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THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 2018

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NEARBY

BJP wants to eliminate Kejriwal, says Sisodia

NEW DELHI

A day after Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal was attacked by a man as he walked out of his office in the Delhi Secretariat, Deputy Chief Minister and Aam Aadmi Party leader Manish Sisodia alleged on Wednesday that the leadership of the BJP had planned the incident.

DELHI METRO ▸ PAGE 1

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DELHI METRO ▸ 6 PAGES

Amid contrasting claims, J&K Governor dissolves Assembly

Move follows PDP and PC seeking to form the government in the State

PEERZADA ASHIQ
SRINAGAR

Jammu and Kashmir Governor Satya Pal Malik on Wednesday dissolved the State Assembly, as the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) and the Peoples Conference (PC) separately staked claim to form a government after a day-long political drama.

"Governor Malik has passed an order in exercise of the powers conferred upon him by clause (b) of subsection (2) of Section 53 of the Constitution of Jammu and Kashmir to dissolve the Legislative Assembly," read a Raj Bhavan communique.

Earlier, two parties, the PDP and the PC, after day-long political wrangling, wrote to the Raj Bhavan on email and WhatsApp to stake claim to form the government, as they were unable to reach the Governor over fax.

Former Chief Minister and PDP president Mehbooba Mufti, in the letter, claimed that she had the support of 15 MLAs from the National Conference and 12 MLAs of the Congress, in addition to her 29 MLAs, putting the total number at 56. The Assembly has 87 members and any party would require 44 MLAs' support to form a government. On the other hand, PC chief Sajad Lone, who has two MLAs, claimed the support of 25 MLAs of the BJP and of 18 more MLAs.

Mr. Malik is learnt to have conveyed to the Centre that the claims of the two groups were not convincing enough and could have led to instability.

A senior Home Ministry official said the Centre planned to hold a fresh election in the State post the panchayat polls, which will end in December. However, the current developments expedited the move to dissolve the Assembly. Home Minister Rajnath Singh spoke to Mr. Malik and also apprised the PM of the developments.

CONTINUED ON ▸ PAGE 10

Precipitative action

On June 20, Jammu and Kashmir came under Governor's rule for a period of six months after the BJP pulled out of the PDP- led coalition government on June 19. The Governor has now dissolved the Assembly

Powers invoked by the Governor on the basis of the Constitution of Jammu and Kashmir

- Section 92 has provisions in case of failure of constitutional machinery in the State
- Section 53(2)(b) provides for the dissolution of the Assembly

SATYAPAL MALIK. Governor. Jammu and Kashmir

1 held for grenade attack on Amritsar prayer meet

Accused are cadre of Khalistan Liberation Force: Punjab CM

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHANDIGARH

The Punjab police on Wednesday said they have arrested one of the two perpetrators of the grenade attack on Nirankari Satsang Bhawan in Amritsar's Adliwal.

Three persons were killed in the incident.

Punjab Chief Minister Amarinder Singh said the suspect, Bikramjit Singh, 26, a resident of Dhariwal village in Rajasansi, was arrested on Wednesday from near Loharka village in Amritsar.

"Bikramjit, an operative of the Khalistan Liberation Force (KLF), has given information indicating that the grenade was provided to the assailants by one Happy in Pakistan.

"Happy is suspected to be the KLF chief who had earlier masterminded the conspiracy to carry out targeted killings of RSS and Shiv Sena leaders and also a Christian pastor in Ludhiana and Jalandhar in 2016-2017 in active collaboration with the Pakistani establishment and the ISI," the Chief Minister said. Capt. Singh said the latest attack was an attempt by Pakistan's ISI to disturb peace in the State.

Probe on: Capt. Amarinder Singh showing photos of the attack suspects in Chandigarh on Wednesday. ▪ AKHILESH KUMAR

CONTINUED ON ▸ PAGE 10
UNDER ISI TUTELAGE, KLF WANTS TO REVIVE MOVEMENT ▸ PAGE 10

U.S. citizen killed by Andaman tribals

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
PORT BLAIR/NEW DELHI

An American national was killed by members of a protected and reclusive tribe in the Andamans, possibly with arrows, when he tried to enter the North Sentinel Island, the police said on Wednesday.

In a press release, Dependra Pathak, DGP, Andaman and Nicobar Police, said John Allen Chau, 27, had enlisted the help of local electronics engineer Alexander and a water sports service provider and hired five fishermen to evade the patrolling teams of the police, the Coast Guard and the Navy to reach the island. For this, the fishermen were paid ₹25,000 by Mr. Chau.

John Allen Chau

NO-ENTRY ZONE ▸ PAGE 7
AN ENDANGERED TRIBE ▸ PAGE 7

Birds flee devastated Pt. Calimere

After Cyclone Gaja struck, the wildlife sanctuary looks like a deserted war zone

B. KOLAPPAN
NAGAPATTINAM

Point Calimere, the renowned wildlife and bird sanctuary on the seashore in Nagapattinam district of Tamil Nadu, resembles a forest in Vietnam laid waste by Agent Orange.

In the devastation caused by Cyclone Gaja, hundreds of birds that once made the sanctuary their home have died, trees have been uprooted or their branches broken or defoliated. Carcasses of birds are found in some places.

Another bird sanctuary in Muthupet in Tiruvarur district has also borne the brunt of the cyclone.

"There is widespread damage and 90% of the birds have deserted the sanctuaries. They could have migrated locally and will hopefully return. The trees have lost their crown and it will take six months for them to revive themselves," said C. Ramasubramaniam, Conservator of Forest, Nagapattinam district, under whose jurisdiction the sanctuary in Point Calimere falls.

"Around 2,000 birds were killed and the damage is also widespread in Muthupet," said K. Arivoli, District Forest Officer, Tiruvarur.

Mr. Ramasubramaniam said 10 blackbuck and one spotted deer also died in the sanctuary after sea water entered it. It was closed as there is waist-deep water.

The Point Calimere sanctuary, covering 1728.81 hectares, is home to 564 flowering plants, 198 medicinal plants, 14 types of mammals, 18 reptiles and nine amphibians.

Lost habitat: Dead birds at the Point Calimere Wildlife and Bird Sanctuary in Nagapattinam, Tamil Nadu. ▪ M. MOORTHY

CONTINUED ON ▸ PAGE 10

Communal clashes rock U.P. ahead of VHP meet

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
LUCKNOW

The festival of Milad-un-Nabi on Wednesday was marked by communal clashes in two districts of Uttar Pradesh, Mirzapur and Kanpur, as tension soared in these parts of the state ahead of the Vishwa Hindu Parishad's meeting in Ayodhya for construction of a Ram temple.

Prohibitory orders have been imposed in Mirzapur for over 24 hours. No serious injuries were, however, reported.

In Mirzapur, trouble started on Tuesday as members of two communities engaged in stone-pelting after a minor dispute during a Ram-Janaki bike yatra taken out by the VHP through minority-populated areas.

Mirzapur District Magistrate Anurag Patel told *The Hindu* that the VHP did not have permission to hold the bike rally. The local SHO and two constables had been suspended for negligence, he said. No action has been taken against the VHP activists.

Additional SP Mirzapur Prakash Swaroop Pandey said five persons were arrested on the complaint of the VHP. Clashes were reported in Kanpur's Kalyanpur area too.

Marching again

Fighting for their rights: Farmers and tribals participating in a march from Thane to Mumbai on Wednesday, demanding compensation for drought and transfer of forest rights to tribals. A similar protest was held in Nashik eight months ago. ▪ PTI

'Govt. trying to weaken democracy'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEWDELHI

The Narendra Modi government is trying to weaken democracy, his predecessor, Manmohan Singh, said in Indore on Wednesday.

"The country has witnessed the credibility of institutions like Parliament and CBI being systematically denigrated. There is a careful, well-thought-out and calibrated effort to weaken democracy," he said, reading out from a written statement.

DETAILS ON ▸ PAGE 10

'No bias in probe into FCRA cases'

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The Union Home Ministry has told the Delhi High Court that the government is probing without any bias all allegations of violation of the foreign contribution regulation law, including a complaint of alleged contravention of FCRA against Union Transport Minister Nitin Gadkari.

DETAILS ON ▸ PAGE 7

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A miracle cure for Karnataka's 'unwell' policemen

Medical problems cited by police personnel to seek plum postings vanish after threat of 'golden handshake'

IMRAN GOWHAR
BENGALURU

It is not unusual for junior police personnel working with the Karnataka State Reserve Police (KSRP) to seek transfers to plum postings, citing health reasons. These requests are usually to units attached to Bengaluru's Central Business District (CBD), Things, however, came to a head when senior officials realised that 70% of the personnel who had sought transfers in recent months had given reasons ranging from diabetes and back pain to sinus problems and high blood pressure.

Taking serious note of the spurt in applications, Bhaskar Rao, Additional Director General of Police, KSRP, issued a circular on November 19, stating that personnel applying for transfers without valid reasons would be forced to take compulsory retirement. This was enforceable under Rule 285 of the KSRP.

"Backaches are something that most of us suffer from. Also, diabetes cannot be a reason for seeking a transfer. Such transfer requests are considered only if the person is suffering from a serious health problem and after he can show how the new posting would help address his problem," Mr. Rao said. "The reserve police force is a highly disciplined outfit, on a par with the Army. I cannot run it with sick people. We need to be fit and fine to defend the State, and candidates here are not recruited on compassionate grounds."

Though it's early days, senior officials said they had received a flurry of requests from junior personnel seeking to withdraw their transfer applications.

A majority of the recruits are eyeing postings in the CBD area for purely monetary reasons, said a senior official on the condition of anonymity. As the city police force is facing shortage of manpower, the Home Department had decided to use the KSRP to fill vacant posts.

While the circular has caused much consternation, Mr. Rao defended his decision. "We are not penalising anyone. It's like a 'golden handshake' to relieve sick personnel who cannot perform their duties for which they had received training. We can fill those posts with deserving candidates," he said.

ILLUSTRATION: DEEPAK HARICHANDAN

IN BRIEF

Assam BJP releases its rural poll manifesto

GUWAHATI

The Assam BJP on Wednesday released its manifesto for the coming rural polls in the State, promising development schemes for families living in rurla areas. The manifesto was released in the presence of Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal and State BJP president Ranjeet Dass. PTI

Truck set afire, driver run over in Kokrajhar

KOKRAJHAR

A flour-laden truck from U.P. was set on fire by miscreants in Assam's Kokrajhar district and its driver knocked down by a passing vehicle as he attempted to flee, a police officer said. The incident happened on Tuesday night during the observation of a 48-hour Assam bandh. PTI

Odisha CM urges PM to halt Polavaram project construction

Seeks resolution of all pending issues; third letter to Centre in three years

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BHUBANESWAR

Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik has urged Prime Minister Narendra Modi to cancel an order given the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change for Polavaram project in July this year and stop construction of the project until all the pending issues are resolved.

Naveen Patnaik has suggested that the Polavaram project in Andhra Pradesh be reformulated without causing large-scale submergence in other States. ▪ FILE PHOTO

'Injury to Odisha interest'

"If the project is allowed to be completed before the resolution of all the pending issues, it will cause permanent injury to the interest of the State of Odisha and its people," Mr. Patnaik wrote in a two-page letter sent to Mr. Modi on Wednesday.

"I am constrained to write this letter to draw your personal attention and intervention on the magnitude of the consequences that the people of Odisha will have to face viz. the submergence of tribal villages resulting in mass displacement of tribals, the flooding of fertile agricultural lands and submergence of large forest area, all of which can be avoided if only an opportunity is given for a final resolution of the disputes pending before the Supreme Court," Mr. Patnaik said in his letter.

The Chief Minister has suggested that the Polavaram project in Andhra Pradesh can be reformulated as per Godavari Water Dispute Tribunal, without causing large-scale submergence in the States of Odisha, Telangana and Chhattisgarh.

Mentioning that public hearing in Odisha has not been carried out till date, Mr. Patnaik said that a detailed study of design, flood and the studies related to backwater extent during floods will allow to make an assessment about the exact submergence in Odisha.

In his letter, Mr. Patnaik also mentioned that he has written three letters to the Prime Minister on the issue in the past – September 16, 2015, November 28, 2017, and July 12, 2018.

Cuttack accident: doctors, staff lauded for arresting death toll

10 passengers died, 42 were hurt when bus skidded off bridge

CORRESPONDENT
CUTTACK

Gloom and sorrow engulfed the campus of Sriram Chandra Bhanj Medical College and Hospital here on Wednesday morning with crowds of grieving friends and relatives waiting to either take the bodies of their near and dear ones home or to be with them as they battled for their life following the deadly bus accident in the city on Tuesday evening.

At least 10 passengers died and 42 others were injured when the bus they were travelling in fell onto the Mahanadi riverbed after skidding off a bridge. The hospital provided free ambulances to carry the bodies to their respective villages.

Mangled remains of the bus that fell onto the Mahanadi riverbed, in Cuttack on Wednesday. ▪ PTI

"There has not been any increase in the death toll after the injured were given treatment here by a team of doctors drawn from 10 departments," informed SCB Hospital emergency officer B.N. Moharana on Wednesday evening.

Odisha Governor Ganeshi Lal, Health Minister Pratap Jena and Transport Minister Nrushingha Sahu visited the hospital and expressed satisfaction over the manner in which the doctors and paramedics acted during the initial crucial hours to arrest the death toll.

"We cannot bring back those who have left us but we will not allow anyone of the remaining to leave us," the Governor said, lauding the efforts of the volunteers and the rescue workers.

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Corrigendum

Subject: - Corrigendum to the eNIT No.SIMS -324-NIT 18 (Imports) of 2018 dated 10-10-2018 (High End Linear Accelerator at SKIMS on Turnkey basis.

Annexure " B"

Clause No. 1 shall be read as :-

Linear Accelerator (High End Dual Energy Linear Accelerator with IGRT and electrons & SRS/SRT/SBRT + VMAT/ Rapid ARC):

An Advanced, new generation of Dual Energy 6 MV with FFF & 10 MV with FFF (as standard) mode Linac medical linear accelerator should be equipped with a multileaf collimator (MLC) and an electronic portal imaging device (EPID) and kV-conebeam CT (CBCT) to perform conformal treatment techniques such as three dimensional conformal radiotherapy (3D-CRT), intensity modulated radiation therapy (IMRT) and image guided radiotherapy (IGRT) volumetric Modulated Arc Therapy (VMAT), stereotactic treatments with Flattening Filter Free technology based linear accelerator. The Linear Accelerator shall have latest digital controlled technology to avoid frequent beam hold offs and to overcome slow speed of collimator leaf and dose mismatch.

Clause 5.9-1 shall be read as :- Indexed carbon fiber tabletop shall be provided with robotic controlled couch with six dimensions movement.

Clause No.5.13.2 shall be read as :- An optical distance indicator (ODI) of SSD from alteast 80cm to 130cm with accuracy of ±1mm

at iso centre should be provided. Front and side pointers

Clause No. 7.2 shall be read as :- A 3D volume CT image data is reconstructed from a series of 2D projection images acquired as the linear accelerator gantry is rotated (4D CBCT mode is optional). This image data can be used for verification of patient position and target motion. This shall have flexibility in providing full or partial gantry rotations, with the opportunity to select a choice of gantry rotation speeds. The cone-beam CT technology should be of amorphous silicon (a-Si) based flat panel detector technology. The system should be able to acquire and display on-board 2D and 3D volume images of the patient immediately prior to treatment. The images should be in DICOM 3 and DICOM RT format. The network provided should be able to transfer images to (from) EPID/CBCT from (to) TPS and simulator and additional workstations.

Clause No.8.1 shall be read as :-

Dose Calculation Algorithms TPS should include 3-D Pencil Beam, Convolution and Superposition algorithms, AAA & Acuros, for dose calculations in 2-D and 3-D external beam applications with electron and photon beams. Monte Carlo algorithms or alternative to Monte Carlo algorithms should be quoted.

Besides the following General terms and conditions has been also modified as per following:-

Clause No.6(d). Stands deleted.

Clause 22 is modified to the extent that :- The Guarantee /Warranty shall also include software / Hardware mandatory updates /upgrades during warranty /CMC.

Clause No.29 shall be read as :- In order to ensure full &optimum utilization of the equipment, the successful tenderer(s) shall have to impart free on site training to one Radiation Oncologist, one Physicist & one Technologist, of the Sher-i-Kashmir Institute of Medical Sciences Soura Srinagar Kashmir, J&K India. However in case explicit traning clause is mentioned in the technical specifications, same shall prevail

Rest of the NIT/ technical specification & other terms and conditions shall remain unchanged.

No: SIMS 325 - nit 18 (Imports) 2018-4669-75-2259-2262
Dated: 16/11/2018

Sd/-
Asstt. Materials Management Officer (Imports)

No: SIMS - 2261,Dated:- 20.11.2018

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THURSDAY, NOV. 22			
RISE	06:49	SET	17:25
RISE	17:03	SET	05:33
FRIDAY, NOV. 23			
RISE	06:50	SET	17:25
RISE	17:48	SET	06:35
SATURDAY, NOV. 24			
RISE	06:51	SET	17:25
RISE	18:38	SET	07:39

Delhi Weather	max	min
Delhi City	28	12
Safdarjang	28	12
Palam	28	14

Delhi Palam Today
28°C A bright sunny sky will prevail over the city. A damp afternoon lies ahead. Night is likely to be cozy and starry.

Delhi Palam Tomorrow
27°C The sky will remain sunny over the area. A pleasant day lies ahead. A cozy and starry night is likely.

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3 held for abduction, rape of 8-year-old girl

STAFF REPORTER
BERHAMPUR

Three burglars involved in kidnap and rape of an eight-year-old girl after committing theft at her house were arrested in Odisha's Ganjam district.

The accused – Kalia Patra, Mohan Topakul and Siba Kanmur, all from the same district – were tracked down and arrested on Tuesday night. According to police officers, they have confessed to committing the crime.

Ganjam Superintendent of Police Brijesh Kumar Ray said the trio had allegedly broken into the victim's house in Dhoyakana village around 2 a.m. on October 31 and stolen ₹20,000 cash as well as gold and silver ornaments. On their way out, they took the girl, sleeping in her bedroom, with them and sexually assaulted her in a nearby paddy field.

Two special police teams had been formed to investigate the case. Later, a Special Investigation Team had been formed to monitor the developments in the investigation, the officer said.

Initial investigation suggests the three accused were involved in at least 11 incidents of burglary and theft in Ganjam district. Instruments used to break into houses and some stolen ornaments were seized from their possession, the police said.

Law may be amended to appoint Kolkata Mayor: official

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
KOLKATA

The West Bengal government is mulling an amendment in the Kolkata Municipal Corporation Act, 1980, to facilitate the appointment of a city mayor, a day after Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee asked senior Trinamool Congress leader Sovan Chatterjee to step down from the post, an official said Wednesday.

Mr. Chatterjee, who was the Housing and Fire Services Minister, resigned from the Cabinet on Tuesday.

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR,
SHER-I-KASHMIR INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES, SOURA
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, MECHANICAL,
Tel: 0194-2403679,2401618-ext.No.2159, email:mechanicalskims@gmail.com

NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER, RE-01 Gist of e-NIT NO.62 OF 2018-19 Dated.19.11.2018

For and on behalf of Governor of Jammu & Kashmir State, Executive Engineer, Mechanical, SKIMS, Soura, Srinagar, invites online e-bids in two (02) cover system from Manufacturer's/Authorized Dealers/Firms having expertise as detailed in the tender document for the following works:

S.No.	Name of the Work :-	Estimated Cost (Rs. in Lacs)
1	Supply, Installation, testing and commissioning of De-mineralized water treatment plant for pump House at SKIMS, Soura.	18.50

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

i)	Date and time of downloading/Sale of tender documents (Starting Date)	22.11.2018 from (11:00 Hrs)
ii)	Date & Time of Bidding Queries/clarification/Pre-bid meet	26-11-2018 upto 14:00 Hours.
iii)	Last Date & Time of Bid Uploading	28.11.2018 upto 11:00 Hours
iv)	Date of Submission of hard copies (only original EMD/DD for document fee)	29.11.2018 upto 14:00 Hours
v)	Date & Time of Commercial/technical Bid (Cover-I) opening	30-11-2018 11:00 Hours (or next convenient day) .
vi)	Date & Time of Financial Bid(Cover-IInd) Opening of the qualifying Bidders	01-12-2018 11:30 Hours or next Convenient Day).
vii)	Cost of e-bid Document	Rs.100/=(Rupees One Hundred only).
viii)	Amount of Earnest Money Deposit(CDR/FDR)	Rs.2800 (Rupees Two thousand Eight Hundred only)
ix)	Completion Time	Forty-Five (45) days
x)	Budget Head	M&R (Non-Plan) for the year 2018-19

No:-SIMS 139 EX. 432/18-2092-2100-2267-2270, Dated:- 19.11.2018
No:-SIMS 2269, Dated:- 20.11.2018

Sd/-
Executive Engineer,
Mechanical, SKIMS

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR,
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NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER
Gist of e-NIT NO.63 OF 2018-19 Dated.19.11.2018

For and on behalf of Governor of Jammu & Kashmir State, Executive Engineer, Mechanical, SKIMS, Soura, Srinagar, invites online e-bids in two (02) cover system from Original Lift Manufactures or their Authorized Dealers/Representatives/Registered firms having experience in installation of lifts in Govt. institutions/ departments, detailed in the tender document for the following works:

S.No.	Name of the Work :-	Estimated Cost (Rs. in Lacs)
1	Design, Supply, Installation, Testing, Inspection and Commissioning of Sixteen (16) Passenger capsule type Elevators for Nursing College at SKIMS, Soura.	35.90

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

i)	Date and time of downloading/Sale of tender documents (Starting Date)	22.11.2018 from (11:00 Hrs)
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iv)	Date of Submission of hard copies (only original EMD/DD for document fee)	01.12.2018 upto 14:00 Hours
v)	Date & Time of Commercial/technical Bid (Cover-I) opening	03-12-2018 11:30 Hours (or next convenient day) .
vi)	Date & Time of Financial Bid(Cover-IInd) Opening of the qualifying Bidders	04-12-2018 11:30 Hours or next Convenient Day).
vii)	Cost of e-bid Document	Rs.1800/=(Rupees One Thousand & Eight hundred only).
viii)	Amount of Earnest Money Deposit(CDR/FDR)	Rs.71800 Lacs (Rupees Seventy One Thousand & Eight hundred only)
ix)	Completion Time	Six (06) months from the date of issue of LOI of Allotment Order.
x)	Budget Head	Ongoing Plan works for the year 2018-19

No:-SIMS 139 EX. 439/18-2101-11-2263-2266, Dated:- 19.11.2018
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IN BRIEF

Make Swachhta Abhiyan a success: Khattar

CHANDIGARH

Haryana CM Manohar Lal Khattar on Wednesday urged officers to make 'Swachhta Abhiyan' a success through public participation and contribute in making the State clean. He asked officers to ensure participation of schoolchildren for awareness about cleanliness. PTI

Two tiger cubs found dead in M.P.

MANDLA

Two tiger cubs were found dead in Kanha Tiger Reserve in Madhya Pradesh on Wednesday, an official said. The carcasses of the cubs that were just over two-months-old, were found by a patrolling party in Mukki forest range, KTR's field director L. Krishnamurthy said. PTI

12-year-old dies after gate falls on him

KOTA (RAJASTHAN)

A 12-year-old boy died after an iron gate of a temple apparently fell on him while he was playing near it in Rajasthan's Jhalawar district, police said on Wednesday. Harish Dangi was rushed to a hospital, but was declared brought dead, the police said, adding that a case had been registered. PTI

IED recovered in Jharkhand

MEDININAGAR

A powerful improvised explosive device (IED) was recovered by security personnel from naxalism-affected Palamau district on Wednesday. The recovery was made during anti-naxalism operation launched in the area, located about 60 km from here. PTI

Haryana enhances DA for govt. employees

CHANDIGARH

The Haryana government has enhanced dearness allowance by 6% for the State government employees, who were drawing their pay in the pre-revised pay scale or grade as per the 6th Pay Commission. PTI

Akshay appears before SIT in Kotkapura firing cases

Denies alleged role in arranging meeting between Dera chief and Sukhbir Badal

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHANDIGARH

The Special Investigation Team of Punjab police, probing the 2015 police firing incidents in Kotkapura, on Wednesday questioned actor Akshay Kumar over his alleged role in arranging meeting between Dera Sacha Sauda chief Gurmeet Ram Rahim and former Punjab Deputy Chief minister Sukhbir Singh Badal.

Akshay Kumar returning to Mumbai after appearing before the SIT in Chandigarh on Wednesday. ▪ AKHILESH KUMAR

Quizzed for 40 minutes

The Bollywood actor appeared before the SIT here and was questioned for over 40 minutes at the Police headquarters.

Mr. Kumar was accompanied with his counsel Sant Pal Singh Sidhu, who later talking to journalists said "Akshay informed the SIT that he has never met Gurmeet Ram Rahim and therefore the question of arranging any meeting between Mr. Sukhbir Badal and Gurmeet Ram Rahim at his residence in Mumbai does not even arise," said Mr. Sidhu.

'Never met Sukhbir'

Mr. Sidhu added that Mr. Akshay also told the SIT members that he had never met Mr. Sukhbir Badal outside Punjab.

Meanwhile, Shiromani Akali Dal termed the Akhay Kumar's interrogation by the SIT as a "photo session".

'Sensationalising case'

Mahesh Inder Singh Grewal, senior vice-president and spokesperson of Akali Dal, said that Mr. Kumar was summoned only to "sensationalise" the case rather than finding any substantive evidence said.

"Mr. Akshay kumar does not have any direct connection with the case but was dragged in by the ruling Congress government to dramatise and to make the case sensational by summoning a top actor of Bollywood," he alleged.

After Tejashwi's protest, CCTV removed from CM's residence

RJD leader had claimed it was installed to snoop on him

AMARNATH TEWARY
PATNA

After Leader of the Opposition in Bihar Assembly Tejashwi Yadav's furious protest against being snooped upon, the CCTV camera in question – installed on the rear boundary wall of Chief Minister Nitish Kumar's residence – was removed on Wednesday. The high-resolution CCTV camera, overlooking the adjoining official residence of Mr. Yadav, was placed on November 15.

The Rashtriya Janata Dal leader's 5, Deshratna Marg bungalow shares its boundary with the Chief Minister's 1, Anne Marg residence on one side.

Mr. Yadav had expressed outrage on social media over the mounting of the CCTV camera. The Bihar CM's residence is surrounded by arterial roads on three sides and

RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav. ▪

the Leader of the Opposition's residence on the fourth side, he said, but the CM felt the need for a CCTV camera "only on the wall bordering his political adversary's residence". Mr. Yadav had also used the incident to take a dig at Mr. Kumar's "obsession with luxury and grandeur" given his "self-proclaimed" austerity. "While Nitish Kumar and the police were well within their rights to ensure the security of the CM, they had no right to peep into our bedrooms, the main entrance of the house, kitchen and residential office of my residence," he had added.

Later, the police said that the camera was installed in view of the "yearly security audit" of the Chief Minister's residence.

The ruling NDA leaders had slammed Mr. Yadav for raising objections to the installation of the camera. "He should not worry about the CCTV camera as it has not been put in his bedroom. He seems worried that criminals coming to meet him may get caught on the CCTV camera," Janata Dal (United) spokesperson Sanjay Singh had said. Sources close to the Chief Minister told *The Hindu* that he was not happy with the CCTV camera installation and had expressed his displeasure over it.

Two aides of prime accused remanded in CBI custody

Over sexual abuse of shelter home girls in Muzaffarpur

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
MUZAFFARPUR (BIHAR)

Two close aides of Brajesh Thakur, the prime accused in the Muzaffarpur shelter home case in which the girl inmates of the home were sexually abused, were remanded in a five-day CBI custody by a court here on Wednesday.

The special court hearing cases filed under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act passed the order, declining the Central Bureau of Investigation's (CBI) request for a seven-day custody of Madhu and Ashwani Kumar - who allegedly posed as a doctor - and posted the matter to November 26 for further hearing.

Madhu, who was grilled by the police on Tuesday afternoon, was arrested on Wednesday morning and made to undergo medical tests at the Sadar hospital, before being produced before the court, along with Ashwani, who was arrested the previous night.

Madhu, who handled many businesses of Thakur, had told reporters that she was not hiding but did not appear before the probe agency as she was never named as an accused nor was a warrant issued against her.

'Privy to no secrets'

She had also claimed that she knew nothing about the goings on at the Balika Grih (shelter home for girls), was "privy to no secrets" and refuted the media reports that she used to liaison with influential people to promote Thakur's NGOs, newspapers and other businesses.

Kumar, who was arrested from his in-laws place in Fatehpur village under the Kurhani police station in the district, did not have any medical background.

He learnt how to administer injections while sitting in the clinic of his father, a doctor, at Kurhani, about 30 km from Muzaffarpur town.

He was associated with Thakur's NGO "Sewa Sankalp Aur Vikas Samiti" and allegedly used to administer injections laced with sedatives to the shelter home inmates before they were subjected to sexual abuse, sources close to Kumar said.

A number of people have so far been arrested in connection with the high-profile scandal, which came to light following a social audit of Bihar shelter homes by Tata Institute of Social Sciences.

Fair fun

Balancing act: Tourists take part in a 'matka race' at the Pushkar Camel Fair in Rajasthan on Wednesday. ▪ PTI

Home dept. to examine Punjab train tragedy report

Probe panel submits findings to State Home Secretary

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
CHANDIGARH

A 300-page magisterial probe report on the Amritsar train accident in which about 60 people died last month was submitted to the Punjab Home Secretary on Wednesday.

Jalandhar Divisional Commissioner B. Purushartha, who was appointed special executive magistrate by the government to probe the October 19 accident, said the report was submitted to Punjab Home Secretary N. S. Kalsi.

The report had statements of over 150 people. They included railway officials and Punjab Minister Navjot Singh Sidhu's wife Navjot Kaur Sidhu, who was the chief guest at the Dussehra event, held close to the railway tracks in Amritsar.

The report would now be examined by the Home Department, a senior official said.

Sixty people, who had spilled onto the tracks while watching burning of Ravan effigy on Dussehra, were mowed down by a train in Amritsar. ▪ FILE PHOTO PTI

Minister Navjot Singh Sidhu, who had questioned the Railways for giving a clean chit to the train driver, too had submitted his statement in writing.

Opposition Akali Dal had rejected the institution of a magisterial probe and sought registration of a criminal case against Navjot Kaur Sidhu and the event organisers.

About sixty people were mowed down by a train that hurtled through a crowd, which had spilled onto the railways tracks while watching the burning of a Ravana effigy on Dussehra this year.

The railways had initially refused to order a probeBut two weeks after the accident, it said the chief commissioner of Railway safety would probe the tragedy.

BJP wins 5 mayoral seats in Uttarakhand

Civic polls in the State sprang a surprise with Independents grabbing 23 posts

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
DEHRADUN

The BJP has won five of the seven mayoral seats and 34 of the 84 chairman and president posts in the Uttarakhand civic polls, while Independents sprang a surprise by grabbing 23 posts.

The Congress won 25 of the chairman and president posts in the State's civic bodies and the BSP won one post, according to information released by the State Election Commission here on Wednesday morning.

Results for one post is yet to be declared, it said.

The civic body poll was a high-stake battle for the ruling BJP that was looking to match its own impressive showing in the Uttarakhand elections last year when it had won 57 out of 70 assembly seats.

It was also significant for the Congress that has been struggling to stage a comeback after its defeat in the Assembly polls.

The BJP won five of the seven mayoral seats, including Dehradun, Rishikesh, Kashipur, Rudrapur and Haldwani, while the Congress won Haridwar and Kotdwar, the commission said.

CM Trivendra Rawat offers sweets to newly-elected Mayor of Rishikesh, Anita Mamgai, in Dehradun on Wednesday. ▪ PTI

84 urban local bodies

Voting was held for 84 urban local bodies, including seven municipal corporations, 39 municipal councils and 38 Nagar Panchayats in Uttarakhand on Nov 18.

Counting for the polls began on Tuesday morning and went on till late in the afternoon on Wednesday.

Chief Minister Trivendra Singh Rawat termed the result "historic" and said the people had reposed their faith in the saffron party.

BJP's mayoral candidate for Dehradun, Sunil Uniyal Gama, who is said to be very close to the Chief Minister defeated his nearest rival Dinesh Aggarwal of the Congress by over 35000 votes.

Other victorious BJP mayoral candidates included Anita Mamgai (Rishikesh), Usha Chaudhry (Kashipur), Rampal Singh (Rudrapur) and Jogendra Rautela (Haldwani).

Congress's Anita Sharma won in Haridwar and Hemlata Negi in Kotdwar.

Out of a total of 84 posts of municipal council chairmen and panchayat presidents, results of 83 have been declared. The BJP won 34, Congress 25, Independents 23 and BSP one posts.

'Historic results'

Mr. Rawat expressed his satisfaction at the results and termed them "encouraging" and "historic", but said the party will review the loss of some key seats, including Doiwala, his own constituency.

"Apparently it seems the equations went wrong in Doiwala. But we will definitely introspect and identify the factors which led to our defeat there," Mr. Rawat told reporters on the sidelines of the celebrations.

