



Shri. Avinash Dharmadhikari
Founder-Director
■ Ex-IAS, 1986 Batch ■ Former Director General,
Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan
■ Handled the office of Maharashtra Chief Minister

UPSC MOCK INTERVIEWS

Last Available Mock Interview Dates
3rd to 5th March 2019 | 16th & 17th March 2019

Panel : Shri. Avinash Dharmadhikari Sir and other distinguished
SERVING AND RETIRED CIVIL SERVICE OFFICERS.

To schedule a Mock Interview: chanakyamandal.org or call 8308837038 Best Wishes Forever

EXCELLENCE IN THE INTERVIEW

Venue : Siddharth Jaypee Hotel,

Near Rajendra Place, Metro Station, Delhi.

■ Lt Gen Dr. D B Shekhar (retd.),

of Shekhar Committee on Military Reforms.

■ Prof. Nuzhat Parveen, Dean, Faculty of Law, Jamia Millia Islamia.

■ Shri. Dr. Bhushan Kelkar, MS and Ph.D. in Artificial Intelligence,

Former Country Manager for university relations of IBM India.

■ Shri. Anil Sivakumaran, MS Astrophysics, Psychology Expert

....23 years of relentless
pursuit of
KNOWLEDGE AND SUCCESS.

Some of our
panel members

NEARBY



6.9 lakh voters added
since 2015: Delhi govt.

NEW DELHI

There has been a net increase of 6.9 lakh electors in Delhi from 2015 to 2018, the Delhi government said in reply to a question by Leader of Opposition Vijender Gupta in the Assembly on Wednesday.

DELHI METRO ▶ PAGE 1

Modify forest dwellers' eviction order: Centre

NEW DELHI

The Centre filed an application on Wednesday urging the Supreme Court to modify its February 13 order directing the eviction of thousands of Scheduled Tribes and other traditional forest dwellers whose claims for forest land rights have been rejected under the Forest Rights Act of 2006.

NATION ▶ PAGE 7

Shelter home case: CBI appoints 2 SPPs

NEW DELHI

The CBI informed a Delhi court on Wednesday that it has appointed two Special Public Prosecutors in the Muzaffarpur shelter home sexual case, after which both sides were directed to "positively commence" arguments on framing of charges from March 2.

NORTH ▶ PAGE 3

PRELIMS 2019 TEST SERIES

20 TEST | 1999/-

START 3RD MARCH 2019

MALUKA IAS

GURU BASEMENT, OLD RANNIDHAR NAGAR, DELHI

9910133084, 9778857646 www.malukias.com

DELHI METRO ▶ 6 PAGES

IAF plane shot down, pilot taken captive by Pak. army

■ MiG-21 takes a hit while trying to intercept Pakistan's planes

■ MEA demands 'safe and immediate return' of Wing Commander

■ PAF aircraft drop bombs at four locations in Jammu and Kashmir

■ PM holds high-level meeting after Imran Khan's appeal for dialogue

SUHASINI HAIDAR
DINAKAR PERI
NEW DELHI

An Indian pilot was captured by Pakistan after a major aerial confrontation and chase between Pakistan Air Force planes, which dropped bombs in four locations of Jammu and Kashmir, and Indian Air Force jets that countered them over the Line of Control (LoC).

The confrontation began after Pakistan sent several aircraft to the LoC on Wednesday morning in retaliation for the Indian Air Force strike on a Jaish-e-Mohammad camp in Balakot a day earlier.

The government said IAF jets shot down an F-16 jet of the PAF in the skirmish, and the wreckage had fallen on the Pakistan side. Pakistan's military, however, denied the loss of any aircraft.

Wing Commander Abhinandan Varthaman began to chase the Pakistani jets to push them back, when he had to eject over the LoC af-

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 10

U.K. CALLS FOR DIPLOMATIC SOLUTIONS ▶ PAGE 10

PAK. JETS TARGET POSITIONS ACROSS LOC ▶ PAGE 11

In enemy hands

Indian Air Force's Wing Commander Abhinandan Varthaman was taken into custody by the Pakistan Army after the fighter jet he was flying was shot down on Wednesday. In a video released by the Pakistan Army, he was shown sipping tea. He said that he was being "looked after well."

According to Article 3 of the Geneva Convention on treatment of prisoners of war, nations should avoid these acts:

- Violence to life and person, in particular, murder of all kinds, mutilation, cruel treatment and torture
- Taking of hostages



Shot down: MiG-21 pilot Wing Commander Abhinandan Varthaman in Pakistan Army custody.

Blatant politicisation, says Opposition

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Opposition parties slammed the Narendra Modi-led government for "blatant politicisation" of the prevailing security situation and the deaths of armed personnel, signalling that they would no longer restrain themselves from questioning the Centre. Twenty-one Opposition

parties met for over three hours and signed a joint memorandum. Congress president Rahul Gandhi read out the statement to reporters.

'Respect sacrifices'

"The meeting of 21 parties expressed its deep anguish over the blatant politicisation of the sacrifices made by

our armed forces by the leader of the ruling party. National security must transcend narrow political considerations," it said.

The parties observed that the Prime Minister "regrettably" had not convened an all-party meeting as is the norm.

'NEED TO CHANGE NARRATIVE OF JINGOISM' ▶ PAGE 10

Sushma says India's air strike was pre-emptive

ATUL ANEJA
WUZHEN

External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj on Wednesday told the plenary foreign ministerial meeting of the Russia-India-China grouping that India's air strike on a Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM) terror camp inside Pakistan was a pre-emptive action as there was credible information that the group, which claimed the Pulwama attack, was planning other strikes in India.

She said Pakistan's inaction against the JeM had forced its hand.

"The target was selected in order to avoid civilian casualties."

"This terrorist attack is the direct result of the impunity and cover provided to the JeM and its leaders by the Pakistani side," she said.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 10

TACIT SUPPORT ▶ PAGE 10

Opposition parties slammed the Narendra Modi-led government for "blatant politicisation" of the prevailing security situation and the deaths of armed personnel, signalling that they would no longer restrain themselves from questioning the Centre. Twenty-one Opposition

parties met for over three hours and signed a joint memorandum. Congress president Rahul Gandhi read out the statement to reporters.

'Respect sacrifices'

"The meeting of 21 parties expressed its deep anguish over the blatant politicisation of the sacrifices made by

our armed forces by the leader of the ruling party. National security must transcend narrow political considerations," it said.

The parties observed that the Prime Minister "regrettably" had not convened an all-party meeting as is the norm.

'NEED TO CHANGE NARRATIVE OF JINGOISM' ▶ PAGE 10

parties met for over three hours and signed a joint memorandum. Congress president Rahul Gandhi read out the statement to reporters.

'Respect sacrifices'

"The meeting of 21 parties expressed its deep anguish over the blatant politicisation of the sacrifices made by

our armed forces by the leader of the ruling party. National security must transcend narrow political considerations," it said.

The parties observed that the Prime Minister "regrettably" had not convened an all-party meeting as is the norm.

'NEED TO CHANGE NARRATIVE OF JINGOISM' ▶ PAGE 10

parties met for over three hours and signed a joint memorandum. Congress president Rahul Gandhi read out the statement to reporters.

'Respect sacrifices'

"The meeting of 21 parties expressed its deep anguish over the blatant politicisation of the sacrifices made by

our armed forces by the leader of the ruling party. National security must transcend narrow political considerations," it said.

The parties observed that the Prime Minister "regrettably" had not convened an all-party meeting as is the norm.

'NEED TO CHANGE NARRATIVE OF JINGOISM' ▶ PAGE 10

parties met for over three hours and signed a joint memorandum. Congress president Rahul Gandhi read out the statement to reporters.

'Respect sacrifices'

"The meeting of 21 parties expressed its deep anguish over the blatant politicisation of the sacrifices made by

our armed forces by the leader of the ruling party. National security must transcend narrow political considerations," it said.

The parties observed that the Prime Minister "regrettably" had not convened an all-party meeting as is the norm.

'NEED TO CHANGE NARRATIVE OF JINGOISM' ▶ PAGE 10

parties met for over three hours and signed a joint memorandum. Congress president Rahul Gandhi read out the statement to reporters.

'Respect sacrifices'

"The meeting of 21 parties expressed its deep anguish over the blatant politicisation of the sacrifices made by

our armed forces by the leader of the ruling party. National security must transcend narrow political considerations," it said.

The parties observed that the Prime Minister "regrettably" had not convened an all-party meeting as is the norm.

'NEED TO CHANGE NARRATIVE OF JINGOISM' ▶ PAGE 10

parties met for over three hours and signed a joint memorandum. Congress president Rahul Gandhi read out the statement to reporters.

'Respect sacrifices'

"The meeting of 21 parties expressed its deep anguish over the blatant politicisation of the sacrifices made by

our armed forces by the leader of the ruling party. National security must transcend narrow political considerations," it said.

The parties observed that the Prime Minister "regrettably" had not convened an all-party meeting as is the norm.

'NEED TO CHANGE NARRATIVE OF JINGOISM' ▶ PAGE 10

parties met for over three hours and signed a joint memorandum. Congress president Rahul Gandhi read out the statement to reporters.

'Respect sacrifices'

"The meeting of 21 parties expressed its deep anguish over the blatant politicisation of the sacrifices made by

our armed forces by the leader of the ruling party. National security must transcend narrow political considerations," it said.

The parties observed that the Prime Minister "regrettably" had not convened an all-party meeting as is the norm.

'NEED TO CHANGE NARRATIVE OF JINGOISM' ▶ PAGE 10

parties met for over three hours and signed a joint memorandum. Congress president Rahul Gandhi read out the statement to reporters.

'Respect sacrifices'

"The meeting of 21 parties expressed its deep anguish over the blatant politicisation of the sacrifices made by

our armed forces by the leader of the ruling party. National security must transcend narrow political considerations," it said.

The parties observed that the Prime Minister "regrettably" had not convened an all-party meeting as is the norm.

'NEED TO CHANGE NARRATIVE OF JINGOISM' ▶ PAGE 10

parties met for over three hours and signed a joint memorandum. Congress president Rahul Gandhi read out the statement to reporters.

'Respect sacrifices'

"The meeting of 21 parties expressed its deep anguish over the blatant politicisation of the sacrifices made by

our armed forces by the leader of the ruling party. National security must transcend narrow political considerations," it said.

The parties observed that the Prime Minister "regrettably" had not convened an all-party meeting as is the norm.

'NEED TO CHANGE NARRATIVE OF JINGOISM' ▶ PAGE 10

parties met for over three hours and signed a joint memorandum. Congress president Rahul Gandhi read out the statement to reporters.

'Respect sacrifices'

"The meeting of 21 parties expressed its deep anguish over the blatant politicisation of the sacrifices made by

our armed forces by the leader of the ruling party. National security must transcend narrow political considerations," it said.

The parties observed that the Prime Minister "regrettably" had not convened an all-party meeting as is the norm.

'NEED TO CHANGE NARRATIVE OF JINGOISM' ▶ PAGE 10

part



Delhi Government's concrete initiative to end the inhuman practice of sanitation workers entering sewers for cleaning

Sewers in narrow lanes also to be cleaned by machines now

"We will make Delhi the best city in the world"

- Arvind Kejriwal

Chief Minister, Delhi



DIP/Shabdarth/D/0277/18-19



Our brothers who clean sewers will get dignity and respect

No problem in cleaning sewers in narrow lanes with the introduction of these machines

————— Inauguration ceremony ————

On Thursday 28th February, 2019 at 11:00 A.M.

Venue: Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar Stadium, Delhi Gate, New Delhi

Shelter home case: CBI appoints 2 SPPs

Arguments on framing of charges from March 2

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

The CBI informed a Delhi court on Wednesday that it has appointed two Special Public Prosecutors in the Muzaffarpur shelter home sexual assault case, after which both sides were directed to "positively commence" arguments on framing of charges from March 2.

Additional Sessions Judge Saurabh Kulshreshtha told the CBI that if the agency wanted to file a supplementary charge sheet in the matter, it has to be done within 15 days.



CBI and CFSL officers at the Muzaffarpur shelter home.

• FILE PHOTO

The court was informed that advocates Amit Jindal and R.N. Sinha have been appointed as SPPs by the agency.

Mr. Jindal told the court that he received the notification for his appointment from the CBI on Tuesday night and sought time to prepare arguments. The court then said, "Both the parties are directed to positively commence arguments on

March 2." The CBI would advance the arguments first on Saturday, the next date of hearing.

On Monday, the court had raped the CBI for the delay in notifying the SPP in the case and warned it that any laxity to comply with the order will amount to contempt and action would be taken against the agency. "Do not expect the court to wait for one week for the notification

to come. You are as much bound by the Supreme Court order as I am. Do not take me to that stage that I should write to the SC that the CBI is in contempt of the order initiated by the court. Already once you have suffered contempt," the judge had said.

The apex court had on February 7 ordered that the case be transferred to a Protection of Children from Sexual Offences court at Saket district court complex here, which would conclude the trial within six months by preferably holding a "day-to-day" trial.

Several girls were allegedly raped and sexually abused at an NGO-run shelter home in Muzaffarpur in Bihar. The issue had come to light following a report by the Tata Institute of Social Sciences.

Court seeks report from Tihar jail on Michel

'Have been kept in solitary confinement'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

A Delhi court on Wednesday sought a detailed report from Tihar jail authorities on a plea by Christian Michel, the alleged middleman arrested in the ₹3,600-crore AgustaWestland chopper deal, claiming he has been kept in solitary confinement in the prison.

Special Judge Arvind Kumar asked the jail superintendent or a competent authority to appear before the court to respond to Michel's allegation that he was not allowed to interact with co-prisoners.

"The Director-General (Prison) shall authorise jail superintendent or some other official who is well conversant with facts to ap-

pear before the court on February 28," the court said.

An assistant superintendent present in the court denied the allegation. He told the court that the British national has not been kept in solitary confinement but in a high-security cell with all facilities provided to prisoners. He, however, failed to state as to why Michel has been moved to the other cell.

Michel told the court that the new cell remains illuminated 24 hours because of which he was having problems in sleeping. The plea, filed by advocate Aljo K. Joseph, sought direction to the jail superintendent to treat Michel on a par with other inmates and provide basic facilities.

Draft student start-up policy prepared

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
JAIPUR

A draft student start-up up policy has been prepared in Rajasthan to support innovations by the students and create an environment to facilitate their creative pursuits.

Governor Kalyan Singh, who is the Chancellor of the State's skill development and technical universities, is likely to approve the policy shortly which was submitted to him on Wednesday.

A prudent integration of skills in education and the bilateral exchange of students for skills training has also been planned in a memorandum of understanding signed between the Rajasthan-ILD Skills University and Bharatiya Skill Development University

here earlier this month. The MoU will facilitate preparation and updating of curriculum for various courses offered.

Rajasthan-ILD Skills University V-C Lalit K. Panwar, who heads the committee for framing the policy, said that the students would be encouraged to become self-sufficient by taking up self-employment initiatives. "For this, we need to create a conducive environment and make the resources available to the youths," he said.

BSDU V-C Surjat Singh Pabla said the students would benefit from the updated information on potential opportunities which the two universities would share while carrying out exchange of students for training.

Haryana Assembly passes guest teachers' Bill

CHANDIGARH
The Haryana Assembly passed 18 Bills, including the Guest Teachers' Bill 2019. Education Minister Ram Bilas Sharma said the BJP government in the State has fulfilled the promise made in 2014 to contractual teachers that their services will be regularised. The Assembly passed the Bill unanimously.

DELHI Timings
THURSDAY, FEB. 28
RISE 06:48 SET 18:20
RISE 02:18 SET 13:02
FRIDAY, MAR. 01
RISE 06:47 SET 18:21
RISE 03:10 SET 13:51
SATURDAY, MAR. 02
RISE 06:46 SET 18:21
RISE 03:59 SET 14:41

Delhi Weather max min
Delhi City 20 10
Safdarjang 20 10
Palam 22 11

Delhi Palam Today 22°C Mist and shallow fog during a cold morning. Day will be pleasant with moderate breeze & sunny sky. Pollution level likely to improve.

Delhi Palam Tomorrow 24°C Rise in temperatures. Mostly sunny day with moderate breeze. Scattered clouding may appear towards night. Moderate pollution level.

© Copyright Skymet Weather 2018
All rights reserved.

Join T.I.M.E.'s top class coaching for GATE | ESE | PSUs
• ECE • EEE • ME • CSE • IN • CE
Our GATE 2018 Results

Rank 4 th A Suresh Varma EC	Rank 11 th G Visay Reddy EC	Rank 27 th Debaboyapadhyay CS	Rank 40 th Ravi Shankar Misra CS
Rank 48 th Ramesh Kamala EC	Rank 64 th K. Satish Dandia Reddy EC	Rank 71 st Debaboyapadhyay CS	Rank 86 th Gupta Moni Rajesh Kumar CE

& more...
GATE 2020 batch starting on 2nd March. Enrol Today!
T.I.M.E. Triumphant Institute of Management Education Pvt. Ltd., www.time4education.com/gate

IAS INTERVIEW
Do you want to Score 200 Marks in IAS Interviews?
All India 3rd, 7th, 23rd, 35th, 43rd, 51st ranks from Unique
MOCK INTERVIEWS
28th Feb, 1st, 2nd & 3rd March'19
• ONE TO ONE • VIDEO RECORDING
• ONLINE / OFFLINE MOCK AVAILABLE
• Distribution of total 40 modules
Requirements : DAF + Photograph
Venue : Hotel Madonna - 537, Old Rajendra Nagar, (New Market), New Delhi,
UNIQUE IAS
STUDY CIRCLE | INDIA'S PREMIER INSTITUTE
ESTABLISHED SINCE 1999
08130278781, 07000323066

SWEATER & JACKETS SALE
WINTER COLLECTION
Last Chance till 10th March
By Economy Sales: 45086168
up to 60% off
AIR RAYMOND PARK AVENUE LOUIS PHILIPPE

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

VISION IAS
INSPIRING INNOVATION
LIVE/ONLINE Classes Available
www.visionias.in

FOUNDATIONAL COURSE GENERAL STUDIES Prelims Cum Mains 2020

DEHLI
Regular Batch 12 Feb 9 AM | Weekend Batch 15 Mar 6 PM | **LUCKNOW**
13 Apr 9 AM | **HYDERABAD | JAIPUR | PUNE | AHMEDABAD**

फाउंडेशन कोर्स सामान्य अध्ययन 2020

DELHI: 18 Feb | **LUCKNOW:** 9 Apr | **JAIPUR | AHMEDABAD**

हिन्दी माध्यम में

#PrelimsIsComing

ALL INDIA GS PRELIMS OPEN MOCK TEST-3

3 MARCH | 20 CITIES

Know More & Register @
www.visionias.in/opentest



Scan the QR CODE

Centres at :

AHMEDABAD | BENGALURU | BHOPAL | BHUBANESWAR | CHANDIGARH | GUWAHATI
CHENNAI | DEHRADUN | DELHI | RANCHI | HYDERABAD | JABALPUR | JAIPUR | PATNA
JODHPUR | LUCKNOW | PRAYAGRAJ | RAIPUR | THIRUVANANTHAPURAM | PUNE

ONE YEAR CURRENT AFFAIRS for GS PRELIMS 2019 in 60 Hours

Complete coverage of The Hindu, Indian Express, PIB, Economic Times, Yojana, Economic Survey, Budget, India Year Book, RSTV, etc from May 2018 to April 2019

ENGLISH Medium 19 Mar 5 PM

हिन्दी माध्यम 3 Apr 5 PM

ALTERNATIVE CLASSROOM PROGRAMME GENERAL STUDIES Prelims and Mains 2021 and 2022

12 Feb 9 AM | 15 Mar 6 PM



Includes comprehensive coverage of all the topics for all the four papers of GS Mains, GS Prelims and Essay

PHILOSOPHY by Anoop Sir & Experts

JAIPUR - 15 MAY | PUNE - 29 MAY
AHMEDABAD - 22 MAY

Registration Open / Limited Seats

Includes comprehensive and updated study material

ALL INDIA PRELIMS TEST SERIES
General Studies CSAT

Starting: 2nd March

SELECTIONS IN CSE 2017



8 in Top 10 | 38 in Top 50

PERSONALITY TEST PROGRAMME

• Mock Interviews Sessions with Ex-Bureaucrats / Educationists

• Interactive Sessions with previous year toppers and bureaucrats

ALL INDIA MAINS TEST SERIES
General Studies Essay

Starting: 2nd March

Scan the QR CODE to download VISION IAS app



• 635, Opp. Signature View Apartments, Banda Bahadur Marg, Mukherjee Nagar
DELHI • 2nd Floor, Apsara Arcade, Near Metro Gate 6/1/8 B, Pusa Road, Karol Bagh
• Contact : 8468022022, 9019066066, 9650617807

JAIPOUR 9001949244 9799974032 | **PUNE** 8007500096 020-40040015 | **HYDERABAD** 900104133 9494374078 | **AHMEDABAD** 9909447040 7575007040 | **LUCKNOW** 8468022022 7042413943

NORTH 3

CLASSIFIEDS MART

TO ADVERTISE:
www.thehinduads.com
011-43579738 • 43579797

EDUCATIONAL

Now in Karol Bagh

P AASTHA IAS I AS

BPSC 64th MAINS Class + Test

R.Kumar & Team

CLASS STARTS 28 Feb 10AM

With Vijay Sir Anthropology
4th Floor, Croma Centre,
Near Karol Bagh Metro Station
8800233080, 9540038080

FREE MOCK INTERVIEW CSE 2018

Learn to Score 200+ From Renowned Civil Servants & Secretaries Under G.O.

Chaired by: Former UPSC Interview Board Member

Panel Members

- Vinod Zutshi - Retd. IAS (Former Secretary / Member of UPSC-CSE Interview Board)
- Kailash Agarwal - Retd. IFS (Former Member of UPSC Civil Services Interview Board)
- Rengaraj Viswanathan - Retd. IFS (Former Member of UPSC Civil Services Interview Board)
- Ram Kumar Verma - Retd. IPS (President's Police Medal / UN Peace Keeping Mission)

And Other Experts
Video recording of Mock Interview will be provided
More Mocks on demand → DAF Analysis

Date: March - 2, March - 3, March - 5 & March - 10

YMCA Tourist Hostel, 1-Jai Singh Road, New Delhi - 110001.

(Near by Chawki Metro Station)

Register at - 98215-53677/98215-53678

Email at: upscda@gmail.com

Rank - 3 / 12 / 83 / 218... and many more Previous Selections in UPSC-CSE

IAS GURUKUL CHAHAL ACADEMY

Now in Rajender Nagar GS Open Class 2-3-19 (12 noon)

BPSC GS (M) Rajesh Sir's Initiative

G.S. Mains Class : 28-02-19 (6:30 pm)

GEO. (Optional (2 pm) TEST SERIES for G.S., Geo., P.A., Political Science, History, L.S.W.

BPSC ACADEMY M-3, Satya House, Dr. Mukherjee Nagar, Delhi-9

8447039179, 8447051258

+91-96866 64985 www.uccindia.org

Government of Jharkhand

Dr. Ram Dayal Munda Tribal Welfare Research Institute, Ranchi

Schedule Tribe, Schedule Caste, Minorities and OBC Welfare Department Ranchi, Dated 26.02.2019 Ref no. 334(ii)

Call for paper For Journal - Dr. Ram Dayal Munda Tribal Welfare Research Institute, Ranchi

Tribal Welfare Research Institute was established in 1953 in Ranchi that time Bihar (now Jharkhand) for the purpose of understanding varied and complex problems of tribal groups in the state with the use of modern and scientific study. The Institute is under the purview of Schedule Tribe, Schedule caste, Minorities and Backward Class Welfare Department, Government of Jharkhand.

The primary aim of the institute is to do research and documentation as well as dissemination of information and awareness to generate evidence-based policy, programs and legislation to recommend and support welfare schemes of the government. The Institute publishes the quarterly journal on Tribal issues. These journals are led by reputed professors and scholars. The review process, editorial board, high respect for publication ethics, is the key features of the Institute's journals

The Institute calls for research papers, review papers, case studies, empirical research for the coming issue (**TRIBAL WOMEN**) of the journal. (The lists of the sub-themes are mentioned below). Authors are requested to follow the guidelines while preparing the paper. The detail guideline can be downloaded from website www.trijharkhand.com

All interested contributors are requested to give prior intimation to TRI about the sub-theme in which they are interested to contribute. The interested contributors are highly encouraged to submit the abstract not exceeding 200 words to Director, TRI through email to tri.directorate@gmail.com latest by 14th March 2019. The author should submit the full paper not less than 3000 words and not more than 5000 words latest by 25th April 2019 in English or Hindi with full name, address and email id. The selected paper may be published in the journal after reviewing of the expert committee.

- Home-Based Work and Issues of Gender and Space of Tribal women in Jharkhand
- Mobility of Unmarried Adolescent tribal girls of Jharkhand
- Gender, Ageing and Social Security in context of Jharkhand
- Where is the Woman in Preventive and Social Medicine? (In reference to tribal women of Jharkhand)
- Gender and Mental Health of Tribal Women of Jharkhand
- Making of Female Breadwinners in Tribal Jharkhand
- Determinants of Well-Being among Tribal widows
- Marginalisation of Women Workers in Jharkhand
- Dimension of Female Aging and Widowhood including witch crafting and other violence
- Need for a Paradigm Shift: Justice and Equality of Tribal women in Jharkhand
- Beej aur Dharti: Jaivik Prajan ke pratik aur upadan me lingat sambandh
- Emergence of Tribal women Leadership and its impact in addressing social issues through PRI's of Jharkhand

P.R.203633 Welfare(18-19):D

EDUCATIONAL

IAS Aspirants of 2019

Get a Practice Interview Before The Real Interview

IAS **IPS** **IFS** **IRS**

Sri Chaitanya IAS Academy
Shaping India's Next Generation Leaders

Get Advise From A Senior Panel of Civil Servants

Panel Headed By Amb. Surendra Kumar, IAS Retd. (Formerly Dean Foreign Service Institute, Secy. Ministry of External Affairs)

Other Esteemed Members of the Panel V.K. Agnihotri, IAS Retd. (Former Secretary General, Rajya Sabha) M.L. Kumawat, IRS Retd. (Former Director General BSF, Former Chairman, Rajasthan Public Service Commission) Prakash Chandra, IRS Retd. (Former Chairman CBDT)

Sharpen Your Interview Skills With Personalized Feedback

Panel will evaluate your unique profile, background, strengths and weaknesses to give you feedback to succeed that's right for you.

Sessions have commenced, and are free.

Interview date and time will be on first come first serve basis.

Sri Chaitanya IAS Academy
22-B, Rajender Nagar Right Side, Main Bazar Marg, Pusa Road, Near Metro Pillar-112, New Delhi-60.
Ph: 011 45609516/17, 9910023640, 9910023530

EDUCATIONAL

ELITE IAS IAS MOCK INTERVIEW 2018

2 Steps Guidance

- One-to-one interaction with Mr. Bibhash Sharma & Mr. Devendra (IAS). They will guide you - how to correlate your interview answers with you DAF.
- Mock Interview with our Board Members (includes Retd. IAS/IPS/IRS, Academicians & Psychologists)

Note: Recordings of the interview will be provided to the candidate in a pendrive.

SPECIAL:

- Students with Sociology optional will get probable sociological questions.
- Tips to correlate Current Affairs with Sociological Theories/Thinkers.

To Schedule Mock Interview Contact: 7065202020

Contact Us: Old Rajendra Nagar: 11A/22, Bada Bazar Marg, Mob# 7065202020 Mukherjee Nagar: A-1, Chandra House, Mob# 8410000037 Email: info@eliteias.in, Visit: www.eliteias.in

ANTHRO

(Eng. & Hindi Med.) by K.Mukesh
NEW BATCH STARTS WITH PHYSICAL ANTHRO

Workshop 25 Feb. 2018
Workshop 25 Feb. 2018
Workshop 25 Feb. 2018
Workshop 25 Feb. 2018

Master Stroke IAS Academy
Jyoti Bhawan, Mukherjee Nagar, Delhi-9
Mob.: 9871429334

REASONING & DI

By शाशि कपूर
BANKING SSC CGL CAT IITI UPSCSSC SI RAILWAY LIC/GIC CAT/MAT ALL COMPETITIVE EXAMS

OPEN SEMINAR

आज 8:15 AM
9990582226, 9818956036

SKYCITY, Ground Floor, Main Road, In front of Beta Classes
Dr. Mukherjee Nagar, Delhi-9, Web: www.usdeducation.com

BPSC (Mains)

श्रम एवं सामाजिक कार्यक्रम
LSW

निःशुल्क
कार्यक्रम
कार्यक्रम अवधारणा सहाय्या

UPPCS (Mains) Fasttrack Batch 15 days 90 hr. Class

ETHICS (including case studies) by DEEPAK KUMAR
UPPCS Pre

873, GROUND FLOOR, MUKHERJEE NAGAR, NEW DELHI
011-42470049, 8448070202

careerworldias@gmail.com, www.careerworldias.com

12 Test Papers TEST SERIES Bilingual Test Paper

BATCH - I BATCH - II BATCH - III

3 Mar. (Sunday) 6 Mar. (Wednesday) 27 Mar. (Wednesday)

* Every Sunday Test will be repeated on Wednesday * Model Answer & Discussion will be available

by DHARMENDRA KUMAR (Ranchi)

Time: 5:30 PM

III Addl. Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Hyderabad

Qualification as per NCETE, UGC and M.D. University, Rohtak norms.

Note:- Candidates are required to submit their application with two recent passport size photographs and attested photocopies of their certificates in the college with a copy to the Dean Colleges of Development Council M.D. Rohtak.

Please note that the application must reach in the college with in 21 days from the date of advertisement.

Chairman

Aplications Invited

For the post of Principal and Assistant Professors for B.Ed and D.Ed for All Subjects and Librarian, Technical Asstt./ Computer Operator, Clerk cum Typist, Library attendant and Laboratory attendant

Qualification as per NCETE, UGC and M.D. University, Rohtak norms.

Note:- Candidates are required to submit their application with two recent passport size photographs and attested photocopies of their certificates in the college with a copy to the Dean Colleges of Development Council M.D. Rohtak.

Please note that the application must reach in the college with in 21 days from the date of advertisement.

Chairman

Please take notice that the above petitioners are filed a claim Petition before the above said court for compensation.

The Hon'ble court ordered notice of you number of times. But the same was not returned to you. At last order this publication your order to appear before this Court on 24/04/2019 to answer the said complaint.

Given under my hand and the seal of the Court, this the 20th day of February, 2019

Sd/-

III Addl. Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Hyderabad

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON

See Section 82 Cr.P.C.

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused person Bunty, S/o Dev Kumar, R/o B-434, Inder Enclave, Nangloi, Delhi, has committed offence FIR No. 903/2014, u/s 379/34 IPC, PS Karol Bagh, Delhi and his warrant of arrest there upon issued has been return with the report that the said person Bunty, have absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the warrant.)

Proclamation is hereby made that said Bunty. Accused in FIR No. 903/2014, u/s 379/34 IPC, PS Karol Bagh, Delhi is required to appear the court to answer the said complaint on or before 30/04/2019.

By Order

Ms. Shilpi Jain, Metropolitan Magistrate,

Central District, Room No. 180, 1st Floor,

Tis Hazari Court, Delhi.

DP/6083/CD/19-(Court Matter)

MANGALURU SMART CITY LIMITED

Address: M.G. ROAD, LABAGH, MANGALURU-575003,

DAKSHINA KANNADA, KARNATAKA.

Phone: 0824-2986321

E-tender notification on Mangaluru Smart City Limited, Project. Advt No.38/2018-19 Date: 26/02/2019

Mangaluru Smart City limited invites the Short-term Tender for "Laying of Underground Drainage Network in Zone V and Zone VI of ABD Area in Mangaluru City". Interested bidders (Registered Licensed Class 1 Contractor) may obtain required details from the e-procurement website of Karnataka (www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in)

SL. No. Indent No. Name of Work Approx. Tender amount (Rs. in Lakhs) EMD amount (Rs. in Lakhs) Construction Period Last date for Submission of tender

1 UDD/2018-19/ WS/WORK_ INDENT 705/ CALL 2 Laying of Underground Drainage Network in Zone V and Zone VI of ABD Area in Mangaluru City 2042 20.45 11 Months (excluding Monsoon) 11.04.2019

The bidders have to participate through online procurement only the website for "online bidding" is http://www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in.Bid documents will be available for bidding on above website. Pre bid meeting is scheduled on 11.03.2019. For further details regarding the tender please contact Executive Engineer, MSCL, Mangaluru during office hours or over phone 0824-2986321 and also from website www.mangalurusmartcity.net or https://smartnet.niua.org

DIPR/MGCA/1688-18/19/dt.27.2.19

Sd/- Executive Engineer, Mangaluru Smart City Limited, Mangaluru

HIMACHAL PRADESH STATE ELECTRICITY BOARD LTD. (A State Govt. Undertaking)

PRESS TENDER NOTICE

(e-Tendering Mode Only)

Online tenders (Two part bid) are invited for the supply of following items, on the prescribed form (Tender Documents). The dates of Sale/ Submission and opening of techno commercial bid of tenders is as per detail given below. The Detailed Tender Notice can also be downloaded from website https://www.tenderwizard.com/HPSB.

Sr. No. Description of Items Qty. Estd. Cost (In Lacs) Tender document file (Non-refundable) I/C GST in ₹ Estimated Cost Valued (ECV) in ₹ Last Date & Time of Online submission of tender Last Date & Time of opening of techno comm. bid

1. C.E. HT & LT AB kms. 433.33 1607.72 ₹ 1,400/- ₹ 16,07,720/- 22-03-2019 (upto 5:00 P.M.) 23-03-2019 (upto 5:00 P.M.) 25.03.2019 (at 11:30 A.M.)

Notes: 1. The detailed tender notice can be viewed at website http://www.tenderwizard.com/HPSB and tender documents can be had after making prescribed payment. For terms and conditions visit above website.

2. The undersigned reserves the right to change the scope of purchase and to reject any or all the tenders without assigning any reason thereto.

3. The above quantities are tentative and likely to increase or decrease.

4. Those who tamper the Tender documents are liable for rejection.

5. In case, the date of opening of tender remains holiday, the tenders shall be opened at the time and place on the next working day.

Chief Engineer (MM), H

IN BRIEF



Siddaramaiah's Twitter account hacked

BENGALURU
The Twitter handle of Congress Legislative Party leader Siddaramaiah was allegedly compromised by hackers on Tuesday. They used his official account to send out a message sympathising with the families of terrorists. The hacker put out a tweet on Mr. Siddaramaiah's official Twitter handle @siddaramaiah stating, "Today, Indian Air Force has attacked on BAGALKOT. Deep condolences to the terrorists families. May their souls rest in peace."

Solid propellant 'Mrinal' remembered

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM
Fifty years after they developed 'Mrinal,' the Indian space programme's first composite solid propellant for launch vehicles, surviving members of the Propellant Engineering Division gathered at the Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre on Wednesday to relive memories. The get-together was meant to mark the 50th anniversary of the successful flight-test of 'Mrinal' - the propellant was named after Mrinalini Sarabhai - from Thumba aboard an RH-75 sounding rocket on February 21, 1969. ISRO Chairman K. Sivan could not attend the function, but he addressed the gathering over video from Bengaluru.

Student set ablaze in Warangal by classmate

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
WARANGAL

In a ghastly incident, a jilted lover doused his batchmate with petrol and set her ablaze here on Wednesday. A degree final-year student of Vaagdevi College here, T. Raval, 20, was set ablaze by

A.P. gets new South Coast Railway zone

It's a long-pending demand of TDP

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Centre on Wednesday announced the creation of a separate railway zone in Andhra Pradesh - a long pending demand of the ruling NDA's erstwhile ally, the Telugu Desam Party (TDP).

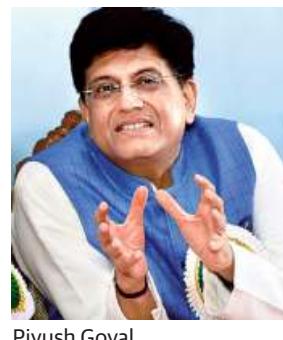
The new zone, South Coast Railway (SCoR), would comprise the existing Guntakal, Guntur and Vijayawada divisions. Additionally, the Waltair division would be bifurcated.

"One part of the Waltair division will be incorporated in the new zone and will be merged with the neighbouring Vijayawada," the Minister of Railways Piyush Goyal said.

"The matter has been examined in detail in consultation with stakeholders and it has been decided to go ahead with creation of a new zone with headquarters at Visakhapatnam," Mr. Goyal added.

