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NEARBY



'Parties backing banned J&K outfits anti-national'

SRINAGAR

Governor Satya Pal Malik on Thursday termed mainstream political parties that support banned organisations in Jammu & Kashmir "anti-nationals" who "were playing into the hands of Pakistan and terrorists".

NEWS ► PAGE 13

Court reserves order on Tharoor's plea

NEW DELHI

A Delhi court on Thursday reserved its order on a revision plea filed by Congress MP Shashi Tharoor challenging an order sending the Sunanda Pushkar case for further proceedings to a Sessions court.

DELHI METRO ► PAGE 1

Parley

We introduce a new weekly segment on the OpEd page, starting today, called Parley. This will feature debates between experts on contemporary issues, moderated by *The Hindu*, which will also be available in multimedia format online.

FRIDAY REVIEW ► 12 PAGES
(IN TABLOID)
DELHI METRO ► 4 PAGES

Rahul leads Opposition in backing expose on Rafale deal

■ *The Hindu* is being targeted for its courage, says Congress

SANDEEP PHUKAN

NEW DELHI
Congress president Rahul Gandhi on Thursday said *The Hindu* was being targeted for having been "brave" enough to expose the government of Prime Minister Narendra Modi over the Rafale deal.

His comment came in the wake of the Centre's contention that the Rafale files had been "stolen" from the Defence Ministry and that publication of news reports based on these files, including by *The Hindu*, was a violation of the Official Secrets Act (OSA).

Other Opposition leaders, including West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee and Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu, also expressed disquiet over the government's threat to invoke the OSA, condemning it as a move to muzzle the media.

Climate of fear: Naidu
"Instead of coming clean on the alleged irregularities of the Rafale deal brought out by *The Hindu* and Mr. N. Ram, the Modi govt. is trying to silence the press through unconstitutional means by creating a climate of fear. It

signals an imminent possibility of the breakdown of democracy," Mr. Naidu tweeted.

Ms. Banerjee said in a post on Twitter, "I strongly condemn threats by BJP govt. to one of India's most senior & respected editors, N. Ram. Invoking Official Secrets Act to threaten journalists is a shame. They cannot curb freedom & rights of the press as per their convenience."

On Wednesday, Attorney-General K.K. Venugopal told the Supreme Court that the "secret" documents published by *The Hindu* on the purchase of Rafale jets were "stolen" from the Ministry of

The parallel negotiations [by the PMO] retarded the delivery schedule. If the documents are missing, that means they are authentic and they clearly state that parallel negotiations were carried out by the PM, the price of the jets was inflated and the delivery was delayed

— RAHUL GANDHI, Congress president

MAMATA BANERJEE, West Bengal Chief Minister

I strongly condemn threats by BJP govt. to one of India's most senior & respected editors, N. Ram. Invoking Official Secrets Act to threaten journalists is a shame. They cannot curb freedom & rights of the press as per their convenience

— RAHUL GANDHI, Congress president

DEFENCE, probably by former employees. The government was thinking of taking "criminal action" under the OSA as the publication of the documents had put national security at risk, he contended.

BSP chief Mayawati said the Rafale issue had now become more than just an issue of corruption and instead a matter of national security following the government's "sensational disclosure" that documents had been stolen.

(With inputs from Omar Rashid in Lucknow and Suvojit Bagchi in Kolkata)

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 12
JAITLEY'S CHARGE ► PAGE 12

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 12
PROBING THE PRESS ► EDITORIAL

■ Signals imminent collapse of democracy, tweets Naidu

■ Govt. contention on OSA seen as gag on press

An effort to intimidate the media

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

Journalist organisations have unequivocally condemned the Attorney General's statements on *The Hindu*'s publication of documents as part of its investigative reporting on the Rafale deal, terming the government's "threats" an effort to intimidate the news media.

They also called for a re-examination of the Official Secrets Act, 1923.

"Any attempt to use the Official Secrets Act against the media is as reprehensible as asking the journalists to disclose their sources," said the Editors Guild of India in a strongly worded statement.

Such "threats" would intimidate the media, in general, and curb its freedom to report and comment on the Rafale deal in particular, it said.

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 12
PROBING THE PRESS ► EDITORIAL



Searching for clues: Police personnel inspecting the site of the explosion at a bus stand in Jammu on Thursday. ■ PTI

1 killed, 32 injured in Jammu grenade blast

Hizb suspect arrested within hours

PEERZADA ASHIQ

SRINAGAR

One civilian was killed and 32 were injured in a grenade explosion at the main inter-State bus stand in Jammu on Thursday.

The blast suspect, affiliated to the Hizbul Mujahideen, was held within hours, the police said.

The explosion, which took place around 11.50 a.m., left 32 injured and one non-local dead in hospital. Of the injured, 10 were from the Jammu region and 11 from the Kashmir Valley. Two injured remain unidentified, said Manish Kumar Sinha, Inspector-General of Police, Jammu.

The deceased was identified as Mohammad Sharif,

17, from Haridwar in Uttarakhand. He died of "splinter injuries in the chest."

The police said the grenade rolled under a parked bus before it went off with a bang.

Mr. Sinha said CCTV footage showed the suspect, wearing a red jacket and carrying a rucksack, running from the spot. "Within hours, the suspect, Yasir Javaid Bhat alias Arhan from Halpora in Kulgam, was arrested at a checkpoint in Jammu's Nagrota. During questioning, he admitted to the crime," he said.

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 12
JKLF'S YASIN MALIK BOOKED
UNDER PSA ► PAGE 13

Ayodhya mediation ruling today

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

A five-judge Constitution Bench, led by Chief Justice of India Ranjan Gogoi, will on Friday pronounce orders on the limited issue of whether or not to send the Ayodhya dispute for mediation.

The Bench has pushed "negotiated compromise" as a means of healing hearts and minds. It has said the dispute was a festering wound which has touched the religious sentiments of the Hindus and the Muslims for decades.

Justice S.A. Bobde, on the Bench, put matters in perspective on Wednesday, observing that the court was only concerned about the present state of the Ramjanmabhoomi-Babri Masjid case and not the past history of "Mughal invasion and conquests of Babur."

"Primarily, this is not about the 1500 sq ft of disputed land, but about religious sentiments. We know its impact on public sentiment, on body politic. We are looking at minds, hearts and healing, if possible," he had observed. The Muslim parties have agreed to give mediation a try, while the Hindu appellants have said their faith that Lord Ram was born in the disputed land was non-negotiable.

Two Kashmiris assaulted in U.P. by right-wing men

4 Vishwa Hindu Dal activists held

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

LUCKNOW

Two Kashmiri men selling dry fruits on the roadside in Lucknow were assaulted over their identity by saffron-clad persons, leading to the arrest of four members of the Vishwa Hindu Dal, a right-wing group, on Thursday.

Recorded on phone
The accused not only assaulted the Kashmiri traders but also recorded the incident on their mobile phones and shared the clip on social media, taking credit for the assault.

The clip showed the Kashmiri men being beaten with sticks and being slapped, and subjected to verbal abuse and anti-Kashmiri remarks.

The incident took place late on Wednesday after-



The persons arrested for assaulting Kashmiri traders in police custody in Lucknow on Thursday. ■ PTI

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 12

IAF went for precision strikes in Balakot: official

'Munitions were chosen carefully'

DINAKAR PERI

NEW DELHI

During the Balakot air strikes, the Indian Air Force (IAF) went in for "clinical precision" and hit the intended targets, a senior defence official said on Thursday.

"The IAF didn't go in for propaganda bombing. The objective was to hit the targets but avoid collateral damage to possible non-militant staff in adjacent buildings. The munitions were chosen accordingly," the official said.

In a pre-dawn attack on February 26, 12 IAF Mir-

age-2000 fighter jets struck a Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM) training camp at Balakot in Pakistan. Of the 12 Mirage-2000s deployed, at least four had crossed the Line of Control (LoC), to varying distances, to release their payloads, the official said.

The IAF used SPICE-2000 precision guided glide bombs, weighing 1,000 kg and having a range of up to 100 km. Most of the bomb consists of penetrators to pierce hardened structures, while the actual explosive is about 90 kg.

IMAGES CONFIRM HIT ► PAGE 12

CM YK

THE HINDU

</

4 SAAL HUA KAMAAL

DELHI GOVT'S WOMEN SECURITY PLAN, CCTV, TAKES OFF IN DELHI

Three hundred CCTV cameras have been installed in some select areas to check if the specifications and performance match the requirements

The Delhi government's plan to install CCTV to make the city safe, especially for women, has finally taken off after a long struggle. This was one of the important promises of Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal to the people of Delhi.

Three hundred CCTV cameras have been installed in some select areas to check if the specifications and performance match the requirements. The spots have been selected according to suggestions received from residents. It was in November last year that all departmental approvals were



given for one of the ambitious projects of Delhi Government. The cameras are being installed according to the standard operating procedure worked out by the Delhi government.

The areas where these cameras are on trial include B K Dutt Colony; P & T Colony on Atul Grove Road, near Mandi House; Baba Kharak Singh Marg, Phase I; Old Gole Market; P & T Colony, Sarojini Nagar; Old Sarojini Nagar; and Rani Bagh Market besides others. The PWD will for some time review these cameras for their effectiveness and check

their feed storage capacity, quality of feed, etc.

When implementation of the scheme is complete, 1.4 lakh cameras - 2000 in each of the 70 assembly constituencies - would have been installed. The recordings will be accessible to RWAs, police and government. Residents have reacted positively to the move. At P&T Colony on Atul Grove Road near Mandi House, 15 cameras have been installed for the benefit of 400 people living in about 125 houses. The residents said this move was awaited for long as the area was slowly

becoming more and more vulnerable to criminal activities.

At a public meeting CM Kejriwal said that the decision for the location of installation of the cameras would be taken in the general body meetings of the respective RWAs.



Anganwadi workers get a big hike in their salary

The decision was taken after CM met Anganwadi workers and Dy CM made inspections at Anganwadi centres

The Government of Delhi dabbled the honorarium of the Anganwadi workers and helpers in the city. The increase for anganwadi workers was Rs.9,678 from Rs.5,000 per month, and for the helpers it was Rs.4,839 from Rs.2,500 per month.

The government also decided to pay an additional sum of Rs.500 and Rs.250 per month as mobile/internet charges in addition to the honorarium to the workers and helpers respectively.

Earlier to the decision, the Chief Minister of Delhi, Arvind Kejriwal, met these workers and helpers

The salary hike is a step towards giving anganwadi workers salaries that give them dignity and motivate them to cater to the development needs of kids and mothers

and listened to their financial problems. These workers from different corners of Delhi met the Chief Minister in batches at his official residence. The Deputy Chief Minister, Manish Sisodia, also made inspections at

many Anganwadi centres to assess the situation. A decision to increase the salary was taken after the series of meetings. The decision benefits around 12,000 anganwadi workers.

During the meeting with the Chief Minister, the workers & helpers had raised the issue of honorarium and mobile/internet charges. The deputy CM, who is also the minister in charge of Department of Women and Child Development, also sought a report on the state of anganwadis based on the inspections to take measures to improve their conditions.



IN GOVERNANCE REVOLUTION, GOVT PROVIDES 40 SERVICES AT YOUR DOORSTEP



Delhi government has set up a unique model of governance through home delivery of 40 services for the national capital.

Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on 10th September 2018 launched the doorstep delivery of 40 government services, including driving licence and marriage registration certificate.

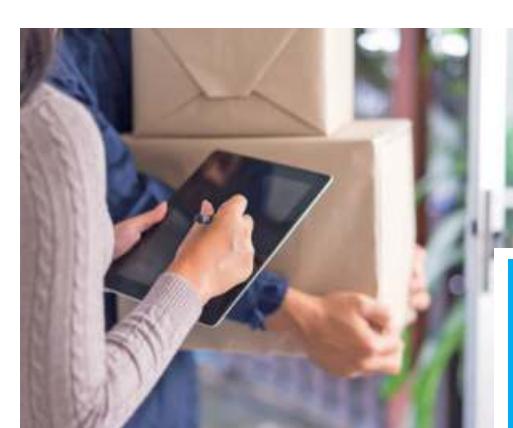
On this occasion, he said the delivery system of public services would bring a revolutionary change in governance. The Chief Minister has announced that stepwise Delhi government plans to provide a total of 100 services at the citizens doorsteps.

Delhi residents can

dial 1076 to place a request for doorstep delivery of services which will be provided from 8 am to 10 pm. The call centre, set up to facilitate delivery of services, functions round the clock.

Kejriwal said the Delhi government wants to set up a model through home delivery of services.

In the first phase, the government is providing 40 services such as caste certificate, driving licence, ration card,



delayed birth order, marriage certificate, water connection at the doorstep of Delhites. The services are provided at a nominal fee of Rs 50.

"It is a revolutionary work in governance.

Delhites can dial 1076 to place a request for doorstep delivery of services which will be provided from 8 am to 10 pm

Giving martyrs' families their due

Families of martyrs losing their lives on duty get the grant of ex-gratia of Rs one crore compensation



THE REVENUE DEPARTMENT OF DELHI HAS CLEARED CASES OF PAYMENTS TO THE FAMILIES OF PERSONNEL WHICH WERE RECOMMENDED BY THE GROUP OF MINISTERS AND APPROVED BY CHIEF MINISTER OF DELHI

The Government of NCT of Delhi provides Ex-gratia compensation of Rs one crore to the families of personnel belonging to the national capital who lose their lives in duty.

The scheme covers Delhi-based security personnel from all the three services of the armed forces, Delhi Police, paramilitary forces, fire service, Home Guards and the district disaster force personnel, who lose their lives performing bona fide official duty.

The scheme also covers war-disabled, war prisoners and those missing in war.

Delhi is one of the state governments in India to have formulated and implemented such a policy to take care of the families of personnel who lay down their lives in the line of duty for the country.

As a token of respect to the forces, the Cabinet has approved Rs one crore compensation to the immediate kin of these personnel who die in the line of duty.

The Govt of NCT of Delhi is of the view that the invaluable life of a person cannot be compensated in monetary terms; however, it is the duty of the government to ensure that the families of such personnel are taken care of, since these brave persons have laid down their lives for the country.

The Revenue Department of Delhi has cleared cases of payments to the families of personnel which were recommended by the Group of Ministers and approved by Chief Minister of Delhi.

The Govt of NCT of Delhi has also decided to provide Rs 50,000 per month to the family of those who went missing in the wars.

A three-member ministerial group headed by Deputy Chief Minister takes a call on these matters.

ON THE ANVIL

The chief minister has announced that stepwise Delhi government plans to provide a total of 100 services at the doorsteps of citizens

Delhites now do not need to stand in queues in government's department. It saves time. However, Delhites will have to make their way to government offices where physical presence is necessary such as a driving test. Citizens do not need to pay money to touts to get their work done," the chief minister said.

In the doorstep delivery of services, police verified mobile sahayaks (facilitators) visit the residence of the applicant who fixes an appointment with them by calling the helpline number 1076.

Mobile Sahayaks are equipped with all necessary equipments such as biometric devices and a camera. For example if a person wants to apply for driving licence, he or she calls at 1076 and gives the details.

Thereafter, the agency assigns a mobile sahayak, who visits the applicant's residence and gets the required details and documents. The government has also set up a feedback system for the citizens availing doorstep delivery of public services.

'Bihar shelter case accused claim not enough evidence against them'

CBI allegations false, say five accused; other accused too had denied charges

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

Five people accused in the Muzaffarpur shelter home sexual assault case on Thursday denied allegations levelled against them by the CBI before a Delhi court and said there was not enough evidence to prosecute them.

According to a lawyer associated with the case, the accused made the submission before Additional Sessions Judge Saurabh Kulshreshtha who was hearing arguments for framing of charges against them.



Women protesting outside Bihar Bhawan in New Delhi. • FIE PHOTO

They told the court that the CBI's allegations against them were false and there was no evidence to substantiate them, advocate Shivika Singh said.

Other accused in the case too had denied allegations against them previously.

On February 7, the Supreme Court had ordered the authorities to transfer the case from Bihar to a Protection of Children from Sexual Offences court in Saket District Court complex, New Delhi, which would conclude the trial within six months by holding preferably day-to-day hearing.

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

In light of the report, an FIR was filed on May 31, 2018, against 11 people.

The apex court had said the TISS report raised grave concern about 17 shelter homes in Bihar and the CBI must look into all of them. Of these, the Muzaffarpur case was already being looked into by the CBI.

So far, 17 people have been arrested.

Rajasthan brings ordinance for new ventures of small units

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
JAIPUR

The Rajasthan government has brought an ordinance to facilitate the launch of new ventures of micro, small and medium enterprises in the State.

Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot said the Micro, Small &

Medium Enterprise (Facilitation of Establishment & Operation) Ordinance, 2019, would serve as a "milestone" in establishing the rule of transparent and accountable administration. The ordinance was notified earlier this week.

According to the newly

notified norms, businessmen will be able to start a new enterprise with mere self-declarations, without the need for seeking an approval or inspection of any department for the next three years.

Mr. Gehlot said the ordinance was in concurrence with the vision for good go-

vernance. An entrepreneur will be required to submit a "declaration of intent" for setting up a new enterprise to the nodal agency, which will issue an acknowledgement certificate. It will spare the businessman from the urgency of approval or inspections.

Two women Maoists surrender

STAFF REPORTER
BERHAMPUR

Two women Maoists, Madhi Sukanti (36) and Kausalya Khilla (20), surrendered before Odisha Director-General of Police R.P. Sharma during his visit to Koraput district on Thursday.

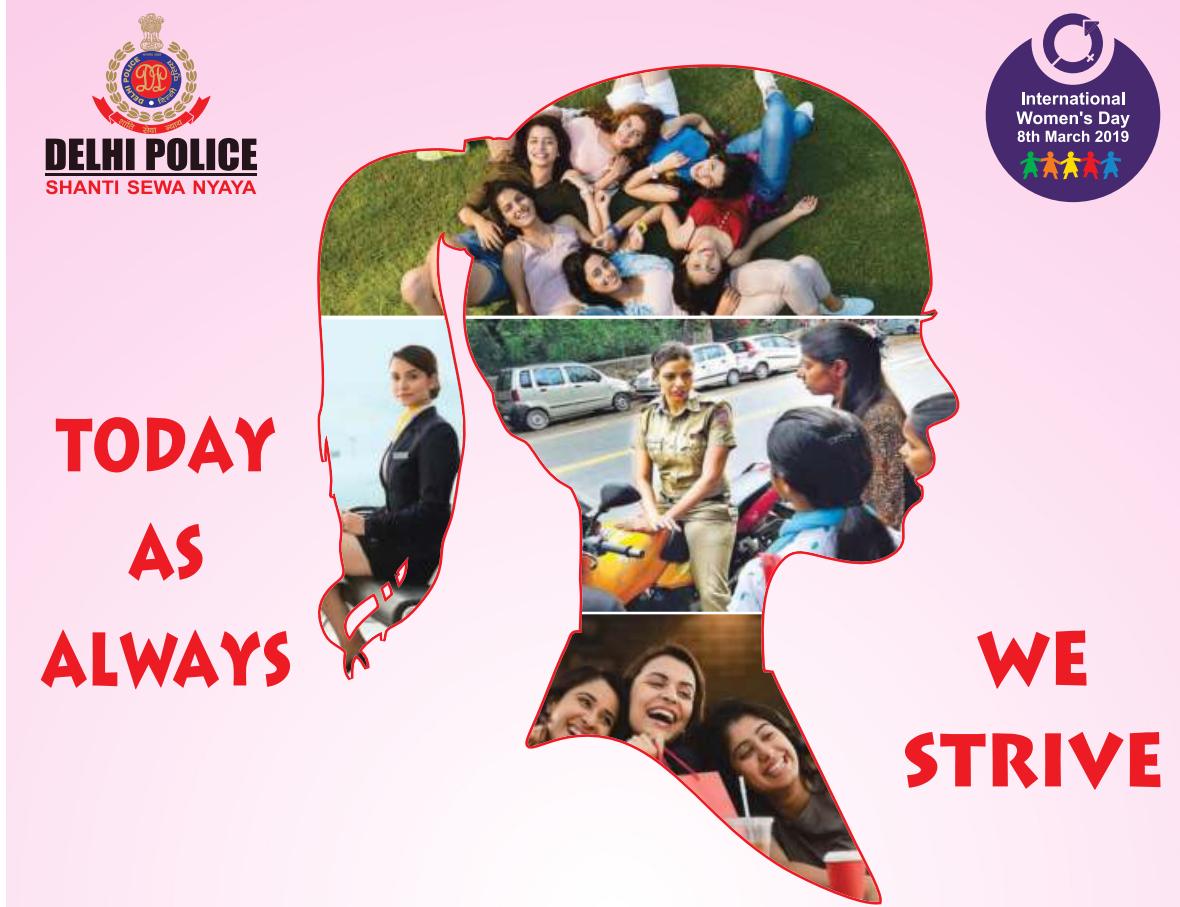
The State government had announced a reward of ₹4 lakh for the capture of Madhi and ₹2 lakh for Kausalya during his visit to Malkangiri district.

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- JANAKPURI B-1/2, Main Najafgarh Road, Opp. Metro Pillar 543
- NOIDA, Nirula's Sec-2, Near Metro Station, Sec-15, Noida, UP
- LAJPAT NAGAR, 49, Main Ring Road, Adj. Haldi Ram, Near Moolchand Crossing



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DP/9084/19

"'ईमानदार प्रयास का - नया दौर विकास का'" सभी वर्गों के कल्याण को समर्पित बजट



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- ग्राम पंचायत प्रधान का मानदेय बढ़कर हुआ 4,500 रुपये, उप-प्रधान का 3,000 रुपये तथा सदस्यों का प्रति बैठक भत्ता बढ़ाकर 250 रुपये।
- पंचायत समिति के अध्यक्ष का मानदेय 6,500 रुपये से बढ़ाकर 7,000 रुपये किया। उपाध्यक्ष का मानदेय 4,500 रुपये से बढ़ाकर 5,000 रुपये।
- पंचायत समिति सदस्यों का मानदेय 4,000 रुपये से बढ़ाकर 4,500 रुपये।
- जिला परिषद् अध्यक्ष का मानदेय 11,000 रुपये से बढ़ाकर 12,000 रुपये।
- उपाध्यक्ष का 7,500 रुपये से बढ़ाकर 8,000 रुपये।
- जिला परिषद् के सदस्यों का मानदेय 4,500 रुपये से बढ़ाकर 5,000 रुपये।



Happy INTERNATIONAL Women's DAY

Celebration on 8th March, 2019 at 10:30 A.M.

Venue: Observation Home for Boys-II,
Sewa Kutir Complex, Kingsway Camp, Delhi

Chief Guest:

Manish Sisodia
Dy. Chief Minister, Delhi

Theme:- Engaging & Sensitizing young boys on issues related to
Women Safety, Empowerment, Rights & Respect of Women.

Key Events of the Day

Cultural Program by residents (Boys & Girls) of Govt. run Institutions/Homes

Pledge of HE for SHE program as IMPACT Champions

Felicitation of Winners of various events in Government run Institutions/Homes



4th March Events Organized

Theme based Art & Craft, Musical, Sports and Cultural Activities, Slogan and Drawing Competitions on the theme in Delhi Govt. run Institutions.



5th March Training Cum Workshop

Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013 in partnership with UN Women



6th March Training Cum Workshop

Gender Responsive Budgeting in partnership with UN Women

Week Long Activities

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

- Arvind Kejriwal
Chief Minister, Delhi

4 SAAL HUA KAMAAL

DELHI GOVT SCHOOLS NOW BEAT PRIVATE SCHOOLS IN CLASS XII BOARD RESULTS

Delhi govt schools show more than 90% pass percentage in Board results



For the first time in at least 20 years, over 90% of government school students who appeared in the Central Board of Secondary Education's (CBSE) Class 12 examinations in 2018 passed the exam, marking the highest pass percentage for Delhi's government schools in two decades. They also outperformed private schools for the second year in a row, giving the Delhi government added reason to rejoice.

Delhi Education Minister Manish Sisodia congratulated the students. "Congratulations to all students, teachers and parents for making us



pride in CBSE Class XII results. Delhi government school's result is 90.64%, which is 2.37% (points) higher than last year's 88.27%," he said.

According to data shared by CBSE, 90.68% of government school students passed the exams this year, while only 88.35% of the students from "independent" institutions cleared the exam in Delhi.

