



₹50,000 fine slapped on Tejaswi for challenging order to vacate house
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SC feels Mayawati may have to pay back money spent on her statues
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Ubolratana, sister of Thai King, running for PM in March election
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Rohit Sharma and Krunal Pandya help India pull level in T20I series
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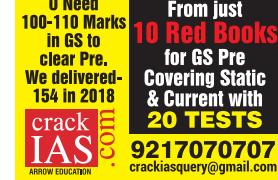
NEARBY



Manmohan absent at book launch

NEW DELHI
Former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh refused to attend the release of late Kuldeep Nayar's last book *On Leaders and Icons from Jinnah to Modi*, taking offence to a reference in the book about his tenure as PM. Declining the invitation, Mr. Singh, in a letter to Mr. Nayar's wife Bharati, wrote that he did not agree with the bits about government files being taken to UPA chairperson Sonia Gandhi's home.

NEWS ▶ PAGE 8



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Ground Zero

A Himalayan travesty

Survivors of sex trafficking in Nepal were shocked when a local politician, convicted of selling young Nepali girls to brothels in India, was released by the Supreme Court of Nepal last year. A look at the victims' fight for justice.

OP-ED PAGE

DELHI METRO ▶ 6 PAGES

Parrikar downplayed concerns of officials, file noting shows

Red flag was raised over PMO's parallel negotiations on Rafale purchase

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

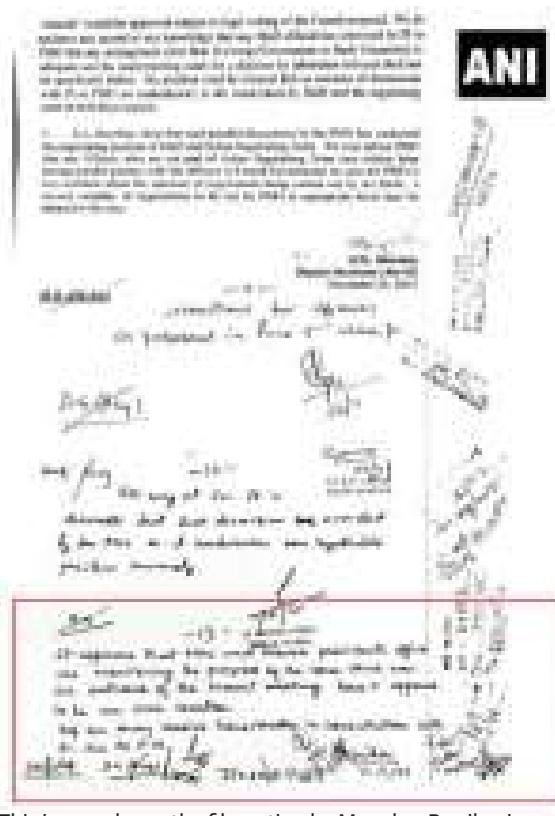
NEW DELHI

As new evidence of interference by the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) in the Rafale negotiations appeared in an exclusive story in *The Hindu* on Friday, the government, headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, sought to defend itself by citing the then Defence Minister Manohar Parrikar's file noting, which appeared to downplay the concerns of the then Defence Secretary G. Mohan Kumar.

The Hindu reported that officials of the Ministry of Defence had raised a red flag over the PMO's direct negotiations with the French government that – they noted in the file – undermined the official negotiating team's position.

'Overreaction'
Below Mr. Kumar's noting, Mr. Parrikar wrote: "It appears that the PMO and French President's office are monitoring the progress of issues which was an outcome of the summit meeting and Para 5 appears to be an overreaction. Def Sec may resolve issue/matter in consultation with the Pr. Sec to PM."

Mr. Parrikar's noting reiterates all the facts noted by officials in the file, and re-



This image shows the file noting by Manohar Parrikar in response to the Ministry's note on the negotiations. ■ ANI

ported by *The Hindu*, though he characterised part of the note as an "overreaction," before asking the Defence Secretary to deal directly with the PMO, effectively delegating responsibility for resolving the issue to the Ministry's top official.

In Parliament, Defence

Minister Nirmala Sitharaman termed the questions about the PMO's interference as "flogging a dead horse."

WAS PARRIKAR KEPT IN THE LOOP? ▶ PAGE 9
'NO PARALLEL PARLEYS' ▶ PAGE 9
GOVT. NOTE SUBMITTED TO SC SILENT ON PMO ROLE ▶ PAGE 9

Revelations put SC ruling in question: Rahul

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

In one of his sharpest attacks on Prime Minister Narendra Modi over the Rafale deal, Congress president Rahul Gandhi on Friday said *The Hindu* report about parallel negotiations made Mr. Modi's direct involvement "crystal clear" and proved that the "Prime Minister was a thief."

He said the new revelations had put the Supreme Court's Rafale judgment in question and claimed that its ruling would have been different had the government supplied it the document that was quoted by *The Hindu*.

Proceedings in the Rajya Sabha were washed out as the Opposition forced repeated adjournments. In the Lok Sabha, the Congress members forced a brief adjournment.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 8



NSA slapped on two in M.P. for 'illegal' cow transport

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

AGAR MALWA

The authorities in Agar Malwa district of Madhya Pradesh on Friday booked two men under the draconian National Security Act (NSA) for allegedly transporting cattle illegally and disrupting public peace, a police officer said.

On Monday, the Congress

led government had invoked the NSA against three men accused of cow slaughter in Khandwa district.

"The two accused – Mehboob Khan, a resident of Lambikheda in Ujjain district, and Rodumal Malviya of Agar Malwa – were arrested on Thursday for transporting cows illegally," Kotwali police station in-charge

Ajit Tiwari said.

The police said Agar Malwa witnessed tension on January 29 when the two accused were carrying cows in their vehicles. Following protests, the market was shut. The NSA was invoked by Collector Ajay Gupta after Agar Malwa's Superintendent of Police Manoj Kumar Singh sent a report.

Govt. grants divisional status to Ladakh

Similar status demanded for Pir Panjal, Chenab

PEERZADA ASHIQ

SRINAGAR

Jammu and Kashmir Governor Satya Pal Malik on Friday granted Ladakh a divisional status, thus creating three administrative units of Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh in the State.

"The J&K government has approved the creation of a separate administrative and revenue division for Ladakh. It will comprise Leh and Kargil districts, with headquarters at Leh," said a government order.

"If the people of J&K re-pose faith in the National Conference in 2019, our government will grant divisional status to Chenab Valley and Pir Panjal regions," said NC vice-president and former CM Omar Abdullah.

PDP president and former CM Mehbooba Mufti said: "The process of decentralisation of administrative control is good, though Ladakh already has hill development councils. However, we are forced to question the intent behind it. Chenab Valley and Pir Panjal regions should not and cannot be ignored because of underdevelopment in these areas," said Ms. Mufti.

off from the rest of the country for almost six months. The remoteness and inaccessibility of the area makes it eligible for establishing a separate division," said the government order.

Ladakh's Kargil and Leh districts already have separate hill development councils for local administrative powers.

The Governor's decision has fuelled demands for similar status to Pir Panjal and Chenab Valley regions.

"If the people of J&K re-pose faith in the National Conference in 2019, our government will grant divisional status to Chenab Valley and Pir Panjal regions," said NC vice-president and former CM Omar Abdullah.

The court said 80% of the fine will go to the family of the two men killed.

This is the first case out of a total 57 in which the seven men were found guilty, district prosecution counsel Rajiv Sharma said.

According to the FIR, the two youths of Kawal village under the Jansath police station area were battered to death by three of the five men.

The two other accused, Afzal and Iqbal, were later summoned when evidence of their complicity in the killings emerged during trial.

+ 26 dead in U.P. hooch tragedy; toll may go up

Deaths in two districts; Chief Minister Adityanath suspends policemen, excise officials

OMAR RASHID

LUCKNOW

At least 26 people died after drinking spurious liquor in two districts of Uttar Pradesh, officials said on Friday, prompting the Yogi Adityanath government to suspend several policemen and excise officials.

While 18 deaths were reported from the western district of Saharanpur, eight persons died in Kushinagar in Purvanchal, State police spokesman R.K. Gautam said.

The toll could go up as the police are yet to declare a final figure.

In Saharanpur, the deaths were recorded in Umahi, Sarbatpur, Mali and Kolka Kalan villages in Sadar area, while four died in Salempur and one in Mayahedi under Deoband area. The victims were 33 to 65 years old.

Saharanpur SSP Dinesh Kumar blamed a local, identified as Pintu, for supplying the spurious liquor in Umahi Kota under the Nagal police station area where five persons died. "We are trying to ascertain from where Pintu got the liquor. He used to bring it from outside," said Mr. Kumar.

In Kushinagar, the victims had reportedly consumed spurious liquor during a fair in Virat Kohnwaliya village

under Taryasujan police station area on Tuesday.

A case was registered under Sections 304 and 272 of the IPC against accused Rajaendra Jaiswal and Doodnath. So far, Jaiswal has been arrested, the police said.

Taking cognisance of the deaths, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath directed the Excise Principal Secretary to take action against the officials of both the districts. A 15-day joint operation of the excise and police departments against spurious liquor operatives was also ordered,

the police spokesperson said.

In Kushinagar, the government suspended Taryasujan SHO Vinay Pathak, one sub-inspector, two constables and five excise officials. In Saharanpur, Nagal SHO Harish Kumar and 10 other policemen were suspended, said Mr. Gautam.

₹2 lakh ex gratia
Mr. Adityanath also announced an ex gratia compensation of ₹2 lakh to the deceased and ₹50,000 to those undergoing treatment in hospitals.



Yogi Adityanath ■ FILE PHOTO

Startups to be listed for angel tax exemption

Notification to be issued in a few days



TCA SHARAD RAGHAVAN

NEW DELHI

The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) and the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) on Friday agreed to compile a list of startups eligible for angel tax exemption, based on their audited financial statements and income tax returns of the previous year. The notification is likely to be issued in a couple of days.

The government also decided to raise the maximum time limit below which a firm would be deemed eligible for angel tax exemption to 10 years from the earlier seven, a member of the committee set up to look into

to the issue said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

Further, the paid-up share capital threshold below which startups would be eligible for an exemption has been set at ₹25 crore. In cases where the investment exceeds ₹25 crore, the firms would be eligible for exemption if the angel investors can prove a net worth of ₹2 crore or more in the previous financial year. For investments below ₹25 crore, no questions would be asked.

Angel tax is imposed on the excess share capital raised by an unlisted firm, over and above the fair market value of its shares.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 8

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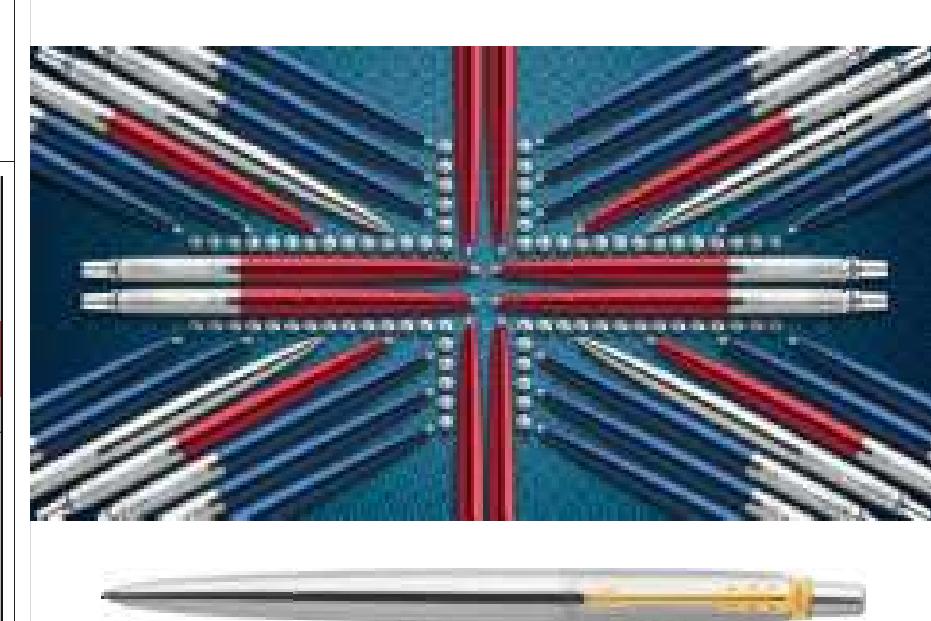
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Brand connect initiative

Banks that feed

Meet Sneha Mohandoss, who operates 'Food Bank' to feed the hungry by



they used to give annadhaanam (donating food). This inspired me to do this on a daily basis," adds Sneha when asked the reason behind such an initiative.

Using social media to contact volunteers and spread the word has been really helpful to Sneha. The Food Bank also conducts 'food rescues' where extra food from weddings and other celebrations are collected and given to those in need of food ensuring minimal wastage.

"There are some difficulties in trying to get food directly to people who are hungry. Co-ordinating between volunteers is a little tedious because there might be abundant food but hardly any volunteers to distribute them. We have to conduct tests before distributing because the quality of what we give out is extremely important," says Sneha.

Even before I began this Food Bank, I used to accompany my parents to temples and where

For those who want to donate excess food, reach out at Food Bank - Chennai.

THE HINDU #UNDERMYWATCH
I WILL DONATE EXCESS FOOD

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OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE**DEATH**

MR.G.SUBRAHMANYAM, AGED 85 years old, Retired Stevedore/Traffic Manager, Madras Port Trust, Chennai, passed away on 07/02/2019. His funeral is on 08/02/2019 morning. AG44, Annanagar, Chennai.

OBITUARY**P.M.S. RAO (Sanjeevi)**

S/o Late Madhava Rao (Kulithalai), Retired ACDA, J. Krishnamurti Study Circle



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Annapoorna (Daughter),

Mukund (Son in law),

Mauri & Yojan (Grandsons)

044-28211919

Supreme Court issues notice to owner of Meghalaya coal mine

'He is responsible for the illegal mining due to which the mishap took place'

Children work in rat-hole coal mines, says NHRC member**PRESS TRUST OF INDIA**

NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Friday issued notice to the owner of a coal mine in Meghalaya where 15 people have been trapped for nearly two months, saying he was responsible for the illegal mining due to which the mishap took place.

The top court directed that the owner of the mine be made a party in the pending petition seeking urgent steps for rescuing the miners trapped in the rat-hole mine since December 13 last year.

The illegal mine is located at Ksan in East Jaintia Hills district, about 3.7 km deep inside a forest and can be accessed after crossing three streams. It was flooded when water from the nearby Letein river gushed into it.

urged the authorities to stop illegal coal mining to address its impact on environment and for the safety of labourers.

"The tunnels of the mines are called rat-holes because of their small heights. (That is why) children are generally employed in these coal mines," Justice Ghosh said while addressing a workshop here.

ble. It is, therefore, directed that notice be issued to the mine owner also, namely, Jrin Chullet @ Krip Chullet, R/O Village Narwan of Dis-

trict Khliehriat, East Jaintia Hills District, Meghalaya," the Bench said.

The court sought the mine owner's reply by February 22 and directed the Meghalaya and Coal India Ltd. to furnish details of other illegal mines operating in the area.

It posted the matter for further hearing on February 22.

Senior advocate Anand Grover, appearing for petitioner Aditya N. Prasad, said the problem of de-watering the mines still persists.

On January 28, the apex court was informed that the body of a person, among the 15 miners trapped, has been retrieved while another body was spotted by the Navy.

Odisha EOW starts probe against Sahara

into alleged unauthorised collection of deposits by company

SATYASUNDAR BARIK

BHUBANESWAR

The Economic Offences Wing of Odisha Police has begun an investigation into alleged unauthorised collection of deposits by the Sahara Group of companies from people in the State.

The investigation has been initiated after a series of preliminary probes revealed that the companies were unable to refund deposits to investors.

The Office of the Registrar of Cooperative Societies has raised an alarm seeking urgent action against the Sahara companies such as Sahara Credit Cooperative Society, Humara India Credit Cooperative Society Limited and

Saharayn E-Multipurpose Society Limited, which were reportedly functioning in violation of existing rules of the cooperative sector.

No proper accounts

"These societies are mobilising huge deposits from nominal members without maintaining proper accounts through their branch and franchise offices," said Registrar of Cooperative Societies, Odisha.

According to a series of official communications made on the Sahara Group of companies, when ARCS, Bhubaneswar, conducted an investigation, the branch-in-charge of Sahara Credit Cooperative Society Limited could not produce the resolution of the society and any authenticated certificate in support of their claims to be branches of the SCCL.

Arunachal Pradesh Welcomes Narendra Modi Prime Minister

to the Land of the Rising Sun for Laying of Foundation Stone of Greenfield Airport at Holongi

- Inauguration of Retrofitted Airport at Tezu
- Laying of Foundation Stone of National Film & Television Institute at Jote
- Inauguration of 110 MW Pare Hydro Electric Project
- Inauguration of Arun Prabha Channel
- Laying of Foundation Stone of Seven 132/23 KV & Twenty Four 33/11 KV Substations under Comprehensive Scheme
- Laying of Foundation Stone of Sela Tunnel & Approach Road
- Inauguration of 50 Health & Wellness Centres
- Declaration of 100% Household Electrification under Saubhagya Scheme

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9th Feb 2019TIME
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Gujjars block railway tracks over quota

Rajasthan government forms committee to hold talks with protesters but puts the onus on the Centre

MOHAMMED IQBAL
JAIPUR

Hundreds of Gujjars blocked railway tracks in Rajasthan's Sawai Madhopur district on Friday demanding 5% reservation in government jobs and education, throwing railway traffic out of gear. The West Central Railway partially cancelled several trains and diverted about 20 trains running on the Delhi-Mumbai route.

Gujjar supremo Kirori Singh Bainsla led the agitation after holding a 'maha-panchayat' (grand assembly) at Malarwa Dungar village under the banner of Gujjar Aarakshan Sangharsh Samiti. He had earlier given a 20-day ultimatum to the State government to accept their demand, failing which he had threatened to revive the 11-year-old agitation.

Fight to the finish
Col. Bainsla and his supporters declared that any talks with the State government would be held "only on the spot".



Members of Gujjar community hold a dharna in Sawai Madhopur in Rajasthan on Friday. ■ PTI

Though Gujjars, along with nomadic communities Banjara, Gadia-Lohar, Raika and Gadariya, have been included in the State's OBC category since 1994, they are demanding the quota's sub-categorisation with 5% provision for them.

"This is going to be a fight to the finish, though it will be completely peaceful. I have not come here [on my own], but the crowd has brought me on the railway tracks. Pe-

ople cannot be fooled all the time," Col. Bainsla told reporters at the site, as the protesters burnt camp fires to beat the winter and spend the night under open sky.

Tracks uprooted

Despite Col. Bainsla's claim of leading a "peaceful agitation", there were reports of the protesters uprooting the railway tracks at Kothadi Gate. The Railway Protection Force was pressed into ser-

vices at Sawai Madhopur, Bayana, Bharatpur and Hindon railway stations and 17 companies of Rajasthan Armed Constabulary were posted in eight districts.

After an emergency meeting in the Chief Minister's Office, a committee comprising Ministers Raghu Sharma, Vishvendra Singh and Bhawarwal Mehewal was set up for holding talks with the agitators. CM Ashok Gehlot, who

was in Jalore district's Sanchoore town to distribute loan waiver certificates to farmers, said the State government had already done for Gujjars whatever was in its power.

"Any decision for creating the Special Backward Class category for Gujjars and four other communities is now in the Centre's jurisdiction," he said.

Gujjars are at present getting 1% reservation in the "most backward" category, in addition to the OBC quota, within the 50% ceiling mandated by the Supreme Court. Along with four other nomadic communities, they were earlier grouped as a Special Backward Class and the State government had tried thrice to grant them 5% reservation.

However, the legislation was struck down every time by the Rajasthan High Court, which ruled that the quota had not only exceeded the 50% limit, but was also not supported by the quantifiable data.

Congress trying to compete with BJP on cow: Vijayan

'Even in Kerala, the Cong. toed the RSS line on Sabarimala'

SOBHANA K. NAIR
NEW DELHI

Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan slammed the Congress government in Madhya Pradesh for invoking the National Security Act against three men for cow slaughter, saying not even the previous BJP government took such a harsh step.



Pinarayi Vijayan ■ FILE PHOTO

feat it. The only condition is that they should be secular."

The Kerala CM said the CPI(M)'s February 3 rally in Kolkata was an indicator of winds of change in West Bengal. The question of an alliance with the Congress is secondary when one looks at the bigger picture, he said. "In today's India, if the BJP government returns for another five years then we face a total annihilation of our democratic and secular values and our institutions. In fact, India as we know shall cease to exist," Mr. Vijayan said.

He urged the Congress to support regional alliances if it was serious about ousting the BJP.

"For example in U.P., the joining of two regional forces today threatens the BJP. The Congress should support such an alliance and ensure that it is not weakened by a split in votes," he said.

SC pulls up Rajasthan govt. over Aravalli mining

State's Chief Secretary in attendance, apex court Bench sets February 15 deadline for details

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

"Don't force us to take coercive action against you," the Supreme Court on Friday told the Rajasthan government, which sought time for completing the ground-truthing exercise of illegal mining in Aravalli areas. The exercise is conducted to ascertain the empirical evidence at the actual site.

It restrained mining from the Modha Pahad area of Jhunjhunu district in Rajasthan and directed the authorities to forthwith stop all

the excavations going on.

A Bench of Justices Arun Mishra and Deepak Gupta asked the Rajasthan government to furnish all the relevant details of operational leases for mining and names of persons responsible for the destruction of environment by February 15.

"Don't force us to take any coercive action against you. You have not completed the work as directed by the court. Earlier, you have said that the ground-truthing exercise will be completed within three months.

There is lethargy on part of concerned authorities. This work needs to be completed by March 4 otherwise we will pull up the Chief Secretary for sheer contempt," the Bench told the Rajasthan Chief Secretary who was present in the courtroom.

Seeks compliance report
The top court is dealing with a matter related to alleged illegal mining activities in the Aravalli range.

The court asked senior advocate C.S. Vaidyanathan,

appearing for the State government, to file compliance report by March 13 and listed the matter for further hearing on March 21.

Mr. Vaidyanathan said that due to Assembly elections recently in the State, the work was not completed and now Lok Sabha polls were also approaching.

"We want each and every detail of mining. When were the leases granted and by what time these leases are expiring. Which leases are operational and which are closed," the Bench said.

Mr. Vaidyanathan said 24 leases were granted in the area and out of them five were closed for violation of norms and 13 were operational.

Illegal activities

The Bench, after perusing the status report, said that the leases which are operational have also been found to be violating the environmental norms.

"Under the guise of mining, illegal activities are taking place and encroachments are made," it said.

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PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
CHANDIGARH

IPS officer Mohammad Mustafa asked the Punjab government on Friday to relieve him as the chief of the anti-drug Special Task Force as he is "senior" to newly appointed police chief Dinkar Gupta. The Director General of Police (STF) reports to the Punjab DGP.

Mr. Mustafa, a 1985-batch officer, said he has requested

the CMO to give him the charge of the State Human Rights Commission.

The DG (STF), left out of the panel despite fulfilling all the parameters," said Mr. Mustafa, whose wife Razia Sultan is a Minister in Amarinder Singh Cabinet.

In the UPSC meeting held in Delhi on February 4, the State was represented by Chief Secretary Karan Avtar Singh and DGP Suresh Arora. On Thursday, Mr. Gupta

was appointed as the DGP. He succeeded Mr. Arora, who had been on an extension after his retirement on September 30 last year.

Mr. Gupta became the new DGP after superseding five officers – Samant Goel (who is on central deputation), Mr. Mustafa, DGP (Law & Order) Hardeep Dhillon, DGP (Internal Vigilance Cell) Jasmin Singh and DGP (PSPCL) S. Chattopadhyay.

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The Jharkhand way

The Opposition would do well to focus on State-level coherence in alliances

The Congress's alliance with three regional parties in Jharkhand fits a template that could make it endure. The Jharkhand Mukti Morcha, the Jharkhand Vikas Morcha (Prajatantrik) and the Rashtriya Janata Dal have joined hands with the Congress in Jharkhand, a State that sends 14 MPs to the Lok Sabha. The seat-sharing agreement gives seven seats to the Congress, four to the JMM, two to the JVM and one to the RJD. In turn, the JMM gets a larger share of seats in the Assembly election, that will also take place in 2019. In the 2014 Assembly election, the BJP won the State with 31% of the vote. Collectively, constituents of the new alliance got 47% of the vote. Alliances don't only turn on arithmetic. What makes this alliance potent is the synergy among its partners, with ground reports indicating that workers of these parties have developed a certain comfort level with one another. Collectively, they have command over all the regions, and appeal to all social groups of the State. As much as a third of the State's population is tribal, and the alliance is expected to reach out to this section. These factors explain the sweep that the alliance of the Congress, the JMM, the RJD and the CPI had in 2004. That was the last time Jharkhand had a rainbow alliance – it won 13 of the 14 seats, while the BJP won only one seat, Koderma.

State-level alliances will hold the key in the election this year. A countrywide alliance involving vote transfer from one regional party to another is impractical. A national grand alliance against the BJP will be more optics than substance. In Uttar Pradesh, the alliance between the Samajwadi Party and the Bahujan Samaj Party has unsettled the BJP, while the Congress's efforts to assert its own space by introducing Priyanka Gandhi Vadra as a front-line campaigner has opened up the field to further possibilities of political realignment. Regional parties function with their focus primarily on local power calculations, and an appreciation of that factor by regional leaders and the Congress can be the basis of stronger bonds. The confusion in the non-BJP camp in Uttar Pradesh is partly due to the lack of appreciation on this point, while the contrasting picture of synergy among them in Bihar and Jharkhand is driven by an acknowledgement of mutual interests. While chemistry and arithmetic are both important, potential participants in a non-BJP coalition must also be mindful of optics. Regional leaders hopping around to make a show of a nascent grand alliance may not add up to much, even as they render it vulnerable to attacks – of the sort lobbed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi when he termed it a Mahamilavat, or grand adulteration. They will do better by staying grand, and staying regional.

Nigerian renewal

Muhammadu Buhari's mixed record in office makes the presidential contest an open race

As Nigerian President Muhammadu Buhari seeks re-election, his mixed record on the economy and security fronts has made for a close contest. Nigeria, Africa's biggest oil-producer, has barely recovered from a recession following the 2014 global slump in crude prices. The government claims to have curbed inflation, though it is in the double digits. Unemployment, which has climbed to over 20% since Mr. Buhari took office in 2015, could hurt his prospects among a predominantly young population. The adverse sentiment from the current grim global climate for foreign investment may have been compounded by the negative signals emanating from the billion-dollar fines slapped on the region's telecom giant. Last year Lagos declined to join the African Continental Free Trade Area after steering negotiations among the 55 African Union states. The decision dealt a blow to the prospects of transforming Africa into an open and diverse economy, and strengthened the perception that Nigeria was not doing enough to move away from its dependence on oil wealth. In the prevailing atmosphere of rampant institutional corruption dating back decades, Mr. Buhari's image as a morally incorruptible leader held sway with a disillusioned electorate during the 2015 polls. That reputation is still intact. But the former army general now seems politically vulnerable following electoral reverses in the provinces last year. More worrisome for him would be the defection of several members of the ruling All Progressives Congress party to the Opposition People's Democratic Party. The most prominent of them is Mr. Buhari's main challenger in the presidential race, Atiku Abubakar, a two-term former vice president. The suspension of Nigeria's chief justice on corruption charges last month has raised apprehensions over respect for the popular will in Nigeria. Besides many Western governments, Mr. Abubakar has cautioned the President against electoral interference.

On the security front, Mr. Buhari has had moderate success in pushing back Boko Haram, the Islamist terror organisation that gained notoriety some years ago for the shocking disappearance of 200 children. But the group continues to resort to acts of kidnapping and massacre in its stronghold in the northeast. Meanwhile, even as the violent conflict between farmers and herdsmen festers, concerns have been raised about the lack of equipment for the security forces. A new law passed last year lowering the age to run for public office, could make for a more inclusive democracy. But until the financial entry threshold to the political arena is lowered significantly, such laws will have little impact on the ground. Nevertheless, for a country blighted by bloody dictatorships for many years since the end of colonial rule, the coming polls should inspire confidence in the gradual strengthening of its nascent institutions.

Surveying India's unemployment numbers

India's labour participation rate, very low by world standards, fell sharply after demonetisation. Women bore the brunt



MAHESH VYAS

Monthly measurement of the unemployment rate is one of the requirements of the Special Data Dissemination Standard (SDDS) of the International Monetary Fund (IMF). The SDDS – India was one of the early signatories – was established in 1996 to help countries access the international capital markets by providing adequate economic and financial information publicly. India complies with many requirements of the SDDS, but it has taken an exception with respect to the measurement of unemployment.

