

3 out of 4
Questions every
year come from
our Red Books
since 2007

EITHER CLEAR PRELIMS OR GET 100% FEE BACK

- We guarantee you Min 70 Qs in GS Prelims 2019 from our 10 RED BOOKS for GS Pre Else your 100% Fee will be back.
- We will upload details of Qs from UPSC GS Pre 2019, that will come from these Red Books along with Page nos. on 3rd June 2019



10 RED BOOKS cover

- All Old & New NCERTs and 70+ Major Books
- News 100 - 100% coverage of Current Affairs (Jan 2018-April 2019) covering 14 Sources - PIB, Hindu, ET, HT, TOI, Mint, Manorama, IE, UNO sites etc.
- Synopsis of India Year Book 2019 & Eco Survey 2019

Includes 17 UPSC Level Tests

HIGHEST RATED GS Pre 2019 TEST SERIES

- 32 Tests, covers NCERTs, PIB & major books
- All India rank after each test among 5000+ students
- Qs exactly on UPSC lines
- Min. 40% Current Affairs Qs

Take your money back, if you don't like our Tests after three tests

VALUE FOR MONEY (2019 PRELIMS BATCH)

GS Pre
10 Red Books +
17 UPSC Level Tests
₹10,500

PT Crash Course
10 RED Books
+ 32 UPSC Level Test
₹14,700

CSAT Prelims
4 Books + 1 Advance
Level Tests Book +
5 Tests GS Pre
₹4200

crack
IAS.com
Arrow Education

crackIAS.com
921-7070707
crackiasquery@gmail.com

NEARBY



Jharkhand HC rejects Lalu Prasad's bail plea

PATNA
The Jharkhand High Court on Thursday rejected the bail petition of Rashtriya Janata Dal president Lalu Prasad in connection with three fodder scam cases. Imprisoned, Mr. Prasad is currently admitted to a government hospital in Ranchi.

NATION ▶ PAGE 7

Sedition case against Assam scholar

GUWAHATI
The Assam police on Thursday registered a case of sedition against Left-leaning scholar Hiren Gohain, 80, for allegedly saying at a public meeting that demand for sovereignty might arise if the Centre ignores the voices of the Assamese people against the Citizenship (Amendment) Bill, 2016.

NEWS ▶ PAGE 11

SCORE 300+ in PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION By G. Rajput
Video Lecture Series + booklets
BrainyIAS 8454-00000
www.brainyias.com Arrow Education

FRIDAY REVIEW ▶ 12 PAGES (TABLEO)
DELHI METRO ▶ 6 PAGES

PM-led panel moves Alok Verma out of CBI, Rao back in charge

Cites serious charges against him by CVC; Kharge submits 6-page dissent note

SANDEEP PHUKAN DEVESHWAR PANDEY

NEW DELHI

The high-power committee, headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, on Thursday removed Alok Verma as CBI Director, a day after he resumed office following the Supreme Court order that restored his position.

Congress leader in the Lok Sabha Mallikarjun Kharge, who represents the Opposition in the three-member Selection Panel, submitted a six-page dissent note. Mr. Kharge argued that Mr. Verma should be "allowed to explain himself before this committee, along with the charges made against him, prior to any decision being taken."

Majority decision
The decision to remove Mr. Verma was taken by a 2:1 majority in the three-member committee. Justice A.K. Sikri, a nominee of the Chief Justice of India, was the third member.

Reacting to the decision, Congress president Rahul Gandhi tweeted that sacking Mr. Verma twice in a row showed that "fear is now rampaging through Mr. Modi's mind."

Government sources, however, said that in the light

Hot seat

The drama at the CBI got curioser on Thursday with the high-power three-member committee deciding to transfer him out of the agency. A look at the rapid developments in the case:



Alok Verma

of the Central Vigilance Commission's report against Mr. Verma, a detailed investigation, including a criminal probe, was "necessary" and therefore, his position was untenable.

Grave charges
The panel recommended Mr. Verma's transfer after taking into account the "extremely serious nature of observation" made by the CVC against him, sources said. In

October 23, 2018: CBI Director Alok Verma directs that Special Director Rakesh Asthana, under investigation for alleged extortion and corruption, be divested of his responsibilities

October 23: On the recommendation of the CVC, Mr. Verma is divested of all functions pending inquiry. Mr. Asthana is also stripped of his powers

October 23: Interim responsibility as CBI chief given to M. Nageswara Rao, a 1986-batch Odisha cadre IPS officer

▪ Mr. Rao arrives at the CBI headquarters

a point-by-point rebuttal, Mr. Kharge argued that six of the 10 charges levelled against Mr. Verma in the CVC report "are found to be unsubstantiated/false."

However, the panel was of the opinion that Mr. Verma had been given an opportunity to present his case before the CVC, in presence of Justice A.K. Patnaik (retired).

And, until further orders, Additional Director M. Nageswara Rao has again been

appointed interim CBI Director.

The Cabinet Committee on Appointments posted Mr. Verma as Director-General, Fire Services, Civil Defence and Home Guards, for the remaining period of his term that ends on January 31.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 10
MODI ACTING IN FEAR,
SAYS RAHUL ▶ PAGE 10
VERMA REVERSED SEVERAL
TRANSFERS ▶ PAGE 10

January 9: Mr. Verma resumes office, issues orders rescinding transfers and postings made by the interim chief

January 10: Mr. Verma approves five more transfers and postings, hours before news breaks that he has been moved out of the CBI

October 24: Mr. Verma comes to know he has been divested of all responsibilities, as mentioned by his lawyer in SC

October 24: Mr. Verma's petition challenging the government order comes up in SC

January 8, 2019: SC sets aside order against Mr. Verma, reinstating him as CBI chief, albeit with certain riders

Nageswara Rao

before midnight, takes charge and remains there till morning. Orders are issued to transfer 13 officials, including those probing case against Mr. Asthana

October 24: Mr. Verma comes to know he has been divested of all responsibilities, as mentioned by his lawyer in SC

October 24: Mr. Verma's petition challenging the government order comes up in SC

January 8, 2019: SC sets aside order against Mr. Verma, reinstating him as CBI chief, albeit with certain riders

Nageswara Rao

New Bench to hear Ayodhya case as Justice Lalit opts out

Hearing on appeals has now been adjourned to January 29

KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL

NEW DELHI

The appeals in the Ayodhya title suits remained a non-starter on Thursday, with one of the five judges on the Constitution Bench opting to quit the case.

Justice U.U. Lalit chose to bow out after senior advocate Rajeev Dhawan, appearing for the Uttar Pradesh Central Sunni Waqf Board, pointed out that the judge had appeared for the Kalyan Singh government in 1997 in connection with a criminal contempt case linked to the Ramjanamboomi-Babri Masjid dispute.

Senior advocate Harish Salve, for some of the Hindu appellants, said the contempt case in which Justice Lalit had appeared was not in any way linked to the main suit appeals on the Ayodhya land dispute.

However, Chief Justice of India Ranjan Gogoi, after a brief consultation with Justice Lalit and other judges on the Bench, observed that "the question is not about whether the case he [Justice Lalit] appeared in is part of the main case or not; Justice Lalit is of the opinion that he should not be a part of this proceedings."

Mr. Dhavan said it was entirely Justice Lalit's call and he had only brought a fact to



For a speedy hearing: Mahant Dharam Das of the Nirmohi Akhara and his supporters in New Delhi on Thursday, seeking speedy hearing of the Ayodhya case. ■ R.V. MOORTHY

the attention of the court.

With this unexpected development, the Bench adjourned the case to January 29 to fix the time and schedule for future hearings.

The court said the entire gamut of four separate suits in the title dispute involves 120 issues which were framed for trial, and the case records span the depositions of 88 witnesses running into 13,886 pages and 257 documents. Both the depositions and the documents are in various languages, including Persian, Sanskrit, Arabic, Gurumukhi, Urdu and Hindi.

Mammoth task
Meanwhile, the Bench gave the Supreme Court Registry the herculean task to "physically examine" the entire case records - lying inside 15

COURT ASKS REGISTRY TO VET RECORDS ▶ PAGE 11
NOT JUST A 'CIVIL CASE'
ANY MORE ▶ PAGE 11

Tax, compliance burden eased for small businesses

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

The GST Council, in its meeting on Thursday, decided on a series of measures that will ease the tax and compliance burden for small businesses. Henceforth, companies with annual turnover up to ₹40 lakh will stay out of the GST net (₹20 lakh earlier).

In the case of companies in the northeastern and hill States, the limit has been doubled to ₹20 lakh.

The annual turnover limit for eligibility for the Composition Scheme has also been raised to ₹1.5 crore from April 1. From that date, companies eligible for the Composition Scheme can file annual returns and pay taxes quarterly.

The Confederation of All India Traders said in a statement that the increase in limit would allow about 10 lakh traders to be exempt from the GST compliance

Tax breather



▪ GST exemption limit raised to ₹40 lakh annual turnover from ₹20 lakh

▪ Composition Scheme eligibility limit raised to ₹1.5 crore annual

turnover from April 1

▪ Such companies are allowed to file annual GST returns

▪ Composition Scheme at 6% rate extended to service providers with turnover below ₹50 lakh

▪ Kerala allowed to impose cess for disaster relief at up to 1% for a maximum of two years

DETAILED REPORT ON ▶ PAGE 13

'Adultery, homosexuality not acceptable in Army'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

Adultery and homosexuality have been decriminalised in the country by the Supreme Court, but the Army is "conservative" and they will not be allowed to "perpetuate into the Army," Army chief General Bipin Rawat said on Thursday.

"It is hard to argue in these times. But the armed forces find huge resonance in the conservative actions of our society. The Army is conservative. We have neither modernised nor Westernised... We can still take action against people. But we will not allow this to perpetuate into the Army. This cannot be allowed to happen. It is a very serious thing," Gen. Rawat said at

the annual press conference ahead of the Army Day on January 15.

He said a soldier on the border could not be worried and he had to be "reasonably assured that his family is being cared for."

Last year, the court decriminalised adultery as well as homosexuality.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 10
'NO CHANGE IN STAND ON TALIBAN' ▶ PAGE 11

10% economic quota Bill challenged

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

The 10% economic reservation Bill was challenged in the Supreme Court on Thursday, just 24 hours after it was swiftly piloted through both Houses of Parliament. The petition, filed by Youth For Equality, contended that the Bill violates the basic features of the Constitution and contradicts several Supreme Court judgments protecting the fundamental rights.

The petition contended that the court, in a nine-judge Bench judgment in the Indira Sawhney case, had settled the law that economic backwardness could not be the sole basis for reservation.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 10

STATES' APPROVAL NOT NEEDED ▶ PAGE 10

Sheila appointed Delhi Congress president

DAMINI NATH

JATIN ANAND

NEW DELHI

Congress chief Rahul Gandhi on Thursday appointed

former Chief Minister Sheila Dikshit as the Delhi Pradesh Congress Committee chief,

days after Ajay Maken resigned from the post citing ill

health. She will be assisted by three working presidents — Devenver Yadav, Haroon Yusuf and Rajesh Lilotia.

DETAILS ▶ DELHI METRO PAGE 1



Synergy

Study Point

UPSC / MPSC COACHING

UPSC Mock Interview

BY 5 MEMBER PANEL

<div style="text-align: right;

OBITUARY &

REMEMBRANCE

DEATH ANNIVERSARIES

First Anniversary



Mrs. Bhuvana Balasubramanian

Born : 12-02-1944 Died : 11-01-2018

In fond memory of

A beautiful Wife and Partner

An awesome Mother and

Mother-in-law and

a loving Sister and

a cool cum loving grandmother

Balasubramanian & Family

DEATH



SRI.R. RANGANATHAN (76 yrs)

Ex. AMCO Batteries

Attained Sivalokaprapti on 10.01.2019 ; 12.45am

Last rites performed on 10.01.2019.

Mourned by:

Wife: Smt. Savitri Ranganathan (990192452 / 044-24741156)

Nephews: Kasthuri Rangan (9444040440) M.V.Ramachandran (9566195830)

Col.M.V. Kumar (Retd) (9740748080)

Sister, Smt. Sankari Viswanathan (9443668965)

For enquiries on
announcements in this
section, please contact our
office at the following number
between 10a.m. and 8p.m.
New Delhi : 011- 43579797

Rate for New Delhi:

(Minimum Rs. 290/- 2 Lines

Extra Line - Rs.145/-)

(B/W Display): Rs.50/Per Sq.cm

(Clr Display): Rs.60/Per Sq.cm

Log on to
www.thehinduads.comFor Placing Advertisements
Online

Bengal to pull out of Centre's health scheme

Mamata accuses NDA govt. of 'playing dirty politics'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

KRISHNAGAR (W.B.)

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Thursday announced that the State was pulling out of the Centre's Ayushman Bharat scheme, accusing the Narendra Modi-led NDA government of "playing dirty politics" under the garb of the health coverage programme.

A top government official said that the Trinamool Congress government has writ-

ten to the Centre to notify about its decision to withdraw from the scheme.

per family per year. The expenses incurred are to be shared between the Centre and the State in 60:40 ratio.

The TMC supremo alleged that the Prime Minister was "politicising" the health scheme by sending letters about its provisions to every household of the State with his picture and a lotus symbol on top.

The Centre is "using" post offices to dispatch these letters, she said.

28 lakh litres of water pumped out of mine

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
SHILLONG

Personnel from multi-agencies used high-powered pumps to drain out 28 lakh litres of water from the main shaft where 15 miners are trapped, but Navy divers on Thursday found no change in the water level in the rat-hole mine to resume search operation, officials said.

Operation spokesperson R. Susngi said the Navy has conducted searches in at least six mines, including in the main shaft, for the trapped diggers, but there has been no success.

SOUTH DELHI MUNICIPAL CORPORATION

Department of Veterinary Services
17th Floor, Dr. S.P. Mukherjee Civic Centre Jawahar Lal Nehru Marg,
New Delhi -11002, TEL NO. 011-23226725, 011-23226726
(Press Notice)

NIT NO. 312/ADVS-II/ SDMC/2019 Dated: 10.01.2019
NOTICE FOR INVITATION OF TENDER FOR FABRICATION &
INSTALLATION OF HYDRAULIC LIFT OF EIGHT (8) TATA LPT 909 CNG
BS-IV CABIN CHASIS TO BE USED AS HYDRAULIC CATTLE CATCHING
TRUCKS.

The South Delhi Municipal Corporation invites sealed tenders in two Parts (Technical & Financial bids) from the fabricators of vehicles/Automobile Body fabricators/manufacturers of vehicles for the work of fabrication and installation of hydraulic lift of 08 (EIGHT) TATA LPT 909 CNG BS-IV cabin chassis to be used as Hydraulic Cattle Catching Trucks as per the requirements and specifications given in the tender document, Schedule of tender is as under:-

1. Date for downloading/Physical sale of tender w.e.f. 14.01.2019 to 04.02.2019 up to 4.00 pm
2. Pre Bid meeting 21.01.2019 at 11.00 am
3. Last date & time for submission of tender document 05.02.2019 up to 03.00 pm
4. Time & date for opening of Technical Bids : 05.02.2019 at 03:30 pm
5. Tender document can be purchased from the office of Additional Director (VS-II), Department of Veterinary Services, South Delhi Municipal Corporation, 17th Floor, Dr. S.P. Mukherjee Civic Centre, Jawahar Lal Nehru Marg, New Delhi 110002 on payment of Rs. 1500/- (Rs. One Thousand five hundred only) (Non Refundable)- to be paid through demand draft in favour of "Commissioner, South Delhi Municipal Corporation" payable at New Delhi/Delhi.
6. Tender Document can also be downloaded from South Delhi Municipal Corporation's (SDMC) website www.mcdonline.gov.in and must be submitted with a demand draft of Rs. 1500/- towards tender fee through demand draft/s issued in favour of "Commissioner, South Delhi Municipal Corporation" towards cost of tender document.
7. Any amendment/corrigendum, if required, shall be displayed only on South Delhi Municipal Corporation website i.e. www.mcdonline.gov.in and no separate public notice shall be issued in the newspapers. Accordingly, all applicants/bidders are requested to see the SDMC website regularly.

Sd/-
RO. No. 157/DPI/S/2018-2019
Additional Director (VS-II)

In memory of your loved ones
To dedicate a space in this section, Please contact:
011-43579797
from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. &
For Placing Advertisements Online log on to
www.thehinduads.com

DONATE EYES-GIFT SIGHT

Chief Engineer (HZ) HPPWD Hamirpur -177001

(Name of Authority Inviting Bids)

NOTICE INVITING TENDER (NIT)

The Chief Engineer (HZ), HPPWD, Hamirpur on behalf of Governor of Himachal Pradesh invites the percentage rate/item rate bids, in electronic tendering system, for construction of roads under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana for each of the following works including their maintenance (as shown against each work) for five years from the eligible and approved contractors registered with HPPWD/CPWD/P&T/Railways/other State Govt./Central Govt agencies. Non-registered may submit the bids. However successful bidder has to register in appropriate class with appropriate authority in HPPWD

Sr. No.	Name of Dist/ Name of Div	Package No.	Name of the work	Period of Construc- tion in Days	Estimated Cost (Rs. Lakh) Construc- tion part	Total Cost (Rs. Lakh) Main- tenance part	Bid security (Rs. Lakh)	
1.	Una/Bangana	HP-12-130	Upgradation of L-058 UAM road to Harot Road from Km. 0/000 to 15/60 under PMGSY Package No. HP-12-130 (SH: Formation cutting & filing, C/O Retaining wall , Breast wall , Cross drainage works, Metalling Tarring Cold Mix New Technology, C/o PCC Drain Parapets and P/F PMGSY logo board, Km. stone including five year maintenance)	540	845.63	77.75	923.38	18.48
2.	Una/Bangana	HP-12-134	Upgradation of L-052 Una Barera Road from Km. 0/000 to 13/800 under PMGSY Package No. HP-12-134 (SH: Formation cutting & filing, C/O Retaining wall , Breast wall , Cross drainage works, Metalling Tarring Cold Mix New Technology, cement concrete pavement, C/o PCC Drain Parapets and P/F PMGSY logo board, Km. stone including five year maintenance)	540	963.16	71.25	1034.41	20.69
3.	Una/Una	HP-12-143	Up gradation of Una to Ajoluji road (T-04) from km.0/0 to 18/200 Under PMGSY-Batch-I (2018-19) Package No. HP-12-143 (SH: Formation cutting, Retaining wall, Breast wall, Cross drainage structures, Metalling Tarring, cement concrete precast concrete paver block , PCC Drain Parapets and Road Furniture including five year maintenance)	540	1168.03	93.96	1262.00	25.24
4.	Una/Una	HP-12-146	Up gradation of Panjawai Bathi road to Lalheri (L-039) from km. 0/0 to 5/500 Under PMGSY-Batch-I (2018-19) Package No. HP-12-146 (SH: Formation cutting ,Retaining wall , Breast wall , Cross drainage structures, Metalling Tarring, cement concrete precast concrete paver block , PCC Drain Parapets and Road Furniture including five year maintenance)	540	320.09	28.40	348.49	6.97
5.	Una/Una	HP-12-147	Up gradation of Panjawai Bathi road to Bitan (L-033) from km. 0/0 to 10/900 Under PMGSY – Batch-I (2018-19) Package No. HP-12-147 (SH: Formation cutting, Retaining wall , Breast wall , Cross drainage structures, Metalling Tarring, cement concrete precast concrete paver block , PCC Drain Parapets and Road Furniture including five year maintenance)	540	577.32	56.28	633.60	12.67
6.	Una/Una	HP-12-148	Up gradation of Rajpu Barana road to Abada Barana (L-038) from km. 0/0 to 4/600 Under PMGSY-Batch-I (2018-19) Package No. HP-12-148 (SH: Formation cutting, Retaining wall , Breast wall , Cross drainage structures, Metalling Tarring, cement concrete precast concrete paver block , PCC Drain Parapets and Road Furniture including five year maintenance)	540	260.12	23.75	283.87	5.68
7.	Una/Una	HP-12-149	Up gradation of Una Ajoluji road to Charatgarh Upperti (L-035) from km. 0/0 to 3/10 Under PMGSY-Batch-I (2018-19) Package No. HP-12-149 (SH:Formation cutting ,Retaining wall , Breast wall , Cross drainage structures, Metalling Tarring, cement concrete precast concrete paver block , PCC Drain Parapets and Road Furniture including five year maintenance)	540	204.50	21.24	225.75	4.52
8.	Una/Una	HP-12-150	Up gradation of Behdala to Jakhera (L-029) from km. 0/0 to 4/815 Under PMGSY – Batch-I (2018-19) Package No. HP-12-150 (SH: Formation cutting ,Retaining wall , Breast wall , Cross drainage structures, Metalling Tarring , cement concrete precast concrete paver block , PCC Drain Parapets and Road Furniture including five year maintenance)	540	266.64	24.86	291.50	5.83
9.	Una/Bharwain	HP-12-153	Upgradation of Parjha Kalan to Katour Khurd (L-041) from Km. 0/0 to 2/955 Under PMGSY Package No. HP-12-153 (SH: Formation cutting ,Retaining wall , Breast wall , Cross drainage structures, Metalling Tarring, cement concrete precast concrete paver block , PCC Drain Parapets and Road sign board including five year maintenance)	365	162.20	16.48	178.68	3.57
10.	Una/Bharwain	HP-12-154	Upgradation of T05 NH-70 Thapan (L-09) from Km. 0/0 to 8/900 Under PMGSY Package No. HP-12-154 (SH: Formation cutting ,Retaining wall , Breast wall , Cross drainage structures, Metalling Tarring , cement concrete precast concrete paver block , PCC Drain Parapets and Road Furniture including five year maintenance)	540	521.69	49.62	571.26	11.42

2. Date of release of Invitation for Bids through e-procurement: 15-01-2019
3. Cost of Bid Form: Rs.5000/- (non-refundable) only for each work in form of Demand Draft in favour of Executive Engineer , HPPWD/Div. Ura).
4. Availability of Bid Document and mode of submission: The bid document is available online and bid should be submitted online on website www.pmgstenders.gov.in. The bidder would be required to register in the web-site which is free of cost. For submission of bids, the bidder is required to have valid Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) from one of the authorized Certifying Authorities (CA). Aspiring bidders who have not obtained the user ID and password for participating in e-tendering in PMGSY may obtain the same from the website: www.pmgstenders.gov.in. Digital signature is mandatory to participate in the e-tendering. Bidders already possessing the valid digital signature issued from authorized CAs can use the same in this tender.
- * Non-registered bidders may submit bids; however, the successful bidders must get registered in appropriate class with appropriate authorities before signing the contract.
5. Submission of Original Documents: The bidders are required to submit (a) original Demand Draft towards the cost of bid document and (b) original bid security in approved form and (c) original affidavit regarding correctness of information furnished with bid document as per provisions of Clause 4.4B(a) (ii) of ITB Superintending Engineer, 15th Circle, HPPWD, Una, H.P., 174303 (address and details of office where to be submitted), on a date not later than three working days after the opening of technical qualification part of the Bid, either by registered post or by hand.
6. Last Date/Time for receipt of bids through e-tendering: 30-01-2019 up to 1030 Hours (time) 1030 hours.
7. Only online submission of bids is permitted; therefore, bids must be submitted online on website www.pmgstenders.gov.in. The technical qualification part of the bids will be opened online at 1100 Hours (time) on 30-01-2019 (date) in the office Superintending Engineer, 15th Circle, HPPWD, Una, H.P., 174303 by the authorized officers. If the office happens to be closed on the date of opening of the bids, the bids will be opened online on the next working day at the same time.
8. The bidder is not required to quote his rate for routine maintenance. The rates to be paid for routine maintenance are indicated in the Bill of Quantities. Further, the payment for routine maintenance to the contractor shall be regulated based on his performance of maintenance activities.
- * The maintenance shall not be carried out by the aspirant bidders for packages against which Nil amount has been shown in maintenance part column.
9. The bids for the work shall remain valid for acceptance for a period not less than ninety days after the deadline date for bid submission.
10. Bidders may bid for any one or more of the works mentioned in the Table above. To qualify for a package of contracts made up of this and other contracts for which bids are invited in the same NIT, the bidder must demonstrate having experience and resources sufficient to meet the aggregate of the qualifying criteria for the individual contracts.
11. Other details can be seen in the bidding documents. The Employer shall not be held liable for any delays due to system failure beyond its control. Even though the system will attempt to notify the bidders of any bid updates, the Employer shall not be liable for any information not received by the bidder. It is the bidder's responsibility to verify the website for the latest information related to the tender.

For further details please log on to <http://pmgstenders.gov.in>Shri D.S. Dehalvi
Superintending Engineer
15th Circle, H.P.P.W.D., Una-174303.

Bengal to pull out of Centre's health scheme

Mamata accuses NDA govt. of 'playing dirty politics'

ten to the Centre to notify about its decision to withdraw from the scheme.

The expenses incurred

are to be shared between the Centre and the State in 60:40 ratio.

The TMC supremo alleged that the Prime Minister was "politicising" the health scheme by sending letters about its provisions to every household of the State with his picture and a lotus symbol on top.

The Centre is "using" post offices to dispatch these letters, she said.

TENDERS

AAI Cargo Logistics & Allied Services Company Ltd

NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER (e-Bid No.: 2019 AAI 202651). AAICLAS invites item rate tenders through CPP portal by Jt. General Manager (E-E) on behalf of Chairman AAICLAS from eligible contractors for the work of "Facility Management Contract for HVAC Air-Conditioning plants of 3x100 TR, 2x150 TR AC Plants at Megalingam Cargo Complex (Phase-I & II) & 3x300 TR Integrated Cargo Complex (Phase-III), Old & New Import Cold Storage and Export Cold Storage etc. at Air Cargo Complex, Chennai Airport, Chennai at an estimated cost of Rs. 1.34,21,04,00 with a period of completion 24 (Twenty Four) months. Last date and time of submission of e-bid document is 21.01.2019 up to 1800 Hours. For detailed

DELHI Timings	
SATURDAY, JAN. 11	
RISE 07:15 SET 17:43	
RISE 10:36 SET 22:20	
SATURDAY, JAN. 12	
RISE 07:15 SET 17:44	
RISE 11:09 SET 23:12	
SUNDAY, JAN. 13	
RISE 07:15 SET 17:45	
RISE 11:42 SET 00:00	

Delhi Weather	max	min
Delhi City	21	06
Safdarjung	21	06
Palam	21	06

Delhi Palam Today
21°C A partly cloudy sky and dry weather would prevail. Pollution level to remain unhealthy.

Delhi Palam Tomorrow
21°C Shallow fog is likely in many parts. Rise in night temperatures is likely. Partly cloudy sky is likely.

© Copyright Skymet Weather 2018
All rights reserved.

IN BRIEF



Headmaster suspended over comment on CM

JABALPUR (M.P.)
The headmaster of a government school here was suspended on Thursday for allegedly making derogatory remarks against Chief Minister Kamal Nath. Jabalpur District Collector Chhavi Bharadwaj suspended Mukesh Tiwari for the remarks made at a school meeting two days ago. PTI

Kuldeep Singh Rathore new Himachal Cong. chief
NEW DELHI
Senior Congress leader Kuldeep Singh Rathore was on Thursday appointed the president of the party's Himachal unit, replacing Sukhwinder Singh Sukhu. Congress chief Rahul Gandhi cleared his appointment. PTI

Jind bypoll set for a quadrangular contest

INLD, JJP fight for Devi Lal's legacy; Congress, BJP look to boost confidence ahead of Lok Sabha polls

VIKAS VASUDEVA
CHANDIGARH

The stage is set for a four-cornered contest in the Jind bypoll in Haryana, slated for January 28, with candidates of the Bharatiya Janata Party, Congress, Indian National Lok Dal and recently formed Jannayak Janta Party filing their nominations on Thursday.

While the ruling BJP has fielded Krishan Middha, son of late Hari Chand Middha who represented Jind as an INLD legislator, the Congress move to field Kaithal MLA and AICC in-charge of Communication Randeep Singh Surjewala is being seen by political observers as a sign that the party's central leadership is taking the bypoll seriously and is will-

ing to take calculated risk ahead of the parliamentary election.

With an aim to retain the seat, the INLD had fielded Umed Singh Redhu while the Jannayak Janta Party, which was launched last month after a split in the INLD, has announced Digvijay Singh Chautala, the grandson of former Chief Minister and INLD's national president Om Prakash Chautala, as its candidate.

The fight between the INLD and the JJP, who are fighting to claim the legacy of Chaudhary Devi Lal, the founder of the INLD, is expected to settle with the Jind contest. "The family war [INLD versus JJP] would come to an end in this Assembly by-election itself as



JJP candidate Digvijay Singh Chautala. ■ FILE PHOTO

people would decide which faction would inherit Chaudhary Devi Lal's legacy," said Ashutosh Kumar, professor of Political Science at Punjab University.

The bypoll to the Jind seat was necessitated after Hari Chand Middha passed away in August last year.

Riding high on confidence after sweeping the recent municipal polls in the State, the ruling BJP would like to wrest the seat from the INLD in the bypoll, while the Congress, with its newfound confidence after the recent wins in the Assembly polls in three States, would want to prove its mass base in the Jat heartland.

'Calculated risk'

"The nomination of Randeep Surjewala shows AICC president Rahul Gandhi's attempt to assert himself and again take a calculated risk; a win in the bypoll would be a phenomenal boost for the

party. Jind is a Jat-dominated region and being a Jat, Mr. Surjewala would help the Congress woo the voters," said Mr. Kumar.

"Not only this, by fielding Surjewala, the high command has given a clear signal to both Bhupinder Singh Hooda [former CM] and Ashok Tanwar [Haryana Congress president] to put a halt to the internecine factional battle. Mr. Surjewala, if he wins the election, could be a strong contender for the post of the Chief Minister. There's a good chance it's the reason he has consented to fight this bypoll," added Mr. Kumar.

For the BJP, the bypoll result would be a litmus test of its popularity ahead of the Lok Sabha polls, he said.

Speaker accuses Rajasthan govt. of flouting parliamentary rules

Says CM didn't consult him before calling Assembly session

MOHAMMED IQBAL
JAIPUR

Rajasthan's outgoing Assembly Speaker Kailash Meghwal on Thursday took exception to the Congress government calling the new Assembly's first session on a short notice.

He alleged that the ruling party had flouted parliamentary rules and traditions by not discussing the matter with him. Mr. Meghwal said at a press conference here that the State government did not adhere to the rule of issuing notice 21 days prior to summoning of the Assembly session and directly wrote a letter to Governor of the

Kalyan Singh on January 8 to convene the first session of the new Assembly on January 15. He said he received the Governor's order on Wednesday afternoon.

'Mandatory condition'

"The Chief Minister or the Parliamentary Affairs Minister did not consult me before this. A formal discussion with me is a mandatory condition under the rules," said Mr. Meghwal, 84, a BJP MLA from Shahpura seat.

He said he would not summon the Assembly's first session in these circumstances and added that he had apprised the Governor of the

matter.

A pro tem Speaker will administer the oath of office to the newly elected members of the House and the new Speaker will be elected in the first session of the 15th Legislative Assembly. The new Assembly was constituted on December 12 after the announcement of election results on December 11.

Mr. Meghwal said he was not in favour of convening the Assembly against the rules. "I will not become party to an unconstitutional tradition. Besides, security arrangements cannot be made in the House at this fast speed," he said.

He said he would not summon the Assembly's first session in these circumstances and added that he had apprised the Governor of the

He said he would not summon the Assembly's first session in these circumstances and added that he had apprised the Governor of the

While one judge wanted a fresh notice to be issued to

Mr. Hooda, the second judge wanted a new commission to be set up, according to Haryana Advocate General Baldev Raj Mahajan.

Accordingly, the ruling was referred to the Chief Justice of the High Court so that a three-judge bench can be set up to resolve the differences.

HC upholds Dhingra panel appointment

Finds irregularities in serving notice to Hooda; verdict split on next course of action

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
CHANDIGARH

The Punjab and Haryana High Court on Thursday gave a split verdict on the procedure adopted in issuing notice to Bhupinder Singh Hooda by the S.N. Dhingra Commission constituted to look into alleged illegalities in the grant of land-use li-

cences during the former Chief Minister's regime.

The split verdict was given by a bench of Justices Ajay Kumar Mittal and Anupinder Singh Grewal. While one judge quashed the report and directed no action against Mr. Hooda, the other held the report as "non est".

The Bench ruled that

though there was no malafide in setting up of the commission in 2015, there were procedural irregularities in issuing notice under Section 8 B of the Commissions of Inquiry Act to Mr. Hooda by the one-man commission headed by Justice (retd.) Dhingra.

While one judge wanted a fresh notice to be issued to

Mr. Hooda, the second judge wanted a new commission to be set up, according to Haryana Advocate General Baldev Raj Mahajan.

Accordingly, the ruling was referred to the Chief Justice of the High Court so that a three-judge bench can be set up to resolve the differences.

J&K people to decide my next course of action: Faesal

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
SRINAGAR

A day after quitting the Indian Administrative Service, Shah Faesal, who topped the exam in 2010, said his next course of action will depend on what the people of Kashmir, especially the youth, want him to do.

Mr. Faesal said he received both abuse and adulation over his decision to quit the government service but he had "totally expected this".

"As of now I have quit the service. What I am going to do hereafter also depends on what people of Kashmir want me to do. More so the youth," he wrote in a Facebook post.

Mr. Faesal asked people if they have any ideas for him before he takes a final decision about his future.

"If you are ready to come out of FB/Twitter and show up in Srinagar tomorrow [Friday], we could think this through together. My choice of politics will be decided by real people not FB likes and comments," Mr. Faesal added.

The MBBS degree holder said he would share the venue details after he knows who all are coming to meet him. "Let's see out of those hundreds and thousands how many are ready to walk the talk. Type yes in the comments below," he wrote.

You are cordially invited

An excellent platform to interact with premium builders from Kolkata at C. R. Park Poush Mela 2019. Don't miss this opportunity to book your dream apartment in The City of Joy

THE HINDU
Presents
Bengal
Property Fair-2019

STARTS TODAY

Date: 11th January, 2019
5 pm onwards
12th & 13th January, 2019
10.30 am to 9.00 pm

Venue: 45th Poush Mela, 2019
C. R. Park Bangiya Samaj
Swami Vivekananda Mela
Ground, C. R. Park, Delhi

Participants: Joyville, Devalok, Shriram, Primarc, Ambuja Neotia, Tata Housing

For further information contact: 9836624935 / 9883188141

'State portability under PDS to be strengthened'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

JAIPUR
The Congress government in Rajasthan will strengthen the State portability under the public distribution system to enable the beneficiaries to get commodities from any fair price shop and appoint more ration dealers to fill up the vacancies.

Food and Civil Supplies Minister Ramesh Chand Meena said here on Thursday that a social audit of fair

price shops would be carried out twice every year to ensure their proper functioning. Besides, a survey will be conducted for supply of kerosene to the families not having the electricity and liquefied petroleum gas connections.

Mr. Meena said the State government would procure 17.5 lakh metric tonnes of wheat from the farmers on minimum support price for the PDS.

AIMA
ALL INDIA MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION

Entrance test for MBA/PGDM courses of 270+ B-Schools

Management Aptitude Test MAT FEBRUARY 2019

For all Graduates / Final Year Students

PAPER BASED TEST (PBT)
Registration ends: 08 Feb 2019
Test Date : 17 Feb 2019

COMPUTER BASED TEST (CBT)
Registration ends: 12 Feb 2019
Test Date : 23 Feb 2019

FEES
For PBT or CBT: ₹1550/- For Both PBT and CBT: ₹2650/-

REGISTER NOW! ► <https://mat.aima.in>
Helpline +91 11 47673020, 8130338839
Previous MAT Candidates can apply again

BM-II DIVISION, CIVIL ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT NEW DELHI MUNICIPAL COUNCIL
322, 3RD FLOOR, SHAHEED BHAGAT SINGH PLACE, GOLE MARKET, NEW DELHI-110001
e-procurement Tender Notice
Tender ID No. 2019_NDMC_165557_1
Subject: A/R & M/O building in BM-II division during 2018-2019.
Sub-Head: Distempering, painting work for flats at Palki Milan Housing Complex.
Estimated cost: ₹7,77,646.00
Date of release of tender through e-procurement solution : 10.01.2019
Last date/time for receipt of tenders through e-procurement solution : 18.01.2019 at 4:00 PM
Further details can be seen at <https://www.govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in>
Note: (i) To participate in e-tender in NDMC registration with application services provider (NIC) is mandatory.
(ii) Kindly note that any change shall be communicated only through e-procurement system.
EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (BM-II)

GS Geography
Module By : Neetu Singh
Physical Geography Class Begin
India & World 18th, Jan.
DIRECTION 14A/103, KAROL BAGH, N.DELHI-05
PH : 2519862-872

NEXT IAS
BIG LEARNINGS MADE EASY
AN INITIATIVE OF MADE EASY GROUP • UNDER THE GUIDANCE OF MR. B. SINGH (CMD, MADE EASY GROUP)

Open Session
“CSAT: How to clear with minimum effort”
Trend analysis and Strategy for CSAT 2019
Time : 1 to 4 PM | Date : 12th January (Saturday)
Venue : Old Rajinder Nagar Centre

CSAT Classroom Programme for CSE 2019
New Batch from 14th Jan, 2019 at Old Rajinder Nagar
120+ hours of exhaustive classroom sessions.
Includes comprehensive reference study material.
Course designed strictly as per UPSC trends.
Includes Test Series (10 Full Syllabus Tests).

General Studies Prelims Specific Batch for CSE 2019
New Batch from 14th Feb, 2019 at Saket Centre
80 days course with 4 to 5 hours of classes per day.
Targeted, focused and current based approach.
All classes by renowned and experienced faculties.
Includes 10 Full Syllabus Tests for G.S. (Prelims).

NEXT IAS Centres
Old Rajinder Nagar Centre (Delhi) | Saket Centre (Delhi) | info@nextias.com | Ph : 011-49858612, 8800338066 | www.nextias.com | Ph : 011-45124642, 8800776445 | @nextias | /c/NEXTIAS | /Next-IAS-1

4 WEST

DELI THE HINDU
FRIDAY, JANUARY 11, 2019

NCP launches 2019 election campaign from Raigad Fort

It was from here that BJP had started its campaign in 2014

ALOK DESHPANDE
MAHAD

Giving a call for an inclusive united front against the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and Shiv Sena, the Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) launched its campaign for the 2019 elections on Thursday from Raigad Fort, the capital of Maratha warrior king Chhatrapati Shivaji's kingdom. The NCP also held its first public rally in Mahad, the place where Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar began the satyagraha in 1927 demanding the right for untouchables to drink water from Chavdar lake and burnt copies of Manusmriti.

'Will save people'
"Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj successfully challenged the authoritarian regime of Delhi. He was not alone, people from all castes and religions joined him. Our fight too is with the dictatorial government in Delhi, which is destroying all institutions of the country. We have a task to save the country, save the people," said former deputy Chief Minister and senior NCP leader Chhagan Bhujbal, addressing the public rally in Mahad.

It isn't a coincidence that the BJP in 2014 too had launched its poll campaign in the State from Raigad fort in the presence of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, with the slogan of 'leke Chhatrapati ka ashirwad, chalo chale Modi ke saath' (Let's walk with Modi with blessings from Chhatrapati).

The NCP has named its campaign as 'Nirdhar Parivartnancha' (Determination to bring change). "This cam-



Poll bugle: NCP workers at Raigad Fort in Mahad at the launch of Parivartan Yatra on Thursday. ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

paign will send a clear message to the ruling parties that an united Congress and NCP is determined to bring change in the State and Centre," said Leader of Opposition in the Legislative Council Dhananjay Munde. Earlier in the day, the par-

t's senior leadership offered floral tributes at the statue of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj in the fort and later at the mausoleum of his mother Jijabai. The party ensured the presence of all senior leaders for this program, and the one at Chavdar lake.

'Seat-sharing talks inconclusive'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
MUMBAI

The seat-sharing talks between Congress chief Rahul Gandhi and NCP supremo Sharad Pawar remained inconclusive as there was no consensus on the eight Lok Sabha constituencies in Maharashtra, a senior NCP leader said here on Thursday.

According to the leader, who is privy to the talks, Congress general secretary Mallikarjun Kharge and senior NCP leader Praful Patel would hold the next round of talks.

His comments follow claims that alongwith some smaller allies Congress would contest 25 of 48 seats in the State.

The eight Lok Sabha seats in Maharashtra on which the two parties are

yet to reach an agreement include Yavatmal, Washim, Buldhana, Nandurbar, Raver and Ahmednagar, he said. Also, a consensus could not be reached whether to swap/share the Ratnagiri-Sindhudurg and Pune seats.

Mr. Gandhi met Mr. Pawar at the latter's 6 Janpath residence in New Delhi on Wednesday to discuss seat-sharing and other issues ahead of the 2019 Lok Sabha polls.

His comments follow claims that alongwith some smaller allies Congress would contest 25 of 48 seats in the State.

Mr. Tatkare said the Parivartan tour is aimed at giving local citizens an option to choose how development is brought to their region. "I will do what party tells me to do. My past is behind me and I am ready to accept any future challenge," he said.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NAGPUR

Former Maharashtra chief minister Prithviraj Chavan on Thursday said since the BJP "failed" to bring development, it has raked up the Ram temple issue in an election year, but people will not get misled by such tactics.

Mr. Chavan was speaking to reporters in Nagpur where the Congress began the fifth leg of its Janasangharsh Yatra to highlight failures of the central and State governments.

"The BJP has no issues. It has failed on the development front and hence, has raised the Ram temple issue just six months before the elections. But, the public won't be misled," he said.

Asked if the Ram temple issue and reservation for general category poor were meant to divert attention from the Rafale jet deal row, Mr. Chavan said, "The Rafale issue is in the Supreme Court



Ready to battle: Maharashtra Congress leader Prithviraj Chavan at Deekshabhoomi at the launch of Janasangharsh Yatra from Nagpur to Gadchiroli on Thursday. ■ SUDARSHAN

and the public is very well aware of it."

"Whatever the government may do, the issue is not going to fade and truth will ultimately come out," Mr. Chavan said.

To a query on the impact of 10% reservation to the poor people from the general category on elections, he

said its affect on polls will be seen later.

"The Bill has been passed but there is no clarity on its impact on Maharashtra, especially on the debate over Maratha reservation. We will able to comment only when the State government clarifies on the impact of the 10% quota in the state," he said.

Constitution facing danger: Mukul Wasnik

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NAGPUR

Congress general secretary Mukul Wasnik on Thursday alleged that if the Indian Constitution was facing any danger or challenge from anyone, it was from the Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

"At the start of our Janasangharsh Yatra, I want to say that Narendra Modi took charge as Prime Minister by taking an oath to abide by the Indian Constitution. But today, if the Constitution is facing any danger or challenge from anyone, then it is from PM Modi," he said. "We will go to every town and village for the protection of the Constitution," he said.

BJP failed to bring development, raked up Ram temple: Chavan

Congress launches fifth leg of Janasangharsh Yatra to highlight BJP's failures

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NAGPUR

Former Maharashtra chief minister Prithviraj Chavan on Thursday said since the BJP "failed" to bring development, it has raked up the Ram temple issue in an election year, but people will not get misled by such tactics.

Mr. Chavan was speaking to reporters in Nagpur where the Congress began the fifth leg of its Janasangharsh Yatra to highlight failures of the central and State governments.