The Railways said post bifurcation, the remaining part of the Waltair division would be converted into a new division headquartered at Rayagada, Odisha, under the ECoR zone.

"As per item 8 of Schedule 13 (Infrastructure) of the



Piyush Goyal

Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Act, 2014, Indian Railways was required to examine establishing a new railway zone in the successor State of Andhra Pradesh," Minister of Railways Piyush Goyal said.

mandal, Ms. Raval was staying at a private hostel in Nayemnagar near the college.

The police said the man was enraged after Ms. Raval, his childhood friend, rejected his marriage proposal.

P. Avinash, 21. The girl sustained 70% burns and her condition is stated to be critical. She was admitted to MGM Hospital here initially and later shifted to a Hyderabad hospital.

A native of Ramachandrapuram village of Sangem

No major fires break out in Bandipur forest

Alert in Nagarhole, M.M. Hills; additional staff deployed in fire-prone areas; CM does an aerial survey

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BANDIPUR

There was no outbreak of major fire for the second consecutive day in Bandipur but for sporadic incidents of ground fire stoked by the prevailing wind.

The focus of the authorities on Wednesday was to ensure that the fire did not spread towards Maddur and Moolehole from the Gopalaswamy Betta ranges.

Scores of forest guards, hired on a temporary basis for the fire season, were deployed along the forest boundary separating Gopalaswamy Betta with Maddur range and they took positions every 100 to 200 m, with volunteers supporting their efforts.



Damage assessment: H.D. Kumaraswamy during an aerial survey of Bandipur forest on Wednesday. ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Drones were used frequently to ascertain if there were any fire spots or if smoke was emanating from any part of the forest.

T. Balachandra, who took charge as the Director of the

Bandipur Tiger Reserve late on Tuesday, visited the Gopalaswamy Betta range and Moolehole to assess the damage caused by the fire.

In the adjoining Nagarhole National Park, addition-

Drones were used frequently to ascertain if there were any fire spots or if smoke was emanating from any part of the forest

al staff have been deployed in fire-prone areas and a batch of 30 fire watchers on training were assigned different beats.

Severe heat
The M.M. Hills Wildlife Sanctuary is also reeling under severe heat.

In view of 'Mahasivaratri', which draws devotees in tens of thousands to the Male Mahadeshwara shrine, the authorities have decided

to establish temporary camps along the steps and the walking path stretching to almost 18 km from the base of the hills.

"Devotees have a tendency to leave burning camphor and incense sticks on the steps or pathway and this could accidentally trigger a fire. Hence, we have created a few sites where incense sticks and camphor could be left behind," according to DCF V. Yadukondalu. A team of 60 volunteers and Forest Department staff will be on duty in these special camps, he added.

Meanwhile, Chief Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy undertook an aerial survey of the Bandipur forest.

UCO Bank manager, others booked for fraud

Over ₹21 cr. cleared on fake documents

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The agency, based on a complaint lodged by the bank, alleged that Gowda and Harish had arranged fake bills or invoices from non-existent firms to facilitate the release of loans to the Karnataka Human Rights Panel and another person for allegedly cheating the bank of more than ₹21 crore by granting home loans on forged documents.

It is alleged that K.R. Sa-roja, while functioning as the manager of a branch in Bengaluru, colluded with loan facilitator Srinivasa Gowda and sanctioned ₹21.86 crore of home and property loans to 23 borrowers on fake papers.

Gowda is currently the president of the Karnataka Human Rights Panel. The third accused has been identified as H.K. Harish.

The agency, based on a complaint lodged by the bank, alleged that Gowda and Harish had arranged fake bills or invoices from non-existent firms to facilitate the release of loans to the Karnataka Human Rights Panel and another person for allegedly cheating the bank of more than ₹21 crore by granting home loans on forged documents.

It is alleged that K.R. Sa-roja, while functioning as the manager of a branch in Bengaluru, colluded with loan facilitator Srinivasa Gowda and sanctioned ₹21.86 crore of home and property loans to 23 borrowers on fake papers.

Based on the complaint, the CBI has invoked various provisions of the Indian Pe-nal Code and the Prevention of Corruption Act against the accused persons.

Kanthan - the Lover of Colour bags top honours at Kerala film awards

Sudani from Nigeria chosen best movie for popular appeal

STAFF REPORTER
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Jayasurya in a still from Captain.

Kanthan - the Lover of Colour, directed by C. Sherief, which highlights an Adivasi struggle to protect the environment, has been chosen as the best film in the Kerala State film awards for the year 2018. Shyamaprasad won the award for best director for *Oru Njayarazhcha*, which also won the award for the second best film. *Sudani from Nigeria* won the award for the best film with popular appeal and aesthetic value. Zachariah won the award for the best debutant director for the same film.

Soubin Shahir and Jayasurya shared the award for the best actor (male). Jayasurya won the award for his performances as footballer V.P.

Sathyian in *Captain* and as a transgender person in *Njan Marykutty* while Soubin won the award for his moving performance as a football club manager in *Sudani from Nigeria*.

Nimisha Sajayan won the best actor (female) award for *Chola* and *Oru Kuprashidha Payyan*.

Juju George won the award for the best character actor (male) for his performance as a brooding police investigator in *Joseph* and for *Chola*. Savithri Sreedharan and Saraswati Baluserry, who together lighted up the screen as the mothers taking care of an injured foreign footballer in *Sudani from Nigeria*, shared the award for best character actor (female). *Carbon*, directed by Venu, was another big winner with six awards, most of them in the technical categories.

Vijay Yesudas was chosen as the best playback singer (male) for the song 'Poomuthole' from *Joseph* while Shreya Ghoshal won the best playback singer (female) award for 'Neermathala poovinullil' from *Aami*.

P. Avinash, 21. The girl sustained 70% burns and her condition is stated to be critical. She was admitted to MGM Hospital here initially and later shifted to a Hyderabad hospital.

A native of Ramachandrapuram village of Sangem

23 Months of Transformation

Effective Health Services

6 Cr. people get the benefit of Ayushman Scheme, Rs. 5 lakh per annum medical insurance cover.



- Work to set up 13 new Government Medical Colleges in progress.
- Chief Minister's Public Health Campaign to cover 55 lakh people, who are deprived of Ayushman Scheme.
- 110 Jan Aushadhi Centres set up in the first phase.
- Super Specialty Blocks constructed at Government Medical College, Prayagraj, Gorakhpur, Jhansi and Meerut.
- Under the Prime Minister's Matru Vandana Yojana, 11,14,720 mothers benefited.
- Conducted 150 Advance Life Support Ambulances pressed into service.
- 2,329 sub centres strengthened as health and wellness centres.
- 2,205 physicians posted in primary and community health centers.
- Action to open 50 beds Integrated Ayush Hospital in 10 districts.
- Over 4 crore 33 lakh children vaccinated under the Measles-Rubella campaign.

Vaccination of 34 lakh children under JE / AES in 38 districts.



Over 3 lakh children vaccinated under Mission Rainbow.

Construction of AIIMS in Gorakhpur and Rae Bareli.



घंटों का सफर मिनटों में सुखद आवागमन, पर्यटन एवं रोज़गार में वृद्धि

भारत सरकार की उड़ान-II योजना के अंतर्गत

प्रथम हेलीकॉप्टर सेवा का

सुरेश प्रभु

केंद्रीय नगर विमानन मंत्री,
भारत सरकार

जय राम ठाकुर

मुख्यमंत्री,
हिमाचल प्रदेश

शुभरंभ करेंगे।



स्थान : शिमला हवाई अड्डा, जुब्बडहड़ी

दिनांक : 28.02.2019, ग्रातः 11 बजे

ऑपरेटर : पवन हंस लिमिटेड

बुकिंग के लिए सम्पर्क करें :

www.pawanhans.co.in

निवादक : पर्यटन एवं नागरिक उड़ान विभाग, हिमाचल प्रदेश।



6 NATION

IN BRIEF



Jammu-Srinagar road opens after 3 days

The strategic Jammu-Srinagar National Highway was opened for stranded vehicles on Wednesday, three days after it was closed due to multiple landslides and sinking of its 25-metre portion following snowfall and rains, officials said. PTI

Two lynched by irate mob in Assam

GUWAHATI Two persons were lynched on Wednesday by an irate mob which held them responsible for the killing of a village headman in Assam's Chirang district, police said. The two men had allegedly killed the headman of Gargaon village under Bijni police station on Tuesday and had buried his body, the police said. PTI

Three killed as car rolls down a gorge in Mizoram

AIZAWL Three persons were killed and two others injured when a car, part of the entourage of Mizoram Home Minister Lalchamliana, rolled down a steep gorge in Lunglei district on Wednesday morning, police said. PTI

Youth held for posting fake photos of woman

BERHAMPUR A youth who had forced a woman to attempt ending her life by posting doctored photographs of her on social media was on Tuesday arrested by the police. The accused was identified as Sumit Patnaik.

Two tigers killed by another tiger in Kanha

MANDLA Two sub-adult tigers were found dead in Kanha national park and it is suspected they were killed by a fully grown tiger, an official said on Wednesday. An adult tiger was spotted sitting on the carcasses. PTI

WESTERN RAILWAY
PROCUREMENT OF FILTERS
Chief Engineer (TMC), Western Railway, HQ Office, Churchte, Mumbai-400020, invites e-Tender as per the details given as follows: e-Tender Notice No.: W641/22/8/66 DT. 26/02/2019. Name of the Work: Procurement of Different types of Filters for Track Machines. Approx. Cost : ₹ 18,34,232.12. EMD: ₹ 91,720/- Tenders Closing Date: 02/03/2019 upto 11.00 hrs. Tender Opening Date: 20/03/2019 at 11.15 hrs. Regarding detailed notice containing EMD, eligibility criteria, similar nature of work, detailed tender conditions, please visit www.ireps.gov.in. Manual offers will not be considered.

Like us on facebook.com/WesternRly

WESTERN RAILWAY
RENOVATION OF OPERATION THEATRE & CORRIDOR OF JRH
Divisional Railway Manager (WA), Western Railway, 6th Flor, Engg. Deptt, Mumbai Central, Mumbai-400088, invites E-tender as per details given as follows: Tender Notice No. : BCT/18/19/52. Dt. 25/02/2019. Work and Location : Mumbai Central: J.R. Hospital - Renovation of Operation Theatre 3.4,5,6 & 7 and Corridor 1,2 & 3. By Providing antibacterial / antifungal wall, floor and ceiling cladding at J.R. Hospital. Approx. Cost of Work : ₹ 14,25,237. EMD: ₹ 21,280/- Date and Time of Submission: On 02/04/2019 upto 15.00 hrs. Date and Time of Opening: On 02/04/2019 at 15.30 hrs. Regarding detailed nature of work, containing cost of tender document (Non-refundable). EMD, Eligibility Criteria, similar nature of work, detailed tender conditions, please visit www.ireps.gov.in. Manual offers will not be considered.

Like us on facebook.com/WesternRly

EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY
NOTICE INVITING TENDER
Tender Notice No. RE-DNR-Engg-Gr-176-WT-12 Dated: 25.02.2018
On behalf of the President of India, Chief Project Director, Railway Electrification, Danapur, invites open & sealed tender for the following work from experienced, financially and technically sound contractors, to be opened on 26.03.2019.

(1) Name of the work & its location : Left over works in OHE cum PSI Depot at Chopan and other miscellaneous work in connection with Railway Electrification of Garhwa-Chopan-Singrauli section in Gr. 176 in Dhanbad division of EC Rly. (2) Approximate cost of the work: ₹ 40,29,768.95/- (3) Earnest Money to be deposited : ₹ 80,600.00/- (4) Date for submission of the tender and opening of Tender : For submission: From 12.03.2019 to 15.00 Hours on 26.03.2019. Tender will be opened at 11.30 Hrs on 26.03.2019. (5) Website particulars, Notice board location where complete details of tender can be seen and address of the office from where the tender form can be purchased etc. : website www.ireps.gov.in / Notice board location & Add. of the office : Office of the Chief Project Director (Engg), Railway Electrification, Danapur, (Near Jagievan Stadium), PO-Khagaul, Patna-801105, (Bihar) Chief Project Director (Engg), Railway Electrification, Danapur (Near Jagievan Stadium), PO-Khagaul, Patna-801105, (Bihar) Chief Project Director (Engg), Railway Electrification, Danapur PR/1742/RE/Elec/T/18-19/44

Congress to bank on citizenship Bill to stop BJP in Northeast

Amit Shah has said that his party would bring the Bill again if voted to power

RAHUL KARMAKAR

GUWAHATI

The Congress would be banking on the sentiment against the Citizenship (Amendment) Bill, 2016 to stop the BJP from winning the 25 Lok Sabha seats across the eight States in the Northeast.

On February 17, less than a week after the Congress claimed to have stalled the Bill from being tabled in the Rajya Sabha, BJP president Amit Shah said that his party would bring it again if voted to power in the upcoming parliamentary polls.

"Only through manipulation can the BJP hope to win 21 out of 25 seats in the region. The Congress is the only hope for the people of the Northeast against the BJP's plan that will be disastrous for their culture, identity and tradition," Luizinho Fa-



A protest in Tripura against the citizenship Bill. ■ FILE PHOTO

leiro, Congress general secretary in-charge of Meghalaya, Tripura, Arunachal Pradesh and Mizoram, told media persons on Wednesday.

Unemployment crisis

Apart from the Bill, the Congress would also focus on the unemployment crisis in the

region as well as the rest of the country.

Mr. Faleiro ribbed the regional parties that are partners of BJP in the North East Democratic Platform, an anti-Congress forum otherwise labelled as a platform for developmental issues.

"The NEDA members can- not fool the people of the

Northeast with their opportunist politics. If they had any values left and if they were truly concerned about the cause of the people of the region, they would have resigned the very day Amit Shah announced that the BJP would bring back the Citizenship Bill if voted to pow-

er," Mr. Faleiro said.

NEDA members such as National People's Party had threatened to pull out of the forum as well as sever political ties with the BJP if it went ahead with the citizenship Bill. The Congress has eight Lok Sabha members from the Northeast, three from Assam which has a total 14 constituencies. The BJP too has eight seats while its NE-DPA partners have three. The other seats are held by All India United Democratic Front, the CPI(M) and an Independent.

Cong's last call to CPI(M) on seat sharing

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

KOLKATA

Miffed with the CPI(M), the West Bengal Congress on Wednesday said there will be no seat sharing with the CPI(M) by compromising party's dignity and gave an ultimatum to the Left Front to take a call on the tie-up by this Sunday.

The Congress convened a meeting of its State election committee, which was chaired by Congress in-charge of Bengal Gaurav Gogoi, to decide on election strategy for the upcoming Lok Sabha polls.

State Congress sources, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said it has been decided that chairman of the State co-ordination committee Pradip Bhattacharya and Leader of Opposition in the Assembly Abdul Mannan will speak to CPI(M) on the issue of the seat sharing and the matter should be sorted out by March 3.

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 Thursday: Thundersquall/thunderstorm accompanied with hailstorm/lightning/gusty winds likely at isolated places over sub-Himalayan West Bengal, Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram, Tripura, Assam, Meghalaya and coastal Andhra Pradesh

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	0.5...	24.0...	17.2	Kozhikode	—	35.8	26.4
Ahmedabad	—	29.5	17.3	Kurnool	—	38.5	23.7
Aizawl	3...	26.2	13.2	Lucknow	3...	20.9	13.8
Allahabad	0.3...	21.6	14.6	Madurai	—	38.7	23.7
Bengaluru	—	33.0	21.3	Mangaluru	—	34.4	21.8
Bhopal	0.4...	26.3	14.8	Mumbai	—	29.4	17.8
Bhubaneswar	—	32.8	23.0	Mysuru	—	34.0	20.3
Chandigarh	2.3...	18.2	10.1	New Delhi	—	20.0	9.5
Chennai	—	32.3	25.8	Patna	3...	27.8	15.7
Coimbatore	—	35.2	23.2	Port Blair	—	31.7	26.1
Dehradun	6.4...	15.4	9.3	Puducherry	—	33.0	25.0
Gangtok	—	9.4	6.7	Pune	—	30.6	12.0
Goa	—	31.8	19.4	Raipur	—	32.2	19.6
Guwahati	—	26.8	13.4	Ranchi	—	3	28.0
Hubballi	—	32.0	17.0	Shillong	—	17.6	7.6
Hyderabad	—	33.0	21.5	Shimla	4...	2.2	1.4
Imphal	—	22.5	10.8	Srinagar	—	9.6	1.9
Jaipur	0.2...	23.4	11.2	Trivandrum	—	34.5	26.0
Kochi	—	31.4	25.6	Tiruchi	—	37.7	25.2
Kohima	—	20.4	8.9	Vijayawada	—	34.5	23.0
Kolkata	55.2...	27.4	17.1	Visakhapatnam	—	31.5	24.8

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

Yesterday

CITIES	SO ₂	NO _x	CO	PM _{2.5}	PM ₁₀	CODE
Ahmedabad	37	61	32	110	—	■
Bengaluru	6	64	55	82	104	■
Chennai	7	13	38	79	—	■
Delhi	9	54	162	56	62	■
Hyderabad	40	97	30	142	141	■
Kolkata	3	64	39	33	28	■
Lucknow	18	42	59	259	—	■
Mumbai	10	25	71	38	102	■
Pune	33	16	94	79	122	■
Visakhapatnam	—	—	—	—	—	—

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 air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

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

On the job for women's quota'

Odisha CM Naveen praises their efforts for development



Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik.

WSHG groups from different blocks and urban areas of Rayagada district attended the convention.

KALIA scheme

The Chief Minister said 10 lakh more farmers will be added to the list of beneficiaries under the Krushak Assistance for Livelihood and Income Augmentation or KALIA scheme.

He alleged that some elements were spreading rumours that the scheme may be stopped. "No one can stop KALIA scheme," he said. The second phase of payments of the scheme will start from April 1.

Thousands of members of

Two alleged JMB men nabbed in Bengal

Arrests follow another catch recently

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

KOLKATA

In a major breakthrough, the Special Task Force of the Kolkata police on Wednesday arrested two alleged operatives of the banned Jamaat-ul-Mujahideen

Bangladesh (JMB) from Murshidabad in West Bengal.

Those arrested have been identified as Moshibur Rahman (35) alias Farooque and Ruhul Amin alias Saifullah (26). Senior STF officers said that both the accused are associates of Kauser and Sajjad, the two accused in the Burdwan blast case of 2014,

which was carried out by the

THE HINDU

LET US KNOW YOU BETTER

IN BRIEF



Reservation charts to be posted on IRCTC site

NEW DELHI The Railways on Wednesday said that reservation charts for all trains would now be made public on the IRCTC website. This would enable passengers to get information about vacant seats available on a train after chart preparation.

Govt. brings 42 cancer drugs under price control

NEW DELHI Forty-two non-scheduled anti-cancer drugs have been brought under price control on Wednesday, capping trade margin at 30% with the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority invoking extraordinary powers in public interest under paragraph 19 of the Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 2013.

ED questions Vadra in money laundering case

NEW DELHI Robert Vadra, brother-in-law of Congress president Rahul Gandhi, on Wednesday appeared before the Enforcement Directorate for questioning for the seventh time in connection with its probe into a money laundering case. The case relates to the ownership of overseas assets worth £1.9 million in London by Mr. Vadra. IANS

Jagan shifts base to Amaravati

AMARAVATI YSR Congress Party president Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy would start operating from the Capital having shifted his house and party office from Hyderabad on Wednesday. Party leaders hailed him for being the first leader of a major political party of Andhra to move into his own residence in the new Capital.

Special purpose vehicle to improve infrastructure in Sabarimala

The company will be a government-owned entity

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The Kerala government is setting up a special purpose vehicle (SPV) to improve infrastructure and pilgrim facilities under the Sabarimala master plan.

The Cabinet on Wednesday decided to set up the company as a government-owned entity to improve the facilities at Sabarimala, Pampam, Nilakkal and transit camps for pilgrims.

The no-profit company would use the budgetary allocation and funds allotted by the Kerala Infrastructure Investment Fund Board (KIIFB) to complete the development activities at Sabarimala in a time-bound manner.

The SPV would have a governing body chaired by the Chief Secretary, with Secre-

'Prove police officer tampered with call data'

SC pulls up CBI for not giving enough material against former Kolkata police chief

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

All this happened in June 2018. What stopped you (CBI) from coming to the Supreme Court? Why are you coming in February 2019 saying all this? If this has happened in June, what were you doing all this while?

— RANJAN GOGOI, Chief Justice of India



the Police Commissioner to provide false information," the court held in its order.

Chief Justice Gogoi said the court was not satisfied with the material placed before it by the CBI against Mr. Kumar. It asked why the CBI had waited till February to tell the Supreme Court that Mr. Kumar tampered with the CDRs. "If the Commissioner has done this, it is very serious," Chief Justice Gogoi observed.

The call records were handed over by Mr. Kumar to the CBI on June 28 last year. He was the functional head of the Special Investigation Team which probed the ponzi scams before the Supreme Court handed over the investigation to the CBI in May 2014. The agency alleged that the Kumar-led SIT used both inaction and selective action to shield police and chit fund nexus.

"All this happened in June 2018. What stopped you (CBI) from coming to the Su-

preme Court? Why are you coming in February 2019 saying all this? If this has happened in June, what were you doing all this while," Chief Justice Gogoi asked Mr. Venugopal, who represents the CBI.

Mr. Venugopal said the call records handed over by Mr. Kumar were sent for analysis on July 12, 2018.

"But the service provider told us that we need to get permission from the Ministry of Home Affairs. We got permission from the Ministry in November," Mr. Venugopal explained the delay. Further, the top law officer said Mr. Kumar failed to respond to repeated summons from the CBI to explain the incorrect CDRs. Mr. Venugopal submitted that Mr. Kumar was summoned twice in October 2017 and once in July 2018. He had never bothered to come.

In its application, the Centre said the claims of lakhs of forest-dwelling STs and other traditional forest dwellers had been rejected by the States without observing due process of law.

Referring to its letter of September 12, 2014, which speaks of the various injustices meted out to the tribal populations and forest dwellers in States hit by left wing extremism, the Centre said such States also have high tribal populations.

Low on awareness

The forest land claims of these tribes and forest dwellers, who live off the forest, are mostly rejected by the States. Being poor and illiterate people who live in remote areas, they do not know the appropriate procedure for filing claims, the government submitted.

The gram sabhas, which initiate the verification of their claims, are low on awareness about how to deal with these claims and rejec-

tion orders are not even communicated to the forest-dwelling STs and communities.

The Centre said the 2014 letter had not produced any change on the ground and had been followed by a series of letters in 2015 highlighting issues like "high rate of rejection of claims, non-communication of rejection order, unrealistic timelines in deciding claims, irregular holding of State Level Monitoring Committee meetings, lack of support from the district administration concerned in providing revenue or forest maps, rejection of claims despite incomplete or insufficient evidence, etc.

"It was requested that technology such as satellite imagery may be used for consideration of claims," the

Centre had suggested to the States in one of the letters.

But no efforts seem to have been taken by the State governments to remedy the situation to effectively implement the 2006 Act, the Centre indicated.

It is uncertain whether the data furnished by the State governments accurately indicates whether the rejection orders were passed after observance of due process of law; compliance with principles of natural justice and whether appeal mechanisms have been properly exhausted. Without such information and compliance with the mandate of law in letter and spirit, the eviction of such tribals, would amount to serious miscarriage of justice," the Centre argued.

White wash



People enjoying a walk during snowfall in Shimla on Wednesday. ■ PTI

Modifying forest dwellers' eviction order: Centre

'States rejected claims without observing due process of law'

KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL

NEW DELHI

The Centre filed an application on Wednesday urging the Supreme Court to modify its February 13 order directing the eviction of thousands of Scheduled Tribes (STs) and other traditional forest dwellers whose claims for forest land rights have been rejected under the Forest Rights Act of 2006.

Solicitor General Tushar Mehta made an urgent oral mention of the applications before the Bench led by Justice Arun Mishra, which had passed the February 13 order.

The Bench agreed to hear the case on February 28.

In its application, the Centre said the claims of lakhs of forest-dwelling STs and other traditional forest dwellers had been rejected by the States without observing due process of law.

Referring to its letter of September 12, 2014, which speaks of the various injustices meted out to the tribal populations and forest dwellers in States hit by left wing extremism, the Centre said such States also have high tribal populations.

The forest land claims of these tribes and forest dwellers, who live off the forest, are mostly rejected by the States. Being poor and illiterate people who live in remote areas, they do not know the appropriate procedure for filing claims, the government submitted.

The gram sabhas, which initiate the verification of their claims, are low on awareness about how to deal with these claims and rejec-

tion orders are not even communicated to the forest-dwelling STs and communities.

The Centre said the 2014 letter had not produced any change on the ground and had been followed by a series of letters in 2015 highlighting issues like "high rate of rejection of claims, non-communication of rejection order, unrealistic timelines in deciding claims, irregular holding of State Level Monitoring Committee meetings, lack of support from the district administration concerned in providing revenue or forest maps, rejection of claims despite incomplete or insufficient evidence, etc.

"It was requested that technology such as satellite imagery may be used for consideration of claims," the

Centre had suggested to the States in one of the letters.

But no efforts seem to have been taken by the State governments to remedy the situation to effectively implement the 2006 Act, the Centre indicated.

It is uncertain whether the data furnished by the State governments accurately indicates whether the rejection orders were passed after observance of due process of law; compliance with principles of natural justice and whether appeal mechanisms have been properly exhausted. Without such information and compliance with the mandate of law in letter and spirit, the eviction of such tribals, would amount to serious miscarriage of justice," the Centre argued.

Centre had suggested to the States in one of the letters.

But no efforts seem to have been taken by the State governments to remedy the situation to effectively implement the 2006 Act, the Centre indicated.

It is uncertain whether the data furnished by the State governments accurately indicates whether the rejection orders were passed after observance of due process of law; compliance with principles of natural justice and whether appeal mechanisms have been properly exhausted. Without such information and compliance with the mandate of law in letter and spirit, the eviction of such tribals, would amount to serious miscarriage of justice," the Centre argued.

Centre had suggested to the States in one of the letters.

But no efforts seem to have been taken by the State governments to remedy the situation to effectively implement the 2006 Act, the Centre indicated.

It is uncertain whether the data furnished by the State governments accurately indicates whether the rejection orders were passed after observance of due process of law; compliance with principles of natural justice and whether appeal mechanisms have been properly exhausted. Without such information and compliance with the mandate of law in letter and spirit, the eviction of such tribals, would amount to serious miscarriage of justice," the Centre argued.

Centre had suggested to the States in one of the letters.

But no efforts seem to have been taken by the State governments to remedy the situation to effectively implement the 2006 Act, the Centre indicated.

It is uncertain whether the data furnished by the State governments accurately indicates whether the rejection orders were passed after observance of due process of law; compliance with principles of natural justice and whether appeal mechanisms have been properly exhausted. Without such information and compliance with the mandate of law in letter and spirit, the eviction of such tribals, would amount to serious miscarriage of justice," the Centre argued.

Centre had suggested to the States in one of the letters.

But no efforts seem to have been taken by the State governments to remedy the situation to effectively implement the 2006 Act, the Centre indicated.

It is uncertain whether the data furnished by the State governments accurately indicates whether the rejection orders were passed after observance of due process of law; compliance with principles of natural justice and whether appeal mechanisms have been properly exhausted. Without such information and compliance with the mandate of law in letter and spirit, the eviction of such tribals, would amount to serious miscarriage of justice," the Centre argued.

Centre had suggested to the States in one of the letters.

But no efforts seem to have been taken by the State governments to remedy the situation to effectively implement the 2006 Act, the Centre indicated.

It is uncertain whether the data furnished by the State governments accurately indicates whether the rejection orders were passed after observance of due process of law; compliance with principles of natural justice and whether appeal mechanisms have been properly exhausted. Without such information and compliance with the mandate of law in letter and spirit, the eviction of such tribals, would amount to serious miscarriage of justice," the Centre argued.

Centre had suggested to the States in one of the letters.

But no efforts seem to have been taken by the State governments to remedy the situation to effectively implement the 2006 Act, the Centre indicated.

It is uncertain whether the data furnished by the State governments accurately indicates whether the rejection orders were passed after observance of due process of law; compliance with principles of natural justice and whether appeal mechanisms have been properly exhausted. Without such information and compliance with the mandate of law in letter and spirit, the eviction of such tribals, would amount to serious miscarriage of justice," the Centre argued.

Centre had suggested to the States in one of the letters.

But no efforts seem to have been taken by the State governments to remedy the situation to effectively implement the 2006 Act, the Centre indicated.

It is uncertain whether the data furnished by the State governments accurately indicates whether the rejection orders were passed after observance of due process of law; compliance with principles of natural justice and whether appeal mechanisms have been properly exhausted. Without such information and compliance with the mandate of law in letter and spirit, the eviction of such tribals, would amount to serious miscarriage of justice," the Centre argued.

Centre had suggested to the States in one of the letters.

But no efforts seem to have been taken by the State governments to remedy the situation to effectively implement the 2006 Act, the Centre indicated.

It is uncertain whether the data furnished by the State governments accurately indicates whether the rejection orders were passed after observance of due process of law; compliance with principles of natural justice and whether appeal mechanisms have been properly exhausted. Without such information and compliance with the mandate of law in letter and spirit, the eviction of such tribals, would amount to serious miscarriage of justice," the Centre argued.

Centre had suggested to the States in one of the letters.

But no efforts seem to have been taken by the State governments to remedy the situation to effectively implement the 2006 Act, the Centre indicated.

It is uncertain whether the data furnished by the State governments accurately indicates whether the rejection orders were passed after observance of due process of law; compliance with principles of natural justice and whether appeal mechanisms have been properly exhausted. Without such information and compliance with the mandate of law in letter and spirit, the eviction of such tribals, would amount to serious miscarriage of justice," the Centre argued.

Centre had suggested to the States in one of the letters.

But no efforts seem to have been taken by the State governments to remedy the situation to effectively implement the 2006 Act, the Centre indicated.

It is uncertain whether the data furnished by the State governments accurately indicates whether the rejection orders were passed after observance of due process of law; compliance with principles of natural justice and whether appeal mechanisms have been properly exhausted. Without such information and compliance with the mandate of law in letter and spirit, the eviction of such tribals, would amount to serious miscarriage of justice," the Centre argued.

Centre had suggested to the States in one of the letters.

But no efforts seem to have been taken by the State governments to remedy the situation to effectively implement the 2006 Act, the Centre indicated.

It is uncertain whether the data furnished by the State governments accurately indicates whether the rejection orders were passed after observance of due process of law; compliance with principles of natural justice and whether appeal mechanisms have been properly exhausted. Without such information and compliance with the mandate of law in letter and spirit, the eviction of such tribals, would amount to serious miscarriage of justice," the Centre argued.

Centre had suggested to the States in one of the letters.

But no efforts seem to have been taken by the State governments to remedy the situation to effectively implement the 2006 Act, the Centre indicated.

It is uncertain whether the data furnished by the State governments accurately indicates whether the rejection orders were passed after observance of due process of law; compliance with principles of natural justice and whether appeal mechanisms have been properly exhausted. Without such information and compliance with the mandate of law in letter and spirit, the eviction of such tribals, would amount to serious miscarriage of justice," the Centre argued.

Centre had suggested to the States in one of the letters.

But no efforts seem to have been taken by the State governments to remedy the situation to effectively implement the 2006 Act, the Centre indicated.

It is uncertain whether the data furnished by the State governments accurately indicates whether the rejection orders were passed after observance of due process of law; compliance with principles of natural justice and whether appeal mechanisms have been properly exhausted. Without such information and compliance with the mandate of law in letter and spirit, the eviction of such tribals, would amount to serious miscarriage of justice," the Centre argued.

Centre had suggested to the States in one of the letters.

But no efforts seem to have been taken by the State governments to remedy the situation to effectively implement the 2006 Act, the Centre indicated.

It is uncertain whether the data furnished by the State governments accurately indicates whether the rejection orders were passed after observance of due process of law; compliance with principles of natural justice and whether appeal mechanisms have been properly exhausted. Without such information and compliance with the mandate of law in letter and spirit, the eviction of such tribals, would amount to serious miscarriage of justice," the Centre argued.

Centre had suggested to the States in one of the letters.

But no efforts seem to have been taken by the State governments to remedy the situation to effectively implement the 2006 Act, the Centre indicated.

It is uncertain whether the data furnished by the State governments accurately indicates whether the rejection orders were passed after observance of due process of law; compliance with principles of natural justice and whether appeal mechanisms have been properly exhausted. Without such information and compliance with the mandate of law in letter and spirit, the eviction of such tribals, would amount to serious miscarriage of justice," the Centre argued.

Centre had suggested to the States in one of the letters.

But no efforts seem to have been taken by the State governments to remedy the situation to effectively implement the 2006 Act, the Centre indicated.

It is uncertain whether the data furnished by the State governments accurately indicates whether the rejection orders were passed after observance of due process of law; compliance with principles of natural justice and whether appeal mechanisms have been properly exhausted. Without such information and compliance with the mandate of law in letter and spirit, the eviction of such tribals, would amount to serious miscarriage of justice," the Centre argued.

Centre had suggested to the States in one of the letters.

But no efforts seem to have been taken by the State governments to remedy the situation to effectively implement the 2006 Act, the Centre indicated.

It is uncertain whether the data furnished by the State governments accurately indicates whether the rejection orders were passed after observance of due process of law; compliance with principles of natural justice and whether appeal mechanisms



Calming Arunachal

The polity must foster a civic consciousness to allow equality of opportunity for all residents

The Bharatiya Janata Party-led government in Itanagar has decided not to act on the recommendations of a Joint High Power Committee granting permanent resident certificates (PRCs) to non-Arunachal Pradesh Scheduled Tribes of Namsai and Changlang districts. This decision follows violence in Itanagar, which included arson attacks on the residence of the Deputy Chief Minister. The government took this step to de-escalate tensions despite the fact that both mainstream parties, the Congress and the BJP, were on the same page on the demand to grant the PRCs. The non-APSTs include the Deoris, Sonowal Kacharis, Morsans, Mishings, Adivasis and ex-servicemen belonging to the Gorkha community. Successive governments and members of these communities have said PRCs are needed to avail of job and educational opportunities elsewhere in the country, and currently the 26 tribes and numerous sub-tribes who claim to be native to Arunachal Pradesh enjoy this privilege. Members of some of the non-APST communities have been long-time residents of the reconstituted State, and to term them as "outsiders" reflects a chauvinistic mindset that denies a just demand. Previous governments, including one led by the Congress in 2010, had also buckled under pressure on the issue. The indigenous tribes opposing the move say this is one step away from providing Scheduled Tribe status for the non-APSTs, which they vociferously oppose. While this fear is overblown, the award of PRCs could ensure land rights that are otherwise denied to the non-APSTs.

The fact that the opposition to the demand took such a violent turn could be linked to a retaliation to attempts by the members of the non-APSTs to enforce an "economic blockade" of the State from the neighbouring parts of Assam last month. But these incidents suggest that barely any northeastern State is today free of the pattern of ethnic discord marked by some communities being branded "outsiders" and sought to be denied resident privileges. These include the Chakma issue in Mizoram, the hill versus valley disturbances in Manipur, the longstanding "migration" issue in Assam, the attacks on Sikh residents in Meghalaya, and even the Chakma/Hajong citizenship issue in Arunachal Pradesh itself. The pattern through all these is eerily similar, with ethnic identities trumping civic consciousness in bringing about discord that has even escalated into violence in some cases. Arunachal Pradesh has otherwise remained a peaceful State, and it is incumbent on the government and the polity to foster a civic consciousness that allows equality of opportunity for all residents in the State. This is a difficult task as identity issues persist and fester when there is inadequate economic development - which is the real bane of the Northeast today.

