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# सामान्य अध्ययन

ओरिएन्टेशन क्लास के साथ बैच प्रारंभ

## आज

प्रातः 11:30 बजे

स्थान: वर्द्धमान प्लाज़ा, नेहरू विहार, दिल्ली-54

### प्रिलिम्स-2019 के लिये

करेंट अफेयर्स क्रैश कोर्स

ऑनलाइन और ऑफलाइन दोनों माध्यमों में उपलब्ध  
कुल 30-35 कक्षाएँ (लगभग 100 घंटे)

आरंभ

8 अप्रैल, प्रातः 7:30 बजे

क्लासरूम कार्यक्रम

14 अप्रैल

ऑनलाइन कार्यक्रम

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Mehbooba Mufti stages protest against ban on Jamaat-e-Islami

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Sonia Gandhi, Rahul and Manmohan Singh, meet G20 envoys

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North Korea 'restoring' facilities at a long-range rocket launch site

page 12



Sindhu knocked out in the opening round of All England badminton

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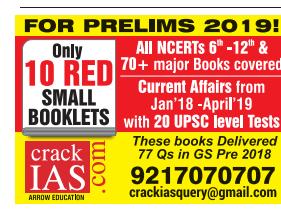


CBSE files complaint over fake news on paper leak

NEW DELHI

The Central Board of Secondary Education has registered a complaint with the Delhi police regarding circulation of fake news on social media about paper leak, the police said on Wednesday. "We are going through the complaint, an FIR will be registered under relevant sections of IPC," DCP (East) Jasmeet Singh said.

DEHLI METRO ▶ PAGE 1



DELHI METRO ▶ 4 PAGES

SC presses for compromise in Ayodhya

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

The Constitution Bench of the Supreme Court on Wednesday pressed for a compromise in the Ayodhya dispute, with Justice S.A. Bobde stressing that the court was only concerned about the present state of the Ramjanmabhoomi-Babri Masjid case.

WE ARE LOOKING AT HEALING, SAYS JUDGE ▶ PAGE 10

## Secret papers on Rafale deal stolen: govt.

■ Tells SC that 'sensitive' info is now out in the public domain

■ Govt. didn't want it disclosed for the sake of national security

■ Centre is thinking of 'criminal action' against *The Hindu*

KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL

NEW DELHI

Attorney-General K.K. Venugopal told the Supreme Court on Wednesday that "secret" documents published by *The Hindu* on the purchase of 36 Rafale jets were "stolen" from the Ministry of Defence, probably by former employees.

Mr. Venugopal referred to the lead article in *The Hindu* on March 6, saying 'sensitive' information like the price of the weapons is now in the public domain. The government had not wanted it disclosed for the sake of national security.

He said the documents with *The Hindu* and ANI were "stolen documents."

The Attorney-General said the government was thinking of taking "criminal action" under the Official Secrets Act.

He submitted that the publication of secret defence documents had put national security at risk and affected relations with friendly foreign powers.

"In future, foreign countries will think twice. They will think defence purchases will have to go through Parliament, TV channels and

with French authorities over the deal. The second file noting by former Defence Minister Manohar Parrikar, terming the note an "over-reaction," was published by the news agency Asian News International (ANI).

He said the documents with *The Hindu* and ANI were "stolen documents."

The Attorney-General said the government was thinking of taking "criminal action" under the Official Secrets Act.

He submitted that the publication of secret defence documents had put national security at risk and affected relations with friendly foreign powers.

"In future, foreign countries will think twice. They will think defence purchases will have to go through Parliament, TV channels and

then the judiciary. These defence purchases involve the very security of the state... the purchase of planes is essential for the survival of the nation, for the survival of each one of us," he told a Bench, led by Chief Justice of India Ranjan Gogoi.

Justice K.M. Joseph, on the Bench, questioned the Attorney-General's repeated refe-

rence to national security.

"Mr. Attorney, you keep repeating about national security. Suppose a great crime like corruption has been committed, can you seek shelter under national security?" he asked.

"We did not steal the documents from the Ministry of Defence, we got them from confidential sources and no force on earth can make me or us reveal the source of the documents, because we have given our word," said Mr. Ram. "Secondly, we have published this information obtained through investigative journalism in the public interest, significant information that was withheld or suppressed despite repeated demands made in Parliament and outside. Thirdly, an unintended consequence of alleging that we have published 'stolen documents' is that we have been authentication of the documents by the government itself; you need no further evidence that this is the real thing, the real deal."

Mr. Venugopal said the first delivery would start in September 2019. He said flaws in the deal were being pointed out when urgent steps were being taken to ensure the safety of the nation. He advocated judicial restraint.

To this, Justice K.M. Joseph referred to reports about the dog fight between the Pakistani F-16s and the Indian MiG-21 Bison jets. He pointed to how an F-16 was shot down by the MiG-21.

Mr. Venugopal said the first delivery would start in September 2019. He said flaws in the deal were being pointed out when urgent steps were being taken to ensure the safety of the nation. He advocated judicial restraint.

Won't reveal the source: N. Ram

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
CHENNAI

N. Ram, Chairman of The Hindu publishing group, responded strongly to Attorney General K.K. Venugopal's argument in the Supreme Court that the Rafale deal documents were "stolen" and those publishing them were guilty under the Official Secrets Act.

"We did not steal the documents from the Ministry of Defence, we got them from confidential sources and no force on earth can make me or us reveal the source of the documents, because we have given our word," said Mr. Ram. "Secondly, we have published this information obtained through investigative journalism in the public interest, significant information that was withheld or suppressed despite repeated demands made in Parliament and outside. Thirdly, an unintended consequence of alleging that we have published 'stolen documents' is that we have been authentication of the documents by the government itself; you need no further evidence that this is the real thing, the real deal."

He asserted that "we are fully protected by Article 19 (1) A of the Constitution, the fundamental right of freedom of speech and expression and also by the Right to Information Act, specifically 8(1)(i) and 8(2), which override the Official Secrets Act."

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 10  
'HOW CAN THIS GOVT. PROTECT THE COUNTRY?' ▶ PAGE 10

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 10



Making a case: Prime Minister Narendra Modi speaking at a rally in Kalaburagi on Wednesday. ■ ARUN KULKARNI

## Karnataka govt. is enemy of farmers'

No list of beneficiaries yet: Modi

KUMAR BURADIKATTI  
KALABURAGI

Escalating his attack on the Congress-Janata Dal (Secular) government, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday called it an "enemy of farmers" and accused the State of not yet submitting the list of beneficiaries under the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi Scheme (PMKNS).

■ Remote-controlled CM

Addressing a rally here, the second public meeting to be addressed by him in the State ahead of the Lok Sabha election, the Prime Minister continued to ridicule H.D. Kumaraswamy by calling him a "remote-controlled Chief Minister."

"Twelve crore families that have less than five acres of land will together get ₹75,000 crore every year directly in their bank accounts under the PMKNS. Can you imagine how the rural economy

will start running when the villagers receive ₹75,000 crore every year? One crore people in the country have already received the money. As many as 71 lakh people in Karnataka will benefit under the scheme. But the [State] government, the Congress that came to power by backstabbing people of the State, and the remote-controlled Chief Minister has not yet submitted the list [of beneficiaries]... Those who are sitting in Bengaluru government, the enemies of farmers, are responsible for it," Mr. Modi said.

When the Union government gave money to farmers, it hurt the State government because the money would be paid directly to farmers' accounts leaving no room for misappropriation, the Prime minister said.

SEE ALSO ▶ PAGE 5

## There's enough proof to prosecute the PM: Rahul

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

Asserting that the Centre's claim of the Rafale file being stolen was an attempt to destroy evidence and a cover-up, Congress president Rahul Gandhi on Wednesday said Prime Minister Narendra Modi should be prosecuted.

The Congress also said that even if the NDA government tries to "gag the media or/and arrest every citizen" the party will not be de-

ferred from speaking the truth."

"There is now enough evidence to prosecute the PM in the #RafaleScam. The trial of corruption begins & ends with him. That crucial Rafale files incriminating him are now reported 'stolen' by the Govt, is destruction of evidence & an obvious coverup," Mr. Gandhi tweeted with the hash tag #FIRagainstCorruptModi.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 10

## A-G refers to face-off to press for more air power

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

Attorney-General K.K. Venugopal referred to the recent face-off between India and Pakistan to press the need for more air power in the form of the Rafale.

"Recently, we have seen how vulnerable we are. Some F-16s came to bomb us," he submitted before a Bench led by Chief Justice Ranjan Gogoi, which is hearing review petitions against the December 14 judgment.

To this, Justice K.M. Joseph referred to reports about the dog fight between the Pakistani F-16s and the Indian MiG-21 Bison jets. He pointed to how an F-16 was shot down by the MiG-21.

Mr. Venugopal said the first delivery would start in September 2019. He said flaws in the deal were being pointed out when urgent steps were being taken to ensure the safety of the nation. He advocated judicial restraint.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 10

## Valley students start returning to colleges in north India

Many had left for home in the aftermath of the Pulwama attack last month



Kashmiri students protesting in Gurugram. ■ FILE PHOTO

dia. However, college authorities acted promptly in all the cases and the situation is now normal, the report added.

In Ghaziabad, except 12 students of a private university, no other student had left the city. And out of the 12, six have returned while the rest will join the college by weekend, the officer said.

The State Administrative Council of J&K had appointed seven liaison officers in November last year at regions across India, including Delhi-NCR-Meerut, Jaipur-Bhopal, Chandigarh, Ambala, Gurugram and other towns of north India – from where students were reported only from places where students had posted some 'controversial' post on social media.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 10

## Cut out together



Cut-outs erected at the venue of the rally of Prime Minister Narendra Modi in Chennai on Wednesday. Mr. Modi also laid the foundation for highway projects and dedicated railways and highways projects and the Ennore LNG terminal. ■ S.R. RAGHUNATHAN

## Coming soon: the Indian museum of natural history

It will house India's geological and palaeontological wealth in one location

JACOB KOSHY  
NEW DELHI

From dinosaur fossils to pre-human skulls, India is home to a vast treasury of geological and palaeontological specimens that contain a wealth of scientific information about the planet and its history. But these rare specimens are scattered in different labs all over the country. So, to better conserve this prehistoric heritage, the government is planning to house them in one place – an 'Earth Museum'.

This museum will be modelled on the American Museum of Natural History, or the Smithsonian museum in the U.S. The museum, which will be set up as a public-private partnership, would be located somewhere in Delhi, Noida

or Gurugram, said G.V.R. Prasad, head of the Department of Geology, University of Delhi.

K. VijayRaghavan, Principal Scientific Adviser (PSA) to the Prime Minister, said at a press conference on Wednesday that such a repository was necessary to make people aware of India's palaeontological and geological wealth. "There is a lot of history here, but somehow it hasn't been communicated well," he said. Another concern, he added, was that several collections of fossils and important geological specimens weren't properly organised, and they survived only due to the efforts of individual researchers who maintained them within their labs. A single site, accessible to the

public as well as researchers wanting to investigate rare and important finds, was necessary, Mr. VijayRaghavan said.

Plan takes shape The PSA led a meeting of the Prime Minister's Science, Technology and Innovation Advisory Council (PM-STIAC) last November, where the need for such a museum was endorsed. A meeting of experts from the U.S., the U.K. and South Korea to discuss the practical aspects of developing and maintaining such a museum is scheduled to be held in Delhi in the first week of April, Mr.

Jurassic find: An excavated ichthyosaur fossil found near Lodai village in Kutch district of Gujarat in 2017. ■ AFP

Prasad told *The Hindu*.

"India doesn't have a single such museum of repute, or a repository where new finds may be compared to those already discovered. I'm not too sure about the future of the collections in my own department in Delhi University once I retire," he added.

India has a rich geological history and fossils dating back to the breaking up of the Gondwanaland super-continent nearly 150 million years ago. Prominent fossils include the jaw of an extinct ape, Gigantopithecus bilasipurensis, dinosaur eggs so large they were mistaken for cannon balls, and the skeleton of a horned carnivore, Rajasaurus narmadensis, or the royal Narmada dinosaur.

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Lingaraj Azad

in the agitation against proposed bauxite mining in the Niyamgiri hills, however, claimed that the villagers were opposing the IRB camp since the security personnel had occupied their gram panchayat office without the consent of its office-bearers.

Activists demand release The development took many activists supporting the cause of the tribals living in the Niyamgiri hills by surprise. Terming Mr. Azad's arrest illegal, SJIP and NAPM activists demanded his immediate release. Activists also passed a resolution condemning the arrest.

"We condemn Mr. Azad's arrest ahead of the SJIP's proposed rally in Bhubaneswar on March 11 on the continued violations of rights in Niyamgiri hills," said Aflatoon, all-India general secretary of the SJIP.

Activists demand release The development took many activists supporting the cause of the tribals living in the Niyamgiri hills by surprise. Terming Mr. Azad's arrest illegal, SJIP and NAPM activists demanded his immediate release.

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DELHI Timings	
THURSDAY, MAR. 07	
RISE 06:40 SET 18:24	
RISE 07:13 SET 19:03	
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	

Delhi Weather	max	min
Delhi City	24	11
Safdarjung	24	11
Palam	26	11

**Delhi Paliom Today**  
26°C Dry weather with cool morning. Comfortable day with few clouds. Pollution in moderate to poor zone.

**Delhi Paliom Tomorrow**  
27°C Rise in temperature and pollution level. A cloudy and comfortable day. Chances of thundershower likely.

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## IN BRIEF



**Thakur lays foundation for water project**  
MANDI (H.P.)  
Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur on Wednesday laid foundation stone for the State's biggest water supply scheme at Lambatnach, which is in his home district Mandi. The scheme, to be completed at a cost of ₹215 crore, will provide drinking water to thousands of people. PTI

**Man gets death for rape, murder of Class VI girl**

SHAHDOL (M.P.)  
A 35-year-old man has been sentenced to death by a court for raping and killing a Class VI girl in Madhya Pradesh's Shahdol district four years ago. Describing the incident as one which has "hit the humanity hard", Judge R.G. Prajapati awarded the punishment to Ramnath Kevat on Tuesday. PTI

# Farmers lift blockade from Amritsar-Delhi railway track

After HC intervenes and asks Punjab govt. to look into their demands

## PRESS TRUST OF INDIA CHANDIGARH

Farmers squatting on the Amritsar-Delhi rail tracks on Wednesday called off their agitation following the intervention of the High Court, which asked the State government to look into their demands.

During resumed hearing on a PIL filed by Patiala resident Mohit Kapoor, the court of Chief Justice Krishna Murari and Justice Arun Palli asked the farmers' leaders to submit their demands within 24 hours to the Advocate General, Punjab, and posted the matter for March 19.

A petition seeking removal of farm protesters under the banner of Kisan Majdoor Sangarsh Committee from the Amritsar-Delhi rail track was filed in the court on Tuesday.

"The State government has been directed to look into the demands of farmers and file its status report within 10 days," Advocate Arun Gupta, counsel for the petitioners, said.



Farmers prepare to move from the railways tracks after calling off their agitation near Amritsar on Wednesday. ■ PTI

The court initially heard the demands of farmers' leaders during in-camera proceedings and asked them to first withdraw their agitation and clear the rail tracks.

The court told them that their reasonable and genuine demands would be looked into and would be complied with, said farmers' leaders' counsel Mohinder Kumar. Three farmers' representatives including Satnam Singh Pannu who was spearheading the protest, appeared before the court on Wednesday.

## Assurance to court

They assured the court that they would lift the blockade by 12:30 p.m.

Senior Superintendent of Police Parmpal Singh said in

Amritsar that the agitation has been called off after two days.

On March 4, farmers had blocked the Amritsar-Delhi rail track in Amritsar in support of their demands including full loan waiver, implementation of the Swaminathan Commission report and payment with 15% interest for sugarcane bought by the mills.

The Patiala-based resident had filed a petition on Tuesday, seeking appropriate directions for the clearance of the railway track from protesting farmers as the blockade led to cancellation or diversion of trains causing inconvenience to passengers.

On Tuesday, Punjab Advocate General Atul Nanda had informed the court that about 85 trains had been cancelled or diverted, affecting about 85,000 passengers because of farmers' protest.

On Wednesday, 38 trains remained cancelled, the Railways said.

# Services of 5,178 teachers regularised in Punjab

Akali Dal calls it an election ploy by the Congress govt.

## SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT CHANDIGARH

The Punjab Cabinet on Wednesday approved regularisation of services of 5,178 contractual teachers with full pay scales to be implemented from October 1, 2019.

The Cabinet also regularised 650 nurses of the health department as per the department's probation rules, said an official statement.

The Cabinet meeting was held here under the chairmanship of Chief Minister Amarinder Singh.

The statement said of the 5,178 teachers, 5,078 were recruited in the master's cadre and 100 as classical and vernacular teachers by the Education Department in 2014, 2015 and 2016.

These teachers are currently paid ₹7,500 per month and their salary would be now fixed at minimum of grade pay, which is ₹15,300 per month, till the time they are given full scale, the release said.

Reacting to the decision of regularising the jobs of teachers, SAD senior leader



CM Amarinder Singh ■

and former Minister Bikram Singh Majithia described it as an "election ploy" of the Congress.

"The government does not have money in the budget. They cannot give Dearness Allowance of employees and winter uniform of students. It is a just a ploy to fool the teachers' union so as to try to get them on board for the elections. But teachers are sensible people and they will not fall for this election gimmick of the Congress," said Mr. Majithia.

The teachers, protesting under the banner of Adhyapak Sangharsh Committee,

said they were upset that the Cabinet approved giving full pay scale to 5,178 teachers from October instead of February.

"We were promised that the full pay scale will be given with effect from February this year. But the government is now saying that the full pay scale will be given from October," Bikramjit Singh Kaddon, a member of the committee, said.

## Committee formed

The teachers said that during their meeting with four Ministers - Education Minister O.P. Soni, Finance Minister Manpreet Badal, Health Minister Brahm Mohindra and Cooperation and Jails Minister Sukhjinder Randhawa - they were assured that the issue of pay protection of 8,886 teachers of Adarsh schools, SSA and RMSA would also be addressed in the Cabinet meeting. "But this issue will now be looked into by a committee, along with other issues," said Mr. Kaddon.

(With PTI inputs)

## 60-year-old dies after thrashing

13 U.P. policemen booked for the alleged assault

## PRESS TRUST OF INDIA MUZAFFARNAGAR

A case was registered on Wednesday against 13 police personnel in Uttar Pradesh's Muzaffarnagar district for allegedly beating a 60-year-old man who died of a heart attack later, an officer said on Wednesday.

Station House Officer Santosh Kumar Singh, outpost in-charge Ajay Kumar and 11 constables of New Mandi

police station allegedly thrashed Madanpal, his wife and their son, Monu, of Makhalvi village - around five km east of here - on Tuesday night, the officer said.

Later, Mandpal suffered a heart attack and he was rushed to a hospital where doctors declared him dead, Mr. Kumar said. On Wednesday morning, villagers staged a protest against the police action and kept Mandpal's body on the road.

they opposed their son's late-night arrest fearing the cops might kill him, Senior Superintendent of Police Sudhir Kumar said.

A team had gone to the village to arrest Monu in connection with a case. After reaching the house, the police arrested Monu and allegedly beat up his family after

## Protecting nature



Students taking part in a programme against cutting of trees in Bhopal. ■ A.M. FARUQUI

## IPS officer dismissed over extramarital relationship

Pankaj Chaudhary was Commandant of Police Training School in Jhalawar

## PRESS TRUST OF INDIA JAIPUR

An IPS officer has been dismissed from service by the Union Ministry of Home Affairs over an alleged extramarital relationship, officials said. Pankaj Kumar Chaudhary, currently serving as the Commandant of Police Training School, Jhalawar was found guilty of grave

misconduct, an official order said.

The action against the 2009-batch IPS officer of Rajasthan cadre was taken for establishing relations with another woman with whom he had a child.

The order said the official violated Rule 3 (1) of the All India Services (Conduct) Rules, 1968.

The rule provides that every member of the service

shall at all times maintain absolute integrity and devotion to duty and shall do nothing which is unbecoming of a member of the service.

## Probe initiated

An inquiry was initiated against the officer in April 2016 on the basis of a com-

plaint from his wife.

The then government forwarded the case to the Ministry of Home Affairs with a recommendation to impose a suitable major penalty on him.

The Ministry sought comments from the Union Public Services Commission which advised his dismissal from the service.

## Punjab grenade attack case: key accused held

NIA nabs him from Awantipora in J&K

## PRESS TRUST OF INDIA NEW DELHI

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) has arrested a key accused in last year's grenade attack on a police station in Punjab's Jalandhar from Pulwama in Jammu and Kashmir, according to an official statement.

The accused has been identified as Amir Nazir Mir, a resident of Dadsara, Awantipora, Pulwama, it said. He was arrested from Awantipora, the central agency said.

On September 14, 2018, four grenades were hurled at the building of Maksudan police station in Jalandhar, in which one police personnel was injured.

Initially, an FIR was registered by the Jalandhar police to probe the case. The case was then taken up for investigation by the NIA in December.

"NIA investigation has revealed that the attack was handiwork of Kashmiri

based terror outfit Ansar Ghazawat-ul-Hind (AGH)," the statement issued by the probe agency said.

Mir is a key accused as he procured and facilitated delivery of four grenades used in the attack on the directions of AGH chief Zakir Musa, it said.

## Two arrested earlier

Two other accused hailing from Pulwama - Fazil Bashir Pinchoo and Shahid Qayoom - were earlier arrested in the case.

They were pursuing their B. Tech from St. Soldier Group of Colleges in Jalandhar, the statement said. Mir was the active link between the arrested accused and the AGH chief, it said.

Two more accused who were involved in the attack - Rauf Ahmed Mir and Umar Ramzan - were killed in an encounter with security forces in South Kashmir on December 22, 2018.

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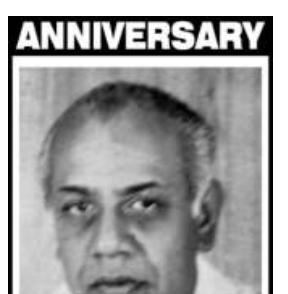
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## NPP launches unit in Assam

Plans to contest all 14 Lok Sabha seats in the State

RAHUL KARMAKAR  
GUWAHATI

The National People's Party, which aims to be the alternative to the Congress and ally Bharatiya Janata Party in the northeast, launched its unit in Assam on Wednesday with the plan to contest all 14 Lok Sabha seats in the State.

The launch coincided with the completion of a year of the NPP-led Meghalaya Democratic Alliance government in Meghalaya, where the BJP is a minor partner.

"We are ready to contest 25 seats (across the eight Northeastern States). Being with the National Democratic Alliance does not stop us from contesting elections," NPP president and Meghalaya Chief Minister Conrad K. Sangma said after inaugurating the party office in Guwahati.

### 6th N-E State

Assam is the sixth Northeastern State where the NPP has entered. The party has 20 MLAs in Meghalaya, five in Arunachal Pradesh, four in Manipur, and two in Nagaland. It is a minor ruling partner of BJP in Manipur



Meghalaya CM Conrad K. Sangma hoisting NPP's flag during the inauguration of the party's Assam unit in Guwahati on Wednesday. • PTI

and Nagaland.

The NPP's entry in Assam follows the decision of BJP's ally Indigenous Nationalist Party of Tripura to contest the upcoming Lok Sabha polls in Tripura.

In Assam, the Asoñ Gana Parishad had walked out of the BJP-led alliance government in January following differences on the issue of the Citizenship (Amendment) Bill, 2016.

However, the NPP stole the thunder from AGP by mobilising support against the Bill with Mr. Sangma cashing in on popular sentiments to emerge as the "tallest leader" of the Northeast.

"What the region needs is

a party that can bring all the people together on a common platform and make their voices strong enough for Delhi not to ignore. NPP was formed with this goal, and in the last four years, we have spread to all corners of the region," Mr. Sangma said.

He took a dig at the BJP's 'Act East Policy' and its earlier avatar 'Look East Policy' during the Congress rule. "Whether it is 'Look or Act', we will have to help ourselves. No one else will 'Look or Act' for us," he said.

The Assam unit of National People's Party is headed by retired IPS officer Dilip Kumar Bora.

## Matua matriarch's last rites today

An icon of our times, tweets PM; personal loss, says CM

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
KOLKATA

The body of the Matua community matriarch, Binapani Devi, was taken to the Matua Mahasangha headquarters known as 'Thakurbari' in the Thakurnagar area of North 24 Parganas district on Wednesday where thousands of people offered their respects.

The last rites of Binapani Devi will be performed on Thursday.

Binapani Devi, popularly referred to as 'Boroma', passed away at a city hospital late on Tuesday evening. She was 100.

Her younger son, Manju Krishna Thakur, said that Matuas from all over the country are coming to offer their respects.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi tweeted immediately after her death describing her as an "icon of our times".

Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee described Binapani Devi's demise as a "personal loss". She added that 'Boroma' will be accorded a State funeral and given a gun salute.



People arriving to pay their respects to 'Boroma' in Kolkata on Wednesday. • PTI

Banerjee described Binapani Devi's demise as a "personal loss". She added that 'Boroma' will be accorded a State funeral and given a gun salute.