Five mowed down by car

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
HISAR (HARYANA)

Five labourers were killed and nine injured after a car ran over them on an overbridge near Jindal steel plant here, police said on Wednesday. The deceased were residents of Bihar's Saharsa and Khagaria districts.

The incident took place at about 2 a.m. on Wednesday, they said.

The car, which was headed to Hansi, dashed against the divider of the overbridge and ran over the labourers who were sleeping on a footpath, the police said.

Desperately seeking Netaji ahead of LS polls

Mulayam's son Akhilesh, brother Shivpal gear up to celebrate his 80th birthday, seek blessings

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
LUCKNOW

Samajwadi Party founder Mulayam Singh could find himself in a dilemma of choosing between son Akhilesh and brother Shivpal, both of whom will be celebrating his 80th birthday separately on Thursday and seek his "blessings" ahead of the Lok Sabha polls.

The uncle and nephew parted ways in 2016 after Akhilesh removed Shivpal as the SP's State president and last year, a national convention nominated the former Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister as party head replacing Mulayam.

Shivpal Yadav's Pragatisheel Samajwadi Party-Lohia (PSPL) has planned State-wide celebrations, including events at the party's office at 6, Lal Bahadur Shastri Marg, here and Saifai, the native place of the Yadav clan, in Etawah.

The Akhilesh Yadav-led Samajwadi Party (SP), which has also planned to celebrate Mulayam's birthday across the State, will have an event at its office in the Uttar Pradesh capital.

Mulayam Singh ▪

The PSPL has decided to celebrate his birthday as "Dharm Nirpekshta Diwas" and organise a 'dangal' (wrestling event) in Saifai as Mulayam was a wrestler once and known for his skills in the ring.

"We will be celebrating the day as Dharm Nirpekshta Diwas (secularism day) as 'netaji' (as Mulayam is fondly called) is the one who stood against communal forces with full force.

"The objective of the day will be to strengthen social amity and ideology of secularism," Shivpal's son and PSPL general secretary Aditya Yadav said.

The Samajwadi Party is not far behind as it has also announced State-wide celebrations like those of previous years and asked its district officials and workers to organise events.

"The SP has asked its district and city cadre to celebrate Mulayam Singh Yadav's birthday. We have been organising his birthday earlier also. He is not only our party's founder but also a samajwadi icon," SP spokesperson Rajendra Chaudhary said.

Opposition raises questions over success of Jalyukta Shivar scheme

Congress calls the scheme a failure for using more tankers despite more rainfall; check facts, says BJP

STAFF REPORTER
MUMBAI

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)-led State government has come under the scanner for the efficiency of its flagship Jalyukta Shivar scheme with the Opposition claiming that despite higher percentage of rainfall in 2018, in comparison with the previous years, the number of water tankers currently deployed has increased.

In 2014, Maharashtra received 70.2% rainfall and total number of tankers deployed in the week beginning November 17, 2014, was 71. In 2015, the state received 59.4% rainfall and as per the data from Water Supplies and Sanitation department the number of tankers deployed in the corresponding week was 693. The implementation of the Jalyukta Shivar gained momentum after that. In 2018, the State has received total rainfall of 74.4% but as of November 17, 2018 the total number of tankers used stands at 715.

Precious commodity: The government has spent over ₹7,000 crore on the Jalyukta Shivar, which it has claimed as a grand success. ▪FILE PHOTO

"These numbers raise a serious question over theJalyukta Shivar scheme, for which the government has been claiming a grand success. The scheme is aimed at storing water at the village level and increasing ground water content. If those aims are fulfilled, why is the number of tankers being deployed in the state is increasing?" asked Congress spokesperson Sachin Sawant. He said that the government has spent over ₹7,000 crore on the scheme.

"If the scheme is not turning out to be useful then inquiry must be held on the quality of work. Where has the money gone? There should be a judicial inquiry into this scam," he said.

Replying to the allegations, BJP said that the Congress is misleading the people and should instead look at the number of tankers from May, as it is the month with the highest scarcity of water. Party spokesperson Keshav Upadhye said the number of tankers used in October-November can vary as many places in the State get retreating monsoon showers.

"During Congress rule in 2013, a total of 2,322 tankers were used in May despite 109% rainfall. On the contrary in 2017, despite 84% rainfall only 1,047 tankers were deployed. Congress leaders should check their facts instead of making baseless allegations," he said.

Pune residents oppose compulsory helmet rule

Attempts to implement this have failed at least thrice before

SHOUMOJIT BANERJEE
PUNE

The Pune City police's much-publicised directive making helmets compulsory from January 1 next year has met with opposition from citizens, activists and politicians cutting across party lines who have joined hands to form the 'anti-helmet compulsion action committee'.

Members of this committee vehemently opposed Pune Police Commissioner K. Venkatesham's recent decision to enact the provisions of Sections 128 and 129 of the Motor Vehicles (MV) Act, 1988 that make wearing of helmets by two-wheeler users mandatory.

Safety matters: The reason, according to Pune Police Commissioner K. Venkatesham, to enforce the helmet rule is the rising deaths of two-wheeler riders. Activists dismiss this as 'thoughtless' and 'absurd'. ▪FILE PHOTO

Rising deaths

Mr. Venkatesham said the decision follows increasing number of fatalities among two-wheeler riders – 211 so far this year, and 195 in 2017.

"This compulsory enforcement of the helmet rule, attempted a number times before in Pune – in December 2001, 2004, and again in 2011-12 – ended in failure each time. One reason is that for every new police chief taking charge, the helmet rule is often the easiest to implement, like a showpiece achievement," noted RTI activist Vivek Velankar, told *The Hindu*.

Mr. Velankar, founder of the 'Sajag Nagrik Manch', called the move "thoughtless" and "absurd" as it did not take into account the appalling condition of the city's roads and the placement of arbitrary speed-breakers which aggravate road accidents.

"The authorities are completely apathetic about the state of the roads, yet they are hell-bent on imposing this rule. Instead of addressing 'category A' traffic offences like lane-cutting, overspeeding, or driving from the wrong side, they are focusing on helmets," he said.

Maximum two-wheelers

With more than 24 lakh two-wheelers, the city boasts the maximum numbers in the country.

A deplorable transport system has ensured the presence of more two-wheelers in the ever-burgeoning city which is continually in the throes of traffic snarls.

"Given Pune's traffic congestion, one cannot exceed speeds of 25 km/hr on any of the main roads. Plus, there is the question of physical ailments like spondylitis occurring as a result of driving with helmets for a long time in a city where traffic jams have become the norm," said Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) leader Ankush Kakade.

Those opposing the move have also questioned the quality of helmets being manufactured.

"There is bound to be a scramble for helmets before January 1. There aren't enough ISI-certified helmets being manufactured in the country to satisfy Pune's requirements. The police commissioner's rash decision will only spawn an entire market of spurious helmets," Mr. Velankar observed.

Meanwhile, in the first phase, the police began cracking the whip on government officials found driving without helmets.

'Not for revenue'

Joint Commissioner of Police, Shivaji Bodkhe, clarified that the intent of the city police is not revenue garnering, as alleged by those opposing the compulsory helmet rule.

"It is natural that there will be some opposition. But we are organising sensitisation drives, not only in government offices, but also in private companies to urge employers to convince their staff of the benefits of using a helmet," Mr. Bodkhe told *The Hindu*.

NIA court refuses to share names

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI

A National Investigation Agency (NIA) court on Wednesday rejected a plea by Lieutenant Colonel Prasad Purohit, an accused in the Malegaon 2008 blasts, seeking names of witnesses in the trial.

On November 12, Mr. Purohit had filed two applications – one stating that the NIA has not submitted names of all witnesses in the trial, and that truncated information was shared with him. However, the NIA counsel Avinash Rasal objected to it and said since the matter is sensitive, names cannot be shared.

Complaint against Raj Bhavan for delay in reply to RTI application

Activist had sought details of Goa Governor's tours

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
PANAJI

Right to Information (RTI) activist Advocate Aires Rodrigues on Wednesday filed a complaint with the Goa State Information Commission (GSIC) against Goa Raj Bhavan for not furnishing information sought by him.

The Public Information Officer (PIO) and the Secretary to the Goa Governor have been named respondents in the complaint.

In his October 19 application to the PIO at Raj Bhavan, Mr. Rodrigues had sought information on details of official and unofficial tours and trips within India and overseas by the Governor and her family from the day she assumed office on August 31, 2014, and the total expenditure incurred on each visit.

Mr. Rodrigues had further sought details of guests including VIPs, VVIPs and others who stayed at Raj Bhavan since August 31, 2014 and the expenditure incurred on each guest. He also sought details of vehicles purchased for Raj Bhavan since August 31, 2014.

In his complaint filed on Wednesday, Mr. Rodrigues has pointed out that though the mandated time of 30 days, as specified in the RTI Act, has elapsed Raj Bhavan has not furnished the information sought by him nor has responded to his application.

He has sought that Raj Bhavan be directed to furnish the information immediately and penalty be imposed on Raj Bhavan under Section 20 of the RTI Act.

Earlier, while disposing another petition filed by Mr. Rodrigues, The Goa Chief Information Commissioner had on October 15 upheld the orders of the Commission that the Governor's secretariat of Goa Raj Bhavan is a public authority and comes within the purview of the RTI Act.

12 die in two road accidents

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
PUNE

At least 12 people from Maharashtra were killed and two seriously injured in two separate road accidents, one in Nashik district, and the other on the Pune-Solapur highway in neighbouring Karnataka on Wednesday morning.

According to the police, six members of a family returning from Indore, including three women and a minor, were killed on the spot following a collision between a private vehicle and a tempo truck in Nashik's Yeola taluk.

In another incident, six labourers from Pune, lost their lives when their vehicle hit a truck in Vijayapura district.

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FETTLING & FINISHING WORK OF G.I / SGI CASTINGS
Expressions of interest are invited from suitable parties for: Fettling and finishing work of grey Iron/ S.G Iron foundry castings of monthly quantity of 250 to 500MT
Interested parties can visit the site from 15-11-18 to 30-11-18 during office hours for making a study for the work and quote.
14-11-2018 Sd/- Managingdirector

EDUCATIONAL

TEST SERIES
UPPCS, JPSC BPSC
STARTS
आस्था IAS | 9555572161

सर्वोच्च अंक SAMVAD संवाद IAS ...सफलता का पर्याय एक मात्र विकल्प
नि:शुल्क कार्यशाला
- कुमार 'अजेय' एवं टीम
सा•अध्ययन
आधुनिक भारत 20-21 Nov. 11AM
कला एवं संस्कृति 23 Nov. 11AM
निबंध 24 Nov. 11AM
हिन्दी साहित्य 22 Nov. 9AM 4PM 6:30PM
107, ज्योति भवन, मुखर्जी नगर, दिल्ली-09
9891360366,9213162103,011-27654187

IAS लोक प्रशासन PCS
"Atul Lohiya"
नए बैच के लिए नि:शुल्क कार्यशाला
आज सायं 6:30 बजे
27655134, 9810651005

TENDERS

KBPS KERALA BOOKS AND PUBLICATIONS SOCIETY
(An undertaking of the Government of Kerala)
KAKKANAD P. 0, KOCHI 682 030. KERALA
Website : www.keralabooks.org
E-mail : books.kbps@gmail.com
No. P2-3176/LT/2018/4662 Dated: 19.11.2018
RE-E-TENDER NOTICE
Re-e-tenders are invited through www.etenders.kerala.gov.in for the supply of various varieties of maplitho reel papers. The last date for submitting e-tender along with 1% EMD, Tender Form and agreement is 29.11.2018. For more details and further information please contact over phone 0484-2422343 or visit our web site www.keralabooks.org.
Sd/- Managing Director i/c

EDUCATIONAL

LOOKING FOR permanent faculty for History and Polity for an IAS coaching for our Gwalior Centre. Interested persons can send their resume at info@gtalearnings.com

PUBLIC NOTICE

CENTRAL ARCADE CONDOMINIUM ASSOCIATION
CENTRAL ARCADE, DLF PHASE - II, GURGAON (ADHOC BODY)
NOTICE

To,
All Members/Shop Owners of Central Arcade Condominium Association, 'DLF Phase-II, Gurugram.
Sub: Elections of Governing Body of Central Arcade Condominium Association to be held on 9th DECEMBER 2018.
Dear Members,
As per the order Dt. 23.10.2018 of District Registrar of Firms & Societies, we have been authorized to conduct the Elections of the Central Arcade Condominium Association. We are pleased to announce the Elections to be held (as per the process laid down under HRRS Act-2012) on **Sunday,** the **9th December 2018** at Central Arcade in Basement: of Central Arcade DLF Phase-II, Gurugram **between 11.00 AM to 1.30 PM**. The Results will be declared at 2.00 PM on the same day. All Eligible members can participate and choose the 10 (Ten) Members of the Governing Body of Central Arcade Condominium Association of their choice. The nominations filed in ten no.s or less will automatically be declared elected unopposed. The nomination forms are available with the Returning Officer Mr. Vinod Kumar Kundra and with Mr. Deepak Sachdeva. The list of Members will be displayed at notice board of the association. As repeated requests made and also by speed post dt.30.10.2018 to the previous President/previous Secretary cum treasurer to provide us the list of eligible members but they did not responded to us in any way. Against our request to the District Registrar dt.08.11.2018 to give us the list of eligible members, the District Registrar provided us the list as per record of his office vide letter no. GGM/DIC/DR/6152 DT. 19.11.2018. As no record has been provided to us by the previous management after repeated requests, we request the members whose names appears in the list displayed on the notice board in Central Arcade and fulfill. the criteria with clause 3 of by laws of the Central Arcade Condominium Association read with section 20(2) of Haryana registration and regulation of societies act 2012, will be allowed only to participate for voting and can contest the elections of the Governing Body. Every eligible member has to give a proof of his / her payments made to participate in the Election process.The nominations can be filed by 7th December 2018 and the withdrawals can be done latest by **5.00 PM** on **8th December 2018**. The contact details of :
Mr. Vinod Kumar Kundra (9953906332) are given below. The duly filled nomination forms should be submitted to Mr. Vinod Kumar Kundra (The Returning Officer) between **1.30PM to 4.00 PM on 4th Dec 2018, 5th Dec 2018, 6th Dec. 2018 & up to 5.00PM on 7th Dec 2018.**
YOUR ACTIVE PARTICIPATION WILL BE HIGHLY APPRECIATED.
SIGNED
Dated: 22.11.2018 (ADHOC BODY)

PUBLIC NOTICE

BEFORE MR SAURAV AGRAWAL SOLE ARBITRATOR
IN THEARBITRATION BETWEEN
M/s Shasvat Advertising Pvt. Ltd (D – 182, 2nd Floor, Lajpat Nagar – I, New Delhi – 110024) ...Claimant
AND
1. M/S BYRS INTERNATIONAL PVT. LTD 305, Arunachal Building, 19,Barakhamba Road, Connaught Place, New Delhi- 110001
2. Rahul Gaur R/o B-191 Sector 44, Noida U.P - 201301
Also at, L - 501, Le Lagune Society, Behind Ambience mall, Gurgaon, Haryana - 122011
3. Mrs. Navneet Gaur R/o B-191,Sector 44, Noida U.P - 201301
Also at, L - 501, Le Lagune Society, Behind Ambience mall, Gurgaon, Haryana –122011
....Respondents
NOTICE OF PROCEEDING
Take Notice that M/s Shasvat Advertising Pvt. Ltd the Claimant has/have instituted the aforementioned arbitration proceedings against the Respondents before me as the Sole Arbitrator. Several attempts had been made to serve the above Respondents. In some cases, the postal envelopes were delivered or refused, but in some cases, it was returned unserved. The Arbitrator vide order dated 16.10.2018 has directed the Claimant of the Notice of the present proceedings be also affected by publication. Hence, this proclamation under Order 5 Rule 20 CPC is hereby issued for the Respondentsto appear personally or through their counsels on the next date of hearing i.e. 23.11.2018 at 5:00 PM at Flat No. 3D, White House Apartment, 10 Bhagwan Das Road, New Delhi – 110001. Take notice that, in default of appearance on the day before mentioned, the above said case will be heard and determined ex-parte.The contact details of the advocate of the Claimant i.e. Anand Mishra, Advocate,6/3 Kalkaji Extension, Opposite Nehru Place, New Delhi, (Mobile) 9810123420.
Given under my hand, this the 12th day, November, of 2018
Saurav Agrawal (Sole Arbitrator)

PUBLIC NOTICE

General Public is hereby notified that my client is intending to Purchase Basement Floor (area about 1574 sq. ft.) & Ground Floor (area about 1976 sq. ft.) in property bearing Pvt. No. G-4, being part of property No.31/77, West Punjabi Bagh, New Delhi-26 with undivided, indivisible and impartial proportionate share in land beneath & other amenities from (1) M/s Barkat Raj Infra Pvt. Ltd. having registered office at 416, Ground Floor, Bhera Enclave, Paschim Vihar, New Delhi (2) Lavlish Chawla S/o Sh. K.R. Chawla R/o G-80, Mansarover Garden, New Delhi-15 and (3) Sh. Navnish Chawla S/o Sh. K.R. Chawla R/o G-80, Mansarover Garden, New Delhi-15. However, before purchasing the aforesaid property my client hereby gives instant notice to the public at large and calls upon all or any person(s) who may have any right, title or interest in the aforesaid property and/or who have either already filed or intend to file any claim, dispute, petition, appeal or other like proceeding or had obtained any decree, award or other award concerning the said property to submit all their objections & claims in writing together with supporting documents / proofs thereof, to the undersigned within 15 days from the date of publication of this notice failing which my client shall presume that no adverse claims or objections concerning the property in question exists or if the same do exist, they stand waived hereinafter; and such event my client shall proceed to purchase the aforesaid property by way of registered Sale Deed.
Manjeet Singh Bhamra Advocate
Office : 2/1 (2nd Floor) Furniture Block, Kirti Nagar, New Delhi-110015

TENDERS

भारतीय विमानपत्तन प्राधिकरण AIRPORTS AUTHORITY OF INDIA
NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER
(TENDER ID: 2018_AAI_17912_1)
Item rate tenders are invited through CPP e-tendering portal **[https://etenders.gov.in/eprocure/app]** by Asst. General Manager (Engg-Civil), Airports Authority of India, RHQ SR, Operational Offices Complex , Chennai – 600 027 on behalf of Chairman, AAI from the eligible contractors for the composite work of **"Construction of Hostel Accommodation in AAI (NAD) Residential colony at Chennai Airport, Chennai . SH : Civil and Electrical Works"** for an estimated cost of **Rs.99868267/-** with a period of completion 12 (Twelve) months **[including 60 days considered for rain period].** Last date and time of submission of bid document is 30.11.2018 up to 1800 hrs.For detailed information, log on to CPP e-Procurement portal reference: **https://etenders.gov.in/eprocure/app** Further clarification/corrigendum, if any, will be notified through e-Procurement Portal at **https://etenders.gov.in/eprocure/app**

PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT

REPAIR LAPTOP/DESKTOP at your doorstep(affordable price). Ph:8860890477, https://urmishan.com/contact–us

IN BRIEF

Cabinet expansion may be put off in Karnataka

BENGALURU

The much-awaited expansion of the Karnataka Cabinet is likely to be put off yet again as Congress president Rahul Gandhi and senior Central leaders of the party are busy in campaigning for the Assembly elections. During an interaction with *The Hindu* on Wednesday, Deputy Chief Minister G. Parameshwara said the central leaders had not yet given any specific dates for holding talks with State leaders on Cabinet expansion.

Vishweshwar Reddy to join Congress tomorrow

HYDERABAD

After submitting his resignation to the Telangana Rashtra Samiti on Tuesday, its Chevalla MP Konda Vishweshwar Reddy met Congress president Rahul Gandhi in New Delhi on Wednesday and conveyed his wish to join the party. Mr. Reddy will join the Congress in the presence of UPA chairperson Sonia Gandhi who will be felicitated at a public meeting to be held in Medchal on Friday.

Don't stop genuine pilgrims in Sabarimala, HC tells police

'Prohibitory orders do not apply to mantra chanting'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
KOCHI

A Division Bench of the Kerala High Court directed the police not to prevent genuine pilgrims, individually or in groups, from proceeding to Sabarimala and chanting Sarana mantras.

The Bench comprising Justice P.R. Ramachandra Menon and Justice N. Anil Kumar made it clear that the prohibitory orders issued under Section 144 of the Criminal Procedure Code would not stand in the way of the genuine pilgrims proceeding to Sabarimala and also chanting of Sarana mantras.

The court, however, added that if anybody breached peace, it was up to the police to identify the violators and take appropriate action against them. The court directed the State government to produce the files, including police reports, leading to the issue of prohibitory orders.

The Bench passed the order on two writ petitions challenging the validity of the prohibitory orders issued by the Pathanamthitta and Kottayam district collectors at Sabarimala and its adjoining areas.

When the petitions were taken up for hearing, the court orally observed that the fact that a group of 110 pilgrims, including 33 children, from Mumbai had to return without having darshan pointed to the sad state of affairs at Sabarimala. This was perhaps because the excessive restrictions had created fear in their minds.

The court orally observed that it had occasion to see that the police was waking up sleeping pilgrims and sending them out at Sabarimala.

The court said that the police were not abiding by the oral directives of the High Court not to prevent pilgrims from using the 'Nadappanthal'.

Minister Pon. Radhakrishnan arrives at Sannidanam in Sabarimala on Wednesday. ▪ H. VIBHU

Pon. Radhakrishnan flays police, administration

PATHANAMTHITTA

Union Minister of State for Finance and Shipping Pon. Radhakrishnan, who was on his annual pilgrimage to the Ayyappa temple on Wednesday, came down heavily on the "unnecessary and avoidable restrictions imposed on the pilgrims" by the police and the administration at Sabarimala. Mr. Radhakrishnan alleged "arrogance" by a police official who had an argument with him over movement of vehicles to Pampa.

BJP leader K. Surendran, 71 others granted bail

PATHNAMTHITTA

A court here on Wednesday granted conditional bail to 72 people, including BJP general secretary K. Surendran, who were arrested in connection with the Sabarimala temple row. Mr. Surendran, along with two others, had been arrested on November 18 from Nilackal as he tried to proceed to the temple despite being advised by the police against visiting it due to law and order issues. PTI

Field trip

Narrow escape: A trainer aircraft of the Rajiv Gandhi Aviation Academy that crash-landed on a field in Ranga Reddy district of Telangana. The pilot escaped with minor injuries. ▪ NAGARA GOPAL

'Will not bow come what may'

A.P. CM takes to Twitter to tear into BJP, Jagan and Pawan

STAFF REPORTER
VIJAYAWADA

Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu said he would not keep quiet if the Central government tries to dictate things to the State and asserted that the rapid development achieved by Andhra Pradesh (A.P.) was unpalatable to the BJP leaders.

Mr. Naidu stated on Twitter that the BJP was throwing a spanner in the development of A.P. and people would teach it a lesson for doing 'politics of vengeance.' He alleged that YSR Congress president Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy feared that he would be sent to jail if he criticised the Modi government. It was due to the same compulsion that Mr. Jagan compromised the interests of A.P. instead of confronting the BJP-led NDA government on the injustices meted out by it.

Taking a similar line, Jana Sena Party president Pawan Kalyan washed his hands of the joint fact-finding committee report which stated that ₹75,000 crore was due to A.P. from the Central government, and started criticising the State government for no reason.

The CM reiterated that he was trying to bring the anti-BJP parties on to a single platform to save the country and its democratic fabric.

"Let any attempt be made to intimidate us, our morale will be intact. We will save the country by putting up a collective fight," he said.

N. Chandrababu Naidu unveiling the Telugu Talli statue. ▪ CH. VIJAYA BHASKAR

Naidu will not share stage with Sonia

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
HYDERABAD

TDP leader N. Chandrababu Naidu will not share the stage with the Congress leader Sonia Gandhi at her November 23 election rally in Telangana, State AICC in-charge R.C. Khuntia said. This ends the speculation over whether the Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister would join Ms. Gandhi at her public meeting.

'First photo' of Ortolan Bunting in India is out

The bird was photographed near Mangaluru

RAVIPRASAD KAMILA
MANGALURU

In a rare sighting that has been photographed, birder K. Vivek Nayak from Mangaluru captured through his lens the 'Ortolan Bunting', which breeds from Mongolia to Europe and migrates to Africa via the Middle East.

Mr. Nayak, from Coastal Karnataka Birdwatchers' Network, told *The Hindu* that he spotted the bird at Kenjar, on the outskirts of the city, on Sunday (November 18) at about 4.15 p.m.

'First photo in India'

"The bird was drinking water in a marshy field," he said. After Mr. Nayak shared the spotting of the bird and its photograph on social media, some birders commented that it is the first photographic record of an Ortolan bunting in India.

Praveen J. from Bird Count India, a consortium of several groups of birders across India, told *The Hindu*: "It is the definitive photograph from India."

Mr. Praveen said that the bird appears to be 'disoriented', and it is a young one. While migrating, if an Ortolan bunting loses its way, it may land anywhere, he said.

The International Union for Conservation of Nature's (IUCN) red list of threatened species has placed Ortolan bunting in the "Least Concern" category.

'Wonderful sighting'

Shivashankar, a birder and the co-author of the book, 'Birds of Southern Coastal Karnataka', wrote: "Wonderful sighting of Ortolan bunting at Mangaluru by Vivek." Another birder Prashantha Krishna M.C. wrote: "This one is the first confirmed photographic record for India."

'Ortolan Bunting' photographed by K. Vivek Nayak. ▪ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

कार्यालय अधिष्ठाता
नेताजी सुभाष चन्द्र बोस मेडिकल कॉलेज जबलपुर (म.प्र.)
टेलीफोन नं. 0761-2370951, E-Mail ID : nscbmcjb@gmail.com

क्र. 8851/स्था/अराज./2018 — जबलपुर, दिनांक 15/11/2018

विज्ञप्ति सूचना

1. भारत निर्वाचन आयोग, नई दिल्ली के पत्र क्रमांक 437/6/म.प्र.–वि.स./2018 (एम.सी.सी. सन्दर्भ) दिनांक 06/11/2018 एवं मुख्य निर्वाचन पदाधिकारी मध्यप्रदेश के पत्र क्रमांक/पीए/अपर मुनिप(जे)/2018/16668, भोपाल दिनांक 06/11/2018 के तहत सुपर स्पेशिलिटी अस्पताल में पदों स्वीकृत पदों को भरने की प्राप्त स्वीकृति के तहत मध्यप्रदेश शासन, चिकित्सा शिक्षा विभाग, मंत्रालय भोपाल के क्रमांक 688/स्था.अराज/2018, भोपाल, दिनांक 09/08/2018 एवं कार्यालय आयुक्त, चिकित्सा शिक्षा, भोपाल के आदेश क्रमांक 104/एम.सी.आई.कक्ष/आशिचि/2018 भोपाल, दिनांक 24 सितम्बर 2018 द्वारा "मध्यप्रदेश स्वशासी चिकित्सा महाविद्यालय में चिकित्सकीय, परिचारिका, सह चिकित्सकीय संवर्ग तथा गैर शैक्षणिक संवर्ग के लिये आदर्श सेवा भर्ती नियम 2018" के बिंदु क्रमांक 03 (ग) के अनुसार शासकीय चिकित्सा महाविद्यालय नेताजी सुभाष चन्द्र बोस मेडिकल कॉलेज जबलपुर (म.प्र.) हेतु कार्यालय अधिष्ठाता जबलपुर म.प्र. में दिनांक 07/12/2018 सायं 5:30 बजे तक आमंत्रित किए जाते हैं। उपरोक्त विज्ञापन की जानकारी एवं आवेदन पत्र का निर्धारित प्रारूप शासकीय चिकित्सा महाविद्यालय नेताजी सुभाष चन्द्र बोस मेडिकल कॉलेज जबलपुर (म.प्र.) की वेबसाईट www.nscbmc.ac.in एवं संचालक चिकित्सा शिक्षा की वेबसाईट www.medicaleducation.mp.gov.in पर उपलब्ध है। श्रेणीवार पदों का विवरण निम्नानुसार है:–

क्र.	पदनाम	कुल पद	श्रेणीवार रिक्त पदों की संख्या			
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
			UR	SC	ST	OBC
1	वित्तीय अधिकारी/ए.ओ.	01	01	00	00	00
2	नर्सिंग अधीक्षक	01	01	00	00	00
3	नर्सिंग सिस्टर	09	05	01	02	01
4	स्टाफ नर्स	150	75 (4PH)	24 (2PH)	30 (2PH)	21(1PH)
5	चिकित्सा अभिलेख अधिकारी	01	01	00	00	00
6	लैब टेक्नीशियन	03	02	00	01	00
7	कैथ लैब टेक्नीशियन	04	02	01	01	00
8	ओ.टी. टेक्नीशियन	07	4(1F)	01	01	01
9	एनेस्थिसिया टेक्नीशियन	02	01	00	01	00
10	कार्डियो थोरेसिक टेक्नीशियन	02	01	00	01	00
11	ई.सी.जी. टेक्नीशियन	02	01	00	01	00
12	डायलेसिस टेक्नीशियन	10	5(1F)	02	02	01
13	रेडियोग्राफर	03	02	00	01	00
14	एक्स–रे टेक्नीशियन	05	3(1F)	01	01	00
15	फार्मासिस्ट ग्रेड–2	09	5(1F)	01	02	01
16	स्टेनोग्राफर	01	01	00	00	00
17	लाईब्रेरियन	01	01	00	00	00
18	असिस्टेंट लाईब्रेरियन	01	01	00	00	00
19	सहायक ग्रेड–2	09	05(1F)	01	02	01
20	सहायक ग्रेड–3	09	05(1F)	01	02	01

नोटः– 1. सरल क्रमांक 2 से 4 तक के समस्त पद महिला उम्मीदवार के लिये आरक्षित हैं।
(1) सरल क्रमांक 1 से 14 तक के समस्त पदों में मध्यप्रदेश शासन द्वारा जारी आरक्षण नियमों का पालन किया जाएगा। उपरोक्त चिन्हित पदों में SC-अनूसूचित जाति, ST-अनुसूचित जनजाति, OBC-अन्य पिछड़ा वर्ग उम्मीदवार एवं PH-से Physical Handicapped/दिव्यांग पर आरक्षित है।
(2) नर्सिंग संवर्ग में बी.एस.सी. उत्तीर्ण उम्मीदवार को प्राथमिकता दी जायेगी।
(3) पद संख्या से अधिक संख्या में आवेदन प्राप्त होने पर नर्सिंग संवर्ग/पैरामेडिकल संवर्ग में शासकीय स्वशासी चिकित्सा महाविद्यालयों/शासकीय संस्थाओं से प्रशिक्षण प्राप्त उम्मीदवार को प्राथमिकता दी जायेगी।
2. आवेदन पत्र रजिस्टर्ड डाक/स्पीट पोस्ट अथवा व्यक्तिगत रूप से कार्यालय अधिष्ठाता, नेताजी सुभाष चन्द्र बोस मेडिकल कॉलेज जबलपुर (म.प्र.) की आवक–जावक शाखा में जमा कराए जा सकते हैं।
3. आवेदन पत्र के साथ अनारक्षित वर्ग के उम्मीदवार राशि रू. 500 मात्र (पांच सौ रूपए) का डिमांड ड्राफ्ट जो कि नेताजी सुभाष चन्द्र बोस मेडिकल कॉलेज जबलपुर (म.प्र.) के नाम से देय हो संलग्न करना होगा तथा आरक्षित वर्ग के उम्मीदवार से कोई डिमांड ड्राफ्ट नहीं लिया जाएगा। अतः यात्रा भत्ता की पात्रता नहीं होगी। डिमांड ड्राफ्ट के पिछले हिस्से पर उम्मीदवार अपना नाम, आवेदित पद का नाम, पता एवं मोबाइल नंबर जरूर अंकित करें।
4. आवेदन पत्र के लिफाफे पर स्पष्ट रूप से कार्यालय अधिष्ठाता, नेताजी सुभाष चन्द्र बोस मेडिकल कॉलेज जबलपुर (म.प्र.) चिकित्सकीय, परिचारिका, सह चिकित्सकीय संवर्ग तथा गैर शैक्षणिक संवर्ग हेतु आवेदन एवं आवेदित पद का नाम ..... और आरक्षित/अनारक्षित श्रेणी का उल्लेख अनिवार्य रूप से करें। किसी भी स्थिति में निर्धारित तिथि एवं समय के पश्चात् प्राप्त होने वाले आवेदनों पर विचार नहीं किया जाएगा।

मुख्य कार्यपालन अधिकारी/अधिष्ठाता
नेताजी सुभाष चन्द्र बोस मेडिकल कॉलेज जबलपुर (म.प्र.)

G-20441/2018

IN BRIEF

Himachal CM to launch schemes in Palampur

DHARAMSHALA

Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur will visit Palampur on November 23 to launch different developmental schemes worth crores of rupees, a spokesman said on Wednesday. PTI

J&K civil secretariat to be made plastic-free soon

JAMMU

The civil secretariat, the seat of power in Jammu and Kashmir, will be made free of plastic soon, an official said on Wednesday. The government will also issue a notification in this regard, Chief Secretary B.V.R. Subrahmanyam said during an event here to mark World Toilet Day. PTI

One killed, 7 injured as buses collide in U.P.