"The BJP has no issues. It has failed on the development front and hence, has raised the Ram temple issue just six months before the elections. But, the public won't be misled," he said.

Asked if the Ram temple issue and reservation for general category poor were meant to divert attention from the Rafale jet deal row, Mr. Chavan said, "The Rafale issue is in the Supreme Court

and the public is very well aware of it."

"Whatever the government may do, the issue is not going to fade and truth will ultimately come out," Mr. Chavan said.

To a query on the impact

of 10% reservation to the poor people from the general category on elections, he

said its affect on polls will be seen later.

"The Bill has been passed but there is no clarity on its impact on Maharashtra, especially on the debate over Maratha reservation. We will able to comment only when the State government clarifies on the impact of the 10% quota in the state," he said.

Leopard cub tortured by villagers, dies

They dragged the cub by its tail, took 'selfies', flung it around: forest official

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
GONDIA

In a shocking incident, a six-month-old leopard cub, which was dragged and injured by locals in Maharashtra, has succumbed to the assault.

A video of the incident, at Koylari village near the Navegaon-Nagzira Tiger Reserve in Gondia forest division of Vidarbha region, has gone viral on social media platforms.

Forest officials said three

persons have been arrested in connection with what appears to be a barbaric torture of the wild cat.

The weakened cub, which was rescued on January 6, died the next day during treatment at Kohmara village, an official said.

Some local villagers abused the cub by dragging its tail and dumping it on ground in an open area in the forest, the official said. They clicked pictures and took 'selfies' while the dehydrated cub lay on the ground, he added.

The viral video shows villagers assaulting the hapless cub and one of them dragging it across the open field before flinging it around.

Gondia deputy conservator of forest Yuvraj S said on receiving information about the leopard cub being thrashed by locals, forest officials rushed to the spot and found it unconscious.

"We immediately provided necessary medication to

the injured cub, which was suffering from diarrhoea, and kept it under observation," he said.

"During a search in the area, we also found a sub-adult leopard, aged around one-and-a-half years. We took it under our care and provided necessary medication, after which it was released in the forest," he said.

Based on videographic evidence, three persons were arrested and are now in police custody, he added.

CLASSIFIEDS MART

TO ADVERTISE:
www.thehinduads.com

011-43579738 • 43579797

EDUCATIONAL

ENVIRONMENT AND ECOLOGY (PT cum MAINS BATCH-2019)

(Covers 3 Years of Current Environment as per UPSC Demand)

International Organizations and Summits Focus On Legislations, Animals and National Parks Basic Ecology, Ecosystem & related Terminologies UPSC Oriented Environment & Ecology

Fees: 7500/- (Including Tax) ■ By Director Sir

ASPIRE IAS

The Name Associated with Excellence

Batch Starting from: 14th Jan, 8:00 am (M-W-T-S)

011-25811762, 011-47561070

Apsara Arcade (Basement) Adjacent to Karol Bagh Metro Station, Gate No-7

LAW AMBITION LAW INSTITUTE

Since 2001 Based on Common Sense & Logic

- Alok Kumar Ranjan Sir

IAS INTERVIEW SESSION and STRATEGY for LAW OPTIONAL

By Ranjan Sir & Team

We will begin with discussion on Cr.P.C. and Constitution.

Saturday, 12 Jan, 4pm - 6 pm

IAS TOPPERS IN 2017

AIR 9 Saumya Sharma AIR 14 Neha Jain AIR 75 Jyoti Sharma

Mukherjee Nagar JUDICIAL FOUNDATION 15th Jan 8800660301 JUDICIAL WEEKEND 27th Jan 8800662130 CLAT CRASH COURSE 28 March & 1 April 8800660380

Pusa Road JUDICIAL FOUNDATION 15th Jan 8800662140 IAS LAW OPTIONAL 8800662140 CLAT CRASH COURSE 28 March & 1 April 8800662140

CLAT CRASH COURSE 28 March & 1 April 8800660380

UP & BIHAR MAIN MOCK TEST SERIES Begins Registration open

Opp. Metro Pillar No. 122, Pusa Road, Delhi - 110005. 011-49841810, 8800660301, 8800662140

Schedule Your Mock Interview 98112 93743, 80100 23123 www.ksgindia.com

Registration open

CMYK

EDUCATIONAL

LUKMAAN IAS ONLINE/OFFLINE Lead with Edge

CSAT TIME 10 TO 12:30PM

BATCH-II FROM 12 JAN. BATCH-III FROM 02 MAR.

FEES STRUCTURE FOR LUKMAAN STUDENTS-500 ONLY FOR OTHER STUDENTS-1100 ONLY FOR ONLINE STUDENTS-2000 ONLY

14 CLASSES CLASSES ONLY ON SAT-SUN FOR 3000/-/35 TESTS

Branch-1: (English Med. Office No. 17, 1st Floor, Apsara Arcade, Near Karol Bagh Metro Station Gate No-6, New Delhi-110005

Branch-2: (Hindi) Office No. M-1 (Mezzanine Floor), B-2, Aarsal Building, Sector-1, Connaught Place, NDPL Office, Mukherjee Nagar, Delhi-110009 011-4102366 | 730322366 | 9319282366

32 Test PT Test Series Commences From 15th Jan.

Fee ₹4720/- WITH INDIVIDUAL MENTORING

011-45696019 | 9654034293 15 GROUND FLOOR (OPP. MOTHER DAIRY) Old Rajinder Nagar New Delhi 110060

EDUCATIONAL

CROWN IAS ACADEMY TEST SERIES-2019 PRELIMS GS + CSAT Starts From 12th Jan

Rs.3000/-/35 TESTS

Branch-1: (English Med. Office No. 17, 1st Floor, Apsara Arcade, Near Karol Bagh Metro Station Gate No-6, New Delhi-110005

Branch-2: (Hindi) Office No. M-1 (Mezzanine Floor), B-2, Aarsal Building, Sector-1, Connaught Place, NDPL Office, Mukherjee Nagar, Delhi-110009 011-4102366 | 730322366 | 9319282366

INTERVIEW SANJEEV KABEER SIR course fee Rs.5000

BEHIND UCB DR. MUKHERJEE NAGAR DELHI-110009 Ph. 09811299811, 09990840999

IAS MOCK INTERVIEWS AVAILABLE

GUIDANCE IAS

NEW BATCH 31st JAN 7 AM NEXT BATCH SUNDAY 9 AM 6 PM

NET JRF 3 FEB. 9 AM & 12 PM

NET SSB PGT/TGT-2 PM

9956122675, 991480369, 8076250997

EDUCATIONAL

ORIENT IAS Online Mode Also Available

GS POLITY (PRE-CUM MAINS)

STARTS FROM 14th JANUARY 5:00 PM OPEN

THE HINDU DELHI
FRIDAY, JANUARY 11, 2019

SOUTH 5

IN BRIEF



Jagan treks up to Tirumala, offers prayers

TIRUMALA
YSRCP president Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy on Thursday offered prayers at the temple of Lord Venkateswara here. Mr. Reddy, who is on a thanksgiving visit on completion of his 14-month Praja Sankalpa Yatra covering 3,648 km, reached the main temple complex along the general queue line and offered prayers during the 'mahalagu darshan', in which devotees are allowed to have darshan of the presiding deity from a distance of about 60 feet. Several of his party MPs and MLAs accompanied him.

K.C. Venugopal is observer for election of CLP leader

HYDERABAD
With the Telangana Assembly scheduled to start its first session from January 17, the Congress party has decided to send senior leader and Parliament member from Kerala K.C. Venugopal as the observer for the election of the Congress Legislature Party (CLP) leader. Though there is no clarity as of now as to who is the choice of the Congress high command, the party seems to have arrived at a decision that one of the two posts – TPCC president and CLP leader – will go to the Reddy community.

NGT seeks report on inter-linking of A.P. rivers

VIJAYAWADA
The National Green Tribunal (NGT) has directed the Ministry of Environment and Forest & Climate Change (MoEF) and the Andhra Pradesh Pollution Control Board to submit to it a 'factual report' on the status of the Godavari-Krishna-Penna river linkage within a month. The NGT listed the matter for hearing on April 22.

Kerala records a rising graph of crimes against children

More reporting due to greater awareness: ADGP

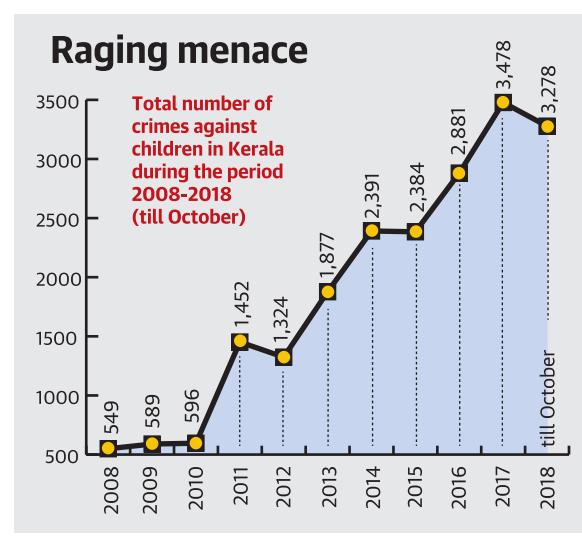
M.P. PRAVEEN KOCHI

There has been a steady increase in crimes committed against children in Kerala, according to a data released by the Kerala State Crime Records Bureau (SCRB).

Government officials are attributing this to increased reporting of crimes because of better awareness, but social workers contend that crimes against children have indeed increased.

Rise in offences

A decadal comparison of data shows that 549 offences against children under all categories were recorded in 2008, while the number shot up to 3,278 as of October, 2018. This includes both serious and other offences. Cases of rape rose from 215



in 2008 to 1,101 in 2017, and 999 in the first 10 months of 2018. There were noticeable spurts in the number of recorded rape cases in 2011, touching 423, compared to 208 a year earlier. A similar trend of increases was noted in 2013, 2016 and 2017, over the preceding year.

"Unlike other States, there is increased awareness in Kerala about the crimes against children and greater reporting of such crimes is reflected in the statistics," said Tomin J. Thachankary, Additional DGP, SCR. Cases of murder of children, however, dropped from 37 in

2008 to 18 in 2018. There have been no infanticide cases over the past three years, after four cases in 2015.

There was a single instance of trafficking of a minor girl last year, an improvement over all other years including the base year of 2008, when there were 13 cases. But cases registered under the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act rose from four in 2008 to 17 in 2017 and 15 till October 2018.

Sheeba George, Director of Women and Child Development Department, said while increased reporting might have resulted in a higher number of cases, crimes against children had risen over the years.

Nirish Antony, Senior Programme Coordinator of Chidline, said vacations were the time when children were found to be most vulnerable. "A pre-vacation awareness class could be held for students and parents," he said.

Welcome Gallery showcases developments in Amaravati

It consists of exhibition, community & engagement zones

STAFF REPORTER

THULLUR

Singapore Minister for Communications and Trade Relations S. Iswaran and Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu unveiled the Welcome Gallery, an exhibition-cum-community centre that showcases developments in capital city Amaravati, at Lingayapalem here on Thursday.

The Welcome Gallery consists of a city gallery, an exhibition zone, and community and engagement zones as well as co-working spaces for start-ups.

Joint venture

It is a part of the 20-hectare Catalytic Development Area, which is under development in Phase-I of the start-up area, and comprises 75,000 square metres of office, residential and retail spaces.

The project is undertaken



Another milestone: Singapore Minister S. Iswaran and A.P. CM N. Chandrababu Naidu at the gallery. • CH. VIJAYA BHASKAR

by the Amaravati Development Partners (ADP), the joint venture between Singapore Amaravati Investment Holdings (SAIH) and Amaravati Development Corporation (ADC).

The SAIH is a joint venture of Ascendas-Singbridge Andhra Investment Holdings and Sembcorp Development India.

Addressing the gathering,

Mr. Iswaran said the Welcome Gallery was a special milestone in the evolution of relations between the governments of Andhra Pradesh and Singapore on the development of Amaravati.

It would attract international attention to what was happening in the capital city and the specific developments that had already taken place there, he said.

Kerala HC rejects anticipatory bail plea of Malayalam actor

Kollam Thulasi booked for his remarks on Sabarimala issue

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

KOCHI

The Kerala High Court on Thursday dismissed an anticipatory bail petition filed by Malayalam actor Kollam Thulasi in a case registered against him for his alleged remarks against women at a protest meeting over the Sabarimala temple issue.

The court directed him to surrender before the investigation officer.

The actor, in his petition, pointed out that his anticipatory bail plea was earlier dismissed by the Principal Ses-



Kollam Thulasi

him for his remarks. He had made the speech on October 12, 2018, at a meeting organised by the NDA near the Chavara bus stand to protest against the entry of young women into Sabarimala temple.

He said he did not have any political inclination and he made the remarks on the spur of the moment.

He had tendered an unconditional apology within hours of the speech. Nor had he made any attempt to incite any person to commit any offence.

Pinarayi gives report on violence

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan on Thursday handed over a report to Governor P. Sathasivam highlighting the magnitude of the violence unleashed by protesters across the State following the entry of young women to the Sabarimala temple in the wake of the Supreme Court verdict allowing women of all age groups to the temple.

While the nine have been admitted to hospitals in Kembhavi and Shahpur, Honnamma died at a hospital in Kalaburagi on Thursday.

Chief Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy has ordered an in-

Woman dies, nine take ill after consuming 'poisoned' water

Presence of chemical suspected; Karnataka CM orders probe

STAFF REPORTER

VADGIR

A 65-year-old woman died and at least nine others took ill after they consumed water that is suspected to have been poisoned at Teggelli village in Yadgir district of Karnataka.

The water from the well is supplied to Teggelli and Shakhapur villages through pipelines.

The Kembhavi police, who have registered a case, launched a search to track the miscreants.

Contaminated water sample and blood samples of those admitted have been sent to Bengaluru for tests.

Locals say that the scale of the tragedy would have been worse, if not for the presence of mind of valve operator Mounesh. Having been alerted by his mother that the water smelt foul, Mr. Mounesh immediately stopped the water at source and made public announcements in both the villages, warning people not to consume it. However, by then, some had already consumed the water.

**CIVIL ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT
NEW DELHI MUNICIPAL COUNCIL
R-1 DIVISION, TILAK LANE, NEW DELHI-110001**

e-Procurement Tender Notice

1. Tender ID No. 2019_NDMC_165486_1
Subject:- S/R of Road in NDMC area. SH:- Resurfacing of Internal Roads of M/S Apartment at K.G Marg, New Delhi.
Estt. Cost : Rs. 17,97,244/-
Date of release of tender through e-procurement solution : 09.01.2019
Last date/time for receipt of tenders through e-procurement solution : 18.01.2019 upto 4.00 PM.
Further details can be seen at <https://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in>
Note:- To participate in e-tender in NDMC registration with e-tendering system, Government of NCT of Delhi is mandatory.
Sd/- EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (R-1)

To be The Global Benchmark for a Capital City

THE HINDU
DISCLAIMER: Readers are requested to verify and make appropriate enquiries to satisfy themselves about the veracity of any information or statement being reproduced by any published in this newspaper. THE PUBLISHING PVT LTD., the Publisher & Owner of this newspaper, does not vouch for the truth of any statement made by an author or advertiser or for any of the advertiser's products and/or services. In no event can the Publisher, the Author, the Editor, the Director, the Employees of this newspaper/ company be held responsible/liable in any manner whatsoever for any claims and/or damages for advertisements in this newspaper.

TO ADVERTISE
PLEASE CONTACT

Mr. N SELVA KUMAR
PH: 98203 50726
selvakumar.n@thehindu.co.in

Mr. GAURAV SEHGAL
PH: 98110 06590
gaurav.sehgal@thehindu.co.in

THE HINDU

Design Fair
10th-21st January 2019
11am to 7pm | Entry Rs. 30/-
Celebrating creative minds and new ideas

Welcome the New Year with handcrafted designer apparel, accessories, home decor, jewellery, lights, upcycled fashion accessories, organics and what not!

Exclusive collections from Kashmir, Kutchh and Rajasthan

Indian cuisine, snacks & beverages

Haunting folk music by the Manganiyars of Rajasthan
19th - 20th January 2019

Nature Bazaar Venue
Andheria Modh (on Main Road) New Delhi-110074
Tel: 011-26808633/3549 | Mob: 991082970

www.dastkar.org | Email: info@dastkar.org
 dastkarsociety | dastkar_delhi

Dastkar
Delhi Tourism

NSIC
ISO 9001:2015

TENDER NOTICE
Sealed item rate offers are invited from eligible contractors for "Operation and Maintenance of AC plant installed at NSIC Exhibition Complex, Okhla, New Delhi". Enquiry Form will be issued for the work from 11.01.2019 to 21.01.2019. Submission of Enquiry Form is 21.01.2019. For further details, please visit at www.nsic.co.in or contact: Chief General Manager (SG) (Works), NSIC Ltd. NSIC Bhawan, Okhla Industrial Estate, New Delhi-110020

Want practice tests for JEE(Main) & NEET?

empower
MOCK TEST SERIES

BY



THE HINDU GROUP

Register for two scheduled online mock tests to get full and subject wise practice tests for your preparation



All India Online Mock Test Series for JEE(Main) & NEET

<https://empower.thehindu.com>

Knowledge & Platform Partner

Backyard bio composting

Meet Rajeswari Shankar, resident of Mandavelipakkam, Chennai and effective manager of organic

waste by creating her own bio composting pits in her backyard. Apart from kitchen waste and flowers, cow dung is also added and water is sprinkled above all this. Once this is done, the bins are left untouched for nearly three or four months. The waste decomposes into manure that is used by Rajeswari for her own garden.

"Dr. Satyabhama Chandrasekaran who lives in R.A Puram has a compost pit similar to this and that inspired me to start one in my own backyard. Bio composting pits are one of ways to conserve the environment," adds Rajeswari.

Her active role in bio composting not only manages waste efficiently and reduces pollution but also tries to minimise the consumption of fertilisers and pesticides with toxic chemicals that harm the soil. She continues to impact the environment in her own, small way and wants people to do the same.

Under My Watch is an initiative by The Hindu that celebrates conscious and responsible citizens who make India better, one small act at a time. Tell us your story and get a chance to be featured in The Hindu.

SUBMIT STORIES AT WWW.THEHINDU.COM/UNDERMYWATCH

IN BRIEF



Oppn. protests Nitish's 'derogatory' remark

PATNA
Opposition parties in Bihar on Thursday marched to Raj Bhavan to register a protest with the Governor against an alleged derogatory remark of Chief Minister Nitish Kumar. The activists were, however, stopped by police at the Income-Tax crossing here. PTI

3 cows die while being shifted to shelter home

MUZAFFARNAGAR (U.P.)

Three stray cows died while they were being shifted to a shelter home in Shamli district on Thursday. CM Yogi Adityanath had on January 3 given all District Magistrates a week to ensure that all stray cattle across the State are shifted to cow shelters. PTI

Woman seeks HC nod to terminate pregnancy

KOLKATA

A 32-year-old woman approached the Calcutta High Court on Thursday seeking permission to terminate her 24-week foetus owing to an anomaly in its formation. The petitioner claimed that tests showed that the brain of the foetus is underdeveloped. PTI

Over 10 lakh children given MR vaccine

SHILLONG

Over 10 lakh children were given Measles-Rubella vaccines in Meghalaya taking the vaccination coverage in the State to over 92%. Health Secretary Pravin Bakshi informed while addressing a workshop here. PTI

Alert in U.P. after 17 swine flu cases

LUCKNOW

The Uttar Pradesh government has alerted all districts about swine flu after 17 cases were reported in the past week, officials said. Health officers have been asked to ensure that isolated wards are set up in hospitals for affected patients. IANS

Four Assam Accord panel members decline MHA offer

'Once govt. changes, the committee's recommendation will not mean anything'

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

GUWAHATI

Days after the Union Home Ministry set up a high-level committee to ensure implementation of clause 6 of the Assam Accord, four of those named have refused to join the nine-member panel.

Eminent literary figures Nagen Saikia and Rong Bong Terang, former Editor Dhirendra Nath Bezbarua and the All Assam Students' Union have declined to be part of the committee.

Bill backdrop

The refusal of the four took place at a time when Assam has been witnessing major protests against the Citizenship (Amendment) Bill 2016, which seeks to give Indian citizenship to six minority groups from Afghanistan, Pakistan and Bangladesh.

"The clause 6 committee is a Cabinet-constituted com-

A march in protest against Citizenship Bill in Guwahati.
FILE PHOTO

mittee and not a Bill. So, once the government changes at the Centre, the recommendation of the committee will not mean anything. Earlier, I thought I will participate in the committee and give some recommendations for the protection of indigenous people," said Mr. Saikia.

"I think by keeping this

committee in front, the government wants the Citizenship Bill to be passed," said Mr. Saikia, a former president of the Asom Sahitya Sabha, the apex literary body of Assam.

"When AASU, which was a signatory to the Assam Accord, has refused to be a part of the committee, there is no question that I should be a

part," said Mr. Terang, who also presided over the Asom Sahitya Sabha in the past.

The Home Ministry-instated committee nominated one member of AASU as a committee member. The student body refused to be a part until the Citizenship Bill was scrapped.

Mr. Bezbarua, a senior journalist and former Editor of *The Sentinel*, has also told the government about his inability to join the committee.

"I thank the government for appointing me as member but it will be better if the government leaves me out as I am getting old and trying to reduce my engagements," he said. The Home Ministry had issued the notification constituting the committee with retired IAS officer M.P. Bezbarua as the Chairman to ensure implementation of clause 6 of the historical Assam Accord.

Magisterial probe ordered into Tripura violence

SYED SAJJAD ALI
AGARTALA

Tripura Chief Minister Biplob Kumar Deb on Thursday ordered a magisterial probe into the violence at Madhabbari on Tuesday and extended the suspension of Internet and cellular services by another 48 hours.

At a press conference, Mr. Deb said the security forces were compelled to open fire, while taking all precautions, after protesters started burning down shops and the situation went out of control. "Three persons sustained bullet injuries and all of them are now out of danger," he said.

He warned that his government would not allow the break down of law and order. The Chief Minister made the statement after the police maintained complete silence on the firing incident.

WEATHER WATCH

RAINFALL, TEMPERATURE & AIR QUALITY IN SELECT METROS YESTERDAY



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

Forecast for Friday: No weather warning

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	—	25.0	10.2	Kozhikode	—	34.2	20.4
Ahmedabad	—	27.6	12.7	Kurnool	—	32.8	16.2
Aizwal	—	27.3	13.3	Lucknow	—	22.6	7.4
Allahabad	—	24.4	7.0	Madurai	—	32.7	18.1
Bengaluru	—	29.7	14.5	Mangaluru	—	37.1	19.0
Bhopal	—	22.4	7.0	Mumbai	—	30.5	14.6
Bhubaneswar	—	28.4	12.8	Mysuru	—	30.1	9.3
Chandigarh	—	20.0	6.0	New Delhi	—	21.2	6.0
Chennai	—	29.4	20.1	Patna	—	23.4	8.6
Coimbatore	—	31.7	16.5	Port Blair	—	30.4	25.6
Dehradun	—	22.2	5.6	Puducherry	—	30.3	16.8
Gangtok	—	11.8	4.1	Pune	—	31.0	8.8
Goa	—	33.8	19.0	Rajpur	—	26.5	12.2
Guwahati	—	23.9	11.4	Ranchi	—	23.0	8.0
Hubballi	—	30.0	16.0	Shillong	—	0.1	13.0
Hyderabad	—	29.0	10.9	Shimla	—	12.7	3.7
Imphal	—	21.7	3.6	Srinagar	—	4.4	-0.3
Jaipur	—	22.0	8.0	Trivandrum	—	32.9	20.8
Kochi	—	31.8	22.0	Tiruchi	—	31.4	17.6
Kohima	—	15.0	3.8	Vijayawada	—	29.5	18.6
Kolkata	—	25.6	13.7	Visakhapatnam	—	27.0	20.4

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO ₂	NO ₂	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	71	102	35	.170	—	■
Bengaluru	11	77	52	.145	.120	■
Chennai	—	15	55	.295	—	■
Delhi	35	68	58	.366	.371	■
Hyderabad	32	113	33	.145	.139	■
Kolkata	22	96	12	.394	.327	■
Lucknow	10	38	31	.275	—	—
Mumbai	20	60	95	.188	.216	■
Pune	91	20	66	.235	.186	■
Vishakhapatnam	—	—	38	—	—	—

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Gaya, Bihar recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 380 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Rohtak, Haryana recorded a healthy AQI score of 32.

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

SO₂: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO₂: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

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

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can irritate the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease.

Chief Engineer, Uttarakhand Rural Roads Development Agency, First Floor, Directorate of Panchayatiraj, Opp-IT Park, Sahastradhara Road, Dehradun.

Ref. No. 5688/11-02/(xiv)/ITC/URRDA/18

Dated : 05/01/2019

PRADHAN MANTRI GRAM SADAK YOJANA (PMGSY)

e-Procurement Notice-18(Regular PMGSY)/2018-19

The Chief Engineer, URRDA on behalf of Governor of Uttarakhand invites the item rate bids in electronic tendering system for construction of Roads under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana in the Districts of Almora, Bageshwar, Chamoli, Dehradun, Pauri, Rudraprayag, Tehri & Uttarkashi for 25 numbers of Package with estimated cost totaling to ₹ 129.09 Crore including their maintenance for two years from the eligible contractors registered with PWD/CPWD or equivalent.*

Date of release of Invitation for Bids through e-procurement: 14-01-2019.

Availability of Bid Documents and mode of submission: The bid documents are available online and should be submitted online in www.pmgstendersuk.gov.in. The bidder would be required to register in the web-site which is free of cost. For submission of the bids, the bidder is required to have Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) from one of the authorized Certifying Authorities. The bidders are required to submit (a) original demand draft towards the cost of bid document and (b) original bid security in approved form and (c) original affidavit regarding correctness of information furnished with bid document as per provisions of Clause 4.4 B (ii) of ITB with the CONCERNED/ RESPECTIVE CIRCLE OFFICES on a date not later than three working days after the opening of technical qualification part of the Bid, either by registered post or by hand, failing which the bids shall be declared non-responsive.

Last Date/Time for receipt of bids through e-procurement: 13-02-2019 01:00 PM.

For further details please log on to www.pmgstendersuk.gov.in

Chief Engineer,

URRDA, Dehradun

* Non Registered bidders may submit bids, however, the successful bidders must get registered in appropriate class with appropriate authorities before signing the contract.

Note: For e-Procurement for any sort of queries 0135-2608125 number may be contacted 10:00 AM to 05:00 P.M.

POLICE HEADQUARTERS JAMMU & KASHMIR JAMMU

Phone/Fax No.: 0194-2443031/2443032(Sgr)

Website: www.jkpoliceweb.gov.in

0191-2459029/2459255(Jmu)

E-mail: jkphq@nic.in

(Provision Section)

Gist of e-NIT NO. 01 OF 2019

DATED: 08.01.2019, (SBD)

- For and on behalf of the Governor of Jammu & Kashmir State, e-tenders are invited from reputed and registered Aviation Companies having a minimum fleet of 3 (three) Airworthy Transport Helicopters preferably heavy duty/helicopter or helicopters of equivalent performance for hiring of a Helicopter on Wet Lease Basis for a term of 01 year for multi-purpose use of the J&K Police & CAPF as per Eligibility conditions mentioned in (Annexure I) and Draft Wet Lease Agreement(Annexure II) of this e-NIT.

The e-NIT consisting of qualifying information eligibility criteria Bill of quantities, (B.O.Q.), set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/ downloaded from the J&K State e-Procurement Portal www.jktders.gov.in from 08.01.2019(1400hours) to 29.01.2019 upto 1800 hours. Bidders submitting their bids on-line shall only be accepted and no document other than those mentioned in the e-NIT shall be accepted manually.

The tenders(technical bids only) will be opened online on 31.01.2019 at 1100 hours at Police Headquarters J&K Gulshan Ground Jammu. In case of unforeseen circumstances, the date of opening will be next working day or as notified separately.

A pre-bid meeting shall be held on 21.01.2019 at 1500 hrs for clarification of

IN BRIEF



'Govt. conspiring to bleed and shut HAL'

NEW DELHI
A group of HAL employees on Thursday alleged a conspiracy by the NDA government to "bleed and shut down" the state-run aerospace major, and urged that it be given the contract for making the remaining tranche of 90 Rafale aircraft under the transfer of technology route. PTI

Doors always open for old friends in T.N.: Modi

CHENNAI
Infusing hope in the Tamil Nadu unit of the BJP, which is yet to firm up alliances, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday said the party's doors are always open. In a video-conference with party cadre, he indicated that the BJP would be keen on a tie-up with "old friends" for the Lok Sabha poll.

Defence guard commits suicide at naval depot

MUMBAI
A Defence Security Corps guard committed suicide at his workplace in Trombay on Thursday. According to the Trombay police, the incident occurred at the Naval Armament Depot around 11.15 a.m. Kesar Singh, 56, was posted as a guard at the depot and was on duty when he allegedly killed himself.

Subhiksha case: assets worth ₹50 cr. attached

NEW DELHI
The Enforcement Directorate has attached shares and immovable assets worth more than ₹50 crore belonging to R. Subramanian, the then managing director of Subhiksha Trading Services Limited, in connection with an alleged money laundering case. The CBI chargesheet alleged that a Chennai branch of Bank of Baroda was cheated of ₹77 crore by Mr. Subramanian and the company.

Fodder scam: no relief for Lalu

Jharkhand HC rejects bail plea of RJD supremo

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
PATNA

The Jharkhand High Court on Thursday rejected the bail petition of Rashtriya Janata Dal president Lalu Prasad in connection with three fodder scam cases. Imprisoned, Mr. Prasad is currently admitted to a government hospital in Ranchi.

Earlier on January 4, after hearing the arguments on bail petition of Mr. Prasad, Justice Aparsh Kumar Singh had reserved the order. Counsel Kapil Sibal had argued for Mr. Prasad citing his bad health. "The court on Thursday rejected the bail petition of Mr. Prasad," CBI lawyer Rajiv Sinha said.

Imprisoned since December 23, 2017, Mr. Prasad is being treated at the Rajendra Institute of Medical Sciences (RIMS), a government hospital in Ranchi.

Ships need not return to coast to collect spares

ADITYA ANAND
MUMBAI

The Navy has successfully tested containers that can be air-dropped to enhance its operational logistics capability at sea.

Having a test payload of 50 kg, these containers, equipped to carry spares for ships up to 2,000 km away from the coast, were air-dropped into the Arabian Sea on January 8.

Successful trials, series production of Sahayak containers and paracuttes would be undertaken. These cylindrical containers have been indigenously developed by the Naval Science and Technological Laboratory and the Aeronautical Development Establishment of the Defence Research and Development Organisation.

The case so far

Imprisoned in connection with three fodder scam cases, Rashtriya Janata Dal chief Lalu Prasad is undergoing medical treatment in Ranchi. A look at the cases:

December 23, 2017: Lalu Prasad sent to Birs Munda jail in connection with fodder scam cases

January, March and May 2018: RJD chief is awarded jail terms in three separate cases relating to withdrawal of money from Dumka, Deoghar and Chaibasa district treasuries

RJD MLA and spokesperson Shakti Yadav said they would approach the Supreme Court for relief.

Soon after the news broke, a pall of gloom descended on

10, Circular Road residence where Mr. Prasad's family members live.

Earlier on December 11, Mr. Prasad had filed a petition in the High Court requesting

Lalu Prasad at the New Delhi Railway station after being brought from Ranchi for medical treatment at AIIMS on March 29, 2018.
■ SANDEEP SAXENA

December 11, 2018: He files a petition in the High Court requesting bail on medical grounds

January 4, 2019: The court hears the argument, but reserves the order

January 10, 2019: The court rejects Lalu Prasad's bail petition

bail in three fodder scam cases related with fraudulent withdrawal of money from Dumka, Chaibasa and Deoghar district treasuries in which he had been convicted.

SC reserves judgment in Gadling case

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Thursday reserved judgment on a challenge raised by Maharashtra against a Bombay High Court decision to refuse the police a 90-day extension to complete investigation and file chargesheet against lawyer Surendra Gadling and others accused of Maoist links in the aftermath of the Bhima-Koregaon violence.

The October 24 High Court order had opened the window for Mr. Gadling, Nagpur University professor Shoma Sen, activists Sudhir Dhawale and Mahesh Raut and Rona Wilson to seek default bail.

A Bench heard senior advocate Mukul Rohatgi for the State submit that the case involved links to "armed organisations and banned outfits" and was too serious for grant of bail.



A suspect being taken away by the NIA at Jaffrabad in New Delhi on December 26. ■ SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

U.P. woman not to be charged for aiding terror suspects

IS-inspired module was busted last month

VIJAYA SINGH
NEW DELHI

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) will not be registering a case against a Lucknow-based housewife who had helped the prime accused Mufti Suhail raise money for terror activities. Mufti is the leader of a 10-member module allegedly inspired by the Islamic State (IS) that was busted last month.

Suhail, a madrasse teacher at Amroha in Uttar Pradesh and a resident of Jaffrabad in northeast Delhi, had met the woman on Facebook and also tried to recruit her 20-year-old son.

NIA officials said the woman in her forties had sold some jewellery and given the money to Suhail under the impression that he was involved in religious work.

Online contact

"Suhail met her on Facebook and even visited Lucknow. Once, he gave her some jewellery to sell in the market, which turned out to be fake. He also tried radicalising her son but he rebuffed him. As of now, we do not plan to register a case against her," said a senior NIA official.

The group were arrested last month for planning to target political leaders and

security and government installations. Saqib Iftekhar, a resident of Hapur in Uttar Pradesh, worked as an imam (congregation leader) and had helped the prime accused Mufti Suhail to procure weapons, the NIA official said.

Visit to Kashmir
Iftekhar travelled to south Kashmir to meet a militant, the official said. He visited three places – Tral, Bandipora and Rajouri in Jammu and Kashmir between May-August last year.

The official said interrogation of the accused revealed that four of them had purchased mobile handsets of the same make and company. "They used virtual private networks to communicate with each other. They were told by their handler to take off the battery after every conversation.

Mufti Suhail created a new group on Telegram every day to communicate and deleted them [messages] every day," said the official.

The accused had audio clips of speeches given by a cleric, Mufti Abdus Sami Qasmi, who was arrested by the NIA in 2016, and was involved in allegedly radicalising as many as 24 men who were also arrested.



The container which was tested by the Navy in the Arabian Sea. ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Navy shows prowess to airdrop containers

Ships need not return to coast to collect spares

ADITYA ANAND
MUMBAI

The Navy has successfully tested containers that can be air-dropped to enhance its operational logistics capability at sea.

Having a test payload of 50 kg, these containers, equipped to carry spares for ships up to 2,000 km away from the coast, were air-dropped into the Arabian Sea on January 8.

Successful trials, series production of Sahayak containers and paracuttes would be undertaken. These cylindrical containers have been indigenously developed by the Naval Science and Technological Laboratory and the Aeronautical Development Establishment of the Defence Research and Development Organisation.

Girl found beheaded, protests rock Gaya

Police suspect it to be honour killing after conflicting statements from family

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
PATNA

A beheaded body of a 16-year-old girl was found in Gaya district of Bihar on January 6, which led to protests in the town demanding the immediate arrest of the culprits. Police suspect it to be a case of honour killing.

The girl's body with her face burnt with acid and chest deeply bruised was recovered on January 6 from near her home at Patwati of the Manpur area in Gaya district. She had gone missing from home on December 28 but said to have re-

turned after three days on December 31. Her father had lodged a case on January 4 at the Buniyadganj police station alleging that her daughter could have been abducted. However, the local police recovered her beheaded body from a field in Joda Masjid-Baksaria Tola locality near her home in a mutilated state. Her severed head was later found nearby.

The family members had alleged that the police had not acted promptly in the case otherwise the life of the girl could have been saved. Earlier, the police had taken

into custody Leela Patwa, friend of the victim girl's father, with whom she was seen last time on December 31 night. But, he denied his involvement in the killing. Police said his mobile phone call details revealed that he was in touch with local criminals. He was later sent to jail.

Gaya Superintendent of Police Rajeev Mishra told journalists on Thursday that it was a case of suspected honour killing. "The girl had eloped with someone and it might have enraged her family members as the Patwa

[weavers] community follows practice of socially boycotting people indulging in love affairs and marrying outside their community," he said.

"Primarily it looks like a case of honour killing done with the help of a butcher," he said. "Conflicting statements of the victim's family raised suspicions of foul play and we suspected their role in the killing... initially it was suspected to be a case of rape and murder... but we are yet to receive her autopsy report," another district police official said.

Shikhar Agarwal, who is the BJP's youth wing head of Bulandshahr, was arrested in Hapur, said the police. With this, the total number of persons arrested in con-

BJP leader held for Bulandshahr violence

36 arrested till date in the case

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
LUCKNOW

The Uttar Pradesh police on Thursday arrested another prime accused in the Bulandshahr mob violence case in which two persons, including police officer Subodh Kumar Singh, were killed.

"He [Shikhar Agarwal] is being questioned and on the basis of that, further action will be taken," said the officer.

Shikhar Agarwal, who is the BJP's youth wing head of Bulandshahr, was arrested in Hapur, said the police. With this, the total number of persons arrested in con-

nection with the mob violence and murder on December 3 had touched 36, said SP Bulandshahr city Atul Srivastava.

"He [Shikhar Agarwal] is being questioned and on the basis of that, further action will be taken," said the officer.

Agarwal was among the key accused named in the FIR regarding the mob violence in Syana area of Bulandshahr over allegations of cow slaughter.

Cabinet approves 3 new AIIMS in J&K, Gujarat

Institutes will be set up under PMSSY

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Union Cabinet on Thursday approved the setting up of three All India Institutes of Medical Sciences in Jammu and Kashmir and Gujarat. These will be in Samba in Jammu at a cost of ₹6,661 crore, in Pulwama in Kashmir at a cost of ₹1,828 crore, and in Rajkot, Gujarat, at a cost of ₹1,195 crore.

The institutes will be set up under the Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojna, the government said.

The Cabinet approval also involves the creation of a post of director with a basic pay of ₹2,25,000 for each of the three AIIMS. The cost of construction, operation and maintenance of the three AIIMS will be fully borne by the Central government.

"The objective is to establish the new AIIMS as Institutions of National Importance for providing quality tertiary healthcare, medical education, nursing education and research in the region," the government said. Each AIIMS will add 100

Twitter for transparency in ads

YUTHIKA BHARGAVA
NEW DELHI

With general election in India less than five months away, Twitter will soon introduce its Ads Transparency Centre in the country that will enable users to see the identity of advertisers funding a political ad on the platform as part of efforts to be more transparent.

"One of the things which we will be implementing here in India is an Ads Transparency Centre where we will be providing users indicators on promoted tweets and political advertising such as it is a political advertisement and who paid for it," Colin Crowell, global vice-president (Public Policy), Twitter, told *The Hindu*.

He added, "If you click on it, it will take you to a transparency dashboard which will give you additional information about the advertiser, including the tweets they are advertising and how much they are spending..."

SEARCH COMMITTEE NOTIFICATION APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHANCELLOR

The Government of Tamil Nadu vide G.O. (D) No. 399, Higher Education (K2) Department dated 19.12.2018 have constituted a Search Committee to recommend a panel of three names to the Hon'ble Governor-Chancellor for selection of Vice-Chancellor, Tamil Nadu Teachers Education University, Chennai.

The Search Committee invites applications for the post of Vice-Chancellor, Tamil Nadu Teachers Education University, Chennai, from distinguished academicians with highest level of competence, integrity, moral and institutional commitment and possessing the educational qualifications and work experience as notified by the Government of Tamil Nadu in their G.O.Ms.No. 187, Higher Education (K-2), Department dated 14th July 2017 copy of which is available in the Tamil Nadu Teachers Education University Website www.tnteu.ac.in

The Vice-Chancellor shall hold the office for a period of three years (provided that the person appointed as Vice-Chancellor shall retire from office if, during the term of office, he/she attains the age of 70 years).

Interested candidates possessing the qualifications and experience may download the prescribed application format from the website of Tamil Nadu Teachers Education University. The filled in application shall be sent (only in the prescribed format) either by e-mail or by post duly superscribing the Envelope "Application for the post of Vice-Chancellor, Tamil Nadu Teachers Education University" so as to reach the following address before 05.00 p.m. of 9th February 2019.

Dr. G. Rathinasabapathy, Ph.D.

Nodal Officer

Search Committee for Selection of Vice-Chancellor

Tamil Nadu Teachers Education University

Stella Matutina College of Education (Autonomous)

Kamaraj Salai, Ashok Nagar, Chennai – 600 083

e-mail: vcsearchcommittee.tnteu@gmail.com

Applications received after publication of the notification in the website/newspaper alone will be considered but not those received after the closing date.

Convener, Search Committee

DIPR / 38 / DISPLAY / 2019

Government of India
Public Enterprises Selection Board
invites applications for the post of
DIRECTOR (FINANCE)
in
ITI LIMITED
Last date of receipt of applications in PESB is by
15.00 hours on 13th February, 2019.
For details login to website
<http://www.pesb.gov.in>

DEPARTMENT OF SPORTS
GOVERNMENT OF PUNJAB
SCO No.116-117, Sector-34, Chandigarh
(email: directorsportspunjab2018@gmail.com Phone No.+91-722606400)

Appointment as Director (Curriculum & Training)

Punjab State Sports Institute is an apex institute of State of Punjab to groom and develop world class Sports persons from amongst the Youths and players from Punjab. Details can be seen at <a

YES, NO, IT'S COMPLICATED



YES

The victory in Australia suggests the sport's momentum could stay with India

ANDREW ALDERSON
is a cricket correspondent with the New Zealand Herald

The answer to this can be confirmed by simply checking the rankings, but where's the fun in that? Instead of surrendering the joy of the game to an avalanche of data, sometimes relying on instinct is welcome.

Let's apply a comparative hypothesis: Which international team would fans, donning their impartial hats, want to watch? The answer for me? India. The current team brings enviable qualities to the Test arena. This verdict is based less on the pioneering and comprehensive 2-1 away series win over Australia, their first in 71 years, and more on



NO

India has to be at the top for a certain period to be accorded the tag of best

NAROTTAM PURI
is a cricket expert and commentator

History has been made. I followed the Test series closely and was hardly surprised by the reactions in the media. Indian cricket was on a high after winning its first ever Test series in Australia. True, this has taken a long time, but I must give credit to Virat Kohli's team for having set new a benchmark. India first went to Australia in 1947-48 to play against Don Bradman's invincible team and did not cause any embarrassment to its supporters. After that there were some fascinating contests between India and Austra-



IT'S COMPLICATED

Ratings are more about numbers and do not present the full picture

DWARKANATH SANZGIRI
is a journalist and has authored books on cricket

India won a Test series Down Under for the first time. This historic feat has expectedly created euphoria. Everybody is rating the team as the best in the world. Is India the champion of Test cricket? Is it the best team in the world? The answer is a little complicated.