### Influential community

Matuas are capable of influencing more than one Lok Sabha seat in the State. The influence of Binapani Devi and the Matua Mahasangha can be gauged by the fact that Prime Minister Narendra

Modi before addressing a rally at Thakurnagar met 'Boroma' on February 2, 2019.

In December 2018, the State government bestowed on her its highest honour – Bangabibhushan.

Matuas are a religious sect of Bangladeshi Dalits who predominantly belong to the Namasudra caste. Boroma's daughter-in-law, Mamatabala Thakur, is a Trinamool Congress MP from Bongaon.

3 of family sentenced to life in dowry death case

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
KENDRAPARA (ODISHA)

A court here on Wednesday sentenced three members of a family, including an elderly couple, to life imprisonment in a dowry death case.

Kendrapara Additional District and Sessions Judge Pragyan Panigrahi passed the order convicting the three persons to life imprisonment after finding them guilty of murdering Laxmi Mallik for dowry six years ago. They are the victim's husband Sushant Mallik (35), father-in-law Agasti Mallik (67) and mother-in-law Mukta Mallik (60). The court also slapped a fine of ₹1,000 on each for destruction of evidence.

## Panel to decide fate of students after exams

4 arrested in missing OMR sheets case

CORRESPONDENT  
CUTTACK

The Board of Secondary Education, Odisha, on Wednesday said the fate of 108 students, whose answer sheets went missing from an exam centre in Malkangiri district last week, would be decided by a committee after the completion of the examination on March 8.

"The committee will take a call soon after the examinations are over on Friday," said BSE secretary Ramsis Hazra.

He said the OMR answer sheets of 108 students who had appeared for the mathematics paper at Podia SSD High School were found missing.

Expressing shock and anguish over the incident, BSE concerned.



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#### IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT MADRAS (Ordinary Original Civil Jurisdiction) C.S. No. 243 of 2018

S. Peter, 1. Venkatesh,  
S/o. Soosaiyya Pillai, Residing at No.165, Type-3, DDA  
Aged about 63 years, Vs. Flat, Sadik Nagar,  
No.15, Varghese Avenue, New Delhi, 5 and others  
Ashok Nagar, Chennai - 600 083. ...Defendants  
... Plaintiff

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
This is to bring to the notice of 1) Venkatesh, Residing at No.165, Type-3, DDA Flat, Sadik Nagar, New Delhi, 2) Indian Industries Security Services, Represented by its Proprietor, Mr. Santosh Kumar Jha, C-10, Rajdhani Enclave, Raju Park, Devl, Delhi-110062, 3) Mr. Santosh Kumar Jha, Proprietor, Indian Industries Security Services, 481/4-B, Devil Village, KHANPUR, New Delhi-110062, 4) Thakur Engineers, Rep. by its Proprietor, Mr. Choudary Pratap Kumar, 532-B, Shripa Sun City Indrapuram, Ghaziabad - 201010, 5) Vinash Dealmopvt Ltd., Rep. by its Director Ashok Naskar, Having Office at Room No. 1, 2ndFloor, 48, Malangala Plaza, Kalkata West Bengal - 700 012, Dr. Amit Shah, Ophthalmologist, Cure Spects Hospital, Soc. Ocean Park, Manebag Soc. Road, Nehru Nagar, Ahmedabad, Gujarat, that my client, S. Peter, S/o. Soosaiyya Pillai, residing at No. 15, Varghese Avenue, Ashok Nagar, Chennai - 600 083, has filed a suit in C.S.243 of 2018 on the file of the Honorable Madras High Court against the above mentioned defendants. The above matter came up for hearing before the Hon'ble Master Judge on 22.02.2019, the Hon'ble Master Judge was pleased to allow the said application on the condition to effect publication in the newspaper. Therefore, the above mentioned defendants are hereby informed that the said case is posted to 12.04.2019 before the Hon'ble Master Judge in the High Court of Madras At 10:30 A.M. for the appearance of those who are interested in the above subject matter, RICHARDSON WILSON COUNSEL FOR PLAINTIFF

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Neetu Verma (Advocate), Office Address:- E-304, Main 30 Futa Road, Khajouri Khas, Noida-110094.

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
Be it known to all concerned that our clients Sh. J. Chaggar and Sh. K. Chaggar both R/o H. No. KG-210, Vikas Puri, New Delhi-110018 aged about 50 years and 35 years respectively are now residing their own Sh. Rahul Chaggar from their own moveable & immovable properties. Our clients are not connected with each other because of their various deals and conduct, our client have ousted him from their property and life. We request all the concerned to fulfill our clients want to live peacefully therefore our clients are severing all their relationships with their aforesaid clients.

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Neetu Verma (Advocate), Office Address:- E-3

IN BRIEF



Karnataka Cong. MLA Umesh Jadhav joins BJP

KALABURAGI  
Putting an end to speculation, Umesh Jadhav, Congress MLA from Chincholi, who submitted his resignation to Speaker K.R. Ramesh Kumar on Monday, appeared on the BJP stage in Kalaburagi on Wednesday, a couple of hours before Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressed a public rally. BJP State unit president B.S. Yeddyurappa welcomed Mr. Jadhav into the party.

Police, Maoists exchange fire in Kerala

KALPETA  
A team of the Thunderbolt unit of the Kerala police and a group of suspected Maoists exchanged fire near a private resort on the Kozhikode-Kallegad stretch of NH 766 at Lakkidi in the district late on Wednesday. According to news reaching here, a Maoist was injured in the exchange of fire.

Monkey fever virus found in samples in Hassan

HASSAN  
For the first time, the virus causing Kyasanur Forest Disease, also known as monkey fever, has been found in tick pools from Hassan district. The samples were collected from Chikkabasavanhalli in Hassan taluk and Basavanagudi near Devalakadka in Sakleshpur taluk.

Kerala moves HC against Adani group's airport bid

KOCHI  
The government on Wednesday filed a writ petition in the Kerala High Court challenging the move of the Airports Authority of India (AAI) to grant the right of operation, management, and development of the Thiruvananthapuram international airport to Adani Enterprises Limited.

# Congress won't fulfil regional aspirations, Modi says in T.N.

It's guided by a culture of high command and family first'

## MGR's name for rail station

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday launched the campaign of the AIADMK-led front for the Lok Sabha election in Tamil Nadu by focussing on the theme of the need to fulfil regional aspirations and accusing the Congress of being guided by the culture of "high command and family first."

Addressing a public meeting in Kilambakkam on the outskirts of Chennai, Mr. Modi, who earlier inaugurated a slew of infrastructure projects in the State, said support to the Congress and its allies meant "decisions will be taken, [by] sitting in air-conditioned rooms in Delhi and not in villages of Tamil Nadu."

It was for this reason that the National Democratic Alliance (NDA), which now included the AIADMK and sev-

eral other parties of Tamil Nadu, was "best placed" to take care of requirements, as "our decisions are not taken by the high command in Delhi." For the NDA, "people of India are our high command."

He contended that the Congress had been humiliating "strong regional leaders."

People of the State would "never forget how one family insulted [former Chief Minister] K. Kamaraj" for having spoken for the people and democracy.

Chief Minister and AIADMK co-coordinator Edappadi K. Palaniswami praised Mr. Modi for being the only effective leader who could ensure security in the face of terrorism and challenges by other countries.

Pointing out that "India is a diverse nation," the Prime Minister emphasised that the country would never progress "till regional aspirations are met."

Chief Minister and AIADMK co-coordinator Edappadi K. Palaniswami praised Mr. Modi for being the only effective leader who could ensure security in the face of terrorism and challenges by other countries.

## SIT takes over Kalburgi case

It held 2 meetings to review the investigation so far

STAFF REPORTER  
BENGALURU

The Special Investigation Team (SIT), headed by B.K. Singh, probing the murder of journalist-activist Gauri Lankesh has taken over the probe into the murder of M.M. Kalburgi from the Criminal Investigation Department (CID). The scholar and rationalist was shot dead at his Dharwad residence on August 30, 2015.

The SIT has held two meetings to review the investigation into the case so far; no new arrests have been made. IPS officer M.N. Anucheth, who is the Chief

Investigation Officer in the Gauri case, will have the same role in the Kalburgi case as well. Recently, the Supreme Court, while hearing a petition by Kalburgi's family over the slow progress in the investigation by the CID, directed the probe to be transferred to SIT.

"We are looking at the case with fresh eyes, re-evalu-

uating evidence and interrogation reports," said a senior official.

The probe into Kalburgi's murder that had gone cold was revived in August 2018 after the SIT submitted a report to the CID on the facts and leads they uncovered during the interrogation of an accused in the Gauri case. The CID later arrested Ganesh Miskin and Amit Baddi from Hubballi, who were part of the hit team in the Gauri murder. The duo is suspected to have played a key role in the Kalburgi murder also.

Another accused in the Gauri case, Vasudev Suryavamsi, allegedly confessed that he stole bikes that were used by the hitmen in the killing of Gauri and Kalburgi.

Party State president and Minister K. Kala Venkata Rao said in a memorandum that a conspiracy had been hatched by YSRCP leaders and senior police officials of Telangana to misusing its official position to facilitate the illegal and clandestine activity of the YSR Congress Party.

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The body of the 32-year old dentist, apparently killed by her friend Harsh Narde, who is also a dentist, was recovered from Kingsford, east of Sydney, in her car. It was stuffed in a suitcase and left in the car. Her body apparently had multiple stab injuries.

Harsh Narde, who was her colleague at her pre-

vious workplace, was also found dead in a car crash about 350 km from the place where Preeti's body was found. Police suspect that the accident of Narde was intentional and perhaps a suicide.

The New South Wales police said investigation was in progress and details were needed to be verified before they were shared. Quoting Detective Superintendent Gavin Dengate, local newspapers reported that the duo had met in Sydney and the police were looking at the movements of the two.

The last she spoke to her family was at 11 a.m. on Sunday, when she told them that she would return home after breakfast.

# JD(S) scales down seat demand

Deve Gowda seeks 10 LS seats in Karnataka during talks with Rahul Gandhi

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

Signalling that the Congress is willing to walk the extra mile to accommodate existing allies, party president Rahul Gandhi went over to the Safdarjung Lane residence of Janata Dal (Secular) chief and former Prime Minister H.D. Deve Gowda to seal the seat-sharing arrangement for the 28 Lok Sabha seats in Karnataka.

Though the official announcement of the seat-sharing arrangement will come by March 10, Mr. Gowda said his party had asked for 10 seats, down from an earlier demand of 12 Lok Sabha seats.

"This is the first such discussion between the two parties... Earlier, I had asked for 12 seats. At the meeting, I requested Rahulji to give the JD(S) at least 10 seats," said Mr. Gowda after



Crucial talks: AICC president Rahul Gandhi and JD(S) chief Deve Gowda in New Delhi on Wednesday. ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

the nearly two-hour meeting with the Congress chief.

Congress general secretary in charge of Karnataka K.C. Venugopal and JD(S) national general secretary Danish Ali were present at the meeting.

The former Prime Minister said the main objective of the pre-poll Congress-JD(S) alliance was to restrict the BJP in Karnataka.

He said a final agreement on specific seats would be taken by the leadership of

the two parties after taking inputs from Mr. Venugopal and Mr. Ali.

**Main aim is to defeat BJP**  
"Some issues which were not discussed at the meeting will be discussed by us, Mr. Venugopal and me. Our main aim is to defeat the BJP," Mr. Ali told *The Hindu*.

He said that the Congress would contest in two-thirds of the seats and the JD(S) would fight the remaining seats.

"However, seat wise, we have to discuss and finalize... We are going to reach a decision shortly and will announce it by March 10," he said.

At the two-hour meeting, Mr. Gandhi and Mr. Gowda are believed to have also discussed the political narrative and the mood in the country after the Pulwama terror attack.

## Telangana police misused position: TDP

STAFF REPORTER  
VIJAYAWADA

The TDP has lodged a complaint with Guntur Rural SP S.V. Rajasekhara Babu, urging him to inquire into the data theft and accusing the Telangana police of misusing its official position to facilitate the illegal and clandestine activity of the YSR Congress Party.

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The last she spoke to her family was at 11 a.m. on Sunday, when she told them that she would return home after breakfast.

# Missing Indian-origin dentist found murdered in Australia

Suspect — also a dentist — died in car crash 350 km away

Reddy moved to Australia when Preeti was five years old.

The New South Wales police said investigation was in progress and details were needed to be verified before they were shared. Quoting Detective Superintendent Gavin Dengate, local newspapers reported that the duo had met in Sydney and the police were looking at the movements of the two.

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Silk Mark - An initiative of Central Silk Board, Ministry of Textiles, Government of India.



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**कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय  
पेयजल एवं स्वच्छता प्रमंडल, मेदिनीनगर**

**ई-प्रोक्षणरमेण अल्पकालीन पर्तनिधिदा सुनना**

(वर्तुथ कॉल)

निवादा सूचना संख्या — DWSD/RPWS/Med-49/2018-19

दिनांक 28.02.2019

क्र० सं	कार्य का नाम	दिलेदार, संस्कारित राशि
1	प्रातःकालित सारिंग लगभग (लाख रु.)	1348.94 (प्रातःकालित अवधारणा लागू वीराजने हजार रुपये मात्र)
2	प्रातःकालीत की राशि (लाख रु.)	13.49 (प्रातःकाल उत्तरायण हजार रुपये मात्र)
3	परिसार परिवार का मूल्य	10,000/- (दस हजार रुपये मात्र)
4	कार्य की पार्ट करने की अवधि	24 (वीरों) महीना + 3 (दीन) महीना Trial & Run
5	वैद्यकाल एवं विविध प्रकार कार्यालय	05/03/2019 / 12.30 बजे अपराह्न तक
6	प्री बैठक की तिथि एवं समय	07/03/2019 / 12.30 बजे अपराह्न तक (अभियंता प्रमुख का कार्यालय, पैलेज एवं स्वच्छता विभाग, रीडी, नेल इतराः)
7	बीठ की तिथि एवं समय	22/03/2019 / 05.00 बजे अपराह्न तक
8	अप्रवास की राशि एवं परिसार परिवार का मूल्य	23/03/2019 / 05.00 बजे अपराह्न तक
9	परिवार की तिथि एवं समय	25/03/2019 / 05.00 बजे अपराह्न में।
10	प्रदान करने वाले परिवारिकारी का पाता	कार्यपालक अभियंता, पेयजल एवं स्वच्छता प्रमंडल, मेदिनीनगर।
11	कार्यपालक अभियंता का पाता	कार्यपालक अभियंता, पेयजल एवं स्वच्छता प्रमंडल, मेदिनीनगर।
12	ई-प्रोक्षणरमेण परिवारिकारी का सम्पर्क नं.	941325479
13	ई-प्रोक्षणरमेण सेल का हेल्पलाइन नं.	0651-2490920

नोट— निवादा की प्राक्कर्तित राशि घट-बढ़ सकती है। तथ्यशात् अग्रधन की राशि देय मान्य होगा।  
विस्तृत जानकारी हेतु वेबसाइट <http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in> पर देखा जा सकता है।

कार्यपालक अभियंता, पेयजल एवं स्वच्छता प्रमंडल, मेदिनीनगर।

PR 204228 (Drinking Water and Sanitation) 18-19 (D)

## IN BRIEF



## Holi celebrations in Mathura extended

MATHURA (U.P.)  
The U.P. government has extended the Holi celebrations in Mathura district by four days to attract more domestic and international tourists, an official said on Wednesday. The decision has been taken since not only the Lathmar Holi of Barsana town is famous, but the celebrations in Vrindavan, Baldeo and other areas are also exquisite, said Braj Teerth Vikas Parishad Chief Executive Officer Nagendra Pratap. PTI

## Man struck, killed by train in Kaushambi

KAUSHAMBI (U.P.)  
One person was killed at the Bharwari railway station here after being hit by a train while he was crossing the rail tracks, the police said on Wednesday. Devraj (25), a native of Maharashtra, was hit by the Rewanchal Express train and he died on the spot on Tuesday night, they said. PTI

## 7 killed, 20 injured in bus accident in Jaipur

JAIPUR  
Seven people, including a woman, were killed and 20 injured on Wednesday when a speeding bus rammed the rear of another bus parked on the road in Rajasthan's Pali district, the police said. The speeding bus was en route to Ahmedabad from Jaipur, he said. PTI

## Tigress found dead in M.P.'s Pench Reserve

SEONI (M.P.)  
Forest staff on Wednesday found the carcass of an adult tigress in the Khavasa buffer zone of the Pench Tiger Reserve, an official said. The carcass was spotted during patrolling. PTI

# Left, Congress deadlocked over two seats in West Bengal

State Congress unit reluctant to leave Raiganj, Murshidabad for CPI(M)



Rahul Gandhi and Sitaram Yechury likely to meet soon.

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
KOLKATA/NEW DELHI

Talks for an electoral understanding between the Left parties and the Congress in West Bengal have hit a stalemate over the two Lok Sabha seats of Raiganj and Murshidabad in north Bengal.

The West Bengal unit of the Congress met party president Rahul Gandhi on Wednesday and conveyed its opposition to the proposal to not contest the two seats. Both seats were won by the CPI(M) in the 2014 general election and the central committee of the party had on Monday proposed that there should be "no mutual contest" on the two seats, along with four others in Murshidabad and Malda districts that the Congress had won in 2014.

According to sources, the Congress has, however, not taken a final call on the issue and the decision will be taken by its central leadership. CPI (M) general secretary Sitaram

CPI(M) seat, Murshidabad, was bagged by Badaruddoza Khan who defeated the Congress candidate by around 18,000 votes.

The other issue the State Congress unit has is that it is in favour of a long-term understanding with the Left parties. Many in the Left camp, however, view it as a pressure strategy".

"The ball is in their court.

Our State leadership will take a call if the Congress remains adamant on their stand. The no-mutual-contest was a proposal from our side. If they reject it, we shall fight on all the four seats Congress currently holds," a senior CPI(M) leader said, adding there is no scope of negotiation on the two seats.

"It is their decision. If they do not want an alliance, then the Left Front will decide. In election we have a Plan A, Plan B and Plan C," said Mr. Salim, the sitting MP from Raiganj and a CPI(M) Polit Bureau member.

## Giriraj to be shifted from Nawada to Begusarai?

AMARNATH TEWARY  
PATNA

Union Minister Giriraj Singh's absence from the NDA's San-kalp (resolution) rally addressed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in Patna on March 3 has fuelled speculation that all was not well with him in the party. Mr. Singh's loyalty to PM Modi has also been questioned by his silence over Opposition parties attacking the Central government on the Balakot issue.

It was Giriraj Singh, Union Minister of State (Independent) for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises, who

had said that those who would not attend the March 3 rally be called "anti-national and supporter of Pakistan". But, he himself skipped the rally. "It was Giriraj Singh who had laid down the yardstick that those not attending the rally would be deemed anti-national. Hence, he is himself a big traitor. For where is he applying VISA for?" Madhepura MP and Jan Adhikar party leader Rajesh Ranjan alias Pappu Yadav had tweeted.

However, Mr. Singh, who comes from the upper caste Bhumihi community, later

tweeted saying he was "unwell".

## "Deliberately" avoided

But political analysts and sources in the BJP told *The Hindu* that Mr. Singh "deliberately" skipped the rally as he might have got the hint that the party may not field him again from the Nawada Lok Sabha constituency.

"Giriraj Singh may be asked to contest from the Begusarai seat," said a senior BJP leader. State LJP president Pashupati Kumar Paras too has admitted that the party would ask for the Nawada seat if it was denied the Munger seat.

Mahagathbandhan (Grand Alliance) is likely to field former JNU president and CPI leader Kanhaiya Kumar. "Under the seat-sharing arrangement, the Nawada seat may go to the Lok Janshakti Party, since the LJP has been asked to vacate its sitting Munger seat for JD(U) candidate Rajiv Ranjan Singh alias Lailan Singh. The LJP will stake claim to the Nawada seat," said a senior LJP leader.

Begusarai is also an upper caste Bhumihi-dominated constituency from where the

## Mamata to begin poll campaign on Women's Day

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
KOLKATA

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee will kick off the Trinamool Congress' campaign for the Lok Sabha polls on International Women's Day on March 8, a party leader said on Wednesday.

Incidentally, the TMC chief had also commenced her party's election campaign for the 2014 parliamentary and 2016 Assembly elections on the same date.

Ms. Banerjee is scheduled to participate in a rally convened by the party's women's wing from Shradhananda Park to Park Street here on Friday to celebrate the International Women's Day.

"Although election dates are yet to be announced, our campaign for the Lok Sabha elections will begin on March 8. During the 2014 Lok Sabha polls and 2016 Assembly polls also, Mamata did start her poll campaign on Women's Day," a senior leader of the TMC's women's wing said.

The purpose of this rally is to create a "new India, united India and strong India", the posters of the rally read.

"She (Mamata) will give her message for the Lok Sabha polls. And after the dates are announced, a full-fledged campaign will begin," the TMC leader said.

Ms. Banerjee, who has been the prime mover of an anti-Bharatiya Janata Party front, had organised a mega Opposition rally here on January 19 during which she had given a call to oust the Modi government.

## 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 Thursday:** Heat wave conditions/thunderstorm accompanied with lightning & gusty winds likely at isolated places over coastal Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	0.4	29.6	17.2	Kozhikode	—	25.8	25.8
Ahmedabad	—	31.0	13.6	Kurnool	—	38.0	24.7
Aizawl	15	26.9	14.2	Lucknow	—	25.6	12.9
Allahabad	—	27.8	12.0	Madurai	—	39.7	25.4
Bengaluru	—	35.7	22.7	Mangalore	—	33.1	23.5
Bhopal	—	28.2	15.0	Mumbai	—	29.0	19.0
Bhubaneswar	1	33.5	23.2	Myrsu	—	36.9	18.9
Chandigarh	—	23.4	11.0	New Delhi	—	24.5	11.0
Chennai	—	35.3	26.4	Patna	—	28.0	15.4
Coimbatore	—	36.2	24.2	Puducherry	—	34.7	22.7
Dehradun	—	23.4	9.1	Pune	—	31.1	15.5
Gangtok	17	14.4	7.5	Raipur	—	31.5	20.4
Goa	—	31.3	20.5	Ranchi	—	26.8	16.6
Guwahati	2.9	28.8	14.3	Shillong	—	19.2	8.6
Hubballi	—	34.0	17.0	Shimla	—	1.5	3.7
Hyderabad	—	34.8	19.3	Srinagar	—	15.5	0.9
Imphal	0.8	23.6	11.2	Trivandrum	—	35.0	25.5
Jaipur	—	26.7	12.1	Tiruchi	—	39.8	24.6
Kochi	—	33.2	25.8	Vijayawada	—	36.5	26.0
Kolkata	—	20.0	8.0	Visakhapatnam	—	32.2	26.6

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

Yesterday

CITIES	SO <sub>2</sub>	NO <sub>x</sub>	CO	PM <sub>2.5</sub>	PM <sub>10</sub>
Ahmedabad	56	.87	22	.78	—
Bengaluru	.4	43	.57	.93	.141
Chennai	.9	16	.31	.72	.25
Delhi	16	108	.62	.191	.257
Hyderabad	57	.99	.47	.125	.147
Kolkata	11	.55	.34	.209	.149
Lucknow	.6	.36	.34	.222	.20
Mumbai	.9	.12	.77	.37	.97
Pune	32	.16	.35	.76	.110
Visakhapatnam	18	.39	.31	.76	.100

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Ballabgarh, Haryana recorded an overall AQI index of 200 (AQI score of 52) indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Panipat recorded a healthy AQI score of 57

Air Quality Code: ■ Poor ■ Moderate ■ Good (Readings indicate average AQI)  
**SO<sub>2</sub>:** 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<sub>x</sub>:** 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<sub>2.5</sub> & PM<sub>10</sub>:** 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

### JHARKHAND URBAN INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT COMPANY LIMITED (A Government of Jharkhand Undertaking)

3rd FLOOR, PRAGATI SADAN, KUTCHERY CHOWK, RANCHI 834 001, JHARKHAND.  
PH: +91 651 2225878, E-MAIL: juidcolimited@gmail.com  
CIN: U45200JH2013SGC001752

Advertisement No: 13

Dated: 05-03-2019

## Recruitment Notice

Jharkhand Urban Infrastructure Development Company (JUIDCO) Ltd., a company under the administrative control of Urban Development & Housing Department, Govt. of Jharkhand, is engaged in the different infrastructure development work, such as, (i) Water Supply Projects (ii) Sewerage, Septage & Drainage Projects (iii) Flyovers, Roads, Bus Stands ISBT & Transport Nagar (iv) Parks Project & Development of Water Bodies (v) Pradhani Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY) (vi) Iconic Buildings (vii) Namami Gange Projects etc.

JUIDCO is looking for energetic and hard working candidates having vast experience of relevant works at different levels and having good knowledge of drafting, examining and processing of BID Documents, who can provide within prescribed time and agrees to abide by the rules and regulation as framed by JUIDCO for its employees from time to time.

