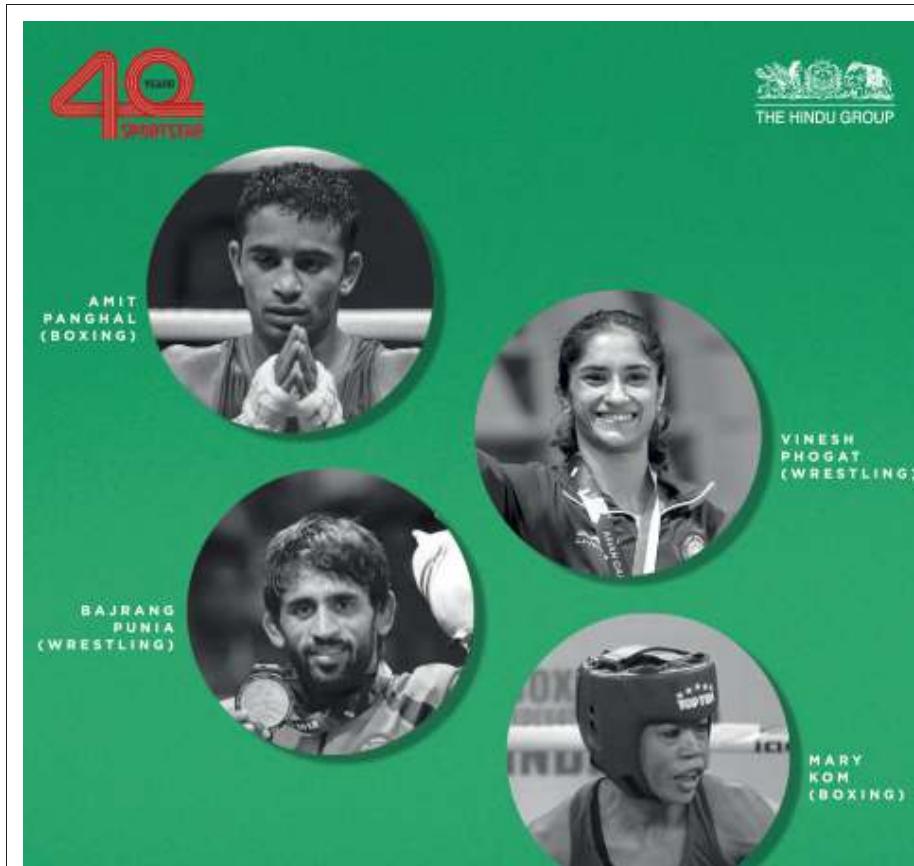
It was at this juncture that Kerala earned a foul and P.S. Jeena missed one free throw and scored the other to take the team home.

Later in the day, defending men's champion Tamil Nadu, which lost a bit of shine against Karnataka the other day, came back strongly to score a thumping 111-79 win over a much-fancied Rajasthan.

Monday's defeat hurt the team so much that its coach C.V. Sunny went back to the room and gave some dressing down to his boys. This probably saw them surge forward in search of baskets from the start.



Coming good: P. Jeevanantham was one of the stars for Tamil Nadu against Rajasthan. ■ VIJAY SONEJI



SPORTSTAR

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IN BRIEF

**Torch used at 1968 Olympics up for auction**

NEW YORK

A torch used by French wrestler Daniel Robin to light the Olympic cauldron for the 1968 Grenoble Winter Games closing ceremony is among the Olympic items to soon go on auction. Boston-based RR Auction will hold an auction of the items, including a 2016 Rio Olympic gold medal. AFP

**Iguanas reintroduced to Santiago Island**

QUITO

A group of more than 1,400 iguanas have been reintroduced to an Ecuadorian island in the Galapagos archipelago around two centuries after they disappeared from there. The Galapagos land iguanas from North Seymour Island were freed onto Santiago Island as part of an ecological restoration programme. AFP

**Harley-Davidson showcases e-motorcycle**

LAS VEGAS American motorcycle manufacturer Harley-Davidson's first electric motorcycle "LiveWire" equipped with a Samsung battery pack is on display at the Consumer Electronics Show in Las Vegas. LiveWire's range is about 180 km per charge. IANS

**Japanese firm rewards employees who sleep**

TOKYO Crazy, a wedding planning company in Japan, awards employees who sleep at least six hours a night with points that can then be exchanged for food in the cafeteria. Using an app to monitor their sleep, workers can rack up points worth as much as ¥64,000 a year. IANS

NASA's probe discovers a new planet

HD 21749b orbits a dwarf star about 53 light years away in the constellation of Reticulum

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
BOSTON

NASA's latest planet-hunting probe has discovered a new world outside our solar system, orbiting a dwarf star 53 light years away.

This is the third new planet confirmed by the Transiting Exoplanet Survey Satellite (TESS) since its launch in April last year.

The planet, named HD 21749b, orbits a bright, nearby dwarf star about 53 light years away, in the constellation Reticulum, and appears

to have the longest orbital period of the three planets so far identified by TESS.

Slow journey

HD 21749b journeys around its star in a relatively leisurely 36 days, compared to the two other planets – Pi Mensae b, a "super-Earth" with a 6.3-day orbit, and LHS 3844b, a rocky world that speeds around its star in just 11 hours.

All three planets were discovered in the first three months of TESS observa-



The star around which HD 21749b revolves.

tions. "It's the coolest small planet that we know of around a star this bright," said Diana Dragomir, a researcher in the Massachu-

sets Institute of Technology (MIT), who led the discovery.

"We know a lot about atmospheres of hot planets, but because it's very hard to find small planets that orbit farther from their stars, and are therefore cooler, we haven't been able to learn much about these smaller, cooler planets. But here we were lucky, and caught this one, and can now study it in more detail," Ms. Dragomir said.

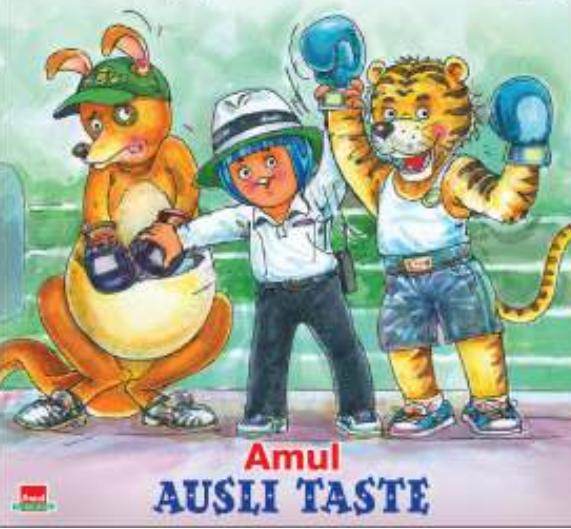
The planet is about three times the size of the earth,

which puts it in the category of a "sub-Neptune."

However, it is unlikely that the planet is rocky and therefore habitable; it's more likely made of gas, of a kind that is much more dense than the atmospheres of either Neptune or Uranus.

"We think this planet wouldn't be as gaseous as Neptune or Uranus, which are mostly hydrogen and really puffy. The planet likely has a density of water, or a thick atmosphere," Ms. Dragomir said.

WONDER DOWN UNDER

**Amul
AUSLI TASTE**

daCunha/Ab/635

Guess who? New board game puts the spotlight on women

Polish designer's handcrafted puzzle set turns global success

REUTERS
LONDON

Did she win a Nobel Prize? Was she an inventor? Did she make a discovery?

These are some of the questions that Polish designer Zuzanna Kozerska-Girard wants more children to ask as they learn about famous women while playing her debut board game 'Who's She?'.

"We basically don't know their stories. We don't know enough about women who have done amazing stuff," said Kozerska-Girard, founder of games company Playeress.

Similar to the classic game 'Guess Who?', two players are each given a biography card of a famous woman and must ask each other questions until her identity is answered correctly: be it French spy Josephine Baker or Nobel laureate Malala Yousafzai.

"The game is for girls as much as it is for boys. They need to see powerful women around them and see them as their heroes," she told the Thomson Reuters Foundation.

The game is being sold at a time when the achievements of women – from scientists, politicians, campaigners and artists – are increasingly being recognised online and in public spaces.

Featuring watercolour illustrations of 28 female icons, Ms. Kozerska-Girard said she designed the game, which costs €75 (₹6,000), because she wanted children



Play on: 'Who's She?' was made possible through crowdfunding.

■ PLAYERESS/KICKSTARTER

Malala pens new book

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI

Nobel Peace Prize winner and Pakistani activist Malala Yousafzai has written a new book, charting her experiences travelling the world and visiting refugee camps. Titled *We are Displaced*, the book will hit the stands in India on Wednesday. It has eight pages of colour inserts.

Based on travels

Publishers Weidenfeld & Nicolson and Hachette India said that her travels through

the refugee camps led her to reconsider her own displacement.

In We Are Displaced, which is part memoir, part communal storytelling, Malala not only explores her own story of adjusting to a new life while longing for home, but she also shares the personal stories of some of the incredible girls she has met on her various journeys – girls who have lost their community, relatives and often the only world they've ever known,"

the statement said.

is," said Ms. Kozerska-Girard.

"I think it's important to bring this (gender gap) up with kids – and the simple way to do this is by playing games."

Since 'Who's She?' launched in November on

crowdfunding site Kickstarter, Ms. Kozerska-Girard has sold more than 6,000 units and received some €500,000 to produce the game, which she handmade out of wood.

Meanwhile, in India, Twitter launched a new campaign on Tuesday called #WebWonderWomen to celebrate women achievers.

The campaign, in partnership with the Ministry of Women and Child Development (WCD) and human rights organisation Breakthrough, will allow users to nominate women who they consider rising stars in various fields.

The woman should be an achiever under one of the following categories: health or fitness, community, media, literature, art, sports, technology, travel, business, legal or policy, government, entertainment, fashion or beauty, finance, food and environment.

(With inputs from PTI)

The woman should be an achiever under one of the following categories: health or fitness, community, media, literature, art, sports, technology, travel, business, legal or policy, government, entertainment, fashion or beauty, finance, food and environment.

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DELHI METRO



Banknote accessibility

HC seeks reply from the Centre and the RBI on a petition seeking visually impaired-friendly banknotes [Page 2](#)



Constable on duty dies

A speeding car hit barricades, which then fall on a constable, killing him in Dwarka [Page 3](#)



'We shouldn't lose dreams'

Shaji N. Karun talks about Olu and puts emphasis on the need to look back at our cultural legacy [Page 5](#)



A class apart

BMW claims to offer its best 3 Series, expected to be launched mid-year. We give you a low-down [Page 6](#)

IN BRIEF



Plea seeking removal of Kejriwal as CM rejected

NEW DELHI
The Delhi High Court on Tuesday rejected a petition seeking removal of Arvind Kejriwal as Chief Minister as he was facing prosecution in a criminal case.