The limits of statistics
The International Cricket Council ranking system has already put India at the top of the table. Though this system takes into consideration

the relative strengths of various teams and the different playing conditions the world over, the ratings are more about numbers and do not present a perfect picture. Cricket is a game that has its own vagaries beginning with the toss and the different type of pitches and atmospheric conditions. In fact, the intrigue that every session of Test cricket presents to the fans is the most attractive feature of the format. That's why I am not convinced that you can evaluate a team

Mike Hesson, had an epiphany in South Africa 12 months earlier.

Coach Ravi Shastri alluded to it in the post-match press conference in Sydney. At one point they decided "there's a certain brand of cricket we're going to play... we're going to find out what suits the team best and take it forward from there". Captain Virat Kohli also struck a chord with New Zealand fans now acclimated to Kane Williamson's selfless approach.

When asked to single out the best contribution in the India-Australia series, the skipper played the team card. He said the 66 balls faced by Hanuma Vihari to see off



the new ball on Boxing Day in Melbourne was "as big as anyone getting a 100". This came straight from the Williamson playbook. If Kohli comes anywhere near maintaining those sentiments long term, his tenure will be revered.

The Kohli factor

The Indian team is formidable and watchable. Their capabilities have been obvious in Australia. Cheteshwar Pujara and Jasprit Bumrah were especially unstoppable. However, the most important human component to any sustained success will be Kohli. His playing ability has been enhanced with the cap-

taincy, and he is among the most powerful leaders of any sports team worldwide. I witnessed the energy he can generate during the New Zealand-India Test at Eden Gardens in 2016. Kohli stood in the slip cordon and raised his palms skyward. The higher they went the louder the crowd roared. He was a human amplifier.

If Kohli embraces Indian fans' love of the game and defends against slipping into a cult of personality, he will become a captain loved at home and respected abroad. At 30, he's a poster child for a savvy generation of Indian millennials. They know the power they wield, and they defer to no one. He only has to avoid getting lured into a narcissistic echo chamber and be-

lieving the hype.

The coup in Australia suggests the sport's momentum could stay with India for the foreseeable future, given the talent on show anywhere from the Ranji Trophy to the Indian Premier League. The IPL investment has matured over 11 editions into a jewel, albeit a gaudy one, on the cricketing landscape. For local players to get an annual audience with the world's best is of priceless development value.

If the qualities of empathy, passion and independence are replenished in the Indian dressing room to feed the team culture, and the combative approach of the players simmers but never boils over into poisonous aggression, a dynasty could be propagated.

against a strong Australian team. The win at Adelaide in 2003 was memorable. And how can one forget the victory at Perth in 2008? It remains one of India's finest against Australia. All those wins came against highly competitive opponents. India's win against New Zealand in 1967-68 under Mansur Ali Khan Pataudi was its first Test series triumph overseas, just as the latest one under Kohli was the first Test series win in Australia. Both, to my mind, are equally laudable as indeed were India's first series wins in West Indies and England in 1971. Let's applaud this team's victory but never forget that earlier victories were no less significant.

Waugh was the modern Alexander in cricket until he ran into the Sourav Ganguly-led team in India in 2001. India today looks the best-balanced team in the world after the success in Australia. No team in today's cricket has beaten all its opponents in away series, which puts all the teams on the same pedestal. India can claim to have the best bowling attack for all conditions. It can also claim to have the world's best batsman (Virat Kohli) and fast bowler (Jasprit Bumrah). The journey to become the best has begun but we need to wait before pronouncing India to be the best in the world in comprehensive terms.



SINGLE FILE

Caught in the babble

Unless the political project of Hindutva is tackled head-on, pseudo-scientific claims will continue to be made

SRINIVAS RAMANI

Much has been written about the nonsense that finds its way into the Indian Science Congress. There is a reason why pseudo-scientific beliefs are uttered at such prestigious events. They are shared by politicians in power and this inspires their repetition despite the widespread criticism they receive every time they are aired in public. Unscientific belief systems and grand political narratives have a symbiotic relationship.

The most infamous examples of this relationship in the near past are the eugenics project that had Nazi Germany in its thrall and Lysenkoism in Stalin's Soviet Union. As the author Siddhartha Mukherjee eloquently explains in his book, *The Gene: An Intimate History*, these two projects positioned themselves as paradigmatic opposites apropos the science of genetics. The former emphasised "selective breeding" of human beings to achieve "desired characteristics" by working on genetic engineering, while the latter rejected Mendelian inheritance and the concept of the gene itself. Both these belief systems served their ideological state apparatus well – eugenics fit well with the glorification of the "perfect Aryan race" and Nazi ideology, while Lysenkoism and its belief in what Mukherjee calls the "complete pliability" of identity served the totalitarian collectivisation project launched by Stalin.

In India's case, the belief systems are less consequential but equally problematic. Repeatedly, there is talk of a "glorious past" described in Hindu mythology, which is uncritically taken as fact. These "facts" can only be understood if it is assumed that the technological advancements of today were already achieved in the past. It is also the same epistemology that drives these belief systems to attribute miraculous powers to cow urine and to promote research on how dung and urine can cure cancer.

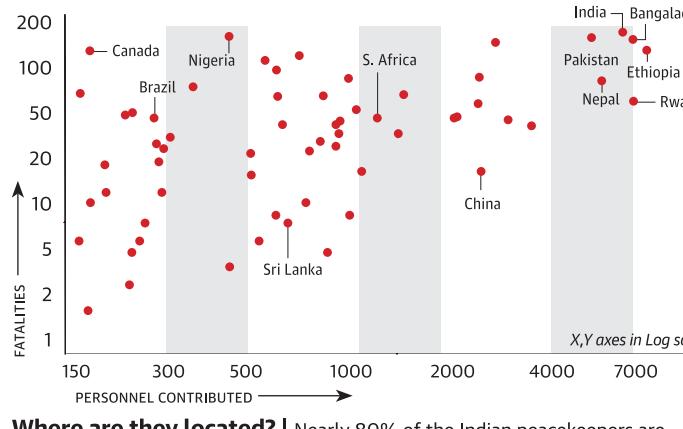
The political project that these belief systems are bound with is, of course, Hindutva, that bases itself on a monistic version of Brahminical Hinduism, whose apogee was supposedly in ancient India. The warriors of Hindutva in the Sangh Parivar therefore seek to revive the "glorious ancient Hindu past" in a modern, technological world. This project seeks to identify with the instrumentalism of the technological progress achieved today without having to engage with the phenomena that brought about modernity. Western Enlightenment that emphasised reason, pluralism and a grounding in philosophies that go beyond abstract metaphysics is therefore anathema. Also unacceptable is the idea that profound achievements in areas such as astronomy and mathematics in ancient India were a product of contested ideologies and philosophies that included materialist and non-Vedic thought. Unless the political project of Hindutva is tackled head-on ideologically, we will continue to receive more pearls of unscientific wisdom.

DATA POINT

The cost of peace

India has suffered the highest number of fatalities (164 out of 6,593 personnel) among countries that have sent forces to the United Nations peacekeeping missions since 1948. Varun B. Krishnan analyses the data

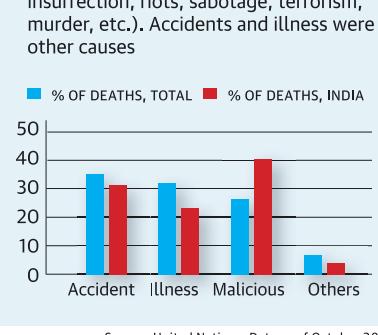
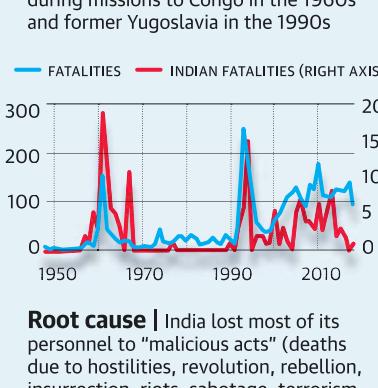
Roll call | Ethiopia and Rwanda have contributed the highest number of personnel, followed by three Asian countries – Bangladesh, India and Nepal. These five nations together account for a third of the total peacekeeping force



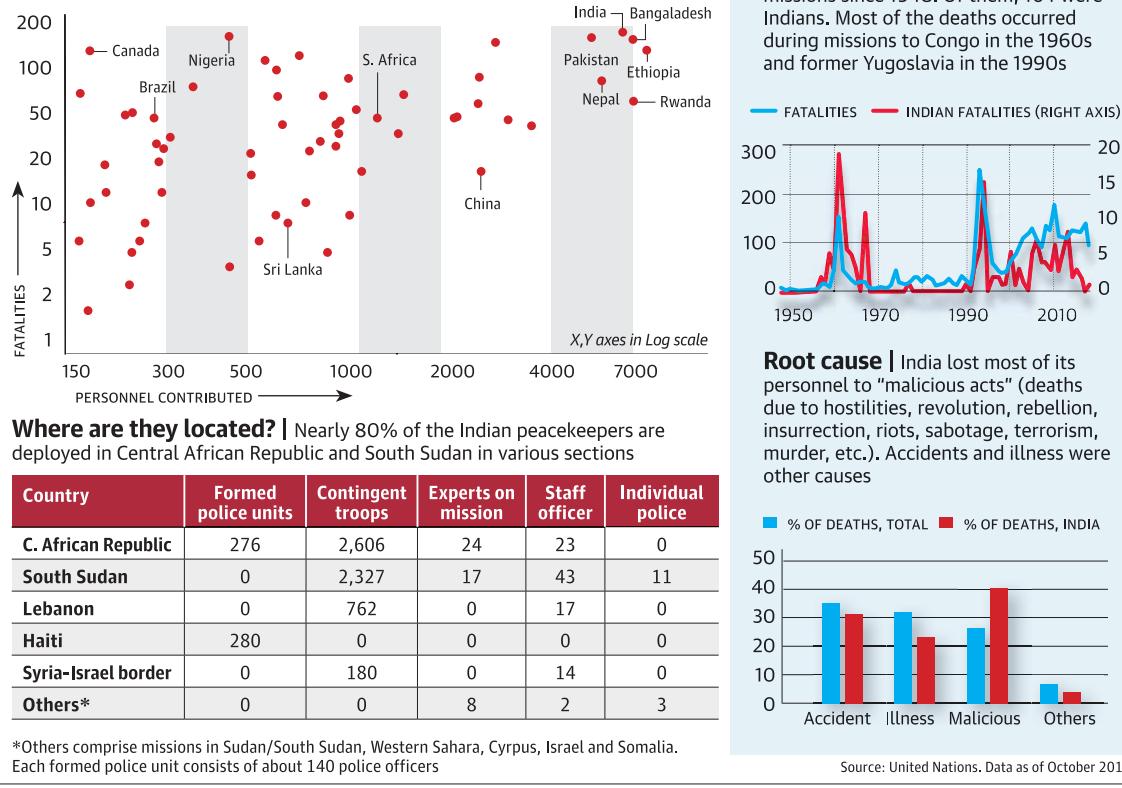
Country	Formed police units	Contingent troops	Experts on mission	Staff officer	Individual police
C. African Republic	276	2,606	24	23	0
South Sudan	0	2,327	17	43	11
Lebanon	0	762	0	17	0
Haiti	280	0	0	0	0
Syria-Israel border	0	180	0	14	0
Others*	0	0	8	2	3

*Others comprise missions in Sudan/South Sudan, Western Sahara, Cyprus, Israel and Somalia. Each formed police unit consists of about 140 police officers

Lost in action | Close to 3,800 personnel have been killed during missions since 1948. Of them, 164 were Indians. Most of the deaths occurred during missions to Congo in the 1960s and former Yugoslavia in the 1990s



Source: United Nations. Data as of October 2018



FROM The Hindu ARCHIVES

FIFTY YEARS AGO JANUARY 11, 1969

India's proposal on dispute settlement

A joint machinery to resolve Indo-Pakistani problems had been suggested by India to Pakistan. A proposal to this effect was conveyed to the Pakistan High Commissioner, Mr. Sajjad Hyder, by Mr. Kewal Singh, Secretary, External Affairs Ministry, here [New Delhi] to-day [Jan. 10]. Mr. Hyder was given the text of the statement made by the Prime Minister and her Press Conference on January 1. In particular Mr. Hyder's attention was drawn to the Prime Minister's offer to set up a joint machinery for the resolution of Indo-Pakistani differences along with the conclusion of a no-war pact. The Prime Minister's proposal is a follow-up of her earlier offer of a no-war pact.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO JANUARY 11, 1919.

Presidency Cricket Match.

So this great game of the seasons is after all coming off to-morrow [January 12] at Chepauk and all S Madras will be there for certain. The weather too so far has been all that could be desired, so that looks as though a fast and true cricket is awaiting the batsman. Thus he will indeed be a lucky skipper who wins the toss and secures for his side the first tenancy of the wickets. Both sides have made their final choice of players and the lists too have already been published in these columns. Looking at the Indian side, one is at first struck with its tremendous batting strength. In fact it would be hard to improve it in this line. Coming now to individuals, Dr. V. Ramanujulu stands a clan by himself. He is as sound as he is brilliant, a rare combination indeed. In short he is the most finished batsman of the side. Then comes Ramaswami, his own brother. He is even more dangerous than his great brother, for playing left handed, he takes most bowlers at a disadvantage. As for Yoganathan, he is unquestionably a batsman of an high order though he has not been particularly successful in the past in these games.

CONCEPTUAL Joint supply

ECONOMICS

This refers to a situation where the supply of two or more goods is inextricably linked. The increase or decrease in the supply of one of the goods will cause the supply of the other good to also increase or decrease at the same time. The increase in the supply of cows, for instance, simultaneously increases the supply of both milk as well as meat in the market. So the prices of both milk and meat will be affected by the rearing of more cows by farmers. The demand for jointly supplied goods, however, may not be commensurate with the available supply of each of the goods. The demand for milk, for instance, may be greater than the demand for meat in certain markets.

MORE ON THE WEB

Watch: The world's most beautiful bookstore

<http://bit.ly/NatBookStore>

FROM PAGE ONE

PM-led panel removes Alok Verma as CBI chief

The Panel concluded that as the head of a sensitive organisation, "Mr. Verma was not functioning with the integrity expected of him".

It noted that the CVC had found evidence of influencing of investigation in the Moin Qureshi case. Further, a government source claimed, there was also evidence of a ₹2-crore bribe and in the IRCTC case pertaining to the tenure of former Railway Minister Lal Prasad, a key name was left out of the FIR, as alleged.

The CVC's report against Mr. Verma was also the basis for the government to send him on forced leave two-and-a-half months ago, following which he approached the Supreme Court.

'Adultery, homosexuality not acceptable in Army'

Rainbow nations

Homosexuality in military service is legal in 175 countries and illegal in 20, including India. In five countries, including Indonesia, Belarus and El Salvador, openly gay people are not allowed to be part of military service as the "Don't ask, don't tell" policy is in place



It asked the LGBTQ (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer) community to forgive history for their brutal suppression. However, there has been no clarity on how it would affect the Army, which punishes adultery for "stealing the affection of brother officer's wife" and has a strict 'no' policy on homosexuality.

On homosexuality and LGBTs, too, Gen. Rawat said they were not acceptable in the Army and added, "We will still be dealing with them under various Sections of the Army Act."

Stating that the Army is "certainly not above the country's law," Gen. Rawat said that when one joined the Army, some of the rights and privileges authorised for civilians by the Constitution were not authorised for them [the Army]. "The Supreme Court has said something and we have to see how we take a call. Let us also see how this comes into the society," he stated.

10% economic quota Bill challenged in SC

The petition contended that the amendment excludes the OBCs and the SC/ST communities from the scope of the economic reservation. This, it said, "essentially implies that only those who are poor from the general categories would avail the benefits of the quotas".

"The Supreme Court has upheld the equality code as one of the foremost basic features of the Constitution... the value of equality

has been repeatedly emphasized to ensure that equals are not treated unequally," it said.

It said the high creamy layer limit of ₹8 lakh per annum ensures that the elite capture the reservation benefits. The petition further pointed out that the 50% ceiling limit of quota has been "engrafted as a part of the Basic Structure of the Constitution's equality code" by the Supreme Court.

Centre aims for 20% cut in air pollution by 2024

As part of the NCAP, cities have been given a specified number of days to implement specific measures such as "ensuring roads are pothole-free to improve traffic flow and thereby reduce dust" (within 60 days) or "ensuring strict action against unauthorised brick kilns" (within 30 days). It doesn't specify an exact date for when these obligations kick in.

Experts rule the lack of mandatory targets and the challenge of inadequate enforcement by cities. "While the NCAP is welcome, the government must strengthen compliance. We have seen enough plans, and the basic right to clean air can't

be left hanging due to lack of strong enforcement," said Aarti Khosla, Director, Climate Trends, in a written statement.

It is not clear how the government arrived at a number to determine the PM reduction targets. According to a report by the Environment Ministry, Beijing achieved a 40% reduction in five years, Mexico City a 73% reduction over 25 years. "In Delhi, we have seen an 8% reduction in annual PM levels from 2016," said an official in the Ministry who didn't want to be identified. "However this is Delhi. I'm not sure if this will be treated with the same urgency as in other cities."

Modi acting in fear, says Rahul

After CBI chief's ouster, Cong. says allegations against Verma are unsubstantiated

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI



Congress leader Anand Sharma, along with spokesperson Priyanka Chaturvedi, speaking in New Delhi. ■ R.V. MOORTHY

Hours after the high-powered committee headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi removed CBI chief Alok Verma, Congress president Rahul Gandhi alleged that "fear is rampaging through the Prime Minister's mind".

"Fear is now rampaging through Mr. Modi's mind. He can't sleep. He stole 30,000Cr from the IAF and gave it to Anil Ambani. Sacking the CBI Chief #AlokVerma twice in a row, clearly shows that he is now a prisoner of his own lies. Satyamev Jayate," tweeted Mr. Gandhi.

Tearing hurry
Earlier in the day, the Congress chief had tweeted that the government was in a "tearing hurry" to sack Mr. Verma because of the controversy surrounding the Rafale fighter jet deal.

Reacting to Mr. Verma's

transfer, Congress leader Anand Sharma said the high-powered committee failed to deliver justice and accused the Central Vigilance Commission of acting at the behest of the government.

"Of the 10 allegations, six of them are unsubstantiated or false. And the other four are only circumstantial... If there was anything serious in the CVC report, the Supreme Court would have acted on it," Mr. Sharma said at a press conference.

The former Union Minister also said principles of natural justice requires that "77 days [tenure]" that Mr. Verma lost should be given back to him.

"Despite the Supreme Court categorically stating that Mr. Verma's removal was illegal, the Modi government is trying to brazen it out. An arrogant Prime Minister thinks he is neither accountable to Parliament nor to the law of the land. Why is there a panic in the govern-

ment, what is the Prime Minister worried about, what is it he doesn't want the CBI to look into?" asked Mr. Sharma.

"Removal of Verma, raiding of CBI offices, removal of files, all that needs to be investigated," he added and asked for an independent committee be constituted.

Sore loser, says BJP

Hitting out at the Congress, the BJP called it a "sore loser", saying the party has been left to lick its wounds "after failing to subvert the central probe agency by joining personal battles".

In a tweet, BJP spokesperson G.V.L. Narasimha Rao said: "Shameless Congress lies again. Here are facts: 1) Shri Verma was given an opportunity to present his case before the CVC in presence of Justice Patnaik (retd), appointed by the Supreme Court. 2) SC also provided a copy of the CVC report to Verma's advocate."

(With inputs from PTI)

Verma reversed several transfers

Action taken hours before his removal

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) Director Alok Verma on Thursday approved five more transfers and postings within the agency, hours before a high-powered committee headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi removed him from the post.

Mr. Verma approved the fresh work allocations to Joint Director Ajay Bhattacharjee, Deputy Inspector General M.K. Sinha, Deputy Inspector General Tarun Gauba, Joint Director Murugesan and Additional Director A.K. Sharma.

Mr. Bhattacharjee, Joint Director of the Multi-Disciplinary Monitoring Agency (MDMA), has been given additional charge of the Training Division.

Mr. Sinha will hold charge of Anti Corruption-I unit

and the Bank Security and Fraud Cell; Mr. Gauba has been given additional responsibility of the Anti Corruption-III unit besides Chandigarh's Anti-Corruption Branch; Mr. Murugesan, the Joint Director of Anti Corruption-II unit will also supervise the Anti-Corruption-III unit; and Mr. Sharma will supervise Anti Corruption-I unit.

Asthana case
Superintendent of Police (SP) Mohit Gupta has been appointed investigating officer of the alleged corruption case against the agency's Special Director Rakesh Asthana.

Mr. Verma resumed office on Tuesday and cleared orders reversing transfers and postings of 10 officials, which were carried out under the interim CBI chief M. Nageswara Rao.

IN BRIEF



No chance of going back to SP, says Shivpal

LUCKNOW
Pragatisheel Samajwadi Party (Lohia) founder Shivpal Yadav on Thursday expressed confidence that the next government at the Centre cannot be formed without support from the party and stressed there was "no chance" of a merger with the Samajwadi Party, though he was open for an alliance. PTI

Budget session likely to begin on January 31

NEW DELHI
The vote-on-account session of Parliament will be at least a fortnight long and is likely to start on January 31, Parliamentary Affairs Minister Narendra Singh Tomar said on Thursday. The vote on account budget would be presented on February 1. "The Cabinet Committee on Parliamentary Affairs has not yet finalised the dates," Mr. Tomar said.

Chouhan, Raman Singh, Raje in BJP national team

NEW DELHI
The BJP on Thursday said that it was appointing the former Chief Ministers of Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh – Shivraj Singh Chouhan, Vasundhara Raje and Raman Singh respectively – as vice-presidents in its national team of office-bearers. The BJP recently lost in these States. Sources said all the three leaders may be fielded in the 2019 election.

EC to hold two-day meet of electoral officers

NEW DELHI
The Election Commission is holding a two-day meet of Chief Electoral Officers (CEOs) beginning on Friday to take stock of the preparedness for the Lok Sabha elections. The EC will discuss updating of electoral rolls, functioning of ERO Net, polling station arrangements and EVM-VVPAT. The EC will discuss takeaways from the recent Assembly elections.

NCW serves notice on Rahul Gandhi

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The National Commission for Women served notice on Congress president Rahul Gandhi on Thursday for his "misogynistic and offensive" remarks in a speech critical of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

At a rally in Jaipur, Mr. Gandhi attacked Mr. Modi for his absence from Parliament during the Rafale debate. He said: "The watchman with a 56-inch chest ran away and told a woman, [Nirmala] Sitharamanji, 'defend me. I have been transferred... I have stood up for the integrity of the agency's chief.'

"The remarks are extremely misogynistic, offensive and show extreme disrespect to women," the NCW said in its notice, asking him for an explanation.

Another issue is the disparity in the disability allowance between jawans and officers, or based on kinds of disabilities which he said has to be addressed. For this, the Army is looking at formulating a new disability policy, which Gen. Rawat said should be ready by mid-next year, after which it would be sent to the Defence Ministry for approval.

According to sources, Mr. Kharge said during the meeting that Mr. Verma, who was sent on a forced leave,

'Grant Verma 77 more days in office'

At the high-profile panel meet, Kharge says CBI chief should not be penalised

Charges false: Verma

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Congress leader in the Lok Sabha Mallikarjun Kharge on Thursday gave a dissent note during a meeting of the high-profile panel chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi against its decision to shunt out CBI Director Alok Verma. Instead, he asked the panel to compensate Mr. Verma by granting him 77 more days in office as the agency's chief.

Two days after Mr. Verma was reinstated by the Supreme Court, he was removed by a high-power committee headed by Mr. Modi on charges of corruption and dereliction of duty.

According to sources, Mr. Kharge said during the meeting that Mr. Verma, who was sent on a forced leave,

will do it again to uphold the rule of law," he said.

The independence of the CBI that dealt with "corruption in high public places" should be preserved. "I have tried to uphold the integrity of the institution while attempts were being made to destroy it," he said, adding that the Supreme Court order setting aside the government's original order and the CVC's orders of October 23, 2018, were proof of his stand.

It is sad that based on false, unsubstantiated and frivolous allegations made by only one person, who was inimical to me, I have been transferred... I have stood up for the integrity of the institution, and if asked,

should not be penalised and be given an extension of 77 days for which he was not allowed to attend the office.

This is the second time

Mr. Kharge has objected to Mr. Verma's removal. Incidentally, he had earlier objected to his appointment too.

He also demanded that a high-power committee order an investigation.

States' approval not needed for quota Bill

Amendment to a fundamental right does not require ratification by Legislative Assemblies

Paswan hits out at RJD

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Union Minister Ram Vilas Paswan hit out at the Rashtriya Janata Dal, which voted against the Constitution Amendment Bill that seeks to extend 10% reservation to economically backward among the unreserved category.

The 10% quota is over

and above reservation already extended to Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward Castes "so why is the RJD getting a stomach ache," Mr. Paswan asked.

"They want confrontation between the castes to continue so that they can play on the backward-forward binary."

States' Legislative Assemblies for ratification. Only Constitution amendments which affect the Centre-State relations or division of powers in a federal structure require subsequent ratification by the States' Legislatures before the Presidential assent," Professor R. Venkat Rao, constitutional expert and Vice-Chancellor of National Law School India Univer-

sity at Bengaluru, said.

To a query by Rajya Sabha MP M.K. Kanimozi on exactly this point, Union Law Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad had, on the floor of the House, confirmed that there was no need for States' ratification of the Bill.

"If Parliament is amending the Fundamental Rights, under Article 368, there is no obligation to go to the State

Vidhan Sabha. This was a part of the Constitution, as framed by them in 1949 and 1950. That needs to be appreciated," Mr. Prasad had responded to Ms. Kanimozi's query during the Parliament discussions on the Bill.

Open to judicial review

Experts, however, agree that the economic reservation law is open for judicial review. "Primarily, it affects the basic structure of the Constitution. The Constitution does not provide for economic reservation. The Indira Sawhney judgment has capped the reservation limit to 50%. Now, the new Bill increases reservation to 60%.

The court has said economically-deprived is not a homogenous group. It has held that economic backwardness cannot be the sole criterion for reservation," former Solicitor-General Mohan Parasaran said.

Citizens can send in ideas for Cong. election manifesto

Party core group reviews preparedness

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Former Finance Minister P. Chidambaram, who heads the Congress's manifesto committee, asked citizens to send in their suggestions on what the party's agenda should be for 2019 even as its core group on Thursday reviewed organisational preparedness.

"I appeal to all persons interested in contributing



P. Chidambaram

ideas to the Congress manifesto to send their suggestions to <http://manifesto.inc.in>. Alternatively, please send an email to manifesto@inc.in. Or send a WhatsApp message to 72920 88245," tweeted Mr. Chidambaram.

Earlier, the core group also met with the Congress in-charge of various States to discuss the party's organisational preparedness.

Leaders who are part of the nine-member core committee include former Defence Minister A.K. Antony, party treasurer Ahmed Patel, Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot, Leader of the Opposition in Rajya Sabha Ghulam Nabi Azad and former Union Minister Jairam Ramesh.

The RJD will set the tone for its campaign for the 2019 general election with its two-day National Council meet on Friday and Saturday at New Delhi's Ramlila Grounds, to be attended by a record 12,000 delegates and party workers.

According to Rajya Sabha MP and BJP's media cell chief, Anil Baluni, the size and scale of the meeting is going to be big and intensive. "Party chief Amit Shah will give the inaugural address and Prime Minister Na-

rendra Modi, who will be present throughout on those two days, will make the valedictory address," said Mr. Baluni.

Sources in the party indicated that the main aim of the event so close to the election was to accord "clarity" to party workers and leaders on campaign messaging. "There was some demoralisation of cadre after the loss in the three States, but the passing of new quota Bill has filled the party with *utsah* (optimism)," said a senior general secretary in the BJP.

</

Long battle

Chronology of events in the Ram Janmabhoomi-Babri Masjid dispute case

1949: Idol of Ram Lalla placed under a dome outside the Babri Masjid
1959: Nirmohi Akhara files suit seeking possession of the site
1981: U.P. Sunni Central Waqf Board files suit for possession of the site



Feb. 1, 1986: Local court orders govt. to open site for Hindu worshippers
Aug. 14, 1989: Allahabad HC orders maintenance of status quo
Dec. 6, 1992: Babri Masjid structure demolished (left)
April 3, 1993: 'Acquisition of Certain Area at Ayodhya Act' passed for acquisition of land by the Centre in the disputed area
Oct. 24, 1994: SC says that a mosque is not integral to Islam, in the historic

Ismail Faruqui case
April, 2002: Allahabad HC begins hearing on determining who owns the disputed site
Sept. 30, 2010: HC, in a 2:1 majority, rules for three-way division of disputed area between Sunni Waqf Board, Nirmohi Akhara and Ram Lalla
May 9, 2011: SC stays HC verdict on Ayodhya land dispute
Feb. 26, 2016: Subramanian Swamy files plea in SC seeking construction

of a Ram Temple at the site
March 21, 2017: CJI J.S. Khehar suggests an out-of-court settlement among rival parties
Nov. 20: U.P. Shia Central Waqf Board tells SC that temple can be built in Ayodhya and mosque in Lucknow
Dec. 1: 32 civil rights activists file plea challenging the 2010 verdict of the Allahabad HC
March 14, 2018: SC rejects all interim pleas, including Swamy's, seeking to

intervene as parties in the case
April 6: Rajeev Dhavan files plea in SC to refer the issue for reconsideration of the observations in its 1994 judgement to a larger Bench
July 20: SC reserves verdict
Sept. 27: SC declines to refer the case to a five-judge Constitution Bench. Case to be heard by a newly constituted three-judge Bench
Oct. 29: SC fixes the case for the first week of January 2019

Jan. 8, 2019: SC sets up five-judge Constitution Bench headed by Chief Justice Ranjan Gogoi and comprising Justices S.A. Bobde, N.V. Ramana, U.U. Lalit and D.Y. Chandrachud
Jan. 10: SC reschedules the hearing for Jan. 29 before a new Bench after Justice U.U. Lalit (in photo) recuses himself



Source: PTI

Ayodhya dispute: SC asks Registry to vet records

Bench concerned over quality of translation of documents

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Thursday ordered the Court Registry to make sure the translations of the case records pertaining to the Ram-Janmabhoomi-Babri Masjid title dispute are accurate.

A five-judge Constitution Bench, led by the Chief Justice of India Ranjan Gogoi, said there was lack of clarity on whether the translations of documents and depositions, which are in various languages, including Persian, Sanskrit, Arabic, Gurumukhi, Urdu and Hindi, were correct.

What the Registry reports back on January 29 would be significant and decide the time-frame for the hearings even as the May Lok Sabha elections draw close. The case is a political hot potato with the pressure piling up on the NDA government from several quarters to make good its 2014 electoral promise of a Ram temple on the disputed Ayodhya site.

In the judicial order issued on Thursday, Chief Jus-



Fervent plea: Members of various Hindu organisations raise pamphlets showing pictures of Lord Ram. ■ R.V. MOORTHY

tice Gogoi specifically tackled the brewing "speculations" on why he had chosen to set up a five-judge Constitution Bench though there was no judicial order to do so.

No ceiling
The CJI observed that Order 6, Rule 1 of Supreme Court Rules of 2013, only mandates that a minimum number of two judges should hear cases in the Supreme Court.

There is no ceiling limit

on the maximum number of judges on a Bench. The CJI can use his discretion to decide the strength of a Bench on the basis of the facts and circumstances of each case.

The Supreme Court had on the basis of an administrative order by Chief Justice Gogoi said that a five-judge Bench consisting of incumbent Chief Justice of India Ranjan Gogoi and the next four future Chief Justices of India in line of seniority will hear the Ayodhya title dispute appeals on January 10.

CJI reaffirms his role as 'master of roster'

Justice Gogoi asserts that setting up of Constitution Bench to hear appeals is within CJI's powers

KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL

NEW DELHI

Chief Justice Ranjan Gogoi, by constituting a five-judge Constitution Bench to hear the Ayodhya appeals, has reaffirmed the Chief Justice of India's role as the unchallenged 'master of roster' of the Supreme Court.

Usually, Constitution Benches are constituted to answer substantial questions of law as to the interpretation of the Constitution or in case of a reference from the President. Constitution Benches are also formed in the Supreme Court on judicial references made by smaller Benches of the court.

However, the Ayodhya appeals are basically appeals

arising out of title suits. Also, a September 27 SC judgment in the Ayodhya case had directed the further hearing of the appeals by a three-judge Bench and not by a larger Bench.

The Chief Justice, on Thursday, termed any questions about the decision as "speculations". In a judicial



Ranjan Gogoi

Thus, by giving judicial endorsement to his administrative order, Justice Gogoi has taken after his immediate predecessor, Justice Dipak Misra.

On November 10, 2017, it was a five-judge Constitution Bench led by the then CJI Justice Misra, which first de-

clared the Chief Justice of India as "the master of the roster who alone has the prerogative to constitute the Benches of the Court and allocate cases".

The Misra Bench had concluded that the CJI's role as the master of roster was necessary to avert chaos in the administration of justice in the Supreme Court.

Press conference

Incidentally, Justice Gogoi was one of the four judges who subsequently held the January 12, 2018, press conference against the selective allocation of important cases to certain Benches.

On Thursday, Justice Gogoi justified his administrative order to form a Constitu-

tion Bench by referring to Order VI, Rule 1 of the Supreme Court Rules of 2013. This provision provides that cases in the apex court should be heard by a Bench of minimum two judges.

That means it is completely left to the discretion of the CJI to decide the numerical size of a Bench.

The wide discretion of the CJI again is found in the 'Practice and Procedure' rule book followed by the Supreme Court. Here again, under the head 'Constitution Bench', it is found that "The Chief Justice may, from time to time, constitute a Bench consisting of five or more Judges for the purpose of hearing any other cause, appellate or matter".

Dushyant Dave had submitted that the Ayodhya dispute was probably the most important case in the history of India which would "decide the future of the polity". The appeals, they had said "go to the very heart of our secular and democratic fabric".

SC signals Ayodhya is not just a 'civil case' any more

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

The formation of a Constitution Bench to hear the Ayodhya appeals may be a signal from the Supreme Court that it does not consider the dispute merely as a civil suit for land but a case of historical

importance for the country.

In 2017, the then Chief Justice Dipak Misra, heading a three-judge Bench, chose to view the appeals like any others arising from a title dispute. Justice Misra had directed that a three-judge Bench would hear the ap-

peals. However, Chief Justice Ranjan Gogoi's decision to head a five-judge Constitution Bench, that too comprising prospective Chief Justices of India in the line of seniority, signals that the top court no more considers these appeals ordinary.

In fact, the constitution of the Constitution Bench is in line with submissions made by senior advocates including Rajeev Dhawan and Kapil Sibal.

In a December 5, 2017, hearing, Mr. Sibal, Mr. Dhawan and senior advocate

'No change in stand on Taliban'

Govt. reiterates position against direct talks after Army chief's comments

SUHASINI HAIDAR

NEW DELHI

In the midst of confusion over the Army Chief's comments on India joining talks with the Taliban,

A senior government official also said India's traditional position on a purely "Afghan-led and Afghan-owned" dialogue had not altered.

On the sidelines of the annual Raisina Dialogue, Minister of State for External Affairs Gen (Retd) V.K. Singh said India's position on direct talks with the Taliban remained the same.

He explained that the attendance of two former diplomats at a conference in Moscow which included Taliban representatives was purely "non-official".

"We had just sent non-officials because it was so-

mething called for by Russia," Mr. Singh told reporters, "We have got nothing to do with Taliban."

A senior government official also said India's traditional position on a purely "Afghan-led and Afghan-owned" dialogue had not altered.

On the sidelines of the annual Raisina Dialogue, Minister of State for External Affairs Gen (Retd) V.K. Singh said India's position on direct talks with the Taliban remained the same.

He explained that the attendance of two former diplomats at a conference in Moscow which included Taliban representatives was purely "non-official".

"We had just sent non-officials because it was so-

committed to pursuing bilateral ties with Afghanistan had also been conveyed to visiting U.S. envoy Zalmay Khalilzad. Mr. Khalilzad has met External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj and is meeting Foreign Secretary Vijay Gokhale and member of the National Security Advisory Board Amar Sinha, who was one of the "non-officials" who attended the Moscow talks, during his two-day visit.

The issue over talks with the Taliban has dominated much of the conversation during the Raisina Dialogue this year, with Russian officials promoting direct talks with the Taliban, and Iranian officials offering to facilitate a dialogue between India and the Taliban.

Senior officials said the message that India was

committed to pursuing bilateral ties with Afghanistan had also been conveyed to visiting U.S. envoy Zalmay Khalilzad. Mr. Khalilzad has met External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj and is meeting Foreign Secretary Vijay Gokhale and member of the National Security Advisory Board Amar Sinha, who was one of the "non-officials" who attended the Moscow talks, during his two-day visit.

The issue over talks with the Taliban has dominated much of the conversation during the Raisina Dialogue this year, with Russian officials promoting direct talks with the Taliban, and Iranian officials offering to facilitate a dialogue between India and the Taliban.

India emerging as world power: V.K. Singh

Minister lauds nation's friendship with many countries and its tech base

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

There are certain ingre-

nients required of middle powers or countries which can make a difference and India today has all of them to emerge as a leading world power, Mi-

nister of State for External Affairs General V.K. Singh said on Thursday.

"When India says that it can look for a role for itself, I would say a leading power, a role which is proactive, benevolent and which makes a mark, I

think the ingredients are there today in terms of the achievements that India has made," Gen. Singh said, speaking on a panel at the Raisina Dialogue conference. He said India is in a position where it has created many more

friends, and it has the required technological base that can be exploited.

He said India has been diplomatically able to create an environment where it can make friends with a large number of countries.

Earlier in the day, Mr Ibrahim met with Prime Minister Narendra Modi. "The Prime Minister congratulated Mr Ibrahim on his recent election as President of the PKR Party. The Prime Minister fondly recalled their last meeting in Malaysia in May 2018," a press statement from the Ministry of External Affairs stated.

Meets PM

Earlier in the day, Mr Ibrahim met with Prime Minister Narendra Modi. "The Prime Minister congratulated Mr Ibrahim on his recent

election as President of the PKR Party. The Prime Minister fondly recalled their last meeting in Malaysia in May 2018," a press statement from the Ministry of External Affairs stated.

He said India has been diplomatically able to create an environment where it can make friends with a large number of countries.

Sedition case against Assam scholar

Hiren Gohain spoke against Citizenship Bill at public meeting

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

GUWAHATI

The Assam police on Thursday registered a case of sedition against Left-leaning scholar Hiren Gohain, 80, for allegedly saying at a public meeting that demand for sovereignty might arise if the Centre ignores the voices of the Assamese people against the Citizenship (Amendment) Bill, 2016.

Similar cases were also registered at the Latasil Police Station against Akhil Gogoi, leader of Krishak Mukti Sangram Samiti, and activist-journalist Man-

jit Mahanta. "This is an attempt to muzzle the voices of dissent. We are, in fact, trying to protect democracy because the BJP has brought an undemocratic, communal Bill," Mr. Gohain told newsmen.

Mr. Mahanta said the scholar did not seek independence of Assam from India but had voiced concern about indigenous people seeking sovereignty if the Bill is eventually cleared.

The Bill, cleared by the Lok Sabha on Tuesday, seeks to hasten the process of legalising the

stay of non-Muslims from Afghanistan, Bangladesh and Pakistan, who allegedly fled religious persecution and came to India till December 31, 2014.

The sedition case against Mr. Gohain was filed after he allegedly said at a rally that seeking independence from India could be an option for the indigenous people if the Centre went ahead with the 'jatidhwanshi' (anti-race) Bill. He was arrested for sedition in September 2018 for allegedly inciting people to take up arms if Hindu migrants are forced upon Assam.

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA, "e"- PROCUREMENT NOTICE	
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER, KHORDHA (R&B) CIRCLE, KHORDHA	
WORKS DEPARTMENT	
Tender Call Notice E-mail: rbcirclekhurda@gmail.com	
Bid Identification No. SE-Khordha (R&B) Circle - 14/2018-19	
Memo No - Dt 07.01.2019	
<p>The Superintending Engineer, Khordha (R&B) Circle, Khordha on behalf of Governor of Odisha inviting percentage rate bid in double cover system in ONLINE MODE from eligible contractors for Building & Road works as detailed in the table below:</p>	
1. Nature of Work	: Building & Road Works
2. No of Work	: 04 Nos
3. Tender Cost	: Rs.10000.00 (On-Line)
4. Class of Contractor	: (Special Class, A Class & B Class)
5. Available of Bid document	: From Dt.18.01.2019 10.00 AM to Dt.04.02.2019 5.00 PM
6. Date of opening of Bid	: Dt 05.02.2019 at 11.30 AM
7. The Bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only. Further details can be seen from the Website: https://tenderodisha.gov.in . Any Addendum / Corrigendum / Cancellation of tender can also be seen in the said website.	
Superintending Engineer, Khordha (R&B) Circle, Khordha	
34127/11/0016/1819	

Jan. 8, 2019: SC sets up five-judge Constitution Bench headed by Chief Justice Ranjan Gogoi and comprising Justices S.A. Bobde, N.V. Ramana, U.U. Lalit and D.Y. Chandrachud

Jan. 10: SC reschedules the hearing for Jan. 29 before a new Bench after Justice U.U. Lalit (in photo) recuses himself



Opposition leader 'wins' DR Congo election

KINSHASA

Opposition leader Felix Tshisekedi was on Thursday declared winner of DR Congo's presidential election, but his victory was dismissed by the runner-up and questioned by the Catholic church. In a pre-dawn announcement, election officials named Mr. Tshisekedi as winner of the troubled vote to replace President Joseph Kabila.

Sirisena elevates General accused of war crimes

COLOMBO

Sri Lankan President Maithripala Sirisena has appointed a General accused by the UN of war crimes to the country's second-highest Army ranking. Major-General Shavendra Silva, who commanded an Army division accused of gross abuses against civilians during Sri Lanka's civil war, formally assumed duties as Chief of Staff of the Army on Thursday.

Trump visits Mexico border

President repeats his threat to impose national emergency to build wall

AGENCE FRANCE PRESSE

MCALLEN

President Donald Trump headed on Thursday to the U.S.-Mexico border to push his demand for a wall, a day after he walked out of negotiations with Democrats in a political crisis paralysing the government.

Mr. Trump left early from the White House *en route* for Texas, where he was expected to visit the community of McAllen and meet with local border patrol agents.

Border security

"We need border security," Mr. Trump told journalists before boarding the Marine One helicopter. The Texas trip gives Mr. Trump yet another high-profile stage to push his wall plan, following a national television address on Tuesday and his drama-filled abandonment of talks with Democratic opponents on Wednesday.

"If you don't have a steel barrier or a wall of some kind – strong, powerful – you are going to have human trafficking, you are going to



No headway: President Donald Trump and Vice-President Mike Pence walking up the steps of the Congress. ■ NYT

and began by asking if they would approve the wall in exchange for him ending the government shutdown. When the Democrats said no, he walked out. "A total waste of time," Mr. Trump tweeted. "I said bye-bye, nothing else works!"

Chuck Schumer, the top Democrat in the Senate, said that Mr. Trump "sort of slammed the table," then "got up and walked out." Mr. Trump disputed that, saying "I didn't pound the table. That is a lie."

In Texas, aid workers said people crossing the border do not present the menace that Mr. Trump claims. "The truth is that a great number of percentage of people entering our country, asking to come in to the country, are not criminals: they are families, children, mothers, who really are asking for protection," said Sister Norma Pimentel, head of the Catholic Humanitarian Respite Center in McAllen, Texas.