## CURRENT VACANCIES

SL.	Name of Post	Remuneration	No. of Post
1	Dy. General Manager (Water Supply & Sewerage)	[Present scale with all benefits with maximum upto 15% deputation allowance] <b>For Absorption</b> [One Slab above the present scale with all benefits] <b>[For Direct Contractual Recruitment]</b> Enhancement of salary by 20% on previous salary, subject to maximum limit of Rs. 2,25,000/-	1
2	Project Manager (Works & Planning)	[Present scale with all benefits with maximum upto 15% deputation allowance] <b>For Absorption</b> [One Slab above the present scale with all benefits] <b>[For Direct Contractual Recruitment]</b> Enhancement of salary 10 - 20% on previous salary, subject to maximum limit of Rs. 15,00,000/-	2 (1 UR, 1 ST)
3	Dy. Project Manager	<b>[For Direct Contractual Recruitment]</b> 40,000/-70,000/-	2 (ST)
4	Manager (Economics)	<b>[For Direct Contractual Recruitment]</b> 30,000/-45,000/-	1

Detailed terms and conditions, Eligibility criteria along with

IN BRIEF



FIR registered on journalist's complaint

NEW DELHI  
The Delhi police have registered an FIR based on a complaint by journalist Barkha Dutt a few days ago, alleging that obscene pictures and messages were sent to her on her mobile phone. The journalist shared the messages and pictures on social media before approaching the police. Delhi Police Cyber Cell is investigating the case and it has registered the FIR under relevant sections of IPC and Information Technology Act.

Air India flight returns minutes after take off

NEW DELHI  
An Air India flight from Delhi to Frankfurt on Wednesday suffered a mid-air decompression and returned to the airport "keeping safety of 220 passengers in mind", said the national carrier in a statement. The flight faced decompression at the height of approximately 20,000 feet around 15 minutes after taking off, said the statement. "No passenger has suffered any injury," said the Air India spokesperson, adding that the flight will now operate with a change of aircraft at 6 a.m. on March 7 from Delhi. PTI

## Posing as labourers, cops nab murder accused

After fleeing from West Bengal, he was working at a construction site in Wadala

GAUTAM S. MENGLE

MUMBAI  
Disguising themselves as construction workers, two constables of the Wadala police waited for several hours on Wednesday before nabbing a murder accused wanted in West Bengal for the last one-and-a-half months.

According to the Wadala police, they received information from their Behrampur counterparts in Murshidabad, West Bengal, about Dalim Sheikh (35), who was wanted for a murder on January 10. The Behrampur

# Ministry plugs loophole that allowed plastic waste import

PET bottles imported for processing in SEZs had increased substantially

JACOB KOSHY

NEW DELHI

The government has plugged a loophole that allowed the import of plastic waste into India for processing.

"Solid plastic waste has been prohibited from import into the country including in Special Economic Zones (SEZ) and by Export Oriented Units (EOU)," the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) Environment Ministry said in an order made public on Wednesday. The change in law was part of the Hazardous and Other Wastes (Management & Transboundary Movement) Amendment Rules, 2019.

*The Hindu* had reported on January 21 that India, in spite of having a significant plastic pollution load of its own, and a ban on plastic waste imports, imported PET bottles from abroad for processing in Special Economic Zones (SEZ).

The influx of PET bottles has quadrupled from 2017 to 2018, the Delhi-based environmentalist organisation, Pardit Deendayal Upadhyay Smriti Manch (PDUSM) had pointed out in January.

### Life in plastic

A look at the production and consumption in India

#### Big importer

■ India is the 10th largest importer of plastic scrap after China and Hong Kong, the Netherlands, Germany, the U.S., Belgium, Malaysia, Canada, Austria and Taiwan

#### Huge growth

■ India produces 25,940 tonnes of plastic every day, of which only 15,564 tonnes is collected

■ The plastic processing industry recorded a compounded annual growth rate of 10% between 2010 and 2015



Rising threat: A worker sifting through used PET bottles at a waste collection centre near Chandigarh. ■ AKHILESH KUMAR

#### Massive use

■ India's annual plastic consumption is expected to rise from 12 million tonnes to 20 million tonnes by 2020, according to FICCI

■ The average per capita consumption of plastic in India is about 11 kg against the global average of 28 kg

#### Waste generation

■ Solid waste generation per capita varies from 0.17 kg/person/day in small towns to roughly 0.62 kg/person/day in big cities

"Indian firms are importing plastic scrap from China, Italy, Japan and Malawi for recycling and the imports of PET bottle scrap & flakes has increased from 12,000 tonnes in FY 16-17 to 48,000 tonnes in FY 17-18 growing @ 29%. India has already imported 25,000 MT in the first 3 months of FY 18-19," a note by the organisation revealed. India consumes about 13

million tonnes of plastic and recycles only about 4 million tonnes. To incentivise domestic plastic recycling units, the government had banned the import of plastic waste, particularly PET bottles, in 2015. In 2016, an amendment allowed such imports as long as they were carried out by agencies situated in SEZs.

A senior MoEFCC official

had told *The Hindu* that while the Ministry couldn't vouch for whether such plastic imports had quadrupled, it was true that the imports had "substantially increased" and action was being contemplated.

Lack of an efficient waste collection and segregation system is the root cause for much of the plastic not making it to recycling centres.

## Indore gets cleanest city tag for third year in a row

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

NEW DELHI

Indore was adjudged India's cleanest city for the third year in a row in the Centre's 'Cleanliness Survey' announced on Wednesday. The second and third positions were bagged by Ambikapur in Chhattisgarh and Mysuru in Karnataka.

The Swachh Survekshan awards 2019 were conferred by President Ram Nath Kovind in New Delhi. While the New Delhi Municipal Council was given award for the 'Cleanest Small City' award, Uttarakhand's Gauchar bagged the 'Best Ganga Town'. The 'Cleanest Big City' award has been bagged by Ahmedabad, while Raipur is the 'Fastest Moving Big City'.

Ujjain has been the adjudged the 'Cleanest Medium City' and Mathura-Vrindavan bagged the tag of the 'Fastest Moving Medium Cities'.

Top-ranked cities received a statue of Mahatma Gandhi as a memento for their work towards cleanliness. Swachh Survekshan covered all urban local bodies in the country, making it the largest such cleanliness survey in the world.

# ISRO, French agency seal agreement on maritime security

Plan to launch low orbiting satellites

MADHUMATHI D.S.  
BENGALURU

National space agency ISRO and its French counterpart CNES on Wednesday sealed an agreement to set up a joint maritime surveillance system in the country in May.

The two nations will explore putting up a constellation of low-Earth orbiting satellites that will identify and track movement of ships globally and in particular those moving in the Indian Ocean region where France has its Reunion Islands.

Before that, they will initially share data from their present space systems and develop new algorithms to analyse them, according to the Paris based National Centre for Space Studies.

The two agencies have put up two climate and ocean weather monitoring satellites Megha-Tropiques (of 2011) and SARAL-AltiKa (2013) that are considered a model.

"This fleet will be augmented with the launch of Oceansat-3-Argos mission in 2020 along with a joint infrared Earth-observation satellite," the CNES said.

## Women rights activists release list of demands

### Appeal to political parties for endorsement

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

Women rights activists released a manifesto on Wednesday and appealed to political parties to endorse it as well as ensure that at least 33% of party tickets are given to women during the upcoming Lok Sabha elections.

Their 44-point list of demands include free sanitary napkins, free treatment for survivors of sexual assault and acid attack, criminalisation of marital rape, land deed in the joint names of wife and husband.

The activists also urged the Election Commission to bring electoral reforms to

encourage participation of women in politics. "The EC must make it mandatory for parties to have at least 33% women members so that political parties with fewer women can be deregistered," said Padmima Kumar from the Joint Women's Program at a press conference. Other organisations present included Centre for Social Research and Women Power Connect.

Ms. Kumar added that they have made at least four representations to the EC in the past five years. They also criticised the Central government for failing to introduce the Women's Reservation Bill despite enjoying a majority in the Lok Sabha. The Bill was passed in Rajya Sabha in 2010 and needs to be passed in Lok Sabha before it can become a law.

The study analyses the findings of the National Fa-

## Poorest of poor and uneducated women left behind in ICDS

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

Anganwadi services have a poor reach among key beneficiaries - the poorest of the poor and uneducated mothers - according to a paper published in a WHO bulletin recently.

The government's Integrated Child Development Scheme (ICDS) provides a package of six services at anganwadi or child-care centres to young children and pregnant women and lactating mothers. These services include supplementary nutrition, referral services, immunisation, health check-up, pre-school non-formal education and health and nutrition education.

The study analyses the findings of the National Fa-



Children at an anganwadi centre in Vellore, Tamil Nadu.

mily Health Survey 2005-2006 and 2015-2016 to compare the coverage of ICDS over a 10-year period.

During this time, the average respondents benefiting from these services increased from 9.6% to 37.9% for supplementary food, 3.2% to 21% for health and

nutrition education, 4.5% to 28% for health check-ups and 10.4% to 24.2% for child-specific services over a period of 10 years.

At the same time, the poorest of the poor or quintile 1, who were the largest beneficiaries in 2006, got left behind quintile 2 and

quintile 3 by 2016 for all four indicators such as supplementary food, counselling on nutrition, health check-ups and early childhood services, shows the study authored by Suman Chakrabarti, Kalyani Raghunathan, Harold Alderman, Purnima Menon and Phuong Nguyen.

For example, supply of food supplements in 2006 was the highest for the poorest quintile (11.7%). However, by 2016, they accounted for 34.8% of the respondents, behind quintile 2 (41.7%), 3 (45.5%) and 4 (39.7%).

The study also said that mothers without any schooling were the lowest beneficiaries as compared to those with primary and secondary schooling in 2006, and they continued to be so in 2016.

## DMDK's missteps leave the party high and dry

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
CHENNAI

The AIADMK-BJP combine's plan to have DMDK founder Vijayakanth and other alliance partners seated alongside Prime Minister Narendra Modi on stage at the NDA's inaugural political ral-

ly near Chennai on Wednesday went awry as the DMDK reached out to the DMK for an alliance in the eleventh hour only to be shown the door.

The DMK clearly told the actor's party that it had no seats to spare for the Lok

Sabha polls. DMDK sources

said that channels with DMK were reopened because AIADMK allegedly reneged on their promise made earlier and offered only four Lok Sabha seats.

Following this the DMDK, which was until a few days

ago wooed by both the Dravidian majors, found itself hopelessly at the mercy of the AIADMK-BJP front. The party re-opened negotiations with the BJP and AIADMK late in the evening but with no decisive outcome.

The detailed advertisement will be published in the Employment News tentatively in the 4<sup>th</sup> week of March 2019 and will also be available on ICFRE website [www.icfre.gov.in](http://www.icfre.gov.in).

Secretary, ICFRE

## HC rejects Arnab's plea in Sunanda case

STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court on Wednesday rejected Republic TV Editor Arnab Goswami's plea challenging an order to lodge an FIR against him for the alleged theft of confidential documents pertaining to the probe into the death of Congress leader Shashi Tharoor's wife Sunanda Pushkar.

Mr. Goswami had challenged the January 21 order of a local court here directing the Station House Officer concerned to lodge the FIR and investigate the matter which required a probe as it was not clear that how the material came in the possession of the accused.

The trial court's order had come on a complaint by the Congress leader against Mr. Goswami for allegedly accessing confidential documents relating to the SIT probe in Sunanda Pushkar's death.

**भारतीय वनिकी अनुसंधान एवं शिक्षा परिषद**  
(पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवाय परिवर्तन मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार की एक स्वायत्त परिषद)  
पो ओ० आ० न्सू. फॉरेस्ट, देवराम्पूर-२४६००६ (उत्तराखण्ड)

Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education  
(An autonomous body of the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change Government of India)  
P.O. New Forest, Dehradun-246006 (Uttarakhand)

No. 32-63/2017-ICFRE

### SHORT NOTICE

#### Recruitment for the posts of Scientist-B - 2019

Online applications are invited from Indian nationals for recruitment to 54 posts of Scientist-B in various disciplines in the Level-10 of pay matrix as per 7<sup>th</sup> CPC in Indian Council of Forestry Research & Education (ICFRE), Dehradun.

Interested candidates can apply online on the website <http://recruitment.icfre.gov.in> during 01.04.2019 to 15.05.2019.

The advertisement with age limit, reservation, age relaxation, examination plan, syllabus, educational qualification and other details will also be available on the aforementioned website. Interested applicants are requested to visit this website regularly for updates.

The detailed advertisement will be published in the Employment News tentatively in the 4<sup>th</sup> week of March 2019 and will also be available on ICFRE website [www.icfre.gov.in](http://www.icfre.gov.in).

Secretary, ICFRE

Further details can be seen from the e-Procurement Portal "<https://tendersodisha.gov.in>".

Superintending Engineer,  
Subarnarekha Irrigation Circle, LaxmiPoshi, sesic12@gmail.com

i & pr 32120/11/0004/1819

i Name of Work	Balance work of Cement concrete lining to gap at RD 43090M, RD 42780M, RD 42320M, RD 40940M and RD 38000M of Subarnarekha Main Canal along with Inspection road
ii Estimated Cost (Lakh)	Rs. 114.42 Lakh
iii Period of Completion	6 (Six) Calendar Months
iv Date & Time of availability of bid document in the portal	08.03.2019 at 10 A.M.
v Last date/time for receipt of bid in the portal	23.03.2019 up to 5.00 PM
vi Name & Address of the O.I.T	Superintending Engineer, Subarnarekha Irrigation Circle, LaxmiPoshi, Mayurbhanj

Further details can be seen from the e-Procurement Portal "<https://tendersodisha.gov.in>".

Superintending Engineer,  
Subarnarekha Irrigation Circle, LaxmiPoshi, sesic12@gmail.com



## Back to life

Belated acquittal of death row convicts highlights the need to junk the death penalty

**I**t is a tale of Kafkaesque horror. Six members of a nomadic tribe spent 16 years in prison in Maharashtra; three of them were on death row for 13 of these years, while the other three faced the gallows for nearly a decade. One of them was a juvenile at the time of the offence. And all this for a crime they did not commit. The only silver lining for the six convicts is that even though 10 years had elapsed since the Supreme Court imposed the death penalty on them, the sentence was not carried out. Hearing on their review petitions became an occasion for another Bench of the Supreme Court to revisit the 2009 verdict. A three-judge Bench has now found that unreliable testimony had been used to convict the six men. One of the two eyewitnesses had identified four others from police files as members of the gang that had raided their hut in 2003, but these four were not apprehended. The gang had stolen ₹3,000 and some ornaments, killed five members of the family, including a 15-year-old girl, who was also raped. It is possible that the heinous nature of the crime had influenced the outcome of the case. The belief that condign punishment is necessary for rendering complete justice could be behind courts brushing aside discrepancies or improvements in the evidence provided by witnesses. On a fresh hearing of the appeals, the court has concluded that the accused, who were roped in as accused in this case after being found to be involved in an unrelated crime elsewhere, were innocent.

The case, in itself, holds a strong argument against the retention of the death penalty on the statute book. Had the sentence against these six been carried out, the truth would have been buried with them. In recent years, the Supreme Court has been limiting the scope for resorting to the death penalty by a series of judgments that recognise the rights of death row convicts. A few years ago it ruled that review petitions in cases of death sentence should be heard in open court. In a country notorious for "the law's delay", it is inevitable that the long wait on death row, either for a review hearing or for the disposal of a mercy petition, could ultimately redound to the benefit of the convicts and their death sentences altered to life terms. In a system that many say favours the affluent and the influential, the likelihood of institutional bias against the socially and economically weak is quite high. Also, there is a perception that the way the "rarest of rare cases" norm is applied by various courts is arbitrary and inconsistent. The clamour for justice often becomes a call for the maximum sentence. In that sense, every death sentence throws up a moral dilemma on whether the truth has been sufficiently established. The only way out of this is the abolition of the death penalty altogether.

## Wiggle space

SEBI's new rules to protect those investing in liquid mutual funds are not tight enough

**A**ccording to new regulations issued by the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI), liquid mutual funds holding debt securities with a maturity term of more than 30 days will have to value these securities on a mark-to-market basis. Until now, liquid mutual funds could report the value of debt instruments with a maturity term of up to 60 days using the amortisation-based valuation method. Only debt securities with a maturity term of over 60 days were to be valued on a mark-to-market basis. So the new rule seemingly narrows the scope for amortisation-based valuation. Amortisation-based valuation, which is completely detached from the market price of the securities being valued, allowed mutual funds to avoid the volatility associated with mark-to-market valuation. SEBI's new rules come in the midst of the crisis in Infrastructure Leasing and Financial Services (IL&FS) that led to various fund managers reporting the value of the same debt instruments issued by the infrastructure lender at vastly different levels. The chief financial markets regulator believes that mandating mutual funds to report the value of a greater share of their holdings on a mark-to-market basis can lead to a better and more objective valuation of these securities.

By exempting securities with a maturity period of up to 30 days from mark-to-market valuation, however, SEBI may be doing no favour to individual investors. This is because the new SEBI rule gives a strong incentive for liquid mutual funds to invest more of their funds under management in securities with a maturity period of fewer than 30 days; this helps avoid the volatility of mark-to-market accounting and the need to provide a fair account of the value of their investments. What is likely is a decrease in the yields received on securities maturing in 30 days or less and an increase in the yields on debt instruments with a maturity period of 31 to 60 days. It will, however, do nothing to make investors in mutual funds become more informed about the real value of their investments. The latest SEBI rules are also in direct contrast to the usual accounting practices when it comes to the valuation of securities. Generally accepted accounting principles mandate securities with the least maturity to be reported on a mark-to-market basis while allowing the amortisation-based method to be employed to value other securities with longer maturity periods. This makes sense as the profits and losses associated with securities with shorter terms are closer to being realised by investors when compared to longer-term securities. SEBI would do well to mandate that all investments made by liquid mutual funds should be valued on a mark-to-market basis. Simultaneously, it should work on deepening liquidity in the bond market so that bond market prices can serve as a ready reference to ascertain the value of various debt securities.

# On the edge of history

Much depends on the DMK and the AIADMK holding their outright dominance in the Lok Sabha polls in Tamil Nadu



NARAYAN LAKSHMAN

of resurgent Dravidianist policymaking.

### More accommodating

Nevertheless, the sharp edge of this socio-political movement was gradually blunted, especially during the final few decades of the 20th century, as Dravidianism came face to face with the federalist authority of the Government of India, which would not brook any talk of secessionism or autonomy beyond the minimal space permitted within the framework of constitutional principles.

A second factor that reshaped the terrain of Tamil ethnic nationalism was the electoral success of the AIADMK from 1977 onward. Under M.G. Ramachandran, and later Jayalalithaa, this party promoted a different style of patronage distribution, which has come to be recognised as "benevolent populism", driven by an all-powerful leader worshipped as a veritable political god. The party also stitched together a broader inter-caste coalition as the base for its campaign strategies, and arguably that heralded its successes through the turn of the century and beyond.

As this second wave of Dravidian politics took hold, fuelled in equal measure by leaders using cinema culture to spread party propaganda, and the distribution of mass welfare goods to secure basic living standards of the poorest demographic cohorts, Tamil Nadu's polity evolved almost to the point of being an enlightened State. It seemed to have found that ideal policy mix, balancing economic growth priorities and industrialisation with the redistribution of the fruits of progress, including through the pioneering Noon Meal Scheme that simultaneously improved nutritional, educational and inter-caste harmony outcomes.

Yet it is all too well known that a dark, cancerous shadow crept across this landscape even as these remarkable progressive goals were achieved. Political leaders, for years swathed by the adulation of the masses and their party cadre, turned into robber-barons and unleashed an unstoppable culture of corruption – everything from grand larceny, loot and thuggery, to petty bribe-taking and venality on a micro-transnational scale. Tamil Nadu repeatedly found mention as a poor performer in multilateral bodies reporting on transparency, accountability and corruption levels. Industries fled the State over the years, preferring the efficient regulatory climates of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka or other parts of India.



SINGARAVELU

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### On fragmentation

As this generalised social reality of runaway rent-seeking gained deeper roots across the State under alternating governments of the AIADMK and DMK through the 1990s and beyond, a plethora of smaller breakaway parties emerged to the forefront within this matrix of patronage distribution, including the Paattali Makkal Katchi (PMK), Marumalarchi Dravidar Munnetra Kazhagam, Tamil Maanila Congress, Viduthalai Chiruthaigal Katchi (VCK), Pudiyatalaimagal, Desiya Murpokku Dravida Kazhagam and others. Some, such as the PMK and VCK, represented the aspirations of specific caste groups. Others, such as the TMC, were based on the supporter-base popularity and political networks of individual leaders, in this case G.K. Moopanar, formerly of the Congress.

As Andrew Wyatt and C. Manikandan recently explained, "Small parties might 'lose' by failing to join governments in their home

State, but they can claim to 'win' when they join a national coalition government." This was indeed the story of Tamil Nadu's many smaller parties, some of which lived with the odd contradiction of being viscerally hostile to Dravidianism and its offshoots yet proclaimed that they were committed to serving the needs of the Tamil people as such.

This mode of fragmented power coexisting with outright dominance by the two major Dravidian parties continued right until 2016-18, the phase that marked the passing of Jayalalithaa and Karunanidhi and thus the end of charismatic leadership of the AIADMK and the DMK, respectively. These leaders had for decades held the reins of the party organisation tight, left little space for genuine leadership to flourish in the lower rungs of the cadre, and concentrated their efforts on extracting political rents from the system, either for personal gain or for distribution of largesse that could secure even more access to official power.

### A collective future

Their passage has marked a more radical inflection point in the long arc of Dravidian politics than most might imagine. The most obvious signs of political implosion became evident in the immediate aftermath of Jayalalithaa's death: first, former Chief Minister O. Panneerselvam rebelled against the 'main' faction of the party being controlled by the infamous V.K. Sasikala clan, only to return to the fold alongside current Chief Minister Edappadi K. Palaniswami after Sasikala was jailed in the disproportionate assets case. Next Sasikala's nephew T.T.V. Dhinakaran led a clutch of MLAs into a separate party, the Amma Makkal Munnetra Kazhagam.

Now the entire AIADMK machinery is throwing its weight behind the BJP, perhaps calculating that their potential loss of organisational capability and popularity with voters, stemming from the absence of the "Amma" factor, might be offset by sheer money

muscle that the deep-pocketed Hindutva party could bring to the table. For now, they appear to have parked to one side any unsettling questions about how a Dravidian-philosophy-based party could align itself with a saffron-rooted, north-India-based, upper-caste-favouring political entity. Indeed, in this regard they are adopting the very same opportunism that Jayalalithaa displayed in 1998 and 2004, when political expediency easily trumped ideological coherence.

The DMK has similarly been floating into uncharted waters since the demise of Karunanidhi, although it had a definitive succession plan in place. The problem for this party is that its new boss, M.K. Stalin, has not yet delivered a State-level election victory – where his father succeeded and ascended the Chief Ministerial throne five times – and to that extent he remains an untested quantity politically. Some have also argued that he has failed to live up to his father's formidable reputation as the Leader of the Opposition in the State Assembly. However, unlike the AIADMK, which may be beholden to the BJP's financial firepower or its threats of using law enforcement agencies to do its bidding, the DMK has a more balanced relationship with the Congress and other alliance partners.

If these weaknesses within both alliances get manifested in election results in the coming months, then it could lead to a split verdict for Tamil Nadu in the Lok Sabha. This would go against the grain of the State frequently and overwhelmingly voting one of the two major Dravidian parties into power. It would also suggest that the leadership vacuum that has recently emerged has sucked the oxygen out of State politics. Only if a new crop of leadership or different parties fills this space before the Assembly election of 2021 does the State stand a chance of resuming its progressive march toward the universal betterment of its people.

*narayan@thehindu.co.in*

# Flying in the face of the demand for transparency

The Comptroller & Auditor General's report on the Rafale deal is a let-down



KAPIL SIBAL

**T**he report of the Comptroller & Auditor General (CAG) on the Rafale fighter aircraft deal throws up more questions than it answers.

This aircraft deal is referred to as an Inter-Government Agreement (IGA) – between France and India. The nomenclature itself is difficult to understand in the context of events prior to April 10, 2015 when the Prime Minister decided, in a public pronouncement, to purchase 36 Rafale aircraft manufactured by France's Dassault.

The United Progressive Alliance (UPA) government, through a global tender, had shortlisted two fighter aircraft: Dassault's Rafale and the Eurofighter Typhoon, which is made by four European nations. The price bid of the Rafale was found to be lower than that of the Eurofighter. The UPA then decided to negotiate the terms and conditions for the acquisition of 126 Rafale aircraft.

This was not a government-to-government (G-to-G) contract, since any contract pursuant to a global tender cannot possibly be G-to-G. No global tenders were floated when the UPA bought de-

fence equipment from either Russia or the United States; these were G-to-G contracts. Under the UPA's I26 planes deal, 18 were to be manufactured by Dassault and the remainder, 108, were to be manufactured by the Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd. (HAL) under transfer-of-technology by Dassault.

In March 2015, Eric Trappier, the CEO of Dassault, publicly said the deal with HAL was 95% complete, with the balance to be hopefully finalised soon. But the Prime Minister scrapped this deal and instead decided to purchase 36 aircraft, excluding HAL from the transaction. The supplies were still to be made by Dassault and not the French government. Yet, the deal is referred to as an IGA and not a G-to-G.