[CITY ▶ PAGE 4](#)

Trans activists up the ante, to challenge Bill

NEW DELHI
"If the Bill goes through, we will immediately challenge it in the Supreme Court for going back on the rights prescribed in the NALSA judgment," said Rachana Mudrabyoina, a trans activist from Telangana, referring to the Transgender Bill tabled in the Rajya Sabha on Tuesday.

[CITY ▶ PAGE 4](#)

| Air quality of Delhi-NCR | | | |
|---|--------------|---------------|-----|
| Delhi | 320 | Gurugram | 282 |
| Ghaziabad | 318 | Faridabad | 302 |
| Noida | 292 | Greater Noida | 338 |
| Good | Satisfactory | Moderate | |
| 0-50 | 51-100 | 101-200 | |
| Poor | Very poor | Severe | |
| 201-300 | 301-400 | >401 | |
| AIR QUALITY INDEX AT 4 P.M. YESTERDAY (AVERAGE OF PAST 24 HOURS) SOURCE: CPCB | | | |

Capital records 92 heinous crimes in first week of 2019

Senior officer claims that most cases have either been solved or are being probed

SAURABH TRIVEDI

NEW DELHI

In the first week of January, 92 cases of heinous crimes, including 11 murders and 22 rape incidents, have been reported in the Capital, Delhi Police data show.

From January 1 to 7, there have been 11 murders, 13 cases of attempt to murder, 46 armed robberies and 22 rape incidents.

Around 4,700 e-FIRs have been registered in cases of thefts and motor vehicle thefts on the Delhi Police portal.

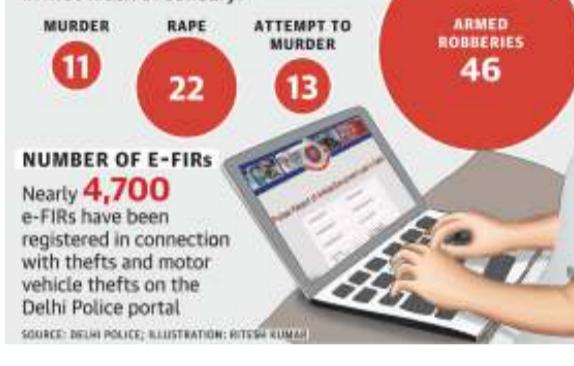
A senior officer said the cases registered have either been worked out or are being probed.

C The data entered in the CCTNS is checked thoroughly before updating the system under the supervision of a senior officer. We organise regular workshops for the staff handling the CCTNS

POLICE OFFICER

CASES SO FAR

Heinous crimes reported in Delhi in first week of January:



SOURCE: DELHI POLICE; ILLUSTRATION: RITESH KUMAR

They claimed that officers acted swiftly in all registered cases.

"We register an FIR in each and every crime reported in the city. The pending cases will soon be worked out," said an officer.

On January 3, a woman was killed in a celebratory firing during New Year's Eve party at a farmhouse in south Delhi.

Following this, on January 5, a manager was robbed and killed in New Delhi's Jhilmil industrial area.

The next day, two men were found murdered on

Nangloi-Najafgarh Road in outer Delhi's Ranholi.

On the same day, a 30-year-old man was shot dead after he objected to a dog barking at him in north-east Delhi's Welcome.

Delhi Police ranks one

Meanwhile, the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) has ranked the Delhi Police as number one in uploading data on Crime and Criminal Tracking Network and Systems (CCTNS) consecutively for the third time in the past three months.

"In the report released by

NCRB for November, the Delhi Police topped the rank followed by Maharashtra police. The Madhya Pradesh police secured the third position. The Delhi Police has topped the same in September and October also," said an officer.

He added that the Delhi Police updates the CCTNS in real time. During scrutiny, the NCRB found that the data of crimes, criminals, FIRs were all updated online as compared to other States.

The police said with the objective of proper implementation of CCTNS in all police stations in Delhi, a CCTNS core team for each district has been formed to deal with day to day CCTNS related issues and resolve them immediately.

"The data entered in the CCTNS is checked thoroughly before updating the system under the supervision of a senior officer. We organise regular workshops for the staff handling the CCTNS," added the police officer.

Recently, the Delhi Police has become first in the country to have digitalised malkhana in police stations of its all districts.

SC order on Alok Verma 'indictment' of PM: Kejriwal

'AAP was the worst victim of the misuse of the CBI by govt'

STAFF REPORTER

NEW DELHI

Welcoming the Supreme Court's decision to reinstate Central Bureau of Investigation director Alok Verma on Tuesday, the Aam Aadmi Party hit out at Prime Minister Narendra Modi for the overnight removal of Mr. Verma in October.

Mr. Verma had been removed as director of the CBI on the intervening night of October 23 and 24 and sent on leave, following a feud with CBI Special Director Rakesh Asthana.

With the Supreme Court reinstating him, AAP national convener and Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal questioned the govern-

C Modi govt has ruined all institutions and democracy in our country. Wasn't the CBI director illegally removed at midnight to stall the probe in Rafale scam which directly leads to PM himself? [sic]

TWEET BY CHIEF MINISTER ARVIND KEJRIWAL



AAP Rajya Sabha MP Sanjay Singh (left) and national media coordinator Vikas Yogi at a press conference in New Delhi on Tuesday. ■ SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

ment's decision to remove him.

"The Supreme Court reinstating the CBI director Alok Verma is a direct indictment of the Prime Minister. Modi govt has ruined all institutions and democracy in our country. Wasn't the CBI director illegally removed at midnight to stall the probe in Rafale scam which directly leads to PM himself? [sic]," Mr. Kejriwal tweeted.

Later, AAP Rajya Sabha MP Sanjay Singh at a press conference said the AAP had been among the worst "victims" of the "misuse" of the CBI by the government, with everyone from Mr. Kejriwal to Ministers in Delhi not removed.

government being subjected to raids.

He added that while the government had "destroyed all institutions" since coming to power in 2014, in Mr. Verma's case, it had attacked the officers of the institution itself.

'Forcibly sent'

"What was the Modi government scared of that it sent paramilitary forces inside the CBI headquarters overnight to search the office of the CBI director after forcibly sending him on leave," asked Mr. Singh.

He added that the CBI would have investigated the Rafale deal had Mr. Verma not removed.

This is my calling'



Smooth operator: A Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited employee at work in New Delhi's Deen Dayal Upadhyay Marg on Tuesday. ■ SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

Ban on online sale of drugs to continue, says HC

Next hearing on Feb 6; Centre yet to frame rules to regulate such entities: Bench

STAFF REPORTER

NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court on Tuesday declined to interfere with its earlier order banning sale of drugs and prescription medicines by online pharmacies.

A Bench of Chief Justice Rajendra Menon and Justice V.K. Rao said the ban will continue till the next date of hearing on February 6.

The court added that the Central government is yet to frame the rules to regulate such entities.

The court was hearing a petition, filed by Zaheer Ahmed, seeking a ban on "illegal" sale of drugs and medicines online.

'Drug epidemic'
In his petition, Mr. Ahmed has said the online illegal sale of medicines would lead to a drug epidemic, drug abuse and misutilisation of habit-forming and addictive drugs.

The Centre said the government is in the process of finalising the rules in this regard.

Directorate General of Health Services of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare said after deliberation on the concern raised by the stakeholders, it was decided that the central government shall prepare a regulatory framework for the regulation of online sale of drugs.

The government has called for objections and suggestions from all the stakeholders and after due consid-

eration, the draft rules will be finalised for publication in the official gazette, it said.

During the hearing, one of the online pharmacies seeking to be made a party in the case informed the court that the division bench of Madras High Court has vacated the stay on online sale of medicines. The pharmacies also urged the court to remove the prohibition on online sale of drugs, saying they held licences and no medicines were sold illegally.

Mr. Ahmed's petition claimed that the Ministry of Health, the Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation and an expert committee appointed by the drug consultative committee have already concluded that the online sale of medicines was in contravention of the provisions of Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940 and the other allied laws.

It claimed that some of the drugs or medicines sold online contain narcotic and psychotropic substances and some can lead to antibiotic resistance, which is a threat not only to the patient but to the humanity at large.

"It is a matter of public knowledge that e-commerce websites have been caught on numerous occasions selling fake products. Unlike consumer items, drugs are extremely potent substances and consuming wrong dose or fake medicine can have fatal consequences for the patient," the petition said.

The court added that the accused had been following her and also trying to talk to her.

She ignored his advances in the beginning but then he entered her hostel, the victim said.

Following this, she called the police.

"The accused, who is from Kashmir, was arrested from his hostel room in JNU. He has been released on bail. His family has been informed about the incident," said Mr. Arya.

A thorough investigation has been ordered into the matter, the police added.

Meek voices use loudspeakers to demand basic rights

Number of protesters increased ten-fold in an hour with many complaining of non-payment; big firms see usual day at work

PRISCILLA JEBARAJ

NEW DELHI

As a general strike took hold of various parts of the nation on Tuesday, workers in one industrial area of the Capital took time to warm up to the idea of a day of protest.

It began around 9 a.m. just down the road from Okhla industrial area's Tekhand Chowk. About 10 people – a few flag-carrying workers and a few retired professionals – gathered around a cycle pushcart bearing a simple loudspeaker parked across the road.

"Aaj kya hai [What is happening today]?" asked the man holding the loudspeaker. "Hartal hai, hartal hai [There is a strike]," came a thin response.

Lal Bahadur, a 40-year old from Bihar working in a brass factory here, was

among the few believers.

"I have worked for 18 years and now I get ₹8,500 salary. Sometimes, the salary is only paid after a gap of three or four months. My employer has not been paying money into my PF account, although it gets deducted from my salary. Two years ago, I joined the union to help with all these issues," he said.

The father of three works part-time as a daily wager to supplement his income and meet his ₹4,000 monthly expenses.

Traffic disrupted

By 10 a.m., about 30 people holding flags had gathered behind a small van, carrying a comparatively larger loudspeaker and disrupting morning traffic at Tekhand Chowk.

"I cannot afford a hartal," said Sanjeev, on his way to work at a transport company. One daily wager Sonu said, "I have not got any work for the last five days. So, I may as well go along with the procession. But the big company workers will not come." The biggest factory in the area, a Tata Steel unit, was doing

business as usual. However, as the procession wound its way through the streets past garment export units and small warehouses, which had downed shutters for the day, it picked up people until the rally was over 100 members strong.

At one garment export factory, rows of flowered frocks fluttered on the roof onwards.

Lal Bahadur, a father of six daughters, used to work for one such garment exporter until the unit shut down. "Without job security, I cannot even send my girls to school," he said.

At a printing press shut down by the hartal, business development manager Ashish Chatterjee was bemused. "What is the lasting impact of shouting slogans and closing factories? It simply causes economic losses. It is better to have a reasonable dialogue," he said.

