



Army flag march in Itanagar after mob violence

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Thousands take out rally in Delhi seeking solution to Naga crisis

Page 13



Delayed Brexit is better than no-deal exit, U.K. Ministers tell PM May

Page 14



Kohli's India takes on Finch's Australia in opening T20I today

Page 17

Magazine

A refresh of our Sunday offering

Starting today, we repackage and refresh our Sunday offering by presenting a part of it in an expansive tabloid format, called the Magazine. This 40-page supplement is made up of many of the templated sections we published in what was Section II of *The Hindu* on Sunday as well those in the old Magazine section. More importantly, it contains new features and pages, which we believe makes the overall package even more engaging and attractive than before.

The new Magazine is worth preserving all through the week and some more; also, its handy shape makes it ideal for this purpose.

Happy reading.

- Mukund Padmanabhan
 Editor

NEARBY



Govt. in denial about job crisis: Rahul

NEW DELHI
 Congress president Rahul Gandhi on Saturday said the Modi government did not want to accept that there was a "job crisis" in the country, and hence it was failing to address the problem.

NEWS ▶ PAGE 13

6 of 7 girls missing from Bihar shelter home found

PATNA
 Six of seven minor girls who had gone missing from a government-funded shelter home in Mokama, Patna, on Saturday morning were found from different parts of Darbhanga town in the evening, police confirmed.

NORTH & EAST ▶ PAGE 7

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CLASSIFIEDS ▶ PAGES 4 & 6
 MAGAZINE ▶ 40 PAGES
 (TABLOID)

Ganga basin States stare at three-fold rise in crop failures by 2040

As flows decline and pollution worsens, there will be less irrigation and drinking water available in Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh

JACOB KOSHY
 NEW DELHI

The Ganga river basin could see crop failures rise three-fold and drinking water shortage go up by as much as 39% in some States between now and 2040, says an assessment commissioned by the World Bank and submitted to the Central Water Commission.

If there is no intervention, Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and Bihar are likely to see a deficit in irrigation water of 28%, 10%, 10% and 15% respec-

tively in 2040 as compared to the current levels.

Madhya Pradesh would see a 39%, Delhi 22% and Uttar

Pradesh a 25% deficit in

drinking water during the same period, the assessment released earlier this week noted.

Nation's lifeline
 The basin provides over a third of India's available surface water and contributes more than half the national water use, of which 90% is for irrigation.

"The volume of extracted

groundwater is expected to more than double, leading to an increase in the critical blocks. Low flow values in

the rivers are predicted to decline compared to present levels...Water quality and environmental flow

SUNDAY SPECIAL

conditions already critical will deteriorate further," the report has warned.

The report is based on a modelling study that simulates river flow, water quality and groundwater levels in the different States and regions within the Ganga river basin.

To extrapolate, the model considered land use, infrastructure, population, industry and agriculture settings as well as the precipitation

and temperature settings.

The aim of the report was to strengthen the "capacity for strategic basin planning, develop a set of scenarios for the development of the Ganga basin and build a strong and accessible knowledge base."

Declining river health

The report on the future of the Ganga basin comes at a time when experts have raised concerns over the lack of adequate safeguards to ensure the river's health.

The government has com-

mitted to reduce pollution in the Ganga by 70% by March 2019.

There aren't any easy solutions, the report cautioned, pointing out that there is no "silver bullet" intervention that can solve all problems. Combinations of different interventions such as increasing water use efficiency and implementing a 'more job per drop' rather than striving for wholesale crop production are needed, it said.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 12



Source of worry: The exposed riverbed of the Ganga in Haridwar in December 2018. ■ AKHILESH KUMAR

Photo finish



Honouring the best: The winners of *The Hindu* Photojournalism Awards in Chennai on Saturday. Twelve photojournalists from across the country received awards in five categories – portraits, news, sports, photo essays and photo of the year. Over 800 entries were received for the debut edition of the awards, held in association with the Chennai Photo Biennale. A jury of senior photographers and curators from India and abroad judged the images in a two-step process. ■ VELANKANNI RAJ (REPORT ON PAGE 9)

More troops airlifted to Kashmir, activists held

Pre-poll exercise, say police as tension spikes across Valley

PEERZADA ASHIQ
 SRINAGAR

Fresh mobilisation of troops and arrest of around 30 Jamaat-e-Islami (JeI) members and JKLF chief Yasin Malik in late-night raids triggered tension and hysteria in Kashmir on Saturday, with people lining up outside petrol pumps, ATMs and grocery shops.

The clampdown on separatists started on Friday night when JKLF chief Yasin Malik was arrested and shifted to a police station around 11 p.m.

Later, in multiple raids, the police rounded up 30 members of the socio-religious group JeI, including its chief Dr. Abdul Hamid Fayaz, spokesman Zahid Ali, former secretary general Ghulam Qadir Lone and Anantnag head Abdur Rouf. However, a JeI spokesman, on the condition of anonymity, said around 150 members were rounded up in the crackdown.

100 CAPF companies

A police statement said the move was made ahead of the arrival of an Election Commission team in Kashmir on March 5 "to assess the situation and to take a call on



On the boil: Security forces deployed during clashes in Anantnag district of south Kashmir on Saturday. ■ NISSAR AHMAD

holding polls". "We took some measures to ensure peaceful elections," said the police.

The multiple raids coincided with the airlifting of 100 additional companies of security forces to J&K – including 45 companies of CRPF, 35 of the Border Security Force, 20 of the Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB) and 10 of the Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP).

An official said the BSF and the ITBP will replace "static security forces" manning the streets and stationed in bunkers, and the CRPF personnel will be on standby for handling any law and order situation.

A government order on

Friday also cancelled the leave of all officials in the State. Many scheduled government functions have been postponed.

The developments sparked a wave of chaos and uncertainty in the Kashmir Valley. Petrol pumps, grocery shops and ATMs witnessed unprecedented rush.

"Article 35A is coming up for hearing in the Supreme Court and unscheduled troop mobilisation has taken place. We cannot ignore these developments. We have stocked up essentials to meet any eventuality," said Nazeer Ahmad, a trader at Polo View.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 12

Modi decries attacks on Kashmiris

'Our fight is for Kashmir, not against the people; every Indian must protect them'

MOHAMMED IQBAL
 JAIPUR

Breaking his silence on incidents of Kashmiris being targeted in several parts of India in the wake of the Pulwama terror attack, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday denounced the violence and said that attacking people from the Kashmir Valley would amount to playing in-

to the hands of terrorists. "Our fight is for Kashmir, not against Kashmiris," Mr. Modi said.

Addressing a public rally in Tonk, 100 km from here, where he kicked off the party's Lok Sabha election campaign in Rajasthan, Mr. Modi said the incidents of violence against Kashmiri youth, whether small or big, should not have happened.

"Kashmiris [themselves] are victims of terrorism. Every child of Kashmir is with India in our fight against terror. Incidents like these give power to the *Bharat ke tukde honge gang*," Mr. Modi asserted.

He said it was the responsibility of "every Indian" to protect the Kashmiris.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 12



Narendra Modi speaking at Tonk in Rajasthan. ■ PTI

Sushma to address OIC meet

SUHASINI HAIDAR
 NEW DELHI

External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj will address the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) Foreign Ministers meet on March 1, the first time the body has invited an Indian dignitary to attend, the government announced on Saturday.

Coming on the heels of statements of solidarity from the UN Security Council and the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) over the Pulwama attack, the speech at the OIC inaugural plenary is also expected to take forward India's case for action against the Jaish-e-Mohammed and strictures on Pakistan.

Thanking the host United Arab Emirates, the Ministry of External Affairs said it saw the invite "as a milestone in [India's] comprehensive strategic partnership with the UAE ... and as a welcome recognition of India's contribution to the Islamic world".

The Dongria Kondh are currently holding their annual 'Nyamraja festival' on the picturesque hilltop of Niyamgiri. The issue of possible eviction of tribals, whose applications for regularisation under the Forest Rights Act (FRA), 2006, had been rejected, came up for discussion at the festival.

The Dongria Kondh's habitations dot the Niyamgiri hills in Kalahandi

Niyamgiri's Dongria Kondh gird for 'resistance' after SC order

'Tribals got land titles, but habitat rights were not honoured'

SATYASUNDAR BARIK
 NIYAMGIRI

With a recent Supreme Court order triggering panic among forest dwellers over possible eviction, Odisha's Dongria Kondh tribals have resolved to resist any attempt to force them out.

The tribe shot into the limelight for their successful resistance against the Vedanta Group's plan to mine bauxite in the ecologically and mineral-rich Niyamgiri hill range.

The Dongria Kondh are currently holding their annual 'Nyamraja festival' on the picturesque hilltop of Niyamgiri.

The issue of possible eviction of tribals, whose applications for regularisation under the Forest Rights Act (FRA), 2006, had been rejected, came up for discussion at the festival.

The Dongria Kondh's habitations dot the Niyamgiri hills in Kalahandi

and Rayagada districts. As per official records of the distribution of titles under FRA, 562 claims were received from 591 households under the Kudia Kondh Development Agency, Lanjigarh. Gram Sabhas had approved all 562. However, 310 claims involving 313.80 acres were approved by the District Level Committee and certificate of titles were distributed. Under Dongria Kondh Development

Agency, Chatikona and Dongria Kondh Development Agency, Parsoli, of 2,126 applications, Gram Sabhas approved 1,895. All applications were approved by DLC and certificates involving 3,088 acres of land were distributed. The rights sought by the Dongria Kondh have not been met, says Niyamgiri Suraksha Samiti, and it fears that the government might push its mining agenda in the future.

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CM announces hunger strike for statehood

Assembly passes resolution in support

STAFF REPORTER
 NEW DELHI

Raising the pitch on the issue of statehood for Delhi, Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Saturday said in the Assembly that he would launch an indefinite hunger strike to press the demand from March 1.

The Assembly also passed a resolution in support of the demand, making it the second such resolution in less than a year – a similar resolution was passed on June 11, 2018.

'Final battle'
 Addressing the House, the Chief Minister said he was ready to give up his life for the cause, terming it the "*aar-paar ki ladai*" or final battle. He said both the BJP and the Congress had promised statehood for Delhi during previous election campaigns, but forgotten the promise once elected.

Later in the evening, Mr. Kejriwal said in a tweet: "I cannot repay the debt of my life for all that the people

here have given me in my life. It will be my proud privilege to lay down my life fighting for Delhites rights."

The AAP chief's announcement came at the end of a day of discussions in the Assembly on the issue of powers of the elected government vis-a-vis the Lieutenant-Governor and the Centre.

Hitting out at Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Mr. Kejriwal said: "The Prime Minister should deal with Pakistan, which he is not being able to do, and leave Delhi Police and the municipal corporations to the people of Delhi."

300 vehicles gutted in blaze at Aero India

Fire broke out at a parking lot



IN BRIEF



Karol Bagh hotel fire: deceased identified

NEW DELHI
Ten days after Hotel Arpit Palace caught fire in which 17 people were killed, the last unidentified person has been identified as Lal Chand, supervisor at the hotel who had been working there for over 20 years. His family had been looking for him but couldn't identify his body after which samples were sent for DNA test. The results were declared and he was identified, the police said on Saturday. STAFF REPORTER

Air quality of Delhi-NCR			
Delhi 113	Gurugram 75		
Ghaziabad 114	Faridabad 95		
Noida 92	Greater Noida 98		
Good 0-50	Satisfactory 51-100	Moderate 101-200	Poor 201-300 Very poor 301-400 Severe >401

AIR QUALITY INDEX AT 4 P.M. YESTERDAY

Building collapses in Karol Bagh; no injuries

NEW DELHI
Part of a two-storey house collapsed in Karol Bagh's Dev Nagar on Saturday evening. No injuries were reported in the incident. A fire official said that the call was received at 8 p.m. regarding wall collapse after which the rescue team reached the spot along with local police. STAFF REPORTER

Don't vote with your heart: CM

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI
With Lok Sabha elections expected to be announced soon, Delhi CM and Aam Aadmi Party national convener Arvind Kejriwal on Saturday told a crowd in Okhla to think about their choice and not vote with their "hearts".
Addressing the launch of road and sewer projects in eight unauthorised colonies in Okhla, Mr. Kejriwal said: "Don't let your votes get split. Vote for the party that will defeat the BJP. In Delhi, it is the AAP...We will have to use our brains, not our hearts. We must think about who we vote for."

Delhiites' per capita income thrice the national average

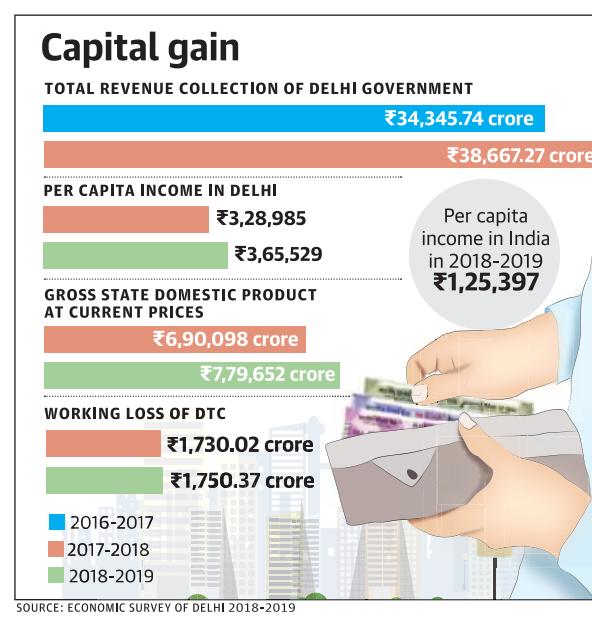
City's revenue collection registers a growth of 14.7% in 2017-2018; debt problem 'well under control', states Economic Survey tabled in Assembly

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The Delhi government's revenue collection, the per capita income of Delhiites and the percentage of growth of the Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) of the Capital are all estimated to see an upward trend, according to the Economic Survey of Delhi 2018-2019.

Tabled by Delhi Finance Minister Manish Sisodia in the Assembly on Saturday, the Economic Survey shows that Delhiites earn about three times the national per capita income. In 2018-2019, Delhi's estimated per capita income at current prices is ₹3,65,529, while the national per capita income is ₹1,25,397.

The Delhi government's tax collection registered a growth of 14.7% in 2017-2018, an increase from the 3.03% growth witnessed in 2016-2017, according to the Economic Survey. The government's non-tax revenue, which includes interest, dividend, profit from investments, service charges, fees and fines, saw a huge



101.23% growth in 2017-2018, after witnessing a decrease of 26.14% in 2016-2017.

Delhi's GSDP at current prices for 2018-2019 was estimated to be ₹7,79,652 crore, a 12.98% increase from the previous year. The GSDP at constant prices, using the base year as 2011-2012, was estimated to see a growth of 8.61% over the previous year

to reach ₹6,02,708 crore in 2018-2019.

According to the Economic Survey, the Delhi government's "debt problem is well under control" as the debt was 16.79% of the GSDP in 2007-2008, but in 2017-2018 it was 4.86% of the GSDP. However, the outstanding debt increased from ₹25,338.96 crore to ₹33,569 crore over

the same period.

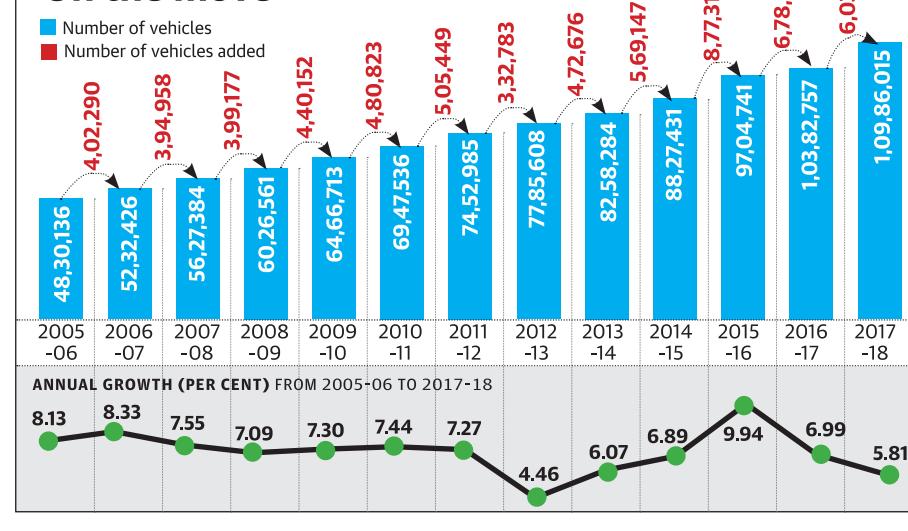
DTC and DJB

Meanwhile, the Delhi Transport Corporation, which operates public buses in the city, is estimated to see an increase in its working losses. In 2018-2019, the DTC is estimated to have working losses of ₹1,750.37 crore, higher than ₹1,730.02 crore in 2017-2018.

The Delhi Jal Board, which is responsible for supplying drinking water, is estimated to have a deficit of ₹133.78 crore in 2018-2019. After witnessing revenue surplus from 2012-2013 till 2015-2016, the DJB saw a deficit of ₹53.73 crore in 2016-2017 and ₹275.29 crore in 2017-2018.

After coming to power in 2015, the Aam Aadmi Party government had introduced a scheme to supply free water, up to 20 kl a month, to domestic connections. For this, in 2017-2018, the Delhi government gave the DJB ₹425 crore "for meeting out the expenditure for free water supply to consumers," the Economic Survey said.

On the move



Over 70 lakh two-wheelers among 1.09 cr. vehicles in city

Total growth of vehicles during 2017-18 recorded at 5.81%

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The vehicular population of the Capital surged to 1.09 crore by March 2018, including over 70 lakh two-wheelers, according to the Delhi Economic Survey 2018-19.



Transport Minister Kailash Gahlot during the budget session on Saturday.

■ SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

cause the Transport Department was making efforts to estimate the actual number of vehicles in Delhi by taking into account those vehicles that have outlived their life. The report showed increased number of households using two-wheelers, cars, vans for transportation in the last decade (2001-2011).

Contrary to this, the percentage of household using bicycle as a mode of transport has declined from 37.6% in 2001 to 30.6% in 2011.

Meanwhile, the report noted that the daily average ridership on the Delhi Metro in 2017-18 was 25.37 lakh as opposed to 27.61 lakh in 2016-17.

This comes even as the metro network has increased from approximately 195 km in 2016-17 to over 228 km (excluding the Airport Express Line) in 2017-18.

Following an increase in ridership from 21.9 lakh in 2013-14 to 23.86 lakh in 2014-15, the daily average ridership, subsequently, has seen a dip despite the increasing network, with 2015-16 recording a daily average of 26 lakh.

Enrolment in technical institutes on a decline

Despite a rise in the number of such educational centres in the Capital

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

According to the Economic Survey, tabled in the Delhi Assembly on Saturday, there has been a decrease in the number of students in technical institutes in Delhi as compared to 2016-17.

While in 2017-18 there was an increase to 31,251 from 34,168, in 2018-19 it dipped to 31,924. The trend is despite a rise in the number of technical institutes in the Capital, with 104 in 2016-17 to 110 in 2018-19.

Additionally, despite an increased budget allocation and an increase in the number of classrooms, enrolment in Delhi government schools have seen a 3% dip, according to the Economic Survey, placed on Saturday.

While in the 2016-17 period, enrolment in Delhi government schools was



Deputy CM Manish Sisodia during the budget session in the Capital on Saturday. ■ SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

around 15.28 lakh, in 2017-18 it has been 14.81 lakh, according to the survey.

According to the survey, while 7.18 lakh boys enrolled into government schools in 2016-17, in 2017-18 approximately 6.91 lakh boys enrolled. There has also been a dip in the number of girls enrolling into Delhi government schools from 8.1 lakh in 2016-17 to 7.9 lakh in 2017-18.

Further, according to the survey, there has been a 1.27% dip in enrolment into Delhi government aided schools between 2016-17 and 2017-18.

