



Justice Karnan visits
Calcutta HC, doesn't
do administrative work
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Neil Gorsuch takes
over as judge of U.S.
Supreme Court
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Sheikh Hasina invites
Indian companies to
invest in Bangladesh
page 13



Spain's Sergio Garcia
wins U.S. Masters
golf tournament
page 17

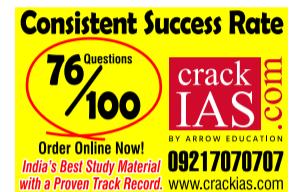
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NEARBY



NHRC notice over
attacks on Africans
NEW DELHI
Authorities in Gautam
Budh Nagar district have
been issued notices by the
NHRC over a complaint
that the police had falsely
implicated some people in
the attacks on African
residents.

NATION ▶ PAGE 6



DELHI METRO ▶ 6 PAGES

Pak. court awards death to Indian

Former Navy officer Kulbhushan Jadhav was 'found guilty' of espionage by a military court

MUBASHIR ZAIDI
KARACHI

A Pakistani military court on Monday sentenced to death a former Indian Navy official, Kulbhushan Jadhav, accusing him of espionage and working for the India's external intelligence agency, R&AW.

The sentencing of Mr. Jadhav, 46, was confirmed by Army chief Gen. Qamar Javed Bajwa after the Field General Court Martial found him guilty of "all the charges," said the military's media wing, Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR).

Indian embassy officials have been repeatedly refused access to Mr. Jadhav throughout the trial process. Mr. Jadhav was arrested from Balochistan on March 3 last year, with Pakistani authorit-

Caught in a quagmire

A look at how Kulbhushan Jadhav fell into Pakistan's hands

MARCH 3, 2016:
Pakistan claims
arrest of Kulbhushan
Jadhav in Mashkal,
Balochistan on
charges of espionage

MARCH 25, 2016:
Pakistan summons
Indian envoy after
the arrest

India maintains that Jadhav was kidnapped from Iran



MARCH 29, 2016:
Pakistan releases a video
confession of Kulbhushan
Jadhav and accuses him
of "sabotage"

DECEMBER 7, 2016: Sartaj
Aziz speaks of lack of proof against
Jadhav but Pakistan denies it later

APRIL 10, 2017: A Pakistan military court
gives death sentence to Jadhav

ies alleging that he was involved in subversive activities in the province.

However, the specific charges were never made public.

Lawyers familiar with the Army Act trials said there is very limited right of appeal available to the accused.

They said the accused cannot challenge the charges but only the jurisdiction. The appeals will also be heard by military officials but of higher rank.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 10

Delhi summons envoy, issues protest note

KALLOL BHATTACHERJEE
VIJAITA SINGH
NEW DELHI

India on Monday summoned the Pakistan High Commissioner, Abdul Basit, protesting strongly after a Pakistan Military Court sentenced an Indian national, Kulbhushan Jadhav, to death for espionage.

The death sentence will be a "premeditated murder," said a diplomatic note of protest issued by the Ministry of External Affairs even as India suspended release of 12 Pakistani

prisoners. "The proceedings that have led to the sentence against Shri Jadhav are farcical in the absence of any credible evidence against him. It is significant that our High Commission was not even informed that Shri Jadhav was being brought to trial. Senior Pakistani figures have themselves cast doubt about the adequacy of evidence," the note said.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 10
COURT-MARTIAL FOR UNARMED
FOREIGNER; A WARNING,
SAYS PAKISTAN ▶ PAGE 10

Tarun Vijay's 'racial' remarks rock House

Opposition seeks FIR against ex-MP

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

BJP leader Tarun Vijay's controversial "racial" remarks rocked the Lok Sabha on Monday, with the Opposition members forcing three adjournments on their demand that an FIR be registered against him for an "anti-national" act. However, the Centre said the leader had apologised for the utterances.

The Lok Sabha proceedings were adjourned once during Question Hour and twice during Zero Hour.



Making a case: Leader of the Opposition Mallikarjun Kharge speaks in the Lok Sabha on Monday. ▶ PTI

'I couldn't find right words'

Tarun Vijay, former Bharatiya Janata Party MP and editor of *Panchayana*, an RSS-linked journal, has expressed deep regret for his remarks that Indians could not be racists as they lived with "black" South Indians. "I couldn't find the right words to convey what I was trying to say and it ended up conveying exactly the opposite," he told *The Hindu*. ▶ PAGE 11

India or not. "It shows your mentality...do you want to divide India, do you want to separate us, do you want that each State should assert for its independence?" he asked, stating that an apology was not sufficient after the insult and humiliation.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 10

Temple tête-à-tête



Akshardham break: Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Australian counterpart Malcolm Turnbull during their visit to the Akshardham Temple in New Delhi on Monday. ▶ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT (REPORT ON PAGE 11)

EC puts off Anantnag bypoll to May 25

J&K government warns of further violence as schools attacked amid shutdown

DEVESH K. PANDEY
PEERZADA ASHIQ
NEW DELHI/SRINAGAR

The Election Commission (EC) on Monday deferred the by-elections to the Anantnag Lok Sabha constituency from April 12 to May 25, after large-scale violence, which left eight persons dead, marred the Srinagar byelection on Sunday.

The decision came after a report from the State administration, received earlier on Monday, stated that "the law and order situation prevailing in the Anantnag constituency is not conducive to the holding of free and fair poll on April 12, as scheduled."

Ahead of the Election Commission's decision, a complete shutdown was ob-

served in the Kashmir Valley and three schools, designated as polling booths, were attacked.

A police official said the Padar Pora government school in Shopian was set on fire by unknown persons, while two schools in Anantnag and Kulgam districts were attacked.

In its report to the Elec-

tion Commission, the State administration had expressed apprehension that there might be attempts to thwart the polling process and recommended that the byelection be deferred for the time being.

WHY CHILDREN IN MOBS:
SUPREME COURT ▶ PAGE 11
NOT BOUND TO CONSULT
CENTRE ▶ PAGE 11

'Law on cow slaughter not feasible'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

A day after Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh chief Mohan Bhagwat called for a nationwide law for banning cow slaughter, senior officials in the government said the demand was not feasible as it was a "State subject" and the Constitution would have to be amended for such a law.

The protection and preservation of animals is Entry 15 of the State List of the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution, which empowers the States to make laws on subjects like banning cow slaughter.

Bhagwat speech
Mr. Bhagwat said on Sunday that he desired that cow slaughter be banned across the country but added that law-making was the job of the government. "Many States where there are RSS volunteers in government, have brought this law. We desire such a law across India," he said, addressing a function in Delhi on the occasion of Mahavir Jayanti. Cow slaughter is a 'vice' that must be removed, he added.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 10

CM ND

DELHI Timings		
TUESDAY, APRIL 11		
RISE 06:00 SET 18:45		
RISE 18:55 SET 06:09		
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 12		
RISE 05:59 SET 18:45		
RISE 19:48 SET 06:44		
THURSDAY, APRIL 13		
RISE 05:58 SET 18:46		
RISE 20:40 SET 07:21		

Delhi Weather		
max	min	
Delhi City	34	20
Safdarjung	34	20
Palam	35	19

Delhi Palam Today
35°C Warm & sunny day with moderate winds to prevail. Comfortable night is likely.

Delhi Palam Tomorrow
36°C Day and night temperature may rise marginally. Pleasant morning can be expected over the city.

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IN BRIEF



Haryana Roadways employees go on strike

CHANDIGARH
The Haryana Roadways Employees Union on Monday went on an indefinite strike, accusing the State government of "planning to privatise the public transport sector". Commuters faced a tough time after buses from 24 depots did not ply. PTI

Killing of nilgai sparks tension in Noida

NOIDA
A nilgai was allegedly killed by some unidentified miscreants in Virpur village here, sparking tension in the area, police said on Monday. The police reached the spot after it was informed about the incident and sent the carcass for post-mortem, SHO Jarchan police station Ramsen Singh said. PTI

Ropeway to hilltop temple

Cable car inaugurated to take tourists from Shimla's Ridge to Jakhu Hill

KANWAR YOGENDRA SHIMLA

Tourism in this popular hotspot got a major boost on Monday with Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Virbhadra Singh inaugurating the ropeway project linking Shimla's Ridge with the famous Hanuman temple on Jakhu Hill, the highest peak in the hill station.

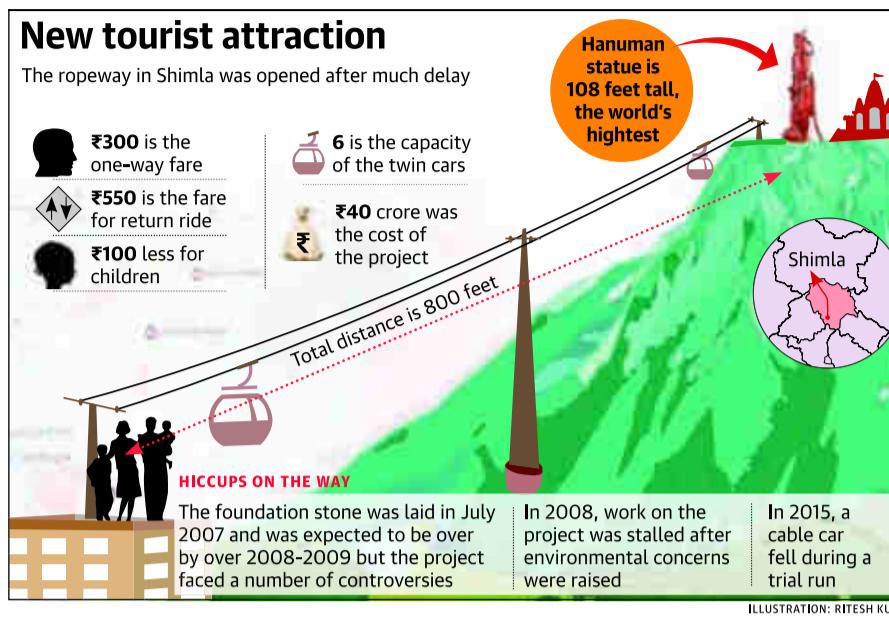
Located at an elevation of nearly 8,100 feet, the temple atop Jakhu Hill is home to the world's tallest statue of Lord Hanuman, standing at 108 feet. It is also the world's tallest statue at the highest elevation.