The Government of India does not produce any measure of monthly unemployment rate, nor does it have any plans to do so. Official plans to measure unemployment at an annual and quarterly frequency is in a shambles. This does not benefit India's claims to be the fastest growing economy and as the biggest beneficiary of a famed demographic dividend.

The Centre for Monitoring India Economy (CMIE), a private enterprise, has demonstrated over the past three years that fast frequency measures of unemployment can be made and that seeking an exception on SDDS compliance is unnecessary.

Higher frequency survey

The CMIE decided to fill India's gap in generating fast frequency measures of household well-being in 2014. In its household survey, called the Consumer Pyramids Household Survey (CPHS), the sample size was 172,365 as compared to that of the official National Sample Survey Organisation

(NSSO), which was 101,724. In both surveys, the sample selection method has been broadly the same.

The CPHS is comprehensive, surveying its entire sample every four months. Each survey is a wave. The CPHS is also a continuous survey, and so, for example, three waves are completed in a year. The CMIE's CPHS thus has a much larger sample and is conducted at a much higher frequency than the NSSO's.

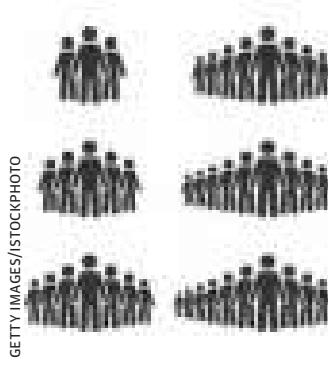
Further, the CPHS is conducted as face-to-face interviews necessarily using GPS-enabled smartphones or tablets. Intense validation systems ensure high fidelity of data capture. All validations are conducted in real-time while the teams are in the field. The data capture machinery ensures delivery of high quality data in real time obviating the need for any further "cleaning", post field operations.

Once the data is collected and validated in real-time, it is automatically deployed for estimations without any human intervention.

In 2016, the CMIE added questions regarding employment/unemployment to the CPHS. Since then, the CMIE has been generating labour market indicators regularly and making these freely available for public use (<https://bit.ly/20xLa4>).

A difference between the CPHS and the NSSO surveys is the reference period of the employment status of a respondent. While the NSSO tries to capture the status for an entire year and for a week, the CPHS captures the status as on the day of the survey. This could be as one of four factors: employed; unemployed willing to work and actively looking for a job; unemployed willing to work but not actively looking for a job, and unemployed but neither willing nor looking for a job.

Since the recall period in the CPHS is of the day of the survey (or



the immediate preceding day in the case of daily wage labourers) and the classification is elementary, the CPHS has been able to capture the status fairly accurately with no challenges of the respondent's ability to recall or interpret the status. In contrast, the NSSO's system is quite complex.

The large CPHS sample is distributed evenly across rural and urban regions for every week of the execution cycle of 16 weeks of a wave. It is this machinery that enables us to understand the Indian labour market with fast-frequency measures. So what do these fast-frequency measures tell us?

Key findings

The most important message from the data is that India's labour participation rate is very low by world standards and that even this low participation rate fell very sharply after demonetisation. The average labour participation rate was 47% during January–October 2016. The world average is about 66%.

Immediately after demonetisation in November 2016, India's labour participation rate fell to 45%; 2% of the working age population, i.e. about 13 million, moved out of labour markets. That is a lot of people who were willing to work who decided that they did not want to work any more.

The data show that it was not the employed who lost jobs and decided to stop working. The em-

ployed mostly retained their jobs. But it was largely the unemployed who decided that the labour markets had been so badly vitiated after demonetisation that they gave up looking for jobs any further. In short, they lost hope of finding jobs in the aftermath of demonetisation.

As more and more unemployed left the labour market, the unemployment rate fell. This is because the unemployment rate is the ratio of the unemployed to the total labour force. This fall gave misleading or at least confusing signals, almost implying that the unemployment rate was falling in a positive sense. In reality it was a reflection of an exodus of the unemployed from the labour markets – a fall in the labour participation rate. And this underlines the much greater importance of the labour participation rate.

On female labour

Specifically, India's female labour participation rate is very low. Official statistics have always shown that India's female labour participation rate is low and falling. Researchers have shown that this fall is because of rising household incomes that reduce the need for women to join the labour force; increased enrolment in higher education by women which delays their entry into the labour force, and cultural and security factors that keep women away from the labour market in India. Further, it is evident that employers are also biased against hiring women.

The CPHS shows that the situation with respect to women's participation in the labour force is extremely poor – much poorer than what the official agencies tell us. The entire brunt of demonetisation was borne by women. Their labour participation fell sharply while that of men did not.

After the demonetisation jolt came the Goods and Services Tax

shock of July 2017 that drove away small enterprises which could not compete in a tax-compliant environment out of business. This caused a substantial loss of jobs. Preliminary estimates suggest that employment shrunk by 11 million in 2018. The brunt of this was again borne largely by women. But men too were also impacted.

Male labour participation rate was 74.5% in 2016. This dropped to 72.4% in 2017 and then to 71.7% in 2018. In contrast, female labour participation was as low as 15.5% in 2016 which dropped to 11.9% in 2017 and then 11% in 2018. Urban female labour participation rates fell faster than rural female participation. In urban India it dropped from 15.2% in 2016 to 10.5% in 2018. The corresponding values for rural women were 15.6% and 11.3%, respectively.

Although female labour participation is substantially much lower than male participation, the few women who venture to get employment find it much more difficult to find jobs than men. The unemployment rate for men was 4.9% in 2018 and for women in the same year was much higher – 14.9%.

This higher unemployment rate faced by women in spite of a very low participation rate indicates a bias against employing women. Drawing women into the labour force by removing the impediments they face to at least bring their participation levels close to global standards is critically important for India to gain from the demographic dividend opportunity it has. This window of opportunity is open only till 2030. By not using a good data monitoring machinery, the Indian government is keeping both itself and the citizenry in the dark.

Mahesh Vyas is Managing Director and CEO, Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy Pvt. Ltd., Mumbai

Forty years after the Iranian revolution

A political change beckons which will not be easy but it is as certain as the overthrow of the Shah



RAMIN JAHANBEGLOO

Friedrich Nietzsche prophesied with remarkable accuracy that the 20th century would be marked by great wars fought in the name of philosophical ideas. But what Nietzsche could not have anticipated was that towards the end of the 20th century there would be a revolution in the name of god, establishing a Shi'ite theocracy. The Iranian revolution of 1978-1979 (picture) was a momentous development in the modern history of Islam. And it had a huge impact on all movements across the globe, especially those that were using Islamic frames of reference for political activism.

Some, like the French thinker Michel Foucault, enthusiastically declared the Iranian revolution as the spirit of a world without spirit. Foucault wrote: "One bears on Iran and its peculiar destiny. At the dawn of history, Persia invented the state and conferred its models on Islam. Its administrators staffed the caliphate. But from this same Islam, it derived a religion that gave to its people infinite resources

to resist state power. In this will for an 'Islamic government', should one see a reconciliation, a contradiction, or the threshold of something new?" Following Foucault, we can say that from the very beginning, the Iranian Revolution remained a significant social and political transformation full of paradoxes and unpredictable twists.

Clerical rule

The Iranian revolution was surprising not because it caused a monarch to collapse, but because of the way in which people organised themselves and participated in massive demonstrations. Like many other revolutions, it united several groups, classes and parties who, despite different ideologies, were all against the old regime.

Also, in the Iranian revolution as in the French and later the Russian revolutions, the coalition did not last very long and the Iranian clerics ended up having a leading role. But, the interesting point is that most non-clerics who were in the opposition against the Shah of Iran underestimated the probability of clerical rule, despite the presence of the clergy in all major political events in Iran since the Constitutional Revolution of 1906.

Moreover, for too many observers inside and outside Iran today, events leading up to the revolution in 1979 took a mystifying and



seemingly irrational course. But, unfortunately, those who try to explain hastily and emotionally the causes of the Iranian revolution and the Shah's collapse generally only tend to focus on one or another specific issue such as the alleged corruption of the regime, the undemocratic ways of its rule, the effect of repression, or the economic gap between the rich and the poor.

Social tensions

If we consider the Iranian revolution not only as a political event but also as a psychological watershed, exactly as it was the case with the rise of Hitler to power in 1933 in Germany, we can understand why many Iranians believed back in 1978 that there was a messianic nature to Ayatollah Khomeini's leadership. In truth, Khomeini's success in the Iranian revolution had certainly nothing to do with divine providence, but given that the Iranian population

believed for centuries in the divine right of kings, it should have come as little surprise that the people were receptive to such ideas rather than having an acute sense of political pragmatism. Khomeini's leadership, followed by the establishment of the Islamic Republic in Iran, therefore, can be understood in patrimonial terms, assisted by periodic doses of charisma. The immediate consequence of this socio-religious attitude was to institutionalise Khomeini's role as the leader of the revolution.

But there is also a political side to the story: Khomeini was not only popular among common Iranians for his uncompromising attitude to the Shah and his anti-imperialist and populist rhetoric since 1963, but also because he and his followers were fully ready and organised for the establishment of an Islamic regime in Iran. As a result, defying all the myths of secular modernisation and shattering all the political ideologies of modernity, the Islamic Republic became the first theocratic state in the modern world to have institutionalised the Shi'ite idea of *Velayat-e-Faqih*, or the "rule of the jurist". However, the institutionalisation of Khomeini's role as the "faqih" did not manage the implicit tensions which continue to exist between tradition and modernity.

Despite total Islamisation and

the reign of terror unleashed on political groups, there were advancements of Iranian civil society due to demographic changes, the rise of literacy and the magic fluidity of Iranian society. The insertion of cultural politics into the everyday lives of young Iranians in the name of Islamic purity created the reverse attitude and a sentiment of confrontation with the Islamic regime.

Looking at Iran today, one can say that the 'growing generational gap between the Islamic state and the Iranian youth, particularly young women, has never been wider. The question to ask would be: if the participants in the Iranian revolution wanted more than anything to be seen and to be heard, why, then, did the revolution degenerate into such violence and tyranny which still plague Iran? Why did people power collapse in on itself, engendering repression, stifling thought and action?

These questions remain unanswered, but if one thing is certain, it is that Iran is going towards a political change. This political change is not going to be an easy and a quick one, but it will happen with the same certainty that the revolution happened.

Ramin Jahanbegloo is Director, Mahatma Gandhi Centre for Peace, Jindal Global University, Sonipat

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.

Rafale negotiations

The credibility and standard of *The Hindu* have taken a hit after the publication of the "exclusive report". MoD protested against PMO undermining Rafale negotiations" (Page 1, February 8). The report is a distortion of the facts. The Prime Minister's Office (PMO) has every right to make inquiries as far as any Ministry or department is concerned especially as the Rafale fighter aircraft deal is a deal worth billions. The report does not present the full picture of what transpired between the Defence Ministry and the PMO. The government has made it clear that negotiations were done in the right way with no malpractice. One needs to investigate how the Congress president has

arrived at the figure of ₹30,000 crore. One gets the impression that the daily has an ulterior motive – to tarnish the image of the Prime Minister.

P.O. SIVASANKARAN,
Chittur, Palakkad, Kerala

■ The Indian government has the prerogative to waive the requirement of a sovereign or bank guarantee especially when it concerns a deal with countries of a very high stature. This is the case in this defence deal. It is absolutely normal to have such differences of opinion between ministries. Has the "exclusive report" been glorified for political considerations?

S. PARTHASARATHY,
Chennai

■ *The Hindu* had a reputation for factual reporting and upholding

journalistic ethics. But the report has besmirched this reputation. To have published only a part of the file notings is nothing but a case of *suggestio falsi* and *suppressio veri*. To have conveniently omitted the Defence Minister's notings is a blot on the daily's journalistic standards. This was not expected from a newspaper of *The Hindu*'s standing. As a regular reader I am deeply disappointed.

P.N. RADHAKRISHNAN,

New Delhi

■ The report has shown the government in a bad light. In this case, established norms when striking a defence deal have been subverted. Though it is not prohibited for the PMO to oversee deals negotiated by other ministries, it is not fair to override norms that are laid down. Moreover the

government has been strongly arguing against the charge of such interference. Now that the report makes things clear, the government needs to come up with more convincing answers.

Drs. D.V.G. SANKARARAO,

Nellimarlai, Andhra Pradesh

■ It is laudable that *The Hindu* has exposed the involvement of the PMO in the murky deal. Looking at the sequence of events, one really wonders whether the dilution of established norms was an internal barter deal to make the French manufacturer accept an inexperienced and debt-laden Indian firm as an offset partner. The demand by the Congress President for a thorough probe by a Joint Parliamentary Committee sounds very reasonable.

THARCIUS S. F

On a cloudy day in October 2018, Nirmala Tamang, 24, was working in a field near Ghyangfedi, a village 80 km northwest of Kathmandu, gathering food for her family's cattle. She cut the green leaves with her sickle, expertly bundling them together. In the background, one could hear the murmur of the river that flowed through her village and the faint gush of a waterfall. It seemed like a pastoral idyll, but there was fear raging in Nirmala's heart. She was afraid for herself and her two children.

Nirmala's suffering began more than a decade ago, when her first husband sold her to a trafficker, forcing her into years of prostitution in neighbouring India. In 2008, Sun Bahadur Tamang, an influential local politician, was convicted of trafficking Nirmala and charged with trafficking two other Nepali women. Activists say Sun Bahadur may have trafficked more than 200 women from Nuwakot district and other parts of Nepal. But on April 19, 2018, the Supreme Court of Nepal cleared him of all charges and ordered his release on the grounds that his accusers must have mistaken his identity.

His release came as a shock to Nirmala. "I am scared," she says. "But I want justice." With poverty and earthquakes crippling an already fragile economy, Nepal, in recent years, has become a major hub of human trafficking. More dangerous than the earthquakes, however, is the fact that powerful people behind trafficking networks enjoy impunity. The traffickers get away, say activists, because of their strong ties to politicians, corruption in the police force, and their skill at exploiting loopholes in the system. Arrests are rare and largely limited to low-level operatives.

Sold by her 'husband'

Nirmala is the youngest of the five children in her family. She was never sent to school and spent her days mostly doing household chores. The village was her playground, and the cattle her friends. But her life changed abruptly when she turned 12. "We have this strange system of marriage in our community," Nirmala says. "If a boy likes a girl, he can take her forcefully and the girl is considered to be his wife. I was forced into such a 'marriage' in 2007, when I was 12."

Months later, her 'husband' Tikaram Tamang, 18, told Nirmala that he was sending her away to work. In February 2008, Nirmala was trafficked from her home in Ghyangfedi to agents who worked for Sun Bahadur. Promising her a good job and a better future, they took her to Kathmandu, and then to Bhandup in Mumbai.

"I don't know for how much I was sold," says Nirmala, holding her one-and-a-half-year-old son. Her captors forced Nirmala into the sex trade in Mumbai. Subsequently, they sent her to a brothel in Delhi, run by a woman who the police later identified as Sun Bahadur's third wife, Radha Tamang. "It was terrible," Nirmala says. "I don't want to think of those days again."

In the Delhi brothel, she found nearly a hundred other Nepali girls, including two from her own village. She met her 'husband' Tikaram twice in the brothel. On both occasions, he had come to collect the money that she had earned. "I pleaded with him to rescue me, but he ignored me," she recalls.

Police records show that Tikaram went to the brothel six months after Nirmala started working there, and was paid ₹5,000 by Radha. He returned a second time for more money six months later, but was not paid, and returned home empty-handed.

Tikaram, currently in Nuwakot prison, claims that he had fallen in love with Nirmala. He denies selling her into the sex trade. "We have appealed our case in the high court," he says. "I am innocent." However, in a statement to the police given in September 2015, Tikaram had confessed to taking Nirmala as his wife by force and then selling her.

Social workers from Prabashi Nepali Manch, a local NGO, rescued Nirmala from the brothel in July 2013. By then, she had worked in the sex trade for five years and four months. One of the rescuers was the man to whom she is now married, and with whom she has two children.

After returning to Nepal, Nirmala initially stayed at a shelter run by Shakti Samuha, an NGO run by victims of human trafficking. She filed a case against Sun Bahadur, charging him with luring her with the promise of work and forcing her into sexual slavery.

An open secret

In Nuwakot, Sun Bahadur's alleged involvement in human trafficking is treated as an open secret. "Our elders, teachers, and those working in the social sector say that Sun Bahadur used to sell girls. They say that he has multiple wives who are running brothels in India



"In Nepal, the traffickers get away because of their strong ties to politicians, corruption in the police force, and their skill at exploiting loopholes in the system, say activists. The victims of trafficking remain silent, fearing retribution." • RAJNEESH BHANDARI

A Himalayan travesty

Survivors of sex trafficking in Nepal were shocked when a local politician convicted of selling young Nepali girls to brothels in India was released by the Supreme Court of Nepal last year. **Rajneesh Bhandari** reports on the victims' fight for justice



C Our elders, teachers, and those working in the social sector say that Sun Bahadur used to sell girls. They say that he has multiple wives who are running brothels in India

ASHMITA THAPA
An activist from Nuwakot

for local support. This phenomenon is not related to one party; it is seen in other political parties too."

Conviction and release

The Nuwakot District Court convicted Sun Bahadur in two separate cases, in 2011 and 2018, sentencing him to six years in one case and to 37 years in the second. But Sun Bahadur continued to remain at large even after being sentenced in the first case. It was only after the Central Investigation Bureau (CIB) of Nepal took charge of the case that he was arrested in December 2017.

Following his conviction, other victims cautiously came forward, filing complaints against him with the police. As they took up these new investigations, the police began getting phone calls from politicians, asking them to treat carefully.

Sun Bahadur's lawyers then approached the Supreme Court, arguing that the politician was a victim of mistaken identity. The Supreme Court quashed the District Court's order and ordered that he be released. Justices Pushottam Bhandari and Om Prakash Mishra ruled that there was insufficient evidence to establish that the person charged in the case was Sun Bahadur.

Activists viewed the ruling with suspicion. "There was political influence in the case. That's why the trafficker was freed," says Sunita Danuwar, co-founder and Executive Director of Shakti Samuha. "Our society doesn't support these girls. Many are still in brothels in India. Even after several years of forced labour in the sex trade, they don't want to come back because they don't think there is a better life awaiting them outside."

Activists say that Sun Bahadur made five copies of his citizenship documents. They believe that in the process, he manipulated the dates on the documents, a move that could have aided his subsequent release on the grounds of mistaken identity.

Interestingly, none of the trafficking charges have impeded his political ascent. In a local election held in May 2017, Sun Bahadur was elected as Ward Chairman of Dupschewor Rural Municipality-I despite having been convicted of human trafficking by the Nuwakot District Court.

Yadunath Khanal, Sun Bahadur's lawyer, denies that his client has done anything wrong. "All the charges are fake, we have a strong case," he says. "It's all political propaganda."

Watching his successful political campaign, Nirmala lost any illusions she may have had about democracy and justice. The man convicted of trafficking her, she says, used money and power to win an election. Activists agree. "He is a key asset for politicians from the Nepali Congress," says Ashmita. She adds that Sun Bahadur's seeming invincibility is one of the reasons many are afraid to speak out against him.

Sun Bahadur's party says it supports the due process of law. But the party is yet to take any action against the politician. "We support the investigations and the legal procedures connected to the case," says Bishwo Prakash Sharma, a spokesperson of the Nepali Congress. "People like him get support from the Nepali Congress or other parties because of election politics, and the need

is reported to have secured ahead of his trial have heightened suspicion among advocates and the police that he had done some skulduggery to get rid of the serious charges against him.

Nuwakot, a trafficking hub

Though there is no information on when exactly human trafficking began in Nuwakot, activists say that the rulers of the Rana dynasty, which controlled Nepal from 1846 to 1951, used to visit the villages of Nuwakot to take girls back to Kathmandu and exploit them. Later, they took the girls to India as well, says Ashmita. The victims were then forced to procure more girls and women to be trafficked.

A review of the police case file shows that trafficking victims had positively identified Sun Bahadur, who is well-known in his district through his political involvement. Narayan Prasad, however, says that he cannot comment on a specific case related to Sun Bahadur since the judges have delivered their verdict.

Activists and the police who were investigating the case are shocked that the courts have accepted the argument that the politician was prosecuted in error. A senior police officer in Nepal, who requested anonymity, describes the Supreme Court's ruling as a textbook example of granting impunity.

"There are immense loopholes in our system," says Assistant Inspector General Pushkar Karki, who has headed many human trafficking investigations. "The perpetrators are experts in evading the law, and the victims pay the price."

Pushkar says that the country lacks a central, computerised identification system. As a result, traffickers can easily alter dates and addresses and create false alibis. The multiple copies of identification documents that Sun Bahadur

C All the charges against Sun Bahadur are fake, we have a strong case. It's all political propaganda.

YADUNATH KHANAL
Sun Bahadur's lawyer



C Three years ago, I was on my way to collect relief supplies for my children when I was kidnapped by Sun Bahadur's men and forced to sign some documents. I don't know what documents I signed.

NIRMALA TAMANG
Victim of sex trafficking

perpetrators ever be brought to book?

Fear of the future

In February 2018, Shakti Samuha and other organisations wrote a joint letter to government agencies and commissions, alleging that Sun Bahadur had been involved in trafficking for 20 years and that he has four brothels in India. "Releasing a culprit who is involved in organised crime has increased the challenges for victims' security, protection and justice," the letter read. They also questioned Nepal's Election Commission: "How could a trafficker win an election?"

Nepal's CIB also filed two other cases against Sun Bahadur in the court. Following the Supreme Court's release of Sun Bahadur on April 19, 2018, the police re-arrested him the following day on the charge of human trafficking in another case in connection with Nirmala's abduction. Sun Bahadur, who is currently in jail in Kathmandu, has gone to court against his re-arrest. The case is ongoing at the Patna High Court.

Nirmala fears that if the politician is released again, he could come after her. "Some traffickers are freed and some are released on bail because of political power," Sunita says. "If this keeps happening, the survivors will find it tough to keep their hopes of justice alive."

Nirmala lives just an hour's walk from Sun Bahadur's home in Nuwakot. "Three years ago, I was on my way to collect relief supplies for my children when I was kidnapped by Sun Bahadur's men and forced to sign some documents," she says. She has no idea what documents she was forced to sign. Ever since she was attacked, she has avoided taking the road by his village.

Narayan Prasad says that a big problem for the victims is the lack of a policy or infrastructure to protect them. "There is no witness protection and resettlement policy for the victims in Nepal. That leaves many of the survivors vulnerable to further victimisation."

After a day of toil in the fields, as Nirmala walks home, her thoughts are all about her children's future. "I want them to study," she says. "But I am not sure if I can protect them and give them a good future."

This story is a collaboration between Journalists for Transparency and IOReporters, a non-profit news organisation. The name of the trafficking survivor has been changed to protect her identity.

FROM PAGE ONE

Revelations put SC ruling in question, says Rahul

"Today, in *The Hindu* newspaper, it is absolutely black and white that the Prime Minister himself was carrying out parallel negotiations with the French," Mr. Gandhi said at a press conference in the party headquarters.

"Here is a most important line, the Defence Secretary of India says, 'It is desirable that such discussion be avoided by the PMO [Prime Minister's Office] as it undermines our negotiating positions seriously.' Now, realise one thing, when an officer puts this on a piece of paper, he is putting that for a reason. He is clearly saying here that the Prime Minister has bypassed us and the Prime Minister is directly carrying out a negotiation," said Mr. Gandhi reading out from the document published in the news report.

"I want to speak to every member of the armed forces of this nation... Here, it is absolutely clear that the Prime Minister has stolen ₹30,000 crore of your money, bypassed a process, and given it to his friend Mr. Anil Ambani," Mr. Gandhi said.

"Please take a look at this...friends in the Air Force, Generals, pilots...it is written clearly here that the Prime Minister is a thief. He has stolen ₹30,000 crore from you," said Mr. Gandhi

Centre to list startups for angel tax exemption

This tax usually impacts startups and the angel investments they attract. While aimed at curbing money-laundering, the angel tax has also resulted in a large number of genuine startups receiving notices from the IT Department.

Startups would have to furnish three types of documents in order to be registered with the government: (i) audited financials for the previous year, (ii) IT returns for the previous year, and (iii) a self-certified declaration. The declaration is to certify that the firm does not have ownership or investments nor plans to deploy the angel investment in real estate holdings of any kind and assets, including premium cars of value above ₹10 lakh, gold and art.

The declaration has to also acknowledge that if the company possesses any of these items, then the exemption granted from Section 56(2)(viib) would be revoked with retrospective effect. Once these documents are furnished, the DPIIT would have to validate them, and then submit the name and PAN of all these companies to the

and quickly added, "I am using strong words, I don't like using strong words, but, I am forced to use this word because it is the truth."

Citing it as 'an open and shut case' of the Prime Minister's guilt in the Rafale deal, Mr. Gandhi also accused the government of lying to the Supreme Court.

Lied to SC'
They lied to the Supreme Court. If the Supreme Court had this paper work, do you think the Supreme Court would have given the judgment that they gave? This was withheld from the Supreme Court, of course. So that entire judgment is also in question, that judgment is now completely in question," he said.

The Congress not only

kept the pressure on the Modi government through the day but also responded to the government's claim that *The Hindu* report didn't reveal the then Defence Minister Manohar Parrikar's file noting of the officials 'over-reacting.' The note which has been released by the government actually indicts the Prime Minister and the Prime Minister's Office much more than the original newspaper report," former Union Minister Manish Tewari told a press conference.

Centre to list startups for angel tax exemption

CBDT. The CBDT would then set up a mechanism where such recognised startups do not get notices under Section 56(2)(viib).

"The DPIIT and the CBDT have agreed to these and the notification will be issued shortly," the member said.

The DPIIT was earlier considering defining a startup eligible for exemption from the angel tax if the aggregate amount of paid-up share capital and share premium after the proposed issue of shares did not exceed ₹10 crore. This has now been raised to ₹25 crore.

Existing cases
The CBDT, however, said that it could not halt the proceedings in cases where the startups had already been sent a notice by the Income Tax department.

"Regarding the cases where notices have already been sent, the government officials are saying they are going to instruct the relevant authority to close the case as soon as possible, and also take into consideration the fact that the company is registered as a startup with the government," the committee member said.

Chidambaram says imposing NSA on cow smugglers wrong

'Mistake pointed out to M.P. govt. by Congress leadership'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Former Union minister P. Chidambaram on Friday said the recent case of the Congress government in Madhya Pradesh invoking the stringent National Security Act (NSA) against two men accused of alleged cattle smuggling was a mistake.

Mr. Chidambaram, a former Home Minister, said the party leadership had communicated this to the State government in Bhopal.

"Use of NSA in Madhya Pradesh was wrong. If a mistake has been committed, the mistake has been pointed to the government by the leadership," Mr. Chidambaram said at the formal launch of his new book *Undaunted: Save the Idea of India*.

The book was formally released by former Vice-President Hamid Ansari and fol-

lowed by a panel discussion that included former Law Minister Salman Khurshid, Trinamool MP Dinesh Trivedi and Congress MP Sushmita Dev.

Amir Raja Hussain, present in the audience, pointed out that the Congress was now scared even to speak up for minorities, Mr. Khurshid said the party had combined strategy with ideology.

"We are dealing with a slippery opponent who turns everything we say on its head. Why should the Congress allow the BJP to claim monopoly over Hinduisim?" Mr. Khurshid said.

When theatre personality

Amit Raja Hussain, present in the audience, pointed out that the Congress was now scared even to speak up for minorities, Mr. Khurshid said the party had combined strategy with ideology.

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When theatre personality

Navtej Sarna, Pawan Verma, Hardeep Puri and Kapil Sibal at the launch of the late Kuldip Nayar's book on Friday.

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When theatre personality

Mamata's dharna unbecoming of a CM: Modi

Says those who had cheated the poor in chit fund scams will have to account for every penny so looted

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
KOLKATA

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday criticised West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee for her recent protest here, saying it was first time in the history of the country that a Chief Minister went on a sit-in in support of those who have duped millions of people.

"Crores of people in the State and families of those who committed suicide after losing their savings are asking questions as to why are you [Ms. Banerjee] are scared of investigation in the chit fund scam. Why were you on dharna in support of those who compromised the

investigation," Mr. Modi asked.

Ms. Banerjee staged the protest on February 3 when a group of CBI officers knocked on the doors of Kolkata police chief Rajeev Kumar, who had investigated the scam earlier. She withdrew it on February 5 after the Supreme Court passed an order restraining the agency from arresting Mr. Kumar.

The Prime Minister, addressing a rally at Maynagudi in Jalpaiguri district of West Bengal, said that he wanted to assure every family who suffered in the scam that the *chowkidar* would not spare the people who had looted



Big pitch: The BJP live-streamed Narendra Modi's speech in West Bengal on various social media sites. ■ PTI ■ PTI

their savings. "Whether it is the one who has looted or who is providing protection to those who indulged in the loot, nobody will be spared.