GORAKHPUR

One person was killed and seven were injured when two buses collided on the Lucknow-Gorakhpur highway here due to dense fog, the police said on Wednesday. The accident took place at about 2 a.m .in the Khorbar area. PTI

Youth gets 7 years in jail for raping minor

MUZAFFARNAGAR

A special POCSO court here has sentenced a 26-year-old man to seven years in prison for abducting and raping a 15-year-old girl in 2014. PTI

Special LHB rake for Buddhist circuit

KAPURTHALA

The Rail Coach Factory here on Wednesday rolled out the first rake of 12 special Linke-Hofmann-Busch coaches for its Buddhist circuit, an official said. The important places associated with Buddha's life are covered in the circuit. . PTI

Debt-ridden farmer found dead in Jhajjar district

District administration orders probe into November 16 death

ASHOK KUMAR
JHAJJAR

Prakash Punia, 50, had a two-acre plot and sown another six acres on contract, but the land was inundated with rainwater in mid-September damaging the entire crop. He had an unpaid loan of ₹3 lakh, including over ₹1 lakh interest for non-payment.

Prakash had borrowed around ₹90,000 for a trolley and ₹1 lakh through Kisan Credit Card for crops from Sarva Haryana Gramin Bank's Silani Branch nine years ago. He had taken six acres on contract for ₹90,000 this season hoping to make some profit to prepare for his daughter's wedding.

But destiny had a different plan for him.

On November 15, he left home after a morning meal. The next evening, he was found dead, having taken his own life.

"He was perturbed for the past few days. Both our children are of marriageable age, but we are reeling under financial crisis due to crop failure. He had also got several notices from the bank recently to repay the outstanding amount adding to his anxiety," recalled Prakash's wife Suresh, their daughter Preeti, a Hindi postgraduate, beside her. They also have a son, Sachin.

Prakash's nephew Satbir said that several hundred acres in Khudan and neighbouring villages, including Haryana Agriculture Minister O.P. Dhankar's native village Dhakla, were inundated due to heavy rains in September causing massive damage to crops in the region. "Despite the Haryana government announcing to pump out water by October 27, nothing happened. The prospects of many farmers in this region to sow rabi crop are also bleak," he said.

'Waive off loan'

Farmers' leader Shamsher Singh demanded that Haryana government waive off the outstanding loan to the deceased, provide financial help to his family, and give a government job to the son. He also sought registration of an abetment-to-suicide case against the officials concerned responsible for pumping out the water. Mr. Singh sought making public the figures on the farmers' deaths in Haryana since 2016. He claimed that another farmer owning ten acres had died by suicide the previous month in the district.

Deputy Commissioner, Jhajjar, Sonal Goel, told *The Hindu* that a probe by Sub-Divisional Magistrate (Jhajjar) had been ordered. She claimed that Jhajjar was one of the best performing districts in dealing with the crisis arising out of heavy rains and only a few low-lying areas remained waterlogged.

Superintending Engineer, Irrigation, Ramesh Kumar said most of the water in Khudan was pumped out, but the farmers were not willing to give passage to drain out the remaining water causing an impasse.

Farmers a worried lot

ASHOK KUMAR
JHAJJAR

Forty-year-old Jaibir and his brothers at Khudan village here had together borrowed ₹5 lakh through the Kisan Credit Cards for the kharif crop this year. But they lost around 70% of the crop, mostly paddy and bajra, due to waterlogging in their farms after heavy rain in September.

Mr. Jaibir is worried as to how he would repay the loan, the first instalment of which is due in December. "If I fail to pay the instalment, the interest rate would increase from 6% to 16%. But I have no choice. Of the around 12-acre land, we brothers have lost 70% crop in seven acres," he said.

Most of the farmers in his village and the neighbouring villages met the same fate.

Nau Ratan Pradhan,72, chipped in saying that almost 80% land in their village was inundated with rainwater and more than 100 acres could not be prepared even for the rabi crop.

A farmer points towards his inundated field in Khudan village. ▪ ASHOK KUMAR

"Another 200 acres would also get considerably delayed for the sowing of rabi crop," he lamented.

The rain came at a time when the crop was just a few weeks away from being harvested.

Mr. Pradhan said after repeated requests, the district administration arranged for a pump set to drain out the water, but the pipes were found leaking. "It has been more than two months, but still the fields are inundated," he said.

"No one wants to take his life, but Prakash took the extreme step forced by financial crisis," said 73-year-old ex-serviceman Krishan Singh.

None of the villagers, however, has taken the crop insurance under the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana. "We are an illiterate people. We don't know the procedure to take crop insurance," he said.

Prakash's brother Pradeep Kumar said that Prassan, a fellow villager, had taken crop insurance last year, but did not get claim for the failure of his nine-acre crop.

Nothing new in youngsters joining ULFA-I: Sarma

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
GUWAHATI

Assam Finance Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma said on Wednesday that there was nothing new in youngsters from the State joining the proscribed ULFA (Independent) and sought to underplay the outfit's "commander-in-chief" Paresh Baruah's nephew joining it.

He attacked former Chief Minister Tarun Gogoi for saying that many youngsters from Assam had joined the ULFA(I) during the present Bharatiya Janata Party government's rule in the State and wondered whether those arrested for being members of the outfit during the Congress regime were "fake".

Nothing new

"There is nothing new in youngsters joining the ULFA(I). Every year, 150-200 youngsters join the outfit. If a journalist joins the insurgent group, it can be considered as a new information," Mr. Sarma said on the sidelines of a BJP meeting.

On the issue of Mr. Baruah's nephew Munna joining the outfit, he said: "There is nothing surprising about ULFA(I) chief's nephew joining the outfit. If he (Munna) does not join the ULFA(I), then who will? Is that news?"

Taking a swipe at the Congress to which Mr. Gogoi belongs, Mr. Sarma, who is also the convener of the North East Democratic Alliance consisting of the BJP and regional parties, said: "Like the Congress, the ageing Paresh Baruah too chose his own blood as his heir to take forward his mission."

WEATHER WATCH

RAINFALL, TEMPERATURE & AIR QUALITY IN SELECT METROS YESTERDAY

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

Forecast for Thursday: Heavy/very heavy rain is likely at isolated places over Tamil Nadu, Puducherry and Kerala

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	–	28.2	15.1	Kozhikode	0.4	34.2	26.0
Ahmedabad	–	34.8	16.6	Kurnool	–	34.4	22.0
Aizwal	–	30.2	12.6	Lucknow	–	28.6	12.5
Allahabad	–	32.3	14.8	Madurai	3.4	34.1	23.2
Bengaluru	–	26.6	20.0	Mangaluru	–	34.6	24.0
Bhopal	–	31.1	18.0	Mumbai	–	34.8	23.4
Bhubaneswar	–	32.7	18.9	Mysuru	–	30.0	15.9
Chandigarh	–	27.2	11.6	New Delhi	–	28.2	12.4
Chennai	22.6	24.2	23.6	Patna	–	28.8	14.6
Coimbatore	–	32.6	22.4	Port Blair	–	30.8	24.0
Dehradun	–	26.8	10.5	Puducherry	23.8	28.2	20.3
Gangtok	–	16.8	8.5	Pune	–	31.7	18.1
Goa	2	34.4	23.7	Raipur	–	32.5	19.3
Guwahati	–	27.1	15.0	Ranchi	–	30.2	14.6
Hubballi	–	31.0	21.0	Shillong	–	18.4	7.4
Hyderabad	–	31.9	19.8	Shimla	–	18.1	7.5
Imphal	–	24.3	5.5	Srinagar	–	15.7	1.4
Jaipur	–	29.2	15.7	Trivandrum	–	32.3	24.0
Kochi	37.8	31.0	23.2	Tiruchi	1	29.3	22.4
Kohima	–	22.0	8.6	Vijayawada	–	31.4	23.0
Kolkata	–	31.1	20.1	Visakhapatnam	–	31.8	24.5

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing — **Yesterday**

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	56	.80	59	178	–	
Bengaluru	9	.17	78	–	110	
Chennai	17	.16	63	50	–	
Delhi	35	323	56	403	.397	
Hyderabad	4	.73	41	148	.132	
Kolkata	20	.68	28	354	.245	
Lucknow	21	107	71	404	–	
Mumbai	–	–	–	–	–	–
Pune	78	.20	66	122	93	
Vishakhapatnam	–	–	–	–	–	–

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Muzaffarpur, Bihar recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 445 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Tirupati recorded a healthy AQI score of 56

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

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

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

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

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by
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Time: 2PM to 4PM
GEOGRAPHIA IAS INSTITUTE
92, 1st Floor, Old Rajendra Nagar, Main Mkt., Near Kotak Mahindra Bank.
(M): 8882452505

मैथिली
by : Surendra Raut
UPSC / BPSC
5 Days Free Workshop
57/11, Old Rajendra Ngr., Delhi
24 Nov. 10:00am
206, 2nd Floor, Jaina House, Dr. Mukherjee Nagar
24 Nov. 3:30pm
प्रबोधन IAS | 9015277823

PUBLIC NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE
General public is hereby informed that my clients Shri Udit Khattri, Shri Adit Khattri both Sons of Late Devendra Singh Khattri and Smt. Purnima Khattri W/o Late Devendra Singh Khattri all R/o DG-II/250-D, Vikaspuri, New Delhi-110018. The above mentioned Flat belongs to Devender Singh Khattri who expired on 16-09-2015. Now above mentioned persons are absolute and legal heirs of DDA Flat No. 250-D, in pocket DG-II, Third Floor, Category LIG, Vikaspuri, New Delhi-110018. If anybody has any cliam, lien, objection or give and take for this flat may contact at above address from the date of publication of this notice within10 days otherwise no claim will be entertained under any circumstances.
Sd/- SUBHASH CHANDER RAWAT, ADVOCATE
DG-III, 261,Ground Floor, Vikaspuri, N.Delhi -18

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PUBLIC NOTICE
Best View Infracon Ltd.
Corporate Office: 201-212, 2nd Floor, Splendor Forum, Jasola District Centre, New Delhi-110025
Notice is hereby given that the Company's proposed Commercial Complex at Malviya Nagar Metro Station Complex, New Delhi has been accorded Environment Clearance by the Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change (MoEF & CC), New Delhi. A copy of the Environment Clearance letter is available in the office of MoEF & CC at Indira Paryavaran Bhawan, Jor Bagh Road, New Delhi, and Delhi Pollution Control Committee (DPCC) at 4th Floor, ISBT Building, Kashmere Gate, Delhi.
For Best View Infracon Ltd.
Place: New Delhi Sd/-
Dated: 22-11-2018 Company Secretary

SOUTHERN RAILWAY
CHENNAI - 600 003
MEDICAL DEPARTMENT
E-TENDER NOTICE FOR THE SUPPLY OF STORES
Principal Chief Medical Director, Headquarters, Southern Railway, for and on behalf of the president of India, invites ONLINE tender for the following supply contract as per Tender Notice given in IREPS website. Firms are requested to login to http://www.ireps.gov.in->E-Tender->Goods & Services (New) and quote against this tender. Manual quotations will not be entertained for this tender. Closing time for the tender is 11:00 hours on the date noted below.

Sl.No	Tender No.	Description	Due Date
1.	SR1805312310612	DAPTOMYCIN INJ 350 MG VIAL	19.12.2018

Principal Chief Medical Director

TO ADVERTISE PLEASE CONTACT
Mr. N SELVA KUMAR
PH: 98203 50726
selvakumar.n@thehindu.co.in
Mr. GAURAV SEHGAL
PH: 98110 06590
gaurav.sehgal@thehindu.co.in
THE HINDU

JHARKHAND COMMUNICATION NETWORK LIMITED
(A SPV under DoIT& e-Gov, Govt. of Jharkhand)
Registered Office: H/No. – 347, Project Building 3rd Floor, HEC Dhurwa, Ranchi-834004
CIN: U74999JH2017SGC009474
Contact:0651-2446147
Corrigendum-I
(Tender Ref.: JCNL- 08/2018)
The Corrigendum-I for the tender (Tender Ref.: JCNL-08/2018) has been published on Govt. official site at Jharkhandtenders.gov.in. The advertisement PR No. is- 195414
महिलाओं का अधिकार 1 Rs में रजिस्ट्री।
CEO
Jharkhand Communication Network Ltd., Ranchi, Jharkhand
P.R.195960 Information Technology(18-19):D

NORTH EASTERN RAILWAY Tender Notice
Sealed tender (Open Tender) Tender Notice No. 04/2018 (Commercial Publicity) invited by Divisional Railway Manager (Commercial), North Eastern Railway, Lucknow for and on behalf of the President of India for the following works:-

Tender Notice No. and description of works	Reserve Price for First year (in ₹) + GST as Applicable	No of screens/ Area in sqft.	Earnest Money (in ₹)	Cost of Tender form (Incl. GST
Tender Notice No. 04/2018 (commercial publicity)- Tender for Supply, Installation, operating & maintenance of Digital Display System Comprising of LED TVs/Screens and Public Announcement System with Audio Speakers at Lucknow Jn/Gorakhpur Railway Station of Lucknow/NER Division for a period of 05 (Five Years).	Lucknow Jn- ₹ 17,39,925/-	61 nos./ 285 sqft. As per Annexure"B"	1,80,781/	5,900/-
	Gorakhpur- ₹ 31,99,020/-	100 nos./ 524 sqft. As per Annexure"B"	3,39,736/-	5,900/-

Tender period: 05 years; Security Money: Security Deposit equivalent to six months (6) license fee calculated for the final year of the contract, in advance, in the form of an irrevocable bank guarantee from a scheduled Commercial Bank.
• Date and Time for sale of Tender Document up to 10.00 to 17.00 hrs. from 21.11.2018 to 20.12.2018 (on any working days). • Receipt of tender on- 21.12.2018, 10.00 to 14.00 hrs. • Date and Time of opening- 15.00 hrs. on 21.12.2018. • Detailed tender notice, eligibility criteria, terms and conditions is available on website http://ner.indianrailways.gov.in and http://www.tenders.gov.in as well as at office of the Divisional Railway Manager (Commercial), North Eastern Railway, Ashok Marg, Lucknow.
CPRO/Vanijya-111 Divisional Railway Manager (Commercial), Lucknow
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1st Time Extension Notice
Last date of uploading of bid documents, last date of physical submission of tender fee and bid opening date of following short e-procurement notice no. is hereby extended as below :-

Sl. No.	Tender notice no. and description of item	Extended online bid uploading/ submission end date	Last date of physical submission of tender fee and EMD	Technical bid opening date and time
1.	174/PR/JBVNL/ 2018-19 Copper Control Cables of different size	26.11.2018 upto 18:00 Hrs	27.11.2018 upto 13:00 Hrs.	27.11.2018 upto 18:00 Hrs.
2.	175/PR/JBVNL/ 2018-19 MS Nuts & bolts of different size	26.11.2018 upto 18:00 Hrs	27.11.2018 upto 13:00 Hrs.	27.11.2018 upto 18:00 Hrs.

Further details against the above NIT No. can be seen on website http:jharkhandtenders.gov.in and may be contacted on Mobile No. 09431135523 / 0651-2400151/ NIC helpline No. 0651-2400178. Submission of tender fee/EMD will not be accepted by courier/Regd. Post. Further details.
स्वहित एवं राष्ट्रहित में ऊर्जा बचायें। कृपया अपनी शिकायतों को टॉल फ्री नं० 1800 345 6570 पर दर्ज करायें।
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फोन नं. 0141-5110694 ई-मेल :- dcudtjme@gmail.com
क्रमांकः- एफ- 6 ()/उपा.राज. (प्रथम)/होर्डिंग/ननिज/ 2018/233 दिनांकः 15/11/2018
ई–ऑक्शन (होर्डिंग) विज्ञप्ति सं. 7/18
नगर निगम जयपुर द्वारा सार्वजनिक स्थलों पर विज्ञापन के लिए विभिन्न विज्ञापन साईटों का ई–ऑक्शन निम्नानुसार किया जाना है:–

क्र. सं.	विज्ञापन का नाम	संख्या	ई–ऑक्शन दिनांक	समयावधि
1	1. निर्मित सुलभ शौचालय पर विज्ञापन एवं संचारण (एक समूह में)	13	29.11.18	प्रातः 11.00 बजे से 5.30 बजे तक (अंतिम 15 मिनट में बोली लगने की स्थिति में) की जायेगी।
	2. कियोस्क बोर्ड, सांगानेर जोन, हवामहल पूर्व जोन	2 जोन		
	3. निर्मित ओवरहैड साईनैज(गैन्ट्री)	2		
	4. निर्मित बसशैल्टर्स (रोड साईज)समूह में	27		
	5. नये लघु विज्ञापन बोर्ड 8'x4' (यूनिपोल)	50		
	6. नये बैकलिट टॉवर साईट्स	15		
2.	1. मोतीडूंगरी, हवामहल पूर्व जोन सांगानेर, मानसरोवर, विद्याधर नगर, सिविल लाईन यूनिपोल जोन	47	30.11.18	प्रातः 11.00 बजे 5.30 बजे तक (अंतिम 15 मिनट में बोली लगने की स्थिति में) की जायेगी।
	2. निर्मित यूनिपोल 20'x10'	2		

ई–ऑक्शन कार्यक्रम, शर्ते, अमानता राशि, भागीदारी तथा ई–नीलामी बिजनेस रूल्स आदि की जानकारी हेतु नीलामी साईट www.jaipur.mc.org. एवं http://smartrajapp.urban.rajasthan.gov.in में (E-Auction) पर देखी जा सकती है तथा इसी साईट पर वित्तीय वर्ष 2018-19 के लिए इच्छुक फर्म/ व्यक्ति निर्धारित पंजीयन शुल्क राशि 1,000/- (एक हजार रूपये) जमा करवाकर, पंजीयन करवाकर ई–नीलामी में भाग ले सकते है। किसी भी प्रकार की तकनीकी समस्या/अथवा जानकारी हेतु श्री वैभव, प्रोग्रामर दूरभाष नं. 8764880056, 8875403031 पर सम्पर्क कर सकते है।
राज.संवाद/जसअ/2018/329/1611.18 उपायुक्त (राजस्व-प्रथम)

HIMACHAL PRADESH
I&PH DEPARTMENT
NOTICE INVITING TENDERS
Sealed item rates short terms tender is hereby invited on Form No. IPH 6 & 8 by the Executive Engineer, I&PH Division, Dharamshala on behalf of Governor of Himachal Pradesh from approved eligible contractors / Firms enlisted in the appropriate class with HP IPH Department for the following work through offline tendering process, so as to reach in the office of the Executive Engineer, I&PH Division, Dharamshala on or before 30.11.2018 up to 11.00 A.M. The tenders will be opened on the same day at 11.30 A.M. in the presence of intending contractors/ firms or their authorized representatives, who may wish to be presented at the time of opening the tenders. The application (s) for issue of tender (s) form (s) shall be received on or before 29.11.2018 up to 3-00 P.M. and form/ forms shall be issued up to 29.11.2018 from 10.00 A.M. to 4.00 P.M. against cash payment (Non refundable). The rates in tender form (s) will be filled in words and figures, otherwise, the tender will be rejected. The earnest money in the shape of FDR/ National Saving Certificate duly pledged in favour of Executive Engineer, I&PH Division, Dharamshala. Conditional tender or tender (s) received without earnest money will be similarly rejected. The Executive Engineer, I&PH Division, Dharamshala reserves right to reject the tender(s) without assigning any reason. The option of the tender will be kept opened for 120 days.

Sr. No.	Name of work	Estimated Cost	Earnest Money	Time Limit	Cost of Tender Form	Remarks
1.	Construction of FIS Fatt & Dhani Di Kuhl in GP Paddar in Tehsil Dharamshala Distt. Kangra(HP) (SH:- Construction of RCC lining in main Kuhl from RD 400-550 mtr = 150 mtr)	427750/-	8555/-	3 months	250/-	

Terms and Conditions:-
1:- The application (s) for issue of tender(s) shall be received on or before 29.11.2018 up to 3-00 P.M. and form (s) shall be issued on 29.11.2018 from 10-00 A.M. to 4.00 P.M. against cash payment (Non refundable)
2:- The earnest money in the shape of FDR/ National Saving Certificate duly pledged in favour of Executive Engineer, I&PH Division, Dharamshala/ Certificate for exemption of earnest money.
3:- Conditional tender or tender (s) received without earnest money will be summarily rejected.
4:- The contractor must give the copy of enlistment/ renewal and photocopy of individual PAN No. /GST No/EPF No with the application at the time of applying the tender(s) documents or must be attached with his tender form.
5:- The tender form (s) will be issued to only those contractors who are found eligible/suitable and competent.
6:- The Security, Income tax, G.S.T., education cess and labour cess etc. shall be deducted according to instructions of the Govt. time to time.
7:- If holiday falls on the date of opening the tender(s), the same will be opened on next working day at 11.30 A.M.
Sd/-
Executive Engineer, I&PH Division, Dharamshala.
HP/3287/18-19 HIM SUCHANA AVAM JAN SAMPARK

IN BRIEF

Javadekar launches innovation cell at AICTE

NEW DELHI

Union HRD Minister Prakash Javadekar on Wednesday launched through video conference an innovation cell at the All India Council of Technical Education (AICTE) to promote innovation in all higher education institutions across the country.

Aadhaar cards dumped; postman faces action

KADAPA

Hussain, a postman in Yerraguntla post office, allegedly left behind a bundle of Aadhaar cards in a restaurant, instead of delivering them. On finding no takers after some days, the hotel staff dumped the bundle on the road. The postman, however, claimed that he had forgotten it at the hotel. The postman will be quizzed on Thursday.

H1N1 cases on the rise in Kerala

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The Kerala Health Department has issued an alert on H1N1, which has been showing a spike in the State since September. There have been 494 confirmed cases of H1N1 this year till date, including 24 deaths. Cases are spread throughout districts, with 175 cases and nine deaths being reported in November alone.

Police register rape case against actor Alok Nath

MUMBAI

The Oshiwara police on Wednesday registered a rape case against actor Alok Nath on a complaint filed by a prominent film-maker. Last month, she had alleged that following a party 19 years ago, Mr. Nath had sexually assaulted her. Additional Commissioner of Police (West region) Manoj Kumar Sharma confirmed that an FIR had been registered.

Navy makes formal request for multi-role U.S. copters

The deal is estimated to be worth $2 billion

DINAKAR PERI
NEW DELHI

India made a formal request to the U.S. for the purchase of 24 MH-60R Multi-Role Helicopters (MRH) for the Navy in a deal estimated at $2bn. This is among a series of defence procurements and inductions from the U.S. and Russia in the last two months.

"The Government issued the Letter of Request (LoR) on November 15 for procurement of 24 MRH from the U.S. government under the Foreign Military Sales (FMS) route," a defence official said.

The Navy is presently facing a critical shortage of helicopters and several frontline warships are plying with empty helicopter decks. These helicopters are being procured as replacement for 15 Sea King ASW helicopters de-inducted from service in 1991 and one Sea King 42B MRH lost in accident. The current MRHs in service, Sea King 42Bs, were inducted in the 1980s.

In August, ahead of the inaugural India-US 2+2 dialogue, the Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) accorded the Acceptance of Necessity (AoN) for the procurement.

The LoR was signed and sent after the Navy received the pricing and availability details from the U.S. Now the U.S. will get back with the price quote, following which contract negotiations would begin to conclude the final deal. As the deal is through the FMS route, the process is expected to be completed in a short time-frame.

Given the urgency for helicopters, the U.S. is likely to take some MH-60R helicopters off the flight deck of their newest aircraft carrier USS Gerald Ford. In July, the USS Gerald Ford went for year-long upgrades and fixes. "We will likely get about 4-5 MH-60s from the Gerald Ford immediately once the deal is signed," the official said. All the helicopters would be delivered in a phased manner from 2020-24.

In demand

- It is capable of carrying out anti-ship, anti-submarine, electronic warfare and net-centric over-the-horizon offensive and defensive roles
- India issued Letter of Request (LoR) on November 15 for purchase of 24 Multi-Role helicopters from the U.S. government
- Deal through the Foreign Military Sales (FMS) route of the U.S. Estimated to cost around $2 billion
- MH-60R is the mainstay of the U.S. Navy's Anti-Submarine Warfare (ASW) capability
- Over 300 MH-60R helicopters in use worldwide with over 60,000 flight hours accumulated
- In service with the U.S. Navy, the Royal Danish Navy, the Royal Australian Navy and the Royal Saudi Naval Forces

12 children's books shortlisted for 2019 Goodbooks Awards

Winners will be announced in January

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI

Twelve books have been shortlisted for *The Hindu* Young World-Goodbooks Awards. The 2019 awards recognise children's books published in India. Three books each have been shortlisted in four categories. The winners will be announced at *The Hindu* Lit for Life in January 2019.

Best Picture Book: Story

1) Rinchin for *I Will Save My Land* (Tulika Publishers); 2) Vinayak Varma for *Angry Akku* (Pratham Books); 3) Lavanya Karthik for *A Walk with Thambi* (Tulika Publishers)

Best Picture Book: Illustration

1) Rajiv Eipe for *Ammachi's Amazing Machines* (Pratham Books); 2) Niloufer Wadia for *Sadiq Wants to Stitch* (Karadi Tales); 3) Rupal Vaidya for *Ambadas's Dancing Brush* (Art1st Publications)

Best Book: Fiction

1) Venita Coelho for *Boy No 32* (Scholastic India); 2) Stephen Alter for *The Cloudfarers* (Penguin India); 3) Christopher C. Doyle for *The Pataala Prophecy: Son of Bhrigu* (Westland)

Best Book: Non-Fiction

1) Anita Vachharajani for *Amrita Sher-Gil: Rebel with a Paintbrush* (HarperCollins India); 2) Rohan Chakravarty and Bijal Vachharajani for *The Great Indian Nature Trail with Uncle Bikky* (WWF India); 3) Mamta Naiy for *A Brush with Indian Art* (Penguin India)

Temporary staff can't be paid less: SC

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court has reiterated that temporary employees are entitled to draw wages at the minimum of pay scales applicable to regular employees holding the same post.

The judgment by a Bench of Justices S.A. Bobde and L. Nageswara Rao concerned appeals filed by daily rated workers employed in Group 'D' posts in the forest department in Uttar Pradesh.

Disagreeing with the Allahabad High Court decision denying them wages at the minimum of pay scales, the Supreme Court, in a recent judgment, ordered the State to pay the same to the appellants with effect from December 1, 2018. The Supreme Court based its decision on past rulings that held that an "employee engaged for the same work cannot be paid less than another who performs the same duties".

No bias in probe into FCRA cases, Centre tells HC

Complaint against Nitin Gadkari also under investigation, says MHA; seeks substantial evidence, if any

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The Ministry of Home Affairs has told the Delhi High Court that the government is probing without any bias all allegations of violation of the foreign contribution regulation law, including a complaint of alleged contravention of FCRA against Union Transport Minister Nitin Gadkari.

The Ministry's affidavit filed before a Bench of Chief Justice Rajendra Menon and Justice V.K. Rao came on a public interest litigation petition seeking setting up of a body or tribunal independent of political executive for enforcement of the Foreign Contribution Regulation Act (FCRA), 2010.

NGO's claim

An NGO, Association of Democratic Reforms (ADR), in its petition filed in 2015 mentioned that one of its members had made a complaint of FCRA violation against Mr. Gadkari on February 27, 2015, and no action had been taken.

The Ministry, in its response, said, "In the case of complaint against Nitin Gadkari, the same is under investigation and the petitioner [ADR] has also been requested to provide substantial evidence, if any."

The Ministry said the present system of administering the FCRA was "efficient, just and fair and there is no need for establishing any independent body or tribunal for enforcing it."

It said the setting up a body or tribunal for enforcement of FCRA would require an amendment of the statute, which was in the domain of the legislature and not the judiciary.

The Ministry further said the NGO had not mentioned any instances of abuse of the foreign contribution regulation law in its petition. Terming the petition "motivated," the Ministry had sought dismissal of the plea.

The Ministry said that so far it had cancelled the FCRA registration of 18,867 NGOs for violating provisions of the Act.

'Misuse of Act'

Advocate Prashant Bhushan, who is representing the NGO, has contended that the FCRA was misused in several cases. He argued that the executive is tasked with effective enforcement even against the political parties, politicians, quasi-political institutions with strong political affinity and NGOs.

"However, legislators being the political master of the executive and with capability to influence the executive, enforcement against them and quasi-political institutions may not be effective in view of the conflict of interest," Mr. Bhushan said, adding that there was need for constituting an independent quasi-judicial tribunal to oversee FCRA enforcement.

Creating safeguards

Passport holders with the 'Emigration Check Not Required' status will have to get registered

- The objective is to protect workers with higher educational qualification from landing blue collar jobs
- The rule will take effect on Jan. 1, 2019
- Candidates will have to register via *www.emigrate.gov.in*
- Those failing to register at least 24 hours prior to actual departure will be off-loaded at airports

Rule applies to jobs in: Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, Afghanistan, Indonesia, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Malaysia, Sudan, South Sudan, Syria, Thailand and Yemen

Indians working abroad: UAE (1.5 lakh), Saudi Arabia (78,611), Kuwait (56,380), Oman (43,332) and Qatar (24,759)

Jobs taken: Mason (52,833), labourer (49,490), carpenter (41,588), helper (23,670) and electrician (17,703)

e-registration must for jobs in 18 countries

Rule now applies to non-ECR category

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
KOZHIKODE

Passport holders with "non-Emigration Check Required (non-ECR)" status will soon have to get themselves registered with the Ministry of External Affairs before taking up jobs abroad.

The rule, which takes effect on January 1, is said to be aimed at the welfare of Indians going abroad. It applies to jobs in 18 countries, including the six Gulf Cooperation Council nations, which have the largest number of expats.

Category of passengers

The non-ECR category of passengers include Indians paying income tax and those with educational qualification above matriculation. As of now only ECR category passport holders were required to get emigration clearance from the office of the Protector of Emigrants to seek employment abroad. All those seeking employment will have to register online via the website *www.emigrate.gov.in*. Those failing to register at least 24 hours prior to actual departure will be off-loaded at the airports.

For all other visa categories, there is no change in existing procedures.

Officials say the objective of the directive is to protect workers with higher educational qualification from not getting into blue collar jobs. Previously only ECR stamped passport holders had to go through the mandatory e-migrate registration since 2015.

Job seekers could also contact Pravasi Bharatiya Sahayata Kendra in India on toll free number 1800113090 or by email at *helpline@mea.gov.in*

Naidu's grandson richer than him by ₹15 cr.

Chandrababu Naidu

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
AMARAVATI

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu has net assets worth ₹2.99 crore while his three-year-old grandson Nara Devaansh is richer with assets worth ₹18.71 crore in his name.

Mr. Naidu's son and Information Technology Minister Nara Lokesh declared the family's assets at a press conference on Wednesday.

Mr. Lokesh's assets shot up to ₹21.40 crore from ₹15.21 crore last year.

The value of Mr. Naidu's assets rose by just ₹46 lakh compared to last year while his debt burden reduced from ₹5.64 crore to ₹5.31 crore on a housing loan.

The new house he built in Jubilee Hills, Hyderabad, has been valued at ₹8.96 crore against ₹7.75 crore last year.

Mr. Naidu's wife Bhuvaneswari is the richest member of the family with net assets worth ₹31.01 crore, which rose from ₹25.41 crore last year. Her "liabilities" too increased from ₹20.90 crore to ₹22.35 crore during the year.

Mr. Lokesh's wife Brahmani saw her assets decline by half to ₹7.72 crore from ₹15.01 crore last year. Her liabilities shot up from ₹36.14 lakh to ₹5.66 crore. Their son Devaansh grew richer by over ₹7 crore this year with his assets touching ₹18.71 crore compared to ₹11.54 crore last year.

A fatal entry into no-entry zone

Fishermen saw a body being buried on the shore, it looked like Chau's: police

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
PORT BLAIR/NEW DELHI

John Allen Chau, the American national allegedly killed by people belonging to the protected Sentinelese tribe in the North Sentinel Island, had hired fishermen to take him there clandestinely, Dependra Pathak, DGP, Andaman and Nicobar Police said on Wednesday.

"They started on November 14 around 8 p.m. and reached by midnight. The next day, Mr. Chau moved to shore using his kayak which he got towed with the fishing boat. After dropping him, the fishermen fixed their timings and place to meet each other.

"In the morning of November 17, they saw a dead person being buried at the shore which from the silhouette of the body, clothing and circumstances appeared to be the body of Mr. Chau," a press release said.

They returned to Port Blair and narrated the incident to local electronics engineer Alexander, who had arranged for the transport, and handed him the 13 pages of the journal written by Mr. Chau.

Mr. Alexander informed Bobby Parks, a friend of Mr. Chau in the U.S., who informed his mother. His mother informed the U.S. Consulate, which alerted the police on November 19.

The DGP said access to North Sentinel Island and its buffer zone is strictly restricted under the Protection of Aboriginal Tribe (Regulation), 1956 and Regulations under Indian Forest Act, 1927. All the seven people who helped Mr. Chau were, therefore, booked and arrested in a case for violating the provisions of the PAT Regulations, the release said. A case of murder has also been registered against anonymous persons, it said.