The location also offers a panoramic view of the Shivalik ranges and was otherwise accessible only by foot or by hiring horses.

Built by Jagson International Ltd, the roughly 800-foot-long ropeway will allow visitors to reach the temple in just five minutes, instead of having to trek nearly 800 feet up the hill.

"It's my dream project that is one-of-a-kind in the State. It will further give boost to the tourism industry," Mr. Singh said.

The ropeway has two cable cars, imported from Switzerland, each with a capacity to sit six people. One-



way fare is ₹300 per person while a roundtrip costs ₹550 per person. Ticket for children is ₹100 less and there will be a provision of a pass for locals to travel on a regular basis.

The project was completed with an outlay of ₹40 crore.

₹57 lakh dividend
As per the agreement, the company will give ₹57 lakh as dividend to the State's Tourism Department in its

first year. Thereafter, every year it will give 15% of its income to the state.

The project was mired in controversy a number of times over environment law violations.

The State government had approved the ropeway project despite the fact that the area fell in the no-construction green zone.

The government, acting on the directions of the district courts, asked the company in 2008 to stop con-

struction till preventive measures were taken to protect the trees and the houses that fell in the vicinity of the ropeway.

In 2011, the Himachal Pradesh High Court restrained the company from carrying out any further activity on construction of the ropeway tower, which now stands at 13-storeys, taking a serious view of environmental violations in the project. The building is likely to house a hotel.

Come out of holiday hangover: UP Minister

Finds very low attendance in government department during surprise check

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA LUCKNOW

Employees should get over the "holiday hangover" being experienced in UP for the last 15 years, Agriculture Minister Surya Pratap Shahi said on Monday after finding "very low" attendance in his department during a surprise check.

The Minister said those marked absent on Monday

would lose one-day salary.

"The quantum of laxity in the office is very high. It is absolutely unjustified. The attendance in the office is very low. Those who have been marked absent today would face pay cut of one day," he said.

A warning has been issued to officials who were absent during his spot inspection, he said.

"The ground reality is indeed disturbing and we will take stringent action against habitual offenders. There should be no pendency of work and all works must be completed within the stipulated deadline," Mr. Shahi said.

Expressing displeasure over the low attendance at Krishi Bhawan, he said the "holiday hangover" being ex-

perienced during the last 15 years of SP and BSP regimes will have to be changed at any cost.

Waqf Board office empty
Minister of State for Minority Affairs Mohsin Raza also paid a surprise visit to the office of the Shia Waqf Board here. He was annoyed when he found no employee there even at 11.30 am.

Badal favours one-time loan waiver for farmers

'Brave decisions needed to save the beleaguered peasantry'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT CHANDIGARH

Advocating loan waiver for farmers, former Punjab Chief Minister Parkash Singh Badal on Monday said out-of-the-box policy initiatives and brave decisions are required to save the beleaguered peasantry in Punjab and the country.



ers of the country continued to face poverty, debt and unfavourable market realities," he said.

Mr. Badal strongly advocated the need for a one-time loan waiver for farmers, saying that the UPA waived loans of big industrial and

business houses in the country amounting to lakhs of crores. "But no one deserves loan waiver more than the farmers," he added.

He said the farmers' contribution to the national economy and to its progress was so big that any help given to farmers actually translates into a boost for every sector of the economy - a prosperous farmer means more spending, which results in more trade, production, taxes and consequently more investments.

Mr. Badal said in Punjab, the Shiromani Akali Dal-BJP government had given free power to farmers and that had provided the much-needed breathing space to the peasantry.

Jodhpur youth uses Sampark portal to resolve civic issues

Claims to have addressed 100 complaints on roads, sewage

MOHAMMED IQBAL JODHPUR

In a bid to promote e-governance, a youth from Jodhpur has been using the Rajasthan government's Samparkweb portal for the last two years to resolve civic issues.



loads the complaints on the portal. Grievances registered on the portal, which was launched as part of the State government's public hearing initiative, are promptly sent to respective departments for resolution.

"Instead of making rounds of government offices, a citizen can easily make use of the web portal, to old-age pension.

follow the procedure and be persistent," Mr. Joshi told *The Hindu* on Monday.

The Sampark portal would help realise the targets of the Digital India programme, he further said.

"When I lodged my first complaint in July 2014 about the absence of a garbage bin in my neighbourhood, Municipal Corporation officials acted within two days," said Mr. Joshi.

Technical fault

He recalled that a technical fault in a pressure ring installed in the Rajiv Gandhi lift canal was rectified by the firm concerned after his complaint. He also claimed

IN BRIEF



Partha Chatterjee asks

TMCP factions to unite

KOLKATA
West Bengal Education Minister Partha Chatterjee on Monday asked rival factions of the Trinamool Congress students' wing to sink their differences and work together. "I see here two groups standing separately. Why will it be so? Why can't they (rival factions) sink their differences and stay united?" he asked. PTI

Medical college to start from 2019-20

ITANAGAR
The proposed Tomo Riba Institute of Health & Medical Sciences (TRIIMS) is expected to start functioning from 2019-20. Arunachal Pradesh Health & Family Welfare Minister Jomde Kena said on Monday. Initially, the institute will have 50 seats and recruitment of faculty would begin in the financial year 2018-19, he said. PTI

NFR earns 36 crore from ticketless passengers

GUWAHATI
The Northeast Frontier Railway on Monday said that its income from fining passengers without ticket increased by 20% to ₹36 crore during 2016-17. "The penalty earning has increased to ₹36.12 crore as against ₹30.05 crore the previous year, an increase of 20.2%," NFR Chief PRO Pranav Jyoti Sharma said. PTI

Mayurbhanj Chhow Academy launched

BARIPADA (ODISHA)
The Mayurbhanj district administration has set up a Chhow Dance Academy here to train the artistes. Mayurbhanj District Collector R. P. Patil inaugurated the academy at Saheed Smriti Bhavan last evening. The academy was opened with three branches at Baripada, Rairangpur and Karanji in Mayurbhanj district. PTI

Situation improves markedly in violence-hit Bhadrak town

Curfew relaxed for over four hours; schools, colleges to reopen today

STAFF REPORTER
BHUBANESWAR

The situation in violence-hit Bhadrak town showed a marked improvement on Monday as curfew was relaxed from 8 a.m. to 12 noon and banks and government offices reopened partially.

Curfew till Tuesday
The district administration allowed people in the town to complete their day's work for another two hours till 2 p.m. Curfew will, however, remain in force till 7 a.m. on Tuesday.

The administration will allow reopening of schools and other educational institutions during morning hours on Tuesday, while it hoped that offices and banks would start functioning normally from Tuesday.

"With the situation improving, we relaxed curfew for six hours on Monday. We



Heralding peace: Youth BJD members taking out a candlelight march in Bhadrak on Monday. ■ BISWARANJAN ROUT

hope normal life would return within a couple of days. But we are not allowing any relaxation in the security arrangement in the town," said Bhadrak District Collector Gyan Ranjan Dash.

The town has been divided into five sectors and senior officers have been assigned to supervise each sector.

Security stepped up

Three layers of security have been provided in all sectors. Apart from a static force, which remains stationed in a sector, there are sector forces and quick reaction

teams that rush to a spot at the time of emergency.

Although the peace committee meeting is likely to be convened on Tuesday, there has been no official confirmation. Senior officials have started talking to people's representatives, community leaders and intellectuals to get feedbacks on normalising the situation.

Probe on

As many as 73 people have been arrested. The police have seized weapons and inflammable substance from them.

A seven-member team of the Crime Branch has started probing all aspects related to the circulation of rumours and posting of objectionable materials in social media, Bijay Kumar Sharma, Special Director General of Police (Crime Branch) said.

Cricket fever



Team spirit: A specially-abled cricket team from Bangladesh arrives at Akhaura check post in Agartala on Monday. ■ PTI

Bid to check illegal cultivation of cannabis

Support of Panchayati Raj Institutions, Women Self-Help Groups sought

STAFF REPORTER
BERHAMPUR
The administration and police in Kandhamal district of Odisha have started the process of curbing the menace of illegal cultivation of cannabis in the district through support of members of Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRI) and Women Self-Help Groups (WSHG).

The district police has decided to form a special dedicated anti-narcotic cell for the mission. The District Legal Service Authority is also extending support to the effort.

According to Kandhamal Collector Reghu G, members of PRI and WSHG would become major catalysts in the fight against cannabis

cultivation.

Usually during raids on illegal cannabis cultivation in remote pockets, the narcotics mafia uses women and children as shields. "So, we have decided to increase awareness among women against marijuana cultivation by making them realise its ill effects," the Collector said.

Locals not addicted

Interestingly, though marijuana is cultivated in parts of Kandhamal district, its populace is largely not addicted to the narcotic. Also, the anti-liquor movement of women is quite strong in Kandhamal. So it is hoped that women will also realise that continuation of cannabis cultivation may get

their children and men folk hooked into it in future. PRI members are being considered as major catalysts in this effort.