They can come in large numbers and sit on dharna. They can bring as many leaders as they can, but they will have to give an account of every

penny taken away from the poor," Mr. Modi said in the speech, which was streamed live on a number of social networking sites of the BJP.

Fight against corruption

Using the term *Mahamila-wat* (highly adulterated) to describe the Opposition parties once again, the Prime Minister said that he would not allow their attempts to protect brokers and middlemen involved in corruption to succeed.

Citing the stand taken by the State unit of the Congress on opposing the Trinamool government, Mr. Modi took a jibe at Congress president Rahul Gandhi. "While lead-

ers of the State Congress are saying there is lawlessness in West Bengal and the corrupt and goons are ruling the State, in Delhi the brother-in-law of Mr. Vadra is singing the tune of *Didi* [Ms. Banerjee]," Mr. Modi said.

During his 40-minute speech, he spoke about the protests in Kolkata, and dubbed the Trinamool rule in West Bengal as "part two rule of the Communists" alleging that the party had brought the same culture of political violence.

On the issue of triple talaq, he targeted the Congress and said that the party's stand has cheated millions of Muslim women.

SC tells Mayawati to pay for statues

Court indicated its 'tentative view' on a petition filed by an advocate in 2009

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Friday indicated its "tentative view" that Bahujan Samaj Party leader Mayawati will have to cough up and pay back to the public exchequer the money she spent on erecting statues of herself and party symbol 'Elephant' in public parks across Lucknow and Noida.

A Bench led by Chief Justice of India Ranjan Gogoi, and including Justices Deepak Gupta and Sanjeev Khanna, posted the matter for final hearing on April 2.

The petition, filed by Supreme Court advocate Ravi Kant in 2009, alleged that crores of public money was

spent by the then Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister, Maya-



Loud and clear: A four-sided statue of Mayawati at Ambedkar Park in Lucknow. ■ RAJEEV BHATT

wati, on these acts of self-aggrandisement.

"We are of the tentative

view that Ms. Mayawati has to deposit the public money spent on her statues and par-

ty symbol to the State exchequer," Chief Justice Gogoi orally observed.

Mr. Kant has alleged that about ₹2,000 crore was used from the State budget for 2008-09 and 2009-10 to 'falsely glorify' the then Chief Minister.

The petitioner has said the State government should be directed to remove the statues of Ms. Mayawati and her party symbol 'elephant' from public land.

"The said activity is being carried out as a State policy, which is arbitrary and violative of Article 14 of the Constitution. Sixty statues of elephant were installed at a cost of ₹52.20 crore at public places by utilising State funds," the petition had alleged in 2009.

the northeast is being brought under his leadership," Arunachal Pradesh Congress Committee general secretary Chera Taya said.

The party, he said, would carry out a rally in Itanagar during Mr. Modi's programme. Other regional entities such as People's Party of Arunachal have lent support.

In Guwahati, 70 organisations led by Krishak Mukti Sangram Samiti have planned a black flag demonstration during the Prime Minister's visit.

"We are not against the Prime Minister's visit to the State, but we are disappointed that the draconian Bill that threatens the existence of the indigenous people of

the northeast is being brought under his leadership," Arunachal Pradesh Congress Committee general secretary Chera Taya said.

The party, he said, would carry out a rally in Itanagar during Mr. Modi's programme. Other regional entities such as People's Party of Arunachal have lent support.

In Guwahati, 70 organisations led by Krishak Mukti Sangram Samiti have planned a black flag demonstration during the Prime Minister's visit.

"We are not against the Prime Minister's visit to the State, but we are disappointed that the draconian Bill that threatens the existence of the indigenous people of

SC declines stay on 10% quota

Bench led by Chief Justice agrees to an early hearing of the challenge to the law

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Friday declined to stay the Constitution Amendment Bill in Rajya Sabha on Wednesday to increase the financial and executive powers of the 10 Autonomous Councils in the Sixth Schedule areas of the northeastern region. The amendment will impact one crore tribal people in Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura and Mizoram.

A Bench led by Chief Justice of India Ranjan Gogoi consented to tagging a petition filed by businessman Tehseen Poonawalla, which seeks to have the Act quashed on the grounds that backwardness for the purpose of reservation cannot be defined by "economic status alone", with other similar petitions filed earlier.

Mr. Poonawalla contends that the quota will be over and above the existing 50%



reservation to SCs, STs and Other Backward Classes (OBCs).

The law was passed by Parliament and received the President's assent last month. The Act amends Articles 15 and 16 of the Constitution by adding clauses empowering the government to provide reservation on the basis of economic backwardness.

The petitions in the Su-

preme Court contend that the Act violates the basic features of the Constitution. The petitioners argue that the 50% ceiling limit on quota has been "engrafted as a part of the Basic Structure of the Constitution's equality code" by the Supreme Court.

Earlier petition

The Bench has already issued notice on an earlier petition filed by Youth For Equality, which had contended that a nine-judge Constitution Bench in the Indira Sawhney case had already settled the law that economic backwardness cannot be the sole basis for reservation.

The law was passed by Parliament and received the President's assent last month. The Act amends Articles 15 and 16 of the Constitution by adding clauses empowering the government to provide reservation on the basis of economic backwardness.

The plea had argued that the Act was "vulnerable" and negates a binding judgement of the top court.

The petitioners have con-

tended that the amendments exclude the OBCs and the SC/ST communities from the scope of the economic reservation. This, they said, "essentially implies that only those who are poor from the general categories would avail the benefits of the quotas". They have alleged that the high creamy layer limit of ₹8 lakh a year ensures that the elite capture the reservation benefits.

Further, the petition contended that the Supreme Court had settled the law that the "State's reservation policy cannot be imposed on unaided educational institutions, and as they are not receiving any aid from the State, they can have their own admissions provided they are fair, transparent, non-exploitative and based on merit."

The Commission has enabled various channels for the programme and has also set up contact centres in all districts of India.

The contact centres are equipped with the latest information and telecom infrastructure to help the callers, a press release said.

The VVIP programme was launched during the two-day intensive training-cum-workshop on the use of information and communication technology for the conduct of the Lok Sabha poll.

The workshop was attended by additional chief electoral officers, those in charge of IT, nodal officers, State-level master trainers and technical resource persons from all States and Union Territories.

cVIGIL app
One of the important applications for which training was imparted to all officials was "cVIGIL", which provides time-stamped proof of the model code of conduct or expenditure violations, with live photo/video and auto location data. Any citizen can lodge a complaint through the application.

It also launched a "PwD" mobile application for persons with disabilities to request for new registration, change in address, change in particulars, and mark themselves as PwD.

"By simply entering their contact details, the booth level officer is assigned to provide doorstep facility. PwDs can also request for a wheelchair during polling," said the EC.

Manmohan absent at book launch

Former Prime Minister declines invitation to Kuldip Nayar's book release

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh refused to attend the release of Kuldip Nayar's last book *On Leaders and Icons from Jinnah to Modi*, taking offence to a reference in the book about his tenure as PM.

Declining the invitation, Dr. Singh, in a letter to the late Nayar's wife, Bharati, wrote that he did not agree with the portion about government files being taken to UPA chairperson Sonia Gandhi's home.

Challenges statement
He wrote: "On going through a chapter of the book dealing with me, I found a reference on Page 172 that during my Prime Ministership, government files will go to Sonia Gandhi's house. This statement is not true and Kuldip did not check with me about its truth. In this background, I would find it embarrassing

Centre's note to SC silent on PMO role in Rafale

It put all the responsibility for all aspects of the 36 Rafale deal squarely on the shoulders of the Indian Negotiating Team

KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL

NEW DELHI

The government note in the Supreme Court does not contain a word about the "parallel parleys" conducted by the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) with the Diplomatic Adviser to the French Defence Minister on the 36 Rafale aircraft deal even as the Indian Negotiating Team (INT) was undertaking formal negotiations with the French side.

The note, which was later shared with the petitioners in the court, is mum about the objections raised in the Defence Ministry about the parallel negotiations.

It is also silent about the lack of sovereign guarantee from the French government in case the deal went wrong.

Onus on INT

In fact, the government put the entire onus of the deal on the INT. The note emphasises the INT could pull a "better" deal than the earlier jacked one for 126 Medium Multi Role Combat Aircraft (MMRA) from Rafale manufacturer Dassault Aviation.

The note highlights that the INT "completed its negotiations and arrived at better



Jet lag: The government note in the Supreme Court is mum about the objections raised in the Defence Ministry about the parallel negotiations on the Rafale deal. ■ AP

terms relating to price, delivery and maintenance as compared to the MMRA offer of M/s Dassault Aviation...

The INT report indicated better terms and conditions arrived at as a result of negotiations as compared to 126 MMRA case and achievements of Negotiating Team".

This implied that the responsibility for all aspects of the 36 Rafale deal, including the aircraft's pricing, delivery, maintenance, etc., was put squarely on the shoulders of the INT by the government in the Supreme Court.

The note does not spare any details of the INT's performance at the negotiating table in its note. It said the negotiations between the INT and the French side began in May 2015 and lasted till April 2016. It said the INT had a total of 74 meetings, which included 48 internal and 26 external INT meetings, with the French side during the period of the negotiations.

The parallel parleys of the PMO raise questions as the government's note had made it amply clear that the INT was working on the mandate

of the Defence Acquisition Council (DAC), which is the highest defence procurement body headed by the Defence Minister, and not the PMO.

Collegiate process

Under the instructions of the DAC, the INT undertook a "collegiate process". This process was comprehensive in itself and involved "due deliberations and diligence at various levels during the negotiations".

"Aspects pertaining to responsibility and obligations of the French government,

pricing, delivery scheme, maintenance terms, offsets, Inter-Government Agreement (IGA) terms, etc., were discussed and negotiated during these meetings," the note said.

Procurement proposal

The INT presented its "proposal for procurement" of 36 Rafale jets to the DAC on three occasions – September 1, 2015, and subsequently on January 11, 2016, and July 14, 2016 – for approval on various aspects of the negotiations and directions.

The INT report was finalised and signed on July 21, 2016.

The INT report, submitted by the team chairman on August 4, 2016, and the proposal for obtaining approval of the Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS) was ultimately processed in the Defence Ministry.

The note said the Ministry did inter-ministerial consultations with the Finance Ministry and the Law and Justice Ministry.

The PMO's role, if any, is not mentioned here. Finally, the CCS approval for signing the IGA for the Rafale aircraft was accorded on the basis of

the formal INT negotiations and the MoD proposal.

The extracts of the documents published in *The Hindu* show the INT and the MoD were irked by the PMO's position that a sovereign guarantee was not necessary and a 'Letter of Comfort' would do.

The government had assured the court that a letter of comfort was as good as a sovereign guarantee. The petitioners – Yashwant Sinha, Arun Shourie and Prashant Bhushan – had countered that such a letter had no legal validity.

"Money involved in the procurement is high. Who will be responsible if Dassault does not deliver? The Law Ministry had left it to the government to decide," Mr. Bhushan had submitted.

The court hearings revealed that the Union Law Ministry too had red-flagged the absence of a sovereign guarantee from the French government as a key "problem" associated with the Rafale deal during inter-ministerial consultations before the Inter Governmental Agreement (IGA) on the deal was signed on September 23, 2016.

PMO did not hold parallel parleys: official

'Indian, French teams settled pact'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

NEW DELHI

Amid a fresh controversy over the Rafale deal, Air Marshal S.B.P. Sinha (retd), who was leading the Indian negotiating team for the fighter jet purchase on Friday rejected the charge that the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) had held parallel negotiations.

Former Defence Secretary G. Mohan Kumar also said it was "absolutely wrong" to make such an allegation.

Defending the deal, Mr. Kumar said it was negotiated in the "most transparent way".

"There were no parallel negotiations and every word in the Inter-Governmental Agreement was jointly decided by the Indian and the French negotiating teams without participation of any other agency," Air Marshal Sinha said.

One of the top Air Force officials leading the Indian negotiating team, Air Marshal Sinha said the official who initiated the file noting was not part of the negotiating team and questioned his *locus standi* and motive for



doing so. He said he had seen the note for the first time in the media, and no one in the negotiating team was aware of it.

Mr. Kumar, who was the Defence Secretary when the deal was signed, said the matter raised in the note referred to sovereign guarantee and not the price. There were several unsettled issues that were being sorted out and sovereign guarantee was one of it, he said.

A sovereign guarantee is a promise by the government to discharge the liability of a third person in case of his default whereas a Letter of Comfort is an assurance about a debt, short of a legal guarantee.

France has given a 'Letter of Comfort'.

Advertisement for the post of Principal Institute of Hotel Management, Catering & Nutrition, Kufri, Shimla-171012

1	Name of the post	Principal
2	No. of posts	01 (One)
3	Scale of Pay and Classification of the post	Pay Level 13, (Equivalent to Group A) as per Pay Matrix of 7th Pay Commission
4	Method of recruitment	Direct Recruitment
5	Age limit for direct recruits	Not exceeding 53 years for general category on date of vacancy. Age relaxation as per Government norms will be applicable for other categories. Relaxable for employees working in autonomous bodies under the Ministry of tourism upto 5 years in accordance with the instructions or orders issued by the Central Government.
6	Tenure of the Post	In addition to the annual performance review, mandatory performance reviews to be done by the Ministry after completion of 2 years of service. Services may be discontinued in case of unsatisfactory performance. This shall be applicable to all modes of recruitment.
7	Whether Post is Selection/Non-Selection	Not applicable
8	Essential & Desirable Educational Qualification & Work Experience fulfilling either under category A or category B or category C below	Category A
8.1	Essential & Desirable Education Qualification	Post Graduation from a recognized university (Central/State/Deemed to be) AIU equivalent PG from foreign institution. And (+) Full Time Degree/Full time three years Diploma in Hotel Administration / Hospitality Management / Hotel Management/Hospitality Administration/Culinary Arts/Culinary Science with minimum of 55% marks in aggregate or its equivalent grade from: (i) NCHMCT OR NCHMCT affiliated institute, OR (ii) An institute approved by AICTE, OR (iii) An institute approved by the State Board of Technical Education, OR (iv) An Institute affiliated to University duly recognized by UGC, OR (v) Central/State/Deemed to be University recognized by UGC, OR (vi) Equivalent degree/diploma of foreign university/institution recognized by AIU. Desirable Qualification: PhD degree
8.1.2	Essential Work Experience	In addition to essential educational Qualification, at least 20 years (twenty years) of experience in: (i) Teaching (20 years) with minimum 3 years as Head of Department/equivalent teaching in an Institute of Hotel Management affiliated with NCHMCT OR institute approved by AICTE OR institute approved by the State Board of Technical education OR institute affiliated to university, recognized by UGC OR Central/State / Deemed to be University recognized by UGC OR Equivalent degree/diploma of foreign university/institution recognized by AIU and possessing at least 3 years of administrative experience within the minimum total experience of 20 years. Experience as Principal of recognized Food & Craft Institute will be treated at par with HOD. OR (ii) Teaching & Hotel Industry together (20 years) with minimum 3 years teaching experience in an institute as mentioned above in (i) with 5 years experience in GM level in a Ministry of Tourism certified 4* or above category hotel.
8.2		Category B
8.2.1	Essential & Desirable Education Qualification	Two year full time Post Graduate Degree/Post Graduate Diploma in Management/Tourism from a recognized University under UGC or approved by AICTE/ Equivalent degree/diploma of foreign university/institution recognized by AIU with minimum of 60% marks in aggregate or its equivalent grade Desirable Qualification: PhD degree
8.2.2	Essential Work Experience	(i) For Private Sector: Candidates with proven track record with at least 17 years of experience from reputed organisation in executive capacity in hospitality/tourism industry plus with minimum 3 years teaching/training experience shall also be essential (total 20 years), out of which minimum 7 years should be in managerial experience (out of which at least 5 years as GM) in private sector companies/firms having turnover of not less than Rs. 100 crore per annum in each of the last three years. OR (ii) For Government/PSUs/Autonomous Bodies: (a) Officers should have atleast 20 years of working experience with demonstrated capability including minimum three years teaching/training experience. (b) Holding the post in the pay level 13 or its equivalent in PSUs/Autonomous Bodies OR minimum 5 years experience in pay level 12 or its equivalent in PSUs/Autonomous Bodies.

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Competent authority reserves the right to cancel/republish the advertisement without assigning any reason.		
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Big loss to exchequer, says Yechury

M.K. Stalin says Modi's actions in the deal were akin to contempt of court

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

Raising questions about the role of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his PMO in conducting "parallel negotiations" in the Rafale deal, as revealed by *The Hindu* on Friday, Opposition leaders launched a scathing attack on the BJP government over the defence deal with France.

AAP supremo and Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal demanded a CBI raid on the PMO and arrests in connection with the fighter jet deal.

CPI(M) general secretary Sitaram Yechury demanded that the Prime Minister take responsibility for the loss to the exchequer and for violation of procedures. "Modi has consistently undermined the Air Force & Defence Ministry in the Rafale

office and residence and the Kolkata police commission-er," he tweeted.

CPI(M) general secretary

Sitaram Yechury demanded that the Prime Minister take

responsibility for the loss to the

exchequer and for violation

of procedures. "Modi has

consistently undermined

the Air Force & De-

fence Ministry in the Rafale

deal for corruption, to benefit his cronies. His actions have hurt the public exchequer & damaged national security. These facts have been hidden from Supreme Court where a review petition is pending," Mr. Yechury tweeted.

DMK president M.K. Stalin told presspersons that Mr. Modi's actions in the deal

were akin to contempt of court. "PM Modi has come

under the Supreme Court's

contempt. In its sealed envelope to SC, the Centre never

mentioned PMO's negotiations.

Never ever in independent India was a Prime Minister caught in such serious

allegations," he alleged.

Former Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, who was a member of UPA II Ministry in 2009, tweeted: "I'd like to see how this one is explained by the talking heads aligned to the BJP. @PMOIndia 'weakened the negotiating position of the Ministry of Defence & the Indian Negotiating Team' as per this note in an MoD file that went up to the Defence Minister."

Speaking to presspersons, Ms. Banerjee said neither the Defence Ministry nor the High Court was informed of the inauguration. "The manpower for the Circuit Bench has to be provided by us. The High Court will send judges. It is like the groom and the bride are missing and the band party comes and plays a political tune," the Chief Minister said.

During his public meeting at Jalpaiguri, Prime Minister Narendra Modi had said he had a deep bond with north Bengal which produces tea as he had once been a tea vendor.

Row over circuit court

Ms. Banerjee also took

strong exception to Mr. Mo-

di's inauguration of the Circuit Bench of the Calcutta High Court at Jalpaiguri.

Speaking to presspersons, Ms. Banerjee said Mr. Modi turned out to be a *chaiwala* (tea vendor) during the polls and became *Rafalewala* after it.

During his public meeting at Jalpaiguri, Prime Minister Narendra Modi had said he had a deep bond with north Bengal which produces tea as he had once been a tea vendor.

Was Parrikar kept in the loop on Rafale deal?

It remains unknown whether the then Defence Minister was in the know of all aspects of the negotiations

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said here on Friday that the then Defence Minister, Manohar Parrikar, had addressed the concerns raised by officials over the Rafale negotiations.

The response of the then Defence Minister was very clear... Under the direction of the same Defence Secretary, who was also the member of the negotiating committee, with his signature the file went to the Cabinet Committee on Security for approval," she said.

"This selective kind of noting and building an issue falsely on it is completely called out today," Ms. Sitharaman said.



Mamata Banerjee

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Friday called the Rafale deal a "big scam", and said she supported the views of the Congress on this issue.

One of the most vocal critics of the BJP-led government at the Centre, Ms. Banerjee has not spoken much about the Rafale deal. Asked about *The Hindu's* revelations on the deal, the West Bengal Chief Minister said Mr. Modi was used to taking unilateral decisions and interfering in every issue. In this regard, she referred to

demotivation.

"I was not sure how much money was involved but something has happened behind the curtains in the deal.



ELSEWHERE

Costa Rica model accuses leader of sexual abuse

SAN JOSE
A former Miss Costa Rica beauty queen has filed a formal complaint saying the country's ex-President, Oscar Arias, sexually assaulted her in 2015, adding to a growing number of women lodging accusations against the renowned statesman. Ex-beauty pageant winner Yazmin Morales said on Friday that Mr. Arias forced himself on her at his San Jose home, after he had contacted her via social media. **REUTERS**

Windrush Scheme: 455 Indians get citizenship

MORE THAN 450 Indians have confirmed their British citizenship under the government's Windrush Scheme, set up in the wake of an immigration scandal last year. In an update to Parliament on Thursday, Home Secretary Sajid Javid said at least 455 Indians confirmed their nationality as British under the scheme. **PTI**

Foreign aid sought to find cash linked to Yameen

COLOMBO
The Maldives government is seeking international help to find millions of dollars allegedly siphoned off by former President Abdulla Yameen, who faces embezzlement and money laundering charges, officials said on Friday. Maldivian diplomats said authorities were in talks with foreign experts as part of a police investigation. **AFP**

Indian man dead after fall from building in UAE

DUBAI
Kerala resident Gopakumar, 32, who worked as a maintenance worker in the UAE, has died after falling from the seventh floor of a building in Sharjah, according to a media report. His body was found by the police in the shaft of the building, *The Khaleej Times* reported. The body was later transferred to a forensic laboratory to know if there was any criminal intent behind the incident, the report said. **PTI**

Thai Princess is Thaksin's PM choice

Her surprise entry ahead of the March 24 elections deals a heavy blow to the ruling junta's head

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
BANGKOK

A Thai princess will run for Prime Minister in March elections in an unprecedented entry by a royal into frontline politics, pitting her against the chief of the ruling junta and redrawing the nation's political landscape.

Princess Ubolratana, 67, the older sister of Thai King Maha Vajiralongkorn, was announced as a candidate for the Thai Raksa Chart party, steered by the divisive Shinawatra political clan. The Thai monarchy, a revered institution shielded from criticism by a tough defamation law, has traditionally been seen as above the political fray, although royals have intervened in moments of political crisis.

Bridge between factions
Princess Ubolratana's nomination has electrified the build-up to a March 24 elec-



Royal democrat: Thai Princess Ubolratana Mahidol in Bangkok in October 2017. • AP

tion which had seemed poised to return the junta and its proxies to power in some form. Her involvement gives a royal sheen to Thaksin Shinawatra's political machine, which has won every election since 2001. And it also potentially builds a bridge between Mr. Shinawatra's "Red" shirted supporters and the "Yellow" shirts who are arch-royalists. Deadly

violence and disruption linked to the two groups has defined Thailand's turbulent last decade.

"Thank you for all the love and encouragement," the Princess, who gave up her royal titles to marry a foreigner, said in a typically colourful Instagram post on Friday afternoon. "I want to clarify that I have relinquished the rank of nobility

and am living as a commoner... I allowed Thai Raksa Chart Party to use my name for the nomination to the Prime Minister's post.

Shinawatra's hold

The party falls under the tutelage of Mr. Shinawatra, a billionaire self-exiled former Premier, who stands at the heart of Thailand's bitter political schism – loathed by the Army and Bangkok elite, yet adored by the rural poor for health, welfare and education schemes.

He was toppled in a 2006 coup, while his sister Yingluck was booted from power in a 2014 military takeover and forced into exile to avoid a jail term.

The Princess's move deals a heavy blow to the aspirations of Prayut Chan-O-Cha, the junta head, who has spent nearly five years trying to recast the political system to limit the power of elected

governments and prepare his own return as a civilian leader. In a day of high drama, Mr. Chan-O-Cha declared his candidacy for Premier, running for the Phalang Pracharat army party, moments after the Princess's announcement.

The military under Mr. Chan-O-Cha has cast itself as the protector of the monarchy. But Princess Ubolratana's shock entrance into politics, aligned with the junta's nemesis, undercuts those claims. She relinquished her royal titles after marrying the American Peter Jensen in 1972. But the couple divorced and she moved back to Thailand.

Later on Friday, King Maha Vajiralongkorn described Princess Ubolratana's move as "highly inappropriate" and against "royal traditions". "The king and royal family exist in a status above politics," said the statement.

Muslim man who sought Imam's presence executed

Ray was convicted for rape of a minor

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
WASHINGTON

A U.S. Muslim man has been executed after the Supreme Court denied a request to halt the sentence over his demand to be accompanied by an imam to the death chamber. Domineque Ray, 42, was put to death in the southern State of Alabama for the 1995 rape and murder of Tiffany Harville, 15.

"Due to the nature of his crime, the decision of a jury to condemn him to death and because our legal system has worked as designed, Mr. Ray's sentence was carried out," Alabama Governor Kay Ivey said.

The execution occurred on Thursday after the country's highest court denied a request for a stay of execution.

The Supreme Court's ruling lifted a last-minute stay which Ray had won on Wednesday from a federal appeals court. Officials in the conservative State appealed that ruling to the Supreme Court, which has a conservative majority under President Donald Trump.



Domineque Ray. • REUTERS

nesday from a federal appeals court. Officials in the conservative State appealed that ruling to the Supreme Court, which has a conservative majority under President Donald Trump.

The First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution forbids public authorities from favouring one religion over another, or from preventing the free practice of faith.

Crown Prince spoke of shooting Jamal Khashoggi 'with a bullet'

He was speaking to an aide on bringing the dissident back

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
WASHINGTON/ISTANBUL

A book on Jamal Khashoggi was launched by his fiancée Hatice Cengiz. • AFP

Saudi Arabia's Crown Prince told a senior aide he would go after Jamal Khashoggi "with a bullet", a year before the dissident journalist was killed inside the kingdom's Istanbul consulate, *The New York Times* reported on Thursday, quoting U.S. intelligence. U.S. intelligence understood that Mohammed bin Salman, 33, was ready to kill the journalist, although he may not have literally meant to shoot him, according to the newspaper.

The conversation was intercepted by U.S. intelligence agencies, as part of routine efforts by the National Security Agency and other agencies to capture and store the communications of global leaders, including allied ones, *The Times* said.

It was only recently transcribed, however, because of mounting efforts by U.S. intelligence to find more conclusive proof linking the Prince to the killing.

The conversation took place between Prince Mohammed and an aide, Turki Aldakhil, in September 2017 – around 13 months before

the October 2 killing, the paper said. The Prince said that if Khashoggi could not be enticed to return to Saudi Arabia, then he should be brought back by force. If neither of those methods worked, then he would go after Khashoggi "with a bullet," he said.

Book launched

Meanwhile, Hatice Cengiz the Turkish fiancée of Khashoggi, said on Friday that she hoped pressure from the U.S. Congress would encourage the Trump administration to take a tougher stance on the killing. During a press conference in Istanbul for a book on Khashoggi's life, Ms. Cengiz left the door open to a meeting with U.S. President Donald Trump if certain conditions were met.

10 killed in Brazil soccer club fire

REUTERS
RIO DE JANEIRO

A fire at the training centre of Rio de Janeiro soccer club Flamengo killed 10 people and injured at least three others on Friday, firefighters said.

The fire broke out at Ninho do Urubu, a state-of-the-art training centre that was expanded and opened only two months ago. The facility has accommodation for teenage players.

"The kids from the Flamengo youth team were sleeping there at the time," fire-fighter Douglas Henaut told *Globo News*.

Television channel Globo reported that youth players were among the dead. After years of financial difficulties, Flamengo last year spent 23 million reais (\$6.2 million) to expand the Ninho do Urubu facilities.

Fans, family members mourn Sala after identification of body

Aircraft carrying him to Cardiff vanished on January 21

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
BOURNEMOUTH

Farewell to a star: An image of Emiliano Sala on the cover of an English Premier League itinerary in Cardiff. • AP

the British island of Guernsey, along with pilot David Ibbotson, 59, who has not been found. The player's body was first spotted by British rescuers using a remotely operated underwater vehicle on Sunday close to where the plane vanished from radar on January 21.

Investigators recovered the body on Wednesday and transported it to the Isle of Portland in southern England.

From there it was taken to Bournemouth where it was formally identified later.

Bills introduced to remove per-country limits on green card

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
WASHINGTON

TWO IDENTICAL legislation backed by top companies from Silicon Valley, like Google, have been introduced in the U.S. House of Representatives and Senate to end the per-country limit on green cards. They could benefit thousands of Indian professionals waiting to gain permanent legal residen-

cy. In the Senate, Republican Mike Lee and Democratic presidential aspirant Kamala Harris introduced the 'Fairness for High-Skilled Immigrants Act' on Wednesday, a Bill that would remove per-country cap for employment-based green cards.

An identical bill – Fairness for High-Skilled Immigrants Act – was tabled in the U.S. House of Representatives by Congress-

man Zoe Lofgren and Ken Buck, Chair and Ranking Member of the House Judiciary Subcommittee on Immigration and Citizenship, with co-sponsorship of a bipartisan group of 112 Congressmen.