Buhari's return

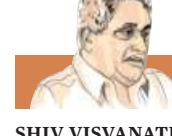
The Nigerian President's re-election has raised hopes for economic reform

In handing President Muhammadu Buhari a huge overall margin in the polls, Nigeria has plumped for political continuity. In an election that had been postponed by a week, the anti-corruption crusader romped home with enough votes to avoid a run-off. In what had been set up as a close contest, Mr. Buhari, who heads the ruling All Progressives Congress, beat former vice-president Atiku Abubakar by about four million votes. The rumblings in the Opposition about vote-rigging by the ruling party may continue to be heard for a while, given the widespread delays and irregularities at polling booths, apart from incidents of violence and several fatalities. But some poll observers believe that the Opposition's claims are not backed by sufficient proof to make them legally sustainable. The question now is whether Mr. Buhari can convert his convincing mandate for a second term into policies that can boost investment and growth, generate jobs and narrow inequalities. The challenge of unemployment, at over 20% according to official figures, is made more formidable by the rapid increase in the working-age population. The prospects for change hinge on whether Mr. Buhari can live down his reputation as an old-fashioned interventionist leader and open the economy to competition. A test case of that makeover would be the passage of oil sector reform legislation aimed at the privatisation of the state-owned petroleum firm. Mr. Buhari's record in countering the Islamist Boko Haram in the north of the country and the conflict between herdsmen and farmers in the central region remain unfinished business. On the external front, of particular interest to investors would be the new Nigerian government's stance on joining the African free-trade agreement. Equally crucial would be Abuja's backing for Morocco's membership of the Economic Community of West African States, the 15-nation trading bloc.

Exactly 20 years since the country returned to democratic rule in 1999, Nigerians have decisively left behind the uncertainties of repeated military coups that marred their immediate post-colonial history. Equally significant, recent elections suggest limited progress in the conduct of transparent elections compared to the previous decade. But the postponement of the poll by a week, just hours before voters were to cast their ballot, did not inspire confidence. In 2015, the delay was as much as six weeks. Moreover, the large number of poll-related deaths in the last few days points to a disturbing absence of official accountability. A peaceful election is one of the crucial indicators of a credible transfer of power through the ballot. Calm must return in Abuja and the ruling party and the Opposition have a duty to respect the rule of law. Among sub-Saharan Africa's largest countries, Nigeria should strive to clean up its act.

Think like a civilisation

The biggest casualty of unquestioning enthusiasm for war is democracy and rational thought



SHIV VISVANATHAN

This essay is a piece of dissent at a time when dissent may not be welcome. It is an attempt to look at what I call the Pulwama syndrome, after India's bombing of terrorist camps in Pakistan. There is an air of achievement and competence, a feeling that we have given a fitting reply to Pakistan. Newspapers have in unison supported the government, and citizens, from actors to cricketers, have been content in stating their loyalty, literally issuing certificates to the government. Yet watching all this, I feel a deep sense of unease, a feeling that India is celebrating a moment which needs to be located in a different context.

Peace needs courage

It reminded me of something that happened when I was in school. I had just come back from a war movie featuring Winston Churchill. I came back home excitedly and told my father about Churchill. He smiled sadly and said, "Churchill was a bully. He was not fit to touch Gandhi's chappals." He then added thoughtfully that "war creates a schoolboy loyalty, half boy scout, half mob", which becomes epidemic. "Peace," he said, "demands a courage few men have." I still remember these lines, and I realised their relevance for the events this week.

One sees an instant unity which is almost miraculous. This sense of unity does not tolerate difference.

People take loyalty literally and become paranoid. Crowds attack a long-standing bakery to remove the word 'Karachi' from its signage. War becomes an evangelical issue as each man desperately competes to prove his loyalty. Doubt and dissent become impossible, rationality is rare, and pluralism a remote possibility. There is a sense of solidarity with the ruling regime which is surreal. Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who was encumbered with doubts a week before, appears like an untarnished hero. Even the cynicism around these attitudes is ignored. One watches with indifference as Bharatiya Janata Party president Amit Shah virtually claims that security and war are part of his vote bank.

Thought becomes a casualty as people conflate terms such as Kashmiri, Pakistani and Muslim while threatening citizens peacefully pursuing their livelihood. One watches aghast as India turns war into a feud, indifferent to a wider conflagration. The whole country lives from event to event and TV becomes hysterical, not knowing the difference between war and cricket. It is a moment when we congratulate ourselves as a nation, forgetting that we are also a civilisation. In this movement of drum-beating, where jingoism as patriotism is the order of the day, a dissenting voice is not welcome. But dissent demands that one faces one's fellow citizens with probably more courage than one needs to face the enemy. How does one begin a conversation, create a space for a more critical perspective?

What war feels like

Sadly, India as a country has not experienced war as a totality, un-



like Europe or other countries in Asia such as Vietnam or Afghanistan. War has always been an activity at the border. It did not engulf our lives the way World War II corroded Germany or Russia. War is a trauma few nibble at in India. When our leaders talk even of surgical strikes, one is not quite sure whether they know the difference between Haldighati or modern war. They seem like actors enacting an outdated play. In fact, one wonders whether India as a society has thought through the idea of war. We talk of war as if it is a problem of traffic control. Our strategists, our international relations experts fetishise security and patriotism. The aridity of the idea of security has done more damage to freedom and democracy than any other modern concept. Security as an official concept needs a genocidal count, an accounting of the number of lives and bodies destroyed in pursuing its logic. The tom-tomming of such words in a bandwagon society destroys the power and pluralism of the idea of India as a society and a democracy.

The biggest casualty of such enthusiasm for war is democracy and rational thought. Our leaders know that the minute we create a demonology around Pakistan, we cease to think rationally or crea-

tively about our own behaviour in Kashmir. We can talk with ease about Pakistani belligerency, about militarism in Pakistan, but we refuse to reflect on our own brutality in Kashmir or Manipur. At a time when the Berlin Wall appears like a distant nightmare and Ulster begins appearing normal, should not India as a creative democracy ask, why is there a state of internal war in Kashmir and the Northeast for decades? Why is it we do not have the moral leadership to challenge Pakistan to engage in peace? Why is it that we as a nation think we are a democracy when internal war and majoritarian mobs are eating into the core of our civilisation? Where does India stand in its vision of the civility of internationalism which we articulated through Panchsheel? Because Pakistan behaves as a rogue state, should we abandon the civilisational dream of a Mohandas Gandhi or an Abdul Ghaffar Khan?

Even if we think strategically, we are losers. Strategy today has been appropriated by the machismo of militarism and management. It has become a term without ethics or values. Strategy, unlike tactics, is a long-range term. It summons a value framework in any decent society. Sadly, strategy shows that India is moving into a geopolitical trap where China, which treats Pakistan as a vassal state, is the prime beneficiary of Pulwama. The Chinese as a society and a regime would be content to see an authoritarian India militarised, sans its greatest achievement which is democracy. What I wish to argue is that strategy also belongs to the perspectives of peace, and it is precisely as a democracy and as a peace-loving nation that we should out-think and outflank

China. Peace is not an effeminate challenge to the machismo of the national security state as idol but a civilisational response to the easy brutality of the nation state.

Dissent as survival

In debating with our fellow citizens, we have to show through a Gandhian mode that our sense of Swadeshi and Swaraj is no less. Peace has responsibilities which an arid sense of patriotism may not have. Yet we are condemned to conversation, to dialogue, to arguments, persuading those who are sceptical about the very integrity of our being. Dissent becomes an act of both survival and creative caring at this moment. One must realise that India as a civilisation has given the world some of its most creative concepts of peace, inspired by Buddha, Nanak, Kabir, Ghaffar Khan and Gandhi. The challenge before peacemaking is to use these visions creatively in a world which takes nuclear war and genocide for granted. Here civil society, the ashram and the university must help create that neighbourhood of ideas, the civics that peace demands to go beyond the current imaginaries of the nation state.

Our peace is a testimony and testament to a society that must return to its civilisational values. It is an appeal to the dreams of the satyagrahi and a realisation that peace needs ideas, ideals and experiments to challenge the current hegemony of the nation state. India as a civilisation cannot do otherwise.

Shiv Visvanathan is an academic associated with the Compost Heap, a group in pursuit of alternative ideas and imagination

Tailing a virus

The Zika outbreak response should not end when an outbreak ends



PRIYANKA PULLA

It is a time of peace and quiet for India on the Zika front. Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan, which saw large outbreaks late last year, stopped seeing new cases before the year end. For health authorities, the temptation may be to consider the threat past, and move on to more pressing concerns, like the large number of H1N1 influenza cases this year. The truth, however, is that this is an excellent time to study Zika epidemiology in India. Public health officials must do this while disseminating data quickly and transparently, so that it can be analysed by the global scientific community. This is in India's best interests.

All strains can hurt

What are the data that health authorities should be collecting? First, they must leave no stone unturned in following up on every pregnant woman who was diagnosed Zika positive in Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh. When the epidemics began, there were worrying indications that Central and State health officials were downplaying the risk to pregnant women. Even though there is no evidence conclusively linking a particular viral strain or mutation with foetal anomalies, the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) said the Rajasthan strain did not have the S139N mu-

tation linked to microcephaly.

This is incorrect. Even though microcephaly was first observed as a consequence of Zika during the 2015 Brazilian epidemic, strains other than the Brazilian strain, which do not have the S139N mutation, have been linked with the abnormality. For example, in 2017, when the virus from a foetus with microcephaly in Thailand was sequenced, it did not have the S139N mutation. Researchers also showed that a 1966 Malaysian virus strain - isolated long before Zika was seen to cause microcephaly in Brazil - was effective at infecting foetal mouse brains as the Brazilian one. In another 2017 study, published in *Development*, a strain from the African virus lineage, which was hitherto not thought to cause microcephaly, was seen to be more damaging to mouse brains than the Asian lineage (to which the Brazilian strain belongs). Given this research, we must assume that all Zika strains can cause microcephaly.

If this is the case, why did the link between microcephaly and Zika become evident only in the 2015 Latin American epidemic? Prior to this, numerous outbreaks had occurred in Southeast Asia. Yet, no one picked up on this phenomenon. Scientists have proposed several explanations for this mystery. One is that Zika has always caused microcephaly, although the link became obvious only in Brazil because so many people were infected. Another possibility is that poverty and malnutrition worsen the progression of the disease in pregnant women. This



would explain why northeast Brazil, with its widespread poverty, was the most severely affected by microcephaly. Scientists are also probing whether simultaneous infection with dengue or chikungunya make the children of Zika-infected women more prone to foetal anomalies. Two studies published earlier this year show conflicting evidence for the role of dengue. The first, published in *Immunity*, showed that in mice, the presence of dengue antibodies led to more placental damage and restricted foetal growth due to Zika. Another study in *Science* showed that people infected by dengue were protected against Zika during an outbreak in Salvador, Brazil.

Given this conflicting evidence, scientists are very far from understanding what makes Zika deadly to foetuses. This means that any data on how the pregnancies of Zika-infected women pan out in India can be enlightening. Careful studies must be carried out to see if there is increased prevalence of microcephaly, and to understand the risk-factors. Already, the TORCH (Toxoplasmosis, Other, Rubella, Cytomegalovirus, and Herpes) infections are known to

cause foetal abnormalities, including microcephaly, among newborns. Wherever women are screened for TORCH, they must also be screened for Zika.

It's also important to remember that the Zika risk doesn't end after the baby is born healthy. The experience of Latin America showed that even healthy newborns can go on to develop symptoms later. This has led to estimates of the incidence of birth defects being revised upwards.

Herd immunity

The other important bit of actionable information that health authorities can and should gather concerns population immunity. To study immunity, authorities must conduct seroprevalence surveys, in which they screen people in several States for antibodies to zika. Many Indians could well have such antibodies, which means they are protected to some extent. The reason they are likely to have antibodies is because the Rajasthan outbreak virus was around in the State since at least 2016. Moreover, as a recent paper by researchers from the National Institute of Virology revealed, the Rajasthan strain is endemic to Asia, which means it could have been in India for decades now. Still, exposure to the virus does not guarantee a lifetime of protection. So, seroprevalence surveys are needed to identify pockets of low immunity in India. Health authorities can then focus their efforts on these regions, because they would be most vulnerable to future outbreaks.

It is true that seroprevalence studies are not easy to do, given

the cross-reactivity that plagues flaviviruses. The Enzyme-linked immunosorbent Assay (ELISA), which is commonly used in seroprevalence studies to detect antibodies, can throw up false positives for Zika if a person has dengue antibodies. This is because dengue antibodies can neutralise Zika and vice versa.

Separating dengue from Zika The good news is that researchers are working to develop alternative tests that are specific to Zika alone. One multinational team, including Swiss firm Humabs BioMed, has developed an ELISA test that is able to distinguish Zika from dengue. The test was used in a survey at Managua, Nicaragua after a large epidemic hit the city in 2016. It found that in 2017, 56% of tested adults had antibodies to Zika, suggesting that the city wouldn't see another large epidemic in the near future. India should consider doing such surveys too.

The outbreaks in Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh have seemingly ended, which is good news. But given that the virus is already in these States, and these States have well connected transportation links, there is reason to expect future outbreaks when the mosquito season begins again. Outbreak response should not end when an outbreak ends, because that is when efforts to contain the next epidemic begin. If India is lucky, the next epidemic will not be a big one. But it is not an assumption that health authorities should make.

priyanka.pulla@thehindu.co.in

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Letters emailed to letters@thehindu.co.in must carry the full postal address and the full name or the name with initials.

India's response

In the wake of the Pulwama incident, the response from India has left Pakistan isolated on every possible front (Page 1, "India bombs Jaish camp in Pakistan's Balakot" and "India gets support from Australia, France", both February 27).

Economically it is on the verge of collapse. Therefore it is bound to follow its old tactic, of proxy war, by instigating elements in Jammu and Kashmir and existing modules in India. Now that the first step, of airstrikes, has been taken, India must strengthen its intelligence infrastructure so that we are prepared for the underhand tactics of Pakistan.

ASHISH KUMAR,
Lakhimpur Kheri, Uttar Pradesh

■ While many are upbeat after the Pulwama incident, we should not play down the circumstances which led to the situation in Jammu and Kashmir. There are some questions which need immediate answers: what was the source of the explosives used in the Pulwama attack? Why has the government been unable to stop the alienation of youth in the Valley? Unless the government tries to address the flaws in its Jammu and Kashmir policy, ending extremism will remain a pipe dream.

VIMAL VASUDEVAN,
Alathur, Palakkad, Kerala

■ If Indian intelligence services had drawn flak for the security lapses in the wake of the Pulwama attack,

they have more than made up for it with the precision air strikes against terror elements in Pakistan. Amid speculation of the crisis escalating into another mutually destructive war, India, by virtue of being the larger country and a robust democracy, must agree to talks to defuse the tension in the subcontinent.

NALINI VIJAYARAGHAVAN,
Thiruvananthapuram

■ India's pre-dawn air strike should not lead to triumphalism or chest-thumping. Pakistan has captured an Indian pilot. In the current highly volatile situation, it is important to ensure that the situation - with the electronic media having a field day - does not escalate into war.

In a conventional war,

Pakistan cannot match India's forces. The consequences of the use of the nuclear arsenal would be too catastrophic to bear thinking about. The UN, the U.S., Russia, China and others should impress on India and Pakistan, which are home to a sixth of the world's population, the need to defuse the tension. Voices urging restraint and peace over belligerence and war should not be dubbed unpatriotic and drowned in the din of hyper-nationalism.

G. DAVID MILTON,
Maruthancode, Tamil Nadu

■ It is no surprise that a rogue nation like Pakistan would retaliate. However, it is disheartening that one of India's fighter pilots has been taken into custody by Pakistan. The entire nation is

behind him and wants his safe return. India should act strongly, exploring all options, against Pakistan.

SREERAG RAMAN SREENIVASAN,
Thiruvananthapuram

Dogs under check

No doubt every living creature has the right to space but people who support community dogs should ask themselves how they would feel if they are chased and bitten by a

CORRECTIONS & CLARIFICATIONS:

The second deck headline that accompanied the report, "BJP spokespersons stress pre-emptive focus of strikes" (Feb. 27, 2019), erroneously said that the party MPs had been asked to stick to government line. Actually it was the *spokespersons* who had been asked to adhere to the government's line.

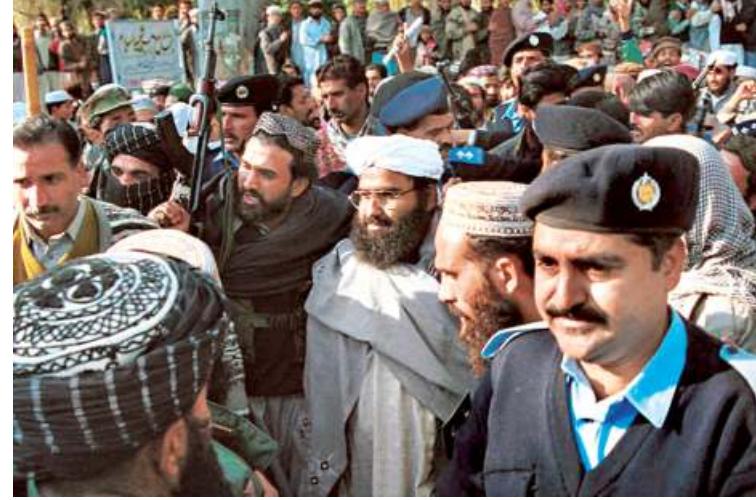
It is the policy of The Hindu to correct significant errors as soon as possible. Please specify the edition (place of publication), date and page. The Readers' Editor's office can be contacted by Telephone: +91-44-28418297/28576300 (11 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday to Friday); Fax: +91-44-28552963; E-mail: readerseditor@thehindu.co.in; Mail: Readers' Editor, The Hindu, Kasturi Buildings, 859 &

The vexatious question of Masood Azhar

India can take up its fight against terrorism at the United Nations Security Council in various ways



CHINMAYA R. GHAREKHAN



"The only consequence of naming Masood Azhar as a global terrorist is that he cannot travel to other countries and his funds in foreign accounts will get frozen." A file photo of the JeM chief in Islamabad, Pakistan. ■ AP

The UN Security Council adopted a statement on February 21 condemning the Pulwama terrorist attack of February 14, for which the Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM) took responsibility. India is applauding this development and it should. A lot of diplomatic effort had gone into achieving this result. But this statement should be looked at with a proper perspective.

Hierarchy of actions

Some media organisations and analysts have mistakenly described the Council as having adopted a resolution. This is not true; the Council made a presidential statement. It may be worthwhile to understand the nuances of the action the Council takes in a given situation.

The least forceful action that the Council can take is to authorise the current month's President to speak to media representatives about the proceedings of the Council. There is no official record of these remarks.

The second level is when the Council adopts a presidential statement. A lot of negotiations are undertaken in the small room reserved for informal consultations next to the Council chamber where only members of the Council are present. Of necessity, it has to be a consensus, as distinct from unanimous, document, meaning that not all the members support everything included in it but go along since they do not have a serious problem with the text. Even if one member has strong objections to the text, the statement cannot be approved. The draft of the text could be prepared either by the President or by one of the members; for the most part, that member is the representative of one of the permanent members. Also, the statement could be issued either in the name of the Council or in the name of 'members of the Security Council'. The former is generally regarded as carrying more weight than the latter.

The third level is the resolution, which is the most authentic voice of the Council, carrying maximum

weight. Again, the resolution can be under Chapter VI or Chapter VII of the Charter. Resolutions adopted under Chapter VII are enforceable unlike those under Chapter VI (Resolutions regarding Kashmir are under Chapter VI).

Some analysts dismiss the statements and resolutions of the Council as of no consequence, arguing that the countries concerned should pursue their interests irrespective of the Council's action. In practice, the country against which the resolution or statement is aimed cares a lot about the text of the resolution because countries care about their image in the international community.

Israel, which has the maximum number of resolutions critical of its actions, makes strenuous efforts, through its protector, the U.S., to have the resolutions moderated to make them less critical. Hours are spent on negotiations, discussing whether to 'condemn', 'deplore' or 'strongly deplore' something.

The February 21 statement was in the name of the members of the Council. It is not that it is not worth much; it is just that it is a notch below a statement that is issued in the name of the Council. A statement in the name of the members might also suggest that not all them were fully onboard with the entire text. A statement in the name of the Council would suggest that all the 15 members are in agreement with the text.

The fact that China went along with the statement does not signify

much of a shift in its position, since the Council had already declared the JeM as a terrorist organisation. The statement does not name Masood Azhar. It is not known if the French, who took the initiative in this matter, had at any stage included Azhar's name in the text and took it out at China's insistence. From the French perspective, this initiative will earn them brownie points from India, without having to pay much of a price.

In 2016, India moved the sanctions committee to include Azhar's name, with the support of three permanent members: the U.S., the U.K., and France. Again, in 2017, India took a similar initiative, supported by the same countries. On both occasions, Russia did not actively support the proposal, though it went along with it. China vetoed it both times.

It is for consideration whether and why it is so important for India to have Azhar included in the list of global terrorists. The only consequence of naming an individual is that the person cannot travel to other countries and his funds in foreign accounts will get frozen. In Azhar's case, this will not cause him much discomfort. Is it worth India's while to invest so much effort and perhaps political capital in getting him named an international terrorist? Suppose China at some stage removes its veto on Azhar's name, which it will only do with Pakistan's approval, it would be doing a big favour to India. Will that be regarded enough of a concession by Pakistan for India to resume dialogue with it?

Chinmaya R. Gharekhani, a former Indian Ambassador to the UN, is the author of 'The Horseshoe Table: An inside view of UN Security Council'

There is no doubt that India's relations with West Asia have improved significantly in the past five years.

The invitation to External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj from the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) to be guest of honour on March 1 at the Foreign Ministers meet is ample evidence of this. The past record of the OIC with respect to India is most objectionable. In 2017, the OIC adopted a resolution condemning "the intensified Indian barbarities since July 2016, after the extra judicial killing of Burhan Wani, against unarmed and innocent civilians in Indian occupied Kashmir" and "denouncing India" for refusing the Independent Permanent Human Rights Commission of the OIC access to "IoK". It makes sense not to allow the present to be held hostage to the past. Ms. Swaraj has a challenging mission to accomplish. However, to regard the previous OIC resolutions regarding Kashmir as of no consequence is in the nature of rationalising the current approach. Hopefully, the OIC will respect India's gesture and refrain from embarrassing Ms. Swaraj after her departure.

Raising issues in the Council

The successful preventive non-military strike carried out by the Indian Air Force on the JeM's terrorist training camp in Pakistan on Tuesday undoubtedly caught Pakistan by surprise. Apart from military action, which Pakistan has already taken, it will certainly try to raise the issue in the Council. It may be difficult to prevent it, since what has happened would certainly be regarded as threatening international peace and security. Pakistan's all-weather friend, China, may take the initiative on behalf of its protégé. According to Council rules, if a member of the Council asks for a meeting, the meeting has to be called. India must have spoken to the U.S. and others about this possibility. If the Council does meet, it would give India an opportunity to expose Pakistan's true face. It will no doubt screen footage and photos to buttress its case in the Council.

A patchwork approach to GST problems

Transparency and simplicity in the tax regime are casualties of the GST Council's recent decisions



T.C.A. SHARAD RAGHAVAN

It has the best intentions, but the Goods and Services Tax (GST) Council is nevertheless systematically eroding the strongest features of the new tax regime – simplicity and transparency.

From three to eight rates

Before the GST was introduced, the government set up a panel under the then Chief Economic Adviser, Arvind Subramanian, to come up with a suitable rate at which most items should be taxed under the GST. Mr. Subramanian came up with a standard rate of 15% for most items, a "low rate" for essentials, and a "high rate" for demerit goods. Presumably dissatisfied with just three rates, the government chose to introduce GST with five different tax slabs: 0%, 5%, 12%, 18% and 28%. Still not satisfied, the GST Council then introduced two more highly specific rates: a nominal 0.25% for rough diamonds and 3% for gold. Those of a critical bent of mind immediately pointed out that the major beneficiaries of this would be Gujaratis. The latest GST Council meeting on Sunday took this a step further and introduced yet another rate of 1% for the sale of under-construction affordable houses. So, from what should have at most been three rates, we now have eight!

To be clear, the number of tax slabs does not affect the concept of 'One Nation One Tax', as a single product is still taxed at the same rate across the country. But specifying eight different GST rates is a blow to tax simplicity, which the GST was to provide.

That said, the GST Council has not spared the concept of 'One Nation One Tax' either. However necessary the government felt it was to provide Kerala additional funds for rehabilitation after the devastating floods of 2018, it had several options available apart from the one it chose, which was to allow the State to impose a 1% disaster relief cess. As a result, for two years, the Indian market will be divided into two: Kerala, where goods and services are 1% more expensive, and the rest of India. While it can be argued that the cess in Kerala is one-off, the fact remains that this is a bad precedent to set. It's not too hard to imagine a situation where States start clamouring for a cyclone relief cess, drought

relief cess, flood relief cess, etc. Recovery from natural disasters is an expensive process, and additional funds must be made available. But mechanisms for this have already been put in place. There is a National Disaster Response Fund at the Central level and each State has a State Disaster Response Fund. Increasing budgetary allocations in these areas instead of spending on giant statues and advertising campaigns is an option.

Increasing opacity

Transparency is the other casualty of the GST Council's need to provide temporary fixes to problems. Sunday's decision to remove the input tax credit provision from the real estate sector will likely go a long way in increasing opacity in an already murky sector.

The input tax credit system was designed to create a seamless chain in the entire supply process. Normally, a company can claim credits for the tax it has paid on its inputs. Under a fully functioning GST system, the government can verify the amount of credits to be paid to the company by matching its invoices with those provided by the vendor. Such a system encourages honesty and transparency. This is the third time the Council has removed this vital provision, and its reason for doing so is weak. Finance Minister Arun Jaitley said that the Council had noticed that real estate developers were not dropping their prices in line with what they should be doing, considering they were getting the benefit of input tax credits. This happened before in the case of restaurants. In both situations, the government took the easy way out and simply removed the input tax credit provision altogether. So, rather than relying on the body it had created to handle such issues, the National Anti-Profitaking Authority, the Council instead chose to weaken the entire tax system. This wouldn't have been too much of a problem if the real estate sector was as small as the restaurant industry or the sanitary pads industry (the third industry where there is no input tax credits). But the real estate industry is estimated to be at least ₹40,000 crore in size. Not to forget the fact that cement, a huge input in real estate, is taxed at the highest rate of 28%, and will now not be offset by credits.

In both cases – disaster relief and anti-profitaking – the GST Council has chosen to ignore established institutions designed for those very purposes in favour of a patchwork approach that is likely to cause more problems than it solves.

sharad.raghavan@thehindu.co.in

SINGLE FILE

Manufacturing unanimity

Giving cash grants to gram panchayats electing sarpanches unanimously is antithetical to democracy

SATYA NAAGESH AYYAGARY



Using cash or other favours as an inducement to garner votes in any election, whether to Parliament, Assembly, or the gram panchayat, is a punishable offence in India. The logic is that voters must exercise their choice based on free will and the choice they make should be an informed one using a secret ballot. That is a cornerstone of democracy. While inducements of every sort are endemic during elections, what is to be done when the state itself is the inducer?

Consider this. In the run-up to the Panchayat elections in Telangana, the government led by the Telangana Rashtra Samithi (TRS) encouraged 'unanimous elections'. The carrot offered to those gram panchayats that elect their sarpanches unanimously was a cash grant of ₹10 lakh for those with a population less than 15,000 and ₹25 lakh for those with a population more than 15,000. This had an unexpected fallout: large-scale 'auctions', which of course are illegal, were held in many gram panchayats across the State. The State Election Commission was seized of the matter when civil society groups cried foul.

This is not something new. It has a precedent. In fact, Andhra Pradesh has been encouraging unanimous elections for gram panchayats. A Congress-led united Andhra Pradesh in November 2008 issued a government order announcing ₹5 lakh for those gram panchayats with a population less than 15,000 and ₹10 lakh for those with a population more than 15,000, that elect their sarpanches unanimously. This was revised in August 2013 to ₹7 lakh and ₹20 lakh, respectively. The TRS-led government only made an inflation-adjusted increase.

United Andhra Pradesh and now Telangana are not the only ones encouraging this practice. In Gujarat, there was a scheme which began in 1992 that provided incentives for unanimous elections. It was revised and named Samars-Yojana. States including Haryana and Punjab took a leaf out of the Andhra Pradesh strategy book, and in 2008 launched cash grants for unanimous election schemes. There was an echo in Himachal Pradesh too. There was criticism of this democracy-subverting practice, but nothing seems to have come out of it.

What was purportedly meant to save precious resources and avoid rancour among villagers is turning out to be something akin to manufactured unanimity, or manufactured consent, under duress or political pressure. How is this illegal practice being encouraged by States despite posing a threat to democracy?

The writer is a Hyderabad-based Editorial Consultant with The Hindu



FAQ

Regulating drug prices

More needs to be done to make medicines affordable

BINDU SHAJAN PERAPPADAN

What has been the impact of market-based pricing?

The largest share of out-of-pocket expenditure on health is due to medicines (approximately 70%, according to the NSSO). This is a major access barrier to healthcare, especially for the poor. Health experts have criticised the Drug (Prices Control) Order (DPCO), 2013 for doing little to increase the affordability of medicines. Data from the Department of Pharmaceuticals show that the majority of medicines have price reductions of 20% or less.

How are prices regulated?

The DPCO controls the prices of all essential medicines by fixing ceiling prices, limiting the highest prices companies can charge. The National List of Essential Medicines (NLEM) is drawn up to in-

clude essential medicines that satisfy the priority health needs of the population. The list is made with considerations of safety, efficacy, disease prevalence and the comparative cost-effectiveness of medicines, and is updated periodically by an expert panel set up for this purpose under the aegis of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

This list forms the basis of price controls under the DPCO.

What is the mechanism for price capping?

The NLEM 2015 contains 376 medicines on the basis of which the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) has fixed prices of over 800 formulations using the provisions of the DPCO. However, these formulations cover less than 10% of the total pharmaceutical market. The DPCO follows a market-based pricing mechanism, which was found to be insufficient for ensuring affordability. This has been done through the use of special powers to act in public interest under Paragraph 19 of the DPCO, to regulate the prices of cardiac stents and knee implants. These moves have brought about dramatic

average price of all brands having at least 1% market share of the total market turnover of that medicine.

Have any other methods been used?

Prior to 2013, the DPCO followed a cost-based pricing mechanism that was based on the costs involved in manufacturing a medicine along with reasonable profit margins. Health experts have argued that this policy resulted in comparatively lower prices than the current market-based policy.

Since the implementation of the DPCO, 2013, the NPPA has made certain departures from the market-based pricing mechanism, which was found to be insufficient for ensuring affordability. This has been done through the use of special powers to act in public interest under Paragraph 19 of the DPCO, to regulate the prices of cardiac stents and knee implants. These moves have brought about dramatic

price reductions: 85% in the case of stents and 65% in the case of knee implants.

What about cancer drugs?

"The government is planning to cap the trade margins for highly priced drugs for cancer and rare diseases," says Malini Aisola, health researcher and co-convenor of the All India Drug Action Network. She explains that this move is in the wake of recent amendments to the DPCO that exempted patented medicines and rare disease drugs from price controls. But Ms. Aisola claims that the trade margin capping will not sufficiently bring down prices. "We urge the government to take serious policy measures to ensure true affordability such as through price controls, implementation of the national rare disease policy and the use of legal flexibilities under patent law," she says.

FROM The Hindu ARCHIVES

FIFTY YEARS AGO FEBRUARY 28, 1969

India not for arbitration on Kachchhativu island

The Minister for External Affairs, Mr. Dinesh Singh, today [February 27, New Delhi] ruled out in the Lok Sabha India agreeing, now or in future, to international arbitration for settling the dispute on Kachchhativu island with Ceylon. Mr. Dinesh Singh was replying to a calling attention notice tabled by Mr. George Fernandes and four others on reports in newspapers that India had agreed to refer for arbitration the dispute on Kachchhativu. India, Mr. Dinesh Singh said, had not had any doubt about (its ownership of) the Island. If there were any doubt on that score, India would not have talked with Ceylon. Raising the issue, Mr. Fernandes asked whether Ceylon had demanded that the matter be settled through arbitration, that the Palk Strait and the Gulf of Mannar be partitioned in such a manner that Kachchhativu should go to Ceylon and whether Government was clear in its mind that the island was Indian territory.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO FEBRUARY 28, 1919

Wars Without Casualties.

A Soldier who is bomb, bullet, and shell proof, who does not mind either liquid fire or the most vicious kind of gas, has been invented by a Danish engineer. He has taken out patents on a device known as the "Automatic Soldier". The "automatic soldier" consists of a special double steel cylinder made of shell-proof Tungsten steel or the like. There is one outer stationary cylinder, and a second inner cylinder, the latter telescoping into the stationary one. The entire device is set into trenches, the contrivance taking the place of a human soldier. When the "soldier" goes into action the inner cylinder rises 18 in., which brings it above the parapet of the trench. In other words, the automatic soldier normally is invisible, and only can be seen when the inner cylinder rises. The gun, as well as the entire mechanism, is entirely controlled by wireless.

CONCEPTUAL

Sub-replacement fertility

DEMOGRAPHY

This refers to any fertility rate below the replacement rate that would cause the population of a certain group of people to decrease over time. A population's fertility rate falls below the replacement rate when adults fail to produce enough offspring to even replace themselves. The sub-replacement fertility rate is generally considered to be anything below the replacement fertility rate of 2.1 children per woman in developed countries. The replacement rate, however, differs across the globe. For instance, it is much higher in developing countries where the infant mortality rate is much higher than in the developed world due to various reasons.

MORE ON THE WEB

The magical effects of a good surgical strike

<http://bit.ly/goodsurgicalstrike>

FROM PAGE ONE

IAF plane shot down, pilot taken captive

"India strongly objected to Pakistan's vulgar display of an injured personnel of the Indian Air Force in violation of all norms of International Humanitarian Law and the Geneva Convention. It was made clear that Pakistan would be well advised to ensure that no harm comes to the Indian defence personnel in its custody."

India also expects his immediate and safe return," the government said in its demarche.

Later, the Pakistan military released a video of Wg Cdr Varthaman drinking tea and speaking to Pakistani military personnel as proof that he had not been harmed.

According to a release from the Pakistani Foreign Ministry, the PAF had carried out strikes without crossing the LoC at "non-military targets, avoiding human loss and collateral damage", in words that mirrored the MEA statement on Tuesday.

Pakistan military spokesperson Maj. Gen. Asif Ghafoor also said that PAF aircraft in the operation had "locked into six targets" including supply depots in Bhimber gali, Rajouri and Nowshera in Jammu and Kashmir, and claimed they dropped bombs in open areas "at a safe distance" from four of them in an effort to "prove their capability and resolve" to retaliate if required.

Rejecting the Pakistani claims, the MEA said that Pakistan's aerial response had in fact targeted military installations on the Indian side and "due to [IAF's] high state of readiness and alertness, Pakistan's attempts were foiled successfully."

Terming the Pakistani operations an "unprovoked act of aggression", the government said India reserves the right to "take firm and decisive action", calling for the immediate return of the pilot.

India handed over its protest in a demarche to the Pakistan Acting High Commissioner Syed Haider Shah, who was summoned by the Joint Secretary in the Ministry Deepak Mittal.

Referring to the Indian strikes on Balakot on Tuesday, the MEA said it had also handed over a dossier to Mr. Shah with "specific details of JeM complicity in the Pulwama terror attack and the presence of JeM terror camps and its leadership in Pakistan" and called on Pakistan to take immediate action against terrorism emanating from its territory.

With the possibility of escalation growing, several countries rushed in to appeal for restraint from New Delhi and Islamabad.

Imran calls for talks, offers help to probe Pulwama

Earlier, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs said the Pakistan Air Force took down two Indian aircraft in Pakistani airspace. "This was not a retaliation to the continued Indian belligerence. Pakistan has taken strikes at [a] non-military target, avoiding human loss and collateral damage. [The] sole purpose being to demonstrate our right, will and capability for self-defence," it said.

Major General Asif Ghafoor, Director-General of the Inter-Services Public Relations, tweeted about the strike: "In response to PAF strikes this morning as released by [the] MoFA, [the] IAF crossed [the] LOC. [The] PAF shot down two Indian aircraft inside [the] Pakistani airspace."

He said one aircraft fell inside Pakistan-held Kashmir, while the other fell on the Indian side. He later tweeted that one Indian pilot was in Pakistan Army's custody.

Air strike was pre-emptive: Sushma tells China, Russia

Ms. Swaraj made it plain to Mr. Wang that "the entire UN had spoken with one voice condemning the terrorist attack."

Despite India's ongoing tensions with Pakistan, the Chinese Foreign Minister pointed to Beijing's intent to pursue the "Wuhan spirit" – a reference to the two-day dialogue between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chinese President Xi Jinping to reboot India-China ties. "Last year, President Xi and Prime Minister Modi held a very important meeting at Wuhan, and this meeting led bilateral relations into an honest and stable new stage. Led by the leaders, all levels of bilateral relationship are doing well. Every level of the two countries and also international society are more optimistic of our bilateral relationships. In 2019, we are going to

keep working on the consensus of the two leaders," Mr. Wang said in his opening remarks.