As part of the effort, an interactive meeting was called at Phiringia on April 9. Marijuana is cultivated in large scale in remote areas of Phiringia block.

The meeting called by District Legal Service Authority was attended by the Collector, Superintendent of Police (SP) Pinak Mishra, district judge Janab Muhammad Ajmal, 24 sarpanches, two Zilla Parishad members and other elected PRI members. Discussions were held on the ill effects of the narcotic cultivation and possible measures to curb it. According to

the Collector, similar awareness building measures would be taken up in all panchayats where marijuana is cultivated illegally.

Crop destroyed

According to Kandhamal SP, marijuana is illegally cultivated in the remote inaccessible pockets of four revenue blocks, including Phiringia, where it is most prevalent. It is also cultivated to some extent in Baliguda, K. Nuagaon and Phulbani Sadar blocks. Enforcement measures have been enhanced against illegal cultivation in Kandhamal.

According to police sources, in 2016-17 around 2,300 acres of illicit cannabis crop was destroyed.

Three more charge-sheeted in Burdwan blast case

The charges include waging war against the State

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
KOLKATA

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Monday filed supplementary charge sheet in the Burdwan blast case at a city court against three more accused. They were identified as Md Rubel and Sahidul S.K – both residents of Bangladesh – and Jahidul S.K from Assam.

This is the fourth supplementary charge sheet filed by the NIA.

The blast at Khagrachari in Burdwan town on October 2, 2014, had exposed a network of activists of Jamaatul-Mujahideen Bangladesh

(JMB), who were operating in West Bengal and the adjoining State.

Part of conspiracy

"Investigation has revealed that they were part of the overall conspiracy," said Tamal Kanti Mukherjee, senior special prosecutor of NIA.

This is the fourth supplementary charge sheet filed by the NIA.

The blast at Khagrachari in Burdwan town on October 2, 2014, had exposed a network of activists of Jamaatul-Mujahideen Bangladesh

(JMB), who were operating in West Bengal and the adjoining State.

The first charge sheet filed by the NIA in March 2015 against 21 persons claimed that a "network of terrorist training camps were found to be operating at select madrasas and other hideouts, where chosen youths were indoctrinated in the jihadi ideology and trained for violent action using explosives and firearms."

So far about 30 persons have been accused in the case.

Herd of elephants strays into Odisha

No water drives them out of Bengal

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
AIZAWL

The fourth round of peace talks between the Mizoram government and the Hmar People's Convention (Democratic) militants is scheduled to be held on April 21, a senior State Home Department official said on Monday.

The official said that the parleys were expected to revolve around giving more autonomy to the Siilung Hill Development Council and also on the financial aspects, including proposals for rehabilitation and resettlement of the HPC(D) militants, after they lay down arms in the event of the agreement being signed.

"We are waiting for the concurrence of the State Finance Department on our proposals for the expenses and hope that the concurrence would come before the resumption of the talks," the official said.

The State team would be led by Home Additional secretary Lalbiakzama while the HPC(D) delegation would be headed by HPC(D) working chief L. T. Hmar.

Monday. Mr. Udgata said, "villagers have been asked not to keep Mohula and Handia – indigenous beverages which attract jumbos. They have also been requested not to sleep outside their home in view of elephant movements."

Keeping a tab

Trackers and four squads of forest personnel have been keeping a tab on movement of the herd. The herd comprises four male and six female elephants. The Forest officials have been trying to confine them within the forested region so that they would not stray into human habitations.

"We have good source of water in Tinikoshia forest. We have advised people residing in surrounding areas to remain alert to the movement of elephants," Harsha Bardhan Udgata, Divisional Forest Officer of Balasore Wildlife division, on

FIR filed against Khadse

Maharashtra ACB manages to beat deadline set by High Court

SHOUMOJIT BANERJEE
PUNE

The Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB), in compliance with a Bombay High Court directive, finally lodged an FIR late on Monday evening against former Maharashtra revenue minister and senior BJP leader Eknath Khadse in connection with a case of alleged land grab.



Eknath Khadse

seize a three-acre plot for his private use near the sprawling township of Pimpri-Chinchwad, and the intention behind the purchase. It will also probe Mr. Khadse's sources of income.

Contempt of court

The ACB was risking contempt of court if it did not file the FIR by Monday evening, the deadline given by the HC nine months after city-based Hemant Gavande first filed a complaint against the former Minister last year which eventually led to the latter's resignation from the State cabinet in May 2016.

It was Mr. Gavande's accusation that first brought to light Mr. Khadse's role in the land scam. He had lodged a

police complaint against Mr. Khadse and his kin at Pune's Bund Garden police station on May 30 last year.

Delays in investigation

After a delayed investigation, the senior police inspector at Bund Garden police station had filed an affidavit in the HC, stating that "no *prima facie* proof could be found against Mr. Khadse", and an FIR could not be lodged.

This affidavit allegedly played a major role in spurring the High Court's directive ordering the State ACB to forthwith file the FIR against the former Minister, while slamming the Bund Garden police's "clean chit" to the former Minister.

to have aided Mr. Khadse in allegedly grabbing a prime plot belonging to the Maharashtra Industrial Development Corporation (MIDC) in Pune's Bhosari area.

The ACB will now probe how Mr. Khadse used his office as revenue minister to

Wife, son-in-law booked
The ACB lodged an FIR (number 121/2017) under Sections 13 (1) d, 13 (2) and 15 of the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988, and Section 109 of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) against Mr. Khadse, his wife, Mandakini, his son-in-law Girish Chaudhari and Abbas Rasool Ukani, the original owner of the plot who is said

Greeting the deity



Colourful welcome: The annual Chaitra Purnima procession of 'sasan kathi' or the holy symbol of Jotiba at Wadi Ratnagiri in Kolhapur district where thousands of devotees greet the deity with gula. ■ AJAJ SHAIKH

Digital boost for Sindhi

Sindhi embraced a gamut of Indo-Iranic languages

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
PUNE

The Sindhi language has 52 alphabets against 35 in Hindi; it has 101 words for 'elephant'; 28 commonly used words for camel, and an equal number of words for water. Its vast lexicon lent it the sobriquet of being the most 'oxygenated language'.

In a major step aimed at conserving and disseminating the Sindhi language, the National Council for Promotion of Sindhi Language (NCPSL), affiliated with the Union HRD Ministry, on Monday released software tools and eBooks developed by the city-based Centre for development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC) in order to adapt Sindhi into the digital medium.

"There was a maxim that if one was afflicted with lung problem, speak Sindhi. Its moniker of the most 'oxygenated' language was not without reason as in early medieval times, the province of Sindh was a bustling commercial centre, lying on vital land and sea routes connecting west with the east," according to Prof. Aruna Jeth-



Software tools and eBooks on Sindhi being released in Pune on Monday. ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

wani, author, and vice-chairperson, NCPSL.

Strategic advantage

Speaking to *The Hindu*, Prof. Jethwani said that owing to its peculiar geographical location, Sindhi embraced the gamut of Indo-Iranic languages including Uzbeki, Persian, Pashto, Hindi, Urdu and Kannada, Malayalam and Tamil.

Yet, she points out, in spite of assimilating so many variegated tongues, Sindhi remains a purely Indian language. The occasion marked the 50th year since Sindhi was included in the Eighth

Schedule of the Constitution by the 21st amendment of the Constitution. "It is all very well to learn and find the learning of foreign languages exciting. But what about our Indian treasure trove of languages? For instance, Sindhi has the maximum number of alphabets, adjectives and adverbs compared to any regional language," observes Prof. Jethwani.

Scattered community
The Partition of 1947 resulted in the community being scattered and living as a Diaspora across the globe, lead-

ing to the atrophy of the language. As a result, the community's leaders endeavoured to get the language included in the Eighth Schedule to the Constitution.

The community has a significant presence in Pune, with a populace exceeding two lakh and a robust presence in the educational field, manifested especially in the education institutions set up by the Sadhu Vaswani Mission.

Maheesh Kulkarni, Associate Director, C-DAC said the release of the CD containing tools and technology for the conservation and propagation of the Sindhi language – both in the Devanagiri and Arabic scripts – is part of an MoU the institute has signed with the NCPSL.

Under this two-year project, software like Sindhi-typing tool on Android devices and desktop platform, Sindhi fonts, Sindhi eBooks, and other free and Open Source software like office productivity tools, children software and website development tools are being developed, he informed.

Stung by remarks, Cong. may ban Rane's re-entry

PRAKASH KAMAT
PANAJI

The Congress here on Monday said the criticism of the party's vice president Rahul Gandhi by former Goa Congress MLA Vishwajit Rane was done at the behest of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and BJP national president Amit Shah.

Mr. Rane has called Mr. Gandhi a "non-serious" and an inaccessible leader, whose leadership would reduce the Congress to 20 seats across the country in the 2019 general election.

Mr. Rane is the son of senior-most Congress legislator Pratapsingh Rane who is also a former Chief Minister.

Mr. Rane had said that "Congress has a non-serious leader called Rahul Gandhi. He is not serious about government formation. He is not even accessible. Seriousness of a leader is very important for a party to grow."

All India Congress Committee Secretary Girish Chodankar told journalists at a press conference in the city on Monday that Mr. Rane had embarrassed the

Congress, by first going missing during the floor test in the Assembly in March and then quitting the party on the same day.

An embarrassment

Mr. Chodankar said that the party would think of putting a ban on Mr. Rane's re-entry into the Congress for a period of six years because of the "embarrassment caused to the party".