In an interview to the blog 'The Outbound Collective' in November 2015, Mr. Chau, when asked about his destinations for adventure travel, said South Africa and India were on the top of the list, though the North Cascades in the U.S. were also close.

To another question on his must-do adventure list, he said, "Going back to the Andaman and Nicobar Islands in India is on the top - there's so much to see and do there!" Survival International, a global movement for tribal peoples' rights has expressed concern over the incident.

Authorities blamed

In a statement on Wednesday, Survival International's director Stephen Corry blamed the Indian authorities for the tragedy.

He criticised the government for excluding the North Sentinel Island and 28 others in the Union Territory from the Restricted Area Permit (RAP) regime.

Instead it should have enforced the curb, both for the safety of the tribe and outsiders.

Out of bounds: A Sentinel tribal aiming an arrow at a Coast Guard helicopter as it flies over the island on December 28, 2004, after the Indian Ocean tsunami. • REUTERS

An endangered tribe

G. ANANTHAKRISHNAN
CHENNAI

Who are they?

The Sentinelese, a negrito tribe who live on the North Sentinel Island of the Andamans, have not faced incursions and remain hostile to outsiders.

The inhabitants are connected to the Jarawa on the basis of physical, as well as linguistic similarities, researchers say. Based on carbon dating of kitchen middens by the Anthropological Survey of India, Sentinelese presence was confirmed in the islands to 2,000 years ago. Genome studies indicate that the Andaman tribes could have been on the islands even 30,000 years ago.

How are they protected?

The Govt. of India issued the Andaman and Nicobar Islands (Protection of Aboriginal Tribes) Regulation, 1956 to declare the traditional areas occupied by the tribes as

BACKGROUNDER

reserves, and prohibited entry of all persons except those with authorisation. Photographing or filming the tribe members is also an offence. The rules were amended later to enhance penalties. But restricted area permits were relaxed for some islands recently.

Have they made contact?

The Sentinelese have been fiercely hostile to outside contact. But in 1991 they accepted some coconuts from a team of Indian anthropologists and administrators.

Some researchers argue that the Sentinelese have been mostly left alone even from colonial times, unlike other tribes such as the Onges, Jarawas and Great Andamanese, because the land they occupy has little commercial attraction.

How many are there?

From 1901 to 1921 they were estimated to be 117 people. In 1931, the number dropped to 50, a figure used for the 1961 Census too. In 1991 their head count was put at 23.

Census 2001 counted 39 inhabitants.

SC to review death penalty in 2009 case

KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court has decided to review a 2013 judgment by which a Tamil Nadu man was condemned to death for the kidnap and murder of a seven-year-old boy.

The boy was the only brother to three sisters.

The February 2013 judgment had reasoned that the boy's death caused "unfathomable grief" to the parents. The boy would have carried further the family lineage and seen his parents through their old age, the court had observed, justifying the death penalty.

Last week, on November 12, a Bench of Justices Kurian Joseph, A.M. Khanwilkar and D.Y. Chandrachud decided to review the 2013 verdict against the convict, Sundararajan, represented by advocate Ranjith Marar. The review petition would be heard afresh in open court. The three-judge Bench has called for the records of the case. The court said his execution would be stayed till further orders.

The crime dates back to 2009 when the victim on his way to school was accosted by the convict. The prosecution version is that the convict told the boy that his mother and grandmother were unwell. Witnesses said the boy was last seen alive getting on to the motorbike of the convict.

On the basis of a complaint filed by the boy's mother, an FIR was registered by the police. The same day, the mother received a call for a ransom of ₹5 lakh. The mother rushed to the police. Its team apprehended the convict and another person from his house. The convict admitted that the boy was strangulated when ransom was not paid.

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Justice, 34 years on

The conviction of two men offers a glimmer of hope to other victims of the anti-Sikh pogrom

The conviction of two rioters for their role in the 1984 anti-Sikh violence in Delhi marks a rare success in the long struggle to bring the perpetrators to justice. Of particular significance is that this case, relating to a mob attack on shop-keepers in Mahipalpur, was resurrected after being closed as 'untraced' in 1994. The attack with deadly weapons left two Sikhs dead and three wounded. The Central government's decision in 2015 to form a Special Investigation Team (SIT) to reopen serious cases related to the 1984 riots has yielded results. Yashpal Singh, a goods transporter, has now been sentenced to death, and Naresh Sehrawat, the local postman when the mob attack took place, to life. The trial court has rightly brushed aside minor discrepancies in evidence and technical objections to the fresh investigation being taken up, and concluded that the testimony of key witnesses, who were themselves injured, was cogent and reliable. It is possible to argue that there is little justice, or even meaning, in securing the conviction of those who may have been sucked into the mob frenzy that followed Indira Gandhi's assassination. However, it cannot be forgotten that obtaining a conviction in instances of communal and sectarian riots is quite rare. Investigators and prosecutors seldom succeed in nailing political leaders and their key henchmen. Impunity for participants in pogroms has been the norm, and successful prosecution the rare exception. The last time a person involved in the anti-Sikh riots was sentenced to death was in 1996. But Kishori Lal, known as 'the butcher of Trilokpuri', managed to get his death sentence commuted to life.

Investigation into the 1984 riot cases has been severely hampered by the fact that large sections of the police connived with the rioters, who included Congress functionaries and supporters. The slow judicial process was made even more excruciating by manipulated investigation and shoddy prosecution. In this very case, a long-time Congress functionary, Jai Pal Singh, had been tried and acquitted by a magistrate's court as early as in 1986. However, the witnesses who identified Naresh and Yashpal among the 800-odd rioters at Mahipalpur, had once again said Jai Pal Singh was a prominent participant in the attack. This is just one instance of how influential men have managed to evade the law. An appeal challenging the acquittal of Congress leader Sajjan Kumar is in the Delhi High Court. Apart from the cases that have been reopened by the government-appointed SIT, the Supreme Court constituted a team to investigate 186 cases. The latest verdict demonstrates that the efflux of years need not be an impediment to the project of securing justice. It offers a glimmer of hope for substantial justice despite the passage of 34 years.

War without end?

The horrific attack in Kabul must prompt greater momentum in peace talks

The attack on a religious gathering in Kabul that killed 55 people, including several scholars and clerics, is another signal of Afghanistan's descent into chaos. The clerics had gathered to mark the birth anniversary of Prophet Mohammed when the suicide bomber blew himself up. The Taliban denied responsibility and blamed the attack on "seditious circles", alluding to the Islamic State. Given the manner of the attack, it could well be responsible. In June, the IS had claimed an attack on another gathering of clerics. In Afghanistan the group has carried out a series of attacks on Shia religious gatherings and mosques. Hardline Sunnis consider venerating the Prophet's birthday sacrilegious, making the clerical gathering a target for extremists such as the IS. But beyond the specific reasons behind the attack, the fact that a major religious gathering in the Afghan capital can be so easily assaulted by terrorists is worrying. Despite repeated promises by the government, the security situation has deteriorated, and markedly. Afghan forces face a war on two fronts. One is with the Taliban, which is mostly attacking government offices and soldiers. The other is with the IS, which is targeting civilians, minorities and clerics. It is almost certain, after 17 years of war, that the government cannot stabilise the country using force.

This stalemate has prompted the Afghan government and its international backers to look for ways other than war to find a solution to the conflict. The U.S. has already appointed a special envoy to Afghanistan, Zalmay Khalilzad. He has held talks with Taliban representatives in Doha. Russia has also stepped into the peace process by hosting an international conference in Moscow, in which both Taliban and Afghan representatives participated. These attempts are actually exploring the possibility of a peace deal between the Taliban and the Afghan government to end the insurgency. It is not going to be easy. The Taliban insists on international troops being withdrawn from Afghanistan as a precondition and wants changes in the Afghan Constitution. The government wants the Taliban to accept the Constitution, while the Americans say a troops pullout is not a matter of discussion with the Taliban. Still, the Taliban has made it clear that it is ready for talks, which is in itself a change given the group's approach towards the conflict. It had, for the first time, agreed to a brief ceasefire with government forces around Id earlier this year. The reason is that the Taliban realises that it cannot win the war, at least not as long as the U.S. supports the government. It is also facing heat from the IS. The question is whether the government can seize the moment, strengthen its own counter-insurgency measures and negotiate from a position of strength, with backing from international actors. It's indeed a tall ask.

The RBI concedes a vital principle

Its openness to the board discussing all policy decisions may well be a paradigm shift

T.T. RAM MOHAN

The angel was in the detail of the terse press note that the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) issued after the meeting of its board of directors on November 19. Every one of the four decisions taken, including three decisions related to regulation, was ascribed to the board. The note also mentions that the constitution of a committee to examine the economic capital framework of the RBI, which was one of the decisions taken, will be jointly determined by the RBI and the Government of India.

These announcements constitute a significant departure from what has appeared to be the position of the RBI thus far: policy decisions, especially those relating to regulation, are the exclusive province of RBI management. Any departure from this position amounts to an infringement of the RBI's autonomy.

The government and some of the current nominee directors on the RBI board have contended that all policy decisions must be deliberated by the board. The outcomes of the November 19 meeting suggest that the RBI has conceded this vital principle. This augurs well for the relationship between the government and the RBI management hereafter. Indeed, it may well constitute a paradigm shift in the functioning of the RBI.

A grey area

The precise relationship between the RBI board and the RBI management is something of a grey area. Various experts have made the point that the RBI Act vests all powers in the board and, concurrently, it vests those very powers in the RBI Governor. Whether the board can issue directions to the RBI Governor in the event of a difference of opinion between the two is not clear; some experts reject the suggestion outright.

Many contend that the RBI board has played an advisory role in the past and should continue to do so. Well, corporate boards too play an advisory role for the most part even though they enjoy full powers in the running of the corporation. They tend to leave most decisions to management. However, corporate boards do step in and play a more active role where management is found wanting.

Surely, this applies to the RBI board as well? It can be nobody's case that the statute has conferred powers on the RBI board that were never meant to be exercised. Let us accept that these powers should be exercised rarely. Let us grant that the RBI board must play a largely advisory role. Even so, it is legitimate to expect that all policy matters would be deliberated by the board. The RBI management may or may not accept the inputs of the board. But the board must have its say. This is elementary corporate governance. In accepting this principle, the November 19 meeting of the RBI board marks a big step forward.

Raiding the reserves?

Let us turn now to the decisions taken at the meeting. How much capital the RBI needs has been hotly contested in recent years. The government's position is that the RBI's reserves are in excess of reserves typically held by central banks elsewhere. Some commentators have described the government's position as an attempt to 'raid the reserves' of the RBI to fund its fiscal deficit. The suggestion seems to be that the RBI has cash which the government wants to steal for its own purposes.

V.V. KRISHNAN

This is a crude mis-characterisation of the position. The RBI's reserves fall into two categories: revaluation reserves (which have mostly to do with the change in the rupee value of the RBI's holdings of gold and foreign currencies) and contingent reserves (which represent plough back of a portion of the surplus earned by the RBI every year, the remaining portion being transferred to government as dividend).

Contingent reserves are intended for risks related to the RBI's balance sheet. Let us suppose that these should not be touched. Revaluation reserves are an accounting entry. The RBI can reduce some of the revaluation reserves on the liability side and extinguish an equivalent value of government securities on the asset side. The latter step would lower the stock of debt owed by the government. This would provide headroom for the government to raise debt for meeting its future expenditure (including recapitalisation of public sector banks).

So, yes, reducing reserves enables the government to spend – but not by stealing the RBI's cash! It's an idea that merits consideration. Whether reducing reserves from their current level via the accounting entries indicated above is appropriate for the RBI is for the proposed committee to judge.

Flow of bank credit

The other outcomes at the RBI board meeting have to do with increasing the flow of bank credit and easing the problems of borrowers, especially small and medium enterprises (SMEs).

Banks are subject to capital adequacy requirements – that is, they have to hold a minimum of capital against every rupee of loans they make. The RBI's requirement of capital adequacy is one percentage point higher than that of the internationally accepted Basel norms laid down by the Bank for International Settlements. The government would like to align Indian banks' requirements with the Basel norms as that would reduce the demands for capital made on it by public sector banks (PSBs).

The RBI did not yield on this point at the recent meeting. However, it has agreed to defer an increase in the capital requirement of banks of 0.625% under another head by one year. This does give the government some breathing space in respect of additional infusion of capital into PSBs.

The RBI has also agreed to consider the government's suggestion for easing the norms for Prompt Corrective Action (PCA) for banks. The PCA imposes restrictions of various kinds on banks, including restrictions on lending for the weakest banks. The idea is that banks that are very weak should not create problems for themselves by making more loans. They should focus on getting their balance sheet right by reducing costs, selling some of their non-core assets and the like.

This is fine in principle. However, if many banks face lending restrictions for a prolonged period, it could create serious problems for the economy. Large corporates could get into distress because of their linkages with distressed SMEs. So can the healthier banks that are exposed to these corporates. To use the jargon, a PCA regime has significant negative externalities. A relaxation in PCA norms, by translating into higher credit flows, could relieve stress in the broader economy. This also applies to the decision, approved at the meeting, to allow restructuring of SME assets of up to ₹25 crore.

The strident demand to enhance flows to non-banking financial companies (NBFCs), which was heard ahead of the meeting, finds no mention in the press note. It appears that the difficulties in rolling over NBFC debt that followed the collapse of Infrastructure Leasing and Financial Services (IL&FS), a leading NBFC, have abated somewhat. Evidently, the RBI was able to make a persuasive case on this point at the meeting.

It is the broader message of the November 19 meeting that is reassuring. As a public institution whose actions have enormous welfare implications, the RBI management cannot rule by fiat. Its actions must flow from a consultative process. It must explain and justify its actions. It must be seen to be accountable. The RBI board could be an important mechanism for ensuring that these conditions are met.

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Retweeting brahminical patriarchy

It is either mischievous or ignorant to claim that 'brahminical' only refers to brahmins

G. SAMPATH

Imagine a celebrity Indian CEO going to the United States and having himself photographed with women of colour while holding a poster that said, "Smash racist patriarchy". And then, imagine white Americans coming down on him like a tonne of bricks, accusing him of inciting hatred and violence against white Americans. Sounds absurd? Good. Now imagine him actually apologising to the American public for wanting to end racist patriarchy. Sounds even more absurd? Well, this, or at least a version of this, has actually happened. Not in the la-la land of Donald Trump, but right here, in the world's largest democracy.

The act and reaction

Recently, the Twitter CEO, Jack Dorsey, on a visit to India, had an informal discussion with a group of Indian women journalists, activists and writers about their experience on Twitter. In the course of the meeting, he was gifted a poster by one of the participants. It said, 'Smash Brahminical Patriarchy'. When a group photograph of Mr. Dorsey posing with that poster surfaced on Twitter, it became an immediate target of outraged trolling. Both Mr. Dorsey and the organisation he heads were angrily accused of inciting hatred and violence against a "minority", namely, brahmins.

The furious tweets spanned the whole gamut of indignation from A to B. Mr. Dorsey was accused of being a "brahmin-hating, racist bigot". He was accused of propagating hatred towards "people who constitute 5% or less" of India's population. Many compared the sentiment expressed in the poster to antisemitism, asking if he would dare pose in the U.S. with a placard advocating hatred of Jews. A serving civil servant even deemed it "a fit case for registration of a criminal case for attempt to destabilize (sic) the nation". Mr. Dorsey's apoplectic critics wanted an immediate apology. And they got it, too.

While Twitter clarified that the content of the poster was "not a statement from Twitter or our CEO", the company's legal and policy head put out a tweet saying, "I'm very sorry for this. It's not reflective (sic) of our views. We took a private photo with a gift just given to us – we should have been more thoughtful. Twitter strives to be an impartial platform for all. We failed to do that here & we must do better to serve our customers in India." This public apology was tweeted out in its wordy entirety not once, not twice, not three times, but eight times. The whole episode raises two simple questions: What was wrong with that poster? And what is wrong with Twitter?

REUTERS

Social order of caste

The first is disposed of easily enough: nothing. Someone patient enough to carefully poke through the mass of outrage piled up against Mr. Dorsey and his poster might discern the vague outlines of an argument, which essentially boils down to brahminical patriarchy coming to the defence of brahminical patriarchy.

First of all, it is a truth universally acknowledged (except in the parallel universe inhabited by certain species of trolls) that 'Brahminism' refers not to members of the brahmin community but to the oppressive social order of caste. This social order, as has been well established by feminist historians such as Uma Chakravarti, is premised on two hierarchies that are inter-connected: gender hierarchy and caste hierarchy. The former accords women an inferior social status *vis-à-vis* men, while the latter accords brahmins a superior social status *vis-à-vis* all other varnas, or caste groups. Also, it is through male control of female sexuality that what Ms. Chakravarti calls "caste purity, the institution unique to Hindu society", is preserved and reproduced over time. Hence, in the Indian context, it makes little sense to issue a call to arms against patriarchy without also referencing the brahminical roots of this patriarchy, which is precisely what that poster did.

As for the usage of the term 'brahminical', it is either mischievous or ignorant to claim that it only refers to brahmins, and therefore, the poster constituted hate speech. The father of the Indian Constitution and icon of anti-caste politics, B.R. Ambedkar, defined the term thus: "By Brahmanism I do not mean the power, privileges and interests of the Brahmans as a community. By Brahmanism I mean the negation of the spirit of Liberty, Equality and Fraternity. In that sense it is rampant in all classes and is not confined to the Brahmans alone, though they have been the originators of it."

The term (spelled as 'brahmanism' or 'brahminism'), then, has been in currency for a long time as a descriptor of a social order marked by the graded inequality of caste. Therefore, this sudden eruption against it makes no sense except as a reactionary backlash against the steady mainstreaming of anti-caste politics on social media. Given that caste remains a powerful determinant of status and life chances in Indian society, such a backlash is perhaps not entirely surprising.

But what is, is the alacrity with which a powerful multinational firm, with pretensions to liberal values, chose to pander to feudal sentiment. It makes one wonder what, if anything, Mr. Dorsey and his organisation learned from their closed door interaction with Indian women journalists about their experiences on Twitter. Whatever it was, the need to support Indian women against caste oppression and patriarchy wasn't a part of it.

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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.

Belated justice

Decades after the anti-Sikh riots shook Delhi in the aftermath of the assassination of Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, there seems to be some justice, but delayed (Page 1, "34 years after anti-Sikh riots, man sentenced to death", November 21). The court's verdict will be of some consolation to those who lost their loved ones in brutal acts committed by misguided elements. The wheels of justice have been turning at a snail's pace which has also enabled some of the accused to stay out of reach of the long arm of the law. One of the most shameful and infamous episodes in the history of free India, the riots were a blot on the country.

C.V. ARAVIND,
Bengaluru

Going the 3D way

An amalgam of an Industrial Revolution 4.0 and sunrise additive manufacturing technologies presents a pathway for India to achieve rapid growth. Such a thrust towards the manufacturing sector was long overdue and is what is essential to maintain the viability of India's rising ambitions. India needs to be receptive towards such disruptive technologies (Editorial page, "Make it the Indian way", November 21). There is a need to rectify the flaws in our skill development regime so that we are able to reap the dividends of our demographic abundance. High-tech manufacturing offers twin benefits: it will consolidate our already robust software ecosystem as well as create net value addition in the languishing manufacturing sector.

ATIN SHARMA,
Jammu, Jammu and Kashmir

■ The technology has great potential in the field of health services, where organs can be created and transplanted quickly. Given the poor condition of organ transplants in the country, 3D bioprinting can also help reduce costs.

SIMRAN SINGH,
Lucknow

■ Merely emulating a particular technological set-up such as 3D printing from the West and portraying it as an industrial revolution that is the long-lost solution is not the answer. Other factors such as power, labour and transportation costs and bureaucratic hurdles are still obstacles that need to be overcome before we can pave the way for a transformative industrial revolution in India.

MANAK SONI,
Bikaner, Rajasthan

A dishonest system

The thought-provoking reflections on the 'systematic' collapse of 'institutions' are sure to find an echo across the country (Editorial page, "Amid institutional decline", November 21). The series of attacks by the powers-that-be on established institutions with a view to render them pliable and subservient to petty political interests amount to a weakening of democracy itself. The collateral damage, especially on the body politic of the nation as such, is beyond description. The solution lies in overhauling the system to usher us into 'that heaven of freedom'.

S.V. VENUGOPALAN,
Chennai

■ The malaise currently afflicting the body politic is fast spreading. It is easy to guess who the writer was referring to when he says an "'honest' Prime Minister who tolerated dishonesty under him". Not only did the leader tolerate dishonesty, he also tried to justify it by calling it "coalition dharma". Integrity is not only not taking bribes but also being intellectually honest.

K. NEELAKANTAN,
Bengaluru

■ General moral decline will lead to institutional decline. Success at any cost has become the new mantra. The only far and few exceptions are individuals. The truth is that those who uphold honesty and rectitude have become 'misfits'. They have no godfathers and their only source of inspiration and strength is their own conscience. People get the leaders and governments they deserve. Who is to be blamed when dishonest and corrupt politicians register handsome victories in elections and occupy seats of power? Individuals have to change themselves before they set out to change society.

C.G. KURIAKOSE,
Kothamangalam, Kerala

■ Institutional health may not be very robust in India when compared to the West but it seems premature to set alarm bells ringing. One institution conspicuous by its absence in the list of affected institutions mentioned in the article is Parliament. The symbiotic relationship between the integrity and rigour of the political system, in particular the party system, and institutional independence is too important to be ignored. Political parties have colluded to perpetuate the ruling party's control over the CBI and State police. What prevented the Opposition from moving a Bill in Parliament to insulate the CBI from political interference? Why is it that no State government, irrespective of the party ruling it, has implemented police reforms mandated by the Supreme Court in 2006? Parties have collaborated to preserve the opaqueness in political funding which is a major contributor to corruption. The delay in the implementation of the Lokpal Act is inexplicable and inexcusable.

V.N. MUKUNDARAJAN,
Thiruvananthapuram

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Getting justice for Asia Bibi

How Pakistan must win the battle of narratives to counter Islamist sectarians

A. FAIZUR RAHMAN

Last month, the Pakistan Supreme Court acquitted Asia Bibi, a Christian woman accused of blasphemy, citing lack of evidence. The verdict must rank as the boldest in the chequered history of Pakistan. The judges showed remarkable courage in going against the far-right ideology responsible for the extralegal lynching of an estimated 60 persons accused of blasphemy since 1990.

Indeed, in 1997, a judge of the Lahore High Court, Arif Iqbal Bhatti, who had dismissed a blasphemy case against two Christians, was killed. So were Salman Taseer, the outspoken Governor of Punjab, and Shahbaz Bhatti, Pakistan's Federal Minister for Minority Affairs, in January and March of 2011, respectively. Both of them were critical of the blasphemy laws and had defended Ms. Bibi.

Surrender of the Pakistani state

True to form, the Pakistani clerics' reaction to Ms. Bibi's acquittal was brutal. Thousands of their weapon-wielding henchmen blocked roads and burnt vehicles shouting "Hang Asia" slogans. Pir Muhammad Afzal Qadri, senior leader of the radical outfit Tehreek-e-Labbaik Pakistan (TLP), not only incited an insurrection against Pakistan Army Chief General Qamar Javed Bajwa, but also openly called for the assassination of the Supreme Court judges who discharged Ms. Bibi. If that was not horrific enough, he hurled an antisemitic slur at Prime Minister Imran Khan and sought the dismissal of his government. All this in the name of the Prophet whom the Quran calls *Rahmat al lil aalameen* (Mercy unto humanity)!

Such was the savageness of the clerical backlash that the government capitulated within two days of the verdict. This resulted in Pakistan's Religious Affairs Minister and the Law Minister of Punjab signing an agreement with the TLP. One of the two TLP signatories was Mr. Qadri.

Under the deal, the government agreed to take immediate steps to prevent Ms. Bibi from leaving the country and promised not to contest the review petition filed against the verdict. Also, the arrested protesters would be released without delay and violence against them investigated. The only concession that could be extracted from the TLP was a deceitful *ma'azarat* (apology) to those who feel its activities had hurt them. The surrender of the Pakistani state could not have been more abject.

"The savageness of the clerical backlash to the Asia Bibi judgment was such that the government capitulated within two days of the verdict." Ms. Bibi's daughters pose with an image of their mother outside their residence in Sheikhupura in Pakistan's Punjab Province in 2010. • REUTERS

One fails to understand why Pakistan is constrained to pander to every whim of the extremists, especially when they do not enjoy popular support. The TLP, which has been consistently holding the state to ransom, did not win a single seat this year in the National Assembly despite fielding more than 170 candidates. The only inference that could be drawn from this is that an overwhelming majority of the Pakistani electorate does not subscribe to the medievalism of religious parties. Yet, the radicals can be seen dictating terms to even the powerful Pakistani military.

Some commentators attribute this to the belief that Pakistani citizens are not moderate. The argument is, if the extremists are not winning seats, it is because the mainstream parties have appropriated the discourse of the religious right on issues like blasphemy and women's rights. This reasoning is too simplistic. If, as alleged, the people of Pakistan had really been comfortable with radicalism, they would have backed authentic religious groups which hope to desecularise Pakistan. They would not have voted to power a mainstream party which only opportunistically resorts to the language of political Islam.

A conundrum explained

What explains this conundrum? The answer could lie in the Constitution which declared Pakistan to be an "Islamic Republic" perhaps without fully ascertaining if that was really "the will of the people of Pakistan" as the Preamble claims. The fact is, even Mohammad Ali Jinnah did not envision the state he was creating as a theodemocracy although he wanted Pakistan's Constitution to embody the "essential principles of Islam" such as equality, justice and fair play, which is totally different from making Islam the state religion.

In *Creating a New Medina,* Venkat Dhulipala points out that Jinnah considered Muslims in the "majority provinces" a nation only because they constituted a numerical majority in a contiguous piece of territory. On the other hand, he refused to accord the status of a "national group" to Muslims in the United Provinces because they were "scattered". In other words, there is no evidence to claim that Jinnah's definition of a nation was based on religion.

Yet, soon after his death, the Objectives Resolution (adopted in March 1949 and now part of the Pakistan Constitution) proclaimed inter alia that "sovereignty over the entire universe belongs to Allah Almighty alone and the authority which He has delegated to the State of Pakistan, through its people for being exercised within the limits prescribed by Him is a sacred trust." Several provisions of the Constitution echo these views. Article 31, for instance, expects the state to take steps to enable Pakistani Muslims to live in accordance with the basic concepts of Islam and help them understand "the meaning of life according to the Holy Quran and Sunnah." From a Muslim point of view these assertions are justified. But the question is, on whose interpretation of the Quran and the Sunnah would "the limits" prescribed by Allah be determined and enforced? Who has authorised Pakistani theologians to hang a person for a crime she has not committed, especially when that crime does not carry the death penalty in Islam?

With fatwas of *kufr* (apostasy) and threats of assassination hanging over them like a sword of Damocles, the people and secular politicians of Pakistan cannot be expected to boldly speak out against the views of the rampaging clerics. Even the Supreme Court judges who acquitted Ms. Bibi thoughtfully began their ruling with the *Kalima-e-shahaadat* (the testimony of faith). But it was of no avail. The fatwa of apostasy was nevertheless issued against them.

The only way to reclaim Islam from the radicals is to dismantle their blinkered narrative by questioning the juristic devices of abrogation, sectarian consensus, exegetic rationales, and eisegesis. Through these instruments, Quranic verses and Prophetic *hadeeses* are either arrogantly repealed, semantically stifled, or gratuitously expanded to rationalise narrow sectarianism in the name of preserving the Shariah.

Simultaneously, a massive intellectual effort must be mounted to mainstream a concept of Quranic hermeneutics that is consistent with the core values of Islam: justice, fairness, equality, freedom of religion, moderation, kindness and mercy. The subjugation of the medievalists is almost entirely dependent on winning this battle of narratives.

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The post and the person

Safeguards are needed to ensure that institutions like the Election Commission are headed by capable people

RASHMI SHARMA

The Constitution Bench of the Supreme Court is examining a public interest litigation (PIL) that could be critical for Indian democracy. The PIL, which seeks the strengthening of the Election Commission of India (ECI), includes a proposal to create an independent mechanism to appoint the Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) and Election Commissioners (ECs) who are, at present, simply appointed by the government of the day, without any defined criteria or processes.

Three critical decisions

That electoral democracy became a reality in India owes a great deal to the foresight of the Constituent Assembly. However, the Assembly could not have anticipated the extent to which the very political class that framed the Constitution would later attempt to subvert it. As this political dynamic unfolded, at certain crucial junctures, the judiciary and the leadership of the ECI saved democracy.

When the Constituent Assembly debated how free and fair elections should be ensured, three important questions arose. The first was whether free and fair elections should be made a part of fundamental rights or an independent institution, outside the executive, should be established to conduct the elections. The Assembly opted for the latter and created the ECI. With legal back up and the resources to develop and enforce a transparent electoral system, the ECI made free and fair elections a reality.

The second critical decision was to have a single, centralised body for elections to the Lok Sabha and State legislatures. One proposal was that the ECI be confined to federal elections, and separate institutions be set up to conduct elections to State legislatures. However, with increasing tension among communities, the Assembly feared partisan action in the States and opted for a single national institution, the ECI. The implications of this decision were complex. On the one hand, Central institutions have generally been more robust than State institutions. For example, State Election Commissions lack autonomy, are short on manpower and funds, and are frequently subject to attempts by State governments to manipulate elections. On the other, this decision could have led to an autocratic institution being established and possibly manipulated by powerful national actors. But this possibility was contained because elections became subject to judicial review. Originally, the Constitution had provided for tribunals set up by the ECI to hear election petitions. But aggrieved parties approached the courts, and the courts decided to hear election petitions. Then the ECI itself recommended that election petitions be heard by the judiciary, and in 1966, the law was changed accordingly.

The third question concerned ensuring the independence of the ECI. As the manner of appointment of the CEC and ECs was debated, Shibban Lal Saxena presciently argued that while the then Prime Minister was a man of independence, this may not always be the case, and proposed ratification of the CEC's appointment by the legislature. But the Assembly disagreed, and provided simply for the CEC to be appointed by the President, leaving it to the legislature to enact a suitable law, which never happened. The Constituent Assembly did provide, though, that the CEC could only be removed through impeachment. For the ECs, even this safeguard was not provided, which is also a subject of the above-mentioned PIL.

A major shortcoming

The history of elections shows that this remains a major shortcoming of the ECI. From 1967 to 1991, the election process deteriorated as the Congress lost its dominance, political competition intensified, and political actors stepped up violence and electoral malpractices. The ECI could not arrest this deterioration. Several State governments made large-scale transfers on the eve of elections and posted pliable officials in key positions, who sometimes flouted the ECI's orders. This deterioration could have continued. Instead, during the 1996 general election, the ECI restored the credibility of the election process. The CEC, T.N. Seshan, reinterpreted the ECI's role and powers, and provided combative, forceful leadership. He publicly reprimanded politicians for violating the Model Code of Conduct, postponed/cancelled elections if their credibility was compromised, intensified supervision of elections, and insisted on action against errant officials. Because of constitutional safeguards, he could not be removed. But the ECI got the right leadership accidentally, not by design. Though the ECI has since become an institution of some authority, there have been controversies over appointments of ECs, allegations of partisanship, and new problems such as of voter bribery and paid news, which the ECI has not been able to address so far.

As history shows, inadequate leadership is the bane of our public institutions. Safeguards to ensure that ethical and capable people head them are crucial.

Rashmi Sharma is a former IAS officer

SINGLE FILE

The notion of purity

The law alone cannot shatter a myth that has been built upon and aggrandised with every generation

ANJALI THOMAS

H. VIBHU

The focus on female bodily functions has never been more critical or as intense than it is now. The Sabarimala judgment has sparked a clash between culture and nature, an amplification of a battle cry that began when women started questioning why they were barred from some places of worship. In 2016, a PIL was filed challenging the temple entry ban. That same year, women were allowed into Shani Shingnapur temple's sanctum sanctorum, in Maharashtra.

But equality will remain elusive as long as menstruation is considered taboo and linked to the idea of purity, or rather, the lack of it. Menstrual period is part of the female reproductive cycle when the body sheds the uterine lining if an egg is not fertilised. It is a rather mundane occurrence that is shrouded in a culture of shame.

In her essay, 'Is Female to Male as Nature is to Culture', American anthropologist Sherry B. Ortner argues that a woman's secondary status to man stems from the fact that the female physiology with its procreative functions is seen as closer to nature. The male body, on the other hand, is free from such restrictions. The dominant patriarchal view accords 'nature' far less value than 'culture' as the latter is associated with the creation of ideas and technology. For most women, menstruation can be uncomfortable and painful, and as Ms. Ortner points out, involves tasks of cleansing and waste disposal. "In many cultures it interrupts a woman's routine, putting her in a stigmatised state involving various restrictions on her activities and social contacts," she writes. So when Union Minister Smriti Irani questioned whether a woman would carry a "napkin seeped with menstrual blood into a friend's house," she was reinforcing ideas of purity that took root in society thousands of years ago. "Would you think it is respectful to do the same when you walk into the house of God? I have the right to pray, but no right to desecrate," she said at the time.