His scepticism was echoed by some workers. "There is corruption among the employers, but there is corruption in the union too. Everyone wants to slide money under the table," said Amarkant Chaudhary.

"All these units will reopen after lunch, once the rally is over. Just watch and see."

JNU student arrested for stalking senior; gets bail

Accused had entered girls' hostel

SAURABH TRIVEDI

NEW DELHI

A 19-year-old Jawaharlal Nehru University student was arrested for allegedly stalking and harassing his senior, the police said on Tuesday. The victim and the accused are both undergraduate students, the police said.

The police control room had received a call at 2 p.m. on Monday against a man who had entered the girls' hostel

IN BRIEF



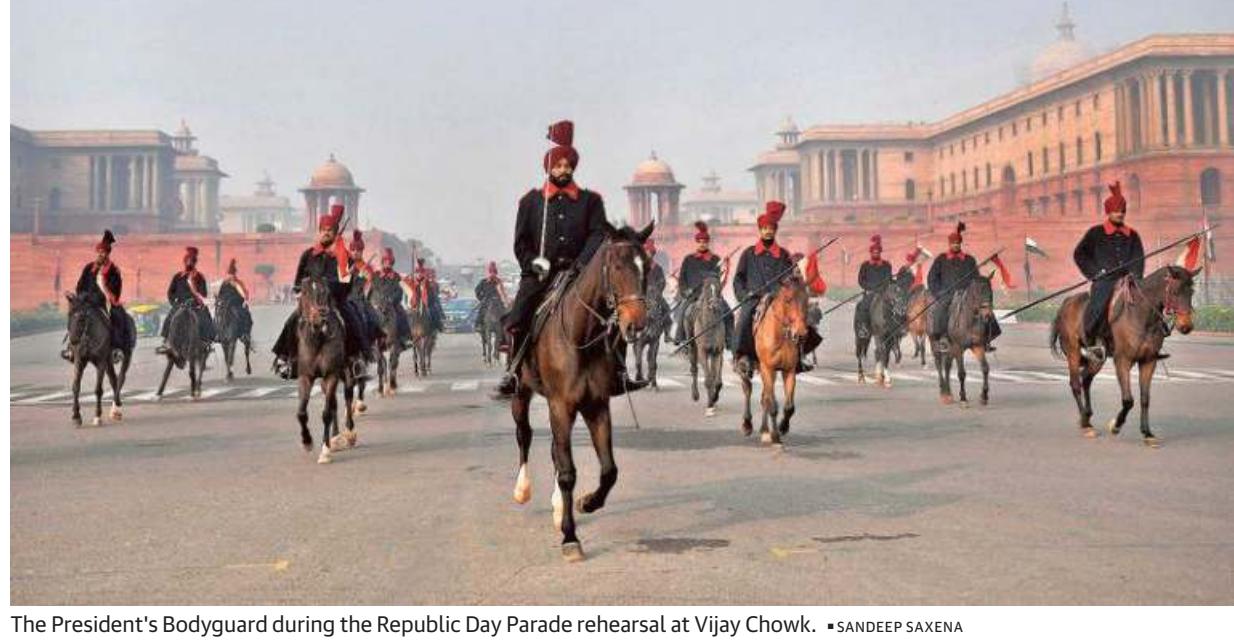
AAP leader's name in Cong's list of block chiefs

NEW DELHI A list of Delhi Congress block presidents released on Monday included an Aam Aadmi Party ward-level office-bearer, who had quit the Congress and joined the AAP 18 months ago, the AAP said on Tuesday. The list named Vipin Khanna as the office-bearer for GTB Nagar ward. "The Congress named someone who left the Congress and is now the AAP's ward president," said Model Town MLA Akhilesh Pati Tripathi. The Delhi Congress later clarified that a "typing error" led to Mr. Khanna being named instead of Vinod Bajaj. STAFF REPORTER

Aeronautics course in Jamia gets DGCA nod

NEW DELHI The Directorate General of Civil Aviation has granted approval to Pawan Hans Limited to run a course in Aeronautics and Aircraft Maintenance engineering at Jamia Millia Islamia, the university said on Tuesday. The DGCA granted CAR-147(Basic) approval under B1.3(Helicopter-Turbine) and B2 (Avionics) category to Pawan Hans Limited to run the three-year B.Sc Aeronautics and Aircraft Maintenance Engineering course at the university. STAFF REPORTER

Sturdy steeds



The President's Bodyguard during the Republic Day Parade rehearsal at Vijay Chowk. ■ SANDEEP SAXENA

Gupta accuses govt of underutilising budget, missing targets

BJP leader claims Delhi's budget has been 'derailed' and the fate of several projects is uncertain

STAFF REPORTER

NEW DELHI The Delhi BJP on Tuesday expressed concern over what it termed was the Arvind Kejriwal-led Delhi government's "inability to meet timeline targets" and utilise budget allocation even as the next fiscal was around the corner.

Leader of Opposition in the Delhi Assembly, Vijender Gupta, said that the budget had been "derailed" and the fate of several projects was hanging fire as the Delhi

government had failed to meet the targets set by itself at the time of presentation of the previous budget in March 2018.

"Another cause for concern is the failure of most departments to spend the allocated budget. They have been able to utilise hardly 15%-20% of the budget allocation. Within the short remaining time till the end of the current financial year, it is not possible to meet the targets," Mr. Gupta said.

The BJP leader said that the government, under the green budget, had promised

ment would need "top-speed performance" to meet its budgetary targets till March 31. Mr. Gupta said that this remained a "remote possibility".

"While presenting the budget in March 2018, Deputy Chief Minister and Finance Minister [Manish Sisodia] had set timelines for most of the projects. But the government has failed to meet them," Mr. Gupta said.

The BJP leader said that the government, under the green budget, had promised

1,000 e-buses, 1,000 new DTC buses and 1,000 cluster buses but had failed "to deliver three buses against the set target of 3,000".

Mohalla clinics

Even in its flagship mohalla clinics scheme, he alleged, the Delhi government had failed to meet its target to set up 530 mohalla clinics and 230 school clinics by October 30, 2018.

"Targets regarding installation of CCTV cameras in all schools by January 2019,

doorstep delivery, hospital information system and universal health scheme have all failed to meet the set targets," he said.

Mr. Gupta said that different departments had failed to utilise the allocated budget till date to the extent of as much as 80%-85%, prompting the Chief Secretary to broach the issue at a meeting of Secretaries and Heads of the Departments and issuing an "ultimatum... to fulfil the promises made in the budget".

The North-East Delhi MP said AAP leaders, including Mr. Kejriwal, had spread the "rumour" that 30 lakh votes had been deleted from the electoral rolls in Delhi. He added that an RTI reply had, however, proved this wrong stating that the number of voters in Delhi had actually increased by 1.5 lakh.

Will lodge complaint

"We had opposed the Delhi government's move to gather details of parents of students in schools run by it. Now, AAP volunteers are making phone calls to voters blaming BJP for deletion of their names and are taking credit saying Mr. Kejriwal got their names added to the voters list again," Mr. Tiwari said.

Delhi BJP spokesperson

In the clip, the caller can be heard telling the receiver that his vote "was deleted because of the BJP" and that his name was added to the electoral roll again "because of Delhi CM Arvind Kejriwal". "I cannot believe that the AAP and Mr. Kejriwal got their names added to the voters list again," Mr. Tiwari said.

Audio clip

Mr. Tiwari sought to bolster his accusation by playing an audio clip of such a purported conversation here. Mr. Tiwari said.

"We had opposed the Delhi government's move to gather details of parents of students in schools run by it. Now, AAP volunteers are making phone calls to voters blaming BJP for deletion of their names and are taking credit saying Mr. Kejriwal got their names added to the voters list again," Mr. Tiwari said.

Delhi BJP spokesperson

Referring to the construction of the Vivekananda statue, the JNUSU said: "Who is funding the statue and where is the money coming from? Why is the administration afraid to provide the information through RTI, which is statutory?" Chintamani Mahapatra, JNU Rector I, on Monday, had said that the statue was being funded by "an alumnus", but refused to reveal the further details.

JNU statue controversy

STAFF REPORTER

NEW DELHI Alleging "financial mismanagement" by the Jawaharlal Nehru University administration, the JNU Students' Union on Tuesday said the administration had refused to share information on the funding of construction of statues and sculptures on campus.

Referring to the construction of the Vivekananda statue, the JNUSU said: "Who is funding the statue and where is the money coming from? Why is the administration afraid to provide the information through RTI, which is statutory?"

Chintamani Mahapatra, JNU Rector I, on Monday, had said that the statue was being funded by "an alumnus", but refused to reveal the further details.

'Visually impaired not able to use banknotes'

Plea in HC seeks standards for design; RBI's reply sought

STAFF REPORTER

NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court on Tuesday sought responses from the Centre and the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on a plea seeking to lay down standards for design of banknotes and coins and make all forms of physical currency and digital means of transactions accessible to the visually impaired.

A Bench of Chief Justice Rajendra Menon and Justice V.K. Rao sought response of the Centre and the central bank on the plea filed by an organisation working for empowerment of visually impaired persons.

The plea also sought a direction to the government to stop circulation and withdraw, in a phased manner, the inaccessible physical currency. The members of the NGO, Blind Graduates Forum of India, talked about the difficulty being faced by the visually impaired in identifying the currency, which was introduced post-demonetisation, and difficulty in distinguishing coins.

The NGO had sent a detailed representation in 2017 to the RBI Governor highlighting the major challenges being faced by the visually



impaired and gave suggestions factoring in inputs from several blind and low vision individuals.

New ₹100 note
Despite the assurances given to the petitioner, the RBI introduced the new ₹100 note, dimensions of which were once again not visually-impaired friendly.

Currently, the visually impaired are facing a situation where neither the physical currency nor digital means

of financial transactions are accessible, the plea said.

The NGO said that it received a mail from the RBI stating that the bank was sensitive to the challenges faced by the visually impaired, but believed that technological advancement had opened up new avenues for identification of currency by the visually impaired and accordingly, they are working on the same.

The petition said the plea was filed on behalf of over 52 lakh visually impaired persons in India who are facing immense hardship owing to inaccessibility of physical Indian currency along with inaccessible means of digital transactions and it has a direct negative impact on the independence and livelihood of such people.

The plea sought direction to the authorities to lay down standards as per the provisions of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act for banking services, portals, apps, payment gateways, hardware devices like ATM, point of sale devices, self-service passbook printers and cash collection devices to make them accessible to the visually impaired within six months.

Condemning the Narendra Modi government's "jumla of reservation" after "destroying education and jobs in India" the NSUI, in a statement, argued that the proposed Constitutional Amendment "betrays incompetence and cynicism".

"The NSUI strongly believes that it is the role of the government to ensure that all young people have access to quality and affordable education, and that young people are mainstreamed economically (jobs) and politically," the statement read.