However, enrolment in unaided schools shows an upward trend with 16.21 lakh enrolment in 2017-18 as opposed to 15.65 lakh in 2016-

17, according to the survey.

This comes even as the per student per annum expenditure incurred by the Delhi government has increased to ₹66,038 in 2018-19 as opposed to ₹50,682 in 2016-17, according to the survey.

The survey added that 8,095 additional classrooms have been made functional in existing government schools while nursery classes were introduced in 301 government schools in 2018.

The total number of schools in Delhi has gone up from 5155 in 2012-13 to 5760 in 2017-18 with an increase in enrolment from 42.68 lakh in 2012-13 to 43.93 lakh in 2017-18.

"Enrolment in primary and middle in private schools have increased from 12.04 lakh in 2013-14 to 14.51 lakh in 2017-18," said the survey.

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Father kills six-year-old boy due to 'financial crisis', arrested

Accused found sitting next to child's body; was unemployed and under debt

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

A 46-year-old man allegedly strangled his six-year-old son at his rented accommodation in Rohini's Vijay Vihar on Saturday morning, the police said.

The accused, who has been arrested, was allegedly unable to take care of the child due to financial crisis, they said.

Deputy Commissioner of Police (Rohini) S.D. Mishra said that the accused has been identified as Vinod.

"The police received a call around 11.10 a.m. and were informed that a boy had been murdered by his father. The police reached the spot

Accused strangled son and went to his landlord and told him about it. The landlord called the police

SENIOR POLICE OFFICER

and found accused Vinod sitting next to his son's body. He was arrested," Mr. Mishra said.

A senior police officer privy to the case said that Vinod allegedly strangled his son in the morning after which he went and told his landlord about the same who further called the police. He is suspected to have

sat with his son's body for at least two hours.

During investigation, the police found that Vinod's wife died of cancer in October 2017. They said he had been unemployed since the last three-four months after the company he was working in shut down.

The officer said that Vinod used to work in a private company as a salesman of dairy products.

"He lost his job after the company shut down a few months ago. His employers allegedly did not even pay him for two months," he said.

Investigations revealed that Vinod also failed to find

a new job. "He used to leave his son at a crèche when he used to go to work. After he lost his job, he could not afford the expenses of a crèche as well," the officer said.

"The accused also said that he had spent a lot of money and taken loans from private financers for his wife's cancer treatment and that he was under debt," the officer added.

Investigators suspect that the child might have asked his father for something in the morning that had triggered the accused. "He [the accused] is being interrogated at length to ascertain the sequence of events," the officer further said.

Vadra seeks copy of case documents from ED

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

Robert Vadra, facing Enforcement Directorate (ED) probe in cases of money laundering, moved an application in a Delhi court on Saturday seeking copy of case-related documents with the central agency.

Special Judge Arvind Kumar posted the matter for February 25. Mr. Vadra, the brother-in-law of Congress president Rahul Gandhi, appeared before the ED for questioning on multiple occasions in Delhi and Jaipur. The money laundering cases being probed by the ED relate to purchase of alleged illegal assets abroad and an alleged land scam in Bikaner, Rajasthan.

Domestic violence: maintenance to woman increased by ₹30,000

Both husband and wife concealed facts, observes court

NIRNIMESH KUMAR
NEW DELHI

A Delhi court has enhanced interim maintenance to a woman from ₹1 lakh per month to ₹1.3 lakh per month in a domestic violence case.

Additional Sessions Judge Sandeep Yadav increased the maintenance amount on appeals filed by the wife and husband against each other against a Metropolitan Magistrate court order.

The Magistrate had granted ₹1 lakh maintenance per month to the woman presuming that she could be capable of earning at least ₹30,000 per month. He had assessed the income of her husband at ₹4 lakh per month.

Observing that both the

The fact that the wife is a well-qualified diploma holder in interior designing from London will not imply that she is actually earning and capable of maintaining herself

SANDEEP YADAV
Additional Sessions Judge

parties have concealed real facts from the court regarding their respective incomes, Mr. Yadav allowed the appeal by the wife.

"After assessing income of husband at ₹4 lakh per month, trial court misdirected itself in deducting ₹30,000 per month from the income of husband on the

premise that wife can be presumed to be capable of earning at least ₹30,000 per month. Earning capacity of a person is distinct from his actual earning," Mr. Yadav said.

"The fact that wife is a well-qualified diploma holder in interior designing from London will not ipso facto imply that she is actually earning and is capable to maintain herself," he stated.

"Accordingly, interim maintenance directed to be paid by husband to wife is increased from ₹1,00,000 to ₹1,30,000 from the date of filing of petition till final disposal of petition or till they are legally entitled to receive the same whichever is earlier," the judge said.

Accident death: kin get ₹62.6 lakh compensation

41-year-old Delhi police constable was killed in Haryana in 2012

NIRNIMESH KUMAR
NEW DELHI

A Motor Accident Claims Tribunal here on Friday granted a compensation of ₹62.63 lakh to the wife, children and parents of a 41-year-old Delhi police constable who was killed in a road accident in Haryana in 2012.

The victim's family will also get an interest at the rate of 9% per annum on the total compensation amount from the date of filing of the claim petition till the payment is made.

The constable's wife had sought ₹40 lakh compensation on the grounds that his husband's monthly salary at the time of the accident was



when he was walking along with his relatives to a nearby place.

The claimants proved the negligence and rashness on the part of the truck driver, among other things, on the basis of an eyewitness account who was walking along with the victim.

The insurance company opposed the claim amount sought, submitting that it was exorbitant. It further said that it was not liable to pay compensation as the owner of the insured vehicle had committed breach of terms of the policy.

Allowing the plea, the tribunal said that the insurance company had the right to re-

cover the compensation amount from the driver and the owner of the offending vehicle as the driver was not carrying a valid licence at the time of the accident.

"...Thus, having regard to the fact and circumstances of the present case, an award for a sum of ₹62,63,000 payable by the New India Assurance Company limited [with which the truck was insured] along with interest at the rate of 9% per annum from the date of filing of the petition, i.e. 18.2.2013 till realisation is passed in favour of the petitioners and against the respondents," Presiding Officer of the tribunal, Paramjit Singh said.

DCW to launch 13-day 'padayatra' in city today

To create awareness on women safety

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The Delhi Commission for Women (DCW) will launch a 13-day 'padayatra', across the Capital, starting on Sunday to create awareness on issues related to women safety and security.

"The purpose is to spread awareness and take services of the commission to the doorsteps of the communities, resolve issues on the spot, wherever possible and

to involve the people of Delhi in making the Capital a safer place for women and girls," the DCW said in a statement.

A pilot programme called 'Mahila Suraksha Dal', involving civil defence volunteers, will also be launched during this period, it said.

The march will start from Rajghat at 9.30 a.m. and move towards Shakarpur via the ITO bridge and Vikas Marg, on the first day.

MAHATMA GANDHI UNIVERSITY
Priyadarshini Hills, Kottayam - 686560, Kerala, Tel: 0481-2731007
Website: www.mgu.ac.in
No. B 2/169/2018/H.Edn.D
NOTIFICATION Dated 19.02.2019
Appointment of **VICE-CHANCELLOR, MAHATMA GANDHI UNIVERSITY**
The Chancellor, Mahatma Gandhi University had, vide Notification No. GS5-2030/18 dated 20.08.2018, appointed a Committee to make recommendations for the appointment of the Vice Chancellor, Mahatma Gandhi University. However, due to technical/administrative reasons, the recommendations could not be made within the due time.
Now, in exercise of the powers conferred by Section 10(1) of the Mahatma Gandhi University in 1985, the Chancellor, No. GS5-2030/18 dated 04.02.2019 issued fresh Notification forming the Selection Committee to make recommendations for appointment of the Vice Chancellor, Mahatma Gandhi University.
Applications are invited by the Search - cum - Selection Committee for the selection of Vice-Chancellor, Mahatma Gandhi University from eligible candidates. Qualification and experience are as prescribed in the UGC notification dated 30.06.2010, clause 7.3.0 (i) and (ii). Preference will be given to candidates having Ph.D. The selection will be subject to the age limit of 65 years of age as on the date of notification as provided in the Section 10 (9) of Mahatma Gandhi University Act, 1985.
Application in hard copy and soft copy (by e-mail only) with biodata, proof of experience, qualification, etc in the attached format should reach the Principal Secretary to Government, Higher Education Department, Government Secretariat (Annexe II), Thiruvananthapuram-695001 and to the e-mail Id: highereducation@department@gmail.com on or before 5 PM on 20.03.2019.
Sd/-
S. THARUN LAL,
Deputy Secretary, Higher Education Department,
Govt. Secretariat, Thiruvananthapuram, 0471-2518748, 2327078
For more details: www.highereducation.kerala.gov.in, www.mgu.ac.in

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Deepak Talwar case: bail pleas to be heard on March 2

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NOIDA/DELHI

A Delhi court on Saturday said that it will take up on March 2 the hearing on all bail applications of corporate lobby Deepak Talwar, arrested in a money laundering case.

The court said Saturday's hearing was not to decide the merits of the case but whether or not to pass an order on the pleas, given the matter is pending before the Delhi High Court (HC). The court fixed the matter for March 2, saying that in the meantime, the HC could pronounce its order.

Talwar had challenged his detention before the HC and the ED had opposed his plea. The matter will be taken up for hearing on February 27.

CBI team probing land scam attacked

Chased away by accused's relatives in Greater Noida

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NOIDA/DELHI

A team of CBI officials, including a woman constable, was allegedly attacked and chased away by relatives of an accused in a 2014 land fraud case, from his village in Greater Noida on Saturday, officials said. The accused is also a CBI official.

Some CBI officials also sustained injuries during the scuffle with the accused's relatives, who forced the sleuths inside a private property in Sonpura village and

beat them up with sticks and bare hands to help the accused escape, the agency said in a statement issued in

development Authority.

On February 3, the agency booked two of its officials posted in Ghaziabad, both of whom were probing the case, on charges of criminal conspiracy and under the Prevention of Corruption Act. Accused CBI Inspector V.S. Rathore was arrested while ASI Sunil Dutt has been absconding.

On Saturday, a CBI team reached Sonpura to look for Mr. Dutt, when his relatives attacked the sleuths, the Greater Noida police said.

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Umesh Yadav
Indian Cricketer and
RBI Employee

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Sunit Bhattacharya, Advocate,
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NADAR RC Christian 38/165 ME MBA PhD Asst Prof, Chennai Medical, No child, seeks CNB. 9384415059

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TAMIL BE/MA/B.E/173 working in abroad. Parents invited Chennai and religious alliance from Tamil speaking Muslim family. Contact 9384252660 / yousoufms@hotmail.com

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TAMIL CSI VELLALAR 31/MBA/170, Govt. 85000/Seeks educated girl fearing good looking girl 9600015528

RC CHRISTIAN Bachelor Male, 41Yrs, MNC Mgr, Bangalore, No Language/ country preference. 9886322945

VANNIAR UTHIRAM-1 33/175 B.Tech USA, SWE Bride. Ct: 7200042724/ mouty21@gmail.com

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SENGUTHAR 34/180 Marine Engg. MNC 9000pm Kumbar Avitham Rahu & ketu Thoshan Seeking Good Bride Ct:9444868346

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INFORMATION FOR VOTER REGISTRATION CAMPS

INFORMATION FOR VOTER REGISTRATION

IN BRIEF



Modi has no right to enter Andhra Pradesh: Naidu

VIJAYAWADA
Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu has said Prime Minister Narendra Modi has no right to enter Andhra Pradesh without delivering on all the commitments he made at the time of bifurcation. Regarding Special Category Status, Mr. Naidu said the BJP took a 'U' turn due to its narrow political objectives.

15% hike in PG medical, dental seats in Karnataka

BENGALURU
The Karnataka government has decided to hike fees for PG medical and dental seats in private colleges by 15% for the 2019-2020 academic year. It will be implemented in government quota and institutional quota seats.

Kannada writer Konana Chennabasappa no more

BENGALURU
Konana Chennabasappa, 97, retired judge and Kannada writer, known by his pen name 'Ko Che,' passed away in a hospital in Bengaluru on Saturday after a brief illness. He has to his credit over 100 books. He is survived by two sons and two daughters.



Nowhere to go: Silhouette of a bird is seen against flames of a forest fire and, right, a group of deer amidst ashes at the Bandipur Tiger Reserve on Saturday. ■ P.T.I.

Bandipur, Wayanad forests face fire fury

Authorities peg the extent of damage at around 208 acres; safari suspended; vehicular traffic affected

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MYSURU/KALPETTA

A major fire reduced vast swaths of forestland to ashes in Bandipur on Saturday. The authorities are trying to douse the raging flames that seem to have gone out of control.

The safari was suspended following the outbreak of fire near the tourism zone and the reception area in the Bandipur range. Movement of vehicles through the national highway connecting Mysuru and Ooty, and cutting through the national park, was severely affected.

An alert from NASA's Fire Information for Resource

Management System (NASA-FIRMS) said that 21 fires or hotspots were detected during the satellite overpass and processed by it on Saturday.

Forest fires have been reported in recent days in Kundakere and surrounding areas. The authorities have pegged the extent of damage to around 60 acres. But Saturday's fire is reckoned to be the biggest and the damage is feared to be extensive. Other places where fire was reported in Bandipur were Kaniyanapura, Kalligowdahalli, and Maginahalli.

Though there had been sporadic fires in different sections of the national park,

they were relatively minor. According to officials, the blazing fire was being fanned by high winds and dousing the flames was a challenge.

The adjoining Nagarhole is bone dry and the authorities doused a minor ground fire at Solepura in the territorial range as they feared it could spread. "The wind is dangerous and our staff have stomped out fires even on private lands," said Chief Conservator of Forests K.M. Narayanaswamy.

Fire in three divisions
Nearly 148 acres of forest has been destroyed in fires in various areas under three for-

est divisions including the Wayanad Wildlife Sanctuary, North and South Wayanad in the past three days.

About 123 acres of forest was destroyed in six incidents in the Kurichiyad forest range under the sanctuary, B.N. Anjan Kumar, Chief Conservator of Forest, Wild-life, Palakkad, said.

Though the fire was brought under control in many parts of the sanctuary, residual fire posed a serious threat in this major habitat of Asiatic elephants and tigers, he added. As many as 120 persons, including forest watchers and members of the Vana Samrakshana Sa-

mithi, were engaged to douse residual fires.

Similar fire episodes were reported in Valaramkunnu and Narippara forest on the Banasura mountain ranges under the South and North Wayanad forest divisions.

Entry to Muthanga and Tholpetty ecotourism centres have been suspended since February 18 to prevent incidence of forest fires.

The sanctuary officials suspected human involvement behind the recent forest fire, as it appeared simultaneously in six areas. The sanctuary officials have registered separate cases regarding the fire incidents.



Syed Muazzem Ali

countries, which is expected to cross \$9 billion soon.

Another key issue where Bangladesh needs India's help, said the High Commissioner, is the Rohingya problem. "There are 1.1 million Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh, mainly in the Cox's Bazar area. Earlier 4,00,000 refugees had come. And in the recent wave of refugees, 7,00,000 more Rohingya have come. So far, the Sheikh Hasina government has controlled the situation. But there has to be a regional solution to this problem for which the bigger powers in the region should put pressure on Myanmar," he said.

Asked about the irritants in Indo-Bangladesh ties, Mr. Ali referred to the illegal border crossing. "Such incidents have been curbed and the killings on the borders have also been substantially reduced. But it should be reduced to zero level."

Another key issue, in his view, is water sharing. "India and Bangladesh have signed a treaty on sharing the Ganges water. But we are yet to reach an agreement on the Teesta water. We should also move into joint river management and development."

Dhaka plans to open diplomatic office in Chennai

Wants to enhance ties with south India

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI

Bangladesh plans to open a Deputy High Commission in Chennai as it seeks to strengthen ties with the southern parts of India, High Commissioner Syed Muazzem Ali has said.

"We have made the request regarding opening a Deputy High Commission in Chennai to India's Ministry of External Affairs. As soon as it's cleared, we will set up the mission," Mr. Ali told *The Hindu* on Saturday.

This will be Bangladesh's sixth diplomatic office in India. Besides the High Commission in Delhi, Bangladesh has Deputy High Commissions in Kolkata and Mumbai and Representative Offices in Guwahati and Agartala.

Mr. Ali said a large number of Indians working in Bangladesh are from southern India. Besides, Bangladeshis are also coming to the south, especially for medical tourism. "India has very good medical facilities at affordable costs. We want to make this people-to-people contact stronger by opening a Deputy High Commission here."

The envoy added that India-Bangladesh ties are on a strong wicket. Both countries have identified the areas of cooperation. "We have a fully demarcated border. Cross-border connectivity has fully been restored. Energy cooperation is another key area. The Russians are building a nuclear reactor in Bangladesh and India is providing the technical know-how."

He said trade is also booming between the two

'Only those with patta for cultivable land recognised as farmers'

Telangana Chief Minister KCR appeals to them to extend benefits offered by the government to their tenants

B. CHANDRASEKHAR
HYDERABAD

Telangana Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao said in the Assembly on Saturday that only those having cultivable *patta* landholding are recognised as farmers as matter of government policy and it's they who will get the benefit of any government scheme aimed at the farming community.

"It's not our [government's] policy to harass farmers by creating problems in the matter of their rights on their landholdings. We know how they were harassed in the past in the matter of rights over their landholding with the help of revenue officials," said the Chief Minister, clarifying to Congress member D. Sridhar Babu who suggested that the

government could give a thought to extending benefits like Rythu Bandhu to the tenant farmers (tenant farmers).

The Chief Minister, however, said the government would make an appeal to the *pattadar* farmers to have a benevolent attitude towards tenant farmers and extend the benefits offered by the government to the latter.

"It's a relationship between the farmer and the cultivator and it is for them to have a proper understanding," he stated.

The Dharani website would become available within the next few months, the Chief Minister. Bankers would be asked to give crop loans based on the land records available on the site without asking for *pattadar*

passbooks. Some banks were holding the passbooks of farmers while giving them loans. This was illegal. Steps would be taken to give loans up to ₹1 lakh to farmers without any collateral security, he said.

On the crop loan waiver of up to ₹1 lakh per farmer, promised by the Telangana Rashtra Samithi before the Assembly elections, the

Chief Minister said he had never said that it would be done at one go.

Asking farmers to get their crop loans renewed by repaying their dues, the Chief Minister said the government would clear the outstanding amount as on December 11, 2018 in four or five instalments based on the Central devolution to the State.

Polavaram: report on air quality sought

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
VIJAYAWADA

The Polavaram Project Authority (PPA) has been ordered to carry out air quality monitoring along the lines of the National Ambient Air Quality Monitoring Programme and submit regular reports to the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change and the Andhra Pradesh Pollution Control Board.

The National Green Tribunal constituted a Joint Inspection Committee on November 1, 2018 to verify a complaint filed by Delhi-based economist and native of Polavaram town Pentapati Pulla Rao.

In his complaint, Dr. Rao said the PPA was dumping soil and rock excavated from the project area near human habitations and also in eco-sensitive zones.

Dry run



Cause for concern: Sheep grazing in the open meadows of Masab Lake, near Hyderabad, on Saturday. A portion of the lake bed has dried up due to the scorching heat. ■ G. RAMAKRISHNA

Concerted efforts are needed to control pollution, say experts

Adoption of recycling methods will mitigate problem

STAFF REPORTER
SRIKAKULAM

Several scientists, professors and researchers, and environmentalists from India and the U.S., on Saturday strongly felt that concerted efforts were the need of the hour to control all kinds of pollution that had impacted the lives of hundreds of millions of people around the world. They felt that the adoption of recycling methods and new processing technology would prevent pollution to some extent.

Dr. B.R. Ambedkar University-Etcherla of Srikakulam organised an international conference on Water, Sanitation and Hygiene-2019 in association with the Administrative Staff College of India (ASCI)-Hyderabad.

Indian Institute of Petroleum Energy (IIPE) Director

V.S.R.K. Prasad, chief guest of the conference, said that pollution was causing heavy damage to human beings, plants and animals.

