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NEARBY



6.9 lakh voters added
since 2015: Delhi govt.

NEW DELHI

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

DELI METRO ▶ PAGE 1

Modify forest dwellers' eviction order: Centre

NEW DELHI

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

NATION ▶ PAGE 7

Shelter home case: CBI appoints 2 SPPs

NEW DELHI

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

NORTH ▶ PAGE 3

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DELHI METRO ▶ 6 PAGES

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

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

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

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

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

SUHASINI HAIDAR
DINAKARI PERI
NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

ter the MiG-21 he was flying was shot by a Pakistani plane. He landed in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir, where he was taken into custody.

Details awaited

The Ministry of External Affairs said it is awaiting details of Wing Commander Varthaman's arrest and condition through diplomatic and official channels, and demanded his "safe and immediate return." In amateur videos, he is seen being manhandled by a crowd in the PoK.

In the evening, Prime Minister Narendra Modi held a meeting of the service chiefs, National Security Adviser Ajit Doval and other senior officials to take stock of the developments and his Pakistani counterpart Imran Khan's appeal for dialogue to de-escalate the situation.

Twenty-one Opposition

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

Respect sacrifices'

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

Opposition

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

NEED TO CHANGE NARRATIVE OF JINGOISM ▶ PAGE 10

In enemy hands

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

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

- Outrages upon personal dignity, in particular, humiliating and degrading treatment
- The passing of sentences and the carrying out of executions without previous judgment pronounced by a regularly constituted court affording all the judicial guarantees which are recognised as indispensable by civilised people
- Violence to life and person, in particular, murder of all kinds, mutilation, cruel treatment and torture
- Taking of hostages



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

Blatant politicisation, says Opposition

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

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

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NEED TO CHANGE NARRATIVE OF JINGOISM ▶ PAGE 10

Sushma says India's air strike was pre-emptive

ATUL ANEJA

WUZHEN

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

strikes in India.

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

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

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

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 10
U.K. CALLS FOR DIPLOMATIC SOLUTIONS ▶ PAGE 10
PAK. JETS TARGET POSITIONS ACROSS LOC ▶ PAGE 11



Making India's case: Sushma Swaraj with Wang Yi, centre, and Sergei Lavrov, left, in Wuzhen on Wednesday. ▪ PTI

Six airmen killed in copter crash

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

SRINAGAR

Six personnel of the Indian Air Force (IAF), including a pilot and a co-pilot, and a civilian were killed in a helicopter crash in Budgam on Wednesday.

According to a statement issued by the IAF, the Mi-17 V5 had taken off from Srinagar at 10 a.m. on a routine mission and crashed at 10.10 a.m. at Garend Kalan, near Budgam.

"All six air warriors on the helicopter suffered fatal injuries. A Court of Inquiry has been ordered," it said.

The police said a civilian, Kifayat Ganai, was also killed. Initial reports said the helicopter developed a snag and fell to the ground.

Two militants killed

Meanwhile, two JeM militants were killed in an operation. "They were involved in executing militant attacks," said the police.

"Based on information

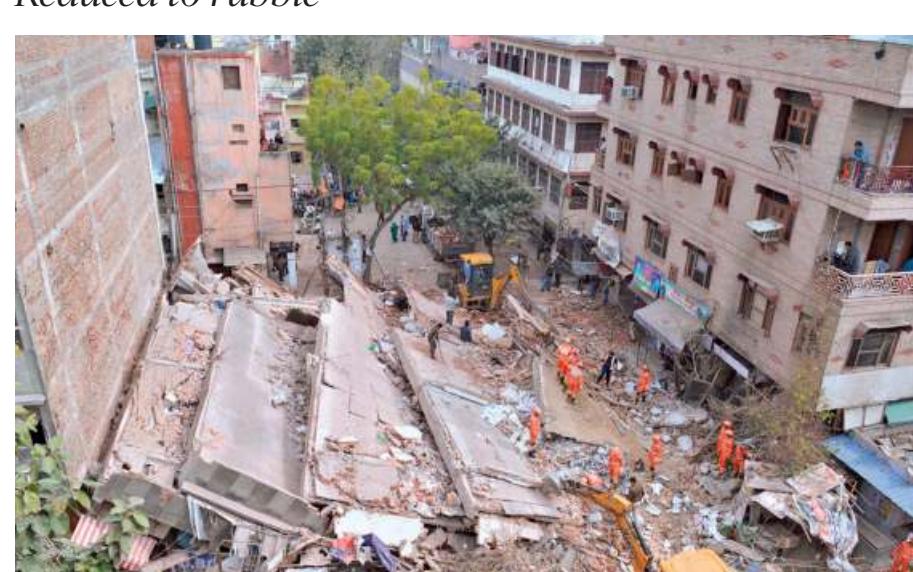
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Reduced to rubble