"We condemn the Modi government's desperate attempt to distract Indian youth by implementing an ill-thought and ill-advised 10% reservation for EWS with annual income of ₹8 lakh per annum," the statement said further.

The NSUI said it was important to debate reservation based on deprivation. While SC/ST reservation was intended to correct under-representation in the structure of governance, administration and access to education due to the "gross discrimination created by the caste system" it was "not intended as a measure for poverty alleviation", stated the student body.

The NSUI said it was im-

portant to debate reservation based on deprivation. While SC/ST reservation was intended to correct under-representation in the structure of governance, administration and access to education due to the "gross discrimination created by the caste system" it was "not intended as a measure for poverty alleviation", stated the student body.

The NSUI also questioned the timing of the proposed amendment in addition to arguing that reservation was not intended, and cannot solve, access to quality higher education and the jobs crisis confronting the youth.

"Reservation was intended to address social and educational backwardness caused by the caste system. Unless we expand the size of the education sector and absolute number of jobs generated, this method of carving out small portions of reservations from an already shrinking pie will only increase conflict among various citizen and social groups," it added.

Dalit body opposes reservation

STAFF REPORTER

NEW DELHI

The National Dalit Movement for Justice-National Campaign on Dalit Human Rights on Tuesday said it opposed the Constitutional Amendment Bill introduced in Parliament to provide 10% reservation to EWS in the general category, and requested the BJP-led Centre to withdraw it.

The campaign's general secretary, V.A. Ramesh Nathan, said that Dalits and Adivasis were generationaly discriminated against based on caste and were "denied the basic rights of dignity, water, land, housing, education, meaningful employment and wage", and it was in this context that reservations were brought into the Constitution as affirmative action.

Article 15(4) of the Constitution empowered the State to make special provisions for the advancement of any socially and educationally backward class of citizens, Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, read a statement by the organisation. It added that the reservations were aimed at bridging the gap of advancement of the SC/ST communities to be on par with other dominant caste groups in India.

"Adding the words 'advancement of Economically Weaker Sections' in Article 15 and 'Backward class citizens' in Article 16 of the Constitution, through the Constitutional Amendment Bill, will go against the spirit of social justice of the reservations as affirmative action," it stated.

The organisation said that for over 70 years, Dalit Christians and Dalit Muslims had been facing "similar forms of caste-based discrimination and oppression" in society and had been demanding SC status.

"Governments continue to betray the demand despite Justice Ranganath Misra Commission recommendations. The Centre... wants to please the forward caste sections of the society, who are already advanced socially and educationally in society, before the general elections," the statement said.

AAP questions govt's intentions in proposing 10% quota for EWS

Says it does not oppose move to provide reservation

STAFF REPORTER

NEW DELHI

While not opposed to the idea, the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) on Tuesday questioned the intentions of the BJP-led Centre for proposing a 10% reservation for the economically weaker section (EWS) in employment and education.

The government proposed a Constitutional amendment to allow a 10% quota for the poor in the general category, adding to the caste-based reservations already in place.

Not against the idea?
Speaking at a press conference, AAP Rajya Sabha MP Sanjay Singh said: "We are

provisions that would not stand the test of trial.

"The amendment also includes reservation in private sector. Won't the private companies take the matter to court? And, if we are giving 10% quota in private jobs to EWS category, then why are the reservations for Dalits not extended to the private sector," he asked.

On Monday, when the Union Cabinet approved the proposal, AAP national convenor Arvind Kejriwal had supported the idea but termed it an "election stunt" if the government did not bring in an amendment. A Constitutional Amendment Bill was tabled in Parliament on Tuesday evening.

NSUI calls for a debate on quota based on deprivation

Says Centre's 'ill-thought' proposal will not help India's youth

STAFF REPORTER

NEW DELHI

The National Students' Union of India (NSUI) on Tuesday called for a debate on reservation based on deprivation even as it sought to underscore the need to expand public sector education and jobs.

Condemning the Narendra Modi government's "jumla of reservation" after "destroying education and jobs in India" the NSUI, in a statement, argued that the proposed Constitutional Amendment "betrays incompetence and cynicism".

"If the purpose of the reservation is under-representation due to economic deprivation, then EWS category of ₹8 lakh/year is another Modi *jumla*, considering that 93% of homes have annual household income below ₹2.5 lakh... Similarly, our work with students of government schools shows that these students are likely to suffer from multiple deprivations, not just economic," it argued.

The NSUI also questioned the timing of the proposed amendment in addition to arguing that reservation was not intended, and cannot solve, access to quality higher education and the jobs crisis confronting the youth.

"Reservation was intended to address social and educational backwardness caused by the caste system. Unless we expand the size of the education sector and absolute number of jobs generated, this method of carving out small portions of reservations from an already shrinking pie will only increase conflict among various citizen and social groups," it added.

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portant to debate reservation based on deprivation. While SC/ST reservation was intended to correct under-representation in the structure of governance, administration and access to education due to the "gross discrimination created by the caste system" it was "not intended as a measure for poverty alleviation", stated the student body.

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Delhi BJP leaders put in charge of planning national convention

Event to be held on January 11-12; 3,000 hotel rooms booked

JATIN ANAND

NEW DELHI

From overseeing decorations, including preparation of *rangolis*, to organising pick-up arrangements from the airport and railway stations, senior officer-bearers of the Delhi BJP have been put in charge of 24 crack teams for the party's upcoming national convention at Ramlila Maidan.

Party sources said 2,000 workers will oversee arrangements for the event, intended to be a show of strength in the run-up to the Lok Sabha election.

The event will be held on January 11-12 and will host an estimated 12,000 attendees.

As many as 3,000 hotel rooms have been booked for

select attendees; the rest will stay in State bhavans.

In addition to makeshift offices for the Prime Minister and senior party leaders, arrangement for CMs of States have been made so they can carry on government duties while in Delhi, said a source.

"This is a party event. Given the magnitude of attendees, there is a need for a dedicated team of workers to deliver these facilities," a party source said.

Among the 24 in-charges are former Delhi MLA Mahendra Nagpal, who will oversee interior decoration for the event, and Kuljeet Singh Chahal, general secretary of the Delhi BJP, who will oversee accommoda-

tions.

The event was not part of the publicity blitz that the party had planned on weekends and was scheduled in the wake of the BJP's defeat in the Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan Assembly elections.

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IN BRIEF



Shelter home case: DCW seeks report from police

NEW DELHI

The Delhi Commission for Women on Tuesday issued notice to the police seeking a status report on the Dilshad Garden shelter home case, where eight women and a girl had gone missing in December. "This is in furtherance to proceedings regarding the eight women and a girl who had gone missing from Sanskar Home, Dilshad Garden...as per your response the missing girls have not been found yet. You are hereby directed to provide a status report with an update of the probe every three days..." the letter read.

STAFF REPORTER

Man attacks girlfriend with hammer; held
NEW DELHI
A 24-year-old man was arrested on Tuesday for allegedly hitting his girlfriend on her head with a hammer for ending their relationship, the police said. The accused has been identified as a resident of Sarojini Nagar, they said. The two were in relationship for last eight years. PTI

4, including AI staff, held for smuggling at airport

NEW DELHI

Four people, including an employee of Air India SATS, have been arrested at the Delhi airport by Customs officials for allegedly trying to smuggle gold worth about ₹63 lakh into the country, according to an official statement issued on Tuesday. PTI

Teenage domestic help found dead

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
GURUGRAM

A teenage domestic help died after she fell from a multi-storey building in a housing society on Gurugram-Faridabad Road here on Monday. The police suspect it to be a case of suicide and ruled out any foul play.

The police said the 18-year-old girl was talking on her phone in the balcony attached to the flat's kitchen on eighth floor when she fell. Her employer and his wife were away for work when the incident happened. However, the couple's two children, aged six and one, and their grandparents were at home. When the security guard rushed to the spot on hearing a loud thud, he alerted the residents. She was taken to a hospital where she was declared dead. The police have informed the deceased's parents in West Bengal. They are expected to reach Gurugram on Wednesday.

Suicide prevention helpline: Sanjivini, Society for Mental Health, OII-4076 9002, Monday-Saturday (10 a.m.-7.30 p.m.)

DELHI TODAY

Talk: Seminar on "Censorship, Morality and Cultural Policy under Xi Jinping" by Prof. Michel Hoock, Professor at Dept. of East Asian Languages and Culture, Keough School of Global Affairs. Chair: Sabree Mitra, Honorary Fellow, ICS, at Seminar Room, Institute of Chinese Studies, 8/17, Sri Ram Road, Civil Lines, 3 p.m.

Talk: Lecture on "Avalokitesvara goes to China: Gender and Buddhist Art" by Prof. Yuhan Li, Assistant Professor of Chinese Art, Department of Art History, University of Wisconsin-Madison. Chair: Shyam Saran, Life Trustee, IIC at Conference Room - II, India International Centre (IIC), 6 p.m.

Dance: "Aahut" - a solo Kathak recital by Dr. Harpreet Kaur Jass at Triveni Kala Sangam, 205 Tansen Marg, 6.45 p.m.

Exhibition: "A glimpse of Life and Culture of Nomads of Jammu and Kashmir", a group art exhibition at Open Palm Gallery, India Habitat Centre (IHC), 9 a.m. - 8 p.m.

Exhibition: "Jangar Singh Shyam, A Conjuror's Archive", an exhibition co-curated by Dr. Jyotiindra Jain and Roobina Karode at Kiran Nadar Museum of Art (KNMA), 145, DLF South Court Mall, Saket, 10:30 a.m. - 6:30 p.m.

Exhibition: "Welcome 2019" - a group show of paintings 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 cityeditordelhi@thehindu.co.in)

Head constable on duty hit by speeding car; dies

Police officer given guard of honour; accused arrested

STAFF REPORTER

NEW DELHI

A 52-year-old Delhi police officer was killed in the line of duty when a speeding car hit the barricades which fell on the officer injuring him fatally in the early hours of Tuesday in Dwarka. He was given a guard of honour during his last rites.

Deputy Commissioner of Police (Dwarka) Anto Alphonse said that victim - head constable Guljari Lal - was on duty with head constable Prakash at the underpass in Kapashera when the incident happened. "Around 1 a.m., a speeding car was coming from the underpass and the officers signalled the driver to stop but he smashed the barricades which fell on officer Guljari. The driver fled the spot," Mr. Alphonse said.

Lal was rushed to a private hospital by fellow officers where he was declared brought dead.

Police share messages

During investigation, the police shared messages on several WhatsApp groups and sought help of locals to look for any vehicle found in accidental condition. "All the staff of the police stations of Dwarka district were briefed to look for any vehicle that was damaged in accident and any injured person who got admitted to any private hospital or nursing home in the early hours," the DCP said.

The accused hold a MBA degree from a university in



(Top) Head constable Guljari Lal being given guard of honour at his home town in Alwar.
■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT



Saharanpur and is working in the accounts department of a luxury bike company.