Referring to the Wuhan informal summit, the External Affairs Minister said the decision to pursue "strategic communication" by the two leaders provided an "important foundation for the development of our bilateral relations."

"This channel of strategic communication between the two of us and between senior officials of our two sides should always remain open."

Stressing the importance of maintaining the Wuhan spirit, she said: "It is important for both sides to make sure the thorough and effective implementation of guidance given by the two leaders. Both sides have made efforts, and this should sustain the efforts."

NIA conducts searches in south Kashmir

Also, the residences of active overground workers of the Jaish in Tral, Awantipora and Pulwama areas were searched.

The probe agency said the houses of three separatist leaders from south Kashmir – Mohd. Shabir Dar, Shawkat Maulvi and Yasmine Raza – were also searched in connection with a terror funding case.

Documents related to terror funding, coded messages and jihadi literature have been seized, the agency said. NIA teams also recovered a large number of incriminating documents, it added.

China offers tacit support to India

Says 'terror breeding grounds should be eradicated', but rejects labelling Pak. as a sponsor of terrorism

ATUL ANEJA
WUZHEN

China on Wednesday appeared to have walked a thin line by tacitly supporting Indian air strikes against the Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM) terrorist camp in Pakistan, but making plain that it would not label Islamabad as a state sponsor of terrorism.

China's deft balancing act became visible during comments by Chinese State Councillor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi during the course of the Russia-India-China (RIC) Foreign Ministers' meeting in the picturesque town of Wuzhen.

Without referring to the cross-border attack by the Indian Air Force on Tuesday at a JEM training camp in Balakot, Mr. Wang said that it was "especially important"

to "eradicate the breeding grounds of terrorism and extremism."

Endorsing the Chinese Foreign Minister's remarks, External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj on two occasions



Joining hands: Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov, Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi and External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj at Wuzhen in China on Wednesday. ■REUTERS

referred to Mr. Wang's observation.

In response to a question on whether there was divergence on the Pulwama attack between India and China, Ms. Swaraj said: "As far as

joint strategy is concerned, you just heard Foreign Minister Wang Yi's speech. What he said during his concluding statement, he reiterated here, and he said that we would cooperate on eradicating the breeding grounds of terrorism."

Referring to the adoption of a common approach by the three RIC countries, Ms. Swaraj said that, "This is not only a common strategy for the three of us, but it is resolute for the three of us."

But the Chinese Foreign Minister also said Pakistan was opposed to terrorism.

"China, Russia and India have reaffirmed our strong opposition to terrorism in its various forms and manifestations. At the same time, we believe that Pakistan has always been opposed to terror-

rism," Mr. Wang observed.

Referring to the "recent developments between India and Pakistan," Mr. Wang said he appreciated "statements by Indian and Pakistani friends saying that they would exercise restraint and avoid escalation of the situation."

Mutual friend'

Besides, describing China as a "mutual friend" of India and Pakistan, he hoped that both countries "can conduct dialogue to establish facts through investigations to keep things under control and maintain peace and stability in the region."

Short of offering mediation, the Chinese Foreign Minister said that Beijing was "playing a constructive role not the opposite."

India, Pakistan must exercise restraint: U.S.

REUTERS
WASHINGTON

U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo urged India and Pakistan to exercise restraint and avoid escalation at any cost, after Pakistan carried out air strikes on Wednesday.

Mr. Pompeo spoke separately with the Foreign Ministers of India and Pakistan and urged them to avoid "further military activity". "I expressed to both Ministers that we encourage India and Pakistan to exercise restraint, and avoid escalation at any cost," Mr. Pompeo said in a statement.

"I also encouraged both Ministers to prioritize direct communication and avoid further military activity," he said.

Meanwhile, General Joseph Dunford, the top U.S. military officer, called up his Pakistani counterpart General Zubair Mahmood Hayat and discussed the "current security environment," the Pentagon said.

The conversation marked the highest level of contact between the two Armies.

Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff General Joseph F. Dunford, Jr. spoke today with Pakistan Chief of Defence Gen. Zubair Mahmood Hayat. The senior leaders discussed the current security environment in Pakistan," Joint Staff Spokesperson Col. Patrick S. Ryder said in a brief statement.

No other details were immediately available.

Over the years, despite a deterioration in U.S.-Pakistan bilateral ties, Gen. Dunford has maintained a good working relationship with both his Pakistani counterpart Gen. Hayat and Pakistan Army Chief General Qamar Javed Bajwa.

(With PTI inputs)

U.K. calls for diplomatic solutions

Foreign Office Minister urges India and Pakistan to de-escalate tension in region

VIDYA RAM
LONDON

The British government has expressed its deep concern about "rising tensions" between India and Pakistan, and called for urgent restraint from both sides and "diplomatic solutions," but has steered clear from coming down on one side or the other or to play an intermediary role on the wider Kashmir issue, as it acknowledged the need to deal with "underlying" issues, particularly with regards to that region.

Foreign Office Minister Mark Field noted that India was entering a "pre-election" period and that remained a "factor of concern."

Both termed the suggestion baseless, adding that it was being interpreted by the Pakistani establishment that the country (India) was not united behind the armed forces.

Both termed the suggestion baseless, adding that it was being interpreted by the Pakistani establishment that the country (India) was not united behind the armed forces.

"The cross-border terror attack in Pulwama was a reality. The Balakot operation was India's anti-terror pre-emptive strike to defend its sovereignty. The whole nation has spoken in one voice, why is then the Opposition alleging that the government is politicising anti-terror operations?

My appeal to the Opposition is to let India speak with one voice – please introspect, your ill-advised statement is being used by Pakistan to bolster its case," said Mr. Jaitley.

Addressing a press conference at the BJP headquarters, Mr. Javadekar said, "It is a baseless allegation and that is not what is happening and will never happen."

He added that the situation in the last two days in the country was a demonstration of unity.

Mr. Javadekar showed a clip from a news show of a Pakistani channel that was discussing the Opposition statement in such terms. "The opposition should apply its mind to how this statement is being interpreted by Pakistan. The only ones who are happy with this is the Pakistani government and media," he said.

The BJD, meanwhile, has decided to go ahead with the Prime Minister's video conference with both workers.



Foreign Office Minister Mark Field noted that India was entering a "pre-election" period and that remained a "factor of concern."

ble opportunity," Mr. Field said during a question and answer session in the House of Commons on Wednesday.

He also said that he would express concerns about the safety of Kashmiri people based across India who had faced violence and threats since the attack.

"I am happy to express

those direct concerns when I speak with the High Commissioner," Mr. Field said.

The Minister urged for dialogue and for the two countries to find "diplomatic solutions."

The opposition Labour Party's shadow foreign secretary Emily Thornberry said that while India had

those direct concerns when I speak with the High Commissioner," Mr. Field said.

The Minister urged for dialogue and for the two countries to find "diplomatic solutions."

The opposition Labour Party's shadow foreign secretary Emily Thornberry said that while India had

Government must not be allowed to escalate situation after air strikes, says Yechury at joint meet

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Opposition parties on Wednesday said there was a need to change the narrative of jingoism in the wake of the Indian counter-terror operation inside Pakistan.

Congress president Rahul Gandhi said right now it was time to stand by the security forces but at the same time if Prime Minister Narendra Modi sought to take credit for the Indian Air Force's action against a Jaish terror camp in Balakot, then he should also be held accountable for the lapses in Pulwama.

CPI(M) general secretary Sitaram Yechury, who was one of the first speakers, at the 21-party meet, said that the Opposition should build pressure on the government



Taking stock: Former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and Congress president Rahul Gandhi during the Opposition meet in New Delhi on Wednesday. ■PTI

to ensure that it sticks to its earlier stand that the air strikes were an anti-terror operation and should not escalate the situation any further.

He reportedly also pointed out that even when the entire Opposition was standing with the government it was BJP president Amit Shah who sought to draw political

dividends from the situation.

According to sources, Trinamool Congress president and West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee said that the Opposition should

take an aggressive stand and the BJP should be held accountable. She said that in the joint memorandum Prime Minister Modi and the BJP should be clearly mentioned. She said that the Opposition should not concede space to the BJP and it was time to ask questions.

"They have shut down airports cancelled the flights. What are they doing? We need to ask them questions," Ms. Banerjee reportedly said.

Sources said Jan Loktantrik Party chief Sharad Yadav, without blaming the Congress for keeping mum after the Pulwama attack, said that only three politicians, Mayawati, Mamata Banerjee and Sitaram Yechury, had asked the government relevant questions.

Akhilesh takes a swipe at govt., calls for pilot's safety

They were launching apps: SP chief

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
LUCKNOW

Samajwadi Party president Akhilesh Yadav on Wednesday told a swipe at the government led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi over the capture of an Indian Air Force pilot by Pakistan, saying "when our pilot went missing, they were launching apps".

While Mr. Yadav did not mention any one by name, his comment came on a day when Mr. Modi unveiled a mobile application introduced by the Sports Authority of India (SAI), 'Khelo India App', aimed at creating awareness about sports and fitness.

"When the all-party meet happened, they were campaigning," Mr. Yadav posted on Twitter. "The country demands that petty politics

are set aside and our media acts responsibly so that our brave pilot is safely brought back home," he tweeted.

On Tuesday, Mr. Yadav and his ally BSP chief Mayawati had both praised the IAF for their strikes in Balakot. "IAF strike destroying terrorist camps across LoC is welcome action," said Ms. Mayawati.

Meanwhile, alliance talks for the 2019 Lok Sabha election between the BJP and its allies in Uttar Pradesh have been deferred due to the escalation of tensions with Pakistan. On Wednesday, the Suheldev Bharatiya Samaj Party and the Apna Dal, the BJP's allies, said they had put on hold their upcoming programmes to decide the future course of action regarding an alliance with the BJP.

Kashmiris are safe, Centre tells SC

Informs that no violent acts have been reported after the top court's intervention

KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court's intervention to protect Kashmiris and minorities from mob violence in the aftermath of the Pulwama terror attack on February 14 has been an effective deterrent, the Centre told the apex court.

Attorney-General K.K. Venugopal on Wednesday informed a Bench of Chief Justice of India Ranjan Gogoi that not a single instance of violence had happened ever since the Supreme Court trained its spotlight on the issue on February 22.

On February 22, the apex court had firmly directed the Centre, chief secretaries and police chiefs of several States to protect Kashmiris and minority communities, especially students, from any backlash in the aftermath of the Pulwama terror attack

which had led to the deaths of CRPF personnel.

Responding to Mr. Venugopal's submission, Justice Gogoi said there was no further need to pass any more orders on the issue. However, the court asked the Centre and 10 States to file their responses in seven days, explaining the violence unleashed against Kashmiri students.

The court had on February 22 told the States' police

chiefs to direct their officers to promptly take action on complaints. The nodal officers appointed in the States to prevent incidents of lynching and mob violence were tasked to prevent and defuse tensions.

The court's order had been in response to a petition filed by advocate Tariq Adeeb, represented by senior advocate Colin Goncalves, that had sought directions to the Centre to be alert.

The Ministry of Home Affairs had issued an advisory to the States and Union Territories on February 17 to thwart violence against vulnerable groups.



Voicing concern: A file photo of

India scrambles fighters as Pak. jets target positions across LoC

Several PAF aircraft target Indian Army positions

DINAKAR PERI

NEW DELHI

A day after the Indian precision air strike on a terrorist training camp in Balakot, Indian and Pakistani Air Force jets on Wednesday engaged in a chase over the Line of Control. One Indian MiG-21 Bison aircraft was lost and a Pakistani F-16 was shot. Indian Air Force pilot Wing Commander Abhinandan Varthaman was arrested by Pakistan and is in their custody.

On Wednesday morning, several PAF aircraft targeted Indian Army positions following which IAF fighters were scrambled in response. "There was a lock on a Pakistani F-16 by a MiG-21 which fired an R-73 missile and hit the target," a defence source said on condition of anonym-



Villagers showing the damage due to shelling in Mankote of Poonch. ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

ity. Wg. Cdr. Varthaman managed to eject but landed in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK).

Initially, Maj. Gen. Asif

Ghafoor, Pakistan military spokesperson, said they shot down two IAF aircraft and captured two pilots. Later,

he changed the statement,

tweeting, "There is only one pilot under Pakistan Army's custody. Wg. Cdr. Abhinandan is being treated as per norms of military ethics."

Wg. Cdr. Abhinandan, based in Srinagar, hails from Chennai. His father is a retired Air Marshal who was the Commander-in-Chief, Eastern Air Command.

Earlier in the day, the PAF dropped bombs at four places in Jammu and Kashmir close to Army installations. The general area of their brief ingress was in the Nausara and Lam sectors in Kashmir, according to defence sources.

"Today, PAF undertook strikes across the LoC from within Pakistani airspace," the Pakistani Foreign Ministry statement said.

Around 10.30 a.m., some PAF jets came into the Krishna Ghati sector of Kashmir and went off from the Lam valley in the Nowshera sector, the source stated. Among the areas targeted are Narina where the Army has an ammunition point.

The PAF F-16 which was shot down in the Khuretta sector in PoK, opposite the Lam valley, the source added.

PEERZADA ASHIQ
SRINAGAR

Low-flying jets thundered over roofs, explosions rent the air and smoke filled the skyline along the Line of Control (LoC) in Rajouri and Poonch districts in the mountainous Pir Panchal Valley on Wednesday morning.

An eyewitness, who teaches in a school at Lam village, told *The Hindu* over the phone that students were appearing for the examination around 10 a.m. when three jets roared low across the sky.

"Explosions soon followed on the hill slopes. In the impact, stones rolled down the incline," said the eyewitness.

Local people said two or three Pakistani fighter jets violated the air space in the Nowshera sector in Rajouri and Poonch district.

An official at the district



A worker paints a red cross on the rooftop of a hospital in Srinagar. ■ NISSAR AHMAD

bombing by the Pakistani jets.

"Any violation and its details will be confirmed only by the Indian Air Force (IAF). However, the LoC became calm by evening. There was no report of any major exchange," Deputy Commissioner, Rajouri, Mohammad Ajaz Asad told *The Hindu*.

The Hamirpur sector and Bhimber Gali in Poonch also reported air space violations by Pakistani jets. Officials said these jets were chased by the Air Force (IAF) planes.

After a daylong lull in Poonch, Pakistan again violated ceasefire after sunset in Meander Balakote sectors, said officials.

All schools falling within a five km of the LoC in Poonch and Rajouri have been closed. In Uri, officials said, Pakistan resorted to "low-calibre firing" at night.

IN BRIEF



India, Pak. must exercise restraint: Farooq

National Conference president Farooq Abdullah on Wednesday called for de-escalation of tensions between India and Pakistan and asked both the countries to maintain "maximum restraint" for the "greater good of humanity". "History bears testimony to the fact that war did not help both the neighbours resolve their long pending issues," he said.

Hospitals in J&K asked to stock up on medicines

NEW DELHI

Following the tense situation on the Pakistan border, staff members working in the District Hospital, Udhampur, Jammu have been directed not to leave the station and not to avail any kind of leave, according to a circular by the medical superintendent. The circular comes after the State government issued an order earlier this week stating that all Chief Medical Officers should collect available supplies of medicines and surgical items for their districts.

Tighter security for Pakistani prisoners

KOLKATA

The West Bengal government has decided to increase the security of Pakistani prisoners in the correctional homes of the State, Minister Ujjwal Biswas said. Mr. Biswas said that after the alleged killing of a 50-year-old Pakistani convict by fellow inmates in the Jaipur central jail, security of foreign inmates had been stepped up. "We have not many Pakistani prisoners. Most of our foreign prisoners are Bangladeshi and Nigerian," the Minister said.

BJP misusing the Army, says Congress leader

PANAJI

Congress secretary A. Chellakumar on Wednesday alleged that the Pulwama terror strike could have been manipulated like the 2002 Godhra train burning incident, which sparked communal riots in Gujarat. At a press conference here, he said the BJP was misusing the institution of the Army also for political gains, Mr. Chellakumar said, "Yes." People are feeling so. Modi and Amit Shah will go to any extent." Referring to a recent video in the public domain, he recalled the Godhra carnage and tried to compare it to the recent Pulwama terror strike.

At the ready



On the trigger: A CISF man keeping vigil at the Delhi International Airport on Wednesday after Pakistani jets intruded into Indian air space, escalating tensions. ■ R.V. MOORTHY

Villagers jolted awake by Indian bombs

They are guarded about militant camp

REUTERS
BALAKOT

The only casualty was a man sleeping in his house when shrapnel broke the windows

FIDA HUSSAIN SHAH
Farmer

be allowed to get close to this infrastructure. There are scores of students in the madrasa at any given time," he said.

India has said the raid destroyed a training camp of Jaish-e-Mohammed. The villagers, however, said only one person was wounded in the attack and they knew of no fatalities.

A resident, who did not want to give his name, said there was a nearby madrasa run by Jaish, though most villagers were guarded talking about their militant neighbours.

Another person, who also declined to give his name, said the militants had had a presence in the area for years.

"I know for sure that there has been a training camp. It used to be there. I know Jaish people ran it," he said.

"This camp was turned into a madrasa several years ago, but no one would still

Four infiltration routes from Balakot

Hilltop camp trained militant recruits in combat and use of weapons

VIJAYA SINGH
NEW DELHI

Security agencies have identified four routes along the Line of Control in Kupwara that were being used by Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM) cadres trained at the Balakot camp in Pakistan to infiltrate into India.

A note prepared by the Intelligence agencies on the camp that was hit by Indian Air Force jets in the early hours of Tuesday said the terrorists were shown videos of the Babri Masjid demolition and that of the hijack of the IC-814 Indian Airlines flight in 1999 to radicalise them.

The note was prepared based on the interrogation of a JeM terrorist arrested in India. They were shown videos of alleged atrocities against Kashmiris by the Army.

Madrasa cover
Spread over six acres, the camp has six buildings with a capacity to house 600 people.

"It is suspected that the camp is functioning under cover of the Madrasa Ayesha Sadiq," the note said.

It said the JeM terrorists trained at Balakot first travelled to Kel in Pakistan-oc-



Cordon off: Pakistani soldiers patrolling an area near the Balakot camp on Wednesday. ■ AP

cupied Kashmir and from there, infiltrated into India from the Kupwara side.

The infiltration routes passed through Duhniyal, the Kainthwala forest, the Magam forest, Lolab and Kralpora.

The LoC is manned by the Army.

At the Balakot camp, the JeM cadres undergo different types of training courses such as a three-month advanced combat course known as *Daura-e-Khas*, an advanced armed training course called *Daum-al-Raad* and a refresher training programme, the note said.

Militants there are being trained in handling weapons such as AK 47, machine guns, rocket launchers, under-barrel grenade launchers and grenades. Apart from basic training in weapon handling, they are trained in jungle survival, ambush and communication, using GPS and map reading," the note said.

It said the terrorists started their day at 3 a.m. with namaaz and reading of the Koran, followed by three hours of rigorous physical exercise.

They were trained in camouflage, besides operat-

ing wireless sets and matrix sheets. Leisure activities included football.

As reported earlier, the facility was headed by Jaish chief Masood Azhar's brother-in-law Yusuf Azhar. It was located on a hilltop in a forest far from the civilian area in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Balakot, around 200 km from Islamabad.

Aquatic training
Situated on the banks of the Kunhar river, the camp offered the possibility of aquatic training to terrorists. The trainers at the camp were ex-Army personnel".

Home Minister Rajnath Singh reviewed the security situation in Jammu and Kashmir and also the States sharing borders with Pakistan.

He, however, proceeded to attend a political rally in Bilaspur in Chhattisgarh during the day even as new details of an IAF fighter pilot being captured by the Pakistani Army poured in.

A senior BSF official said that though security had been heightened along the International Border in Jammu, Punjab, Rajasthan and Gujarat, the situation was "calm".

Russia, Iran advise restraint

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Russia on Wednesday called upon both India and Pakistan to de-escalate tensions in South Asia that intensified after Pakistan carried out a raid inside Kashmir.

In a statement, Dmitry Peskov, Press Secretary of the Russian President, said, President Vladimir Putin was following the developments including India's strike on the Balakot, safe pad for terror suspects, and Pakistan's raid inside Kashmir on Wednesday. "We are extremely concerned about the news coming in, we are very closely monitoring the situation and, of course, we urge all parties to show restraint," said Mr. Peskov.

Iran asked for restraint with Foreign Minister Javad Zarif urging both sides to ensure peace in the region. Iranian news outlets reported that Mr. Zarif had stated he would speak to his Indian counterpart, Sushma Swaraj.

Nepal asked for "utmost restraint" and dialogue. Sri Lanka called for peace in the region, and asked India and Pakistan "to act in a manner that ensures peace and stability".

PM Modi must suspend his political activities until Wing Commander Abhinandan is returned safely. It can't be business as usual with him crisscrossing the country at tax payer expense making political speeches while our pilot is a Pakistani captive

OMAR ABDULLAH
National Conference leader

Pakistan has expressed its intention to crack down on terrorism and initiate a dialogue with India. Perhaps the best gesture to gain India's trust at this point would be the safe return of Wing Commander Abhinandan back home

MEHBOoba MUFTI
PDP chief

The country demands that petty politics are set aside and our media acts responsibly so that our brave pilot is safely brought back home

AKHILESH YADAV
SP chief

I pray for the safety of Indian Air Force pilot Wing Commander Abhinandan. Whole country is proud of this brave son and everyone is hoping for his safe return. We all stand united to keep our country safe and strong

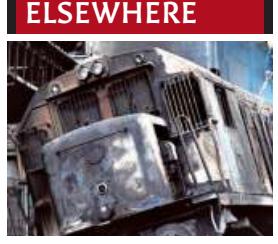
ARVIND KEJRIWAL
Delhi CM

Our prayers are with the brave pilot & his family. Under Geneva Convention every party is required to treat prisoners humanely. Pakistan must respect its obligations towards the IAF pilot

ASADUDDIN OWAISI
AIMIM leader



A ND-NDE

**25 killed in crash at Cairo train station**

CAIRO
At least 25 people were killed and 50 injured when a locomotive smashed through the buffer stop at Cairo's main train station on Wednesday, causing an explosion and a fire, state television and witnesses said. The Transport Minister said the train's diesel tank had exploded. **REUTERS**

Indian student held for damaging 50 computers

NORTH YORK
Vishwanath Akuthota, an Indian student, was arrested on February 22 after being charged with intentionally causing damage to over 50 computers owned by a college in New York City Albany, officials said on Wednesday. He entered numerous locations in the college and inserted a device resembling a USB stick, says the complaint. **PTI**

4 killed in Indonesia coal mine collapse

NORTH SULAWESI
Indonesian rescuers scrambled on Wednesday to find dozens buried in the collapse of an illegal gold mine that killed at least four people, the disaster agency said. More than three dozen people may still be trapped at the site in the Bolaang Mongondow region of North Sulawesi. **AP**

Venezuela calls for Trump-Maduro talks

GENEVA
In an address at the UN Human Rights Council, Venezuela's Foreign Minister Jorge Arreaza on Wednesday called for direct talks between President Nicolás Maduro and his U.S. counterpart Donald Trump, to help ease the crisis gripping his country. **AP**

We'll have an interesting dialogue: Kim

Trump calls relationship with North Korea leader 'special', says he's in no rush to secure denuclearisation

REUTERS

HANOI

North Korean leader Kim Jong-un and U.S. President Donald Trump met in Vietnam on Wednesday for a second summit that the United States hopes will persuade North Korea to give up its nuclear weapons in exchange for promises of peace and development.

Mr. Kim and Mr. Trump shook hands and smiled briefly in front of a row of their national flags at the Metropole hotel in the Vietnamese capital, Hanoi, before heading to dinner together.

Mr. Trump told reporters he thought the talks would be very successful, and asked if he was "walking back" on denuclearisation, said "no". At their historic first summit in Singapore last June, Mr. Trump and Mr. Kim pledged to work toward denuclearisation and permanent peace on the Korean peninsula but little progress has been made.

'A courageous decision'

Mr. Kim said they had overcome obstacles to hold their second summit and praised Mr. Trump for his "courageous decision" to begin a dialogue. "Now that we're meet-



Another handshake: U.S. President Donald Trump and North Korea's leader Kim Jong-un in Hanoi on Wednesday, the first day of a two-day summit between the two sides. **AP**

ing here again like this, I'm confident that there will be an excellent outcome that everyone welcomes, and I'll do my best to make it happen," he said.

Mr. Trump and Mr. Kim held a 20-minute, one-on-one chat before sitting down to dinner with U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, Mr. Trump's acting Chief of Staff Mick Mulvaney, Mr. Kim's top envoy, Kim Yong-chol,

and North Korean Foreign Minister Ri Yong-ho.

On Thursday, the two leaders will hold a series of meetings, the White House said. "We're going to have a very busy day tomorrow ... Probably a very quick dinner," said a smiling, relaxed looking Mr. Trump, seated beside Mr. Kim at a round table with the other four officials and two interpreters.

"Our relationship is a very

special relationship."

Mr. Kim also appeared at ease. "We'll have a very interesting dialogue," he told Mr. Trump.

In the run-up to this summit, Mr. Trump has indicated a more flexible stance, saying he was in no rush to secure North Korea's denuclearisation. He repeated that on Wednesday, saying while some people believed the talks should be moving

more quickly, he was satisfied. Mr. Trump has held out the prospect of easing sanctions if North Korea does something "meaningful".

Asked if he would declare a formal end to the Korean War, which North Korea has long called for, Mr. Trump said: "We'll see."

The Vietnam example

Despite little progress on his goal of ridding North Korea of its weapons programmes, Mr. Trump appeared to be betting on his personal relationship with the North Korean leader, and the economic incentive after 70 years of hostility between their countries.

"Vietnam is thriving like few places on earth. North Korea would be the same, and very quickly, if it would denuclearise," Mr. Trump said on Twitter ahead of the meeting. "The potential is AWESOME, a great opportunity, like almost none other in history, for my friend Kim Jong-un. We will know fairly soon - Very Interesting!" For Mr. Trump, a deal that eases the North Korean threat could hand him a big foreign-policy achievement in the midst of domestic troubles.

Rouhani backs Zarif, rejects resignation

'It would be against national interests'

REUTERS

DUBAI/LONDON

Iran's President Hassan Rouhani rejected the resignation of Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif on Wednesday.



Iranian President Hassan Rouhani and Foreign Minister Javad Zarif. **AP**

consider accepting your resignation against national interests and reject it," Mr. Rouhani said in a letter.

On Wednesday, Mr. Zarif thanked Iranians for their support.

Senior Revolutionary Guards commander Qassem Soleimani said Mr. Zarif was the main person in charge of Iranian foreign policy and he was supported by Ayatollah Khamenei.

Indian held over plot to kill Sirisena acquitted

Marceli Thomas was arrested in Oct.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

COLOMBO

An Indian national held in Sri Lanka over an alleged plot to assassinate President Maithripala Sirisena was acquitted on Wednesday, court officials said.

Marceli Thomas, from Kerala, was arrested in October following a complaint by Namal Kumara, a police informant, who had alleged a plot to assassinate Mr. Sirisena and Gotabhaya Rajapaksa, the former top Defence Ministry bureaucrat.

When the case was taken up for hearing on Wednesday, the Colombo Fort Magistrate's Court acquitted Mr. Thomas of the charges of conspiring to assassinate the VIPs. The CID has not been able to produce any evidence against Mr. Thomas implicating him in the conspiracy charges.

Considering the facts in the case, the Magistrate said he cannot order to keep a person in remand without evidence as the police wanted.

Trump is a conman, a racist and a cheat, says Cohen

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

WASHINGTON

Michael Cohen told Congress on Wednesday he had no direct evidence that President Donald Trump coordinated with Russia during the 2016 presidential campaign, but spoke of his "suspicions" that his former boss was involved in collusion.

Delivering uncomfortably blunt testimony about his

decade-long professional relationship with Mr. Trump, the disgraced lawyer provided examples of how Mr. Trump or his family had dealings with Moscow or with Russian figures during the 2016 campaign.

"Questions have been raised about whether I know of direct evidence that Mr. Trump had advance knowledge of a June 2016 meeting between campaign members, including his son, and

hen told the House Oversight and Reform Committee. "I do not, I want to be clear. But I have my suspicions."

Mr. Cohen, who is about to go to jail for three years after admitting financial crimes and lying to Congress, said he believes Mr. Trump had advance knowledge of a June 2016 meeting between campaign members, including his son, and

Russians peddling "dirt" on election rival Hillary Clinton.

Mr. Cohen also said the then-candidate "knew of and directed" negotiations for a Trump Tower in Moscow through the campaign even while denying any business ties with the Russians.

A day earlier, Mr. Cohen provided closed-door testimony to the Senate Intelligence Committee, where he

was likely to have been grilled in private about what he knows regarding the Trump campaign's ties to Russia.

He told lawmakers he was "ashamed" of his decade-long role as the President's personal lawyer. "I am ashamed because I know what Mr. Trump is. He is a racist. He is a conman. He is a cheat," Mr. Cohen said.

President Buhari wins 2nd term

Nigerian Opposition vows to challenge 'sham' result in court

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

ABUJA

Muhammadu Buhari was on Wednesday re-elected Nigeria's President after a delayed poll that angered voters and raised political temperatures, but the Opposition immediately vowed to challenge the "sham" result in court.

It was the second victory at the ballot box for Mr. Buhari, a one-time military ruler who was first elected in 2015 to lead Africa's most populous nation and top oil producer. With ballots counted in all of Nigeria's 36

States and the Federal Capital Territory (FCT), Mr. Buhari triumphed with some 15.2 million votes over his nearest rival Atiku Abubakar, who trailed by nearly four million votes.

"Muhammadu Buhari... is hereby declared winner and is returned elected," Mahmood Yakubu, chairman of Nigeria's Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) announced early on Wednesday.

Rigging claims
However, Mr. Abubakar rejected the result of the vote,

which has been marred by claims of rigging and corruption.

"I hereby reject the result of the February 23, 2019 sham election and will be challenging it in court."

A total of 72.7 million people were eligible to vote in the presidential poll as well as parliamentary elections held at the same time.

Low voter turnout - at 35% across the country - was blamed on a combination of voter apathy because of the delay, organisational and logistical problems, as well as unrest.

Tel No. 06792-261343/(0)261344(Fax)/E-Mail:- serwcbarpada@nic.in

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER,

RURAL WORKS CIRCLE, BARIPADA

"e" Procurement Notice for PMGSY Works

Identification No.- Online Tender- PMGSY N.C.B. No. 154 for 2018-19

Letter No. 532 / Date : 25.02.2019 //

1. Name of the Work : Construction & Maintenance PMGSY-II road works Batch-I of 2018-19 in the District of Mayurbhanj.

2. Total No. of Works : 36 Nos. (Thirty Six Nos.)

3. Estimated Cost : From Rs.82,50 lakhs to Rs.319.49 lakhs (approximately).

4. Eligible Class of Contractor : 33 Nos. of packages 'B' & 'A' Class, 03 Nos of packages 'A' & 'Special', P.W.D. or relevant Class of other licensing authorities.

5. Period of Completion : 11 (Eleven) calendar months for works above Rs.3.00 Crore, 09 (Nine) Calendar months for works below Rs.3.00 Crores Up to Rs.1.00 Crore & 06 (Six) Calendar months for Works below Rs.1.00 Crore as specified in DTCN.

6. Other details :

Procurement Officer Bid Identification No. Availability of Tender Online for bidding Last Date & Time of seeking Tender Clarification Date & Time of Opening of Tender in O/R

From To Tender Clarification Technical Bid Financial Bid

1 2 3 4 5 6 7

Superintending Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Baripada. PMGSY Online N.C.B. No. 154 DT02.03.2019 at 11.00 A.M. DL20.03.2019 up to 5.00 P.M. DL19.03.2019 up to 1.00 P.M. DL23.03.2019 at 11.00 A.M. DL04.04.2019 at 11.00 A.M.

• Further details can be seen from the website: www.pmgstenders.gov.in

• Any Corrigendum/Addendum will be displayed in the above e_tender website only.

25130/11/0034/1819 Superintending Engineer, R.W.Circle, Baripada.

Chopper crash kills Nepal Aviation Minister, 6 others

Incident happened at a hillside



Rabindra Adhikari.

tered all over. Everything was in flames," said Suraj Bhattarai, a witness.

The helicopter crashed into the hillside minutes after taking off from a nearby temple, a local official said. The Minister was on a trip to scope out a new airstrip in the region. The exact causes of the crash are unknown.

It is just the latest aviation accident to plague Nepal.

Nepal has some of the world's most remote and tricky runways, flanked by snow-capped peaks with approaches that pose a challenge for even accomplished pilots. The country has a booming private helicopter industry, flying tourists and goods to remote corners, where road access is limited or non-existent.

KALABURAGI MAHANAGARA PALIKE KALABURAGI

Email -itstaff.ulb_gulbarga@yahoo.com

DATE: 27-02-2019

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (Call-03)

"PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION, OPERATION / MAINTENANCE AND TRANSFER OF RAJIV GANDHI THEME PARK AT KALABURAGI"

KALABURAGI MAHANAGARA PALIKE KALABURAGI/KALABURAGI MUNICIPAL CORPORATION (KMP/KMC) invites Expression of Interest (EOI) through E-portal website of Government of Karnataka : <https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in> in a Single Cover (both Technical & Financial Bid) system with Proposed Concepts from reputed Organizations with proven Track Record for the Selection of Private Partners to Develop Rajiv Gandhi Theme Park at Kothoor in Kalaburagi District in Public Private Participation (PPP) mode, as per the terms and conditions laid down in Document. KALABURAGI MUNICIPAL CORPORATION (KMC) has envisaged the following 'CONSTRUCTION, OPERATION / MAINTENANCE AND TRANSFER OF RAJIV GANDHI THEME PARK AT KALABURAGI' from Leisure, Recreation, Adventure, Theme and Entertainment Sectors.

1) Theme and Entertainment Park with an array of Innovative and unique Theme and Entertainment concepts such as water world, Adventure zones, Multi-Dimensional stimulations & VR games. **2) Children's Adventure Park** with Fun & Entertainment zones such as Kids House, Aquarium, Vortex, Horror House, Mirror Maze, Karaoke Studio, Abcd Studio. **3) Family Entertainment Center (FEC)** with 12 D Theater, Observatory Tower with Sky Café & Planetarium, Varieties of Food courts, Roof Top Cafeteria along Event Area for Conducting Local Folk Dances and Different Shows. **4) Sports & Recreation Arena** with Indoor Gymnasium, Mini Golf & Hydrotherapy Pool. **5) Wellness** Center such as Aerobics, Yoga meditation, Steam Bath, Jacuzzi & Sauna. **6) Landscape Variety Of Theme Based Gardens** (Lush Green Lawns & Flower Beds), Artificial Turf area , Shanti Vana , Sanjivani vana , Semi Arid & Cactus Land , Topiary & Green Maze Etc. **7) Water Entertainment** such as Water Games with Slides Mini Wave Pools, Rain Dance Attraction, Mini Hydro Therapy Pool of 2 To 3 Feet Depth, Beautiful Marble water Fountains etc.

The 'Developers' shall be free to implement their own concepts and Designs taking into consideration the approved master plan from KMC/KMP and all the applicable Building Regulations, Bylaws/ Norms & Zonal regulations as applicable for the Project site and all civil constructions shall be Green rated Buildings.

Calendar of Events: 1) Pre Bid Meeting: 25.03.2019 - 04.00 PM. 2) Last date for submission of EOI application: 02.04.2019 - 05.00 PM. 3) Date of opening of EOI 04.04.2019 - 05.20 PM.