Post-disaster drive: An NDRF team clearing the site where a four-storey building collapsed in Karol Bagh on Wednesday. No casualties were reported. ▪ R.V. MOORTHY (DELHI METRO PAGE 1)



Chhattisgarh and Assam, mainly in the tribal areas. The social evil has long vanished from most parts of the world, barring India and some African countries," said Keonjhar Superintendent of Police Jai Narayan Pankaj.

In order to sensitise the public, Mr. Sharma and top officials of Keonjhar sat with women who had been branded as witches over dinner and discussed measures to rid society of the menace.

The inhuman practice of

witch-hunting prevails in several States, including Jharkhand, Odisha,

Flights to and from nine airports hit after IAF directive; carriers that overfly Pakistan had to take a longer route

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

The airspace north of Delhi was a no-fly zone for commercial airlines for nearly four hours on Wednesday, forcing airlines to suspend flights to and from nine airports. Operations at Leh, Jammu, Srinagar, Chandigarh, Amritsar, Dehradun, Dharamshala, Shimla and Kullu were affected between 10.30 a.m. and 2.30 p.m.

Pakistan's Civil Aviation Authority, too, shut its airspace around 11.15 a.m. "The Civil Aviation Authority of Pakistan has officially closed its airspace until further notice and issued NOTAM," it

said on Twitter. NOTAM stands for Notice To Airmen, or a circular. Pakistan had not lifted the restriction until

the time of going to press.

"International flights exiting Indian airspace north of Mumbai will have to re-route



A family, going to Srinagar, waiting outside the Mumbai airport. ▪ EMMANUEL YOGINI

every year. In the last two months, 10 murders have been committed. While five members of a family were wiped out in Sundargarh district in January, three were killed in Rayagada a couple of days ago," said ORS secretary Debendra Sutar.

A decorated van with

awareness messages,

publicity material and

copies of the Odisha

Prevention of Witch-hunting

Act, 2013, was also flagged off. It will move in the interior pockets of Keonjhar to raise awareness about the social evil.

"In India, 134 people, majority of them being women, were killed after being branded as witch. In Odisha last year, 18 people were killed. In Keonjhar, more than 50 people have been killed in the last 10 years," said Mr. Pankaj.

According to the Odisha

Rationalist Society, an

independent body of

rationalists, the problem is

much bigger.

"According to newspaper

reports and our own field

verifications, Odisha loses

an average of 70 lives on

account of witch-hunting

"According to newspaper

reports and our own field

verifications, Odisha loses

an average of 70 lives on

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

Sewers in narrow lanes also to be cleaned by machines now

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Chief Minister, Delhi



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Shelter home case: CBI appoints 2 SPPs

Arguments on framing of charges from March 2

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

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

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



FILE PHOTO

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Court seeks report from Tihar jail on Michel

'Have been kept in solitary confinement'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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

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

Draft student start-up policy prepared

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
JAIPUR

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

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

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

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

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

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

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

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22 July 1930 - 27 February 2019

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wife, sons, daughters, in-laws, brothers, sisters, grand children, relatives & friends.
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DEATH