**Akin to a new deal**  
Following the Prime Minister's decision, the consequence was that all conditionalities relating to the purchase of the aircraft, including its price, were to be negotiated post his announcement, and contrary to Defence Procurement Procedures (DPP). In one sense, given the manner it was done, the purchase of the 36 aircraft was an entirely new deal. The Prime Minister's announcement in 2015, made on French soil, put the Government of India in a very piquant situation, as it was bound by the unilateral decision of the Prime Minister. The Prime Minister's Of-



fice (PMO) was directly involved and interfered in the delicate negotiations that were to follow. This undermined the procedures contemplated under the DPP as well as the position of the Defence Acquisition Council (DAC), which under the DPP, was entitled to negotiate the deal. File notings that have been made public have embarrassed the PMO. Allegations of the PMO having undermined the negotiating position of the Defence Ministry ring true. In this, two features transformed the nature of the transaction: first, the inclusion of an offset partner, and second, the exclusion of HAL in the manufacturing of the remainder (the 108 aircraft).

The deal is not even an IGA, far from it being a G-to-G contract, because Dassault, a private company, and not the French government, is the supplier of the 36 aircraft. Consequently, the French government has refused to guarantee the supply of the aircraft in terms of the contract. Since Dassault was responsible for the supply, the contract should have re-

tained the integrity clause along with clauses pertaining to commissions. The clauses relating to penalties and anti-corruption should not have been excluded. The PMO, presumably, intervened to have these clauses removed. No reason has been given as to why this was done and at whose instance.

Withdrawal from the deal by the DAC would have embarrassed the Prime Minister. Therefore, the French government found it easy to reject stipulations that would later embarrass them. The guarantee for supplies was replaced by a Letter of Comfort, which in legal terms, is not enforceable. Even payments by the French government to Dassault through an escrow account was rejected, perhaps because the French did not wish to be saddled with that responsibility.

### Many faultlines

The CAG has let us down in more than one way. First, its report limits itself to the pricing issue of the 36 aircraft and concludes that the deal was 2.86% cheaper than the one which was to have been finally negotiated by the UPA. The CAG report does not disclose all the facts and on non-transparent assumptions arrived at this conclusion. It is difficult to scrutinise the rationale behind this conduct.

Second, the CAG has chosen not to deal with the cavalier manner in which the Prime Minister picked 36 aircraft off the shelf. Third, the

report ignores the procedures required to be followed under the DPP of 2013.

It also chooses not to refer to the dissent notes of the Indian Negotiating Team and thus fails to provide justification for overruling them. Further, it fails to explain the reasons why the anti-corruption and other clauses were not included in the final terms of the contract. Though the CAG comments on the issue of financial impact of not providing for guarantees, it chooses not to deal with reasons why guarantees were not provided for.

What is most surprising is that the CAG seeks to criticise the UPA for choosing the Rafale but is silent on the Prime Minister's decision to endorse the purchase of the aircraft. The objective for reducing the number of aircraft from 126 to only 36, to augment the depleting strength of the Indian Air Force, does not seem to have been achieved as the report itself concludes that the delivery schedule under the new deal is shorter only by one month when compared to the timelines under the UPA's deal.

By not rising to the occasion, the Office of the CAG has let itself down. The CAG has gone out of its way to protect this government. It is the integrity of the office of the CAG that needs protection.

*Kapil Sibal is a Rajya Sabha MP, former Union Minister and a senior Congress leader*

## 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.

### More expensive deal

As far as the Rafale fighter aircraft deal goes, the government must be more concerned about the loss of money to the public exchequer as a result of what it did rather than with the publication of the key documents ('Exclusive', Page 1, "No Bank guarantees meant a more expensive new Rafale deal", March 6). Transparency and accountability are salient features of a modern democracy and cannot be dispensed with even in the name of 'national security'. The publication of the documents may have dented and damaged the

government's image, but it has also brought us closer to truth, which is a laudable thing.

G. DAVID MILTON,  
Maruthancode, Tamil Nadu

■ The daily needs to clarify its sources so that its readers are thoroughly convinced. When it says it has had access to reports, it is incumbent to clarify the source, especially as it deals with very sensitive information.

C.M. UMANATH,  
Marikunnu, Kozhikode, Kerala

### Abolish it

I am writing to once again renew the call for abolition

of the death penalty. I represented the six convicts (Page 1, "Six convicts on death row found innocent", March 6). This is a historic judgment. It is the first case in India of a person whose death sentence, which has been confirmed and upheld by the full judicial process, has subsequently been found to be innocent. The judgment is also interesting because it cites a psychiatrist's reports about the deleterious effects of the death penalty. The weakest and most vulnerable sections are too handicapped to prove their innocence. The horrific nature of crimes attracting the death penalty

arouse such revulsion and loathing as to militate against the dispassionate judicial scrutiny that is all the more necessary in such cases. This case finally proves what we always knew, but were never able to demonstrate till now: the death penalty is flawed and error-ridden in its application.

YUG CHAUDHRY,  
Mumbai

■ Much to iron out  
The rebuff that India experienced at the OIC's conclave in Abu Dhabi is yet another reflection of the chinks in India's foreign policy (Editorial page, "Fifty years apart, the story of two

OIC fiascos", March 6). India's relationship with almost all neighbouring countries has deteriorated. Despite the Prime Minister's effusive diplomacy, India does not have any reliable relationships.

MANOHAR ALEMBAH,  
Kannur, Kerala

■ Pollution crisis  
Keeping rapid industrialisation in view, it is imperative to reduce air pollution ("Fifteen of the 20 most polluted cities in the world are in India", March 6). Given that India is in a transitive phase of implementing pollution standard norms, it is time to

look at introducing efficient ways of transportation.

NEELESH CHATURVEDI,  
Gwalior, Madhya Pradesh

■ Saving our heritage  
Two interesting reports, "Presidency College's underground secret" (Page 1, Chennai, March 5) and "The House that Chisholm built" (Page 5, 'Metropolis', March 4), show that a greater awareness can save many a colonial architectural treasure in Chennai. Many can be turned into money-spinning tourist sites.

TERESA ABRAHAM,  
Chennai

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# A strange paradox for Indian women

Better education is not leading to better job opportunities, marriage prospects or freedom of movement



SONALDE DESAI

Abigail Adams, wife of the second President of the U.S. and mother of the sixth President, wrote to her husband, "If particular care and attention is not paid to the ladies, we are determined to foment a rebellion." As last year's #MeToo movement and Sabarimala protests showed, perhaps Indian women are echoing her and are ready to foment a rebellion.

## Education and employment

What fuels these movements? Could it be that the very success of India's economic transformation brings with it a stark realisation that it has not paid particular care and attention to women? The most promising sign of the improving conditions of Indian women lies in declining inequality in education. In all villages and towns, mornings and afternoons are brightened by the smiling faces of girls and young women, dressed in their uniforms, walking to school. Almost all girls go to primary school and, according to the India Human Development Survey (IHDS) of 2011-12, 70% of girls aged 15 to 18 are still studying, only five percentage points less than boys. They frequently outperform boys. In 2018, in the Class XII CBSE examination, 88.31% girls passed, compared to 78.99% boys. However, in spite of rising education and rising aspirations, labour markets and social norms constrain women, almost as if they are all dressed up for a party with nowhere to go.

Data from the National Sample Survey Office (NSSO) and the IHDS show that education and employment have a U-shaped relationship. Illiterate women are most likely to participate in the workforce. Work participation drops sharply for women with primary and secondary education and rises only with college education. Research by Esha Chatterjee and colleagues in a paper published in the journal *Demographic Research*, using data from the IHDS, further documents that this relationship holds even after we take into account income of other members of the household, social background



"The most promising sign of the improving conditions of Indian women lies in declining inequality in education." Schoolgirls in Karbi Anglong district, Assam.

■ RITU RAJ KONWAR

and place of residence.

Employment opportunities that are open to their mothers, including farm labour and non-farm manual work in construction, hold little appeal to secondary school graduates who have invested their hopes in education. However, white-collar jobs are either not available or demand long hours and offer little job security in this time of a gig economy. NSSO data for 25- to 59-year-old workers in 2011-12 show that among farmers, farm labourers and service workers, nearly one-third are women, while the proportion of women among professionals, managers and clerical workers is only about 15%.

Young men with Class 10 or 12 education find jobs as mechanics, drivers, sales representatives, postmen and appliance repairmen. Few of these opportunities are available to women. Whether employers choose not to hire women in these positions or working conditions make for an inhospitable environment for young women is not clear. Educated women's main employment options lie in qualifying as a nurse or a teacher or looking for office jobs.

## The importance of marriage

If barriers to work participation are not enough, young women's lives are also circumscribed by social norms that shape their family situation. Marriage remains the only acceptable fate for young women in India. Whereas a third of Japanese women and 11% of Sri Lankan women aged 30-34 are single, less than 3% of Indian women are single at that age. Moreover, women's education does not seem to carry the same value in the 'marriage market' as caste, the family's economic status and horoscope. Research from other countries shows that educated women marry similarly educated men. But in India, women frequently marry men with lower education than themselves. Zhiyong Lin and his colleagues at the University of Maryland find that whereas less than 5% women married men whose education was lower than themselves in the 1970s, the proportion has grown to nearly 20% recently.

If rising education for women does not offer increasing income-earning opportunities or better marriage prospects, does it at least give women greater autonomy in other areas of their lives? Based on recent National Family Health Survey data, there seems to be little evidence that a moderate level of education offers women a greater say in household decisions or freedom of movement outside the home. College graduates fare slightly better, but even for them, the difference is relatively small. For instance, 48% of women with no schooling do not go to a health centre alone; the proportion for college graduates is only slightly lower at 45%. This is a strange paradox. Parents make tremendous sacrifices to educate their daughters, and young women joyously work hard at school in search of a better life, only to have their aspirations frustrated by economic and social

barriers that restrict their opportunities. Is it surprising that periodically their frustration takes the shape of a social movement? What is surprising is that their demands are not more strident, and that no political party has chosen to espouse their cause.

## Women's vote

If women were a caste, their cause would be championed by political parties now trying to mobilise caste-based vote banks. We would see proposals for women's quota in government jobs and higher education. If women were an economic class, we would see subsidies and a variety of other economic incentives showered on them. However, our political process sees women as an extension of the men in their households and assumes that no special effort is needed to win their hearts and minds.

Sociologist Raka Ray has presented a sophisticated analysis of the relationship between political parties and women's movements. She has argued that in the 1980s and 1990s, the CPI(M) in West Bengal had an ambivalent relationship with its women's wing, and domestic violence was seen as a function of class oppression, with frustrated, unemployed men beating up their wives. In more recent history, the discourse regarding marriage, divorce and inheritance has been co-opted by communal politics.

As we head into an election season, perhaps it would be wise for political parties to remember that women form half the voting population. The American experience is salutary in this regard. The 2018 House of Representatives elections in the U.S. that brought victory to the Democrats were shaped by the Democrats winning women's votes by an overwhelming margin. According to the PEW Research Centre, Democrats won 59% of women's vote as opposed to 40% for Republicans; among men, they won 51% versus the 47% won by Republicans. Let us hope that some political party will figure out that women are not simply extensions of their husbands and fathers and campaign on a platform that focuses on creating economic and social opportunities for women.

Sonalde Desai is Professor of Sociology at the University of Maryland, and Professor and Centre Director, NCAER-National Data Innovation Centre. Views are personal

# A fight for the forest

Conservationists should protect the welfare of both wildlife and forest dwellers and stand up to bigger players

IRAVATEE MAJGAONKAR & BHANU SRIDHARAN

On February 28, the Supreme Court stayed its order on the eviction of lakhs of Adivasis and other forest dwellers whose claims were rejected under the Scheduled Tribes and other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 (FRA).

The court has asked State governments for a detailed report on whether due process was followed by gram sabhas and authorities under the FRA before claims were rejected. For millions of Adivasis and forest dwellers, the stay offers only a temporary relief. But it provides an opportunity to figure out how conservation movements can advocate both nature and social justice in India.

The petitioners had expressed concern over reports that showed deforestation and fragmentation of land after FRA implementation began. But there is a lack of peer-reviewed studies that quantify the extent of deforestation caused by marginalised communities in comparison to large industrial and infrastructural projects. It is vital that scientists and conservationists take up this task, as it is well known that the state is bestowing large companies with kindness and second chances despite severe legal violations during the planning, construction and operation stages of projects.

## Ignoring the bigger players

Objections to the FRA are often framed as an issue of wildlife conservation versus people's rights, with no mention of these bigger players who might benefit from this framing. In a 2013 study, professor Prakash Kashwan noted how political this framing can be. He wrote that in 2006, well before the FRA implementation started, the Environment Ministry directed State governments to declare all existing Protected Areas as critical tiger habitats, so that they would not be controlled under this Act. In 2012, the Ministry tried to remove critical tiger habitats from the purview of the National Board for Wildlife, purportedly to make diversion of forest land easier. Indeed, one must repeatedly question who gets access to forests when forest dwellers are evicted. In January, the Environment Ministry "cancelled" community forest rights given to Adivasi communities in Chhattisgarh's Hasdeo Arand forest and handed over 2,000 acres of this forest to a coal mining company. We have seen instances of forest dwellers protecting these lands from destructive industries and negligent state forces. This is not to claim that forest dwellers have no impact on forests, but the FRA provides for that through critical wildlife habitats (CWH), spaces that can be de-

marcated to be inviolate as long as people's rights are settled elsewhere. The petitioners in the FRA case are right where they express concern about the lack of progress in demarcating CWHs. It is crucial for forest departments to initiate this process in a time-bound manner in the interest of conservation.

## Conservation rooted in justice

However, for conservation to truly be effective in the long run, it must also be rooted in justice. In a paper published in *Biological Conservation*, John A. Vucetich and others explore how to make conservation not just effective but also just. To do this, they argue, conservation actions must be based on the same principles as social justice. Interestingly, the authors, all of whom are wildlife biologists, do not argue for an anthropocentric view of conservation. They rightly argue that if conservation calls for restriction of human activities in some way, that sacrifice must be made, except where doing so would result in injustice, especially to the most marginalised communities.

The court's original eviction order had the potential to perpetrate such injustice. There are serious concerns about the rejection process, unfamiliarity with the language of the FRA, and outdated forest maps. The Ministry of Tribal Affairs has been urging district administrations to assist the process of granting rights by making maps and other data available to protect applicants from exploitation. The eviction order would not only have alienated marginalised people from their lands, but made wildlife conservation a symbol of an oppressive state. Large animals share areas with people outside Protected Areas too. Will people accept wildlife in their backyards without retaliation? We are not ready to handle the failure of shared spaces as a country, when only 5% of area is protected for wildlife and there is rampant land reallocation for non-forestry uses in other areas.

It is a relief that the court stayed its order. Hopefully this reinforces the fact that conservation cannot be about demanding unjust sacrifices from the weakest, while forest diversion by the powerful remains unchecked. Conservationists should stand up for the welfare of both wildlife and forest dwellers. This is the only way we can build an effective and equitable conservation movement.

Iravatee Majgaonkar is with the Wildlife Conservation Society-India and Bhunu Sridharan is an independent journalist and former wildlife biologist. Other contributors to the article are Pradeep Koulgi, an ecologist and independent researcher; Nandini Velho, an independent researcher; Dayani Chakravarthy, an ecologist; and Bokkasa A., scientific advisor to the Vanya Wildlife Trust

## SINGLE FILE

### Tackling child malnutrition

Policy initiatives can be guided by collecting real-time data at the sub-district level

VENKATESAN RAMANI



Despite the National Family Health Survey-4 (NFHS-4) showing an encouraging improvement in child nutrition, India continues to fare poorly in world rankings on child nutrition. What needs to be done, where, how and by whom are the questions we need answers to.

The focus must be on the pregnant, breastfeeding mother and the child, especially in the first two years of the child's life, which is the crucial phase for physical, mental and cognitive development. Given the size of the problem (38% of children under five years of age are stunted, according to UNICEF) and budgetary constraints, a targeted approach is needed.

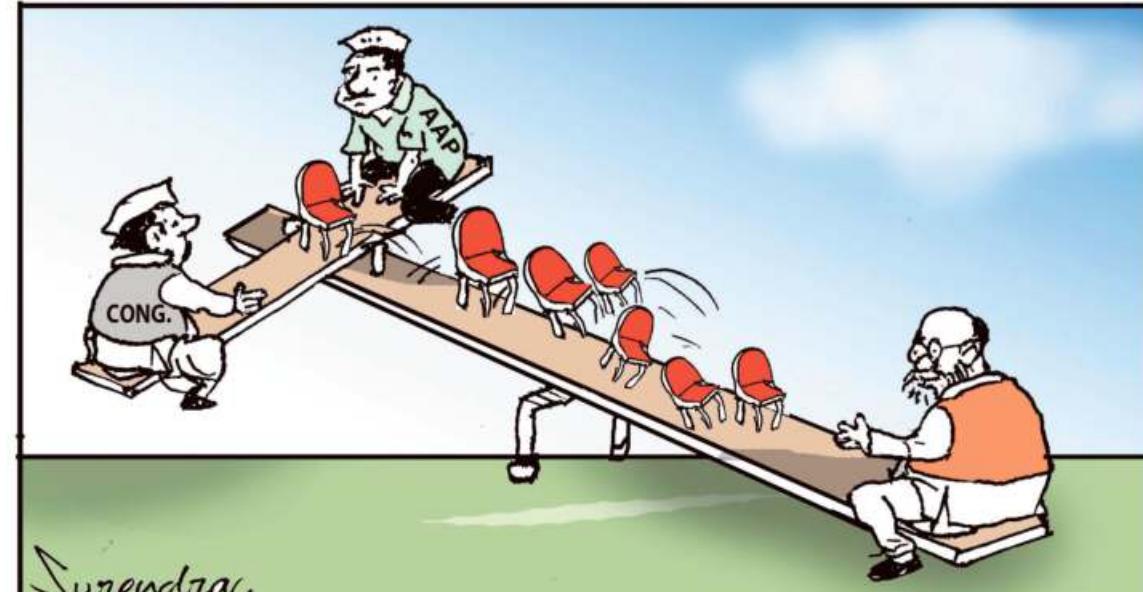
With the wealth of district-level data made available by NFHS-4, the focus districts can easily be identified. They are concentrated in Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh and Jharkhand. These States, and others such as Karnataka, Maharashtra, Rajasthan and Gujarat, should formulate policies to tackle high incidence of stunting in these districts and provide funds for the same. Even within these districts, pockets where child malnutrition is high should be identified, going down to the tehsil or taluka levels and further down to clusters of Anganwadi located in areas such as urban slums and those with high concentrations of disadvantaged populations. Policy initiatives can be guided by accurate real-time data at the sub-district level.

We need more public programmes with a direct or indirect impact on nutrition in the selected areas. These should cover important nutrition-specific areas such as maternal nutrition, especially in the nine months of pregnancy and the six months of breastfeeding. They should also promote early and exclusive breastfeeding, proper feeding of the infant, and provide food security through a robust public distribution system.

There should be support for healthcare for mothers – from the antenatal care visit in the first trimester of pregnancy until after delivery – and for children in their first few years of life. Messages should be spread on hygiene and sanitation, particularly the need to do away with open defecation practices. Similarly, education for girls should be advocated, as should the importance of enabling the financial independence of women through skill training and employment opportunities along with their inclusion in the formal financial network.

Programmes will have an impact only when there are sound public service delivery mechanisms, especially in the nutrition, health and education sectors. Building a cadre of dedicated professionals in the government needs a high degree of political will and administrative commitment, centred around developing skills and knowledge and building motivation to stay the course.

The writer is a retired IAS officer



## FAQ

### Laying down the dos and don'ts of elections

#### How the model code of conduct evolved

DEVESHK PANDEY

##### What is the model code of conduct?

The model code refers to a set of norms laid down by the Election Commission of India, with the consensus of political parties. It is not statutory. It spells out the dos and don'ts for elections. Political parties, candidates and polling agents are expected to observe the norms, on matters ranging from the content of election manifestos, speeches and processions, to general conduct, so that free and fair elections take place.

##### When was it introduced?

The EC traces its introduction to the 1960 Assembly elections in Kerala. During simultaneous polls to the Lok Sabha and Assemblies in several States in 1962, the EC circulated the code to all recognised parties, which followed it "by and large". In October 1979, the EC came up with a comprehensive code that saw

further changes after consultations with parties.

##### When is the code enforced?

The code comes into force on the announcement of the poll schedule and remains operational till the process is concluded, as provided in the notification. It is also applicable to a "caretaker" government on premature dissolution of a State Assembly, as was the case in Telangana.

##### How is it enforced?

The EC ensures that ruling parties at the Centre and in States adhere to the code, as part of its mandate to conduct free and fair elections under Article 324 of the Constitution. In case of electoral offences, malpractices and corrupt practices like inducements to voters, bribery, intimidation or any undue influence, the EC takes action against violators. Anyone can report the violations to the EC or approach the

court. The EC has devised several mechanisms to take note of the offences, which include joint task forces of enforcement agencies and flying squads. The latest is the introduction of the CIVIL mobile app through which audio-visual evidence of malpractices can be reported.

##### What are the key malpractices?

Any activity aggravating existing differences or creating mutual hatred or causing tension between different castes and communities, religious or linguistic, is a corrupt practice under the Representation of the People Act. Making an appeal to caste or communal feelings to secure votes and using places of worship for campaigning are offences under the Act. Bribery to voters is both a corrupt practice and an electoral offence under the Act and Section 171B of the Indian Penal Code. Intimidation of

voters is also an electoral offence, while impersonating them is punishable under the IPC. Serving or distributing liquor on election day and during the 48 hours preceding it is an electoral offence. Holding public meetings during the 48-hour period ending with the hour fixed for the closing of the poll is also an offence.

##### What restrictions does the code impose?

According to the EC, the code states that the party in power – whether at the Centre or in the States – should ensure that it does not use its official position for campaigning. Ministers and other government authorities cannot announce financial grants in any form. No project or scheme which may have the effect of influencing the voter in favour of the party in power can be announced, and Ministers cannot use official machinery for campaign purposes.

## FROM The Hindu ARCHIVES

FIFTY YEARS AGO MARCH 7, 1969

### Bengal Governor skips portions of address

Despite shouts of protest from members of the ruling United Front, the undaunted but suave Governor of West Bengal, Mr. Dharma Vira, stuck to his guns and skipped over portions of the address prepared by the new Cabinet, constituted after the mid-term elections, when he delivered it opening the joint session of the two Houses of the State Legislature this afternoon [March 6, Calcutta]. A portion omitted by the Governor, a former senior Civilian, referred to the "peremptory and unconstitutional manner" in which the First United Front Ministry was dismissed and the "unseemly haste with which a minority Government of defectors was installed in power." As the Governor, who dismissed the former United Front after a constitutional crisis, skipped over the portion critical of his action, the Chief Minister, Mr. Ajoy Kumar Mukherjee, made a feeble protest and asked the Governor to read the text of the address in full. Pat came the reply from the Governor, "Ajoy Babu, I have already told you that I will not do it."

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO MARCH 7, 1919

### Demobilisation in India: Mr. Churchill's Statement

In the House of Commons at question time [February 25] Mr. Churchill stated that the Army Council had for some time been giving earnest attention to the question of the withdrawal of Territorials from India. Mr. Churchill emphasised that if a large proportion of the personnel which was due for relief were withdrawn without replacement the garrisons would be reduced below the reasonable minimum of safety. He also emphasised the danger to the health of moving troops in the tropics, especially Red Sea, during hot weather. It was vitally important to maintain an adequate garrison in India and the British garrison was now being reduced to what was considered a fair sufficiency.

## CONCEPTUAL

### Uncertainty reduction theory

SOCIOLOGY

This refers to the idea that when people who are completely unknown to each other happen to meet, their primary concern initially is to reduce or overcome the state of uncertainty that exists between them. The initial interaction is generally limited by social rules and norms, but the interaction may later turn personal as the individuals share information about each other and plan on having future interactions. The uncertainty reduction theory was first proposed by American communication theorists Charles Berger and Richard Calabrese in their 1975 paper "Some explorations in initial interaction and beyond".

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M ND-NDE

FROM PAGE ONE

## Secret papers on Rafale deal stolen, govt. claims

Mr. Venugopal said the issue pertained to a defence purchase and involved the security of the state.

"But if the law of the country has been broken through a corrupt practice, can you seek protection under national security," Justice Joseph persisted.

He referred to the Bofors case, asking, "In an open system like in India, whether courts should shut out documents."

The Bench asked the government to file an affidavit that the documents were stolen.

"If the documents are stolen, what action have you (Centre) taken till now? The first publication was in February, what have you done," Chief Justice Gogoi asked. To this, the AG said he would "find out."

The court questioned the AG's line of argument that the court should ignore the "stolen documents" and dismiss the review petitions filed against the December 14 judgment in the Rafale case.

"Our judgments say that even stolen evidence can be looked into, if found relevant... Mr. Attorney, you

have to state the law. You are not stating the law, we are sorry to say," Justice Joseph observed.