He felt that the right to have water and sanitation was denied, with pollution caused by various organisations in the country.

Safe sanitation
American environmentalists Roger M., David Mullan and Chetan Kale said that safe sanitation was essential for health and to prevent the spread of infections.

University Vice-Chancellor Kuna Ramjee said that various departments, including bio-technology, social work, organic chemistry and basic sciences, had put in concerted efforts to find solutions for the pollution in industrial zones and other

parts of the district. Registrar K. Raghu Babu said that regular field studies helped many youngsters to come up with their suggestions to control pollution in industrial zones like Pydibhimavaram.

Science college Principal Sujatha Peela, and organising secretaries S. Uday Bhaskar and U. Kavya Jyotsna, said that the discussions over various topics such as clean water, health-hygiene, waste water management, solid waste management and other issues, would be useful for students to continue their research.

Srikakulam Municipal Commissioner R. Sreeramulu Naidu assured that the insights from the university would be utilised to improve civic amenities and reduce pollution in the town.

They have been pleading for making net houses available at 90% subsidy for cultivation of tomato during off season when its price shoots up to ₹600 per kg. They say this will enable them to grow the crop throughout the year and raise seedlings on their own.

Presently, net houses for horticulture crops come with 50% subsidy, says Horticulture Assistant Director M. Hariprasad.

Farmers, he says, could form groups to put up subsidised net houses.

the village have put up micro irrigation system in their farms to make the best use of water.

Farmers in and around Giddalur grow tomato in over 1,000 hectares as the soil is best suited for cultivation of this crop.

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The Thottappally coast is

channel and operate shutters of the Thottappally spillway more efficiently. Removal of sand will result in the intrusion of salt water into Kuttanad," he said.

"Instead of removing sand from the estuary, the government should initiate measures to develop the area as an ecotourism spot and protect the environment," Mr. Jayamohan says.

The move to remove sand from the estuary comes as local residents are up in arms against the 'never-ending' dredging and mineral-sand mining at the Thottappally harbour. The State government, a few years ago, allowed dredging of the harbour in the name of its development. Residents say it has already turned out to be a disaster for them and the Olive Ridleys.

A.P. tomato growers in tears as price plummets

Some farmers throw their produce on the streets in despair

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
ONGOLE

Every drop of water counts for a GenX tomato grower at Burjupalli near Giddalur in Prakasam, as the district is in the grip of drought for the fifth year in succession.

The never-say-die farmer, Shiva Shankar Reddy, has successfully adopted Israel's micro irrigation technology spending ₹17,500. Thanks to the 90% subsidy provided by the Andhra Pradesh government for drip irrigation system, he has been able to maximise yield with two borewells to make the best use of water.

The 30-year-old has got a very good yield of 1,680 quintals per acre this year by sending water soluble fertilizers to every single plant through a network of pipes. "Yet there is no end to our

wits' end as he is not in a position to break even at the current market price. Some tenant farmers have thrown their produce on the streets in despair, while others have preferred to delay the harvest hoping for better prices in March, says another farmer K. Musalaiah. Over 90% of the 800 farmers in

Tough times: Farmers segregate the harvested tomato at Burjupalli in Prakasam district. ■ KOMMURI SRINIVAS

the village have put up micro irrigation system in their farms to make the best use of water.

Farmers in and around Giddalur grow tomato in over 1,000 hectares as the soil is best suited for cultivation of this crop.

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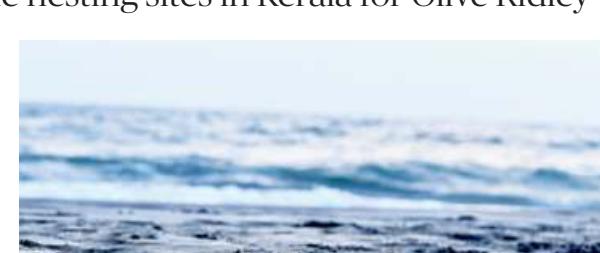
It is one of the prime nesting sites for Olive Ridley turtles.

The decision to remove sand from the estuary will spell doom for the ecology of the area. To remove sand, they will have to cut more than 350 casuarina trees. Besides, the area is also home to several species of reptiles, migratory birds, and a large

number of butterflies," Saji Jayamohan, secretary, Green Roots Nature Conservation Forum told *The Hindu*.

Mr. Jayamohan says the removal of sand from the estuary will not prevent flooding in the Kuttanad region.

"To ensure the flow of water, the government should only dredge the leading



Ecology matters: Olive Ridley turtles seen at the Thottappally coast. ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

one of the prime nesting sites for Olive Ridley turtles.

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Top shots: Senthil Kumaran receiving the first prize for Photo Essay from juror Yumi Goto; Indranil Mukherjee for News from Dimitri Beck; Arun Shreedhar for Sports from Tanvi Mishra; and Amarjeet Kumar Singh for People/Portraits from Ashima Narain. ■ B. VELANKANNI RAJ

Recognising and celebrating those who see news in pictures

12 photojournalists from across the country were honoured in the first edition of *The Hindu* Photojournalism Awards

STAFF REPORTER

CHENNAI

A photograph that captured a 21-year-old manual scavenger at work during day break in Raj Nagar near Delhi fetched Tashi Tobgyal the award for the 'Photo of the Year' at the first edition of *The Hindu* Photojournalism Awards that were presented on Saturday.

The photograph that was published in the *Indian Express*, and the work of 11 other photojournalists were recognised at the event held in association with the Chennai Photo Biennale (CPB). Mr. Tobgyal received a cash award of ₹1.5 lakh.

lakh for Senthil Kumaran. The photo essay that was published in *National Geographic*, *Caravan* and *Better Photography* magazines, has a series of photographs documenting the man-animal conflict. The second place in the category went to Showkat Nanda for his photo essay titled 'The Endless Wait' and Raj Lalwani came third for his photo essay on 'Difficult Love'.

Arun Shreedhar received a cash award of ₹1 lakh for his award-winning entry in the sports category. His photograph, 'Signature to the sands of time' captured a long jumper during the National School Meet held in Gujarat and was published in the *Malayala Manorama*.

The category saw the entries of Jayesh P (Mudball Second) and Kunal Patil (Slick Trick) win the second and third places respectively.

A portrait of an acid attack survivor by Amarjeet Kumar Singh bagged the first prize in the portrait category and a cash award of ₹1 lakh. Smita Sharma won the second and third places for her entries, 'They said we are the slaves' and 'Left Behind'.

On instituting the awards, Mukund Padmanabhan, Editor, *The Hindu*, said, "While we have a plethora of media awards, there is no exclusive

awards for photo journalism.

As a newspaper, we deal with photographs everyday. This is something integral to what we do. We thought we should recognise and celebrate photography." A good news photograph is always about capturing that decisive moment, he added.

Among others, Varun Gupta, founder of CPB Foundation, spoke.

The images were judged in a two-step process. The first jury comprised Amirtharaj

Stephen, Chirodeep Chaudhuri and Srivivas Kuruganti. The final jury members were Ashima Narain, Prashant Panjari and Tanvi Mishra from India, Dimitri Beck from France and Yumi Goto from Japan.

The event is powered by Casagrand and Oppo Mobile. The associate sponsors are VIT University and RAU's IAS Study Circle. KitKarma is the gear sharing partner and the event manager is IADS and Events.

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Tashi Tobgyal, the winner of the Photo of the Year, receiving the award from Mukund Padmanabhan, Editor, *The Hindu*, in Chennai on Saturday; and, left, the award-winning photo which shows a 21-year-old manual scavenger at work during day break in Raj Nagar, near Delhi.

Facing the tiger

A photo essay on the human-tiger conflict fetched the first prize of a cash award of ₹1.5 lakh for Senthil Kumaran. The photo essay that was published in the *Indian Express*, and the work of 11 other photojournalists were recognised at the event held in association with the Chennai Photo Biennale (CPB). Mr. Tobgyal received a cash award of ₹1.5 lakh.

In the news category, the first prize went to Indranil Mukherjee for his photograph

'Staring at death' that captured Rohingyas from Myanmar crossing into Bangladesh at Cox's Bazaar. Shot for the AFP, Mr. Mukherjee re-

ceived a cash award of ₹1 lakh for the photograph. Praeen Khanna won the second place in the news category for his photograph titled 'Pollution', while Rajanish Kakade came third for his work, 'High Tide'.

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FROM PAGE ONE

Ganga basin States stare at rising crop failures

"The intervention that will result in the most beneficial impact is improvement of municipal waste water treatment. Whether central or de-central, whether high or low tech, reduction in pollution loads provides a positive return on investment both in availability of clean water for downstream uses, including ecosystem services, as well as a drastic reduction in water-related illnesses and deaths," the report added.

Environmentalists say reducing pollution in the Ganga hinges on setting up sewage plants rather than ensuring that the natural flow of the river is not blocked, as that would hobble its propensity to clean itself.

Ecologists and river activists have embarked on a new agitation, as of Saturday in Delhi, to highlight the government's apathy towards addressing 'ecological flow,' which refers to the minimum amount of water that must be maintained at all times through the year to ensure the river's health.

River law

The government was to have operationalised the Ganga law to address the issue of the river's ecology. The lack of such a law has triggered hunger strikes, mainly by activists in Haridwar, to give effect to the law.

One of them, 26-year-old Aatmabodhanand, from Matri Sadan (Haridwar) is on a 'fast unto death' since October 24, 2018. He took up the cause after the death of Swami Sanand (Prof. G.D. Agrawal) who died after 111 days of continuous fast.

The Centre however maintains that it has set in motion most of the projects to clean the river and that this will eventually ensure that necessary ecological flow.

More troops airlifted to Kashmir, activists held

Many parts of the Valley witnessed a spontaneous shutdown and violent clashes.

"People in the Valley, especially the cities and towns, are taking everything said or done as a sign that some big trouble is just around the corner. People are hoarding food and fuel. Some government orders are adding to the sense of panic," said former chief minister and National Conference vice-president Omar Abdullah.

Meanwhile, the separatist grouping Joint Resistance Leadership (JRL), comprising Syed Ali Geelani, Mirwaiz Umar Farooq and Yasin Malik, termed the arrests as "arbitrary".

"We strongly condemn this dictatorial policy of cracking the whip and arbitrary arrests. Article 35A is linked to our very existence and connected to the Kashmir dispute. We will oppose any move to dilute it," Mr. Geelani and the Mirwaiz said in a joint statement, calling for a shutdown on Sunday against the detentions.

The Peoples Democratic Party (PDP), Peoples Conference and CPI(M) also opposed the government crackdown on activists. "I fail to understand such an arbitrary move which will only precipitate matters in J&K. Under what legal grounds are their arrests justified? You can imprison a person but not his ideas," said PDP president Mehbooba Mufti.

Largescale arrests took place in 1990. Leaders were ferried to Jodhpur and many jails across the country. Things worsened. This is a tried, tested and failed model. Please desist from it. It won't work. Things will worsen," said PC chief Sajad Lone.

CPI(M) leader M.Y. Tarigami said the crackdown and arrests "without any solid legal grounds do not augur well". "It just exacerbates the anger and gives rise to further uncertainty," he said.

Prime Minister decries attacks on Kashmiris

Civil rights activists and two former judges of the Rajasthan High Court had on Friday expressed concern over Mr. Modi's silence on the harassment of Kashmiris, while pointing out that the Kashmiri students and workers employed in the State had been forced to leave in a "hostile atmosphere" created by right-wing groups.

Mr. Modi paid homage to the CRPF personnel killed in the February 14 terror attack and said while a "free hand" had been given to the Armed Forces to deal with the situation, stern action was being taken against separatists.

'Settling scores'
"All scores will be settled this time... Our security forces sent the perpetrators [of Pulwama attack] within 100 hours to where they be-

longed," he said, referring to an encounter in which the attack's alleged mastermind, Abdul Rasheed Ghazi, was killed.

"Your Pradhan Sevak is busy fighting terror. I am going to put locks to the factories of terror," he said, as the crowd at Tonk's Saadat Pavilion Ground cheered and clapped.

The Tonk Assembly constituency is represented by Deputy Chief Minister Sachin Pilot, who had defeated the BJP's Yunus Khan in the 2018 election.

Mr. Modi said he had asked Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan in his congratulatory phone call last year to fight together against poverty and illiteracy.

"Mr. Khan told me that he was the son of a Pathan and was pledged to do what he said... It is time to test his words," he said.

300 vehicles gutted in blaze at Aero India

The smoke brought back fears of a plane crash coming just days after Tuesday's fatal collision of two Hawk aircraft during a rehearsal of the IAF's Surya Kiran Aerobatics Team (SKAT) ahead of the air show.

Fire officials said the vast empty area near the parked cars contained a lot of dried grass, which could have ignited when someone threw a cigarette butt. Over 1,500

cars – primarily those who had bought the exhibition area tickets for ₹1,500 each – had parked at Gate 5.

In a statement, the Ministry of Defence said: "A Court of Inquiry has been ordered to investigate the cause of fire." The city police have also started a probe to ascertain the cause of the fire. The IAF reassured people that the show would go on as scheduled on Sunday.

The measures ordered include strict access control to all aviation facilities, intensive vehicle checking, enhanced screening of people and baggage/cargo, manual and CCTV surveillance, strengthened perimeter patrolling, armed support for manning cargo and vehicle entry gates.

Centre anticipates 'violent reaction' by Pakistan

Withdrawal of separatists' security, Jamaat arrests and coming Lok Sabha election led to deployment of reinforcements

VIJAYA SINGH
NEW DELHI

The Centre has rushed an additional 10,000 central armed police force (CAPF) personnel and "urgently deployed" them for increased security in the Kashmir Valley amid apprehensions of a reaction from Pakistan to the multiple "indirect and direct actions" taken by the government in the wake of the Pulwama attack.

One reason cited is the possibility of a violent reaction by Pakistan to Union Minister Nitin Gadkari's recent remark that "India will not allow its share of water from the Indus network of rivers to flow into Pakistan".

The withdrawal of security cover for separatist politicians in Kashmir as well as the arrest of members of the Jamaat-e-Islami, a socio-religious group, have contributed to the Centre's decision to send the additional forces,



On alert: Security personnel keeping watch during clashes in Anantnag district. ■ NISSAR AHMAD

said a senior government official, speaking on condition of anonymity.

Also, with the Lok Sabha election barely a couple of

months away, the movement of extra personnel had been advanced so that security forces could dominate areas and elections be held "fearlessly", the official said. Nearly 65,000 personnel of the Central Reserve Police Force, the Border Security Force, the Sashastra Seema

Bal and the Indo-Tibetan Border Police are now deployed in the Valley, apart from the Army and the J&K police.

Pak. vacating villages

"Pakistan has created a perception that India is going to wage a war; to validate this mischief, Pakistan has asked its villages, located close to the border, to vacate," said the official. "We cannot take them at face value, but we are preparing our defence."

In at least 16 locations in Srinagar and around the area, the CRPF, which had been deployed for "static duties", was being replaced by the BSF and the Indo-Tibetan ITBP.

"There are general inputs that JeM may plan more strikes," said the official. "Pakistan has an outreach in the Valley and they don't require more than two or three people to carry out a spectacular strike. The additional force will also help us in planning operations better."

Secretary and others, the Home Ministry said, "We have to urgently deploy additional CAPFs in Jammu and Kashmir. It is requested to provide 100 companies of CAPFs to Government of J&K with immediate effect." A company comprises approximately 100 personnel.

The Ministry said apart from 45 companies of CRPF, 35 of BSF, 10 of SSB and 10 of ITBP shall be arranged.

Forty CRPF personnel were killed on February 14 when a Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM) suicide bomber rammed his car into a CRPF bus in Pulwama.

"There are general inputs that JeM may plan more strikes," said the official. "Pakistan has an outreach in the Valley and they don't require more than two or three people to carry out a spectacular strike. The additional force will also help us in planning operations better."

Chidambaram hits back at Jaitley

Says BJP did not care for expert advice

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

In response to Finance Minister Arun Jaitley's swipe at the Congress for hiring Lt. Gen. D.S. Hooda (retd.) to author the party's vision paper on national security, P. Chidambaram hit back in a series of tweets saying that the BJP did not care for expert advice.

While Mr. Jaitley "debunked" the Congress, he should have added to his comment that the BJP needed no advice as it had Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Mr. Chidambaram quipped on Twitter.

Mr. Jaitley on Friday took a potshot at the Congress, saying it was "intriguing" that the party which ruled India for half a century needed to be educated on national security issues.

"Mr. Jaitley has debunked the Congress for requesting General Hooda to advise on national security. He should have added BJP needs no advice because it has Mr. Modi," Mr. Chidambaram wrote, in the first of a series

of tweets. The former Finance Minister further said the BJP did not need someone like Raghuram Rajan to head the Reserve Bank of India "because it has Mr. Modi".

"BJP does not need a Planning Commission, because it has Mr. Modi. BJP does not need a National Statistics Commission, because it has Mr. Modi," Mr. Chidambaram said on Twitter. "Actually, BJP does not need a Cabinet, because it has Mr. Modi."

Mr. Chidambaram also said he was waiting to see if the Mr. Modi would take action against Meghalaya Governor Tathagata Roy for his tweet supporting a ban on Kashmiri goods.

His younger brother Mahesh said it would be an honour for the family to have his bust in the only school in the village.

From 2017, the CRPF has installed over 450 plaques or busts in memory of its personnel killed in line of duty at their schools and

Immortalised in their alma maters

Statues of CRPF personnel killed in Pulwama will be installed in schools

VIJAYA SINGH
NEW DELHI

Head Constable Narayan Lal Gurjar from Rajasthan was one among the 40 Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) personnel who were on the ill-fated bus blown up by a Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM) suicide bomber in Pulwama on February 14.

To immortalise his contribution and sacrifice, the CRPF, in consultation with his family, will now put up his bust at any of the three educational institutions he attended.

Gurjar (38), completed his primary education from Uccha Madhyamik Vidyalaya, Binol, in Rajsamand district, around 340 km Jaipur. The school is 500 metres from his house.

His younger brother Mahesh said it would be an honour for the family to have his bust in the only school in the village.

Colleges. According to the CRPF, it has lost around 700 personnel in various operations since 2006.

CRPF Inspector-General Sanjay Amandrao Lathkar said the bust and plaque of Head Constable Vijay Soren, who was also killed in the Pulwama attack, was ready for installation.

Through this, we are able to pay homage to them on their death anniversary. We provide the photograph of the personnel to the artisans to make these busts. So far, no family has complained that it doesn't resemble their kin... it costs ₹15,000-₹20,000 for each

bust and plaque," Mr. Lathkar said.

A senior CRPF official said such arrangements will be made for the other 39 personnel killed in the car-borne suicide attack.

The installations come after the Home Ministry, two years ago, directed all the Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs) to organise "befitting functions" in schools falling in their respective jurisdictions, in which security personnel killed in action had studied.

The busts carry a citation detailing the operation where the jawan was killed. It also includes the details of close family members. The Ministry had also asked all the CAPFs to complete the installations in time so that students could give their "regards and respect" each year on October 31.

The day marks the death anniversary of former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi and also the birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, the first Home Minister of India.

Air India receives hijack call

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

Air India's Mumbai control centre on Saturday received a phone call threatening to hijack its plane, following which the Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS) ordered all airlines and the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) to follow specific enhanced measures to ensure security, according to an official note.

"A telephonic message received by the station duty office, AI (Air India) AOCC (Airport Operation Control Centre), Mumbai, stating information regarding a threat to Indian Airlines flight getting hijacked to Pakistan on 23.2.2019," stated the BCAS note dated February 23.

The note added, "In view of the above, APSU (Airport Security Unit)/ASG (Aviation Security Group) and all aircraft operators shall adopt the following measures with immediate effect."

Both the APSU and the ASG are part of the CISF. Indian Airlines is a part of Air India.

The measures ordered include strict access control to all aviation facilities, intensive vehicle checking, enhanced screening of people and baggage/cargo, manual and CCTV surveillance, strengthened perimeter patrolling, armed support for manning cargo and vehicle entry gates.