SAD DEMISE

Valluri Sri Ram
Economist, Educated from Andhra University, Worked in FICCI ASSOCIAHM, Delhi School of Economics and as Secretary to Harishankar Singhania, Brother of late Justice Valluri Parthasarathy AP and late Shri VK Rao ICS Retd. Survived by wife, children Ravi Valluri and Uma Passed away after a brief illness at Prayag Raj at 8pm on 26 February 2019
Ravi Valluri +91 96185 64024

DEATH ANNIVERSARIES

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Our Respectful Homage to

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

P.R.203633 Welfare(18-19):D**Sd/-
Deputy Director****Government of Jharkhand****Department of Forest, Environment & Climate Change****Notice Inviting Expression of Interest (EOI) for****Human Resource Audit of Forest Department****EOI No. 01/2019****Expression of Interest (EOI) in sealed envelope is invited from reputed firms/organizations/institutions to carry out the Human Resource Audit of all establishments of Jharkhand Forest Department of and above the level of Division Forest Officers with a view to make an Audit of the current capabilities and competencies at each level and to prepare a Human Resource Management and Development Plan of Jharkhand Forest Department to meet the current and future needs of the Department consistent with policies and programs of the government.****The Agencies/Bidders are advised to study the EOI document carefully before submission of Bid. The document can be downloaded from the website of the Agency should submit bid along with processing fee of Rs. 5000/- (Five Thousand) & Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) of Rs. 5000/- (Five Thousand), only in the form of Demand Draft in favour of Chief Conservator of Forests, personnel, Gazetted Jharkhand, Payable at Ranchi.****The Terms of Reference, eligibility criteria, format for submission of proposal and qualification criteria related to the EOI are available on Jharkhand Forest Department website <http://forest.jharkhand.gov.in> or may obtain the same from the office of the Deputy Conservator of Forests, Planning, Tribal Area, Block-C, Van Bhawan, Doranda, Ranchi-834002, Tel:-0651-2481161, during office hours on any working day 10.03.2019 onwards.****Sl. No. Critical Dates Date Time Venue for opening**

1	Pre Bid Conference	14.3.2019	11:30 AM	Conference Room of Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Jharkhand, Van Bhawan, Doranda, Ranchi-834002.
2	Bid Submission End Date	26.3.2019	3 P.M.	Deputy Conservator of Forests, Planning, Tribal Area Block-C, Van Bhawan, Doranda, Ranchi-834002.
3	Bid Opening Date and Presentation	27.3.2019	11 A.M.	Conference Room of Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Jharkhand, Van Bhawan, Doranda, Ranchi-834002.

Deputy Conservator of Forests, Planning, Tribal Area, Ranchi.**PR 203706 (Forest, Environment and Climate Changes)18-19*D****EDUCATIONAL****IAS Aspirants of 2019****Get A Practice Interview Before The Real Interview****Get Advise From A Senior Panel of Civil Servants****Panel Headed By****Amb. Surendra Kumar, IFS Retd.****(Formerly Dean Foreign Service Institute, Secy. Ministry of External Affairs)****Other Esteemed Members of the Panel****V.K. Agnihotri, IAS Retd.****(Former Secretary General, Rajya Sabha)****M.L. Kumawat, IRS Retd.****(Former Director General BSF, Former Chairman, Rajasthan Public Service Commission)****Prakash Chandra, IRS Retd.****(Former Chairman CBP)****Sharpen Your Interview Skills With Personalized Feedback****Panel will evaluate your unique profile, background, strengths and weaknesses to give you confidence to succeed that's right for you.****Sessions have commenced, and are free.****Interview date and time will be on first come first serve basis.****Sri Chaitanya IAS Academy****22-B, Rajender Nagar Right Side, Main Bazar Marg, Pusa Road, Near Metro Pillar-112, New Delhi-60.****Ph: 011 45609516/17, 9910023640, 9910023530****EDUCATIONAL****ELITE IAS****IAS MOCK INTERVIEW 2018****2 Steps Guidance**