The CJI intervened with an anecdote, saying, "A man is about to be wrongly convicted of a crime. There is a document in the possession of another man which will prove his innocence. He steals it from this man and produces it in court. Do we, the court, refuse to look into the document?"

"We can understand you saying that petitioners came with unclean hands. That they got the documents through doubtful sources. But it is another thing to say that the court cannot consider these documents at all, that these documents are untouchable," Chief Justice Gogoi said. "We may not utilise these documents, but it is a bit too much to say that they should not be relied on at the very threshold," Justice S.K. Kaul, on the Bench, told the AG.

Mr. Venugopal said the court should not look into documents which are the "subject matter of criminality." The court scheduled the case for hearing on March 14.

## Enough proof to prosecute PM: Rahul

Earlier, at a press conference, the party's communication chief Randeep Surjewala said the Prime Minister should subject himself to an inquiry, and an FIR should be lodged against him as the deal was a "clear case of corruption."

Responding to the Centre's submission in the Supreme Court that *The Hindu*'s expose on Wednesday violated the Official Secrets Act, he pointed out that BJP leaders Sushma Swaraj and Arun Jaitley had "routinely relied on such documents when they were Leaders of the Opposition."

Mr. Surjewala alleged that the Modi government's publicly declared value of ₹59,000 crore to buy 36 Rafale fighter jets off the shelf doesn't include ₹9750 crore for the India-specific enhancements (ISE). If these are added to the cost, then the deal is nearly ₹70,000 crore and the ISE per aircraft has gone from ₹82 crore during UPA to ₹71 crore under the NDA, he said.

The Congress also alleged that the decision to buy 36 Rafale jets was not taken by the INT but National Security Adviser (NSA) Ajit Doval, who was neither authorised by the INT nor the CCS.

The Congress extensively cited the Indian Negotiation Team (INT) to argue that Mr. Modi "misled Parliament and duped the country to

cover up the murky dealings and blatant corruption, besides, squandering away national security interests."

The Congress alleged that despite insistence from the Defence, Law and Finance Ministries on taking a bank guarantee to the tune of ₹4305 crore from Dassault Aviation, the Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS), chaired by the Prime Minister, waived it off.

Mr. Surjewala alleged that the Modi government's publicly declared value of ₹59,000 crore to buy 36 Rafale fighter jets off the shelf doesn't include ₹9750 crore for the India-specific enhancements (ISE). If these are added to the cost, then the deal is nearly ₹70,000 crore and the ISE per aircraft has gone from ₹82 crore during UPA to ₹71 crore under the NDA, he said.

The Congress also alleged that the decision to buy 36 Rafale jets was not taken by the INT but National Security Adviser (NSA) Ajit Doval, who was neither authorised by the INT nor the CCS.

## We won't reveal the source, says N. Ram

"There is no question of any national security interest being compromised by it," he said.

Mr. Ram also called for democratic India to do away with the Official Secrets Act, 1923, saying, "the OSA is an obnoxious piece of colonial legislation which is anti-democratic and has rarely been used against publications in independent India. If there was espionage or something like that, it's a different matter. Here, it is material that should have gone into the public realm and – information that wants to be free – and it should have been freely available to readers."

Asked if the Attorney General's argument would have a chilling effect on investigative journalism, Mr. Ram said "if it represented government policy, it would clearly have a chilling effect on journalism and investigative journalism in particular." He added, however, that any such attempt was unlikely to succeed.

"Today it's not just *The Hindu*, but also some other independent news publications which have put out material on Rafale, although as in the Bofors investigation of the late-1980s we have the leading role. There

protect the file? Now they are attacking *The Hindu*. When it suits them they claim that no one should question the source. You are attacking the messenger; what about the message? Why is the PM not able to respond to issues in public domain," he said.

Trinamool Congress MP Dinesh Trivedi demanded a formal police investigation into the A-G's claim. "If the Ministry of Defence can't protect such sensitive documents concerning national security, then how can they defend the country? It is a very serious affair and there should be thorough enquiry into it," Mr. Trivedi said.

Congress leader and former Rajya Sabha MP Ashwani Kumar said: "A democratic, responsive and accountable government is not expected to tell the highest court of justice that it cannot look to documents whose authenticity is not in doubt, to form an opinion on the question of corruption in defence contracts."

Rashtriya Janata Dal Rajya Sabha member Manoj Jha said the A-G's statement



The Centre feels the petitioners in the Rafale case should face action for bringing "stolen documents". ■ K. MURALI KUMAR

showed this "is the weakest government that can't keep the country safe". "This tells you very clearly why the PM and his team were blocking the possibility of a JPC," Mr. Jha said. "Request PM to submit to due process of law."

### Not violated

There was no violation of the Official Secrets Act in the publication of documents related to the Rafale deal, senior advocate and constitutional expert Dushyant Dave said on Wednesday.

Responding to a query on whether stolen documents can be relied upon by a court as an admissible proof, Mr. Dave said, "The argument

on behalf of the government is an absolute non-starter".

"It is made only to deflect the real debate on this most sensitive public issue. The government is on the back foot after having misled the Supreme Court as alleged in review petition by Shourie et al and is therefore trying to again lead the Supreme Court on a garden path," he said.

"The Supreme Court is the ultimate arbiter of rule of law and has duty to question every executive action, irrespective of so called national security argument. The government had a duty to satisfy the court and must be fair to the court. It is unfortunate

Divisive politics affects growth, says UN official

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

The United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (UNHCHR) Michelle Bachelet has pointed out that divisive politics will ultimately hurt India's growth potential.

Addressing a meeting of the 40th Human Rights Council in Geneva on Wednesday, Ms. Bachelet also argued in favour of an end to the conflict in Kashmir.

"We are receiving reports that indicate increasing harassment and targeting of minorities – in particular Muslims and people from historically disadvantaged and marginalised groups, such as Dalits and Adivasis," she said.

### Hate speech

The High Commissioner picked up "hate speech" as one of the focus areas to be addressed.

Her observations on India were a part of her speech that looked at some of the most serious reports of human rights abuses at the global level, including in India, China and Turkey.

## BJP MP, MLA thrash each other in U.P.

ASIAN NEWS INTERNATIONAL  
SANT KABIR NAGAR

BJP MP Sharad Tripathi and party MLA Rakesh Singh Baghel came to blows during a meeting at the Collectorate here in Uttar Pradesh on Wednesday.

Initially, both had an argument over the placement of names on the foundation stone of a development project.

The argument soon turned ugly with the two leaders pushing each other and engaging in fistfights. Mr. Tripathi hit Mr. Baghel with his footwear. The latter then slapped the MP.

The incident took place during a meeting of the District Action Plan Committee where various officials were present.

BJP State president Mahendra Nath Pandey said: "We have taken cognisance of this condemnable incident and both have been summoned to Lucknow. Strict disciplinary action will be taken."



New cause: Security personnel trying to stop PDP supporters who took out a rally in Anantnag on Wednesday against the ban on Jamaat-e-Islami. ■ NISSAR AHMAD

## Revoke ban on Jamaat: Mehbooba

Former J&K Chief Minister takes to the streets in support of the demand

PEERZADA ASHIQ  
SRINAGAR

Former Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister and Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) president Mehbooba Mufti on Wednesday staged a demonstration demanding withdrawal of the ban on the Jamaat-e-Islami.

"Arresting JeL's members and the preachers affiliated with Ahli-Hadith is a direct interference in our religious affairs. We won't tolerate this," Ms. Mufti said. "What are the charges against these leaders? They have arrested 60- and 70-year-old people without any solid proof."

Ms. Mufti led the protest rally in her home constituency of Anantnag district in south Kashmir, which is considered the bastion of the JeL.

She demanded immediate revocation of the ban, saying "such tactics won't help in establishing peace in J&K".

Over 300 JeL members have been rounded up after the JeL was banned for five years under the Unlawful Ac-

tivities (Prevention) Act on February 28 in a decision of the Union Home Ministry.

Ms. Mufti, who was des-

perate to reclaim the lost constituency in south Kash-

J&K for four years, asked the Centre "to stop state-spon-

sored terrorism" and an "au-

toritarian approach".

"The BJP is trying to crush everyone that comes in its way. My party's alliance with the BJP tightened the noose

around it. After breaking away from the PDP-led coalition, the BJP has turned into an uncontrolled elephant," she said.

The PDP is planning prot-

ests at the district and constitu-

ency levels.

## We are looking at minds, hearts and healing, says judge

'Don't give us any history. We have no control of the past'

KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL  
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court's Constitution Bench on Wednesday told a lawyer representing Hindu parties in the Ayodhya dispute, "We are looking at minds, hearts and healing if possible."

The lawyer had said the mediation effort in the Ayodhya dispute was bound to fail as it was about religious sentiments. Justice S.A. Bobde, on the five-judge Constitution Bench, led by Chief Justice of India Ranjan Gogoi, retorted, "Do you think we are not as religious as you... We may be more religious than you."

"Primarily, this is not about the 1500 square feet of disputed land, but about religious sentiments," Justice Bobde told the lawyer. "We know its impact on public sentiment, on body politic," he added.

When the lawyer pressed on about the injustices meted out by "Muslim invaders," Justice Bobde shot back, "Don't give us any history. We are willing to crowdfund a mosque somewhere else," he added.

They contended that a public notice ought to be issued on the point: whether the dispute should be sent for mediation.

Rajya Sabha MP and BJP leader Subramanian Swamy



The Hindu parties told the SC that they were willing to crowdfund a mosque "somewhere else".

even before mediation has started?" The Hindu parties, however, seemed unconvinced by the court's suggestion for a negotiated compromise.

### Not negotiable

They said the faith that Lord Ram was born in the disputed land was non-negotiable.

The Ayodhya dispute is not between two private parties and concerns two communities. How can we bind them under the mediated resolution, if any?" Justice Chandrachud wondered, even as he agreed that a negotiated outcome would be desirable and could even be the best way out of the volatile dispute.

The Constitution Bench later reserved orders on whether to send the dispute for mediation.

Rajya Sabha MP and BJP leader Subramanian Swamy

## Rajasthan Congress puts allies in a spot

MOHAMMED IQBAL  
JAIPUR

The Congress's decision to contest all 25 Lok Sabha seats in Rajasthan has been perceived here as a strategy to pressure smaller parties to accept an alliance on its terms and force them to settle for fewer seats.

Asserting that it was a clear decision of the then government headed by Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao that, in case a temple was found below the structure, land would be given to the Hindus for construction of a Ram temple, Dr. Swamy said the Archaeological Survey of India had found that a temple had pre-existed. Land should therefore be given for making the Ram temple, he argued.

Even Justice D.Y. Chandrachud, on the Bench, expressed doubts about the binding nature of any compromise.

The Ayodhya dispute is not between two private parties and concerns two communities. How can we bind them under the mediated resolution, if any?" Justice Chandrachud wondered, even as he agreed that a negotiated outcome would be desirable and could even be the best way out of the volatile dispute.

While expecting to work on the formation of a grand alliance for the Lok Sabha elections, the Congress had offered a total of five seats to its allies in the 2018 State Assembly election.

Two seats each were re-

served for Ajit Singh's Rashtriya Lok Dal and Shashi Yadav's Loktantrik Janata Dal, while one was kept aside for the NCP.

## Ram Madhav bets on 300-plus seats

'BJP will win both seats in Manipur'

IBOYAMA LAITHANGAM  
IMPHAL

BJP general secretary Ram Madhav said during the BJP State convention here on Wednesday that Narendra Modi would return as Prime Minister after the Lok Sabha election since the "BJP will easily win 300-plus seats". He said the party would win both the Lok Sabha seats in Manipur.

"Modi is not only not corrupt but also incorruptible. During the last five years, he has steered the country into a better economy. He is made of tough stuff and has zero tolerance for corruption," Mr. Madhav said.

A senior Congress leader said: "It is now clear that the BJP is not sharing the two seats with its coalition partners since Madhav made it crystal clear."

Chief Minister N. Biren Singh said the government had delivered the goods.

One of the important issues the convention was deliberating on was the long-pending reshuffle. While the National People's Party with four MLAs in the 60-member House got four Cabinet berths, the Naga People's Front got one ministerial berth – though it had four MLAs – and is not happy.



**APPEAL**  
Name of Patient: Sanchita Das, 2 years, Hospital Name: Christian Medical College, Diagnostic: B Cell Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia. This is a type of blood cancer for which she requires Chemotherapy, Blood product support is likely to be about Rs. 4 lakhs.  
We request Kind Hearted Philanthropists to save her. Kindly send donation by ChD/M.O Favouring Save Poor Lives A/c Sanchita Das S/Account No. 2000913487, State Bank of India, Raja Annamalaiapuram Branch, IFSC Code: SBIN0001855, which is exempted under 80G of IT Act.

Contact: SAVE POOR LIVES REGISTERED PUBLIC CHARITABLE TRUST, (ADMIN DIVISION) Flat No. A4, Ceebro's Garden, Ground Floor, Old No. 76 Kamrajara Salai, Raja Annamalaiapuram, Chennai - 600028, Ph: 044-4204165, Mobile: 9884607377, Email: savepoorlives@gmail.com, Our website: www.savepoorlives.com  
Donation sent to various Hospitals in January & February 2019 for 11 Patients Rs. 6,64,720/-

**IN BRIEF**



**Abhinandan doesn't have social media account: IAF**

NEW DELHI  
The Indian Air Force, in a statement on Wednesday, cautioned against fake social media accounts in the name of Wing Commander Abhinandan Varthaman created over the past week. "Wing Commander V. Abhinandan does not have any official social media account on Twitter and Instagram and have advised all not to follow these accounts as they may contain malware," the statement said.

**Pak. got worried after IAF air strikes: Rajnath Singh**

NEW DELHI  
Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh on Wednesday said the IAF air strikes in Pakistan disturbed the neighbouring country to such an extent that their planes tried to enter India only to be chased away. "Terrorists killed 40 CRPF jawans. The way the Indian Air Force jawans entered Pakistan and destroyed terror camps there, it could not have been done by a weak nation but a powerful country," Mr. Singh said. PTI

**"Questions on air strikes can lower forces' morale"**

NEW DELHI  
Questions about the impact of Indian air strikes in Pakistan's Balakot region are only being raised by those who doubt the strength of the country's armed forces, said Agriculture Minister Radha Mohan Singh. He was responding to questions from journalists about his earlier claim that 400 people were killed in the strikes. Such questions could lower the morale of the armed forces and must be discouraged, he said. The February 26 air strikes were in response to a terror attack that left 40 CRPF personnel dead in Pulwama.

# Pak. used heavy artillery: Army

Warns Islamabad any misadventure will get fitting reply with 'dire consequences'

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT**  
NEW DELHI

Pakistan was using heavy artillery guns to target military and civilian areas, the Indian Army said on Wednesday, warning that any "misadventure" will get a response in a fitting manner with "dire consequences".

In the last 24 hours, Pakistan resorted to intense and unprovoked firing with heavy-calibre weapons including heavy artillery guns in selected areas along the Line of Control (LoC) targeting Army posts and civilian areas," the Army said in a statement.



**Strict vigil:** A file photo of soldiers guarding the LoC in Poonch. Use of heavy artillery is a sign of escalation. • PTI

The Army said it "effectively retaliated" and there were no casualties on the Indian side.

"Pakistan used 155mm artillery guns in the Naushera sector," a defence source said.

Small arms and light mortars are routinely used by both sides in cross-border firing, but use of heavy artillery is a sign of escalation.

Reiterating that as a professional Army, they were committed to avoid civil casualties, especially along the LoC, the statement said that all actions taken by the defence forces were targeted towards "counter-terrorism and terrorist infrastructure, away from civilian areas, to avoid civilian casualties."

It said a strict vigil was being maintained along the LoC and the International Boundary.

# Act against me for Pulwama tweet, Digvijaya dares Modi

Cong. leader came under fire for calling attack an accident

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT**  
NEW DELHI

Senior Congress leader Digvijaya Singh on Wednesday dared Prime Minister Narendra Modi to file a case against him after BJP leaders accused him of being "anti-national" for his tweets on the Pulwama attack.

Mr. Singh, who had courted controversy on Tuesday after he referred to the Pulwama terror attack as an "accident", wondered why calling the attacks a *durga-tana* (accident) should drive

the Prime Minister and his colleagues to term him anti-national.

**'Intelligence failure'**

"The tweet over which you and your ministers called me a Pakistan supporter and an anti-national was posted from Delhi, where police are under the Union government. If you are brave, file a case against me," he tweeted.

"What action has Modi taken on intelligence failure in the Pulwama terror attack?

He is yet to tell the country who is responsible for it. Does Modi-ji hold anyone responsible for this or not? Has he asked for a clarification from the NSA, IB, or the RAW chief?" said Mr. Singh.

The Congress leader also re-tweeted a video that shows Uttar Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister Keshav Prasad Maurya describing the terrorist attack as a big accident. "Would Modi-ji and his ministers like to say something about Maurya-ji?" he asked.

# Balakot satellite photos show madrasa buildings still standing

**High-resolution images don't show any evidence of bomb damage'**

**REUTERS**

NEW DELHI/SINGAPORE  
High-resolution satellite images reviewed by Reuters show that a religious school run by the Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM) in northeastern Pakistan appears to be still standing days after India said its warplanes had hit the group's training camp on the site and killed a large number of militants.

The images produced by Planet Labs Inc., a San Francisco-based private satellite operator, show at least six buildings on the madrasa site on March 4, six days after the air strike. The images, which show details as small as 72 cm, offer a clearer look at the structures the government said it attacked.

The image is virtually unchanged from an April 2018 satellite photo of the facility.

There are no discernible holes on the roofs of buildings, no signs of scorching, blown-out walls, displaced trees or other signs of an aerial attack.

The images cast further doubt on statements made over the last eight days by the Modi government that the raids, early on February 26, had hit all the intended targets at the madrasa site near Jaba village and the town of Balakot in Pakistan's Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province.

The External Affairs and Defence Ministries did not reply to e-mailed questions sent in the past few days seeking comment on the satellite images.

**Missed target?**

Jeffrey Lewis, director of the East Asia Nonproliferation Project at the Middlebury Institute of International Studies, who has 15 years' experience in analysing satellite images of weapons sites and systems, confirmed that the high-resolution satellite picture showed the structures

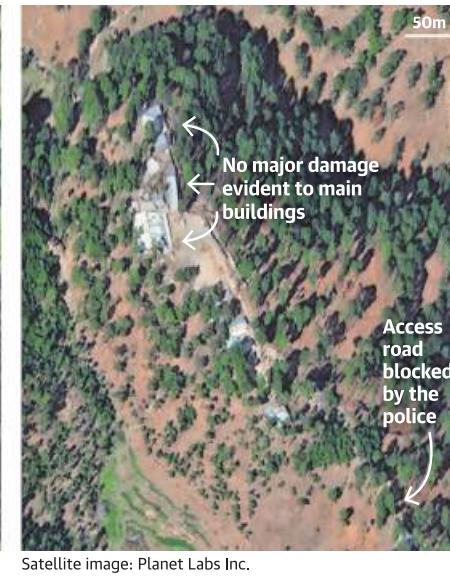
**Zooming in**

April 25, 2018 | The madrasa last year



Satellite image: Google, DigitalGlobe

March 4, 2019 | Six days after the air strike



Satellite image: Planet Labs Inc.

SPICE 2000 glide bomb in the strike. A warhead of that size is meant to destroy hardened targets such as concrete shelters.

Mr. Lewis and Dave Schmerler, a senior research associate at the James Martin Center for Nonproliferation Studies who also analyses satellite images, said weapons that large would have caused obvious damage to the structures visible in the picture.

"If the strike had been successful, given the information we have about what kind of munitions were used, I would expect to see signs that the buildings had been damaged," Mr. Lewis said. "I just don't see that here."

Pakistan has disputed India's account, saying the operation was a failure that saw Indian jets, under pressure from Pakistani planes, drop their bombs on a largely empty hillside.

"There has been no damage to any infrastructure or human life as a result of Indian incursion," Major-General Asif Ghafoor, the direc-

tor-general of the Pakistan military's press wing, said in a statement to Reuters.

"This has been vindicated by both domestic and international media after visiting the site," he said.

**Bomb craters**

In two visits to the Balakot area by Reuters reporters, and extensive interviews with people in the surrounding area, there was no evidence found of a destroyed camp or of anyone having been killed.

Villagers said there had been a series of huge explosions but the bombs appeared to have landed among trees.

On the wooded slopes above Jaba, they pointed to four craters and some splintered pine trees, but noted little other impact from the blasts that jolted them awake about 3 a.m. on February 26.

"It shook everything," said Abdur Rasheed, a van driver who works in the area.

He said there weren't any human casualties.

# Guard against misuse, social media platforms told

Ensure there is no meddling in polls, says House panel

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT**

NEW DELHI  
The Parliamentary Panel on Information and Technology has directed Facebook, WhatsApp and Instagram to ensure that their platforms are not used to incite violence or meddle in the Lok Sabha election.

This is the third meeting of the panel with social media platforms. The last meeting was with Twitter officials.

**Fake news**

"We had a constructive meeting. These platforms are used by millions of users in India. They should not be misused by hatemongers or fake news peddlers. Importantly, we told them to ensure that there should not be any foreign interference in our election," Anurag



fundamental question," a member told *The Hindu*. Facebook, according to sources, said that they are a "hybrid company".

**Cloned accounts**

The members raised the issue of cloned and fake accounts. A member claimed that there were so many accounts under his name that he no longer knew which one was his own.

They also questioned Facebook on its regulatory framework on content, advertising and marketing operations in India.

Joel Kaplan, vice-president, global public policy, and Ajit Mohan, vice-president and managing director, Facebook India, and Anki Das, director, public policy and programs, India, attended the meeting.

# Congress hosts diplomats from G20, shares its political vision

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT**

NEW DELHI  
Senior Congress leaders, including former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, party president Rahul Gandhi and Sonia Gandhi, met diplomats of G20 and neighbouring countries at a luncheon on Wednesday, where the party shared its economic and political vision before the 2019 Lok Sabha election.

While the Pakistan High Commissioner was not invited because of the tensions between India and Pakistan, envoys from the U.S., China, the U.K., and several other countries attended the meeting, Congress leaders said. The meet, which lasted nearly three hours, was hosted by



Rahul Gandhi and other Congress leaders with diplomats of the G20 in New Delhi on Wednesday. • AP

Anand Sharma, who heads the Congress' foreign affairs department. It was slated for February 15 but was cancelled in the wake of the Pulwama terror attack.

"It was a meaningful engagement and a good meet-

ing where global, regional, political and economic matters were discussed," Mr. Sharma said.

Mr. Gandhi shared his party's vision for revival of agriculture and jobs creation, Mr. Sharma said.

## TIRUMALA TIRUPATI DEVASTHANAMS VIGILANCE & SECURITY DEPARTMENT, TIRUPATI

**e-TENDER NOTICE**

Rec.No.C1/848/CV&SO/TTD/TPT/2018

e-tenders were invited to engage the Security Staff/ Man Power under work Contract system by inviting Tenders through online(e-Tender) for Watch & Ward Duties at both Temples i.e. Sri Venkateswara Swamy Vari Temple, Banjara Hills, Hyderabad and Sri Venkateswara Swamy, Old Temple in Haymath Nagar, Hyderabad.

**Date of Opening Tender:**

Technical Bid : 29.03.2019, Financial Bid : 02.04.2019. Tenders documents can be downloaded from the website: <https://tender.approcurement.gov.in>. For Further Details contact Phone Numbers: 0877-2264079, 2264555, Fax : 2264554 and mail ID: cvsofficectd@gmail.com

List of attested documents to be uploaded at the time of tender: 1) EMD in the form of Demand Draft. 2) Documents as mentioned in Pre-Qualification Criteria. 3) Registration of the firm. 4) GST Registration 5) PAN Card/ Income Tax Document

Rec. No.PRA/13904/Adv.No.553/PRO/2019,Dt:06.03.2019 **EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

## BANGALORE ELECTRICITY SUPPLY COMPANY LIMITED (Wholly owned by Government of Karnataka undertaking) (CIN-U04010KA2002SGC030438)

Bid enquiry No.: BESCOM/CGM (P)UG/OFC/BMAZ/18-19/12, Date: 25.02.2019

**REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL**

**LEASE OF OPTIC FIBER CABLE (DARK FIBER)  
NETWORK OF BESCOM IN BENGALURU**

Bangalore Electricity Supply Company is undertaking a revamp of the distribution network to improve the reliability of power supply by conversion of Over Head distribution lines to UG/AB cable. Along with laying UG cable, it is also envisaged to lay Optic Fiber cable covering Bangalore city for BESCOM's IT/OT requirement and lease out the balance capacity.

In this regard, BESCOM invites interested bidders to participate in the bidding.

Details of RFP will be available in the e-procurement portal of Karnataka from **07.03.2019** instead of 02.03.2019.