"He is no longer with us. He is now with the BJP and singing the tunes of Modi and Shah. His comments

cannot be taken seriously," Mr. Chodankar said.

Mr. Rane was present at a party rally organised by the BJP to felicitate Chief Minister Manohar Parrikar and Mr. Shah here on Monday.

After publicly criticising the Congress leadership for not acting quickly enough to form government in Goa, despite emerging as the single largest party in the February 4 polls, Mr. Rane had gone missing during the subsequent floor test on March 16 and resigned from the Congress the same day.

IN BRIEF



Anganwadi workers' honorarium to be hiked

BENGALURU
After last month's protest by anganwadi workers across Karnataka, the State government has decided to enhance the honorarium of anganwadi workers and helpers. The decision followed a meeting of the workers with Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Monday.

Fresh autopsy conducted on Madhukar's body

PEDDAPALLI
Following a High Court directive, a team of forensic experts from the Osmania General Hospital of Hyderabad and the Kakitya Medical College of Warangal on Monday conducted a fresh autopsy on Manthani Madhukar. The body was exhumed in Khanapur village amid tight security.

Water available only up to June 15'

Karnataka govt. tells people to use it judiciously, says rationing is an option

AFSHAN YASMEEN

BENGALURU
Sounding an alert on the imminent water crisis in Karnataka in the coming days, Water Resources Minister M.B. Patil on Monday said there was just enough water in the reservoirs to meet the drinking water needs till June 15. Karnataka was not in a position to release Cauvery water to Tamil Nadu now, he added.

Addressing the media after a review of water levels in the State's reservoirs, the Minister appealed to farmers to voluntarily stop using irrigation pump-sets as "the State cannot afford water for the second crop." He also appealed to people to use water judiciously. He said his department would coordinate with other departments and the district administration to ensure there was efficient use of available water.

If necessary, the



Imminent crisis: Water in the Krishna Raja Sagar reservoir is inching towards the 'dead storage' level.

Bengaluru Water Supply and Sewage Board, the Karnataka Urban Water Supply and Drainage Board and the Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department could resort to water-rationing so that the available water could be used for a longer period, he said.

The State had requested Maharashtra to release two

tmc ft water from Krishna river. "We have been buying water from Maharashtra every year for the villages in Belagavi district. However, this year Maharashtra has said it will release water only after we release 1.2 tmc ft from the Indi Branch Canal to Sholapur. We will be able to release it only after May," he said.

Officials said the reservoir would reach dead storage in eight days if the outflow was not reduced.

Mr. Patil said he had requested Chief Minister Siddaramaiah to speak to Devendra Fadnavis, his counterpart in Maharashtra, in this regard. A team of senior officials would visit Maharashtra soon.

Dead storage

The Krishna Raja Sagar reservoir, meanwhile, is inching towards the dead storage level. The major drinking water source for Bengaluru has shrunk into a lake owing to the failure of monsoon in the last three years. The water level was just 75.24 ft. at 6 a.m. on Monday as against the level of 81.39 ft. on the corresponding day last year. While the maximum capacity of the reservoir is 124.80 ft., the dead storage level is 74 ft.

Officials said the reservoir would reach dead storage in eight days if the outflow was not reduced.

This village offers a lesson or two in struggle for rights

People of Vemulaghath refuse to sell their land under GO 123

R. AVADHANI

VEMULAGHATH (SIDDIPET DIST)

B. Sudhakar of the Singatam village in the Manthani mandal of Peddapalli district was at Vemulaghath along with a team of seven on Sunday. Reason: to understand the struggle waged by the farmers of the village.

Some farmers of this Telangana village have been fighting for the implementation of 'The Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act-2013' and have refused to sell their land under G.O. 123.

Though the agitation began at Etigaddakishtupur, the agitators there withdrew from the movement.

The farmers of Vemulaghath have continued the struggle for 310 days. On the 50th day of

the protest, there was violence which led to lathi-charge and registering of cases against the farmers.

Inspiration for many

Surprisingly, none from the ruling Telangana Rashtra Samithi has approached the farmers for the last 10 months to hold discussions with them. But leaders of other parties, public organisations and likely land oustees from other regions of the State have approached them to understand the fight they are waging, the difficulties they are facing and the pressure they are under.

"I have about 10 acres of land at Siripuram. Half of that land is being taken away by the government for the Sundilla Project in the Manthani mandal of Ped-

dapally district. The price being offered by the government under G.O. 123 is not acceptable to us. We want compensation under LA Act-2013 which has provisions like rehabilitation and resettlement, and an offer price that is three times the market value," Mr. Sudhakar told *The Hindu*.

He said about 240 acres had been sold to the government by the farmers under G.O. 123. But farmers with 140 acres of land had opted for consideration under the LA Act-2013 and approached the court. "We were told by officials and public representatives that the work on Mallannasagar was nearing completion and irrigation water would be supplied by next year. But, the reality is something different," said Mr. Sudhakar.

IM operatives convicted in serial blasts case

Sentencing of the three on April 12

STAFF REPORTER

MANGALURU

A city sessions court on Monday convicted Sayeed Mohammed Naushad – an Indian Mujahideen (IM) operative and prime accused in the serial blasts of Surat and Ahmedabad in 2008 – and two other IM members, for helping the outfit's founder Yasin Bhatkal and Riyaz Bhatkal prepare explosives and carry out blasts in different parts of the country.

The 3rd Additional District and Sessions Judge, S.H. Pushpanjali Devi, convicted Naushad, Ahmed Bava Aboobakkar, and Faikir Ahamed alias Fakeer, for offences under Sections 16, 17, and 18 of the Unlawful

Activities Prevention Act; Section 9 (b) of the Explosives Act; Section 5 (b) of the Indian Explosive Substances Act; Section 25 (A) of the Arms Act; and Section 120 (b) of the Indian Penal Code.

Four acquitted

The court has acquitted Mohammed Ali, his son Javed Ali, both residents of Ullal; Mohammed Rafeeq and Shabeer Bhatkala alias Shaheer Mouliav from Bhatkal for lack of evidence. After hearing prosecutor Nayar Sherigar and counsel for the convicted persons, the judge posted the case to April 12 for pronouncement of the quantum of punishment.

Man who killed four relatives held

STAFF REPORTER

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Cadell Jeansen Raja, the sole suspect in the murder of four of his family members in Nanthencode, was apprehended by the Kerala police on Monday.

Official sources said he was caught by the government railway police from the Thiruvananthapuram Central railway station around 7 p.m., reportedly when he arrived from Chennai.

According to an official, the suspect was spotted at a platform in the railway station. While he initially refused to cooperate on being questioned, his identity was soon confirmed. However, the police are yet to divulge any details regarding the development.

To intensify stir

The farmers, who have been protesting at the Jantar Mantar since March 14, said they would intensify their stir if a positive view of their problem was not taken soon.

T.N. farmers spring a surprise, strip near PMO

Desperate act follows weeks of protest in the Capital demanding that the Centre address their issues

BINDU SHAJAN PERAPPADAN

NEW DELHI

A group of Tamil Nadu farmers stripped near the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) here on Monday morning, demanding that their agricultural loans be waived and the Centre take up their cause.

The group of farmers earlier submitted a memorandum to the PMO. They were on their way back when some of them suddenly stripped and blocked traffic on Raisina Hill. They were immediately removed from the area.

Grabbing attention: T.N. farmers protesting outside the PMO in New Delhi on Monday. ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

"We escorted the farmers from Jantar Mantar to the Prime Minister's Office where they submitted a memorandum of their demands. After coming out, some of them removed their clothes. The situation was brought under control and the farmers were dropped at

the protest site," a senior police official said.

The farmers have been demanding a drought relief package of ₹40,000 crore, farm loan waiver and setting up of a Cauvery Management Board by the Centre.

They have been protesting in the city with skulls around their necks, trying to grab the attention of the authorities.

No one cares?

Last week, five Tamil Nadu farmers, including a woman, cut their palms, saying the Union government should wake up to their plight at least now.

"We have been here for over two weeks. Does anyone really care? We have had many politicians come here and promise support. What

we want is actual action. We have given the country blood. We have nothing more to give," a farmer said.

"We have shed our blood to highlight our misery and the inhuman conditions that we are forced to live in. We have nothing else left," another farmer said.

On Thursday, some farmers suffered a severe heat stroke and were taken to hospital. They were treated for dehydration and dysentery. While four of them were discharged the same day, one is still undergoing treatment.

Many national leaders have extended their support to the protest. Actor Nagma visited the protesting farmers at Jantar Mantar to extend her support to the cause.

Malappuram blast case: 2 more held

STAFF REPORTER

MALAPPURAM

The Kerala police have arrested two more persons in connection with the November 1 blast in the Malappuram Collectorate compound. Those arrested were identified as N. Aboobacker, 40, and Abdu Rahaman, 27.

Five persons had been arrested earlier in connection with the case. All of them belonged to Madurai in Tamil Nadu.

A blast under a parked car near the Judicial First Class Magistrate Court inside the Civil Station compound here on November 1 last year triggered fear across the State. However, none was injured in the blast. A special investigation team zeroed in on a group titled Base Movement. The group was found to have set off similar blasts at Kollam, Mysuru, and Chittoor.

Cultural connect



Fusion of colour & tradition: A family of foreign tourists get ready to view the 'Arattu' procession of the Sree Padmanabhaswamy Temple in Thiruvananthapuram on Monday. ■ S. MAHINSHA

Expedite houses for low-income groups, Naidu tells officials

Utilise backward areas funds, if necessary: A.P. CM

STAFF REPORTER

VIJAYAWADA

With the Central government sanctioning four lakh houses for low-income groups in Andhra Pradesh, Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu has directed officials to ensure that they are built at least up to the slab level before the onset of monsoon.