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

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

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

To Schedule Mock Interview Contact: 7065202020**Contact Us: Old Rajendra Nagar: 11A/22, Bada Bazar Marg, Mobi: 7065202020
Mukherjee Nagar: A-1, Chandra House, Mobi: 8410000037
Email: info@eliteias.in, Visit: www.eliteias.in****EDUCATIONAL****R. Bhushan****Author / Researcher / Academician****(ETFE METHOD)****UNDERSTANDING SCIENCE IN A NEW METHOD****LIVE/ONLINE / IAS PREP****NEW BATCH FROM 04 APRIL 2019****SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY****ENVIRONMENT & ECOLOGY****DISASTER MANAGEMENT****PT+MAINS PAPER-II****KAIZEN FACTOR (Do You Have?)****Daily Writing Practice H.O. NEW DELHI****+91 98686 48832 | +91 63938 97281****SITUATION VACANT****GENERAL****NOTIFIED BY Vaishali Saxena that original GPA dated 14.5.1996 executed between Subhadra Anand and Sangeeta Oberoi for Flat No. 43 Pocket F, Sheikh Sarai Phase 1, New Delhi has been lost. Finder may contact 9810777789.****PUBLIC NOTICE****This is for the notice of the general public that a political party is proposed to be registered by the name of SAMARTH BHARATVARSH PARTY. The office of the party is located at 39-A, CHILLA DDA FLATS (Old), MAYUR VIHAR-1, DELHI-110091. This party has submitted application to the Election Commission of India, New Delhi for its registration as Political Party under section 29A of the Representation of People Act, 1951.****Names/Address of the office bearers of the party are as follows :****President: Jagdeeps Prasad -R/O-39-A, Chilla DDA FLATS (Old), Mayur Vihar-1, Delhi-110091.**

IN BRIEF



Jammu-Srinagar road opens after 3 days

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

Two lynched by irate mob in Assam

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

Three killed as car rolls down a gorge in Mizoram

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

Youth held for posting fake photos of woman

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

Two tigers killed by another tiger in Kanha

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

Congress to bank on citizenship Bill to stop BJP in Northeast

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

RAHUL KARMAKAR

GUWAHATI

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

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

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



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

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

Unemployment crisis

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

region as well as the rest of the country.

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

"The NEDA members cannot fool the people of the

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

NEDA members such as National People's Party had threatened to pull out of the forum as well as sever political ties with the BJP if it went ahead with the citizenship Bill.

The Congress has eight Lok Sabha members from the Northeast, three from Assam which has a total 14 constituencies. The BJP too has eight seats while its NEDA partners have three. The other seats are held by All India United Democratic Front, the CPI(M) and an Independent.

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

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
KOLKATA

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

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

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

WEATHER WATCH

RAINFALL, TEMPERATURE & AIR QUALITY IN SELECT METROS YESTERDAY



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

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

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	... 0.5	24.0	17.2	Kozhikode	... 35.8	26.4	26.4
Ahmedabad	... 29.5	17.3	17.3	Kurnool	... 38.5	23.7	23.7
Aizawl	... 26.2	13.2	13.2	Lucknow	... 30.9	13.8	13.8
Allahabad	... 0.3	21.6	14.6	Madurai	... 38.7	23.7	23.7
Bengaluru	... 33.0	21.3	21.3	Mangaluru	... 34.4	21.8	21.8
Bhopal	... 0.4	26.3	14.8	Mumbai	... 29.4	17.8	17.8
Bhubaneswar	... 32.8	23.0	23.0	Myisuru	... 34.0	20.3	20.3
Chandigarh	... 18.2	10.1	10.1	New Delhi	... 20.0	9.5	9.5
Chennai	... 32.5	25.8	25.8	Patna	... 3.28	15.7	15.7
Coimbatore	... 35.2	23.2	23.2	Port Blair	... 31.7	26.1	26.1
Dehradun	... 6.4	15.4	9.3	Puducherry	... 33.0	25.0	25.0
Gangtok	... 9.4	6.7	6.7	Pune	... 30.6	12.0	12.0
Goa	... 31.8	19.4	19.4	Raipur	... 32.2	19.6	19.6
Guwahati	... 26.8	13.4	13.4	Ranchi	... 3.28	16.0	16.0
Hubballi	... 32.0	22.7	22.7	Shillong	... 17.6	7.6	7.6
Hyderabad	... 33.0	21.5	21.5	Srimangal	... 4.2	-2.4	-1.4
Imphal	... 22.5	10.8	10.8	Jaipur	... 0.2	23.4	11.2
Kochi	... 31.4	25.6	25.6	Tiruvanamalai	... 34.5	26.0	26.0
Kohima	... 20.4	8.9	8.9	Tiruchi	... 37.7	25.2	25.2
Kolkata	... 55.2	27.4	17.1	Vijayawada	... 34.5	23.0	23.0
				Visakhapatnam	... 31.5	24.8	24.8