This is the second year in a row that Delhi's government schools have performed better than private schools. As per the Directorate of Education (DoE) and CBSE data, in 2018 the government schools achieved their highest pass percentage in the last 20 years. In 1998, only 63.45% of students from government schools passed the exams, according to the DoE data, and this has steadily climbed over the years. It crossed 70 for the first time in 2000, when the pass percentage was 72.54%, and crossed 80 for the first time in 2007 when 82.73% of the government school children who had appeared for the exam passed.

"We have worked hard. We have provided extra classes, and extra pre-board preparations."

At the Sonia Vihar Government Girls Senior Secondary School, the result had improved by 14.15 percentage points from the previous year. Delhi has approximately 1024 government schools.

No healthcare complaint goes unheard, ensures Chief Minister himself

Data of helpline calls and the number of cases, resolved and unresolved, is sent to Chief Minister's Office every evening



If you are in Delhi and you visit a government hospital, either your visit will be hassle free or in case you face a problem, you can call the helpline number (1031) and your complaint would be monitored directly by the Chief Minister himself. The government of Delhi has issued the helpline number 1031 for the patients and their attendants in the government hospitals to report any discrepancy in the provision of free medicines, tests and surgeries.

HOW 1031 IS MONITORED BY THE CM

The government has put up notice/display boards in all Delhi government hospitals prominently for the patients to call on 1031 if they don't get medicines for free, face problems in free tests or surgery in private hospitals if government hospitals fail to operate them within the 30-day

Each hospital has a nodal officer for resolving the complaints registered on 1031 and report back with resolution of the grievances. Then a hospital-wise detailed report is compiled and submitted to the Chief Minister's Office every evening. The report comprises the details of complaint registered, resolved and unresolved.

time period.

Each hospital has a nodal officer for resolving the complaints registered on 1031 and report back with resolution of the grievances. Then a hospital-wise detailed report is compiled and submitted to the Chief Minister's Office every evening. The report comprises the details of complaint registered, resolved and unresolved.

In case of the non-resolved cases, the hospi-

tal in-charge, health department officials are asked to report back on the reason for non-resolution. If the number of non-resolved cases is high or repeated non-resolutions are reported, the Chief Minister himself asks for explanation from the officials.

Delhi Chief Minister is of the view that no call/case reported to 1031 should go unattended or unresolved. He has directed all nodal officers, who fail to resolve all grievances, to report to his residence at 9 a.m. the following day.

The CM has directed all Nodal officers, who fail to resolve all grievances, to report at his residence at 9 a.m. the following day. The CM made it clear to the officials that the free medicines, tests and surgery schemes have to be implemented in totality and no lapses in these pro-people policies would be tolerated.

Delhi Govt schools to get 12748 new modern classrooms this year

Nearly 8,000 new classrooms have already been constructed in last four years

The Directorate of Education has conveyed the sanction to the Public Works Department for construction of 12748 equivalent rooms this year under Priority II.

Approximately 8000 equivalent rooms have been constructed in last four years.

On 28 January, Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal had laid the foundation stone for construction of approximately 11,000 equivalent rooms in around 200 government school buildings out of 12748 equivalent rooms, whereas approximately 8000 equivalent rooms

Planning for construction of buildings on additional 52 available vacant plots is being done

have been already constructed between 2015-2018 under Priority I.

"Confidence has been instilled in the teachers of Delhi Government schools, through exposures at the most reputed

institutes of the world like Cambridge, Singapore and Finland."

Around 300-350 students of Delhi government schools qualified the IIT-JEE(main) Exam.

Twenty Five New Government School Buildings (21 Pucca School Buildings + 04 SPS Buildings) have been constructed in the first Phase and one is under construction.

In the second phase, 30 sites for new school buildings are proposed to be constructed. Further, planning for construction of buildings on additional 52 available vacant plots is being done.



Timely delivery of infrastructure projects has helped Delhi government to save hundreds of crores

In the last four years, the Delhi government went all out to implement infrastructure projects and many of them have either been completed and/or are in various stages of completion.

These infrastructure projects that would help smoothening the traffic situation on major arterial stretches of the city, besides improving pedestrian facilities and the multi-modal integration at six Delhi Metro stations.

Some of the key projects include extension of the Ashram flyover till the DND flyover, construction of an underground tunnel below the ITPO (Pragati Maidan area), along with underground U-turns on Mathura Road, construction of grade separators on outer ring road - that includes connecting the existing Modi Mill flyover with Kalakji flyover, double laning of Savitri Cinema flyover and a two-way flyover on the Malviya Nagar junction.

GOVT SAVES CRORES OF RUPEES IN INFRA PROJECTS



EFFICIENT AND TIME-BOUND DELIVERY

Elevated Corridor: PWD made the Outer Ring Road from Vikaspuri to Wazirabad signal-free by making elevated corridor on Vikaspuri to Meera Bagh, Mangalpuri to Madhuban Chowk, Madhuban Chowk to Mukarba Chowk, Flyovers at Balswa, Mukundpur and Burai Chowk.

Construction of Elevated Road over Barapullah Nullah (Ph-II): This has helped to facilitate traffic coming from INA Market directly to Ashram and DND Flyover, Noida which resulted in decongestion of the ring road at Sarai Kale Khan bus stand apart from reduction of travel time by 15-20 minutes.

Parallel Road on outer side of

Nallah from Sanjay Gandhi Transport Nagar to Wazirabad Chowk: This helped in decongestion of Outer Ring Road and has also given a great relief to local residents of Bhalaswa, Mukundpur, Burari, Sangam Vihar, Jagatpur, Wazirabad and other nearby colonies.

Infrastructure for opening of medical college at existing BSA hospital in Rohini has been completed by PWD.

Academic block for Delhi Institute of Pharmaceutical Sciences and Research has already been completed in 2016.

New Campus for DDU College at Dwarka been completed

including hostel for 208 students and 9 quarters for staff and the college now has capacity to cater 2500 students.

The works in new campus of Shaheed Sukhdev College at Rohini with hostel for 144 students and 6 quarters for staff are completed and the college now has the capacity for 200 students.

Work of construction of 20 pucca school buildings, having 1600 classrooms, have been completed. A total of 6911 additional SPS classrooms in existing schools are completed.

The works of NCC Bhawan at Rohini and New Polytechnic Building at Rajokri was completed last year.



Naye Bharat Ka Naya Uttar Pradesh

23 Months of Transformation

Effective Health Services

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



Construction of AIIMS in Gorakhpur and Rae Bareli.

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



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



Over **3 lakh** children vaccinated under Mission Rainbow.

IN BRIEF



Plea of accused in actor assault case declined

KOCHI
The Kerala High Court on Thursday declined a plea of counsel for one of the accused in the actor assault case, involving actor Dileep, to recall its order to expedite the proceedings and complete the trial in six months. When counsel for second accused Martin made the submission before Justice Alexander Thomas, senior government pleader Suman Chakravarthy, taking exception to the plea, said it was part of a bid to delay the trial.

Kerala CPI(M) finalises names of 15 candidates

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM
The CPI (Marxist) State leadership has finalised the list of candidates for 15 Lok Sabha segments on Thursday, leaving the task of choosing a nominee for the Ponnani segment to the mandalam committee concerned. The State leadership as well as the mandalam committee was in favour of fielding P.V. Anvar from Ponnani. A meeting of the LDF on Friday will discuss all options and the CPI(M) will announce its candidates on Saturday with the formal approval of the Polit Bureau.

Rare brown mongoose found in tiger reserve

MYSURU
An Indian brown mongoose (*Herpestes fuscus*), a small carnivore, has been seen at the Biligiriranganabetta Tiger Reserve (BRT) in Chamrajnagar district, a release said. This is the first time this species has been recorded anywhere outside Virajpet taluk in Karnataka. The animal has a dark brown coat with fine stripes and black legs, unlike its cousin the common grey mongoose which is greyish in colour.

Karnataka Cong. begins search for candidates for LS election

Screening committee to meet on March 11; incumbent MPs to contest again

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

The election committee of the Karnataka Congress has started its search for probable candidates for seven or eight Lok Sabha constituencies.

Certain that they would enter into an alliance with the Janata Dal (Secular), the Congress has decided to field all incumbent MPs in their respective constituencies.

The JD(S) is firm on fielding its candidates in three constituencies – Mandya, Hassan, and Shivamogga.

Besides these three, the Congress is likely to concede six or seven seats to the JD (S).

Congress leaders are expected to hold discussions on conceding seats to the JD (S) with party president Ra-



Seeking blessings: H.D. Kumaraswamy and family at the Sharada Peetha in Sringeri on Thursday. ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

hul Gandhi during his visit to the State on Saturday.

Strategies discussed

The Congress election committee, comprising KPCC president Dinesh Gundu Rao, Deputy Chief Minister G. Parameshwara, former Chief Minister Siddaramiah, and more than two

dozen leaders of the party, held a meeting here and discussed various strategies to be followed to defeat the BJP.

Mr. Rao told reporters after the meeting that the Congress screening committee would meet on March 11 and recommend the shortlisted candidates to the party central leadership.

Two infants die in Hyderabad after being given wrong drug

They were given painkiller instead of paracetamol for fever

STAFF REPORTER
HYDERABAD

Two infants died and at least 22 others, all under six months of age, developed complications after they were allegedly given Tramadol, a painkiller, instead of paracetamol.

Superintendent of Niloufer Hospital V. Murali Krishna said the infants were given Pentavalent, OPV and IPV. He said children sometimes developed fever after being given Pentavalent vaccine, and a quarter of paracetamol was given to address it.

Parents of the infants alleged that their children de-

veloped complications after taking tablets issued at the Urban Primary Health Centre (UPHC) in Nampally.

On Wednesday, the infants were taken to the UPHC for vaccination.

"My daughter Heena Begum (two-and-a-half months old) developed fever half an hour after taking the vaccines and we gave her the tablet given at the UPHC. She started to vomit after 15 minutes. Later, she became stiff. We took her to a private hospital," said Md. Abdul Saleem.

Dr. Murali Krishna said the drug's action lasted 24 to 48 hours and the infants would be kept under observation for two days.

Kumaraswamy, family members visit Sringeri

CHIKKAMAGALURU
Karnataka Chief Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy and his family participated in a special homam at the Sharada Peetha in Sringeri on Thursday, apparently ahead of his son Nikhil's entry into politics from the Mandya Lok Sabha constituency. This is the CM's third visit to Sringeri since he took charge.

'Go back Nikhil', campaign launched

MANDYA
With Nikhil Kumaraswamy poised for his electoral debut, an online campaign, "Go Back Nikhil", has been launched to condemn "dynastic politics" of JD(S) chief H.D. Deve Gowda's family. The group is creating sharing memes through social media.

Convention in Kerala against Church Bill

STAFF REPORTER
KOTTAYAM

Hundreds of people representing various Christian denominations took part in a mass convention organised by the Catholic Congress here on Thursday in protest against the draft Kerala Church (Properties and Institution) Bill, 2019 proposed by the Kerala Law Reforms Commission.

Inaugurating the event, Mar Joseph Perumthottam, Archbishop of Changanassery, said the provisions in the Bill were indeed an infringement on the constitutional rights guaranteed to the religion.

The body of the youth was found near an artificial pond on the premises of the resort.

A country-made rifle, headlight and a bag with cash were recovered. Cartridges used by the Maoists were also recovered from the resort premises.

The resort would be inspected by ballistic experts to identify the weapons the Maoists used, he said.

Maoist killed in late-night encounter with Kerala police

Commandos gun down Jaleel; another suspected to be injured

E.M. MANOJ
KALPETTA

The Kerala police on Thursday said that a Maoist was killed in an encounter with the commandos of Thunderbolt, an elite unit of the police, late on Wednesday at a private resort at Lakkidi in Wayanad district.

The police identified the deceased as C.P. Jaleel, 26, of Cherukupalli house at Pandikkad in Malappuram district.

Briefing mediapersons here on Thursday, Balram Kumar Upadhyay, Inspector General of Police, Kannur, said Jaleel and an unidentified Maoist came with guns to the resort, situated along the Kozhikode-Kollegal stretch of National Highway 766 around 7.45 p.m.

'They demanded money'

They demanded money and provisions for 10 members of their group. While the resort staff began collecting money, a few among them informed the police of the development. The police, accompanied by the commandos, rushed to the spot around 9 p.m. On seeing the police, the duo tried to escape after shooting at them.

Meanwhile, other members of the militant group, who were hiding in a nearby forest, and the police exchanged fire. Jaleel was killed reportedly in retaliatory fire. The windscreen of a police jeep was damaged in the encounter.

It is suspected that the Maoist who accompanied Jaleel also sustained injuries.

The others escaped to the nearby Lakkidi forest.

Though the police conducted combing operations on Wednesday night and Thursday morning, they could not trace the other Maoists.



Taking them on: Kannur IGP Balram Kumar Upadhyay addressing the media on the encounter on Thursday. ■ E.M. MANOJ

Brothers seek judicial probe

STAFF REPORTER
KALPETTA

The siblings of C.P. Jaleel, who was killed allegedly in a police encounter at a resort at Lakkidi in the district on Wednesday night, have demanded a judicial probe into the encounter. Speaking to

mediapersons here on Thursday, C.P. Rasheed and C.P. Jishad, Jaleel's brothers, said they suspected the encounter to be fake.

"We suspect that our brother was caught and cruelly killed by the police," they said.

killed reportedly in retaliatory fire. The windscreen of a police jeep was damaged in the encounter.

A country-made rifle, headlight and a bag with cash were recovered. Cartridges used by the Maoists were also recovered from the resort premises.

The resort would be inspected by ballistic experts to identify the weapons the Maoists used, he said.

HC notice to Centre, AAI on Adani bid

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
KOCHI

The Kerala High Court on Thursday issued notice to the Centre and the Airports Authority of India (AAI) on a writ petition filed by the State government on Wednesday challenging the

move by the AAI to grant right of operation, management, and development of the Thiruvananthapuram International Airport to Adani Enterprises Ltd.

The State government contended that the airport authority should have ac-

cepted the government's proposal submitted through the Kerala State Industrial Development Corporation Ltd. for operation, development, and management of the airport on a par with the amount offered by Adani Enterprises.

Naye Bharat Ka
Naya Uttar Pradesh

23 Months of Transformation

Respect for Women's Power

Under Prime Minister Ujjwala Scheme, 1 Cr. 24 Lakh Free Gas Connections Distributed to Women.

- Beti Bachao - Beti Padhao scheme implemented.
- Anti-Romeo Squad formed.
- 3.5 crore women rehabilitated socially through Antyodaya card.
- Under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana, housing units allotted to 7 lakh 1 thousand 539 women in rural areas and 2.80 lakh women in urban areas.
- Under the Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojna, 2.69 lakh girls trained.
- Age limit of 60 years for widow pension done away with and 23 lakh destitute women benefited.
- 181-Women Help Line Power Team and Rescue Van Service extended.
- Under constituted the Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojna, 11.14 lakh pregnant women given cash subsidy of Rs. 6,000 per woman.
- Maternity leave increased from 12 weeks to 26 weeks.
- 'Shabari Yojna' under implementation in 40 districts.

For the First Time, 2.5 Cr. Women's Bank Accounts opened under the Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojna.

Under the Pradhan Mantri 'Mudra' Yojna, more than 50 Lakh Women Entrepreneurs given Bank Loan of Rs. 12,000 Cr.

DELHI POLICE SHANTI SEWA NYAYA

SETTLE TRAFFIC CHALLANS at NATIONAL LOK ADALAT on 9th March, 2019 From 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

PENDING "ON-THE-SPOT" AND NOTICE BRANCH'S TRAFFIC CHALLANS of all types of vehicles (including Commercial Vehicles)

FOR "ON-THE-SPOT" TRAFFIC CHALLANS: All concerned Traffic Courts of the Metropolitan Magistrates

FOR NOTICE BRANCH CHALLANS: Any Court at Court Complexes i.e. Tis Hazari, Patiala House, Karkardooma, Dwarka, Saket & Rohini

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CM YK

Information & Public Relations Department, Uttar Pradesh

DP/9083/19

DELHI ☼ Timings		
FRIDAY, MAR. 08		
RISE 06:39 SET 18:25		
RISE 07:45 SET 19:56		
SATURDAY, MAR. 09		
RISE 06:38 SET 18:26		
RISE 08:17 SET 20:49		
SUNDAY, MAR. 10		
RISE 06:37 SET 18:26		
RISE 08:50 SET 21:43		

Delhi Weather	max	min
Delhi City	26	09
Safdarjung	26	09
Palam	28	11

Delhi Palam Today
26°C A cool morning is likely. Day will be comfortable with thunderclouds. Pollution level will be moderate to poor.

Delhi Palam Tomorrow
27°C Dry weather would prevail with sunny sky. Light dry winds are expected with no change in pollution level.

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IN BRIEF



Amarnath Yatra to begin from July 1

JAMMU
The annual pilgrimage to the Amarnath cave shrine in south Kashmir Himalayas will begin on July 1, a Raj Bhavan official said here on Thursday. The decision was taken at the 36th meeting of the Shri Amarnathji Shrine Board. PTI

AAI to exchange land with M.P. govt.

NEW DELHI
The Union Cabinet has okayed surrender of 106.7 acres of land by the Airports Authority of India to Madhya Pradesh government. In lieu of this, the State government will provide AAI 96.56 acres of land contiguous with Bhopal airport. The land to be surrendered by the AAI was being used by the State government for its government offices, etc.

Assam's tea garden labour are champions

This is the first time the industry is recognising the skill and output of its workforce

RAHUL KARMAKAR BORJULI

Tabi Bhengra's ancestors were brought to Assam by British tea planters more than 170 years ago. She doesn't even know which part of central India her ancestors came from. But thanks to a skill passed down across six generations, she now knows that she is her family's first tea-plucking champion.

Ms. Bhengra, 30, is not the only one though. Seven other pluckers from 17 estates of one of the largest tea companies in Assam have received recognition for their unique skill: consistently plucking around 21 kg of the highest quality tea leaves every day. "It feels nice to be awarded for something that I have been doing routinely for 13 years," said Ms. Bhengra, one of



Working on: Tabi Bhengra and seven others have been honoured for plucking 21 kg every day. ■ RAHUL KARMAKAR

about 1,200 permanent and casual tea pluckers at Borjuli Tea Estate, located in Sonitpur district, 200 km north-east of Guwahati.

The 566.56 hectare Borjuli garden is one of a cluster

of five tea gardens owned by the Apeejay Group.

"Plucking indeed is a special skill. The quality and quantity of tea we produce depend on how Tabi, Gumi and the other workers pick the best leaves," said Somnath Nandi, Borjuli's manager.

Ms. Bhengra beat Gumi Sanga of an adjoining estate for the local awards that were announced during the plucking season of April-November, 2018. The award was based on attendance, and the quality and quantity of leaves. Plucking is mainly done by women, with a worker putting in eight

hours a day for six days a week.

Ms. Bhengra's attendance was 97% and she plucked an average of 2,489 kg every two months, with 62% quality.

The benchmark at Borjuli is 60-65% of tender leaves, or two leaves and a bud, or an unopened leaf at the tip of a stem.

Karan Paul, Apeejay's Kolkata-based chairman, said the industry had been slow to recognise the workforce. Thirteen workers, including eight champions, would be handed over a certificate and cash prize ₹5,000.

Supreme Court grants bail to Babu Bajrangi

He is serving life term in riots case

STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Thursday granted bail to Babubhai Patel alias Babu Bajrangi, the Bajrang Dal leader who is serving life term after being convicted in the 2002 Naroda Patiya riots case, on medical grounds.

A Bench headed by Justice A.M. Khanwilkar gave the order based on the bail plea of Bajrangi which stated that he was unwell for a long time and also had undergone bypass surgery.

Role in violence
In August 2012, a special SIT court sentenced Bajrangi to life imprisonment for his role in the communal violence that took place in the Naroda Patiya locality of Ahmedabad during the 2002 Gujarat riots.



Bajrang Dal leader
Babu Bajrangi. ■ FILE PHOTO

The case pertains to the killing of 97 people, most of them from the minority community, in the Naroda Patiya area on February 28, 2002, a day after the Sabarmati Express was torched at Godhra, an incident that triggered riots across the State in which more than 1,000 people were killed.

The Gujarat High Court had in April last year upheld the conviction.

Odisha forest dwellers seek permanent relief under FRA

Protest in Bhubaneswar against alleged tinkering with Act

STAFF REPORTER BHUBANESWAR

A large number of forest dwellers took to the streets in Bhubaneswar on Thursday protesting against alleged tinkering with the Forest Rights Act.

Although the Supreme Court had stayed its earlier order that had created panic among 10 lakh forest dwellers over possible eviction, protesters under the banner of Campaign for Survival and Dignity, Odisha, announced that they would continue to agitate till permanent relief was not granted.

"We do not want temporary relief... we want complete setting aside of the Supreme Court's February 13 order. Ever since the

government came to power, there has been a consistent effort to weaken the FRA," said Gopinath Majhi, CSD State convener.

'Centre failed'

"We are forced to stage protests as the Central government has failed to defend the FRA in the Supreme Court," said Mr. Majhi.

"Since most of 422,384 individual forest rights titles have been issued in a haphazard manner without ground verification, it has led to confusion on the ground. As many as 1,45,567 FRA applications have been rejected. All of them are facing evictions," he added.

"The BJD-led government claims to be number one in the country by issuing the

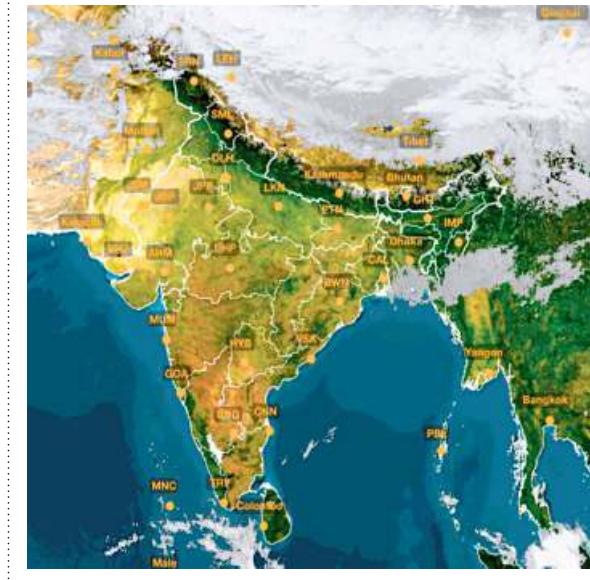
highest number of IFR titles. In reality, the State has messed up the FRA implementation. It has bypassed the gram sabha," alleged Mahanohar Chauhan, a campaigner with CSD.

Moreover, Mr. Chauhan said, not all IFR claimants have been formally informed on the rejection of their claims because of which hundreds of forest dwellers are likely to miss a chance to appeal at a higher forum. The CSD has demanded that all the so-called rejected IFR applications be sent back to the gram sabhas concerned for reconsideration and appropriate action.

Forest dwellers said they will continue to protest against any attempts to dilute the Act.