'Accused tried to escape'

During interrogation, the accused allegedly told the police that he was returning from Gurugram after meeting friends when he was asked to stop and got scared. In order to escape, he hit the barricades and officers standing there, the police said.

Lal is survived by his two sons and a daughter who works as a teacher in Meghalaya. He was given a guard of honour in his home town in Alwar where several senior officers were present. He joined the force in 1990 and was residing in Delhi's Noida.

On Tuesday afternoon, the police received information from a car repair shop in Pochampur village that a vehicle is parked near the shop and is damaged. Investigators reached the spot and sought details of the owner. "He was identified as Nagesh Kapoor, resident of Pochampur and belonging to Uttar Pradesh. He was detained for questioning and was subsequently arrested," the officer said.

The accused hold a MBA degree from a university in

On Tuesday afternoon, the police received information from a car repair shop in Pochampur village that a vehicle is parked near the shop and is damaged. Investigators reached the spot and sought details of the owner. "He was identified as Nagesh Kapoor, resident of Pochampur and belonging to Uttar Pradesh. He was detained for questioning and was subsequently arrested," the officer said.

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Fake call centre busted; 3 held

For cheating over 4,500 people in the name of lucky draw

STAFF REPORTER

NEW DELHI

Three persons were arrested for allegedly running a fake call centre using the dark web and cheating over 4,500 people in the name of lucky draw, the police said on Tuesday.

Deputy Commissioner of Police (Crime Branch) Ram Gopal Naik said that the accused have been identified as Sanjay Panchal (22), Nikhil Soni (22), and Kunal (18) who were arrested on Monday.

Received information

The police said that they received an information on December 22 that some people were running a fake call centre in east Delhi and cheating people in the name of lucky draw offering costly mobiles at amazing prices but sending empty parcels later. "This information was further researched and whereabouts of the fake call centre were ascertained af-



Thirty mobile phones and a computer were recovered from the possession of the accused. ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

ter which raid was conducted on Monday in Jyoti Naik.

The police claimed to have found three persons who were running the call centre and when the premises was searched, 30 mobile phones which were used to call people and a computer were recovered from their possession.

During interrogation, the accused allegedly told the police that they were offer-

ing people expensive phones for ₹4,550 and when the person would order, an empty parcel or something else would be sent to their address on cash on delivery option through post office.

The accused have cheated more than 4,500 people across India, the police said.

The police have also recovered documents including bar codes of India Post and details of 4,500 persons who were cheated.

Tyre killers found uprooted a day after installation

Noida Authority had identified 5 locations across city to prevent motorists from driving on wrong side

STAFF REPORTER

NOIDA

Tyre killers were found to be uprooted and damaged state on Tuesday, a day after the Noida Authority installed them between Sectors 74 and 77.

The locals and commuters complained of lack of professional job as the reason.

The Noida Authority had identified five locations across the city to install tyre-killers to prevent driving on the wrong side. A trial run has been planned on Friday at Sectors 76-74 crossing where tyre killers will be installed.

The authority officials said that the tyre killers were uprooted with bad intention.

Major cause of worry

"It is not easy to uproot it. We believe that somebody has intentionally uprooted it. We have fixed it again and installed cameras to keep a watch on it," said Noida Authority general manager Rajeev Tyagi.



This project had generated much hype as wrong-side driving is a major concern in Noida.

■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

We will replicate this project in other parts in Noida too, he added.

This project had attracted many eyeballs as wrong-side driving in Noida is a major cause of worry leading to fatal accidents. A large number of people had appreciated the effort. The authority on Monday had fixed it at one location but within 24 hours it was uprooted.

Driving on the wrong side

is one of the most common traffic offences in the city that is also dangerous and has led to several accidents.

The five locations have been identified after getting feedback from traffic constables.

Apart from the Sector 76-74 intersection, the Authority will also install tyre-killers at Sector 77 North Eye junction, Hoshipur U-turn, Sector 61, Temple U-turn in Sector 61,

Man robbed of cell phone in DDA park; accused arrested

Victim was meeting his friend when the incident took place

SAURABH TRIVEDI

NEW DELHI

A man and a woman sitting in a South Delhi park were robbed by four men, who first objected to their presence in their park before stealing the man's mobile phone on Monday, the police said on Tuesday.

The victim, Samrat Goyal, pursuing graduation from an Australian university had come to India for internship with a private company.

He was sitting with his friend in a DDA park behind Aurobindo College at 8 p.m. when the incident took place.

"I was meeting my friend after a long time. Since she was waiting for me near the park for a long time, we decided to sit and chat for some time in the park. However, all of sudden, four people surrounded us. They started questioning our presence in the park and passed a few offensive remarks. They started snatching my mobile phone. When I resisted, one of them took out a knife and threatened to stab me.

■ SAMART GOYAL
Victim



The four robbers in police custody. ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

said Mr. Goyal. The police said that a case of robbery was registered at Malviya Nagar police station and an investigation was ordered.

They have arrested all the four robbers identified as Ajay, Kamal Bahadur, Abhishek Tamatta and Kuldeep who are residents of various localities in south Delhi. Kuldeep works with an app-based cab aggregator while Kamal is a delivery boy with an app-based food delivery services.

"We have recovered one robbed mobile phone and one kattaar [knife] from their possession," said DCP (South) Vijay Kumar.

During interrogation, the arrested disclosed that they used to rob mobile phones and other valuables from people in the parks during night hours.

■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

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■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

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IN BRIEF



'Graft exists in DDA, digitisation needed'

NEW DELHI

Corruption exists in the DDA and it can be checked only when the entire functioning of the body is fully digitised, Union Minister Hardeep Puri said in the Lok Sabha on Tuesday. He said the DDA does not know how much land it owns and a detailed estimate could be made once the digitisation process is over. PTI

Dog owner held for shooting tailor

NEW DELHI

A man was arrested on Tuesday for allegedly killing a tailor on Sunday after he objected to a dog barking at him, the police said. Mehtab, who had fled to Dehradun, was arrested from Kashmere Gate. He allegedly told the police that he was drunk at the time of the incident. The tailor was walking past Mehtab's house when the dog started barking at him. Fearing the dog would bite him, the victim allegedly threw a stone at the dog. PTI

'442 died in accidents on Gurugram roads in 2018'

GURUGRAM

As many as 442 people lost their lives in 1,214 accidents in 2018 in Gurugram, a senior police officer said on Tuesday. Gurugram Police chief K.K. Rao said traffic policemen are taking all measures to prevent accidents in future. "We had registered 481 deaths in 2017..." he said. PTI

'Delhi govt to release funds to civic bodies'

NEW DELHI

The AAP government on Tuesday told the Delhi High Court that it has decided to release ₹632.05 crore and ₹450 crore to the East and North Delhi Municipal Corporations respectively in accordance with the recommendations of the fourth Delhi Finance Commission. PTI

Trans activists up the ante, to challenge Bill

PUDR calls it 'draconian, assault on rights of transpersons'

SIDHARTH RAVI
NEW DELHI

"If the Bill goes through, we will immediately challenge it in the Supreme Court for going back on the rights prescribed in the NALSA judgment," said Rachana Mudrabyina, a trans activist from Telangana, referring to the Transgender Bill tabled in the Rajya Sabha on Tuesday.

The Bill, which has already been passed by the Lok Sabha faced severe criticism on several fronts, with trans activists and rights groups across the country raising their voices against several of its provisions. Peoples Union for Democratic Rights (PUDR) also issued a statement opposing the Bill which it termed 'draconian' and an assault on the rights of transpersons.

"Is anyone in the Rajya Sabha a transgender? Does this Bill affect any of them? Why are they allowed to make these decisions?" said Abhina Aher, a trans activi-

st

Is anyone in the Rajya Sabha a transgender? Does this Bill affect any of them? Why are they allowed to make these decisions?

ABHINA AHER
Trans activist

vist, who works with the India HIV/AIDS Alliance.

She argued that the right to self determination as laid out in the 2014 NALSA judgment was being contravened by the current Bill which called for setting up of district level committees that would certify an individual's trans identity. "When will people realise that gender is not something that is below the waist but in the mind?" said Simran Shaikh, a trans activist who is associated with the same NGO. Ms. Shaikh went on to condemn the Bill calling for a lower sentence in case of rape of a transperson. "The Bill only calls for a sentence of two years while the sen-

tence for rape in other cases is seven years," she said.

Vicky, another activist, argued that by making begging illegal the Bill is attacking the traditions of the trans community. "Our entire system of guru-chela relationship and way of living will collapse," the activist said.

This is a major concern as no alternative provisions are being made to improve employment opportunities and there is complete silence on any kind of reservations for the trans community," Ms. Mudrabyina argued.

In a critique of the Bill released by her along with Kranti L.C., a queer rights advocate with the Human Rights Law Network, it was termed "a litany of offences against transpersons". And signed off stating that "many a reason for cheer for transpersons when the NALSA verdict was pronounced will be denied to them till a Constitutional challenge [to the Bill] is successful."

Plea seeking removal of Kejriwal as CM rejected

Come after he is convicted, says Bench

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court on Tuesday rejected a petition seeking removal of Arvind Kejriwal as Chief Minister of the Capital as he was facing prosecution in a criminal case.

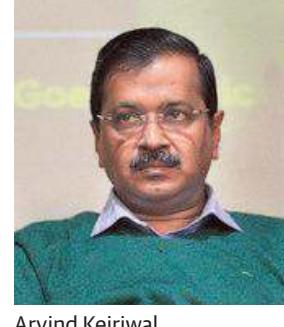
A Bench of Chief Justice Rajendra Menon and Justice V.K. Rao said elected authorities cannot be removed like this as prosecution is still going on.

"He may get acquitted. What will you do then? Come after he is convicted," the Bench said.

Assault case

The court's order came while hearing a petition by Harinath Ram, an advocate, seeking direction to the Lieutenant-Governor for immediate removal of Mr. Kejriwal and other Ministers named as accused in a criminal case relating to assault of the then Delhi Chief Secretary Anshu Prakash.

The petition alleged that Mr. Kejriwal committed breach of oath under the Constitution as he was alleged



Arvind Kejriwal

edly involved in acts of violence in conspiracy with other elected members.

Constitutional crisis

It is an unimaginable constitutional crisis that the same prosecuting machinery is taking care of the criminal proceedings of the Chief Minister which is legally under the Department of Home of government of NCT of Delhi, it alleged.

The petition said people of the State have a right to be governed under the law by a truthful citizen. Those who indulge in criminal acts have no legal or constitutional right to continue as the Chief Minister.

'Aide was frontman for Vadra for London property'

ED urges Delhi court to issue NBW

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate on Tuesday told a Delhi court that personal assistant of Robert Vadra, Manoj Arora, was the frontman for the son-in-law of former Congress chief Sonia Gandhi in the money laundering case connected with the sale and purchase of a property in London.