On Wednesday, Mr. Trump invited Democratic leaders to the White House

have drugs pouring across the border, you're going to have... the gangs coming in," he said outside the White House. But Democrats say the wall would not solve real U.S. immigration problems and is being promoted as a gimmick to satisfy the President's right-wing base.

Mr. Trump repeated his threat that if the Democrats don't back down, he will declare a national emergency to give himself authority to go around Congress. "If we don't make a deal, I think it would be very surprising to

me" not to declare a national emergency, he said. "I'm not prepared not to do that yet, but if I have to, I will. I have no doubt about it."

Cancels Davos trip

He also cancelled his upcoming trip to the annual international conference at Davos. "I am respectfully cancelling my very important trip to Davos, Switzerland for the World Economic Forum," he said in a tweet.

On Wednesday, Mr. Trump invited Democratic leaders to the White House

to hurt us but rather for us to help them."

'N. Korea summit looks close'

South says U.S. and North have narrowed their differences

CHOE SANG-HUN

SEOUL

President Moon Jae-in of South Korea said on Thursday that the visit to China this week by North Korean leader Kim Jong-un heralded an imminent second summit meeting between Mr. Kim and President Donald Trump to negotiate the terms of denuclearising the North.

Mr. Moon held his New Year's news conference in Seoul on Thursday, hours after Mr. Kim wrapped up a four-day trip to China, which included his fourth summit meeting with President Xi Jinping. China is considered the best buffer North Korea has against U.S. pressure and sanctions as Mr. Kim prepares for a second meeting with Mr. Trump. He also consulted with Mr. Xi before and after his first meeting with Mr. Trump, which took place in Singapore in June.

The June meeting produced a vaguely worded agreement to "work toward complete denuclearisation of the Korean Peninsula" and "new" relations between North Korea and the U.S., which have been adversaries for seven decades.

But talks have since stalled over how to implement the Singapore deal. Washington wants North Korea to start dismantling its nuclear facilities and weapons, while the North has demanded that the U.S. first build trust with corresponding measures, starting with the easing of sanctions.

"I think both sides know what the other side wants," Mr. Moon said during the nationally televised news conference.

"But they don't trust each other because of the mistrust that has accumulated between them for a long time, and they are insisting



On the right track: North Korean leader Kim Jong-un waving to people while departing from Beijing on Wednesday. ■ AFP

on the other side moving first." But Mr. Moon, who has been working to broker a compromise between Mr. Kim and Mr. Trump, said Mr. Kim's trip to Beijing "indicates that a second North Korea-U.S. summit has come close."

He said he expected North Korea and the U.S. to soon resume long-stalled, high-level talks to finalise the preparations for a second summit.

Optimistic sign

Mr. Moon said he believed

that North Korea and the U.S. had narrowed their differences considerably in recent months. If Mr. Kim and Mr. Trump meet again, they will try to forge a deal on what actions North Korea must take toward denuclearisation in order to encourage Washington to ease sanctions and what corresponding measures the United States must offer to expedite the North's nuclear disarmament, he said.

"I think both sides know what the other side wants," Mr. Moon said during the nationally televised news conference.

"But they don't trust each other because of the mistrust that has accumulated between them for a long time, and they are insisting

their differences on this issue," Mr. Moon said. When Mr. Xi met with Mr. Kim on Tuesday, the Chinese leader urged North Korea and the U.S. to meet each other "in the middle," Xinhua, China's state-run news agency, reported Thursday.

Mr. Kim told Mr. Xi that he remained committed to the goal of denuclearising the Korean Peninsula, the North's official Korean Central News Agency said Thursday.

Mr. Xi praised Mr. Kim's "new strategic line" of focussing on economic growth while suspending nuclear and missile tests, the North Korean news agency said, adding that Mr. Xi had accepted Mr. Kim's invitation to visit North Korea. Mr. Xi has never visited North Korea as Chinese leader.

Mr. Moon, the South Korean leader, has also urged North Korea and the U.S. to reach a compromise, urging North Korea to take bold steps toward denuclearisation and Washington to offer simultaneous incentives.

One such incentive could be a joint statement declaring a formal end to the 1950-53 Korean War. ■ NY TIMES

Every last Iranian boot will be expelled from Syria, says Pompeo

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

CAIRO

Secretary of State Mike Pompeo vowed on Thursday that the U.S. and its allies would work diplomatically to expel all Iranian troops from Syria, urging nations in the West Asian region to forge a common stand against Tehran.

"It's time for old rivalries to end, for the sake of the greater good of the region," said Mr. Pompeo at a keynote address in Cairo. America "will use diplomacy and work with our partners to

expel every last Iranian boot" from Syria and bolster efforts "to bring peace and stability to the long-suffering Syrian people," he added.

In his speech at the American University in Cairo, Mr. Pompeo said the U.S. is creating an anti-Iran front, bringing together Gulf countries as well as Egypt and Jordan.

He also stressed that the troop pullout from Syria would go ahead but said that the U.S. would remain engaged.

Minister contradicts May on 'no-deal Brexit'

'It will be disastrous for the country'

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

LONDON

Britain's Business Minister on Thursday warned that the prospect of crashing out of the European Union (EU) without an agreement would be "disastrous" for the country, as fractious MPs prepare to vote on a contentious Brexit deal.

Greg Clark's comments contradicted official government policy of not ruling out a no-deal Brexit and exposed further divisions after embattled Prime Minister Theresa May suffered a series of setbacks in Parliament.

A no-deal Brexit would be "a disastrous situation in which we move to the most rudimentary terms of trade with our closest partners," Mr. Clark told BBC radio. In such a scenario, Britain

would be forced to trade with the EU on World Trade Organization terms, which could mean much higher tariffs for some products.

"It is my strong view that we need to come together now, we need to act to avoid no-deal because I don't think there is anything remotely like a majority in Parliament that will tolerate it," he said.

Aussie charged over hazardous parcels

REUTERS

SYDNEY

Australian police on Thursday charged a 49-year-old man for sending as many as 38 packages containing a hazardous material to embassies and consulates across the country.

More than a dozen foreign offices received suspicious packages on Wednesday, including the Indian, U.S. and British missions in Melbourne.

The man, named as Sava Avan, was charged with sending dangerous articles through a postal service, an offence that carries a maximum penalty of 10 years in jail, the Australian Federal Police said.

Police said the packages contained asbestos, once a popular building material that can cause cancer and scarring of the lungs.

Local police chief Uddhab

Bangladesh jails man over morphed images

Photos of Hasina, Mammoham doctored

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

DHAKA

A 35-year-old man has been sentenced to seven years in prison for circulating photoshopped images of Bangladeshi Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and other politicians, including former Premier Manmohan Singh, amid criticism that her government is using tough Internet laws to silence dissent.

Monir Hossain from Tangail, Dhaka division, was jailed by Bangladesh Cyber Tribunal judge Mohammad As-Shams Jogul Hossain on Wednesday.

Mr. Hossain had been on bail and appeared in court for the verdict, bdnews24.com reported.

Alamgir Hossain and Subrata Shil – two others accused in the case started un-

der the Information and Communication Technology Act – were acquitted as charges against them were not proved, the report said.

Telecom shop

Mr. Hossain used to run his 'Monir Telecom' shop at Tangail's Nagarpur. He had sent doctored images of Ms. Hasina, former Bangladesh President Zillur Rahman and Mr. Singh to mobile phones of users in 2013, said the verdict.

Saturia police arrested Mr. Alamgir after finding out that he was showing around the photoshopped images on his phone. Following his arrest, Mr. Alamgir told police he got the images from Monir Telecom.

Rights groups have accused the government of using ICT laws to stifle dissent.

Nepali woman, sons found dead in windowless 'menstruation hut'

Smoke inhalation caused by fire possibly led to the deaths



Outlawed practice: A chhaupadi house in Achham village, some 800 km west of Kathmandu. ■ AFP

Singh Bhat said that Ms. Bohara's mother-in-law opened the hut the next day to find all three dead. Parts of the blankets sheltering the trio were burned, and Ms. Bohara had suffered burns to her legs. The shunning practice known as *chhaupadi* was outlawed in 2005 but is still enforced in parts of Nepal, particularly its remote and

TRANSCENDING TIME

The journey of an Inimitable Sage traced through lens and letters

LAUNCH OFFER



₹ 399

₹ 300*

*Shipping charges extra | Limited Period Offer

To book your copy, visit: www.thehindu.com/publications

For bulk booking, e-mail us at: bookstore@thehindu.co.in

For any enquiries, call: 1800 3000 1878

A SPECIAL PUBLICATION FROM THE HINDU GROUP

MARKET WATCH

	10 Dec	% CHANGE
Sensex	36,107	-0.25
US Dollar	70.41	0.07
Gold	33,070	0.82
Brent oil	60.97	2.11

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Ports	380.25	2.95
Asian Paints	1396.35	-5.65
Axis Bank	663.25	-6.85
Bajaj Auto	2725.30	28.40
Bajaj Finance	6371.95	-27.15
Bharti Airtel	337.30	2.80
BPLC	335.60	-4.45
Cipla	513.25	3.15
Coal India	233.00	0.35
Dr Reddy's Lab	2600.40	-2.70
Eicher Motors	20556.10	265.05
GAIL (India)	343.90	2.55
Grasim Ind	820.20	-15.10
HCL Tech	935.85	-2.55
HDFC	1980.10	-14.85
HDFC Bank	2108.50	-8.30
Hero MotoCorp	2919.50	-17.95
Hindalco	204.00	-1.70
HPLC	232.90	-6.10
Hind Unilever	1786.20	1.20
Indiabulls HFL	814.25	-7.50
ICICI Bank	379.50	-2.75
IndusInd Bank	1565.90	-35.85
Bharti Infralet	285.05	-5.30
Infosys	679.70	3.60
Indian Oil Corp	129.90	-2.10
ITC	289.60	-0.80
JSW Steel	289.30	-1.45
Kotak Bank	1219.55	-18.70
L&T	1392.60	6.55
M&M	733.20	6.90
Maurit Suzuki	7391.60	-101.30
NTPC	148.10	1.55
ONGC	143.25	-2.05
PowerGrid Corp	195.65	-1.95
Reliance Ind	1107.50	-3.25
State Bank	305.55	0.25
Sun Pharma	444.60	-4.15
Tata Motors	185.75	2.70
Tata Steel	480.40	1.20
TCS	1888.55	1.60
Tech Mahindra	694.55	0.85
Titan	966.70	13.75
UltraTech Cement	3818.20	0.95
UPL	773.10	8.30
Vedanta	195.45	0.70
Wipro	325.75	-3.25
YES Bank	186.90	0.45
Zee Entertainment	451.35	0.10

EXCHANGE RATES

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	70.21	70.53
Euro	80.96	81.33
British Pound	89.43	89.85
Japanese Yen (100)	65.00	65.30
Chinese Yuan	10.35	10.40
Swiss Franc	71.89	72.23
Singapore Dollar	51.96	52.20
Canadian Dollar	53.11	53.35
Malaysian Ringgit	17.13	17.21

Source: Indian Bank

BULLION RATES CHENNAI

Retail Silver (1g)	42.8	(42.5)
22 ct gold (1g)	3076	(3051)

GST burden on small businesses eased

Threshold for businesses in most States doubled to ₹40 lakh; small firms allowed to file annual returns

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

The GST Council in its 32nd meeting on Thursday – the last before the Budget – took a slew of decisions aimed at reducing the tax and compliance burden on small and medium enterprises, including increasing the threshold limit below which companies are exempt from GST, extending the Composition Scheme to small service providers, and allowing small companies to file annual returns.

The Council also raised the annual turnover limit under which companies would be exempt from GST to ₹40 lakh for most States and ₹20 lakh for the North Eastern and hill states, from the earlier limit of ₹20 lakh and ₹10 lakh, respectively.

"A very large part of GST revenue comes from the formal sector and large companies," Finance Minister Arun Jaitley said at a press conference. "The decisions taken today by the GST Council



Tax relief: Union Finance Minister Arun Jaitley addressing the media after the 32nd GST Council meeting. ■ R.V. MOORTHY

have been done to help the small and medium companies. The revenue impact due to these will be minimal."

"Increasing the threshold limit [in general] from ₹20 lakh to ₹40 lakh is a welcome relaxation from the GST Council and should benefit a large number of taxpayers," Pratik Jain, Partner and Leader Indirect Tax, PwC India, said. "Also, increasing the threshold to ₹40 lakh instead of ₹25 lakh [as speculated] is better because while

we need to provide relief to small taxpayers, it is equally important to expand the tax base."

Mr. Jaitley announced that the limit for eligibility for the Composition Scheme would be raised to an annual turnover of ₹1.5 crore from April 1, 2019. He added that companies opting for the Composition Scheme would be allowed to file annual returns and pay taxes quarterly from April 1.

The Composition Scheme currently allows companies

with an annual turnover of up to ₹1 crore to opt for it, and file returns on a quarterly basis at a nominal rate of 1%. So far, only manufacturers and traders were eligible for this scheme.

Mr. Jaitley said that the Council had decided to extend the Composition Scheme to small service providers with an annual turnover of up to ₹50 lakh, at a tax rate of 6%.

"The option of composition scheme for small service providers is quite a welcome one," Abhishek Jain, Tax Partner, EY India said. "Further, allowing a quarterly payment and annual return should bring quite a lot of relief and ease of doing business for small service providers."

The Confederation of All India Traders, in a statement, said that increasing the GST threshold limit would allow about 10 lakh traders to be exempt from the compliance burden of GST, and added that increas-

ing the Composition Scheme limit would benefit about 20 lakh small businesses that fall between the annual turnover brackets of ₹1 crore and ₹1.5 crore.

Mr. Jaitley said that the GST Council also decided to allow Kerala to levy a cess of up to 1% for up to two years on intra-State supplies to help finance the disaster relief efforts following the recent floods in the state.

"Allowing disaster cess of 1% to be introduced in the State of Kerala on local supplies... may be an administrative issue for both businesses and government and this may set a precedence for other States to demand additional levy," Mr. Jain added.

As there were diverse and differing opinions on the issues of taxing real estate and lotteries, the GST Council decided to set up to separate Groups of Ministers to look into the issue and present their assessments to the Council, Mr. Jaitley said.

Kerala cess

The GST Council also decided to allow Kerala to levy a cess of up to 1% for up to two years on intra-State supplies to help finance the disaster relief efforts following the recent floods in the state.

"Allowing disaster cess of 1% to be introduced in the State of Kerala on local supplies... may be an administrative issue for both businesses and government and this may set a precedence for other States to demand additional levy," Mr. Jain added.

The Confederation of All India Traders, in a statement, said that increasing the GST threshold limit would allow about 10 lakh traders to be exempt from the compliance burden of GST, and added that increas-

TCS Q3 profit rises 24.1% to ₹8,105 crore

Digital accounts for 30% of revenue

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

MUMBAI

Tata Consultancy Services, India's largest software exporters, reported a 24.1% growth in its third quarter net profit to ₹8,105 crore compared to the year-earlier period even as on-site hiring dragged the margins down for the IT bellwether.

Revenue of the IT services major increased 20.8% during the quarter to ₹37,338 crore, the highest in 14 quarters. Digital accounted for 30.1% of the revenue, registering year-on-year growth of 52.7%. TCS's CEO and MD Rajesh Gopinathan said,

"We are wrapping up 2018 with a strong revenue growth of 12.1% in the December quarter, which is the highest in 14 quarters, with continued growth acceleration in key verticals and across all geographies. During the quarter, TCS added 6,827 people (net), taking the overall employee strength to 4,17,929 employees.

Attrition rate was at 11.2% in the last 12 months (LTM) basis.

Commenting on the results, Sanjeev Hota, AVP Research, at Sharekhan said, "TCS delivered broadly in line revenue numbers for Q3, however, margins performance missed the mark owing to higher than expected cross currencies headwinds and higher cost of doing business onsite."

Previous quarter to 25.6% below the guided range of 26-28%.

Rupee volatility

The company's chief financial officer V. Ramakrishnan said "despite headwinds from the rupee volatility against various currencies, and the higher cost of doing business in some major markets, our operating margins have been resilient.

"We remain focused on driving rigour in our operations, generating strong cash flows and steering profitability back to our preferred range, while continuing to invest strongly for future growth," he added.

During the quarter, TCS added 6,827 people (net), taking the overall employee strength to 4,17,929 employees.

Attrition rate was at 11.2% in the last 12 months (LTM) basis.

Commenting on the results, Sanjeev Hota, AVP Research, at Sharekhan said, "TCS delivered broadly in line revenue numbers for Q3, however, margins performance missed the mark owing to higher than expected cross currencies headwinds and higher cost of doing business onsite."

Jaguar Land Rover to cut 4,500 jobs in U.K.

Carmaker has been making losses following a massive drop in demand in China, its biggest market

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

MUMBAI

Tata Motors-owned Jaguar Land Rover has announced plans to cut 4,500 jobs in the U.K. as part of its strategy to achieve cost reduction and cash flow improvements of £2.5 billion in 18 months.

The workforce would be reduced through a "Voluntary Redundancy Programme," the company said. The carmaker has a workforce of about 40,000 in the U.K. The company did not specify the types of jobs that would be affected.

The company has been

making losses following a massive drop in demand in China, its biggest market, and concerns on diesel vehicles.

Jaguar Land Rover is expanding business-wide organisation review aimed at reducing the size of its global workforce by around 4,500 people. This is in addition to the 1,500 people who left the company during 2018," the company said in a statement.

Leaner organisation

"The next stage of this transformation programme will begin with a voluntary re-

action to deliver long-term growth, in the face of multiple geopolitical and regulatory disruptions as well as technology challenges facing the automotive industry," said Ralf Speth, CEO, JLR.

"The Change to Accelerate" programme combines efficiency measures with targeted investment, safeguarding our future and ensuring that we maximise the opportunities created by growing demand for autonomous, connected, electric and shared technologies," he added. He said so far this programme had identified over

£1 billion of improvements with more than £500 million already realised in 2018. The savings will enable the company fund improvements in technology to safeguard its future, he added.

Later this year, the company would start producing the next generation electric drive units (EDU) at its engine manufacturing centre in Wolverhampton.

The EDUs would be powered by batteries assembled at a new Jaguar Land Rover Battery Assembly Centre located at Hams Hall, North Warwickshire.

action to deliver long-term growth, in the face of multiple geopolitical and regulatory disruptions as well as technology challenges facing the automotive industry," said Ralf Speth, CEO, JLR.

"The Change to Accelerate" programme combines efficiency measures with targeted investment, safeguarding our future and ensuring that we maximise the opportunities created by growing demand for autonomous, connected, electric and shared technologies," he added. He said so far this programme had identified over

APSRTC E-AUCTION

E-Auction of Unserviceable Vehicles/Materials/Tyre Material/Tubes/Flaps/Rubber/Bearing/Obscure Surplus spare parts/Serviceable major units and Luxury/Hi-Tech Bus seats with and without Redining Mechanism at the following zones of APSRTC on the dates mentioned against each, **ON AS IS WHERE IS CONDITION**, Vizagapatnam : 13.02.2019, Nellore : 20.02.2019, Vijayawada : 27.02.2019, Kadapa : 06.03.2019. For details please visit website: www.mstcommerce.com and APSRTC website: http://www.apsrc.gov.in/Tenders/ and can be downloaded from the website: www.mstcindia.co.in under forthcoming e-auctions.

No.COS/II/UDIS/55-11/2018-19, Dt.09.01.2019

Sd/- Chief Controller of Stores

The Kerala Minerals and Metals Ltd.

(A Gov

**IN BRIEF****Maruti Suzuki hikes prices of select models**

NEW DELHI
The country's largest car maker Maruti Suzuki on Thursday announced a price hike of up to ₹10,000 on select models on account of rise in commodity prices and adverse impact of foreign exchange rates. The increase is effective immediately. "The price change varies across models and ranges up to ₹10,000 (ex-showroom - Delhi). The new prices are effective from 10th January 2019," the company said.

Honda drives in new City variant at ₹12.75 lakh

NEW DELHI
Honda Cars India said it has launched a new variant of its mid-sized sedan City priced at ₹12.75 lakh (ex-showroom Delhi). The new trim - ZX MT - is powered by a 1.5-litre petrol powertrain mated with manual transmission and comes with rear parking sensors. The company said it had brought in the new trim due to high demand for top spec petrol variant in manual transmission. Currently, Honda also sells an automatic version of the sedan. PTI

Sequoia leads \$40 mn fund infusion in Eruditus

MUMBAI
Eruditus group, consisting of Eruditus Executive Education and its online division Emeritus, has raised Series C funding totalling \$40 million. The funding was led by Sequoia India with participation from existing investor Bertelsmann India Investments. "This fund-raise will help accelerate our mission of making high-quality professional education more accessible and affordable," said Ashwin Damera, Director, Emeritus.

Market risk, economic growth to drive gold demand in 2019: WGC

'Global investors will continue to favour precious metal as an effective diversifier'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

MUMBAI

Increased market uncertainty and expansion of protectionist economic policies will make gold increasingly attractive as a hedge in 2019, says the latest report by the World Gold Council (WGC), adding that structural economic reforms in key markets will continue to support demand for gold in jewellery, technology and as means of savings in the year.

"We expect that the interplay between market risk and economic growth in 2019 will drive gold demand," said the report.

Key trends

According to WGC, key trends that are expected to influence the precious me-



Gaining sheen: Gold will be supported by development of the middle class in emerging markets, says the WGC report. • AFP

tal's price performance include financial market instability, monetary policy and the U.S. dollar and the structural economic reforms.

"Against this backdrop, we believe that gold has an increasingly relevant role to play in investors' portfolios," the report added, while

highlighting that in 2019 global investors would continue to favour gold as an effective diversifier and hedge against systemic risk.

Gold's performance in the near-term would be heavily influenced by perceptions of risk, the direction of the dollar, and the impact of struc-

tural economic reforms, WGC said. "In the longer term, gold will be supported by the development of the middle class in emerging markets, its role as an asset of last resort, and the ever-expanding use of gold in technological applications," the report stated.

Incidentally, gold prices witnessed a see-saw journey in 2018 as investor interest ebbed and flowed despite steady growth in most sectors of demand. The precious metal also faced headwinds for most part of 2018 with the dollar strengthening, the Fed continuing to hike rates steadily while other central banks keeping policy accommodative, and the U.S. economy getting a fillip in the form of tax cuts.

IL&FS exposure drags profit growth of Bandhan Bank

Lender marks loan as NPA, makes ₹384.95 crore provision

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

MUMBAI

Private sector lender Bandhan Bank reported a lower-than-expected 10.3% growth in net profit to ₹331.26 crore for the quarter ended December as it classified loans given to troubled infrastructure developer IL&FS Group as non-performing.

"Provision of ₹384.95 crore made in respect of an exposure to a borrower from infrastructure development and finance sector, which was classified as non-performing asset and fully provided for during the quarter," the lender said while announcing its earnings for the third quarter.

NPA ratio

Gross NPA ratio increased to 2.4% as on December com-

Challenging quarter

Metrics	Q3 FY19	Q3 FY18
Total income (₹cr.)	1,883.65	1,336.42
Net profit (₹cr.)	331.26	300.04
Gross NPAs (%)	2.41	1.67
Net NPAs (%)	0.7	0.8
Basic EPS (₹)	2.78	2.74

pared with 1.7% in the year-earlier period and 1.3% sequentially.

On Wednesday, another private sector lender Indiabank reported muted profit growth as it provided ₹255 crore for loans given to IL&FS while maintaining 'standard asset' classification.

Bandhan's net interest income (NII) for the quarter

grew by 53.5% to ₹1,124 crore while non-interest income rose 48.1% to ₹234 crore. Operating profit for the period under review increased by 56.8% to ₹900 crore.

"Net Interest Margin (NIM) for the current quarter stands at 10.3% against 9.9% in the corresponding quarter of the previous year and 9.7% for FY 2017-18," the lender said.

Glenmark arm, Yuhan ink pact for nasal spray

To sell Ryaltris in South Korea

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

MUMBAI

Glenmark Specialty S.A., the Swiss subsidiary of Glenmark Pharmaceuticals Ltd., has entered into an exclusive licensing agreement with Yuhan Corporation for commercialising its novel nasal spray Ryaltris in South Korea.

The agreement with Yuhan is Glenmark's second regional licensing deal for Ryaltris. In July 2018, it entered into an exclusive licensing agreement with Seqirus Pty. Ltd. to commercialise Ryaltris in Australia and New Zealand. "Ryaltris [olopatadine hy-

drochloride (665 mcg) and mometasone furoate (25 mcg)], developed by Glenmark, is a novel, investigational, fixed-dose combination nasal spray of an anti-histamine and a steroid, indicated for treatment of symptoms associated with seasonal allergic rhinitis (SAR) in patients over 12 years of age," the company said.

As per the agreement, Glenmark will be responsible for manufacture and supply of the product, while Yuhan will be responsible for regulatory filing and commercialization of Ryaltris in South Korea.

Luxury car market finds traction despite strong headwinds

Sales volume crosses the 40,000-mark in 2018

LALATENDU MISHRA

MUMBAI

Despite strong headwinds the luxury car segment in India grew 3.46% in 2018 and total volumes crossed the 40,000-mark. Except Audi India, all players reported growth.

Luxury car makers sold a total of 40,340 units compared with 38,989 units sold in 2017. While Mercedes-Benz India maintained its market leadership position for four years in a row with a sales of 15,538 units compared with 15,330 units sold last year (1.4% growth), BMW Group reported signif-



icant gain by selling 11,105 cars (BMW+Mini) compared with 9,800 cars sold last year, (13% growth). BMW seems to have gained market share and volume at the cost of Audi and other players. BMW 5 series and BMW 6 se-

ries contributed strongly to the growth.

Audi India in 2018 sold a total of 6,463 units as compared with 7,876 units sold in 2017, down 18%.

The company said the drop was primarily on account of closure of its single largest dealer in Delhi NCR.

Jaguar Land Rover (JLR) sold more vehicles in India last year. It sold 4,596 units compared with 3,954 units in 2017, up 16%. The most significant growth was witnessed by Volvo cars. The company sold 2,638 units compared with 2,029 units sold in 2017, up 30%.

SC modifies order in case against RCom chief

Telco 'failed' to pay ₹550 cr. to Ericsson

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court has revised its January 7 order in a contempt petition filed by Ericsson India against Reliance Communication Ltd. (RCom) chairman Anil Dhruv Ambani to clarify that "personal appearance of the alleged contemnor(s) is not dispensed with" in the next hearing scheduled five weeks later.

The earlier version of the order had read "personal appearance of the alleged contemnor(s) is not dispensed with." On January 7, the court had asked Mr. Ambani and other respondents

to file a reply in four weeks.

Senior counsels for the company Kapil Sibal and Mukul Rohatgi offered ₹118 crore by way of demand drafts towards outstanding dues, which Ericsson refused. The court, however, ordered the demand drafts be deposited with the court registrar in three weeks.

This is the second round of contempt proceedings in the case. Earlier hearings in the court were based on a contempt petition filed by Ericsson against Mr. Ambani and two top executives for failure to pay ₹550 crore as ordered by the apex court on August 3.

THE HINDU



INDIA'S NATIONAL NEWSPAPER SINCE 1878

CHENNAI

CITY EDITION

34 pages • ₹4.00

#UNDERMYWATCH

WE WILL USE CLOTH BAGS

Under My Watch is an initiative by The Hindu that celebrates conscious and responsible citizens who make India better, one small act at a time. It starts now. And it starts with you.



THE HINDU GROUP

India's World Cup squad is more or less settled, says Rohit

But no player is guaranteed a place as final selection will be based on form and fitness

OZ CHALLENGE

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
SYDNEY

Vice-captain Rohit Sharma said on Thursday India's World Cup squad was more or less settled but nobody should take his place for granted as poor form could lead to omissions.

"The squad that plays these 13 ODIs is more or less the same squad that will go to the World Cup. There will be one or two changes, keeping in mind the form and injury concerns over the next few months," Rohit said ahead of India's first ODI against Australia here on Saturday.

"We played a lot of cricket throughout the year, so injuries are bound to happen. And there will be some concerns about form and fitness," he said.

Slots taken

Talking about the slots in the playing eleven, he said, "the slots are pretty much taken. But having said that, I feel everything will depend on the form of each player. Nobody is guaranteed that flight to England yet."

The World Cup starts on



In the groove: Virat Kohli, right, and Rohit Sharma helm a team that wears a settled look. ■ FILE PHOTO

May 30 in England.

India last played ODIs in Australia in 2016, and lost the five-match series 4-1. The top-order, comprising Rohit, Shikhar Dhawan and Virat Kohli, had excelled back then, but the middle order did not provide enough support.

"It's not about one or two individuals, it's about 11 of us contributing. Individuals may win one or two games, but to win the champion-

ship, the batting unit needs to come together.

Talking about individual players, he said, "We saw Ambati Rayudu coming good in the last series we played in India. Dinesh Karthik has done reasonably well. M.S. Dhoni, obviously, is the key factor going forward. Then there's Kedar Jadhav who brings so much to the table with his bowling, and with his ability to strike the ball at the end."

"All these guys are very important, and not to forget Hardik Pandya and Ravindra Jadeja who will be playing a crucial role with the bat. That finishing touch is very, very important in this format."

Aussie bowling strength
Australia will be missing the services of Mitchell Starc, Josh Hazlewood and Pat Cummins, but Rohit said, like in 2016, the home side

still had good enough bowlers to pose problems for the batsmen.

"These three guys don't play too much of ODI cricket if I am not wrong. The last time we came here (2016) none of these guys played and we were still beaten 1-4, so they still have quality in their attack."

"We have to grind it out there, face the challenge and make sure that we put them under pressure."

Bengaluru to host first T20I

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

Bengaluru will host the first match of Australia's limited-over tour of India with a T20I on Feb. 24, the BCCI announced on Thursday.

The second T20I will be played in Visakhapatnam on Feb. 27, followed by five ODIs.

The first ODI will be held in Hyderabad on March 2, followed by matches in Nagpur (March 5), Ranchi (March 8), Mohali (March 10) and New Delhi (March 13).

Both T20Is will be night matches starting at 7 p.m., and all five ODIs will be day-night affairs, starting at 1.30 p.m. according to a BCCI release.

This will be Australia's last international assignment before the World Cup which starts on May 30 in England.

For India, this series will be followed by a home series against Zimbabwe, before the players head into the IPL ahead of the World Cup.

Dhoni the guiding light



Value addition: M.S. Dhoni brings to the table his wealth of experience as player and captain. ■ FILE PHOTO

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
SYDNEY

Veteran wicketkeeper-batsman Mahendra Singh Dhoni's indifferent form has come under the scanner in recent times

but India vice-captain

Rohit Sharma has backed him, saying he will play a pivotal role in the World Cup later this year.

Rohit said here on Thursday, besides his finishing abilities, Dhoni's mere presence lends

calmness to the team, especially youngsters.

"With him being around, there is a sense of calmness in the group. He also helps out the captain because he stands behind the stumps," Rohit said.

"He has captained India for so many years and been successful. So he being around with the team is always helpful. He is like a guiding light around the group," he said.

India squanders chances, goes down to UAE

ASIAN CUP

SHYAM VASUDEVAN
ABU DHABI

The Indians gave it their all. They chased down every ball with ferocious hunger, leaped high for every header and lunged to stop every through-ball, but emerged second best to United Arab Emirates. India struggled to convert its chances and slipped to a 2-0 loss to UAE in the Asian Cup on Thursday.

The Blue Tigers were un-

doubtedly the better team in the opening half. They attacked with hunger, defended with valour and looked imposing. They had two glorious chances to draw first blood but were undone by a momentary defensive lapse minutes from half-time.

Ali Mabkhout was released down the left flank and neither Anas Edathodika nor Sandesh Jhingan was able to decide who'd chase him down. Mabkhout made the most of their indecisiveness and ran between the

two to race into the attacking third. He squared it to Khalid Mubarak, who beat two defenders and produced a clinical finish. The home crowd, drowned out by the boisterous Indian fans, was brought back to life.

Talisman Sunil Chhetri came within inches of bagging the equaliser the very next minute, but his attempt drifted agonisingly wide.

It was Chhetri who won India's first goal-scoring chance. He stole the ball in midfield and played a deli-

cate through-ball to Ashique Kurunyan with just the goalkeeper to beat. The winger tried to find the top corner but Khalid Eisa made a sharp save. Jhingan had a chance soon after, but his header flew wide.

Stephen Constantine's men went into the interval, one-goal down but not low on spirits. And a smart one-two saw them nearly restore parity 13 minutes after resumption. Chhetri fed the ball to Udanta Singh in the box and he fired a thunder-

ous strike that rattled the crossbar.

The forwardline remained incisive and continued to find gaps, but the defence remained shaky. With India still searching for the equaliser, Mabkhout put the contest to bed with two minutes left on the clock. Al-Hammedi lobbed it to Mabkhout who beat his marker and scored past a hapless Gurpreet.

The results: Group A: UAE 2 (Mubarak 41, Mabkhout 88) bt India 0; Bahrain 0 lost to Thailand 1 (Chanathip 58).

Mary Kom is World No.1

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

M.C. Mary Kom's unprecedented sixth World title last November has propelled her to the top position in the AIBA latest World rankings.

In the latest rankings put out by AIBA, Mary Kom is placed top of the chart in the 48kg weight division with 1700 points. The 36-year-old will have to move to 51kg in pursuit of her 2020 Olympic dream as 48kg is not yet included in the Games roster.

Other Indians' rankings: Pinki Jangra (8th, 51kg); Manisha Maun (8th, 54kg); Sonia Lather (2nd, 57kg); Simranjit Kaur (4th, 64kg); L Sarita Devi (16th, 64kg); Lovlina Borgohain (5th, 69kg).

Prajnesh closes in on main draw

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
MELBOURNE

Prajnesh Gunneswaran inchéd closer to his maiden Grand Slam appearance with a 6-3, 6-3 win over Spain's Enrique Lopez Perez in the men's singles second round of the Australian Open Qualifiers.

However, Ankita Raina and Ramkumar Ramanathan were ousted after suffering narrow defeats.

World No 132 Ramkumar played a very close match before losing 7-5 6-7(6) to Germany's Rudolf Molleker, ranked 207.

In the women's singles, Ankita went down 6-4 2-6 4-6 to Spain's 29th seed Paula Badosa Gibert, World No. 142.



Thwarted: UAE defender Khliwa Mubarak Ghan clears the ball away from India striker Jeje Lalpekhlua. ■ AP

Hardik, Rahul were 'very crass': Rai

Edulji seeks legal opinion on the proposed two-match ban

G. VISWANATH
MUMBAI

The disciplinary action proposed by Committee of Administrators chief Vinod Rai – a two-match ban for Hardik Pandya and K.L. Rahul – in the aftermath of the unpleasant episode involving the two India cricketers on the television celebrity show 'Koffee With Karan' has not been accepted by the second CoA member Diana Edulji.

The former India women's team captain and a retired senior sports administrator from the Indian Railways, Edulji, chose to consult the BCCI's legal department and also copied correspondence from Rai and Hardik to the Board's office-bearers, C.K. Khanna (acting president), Amitabh Choudhary (acting secretary) and Amirudh Chaudhary (treasurer).

Having felt persecuted by conclusions drawn by Rai on the sexual harassment report – involving the BCCI CEO Rahul Johri – submitted by an independent committee and thereafter in the ap-



Vinod Rai. ■ AFP

pointment of an ad-hoc committee that selected W.V. Raman as head coach of the Indian women's team, Edulji did not respond to Rai's mail asking for her thoughts on the behaviour of Hardik and Rahul, and his idea of imposing a two-match suspension on both the players.

Was it appropriate?

Responding to the communication from Edulji, Choudhary has asked if it was appropriate to distance the BCCI office-bearers from the process to initiate action

Match-fixing gang dismantled

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
MADRID

Spanish police have dismantled a gang that allegedly fixed professional tennis competitions, detaining 15 people and probing 68 others including tennis players, one of whom played in the last US Open, they said Thursday.

In a statement, the Civil Guard police force said the organisation bribed tennis players to fix matches in ITF Futures and Challenger tournaments, the lower levels of professional tennis where young players start out before getting to the ATP level.

The Civil Guard added the operation kicked off after the Tennis Integrity Unit, an anti-corruption tennis body, made an official complaint. It did not identify those detained or being probed but said one of them played in the last US Open. It is unclear whether the player is among the arrested or investigated.

The Civil Guard received a code violation for coaching, a penalty point for racquet abuse and a game penalty for calling the umpire a "liar" and a "thief" in the US Open final.

She last won a Major at the 2017 Australian Open when she was four weeks pregnant. In her comeback year, she

The US Open row will not tarnish Serena's legacy: Evert

PREETHI RAMAMOORTHY

Serena Williams' legacy will not be tarnished by what happened at the US Open final last year, 18-time Grand Slam champion Chris Evert said ahead of the Australian Open, which begins on Monday. Serena is seeking a record-equalling 24th Major title.

"That will overshadow everything at the end of the day. I think there will be a side-note that Serena has a lot of passion, that she, at times, lost her cool on court.

"But I don't think for one minute it's going to tarnish her whole reputation or record."

Evert, who will be a commentator with ESPN for the tournament, said.

Serena received a code violation for coaching, a penalty point for racquet abuse and a game penalty for calling the umpire a "liar" and a "thief" in the US Open final.

She last won a Major at the 2017 Australian Open when she was four weeks pregnant. In her comeback year, she

reached the finals of both Wimbledon and the US Open.

"We all know Serena is very dangerous when she is fit and healthy. You know the motivation is going to be there. She had it when she was single. Maybe she has it even more now that she is a working mother," Evert said.

Serena Williams' legacy will not be tarnished by what happened at the US Open final last year, 18-time Grand Slam champion Chris Evert said ahead of the Australian Open, which begins on Monday. Serena is seeking a record-equalling 24th Major title.

"That will overshadow everything at the end of the day. I think there will be a side-note that Serena has a lot of passion, that she, at times, lost her cool on court.

"But I don't think for one minute it's going to tarnish her whole reputation or record."

Evert, who will be a commentator with ESPN for the tournament, said.

Serena received a code violation for coaching, a penalty point for racquet abuse and a game penalty for calling the umpire a "liar" and a "thief" in the US Open final.

She last won a Major at the 2017 Australian Open when she was four weeks pregnant. In her comeback year, she

Interesting first-round matches

Men

- Tomic vs Cilic
- Bautista Agut vs Murray
- Monfils vs Dzumur
- Edmund vs Berdych
- Gulbis vs Wawrinka
- Raonic vs Kyrgios
- Thiem vs Paire

Rapors storm into the last four

PBL

ASHWIN ACHAL
BENGALURU

Home side Bengaluru Raptors sealed a semifinal berth with a 3-2 victory over Chennai Smashers in the Premier Badminton League (PBL) at the Sree Kanteerava Indoor Stadium here on Thursday. With 21 points, Bengaluru finished the group stage in the third spot. Smashers (15 points) finished sixth and crashed out.

The tie began with a victory for Chennai, as the men's doubles pair of Chris Adcock and Chin Chung upset the two-time World Champion gold medal winning duo of Mohammed Ahsan and

Hendra Setiawan 14-15, 15-9, 15-11. Chennai took a big gamble in nominating P. Kashyap as the trump player, in his men's singles outing against the in-form Sai Praneeth. The move did not pay off, as Kashyap fell in straight games. Praneeth notched up his fifth win on the trot, electrifying the crowd with solid smashes and quicksilver net play.

Kashyap, who has featured in only three of Chennai's six ties, ended his PBL campaign with a third loss. Bengaluru's marquee player K. Srikanth, the World No. 8, cruised past Feng Chong 15-10, 15-10; Vu Thi lost to Hyun Sung 10-15, 15-14, 10-15; Marcus Ellis & Lauren Smith lost to Chris Adcock & Gabrielle Adcock 8-15, 15-12, 15-4.

Easily done: B. Sai Praneeth had the measure of P. Kashyap in straight games. ■ K. MURALI KUMAR



Easily done: B. Sai Praneeth had the measure of P. Kashyap in straight games. ■ K. MURALI KUMAR

Semifinal line-up

Tamil Nadu manages to stay off the bottom

Sai Kishore's five-for gives the host first innings lead over Delhi

S. DIPAK RAGAV
CHENNAI

In a battle to decide who manages to avoid the wooden spoon in Group B, Tamil Nadu salvaged some grace after taking the first innings lead against Delhi in the Ranji Trophy game at the M.A Chidambaram Stadium on Thursday.

While Tamil Nadu finished 14th in the combined points table for Elite Group A & B with 15 points, Delhi finished 16th with 14, ahead of Maharashtra and Chhattisgarh.

Lalit Yadav delights

Resuming at 268 for six, overnight batsmen Jonty Sidhu and Lalit Yadav, who was batting on 65, played with freedom. The right-handed Lalit was the initial aggressor pocketing four quick boundaries to race to the 90s before driving one straight to the cover fielder, off left-arm spinner R. Sai Kishore, to fall nine short of a deserving hundred.

Sidhu, who did the rescue act on Wednesday, looked assured, hitting a few boundaries and a beautiful six driving through the line of Vijay Shankar over long on. Ho-



Weaving a web: Sai Kishore bowled with purpose to pick up his second five-wicket haul in First Class cricket. ■ K. PICHUMANI

wever, he ran out of partners and was stranded on 140 as Delhi was bowled out for 336, 96 behind TN's first innings.

Sai Kishore, who admitted that he could have bowled a bit slower on the third day,

did just that on day four. He prised out Subodh Bhati and Navdeep Saini to complete his second five-wicket haul in First Class cricket.

In the second innings, which was of academic interest, TN openers N. Jagadeesan and B. Aparajith had a nice hit in the middle adding 89 for the opening wicket before the latter was dismissed.

Aparajith opened in the absence of Abhinav Mukund, who did not take the field in the morning as he was not

feeling well.

Jagadeesan made an unbeaten half-century even as Delhi's catching was again found wanting with both batsmen getting a reprieve once.

The match was called off

fall of wickets: 1-35, 2-35, 3-47, 4-49, 5-127, 6-142, 7-312, 8-312, 9-334.

Tamil Nadu bowling: Natarajan 21-5-70-0, Mohammed 13-3-28-1, Sai Kishore 43.1-13-90-5, Mohan Prasath 24-5-55-1, Vijay Shankar 6-1-17-0, Aparajith 24-4-64-1, Pradosh Ranjan 2-0-7-0.

Tamil Nadu —2nd innings: B. Aparajith c Rana b Lalit 33, N. Jagadeesan (not out) 59, Pradosh Ranjan Paul (not out) 17; Extras (b-4): 4; Total (for one wkt. in 40 overs): 113.

Fall of wicket: 1-89.

Delhi bowling: Rana 7-0-31-0, Bhati 9-2-22-0, Shivam 10-1-31-0, Vikas 9-2-11-0, Lalit 4-1-9-0, Sidhu 1-0-5-0.

RANJI TROPHY SCORES, DAY FOUR

Elite Group A

At Rajkot: Saurashtra 356 & 218 for two in 73 overs (Snell Patel 44, Vishvaraj Singh Jadeja 105 n.o., Sheldon Jackson 53 n.o.) drew with Vidarbha 280 for nine decl. in 118 overs (Wasim Jaffer 98, Mohit Kulkarni 66, Jaydev Unadkat six for 56).