Superintendent Engineer Mahanagara Palike Kalaburagi can be contacted (Mobile No 9448140095) for 'Site visit' with prior intimation. Renowned Developers with proven Track record in implementing similar projects can download the 'Expression of Interest'(EOI) Document from E-portal website of Government of Karnataka : <https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in>. The filled in 'Expression of Interest' Document should be uploaded on E-portal website of Government of Karnataka: <https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in>

MARKET WATCH

	27-02-2019	% CHANGE
Sensex	35,905	-0.19
US Dollar	71.24	-0.23
Gold	34,650	0.34
Brent oil	66.53	1.89

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Ports	325.25	1.75
Asian Paints	1405.70	3.70
Axle Bank	718.20	8.05
Bajaj Auto	2914.70	55.40
Bajaj Finserv	6419.85	-32.80
Bajaj Finance	2642.00	-15.75
Bharti Airtel	320.15	4.70
BPCL	330.70	-5.95
Cipla	551.90	1.50
Coal India	221.45	1.30
Dr Reddy's Lab	2646.90	-0.90
Eicher Motors	20407.75	-212.25
GAIL (India)	335.70	2.25
Grasim Ind	782.40	1.40
HCL Tech	1060.35	1.50
HDFC	1841.00	-12.65
HDFC Bank	2092.25	-1.80
Hero MotoCorp	2678.55	-10.50
Hindalco	195.95	-0.55
HPLC	222.65	-3.20
Hind Unilever	1736.50	-35.75
Indiabulls HFL	658.90	-0.35
ICICI Bank	345.55	-2.65
IndusBank	1476.70	-1.40
Bharti Infratel	296.75	-11.25
Infosys	735.25	-7.25
Indian Oil Corp	140.90	-1.35
ITC	275.10	-0.40
JSW Steel	284.00	-0.50
Kotak Bank	1216.15	-20.00
L&T	1284.70	18.85
M&M	656.15	4.85
Maurti Suzuki	6968.50	64.20
NTPC	138.75	-1.80
ONGC	148.00	0.50
Power Grid Corp	181.45	0.25
Reliance Ind	1223.50	3.25
State Bank	267.65	1.30
Sun Pharma	442.70	6.95
Tata Motors	177.35	-5.30
Tata Steel	507.10	3.50
TCS	2058.10	19.40
Tech Mahindra	825.60	-7.70
Titan	1016.25	-22.10
UltraTech Cement	3889.10	100.55
UPL	869.30	14.25
Vedanta	164.65	-5.05
Wipro	374.40	-13.25
YES Bank	228.20	-1.30
Zee Entertainment	463.40	-5.80

EXCHANGE RATES

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	71.02	71.34
Euro	80.91	81.28
British Pound	94.56	95.02
Japanese Yen (100)	64.24	64.55
Chinese Yuan	10.63	10.68
Swiss Franc	71.25	71.57
Singapore Dollar	52.70	52.94
Canadian Dollar	54.08	54.33
Malaysian Ringgit	17.47	17.59

Source: Indian Bank

BULLION RATES CHENNAI

February 27 rates in rupees with previous rates in parentheses		
Retail Silver (1g)	43.6...	(43.4...
22 ct gold (1 g)	3193 (3182)	

Poor decisions harming aviation'

SpiceJet chairman points to delay in bringing aviation turbine fuel under GST

JAGRITI CHANDRA

NEW DELHI

SpiceJet Chairman and Managing Director Ajay Singh said on Wednesday that the aviation sector was reeling under high costs because of poor "leadership" and decision making.

"The issue we had when we started Spicejet in 2005 seems to be the same we had in 2018. Clearly, this needs to change. We have this bad habit of shooting ourselves in the foot, this needs to stop. We need to take quick decisions," Mr. Singh said at a CII event. He cited the delay in getting aviation turbine fuel under the GST regime as an example.

"We struggled with that forever," he added. "Our civil aviation policy says that its objective is to reduce cost, we are actually going on ad-



Many a slip: Our aviation policy says its objective is to reduce cost, but we are actually adding costs, says Ajay Singh. ■ AFP

ding costs. I think this is a mindset issue. People, politicians and bureaucrats, still believe mistakenly that this is something airlines can afford...I think we are shooting ourselves in the foot," Mr. Singh said.

He said that "very little"

was being done to 'encourage airlines to grow profitably' and this needed to be addressed. "It can't be that you have to wait 18 years for a simple little reform. It just shows poor leadership and low priority given to the [aviation] sector."

RBI pay norms may make private bank CEOs more accountable'

Proposals to help improve transparency in banking system

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

MUMBAI

The norms proposed by the RBI for compensation of chief executives and board members of private sector banks has been viewed as an effort to improve transparency and accountability of the banking system.

Variable pay

In a discussion paper, RBI had proposed that 50% of the compensation should be variable and that employee stock options (ESOPs) should be a part of the variable pay. The new norms propose variable pay to be capped at 200% of fixed pay, compared with the 70%

ble compensation for the assessment year.

There have been instances wherein some banks had reported significant divergence in disclosing bad loans and provisioning.

Welcoming the proposed norms, bankers said these were part of a global trend where the banking regulator was imposing stringent norms for compensation of chief executives. "This makes the chief executives more accountable," said the senior executive of a private bank. "It is part of a global trend. They have made the norms more specific," said Rajiv Lall, non-executive chairman, IDFC First Bank.

now. Also, ESOPs are not a part of variable pay now.

RBI had also proposed that if there is divergence in a bank's asset classification or provisioning from the central bank's norms that exceeds the prescribed threshold for public disclosure, the lender shall not pay the unvested portion of the varia-

tions

Centre brings 42 non-scheduled cancer drugs under price control

Move by NPPA may reduce retail prices by up to 85%

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

NEW DELHI

The government on Wednesday said it had brought 42 non-scheduled anti-cancer drugs under price control, capping trade margin at 30%, which would reduce their retail prices by up to 85%.

The National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) has invoked extraordinary powers in public interest, under Para 19 of the Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 2013 to bring 42 non-scheduled anti-cancer drugs under price control through trade margin rationalisation, an official release said.

"Invoking paragraph 19 of DPCO, 2013, the government hereby puts a cap on trade margin of 30% and directs manufacturers to fix their re-

tail price based on price at first point of sale of product... of the non-scheduled formulations containing any of the 42 drugs," the Department of Pharmaceuticals (DOP) said in a notification.

The drug manufacturers have been given seven days to recalculate the prices and inform the NPPA, state drug controllers, stockists and retailers, it said. The revised prices shall come into effect from March, 8, it added.

The NPPA currently fixes prices of drugs placed in the National List of Essential Medicines (NLEM) under Schedule-I of the DPCO. So far, around 1,000 drugs have been selected for price regulation by restricting trade margin on the selling price (MRP) up to 30%, the notification said.

"These would cover 72 formulations and 355 brands

as per data available with NPPA. More data is being collected from hospitals and manufacturers to finalise the list," it added.

The drug manufacturers have been given seven days to recalculate the prices and inform the NPPA, state drug controllers, stockists and retailers, it said. The revised prices shall come into effect from March, 8, it added.

The NPPA currently fixes prices of drugs placed in the National List of Essential Medicines (NLEM) under Schedule-I of the DPCO. So far, around 1,000 drugs have been selected for price regulation by restricting trade margin on the selling price (MRP) up to 30%, the notification said.

"These would cover 72 formulations and 355 brands

as per data available with NPPA. More data is being collected from hospitals and manufacturers to finalise the list," it added.

The drug manufacturers have been given seven days to recalculate the prices and inform the NPPA, state drug controllers, stockists and retailers, it said. The revised prices shall come into effect from March, 8, it added.

The NPPA currently fixes prices of drugs placed in the National List of Essential Medicines (NLEM) under Schedule-I of the DPCO. So far, around 1,000 drugs have been selected for price regulation by restricting trade margin on the selling price (MRP) up to 30%, the notification said.

"These would cover 72 formulations and 355 brands

Open offer exemptions to get stricter

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

NEW DELHI

Regulator SEBI plans to put in place a stricter framework for providing exemption from open offer requirements with respect to corporate debt restructuring activities, a senior official said.

The markets watchdog has proposed that relaxation might not be given to entities other than lenders in certain conditions, as well as do away with the reference to 'competent authority' in the context of exemptions provided under its takeover regulations.

Board meeting

The proposals are expected to be taken up by the SEBI board at its meeting scheduled to be held on March 1, the official said.

SEBI to amend norms for corporate debt rejig

Defers implementation till April 1

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

NEW DELHI

Under SEBI norms, an entity has to make an open offer in case its shareholding goes beyond a certain threshold. The open offer exemptions under Issue of Capital and Disclosure Requirements (ICDR) regulations as well as under take-over norms could be continued for allotment of shares to lenders pursuant to debt conversion in accordance with RBI norms, the official said.

Another proposal is that the open offer exemption might not be made available to persons (other than lenders), the official added.

Since the reference of 'competent authority' has not been defined, the watchdog is planning to delete it with respect to open offer exemption under takeover regulations.

Under SEBI norms, an entity has to make an open offer in case its shareholding goes beyond a certain threshold. The open offer exemptions under Issue of Capital and Disclosure Requirements (ICDR) regulations as well as under take-over norms could be continued for allotment of shares to lenders pursuant to debt conversion in accordance with RBI norms, the official said.

Another proposal is that the open offer exemption might not be made available to persons (other than lenders), the official added.

Since the reference of 'competent authority' has not been defined, the watchdog is planning to delete it with respect to open offer exemption under takeover regulations.



high customs duties on certain steel and aluminium products. As part of the imposition of higher import duties, New Delhi has notified higher tariffs on several products. While import duty on walnut has been hiked to 120% from 30% currently, duty on chickpeas, Bengal gram (chana) and masur dal will be raised to 70% from 30% currently.

A notification said that implementation of increased customs duty on specified imports originating in USA has been postponed from March 2, 2019 to April 1, 2019.

In June 2017, India decided to impose retaliatory tariffs after the U.S. imposed

high customs duties on certain steel and aluminium products. As part of the imposition of higher import duties, New Delhi has notified higher tariffs on several products. While import duty on walnut has been hiked to 120% from 30% currently, duty on chickpeas, Bengal gram (chana) and masur dal will be raised to 70% from 30% currently.

A notification said that implementation of increased customs duty on specified imports originating in USA has been postponed from March 2, 2019 to April 1, 2019.

In June 2017, India decided to impose retaliatory tariffs after the U.S. imposed

Govt. detects ₹20,000 cr. GST evasion, ₹10,000 cr. recovered

Talks soon on transition issues faced by realty sector

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

NEW DELHI

The government has detected ₹20,000 crore worth GST evasion so

IN BRIEF



Wipro to sell Workday, Cornerstone On Demand

IT services major Wipro said it would sell its Workday and Cornerstone On Demand business to Illinois-based Aight for cash consideration of up to \$110 million. Following the closing of its 10-year agreement, that was announced in September, Aight and Wipro continue to explore additional strategic opportunities and possible alignment of portfolios, Wipro said in a regulatory filing.

Croma plans to have 130 stores by March

Tata-owned Infiniti Retail Ltd, which owns the Croma electronics retail chain, is planning to run both large and small format stores to cater to different segment of households. "We started the retail chain for consumer electronics and durables with a large format stores of 10,000 sq.ft. each," said Ritesh Ghoshal, chief marketing officer. "By March 2019, we will have 130 stores across the country."

Shriram Properties tips up with Kotak India

Shriram Properties Ltd. (SPL) has partnered with Kotak India Affordable Housing Fund-I (KIAHF) for development of its next phase of affordable housing project in Kolkata named Shriram Grand 2. KIAHF, an affordable housing fund that is managed by Kotak Investment Advisors Ltd. and CDC Group, would invest up to ₹40 crore. This housing project will have over 3,000 units and aggregate saleable area of over 2.1 million sq.ft.

Nasscom wants U.S. to provide level-playing field for Indian firms

Indian IT companies get less than 12% of H-1B visas, not taking away U.S. jobs'

PIYUSH PANDEY

MUMBAI

IT industry body National Association of Software and Services Companies (Nasscom) is working closely with the U.S. government to change its perception that Indian firms and workers take away most of the jobs in the U.S. information technology sector.

According to Nasscom, Indian IT companies take less than 12% of the 65,000 H-1B visas. More than 70% of the visas are given to Indians, but not to Indian IT firms.

"There is a shortage of talent in the U.S. and Indians or Indian IT firms do not take away U.S. jobs. We are asking



Short of hands: U.S. will fall short of over two million digitally skilled staff by 2020, a government data show. ■ SHAJU JOHN

for a level-playing field and not for special treatment at all," Nasscom chairman Rishad Premji told *The Hindu*.

According to data with the U.S. Department of State and

Department of Labour, there will be a shortage of over two million digitally skilled workers by 2020 in the U.S.

Nasscom has roped in Spencer Abraham, chairman

and CEO of strategic consulting firm, The Abraham Group, to change the perception of the U.S. government towards the \$180 billion Indian IT industry.

Exciting year

According to Nasscom, 2018-19 was an exciting year for the industry, as the export sector crossed \$137 billion of revenue and marginally grew above Nasscom's guidance of 7.9%. Nasscom president Debjani Ghosh said, "There was a 9.2% growth in IT exports. So, we are doing phenomenally well in all the countries that we are in and we are expanding our footprint across the world."

Spotify enters India, to take on Amazon Music, JioSaavn

Users can access over 40 million songs and 3 bn playlists

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

NEW DELHI

Music streaming service Spotify on Wednesday announced its foray into the Indian market, where it will compete with players such as JioSaavn, Amazon Music and Gaana.

The Swedish firm said it would offer local and international music for Indian listeners with the app available to download for free. Users can also upgrade to Spotify Premium for ₹59 onwards per month.

Talking about the opportunity in the Indian market, Spotify India managing director Amarjit Singh Batra said a 2018 report by IMI and IFPI stated that an average Indian Internet user spent



21.5 hours listening to music per week.

"The same report also says that the income from subscription audio streams tripled from 2017, to ₹220 crore; that number gives a sense of how Indians are starting to consume music digitally," he told PTI.

While the national number of people paying for

music was small, statistics showed that there was definitely a growing section of users, who were seeing the value in subscriptions, he said.

"...we believe the market is maturing and ready to transition from a price-conscious to a value-for-money mindset," he added.

Spotify said it had redesigned the music experience for India with exclusive features such as multi-language music recommendations and city playlists that listed out trending music in various cities.

Users would get access to more than 40 million songs and 3 billion playlists across Indian and international music, he added.

Anarock sells property worth ₹22,000 crore

In partnership in 13 Indian cities, Gulf

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

MUMBAI

Leading real estate agent Anarock Property Consultants has announced the successful closure of 300 mandates to market residential projects across India and in the Gulf. The cumulative market value of the inventory sold to date is more than ₹22,000 crore, the company said.

300 residential projects "Anarock has strategically partnered with over 150 top developers across 13 Indian cities and in the Gulf. The market value of the overall mandated inventory we have sold since our launch in 2017 exceeds ₹22,000 crore across 300 residential

projects," Anuj Puri, chairman, Anarock Property Consultants, said.

Interestingly, 11,000 units of these, with a value of ₹10,000 crore, were sold in the current financial year (FY18-19) itself. The combination of focused experienced brokerage and our bespoke technology has been a winning combination," he added.

The company currently sells housing inventory at a rate of 1,000 apartments (approx. 1,000,000 sq.ft.) per month.

The cities which have yielded the highest and fastest closure of projects mandated exclusively are Mumbai, Bengaluru, Pune, Chennai and Delhi NCR.

India Inc. lauds Operation Balakot

Proud of action in retaliation to suicide attack: Ratan Tata

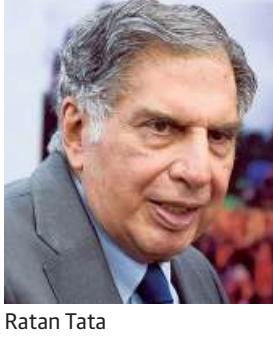
PIYUSH PANDEY

MUMBAI

India Inc. took to Twitter to applaud the action of the Indian Air Force (IAF) in striking terror camps across the Line of Control (LoC) in Pakistan, in the aftermath of the Pulwama ambush.

"We congratulate the PM and the IAF for the successful air strikes on the terrorist training camps which Pakistan has claimed never existed! India is proud of the firm action taken in retaliation to the suicide attack on our soldiers a few days ago," Ratan Tata, Chairman of Tata Sons, tweeted.

"The message from our armed forces is strong and resonates the pulse of the world's most populous democracy. The nation continues to stand firmly behind



Ratan Tata

our armed forces. #JaiHind #IndianAirForce," Adani Group chairman Gautam Adani said in his tweet.

'Feat in itself'

Mahindra Group chairman Anand Mahindra tweeted, "And they returned safely... which is a feat in itself. Let us pray for the continued safety of those who protect us."

RPG Group chairman Harsh Goenka's tweet read; "#IndianAirForce show moves from Bangalore to #Balakot. #Swachhbharat campaign moves to #Swachhpakistan. 'Josh' converts to start of end of Jaish. #SurgicalStrike2."

"We salute & stand firm with the valour of our security forces for their sustained commitment to protect our freedom For the families of the #Pulwama martyrs a small token of gratitude from everyone," Aditya Ghosh, CEO India and South Asia, OYO Hotels and Homes, tweeted.

Jindal Steel and Power Limited chairman Naveen Jindal offered salute to the Indian Air Force and the team that carried out the air strikes in Balakot.

Jeypore Sugar comes under insolvency action

NCLT order follows IDBI Bank petition

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

CHENNAI

company had offered a one-time settlement proposal, which did not materialise.

The company argued that the petition should be dismissed on grounds that the debt claim was barred by limitation as the default occurred on June 30, 2015 and whereas the petition was filed on October 24, 2018.

NCLT rejected the argument and ordered the initiation of insolvency proceedings. It had appointed V. Venkata Sivakumar as interim insolvency professional and also declared a moratorium. Under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, a maximum of 270 days are given for finding a suitable resolution plan for revival of the firm.

ODISHA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED

INVITATION FOR BIDS

(International Competitive Bidding)

Date : [28.02.2019]

Loan Agreement No : [ID-P245]

IFB No : [CPC/JICA/ICB/03/18-19]

Reference Identification No : [OPTCL/JICA/PKG-3]

1. The Government of India (hereinafter referred to as borrower) and Odisha Power Transmission Corporation Limited (OPTCL) (hereinafter referred to as executing agency) has received an ODA loan from Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) (formerly JBIC), in the amount of JPY 21,787 Million Japanese Yen, equivalent to approximately USD 182 Million, or approximately Rs.1,146.7 Million towards the cost of Odisha Power Transmission System Improvement Project. It is intended that part of the proceeds of this loan will be applied to eligible payments under the Contract for 10 nos. of packages - Design, Supply and Installation of Sub-Stations (S/S) & Transmission Lines (T/L) viz; Pkg-1 : Dhenkanal (New) S/S, Pkg-2 : Dhenkanal (New) T/L, Bhadrak New T/L, Kuakhia T/L, Pkg-3 : Bhadrak (New) S/S, Pkg-3A : Kuakhia S/S, Pkg-4 : Turumunga S/S and T/L and Chandipur S/S and T/L, Pkg-5 : Ganupur S/S and T/L, Bahugram S/S and T/L, Pkg-5A : Govindapalli S/S and T/L, Pkg-6 : Gondia S/S and T/L, Rajnagar S/S and T/L, Pkg-7 : Kikata S/S and T/L, Dasapala S/S and T/L and Pkg-8 : Deogarh S/S and T/L, Lakhimpur S/S and T/L, Lephrupada S/S and T/L and Thuapalli S/S and T/L. Disbursement of an ODA Loan by JICA will be subject, in all respects, to the terms and conditions of the Loan Agreement, including the disbursement procedures and the "Guidelines for Procurement under JICA ODA Loans". No party other than Government of India and OPTCL shall derive any rights from the Loan Agreement or have any claim to loan proceeds.

The above Loan Agreement will cover major part of the project cost. As for the remaining portion, Government of India and OPTCL will take appropriate measures for finance.

2. Bidding will be conducted through procedures in accordance with the applicable Guidelines for Procurement under Japanese ODA Loans, and is open to all Bidders from eligible source countries, as defined in the Loan Agreement.

3. The OPTCL now invites sealed Bids from eligible Bidders for the construction and completion of (Design, Supply and Installation of Sub-Stations & Transmission Lines for Procurement of 400/220/33 KV BHADRAK (Ramakrishnapur) S/S (OUTDOOR GIS) in Odisha State of India under Package-3 ("the facilities"). International Competitive Bidding will be conducted in accordance with JICA's Single-Stage Two Envelop Bidding Procedure.

4. Eligible Bidders may obtain further information from and inspect the Bidding Documents at the office given below :

C.G.M. (Elect.), CPC, Floor/Room number : 1st Floor, Corporate Building, OPTCL, Street Address : Janpath, Bhubaneswar, Odisha, INDIA, ZIP Code : 751 022, Tel : 0674-2541801, Fax : 0674-2542964, Email : sgm.cpc@optcl.co.in/jica@optcl.co.in

5. A complete set of the Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders on the submission of a written application to the address above and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Rs.22,400/- inclusive of GST @ 12% or 307.36USD or 34745JPY equivalent convertible currency in USD or JPY, by way of demand draft issued in favour of OPTCL, payable at Bhubaneswar, Odisha, India.

6. Bids must be delivered to the address above on or before 1.00 p.m. on dated 10th April, 2019 and must be accompanied by a Bid Security of INR 48 Million or JPY 74 Million or USD 0.66 Million.

7. Bids will be opened in the presence of Bidders' representatives who choose to attend at 3.30 p.m. on dated 10th April, 2019 at the office of the C.G.M. (Elect.), CPC, 1st Floor Conference Hall, Corporate Building, OPTCL, Street Address : Janpath, Bhubaneswar, Odisha, INDIA, ZIP Code : 751 022, Tel : 0674-2541801, Fax : 0674-2542964, Email : sgm.cpc@optcl.co.in/jica@optcl.co.in

CR. Adv. No.87/18-19 Chief General Manager (Elect.), C.P.C.

Please connect us : [optcl.odisha](#) [optcl_odisha](#) [energyodisha](#)

LAST FEW LEFT IN THIS IN
DAYS / MONTH / 2019

Don't let the time for improving your English run out.

Sign up with STEP before this month ends and avail up to

70 % OFF

on all English courses!

Scan the QR code

Use coupon code: FEB70

Visit BIT.LY/STEPFEB

STEP
Standardised Test of English Proficiency
from THE HINDU GROUP

The Maxwell show leaves India stunned as Australia sweeps series



On fire: Glenn Maxwell simply tore into the Indian attack. ■ K. MURALI KUMAR

His unbeaten 113 came off just 55 deliveries; Kohli and Dhoni's century stand to no avail

AUS IN INDIA

SHREEDUTTA CHIDANANDA
BENGALURU

An extraordinary hundred from Glenn Maxwell powered Australia to a seven-wicket victory over India and a first T20 series win in the country.

Set a target of 191 in the second T20I at the M. Chinnaswamy Stadium on Wednesday, Australia rode on Maxwell's unbeaten 113 (55b, 7x4, 9x6) to sail home by seven wickets, with two balls to spare. The Victoria batsman has not always been treated fairly by Australia's selectors but this assault – studded with some of the cleanest hits over the fence – was a demonstration of why he cannot be ignored for the World Cup.

India struck early in the run chase, reducing Australia to 11 for two, but D'Arcy Short and Maxwell dragged their side back into the contest, adding 73 runs off 43 balls for the third wicket. The home team replaced Mayank Markande and Umesh Yadav with Vijay Shankar and Siddharth Kaul, but it did not change the fact that there were only five bowlers at Virat Kohli's disposal.

If one of his key personnel had a bad day, the captain would have no one else to turn to. As it turned out, Yuzvendra Chahal had a rough evening, finishing with none for 47 from his four overs, and there were no alterna-



Stat attack

■ This is Kohli's first series loss at home as captain across formats. Of the 16 series so far, he has won 14, drawn one and lost one

■ This is also the first bilateral series defeat for India at home in any format since January 2016

■ Kohli has equalled Dilshan for the most number of fours (223) in T20Is. While the Lankan needed 80 matches, the Indian has done it in 67 games

■ The six sixes is Kohli's most in a T20I innings and his strike rate of 189.47 is his best in a 50-plus score in T20Is

■ **Dhoni became the first Indian to smash 350 sixes in international cricket – Tests (78), ODIs (222) & T20Is (52)**

tives. Short and Maxwell scored effortlessly through the middle overs, before the former was dismissed by Vijay Shankar for 40 (28b).

Costly Chahal
Maxwell, though, would not be stopped. With Peter Handscomb playing the perfect foil, he went on the attack. Australia needed 60 off the final five overs, when Maxwell slammed successive sixes off Chahal – the first over fine-leg, the second reverse-swept over third man – as the leg-spinner bled 16 runs. Jasprit Bumrah and Kaul had 44 to defend off the final four overs, but with Maxwell in such form, there was little they

could do.

At the heart of the Indian innings was a rapid 100-run partnership (50 balls) for the fourth wicket between Kohli and M.S. Dhoni. The pair was united at the crease just as Australia had begun applying the brakes in the middle overs; soon the fielding side would be scrambling for cover.

K.L. Rahul had given his side a brisk start with a 26-ball-47, after India had been sent in, but the Karnataka batsman's dismissal stemmed the flow of runs. Shikhar Dhawan, who replaced Rohit Sharma in the side, was out for 14, held by Marcus Stoinis as he ran in

SCOREBOARD INDIA VS AUSTRALIA, SECOND T20I

India: K.L. Rahul c Richardson b Coulter-Nile 47 (26b, 3x4, 4x6), Shikhar Dhawan c Stoinis b Behrendorff 14 (24b, 1x4), Virat Kohli (not out) 72 (38b, 2x4, 6x6), Rishabh Pant c Richardson b Short 1 (6b), M.S. Dhoni c Finch b Cummins 40 (23b, 3x4, 3x6), Dinesh Karthik (not out) 8 (3b, 2x4); Extras (lb-3, w-5); Total (for four wkt. in 20 overs): 190.

Fall of wickets: 1-61 (Rahul, 71 overs), 2-70 (Dhawan, 9.2), 3-74 (Pant, 10.5), 4-174 (Dhoni, 19.1).

Australia bowling: Behrendorff 3-0-17-1, Richardson 4-0-45-0, Coulter-Nile 3-0-33-1, Cummins 3-0-40-1, Zampa 4-0-23-0, Short 3-0-29-1.

Australia: D'Arcy Short c Rahul b

Vijay Shankar 40 (28b, 6x4), Marcus Stoinis b Kaul 7 (1b, 1x4), Aaron Finch c Dhawan b Vijay Shankar 8 (7b, 1x4), Glenn Maxwell (not out) 113 (55b, 7x4, 9x6), Peter Handscomb (not out) 18b, 1x4); Extras (lb-1, w-4, nb-1); 6; Total (for three wkt. in 19.4 overs): 194.

Fall of wickets: 1-13 (Stoinis, 2.2), 2-22 (Finch, 3.6), 3-95 (Short, 11.1).

India bowling: Vijay Shankar 4-0-38-2, Bumrah 4-0-30-0, Kuldeep 4-0-45-1, Chahal 4-0-47-0, Krunal 4-0-33-0.

Toss: Australia.

Man-of-the-Match: Maxwell. Australia won by seven wickets with two balls to spare and clinched series 2-0.

side, en route to his 40 (23b). Kohli had observed at the toss that this pitch looked like the 'Bangalore wicket of old', full of runs. He batted with great fluency, hitting through the line, trusting the bounce, and being violent on anything remotely loose.

Stunning shots

Kohli played some stunning shots, including a hat-trick of sixes off Nathan Coulter-Nile: the first sent over deep mid-wicket with a flick of the wrists, the second driven beyond extra-cover, and the third again whipped over the leg-side boundary. He remained unbeaten on 72 (38b).

India had smashed 116 runs off the last nine overs, including 91 off the last six, but it would not be enough.

Humbled by time out of the side: Rahul

Says he used the period to finetune his game

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT BENGALURU

K.L. Rahul has stated that his recent time out of the Indian team has "humbled" him, admitting that the off-field troubles he faced were "hard" to deal with. Rahul, suspended by the BCCI in January returned for the Australia series after the suspension was provisionally lifted. He has been in fine touch, scoring 50 and 47 in the two T20Is.

"I spent a lot of time with Rahul Dravid, working on my game and chatting about cricket. He helped me a lot in the games I played for India A. These games have helped me," he said.

Tough tour
Rahul had endured a difficult tour of Australia, which ended prematurely with his suspension. Upon returning home he turned out for India A and used his time with coach Rahul Dravid to work on his batting.

"It has been a hard time, no doubt. Everyone has to go through difficult times and it was my time to go through that," he said here on Wednesday.

"It has humbled me a little bit. I obviously respect the opportunity I have got to

play for the country. It is the dream of every kid and I am no different.

"[I have learnt] just to value where I am and keep making the opportunities count, put my head down and keep working on my cricket... Things happen. It has been four-five years with team India, I've learnt a lot about the game, where I stand as a person and cricketer."

Rahul was pleased to be back in the Indian side. "It's nice to be back with the boys and be back in blue," he said. "I'm just happy that I have tasted a bit of success in the last two games and my batting has come out pretty well."



Finding his range: K.L. Rahul, returning for the T20I series, batted well in both games. ■ K. MURALI KUMAR

Yashasvi and Vaibhav torment South Africa



Joy! Yashasvi Jaiswal gives vent to his feelings after reaching his hundred. ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

U-19 'TEST'

A. VINOD
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Opener Yashasvi Jaiswal and middle-order batsmen Vaibhav Kandpal, both aggressive left-handers, notched up a century each as India under-19 continued to dominate South Africa on the second day of the warm-up match at the Sports Hub, Kariyavattom, on Wednesday.

At close, the visitors were reeling at 50 for two in their second innings, still needing 193 more to avoid an innings defeat. India, resuming at 112 for two, finished with 395 in its first essay.

Yashasvi, 81 overnight, flourished yet again and held the innings together af-

ter the hosts lost three wickets for the addition of 65 runs. Vaibhav, who joined Yashasvi at this stage, played perfect foil.

They added 90 for the sixth wicket before Montgomery, bringing himself on, separated the pair by having Yashasvi (173, 220b, 24x4, 1x6) caught off his own bowling. Vaibhav, however, continued in the same vein and galloped to the three-figure mark, thanks to support from Anshul Khamboj and Manish. His 120 off 170 deliveries had 17 fours and two sixes.

The scores: South Africa 152 and 50 for two in 21 overs (Matthew Montgomery 34 batting) vs India 395 (Yashasvi Jaiswal 173, Vaibhav Kandpal 120, Lifa Ntanzi four for 79).

The Buttler did it!

His 150 powers England to 418

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE ST. GEORGE'S (GRENADA)

Jos Buttler and Eoin Morgan blazed centuries as England amassed 418 for six against the West Indies in the fourth ODI on Wednesday.

Buttler led the way in a rampaging innings of 150 off just 77 balls with 12 sixes and 13 fours while captain Morgan reached 103 off 88 deliveries with six sixes and eight fours.

Just a week after the West Indies posted a new record tally of 23 sixes for an ODI innings, England surpassed that number by one, Buttler thrashing Brathwaite for another huge hit over deep midwicket before the big all-rounder bowled him with the next delivery. The scores: England 418 for six



In 50 overs (Jos Buttler 150, Eoin Morgan 103, Alex Hales 82, Jonny Bairstow 56) vs West Indies.

Life ban too harsh for Sreesanth: counsel

KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL NEW DELHI

Former India cricketer S. Sreesanth on Wednesday told the Supreme Court that a life ban from the game is too harsh a punishment.

"Life ban given to Mohd. Azharuddin (former India captain) was overturned, senior advocate Salman Khurshid, for Sreesanth,

told a Bench of Justices Ashoka Bhushan and K.M. Joseph.

Khurshid argued that despite the ban and losing the best part of his career, Sreesanth has remained loyal to the BCCI and wants to "reconnect" with the Board.

BCCI would begin its response in the case on February 28.

Manu and Saurabh bag gold

SHOOTING WC

KAMESH SRINIVASAN NEW DELHI

For the brave, pressure is a privilege.

For the Indian team that was reeling under considerable pressure after the gold medals and Olympic quotas had dried up after the first two days, it was a memorable climax as Manu Bhaker and Saurabh Chaudhary lifted the sagging spirits to clinch the mixed air pistol gold in the shooting World Cup that concluded at the Dr. Karni Singh Range, Tughlakabad, on Wednesday.

It was the second gold for the 17-year-old Saurabh, the Asian Games champion, after the individual gold in air pistol earlier. For Manu, it was a fighting performance as she handled the crunch with poise, releasing the best shots, and cancelling her aim and starting afresh whenever required, despite the possibility of getting into time pressure.

Even though it was Saurabh who pulled the team better and delivered the big 10s to help the team surge, Manu played her part well when Saurabh himself shot the 8s and the 9s in the gripping final.

The Indian team logged 483.4 points to beat Chinese Jiang Ranxin and Zhang Bowen comprehensively by 5.7 points.

After winning her first medal in the third event, Manu was understandably relieved.

"At last, there is a medal for me. I am happy that we could win gold for India. It is a special moment as we can hear the national anthem," said Manu.

She had placed fifth in sports pistol and had missed the final by one point in air pistol.

The second Indian team of Heena Sidhu and Abhishek Verma lifted the sagging spirits to clinch the mixed air pistol gold in the shooting World Cup that concluded at the Dr. Karni Singh Range, Tughlakabad, on Wednesday.

In mixed air rifle, Anju

Moudgil and Ravi Kumar shot 836.7 and missed the final by 0.2 point in a strong field of 54 teams, in which the Chinese bagged the gold.

The results: **Mixed team air pistol:** 1. India (Manu Bhaker, Saurabh Chaudhary) 483.4 (778 EWR); 2. China (Jiang Ranxin, Zhang Bowen) 477.7 (775); 3. Korea Kim Bomji, Han Seungwoo) 418.8 (773); 9. India-A (Heena Sidhu, Abhishek Verma) 770.

Mixed team air rifle: 1. China (Zhao Ruozhu, Liu Yukun) 503.6 WR (841.1); 2. Romania (Laura-Georgeta Coman, Alin George Moldoveanu) 496.2 (836.9); 3. Korea Keum Jiyoung, Choo Byoungil) 434.3 (836.5); 7. India (Anju Moudgil, Ravi Kumar) 836.3; 25. India-A (Apurvi Chandela, Deepak Kumar) 831.0.

The discussion on security wasn't part of the agenda but included on BCCI's insistence. The global body said it was evaluating "risk assessment" as has been the norm for global events.

Will uplift security, says ICC chief

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA DUBAI

The International Cricket Council (ICC) on Wednesday assured the BCCI that if need arises, it will "uplift the security based on advice of relevant agencies" to address India's concerns during the upcoming World Cup.

The discussion on security wasn't part of the agenda but included on BCCI's insistence. The global body said it was evaluating "risk assessment" as has been the norm for global events.

Federer advances

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE DUBAI

Roger Federer moved to within three wins of a 100th career title after beating Fernando Verdasco 6-3, 3-6, 6-3 to move into the Dubai quarterfinals on Wednesday.

In the doubles quarterfinal, Leander Paes and Benoit Paire lost to Rajeev Ram and Joe Salisbury 6-1, 6-3.

Other results (round two): Hubert Hurkacz bt Kei Nishikori 7-5, 5-7, 6-2; Nikoloz Basilashvili bt Roberto Bautista Agut 6-7(2), 6-4, 6-3.

Unmukt, Bhati star for Delhi

Kerala puts it past Jammu & Kashmir; Jharkhand too has it easy

MUSHTAQ ALI

SPORTS BUREAU
MULAPADU

Opener Unmukt Chand's stroke-filled knock (70, 35b, 4x4, 6x6) and an impressive spell by medium-pacer Subodh Bhati (four for 27), Delhi recorded a 32-run win over Andhra in the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy T-20 cricket championship league match at Mulapadu Cricket Complex here on Wednesday.

Electing to bat, Delhi lost opener Hiten Dalal (0) to pacer Ayyappa Bandaru in the first over before Unmukt and Dhruv Shorey (28, 21b, 3 x 4, 1 x 6) put up 74 runs for the second wicket to keep Andhra bowlers at bay.

Later on, Lalit Yadav (31, 19b, 1 x 4, 2 x 6) propped the total with a breezy knock.

In reply, once pacer Ishant Sharma forced Andhra captain Hanuman Vihari to nick to wicketkeeper Anuj Rawat in the first over. Andhra was never really in the hunt losing wickets at regular intervals. The only notable contribution came from Ashwin Hebbar (38, 29b, 1x4, 1x6).

This was Delhi's fourth win in five games while, Andhra suffered third defeat in four matches. In another



Fluent knock: Unmukt Chand's stroke-filled knock 70 helped Delhi breeze past Andhra.

■ FILE PHOTO

match, Kerala scored an emphatic, 94-run win over Jammu & Kashmir for its third win in four matches.

Jharkhand notched up its fourth consecutive win when

it defeated Nagaland by 54 runs.

Captain Ishan Kishan (52, 39b, 6x4, 2x6) and Kumar Deborah (69 not out, 32b, 5x4, 6x6) scored breezy half-

centuries and Anukul Roy chipped with a quick fire unbeaten 47 (23b, 4x4, 3x6) during a 57-run stand in 52 balls with Ishan to help Delhi post 175 for eight.

At present, Tata Steel is associated with the year-ending event that offers ₹1 crore in prize-money. Following the agreement, the title-sponsor of the Tour is, at least, expected to hold the year's richest prize-money event in 2019.