#SheVotes

The survey was conducted among 40,000 participants (16,000 women and 4,000 men)

Women's top concerns:

Safety and curbing crime against women; pollution control and environmental protection; faster judicial processes; religious freedom; mental health services; water and electricity supply; waste disposal services

Aim: To find out the top concerns of women and men voters. Survey flagged 39 pressing issues

21.9%

of men said they were likely to be influenced by the candidate's party while only 17% of women said the same

Men's top concerns:

GDP growth; jobs; fight against corruption; rural infrastructure; police reforms; public transport; Uniform Civil Code; roads

Safety and curbing crime against women ranked only 15th in the men's list of concerns

We have presented the findings of this survey to political parties so that they can add some of these issues into their manifestos.

The survey was an attempt to amplify women's voices and put their concerns forward

NIDA HASAN
Country-Director,
Change.org

Safety, pollution top issues among women voters: survey

Religious freedom also important for them, finds poll

JAGRITI CHANDRA
NEW DELHI

When women exercise their ballot, they are most likely to vote for a leader who makes battling crimes against women a priority, according to a survey conducted by Change.org.

Women voters are most concerned about their safety, and the issue ranked top among a total of 39 issues that were polled as part of the survey. Among the other top concerns for women were waste disposal, faster judicial process, pollution, and the supply of water and electricity.

On the other hand, growth in Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and jobs were the most important issues for men, and crimes against women ranked much lower at 15th position.

A total of 20,000 men and 17% women participated in the study that was conducted online in January by Change.org, a website for petitions. The respondents included 16,000 women and 4,000 men, who are Change.org users.

Track record

The findings also show that while both women and men are most likely to vote a candidate on the basis of his or her track record in spending funds and raising issues in Parliament as well as on poll promises, a higher percentage of women (70.3%) voters are likely to be influenced by these criteria than men (66.54%).

Men, and not women, are more likely to be influenced by a candidate's party, shows the study.

A total of 21.9% men and 17% women said they would vote for a candidate on the basis of his or her political party. Women also care about mental health, religious freedom and forest conservation more than men. Men worry most about GDP growth and jobs, rural infrastructure, corruption, police reforms, public transport, uniform civil code, and roads.

We have presented the findings of this survey to political parties, including the BJP (Bharatiya Janata Party), Congress, DMK (Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam) and the BJD (Biju Janata Dal), so that they can add some of these issues into their manifestos," said Nida Hasan, Country-Director, Change.org, adding that "the survey was an attempt to amplify women's voices and put their concerns at front and centre in the political discourse."

The Congress and the JVM are both keen on contesting the Godda Lok Sabha seat, currently held by Nishikant Dubey of the BJP. According to sources, JVM chief Babul Marandi is adamant that Godda seat should go to his close associate Pradeep Yadav. The Congress, however, is not willing to concede the seat that it counts among

Pulwama and Indus Waters Treaty: does India hold all the cards?

The pact has survived wars, but Nitin Gadkari has now asked officials to see if there are 'technical ways' to stop the flow of water

JACOB KOSHY
NEW DELHI

Is the announcement by Water Resources Minister Nitin Gadkari that India would use up its share of waters in the rivers flowing to Pakistan a new one?

■ That India would use the entire share of water allotted to it under the Indus Waters Treaty, has been the government's traditional position. Then, in the aftermath of the Uri attack that claimed the lives of at least 20 Indian soldiers, Prime Minister Narendra Modi had declared that "blood and water" couldn't flow together and suspended India's participation in the Permanent Indus Commission, where India and Pakistan regularly meet to discuss sharing of waters in the Indus river basin system.

Among the decisions taken at the time was one to "fully utilise" India's share of water. Work has progressed towards this end, according to the government. (The Indus commission talks too have resumed). In the aftermath of Mr. Gadkari's tweets of February 21, to "stop India's share of water" into Pakistan, Neeta Prasad, a spokesperson in the Union Water Resources ministry, told presspersons that "this is not a new decision... Mantri [Minister] is simply reiterating what he has always said."

How many dams is India planning to build to ensure that it uses up all of its share of the water?

■ India already utilises 95% of the 33 MAF (million acre feet) allotted to it under the

norms of the Indus Waters Treaty. To consume the entire share, the government has undertaken steps to stop the flow of almost 2 MAF from the Ravi river, from Madhopur. These include completing the Shahpurkandi project, constructing the Ujh multipurpose project – to create 781 million cubic metre storage on the Ujh, a tributary of the Ravi – and developing the second Ravi-Beas link below Ujh. The last project alone will utilise 0.58 MAF of surplus water below the Ujh dam by diverting the same to Beas basin. All three are 'national projects.'

Is the Minister's statement intended to pile up the rhetoric on Pakistan?

■ Yes. While it has been India's stated position to fully

utilise its eastern rivers, Mr. Gadkari said on Friday that he had asked officials in the Water Resources Ministry to see if there were "technical ways" to stop the flow of Indus water that rightfully belongs to Pakistan. One way – again an option that India has already exercised – is its construction of the Kishenganga Project, on the Jhelum and the Ratle project on the Chenab. Both of these are projects on the western rivers and under provisions of the Indus treaty, may be exploited by Pakistan. However, the treaty also allows India to use the water from these rivers in a "non-consumptive way" – that is, in a way that does not impede the flow of these rivers into Pakistan. Pakistan has ob-



Against the flow: The headrace tunnel of the Kishenganga project. The project taps the Jhelum, a western river, and under the treaty, Pakistan may exploit its waters. ■ FILE PHOTO

jected to both these projects on the grounds that they do impede the flow. In theory, it is possible for India to violate the treaty and impede the flow of these waters in such a way that it makes hydropower projects by Pakistan on the Jhelum and Chenab unviable (as Pakistan

already claims it does). However, the IWT has survived wars between India and Pakistan and it's still speculative if the Pulwama incident rankles India enough to consider violating the treaty.

India and Pakistan's water sharing is governed by the

provisions of this Treaty as modified under the provisions of Paragraph (3), shall continue in force until terminated by a duly ratified treaty concluded for that purpose between the two governments." The IWT is about sharing of water of six rivers – Indus, Chenab, Jhelum, Beas, Ravi and Sutlej – between India and Pakistan.

The two countries signed it in 1960 under the leadership of the then Prime Minister of India, Jawaharlal Nehru, and Pakistan President, Ayub Khan, and was brokered by the World Bank after nine years of negotiations.

Under the treaty, India has control over water flowing in the eastern rivers – Beas, Ravi and Sutlej, while Pakistan has control over the western rivers of Indus, Chenab and Jhelum.

IN BRIEF



Nodal police officers to protect Kashmiris

NEW DELHI

All States and Union Territories have appointed nodal police officers to resolve the problems of Kashmiris targeted in the aftermath of the Pulwama terror attack, officials said on Saturday. The Home Ministry asked the States to ensure the security of Kashmiris who were reportedly attacked in the last few days. The details of the officers have been uploaded on <http://www.mha.gov.in>. PTI

BJP leader's 'beef-eater' remark stokes controversy

BHOPAL

BJP general secretary Kailash Vijayvargiya stoked a controversy on Saturday by referring to Congress MLA in M.P. Arif Masood as a "beef-eater" during a party event. Mr. Vijayvargiya, talking about party candidate Surendra Nath Singh's defeat from the Bhopal (Central) Assembly seat, said, "It is surprising that a nationalist government which stopped cow slaughter was in power (in the State), but a beef-eater won against you." Mr. Masood claimed he had never eaten beef in his life. PTI

OIC outreach hints at reset of ties

Move comes days after Pulwama strike

SUHASINI HAIDAR

NEW DELHI

The External Affairs Ministry on Saturday said the invitation from the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) to External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj to address the body's foreign ministers meet, was a "welcome recognition of the presence of 185 million Muslims in India and their contribution to its pluralistic ethos, and of India's contribution to the Islamic world".

Officials told *The Hindu* that the UAE had sounded out India about the event in January 2019, and that it was a "major diplomatic success".

The invitation, that came from UAE Foreign Minister Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan, marks a major turnaround between India and the group of Islamic countries, that have often clashed over Kashmir.

Kashmir group

The OIC has a specially designated "Kashmir contact group" that coordinates positions at the United Nations, often led by Pakistan, to protest alleged human rights violations in Jammu and Kashmir and invoke UN resolutions. In 2018 alone, the OIC had issued no less

Govt. in denial about job crisis: Rahul

Congress chief says the resultant anger was being used by right-wing politicians

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Congress president Rahul Gandhi on Saturday said the Modi government did not want to accept that there was a "job crisis" in the country, an hence it was failing to address the problem.

He was speaking to college students at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium here as part of a Congress event, *Shiksha: Dasha Aur Disha*.

He said educated young people find it tough to get a job – the reason for growing anger which was being used by right-wing politicians. "Our government is refusing to accept that we have a massive crisis and a potential disaster in front of us. We need to first acknowledge that there is a problem, and then we need to galvanise support to fight it. That is what we (Congress) believe in," he said.

China getting jobs
Every Made-in-China tag shows a job that Indians missed out on, Mr. Gandhi said.

"In a country of over 1.2 billion people, India is creating about 450 jobs per 24 hours while China is creating 50,000 jobs in the same 24 hours," the Congress leader said. "These are not my fi-



Youth connect: Rahul Gandhi interacting with students in Delhi on Saturday. ■ PTI

gures, but [those] of the Finance Ministry given in Lok Sabha."

Mr. Gandhi said the Prime Minister refused to have open communication with the people of India and answer possibly uncomfortable questions.

"Why doesn't he say that as PM of this country, I am facing a challenge that we are not able to produce enough jobs and I need your help and commitment to solve this problem? That is

Every Made-in-China tag shows a job that Indians missed out on

RAHUL GANDHI
Congress president

what the PM is supposed to do, not just lecture you," he said.

To another question, Mr. Gandhi said the share of the education sector in the Budget should be increased. Stating that the Congress did not support privatisation as

a way to improve the education system, the party chief said wealth was "concentrated" in the hands of "a few people". He said the state must pay for a "large part of education".

Before the interaction, a two-minute silence was observed to honour the 40 CRPF jawans killed in the February 14 Pulwama suicide attack.

Mr. Gandhi was accompanied by former Delhi Chief Minister Sheila Dikshit.

Nagas take out rally in Delhi

Seek ordinance for an immediate political solution

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Carrying blue flags, thousands of Nagas marched in Delhi on Saturday to demand an "immediate political solution" to the Naga issue lingering on for decades.

This was the first time that such a large mobilisation of Naga residents had taken place in Delhi after August 2015, when the government signed an agreement with the National Socialist Council of Nagaland (Isak-Muivah), the largest group representing the Nagas.

A press statement issued by the group said, "The BJP has no merit to campaign for support among the Nagas in the upcoming 2019 general election unless there is a concrete promise for a solution."

The solution should be "honourable and acceptable" to them, they said.

The Naga peace accord, which has been hanging fire since a framework agree-



Call for justice: Nagas taking out a march in New Delhi on Saturday. ■ R.V. MOORTHY

ment was signed with the NSCN-IM in 2015, is tied in knots.

The rally was organised by the Naga Student Union Delhi (NSUD) in collaboration with the Naga community in Delhi under the theme 'Global Nagas call for immediate political solution – honourable and acceptable'.

After signing an agreement with the NSCN-IM, the Centre signed a preamble in November 2017 with six Na-

ga National Political Groups (NNPGs) to further hold discussions to find a solution to the issue.

The protesters were carrying banners which said, "PM Modi pass an ordinance to solve Indo-Naga issue within stipulated time. PM Modi, where is the promised solution?"

Around 3,000 Naga residents converged at Mandir House and later marched towards Jantar Mantar.

National Cyclone Risk Mitigation Project Kerala State Disaster Management Authority Department of Disaster Management, Government of Kerala

e-Procurement Tender Notice

Competitive item rate bids are invited for following works.

Name of Work:- Construction of Multipurpose Cyclone Shelters

- 1) Pullur Village, Hosdurg Taluk in Kasaragod District. (Re-tender)
- 2) Koipady Village, Kumbla Taluk in Kasaragod District (Re-tender)
- 3) Town H.S.S, S.N. Park-Chalad in Kannur District (Re-tender)
- 4) Kudlu in Kasaragod District
- 5) Thazhava, Kollam District

The tenders can be downloaded from the Government's e-procurement Portal (www.etenders.kerala.gov.in) and for more details regarding the tenders and bidding process please visit www.sdma.kerala.gov.in

Sd/- State Project Manager

Enquiries: State Project Manager, NCRMP, 3rd Floor, Room No: E-203, ILDM Building, PTP Nagar, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala 695038;
Email:- ncrmp.kerala@gmail.com, Phone-0471-2365494

KARNATAKA INDUSTRIAL AREAS DEVELOPMENT BOARD (A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)

No. IADB/ENGG/ETND-EP-21/ 16014 /2018-19

Date: 22.02.2019

SHORT TERM NOTICE INVITING TENDER

(Through GOK e-Procurement Portal Only)

Tender under two cover bid system on Turnkey basis is invited for the work mentioned below as per the Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement Act 1999 and Rules 2000 through electronic procurement from Agencies, Individual Firms, Company, Public Sector Undertakings who have got adequate financial resources, suitable construction equipments, technical man power & sufficient past experience for the following work as per the schedule given below:

Name of Work: Construction and Commissioning of 30 MLD Tertiary Treatment Plant on Turnkey basis and alternative design based on combination of biological and chemical treatment process facility including supplying laying of mild steel Raising main & 10years operation & maintenance at Vasanthnarsapura KIADB Industrial Area, Tumkur District. **Approx cost put to tender (Rs. in lakhs):** 16015.00, & O & M is Rs.6000.00, **EMD:** Rs.160.00 Lakh.

Time for completion Including Monsoon: 18 Months.

Applicants May Download Bidding Documents from the E-Procurement Portal <https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in>

- Last date to receive pre bid queries upto : 06.03.2019 upto 05.00 pm.
- Pre bid meeting will be held on : 08.03.2019 at 12.00 noon
- Last Date for submission of bids is: 23.03.2019 upto 04.00 pm
- Date and time of opening Technical bids is on : 26.03.2019 at 11.30am

Sd/-

Chief Development Officer & Chief Engineer

DIPR/DDU/RO-2295/2018-19

ଓଡ଼ିଶା ବିଦ୍ୟୁତ ଶକ୍ତି ସଂଚାରଣ ନିଗମ ଲୀୟୁସନ୍

ODISHA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED
(A Government of Odisha Undertaking)

Regd. Office : Janpath, Bhubaneswar - 751 022, Odisha, India
CIN : U40102OR2004SGC007553

e-TENDER NOTICE NO. - CPC-64/2018-19

For and on behalf of OPTCL, the undersigned invites five separate e-Tenders under two part bidding system from the reputed private limited Firms/Agencies Registered under the Companies Act, 1956/2013 having minimum three years experience in providing 200 Security Guards in a year ('Out of which minimum 100 Security guards in a single contract in Govt. Departments, PSUs, reputed corporate sectors, Organisations and autonomous bodies) for deployment of Security Personnel for a period of one year from the date of commencement of the Agreement on contract basis for watch and ward activities in five, different Security Region having GRID S/S, EHT Lines, Field Offices, Stores and OPTCL Hqrs. Office.

Bidders would be required to enroll themselves on the tender portal www.tenderwizard.com/OPTCL for participation in the above tender. Complete set of bidding documents are available in www.tenderwizard.com/OPTCL from 25.02.2019 (10.00 Hrs) up to 26.03.2019 (17.00 Hrs), as per the following details :

Tender	Name of the Work	Name of the Districts	Max. No. of Security Personnel to be engaged in one day	EMD (INR) 1% of the Total Estimated Value	Cost of Tender Document (₹12,000/-+ GST@12%)	Last date of Receipt and Opening of Tender
I	Security Deployment Region-1	1-Cuttack 2-Puri 3-Khurda (HQRS Office OPTCL) 4-Nayagarh	Unarmed guards-570 Armed Guards-24 Supervisor-4 Total-598	₹8,37,136/-	₹13,440/-	
II	Security Deployment Region-2	1-Jajpur 2-Kendrapada 3-Jagatsinghpur 4-Bhadrak 5-Balasore 6-Mayurbhanj 7-Kendujhar	Unarmed guards-494 Armed Guards-11 Supervisor-4 Total-509	₹7,10,785/-	₹13,440	27.03.2019 (13.00 Hrs.) and 27.03.2019 (15.00 Hrs.)
III	Security Deployment Region-3	1-Sambalpur 2-Deogarh 3-Dhenkanal 4-Angul 5-Boudh 6-Kandhamal	Unarmed guards-520 Armed Guards-33 Supervisor-0			

Showdown looms in Venezuela over aid

Opposition volunteers in neighbouring Brazil and Colombia are set to confront troops on the border

REUTERS/AFP

CUCUTA, COLOMBIA

Venezuela's Opposition and activists prepared on Saturday to confront troops stationed along the country's borders to block their plan to bring in food and medicine that authorities are calling a veiled U.S.-backed invasion.

Opposition volunteers in neighbouring Brazil and Colombia planned to arrive at the border to help carry humanitarian aid to a sick and hungry population suffering from an economic meltdown under President Nicolás Maduro.

While the need for basic food and medicines is real, the effort is also meant to embarrass military officers who continue to support Mr. Maduro's increasingly isolated government.

Juan Guaidó, recognised by most Western nations as the country's legitimate head of state, defied court orders not to leave Venezuela by arriving on Friday in the Colombian border city of Cúcuta, where aid from the U.S. and Colombian governments is stockpiled in warehouses.

Mr. Guaidó, 35, head of the Opposition-run Congress, has provided few details on the transport plan. Trucks are expected to be driven by Venezuelan volunteers and some Opposition figures have suggested forming human chains.

"Today, the obstacles that the dictatorship created will tomorrow be rivers of unity, of peace," Mr. Guaidó said in a news conference on Friday in Cúcuta, where he was received by Colombian President Duque Márquez.

Venezuelan soldiers may bar the way.

Vice-President Delcy Rodríguez said in a tweet late on Friday that Venezuela's

A month of crisis

Jan. 28	Washington imposes sanctions on Venezuela's state oil company PDVSA
Feb. 4	Some 20 European countries recognise Guaidó, after Maduro rejected their ultimatum to announce new presidential elections
Feb. 7	The Venezuelan Army blocks the Tienditas bridge on the border of Colombia where several vehicles loaded with food and medicines are waiting to enter the country
Feb. 19	To block the entry of Opposition-collected aid, Venezuelan authorities close the maritime border
Feb. 21	Maduro also shuts the border with Brazil, another potential aid entry point, and threatens to close border with Colombia
Feb. 22	Russia accuses the United States of using aid deliveries to Venezuela as a ploy to carry out military action against Maduro's government
Feb. 24	Venezuelan soldiers kill two people when they try to prevent the troops from blocking an entry route for aid on the Brazilian border

A demonstrator clashing with Venezuela's security forces in Urena on Saturday. ■ REUTERS

Venezuela's military high command throws its weight behind Maduro



Source: AFP, Graphic News

government shut the Tachira border that connects it with Cúcuta temporarily "due to a series of illegal threats" by Colombia.

A group of frustrated Venezuelans who were seeking to cross into Colombia on Saturday to work on morning threw rocks and bottles at National Guard troops, who responded with tear gas.

"We were all going to work, we want to work, the people attempted to force through," said Viviana Meza, 29, who works in a Cúcuta restaurant. Concerns about the potential for violence flared on Friday when the Venezuelan Army opened fire in a village near the Brazilian border after indigenous leaders attempted to prevent them

from advancing, killing a woman and her husband.

"I don't plan to leave my house over the weekend, especially after what happened near Brazil," said Paulina Sanchez, a 68-year-old grandmother who lives just 300 metres from the Francisco de Paula Santander bridge, one of the crossings through which aid may pass. "This could turn into a powder keg."

Nearly 2,00,000 people attended a benefit concert in Cúcuta on Friday featuring Latin pop stars, including Luis Fonsi of "Despacito" fame, many of whom called on Mr. Maduro to step down.