At a teleconference with District Collectors and other officials, including Chief Secretary Dinesh Kumar, here on Monday, Mr. Naidu wanted officials to put in extra efforts for early completion of these houses.

Prestigious programme
Mr. Dinesh Kumar said 'pucca houses for all' was a prestigious programme of

the State and the Central governments. Another four lakh houses had been sanctioned to Andhra Pradesh.

The officials would have to accelerate the work on the pucca houses. Materials such as cement and steel required for the construction should be kept ready. Also, housing work inspector posts would have to be filled, he said.

Construction of anganwadi and panchayat buildings should be completed at the earliest, he said. If required, backward regions' development funds could be utilised for the same. The progress of pucca houses would be reviewed every fortnight, he said.

It may be recalled that the State Cabinet in February

Camps for endosulfan victims held in Kerala

3,884 attend the five-day exercise

STAFF REPORTER

KASARAGOD

As many as 3,884 suspected victims attended the special endosulfan medical camps held in five locations as the five-day long exercises wound up here on Sunday.

The last leg of the camp on Sunday held at the Government Higher Secondary School at Periyar saw the largest group, 1,224 suspected victims, turning up in a desperate bid to find their names in the official list that would enable them to avail themselves of free medical services and other facilities.

As many as 4,573 persons were issued tokens to attend the special medical camp, four of its kind held in the district, that was being held after a gap of over three-

and-a-half years. The suspected victims were examined by 38 physicians from the Kozhikode, Thrissur, Alappuzha and Kottayam medical college hospitals. The examinations were conducted under 11 speciality departments.

The fresh list would be compiled after ascertaining that the disease could be attributed to the over two-decade-long pesticide spraying in the cashew estates. The campaign for the Malappuram by-election came to a frenzied finale by 6 p.m. as supporters of the three main contenders staged a noisy performance. Accompanied by music bands loaded on vans and waving giant flags of their respective parties, the campaigners danced on the streets. They came to

Protests rock Hyderabad fruit market

Trading resumes in Gaddi Annaram after officials promise action

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

HYDERABAD

The Gaddi Annaram fruit market here witnessed day-long protests by traders and farmers on Monday. They halted the trading in fruits brought by farmers from different parts of Telangana and outside. Officials said the trading community stopped the purchase of mangoes to protest against the cancellation of licenses of many traders.

The traders were also miffed at the government's failure to educate them on alternative ways of ripening the fruits.

Support price

The farmers, on the other hand, staged a protest demanding a support price for their produce.

They said they got only ₹30,000 per tonne against the expenditure of ₹15,000 on cutting and transporting the fruit.

The main cause for the

stalemate over the trading of mango, however, is traders' refusal to purchase the stocks due to the cancellation of their licences against pending dues to the market committee.

"The officials do not accept the fee/rent although we are ready to clear the dues," a trader said.

Minister for Panchayat Raj and Rural Development Jupally Krishna Rao went to

the market to resolve the issue, but in vain.

Later, talks were held with traders, farmers and marketing officials by Market Committee Chairman Purushotham Rao, wherein it was agreed that the traders would not use calcium carbine for ripening the fruits and that the officials would make arrangements from ethylene chambers. Trading was then resumed.

Campaign for by-election draws to a close in Malappuram

Last day of campaign marked by noisy scenes, traffic snarls

STAFF REPORTER

MALAPPURAM

Flouting all restrictions imposed by the police, supporters of the United Democratic Front (UDF), the Left Democratic Front (LDF) and the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) took to the streets on Monday afternoon, causing tension and heavy traffic blocks in several parts of the Malappuram Lok Sabha constituency.

Campaigning for the Malappuram by-election came to a frenzied finale by 6 p.m. as supporters of the three main contenders staged a noisy performance. Accompanied by music bands loaded on vans and waving giant flags of their respective parties, the campaigners danced on the streets. They came to

near blows at places like Kunnummal and Vadakkemanna when they converged at key places during the last hours of the campaign. The police had to intervene to prevent the workers from coming to blows.

Restricted entry
The police

IN BRIEF



Improve talents of children, schools told

RANCHI Jharkhand Chief Minister Raghubar Das on Monday said school committees had to play an important role in brushing up the hidden talent in children. Inaugurating "Vidyalay Chale Chalayein Abhiyaan 2017" programme here, Mr. Das said every child of the State should go to school and there should be no drop-outs. PTI

22 kg poppy husk seized in Haryana, two arrested

CHANDIGARH The Haryana Police on Monday arrested two persons on charges of smuggling drugs and claimed to have seized 22 kg of poppy husk from them. The accused were identified as Rajkumar alias Raju and Rana Kumar, both residents of Ludhiana. PTI

Man gets five-year RI for killing friend

COIMBATORE A court here on Monday sentenced a man to five years' rigorous imprisonment for murdering his friend during a drunken brawl in the city a year ago. Convict Selvaraj had pierced a broken beer bottle into the stomach of his friend Rafeeq after an argument. PTI

Student kills self over 'physical appearance'

HYDERABAD An 18-year-old B.Tech student allegedly committed suicide by hanging himself in his hostel room at Bibinagar here on Monday. The victim was identified as G. Gopichand. The police said he was depressed over his physical appearance. His body was found by his roommate. PTI

Abattoir ban stumps cricket units

Balls become dearer due to shortage of buffalo hide; tanneries, shoe manufacturers also hit

MOHAMMAD ALI
MEERUT

The crackdown against 'illegal' slaughter houses in Uttar Pradesh has stumped the sports and leather industries.

Not only has it hit the meat export industry and the 10 lakh people it employed, it has also triggered waves of panic among Meerut's cricket ball manufacturing units, Kanpur's tanneries, the 11,000-odd shoe manufacturing units in Unnao and Hapur that operate from private residences, and the big leather export units in Agra.

In Meerut, which is one of the major manufacturing hubs for sports goods in India, manufacturers say that with buffalo hide not readily available the cost of cricket balls has shot up by ₹30 to ₹40 per ball.

Manufacturers worried
Anil Sachdeva, a businessman who deals in all kinds of all sports goods, said he had braced for an impact but did not expect it to be so swift. "Buffalo hide, which goes into making cricket balls, is



Bowled over: In Meerut, a major sports goods manufacturing city, the cost of cricket balls has shot up by ₹30 to ₹40 per ball. ■FILE PHOTO: REUTERS

not available because of the crackdown on slaughter houses. Whatever little is available is priced at rates higher than usual," said Mr. Sachdeva.

"A cricket ball priced at ₹130 is being sold for ₹160. It will be a difficult time for our business if the ban continues," he added.

Rakesh Mahajan, director of BB Mahajan & Sons Pvt. Ltd., said, "Buffalo hide is not preferred to make cricket balls. Generally, we

use the tanned hides of cows who die natural deaths, or get it from States where cow slaughter is not banned. But, of late, it has become extremely difficult to get legally tanned cow hide." Mr. Mahajan added that a cow skin sheet that cost ₹600-700 was now priced at ₹2,500. According to him, only smaller units used buffalo skin as an alternative.

This is not to say that all is rosy for the few slaughter houses that were not sealed.

With cattle dealers fearing attacks from vigilantes, even legal slaughter houses are not able to function.

The non-availability of buffalo hide in the State has left the leather industry, which provides employment to nearly 25 lakh people, worried as well.

Upendra Singh, president of the Agra Shoe Manufacturer Association (ASMA) argued that U.P. was the biggest provider of buffalo hide in India, which is the

backbone for the leather industry. Continued non-availability of buffalo hide is expected to hit the country's leather export business, which was valued at ₹38,396 crores in 2015-16.

Exports to be hit

"Prices of leather goods have gone up by 15% to 50%. Raw material will become more expensive if the slaughterhouse ban continues. This, in turn, will hit the domestic market that provides shoes at reasonable rates and also affect India's position in the international leather export market that is very competitive," said Mr. Singh.

Bharat Singh, president of the Shoe Karigar Sangh in Agra, told *The Hindu* over the phone that shoes would become dearer if the ban continued. "As of now, cow and buffalo hide is not easily available.

Consequently, shoes are being manufactured at increased input costs," said Mr. Singh. He added that if the situation did not ease out soon, the livelihoods of lakhs of people associated with the industry would be hit.

Budh Nagar District Magistrate and Superintendent of Police, giving them four weeks to submit detailed reports in the matter. The NHRC also asked its own Director-General (Investigation) to collect all the relevant details regarding the case.

As per media reports, a boy who lived at the NSH Society died under mysterious circumstances on March 25. According to locals, he died of an alleged overdose of drugs that were supplied by some Nigerian nationals.

Peaceful protest

The society's residents then decided to carry out a candle-light march in his honour from the society till Pari Chowk on March 27.

They claimed that while they were sitting peacefully and praying, some other people assaulted a group of Nigerians at mall nearby. The police, however, named 53 people who were not even present at the mall at the time. They added that CCTV footage from the mall showed the same.

NHRC notice over attacks on Africans

Plaint alleges false implication in case

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

Authorities in Gautam Budh Nagar district were issued notices by the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) here on Monday over a complaint that the police had falsely implicated some people in the attack on African residents in Greater Noida last month.

On March 27, residents of the NSG Society were implicated in the assault on some Africans at a mall in Greater Noida. Some residents of the society complained that the police had been harassing students who were implicated in the case as well as their parents on the pretext of investigating the case.

Students affected

The complaint to the NHRC also said that the students had been affected so much that they were unable to attend school and college, even though Board exams are going on.