(Rainfall in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

Yesterday

CITIES	SO	NO	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	37	61	32	110	—	■
Bengaluru	.6	64	.55	82	104	■
Chennai	.7	13	.38	79	—	■
Delhi	.9	54	162	56	.62	■
Hyderabad	40	97	30	142	141	■
Kolkata	.3	64	.39	33	.28	■
Lucknow	18	42	.59	.259	—	■
Mumbai	10	25	.71	.38	.102	■
Pune	33	16	.94	.79	.122	■
Visakhapatnam	—	—	—	—	—	—

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Patna, Bihar recorded an overall air quality index score of 210 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Kannha, Punjab recorded a healthy AQI score of 27

Air Quality Code: ■ Poor ■ Moderate ■ Good (Readings indicate average AQI) SO2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

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

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

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

'On the job for women's quota'

Odisha CM Naveen praises their efforts for development

STAFF REPORTER

BERHAMPUR



Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik. ■

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

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

KOLKATA

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

He alleged that some elements were spreading rumours that the scheme may be stopped. "No one can stop KALIA scheme," he said. That both the accused are associates of Kauser and Sajjad, the two accused in the Burdwan blast case of 2014,

Thousands of members of

Two alleged JMB men nabbed in Bengal

Arrests follow another catch recently

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NORTHERN RAILWAY

TENDER NOTICE

The Dy. Chief Engineer/Const., Northern Railway, Shakurbasti, Delhi for and on behalf of the President of India invites e-tender under Single System for the under noted work:- 1. Name of work & location : Construction of Ch. 1432/00/1436/00, Ch. 1470/00, Ch. 1504/00, Ch. 1518/00, Ch. 1527/00 & Ch. 1556/00 under Construction of 22 nos. CD from Ch. 5 to 160 of Punihi Main Canal

2. Approx. Cost of work : Rs. 2,24,25,695.53 (Rupees Two crore twenty four lakh twenty five thousand six hundred fifty five and paise fifty three) only

3. Time of Completion : 360 days

4. Last date & Time for receipt of bids : 05/03/2019 Up to 5:00 P.M.

5. Date of Publication of Tender on website : 27/02/2019

6. Name & address of office Inviting tender : Executive Engineer Irrigation Division Jasidih, Camp-Deoghar

7. Contact no. of Procurement officer : 9431173140

8. Helpline number of e-Procurement cell : 06432-232477

THE HINDU

DISCLAIMER: Readers are requested to verify and make appropriate inquiries to satisfy themselves as to the authenticity of any advertisement before responding to any published in this newspaper. THE HINDU PUBLISHING PVT LTD, the Publisher & Owner of this newspaper, shall not be liable for the authenticity of any advertisement or advertiser or for any of the advertiser's products and/or services. In event of any dispute between the Owner and the Publishers, Proprietor and Director/s, Employees of this newspaper, the Director/s shall be held responsible/liable in any manner whatsoever for any claims and/or damages for advertisements in this newspaper.

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

Government of Jammu and Kashmir, In the Court of the Arbitrator, (Principal Secretary to Government), Animal/Sheep Husbandry & Fisheries Department, Civil Secretariat, Jammu.

M/S Canadian Sheep Genetics International Inc.