Contact details :

**Sri Nagarajaiah B.N.**

Chief General Manager (Projects)

Corporate Office, BESCOM

Mob: 9449844885/9449046582

Email: cgmprojects.bescom@gmail.com

For Electricity related complaints call: 1912

Download "BESCOM Mithra" Mobile APP

## BANGALORE ELECTRICITY SUPPLY COMPANY LIMITED (Wholly owned by Government of Karnataka undertaking) (CIN-U04010KA2002SGC030438)

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## DELHI JAL BOARD: GOVT OF N.C.T. OF DELHI<br

# 'We don't want to reopen old wounds'

Sri Lanka's President goes back on accountability pledge; Foreign Ministry sends contradictory message

MEERA SRINIVASAN

COLOMBO

Exposing the rift persisting within the Sri Lankan government, President Maithripala Sirisena on Wednesday said he would ask the UN Human Rights Council to reconsider its 2015 resolution on the country, as he did not wish to "reopen old wounds".

Hours after President Sirisena declared his position at an editors' meeting on Wednesday morning – effectively going back on the pledges he made to the Tamil minority in 2015 – the Foreign Ministry said Sri Lanka would continue to demonstrate its commitment and determination towards "a steady and long-lasting reconciliation process through a co-sponsored resolution".

It will seek an extension of the timeline of resolution 30/1 of October 01, 2015, "through a co-sponsored roll-over resolution at the ongoing 40th session of the UN Human Rights Council," the Ministry said in a statement. Going by the contradictory messages put out by



**Widening rift:** Going by the contradictory messages put out by President Sirisena and the Foreign Ministry, it appears that the fissures within the government may have deepened. ■ AFP

the President and the Foreign Ministry, it appears that the fissures within the cohabitation government may have deepened since the island's political crisis late last year.

Local media reported that the President will send a team comprising senior parliamentarians from his party, Sarath Amunugama and Mahinda Samarasinghe, and Northern Province Governor

Suren Raghavan to Geneva to lobby the Council to allow Sri Lanka to take care of its own affairs.

However, *The Hindu* has learned that no other "official delegation" from Colombo will go to Geneva, as the Sri Lankan mission in Geneva has been tasked with airing the "official [Foreign Ministry] position" at the Council.

#### International oversight

Even as President Sirisena's move suggested resistance to any international oversight, the Foreign Ministry in its statement said "the entire mechanism and process of reconciliation is under the control of [the] Government of Sri Lanka".

Meanwhile, making his Budget speech on Tuesday, Finance Minister Mangala Samaraweera announced a series of initiatives for the war-affected north and east, titled 'Reconciliation through Economic Empowerment'. In addition to setting up a 'Palmyra Fund' of LKR 5,000 million to "fast-track development in the re-

gion", the Budget also provides for measures, including a monthly compensation for families of disappeared persons.

A decade after Sri Lanka's civil war ended, the Tamil minority living in the north and the east is awaiting answers to troubling wartime questions – particularly on the thousands of enforced disappearances reported during that time.

On the other hand, leaders in the southern polity defend the soldiers as "war heroes", apparently shielding them from any accountability.

However, the Foreign Ministry said the allegations made against Sri Lanka for co-sponsoring of the roll-over resolution was part of a campaign "to mislead the public and gain undue political advantage". It further stated that those who "shed crocodile tears on behalf of war heroes" had forgotten that Sri Lankan soldiers were engaged in peace keeping missions abroad only because the country co-sponsored the resolution.

# Immigration from India is unpopular in U.K.: study

But people from the U.S., Canada and Australia are tolerated

VIDYA RAM

LONDON

Britons don't want higher levels of immigration from India and many other non-EU countries even if it comes at the price of not securing a free trade agreement, new research in the U.K. has found.

Only higher levels of immigration from the U.S., Canada and Australia would be tolerated in exchange for trade arrangements, polling carried out on behalf of the Henry Jackson Society, a neo-Conservative think tank, found.

The research points to one of the tensions at the heart of Brexit: while the British government pushes its vision of a "global" Britain, reaching out beyond Europe, with public opinion stacked against immigration from beyond the EU as well as from within it, the government could struggle to reach deals to boost trade with these nations.

Opinion polling conduct-

ed in early January, suggested that just 9% of the public

were willing to accept significantly higher levels of immigration from India, with just 26% willing to accept slightly higher levels, according to the research. The same applies to a range of countries from South Africa, to China to Brazil, Argentina, Mexico, Turkey, Russia, Japan and Saudi Arabia as well as to the EU and individual member states such as France, Germany and Italy.

#### Trading priorities

Critics of the government's approach to Brexit have long questioned its ability to forge trade deals with non-EU countries as it attempts to revamp its trading priorities following Brexit. While a trade deal with India has been repeatedly touted by the U.K. government, India has highlighted its concerns around Britain's immigration policy, particularly towards students and

professionals.

"The U.K. has not really started to discuss what it is we are willing to give to others," said David Henig, the U.K. director of the European Centre for International Political Economy and a former senior civil servant at the Department For International Trade.

He pointed to another ongoing debate on whether Britain in its effort to gain a trade deal with the U.S. should be willing to concede to lower standards when it came to things like food. While the government's immigration white paper had suggested that change was afoot, the willingness of the British public to support this was yet to be tested. Mr. Henig said it was "premature" to conclude from the initial white paper that Britain's planned post-Brexit immigration regime would be in line with the asks of would be FTA partners such as India.

## China steps up diplomacy to ease India-Pakistan tensions

Vice-Foreign Minister Kong Xuanyou travels to Islamabad

ATUL ANEJA  
BEIJING

Former New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg, the centrist billionaire Democrat who positioned himself as a potential challenger to Donald Trump, said on Tuesday he would not run for president in 2020. ■ AFP

**Venezuela crisis worsened by sanctions, says UN**

CARACAS

Sanctions have worsened Venezuela's crippling economic and political crisis, UN human rights chief Michelle Bachelet said on Wednesday, as Washington warned it may expand measures targeting President Maduro's government. ■ AFP

**Indian-origin former Cisco employee held in U.S.**

NEW YORK

Prithviraj Bhikha, 50, an Indian-origin former employee of Cisco Systems, has been arrested and charged with a criminal complaint, alleging he defrauded the technology major of more than \$9.3 million. ■ PTI

## U.K. top court rules in favour of Sri Lankan Tamil asylum seeker

Home Office had rejected his contention that he was tortured



expert who said clinical findings – based on the Istanbul Protocol (the international guidelines on documenting torture) – were highly consistent with his account of torture. The Court of Appeal reached a similar conclusion.

#### Two possibilities

In its judgment, the Supreme Court weighed two possibilities: that KV had been tortured and that the wounds had been inflicted by SIBP. "That there was extensive torture by state forces in Sri Lanka in 2009 was well established in the evidence before the tribunal," the court said. "By contrast evidence of wounding SIBP on the part of asylum-seekers was almost non-existent." Quoting a dissenting

The Supreme Court, in its judgment, also pointed to "well established evidence" of "extensive torture" by Sri Lankan state forces in 2009.

The individual – named as KV – arrived in the U.K. in 2011 and claimed asylum, alleging that he was tortured by Sri Lankan forces on suspicion of association with the LTTE. He had "five long scars on his back and two shorter scars on his right arm," which were the clear "product of branding with a hot metal rod."

However, the tribunal that looked at the case concluded that the wounds were the result of "self-inflicted by proxy" (SIBP) and inflicted on him voluntarily in an attempt to "manufacture" evidence for an asylum claim, rejecting evidence on behalf of KV from a medical

## No solution yet to Brexit deadlock: EU

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE  
BRUSSELS

opinion by one of the judges in the initial appeal, the Supreme Court concluded that "very considerable weight should be given to the fact that injuries which are SIBP are likely to be extremely rare."

The court noted that a person would likely need the involvement of a qualified doctor who would have to have acted in breach of "the most fundamental and ethical standards," while having access to the necessary medical equipment.

#### Judgment welcomed

The judgment was welcomed by human rights campaigners, who said the court had reaffirmed the value of medical experts in torture claims as well as the "authoritative" status of the Istanbul Protocol when it came to assessing asylum claims. "Deplorable efforts by decision makers to dismiss this evidence are another symptom of the culture of disbelief that is the hallmark of the hostile environment," said Sonia Sceats, chief executive of Freedom from Torture, one of three human rights organisations that submitted evidence to the court.

The EU's chief negotiator said the "backstop" provision was the sticking point after meeting with U.K. Attorney General Geoffrey Cox and Brexit Minister Stephen Barclay over dinner in the Belgian capital on Tuesday.

## North Korea 'restoring' facilities at rocket site

ASSOCIATED PRESS

SEOUL

North Korea is restoring facilities at a long-range rocket launch site that it dismantled last year as part of disarmament steps, according to foreign experts and a South Korean lawmaker who was briefed by Seoul's spy service.

Asked to comment on the understanding reached between the Foreign Ministers of Russia, India and China (RIC) during their February 27 meeting in Wuzhen, the spokesperson said: "As to counter terrorism issue in the trilateral meeting, I shall say a key point is that terrorism is a complex issue. We should address the symptom and the root causes of terrorism that is the premise for what was proposed by Foreign Ministers of the three countries."

Asked to comment on China's stand on the resolution proposed in the UNSC 1267 committee to list Azhar as a global terrorist, Mr. Lu said China would take a "conducive decision" to resolve the differences. "China will have discussion with relevant bodies" as listing of terrorists "is a very serious issue", he said.

Intelligence Service provided the assessment about the

North's Tongchang-ri launch site to lawmakers during a private briefing on Tuesday. North Korea didn't immediately respond in its state media.

An article from 38 North, a website specializing in North Korea studies, cited commercial satellite imagery as indicating that efforts to rebuild some structures at the site started sometime between February 16 and March 2.

## Afghan militants storm construction firm, 17 dead

ASSOCIATED PRESS

KABUL

Militants in Afghanistan set off a suicide blast on Wednesday morning and stormed a construction company near the airport in Jalalabad, the capital of eastern Nangarhar province, killing at least 17 people, officials said.

The dawn assault triggered an hours-long gunbattle with local guards, drawing in U.S. forces to assist the Afghan troops in the shootout.

Among those killed were 16 employees of the Afghan construction company EBE and a military intelligence officer, said Attahullah Khogyani, the Provincial Governor's spokesman. He added that nine other people were wounded in the attack, which lasted more than five hours. No one immediately claimed responsibility for the attack, but both the Taliban and the Islamic State group are active in eastern Afghanistan, especially in Nangarhar.

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For any enquiries call: 1800 3000 1878

MARKET WATCH		
Sensex	36,636	% CHANGE
US Dollar	70.28	0.30
Gold	33,430	0.00
Brent oil	65.55	-0.18

## NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Ports	337.05	-2.20
Asian Paints	1393.70	-10.15
Axis Bank	720.60	-11.45
Bajaj Auto	2927.60	23.85
Bajaj Finserv	6609.15	65.40
Bajaj Finance	2766.70	71.55
Bharti Airtel	309.40	1.55
BPCL	372.70	10.20
Cipla	547.55	-1.10
Coal India	242.75	1.60
Dr Reddy's Lab	2693.65	39.55
Eicher Motors	2150.95	-1.45
GAIL (India)	345.35	-1.15
Grasim Ind	820.10	9.95
HCL Tech	1043.25	-9.30
HDFC	1885.20	25.20
HDFC Bank	2104.25	-2.85
Hero MotoCorp	2765.85	-29.80
Hindalco	202.75	4.00
HPCL	246.45	-0.30
Hind Unilever	1699.80	-24.80
Indiabulls HFL	730.50	-9.45
ICICI Bank	371.95	8.70
IndusInd Bank	1534.85	-6.75
Bharti Infratel	302.55	6.40
Infosys	732.50	0.00
Indian Oil Corp	154.90	1.25
ITC	285.75	3.20
JSW Steel	289.95	-1.25
Kotak Bank	1241.30	0.85
L&T	1317.00	11.20
M&M	658.90	2.15
Maurti Suzuki	7056.90	-60.85
NTPC	148.95	1.95
ONGC	154.80	-0.20
PowerGrid Corp	184.50	1.50
Reliance Ind	1264.80	27.15
State Bank	278.10	1.65
Sun Pharma	460.55	4.65
Tata Motors	188.80	-5.25
Tata Steel	520.85	-0.90
TCS	1999.60	11.50
Tech Mahindra	823.55	13.55
Titan	1055.95	20.95
UltraTech Cement	3978.65	16.45
UPL	877.35	1.85
Vedanta	178.50	3.55
Wipro	277.45	4.75
YES Bank	235.30	-2.15
Zee Entertainment	470.90	-13.55

EXCHANGE RATES	
Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on March 06	
CURRENCY	TT BUY TT SELL
US Dollar	70.08 70.40
Euro	79.22 79.58
British Pound	92.11 92.53
Japanese Yen (100)	62.65 62.93
Chinese Yuan	10.45 10.50
Swiss Franc	69.76 70.08
Singapore Dollar	51.61 51.85
Canadian Dollar	52.40 52.66
Malaysian Ringgit	17.12 17.22

Source: Indian Bank

BULLION RATES CHENNAI	
March 06 rates in rupees with previous rates in parentheses	
Retail Silver (1g)	41.4... (41.4)
22 ct gold (1g)	3080... (3078)

Source: Indian Bank

# Philip Morris flouted FDI rules in cigarettes'

For years, firm paid making costs to its Indian partner to make Marlboro cigarettes

REUTERS  
NEW DELHI

No smoke without fire: India had banned FDI in cigarette making in a bid to curb the habit of smoking. ■ AP

Philip Morris International Inc. has for years paid manufacturing costs to its Indian partner to make its Marlboro cigarettes, circumventing a nine-year-old government ban on foreign direct investment in the industry, internal company documents reviewed by Reuters showed.

The government, in 2010, prohibited foreign direct investment (FDI) in cigarette manufacturing, saying the measure would enhance its efforts to curb smoking.

Restricting foreign investment leaves cigarette manufacturing largely in the hands of domestic players, and is supposed to prevent any foreign-funded expansion.

A year after the government's decision, Japan Tobacco exited India, citing an

## Wind energy capacity expansion to slow in next five years: Crisil

New bidding mechanism has resulted in low realisations

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

Capacity addition in the wind energy sector will slow down over fiscal 2019 to 2023, with only 14-16 GW being added due to a decline in bid responses and profitability of original equipment manufacturers, according to a report by Crisil.

"Crisil Research expects capacity addition to grow slowly over the next five years, driven by the allotment of central transmission utility's (CTU) grid connected capacities," Crisil said in the report.

"The shift to a competitive bidding mechanism has slowed industry growth due to a significant fall in tariffs, triggering a decline in both bid response and profitability for original equipment manufacturers (OEMs)."

The shift to a competitive bidding mechanism in the wind energy sector has resulted in tariffs falling to ₹2.4-2.6 per unit, from ₹4-4.5 per unit under the feed-in tariff regime.

According to Crisil, such low realisations are unviable for the entire value chain at current capital costs of ₹6.8-7.2 crore per MW.

"Crisil Research expects

capacity addition of 14-16 GW over fiscal 2019 to 2023, entailing investments of about ₹10,000 crore," Crisil said in the report.

"Capacity additions will primarily be driven by central government allocations with relatively stronger counterparties such as Solar Energy Corporation of India (SECI) and PTC India, reducing risk compared with direct exposure to state discoms."

State auctioning, on the other hand, has slowed as several States have signed power supply agreements (PSAs) with PTC and SECI to procure wind power under the schemes auctioned by them, to help fulfill their non-solar renewable purchase obligations (RPO) targets, according to Crisil Research.

The rating agency said that there is a negative outlook, an indication of rating downgrade, which means renewed competition and higher capital spending by the company would keep its debt level up.

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## IN BRIEF



## L&amp;T wins order from Bangalore Metro

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## 'India has the cheapest mobile data in world'

NEW DELHI Helmed by Jio, India has the cheapest mobile data in the world with 1GB costing just ₹18.5 (\$0.26) as compared to global average of about ₹600 (\$8.53), research by price comparison site Cable.co.uk showed. The average price in India compares to \$6.66 in the U.K. and \$12.37 for the same amount of data in the U.S. as per the study that compared mobile data costs in nations across the globe. PTI

## Samsung eyes top slot in mobiles

Mobile phone maker bets on new launches to regain leadership from Xiaomi

**YUTHIKA BHARGAVA**  
NEW DELHI

Samsung Electronics is expecting to regain the top slot in the sale of mobile handsets in the Indian market from Xiaomi, driven by new device launches, including its online only M-series phone range, a senior company official said.

Addressing the media, Samsung Electronics president and CEO (IT & mobile communications division) D.J. Koh, however, stressed that Samsung remained a market leader in the mobile segment in terms of revenue.

"They [Xiaomi] are number one in terms of shipment, but in terms of revenue, Samsung is dominant number one in Indian market, not only in the fourth quarter of last year but also



**Getting mojo back:** Samsung Electronics president D.J. Koh unveils Galaxy S10 line in New Delhi on Wednesday. PTI

in the entire 2018, Samsung was number one," Mr. Koh said. "But in terms of number of devices as shipment, I want to bring back my position of being Number 1. We must make products affordable as well as pack in innova-

tion... I think M series will support volume in India," he added.

Samsung had, earlier this year, launched its online-only smartphones – the M series – with initial three devices priced in the

sub-₹10,000 and ₹10,000 segments.

## Market challenges

On the challenges in the Indian market, Mr. Koh said: "... the risk is competitors. When the competitors are working, if there is anything to learn, we learn from them...but sometimes they are faster than us... and if it is accepted by local consumers, that's a risk."

The firm which on Wednesday launched its Galaxy S10 line in India, priced between ₹55,900 and ₹1,17,900, usually cites GfK data for market share which puts it in the number one spot in the Indian market. On the other hand, reports from firms such as IDC and Counterpoint have been positioning

Xiaomi at the top.

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GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCK

and exchange; fraud abuse and control; and common IT infrastructure for health insurance claims management.

## Terms of reference

Spelling out the terms of reference, the Insurance Regulatory and Development

Authority of India (IRDAI) said under network hospitals' management, the group had 12 months to submit its report on a national repository of empanelled hospitals.

The JWG would define hospital infrastructure and facility audits to understand capacity of hospitals as well as specialists availability and chalk out a roadmap for one common list of accredited verified hospitals for the entire industry.

Under the fraud and abuse control component, the JWG would make recommendations in six months to help detect and deter frauds through a common repository and capacity-building.

## Polycab India to hit capital markets

LALATENDU MISHRA

MUMBAI Polycab India Ltd., one of India's largest manufacturers of wires and cables in terms of revenue, is planning to hit the capital markets with a primary issue.

"We have filed the draft red herring prospectus. We need growth capital and members of the promoter family and a private equity investor are planning to dilute stake," said Inder T. Jaisinghani, CMD, Polycab India. The firm is also eyeing more business from India's electrification drive.

"Infrastructure spending by the Centre will boost growth as new construction will raise demand for elastomeric and flexible cables," he said.

## IRDAI warns insurers against not complying with awards in time

Failure to adhere to timeline to be 'viewed very seriously'

N.RAVI KUMAR

HYDERABAD

Insurance regulator IRDAI has cautioned insurers to comply with the awards passed by the Ombudsman within 30 days of receipt of award.

A perusal of data received from all insurers for April-December 2018, has revealed that many insurers are neither complying with the awards nor filing appeals within 60 days of receipt of awards in line with provisions of a circular it had issued in April 2016, the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) said.

In a communication to CEO/CMDs of insurance companies, the regulator said the circular required all insurers to submit data pertaining to compliance of awards passed against them

by insurance Ombudsman.

It also cited the Insurance Ombudsman Rules, 2017 that mandated insurers to comply with the awards passed by the Ombudsman within 30 days of receipt of award.

Many insurers are neither complying with the awards nor filing appeals within 60 days of receipt of awards in line with provisions of a circular it had issued in April 2016, the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) said.

Many insurers, according to the regulator, were also not mentioning reasons why the implementation of the award was pending, something they have to in the state-

ment they submit.

"[A] Few insurers are not even submitting statements prescribed under above mentioned circular to the designated person," IRDAI said.

When reasons for non-compliance were sought, a few insurers informed they had complied with the award post the stipulated timeline.

"Non-compliance of the awards within the timeline would severely undermine the grievance redressal framework and cause undue hardships to the policyholder," the regulator said, adding failing to adhere to the timeline would be "viewed very seriously."

## GOVERNMENT OF UTTARAKHAND

## UTTARAKHAND HEALTH SYSTEMS DEVELOPMENT PROJECT

Second Floor, Red Cross Building, DandaLakhond, P.O. Gujarada, Sahastradhara Road Dehradun 248001, Uttarakhand, INDIA

E-mail:apd.ukhsdp@gmail.com

## INVITATIONS FOR BIDS (IFB)

## e-Procurement Notice

## (Two Envelope Bidding Process with e-Procurement)

## NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING (NCB)

## Bid No. IN-UKHFWS-103774-NC-RFB

Dated: 5th March 2019

- The Government of India has received credit from the International Development Association (IDA) for an amount equivalent to US\$ 100 million towards the cost of Uttarakhand Health System Development Project (UKHSDP) and intends to apply a part of the proceeds of the credit to cover eligible payments under the contract for which this invitation to bid has been issued. The bidders from India or any eligible source countries as defined in the IDA and IBRD Guidelines are eligible to bid for the project. **Bidders are advised to note the eligibility and qualification criteria specified in Section 2 of the Request for Bid (RFB) to qualify for the award of the contract.**
- The Uttarakhand Health and Family Welfare Society ("Authority") an implementing agency, now invites bids through e-procurement portal <https://uktenders.gov.in/nicgep/app> from the eligible bidders for the augmentation, development, operation and maintenance of integrated Healthcare Facilities and provision of Healthcare Services on a PPP basis in Ramnagar Cluster in Uttarakhand.
- Bidding will be conducted in accordance with the Bidding Documents and the National Competitive Bidding (NCB) procedures as specified in the World Bank's Guidelines: Procurement of Goods, Works and Non-Consulting Services under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits & Grants by World Bank Borrower January 2011 (revised July 2014), as applicable, and is open to all eligible bidders as defined specified in the aforesaid documents.
- Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from Uttarakhand Health & Family Welfare Society (UKHFWS) website and inspect the Bidding Documents available at <https://uktenders.gov.in/nicgep/app> from 19/03/2019 (DD/MM/YYYY) up to 08/05/2019 (DD/MM/YYYY). All eligible bidders are required to submit bids online only through e-procurement portal. Bids submitted in any other manner will not be accepted. Bidders are required to obtain id and Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) from the designated firms (details available on e-procurement portal) and then register with the Government of Uttarakhand e-procurement portal and submit bids using their ID and DSC. Bidders must also provide bid security and the cost of bidding documents as specified in Column 4 and 5 of the Table below respectively.
- A Pre-bid conference will be held on 06/04/2019 (DD/MM/YYYY) at 1200 Hours Tentatively (The Exact dates and Venue will be notified by the authority separately) to clarify the issues and to answer questions on any matter that may be raised at that stage as stated in Clause 2.18 of the Bidding Documents.
- Bids along with necessary information/documents must be uploaded on the web site <https://uktenders.gov.in/nicgep/app> as per the Bidding Documents. The bids will be opened at the specified venue on the stipulated date and time, in the presence of the bidders or their authorized representatives who wish to attend. If the office happens to be closed on the date of opening of the bids as specified, the bids will be opened on the next working day at the same time and venue.
- Please refer to the Bidding Documents available on the e-procurement portal for the detailed terms and conditions of the bidding process and the terms and conditions of the PPP Contract.
- The Authority shall not be held liable for any delays due to system failure beyond its control. Even though the system will attempt to notify the bidders of any updates to the Bidding Documents, the Authority shall not be liable for any information not received by the bidder. It is the bidder's responsibility to verify the website for the latest information related to the tender. The bidder is required to ensure browser compatibility of the computer well in advance to the last date and time for receipt of the tenders. The department shall not be responsible for non-accessibility of e-procurement portal due to internet connectivity issues and technical glitches.

## TABLE

Sl. No.	Name of Services	Estimated Total Project Cost (Rs. in Crore)	Bid Security Amount (Rs. in lakh)	Cost of Bid documents (Rs. in thousand)	Period of Completion
1	2	3	4	5	6
1	Ramnagar Cluster	48.00	25.00	10.00	Four years (48 months) from the date effective date (i.e., the date of the handing over of possession by the Authority).
1	Augmentation, development, operation and maintenance of integrated Healthcare Facilities and provision of Healthcare Services on PPP basis in the Cluster				

Project Director, UKHSDP  
Uttarakhand Health & Family Welfare Society  
Government of Uttarakhand

## L&amp;T wins order from Bangalore Metro

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## Mercedes Benz sees better sales in H2 of 2019

GST rates not conducive for growth: MD

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

KOLKATA

Mercedes-Benz India (MBI) is cautiously optimistic about its sales growth this year, as historically people have shown inclination to postpone decisions during elections, according to a top official.

However, growth may pick up in the second half of this year, he said.

"We are cautiously optimistic about this year as it is an election year. January to June may show muted growth but second-half may pick up," Martin Schwenk MD & CEO, Mercedes-Benz India, said during a media interaction.

He said that in 2019, the company planned to intro-



Martin Schwenk

duce 10 new models in India. MBI has 24 models here of which nine are made locally at the Chakan unit, near Pune, in Maharashtra. In 2018, the company sold 15,538 units in India's 40,000-unit luxury car market. The factory had been making MBI vehicles since June 2015.