The NHRC took cognizance of the matter and issued notice to the Gautam

PM likely to visit Lingaraj temple

Odisha BJP plans grand welcome; roadshow to be organised

STAFF REPORTER
BHUBANESWAR

Prime Minister Narendra Modi is likely to visit the 11th century Lord Lingaraj temple during the two-day BJP's national executive committee meeting scheduled to be held from April 15.

Enquiries made

BJP sources said preliminary enquiries had been made by the Prime Minister's Office about different aspects of the likely visit to the temple.



The Lingaraj temple in Odisha
Mr. Modi's engagement at the meeting and a suitable time to visit the temple have reportedly been worked out by State BJP leaders.

After arriving here, the Prime Minister will proceed directly to the Janata Maidan, the venue for the BJP national executive committee meeting.

The party has planned a massive gathering of its cadres on both sides of the road to give him a rousing welcome.

"We will make the roadshow from Biju Patnaik Airport to Raj Bhawan a memorable event," said BJP leader Sajjan Sharma.

Mamata meets Modi, Oppn cries foul

Congress says CM trying to reduce 'probe pressure' on her party members

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
KOLKATA

On a day when West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee had a packed schedule in the Capital, including a 30-minute meeting with Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the CPI(M) and the State Congress hinted at a "hidden agenda" behind the meeting on Monday.

While the Trinamool Congress claimed that Ms. Banerjee raised the issue of the ₹10,000 crore that is due

to the State under the various centrally-sponsored schemes, West Bengal Congress president Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury said she "should have met the Finance Minister" for matters related to the State's finances instead of the Prime Minister.

"The Chief Minister's meeting with the Prime Minister has less to do with the State and more with her personal and political interest," Mr. Chowdhury alleged. The Congress leader alleged that

Ms. Banerjee was trying to save those in her party who were being investigated by central investigating agencies for various scams. "A lot about the meeting remains secret to us," he added.

Multiple scams

The relationship between the State BJP and the Chief Minister is at its lowest following multiple probes related to financial and cash-on-camera scams, both being investigated by the central agencies.

The State BJP has been hitting the streets routinely demanding arrest of leaders who purportedly took money in the Narada sting and the Sarada financial scam, escalating the pressure on the ruling TMC.

The Opposition were united on Monday in alleging that Ms. Banerjee met the Prime Minister to reduce the probe pressure on her and her party colleagues by the central agencies.

IN BRIEF



Dalai Lama winds up visit to Arunachal

TAWANG
Tibetan spiritual leader the Dalai Lama on Monday wrapped up his four-day visit to Tawang. During a talk on 'Secular Ethics and Happiness' at Kalawangpo Hall, he told his audience that secular ethics was the only way to bring lasting peace in the world. PTI

Gujarat police book Hardik Patel, 34 others

AHMEDABAD
A day after Hardik Patel held a huge rally in Patidar-dominated Morbi and Tankara in Saurashtra region, he and 34 others were booked by the police on Monday for holding the road show and public rally without police approval and for violating prohibitory orders. Hardik is currently out on bail granted to him in two cases of sedition.

Suspected Maoists kill tribal in Gadchiroli

NAGPUR
A 43-year-old tribal was killed in Gadchiroli district of Maharashtra on Sunday night, allegedly by Maoists who suspected he was a police informer. The police said Lalsu Kundi Atram, a resident of Bejur village under the Bhandardara division of Gadchiroli, was abducted by around 10 Maoists and attacked with sticks and stones.

Trinamool MLA booked under Arms Act

KOLKATA
A case has been registered under the Arms Act against Trinamool Congress MLA and mayor of Asansol in Paschim Bardhaman district Jitendra Nath Tewari for allegedly brandishing a sword at a Ram Navami rally. This comes days after a similar case was registered against State BJP president Dilip Ghosh. Mr. Tewari took part in the rally last Wednesday.

MP to shut down liquor outlets gradually

BHOPAL
Madhya Pradesh is headed towards total prohibition as Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan has announced that all liquor shops would be closed across the State in a phased manner. "Alcohol prohibition will be implemented in the entire state by closing all liquor shops in a phased manner," Mr. Chouhan said. PTI

Karnan visits HC, doesn't do administrative, judicial work

Judge stays in his first floor chamber before returning to his residence

STAFF REPORTER

KOLKATA

Calcutta High Court judge C.S. Karnan, who was earlier barred by the Supreme Court from performing any administrative or judicial work, came to the High Court on Monday.

"Justice Karnan did not perform any administrative or judicial work today [Monday]," his lawyer W. Peter Ramesh Kumar told *The Hindu*.

Meets Chief Justice
Justice Karnan, who arrived at the High Court around 11 a.m., mostly stayed in his first floor chamber near the court room before returning to his residence in eastern Kolkata in the afternoon. "He only met the Chief Justice," said Mr. Kumar.

Earlier in the day, Mr. Ku-



In focus: Calcutta High Court Judge C.S. Karnan outside the Supreme Court last month. ■ V. SUDERSHAN

mar warned that if anyone tried to stop Justice Karnan from entering the court, they would face legal action.

"Challenging the Supreme Court work ban, Justice Karnan is presiding in Calcutta High Court, court no. 3

today at 10.30 a.m. Any resistance will meet judicial pronouncements from Justice Karnan," Mr. Kumar said in a message. However, he did not clarify why the judge did not enter the court on the day.

A Supreme Court order issued in February barred Justice Karnan "from handling any judicial or administrative work" in the office held by him. The court also issued a bailable warrant in a contempt of court order against Justice Karnan which he refused to accept last month.

Earlier, a seven-judge Bench led by Chief Justice of India J.S. Khehar heard Attorney-General Mukul Rohtagi, who alleged that Justice Karnan should face contempt proceedings for his "scurrilous" letters against sitting and retired High Court and Supreme Court judges. Justice Karnan had written to the Prime Minister allegedly accusing several retired and sitting Supreme Court and High Court judges of corruption.

Aadhaar must for access to Survey of India maps

It is to ensure that only Indians reach the portal: Minister

JACOB KOSHY

NEW DELHI

The Survey of India, the country's oldest scientific organisation and official maker of maps, has set up a web portal called Nakshe that allows 3,000 of its 7,000 maps to be downloaded for free. The only caveat is that one would require an Aadhaar number for such access.

The SoI maps – prepared for defence and civilian purposes – are considered a standard reference for the shape, extent and geographic features of the coun-

try. "The Aadhaar is to ensure that only Indians are able to access this portal."

In the last years, the government has passed orders to route a variety of citizen services – from scholarships to subsidies – to possessing an Aadhaar or Aadhaar enrolment number. The Aadhaar (Targeted Delivery of Financial and Other Subsidies, Benefits and Services) Bill, 2016 specifically says that the number can't be used as proof of citizenship or domicile.

A press release said the Nakshe portal would address "...security concerns and tracking through Aadhaar-based user authentication and tagging to Aadhaar number of user."

New model

Swarna Subba Rao, Surveyor General of India, said the Dehradun-based organisation was developing a so-called Geoid model of the country. This would make measurements of topography by satellite – the modern method – compatible with the traditional ground-based measures.

Bleak summer



Precious pot: Tribal women returning with water from a hill stream near Pattuduvalasa, a village in the Araku Valley, about 120 km from Visakhapatnam in Andhra Pradesh. Water woes get worsened in the tribal habitations during summer. ■ K.R. DEEPAK

Govt. to get tough on traffic offences

Lok Sabha approves motor vehicle law amendments

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

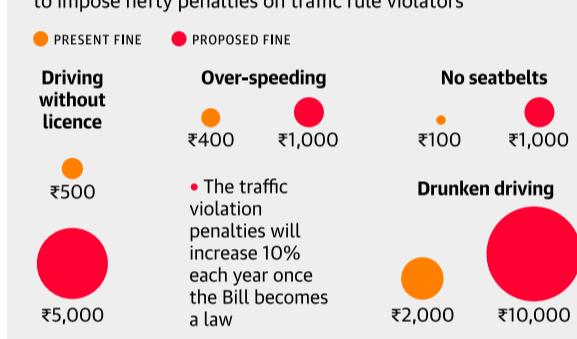
NEW DELHI

The Lok Sabha on Monday cleared amendments to the motor vehicles law that will substantially increase the penalty for traffic violations, allow learner's driving licences to be issued online and penalise contractors for faulty road designs.

Driving without licence may soon lead to a minimum fine of ₹5,000 as against ₹500 at present, according to the Motor Vehicles (Amendment) Bill 2016. Similarly, for over-speeding, the penalty may go up to ₹1,000-2,000 from ₹400. Not wearing seatbelts would result in a minimum penalty of

Safety first

The new Motor Vehicles (Amendment) Bill, 2016, seeks to impose hefty penalties on traffic rule violators



₹1,000 against ₹100 at present.

The traffic violation penalties will also increase 10%

Act 1988, must be passed in the Rajya Sabha, followed by President Pranab Mukherjee's consent.

The Bill was passed in the Lok Sabha by voice vote after various opposition amendments were rejected.

The proposed law will also allow citizens to apply or renew a driving licence from any road transport office in the State. At present, citizens can only apply at the closest RTO.

The Centre also plans to make submission of Aadhaar number mandatory for applying for a driving licence and vehicle registration by making an enabling provision in the Bill.

"It is submitted that the practice of polygamy is a social practice rather than a religious one and therefore would not be protected under Article 25. This is true also of nikah halala and triple talaq. For the same reason, polygamy would amount to a custom or usage, which is "law" within the meaning of Article 13 and

therefore subject to fundamental rights," the Centre argued. Since a social practice cannot be held to be an integral part of a faith and belief or an "essential religious practice," it has to satisfy the overarching constitutional goal of gender equality, gender justice and dignity, the government submitted.