A rival concert held by the ruling Socialist Party on the Venezuelan side was sparse-

ly attended. Mr. Guaidó in January invoked articles of the Constitution to assume interim presidency and denounced Mr. Maduro as a usurper, arguing his 2018 election was illegitimate.

UN Secretary-General António Guterres urged Venezuelan authorities to refrain from using lethal force against protesters. The U.S. Trump said in a pair of tweets that Ms. Craft "has done an outstanding job representing our Nation" and he has "no doubt that, under her leadership, our Country will be represented at the highest level."

Two people familiar with the matter said that Mr. Trump had been advised that Ms. Craft's confirmation would be the smoothest of the three candidates he had

Delayed Brexit is better than no-deal exit: Ministers

May is to update Parliament on Tuesday

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

LONDON

Three members of Prime Minister Theresa May's Cabinet warned on Saturday that Brexit must be delayed if she cannot persuade the British Parliament to back her EU divorce deal next week. Business Minister Greg Clark, Work and Pensions Minister Amber Rudd and Justice Minister David Gauke wrote an article stating their opposition to leaving the European Union on March 29 with no deal.

"If there is no breakthrough in the coming week, the balance of opinion in Parliament is clear – that it would be better to seek to... delay our date of

departure rather than crash out of the European Union on March 29," the Ministers wrote in *Daily Mail*.

Ms. May was in Brussels this week for talks with European Commission president Jean-Claude Juncker, and will meet European Council president Donald Tusk on Sunday at an EU-Arab League summit in Egypt. She has promised to update Parliament on her efforts on Tuesday and either put the new deal to a fresh vote of MPs or allow them on Wednesday to debate their own ideas for the way forward. One of these is expected to be a plan to delay Brexit to avoid a "no deal" scenario.

Tahir Ayala named new Sudan PM

REUTERS

KHARTOUM

Sudan's President Omar al-Bashir appointed a first Vice-President and a new Prime Minister on Saturday, a day after declaring a state of emergency to counter the most sustained protests since he came to power 30 years ago in a military coup.

Mohamed Tahir Ayala, the former Governor of Gezira State whom Mr. Bashir had previously touted as a potential successor as President, was appointed Prime Minister. Defence Minister Abd Mohamed Ahmed Ibn Auf became first Vice-President while retaining his defence portfolio.

Trump picks Ambassador to Canada for top UN post

Kelly Craft has the backing of Mitch McConnell and Pompeo

ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON

U.S. President Donald Trump announced on Friday that he has selected Kelly Craft, the U.S. Ambassador to Canada, as his nominee to serve as the next Ambassador to the UN. Mr. Trump said in a pair of tweets that Ms. Craft "has done an outstanding job representing our Nation" and he has "no doubt that, under her leadership, our Country will be represented at the highest level."

Security Adviser John Bolton, the people said. Mr. Trump's first pick to replace Ms. Haley, State Department spokeswoman Heather Nauert, withdrew over the weekend. Ms. Craft was a member of the U.S. delegation to the UN General Assembly under the George Bush administration.

been considering to fill the job last held by Nikki Haley.

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell had backed Ms. Craft for the post, and she also has the support of Secretary of State Mike Pompeo and National

Trade agreement As U.S. ambassador to Canada, she played a role in facilitating the U.S.-Mexico-Canada trade agreement, a revamp of the North American Free Trade Agreement.

Ms. Craft is married coal-mining executive Joe Craft, and they are major Republican donors.

Kim sets off by train to Vietnam

North Korean leader will meet Trump on February 27 and 28

REUTERS

HANOI

North Korean leader Kim Jong-un set off by train for Vietnam on Saturday, for his second summit with U.S. President Donald Trump next week, Russia's TASS news agency reported.

The report came hours after Vietnam announced that Mr. Kim would make an official visit in "coming days", as the Southeast Asian country prepares to host the summit with Mr. Trump on Wednesday and Thursday.

Mr. Kim left the North Korean capital of Pyongyang at around 5 p.m. (1.30 p.m. IST) in an armoured train, TASS said, citing a North Korean diplomatic source.

A senior security official in Vietnam said that Hanoi had been expecting a Vietnam-bound train to depart Pyongyang on Saturday, but



Visitor from Pyongyang: North Korean leader Kim Jong-un's train in Beijing in January. ■ REUTERS

did not know if Mr. Kim himself was on board.

Two sources with direct knowledge of security and logistics planning said on Wednesday that Vietnam was preparing for Mr. Kim to arrive by train. His train is expected to stop at the Vietnamese border station of Dong Dang, where he will disembark and drive 170 km (105 miles) to Hanoi by car, the sources told Reuters.

Vietnamese police have stepped up security around the border station.

On February 26, Vietnam will ban traffic on the road Mr. Kim is expected to take to Hanoi from a station on the Chinese border, state media said. Mr. Kim is visiting Vietnam at the invitation of President Nguyen Phu Trong, Vietnam's Foreign Ministry said in a statement earlier on Saturday.

'No nuclear burden for my children'

REUTERS

HANOI

North Korean leader Kim Jong-un told U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo that he did not want his children to live with the burden of nuclear weapons, a former CIA officer was quoted as saying on Saturday.

"I am a father and a husband. And I have children," Andrew Kim quoted the North Korean leader as telling Mr. Pompeo last year, when asked whether he was willing to end his nuclear programme.

"And I don't want my children to carry the nuclear weapon on their back their whole life. That was his answer," Mr. Andrew Kim told a lecture on Friday at Stanford University's Asia Pacific Research Center.

GREATER VISAKHAPATNAM SMART CITY CORPORATION LIMITED
ape-Procurement-Tender Notice
1) NIT No:GVSCCL/PROJECTS/131(HERITAGE-REGIMENTAL)/2018-19/
Dt:19-02-2019
Retrofitting of Regimental Cemetery at Jagadamba junction under Heritage
Conservation under Smart City Mission.
Last date of submission of Bid: 07-03-2019
For further details visit <http://www.apeprocurement.gov.in>
Email: prabhu.sheelavantha@ecom.com
CC: VisakhapatnamSmartCity@gmail.com
Mobile No: 09901472092, 07729995934 MD & CEO

ଓଡିଶା ବିଦ୍ୟୁତ୍ ଶକ୍ତି ସବାରଣା ନିଗମ ଲି.
ODISHA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED
(A Government of Odisha Undertaking)
Regd. Office: Janpath, Bhubaneswar-751022, Telephone: (0674) 2540051, (EPABX),
Website: www.optcl.co.in, CIN-U41202OR2004SC07553
NOTICE INVITING TENDER (NIT)
(DOMESTIC COMPETITIVE e-BIDDING)

e-TENDER NOTICE NO.:CPC-59/2018-19 Date: 24.02.2019

ODISHA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LTD. invites bids (in e-tendering mode only) under single stage two-envelope system from reputed EPC/Turnkey Contractors for Engineering, Supply, Erection and Commissioning of 2x500 MVA, 400/220/33KV Gas (SF6) Insulated Sub-station (GIS) with SAS at Nildunguri with 125 MVAr bus reactor and associated 400KV DC LILO line (Approx. line length - 9.12 Kms. Multi circuit line) from Lapanga Meramundali 400KV line to proposed GIS at Nildunguri and 220 KV DC line from Beldingudi 220KV Park to Nildunguri (Approx. line length - 12.3 Kms.) and 220KV DC line from Kuitrajoli Solar Park to Nildunguri Pooling station (Approx. line length - 1.00 Km.) in Sambalpur district at an Estimated Cost of the Package for ₹190.76 Crore on "Turnkey CONTRACT BASIS". Interested bidders are required to enroll themselves in the tender portal "www.tenderwizard.com/OPTCL". Complete set of bidding documents are available on "www.tenderwizard.com/OPTCL". Date of Dt. (25/02/2019)/(11.00 AM) up to Dt. (25/03/2019) (12:45 PM). Interested bidders may visit OPTCL's official website "<http://www.optcl.co.in>" and Tender Portal "<http://www.tenderwizard.com/OPTCL>" for further detail.

Note: Bidders are requested to regularly visit Official website of OPTCL/Tender Portal only for amendment/errata/corrigendum (if any) and any other information regarding these tenders, as the same shall be published only on the OPTCL website/Tender Portal.

Chief General Manager (C.P.C.) Email id: [sgm.cpc@optcl.co.in](mailto:sqm.cpc@optcl.co.in)

Please connect us: optcl.odisha.gov.in www.tenderwizard.com/OPTCL

CR-Advt.No - 83/18-19

www.mahapwd.com
<https://maharashtra.etenders.in>

GOVERNMENT OF MAHARASHTRA Public Works Division Nanded

E-TENDER NOTICE NO. (79) FOR 2018-2019

E-tenders for 02 Works in B-2 form is invited by the Executive Engineer P.W. Division Nanded (Phone No. 02462-253711) from the unregistered contractors/registered contractors in appropriate class of Public Works department of Govt. of Maharashtra for the improvement in Dist. Nanded. The details can be viewed and downloaded from following website.

All information related to this tender is made available on the following website. Also, all the changes will be made available on this website.

1. Above all the works are worth more than Rs.25.00 crores.
2. All information related to this tender is made available on the following website. Also, all the changes will be made available on this website.

www.mahapwd.com
<https://maharashtra.etenders.in>

sd/-
Executive Engineer
Public Works Division Nanded

D.G.I.P.R 2018 / 2019 : 7035

Saudi sisters escape 'slavery' conditions, stranded in Hong Kong

They say they were prevented from boarding flight to Australia

REUTERS

HONG KONG

Two sisters from Saudi Arabia, who fled the kingdom and have been hiding out in Hong Kong for nearly six months, said they did so to escape beatings at the hands of their brothers and father.



The two sisters in Hong Kong. ■ REUTERS

25 as well as her father. "It was basically modern day slavery. You can't go out of the house unless someone is with us. Sometimes we will stay for months without even seeing the sun," the elder sister, Ms. Reem, said.

The two decided to escape while on a family holiday in Sri Lanka in September. They say they were prevented from boarding a connecting flight to Australia and were intercepted at the airport by diplomats from Saudi Arabia. Asked about the case, Hong Kong police said they had received a report from "two expatriate women" in September and were investigating, but did not elaborate.

The women described what they said was a repressive and unhappy life at their home in Riyadh. They said they had adopted the aliases Reem and Rawan. "They were like my jailer, like my prison officer. I was like a prisoner," said the younger sister, Ms. Rawan, referring to two brothers aged 24 and

20 killed in northern China mining accident

Twenty mining staff were killed in northern China on Saturday and another 30 injured when a vehicle that was transporting them experienced brake failure and lost control, Xinhua reported. The accident took place in the Xilingol League in Inner Mongolia on Saturday morning, it said. AFP

IN BRIEF



GVK to raise stake in Mumbai airport operator

NEW DELHI GVK Group on Saturday announced raising its stake in Mumbai airport operator MIAL to 64% by acquiring additional shares for nearly ₹1,247 crore. Exercising the 'Right of First Refusal', GVK Airport Holdings Ltd would purchase 13.5% stake from South Africa's Bidvest. Mumbai Airport International Ltd (MIAL) operates Mumbai aerodrome, which is the second busiest in the country. PTI

Adani Logistics to buy agri-logistics arm of AEL

NEW DELHI Adani Logistics, a subsidiary of Adani Ports and SEZ, said it would acquire Adani Agri Logistics from Adani Enterprises Ltd. (AEL) in an all-cash deal, which is expected to be completed by March. 'Adani Agri Logistics is a subsidiary of AEL and the transaction is proposed at an enterprise value of ₹1,662 crore,' a statement said. Adani Agri Logistics will add 28 locations and 7 trains to Adani Logistics network. PTI

RCom pledges more shares with Axis Trustee

NEW DELHI Axis Trustee on Saturday said more shares of Reliance Communications have been pledged with it, taking the total shares with it to 9.18%. In a regulatory filing, Axis Trustee said 17,25 crore or 6.24% shares of RCom were previously pledged with it. Now, an additional 12 crore or 4.34% shares have been pledged with it. After accounting for the shares released (1.39%), the total shares pledged now stand at 25.40 crore or 9.18%. PTI

SEBI bars two commodity brokers

Regulator's action follows Motilal Oswal, India Infoline arms' alleged role in the ₹5,600-cr. NSEL scam

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

MUMBAI

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has declared Motilal Oswal Commodities Broker and India Infoline Commodities (IICL) unfit to function as commodity brokers on account of their alleged role in the ₹5,600-crore settlement scam at the National Spot Exchange Ltd (NSEL) that came out in the open in July 2013.

In two separate orders issued late on Friday, the capital markets regulator rejected the application for registration of the two entities and further directed that all existing clients should be allowed to move to other brokerages within 45 days.

This is the first set of actions against large brokerages alleged to have colluded with the spot exchange for



Cracking the whip: All existing clients should be allowed to move to other brokerages within 45 days, says SEBI. ■ REUTERS

marketing of the so-called pair contracts wherein clients were assured fixed returns of between 13% and 16% per annum.

Role in paired contracts

According to the SEBI order, the two entities "facilitated transactions in the said paired contracts for its

clients on the NSEL platform" that establishes a close connection between the brokers and the exchange.

"Reputation is an important factor for consideration of fit and proper criteria and the reputation of the noticee has been seriously eroded. Thus, we find that the noticee is not a fit and proper

person to be granted registration/to operate as a commodity derivatives broker," SEBI said in the orders.

"IICL does not have any outstanding dues to any clients. IICL also does not have any proprietary position... However, IICL is seeking legal advice as regards to going for an appeal, in this matter. We would like to clarify to all our stakeholders and clients that this order has no impact on businesses of other companies of IIFL Group," said an IIFL spokesperson.

A statement from Motilal Oswal Financial Services also said that Motilal Oswal Commodities Broker Pvt. Ltd. (MOCB) is in consultation with its lawyers to explore legal options.

"MOCB itself is the victim of scam like thousands of in-

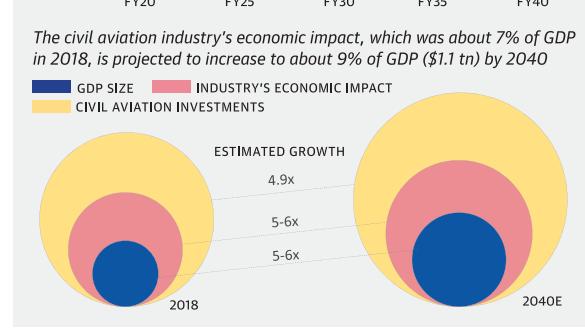
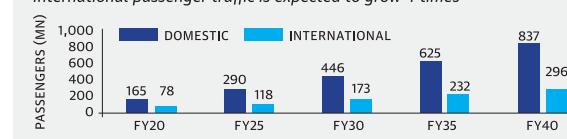
vestors. We assure our esteemed stakeholders, including investors, that the said order against MOCB will have no impact on overall business activities of companies of Motilal Oswal group in any segment," it said.

The NSEL scam is once again in the spotlight. 63 Moons Technologies, which was formerly known as Financial Technologies India Ltd. (FTIL), said that it had initiated the process to file suits claiming damages worth ₹10,000 crore against former Finance Minister P. Chidambaram and bureaucrats K.P. Krishnan and Ramesh Abhishek for alleged abuse of their powers and mala fide actions against the firm. 63 Moons is the parent of NSEL and was probed by various regulatory and investigative agencies.

Flight Path

The aviation industry is expected to grow at a healthy rate both in terms of passengers and fleet size in the coming years, according to a CAPA India report.

Domestic passenger traffic is expected to increase 5 times by FY2040. International passenger traffic is expected to grow 4 times



'Air passenger traffic to grow over fourfold'

'Sector can get \$250 bn over 20 years'

JAGRITI CHANDRA

NEW DELHI

Various airlines in the country are likely to see the total number of passenger trips grow more than fourfold from 243 million in financial year 2020 to 1.1 billion in 2040.

During the same comparative period, the total number of aircraft is likely to increase from 754 to 3,342, according to an industry forecast by aviation consultancy Centre for Asia Pacific Aviation (CAPA).

The total domestic passenger trips are likely to grow five times – 165 million in 2020 to 837 million in 2040. International passenger trips are also expected to increase at a faster rate than the GDP. Its contribution to the GDP is also likely to increase from 7% to 9% or \$1 trillion.

airlines add 1,780 planes on domestic routes and 808 on international ones.

The domestic aviation industry could attract an investment of \$250 billion over the next two decades, more than five times the investment seen by the sector in the past 15 years at \$48 billion.

The economic impact of the growth in the aviation sector is expected to continue to increase at a faster rate than the GDP. Its contribution to the GDP is also likely to increase from 7% to 9% or \$1 trillion.

Move to curb cross-border data flow

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

NEW DELHI

The draft national e-commerce policy, to be released soon, has called for creating a legal and technological framework for imposing restrictions on cross-border data flow from specified sources such as data generated by users in India by various sources including e-retail platforms and social media tools.

It has also suggested steps including fixing a three-year time period to for industry to adjust to the data storage requirement of the country with a view to develop infrastructure for promoting digital economy.



Abinav Raja

mined soon. The funds would be used for entering new cities and investing in technology innovations.

Mr. Raja, along with Shekar Bhende, co-founded the firm in 2016. Ramco Cements currently holds more than 49% stake with the balance held by promoters.

Lynk Logistics had been

profitable from the sixth month onwards. The number of customers had risen to eight lakh from 80,000 and delivery trucks and bikes from 1,500 to 9,000.

"Our revenues have been growing by almost four times. Last fiscal, we recorded about ₹15 crore and this year, it should grow by 3.5 times. We will be crossing ₹100 crore in revenue next year," said Mr. Bhende.

Mr. Bhende said the company was floated with a vision to move anything from paper to huge parcels within city at affordable prices. "It is with this concept in mind, we introduced delivery through bikes last month. Our focus will be on delivering goods intra-city and not inter-city," he added.

A ray of hope for PNL Nidhi depositors

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

CHENNAI

A Supreme Court order has given a glimmer of hope for depositors of PNL Nidhi Ltd. to get their money back. The apex court has ordered SV Global Mill Limited to retain the money payable to S. Natarajan, a director of the nidhi firm.

"For the purpose of ensuring that the money remains safe, we propose to pass an order of depositing this amount in this court," it further said while hearing a batch of special leave petitions.

The depositors had alleged that the promoters of the nidhi firm had misused their money and diverted funds.

Stable jobs, solving infra issues key to housing demand, says Acharya

'Need for a house drives sentiments not interest rates'

K.T. JAGANNATHAN

CHENNAI

Growth in stable employment opportunities and addressing local infrastructure concerns are key for housing demand to go up in established cities, said Srinivas Acharya, managing director of Sundaram BNP Paribas Home Finance.

The affordable and above affordable sector of housing do see a definite demand whenever the government addresses the employment generation issues and the infrastructural points," he added.

"Interest rates do not drive the sentiments any longer. The need for house

does drive. The need is certainly there, but the local infrastructural issues have to be addressed," he added.

He said that he was not surprised by the decision of the Reserve Bank of India to cut the Repo rate.

"As for the impact of the reduction in Repo rate, debt-market is yet to react. We do see a reduction of 10 basis points, but not wide spread," he added.

Sundaram BNP Paribas Home Finance, he said, had not faced any liquidity pressure. "Rather, we have been able to raise fresh loans at attractive rates. Specifically on commercial papers, we do see rates easing up quite a

CBIC working groups to boost exports

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

NEW DELHI

The Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) has set up three working groups to suggest ways to facilitate exports, especially through e-commerce, and improve compliance by way of curbing tax evasion.

The working groups will study and recommend steps to facilitate trade, promote exports and improve compliance by way of curbing tax evasion.