Last year, the Take Solution-sponsored Jeev Milkha Singh Invitational event in Chandigarh offered ₹1.5 crore to be the biggest on the Tour.

Tata Steel could be ex-

pected to contribute signifi-

cantly to domestic golf as it does for other sports if its sustained support to foot-

ball, archery, chess, etc., is

anything to go by.

Uttam and Sanjiv as-

sured that the partnership

would make several "valu-

e-additions" to the Tour,

particularly to the players.

Leicester beats Brighton

Newcastle halts Burnley's unbeaten run

EURO LEAGUES

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
LONDON

New Leicester manager Brendan Rodgers watched on from the stands as the Foxes beat Brighton 2-1, while Newcastle pulled further clear of the relegation battle by defeating Burnley on Tuesday.

Rodgers was confirmed as Claude Puel's successor just before kick-off at the King Power after dramatically leaving Celtic despite being on course for a third straight domestic treble in Scotland.

The Northern Irishman saw what his new side is capable of as Demarai Gray and Jamie Vardy put the host into a 2-0 lead before Davy Propper pulled a goal back.

"I spoke to them about the incoming manager and just said we had to concentrate on the game. He's given the players a boost. He said he's excited to get started," said Leicester's caretaker manager Mike Stowell.

"It's been a difficult season on and off the pitch but I think we should be seventh for the quality we have."

"Today's win broke four defeats on the spin so hopefully the shackles are off because there's still plenty of games to play – let's look upwards not down."

However, Brighton's alarming slide towards the



Goal: Jamie Vardy gets on the scoresheet for Leicester City.

■ REUTERS

bottom three continued as it could not find an equaliser and now has not won in seven league games.

Newcastle is headed in the other direction as once again it was inspired by the performance of record signing Miguel Almiron before Burnley's eight-game unbeaten run with a 2-0 victory.

Fabian Schar's stunning long-range effort put Rafael Benitez's men in front before Sean Longstaff scored his first league goal for the club to give Newcastle a commanding half-time lead it never looked like surrendering. "It is amazing to be playing every week, it was my dream as a young boy," said Newcastle native Longstaff.

"There is something different about night games at St. James' Park. The atmosphere is the best in the world, I got lost in the goal. It was amazing."

Cardiff remains just a point above the relegation zone as Everton inflicted a second heavy home defeat on the Welsh side in five days with a 3-0 win to boost its confidence ahead of Sunday's Merseyside derby against Liverpool.

Gylfi Sigurdsson scored twice either side of half-time before Dominic Calvert-Lewin rounded off a badly needed win for manager Marco Silva in stoppage time. Huddersfield remains rock bottom, but did secure its first win under Jan Siewert thanks to Steve Mounie's 91-minute winner to beat Wolves 1-0.

The results: Premier League: Cardiff 0 lost to Everton 3 (Sigurdsson 41, 66, Calvert-Lewin 90+2); Huddersfield 1 (Mounie 90+1) bt Wolves 0; Leicester 2 (Gray 10, Vardy 63) bt Brighton 1 (Propper 66); Newcastle 2 (Schar 24, Longstaff 38) bt Burnley 0.

Real vs EB – lot at stake

I-LEAGUE

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Real Kashmir and East Bengal meet in a crucial I-League match to be held at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium here on Thursday.

With both teams locked on 33 points, it is important to win this contest to stay in contention for the title, which, as of now, looks firmly placed in the lap of Chennai City, sitting on top of the table with 40 points from 18 matches.

Real Kashmir coach, David Robertson said, "We are

in a good momentum, getting well. Both the teams want to play and win."

"It's been a fantastic journey, unbeaten away from home. No better way to keep the benchmark by playing against East Bengal."

East Bengal head coach Alejandro noted, "When you play again in a short span of time less than 72 hours, it is not enough to get high quality from our players, but we are fully motivated and almost recovered from the last match. We are ready to play tomorrow."

AMITABHA DAS SHARMA
JAMSHEDPUR

Jamshedpur FC bowed out of the ISL with a win as it downed the current leader Bengaluru FC 5-1 in its final league fixture here on Wednesday.

The host gained from a series of successful attacks in the second half where it scored four in a span of seven minutes to complete its biggest winning margin of the season.

BFC went ahead in the first quarter of the action through a goal from Thongkiosiem Haokip and then saw Francisco Marcos' penalty saved midway through the action.

BFC, which left the nucleus of its side back home preparing for the semifinals,

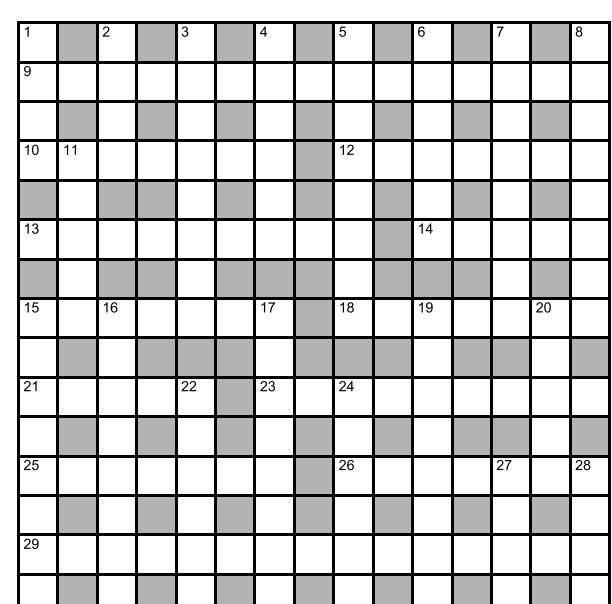
fielded four B-team players as coach Carles Cuadrat made eight changes in the side.

Despite the loss, BFC finished on top of the league for the second successive season, with 34 points from 18 matches.

Jamshedpur finished fifth with 27 points from 18 matches to end another season of disappointment. It qualified to the main draw of the Super Cup, which comes up later next month.

The result: Jamshedpur FC 5 (Augustine Fernandes 45+2, Michael Soosairaj 54, Pablo Morgado 56, 57, Carlos Calvo 61) bt Bengaluru FC 1 (Thongkiosiem Haokip 16).

THE HINDU CROSSWORD 12561



ACROSS

- 9 Drama troupe won't adapt linguistic hybrid exemplified by Bollywood (11,4)
- 10 Slower alternative: having tubes tied (7)
- 12 Run away from Sun critic (7)
- 13 Clergy acting upset due to this (9)
- 21 Capable of ignoring our patron's oddities! (2,2)
- 22 Sweet Parisian goods (6)
- 24 Remains here after setback, gutted and distraught (6)
- 27 Right of admission that's enjoyed after 15 (6)
- 5 They refuse to pay queens from Cardiff! (8)

(set by Skulldugger)

- 6 Advanced new creature collared by freak (6)
- 7 Drug the geezer smuggled in after social uprising (8)
- 8 Dreadful old sores undetectable by Bill in the U.S. (8)
- 11 Mostly uninspired cold white wine (5)
- 15 Appetiser before lasagne? Not quite (8)
- 16 Jointly managed depleted uranium and fermium nucleus with this mineral (8)
- 17 Has misgivings about defective space suits missing cores (8)
- 19 Direct or indirect loan shark (8)
- 20 Deer sounds akin to cattle cries (5)
- 22 Sweet Parisian goods (6)
- 24 Remains here after setback, gutted and distraught (6)
- 27 Property right initially unavailable for foreign national (4)
- 28 Skirt, shirt you called for repeatedly (4)

DOWN

- 1 Capable of ignoring our patron's oddities! (2,2)
- 2 Extremely dry British channel (4)
- 3 Discharge duty in pursuit of revenge finally (8)
- 4 Right of admission that's enjoyed after 15 (6)
- 5 They refuse to pay queens from Cardiff! (8)

SUDOKU

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

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★

Solution to puzzle 12560

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

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

MUSHTAQ ALI SCORES

Group A (Mulapadu): Jharkhand 197 for three in 20 overs (Ishan Kishan 52, Kumar Deobrat 69 n.o., Anukul Roy 47 n.o.) bt Nagaland 143 for three in 20 overs (Abhishek Kaushik 31, Szedhalie Rupero 38, Rongsen Jonathan 47). **Jharkhand 4 (16), Nagaland 0 (0).**

Kerala 159 for seven in 20 overs (Vinod Manoharan 52, Mohammed Azharuddeen 32) bt Jammu & Kashmir 65 in 14.2 overs (S. Midhan three for nine). **Kerala 12 (12), J&K 0 (8).**

Delhi 175 for eight in 20 overs (Unmukt Chand 70, Dhruv Shorey 28, Lalit Yadav 31) bt Andhra 143 in 19.3 overs (Ashwin Hebbar 38, Shaiboh Mohammed Khan 26 n.o., Subodh Bhati four for 27). **Delhi 4 (16), Andhra 0 (4).**

Group B (Surat): Vidarbha 161 for six in 20 overs (Shalabh Shrivastava 56, Rushabh Rathod 38 n.o.) bt Meghalaya 129 for four in 20 overs (Gurinder Singh 56 n.o.). **Vidarbha 4 (16), Meghalaya 0 (0).**

Tamil Nadu 138 for nine in 20 overs (M. Vijay 77, Ankit Maini 29) lost to Himachal 139 for three in 19.2 overs (Karun Nair 35, J. Suchith 34, R. Vinay Kumar 34 n.o.). **Karnataka 4 (20), Chhattisgarh 0 (12).**

Haryana 205 for two in 20 overs (Himanshu Rana 25, Gunashekar Singh 100 n.o., Chaitanya Bisht 33, Sumit Kumar 41) bt Mizoram 166 for five in 20 overs (Tarwar Kohli 63, Akhil Rajput 59). **Haryana 4 (12), Mizoram 0 (0).**

Bihar 199 for four in 20 overs (Priyank Panchal 78, Dhruv Raval 36, Axar Patel 29 n.o., Piyush Chawla 41 n.o.) bt Bihar 116 for seven in 20 overs (Keshav Kumar 61 n.o., Arzan Nagaw

TV PICKS

New Zealand vs Bangladesh: 1st Test, SS Select 1 & 2 (SD & HD), 3.30 a.m.
NBA: Sony Ten 1 (SD & HD), 6.30 a.m.
Syed Mushtaq Ali T20: Star Sports 2 (SD & HD), 9 a.m. & 1.30 p.m.
Afghanistan vs Ireland: 1st ODI, DSPORT, 1 p.m.
Dubai Open: Sony ESPN (SD & HD), 4.30 p.m.
I-League: Star Sports 3, 5 p.m.
ISL: Star Sports 1 (SD & HD), 7.30 p.m.

IN BRIEF



Ghosal enters quarterfinals

CHICAGO: Saurav Ghosal made his way into the quarterfinal with a hard fought win over Wales player Joel Makin in the PSA World squash championship here on Tuesday. The 11th seeded Indian won 11-13, 11-7, 11-7, 13-11. In the fourth game, Saurav was down 5-8 and Makin looked all over. However, experience helped the Indian as he clawed back earned three match balls before ensuring a win.

Indian women lose to Uzbekistan in Turkish Cup

ALANYA (TURKEY): The Indian women's football team put up a valiant fight before going down 1-0 to Uzbekistan in the first match of the Turkish Cup on Wednesday. An early goal by Burhanou Malika (fourth minute) proved the match-winner. Though the Indian women played more aggressively in the second half, with Dangmei Grace using her long-range shooting abilities, they couldn't score. PTI

Siakam and Leonard lead Celtics rout

NEW YORK: Pascal Siakam and Kawhi Leonard led the way as Toronto Raptors kept up the pressure on Eastern Conference leader Milwaukee on Tuesday with a 118-95 rout of Boston Celtics.

Other results: Knicks 108 bt

Magic 103; Nuggets 121 bt Thunder 112. AFP

Indians fail to flourish on fast tables

Former World champions Higgins and Bingham progress

INDIAN OPEN

STAN RAYAN
KOCHI

S. Shrikrishna has a habit of talking to himself during matches. "It's almost like talking to a third person," revealed the Chennai youngster who won the men's National billiards title a few weeks ago the other day. "Sometimes, I even ask why you're playing like this."

However, on Wednesday, Shrikrishna virtually did not have anything to tell himself as he lost to Ben Woollaston 0-4 in the Indian Open world-ranking snooker tournament at the Grand Hyatt, Bolghatty Island.

A wild card, the 19-year-old was all at sea against the seasoned Englishman in the qualifying round and had a good reason for it.

"These tables are very fast, they are totally different from what we are used to," said Shrikrishna, whose only decent break was a 32 in the opening frame. "I would have played better had I spent more hours on these tables. I just got around two hours."

Hyderabad's Himanshu Jain also suffered a straight frame loss to Jack Lisowski.

"The tables are quite fast,



Bingo! Stuart Bingham got his lines right against Peter.

• SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

the reactions are quite different. Everything was perfect but we are not used to these. I got used to it after a couple of frames," said Himanshu.

"The third frame was close on the black ball. But, from this match, I know that we can also play with them."

Wildcards do better

Two other Indian wildcards, Autosh Pady and Laxman Rawat, fared better despite losing. While Autosh took two frames against Wales' Dominic Dale, Rawat lost 1-4 against China's Zhou Yuelong.

The luckiest Indian was 16-year-old Digvijay Kadian who got into the main draw after his opponent Jamie Jones of Wales was disqualified on disciplinary grounds.

The big names – Scotland's defending champion John Higgins and England's Stuart Bingham, both former World champions – registered wins. Higgins defeated Ashley Hugill 4-1 in the qualification round while Bingham beat compatriot Peter Lines by a similar margin.

Important results: Ben Woollaston (Eng) bt S. Shrikrishna (Ind) 4-0 (60-45, 62-12, 71-8, 63-2); Jack Lisowski (Eng) bt Himanshu Jain (Ind) 4-0 (63-26, 73-17, 63-58, 94-0); Dominic Dale (Wal) bt Autosh Pady (Ind) 4-2 (93-13, 68-51, 83-41, 19-91, 40-88, 71-42); Zhou Yuelong (Chn) bt Laxman Rawat (Ind) 4-1 (76-36, 87-6, 82-16, 19-67, 110-13).

The big names – Scotland's defending champion John Higgins and England's Stuart Bingham, both former World champions – registered wins. Higgins defeated Ashley Hugill 4-1 in the qualification round while Bingham beat compatriot Peter Lines by a similar margin.

Important results: Ben Woollaston (Eng) bt S. Shrikrishna (Ind) 4-0 (60-45, 62-12, 71-8, 63-2); Jack Lisowski (Eng) bt Himanshu Jain (Ind) 4-0 (63-26, 73-17, 63-58, 94-0); Dominic Dale (Wal) bt Autosh Pady (Ind) 4-2 (93-13, 68-51, 83-41, 19-91, 40-88, 71-42); Zhou Yuelong (Chn) bt Laxman Rawat (Ind) 4-1 (76-36, 87-6, 82-16, 19-67, 110-13).

Jones of Wales was disqualified on disciplinary grounds.

The big names – Scotland's defending champion John Higgins and England's Stuart Bingham, both former World champions – registered wins. Higgins defeated Ashley Hugill 4-1 in the qualification round while Bingham beat compatriot Peter Lines by a similar margin.

Important results: Ben Woollaston (Eng) bt S. Shrikrishna (Ind) 4-0 (60-45, 62-12, 71-8, 63-2); Jack Lisowski (Eng) bt Himanshu Jain (Ind) 4-0 (63-26, 73-17, 63-58, 94-0); Dominic Dale (Wal) bt Autosh Pady (Ind) 4-2 (93-13, 68-51, 83-41, 19-91, 40-88, 71-42); Zhou Yuelong (Chn) bt Laxman Rawat (Ind) 4-1 (76-36, 87-6, 82-16, 19-67, 110-13).

Important results: Ben Woollaston (Eng) bt S. Shrikrishna (Ind) 4-0 (60-45, 62-12, 71-8, 63-2); Jack Lisowski (Eng) bt Himanshu Jain (Ind) 4-0 (63-26, 73-17, 63-58, 94-0); Dominic Dale (Wal) bt Autosh Pady (Ind) 4-2 (93-13, 68-51, 83-41, 19-91, 40-88, 71-42); Zhou Yuelong (Chn) bt Laxman Rawat (Ind) 4-1 (76-36, 87-6, 82-16, 19-67, 110-13).

Important results: Ben Woollaston (Eng) bt S. Shrikrishna (Ind) 4-0 (60-45, 62-12, 71-8, 63-2); Jack Lisowski (Eng) bt Himanshu Jain (Ind) 4-0 (63-26, 73-17, 63-58, 94-0); Dominic Dale (Wal) bt Autosh Pady (Ind) 4-2 (93-13, 68-51, 83-41, 19-91, 40-88, 71-42); Zhou Yuelong (Chn) bt Laxman Rawat (Ind) 4-1 (76-36, 87-6, 82-16, 19-67, 110-13).

Important results: Ben Woollaston (Eng) bt S. Shrikrishna (Ind) 4-0 (60-45, 62-12, 71-8, 63-2); Jack Lisowski (Eng) bt Himanshu Jain (Ind) 4-0 (63-26, 73-17, 63-58, 94-0); Dominic Dale (Wal) bt Autosh Pady (Ind) 4-2 (93-13, 68-51, 83-41, 19-91, 40-88, 71-42); Zhou Yuelong (Chn) bt Laxman Rawat (Ind) 4-1 (76-36, 87-6, 82-16, 19-67, 110-13).

Important results: Ben Woollaston (Eng) bt S. Shrikrishna (Ind) 4-0 (60-45, 62-12, 71-8, 63-2); Jack Lisowski (Eng) bt Himanshu Jain (Ind) 4-0 (63-26, 73-17, 63-58, 94-0); Dominic Dale (Wal) bt Autosh Pady (Ind) 4-2 (93-13, 68-51, 83-41, 19-91, 40-88, 71-42); Zhou Yuelong (Chn) bt Laxman Rawat (Ind) 4-1 (76-36, 87-6, 82-16, 19-67, 110-13).

Important results: Ben Woollaston (Eng) bt S. Shrikrishna (Ind) 4-0 (60-45, 62-12, 71-8, 63-2); Jack Lisowski (Eng) bt Himanshu Jain (Ind) 4-0 (63-26, 73-17, 63-58, 94-0); Dominic Dale (Wal) bt Autosh Pady (Ind) 4-2 (93-13, 68-51, 83-41, 19-91, 40-88, 71-42); Zhou Yuelong (Chn) bt Laxman Rawat (Ind) 4-1 (76-36, 87-6, 82-16, 19-67, 110-13).

Important results: Ben Woollaston (Eng) bt S. Shrikrishna (Ind) 4-0 (60-45, 62-12, 71-8, 63-2); Jack Lisowski (Eng) bt Himanshu Jain (Ind) 4-0 (63-26, 73-17, 63-58, 94-0); Dominic Dale (Wal) bt Autosh Pady (Ind) 4-2 (93-13, 68-51, 83-41, 19-91, 40-88, 71-42); Zhou Yuelong (Chn) bt Laxman Rawat (Ind) 4-1 (76-36, 87-6, 82-16, 19-67, 110-13).

Important results: Ben Woollaston (Eng) bt S. Shrikrishna (Ind) 4-0 (60-45, 62-12, 71-8, 63-2); Jack Lisowski (Eng) bt Himanshu Jain (Ind) 4-0 (63-26, 73-17, 63-58, 94-0); Dominic Dale (Wal) bt Autosh Pady (Ind) 4-2 (93-13, 68-51, 83-41, 19-91, 40-88, 71-42); Zhou Yuelong (Chn) bt Laxman Rawat (Ind) 4-1 (76-36, 87-6, 82-16, 19-67, 110-13).

Important results: Ben Woollaston (Eng) bt S. Shrikrishna (Ind) 4-0 (60-45, 62-12, 71-8, 63-2); Jack Lisowski (Eng) bt Himanshu Jain (Ind) 4-0 (63-26, 73-17, 63-58, 94-0); Dominic Dale (Wal) bt Autosh Pady (Ind) 4-2 (93-13, 68-51, 83-41, 19-91, 40-88, 71-42); Zhou Yuelong (Chn) bt Laxman Rawat (Ind) 4-1 (76-36, 87-6, 82-16, 19-67, 110-13).

Important results: Ben Woollaston (Eng) bt S. Shrikrishna (Ind) 4-0 (60-45, 62-12, 71-8, 63-2); Jack Lisowski (Eng) bt Himanshu Jain (Ind) 4-0 (63-26, 73-17, 63-58, 94-0); Dominic Dale (Wal) bt Autosh Pady (Ind) 4-2 (93-13, 68-51, 83-41, 19-91, 40-88, 71-42); Zhou Yuelong (Chn) bt Laxman Rawat (Ind) 4-1 (76-36, 87-6, 82-16, 19-67, 110-13).

Important results: Ben Woollaston (Eng) bt S. Shrikrishna (Ind) 4-0 (60-45, 62-12, 71-8, 63-2); Jack Lisowski (Eng) bt Himanshu Jain (Ind) 4-0 (63-26, 73-17, 63-58, 94-0); Dominic Dale (Wal) bt Autosh Pady (Ind) 4-2 (93-13, 68-51, 83-41, 19-91, 40-88, 71-42); Zhou Yuelong (Chn) bt Laxman Rawat (Ind) 4-1 (76-36, 87-6, 82-16, 19-67, 110-13).

Important results: Ben Woollaston (Eng) bt S. Shrikrishna (Ind) 4-0 (60-45, 62-12, 71-8, 63-2); Jack Lisowski (Eng) bt Himanshu Jain (Ind) 4-0 (63-26, 73-17, 63-58, 94-0); Dominic Dale (Wal) bt Autosh Pady (Ind) 4-2 (93-13, 68-51, 83-41, 19-91, 40-88, 71-42); Zhou Yuelong (Chn) bt Laxman Rawat (Ind) 4-1 (76-36, 87-6, 82-16, 19-67, 110-13).

Important results: Ben Woollaston (Eng) bt S. Shrikrishna (Ind) 4-0 (60-45, 62-12, 71-8, 63-2); Jack Lisowski (Eng) bt Himanshu Jain (Ind) 4-0 (63-26, 73-17, 63-58, 94-0); Dominic Dale (Wal) bt Autosh Pady (Ind) 4-2 (93-13, 68-51, 83-41, 19-91, 40-88, 71-42); Zhou Yuelong (Chn) bt Laxman Rawat (Ind) 4-1 (76-36, 87-6, 82-16, 19-67, 110-13).

Important results: Ben Woollaston (Eng) bt S. Shrikrishna (Ind) 4-0 (60-45, 62-12, 71-8, 63-2); Jack Lisowski (Eng) bt Himanshu Jain (Ind) 4-0 (63-26, 73-17, 63-58, 94-0); Dominic Dale (Wal) bt Autosh Pady (Ind) 4-2 (93-13, 68-51, 83-41, 19-91, 40-88, 71-42); Zhou Yuelong (Chn) bt Laxman Rawat (Ind) 4-1 (76-36, 87-6, 82-16, 19-67, 110-13).

Important results: Ben Woollaston (Eng) bt S. Shrikrishna (Ind) 4-0 (60-45, 62-12, 71-8, 63-2); Jack Lisowski (Eng) bt Himanshu Jain (Ind) 4-0 (63-26, 73-17, 63-58, 94-0); Dominic Dale (Wal) bt Autosh Pady (Ind) 4-2 (93-13, 68-51, 83-41, 19-91, 40-88, 71-42); Zhou Yuelong (Chn) bt Laxman Rawat (Ind) 4-1 (76-36, 87-6, 82-16, 19-67, 110-13).

Important results: Ben Woollaston (Eng) bt S. Shrikrishna (Ind) 4-0 (60-45, 62-12, 71-8, 63-2); Jack Lisowski (Eng) bt Himanshu Jain (Ind) 4-0 (63-26, 73-17, 63-58, 94-0); Dominic Dale (Wal) bt Autosh Pady (Ind) 4-2 (93-13, 68-51, 83-41, 19-91, 40-88, 71-42); Zhou Yuelong (Chn) bt Laxman Rawat (Ind) 4-1 (76-36, 87-6, 82-16, 19-67, 110-13).

Important results: Ben Woollaston (Eng) bt S. Shrikrishna (Ind) 4-0 (60-45, 62-12, 71-8, 63-2); Jack Lisowski (Eng) bt Himanshu Jain (Ind) 4-0 (63-26, 73-17, 63-58, 94-0); Dominic Dale (Wal) bt Autosh Pady (Ind) 4-2 (93-13, 68-51, 83-41, 19-91, 40-88, 71-42); Zhou Yuelong (Chn) bt Laxman Rawat (Ind) 4-1 (76-36, 87-6, 82-16, 19-67, 110-13).

Important results: Ben Woollaston (Eng) bt S. Shrikrishna (Ind) 4-0 (60-45, 62-12, 71-8, 63-2); Jack Lisowski (Eng) bt Himanshu Jain (Ind) 4-0 (63-26, 73-17, 63-58, 94-0); Dominic Dale (Wal) bt Autosh Pady (Ind) 4-2 (93-13, 68-51, 83-41, 19-91, 40-88, 71-42); Zhou Yuelong (Chn) bt Laxman Rawat (Ind) 4-1 (76-36, 87-6, 82-16, 19-67, 110-13).

Important results: Ben Woollaston (Eng) bt S. Shrikrishna (Ind) 4-0 (60-45, 62-12, 71-8, 63-2); Jack Lisowski (Eng) bt Himanshu Jain (Ind) 4-0 (63-26, 73-17, 63-58, 94-0); Dominic Dale (Wal) bt Autosh Pady (Ind) 4-2 (93-13, 68-51, 83-41, 19-91, 40-88, 71-42); Zhou Yuelong (Chn) bt Laxman Rawat (Ind) 4-1 (76-36, 87-6, 82-16, 19-67, 110-13).

Important results: Ben Woollaston (Eng) bt S. Shrikrishna (Ind) 4-0 (60-45, 62-12, 71-8, 63-2); Jack Lisowski (Eng) bt Himanshu Jain (Ind) 4-0 (63-26, 73-17, 63-58, 94-0); Dominic Dale (Wal) bt Autosh Pady (Ind) 4-2 (93-13, 68-51, 83-41, 19-91, 40-88, 71-42); Zhou Yuelong (Chn) bt Laxman Rawat (Ind) 4-1 (76-36, 87-6, 82-16, 19-67, 110-13).

IN BRIEF



Japan's sumo wrestlers hit by beard ban

TOKYO Japanese sumo officials have introduced a crackdown on beards, calling them "indecent" and telling wrestlers they must look neat during competitions under strict new rules on personal grooming. The ban is part of fresh regulations also barring tattoos and long nails. Wrestlers believe that beards bring them luck. AFP



Nintendo to release two Pokemon titles

TOKYO Japan's Nintendo Co Ltd said on Wednesday that it will release two Pokemon role-playing titles for its Switch console, *Pokemon Sword* and *Pokemon Shield*, worldwide in late 2019. The titles will feature the chimp-like Grookey and the rabbit-like Scorbunny. REUTERS

Indian Sign Language dictionary gets 2nd edition

NEW DELHI The second edition of the Indian Sign Language (ISL) dictionary was released on Wednesday, listing 6,000 words in Hindi and English along with their corresponding visual representation. The dictionary is also available on ISLRTC's YouTube channel. Around 1,000 videos have been uploaded already. PTI

Parkinson's drug trial offers glimmer of hope for cell repair

While clinical tests have been disappointing, brain scans show promising effects

REUTERS

LONDON

An experimental drug could offer hope for restoring damaged brain cells in Parkinson's patients, scientists said on Wednesday, although they cautioned that a clinical trial was not able to prove that the treatment slowed or halted the neurodegenerative disease.

The trial involved delivery of a protein therapy directly into the brains of Parkinson's patients. Scientists said some brain scans revealed "extremely promising" effects on damaged neurons of those who received the treatment.

"The primary outcome was disappointing," Dr. Whone told reporters at a briefing in London. Parkinson's is a neurodegenerative disease that affects around 1% to 2% of people over age 65. It causes tremors, muscle stiffness and movement and balance problems. Although some medicines can improve symptoms, there is no cure or treatment that can slow progression of the disease.

"The spatial and relative magnitude of the improvement in the brain scans is beyond anything seen previously in trials," said Alan Whone, a Parkinson's specialist at Britain's Bristol University who co-led the trial.

Researchers said the therapy warranted further investigation even though it failed to demonstrate improvement of symptoms in patients who received it when compared to others given a placebo.

"The primary outcome was disappointing," Dr. Whone told reporters at a briefing in London.

Parkinson's is a neurodegenerative disease with no cure as of today.

Tubes in brains

This trial involved 41 patients who all underwent robot-assisted surgery to have tubes placed into their brains.

That allowed doctors to infuse either the experimental treatment – called Glial Cell Line Derived Neuro-



trophic Factor (GDNF) – or a placebo directly to the affected brain areas. GDNF is made by privately-held Canadian biotech firm MedGenes Therapeutics.

Half of the patients were given monthly GDNF infusions and half received monthly placebo infusions. After nine months, all participants were offered the GDNF infusions for a further nine months.

Results showed some signs of improvements, Dr. Whone said, but there was no significant difference between the treatment and placebo groups. He said this was in part due to the sizeable placebo effect in this trial.

The placebo effect has been known to confound clinical trials of treatments for conditions involving the brain, boosted by patients' expectations that a potential treatment will work.

But the brain scan results suggested the drug might be starting to reawaken damaged brain cells. After nine months, there was no change in the scans of patients who received a placebo, but those who got GDNF showed major changes in a key area of the brain affected by the disease.

Dr. Whone said this suggested GDNF could be "a means to possibly reawaken and restore" brain cells that are gradually destroyed in Parkinson's.

But the brain scan results suggested the drug might be starting to reawaken damaged brain cells. After nine months, there was no change in the scans of patients who received a placebo, but those who got GDNF showed major changes in a key area of the brain affected by the disease.

Dr. Whone said this suggested GDNF could be "a means to possibly reawaken and restore" brain cells that are gradually destroyed in Parkinson's.

But the brain scan results suggested the drug might be starting to reawaken damaged brain cells. After nine months, there was no change in the scans of patients who received a placebo, but those who got GDNF showed major changes in a key area of the brain affected by the disease.

Dr. Whone said this suggested GDNF could be "a means to possibly reawaken and restore" brain cells that are gradually destroyed in Parkinson's.



A baby boy weighing 268 grams when born in August 2018 and, right, at 3.2 kg now. • REUTERS

World's smallest baby boy goes home from Japan hospital

He was delivered at 24 weeks, and treated for five months

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

TOKYO

An infant born in Tokyo, weighing the same as a beetroot, has now gone home healthy. He became the smallest newborn boy in the world to leave hospital safely.

The tiny tot weighed just 268 grams when he was delivered at 24 weeks, reportedly after he stopped growing in the womb.

The survival rate of the smallest babies is substantially lower for boys compared with girls.

But after five months of treatment, he now weighs 3,238 kilos, is feeding normally, and has been discharged, Keio University Hospital said.

"I can only say I'm happy that he has grown this big because honestly, I wasn't sure he could survive," the boy's mother said.

Keio University Hospital said the boy was believed to now hold the record for the smallest newborn boy to be discharged from a hospital

in good health. The record was previously held by a boy born in Germany in 2009 weighing just 274 grams, the hospital said, citing a registry put together by University of Iowa for the world's tiniest surviving babies.

The smallest surviving girl was born in Germany in 2015 weighing 252 grams, according to the registry.

The survival rate of the smallest babies is substantially lower for boys compared with girls.

Inarritu to head Cannes jury

Filmmaker promises to bring passion and devotion to role

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

PARIS



Alejandro Inarritu
Mr. Inarritu, who rarely sits on festival juries, said he would apply himself to the task with "passion and devotion".

Toro for *The Shape of Water*. "Not only is he a daring filmmaker full of surprises, Alejandro is also a man of conviction, an artist of his time," Cannes director Thierry Fremaux said.

Last year, Australian actor Cate Blanchett presided over the jury, which gave the top prize to Japan's Hirokazu Kore-eda's *Shoplifters*. She also led red carpet protests to demand an equal place for women in Hollywood.

Mr. Inarritu, who rarely sits on festival juries, said he would apply himself to the task with "passion and devotion".

"Cinema runs through the veins of the planet and this festival has been its heart," he added.

Last year, Australian actor Cate Blanchett presided over the jury, which gave the top prize to Japan's Hirokazu Kore-eda's *Shoplifters*. She also led red carpet protests to demand an equal place for women in Hollywood.

China to act against rogue scientists

After uproar over gene-editing, country drafts new rules to supervise research

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

BEIJING



contracting HIV by deleting a certain gene under a technique known as CRISPR.

The claim shocked scientists worldwide, raising questions about bioethics and putting spotlight on China's lax oversight of scientific research.

Scientists can be fined 10 to 20 times the amount of "illegal income" earned from unauthorised research and be banned from their field of work for six months to one year.

"If the circumstances are serious, their medical practice licence shall be revoked and the individual shall not engage in clinical research for life," the rules say.

Goa carnival offers four days of fun, floats and festivity

Special effort taken to ensure accessibility for all

PRAKASH KAMAT

PANAJI The time to sway to the beats of the rumba samba and enjoy four days of fun at the Goa Carnival is drawing near.

The carnival, to be held from March 2 to March 5, will begin with the float parade to be flagged off on Saturday in Panaji.

This year, Goa is celebrating an "accessible carnival", with special care taken to provide ramps and other facilities for the differently abled.

The float parade in the capital city will continue from Miramar to Dona Paula. On Wednesday, Goa Tourism Minister Manohar Ajgaonkar released a special song to mark the event. The song is composed by Mukesh Ghatwal, with lyrics by William Anes from Panaji.



Instagram time: Tourists take a selfie near an installation for the carnival at Miramar in Goa. • ATISH POMBURFEKAR

Try feni, don't go for drugs: Goa Minister

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

PANAJI

Goa Tourism Minister Manohar Ajgaonkar on Wednesday urged tourists visiting Goa to go for cashew feni (a traditional brew) rather than indulge in drugs.

At a press conference held to announce Goa's premier food and lifestyle festival, the Grape Escapade, the Minister also promised a crackdown on drugs and on littering and drinking of alcohol on beaches.

The Grape Escapade takes place from Thursday to Sunday. "I have instructed police that there should not be any chaos at these events. Enjoy, enjoy music. Drink cashew feni, but do not indulge in drugs," Mr. Ajgaonkar said.

Grape stomping and a fashion show are some of the sessions scheduled.

The announcement comes as He Jiankui's controversial experiment continues to transfix the scientific community, with researchers saying the procedure had the potential of enhancing the learning capabilities and memory of the babies.

He announced in November that the world's first gene-edited babies – twin girls – were born that same month after he altered their DNA to prevent them from



CRUCIAL DATES:

- Online registration starts: 01-03-2019
- Last date for online registration / submission of mandatory documents with EMD: Up to 6.00 pm on 20-03-2019

The intending bidders may prefer to inspect the sites of the plots physically

e-Auction on:

- 25-03-2019 : 97 Residential Plots (88 Nazul-II & 9 Nazul-I)
- 26-03-2019 : 12 Institutional & 25 Industrial Plots
- 27-03-2019 : 11 Commercial & 14 Kiosks + One Built-up Restaurant + 1 Interpretation Centre/Souvenir Shop
- 28-03-2019 & 29-03-2019 : 206 Built-up Shops, 19 Built-up Office Space, 7 Built-up Stall/Kiosks, 22 Vegetable Platforms, 2 Built-up Restaurants

For details of Plots and procedure, kindly visit our e-auction website www.tenderwizard.com/DDAAUCTION or click the e-auction link available on our site www.dda.org.in and download the same through "E-AUCTION OF PROPERTIES" new link available at home page of e-auction portal. Intending bidders may register themselves / their firms online at the above site through "New Registration" link. Kindly note that digital signature of all the intending bidders are mandatory to participate in e-auctioning of DDA. A help-desk has been opened at the Nagrik Suvidha Kendra, Ground Floor, D Block, Vikas Sadan, INA, New Delhi to help the intending bidders to understand the process of e-auction. For obtaining digital signatures and registration / training of prospective bidders and for any other clarification on e-auctioning, please contact our help-desk no. 011-49424365 / 8800991846 / 8800378610 from 11.00 am to 5.00 pm, (all working days) or twhelpdesk831@gmail.com & twhelpdesk603@gmail.com



DELHI DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

ONCE AGAIN BRINGS OPPORTUNITY TO OWN PRIME PROPERTIES



On March 1, a performance will be held at the Arab World Institute in Paris

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

RAMALLAH

A mixing desk at her fingertips, the artist known as Sarouna coaxed a haunting refrain from the bass track – music both about the past and the present.