IN BRIEF



Reservation charts to be posted on IRCTC site

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

Govt. brings 42 cancer drugs under price control

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

ED questions Vadra in money laundering case

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

Jagan shifts base to Amaravati

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

'Prove police officer tampered with call data'

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

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Wednesday refused to budge on a contempt plea filed by the CBI against the West Bengal government and its State police until the agency's Director himself files an affidavit placing on record adequate material to prove that former Kolkata Police Commissioner Rajiv Kumar connived to tamper with the call data records (CDRs) to help senior State politicians accused in the multi-crore Saradha and Rose Valley ponzi scams.

A Bench of Chief Justice Ranjan Gogoi and Justice Sanjiv Khanna ordered the CBI Director to file his affidavit by March 26, the next date of hearing.

"We are of the view that it is obligatory on the part of the CBI to provide the full facts on the alleged acts of

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

— RANJAN GOGOI, Chief Justice of India

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

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

The call records were

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Modify forest dwellers' eviction order: Centre

'States rejected claims without observing due process of law'

KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL
NEW DELHI

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

Solicitor General Tushar Mehta made an urgent oral mention of the applications before the Bench led by Justice Arun Mishra, which had passed the February 13 order. The Bench agreed to hear the case on February 28.

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

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

Low on awareness

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

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

Global outlook

According to the Centre's application before the Supreme Court, the scheme of the Forest Rights Act, 2006, is in tune with several international covenants

① UN Universal Declaration on Human Rights

Recognises the equal rights of the human family. **India is a signatory**

② UN Convention Concerning Indigenous and Tribal Populations

Seeks to protect ownership rights of populations over lands they traditionally occupy. **Ratified by India**

③ UN Declaration on Rights of Indigenous People

Mandates to protect the rights of indigenous people to lands, territories and resources which they traditionally own, occupy and use. **India is a signatory**

④ UN Convention on Biological Diversity

Advocates preservation of indigenous knowledge and practices. **India is a party**

⑤ Rio Declaration on Environment and Development

Proclaims indigenous peoples have a vital role in environmental management



White wash



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

Special purpose vehicle to improve infrastructure in Sabarimala

The company will be a government-owned entity

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

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

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

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

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

taries of various stakeholder departments as members and the Commissioner, Travancore Devaswom Board, as convener.

An implementation committee chaired by the Principal Secretary, Devaswom, and Commissioner, TDB, as convener would also be set up.

The Cabinet meeting also decided to set up land acquisition units for KIIFB projects in Thiruvananthapuram, Alappuzha, Malappuram and Kannur districts.

The units would be headed by special tahsildars.

A file photo of the Ayyappa temple in Sabarimala. — VIBHU

Second body pulled out of coal mine

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
GUWAHATI

Rescuers on Wednesday pulled out a second body from a flooded rat-hole coal mine in Meghalaya's East Jaintia Hills, 77 days after at least 15 miners had been trapped.

A spokesperson for the district administration said the Navy's Underwater Remotely Operated Vehicle pulled the highly decomposed body from a depth of 230 ft to the water surface. A five-member team comprising Navy and National Disaster Response Force personnel then went

down the pit on an inflatable boat and pulled the body up. The body was handed over to the police in the presence of the district administration officials.

Delhi HC verdict on 'two leaves' symbol today

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI

The Delhi High Court will on Thursday deliver its verdict on petitions challenging the Election Commission's decision to allot the 'two leaves' symbol to the AIADMK group comprising Chief Minister Edappadi K. Palaniswami and Deputy Chief Minister O. Panneerselvam.

The petitions were filed

by V.K. Sasikala, former interim general secretary of the AIADMK, and T.T.V. Dhinakaran, now the leader of the AMMK.

In its order of November 23, 2017, the EC allowed the EPS-OPS group to call itself the AIADMK.

As far as the order was concerned, E. Madhusudan, now chairman of the presidium of the party, was the leader of the group.

Jumbos damage crops in A.P.

STAFF REPORTER
VIZIANAGARAM

A herd of elephants reportedly caused damage to crops in Chintalabellamgam of Jiyammavallasa mandal in Vizianagaram district on Tuesday and Wednesday.

The wild animals also damaged an autorickshaw in the area.