WEATHER WATCH

RAINFALL, TEMPERATURE & AIR QUALITY IN SELECT METROS YESTERDAY



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 16:30 HRS)

Forecast for Friday: Thunderstorm accompanied with lightning & gusty winds likely at isolated places over coastal Andhra Pradesh, Rayalaseema, Kerala and interior Tamil Nadu. Heat wave conditions likely at isolated places over interior Tamil Nadu

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	... 28.9	20.8	...	Kozhikode	...	36.0	24.0
Ahmedabad	... 32.5	14.7	...	Kurnool	...	39.1	22.2
Aizawl	... 27.0	14.5	...	Lucknow	...	27.5	10.8
Allahabad	... 30.0	11.0	...	Madurai	...	41.0	25.4
Bengaluru	... 37.0	20.5	...	Mangaluru	...	33.5	22.4
Bhopal	... 29.1	13.8	...	Mumbai	...	32.6	18.2
Bhubaneswar	... 32.0	21.9	...	Mysuru	...	37.9	17.9
Chandigarh	... 24.9	10.0	...	New Delhi	...	26.5	9.0
Chennai	... 34.9	27.4	...	Patna	...	27.4	13.0
Coimbatore	... 38.6	23.6	...	Port Blair	...	31.1	23.2
Dehradoon	... 24.8	8.6	...	Puducherry	...	33.1	26.2
Gangtok	... 15.4	6.5	...	Pune	...	34.0	12.6
Goa	... 31.0	19.1	...	Raipur	...	31.6	19.1
Guwahati	... 29.0	14.0	...	Ranchi	...	26.7	14.6
Hubballi	... 34.0	16.0	...	Shillong	...	19.4	...
Hyderabad	... 35.6	17.9	...	Srinagar	...	13.8	3.3
Imphal	... 24.1	11.2	...	Tiruvanamalai	...	12.3	3.8
Jaipur	... 29.0	14.0	...	Tiruchirappalli	...	35.3	25.7
Kochi	... 32.6	26.0	...	Tirupati	...	40.0	26.0
Kohima	... 26.8	18.8	...	Vijayawada	...	35.0	26.0
Kolkata	... 29.0	21.1	...	Visakhapatnam	...	33.4	19.1

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO ₂	NO _x	CO	PM _{2.5}	PM ₁₀	CODE
Ahmedabad	53	85	23	103	—	■
Bengaluru	.5	33	36	222	—	■
Chennai	2	41	46	161	—	■
Delhi	17	126	69	225	315	■
Hyderabad	4	95	29	148	141	■
Kolkata	10	83	25	252	178	■
Lucknow	14	22	49	256	—	■
Mumbai	.9	19	80	42	98	■
Pune	32	15	35	89	109	■
Visakhapatnam	11	33	29	56	.96	■

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.

NO_x: 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.

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

TO ADVERTISE PLEASE CONTACT

Mr. N SELVA KUMAR

PH: 98203 50726

INTERVIEW | PINARAYI VIJAYAN

'Constitution is supreme and above all customs and beliefs'

'Initially, when the Sabarimala verdict came everybody accepted it. Unfortunately, later the same people started openly challenging our Constitution'

JIPSON JOHN
JITHHEESH P.M

Pinarayi Vijayan, the Chief Minister of Kerala, just completed 1,000 days in office. His government faced some unprecedented challenges, such as the floods in 2018 and the implementation of the Supreme Court order to allow young women to visit the Sabarimala temple. Mr. Vijayan speaks of those challenges and his government's development agenda. Excerpts:

Kerala witnessed one of the worst floods in its history in 2018. What is the status of rebuilding activities?

During the floods, we gave priority to rescue operations and relief activities. We were able to rescue more than 1,63,000 people from August 17 to 20. Around 1.5 million were shifted to around 4,000 relief shelters across Kerala.

The State government has provided, for 7,00,000 families, ₹10,000 each as immediate financial assistance. Today, we are mainly focussing on the reconstruction of damaged houses and roads. A total of 13,362 houses were fully damaged in the floods. The first instalment of financial assistance has been distributed for the reconstruction of 9,341 houses. The cooperative sector will re-

build 2,000 houses. The government has identified and sought support of sponsors for the construction of rest of the houses. I am hopeful that we will complete this process before the end of this financial year.

How do you look at the whole Sabarimala agitation?

The State submitted an affidavit in the Supreme Court, stating that whatever may be the court verdict, the government would abide by that and would implement it. So it is the fundamental responsibility of the State government to implement the verdict. Look at the initial response to the verdict; the



Our government gave appointment to 1 lakh youngsters through the public service commission

PINARAYI VIJAYAN

AICC, the Opposition leader, BJP State president and the RSS all accepted it.

Unfortunately, after this, the same people started

openly challenging our Constitution. Their ultimate aim was to disturb and malign Kerala's secular mind and orchestrate a religious riot.

Many devotees don't favour the entry of women in the menstruation age. Do you think your government has communicated in communicating your position?

The most important thing to remember is that the Communist party was never part of the legal discourse on this issue. It was actually the devotees themselves who approached the honourable judiciary to either ban the women entry or lift the restriction. After the Supreme

Court verdict, we have consistently said that it is not the job of our party or the State government to 'recruit' women to Sabarimala. On the other hand, we have taken a clear stand that it is the duty of the State government to give necessary protection for anybody who visits Sabarimala based on the Supreme Court verdict and their individual faith.

We have seen massive participation of general public, including women, in the LDF's political meetings on the issue. We have also seen huge participation of women in the "women's wall" for gender justice. All of this shows that we have been successful in communicating our stand to the common people.

the number of jobs created has decreased in the country after [Narendra] Modi came to power. But our government gave appointment to 1 lakh youngsters through the public service commission. We also created 20,000 posts in the same period. Our government has succeeded in increasing wage and other benefits in more than 80% of the labour sector. We implemented a Bill giving employees the right to sit and work, and intervened in raising nurses' salaries.

(Jipson John and Jitheesh P.M are fellows at Tricontinental: Institute for Social Research)

Read the full interview at <http://bit.ly/PinarayiVijayan>

As Kerala is the only Left-ruled State now, could you talk about alternative policies you could introduce?

We have been successful in making the public sector enterprises under the Kerala government profitable within one year after coming into power, besides taking over PSEs which have been disinvested by the Centre. Whereas the Central government has withdrawn from the social sector, the Kerala government actively intervenes; for example, the pension rates we provide are the highest. Newspapers report that

IN BRIEF



Driving licence, RC to come only in card format

NEW DELHI
Going paperless, driving licences and vehicle registration certificates will now be issued as plastic cards in a standard format across the country. The option of providing a paper or booklet-based driving licence or registration certificate has been done away with, the Transport Ministry said. PTI

In 2017-18, 37 parties showed ₹237 cr. as income

NEW DELHI
The total income declared by 37 regional parties for 2017-18 stood at ₹237.27 crore, according to the Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR). The Samajwadi Party reported the highest income of ₹47.19 crore, followed by the DMK with an income of ₹35.74 crore. Of the 37 parties, 15 showed a decline in their income compared to the previous year.

DMDK hopes to finalise poll deal in 2 days

CHENNAI
Accusing the DMK of political indecency, DMDK deputy secretary L.K. Sudhish on Thursday said his party will finalise seat-sharing for the Lok Sabha polls with the AIADMK-led alliance in two days.

Bengal to come up with new refugee policy

KOLKATA
Ahead of the Lok Sabha polls, the West Bengal government on Thursday announced that it will come up with a new policy for refugee rehabilitation. The State has a significant population of refugees.

Two youth found dead after pest control

PUNE
Two youth were found dead in the city's Dhankawadi locality on Thursday allegedly following pest control treatment of their room. The deceased were identified as Ananta Khedkar and Raju Beldar, from Buldhana and Jalgaon districts respectively.

Teachers entitled to gratuity, rules SC

In a rare move, court had *suo motu* recalled its January 7 verdict

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Thursday altered its judgment and said teachers were entitled to claim gratuity under the Payment of Gratuity Act.

In a rare move, the court recently called back its own judgment *suo motu* and listed it for fresh hearing. The court had frozen the implementation of the court's January 7 verdict which erroneously held that a teacher is not an 'employee' under the Payment of Gratuity Act.

The January 7 judgment, which was re-called, was delivered by a Bench of Justices A.M. Sapre and Indu Malhotra.



The Parliament had in 2009 amended a law to include teachers in the ambit of the Payment of Gratuity Act, 1972.

tra after relying on a 2005 judgment of the Supreme Court.

The Bench of Justices Sapre and Malhotra was not apprised of the later development of Parliament

amending the law in 2009 to effectively include teachers within the ambit of 'employee' under the Payment of Gratuity Act, 1972.

The amendment had a retrospective effect dating

back to 1997. Subsequent High Court judgments had also interpreted the 2009 amendment to include teachers within the definition of 'employee' under Section 2(e) of the Act irrespective of the institution in which they work.

The case concerned an appeal that was based on an order of the Jharkhand High Court allowing the plea of a former assistant professor of Birla Institute of Technology for the gratuity amount.

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Probing the press

The Official Secrets Act can't be an instrument to censor embarrassing media revelations

The essential distinction between public interest and the interest of the government of the day seems to have been lost on the Attorney General. K.K. Venugopal's claim that documents pertaining to the purchase of Rafale jets published by the media, including this newspaper, have been "stolen" amounts to a definitive admission that they are genuine. The documentary evidence published so far indicates that "parallel parleys" held at the behest of the Prime Minister's Office undermined the Indian Negotiating Team's discussions with the French side; that internal questions had been raised about the absence of bank guarantees to hedge against possible default by the vendor; and that this had an adverse effect on the pricing of the 36 jets to be bought in fly-away condition. Few can doubt that these revelations advance the public interest, and have no impact on national security. The publication of the documents and news reports based on them constitute the legitimate exercise of the freedom of the press. The threat of a criminal investigation under the Official Secrets Act, 1923 (OSA) is disappointing, if not downright perverse. The government is also on weak legal ground when it claims the court should not rely on "stolen" documents while hearing petitions seeking a review of its judgment declining a probe into the Rafale deal. As the Bench, headed by Chief Justice of India Ranjan Gogoi, pointed out, the manner in which a document has been procured is immaterial, if it is relevant to an adjudication. As one of the judges asked, can the government seek shelter behind the notion of national security if a corrupt practice had indeed taken place?

It is to the credit of successive governments that the OSA has rarely been used against the press. The law primarily targets officials entrusted with secret documents, codes and other material, but Section 5 criminalises voluntarily receiving and possessing such documents, if given to them in contravention of the Act. In a limited examination of this section, the Law Commission observed in a 1971 report that its wording was quite wide. However, it left it to the government to decide against prosecution, if the information leak did not materially affect the state's interest. There is undoubtedly a case for distinguishing between an act that helps the enemy or affects national security, and one that advances legitimate public interest. In times when information freedom is seen as salutary for democracy, laws such as the OSA should yield to the moral imperative behind the Right to Information Act. This reasoning is embedded in Section 8(2) of the RTI Act, which says that notwithstanding the provisions of the OSA, "a public authority may allow access to information, if public interest in disclosure outweighs the harm to the protected interests." The government should refrain from using its secrecy laws to contend with embarrassing media revelations. It would do well instead to respond responsibly to questions thrown up by the revelations.

Breathing clean

Political will is integral to the tackling of India's hazardous air pollution

An assessment of the quality of air across countries and in cities has come as a fresh warning to India on the levels of deadly pollutants its citizens are breathing. The IQ AirVisual 2018 World Air Quality Report published in collaboration with Greenpeace underscores that Delhi remains an extremely hazardous city to live in. The national capital exposes people to air containing annual average fine particulate matter (PM_{2.5}) of 113.5 micrograms per cubic metre, when it should be no more than 10 micrograms as per WHO guidelines. In fact, Gurugram, which borders Delhi, fares even worse with a PM_{2.5} level of 135.8 micrograms, while 15 of the 20 cities worldwide ranked the worst on air pollution metrics are in India. Delhi's air quality has been making headlines for years now. Yet, measures to mitigate emissions have not moved into crisis mode: the launch this year of the National Clean Air Programme for 102 cities and towns, including the capital, talks only of long-term benefits of mitigation programmes beyond 2024, and not a dramatic reduction in near-term pollution. This has to change, and an annual target for reduction be set to make governments accountable. Achieving a reduction within a short window is not impossible if there is the political will to reform key sectors: transport, biomass and construction.

The monitoring of air quality in real time across cities and towns in India is far from adequate or uniform. The evidence from Delhi, which is relatively more robust, has clear pointers to what needs to be done. The Ministry of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises learnt from a commissioned study last year that dusty sources such as roads, construction sites and bare soil added about 42% of the coarse particulate matter (PM₁₀) in summer, while in winter it was a significant 31%. Similarly, PM₁₀ from transport varied between 15% and 18% across seasons. Yet, it is the even more unhealthy PM_{2.5} penetrating the lungs that causes greater worry. Vehicles contributed 18-23% of these particulates, while biomass burning was estimated to make up 15-22%, and dusty sources 34% during summer. These insights provide a road map for action. The Delhi government, which has done well to decide on inducting 1,000 electric buses, should speed up the plan and turn its entire fleet green. A transition to electric vehicles for all commercial applications, with funding from the Centre's programme for adoption of EVs, should be a priority in cities. Cutting nitrogen and sulphur emissions from industrial processes needs a time-bound programme supervised by the Environment Ministry. These are priority measures to get urban India out of the red zone.

The imperial cabinet and an acquiescent court

The Supreme Court has squandered the chance to rein in an increasingly powerful Central executive



GAUTAM BHATIA

In the last six months, the Supreme Court has frequently found itself in the headlines. In September, it handed down four landmark judgments on fundamental rights: decriminalising same-sex relations and adultery, opening up Sabarimala to women of all ages, and (partially) upholding Aadhaar. And soon after that, the court was in the eye of a political storm. Its Rafale and Central Bureau of Investigation judgments were subjected to intense scrutiny, and continue to be debated.

After the dust has settled, however, and these blockbuster cases consigned to memory, the most important legacy of the 2018-19 Supreme Court may lie elsewhere: in two decisions that have attracted less attention. These are the court's findings on the legal status of "money bills" (a part of its Aadhaar judgment), and its judgment on the distribution of power between the Central government and the government of Delhi. These two decisions were about constitutional structure: about the balance of power between the different organs of the state, the federal character of the Republic, and fundamental questions of democratic accountability.

We are often tempted to think that our rights and freedoms depend upon the Constitution's fundamental rights chapter, and the judiciary's willingness to enforce it against the state. There are other important ways, however, in which a Constitution guarantees freedom. It does so, also, by dividing and distributing political power between state organs in order to

avoid concentration of authority, and to ensure that these different organs act as checks and balances upon each other. The surest dam against totalitarianism is to guarantee that no one stream of authority becomes powerful enough to sweep away everything else in the time of a flood.

Money bills

Therefore, away from the glamour of fundamental rights adjudication, and away from the thrill of political controversy, it is in cases involving constitutional structure that courts often exercise significant influence upon the future direction of the Republic. And it is in this context that we must examine the recent decisions on money bills and on federalism.

First, money bills. Despite strong protests, the Aadhaar Act was passed as a money bill. This affected a crucial element of our constitutional structure: bicameralism. Bicameralism, in our parliamentary democracy, requires that a bill must be scrutinised and passed by both Houses of Parliament before it becomes law. The Lok Sabha represents the voice of the democratic majority. The Rajya Sabha represents the interests of the States, as well as perspectives free of immediate, electoral interests. The basic idea is that law-making is a balanced and deliberative process, not an exercise in pure majoritarianism. The crucial purpose of the Rajya Sabha is to act as a check and a balance upon the Lok Sabha, by scrutinising bills in a more deliberative and reflective manner, and raising concerns that may have been glossed over or evaded in the Lower House.

The role of the Rajya Sabha becomes even more important when we consider a unique Indian innovation: anti-defection. In the 1980s, it was decided that the only way to combat party defections



was to disqualify members who voted against the whip, except under very tough conditions. This effectively meant the end of intra-party democracy: individual MPs could no longer vote according to their conscience, and had to follow the diktats of the cabinet. Consequently, where there is a single-party majority in the Lok Sabha, the executive can effectively rule by decree, as it is in no threat of losing a vote if it fails to persuade its own party members. With the Lower House no longer able to check the government, the only remaining legislative forum that can then do so is the Rajya Sabha.

A money bill, however, takes the Rajya Sabha out of the equation: it only needs Lok Sabha approval. In combination with the anti-defection law, this places absolute power in the hands of the executive, and skews the democratic process. Hence, its use must be restricted to the most limited of circumstances. This was what was argued in the Aadhaar case: that the terms of the Constitution (Article 110) mandated that money bills be narrowly limited to those that fall exclusively within the categories set out in Article 110. The Aadhaar Act, which established a biometric database and set up an authority (the UIDAI) to administer it, could not in any sense be called a "money bill" simply because the funds for the Authority

came from the Consolidated Fund of India. The majority judgment in the Aadhaar case, however, allowed the Act to stand as a money bill (after taking out a provision allowing private party use), and thus, effectively, gutted the Rajya Sabha's role in the democratic process. After the court's judgment, governments wanting to bypass Rajya Sabha scrutiny on a range of important issues can simply insert a provision specifying that money for a project is to come from the Consolidated Fund.

Federalism

Meanwhile, the court was also considering another issue of democratic structure: the dispute between the central government (acting through the Lt Governor) and the government of Delhi. This dispute effectively turned upon the text of Article 239AA of the Constitution, a somewhat ambiguously drafted provision establishing Delhi as a hybrid federal entity – somewhere between a State and a Union Territory. In July 2018, while considering the overall constitutional position, a five-judge bench of the Supreme Court made it clear that, wherever the constitutional text was capable of more than one interpretation, the court would favour a reading that increased democratic accountability: that is, in case of doubt, power would lie with the government that had been directly elected by the people (in this case, the Delhi government).

When it came to applying this principle to the specific disputes between the two entities, however, a two-judge bench of the Supreme Court seemed to renege from this fundamental democratic principle. The February 2019 judgment bears very little evidence of democratic concerns: the heart of the dispute was about control over the civil services, which directly impacted day-to-day governance.

While the constitutional provisions themselves were ambiguous, one judge held that the Delhi government had no control over civil servants above a certain rank, while another judge held that the Delhi government had no control over civil servants at all.

Fear of an imperial executive

In 1973, the American historian Arthur M. Schlesinger coined the term "Imperial Presidency", to characterise the increasing concentration of power in the office of the President, at the cost of other democratic institutions (such as the U.S. Congress and the Senate). Over the last few decades, many scholars have noticed this drift towards the increased powers of the political executive, across liberal democracies.

The Supreme Court's decisions on Articles 110 (money bills) and 239AA (status of the federal unit of Delhi) have concentrated greater power in the hands of the executive. By expanding the scope of what counts as money bills, the court has set the cabinet down the road of transforming itself into a Roman-style imperator. And by privileging the centralising tendencies of the Constitution over its federalising ones, the court has squandered the chance to develop a strong jurisprudence on the federal structure, that could have been of use in future disputes between the Central government and various federal units. The impact of these decisions will not be felt immediately, but in the long run, unless set right, one enduring legacy of the recent court – and, in particular, of Justice A.K. Sikri, who authored both decisions and who retired this week – might be the judicial facilitation of an imperial executive.

Gautam Bhatia is a Delhi-based lawyer.
Disclaimer: he was part of the legal team challenging Aadhaar

Women and the workplace

Do UN strategies to deal with sexual harassment and ensure gender parity offer examples to follow?



RADHA KUMAR

For more than a century, March 8 has marked International Women's Day – a global day celebrating the achievements of women and promoting gender equality worldwide. But as we pause to celebrate our many advances, we must also acknowledge how much remains to be done.

Interlinked issues

Two interconnected issues have emerged as priorities over the past two years: sexual harassment at the workplace and obstacles to women's participation at all levels of the workforce, including political representation. The 2017-18 explosion of the #MeToo movement across social media uncovered countless cases of unreported sexual harassment and assault, first in the U.S. and then in India. In both countries, it led to the resignations or firing of dozens of prominent men, mostly politicians, actors and journalists.

It also prompted a range of public and private organisations to examine the internal institutional

cultures surrounding sexual harassment, gender parity, and gender equity. Amongst them, the United Nations.

UN Secretary-General António Guterres has been a staunch supporter of women's rights since his election in 2016, stating the need for "benchmarks and time frames to achieve [gender] parity across the system, well before the target year of 2030". In September 2017, the UN released a System-wide Strategy on Gender Parity to transform the UN's representation of women at senior levels. Today the UN's Senior Management Group, which has 44 top UN employees, comprises 23 women and 21 men.

A mirror within

In response to the MeToo movement, the UN recently conducted a system-wide survey to gauge the prevalence of sexual harassment among its more than 200,000 global staff. Though only 17% of UN staff responded, what the survey uncovered was sobering. One in three UN women workers reported being sexually harassed in the past two years, predominantly by men. Clearly, the UN gender strategy has much to improve, but then the UN, like most other international and national organisations, has a decades-old cultural backlog to tackle.

The inter-governmental UN is as affected by prevalent national cul-



tures as are individual countries. Some might argue more, since the UN Secretary-General has to find a way through contending blocs of countries that support or oppose women's rights' goals. This is where UN research plays a significant role. As findings on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) indicate, many countries, including India, were able to substantially increase their performance on issues such as sex ratios and maternal mortality once their leaders had signed on to the MDGs. Tracking performance on the Sustainable Development Goals, a more comprehensive iteration of the MDGs, will again provide useful pointers for policymakers and advocates going forward.

Efficacy of single window

At the same time, Mr. Guterres is to be commended for holding a mirror to organisational practices when it comes to sexual harassment or gender parity. Bringing the issue of gender inside the organisation, to reform its practices,

will enable the UN to stand as an example of the rights it advocates.

How can organisations as large as the UN improve their internal cultures surrounding sexual harassment, gender parity, and gender equity? This issue has generated considerable debate in India, where political parties have begun to ask how they are to apply the rules of the Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013 which lays down that every office in the country must have an internal complaints committee to investigate allegations of sexual harassment. With thousands of offices across the country, and barely any employee trained to handle sexual harassment, Indian political parties ask whether broader structures, such as district or regional complaints committees, could play the role of office ones. In this context, does the UN Secretariat's single window structure for such complaints provide a better practice? One caveat is that it does not apply across the organisation, so UN agencies, including the multi-institute UN University that aims to achieve gender parity at the director level by end 2019, still have to identify their organisation-specific mechanisms.

Clearly, we need further research before we can arrive at a judgment: perhaps a follow-up to the UN's sexual harassment survey

that looks at complaints received and action taken. In India, going by past figures – since the current government has not released data for the last two years – the impact of the 2013 Act, one of the most comprehensive in the world, has been poor. Despite a large jump in complaints recorded, convictions have not shown a proportionate rise, largely due to poor police work. That is an obstacle which the UN, with its internal mechanisms, may not suffer from as far as first responses are concerned, but will certainly face as and when cases come to law.

Both the UN's early successes and the Indian experience offer lessons to UN member-states, few of which have gender parity or serious action against sexual harassment in the workplace. In the U.S., companies such as General Electric, Accenture, Pinterest, Twitter, General Mills and Unilever are setting and achieving targets to increase female representation at all levels of their workforce. This March 8, let us hope that companies worldwide pledge to follow the examples in the U.S. And that other institutions, whether universities or political parties, follow the UN example. Gender reforms begin at home, not only in the family but also in the workplace.

Radha Kumar is Chair of the Council of the UN University, Tokyo

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.

'Secret papers'

I am flabbergasted by the Attorney General's statement in the Supreme Court that the "secret documents" published by *The Hindu* on the purchase of 36 Rafale fighter aircraft for the Indian Air Force were "stolen" from the Ministry of Defence and that the government was thinking of initiating "criminal action" against the daily as persons publishing them were guilty under the Official Secrets Act ("Secret papers on Rafale deal stolen: govt.", March 7). The government has now proved right those who have voiced their concerns about governmental actions undermining constitutional norms. As a corollary, the government has also proved the veracity of the documents published by

The Hindu. The government has only portrayed its weakness by attacking the messenger and ignoring the message. The government must now stop hiding behind a wall of obfuscation.

MANKIRAN N.,
Ludhiana, Punjab

■ With the AG's admission, the issue gets murkier. It is simply incomprehensible how such important documents are unsecured in the Defence Ministry. The daily's revelations and the AG's stance have given many the ammunition to question the government. Rather than contemplating criminal action, the government must clear the air and the issues.

G.B. SIVANANDAM,
Coimbatore

■ It was the BJP that made merry over leaks about the

AgustaWestland deal to pin down the Congress. But now desperate to dodge the missiles from the Rafale deal, it declares the coin itself to be stolen. Little does it realise that masterpieces of art acquire unprecedented value when stolen. The Supreme Court, as the curator, would be interested more in the safety of the piece of art than any other aspect. So would be the citizen as the insurer. After all, he is the one who pays for the loss of truth.

R. NARAYANAN,
Navi Mumbai

■ The AG's threat makes the government no different from a fascist regime. It is a fact that *The Hindu* has had a spirit of ethical journalism since time immemorial. The government's demand to reveal the whistleblower is not a threat to *The Hindu*

alone, but a threat to democracy itself.

ADRIAN DAVID,
Chennai

■ Being labelled a document thief is a small price to pay for a newspaper of *The Hindu*'s standing in the discharge of its obligations. The charge of theft must be worn as a badge of honour as it was made in response to placing information in the public domain which the government wanted to suppress in order to hide the truth about the deal. Not naming one's source is a universally accepted journalistic privilege, which is not for any government to deny. The court's observation that the 'stolen' documents are not 'untouchable' and can be looked at as supplementary to the review petitions puts the government on the

defensive.