Points: Saurashtra 3(29), Vidarbha 1(29).

Group B

At Chennai: Tamil Nadu 432 & 113 for one decl. in 40 overs (N. Jagadeesan 59 n.o.) drew with Delhi 336 in 133.1 overs (Jonty Sidhu 140 n.o., Lalit Yadav 91, R. Sai Kishore five for 90).

TN 3(15), Delhi 1(14).

At Nadaun: Himachal Pradesh 297 & 285 for eight decl. in 52.1 overs (Prashant Chopra 41, Ankut Kalsi 64, Rishi Dhawan 85, Sijmon Joseph four for 51) lost to Kerala 286 & 299 for five in 67 overs (Vinoop Mahanoharan 96, Sachin Baby 92, Sanju Samson 61 n.o.).

Kerala 6(26), HP 0(22).

At Kolkata: Bengal 187 & 432



for six decl. in 130 overs (Abhimanyu Easwaran 201 n.o., Manoj Tiwary 105, Writwick Chatterjee 48) drew with Punjab 447 & 132 for five in 15 overs (Manpreet Gony 58).

Punjab 3(23), Bengal 1(23).

Group C

At Jammu: Jammu & Kashmir 151 & 120 in 49.4 overs (Rasikh Salam 40, Shahzad Naqdeem four for 43) lost to Jharkhand 319 for nine decl. **Jharkhand 7(40), JK 0(19).**

At Kanpur: Assam 175 & 317 for four in 103 overs (Rahul Hazarika 63, Golok Sharma 100 n.o., Sarupam Purkayasa 67, Pallav Kumar Das 40 n.o.) drew with Uttar Pradesh 619. **UP 3(41), Assam 1(21).**

Plate

At Dimapur: Nagaland 467 & 222 for six decl. in 61 overs (Nitesh 47, Zhemimi 63 n.o., Abrar Kazi 60) drew with Puducherry 286 & 208 for three in 67 overs (S. Karthik 55, M. Viknesh 64, Paras Dogra 50 n.o.).

Nagaland 3(18), Puducherry 1(33).

Quarterfinal fixtures

Match	Teams	Venue
QF1	Vidarbha vs Uttarakhand	Nagpur
QF2	Saurashtra vs Uttar Pradesh	Lucknow
QF3	Karnataka vs Rajasthan	Bengaluru
QF4	Kerala vs Gujarat	Wayanad

DATE: JANUARY 15-19

Nikita blanks Boyden to make last four

SPORTS BUREAU
CHANDIGARH

Nikita Vishwase blanked Melissa Boyden of the Netherlands to enter the semifinals in the ITF grade-3 junior tennis tournament here on Thursday.

The results: Boys (quarterfinals): Raphael Collignon (Bel) bt Sacchit Sharma 7-6(4), 6-3; Michael Francis Eala (Phi) bt Madhwin Kamath 7-5, 4-6, 6-3; Roi Ginat (Isr) bt Dev Javia 6-1, 7-6(4).

Doubles (semifinals): Han Chih Lin (Tpe) & Xiaofei Wang (Chn) bt Laaroussi Lalami (Mar) & Sacchit Sharma 6-4, 6-3; Roi Ginat & Sahar Simon 9lsr) bt Nishant Dabas & Kabir Hans 6-4, 6-3.

Girls (quarterfinals): Malaika Rapolu (US) bt Sandeep Singh Rao 3-6, 6-4, 6-1; Nikita Vishwase bt Melissa (Ned) 6-0, 6-0.

Doubles (semifinals): Linda Kumhorn (Tha) & Yu Yun Li (Tpe) bt Priyanshi Bhandari & Rutuja Chaphalkar (US) 6-3, 6-2.

Churchill moves to second spot

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
VASCO

Churchill Brothers moved to the second spot with a dominating 3-1 win over Gokulam Kerala FC in the I-League here on Thursday.

The result: Churchill 3 (Dawda Cessay 37, Will Plaza 57 & 90+1) bt Gokulam Kerala 1 (Marcus Joseph 14).

THOSE WHO QUALIFIED

Elite Group A & B

Team	Mat	Won	Lost	Drawn	Quotient	Pts
Vidarbha	8	3	0	5	1.342	29
Saurashtra	8	3	0	5	1.108	29
Karnataka	8	3	2	3	1.316	27
Kerala	8	4	3	1	1.156	26
Gujarat	8	3	0	5	1.3	26

Elite Group C

Team	Mat	Won	Lost	Drawn	Quotient	Pts
Rajasthan	9	7	0	2	1.557	51
U.P.	9	5	0	4	1.988	41

Plate

Team	Mat	Won	Lost	Drawn	Quotient	Pts
Uttarakhand	8	6	0	2	2.434	44

Vijay Kumar gets clearance for DSP post

KAMESH SRINIVASAN
NEW DELHI

London Olympic silver medallist Vijay Kumar's seven-year fight to get a post along the lines of other Olympic medallists came through successfully as the Himachal Pradesh government assured him of a post as Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP).

"I had talked to the Himachal Chief Minister about other Olympics medallists having good positions and that there was a provision in the State government to give me a matching post," said Vijay Kumar.

Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur called me to convey that the Cabinet had taken the decision to give me the DSP post and that I could expect the order soon," said Vijay.



Vijay Kumar. ■ FILE PHOTO

NATL. BASKETBALL

RAYAN ROZARIO
BHAVNAGAR

Karnataka came from behind to defeat Indian Railways 83-67 in a men's quarterfinal clash of the 69th senior National basketball championship at the here on Thursday.

Karnataka worked out a similar strategy (change in the defence pattern) as it did against Tamil Nadu and it clicked.

Karnataka, which trailed in the first two quarters, applied full court pressure in the next two to take the lead and seal a win. M. Harish (23 pts), A. Arvind (21pts) and V.K. Anil Kumar (17 pts) were the pick of the players for the team.

Tamil Nadu and Services, the top two teams, also sealed the last four berth. The former kept its cool in the final minutes of the game to oust Haryana 77-75 and the latter hammered Rajasthan 104-69. Punjab was the other team to advance.

In the women's section, Chhattisgarh, which had the lean and lanky Poonam Chaturvedi scoring a tournament-high of 56 points, beat Karnataka 100-80, while defending champion Indian Railway cruised to a comfortable 94-51 win over an off-colour Punjab.

Earlier, the in-form S. Pushpa (24 pts) doubled up her efforts to steer Tamil Nadu to a 75-57 win over Telangana.



Close encounter: Karnataka's Rahul Sarath, third from left, attempts a basket against Indian Railway. ■ VIJAY SONEJI

gana for a place in the last four. The win was expected considering the quality and consistency of its players. It will take on Kerala, which scored a facile 84-55 win over Delhi.

The results (quarterfinals): Men: Punjab 74 (Gurvinder 24, Ashpreet Bhullar 17, Amritpal Singh 11) bt Uttarakhand 53 (Vishesh Bhriguvanshi 14, Yadwinder 17, Riaz 12); Karnataka 83 (A. Arvind 23, M. Harish 21, V.K. Anil Kumar 17) bt Indian Railway 67 (Rakesh Singh 19, Prakash Mishra 17).

Services 104 (Isaac Thomas 21, Mahipal Singh 19, Joginder Singh 18, Hemant Sheoran 15) bt Rajasthan 69 (Kamran Khan 24, Sharath Dhadiche 21, Gaurav Chandel 10); Tamil Nadu 77 (R. Hariram 21, Justin John 15, P. Jeevanantham 15) bt Haryana 75 (Rinku 21, Vikash Kumar 18, Abhishek 12).

Women: Chhattisgarh 100 (Ponnambalam Chaturvedi 56, Seema Singh 17, Akansha Singh 11, Deepa 11) bt Karnataka 80 (Varsha Nandini 35, Lopamudra 20); Tamil Nadu 75 (Pushpa 24, Sathy 13, Srividhya 12, Nishanthi 12) bt Telangana 57 (Monika Polasa 28, Saguna 12).

Ajai Rana's golden day

Tops the podium in javelin; Suraj takes silver

KHELO INDIA

NANDKUMAR MARAR
PUNE

Kunwar Ajai Rana clinched the javelin gold with a throw of 75.40m on his fourth attempt on the opening day of the athletics events of the Khelo India Games on Thursday.

As they watched the spear soar into the sky before landing on the turf, the spectators seated behind the Punjab athlete got excited and roared in appreciation. Suraj Kumar (UP) bagged the silver with 73.42m and Sudama Yadav (Bihar) the bronze (72.37m). The three strapping teenagers were the first to climb onto the podium and savour the ceremonial fanfare.

For a member of India's athletics squad at the Youth Olympic Games 2018 at Buenos Aires, finishing ahead of competition in the boys' under-17 age group was no sweat for Rana. "Experience matters in field events. Winning is a happy feeling. I have thrown farther at the National School Games (career-best 77.22m)," said Rana who trains at the Punjab Institute of Sports (PIS) under Bikramjit Singh in Jalandhar. His throw at the Youth Games was 75.06, and he did not finish among the medallists.

For this Neeraj Chopra fan, there was no option for him except to take up athletics, specifically javelin. "My father wanted me to become



Memorable day: Kunwar Ajai Rana en route to the javelin gold. ■ JIGNESH MISTRY

a javelin thrower. His elder brother was a noted javelin thrower, so the career decision for me was made early," said Rana.

When he was just three or four years old, he was put under Bikramjit's care at PIS. Rana has not met India's javelin sensation Neeraj yet.

"He is a regular source of encouragement. Neeraj in-

spires a lot of young athletes like me," he said.

Other winners: Boys: Under-17:

High jump: Robin Deep Singh Sran (Pun., 1.95m); **1500m:**

Saurabh Rawat (Mah., 4:22.15); **Under-21: Long jump:** Rishabh Rishiswar (UP, 7.72m).

Girls: Under-17: 1500m: Ankita (Utt., 4:41.04); **Triple jump:** Sandra Babu (Ker., 13.13m); **Under-21: Discus:** Arpandeep Kaur Bajwa (Pun., 45.96m).

In swimming, Srihari Nataraj, who had followed up on a six-gold haul in the Kheko India School Games last year by making the finals in both the Commonwealth and the Asian Games this season, opened his tally with a hard fought gold in the 200m freestyle for u-21 boys.

The 18-year-old backstroke specialist from Karnataka clocked a min 53.22s and was 0.28s ahead of Kushagra Rawat of Delhi.

Karnataka had earlier won the u-17 boys 200m gold through Sanjay Jayakrishnan.

Karnataka and Delhi shared the honours on the opening day of swimming events with four golds each while Tamil Nadu and Maharashtra followed with three gold medals each. Bhavika Dugar accounted for two of those for Tamil Nadu with wins in women's 200m and 800m freestyle.



Srihari Nataraj ■ JIGNESH MISTRY

of the 1-2 achieved by Zakhuma and Jacob Vanalalitthuang in the u-21 event's 61kg class. Jacob went on to win the u-17 gold with a total lift of 253kg.

In swimming, Srihari Nataraj, who had followed up on a six-gold haul in the Kheko India School Games last year by making the finals in both the Commonwealth and the Asian Games this season, opened his tally with a hard fought gold in the 200m freestyle for u-21 boys.

The 18-year-old backstroke specialist from Karnataka clocked a min 53.22s and was 0.28s ahead of Kushagra Rawat of Delhi.

Karnataka had earlier won the u-17 boys 200m gold through Sanjay Jayakrishnan.

Karnataka and Delhi shared the honours on the opening day of swimming events with four golds each while Tamil Nadu and Maharashtra followed with three gold medals each. Bhavika Dugar accounted for two of those for Tamil Nadu with wins in women's 200m and 800m freestyle.

ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT CHANDIGARH ADMINISTRATION U.T. CHANDIGARH E-TENDER NOTICE

The Executive Engineer C.P Division No.6, U.T. Chandigarh Re-invites online the Percentage rate tenders on behalf of the President of India from eligible reputed contractors/agencies fulfilling the eligibility criteria mentioned below which shall be uploaded and received on <http://etenders.chd.nic.in/nicgp>.

Sr. No	Name of Work	Estimated Tender Amount	Earnest Money	Time Limit	Last date of submission of Bid	Date of Opening of Bid
1	RESTORATION, PRESERVATION, CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT OF CAPITOL COMPLEX (WORLD HERITAGE), CHANDIGARH: PUNJAB AND HARYANA CIVIL SECRETARIAT BUILDING (COMPOSITE WORK).	(a) Civil Component : Rs. 19,85,15,500/- (b) PH Services : Rs. 2,60,00,000/- (c) Electrical Installation : Rs. 3,06,63,114/- Total :Rs. 25,51,78,614/-	Rs. 35,52,000/-	12 Months	22/01/2019 11:00 AM	22/01/2019 12:00 PM
2	RESTORATION, PRESERVATION, CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT OF CAPITOL COMPLEX (WORLD HERITAGE), CHANDIGARH: PUNJAB AND HARYANA LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY (COMPOSITE WORK).	(a) Civil Component : Rs. 4,83,80,130/- (b) PH Services : Rs. 90,58,000/- (c) Electrical Installation : Rs. 88,73,414/- Total :Rs. 6,63,11,544/-	Rs. 13,26,231/-	09 Months	22/01/2019 11:00 AM	22/01/2019 12:00 PM

Executive Engineer,
C.P. Division No.6,
2nd Floor, Additional Deluxe Building,
Sector 9-D, U.T. Chandigarh,
Ph. No. 0172-2740094
E-mail: xencp@gmail.com

Karnataka downs TN for maiden title

Kerala women end jinx, derail Railways

NATL. VOLLEYBALL

K. KEERTHIVASAN
CHENNAI

Unnerved by the magnitude of the occasion, Karnataka put in a splendid performance to defeat nine-time champion Tamil Nadu in the final to bag its maiden men's crown in the senior National volleyball championships at the Nehru indoor stadium here on Thursday. Earlier, Kerala defeated Railways, which was going for its 10th consecutive title, 20-25, 25-17, 17-25, 25-19, 15-8 in the women's summit clash.

Having lost nine consecutive finals to Railways, Kerala overcame the jinx under new coach C.S. Sadanandan, who proved to be lucky. This was Kerala's 11th title, having last won the crown in 2007 at Jaipur.

The architects of Karnataka's wins in the men's section have not changed since the group stages. Ashwali Rai's attacks and blocks, backed by Raison Benet Rebello's smashes and A. Karthik's crucial interventions at the net with timely spikes and blocks helped the team.

If there was one player who was very consistent and should receive maximum accolades, it has to be Karnataka's Ganesh Gowda. With a sprightly jump, the universal had the host defence on tenterhooks. He smashed, and placed the ball accurately for winners. On and off, his blocks came in handy in the fourth set.

"Finishing second is a pain," said Sadanandan.

After winning the fourth set we knew we could win it. We were focused on winning. I told my players to relax and play their natural game. I could see attacker Minimal Abraham was getting overconfident."

The results: Men, final: Karnataka bt Tamil Nadu 21-25, 36-34, 25-18, 25-14; **Third place:** Kerala bt Punjab 25-23, 25-16, 25-19. **Women, final:** Kerala bt Railways 20-25, 25-17, 17-25, 15-18; **Third place:** Maharashtra bt West Bengal 25-20, 25-14, 25-18.

After bagging the second set, which looked never-ending, at 36-34 on its 12th set point, Karnataka gained in confidence and won the third quite convincingly.

Naveen Raja Jacob, who was good in the first set,

of the 1-2 achieved by Zakhuma and Jacob Vanalalitthuang in the u-21 event's 61kg class. Jacob went on to win the u-17 gold with a total lift of 253kg.

In swimming, Srihari Nataraj, who had followed up on a six-gold haul in the Kheko India School Games last year by making the finals in both the Commonwealth and the Asian Games this season, opened his tally with a hard fought gold in the 200m freestyle for u-21 boys.

The 18-year-old backstroke specialist from Karnataka clocked a min 53.22s and was 0.28s ahead of Kushagra Rawat of Delhi.

Karnataka had earlier won the u-17 boys 200m gold through Sanjay Jayakrishnan.

Karnataka and Delhi shared the honours on the opening day of swimming events with four golds each while Tamil Nadu and Maharashtra followed with three gold medals each. Bhavika Dugar accounted for two of those for Tamil Nadu with wins in women's 200m and 800m freestyle.

GOVERNMENT OF KERALA TENDER FOREST & WILDLIFE DEPARTMENT

Window Nos/Prd 19/12 • Tender No. B1-5959/17 • Divisional Forest Officer, South Wayanad Division, Kalpetta-673121. Phone-04936203423 • E-auction/Re-auction of tea timber, poles, billets and firewood collected from Bhoodanam, Bhoodanam-II & Cheeyambam dumping depots of Chedlieth Range coming under South Wayanad Forest Division on 16/1, 17/2, 15/2, 1/3, 15/3, 22/3, 29/3, 10/4, 17/4, 24/4, 1/5, 15/5, 30/5, 12/6, 21/6, 28/6, 1/7, 15/7, 22/7, 29/7, 5/8, 12/8, 19/8, 26/8, 2/9, 9/9, 16/9, 23/9, 30/9, 6/10, 13/10, 20/10, 27/10, 3/11, 10/11, 17/11, 24/11, 31/11, 7/12, 14/12, 21/12, 28/12, 4/1, 11/1, 18/1, 25/1, 1/2, 8/2, 15/2, 22/2, 29/2, 5/3, 12/3, 19/3, 26/3, 3/4, 10/4, 17/4, 24/4, 1/5, 8/5, 15/5, 22/5, 29/5, 5/6, 12/6, 19/6, 26/6, 3/7, 10/7, 17/7, 24/7, 1/8, 8/8, 15/8, 22/8, 29/8, 5/9, 12/9, 19/9, 26/9, 3/10, 10/10, 17/10, 24/10, 1/11, 8/11, 15/11, 22/11, 29/11, 5/12, 12/12, 19/12, 26/12, 3/1, 10/1, 17/1, 24/1, 1/2, 8/2, 15/2, 22/2, 29/2, 5/3, 12/3, 19/3, 26/3, 3/4, 10/4, 17/4, 24/4, 1/5, 8/5, 15/5, 22/5, 29/5, 5/6, 12/6, 19/6, 26/6, 3/7, 10/7, 17/7, 24/7, 1/8, 8/8, 15/8, 22/8, 29/8, 5/9, 12/9, 19/9, 26/9, 3/10, 10/10, 17/10, 24/10, 1/11, 8/11, 15/11, 22/11, 29/11, 5/12, 12/12, 19/12, 26/12, 3/1, 10/1, 17/1, 24/1, 1/2, 8/2, 15/2, 22/2, 29/2, 5/3, 12/3, 19/3, 26/3, 3/4, 10/4, 17/4, 24/4, 1/5, 8/5, 15/5, 22/5, 29/5, 5/6, 12/6, 19/6, 26/6, 3/7, 10/7, 17/7, 24/7, 1/8, 8/8, 15/8, 22/8, 29/8, 5/9, 12/9, 19/9, 26/9, 3/10, 10/10, 17/10, 24/10, 1/11, 8/11, 15/11, 22/11, 29/11, 5/12, 12/12, 19/12, 26/12, 3/1, 10/1, 17/1, 24/1, 1/2, 8/2, 15/2, 22/2, 29/2, 5/3, 12/3, 19/3, 26/3, 3/4, 10/4, 17/4, 24/4, 1/5, 8/5, 15/5, 22/5, 29/5, 5/6, 12/6, 19/6, 26/6, 3/7, 10/7, 17/7, 24/7, 1/8, 8/8, 15/8, 22/8, 29/8, 5/9, 12/9, 19/9, 26/9, 3/10, 10/10, 17/10, 24/10, 1/11, 8/11, 15/11, 22/11, 29/11, 5/12, 12/12, 19/12, 26/12, 3/1, 10/1, 17/1, 24/1, 1/2, 8/2, 15/2, 22/2, 29/2, 5/3, 12/3, 19/3, 26/3, 3/4, 10/4, 17/4, 24/4, 1/5, 8/5, 15/5, 22/5, 29/5, 5/6, 12/6, 19/6, 26/6, 3/7, 10/7, 17/7, 24/7, 1/8, 8/8, 15/8, 22/8, 29/8, 5/9, 12/9, 19/9, 26/9, 3/10, 10/10, 17/10, 24/10, 1/11, 8/11, 15/11, 22/11, 29/11, 5/12, 12/12, 19/12, 26/12, 3/1, 10/1, 17/1, 24/1, 1/2, 8/2, 15/2, 22/2, 29/2, 5/3, 12/3, 19/3, 26/3, 3/4, 10/4, 17/4, 24/4, 1/5, 8/5, 15/5, 22/5, 29/5, 5/6, 12/6, 19/6, 26/6, 3/7, 10/7, 17/7, 24/7, 1/8, 8/8, 15/8, 22/8, 29/8, 5/9, 12/9, 19/9, 26/9, 3/10, 10/10, 17/10, 24/10, 1/11, 8/11, 15/11, 22/11, 29/11, 5/12, 12/12, 19/12, 26/12, 3/1, 10/1, 17/1, 24/1, 1/2, 8/2, 15/2, 22/2, 29/2, 5/3, 12/3, 19/3, 26/3, 3/4, 10/4, 17/4, 24/4, 1/5, 8/5, 15/5, 22/5, 29/5, 5/6, 12/6, 19/6, 26/6, 3/7, 10/7, 17/7, 24/7, 1/8, 8/8, 15/8, 22/8, 29/8, 5/9, 12/9, 19/9, 26/9, 3/10, 10/10, 17/10, 24/10, 1/11, 8/11, 15/11, 22/11, 29/11, 5/12, 12/12, 19/12, 26/12, 3/1, 10/1, 17/1, 24/1, 1/2, 8/2, 15/2, 22/2, 29/2, 5/3, 12/3, 19/3, 26/3, 3/4, 10/4, 17/4, 24/4, 1/5, 8/5, 15/5, 22/5, 29/5, 5/6, 12/6, 19/6, 26/6, 3/7, 10/7, 17/7, 24/7, 1/8, 8/8, 15/8, 22/8, 29/8, 5/9, 12/9, 19/9, 26/9, 3/10, 10/10, 17/10, 24/10, 1/11, 8/11, 15/11, 22/11, 29/11, 5/12, 12/12, 19/12, 26/12, 3/1, 10/1, 17/1, 24/1, 1/2, 8/2, 15/2, 22/2, 29/2, 5/3, 12/3, 19/3, 26/3, 3/4, 10/4, 17/4, 24/4, 1/5,

IN BRIEF



Weinstein case: part of Judd's charges dismissed

LOS ANGELES
A Los Angeles court on Wednesday dismissed actress Ashley Judd's sexual harassment lawsuit against disgraced Hollywood producer Harvey Weinstein — but said she can move forward with allegations he defamed her and damaged her career.

Lady Gaga: won't work again with singer R. Kelly
LOS ANGELES
Lady Gaga has vowed to remove a duet she recorded with R&B singer R.Kelly from streaming services and never collaborate with him again. Her comments followed a new documentary, in which multiple women accused him of sexual misconduct. REUTERS

When raw tomatoes can spoil your salad

Washing them does not remove *Salmonella typhimurium* bacteria, a study by IISc researchers finds

R. PRASAD

CHENNAI

Washing tomatoes thoroughly will not get rid of *Salmonella typhimurium* bacteria, which cause gastroenteritis. Researchers at the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) Bengaluru have found that infection with *S. typhimurium* is a pre-harvest phenomenon and not a post-harvest problem as commonly thought. The researchers found irrefutable evidence of the bacteria entering the plants through tiny openings that form on the main root for the lateral roots to emerge. Contaminated irrigation water and open defecation are the main sources of this bacterial strain in the soil.

While the bacteria are killed on cooking, *Salmonella* infection is usually caused when raw vegetables used in salad contain the bacteria. "While studies are now being done to see if the bacteria infect other vegetables used in salad in the same manner, the key is to avoid eating any raw vegetable in the current scenario," said Dipshikha



Food for thought: It's best to have tomatoes cooked as the bacteria are killed in the process. ■ GETTY IMAGES/STOCKPHOTO

Chakravortty, from the IISc's Department of Microbiology and Cell Biology, who led the team.

Salmonella bacteria do not have the necessary enzymes to degrade plant cellulose and pectin and so cannot degrade cell wall. So active invasion by degrading the cell wall is not possible. Hence, *S. typhimurium* have to rely on natural entry points. "Lateral roots are formed by remodelling of the main root. During the formation of the lateral root,

a small opening is formed for the lateral root to emerge," said Professor Chakravortty. The pathogen takes advantage of these openings in the primary root to enter the plant.

High colonisation

Earlier studies had indicated that the bacteria colonise and enter the root through lateral root emerging areas. But the precise mechanism of entry was not known. The researchers observed very high colonisation of *Sal-*

monella in the lateral root emerging regions compared with other regions of the primary root. Other pathogens that have the ability to degrade the cell wall were found to colonise all regions of the root equally. Using an Arabidopsis mutant that produces fewer lateral roots and a chemical that induces lateral root formation, the researchers were able to increase the number of lateral roots. Compared with wild Arabidopsis, colonisation by *S. typhimurium* was significantly enhanced when lateral roots were formed by the mutant.

In soil pre-treated with the bacteria, colonisation was more in the case of wild Arabidopsis compared with mutants. "Unlike the wild Arabidopsis, the mutant produces fewer lateral roots. Since the mutants were not induced to produce more lateral roots, bacterial colonisation was more in the case of wild Arabidopsis," said Kapudeep Karmakar, Ph.D student in the Department of Microbiology and Cell Biology,

IISc, and first author of a paper published in *BMC Plant Biology*.

As the salinity increases, the number of lateral roots formed increases. By varying the salinity of the soil the researchers found significant increase in lateral root formation in both Arabidopsis and tomato plants. "We found 50 millimolar was the best concentration to induce maximum lateral root formation in Arabidopsis," said Professor Chakravortty.

As the number of lateral roots increased in number, the percentage of tomato fruits infected with *S. typhimurium* also increased. Also, the severity of infection was higher in tomato grown in saline soil compared with controls.

"So salinity is a stressor and makes the plant susceptible to severe *Salmonella* infection," said Mr. Karmakar. This is the first time the salinity-induced lateral root proliferation and transmission of *S. typhimurium* to edible parts of the plant has been studied.

Tintin may be 90 but he's out on a new adventure

Steven Spielberg to produce movie

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
PARIS

Jumping jellyfish! Tintin may be 90 years old on Thursday, but the boy hero is about to get himself into a whole new snake pit of scrapes.

Casterman, which publishes his comic book adventures, said a new film featuring the cub reporter by *Lord of the Rings* director Peter Jackson is in the pipeline, with Steven Spielberg — who made Tintin's first Hollywood outing in 2011 — producing this time.

A new Tintin book is also in the offing, the Belgian publishing house said.

Speculation is mounting that the new movie is likely to be a mix of *King Ottokar's Sceptre*, a swashbuckling jape from 1938 that was a thinly disguised satire on Nazi Germany's annexation of Austria the same year, and the later story, *The Calculus Affair*.

Casterman's editorial director Benoit Mouchart said that it is part of a planned



Evergreen sleuths: The boy hero and his dog. ■ AP

trilogy of live-action Tintin films. "There are several leads that could be taken," he told French radio. The new film "might be a mix of King Ottokar's Sceptre and The Calculus Affair," a rippling yarn of Tintin and his sidekick Captain Haddock rushing to the rescue of a kidnapped scientist.

Mr. Jackson though has been tight-lipped on what adventure or adventures he would draw on for the film.

Decreased deep sleep may signal Alzheimer's disease

It may be a non-invasive way to screen for the disease

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

WASHINGTON
Older people who get less deep sleep have higher levels of the brain protein tau, a sign of cognitive decline and Alzheimer's disease, according to a study.

Slow-wave sleep is the deep sleep people need to consolidate memories and wake up feeling refreshed, said researchers at the Washington University School of Medicine.

The findings, published in the journal *Science Translational Medicine*, suggest that poor-quality sleep in later life could be a red flag for deteriorating brain health.

"What's interesting is that we saw this inverse relationship between decreased slow-wave sleep and more tau protein in people who were either cognitively normal or very mildly impaired, meaning that reduced slow-wave activity may be a marker for the transition between normal and impaired," said Brendan Lucey, an assistant professor at the Washington University.

"Measuring how people sleep may be a non-invasive way to screen for Alzheimer's disease before or just as people begin to develop problems with memory and thinking," Mr. Lucey said.

They monitored the participants' sleep at home over the course of a normal week.

Robots dominate Las Vegas tech show

Delivery robots, most of them wheeled, with focussed missions make a mark

ASSOCIATED PRESS
LAS VEGAS

Robots that walk, talk, brew beer and play ping-pong have taken over the CES gadget show in Las Vegas again. Just don't expect to find one in your home any time soon.

Most home robot ventures have failed, in part because they're so difficult and expensive to design to a level of intelligence that consumers will find useful, said Bilal Zuberi, a robotics-oriented venture capitalist.

Frank Gillett, a tech analyst at Forrester, said robots with more focused missions



Humanoid friends: Ipal robots, which are designed for child education and elder care, at the CES tech show. ■ AP

such as mowing the lawn or delivering cheeseburgers stand a better shot at finding a useful niche.

Segway Robotics is the latest to get into the delivery game with a new machine it calls Loomo. The wheeled

office robot can avoid obstacles, board elevators and deliver documents to another floor.

Nearly all of these robots use a technology called visual SLAM, short for simultaneous localisation and mapping. Most are wheeled, though there are outliers such as one from German automotive company Continental, which wants to deploy walking robotic dogs to carry packages from self-driving delivery vans to residential front doors.

A delivery robot will need both sophisticated autonomy and a focussed mission to stand out, said Saumil Nanavati, head of business development for Robby Technology. His company's namesake robot travels down sidewalks as a "store on wheels."

The company recently partnered with PepsiCo to deliver snacks around a California university campus.

Samsung's rolling robot can talk and has two digital eyes on a black screen. It's designed to track the medicines seniors take, measure blood pressure and call 911 if it detects a fall.

हिमाचल प्रदेश के माननीय मुख्यमंत्री श्री जगराम ठाकुर के कुशल नेतृत्व में

इमानदार 1
प्रयास का एक साल
विकास का

आईए अब सिफर

बेहतर कल की बात करें



महिलाओं की सुरक्षा के लिए
'शक्ति बटन ऐप'

- संकट के समय लाल बटन दबाएं अथवा मोबाइल को जोर से हिलाएं या फॉकें
- 20 सैकंड के भीतर संदेश निकटतम पुलिस नियंत्रण कक्ष पहुंच जाएगा
- इंटरनेट कनेक्टिविटी की आवश्यकता नहीं

माफिया से सख्ती से
निपटने के लिए
'होशियार सिंह हेल्पलाईन'
टॉल फ्री नम्बर
1090
डॉयल करें

- 24 घंटे मुख्यमंत्री कार्यालय द्वारा हो रही निगरानी
- सूचना देने वाले की पहचान रखी जाएगी गुप्त

जनवरी 2018 से जुलाई 2018 तक 4979 मामले पकड़े गए, अवैध खनन के दोषियों से लगभग 2 करोड़ 15 लाख रुपये की जुर्माना राशि वसूल, अवैध खनन में संलिप्त 23 स्टोन क्रशर बंद

सप्ताह के सातों दिन

24 घंटे

सहायता के लिए तैयार

महिलाओं के प्रति हिंसक घटनाएं रोकने के लिए

'गुड़िया हेल्पलाईन'
टॉल फ्री नम्बर

1515
डॉयल करें

**Neemrana factory clash**

Rajasthan police nab 14 persons for allegedly clashing with workers of an AC unit in Neemrana **Page 2**

**Uncle in police net**

Police arrest a man for allegedly killing his nephew, burying him in a balcony three years ago **Page 3**

**'A modern form'**

Anjum Hasan talks of her special affection for the short story, the form used to tell of life in the city **Page 5**

**Rice to the occasion**

Add a variety to pongal. It will encourage farmers who toil to keep rare types of paddy alive **Page 6**

IN BRIEF**Brain surgery saves low-weight baby**

Surgeons at Faridabad-based Sarvodaya Hospital and Research Centre (SHRC) have successfully conducted brain surgery on a 19-day-old baby boy weighing a little over 1 kg.

CITY ▶ PAGE 2

City to roll out its largest immunisation drive

The Capital is all set to see the roll-out of one of its largest immunisation drive offering 55 lakh children in the age group of 9 months to less than 15 years measles-rubella (MR) vaccination additional cover.

CITY ▶ PAGE 2

Air quality of Delhi-NCR

Delhi	292	Gurugram	196
Ghaziabad	298	Faridabad	236
Noida	290	Greater Noida	291

■ Good ■ Satisfactory ■ Moderate
■ Poor ■ Very poor ■ Severe
■ 0-50 ■ 51-100 ■ 101-200
■ 201-300 ■ 301-400 ■ >400
AIR QUALITY INDEX AT 4 P.M. YESTERDAY (AVERAGE OF PAST 24 HOURS) SOURCE: CPCB

2012 accident: boy gets ₹48 lakh compensation

NEW DELHI
A Motor Accident Claims Tribunal has granted compensation of ₹48.87 lakh to a boy (14), who has been in a vegetative state since 2012 after he was hit by a van. He was pillion-riding a bicycle when the accident happened.

CITY ▶ PAGE 4

BJP to launch campaign on AAP's 'hypocrisy' on quota

'Kejriwal says he supports the idea but his MPs refrained from voting in its favour'

JATIN ANAND
NEW DELHI
Terming it "doublespeak for the sake of political correctness", the Bharatiya Janata Party is preparing to launch a campaign on social media around the Aam Aadmi Party's "flip-flop" on the issue of reservation for the economically weak belonging to the general category, said insiders.

"The party is preparing to launch a campaign against the AAP – on social media and through pamphlets – against what is clearly its hypocrisy on the issue of reservation for the economically weak under the general category," said a party leader.

Dilemma for Cong, AAP
This, even as party insiders welcomed former Delhi Chief Minister Sheila Dikshit's elevation to the post of State party chief on Thursday arguing that it put both

Sheila Dikshit returns to Delhi politics as State Congress chief

The 3-time Delhi CM says she feels honoured; three working presidents named

DAMINI NATH
JATIN ANAND
NEW DELHI

Just over five years after stepping down as Chief Minister in December 2013, Sheila Dikshit returned to Delhi politics on Thursday, when she was appointed the president of the Delhi Pradesh Congress Committee (DPCC).

Congress president Rahul Gandhi had approved the appointment of Ms. Dikshit, the three-time Chief Minister of Delhi, as well as three working presidents – former Delhi MLAs Devender Yadav, Haroon Yusuf and Rakesh Lillithia – for the DPCC, All-India Congress Committee general secretary in-charge for Delhi P.C. Chacko announced at a press conference on Thursday.

Speaking to the media at her residence after the announcement, Ms. Dikshit said she was "honoured" to be appointed Delhi Congress president.

In good health
Referring to concern about her health, the 80-year-old who underwent heart surgery in 2018, said she was fine.

Ms. Dikshit's predecessor, former Union Minister Ajay Maken, had resigned citing ill health last year.

However, his resignation



Party workers greet Delhi Pradesh Congress Committee president Sheila Dikshit at her residence in the Capital on Thursday. ■ SANDEEP SAXENA

No alliance with the AAP as far as we are concerned at the moment

HAROON YUSUF
DPCC working president

was accepted by Mr. Gandhi on January 3.

Reacting to Ms. Dikshit's appointment, Mr. Maken said via a tweet that he had had the opportunity to learn from her as her Parliamentary Secretary as well as Cabinet Minister.

He added that he believed Ms. Dikshit would oppose

the "Modi and Kejriwal governments".

Mr. Maken's resignation had come in the backdrop of months-long speculation about a potential alliance between the Congress and the AAP for the upcoming Lok Sabha elections.

Since Mr. Maken had publicly opposed the idea of an alliance, his resignation had revived talk of the parties getting together to fight the seven Lok Sabha seats in Delhi, as well as in other Northern States. Ms. Dikshit had been Chief Minister from 1998 to 2013, when she

lost her New Delhi Assembly seat to AAP national convenor and present Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal.

Mr. Kejriwal came to power on the back of an anti-corruption movement and highlighted the allegations of graft against the Congress in general and against Ms. Dikshit's government in Delhi.

However, he has not ruled out an alliance with the Congress. Speaking to *The Hindu*, Mr. Yusuf said there was "no alliance with the AAP as far as we are concerned at the moment".

However, he has not ruled out an alliance with the Congress. Speaking to *The Hindu*, Mr. Yusuf said there was "no alliance with the AAP as far as we are concerned at the moment".

After meeting Mr. Kejriwal at his residence, Mr. Raj tweeted: "Met delhi CM @ArvindKejriwal thanked

AAP focuses on Dikshit's failures

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

Both the Bharatiya Janata Party and the Aam Aadmi Party reacted to former Delhi Chief Minister Sheila Dikshit's appointment as Delhi Pradesh Congress Committee (DPCC) within hours of the development.

'Insults by AAP'

Union Minister and veteran BJP leader Vijay Goel chose to remind her of the "insults" meted out to her by the AAP.

On the other hand, the AAP sought to recall her failures.

"Congratulations to Sheila Dikshit ji for being appointed Delhi Congress President again. Hopefully she hasn't forgotten the insults heaped upon her by the Aam Aadmi Party time after time [sic]," Mr. Goel tweeted.

Meanwhile, AAP spokesperson Saurabh Bharadwaj said: "Appointing State presidents is internal matter of Congress. In 2013, Sheila Dikshit was the Chief Minister when she lost her own seat to Arvind Kejriwal. Then Congress changed two State presidents and got zero seats in Legislative Assembly and Parliament elections.

However, he has not ruled out an alliance with the Congress. Speaking to *The Hindu*, Mr. Yusuf said there was "no alliance with the AAP as far as we are concerned at the moment".



Prakash Raj meets CM

Actor thanks Kejriwal for his support

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

Actor Prakash Raj, who recently announced his decision to contest the Lok Sabha elections as an independent candidate from Bengaluru Central, met Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) convener and Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal here on Thursday.

him and @AamAdmiParty for the support in my political journey. Discussed and requested to share various ways to address issues which his team has commendably done. #bengalurucentral #citizensvoice in parliament #justasking in parliament too [sic].

'Non-partisan voices'
In response, Mr. Kejriwal tweeted: "We need people like Prakash Raj to enter Parliament. Prakash ji, it was great meeting u today. AAP fully supports u and we agree wid ur decision to fight as an independent candidate. We need independent and non-partisan voices too in Parliament. [sic]."

Back-breaking work



Herculean task: An old man carries a bag of vegetables in Old Delhi's Daryaganj on Thursday. ■ PRADEEP KUMAR

'Govt still collecting parents' private information'

Despite EC order, alleges BJP; 'govt misusing data to make fake phone calls'

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The Opposition Bharatiya Janata Party on Thursday alleged that the Election Commission had issued a notice to the government for "violating its orders" in relation to "refraining from collecting private information" like EPIC number, mobile number, name, and addresses of parents of those studying in government schools.

It had also been directed to ensure that the collected information "be returned to the Election Commission", said Delhi BJP president Manoj Tiwari and Leader of Opposition in the Delhi Legislative Assembly Vijender Gupta at a press conference.

"The Directorate of Edu-

cation under the Delhi government had issued a Circular on 11 September, 2018, for collecting private information of the parents and this was to be done by private agency...it is a violation of the right to privacy and the BJP had also expressed its apprehensions of misuse of the data so collected. The Election Commission had directed Delhi government to refrain from collecting such information," Mr. Gupta said.

Objectionable language'
Mr. Gupta said Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia used objectionable language".

Mr. Sisodia had demanded

that the circular issued by the go-

vernment on September 11, 2018, stated.

"The AAP government is openly violating the orders of the EC. Although the EC has restrained the government from collecting data about parents, yet it is doing it. They are misusing it for making false calls," Mr. Gupta alleged.

Mr. Tiwari said the AAP government was attempting to "mislead the people and violate the laws and policy to promote itself."

"Many parents and students have contacted me in this connection and complained that the AAP is harassing us...Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal is using this data for his own purpose," Mr. Tiwari said.

Mr. Gupta said the EC had sought to argue that the EPIC number, mobile number, name, and addresses of parents of those studying in government schools.

"The Directorate of Edu-

Medical service for furtherance of religion not illegal'

HC quashed Consulate General of India, Houston, order to cancel a doctor's OCI card

STAFF REPORTER

NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court has quashed an order by the Consulate General of India (CGI) in Houston to cancel a doctor's Overseas Citizen of India (OCI) card as he was involved in missionary activities in India.

Following this, in December same year, he was registered as an OCI cardholder.

Mr. Philip was born in Kerala's Pathanamthitta district in 1982 and completed his

primary schooling there. Dr. Philip said along with his family, he had shifted to USA in June, 1992.

In May 2008, Dr. Philip completed his M.D. (Doctor in Medicine).

In August 2012, he was granted US citizenship.

Following this, in December same year, he was registered as an OCI cardholder.

In 2013, he moved to India with his family. In January 2014, he got himself registered with the Medical Council of India and since then he has been practising as a doctor in Duncan Hospital in Raxaul, Bihar.

Christo Thomas Philip

was born in Kerala's Pathanamthitta district in 1982 and completed his

Previously, a Look Out Circular was issued against him to prevent him from entering India.

It was contended on behalf of the government that the visa granted to Dr. Philip does not permit to carry out any such activities.

"However, the respondents have been unable to refer to any law which proscribes missionary activities. And, the impugned orders, which proceed on the assumption that such activities are against the law of the land, are fundamentally flawed," the court said.

It also directed the government to ensure that there is no impediment in Dr. Philip entering the country.

right to profess, practice and propagate religion". The High Court said Article 25 is not restricted to the citizens of this country but is available to all persons.

Missionary activities

"The respondents have produced no law that proscribes missionary activities. And, the impugned orders, which proceed on the assumption that such activities are against the law of the land, are fundamentally flawed," the court said.

It also directed the government to ensure that there is no impediment in Dr. Philip entering the country.

IN BRIEF



JNUSU protests as Prof. Johri gets clean chit

NEW DELHI The JNUSU protested on Thursday against the clean chit given to Atul Johri, the professor who is accused of sexual harassment, by the varsity's Internal Complaints Committee. JNUSU president N. Sai Balaji said the administration has been shielding Prof. Johri right from the time the allegations surfaced. PTI

Waste management: govt looks for viable solution

NEW DELHI Delhi Minister Satyendar Jain on Thursday said the AAP government is willing to provide funds to counter waste management problem in the city if it finds a viable solution. An official statement said, "Managing waste is not a difficult task as several technologies are available for the same that do not cost much, but even if there is a need for funds the Delhi government will provide the same." STAFF REPORTER

City's air quality may turn 'very poor' again

NEW DELHI The overall air quality in Delhi and adjoining areas continued to remain in the 'poor' zone on Thursday but the authorities have said that it is likely to fall again and enter into the 'very poor' category on Friday. PTI

Dwarka e-way homebuyers on hunger strike

Protesters seek completion of road and shifting of Kherki Daula toll plaza

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
GURUGRAM
DXP Welfare Association, which represents the interest of homebuyers along the Dwarka Expressway, began an indefinite hunger strike on Thursday seeking completion of the road and shifting of the Kherki Daula toll plaza.