Indians stand to gain
If passed by Congress and signed into law, the two pieces of legislation would benefit

thousands of Indian professionals on H-1B visas whose current wait time for permanent legal residency is more than a decade. The U.S. currently offers 14,000 green cards every year to employment-based immigrants.

even though some countries are more populous than others. Because of this limit, a Chinese or an Indian postgraduate may have to wait half a decade or more for a Green Card, much longer than student from a less-populated country.

"Ours is a nation of immigrants, and our strength has always come from our diversity and our unity," Ms. Harris said.

Bezos says tabloid publisher is trying to blackmail him

'It is threatening to make public intimate photos'

REUTERS
WASHINGTON

AMAZON chief Jeff Bezos has accused the owner of the *National Enquirer* of trying to blackmail him with the threat of publishing "intimate photos" he allegedly sent to his girlfriend unless he said in public that the tabloid's reporting on him was not politically motivated.

The accusation is the latest twist in a weeks-long saga that has brought the world's richest person's private life into the spotlight and thrusts him deeper into a battle with the leading U.S. tabloid publisher, which has had close links with the President Donald Trump.

"Of course I don't want personal photos published, but I also won't participate in their well-known practice of blackmail, political favours, political attacks, and corruption," Mr. Bezos wrote. "I prefer to stand up, roll this log over, and see what crawls out."

Text messages leaked

Mr. Bezos and his wife announced last month that they were divorcing after 25 years of marriage. That same day, the *National Enquirer* touted that it was publishing alleged intimate text messages between Mr. Bezos and Lauren Sanchez, a former TV anchor whom he was said to be dating. Shortly after that, Mr. Bezos opened an investigation into the



Amazon chief Jeff Bezos. • AFP

leak led by Gavin de Becker, a long-time security consultant. Mr. De Becker proceeded to tell media that the leak was politically motivated.

Mr. Bezos cited an email from American Media Inc (AMI)'s deputy general counsel, Jon Fine, to a lawyer representing Mr. De Becker. AMI is the owner of the *National Enquirer*. In it, AMI proposed a public acknowledgment from Mr. Bezos and Mr. De Becker that "they have no knowledge or basis for suggesting that (AMI)'s coverage was politically motivated or influenced by political forces."

DELHI JAL BOARD: GOVT. OF NCT OF DELHI OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER(C)DR. XIV SEWAGE PUMPING STATION : NAJAFGARH NAJAFGARH : NEW DELHI - 110043, SHORT N.I.T No. 02(2018-19) / EE(C)DR.XIV			
S. No.	Description	Date of release of tender in e-procurement solution	Last date/time for tender download through e-procurement solution
1.	P/L Sewer Line in Sadh Nagar Colony in Palam Constituency (Re-invite). No. 2019_DJB_168049_1	Rs. 8,54,31,719/- 08.02.2019 4.00 P.M. onward	21.02.2019 Upto 03:00 pm

Further details in this regard can be seen at (<https://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in>).

ISSUED BY P.R.O. (WATER)
Advt. No. J.S.V. 798/2018-19

EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (C) DR-XIV

GOVERNMENT OF ANDHRA PRADESH ANDHRA PRADESH DISASTER RECOVERY PROJECT World Bank Credit No : 5694-IN INVITATIONS FOR BIDS (IFB) INTERNATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING (Goods) Under e-procurement system (Two Bids)					
Dated : 6 th Feb 2019					
(1) The Government of India has received credit from the International Development Association (IDA) for an amount equivalent to US\$ 250 million towards the cost of Andhra Pradesh Disaster Recovery Project (APDRP) and intends to apply a part of the proceeds of the credit to cover eligible payments under the contract for which this Invitation to bid has been issued. The bidders from India or any eligible source countries as defined in the IDA and IBRD Guidelines are eligible to bid for the project. Bidders are advised to note the eligibility and qualification criteria specified in Section I Instructions to Bidders provided in the Bidding Document to qualify for the award of the contract. (2) The Project Director, PMU, APDRP the Project Monitoring Agency, now Invites bids through e-procurement portal www.eprocure.gov.in from the eligible bidders for "PROCUREMENT OF HYDRAULIC PLATFORM AND DISASTER MANAGEMENT SPECIALISED VEHICLES FOR APSDRF and APSDRF and FIRE SERVICES IN THE STATE OF ANDHRA PRADESH" (as detailed in the table) from the Manufacturers and Suppliers of Disaster Risk Management Equipment / Vehicles. (3) Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information and full notes of the ICB from APDRP website www.apdrp.ap.gov.in and UNDB website www.businessuniverse.com and inspect the Bidding Documents available at www.eprocure.gov.in from 08-2-2019 @ 11.00 AM onwards till 22-03-2019 till 3.00 PM. All eligible bidders are required to submit bids only online through e-procurement portal. Bids submitted in any other manner will not be accepted.					
TABLE					
IFB No.	Package No.	Package Name	Estimate Amount in Rs. Lakhs	Bid Security in Rs. Lakhs	Period of supply in months
1	2	3	4	5	6
1	51405	Procurement of Medium Rescue Tender (10 TON Specialized Vehicle - 12 Nos) for AP Fire Services and APSDRF	2160.00	21.60	09
2	51403	Procurement of Hydraulic Platform 90 Mts for AP Fire Services	2000.00	20.00	15

Sd/- Project Director, APDRP

TENDER NOTICE : Tender Ref No. 1058/PP4/ET/CE/UPE/RE/2019 On-line Tenders in Two Bid System are invited for Supply and Installation of following equipment for the Coordinator, UPE, Department of Electronics and Communication Engineering, Anna University, Chennai - 600 025.				
Sl.No.	Tender Ref. No.	Name of the equipment	Qty.	App. cost ₹
1.	1058_1/PP4/ET/CE/UPE/RE/2019	Electronic PCB Manufacturing Facility - Multi Layer : Multi Layer Printed Circuit Board (PCB) Prototype Machine Using Additive Manufacturing Technology	2	40,00,000/- 40,00,000/-
2.	1058_2/PP4/ET/CE/UPE/RE/2019	Electronic PCB Manufacturing Facility - Double Layer : Double Layer Printed Circuit Board (PCB) Prototype Machine Using Additive Manufacturing Technology	2	20,00,000/- 20,00,000/-
3.	1058_3/PP4/ET/CE/UPE/RE/2019	Electronic PCB Software Design Facility : Altium Designer, Private Server Perpetual Commercial Licence, Single Site with 1 year Subscription	1</td	

MARKET WATCH

	PRICE	CHANGE
Sensex	36,546	-1.15
US Dollar	71.31	0.20
Gold	34,175	-0.01
Brent oil	61.82	0.82

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Ports	331.25	-0.85
Asian Paints	1448.80	-23.65
Axist Bank	719.40	-10.75
Bajaj Auto	2851.40	-2.20
Bajaj Finserv	6182.70	-70.40
Bajaj Finance	2707.15	10.55
Bharti Airtel	313.25	2.10
BPCL	337.40	-2.00
Cipla	534.25	1.35
Coal India	218.65	-5.55
Dr Reddys Lab	2769.70	-52.10
Eicher Motors	2084.40	-1056.80
GAIL (India)	336.35	-3.60
Grasim Ind	717.95	-34.80
HCL Tech	1068.45	5.55
HDPC	1944.65	-25.00
HDPC Bank	2122.65	5.40
Hero MotoCorp	2938.85	-0.20
Hindalco	205.90	-3.30
HPLC	230.35	-6.50
Hind Unilever	1817.30	-21.75
Indiabulls HFL	613.90	-38.45
ICICI Bank	355.10	-3.55
IndusInd Bank	1499.05	-15.90
Bharti Infratel	326.05	20.20
Infosys	760.90	-3.10
Indian Oil Corp	133.80	-4.25
ITC	275.50	-4.80
JSW Steel	262.85	-10.25
Kotak Bank	1299.40	14.85
L&T	1261.75	-34.30
M&M	682.10	-18.80
Maurit Suzuki	7134.25	-168.30
NTPC	132.05	-3.90
ONGC	144.15	-3.75
Power Grid Corp	181.00	-3.60
Reliance Ind.	1277.70	-12.70
State Bank	286.00	-1.40
Sun Pharma	431.05	-3.85
Tata Motors	150.70	-32.15
Tata Steel	468.75	-20.30
TCS	2061.40	-21.50
Tech Mahindra	805.55	0.55
Titan	1053.25	-3.55
UltraTech Cement	3557.80	-12.75
UPL	812.20	3.20
Vedanta	154.15	-9.30
Wipro	372.70	-0.90
YES Bank	175.10	-1.85
Zee Entertainment	398.80	-9.95

EXCHANGE RATES

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	71.10	71.42
Euro	80.62	80.99
British Pound	92.15	92.57
Japanese Yen (100)	64.73	65.02
Chinese Yuan	10.53	10.59
Swiss Franc	70.98	71.30
Singapore Dollar	52.43	52.67
Canadian Dollar	53.37	53.62
Malaysian Ringgit	17.46	17.56

Source: Indian Bank

BULLION RATES CHENNAI

February 08 rates in rupees with previous rates in parentheses		
Retail Silver (1g)	43.1.....(43.3)	
22 ct gold (1 g)	3150.....(3156)	

Source: Indian Bank

U.S. may end zero-tariffs for India

The latest downturn in trade ties was India's new rule on FDI in e-commerce

REUTERS

NEW DELHI

India could lose a vital U.S. trade concession, under which it enjoys zero tariffs on \$5.6 billion of exports to the United States, amid a widening dispute over its trade and investment policies, people with close knowledge of the matter said.

GSP withdrawal

A move to withdraw the Generalised System of Preferences (GSP) from India, the world's largest beneficiary of a scheme that has been in force since the 1970s, would be the strongest punitive action against India since President Donald Trump took office in 2017, vowing to reduce the U.S. deficit with



Clash of the titans: U.S. President Trump has repeatedly called out India for its high tariffs. ■ REUTERS

Tata Steel profit climbs 54% on higher output

Production rises on Bhushan Steel buy

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

MUMBAI

Tata Steel reported a 54% surge in its December quarter net profit to ₹1,753 crore on increase in steel production following the acquisition of Bhushan Steel.

The rise in profit came on a 23% increase in revenue to ₹41,220 crore and 27% growth in adjusted EBITDA to ₹7,225 crore.

India footprint

"Tata Steel is committed to growing its India footprint while focusing on benchmark operational performance, superior market presence, strong customer relationships and sustainability," said T. V. Narendran, CEO and managing director, Tata Steel, commenting on the results.



T. V. Narendran

M&M Q3 profit rises 60% to ₹1,476 crore

'Auto demand in rural areas improving'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

MUMBAI

Automobile major Mahindra and Mahindra (M&M) reported a 60% increase in its December quarter net profit to ₹1,476 crore, including one-off gains even as margins fell.

The profit came on 14% growth in revenue to ₹13,235 crore and 12% growth in profit before tax to ₹1,505 crore. During the quarter, M&M realised ₹30 crore charge on account of impairment provision on certain investments.

Focus on margins

Commenting on the results, Pawan Goenka, MD, M&M, said, "In auto, we focused on the volume growth and in tractors, we focused on the margins. The demand



for auto is improving in rural areas."

"M&M Q3 numbers were below our as well as consensus estimates on the operating front. During the quarter, higher other income due to dividend from subsidiaries and JV and low tax led to adjusted net profit growing 60% Y-o-Y and was ahead of estimates," said Bharat Gianani, research analyst, Sharekhan by BNP Paribas.

Jet fails to pay debts, grounds four planes

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

MUMBAI

India's Jet Airways has grounded four planes after failing to pay lessors, the airline said, in the latest evidence of financial distress at the debt-laden carrier.

The airline, India's second-largest by market share, is buckling under the weight of debts worth \$1.1 billion and is urgently seeking funds to continue flying.

Millions of dollars have been wiped off its market capitalisation over the past year.

"Four aircraft have been grounded due to non-payment of amounts outstanding to lessors under lease agreements," the carrier said in a statement to the BSE late Thursday.

"Auto demand in rural areas improving in rural areas."

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"Auto demand in rural areas improving in rural areas."

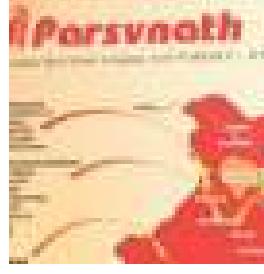
"M&M Q3 numbers were below our as well as consensus estimates on the operating front. During the quarter, higher other income due to dividend from subsidiaries and JV and low tax led to adjusted net profit growing 60% Y-o-Y and was ahead of estimates," said Bharat Gianani, research analyst, Sharekhan by BNP Paribas.

"Four aircraft have been grounded due to non-payment of amounts outstanding to lessors under lease agreements," the carrier said in a statement to the BSE late Thursday.

"Auto demand in rural areas improving in rural areas."

"M

IN BRIEF



NCLT closes case against Parsvnath subsidiary

NEW DELHI
The National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) has closed the insolvency resolution process against a Parsvnath Developers' subsidiary after homebuyers' amicably settled their dispute with the realty firm. The NCLT had allowed insolvency proceedings against Parsvnath Landmark after three homebuyers approached the tribunal complaining about delay in completion of the project.

Bharti Airtel arm, Telkom Kenya to merge

NEW DELHI
Bharti Airtel said that its subsidiary Airtel Networks Kenya has inked a pact with Telkom Kenya to combine operations, including mobile, enterprise and carrier services businesses. The combined entity will operate as Airtel-Telkom. "As per the agreement, the partners will combine their operations in Kenya and establish an entity with enhanced scale, operational efficiency and strategic brand presence," the statement said.

Sun TV profit rises 32% on higher revenue

CHENNAI
Sun TV Network Ltd. has posted a 32% increase in its net profit for the third quarter ended December 2018 to ₹351.33 crore registered in the year-earlier period on higher subscription revenue. Revenue grew 32% to ₹904.45 crore against ₹683.28 crore. Subscription revenue for the quarter grew 24% to ₹349.60 crore (₹281.82 crore). The board declared an interim dividend of ₹2.50 per share (50%) of a face value of ₹5 per share.

Sale of pledged shares by finance firms upsets Anil Ambani group

The group terms the sale 'illegal', says companies performing satisfactorily

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

MUMBAI

L&T Finance and Edelweiss have sold Anil Ambani-led Reliance Group companies' shares, pledged with them, of the value of ₹400 crore in the open market.

In a statement, Reliance Group said the sale by the two entities had precipitated a fall of ₹13,000 crore, 'an unprecedented, almost 55% decline' in the group's market cap over 4 days, impacting 72 lakh shareholders.

'Violation of norms'

"The manner of conduct of the above open market sales, without any attempts at orderly market disposal through a bid or structured process for shares comprising the holding of the pro-



Fee fall: Investors suffered a loss of ₹13,000 crore in market capitalisation after the shares were sold. ■ PRASHANT WAYDANDE

moter group, is also illegal on several counts, including, price manipulation, insider trading... and market abuse, and is in violation of various regulatory provisions... applicable to all persons (including NBFCs) dealing in listed securities, whether on invocation of pledge or oth-

erwise," Reliance Group said in a statement. It added the purported exercise of rights to enforce the security was against the process and requirements of the respective borrowings' documentation.

It also said that group firms Reliance Capital, Reliance Infrastructure and Re-

lance Power were performing satisfactorily, and that there was no change compared to the position prevailing prior to the share sale.

Refuting allegations, L&T Finance said that as per the agreements, "... borrower did not cure various events of defaults including providing margin for shortfall in the stipulated security cover. Despite various notices in the past few months, defaults continued. [Hence] L&T Finance enforced its rights of invocation... following the due process of contract and law."

The market cap of all listed Reliance Group firms stood below ₹23,000 crore on Friday, or almost half of the debt owed by Reliance Communications alone.

GoM favours GST cut on houses under construction

Also proposes reducing levy to 3% on affordable housing

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

NEW DELHI

A panel of State Ministers on Friday favoured lowering GST on under-construction residential properties to 5%, from the 12% currently.

The Group of Ministers, (GoM) under Gujarat Deputy Chief Minister Nitin Patel, was set up last month to analyse tax rates and issues/challenges being faced by the real estate sector under the Goods and Services Tax (GST) regime.

In its first meeting, the GoM also favoured slashing GST on affordable housing from 8% to 3%.

Officials said the report of the GoM would be finalised within a week and would be placed before the GST Council in its next meeting.

"The GoM favoured lo-



ty or ready-to-move-in flats where completion certificate has not been issued at the time of sale.

The effective pre-GST tax incidence on such housing property was 15-18%.

GST, however, is not levied on buyers of real estate properties for which completion certificate has been issued at the time of sale.

There have been complaints that builders are not passing on the ITC benefit to consumers by way of reduction in price of the property after the roll-out of GST.

The GST Council, headed by Union Finance Minister and comprising his State counterparts, had on January 10 decided to set up a Group of Ministers to look into ways to boost housing sector under GST.

wering GST rates on residential houses to 5% without input tax credit and to 3% for those under affordable housing," an official said.

Completion certificate

Currently, GST is levied at 12% with Input tax credit (ITC) on payments made for under-construction proper-

Bengal gets ₹2.84 lakh cr. proposals

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

KOLKATA

The two-day Bengal Global Business Summit 2019 closed on Friday, with the West Bengal government signing 86 agreements, entailing business proposals worth ₹2.84 lakh crore.

On the inaugural day, the State received firm announcements totalling ₹40,000 crore from the Reliance, Group, ITC and other companies.

A significant outcome of the business summit was the State-to-state partnerships signed with Lombardy Regional province Italy, North Rhine-Westphalia, Germany, and Jeollanam-do Province, Korea.

Will try to lift more banks from PCA: Goyal

Eight PSBs still under framework

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

MUMBAI

After Reserve Bank of India (RBI) lifted restrictions under prompt corrective action (PCA) on three public sector banks last week, Finance Minister Piyush Goyal said the government will try to help lift the restrictions on other public sector banks too.

There are eight more public sector banks (PSBs) that are under the PCA framework after restrictions were lifted from Bank of India, Bank of Maharashtra and Oriental Bank of Commerce. While interacting with the business commun-

ity at an event organised by industry body CII, Mr. Goyal said, "we will try to lift restrictions on other PCA banks soon," when one industry body pointed out loan growth was impacted since many banks were under PCA.

Capital infusion
The government had infused capital in banks that was used to increase provisions and lower the net NPA ratio enabling RBI to lift restrictions on the three banks. Breaching net NPA ratio of 6% is one of the conditions that trigger restrictions.

Passenger vehicle sales decline 1.87% in January

Manufacturers continue efforts to reduce inventory pile up at dealers

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

Passenger vehicle sales in the country declined 1.87% in January as manufacturers continued their efforts to reduce inventory pile at the dealers following low demand during the last festive season.

As per data released by Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers (SIAM) on Friday, sales of passenger vehicles in January stood at over 2.80 lakh units, down from more than 2.85 lakh units in January 2018. While sales of cars fell 2.65% to nearly 1.80 lakh units, those of utility vehicles declined 3.57% to 82,772 units. However, sales of vans rose from 15,363 units in January

Hitting a bump

Segment	Domestic sales*	YoY % growth	Exports*	YoY % growth
Passenger cars	1,79,389	-2.65	37,701	-13.13
Utility vehicles	82,772	-3.57	8,943	-30.87
Vans	17,964	16.93	241	-16.9
Total passenger vehicles	2,80,125	-1.87	46,885	-17.2

Despite sluggish sales in January, the auto industry is hopeful that the demand will rise in February and March



*Number of units

2018 to 17,964 units last month. "Stock correction by manufacturers continued in January to cut inventory that

were piled up during the festive period due to sluggish sales," SIAM deputy director general Sugato Sen said. He,

however, added that retail sales were better than wholesale sales during last month and the industry was hopeful of an increase in demand in February and March.

CV sales rise

As per the data, sales of commercial vehicles (CVs) grew 2.21% to 87,591 units. While the sales of medium and heavy commercial vehicles rose marginally to 34,456 units, the sales of light commercial vehicles were up 3.19% to 53,135 units.

For two-wheeler segment, the total sales in January were down 5.18% to over 15.97 lakh units as against more than 16.84 lakh units in the year-ago month.

NORTHERN RAILWAY

TENDER NOTICE (Through e-tendering)

Name of work with its location : Provision of Servicing, maintenance of Heavy duty Photocopy machine on hiring/ per copy basis for Catering order System over Delhi Division for two years. App. Cost of the work (₹) : Rs. 3964800 only. Tender Document Fee (₹) : Rs. 3,540 only. Earnest Money Deposit (₹) : Rs. 79300 only. Address of the office : Senior Divisional Signal & Telecom Engineer-I, Northern Railway, 3rd Floor, Annex-1, DRM office, New Delhi- 110055. Date & Time for upload the tender/ closing of tender : Tender uploading/closing date & time 06.03.2019 upto 15.00 hrs. Website particular & notice board location where complete details of the tender can be seen etc. : See the Northern Railway website www.ireps.gov.in & Notice board at S & T branch, 3rd Floor, DRM office, State Entry Road, New Delhi-110055. Tender No. 558-Sig-16-Tele-OT-887 Dated : 07.02.2019. 369/2019 SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

DELHI TRANSCO LIMITED

NOTICE INVITING e-tenders

Delhi Transco Ltd., a Government of NCT of Delhi Undertaking, invites tenders for the following work:-

Tender No. T18P121687: Rate contract for attending breakdowns and shutdowns at 220 KV sub stations and lines including transportation of materials/equipments under DGM(T) O & M-North division. Last date for bid submission 06.03.2019 at 10.30 a.m. For further details please logon Delhi Govt website https://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in (Tender ID No.2019_DTL_166732_1) and DTL website www.dtl.gov.in (Unique No. DTL-6575-082019).

All Corrigendum/Addendum/Amendments/Date of Extension/Clarifications, if any, to the above e-tenders would appear only on the above mentioned websites.

NORTH EASTERN RAILWAY E-TENDER NOTICE

Dy. Chief Electrical Engineer/Colony, North Eastern Railway, Gorakhpur for & behalf of President of India invites "OPEN" E-Tender through online (E-Tendering) for the following work:

Tender Notice No. & Description of Work

Approx. Value Earnest Money

Sl. No.-1, 07-2019-Colony ₹ 68,37,155/- ₹ 1,36,800/-

Name of work:- Replacement of over aged overhead main L1 line by underground cable in Calcutta Railway Colony including North substation to Jatpur Chauraha.

Completion time/period from the date of issue of acceptance letter: 120 Days

Sl. No.-2, 08-2019-Colony ₹ 24,35,760/- ₹ 48,700/-

Name of work:- Provision of meter reading by our sourcing for two years in Railway quarters, bungalow and Commercial consumers at Gorakhpur.

Completion time/period from the date of issue of acceptance letter: 24 Months

● E-Tenders online will be submitted upto 15.00 Hrs on dated: 12-03-2019.

● Manual offers are not allowed against these tenders and any such manual offer received shall be ignored. For full details and submission of bid, please see the Indian Railways IREPs official website http://www.ireps.gov.in.

● In case any disparity arises between Hindi and English version of tender notice, English version will hold good and will be followed.

CPR/Visay-86 Dy. Chief Electrical Engineer/Colony, Gorakhpur

About any passenger amenity complaint SMS on Mob. No.: 09794845955

Never travel on roof and foot boards.

NORTHERN RAILWAY

1st Corrigendum

Tender No.: 30-Elect-71-T-2018-19-E3 Name of Work : Electrical work in connection with improvement of circulating area by providing booking office & parking toilet etc. & construction of 3rd FOB at GZB Railway station and up gradation of freight train maintenance at GZB yard with provision of store block & administrative building in C&W complex. The amendments in above said tender are as under:

Tender No.: 30-Elect-71-T-2018-19-E3

Earlier published Amended

Name of work Electrical work in connection with improvement of circulating area by providing booking office & parking toilet etc. & construction of 3rd FOB at GZB Railway station and up gradation of freight train maintenance at GZB yard with provision of store block & administrative building in C&W complex.

Date of Opening 27.02.2019, 15.00 Hrs. 27.02.2019, 15.00 Hrs.

Sale Upto 27.02.2019, 15.00 Hrs. 27.02.2019, 15.00 Hrs.

Approx cost Rs.105.99 Lacs Rs.105.99 Lacs

Earnest money Rs.203000.00 Rs.203000.00

Cost of Tender Document Rs.5900/- Rs.5900/-

The tender document of above mentioned tender has been modified kindly go through the amended documents available on www.ireps.gov.in and submit your offer accordingly.

Never travel on roof and foot boards.

383/19

Serving Customers With A Smile

SAHA INSTITUTE OF NUCLEAR PHYSICS, KOLKATA

SINP/Est/Advt/01/2019

Applications are invited for selection as Undergraduate Associates (

India levels series with maiden Twenty20 win in New Zealand

After Krunal puts the brakes on the Kiwi innings, Rohit sets the ball rolling; Pant takes a leaf out of Dhoni's book, demonstrates his finishing skills

INDIA IN NZ

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
AUCKLAND

Mahendra Singh Dhoni watched from 22 yards as his apparent Rishabh Pant showed spunk in a tricky situation, guiding India to its maiden Twenty20 International victory on New Zealand soil here on Friday.

The seven-wicket triumph was set up by skipper Rohit Sharma (50, 29b) and Shikhar Dhawan (30, 31b) with a 79-run stand after Krunal Pandya claimed three wickets to restrict New Zealand to 158 for eight.

Milestone

With his whirlwind fifty, Rohit also became the top run-getter in the format, surpassing Martin Guptill.

Dhoni, the original master finisher, couldn't have been happier as he saw Pant control what could have been a tricky 159-run chase with an unbeaten 40 off 28 balls. The series is tied 1-1 with the decider in Hamilton on Sunday.

Pant's one-handed six off Tim Southee or the drive off Scott Kuggeleijn to finish off the match were reminiscent of Dhoni's best days.

Earlier, Rohit flicked six off Kuggeleijn over backward square-leg was a treat for the eyes, but his dismissal along with Vijay Shankar's did create a bit of unrest. However,



Well done! Krunal Pandya enhanced his reputation as a steady bowler in the shorter format by restricting New Zealand and picking up three wickets. • AFP

er, Pant ensured that the panic button remained untouched.

While bowling, Krunal enhanced his already growing reputation as a steady short-format bowler with three important breakthroughs.

The parsimonious Krunal dismissed Colin Munro (12) and skipper Kane William-

son (20) to peg the Black Caps back early in the innings.

In between, Krunal also got a controversial wicket, that of Daryl Mitchell (0), who fell prey to an umpiring howler, when 'Hotspot' showed a clear inside edge onto the pads.

Colin de Grandhomme,

who has played for KKR in the IPL, then counter-attacked, scoring a blistering 50 off 28 balls, adding 77 runs with Ross Taylor (42, 36b) for the fifth wicket.

Once de Grandhomme was sent back by Hardik Pandya and Taylor was run-out, New Zealand's chances of a big total went up in smoke.

It was a much-improved performance by the Indian bowlers with Bhuvneshwar Kumar removing Tim Seifert (12) in the third over inducing an inside edge to Dhoni behind the stumps.

However, it was Krunal, who really applied the brakes after being brought in inside the Power Play overs.

Stat attack

- Rohit (2288, 84 inns) became the highest scorer in T20Is surpassing Guptill (2272, 74 inns)
- He became the first Indian to slam 100 sixes in T20Is. Only Guptill and Gayle have hit more (103)
- The India opener, besides being the highest run-getter, has the maximum centuries (4) and the highest number of 50-plus scores (20) in T20Is

T 2 0 I t o p s c o r e r s

Player	Mat	Inns	No	Runs	HS	Ave	SR	100s	50s
Rohit	92	84	14	2,288	118	32.68	138.41	4	16
Guptill	76	74	7	2,272	105	33.91	132.71	2	14
Shoaib Malik	111	104	30	2,263	75	30.58	124.06	0	7
Kohli	65	60	16	2,167	90*	49.25	136.11	0	19
McCullum	71	70	10	2,140	123	35.66	136.21	2	13

SCOREBOARD NEW ZEALAND VS INDIA, SECOND T20I

NEW ZEALAND 4-0-37-0. INDIA

Tim Seifert c Dhoni b Bhuvneshwar 12 (72b, 1x4, 1x6), Colin Munro c Rohit b Krunal 12 (12b, 1x6), Kane Williamson lbw b Krunal 20 (17b, 3x4), Daryl Mitchell lbw b Krunal 1 (2b), Ross Taylor run out 42 (36b, 3x4), Colin de Grandhomme c Rohit b Hardik 50 (28b, 1x4, 4x6), Mitchell Santner b Khaleel 7 (8b), Scott Kuggeleijn (not out) 2 (2b), Tim Southee b Khaleel 3 (3b); Extras (lb-1, w-8): 9. Total (for eight wkts. in 20 overs): 158.

FALL OF WICKETS

1-15 (Seifert, 2.3), 2-41 (Munro, 5.2), 3-43 (Mitchell, 5.6), 4-50 (Williamson, 7.5), 5-127 (de Grandhomme, 15.4), 6-153 (Taylor, 18.6), 7-154 (Santner, 19.2), 8-158 (Southee, 19.6).