G. DAVID MILTON,
Maruthancode, Tamil Nadu

■ It is indeed shocking and unbelievable for the government to say that these are "stolen documents". Such a statement lowers the image of the country in the eyes of the world. It also shows that there are moles in various governments willing to share such documents. How far such a practice is in terms of ethics and in the name of public interest is a debatable point.

M.S. VAIDYANATHAN,
Chennai

■ When a book, *Keralathile Africa* (*The Africa in Kerala*) was published in 1963, highlighting the plight of the dispossessed, displaced and alienated Adivasis of Kerala, the then Kerala government tried to initiate disciplinary

action against the author, K. Panoor, a government employee, by invoking the Defence of India Rules. The devastating irony was that it was an LDF government.

SUKUMARAN C.V.,
Palakkad, Kerala

Which game?

Even an ordinary cricket fan will agree that the priority of Indian cricket now is the forthcoming World Cup and not the IPL. It is of paramount importance that the BCCI make sit mandatory for players selected for the World Cup to be withdrawn from at least the second leg of the IPL to prevent them from incurring injuries ('Sport' page, "India should know which tournament is more important", March 6). R. SIVAKUMAR, Chennai

'Abhinandan's release was a saving grace for both sides'

PARLEY

In the aftermath of the air strikes by India and Pakistan, strategic experts Happymon Jacob and Dhruva Jaishankar debate the responses by both sides and the outcome, in a discussion moderated by Suhasini Haidar. Excerpts:

Have we reached a point of no return? Have the air raids into Pakistan been a successful advance in India's strategic response to cross-border terror?

Happymon: Yes and no. Yes, because unlike earlier occasions, Indian forces actually crossed the Line of Control (LoC) and struck a target in mainland Pakistan. The Indian side wanted to create a new military normal by this action and this is unprecedented. But the Pakistanis have also struck back through their own air attacks. They have told India in a way that they won't accept the new military normal. It is a psychological game, where India wants to push the envelope and Pakistan wants to ensure that India does not do that.

Dhruva: I think there are two significant departures. One is striking mainland Pakistan and indicating that India would not be constrained by only Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) as a retaliation point. After all, we have had terrorist attacks outside Jammu and Kashmir in other parts of India in the past, so why should India be limited to PoK? The second is the use of air power.

What I do not think will change is any belief that this will actually deter Pakistan. I don't think that terrorist infrastructure would be wound down tomorrow. So, in that sense, I don't think it's a departure. It's part of an evolution. The one other change has been somewhat on the diplomatic front... the reactions of the U.S., Europe, Australia and others, and to a lesser extent the Gulf countries, in terms of accepting India's strike as pre-emptive self-defence.

Happymon: I agree, except that before a strike happens, it is in Pakistan's interest to inflate the nuclear threat. But once a strike happens, it is important for the Pakistani side to say, 'no, we never said that,' to be seen as lowering the threshold. It's about the post- and pre-posturing.

It seemed as if Pakistan then used the panic over the attacks in order to bring everybody in. Do you think that's one of the frustrations for Indian strategists – that in this escalatory ladder, it's always the case that no matter what India is able to do, Pakistan will then bring in this nuclear threat or the threat of escalation between the two countries to defuse it?

Happymon: The Pakistani side has



Happymon: Absolutely, it's in Pakistan's interest to play to the international community and tell them that it is something really bad happening here, so you come in and resolve it. This time, the international community waited for a little while, giving some time to the Indian side, saying 'you want to do a few things you go ahead and do it, because we're going to give you leeway'.

Given that we have had many crises, the international community understood how this game gets played in South Asia and that these are not really irrational actors who would nuke each other. There is some steam venting that will happen, and if that steam venting doesn't happen, it's going to be more difficult for domestic audiences. So, they understand the nuance of a two-level game that both the sides are playing: one at the domestic level and another at the international bilateral level.

Dhruva: Do you think international mediation is more pronounced than before? Did it actually work?

Happymon: It's hard to know what exactly led to the release of Wing Commander Abhinandan Varthaman. There were back-channel talks, and this is a double-edged sword as far as India is concerned. India does not mind mediation as long as it puts more pressure on the Pakistanis. But this idea that they would be a neutral party would actually diminish the power disparity between India and Pakistan, which is why India has been resistant to such talks.

Happymon: You were prescient a

week before the Balakot strikes. You said, god forbid an Indian pilot should find himself in Pakistani territory. Just as international mediation played a part, do you think that was the turning point... it was not possible for India to escalate once Pakistan had decided to release Wg Cdr Abhinandan?

Happymon: There have been so many times that the Indians and Pakistanis have played this game at the retired military level, at the retired foreign service level... we have gamed this to such an extent that we can expect what the other side is likely to do. The fact that the Pakistanis returned the pilot became the moment of de-escalation. But the Indians probably did not expect such a reaction from the Pakistani side, that you strike a terrorist training camp in Pakistan and they would come at us with such force.

We had a pilot down, a MiG down and then we did not know the next logical step to follow. Because there was no desire on the Indian side to escalate this any further, they probably took the release as a gracious gesture from the Pakistani side. The Pakistanis wanted to send a clear message that they would not take their attack lying down. In the end it suited both sides to look at the release as a saving grace.

Dhruva: It is still significant that there was not a single Indian air-

craft that went down in the Balakot operation. The possibility of at least one plane going down in that operation would have been contemplated by the Indian Air Force. They would have thought through to some degree except not exactly how it ended up playing out. The release was in some ways a turning point as it allowed de-escalation on both sides, but I would not over-read this, as a certain amount of pressure was put on Pakistan to try and find a face-saving device.

How important is it for the government to actually put out evidence on the number of casualties in the strike?

Dhruva: I don't think it's that important. I think the most significant aspect was that India could show that a strike could be done in the future on a terrorist campaign. One of the reasons why that is so important is we've seen after every crisis a pull-back away from the PoK. After 2008, after the 26/11 attacks, we saw Lashkar-e-Taiba move a lot of its assets out of PoK into Pakistan proper, because they were worried about Indian reprisal.

We will find out more information in the coming days and weeks on what exactly happened in Balakot. But I will say there are a few more significant things. One, Pakistan had to effectively admit that it was in touch with Jaish-e-Mohammad, which Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi has done twice. The images of a signpost that clearly mentioned Masood Azhar and others have now made the rounds. They had to use F-16s in retaliation, which will have raised red flags in the U.S. because F-16s were provided to Pakistan under conditions that they would not be used for offensive operations. So, I think these things have been somewhat embarrassing to Pakistan.

Happymon: I agree that the objective was to show that India has a resolve to do something vis-a-vis terror wherever it is in Pakistan. But when Pakistan struck back at India, saying that they will not let a new military normal [settle], what we are looking at is the fact that we are back to square one now. Will India strike again? If it strikes, Pakistan will strike back. So, to that extent, the fact that we are back to the status quo, it is important for the go-

vernment to show evidence of the destruction of the terrorist camp.

Dhruva: If evidence is released, it could add pressure on Pakistan to retaliate. So that is probably why the evidence has not been released.

Pakistan has admitted that Azhar is there. But I do want to ask whether this kind of a strike does have the potential of making Pakistan change its mind, and if not, what will?

Happymon: Absolutely not. This kind of a strike will not and is unlikely to make Pakistan change its mind. We knew that Azhar was in Pakistan for a long time. We know that there are terrorist havens in Pakistan. But the fact is, this sort of a dogfight and the Pakistani messaging was very good for them. Prime Minister Imran Khan came out on top in the battle of perceptions.

While Prime Minister Narendra Modi was busy electioneering and campaigning, here was a man who was messaging the international community, addressing Indians and Pakistanis at the same time. His messaging was pretty good and the entire attention has now shifted away from terrorism to escalation and the dogfight and the attack using aircraft against Pakistan. For some reason, I think the messaging has not been all that accurate on our side as far as that particular issue was concerned. There was an additional question about what will

make Pakistan crack down on terror. Now, this may be a very unpopular opinion, but I don't agree with the argument that 'terror and talks' don't go together. I think we should engage in various kinds of talks even when you have a situation of terror being given safe haven in Pakistan. Pakistan is a complicated country. If it is the Army that's in power there, let's reach out to the Army.

In the event of another strike of the kind we saw in Pulwama. Do you think India's response will be targeted strikes on some kind of terror facility or will there be something else?

Dhruva: I think it will have to be something else because I think that card has been played at least this time around. I think there are other options on the table.



HAPPYMON JACOB
teaches Disarmament and National Security at the School of International Studies, JNU, New Delhi



DHRUVA JAISHANKAR
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Scan the QR code to watch the full interview online

SINGLE FILE

Being global

The World Bank's board will have a huge responsibility if Trump's nominee becomes its President

VINOD THOMAS

The World Bank is in the news because of the imminent change at its helm. That is an opportunity for the Bank to help countries confront the dangers of climate change, widening income gaps and hindrances to trade. But this chance might be squandered if U.S. President Donald Trump's nominee for the presidency, David Malpass, an Under Secretary of the U.S. Treasury, is put there mainly to reverse climate action and limit the Bank's developmental role.

The arrangement whereby an American always heads the World Bank, and a European leads the International Monetary Fund, is deeply flawed, not least because these institutions advise countries to follow merit-based governance. Be that as it may, the crucial question going forward is whether the Bank can help the world confront daunting challenges. The potential is huge given the size of its lending: \$64 billion in 2018. Over the past 70 years, India is the largest recipient of lending from roads and energy to health and education.

The World Bank's support for open markets and trade can be partly credited for parts of the developing world delivering high growth and poverty reduction. Estimated declines in extreme poverty have been striking over the past quarter of a century in China and India. But the Bank should also share the blame for the costly and often irreversible damage to the environment that accompanied the charge for growth. In addition, India's daunting agenda also includes reducing huge inequalities, especially in access to education, health, water and sanitation.

A specific concern about Mr. Malpass is that he might not pursue the Bank's plan to lend \$200 billion over the next five years to fight climate change. This is an area where the private sector is doing too little and even governments are falling short of the modest goals they set at the Paris climate summit in 2015.

The World Bank also needs to couple financing with expertise in tackling problems of rapid urbanisation and gaps in service provision. Improving governance and tackling corruption are guaranteed silver bullets for progress in these areas.

One way to enable the World Bank to tackle the new development challenges, irrespective of who is at the helm, is to fortify its board of directors with strong development leaders. If there is a desire to avoid a situation where the Bank primarily serves U.S. interests, notwithstanding Mr. Malpass's nomination, the board, comprising 25 directors, must be vastly strengthened. The Bank is a highly capable organisation. But to deliver on its potential, it must focus on the new challenges, blend financing with knowledge, and reform its governance.

The writer is a former Senior Vice-President for Independent Evaluation at the World Bank, and co-author of 'Multilateral Bank and the Development Process'.



DATA POINT

Ageing like fine wine

Roger Federer won his 100th career title at the Dubai Tennis Championships on Saturday. Analysis of the Swiss great's career shows that he has won more titles compared with other prolific winners as the years progressed. By Vignesh Radhakrishnan & Varun B. Krishnan

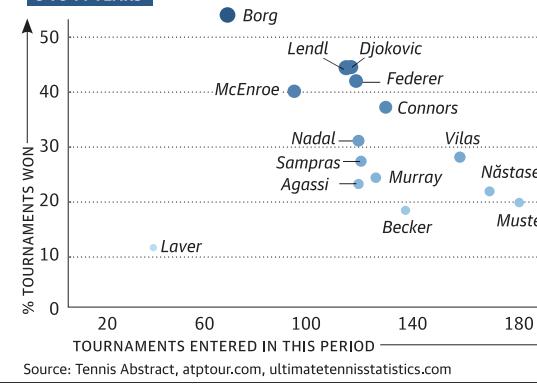
Graphs depict Open Era tournaments entered and won by players in three intervals of their careers – 1 to 7 active years* after they became pro; 8 to 14 active years; and 14 plus active years (* Year in which a player entered at least one tournament is considered active)

Each graph has 15 circles, one each for the 15 players with the most number of titles

...to champion...

Federer won more tournaments in the next 7 years, winning 41% of the titles for which he played. Novak Djokovic and Ivan Lendl had a similar career trajectory. Bjorn Borg was the outlier winning 53% of tournaments he played

8 TO 14 YEARS



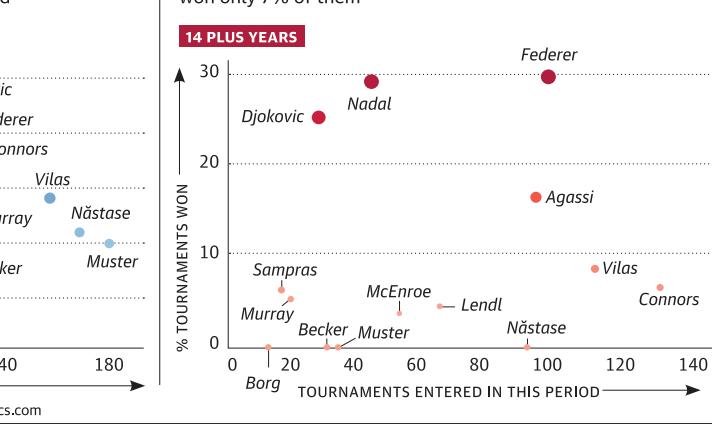
Source: Tennis Abstract, atptour.com, ultimatetennisstatistics.com

From beginner...
In the first seven years, Federer won close to 17% of tournaments, significantly lower than the success rate of Jimmy Connors (45%) and Rod Laver (35%)

...to legend

In the final phase, Federer outclassed others winning 29% of the titles for which he played. Rafael Nadal and Djokovic are close on his heels. Connors, despite playing for 138 titles, won only 7% of them

14 PLUS YEARS



FROM The Hindu ARCHIVES

FIFTY YEARS AGO MARCH 8, 1969

Astronauts' hazardous day

Apollo-9 astronauts James McDivitt and Russell Schweickart today [March 7] launched their flimsy moonship on a critical manoeuvre which will decide if a man can step on the moon this year. After just over four hours flying separated from the command module, the fragile lunar module headed back towards rendezvous with its mother ship and the relative safety of its control capsule – the only vehicle which can bring the two astronauts back to earth. Mission control at the Manned Space Centre here [Houston (Texas)] reported the first firing of the spider-like lunar module's ascent engine was "good and on time" at 16:58 G.M.T. (22:28 I.S.T.). Confirmation of the firing was slightly delayed as the spacecraft was out of radio range of ground stations at the time.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO MARCH 8, 1919

The Indian Press Act.

(From an Editorial)

The latest attack of the Madras Government upon the liberty of the Press is in declaring the forfeiture of the security deposited by the Tamil Daily, the Desabhartan, in Madras. The order has been made under section 4 (I) of the Indian Press Act, and the articles upon which action has been taken were published in the paper on the 24th June 1918, 28th June 1918, 4th July 1918 and 20th November 1918. That articles which appeared seven months before now should have been availed of to put into operation the drastic provisions of the Press Act is a very significant circumstance. If they were of such an inflammatory nature as the present action of the Government implies, the officials of the Government must have been sleeping at their post of duty. We have perused those three articles as well as the one published on the 20th November 1918, and they are such as a journalist imbued with a proper sense of duty would feel justified in writing.

CONCEPTUAL

Diseases of affluence

MEDICINE

This refers to diseases that are increasingly common among the populations of the various developed countries of the world. Obesity, cancer, diabetes, hypertension, stroke, and coronary heart disease are considered to be the most common examples of such diseases. They are seen as the outcome of improving living standards in the Western world that have led to a significant increase in the lifespan of people but also led to drastic changes in their daily lifestyle. Diseases of affluence are in contrast to diseases of poverty that are the result of low living standards that prevent people from having sufficient access to quality healthcare.

MORE ON THE WEB

The Hindu Lit for Life 2019 | Venki Ramakrishnan on problems faced by science in India

<http://bit.ly/VenkiRamakrishnanLecture>

A N D E

FROM PAGE ONE

Rahul leads Opposition in backing expose

"Very strange & irresponsible chowkidari. Is national security & interest in safe hands? Think long & loud," Ms. Mayawati tweeted.

Addressing a press conference at the Congress headquarters, Mr. Gandhi said parallel negotiations by the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) had not only delayed the delivery of the combat jets but also inflated the price.

The Prime Minister had recently claimed that the results of the Balakot air strikes would have been different if the Rafale jets had been a part of the Indian Air Force (IAF) fleet.

"If the documents are missing, that means they are authentic and they clearly state that parallel negotia-

tions were carried out by the Prime Minister, the price of the jets was inflated and the delivery was delayed," the Congress chief said. "Let there be investigation about the documents but at the same time also investigate the Prime Minister's role."

"Why can't the Prime Minister himself order an investigation if he is not guilty," he asked.

"But I would like to comment that you (*The Hindu*) are being punished because you are brave. And I am very proud that you have the guts to stand against Narendra Modi," he said.

Former Finance Minister P. Chidambaram too backed the publication of reports based on the file notings.

An effort to intimidate the media: Editors Guild

"The Guild denounces these threats and urges the government to refrain from initiating any action that might undermine the media's freedom and independence," the statement added.

On Wednesday, Attorney General K.K. Venugopal told the Supreme court that the documents had been "stolen" from the Defence Ministry and that investigations were on to find out if their publication should be deemed a crime, and a violation of the Official Secrets Act.

'Review Secrets Act'
In a joint statement, the Press Club of India, Indian Women's Press Corps and Press Association said the AG's statements had "the

potential of sending out a chilling effect to one and all in the media" and had ramifications for the sources of information that journalists rely on.

The journalist bodies called for a re-examination of the Official Secrets Act and the law on defamation, given the potential for their misuse against the news media. "The Fourth Estate is bound by its dual responsibility of reporting what is in public interest as well as raising questions, irrespective of the government in power, which is part of its moral responsibility," said the statement. "It is deeply unfortunate that it is the discharge of this responsibility that is being sought to be stymied by top ranking officials of the government."

+ 1 killed, 32 injured in Jammu grenade blast

The police said Bhat had left the Valley on Wednesday and arrived in Jammu on Thursday morning. "He was on the way back to Kashmir Valley when he was arrested. Preliminary investigation suggests that Hizbul Mujahideen's commander Farooq Ahmad Bhat alias Gulab had tasked him to carry out the attack. Further investigation is going on," said Mr. Sinha.

Thursday's attack was the third such blast in Jammu since May last year. It comes weeks after two communities clashed in Jammu city in the wake of the Pulwama attack on February 14.

"It's a cowardly act of the miscreants. People of Jammu division need to rise above party and work together in fighting the mischievous elements," said the Jammu Muslim Front (JMF) in a statement.

Governor Satya Pal Malik announced an ex gratia of ₹5 lakh for the family of the

deceased and ₹20,000 for the injured people.

Mr. Malik convened a high-level meeting at the Raj Bhavan and reviewed the situation.

"It's a dastardly attack on innocent civilians. This is an act of terrorism, which is a reaction of anti-national and terrorist elements in the State who are losing their grip fast," said Mr. Malik.

Militant killed

In a separate incident, the police on Thursday said the security forces spotted the body of a militant, hours after a brief shoot-out was reported on Wednesday night.

The militant was killed at Badra Payeen, Kralgund, in north Kashmir's Handwara town. He was affiliated to the Jaish-e-Mohammed, said the police. From the "incriminating materials recovered", the slain militant was identified as a Pakistani national with code name Anwar, the police added.

Two Kashmiris assaulted by right-wing activists

Local onlookers and motorists soon came to the rescue of the Kashmiri residents and confronted the saffron-clad men.

In the video, when a local intervenes and asks why they are beating them, one of the assaulters replies: "They are Kashmiris. They are pelting stones there."

In response, the onlooker asks them to not take the law into their hands. One Kashmiri man is then handed over to the police, while the other is seen running away crying, leaving his stock behind. "They called us terrorists and said we pelt stones, and started hitting us," said a victim.

After widespread outrage, the Lucknow police late on Wednesday evening

filed an FIR at Hassanganj police station, under Sections 147, 323 and 504 of the Indian Penal Code, but added sections 153A, 307 (attempt to murder) and 7CLA Act in the case on Thursday.

While the main accused Bajrang Sonkar was arrested late on Wednesday night, Himanshu Garg, Anirudh Kumar and Amar Mishra were nabbed on Thursday, police said.

The victims belong to Kulgam.

SSP Kalanidhi Naithani said the accused belong to the Vishwa Hindu Dal Trust run by one Ambuj Nigam. Sonkar has around a dozen criminal cases against him till 2011, including murder, loot and Arms Act violations, said the officer.

The exchange happened towards the end of a rather volatile hearing in the contempt petitions filed against Prashant Bhushan by Mr. Ve-

'Rahul trying to shift attention'

Cong. chief doesn't believe the Air Force, Supreme Court or CAG, says Prasad

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI



Hitting out: Arun Jaitley and Ravi Shankar Prasad at a media briefing in New Delhi on Wednesday. ■ SANDEEP SAXENA

tion said national security is an exception and that has never been challenged in the last 72 years."

The senior Minister and BJP leader was more scathing on the Congress and its chief. "The Congress has, in the last few days, through statements of its senior leaders, boxed itself into a corner. They are getting high TRPs [target rating points] on Pakistani television, but there is revulsion towards them as far as domestic opinion is concerned," Mr. Jaitley said at a press briefing to announce Cabinet decisions.

He said the motivation for Mr. Gandhi's early morning press conference on Rafale,

therefore, was collateral, to shift focus from all this to an issue that was "false" and whose every "falsehood" had been exposed.

Earlier in the day, Union Law Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad accused Mr. Gandhi of "neither believing the Indian Air Force nor the Supreme Court" and that he needed a "certificate" from Pakistan about the fighter aircraft.

"I totally condemn the blatant lies of Rahul Gandhi. He does not believe the Indian Air Force, does not trust the Supreme Court verdict that clearly said there is no commercial impropriety in the [Rafale] procurement process. He does not believe the CAG," Mr. Prasad said.

"Will Rahul Gandhi need a certificate about Rafale from Pakistan. In that we cannot help. Of late, he believes Pakistan more than Indian forces and leaders," he said.

'Images confirm targets were hit'

Total destruction wasn't the aim: official

DINAKAR PERI
NEW DELHI

images show "we have hit the targets." The buildings were not reinforced structures but conventional structures with metal or cement roofs, and the bomb would have just sliced through inside and only exploded after hitting a hard surface.

The IAF had said a PAF F-16 was shot down by a MiG-21 piloted by Wing Commander Abhinandan Varthaman in a dogfight as Pakistani jets tried to bomb Indian Army installations on February 27. PAF jets used H4 standoff munitions to target Army positions but they were intercepted and the bombs fell in the open, the official said. "Tail units of the H4 bombs and pieces of AMRAAM (Advanced Medium Range Air to Air Missile) fired by the F-16s were recovered," he added.

6 on ED radar for buying J&K properties

DEVESHE K. PANDEY
NEW DELHI

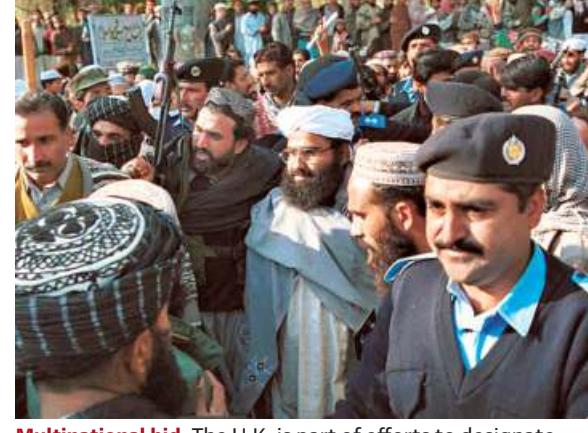
The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has identified six persons who allegedly bought several properties in Jammu and Kashmir using funds linked to Hafiz Saeed, the Pakistan-based UN-designated terrorist and founder of the Lashkar-e-Taiba and its front outfit Jamaat-ud-Dawah.

"Investigations into the terror funding network led us to the suspects, whose financial dealings are being scrutinised. The properties found to have been acquired using the proceeds of the alleged offence will be attached. We have registered two cases involving Hafiz Saeed and others. Kashmiri businessman Zahoor Watali, who is also being probed by the National Investigation Agency, operated as a fund manager for him," said an ED official.