Several members of the association and nearby residents participated in the hunger strike.

The initial stretches of the Dwarka e-way, also known as Package I and 2, which fall in Delhi are stuck due to lack of clearance from Delhi government. The association members claimed that they met Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal seeking a quick clearance, but there was no positive response.

Official apathy
Leading the protest, DXP Welfare Association president Yashesh Yadav expressed anguish over the indifferent attitude of the authorities and the Delhi and Haryana governments.

In a first for India, 20-day-old baby undergoes brain surgery

Life-threatening blood clot, which caused a seizure, removed from brain

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

Surgeons at Faridabad-based Sarvodaya Hospital & Research Centre have successfully conducted brain surgery on a 20-day-old baby boy weighing a little over 1 kg.

In a first for India, the hospital claimed, neurosurgery on such a low-weighting baby was performed by opening the skull and removing a life-threatening blood clot from his brain, which caused a seizure in the neonate. The condition would have proved fatal had it not been treated promptly.

The preterm neonate and his twin were born at 33 weeks to Deepak Jha and Deepa Mishra.

The baby, who cried late after birth, was referred to Sarvodaya Hospital for respiratory distress and perinatal asphyxia. A team of surgeons led by Pankaj Dawar and Mukesh Pandey, took the newborn under their supervision.

Explaining the case, Dr. Dawar, senior consultant, Centre for Brain and Spine, Sarvodaya Hospital & Research Centre, said: "At birth, the baby weighed 1.16 kg, but had perinatal asphyxia and respiratory distress thereafter. He was immediately admitted to Sarvodaya Hospital and put on



Pankaj Dawar, a senior consultant at the Centre for Brain and Spine of Sarvodaya Hospital & Research Centre, flanked by the neonate's parents Deepak Jha and Deepa Mishra.

• SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

ventilator for five days. On the 19th day of his birth, the baby had a seizure. An MRI scan revealed a large intracranial blood clot, probably from a bleeding disorder. He was wheeled into the operation theatre for brain surgery. His skull was opened to expose the brain [mini-craniotomy] and the blood clot [haematomata] was successfully removed. With this, he has become the baby with the lowest weight to ever undergo brain surgery in India, and probably in the world

too."

Manish Pahuja, consultant, Department of Anaesthesia, Sarvodaya Hospital & Research Centre, said: "Brain surgery on a baby with such low weight has not been done before in the country. This required very careful consideration and specialised equipment for anaesthesia."

Sushil Singla, senior consultant and Head of Department, Department of Paediatrics, Sarvodaya Hospital & Research Centre, added,

"Presence of a blood clot in the brain of a baby at his age and such low weight posed a huge challenge for us. If untreated, the condition would have proved fatal. Even if the baby had survived, he would have suffered from neural problems and the brain would not have developed fully. After successful brain surgery and removal of the blood clot, the baby is perfectly fine. He is gaining weight and meeting all neural milestones adequately as per the last follow-up visit."

14 workers held for Tuesday's clash in Neemrana factory

Four-member fact-finding team of labour activists visits area

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
GURUGRAM

Fourteen persons have been arrested by the Rajasthan police in connection with the clash between them and workers of a multinational AC manufacturing unit in Neemrana. The clash happened on Tuesday during a rally organised as part of the two-day all-India strike called by several trade unions.

The accused were produced before a court on Thursday and sent to jail.

Hundreds booked

Shahjahanpur Station House Officer sub-inspector Jai Prakash said several hundred workers, including 17 who are named, have been booked on charges of rioting, preventing public servants from discharge of duty and attempt to murder under the Indian Penal Code,



The accused being produced in court on Thursday.

• SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

among other charges.

"We have arrested 14 people so far, including a few of those named. All the accused were produced before a court on Thursday and remanded in judicial custody," said Mr. Prakash.

In a related development, a four-member fact-finding team of labour rights activists visited the area on Thursday.

The clash broke out when around 2,000 workers, who had gathered outside the Daikin factory around 10 a.m. on Tuesday, tried to raise their union's flag outside the company.

The protesters claimed the police resorted to unprovoked lathi-charge and fired tear-gas shells when they tried to unfurl the flag. However, the police denied these allegations.

Mr. Prakash said the striking workers tried to enter the premises forcefully to

stop the employees inside from working and that the police had to use mild force to contain them. He claimed the agitated workers threw stones at police personnel, causing injuries to them.

Claiming that Tuesday's police action was an attempt to muzzle their [Daikin workers'] voices... It was also aimed at instilling fear in workers of other factories in the area and to prevent them from forming unions

SHYAMBIR SHUKLA
Inqlabi Mazdoor Kendra central committee member

'Exploitation of workers'
The action was also aimed at instilling fear in workers of other factories in the area and to prevent them from forming unions.

Mr. Shukla said there are no registered unions in Neemrana, which is a major reason for exploitation of workers.

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI
Vehicles stuck in a jam at the Kherki Daula toll plaza.



• FILE PHOTO

I wasted many hours travelling to and fro Gurugram and Delhi amid huge traffic jams on NH-48. I then decided to buy a flat in Gurugram. Did I buy the house to protest and sit on hunger strike to get things corrected? On what grounds will political parties ask for votes this year?

SAMIR
Delhi resident

parties ask for votes this year?"

Sudhir Garg, another resident, complained that he had to shell out a hefty amount as toll charges every month and wait at the toll plaza due to traffic snarls. He demanded that the toll be removed at the earliest.

The association members will also perform a havan on Saturday to seek 'divine intervention' for the speedy completion of the e-way.

are now left with no option, but to sit on a hunger strike," said DXPWA executive member Kanchan Jain.

Samir, a Delhi resident, who joined the protest, said "I wasted many hours travelling to and fro Gurugram and Delhi amid huge traffic jams on NH-48. I then decided to buy a flat in Gurugram. Did I buy the house to protest and sit on hunger strike to get things corrected? On what grounds will political parties ask for votes this year?"

Our demands for shifting the toll plaza and completion of e-way are pending for more than a decade now. We

parties ask for votes this year?"

The documentary is based on events surrounding the disappearance of JNU student Najeeb Ahmed in October 2016.

Development of protest

The documentary, which Mr. Kumar started shooting a few days after Najeeb disappeared, chronicles the development of the protest – from inside the university to the streets of Delhi and sittings outside the CBI headquarters. It has testimonies of witnesses from the day Najeeb disappeared. The testimonies detail how he was allegedly beaten by those identified as members of the ABVP and taken before the warden. Najeeb's mother Fa-

Many did not understand Najeeb incident'

Says director of *Ammi*, a documentary on disappearance of the JNU student

SIDHARTH RAVI
NEW DELHI

"A lot of people did not understand the incident at all... There were multiple narratives on what happened, all without a counter narrative. That is why I wanted to do this film, which could say something in detail," said *Ammi* director Sunil Kumar at a screening here on Thursday.

The documentary is based on events surrounding the disappearance of JNU student Najeeb Ahmed in October 2016.



(From left) JNU Professor Nivedita Menon, missing student Najeeb Ahmed's mother Fatima Nafees and Gujarat MLA Jignesh Mevani at the screening of the documentary film *Ammi* in New Delhi on Thursday. • PATEEK KUMAR

tima Nafees and sister continue to stand steadfast in their demand to conduct a "proper investigation" and bring him back.

MP Manoj Jha said what happened with Najeeb was not just a failure of the investigating agencies but showed a problem with the entire system". Commending Ms. Nafees for her resilience, Mr. Jha said, "We will

continue to believe that he [Najeeb] will come back."

JNU Professor Nivedita Menon, who attacked the university administration and lauded Ms. Nafees for the strength she has shown, said the documentary brought tears to her eyes, but also made her blood boil.

Ms. Nafees, who was also present at the screening, thanked those present for

their support and spoke about the protest rallies she has been attending in different parts of the country to continue her demand to bring her son back.

Gujarat MLA Jignesh Mevani compared the Najeeb incident with the Sohrabuddin Sheikh case and Rohith Vemula's suicide, arguing that systems of justice fail for the poor.

City set to roll out largest immunisation drive against measles-rubella

Five-week MR vaccination campaign to target children in the age group of 9 months to less than 15 years in 11 districts

BINDU SHAJAN PERAPPADAN
NEW DELHI

The city is all set to see the roll-out of one of its largest immunisation drives offering 55 lakh children in the age group of 9 months to less than 15 years measles-rubella (MR) vaccination additional cover.

Starting on January 16, the five-week MR campaign aims to offer vaccination to children in the eleven districts of Delhi covering all pre-school children, school students (government and private) and out-of-school children.

Children will be provided with an additional dose of MR vaccine regardless of previous vaccination status or history of measles/rubella-like illness.

Orientation programme
Departments of Health and Education are also partnering in the MR campaign so that students

FOR A HEALTHY FUTURE

- Immunisation is one of the most cost-effective public health interventions that can avert an estimated 2 to 3 million deaths every year

- India has one of the largest immunisation programmes in the world

- Over 9 million immunisation sessions are held every year across the country

DIRECTIONS FOR HEADS OF SCHOOLS

- Prepare a list of students less than 15 years of age

- Assign teachers to help organise and conduct immunisation sessions in schools

- Coordinate with health workers to conduct vaccination sessions during school timings

- Inform students and their guardians, in consultation with district immunisation

- Officers, about the date and time of the vaccination sessions
- Provide space/rooms for carrying out vaccination sessions and for observing students for half an hour after the vaccination
- Ensure students come to school after breakfast on the date of the vaccination. If needed, timings of the midday meal may be adjusted accordingly

- Share the list of absentee target students with health workers for vaccination during the outreach campaign session

- Senior students should motivate out-of-school children and ensure they are vaccinated

ILLUSTRATION: DURGA PRASAD

Welfare with the support of UNICEF and World Health Organisation, on the campaign in the city on Thursday.

What is rubella?

"The campaign marks the introduction of rubella vaccine in India's childhood immunisation programme for the first time. Rubella, which is commonly referred to as German measles is a mild infection, but can have serious consequences if it occurs in pregnant women. The new MR vaccine also protects against measles, a major killer of small children. Highly contagious, it spreads through coughing and 1,34,200 measles deaths were reported globally in 2015 out of which around 49,200 occurred in India (nearly 36 per cent). Those who survive are more vulnerable to complications such as diarrhoea and pneumonia," explained Dr. Mundeja.

Dr. Mundeja was speaking at a workshop, organised by the Directorate of Family

Immunisation, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

Dr. Haldar added that India is committed to eliminate measles and control rubella/congenital rubella syndrome (CRS) by 2020. The largest ever vaccination campaign worldwide aims to cover approximately 40 crore children.

20 crore kids covered

"Children will be given a single shot of MR vaccination during the campaign. Since the launch in 2017, the MRV campaign has covered nearly 20 crore children in 30 States and Union Territories. Immunisation is one of the most effective and cost-effective way to protect children's lives. The recently introduced vaccine will be provided for free during the campaign in schools, health centres and outreach session sites. This is a major step to achieve our goals," said Dr. Haldar.

NGT stays Environment Ministry notification

Dilutes standards for effluent discharge

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The National Green Tribunal (NGT) has stayed an October 2017 notification issued by the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MoEF) which allegedly diluted standards for effluent discharge, particularly from sewage treatment plants.

"If stay is not granted, there will be irreparable loss to public health at large as well as to the environment," the tribunal said while staying the notification till April 16, the next date of hearing.

The NGT also constituted an expert committee, which will go into various aspects of the alleged dilution of norms and its likely impact on the recipient environment and public health.

"While examining the matter, the Committee shall examine issues such as assimilative capacities of our river systems, e-flows and related aspects," it said.

"Relaxed standards will deteriorate the water quality which will not be fit for the best designated use. Instead of protecting the environment, impugned notification will degrade the environment. The notification is a retrograde step," he said.

The expert committee is to submit its report within two months.

and teachers of all the schools in the city actively participate. The campaign will include orientation for officers/principals, teachers and students by experts from the Health

IN BRIEF



1984 riots: SC to hear Sajjan's appeal on Jan 14

NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court is scheduled to hear on January 14 the appeal filed by former Congress leader Sajjan Kumar challenging the Delhi High Court verdict convicting and sentencing him to life term in the 1984 anti-Sikh riots case. Kumar had surrendered before a trial court here on December 31, 2018, to serve the sentence in pursuance of the HC judgment awarding him life imprisonment. PTI

Foreign national held with drugs worth ₹35 lakh

NEW DELHI

A 33-year-old foreign national was apprehended at the Delhi airport on Wednesday for allegedly trying to smuggle out narcotic drug worth about ₹35 lakh, officials said on Thursday. K Kelvin George, a Tanzanian, was intercepted after he arrived to take a flight to a city in Tanzania. PTI

UP STF arrests two for kidnapping, murder

NOIDA

Two men allegedly involved in the kidnapping and murder of a local BJP member were arrested by the UP Special Task Force from Gautam Buddha Nagar's Dadri, the police said on Thursday. Dharmendra alias Dharmi, who had several criminal cases registered against him, was picked up by the members of Randeep Bhati gang from his house on the intervening night of January 4 and 5 and shot dead. PTI

Senior citizen killed in road accident

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

A 61-year-old man was killed and two others sustained injuries after the autorickshaw he was travelling in was hit by a truck in north Delhi's Roop Nagar in the early hours of Thursday, the police said.

Deputy Commissioner of Police (North) Nupur Prasad said that the deceased has been identified as Munna, who used to work in Azadpur Mandi. The driver of the offending vehicle, identified as Sanjib Mondal (27), has been arrested, Ms. Prasad said.

The police said that the police control room received a call regarding the accident around 5 a.m. When the police reached the spot, they were informed that Munna and another passenger were in the autorickshaw, when it was hit by a speeding truck. All the three were rushed to Bara Hindu Rao Hospital where Munna was declared dead. The auto driver and the other passenger sustained minor injuries and were discharged after treatment.

The police have registered a case in the matter and further investigation is under way, Ms. Prasad also said.

DELHI TODAY

Book launch and Talk: Release of book "Self, Sacrifice and Cosmos: Vedic Thought, Ritual and Philosophy" edited by Lauren M. Bausch. Book will be released by Professor Romila Thapar, Emerita Professor of History, JNU, followed by a discussion on the book by Professor Ganesh Umakant Thite, Professor Ramesh Bhardwaj and Professor Kumkum Roy at Seminar Rooms I & II, India International Centre (IIC), 6 p.m.

Talk: Special lecture on "Artist Xu Beihong and His Family in Mao's China" by Xu Fangfang, daughter of artist Xu Beihong and author of Gao Loping Horses, at Conference Room, ICWA, Sapru House, Barakhambha Road, 3 p.m.

Screening: "Janghar Singh Shyam, A Conjuror's Archive," an art exhibition, co-curated by Dr. Jyoti Jain and Robina Karode at Kiran Nadar Museum of Art (KNMA), 145, DLF South Court Mall, Saket, 10:30 a.m.-6:30 p.m.

Exhibition: "Natyanjali Dance" by Sharada Ramantan at Auditorium, Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA), Media Centre, No. 3, Rajendra Prasad Road, 5 p.m. (Mail your listings for this column to cityeditor@thehindu.co.in)

Man held three years after he killed, buried nephew in balcony

Accused was upset with friendship between his girlfriend and the victim

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

A man has been arrested for killing his nephew and burying him in the balcony of his rented accommodation in Dwarka's Dabri three years ago, the police said on Thursday.

Deputy Commissioner of Police (Dwarka) Rajendra Singh Sagar said that the accused, identified as Bijay Kumar Maharana (37), who hails from Odisha, was arrested on Sunday from Hyderabad. His transit remand was then obtained and he was brought to Delhi on Tuesday. The accused allegedly killed his nephew over the victim's increasing closeness with Bijay's girlfriend, the police said.

In October 2018, the police control room has received a call regarding a skeleton, which was found from a house in Dabri. When the police reached the spot, the house owner told them that he was getting the house renovated and that the workers found a skeleton wrapped in a blue jacket buried in the soil of the balcony.

After it was established that it was Jai's skeleton, the police suspected that Bijay was involved in the case, but he was absconding.

During investigation,

a police team led by Inspector Raj Kumar spoke to several family members, colleagues, and neighbours of the ac-



Accused Bijay in police custody and (right) deceased Jai Prakash Maharana. ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

cused and the victim. "He had switched off all his mobile numbers, left his job, stopped operating his bank accounts after withdrawing all the money and shifted to another place. He had not contacted any of his family members or friends since then," Mr. Sagar said.

The police got several leads in the case. They were informed that the accused was into betting and that some of his previous mobile numbers were found active in Sonipat and Panipat.

The police subsequently traced a close friend of Bijay who told them that he was seen in Hyderabad about two months back. A police team left for Hyderabad on January 1. "The team carried out a recce of several places.



With the help of technical data the team finally managed to find out the exact location of the accused, after which he was nabbed," Mr. Sagar said.

During interrogation, the accused told the police that he was in a relationship with a woman since college days.

After she moved to Delhi, he also did and began working as a senior associate at a BPO in Noida. His nephew Jai, after completing his studies in Hyderabad in 2015, shifted to Delhi and moved in with him. Jai worked in a company in Gurugram.

"The woman, Priyanka, used to come to their house often due to which she and Jai also became friends. Bijay soon came to know that Jai was in contact with Priyanka. Bijay did not like the friendship between Jai and Priyanka. He got upset and decided to kill Jai," Mr. Sagar said.



Rajinder Kumar Tripathi ■

The accused has been identified as Rajinder Kumar Tripathi, a resident of Faridabad, they said.

Mr. Tripathi also duped four other advertising companies to the tune of ₹1 crore on the pretext of inviting tenders for organising an event, Rashtriya Awas Divas, for the promotion of Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana, the police said.

During interrogation, it was revealed that that the Ministry had received a complaint along with a forged letter dated February 9, 2017, allegedly written by the chairman of NHDO, in which the NHDO had been projected as a Special Purpose Vehicle formed under the Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation where they alleged that the chairman of National Housing Development Organisation (NHDO) was publishing unauthorised official photographs of Government Of India on its website.

complaint was also received from Goldmine Advertising Ltd. regarding siphoning money taken by NHDO chairman off on the pretext of inviting tenders for organising Rashtriya Awas Divas event for the promotion of Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana, the officer said.

Thereafter, three other companies came forward with similar allegations and filed their complaints with police, the officer added.

Two bank accounts being maintained at Nehru Place branch of the Punjab National Bank was frozen, the officer said.

During interrogation, it was revealed that Mr. Tripathi moved to Delhi in 1989 from Gorakhpur and started an NGO named LIC Policy Holders Welfare Organisation for working welfare/grievances removal of LIC policy holders, Mr. Singla said. He projected a micro-credit scheme for NGOs all over India in 2004 and under the scheme, he had duped NGOs for providing loans for women in rural areas, he added.

The complainant further alleged that the Ministry had received a complaint along with a forged letter dated February 9, 2017, allegedly written by the chairman of NHDO, in which the NHDO had been projected as a Special Purpose Vehicle formed under the Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation where they alleged that the chairman of National Housing Development Organisation (NHDO) was publishing unauthorised official photographs of Government Of India on its website.

Security stepped up ahead of verdict in scribe murder case

Dera chief Ram Rahim Singh is an accused in the case



Gurmeet Ram Rahim Singh

the district.

The Dera chief has been exempted from personal appearance in court and will be produced through videoconferencing. The court had on January 8 accepted the Haryana government's plea in this regard.

In its application before the court, the State government had pleaded that Gurmeet should not be asked to be present personally on Friday keeping in view the law and order situation that may emerge. Instead, the plea added, he should be allowed to appear through videoconferencing.

The case pertains to the murder of Chhatripati in 2002 after he published an anonymous letter in his evening newspaper *Poora Sach*, by a female Dera follower who accused Gurmeet of rape. Chhatripati was shot five times outside his house. He succumbed to his injuries a few days later.

The incident led to large-scale protests by journalists across Haryana and protests were held against the Dera. Journalists also held a mahapanchayat in this regard on November 16, 2002, and decided to boycott the Dera.

Meanwhile, prohibitory orders have been clamped in Sirsa under Section 144 of the Criminal Procedure

3 held for young men's murder in Ranholi

One of the accused who was thrashed by victims wanted to avenge insult

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

Three persons have been arrested for allegedly killing two men, including a cab driver and dumping their bodies beside Nangloi-Najafgarh road in Bawali in outer Delhi's Ranholi, the police said on Thursday.

The accused have been identified as Deepak Tiwari (18), Suraj Tiwari (20), both residents of Jai Vihar in Nangafarh and Shrikant (20), a resident of Shyam Vihar in Nangafarh.

In its application before the court, the State government had pleaded that Gurmeet should not be asked to be present personally on Friday keeping in view the law and order situation that may emerge. Instead, the plea added, he should be allowed to appear through videoconferencing.

The case pertains to the murder of Chhatripati in 2002 after he published an anonymous letter in his evening newspaper *Poora Sach*, by a female Dera follower who accused Gurmeet of rape. Chhatripati was shot five times outside his house. He succumbed to his injuries a few days later.

The incident led to large-scale protests by journalists across Haryana and protests were held against the Dera. Journalists also held a mahapanchayat in this regard on November 16, 2002, and decided to boycott the Dera.

Meanwhile, prohibitory orders have been clamped in Sirsa under Section 144 of the Criminal Procedure



Accused Deepak, Suraj and Shrikant in police custody. Three countrymade pistols along with five live cartridges were seized from them. ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

They were drug addicts and often extorted money from locals for drugs, the officer added.

On December 16, Deepak Tiwari was thrashed by Sunil and Neeraj. The two had allegedly demanded money from the accused and some other locals of Jai Vihar area to buy drugs, the DCP said. Deepak Tiwari sustained injuries on his eye and face, following which he approached the police and filed a complaint against Sachin at Ranholi police station, he said.

Sunil was pressuring Deepak Tiwari through local people to withdraw his complaint. However, he wanted to avenge the insult and wanted to eliminate Sunil and Neeraj, he added.

Deepak Tiwari's elder brother Suraj and his friend Shrikant joined him in his plan and together they hatched the murder plan, Mr. Yadav said.

Deepak Tiwari already had a pistol and other weapons, which he had bought from Bihar's Chhapra. He had bought the weapons to teach lesson to a boy, who had kidnapped his sister in August, 2018.

Further investigation in the case is under way, the police said.

Two caretakers of Noida nursery found dead

One killed the other before killing self, bodies sent for autopsy: police

STAFF REPORTER
GREATER NOIDA

A 38-year-old caretaker of a nursery in Noida Sector 126 was allegedly killed by his co-worker, who later died by suicide, the police said on Thursday. The co-worker's body was found hanging from a tree at the spot, they said.

The owner of the nursery told the police that the two men, both caretakers, were found dead when he came to work on Thursday morning. The bodies have been sent for autopsy.

The two men lived in the nursery, while their families lived in their home towns.

The incident happened early on Thursday, but it came to light at around 9 a.m., when a day-shift worker came to the nursery and found it locked from inside.

"I knocked but nobody answered the door. Later

his head and the other hanging from a tree," a day-shift worker at the nursery said.

The police said that they were informed about the incident around 10 a.m. by the owner of the nursery.

"A police team along with forensic experts reached the spot... We have sent the body for autopsy to ascertain the exact reason and time of the deaths," said Uday Pratap, Station House Officer at Sector 39.

The owner of the nursery, meanwhile, said that the two men had been working for him for eight years. "I had allotted them two rooms at the nursery to stay. There is another caretaker at the nursery, who, the owner said, is currently in West Bengal on leave. The three [caretakers] were friends and used to stay together. I have no idea what happened between them that led to the death of the

two," he said.

Axe-like tool found

Mr. Pratap said that a sharp, axe-like tool has been recovered from the spot that could have been used to murder one of the caretakers.

"Prima facie, it appears that following an alteration between the two caretakers in the morning, one of them killed another. The murderer then hanged himself. We are probing the matter from all angles. The family members of the deceased men have been informed about the deaths and asked to appear at the police station. No case has been registered in the matter as no complaint was filed," Mr. Pratap said.

"Suicide prevention helpline: Sanjivini, Society for Mental Health, Telephone: 011-4076 9002, Monday - Saturday, 10 a.m. - 7.30 p.m.

Singer arrested for duping man on pretext of exchanging old notes

Incident took place during demonetisation; she was at large

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

A 27-year-old Haryana-based singer has been arrested for allegedly duping a retired government officer of ₹60 lakh on the pretext of exchanging old currency notes with new notes during demonetisation, the police said on Thursday.

The accused woman, identified as Shikha Raghav, is a singer. She was declared a proclaimed offender by a court in a civil suit as she had been evicted from her residence in the case since the last two years, the police also said.

After receiving a tip-off about her location in Haryana, the accused was arrested on Wednesday and brought to Delhi on Thursday, Deputy Commissioner of Police (North) Nupur Prasad said.

However, no recovery has

During demonetisation, the accused and her aide promised a retired officer that they would get his old notes exchanged with new ones. They took the money from him and fled. A case was registered and a probe was initiated

Nupur Prasad, Deputy Commissioner of Police (North)

been made from the accused so far, Ms. Prasad said.

Investigations revealed that Shikha used to perform stage shows at several religious and other events in Delhi and the adjoining States, Ms. Prasad also said. In 2016, the accused and

her friend Pawan participated in Ramlila event in north Delhi during which she came in contact with the organiser of the event, who was a retired paramilitary officer, Ms. Prasad said.

During demonetisation, accused Shikha and Pawan had allegedly promised the retired officer and his family members that they would get their old notes exchanged with new ones, she said.

The two accused then took the money from the officer and fled, she added. Following a complaint filed by the retired officer, a case was registered at Roop Nagar police station and an investigation was taken up, she further said. Subsequently, Pawan was arrested while Raghav had been on the run.

4 CITY

IN BRIEF



'New jail manual brought into force for uniformity'

NEW DELHI
The AAP government on Thursday told the Delhi High Court that a new jail manual has been framed and brought into force to bring in basic uniformity in rules and regulations governing the administration of prisons and management of prisoners. A Bench of Chief Justice Rajendra Menon and Justice V.K. Rao were informed by Delhi government standing counsel Rahul Mehra that the new jail manual, Delhi Prisons Rules, 2018, has been notified and came into effect from January 1, 2019. PTI

Traffic advisory ahead of BJP National Council meet

NEW DELHI
In the wake of a two-day BJP National Council meeting here at Ramlila Ground, Delhi Police on Thursday issued a traffic advisory anticipating traffic congestion on several roads leading to the venue. The meeting scheduled for Friday will conclude on Saturday. To facilitate traffic movement and avoid congestion, no vehicle will be allowed on Jawaharlal Nehru Marg from Guru Nanak Chowk to roundabout Kamala market, police said. PTI

Pending wages: sanitation workers climb tower

NOIDA
At least four contractual sanitation workers here on Thursday climbed up a tower in Sector 39 and threatened to jump from it, demanding their reinstatement by Noida Authority, officials said. Those who climbed up the tower were part of a bigger group of sanitation workers protesting their contract termination with the local authority, the officials said. They came down after a negotiation was made between the workers and their service contractor, the police said. PTI

In flight mode



A pelican takes flight at the Delhi zoo. ■ SANDEEP SAXENA

Solium of ₹48 lakh for teen in vegetative state since accident

The Class IX student was hit by a van in 2012 while on his way to the market

NIRNIMESH KUMAR
NEW DELHI

A Motor Accident Claims Tribunal (MACT) has granted a compensation of ₹48.87 lakh to a 14-year-old Class IX student who is in a vegetative state after being hit by a van in 2012.

The victim was pillion-riding a bicycle with his friend near a school when the van hit them from behind. They were going to a nearby market from the victim's residence when the incident happened.

Father's evidence
The father of the victim said in his evidence that his son had suffered permanent disability, is completely bedridden and in a state of coma.

According to the doctor, the injured will be dependent on medicines and food supplements till his survival. In the opinion of the doctor, the injured will not be cured in future unless some miracle happens

SAMEER BAJPAI
Presiding Officer of Motor Accident Claims Tribunal

Despite being a bright student, his career ended after the accident. Further, the father submitted that he had to spend all his savings on his son's treatment and the doctors had said the treatment will continue for the rest of his life.

The driver of the vehicle denied all allegations raised by the petitioner.

He also claimed that some other vehicle had hit the boy and the driver of the vehicle had fled the spot after the incident.

The owner of the vehicle did not file a written statement in response to the claim petition.

Granting the compensation, MACT Presiding Officer Sameer Bajpai said: "The statement of the father of the injured [boy], the medical record, including the disability certificate, photographs of the injured and the opinion of the doctor give a clear picture of the worst physical and mental condition of the injured. As per

the record and statement of the doctor, the injured cannot move and is completely bedridden. He cannot even feed himself and cannot be fed by others in a normal way but only through jejunostomy [an artificial opening created for feeding]. Further, according to the doctor, the injured will be dependent on medicines and food supplements till his survival. In the opinion of the doctor, the injured will not be cured in future unless some miracle happens."

"In view of my findings, I award ₹48,87,600 to the injured as compensation along with interest of 9% per annum from the date of filing the petition till its realisation," said Mr. Bajpai.

CBI officer Devender Kumar moves High Court for relief

Plea likely to be listed for hearing on Friday

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

A day after CBI Director Alok Kumar Verma overturned the transfers of officers, ordered while he had been sent on leave, Deputy Superintendent of Police Devender Kumar moved the Delhi High Court on Thursday seeking a court direction to restrain those officers from dealing with the bribery FIR lodged against him and Special Director Rakesh Asthana.



Devender Kumar

S.S. Gurum and Deputy Superintendent of Police A.K. Bassi.

Later on Thursday, Mr. Verma was removed as the CBI Director, a day after the Supreme Court order restored his position.

Mr. Kumar's plea is likely to be listed for hearing on Friday. The court had on December 20 already reserved its verdict on various petitions of Mr. Asthana, Mr. Kumar and alleged middleman Manoj Prasad seeking to quash the bribery FIR lodged against them.

The court is scheduled to pronounce its verdict on the pleas seeking quashing of the FIR on Friday.

Within a few hours of resuming office as CBI Director, Mr. Verma had passed fresh orders, recalling earlier orders of transfer of Deputy Inspector General Manish Kumar Sinha, Superintendent of Police

In a written affidavit, he had claimed that the view of Additional Solicitor General (ASG) P.S. Narasimha was sought by the CBI on the need for prior government approval to lodge an FIR against public servants facing allegations of corruption and that the senior law officer had opined that it was not required.

while allegations of harassment were made, the name of the petitioner did not figure and that the petitioner was not accused of any wrongdoing in the said complaint by Mr. Sana," he submitted.

Mr. Kumar said the FIR was lodged on October 15, 2018, on the basis of a typed statement on that date, which was allegedly signed by Mr. Sana.

The High Court had in an interim order directed the CBI to maintain status quo regarding proceedings against Mr. Asthana till further orders.

Previously, Mr. Gurum, who had registered the FIR on October 15, had moved a plea alleging that Mr. Asthana was misrepresenting facts before the high court.

Mr. Verma had argued that the FIR against Mr. Asthana was registered based on "cogent material disclosing cognisable offences".

In a written affidavit, he had claimed that the view of Additional Solicitor General (ASG) P.S. Narasimha was sought by the CBI on the need for prior government approval to lodge an FIR against public servants facing allegations of corruption and that the senior law officer had opined that it was not required.

the Centre. He said the government was able to implement the policy only after getting reprieve from the SC last year in a case regarding the State government's powers. He added that the government would ensure that the fire personnel are given better safety gear, a long pending demand.

Modi govt stalled compensation policy for martyrs for years, says Kejriwal

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

Accusing the Centre of obstructing the Aam Aadmi Party government's projects, Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Thursday told a group of Delhi Fire Service personnel that the Narendra Modi government had stalled his government's

compensation policy for martyrs for years.

Speaking at an event organised by the Delhi Fire Service Employees Welfare Association, Mr. Kejriwal said the AAP government's ₹1 crore compensation policy for police, military and fire martyrs' kin had been pending for years because of

POOCH CAFE



PEANUTS



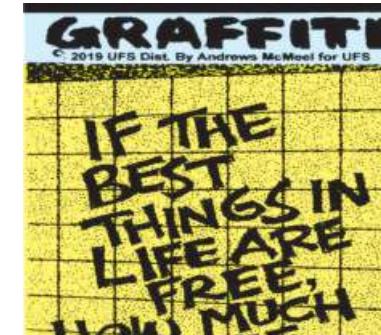
HAGAR THE HORRIBLE



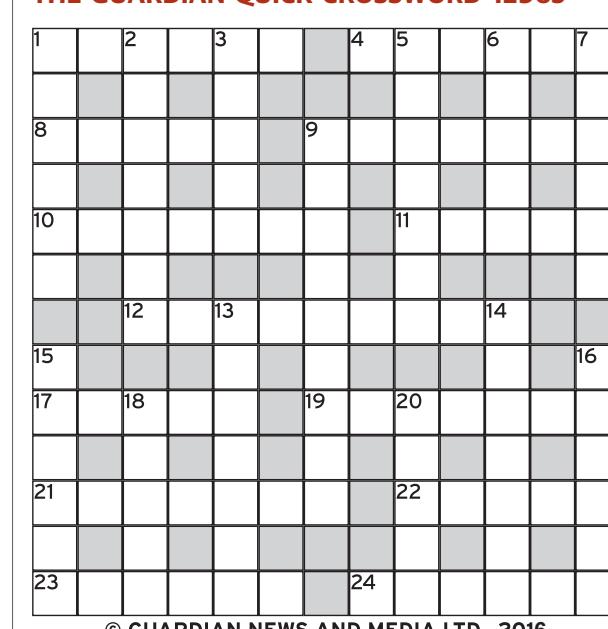
CALVIN AND HOBBES



TIGER



THE GUARDIAN QUICK CROSSWORD-12965



- 5 Country of southern Africa (7)
6 Haggard (5)
7 Necessary (6)
9 Card player's deadpan expression (5,4)
13 Permanently (3,4)
14 Wrap up (7)
15 Things thrown overboard and washed up ashore (6)
16 Strong-scented plant whose seeds and leaves are used in cooking (6)
18 Expressing opinions freely (5)
20 Flight unit? (5)

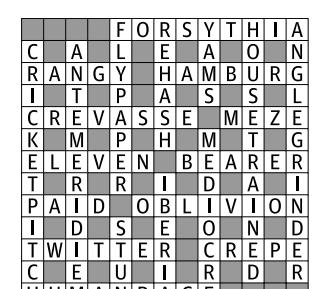
Solution will appear in Delhi Metro dated January 12, 2019.

Solution No. 12964

WUMO



- 1 Dash (like a mouse?) (6)
2 Sweetening agent — Croesus (anag) (7)
3 Extra bit (3-2)
4 Grazing land (7)
5 Small field for horses (7)
6 Championship — form of debate (5)
7 Extremely wicked (9)
8 Young eet (5)



PEARLS BEFORE SWINE



Practicing mindfulness has been shown to be effective in dealing with anxiety, quality of life, smoking cessation, healthy eating and other aspects of life related to mindfullness. Yoga and Tai Chi have proven to be effective in treating heart failure, as well as lowering blood pressure.

Health capsules is not intended to be a medical journal.

IN BRIEF



Mithila expert

Noted Mithila artist Santosh Kumar Das' first ever solo show "Rerouted Realities" opened at Ojas Art near the Qutub Minar on Thursday.

Curated by Kathryn Myers, the month long show is showcasing 40 artworks that cover two decades of his work. The highlight of this first ever solo show in India is a set of two scrolls from 1999 depicting the mythological tale of Hans and Bachcharaj.

Sharing details of his work, Santosh Kumar Das says: "This exhibition is a summarization of my thoughts that have translated into artworks with Mithila-Madhubani style of paintings."

Hailing from Bihar, Das is a prolific artist who has exhibited at several renowned museums overseas.

Kathryn says: "On a path that began with this cultural and familial inheritance of traditional forms, he identified what was essential to Mithila art - its language of line - and developed his own distinctive dialect, timbre and tone. Like many individuals who leave home and return transformed, through his vision, ambition and expansive spirit, rooted in, but not bound by tradition, Santosh exemplifies how to live as an artist in the world."

'A quintessentially modern form'

Anjum Hasan talks of her special affection for the short story, the form used to tell of life in the city, apartment building, or a small family, rather than the community or nation

MINI ANTHIKAD CHHIBBER

Anjum Hasan's sixth book, *A Day in the Life*, is a collection of 14 short stories. Set across space and time, the stories are peopled with a wide range of finely-drawn characters. *A Day in the Life* is on the shortlist for The Hindu Prize 2018 for Indian literary fiction. Ahead of The Hindu Lit for Life, to be held in Chennai from January 12 to 14, where the winner will be announced, Anjum talks of the short story among other things. Excerpts:

You have written in different forms, which do you prefer?

I do feel a special affection for the short story, partly because it is a quintessentially modern form - the form that has been used to tell of life in the city, life in the apartment building, life in the small family, rather than the community or the nation. Many Indian languages have had long 20th century traditions of the short story so one feels a sense of affinity with that too, especially now with the growth of translations. One could read a short story by Ashokamitran or Manto or UR Ananthamurthy or Uday Prakash and imagine oneself part of something larger than just the storms in the teacup that constitute Indian writing in English.

What are the pros and cons of writing short stories?

The pro for me is that the short story lets me give form to the relentless turbulence in my society. There is a great deal going on and the short story is the ideal vehicle to provide both the passing glimpse and the sudden revelation. The

downside is the patronising attitude that short stories are sometimes treated with, the view that they are poorer cousins of novels. We don't seem to be able to judge short stories except in quantitative terms - as delivering less of something that novels give us with more of!

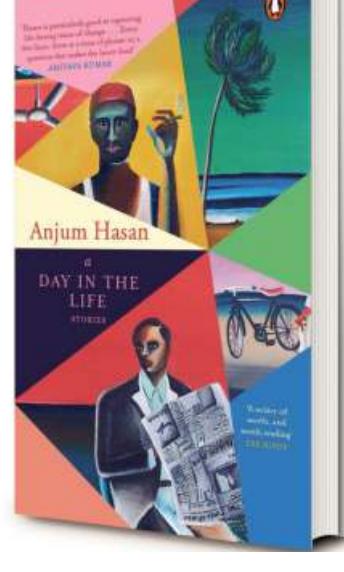
How would you describe Bengaluru as a character?

Bangalore is not a character - it is the city in which I live and which in some ways inspires me. Cities have character of course and Bangalore's character interests me very much: that combination of entrepreneurial energy and cheerful provincialism and an older cosmopolitanism layered with a new, more Americanised one. One often hears it said that Bangalore has no character. It certainly has very little historical character. Yet out of this, millions of people constantly striving to make their lives here in the present, something emerges, an atmosphere, a consciousness, which I would like to capture.

How did *A day in the Life* come to be?

The genesis is always just a story. And then one writes a second and a third. I write each story as an individual piece but taken together many of the pieces here happened to be set over the course of a day so that provided the framework for the collection.

Which is the first short story you read?



Compressed allegory: Anjum finds it fascinating ■ BHAGYA PRAKASH

C The common thread is that all these stories are written by me. I very much resist the idea that a collection of stories should respond to a singular theme. Stories are meant to be distinct pieces of writing, not novels in disguise. There is often a misplaced anxiety about stories, the worry that one is not getting one's money's worth unless the stories are connected in some way

that Carver is something of an American writing school cliché now and that his economical style needn't be the only way to write. And I've recently been taken with Lucia Berlin's stories which come out of a similar sensibility.

Could you talk of the brief for the cover?

I thought it would be wonderful to have a Bhupen Khakhar painting on the cover. I like his way of making something out of materials very close at hand, right outside the window or down the street, and how the good and bad in his moral vision have this sense of proximity and entanglement too.

The painting I wanted reproduced on the cover was hard to establish ownership of but Gunjan Ahlawat of Penguin, who is an artist in his own right, was very persistent.

Have you thought of dabbling in the super short story format?

No, not really. I am in fact thinking of going in the other direction - trying out the very long short story, something in between the novella and the short story, the sort that the superb writer Yiyun Li does. Though the sketch, the deftly-told fable, the compressed allegory also fascinate me. I am reading Italo Calvino's *Adam, One Afternoon* which has elements of all three.

If there is a common thread running through the stories in *A Day in the Life*, what is it?

The common thread is that all these stories are written by me. I very much resist the idea that a collection of stories should respond to a singular theme. Stories are meant to be distinct pieces of writing, not novels in disguise. There is often a misplaced anxiety about stories, the worry that one is not getting one's money's worth unless the stories are connected in some way.

What next?

A novel, I hope! But short stories are always a welcome distraction.

Driving the plot

Mahie Gill is looking for variety in negative shades

ATIF KHAN

Apart from paying homage to Bollywood music of the '70s, Alt Balaji's *Apharan* is also looking into the archetypal vamp of the era with Madhu played by Mahie Gill. She persuades a cop (Arunoday Singh) to kidnap an innocent girl. "The mischievous element of the character is what sets it apart from the roles I have done so far. The character reflects the masala cinema of the period with hard-hitting one-liners," says Mahie. She has done several thrillers in the past but here she is actively involved in plotting and scheming. With a sudden influx of masculinity-laced crime thrillers on OTT platforms where male characters drive the plot, Madhu is an interesting exception. "I am inspired by the cinema of the '70s and the vamps of that time. Sometimes, they were more powerful than the lead heroine. They were not only seductresses but also enjoyed certain agency and



Of poetry and power: Mahie Gill in New Delhi ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

freedom to dress the way they like and visit spaces which were not meant for the so-called good girls."

Mahie emerged on the scene with *Dev.D* but it was *Sahib Biwi Aur Gangster* which gave her the image of a seductress and from then on she is playing different variants of the same character. She says it was an "hon-

est film" but agrees that it made her a sensual symbol of new small town India. "I don't mind playing a negative character or grey shades. Even during *Dev.D*, I asked Anurag (Kashyap) to let me play Chandramukhi's part, but I don't want to repeat the same thing. Somehow directors imagined me as a girl holding a glass of

wine who will break into a dance number. It became boring and even funny as directors would come with only such scenes in mind and promise that they would add something before and after," she chuckles.

That's why, Mahie feels, filmmakers are important for an actor to blossom. "Scripts are important but I think a

good director can make a wonderful film with a script which some other person might ruin. *Saheb Biwi Aur Gangster* was just a thought that Tigmanshu wrote in just a week but he knew how he would mount it on screen. When a director is directing his own script, it makes a lot of difference as he knows every character minutely and does not need to interpret. It also makes the casting process easier."

Happy about the growing trend of stories driven by female characters, Mahie says the industry is finally moving beyond the goddess or vamp binary. "The Bollywood heroine now has flaws, desires and agency over her body. A female actor can now pull crowds. I used to see heroines like her ki film hi chalti hai. It is no longer the case."

An ardent Shri Devi fan, the Chandigarh girl is contented with whatever she has achieved.

"I never thought I will reach here. I wanted to join the Army. I was selected but an injury forced me to quit. As a child, I used to watch *Shoojit Sircar's* the director of *Vicky Donor*. Kaushal maintained that his character Captain Vihann Singh Shergill is by

Ode to soldier

A stellar evening at New Delhi's INOX Insignia witnessed an insightful interaction with the lead cast of *Uri: The Surgical Strike*, Vicky Kaushal and Yami Gautam. The film is based on the surgical strike undertaken by the Indian Army on 28th September 2016 in retaliation to the Uri attack launched by militants from the Pakistan-Occupied Kashmir on 18th September 2016.