Most religions subscribe to this view. The *Book of Leviticus* in the Old Testament talks about purity and desecration in this context: "When a woman has a discharge consisting of blood from her body, for seven days she will be unclean due to menstruation, and anyone who touches her will be unclean until evening."

And when U.S. President Donald Trump said in 2015 that journalist Megyn Kelly had "blood coming out of her wherever" after she questioned his misogyny, he was reinforcing a stereotype that women everywhere are now challenging.

Desecration, impurity and defilement are powerful, negative words for a biological function that predates the evolution of culture. Increasingly, the legal system in India has been trying to address this imbalance, but the law alone cannot shatter a myth that has been built upon and aggrandised with every generation.

The writer is with The Hindu's Bengaluru bureau

FAQ

Limits of CBI jurisdiction

A provision that allows States to show their strength

DEVESH KUMAR PANDEY

Can States bar the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) from functioning in their territory?

Yes. The CBI is a national agency with police powers. Its primary jurisdiction is confined to Delhi and Union Territories. As policing (detecting crime and maintaining law and order) is a State subject, the law allows the agency to function outside only with the consent of the States. Andhra Pradesh and West Bengal have withdrawn their general consent to the CBI to operate within their territories.

Has it happened before? And why?

There are several instances of State governments withdrawing their consent. There was even an instance in Sikkim, when the State withdrew its consent after the CBI registered a case against former Chief Minister Nar Bahadur Bhandari, and before it could file a charge sheet. The most common reason for withdrawal of consent is a strain in Centre-State relations, and the oft-repeated allegation that the agency is being misused against Opposition parties. The decision by Andhra Pradesh and West Bengal has come amid concerns being voiced by Opposition parties that Central agencies such as the CBI, Enforcement Directorate and Income Tax Department are being used against them.

Under what law is it done?

The CBI draws its power from the Delhi Special Police Establishment (DSPE) Act. The Home Ministry, through a resolution, set up the agency in April 1963. Under Section 5 of the Act, the Central government can extend its powers and jurisdiction to the States, for investigation of specified offences. However, this power is restricted by Section 6, which says its powers and jurisdiction cannot be extended to any State without the consent of the government of that State.

What is the impact of States taking back their consent?

The withdrawal of general consent restricts the CBI from instituting new cases in the State concerned. However, as decided by the Supreme Court in *Kazi Lhendup Dorji* (1994), the withdrawal of consent applies prospectively and therefore, existing cases will be allowed to reach their logical conclusion. The CBI can also seek or get specific consent in individual cases from the State government.

How has the consent issue played out?

In most cases, States have given consent for a CBI probe against only Central government employees. The agency can also investigate a Member of Parliament. Apart from Mizoram, West Bengal and Andhra Pradesh, the agency has consent in one form or the other for carrying out investigations across the country.

What happens to cases in which there is a demand for a CBI probe?

The Supreme Court has made it clear that when it or a High Court directs that a particular investigation be handed over to the CBI, there is no need for any consent under the DSPE Act. A landmark judgment in this regard was the 2010 Supreme Court decision by which the killing of 11 Trinamool Congress workers in West Bengal in 2001 was handed over to the CBI.

FROM The Hindu. ARCHIVES

FIFTY YEARS AGO NOVEMBER 22, 1968

World monetary crisis: 'Group of Ten' meet

West German Economics Minister Karl Schiller said to-day [November 21, Bonn] that financial leaders of the 10 major non-Communist industrial countries were facing very difficult problems in their efforts to solve the current international monetary crisis. He told reporters after a three-hour session on the second day of the conference of Ministers and Central Bank Governors of the 'Group of Ten' that a lot of time would still be required to work out solutions. More than 100 delegates of the group began an emergency conference yesterday in a bid to end recent massive speculation against the French franc. The Group of Ten are the United States, Canada, Britain, France, West Germany, Belgium, the Netherlands, Italy, Sweden and Japan.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO NOVEMBER 22, 1918.

Post-War Trade Policy.

The Committee of the Bengal Chamber of Commerce has issued a report on the future trade policy of India concerning tariffs. After considering the opinion expressed by individual firms the Committee came to the following decision. The policy to be followed in this connection should be, the special Sub-Committee think, based on the principle of reciprocity with preference within the British Empire. In other words the treatment of imports into and exports from the British Empire should be made to depend mainly on the treatment accorded by foreign nations to exports to and imports from British possessions. If a country is willing to extend to British Empire the advantages of free trade then the Empire should be willing to trade with that country on the same terms. On the other hand, tariffs should be imposed as against those countries into heavy import duties on the British Empire.

CONCEPTUAL

Compassion fatigue

PSYCHOLOGY

Also known as secondary traumatic stress, this refers to a state of psychological fatigue that is experienced by people who invest a lot of time and effort into charity and social rescue activities. Compassion fatigue can cause victims to slowly lose any feeling of compassion towards people who may be in need of their assistance. This happens because of repeated exposure to people in need of help, leading them to develop a feeling of numbness. Compassion fatigue is said to affect professional assistance providers like doctors, nurses, firefighters and other emergency service personnel who are constantly exposed to people who need help.

MORE ON THE WEB

My WhatsApp nightmare

http://bit.ly/WhatsAppThread

FROM PAGE ONE

J&K Governor dissolves Assembly

The Governor, while issuing the order to dissolve the Assembly, pointed to the impossibility of a stable government being formed by political parties with opposing political ideologies.

The experience of the past few years showed that with the fractured mandate, it was not possible to form a stable government.

"The coming together of such parties in a grouping is nothing but an attempt to gain power rather than to form a responsive government," said Mr. Malik.

He said there were also reports of extensive horse trading and possible exchange of money, in order to secure the support of legislators belonging to widely diverging political ideologies just to form a government.

"Such activities are not healthy for democracy and vitiate the political process," the Governor added.

National Conference leader and former Chief Minister Omar Abdullah cried foul over the Governor's decision.

"The NC has been pressing for Assembly dissolution for five months now. It can't be a coincidence that within minutes of Mehbooba Mufti Sahiba's letter staking claim the order to dissolve the Assembly suddenly appears," said Mr. Abdullah.

Senior PDP leader Naeem Akhtar said the BJP-backed PC claim only hinted at the "illegitimate means the two parties were planning to employ in J&K to cobble together the required numbers."

Earlier, in an eventful day, arch rivals, the NC and the PDP, decided to join hands to form a unity government, with the Congress openly offering its support.

Modi govt. trying to weaken democracy, says Manmohan

'Credibility of institutions like Parliament and CBI systematically denigrated'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Narendra Modi government is trying to weaken democracy, his predecessor, Manmohan Singh, said in Indore on Wednesday.

Ahead of the Assembly elections in Madhya Pradesh and other States, the former Prime Minister addressed a press conference, his first.

"The country has witnessed the credibility of institutions like Parliament and CBI being systematically denigrated. There is a careful, well-thought-out and calibrated effort to weaken democracy," he said, reading out from a written statement.

"The rule of law is under attack. History shall never forgive our present generation if the situation is not changed," Dr. Singh said.

Answering questions later, he criticised the Prime Minister's conduct. "It does not befit the PM to abuse political opponents," he said, accusing him of using "unparliamentary words" against the Opposition.

In poll mode: Former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh addressing a press conference in Indore on Wednesday. ▪PTI

Asked about his 2014 comments that Narendra Modi as PM would be a disaster to the country, he said he did not want to comment on his earlier remarks.

"I used harsh words which I should not have. Now people will make the decision," he added.

In a veiled reference to developments in the RBI and the CBI, Dr. Singh said the Modi government was trying to prevail over big institutions, and this would be detrimental to democracy and the law of the land.

"The relationship between the RBI and the Finance Ministry has hit a low," the former Union Finance Minister and Reserve Bank Governor said, adding there is a need for "harmony and coordination".

"The RBI Governor and the Finance Minister have a delicate relationship. Both have to work together. Even though the job of running the country rests with the government, specific responsibility is given to the RBI Governor by the RBI Act. There is a need to recognise interdependence of the two entities and work in harmony," he said.

"I am happy with the efforts being made to bring reconciliation. Both need to work in harmony with each other," he said.

"The maximum number of people in India, who ended their life due to unemployment, belong to BJP-ruled Madhya Pradesh," he said.

He criticised the State government led by Shivraj Singh Chouhan for failing to provide employment opportunities to youth. He cited an instance in February this year when 2,81,000 persons, some holding Ph.D.s, applied for 738 posts of peon.

Dr. Singh also attacked the Shivraj Singh Chouhan government on various alleged scams such as Vyapam.

BJP seeks action on leaked video

Says Cong. leader violated poll code

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

A delegation of the BJP met with officials of the Election Commission of India demanding action against the Congress over a leaked video of Madhya Pradesh Congress Committee chief Kamal Nath, accusing him of violating the code of conduct and invoking religious sentiments and appealing to a particular religious community.

The delegation was led by Union Minister Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi along with members of Parliament Meenakshi Lekhi and Anil Baluni.

It cited news reports of an opinion poll broadcast by India News Channel and conducted by C-Fore agency on November 18, stating that this violated the model code of conduct.

They also cited tweets by Mr. Nath promising regularisation of Aanganwadi workers in Madhya Pradesh if elected, and of raising allowances of midday meal workers when no such announcement was made in the Congress's manifesto and was therefore in violation of Section 123 of the Representation of the People Act read along with Sections 171B and 171C of the Indian Penal Code.

Kamal Nath

Significantly, it also cited a leaked video of Mr. Nath allegedly addressing a gathering which exclusively to Muslim voters to mobilise 90% polling in favour of the Congress on Muslim dominated polling booths.

"This is against the spirit of free and fair polls," the delegation said in its letter submitted to the commission.

Birds flee devastated Point Calimere

Extensive damage: A tree that was uprooted by Cyclone Gaja in Pudukottai. ▪PTI

Great flamingo, Painted Stork, Little Stint, Seagull and Brown-headed gull are normally found in the sanctuary. Mr. Ramasubramaniam said watch towers, flamingo and blackbuck rest houses and other structures were destroyed. "The infrastructure damage is to the tune of ₹2.4 crore and we have sent a detailed report to the government," Mr. Ramasubramaniam said.

The bird sanctuary that is normally populated with water birds that wade through the water, wears a deserted look.

"I could see a lot of birds floating in the water now. It is a good sign. I am once again seeing some birds returning," said Rudrapathy, who was fishing in the sanctuary on Wednesday.

S.M. Balasubramanian, a former local councillor of Point Calimere, said though people have themselves lost everything in the cyclone, the damage caused to the sanctuary pained him very much. Mr. Ramasubramaniam rejected the reports that hundreds of blackbuck were drowned. If there were such mass deaths "it would have come to our notice immediately."

Ministry contradicts submission

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Contradictory to its own submission made in front of the Parliamentary Committee on Finance on Tuesday, the Union Agriculture Ministry issued a clarification on Wednesday claiming that there was no impact of demonetisation.

The demonetisation was announced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on November 8, 2016.

The Ministry, in a press note, said that the sales of oilseeds and pulse seeds were completed by the time of the announcement and had no impact due to it.

"In case of wheat crops, the sale in cash was not affected as the government subsequently allowed for sale of seeds and other inputs through co-operatives, State governments, public sector undertakings, National or State Seeds Corporations, Central or State Agricultural Universities and the Indian Council of Agricultural Research by accepting purchase through old currency of ₹500 and ₹1,000 notes on production of proof of identity," the clarification said.

The clarification, however, does not deny the report of *The Hindu*.

One of the senior bureaucrats at the Ministry said the report sent to the Standing Committee was prepared in a hurry and a revised report with more details would be furnished at its next meeting on November 27.

BJP targets Kamal Nath after 1984 riots verdict

Congress needs to answer questions over its sincerity in prosecuting cases, says Ravi Shankar Prasad

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The BJP on Wednesday turned the spotlight on Madhya Pradesh Congress chief Kamal Nath, a day after a Delhi court sentenced two people for their roles in the 1984 anti-Sikh riots.

The party demanded that the Congress answer charges that it had scuttled earlier commissions of inquiry into the riots to protect some of its leaders.

Claiming that the Congress had removed Mr. Nath as the party's Punjab election in-charge after protests over his alleged role in the riots, Union Law Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad said at a press conference here that the Congress needed to answer questions over its sincerity in prosecuting cases related to the 1984 riots.

Mr. Nath has said he had no links with the riots which erupted in the wake of the assassination of the then Prime Minister, Indira Gandhi, by her Sikh bodyguards.

Seeking answers: BJP leader Ravi Shankar Prasad addressing a press meet at the party office in New Delhi on Wednesday. ▪PTI

'An eyewash'

Contending that the Congress had, during its rule, "tried to ensure that the Sikh riot victims did not get justice," he said several commissions of inquiry set up by Congress-led governments were "either an eyewash or were wound up when they seemed to be getting somewhere". Mr. Prasad alleged that "the Opposition party did this to save its own people."

He also credited the probe by the Special Investigation Team (SIT), set up in 2015 by the government headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, for facilitating the conviction of the two people this month, almost 35 years after the riots. While the court sentenced one convict to death, it awarded a life term to the other.

"We [BJP] are very satisfied," Mr. Prasad said. "The Nanavati Commission set up by the Atal Bihari Vajpayee government had found evidence of systematic killing of Sikhs in 1984. But between 2005 and 2014, the UPA government did not take any authentic steps to provide justice to victims. The Modi government took steps that gave justice to victims of the 1984 killings," he said.

Promise to Sikhs

The Law Minister said his party wanted to assure Sikhs, especially those whose families had suffered, that the SIT would probe the cases honestly, without any undue outside interference, and take action against the guilty.

Mr. Prasad said Rajiv Gandhi, who succeeded his mother Indira Gandhi as Prime Minister, had said that the earth shook when a big tree fell, and alleged that the Congress had condoned the organised violence against Sikhs.

"No one in the Congress has denied that remark till date," he said.

The BJP's NDA ally, the Akali Dal, went a step further with the former Punjab Deputy Chief Minister Sukhbir Singh Badal demanding that Congress leader Sonia Gandhi be summoned by the SIT for questioning.

To a query about other riots, including those in Gujarat in 2002, Mr. Prasad said there had been convictions in many of the Gujarat riots cases, and added that a Supreme Court-monitored SIT had questioned Mr. Modi, who was the State's Chief Minister at the time, for three days and subsequently given him a clean chit.

1 held for grenade attack on Amritsar prayer meet

The Chief Minister said preliminary investigation and CCTV footage of the incident had led to the arrest of Bikramjit, who identified his accomplice as Avtar Singh Khalsa, 32, a resident of village Chak Mishri Khan in Ajnala.

Punjab DGP Suresh Arora said Bikramjit was riding a motorbike at the time of his arrest and it had been recovered.

"During interrogation, Bikramjit disclosed that he reached the house of Avtar Singh in Chak Mishri Khan village on his motorcycle at about 9 a.m. They started for village Adliwal around 9.30 am. They waited in the area for the crowd to congregate at the Satsang Bhawan. Both of them were armed with pistols at that time. After hurling the grenade, both of them fled on the motorbike," he said.

Mr. Arora said Avtar Singh was in touch with Happy, who had got the hand grenade dumped near an orchard near Majitha through some other associates.

Setback for Vijay Mallya in foreclosure case

VIDYA RAM
LONDON

Swiss bank UBS's attempt to foreclose on a mortgage loan on a London property of Vijay Mallya's gained ground as the judge in the case approved its application to strike out certain parts of an amended defence submitted in May by the businessman's legal team, on almost all counts.

The case at the business and property courts of the Royal Court of Justice has been ongoing as the bank has sought to take possession of the property in prime central London, over the £20.4 million interest.

The bank says that Rose Capital, through which the house was originally purchased in 2005, had not repaid the loan, that was stated to be for a period of five years and subject to early termination by the claimant.

Mr. Mallya's legal team have sought to fight the application from UBS on a number of grounds, including a failure to recognise occupation rights and an allegation that UBS had "delayed and frustrated" the defendants' attempts to refinance the loan.

Vijay Mallya

In his ruling the judge said that striking out a claim was a step that the court would "not take lightly," and only took place if a claim was "bound to fail."

He said that aside from one issue - the defendants claim that UBS had pledged to roll over the debt for another five years after the initial five-year period - the case based on 10 other issues was "bound to fail" and it was appropriate for them to be struck out of the amended defence.

The one remaining issue could remain within the amended defence document ahead of a trial that is set to commence next year.

"The language of the contractual terms in this case could not be more stark. The loan was made on an uncommitted basis and repayable on demand. UBS' standard conditions were amended to remove the need for there to be a trigger event before it was entitled to call in the loan and UBS was entitled to call in the loan in its absolute discretion," wrote Chief Master Mash in his judgment.

Under ISI tutelage, KLF wants to revive Khalistan movement

Currently being headed by Harmeet Singh of Amritsar, who has been living in a gurdwara in Lahore since 2008

VIJAITA SINGH
NEW DELHI

Punjab Chief Minister Capt. Amarinder Singh said on Wednesday that the accused in Sunday's attack on a religious congregation near Amritsar were associated with the banned outfit, Khalistan Liberation Force (KLF).

Security agencies say the KLF, an extremist organisation active in the 1980s, was revived in 2009 in Malaysia under pressure from Pakistan's Inter Services Intelligence (ISI).

It is currently being headed by Harmeet Singh, alias "PhD", of Amritsar who is working under the "tutelage of Pakistan's ISI".

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) says Harmeet Singh has been living at Gurdwara Bibi Nanki in Lahore since 2008. He used Skype to radicalise an Italy-based Sikh youth, Hardeep Singh, and convinced him to come to India to carry out specific attacks.

He would fly down from Italy every time he was assigned a target.

The NIA chronicled the revival of the extremist outfit in May when the agency accused KLF of being involved in eight incidents of murder and attempted murders of RSS leaders and a pastor in Punjab in 2016 and 2017. Singh and a sewing machine mechanic, Ramandeep, were accused by NIA to be involved in all the killings.

Founded by Aroor Singh

The NIA said the main objective of the KLF is to "liberate the so-called Khalistan".

Victim of terror: A man injured in the blast at the Nirankari Bhawan being treated in Amritsar on Sunday. ▪AP

Founded by Aroor Singh in 1986, the outfit had been active in promoting secessionist activities till 1994.

"After being ousted from the Panthic [religious] committee, he [Aroor Singh] organised the Mai Bhago regiment under the banner of the KLF as the armed wing of the All India Sikh Students Federation (Presidium)," an NIA document said.

It further said that after Aroor Singh's death in 1986 and killing of other top leaders by security forces, Avtar Singh Brahma took over the outfit in 1987. After Brahma was killed in an encounter with security forces in Rajasthan in August 1988, Gurjant Singh Budh Singhwala took over. "Singhwala also died in an encounter on July 29, 1992 and after his death, Dr. Pritam Singh Sekhon took over in 1994. As per reports, he died in Pakistan," the NIA said.

According to the NIA, in November 2009, Sandeep Singh, alias Jasbir Singh, who was part of the KLF in the 1980s and 1990s, came to Malaysia to meet Harminder Singh Mintoo, Bakshish Singh and Daljit Singh Khalsa. Mintoo was asked to carry out attacks in 2010.

Mintoo was arrested in 2014 in Thailand and deported to India. He was lodged in the Nabha jail from where he escaped in a sensational jailbreak on November 28, 2016. He was later arrested and died of a cardiac arrest in Punjab Central Jail.

"The leadership of the KLF believes that they can revive the moribund Khalistan movement by targeting members of specific communities so as to polarise the society of Punjab on communal lines. Organisations and persons, who according to the leadership of the KLF oppose the ideology of Jarnail Singh Bhindranwale, are their prime targets for elimination. The members of the organisation also keep a close watch on postings on social media and choose targets who hold anti-Sikh views," the NIA said.

Media reports cited against Andrabi

NIA files chargesheet against DeM chief

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) has in a chargesheet filed last week, reproduced interviews given to a prominent Kashmiri newspaper as prime evidence against Dukhtaran-e-Millat (DeM) chief Asiya Andrabi and her two associates.

In the chargesheet against Ms. Andrabi and two others, Sofi Fehmeeda and Nahida Nasreen, the NIA said DeM, a separatist outfit based in the Kashmir Valley, was collecting gold jewellery through donations and raised funds by selling them. The accused were arrested on July 5 and are now in Tihar jail.

The NIA said it could not attach the photograph of the accused in the chargesheet as they were *pardanasheen* (veiled). Ms. Andrabi supported Lashkar-e-Jabbar (LeJ), a terrorist outfit that threw acid on two women in Srinagar in 2000 for not adhering to the Islamic dress code, the agency said.

It said Ms. Andrabi asked women to stay away from government jobs, and investigations revealed that the DeM does not accept as members any women who work for financial institutions such as banks and who are married to soldiers or police personnel. The chargesheet accessed by *The Hindu* said the DeM worked closely with multiple terrorist outfits and Kashmiri separatist leaders.

[IN FOCUS: M.P. EQUATIONS]

Upper caste angst may queer pitch for BJP

Younger voters, concerned about the lack of jobs, seem to be lending some wind to the Congress's sails this time around

VIKAS PATHAK
GWALIOR/UJJAIN

Vijay Kumar Dubey, a traditional BJP supporter, predicts a close contest in the Madhya Pradesh Assembly election.

The middle-aged Brahmin trader, who runs a shop near the bustling Bada area in Gwalior, has his reasons for the assessment.

"The Goods and Services Tax has cut into businessmen's profits," he says, with an air of bitterness. "Why is it that only traders are referred to when we talk about black money? Why are there no raids on rich politicians?"

And he has another grievance: "The Chief Minister said that no *mai ka laal* can take away reservations. Okay, but why this kind of tone? Who will talk about the *Savarnas* [upper castes]?"

For the first time in an election in the State, caste and reservations have become a common refrain. Madhya Pradesh, unlike Uttar Pradesh or Bihar, hitherto did not have nuanced caste-based issues casting a shadow over electoral outcomes.

Lead campaigner: Prime Minister Narendra Modi at an election meeting in Rewa. ▪PTI

Residents say the polarisation over the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act was the tipping point, with an undercurrent of upper caste concerns becoming distinctly discernible in political discussions in recent months.

Conversations with upper caste voters in urban areas reveal a broad pattern: while most expect the BJP will retain power, they predict – without revealing their voting intentions – a *kaante ki takkar* (a close fight) between the Congress and the BJP. There are also those who are openly critical of the BJP and wish to see change, flagging a likely splintering of votes from upper castes – a bloc that had largely been pro-BJP.

The upper castes – the Brahmins, Thakurs, Baniyas and Kayasths – constitute about 17% of the population of the State, show data cited by Christophe Jaffrelot in his book *Rise of the Plebeians*. They are more numerous in the Malwa, Bundelkhand and Baghelkhand regions than in the Mahakoshal region.

Sapaks, a spoiler?

While the Sapaks party is trying to capitalise on this undercurrent of *Savarna* unease,the BJP still remains the party that most upper caste voters trust, their discontent over the restoration of the SC/ST Act notwithstanding.

At the Dewas Gate area in Ujjain, a conversation with three elderly men, all Thakurs, shows their sympathies are still with the BJP. The Sapaks, they say, will cut into some of the upper caste votes, particularly among "short-sighted and misguided" voters.

However, it is the younger voters among the upper castes, who seem to be lending some wind to the Congress's sails this time around.

"One good thing about Rajasthan is that it keeps shifting from one party to the other every five years," says Ashish Tiwari, a Gwalior-based student who is a Brahmin. "Change is not bad sometimes. If you use the same umbrella for 15 years, it will begin to leak. You need to change it."

Even in Budhni, Shivraj Singh Chouhan's constituency, jobs are a matter of concern for upper caste youth, though they agree that Mr. Chouhan will be hard to beat being the sitting Chief Minister. Rahul Rajput, a Thakur from Budhni who is in his mid-20s, says he has no job despite having a Master's degree and a diploma in computer application. The town's two textile mills do not employ local youth, he says.

"The Chief Minister has made too many promises, but his strike rate in terms of implementation is not good," he says.

Campaign cuts

Capturing minds: In a departure from posters and hoardings, parties are using new designs in Hyderabad. ▪K.V.S. GIRI

VVPATs do well in Chhattisgarh

Expert training helped, says official

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The two phases of the Assembly election in Chhattisgarh recorded low failure of electronic voting machines (EVMs) and voter verifiable paper audit trail (VVPAT) units compared with their performance in recent polls.

During polling, only 0.34% of the ballot units, 0.39% of the control units and 1.89% of the VVPATs had to be replaced. The figures for the mock polls stood at 0.72%, 0.88% and 1.68%.

"Comprehensive training of polling personnel resulted in better handling of the machines," an official said.

In reserve

The poll panel used 23,677 control units, 30,696 ballot units and 23,677 VVPATs for the election. It had kept more than 3,900 VVPATs, 2,852 control units and 3,659 ballot units in reserve.

In the Karnataka Assembly election on May 12, nearly 1,700 VVPATs developed glitches during the mock test, amounting to nearly 4.2% of all the machines.

This figure was encouraging compared with the high rate of malfunction during the Lok Sabha byelections in Kairana (Uttar Pradesh) and Palghar and Bhandara-Gondiya in Maharashtra, the official said. The VVPAT replacement rate was as high as 20.82% in Kairana, 19.22% in Bhandara-Gondia and 13.16% in Palghar.

Following the glitches detected during the Lok Sabha bypolls, the poll panel got an analysis done by its technical experts committee, which found that excessive exposure to light was a prominent cause.

The machine's deplete sensor would malfunction due to the EC logo on printing paper.

The EC got all these issues fixed at the manufacturing level.

For this bodybuilder, it's a change of arena

Congress fields a champion against Akbaruddin Owaisi

SYED MOHAMMED
HYDERABAD

Pumping iron and fighting elections have little in common. But Esa Misri, known for strong pectorals and bulging biceps, is the Congress candidate for the Chandrayagutta Assembly seat in the Old City here.

Mr. Misri says he is contesting on the plank of development and public discourse without incendiary rhetoric. His main rivals are candidates of the All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen and the Bharatiya Janata Party.

In a free-wheeling interview to *The Hindu*, the 49-year-old second-generation athlete says, "All political parties are busy sowing seeds of discord between communities. Here, we are seeing a war of words, albeit obliquely, between the candidates of the AIMIM and the BJP. I want to stop politics based on religion. There is a need for clean politics, which will reach out to all sections of society. It is only when this happens that development will take place," Mr. Misri says.

Heavy lifting: Esa Misri is taking on a new challenge in the Chandrayagutta constituency in Hyderabad. ▪NAGARA GOPAL

Home stretch

The bodybuilder-businessman politician traces his roots to Hadhramaut in Yemen. "I belong to the al-Misri tribe," he says, adding that he is no stranger to the Chandrayagutta constituency. "My mother's family is from there. My businesses are in the same area. I am practically from Chandrayagutta," Mr. Misri says.

So, how does he plan to take on a formidable opponent like Akbaruddin Owaisi of the AIMIM, who has been the Chandrayangutta MLA for several terms?

"I have met thousands of people over the past 11 months. They have told me they would support my candidature, that they would vote for me. They want change," he says.

Mr. Misri says the constituents, in the past, wanted to "change" former Chandrayagutta MLA and Majlis Bachao Tahreek founder Amanullah Khan and they did it. The time for another "change" has come, he says. Mr. Misri plans to focus on healthcare as better access to the public health system and affordable medicines were a must. His sons, Ahmed Misri and Osman Misri, too, are body builders, and have won silver medals in an international championship.

[BATTLEGROUND: KHAMMAM]

TRS, TDP face off in high-octane contest

Ruling party banks on 'development plank' to sway voters

P. SRIDHAR
KHAMMAM

A high-octane battle is on the cards in the Khammam constituency with the TDP, in alliance with the Congress, the CPI and the Telangana Jana Samiti, banking on the combined strength to win the high-profile seat in the December 7 election.

The segment, encompassing the fort town of Khammam, has remained a citadel of the CPI(M) and the CPI for several decades since its inception in 1952. The Congress too reigned supreme in the constituency, winning the seat four times including in the 2014 election.

The TDP has fielded its Polit Bureau member and former Khammam MP Nama Nageswara Rao in an apparent bid to revive its fortunes in the district, considered the political nerve centre of south Telangana.

The ruling TRS is pinning its hopes on the "development plank" to retain its sway in the constituency where it has fielded former MLA Puvvada Ajay Kumar.

Mr. Ajay Kumar won from the constituency on Congress ticket in 2014, trouncing Tummala Nageswara Rao, who contested on TDP ticket, by a margin of 5,682 votes.

Both Mr. Kumar and Mr. Rao later joined the TRS separately and the latter was inducted into the State Cabinet as Minister for Roads and Buildings before being elected as the TRS candidate from the Palair constituency in a byelection in 2016.

BLF's trump card

By fielding a backward classes leader, Palvancha Rama Rao, from the constituency, the CPI(M)-backed Bahujan Left Front (BLF) is hoping to spring a surprise by relying on the support of weaker sections, which constitute the lion's share of the electorate.

The BJP is also trying to make inroads into the constituency.

The candidates of the main political parties have focussed their attention on winning the support of Muslim minorities, traders and employees who form a sizeable chunk of the total electorate.

The TDP campaign managers have drawn up plans to organise roadshows by party president N. Chandrababu Naidu and the actor-turned politician N. Balakrishna in the final leg of the campaign, TDP sources said.

Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao and Deputy Chief Minister Mahamood Ali have already campaigned for the TRS candidate.

POLL POURRI

Several defectors in Rajasthan

JAIPUR

The BJP and the Congress in Rajasthan have fielded 11 defectors. Voices of dissent are being heard from both parties and sidelined leaders have been quick to cross over to get a chance to contest.

The BJP has fielded seven defectors — six from the Congress and one from the BSP. The Congress has given ticket to at least four. State Congress president Sachin Pilot (in photo) said the decision was taken by the party high command on a case-by-case basis. Defectors who got Congress ticket include Harish Meena, Habib-ir-Rehman, Manvendra Singh and Sona Devi Bawri. PTI

Polling booths for Bru refugees

AIZAWL

The Election Commission on Wednesday approved a proposl of Chief Electoral Officer Ashish Kundra (in photo) for setting up 15 booths at Kahnmun in Mamit district of Mizoram for Bru refugees. The nearest Bru refugee camp from the village across the Langkaih river in Tripura is about 2 km away at Kaskau and the farthest is 57 km away at Hazacherra. For the 12,014 Bru voters of Mizoram, it will be a homecoming via the same route they had taken 21 years ago.

Gehlot's apology to Jodhpur

JODHPUR

Senior Congress leader Ashok Gehlot on Wednesday apologised to the people of Jodhpur for lack of development, and said it was neglected by Rajasthan Chief Minister Vasundhara Raje (in photo) as he hailed from the district. He appealed to the people to teach Ms. Raje a lesson. "She did not do any development work in the entire Marwar region, especially in Jodhpur, because I belong to Jodhpur. I tender my apology for being the reason for this neglect," the former Rajasthan Chief Minister said. Mr. Gehlot filed his nomination for Sardarpura on Monday. PTI

AAP releases M.P. manifesto

BHOPAL

The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) on Wednesday released its manifesto for the Madhya Pradesh Assembly election, promising health and education services similar to those provided by its government in Delhi. Claiming that the party was an alternative to the BJP and the Congress, Delhi Minister Gopal Rai (in photo) and Madhya Pradesh AAP chief Alok Agrawal released the manifesto, printed in the form of a notarised affidavit. PTI

Amit Shahji has arrived, Modiji will be coming. Since it's a democracy, all are welcome. But they won't be able to make any difference to the public opinion. I believe that people are going to vote for the Congress

ASHOK GEHLOT
CONGRESS LEADER

DATA BYTE

Polling trend

The Chhattisgarh Assembly election saw a voter turnout of 76.35%, about one percentage point lower than the 2013 election. Naxal-affected districts like Dantewada saw a lower turnout compared to the rest of the State

POCKET | SURENDRA

When I sought party ticket, nobody objected. I suspect the constituency is not a safe one.

ELSEWHERE

Congress to investigate Ivanka over email use

WASHINGTON

A Congressional committee will investigate Ivanka Trump, U.S. President Donald Trump's daughter and a White House adviser, following reports that she repeatedly used a personal email account for official work, a House Democrat said on Tuesday. AFP

EU rejects Italy's budget, to impose sanctions

BRUSSELS

Brussels officially rejected Italy's big-spending budget on Wednesday, clearing the path for unprecedented sanctions and deepening a bitter row with Rome's populist government. The conclusion by the European Commission, the EU's executive arm, comes weeks after it had sent back the budget, in a historic first. AFP

U.S. suspends $1.66 bn security aid to Pakistan

WASHINGTON

The U.S. has suspended $1.66 billion in security assistance to Pakistan, days after President Donald Trump said the country does not do "a damn thing" for America, Pentagon has said, in what experts believe is a strong signal of American frustration. PTI

Time is limited for Hamas leader: Israel Minister

JERUSALEM

Israel's Housing Minister Yoav Gallant warned on Wednesday that "time is limited" for Yahya Sinwar, the Hamas leader in the Gaza Strip, days after a controversial truce ended a severe flare-up and triggered a coalition crisis. "He won't finish his life in a retirement home," said Mr. Gallant. AFP

'JVP and TNA must fight together'

Leftist party leader says both can find common ground, and protect democratic rights together

MEERA SRINIVASAN
COLOMBO

Sri Lanka's leftist Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna (JVP) and the Tamil National Alliance (TNA) have a duty to fight together and protect democratic rights, JVP leader Anura Dissanayake said, proposing a novel partnership between parties representing the country's two main ethnic groups.