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INTERVIEW | BRIAN BRANCH

'Credit cooperative societies need to adopt digital tech, computerisation in a big way'

Need to offer services digitally to attract younger generation, says WOCCU chief

NAGESH PRABHU

Brian Branch, president and CEO of World Council of Credit Unions (WOCCU), U.S., visited India for the first time since he assumed office in 2011, recently. Headquartered in Madison, WOCCU is the leading international body representing 75,000 credit unions in 90 countries, serving 260 million people. He explains why cooperatives in India are failing to attract youth as members. Excerpts:

What are the major challenges for credit cooperative societies in India and elsewhere? ■ Generally, credit cooperatives face three challenges. First, increased regulation and supervision that financial institutions have to comply with. Second challenge is technological inno-

vation. Third challenge is membership growth, particularly in the age group between 18 and 35 years. Regulation, technological disruptions and membership are major challenges of cooperatives in the context of increased competition from banks in the globalised economy.

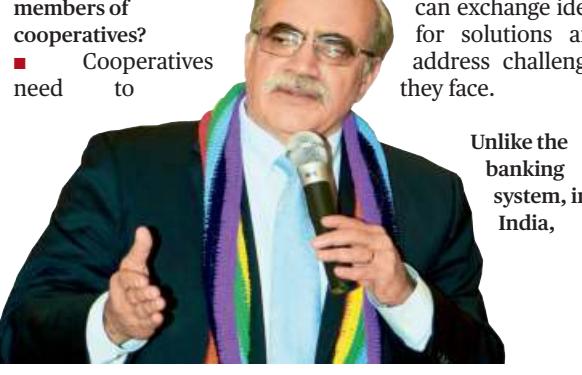
What measures you do suggest to attract more youth to become members of cooperatives? ■ Cooperatives need to

adopt digital technologies and computerisation in a big way to attract youth as well as reach out to marginalised and needy people.

Indian cooperative federation is not a member of WOCCU. How will India benefit by becoming a member?

■ The World Council represents credit cooperatives across the globe. Indian cooperatives can exchange ideas for solutions and address challenges they face.

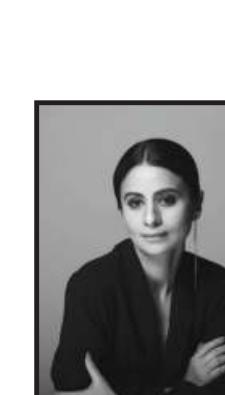
Many government-run credit cooperatives have become financially unviable after waiver of farm loans by states. Your comments... ■ I have to understand exactly what is happening India. In other countries, farm loan waivers from cooperatives have destroyed cooperatives. This resulted in lack of access to credit. Lack of control over non-performance assets (NPAs) makes cooperatives or banks bankrupt.



Unlike the banking system, in India,



Sania Mirza



Rasika Dugal



Richa Chadha



Tillotama Shome

25th February | 4:30 pm

Down the Line: Sania Mirza on tennis, motherhood and life lessons - Sania Mirza in conversation with Veena Venugopal

26th February | 4:30 pm

Actors All: The new face of women in Indian cinema - Rasika Dugal, Richa Chadha and Tillotama Shome in conversation with Namrata Joshi

27th February | 4:30 pm

The Age of Extremes: No space for the middle ground - Arif Mohammed Khan, Ashwani Kumar and Shekhar Gupta in conversation with Suhasini Haidar

28th February | 4:30 pm

2019: Which way will the elections go? Manisha Priyam, Rahul Verma and Yogendra Yadav in conversation with Mukund Padmanabhan

Repeat Airing: 11:30 am (the next day)



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16 OPEN PAGE



Sapper caste, Sir!

S.G. VOMBATKERE

One of the Indian Army's combat support arms is the Corps of Engineers, of which one component is my regiment, the Madras Sappers, known formally as the Madras Engineer Group (MEG). With troops drawn from South India (they are often referred to as *Thambi*), it has a formidable reputation of steadiness and courage under enemy fire, a hoary military tradition dating back to the 18th century. It also holds the distinction of not ever having been subject to the compulsions of caste and religion, and an absence of caste-consciousness with its attendant taboos over eating and drinking with men from other castes or religions, or crossing the sea.

During the Second World War, Madras Sapper units were deployed in Burma, West Asia, North Africa and Europe, in fact wherever there was actual fighting on the ground. There is a touching anecdote of a man named Chatu who had enrolled as a sweeper in a unit which was moved for battle to the deserts of North Africa.

A brave act

During the campaign, some soldiers were caught in a minefield in the desert, without water or food. It was the non-combatant Chatu who volunteered to carry sustenance for them, risking his life against enemy fire and mines. His act was akin to that of the character Gunga Din in Kipling's eponymous poem, who carried and fed water to wounded soldiers under fire, prompting a British soldier to say, "You're a better man than I am, Gunga Din".

After this act of selfless courage, Chatu was held in the highest esteem, respected by soldiers and indeed all ranks of the unit. He enjoyed unusual freedom in the unit, and participated in all unit activities, notwithstanding his "low caste". During British times, there was no official recognition of acts of courage by Indian non-combatants, else Chatu would have certainly been awarded for gallantry worthy of a soldier.

Post-Independence honour

It is interesting to note that post-Independence, during India's first war against Pakistan in 1948, Madras Sapper non-combatant Dhoobi Ramchander was awarded the Maha Vir Chakra, India's second highest gallantry award after the Param Vir Chakra. This was for saving the life of an officer wounded in an ambush, using a rifle to kill the enemy at bay and helping him to a distant medical aid post.

Chatu was, however, honoured in a unique way after the War. During a ceremonial barakhan, the Officer Commanding, Major Cameron, led Chatu to the table and had him served food first. This became a custom in the unit at every barakhan thereafter, and continued until Chatu left the unit on retirement in the 1960s.

Troops in the Madras Sappers, whether Christian, Muslim or Hindu, have always lived and worked together and fought and even died shoulder-to-shoulder. When occasion demands, they eat from the same cooking pot. This long military tradition has demolished all caste distinctions, and the anecdote about Chatu demonstrates this. The Madras Sappers archives record that an inspecting officer once asked a *Thambi* what caste he belonged to, and pat came the proud reply, "Sapper caste, Sir!"

The author was commissioned into the Madras Sappers in 1962. In 1993, he was awarded the Vishisht Seva Medal (VSM). He retired in 1996 in the rank of Major General.

VRINDA LOHIA

There is a thought. It keeps coming back to me at regular intervals, and I am sure many individuals share with me different versions of the same thought. The thought is likely the distinguishing feature of our generation. One where we feel lost trying to find our place in a world that teaches us the importance of chasing our individuality, and in the same breath asks us to quit our passion for conventionality. A world that values uniqueness but enforces homogenisation at every step.

As children, we were free of inhibitions, and were yet to be enslaved by the conditioning of modern-day society. We wanted to achieve great things. Some of us wanted to be astronauts who go on to colonise outer space, others wanted to be scientists making inventions by the minute. I wanted to be an environmentalist for a while and a pilot for the rest of the time. Today, I am a student at a management institute. The worst part is that I never even tried to become a pilot, hell, I didn't even research on how someone becomes a pilot.

Don't get me wrong. I'm not someone who resents my profession. My career has taken me places, provided me with what some may call intellectually stimulating work, and led me to interact with many brilliant individuals. But the more I interacted with these individuals, the more I realised that our system was increasingly creating insecurity amongst a majority of our generation. The answer to the why here was depressingly clear. We have taken our dreams, and hopes and ambitions, churned them into a factory, where we are repeatedly told to compete in a race to our society's definition of a "settled and successful" life.

Before we can even begin to understand what the race is all about, the shots have been fired, and the clock has begun to tick, tick-tock, tick-tock. So, what do we do? We run. We run

without understanding outcomes, but we run to win. As more people join in, the competition gets tougher, so we run even faster. As the finishing point draws closer, pressure builds up and we start to break under it.

We become self-conscious and start doubting ourselves. And in this moment, when we seek someone, to sup-

port us, to help us shine again, we are faced with reality. We realise how everyone around us is chasing that same

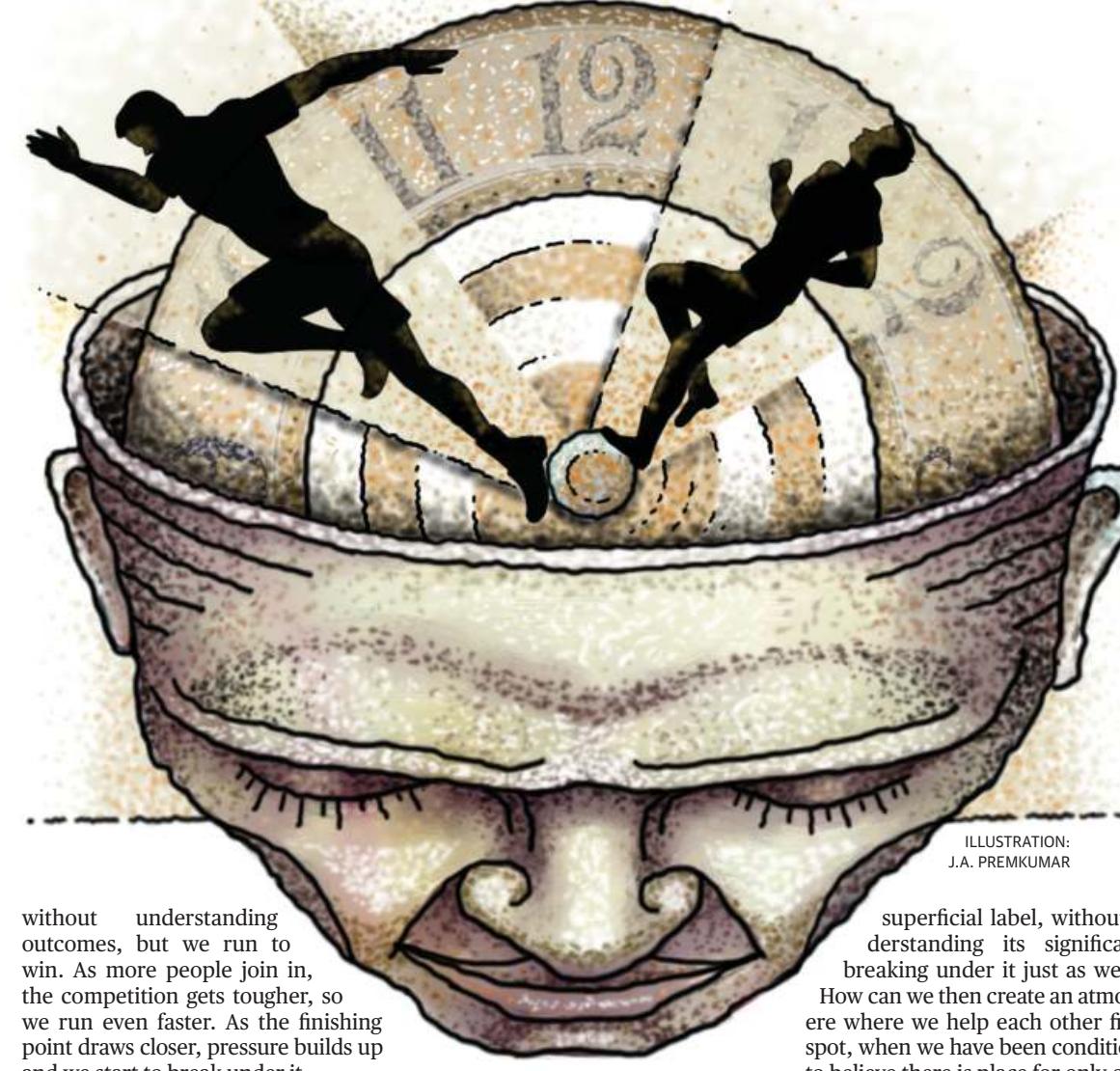
superficial label, without understanding its significance, breaking it just as we are. How can we then create an atmosphere where we help each other find a spot, when we have been conditioned to believe there is place for only one?

How can we feel happy surviving a world, all alone – a world that doesn't even let us control our own narrative?

ILLUSTRATION:
J.A. PREMIKUMAR

A race to nowhere

Feeling the heat? You should stop and rethink your choices



A home shared with pigeons and crows

The birds had found a comfortable perch on the balcony, and it was a tough call

VINEY KIRPAL

Finally, I decided to move in to my own flat that I had bought and rented out six years ago. Recently my tenants, a lovely young couple, expressed their wish to shift into their own house. So I decided to use the opportunity to experience living in my own flat.

I moved in two weeks ago. Friends and family joined the prayers. Everyone congratulated me on my house and told me how beautiful it was.

Took a couple of days for their compliments to sink in. They were right, I realised. This was the first time I was living in a house where I didn't have to switch on the lights during daytime. It was a bright house with lots of sunlight and breeze. I began to savour the experience.

Perfection is not easy to bear. As in the story of the potter who made a Nataraja so perfect that he had to break a bit of its little finger lest it dance wildly and take the world into chaos. So with my house.

Suddenly I noticed lots of activity in my balcony with pigeons sitting on the parapet littering every possible empty space. I was horrified. Pigeon poo could be a source of infection and pollute the air. You can contract serious diseases.

The society where I had lived earlier didn't have this menace. I learnt from my tenant that some



pigeon-lovers had come to live in this complex and were daily feeding grain to the birds.

"What?" I exclaimed. "But pigeons are so filthy!" All that romantic nonsense about pigeons being carriers of love epistles between Emperor Jahangir and Begum Nur Jahan was so wrong. Pigeons are the dirtiest birds to keep as pets.

I declared war on them. A friend suggested I buy an owl bird-scarer on Amazon. I found one for ₹705 and another ₹373.

Which was better? I read reviews. 'Nothing works,' they said. 'After a while the pigeons realise the owl is stationary and come back to make a mark on its head as well.'

Another site showed a blue and white owl with a moving stick. This, the reviewer said, was better.

I nearly placed an order when

garbage bag. This was too much! How audacious too!

So once again I went to YouTube to check if there was a crow-scarer. In the second video, an American lady harassed by crows in her garden had proposed keeping a CD with its bright side up tied to a pole, for the crow fears the sunlight reflecting off it.

I have done that now. A crow came yesterday to examine the CD, and a second one came today. Both stood timorously on the edge of the balcony wall – not centre stage – and kept observing it. Then they flew away.

I am keeping my fingers crossed. Will they leave my building forever or will they go tattle to the pigeons the truth about the "menacing creatures" I have hung on my balcony. Crows are very intelligent birds and hard to fool.

It would be a nightmare if the army of pigeons and crows returned to take revenge. What if they returned to sit, not on the pole or the other building, but on my balcony, splattering their... you know what. Will I have to shift flats?

I did think of being cautious and adopting a pseudonym for this piece, lest I have pigeons and crows cawing angrily from the balcony, and my pigeon-loving neighbours screaming at me from the front door.

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load was in an overhead bin. They often wander, and mine keeps wandering around the transience of such labels that we chase – professional success, academic excellence, social media fame or a strong bank balance. Everyone seems to have their own validation poison. I fail to understand how we have warped our value system to the point, that we prioritise these things over what actually brings us joy.

As I grow older, I have realised what we really cherish in life is not these labels, but moments of affection and love, shared with people we can call home. I have begun to understand that there is no such thing as a game-changing achievement. The real game-changers are the ordinary moments in life – the hot chocolate in winter, books read cuddled inside a blanket, drives on a rainy day, warmth of a mother's hug as she says goodbye at the airport, excitement on seeing a friend a decade later, unexpected kindness from a stranger, and so on. These moments are everywhere, in the smiles we don't return and the conversations we don't make, in the flower shops we ignore and the dessert we don't order, in the phone calls we postpone and the plans we break.

Most of us seem to think that once we have won this race that we are running, we will turn to these more important things in life. The problem, however, is that the race will never be over, and that the winning ribbon is an illusion we will keep chasing until the end of time. Life has to be enjoyed while living it. If we look for simpler times, we will look forever, because our labels will get bigger and the races we run to achieve them tougher.

So, next time you find yourself in a situation where you feel helpless going after something you don't really want, making a choice you'll resent, one that will make you feel slightly hollow on the inside, I hope you stop and rethink. I know I will.

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Backpacks with punch

J.S. RAGHAVAN

One of the travails of modern-day travel is getting periodically buffeted by backpacks, hauled typically by a young person, both while boarding and alighting.

Time was when all luggage was carried by hand in the form of a suitcase, airbag and such. At some point of time, the load got transferred to the back. It might have started in school, in the style popularised by the cartoon icon Dora, the seven-year-old Latin American girl with a backpack containing knick-knacks. Schoolchildren began to carry them, thereafter software techies. Barring the foreigners who come to 'do' India on a shoe-string budget, the backpack aficionados are mostly youngsters.

"It's a pity backpacks are here to stay. They will mulishly ride the way the vetalam did on Vikramaditya's back. But they do seem to have certain advantages. Like the one who carries it need not look for it, like others who keep them away from them that might walk away. They are always on their shoulders, safe like the cub of a kangaroo in mother's pouch. The young ones may get lost if a mother is not watchful."

"The laptops in the backpacks are getting down-sized and dresses are fewer in number because of the reduced duration of trips, conference calls and such."

"Dora had Boots, the monkey that hopped and scrambled around her. But the mouse, a laptop's companion that accompanied it, is not separate. It is in-built. So a mini-backpack!"

"That sounds great," he said, laughing. "we may not get hit by a soft backpack the size of Dora's."

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Warmth, up close and personal

The cheer that a lovingly hand-knitted apparel can bring you

SKAND SHUKLA

Just when you are feeling all eyes on yourself and gloating over the pullover you are wearing for its unique design, you suddenly see another person wearing a similar one. It's such a big let-down; in fact, downright embarrassing! How painstakingly you had searched for it, foraging through innumerable stores and finally settling for this. It was a 'like' at first sight. But then, what else can one expect in this assembly line, mass production age?

It was another time when all sweaters had their own distinct patterns. They were like our fingerprints, or those stripes on coats of zebras and tigers, each a unique set. Our mothers took pains to ensure that the design on the sweaters of her

loved ones didn't resemble any other on earth.

Women's magazines devoted their winter editions to sweater designs. Market places acquired a colourful hue as shop after shop converted themselves temporarily to selling woollens. They made an ostentatious display of their stock, kept as wool-balls or hung in loops of yarn in innumerable tints. Sarojini Naidu's description of colours, expressed in another context though, could have been so apt here: "Silver and blue as the mountain mist, ... Some are like fields of sunlit corn / Some, like the flame of her marriage fire, / Or, rich with the hue of her heart's desire/... Some are purple and gold flecked grey/ For she who has journeyed through life midway..."

Sweaters were not knitted,

they were created. Magazines were consulted, designs mulled upon, and improvisations explored on old patterns. As the ladies gathered chores for some chitter-chatter in the winter sun, their nimble fingers engaged with the knitting needles and the woolen canvas

grew and enchanting motifs surfaced out of nowhere on them. The magic, they said, lay in the requisite 'gauge' or phandaa, which was ensured with an surgeon's precision. For those uninitiated in the art, 'gauge' is a measurement of the number of stitches and rows per inch of knitting.

As it acquired shape, the likely wearer was called time and again to ensure the correct measurement of the torso and the sleeves. Since these summons made clear as for whom the particular piece was being knitted, our moms used a deceptive trick when they were to surprise us with a gift. Instead of trying it on us, the sweater, as it got knitted, was tried on a similar bodied child! And wasn't it a moment of pride when some lady stopped one to admire the pattern on one's sweater and examine it to try to understand how the particular design was made!

Knitting has been a prominent feature in literature as well. Whether it be the lady characters in Jane Austen classics or the elderly lady sleuth Miss Marple in the crime thrillers of Agatha Christie, knitting was per-

haps a kind of metaphor both for a woman's struggles with daily life and also her creativity, of her innate ability to make something beautiful from nothing.

It seems, in retrospect, that our sweaters had an enduring life. They underwent a reincarnation when they became too old to be worn any longer. Unlike the machine-made ones, these hand-knitted sweaters were unreel then, and the yarn was used to knit newer ones.

The hand-knitted sweaters made you feel warm not merely because they were made of wool. They contained something far more valuable – the warmth of relations and affection. We are fortunate to have experienced this warmth.