INDIA BOWLING

Bhuvneshwar 4-0-29-1, Khaleel 4-0-27-2, Hardik 4-0-36-1, Krunal 4-0-28-3, Chahal

A 'horror' decision

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
AUCKLAND

Daryl Mitchell, who made his debut in the first T20 in Wellington, was at the centre of a massive DRS controversy during the second game here.

He was given out leg before to Krunal Pandya and opted for a review.

Replays clearly showed there was an inside edge, but he was still given out by third umpire Shaun Haig.

"This is a horror decision," said the on-air commentators.

White Ferns scamper home off the final ball, seal series

Jemimah wages a lone battle, posts her fifth T20 half-century; Smriti chips in again while Harmanpreet fails

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
AUCKLAND

A shoddy batting performance by the middle-order saw the Indian women lose a nail-biting second T20I to New Zealand by four wickets and lose the three-match series here on Friday.

The Indian women posted a modest 135 for six despite being 72 for two after the first 10 overs.

New Zealand made heavy weather of the chase before winning off the last ball.

'20 runs short'

"I think we should give credit to our bowlers, it wasn't a good total but still they fought for us. We were 20 runs short. They played better cricket than us. We just need to learn from our mistakes and play better," India skipper Harmanpreet Kaur said.



Solid: Opener Suzie Bates laid the foundation for New Zealand's successful chase. • AFP

Jemimah Rodrigues slammed a 53-ball 72 (6x4, 1x6) and added 63 with the in-form opener Smriti Mandhana (36, 27b) for the second wicket.

In reply, Suzie Bates (62) and Amy Satterthwaite (23) joined hands to stitch a 61-run partnership for the third wicket.

New Zealand needed nine off the last over and Katey Martin smacked Mansi Joshi for a boundary off the first ball to set up the win.



Determined Rahul rediscovers his touch

Priyank comes good too; Dravid's boys in control against Lions

P.K. AJITH KUMAR
KRISHNAGIRI (WAYANAD)

Determination was writ large on K.L. Rahul's batting on Friday.

The elegant opener made an unbeaten 88 (182b, 11x4) for India-A in the first 'Test' against England Lions at the Wayanad Cricket Stadium. It was the kind of innings the Karnataka batsman needed.

The spotlight may have been largely on him, but his partner Priyank Panchal (89 batting, 141b, 16x4) played just as impressively, on day two of the four-day match.

Making merry

The two have so far added 117 for the unfinished second wicket, to take their side to 219 for one at stumps in reply to England Lions' 340.

With more batting to come in the form of captain Ankeet Bawane, Ricky Bhui, Jalal Saxena and K.S. Bharat, Rahul Dravid's boys are indeed sitting pretty.

Rahul, understandably, began his innings very cautiously. He was in no mood to play those pleasing shots of his; he knew they would come, once he got his eye in. He was content seeing out the new ball from an English seam attack that wasn't going to be particularly menacing on a slow surface.

It took him 12 balls to get off the mark and another 17



Gritty: K.L. Rahul showed great application while remaining unbeaten on 88. • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

to score his first boundary. His opening partner Abhimanyu Easwaran (31) was more keen to play strokes and was looking good when he was yorked by Zak Chappell; that was right after a confident lbw shout from the same bowler.

who has been a consistent scorer for Gujarat for about a decade, also played some delightful strokes to show his class.

Saini scalps five

The day was a memorable one for another Indian as well – Navdeep Saini – whose fine spell of seam bowling ensured Lions didn't run away with the game. He took five for 77, valuing his pace and bowling a

Fall of wicket: 1-48. **England Lions – 1st innings:** Max Holden c Bharat b Saini 26, Ben Duckett b Shardul 80, Sam Hain c Bharat b Saxena 61, Ollie Pope b Avesh 8, Sam Billings c Bharat b Saini 9, Steven Mullaney b Saini 42, Will Jacks lbw b Shahbaz 63, Lewis Gregory b Shardul 3, Danny Briggs lbw b Saini 6, James Porter (not out) 1; Extras (b-12, lb-21, nb-4, w-3): 40; Total (in 104.3 overs): 340.

Fall of wickets: 1-82, 2-130, 3-162, 4-201, 5-238, 6-310, 7-321, 8-322, 9-338.

India-A bowling: Shardul 24-1-77-1, Saini 23-3-579-5, Avesh 12-3-35-1, Saxena 17-3-49-1, Shahbaz 26-6-59-1, Priyank 2-0-8-0.

India-A: K.L. Rahul (batting) 88, Abhimanyu Easwaran b Chappell 31, Priyank Panchal (batting) 89; Extras (b-8, lb-3): 11; Total (for one wkt. in 67 overs): 219.

Fall of wicket: 1-48.

England Lions bowling: Porter 14-3-44-0, Gregory 16-5-41-0, Mullaney 10-130-0, Chappell 10-2-28-1, Briggs 15-2-48-0, Jacks 20-17-0.

Ponting to assist Langer

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
SYDNEY

Former skipper Ricky Ponting was on Friday recruited to work alongside coach Justin Langer, focusing mainly on batsmen, for the World Cup in England where Australia will defend its title.

The appointment of Ponting, who played five World Cups and won three, comes a day after bowling coach David Saker quit.

The scores: England Lions – 1st innings

Max Holden c Bharat b Saini 26, Ben Duckett b Shardul 80, Sam Hain c Bharat b Saxena 61, Ollie Pope b Avesh 8, Sam Billings c Bharat b Saini 9, Steven Mullaney b Saini 42, Will Jacks lbw b Shahbaz 63, Lewis Gregory b Shardul 3, Danny Briggs lbw b Saini 6, James Porter (not out) 1; Extras (b-12, lb-21, nb-4, w-3): 40; Total (in 104.3 overs): 340.

Fall of wickets:

1-82, 2-130, 3-162, 4-201, 5-238, 6-310, 7-321, 8-322, 9-338.

India-A bowling:

Shardul 24-1-77-1, Saini 23-3-579-5, Avesh 12-3-35-1, Saxena 17-3-49-1, Shahbaz 26-6-59-1, Priyank 2-0-8-0.

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Fall of wicket:

1-48.

14 SPORT

Plate group diluted Ranji quality

Providing opportunities to new teams should not be at the expense of quality

AMOL KARHADKAR
NAGPUR

Four groups, 37 teams and 160 matches.

The 85th edition of the Ranji Trophy, in which Vidarbha proved that its maiden title in 2017-18 was not a fluke by defending the title against a spirited Saurashtra, was certainly the biggest in terms of numbers. But in terms of quality, it was far

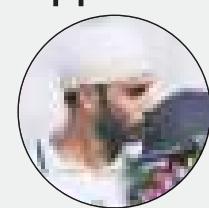


from the best!

As much as the top teams were affected due to the unavailability of its key players due to the tournament's clash with India-A's tour of New Zealand and the Emerging Asia Cup, the introduction of nine teams in an additional pool made it worse.

Thanks to a diktat by the Committee of Administrators (CoA), the BCCI had to

Top performers



Most runs	Mat	Inns	NO	Runs	HS	Ave	100s	50s
Milind Kumar (Sikkim)	8	14	3	1331	261	121.00	6	4
Wasim Jaffer (Vidarbha)	11	15	0	1037	206	69.13	4	2
Rinku Singh (Uttar Pradesh)	10	13	4	953	163*	105.88	4	3
Priyank Panchal (Gujarat)	9	17	2	898	141	59.86	4	5
Puneet Bisht (Meghalaya)	8	12	2	892	343	89.20	2	4

Most wickets

Most wickets	Mat	Inns	Wkts	BBI	BBM	Ave	5WI	10WM
Ashutosh Aman (Bihar)	8	14	68	8/51	14/68	6.48	9	5
Dharmendrasinh Jadeja (Saurashtra)	11	19	59	7/55	11/147	27.16	5	1
Aditya Sarvate (Vidarbha)	11	19	55	6/43	11/157	19.67	6	1
Gurinder Singh (Meghalaya)	8	14	53	6/41	11/56	16.92	5	1
Saurabh Kumar (Uttar Pradesh)	10	19	51	7/32	14/65	17.74	5	2

include nine additional teams – six from the north-east, besides Bihar, Uttarakhand and Puducherry.

With little local cricket culture in a majority of the new teams, especially in the north-east, the professionals made a mockery of numbers – either veterans who wanted to prolong their careers or youngsters in big States who have either failed to make the cut for the senior

matches barely lasted two days, with many sides not good enough even with the basics of the game.

Making hay

As a result, the professionals – either veterans who wanted to prolong their careers or youngsters in big States who have either failed to make the cut for the senior

teams or haven't established themselves – minted runs and wickets without much ado.

No wonder then that five of the top-10 batsmen and bowlers came from the Plate Group.

The BCCI ought to reconsider whether to persist with the Plate group.

No doubt, new regions

should get opportunities, but certainly not at the cost of diluting the premier First Class tournament.

Alternative

Perhaps the BCCI should look at letting the newbies compete against themselves in a three-day tournament – without minimum professionals – to get themselves



Confirmation: By retaining the Ranji Trophy, Vidarbha proved that its victory in the previous season was not a fluke. ■ VIVEK BENDRE

ready for the rigours of big-ticket cricket.

As a fall-out of the CoA's insistence on the Plate Group winner being a must in the knockouts, the top-18 teams – divided into two groups – competed together for the top five slots for the

quarterfinals.

As a result, four from Group A made the grade while only Kerala from Group B qualified for the knockouts.

The umpiring standard remained questionable like in the recent past.

Barring Karnataka, the other semifinalists were not the traditionally dominant teams.

It augurs well for the future of the game, with many promising youngsters – in terms of age and experience – making an impression.

Chennai City blunts Arrows, moves to the top of the table

I-LEAGUE

Y.B. SARANGI

BHUBANESWAR

Two second-half goals fetched Chennai City FC a hard-earned 2-0 victory over a spirited Indian Arrows in their I-League encounter here on Friday.

Spaniard Sandro Rodriguez and substitute N. Vijay found the target. The much-needed win helped Chennai, which had lost its previous match to Real Kashmir, leapfrog the latter to the top spot with 33 points and stay in the title hunt.

Arrows deserved appreciation for fighting tooth and nail as a unit to keep a stronger opposition at bay in the first half.

Even as action mostly happened in the Arrows' half with Chennai pushing from both flanks, the young lads



Over the moon: The Chennai City team celebrates after the first goal against Indian Arrows.

■ BISWARANJAN ROUT

ran with purpose to tackle, intercept, block and clear Chennai's attempts and deny the visitors any free-flowing move. Chennai gathered several corners but could not

find success, while Arrows banked on occasional counter-attacks from the right but hardly posed any threat. Chennai was close to scoring at least on two occasions.

Nestor Jesus's beautiful lob set up Pedro Javier but the Chennai captain could not capitalise on the opportunity in the 27th minute. Pedro was again frustrated as he

could not grab a chance close to the breather.

Chennai applied more pressure in the second half and tasted success in the 70th minute. Sandro's flat and powerful free-kick from just outside the box got deflected in via custodian Samik Mitra – who did well as Prabhukhan Gill's replacement.

The opening goal broke Arrows resistance and Vijay slotted in a loose ball from close in the 90th minute to add some respectability to the scoreline.

"We need to give credit to Arrows for the way they defended. We must look at ourselves – how we can create more chances and how can we be more clinical," said Chennai coach Akbar Nawas.

The result: Chennai City FC 2 (Sandro 70, Vijay 90) bt Indian Arrows 0.

JFC beats Mumbai, stays alive

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

JAMSHEDPUR

Jamshedpur FC defeated Mumbai City FC 1-0 in a hard-fought match of the Indian Super League (ISL) here on Friday.

After a goalless first half, Jamshedpur stepped up the pressure on Mumbai and found the match-winner through Memo in the 80th minute.

Lies fifth

The result took Jamshedpur within a point of fourth-placed NorthEast United FC while Mumbai remained second.

Tutankhamun may score an encore

BENGALURU: Tutankhamun, who is in fine nick, may score an encore in the D.P. Sharma Memorial Sprinters Trail Stakes (1,200m), the chief event of the race to be held here on Saturday (Feb 9). False rails will be declared on the race day.

1 SOMANATHAPURA PLATE (Div. I, 1,100m), rated 00 to 20, 2.15 pm: 1. Zafirina (I) Md. Akram 60, 2. Vasuki (7) B. Harish 59.5, 3. Aqua Blessing (6) Cheetan K 59.4, Naayaab (4) T.S. Jodha 59.5, Zed-class (10) Vivek 59, 6. Dancing Princess (3) N. Ganesh 58.7, Island Pearl (5) K. Raghu 58.8, Country's Pearl (9) Akshay K 55.5, 9. Prowdwise (8) Tauseef 55.5, 10. Scorching (11) Rajesh K 55 and 11. Future Bright (2) Antony 53.5.

1. COUNTRY'S PEARL, 2. FUTURE BRIGHT,

3. AQUA BLESSING.

2 ROYAL RUSSIAN PLATE (1,400m), rated 15 to 35, 5-y-o & over, 2.45: 1. Colour Of Gold (10) Trevor 60, 2. As Good As It Gets (11) R. Pradeep 59, 3. Hafnium (12) I. Chisty 59, 4. James Bond (7) R. Ajinky 58, 5. Indian Brahmios (3)

T.S. Jodha 57.5, 6. Zala Princess (1) Darshan 57, 7. Incitatus (8) Md. Akram 56.5, 8. Parting Shot (4) S.K. Paswan 56.5, 9. Yellowzone (9) Kiran Rai 56, 10. All By Myself (6) Antony 55, 11. Find (2) Muddassar 54 and 12. Limato (5) B. Harish 52.5.

1. COLOUR OF GOLD, 2. JAMES BOND, 3. ZALA PRINCESS.

3 AMAZING GREY PLATE (1,200m), rated 30 to 50, 5-y-o & over, 3-15: 1. Taqdeer Ka Badshah (11) K. Raghu 60, 2. Amazonite (1) Akshay K 57, 3. Revant Star (6) Md. Akram 57, 4. Silken Striker (9) I. Chisty 57, 5. Call Me Maybe (2) T.S. Jodha 56, 6. Tarini (8) Yash 56, 7. Powerscourt (4) Antony 54.5, 8. Moranne Gabriella (12) R. Pradeep 53.5, 9. Shamasadas Girl (3) G. Amit 53.5, 10. Ultimate Power (7) Darshan 53.5, 11. A Heartretember (5) S. Shareef 53 and 12. IspeIdangertailo (10) Md. Asif Khan 53.

1. CALL ME MAYBE, 2. A HEARTREMEMBER,

3. MORRANE GABRIELLA.

4 F.K. IRANI MEMORIAL TROPHY (1,400m), rated 45 to

65, 3-45: 1. Gypsy (2) Yash 60, 2. Areca Legend (11) I. Chisty 57.5, 3. Torsoro (1) M. Naveen 57.5, 4. Sakura (10) Akshay K 56, 5. Poseidon (9) Darshan 55.5, 6. Standout (3) Antony 55, 7. Quick Action (8) Vivek 54.5, 8. Tzar (6) Md. Asif Khan 54.5, 9. Lozen (12) R. Pradeep 54, 10. Winning Heart (4) Trevor 54, 11. Alpha (5) Nazeril 53.5 and 12. Flat Out (7) T.S. Jodha 53.

1. WINNING HEART, 2. POSEIDON,

3. ARECA LEGEND.

5 D.P. SHARMA MEMORIAL SPRINTERS TRAIL STAKES (1,200m), 4-y-o & over, (Terms), 4-15: 1. Bold Command (6) Ashok Kumar 59, 2. Mauritanian (3) David Allan 59, 3. Smile Stone (4) M. Naveen 59, 4. Star Carnation (5) A. Imran 59, 5. Tutankhamun (2) Trevor 59 and 6. Siobhan (1) Akshay 57.5.

1. TUTANKHAMUN, 2. MAURITANIAN.

6 PLANETARIUM PLATE (1,600m), rated 15 to 35, 6-y-o & over, 4-45: 1. Admiral One (12) M. Naveen 60, 2. Summer Dawn (4) Trevor 60, 3. Turf Tactics (2) P.

1. ADMIRAL ONE, 2. SUMMER DAWN,

3. TURF TACTICS.

7 SOMANATHPURA PLATE (Div. I, 1,100m), rated 00 to 20, 5-15: 1. Consort Queen (7) M. Naveen 60, 2. Have A Nice Day (4) Antony 59.5, 3. Desert Gold (6) Darshan 59, 4. Irish Prince (5) Rathod 59, 5. Dragon Mountain (Suraj) 2, Electra (T.S. Jodha) 3 and Bonfire (I. Chisty) 4, 1-1/2, 3/4 and 1-1/4. Im 13.15s. 319 (w), II, 12 and 19 (p), SHP: 31, THP: 42, FP: 53, Q: 26, Trinella: 244 and 185, Exacta: 1,634 and 1,426. Favourite: Roma Victor. Owner: Mr. Ajith Vittal Shetty. Trainer: Prasanna Kumar.

THE RESULTS

1 ARDENT KNIGHT PLATE (Div. I, 1,200m), maiden 3-y-o only, (Terms), ROMA VICTOR (Akshay K) 1, Dragon Mountain (Suraj) 2, Electra (T.S. Jodha) 3 and Bonfire (I. Chisty) 4, 1-1/2, 3/4 and 1-1/4. Im 13.15s. 319 (w), II, 12 and 19 (p), SHP: 142, THP: 56, FP: 4,030, Q: 2,287, Trinella: 6,198 and 1,494, Exacta: 1,04,231 and 44,670. Favourite: Prodigal. Owners: Mr. Darius R. Byramji & Mr. Manohar Duggal. Trainer: Darius.

4 DARIA DAULAT CUP (2,000m), rated 30 to 60 & above: NOSTRADAMUS (Kiran Ra) 1, Fantasic App (M. Naveen) 2, Nostradamus (Kiran Ra) 3 and Propine (Dhebe) 4. Not run: Bold Move, Nk, 3/4 and Nose. Im 07.68s. 386 (w), 18, 42 and 13 (p), SHP: 159, THP: 40, FP: 1,727, Q: 763, Trinella: 11,070 and

Warren Singh.

2 CLASSIC STORY PLATE</b

TV PICKS

Pro Volleyball League: Sony Six (SD & HD), 7 p.m.
West Indies vs England: 3rd Test, Sony ESPN (SD & HD), 7.30 p.m.
ISL: Star Sports 1 (SD & HD), 7.30 p.m.

IN BRIEF



Rondo returns to haunt Celtics

LOS ANGELES
Rajon Rondo returned to haunt Boston Celtics with a game-winning buzzer-beater as Los Angeles Lakers bounced back from a thrashing to score a dramatic 129-128 victory on Thursday. A rollercoaster battle was settled in the final seconds when Rondo's fadeaway jump shot dropped into the hoop to silence a raucous Boston crowd.
Other results: Indiana Pacers 116 bt Los Angeles Clippers 92; Orlando Magic 122 bt Minnesota Timberwolves 112; Toronto Raptors 119 bt Atlanta Hawks 101; Oklahoma City Thunder 117 bt Memphis Grizzlies 95; Portland Trailblazers 127 bt San Antonio Spurs 118. AFP

Snow plays spoilsport

SRINAGAR
A thick snow cover at the TRC Ground in Srinagar on Friday forced the postponement of Sunday's I-League match between title contenders Real Kashmir FC and East Bengal. "Due to the bad weather and pitch conditions, the match has been called off. The new date will be announced later," the East Bengal club wrote on its official Twitter handle. PTI



Bayern set to sign Jann-Fiete Arp

BERLIN
Defending Bundesliga champion Bayern Munich on Thursday confirmed it would sign Germany Under-19 striker Jann-Fiete Arp – it just depends on when his current side Hamburg can win promotion from the second division. Arp will move to Munich, either this June or at the end of next season, in a deal reportedly worth €2.5 million but he wants to first help Hamburg reclaim its top-flight status. AFP

Ramt enters quarterfinals

PITTSBURGH
Ramit Tandon, who won a PSA event in Seattle recently, marched into the quarterfinals of another, the Pittsburgh Open, a World Tour bronze event, here. Unseeded Ramit wore down seventh seed Youssef Soliman of Egypt 11-6, 10-12, 5-11, 11-4, 11-7 in the pre-quarterfinals. Ramit will next play second seed Nicolas Mueller of Switzerland.

Bopanna and Divij in semifinals

SPORTS BUREAU
SOFIA (BULGARIA)
Third seeds Rohan Bopanna and Divij Sharan stormed into the doubles semifinals with a 6-3, 6-1 victory over Alexander Donski and Alexander Lazarov of Bulgaria in the €586,140 ATP tennis tournament on Friday.

Jeevan Nedunchezhiyan and Purav Raja also made the semifinals, with a hard-earned 7-6(6), 7-6(10) victory over the fourth seeds Dutchmen Robin Haase and Matwe Middelkoop.
The results: **Doubles:** €586,140 ATP, Montpellier, France: **Semifinals:** Ivan Dodig (Cro) & Eduard Roger-Vasselin (Fra) bt Benoit Paire (Fra) & Leander Paes 6-3, 7-6(3).

€586,140 ATP, Sofia, Bulgaria: Quarterfinals: Rohan Bopanna & Divij Sharan bt Alexander Donski & Alexandar Lazarov (Bul) 6-3, 6-1; Jeevan Nedunchezhiyan & Purav Raja bt Robin Haase & Matwe Middelkoop (Ned) 7-6(6), 7-6(10).

World Cup rifle and pistol to offer 16 Olympic quota places

The event will be telecast live

SHOOTING WC

KAMESH SRINIVASAN
NEW DELHI

Shooters from around the world would be eyeing the 16 Olympic quota places on offer, in eight events for men and women, in the World Cup in rifle and pistol to be staged at the Dr. Karni Singh Range here from February 21.

It will also be an ideal platform for the Indian shooters to showcase their strike power.

The event will be telecast live. "Sony will be covering the World Cup. Doordarshan will also broadcast. Since the World Cup is an ISSF event, the world body has signed the deal with Sony Television not only for this World Cup but other World Cups as well," said the president of the National Rifle Association of India (NRAI), Raninder Singh, and Apurvi Chandela in the last World Championship.

The Chairman of the Athletes Commission Moraad Ali Khan said Indian shooters had a good chance for all the 14 quota places.

"Everything would depend on the day's performance as the margins are in decimal places most of the time," Moraad said.

"I have total faith in the national federation," said Olympian Sanjeev Rajput, even as he expressed confidence that only the best would be selected eventually to represent the country in the Olympics.

As per the rules, the quota places belong to the country and not to the shooters who win them.

Saurabh Chaudhary, the Asian Games gold medallist, was equally confident that he would be able to put up a



Star field: Leading shooters with the NRAI president Raninder Singh at the press conference. ■ KAMESH SRINIVASAN

shooters on Friday.

The first final, women's air rifle is scheduled for 2.15 p.m. on February 23. India has already won the maximum possible two Olympic quota places in this event through Anjum Moudgil and Apurvi Chandela in the last World Championship.

"I have total faith in the national federation," said Olympian Sanjeev Rajput, even as he expressed confidence that only the best would be selected eventually to represent the country in the Olympics.

good fare, and continue from where he had left year, a dream year in which everything he touched turned into gold.

The 16-year-old Saurabh Chaudhary, the Asian Games gold medallist, was equally confident that he would be able to put up a

SAI to review foreign coaches' performances

Being undertaken with a view on 2020 Tokyo Olympics

VIJAY LOKAPALLY
NEW DELHI

Performances of all foreign coaches and support staff will undergo scrutiny by the Sports Authority of India (SAI), which is focused on providing the best to athletes preparing for various international events.

"We have been going through the assessment of all the coaches with the assistance of inputs from federation officials. We may seek the views of some of the champions too, because it is the players who stand to gain overall," a top SAI official told *The Hindu* here on Friday.

The focus, maintained the official, would be on getting the best possible coaches as the teams prepare for the 2020 Olympics in Tokyo. "We have been paying the coaches handsome salaries and need to evaluate their

work. The relationship with all foreign coaches and support staff has been healthy but we have to look at what is best for our sportsmen," the official added.

Without prioritising any discipline, the SAI official said, "the review of coaches is part of the process. For us, all disciplines are equal."

The Tokyo Olympics is SAI's target. "The preparations are being done on a scientific basis. We have been analysing player performances minutely and constantly reviewing their participation at various events. We have to look at what more can be done to help them reach their peak at the Olympics. We have to see what would be their capacity to absorb the training these coaches impart," the official said.

Even though the evaluation process has been in pro-

gress post Asian Games, much is expected from the review related to the hockey team's performance. Not winning the Jakarta Asian Games gold has hurt the game most. Finishing without a medal at the World Cup in Bhubaneswar did not go down well with Hockey India, which promptly removed Harendra Singh as chief coach.

Harendra was handed the responsibility of the junior team much to his disappointment. "We will be undertaking review of the hockey team's coach and the support staff in consultation with the federation on February 12. The federation has forwarded some names for the new coach," said the official. It is learnt that the current women's team coach, Sjoerd Marijne, is the front runner to take Harendra's place.

Pasma makes a stunning run

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Pasma, who is currently fifth in the championship, having won just one race in 10 starts in the first round at Dubai in November last year, did well to shrug off two difficult free practice sessions, including a puncture in the first, to take P1 in the 30-minute qualifying run.

Pasma finished well ahead of championship front runners, Max Defourny from Belgium (01:31.19) and UK's Jamie Chadwick (01:31.03), who slotted in mid-grid positions. Finishing second behind Pasma

was Belgian Michaelangelo Amendola (01:30.682).

Former FMSCI president Akbar Ebrahim dominated both the free practice sessions in the Indian Touring Cars category, stopping the clock at 01:57.880 and 01:57.077 in the two outings.

The results:

MRF Challenge (F2000): Qualifying: 1. Patrick Pasma (Finland) (01min, 30.559secs); 2. Michelangelo Amendola (Belgium) (01:30.682); 3. Linus Lundquist (Sweden)

MRF MMSC FMSCI National Racing Championship: MRF F1600 (Free Practice-1): 1. Nayan S Chatterjee (Mumbai) (01:40.346); 2. A. Bala Prasath (Coimbatore) (01:41.176); 3. Arya Singh (Kolkata) (01:41.484). **Free Practice-2:** 1. Nayan S Chatterjee (Mumbai) (01:39.744); 2. A. Bala Prasath (Coimbatore) (01:40.455); 3. Arya Singh (Kolkata) (01:40.631).

Formula LGB 1300 (Qualifying): 1. Tiji Rao (Bengaluru) (01:53.714); 2. Ashwin Datta (Chennai) (01:54.925); 3. K Surya Varathan (Coimbatore) (01:54.993).

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Youngest Grandmasters in chess history

No.	Player	Country	Age	Birth year
1	Sergey Karjakin	Ukraine	12 years, 7 months, 0 days	1990
2	D. Gukesh	India	12 years, 7 months, 17 days	2006
3	Javokhir Sindarov	Uzbekistan	12 years, 10 months, 5 days	2005
4	R. Praggnanandhaa	India	12 years, 10 months, 13 days	2005
5	Nodirbek Abdusattorov	Uzbekistan	13 years, 1 month, 11 days	2004

Gukesh for the stars

The world's second-youngest Grandmaster has ambitions of breaching the 2700 Elo mark, beating Viswanathan Anand, and becoming world champion

S. PRASANNA VENKATESAN

Given the frightful attention he is getting, one might think D. Gukesh would wish for Harry Potter's invisibility cloak. Even if he does, he doesn't show it. For, he doesn't avoid adhesive journalists who endeavour to elicit answers from him.

But the second-youngest Grandmaster in chess history wasn't like this till as recently as last year, says his doctor father Rajinikanth. Both Rajinikanth and Gukesh's mother, Padma Kumari, also a doctor, have been surprised by the change in their son.

"It's a big shock," says Rajinikanth. "He used to shy away from giving interviews, from just talking to journalists. Sagar Shah of *ChessBase India* used to complain, actually. Recently, Shah was utterly surprised when he had a 15-minute chat with Gukesh. It's like suddenly he [Gukesh] decided to wake up and be like that. He's continuously surprising us. He's like a crossword puzzle."

Gukesh is ever-composed, soft-spoken, to-the-point. He comes across as a guy who's steeped to the gills in serious purpose.

When Gukesh recently visited former world champion Viswanathan Anand, the latter observed, "We're mostly on the same page on many things. But he's very quiet. He's, you know, obviously one of these 'my chess will do the talking for me' kind."

The beginning
Rajinikanth, who had wanted Gukesh to play tennis, acted instead on Padma Kumari's

suggestion to introduce their son to chess. Gukesh was duly enrolled in his school's chess programme when he was six-and-a-half years old.

After coach V. Bhaskar said he was "picking [it] up fast" and that he had potential, Gukesh trained under Vijay Anand for nearly four-and-a-half years.