Seeking issuance of an open-ended Non-Bailable Warrant (NBW) against Mr. Chadha, a close relative of Mr. Bhandari, Mr. Vadra and Mr. Arora, Mr. Vadra was beneficially controlling the London property.

He was not only renovating this property through Mr. Chadha but also had arranged funds for the same, the Directorate alleged.

The arguments will continue on Wednesday.

Meanwhile, the court will take up for hearing the anticipatory bail application of Mr. Arora on January 10.

In the application, he alleged that the Directorate was forcing him to falsely implicate Mr. Vadra in the case.

property before it was officially bought by Mr. Vadra. Mr. Rana submitted.

Digital evidence

The Directorate started investigation in the matter on the basis of digital evidence recovered by the Income Tax Department during raids on the premises of Sanjay Bhandari, a fugitive arms dealer.

According to the email exchanges between Sumit Chadha, a close relative of Mr. Bhandari, Mr. Vadra and Mr. Arora, Mr. Vadra was beneficially controlling the London property.

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NGT: formulate policy on antimony-coated solar panel

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

Following a plea seeking a ban on antimony-coated solar panels, the NGT, while expressing concern over lack of policies pertaining to the same, has directed the Centre to take necessary steps.

A Bench said, "It is an undisputed fact that neither any policy nor rules are in existence with regard to disposal of antimony-coated solar panels."

Directing the Union Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, and the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change and others to take necessary

steps, the Bench said, "We direct the respective counsels to seek instructions on the issue and in case the exercise is now to be done, the minimum time schedule which will be required."

The directions came while the NGT was hearing a plea moved by advocate Nitish Kumar seeking a ban on the manufacture, use and import of solar panels containing antimony. While seeking directions to the Central Pollution Control Board to permit import of solar panels that do not contain antimony, the plea alleged that currently the antimony was being dumped in landfill sites which is hazardous.

Tax amnesty scheme for property owners

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

Property owners in South Delhi Municipal Corporation's jurisdiction, who pay their tax before March 31, will be exempt from payment of penalty and interest,

a resolution passed to this effect in the Standing Committee on Tuesday said.

The amnesty scheme would apply to all category of property owners under all types of colonies. This includes all those who have not submitted tax returns from April 2004, those who haven't filed returns on a regular basis and for those whose assessment hasn't ta-

ken place, Standing Committee Chairperson Shikha Rai said in a statement.

The resolution introduced by Ms Rai said that while property tax amnesty schemes were extended to residents of unauthorised colonies and in villages, similar incentives should be extended to those who pay property tax regularly so as to encourage continued filings.

Financial difficulties

Leader of House Kamaljeet Sehrawat said that the scheme would benefit those who haven't been able to make payments in the past due to financial difficulties.

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

After the title of 'Safai Karamcharis', employed with the South Delhi Municipal Corporation, was changed to 'Swatchh Sainiks' following a House resolution, the Standing Committee on Tuesday resolved to change titles of other staff in the department of environment management services as well.

The resolution stated that changing the name of the Safai Karamcharis had brought self-confidence and belief which had in turn increased their capacity to work. Accordingly, the reso-

lution proposed a change in the titles which would be in line with the name of the department, it added.

Once implemented, sanitary guides will be called environment guides; assistant cleanliness inspectors will be called assistant environment inspectors; cleanliness inspectors will be environment inspectors; chief cleanliness inspectors will become chief environment inspectors; cleanliness superintendents will become assistant director, environment; and assistant cleanliness officer will be deputy director, environment, the resolution proposed.

Proposed hike in taxes opposed

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

SDMC Standing Committee chairperson Shikha Rai said the hike in property tax and professional tax proposed by the Commissioner in his budget speech will not be accepted during finalisation of the budget at a meeting on Tuesday. The proposals made by various sub-committees of the SDMC will now be placed alongside proposals made by the commissioner during his presentation of the revised budget estimates in December 2018.

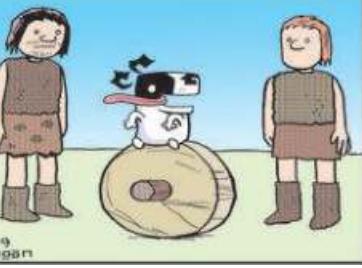
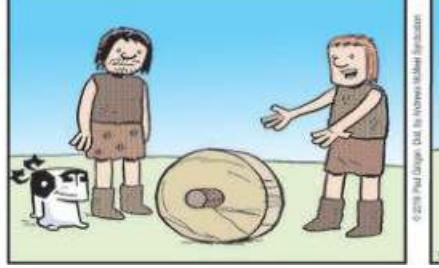
PEANUTS



CALVIN AND HOBBES



POOCH CAFE



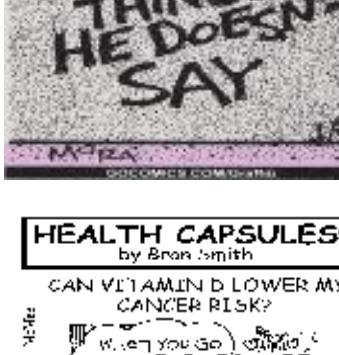
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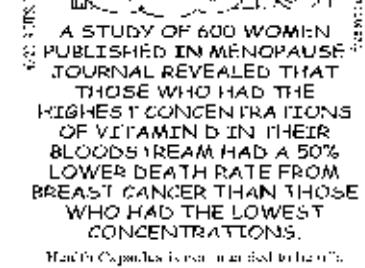
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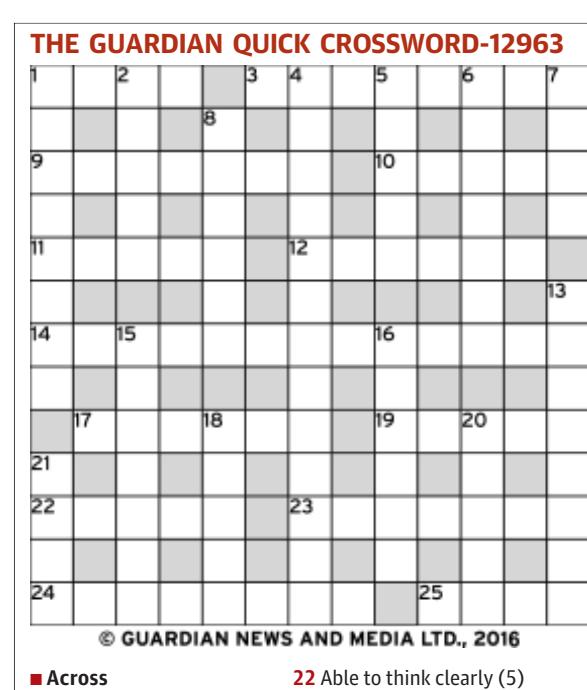
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PEARLS BEFORE SWINE



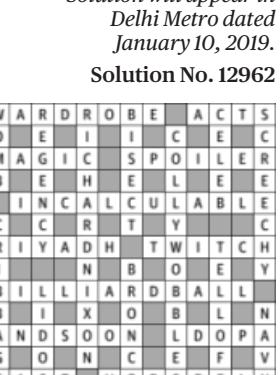
THE GUARDIAN QUICK CROSSWORD-12963



- capital Bujumbura (7)
- 7 Book of the Old Testament (4)
- 8 Difficulty that causes tension (6)
- 13 Cause to feel sorrow (8)
- 15 Small room for special use (7)
- 16 Have the money for (6)
- 18 Old port of southwest Spain (5)
- 20 Civilian clothes for soldiers (5)
- 21 Even – pitched too low (4)

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- 2 Able to think clearly (5)
- 3 Something wished for (4)
- 4 Worthy of worship (8)
- 9 Ghost (7)
- 10 One of twelve in a box? (5)
- 11 Domesticated pack animal of the Andes (5)
- 12 Queen (6)
- 14 Parliamentary debate to approve the principles of a new bill – DNA recognised (anag) (6,7)
- 17 Counting machine (6)
- 18 Longest human bone (5)



SHORT TAKE



'We shouldn't lose our dreams'

As *Olu* continues to stir emotions, filmmaker Shaji N Karun reflects on his creative journey and emphasises need to look back at our cultural legacy

MURTAZA ALI KHAN

Celebrated filmmaker Shaji N Karun was recently in Delhi as part of the ongoing Indian Panorama Film Festival 2019, organised by Directorate of Film Festivals (DFF), where his latest film *Olu* was screened. A fantasy revolving around a gypsy girl who is raped and dumped into the backwaters, *Olu* (She) marks the seventh feature film of Karun's career after making his debut with the 1998 film *Piravi* which went on to win the prestigious Caméra d'Or (Special Mention) at the 42nd Cannes Film Festival. His humanistic work has been applauded at the leading cinematic forums of the world. Interestingly, no Indian film has got nominated for Palme d'Or since Karun's 1994 film *Swaham*.

Excerpts:

Olu is about a rape victim but it's essentially a fantasy. What is the vision behind it?

The underlying idea behind making *Olu* as a fantasy is that we need to dream. Cinema itself is a dream. Without dreams, cinema wouldn't even have been invented. The idea that cinema propagates is that we shouldn't lose our dreams. In *Olu*, the idea of the girl not losing innocence is fantasy for me. Yes, the film is about a girl who is raped but I am looking at the innocence of the girl and not on the violence part of the rape. The press and the people will talk about the violence part of it but for me the innocence part is more im-



View from her side: Shaji N Karun; (below) a still from the critically-acclaimed film • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

portant as it allows a much deeper understanding the girl's feelings and emotions.

Your films have always shown a very deep understanding of women and femininity in Indian society. What do you attribute this to?

From Kashmir to Kanyakumari, the idea of the mother in our country is deeply layered. Also their thoughts and feelings are different in their own ways. Silence

has a lot of meaning in our life. Silence can also be attributed to violence. If you are a silent person you can be a violent person also, occasionally. Now the women in our society are mostly silent. Men often don't fully understand them their feelings, their pain, and their fear. When it becomes very painful for women they cry a lot but very silently. When their tears come out even if they are silent their pain is evident. These are the human languages that reveal the innermost emotions, I think many of the classic film whether it's *Madhumati* or Guru Dutt's *Kagaz Ke Phool* are very strong in their depiction of the expression from the women's side.

After all, it is women who being the family together and it is important to capture their feelings and emotions. Kerala is a matriarchal society and now Sabarimala for that reason is a big fight for them. I believe the portrayal of women in Indian cinema still leaves a lot to be desired for. If the God hadn't created man and

woman, there would have been no story, no passion, no meaning, no cinema, and no poetry. That's the reason why I make movies and through them I try to understand them in different ways.

In a career spanning over three decades you have made just about half a dozen feature films. What is the reason behind your relatively low productivity?