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Beyond bread and butter

An account of a time of throbbing pain and acute realisation of what's going on around you

UTKARSH SHARMA

Where gender issues reign

The joint family system and some attitudes that often stem from it

RUCHIR MEHTA

Aligning with the young

We should be able to accept our children for what they are

MINAKSHI DEWAN

India's final dress rehearsal for the World Cup begins

Kohli returns from a break to take up the reins; Australian players primed after meaningful BBL action

AUS IN INDIA

SHREDDUTTA CHIDANANDA
VISAKHAPATNAM

It is worth asking what purpose T20 matches will serve when a team has only a handful of competitive international fixtures left ahead of a 50-over World Cup.

India's home limited-over series against Australia – which begins with the first of two T20s here on Sunday and will be followed by five ODIs – is its last scheduled engagement before the side heads to the UK in May.

In between, players will be involved in the IPL, but that may hardly be classified as preparation. There is, simply, no great context to these games.

All that, however, will hardly dampen the enthusiasm of the thousands who will pour into the ACA-VDCA Stadium for India's first home match of the year. This is a team that has returned from a lengthy tour of the Antipodes with its reputation

greatly burnished.

That historic Test series triumph in Australia had lifted the confidence of the side, Virat Kohli said on Saturday, instilling the belief that anyone could be beaten anywhere; Indian crowds will hope to be able to see some of that spirit over the next three weeks.

Kohli returns to the team after a break, having sat out the last phase of the New Zealand tour, as does Jasprit Bumrah, who is now arguably the team's most important bowling asset across formats.

Bumrah's role

Bhuvenesh Kumar is not part of the T20 squad, and so Bumrah's role will be vital, as will that of Umesh Yadav, the only other senior pace bowler in the unit.

Kuldeep Yadav has been rested for the T20s, which leaves Yuzvendra Chahal and Krunal Pandya as the primary spinners. Punjab leggie Mayank Markande, who has earned his maiden call-up to



Prep time: Virat Kohli leads the Indian team's warm-up session in Visakhapatnam on Saturday. ■ K.R. DEEPAK

the senior squad, could be considered in case Kohli feels the need for a third spinner.

The injury to Hardik Pandya leaves India with a minor issue on the bowling front. If

Vijay Shankar is to be treated as a direct replacement, it would require Kohli to place faith in his skills with the ball.

The Tamil Nadu all-rounder

Shane in New Zealand but did not bowl at all in the three T20s. This time, though, it would appear that India cannot afford to field him for his batting alone, given the captain's lack of options.

It will be interesting to note where Rishabh Pant bats on Sunday, and what sort of role, if any, K.L. Rahul plays. Both find a place in both the T20 and ODI squads; they will have an opportunity, over the coming weeks, to press their case for inclusion in the World Cup group.

It also remains to be seen if Dinesh Karthik, who has been excluded from the one-day side, gets a chance in the T20s.

Entertainment, for sure

Australia's players, meanwhile, are fresh off a long Big Bash League season, with selections for this India tour influenced by performances in the tournament.

D'Arcy Short was the BBL's leading run-scorer while all-

rounder Marcus Stoinis thrived after being promoted to opener by Melbourne Stars. Kane Richardson was the BBL's highest wicket-taker while Glenn Maxwell, who finished on the losing side in the final, delivered more evidence – if any were needed – of his genius.

This may not be the most significant pair of T20 matches ever played, but the presence of the likes of Maxwell and Pant should ensure much entertainment.

The teams (from):

India: Virat Kohli (Capt.), Rohit Sharma, K.L. Rahul, Shikhar Dhawan, Rishabh Pant, Dinesh Karthik, Mahendra Singh Dhoni (wk), Krunal Pandya, Vijay Shankar, Yuzvendra Chahal, Jasprit Bumrah, Umesh Yadav, Sidharth Kaul, and Mayank Markande.

Australia: Aaron Finch (Capt.), Pat Cummins, Alex Carey, Jason Behrendorff, Nathan Coulter-Nile, Peter Handscomb, Usman Khawaja, Nathan Lyon, Glenn Maxwell, Jhye Richardson, Kane Richardson, D'Arcy Short, Marcus Stoinis, Ashton Turner, and Adam Zampa.

Kohli warns against IPL 'bad habits'

Keep needs of one-dayers in mind, exhorts India captain

SHREDDUTTA CHIDANANDA
VISAKHAPATNAM

India's World Cup-bound cricketers will have to take care to stay ready for one-day cricket during the IPL, Virat Kohli has cautioned.

The IPL will begin soon after the end of India's limited-over series against Australia.

"All the people who are going to be part of the World Cup squad, they have to make sure that their games don't go too much away from the one-day mould of things," Kohli said ahead of the first T20 here.

"That means we will have to be very wary of the bad habits that might creep in during the IPL. From a personal point of view, I would look to continue in the same way that I have in all formats over the years and not do anything fancy because frame of mind is the most important thing getting into the World Cup."

"Our stand is simple. We stick by what the nation wants and what

Leave it to the BCCI

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
VISAKHAPATNAM

Amid calls for India to refuse to play Pakistan in the World Cup, Virat Kohli has stated his team will simply abide by the BCCI's decision.

"Firstly, our sincere condolences to the families of the soldiers who lost their lives. We're really shocked about what happened and sad about the incident," Kohli said, referring to the attack on the CRPF convoy in Pulwama that led to the death of over 40 men.

"Our stand is simple. We stick by what the nation wants and what



Virat Kohli. ■ K.R. DEEPAK

happy about where their game is at that particular moment. It will take a consistent effort from all the players during the IPL to keep a check on that.

tent effort from all the players during the IPL to keep a check on that.

"The moment you enter the nets and create bad habits, you lose momentum, you lose batting form. It is very difficult to get it back in a tournament like the World Cup."

"Everyone will have to protect that mindset and be aligned towards what the team requires of them."

Kohli admitted that India may have been better off playing two more ODIs in place of the T20s against Australia.

More logical

"Well, yes that would have been ideal... more, I would say, logical, but that's the way series are compiled nowadays," he said. "Also, because we are playing so much T20 cricket in the IPL, probably a couple more ODIs would have been more beneficial for both the teams, and not just us."

"But we have to utilise what's in front of us as best as possible."

Finch is perhaps guaranteed to open for Australia in the World Cup. Any other opener who may shine here would not necessarily have to make way for David Warner, the Australian captain declared.

"There's a great opportunity for guys to come in and really challenge for that spot," he said.

A problem of plenty for the Aussies

Quite a few options and combinations to think about, says Finch

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
VISAKHAPATNAM

Australia has a problem of plenty going into the first game of its India tour. It has a number of opening batsmen – including captain Aaron Finch – to choose from for the two opening slots in both the T20s and the ODIs.

"There's plenty to think about – a few options and combinations," Finch said here on Saturday.

"Obviously myself and D'Arcy (Short), Usman (Khawaja) and (Marcus) Stoinis, who's done it really well through the Big Bash, and Alex Carey."

Finch is perhaps guaranteed to open for Australia in the World Cup. Any other opener who may shine here would not necessarily have to make way for David Warner, the Australian captain declared.

"We have seen Davey have elbow surgery recently, as well as Steve (Smith). That will be at the back of our mind as well."

"If things don't go 100% well with their rehab or there are some complications so that they are not back in time, it's a huge opportunity for guys to step up."

through his surfing injury, how close he was to breaking his neck," said Finch.

"It was great to have JL's (Justin Langer) great mate come back. He's someone who's had so much success in India as a batsman."



At full stretch: Alex Carey at Australia's practice session. ■ K.R. DEEPAK

Historic series win for Lanka

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
PORT ELIZABETH

Oshada Fernando and Kusal Mendis propelled Sri Lanka to an eight-wicket win over South Africa on the third day of the second Test at St. George's Park here on Saturday, clinching a historic 2-0 series triumph.

The unheralded Sri Lankans became the first team from Asia to win a Test series

in South Africa.

Unlike their dramatic, unexpected one-wicket win in the first Test in Durban, the Sri Lankans surged to victory as Fernando and Mendis shared an unbeaten 163-run third-wicket partnership studded with crisp, authoritative strokes.

Fernando was unbeaten on 75 off 106 balls and Mendis scored 84 not out off 110

deliveries as Sri Lanka chased down 197, reaching the mark by lunch.

Resuming at 60 for two, Fernando and Mendis batted positively from the start. No South African bowler was able to settle into a consistent rhythm.

SCOREBOARD

South Africa – 1st innings: 222.

South Africa – 1st innings: 154.

South Africa – 2nd innings: 128.

Sri Lanka – 2nd innings: D. Karunaratne c de Kock b Olivier 19, L. Thirimanne c de Kock b Rabada 10, O. Fernandes (not out) 75, M. Mendis (not out) 84; Extras (b-4, lb-5): 9. Total (for two wkt., in 45.4 overs): 197.

Fall of wickets: 1-32, 2-34.

South Africa bowling: Steyn 8-0-38-0, Rabada 15-2-53-1, Olivier 12-2-46-1, Mulder 4-1-6-0, Maharaj 6.4-0-45-0.

Sri Lanka won by eight wickets and series 2-0.

happy about where their game is at that particular moment. It will take a consistent effort from all the players during the IPL to keep a check on that.

Will implement SC guidelines at the earliest: Thodge

VIJAY LOKAPALLY
NEW DELHI

The newly-appointed member in the Committee of Administrators (CoA), Lt. Gen. Ravi Thodge outlined his assignment with the top priority being "implementation" of the Supreme Court guidelines.

"My mandate is clear. To implement the guidelines (with co-members Vinod Rai and Diana Edulji) and ensure that the (BCCI) elections are held as early as possible. I have had just one meeting (on Friday) and will do my best," Thodge told *The Hindu*.

Army experience

"I have an experience of almost 40 years with army and I'll utilise it in cricket administration as well," said

Thodge, who joins the CoA following resignations from Vikram Limaye and Ramchandra Guha, who were originally picked by Supreme Court to implement the Lodha Recommendations.

"I don't have any personal choices. I have to follow the mandate. I am sure my experience will come in handy. With two distinguished members as my colleagues, I am sure we are going to function well," noted Thodge.

Conceding that he was taking charge at a crucial stage, when India was considering boycotting the World Cup match against Pakistan apart from putting pressure on the International Cricket Council (ICC) to take a stand against countries

supporting terrorist activities, Thodge observed, "Our view has been clearly conveyed in the statement issued on Friday."

"The cricketing community should sever ties with countries from which terrorism emanates. The World Cup match is still more than three months away. We have time to discuss that."

End the squabbling

The appointment of Thodge is seen by BCCI observers as a firm step to put an end to the squabbling between Rai and Edulji on various issues.

"His presence would also put a stop to the constant difference of opinions between Rai and Edulji. Their squabbling reflects poorly on Indian cricket," said a veteran BCCI official.

Zazai's incredible knock

SPORTS BUREAU
DEHRADUN

Afghanistan recorded the highest T20I total, scoring 278 for three against Ireland in the second match of the series on Saturday. Australia's 263 for three against Sri Lanka was the previous record.

Opener Hazratullah Zazai hammered an unbeaten 162 off just 62 deliveries with 16 sixes and 11 fours. This is the second-highest individual score behind Aaron Finch's 172 against Zimbabwe in Harare last year.

His opening partner, Usman Ghani, complemented him with a 48-ball 73, an innings punctuated with seven fours and three sixes.

Zazai's 16 sixes is the most by a batsman in a T20I innings, bettering Finch's record of 14. The first-wicket partnership of 236 between Zazai and Ghani is the highest in T20Is.



Hazratullah Zazai and Usman Ghani.

■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The scores: Afghanistan 278 for three in 20 overs (Hazratullah Zazai 162, n.o., Usman Ghani 73) bt Ireland 194 for six in 20 overs (Paul Stirling 91, Kevin O'Brien 37, Rashid Khan four for 25).

Hetmyer, Cottrell shine for Windies

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
BRIDGETOWN

Sheldon Cottrell marked his return to the West Indies team with a five-wicket haul as the home side snatched a series-leveelling 26-run victory over England in the second One-Day International of a five-match series on Friday.

The Jamaican left-arm fast bowler returned figures of five for 46 as the top-ranked visitor lost its last six wickets for 35 runs to be dismissed for 263 in response to what looked a comparatively modest West Indies total of 289 for six.

SCOREBOARD

WEST INDIES VS ENGLAND, SECOND ODI

West Indies: C. Gayle b Rashid 50, J. Campbell c Ali b Plunkett 23, S. Hope c Bristow b Stokes 33, D. Bravo run out 25, S. Hetmyer (not out) 104, J. Holder run out 3, C. Brathwaite b Wood 13, A. Nurse (not out) 13; Extras (lb-9, nb-3, w-13): 25; Total (for six wkts. in 50 overs): 289.

Fall of wickets: 1-61, 2-98, 3-121, 4-197, 5-207, 6-237.

<p

TV PICKS

NBA: Sony Ten 1 (SD & HD), 7 a.m.
Syed Mushtaq Ali T20: Star Sports 2 (SD & HD), 9 a.m. & 1.30 p.m.
I-League: Star Sports 3 & 5 p.m.
Afghanistan vs Ireland: 3rd T20I, DSport, 6.30 p.m.
India vs Australia: 1st T20I, Star Sports 1 (SD & HD), 7 p.m.
Premier League: SS Select 2 (SD & HD), 7.20 p.m.
ISL: Star Sports 2 (SD & HD), 7.30 p.m.

IN BRIEF



Clippers hold off Grizzlies to win

LOS ANGELES Reserve forward Montrezl Harrell scored 19 of his 30 points in the first half, and Danilo Gallinari added 23 as visiting Los Angeles Clippers built a big early lead, then held on for a 112-106 victory over Memphis Grizzlies on Friday. The game marked the return from the All-Star break for both teams.

Other results: Charlotte Hornets 123 bt Washington Wizards 110; Indiana Pacers 126 bt New Orleans Pelicans 111; Chicago Bulls 110 bt Orlando Magic 109; Toronto Raptors 120 bt San Antonio Spurs 117; Detroit Pistons 125 bt Atlanta Hawks 122; Minnesota Timberwolves 115 bt New York Knicks 104. REUTERS

Duckworth overcomes Prajneesh's challenge

BANGKOK James Duckworth of Australia overcame top seed Prajneesh Gunneswaran 7-6(2), 3-6, 7-6(3) in the semifinals of the \$54,160 Challenger tennis tournament on Saturday. It was the second loss in a Challenger semifinal for the 97th-ranked Prajneesh this season after the one at home in Chennai. The semifinal appearance fetched him 29 ATP points and \$2,510.

The results (semifinals):

James Duckworth (Aus) bt Prajneesh Gunneswaran 7-6(2), 3-6, 7-6(3).



Bencic to face Kvitorva in final

DUBAI Belinda Bencic beat defending two-time champion Elina Svitolina 6-2, 3-6, 7-6(3) to set up a Dubai Championships final against Petra Kvitorva. Second seed Kvitorva booked her third final in two months winning a marathon over Hsieh Su-wei 3-6, 6-2, 6-4 earlier.

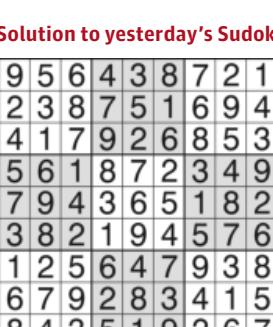
The results:

Semifinals: Belinda Bencic (Sui) bt 6-Elina Svitolina (Ukr) 6-2, 3-6, 7-6(3); 2- Petta Kvitorva (Cze) bt Hsieh Su-Wei (Tpe) 3-6, 6-2, 6-4.

SUDOKU



Solution to yesterday's Sudoku



Apurvi opens with World record gold



On target: Apurvi Chandela won the air rifle gold ahead of Zhao Ruozhu of China.

• KAMESH SRINIVASAN

Overcomes hesitant start in qualification

SHOOTING WC

KAMESH SRINIVASAN

NEW DELHI

Apurvi Chandela thrived on the explosive atmosphere she herself had triggered with quick and high scores in a spectacular final to capture the World Cup air rifle gold, ahead of a bunch of Chinese, with a World record to boot, at the Dr. Karni Singh Range, Tughlakabad, on Saturday.

Having won the Olympic quota place at the World Championship last year, Apurvi could aim for the medals.

Crowd support

"The atmosphere motivated me, and helped me push more," said Apurvi, acknowledging the role of the packed stands which roared

in applause after each of her high shots.

After a hesitant start, Apurvi jumped ahead at the half-way stage in the 24-shot final.

Shooting 10.5 or better in her last 11 shots, Apurvi beat China's Zhao Ruozhu, who had topped qualification with 634.0, a World record, by 1.1 points for the gold.

This was much in contrast to the manner in which Apurvi had stumbled in the last stage of qualification with 9.7, 10.6 and 10.0 that saw her total slip to 629.3, the fourth best score among 101.

"The qualification score was not bad, but I will try to get better," said Apurvi.

Apurvi, who had competed in the Rio Olympics, said being chased by a bunch of high-quality shooters had in

fact helped. The World record and gold medal, which will fetch her merit points for Olympic selection, were already sufficient proof of her motivation.

Anjum misses out

Anjum Moudgil shot 628.0 and missed the final by 0.1 point, while Elavenil Valarivan was not at her best, placing 30th with 625.3.

Shooting in the MQS section, Mehuli Ghosh had the second best score among all with 631.0.

The results:

10m air rifle: Women: 1. Apurvi Chandela 252.9 WR (629.3); 2. Zhao Ruozhu (Chn) 251.8 (634.0 WR); 3. Xu Hong (Chn) 230.4 (628.1); 12. Anjum Moudgil 628.0; 30. Elavenil Valarivan 625.3.

MQS: Mehuli Ghosh 631.0; Meghana Sajjanar 625.3.

Cueist Akbar denied visa

STAN RAYAN
KOCHI

Pakistan's Hamza Akbar, the 2015 Asian snooker champion, has been denied a visa for the Indian Open world-ranking snooker tournament and will now be forced to miss the event which begins in Kochi on Wednesday.

S. Balasubramanian, the BSFI secretary, confirmed that Akbar – who beat Pankaj Advani 7-6 to win the Asian title in Kuala Lumpur in 2015 – has been denied visa.

The Government had refused visas to two Pakistani shooters for the ongoing ISSF World Cup in New Delhi and clearly the IOC is very upset about it.

Tajinder books Asian Championships spot

INDIAN GP

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

PATIALA

Shot Putter Tajinder Pal Singh Toor took his first step back into international competition since the Asian Games gold with a 20.13m throw in the first leg of the Indian Grand Prix here on Saturday.

It was not only enough to win gold in the season-opening event but also helped him book a spot in the Asian Championships in April.

In fact, five of his six throws were better than the qualifying mark, set at 19.50m.

Saturday's performance will also allow him to skip the Federation Cup next month for selection and he will, instead, travel to New Zealand with coach M.S. Dhillon for training later this week.

Along with Asiad 800m champion Manjit Singh, Toor was one of only a handful of prominent names that turned up at the event. Manjit won gold on Saturday in one minute 48.54 seconds, slower than his Jakarta finish but understandable given the absence of any competition since

The results:
Men, 100m: 1. Arokia Rajeev (10.65s); 2. V.K.E. Dasan (10.72); 3. Amiya Mallick (11.09); **400m:** 1. Jeevan K.S. (47.15); 2. Sajin V. (47.40); **200m:** 1. V.K. Vismay (53.60); 2. Anjali Devi (54.50); **3. Prachi (54.68); 800m:** 1. Jisna Mathew (2:09.17); 2. Priya K. (2:09.76); 3. Archana Adhav (2:10.98); **400m hurdles:** 1. Sarabjeet Gayakwad (59.28); 2. Anu R. (59.54); **Steeple-chase:** 1. Parul Chaudhary (10:45.12); 2. Chintu Yadav (10:46.58); 3. Sudha Singh (10:54.80); **Long jump:** 1. Sowmya M. (5.73); 2. Marena George (5.70); 3. Neena Pinto (NM); **Javelin:** 1. Anu Rani (57.88); 2. Sharmila Kumari (51.84m), Rupinder Kaur (49.48m); **Shot Put:** 1. Anamika Das (14.66); 2. Sonal Goyal (14.59); 3. Kachna Chaudhary (14.45); **Discus:** 1. Navjeet Kaur (55.73); 2. Nidhi Rani (45.01); 3. Gurveer Kaur (40.14m).



• SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

INRC for cars all set for a big leap

FMSCI ropes in Champions Yacht Club as the promoter

RAYAN ROZARIO

COIMBATORE

There was a lot of talk doing the rounds for quite some time on the confirmation of the promotership for the FMSCI-Indian National Rally Championship (INRC) for cars this season.

That was put to rest with the Champions Yacht Club (CYC) of the Champions Group winning the bid for the next three years.

FMSCI head J. Prithviraj told *The Hindu* here on Saturday that an MoU was signed with the CYC in the second week of February. Ramakrishna Race Performance Management (RRPM) is the outgoing promoter. "They did a good job and we expect the new promoter to take the sport to the next level," he said.

India's finest rally driver Gaurav Gill was also pleased with a new player coming in. "We got somebody who loves the sport and has the money and passion for it. These are the three most important things to promote any sport for that matter," said Gill, who was at the SAS windmill farm near Kethanur in Tirupur, to conduct a two-day workshop for both amateur and professional drivers.

The CYC also played its

part by sponsoring a good amount of prize money for the fastest amateurs coming out of the programme. It was quite surprising to see a big turnout for the event. Actually, I had to stop with 30 entries as it is difficult to handle and teach them in the space of two days. The drivers have come from all over the country," said Gill.

He was pleased with R. Thiagarajan and his team from Chettinad Sporting putting the whole event together and Vamsi Merla of Champions Group for the support. "But the whole idea is to get more drivers for rallying and promote the same through this kind of workshops."

The sport has got so

much of potential and the Federation should support such initiatives and make it more popular," said Gill.

With the new player in place, INRC now promises to be a superior event destination in six cities this year starting from Bengaluru next month.

Even though Raja, a silver medalist in 62kg a year ago, could not better Gururaja's 118kg in snatch and trailed by one kg, the Railways man put pressure on his rival in clean and jerk by lifting 147kg in his first attempt.

Gururaja, who had a silver in Gold Coast in 56kg,

parted with the back of the net for Jamshedpur in the 89th minute, but was found to be in an offside position and the scoreline remained unchanged from the referee's first whistle.

The result helped NEUFC book the final playoff spot after Bengaluru FC, FC Goa and Mumbai City.

Raja trumps Poojary

Santoshi claims women's 55kg gold

NATL. W'LIFTING

Y.B. SARANGI

VISAKHAPATNAM

Nineteen-year-old M. Raja pipped Commonwealth Games silver medallist Gururaja Poojary to claim the men's 61kg gold medal in the National weightlifting championships at the Railways Indoor Sports Enclave here on Saturday.

In an interesting tussle, Raja of Railways gathered a total of 264kg to beat 26-year-old Gururaja of Services by a slender margin of one kg.

Gogoi delights

Sidhant Gogoi, a product of Army Sports Institute (ASI) Pune, representing Assam, secured the bronze by lifting 259kg in his maiden appearance.

Even though Raja, a silver medalist in 62kg a year ago, could not better Gururaja's 118kg in snatch and trailed by one kg, the Railways man put pressure on his rival in clean and jerk by lifting 147kg in his first attempt.

Gururaja, who had a silver in Gold Coast in 56kg,

began with 145kg but could not raise his performance apparently due to a leg injury and settled for silver.

Switching from 53kg, in which she had secured a silver medal in the 2014 Glasgow CWG, Railways lifter Matsa Santoshi was not able to achieve her target of 87kg in snatch and 110kg in clean and jerk, but did enough to win the 55kg title with a total lift of 188kg.

She did 84kg in her final snatch attempt and 104kg in her second try in clean and jerk.

Harshdeep Kaur and B. Usha were locked in a close fight for the silver medal after both had 80kg in snatch. The former finished second with 182kg, a kg more than the local favourite.

The results: Men: 61kg: 1. M. Raja (RSPB) 61kg, clean and jerk 147kg, total 264kg; 2. P. Gururaja (SSCB) 118, 145, +263; 3. Sidhant Gogoi (Asm) 113, 146, 259.

Women: 55kg: 1. Matsa Santoshi (RSPB) 84, 104, 188; 2. Harshdeep Kaur (Pun) 80, 102, 182; 3. B. Usha (AP) 80, 101, 181. 59kg: 1. E. Deexitha (TS) 85, 115, 200; 2. Davinder Kaur (Pun) 87, 111, 198; 3. Swati Singh (RSPB) 83, 110, 193.



On top: Matsa Santoshi on her way to the 55kg title. • C.V. SUBRAHMANYAM

CFC holds JFC; NEUFC qualifies

SHYAM VASUDEVAN

CHENNAI

There was little buzz around the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium on Saturday when reigning ISL champion Chennaiyin FC took on Jamshedpur FC here on Saturday. And for the sparse gathering there was little to celebrate as the two played out a goalless

draw in what was the final home game of the season for CFC.

Needing a win to remain in the hunt for its maiden playoff berth, Jamshedpur was expected to play an attacking game. However, what ensued was a dull encounter.

Local lad Soosairaj Mi-

chael did find the back of the net for Jamshedpur in the 89th minute, but was found to be in an offside position and the scoreline remained unchanged from the referee's first whistle.

The result helped NEUFC book the final playoff spot after Bengaluru FC, FC Goa and Mumbai City.

Leading Legend for main event

HYDERABAD: Leading Legend has an edge over his rivals in the Telangana Race Horse Owners Association Trophy (1,600m), the feature event of the races to be held on Sunday (Feb. 24).

1 AGOSTINI PLATE (DIV. 10, 1,400m), 4-y-o & over, rated upto 25. (Cat. III), 1-25 p.m.: 1. Agostini (6) I. Chisty 60, 2. Parizat (7) Nakhat Singh 59, 3. Valley Ikon (3) Md. Ismail 59, 4. Golden Caballo (2) Kunal Singh 58, 5. All That Jazz (4) B.R. Kumar 58, 6. Royal Faith (8) R. Ajay Kumar 57



Raring to go: The new jersey that Delhi Capitals will sport in the 2019 IPL. ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

New look for the Delhi Capitals

We take great pride in wearing the new kit, says Shreyas Iyer

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Rishabh Pant challenges Mahendra Singh Dhoni in an innovative promotion to showcase the new jersey that Delhi Capitals will sport in the 2019 Indian Premier League (IPL). Delhi Capitals meets Mumbai Indians in its first match of the league at the Wankhede Stadium on March 24.

In the video, Pant acknowledges Dhoni as a "guru" as he flips through his scrap book. "I am not sure if I would have been a wicket-keeper-batsman if Mahi bhai was not there," he confesses. Pant then goes on to warn in lighter vein, "but this time I

am going to be all over them (the team) and Captain Cool won't be Cool any more." He completes his act with a somerset, "Mahi bhai, be ready, I am coming to showcase my game."

Stern look
The promotion ends with Dhoni, looking 'stern'. Pant, for his aggressive style of batting, is widely considered an ideal replacement for Dhoni whenever the latter decides to call it a day in the shorter formats of the game.

Delhi Capitals skipper, Shreyas Iyer, was delighted at the new jersey. "We take great pride in wearing the

new kit of Delhi Capitals. The brand new look supplements our renewed ambition of winning the title this season. These are exciting times for everyone associated with Delhi Capitals, and I am sure the fans will love supporting the team in the new blue and red."

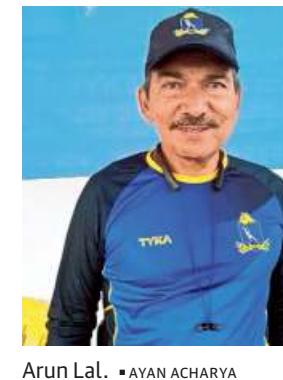
It was a pleasant comeback for Shikhar Dhawan. "It is a new adventure for me personally as I come back to the city and represent Delhi Capitals after spending 10 seasons away. It is a city that I have always called home and I am really excited to start the new season in these colours which represent the true spirit of the city."

AMITABHA DAS SHARMA
KOLKATA

Former India captain and the president of Cricket Association of Bengal Sourav Ganguly has backed the present captain Virat Kohli, who said that his team would go by the decisions taken by the Union Government and the BCCI with regard to playing against Pakistan over the Pulwama incident.

"I think that is the way forward. He (Kohli) does not control all these things but the thing which he can control is the way his team has played so far and can play in the future.

"They are a phenomenal side and they have played absolutely superb cricket for the last six months," Ganguly said taking questions after



Arun Lal. ■ AYANACHARYA

AYANACHARYA
CUTTACK

Following its emphatic 159-run win against minnow Mizoram, Bengal suffered a crushing nine-wicket defeat against heavyweight Karnataka in the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy in Cuttack on Friday.

Coming close on the heels of an average Ranji outing, which saw Bengal win only two of its eight group games, head coach Arun Lal deliberates on the season as it draws to a close.

What have been the lessons from this domestic season so far?

It has been a disappointing one for Bengal.

each player is also very important.

One of Bengal's problems has been its inability to string together a series of wins. What is ailing the squad? Consistency can take a hit in a format like T20.

But even in Ranji Trophy, we have been inconsistent. Batting was a problem and our bowling lacked aggression.

Yes, there are three to four players who are getting on with age but we have a young squad by and large.

Our under-23 is doing well, so I'm buoyant about our chances going forward but to be honest, we've underperformed this time.

Identifying what skill sets need to be worked on for

player and now as a coach. How do you rate local cricket back home? Club cricket can get much better.

It is immersed in inertia. In Bengal, we suffer from a paucity of grounds which means we end up playing most of our cricket in smaller grounds.

Climatically, we can't play for five months so these inherent factors affect our local cricket.

We have a robust association which does everything very well except they are not very amenable to change.

Recently, with Sourav (Ganguly) at the helm, things are changing. But in the 30 years before that,

not even a leaf turned. What is the roadmap for Bengal cricket going forward?

We have a vision 2020 programme where greats like Muralitharan, (VVS) Laxman and Waqar (Younis) come and coach the youngsters but to me personally, 80 per cent of an association's job is to get a competitive league going, not coaching so much.

If you have a league like that, then talent will start coming out from every nook and corner.

The association is bending its back to provide us with everything and now it's up to the boys to repose the faith.

Do what the Indian Government decides: Ganguly

Backs India as the favourite to win the World Cup in England this year



CAB president Sourav Ganguly poses for photos after being announced as the Indian ambassador for 'Street Child Cricket World Cup 2019' on Saturday. ■ PTI

"There is no change to it and I am sure the cricketers will stick to that," Ganguly added.

He, however, had a witty retort to the opinion of former teammate Sachin Tendulkar, who went with Sunil Gavaskar's stand that India should be picking up two points by beating Pakistan and not forfeit the upcoming ICC World Cup tie.

"(Tendulkar) wants two points against Pakistan, I want the World Cup. So, he wants two points I want the World Cup, whichever way you look at it," Ganguly said.

On former Pakistan captain Javed Miandad's recent attack following his comments about severing all sporting ties with Pakistan, he added.

Ganguly chose not to be drawn into a war of words.

"I have no reaction to Javed Miandad. I enjoyed watching him bat.

"I thought he was a fantastic player for Pakistan," Ganguly said.

Ganguly was also very upbeat about India's chances in the World Cup, which starts in June in the United Kingdom.

"India is the favourite but the way Sri Lanka is playing in South Africa also tells a lot about their form. So, I do not believe in the 'favourites' tag," Ganguly said.

"But India is a much stronger team at the moment and the way they have played in the last few months, they will be very high on confidence," he added.

MUSHTAQ ALI SUNDAY'S SCHEDULE

Group A (at Mulapadu): Jharkhand vs Manipur; Delhi vs J&K; Kerala vs Andhra.
Group B (at Surat): Gujarat vs Himachal; Tamil Nadu vs Bihar; Meghalaya vs Rajasthan
Group C (at Indore): Punjab vs Saurashtra; Railways vs Goa; Madhya Pradesh vs Mumbai

Group D (at Cuttack): Assam vs Chhattisgarh; Haryana vs Bengal; Karnataka vs Arunachal Pradesh; Odisha vs Mizoram

Group E (at New Delhi): Baroda vs Hyderabad; Maharashtra vs Services; Pondicherry vs Uttarakhand; Tripura vs Uttar Pradesh

REGIONAL ROUND-UP

Barraso is Minerva's saviour

PANCHKUL: Spaniard Juan Quero Barraso's stellar strike helped defending champion Minerva Punjab FC register a 1-0 win over Neroca FC in an I-League encounter here on Saturday.

Prithviraj Tondaiman shot 71 (23, 24 and 24). Kyannan Chenai and Shamsher Singh Chauhan had identical scores of 68.

Mohammad Hossein Parvaresh Nia of Iran shot three perfect rounds for a total of 75 to be the sole leader.

In the junior men's event, the Indian shooters dominated the show. Manavadiya Rathore led with 70 (23, 22 and 25). Vivaan Kapoor (68), Bhowneesh Mendiratta (65) and Suraj (63) followed as the four Indians occupied the top six positions.

In women's trap, Varsha Tomar, with 63, had the best score among the Indians. She was followed by Shagun Chowdhary (60), Rajeshwar Kumari (60) and Sharayu Dalvi (54).

Silvana Maria Stanco of Italy was ahead with 74 following rounds of 25, 25 and 24.

the Army Polo championship at the Army Equestrian Centre, Delhi Cantonment, on Saturday.

The results (final): 61st Cavalry 7 (Vishal Chauhan 4, Ilyas Ali 2, Anant Rajpurohit) bt Army Service Corps (ASC) 3 1/2 (G.S. Pandher, handicap 2 1/2).

Live telecast of polo final

The final of the La Pegasus Northern India polo championship, featuring Garcha Group-Aravalhi Polo and Sahara Warriors, will be web-streamed with a five-second delay on Sunday, from 2.30 p.m. The final at the Jaipur Polo ground will be preceded by an exhibition 12-goal polo match between La Pegasus Polo Knights and La Pegasus Titans at 1 p.m.

The final can be watched on youtube and lapegasuspolo facebook.

Worked on my technique during lay-off, says Mirabai Chanu

Eager to make the most of the Asian championships in April

Y.B. SARANGI
VISAKHAPATNAM

Turning a demoralising back injury, which prevented her from participating in the Asian Games, into an opportunity to better her technique, Mirabai Chanu has become more determined to achieve her Olympics dream.

Mirabai, who did not touch the barbell for four months due to the injury after securing the Commonwealth Games gold medal last year, looked at the positive side instead of getting bogged down by the lay-off period.

"My technique has got better after the injury. My load was less when I was recovering. At that time, I had focused on bettering my technique. After increasing load, you cannot work on your technique. It helped me in (the EGAT's Cup) Thailand. My clean and jerk is now around 110kg. I have done it on two-three occasions," Mirabai told *The Hindu* after winning the National title in 49kg here.

"I did only rehab during those four months. It was frustrating. When we skip one week's training, we feel like it is a big loss. Here, I did not do anything for four months.

"During the rehab, I feared if I increase load the injury could recur. There was a huge mental block. So I went step by step - first fitness, then technique and then 60-70 per cent weight-lifting."

Now, Mirabai is eager to make the most of the Asian championships in April. "If I win this, I can gather maximum points, which will be easier to qualify for the Olympics," she said.

Mirabai Chanu.
■ C.V. SUBRAHMANYA

sophy that has got us this far," he said.

The CCFC management has decided to throw open the gates for free for the fans. "I wish the stadium is full. If everybody comes down and watch us play will that not be a wonderful thing for the players," he added.

Bagan is out of the title race but coach Khalid Jamil said the team would still give its best. "Chennai City is a team with a good mix of Indian and foreign stars. They are professionals in every way but I have told my players you are playing with a good team but stand up and fight. We have prepared the way we do for every other match and we will always go for a win and expect a positive result," he added.

The team has decided to stick to its game plan. "It is this philo-



Gearing up: Chennai City FC players sweating it out on the eve of the match against Mohun Bagan. ■ S. SIVA SARAVANAN

Chennai City FC to stick to its game plan

Eslava returns to bolster the home team's defence against Mohun Bagan

I-LEAGUE

RAYAN ROZARIO
COIMBATORE

With three matches to go and a step closer to title, it can be a pressure situation for Chennai City FC (CCFC) when it takes on Kolkata giant Mohun Bagan in the Hero I-league clash at the Nehru Stadium here on Sunday.

But coach Akbar Nawas does not think so.

"Our players give their 100% whatever be the situation. We are here to win every game and will put up a good fight with Mohun Bagan as well," he said.

A win against Bagan can well strengthen the title chances. "I will be lying if I say that we are not thinking of the title," he added.

"I will be lying if I say that we are not thinking of the title."

AKBAR NAWAS
CCFC coach

(Sunday) is an important game and, since we are here, why not go for it. And, even if we don't get it, we will be applauded still for what we have achieved so far," he added.

With Spanish defender Roberto Eslava back, it's going to be all the more good for the team.

"Eslava is sensational for the side. He is someone who holds the team right from the front. He is important to our defence from the front," said Akbar.

The team has decided to stick to its game plan. "It is this philo-

Zoravar lies fourth

SPORTS BUREAU
DOHA

Zoravar Singh Sandhu shot 72 out of 75, following rounds of 24, 25 and 23, for the fourth best score in men's trap in a field featuring 98 shooters in the Qatar Open shotgun championship on Saturday.

Prithviraj Tondaiman shot 71 (23, 24 and 24). Kyannan Chenai and Shamsher Singh Chauhan had identical scores of 68.

Mohammad Hossein Parvaresh Nia of Iran shot three perfect rounds for a total of 75 to be the sole leader.

In the junior men's event, the Indian shooters dominated the show. Manavadiya Rathore led with 70 (23, 22 and 25). Vivaan Kapoor (68), Bhowneesh Mendiratta (65) and Suraj (63) followed as the four Indians occupied the top six positions.

In women's trap, Varsha Tomar, with 63, had the best score among the Indians. She was followed by Shagun Chowdhary (60), Rajeshwar Kumari (60) and Sharayu Dalvi (54).

Silvana Maria Stanco of Italy was ahead with 74 following rounds of 25, 25 and 24.

the Army Polo

championship at the Army Equestrian Centre, Delhi Cantonment, on Saturday.

The results (final): 61st Cavalry 7 (Vishal Chauhan 4, Ilyas Ali 2, Anant Rajpurohit) bt Army Service Corps (ASC) 3 1/2 (G.S. Pandher, handicap 2 1/2).

Live telecast of polo final

The final of the La Pegasus Northern India polo championship, featuring Garcha Group-Aravalhi Polo and Sahara Warriors, will be web-streamed with a five-second delay on Sunday, from 2.30 p.m.

The final at the Jaipur Polo ground will be preceded by an exhibition 12-goal polo match between La Pegasus Polo Knights and La

Pegasus Titans at 1 p.m.

The final can be watched on youtube and lapegasuspolo facebook.

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गुरु गोरक्षनाथ की पावन नगरी से प्रधानमंत्री किसान सम्मान निधि योजना का **शुभारम्भ** एवं जनपद गोरखपुर की **₹9888 करोड़ की विकास परियोजनाओं का लोकार्पण/शिलान्यास**



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उत्तर प्रदेश

डॉ. महेन्द्र नाथ पाण्डेय
सांसद, चन्दौली

शारद त्रिपाठी
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सांसद, गोरखपुर

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दिनांक : 24 फरवरी, 2019 | समय : पूर्वाह्न 11:00 बजे | स्थान : एफ.सी.आई. कैम्पस, गोरखपुर

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- बाबा राघवदास मेडिकल कालेज, गोरखपुर के सुपर स्पेशियलिटी हॉस्पिटल का उच्चीकरण कार्य।
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- राप्ती नगर विस्तार आवासीय योजना में 04 मंजिले सेमी फिनिशड अफोर्डेबल (जी+3) 480 एल.आई.जी. भवनों का निर्माण कार्य।