Rajinikanth says: "About six months into his coaching, we went to a children's chess tournament. It was the first time we were getting exposed to a chess competition. There, Praggnanandhaa was felicitated for having become the under-eight world champion. We were surprised, curious and inspired."

Gukesh was also curious that a person of almost similar stature was getting felicitated. We then read articles on Praggnanandhaa. I think it hugely motivated him, especially the attention that Praggnanandhaa was getting."

Aiming high

Gukesh has always been ambitious. His father says Gukesh had told his school's vice-principal that he would become a Grandmaster before he got to Class X. "I thought he was being over-ambitious. Now, he's achieved it much earlier [Class VII]," Rajinikanth exclaims.

Two other assertions offer a measure of his ambition: Gukesh has told the media that he wants to become world champion, and that he would like to play and beat Anand. And where his coach Vishnu Prasanna and Anand say an Elo rating of 2650 is a realistic immediate goal,



Gukesh, currently 2508, says he's aiming for 2700.

Rajinikanth says, however, that not everything came easy for Gukesh; that he struggled when he started out. Although he began playing 'rating' tournaments in 2014, he won his first Nationals only in 2017. But things swiftly changed.

"In the years 2017 and 2018, there was steep rise, in the sense he quickly earned a lot of rating points," says Rajinikanth.

This was despite Gukesh having a K-factor of 10 during the latter part of that period. The K-factor, a coefficient in the formula to calculate ratings, determines how many points are gained or lost per match.

With a K-factor of 10 (assigned to anybody rated 2400 and higher), the accumulation of rating points is usually slower than at higher K-factors (assigned to lower-rated players).

According to Rajinikanth, it typically takes two or three years to earn 100 rating points at a K-factor of 10. "Gukesh was around 2400 in March and got to 2500 [live rating] in December," he says.

Grandmaster B. Adhiban is amazed by this. Anand says, "It shows a lot of consistency. And I think it's a healthy trait to have. I've seen as well that his level of chess is quite stable. It doesn't fluctuate hugely. That's good."

Managing the workload

Asked if the number of matches Gukesh plays is a cause for concern, Anand says, "Yes and no. It works for some people, it doesn't work for others. If you're the kind of person who likes training and then going back, I think that's one thing."

"But if – quite a lot of players are like this – you do your training at tournaments, it's some other thing. A tournament gives you specific problems every day. What your opponent did today is a specific problem. Otherwise, you're working but you don't know what you should work on, focus on."

"The disadvantage is, obviously, after a while it can become mechanical. When you play, say, 300 games a year, it's difficult to play with the same enthusiasm."

"I used to play more than I play nowadays. Simply because, when you're young you just play it as you like. It's not a bad idea for him to take a rest at some point. But I don't see why it has to be today or tomorrow. I also feel that for his freshness, it might be nice to take a break."

"So, if he took a break for one month or two months, sometimes he can come back much stronger. But

there is no particular reason why it has to be now. It's not a concern; many of his peers play as much as he does."

Gukesh, who played 220 games in 2018, doesn't want to slow down. His coach and father concur; they believe it works for him.

Training

Although chess engines have become an indispensable part of training, Gukesh uses them minimally, says coach Prasanna.

"The work of those engines is to give you the moves. Like, in a position, what the advantageous moves are. Suppositions, if you may."

Prasanna thinks Gukesh's "thought process is still developing" and limits the use of engines in his training. Gukesh does, however, study matches – ongoing, recent and old. "Downloading games to check moves and learn is essential, I believe. He does it a lot," says Prasanna. "He also reads a lot of chess books, especially on players."



I've seen ... that his level of chess is quite stable. It doesn't fluctuate hugely. That's good ... I think it's a healthy trait to have

VISWANATHAN ANAND

This approach to training appears in agreement with Anand's belief that the use of technology must be judiciously balanced.

The next step

Prasanna says Indian players tend to stagnate at the 2650-2700 level.

"[At that level], to use a tennis analogy, opponents make very few unforced errors. Winning becomes difficult. You have to show up with something special. That will be the biggest challenge for him."

He says Gukesh has had a taste of it and found it difficult to "break through". He drew with "a pretty solid" Adhiban (2689) in the last round of the Tradewise Gibraltar chess festival. Prasanna adds, however, that Gukesh has a "fresh mind" which could help him at that level.

Gukesh, his sights firmly set on 2700, certainly seems to be up for it.

WORD PLAY

Soda

• **What is it?** It's slang for an easy opportunity that has been fluffed. Commonly used in Australia, it can refer to a dropped catch in cricket, a dropped mark in Aussie Rules football, or a goal missed from close range in football – "Geez, mate. What an absolute soda!"

• **Where does it come from?** There isn't an ironclad origin story, but there are a couple of theories. Some claim it's used to imply that the opportunity was as easy as drinking a soda, a sweet fizzy drink. Others believe it comes from rhyming slang: from soda pop, which rhymes with drop.



• **Also known as** 'Sitter', 'gimme', or 'dolly'. Evocative words all of them, and they roll off the tongue with considerable scorn. But they don't carry the acidic aftertaste that 'soda' does – especially when a bitter ex-player says it on commentary with barely concealed glee.

• **Who did it worst?** Herschelle Gibbs' miss in the 1999 World Cup is up there with the most memorable. Steve Waugh, the batsman, didn't quite say, "You've just dropped the World Cup," as reported in some quarters. But why let the facts get in the way of a good story?

ON THE BOX

STACKING UP



■ **Premier League:** SAT: Fulham v Manchester United, 5.45 P.M., Liverpool v Bournemouth, 8.20 P.M.; Brighton v Burnley, 10.45 P.M.; STAR SPORTS SELECT 1 & HD; Huddersfield v Arsenal, 8.20 P.M., STAR SPORTS SELECT 2. **SUN:** Tottenham v Leicester, 6.45 P.M., Manchester City v Chelsea, 9.15 P.M.; STAR SPORTS SELECT 1 & HD.

■ **La Liga:** SAT: Getafe v Celta Vigo, 5.30 P.M., Atlético Madrid v Real Madrid, 8.45 P.M., SONY TEN 2 & HD. **SUN:** Sevilla v Eibar, 11 P.M., SONY TEN 1 & HD.

■ **Bundesliga:** SAT: Dortmund v Hoffenheim, 7.45 P.M., STAR SPORTS SELECT 2 HD; Bayern Munich v Schalke, 10.45 P.M.; STAR SPORTS SELECT 2 & HD. **SUN:** Werder Bremen v Augsburg, 7.45 P.M., Düsseldorf v Stuttgart, 10.15 P.M.; STAR SPORTS SELECT 2 & HD.

■ **Serie A:** SAT: Fiorentina v Napoli, 10.30 P.M.; SONY TEN 1 & HD. **SUN:** Parma v Inter Milan, 1 A.M., Bologna v Genoa, 5 P.M., Atalanta v SPAL, 7.30 P.M., Sassuolo v Juventus, 10.30 P.M.; SONY TEN 2 & HD.

■ **NBA:** SAT: Suns v Warriors, 7.30 A.M.; SONY TEN 1 & 3, HD. **SUN:** Rockets v Thunder, 7 A.M.; SONY TEN 1 & HD.



ICC Test Rankings

#	TEAM	M	PTS	RATE
1	India	43	5,007	116
2	South Africa	39	4,280	110
3	England	49	5,310	108
4	New Zealand	30	3,213	107
5	Australia	44	4,566	104
6	Sri Lanka	48	4,256	89
7	Pakistan	32	2,803	88
8	West Indies	35	2,463	70
9	Bangladesh	25	1,727	69
10	Zimbabwe	11	138	13

ODI Rankings

#	TEAM	M	PTS	RATE
1	England	55	6,918	126
2	India	66	8,058	122
3	South Africa	50	5,545	111
4	New Zealand	51	5,645	111
5	Pakistan	48	4,872	102
6	Australia	43	4,290	100
7	Bangladesh	39	3,608	93
8	Sri Lanka	57	4,426	78
9	West Indies	40	2,899	72
10	Afghanistan	36	2,394	67

T20I Rankings

#	TEAM	M	PTS	RATE
1	Pakistan	38	5,110	134
2	India	43	5,361	125
3	South Africa	24	2,876	120
4	New Zealand	22	2,586	118
5	Australia	28	3,266	117
6	New Zealand	27	3,116	115
7	West Indies	27	2,725	101
8	Afghanistan	27	2,490	92
9	Sri Lanka	30	2,580	86
10	Bangladesh	30	2,321	77

Biggest Movers ▶

Lloyd Harris (RSA)

Rank 100 ▲ 11 spots

Has Solskjaer revitalised Rashford's career?

Manchester United fans were worried about the striker's development under Jose Mourinho, but the 21-year-old's form seems to have dramatically improved under new management. Do the numbers bear this out?

By all accounts, Ole Gunnar Solskjaer's arrival as caretaker manager has lifted the mood at Old Trafford.

Not only is Manchester United unbeaten under the Norwegian – seven wins and a draw in eight Premier League games – but the side has also looked more vibrant. A departure, many say, from its conservatism under Jose Mourinho.

What has made it that much sweeter for the fans is Marcus Rashford's goal-scoring form. The 21-year-old striker has always been regarded as a special talent at United, where he came through the youth ranks. But there were murmurs in Manchester that under Mourinho, Rashford's development was suffering.

With Solskjaer taking over – at least until the end of the season – there's hope that Rashford's progress will accelerate. Indeed, if the British press is to believed, Solskjaer, a cold-blooded

finisher in his prime, has already turned Rashford's career around.

Do the numbers bear this out?

The top-line stats from 2018-19 show a remarkable improvement in end product. In 14 games (852 minutes of playing time) under Mourinho this season, Rashford scored three goals. In eight games (673 minutes) under

C Marcus is 21. He's still learning. The most important thing is to just settle him down in front of goal. I've seen him rush a few finishes

SOLSKJAER

Solskjaer, he has scored six. He took just 1.9 shots per 90 minutes earlier in the season; after Mourinho was fired, this has increased to 4.9.

If you consider Mourinho's entire time at United (from the start of the 2016-17

Quick results:
Solskjaer and Rashford with the Manager of the Month and Player of the Month awards for January.



Rashford under different management

	Games	Minutes/game	Goals	Assists	Goals/90	Shots/90	Dribbles/90	Key passes/90
Under Mourinho	81	53 min 54 sec	15	11	0.31	2.58	1.96	1.20
Under Solskjaer	8	83 min 45 sec	6	1	0.81	4.90	1.88	1.21

Source: whoscored.com, understat.com, squawka.com



– Solskjaer says it can be learnt.

"I wasn't born with it," he said. "I studied [it]. I worked on my mentality because that's key. You will always miss chances, but you can't do anything about them once they've gone. It's about the next chance."

Room for improvement

"Marcus is 21. He's still learning. The most important thing is to just settle him down in front of goal. I've seen him rush a few finishes. He thinks, 'I've got to get a shot off early' when sometimes you just pass it past the keeper. I always say the goal never moves."

"Marcus has far more than I did in terms of his physical attributes, pace, strength and striking the ball from outside the box, but maybe I can give him a little bit of the nous I had inside the box... the little moves you make to get free, that little bit of calmness in front of goal."

So, has Solskjaer's work on the training ground made a difference? Under him, Rashford has converted six out of 37 shots on goal – a shooting efficiency of 16.21%. Under Mourinho, the corresponding figure was 12%.

A more advanced metric, which takes into account the quality of shots, is Expected Goals (xG). By this measure, over the last eight games, Rashford has scored 6 goals from shots that would normally produce 5.33 goals. So he's outperforming xG, always a good sign.



TAKE THREE: FOOTBALL THIS WEEKEND

Atletico Madrid v Real Madrid

Atletico Madrid striker Alvaro Morata will be the focal point of Saturday's Spanish capital derby against neighbour Real Madrid, where he began an eventful career which has never truly taken off. Morata got off to a miserable start in last weekend's 1-0 loss at Real Betis, where he struggled to combine with Griezmann as Atletico slumped to a first league defeat in five months, falling six points behind Barcelona. Atletico has also ceded ground to Real, which has won its last four La Liga fixtures and will leapfrog its neighbour should it win the derby.

Manchester City v Chelsea

Manchester City is back on top of the Premier League but manager Pep Guardiola does not expect anything like a repeat of last season's procession to the title. City is ahead of Liverpool on goal difference, having played one more game than Jürgen Klopp's challengers. Guardiola's men are two thirds through a tough week, which saw them beat Arsenal and Everton, and now pits them against Chelsea at the Etihad on Sunday. "Chelsea are an exceptional team who have had seven days to prepare," said Guardiola. "It really is a final for us this weekend."

Bayern Munich v Schalke

Bayern Munich takes on Schalke at home on Saturday, with both sides intent on reversing last weekend's fortunes. Bayern went down 3-1 to Bayer Leverkusen, the reigning German champion's first defeat in eight league games. As a result, it slipped to third, seven points behind leader Borussia Dortmund. "We



have to turn off our mistakes," Bayern manager Niko Kovac said. "We make too many cheap mistakes." Schalke knows a thing or two about mistakes, its three-game unbeaten run ending last week after the side conceded two late goals at home to Monchengladbach.

GAME THEORY

Breaking through

Naomi Osaka is the 26th player to reach the top of the WTA rankings since it was instituted in 1975. Her ascent comes at a particularly fluid time in women's tennis – just one other period over the last 45 years has had more new World No. 1s

• The chart plots every first instance (1) of a player becoming No. 1. For example, Martina Navratilova had nine reigns as the top-ranked player, spanning 332 weeks in all. But the chart records only the first time she became No. 1: July 1978

• There were just six debutants at No. 1 between 1980 and 2000

• Two factors contributed to this: Chris Evert and Navratilova, who had already broken through, continued to spend significant time at the top – 102 weeks and 276 weeks, respectively

• This method of plotting shows how many new players got to No. 1 during a particular period. The two five-year spans between 2000 and 2004 and 2015 and 2019 have had the most breakthroughs – six and five new No. 1s respectively

• Following Graf's retirement in 1999 and Hingis' marginalisation in a power-driven game, things opened up

• There were as many as six new No. 1s between 2000 and 2004: Jennifer Capriati, Venus Williams, Serena Williams, Kim Clijsters, Justine Henin, and Amelie Mauresmo

• It's the most of any five-year period

• Evert Tracy Austin Graf Seles Arantxa Sanchez Vicario Lindsay Davenport Hingis Serena Osaka

*Seles' dominance was cruelly shortened when she was stabbed by a spectator in 1993. Although she returned in 1995 as joint-World No. 1, sharing it with Graf after being reinstated by the WTA, the incident severely hurt her career

• Serena was No. 1 from early 2013 all the way into 2016. But after she took a break to have her daughter, there was a vacuum at the top

• Five players reached No. 1 for the first time between 2015 and 2019: Angelique Kerber, Karolina Pliskova, Garbine Muguruza, Simona Halep and Osaka

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GOVERNMENT OF ASSAM

BRIDGING THE GAPS EASING LIVES

**Narendra Modi***Prime Minister of India***Foundation Stone Laying Ceremony**

of

**6 Lane Bridge over the River Brahmaputra
Connecting Guwahati and North Guwahati**

by

Shri Narendra Modi

Hon'ble Prime Minister of India

in the august presence of

His Excellency, Hon'ble Governor of Assam

Prof. Jagdish Mukhi

and

Shri Sarbananda Sonowal

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Assam

and

Dr. Himanta Biswa Sarma

Hon'ble Minister of PWD, Finance etc. Deptt., Assam

Date:

9th February, 2019 | Time: 12:30 PM

Venue

AIIMS Ground, Changsari

TOTAL PROJECT COST: ₹1925 Crore
BRIDGE LENGTH : 1600 M**Project Highlights**

- Project corridor starts from Bharatmukh on the south bank of the Brahmaputra and will end at NH-31 near Gauripur Junction on North Bank of the Brahmaputra.
- Three lane elevated road running along the river bank on southern side : 3450 m
- Bridge length is 1600 m with six-lane carriageway (Main bridge is 1240 m Extra-dosed cable type with Y-arm of 360 m)
- Six lane Road and via-duct on the north bank : 5230 m

Project Benefits

- Expansion of Guwahati Metropolitan area and the city to the north bank.
- Quick access to major landmarks like IITG, National Law University of Assam, AIIMS-Guwahati, Guwahati Bio Tech Park, Industrial Park, Sualkuchi (Silk Town), etc., situated on the north bank.
- Travel time from south bank to north bank will be reduced from one and half hour to only 15 minutes.
- Help in reducing traffic congestion and air pollution.
- Bridge becomes the key for growth of Assam State Capital Region covering about 6000 sq km area with Guwahati city as the epicentre.

PUBLIC WORKS ROADS DEPARTMENT, ASSAM

Janasanyog/DF/4994/18

**Connection closed again**

Iron grills put up at Dwarka e-way, NH-48 connection to stop commuters from bypassing toll plaza **Page 3**

**Self-aware or tone-deaf?**

The dark humour in *Cold Pursuit* can be relished only if you're convinced about its intentions **Page 4**

**A talent to look out for**

With a quick witted gift of the gab and immersive acting talent, Nik Dodani is a talent to look out for **Page 5**

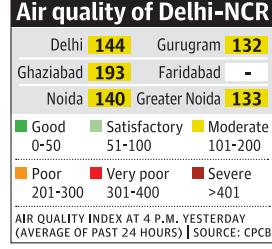
**Who will save Sungudi?**

The iconic Saurashtra weaves need revival, relevance and improved retail **Page 6**

IN BRIEF**'CM's vehicle attacked by BJP workers in Narela'**

NEW DELHI
The Delhi government on Friday claimed that Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal's vehicle was attacked by BJP workers in the presence of police personnel in Narela. Mr. Kejriwal had gone to Narela to attend an event when BJP workers gathered in front of his vehicle and held a protest.

CITY ▶ PAGE 3

**Woman lured with promise of job, raped**

NEW DELHI
A 28-year-old woman was allegedly raped many times by several men after she was lured by a woman on the pretext of getting her a job at Geeta Colony in Shahdara. The Delhi Police arrested two persons, including the woman, in connection with the case on Friday.

CITY ▶ PAGE 3

BJP calls on CEC, seeks action against AAP govt

NEW DELHI
A delegation led by Union Minister and former Delhi BJP president Vijay Goel called on Chief Election Commissioner Sunil Arora here on Friday to submit a memorandum regarding what it alleged was the "misuse of official position" by the AAP government.

CITY ▶ PAGE 3

Plea to stop banks from sharing PAN, data

NEW DELHI
The Delhi High Court on Friday sought response of the Centre and the Reserve Bank of India on a petition seeking to stop banks from sharing PAN and financial transaction data of clients with credit rating agencies without their formal consent.

CITY ▶ PAGE 3

End AAP govt's 'deliberate delay' in JNU sedition case: BJP to L-G

Govt's delay in granting sanction to prosecute causing miscarriage of justice: Gupta



Vijender Gupta •

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI
The Delhi BJP on Friday called on Lieutenant-Governor (L-G) Anil Baijal for his "urgent intervention" to end the "deliberate delay" by Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal in granting requisite sanction to prosecute former JNU Students' Union president Kanhaiya Kumar and others in a 2016 sedition case.

The delegation, led by Leader of Opposition in the Delhi Legislative Assembly, Vijender Gupta, expressed concern that "inordinate, deliberate and planned delay by the Delhi government" is not only causing "miscarriage of justice" but is also "leading to loss of faith" among the people in the judicial process at Delhi-government level.

"I submitted to the L-G that it was of utmost urgency to allow the law to take its own course without malign-

ing the judicial process with political exigencies. The delegation asserted that it is essential that the sanction is given at the earliest so that the Delhi Police could place it on record for consideration of the honourable court on the next date of hearing," Mr. Gupta said.

According to the Opposi-

tion, the delegation submitted to the L-G that despite the court observing on February 6, 2019, that "the court's precious time is being wasted" as the decision to grant sanction hangs fire, the Chief Minister was "behaving in a manner and style highly unbecoming of a Chief Minister".

Mr. Kejriwal, the delegation submitted, "hardly appears to share the court's concern" for expeditious disposal of the sanction.

"He [Mr. Kejriwal] clearly stated on February 7 that the Delhi Police took three years to file the chargesheet and the Delhi government's Home Department will also take time to study it. There seems to be tacit support to the accused in the case, who were seen indulging in anti-national activities on a university campus in the heart of the city," Mr. Gupta said.

Given the circumstances, Mr. Gupta said, the BJP dele-

gation urged the Lieutenant-Governor to "exercise his special powers and call the file in the matter".

Meanwhile, Delhi BJP chief Manoj Tiwari accused Mr. Kejriwal of "deliberately protecting Kanhaiya Kumar and other accused persons on the pretext of studying the chargesheet", which illustrated that he was "creating hurdles in the judicial process for an atmosphere of anarchy".

Condemnable conduct

"The conduct of Mr. Kejriwal, who is an elected representative of Delhi and occupying a constitutional position, is condemnable. By protecting the gang wanting to split the country, he has betrayed the people of Delhi. The BJP will continue its efforts to ensure that the persons involved in anti-national activities are sternly punished," said the BJP MP from North-East Delhi.

Notice to Congress over violations during construction of party office

For flouting pollution norms; Delhi govt also issued notice

DAMINI NATH

NEW DELHI

The Congress has been issued a notice by the court of the Financial Commissioner of Delhi, acting on an application by an environmentalist alleging violation of pollution-control norms during construction of the party's new office on Kotla Road.

On February 1, the court issued notices to the Indian National Congress through its General Secretary (Admin), the Delhi government through the Chief Secretary and the Delhi Pollution Control Committee (DPCC) through its member secretary to appear on April 9.

Environmentalist Vikrant Tongad, who had filed the case, said he had moved the National Green

Tribunal (NGT) first, but that the Tribunal had transferred the case to the appellate authority, the Court of the Financial Commissioner.

No clearance
"The Congress is constructing its new headquarters near ITO in Delhi without any environmental clearance or consent to establish. Also, in the project, groundwater is being used and trees have been cut without clearance as per our information," Mr. Tongad alleged on Friday.

Mr. Tongad's application stated that the DPCC's order on July 16, 2018 that the Congress office would have a built-up area of less than 20,000 sqm and therefore did not require consent was "baseless", as it was

not based on an inspection report.

The application stated that even if the Congress office was being built on half of the 2-acre plot allotted to the party, it would mean the built-up area would be 24,000 sqm.

Red category
The application further said that office complexes with built-up area of more than 20,000 sqm come under the "red category", which requires both a consent to establish and consent to operate under the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981. The application also raised concerns about the impact on the groundwater since an underground parking facility was also being made at the site.

Policeman shot at by bike-borne assailants

BPL list not updated for 9 years; report sought

Haryana Human Rights Commission says it is gross violation of human rights

ASHOK KUMAR

GURUGRAM

The Haryana Human Rights Commission has sought a report from the State's Chief Secretary for not updating the list of Below Poverty Line (BPL) families in Haryana for over the past nine years, saying that it was a "gross violation of human rights" of the eligible candidates.

The Haryana Chief Secretary has been directed to submit the report within six weeks.

The matter has been fixed for next hearing on July 10.

As per the Haryana Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs Department sources, there are around 11.5 lakh BPL card-holders in Haryana.

Last survey in 2007
The last survey to identify BPL households in the State's rural areas was conducted in 2007. As per the survey, 8,58,389 rural households, which is around 27.17 % of the total 31,59,222 rural families, were below poverty line.

The officer said that prima facie, it appeared to be a case of robbery, but the police are probing the matter from all angles since they suspect that personal enmity or rivalry could as well be the reason behind. The area where the incident took place is a secluded spot. No CCTV camera has been found installed at the spot or adjoining areas, he said.

The police said that a passer-by informed the police about the incident.

The officer was rushed to

The have-nots

TOP FIVE DISTRICTS IN HARYANA WITH HIGHEST PERCENTAGE OF BPL HOUSEHOLDS (RURAL) AS PER BPL SURVEY 2007:

District	Total no. of rural households	Total no. of BPL households	Percentage of BPL households
Fatehabad	1,37,193	48,720	35.51
Jind	1,83,976	61,540	33.45
Kurukshetra	1,40,532	46,491	33.08
Panchkula	41,340	13,514	32.69
Kaithal	1,73,186	52,732	30.45
All districts	31,59,222	8,58,389	27.17

11.5 lakh BPL cardholders in Haryana (rural + urban)

SOURCE: RURAL DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT, HARYANA GOVERNMENT

The commission's chairperson Justice S.K. Mittal and member Deep Bhatia passed the order on Thursday in case pertaining to non-inclusion of the names of the complainants, residents of Haryana's Rewari, in the BPL list despite the applicants being eligible for the same.

The official, in his reply, further told the commission that as per the council's report, the issue with regard to the inclusion of the eligible candidates in the BPL list was under active consideration of the government.

The report further reveals that the department has not received any instruc-

Rafale deal: Kejriwal says CBI should raid Prime Minister's Office

AAP's Sanjay Singh files police complaint against Modi

STAFF REPORTER

NEW DELHI

Reacting to a report in *The Hindu*, Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) national convener and Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal said on Friday that the CBI should raid Prime Minister Narendra Modi's office in connection with the Rafale aircraft deal.

The Hindu reported on Friday that Ministry of Defence (MoD) officials had raised concerns about the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) "bypassing" the MoD during negotiations for the Rafale deal in 2015.



AAP Rajya Sabha MPs Sanjay Singh (right) and N.D. Gupta at the party headquarters in New Delhi on Friday. ■ R.V. MOORTHY

mitted a complaint at North Avenue police station as well as to the CBI Director

against those "directly or indirectly involved in causing huge loss to the exchequer, including the Prime Minister of India".

Citing *The Hindu*'s report, Mr. Singh demanded that the custodians of file and the files concerning the deal for purchase of 36 Rafale fighter jets may also get destroyed in order to destroy the evidence against them [sic]," he wrote in his complaint.

Meanwhile, AAP Rajya Sabha MP Sanjay Singh sub-

not told the apex court the truth in the matter.

Investigation into the matter is most desirable and is the need of the hour as the persons who have been accused of causing loss to exchequer are the custodians of file and the files concerning the deal for purchase of 36 Rafale fighter jets may also get destroyed in order to destroy the evidence against them [sic]," he wrote in his complaint.

Mr. Singh, who was one of the petitioners in the Rafale matter in the Supreme Court, said the Centre had

Labour pain



Workers being ferried in a mini truck in Noida. ■ DINESH KRISHNAN

Victim out of danger; investigation on

STAFF REPORTER

NEW DELHI

A Delhi Police Assistant Sub Inspector (ASI) was allegedly shot at by two unidentified bike-borne men in north Delhi's Kotwali, the police said on Friday.

The ASI, identified as Bedi Ram (50), is posted at Nizamuddin police station and was on his way home in Seelampur when he was attacked, they said.

Harendra Singh, ADCP (North) said that the incident took place on Thursday night around 11.30 p.m. when the officer was heading home after work. When he reached an underpass behind Vijay Ghat, two men who had been apparently chasing him, intercepted his vehicle and overpowered him. An argument ensued, following which the accused shot him on the lower abdomen and fled.

The police said that a passer-by informed the police about the incident.

The officer was rushed to

'Optimise use of mechanical sweepers'

L-G issues advisory to civic bodies

STAFF REPORTER

NEW DELHI

Lieutenant-Governor Anil Baijal on Friday issued an advisory to the Capital's municipal corporations to optimise the use of mechanical road sweepers to combat air pollution in Delhi.

In a release issued by Raj Niwas, it was noted that pollution had multi-dimensional aspects and urban local bodies have an important role in tackling the menace.

At present, 45 mechanical road sweepers are being operated by the three corporations and the New Delhi Municipal Council. These have been specifically procured to combat rising air pollution in the Capital.

Mr. Baijal stated that one of the major contributors to air pollution in Delhi is particulate matter, produced through re-suspension of road dust caused by moving traffic. He said that one of the ways to remove particulate matter pollution was through mechanical sweepers.

"The

Himachal Pradesh Irrigation & PH Department NOTICE INVITING TENDERS

The Executive Engineer, I&PH Division Mandi invites tenders on behalf of Governor of Himachal Pradesh from approved eligible contractors for the following work(s) through offline process:-
Name of work 1:- Providing LWSS Dadwas and its adjoining villages in GP Thachi, Panjain and Somgad in Tehsil Balichowki Distt Mandi HP (SH:- Balance work of Pumping Machinery in 2nd stage including Erection, Testing and Commissioning of Existing Machinery, Rising main and Storage Tank etc Complete Job)
 Estimated cost:- 2,33,430/-
 Earnest Money:- 4,700/-
 Time of completion:- Three Months.