U.K. offers all assistance to fight terror

British National Security Adviser Mark Sedwill speaks to Ajit Doval for the second time in one week

SUHASINI HAIDAR
NEW DELHI



Multinational bid: The U.K. is part of efforts to designate Masood Azhar, seen in Pakistan in the file photo, a terrorist. ■ AP

follows a series of outreach by Theresa May government over the tensions between India and Pakistan after the Pulwama attack. A day before the Balakot strike, British Foreign Secretary Jeremy Hunt had spoken to External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj and Pakistan's Foreign Affairs Mi-

nister Shah Mehmood Qureshi advising "restraint".

After the strikes, which led to an aerial attack by Pakistan in which both sides shot each other's planes and an Indian pilot was captured (and released), British diplomats have been working "behind the scenes", sources said, to ease the situation

and focus on action against terror groups in Pakistan.

On March 3, Ms. May spoke to Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan, commanding him for releasing Wing Commander Abhinandan, and stressing the need for Pakistan to act against terror groups. The U.K. has joined France and the U.S. in proposing the listing request at the UN Security Council to designate JeM chief Masood Azhar as a terrorist. During a visit to Delhi and Mumbai on March 4, Mark Field, British Minister of State for Asia and the Pacific, said he was optimistic that the listing would go through despite being vetoed by China on the previous three occasions.

There has been solid support for India, there has been solid understanding with India and there has been no talk of mediation ... This is not an issue of India-Pakistan, this is an issue of terrorism. We have encouraged using the proceeds of the alleged offence will be attached. We have registered two cases involving Hafiz Saeed and others. Kashmiri businessman Zahoor Watali, who is also being probed by the National Investigation Agency, operated as a fund manager for him," said an ED official.

Army to undergo major reforms

New wings for vigilance, rights issues

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI



Over 200 officers will be moved out of the Army headquarters and deployed on border locations.

In a major move, Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has approved the first batch of reforms in the Army which include relocation of 229 officers from the Army headquarters, creation of a new post of Deputy Chief for Military Operations and Strategic Planning, and setting up new wings for vigilance and human rights issues, official sources said Thursday.

However, as the hearing progressed, Mr. Venugopal sought permission to withdraw his contempt petition in the light of Mr. Bhushan acknowledging his mistake. The AG said he did not want Mr. Bhushan 'punished'. But Justice Mishra said it was up to the court, once it has taken cognisance, to decide the future course.

The sources said the number of officers being moved out was 20% of the number of officers in the Army headquarters in the national capital, and they would be deployed in forward locations along the borders with China and Pakistan.

The reforms will also include restructuring the Army's officer cadre, bringing down age of key commands, arresting rising revenue expenditure and "rightsizing" the force.

India, Russia sign deal on nuclear submarine

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

have to deliver the Akula class submarine, to be known as Chakra III, to the Indian Navy by 2025. It will be the third Russian submarine to be leased to the Navy.

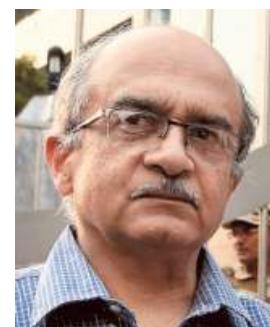
A spokesperson in the Defence Ministry refused to comment on the deal.

India has been significantly bolstering its naval prowess in the backdrop of China's attempts to expand its influence in the Indian Ocean region.

I am a person in my own right'

February 6 order had agreed to consider media restraint on lawyers

KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL
NEW DELHI



Prashant Bhushan

Solicitor-General Tushar Mehta said the recusal application was part of a "pattern." He recalled how the Supreme Court had severely criticised Mr. Bhushan for asking Justices D.Y. Chandrachud and A.M. Khanwilkar to recuse from the Loya death case because they hailed from the Bombay High Court.

During Thursday's hearing on the contempt pleas against Mr. Bhushan, Attorney-General K.K. Venugopal submitted that the tweets were an attempt to "poison the minds of the public." He said another contempt petition was already pending against Mr. Bhushan for his alleged comments that several Supreme Court judges were corrupt.

Justice Mishra said that if a lawyer had grievances with the administration of justice, he should return to the court with his queries rather than

voice them in the media.

"This is troubling all of us as an institution. This is happening in all cases of importance. Motives are attributed to judges," he observed.

Senior journalists like N.

Ram, Arun Shourie, author

Arundhati Roy, activist Aru-

nanda Roy and former chief information commissioner Wajahat Habibullah have filed intervention applications against gagging lawyers and litigants from commenting on sub judice cases. They said it would amount to shackling the media. The hearing would start after the Holik break.

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on the contempt pleas ag-

ainst Mr. Bhushan, Atto-

ney-General K.K. Venugopal

submitted that the tweets

were an attempt to "poison

the minds of the public."

He said another contempt

petition was already pend-

ing against Mr. Bhushan

for his alleged comments

IN BRIEF



NCP urges Congress to ally with AAP in Delhi

NEW DELHI
The NCP has asked the Congress to forge an alliance with the AAP in Delhi. Party spokesperson D.P. Tripathi (in photo) said on Thursday, "I appeal to the Congress to ally with the Aam Aadmi Party in Delhi" to avoid a division of votes that could help the BJP. The appeal came hours after Congress president Rahul Gandhi said the party's Delhi unit was against a tie-up. PTI

BJP parliamentary board meeting today

NEW DELHI
The BJP parliamentary body, the party's top decision-making body, is expected to meet on Friday to take stock of its Lok Sabha election preparedness and campaign, a party leader said. The meeting comes at a time when the BJP and opposition parties have been engaged in a heated debate over the Balakot air strikes. PTI

15 Rajasthan schools renamed after soldiers

JAIPUR
Rajasthan Education Minister Govind Singh Datasara on Thursday announced renaming 15 government schools after slain security forces personnel to pay tribute to the "real life heroes" and promote nationalism among students. "We salute the sacrifice of the soldiers protecting the country's borders," the Minister said. PTI

PM releases coins for the visually challenged

NEW DELHI
Prime Minister Narendra Modi released a new series of coins meant for the visually challenged at his official residence here on Thursday. The ₹1, ₹2, ₹5, ₹10 and ₹20 coins increase in size and weight from lower to higher denominations. The ₹20 coin will be 12-sided with no serrations. The rest of the denominations are round in shape. ANI

Congress first list for U.P., Gujarat out

Rahul gets Amethi while Sonia will contest Rae Bareli

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI
The Congress on Thursday announced party president Rahul Gandhi as its candidate from Amethi and Sonia Gandhi from Rae Bareli.

The party released its first list of 15 Lok Sabha candidates for Uttar Pradesh and Gujarat after a meeting of its Central Election Committee.

The announcement, ahead of the notification of the election, brings an end to speculation about Ms. Gandhi's political role after stepping down as party chief in December 2017. For some time, Ms. Gandhi's health has been a matter of speculation, with questions being asked if she would continue as an MP. It was even being said that Priyanka Gandhi Vadra would replace her mother in Rae Bareli.

Among the 15 candidates announced, four are for Gu-



Congress chief Rahul Gandhi being presented with a portrait of his grandmother and former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, at a public meeting in Dharamshala on Thursday. PTI

arat and 11 for Uttar Pradesh. The Congress is the first off the block with the candidate list.

In Uttar Pradesh, former Union Ministers and MPs have been named. Salman Khurshid will contest the Far-

rukhabad seat and R.P.N. Singh Kushinagar. Jitin Prasada is the candidate for Dhaurahra and Anu Tandon for Unnao. Former U.P. Congress chief Nirmal Khatri will contest from Faizabad and Salim Sherwani from Ba-

daun. Imran Masood is the Saharanpur candidate.

In Gujarat, former Congress chief Bharatsinh Solanki has been fielded from Anand, Raju Parmar from Ahmedabad West and Prashant Patel from Vadodara.

Modi, BJP are spreading hatred: Rahul

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

CHANDIGARH
The Congress on Thursday sounded the bugle for the Lok Sabha election in Punjab and Himachal Pradesh, with party president Rahul Gandhi hitting out at the BJP and Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

At a meeting at Killi Chahlan in Moga of Punjab, Mr. Gandhi accused them of spreading hatred.

He alleged that in the past five years, the BJP had written off ₹3.5 lakh crore in loans of 15 industrialists. But for the farmers of the country, not a single penny was waived.

At a meeting at Chambi in Kangra district of Himachal Pradesh, the Congress chief accused Mr. Modi of politicising the Pulwama attack.

Hardik Patel to join Congress, says PAAS

He may make the entry on March 12

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

AHMEDABAD
Hardik Patel, the face of the Patidar quota agitation in Gujarat, is set to take the plunge into electoral politics by joining the Congress ahead of the Lok Sabha election. Mr. Patel on Thursday was given the green signal at a Patidar Anamat Andolan Samiti (PAAS) meeting in Rakti district.



ka Gandhi and others will address a public meeting at Adalaj, where the 25-year-old Mr. Patel is likely to be inducted into the party.

Amid the political buzz over his contesting the election, PAAS members said Mr. Patel will take a call on the constituency after joining the party.

"He is likely to contest the Lok Sabha polls, but from where is yet to be decided," a person close to Mr. Patel said.

CPI(M) allies against any understanding with Cong.

Forward Bloc, RSP and CPI to register their protest

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

KOLKATA
The Left Front allies of the CPI(M) are going to turn up the heat on the party at a meeting on Friday to decide on its alliance with the Congress.

Senior leaders of the All India Forward Bloc (AIFB), the Revolutionary Socialist Party (RSP) and the CPI told *The Hindu* that they were going to raise strong objections to an electoral understanding with the Congress.

"We will not have any alliance with the Congress. The AIFB will contest three Lok Sabha seats and on the remaining seats, will support the CPI(M) and other allies," Naren Chatterjee, State



secretary of the party, said.

RSP general secretary Kshiti Goswami said: "The CPI(M) has no right to force an alliance with the Congress on the Left Front. We have all seen the result when the Left and the Congress came together in the 2016 Assembly polls."

Mr. Goswami, a former Minister, said the Congress had turned down a proposal of the CPI(M) for "no mutual contest in six seats", causing embarrassment not only for one party but for the entire Left Front. CPI State secretary Samar Chakraborty said that if the Congress did not vacate the Lok Sabha seats won by the Left parties in 2014, then there was hardly any scope of an alliance.

In 2016, a similar situation surfaced when Left Front allies raised the red flag over the "electoral understanding" with the Congress. Even after an understanding was reached on certain seats, the allies fielded candidates against the Congress.

Congress wants 14 seats and ticket for BJP rebels

SOHANA K. NAIR

NEW DELHI
Though only a few days are left for the notification of the Lok Sabha election, the Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD), the Congress and their allies have not been able to finalise the sharing of seats in Bihar.

According to sources, the RJD has made a final offer of 11 Lok Sabha seats to the Congress, which, in turn, has been demanding 14. The Congress contested 12 seats during the 2014 election, but managed to win only two. Of the 40 seats in Bihar, four are with the RJD.

The RJD is driving a hard bargain, with senior RJD leaders saying they would want to be consulted on the candidates the Congress de-



BJP MP Shatrughan Sinha with RJD leader Rabri Devi, Tejashwi Yadav and MP Misa Bharti in Patna on Thursday. PTI

cided to field. More than the number of seats, the choice of seats offered to the Congress is creating a problem, a senior Congress leader said.

'Cordial ties'

The RJD says the seat distribution is in the final stages and will be finalised in 48 hours. But the Congress is not so optimistic. Congress

ment," Mr. Gohil said. The Congress is keen on giving ticket to outsiders, including BJP rebels Kirti Azad and Shatrughan Sinha. The party is equally eager to take leaders such as Pappu Yadav and Anant Singh on board, who have been at odds with the RJD for a long time.

The RJD is not keen on conceding seats to the CPI (M) or the CPI, saying that in Bihar, the CPI(M) is the only Left party worth giving space to.

Equally, there is the problem of accommodating other allies such as the Hindustan Awam Morcha, led by Jitan Ram Manjhi, the Rashtriya Lok Samata Party of Upendra Kushwaha and the Jan Loktantrik Party of Sharad Yadav. Sources said Mr. Kushwaha may get three seats, but Mr. Manjhi may get only one.

Names for Lok Pal shortlisted, SC told

3 panels sent to Selection Committee

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI
Attorney-General K.K. Venugopal informed the Supreme Court on Thursday that names for Lokpal, the anti-corruption ombudsman, have been shortlisted and forwarded to the Selection Committee chaired by the Prime Minister.

A Bench led by Chief Justice of India Ranjan Gogoi asked Mr. Venugopal to enquire within 10 days about the probable date by which the Selection Committee would meet to finalise the appointment of the first Lokpal Chairperson and members.

Mr. Venugopal, appearing for the government, said he received a letter from the Search Committee chairperson and former Supreme Court judge, Justice Ranjana Prakash Desai, on September 28 informing him that three panels of shortlisted names, for the Lokpal Chairperson and judicial and non-judicial members, had been handed over to the high-power Selection Committee.

On January 17, the apex court had put the Search Committee on a clock, giving it time till February-end to shortlist a panel of suitable names and pass it on to the Selection Committee.

Mr. Venugopal said there were 10 names shortlisted for Lokpal Chairperson and five names each for judicial and non-judicial members.

The court refused a plea by petitioner NGO Common Cause, represented by advocate Prashant Bhushan, to put the shortlisted names in the public domain for the sake of transparency. Chief Justice Gogoi observed that

Parties supporting banned outfits in J&K are anti-national'

Governor Satya Pal Malik says they help militancy grow

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

SRINAGAR
Governor Satya Pal Malik on Thursday termed mainstream political parties that support banned organisations in Jammu & Kashmir "anti-nationals" who "were playing into the hands of Pakistan and terrorists".

The political parties coming out in support of banned organisations are making their position clear and are siding with separatists. This only helps militancy



to become stronger. Any party or person supporting separatists is anti-national and is playing into the hands

of terrorists and Pakistan," Mr. Malik said in Jammu.

The National Conference, led by Farooq Abdullah, and the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP), led by Mehbooba Mufti, have demanded revocation of the ban on the Jamaat-e-Islami, imposed by the Union Home Ministry on February 28.

Ms. Mufti on Wednesday took to the streets against the ban, terming it "autocratic" and a "direct interference into religious rights."

MANGALURU SMART CITY LIMITED						
Address: M.G. ROAD, LABAGH, MANGALURU-575003, DAKSHINA KANNADA, KARNATAKA.						
CIN: U74999KA2017PLC102010 Email id: smartcitymangaluru@gmail.com Website: www.mangalurusmarcity.net						
E-tender notification on Mangaluru Smart City Limited, Project. Advt No.40/2018-19 Date: 07/03/2019						
Sl. No.	Indent No.	Name of Work	Appro. Tender amount (Rs. in lakhs)	EMD amount (Rs.in lakhs)	Construction Period	Last date for Submission of tender
1	UDD/2018-19/ RD/WORK_ INDENT 715/ CALL2	Smart Road Package-3 "Retrofitting providing rigid pavement, utility ducts, improvements to footpath, illumination, soft and hard scape works on existing roads of ABD area" in Mangaluru City.	3767.00	Rs. 1,00,000 E-cash and balance Rs. 36.67 lakh BG/DD in favor of Managing Director Mangaluru smart city limited, should be obtained from nationalized bank only	12 Months (Excluding Monsoon) + 4 Years of Maintenance	16.04.2019
2	UDD/2018-19/ RD/WORK_ INDENT 716/ CALL2	Smart Road Package-4 "Retrofitting providing rigid pavement, utility ducts, improvements to footpath, illumination, soft and hard scape works on existing roads of ABD area" in Mangaluru City.	3947.00	Rs. 1,00,000 E-cash and balance Rs. 38.47 lakh BG/DD in favor of Managing Director Mangaluru smart city limited, should be obtained from nationalized bank only	12 Months (Excluding Monsoon) + 4 Years of Maintenance	16.04.2019

The bidders have to participate through online procurement only. The website for "online bidding" is <http://www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in>. Bid documents will be available for bidding on above website. Technical bid will be opened on 18.04.2019. Pre bid meeting is scheduled on 25.03.2019. For further details regarding the tender please contact Executive Engineer, MSCL, Mangaluru during office hours or over phone 0824-2986321 and also from website www.mangalurusmarcity.net or <https://smartnet.niua.org>.

Sd/- Managing Director, Mangaluru Smart City Limited

JKLF's Yasin Malik booked under PSA

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

SRINAGAR
JKLF chief Yasin Malik and banned Jamaat-e-Islami (Jei) spokesman Zahid Ali were slapped with the Public Safety Act (PSA) on Thursday, in a bid to prolong their detention in view of the upcoming Assembly and Lok Sabha elections in J&K.

The authorities also sealed the headquarters of

Jel in Srinagar. Mr. Malik, who was arrested on February 22 in Srinagar, was shifted to Jammu's Kot Balwal jail on Thursday, said a JKLF spokesman. Under the PSA, the authorities can detain a person without trial for six months.

Mr. Malik's native place Maisuma observed a spontaneous shutdown against the government move.

TIRUMALA TIRUPATI DEVASTHANAMS,TIRUPATI,Chittoor Dist, A.P. SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER-II e-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE						
Adv. No. 54/TA/SE-II/TTD/TPT/2018-2019	Estimate Amount Rs. in Lakhs & Time for Completion			Schedule Download Start Date	Download end & Last Date for bid Submission	
SI No	NIT No.					

ELSEWHERE



Trudeau denies 'partisan meddling' accusations
OTTAWA
Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau on Thursday denied accusations of "partisan" political meddling in the criminal prosecution of a corporate giant that plunged his Liberal government into its worst crisis yet. "I have never raised partisan considerations" with former Attorney-General Jody Wilson-Raybould, Mr. Trudeau said. AFP

French cleric convicted of covering up sex abuse

PARIS
A high-ranking French Catholic cleric, Cardinal Philippe Barbarin, was convicted on Thursday of failing to report allegations of sexual abuse in his diocese and said he would submit his resignation to Pope Francis. Cardinal Barbarin, Archbishop of Lyon and the highest-profile cleric to be caught up in the child sex abuse scandal inside the French Church, was handed a six-month suspended sentence. REUTERS

People's assembly

Nearly 3,000 delegates from across China gathered in Beijing on Tuesday for the start of the annual two-week session of the country's Parliament, the National People's Congress (NPC)

2,948
delegates

▪ Two-thirds of them from the Communist Party
▪ Representatives from 31 provinces, including Hong Kong and Macau

Huawei fights back against U.S. blackout with Texas lawsuit

Challenges ban on federal agencies using its gear, calls the move unconstitutional

REUTERS
HONG KONG/WASHINGTON

Chinese telecoms equipment maker Huawei Technologies sued the U.S. government on Thursday, saying a law limiting its U.S. business was unconstitutional, ratcheting up its fight back against a government bent on closing it out of global markets.

Huawei said it had filed a complaint in a federal court in Texas challenging Section 889 of the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA), signed into law by President Donald Trump in August, which bars federal agencies and their contractors from procuring its equipment and services.

The lawsuit marks the latest confrontation between China and the U.S., which spent most of 2018 slapping import tariffs on billions of dollars worth of each other's goods. The year ended with the arrest of Huawei's chief financial officer (CFO) in Canada at U.S. request, to the consternation of China.



A Huawei retail shop in Shenzhen, Guangdong province. ■ AP

Long before Mr. Trump initiated the trade war, Huawei's activities were under scrutiny by U.S. authorities, according to interviews with 10 people familiar with the Huawei probes and documents related to the investigations seen by Reuters.

No evidence

"The U.S. Congress has repeatedly failed to produce any evidence to support its restrictions on Huawei products. We are compelled to take this legal action as a

proper and last resort," Huawei Rotating Chairman Guo Ping said in a statement.

"This ban not only is unlawful, but also restricts Huawei from engaging in fair competition, ultimately harming U.S. consumers. We look forward to the court's verdict." While Huawei had very little share of the U.S. market before the Bill, it is the world's biggest telecoms gear maker and is seeking to be at the forefront of a global roll-out of 5G networks.

In its lawsuit, Huawei said

its "equipment and services are subject to advanced security procedures, and no backdoors, implants, or other intentional security vulnerabilities have been documented in any of the more than 170 countries in the world where Huawei equipment and services are used".

The privately owned firm has embarked on a public relations and legal offensive as Washington lobbies allies to abandon Huawei when building 5G networks, centring on a 2017 Chinese law requiring that companies cooperate with national intelligence work. "The U.S. government is sparing no effort to smear the company and mislead the public," said Mr. Guo in a news briefing at Huawei's headquarters.

The NDAA bans the U.S. government from doing business with Huawei or compatriot peer ZTE Corp or from doing business with any company that has equipment from the two firms as a "substantial or essential component" of their system.

India excluded again from student visa relaxation list

Peru, Mauritius and Oman included

VIDYA RAM
LONDON

India is, once again, not included in an expanded list of countries from where students applying for visas will be subject to less stringent documentation requirements, details provided on Thursday showed.

This follows last year's controversy when the failure to include India triggered much criticism, particularly after the U.K. sought to suggest that the exclusion related to New Delhi's decision to pull out of a Memorandum of Understanding on the return of illegal migrants.

Among the new countries to which the "streamlined documentary requirements" apply are Peru, Kazakhstan, Mauritius and Oman. "This change will not only benefit students... but also help to ensure that the U.K.'s world-leading education institutions remain competitive internationally," the Home Office said.

"This adds insult to injury," said Lord Karan Bilimoria, a cross-bench member of the House of Lords. "It is

incredible to think that Britain still has the audacity to talk of a trade deal with India..."

The changes are part of a wider update to Britain's immigration system that will introduce two new visa routes for setting up businesses in the U.K. — including a "start-up" route and an equivalent one for more seasoned business people. In both cases, business experts will be involved.

The government has also updated its rules governing a fast-track visa scheme for wealthy investors — which has been used by many Indians. The scheme, which is open to those who invest at least £2 million in U.K. government, shares or businesses, offers a faster route to settlement in the country.

However, amid concerns that the route has been abused for illicit money flows, applicants will be "required to prove that they have had control of the required £2 million for at least two years, rather than 90 days, or provide evidence of the source of those funds", the Home Office said.

Court orders dissolution of key Thai party

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
BANGKOK

A key party linked to Thailand's powerful Shinawatra clan was dissolved on Thursday by a court, just weeks before a general election, over its ill-starred bid to front a Princess as a candidate for Premier.

Thai Raksa Chart, which is tied to ex-Premiers Thaksin and Yingluck Shinawatra, proposed Princess Ubolratana as its prime ministerial candidate if its bloc emerged with a Lower House majority after the March 24 election.

The Election Commission alleged that Thai Raksa Chart had committed an act "hostile to the constitutional monarchy" and called for its dissolution.

On Thursday, judges of the Constitutional Court voted unanimously to dissolve the party, and its executives — including two Shinawatra family members — were also banned from politics for a decade.

The Princess reacted to the news on Instagram. "I have heard the news. It is sad and depressing," she said.

China urges India-Pak. talks

Beijing's foremost concern is to freeze the status quo

ATUL ANEJA
BEIJING

China on Thursday asked India and Pakistan to dial down tensions through talks. Both nations should "refrain from aggravating the situation, to uphold regional peace and stability through dialogue at an early date, and China will continue to play a constructive role", said Foreign Ministry spokesman Lu Kang.

Asked whether Chinese Vice-Foreign Minister Kong Xuanyou, who has concluded a two-day visit to Pakistan, had discussed elimination of "breeding grounds of terrorism" from Pakistani soil, Mr. Lu said the focus of



Chinese Vice-Foreign Minister Kong Xuanyou.

the Chinese envoy's visit was on preventing "aggravation" of tensions between India and Pakistan. "Like I said, Vice-Foreign Minister Kong Xuanyou, when in Pakistan, held in-depth talks on the

situation and tensions between India and Pakistan. So the major concern is the security situation in this region," Mr. Lu said.

The spokesperson pointed out that China's foremost concern was to freeze the status quo, and other issues could be tackled along a diplomatic spiral.

"Recently, a lot has happened in this region, and there are many issues. China has stated our position, first the sovereignty and territorial integrity should be upheld, and to specific issue whether we believe we should take positive measures to ease tensions...." Mr. Lu said.