Like other popular names on the Palestinian electro scene, the 23-year-old – wearing a hoodie emblazoned with "Made in Palestine" in Arabic – creates songs by drawing on local folk music.

"Why would I go for European styles, which I don't really feel attached to?" she said, in her bedroom studio overlooking the hills around Ramallah. "We will live this heritage so that we do not forget."

The project was the idea



Fresh beats: DJ Sarouna at work. • AFP

and Jordan at a villa in Ramallah. From this two-week artistic residency in 2018, an album of 18 songs was born, entitled *Electrosteen* – a word combining Electro and "Falesteen", Arabic for Palestine.

They assembled 10 artists from the Palestinian territories, Israel, Britain, France

Each with their own musical backgrounds, the artists worked from hundreds of pieces of traditional music recorded about 15 years ago by the Popular Art Centre, a Palestinian organisation based in Ramallah in the occupied West Bank.

"I listened, I listened, then I took a little piece of music, I put it in the software and I put a rhythm on it, similar to that of the music but with more electro accents," Sarouna said.

"Sometimes I added qanun," she said, referring to the stringed instrument used in traditional music.

On March 1, artists involved in the project will take to the stage of the Arab World Institute in Paris for a performance.

For further details contact: Commissioner (LD), Vikas Sadan, INA, New Delhi - 110023

DELHI DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

Laying foundation for a better tomorrow

Please give your feedback on DDA Apps at [Google play](https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.delhidc.officialapp)

Visit DDA's website - www.dda.org.in or dial Toll Free No. 1800110332

ddaoofficial | **official_dda**

Commissioner (LD)

Delhi Development Authority

DELLHI THE HINDU

DELLHI THE HINDU

DELHI METRO



Haryana land amendment Bill

The Haryana Assembly amends Punjab Land Preservation Act, 1900 with retrospective effect [Page 2](#)



Pleas against mobile towers

NGT directs DPCC and SDMC to look into the issues and furnish action-taken reports [Page 4](#)



Truth be bold

Ekta on taking the side of the 'other' woman and breaking the myth of emancipated husband [Page 5](#)



From the house of dawn

This is the story of Apatanis, a gentle tribe nestled in the valleys of Ziro in Arunachal Pradesh [Page 6](#)

IN BRIEF



Chopper case accused wants to turn approver

NEW DELHI Rajiv Saxena, one of the accused in the ₹3,600-crore AgustaWestland money laundering case, on Wednesday moved a Delhi court seeking permission to become approver. He is on regular bail in the case. He also submitted that he had filed the application on his own without any coercion.

CITY ▶ PAGE 3

Patients with rare diseases appeal to PM

NEW DELHI Patients and families affected by rare diseases have appealed to Prime Minister Narendra Modi to immediately release ₹100 crore allocated for their treatment and implement National Policy for Treatment of Rare Diseases, 2017.

CITY ▶ PAGE 4

Air quality of Delhi-NCR			
Delhi	100	Gurugram	72
Ghaziabad	75	Faridabad	100
Noida	82	Greater Noida	79
Good 0-50	51-100	Moderate 101-200	
Poor 201-300	301-400	Very poor >401	Severe
AIR QUALITY INDEX AT 4 P.M., YESTERDAY (AVERAGE IN PAST 24 HOURS) [SOURCE: CPCB]			

AIR QUALITY INDEX AT 4 P.M., YESTERDAY (AVERAGE IN PAST 24 HOURS) [SOURCE: CPCB]

6.9 lakh voters added since 2015: Delhi govt

BJP accuses govt of not tabling EC reply on deletion claims

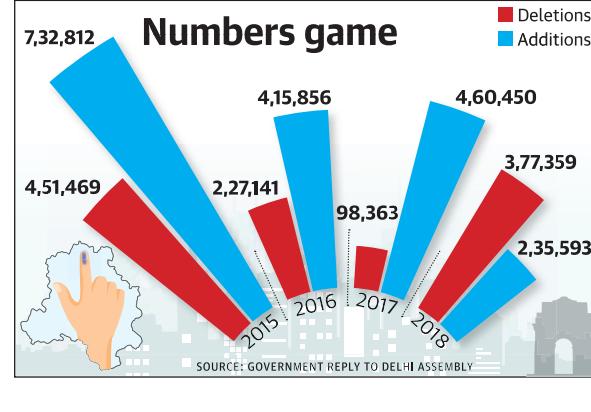
STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

There has been a net increase of 6.9 lakh electors in Delhi from 2015 to 2018, the Delhi government said in reply to a question by Leader of Opposition Vijender Gupta in the Assembly on Wednesday.

According to the data of additions and deletions of electors provided by Delhi Elections Minister Imran Hussain in response to Mr. Gupta's unstarred question, there has been a total increase of 6,90,379 electors from 2015 till 2018. In 2018, a total of 3,77,349 names were deleted and 2,35,593 added to the rolls, the reply said. In 2017, 98,363 names were deleted and 4,60,450 added. In 2016, 2,27,141 names were deleted and 4,15,856 added, while in 2015, a total of 4,51,469 names were deleted, while 7,32,812 were added.

No caste-wise details

In response to a starred question by AAP MLA Anil Kumar Bajpai, who asked for the caste-wise details of voters deleted in his constituency of Gandhi Nagar, Mr. AAP had also alleged that the



Hussain said the election authorities do not maintain such a record.

Mr. Gupta raised the issue in the Assembly, accusing the AAP government of not tabling a December 14 reply from the Election Commission to the Chief Secretary asking for a report to be tabled in three months.

"The ECI gave its report on December 14, but the government refused to table it," Mr. Gupta said.

Mr. Gupta tabled the response in the Assembly on Wednesday. He said he obtained it through a Right to Information reply and it was allowed by Speaker Ram Niwas Goel.

BJP and the EC had struck off voters of certain communities, a claim denied by the poll panel.

House resolution

On November 24, the Delhi Assembly passed a resolution on the alleged voter deletion, asking for a report to be tabled in three months.

"The ECI gave its report on December 14, but the government refused to table it," Mr. Gupta said.

Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal and AAP had alleged that there had been a mass deletion of voters since the 2015 Delhi Assembly elections. Mr. Kejriwal had said that 24 lakh voters had been struck off the rolls, while others in AAP had claimed the number to be 30 lakh. AAP had also alleged that the

Hussain said the election authorities do not maintain such a record.

Mr. Gupta raised the issue in the Assembly, accusing the AAP government of not tabling a December 14 reply from the Election Commission to the Chief Secretary asking for a report to be tabled in three months.

"The ECI gave its report on December 14, but the government refused to table it," Mr. Gupta said.

Mr. Gupta tabled the response in the Assembly on Wednesday. He said he obtained it through a Right to Information reply and it was allowed by Speaker Ram Niwas Goel.

BJP and the EC had struck off voters of certain communities, a claim denied by the poll panel.

Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal and AAP had alleged that there had been a mass deletion of voters since the 2015 Delhi Assembly elections. Mr. Kejriwal had said that 24 lakh voters had been struck off the rolls, while others in AAP had claimed the number to be 30 lakh. AAP had also alleged that the

bus arrives and departs from Ambedkar Stadium bus terminal near Delhi Gate in central Delhi. Deployment of police personnel was increased at the terminal on Wednesday.

A Delhi Transport Corporation (DTC) bus leaves for Lahore every Monday, Wednesday and Friday, and a Pakistan Tourism Development Corporation (PTDC) bus arrives in Delhi every Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday.

It has also launched an examination centre locator to facilitate the students locate their exam centres on Google maps using their roll number.

Security tightened at terminal for Lahore bus

Red alert sounded on entire Delhi Metro network on Wednesday evening

STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

Security at the terminal for the Delhi-Lahore bus service has been beefed up after 10 passengers arrived in the Capital from Pakistan on Wednesday amid escalating tension on the international border.

The bus service has witnessed a significant fall in ridership following the recent terror attack at Pulwama in Jammu and Kashmir. Only one passenger came to the city from Pakistan on February 16, while on February 19, the bus from Lahore reached Delhi empty.

Sources said that on Monday 12 passengers travelled in the bus from Delhi to Lahore.

The bus arrives and departs from Ambedkar Stadium bus terminal near Delhi Gate in central Delhi. Deployment of police personnel was increased at the terminal on Wednesday.

A red alert is sounded on the entire Delhi Metro network on Wednesday, officials of the Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) said.

"As advised by security agencies, a red alert has been sounded on the entire DMRC network from 6 p.m. onwards [on Wednesday]," said a senior DMRC official.

Traders in outer Delhi had threatened to stop the bus service to mark their protest against the Pulwama terror



CISF personnel keeping a strict vigil at the Delhi airport on Wednesday. ■ R.V. MOORTHY

whereas one can take the PTDC bus for Lahore every Monday, Wednesday and Friday.

attack, but they were stopped after the police intervened in the matter.

"After a red alert is sounded on the entire Delhi Metro network on Wednesday, officials of the Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) said.

"As advised by security agencies, a red alert has been sounded on the entire DMRC network from 6 p.m. onwards [on Wednesday]," said a senior DMRC official.

Currently, the Delhi Metro

network spans over 327 km, with 236 stations in Delhi and the NCR.

"After a red alert is sounded on the entire Delhi Metro network on Wednesday, officials of the Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) said.

"As advised by security agencies, a red alert has been sounded on the entire DMRC network from 6 p.m. onwards [on Wednesday]," said a senior DMRC official.

Currently, the Delhi Metro

Be wary of fake exam news on social media: CBSE to students

Controller of Examinations warns 'immediate necessary action' against those spreading rumours

STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

A week before the commencement of the board examination, the Central Board of Secondary Education on Wednesday issued instructions to candidates to stay alert regarding fake and frivolous information on social media about the papers.

"It has been noticed in the past that certain unscrupulous elements spread rumours by posting fake videos/messages on YouTube, Facebook, Twitter and other social media platforms, ob-

viously with the intention of spreading confusion and panic among students, parents, schools and the public," the Board said. It stated that persons involved in such activities are warned to restrain themselves from such activities.

"In case any such information comes to the notice of the CBSE, immediate necessary action, as per the provisions of law, will be taken," said the Controller of Examinations.

It asked the students to leave for the exam centres early keeping in view the traffic, weather conditions and distance, so that they re-

turn at the centre latest by 9.45 a.m. The Board added that no candidate will be allowed enter the examination centre after 10 a.m.

Students have been asked to report in school uniform, and private candidates should wear light clothes. "Candidates must carry only permissible items to the examination centres as mentioned in the admit cards. No communication devices or other similar gadgets are permitted inside examination centres," the Board said.

This year, the CBSE has

launched a host of technical measures for smooth conduct of Board examinations. To prevent leaking of question papers and other malpractices, the Board has introduced geo-tagged, time-based tracking and monitoring of confidential material and live web streaming from examination centres.

It has also launched an examination centre locator to facilitate the students locate their exam centres on Google maps using their roll number.

It has also launched an examination centre locator to facilitate the students locate their exam centres on Google maps using their roll number.

People were present in the building were rescued in time. The fire broke out on the ground floor and it spread to the other floors, said fire officials.

High-tension wires

A fireman said that it took time to operate the ladder-mounted fire engine due to overhead high-tension wires. Before operating the engine, they first asked the electricity department to shut down the power supply in the area.

Eye witnesses claimed that the fire broke out due to short circuit at a departmental store located on the ground floor and then

spreading to two restaurants on the first and second floor of the building. Fortunately, few people were present in the building at that time and they were safely rescued, officials said.

The fire was doused within two hours, but the cooling operation continued for the

Massive blaze at Kavi Nagar building

None hurt; exact cause of fire not ascertained yet: police

STAFF REPORTER GAZIABAD

A massive fire broke out at a four-storey commercial complex in Ghaziabad's Kavi Nagar on Wednesday morning, the police said.

A PCR call was received at 7 a.m. regarding a fire at a building in C-Block market, Kavi Nagar. The fire department pressed 12 fire tenders into service to control the blaze.

People were present in the building were rescued in time. The fire broke out on the ground floor and it spread to the other floors, said fire officials.



The fire broke out at a four-storey commercial complex on Wednesday. ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

next five hours. The police said they have summoned the building owner to present the fire NOC proof as during initial investigation, they found the building not adhering to fire safety guidelines.

Eye witnesses claimed that the fire broke out due to short circuit at a departmental store located on the ground floor and then

spreading to two restaurants on the first and second floor of the building. Fortunately, few people were present in the building at that time and they were safely rescued, officials said.

The fire was doused within two hours, but the cooling operation continued for the

High-tension wires

A fireman said that it took time to operate the ladder-mounted fire engine due to overhead high-tension wires. Before operating the engine, they first asked the electricity department to shut down the power supply in the area.

Eye witnesses claimed that the fire broke out due to short circuit at a departmental store located on the ground floor and then

spreading to two restaurants on the first and second floor of the building. Fortunately, few people were present in the building at that time and they were safely rescued, officials said.

The fire was doused within two hours, but the cooling operation continued for the

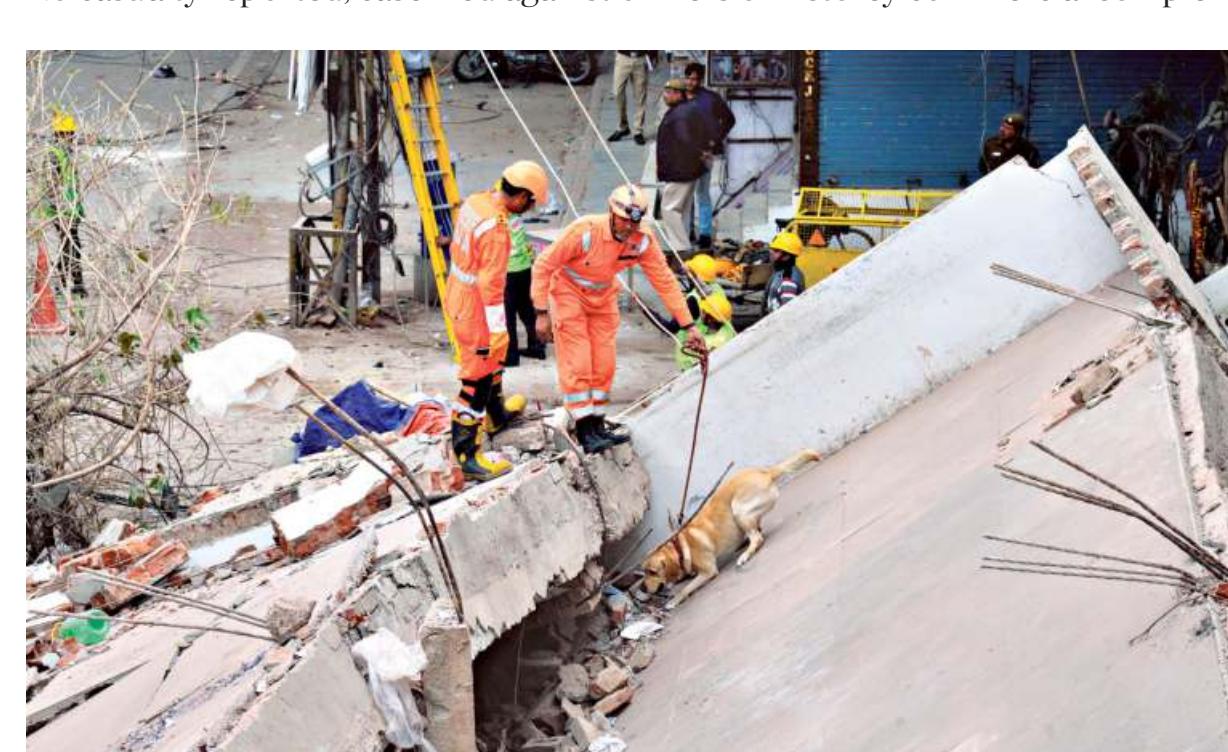
High-tension wires

A fireman said that it took time to operate the ladder-mounted fire engine due to overhead high-tension wires. Before operating the engine, they first asked the electricity department to shut down the power supply in the area.

Eye witnesses claimed that the fire broke out due to short circuit at a departmental store located on the ground floor and then

'Dilapidated' Karol Bagh building collapses

No casualty reported; case filed against owners of 4-storey commercial complex



Locals said that the building had been damaged heavily due to non-maintenance. ■ R.V. MOORTHY

Road in Karol Bagh. Five fire tenders were rushed to the spot to conduct rescue operations.

The police said that the building was in dilapidated state for a long time and only the ground floor was being used for commercial purpose.

Locals said that though the building was not declared "dangerous", it had

IN BRIEF



EDMC Mayor inaugurates four litter picker vehicles

NEW DELHI
East Delhi Municipal Corporation Mayor Bipin Bihari Singh inaugurated four litter picker vehicles on Wednesday. He said the machines had been purchased as a pilot project under the Swachh Bharat Mission. The pickers have been procured at a cost of ₹12.50 lakh per unit. The Mayor said that depending on the success of the scheme, 16 more litter pickers would be procured. The inauguration was attended by other senior leaders of the corporation.

STAFF REPORTER

Household industry licence policy cleared

NEW DELHI
The North Delhi Municipal Corporation's House meeting on Wednesday passed a policy to allow online issuance and renewal of licences for household industries. Following a notification by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs made earlier this month, such industries will be allowed to employ a maximum of nine people as opposed to five, and will now be allowed to consume 11 kW of electricity as opposed to 5 kW earlier. The policy allows for up to 112 types of activities to be carried out.

STAFF REPORTER

Cabinet nod to farmers' electricity subsidy

STAFF REPORTER

NEW DELHI
The Delhi Cabinet on Wednesday approved a monthly subsidy of ₹105/kilowatt on the fixed charges for agricultural electricity connections, a Delhi government statement said.

The Cabinet, at a meeting chaired by Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, approved the Power Department's proposal for providing the subsidy. The ₹105/kW subsidy would be given to agricultural connection-holders for 2018-2019 and 2019-2020, the statement said.

The government will inform the Delhi Electricity Regulatory Commission (DERC) of the decision, it added. The power distribution companies "will have to ensure that subsidy/relief is released only to genuine agricultural consumers/connections [sic]", the statement said.

The government would release the subsidy amount to the discoms and a special audit of the subsidy amount credited vis-a-vis the amount actually passed on to consumers can be done by the DERC, the statement said.

"The agriculture sector in the country is already under distress and the Delhi government is committed to the welfare of the farmers of Delhi, therefore, this scheme has been introduced to provide them the much needed relief. The Delhi government is of the firm view that electricity is a basic requirement for farming and is required for irrigation through tube wells, thrashing and related functions," the government statement read.

Haryana Assembly passes land amendment Bill amid protests

Oppn claims Bill favouring mining mafia, realtors; govt says it's in people's interest

VIKAS VASUDEVAN
CHANDIGARH

Amid protests by the Opposition, the Haryana Assembly on Wednesday amended the Punjab Land Preservation Act (PLPA), 1900 with retrospective effect, paving the way for "development" activities in the ecologically sensitive areas of Aravalli and the Shivalik foothills in the State.

Forest Minister Rao Narbir Singh presented the Punjab Land Preservation (Haryana Amendment) Bill, 2019 in the House amid opposition by members of the Congress and the Indian National Lok Dal who claimed that it had been brought to favour the mining mafia and real estate developers by allowing construction in restricted areas.

The Congress legislators, led by CLP leader Kiran Choudhary, stormed into the Well of the House demanding the withdrawal of the Bill. They later staged a walkout and the Bill was passed by voice vote.

Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar said that PLP (Haryana Amendment) Bill, 2019 is in the interest of the people of the State. "We intend to bring the Bill because the situation has changed over 120 years. Following diffe-



The Bill may benefit Kant Enclave in Faridabad, built on PLPA-notified land, which is facing demolition. ■ FILE PHOTO

rent decisions – be it of the Supreme court, High court or the NGT – several difficulties are coming up. In light of this changes are required," said Mr. Khattar.

Damage to Aravallis'

Congress leaders, including Ms. Choudhary, Bhupinder Singh Hooda and Karan Dalal, questioned State government's objective behind the move. "What is the intent behind this Bill? It's a completely anti-environment move which will help builders and big developers and destroy the natural conservation zone. If we tamper with the Aravallis, our future generation will never forgive us," said Ms. Choudhary. "As the amendment is being done with retrospective effect, it raises the question

whether the decision has been taken to benefit the mining mafia," she added.

Mr. Dalal claimed that the amendment would grant legitimacy to the Kant Enclave in Faridabad, built on PLPA-notified land, which was ordered to be demolished by the Supreme Court.

Need for deliberation'

Asking the State government not to "rush" with the amendment, Mr. Hooda demanded that the Bill be sent to a joint select committee for deliberation.

Parminder Singh Dhul of the INLD said that damage to the Aravallis forests would have catastrophic impact. "What's the agenda behind this amendment? Is it being done to benefit the mining mafia?" asked Mr. Dhul.

The Chief Minister said a number of changes had come to force over a period of time with various interpretations of the PLPA provisions from time to time.

"These have also led to large tracts of agriculture, public infrastructure, residential, institutional, commercial and other users becoming liable to be considered as unauthorised activities and unlawful uses even where these were explicitly permitted and came up strictly in conformity with the then existing applicable law governing such land use and activities undertaken thereupon," stated the objective of the Bill.

In this scenario, lakhs of dwelling units, industrial units, public buildings and agriculture activities over about one-fourth of the geographical area of the State are affected, hence the need was felt for amending the PLPA, it added.

The State government's decision to amend the Bill had been opposed by environmentalists as well as residents in Gurugram. A large number of people, including students and activists, had staged a protest against the proposal on Gurugram-Faridabad Road on Sunday last.

(With PTI inputs)

Delhi Congress chief criticises AAP govt over budget proposals

Says they were hollow promises that remained only on paper

STAFF REPORTER

NEW DELHI

Delhi Congress president Sheila Dikshit on Wednesday said that before presenting this year's budget, the AAP government should have looked back at last year's budget and found out how many of the proposals made in that budget had been fulfilled.

"The truth is that most of the budget proposals remained on paper as mere hollow promises, allowing the funds allocated for various heads, particularly education and health, to be lapsed," she said.

Failed on all fronts

Ms. Dikshit said that both the Modi government at the Centre and the Kejriwal government in Delhi have failed on all fronts as they have done nothing for the welfare of the common peo-



ple. "Delhi has been choking on polluted air for the past four years, unemployment has become critical, and lakhs of people have been ruined by the sealing and demolition drives," she said.

She added that the condition of Delhi has been deteriorating with every passing day as garbage was piling up everywhere and broken roads have become the norm.

"Delhi's green cover has

depleted to a dangerous level, and the green and clean Delhi that the Congress had left behind after its 15-year uninterrupted rule, has become a thing of the past," she said.

Ms. Dikshit said that the people of Delhi have been caught in the fight between the BJP and the AAP governments with no development work happening in Delhi, as both these governments have been thriving on unfulfilled promises and blatant lies.

Urge party workers

Ms. Dikshit appealed to party workers to gain the trust and confidence of the people with regular door-to-door interaction, to ensure the victory of the Congress candidates in all the seven parliamentary seats in the upcoming Lok Sabha elections.

Delhi CEO organises workshop to dispel misconceptions about EVMs

Civil servants and senior police officers participate in event

STAFF REPORTER

NEW DELHI

The Delhi Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) on Wednesday organised a workshop for civil servants and senior police officers as part of an ongoing programme by the Election Commission to "dispel misconceptions" about EVMs by creating awareness amongst opinion-makers.

The workshop was held at the Delhi Secretariat and saw participation of about 200 officers, the Delhi CEO said in a statement. A presentation on EVM/VVPAT was made by Professor D.T. Shahani, Professor Emeritus, IIT Delhi, Chairman of Technical Expert Committee for the ECI.

"He explained the technological features, administrative protocols and transparency aspects laid down by the ECI for handling EVM/VVPAT and stated that it is impossible to hack EVMs or tamper with them because these machines have one-time programmable (OTP) chip and do not have any Internet/Wi-Fi/radio connectivity," the Delhi CEO said in a statement adding that, at every stage, political parties and candidates were involved.



The Chief Electoral Officer urged that every voter identity cardholder must verify his or her name in the list by calling the helpline number. ■ FILE PHOTO

"The Delhi CEO said in a statement adding that, at every stage, political parties and candidates were involved.

"The VVPATs, the statement said, had enabled voters to verify their vote through the printed paper slip at the time of casting their vote.

The CEO, while speaking on the occasion, appealed to the participants to spread the message that every voter identity cardholder must verify his or her name in the voter list by calling the voter helpline number 1950 or at www.nvsp.in or by sending SMS to 7738299899. Every un-enrolled voter and left-out voter in Delhi must enrol by submitting Form-6 either online or offline, the statement said further.

The Delhi Chief Secretary, while speaking on the occasion, emphatically stated that there is no room for any doubt about EVMs. "The Chief Secretary also called for keen and close observation of the election campaign to detect any malpractices," the statement added.

Development work: North body passes resolution

STAFF REPORTER

NEW DELHI

The North Delhi Municipal Corporation House meeting passed a resolution demanding that development work undertaken in its jurisdiction by members of the Legislative Assembly must first be cleared by municipal councillors, on Wednesday.

The resolution stated that development work using MLA funds are undertaken through staff of the corporation. It said that corporation staff were directly instructed by MLAs even though they were only accountable to civic bodies' officials.

The work gets duplicated as information regarding the development work is not being shared with councillors, the resolution added. It also said that councillors of the area should be consulted as they were better aware of the problems and requirements. Not doing so led to wastage of taxpayers' money, it said.

The resolution declared that corporation staff not be permitted to undertake work from external agencies without prior notice from the area councillor and if they violate the conditions, an inquiry must be initiated against them.



BJP municipal councillors march outside the Vidhan Sabha in the Capital on Wednesday. ■ SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

Councillors protest cut in funds to civic bodies

STAFF REPORTER

NEW DELHI

BJP councillors of Delhi's three municipal corporations held demonstrations at the Vidhan Sabha over cut in funds to the civic bodies in the 2019-2020 budget of the Delhi government on Wednesday.

North Corporation Mayor Adesh Gupta said that the amount fixed for the corporations this year, at ₹6,380 crore, was ₹510 crore less compared to the previous financial year.

The councillors complained about dilution of recommendations of the Fifth Delhi Finance Commission, which would have given a new lease of life to the fund-starved municipal corporations but "have been converted into an instrument of paralysing and financially starving them". Speaker of the Delhi Assembly expressed displeasure over Delhi Police's inaction to manage the protesters who were obstructing MLAs' entry to the Assembly.

Leader of the House of the North Corporation Tilak Raj Kataria said that the government had not fully implemented recommendations of the Fifth Delhi Finance Commission, which would have given a new lease of life to the fund-starved municipal corporations but "have been converted into an instrument of paralysing and financially starving them".

Leader of the House of the North Corporation Tilak Raj Kataria said that the amount fixed for the corporations this year, at ₹6,380 crore, was ₹510 crore less compared to the previous financial year.

The councillors complained about dilution of recommendations of the Fifth Delhi Finance Commission as well. Leader of the EDMC House Nirmal Jain said, the government had rejected as many as 41 recommendations which were favourable

DJB moves to stop commercial use of water

Street-side vendors allowed to fill up machines from any legitimate water source

STAFF REPORTER

NEW DELHI

Several projects were approved at the Delhi Jal Board's 145th meet held under the Chairmanship of Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, who also heads the DJB, here on Wednesday.

In order to stop the commercial use of water and make this potable water available to consumers, the Board decided to make a partial change in its decision by allowing street-side water vendors to fill up their vending machines from any legitimate source of water.

"It was decided to allow

them to fill their vending machines, looking at the cheap rates at which they sell water and their usability to the people, especially as summers are approaching. The Board today only rectified a decision taken earlier in its meeting," the government said in a statement.

In order to bring about an overall improvement in the waste-water management system of the DJB, the Board accorded approval to several projects. These included providing and laying a sewer line in Swaroop Nagar GOC under the catchment of sewage pumping station at Guru

Nanak Dev Colony near Vijay Chowk in Badli constituency at an estimated cost of ₹81 crore.

Presently, sewerage-generated in this area flows through open drain and falls into the Yamuna or pollutes the groundwater through septic tanks. The proposed project aims at effective abatement of pollution in river Yamuna and its catchment by providing a comprehensive waste-water collection and disposal system, the statement said.

The DJB also sought to augment water supply through an overall improve-

ment in the water management system through projects such as the replacement of a line between Prashant Vihar red light to Peeragarhi UGR at a total estimate of approximately ₹25 crore among others.

The other projects included extension of the work of operation and maintenance of 16 MGD recycling plant and water treatment plant at Haiderpur for five years at a cost of ₹22 crore and the rehabilitation of the water treatment plant at Chandrawal Water Works II at a cost of ₹94 crore.

It is not only interdisciplinary in nature as it brings together advanced techniques in mechanical, low-power electronics, software and UI design together, is also a result of sustained

IIT-D helps create 'equal opportunities' for visually impaired

Researchers launch DotBook allowing visually impaired people independent access to digital content

STAFF REPORTER

NEW DELHI

Researchers at Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi on Wednesday have developed DotBook that has a refreshable Braille display aiming at creating independent access to digital content for the visually impaired.

DotBook, the institute said will enable visually impaired people compete and succeed independently in an

office or educational environment and hence, comes packed with all the applications and features that a visually impaired user would need to independently carry out their tasks with ease.

Social inclusion

"The features include email, calculator, web browser and comes with a QWERTY keyboard," the institute said.

The institute said that the

device will help address issues such as social inclusion and creating equal opportunities in education and employment.

Positive impact

"DotBook is sure to create a positive impact for the visually impaired community where hassle-free, independent access to the digital world has emerged as a key factor in everyday living,

education and work," the institute said.

M. Balakrishnan, Professor at IIT-Delhi who led the project said, "DotBook represents an excellent example of user-oriented applied research. It is not only interdisciplinary in nature as it brings together advanced techniques in mechanical, low-power electronics, software and UI design together, is also a result of sustained

efforts over the four years of a multi-organisational team comprising academics, two industry partners and a user organisation."

The product will be manufactured, maintained and marketed by a Noida-based company while its key component, that is the 10-cell refreshable Braille cell modules, will be manufactured, maintained and marketed by a company based in Chennai.

IN BRIEF



Father-son duo held for trying to smuggle forex

NEW DELHI A father-son duo has been arrested by the customs officials for allegedly trying to smuggle out foreign currency worth ₹68 lakh at Delhi airport, according to an official statement issued on Wednesday. While the father had concealed the currency in his hand baggage, a significant amount of forex was hidden by his son in rectum. The duo, who had arrived from Mumbai, were intercepted when they were proceeding to board a flight to Hong Kong, the statement issued by the customs said. A detailed examination of hand baggage resulted in recovery of foreign currencies. PTI

Four arrested for mobile phone theft

NEW DELHI Four persons were arrested for allegedly snatching mobile phones from Outer Delhi's Mangolpuri area, police said on Wednesday. The accused have been identified as Mashkoor, Shehnawaj, Irshad and Shehnawaj. Two bikes and 23 mobile phones were seized from their possession, they said. The accused were arrested from Mangolpuri Industrial Area, Phase-I when they went there to sell the stolen phones, a senior police officer said. PTI

Two arrested for stealing bike from East Delhi

NEW DELHI Two men have been arrested for allegedly stealing a motorcycle from East Delhi, the police said Wednesday. The accused have been identified as Vijay alias Cheeli and Farman. A bike was found in their possession, they said. The duo was arrested on Tuesday night near Mayur Vihar Phase-1, the police added. PTI

Five held for stealing cell phones

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

Five persons were arrested for allegedly stealing mobile phones during live concerts and at large gatherings, police said on Wednesday.

The accused have been identified as Bhagat Singh (35), Kuldeep Singh (25), Jujhar Singh (34), Bunty Singh (35) and Jagjit Singh (38). A car and 47 mobile phones were seized from their possession, they said.

Acting on a tip-off that a 'Bhagte gang' involved in theft of mobile phones would be coming to the Outer Ring Road under Mangolpuri flyover, a raid was conducted and five men were apprehended, Additional Commissioner of Police (Crime), Ajeet Kumar Singla said.

During interrogation, it was revealed that the gang used to commit the crime during concerts and at fairs where large groups congregate. Recently, they had targeted a music concert held at Rose Garden, Sector-10, Chandigarh, where they stole several mobile phones, Mr. Singla said.

After stealing the phones, the accused used to sell them in various regions of Delhi, the police added.

DELHI TODAY

Talk: Lecture on "Maritime Asia: Challenges and Opportunities for India, a Resurgent Maritime Nation" by Adm. R.K. Dhawan, Former Chief of Naval Staff and currently Chairman, National Maritime Foundation, New Delhi. Chair: Amb. Syam Saran at Gulmohar Hall, 7 p.m.

Exhibition: Yoga & Nature, a painting exhibition by Prasanth Appadaveti at Convention Centre Foyer, India Habitat Centre (IHC), 11 a.m.-7 p.m.

Exhibition: A solo show of paintings by Gauri Shanker Soni at All India Fine Arts & Craft Society (AIFACS), 1 Rafi Marg, 11 a.m.-7 p.m.

(Mail your listings for this column at cityeditor@thehindu.co.in)

CM YK

Chopper case accused wants to turn approver

Saxena moves court seeking pardon under Section 306 of CrPC

NIRNIMESH KUMAR
NEW DELHI

Rajiv Saxena, one of the accused in the ₹3,600-crore AgustaWestland money laundering case, on Wednesday moved a Delhi court seeking permission to become approver. He is on regular bail in the case.

Mr. Saxena's application in the court of Special Judge Arvind Kumar said: "The applicant humbly prays without prejudice to his defence that he may be granted pardon/approval under Section 306 of CrPC subject to the condition that he will make full disclosure to the extent facts are within his knowledge of which he will make true and proper disclosure subject to the grant of person."

"The applicant cooperated with the investigation during the entire period of remand before the directorate,"



Rajiv Saxena

rate. The applicant has made a clean breast of the entire facts as known to the applicant with regard to the complaint pertaining to the AgustaWestland helicopters filed by the Directorate of Enforcement to the extent known to him," the application further said.

Filed application himself

Mr. Saxena also submitted that he had filed the application on his own without any coercion. He urged the court to pardon and allow him to

turn approver. The Judge took his application on record and directed the Enforcement Directorate to file a reply to his plea. The application will be taken up for consideration on Thursday.

Christian Michel, former AgustaWestland and Finmeccanica directors Giuseppe Orsi and Bruno Spagnolino, former Air Force chief S.P. Tyagi and Mr. Saxena's wife Shivani have also been made accused by the directorate.

ED's allegations

The directorate has alleged that in complicity with Gautam Khaitan, one of the accused in the case, Mr. Saxena provided a global corporate structure for laundering illegal proceeds of crime for payment to various politicians, bureaucrats and Air Force officials.

Marching for a cause



DCW chairperson Swati Maliwal and other women activists during the Mahila Suraksha Yatra in the city on Wednesday. They marched from Vishwa Vidyalaya metro station to GTB Nagar to raise awareness on issues of women safety. ■ ANUJ ARORA

Centre's stand sought on plea by Qureshi's daughter

She has sought Overseas Citizen card

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court on Wednesday sought the Centre's response on the plea of controversial meat exporter Moin Qureshi's daughter for grant of an Overseas Citizen of India (OCI) card.

Justice Vibhu Bakhera, while issuing notice to the Ministries of Home Affairs and External Affairs and the Foreigner Regional Registration Office (FRCRO), said that Qureshi's daughter appeared to be entitled for an OCI card according to the provisions of the Citizenship Act.

Acting on a tip-off that a 'Bhagte gang' involved in theft of mobile phones would be coming to the Outer Ring Road under Mangolpuri flyover, a raid was conducted and five men were apprehended, Additional Commissioner of Police (Crime), Ajeet Kumar Singla said.

During interrogation, it was revealed that the gang used to commit the crime during concerts and at fairs where large groups congregate. Recently, they had targeted a music concert held at Rose Garden, Sector-10, Chandigarh, where they stole several mobile phones, Mr. Singla said.

After stealing the phones, the accused used to sell them in various regions of Delhi, the police added.

Playschool defaces public property, booked

Pasted posters on pillars of metro stations on Aqua Line

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NOIDA

A playschool here was booked for damaging public property with its admission posters after a complaint was made against it by the Noida Metro Rail Corporation (NMRC), officials said on Wednesday.

The NMRC, which operates the Noida-Greater Noida Metro rail, had alleged that the playschool had pasted the

posters on its premises despite signage warning action against such acts.