Name of work 2:- Replacement and Extension of WSS Sathan Banog Sanyarka in GP. Lagdhar Tehsil Distt. Mandi HP (SH:- Laying, Joining and Testing of G.I Pipe 15 mm dia at Point E-E2 from RD 0 to 550, at Point F1-F4 from RD 750 to 950 and at Point F4-F5 from RD 950 to 1150 = 950 Rmt).
 Estimated cost:- 1,04,744/-
 Earnest Money:- 2,100/-
 Time of completion:- Three months.

Name of work 3:- Augmentation of WSS Thalkandhar in GP Gharan, WSS to NC/PC Habitation in CV Rehan, Bandhi & Halog in GP Bandhi, Aug. of WSS Palnidhar Bandal and WSS Saran, Badeni, Khablash Surath, Sehgal & Sansoi, Rahari in GP Kotahdar in Tehsil Sadar Distt. Mandi (HP). (PHASE-2nd) UNDER NABARD (SH:- Laying, Joining, testing of GI pipe line from Point C-C1 RD 0 to 2360 = 2360 Rmt 40mm dia).
 Estimated cost:- 2,30,609/-
 Earnest Money:- 4,650/-
 Time of completion:- Three Months

Name of work 4:- Tapping additional source to WSS Dhabel Bounchari in GP Khani Tehsil Balichowki Distt. Mandi HP (SH:- C/O Nallah Source Intake Chamber and RCC Circular storage Tank 10000 Ltr Capacity) UNDER BASP).
 Estimated cost:- 1,39,754/-
 Earnest Money:- 2,800/-
 Time of completion:- Three months

Name of work 5:- Providing LWSS Dadwas and its adjoining villages in GP Thachi, Panjain and Somgad in Tehsil Balichowki Distt Mandi HP (SH:- Balance work of Pumping Machinery in 3rd stage including Erection, Testing and Commissioning of Existing Machinery, Rising main and Storage Tank etc Complete Job)
 Estimated cost:- 1,56,157/-
 Earnest Money:- 3,200/-
 Time of completion:- Six months

Name of work 6:- Remodeling and Replacement of GI pipes and new storage tanks in GP Sai, Sadhyana, Sehali, Bari Guzman, Bir, Kotli and to the village Kotli in tehsil Sadar Distt Mandi HP (SH:- C/O Intake source at Nehar Bahi, Dismantling of GI Pipe line 25mm dia at point A to B from RD 0 to 900 = 900 Rmt, Laying, jointing, testing of GI pipe 32mm dia at point A to B from RD 0 to 900 = 900 Rmt, 25mm dia at point C to D from RD 900/450 to 900 = 450 Rmt and Relaying, Jointing & Testing of GI pipe at point B to C from RD 900/0 to 900/450 = 450 Rmt).
 Estimated cost:- 2,60,276/-
 Earnest Money:- 2,300/-
 Time of completion:- Three months

Name of work 7:- Providing LWSS Dadwas and its adjoining villages in GP Thachi, Panjain and Somgad in Tehsil Balichowki Distt Mandi HP (SH:- Balance work of Pumping Machinery in 1st stage including Erection, Testing and Commissioning of Existing Machinery, Rising main and Storage Tank etc Complete Job)
 Estimated cost:- 3,89,558/-
 Earnest Money:- 7,800/-
 Time of completion:- Three months

Name of work 8:- Replacement and Extension of WSS Sathan Banog Sanyarka in GP. Lagdhar Tehsil Distt. Mandi HP (SH:- Laying, Joining and Testing of G.I Pipe 15 mm dia at Point F6-F8 from RD 0 to 500 and at Point F8-F9 from RD 500 to 950 = 950 Rmt).
 Estimated cost:- 1,04,898/-
 Earnest Money:- 2,100/-
 Time of completion:- Three Months

Last date of sale of tender form from divisional office: 13.02.2019 upto 1.30 PM. The tender shall be received on dated 14.02.2019 till 3.00 PM and shall be opened on the same day at 3.30 PM in presence of tendered or their authorized representative.

Executive Engineer,
I&PH Division, Mandi.

HP/4603/18-19



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

Ref. No. 7087/I-02(xvi)/ITCO/URRDA/19 Dated: 02.02.2019

PRADHAN MANTRI GRAM SADAK YOJNA(PMGSY)

e-Procurement Notice-22(Regular PMGSY and Relaying)/2018-19

The Chief Engineer, URRDA on behalf of Governor of Uttarakhand invites the item rate bids in electronic tendering system for construction of Roads under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojna in the Districts of Tehri, Champawat, Chamoli, Dehradun, Nainital & Uttarkashi for 13 number of Package with estimated cost totaling to Rs. 5105.36 Crore including their maintenance for two years from the eligible contractors registered with PWD/CPWD or equivalent*.

Date of release of Invitation for Bids through e-procurement : 07.02.2019

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

Last Date/Time for receipt of bids through e-procurement: 21.02.2019, 01:00 PM.

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

Chief Engineer,
URRDA, Dehradun

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

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

Letter no: 87 dated: 06-02-19

Corrigendum

The NIT for the work "Construction of PCC road, drain, cross drain, RCC culvert at Chandrapur Industrial Area JIADC Ranchi" was invited through e- Tender vide ref. No.: JIIDCO/15/SBD/ CHANDRAPURA /2018-19 dated 25.01.2019, P.R. no. PR200531 Industries (18-19) D. In the said NIT the approximate value of work (estimated cost) may be read as Rs. 3,60,36,790.00 only in place of Rs. 3,60,36,789.52 Closing date of bid submission is being extended to 25.02.2019 up to 5:00 P.M and opening of technical bid is on 27.02.19 at 3:30 P.M

All other terms and conditions of NIT & SBD will remain unchanged.

Sd/-
Chief Engineer
JIIDCO, Ranchi

TENDER NOTICE

NIT NO.	NAME OF WORK	DATE OF PUBLISHING e-NIT	LAST DATE FOR UPLOADING BIDS BY THE BIDDER	DATE OF OPENING OF BIDS
197/ PR / JBVLN/ 2018-19	Engineering Design, Supply, Installation and O&M Support for 60 months of AMI System including AMI Software Applications, RF Canopy & Smart Meters for 3.5 Lakh Consumers in Ranchi Town of JBVLN, Jharkhand (INDIA)	25.12.2018	11.03.2019 upto 15:00 HRS	11.03.2019 upto 16:00 HRS

NHRC notice over murder case

Seeks report from Police Commissioner within 4 weeks

STAFF REPORTER

NEW DELHI

man stabbed the woman in front of her house on Wednesday.

"The contents of the media reports, if true, amount to gross violation of her human rights," the NHRC said, issuing a notice to the commissioner seeking a report within four weeks.

The NHRC also asked its own Director General of Investigation to depute a team to conduct an on-the-spot inquiry of the incident. Media reports said the accused, who was arrested on Thursday, had been harassing the victim after she resisted his advances.

INDIAN RAILWAY CATERING AND TOURISM CORPORATION LTD.

(A Government of India Enterprise - Mini Ratna)

CIN-U74829DL1998C0101707

NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER - COMINT/DR/NRM/2019/01

GGM /Procurement invites E-Tender cum auction through two-packet system for Setting up, Operation and Management of Fine Dining Restaurant at National Rail Museum (NRM), New Delhi on Build, Operate and Transfer (BOT) basis.

Pre Bid Meeting : 20.02.2019, 11:00 hrs at National Rail Museum, Chanakyapuri, New Delhi - 110021. Last Date & Time for submission : 14.03.2019 by 15:00 hrs.

GGM/Tourism invites Open E-Tender from NFDC Empanelled Production Houses for production of 10 short Films on various IRCTC products and one Corporate Film. Last Date & Time for submission of tender : 01.03.2019 by 15:00 hrs.

Tender document download & participation can be done only on website: www.tenderwiz.com/IRCTC.

corrigendum/addendum if any on the above advertisement will be published only on IRCTC's website www.irctc.com and www.tenderwiz.com/IRCTC.

GGM/Procurement, 11th Floor, B-146, Statesman House, Barakhambha Road, New Delhi-110 001 tel. 011-23311263-64, Fax: 011-23311259

Jharkhand BijliVitran Nigam Ltd.

(CIN: U40108JR2013SGC001702)

Regd. Office : Engineering Building, H.E.C., Dhrurwa, Ranchi-834004,

Tel: +91-651-2400799 Fax: +91-651-2400799, [https://www.jbvn.co.in](http://www.jbvn.co.in)

Extension – I

TENDER NOTICE NO 197 /PR /JBVNL/ 18-19

Project –Smart Metering for Consumers in Ranchi District of Jharkhand BijliVitran Nigam Limited (JBVNL), Jharkhand

Under Jharkhand Power System Improvement Project (JPSP) Funded by the World Bank

National Open Competitive Procurement (Two-Envelope Bidding Process with e-Procurement) Jharkhand BijliVitran Nigam Limited invites Bids to be submitted in the e-Procurement Portal for the following works:

NIT No.	Name of Work	Date of Publishing e-NIT	Last date for uploading bid by the bidder	Date of opening of technical part of Bid
197/ PR / JBVLN/ 2018-19	Engineering Design, Supply, Installation and O&M Support for 60 months of AMI System including AMI Software Applications, RF Canopy & Smart Meters for 3.5 Lakh Consumers in Ranchi Town of JBVNL, Jharkhand (INDIA)	25.12.2018	11.03.2019 upto 15:00 HRS	11.03.2019 upto 16:00 HRS

Details invitation of bids which includes instructions for submission of bids and all other relevant information is available on [https://jhbvndtenders.gov.in](http://jhbvndtenders.gov.in). Bidding documents are also available online. Any details required in this regard can also be had from the office of undersigned during office hours.

The bidder that technically will be informed for date of opening for financial part of Bid, Bidders are advised to note the minimum qualification criteria specified in bidding document. Interested bidders may participate in the bidding process as per instruction given in the bidding document.

Sd/
General Manager (IT)

PR.201519 Jharkhand Bijlee

Vitran Nigam Ltd.(18-19)-D

PR No. 198063

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

The Executive Engineer HPPWD Barsar Division H.P invites/ invites the item rate bid, in electronic tendering system, for the following works from the eligible and approved contractors registered with HPPWD:-

Name of work No. 01:- Construction of 1 No Type I Qtr at Govt. Degree College Bhoranj (SH:- C/O Building portion including W.S.&J) Estimated Cost:- 9,48,144/- Earnest Money :- 19,000/- Time :-Six Month Cost of form:-350/- Eligible class of contractor:- Class D

Name of work No. 02:- C/O link road Ghangot to Palata Chala road km. 0/0 to 3/0 (Sh:- P/L Tarring in km. 0/0 to 1/0) Under SCSP Head Estimated Cost:- 7,05,191/- Earnest Money :- 14200/- Time :-One Month Cost of form:-350/- Eligible class of contractor:- Class D

Name of work No. 03:- Annual Maintenance plan on Manoh Lagmanwan road (Sh:- P/L bituminous concrete 25mm thick in km. 1/0 to 2/00)(DRP NO. HP-03-04VR090) (With paver finisher) Estimated Cost:- 11,04,624/- Earnest Money :- 22,100/- Time :-One Month Cost of form:-500/- Eligible class of contractor:- Class D

Name of work No. 04:- C/O link road Harizan Basti Manjhali Badehra road km. 0/0 to 2/700 (Sh:- C/O 6.00 mtrs. Span RCC slab type culvert at rd. 2/650 7 P/L soling,wearing & Tarring in km. 2/300 to 2/700)Under SCSP Head Estimated Cost:- 14,40,937/- Earnest Money :- 28900/- Time :-Three Month Cost of form:-500/- Eligible class of contractor:- Class D

Name of work No. 05:- C/O link road from Garla More to Jole km. 0/0 to 0/900 (Sh:- C/O R/wall at rd. 0/405 to 0/420,P/L GSB,WMM,2cm thick premix carpet in km. 0/0 to 0/500) Under OTMPN Head Estimated Cost:- 10,57,448/- Earnest Money :- 21200/- Time :-Two Month Cost of form:-500/- Eligible class of contractor:- Class D

Name of work No. 06:- C/O link road to H.B. Village Damyan (Sh:- C/O R/wall at rd. 0/305 to 0/320,P/L GSB,WMM,2cm thick premix carpet in km. 0/080 to 0/530) Under OTMPN Head Estimated Cost:- 6,19,217/- Earnest Money :- 12,400/- Time :-Two Month Cost of form:-350/- Eligible class of contractor:- Class D

Name of work No. 07:- C/O link road Jamna Patera road km. 0/0 to 1/100 (Actual Name Patera to Jamna road (Sh:- P/L GSB,WMM,2cm thick premix carpet in km. 0/0 to 0/500) Under OTMPN Head Estimated Cost:- 8,28,570/- Earnest Money :- 16,600/- Time :-Two Month Cost of form:-350/- Eligible class of contractor:- Class D

Name of work No. 08:- C/O link road Uled to Dhamani via Choa Khansara Km. 0/0 to 5/540 (Sh:- P/L

IN BRIEF



Govt withdraws condition on Chautala's furlough

NEW DELHI

The Delhi government has withdrawn the condition of no political activity during the three-week furlough of former Haryana Chief Minister Om Prakash Chautala, who is serving a 10-year jail term in teachers' recruitment scam case, on his request. Chautala's lawyer Amit Sahni said that the INLD leader was released from Tihar Jail on furlough on Friday evening. "The Delhi government has withdrawn the condition of no political activity," Mr. Sahni said. PTI

Three held for robbing businessman of ₹28 lakh

GAZIABAD

Three persons were arrested on Friday for allegedly robbing a Delhi-based businessman of ₹28 lakh in Sahibabad early this month. Accused -- Ashutosh Rana, Harish and Parvinder -- were arrested near Kherka village, said the police. PTI

Mega parent-teacher meeting on Feb 17

NEW DELHI

A 'mega' parent-teacher meeting will be held by the SDMC for its schools on February 17. Education Committee chairperson Nandini Sharma said on Friday that the session will deliberate on success related to improvement in learning and assessment in classrooms as well as health issues.

STAFF REPORTER

Plea to regulate online media streaming sites dismissed

STAFF REPORTER

NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court on Friday dismissed a plea seeking framing of guidelines to regulate functioning of online media streaming platforms such as Netflix and Amazon Prime Video.

A Bench of Chief Justice Rajendra Menon and Justice V.K. Rao rejected the petition after the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting informed it that online platforms are not required to obtain any licence from the Ministry.

The government said the content on online platforms is not being regulated by the Ministry.

The HC was hearing a petition by NGO Justice for Rights Foundation, which alleged that online streaming platforms show "uncertified, sexually explicit and vulgar" content.

The petition claimed that a police complaint has been filed but no action taken on it.

DELHI TODAY

FEBRUARY 9

Talk: The Raza Foundation presents Indian Modernism, a lecture by Catherine David, Curator, Pompidou Centre, Paris at Seminar Rooms II & III, Kamaladevi Complex, India International Centre (IIC), 6:30 p.m.

Exhibition: "Hampi Temples", a painting show by Balu Sardalge at Convention Centre Foyer, India Habitat Centre (IHC), 11 a.m. - 7 p.m.

Exhibition: "Tales of Yore", a group art show at Gallerie Nuova, 101-103 Square One Designer Arcade, C-2, District Centre, Saket, 11 a.m. - 7 p.m.

Screening: "Hachiko" - Japanese film screening with English subtitles at The Japan Foundation, 5A Ring Road, Lajpat Nagar IV, 2 p.m.

FEBRUARY 10

Talk: "Celebrating an Inspiring Life" - a programme of poetry, music and talks to remember Professor Margaret Chatterjee, distinguished academician, philosopher by various speakers at C.D. Deshmukh Auditorium, India International Centre (IIC), 11 a.m. onwards.

Music: IH Morning Ragas. A Hindustani classical vocal concert by Pt. Rajan and Sajan Mishra at Amphitheatre, India Habitat Centre (IHC), 10:30 a.m.

Music: An evening of ghazals by Athar Hussain Khan at Amritas Hall, India Habitat Centre (IHC), 7 p.m.

Exhibition: "Mela Phulkari 6", a group exhibition of paintings, sculptures at Open Palm Court Gallery, India Habitat Centre (IHC), 11 a.m. - 7 p.m.

(Mail your listings for this column at cityeditor@delhi.thehindu.co.in)

Lured with promise of job, woman raped by several men

Woman among two arrested; accused charged with human trafficking, rape

STAFF REPORTER

NEW DELHI

A 28-year-old woman was allegedly raped many times by several men after she was lured by a woman on the pretext of getting her a job at Geeta Colony in Shahdara.

The Delhi Police arrested two persons, including the woman who lured the victim, in connection with the case on Friday.

While the woman who lured the victim has been arrested under charges of human trafficking, the man has been charged with rape. The case is under investigation, said a police officer.

The victim is from Bengal and has been staying in the city for the last few years.

Her husband lost his job after a sealing drive in the city and the family was finding it difficult to meet both ends.

Financial crisis

Narrating her ordeal that started on October 2018, the victim said, after her husband lost his job, the family was in a financial crisis.

As she had to take care of her six-month-old daughter, she discussed her problem with a woman in her neighbourhood. The woman promised to get her a job as a

domestic help at several homes in the vicinity.

"The woman took me to the house of a property dealer for a job, but there I was raped by a man. When I complained to the woman, I was threatened that the rape video would be leaked. She took me to a hospital as I was bleeding from my private part," said the victim in her complaint.

Over the next few months, the victim said she was gang raped five-six times. The police said that the woman was unable to recount the dates or places of the crime, but believes that she had been pushed into prostitution.

"The victim was unable to understand Hindi as her mother tongue is Bengali. We have arranged a councilor and registered her compliant at Geeta Colony police station," said a police officer.

"The victim was unable to understand Hindi as her mother tongue is Bengali. We have arranged a councilor and registered her compliant at Geeta Colony police station," said a police officer.

Dwarka e-way, NH-48 connection blocked again

Iron grills erected to stop commuters from bypassing Kherki Daula toll plaza

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

GURUGRAM

More than a fortnight after a wall blocking connectivity between the Dwarka Expressway and the National Highway-48 was demolished at Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar's instance, iron grills were fixed on Friday in the wake of the Delhi High Court order to prevent vehicles from bypassing the Kherki Daula toll plaza.

Firm moves HC

Chief Executive Officer of Millennium City Expressway Private Ltd S. Raghuraman said they moved the Delhi High Court on January 28 following the demolition of the wall by the district administration with a plea pointing out that the connectivity between Dwarka Expressway and NH-48 would cause leakage of traffic at the toll plaza

and revenue loss to the firm. The firm argued that it could also cause collision of vehicles and lead to traffic-related issues.

The court directed temporary barricading at the junction till the next hearing in the case on February 19.

Following the court order, the district administration appointed a duty Magistrate to erect temporary structure at a junction near the Kherki Daula toll plaza and the iron grills were fixed in the presence of the police.

Residents affected

DXP Welfare Association general secretary Pradip Rahi said connecting the Dwarka Expressway with NH-48 would have benefitted

to erect temporary structure at a junction near the Kherki Daula toll plaza and the iron grills were fixed in the presence of the police.

"The families staying along the Dwarka Expressway will now be forced to wait for 15-20 minutes daily at the toll gate amid pollution. It is a sheer wastage of time. It is shocking that despite the Chief Minister's orders, the barricading has been done," said Mr. Rahi.

He added that the residents along the Dwarka Expressway and the villagers would soon plan a protest against it.

Deduction from prisoners' wages stopped: AAP govt

HC tells Delhi govt to file affidavit

STAFF REPORTER

NEW DELHI

The AAP government told the Delhi High Court on Friday that the practice of deducting 25% of salaries of prisoners towards a victim compensation fund has been stopped.

"The deduction from prisoners' wages has been stopped pursuant to the High Court's order," Delhi government Additional Standing Counsel Gautam Narayan told a Bench of Chief Justice Rajendra Menon and Justice V.K. Rao.

₹14 crore remain unused

Advocate Ajay Verma, appearing for petitioner Katyayini, a lawyer, in her plea has sought quashing of an August 2006 notification and the Delhi Prison Rules of 1988 which mandate the deduction.

The Delhi State Legal Services Authority (DLSA) has also opposed the deduction for creating a victim compensation fund, saying it was "not reasonable or justified" as Delhi government has now created a scheme for the victims.

lakh has been disbursed to 194 eligible victims and the remaining over ₹14 crore lay unused.

Taking note of Mr. Verma's submission, the Bench asked the Delhi government to file an affidavit indicating what it intends to do with the unutilised amount during the next hearing on May 13.

Katyayini, a lawyer, in her plea has sought quashing of an August 2006 notification and the Delhi Prison Rules of 1988 which mandate the deduction.

The Delhi State Legal Services Authority (DLSA) has also opposed the deduction for creating a victim compensation fund, saying it was "not reasonable or justified" as Delhi government has now created a scheme for the victims.

STAFF REPORTER

NEW DELHI

A delegation led by Union Minister and former Delhi BJP president Vijay Goel called on Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Sunil Arora here on Friday to submit a memorandum regarding what it alleged was the "misuse of official position" by the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) government.

The delegation comprised Member of Parliament Ramesh Bidhuri and Parvesh Verma, MLA Om Prakash Sharma, Chairman of Standing Committee Veena Virmani.

Raises 3 issues

In a statement, Mr. Goel said he raised three issues before the CEC. These included an allegation to the effect that the Delhi Chief Minister

around 35,000 families residing on condominiums along the Expressway. Mr. Rahi said that around 1.5 lakh families had invested their hard-earned money to buy flats on the Dwarka Expressway in hope of better connectivity and quality life free from pollution. But the blockade raised at the highway had defeated both the purposes.

"The families staying along the Dwarka Expressway will now be forced to wait for 15-20 minutes daily at the toll gate amid pollution. It is a sheer wastage of time. It is shocking that despite the Chief Minister's orders, the barricading has been done," said Mr. Rahi.

He added that the residents along the Dwarka Expressway and the villagers would soon plan a protest against it.

"himself is spreading blatant lies" that the BJP had deleted 30 lakh names from the voter's list belonging to the Bania, Muslims and Poorvanchali communities.

Secondly, Mr. Goel accused AAP workers of making phone calls to voters stating that their names had been deleted from the voter's list and they can help voters get their names restored and thirdly AAP had announced "an exponential

salary hike" for Imams and Moazzins in an attempt to persuade them to vote for it.

"The residents of Delhi are being constantly subjected to lies and falsehoods. Mr. Goel alleged.

Mr. Bidhuri submitted copies of an FIR and complaints to the CEC regarding bogus phone calls on the pretext of deletion of names from the voter's list. Mr. Verma said that the CEC should "immediately take cognizance of this issue" and call a press conference to inform citizens about the factual position and "clear the lies and falsehoods being spread by AAP in Delhi."

According to Mr. Goel, the CEC assured the BJP delegation that he would order an inquiry into it and immediate action be taken.

"We have sealed the hospital area and the inquiry has been initiated. Till Thursday evening, the hospital had not submitted any report to the police station," said Mr. Mishra. On Thurs-

CM's vehicle attacked by BJP workers in Narela, says govt

Police refute govt's allegations that security was ignored

STAFF REPORTER

NEW DELHI

The Delhi government on Friday claimed that Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal's vehicle was attacked by BJP workers in the presence of police personnel in Narela.

Mr. Kejriwal had gone to Narela to attend an event when BJP workers gathered in front of his vehicle and held a protest.

"It is extremely shocking that the Chief Minister's vehicle was moving along the route cleared by the Deputy Commissioner of Police of the area, when the BJP workers, armed with sticks, attacked the vehicle in police presence," read a statement issued by the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) government.

"Delhi government categorically states that under political pressure and directions, the Delhi Police ignored the Chief Minister's security and the people of Delhi are watching all these

conspiracies," the statement read.

The police, however, denied allegations that Mr. Kejriwal was attacked. Additional PRO of the Delhi Police, Anil Mittal, said that the Narela ACP was escorting the cavalcade. On the route, former BJP MLA Neeldaman Khatri and his supporters came in front of the cavalcade, but the ACP removed the protesters and escorted the CM's cavalcade to its destination, he said.

In a statement, the Delhi BJP said that party workers had shown black flags to the CM to protest against the Delhi government's "denial of Metro Rail expansion and other development activities" in rural Delhi.

Photos and videos of the incident shared by the BJP as well as the government showed BJP workers with flags and banners protesting in front of the vehicle.

Response sought on plea seeking to stop banks from sharing PAN, data

HC seeks reply from Centre, RBI on issue of sharing clients' data

STAFF REPORTER

NEW DELHI

V.K. Rao was hearing a plea which claimed that sharing of a customer's Permanent Account Number (PAN) and other transactions with credit rating agencies like TransUnion CIBIL affects the person's right to privacy.

The petition by one Abhijit Mishra claimed that banks use the credit reports given by agencies like CIBIL to decide whether to grant loans, issue credit cards and even fix the rate of interest to be

charged. The plea has contended that the Central Board of Direct Taxes has not issued any notification regarding sharing of customers' PAN and other transaction details by the banks with any private or non-government entity.

The petition states that even the Income Tax Act, 1961, does not allow sharing of PAN data of citizens with agencies like CIBIL for the development of a credit score.

City Magistrate starts inquiry into Noida fire

Experts called in to look into incident

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

NOIDA

An inquiry was initiated by the Gautam Budh Nagar City Magistrate on Friday into the fire that broke out at Metro Hospitals and Heart Institute in Noida.

City Magistrate Shailesh Kumar Mishra said he has also called a meeting of experts from different departments to look into the incident.

The fire broke out at the hospital, in Sector 12, on Thursday. No casualties were reported but over 40 patients had to be evacuated.

"We have sealed the hospital area and the inquiry has been initiated. Till Thursday evening, the hospital had not submitted any report to the police station," said Mr. Mishra. On Thurs-

day, a magistrate-level probe was ordered into the incident by Gautam Budh Nagar District Magistrate B.N. Singh. Officials suspect that the fire was caused by a short circuit.

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"We have sealed the hospital area and the

4 CITY

FILM REVIEWS

Self-aware or tone-deaf?

The dark humour in *Cold Pursuit* can be relished only if you're convinced about its intentions

KENNETH ROSARIO

Cold Pursuit, Hans Petter Moland's remake of his 2014 Norwegian film, *In Order of Disappearance*, begins by quoting Oscar Wilde: "Some cause happiness wherever they go; others whenever they go". Moland clearly relishes the humour in Wilde's words and interprets the latter half of that sentence in a rather twisted fashion in this revenge drama.

There are systematic vengeance-fuelled murders, where men die one after another, providing contentment to Liam Neeson's Nels Coxman (playing father on a mission, yet again) and dark humour to the audience. If one were to expect a *Taken* (2008) from Neeson, the film thankfully dismantles the vengeance genre and infuses it with absurd characters and flavours of an icy town. There isn't an ambitious busting of a global nexus, but a turf war between drug lords in a snow-capped town in Colorado. Neeson's journey is not the only track: The anti-hero is a megalomaniac but with traits that could be relatable to a millennial parent on a pegan diet and chucklesome intertitles. There's more to look forward to than how and who



Dad act: Liam Neeson is comically-one toned and stoic ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Neeson will kill next.

Set in freezing temperatures, the film sees Neeson – comically one-toned and stoic as a snow-plougher – inadvertently sparking off a gang war between Trevor Calcote (Tom Bateman) aka Viking, a drug lord obsessed with his son's diet, and White Bull (Tom Jackson), a Native American drug kingpin. While the film is primarily Neeson's violent journey of catharsis, Moland extends the ambit of retribution to others. White Bull has also lost his son, so his pursuit for revenge is centred around his personal loss, but underneath is a deep and long-standing anger. The rage is rooted not only in the history of ethnic subservience but also the appropriation of Native American culture. We see him walk through a shop, lift a traditional Native American garment and disapprovingly find 'Made in China' on its label. He also gets his 'visually loud but audibly silent' moment of outburst, which is oddly

evocative.

All said and done, with its humour, wit and subtle commentary, the film ventures into a zone of impudence that can either be argued as 'morally problematic' or 'intended irreverence'. The film often finds itself being racially offensive and tone-deaf with its liberal usage of stereotypes: A white man refers to a Native American man as 'Tonto' (which itself carries a long history of whitewashing), a young attractive Asian woman, married

Cold Pursuit

DIRECTOR: Hans Petter Moland
CAST: Liam Neeson, Tom Bateman, Tom Jackson, Emmy Rossum, Domenick Lombardozzi, Julia Jones, John Doman and Laura Dern

STORYLINE: A father sets out to kill drug lords after his son is found dead from a heroin overdose

to a white American sugar-daddy, behaves like an outright caricature and a slur against a character of colour (Shiv) is seemingly beeped out by the Censor Board.

In this macho blood-thirsty world, the women – be it as wives or a cop – are sidelined and used as props. But the film pushes for irreverence by appearing self-aware and intentional. You glean that from the way it goes overboard, almost as a pre-emptive defence. But after Neeson's controversially racist comments to a newspaper before the film's release (leading to the cancellation of its red carpet premiere), one wonders how much of a film like this is deliberate cheekiness and how much arises out of a 'primal urge'.