ODISHA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED

(A unit of Odisha Undertaking)
Regd. Office: CPC, 1st Floor, Corporate Building, OPTCL, Janpath, Bhubaneswar-751 022. Tel: 0674-2541801, Fax: 0674-2542964

CIN: U40102OR2004GCC00753

INVITATION FOR BIDS
(International Competitive Bidding)

Date: 28.02.2019, Loan Agreement No.: IDP-245, IFBN No.: CPC/JICA/CB/01/18-19

Reference Identification No.: OPTCL/JICA/PKG-I

1. The Government of India (hereinafter referred to as borrower) and Odisha Power Transmission Corporation Limited (OPTCL) (hereinafter referred to as executing agency) has received an ODA loan from Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) (formerly JIBC), in the amount of JPY 21,787 Million Japanese Yen, equivalent to approximately US\$ 182 Million, or approximately Rs.1,467 Million towards the cost of Odisha Power Transmission System Improvement Project. It is intended that part of the proceeds of this loan will be applied to eligible payments under the Contract for 10 nos. of packages- Design, Supply and Installation of Sub-Stations (S/S) & Transmission Lines (T/L) viz., Pkg-1: Dhenkanal (New) S/S, Pkg-2: Dhenkanal (New) T/L, Bhadrak New T/L, Kukhia T/L, Pkg-3: Bhadrak (New) S/S, Pkg-4: Kukhia (New) S/S and T/L, Turumanga S/S and T/L and Chandipur S/S and T/L, Pkg-5: Ganjam S/S and T/L, Bahugram S/S and T/L, Pkg-6: Govindpur S/S and T/L, Pkg-7: Kikata S/S and T/L, Dasapala S/S and T/L and Thupalli S/S and T/L. Disbursement of an ODA Loan by JICA will be subject, in all respects, to the terms and conditions of the Loan Agreement, including the disbursement procedures and the 'Guidelines for Procurement under JICA ODA Loans'. No Party other than Government of India and OPTCL shall derive any rights from the Loan Agreement or have any claim to loan proceeds.

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

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

3. The OPTCL now invites sealed Bids from eligible Bidders for the construction and completion of Design, Supply and Installation of Sub-Stations & Transmission Lines for Procurement of 220/132kV Dhenkanal, S/S (Outdoor GIS) in Odisha State of India under Package-1 ("the Facilities"). International Competitive Bidding will be conducted in accordance with JICA's Single-Stage Two Envelope Bidding Procedure.

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

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

5. A complete set of the Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders on the submission of a written application to the address above and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Rs.22,400.00 inclusive of GST @ 12% or 307.36USD or 3474JPY by way of demand draft issued in favour of OPTCL, payable at Bhubaneswar, Odisha, India.

6. Bids must be delivered to the address above on or before 1:00 PM on dated 5th April, 2019 and must be accompanied by a Bid security INR 23 Million or JPY 36 Million or USD 0.32 Million.

7. Bids will be opened in the presence of Bidders' representatives who choose to attend at (3:30 PM on dated 5th April, 2019) at the office of the C.G.M. (Elect.), CPC, 1st Floor Conference Hall, Corporate Building, OPTCL, Street Address: Janpath, Bhubaneswar, Odisha, India, ZIP Code: 751 022, Tel: 0674-2541801, Fax: 0674-2542964, E-mail: sgm.cpc@optcl.co.in/jica@optcl.co.in

Sd/-

CR Advt. No. 85/2018-19

Please connect us: [optcl.odisha](#) [optcl_jica](#) [optcl_cpc](#) [optcl_cgm](#) [optcl_sgmc](#) [optcl_jica](#) [optcl_cgm](#) [optcl_sgmc](#)

KARNATAKA HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE DEPARTMENT
ENGINEERING WING

Office of the Chief Engineer, 1st Floor, PHI Building, Seshadri Road, Bengaluru-560 001
Telephone No.080-22274892, E-mail: cekhdsrp@gmail.com

No. HFWD/EW/CE/TA-3/AE-1&4/TND/2018-19/3767 Date: 27.02.2019

TENDER NOTIFICATION

The Chief Engineer, HFWD, Engineering Wing, Bengaluru invites tender from eligible Class-I contractors and above registered in KPWD in two cover system in e-procurement for the following works.