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ENGINEER & BASIN MANAGER, SUBARNAREKHA & BUDHABALANGA BASIN, AT/PO-LAXMIPOSI, DIST: MAYURBHANJ Government of Odisha "e"- PROCUREMENT NOTICE Bid Identification No.- 9 /18-19 of CEBM, SBB, Laxmiposi	
i.	Name of Work : Construction of Baisinga Branch Canal from RD 21.60 KM to RD 23.40 KM including all Minors & Sub Minors with its structures, Cement concrete lining and Service road, Package-XIV
ii.	Estimated Cost (Lakh) : Rs.1253.72 Lakh
iii.	Period of Completion : 11 (Eleven) Calendar Months Each
iv.	Date & Time of availability of bid document in the portal : 13.03.2019 at 10 A.M.
v.	Last date/time for receipt of bid in the portal : 27.03.2019 up to 5.00 PM,
vi.	Name & Address of the O.I.T. : Chief Engineer & Basin Manager, O/o the CEB&BM, Subarnarekha & Budhabalanga Basin, Laxmiposi, Mayurbhanj

Further details can be seen from the e-Procurement Portal "<https://tendersodisha.gov.in>".
Chief Engineer & Basin Manager, Subarnarekha & Budhabalanga Basin, Laxmiposi.
bid_cebmbsbb@rediff.com

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ENGINEER & BASIN MANAGER, SUBARNAREKHA & BUDHABALANGA BASIN, AT/PO-LAXMIPOSI, DIST: MAYURBHANJ Government of Odisha "e"- PROCUREMENT NOTICE Bid Identification No.- 10 /18-19 of CEBM, SBB, Laxmiposi	
i.	Name of Work : Construction of Baisinga Branch Canal from RD 20.10 KM to RD 21.60 KM including all its structures, Cement concrete lining and Service road, Package-XIII.
ii.	Estimated Cost (Lakh) : Rs.1179.30 Lakh
iii.	Period of Completion : 11 (Eleven) Calendar Months Each
iv.	Date & Time of availability of bid document in the portal : 14.03.2019 at 10 A.M.
v.	Last date/time for receipt of bid in the portal : 28.03.2019 up to 5.00 PM.
vi.	Name & Address of the O.I.T. : Chief Engineer & Basin Manager, O/o the CEB&BM, Subarnarekha & Budhabalanga Basin, Laxmiposi, Mayurbhanj

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Chief Engineer & Basin Manager, Subarnarekha & Budhabalanga Basin, Laxmiposi.
bid_cebmbsbb@rediff.com

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA, "e"- PROCUREMENT NOTICE WORKS DEPARTMENT Bid Identification No. CE-DPI & R-92/ 2018-19	
1. The Chief Engineer (DPI & Roads), Odisha on behalf of Governor of Odisha invites percentage rate bids in double cover system in ONLINE MODE from eligible contractors for Road / Bridge works as mentioned below:	
2. Nature of work	: Bridge Work
3. No. of work	: 01 Nos.
4. Tender Paper Cost	: ₹.10,00,000
5. Class of Contractor	: Super Class as noted against each work
6. Available of bid document	: From 10.00 A.M. of 18.03.2019 to 5.00 PM of 08.04.2019 in the website.
7. Date of opening of Bid	: Dt.09.04.2019 at 11.30 AM
8. The Bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only. Further details can be seen from the website : https://tenderodisha.gov.in . Any addendum / corrigendum / cancellation of tender can also be seen in the said website.	

Chief Engineer (DPI & Roads), Odisha.
OFFICE OF THE ENGINEER-IN-CHIEF (CIVIL), ODISHA, BHUBANESWAR
34117/11/0235/1819

Mannar mass grave predates Sri Lanka's civil war, say reports

U.S.-based carbon dating analyst presents findings

MEERA SRINIVASAN
COLOMBO

The nearly 350 skeletons found at a mass grave site in Mannar, in Sri Lanka's Tamil-majority Northern Province, predate the period of the island's civil war by a few centuries, a U.S.-based carbon dating analyst has said. Reports prepared by a testing laboratory in Miami, Florida — where Sri Lanka sent the samples in January — and presented to the Mannar magistrate's court have indicated that the bones belonged to a time period between 1499 A.D. and 1720 A.D., according to local media. The reports were made public on Thursday.

Amidst thousands of



The mass grave was discovered in the Northern Province last year.

complaints of enforced disappearances from the Northern Province, including from Mannar, during the years of the brutal civil war which ended in 2009, the accidental sighting of a mass grave, said to be Sri Lanka's biggest, last year, sparked considerable anxiety and speculation among locals.

The Office on Missing Per-

'Iranian hackers stole company data'

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
WASHINGTON

Iranian hackers working to penetrate systems, businesses and governments around the world have caused hundreds of millions of dollars in damages, a report said on Wednesday.

Researchers for tech giant Microsoft said the attackers stole secrets and wiped data from computer networks after targeting

thousands of people at some 200 companies over the past two years, according to *The Wall Street Journal*. The Journal said Microsoft traced the attacks to Holmium, a group linked to Iran, and that some of the hacking was done for Holmium by another Iranian group known as APT33.

John Lambert, the head of Microsoft's Threat Intelligence Center, told the paper

that the attacks were "massively destabilising events". The report said the hackers notably targeted oil-and-gas companies, heavy-machinery manufacturers and international conglomerates in Saudi Arabia, Germany, Britain, India and the U.S.

In 2017, the security firm FireEye blamed APT33 for destructive malware that targeted organisations in West Asia and elsewhere.

India excluded again from student visa relaxation list

Peru, Mauritius and Oman included

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ATUL ANEJA
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MARKET WATCH

	07-03-2019	% CHANGE
Sensex	36,725	-0.24
US Dollar	70	0.39
Gold	33,070	-1.07
Brent oil	66.13	0.88

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Ports	340.90	3.85
Asian Paints	1395.45	1.75
Axle Bank	733.75	13.15
Bajaj Auto	2919.90	-7.70
Bajaj Finserv	6598.50	-10.65
Bajaj Finance	2734.80	-31.90
Bharti Airtel	307.65	-1.75
BPCL	370.70	-2.00
Cipla	541.35	-6.20
Coal India	235.00	-7.75
Dr Reddy's Lab	2680.75	-12.90
Eicher Motors	21521.50	17.55
GAIL (India)	344.15	-1.20
Grafix Ind	810.20	-9.90
HCL Tech	1034.55	-8.70
HDPC	1880.20	-5.00
HFDC Bank	2126.50	22.25
Hero MotoCorp	2730.10	-35.75
Hindalco	200.60	-2.15
HPCL	249.00	2.55
Hind Unilever	1705.40	5.60
Indiabulls HFL	719.05	-11.45
ICICI Bank	370.80	-1.15
IndusInd Bank	1531.25	-3.60
Bharti InfraNet	305.65	3.10
Infosys	722.95	-9.55
Indian Oil Corp	150.20	-4.70
ITC	290.10	4.35
JSW Steel	289.70	-0.25
Kotak Bank	1237.20	-4.10
L&T	1352.40	35.40
M&M	671.80	12.90
Maurit Suzuki	7029.05	-27.85
NTPC	146.20	-2.75
ONGC	152.05	-2.75
PowerGrid Corp	187.15	2.65
Reliance Ind	1270.25	5.45
State Bank	281.75	3.65
Sun Pharma	450.90	-9.65
Tata Motors	189.30	0.50
Tata Steel	521.15	0.30
TCS	2013.30	13.70
Tech Mahindra	808.25	-15.30
Titan	1043.30	-12.65
UltraTech Cement	3912.80	-65.85
UPL	872.05	-5.30
Vedanta	176.05	-2.45
Wipro	268.85	-8.60
YES Bank	231.70	-3.60
Zee Entertainment	459.00	-11.90

EXCHANGE RATES

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	69.80	70.12
Euro	78.95	79.32
British Pound	91.70	92.12
Japanese Yen (100)	62.49	62.78
Chinese Yuan	10.41	10.46
Swiss Franc	69.50	69.82
Singapore Dollar	51.42	51.66
Canadian Dollar	51.98	52.22
Malaysian Ringgit	17.07	17.17
YES Bank	231.70	231.70
Zee Entertainment	459.00	459.00

Source: Indian Bank

BULLION RATES CHENNAI

Retail Silver (1g)	41	(41.4)
22 ct gold (1 g)	3059	(3080)

IN BRIEF

I-T exemption limit on gratuity doubled

NEW DELHI

The Labour Ministry said on Thursday that the income tax exemption limit on gratuity has been doubled to ₹20 lakh from the existing ₹10 lakh, a move that will benefit employees who are not covered by the Payment of Gratuity Act, 1972. PTI

Mid, small-cap stocks step out of shadow

In volatile market ahead of elections, subdued valuations appear to be driving interest in these stocks

ASHISH RUKHAIYAR
MUMBAI

With volatility on the rise in stock markets amid approaching general elections, mid-cap and small-cap stocks, that remained largely subdued over the last few months, are once again in the limelight.

Analysts state that many mid-cap and small-cap stocks are currently available at attractive valuations post the significant correction, especially with earnings also showing signs of revival and divergence between large-caps and small-caps at historic highs.

Incidentally, the current month has seen the BSE Midcap and BSE Smallcap indices outperforming the Sensex by a wide margin even as the year-to-date returns of the broader indices lag that of the benchmark.

In the BSE Smallcap index, stocks like Religare En-



Time to hunt: Mid-cap and small-cap universe took a significant hit in 2018 due to rich valuations. ■ PAUL NORONHA

terprises, Manpasand Beverages, SML Isuzu, Dilip Buildcon, Hotel Leelaventure, Aban Offshore and Repco Home Finance have all gained between 30% and 40% in the current month till date.

Meanwhile, stocks like ICI-CI Securities, Whirlpool of India, L&T Finance Holdings, Steel Authority of India,

Index	Returns (%)
Sensex	1.82
BSE Midcap	-4.03
BSE Smallcap	-1.13
Year till date	2.39
March	3.47
Source: BSE	6.21

to factors like valuation comfort and easing cost pressure following softer crude oil prices, leading to a push in margins and earnings growth.

The year 2018 saw the mid-cap and small-cap universe take a significant hit due to a combination of factors like expensive valuation, earnings downgrades, imposition of long-term capital gains tax and reclassification of mid-cap and small-cap funds by the Securities and Exchange Board of India.

In a recent report, Motilal Oswal Financial Services highlighted the fact that while the spread between large-cap and mid-cap returns in the past had peaked at 15% to 20%, the spread typically shrunk after hitting such highs.

Currently, this spread stands at 18%, according to the report by the domestic brokerage.

Is Etihad's tough talk leaving Jet grounded?

Lessors ground 3 more planes even as the airline needs urgent cash infusion

LALATENDU MISHRA
MUMBAI

Lessors of financially-challenged Jet Airways grounded three more aircraft on Thursday following non-payment of lease rentals, taking the total number of such aircraft to 28.

"The airline has 70 aircraft that are operational," a senior Civil Aviation Ministry official had said on Thursday before the stock exchange filing was made by Jet Airways.

The official added that they would not bar the airline from forward sales in a bid to "avoid creating panic."

Though two weeks had passed since shareholders of Jet Airways approved a Bank Led Provisional Resolution Plan (BLPRP) and a proposal for conversion of lenders' debt into equity that would enable banks to acquire 51% stake in the airline, the plan is yet to take shape.

Delay in BLPRP People familiar with the development said that Etihad Airways, which held 24% stake in Jet Airways, was 'not cooperating' leading to a de-



Hard talk: Etihad reportedly wanted an open offer waiver from SEBI and Naresh Goyal's 'complete' exit. ■ REUTERS

lay in the finalisation of the BLPRP.

Etihad declined to answer this question directly, but said that it was working constructively. According to people familiar with the matter, Etihad was unhappy as none of its pre-conditions had been met.

Reportedly it wanted a waiver in open offer from SEBI should its shareholding go beyond 25% post-implementation of the plan. It also wanted a complete exit of promoter Naresh Goyal, who currently held 51% stake.

"Some hard negotiations are on. Twenty-eight planes have been grounded.

More will be grounded soon as there is no clarity in the resolution plan," said a person familiar with the development.

Jet needs immediate capital infusion of ₹8,500 crore and most of it would come from existing shareholders, a new investor and through sale of Jet's aircraft. Additionally, banks would also have to lend more.

When the BLPRP takes shape, Mr. Goyal would still retain 20% stake which Etihad is believed to be uncomfortable with.

Etihad was also seeking

more clarity on how much more capital the banks would advance for stabilising Jet's operations.

Though banks would immediately pick up 51% stake, they would eventually exit as they lack expertise in running airlines. In this scenario, Etihad is expected to enhance stake to 49% and would run it though effective control would remain with Indians as per law.

Jet's response
"Shareholders, including Etihad Airways and key financial stakeholders have been working towards the finalisation and subsequent implementation of the BLPRP to ensure that the airline emerges financially strong and resilient," a Jet Airways spokesperson said.

"Jet Airways has undertaken certain proactive adjustments to its flight schedule and has kept the regulator as well as its guests informed of these interim changes well in advance," the airline's spokesperson added.

Now, with regard to cases where the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs has already given its principle approval for strategic disinvestment, the AM will be empowered to also decide on quantum of shares to be transacted.

While stating that the ₹171



Bad breath: The bench said the CPCB may consider utilising the money for improving air quality in the NCR. ■ REUTERS

Cheat devices: NGT tells Volkswagen India to deposit ₹500 crore

Hikes compensation for 'deterrence'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The National Green Tribunal (NGT) on Thursday directed Volkswagen India to deposit a sum of ₹500 crore with the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) within two months for using cheat devices in its diesel vehicles.

A bench headed by NGT Chairperson Justice Adarsh Kumar Goel enhanced the compensation amount of ₹71 crore, which was recommended by an NGT-appointed committee, as a means of "creating deterrence."

"Sustainable development is the main guiding factor... we are unable to accept the manufacturer's objections to the report. Not only did the manufacturers use cheat devices to suppress the test results, the NOX emission was found to be higher," the bench said.

On-road testing results

During the hearing, the company however contended that prescribed norms under BS-IV were not violated and that the test results were based on 'on-road testing', for which there were no prescribed norms.

However, the bench said, "Are you trying to say that pollution cannot be checked on the road? Yours is a vehicle having a cheat device... our finding is that you have a cheat device for which you have been held guilty world-over... on-road testing is the only way..."

While stating that the ₹171

crore recommended by the committee was a "conservative value due to lack of methodology to calculate overall damage" the bench directed the company to deposit the amount to the CPCB. The bench further said that the apex pollution monitoring body may consider utilising the money towards improving air quality in the National Capital Region and other highly-polluted areas. Additionally, the bench said that the CPCB can "initiate prosecution upon due consideration."

Firm to challenge order

Reacting to the NGT order, a Volkswagen spokesperson said, "The Volkswagen Group in India reiterates that all cars from the group are compliant with the emission norms defined in India. The Group awaits a copy of the order. The Group will challenge the NGT order before the Supreme Court."

In November last year, the green panel had directed Volkswagen to deposit a sum of ₹100 crore as interim compensation.

Coming down heavily on the company for not complying with the order, the NGT, in January, had directed Volkswagen to deposit the sum within one day.

The directions came when the NGT was hearing a plea moved by petitioner Saloni Ailawadi and others, who sought a ban on the sale of Volkswagen vehicles for alleged violation of emission norms.

Scheme to rebate embedded taxes for garments gets nod

Will help make exports of apparels, made-ups zero-rated

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
COIMBATORE

The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, on Thursday, approved a scheme to rebate State and Central Embedded Taxes for apparels and made-ups exports.

IN BRIEF



Promoters to invest

₹11,785.7 crore in Bharti

NEW DELHI Telecom major Bharti Airtel on Thursday said the company's promoters, along with Singtel and GIC Singapore would participate in the ₹25,000-crore rights issue, part of the company's ₹32,000-crore fund-raising plans. While Singtel would infuse about ₹3,750 crore, GIC had committed ₹5,000 crore. The promoter and promoter group would subscribe to shares worth ₹11,785.7 crore, according to the telecom major.

NPCI issues 64 million RuPay global cards

MUMBAI National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) said it had issued over 64 million RuPay global cards since 2014 and been focusing on growing its international acceptance. "The acceptance of the global cards has reached 41 million-plus merchants across 190 countries and is constantly growing," NPCI COO Praveena Rai said. The RuPay global debit and credit cards are currently issued by 40 banks. PTI

Zoho acquires hiring automation start-up

CHENNAI Cloud Services firm Zoho has acquired ePoise Systems, a hiring automation product start-up, for an undisclosed amount. Founded in 2013 by Sachin Agrawal and Bishan Singh, ePoise automates multiple screening steps for each role, including a set of assessments leading to a video interview thus bringing significant efficiency to the hiring process for high volume recruiters.

Honda Cars targets 8% growth

Hopes to sell 17,000 units in March to close FY19 with total sales of 1.80 lakh PVs

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

Honda Cars India expects to close the current fiscal with a growth of 8% as against a likely 3% sales growth for the passenger vehicle (PV) segment, its president and CEO Gaku Nakanishi said on Thursday.

"In case of Honda, till February we saw a growth of 6.5%. For March, we are forecasting sales of 17,000 units, taking our annual sales to over 1.80 lakh units, which will be a growth of about 8% over the previous year," Mr. Nakanishi said.

The company sold 1,66,585 units in the 11-month period from April 2018 to February 2019. It sold 1.7 lakh units in the 2017-18 financial year.

In an interview to *The*



New avatar: Honda president and CEO Gaku Nakanishi (left) at the launch of the all-new Civic in New Delhi on Thursday. •PTI

Hindu in October last, Mr. Nakanishi had said that the company was eyeing a double-digit growth. He, however, said that the company would "catch up, or even better the market growth."

Talking about the industry, he said that it may see a growth of only 3%, which

was "lower than our expectations," impacted by factors such as a weakening rupee, increasing fuel and insurance costs, and low availability of finance due to liquidity crunch faced by NBFCs. Honda Cars, which on Thursday launched the latest version of its Civic se-

dan priced between ₹17.7 lakh and ₹22.3 lakh, is also looking to fill gaps in its SUV line-up, going forward.

However, Mr. Nakanishi did not share details.

Sedan portfolio

The launch of the all new Civic "completes our sedan portfolio in India. Now we have to work harder for the SUV segment," Mr. Nakanishi said. The all-new Civic comes in petrol as well as diesel variants. The company claims that the petrol variant would achieve a fuel efficiency of 16.5 km per litre, while the diesel version would offer 26.8 km per litre.

The company had launched the Civic in India in 2006, selling 55,000 units till 2013 when it was discontinued.

Reliance Cap lays out plan to reduce debt

To exit asset management business

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

MUMBAI

Anil Ambani's financial services venture Reliance Capital aims to reduce debt by ₹10,000 crore to ₹2,000 crore, over the next three to four months, by completely exiting the asset management business and selling stake in general insurance arm and other non-core businesses.

The total debt of the company is pegged at ₹18,000 crore. To reduce debt, RCAP is planning to sell its entire 43% stake – valued at ₹5,000 crore, at current market prices – in Reliance Nippon Asset Management Company (RNAM), which is a listed entity.

"Monetisation of RNAM controlling stake to be at sig-

nificant premium to market," the company said in a statement.

RCAP, which has 100% stake in the general insurance venture – Reliance General Insurance Company Ltd. – will monetise 49%

stake. "DRHP (Draft Red Herring Prospectus) for RGIC IPO filed with SEBI in February 2019," RCAP said.

Reliance Capital also said it was at an advanced stage of monetising several valuable non-core investments, including a strategic stake sale in Prime Focus Ltd., and other media assets.

"The completion of these transactions will be a major step forward in Reliance Capital's deleveraging strategy," it said.

Draft e-com policy: Govt. may extend deadline

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

NEW DELHI

The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade is expected to extend till March 31 the deadline for seeking comments from stakeholders on the draft national e-commerce policy, a senior government official said.

"We will give a month's time for comments. We will extend the deadline till March 31," the official said.

Some stakeholders from the online trading sector have already sought time beyond the original March 9 deadline to provide their comments. The department will start stakeholder consultations on the draft policy from Friday.

Start-up WayCool draws up expansion plan

Set to raise ₹120 crore more soon

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

HYDERABAD

Food-tech start-up WayCool Foods & Products is planning to raise ₹120 crore in the next few months.

The Chennai-headquartered firm had thus far raised a total of ₹20 million. The three-and-a-half year firm had earlier this year raised ₹120 crore in a pre-Series B round.

Going forward, the "Series B will be something equivalent or may be slightly larger [than ₹120 crore]," co-founder Sanjay Venkat Dasari told the media here on Thursday.

WayCool Foods & Products is pursuing expansion plans that would see it make a foray into more cities and

handling more products. Over the next two years, the target would be to grow five times the tonnage – from existing 200 tonnes, client base and revenue. The company's revenue was about ₹300 crore and provided employment to nearly 1,000 people, both direct and indirect.

Recently, the company had acquired the physical distribution business of Aalgaro Foods Pvt. Ltd, a Bengaluru-based B2B company, in fruit retail packing and distribution space.

WayCool, which works with 35,000 farmers across more than 50 regions in India, is also considering setting up a food processing unit in Andhra Pradesh.

Engineering exports set to touch \$80 billion in FY19

EEPC aiding small, medium units to upgrade technology

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

CHENNAI

Engineering exports is set to touch an all-time high of \$80 billion during the current fiscal, said a top official of EEPC India. "Last fiscal (2017-18), we exported goods worth \$76.2 billion, which was a three-year high," said Mahesh K. Desai, senior vice-chairman, EEPC India.

"We did exports of \$70.7 billion in 2014-15. This fiscal, it is expected to touch \$80 billion."

During fiscal 2017-18, India exported merchandise goods valued at \$302.8 billion of which engineering goods accounted for \$76.2 billion, said Chandrashek-



Mahesh K. Desai
har H. Nadiger, regional director, southern region, EEPC India.

Mr. Desai said that EEPC had been working on Industry 4.0 for the last two years for helping small and medium enterprises to equip themselves and overcome

the challenges in terms of upgrading the technology. Industry 4.0 was on the top of our agenda. Tamil Nadu was at the forefront of it.

Mentioning that southern region accounted for 22% of the country's total exports, Mr. Nadiger said Tamil Nadu led the chart, followed by Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Telangana. According to him, engineering exports from southern region for 2017-18 stood at \$17 billion of which Tamil Nadu accounted for \$11 billion. "This year too, the growth pattern would be similar. This is due to higher technology intervention adopted by the local industries," he said.

Cavinkare launches perfume in sachet

Spinz is available in two fragrances

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

CHENNAI

Fast moving consumer goods firm Cavinkare launched premium perfume in sachet under its flagship personal care brand Spinz.

"Sachet perfume is a revolutionary product that is much needed in a market like India.

Innovative packaging

"The innovation behind packing perfume as a one-time usage product in a sachet form will bring a sea change in the FMCG industry," said Venkatesh Vijayaraghavan, director and CEO - personal care and alliances.

Curated with no stain formula, this single use pack (2

ML sachet) is available in two fragrances – Purple Blast and Blue Magic – that also contain deo actives.

Spinz perfume is priced at ₹3 and will be initially available in West Bengal and Madhya Pradesh as the company had strong presence in those States. It would be rolled out in Tamil Nadu in the next three to four months and in rest of India soon.

"The rural segment contributes nearly 40-45% of total revenue to the FMCG industry.

"The revival of rural demand and increase in rural consumer appetite has given greater scope for introduction of newer products and innovations," Mr. Vijayaraghavan added.