"The JVP (or People's Liberation Front) and the TNA represent sections in the country's south and north that have suffered most due to the actions of the repressive state," he said in an interview to *The Hindu* on Wednesday.

He was referring to the JVP's two youth insurrections in 1971 and 1987-89 that were suppressed by state violence, and the Tamil armed struggle that was militarily defeated in 2009.

Mr. Dissanayake's comments come in light of a month-long political crisis in Sri Lanka, which began with President Maithripala Sirisena's arbitrary sacking of Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe, and the appointment of former President Mahinda Rajapaksa in his place. The Sirisena-Rajapaksa combine has since disrupted Parliament and rejected two confidence votes passed in the House, without proving a majority.

Seeking normalcy: A protest in Colombo on Wednesday calling for the restoration of the government; right, JVP leader Anura Dissanayake. ▪ AFP, ISHARA KODIKARA

Ideological shifts

As a political party, the JVP has undergone major shifts in the five decades since its founding. In more recent years, it saw two groups breaking away and forming new parties. The leadership of Mr. Dissanayake, 49, in the last few years is seen as giving the party some renewed vigour and visibility.

All the same, suggesting that the party's links to its past and core ideology may still be intact in some measure, the reception of the party headquarters has a photograph of its rebel leader Rohana Wijeweera, sporting a "Che cap", a thick beard and a wide smile. In the visitors' room, three large black and white photographs – of Marx, Engels and Lenin – occupy a prominent place on the wall

Ahead of the 2015 presidential election, the JVP was at the forefront of opposition to Mr. Rajapaksa. Last week, again, the JVP, with its six MPs, and the TNA that has 14 MPs, proved to be a formidable force in the 225-member Parliament, taking on Mr. Rajapaksa.

In addition to their resistance to Mr. Rajapaksa's "power grab" facilitated by President Sirisena's "illegal and unconstitutional moves", they voted against Mr. Rajapaksa, indirectly helping ousted PM Wickremesinghe's front muster a critical majority.

Apart from working with the TNA on key manoeuvres in the House, Mr. Dissanayake sees potential for long-term collaboration. "Even though we may have some differences on certain issues, we will be able to work together closely in the future, on most questions."

Since neither party had a "secret agenda" and both worked based on "principles and policies", it was possible to work together in a transparent way.

Observing that people in the north and east have been suffering the most since the end of the war, Mr. Dissanayake said: "Now we need a united struggle by the people of the south and north... we work with them on the basis of democracy and equality. We are working for social transformation in this country and the Northern Province must also be part of that transformation. We have a common cause and we are committed to working together with all communities."

Common interests

In Mr. Dissanayake's view, neither Mr. Rajapaksa nor Mr. Wickremesinghe worked with the TNA "with integrity". "They exploited the TNA and its engagement for their own interests."

Pointing to more things "in common" between the SLFP and the UNP, Mr. Dissanayake noted that their "core economic policy" was the same.

"That is why a former General Secretary of the SLFP [Sirisena] could become the Presidential candidate in a UNP-led alliance, that is why Ministers and MPs are able to switch camps so easily on a daily basis. There is no difference in the fundamental economic project of these two parties." And that is also why the JVP cannot directly back UNP or Mr. Wickremesinghe, even in the current crisis, he said. .

No claim yet as Kabul blast toll rises to 55

Taliban denies responsibility for attack

REUTERS
KABUL

Afghan authorities were struggling on Wednesday to identify the group behind a suicide bomb attack that killed at least 55 people at a gathering of religious scholars in Kabul after the Taliban denied any responsibility.

The victims included religious delegates from various parts of the country, invited by the Afghan Ulema Council to celebrate the birth anniversary of Prophet Muhammed on Tuesday.

An Afghan injured in the attack being taken to a Kabul hospital. ▪ REUTERS

Motive unclear

Without knowing who was behind the attack, it was unclear whether the aim was to undermine President Ashraf Ghani's government, or whether it was part of a strategy to keep the pressure on his government and its Western allies while they pursued talks with the Taliban, to end the 17-year long war.

"As of now, we don't know which militant outfit could be behind the attack. Investigations are at a preliminary stage," said a senior security official.

The council, the country's largest religious organisation, gathered scholars from the Sunni sect, but it was uncertain whether the attack could have had a sectarian dimension.

Though Sunni themselves, Taliban and Islamic State fighters have targeted religious scholars aligned with the Afghan government in the past.

This time, the Taliban quickly denied responsibility and condemned the attack on religious preachers and scholars, but investigators in Kabul said the hardline Islamist group's involvement cannot be ruled out.

The toll from Tuesday's attack could rise as most of the 80 wounded had severe injuries, hospital and government officials said.

On Wednesday, two rockets hit Ghazni city where the top U.S. general leading the NATO-led force in Afghanistan, Scott Miller, was meeting the provincial Governor and senior officials at the Governor's compound, said Ahmad Khan Serat, a spokesman for Ghazni police.

"Gen. Miller was not hurt in the rocket attack," Serat said, adding that two rockets fell on a money exchange market, about 200 m from the Governor's compound in the central strategic province.

Debra Richardson, a spokesperson for the NATO-led Resolute Support mission, said Mr. Miller was in Ghazni province for a meeting with Afghan military leadership to discuss security.

"While he was there, the Taliban indiscriminately launched indirect fire but we do not believe General Miller was the target," Mr. Richardson said in a statement.

South Korean candidate chosen as Interpol chief

REUTERS
DUBAI

International police organisation Interpol on Wednesday elected Kim Jong-yang of South Korea as president, beating a Russian whose candidacy had raised concerns in Europe and the United States about the risk of Kremlin interference.

Interpol's Secretary-General Jurgen Stock told reporters Mr. Kim's election was free and transparent after Russia said clear outside pressure had been exerted on the vote.

Mr. Kim was elected president, a largely ceremonial role, at Interpol's annual congress in Dubai for a two-year term to succeed China's Meng Hongwei.

The presidency is typically held for four years. "The general assembly elected Mr. Kim from Korea as president through a voting process which was democratic, transparent, free and clear," said Mr. Stock of Germany who heads day-to-day work at Interpol.

The president is elected after winning a two-thirds majority among members in a secret ballot, according to Interpol's website.

U.S. and European politicians and Kremlin critics had lobbied against the candidacy of Alexander Prokopchuk of Russia, a police major-general and one of Interpol's four vice-presidents.

"No matter... what the nationality of the presidency is, it is not affecting Interpol's neutrality and the independence of our organisation," said Mr. Stock. Interpol's role is to facilitate cooperation between police forces around the world. Its charter forbids it from involving itself in disputes of a political, religious or racial nature.

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov told reporters: "We regret that it wasn't our candidate, but nonetheless there are no grounds to disagree with the election result."

SOURCE: AFP | ILLUSTRATION: GRAPHIC NEWS | MAP: GETTY IMAGES/ ISTOCK PHOTO

Now, Trump thanks Saudi Arabia

'Great that oil prices are falling. Thank you to Saudi Arabia, but let's go lower'

ASSOCIATED PRESS
WASHINGTON

President Donald Trump on Wednesday publicly thanked Saudi Arabia for plunging oil prices amid criticism over his decision not to further punish the kingdom for the killing of U.S.-based columnist Jamal Khashoggi.

Mr. Trump, who made clear in an exclamation-filled statement on Tuesday that he feels that the benefits of good relations with the kingdom outweigh the possibility that its Crown Prince ordered the killing, tweeted that it's "Great!" that oil prices are falling.

"Thank you to Saudi Arabia, but let's go lower!" he wrote from his Mar-a-Lago club in Palm Beach, Florida, where he's spending the Thanksgiving holiday.

Friends forever: A billboard welcoming U.S. President Donald Trump in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, in May 2017. ▪ NYT

The international crude benchmark, Brent, has fallen under $65 per barrel from a four-year high of over $86 in early October as the U.S., Saudi Arabia and Russia have all stepped up output.

The President on Tuesday condemned the brutal slaying of Khashoggi inside the Saudi consulate in Istanbul as a "horrible crime... that our country does not condone." But he rejected calls by many in Congress, including members of his own party, for a tougher response, and he dismissed reports from U.S. intelligence agencies that Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman must have at least known about such an audacious and intricate plot.

"It could very well be that the Crown Prince had knowledge of this tragic event," the President said. "Maybe he did and maybe he didn't!"

In many ways, the statement captured Mr. Trump's view of the world and foreign policy, grounded in economic necessity. It began with the words "America First!" followed by "The world is a very dangerous place!"

UAE sentences British academic to life in prison on spying charges

U.K. warns that the verdict will impact bilateral ties

REUTERS
ABU DHABI

A UAE court sentenced British academic Matthew Hedges to life in prison on charges of spying for the British government on Wednesday, his family and a state-run newspaper said, in a move described as deeply disappointing by Prime Minister Theresa May.

The hearing lasted less than five minutes and his lawyer was not present, his family said. "We are of course deeply disappointed and concerned at today's verdict," Ms. May told Parliament.

She and Foreign Minister Jeremy Hunt said they were raising the case at the highest levels of the UAE government.

'Not expected'

"Today's verdict is not what we expect from a friend and trusted partner of the United Kingdom and runs contrary to earlier assurances," said Mr. Hunt. He said the handling of the case by Emirati authorities would have repercussions on relations between the old allies and urged them to reconsider their decision.

British academic Matthew Hedges. ▪ AFP

Mr. Hedges, a 31-year-old doctoral student at Durham University, has been held in the UAE since May 5, when he was arrested at Dubai International Airport after a two-week research visit.

The evidence presented against him consisted of notes from his dissertation research, his family said.

The hearing was closed to the public. A court statement was carried by state-run newspaper *The National*. A life sentence for a non-Emirati entails a maximum of 25 years in jail and is followed by deportation, according to the paper.

The court ruled that his devices and research would be confiscated, the newspaper reported, adding that Mr. Hedges could appeal the ruling within 30 days.

Mr. Hedges was made to sign a confession statement in Arabic that he did not understand and experienced deterioration in both his physical and mental health during his detention, his family said. *The National* reported that he was arrested after an Emirati man told police he had been asking for sensitive information and confessed to the charges during questioning.

Trump 'may' attend WH press dinner

REUTERS

U.S. President Donald Trump said on Twitter on Tuesday that it was a "good first step of a dying evening and tradition" for the White House Correspondents' Association to feature a historian, not a comedian, at its annual event to be held next spring.

"So-called comedian Michelle Wolf bombed so badly last year at the White House correspondents dinner that this year, for the first time in decades, they will have an author instead of a comedian," he wrote in a Twitter post.

"Maybe I will go?" said Mr. Trump, who has refused to attend the dinner during his first two years in office.

On Monday, the White House Correspondents Association said historian Ron Chernow had been asked to speak on freedom of the press at the black-tie affair in April.

WTO panels to review U.S. steel, aluminium tariffs

This comes after failure of talks

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
GENEVA

The World Trade Organization agreed on Wednesday to hear complaints from a range of countries over new U.S. steel and aluminium tariffs, as well as complaints from Washington over retaliatory duties.

The WTO's Dispute Settlement Body (DSB) agreed to establish panels to review U.S. President Donald Trump's decision to hit a long line of countries with tariffs of 25% on steel and 10% on aluminium.

The DSB will create separate panels for the complaints by the European Union (EU), China, Canada, Mexico, Norway and Russia, after the U.S. said it would not agree to a single panel to hear all of them.

The DSB agreed on Wednesday to Washington's request for three panels to rule on the legality of retaliatory tariffs imposed by Canada, China and the EU.

It also agreed to a U.S. call for a panel to be created to review "certain Chinese measures pertaining to the protection of intellectual property rights."

The decision to establish the panels follows rounds of failed consultations between the parties.

'Hunger may have killed 84,700 Yemen children'

Estimate based on UN data, says group

REUTERS
DUBAI/ADEN

An estimated 85,000 children under five may have died from extreme hunger in Yemen since a Saudi-led coalition intervened in the civil war in 2015, a humanitarian body said on Wednesday, as the UN special envoy arrived in Yemen to pursue peace talks.

Western countries are pressing for a ceasefire and renewed peace efforts to end the disastrous conflict, which has unleashed the world's most urgent humanitarian crisis with 8.4 million people believed to be on the verge of starvation.

Save the Children said that according to a conservative estimate based on United Nations data, approximately 84,700 children suffering from severe acute malnutrition may have died between April 2015 and October 2018 in the impoverished country, where a Western-backed Arab alliance is battling the Iranian-aligned Houthis who holds the capital Sana'a.

The last available figure from the United Nations for the death toll from the conflict, seen as a proxy war between Saudi Arabia and Iran, was in 2016 and stood at more than 10,000.

MARKET WATCH

	21-11-2018	% CHANGE
Sensex	35,200	-0.77
Gold	31,950	-0.15
Brent oil	63.37	-0.53

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Ports	361.25	6.00
Asian Paints	1324.20	17.35
Axis Bank	626.85	14.20
Bajaj Auto	2604.65	-61.85
Bajaj Finserv	5851.95	163.40
Bajaj Finance	2430.55	50.45
Bharti Airtel	332.70	0.75
BPCL	326.60	3.70
Cipla	522.15	1.45
Coal India	260.95	-0.50
Dr Reddys Lab	2601.80	158.65
Eicher Motors	24216.40	-379.40
GAIL (India)	345.05	1.00
Grasim Ind	863.75	25.80
HCL Tech	985.15	-23.80
HDFC	1868.15	-8.65
HDFC Bank	2018.75	6.30
Hero MotoCorp	2912.05	-48.05
Hindalco	223.15	1.20
HPCL	245.95	2.70
Hind Unilever	1689.95	-4.05
Indiabulls HFL	705.35	-1.25
ICICI Bank	356.75	-1.15
IndusInd Bank	1546.70	-11.15
Bharti Infratel	258.85	-1.45
Infosys	619.10	-22.30
Indian OilCorp	141.60	2.55
ITC	281.75	-2.10
JSW Steel	326.05	-2.20
Kotak Bank	1176.70	6.75
L&T	1402.10	-11.00
M&M	769.10	-13.50
Maurti Suzuki	7424.50	90.55
NTPC	147.85	-1.30
ONGC	151.75	-1.35
PowerGrid Corp	182.10	-6.30
Reliance Ind	1112.90	-24.50
State Bank	287.05	3.60
Sun Pharma	532.85	7.40
Tata Motors	184.15	0.40
Tata Steel	551.40	-11.90
TCS	1812.00	-66.25
Tech Mahindra	690.65	-19.05
Titan	926.55	11.10
UltraTech Cement	4043.80	67.35
UPL	779.25	20.05
Vedanta	201.90	-3.35
Wipro	314.15	-7.15
YES Bank	198.15	6.05
Zee Entertainment	438.70	-9.40

BULLION RATES CHENNAI

November 21 rates in rupees with previous rates in parentheses

Retail Silver (1g)	39.9	(39.9)
22 ct gold (1 g)	2960	(2960)

U.S. court ruling a boost for Dr. Reddy's

Scrip gains 5.9% after appeals court permits pharma firm to sell generic version of Indivior's Suboxone

N. RAVI KUMAR
HYDERABAD

Dr. Reddy's Laboratories' shares gained nearly 6% on Wednesday in the wake of a U.S. court decision permitting it to sell a generic version of British drugmaker Indivior's opioid dependence treatment drug Suboxone.

The decision of the United States Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit (CAFC) vacates the District Court's preliminary injunction that prohibited Dr. Reddy's from selling the generic version of Suboxone (buprenorphine and naloxone) sublingual film.

A statement from the Hyderabad-headquartered firm said the appeals court decision concluded that Indivior had not shown that it is likely to succeed on the merits of its infringement case on US Patent No. 9,931,305.

Following the development, Dr. Reddy's said it would resume the launch activities for the generic drug as soon as permitted.

"We are pleased with the decision of the appellate court vacating the preliminary injunction that had prevented Dr. Reddy's from bringing this important drug to the public," a company spokesperson said.

Dr. Reddy's scrip, which had closed on Tuesday at ₹2450.25 apiece, opened at ₹2,605 on Wednesday to quickly touch ₹2,651.50, or 8.21%. It ended the day at ₹2,594.75 each, an increase of 5.90%.

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (USFDA), had in June, approved Dr. Reddy's Buprenorphine and Naloxone Sublingual Film, in four strengths, for sale in the U.S. market. The product was launched immediately after approval, but sales and commercialisation activities were halted as a result of a court-imposed temporary restraining order (TRO) against Dr. Reddy's.

The TRO did not include a prohibition on commercial manufacturing of the product, the company said.

A statement from Indivior said in the absence of a preliminary injunction, the company assumed DRL would resume launch of its generic buprenorphine/naloxone sublingual film product in the U.S.

Following the ruling vacating the preliminary injunction, Dr. Reddy's had filed a motion requesting the appeals court to either issue the mandate immediately or alternatively stay the injunction pending issuance of the mandate.

'Will pursue cases'

Indivior CEO Shaun Thaxter said: "We will continue to vigorously pursue our infringement cases against DRL to protect our Suboxone film patent portfolio, including filing a petition with the CAFC for both panel rehearing and rehearing en banc of the ruling vacating the preliminary injunction, as well as opposing DRL's motion to immediately issue a mandate or stay the current PI until the mandate is issued."

In the event of the generic version entering the market in 2018, the result would most likely be a rapid and material loss of market share for Suboxone, Indivior said.

Bitter pill: Indivior had not shown it is likely to succeed on the merits of its case, the court concluded. ▪ GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCK

Goes both ways

FPIs cut stake, DIIs raise stake
ICICI Bank, Axis Bank

FPIs raise stake, DIIs cut stake
Indraprastha Gas, GAIL and Petronet LNG

FPIs, DIIs raise stake
AU Small Finance Bank
Hexaware Technologies
Tejas Networks
L&T Infotech

FPIs, DIIs cut stake
South Indian Bank
Jaiprakash Associates
Balrampur Chini Mills
Dish TV

FPIs, DIIs opt for contra bets in Q2

'PSBs, pharma will see higher interest'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI

The second quarter of the current financial year saw various instances of domestic and foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) taking contrarian bets on sectors such as banking, automobiles, gas distribution and pharmaceutical, among others.

While FPIs reduced their bet on large-cap private banks such as Yes Bank, ICICI Bank, Axis Bank and HDFC Bank, domestic institutional investors (DIIs) increased exposure in majors such as ICICI Bank, Axis Bank and State Bank of India, according to a report by Edelweiss Securities.

Further, companies such as Cipla, Vedanta, Jindal Steel & Power, TVS Motor Company, Britannia Industries, Yes Bank, ICICI Bank, Axis Bank and Hindustan Zinc, among others, also saw significant change in the institutional holding during the second quarter with many witnessing contrarian stance by FPIs and DIIs.

The three-month period between July and September saw FPIs selling Indian shares worth $1 billion even as domestic equity schemes registered robust flows.

"Unrelenting flows into domestic equity schemes [approximately $3.98 billion in July-September quarter] resulted into strong buying by mutual funds in secondary market during this period. However, FII flows continued to be soft with net selling of $1 billion in the aforesaid quarter," stated the report by the domestic brokerage entity.

ICICI Bank and Yes Bank saw FPI holding fall by 118 basis points (bps) and 300 bps respectively, while the former saw DII stake go up by 174 bps in the second quarter.

Patterns seen gas firms

Another sector where the contrarian stance of FPIs and DIIs was clearly visible was gas distribution. FPIs raised their stake in Indraprastha Gas and GAIL by 103 bps and 132 bps, while Petronet LNG saw the foreign holding go up by 82 bps.

But, DIIs reduced their stake in Indraprastha Gas and GAIL by 56 bps and 115 bps, respectively. Similarly, Petronet LNG saw a dip of 16bps in the DII stake.

Interestingly, firms such as AU Small Finance Bank, Hexaware Technologies, Tejas Networks and L&T Infotech, Mahanagar Gas saw a rise in the holding of both, FPIs and DIIs in the September quarter. South Indian Bank, Jaiprakash Associates, Balrampur Chini Mills and Dish TV India registered a dip in the FPI and DII stake in the second quarter.

The coming quarters could see institutional investors shifting from retail-focused lenders to corporate lenders while allocating higher funds towards public sector banks and pharmaceuticals, said Edelweiss.

50% ATMs will be shut by 2019: industry body

'Norms affecting operational viability'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI

About 1.13 lakh of the 2.38 lakh automated teller machines (ATMs) in the country will have to shut down by 2019 as operations will not remain viable, the Confederation of ATM Industry (CATMi), the apex body of the domestic ATM industry said on Wednesday.

The figure includes about one lakh off-site ATMs and a little over 15,000 white label ATMs. "A large number of ATMs in non-urban locations may be shut down due to unviability of operations," CATMi said.

Guidelines for upgrade

The industry body said the forced closure would be on account of unviability of operations brought about by recent regulatory guidelines for ATMs hardware and software upgrades, recent mandates on cash management standards, and the 'Cassette Swap' method of loading cash. If a large number of ATMs had to stop operations, then the financial inclusion programme would be severely impacted as millions of beneficiaries under the government's Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana scheme, who withdrew subsidies through ATMs, may find their neighbourhood ATM shut, CATMi said.

CATMi said that its members were already reeling under the financial impact caused by huge losses during and post-demonetisation as cash supply was impacted and remained inconsistent for months. Unless banks stepped in to bear the additional cost of compliance, ATMs would have to shut down, it added.

EC flags India norms on data localisation

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

Flagging issues such as data localisation "restrictions" and elevated import duties, the European Commission on Wednesday said it would work towards comprehensive and balanced agreements with India to boost economic ties.

In April, the RBI had given 6 months to global payment firms to store transaction data of Indian customers within India.

Greater market access for EU firms will require removing obstacles and preventing the emergence of new tariff or non-tariff barriers, said the joint communication adopted by the EC and the high representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy in Brussels.

₹29,088-cr. indirect tax evasion detected

Service tax dodgers formed the bulk

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

The investigation arm of the Finance Ministry has detected tax evasion worth ₹29,088 crore in 1,835 cases in the April-October period of the current financial year, a senior official said Wednesday.

▪ GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCK

571 cases in GST

Of this, the Directorate General of GST Intelligence (DGGI), which is enforcement agency for checking indirect tax evasion, has detected evasion of goods and services tax (GST) worth ₹4,562 crore in 571 cases.

However, the bulk of the evasion was detected in case of service tax. The total number of cases where service tax was evaded stood at 1,145 involving ₹22,973 crore. In case of central excise duty, the DGGI detected 119 cases, where tax evaded was worth ₹1,553 crore.

"DGGI officers have detected total indirect tax evasion of ₹29,088 crore during April-October," the official said. On recovery of the evaded taxes, the official said that a total amount of ₹5,427 crore was realised during the seven-month period till October. These, he added, included recovery from previous cases and those detected during the current financial year.

IN BRIEF

Abhijit Bose named as WhatsApp India head

NEW DELHI

Under pressure to address issues raised by the Centre, WhatsApp on Wednesday announced Abhijit Bose as its India head. Mr. Bose, who was co-founder and CEO of electronic payments company Ezetap previously, will join early next year. He will build WhatsApp's first full country team outside of California and will be based in Gurugram, the company said in a statement. PTI

INTERVIEW | MATTHEW CHAMBERLAIN

We are interested in having a warehouse in India: LME CEO

'Fantastic that India is experimenting with commodities traded nowhere else'

ASHISH RUKHAIYAR

India is an important market for the London Metal Exchange (LME), as Indian bourses are dependent on the global exchange for commodity prices. CEO **Matthew Chamberlain**, *however, is interested in increasing LME's presence in the country by establishing a warehouse as India and China are the only two major economies in the world without an LME warehouse. Excerpts from an interview:*

LME has warehouses across the globe. But, you still do not have a presence in two major markets – India and China.

■ I think in India it is really about the logistics. Certainly, LME is interested and we need to make sure our Indian partners are interested as well. We don't want to do it if it is not what the Indian market wants. Since it is about logistics, LME warehouses are generally in Free Trade Zones where they are set up with a particular tax treatment. We will have to look at how that would work but yes, we have warehouses all around the world; There is no reason why it couldn't happen in India as well.

It is often said that commodity markets are more about speculation as there is hardly any physical delivery.

■ Even on the LME, fewer than 1% of contracts go to delivery and that's the case for most global commodities futures markets. I don't think the right metric is what proportion of business goes to delivery. The right metric should be 'Is delivery keeping the price in line?' You only need marginal trades to go to delivery to make sure that your pricing is right.

> **The metric for futures markets is whether delivery helps keep the price in line**

So you don't think that more trades should result in delivery?

■ Physical players, who are hedging their supply contracts, don't want delivery because they have a physical supply contract. The exchange is only providing a financial hedging contract.

The client will close the financial hedging contract as he does not want the delivery through the exchange. The delivery has to be according to the commercial contract. S

So, ironically, even physical users do not want delivery because they are only hedging a physical delivery that is taking place on boats or whatever it might be. So I think it is the wrong metric to think about the proportion going to delivery. That is not, in my view, a good way to measure the success of the contract.

How do you see Indian exchanges experimenting with commodities like diamond and brass that are traded nowhere else? Can India help set the price in such commodities?

■ It is a fantastic initiative. If there are commodities where India is the natural home, for example brass, then I think it is absolutely right to develop contracts that are the global pricing setters. That is a great example of where regional price makes total sense.

LME earns licensing fee from Indian exchanges that use your prices. But, what happens if the Indian regulator insists on delivery since that would lead to the end price being pooled from Indian prices?

■ Our licensing model is if people use our global price to settle contracts, then we do ask for licensing fees. Clearly, there is an alternative model whereby exchanges have their own deliverable contracts and create their own prices.

Then, obviously they wouldn't pay licensing fees because it is not an LME price any more. Anybody is welcome to create their own physically separate contract but I would just note that because our global price is used by the physical industry, people generally like to settle contracts at the LME price.

But, if the regulator wants exchanges to move towards delivery, you might lose your edge.

■ That is a potential outcome. But I think it is also important to note that there are a number of models that could be considered. For example, could we have a physical settlement model that actually discovers the Indian premium like the incremental Indian price over the global LME price.

It would create a very strong Indian price but would still be linked to the LME global price that the physical market have in their contracts. So I don't think it is as cut and dry like you either use the LME price or you have a physical price.

New norms may gross up firms' assets, liabilities

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

The top 75 listed companies are likely to cumulatively recognise additional assets and liabilities worth over ₹1 lakh crore in their balance sheets once new accounting norms related to leasing are implemented, says a report.

Leading consultancy EY has analysed the possible impact of Indian Accounting Standard (Ind AS) 116 mainly on the top 100 companies listed on the BSE. Ind AS 116 will replace Ind AS 17 from accounting periods starting April 1, 2019.

Sectors to be impacted

The accounting standard is likely to have a significant impact on airline, retail and telecom sectors.

"Balance sheets of top 75 Indian companies may be grossed up by over ₹1,00,000 crore on transitioning to new leasing standard Ind AS 116," EY said in a release. The annual reports of top 100 BSE companies, based on their market capitalisation, along with certain additional sector specific entities were analysed.

EY noted that the objective was to understand the impact of Ind AS 116 on key financial metrics, including lease expense, interest cost, depreciation expense, earnings before interest, depreciation and tax (EBIDTA).

The analysis highlighted that most of the companies across sectors are expected to have a significant impact on calculations related to property, plant and equipment and liabilities.

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER, EASTERN CIRCLE-I, CUTTACK.
825-A: e-mail :- seeccuttack@gmail.com

"e" Procurement Notice No.SEEC-I/07 (MND-I) (Sl.No. i to iv) of 2018-19

1.	Name of the Works	i.	Improvement to service road on Mahanadi left embankment from RD.20.500Km (Pinpur to Sana-Nayapur) & Bilkapalka left embankment from RD0.00 to 1.200Km (Sana Nayapur to Jalpaganga).
		ii.	Improvement to service road on Mahanadi left embankment from RD0.00Km to 2.02Km (Gual to Ratlo) and Chandipada right embankment from RD 0.00 to 3.00Km (Gualo to Kanchandanpur)
		iii	Service road left bank of Nagashpur Minor from RD 00 to 2.20Km and left and right bank of Baripada Minor from RD 00 to 0.40KM and Bhadada Sub Minor from RD.0.00 to 2.50Km.
		iv.	Service road on left bank of Kendrapara Canal from RD 7.700Km to 11.900KM. Disty No.40 from RD 1.00Km to 5.700Km and Disty No.3 from RD2.500KM to 3.800Km.
2.	Tender Cost (Approx) :		Sl No.(i) Rs.216.00 Lakhs, Sl No.(ii) Rs.192.00 Lakhs. Sl No.(iii) Rs.156.00 Lakhs, Sl No.(iv) Rs.354.00 Lakhs.
3.	Total No. of Packages :		4 Nos. Individual Packages
4.	Tender Paper Cost :		Rs.10,000.00 (On-line payment) for each Packages
5.	Bid Security	i	Rs 2,16,000.00 (On-line payment) for Sl. No.(i)
		ii	Rs 1,92,000.00 (On-line payment) for Sl. No.(ii)
		iii	Rs 1,56,000.00 (On-line payment) for Sl. No.(iii)
		iv	Rs 3,54,000.00 (On-line payment) for Sl. No.(iv)
6	Class of Contractor :		'B' & 'A' class contractor for Sl. No.(i), (ii), (iii) & 'A' & 'Spl' class contractor for Sl. No.(iv)
7.	Period of Completion :		06 (Six) calendar months each packages.

8. Other details are as follows.

Procurement Officer	Name of Division	Bid Identification No.	Availability of Tender On-line for bidding From	To	Date & Time of opening of Technical bid
1	2	3	4	5	6
Superintending Engineer, Eastern Circle-I, Cuttack.	E.E., Mahanadi North Division-I, Jagatpur	SEEC-I/07 (MND-I) of 2018-19	30.11.2018 at 10.00 A.M	14.12.2018 up to 5.00 P.M	15.12.2018 At 11.30 A.M in O/o the S.E., Eastern Circle-I, Cuttack

Further details can be seen from the Govt. web site "www.dowrorissa.gov.in".

32370/11/0009/1819 Superintending Engineer, Eastern Circle-I, Cuttack.

vedanta
transforming elements

INTERNATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING (ICB)

Provision of Localized Separation Facility (LSF) on Rental and/or Buy-out for RJ-ON Block, Rajasthan

CAIRN
Cairn Oil & Gas
www.cairnindia.com

Cairn Oil & Gas, a vertical of Vedanta Limited
Registered Office: Vedanta Limited, 1st Floor, 'C' wing, Unit 103, Corporate Avenue, Atul Projects, Chakala, Andheri (East), Mumbai – 400093, Maharashtra, India
www.vedantalimited.com
CIN: L13209MH1965PLC291394

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI)

Cairn Oil and Gas, a vertical of **Vedanta Limited,** is the Operator of onshore block RJ-ON-90/1 located in Barmer, Rajasthan in India.

The operator on behalf of itself and its Joint Venture (JV) partner(s) invites interested contractors with proven capabilities and demonstrated performance in similar requirement to express their interest for pre-qualification and to participate in the International Competitive Bidding process ("ICB") for Design & Engineering, Procurement, Installation, Commissioning and Operation & Maintenance of 10,000 to 60,000 KBLPD Localized 3 phase Separation (Oil, Water & Gas) Facilities (LSF) On Rental And/ Or Buyout, to be installed on various well pads of RJ-ON BLOCK.

The interested contractors should evince interest to participate in the Expression of Interest by clicking on the "Evince Interest" link against the corresponding EOI listing on the Cairn website i.e. http://www.cairnindia.com and submit their contact details online. Further to this, interested suppliers would be invited to submit their response via Smart Source (Cairn's e Sourcing Platform) within 10 Days from publishing of this EOI.

IN BRIEF

ONGC gas production hits all-time high

NEW DELHI

State-owned Oil and Natural Gas Corp.'s (ONGC) natural gas production has hit an all-time high of about 70 million standard cubic meters per day (mmscmd) as it doubles up efforts to raise domestic output to curb imports, sources privy to the development said. ONGC produced about 64 mmscmd of gas in November last year and this year the output is close to touching 70 mmscmd, they added. PTI

Rajesh Exports bags ₹933-crore UAE order

NEW DELHI

Rajesh Exports, the world's largest gold refiner, on Wednesday said it had procured an order worth ₹933 crore from the UAE. The order will be executed by March 2019, the company said in a regulatory filing. The Bengaluru-based firm has its refineries located in Uttarakhand and at Balerna in Switzerland. It has a capacity to refine 2,400 tonnes of gold per annum. The company processes 35% of gold produced in world.