## Tata arm's DC fast chargers to 'power' EVs

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

MUMBAI

Tata AutoComp Systems has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Australian DC charging infrastructure company Tritium Pty Ltd. to supply DC fast chargers for electric vehicles (EVs) in India.

Arvind Goel, MD & CEO, Tata AutoComp Systems said: "At Tata AutoComp, it is our endeavour to bring the latest technology and solutions to our customers. With the advent of electric vehicles, the need for chargers capable of powering them is significant and we see a huge opportunity in this market. We are pleased to have Tritium as our partner."

The Project Director

Thaddessa Mithram, Kerala Urban Service Delivery Project 4th Floor, Trans Towers, Vazhuthacaud, Thiruvananthapuram-14

Telephone: +91 471 2333011

The Project Director KUSDP reserves the right to reject all or any of the proposals without assigning any reason thereof.

## THADDESA MITHRAM

Kerala Urban Service Delivery Project (KUSDP)

Government of Kerala

## REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST (REoI)

KUSDP invites eligible consulting firms to indicate their interest in providing consultancy services for preparation of Environment Management Frame Work (EMF) and Social Management Frame Work (SMF).

The Terms of Reference (ToR) and other details are published in the Project website ([www.klgsdp.org](http://www.klgsdp.org)). Interested firms may refer the ToR & other details published in the above website before submitting REoI. Last date for submission of REoI is on or before 05:00 pm on 27th March 2019.

## THE PROJECT DIRECTOR

Thaddessa Mithram, Kerala Urban Service Delivery Project 4th Floor, Trans Towers, Vazhuthacaud, Thiruvananthapuram-14

Telephone: +91 471 2333011

The Project Director KUSDP reserves the right to reject all or any of the proposals without assigning any reason thereof.

## TENDER NOTIFICATION

# Women in Blue keen to bounce back

The top-order will have to fire to beat a formidable England

## ENG IN INDIA

P.K. AJITH KUMAR  
GUWAHATI

In the end, the difference between India and England in the opening women's T20 International was 41 runs – quite big for a format with such a small number of overs. But, the gap in the quality of cricket played by the two sides on Monday was bigger.

India will be desperate to put that loss as something that happened in the past – as its captain Smriti Mandhana would love to say – as it takes on its formidable rival in the second match at the Barsapara Cricket Stadium here on Thursday.

It is a must-win game for the host; it surely will not want to give away the series with a match still left.

### Losing streak

The women in blue would also be keen to end their losing streak in T20s. The last time they won a game in this format was last November, against Australia at the World T20 at Providence, Guyana.

They have lost all five matches played since, including three in New Zealand last month. As for the visitors, they would be looking to keep the momentum; they had beaten India in the World T20 semifinal at North Sound (Antigua) as well as in the final ODI at Mumbai last week.

But, India had won that series 2-1. It will now have to translate that form into the



**Sage advice:** Captain Smriti Mandhana irons out a few technical issues with head coach W.V. Raman on Wednesday. ■ RITU RAJ KONWAR

shortest format, not just for the sake of this match or the series, but for the big event – the T20 World Cup to be held in Australia in less than a year's time.

For that, India needs its batting to fire. Smriti, Mithali Raj and Jemimah Rodrigues cannot afford to perish early, like they did earlier in the week, especially in the absence of the injured regular captain Harmanpreet Kaur.

The top-order had collapsed totally – India was reduced to 41 for four – and it needed 20s from all-rounders Deepthi Sharma and Shikha Pandey to lend some respectability to the score. The bowlers too have to be less generous than they were in game one.

### Exceptional talent

They are up against some exceptional talent in the England batting line-up, like captain Heather Knight, Natalie Sciver, Danielle Wyatt and Tammy Beaumont. Knight, Beaumont and Wyatt had all sent India on a leather hunt in the first match.

Their efforts did not go in vain. They were backed up by the bowlers: seamers Katherine Brunt, Anya Shrubsole and Kate Cross as well as left-arm spinner Lindsey Smith.

England, however, expects India to bounce back. "They are an amazing side," said Wyatt.

Earlier, Smriti admitted she was nervous in her first match as captain. "I will be more pro-active in the second game," she promised.

**The team (from):** India: Smriti Mandhana (capt.), Mithali Raj, Jemimah Rodrigues, Deepthi Sharma, Tanya Bhatia, Bharti Fulmali, Anuja Patil, Shikha Pandey, Komal Zanzad, Arundhati Reddy, Poonam Yadav, Ekta Bisht, Radha Yadav, Vega Krishnamurti and Harleen Deol.

**England:** Heather Knight (capt.), Tammy Beaumont, Katherine Brunt, Kate Cross, Sophia Dunkley Brown, Freya Davies, Georgia Elwiss, Amy Eljen Jones, Laura Marsh, Natalie Sciver, Anya Shrubsole, Linsey Smith, Lauren Winfield, Danielle Wyatt and Alex Hartley.

**Match starts at 11 a.m.**

# Error-prone Sindhu ousted

Sai Praneeth and Srikanth post straight-game wins



**Coming up short:** An inconsistent display against Sung Ji Hyun of Korea put paid to P.V. Sindhu's chances in this edition of the All England badminton championships ■ FILE PHOTO

## ALL ENGLAND

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
BIRMINGHAM

A profligate P.V. Sindhu was knocked out of the All England badminton championship by an industrious Sung Ji Hyun of Korea in the women's singles opening round here on Wednesday.

However in men's singles, B. Sai Praneeth defeated compatriot H.S. Prannoy 21-19, 21-19, 21-12 to Japan's Shiho Tanaka and Koharu Yonemoto.

**The results:** Men: B. Sai Praneeth bt H.S. Prannoy 21-19, 21-19; K. Srikanth bt Brice Leverdez (Fra) 21-13, 21-11.

**Women:** Sung Ji Hyun (Kor) bt P.V. Sindhu 21-16, 22-20, 21-18.

**Doubles:** Ekaterina Bolotova & Alina Davletova (Rus) bt J. Meghna & Poorvisha S. Ram 18-21, 21-12, 21-12; Shiho Tanaka & Koharu Yonemoto (Jpn) bt Ashwini Ponappa & N. Sikki Reddy 16-21, 28-26, 21-16.

all record of 8-6 against Sung Ji, but the Korean troubled the Indian in the 81-minute thrilling clash which went down to the wire.

The Indian showed grit in the closing moments of the second and third games but also committed too many unforced errors during the match.

Sindhu saved three match points at 17-20 in the second game to take the match to the decider, during which she saved five match points before suffering her fourth first-round loss at the \$1 million event.

"There were too many points for me to cover and it was a good game overall. Maybe I should have controlled much more."

"It was just my bad luck and it was just not my day because my mid-court smashes were just going to

the net. Overall, she played well," said Sindhu.

The women's doubles pair of Meghna and Poorvisha S. Ram also fought hard before losing 18-21, 21-12, 21-12 to the Russian combination of Ekaterina Bolotova and Alina Davletova.

In another encounter, the experienced combination of Ashwini Ponappa and N. Sikki Reddy went down 16-21, 28-26, 21-16 to Japan's Shiho Tanaka and Koharu Yonemoto.

**The results:** Men: B. Sai Praneeth bt H.S. Prannoy 21-19, 21-19; K. Srikanth bt Brice Leverdez (Fra) 21-13, 21-11.

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# I felt happy with how I landed my nine overs : Cummins

## AUS IN INDIA

G. VISWANATH  
NAGPUR

Pat Cummins has played some IPL matches, the longest stint being with the Delhi Daredevils in 2017. The 25-year-old Australian linchpin has also played two Tests, and before the second ODI at the Jamtha Stadium on Tuesday, had logged in seven one-dayers here. So he has some experience on Indian pitches that generally are regarded unkind to the bowlers of his ilk.

After his captain Aaron Finch chose to field on a slow wicket, Cummins sent down a smart first over and his last delivery got Rohit Sharma. Cummins finished with four for 29 in nine overs and apart from Rohit, accounted for Ravindra Jadeja, Kuldeep Yadav and the biggest of them all, Virat Kohli.

### Full flow

Cummins was in full cry with the new ball with which he bowled three overs. "I love bowling with the new ball, especially in one-day cricket and on these sort of wickets."

"The ball deteriorates quite quickly. So I love getting the brand new ball and try to swing it around, get a



**Satisfied speedster:** Pat Cummins was incisive in his opening spell in the second ODI on Tuesday. ■ VIVEK BENDRE

bit of pace and bounce off the wicket before it tends to go soft. I enjoyed that, really happy with how I landed my whole nine overs and fortunately got a couple of wickets at the end to bump up the figures a bit."

While Cummins tried his best, Virat Kohli foiled the frontline bowler and the rest of the Australian attack. Cummins acknowledged the Indian captain's fine display. "He is someone who just looks in complete command of his game at the moment. A wicket like that is tough to bowl on and tough to bat on.

"If you bowl well you feel like you can restrict the batter, getting balls swinging around isn't really an option. You kind of feel a little bit hamstrung in that regard,

but he (Kohli) batted beautifully, he didn't give chances, he looks like he's got so much time."

"If someone bowls well, he's happy to wait on them and cash in later. He doesn't miss out on too many bad balls. It was really a good innings. Kohli was the difference," said Cummins.

### Applauds Stoinis

Talking about Marcus Stoinis' gallant effort, Cummins said "when Marcus is there, you always feel like we're in with a chance."

"He's been the closer for us in the last couple of years and played some unbelievable knocks. He assesses the game well. So with him out there I thought we had a massive chance."

"If you bowl well you feel

like you can restrict the batter, getting balls swinging around isn't really an option. You kind of feel a little bit hamstrung in that regard,

but he (Kohli) batted beautifully, he didn't give chances, he looks like he's got so much time."

"If someone bowls well,

he's happy to wait on them and cash in later. He doesn't miss out on too many bad balls. It was really a good innings. Kohli was the difference," said Cummins.

**Prepared for yorkers**

Balaji said the focus here

was on a tighter backlift.

"We were aware that the

workers would come and Vijay Shankar had a shorter

backlift and generated pow-

er with his wrists."

# Special training did the trick for Vijay Shankar

He practised with steel rod and muddler bat: coach Balaji

S. DINAKAR  
CHENNAI

The bond between them is strong. It travels back more than 13 years when Vijay Shankar was an under-15 player.

"He has shown us only 50% of his ability. He can do a lot more damage," told S. Balaji, his personal coach, to *The Hindu* here on Wednesday.

The former Railways and Tamil Nadu batsman revealed, "Ahead of the series against Australia, we had specific training in preparation against the type of bowlers he would face."

He added, "For instance, for Jason Behrendorff's left-arm over-the-wicket-angle, Vijay Shankar practised with a guard just outside his leg-stump, rather than a middle-and-leg one. His backfoot moved towards middle stump and he was in a position to play that angle with a lot more freedom."

He added, "We knew Marcus Stoinis often sent down three to four off-spinners in an over and Vijay Shankar prepared accordingly."

Plenty of thought has gone behind Vijay Shankar's practice methods. Balaji said, "He bats with a steel rod with a grip, with the same length and weight of a bat. And the idea is to muddle the ball, avoid edges."

Balaji said, "Then we use the muddler bat which is like a normal bat but with only half the width. This makes batting with the regular bat easier."



Vijay Shankar. ■ VIVEK BENDRE

The coach said, "Vijay Shankar's advantage is that he is very balanced and has a top-hand grip that gives him a lot of fluency."

### Emphasis on footwork

Balaji is someone who emphasises on footwork. "Vijay Shankar often faces upto 500 deliveries without a break in the nice indoor facility he has in his house and has to use his feet and come forward to at least 300 of them."

Backfoot play is vital too and here importance is given to throwdowns on artificial turf with a synthetic ball from 10 yards. "He is sound off his backfoot. You could see that from the way Vijay Shankar played the short stuff from Pat Cummins."

And Balaji was the one who convinced Vijay Shankar to switch to pace from off-spin. "He is now bowling fuller and straighter in the No. 4 spot."

"I want him to use his shoulder and wrist more. Against Australia, he was rightly focusing on bowling fuller and straighter in the last over."

When Vijay Shankar nailed it in Nagpur, his coach was delighted.

Jagdale also said that

# Rahane should play in the World Cup'

G. VISWANATH  
NAGPUR

Ajinkya Rahane spoke his mind about not being given a consistent run in ODIs. He played his last match against South Africa in Centurion on January 16, 2018, and made an unbeaten 34.

It's more than a year since, and Rahane has not found a place in the Indian team for the limited-over games and it appears – from the team-management and the national selectors' point of view – he's not really in the running for a berth in the World Cup squad.

Former national selector, Sanjay Jagdale, who was in Nagpur on Tuesday to see the second ODI between India and Australia, believes that Rahane should be in the Indian team for the quadrennial event to be held in England and Wales.

He doesn't believe that Ambati Rayudu or Dinesh Karthik is the answers for the No. 4 spot.

"I am not convinced and I think Rahane has the experience of playing in England and he should be playing this series."

"He has not been given the confidence. How long can India rely only on Virat Kohli?" asked Jagdale.

Jagdale also said that



Rishabh Pant, who was in good nick in the four Test series in Australia, should have played the ODI series in New Zealand. Pant closed the series with an aggressive unbeaten 159 in Sydney. "He was in good form and he was not played in the one-day series in New Zealand. He was sent back home. Rishabh is India's future."

The former BCCI secretary Jagdale was pleased with both Vijay Shankar and Ravindra Jadeja's showing in the second ODI. "I have not seen much of Vijay Shankar, but from what I have seen today [Tuesday], he looks good."

"And Jadeja has played a lot of cricket to bring in experience," trailed off the former Madhya Pradesh all-rounder who has played 53 First Class matches.

# Curran, Bairstow star for England

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE  
GROS ISLET

Jonny Bairstow made the most of the absence of a few specialists with a blistering early assault to set England on the way to a four-wicket victory over the West Indies in the first T20 International of a three-match series at the Darren Sammy Stadium here on Tuesday.

Replying to the home team's total of 160 for eight, Bairstow led the charge at the top of the order with his best T20I score of 68 off 40 balls with two sixes and nine fours. His entertaining innings ended in the 12th over via a catch on the boundary by Carlos Brathwaite off spinner Ashley Nurse.

The West Indies did not aid their cause with a succession of errors in the field throughout their opponents'

# Ajax spans Real Madrid out of CL

Harry Kane fires Tottenham Hotspur into last eight

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

MADRID  
The reign of Real Madrid in Europe is over after it was stunned by a 4-1 defeat (5-3 on aggregate) at home to Ajax on Tuesday.

In seven days, Real has been knocked out of the Copa del Rey, La Liga's title race and now the last 16 of the Champions League, the competition it had come to believe was its own.

Hakim Ziyech and David Neres put it two up at half-time and Dusan Tadic made it three before Marco Asensio gave Madrid hope. It lasted two minutes, as Lasse Schone sent a bending free-kick into the top corner before Nacho was sent off late on.

#### Chances missed

Bale was on for the injured Lucas Vazquez but hit the post and missed two good chances.

Raphael Varane might have finished it within five minutes but headed onto the crossbar from six yards and instead Ajax took control.

Toni Kroos, poor all night, was caught in possession from a throw-in and Dusan Tadic skipped free down the right. Tadic pulled back for Ziyech, who guided it with his left foot into the far corner.

Ajax was bouncing as Neres baffled Dani Carvajal with a pirouette in the corner and then Tadic did the same, spinning around Casemiro in midfield before teeing up the second. Neres rounded Thibaut Courtois and chipped the ball home.

Ajax added a sumptuous, albeit controversial, third. It worked it from right to left and then inside again, where Donny van de Beek shifted one last pass to Tadic, who whipped a sizzling shot into the top corner.

Asensio swept in Sergio



Proud moment: Ajax players celebrate after their stunning victory over the title holder Real Madrid. ■ DAVID RAMOS/GETTY IMAGES

Reguilón's cross to give Real hope. Erik ten Hag was seconds from bringing Schone off but his midfielder bent a free-kick into Courtois' top corner.

Harry Kane fired Tottenham Hotspur into the quarterfinals as his winning goal at Borussia Dortmund in Tuesday's return-leg sealed a 1-0 victory to wrap up a 4-0 aggregate success. This is the first time Tottenham is in the last eight of the Champions League since 2010-11.

**The results:** Real Madrid 1 (Asensio 70) lost to Ajax 4 (Ziyech 7, Neres 18, Tadic 62, Schone 72) (Ajax won 5-3 on aggregate); Borussia Dortmund 0 lost to Tottenham Hotspur 1 (Kane 49) (Tottenham won 4-0 on aggregate).

#### Stat attack

1 Real Madrid has been eliminated from the Champions League / European Cup after winning away from home in the first leg for the first time ever

2 The holder conceded two goals in the first 18 minutes of a Champions League game at the Bernabeu for the first time ever

3 The Spanish club has

lost four consecutive home games for the third time ever – the first since May 2004

9 Dusan Tadic has scored or assisted more goals than any other player this Champions League season

29 Frenkie de Jong completed 29 of Ajax's 32 passes in the first half, the most by any player during that period



#### FRENKIE FACTOR

■ Frenkie de Jong, who is headed to Real's arch-rival Barcelona next season, was a constant thorn in the flesh for the hosts

■ He was by far the best Ajax player on display – had 75 touches, made 55 passes with 89.1% accuracy and included 24 passes in the opposition half

## Anjum Moudgil asserts herself

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

World Championship silver medalist Anjum Moudgil continued to assert her hold over the women's field in the National shooting selection trials at the Dr. Karni Singh Range, Tughlakabad, on Wednesday.

After qualifying in the third place with 629.0, behind Aayushi Gupta and Shreya Agrawal, Anjum topped with 252.7 in the final, 0.8 point ahead of Aayushi.

Elavenil Valarivan was third among the women and second among the juniors in which Shreya Agrawal topped.

#### Mehuli tops juniors

Mehuli Ghosh was third among juniors, while Arinsha Chowdhury topped among the youth women. For juniors and youth, there was no final.

#### The results:

10m air rifle: Women: 1. Anjum Moudgil 252.7 (629.0); 2. Aayushi Gupta 251.9 (629.4); 3. Elavenil Valarivan 230.0 (628.9).

Junior women: 1. Shreya Agrawal 629.2; 2. Elavenil 628.9; 3. Mehuli 627.3.

Youth women: 1. Arinsha Chowdhury 615.9; 2. Manisha Choudhary 615.7; 3. Sunidhi Kumari 613.0.

per Mailson Alves, and Tondonba Singh. The defence was rarely troubled, except for the occasional runs from Colombo midfielder Isaac Addeve.

Chennaiyin's attack, led by Jeje Lalpekhlua, looked below par and failed to trouble the rival goalkeeper. Isaac caught Chennaiyin custodian Karanji Singh off-guard in the 74th minute with a shot from distance but the attempt sailed over the crossbar.

Chennaiyin's Thoi Singh played a lovely through-ball to C. K. Vineeth with a minute left on the clock but the latter was adjudged offside.

## Chennaiyin FC held to a goalless draw



Chennaiyin FC's Francisco Fernandes in action against Colombo FC. ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

## AFC CUP

SPORTS BUREAU  
COLOMBO

ISL champion Chennaiyin FC played out a goalless draw against Colombo FC in its 2019 AFC Cup qualifying playoff round first-leg tie at the Colombo Race Course Ground on Wednesday.

The two sides will battle it out again in the second leg at The Arena by TransStadia in Ahmedabad on March 13.

Chennaiyin coach John Gregory chose to leave out Australian defender Chris Herd and began with a back-line consisting of Lalindilina Renthlei, Eli Sabia, skip-

per Mailson Alves, and Tondonba Singh. The defence was rarely troubled, except for the occasional runs from Colombo midfielder Isaac Addeve.

Chennaiyin's attack, led by Jeje Lalpekhlua, looked below par and failed to trouble the rival goalkeeper.

Isaac caught Chennaiyin custodian Karanji Singh off-guard in the 74th minute with a shot from distance but the attempt sailed over the crossbar.

Chennaiyin's Thoi Singh played a lovely through-ball to C. K. Vineeth with a minute left on the clock but the latter was adjudged offside.

## Manpreet to lead a young Indian team

### SULTAN AZLAN SHAH

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NEW DELHI

India on Wednesday named a relatively young 18-member team, to be led by midfielder Manpreet Singh, for the 28th Sultan Azlan Shah Cup after several key players were ruled out of the prestigious hockey tournament due to injuries.

**The team:** Goalkeepers: P.R. Sreejesh, Krishan B. Pathak.

Defenders: Gurinder Singh, Surender Kumar (vice-capt.), Varun Kumar, Birendra Lakra, Amit Rohidas, Kothajit Singh Khadangbam.

Middlefielders: Hardik Singh, Nitakanta Sharma, Sumit, Vivek Sagar Prasad, Manpreet Singh (capt.). Forwards: Mandeep Singh, Simranjeet Singh, Gurjan Singh, Shilanand Lakra, Sumit Kumar.

## Iniyian is India's 61st GM

SPORTS BUREAU  
CHENNAI

Sixteen-year-old P. Iniyian, hailing from Erode, became India's 61st Grandmaster in the Noisiel Open chess tournament in France on Tuesday.

Though he had got the required three GM norms, he couldn't get his Elo rating to 2500 points, another pre-requisite. When he did it at Noisiel, it came as a huge relief. Iniyian crossed 2500 with a win over top-seeded GM Sergey Fedorchuk of Ukraine in the sixth round.

"It was a very tough for period for me in the last eight months. My rating was fluctuating between 2485 and 2495. I am relieved now," Iniyian said. "Now I can focus on further developing my game."

"What Iniyian has achieved is significant. It



P. Iniyian.  
■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

will certainly be a boost for players who don't hail from metros or big cities," said K. Panneerselvam, Iniyian's father.

Iniyian said crossing 2600 will be his next ambition. A Std. XI student of Indian Public school (Erode), Iniyian is coached by K. Visweswaran (Chennai) and sponsored by Olirum Erode Foundation.

## Arokia, Vismaya run to 200m golds in Indian Grand Prix

Jeevan claims men's 400m, while Poovamma clocks her season's best

SPORTS BUREAU  
CHANDIGARH

Tamil Nadu's Arokia Rajiv and Kerala's V.K. Vismaya, who have been consistent this season, won the men's and women's 200m in the fourth and final Indian Grand Prix athletics at Panchkula, here on Wednesday.

Vismaya, who won two of the three 400m she ran this season which included a stunning victory over under-20 World champion Hima Das, clocked a personal best (23.80s) in the 200m. Both Rajiv and Vismaya were adjudged as the best athletes of the Panchkula meet.

Meanwhile, Karnataka's K.S. Jeevan won the men's 400m while M.R. Poovamma clocked her season's best



Arokia Rajiv. ■ FILE PHOTO

while taking the women's quartermile. Haryana's Manjot Chahal, the Asian Games 800m champion, won the men's 1500m while former Asian champion Inderjeet Singh won the shot put title.

**The results:** Men: 200m: 1.



V.K. Vismaya. ■ FILE PHOTO

Arokia Rajiv (TN) 20.74s, 2. Ajay Kumar Saroj (UP) 20.74s, 3. Rahul (UP) 20.74s. 400m hurdles: 1. M.P. Jabir (Ker) 50.60s, 2. Jashanjeet Singh (Pun) 51.28s, 3. Jagadeesh Chandra (Kar) 51.44s.

Triple jump: 1. S.N. Mohammed Salahuddin (TN) 16.06m, 2. Navjot Singh (Pun) 15.60, 3. A. Rakesh (Ker) 15.23.

High jump: 1. B. Chetan (Kar) 2.16m, 2. Sarvesh Anil Kushar (Mah) 2.10, 3. Srikakolapu Ped Kamaraju (AP) 2.00.

Javelin: 1. Abhishek Singh (UP) 75.57m, 2. Abhishek Drall (Del) 74.95.

Shot put: 1. Inderjeet Singh (Har) 18.70m, 2. Parveen Parveen (Har) 17.52, 3. Paramjeet Singh (Chd) 17.48.

Discus: 1. Dharamraj Yadav (UP) 58.77m, 2. Mithravarun (TN) 52.81, 3. Surjeet Gurra (Del) 48.56.

1500m: 1. Manjot Chahal (Har) 4:35.37s, 2. N.S. Incharan (Kar) 4:34.05s, 3. Anjali Devi (Har) 4:34.35s.

400m: 1. M.R. Poovamma (Kar) 53.73s, 2. Saritaben Gayakwad (Guj) 53.77, 3. Jisna Mathew (Ker) 54.17.

1500m: 1. Lili Das (WB) 4:13.53s, 2. P.U. Chitra (Ker) 4:13.58, 3. Usha Sharma (Har) 5:03.00.

400m hurdles: 1. M. Arpitha (Kar) 57.93s, 2. Veerpal Kaur (Pun) 1:00.61, 3. Neha (Pun) 1:12.19.