The government argued that reforms have not happened in the practices followed by the Muslim community despite clear indications. It said gender equality and the dignity of women were "non-negotiable."

The Supreme Court has fixed for May 11 the Constitution Bench hearings on a batch of petitions on the issue.

Polygamy is not a religious practice: government tells SC

KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL

NEW DELHI

Polygamy is not a religious practice, but rather a social custom or usage which the State can interfere with to ensure that Muslim women's fundamental rights are not violated, the Centre told the Supreme Court.

"Practices such as polygamy cannot be described as

being sanctioned by religion, inasmuch as historically,

polygamy prevailed across communities for several centuries including the ancient Greeks and Romans, Hindus, Jews and Zoroastrians. It had less to do with religion and more to do with social norms at the time," the Centre said in its written submissions filed late on Monday in the

Supreme Court.

"In the Holy Koran as well, it appears that the prevalent or perhaps even rampant practice of polygamy in pre-Islamic society was sought to be regulated and restricted so as to treat women better than they were treated in pre-Islamic times," the government, represented by Attorney-General Mukul Ro-

hatgi and advocate Madhavi Divan, submitted.

Not protected

The government said since polygamy was a social custom and not a religious practice, it was not protected under Article 25 of the Constitution, which bars the State from interfering with "someone's religious belief."

After liquor ban, Nitish to tackle dowry, child marriage

Bihar CM inaugurates Champaran centenary celebrations, says there is need to follow Gandhi's thoughts and principles



Revisiting history: Bihar CM Nitish Kumar presenting a cloth with Mithila print to Mahatma Gandhi's grandson and former West Bengal Governor Gopalkrishna Gandhi, at a programme in Patna on Monday to celebrate the centenary of Champaran Satyagraha. ■ RANJEET KUMAR

AMARNATH TEWARY

PATNA

Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar on Monday said time had come to follow Mahatma Gandhi's thoughts, principles and ideals as everywhere in the country "only a one-way dialogue" was going on today, obliquely referring to the BJP's agenda.

The Chief Minister was speaking at the inauguration of the yearlong centenary celebration of Champaran Satyagraha in Patna.

On the way to Champaran to support indigo planters, Mahatma Gandhi had come to Patna on April 10 in 1919 and to mark that occasion

the Bihar government organised the celebration.

Mr. Kumar said that following Gandhi's ideals, his government had banned liquor. This would be followed by de-addiction and elimination of social evils like dowry and child marriage.

Potshots at BJP

Taking a dig at BJP leaders, Mr. Kumar said that "today, even those who do not understand Gandhiji or his ideals too would come out with Gandhi smriti yatra."

The Bihar BJP is planning to hold a Smriti Yatra in Champaran on April 19.

"But, today what is happen-

ing in the country will not continue for long... two-way dialogue instead of one way,

will happen... the people should decide the agenda of the country," Mr. Kumar said.

Eminent Gandhian intellectuals Chandrashekhar Dharmadhikari, Go-palkrishna Gandhi, Sacchidanand Sinha, Razi Ahmad, social activist Medha Patkar, Prema Desai, and S.N. Subba Rao were present.

"Today we are witnessing jilm aur jabardasti [oppression and coercion] in society... Bihar has always given us light in darkness," said Mr. Gopalkrishna Gandhi.

Let cleanliness be our homage: PM

'Champaran acquainted the rest of the country with the greatness of Gandhiji'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday asked people to mark the centenary year of the Champaran Satyagraha as an opportunity to adopt sanitation and cleanliness, an intrinsic part of Gandhian philosophy, as their own.

At a programme organised by the Culture Ministry, he said the country had paid homage to Mahatma Gandhi through all these years and that the time had come to turn a passive homage to an active one of adopting sanitation as a goal. "It is time to



Narendra Modi
chamrut (five nectars) that we as Indians got as a result of the struggle. The first was of course the method of

Satyagraha, the second was the realisation of the power of a people, the third was cleanliness and education, then, the mass participation of women and their power, and finally the powerful act of hand-spinning one's own clothing."

Purifying event
He said India's history was vast and glorious and could not be bound within the names of a few families and surnames. "The Satyagraha at Champaran is one of those events that purify us in their occurrence and retelling," he said.

'His legacy continues to inspire people'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

NEW DELHI

Three old and seminal publications on Mahatma Gandhi, including *Gandhi in Champaran*, were on Monday relaunched by the government here in a "restored" format to mark 100 years of the satyagraha.

Union Minister for Information and Broadcasting M. Venkaiah Naidu, while releasing the books, emphasised on the values espoused by the Father of the Nation. "Gandhiji's life is a valuable lesson of human

ity, compassion, determination to achieve desired goals through non-violence and inclusion," he said.

The publications are – *Gandhi in Champaran* by D.G. Tendulkar, originally published by the Publication Division in 1957, *Romain Rolland and Gandhi Correspondence* (1976) and an eight-volume biography of Gandhi by Tendulkar and brought out in 1951.

"Gandhiji brought us freedom and his legacy continues to inspire people," Mr. Naidu said.



A damning indictment

Debar candidates indulging in electoral malpractices from contesting again

By cancelling the by-election to the Dr. Radhakrishnan Nagar Assembly constituency in Tamil Nadu, the Election Commission has gone well beyond indicting the ruling AIADMK (Amma), and its candidate and deputy general secretary, T.T.V. Dhinakaran. In its elaborate order, the EC also raised the possibility of disqualifying a candidate for a period up to six years if the candidate exceeded the prescribed limit for election expenses by either directly incurring or authorising them in the campaign, and for three years for failure to render a correct account of the expenses. Clearly, the EC, while detailing the series of violations that its personnel recorded, was not being defensive of its own monitoring of the electoral process. The order recalled the provisions of the Representation of the People Act, 1951, relating to disqualification of a candidate, and the source of the EC's own powers, Article 324 of the Constitution. During the Assembly election last year, the EC had postponed polls in two constituencies citing electoral malpractices, but nothing more came of it. The same candidates of the two major parties, the AIADMK and the DMK, contested the elections when they were held later. This time, expressing its "anguish over the sordid state of affairs", the EC stated that the methods adopted by parties and their leaders to bypass the monitoring of unauthorised and illegal election expenses needed to be dealt with a heavy hand. Without doubt, the tone and tenor of the order reveal a seriousness of purpose that goes beyond the immediate circumstances of the R.K. Nagar by-election.

For Mr. Dhinakaran, the stakes were higher than for any other candidate, desperate as he was for political legitimacy and a possible shot at chief ministership. There was a popular impression that he tried to pay his way to victory by systematically distributing cash, ward-wise, through ministers and party functionaries. The EC did its best to monitor the electoral process, through an unprecedented number of central observers, flying squad teams, static surveillance teams and video surveillance teams. But these did not appear to have had a deterrence effect. There were complaints of innovative forms of inducement: milk tokens, mobile phone recharge coupons, newspaper subscriptions, cash transfer to no-frills bank accounts and payments to mobile wallets. But despite the registration of cases, arrests and identification of malpractices, it was clear that ruling party functionaries were continuing with their offer of inducements and allurements. When the Income Tax department submitted a report dated April 8 about its search and seizure action at the premises of Tamil Nadu Minister C. Vijaya Baskar, the EC concluded that the electoral process had been vitiated irredeemably. If public confidence in the democratic process is to be restored, the EC must ensure that candidates indulging in such electoral practices are debarred swiftly.

Transformative visit

India assures Bangladesh on Teesta water sharing, as the two countries broadbase ties

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's assurance to visiting Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina of an "early resolution" to the Teesta water dispute has firmly brought the elephant in the room to the fore. Mr. Modi's statement, made in the presence of West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, has been widely welcomed. It defined both India's commitment to the Teesta water-sharing agreement and the Central government's commitment to working with the West Bengal government to conclude the agreement for which the framework was initialled in 2011. The holdout is clearly political; hence the resolution will only come from political dialogue, and must be forged quickly. Both governments would do well to understand the advice hidden in Sheikh Hasina's message during a speech where she praised "all parties and all politicians" for coming together and clearing the land boundary agreement (LBA), to swap enclaves India and Pakistan held in each other's territory, in 2015. "Like in 1971, the entire Indian people came together for Bangladesh for it [LBA]," Ms. Hasina said, stressing the need for bipartisanship to prevail in ties. Credit for the strength of the relationship should go also to the previous Mammohan Singh government. Dr. Singh and Ms. Hasina expended significant political capital to transform ties, particularly on cooperation on terrorism, and the frameworks for the land swap and water-sharing arrangements.

Nevertheless, it is to the credit of both Mr. Modi and Ms. Hasina that India and Bangladesh were able to make progress on other issues such as energy cooperation and connectivity, signing a total of 22 agreements, with another 14 in the field of private investment and MoUs. The MoU on a framework for defence cooperation essentially formalised existing arrangements for defence exchanges, military training and high-level defence visits, while the agreement of cooperation on peaceful uses of nuclear energy endorsed the existing training programmes for Bangladeshi scientists at Indian facilities. India's announcement of further lines of credit of \$5 billion, including \$500 million for defence purchases, the largest such LoC extended to any country so far, is important. In a context where connectivity is the new currency to extend one's influence and where China is taking the lead with its Belt & Road initiative, India has chosen well to extend funds to rebuild old railway lines, and construct bridges, power plants, ports and roads in Bangladesh. Plans to revive inland waterway channels are also under way, and hold the potential to increase connectivity with Nepal and Bhutan. Not only will these measures strengthen the bonds with Bangladesh, with which India shares its longest international border as well as historical bonds, they will help India connect to itself, to the benefit especially of the northeastern States.