Panasonic eyes ₹140 cr. from bluetooth trackers

NEW DELHI

Japanese technology giant Panasonic said it expected to clock sales to the tune of ₹140 crore in the next one year from its bluetooth-based trackers that have been conceptualised and designed by its team in India. The company, which launched two versions of its tracker 'Seekit' priced ₹1,299 onwards, will start selling the devices online from the first week of December. PTI

Yes Bank promoters yet to close ranks

Co-promoter Madhu Kapur has not got any proposal from MD & CEO Rana Kapoor, say sources

MANOJIT SAHA
MUMBAI

Even as efforts are under way to resolve disputes among the Yes Bank promoters – Rana Kapoor and Madhu Kapur & family, Madhu Kapur is yet to receive any formal proposal from Mr. Kapoor, it is learnt.

Sources indicated that the Madhu Kapur family had also not been consulted in the process for selecting the next MD & CEO

Mr. Kapoor, sources said, approached Ms. Kapur's family about three weeks ago for a resolution. However, things had not moved further.

"As a significant shareholder and a promoter, Madhu Kapur family wants their rights to be honoured and maintained, which are there in the article of association. They have informed Mr. Kapoor of their position, when approached. But since then, nothing has moved. Madhu Kapur & family have not received any concrete proposal so far," said a source. Rana Kapoor holds 10.64% stake in the bank. Madhu Kapur & family have 9.27%.

No truce: Madhu Kapur family has not been consulted in the process for selecting the MD & CEO, say sources. ▪REUTERS

"It is being reported by the MD & CEO Rana Kapoor that efforts are under way for mutual resolution with Ms. Madhu Kapur & family, the co-promoter of the bank. This is intended to ensure better support and coordination by the 2 promoter-groups with the board of directors of the bank," Yes Bank said in a filing with the exchanges on Tuesday.

The tussle broke out five years ago, when the Kapur family had alleged that their rights were denied and moved the Bombay High Court. The Kapur family had always maintained that the article of association allowed them to nominate three directors jointly, nominate executive directors and also allowed them to give recommendations for managing director and chairman. "These are all joint rights," the source clarified.

The search & selection committee and the nomination & remuneration committee will meet on December 12 to discuss the final shortlist for new MD & CEO appointment. The search for new MD & CEO was started after the Reserve Bank of India declined to extend Mr. Kapoor's term beyond January 31, though the board had endorsed a three- year extension till August 2021.

The resolution efforts come at a time when the lender is fighting a series of board-level resignations. Ashok Chawla - a former bureaucrat and the current chairman of the NSE - resigned from the post of non-executive chairman last week. Mr Chawla has been named in the CBI chargesheet in the Aircel-Maxis case. There were more board levels resignations since then – Basant Gujarathi and Rentala Chandrashekhar.

IKEA cuts 7,500 jobs globally; India spared

Company to focus on e-com platform

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI

Ingka Group (Ingka Holding B.V and its controlled entities), which owns and operates IKEA stores and fulfilment centres, has announced plans to cut 7,500 jobs globally out of its total workforce of 160,000 in 30 markets. However, India, which is a new market, will not be impacted, the company has clarified.

"So many jobs will become redundant because the company is developing city centre formats and focusing on its e-commerce platform, to better meet the needs of its customers and be more convenient and affordable to many more people," it said.

The jobs will be from administrative and human resources departments.

Jesper Brodin, CEO, Ingka Group, said: "We recognise that the retail landscape is transforming at a scale and pace we've never seen before. As customer behaviours change rapidly, we are investing and developing our business to meet their needs in better and newer ways."

Lodha Group chief tops Hurun rich list

His total wealth stands at ₹27,150 crore

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI

Mangal Prabhat Lodha, who helms real estate company Lodha Group, has topped the Grohe Hurun India Real Estate Rich list 2018 with a total wealth of ₹27,150 crore.

Mr. Lodha, 62, a real estate tycoon-turned-politician, is the BJP MLA from Mumbai's Malabar Hill. His firm is building the Trump Tower in Mumbai in partnership with U.S. President Donald Trump's company Trump Organization.

Thirty-five real estate czars from Mumbai are among the top 100 in the list.

Jitendra Virwani (52) of Embassy from Bengaluru has secured the number two slot with a total wealth of ₹23,160 crore, followed by Rajiv Singh (59) of DLF with a total wealth of ₹17,690 crore.

In this year's report, the total wealth of top 100 Indians in the real estate sector stood at ₹2,36,610 crore ($32.7 billion), an increase of 27% from 2017. The top 100 have a total debt of ₹1.25 lakh crore.

Renuka Talwar of DLF is featured as the richest among eight more women in this list. As per the list, 78% of the top-100 rich real estate magnates are from Mumbai, New Delhi and Bengaluru. 59% of the names featured on the list are first-generation entrepreneurs.

Ducati rolls out Panigale V4 R in India

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

Italian super-bike maker Ducati on Wednesday launched Panigale V4 R in India priced at ₹51.87 lakh (ex-showroom). The new model would be limited to just five units in India and bookings were open across all Ducati dealerships in the country, Ducati said.

For bookings made before November 30, deliveries will begin in the early 2019. For all bookings post November, deliveries will begin in the second quarter. Powered by a 998-cc engine, the bike features a race-grade suspension with mechanical adjustment and an aluminium swingarm with an adjustable four-position axle.

Grundfos Pumps to invest ₹125 crore in third plant

Fast-track approval will decide location, says Ranganath

N. ANAND
CHENNAI

The Indian subsidiary of Denmark-based Grundfos will set up its third pump production unit by 2020. It is seeking to set it up in a State that would offer approvals on fast track.

"If you want to have a plant in place by 2020, then we have to start the work by 2019," said Ranganath N.K., managing director, Grundfos Pumps India Pvt. Ltd. "Our board has cleared an investment of ₹125 crore."

Even though several States had invited Grundfos, Mr. Ranganath said it was 'natural tendency' to establish the unit in Tamil Nadu as it possessed 15 acres of land near Chennai. However, it has sought clarity on the policy and system fronts.

Ranganath N.K.

"It takes a long time to get approvals in Tamil Nadu. It is quite tardy. We were able to get approvals in Gujarat. We will be meeting the top Tamil Nadu officials soon in this regard," he said.

Next year, the company plans to invest ₹25 crore towards a preliminary study for the new plant and other related activities.

"The new unit will have manufacturing capacity which is twice that of the Thoraipakkam unit in Chennai, along with a technical and design centre. It will design products for India.

"If we set up a unit in Chennai, then Thoraipakkam will be converted into a warehouse. In other States, we will not acquire land, but will go in for a long lease," Mr. Ranganath said.

Binani turns UltraTech subsidiary

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI

The board of UltraTech Cement, at its meeting held on Monday, approved UltraTech's proposal to convert Binani Cement Limited (BCL) into a wholly-owned subsidiary of UltraTech from Tuesday. This further consolidates UltraTech's position as the third-largest cement player globally (barring China), even as the company continues to be the biggest in India.

A resolution plan for Binani Cement submitted by UltraTech was approved earlier by the National Company Law Appellate Tribunal and the decision was upheld by the Supreme Court.

Australia brings cheer to the locals

India falls short by four runs in a rain-affected opening T20I encounter

OZ CHALLENGE

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
BRISBANE

Australia edged India by four runs for a nerve-wracking win in their opening Twenty20 International here on Wednesday, despite Shikhar Dhawan's gallant 76, giving the host a huge confidence boost after a run of poor results.

With a rain-marred match in Brisbane reduced to 17 overs, the visitor was set 174 to win under the Duckworth-Lewis-Stern system after the host made 158 for four, Glenn Maxwell top-scoring with 46.

India needed 13 off the last over from Marcus Stoinis, but in a desperate bid to get the runs, it lost two wickets to fall short.

Going ballistic! Glenn Maxwell, who boosted Australia's total with some big shots, lines up to hit one of his four sixes. ▪AFP

Off to a flier

Dhawan started positively smashing two boundaries off Jason Behrendorff's opening over.

Behrendorff got the scalp of Rohit Sharma for seven, but there was no stopping Dhawan who hit 16 off one over to bring up his ninth T20 50 off just 28 balls.

K.L. Rahul made 13 before he was cleverly stumped by Alex Carey, bringing Kohli to the crease to a huge roar from the big Indian contingent.

But he didn't last long, going for four with Chris Lynn taking a catch at third man off Adam Zampa. And Dhawan wasn't far behind, caught on the boundary ropes attempting an upper cut off Billy Stanlake's bowling.

It left Rishabh Pant and Dinesh Karthik (30, 13b, 4x4, 1x6), needing to score 78 runs off 36 balls.

They whittled it down to set up a nail-biting finish before succumbing to the pressure.

Stat attack

8/2 In run chases, India has won all eight times when Dinesh Karthik has remained unbeaten, while it has lost twice when he has been dismissed

9 It was the first defeat for India in a run chase in nine T20Is, the last being against New Zealand at Rajkot in November 2017

31 Kuldeep Yadav has the most number of wickets in T20Is after 15 matches, bettering Ajanta Mendis' 29

648 Shikhar Dhawan now has the most number of T20I runs in a calendar year overtaking Virat Kohli's 641 in 2016

SCOREBOARD AUSTRALIA VS INDIA, 1ST T20I

Australia: D'Arcy Short c Kuldeep b Khaleel 7 *(12b, 1x4)*, Aaron Finch c Khaleel b Kuldeep 27 *(24b, 3x4)*, Chris Lynn c & b Kuldeep 37 *(20b, 1x4, 4x6)*, Glenn Maxwell c Bhuvneshwar b Bumrah 46 *(24b, 4x6)*, Marcus Stoinis (not out) 33 *(19b, 3x4, 1x6)*, Ben McDermott (not out) 2 *(3b)*; Extras (b-1, w-5): 6; Total (for four wkts. in 17 overs): 158.

Fall of wickets: 1-24 (Short, 4.1 overs), 2-64 (Finch, 8.3), 3-75 (Lynn, 10.1), 4-153 (Maxwell, 16.2).

India bowling: Bhuvneshwar 3-0-15-0, Bumrah 3-0-21-1, Khaleel 3-0-42-1, Kuldeep 4-0-24-2, Krunal 4-0-55-0.

India *(target 174 in 17 overs)*: Rohit Sharma c Finch b Behrendorff *7 (8b)*, Shikhar Dhawan c Behrendorff b Stanlake 76 *(42b, 10x4, 2x6)*, K.L. Rahul st. Carey b Zampa 13 *(12b, 1x4)*, Virat Kohli c Lynn b Zampa 4 *(8b)*, Rishabh Pant c Behrendorff b Tye 20 *(16b, 1x4, 1x6)*, Dinesh Karthik c Behrendorff b Stoinis 30 *(13b, 4x4, 1x6)*, Krunal Pandya c Maxwell b Stoinis 2 *(4b)*, Bhuvneshwar Kumar (not out) 1 *(1b)*, Kuldeep Yadav (not out) 4 *(1b, 1x4)*; Extras (lb-3, nb-2, w-7): 12; Total (for seven wkts. in 17 overs): 169.

Fall of wickets: 1-35 (Rohit, 4.1 overs), 2-81 (Rahul, 8.2), 3-94 (Kohli, 10.5), 4-105 (Dhawan, 11.4), 5-156 (Pant, 15.3), 6-163 (Krunal, 16.3), 7-163 (Karthik, 16.4).

Australia bowling: Behrendorff 4-0-43-1, Stanlake 3-0-27-1, Tye 3-0-47-1, Zampa 4-0-22-2, Stoinis 3-0-27-2.

Toss: India.

Man-of-the-match: Zampa.

Australia won by four runs (D/L method) to take 1-0 lead in three-match series.

Pant's dismissal was the turning point, feels Kohli

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
BRISBANE

Rishabh Pant's dismissal in the penultimate over "changed things", according to India skipper Virat Kohli.

India looked on course with Pant and Dinesh Karthik adding 51 runs in 3.5 overs before the burly keeper-batsman was dismissed trying to play a cheeky shot off Andrew Tye.

"It was a close game, exciting one for the crowd to watch and for the players as well, was a see-saw battle. We started well with the bat, fumbled in the middle overs, in the end we thought we'll win with Pant and Karthik but it changed again with Pant's dismissal," said Kohli after the narrow loss on Wednesday.

Kohli lauded opener Shikhar Dhawan's power-packed 76 after a prolonged lean patch that started in England and continued till the second last match of the home series against West Indies.

"He's a very strong player at the top of the order. He hasn't got a T20 hundred yet, but the way he plays it really benefits the team. That's how it goes in the game. What we can do is learn from them and get back better," the skipper said.

Kohli felt the closely-placed remaining two games on November 23 and 25 could be a good thing for the team as it won't be fretting over the loss for a long time.

Australian T20 captain Aaron Finch said: "Thought the boys played really well, especially in the middle overs with the bat."

Power-packed: Shikhar Dhawan's aggressive knock, albeit in a losing cause, came in for praise from skipper Virat Kohli. ▪AFP

Wade should get a look-in: Bailey

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
BRISBANE

Former Australia captain George Bailey feels in-form Matthew Wade must be in the mix when Australia select its playing XI for the opening Test of the four-match series against India.

The 30-year-old Wade has scored 412 runs at an average of 82.4 to lie third in the list of Sheffield Shield run-scorers. "I can't speak highly enough of the way he's going about his cricket," Bailey was quotedin the *Sydney Morning Herald*.

India looks for revenge

English seamers Shrubsole and Sciver will be the threat

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NORTH SOUND (ANTIGUA)

India will be looking to erase the memories of a heartbreaking World Cup final defeat last year when it takes on England in the semifinals of the ICC women's World T20 on Friday.

England edged out India by nine runs in an exciting final of the 50-over global meet in England.

India beat two formidable teams in this tournament in its group – New Zealand and Australia – while maintaining an all-win record at the league stage. However, England, the reigning ODI world champion, is a quality side in the shortest format.

Skipper Harmanpreet Kaur's performance will be the key to India's success as she is a big-match player. Harmanpreet leads the run chart with 167 runs from four games while Smriti Mandhana, with 144 runs, is fourth. Against England, India will have its senior-most player Mithali Raj back in the side after being rested for the final group game.

On a high: The Women in Blue won all their group matches in convincing fashion. ▪COURTESY ICC

Semifinal schedule

- West Indies vs Australia, 1.30 a.m. (Friday)
- India vs England, 5.30 a.m. (Friday)

Under new coach Ramesh Powar, India's strategy of playing only one pace bowler has worked wonders as the spinners have contributed in a big way.

For England, the focus will be more on its seam attack comprising Anya Shrubsole (seven wickets) and Natalie Sciver (four). The two have restricted Bangladesh and South Africa to under 100 runs.

Harassment charges: Johri cleared, opinion divided

CoA chairman Rai says the BCCI CEO can resume work while Edulji feels he should resign

G. VISWANATH
PUNE

BCCI CEO Rahul Johri, who faced allegations of sexual harassment and was on forced leave for the last three weeks, should be allowed to resume work, Vinod Rai, chairman of the Committee of Administrators (CoA) said on Wednesday.

However, CoA member Diana Edulji's opinion differed from Rai's and she stuck to her stand that Johri should resign.

The report submitted by the independent committee, comprising Justice Rakesh Sharma (Retd.), former Delhi Commission for Women chairperson Barkha Singh and lawyer-activist Veena Gowda, said: "The complainants have failed to provide their cases as set up by them and we are of the opinion that Johri has not abused his powers.

"The allegations of sexual harassment in the office or elsewhere are false, baseless and have been fabricated and manufactured with an ulterior motive to harm him and throw him out of BCCI as indicated in some communications, and reactions expressed in the e-mails, statements in the press.

Rahul Johri. ▪FILE PHOTO

Innocent

"There has to be a balancing of the rights just as the complainant women have a right, the respondent CEO also has a right and in these circumstances and facts of the case, we are not ready to hold him guilty of the charges. He appears to be innocent.

"In our opinion, it would be premature, unjust and unfair to recommend any action against Johri on the basis of material placed before us.

"In our considered opinion he may be allowed to function as CEO of BCCI as before. No adverse action need to be taken against Rahul Johri, CEO, BCCI, on the basis of these mischievous, false, fabricated, unsubstantiated complaints, e-mails, tweets, etc. on social media," said the report.

Moots counselling

Gowda, who is also an external member of the BCCI's internal committee for sexual harassment, however, questioned the probity of the top professional manager of the BCCI, saying: "The conduct of Rahul Johri at Birmingham, as a CEO of an institution such as BCCI, is unprofessional and inappropriate which would adversely affect its reputation."

Gowda, who agreed that she had not found him guilty, made some serious recommendations in the matter.

"In view of his conduct at Birmingham as well as keeping in mind the allegations made by Ms. X, and his conduct before this Committee with respect to the photographs submitted, it is essential that Johri undergo some form of gender sensitivity counselling/training."

Edulji's opinion

Alluding to Gowda's recommendation, Edulji expressed the view that the report of the committee is actually a split 2-1 verdict and Johri should be asked to resign with immediate effect.

Reacting to the decision, a former senior functionary of the BCCI said: "Is this not good enough? Ms. Gowda's remarks are scathing. She has talked about the BCCI reputation being adversely affected."

A point of view expressed by the BCCI officials is: "Edulji has the same right as Rai. The Supreme Court has not given executive powers to Rai alone. There is a clear divide: Rai wants Johri to resume duties and Edulji wants him to go."

'Toughest period'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

Rahul Johri, who resumed office on Wednesday, described the last six weeks as the "toughest period" of his life.

"I resumed office today [Wednesday] and all my colleagues have been warm and welcoming. It has been a tough one and half months for me and my family.

"I wish no one has to go through what I have gone through," said Johri.

Finally, FC Pune City manages to register a win

Jamshedpur FC suffers its first loss and remains in fourth spot

ISL

NANDAKUMAR MARAR
PUNE

Playing for the first time after former captain Emilano Alfaro was loaned out (to ATK), FC Pune City created numerous chances in a display of flowing, attacking football and took the lead through a Diego Carlos stunner.

Jamshedpur FC (JFC) opted for a controlled game, using numbers in midfield, and equalised via Sumeet Passi.

Matthew Mills nodded in the match-winner off a flag-kick during the closing minutes to steal a much-needed 2-1 win for the struggling home team in the Indian Super League.

The first win for the season moved Pune from the bottom, while JFC, after its first loss, stays fourth in the table.

Goalkeepers Subrata Paul and Kamaljit Singh (Pune) had an outstanding game under the bar at the Balewadi Stadium, but were helpless during the three times the ball went in.

Spectacular strikes

Two stunning goals lit up a pulsating first half.

In the fifth minute, Pune's Brazilian striker Diego, back after serving out an extended suspension, carried the ball from almost the half-line and swerved on approaching the box. JFC defenders closing down were thrown off-balance and before Subrata could focus on the next move, Diego slotted the ball low into the left corner.

The equaliser in the 10th minute was like a set-piece move executed to perfection.

Carlos Calvo on the left flank near the goal-line attempted to centre with his right foot. Pune defenders moved in anticipation and were fooled by the dummy act from the player who coolly tapped behind, turned and floated the ball with his left. Passi anticipating the pass headed home.

The two goalkeepers were also tested at different occasions. Marcelinho's powerful left-footed try from the edge of the box forced Subrata into a leaping stylish save, while Kamaljit stretched to his right to keep out a superb first-time left-footer from Passi.

Homing in: FC Pune City's Diego Carlos, right, closes in on the target. ▪SPORTZPICS/ISL

Ian Hume remained on the bench in the first half, as the home team opted to give Indian strikers Ashique and Robin the chance to forage for goals in tandem with Marcelinho.

Hume came on as substitute for Robin in the second half.

Passi played as the lone striker for the visitors with five mid-fielders trying to set up chances for the India international. Michael Soosairaj was introduced in the closing stages by JFC.

The result: FC Pune City 2 (Diego Carlos 5, Matthew Mills 86) bt Jamshedpur FC 1 (Sumeet Passi 10).

Narwals take the spotlight

Patna Pirates has it easy against Tamil Thalaivas

PKL

AMOL KARHADKAR
AHMEDABAD

The Narwals, captain Pardeep and raider Deepak, were in the limelight for Patna Pirates as it rolled over Tamil Thalaivas in their Pro-Kabaddi League match here on Wednesday. Thanks to the two Narwals sharing more than half of Pirates' points, the second-placed team in Zone B closed in on pool leader Bengaluru Bulls with a 45-27 win.

Having overcome Telugu Titans the previous evening, Thalaivas must have hoped to continue in the same vein but such was Pirates' charge, not once did Thalaivas stay ahead in the points tally.

Early lead

It took Pirates just six minutes to enforce the first all-out and open up a 10-1 lead.

Take that: Pardeep Narwal, left, had a lot of successful forays. ▪SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Thalaivas then had its best passage with captain Ajay Thakur leading the charge and forcing the Pirates to be all out and close the gap to 14-11.

At the break, the Patna boys enjoyed a three-point advantage but Thalaivas inched closer soon after the interval to trail by a solitary point in the second minute. However, the Narwal & Narwal show soon resumed to help Pirates run away to an 18-point win.

The results: Zone B: Patna Pirates 45 (Pardeep Narwal 13, Deepak Narwal 10, Manjeet 8) bt Tamil Thalaivas 27 (Ajay Thakur 8, Manjeet Chhillar 5).

Zone A: Gujarat Fortunegiants 39 (K. Prapanjan 10, Sachin Tanwar 7, Parvesh Bhainswal 6) bt U Mumba 35 (Siddharth Desai 13, Rohit Baliyan 6).

TV PICKS

NBA: Sony Ten 1 (SD & HD), 6.30 a.m.
Ranji Trophy: Star Sports 2 (SD & HD), 9 a.m.
Bangladesh vs. West Indies: SS Select 2 (SD & HD), 9 a.m.
Women's World boxing: SS Select 1 (SD & HD) & DD Sports, 4 p.m.
ISL: Star Sports 1 (SD & HD), 7.30 p.m.
PKL: Star Sports 2 (SD & HD), 8 p.m.
ICC Women's World T20: Star Sports 1 (SD & HD), 1.30 a.m. (Friday).

IN BRIEF

Wasim Jaffer's milestone

NAGPUR

Veteran First Class cricketer Wasim Jaffer became the first Indian batsman to touch the 11,000-run mark in the Ranji Trophy. The Vidharbha batsman achieved the milestone during the third-round match against Baroda here on Wednesday. The batsman scored 153 in the first innings of the ongoing match. He had made his First Class debut in 1996-97. Jaffer also has a total of 18,275 runs to his credit in the overall First Class career. ANI

Anderson out of final Sri Lanka Test

COLOMBO

England fast bowler James Anderson said on Wednesday that he has been left out of the final Test against Sri Lanka to give match practice to fellow paceman Stuart Broad. "Yes, I'm not playing this game, Broady's going," Anderson said ahead of the dead-rubber final Test of the three-match series when the visitor will be gunning for a 3-0 whitewash. "The thinking is that with the series sewn up it's an opportunity to rotate." AFP

Tvesa gets off to a fine start

LUCKNOW

Tvesa Malik got off to a fine start with an even par 70 in the first round of the Hero Women's Pro Golf Tour on Wednesday. Tvesa shot two birdies against two bogeys at the Palms Golf Club and Resort. She is now one shot ahead of second-placed Smriti Mehra, who had a fine front ni ne with one-under 33. PTI

Ravi Teja cracks maiden century

Gets adequate support from Chama Milind as the two help Hyderabad pile up 460 against Delhi

V.V. SUBRAHMANYAM
HYDERABAD

T. Ravi Teja cracked a maiden century in Ranji Trophy and strung together a 133-run stand with Chama Milind for the eighth wicket to help Hyderabad score 460 in the first innings on the second day of the Group B match at Rajiv Gandhi Stadium here on Wednesday.

In reply, Delhi was 21 for no loss at close of play.

Earlier, in the morning session, Hyderabad was rocked by a lively spell from left-arm pacer Kulwant Khejroliya, who combined pace and accuracy from pavilion end, to strike three quick blows.

First, Khejroliya cleaned up the well-set Tanmay Agarwal with one that swung back and kept trifle low, then had wicketkeeper-batsman Kolla Sumanth snicking to slip cordon and soon trapped the dangerous-looking B. Sandeep lbw on the backfoot shuffle.

At the other end, pacer Simarjit Singh dismissed Tanay Tyagarajan (1) cheaply to leave Hyderabad in a spot of bother at 265 for seven.

Rearguard action: Ravi Teja's unbeaten century came at a time when Hyderabad was in a spot of bother. ▪K.V.S. GIRI

Perfect blend

Then, the two left-handers – Ravi Teja (115 not out, 206b, 9x4, 1x6) and Chama Milind (58, 127b, 8x4 1x6) – came up with a perfect blend of caution and aggression.

Ravi Teja reached his maiden Ranji century in his fifth match when he stepped out and lofted left-arm spinner Vikas Mishra over his head to the fence.

The partnership ended the only way it looked likely with Milind run-out thanks to a perfect throw from the deep by Khejroliya.

Hyderabad extended Delhi's agony till 25 minutes before scheduled close of play.

The scores:

Hyderabad — 1st innings: Tanmay Agarwal b Khejroliya 120, P. Akshath Reddy c Gaurav b Vikas 15, K. Rohit Rayudu c Shorey b Vikas 10, Himalay Agarwal c Ranjan b Gaurav 66, B. Sandeep lbw b Khejroliya 41, K. Sumanth c Shorey b Khejroliya 2, T. Ravi Teja (not out) 115, Tanay Thyagarajan c Gaurav b Simarjeet 1, Chama Milind run out (Khejroliya) 58, Mehdi Hasan c Himmat b Gaurav 14, M. Ravi Kiran b Gaurav 0. Extras: (b-5, lb-7, w-6) 18. Total: (in 170.3 overs) 460.

Fall of wickets: 1-30, 2-52, 3-187, 4-255, 5-259, 6-260, 7-265, 8-398, 9-444.

Delhi bowling: Khejroliya 27-7-64-3, Gaurav 22.3-7-50-3, Simarjeet 29-6-94-1, Vikas 49-6-107-2, Lalit 26-2-72-0, Rana 11-1-34-0, Dalal 1-0-9-0, Shorey 5-0-18-0.

Delhi — 1st innings: Sartak Ranjan (batting) 6, Hiten Dalal (batting) 14. Extras: (nb-1) 1. Total: (for no loss in seven overs) 21.

Hyderabad bowling: Ravi Kiran 3-0-12-0, Milind 3-0-9-0, Thyagarajan 1-1-0-0.

RANJI TROPHY SCORES, DAY 2

Elite: Group A: At Raipur: Chhattisgarh 300 in 108 overs (Harpreet Singh Bhatia 79, Amandeep Khare 54, Vishal Singh Kushwah 52, Karan Thakur four for 98, Manjeet Chaudhary four for 85) vs. Railways 132 for four in 52 overs (Pratham Singh 56 batting).

At Nadiad: Gujarat 324 in 103.5 overs (Manprit Juneja 66, Rujul Bhatt 41, Dhruv Raval 63, Roosh Kalaria 91 n.o., Chetan Sakariya five for 83) vs. Saurashtra 221 for three in 70 overs (Harvik Desai 79 batting, Snell Patel 62).

At Belagavi: Karnataka 400 in 129.4 overs (Kaunain Abbas 64, K.V. Siddharth 161, Shreyas Gopal 48, Shivam Dube seven for 53) vs. Mumbai 99 for two in 36.5 overs (Jay Bista 69 batting).

At Nagpur: Vidarbha 529 for six decl. in 164 overs (Faiz Fazal 151, Wasim Jaffer 153, Ganesh Satish 56, Akshay Wadkar 102 n.o.) vs. Baroda 41 for no loss in 14 overs.

Group B: At Kolkata: Bengal 147 & 5 for one in 2.2 overs vs. Kerala 291 in 83 overs (Jalaj Saxena 143, Ishan Porel four for 69).

At Ongole: Andhra 216 in 89.5 overs (Jyothi Sai Krishna 58, Girinath Reddy 86 n.o., M. Mohammed four for 70) vs. Tamil Nadu 122 for three in 50 overs.

At Hyderabad: 460 in 170.3 overs (Tanmay Agarwal 120, Himalay Agarwal 66, T. Ravi Teja 115 n.o., C.V. Milind 58) vs. Delhi 21 for no loss in 7 overs.

At Indore: Punjab 293 in 84.4 overs (Jiwanjot Singh 124, Gurkeerat Singh Mann 66, Abhishek Sharma 41, Kuldeep Sen five for 62, Avesh Khan four for 77) vs. Madhya Pradesh 184 for two in 76 overs (Rajat Patidar 63 batting, Naman Ojha 46 batting).

Group C: At Guwahati: Assam 121 & 60 for four in 23 overs vs. Odisha 240 in 85.2 overs (Anurag Sarangi 77, Biplab Samantaray 61, Ranjeet Mali six for 80).

At Ranchi: Rajasthan 100 & 127 for four in 55 overs (Robin Bist 45) vs. Jharkhand 152 in 58.1 overs (Ishank Jaggi 79, Tanvir Mashart Ul-Haq six for 42).

At Lahli: Haryana 276 in 88 overs (Nitin Saini 64, Himanshu Rana 86, Prashant Vashist 42, Krishna Das six for 75) vs. Goa 177 in 79.1 overs (Sagun Kamat 68, Poonish Mehta four for 21).

At Srinagar: Tripura 124 & 11 for no loss in 4 overs vs. Jammu & Kashmir 442 in 121 overs (Ahmad Omar Banday 136, Shubham Khajuria 52, Irfan Pathan 85, Aamir Aziz 48, Waseem Raza 45, Harmeet Singh five for 91).

At New Delhi: Services 260 in 92.2 overs (Devender Lohchab 75, Ankit Rajpoot four for 74, Shivam Mavi four for 44) vs. Uttar Pradesh 265 for five in 85 overs (Priyam Garg 88, Akshdeep Nath 56, Suresh Raina 41).

Plate: At Shillong: Meghalaya 389 in 110.2 overs (Raj Raju Biswa 111, Yogesh Nagar 166, Pawan Suyal five for 96) vs. Nagaland 106 in 46.3 overs (Gurinder Singh four for 37) & 31 for no loss in 10 overs.

At Jorhat: Mizoram 219 & 34 for no loss in 13 overs vs. Manipur 319 in 87 overs (Yashpal Singh 156 n.o., Prafullomani Singh 51).

At Bhubaneswar: Uttarakhand 582 for nine decl. in 163 overs (Saurabh Rawat 220, Rajat Bhatia 121, Vaibhav Bhatt 152 n.o., Ishwar Chaudhary four for 105) vs. Sikkim 49 for three in 20 overs.

At Puducherry: Pud ucherry vs. Bihar. No play.

All eyes on India's 'fantastic four'

Mary, Sonia, Simranjit and Lovlina eye golds

WORLD BOXING

Y.B. SARANGI
NEW DELHI

The legendary M.C. Mary Kom and three other debutants will make their semifinal appearance in the World women's boxing championships at the Indira Gandhi Stadium Complex here over the next two days.

Interestingly, the four have the same objective – win the next two bouts and secure gold medals.

While Sonia Chahal (57kg), Simranjit Kaur (64kg) and Lovlina Borgohain (69kg) will aim to bag their maiden World titles, five-time champion Mary (48kg), who has already entered record books as the most successful woman boxer in the event with seven medals, will be keen to achieve a unique status by claiming her sixth Worlds crown.

Mary and Lovlina will take the ring on Thursday whereas Sonia and Simranjit will compete on Friday.

Mary meets Hyang Mi Kim again. Nevertheless, the 35-year-old, who had defeated her younger rival in the final of the Asian championships last year, will have to be careful against the North Korean, who may have revenge on her mind.

Close contest in the offing: Mary Kom will have to be careful against North Korea's Hyang Mi Kim. ▪SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

'Prepared'

"She (Hyang) could be coming with some plans against me because I had beaten her last year. But I am prepared for it," said Mary.

The big-hearted Lovlina has come good against some of the best in the business and will be eager to display her worth when she faces World's bronze medallist Nien-Chin Chen.

Another North Korean, Asian Games silver medallist Son Hwa Jo, who beat the accomplished Sonia Lather in the Asiad this year, will challenge Sonia.

Simranjit, a former World youth medal winner, has set up a semifinal clash with Asian championships medallist Dan Duo of China.

Simranjit's ability to punch above her weight will help her in another testing situation.

India is the second most successful nation in this event in terms of number of medals.

China tops the list with five of its boxers making it to the semifinals.

Prajnesh makes the quarterfinals

Sasi Kumar rallies to win; Arjun Kadhe makes his exit

PUNE CHALLENGER

G. VISWANATH
PUNE

An excellent year embellished with a handful of title wins has made Prajnesh Gunneswaran take on opponents with a confident deportment.

In a scrap between left-handers, Prajnesh brushed aside the challenge posed by Germany's Lucas Grech, winning 6-1, 6-3 in under an hour, in the pre-quarterfinals of the $50000 MSLTA-KPIT Challenger here on Wednesday.

Local boy Arjun Kadhe competed hard in the first set against Canada's Brayden Schnur, but once he lost it, there were only diminishing returns for the Indian in the second.

The match against a tough opponent demanded display of fitness, skill and execution of winners for two hours, but Kadhe could not take the contest to a level and Schnur was able to take control.

Turnaround

The story of the third day was a remarkable turnaround in form fashioned by Sasi Kumar Mukund against the higher-ranked No. 6 seed Jay Clarke of Great Britain. Ranked 181st in the world, the 20-year-old Clarke fired heavy-duty serves and hit the ball hard and deep to take the first set.