The actors were posed a volley of questions ranging from Kaushal's experience of intense physical training to the working equation Yami shared with the debutant director Aditya Dhar in contrast to that with Shoojit Sircar, the director of *Vicky Donor*. Kaushal maintained that his character Captain Vihann Singh Shergill is by

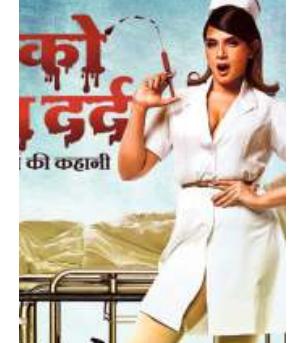


far the most physically demanding he has played

which mandated not only a consistent workout but also developing the headspace of an army personnel through meditation and life-awakening exchanges with soldiers (and their families). "I came across this young army man marked by sheer conviction in his disposition," he recalled. He further recounted.

Richa Chadha in 12 avatars

It isn't a regular celebrity calendar, but one that's being specially done for a film promotion. Richa Chadha will be seen in posters inspired by some of the quirkiest pulp films of the 90s for a calendar to promote her new film that narrates the story of Shakeela.



Each of the month has Richa posing in a new avatar with a completely made up poster of a fictional movie name and elements.

Says Richa, "The team thought we should pay this homage to her and the films that she has been a part of. It's quirky and tongue in cheek, so we are aware many people may not understand it."

5 EVENTS WORTH-YOUR-WHILE



PERFORMANCE

Satinder Sartaaj Live

After performing four seasons, Sufiana Rang season 5, a sufi music festival is back with some of the finest sufi artists. Be ready for a power packed evening as these multi talented artists are ready to win your hearts. Celebrated as part of Lohri, this 3-day event will commence this evening with Sufi music by Satinder Sartaaj.

VENUE: Kamani Auditorium, Mandi House

TIME: 7 p.m.



SHOPPING

Annual sale

Good Earth, a chain of luxury retail stores is back with its annual sale for this new year. The brand brings an entire range of lifestyle products ranging from home décor, festive lanterns, dinnerware and wellness products. Commencing today, this three-day sale offers discount for all its products, including the best sellers items.

VENUE: All Good Earth outlets

TIME: 10 a.m. - 8 p.m.



GIG

Rock

Traffic Jam, a 4-piece band from the North East of India, is all set to perform at Bar & Kitchen this evening. The band will play covers of classics and alternative rock tunes as they are an all-genre band. The band comprises Jimmy Thang as the lead vocalist, Kennedy Singh on the guitars, D.S. Mung on bass and Stevekid Valte on drums.

VENUE: Bar & Kitchen, DLF Phase 4, Gurgaon

TIME: 8 pm onwards



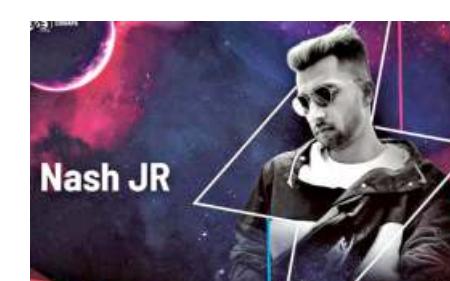
EXHIBITION

Canvas

"Magic Melody 3", a solo art show by artist Kishore Roy, will be inaugurated at All India Fine Arts & Craft Society, this evening. In this show, the artist tries to explore the deities of Hindu pantheon, add portraits of animals, Lord Krishna, multitudes of Gopis and Radha, female subject and global spirituality.

VENUE: AIFACS, 1 Rafi Marg

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



MUSIC

Bass

Vh1 Supersonic, a multi-genre music organisation hosting DJ Nash Jr this Friday night at Nehru Place Social. Born and raised in the valley of Nainital, Nash Jr has gained notoriety among the circle of bass heads across the national capital. He is set to play genres like Trap/Twerk, Miami Bass, Dancehall.

VENUE: Nehru Place Social, Epicuria Food Mall

TIME: 9 p.m. - 12 a.m.

6 FOOD

Rice to the occasion

Add a heritage variety to your *pongal* this year. It will encourage thousands of organic farmers who toil to keep rare and valuable types of indigenous paddy alive

SREEDEVILAKSHMI KUTTY

"Pongal used to be celebrated with freshly harvested, hand-pounded rice," says Ashokan. "I would say *iluppai poo samba* is the best rice to make *pongal*, with its soft texture and faint aroma," he adds. An organic farmer committed to growing traditional rice varieties, Ashokan knows what he is talking about. He adds he has always been partial to *poongar* red rice and *iluppai poo samba* white rice, both of which he grows on his land.

The key lies in knowing how to use each variety, says Ashokan. "We take care of the particular needs of each; be it duration of crop, water requirement, photo sensitivity, seasons etc. Similarly, we also need to be aware of cooking times, methods and flavour profiles of different types of traditional rice. Once we figure that out, it is easy to cook delicious dishes."

Choices, choices

Balaji and Muthu Kumar, two other organic paddy farmers, say they prefer *kichadi samba* white rice for *pongal*, while farmer Radha, who also works with organic farming guru Sundararaman, says she can turn out a *pongal* with



Salt of the earth:
Sakkari pongal made with *poongar* red rice • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT



any traditional variety. But, she adds, she is always extra happy if that was *karuppu kavuni* black rice. "Not everyone may agree, as *karuppu kavuni* retains a chewy texture even after cooking. It resembles the *aravana payasam* more than *pongal*, but I still love it," she says.

There are thousands of farmers like Radha, Balaji, Muthu Kumar and Ashokan who grow, conserve and promote traditional rice varieties season after season.

Two people who have been key to bringing tens of thousands of farmers in Tamil Nadu into the fold of organic traditional paddy cultivation are the late G Namalvar and KR Jayaraman, who passed away last month.

Jayaraman of Adhirangam's now-famous Nel Thiruvizha festi-

val created a wave of seed revivals and an army of seed saviours in Tamil Nadu.

The work carried out by these seed warriors can yield success only if people adopt these varieties of traditional rice in their diet. And what better time to do that than during the *pongal* festi-

ONE FOR ALL
In 2015, the Philippines-based International Rice Research Institute made its database of rice varieties – the largest in the world – available online for free.

SOME TRADITIONAL VARIETIES

KICHADI SAMBA Slender white-grained rice, a favourite of erstwhile royalty, delicious, easy to digest, hardy and easy to grow

THOYAMALLI White, as the name suggests, easy to grow and cook

MAPPILLAI SAMBA Red and robust, gives strength, requires patience from the cook, but doesn't scrimp on richness and taste

SEERAGA SAMBA Our answer to *basmati*. Requires mollycoddling in the field and is sparing with yield, but rewards with fragrance and taste

ILUPPAI POO SAMBA Delicious, fragrant, rejuvenating, small-grained, still rarely grown

POONGAR Red and bold, takes time to cook, is said to be a healing grain, especially for women

And many more like *garudan samba*, *kattuyanam*, *karuppu kavuni*, *sigappu kavuni*, *thanga samba*, *neelam samba*, *kullakar*, *karun kuruvai*, *swarna masuri*, *palkudavalai*, *arupatham kuruvai*, *ottadayan*, and *salem sanna*

al, which celebrates the *samba* harvest with delicious *sakkari pongal* and *ven pongal*. The freshly-harvested, hand-poured rice strengthens the connection with farmers and farming.

There is also increasing anecdotal evidence that these traditional varieties are capable of withstanding climate vagaries better and have unique nutritive and healthful properties. Therefore, conserving traditional rice varieties is also becoming a survival imperative.

Paddy varieties that belong to this land are tasty and unique. Cultivated without chemicals by the sons and daughters of the soil they are nourishing for the body and the earth. This is a heritage we can proudly gift our children.

Let us grow these rices. Let us buy them and explore recipes. Let us cook, share and gift them, while thanking the farmers for not giving up on precious grains.

Sreedi Lakshmi Kutty is the Co-Founder of Bio Basics, a social venture retailing organic food and associated with the Save Our Rice Campaign.



Ezukari kootu (Seven vegetables curry)

INGREDIENTS

- 1 cup white pumpkin
- 1/2 cup red pumpkin
- 1 cup broad beans
- 1 cup beans
- 1/2 cup carrot
- 1 cup chow chow
- 1 cup hyacinth beans (avarekai)
- 1 cup toor dal
- 1 tsp tamarind juice extract
- 1 tsp turmeric powder
- 2 tsp oil
- Curry leaves, asafoetida and mustard for seasoning

Seven in one

A wholesome curry rich in protein, vitamins and minerals, this one is a traditional recipe that is mandatorily prepared in Tamil Nadu along with sweet *pongal*. "All these harvest vegetables are not only auspicious for the Sun god but are also very nutritious and are supposed to be consumed this season. The vegetables are added in an odd number and the same can be increased to nine by adding potato and elephant yam," says Gowri Balakrishna, a native of Tamil Nadu.

TO GRIND

- 1 tbsp coriander seeds
- 2 tbsp Bengal gram

■ 1/2 tsp cumin seeds

■ 1/2 tsp fenugreek seeds

■ 1 cup freshly grated coconut

■ 6 red chillies

METHOD

Chop the vegetables into small cubes and cook till soft; pressure-cook the toor dal till soft. Heat oil in a pan and add Bengal gram. Roast till it leaves an aroma. Then add the rest of the ingredients under 'to grind' till aromatic. Grind to a soft paste. Take a thick-bottomed vessel and add the cooked vegetables, dal and the ground mixture. Add salt, turmeric and tamarind extract and mix well. Add a little water if needed. For seasoning, heat oil in a pan, add mustard seeds. Once they splutter, add the curry leaves and asafoetida and pour into the curry.

Sweet (red) pumpkin raitha

INGREDIENTS

- 2 cups sweet pumpkin, chopped into small pieces after peeling the skin
- 4 tbsp freshly grated coconut
- 2 tsp mustard seeds
- 4 red chillies
- Curry leaves, mustard seeds and asafoetida for seasoning
- 1 tsp coconut oil

■ Thick curd for mixing

METHOD

Cook the pumpkin pieces by adding water till soft (ensure that the pieces are not smashed). Grind raw red chillies, mustard and freshly grated coconut with a little water to form a smooth paste. Add the ground mixture to boiled sweet pumpkin and mix well. Add curd and salt to taste. Heat coconut oil in a pan, add mustard seeds, and once the seeds splutter, add red chillies, curry leaves and a pinch of asafoetida.



Of curd and pumpkins

A key harvest vegetable during this time, sweet/red pumpkin is known for its high antioxidant content, vitamin C and the fact that it is a rich source of potassium. Given that it generates heat in the body, red pumpkin is consumed in this season when there is still a nip in the air and winter has not completely waned. "This recipe is specially prepared for the festival in Karnataka, as it is an ideal side dish with tangy and savoury flavours. It incorporates the goodness of fresh coconut, mustard seeds and red chillies that add in a medley of flavours. You could also add crushed pepper on top," says Parimala, a homemaker

As families across the country get ready to celebrate a new harvest season, we bring you three festive recipes that are much-loved, but not often talked about

Feasts of the harvest

RASHMIGOPIRAO

January marks the advent of one of the most auspicious days of the Hindu calendar. One of the very few Hindu festivals that is celebrated on a fixed date, Sankranti falls each year on either January 14 or 15.

While the term 'Sankranti' itself denotes the movement of the sun from one zodiac constellation to another, Makara Sankranti is considered particularly significant as it marks the transmigration of the Sun to the Makara constellation (which is the Capricorn zodiac).

Dedicated to the Sun god, Sankranti is primarily a harvest festival and marks the beginning of a new season. Widely celebrated across India, it is known as Magh Bihu in Assam, Pongal in Tamil Nadu, Sankranti in Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh, and Poush Sankranti in West Bengal.

Barring slight regional variations, Sankranti is synonymous with bonfires, festivities and, of course, a whole lot of special food. Most of the recipes make use of freshly harvested seasonal vegetables (*avarekai* aka hyacinth beans, flat beans, red and white pumpkins etc), sesame seeds, jaggery, sugarcane and groundnuts. Below are three unique recipes from the Southern states that are prepared during the festival. Delectable and bursting with flavours, these dishes have significant health benefits too.

from Bengaluru.

Homemade cures

Few foods are more comforting than a bowl of hot *rasam* and rice. The traditional soup is loaded with nutrients known to soothe many minor ailments and build immunity. *Amla* or gooseberries – a rich source of vitamin C – are harvested during Sankranti in the Telangana region and a special *rasam* is prepared using the same for the festival. "In this season, everyone is prone to catching viral infections or common cold. *Usiri kaya rasam* is an excellent recipe that helps combat these infections. The combination of spices used not only satiates the palate but also helps in digestion," says Varun MB, executive chef, Novotel Hyderabad Airport.



Family favourites: These simple recipes are regional hallmarks • RASHMIGOPIRAO, NOVOTEL HYDERABAD AIRPORT

Usiri kaya (Gooseberry/Amla/Nellikai) rasam

INGREDIENTS

- 3 cups gooseberry (*amla*), roughly chopped
- 1 cup chopped tomatoes
- 3-4 green chillies
- 1-2 red chillies
- 2 tsp mustard seeds
- 1 tsp fenugreek (*methi*) seeds
- 10-15 curry leaves
- 1/2 tsp asafoetida (*hing*)
- 2 tsp chilli powder
- 1 tsp turmeric powder
- 1 tbsp oil
- 1 tbsp ghee
- Fresh, chopped coriander for garnish

METHOD

Heat oil in a pan and add mustard seeds. After they splutter, add methi seeds, chopped green chillies. Add the *amla* and water, cover and allow to cook till soft. Then add tomato, red chilli powder, salt to taste and turmeric powder. Mix well and bring to a boil. Adjust water accordingly. Remove from heat and strain.

FRIDAY REVIEW

 www.thehindu.com
 <https://www.facebook.com/thehindu>
 <https://www.twitter.com/The Hindu>

Striking the right chord

Kamala Shankar and her Shankar Guitar have been happily traversing the raga route **Pages 6 & 7**



INSIDE



The tail-enders

How tukkadas can make a big difference to a concert **P5**



Swinging in the air

Though its "Bazaar" lacks the vibrancy, Cirque Du Soleil presents a new curve in the history of leisure

P10



Poet of nightmarish reality

Soumitra Mohan's poetry offers fresh imagery as it exposes contemporary political and social milieu **P11**

TIME OUT



Ghazal vocalist Radhika Chopra will deliver a lecture and also give a demonstration

INDIA HABITAT CENTRE**JANUARY 11****OPEN PALM COURT GALLERY**

Fine Touch presents "Kalabimbb-19", a group exhibition of paintings, sculptures and digital art.

INDIA HABITAT CENTRE**JANUARY 11****AMALTAS**

A lecture and demonstration by Ghazal vocalist Dr. Radhika Chopra on ghazal as a genre.

INDIA HABITAT CENTRE**JANUARY 11****STEIN AUDITORIUM**

Screening of 3 Days in Quiberon. (Directed by Emily Atef, the film will be shown in collaboration with Goethe-Institut / Max Mueller Bhavan, New Delhi).

INDIA INTERNATIONAL CENTRE**JANUARY 11****KAMALADEVI COMPLEX**

A book Self, Sacrifice and Cosmos: Vedic Thought, Ritual and Philosophy, edited by Lauren M. Bausch, will be released by Romila Thapar, Emerita Professor of History, JNU. This will be followed by a discussion on the book by Professor Ganesh Umakant Thite, Professor Ramesh Bhardwaj and Professor Kumkum Roy.



Madan Gopal Singh will entertain listeners

INDIA HABITAT CENTRE**JANUARY 12****STEIN AUDITORIUM**

Sadat Hassan Manto's "Pagaleyan Da Sardar", in English and Punjabi, will be staged. It has been directed by Sanjay Kumar. Prod. Pandies' Theatre, the play captures and reproduces the stark anti-communal voice of Saadat Hasan Manto and highlights his work as a statement against bigotry and religious hatred.

INDIA HABITAT CENTRE**JANUARY 13****THE HUB**

IHC Lohri Celebrations presents ChaarYaar featuring vocalist Madan Gopal Singh; guitarist and banjo player Deepak Castelino; sarod player Pritam Ghosal and percussionist Amjad Khan. Followed by a concert by vocalist and writer, Vidya Shah. The evening concludes with a performance by guest artiste-pop sensation, Jasbir Jassi.

Showcasing the bench strength

Ustad Amjad Ali Khan presented an amazing bouquet of his students at the Diksha festival in New Delhi

SHAILAJA KHANNA

The IGNCA, in collaboration with Sarod Ghar, presented an unusual three-day festival recently, entitled Diksha. Seventeen disciples of Ustad Amjad Ali Khan played only his compositions at the three-day event, culminating in the maestro himself on stage with four of his disciples.

It was an eye opener to hear his students play, in addition to the sarod, the violin, santoor, sitar and even two guitar players, Sachin Patwardhan from Pune and Subhash Ghosh. (Sachin later explained he had had a problem with his nails; so had to switch to the guitar which had the same placement of fingers).

Another astounding aspect was listening to so many very lyrical, in some cases "lakshman" gats all composed by Ustad Amjad Ali Khan himself. As he remarked during a brief interaction, "From very early, from my mid-20s, I have been inspired to compose "gats" and would have perhaps composed around 100 till now. I feel enough importance is now not being given to compositions by instrumentalists; artists concentrate on alaap jor jhal and improvisation more. I feel compositions are what keep the raga alive; a correctly conceived composition, with a sthayi and antara should bring out all the features of the raga."

Range of ragas

In the three-day festival, over 15 ragas including Shri, Durga, Kedar, Rageshwari were played. Another interesting aspect was that there were different tabla players for each concert - Ustad Amjad Ali Khan has been known to have often played with young upcoming tabla artists throughout his life; he is himself a fine tabla player and "laya" has always been an im-

The festival ended with the Ustad playing with two of his senior sarod disciples, Pt Debjyoti (Tony) Bose and Mukesh Sharma, accompanied by the Violin brothers from Kolkata, Deb Shankar and Jyoti Shankar Roy



Maestro shows the way Ustad Amjad Ali Khan flanked by his students

portant element of his music. It was heartening to hear the array of top artists accompany his disciples - including Ustad Rashid Mustafa Thirakwa, Ustad Raifuddin Sabri, Pt Sudhir Pandey, Pt Mithilesh Jha, Durjay Bhaumick, Shubh Maharaj, and Mohit Gangani.

Guru-disciple relation

Ustad Amjad Ali Khan had earlier announced that the festival was dedicated to three "shagirds" of his gharana - Pt Radhika Mohan Maitra, who was a most dedicated and loyal representative keeping alive the traditions of the Senia tradition, Pt Dev Narayan Jha from Bihar, who, he said, had become a "pratik of sewa" (symbol of service) to his father, Ustad Hafiz Ali Khan, and thirdly, Rakesh Prasanna. (his son Rohan played the sarod on the second day of the festival).

In Ustad Amjad Ali Khan's words, "All gurus have some shagirds who go on a different rebellious path, "baghi ban bante hai", but still the relationship between guru and shagird was a deep one.

He later added, in an informal chat, "The relationship between a guru and shishya is as strong as a blood relationship, we are bound as one by swara and laya, and I wanted to personally present my shagirds in concert. In this festival, I thought many of my students need a stage, so each one was given 30 mi-

nutes to play, whatever he wanted. Amaan and Ayaan, my sons, get opportunities to play, some of my disciples don't; so I wanted them to be given space. I am grateful that the IGNCA accepted my proposal, and I hope this becomes a regular feature, in other cities too. I hear they are going to have this type of festival with other artists presenting their disciples too. It's a great thing."

The senior most disciple to play was Pt Biswajeet Roy Chaudhary; though as Ustad Amjad Ali Khan said, "Gurdev Singh (a Namdhari Sikh) is my senior most disciple, and though he was not well, and could not play, we honoured him at this festival."

Early beginner

Chatting with Partho Roy Chowdhury, currently teaching music at the Doon School, it was interesting to hear about his musical journey. "I started learning the santoor from the age of four, and have been learning from Ustadji for the last 20 years. I heard Pt Shiv Kumar Sharma perform years ago, and got inspired to learn the santoor. I have also had a few verbal lessons from him. I first heard Ustadji play Puriya Kalyan in Banaras and knew I wanted to learn only from him; his style of playing is so unique so even though my instrument is different, I went to him. It is very difficult to re-

plicate sarod bols on the santoor, and in any case his compositions are really hard to play."

Playing like youngster

The festival ended with the Ustad playing with two of his senior sarod disciples, Pt Debjyoti (Tony) Bose and Mukesh Sharma, accompanied by the Violin brothers from Kolkata, Deb Shankar and Jyoti Shankar Roy. They started with raga Khamach, some very lyrical "gats", and then the Ustad unexpectedly switched to raga Tilang, a "tarana" he had recently composed.

This was set in a nine-and-a-half matra taal; he sang it first then played. This was clearly not part of the planned repertoire as his disciples did not accompany him in this rendition. Perhaps, he was inspired by the presence of Pt Birju Maharaj in the audience (Tilang is a raga used in many thumris, and the unusual taal would have interested Pt Birju Maharaj). The Ustad reverted to raga Durga, where his disciples once again joined him, ending in "Vaishnav Jan To", in a Ragamala format.

As an admiring Tony Bose said after the concert, "Ustadji still plays like a young man, and we find it so hard to play with him!" Indeed that inimitable touch, those strong strokes, that perfect tone remains unmatched.

In search of Kabir

M. K. Raina's "Anterdhwani" highlights the emotional turmoil of the middle class

DIWAN SINGH BAJELI

For Rahul Seth, it is an occasion to rejoice over the maiden show of his first play, "Running on Empty", in Hindi translation at Shri Ram Centre recently. Under the direction of eminent theatre director M.K.Raina, "Anterdhwani" was also a theatrical event for the discerning audience to watch a new script that explores the agonised inner world of characters in the context of violence unleashed by terrorists and the State. The professionally trained and experienced performers impart insight into their characters' inner world. The play was presented by Long Jump Studio.

Playwright Rahul Seth has worked nearly for three decades in the US and is staying in India for the past seven years pursuing his passion for theatre. Trained in stage direction at Shri Ram Centre and at Yale University School for Drama, he is the Founder of Long Jump Studio. He wants to expand his creativity by staging his own plays and the short stories written

by his mother Rajee Seth with fidelity to structure and finer nuances of language of the stories. Right now he is planning to direct his second play "Lived Words" under the banner of his own group.

Jointly translated into Hindi from the original in English by Santwana Nigam and Ujwala Daodhar Seth, the play opens in the drawing room of upper middle class family engaged in the prospects of business deal facing formidable rivals but they are obsessed with unhappy conjugal life. One character has already divorced his wife rationalising with the thought that every relation becomes cold and weak in the long run. Another character - Shekhar - is terrified with the fact that his marriage is on the rocks. Gradually, we meet other charac-



Poignant tale A scene from the play; (below) director M.K.Raina ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

ters - Nandini, the wife of Shekhar and their daughter Kiran. A pall of gloom pervades in the family. Nandini is a painter who returns home after her show of paintings is over. As a painter now, she is disillusioned with the contemporary art scene as well as with her own creativity.

Her relationship with her husband has become bitter, branding him opportunistic who has betrayed his social and political conviction. Their daughter Kiran, a lecturer and researcher, enters the scene, revealing her own inner anguish and sorrow. Through the heated polemics

between these unhappy members of the family, the core thematic layer emerges revealing the death of Kabir, the young son of the family, a deviant who rejected the middle class values and mad race of acquiring higher status in society. He left home and went to a far off place where people are languishing in economic and social deprivation and are victim of violence let loose by terrorists and the State. Step by step, evoking a sense of suspense, we are told about the circumstances under which Kabir became the victim of a bullet in the course of ex-

change of fire between terrorists and the police - these facts about the death of Kabir is revealed by Saina who loved Kabir and has come all the way to meet the family of Kabir. A finely tuned production, it dissects the theme with mounting dramatic tension, projecting the troubled vision of contemporary society.

Cultural moorings

However, the play does not identify the locale where Kabir goes, meets Saina, falls in love with her and with the social work she is doing for her people. From costumes and

rhythms emphasising the seduction and monstrosity of capitalism and the clamp down on critical thinking across the globe. The third section offered a spectrum of duets, trios and an evocative solo by Chatterjee choreographed to her own poetry. The final part of the production invited moments of introspection and participation from the audience, segueing into a shared vision of peace, justice and compassion.

Inviting artists, audience and students to engage more deeply, the festival moved to Jorhat with an interactive session titled 'Voices'. School and college students got an opportunity to be in conversation with the artists before the evening performances. Avijit Das (Kuchipudi), Lucrezia Maniscotti (Bharatanatyam), Alexandra Vodopyanova (Mohiniattam) and the trio P. Bilash Singh, G. Chandran Devi, Th. Parul Devi (Manipuri) shared vignettes from their journey as dancers, the inspiration behind their work and the challenges and opportunities of taking up dance as a career. Along with the organisers, the artists emphasised the importance of experiencing dance not only as an 'extra-curricular activi-

background music, it is suggestively revealed that the locale is somewhere in the North East. Kabir's political and social ideology is not defined. What was his compulsion to leave his home? At the same time the motives of terrorists are not shown for which they have taken to arms. It seems that the main focus of the playwright is the inner psychological and emotional turmoil of the middle class which has lost its cultural moorings and finds its life without symphony and its future as mirage.

The performers stand out for the striking portrayal of their characters. Rakesh Singh's Shekhar, the father of Kabir, presents forceful argument to defend himself that he is not responsible for Kabir's death and considers his death as accident and believes that man makes his own reality and Kabir chooses his own path. Anilla Khosla's Nandini, the mother of Kabir, brings out the tormented soul of a mother whose son dies far away in a remote place, with telling effect. She condemns her husband for his cowardice reflected in his inability to stop their son from leaving home and pursuing a path that led him to his death. Barnali Medhi plays the role of Saina, the beloved of Kabir, committed to serve her people with force and conviction.

ty' but as an integral part of the curriculum, deeply connected with daily life and an important aspect of education. The evening performances featured the young classical dancers presenting the traditional repertoire along with multiple dance styles by the resident artists from Jorhat.

Island of Arts

The festival culminated across the Brahmaputra, in the island town of Majuli with an extensive programme across two days. An upcoming tourist destination, Majuli is home to numerous Sattras (monasteries) and has been the centre of performing arts in Assam. A large part of the Sattriya dance repertoire has evolved at the Sattras in Majuli. Both days featured the traditional Gayan Bayan invocatory compositions by the Kamalabari Satra.

The featured artists from the Jorhat edition were joined by veteran artists - Prerana Shrimali (Kathak) and Madhuri Mazumdar (Kuchipudi). Highlighting this interweaving of the mainstream classical forms and indigenous community traditions, the festival concluded with a performance of Bihu by the Misring community from Majuli.

Dancing across the Brahmaputra

Pragjyoti International Dance Festival saw a blend of mainstream classical forms and indigenous community traditions

SHRINKHLA SAHAI

across Assam.

Festival Director, Anwesa Mahanta, a young and dynamic Sattriya dancer and scholar, has nurtured this as an evolving project over the past few years. "Every year we try to touch newer dimensions of arts, life and society. I perceive this festival as an opportunity to learn, understand, and think anew." The vision behind the festival is to activate the dormant cultural sites of Assam and revitalise the heritage of the state by exploring different performance venues.

Connecting communities

Collaborating with Kri Foundation, Delhi, the festival opened in Guwahati with the production by Ananya Dance Theatre, USA - *Shaatranga: Women Weaving Worlds*. Choreographed by Ananya Chatterjee, the work is rooted in women's stories that are researched, remembered and



Sublime movements Artists of the Ananya Dance Theatre

imagined. Revisiting history from a feminist lens, the performance traces the ancient Indian trade routes running through Asia, Africa and South America, and focuses on the connections within these indigo-dyeing artisan communities.

The movement motifs of Odissi and Chhau blended seamlessly with contemporary dance technique to produce fresh patterns, powerful images and layered narra-

tives. Divided into four sections, the production opened to the sound of the sea with the musical prelude of 'O re manjhi', taking the audience's imagination into frenzied images of falling, holding, drowning and floating. Dressed in shades of blue, the dancers created hues of ocean and indigo, interspersing movement with voice. The second part of the performance led into a composition of repetitive mechanical

4 VOICEOVER

**Rising Star**

Path full of surprises

Looking back, Sukanya Kumar finds that she did not actually plan her artistic journey

LAVANYA NARAYANAN

I've definitely stepped out of my comfort zone this Season," dancer Sukanya Kumar admits as she sits down, a cup of coffee in hand. She's reached the tail-end of this year's India trip and with a recently-earned terminal Master's in Dance from the University of California-Irvine and a Season with over ten performances, she is continuing to push herself.

The spirit, she says, comes from the illustrious gurus, who have moulded her over the years.

A disciple of the late Mahalingam Pillai of Mumbai's Sri Rajarajeswari Bharatanaty Kala Mandir as well as of the late Kalanidhi Narayanan, Sukanya presents an intriguing mélange of styles. And yet, the cutting edge content that drives her own choreographies is admittedly a mark of Sukanya's current guru, Priyadarsini Govind, and the training she has received over the last decade.

"I was never meant to come to Chennai, actually. Mumbai was my home, both in the arts and otherwise, and dance was my passion as a young child," she begins. Her arangetram served as a turning point. The late Pillai's words of advice that continue to ring true made an impact: "Help bring up our school. It is in your hands, in your art."

All of ten, she took the advice to heart, teaching classes while simultaneously delving into academics with vigour. A curiosity in the electronic media studies brought Sukanya to Chennai's MOP Vaishnav College and a workshop conducted by Leela Samson opened an artistic door.

"I had absolutely no understanding or awareness of the magnitude of the arts scene in Chennai," she admits.

The city, it seems, had other plans, especially when a fortuitous introduction to dancer Priyadarsini Govind kicked off a phase of her artistic growth.

"I used to practice in Priya Aunty's home and invited her to a performance of mine, shortly after moving. The opportunity to learn from her

was an unexpected surprise that has definitely shaped my artistic ventures today," she smiles. The years that followed saw Sukanya continuing to balance her creative pursuits with large academic ambitions that culminated in multiple degrees and an increased interest in the crossover between arts and technology.

"I strongly believe that an educated artiste makes a better-rounded artiste. Many people think the two are disconnected but almost every one of my academic endeavours has enhanced what I want to do creatively and vice-versa," she explains.

New dimension to dance

It's a perspective that has allowed Sukanya to give Indian classical dance a new dimension in her new home in California, choreographic and ideating productions that address topics such as women empowerment, gun violence, and the like. Not to mention her passion for technology, one that she hopes will help her give the art form a new, more involved audience.

"Essentially, I'm looking at using technology to better convey dance ideologies and help make Indian classical dance more approachable, especially by a foreign audience," she says. Presenting thematic performances this Season is her first step in breaking new ground and while she's enthusiastic about what lies ahead, she says that there is so much to be done.

"As artistes, we are so privileged because we can assume certain identities on stage to tell certain stories or challenge societal ideals. All the tools we need are built into the vocabulary of Indian classical dance – it lends itself to telling any story we want to tell."

The necessary bridge in understanding, then, is simple and as Sukanya explains it, the way forward for her is completely clear.

"As an artiste, I simply have to reach out a helping hand out to all of my audiences, from the rickshaw driver to the arts professor. We might not speak the same language, but that is where true passion, true innovation on stage can shine through."

The Piano Man

I, me and my art

Every artiste wants to hear only praise. Is the practise of critical discourse over?

ANIL SRINIVASAN



Many people responded to my article on 'mental illness and musicians'. I am happy to report that discussions are on to set up a helpline, thanks to my friends in the medical field. Let me start this week's column by expressing my gratitude to those who have come forward to help.

The rest of my column is unfortunately not so positive. This is to do with three factors – all fallout of today's hype-obsessed era.

The Music Season has just come to an end in Chennai and the social media is rife with self-congratulatory feeds such as 'standing ovation' and 'housefull show'. The feeds, if true, augur well for classical arts. Numbers seem to set the bar for performances – number of likes, views, rasikas, tickets sold and the number of sponsors.

Often I see promising young musicians waste considerable time and money on creating videos of themselves and promote them heavily on

social media. And what follows are a miasma of congratulatory posts and equally congratulatory responses. This almost ends every hope of improvement or correction in the musician, who begins to feel like an 'achiever' and revels in it too.

Criticism, no please

Which leads me to the next factor – criticism. Is it dead? What with the social and news media uniformly describing concerts in a positive tone, and even the lightest criticism being quickly dismissed or trolled. I believe we are living in an era of praise.

Nothing else will do, and nothing else seems to matter. All concerts have to be melodious, gloriously rendered and rocking with rhythmic complexity. Where in all this will one measure original contribution or scholarship? From the time of the Upanishads or Socrates, arguments and counter-arguments have been the core of creating a body of knowledge. Critiques are as important to the discourse of art as the art itself.

The last factor revolves

around a far more worrying question, which I will deal with in my next column.

To sum up. What truly is the purpose of so many platforms during the December festival in Chennai? Quite a few appear by November end, and silently fade away by January. Some of these outfits do little than to provide makeshift stages (in everyway) in acoustically grue-some places, cater to specific performers and audiences (Festival For Young Musicians from California being a prominent example).

Has reflection or the capacity of it truly died in this brave new world? Are we capable of cutting away the flotsam and jetsam and get to the crux of it all. There seems to be no time for critical discourse.

I am not dismissing efforts and initiatives taken by individual musicians from time to time. But the hype about performances and questionable promoters and motives leaves one wondering if the practice of music itself is being compromised.

The writer is a Chennai-based pianist and music educator



Perspective

No small matter, this

How Tukkadas liven up a concert

P.K. DORAI SWAMY



In Hindi, 'tukkda' means a small piece of a larger original. In Carnatic music, it refers to the somewhat 'lighter' songs sung towards the end of a concert after the more serious and 'heavier' songs have been sung. These are full songs in their own right and are not pieces of any larger song. But they are 'small' in another sense. The songs in the first, say, seventy-five per cent of a concert today are usually termed 'classical' whereas the songs in the last part are usually termed 'light classical.' 'Classical,' here, means based on a raga and having a substantial element of manodharma or improvisation and 'light classical' would mean having a much smaller element of manodharma.

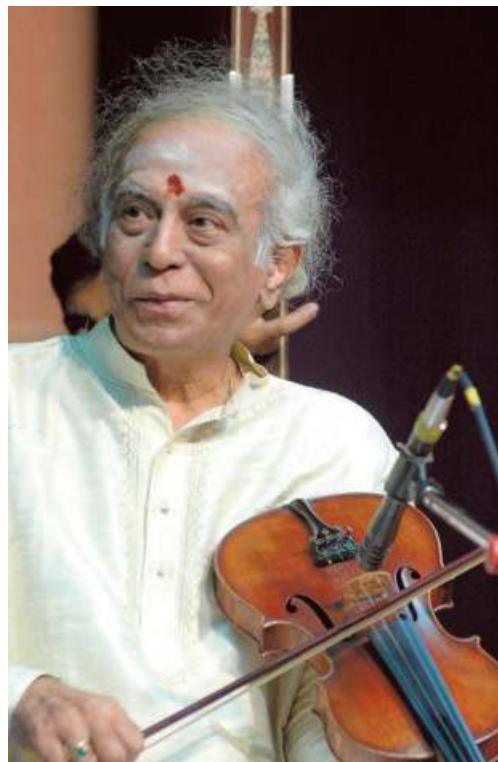
While no precise definitions can be given, tukkadas do seem to have some characteristics, apart from being classical. In the early days of kutcheri, these songs used to be traditional devotional hymns, poetry and slokas usually sung as virutham. Strictly speaking, viruthams, though they are sung at the fag end of a concert, cannot be called tukkadas because they are sung with a lot of manodharma.

When music moved to sabhas, it attracted composite audiences comprising both pandithas and pamaras, i.e. those well-versed in the nuances of Carnatic music as well as those who enjoyed Carnatic music but without any technical knowledge of its nuances. Since sabhas and musicians had to cater to both, the latter portion of concerts began to include lighter, easy-to-enjoy type of songs. Padams, javalis, etc., which were taboo in temples and had no place in the royal court contests became the basic tukkada fare.

Ariyakudi's format

A 'pamara' friend of mine used to say, "Why can't they sing the tukkadas first so that people like me could listen to them and go home instead of having to sit through the heavier songs?" Ariyakudi's format which combined classicism and entertainment formally established the lighter portion as a permanent latter part of Carnatic concerts. Demand automatically produced songs to meet this need in which the music was simple and attractive and the lyrics interesting compared to main kritis, such as 'Krishna Nee Begane,' 'Jagadhodhara,' etc. The ragas chosen were also easy to identify and enjoy such as Sindhubhairavi, Revathi, Yamunakalyani and so on.

The tukkada fare, which initially



Thillanas are not tukkadas as many of them contain rhythmic and other structural sophistication and embody a high degree of manodharma as in the case of Lalgudi's thillanas

consisted of songs in the local languages and Carnatic idiom has now expanded to include Hindi bhajans, Bengali songs and Marathi abhangs. It is difficult to classify any song rigidly as a main kriti or as a tukkada. Bharati's songs and Arunachala Kavi's Rama Nataka kritis have been sung as both main and tukkadas. Most tukkadas are based on Carnatic ragas but Mali used to play typical folk tunes not fitting into any raga.

Thillanas, though usually played as the last item in a concert and much looked forward to and enjoyed by all, are not tukkadas as many of them contain rhythmic and other structural sophistication and embody a high degree of manodharma as in the case of Lalgudi's thillanas. GNB and KVN were known for their brilliant tukkadas.

There is an interesting psychological angle to this. Music appreciation is a matter of experiencing tension and its release. The first half of a concert, by its serious music, creates musical tension and the second half with its tukkadas releases it.

The writer is a retired IAS officer

Metaphysics in Natya

The Bliss within

With the force of art, comes the discovery that Jiva is Siva-Sakti

PADMAJA VENKATESH



It is significant that certain words have no exact opposites. One of them is Ananda or Bliss.

We have unhappiness for happiness or hate for love but there is nothing, exclusively opposed to Bliss. Similar is Moksha or liberation, also a state of bliss. If there is any term opposed to them, then it has to be an amalgam of both happiness and misery. Those who have been blissful, may never be able to articulate the state, well enough or as it is. Only the one who tastes it, will know it, making it Anirvachaneeya or indescribable. There are two variations of bliss – one that is positive, dynamic and creative and the other that is negative, passive and dissolving. The former represents the fullness and the latter the void.

There are also three broad means to acquire Ananda, according to Sastras – Kamananda, that arises out of the enjoyment of all that is desired and achieved, Dharmana, out of performance of noble deeds giving tremendous satisfaction and finally Mokshananda. The last one is the baffling truth that, bliss AS IT IS, is within ONESELF. It permeates EVERYWHERE from this point. This Aananda does not necessitate any action whatsoever, in search of bliss but rests in essence, in the eternal Being that pulsates within. Constantly meditating upon 'Satchidananda'

– Bliss I AM – gets reflected in every necessary will, thought and action. The grace simply flows out of such a Being.

This throws light upon a similar but special and incomparable experience, that of RASA. In drama, the Vibhavas, Anubhavas, Vyabhicahari and Sattvika Bhavas purposefully evoke the predominant Sthayi Bhavas, leading to Rasa, contemporaneous with every worldly aspect and corresponding moral lessons, that is being dealt with. This means that Kamananda and Dharmananda are both present, rather 'represented' while Mokshananda, is also within the grasp.

Five stages

The five-fold stages as enumerated by commentators are physical, mental, emotional, imaginative and transcendental, that lead to the absorption into the ONE 'CIT-EKA-RASA.' This is called Samvit Vishranti/beatitude, by Trika Shaivas. It is considered nothing short of Brahma-Aswada – Sahodara, a brother of the divine experience of super consciousness. The symbiosis of consciousness with aesthetics predates Abhinava Gupta in the Vijnana Bhairava, Siva Sutras, Tirumandiram and others that variously assimilate the broad philosophical rationalisation of the esoteric science of energy – Tantra. Trika stands for accepting divine existence as Bheda, Bhedabheda and Abheda – dual, dual and non-dual and non-dual or ONE.

Natya believes that the

form and formless are part of one unified reality, exemplifying the conception of the supreme personality of God, as the Universal Self, beyond Purusha and Prakriti – the WHOLE. Every manifestation that mirrors this is equally true, albeit relatively from the ultimate view. It is Yogaja Marga that integrates the supreme and the worldly as against an aloof Vivekamarga that segregates the illusive Maya from the transcendent Brahman. With the force of art, comes the discovery that this Jiva is Siva-Sakti. An egoistic 'I' can re-unite with 'I' the Brahman.

Pratyabhijna, the philosophy maintained by Bharata, a Trikasutrakara, when applied to Rasa, is a recollection of the blissful self that you are but has been forgotten by you. It is a vibrating self-recognition of the ONE REAL subject, brought about by reduction in identity with THE MANY objective realities. The catalyst in this is another person or event (the actor/drama before you in this case) that brings you face to face with THIS I AM.

Enacting several roles, the artiste travels from third person to second, then to first person and finally, NO PERSON. Like the self-realised yogin, one experiences oneself as a sheer actor in the drama of life, in various roles of outer being but remaining absolutely detached from the entire play. Iccha, Gnana and Kriya Shaktis are the pathways to open the door to Siva who blissfully rests with his Swatantrya Shakti. Spanda is the term for this Aananda which set in motion, the universe. It is called Anahata, unstruck, uncaused, ceaseless and spontaneous. This undifferentiated throb is symbolised as the primordial mother and father, dancing inseparably united.

It is the one Varna in the form of Nada (sound vibration) in which lie all Varnas (letters) latent, in undivided form. A revelation of such mystical experience through the world drama – one moment in LAYA, is unique, whereby both the phenomenal and the noumenon are known. In a nutshell, the dancer and spectator participate in Siva's Bliss of Sakti.



The author is a Bharatanatyam exponent and researcher

Her string THEORY

Kamala explained the creation of the Shankar Guitar at her lec-dem

Kamala Shankar gave a lec-dem on the role of the slide guitar in Hindustani music at The Music Academy, with the focus on the Shankar slide guitar, which she has designed.

She said that the Hawaiian guitar is also called steel guitar, because a small steel bar is moved across the strings to change the pitch. Tracing the history of the slide guitar in India, she said that Gabriel Davion, late 19th century, was the first to play the instrument in India. But the credit of popularising it goes to Tau Moe, who first performed in India in 1920. He settled in Kolkata from 1941 to 1947.

The first slide guitarist to be appointed as All India Radio artiste was Pt Gopal Singh of Gwalior. By the early 1960s, the slide guitar became popular in Nazrul Sangeet and Rabindra Sangeet, and was used in film music by Salil Chowdhury, R.D. Burman, S.D. Burman and Hemant

Kumar. Kamala played recordings of popular Hindi film songs – ‘Mausam hai aashiqana’ (*Pakeezah*), ‘Mera naam chin chin chu’ (*Howrah Bridge*) and ‘Chura liya’ (*Yaadon ki Baraat*).

Pt. Brij Bhushan Kabra was a pioneer in playing Hindustani music on the slide guitar. His 1967 album, ‘Call of the Valley,’ with Pt Hariprasad Chaurasia and Pt

Shivkumar Sharma was a huge hit.