Yes, I haven't made many films in my career. For me, films are all about my passion and my interpretations. You need money to make films and the kind of films that I like to make it is always a challenge to get the funding for them. It usually takes 3-4 years for me to conceive a story, based on my thoughts and interpretations, writings, and finding the people. To be honest, as a filmmaker, I could never get enough money like the kind you associate with big budget films. Leading filmmakers across the world used to enjoy strong backing from the distribution

side as well as from the press. In India that network is not very strong especially when it comes to the non-commercial films. To be honest the situation was much better when I made *Piravi*. Today, even the press has become a part of the consumerist society and is unable to properly address the cultural heritage.

Why has no Indian film made it to the main competition at the Cannes Film Festival in about 25 years despite the growth that our film industries have witnessed?

We are 1.3 billion people and yet we only have few Olympics medals to show for. A small country like South Korea or Japan for that matter performs far better. It is the idea of what we want to bring to our nation because that's what creates history. If we lose our history we lose our soul. The amount of devotion that's needed to excel will only come if we stop being content and strive endlessly for excellence, whether it's

science or art or any other area. If we look at cinema, we have some many indigenous stories to tell and yet we try to imitate the West. The urge for imitation is becoming the limitation of our film industry. The tourism has always been expressed through the past. The tourists come here to get their feel of the spiritualism. They have realised but we refuse to acknowledge the hidden treasures of our rich cultural heritage.

You are not only a celebrated filmmaker but also an award-winning cinematographer. You have shot films for legends of Malayalam cinema like G. Aravindan. How does the role of a cinematographer vary from that of a director?

Making a film for me is like a complete package. Like a human being, you think, you see, you have the taste of the food, you work, etc. But when I become a cinematographer, I merely become the eye of the director. I always look for the spirituality part of it. For me light is the most spiritual part of my whole life. Like some say that music is the language to reach the God. But if there is no light in front of the deities, they are practically non-existent and that's why we use candles and other stuff to light them up. A cinematographer always has an ability to express the feel of cinema through spirituality. When you are a good cinematographer, you understand the use of light in spiritual terms.

For the morning light, noon light, evening light, moon light, everything has a different spirituality to it. I believe it is an important part of the spiritual language of cinema and the cinematographer decides what to show and what to hide from audience. You see I became more enlightened through Rembrandt's paintings, Ravi Varma's paintings, in particular the use of light in their works. As far as I am concerned the artist's main responsibility is to enlighten the audience. Otherwise, there is no meaning in the idea of being called an artist.

Friends forever: "Motu Patlu" is a popular show among children

with a universal appeal—like *Eena Meena Deeka* that has reached more than 80 countries worldwide.

Today, digital gives you real time updates in terms of which audiences from which geographies are spending how much time on which episode of which IP. This level of granular data is very helpful from the perspective of planning the programming strategy of our content. It also helps us draw creative insights for subsequent projects, which aid in deciding the kind of international co-productions we would want to take in.

Unlike in the past, there has been a proliferation of distribution channels. What does that mean for content creators?

The increase in distribution platforms has proved to be very beneficial to content creators, as they have been given a license to create disruptive storylines that can be aired on a number of platforms. In addition to that, these distribution channels also help us from the perspective of widening our reach. We have been able to access territories that would otherwise have been difficult.

For instance, finding a partner in Vietnam and getting our content dubbed in Vietnamese is only possible because of the digital revolution today.

We have got our content dubbed in a diverse range of languages such as Indonesian (Bahasa), Spanish and Arabic for our international audiences. With digital distribution, we are able to make our content native and relative to different regions.

Unique concert

Interestingly, this concert was held in several places both within the country and even abroad last year. It has been held in Australia and Nepal. In India, it has been staged in Mumbai and Kolkata. And now this concert comes to Delhi.

Presented by the Shriram Bharatiya Kala Kendra, the concert is to be held in memory of Lala Charat Ram.

Shedding light into the concert in the context of Ustad Zakir Hussain performing, Shriram Bharatiya Kala Kendra Director Shobha Deepak Singh says: "Zakir is a wonderful human being apart from being a maestro."

The concert starts at 7 p.m.



+ When Motu and Patlu go global

Devdatta Potnis of Cosmos-Maya on what makes the Indian cartoon popular internationally

ANASUYA MENON

Motu who loves hot, crispy samosas often gets into trouble and Patlu, his BFF, tries to help him out of the mess. Children all over India are familiar with this cartoon series, and love the (mis)adventures of the friends. Produced by Cosmos-Maya, the show is now watched in 108 countries, in different languages. According to its makers, the show is doing well not just in traditionally conducive markets such as South East Asia where Indian content has a large number of takers, but is also doing well in evolved economies, especially those with a large Indian diaspora.

Devdatta Potnis, senior vice president, Cosmos-Maya, in an email interview, talks about the popularity of *Motu Patlu* and the growth of the animation industry in India.

How has the journey of Motu Patlu been?

Motu Patlu's journey has been remarkable. Since it began airing in 2012, it has consistently topped the rating charts with a steadily increasing viewer count.

How do you see the animation

industry growing in India?

The animation industry is growing at a rapid speed in India. As an animation production house, since we started out in the IP creation space, our growth has been upwards of 60-70% year on year. There were 40 artists in the studio in 2012. Today we have crossed 1,500 and there is enough and more room to grow further. A recent industry report said that the Indian animation industry's current growth rate is what the IT industry's was at the turn of the millennium. It's not just industry statistics, but our



own experiences as a production house, working with every platform in the country that corroborates the belief that the industry is in a massive growth mode and there are immense opportunities. We are trying so many things that perhaps could not have been tried five years ago.

You have a few international co-productions in the pipeline. Could you give us an outline of the content and the characters that the au-

dience can expect?

Yes, there are quite a few international co-productions we are working on. *Atchoo!*, one of them, has recently been syndicated to 108 countries and is available on Amazon Prime Video. We also have *Leo Da Vinci* and *Berry Bees* in the pipeline. While *Leo Da Vinci* is a spin-off series of the 3D Animation feature film *Leo da Vinci: Mission Mona Lisa*, *Berry Bees* is an all-girl spy-action series. There's a few others that we are current-

ly exploring and will announce in due time.

How has the response to the shows been internationally? How do you gauge their popularity?

Our shows have been received fairly well internationally. There are certain countries outside the subcontinent where Indian content does really well.

For instance, *Motu Patlu* is doing exceedingly well in Indonesia and Singapore. Then there are crossover shows



ONLINE FOOD

Biryani online
Lite Bite Foods, a food and beverage retail company, forays into cloud kitchen format with introduction of biryani, one of the most favoured foods in India. Some of the items on the menu include Awadhi chicken tangdi biryani, ghee roast chicken biryani, Hyderabadi chicken dum biryani, Zafrani mutton biryani.
Available through Zomato and Swiggy
TIME: 11 a.m. - 12 midnight



CONCERT

Flute
Alliance Française de Delhi in collaboration with KalaSetu presents the 8th instalment of its music event "Les Flûtes Enchantées" this evening. Performing artists are, Indian flutist, Rishabh Prasanna, French flutist, Samuel Bricault and Indian dancer, Tanya Saxena.
VENUE: M. L. Bhartia Auditorium, Alliance Française de Delhi, Lodi Estate
TIME: 6:30 p.m.



FILM

Das Schweigende Klassenzimmer
An entire class of 12th graders in the Communist-controlled German Democratic Republic is traumatised when it discovers what is happening during the Hungarian Uprising of 1956. This German film is written and directed by Lars Krause, adapted from the autobiographical book by Dietrich Garstka.
VENUE: Stein Auditorium, India Habitat Centre
TIME: 7 p.m.

5 EVENTS WORTH-YOUR-WHILE



EXHIBITION

Art
Akar Prakar gallery presents the second project in its six-month-long season of avant garde Bangladeshi art. Titled "A Finger on the Pulse", this group show has been curated by Tanzim Wahab and includes Bangladeshi artists such as Dilara Begum Jolly, Mahbubur Rahman, Imran Hossain Pipli, Mazia Farhana and Abir Shome.
VENUE: Akar Prakar, 43, Defence Colony
TIME: 11 a.m. - 7 p.m.



ONLINE FOOD

Biryani online
Lite Bite Foods, a food and beverage retail company, forays into cloud kitchen format with introduction of biryani, one of the most favoured foods in India. Some of the items on the menu include Awadhi chicken tangdi biryani, ghee roast chicken biryani, Hyderabadi chicken dum biryani, Zafrani mutton biryani.
Available through Zomato and Swiggy
TIME: 11 a.m. - 12 midnight



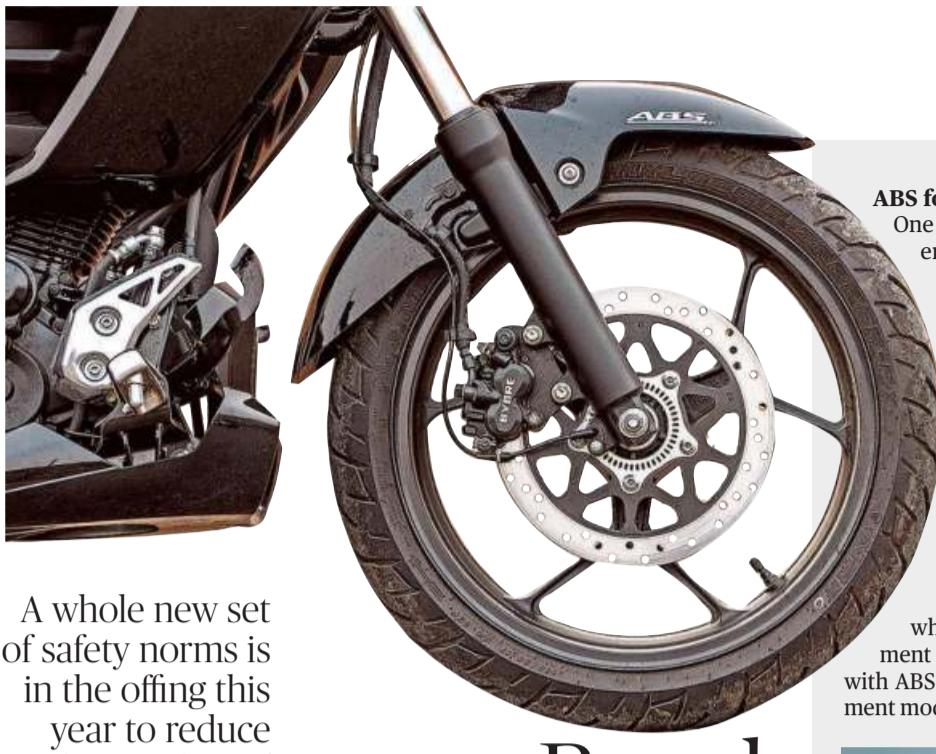
CONCERT

Flute
Alliance Française de Delhi in collaboration with KalaSetu presents the 8th instalment of its music event "Les Flûtes Enchantées" this evening. Performing artists are, Indian flutist, Rishabh Prasanna, French flutist, Samuel Bricault and Indian dancer, Tanya Saxena.
VENUE: M. L. Bhartia Auditorium, Alliance Française de Delhi, Lodi Estate
TIME: 6:30 p.m.