"Posters have been pasted illegally by the playschool on pillars between Sector 51 and Sector 76 metro stations of the Aqua Line and public property has been defaced," the NMRC said in its complaint.

A case was registered at the Sector 49 police station and Sector 76. The playschool was charged under the Prevention of Damage to

Public Property Act, officials said.

Posters removed

"The posters were immediately removed from the pillars after we registered the FIR," Station House Officer Ajay Kumar Agrawal said. Mr. Agrawal said there have been at least two dozen similar complaints about NMRC's public property being defaced and the police have clubbed all complaints for probe.

Unemployed youth held for killing man

Accused was angry as the victim had slapped him at a family function

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

An unemployed youth was arrested from south east Delhi's Jasola for allegedly killing a man, who had slapped him during a family function, police said on Wednesday.

According to the police, Taufiq alias Sonu (28), a resident of Palwal in Haryana was arrested for murdering Mohammad Rashid (35), a resident of Abul Fazal Enclave in Jamia Nagar. The accused had shot the victim on his head after consuming liquor in a car.

Found unconscious

The police said they received information about a person lying unconscious in a car near Omex Square Mall in Jasola on February 20. On reaching the spot, they found the man in the driver's seat of the vehicle with a bottle of liquor in his hand. He was taken to the Apollo hospital where he was declared brought dead. The deceased



Accused Taufiq alias Sonu after arrest. ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

was later identified as Mohammad Rashid of Jamia Nagar. A bullet was found from Rashid's head during the post-mortem, a police officer said.

Suspecting it to be a case of murder, the police scanned the CCTV footage of the area. They found that he was last seen with a person named Taufiq outside a liquor shop at Jasola. Following this, Taufiq was detained.

During interrogation,

Taufiq said that he was known to the deceased and his wife and on the day of the incident, he consumed liquor with the deceased. Thereafter, he left the spot and had no clue about the death of the deceased. However, on sustained interrogation, contradictions were found in Taufiq's statement. On further questioning, he broke down and confessed to have killed Rashid.

"Taufiq disclosed that a

Taufiq disclosed that a few months ago, during a family function, an altercation took place between him and Rashid over a petty issue. Rashid slapped Taufiq during the function

CHINMOY BISWAL
DCP (South-East)

few months ago, during a family function, an altercation took place between them over a petty issue. Rashid had slapped Taufiq during the function. Since then, he had decided to eliminate Rashid as he was angry over his act," said Deputy Commissioner of Police (South-East) Chinmoi Biswal.

On the day of crime, Taufiq procured a pistol and followed Rashid to the liquor shop. Both consumed liquor in the car, where Taufiq shot Rashid in the head and fled the spot, said Mr. Biswal.

Look into plastic recycling units in Nangloi: green tribunal

North body and pollution control panel told to take action

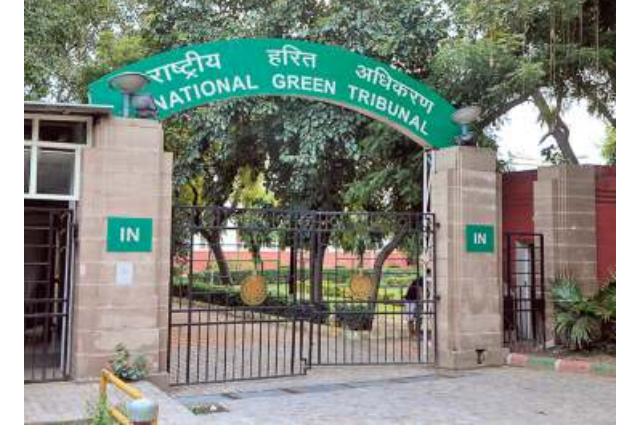
STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

Following allegation of plastic recycling units operating in Nangloi, the National Green Tribunal (NGT) has directed the Delhi Pollution Control Committee (DPCC) to take appropriate action.

Recycling units

A Bench headed by NGT judicial member S.P. Wangdi said, "The applicant alleges operation of a large number of plastic recycling units in residential areas of Nangloi. Let the Delhi Pollution Control Committee and North Delhi Municipal Corporation look into the matter and take appropriate action in accordance with law and furnish a factual and action taken report to this tribunal."

"The DPCC shall be the



NGT Bench warned that non-compliance of orders may lead to punitive action. ■ FILE PHOTO: SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

"...order of the NGT is binding as a decree of court and non-compliance is actionable by way of punitive action including prosecution," the Bench added.

nodal agency for coordination and compliance," the Bench said, while adding that non-compliance of orders may lead to punitive action.

"You are in the public sector. When such a situation arises, you have to deal with it practically. You are a model statutory body. You have to change your attitude," the court said.

It gave time to GIC and the Life Insurance Council to file their responses to the PIL and listed the matter for further hearing on May 15.

Mr. Malhotra, a disability rights activist who suffers from locomotor disability from birth, has sought a direction to the IRDAI to remove the phrase 'congenital anomalies' from the standardised definition of the 2016 circulars.

Congenital anomalies are also known as birth defects and could be caused by single gene defects, chromosomal disorders, multifactorial inheritance and micronutrient deficiencies.

During the day's hearing, advocate Jai Dehadrai, appearing for Mr. Malhotra, urged the court to pass an interim order directing the insurance companies to provide insurance cover to his client who suffers from a locomotor disability.

Advocate Jai Dehadrai said that Mr. Malhotra was in perfect health and was willing to undergo any test that is required for grant of the insurance cover.

The Bench said that the earlier High Court decision was pertaining to congenital diseases and here the petitioner was in perfect health. "That was a case where a person had a congenital disease. Here the person has an anomaly. His mobility is affected. He needs a

wheelchair to move around. Otherwise he is in perfect health."

"You are in the public sector. When such a situation arises, you have to deal with it practically. You are a model statutory body. You have to change your attitude," the court said.

Victims said that the robbers were carrying knife and all of a sudden they started beating passengers and snatched their wallets, mobile phones and other valuables. A few passengers tried to protest, but they were thrashed by robbers.

A case has been registered at Kalyanpuri police station.

Three men wanted in robberies held after gunfight

2 injured in encounter on Delhi border; 1 managed to give police the slip

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NOIDA

Three robbers, wanted in a dozen criminal cases in Gautam Buddha Nagar and Delhi-NCR, were arrested after a gunfight with police here on Wednesday, officers said.

The encounter happened in the evening during checking on Delhi border road in Sector 14A when the policemen tried to stop a vehicle without registration number, they said.

"Instead of stopping, the

occupants opened fire at the police team, drawing retaliatory fire in which two occupants were injured," Senior Superintendent of Police Vaibhav Krishna said.

While two of them were injured, one was arrested and another managed to give police the slip, he said, adding the wounded were taken to hospital for treatment.

Those arrested have been identified as Shahzaad Qureshi, also from Bulandshahr, he said.

A reward of 25,000 has been announced on his arrest, police said.

According to the police, the accused have been involved in at least a dozen cases of robberies in Noida, Greater Noida, Ghaziabad, and Delhi.

Three illegal firearms along with ammunition was recovered from the trio, the police said.

BNND-ND

IN BRIEF



'Aqua Line's first month response has been good'

NOIDA
Over 3.24 lakh passengers took rides on the Noida-Greater Noida Metro in the first month and the Noida Metro Rail Corporation earned a revenue of more than ₹1 crore, according to NMRC official data. The Aqua Line, the metro rail service that was opened for public on January 25, has recorded an average ridership of 10,458 passengers during the first 31 days of its operations, the NMRC data stated. PTI

Max temp in city six notches below normal

NEW DELHI
The national Capital recorded a maximum temperature of 20 degrees Celsius on Wednesday, six notches below normal, a Meteorological Department official said. "The minimum temperature settled at 9.5 degrees Celsius, three notches below normal," he said. The weatherman has predicted shallow fog for Thursday morning. PTI

NGT gets 1,691 pleas via emails, posts in 7 months

Over 320 of them admitted as petitions following careful examination, says official

STAFF REPORTER

NEW DELHI

Between July 2018 and January 2019, the National Green Tribunal received nearly 1,700 complaints through email and letters, out of which over 320 were admitted as "petitions", said an NGT official.

Since July last year, the NGT started accepting complaints through letters and emails to "improve access to justice for common citizens".

Environmental issues

Between July 2018 and January 2019, the green panel received 1,691 letters and

Complaints against mobile towers in residential areas

NGT directs DPCC, SDMC to examine issue and take action

STAFF REPORTER

NEW DELHI

In two separate complaints against installation of mobile towers in residential areas, the National Green Tribunal (NGT) has directed the Delhi Pollution Control Committee and the South Delhi Municipal Corporation to look into the issues and furnish action-taken reports.

A Bench headed by NGT judicial member S.P. Wangdi said: "Considering the facts and circumstances set out in the application, we deem it appropriate to forward this complaint to the DPCC and SDMC to jointly examine the factual aspects set out in the application and thereafter, take appropriate action in accordance with law."

The directions came when the green panel was hearing a complaint forwarded by a group of Dwarka residents who alleged that a mobile tower was be-



The complainants expressed concern over health hazards due to mobile towers in colonies. ■ FILE PHOTO: SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

ing installed in their colony by another resident without their permission.

Adverse impact

"The applicant apprehends adverse environmental impact and health hazard due to the tower," the Bench observed while noting the complaint.

A separate complaint was forwarded by residents of Tikri Kalan alleging that installation of a mobile tower

in Kalyan Gaon was a health concern for residents.

While noting that the DPCC has a policy pertaining to the installation of mobile towers, the tribunal directed the committee to look into the allegations.

"Needless to say that the order of the NGT is binding as a decree of court and non-compliance is actionable by way of punitive action including prosecution," the Bench added.

Sheep out



In command: A shepherdess herds her sheep in Hisar district of Haryana. ■ SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

Patients with rare diseases appeal to PM

Seek immediately release ₹100 crore allocated for their treatment under NPTRD

STAFF REPORTER

NEW DELHI

Patients and families affected by rare diseases have appealed to Prime Minister Narendra Modi to immediately release ₹100 crore allocated for their treatment and implement National Policy for Treatment of Rare Diseases, 2017 (NPTRD).

"The hope was shattered when in December 2018, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare announced that the policy is being kept in abeyance. This abrupt and surprising decision of the government is a big setback for rare disease patients in India and has pushed their life towards uncertainty and death. Only Karnataka and Kerala governments have come forward to help rare disease patients," noted a release issued by the group.

Mr. Manjit Singh, president, Lysosomal Storage Disorders Support Society said: "We appeal to the Central Government for their urgent intervention in honouring its commitment towards rare disease patients in India. We request the government to immediately revoke the ban on NPTRD and, as outlined in the policy, immediately release the

₹100 crore, under NPTRD, for treatment was the much-needed help required for fighting these life-threatening diseases."

Hopes shattered

"However, the hope was shattered when in December 2018, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare announced that the policy is being kept in abeyance. This abrupt and surprising decision of the government is a big setback for rare disease patients in India and has pushed their life towards uncertainty and death. Only Karnataka and Kerala governments have come forward to help rare disease patients," noted a release issued by the group.

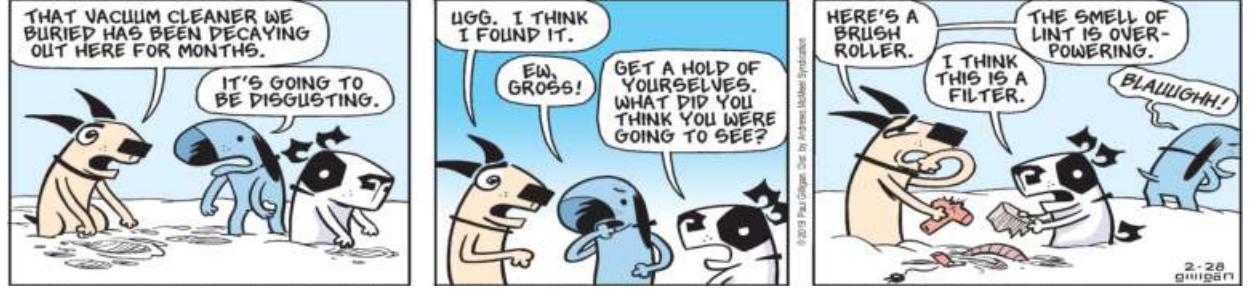
Mr. Manjit Singh, president, Lysosomal Storage Disorders Support Society said: "We appeal to the Central Government for their urgent intervention in honouring its commitment towards rare disease patients in India. We request the government to immediately revoke the ban on NPTRD and, as outlined in the policy, immediately release the

corpus fund with initial amount of ₹100 crore towards funding treatment of rare diseases. The NPTRD is a progressive policy and its speedy implementation would ensure that treatment of rare diseases in India gets the much-needed boost that is immediately required."

LSDSS is headed by a group of parents of LSD patients.

The most common rare diseases recorded in India are Lysosomal Storage Disorders - Hunter Syndrome, Gaucher Disease and Fabry's Disease. "The diagnosis of LSDs unlike any other rare disorder is the first and most critical and frustrating challenge for anyone with a rare disorder," noted the group.

POOCH CAFE



HAGAR THE HORRIBLE



TIGER



WUMO



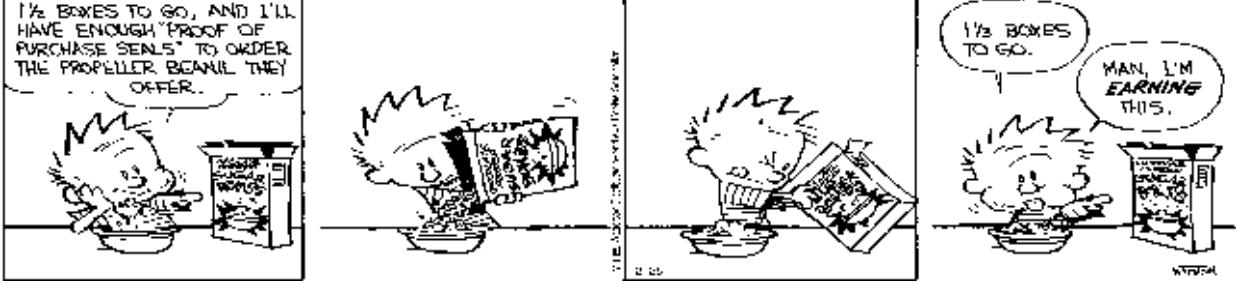
PEARLS BEFORE SWINE



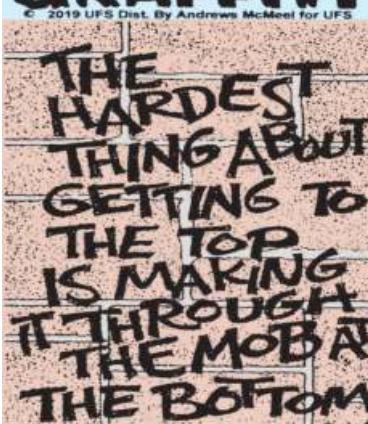
PEANUTS



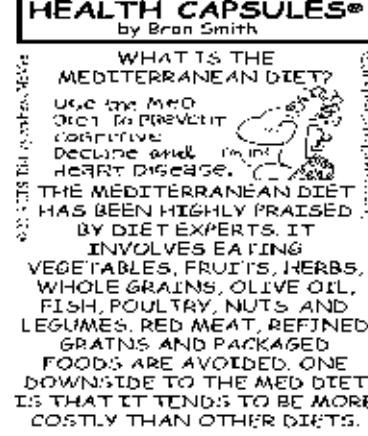
CALVIN AND HOBBES



GRAFFITI



HEALTH CAPSULES



THE GUARDIAN QUICK CROSSWORD-13005

1	2	3	4	5	6
7			8		
9				10	11
12	13				
14					15
16					
17			18		19
20					
21					
22				23	

© GUARDIAN NEWS AND MEDIA LTD., 2016

Across

- 1 Joyless (6)
- 2 Departure (5)
- 7 Rectangular two-dimensional figure (6)
- 8 Soundless (6)
- 9 Curved structure (4)
- 10 Right to vote (8)
- 12 Royal residence in Norfolk (11)
- 17 Pickpocket - set up (anag) (8)

Down

- 1 Residential districts of town (7)
- 2 Medium-sized, blackish aquatic bird (7)
- 19 Edges (4)
- 20 Hearsay (6)
- 21 Inside (6)
- 22 Industrial centre of the Ruhr (5)
- 23 Simple calculating device (6)

with long toes (7)
3 Hospital doctor (9)
4 Intense sorrow (5)
5 Japanese art of flower-arranging (7)
6 Channel running along the eaves of a building (6)

11 Large venomous Australian spider (6-3)

13 Occasionally (2,5)

14 Person in conflict with Roman Catholic dogma (7)

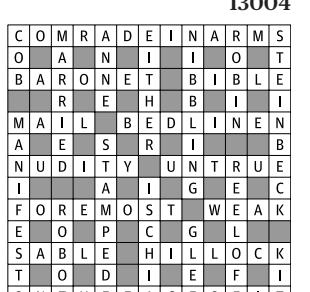
15 Published reminiscences (7)

16 Not enough to satisfy demand (6)

18 Reversal of direction (1-4)

Solution will appear in Delhi Metro dated March 1, 2019.

Solution No. 13004



Truth be bold

Ekta Kapoor on the myths of 'other' woman, the sacrificial mother, and the emancipated husband



ANUJ KUMAR

Mostly fun and always outspoken, Ekta Kapoor is arguably the most prolific creative producer in the country with shows running across platforms. Known to do things differently, and to have an insight into what's simmering beneath the surface, she now has a complex love story centering around an older couple on her on-demand-video platform AltBalaji. At a time when young romances are having a moment, *Kehne Ko Humsafar Hain* is now in its second season. Starring her favourites, Ronit Roy, Mona Singh, and Gurdip Kohli, the series sends out the message that 'happily ever after' needs work, and that sometimes life is about hard choices. Edited excerpts from a conversation.

The cast and concept give us a sense that this is a typical Balaji show. Why did it go to a streaming medium?

It would not have worked on television because some time back I had mounted a series with Sonali Bendre and Apoorva Agnihotri (*Ajeeb Dastaan Hai Ye*). It was about a married woman who develops a bond with a man after her husband cheated on her.

When TRPs dropped, the research showed that half the women audiences didn't want to watch such a show. A common response was that the protagonist's husband didn't beat her, so she had no valid reason to find an emotional anchor. Half the women said that if they watch it, their husbands would judge them. I realised that in our country women are judged for what they watch. If you are watching a show about a woman who is having an affair, you become a bad woman. However, I felt the experience should not stop me from putting up stories that are happening.

How does the show see the 'other' woman?
When I started this app, I wanted to tell stories from the point of view of the so-called 'other' woman. Her image was that of a witch who enchanted this

UP NEXT

Her next big film
I am looking forward to *Mental Hai Kya* where Raj Kumar Rao and Kangana Ranaut are at the top of their game. It speaks about people with mental issues yet it is an exciting thriller because you don't know who is speaking the truth.

On working with Kangana
She is like me. What you see is what you get. This is my third film with her.

On Kangana's increasing creative intervention

I always tell her that if there are any creative differences, we should sort them out among ourselves. No third person should come and tell the world that we are having a fight. I am not insecure about my work. I am open to making changes after deliberating with the creative team.

married man. We tend to forget that it is the man who often tells her that the marriage is not working. I felt that this should change. I called up Mona (Singh) and said, 'I am making this show and it is important for me that somebody like you play the other woman.' I was sure from the beginning that you cannot make such a show without stellar actors and the required layering. She was not sure. I had to convince her that as an actor she needed to look beyond the expectations. It is a grey character and half the audience, the women, would not identify with her, but she had to bring them to her side. She's done an excellent job.

The series talks of a Stone Age husband!
A completely emancipated husband is a myth. There are two types of men that are evolving. One who says this famous line that he allows his wife to work. It is a

terrible line. Then there is another, who is even more covert. He doesn't mind if she works, but she should be home by the time he is back. And he would underline it saying that it was something his mother used to do. It also tries to understand his point of view. At no point am I making him look bad. Yes, at times I make him look silly, because he's not getting it.

Does app technology promote individualism?
Of course, it allows you the opportunity to cater to individual tastes. I want to tell different kinds of stories. You should not shy away from anything. *Punchbeat*, another series on the app is pure escapism. Somebody will watch a programme for the guilty pleasure, someone will watch for relatability and someone will watch for aspirational value.

You have a presence in films, television, and digital. Do you see one cannibalising the other?

We are heading towards an era where all three mediums survive beautifully. Television is for family viewing. You still can't see a kiss with your father in the room. And the remote is usually given to the eldest or immobile member of the family. Digital will be your individual screen. You don't need four people to like it, to watch it. The film continues to be for communal viewing. All three tastes are important. The collections of last year show that the film business is going strong.

Have kids brought about a change in your personality?

I will not change. As a woman, I am not going to have a streak of *mama* suddenly. I just have to work on time management. I love my child, but he should also learn how to deal with her mother.

For the full interview, log onto thehindu.com

PEOPLE

A conversation between forms

Fitness trainer and classical dancer Vani Pahwa on the science of dance and art of fitness



"Fitness gave me a scientific approach to looking after myself for dance," says Vani Bhalla Pahwa, functional fitness trainer and Bharatanatyam and Mohiniyattam dancer, from Gurugram. Between rehearsals for Samavaad – an upcoming show organised by her guru Bharati Shivaji's The Mohiniyattam Collective – Pahwa makes time for a conversation over a bowlful of salad, and a cup of black coffee. Pahwa talks about the show and of bridging engagement between her dual careers of classical dancing and fitness coach.

In the show, four Mohiniyattam dancers are collaborating with a Manipuri, Odissi, Attriya, and Chhau artiste each in separate segments. Tell us how this works.

These are styles that lend very well to the mood and aesthetics of Mohiniyattam. Unlike [a usual] jugalbandi, where one does their bit and then the other does theirs, we were very clear that there should be a connect – that there is a dialogue both in terms of music and choreography. Each segment is between 25 and 30 minutes long. Each style stands out, and they all also complement one another.

How does fitness and dance feed into one another?

One of the simplest, but biggest takeaways that has seeped from my dancing into my fitness has been mindfulness. When you're on stage, you're performing for an audience, yes, but the hallmark of a great dancer is that you're also able to transcend that reality. When I took to fitness, it was at a time when I wasn't able to rehearse. When you make movement intense, it makes you get in touch with yourself, mentally and physically. So, coming from dance to fitness, I carried that sense of mindfulness quite naturally. I find it amusing when people make a distinction between yoga as a mindful workout vis-a-vis gym-ing as a mindless one. Even when I was lifting heavy weights, I was always tuned in to my breath, conscious of where my movement was taking my body.

In Samavaad, you're collaborating with Rakesh Sai Babu, a Chhau dancer. What have you learnt about that form?

For this generation that is looking to fitness and athletics, I'd say, watch a Chhau performance! Mohiniyattam is a soft-looking style, and it totally belies the control that a dancer has to exercise, to maintain flow and grace.

Samavaad, 1st March at 7 p.m., Stein Auditorium, India Habitat Centre

VANGMAYI PARAKALA

Journalism through a lens

From the streets of Kabul to those of Paris, Dimitri Beck's work is all about local perspectives of the people of the land

GOWRI S

Dimitri Beck, the Director of Photography at the *Polka* magazine based in Paris, France, has been running around in the humidity of Chennai all day, pausing often to click quick shots of places and people. For about 10 minutes though, he stops at a spot near a dilapidated sculpture on an open ground. As we hear students' voices and a popular Tamil song play in the background, Dimitri, a journalist himself, tells us about himself.

The road less travelled

Photojournalism happened by chance for this French journalist with a strong background in economy and business. At 21, he realised that a career that actually "did something" is what he should pursue.

Photographs had always been a part of his



Vignette of life:
On the Champs Elysees, supporters wait for the return of the French football team ■ DIMITRI BECK

childhood. "Pictures of injustice, of strong moments when humanity was hit harshly – like the defence for civil rights in USA, the Vietnam war and the impact of Hiroshima, all of the pictures of the Second World War; I grew up with these images," says Dimitri, adding that the visual memories were permanently etched in his mind. These led him to

work on something that would make people open their eyes to happenings around them.

In 2004, he moved to Kabul, Afghanistan, where he ran a bilingual magazine, *The News of Kaboul - New Afghanistan* and was also coordinating with a local photography community where he trained photographers on visual storytelling. "In the two and a half

years that I was there, I realised that a story can be best seen and analysed only by the people of the land. Which is why I worked with the photographers there, to make them tell stories every day," continues Dimitri as he talks about the "country ruled by men", which is "still very much a conflict zone."

What was heart-wrenching for him was documenting the women's lives. "I have only seen them struggle. Even the kids, for that matter," he says. "The Taliban is killing more civilians than soldiers or foreigners. It's not just a regular war between armies; it's an unfair war where the Afghans are the targets."

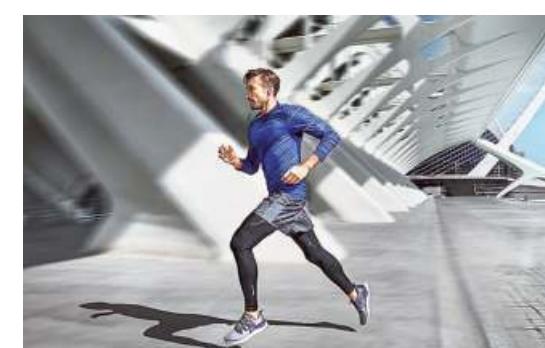
If no one heard the tree fall

What's his idea of the perfect photo? "The visual power of the photograph should align with the information," he says, explaining that the picture should speak for itself. "That is the difference between photojournalism and documentary photography – or any other form of photography. The former should be connected to facts: facts that can be followed easily through the picture itself. For the latter, the photographer is allowed to be more personal," says Dimitri.

He admits that it is very difficult to be completely objective in this line of work. "But at the same time, the responsibility of the photographer lies in how factual he is," he says. As for invasion of the subject's privacy – a question that invariably arises when you document lives – Dimitri has a fitting answer. "They are surprisingly very welcoming. People who face injustice, know that if what they are going through is not shown visually, it's almost as if the injustice doesn't exist."

PRODUCTS

Designed to prowl



Porsche Design and PUMA have collaborated on a sportswear collection, bringing together design and performance across lifestyle and sports shoes and apparel. Taped seams, innovative cushioning systems, and light materials, build on both the brands' technical know-how. If you're interested, there's more tech-sounding stuff to throw at folks if you buy in: Dual Thermo-R technology responds to skin temperature, evokNIT material creates breathable knitted zones, PUMA Cell technology promises stable cushioning. It's not all moisture-wicking tees (though they have those too, in Dri-Release fabric), it's also about introducing urbanites to accessories like the water-repellent Pro Parka that just might drive the rainy-day blues away, at a price of course.

Available in Porsche Design stores and online at www.porsche-design.com and at www.puma.com.



FILM

Le Poulin

Directed by Mathieu Sapin, this French film is the story of young Arnaud, who is inexperienced in politics, but joins the communication team of a presidential candidate. When he discovers the tactics of the campaign and its twists and rivalries, he develops an attraction and fascination for this world.

VENUE: M.L. Bhartia Auditorium

TIME: 6:30 p.m.



TALK

Lecture on global peace

Former German diplomat and Ambassador to India Dr. Hans-Georg Wieck, will give a lecture titled *Global Peace - Still Possible?*. This event is organised in collaboration with Federation of Indo-German Societies in India, and will be chaired by former Indian diplomat, Ambassador Ronen Sen.

VENUE: Conference Room-II, IIC

TIME: 6:30 p.m.



ART

Individual Palettes

It is the last day of Kala Vividha - Raza Utsav, a group art show. Participating artists include Vasundhara T Broota, Shruti Gupta Chandra, Surinder Kaur, and Meenu Deora. The group art show is curated by Rameshwar Broota, the head of the department and studio at Triveni Gallery, who has mentored and trained many artists.

VENUE: Triveni Kala Sangam, Tansen Marg

TIME: 11 a.m. - 8 p.m.



DANCE

Odissi

This evening, Delhi-based Odissi dancer Vrinda Chadha will feature in a solo Odissi presentation titled *Rasa Manthan - The Churning of Inner Bliss*. The performance is choreographed and planned in the direction of Chadha's guru, the renowned Odissi exponent and Padmashri awardee Ranjana Gauhar.

VENUE: Stein Auditorium, India Habitat Centre

TIME: 7 p.m.



POP

Chezin live

Chezin will perform at Cyber Hub Social, a franchisee of the popular pan-Indian bar tonight. Chetan Dominic Awasthi, whose stage name is Chezin, is a singer and songwriter, and has been active in the Delhi music circuit for over 8 years. A former lead singer of the funk band Soul'd Out, his dabbles in both electro-pop, and R'n'B.

VENUE: Cyber City, DLF Cyber Hub, Sector 24

TIME: 9 p.m. - 12 a.m.

FILM

Le Poulin

Directed by Mathieu Sapin, this French film is the story of young Arnaud, who is inexperienced in politics, but joins the communication team of a presidential candidate. When he discovers the tactics of the campaign and its twists and rivalries, he develops an attraction and fascination for this world.

VENUE: M.L. Bhartia Auditorium

TIME: 6:30 p.m.



Apatanis have followed the tradition of facial modification by plugging their noses with wood. This was done purposely to make women look unattractive to males from other tribes. Today's generation refuses to wear these nose plugs but this custom has been an integral part of its cultural history.

Teenagers in the tribe are highly influenced by modern and Western civilisation. Most of the younger generation thinks that their practices have become dated and irrelevant in an age when more and more locals move to cities to practise different trades.



The men usually take part in fortification of the houses in the month of December as agricultural activity is very sparse. While they aren't fancy on architecture, Apatani houses are top-notch when it comes to utility. The houses are sturdy and every kitchen has a dedicated garden. Sometimes, tin sheets are used to roof these structures, giving them a modern touch.



Humility and transparency are the two distinct qualities that one finds in Apatani women. Tribal men have gone to lengths where they have kidnapped women because they were smitten by their beauty.



This landlocked valley has influenced the pattern of settlement, land use, resource management, agricultural system and the evolution of a unique social fabric amongst these people. The Apatanis manipulate various variety of rice crops to capture soil nutrients, conserve water and get the best produce every season. They also practise recycling of crops to prevent nutrient loss.



Although very painful, the Apatani women follow the custom of tattooing their face, which is called yaping. The tattoos usually comprise a single line running from the forehead to the tip of the nose and then a line running horizontally under the bottom lip with five vertical lines descending from it.

From the house of dawn

This is the story of the Apatanis, a gentle tribe nestled in the valleys of Ziro in Arunachal Pradesh. They speak a local language called Tani, and worship the sun and the moon. The tribe has extensive knowledge of herbal remedies to cure most of their ailments. Local ritual specialists also take part in chanting, blood-letting and animal sacrifices in a bid to keep inhabitants healthy. Vignettes from the life of the 65,000-strong community

• PALANIPAPPAN SUBRAMANYAM

The writer is a Chennai-based photographer who is passionate about travelling and clicking pictures of people while exploring



KAVITA KANAN CHANDRA

The monsoon has cast its green spell on the dry deciduous forest of Jhalana forest reserve, barely a 15-20 minute drive East of the Pink City.

We are on a leopard trail. We had seen it snoozing on a tree during the morning safari, through a veil of leafy branches. It was also a delight to see numerous birds as they chirped, foraged for insects or flew around the forest, fragrant from rains the day before. Enthused by the rare sighting of a striped hyena, we decided to push our luck and check out any leopard on hunt in the evening safari.

Surendra Chouhan, local conservationist, wildlife photographer and author of *Jhalana - Land of Leopard*, piqued our excitement by showing us a recent picture he had shot. It was of a leopard dragging a *nilgai* up a tree in the same forest. He guided us to follow the alarmed screams of peafowl in our chase to see the wild cat, and manoeuvred us through the undulating terrain. But we would have almost missed the adrenaline rush if not for Manoj Pandey, a veteran of safaris from Delhi, who caught a glimpse of the leopard lurking in the tall grass. From then on it was a game of hide-and-seek; waiting, watching and chasing.

As dusk descended over the hills of the Aravalli that border much of the 24-square kilometre forest, we were all ears and straining our eyes in the fading light. "Hold on tight," said Surendra as the driver raced up the muddy track and stopped at a vantage point.

There it appeared onto the track, crossing our path gracefully just a few metres from the jeep. Suddenly it paused, turned its head and looked straight at us with its piercing eyes. Before our gasps became louder, it moved on and got lost in the thick of the forest. For us, the thrill of sighting a leopard in the wilderness for the first time was enough. But not for Surendra who whispered, "Let's go to the other side as it's out for a hunt". So, we went look-



Beyond the majestic forts and bustling bazaars, discover the untamed side of Jaipur

ing for the leopard again, driving through thickets of grassland, and trees of *dhonk*, *babool* and *khejri*.

The Jhalana forest reserve is the pilot project of the Rajasthan Government's Project Leopard, and is the first of its kind in India. It was open to the public for leopard safaris on May 15, 2017. When Project Leopard was announced in the 2017-2018 budget session, it comprised eight leopard sanctuaries. The leopard is an endangered animal under Schedule I of the Wildlife Protection Act 1972.

Chosen project

Out of the three chosen for pilot projects, namely Jhalana (Jaipur), Jaisamand sanctuary (Udaipur) and Kumbhalgarh-Raoli Todgarh sanctuary (Ajmer-Udaipur), only Jhalana was implemented. On World Animal Day on October 4, it was officially

launched by the then Chief Minister Vasundhara Raje and inaugurated by then Forest Minister GS Khimsar. "The aim is to protect the leopard, its habitat and reduce human-animal conflict," said Sudarshan Sharma, Deputy Conservator of Forests, Jaipur. Among amenities for tourists, wildlife lovers can display their photographs of Jhalana at the gallery of the newly-constructed Interpretation Centre.

With an official estimate of 25-30 leopards in Jhalana, it is rapidly gaining popularity due to regu-

PINK CITY

During the rule of Sawai Ram Singh I, Jaipur was painted pink to welcome Albert Edward, Prince of Wales (who later became King Edward VII) in 1876.

lar leopard sightings. Though the leopard is an elusive and solitary animal, that usually roams a large area, it's incredible that Jhalana has such a high density in a small area. In the morning, our guide, Rohit Gangwal, who offers jeep safaris (World of Wilders), was a link between us and the marvels of Jhalana's winged friends. We got to spot numerous birds, including a pair of brown-spotted owls.

It was visually pleasing to see the bluish Eurasian roller, Indian pitta with its nine colours, jungle francolin, grey-headed lapwing, gregarious jungle babbler, Brahminy starling, grey wagtail and green bee-eater among many others. The Indian hoopoe, once common in human habitats, had to make evolutionary changes to its lifestyle and move to forests, as excessive use of pesticide has shrunk its food base in urban areas. "We have even driven our birds out of our neighbourhood," said Rohit. On passing the Kalimata temple inside the forest, where alcohol is offered to the deity, Rohit drew our attention to carelessly scattered pieces of glass that could injure animals.

Driving through the waterholes, we saw the shikra, a raptor perched on a tree branch nearby munching on its prey. Known to kill prey with great speed and accuracy, it has inspired the Indian Navy to name one of its helicopter bases INS Shikra.

What was conspicuous by its absence were deer and sambhar, normal prey for leopards. "Sambhar is the favourite of leopards, but its absence here makes them do with peafowl that are found in abundance," said Surendra.

Their dietary spectrum includes peafowl, blue bull, langurs, hares and squirrels. A peafowl weighing four to five kilograms could mitigate a leopard's hunger for two to three days.

Pointing at the hunting lodge standing tall on the hill, he shared an anecdote about how the last tigress was killed by the erstwhile Maharani Gayatri Devi of Jaipur in 1948.

Boston on foot



The best way to experience a city is on foot. In the US, cities such as Philadelphia, Seattle, Boston, Minneapolis and Chicago have several walking paths and bicycle trails.

One can explore Boston on foot, trolley, bike or boat. It offers tours for all interests – historical, food and wine, architectural, film, the harbour islands, and even tours for little feet. Boston has a Hubway bicycle sharing system, by which one can explore the famous Hatch Shell, the Boston University Bridge, and other places.

Take the 2.25-mile Circuit Path Loop through Boston or take the South Bay Harbor Trail, which is a 3.5-mile trail from the Ruggles MBTA station near Northeastern University in Roxbury to Fan Pier, overlooking Boston Harbor in the Seaport District.

Use Boston's subway, bus, trolley car, and boat service to travel anywhere in the Greater Boston area and beyond.