Many musicians came up with their own designs for the slide guitar. Pt

Viswamohan Bhatt came up with what he called the Mohan Veena, which was a modified guitar with three melody strings, four chikari (drone) strings and 12 tarab (sympathetic) strings. Pt

Barun Kumar Pai, who was a student of Pt Ravi Shankar and Pt Nikhil Banerjee, added chikari and tarab strings, and called his instrument Hamsa Veena. Pt

Debashish Bhattacharya designed a guitar, called Chaturangi. It had four plucked, 12 tarab and six melody strings. He moved chikari to the other side of the guitar. With all these different designs, the slide guitar entered hitherto unmapped sonic territory. George Harrison of the Beatles was a slide guitarist, and his collaboration with Pt Ravi Shankar resulted in some timeless songs. The two styles of Hindustani music – gayaki and tantrik – are well played on the Hawaiian guitar. The slide technique is particularly suitable for meend, gamak and sapt taan. Kamala gave a demo on her Shankar guitar by playing an alap, and a composition in two speeds, in raag

Bairagi Bhairav (Carnatic equivalent is Revathi).

SK



Interesting journey

Kamala Shankar with her guitar, at her lec-dem at The Music Academy. (Right) With Pt. Bhimsen Joshi. (Below) With MS- Sadasivam and N. Rajam

SUGANTHY KRISHNAMACHARI

You can take a Tanjorean out of Thanjavur. But you cannot take Thanjavur out of a Tanjorean. Thanjavur was the epicentre of music and dance for centuries. Not surprisingly, Kamala Shankar, who was born in Thanjavur and brought up in Varanasi turned out to be a popular musician.

Her maternal grandfather Nagaswamy Iyer, worked in Asansol, West Bengal, and upon retirement, he came back to Thanjavur, and it was in his ancestral house that Kamala was born. Actor and singer Serukalatur Sama was a relative on Kamala's mother's side. Ramana Maharishi was her maternal grandfather's cousin. Vocalist Sathur A.G. Subramania Iyer was her father's maternal uncle. Kamala's paternal grandfather, Rangaswamy Iyer, from Tiruchi, who studied medicine in Madras, was a devotee of Mahaperiyava. Rangaswamy Iyer, who had studied the Vedas, and could converse in Sanskrit, wanted to live in the city that was the centre of Sanskrit learning, and so he migrated to Varanasi in 1920. He set up practice there and lived in a house rented from the Gwalior royal family. “Mahaperiyava us there, and it was he who named my father Shankar. Later, when my father, also a doctor, built a house in Varanasi, Jayendra Saraswati Swami visited us. The previous Sriperumbudur Pontiff also visited grandfather's house,” says Kamala.

Kamala's mother Vijaya had learnt Carnatic music in Asansol, and Kamala's aunt had learnt sitar. “My aunt was 22 years my mother's senior, and in those days of conservatism, she wasn't allowed to be seen by the guru. So, a cloth curtain would separate guru and sishya! Rules were relaxed by the time amma learnt music,” laughs Kamala. “Amma also learnt Rabindra Sangeeth.” Vijaya taught her daughters Kamala and Roopa bhajans and simple compositions.

Is Kamala's father interested in music too? “Yes, he is. Ragas were taught as part of the syllabus in schools in Varanasi. Even in my days, this practice continued. So, father and his two brothers picked up many ragas through the compulsory school music lessons. Father also learnt to play the flute.”

After some years of informal training under her mother, Kamala began to learn vocal music from Pt. Amarnath Misra. She passed the Sangeet Prabhakar exam, of the Prayag Sangit Samiti, at the age of 12. During a



roh, Kalidas Samaroh, and also in sabhas in Chennai. She has the exceptional ability to play the gayaki ang. Kamala was the first slide guitar artiste to be conferred ‘Rashtriya Kumar Gandharva Samman 2009-10’ by the Government of Madhya Pradesh.

Many are the musicians Kamala's family counts as friends. “In 1977, father bought a small tanpura for me and my sister Roopa. Pt. Bhimsen Joshi was our guest, when the tanpura arrived. He blessed it and tuned it. We still have that tanpura,” says Kamala. During the Spirit of Unity concert in 1995, Bhimsen Joshi heard Kamala play the guitar, and invited her to perform at the Sawai Gandharva festival in Pune the next year. “He tuned the tanpura for me during that concert,” recalls Kamala. “One of the most unforgettable experiences in my career is playing before an audience of two lakhs, during Puttaparthi Sai Baba's 70th birthday. All top-ranking artistes were there, and I was nervous.”

When Pt Ravi Shankar established the Ravi Shankar Institute for Music and Performing Arts (RIMPA), programmes were organised in Varanasi, because of the sitar maestro's affinity for the city he grew up in. He used to request Kamala's father to take care of visiting artistes. Later RIMPA's programmes moved to Delhi, to Ravi Shankar's Chanakyapuri house. In 2006, Kamala performed for RIMPA in Delhi.

Kamala's family were hosts to visiting musicians from the South. M.S. Subbulakshmi became a close friend of the family. Sadasivam's mother Mangalam wanted to spend her last years in Varanasi, and Kamala's grandfather gladly offered to look after her. So, she moved into Rangaswamy Iyer's Varanasi house. She died there some years later. Travel to Varanasi would take close to a week in those days. So Sadasivam suggested that Rangaswamy Iyer perform the last rites.

When Kamala was diagnosed with a heart problem which required surgery, M.S. made arrangements for the operation in CMC hospital, Vellore. The surgeon refused to accept payment, but requested M.S. to give a benefit concert for CMC, which she gladly did.

Is anyone learning the Shankar guitar? “Yes, I have a student from Jaipur, one from Bengaluru and one from Gaya, all of whom come for a few months every year for classes. All my students stay in our house, as in the old days of gurukul learning,” says Kamala.

Giving Hawaiian guitar a classical makeover

Varanasi-based Kamala Shankar on her cultural moorings and the guitar she has designed



My initial lessons in Hawaiian guitar were from Pt Shivnath Bhattacharya. After six years of guitar training, I went back to learning vocal from Pt Channulal Misra

When she was 20, she played for the first time in a concert hall, for a Sangeet Natak Akademi programme in Lucknow. Although she topped her class, and her father wanted her to pursue medicine, Kamala refused. She had lost her heart to the Hawaiian guitar, and wanted to be a musician. Sadly, academic recognition for Indian guitar came after a long struggle. And Kamala was able to do her doctoral studies – D.Mus – in Benares Hindu University only in 1995. Dr. Gopal Shankar Misra, veena player, was her guide. Kamala can also play the jalatarangam, which learnt while in school. Until 1999, she played the six-string guitar, but this has its limitations, when it comes to

Indian music. So, she decided to design one that was more suitable for Indian music.

And thus was born the Shankar slide guitar, the name Shankar being Kamala's tribute to Lord Siva, the presiding deity of Varanasi. The Shankar guitar has 18 strings – three drone strings (chikari), four melody strings and eleven sympathetic strings (tarab). It has a hollow body, and a thicker sound board and bottom than the conventional guitar. The sides are also made of solid cedar wood. She is a top-grade Indian slide guitarist in All India Radio, Varanasi. She has performed in prestigious music festivals, such as Tansen Samaroh, Sawai Gandharva Sam-

IN BRIEF



Folk stories in Dastan style

Akshara Theatre and Team Dastangoi presented a play titled "Dastan-E-Chouboli" at Akshara Theatre on Baba Kharak Singh Marg on January 12. It has been evolved from adaptation of a Rajasthani folktale of noted writer the late Vijay Dan Dethas. It is seen by critics as one of modern Dastangoi's greatest hits. It will be performed by Meera Rizvi and Syed Shadab Hussain and Anusha Rizvi is the producer.

Mahmood Farooqui, who is directing this production, drew upon an English translation of the Dastan while preparing his original Urdu text and brought in copious amounts of 18th century Urdu poetry including an original Shiv Bhajan to nativize the Dastan.

It is hardly a surprise because the folk story, upon which it is built, has the Dastanic story within the story format. Detha always tweaked that he received folktales in order to condemn feudalism, patriarchy, upper castes and the rich. Therefore the story has acquired modern feminist tones.



Tales of migration

For all those who are concerned about the plight of refugees as well as have interest in impactful art-installations and experiences, an exhibition titled "Passage to Asylum: The Journey of a Million Refugees" is now on at India International Centre.

The six-day-long exhibition promises to be a unique immersive art experience. It consists of a series of six contiguous installations or 'rooms' - symbolically depicting the refugee's journey, from home to conflict to asylum. The rooms are designed to be viewed in accompaniment with an audio guide, which has been carefully curated to augment the atmosphere of each installation. As visitors will walk through each room, they will be invited to negotiate a space that has been created through an interplay of objects and light. Roshni Shanker, the founder of Migration & Asylum Project (MAP) and Kalyani Nedungadi, artist, who focused on printmaking and installation art are the two individuals behind the exhibition that concludes on January 15.

'Mridangam is like a living being'

Anantha R Krishnan on what makes his instrument harmonious in more ways than one

SHAILAJA KHANNA

Anantha R Krishnan, the young mridangam player, has an awesome repertoire and exciting stage presence. Barely 36, the grandson of Vidwan Palghat Raghu is already sharing the stage with his guru Ustad Zakir Hussain, from whom he has learnt the tabla. Anantha was excited about playing in Delhi. "Unlike some of the other projects that he does, this is something that has taken shape organically, designed over time. Primarily what Navin bhai and I are both doing is having a conversation with the Ustad, musically. What he is probably trying to do is to present two different types of conversations, as I am on the mridangam with my set of rules, and he is on the dholak. Our roads are very different - Navin bhai is from Bombay and has studied with Abbaji, (Ustad Allah Rakha) he also plays the tabla along with the dholak. I grew up in the US. In our concert, I think I play like the young punk while Navin perhaps shows more restraint in his interactions. This ensemble has traversed the boundaries of genre and geography. How magnanimous of him to share that space with us!" A post graduate in Fine Arts from Mills College with specialisation in electronic music and performance, Anantha is a thinking musician, extremely open and articulate. His wife, Charumathi Raghunathan, is a violinist. He teaches percussion and Western music at the A.R. Rahman School in Chennai. "I don't think in one genre, I think it adds a freshness to my music," says Anantha.

Edited excerpts from a conversation:



Listen to "konakkol" - "tha dhin, ta tin".... there are two tones. Indian percussion instruments have this aspect naturally, there is this contrast, the yin and yang



Conversation with Ustad Anantha R Krishnan ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Why did you relocate to Chennai after having lived in the US all your life?

Without doubt, Chennai is the place to be, if I want to be a mridangam player of worth. After every two or three concerts, the mridangam needs to be tweaked. It's very difficult for me at this stage to play a mediocre instrument, you need it to sound just right and Chennai has the finest craftsmen. It's the main reason I came back to Chennai for good. After my grandfather passed away, he left me an amazing collection of over 30-40 mridangams.

The mridangam is like a living being, the straps need to be tightened, the black bit needs to be replaced constantly - no way can I do this on my own. Without the craftsmen, the mridangam could not be played the way it is. I feel sad the craftsmen don't get any credit at all, considering their role.

You are clearly passionate about your instrument, tell us more...

The wood used is from the jack fruit tree, which grows in one region. The hide is sourced from somewhere else. One community cuts the trees, another community (Tamil Muslims) treats the hide. The craftsmen who fix

es hail from another community (Tamil Christians) and we players are yet another community! Yet we all come together harmoniously, we work together to create perfection. The gauge of the hide also changes the tone, I am experimenting. I am currently trying putting a mic inside, cutting a mridangam down the middle, to see if the inner harmonics get enhanced.

We use a stone to tune the mridangam; I think we use a stone as the height of the instrument requires that torque, plus the stone has that weight. The stone (kittan) has a story of its own - it is found under water in a river in Thanjavur. It has a high ferric content that I think adds to its weight, and it tunes the best.

Indian percussion is so beautiful in that the language of it has male and female elements.

Listen to "konakkol" - "tha dhin, ta tin".... there are two tones. Indian percussion instruments have this aspect naturally, there is this contrast, the yin and yang. There is this "shringaar", the inherent romance. Both right and left hands can represent different things, both in my mind are equally important. It depends on the player what his strengths are.

Somehow mridangam is only played as an additional percussion to North Indian musicians, not the sole, but the potential is there. Once I was the sole percussionist with Pt Hari Prasad Chaurasia in the US but that was because the tabla player didn't arrive in time! The concept of playing "theka" is missing in the Carnatic music system, so maybe the North Indian musician would get distracted. I don't know, it would be interesting to try and do. One would need to rehearse.

So do you teach mridangam too?

I don't teach mridangam; I feel I need to go a little deeper myself. I would never teach online - it would be one to one. I did a workshop once, for about seven hours a day, in Thiruvannamalai.

What relaxes you?

I relax with music; the creative element is what relaxes me. I get tense when I don't get the time to have my head in the clouds!

A hobby I have recently acquired is trying to make perfume - experimenting with fragrances. It's like music, there are different fragrances like notes. My dream is to go to Kannauj and see the distilleries.



Graceful in her movements Rajashri Praharaj

In harmony with Guru

Rajashri Praharaj was the star of a two-day concert in Odisha organised to mark Guru Kelucharan Mohapatra's birth anniversary.

TAPATI CHOWDHURY

On 8th of January was Guru Kelucharan Mohapatra's 93rd birth anniversary. It was indeed an auspicious occasion celebrated in a grand way at Bhubaneswar. Kelucharan Mohapatra was one of the three pioneers in deconstructing a form of dance with a hoary past that is supported by architectural evidence. Today, Odissi as a dance form has walked miles. The baton of Srjan Nrityabasa founded by the Guru has been presently handed down to Guru Ratikant Mohapatra as per the guru-shishya-parampara.

The evening was marked by performances of soloists - Meera Das, Rajashri Praharaj, Riddhi Bhattacharya and Bharati Misra.

A jugalbandi by flautist Srinibas Satpathi and violinist Agnimitra Behera provided aesthetic delight. Antardrishti, as the presentation was named, was inspired by the influence of the legendary founder guru.

Notwithstanding the first day of the two day long Bharat Bandh, Rabindra Mandap in Bhubaneswar was bursting at the seams to watch the celebrations in honour of the first Padma Vibhushan awardee of Odisha. Riddhi Bhattacharya. The first to take the stage performed the popular Shiva Stotra, 'Jaya Mahesh jata Juta Kantha sohe kalakuta' choreographed and composed by Ratikant Mohapatra. The music was by Debasish Sarkar, vocalised by Vijay Jena. Riddhi Bhattacharya has perfect body control and 'angasuddhi'.

Swaying her body in the manner of Shiva, while holding Ganga aloft and at the same time playing the damaru joyfully, she genuflected to Shiva in the fashion of a seasoned

practitioner.

Aravi Pallavi by Bharati Mishra, a product of Guru Kelucharan Mohapatra Orissi Research Centre, was memorable. The work is by the legendary duo Kelucharan Mohapatra and Bhubaneswar Misra. It is an all time great piece, with voice over by Ghanashyam Panda. Possessed with extreme grace with her eyes and limb movements following the Shashtric canon of 'jatho hasta thatho drishti', she covered the stage splendidly.

Unmatched perfection was Rajashri Praharaj's forte. She is one of the most talented disciple of Srjan and rendered an expressional dance on stage, "Sri Ramachandra kripalu bhajo mano" from Tulsidas ' Ramcharit Manas. Every thing starting with Rama's lotus shaped eyes, his warrior like hands, his humility was described with a practiced demeanour. The sancharas, describing arrogant and fallen heroes in the sabha to win Sita, was greeted with appreciation from the rasikas. The grace and valour of Rama shown in winning Sita and the duos' love filled admiration of each other 'were heart warming. An Abhinaya piece cannot exist only on expressional dance, it has to have pure dance too. Rajashri Praharaj excelled in this too.'

Dramatising as Radha

Meera Das, a veteran and much acclaimed Odissi performer/teacher, as Radha entreated her Sakhi or companion to bring her lover Krishna to be with her. The act of removing her ankle bells, to avoid its lingering sound and then removing a sharp blade of grass from her toe, were dramatic. Shyly Radha recollects her first union-'pratha-ma Samagam'-with Krishna, which perhaps can possibly be shown authentically only with Odissi' sensuousness.

The second part of the evening consisted of a musical piece. Both flautist Srinibas Satpathi and violinist Agnimitra Behera cast a spell on the audience. What they presented had the uniqueness of raag charukesi. Then they played Rag Mala and taal Mala. Starting with raag Bhimpalasi, they included in it at least 16-17 ragas.

Serene ceremony, soothing music

Honoured with the prestigious MLK Award, Pt. Anand Gopal Bandopadhyay and Pt. Samaresh Chowdhury showed their class at the remarkable recitals that followed the award function

MANJARI SINHA

It is heartening to see excellence in performing arts like classical music, which demands total and lifelong dedication, being recognised with due approbation. One experienced such feeling of satisfaction when Kesari Nath Tripathi, the Governor of West Bengal, conferred the prestigious MLK Award upon Pt. Anand Gopal Bandopadhyay and Pt. Samaresh Chowdhury for their lifetime contribution in promotion and dissemination of Indian classical music. The serene ceremony was organised at the Vivekananda auditorium, Kolkata, by Pracheen Kala Kendra (PKK), the premier institution dedicated to promotion, preservation and dissemination of art and culture since its inception in 1956. The MLK Award that carries a cash prize of ₹51000, a shawl, citation and a memento was instituted in memory of their esteemed founder Late Guru Madan Lal Koser.

The award ceremony was followed by remarkable recitals by the two maestros. Remarkable in the sense, that they had to squeeze their performance in short duration due to the late arrival of the chief guest.

Pt. Anand Gopal Bandopadhyay on tabla with his son Pran Gopal in tow, opened his brilliant tabla recital with Teentala. The nuanced Baaj of Banaras Gharana in the expert delivery of the tabla maestro matched phrase by phrase by his disciple and son in action and motion; proved that the family tradition was intact.

One knew Pt. Anand Gopal Bandopadhyay, the ace tabla player and guru from the days of the ITC-SRA, when he was a prominent figure at the SRA as a tabla accompanist at all the ITC music conferences, but it was a good opportunity to talk to him this time. When asked what took him to Pt. Mahadev Prasad Mishra, who is known more for his Purab Ang Thumri Gayaki, he disclosed the fact that originally Pt. Mahadev



Class act Anand Gopal Bandopadhyay; (below) Samaresh Chowdhury

Prasad Mishra was a tabla player only, the Guru-Bhai of Pt. Anokhe Lal.

One came to know from him that the Banaras Gharana has two streams, the Kabir-Chaura and the Rampura one. Pt. Kanthe Maharaj and Kishan Maharaj were from the Kabir Chaura branch known for the pakhawaj and dance influences and Pt. Anokhe Lal and Guru Pt. Mahadev Prasad Mishra were from the Rampura branch with stress on tabla bols. Both the stalwarts learnt under Pt. Bhairon Prasad.

"My father Radha Gopal Bandopadhyay was an amateur vocalist working for the Railways. He was the one who taught me a few thekas so that I could accompany him."

When he saw that I was good at tabla, he took me to his Guru Pt. Mahadev Prasad ji and requested him to teach me properly. I am a 'Ganda-Bandh' shagird (disciple) of Pandit Mahadev Prasad ji from my childhood only."

Thus one could see that the melodic inputs of music were there in his upbringing from the very beginning. This seems to be the secret behind the unusual musicality in his tabla.

He came to Delhi to work with the Song & Drama Division and later joined the Music Faculty in Delhi University. Pt. Amar Mishra and Pt. Vijay Kichlu, the first executive director of the ITC Sangeet Research Academy (SRA) invited him to join the SRA, thus he shifted to Kolkata and rest as they say, is history.

This evening he opened with 'chalan', the nuanced gait of Teentala, as practised in his Bana-

rasi baaj instead of the Peshkara, one usually comes across in a solo tabla recital to open with. Then he proceeded to the Banaras ka Quayeda and baant from where the famous laggi of 'Dha tin Nada' originated. Then came the unique piece where Jhap-tala, Drut-Ektal and Adi-Chautal were all incorporated in the frame of the basic Teen-Tala. There was no end to his varied repertoire presented in slow, medium and fast tempos of Teentala and the technical flair compressed in the given time.

Pt. Samaresh Chowdhury, assisted on vocal support by his son Rishabh, Hiranmoy Mitra on harmonium and Debasish Adhikari on tabla, presented a melodious rendition of Yaman.

The significant feature of his mesmerising performance was the clarity in the conception of the raga. The gradual elaboration of the evening raga through the Sadarang composition, "mero man bandh lino..." set to slow Ektal and the variety of sargam and Aakar Taans in the famous chhota khayal, "Main vari vari jaun..." in medium tempo Teentala heralded deafening applause. It was difficult to believe that all this he offered in just 20 minutes. Pt. Chowdhury laughs it off

"My Guru Pt. Ravi Shankar's all round training has enabled me for all this. He would ask us to assimilate the whole material in a given time frame of 5, 7 or 10 minutes. Ud Amjad Ali Khan had once reacted to my one such presentation with an encouraging comment, "Samaresh, you have given me the satisfaction of listening to this raga as if for half-an-hour in just seven minutes."

Swinging in the air

Though its "Bazaar" lacks the vibrancy that we expect from an Indian marketplace, Cirque Du Soleil presents a new curve in the history of leisure

NAVINA JAFA

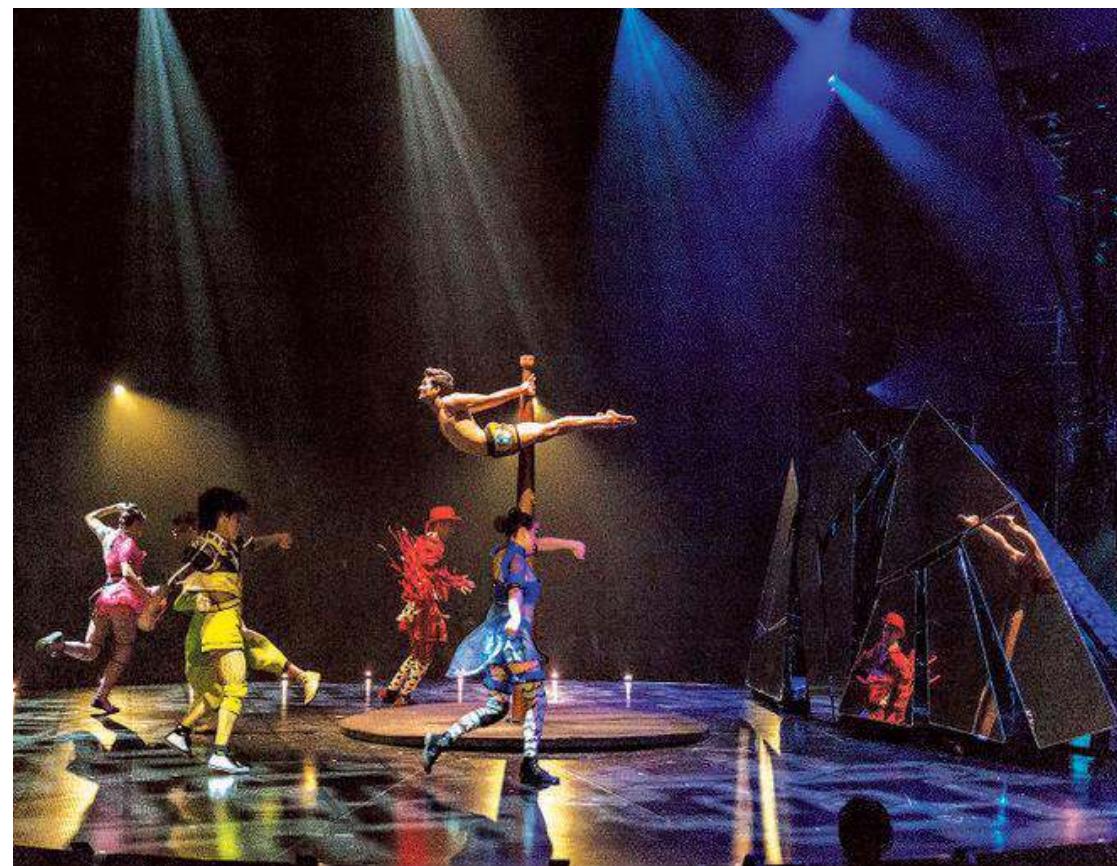
In mid-August as news came that the famed Cirque Du Soleil (CDS) is coming to India, a whiff of excitement gripped the people who heard not only about the fabulous creative production that had taken the world by storm; but several had read the story of its rise from an initiative of street artists to becoming one of the most successful stories of entertainment industry. From the lively decorated tent one entered into the performance area, dark and mysterious, a palpable verve of expectation gripped the audience.

The show began, with astonishing light and sound design amidst which leapt figures, fire players, death defying stunts, flying and rolling in the air. Yes, the coming of (CDS) is a landmark to gauge the emerging urban market of the creative entertainment industry in New India. A model of the Modern Circus, the CDS has no animal acts and is a spectacular display of an amalgamation of captivating skills and wonder of technical production. The CDS featured as a prime business case study in the milestone work titled 'Blue Ocean Strategy' by W. Chan Kim and Renée Mauborgne. The strategy projects winners rather than mere survivors where a product succeeds in a market where there is no pricing pressure due to lack of no or little competition. In a country like India which although has a wide range of traditional leisure activity, the presence of repackaged modes of entertainment is transformative and presents the trajectory of a new curve in the history of leisure.

Family product

Brought by Bookmyshow, the maiden 3-month tour of CDS comprises 68 shows in Mumbai and in Delhi until 20th January. The premium entertainment family product titled 'Bazaar' is aimed at the moneyed, urban, digitally-tuned Indian dweller and is a family activity. The show opened in Delhi's emerging cultural hub, Aerocity, with surreal acts, a cultural display where the audience sat on their chair edge in sheer wonder laced with wild expressions of

The CDS production is after all a premium product, but it is hoped that the entry of CDS will motivate the Make in India spirit awaken to tap the potential of the dormant Elephant to trumpet for making its own indigenous version of Cirque India!



Whiff of fresh air Artistes from Cirque Du Soleil in performance ■ MARIE ANDREE LEMIRE

the wolf whistle.

The visiting CSD team of 62 performers comprises cast and crew from over 13 countries with equipment weighing over 600 tonnes. The theme of the show by reputed writer-director Susan Gaudreau is power-play. The protagonists are the Master of Ceremony, called the maestro, a mini maestro and a floating lady. The maestro's power rests in the ownership of a hat from whom the couple - floating lady and the mini master seek to seize power by taking away the hat. The couple hopes to distract the maestro with an assembly of acts exhibited with live music. The production was defined by stunning human performances, state-of-the-art costumes, captivating live music and astonishing staging comprising skills of roller skate, tight rope walk, trapeze, acro-sports, acts of the bicycle and teeterboard (acrobatic act on a seesaw apparatus) and fire players. In the end, the Maestro presents the hat to the mini master.

The evidence of professionalism and the reflection of the sheer physical strength of the artists testified the detailed attention given to talent, practice, discipline, and nutrition.

The company has a huge following, the remarkable character of its production marked by details in multi-layered design of costumes, acts, choreographic presentations that leave the audience agog seeing the high level of skills with performers swinging in the air, leaping

across, and live musicians accentuating the high tension effect.

The Indian element

The inclusion of two Indian artists (both Rajesh) saw the portrayal of the Indian traditional skill Malkham (gymnastic feat centred on a wooden pole or rope). The cultural context of the sport is wrestling where it's part physical training to develop strength, stamina, flexibility, and focus. Like most traditional Indian skills, elements of spirituality and yoga are an inherent part of the art. Says Rajesh, "With the help of Ben Potvin, Acrobatic performance Designer, and Simon Fortin, our trainer, we created the act retaining the strong spiritual persona." The artists, interestingly, perceive themselves as sportsmen and were associated with aerial acts in the Indian Terence Lewis Contemporary Dance Company for over two decades before joining the Cirque.

A critique

Set up in a large tent with a capacity of 1500 people, the circular area took on an appearance of a proscenium since the fourth side was for sets and live musicians among other things. The story could be inspired by the humble beginning of the story of the CDS where co-founders Guy Laliberté and Gilles Ste-Croix, who were part of a stilt-walking street show in 1984, envisioned a canvas of sleek curated acts which today has emerged as a shorthand name for a premium theatrical artis-

tic productions engaged in different parts of the world.

It is also mentioned elsewhere that the story of the production was inspired by the bazaar phenomenon in India. However, if that was the case, the seminal vibrancy of the Indian bazaar was lacking against the predominantly dark background. Although most audiences were mesmerised by the spectacle of superhuman acts, large numbers did not follow the storyline, the dialogue delivery and audience participation were much below the standard. The *rasha* defined in Indian aesthetics as the spirit and mood was dominated by *adhibut* (surprise, suspense) and *vir* (bravery). The *hasya* - (humor) which is so integral to create comic relief amidst high tension displays was deficient.

Asian countries like China have invested in recreating counter indigenous versions like Cirque Shanghai; while Vietnam (Cirque du Vietnam) and Cambodia (Phare) who have historically reconstructed their non-existent economies too have successful indigenous adaptations, ones that not only cater to high-end consumers but have factored a more inclusive strategy to profit from the wealth at the bottom of the pyramid. The CDS production is after all a premium product, but it is hoped that the entry of CDS will motivate the Make in India spirit awaken to tap the potential of the dormant Elephant to trumpet for making its own indigenous version of Cirque India!

Hindi Belt

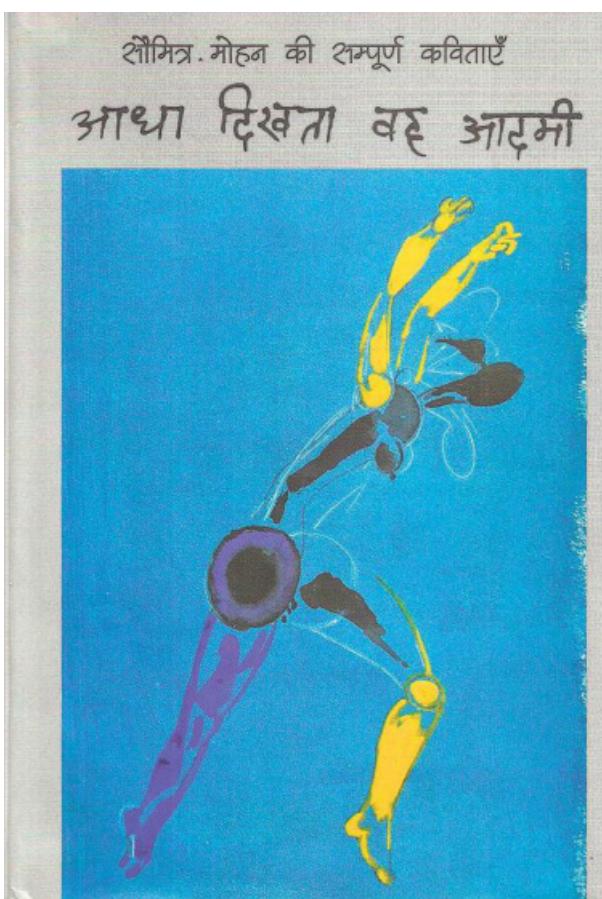
Poet of nightmarish reality

Soumitra Mohan's poetry offers fresh imagery as it brutally exposes contemporary political and social milieu

KULDEEP KUMAR

It speaks volumes about the state of literary criticism in Hindi that critics have so far paid very little to a very significant poet like Soumitra Mohan who turned 81 on January 2, 2019. When Raza Foundation organised a programme "Poetry Recalled" on August 21, 2018 under its series "Art Matters" featuring a conversation between Soumitra Mohan and Dr. Jyotish Joshi, one hoped that the event would act as a wake up call to the Hindi literary world in general and critics in particular. But, the Hindi literary establishment refused to rise from its deep slumber.

However, Samalochan, an online literary magazine edited by Arun Dev from Najibabad, a small town in Bijnor district of Uttar Pradesh, was an honourable exception because it did not really belong to the establishment and was more or less a one-man enterprise. In the beginning of June last year, it had focused on Soumitra Mohan and his poetry in two successive issues and brought his distinctive contribution into sharp relief. It is an old literary debate as to who offers better critical evaluation of literary works and writers - professional critics or creative writers? The history of Hindi literature is replete with instances of creative writers making eminently perceptive assessment of other writers while also making theoretical contributions. Gajanan Madhav Muktibodh, Vijaydev Na-



rayan Sahi, Kedarnath Agrawal, Raghuvir Sahay, Vishnu Khare and Ashok Vajpeyi are the names that immediately come to one's mind while there are many others that can be cited along with them. It is, therefore, little surprising that while Soumitra Mohan was by and large ignored by the Hindi critics, three poets made a seminal contribution to the understanding, analysis and critical evaluation of his poetry.

Kedarnath Agrawal, one of the most respected names in the Left-wing progressive poetry, was the first major writer who took it upon himself to understand and explain Soumitra Mohan's poetry in the right perspective and bring out its true significance as a poetic phenomenon.

Poet Chandrakant Deotale, poet-critics Vishnu Khare and Ashok Vajpeyi, fiction writer Vijay Mohan Singh and playwright Swadesh Deepak were the other creative writers who focused their attention on it. However, before discussing their analyses, it is necessary to take a look at the context of Soumitra Mohan's poetry.

Soumitra Mohan belongs to the generation of Hindi poets that made its presence felt in the post-Nehruvian era of the 1960s.

felt in the post-Nehruvian era of the 1960s. Violently rebelling against the literary canons of Nai Kavita (New Poetry) and progressive poetry, a new poetry movement called "Akavita" (Anti-Poetry) emerged to challenge the dominant moral and aesthetic values.

Although short-lived, it attracted poets like Shrikant Verma, Rajkamal Chaudhary, Soumitra Mohan, Jagadish Chaturvedi, Shyam Parmar, Ravindra Nath Tyagi and a host of others. The anti-poetry poets took recourse to surrealistic imagery, erotic descriptions and bold statements that gave a combined impression of anarchism, obsessive sexism and nihilism. Charges of obscenity were also brought up against the new movement.

In 1965, Jagadish Chaturvedi, Shyam Parmar and Ravindra Nath Tyagi brought out a magazine titled "Akavita" and, as Soumitra Mohan recalled later, it was a collective effort with which he too was closely associated.

These movement leaders defined this poetry as one that was rooted in its times and did not aim to create anything that would transcend the boundaries of time. This magazine ceased publi-

cation in 1967. Next year, Soumitra Mohan published his long poem "Luqman Ali" that has acquired an iconic status over the years and is cited along with other two other long poems - Muktibodh's "Andhere Mein" and Rajkamal Chaudhary's "Mukti Prasang". Besides its audacious creative project, it was noticed for its new poetic diction, fresh imagery and brutal exposure of contemporary political and social reality.

In 2018, Sambhavna Prakashan, Hapur published complete poems of Soumitra Mohan titled "Aadha dikhta vah aadami" (That half-visible man). Although Mohan insists that he should be known only by these 149 poems, he also informs in the preface that in order to arrive at this selection, he had to destroy three hundred of his other poems many of which could have been worked upon afresh. This collection includes those that were published in his earlier books: "Chaaku se khelte hue" (Playing with a knife) and "Luqman Ali evamanya kavita" (Luqman Ali and other poems).

Kedarnath Agrawal maintained that "Luqman Ali" picked the thread of Hindi poetry from the point where Rajkamal Chaudhary and Muktibodh had left it and took it forward. He called it the "modern courageous poem of the contemporary sensibility".

Vishnu Khare asserted that Soumitra Mohan was a poet who could be compared to Allen Ginsberg and it was not easy to read, tolerate and understand his poems even after 60 years of their publication. In the words of Swadesh Deepak, Mohan's writings offered documentary evidence of the struggle against one's own self.

"Luqman Ali" begins in an unusual manner:

"A dwarf hums while peeing behind the bushes and returns sighing for a panther seen in a dream. This is Luqman Ali and knowing him won't cost you a coin in the machine." (tr. Smartha Vashishtha and Shailendra Shail)

The politics of the 1960s had introduced many dwarfs in the Indian politics. Even today, we can see them prancing around us in large numbers.

Telling Voices Believe in it or not

In his novel, "An Orchestra of Minorities", Chigozie Obioma gives a cosmological account of the Igbo tribe of Nigeria which believes in relevance of spirits

SUDHAMAHI REGUNATHAN

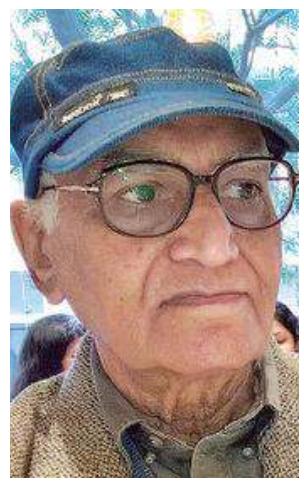
How would a story read if it were told by your spirit and not you? Chigozie Obioma's novel, "An Orchestra of Minorities", would be able to tell you for it is written by the protagonist's 'chi'. Obioma explains, "In Igbo cosmology... the Igbo tribe is situated in Nigeria in West Africa... chi is a person's guardian spirit. It is believed to be a spirit that is your intermediary but which also has the ability to help you negotiate your destiny. So we have a belief in predestination. And the chi is at the very center of that...there's been a very serious debate on where the chi is located. Most Igbo religious scholars believe that the chi actually can inhabit a host. And some say that the chi lives outside of the hosts like your shadow. It's always with you... But I do think that the chi can be seen as the equivalent of the Judeo-Christian concept of, say, the Holy Spirit or something like that." With the advent of the British and evangelization, Obioma realises, "I've always wanted to write something that will at least show the world that prior to the coming of the British to Nigeria we had some kind of complex systems. I feel like there hasn't been an African version of Milton's "Paradise Lost," which actually explored the very foundational principle of Western civilization... And so I wanted to write something cosmological. And the chi has been very fascinating to me. It was very difficult. It entailed a lot of research, even down to actually going to shrines and interviewing the last adherents of



Odinani, the Igbo religion, now that most Africans are converts of either Christianity or Islam..." Thus Obioma subtly presents two challenges; one as a member of his community and the other as a writer. His community, as he has said above, has lost its traditional moorings with established religions taking hold. In a sense, this book captures in words the beliefs of the Igbo tribe.

Dad's stories

As a writer, he talks of how there is the challenge of being legible to the western audience. "The novel is very Western. A character without agency is no character... can one write a novel that is not within the Western tradition? Can one write a novel where the character is probably half the time able to have agency while half the time, like, principalities and metaphysical forces are dwelling to negotiate the character's life? So in some way, it's probably an uncharted territory..." How Obioma came to writing is a gentle story, "...at some point in my childhood, I was frequently in hospital. And my dad would tell me stories. And then when I grew up a little bit and I was no longer as sickly as I used to be, I discovered one day that these stories that he was telling me was gotten from books... I became this voracious reader... before you knew it, I started producing my own writing."



Soumitra Mohan belongs to the generation of Hindi poets that made its presence felt in the post-Nehruvian era of the 1960s.

Take two

Not for melodrama, please!

How far a writer should go to juice out emotions?

ANUJ KUMAR

Recently, Netflix issued an injury warning about the viral fad spawned by its thriller *The Birdbox* wherein people blindfold themselves and walk into walls and traffic. No Indian film has led to such crazy response on a mass scale but there have been films which deal with serious issues like suicide melodramatically? There was a time in Hindi cinema where a girl molested by the villain had to either pick a gun or embrace death to inspire the hero. As a teenager, films like *Aakhree Raasta* and *Mera Jawaab* left one tormented. The innocuous ceiling fan suddenly started to look deadly. No doubt, they were awarded an adult certificate but in the late 80s, theatres didn't follow the CBFC norms strictly.

Recently, Shankar's 2.0 was discussed in great detail but the impact of the opening scene, where the villain of the film, played by the highly influential star Akshay Kumar, embraces death by hanging himself from a mobile tower, on children was hardly dissected. The film was awarded a U/A certificate and even on IMDB, an online



The art and commerce of perceptions (Clockwise from top) A poster of 2.0; Anupam Kher as Dr. Manmohan Singh; Vivek Oberoi as Narendra Modi

database of information related to films, suicide doesn't feature as one of the key plot points. Interestingly, it is there in case of the above mentioned films.

We learn Pakshiraja was an ornithologist who wanted to save birds from mobile

tower radiation. In short, he was a good man who didn't have the physical power to take on the insensitive world. However, after the unnatural death, he not only becomes powerful but also gathers negative energy. For impressionable minds, it could create a false impression about suicide. First, that it could give power and second that those who attempt suicide become evil. It could false perceptions at a time when attempting suicide is no longer a crime in India. The film expects us to invest emotionally in a robot and then allows the villain to dismember it. The scriptwriters might say if they care for such concerns, they might not be able to write compelling narratives. Does a writer just need to get into the shoes of his characters or should he also aim to care for the mental health of his prospective audience? It is an unending debate but a little more sensitivity from the writers of blockbusters will be helpful.

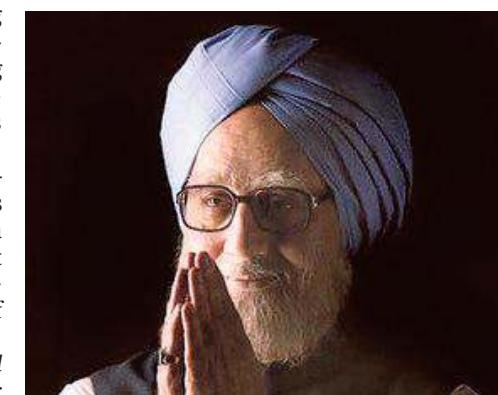
Now playing politics

Towards the end of the year, we were reminded in no uncertain terms that the first half of 2019 will see election fever at the box office with political parties using cinema to swing votes. If 2018 was about pushing the ideology and policies, 2019 is

about invoking political personalities to swing the tide. The quality of films notwithstanding, trailers, clipping and debates on social media will ensure that the agenda remains on top of the mind.

The Accidental Prime Minister where Anupam Kher is playing former Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh is an interesting case. Based on Dr Singh's media advisor Sanjaya Baru's book, the film promises to show the Gandhi family in a bad light by creating a halo around Dr Singh. How it will mar Congress' image remains to be seen. By the way, Kher has already begun canvassing for an Oscar!

He could have a contender soon as another outspoken actor Vivek Oberoi is stepping into the shoes of Narendra Modi. It has come as a surprise as for a long time Parash Rawal was expected to play the Prime Minister. Meanwhile, Nawazuddin Siddiqui has quietly transformed into Bal Thackeray after playing Manto with distinction. Scheduled to release later this month, *Thackeray*, backed by the Shiv Se-



na, will present a white-washed image of the party founder. Through him, the party seems keen to press its hardline agenda. Nawaz has been trolled for playing a part in this exercise, but the actor told this journalist last year that a true actor should not face any such moral dilemmas.

Also on cards is *Yaatra*, a biographical drama about Y.S.Rajsekara Reddy. Mammootty is playing the former Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister whose son Jagan Reddy is trying to build on his popularity. Then there is *N.T.R. Kathanayakudu* which seeks to revive memories of N.T. Rama Rao. Like our polity, it seems our political films are also getting personality-oriented.