FILM

Das Schweigende Klassenzimmer
An entire class of 12th graders in the Communist-controlled German Democratic Republic is traumatised when it discovers what is happening during the Hungarian Uprising of 1956. This German film is written and directed by Lars Krause, adapted from the autobiographical book by Dietrich Garstka.
VENUE: Stein Auditorium, India Habitat Centre
TIME: 7 p.m.



Road Alert

NISHANT PAREKH

Indian roads are one of the most dangerous in the world. Statistics show that road accidents claimed 1,47,913 lives and left 470,975 injured in 2017.

Over the course of 2019, the Government is set to roll out a host of new safety norms, which could potentially reduce the instances of road accidents and ensuing fatalities. Here is a look at the safety tech and the norms set to come into effect this year.



Crash test norms compliance

More stringent requirements for full-frontal impact, offset-frontal impact and lateral/side impact have been in force on all cars launched after October 1, 2017. The requirements will expand in scope and will apply to all models on sale in India from October 1, 2019. Likewise, new norms for pedestrian safety (applicable for new models from October 1, 2018) will become applicable for all models from 2020.

As per the new crash-test requirements, vehicles will be tested for full-frontal impact at 48kmph, offset-frontal impact with fixed deformable barrier at 56kmph and side impact with a mobile deformable barrier at 50kmph.

Many manufacturers will have to heavily re-engineer older models (or even discontinue them entirely) to meet the new norms. In effect, 2019 could be the end of the road for many of the older models in India.

Oct
2019



A class apart

BMW claims to offer its best 3 Series, expected to be launched mid-year. We give you a low-down

SHAPUR KOTWAL

The BMW 3 Series is now in its seventh generation, and the company says the car is the best 3 Series to drive, ever. It's expected to be launched in July 2019. Is it worth waiting for?

Overall look and feel

Based on BMW's Cluster Architecture (CLAR), the new 3 Series is around 55kg lighter, a massive 50% stiffer, and longer and wider than its predecessor. It gets a 10mm lower centre of gravity, a wheelbase that's longer by 41mm and the track, in general, is up by 30mm too. It also has an all-new damping system that offers greater control of the springs.

The exterior design merges nicely with the car's aggressive and edgy, there are sharper lines and

cuts, and the larger wheels give it a more planted look. While the basic silhouette remains unchanged, the nose of the car is all-new. The kidney grille is much wider, the headlights seem to emerge from under the grille and there are exaggerated cuts on the bonnet. The car also gets three different chins, with the 320d being the neatest of the lot and the least aggressive. At the rear, all 3 Series get twin tailpipes, the 320d included. The design of the rear, however, is a bit too simple and anonymous. Remove the BMW badge and it could be anything.

On the inside

The first thing you notice on the inside is that the dashboard is all-new. In fact, cover the badge on the steering and it is difficult to identify this as a BMW. Even the design of the iDrive controller is

different. There's a lot more chrome on the centre console, the hexagonal vents look like the exhaust nozzles on a stealth fighter and there is also a large 8.8-inch infotainment touchscreen. You can now use voice commands to control it.

There's also gesture control, all-new software and look to the iDrive screen, and, in a first for BMW, the software can be updated remotely. However, some plastics could have been better, the steering is a bit large and the digital instrument cluster, though attractive, takes some getting used to. It isn't as easy to read as BMW's white-on-black crackle dials, there's a large gap between the speedo and the tachometer and, to complicate things further, the tachometer needle runs anticlockwise. Still, the cabin does benefit from feeling fresh and ve-

ry luxurious. The cabin is the most spacious in its segment. There's more shoulder room all around than the current car, there's more legroom in the rear and the headroom in the back is considerably better, too. The seats are large, very supportive, and cushioned just right. In fact, the front seats feel like they belong in a larger, more comfortable car. Rear occupants are sat a bit low, but thigh support is good, the backrest is perfectly reclined and support for the upper back is very good as well.

The ride

While the roads in Portugal are much better paved than the ones back home, I did encounter some nasty patches, and it is here that BMW's new damping system impresses. The suspension smooths most bumps like they barely

exist. It is silent and never crashes, and small road imperfections are dismissed easily. Grip levels are so high and the car feels so planted, it feels completely non-plussed, even though initially you think you are driving close to the car's limits.

The steering is very relaxed and measured, and while the new 3 isn't quite as agile as its predecessor, there's just so much poise and stability, you need to up the pace considerably if you really want to get the back-end sliding. Find the right road, get 'up to speed' with the higher levels of grip, and the car will deliver a driving experience that is superior to its rivals. Still, you do miss the current car's low-speed agility.

The diesel engine makes an impressive 190hp, but performance in the mid-range feels stronger.

ABS for two-wheelers

One really cannot emphasise enough the usefulness of ABS (Anti-Lock Braking System). The feature prevents the wheels from locking up under hard braking and can be the difference between life and death on the road. By modulating the brakes to prevent a lock-up, the system grants the rider control even in a panic-braking scenario.

As per the norms, all new two-wheelers with an engine displacement over 125cc will have to be equipped with ABS by April 1, 2019. Smaller displacement models (with engines up to 125cc) need

to have compulsory fitment of the combination braking system (CBS). While the mandate was already applicable to all new two-wheelers launched after April 1, 2018, it will extend to all existing models in the market starting April 2019.

In the run-up to the application of the norms, a few manufacturers have already equipped their existing bikes with either single- or dual-channel ABS; others are likely to do so in the first three months of 2019.

ABS for four-wheelers

The mandatory fitment of ABS has become applicable for all new cars from April 2018 and will become mandatory for all cars on sale (including existing models) from April 2019.



Come July 1, all cars will have to be equipped with a driver-side airbag, a speed warning system, a seatbelt reminder for driver and co-driver, and rear parking sensors as standard.

Speed alert system

The speed warning system is to keep an alert every 60sec above 80kmph, and then continuously beep at speeds above 120kmph. The system cannot be overridden or turned off and is designed to reduce over-speeding, which has been seen to be the cause of many past incidents.



Reverse parking sensor

Also set to become standard on all cars are reverse sensors. The sensors that activate when reverse gear is engaged provide an audio/visual warning of an object in the path of the car. Parking sensors should help prevent injury to children or collision with low objects that might not be visible by the car's mirrors. While most premium vehicles come equipped with reverse parking sensors or reversing cameras as part of their standard equipment, reverse sensors are restricted to a select few models in the budget segments at present.

Driver and co-driver seat-belt reminder

Another warning sound in the car will be for the front seat-belt reminder. All cars will

sound an alarm if both the driver and front passenger are not belted up. The idea is to promote the use of seat belts, which are the most important passive safety aids.

Driver airbag

A driver-side airbag will also become mandatory on all cars in July. As is widely accepted, airbags can drastically reduce injury in the event of a collision. In conjunction with stronger crash structures required to meet the new crash test norms, the mandatory fitment of a driver-side airbag should bring down injuries sustained in the event of a collision. It is a shame, though, that the norms mandate only a driver-side airbag and not dual airbags – which would provide enhanced protection to the front-seat occupant, as well.



Manual override for central locking system

Cars with central locking will also require a manual override, by law. In transport vehicles, child locks will not be allowed, either. The latter is a sad outcome of cases in which the child-lock feature (that only allows the doors to be opened from the outside) was misused to endanger the safety of women passengers.

AUTO SNIPPETS



Mercedes adds new petrol model to C-Class line-up

Mercedes has introduced a new petrol variant of the facelifted C-Class sedan. Dubbed as the C 200 Progressive, the new variant is priced at ₹43.46 lakh and comes with a new petrol engine and mild-hybrid tech. The C 200 uses a new 1.5-litre, four-cylinder petrol engine equipped with a 48V mild-hybrid system that runs a torque fill function. The EQ Boost function can add up to 14hp of power and 160Nm of torque during acceleration, while battery energy is recuperated via a belt-driven starter-generator. The petrol motor produces 184hp and 280Nm of torque and is mated to a 9-speed automatic gearbox. Mercedes claims a 0-100kmph time of 7.7sec and a top speed of 239kmph for the car. The petrol C-Class is currently available in only one variant – the Progressive. (All prices, ex-showroom, pan-India).



Maruti to upgrade NEXA dealership chain

Maruti opened its first NEXA showroom back in July 2015, to give its customers a unique and personalised buying experience for its more premium products. Now, the brand has decided to give its premium retail outlets an upgrade, with features and amenities it has already introduced in its Arena showrooms.

Claimed to boast a modern look, Maruti will adopt digital technology for potential buyers of its NEXA range of cars to explore models through interactive touchscreen units and tablets.



Benelli to launch TRK 502, 502 X on February 18

The TRK 502 adventure-tourer was first shown in India at the 2016 Auto Expo. But Benelli's former partner, the DSK Group, faced financial trouble which caused operations for the brand to come to a halt. However, the Italian brand was revived in India a few months ago owing to a new tie-up with Adishwar Auto Ride India (ARI), a subsidiary of Hyderabad-based Mahavir Group. The TRK 502 will be the first all-new product to be launched and will be available in two variants which share the ADV bodywork and powertrain. The Benelli TRK 502 siblings are expected to be priced between ₹5.5 lakh and ₹6.5 lakh (ex-showroom), with the X variant being the more expensive model.

Hey BMW: You can now use voice commands to control the 3 Series • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

so quick, so smooth and so happy to be spun fast, you would almost believe it has one of BMW's famous straight-six motors under the hood. And because it is turbocharged, it doesn't quite have that frenzied free-revving nature above 6,000rpm and it also doesn't wind as quickly through the last 1,000rpm of the powerband.

But there's a lot more punch in the mid-range, and this makes performance relatively effortless – a clear plus when you want to drive in a fast but a more relaxed manner.

Worth the wait?

In a word, yes. Nicer to sit in, more spacious on the inside and better built and equipped, the 3 Series now feels more like a luxury car on the inside. The ride should be very good even in the Indian scenario; it is more refined than the current car, and when it comes to driving pleasure, it is now truly head-and-shoulders above the competition.

The 320d, in fact, does 0-100kmph in just 6.8sec. BMW's diesel, however, still isn't as smooth, quiet or responsive as Audi's. The petrol 330i, also expected in India at a later date, is much quicker, of course. It needs only a claimed 5.8sec to reach 100kmph, and performance – especially from 4,000 to 6,500rpm – is extremely strong. In fact, with 258hp and sporty gearing, the 330i feels

Expected to be in showrooms in July 2019 at an estimated price of ₹40 to ₹48 lakh, the new 3 Series has what it takes to be the best car in its class.

It is that good.



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WHEELS