Sl. No.	Description of works	Estimated Cost (Rs. in Lakhs)	EMD (Rs. in Lakhs)	Stipulated period for completion (including monsoon)
1	Construction of 50 bedded Ayush Hospital at Chikkaballapura in Chikkaballapura District.	800.00	12.00	11 months
2	Construction of 50 bedded Ayush Hospital at Davanagere in Davanagere District.	750.00	11.25	11 months

Calendar of Events: (1) Last date for



Calming Arunachal

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

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

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

Buhari's return

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

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

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

Think like a civilisation

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



SHIV VISVANATHAN

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

Peace needs courage

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

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

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

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

What war feels like

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



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

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

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

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

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

Dissent as survival

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

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

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

Tailing a virus

The Zika outbreak response should not end when an outbreak ends



PRIYANKA PULLA

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

All strains can hurt

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

Herd immunity

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

It is true that seroprevalence studies are not easy to do, given the cross-reactivity that plagues flaviviruses. The Enzyme-linked immunosorbent Assay (ELISA), which is commonly used in seroprevalence studies to detect antibodies, can throw up false positives for Zika if a person has dengue antibodies. This is because dengue antibodies can neutralise

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The vexatious question of Masood Azhar

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



CHINMAYA R. GHAREKHAN

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

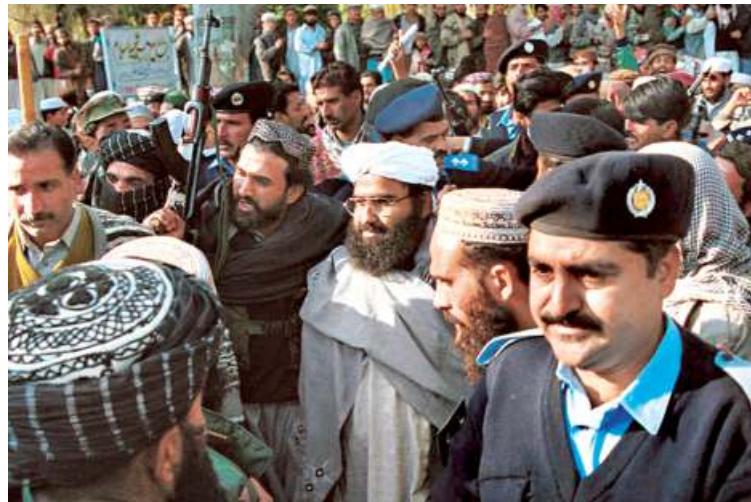
Hierarchy of actions

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

sion by Pakistan for India to resume dialogue with it?

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

Raising issues in the Council

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

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

SINGLE FILE

Manufacturing unanimity

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

SATYA NAAGESH AYYAGARY



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

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

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

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

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

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FAQ

Regulating drug prices

More needs to be done to make medicines affordable

BINDU SHAJAN PERAPPADAN

What has been the impact of market-based pricing?

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

How are prices regulated?

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

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

What is the mechanism for price capping?

The NLEM 2015 contains 376 medicines on the basis of which the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) has fixed prices of over 800 formulations using the provisions of the DPCO. However, these formulations cover less than 10% of the total pharmaceutical market. The DPCO follows a market-based pricing mechanism. The ceiling price is worked out on the basis of the simple

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

Have any other methods been used?

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

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

A patchwork approach to GST problems

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



T.C.A. SHARAD RAGHAVAN

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

From three to eight rates

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

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

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

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

Increasing opacity

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

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

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

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FROM The Hindu ARCHIVES

FIFTY YEARS AGO FEBRUARY 28, 1969

India not for arbitration on Kachchativu island

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

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO FEBRUARY 28, 1919

Wars Without Casualties.

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

CONCEPTUAL

Sub-replacement fertility

DEMOGRAPHY

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

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