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NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Tender No.	MATERIAL DESCRIPTION	Due date
181913 007624	Cationic Starch (in Jumbo Bags)	29.03.2019
181913 007625	Maize based native starch (in Jumbo Bags)	28.03.2019

Terms & condition, Qty, Tender Fee, EMD are available in tender document at our websites: www.tnpl.com / www.tenders.tn.gov.in
DIPR/1543/tender/2019 TNPL - Maker of bagasse based eco-friendly Paper

OFFICE OF THE ADDITIONAL CHIEF ENGINEER, (PPP) P.W.D., RAJASTHAN, JAIPUR
Date:
SHORT TERM NIT No.27/2018-19
INVITATION OF RFP/ FINANCIAL BIDS FOR TOLL FEE COLLECTION
On behalf of Hon'ble Governor of Rajasthan, Public Works Department, Rajasthan (India) invites RFP/Financial Bids for Toll Fee Collection for ADB funded Highways under RSHIP Tranche-I Package-02 in specified format.
The RFP / Financial Bid document can be viewed or downloaded from website: <http://sppr.rajasthan.gov.in>, <http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in> from 06-03-2019 to 24-03-2019, any further amendment to the RFP / Financial Bid document shall only be made available on above website as such prospective Bidders are expected to visit the above website for the same.
(Rakesh Gupta)
Additional Chief Engineer (PPP)
PPP Division, Public Works Department,
Nimra Bhawan, Jacob Road
Civil Lines Jaipur-302006
Email: aceppp.pwd@rajasthan.gov.in
Tel: +91-141-2223547

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DIPR/C/3016

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
Karnataka Urban Infrastructure Development and Finance Corporation (KUIDFC)
KARNATAKA URBAN WATER SUPPLY MODERNIZATION PROJECT (KUWSMP)
(LOAN NO.8601-IN; CREDIT NO.4955-IN; G.O.No. UDD 279 PRJ 2018, dated 22.10.2018)
No: KUIDFC/KUWSMP/DBOT/BGV/2018-19/334
Date: 06.03.2019

**REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST
(CONSULTING SERVICES-FIRMS SELECTION)**

1. The Government of Karnataka through Government of India has received financing from World Bank towards the cost of Karnataka Urban Water Supply Modernization Project and intend to apply part of the proceeds for the below mentioned consulting services.

Assignment Title No. 1 Design-Build, Operate Engineer (DBO Engineer) Services for Belagavi 24x7 pressurized water supply Contract

Assignment Title No. 2 Design-Build, Operate Engineer (DBO Engineer) Services for Kalaburagi 24x7 pressurized water supply Contract

Assignment Title No. 3 Design-Build, Operate Engineer (DBO Engineer) Services for Hubballi-Dharawad 24x7 pressurized water supply Contract

2. The consulting services ("the Services") include:
Design-Build, Operate Engineer services for the ICB contract "Design-Build, Operate, Maintain and Transfer water supply system in Belagavi, Kalaburagi and Hubballi-Dharawad cities of Karnataka State, India for cost effective and sustainable up-scaling to continuous (24x7) pressurized water supply". The period of Contract is 12 years which has a Design-Build Period of 5 years and Sustaining period of 7 years. The Tentative Terms of Reference for the Consultancy for the purpose of EOI shall be downloaded from e-procurement portal <http://eproc.karnataka.gov.in> which details the services required.

3. Detailed Request for Expression of Interest as well as the Tentative Terms of Reference for the assignment is available on the Karnataka e-procurement portal <http://eproc.karnataka.gov.in> from 07.03.2019. The last date of submission/uploading of EOI with supporting documents on the e-procurement portal is 20.04.2019.

Interested eligible Consultants may express their interest with supporting documents on the e-procurement portal after getting themselves registered on the e-procurement platform.

For any clarifications, contact Chief Engineer (KUWSMP), Telephone: +91 80 25196124; Facsimile: +91 80 25196110; Email: info@kuidfc.com

Sd/- Managing Director

JODHPUR VIDYUT VITARAN NIGAM LIMITED

(IT WING) Corporate Identity Number (CIN) - U40109RJ2000SGC16483

Regd. Office : New Power House, Industrial Area, Jodhpur - 342003

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER (IT) Tel. No. 029-5106660, Fax: 029-2741772

E - PROCUREMENT TENHFR NOTICE

E-procurement tenders are invited for "Implementation of Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI)/ Smart Metering System Under IPDS in Jodhpur Discom" under TN-IT-14. (UBN NO.JVV1819WLOB00786). Details regarding work, Tender cost, Earnest money, Date of tender opening etc. are available at our website energy.rajasthan.gov.in/jdvnl&spp.

The bidders, in their own interest are requested to read very carefully the tender documents before submitting the bid only through on line website www.eproc.rajasthan.gov.in

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NOTICE INVITING TENDER

E-Tenders are invited for the following:-
1. 20/18/39/02 : Hydraulic Excavator Backhoe - 2.3 to 3.2 cum bucket capacity.
2. 20/18/39/023 : Hydraulic Excavator Backhoe - 1.5 to 2.3 cum bucket capacity.
3. 20/18/39/024 : Hydraulic Material Handler - 65 Ton Class working weight.
4. 20/18/39/025 : Tipper of Dump Body (17 cum or more capacity).
5. 20/18/39/026 : Wheel Loader of 3 cu. m. (+10%) bucket capacity.

The due date for submission of e-tenders online will be on or before 08.04.2019 by 2.30 PM and tenders will be opened on 08.04.2019 at 3.00 PM. For participating in the e-tender, kindly go to <http://61.171.55.85>. Visit our website www.fsnl.nic.in for tender documents, Corrigendum etc.

Confident India will seek to put series beyond Aussies' reach

Visiting batsmen will have to pull up their socks and replicate the good work done by the bowlers

AUS IN INDIA

Y.B. SARANGI
RANCHI

Like students practising sample papers ahead of a major exam, the Indian cricket team is using the last set of opportunities – the five-match One-Day International series against Australia – to get used to as many match situations as possible ahead of the ICC World Cup.

The Virat Kohli-led side, which is 2-0 up, will approach the third match with confidence.

On a high

The host carries a lot of positivity into this engagement, at the Jharkhand State Cricket Association Stadium on Friday, because of all-rounder Vijay Shankar's phenomenal final over in the second ODI.

Vijay's 'moment' in Nagpur must have come as a huge relief for the Indian

think-tank. Vijay, who has bowled only 20.3 overs and taken two wickets (in Nagpur) in the last six one-dayers, has perhaps resolved the uncertainty surrounding a scenario triggered by the absence of Hardik Pandya, who is out of action due to a back injury.

Having tested its pace bowling resources well in the first two matches, India has brought back Bhuvneshwar Kumar – one of its key swing bowlers who could play a crucial role in England – for the remainder of the series.

Since the action is happening in M.S. Dhoni's backyard, some amount of attention is reserved for him. The JSCA has named a stand after Dhoni and the crowd would love to see their hero hit a few of his trademark sixes towards the tier bearing his name.

Even as Kohli, who skipped the optional practice session on Thursday, will remain the mainstay of Indian

- Bhuvneshwar returns for rest of series
- Kohli skips optional practice

batting, some other batsmen, including K.L. Rahul and young wicket-keeper-batsman Rishabh Pant, may get some match time.

Shikhar Dhawan, who has not had a satisfying knock in more than a month, will aim at playing a big innings.

Healthy battle

The spin trio of Kuldeep Yadav, Ravindra Jadeja and Yuzvendra Chahal is engaged in a healthy battle.

The Australian bowlers have stuck to their task of preventing India from gathering massive totals. However, its batting – comprising performers like Usman Khawaja, Aaron Finch, Glenn Maxwell and Marcus Stoinis – should have taken up more responsibility.

Australia, which received a pep talk from former pace ace Mitchell Johnson ahead of its practice, would like to rectify its middle-overs mess and finish its innings well.

With a lush green outfield, the JSCA Stadium – which has witnessed India winning two, losing one and a wash-out against Australia in 2013 – will wait to see how the two teams respond to the challenge.

The teams (from):

India: Virat Kohli (Capt.), Rohit Sharma, Shikhar Dhawan, Ambati Rayudu, Kedar Jadhav, Mahendra Singh Dhoni, Ravindra Jadeja, Jasprit Bumrah, Mohammed Shami, Yuzvendra Chahal, Kuldeep Yadav, Vijay Shankar, Rishabh Pant, Bhuvneshwar Kumar and K.L. Rahul.

Australia: Aaron Finch (Capt.), Shaun Marsh, Peter Handscomb, Usman Khawaja, Glenn Maxwell, Jhye Richardson, Andrew Tye, Marcus Stoinis, Ashton Turner, Adam Zampa, Pat Cummins, Alex Carey, Jason Behrendorff, Nathan Coulter-Nile and Nathan Lyon.

Match starts at 1.30 p.m.
Australia vs India, JSCA Stadium, Ranchi, March 9, 2019



A treat to watch: Rishabh Pant, Ambati Rayudu, Sanjay Bangar, Bhuvneshwar Kumar and Shikhar Dhawan get a ringside view of M.S. Dhoni's pyrotechnics. ■ R.V. MOORTHY

Focus firmly on WC: Bhuvneshwar

Lyon says Australia can still come out and win the series

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
RANCHI

Bhuvneshwar Kumar on Thursday said the players might speak to their respective Indian Premier League (IPL) franchises and find a way to reduce their workload in the run-up to the World Cup.

Bhuvneshwar, who returned to the side for the remaining one-dayers against Australia, said the focus would be on the World Cup.

"That's something in all our minds. We have to manage everything. We cannot decide how much we are going to play."

"It will come into play after the first half of the IPL, six-seven matches, then we will know how to approach the second half and what to do to remain fit for the World Cup," said Bhuvneshwar here on Thursday.

"There isn't a surety for anything... If I feel that I am tired, then (sic) we can take rest. It's up to the franchise. I am sure they will cooperate because the World Cup is very important."

According to Bhuvneshwar, the remaining three ODIs would be important in the run-up to the World Cup.

"These are crucial matches. IPL is where we polish our skills and be in form. So we are approaching them as the last matches before the World Cup."



Eyeing a big score: Glenn Maxwell will hope to contribute with the bat after failing to fire in the second match.

■ R.V. MOORTHY

Australian off-spinner Nathan Lyon said his side had not given up hope even after losing two matches.

Challenge

"We believe we can still come out and win the series. We have got to come out here and believe that we can win three matches. It is going to be one hell of a challenge against one of the best sides in their home conditions."

Lyon did not agree that

his team choked under pressure.

"Choke is a pretty strong word. We are a young side, trying to get better," he said.

It boiled down to gaining the experience to thrive in a high-pressure environment such as the World Cup, he said.

"It has been a close contest if you break down the games... for me, it is a taster for what may be around the corner," said the Australia's lead spinner.

In a match in which nobody else reached 30, Wyatt scored an unbeaten 64 (55b, 6x4) to lead England not just to a five-wicket win but to a series victory as well. The visitors have taken an unassailable 2-0 lead, with the final match to be played on Saturday.

Though they were chasing a modest target of 112, they weren't exactly cruising, against what was a fine effort from India's four-pronged spin attack. They were in some trouble, too, when captain Heather Knight was trapped lbw by left-arm spinner Ekta Bisht, leaving them at 56 for four.

But in Lauren Winfield,

Wyatt found support. The duo added 47 for the fifth wicket, calmed the nerves in the dressing room and frustrated the Indian team as well as the goodly crowd.

Leggie Poonam Yadav, left-arm spinner Radha Yadav and off-spinner Deepti Sharma had bowled their hearts out, but the runs on the board weren't enough.

Breakthrough

Radha provided the breakthrough by cleaning up Tammy Beaumont, England's star of the first match.

Then Poonam caught Amy Jones off her own bowling. Ekta, whom India had sur-

prisingly omitted in the last match, had Natalie Sciver lbw.

Watching all this from the other end was Wyatt, who went on to play a well-constructed innings. She used her feet against the spinners and played some fine shots on the off-side.

But none of those strokes could invoke as much awe as the two sixes hit by India captain Smriti Mandhana earlier in the day, after Knight put the host in.

The elegant left-hander lifted the first ball she faced over long-off. The last ball of the over, bowled by seamer Anya Shrubsole, was dis-

SCOREBOARD INDIA VS ENGLAND, 2ND T20I

INDIA

Harleen Deol c Sciver b Smith 14 (21b, 2x4), Smriti Mandhana c Jones b Brunt 12 (5b, 2x6), Jeemimah Rodrigues b Brunt 2 (7b), Mithali Raj c Winfield b Cross 20 (27b, 1x4), Deepthi Sharma run out 18 (22b, 1x4), Bharati Fulmal b Brunt 18 (20b, 2x4), Shikha Pandey c Smith 3 (8b), Taniya Bhattacharya c Knight b Shrubsole 1 (4b), Radha Yadav (not out) 3 (3b), Ekta Bisht (not out) 2 (3b); Extras (b-7, lb-3, w-8): 18. Total (for eight wkts. in 20 overs): 111.

ENGLAND

Danielle Wyatt (not out) 64 (55b, 6x4), Tammy Beaumont c Radha 8 (15b, 1x4), Amy Jones c&b Poonam 5 (7b), Natalie Sciver lbw b Epta 1 (5b), Heather Knight lbw b Epta 2 (6b), Lauren Winfield c Jeemimah b Deepthi 29 (23b, 4x4), Katherine Brunt (not out) 2 (4b); Extras (lb-2, w-1): 3; Total (for five wkts. in 19.1 overs): 114.

FALL OF WICKETS

1-24 (Smriti, 2.3 overs), 2-34 (Jemimah, 4.6), 3-34 (Harleen, 5.3), 4-69 (Deepthi, 12.4), 5-82 (Mithali, 14.3), 6-91 (Shikha, 16.6), 7-95 (Taniya, 18.2), 8-105 (Bharati, 19.1).

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1-24 (Smriti, 2.3 overs), 2-34 (Jemimah, 4.6), 3-34 (Harleen, 5.3), 4-69 (Deepthi, 12.4), 5-82 (Mithali, 14.3), 6-91 (Shikha, 16.6), 7-95 (Taniya, 18.2), 8-105 (Bharati, 19.1).

INDIA BOWLING

Sciver 1-0-9-0, Shrubsole 4-0-23-1, Brunt 4-0-17-3, Smith 3-0-11-2, Marsh 4-0-24-0, Cross 4-0-17-1.

ENGLAND BOWLING

Shikha 4-0-21-0, Epta 4-0-23-2, Deepthi 3-0-18-1, Radha 4-0-26-1, Poonam 3-0-18-1, Harleen 1-0-6-0.

Toss: England

Player-of-the-Match: Danielle Wyatt.

England won by five wickets with five balls remaining.



Standing tall: In a match where no one else crossed 30, Danielle Wyatt scored a fine half-century. ■ RITU RAJ KONWAR

Wyatt found support. The duo added 47 for the fifth wicket, calmed the nerves in the dressing room and frustrated the Indian team as well as the goodly crowd.

Leggie Poonam Yadav, left-arm spinner Radha Yadav and off-spinner Deepthi Sharma had bowled their hearts out, but the runs on the board weren't enough.

But none of those strokes could invoke as much awe as the two sixes hit by India captain Smriti Mandhana earlier in the day, after Knight put the host in.

The elegant left-hander lifted the first ball she faced over long-off. The last ball of the over, bowled by seamer Anya Shrubsole, was dis-

patched over long-on.

It was lovely to watch. But, it didn't last long.

Smriti's attempt to drive medium-pacer Katherine Brunt, in the very next over, could only succeed in producing a thick outside edge to the keeper.

Jemimah Rodrigues then was guilty of being too ambitious; she fancied a big heave on the leg-side against the same bowler and lost her off-stump.

It indeed was a fine spell from Brunt, who varied her pace well to finish with three for 17 from four overs.

Left-arm spinner Linsey Smith, who took two for 11, impressed yet again. But, it has to be said that her job – and that of the other bowlers – was made easier by the Indians.

Only one of them – Mithali Raj – could reach 20. But for a couple of fours from debutant Bharati Fulmal towards the end, India may not have reached 100.

Saina and Srikanth in last eight

End of the road for Sai Praneeth, Sameer and other Indians

ALL ENGLAND

IANS
BIRMINGHAM



On course: Saina Nehwal overcame Line Hojmark Kjaersfeldt to enter the quarterfinals. ■ FILE PHOTO

lucky. He crashed out following a 21-12, 21-17 loss to NG Ka Long Angus of Hong Kong in the second round.

Srikanth also faced a tough fight before defeating Jonatan Christie of Indonesia in an exciting three-game contest.

Sai Praneeth, the other Indian left in the men's singles competition, was not so

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TV PICKS

New Zealand vs Bangladesh: 2nd Test, 1 p.m.
Select 1 (SD & HD), 3.30 a.m.

NBA: Sony Ten 1 (SD & HD), 6.30 a.m.

Afghanistan vs Ireland: 4th ODI, DSPORT, 1 p.m.

India vs Australia: 3rd ODI, Star Sports 1 (SD & HD), 1.30 p.m.

Syed Mushtaq Ali T20: Star Sports 2 (SD & HD), 1.30 p.m.

I-League: Star Sports 3, 5 p.m.

Badminton: All England Championships, Star Sports 2 (SD & HD), 10.30 p.m.

Bundesliga: SS Select 2 (SD & HD), 1 a.m. (Saturday)

Serie A: Sony Ten 2 (SD & HD), 1 a.m. (Saturday)

West Indies vs England: 2nd T20I, Sony Six (SD & HD), 1.30 a.m. (Saturday).

IN BRIEF



Lakers lose to Nuggets despite James' landmark

LOS ANGELES

LeBron James passed Michael Jordan to move into fourth place on the NBA career scoring list, but host Los Angeles Lakers fell short in a 115-99 loss to Denver Nuggets on Wednesday.

Other results: Heat 91 bt Hornets 84; Pistons 131 bt Timberwolves 114; Wizards 132 bt Mavericks 123; Spurs 111 bt Hawks 104; Nets 113 bt Cavaliers 107; Bulls 108 bt 76ers 107; Jazz 114 bt Pelicans 104; Suns 107 bt Knicks 96; Celtics 111 bt Kings 109. REUTERS

Indian teams post wins

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ASTANA

Indian men cruised to a 3.5-0.5 win over Egypt in the third round of World teams chess championship here.

Continuing its third outing without Tanish Sachdev, the Indian women also had a fine day as they defeated Armenia 2.5-1.5 to remain in contention for a medal.

The Russian men are on six points while England, USA and India share second spot with five match points apiece.

In the women's section, Russia and China continue to lead followed by Ukraine and India. Earlier, the Indian teams played out identical 2-2 draws against Iran and Kazakhstan in the men's and women's categories respectively.

The results (third round):

Men: India (5) bt Egypt (0)

3.5-0.5 (B. Adhian bt Amrit Bassem; K. Sasikiran drew with Adly Ahmed; S.S. Ganguly bt Fawzy Adham; A. Chithambaram bt Imed Abdelnabi).

Women: India (4) bt Armenia (2) 2.5-1.5 (Eesha Karavade drew with Elina Danielian; Soumya Swaminathan lost to Lilit Mkrtchian; Padmini Rout bt Anna Sargsyan; Bhakti Kul-karni bt Maria Gevorgyan).

United heartbreak for PSG

Porto edges past Roma with a similar last-gasp effort to make the quarterfinals

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

REUTERS

Marcus Rashford scored a last-gasp penalty awarded after a VAR intervention as Manchester United stunned Paris St. Germain 3-1 away to reach the Champions League quarterfinals on away goals on Wednesday.

Never in Europe's premium club competition had a team progressed after a 2-0 home defeat but Rashford's stoppage-time penalty made sure Solskjaer's side advanced in dramatic fashion.

The visitors went ahead twice in the first half through Romelu Lukaku but Juan Bernat equalised for PSG in between.

PSG was advancing to the last eight 3-2 on aggregate before the referee awarded United a penalty for a Presnel Kimpembe handball after a lengthy delay for the VAR review.

In the other match of the night, Porto also converted a penalty following a VAR review three minutes from the end of extra time to beat AS Roma 3-1 and reach the quarterfinals.

Fernando went down as he tried to meet Maxi Pereira's low shot and the referee judged that his shirt had



Sealing it: Marcus Rashford's stoppage-time penalty strike gave Manchester United an improbable victory and took it through to the last eight for the first time since 2014. • AFP

been tugged by Alessandro Florenzi. Alex Telles converted to give Porto a 4-3 aggregate win.

Tiquinho Soares put Porto ahead in the 26th minute before Daniele De Rossi levelled with a penalty before halftime and Moussa Marega put the Portuguese champion back in front in the 52nd minute.

The results: Porto 3 (Soares 26, Marega 52, Telles 117-pen) bt Roma 1 (De Rossi 37-pen) (Porto won 4-3 on aggregate).

PSG 1 (Bernat 12) lost to Manchester United 3 (Lukaku 2, 30, Rashford 90+4-pen) (aggregate 3-3; Manchester United won on away goals).

Stat attack

1 Manchester United became the first team in the tournament history to progress after losing its home game by a margin of two or more goals in the knockout stage

2 It was only the second knockout win at the Champions League for Manchester United since 2011

3 For the third straight year, PSG was knocked out of the pre-quarterfinals of the tournament

4 After four seasons, United has reached

the quarterfinals of the tournament. In the 2013-14 season, the team lost to Bayern Munich in the last eight

17 At 17 years and 156 days, Mason Greenwood became the youngest player to appear for United in the Champions League, breaking the record of Gerard Pique (17y, 310d)

21 United has scored in 21 consecutive away matches across competitions, equaling the club record set between 1956 and 1957 under Sir Matt Busby

Mascia does it for NEUFC

BFC undone by injury-time penalty conversion

ISL

AMITABHA DAS SHARMA GUWAHATI

NorthEast United FC made the most of a penalty in the last minute of injury-time to beat visitors Bengaluru FC 2-1 in the first leg of the Hero ISL semifinals at the Indira Gandhi Stadium here on Thursday.

A raucous crowd of around 22,000 went into wild celebrations following the last-minute winner converted from the spot by substitute Juan Mascia.

The host went ahead in the 20th minute through Redeem Tlang, which was cancelled out by Bengaluru FC substitute Xisco Hernandez in the 82nd minute.

The host played a fantastic first half and started creating opportunities from the third minute when Lalthathanga Khawlhring threatened the Bengaluru citadel. Goalkeeper Gurpreet Singh Sindhu had to scamper to save the situation.

After Redeem had missed an assist from Federico Gallego in the 13th minute, the Highlanders came back strongly in the 20th minute to left Sandhu transfixed.

The host suffered a big blow when the man at the centre of its attack plan, Ogbeche, left the ground, apparently having injured his left foot. In his absence, North-East returned to a defensive plan after the break.



We did it! NEUFC's Juan Mascia cannot hide his joy on scoring the decider. • RITU RAJ KONWAR

Miku and captain Sunil Chhetri opened up the goal route for Bengaluru in the 82nd minute.

Chhetri did the hard work this time, playing a one-two with Miku to get free inside the box. Deep into the box, Chhetri set up an onrushing Xisco to tap home the equaliser.

Just as the visitors were celebrating a drawn encounter came the penalty as referee Santosh Kumar penalised Harmanjot Khabra for pulling down Mascia following a free-kick.

The result: NorthEast United FC 2 (Redeem Tlang 20, Juan Mascia 90+3-pen) bt Bengaluru FC 1 (Xisco Hernandez 82).

RACING

Louisiana well prepped to deliver in the Madras Race Club Trophy

BENGALURU: Louisiana, who has been well tuned, is expected to score in the Madras Race Club Trophy (1,200m), the feature event of the races to be held here on Friday (March 8).

False rails (width about 4m from 1,600m to the winning post) will be in position.

HONNAVAR PLATE (1,200m), rated 00 to 25, 1-45 p.m.: 1. Jersey Storm (2) Arshad 60, 2. Darashin (6) K. Raghu 59.5, 3. Silent Ruler (8) Kiran Rai 59.5, 4. Tiger Returns (5) M. Naveen 59.5, 5. Own Script (II) P. Mani 58.5, 6. Dallas (10) Md. Asif Khan 57.5, 7. Savisa (1) Suraj 57.5, 8. Zedclass (4) Vivek 56.5, 9. Attaboy (9) Dhee 55.5, 10. Turf Prospector (12) N. Parmar 55.5, 11. Winx (7) Darshan 52.5 and 12. Perfect Prince (3) R. Manish 50.5.

1. JERSEY STORM 2. SAVISA, 3. TIGER RETURNS

ZENYATA STAKES (1,200m), maiden 3-yo only, (Terms), 2-15: 1. Eco Friendly (3) M. Naveen 55, 2. Elite Agent (2) Irvin 55, 3. It's My Country (1) Darshan 55, 4. Karadeniz (6) Arshad 55, 5. Mega Ikon (5) Vivek 55, 6. Mr Humble (4) Kiran Rai 55, 7. Electra (1) Trevor 53.5, 8. Lady Of Fame (10) Neeraj 53.5, 9. Slovenia (2) Dhebe 53.5, 10. Song And Dance (7) Nazerul 53.5, 11. Well Connected (9) David Allan 53.5 and 12. Winal (8) Sandesh 53.5.