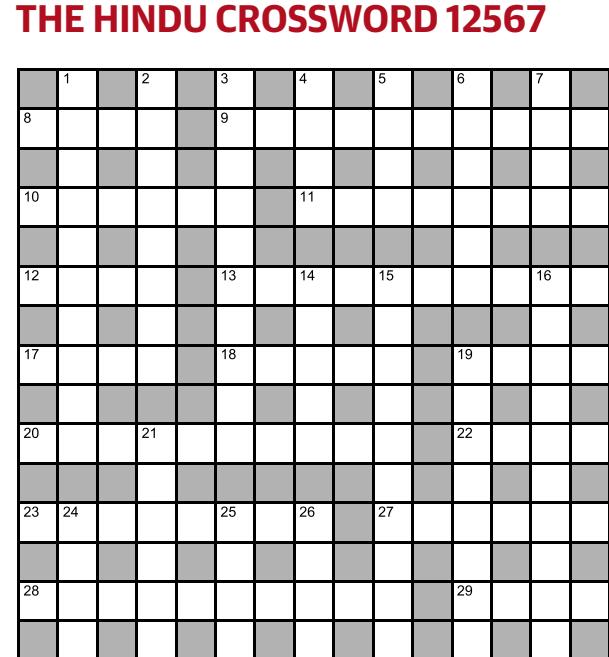
Triple jump: 1. Renu (Har) 13.41m, 2. Anusha G. Poojary (Kar) 13.04, 3. Niharika Vasishth (Pun) 13.02.

Discus: 1. Navjeet Kaur Dhillon (Pun) 56.03m, 2. Parbaty Sethi (Odi) 41.40.

Javelin: 1. Sharmila Kumari (Har) 56.36m, 2. Prabhdeep Kaur (Pun) 38.12.

Shot put: 1. Kachnar Chaudhary (Raj) 13.94m.

## THE HINDU CROSSWORD 12567



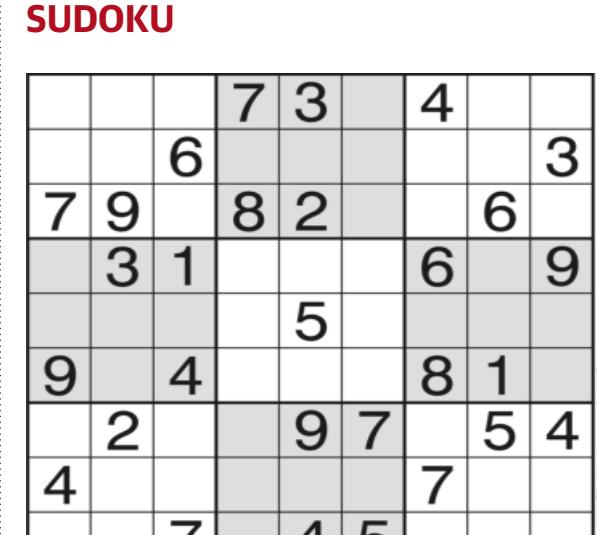
#### ACROSS

- 8 Mouthpiece sent back? (4)
- 9 Part of US where last of mountain sheep is seen with no organ to produce hormones (3,7)
- 10 Disease spread through Penang (in Asia) (6)
- 11 Flexible at the edge of boundary, stopping the ball while cap blows off (8)
- 12 Spoil interest in Bolt (4)
- 13 More sense to conserve energy that's unnecessary (10)
- 17 Down jacket? (4)
- 18 Amnesty International bails out collapsing African currency (5)
- 19 Fault detected in celebrity portrait (4)
- 20 One left, staggering out of fluorobenzene explosion engulfing function to safe area (6,4)
- 22 Fat man recruited by American company (4)
- 23 US government cleans out Guam... regularly hides it (5,3)
- 27 Where one may find a short wire with charge (6)
- 28 Insect with inwardly broken thigh – it stands tall and bright (10)
- 29 Regularly anointed as excellent (1-3)
- 30 French style from Vanuatu or Southern Papeete... unclear (3,7)

#### (set by Bruno)

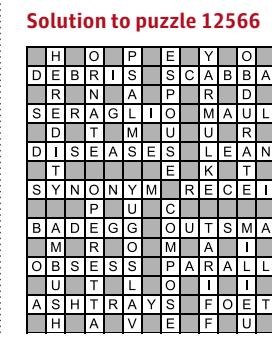
- 2 Open work with pitch, where one fell in (8)
- 3 A French vehicle forced child out – poor and neglected (7-3)
- 4 Aerate at the beginning – then dry off (4)
- 5 Wanted: limitless money for gambling (4)
- 6 Promise of a place on the line (6)
- 7 Soon-to-be priest's not Catholic? (4)
- 14 Latin guy turned it on in the past (5)
- 15 Academic calendar cleared and altered for official (10)
- 16 Bad suntan... with pale bust (10)
- 19 Game of upper classes in Hogwarts played endlessly – involving quaffle in the middle (3-2-3)
- 21 Nasty crowd – mostly they suck energy out (6)
- 24 Tip came off animal's claw (4)
- 25 Part of London that's very lively (not Southend) (4)
- 26 Low noise of grimace (4)

## SUDOKU



DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★☆

#### Solution to puzzle 12566



#### Solution to yesterday's Sudoku



**Look, the final!** Sunil Chhetri may well be saying so as his BFC side limbers up on the eve of its semifinal clash against NEUFC. ■ RITU RAJ KONWAR

## Can NEUFC stop BFC?

Head-to-head stats put the visitors ahead

### ISL PLAYOFFS

AMITABHA DAS SHARMA  
GUWAHATI

North East United FC's earnestness will come up against Bengaluru FC's consistency as the Hero Indian Super League playoffs get underway in search of a new champion at the India Gandhi Stadium here on Thursday.

The first match of the double-leg fixture will see the visitors ahead on form as the hosts look to invoke the excitement of a maiden playoff qualification to cause an upset.

Records give Bengaluru the advantage with head-to-head statistics showing three wins for the visitors in a total of four meeting so far; the other ended in a 1-1 draw.

NEUFC's head coach Eelco Schattorie acknowledged that his side will face "the best club in India" but refused to be cowed down

statistics.

"We played them twice (this season) and played really well on both occasions. In the first meeting at home they drew with a last minute goal and while visiting we should have won for having created more chances," Schattorie said.

"In the last 10-12 matches it was like fixing a big puzzle each time while selecting the team."

#### Good fight'

"It is going to be the same for me tomorrow but my team is surely going to give a good fight and play for the badge on their shirts," said Schattorie looking at a long list of injuries and defender Gurwinder Singh's suspension.

However, the hosts will be compensated by the return of Colombian midfielder Jose Leudo. Schattorie hoped that the combination of Nigerian Bartholomew Ogbeche and Uruguayan Federico Gallego in the attack

will come good once more.

#### Best attack

Bengaluru, which topped the league standings for the second successive season, will be the side to beat as it combines the best attack formation of Sunil Chhetri, Anil Kumar Singh and Miku.

"North East has its weapons, so do we. People say that we had some problems against them but they got one point and we got four. It will be a good game with lot of passion, which is great for football," said Carles Cuadrat, Bengaluru's head coach.

The Blues will miss defender Gursimrat Singh Gill due to suspension while midfield workhorse Erik Paartalu is out of the tournament with injury.

Quadrat now will have to find a good replacement in the middle of the park, which may well be Spanish midfielder Alex Barrera, who was signed recently.

## Excellent should make amends

**MUMBAI:** Trainer Dallas Todywalla's ward Excellent, who ran third in his last start, should make amends in the Aazir H. Ahmedbhai Trophy, the feature event of Thursday's (March 7) evening races at Mahalaxmi.

Rails will be placed 2 metres wide from 1400m to 1200m and thereafter 5 metres wide from 1000m up to the winning post.

**1. WASHINGTON IRVINE PLATE** (1,600m), Cl. V, rated 4 to 30, 5 p.m.: 1. Westeros (II) Chouhan 61.5, 2. Sixth Emperor (IV) Kuldeep 60.5, 3. Honourable Eyes (8) Trevor 60, 4. Laburum (10) Ajinkya 60, 5. Fencing (1) Sandesh 58.5, 6. Run Happy (3) Sharja 57.5, 7. Power Of Thor (5) Dashrath 56, 8. Saddle The Wind (6) Vishal 56, 9. Zeemo (7) Nazil 56, 10. Sir Song (12) S. Amit 53.5, 11. Golden Orchid (2) Zeehan 51, 12. Vitesse (9) Nadeem 49.5 and 13. Whoopsidays (13) Peter 49.

**1. HONOURABLE EYES,** 2. LABURNUM, 3. WHOOPSIDAYS

**2. AZIZ H. AHMEDBHAI TROPHY** (1,600m), Cl. II, rated 60 to 86, 5.30: 1. Gloriosus (6) Parmar 60,

2. Texas Gold (5) Nazil 56.5, 3. Excellent (2) Sandesh 55.5, 4. Spitfire (3) Trevor 54.5, 5. Zenon (4) J.Chinoy 54.5 and 6. In To Win It (1) Dashrathi 53.5.

**1. EXCELLENT, 2. SPITFIRE**

**3. KEUKENHOF PLATE (1,400m)**

3 (3-y-o only, 6.00): 1. Gallant Star (8) Vishal 57, 2. Galloping Goldmine (2) Chouhan 57, 3. Golden Steel (1) Chinoy 57, 4. Mystic Bay (6) Suraj Narredu 57, 5. Powerful Star (3) Kamble 57, 6. Taarradin (5) Trevor 57, 7. Starringo (4) Sandesh 55.5 and 8. Treason (7) Parmar 55.

**1. MYSTIC BAY, 2. STARRINGO,** 3. GALLOPING GOLDMINE

**4. FLAREON PLATE DIV. I** (1,000m), Cl. V, rated 4 to 30, 7.00: 1. Cabellero (7) Malam 62, 2.

**Grand Sinatra (4) Chouhan 61.5, 3. Fire Flame (1) Vishal 61, 4.**

**Agrami (8) G. Amit 60.5, 5. Sky Beauty (2) Neeraj 59, 6. Bee Quirky (1) Peter 57, 7. Thea O Thea (6) Kuldeep 57, 8. Panarea (10) Shubham 56.5, 9. Shapath (9) Nazil 55.5, 10. Juliano (3) Ayyar Sandesh 55.5 and 8. Treason (7) Parmar 55.**

**1. CABELLERO, 2. GRAND SINATRA,** 3. BEE QUIRKY

**5. FLAREON PLATE DIV. II** (1,000m), Cl. V, rated 4 to 30, 6.30: 1. Kipling (3) Dashrath 59.5, 2. Dance Emperor (1) Peter 58.5, 3. Outstanding (7) Parbat 57.5, 4. Abraxas (1) Aniket 56.5, 5. Destined For Glory (9) D.A. Naik 56, 6. One Eyed Princess (4) Shubham 55, 7. Whispering Queen (10) Ayyar 53.5, 8. Macgyver (5) Chouhan 52.5, 9. Spinning Gold (6) Malam 50, 10. Olivia Kaspen (2) Nadeem 49 and 11. Collegium (5) Zervan 53.5, 12.

**6. AMATEURS RIDERS' CLUB TROPHY** (4,200m), Cl. II, rated 40 to 66, 7.30: 1. Lesrel (II) Akshay 59, 2. Highland Princess (8) Kuldeep 58.5, 3. Arc Shine (6) Nazil 55.5, 4. El Comandante (13) Sandesh 55.5, 5. Flower Dust (2) Chouhan 55.5, 6. Goshawki (14) D.A. Naik 55.5, 7. Gold Field (12) S. Amit 55, 8. Sassy Lass (10) Peter 54.5, 9. Adeline (1) Neeraj 54, 10. Timeless Deeds (7) Dashrath 54, 11. Collegium (5) Zervan 53.5, 12.

**7. MONET PLATE (1,000m), Cl. IV, rated 20 to 46, 8.00: 1. Lord Commander (4) Santos 62,**

**2. Benefactor (13) Akshay 61.5, 3. Slant Dunk (6) Nadeem 61.5, 4.**

**Charles Bridge (1) Peter 60.5, 5.**

**Bonafide (12) Kamble 56, 6. Sharach (10) Chouhan 57.5, 7. Falconette (8) Kuldeep 57, 8. Thea's Pet (5) Aniket 56.5, 9. Godswell (11) Ayyar 56, 10. Arabian Storm (7) Dashrath 55.5, 11. Cezanne (2) Vishal 55, 12. Speedy (9) Shubham 55, 13. Dancing Lances (4) Merchant 54.5 and 14. Smart Choice (3) Amit 53.**

**1. DANCING LANCES, 2. SHAR-**

**AREH, 3. LORD COMMANDER**

**Day's Best: EL COMANDANTE**

**Double: HONOURABLE EYES – EX-**

**CELLENT**

**Jackpot 3, 4, 5, 6 & 7. Treble: 5, 6**

**& 7. Tanala: All races. Super Jack-**

**pot: 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 & 7.**

## Prajnesh advances

### SPORTS BUREAU

INDIAN WELLS

Prajnesh Gunnswaran defeated Jason Jung of Chinese Taipei 7-5, 6-4 and moved into the second and final qualifying round of the Indian Wells tennis tournament here. Ramkumar Ramanathan, however, lost in the first round to Filip Krajinovic of Serbia and collected \$3,395.

**The results:**

**\$54,160 Challenger, Santago, Chile:** First round: Johannes Haertels (Ger) bt Sumit Nagal 6-4, 0-6, 6-3.

**\$54,160 Challenger, Zhuhai, China:** First round: Enrique Lopez Perez (Esp) bt Saketh Myneni 6-4, 4-6, 6-4.

**\$25,000 ITF men, Mildura, Australia:** First round: Arjun Kadhe bt Michael Look (Aus) 6-4, 6-1.

**\$15,000 ITF men, Sharm El Sheikh: Doubles (pre-quarterfinals):** Andres Artunedo Martinavarro & Pablo Vivero Gonzalez (Esp) bt Jonas Trinker (Aut) & Adil Kalyanpur 7-6, 2-6, [10-8].

**Women (first round):** Oliwia Szymczuk (Pol) bt Mihika Yadav 6-2, 2-6, 6-4.

**\$25,000 ITF men, Yokohama, Japan: Doubles (pre-quarterfinals):** Akiko Omae (Jpn) & Rutuja Bhosale bt Robu Kajitani (Jpn) & Fangzhou Liu (Chn) 4-6, 6-3, [10-6].

**\$25,000 ITF women, Irapuato, Mexico:** First round: Karman Kaur Thandi bt Alexandra Perper (Mda) 6-0, 6-4.

**Doubles (pre-quarterfinals):** Andrea Gamiz & Aymet Uzatgegui (Ven) bt Nastalija Kostic (Srb) & Karman 7-5, 5-7, [10-6].

## Udar wins big

**NEW DELHI:** Udar posted a 5-1 win over Remount & Veterinary Corps in the General Sparrow cup polo tournament on Wednesday.

**The results (league):** Udar 5 (Prateek Aggarwal 3, Deepak Udar, Hemendra Singh) bt Remount & Veterinary Corps 1 (Vijay Singh); Sahgal Stud 6 (Siddhant Sharma 3, Rakesh Sharma, Jai Shergill, Rajesh Sahgal) bt Sona Polo 5 (Salim Azmi 3, Mitesh Mehta, Dhananjay Singh); 61st Cavalry 8 (Krishna Inkya 3, Vishal Chauhan, 2, Mrityunjay Singh Chauhan 2, Ilyas Ali) bt ASC 6 1/2 (Naveen Singh 6, handicap 1/2); Goal Diggers 7 (Pranav Kapur 4, Bhawani Singh Kalvi 3) bt Indian Navy 4 1/2 (Akhil Sirohi 4, handicap 1/2).

**Udar wins big**

**SPORTS BUREAU**  
COIMBATORE

Aishwarya Pissay is a fighter. She braved an injury that she suffered last year in Spain and has now come back strongly to take part in her second international event, the FIM Bajas World Cup opener, to begin with a ceremonial flag off in Dubai on Thursday.

Aishwarya will be competing in the 450cc, women and junior categories.

The event has attracted over 100 riders from 25 countries. The 23-year-old

months. "This is an exciting start to my international racing season.

"I have been training really hard over the last few weeks in the sand dunes, which has been a tremendous learning experience. I am thankful to my sponsors for believing and supporting my dreams," she said.

Aishwarya, who has been training at the Big Rock track run on the outskirts of Bengaluru for some time, also went in advance to Dubai to train on the dunes.

## Aishwarya ready for FIM Bajas WC

She will be competing in three categories



Aishwarya. ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

was injured in a crash in the

Spanish Baja and was out of

action for nearly six

months.

"This is an exciting

start to my international

racing season.

"I have been training

really hard over the last few

weeks in the sand dunes,

which has been a tremen-

dous learning experience.

I am thankful to my spon-

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training at the Big Rock

track run on the outskirts of

Bengaluru for some time,

also went in advance to Du-

bai to train on the dunes.

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1.	2003_1/PP4/ET/			

# App managers, cybersecurity agencies grapple with data leak

Dubsmash, Armor Games and Coffee Meets Bagel are among the apps hacked

GAUTAM S. MENGLE

MUMBAI  
If you love recording yourself on Dubsmash, play on Armor Games in your free time, or use the dating app Coffee Meets Bagel, chances are your personal details may have been compromised.

Indian cybersecurity agencies are tracking a massive leak of data from at least 16 online platforms – websites as well as apps – several of which are widely used by Indians. The national Computer Emergency Response Team, in collaboration with global cyberintelligence agencies, is trying to gauge the extent of the damage.

Speaking on the challenges in fighting online hacking, Special Inspector General of



Many users connect their email IDs to video messaging and gaming apps.

Police (Maharashtra Cyber) Brijesh Singh said it was next to impossible to estimate the number of users whose data had been leaked because the figures are not made available to law enforcement agencies.

The leak was first flagged by news websites that track cybersecurity and cyber-crime, after they noticed

that accounts of users of several online platforms were on sale on the dark web. Further investigation reportedly revealed that details of over 600 million accounts stolen from 16 portals were on sale, with payment being accepted in bitcoins.

#### Armor writes to users

In the early hours of Wednesday, Armor Games sent an email to all its users confirming the leak. "We respect the privacy of our users which is why as a precautionary measure, we are writing to let you know of a data security incident that may involve your personal information," the email said.

"The database affected primarily stores all our website users' public profiles, lo-

gin data, birthdays of our admin accounts, and information about our password protection processes at the time. We do not have (and thus, this incident does not involve) first or last names, credit card data, addresses, or phone numbers," the email said.

Mr. Singh said, "A lot of users connect to such portals using their email IDs and even the passwords that they use are recycled from old ones, making it easier for miscreants to compromise their accounts or devices."

Other portals reportedly affected include MyFitnessPal, MyHeritage, ShareThis, HauteLook, Animoto, EyeEm, 8fit, Whitepages, Fotolog, 500px, BookMate, Artsy and DataCamp.

# Rare trove of Einstein papers contains page thought to be lost

Jerusalem varsity exhibits scientist's mathematical notes

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

JERUSALEM  
An Albert Einstein "puzzle" has been solved thanks to a missing page of manuscript emerging in a collection of his writings acquired by Jerusalem's Hebrew University, officials announced Wednesday.

The handwritten page, part of an appendix to a 1930 paper on the Nobel winner's efforts towards a unified field theory, was discovered among the 110-page trove the university's Albert Einstein archives received some two weeks ago.

Most of the documents constitute handwritten mathematical calculations behind Einstein's scientific writings in the late 1940s.

There are also letters that Einstein, born in Germany in 1879, wrote to collaborators which deal with a range of scientific and personal issues, including one to his son, Hans Albert.

The 1935 letter to his son expresses concern about the rise of the Nazi party in Germany.

Nearly all the documents had been known to researchers and available in the form of copies – "sometimes better copies, sometimes very poor copies", said Hanoch Gutfreund, scientific advisor to the university's Einstein archives.

Mr. Gutfreund, a physics professor and former presi-



Notes of a genius: Part of a collection of 110 manuscript pages written by Albert Einstein. ■ REUTERS

dent of the university, said the eight-page appendix of the 1930 unified theory paper had never been published, though researchers had copies of it.

#### Piece of the puzzle

"But in the copies we had, one page was missing, and that was a problem. That was a puzzle," the professor said. "And to our surprise, to our delight, that page is now here. It came with the new material," he said.

Hebrew University said: "This article was one of many in Einstein's attempts to

unify the forces of nature into one, single theory and he devoted the last 30 years of his life to this effort."

The collection, acquired through a donation from the Crown-Goodman foundation in Chicago, was bought from Gary Berger, a North Carolina doctor who had a private collection of Einstein writings. Mr. Gutfreund refused to divulge the sum paid for the 110 papers.

Einstein was one of a found father of the Hebrew University and served as a non-resident governor of the Jerusalem institution.

When the German-born physicist died in 1955, he bequeathed the university his archives, with curator Roni Grosz saying its 82,000 items make it the world's most extensive collection of Einstein documents.

# No Internet on Bali's Day of Silence

ASSOCIATED PRESS  
DENPASAR

Bali's airport will close for 24 hours, the Internet will be turned off and streets emptied as the island in Indonesia observes its New Year with an annual day of silence.

'Nyepi' begins at 6 a.m. on Thursday, clearing beaches and all public spaces of people except for special patrols to ensure silence is observed. For the second year, phone companies will turn off the mobile Internet on the island, home to more than 4 million people.

Balinese will stay indoors, covering windows and keeping lights off for the day of reflection that is the most sacred in Balinese Hinduism.

"A day of silence to mark Saka (Balinese calendar) New Year for us Balinese Hindus is an opportunity to restart life with a pure heart," said Wayan Gota, a hotel manager in Kuta, one of the island's tourist hotspots.

The night before Nyepi is celebrated with noisy processions of giant scary figures symbolising evil spirits.

During Nyepi, any tourists on the island have to stay in their hotels. TV and radio broadcasts also stop. In past years, tourists, both foreign and Indonesian, have been arrested for wandering around Kuta during Nyepi.

# Google's Bolo app seeks to boost reading skills

Offers Hindi and English stories

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

Google on Wednesday launched a mobile application named 'Bolo' (speak) to help schoolchildren improve their Hindi and English reading skills.

The beta version of the free application – launched first in India, uses Google's speech recognition and text-to-speech technology.

"It comes with a built-in fun and helpful reading buddy, Diya, who encourages, explains and corrects the child, as they read aloud," Google said, adding that the app had been designed to work offline.

"Bolo is designed as a reading-tutor app that helps primary grade students improve their reading. With Bolo, we aim to encourage and engage kids so their love for reading grows and it becomes a daily habit," Nitin Kashyap, product manager, Google India said. The company added that it has been testing Bolo with over 900 children in 200 villages in Uttar Pradesh, India. "The



A screenshot from the Bolo app. ■ GOOGLE

results are very encouraging, with 64% of children showing an improvement in reading proficiency in just three months."

Mr. Kashyap said the team was now working with non-profit organisations to take it to more people across the country.

The company, citing the Annual Status of Education Report (2018), said that only half the students enrolled in Class 5 in rural India could confidently read a Class 2 level textbook.

# Toyota, Japan space agency plan moon mission

It will be the car manufacturer's first full-fledged entry into space exploration

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE  
TOKYO

Toyota is teaming up with Japan's space agency on a planned mission to the moon, with the Japanese automaker expected to develop a lunar rover, officials and local media said on Wednesday.

Details will be announced by JAXA and Toyota Tuesday next week when the space agency hosts a symposium in Tokyo.

It will be the car manufacturer's first full-fledged entry into space exploration, after the company jointly developed a robot sent to the International Space Station.

"We are planning to cooperate with Toyota in an exploration mission to the Moon," said a spokesman with the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA).

er. Jiji Press news agency said the car giant is expected to jointly develop a "mobility method" to be used on the lunar surface for the mis-



sion. So far, only Russia, the United States and China have made the 3,84,000-km journey and landed spacecraft on the moon.

Last month, Israel launched a spacecraft that aims to join them. In 2017, Japan revealed plans to put an astronaut on the Moon around 2030.

Before humans set foot on the lunar surface again, NASA aims to land an unmanned vehicle on the moon by 2024.



## Naye Bharat ka Naya Uttar Pradesh

23 Months of Transformation

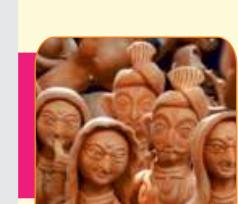
### Traditional Industries get Recognition

**Every district gets global recognition of its specific products under ODOP Scheme.**



- Handicrafts worth Rs. 90,000 crore exported from the state.
- Over Rs. 7,540 crore disbursed as ODOP loan among 78,084 beneficiaries.
- For the first time in the state, Vishwakarma Shram Saman introduced for 9 trades - tailoring, goldsmithery, carpentry, hair dressing, shoe-making, pottery, blacksmithery, masonry and confectionery.
- Sant Kabir State Handloom Awards Scheme to honour weavers.
- Pension to weavers under the Mukhya Mantri Hathkargha Bunkar Samman Scheme.
- A maximum financial assistance of Rs. 10 lakh to entrepreneurs under the Mukhya Mantri Gramodyog Rozgar Scheme.
- Clay Art Board to encourage potters.

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**Skill development training centres have been established in all tehsils of the state.**



**Rebate ranging between Rs. 6.25 lakh to Rs. 20 lakh based on MSME's project cost.**

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