Staying alive: Sasi Kumar Mukund bounced back to make the last eight. ▪SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Undeterred, Sasi Kumar made a do-or-die effort in the second set; he hit the ball hard, long and on either flanks to win big points and the set.

Mukund showed an improvement in his service games in the third set and led 4-1 when Clarke walked up to the chair umpire to announce his retirement from the match. Trailing 1-2, the Briton had taken medical treatment from a physio.

When asked about his comeback, Mukund said: "It shows how much I have to improve in order to close out matches.

"I am learning. For my level, I played a very good quality of tennis. I had to step it up in the second as he was getting solid from the back."

The results (pre-quarter-finals): Prajnesh Gunneswaran bt Lucas Grech (Ger) 6-1,6-3; Sasi Kumar Mukund bt Jay Clarke (GBr) 5-7, 6-4, 4-1 (retd); Brayden Schnur (Can) bt Arjun Kadhe 7-5, 6-2; Silva Frederico Ferreira (Por) bt Nicola Kuhn (Spain) 7-5,7-5; Albot Radu (Mdv) bt Maverick Banes (Aus) 6-3,6-1; Sebastian Fanselow (Ger) bt Max Purcell (Aus) 6-2,6-1; Elias Ymer (Swe) bt Daniel Masur (Ger) 6-3,7-6 (4); Alexsandr Nedovyesov (Kaz) bt Ben Patael (Isr) 7-5,6-4.

THE HINDU CROSSWORD 12478

(set by Incognito)

ACROSS

8 Game snow leopard prowled, sparing wandering wardens (4)

9 Greek character's programme in Karnataka (5)

10 Russian in Tel Aviv answered (4)

11 Stirring, two kiss endlessly ... that's one way to get up (3,3)

12 Ninth cog is broken – results in making marks on wood (8)

13 Son captures vehicle with Royal Air Force unit (8)

15 A pal is confused about animal (6)

17 Why late? Worried? That's rich! (7)

19 Wants of French fathers (7)

22 Finally dark, dark part of the day for titled man (6)

24 Order cattle head (8)

26 Croon about monarch and a parliamentarian trying to cut expenses (8)

28 See! Copper has manuscript backups (6)

30 Against soldier at beginning of insurgency (4)

31 Modem merchant stores foodgrain (5)

32 Sub-machine gun returned in practice areas (4)

DOWN

1 Castle bird (4)

2 Number of people entering Foreign Office with book before autumn in the U.S. (8)

3 Lance Naik finally ends up in drain (6)

4 1 to 27-4, for example? (7)

5 Carry witch before commencement of Easter in old place (8)

6 Live – I hear – and do marketing for church functionary (6)

7 Father, wife and last son – what they might do at uncle's place? (4)

14 27's 29? Question English Earl first! (5)

16 Revolutionary is chased by paramilitary force? It's just a war game (5)

18 Dedicated telephone connections arranged in hotels (8)

20 Bar gets zero money? Not guilty! (8)

21 Badly need to cover magazine returned for final stage of competition (7)

23 Good scope for plan (6)

25 Everyone at old place initially exuded attraction (6)

27 Family girl gets the Crown, perhaps (4)

29 Couple's friend (4)

SUDOKU

			6					5
		9		2	4			
			8	1		7	2	
2			9		6	3		
				7				
		5	3		8			6
	3	4		6	5			
			2	9		5		
9					3			

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DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★☆☆

Solution to puzzle 12477

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

1	2	8	4	6	5	7	9	3
7	6	4	1	3	9	2	5	8
5	9	3	2	8	7	6	1	4
2	5	9	8	1	4	3	7	6
6	8	1	7	9	3	4	2	5
4	3	7	6	5	2	9	8	1
8	7	2	5	4	6	1	3	9
3	1	6	9	7	8	5	4	2
9	4	5	3	2	1	8	6	7

FAITH

Tulsi saved his life

Srimad Bhagavatam says that it is far better to use tulsi leaves than sandal paste for worship of Lord Narayana, said P.T. Seshadri in a discourse. There is a story in the Narada Purana that brings out the greatness of tulsi. In a village, there lived a Brahmin called Madhava. He had never done any good deeds in his life or observed any rituals. He had some lands, which he cultivated. Everyday, he brought grass for his cows when he returned home.

One evening, he accidentally cut some tulsi leaves along with the grass. He was destined to die that evening and a snake came slithering towards him to bite him and end his life at the predetermined time. But it could not bite him because he had tulsi leaves in his hand. The man picked up the bundle of grass, together with the tulsi leaves, and placed the bundle on his head and went home. The snake hid itself in the bundle, hoping to bite him when he laid it down. Near Madhava's house lived Madhusudana, a very pious man. Through his powers, he realised that there was a snake in Madhava's grass bundle. He could even see the Yamadhutas shadowing Madhava to take away his life the moment he was bitten by the snake. Madhusudana asked the Yamadhutas how to save Madhava's life. The Yamadhutas replied, "We know that you do tulsi puja every day. If you transfer to Madhava the benefits of your tulsi puja for today, then he can be saved." Madhusudana then transferred that day's merits to Madhava and the latter's life was spared. Madhusudana then told Madhava what had happened and urged him to do tulsi puja every day. From then on, Madhava too did tulsi puja every day. Nrisimha Purana says that while bilva leaves, darbha grass and tulsi are ideal for worshipping Lord Narayana, tulsi is the best.

Easy opener: Saina Nehwal was hardly troubled by Kate Foo Kune on Wednesday. ▪ RAJEEV BHATT

Prannoy falls; Saina cruises

Kashyap has it easy while mixed doubles champs Pranav and Sikki crash out

SYED MODI SUPER 300

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
LUCKNOW

It was a mixed day for Indians in the Syed Modi World Tour Super 300 badminton here on Wednesday. While Saina Nehwal and P. Kashyap notched up easy wins in the singles section it was curtains for second seed H.S. Prannoy as he went down to Chico Aura Dwi Wardoyo of Indonesia 21-14, 21-7 in 33 minutes.

Also crashing out in the opening round were mixed doubles defending champions Pranaav Chopra and N. Sikki Reddy. The top seeds lost 21-14, 21-11 to China's Ren Xiangyu and Zhou Chaomin in just 31 minutes.

Second seed Saina, who has won here thrice in the past, thrashed Mauritius' Kate Foo Kune 21-10, 21-10 in the women's singles, while former Commonwealth Games champion Kashyap disposed of Thailand's Tanongsak Saensomboonsuk 21-14, 21-12 in a one-sided men's singles match.

Saina to meet Amolika

Saina will face compatriot Amolika Singh Sisodiya next, while Kashyap will meet Indonesia's Firman Abdul Kholik.

Former Singapore Open champion B Sai Praneeth also crossed the men's singles opening hurdle, beating Russia's Sergey Sirant 21-12, 21-10. He will square off against Shesar Hiren Rhustavito of Indonesia.

Subhankar advances

Subhankar Dey, who had claimed his maiden title at the SaarLorLux Open, beat Sweden's Felix Burestedt 21-15, 21-13 to set up a clash with Lu Guangzu of China.

Former national champion Rituparna Das, seeded eighth, saw off Russia's Natalia Perminova 21-19, 18-21, 21-10 and will face compatriot Shruti Mundada.

Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Ashwini Ponnappa, seeded sixth, notched up a 21-10, 21-10 win over compatriots Krishna Prasad Garaga and Rutaparna Panda in the mixed doubles opening round.

Among others, Prashi Joshi, Saili Rane, Riya Mookerjee, Shreyanshi Pardeshi, Reshma Karthik and Sai Uttejitha Rao Chukka also made it to the women's singles second round.

Promotion for Sweden

REUTERS
STOCKHOLM

Sweden's Victor Lindelof and Marcus Berg secured a 2-0 win over Russia on Tuesday and promotion from Nations League B Group 2 thanks to a better head-to-head record than the visitors.

Both teams finished on seven points but a scoreless draw in Russia and Tuesday's win in Stockholm propelled the Swedes into the top tier as group winners.

The results: League A: Group 3: Portugal 1 (An. Silva 34) drew with Poland 1 (Milik 66-pen). **League B: Group 2:** Sweden 2 (Lindelof 41, Berg 72) bt Russia 0.

Anjum picks up her fourth gold

NATL. SHOOTING

A. VINOD
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Anjum Moudgil finished her campaign in the 62nd National shooting championships on a high, winning a fourth gold medal by topping the field in the women's 50m rifle prone event here on Wednesday.

The 24-year-old from Punjab went through her detail to finish with 619.1 points, with scores of 103.4, 104.7, 103.0, 103.3, 102.8 and 101.9, after six rounds of competition which had 173 shooters in the fray.

Statemate Chahat Deep Kaur (617.6) collared silver ahead of the seasoned Tejaswini R. Sawant of Maharashtra (617.1). Punjab also the took the team gold with 1846.2 points, leaving Railways (1841.0) and Haryana (1837.9) in its wake.

There was no stopping Haryana's Shirin Godara from dominating the juniors category which she won with a total of 616.7 points. Mounika Saddi (Telengana) took silver with 610.5 and Kinoor Konar (Bengal) the bronze with 610.2.

Haryana won the team gold with a winning total of 1834.7, ahead of Tamil Nadu (1818.0) and Punjab (1813.2).

The results: 50m rifle prone: Women: 1. Anjum Moudgil (Pun) 619.1 points, 2. Chahat Deep Kaur (Pun) 617.6, 3. Tejaswini R. Sawant (Mah) 617.1. **Team:** 1. Punjab 1846.2, 2. Railways 1841.0, 3. Haryana 1837.9.
Juniors: 1. Shirin Godara (Har) 616.7, 2 Mounika Saddi (TS) 610.5, 3. Kinoor Konar (Ben) 610.2. **Team:** 1. Haryana 1834.7, 2. Tamil Nadu 1818.0, 3. Punjab 1813.2.

Denim claws back from the brink

GUWAHATI: Denim Yadav bounced back from the brink of defeat to beat Ishan Sethi 3-6, 7-5, 6-3 in the boys' quarterfinals of the ITF grade-5 junior tennis tournament on Wednesday.

Aryaan Bhatia and top seed Krish Patel were the other Indians to make the semifinals. Krish had endured a tough outing in the earlier round against qualifier Iqbal Mohd. Khan when he prevailed 3-6, 7-6(6), 6-3.

In the girls' section, second seed Sharannya Gaware was the only Indian to reach the semifinals as she fought her way past Sarah Dev after losing the first set.

The results (quarterfinals): Boys: Krish Patel bt Uddayvir Singh 6-2, 6-1; Sanjith Devineni (US) bt Deepender Grewal 7-6 (6), 6-3.

Denim Yadav bt Ishan Sethi 3-6, 7-5, 6-3; Aryaan Bhatia bt Dhruv Tangri 6-4, 6-2.
Girls: Lanlana Tararudee (Tha) bt Kaavya Sawhney 6-4, 7-5; Aanya Goel (US) bt Bhakti Parwani 6-2, 6-0.

Evelina Kontareva (Rus) bt Sandeepti Singh Rao 6-2, 6-4; Sharannya Gaware bt Sarah Dev 5-7, 6-4, 6-2.

Australian Open wild card playoff from Nov. 27

Prajnesh Gunneswaran figures as the No. 1 in the entry list

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Prajnesh Gunneswaran figures as the No. 1 in the entry list for the Australian Open Asia-Pacific wild card playoff to be staged in Zhuhai, China, from November 27 to December 2.

He is followed by Hiroki Moriya, Lee Duckhee, Soonwoo Kwon, Ze Zhang, Zhe Li, Tsung-hua Yang and Yunseong Chung in the main draw acceptance list.

Four wild cards, to be decided between Tennis Australia and Chinese Tennis Association, will join the eight.

Qualifying event

There will be a qualifying event preceding the playoff which will have Sumit Nagal and Saketh Myneni, along with Kaichi Uchida and Renta Tokuda of Japan, in the fray. The qualifying stage will also have four wild cards. Arjun Kadhe is second in the waiting list for the qualifying event behind Di Wu of China who has won the Australian Open wild card twice.

Pranjala, the lone Indian woman

Among the women, Y. Pranjala is the lone Indian to secure an entry into the wild card playoff, along with a bunch of Chinese, Japanese, Korean and Thai players.

Arjun Kadhe, Saketh Myneni and Vishnu Vardhan find a place in the acceptance list for doubles. Mann Shah is the No.1 player, and the only Indian, in the boys' list.

Bhuvana advances

SPORTS BUREAU
MONASTIR (TUNISIA)

Bhuvana Kalva defeated Maria Titova of Russia 6-3, 6-3 to make it to the pre-quarterfinals of the $15,000 ITF women's tennis tournament here on Wednesday.

Shergill scores six

NEW DELHI: Simran Shergill smashed six goals as Jindal Panther/Garcha Lions beat Palermo Polo 11-5 in a league match of the Yes Bank Indian Masters polo tournament at the Jaipur Polo ground on Wednesday.

The results (league): Sona Polo 6 (Gerardo Mazzini 4, Abhimanyu Pathak, Sawai Padmanabh Singh) bt Rajnigandha Achievers 5 (Gaurav Sahgal 4, Matthew Perry).

Jindal Panther-Garcha Lions 11 (Simran Shergill 6, Raul Lapacette 3, Satinder Garcha, Naveen Jindal) bt Palermo Polo 5 (Dhruvpal Godara 3, Dhananjay Singh 2).

Rakesh-Chhatwal duo in final

SPORTS BUREAU
PATTAYA

Rakesh Kohli and A.J.S. Chhatwal of the United States defeated Hakan Gustafsson and Lennart Lof of Sweden 0-6, 6-4, [10-3] in the semifinals of the over-60 section in the ITF grade-1 seniors' tennis tournament on Wednesday.

The second-seeded Indo-American pair had earlier beaten Bob Charlton of Britain and Michael Dunn of Australia 6-1, 5-7, [10-8] in the quarterfinals.

"These results will help me get back into the top-75 in the world just one year after my meniscus surgery," said Rakesh, the chairman of Stag International.

The results: ITF grade-1 Seniors: Over-60 doubles (semifinals): A.J.S. Chhatwal (US) & Rakesh Kohli bt Hakan Gustafsson & Lennart LLof (Swe) 0-6, 6-4, [10-3]; **Quarterfinals:** Chhatwal & Rakesh bt Bob Charlton (GBr) & Michael Dunn (Aus) 6-1, 5-7, [10-8].

Abid does it for Aligarh

ALIGARH: Abid Ali scored two goals to help host Aligarh Muslim University beat Guru Nanak Dev University (Amritsar) in the final league phase of the North Zone inter-university hockey.

The results (final league): AMU 2 (Abid Ali 2) bt Guru Nanak (Amritsar) 0.

Punjabi (Patiala) 5 (Suraj Kumar 2, Gurmehakdeep Singh, Lovejeet Singh, Jaswinder Singh) bt Punjab (Chandigarh) 4 (Harpreet Singh 3, Deepak Kumar).

Prithviraj still ahead

NATL. SHOTGUN

SPORTS BUREAU
JAIPUR

Prithviraj Tondaiman sustained his good work and stayed in the lead with 99 out of 100 after four rounds in the men's trap event of the 62nd National shotgun championship on Wednesday.

Prithviraj, who dropped one bird in the third round, was followed by Zoravar Singh Sandhu and Asian Games silver medallist Lakshay Sheoran on 96. Former World champion Manavjit Singh Sandhu and former National champion Anirudh Singh, along with Ronald Kamlunlal Tungdim had 95. One more round will be shot on Thursday to decide the top-six from among 169 shooters for the final.

In the junior event, Lakshay Shoran led with 96, following four identical rounds of 24, one point ahead of Ronald Kamlunlal Tungdim.

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E- TENDER NOTICE

Online bids are invited from manufacturers/direct importers / loan licensees on behalf of Department of Health, Govt of Kerala for the procurement of following categories of drugs / supplies for the year 2019-20.

Sl. No.	Tender No. and Date	Category	No. of Items
1.	KMSCL/DRGED/I & II/RC/2018/ 014 dt. 21.11.18	Drugs	402
2.	KMSCL/DRGED/III-VIII/RC/2018/ 015 dt. 21.11.18	Consumables & Surgical Items	154
3.	KMSCL/DRGED/ACD/RC/2018/ 016 dt. 21.11.18	Anti Cancer Drugs	73
4.	KMSCL/DRGED/SPL/RC/2018/ 017 dt. 21.11.18	Specialty Drugs	191
5.	KMSCL/DRGED/RCC/RC/2018/ 018 dt. 21.11.18	ACD-RCC	140

Pre-tender meeting will be conducted at 10.30 am at Mascot Hotel on 30.11.18. The last date and time of online uploading of tenders will be 19.12.2018, 5.00 pm. The date and time of opening of Technical bid will be 26.12.2018, 11.00 am. Tenders shall be downloaded and submitted online through the e-tender portal **www.etenders.kerala.gov.in**.

(Sd/-) MANAGING DIRECTOR (Tender Inviting Authority)

BHARAT DYNAMICS LIMITED
(A Government of India Enterprise)
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
GACHIBOWLI, HYDERABAD-500 032.

Ref : BDL/CC/OT/GT/020/2018-19 Dt : 22-11-2018

e-PROCUREMENT ABRIDGED TENDER NOTICE

Inviting Indigenous Competitive Bidding

Sl.No.	Tender ID	Description	Estimated Amount ₹
1	60600	Construction of Pre-Engineered Building Including Allied Services for Stores at BDL, Kanchanbagh, Hyderabad	904.13 Lakhs

Please visit website **https://bdltenders.abcprocure.com** for further details. Bids should be submitted online only.

"Corrigendum if any shall be issued through our e-portal only and not in Newspapers".

Dy. General Manager (Corp. Comml.)

MALABAR CEMENTS LTD
A Government of Kerala Undertaking
Walayar Post, Palakkad-678624, Kerala,
E-mail : materials@malabarcements.com / bulkmcl@gmail.com

TENDER NOTICE

Visit www.etenders.kerala.gov.in for Online Submission of Bids for:
- Rate contract for plant shutdown job – Providing refractory re-lining work in Kiln cooler and pre-heater
- Collection & Transportation of Dry Fly Ash from MTPS to Walayar and Cement Grinding Unit, Cherthala
- Hiring of buses for Malabar Cements Ltd.
- Construction of retaining wall at back side of Mines Canteen
- Supply of Drive Shaft Assy, Dust Collector Fan Silo Top

Visit www.malabarcements.com for submission of tender for regular Engineering items & Services.

Sd/-
MANAGING DIRECTOR

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ENGINEER, PWD, RAJASTHAN, JAIPUR
No.ACE/WB/RRSMP/2018-19/D-3176 Dated: 6-11-2018
Short Term NIT No.10/NCS/RRSMP/2018-2019

On behalf of the Governor of Rajasthan, online tenders in prescribed format, are invited through e-procurement process for Data Collection of state road network and connecting it up to required format for Road Asset Management System under Rajasthan Road Sector Modernization Project (World Bank Funded) from the Bidders registered in PWD Rajasthan. All the details relevant to the tender can be seen on concerned website **http://dipr.rajasthan.gov.in**, **http://pwd.rajasthan.gov.in**, **http://pmgsytendersraj.gov.in**, **sppp.rajasthan.gov.in**.
Non-registered bidders can also participate in the bidding. However, the successful bidder must apply for registration in appropriate class with appropriate authorities with a view to obtained the registration before signing the contract.

Total Amount of Tenders	Rs.800.00 Lac
Online Bid Document Download Date and Time	From Monday 12 November, 2018, 3-00 P.M. to Tuesday 27 November, 2018, upto 3-00 P.M.
Date and time of Pre-bid Meeting	From Monday 19 November 2018, 11-00 A.M.
Online Bid Submission Date and Time	Tuesday 27 November 2018, at 3-00 P.M.
Online Bid Opening Date	Thursday 29 November 2018, at 4-00 P.M.

Interested Bidders should be registered on website **http://pmgsytendersraj.gov.in** through their Digital Signature.

UBN - PWD 1819 SLOB 15721
DIPR/C/13981

(Anil Nepaliya)
Chief Engineer (PMGSY)
P.W.D. Rajasthan Jaipur

V.O.CHIDAMBARANAR PORT TRUST
CIVIL ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT
TUTICORIN - 628 004.

NOTICE INVITING TENDER (NIT)
Only through E-Tendering Mode
VOCPT E-Tendering Website : www.tenderwizard.com/VOCPT

NIT No & Dated	10HMTC / 2018 -19 / D.2358 Dt : 20.11.2018
Name of work	Construction of new Drain Duct for rain water flow at coal stack yard inside green gate in V.O.Chidambaranar Port Trust
Estimated Amount	Rs. 6,06, 45,618/-
Downloading of Tender Documents from VOCPT online e-tendering website.	22.11.2018 to 13.12.2018 (upto 15.00 Hrs)
Last Date and Time for submission of Tenders online.	13.12.2018 (upto 15.00 Hrs)
Online Technical Bid Opening Date & Time	14.12.2018 upto 15.30 Hrs.

For further details,
Please visit Port's website www.vocport.gov.in

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IN BRIEF

Zuckerberg says he is not considering resigning

WASHINGTON

Embattled Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg said on Tuesday he has no plans to resign, sounding defiant after a rough year for the social platform. "That's not the plan," he told a business channel.. He also defended Facebook chief operating officer Sheryl Sandberg, who has drawn criticism over her handling of the Facebook's recent crises. AFP

Fish genes may help repair damaged hearts

LONDON

Scientists have identified a gene behind the Mexican tetra fish's ability to repair its damaged heart, an advance that may hold clues for future treatments in humans. Researchers at the University of Oxford found that the tetra fish living in the rivers of Northern Mexico have the ability to repair their heart tissue. PTI

Mother's weight influences child's BMI

LONDON

Besides genetic factors, mother's weight can directly influence a child's body mass index (BMI) in adolescence, finds a new study. The study found that adolescents whose mothers do not stay physically active are likely to become overweight. IANS

Young Kashmiri plays the rabab back into the limelight

Sufyan Malik's 45-second video finds receptive new audiences for the fading soul of the region's folk music

PEERZADA ASHIQ
SRINAGAR

A 19-year-old Srinagar boy, enabled by social media platforms, is infusing new life into what is considered the soul of Kashmir's folk music – the rabab, a long-necked lute.

Sufyan Malik's 45-second video, shot on a mobile phone against the backdrop of the heavy snowfall witnessed on November 3, has stormed the Internet, with over four lakh views and counting.

"I came for a short vacation to Kashmir. As my parents left home in the morning, my friend and I decided to shoot the video with snowfall as the backdrop. Initially, I played it for my friends in Pune, to show them snow. To my surprise, the tune of a local song, 'Janaat-e-Kashmir', on the rabab, became an instant rage on Internet," Mr. Malik, a student of engineering at Pune's MIT College, told *The Hindu*.

Multiple takes

Mr. Malik shot the video 18 times because the zero temperature in the open was benumbing his hands. . "There was no electricity to warm my hands. I had to match the speed. It was hard to play three beats down and one beat up. Finally, we did it," said Mr. Malik, a resident of Srinagar's Nowshera area.

The effort paid off as the video attracted 1.54 lakh views on Twitter in just a couple of days, with more views on Facebook and Instagram in the weeks that followed. From politicians like National Conference's (NC) Nasir Sogami to activist Shehla Rashid Shora, the young player earned plaudits from across the spectrum in the Valley and outside.

Snow play: Sufyan Malik making music on his rabab. ▪TWITTER

"Snow and the rabab probably reflect our identity. People felt an immediate connection. I have pledged to play the rabab all my life. I will do my Masters in composition to enable the survival of the rabab," said Mr. Malik, the son of a doctor mother and a hotelier, Wahid Malik, who support their son's efforts.

The number of rabab makers is fast dwindling in Kashmir. In north Kashmir, only two families continue with the trade of crafting the rabab, from the dozens of just a few decades ago.

Seen in many variants across central Asia, the rabab arrived in Kashmir from Afghanistan many centuries ago. "Compared to the seven strings of the Afghan rabab, the Kashmiri version has 22 strings, with two strings crafted out of goat gut through an elaborate process. It's these two strings that create its mesmerising echo," Mr. Malik said.

Soul-stirring

Ghulam Muhammad Ganai, 63, from Ganderbal's Kangan area, is among the few instrumentalists left from the old school. "I play the rabab only in Sufi *mehfils* (night-long devotional gatherings). The word 'rabab' comes from *rooh* (soul) and *bab* (expression). It should stir the soul. Only those who are nearer to god value the instrument. Around 15 of us are left now," said Mr. Ganai.

However, young players like Mr. Malik are bringing the instrument back into mainstream culture. "I played the rabab for a musical fusion called 'Firdous X-He is a pirate' based on the theme song of [the film] *Pirates of Caribbean* and the theme music of [TV show] *Game of Thrones* in 2017. It was an instant hit here," he said.

On June 28 2018, Mr. Malik played the rabab at The Hilton hotel in Los Angeles. "Many Kashmiri-origin people in the audience wanted to have a workshop for their kids after the show. After the hits we produced in 2017, at least 50 students registered to learn to play the rabab at the Delhi Public School (DPS) in Srinagar," said Mr. Malik.

A virtual climate summit to cut carbon footprint

The event will be the first global political meeting to be held online

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
MAJURO

World leaders will participate in an innovative climate change summit on Thursday that will take place entirely online so it is carbon neutral.

The eco-friendly event stands in stark contrast to many other international political summits, which involve thousands of delegates jetting across the world to a venue where they stay in air-conditioned comfort.

The Virtual Climate Summit is the brainchild of Marshall Islands President Hilda Heine, whose low-lying Pacific island nation will drown beneath rising seas if global warming continues unabated.

Online meet: A file photo of French President Emmanuel Macron with Marshall Islands' President Hilda Heine. ▪AFP

Ms. Heine said the event – with participants including French President Emmanuel Macron, UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres and Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau – will be the first global political meeting to be held online.

It will consist of a rolling, 24-hour livestream that will begin in the Marshalls' capital Majuro, then include addresses from leaders and panel discussions before delivering a declaration.

The virtual summit's main aim is to encourage the international community to keep global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels.

A UN report warned last month that threshold could be reached as early as 2030 unless there was unprecedented global action to rein in emissions.

The latest round of UN climate talks, COP24, will open in the southern Polish city of Katowice on December 2 with the aim of reinvigorating the Paris agreement.

'Multiplexes keen to sell samosas, not good films'

Rahul Rawail denies any film was rejected for being 'anti-national'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
PANAJI

Accusing the film market of ignoring the regional cinema, Rahul Rawail, Chairman of jury of Indian panorama (feature) at the 49th International Film Festival of India (IFFI), said on Wednesday that the biggest mafia ruling the film industry is the "multiplex mafia".

Addressing a press conference, Mr. Rawail said that there was a need to develop infrastructure for distributing good films at a low cost.

"Multiplexes have become the biggest mafia ruling the industry, interested not in promoting good films, but only in selling maximum samosas and popcorn," said Mr. Rawail.

Inclusive films

Significantly, Major Ravi, another jury member, said that 18 transgender films were considered for selection in this year's edition.

He pointed out that the jury members have taken a lot of pain in selecting the best films and have ensured that the Indian Panorama section presents a pan-Indian movie experience to the viewers.

Malayalam film *Olu* opened the Indian Panorama's feature film section. ▪AVA PRODUCTIONS

In reply to a question, Mr. Rawail and other jury members denied having rejected any film on the ground that it was "anti-national".

Replying to a query, the Chairman asserted, "There is no such thing as national film or anti-national film; the jury considers all movies that comes before it as Indian movies."

He stated that the controversy regarding omission of certain movies from the Indian Panorama was unfortunate and that the jury was given full autonomy in arriving at the decisions.

Pan-India appeal

Highlighting the range of films featured in the Indian Panorama section at IFFI, Mr. Rawail said that the array of selected films includes those set in Ladakh, Lakshwadeep and Assam.

"It was a tough exercise to select 22 films from a list of more than 100 films which were simply great," he remarked.

He also agreed, in reply to a question, that the composition of the Indian Panorama feature film jury had no woman filmmaker. He admitted that it was "not proper", but did not feel it was done deliberately.

Vinod Ganatra, non-feature film jury chairman, asked young filmmakers not to compromise on the script while making a film.

Meanwhile, director Shaji N. Karun's *Olu* opened at the Indian Panorama's feature film section at IFFI.

6 kg of plastic found in dead whale's stomach

Includes 115 plastic cups & 25 plastic bags

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
JAKARTA

A sperm whale has been found dead in Indonesia with 115 plastic cups and 25 plastic bags in its stomach, raising concern among environmentalists and throwing the spotlight on the country's rubbish problem.

The items were part of nearly 6 kg of plastic waste discovered in the 31-foot carcass when it washed ashore in Wakatobi National Park, in Southeast Sulawesi province, on Monday.

Other debris included flip flops and ripped tarpaulins, the head of Wakatobi tourism, La Ode Saleh Hanan, said. Conservation group WWF Indonesia said its staff found four plastic bottles and 3.26 kg of raffia rope, among other things.

Indonesia is the world's second biggest contributor to marine debris. ▪AFP

Indonesia is the world's second biggest contributor to marine debris after China.

NASA to probe workplace culture at SpaceX, Boeing

After Elon Musk took a hit of marijuana on a live podcast

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
WASHINGTON

The U.S. space agency has ordered a sweeping safety review of operations and workplace culture, including drug-free policies, at Boeing and SpaceX, two companies working to send astronauts to space, U.S. media said.

The review was "prompted by the recent behaviour of SpaceX's founder Elon Musk, according to three officials with knowledge of the probe, after he took a hit of marijuana and sipped whiskey on a podcast streamed on the Internet," said the *Washington Post*, which first reported on the story.

Elon Musk

NASA declined to comment on the allegations, but confirmed that the review would start next year as the agency focuses "on safe and successful commercial crew missions" to the International Space Station.

"In the coming months, prior to the crew test flights of Crew Dragon and Starliner, NASA will be conducting a cultural assessment study in coordination with our partners to ensure the companies are meeting NASA's requirements for workplace safety, including the adherence to a drug-free environment," said the NASA statement. "We fully expect our commercial partners to meet all workplace safety requirements."

Kolkata's barefoot historian bids adieu to city

In the 63 years he spent in West Bengal's capital, Kerala's P.T. Nair authored 62 books

SHIV SAHAY SINGH
KOLKATA

When his 62nd book and most likely his last one on Kolkata titled *Gandhiji in Kolkata* will be released at the upcoming Kolkata Book Fair, P.T. Nair, the 'barefoot historian of the city' would have, in all likelihood, left the city.

On Wednesday morning, the 86-year-old was busy packing his Remington typewriter, on which he has typed all his books since 1960s. Mr. Nair also made a customary visit to the National Library – a habit of his for the past six decades – before bidding adieu to the city.

"My children and grandchildren are pressing me to go back to Kerala," Mr. Nair says, when asked why he was leaving the city he loved and chronicled for more than 60 years.

While he may not recall the name of all his books, Mr. Nair vividly recalls his arrival in the city, penniless and without a ticket, on October 25, 1955. He was 25 and searching for a job. "I remember that I walked from Howrah station to Dalhousie to meet a person from my native village," he said.

Long association: P.T. Nair with his wife Sita at their home in Kolkata on Wednesday. ▪SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Since morning, his two-room accommodation on the ground floor of an old building in 82/C Kansari Para Road was buzzing with people. Old friends, journalists and neighbours thronged to the dimly-lit room. Mr. Nair ensured that everyone was seated before he could begin a conversation.

U. Ramesh, a retired archivist with the State Bank of India, was among the visitors.

Mr. Ramesh describes Mr. Nair's work on the history of Kolkata streets as seminal.

He was more than eager to share a personal anecdote, about how he got acquainted with Mr. Nair's work, long before they actually met.

It was 1994 and Mr. Ramesh was involved with the National Archives in organising an exhibition on 75 years of Jalianwala Bagh massacre. "We were looking for the office of Rowlatt Committee in Kolkata, which was said to be located at Elsyum Row. When several sources failed to pinpoint the correct location, it was Mr. Nair's book *A History of Calcutta's streets* that pointed out that Elsyum Row is now known as Lord Sinha Road," Mr. Ramesh said.

Some of Mr. Nair's other well-known books include *Job Charnock: The Founder of Calcutta*, a book on the South Indian community in Kolkata, and the *Origin of the Kolkata Police*.

Spartan Life

Since 1955, Mr. Nair led a very spartan life, walking daily to the National Library for research on old documents and publications. He would travel to the remotest corners of the city in search of unknown facts about the city's buildings and streets with almost no institutional support.

"Since my home was a 10-minute walk from National Library, I decided to do something about the city," he said in a reply to a question on what promoted him to work on the history of the city.

To a query whether the city has given its most prolific historian its due, Mr. Nair retorted, "But I never expected anything. I have not done anything extraordinary," he said.

Mr. Nair has donated all the books authored by him to the library at city's Town Hall. "I have kept only one copy with me at my home in Kerala. I was informed that some of my books got destroyed in the recent Kerala floods. I have to check what all has remained once I get there," he said.

"Even today he does not want to leave," Ms. Sita Nair, his wife, said.