1. ELECTRA, 2. MEGA IKON, 3. WELL CONNECTED

ICEBREAKER PLATE (1,600m), rated 15 to 35, 5-yo & over, 2-15: 1. Iron Man (10) Antonio 60, 2. Ninon (3) Arshad 59, 3. Fiorenzo (11) Anjal Alam 55, 4. Granada (9) N.S. Parmar 56.5, 5. Limato (4) R. Manish 56.5, 6. Extremelydangerous (2) P. Mani 55.5, 7. Aleef (12) Rayan 55, 8. Love Is Life (1) Vinod Shinde 53.5, 9. Ocean Park (7) Ramu 53.5, 10. Above The Rest (6) Darash 52.5, 11. Dreams United (8)

1. NINON, 2. LOVE IS LIFE, 3. DREAMS UNITED

4. NETHRATHVATHI TROPHY (IV, 1,200m), rated 15 to 35, 5-yo & over, 3-15: 1. Touch Your Destiny (2) Md. Asif Khan 55, 2. Turf Prospector (12) N. Parmar 55.5, 11. Double (2) Tio Rico (8) Trevor 59, 4. Bella Destiny (7) Arshad 55, 5. Chula Vista (11) Sandesh 58, 6. Girl With Pearl (9) Vinod Shinde 58, 7. Hunters Moon (6) Md. Akram 58, 8. Odyssey (3) M. Naveen 57.5, 9. She's Superb (5) Darshan 57.5, 10. Aishah (12) Prabhakaran 57, 11. Prime Star (10) Nazerul 57 and 12. Irish Prince (4) Mark 56.

1. CHULA VISTA, 2. TIO RICO, 3. SHE'S SUPERB

5. HASSAN PLATE (1,600m), rated 30 to 50, 5-yo & over, 3-45: 1. Idealist (5) Dhuhan Singh 60, 2. Masada (11) Suraj 60, 3. Casey (8) Antony 59.5, 4. Nitromax (7) Trevor 58.5, 5. Raw Gold (3) Dhebe 58.5, 6. Reference (2) Arjan Alam 58.5, 7. Wild Wild Angels (12) M. Naveen 58.5, 8. Bluejack (11) N.S. Parmar 57.5, 9. Royal Rein (6) R. Manish 56.5, 10. Ambet Crown (9) Darshan 55.5, 11. Secret Dimension (10) K. Raghu 55 and 12. Colou Gold (4) Arshad 53.

1. MASADA, 2. NITROMAX, 3. BLUEJACK

6. MADRAS RACE CLUB TROPHY (1,200m), rated 60 & above, 4-15: 1. Runn Runner (5) Antony 60.5, 2. Life Awaits (2) Rayan 57, 3. Side Wind (7) Dhuhan Singh 57, 4. Louisiana (8) Trevor 54, 5. Noahs Ark (1) Arshad 53.5, 6. Super Success (3) Sandesh 53, 7. Aeisir (4) P. Chouhan 51.5 and 8. Siyouni (6) Khrushad Alam 51.5.

1. LOUISIANA, 2. AEISIR, 3. RUNN RUNNER

7. NETHRATHVATHI TROPHY (IV, 1,200m), rated 15 to 35, 4-15: 1. Arshad (5) Trevor 60, 2. Don (4) Model salesman gets latest position summary (6)

13. Always tear on either side, say (Spooner) (8)

14. Serpentine asp quietly spat out cream and entrails of mouse (9)

16. Fast moving, beer drinking soldier (5)

17. Gear used by those going down South Island (5)

19. One dress I knitted is uninteresting (9)

23. Become experienced golfer... to start with, by changing two iron (4,4)

24. Remote operated space missile (6)

26. Fellow from Spanish Island's working for a junior clergyman (5,5)

27. Losing tail, fly's starting to list and spin (4)

28. Mark's problem is his clothes (7)

29. They ring like weird sirens at the start (7)

10. Pine nut's shell (4)

11. A hack European film director in Hollywood, for the most part, is a small crook (5,5)

12. Order embroidered silk for memorial (7)

15. Nick prepared charts about launch of cosmetics (7)

18. My face is cheerful (7)

20. Token left by North Omanis is counterfeit (7)

21. Line indicating similarity of given ratio along maps, primarily (7)

22. Dent in vessel's edges (6)

25. Murphy is one traveller on the underground, perhaps? (5,5)

An Excellent show in feature event

MUMBAI: Excellent, ridden by A. Sandesh, claimed the Aziz H. Ahmedbhoy Trophy, the feature event of Thursday's (March 7) evening races here. The winner is owned by Mr. Cyrus S. Poonawalla, Mr. Adar C. Poonawalla & Mrs. Natasha A. Poonawalla rep. Viloo Poonawalla Racing & Breeding Pvt. Ltd. Dallas Todywala trains the winner.

1. WASHINGTON IRVINE PLATE

DDCA to open two academies

NEW DELHI: The Delhi and District Cricket Association (DDCA) has decided to open two full-fledged academies in North-West and East Delhi areas.

These academies are scheduled to come up at the DDA Complex at Pitam Pura and the CWG Village Sports Complex, next to Akshardham Temple.

Registration of the trainees is expected to open in April. Applications will be invited for the appointment of coaches, trainers, physio-therapists, etc. Further details will be available in due course.

Narrow win for RVC

NEW DELHI: Two goals each by Anant Rajpurohit, D Santosh and Vijay Singh helped Remount and Veterinary Corps (RVC) to a 6-1/2 goals to 6 victory over Indian Navy in a league match of the General Sparrow Cup polo tournament at the Army Equestrian Centre, Delhi Cantonment, on Thursday.

The results (league): Remount & Veterinary Corps 6 1/2 (Anant Rajpurohit 2, D. Santosh 2, Vijay Singh 2, handicap 1/2) bt Indian Navy 6 (Akhil Sirohi 3, Akshai Malik 2, AP Singh).

Army Service Corps 7 (Ravinder Mang 3, Naveen Singh 2, Yatin Kumar, G.S. Pandher) bt Sona Polo 2 (Sunjay Kapoor, Dhananjay Singh).

Sahgal Stud 4 (Rakesh Sharma 2, Siddhant Sharma 2) bt 61st Cavalry 3 (Vishal Chauhan, Krishna Inkiya, Llyash Ali).

Mary Kom's fruitful German trip

NEW DELHI: Six-time World champion M.C. Mary Kom remained undefeated on her return to the 51kg category, winning all her three bouts during a training trip to Berlin, Germany.

She posted 5-0 unanimous wins over Ukraine's Daria Sierhieieva, Germany's Ursula Gottlob and Norway's Veronica Losvik for a confident start to the season.

India-B wins a thriller, enters final

Three run outs in final over leave South Africans losers by one run

QUADRANGULAR

A. VINOD

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

India-B displayed dogged spirit as it pulled off a sensational one-run win over South Africa in the Under-19 quadrangular one-day series at the St. Xavier's Stadium, Thumba, on Thursday.

The exciting win, which has assured the team a place in the final on Monday – irrespective of the result against India-A on Saturday – came about in dramatic fashion as South Africa seemed in full command and looked set to notch up its first win in the tournament.

Chasing the Indian total of 198, the Proteas were just one run short of a certain victory before finishing 197 for nine – there being three run outs in the last over bowled by pacer Sushant Mishra.

With rival skipper Matthew Montgomery marshalling his bowling resources well on a track that offered bounce, India-B, having cho-



Joy unbound: The Indians are cock-a-hoop after pulling off a fine win. ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

sen to bat, found itself restricted well shy of a fighting total.

Recovering from a shaky start, having lost Arya Sethi early on, there were signals of a fight back when Tilak Varma and Pragnesh Kanpillewar shared a 75-run partnership for the second wicket.

However, the duo departed in the space of five deliveries and skipper Rahul Chan-

droi and Varun Lavande fell to a double strike by left-arm spinner Bryce Parsons in the 27th over.

The Indians lost wickets at regular intervals before Sameer Rizvi and Prayas Ray Barman did their best to resurrect the innings.

However, the bowlers came up with a reassuring display to reduce South Africa to 35 for three in 10.1 overs. And though the visitors

did lose two quick wickets at the total of 79, Ruan Terblanche and Andle Mogokane took control and did look well set.

Eventful over

Off the second ball of the last over, Terblanche, going for the winning run, was caught short by Rahul Chandroi's quick throw.

Jarred Jardine fell in the same fashion the very next

ball, off a direct hit by Barman and as tension mounted the South Africans choked as Nonelela Yikha found himself well short to another direct hit by Mishra himself.

The scores:

India-B 198 in 49.1 overs (Pragnesh Kanpillewar 42, Sameer Rizvi 40, Tilak Varma 33, Siyabulela Plaatje three for 40) bt South Africa 197 for nine in 50 overs (Ruan Terblanche 79, Andle Mogokane 64).

Easy for India-A

Beats Afghanistan by 92 runs

M.R. PRAVEEN CHANDRAN

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

India-A suffered a batting collapse and ended up with a much lesser total than it promised. However, the spinners ensured it was more than enough against Afghanistan, which lost by 92 runs in the Quadrangular Under-19 one-day series at the Sports Hub here on Thursday.

India-A, with its second win, ensured its place in the final while it was second consecutive loss for Afghanistan in the tournament.

Chasing 253 for a win, Af-

ghanistan was never in the hunt after Ishan Afridi castled opener Riaz Hussain for a duck in the third over. The loss of wickets at regular intervals derailed the chase with the 44-run sixth wicket stand between Arif Khan (33) and Shafiqullah Ghafari (28) providing the only real resistance. Medium pacers Ishan Afridi and Akash Singh dealt the early blows and the spinners piled on the pressure with their parsimonious spells.

Harsh Dubey and Ravi Bishnoi were unrelenting and kept the batsmen on tight leash during the middle overs.

The run rate crept up and Afghanistani batsmen perished while trying to force the pace. Left arm spinner Yuvraj Chaudhary

had a much lesser total.

The scores: India-A 252 in 47.4

overs (Siddhesh Veer 81,

Shashwat Rawat 45, Priyansh Arya 44, Shafiqullah Ghafari

four for 35) bt Afghanistan 160 in 48.4 overs (Arif Khan 33,

Yuvraj Chaudhary three for 24).

Clinical:

Siddhesh Veer top-scored with 81 and picked up two wickets as India U-19 made the final. ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Prajnesh in main draw

SPORTS BUREAU
INDIAN WELLS



Prajnesh Gunneswaran.
■ FILE PHOTO

6-4, 6-4; Amaud Bovy (Bel) bt Sidharth Rawat 6-4, 6-1.

Doubles (pre-quarterfinals): Jacob Grills (Aus) & Toby Martin (GBR) bt Niki Poonacha & Abhinav Sanjeev shannugam 4-6, 7-6(1) [10-6]; Alexander Igoshin (Rus) & Vijay Sundar Prashanth bt Marcell Ilhan (Tur) & Marek Semjan (Svk) 6-3, 4-6, [10-5].

\$25,000 ITF women, Yokohama: Pre-quarterfinals: Catherine Harrison (USA) bt Rutuja Bhosale 6-2, 6-1; **First round:** Rutuja bt Anri Nagata (Jpn) 3-6, 6-2, 6-0.

Doubles (quarterfinals): Akiko Omae (Jpn) & Rutuja bt Mana Ayukawa (Jpn) & Ylena In-Albon (Sui) 6-3, 6-3.

Anjum Moudgil dominates again

Adarsh Singh tops men's 25-metre rapid fire pistol

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Anjum Moudgil continued to assert class as she dominated the proceedings with intimidating high scores in the women's air rifle during the fourth National shooting selection trials at the Dr. Kani Singh Range, Tughlakabad, on Thursday.

After topping qualification with 633.2, Anjum outclassed the field with a total of 253.4 in the 24-shot final, as she beat Aayushi Gupta by 2.7 points to top the table.

While Anjum's 253.4 was better than the world record of 252.9 set recently by compatriot Apurvi Chandela, her qualification score was 0.2 less than the world record set by China's Zhu Yingjie last year.

"I am happy that all the changes done over the past couple of months have worked really well. I am so much more confident in air rifle. I have learnt a lot and

am enjoying even the training, which was not much earlier," said Anjum.

Elavenil Varalarvan did well to take the third place among the women and topped the junior event, in which there was no final. In the men's 25-metre rapid fire pistol, the young Adarsh Singh topped with 31, as he beat Anhad Jawanda by two points after topping qualification with 585.

In men's rifle 3-position event, Olympian Chain Singh topped with 457.7, as he pipped Parul Kumar by 1.4 point, after topping qualification with 1168.

The results: Women: 10m air

rifle: 1. Anjum Moudgil 253.4 (633.2); 2. Aayushi Gupta 250.7 (628.5); 3. Elavenil Varalarvan 230.1 (631.6).

Junior: 1. Elavenil Varalarvan 631.6; 2. Shreya Agrawal 630.0; 3. Gargi Sandeep Sirsat 626.0.

Youth: 1. Anuradha Lalaso Nirmigire 622.2; 2. Gayatri Pradeep Jadhav 619.8; 3. Arnisha Chowdhury 612.2.

Men: 25m rapid fire pistol: 1. Adarsh Singh 31 (585); 2. Anhad Jawanda 29 (579); 3. Shivam Shukla 26 (577).

50m rifle 3-position: 1. Chain Singh 457.7 (1168); 2. Parul Kumar 456.3 (1164); 3. Swapnil Kusale 444.9 (1162).

Junior: 1. Akash Patidar 1136; 2. Amit Kumayu 1122; 3. Lagad Saurav Gorak 1118.

LOVE LETTERS WILL NEVER GO OUT OF FASHION.

The year is 2019,

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Mail your good words to hello@thehindu.co.in

#InternationalWomensDay THreaderconnect

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e-TENDER CALL NOTICE
Name of the work "Re-roofing to the damaged IR Qrs. at Nuabazar (40 Nos.) Qrs.". Estimated cost put to tender ₹.93,51,234.24. Last date & time of submission of Bid 25.03.2019 at 17:00 Hrs. For details please refer our website <https://e-procure.gov.in/eprocure/app>. Executive Engineer Roads & Building Division PPT/PR/673/18-19 DL.07.03.2019

KERALA STATE SPORTS COUNCIL
Thiruvananthapuram 23.02.2019
E Tenders are invited for the purchase of sports kit for Sports Hostel Students of Kerala State Sports Council, Thiruvananthapuram. For more details please visit www.etenders.kerala.gov.in Sd/- Secretary (3310731/D3/19/i&PR)

GOVERNMENT OF ANDHRA PRADESH NODAL AUTHORITY FOR BIOMETRIC ATTENDANCE AND E-OFFICE IMPLEMENTATION EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FOR DEVELOPMENT OF 'A1 ADVISOR'
Interested Startups located in India are requested to submit Expression of Interest for development of 'Artificial Intelligence Advisor'. For details please refer Tender ID:273746 published in: www.apeprocurement.gov.in. Last Date: 22-04-2019. Sd/- SRIKANT NAGULAPALLI SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT (POLITICAL) DIPR 4887/CL, Dt.07/03/2019

KERALA STATE ELECTRICITY BOARD LTD OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ENGINEER (COMMERCIAL & PLANNING) THIRUVANANTHAPURAM
Phone: +91 471 2514473, 9446008581, E-mail: dca.dcc@kseb.in PROCUREMENT OF 200MW SOLAR POWER

DEEP portal reference no. KSEBL /short /19-20 ET /2 dt 02-03-2019 KSEB Ltd is inviting bids for the procurement of 200 MW solar power on long term basis from Ground Mounted PV power plants to be established in Kerala on IPP mode through DEEP e-bidding portal for a period of 25 years with supply commencing not later than 1st April, 2021.

Last date for submission of bid : 17-4-2019, 3 PM. For details visit www.kseb.in

PR/MC 1/F 122/2019

BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE
Office of the Executive Engineer, Storm Water Drain (South Zone), BBMP, 9th Floor, Shopping Complex, Jayanagar 4th Block, Bengaluru

No.: EE/SWD/South/TEND/03/2018-19 Date: 07.03.2019

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION

INVITATION FOR TENDER (IFT)
(Through GOK e-Procurement Portal Only) (Two Cover System) (Standard Tender Document KW-1, KW-2, KW-3 & KW-4)

The Executive Engineer (SWD), South Zone, BBMP, Bengaluru invites tenders from eligible Contractors registered in Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike or equivalent registration with CPWD / KPWD / Railways / MES / National Highway or any State Government Organizations for the construction of works detailed in the table below.

S. No.	Name of the Work	Amount put to tender (Rs. in Lakhs)	EMD
1	Construction of RCC Retaining Wall to primary storm water drain V-100 in place of collapsed SSM wall at pipeline Road Hosahalli in Ward No. 124.	235.93	3,54,000/-
2	Remodelling of secondary SWD at 9th Main at RPC Layout in Ward No. 133.	219.60	3,30,000/-
3	Construction of RCC Retaining wall to secondary SWD V-116 at Krishnadevaraya pipeline Road in Ward No. 133.	43.75	88,000/-

Calendar of Events: (1) Tender documents may be downloaded from the e-Procurement portal of the Government of Karnataka from 11.03.2019. (2) Pre bid meeting : 15.03.2019, 4:00 p.m. (3) Last date for receipt of the filled tender documents : 19.03.2019, 4:00 p.m. (4) Date of opening of Technical bid : 20.03.2019, 4:30 p.m. (5) Date of opening of Financial bid : Will be intimated at a later date. Further details may be obtained from the above office during office hours or website [https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in](http://eproc.karnataka.gov.in)

IN BRIEF



One giant leap for womankind in spacewalk

NEW YORK

The first all-women spacewalk is planned for March 29, NASA has announced. Astronauts Christina Koch (in picture) and Ann McClain will walk outside the International Space Station to repair some batteries. Ground support will come from flight director Mary Lawrence and Kristen Facciol of the Canadian Space Agency. REUTERS



Donald Trump calls Apple CEO 'Tim Apple'

SAN FRANCISCO

U.S. President Donald Trump on Thursday addressed technology giant Apple's CEO Tim Cook as "Tim Apple" while the latter sat there, nodding quietly during a meeting at the White House for the American Workforce Policy Advisory Board. "We appreciate it very much, Tim Apple," Mr. Trump told Mr. Cook at the meeting. IANS

Netflix drops *Hotel Mumbai* from its menu

Faces legal battle on film's screening rights in India

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI

In November last year, in its content showcase "See What's Next: Asia" summit in Singapore, Netflix had announced eight new original films for the India market. Among them was *Hotel Mumbai*, a fictionalised ac-

Zuckerberg promises a privacy-friendly Facebook

Critics remain unconvinced about company's commitment

ASSOCIATED PRESS
SAN FRANCISCO

Facebook, which grew into a colossus by vacuuming up information in every possible way and using it to target ads at users, now says its future lies in privacy-oriented messaging.

Mark Zuckerberg, co-founder and CEO, announced the shift on Wednesday in a blog post apparently intended to blunt both criticism of the company's data handling and potential antitrust action. He said that the company would prioritise giving people ways to communicate in a truly private fashion, with their intimate thoughts and pictures shielded by encryption in ways that Facebook itself can't read.

But Mr. Zuckerberg didn't suggest any changes to Facebook's core newsfeed-and-groups-based service, or to Instagram's social network, currently the fastest growing part of the company.

Critics aren't convinced Mr. Zuckerberg is committed to meaningful change.

"This does nothing to address the ad targeting and in-



Mark Zuckerberg

formation collection about individuals," said Jen King, director of consumer privacy at Stanford Law School's Center for Internet and Society. "It's great for your relationship with other people. It doesn't do anything for your relationship with Facebook itself."

Facebook has suffered privacy lapses that have amplified the calls for regulations that would hold companies more accountable when they improperly expose their users' information.

As part of his effort to make amends, Mr. Zuckerberg plans to stitch together

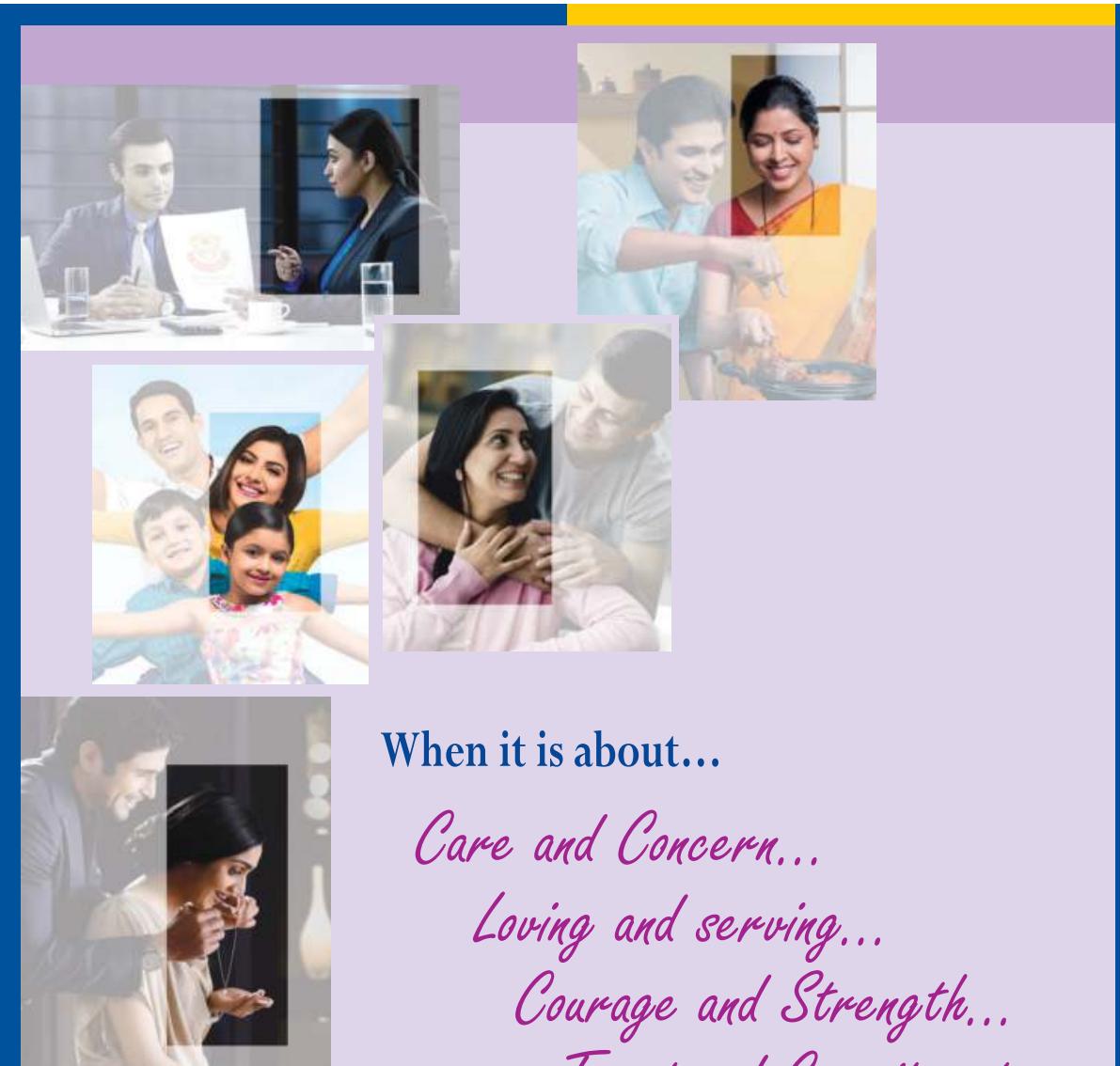
its Messenger, WhatsApp and Instagram messaging services so users will be able to contact each other across all of the apps.

Meanwhile, Facebook and the Instagram photo app would still operate more like a town square where people can openly share whatever they want.

Hidden motive?
Critics have raised another possible motive the threat of antitrust crackdowns. Integration could make it much more difficult, if not impossible, to later separate and spin off Instagram and WhatsApp as separate companies.

"I see that as the goal of this entire thing," said Blake Reid, a University of Colorado law professor who specialises in technology and policy. He said Facebook could tell antitrust authorities that WhatsApp, Instagram and Facebook Messenger are tied so tightly together that it couldn't unwind them.

Combining the three services also lets Facebook build more complete data profiles on all of its users.



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