NAMRATA JOSHI

The Lego Movie 2: The Second Part ticks all the requisite boxes for a successful animation film: It's fun but offers serious life lessons and appeals to all age groups. The film's characters, its conceits, the flights of imagination don't just offer wonderment to children but adults as well.



Fun and substance: A scene from the film

The cute, "adorably destructive" Lego heart aliens, the transformation of Bricksburg into the wasteland of Apocalypseburg, Emmet (Chris Pratt)'s dream home in which he wants to live forever with Lucy (Elizabeth Banks), even as she wants him to grow up and shed his innocence for maturity. Then there's the parallel romantic track with the form-changing, shape-shifting Queen Watevra Wa'Nabi (Tiffany Haddish) of Systar System wanting to marry Batman (Will Arnett).

The Lego Movie 2: The Second Part

DIRECTOR: Mike Mitchell
CAST: Maya Rudolph, Chris Pratt, Elizabeth Banks, Tiffany Haddish, Will Arnett
RUN TIME: 107 minutes
STORYLINE: While Finn and Bianca play with their Lego creations, in the Lego world itself, Duplo invasions have turned Bricksburg into the wasteland Apocalypseburg.

worth it then to mature? Isn't it better to retain one's pristine innocence?

The film appears to make the case for abandoning anything cute and bright for toughening up. It seems to choose the grim and gritty world over the fairytale happy. But not quite.

"It is easy to harden your heart but opening it is the hardest thing," says a line in the film which is also its adage. The twist in the tale may seem awkward, deliberate and convenient but it is all heart and strong enough to curb the cynicism of the likes of yours truly. Who wouldn't want reconciliation – between siblings, friends and even nations? Isn't healing, unity and peace just what the world needs at large? *The Lego Movie 2* ensures that you will leave the cinema hall, feeling good, and on a hopeful sugar high.

Lacks the thrill of a con job done right

Released a decade after it was made, *The Fakir of Venice* disappoints with the lack of alchemy between the lead actors

NAMRATA JOSHI

The Fakir of Venice finally releases this week, 10 years after its premiere at the India Film Festival of Los Angeles in 2009. As one would have feared, it hasn't quite aged well; the film looks and feels dated. Take for instance, the ancient models of mobiles in the hands of the various cha-

racters, the ungainly production design, or the bafflingly empty streets of Mumbai. Then there's the presence of former veejay Kamal Siddhu who instantly reminded me of the other such stars of yore – Ruby Bhatia, Sophia Haque – names, a young audience today wouldn't be familiar with. The film itself feels like a remnant of our

early indie cinema, of a Kai-zad Gustad or Dev Benegal. The underlying theme(s) of the film are perennial ones. Two men, at odds with each other, thrown together, even made to share a double bed in a hotel on foreign shores; their varying attitudes and approaches to life; the rich-poor class divide; the East-West collision; the

gullibility of the West when it comes to all things spiritual. At the centre of *The Fakir of Venice*, is a con job. Adi (Farhan Akhtar) has to find a baba who can be ferried to Venice to be part of an installation by an eccentric artiste. When the attempts to coax the real sadhus come undone, he picks up a man off the streets – a labourer called Sattar (Annu Kapoor), who has buried himself in the sands of Juhu beach to make a quick buck.



Outlived its utility: A scene from the film

The Fakir of Venice

DIRECTOR: Anand Surpur
CAST: Farhan Akhtar, Annu Kapoor, Kamal Siddhu
STORYLINE: Adi ferries a Mumbai labourer Sattar to Venice to pose as a fakir in an art installation

abroad when he can see *brahmā* (universe) right where he is. But all of it feels half-hearted and half-baked, and doesn't get communicated with any sense of urgency or conviction.

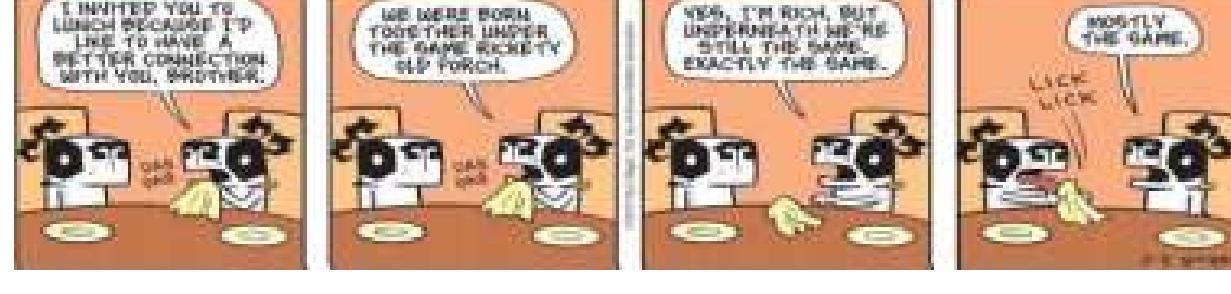
Farhan Akhtar, in his debut as an actor, plays a cheeky, urbane hustler, a production coordinator who makes

a success of all kinds of weird jobs, like transporting a monkey to a remote part of Himalayas. His motto is to, "never say no".

It's a role that fits him well and vice versa. Yet one is left wishing there was a deeper exploration of the character's inner restlessness.

Annu Kapoor is not in form, melodramatic and morbid as Sattar, who has suffered in the riots and lost everything, including his wife. What more is left then to be taken away from him? Together the duo lack any vim and vitality, nor do they have the crucial alchemy to make the film work.

POOCH CAFE



HAGAR THE HORRIBLE



TIGER



WUMO



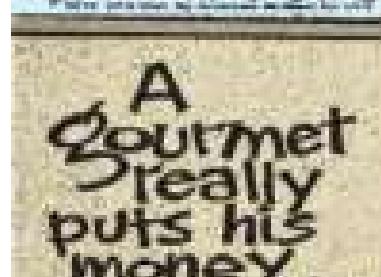
PEARLS BEFORE SWINE

**PEANUTS**

CALVIN AND HOBBES



GRAFFITI



HEALTH CAPSULES®

WHAT ARE THE WORST CALORIE CULPITS?
BY BRIAN SMITH
PHOTOGRAPH BY STEPHEN MCGOWAN

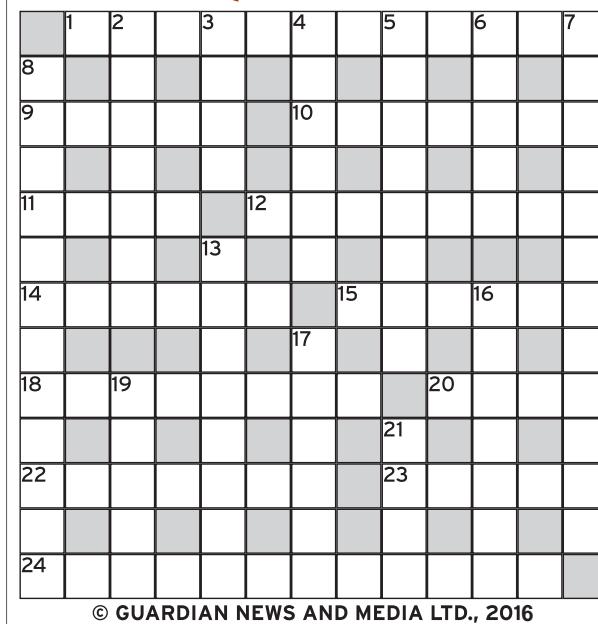
1) GRATIN BASED DESSERTS, INCLUDING DONUTS AND PASTRIES, TOP THE LIST.
2) BREAD. ONE SLICE OF WHITE BREAD CONTAINS 19 CALORIES, 12 CHOCOLATE CHIP COOKIES 21 CALORIES, 4 SWEETENED BEVERAGES, A 500-ML BOTTLE OF COKE CONTAINS 210 CALORIES. 5) PIZZA. A SLICE OF CHEESE PIZZA CONTAINS 272 CALORIES.

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE DIETICIAN?
BY BRIAN SMITH
PHOTOGRAPH BY STEPHEN MCGOWAN

1) GRATIN BASED DESSERTS, INCLUDING DONUTS AND PASTRIES, TOP THE LIST.
2) BREAD. ONE SLICE OF WHITE BREAD CONTAINS 19 CALORIES, 12 CHOCOLATE CHIP COOKIES 21 CALORIES, 4 SWEETENED BEVERAGES, A 500-ML BOTTLE OF COKE CONTAINS 210 CALORIES. 5) PIZZA. A SLICE OF CHEESE PIZZA CONTAINS 272 CALORIES.

1) Be adamant (6)
2) Better (8)
3) Small seabird with a forked tail (4)
4) Sums (7)
5) Uninspired writers (5)
6) Naturally grown (3,2)
7) Female servant (4)
8) Surrounded closely (6,2)
9) Worthless (2-4)

THE GUARDIAN QUICK CROSSWORD-12989



3 Time of day after sunset (4)
4 Tobacco user (6)
5 The Grenadier Guards, for example (8)
6 Furrowed (5)
7 Best (6,2,4)
8 Daisy roots, china plate and dicky bird, for example (7,5)
13 Resort on the Bay of Naples (8)
16 Reluctance to move (7)
17 English county – sorted (anag) (6)
19 Draft copy of printed text (5)
21 Monstrous giant (4)

Solution will appear in Delhi Metro dated February 11, 2019.

Solution No. 12988

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15 Be adamant (6)
18 Better (8)
20 Small seabird with a forked tail (4)
22 Sums (7)
23 Make progress (3,2)
24 Talent for talking (4,2,3)
■ Down
2 Moving back and forth (7)

'My sense of CULTURAL IDENTITY is out of whack'

DIVYA KALA BHAVANI

A few 'latergram' posts on Nik Dodani's Instagram places him at Cape Town Film Studios in South Africa where he filmed *Escape Room* – now in theatres across India. The posts brim with dry and witty humour coupled with sass much like his character on TV show *Murphy Brown* in which he plays the charismatic and openly gay Pat Patel. Nik is stealing hearts and gazes with his impressive talent.

The 25-year-old grew up in Arizona in the United States and adds it was "a part of Arizona with a bunch of rich white kids, some of whom confused me for their local Navajo tribesman." He tucks on, "Safe to say my sense of cultural identity is completely out of whack."

Netflix snagged the actor's talents too, shoving him into the spotlight with roles as Zaid in *Atypical* and as Blake in *Alex Strangelove*. "Working on *Atypical* has been a dream," he comments, "The cast, producers, writers, directors, crew – everyone has been incredibly warm and welcoming. I feel like I've really cut my teeth working on *Atypical*. I've learned a lot and think I've grown as an actor because of the show." *Atypical*, now running strong in its third season, follows the romantic and family-oriented milestones experienced by a high school student on the autism spectrum – with the continually pressing question of 'what is normal?'

Having starred as the geeky Danny Khan in *Escape Room*, Nik finally got his feet wet with the action-thriller

Possessing a quick witted gift of the gab and immersive acting talent, multi-hyphenated Nik Dodani is one of the talents to look out for this year



Ever-growing: (right) Nik Dodani; a still from 'Murphy Brown' ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

genre. In the film we see walls being closed in, temperatures raised to flesh-scalding and other horrific predicaments. Naturally, he had to push himself physically. Director Adam Robitel, best known for *The Taking of Deborah Logan* (2014) and *Insidious: The Last Key* (2018) was quite the pull-factor here. Nik completed the experience with a greater wealth of knowledge, explaining, "I learned that I have no excuse not to exercise when I'm shooting just because I'm busy." Adam had a mini-gym wherever he went on set and was doing intense weight lifting between most takes. Very impressive."

Moving to on-set chronicles, one can only imagine the stress of working on such a serious film, but what enlivens the experience for Nik is the collaboration, much

like with director Adam. "Working with the actors was the best part of the shoot. Everyone in that group is so fun and wacky and weird, and really talented. All of which was made more fun by the sets, which as you can see were wild. Being on those sets really made my job easier, because I could just lose myself in the environment." In fact, one of Nik's Instagram's posts have him frosted with ice (as per hair and make-up) with the caption "I'm seeing a lot of sadness over Danny's death in my DMs, but like, who said he's dead?" You know, to keep things light-hearted.

Given the actor's gift of the gab, Nik is a natural comedian, with a 2016 set 'Man of Color' narrating his coming-out to his parents going viral. He says in the set "When I was 18, I went up to my father and said Dad I have so-

mething to tell you: I'm gay." And he says, "That's great! But isn't it pronounced 'lawyer'?"

Last September, he had Stephen Colbert's audience laughing during a stand-up on *The Late Show*. What did the experience teach him? Well, he's quite succinct about it, "Stand-up is exhausting. I don't get how the pro's do it. I have mad respect for them."

LGBTQI issues are close to Nik. Bringing up the striking down the Article 377 which de-criminalised homosexual

I feel like I've really cut my teeth working on 'Atypical'. I've learned a lot and think I've grown as an actor because of the show."

relations in India, I ask him what he hopes for across the Indian entertainment industry. He responds, "I hope all the closeted queers in the Indian entertainment industry start to come out. You know who you are."



self that the reason he's having trouble fitting in is because he's actually the tenth reincarnation of Lord Krishna.

Nik recalls the link-up, "Last summer after I read *Blue Boy* for the first time, I DM'd Rakesh on Instagram like a silly fanboy. We eventually met up at a gay bar in New York and hit off, and now we're working together. I'm almost finished with the screenplay and can't wait for the world to see the movie one day. Hope it doesn't piss off too many religious folks in India..."

Nik is one of the golden few who's paved the way for LGBTQI artistes of Indian-origin. What advice does he have for future entrants? "Take as many classes as you can, make real friends, don't take yourself too seriously, and please don't steal my jobs, thanks."

the universe Cameron had built with careful precision. "All I had to do was shorten the script to convince the studio to give us the money," he adds. What makes a fantasy work great is its ability to seamlessly blend reality and spectacle in right measure. Having said that, the line between performance and technology is blurred in a sci-fi movie. Which is why it was important for Robert to retain the rootedness of the characters. "Spectacle is the reason why we go to the movies, but if there isn't human aspect, it's not going to stay with you," he says.

When Robert Rodriguez took over the reins as director, Cameron was impressed with what he brought to the script. After all, it was Cameron who nurtured the idea of adapting the popular manga series *Gunnm*, created by Japanese artist Yukito Kishiro. But, how difficult was it to rework a movie written by Cameron? Robert says, "Jim's script was 180 pages and the final script was supposed to be around 120 pages. So, it was 60 pages long for a film. But the script had everything intact, so it was real joy to reduce the size and make it as potent as possible."

Robert tells me that every time he had doubts, he flipped through the reams of paper left by Cameron. "In the worst case, I can fill it with more Jim," chuckles Robert, saying that he loved

(The writer was in South Korea at the invitation of 20th Century Fox)

When reality meets fiction

Meet filmmaker Robert Rodriguez, as *Alita: Battle Angel* opens in India today

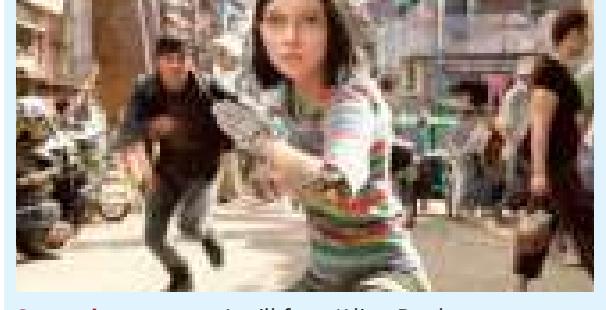
SRIVATSAN S

Nine minutes. That's all I have with Robert Rodriguez, the man who transformed independent cinema in Hollywood. Where do I begin? Should I ask him about his association with Quentin Tarantino in his early days? Or about the opening sequence in *Sin City*? Or should I start with *Alita: Battle Angel*? I settle for a generic question and ask him about James Cameron's influence while scripting the project.

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Spectacle on screen: A still from 'Alita: Battle Angel' ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

FOOD SPOT

Like ants to sugar

Old Rajender Nagar, in the Central part of Delhi, is a riot of food choices, keeping in mind the young population that thrives on books and hope



RAHUL VERMA

There are some signs that tell you what's in store for you. 1) If there are dark clouds, there will be rain. 2) If there are ants, there will be sugar around. 3) If there are groups of students, there will be good food. While 1) and 2) may or may not be true all the time, 3) is a fact.

The best example of this is Delhi University, an area which is now bursting at the seams with restaurants. You get all kinds of food there, from Naga and Assamese to Tibetan and Korean to American and Italian. Even Jawaharlal Nehru University is surrounded by several big and small eateries. And if you are in Old Rajender Nagar, you will find a whole new township of students – and a spate of restaurants.

I was there last week – with an old friend, Raj – and

thought I should try out one of the eateries that I had been hearing about. A part of Old Rajender Nagar is a hub of students – young men and women seeking to sit for the civil-service examinations. There are coaching centres all around, and students from across the country have taken rooms here. Eateries that serve regional food have sprung up in a market square next to the residential area, which is also the main market area.

Old Rajender Nagar is on the right of Shankar Road if you are coming in from Connaught Place. I went there some months ago and had good Maharashtrian food at a place called Marathi Katta. This time, I wanted to try out an eatery called The Canteen. But it turned out that it had downed its shutters, so we went looking for other ea-



Curry in a hurry: Andhra food in Sri Annapurna ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

teries, and came across Sri Annapurna, which serves Andhra cuisine.

This is the place you should visit if you like your food hot. We saw the menu card and decided to get our lunch packed. I asked for a plate of tamarind rice (₹90), two of upma (₹60 a plate), one plate of chicken fry (₹190) and another of chicken curry (₹170 for half a

plate). While the food was being readied, we shared a masala dosa (₹80). The potato sabzi in the dosa was light but delicious, and the dosa itself was soft at the centre and crispy at the edges. Excellent.

The young man at the counter urged us to wait for the chicken biryani, which had just been placed on the stove. But that was going to

take another 30 or 40 minutes, so we reluctantly left without trying out the Andhra dum biryani (₹150).

We carried the lunch back home – and I must say I enjoyed the meal. The tamarind rice was nice and tart, and the chicken fry was hot and spicy. I enjoyed the thick gravy of the chicken curry, flavoured with onions and tamarind. I liked the upma,

too, which was neither too oily, nor too dry. It had bits of peanuts in it, which added to the taste.

I was right: Where there are students, you are bound to find food. Go try out Old Rajender Nagar. It's young and vibrant, just like its residents.

THE WRITER IS A SEASONED FOOD CRITIC

5 EVENTS WORTH YOUR WHILE



TALK

Book discussion
Author Rakshanda Jalil will be in conversation with poet Azhar Iqbal, to discuss the book *Kaifiyat: Verses of Love and Women*. The new book features Jalil's translations of literary doyen Kafi Azmi's poems from Urdu to English, with a foreword by his daughter, Shabana Azmi, and an introduction to his life by Jalil.
VENUE: Club Vita, The Park Place, Gurugram
TIME: 5 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.



EXHIBITION

Sculptures
Scripted In Time II, an ongoing exhibition, showcases photographs and resin sculptures by master-artist Rameshwar Broto. Dealing with subjects of memory, each piece has shreds of old janmapatris (horoscopes), crumpled newspapers, or weathered postcards pressed between layers of resin.
VENUE: Triveni Kala Sangam, Tansen Marg
TIME: 11 a.m. - 8 p.m.



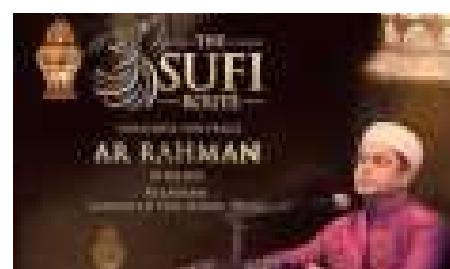
FASHION

Shopping
The Wishlist, a platform for young designers and artisans, is back with its annual one-day pop-up. In its 11th edition now, the event showcases home decor and lifestyle products, with a view to promote handmade art, craft, fabric, ceramics, and jewellery, made by weavers and designers from all over India.
VENUE: 1AQ, Qutub Minar Complex, Mehrauli
TIME: 11 a.m. - 8 p.m.



THEATRE

Ek Thi Amrita
On the occasion of litterateur Amrita Pritam's birth centenary this year, Akshara Theatre will stage *Ek Thi Amrita*, a play in Hindi and Punjabi. Directed by poet Kanika Aurora, the show tonight explores Pritam's life, literary works, and her stance on oppression and crimes against women, radical for her times.
VENUE: Akshara Theatre, Baba Kharak Singh Marg
TIME: 7 p.m.



CONCERT

Sufi Music Festival
The Sufi Route, organised by the Friday Music Project, is a series of concerts. Specifically, today's performance will feature Sufi stalwarts Sami Yusuf, Satinder Sartaaj, Dhruv Sangari, and Manoj Muntashir. The Nooran Sisters of Patakh Gudi fame and composer A. R. Rahman will also be a part of the line-up.
VENUE: The Garden of Five Senses, Saket
TIME: 4 p.m. - 10 p.m.



A range of *sungudi* saris from the market, (below) Preethi Shankaran, an aficionado, in a sari from Madurai-based Aishwaryam Textiles



Who will save Madurai's Sungudi?

What bandhani is to the North, sungudi is to the South, but the former is popular across borders. There is no ideal solution, only a balancing act to bring back what is lost. There are enough people who care for the artisanal skill, and I'd like to explore the possibilities of taking the real *sungudi* out of Madurai

— SUMITA PAI,
FOUNDER, KAI THARI



I've not seen the *sungudi*, but having revived the Goan Kunbi, I embrace the revival of saris, both in its original form and a designer form. When I revived the Kunbi, I changed everything, from the fabric weave count to colour and design. The end result was a sudden interest in the original sari, too

WENDELL RODRICKS, DESIGNER



SOMA BASU

Yesterday was Sungudi Day – a day that was last marked by the Madurai district administration six years ago. In the interim, the colourful cotton saris with their signature dots have remained underappreciated. The

ancestors were hosted by King Tirumalai Naicker (who brought them from Gujarat for their exquisite weaving skills). "Hundreds of women would sit at their doorsteps, chatting and tying the knots," she says. The saris would then be natural-dyed by the men, in their backyards. The sheer love for the craft generated business. Unfortunately, not any longer.

"From more than 30,000 weavers and dyers six decades ago, we're reduced to 150 trying to keep the tradition alive. Youngsters are not keen to take up the labour-intensive community work," says AK Ramesh, secretary of the Madurai Sungudi Javuli Urpathiyalargal and Viyaparigal Sangam, which is looking to revive the craft.

Craft and collabs

Today, the market is flooded with chemically-dyed or screen-printed imitations. Only those with a discerning eye can tell the difference. (Fakes start from ₹500, but an original will cost upwards of

₹12,000). While attempts have been made in the past decade to save it, *sungudi* hasn't turned the corner. "A nation stays alive when its culture stays alive. When we integrate disciplines like fashion, design and craft, we can foster the latter through innovation," says textiles researcher K Sreemathy. If State governments and designers have helped revive *ikat*, *uppada* silks, *benarasi* and *khardi*, then why not *sungudi*?

Collaborative initiatives with designers and entrepreneurs will help open new avenues of business and empower artisans, believes World Crafts Council's past president, Usha Krishna. But for that, it needs national attention. "Our designers, who are mostly from the North, need to understand and value the South Indian cultural ethos,"



Connect the dots

Sungudi saris are traditionally handloom, woven on pit looms. With 100 warp and 80 weft counts, the pure cotton saris come with plank-dyed contrast borders that often feature *zari*. The dots appear randomly done, but follow a grid to achieve motifs. Madurai *sungudi* is inspired by *kolam* patterns and the constellations.

too. "The authentic craft and patterns are known to very few and are guarded by the community," says Lisa Mathew from NID, who'd documented *sungudi*'s decline for the World Crafts Council (WCC) a few years ago. "Unless they share the skills, it will die with them."

Uma Kannan, member of Crafts Council of India and INTACH Madurai, agrees. "We have to give them (artisans) dignity and esteem, and make them realise they hold the living treasure of our cultural heritage." There is also the responsibility to ensure their work can be carried forward by future generations. "A public-private engagement, and encouraging young people to pursue *sungudi* as a hobby, could help," she says.

Currently, several stakeholders are working to revitalise the art. Ramesh now trains students of fashion in the art. The artisans are diversifying from saris, too, creating *dupattas*, stoles, bags, table covers and shirts. Meanwhile, District Collector S Natarajan has announced the possibility of establishing a museum and has requested people to donate their old *sungudis*, photographs and any other related material. The idea of a textile park with a natural dyeing unit and a sales showroom is also being explored.

Advocate Sanjay Gandhi, who got *sungudi* its GI registration, feels the association should diversify and push for visibility – especially since GI-tagged products can be sold at airports and other public places. "Like the Madurai Meenakshi, *malli* and *jigarthanda*, the city can become known for authentic *sungudi* as it used to be earlier," concludes Gandhi.

says Jaya Jaitly, crafts revivalist and founder of Dastkari Haat Samiti. "The best way to bring back *sungudi*'s fame is by having an exhibition of all the original designs collected from the people who own it. We need to showcase the history to be able to value its worth."

Defining a new aesthetic is also imperative to help the crafts persons access the global market. Sumita Pai, founder of the online handloom platform, Kai Thari, believes that with e-commerce and active social media platforms, it shouldn't be too difficult to relaunch a forgotten weave – like the Udupi sari from Karnataka that her forum helped revive. "When we started working with the weavers, there were only 10 looms (reduced from 300). Kai Thari members pooled in money to upgrade the looms and elevate their working conditions. Today 50 looms are active and the weavers supply at least 1,000 six and nine yard saris a year."

The GI advantage

Artisans need to change their outlook,

The art of 'working-in'

Why fitness in 2019 isn't all about the weighing scale but about consistency, and being body-conscious



SUNALINI MATHEW

Cortisol. The horrible hormone that did well when we were hunter-gatherers or lived in small towns, doing small-town things. Then came traffic, pollution, the boss, the booze and junk food. The stressors built up. And with it, cortisol soared through the body. That worked fine in spurts, but as a constant, it pushed up the risk for everything from belly fat to cancer.

Which is why fitness experts are looking at 'working in', rather than working out in 2019, an integrated approach to movement (not necessarily exercise), pioneered by the Chek Institute, US, to bring energy back into the body. The concept is simple: your over-stressed body is already in an energy deficit. So instead of 'hitting' the gym or 'sweating it out', working-in focusses on breathing in time with the motion.

Slowing down

This does not mean you give up all aerobic exercise this year. It simply means you push yourself when your body allows – when you are rested, have eaten clean food, and you are not in self-destructive mode (smoking incessantly, for instance). "Fitness is no longer about punishment, and people refuse to be pushed around by the coach anymore. There is a slowing down in the workout, with people being more conscious about the comfort zone of their bodies,"

YOUR 2019 GO-TO MOVES

- Cross-train. It uses different sets of muscles and keeps your mind from boredom and the body from fatigue.
- Hold back. When you are low on energy, opt for a group class or a gentle form of exercise. Sometimes, sleep in.
- Ditch the competition. Understand your bigger goals: getting strong or healthy, rather than just feeding into short-term ones, like losing weight.

says Nisha Varma, a Pune-based exercise physiologist from the American College of Sports Medicine.

Coaches on their part, are getting educated, both with in-house training and self-education, on crafting training sessions for people, based on age, exercise history, medical history, and body parameters (like fat percentage). There is also the knowledge that during the workout, when a person's form drops, you give them a break, says Bengaluru-based Rishabh Telang, who heads training at Cure.Fit. "Working out is stressful, so we see people going towards group classes, where there is good music, and the enjoyment factor trumps the punishing factor," says

Varma. Which means you may still have an HIIT class, but we are not scoffing at Low Intensity Steady State (LISS) cardio – walking, swimming, even cycling.

Not just weight loss

Until a few years ago, weight-loss was the whole aim of a fitness regimen. "Today, it's about a wholesome, holistic, healthier life," says Yasmin Karachiwala, who trains some of Bollywood's biggest – Kareena Kapoor Khan, Katrina Kaif, to name a few. Say a person does not enjoy weight-training, but needs it: "I'll bring in weight training very slowly. The first thing to do is to enjoy the workout and then tweak it to what you need," she says. Karachiwala sees a number of seniors too, and is currently working with an octogenarian.

Cure.Fit, with its open-floor, playground-style gyms are reinforcing the fact that the same workout can be calibrated for everyone from the 20-year-old male at his fittest to the 80-year-old grandmother who comes in to tackle arthritis. Its HRX workout, for instance, uses zero-momentum reps – a couple of super-slow repetitions with steady, controlled movements, followed by regular reps.

Finally, recovery. "Ten minutes of meditation a day helps lower cortisol levels, which helps with repair cycles, concentration, and focus," says Telang.