At home in India

North Indian coexistence with 'dark-skinned' south Indians spells the defeat of the Aryan supremacist project



PULAPRE BALAKRISHNAN

Even before the remarks made by former Member of Parliament Tarun Vijay had been aired on international television, it was clear that we were in for a ram-bunctious debate on racism in India. After news of the unspeakably ugly treatment meted out to an African woman in Bengaluru some months ago and scenes of an African being beaten by young Indians in a mall in Greater Noida recently went viral on the Internet, Mr. Vijay set himself the task of absolving Indians of racism by reference to history and in the process opened up an issue of relevance to us ourselves. Before we turn to this, however, it may be useful to suggest some ways in which we can quickly assuage at least partially the hurt that our African students must feel, before turning vigorously to building institutions that ensure their security and encourage them to feel part of the community in India.

A sense of community

Despite the attempts by the government to bring international students to India, the experience of foreign students here has not always been a happy one, this being particularly so for those from Africa, though there could be exceptions. Part of the problem is that there are no mechanisms in our educational institutions to enable these students to settle down and flourish. What is worse is that university authorities appear to be unaware of the need for these.

This contrasts deeply with arrangements in other English-speaking countries that receive students from India. There our students are made to feel welcome and informed of the existence of institutional arrangements to cater to their concerns. One only needs

to read the educational supplement of this newspaper for accounts of the happy experience of Indian students abroad today. Of the experiences of Indians who studied abroad, we need only recall the great affection for the British public formed by Mahatma Gandhi while he trained to be a lawyer in England. This was to last for the rest of his life even as he led a national movement against the British empire. Furthermore, from his strategy to his goals, Gandhi was inspired by western thinkers such as Henry David Thoreau and John Ruskin, which would have been unlikely had his experience of England been negative.

We might want to reflect on what impression we are leaving on the young African students who come to study here. Judging by the expression of most of them on international television, it is not particularly inspiring, even though some of it may have been influenced by immediate events. It is not that we do not know what is needed right now. State governments must be instructed by the Centre to see that African students are assured of their safety and all educational institutions must with immediate effect double-up the attention they devote to their personal needs, which range from housing to food. But it is important that this initiative to welcome our overseas students does not end up as yet another government scheme to be obeyed with sullen passivity and implemented in the letter but not in spirit.

India's educational institutions need to create a sense of community, something sorely lacking in them today. It was not always so. I recall that over four decades ago the Christian college in Madras where I had studied did a pretty good job of providing a kind of home to students from as far away as Fiji and Africa, including, dare I say, from Nigeria. This had something to do with their sense of mission.

The ripple effects of Mr. Vijay's observations, however, are going to be harvested in India and not to



the west of the Horn of Africa. As a challenge to the characterisation of the Greater Noida attacks as racist, Mr. Vijay is reported to have queried, "If we are racist, how is it that we live with South Indians [for they are "black" too]?" Only out of political correctness would we chastise him for the colour coding. After all, in India the southerners are on average darker complexioned than the northerners. What is significant therefore is only his observation that "we live with", implying that the group to which he belongs, presumably the people to the north of the Vindhya, extend a favour to those who live to its south. If this was just a patronising remark, it would matter for little.

The impulse to dominate

However, it is such a blatant delusion that it needs calling out, for Mr. Vijay belongs to the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS), an organisation that is making inroads into the governance of India via the Bharatiya Janata Party. The fact that Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Karnataka and the once-united Andhra Pradesh have largely held out against the 'Hindu, Hindu, Hindustan' project of the RSS is a sign not of the generosity of the group that Mr. Vijay implicitly represents but that the attempt to dominate the

peoples of south India did not succeed. No amount of finessing can alter this perception. The ideologue's spin is no more than the masking of a defeated project by projecting it as magnanimity.

While race as a category may have been discredited in science, the primordial loyalties that early observers, mostly from the West, had characterised as racial have not only been part of the history of mankind but also remain to this day. The forces that have catapulted U.S. President Donald Trump into global prominence stem from such loyalties but they have a far older history in the Indian subcontinent. An aspect of this is the sense in the section of India Mr. Vijay represents that southern people are different, and must therefore be dominated. This is evident from the fact that the oldest civilisations we know of in India are the ones represented by the ruins of Harappa and Mohenjo-Daro.

The people who inhabited these sites are believed to have been dark-skinned and spoken a non-Aryan language. In contrasting narratives these civilisations are said to have been destroyed by flooding and the drying of their water source. But two entirely related facts lead us to speculate that environmental factors may not have been the determining ones in their decline. Northern India today is largely populated by a lighter-skinned peoples who speak a language of the Indo-Aryan linguistic group.

That they did not just move into this geography absent-mindedly is suggested by the presence of a darker-skinned underclass in the same space, till recently mostly as agricultural labour. Even if not enslaved, they had certainly been ring-fenced into a subservient position by the group that clearly sees itself as Aryan, conquering and destined to rule. At one time ideology had it that these peoples had arrived in India as part of a larger global migration from central Asia to Europe in the west and to Iran and India in the east. It is this idea that had motivated Bal Gangadhar

Tilak's *The Arctic Home in the Vedas*. Today however, when the control of the subcontinent is a gleam in the eye of the RSS, this is a somewhat inconvenient truth for its believers to pursue.

Puncturing Aryan illusions

It is this idea of the Aryan destiny to rule India that underlies Mr. Vijay's interpretation "we live with" south Indians. The same impulse to dominate the country had prompted the aborted attempt to impose Hindi on southern India within months of the death of Nehru who had seen the irony in replacing "the imperialism of English with the imperialism of Hindi". After a long gap, it has resurfaced in the smuggling-in of Devanagari numerals on currency notes last year and more recently, though with lesser significance, in the jettisoning of English from milestones on national highways in deepest Tamil Nadu.

None of this is to even remotely champion a Dravidian separation. Apart from its barrenness, history does not contain encouraging intimations of the likely success of such a project. For a start, linguistic chauvinism has dogged the forging of a southern identity. And as a colleague from Bengal pointed out to me, were India not one country, some of the southern States may have gone to war with one another over their rivers. Being part of the Indian Union has brought not only material wealth to the south but also cultural wealth that has come with the meeting of peoples, thus immeasurably enriching our lives. Yet it is important to call out the ethnocentrism that drove Mr. Vijay's *non sequitur*. While south Indians would quite happily agree with his observation that they have more melanin in their skin or even that they are made of different stock, they are amused by the suggestion that they are in India on sufferance.

Pulapre Balakrishnan is Professor of Economics at Ashoka University, Sonipat and Senior Fellow, IIM Kozhikode

Till the next port of call

France and India must do more together in the Indian Ocean, given our shared interests of maritime security



ALEXANDRE ZIEGLER

Mission Jeanne d'Arc, made up of the amphibious assault ship/landing platform dock (LPD), Mistral, and the frigate, Courbet, called at the Mumbai port between March 29 and April 3, having set sail from the French military base in Djibouti before heading for Vietnam. It is for the third consecutive year that France has deployed this important mission in the Indian Ocean, the China Seas and the Pacific region.

On each occasion, France has chosen to call at an Indian port: Visakhapatnam in 2015 and Kochi in 2016. At the time, it had just carried out an evacuation operation in Yemen in coordination with the Indian Navy, as part of providing Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR), for which our LPDs are among the best in the world,



given their cargo capacities and deployment capabilities.

These port calls always give rise to enriching interactions between navies. The 2017 edition was no exception, with numerous reciprocal visits and exercises carried out with our officer cadets. I was able to observe this first-hand alongside Rear Admiral Didier Piaton, French Joint Forces Commander in the Indian Ocean (ALINDIEN). But over the past two years, these calls have acquired a special dimension; they re-

flect and support the swift development of cooperation between our two countries.

Growing cooperation

Along with combating terrorism, maritime security has become a priority of our defence and security cooperation.

In fact, it greatly contributes to this cooperation given the threat of maritime terrorism. France has not forgotten the numerous victims the 2008 Mumbai attacks claimed, two

of whom were our nationals.

Several concrete examples illustrate this unprecedented dynamic pace: in 2015, our carrier strike group (CSG) with the aircraft carrier, Charles de Gaulle, at its core, docked at Goa as part of our bilateral exercise, "Varuna". On that occasion, the Indian Navy – one of the few to also possess an aircraft carrier – could train on the naval version of the Rafale, which our CSG forces are equipped with. At the end of this month, the next edition of the "Varuna" exercise will be held, this time off the French coast. Once again, significant assets will be mobilised. In the meantime, India and France have held two high-level bilateral dialogues on maritime security in the Indian Ocean and signed their first White Shipping Agreement on January 18, 2017; the latter's operationalisation will be a significant step towards more ambitious exchanges and complex cooperation.

We will not rest on our laurels. There are several reasons for this. France has significant interests in the Indian Ocean due to its overseas territory, Reunion Island, which is

home to over a million French citizens; its 2.8 million square kilometres of exclusive economic zone (i.e. more than 10% of the Indian Ocean's surface), and the volume of sea traffic in this zone. Due to this, we have significant means in the Indian Ocean, whether deployed permanently or depending on requirement. India is France's top strategic partner in Asia and our intention is to work towards making this relationship fructify further alongside our other partners in the region such as Australia, Japan, Singapore and Vietnam. We share, in particular, the same values of preserving the freedom of navigation and respecting the international law of the sea.

Therefore, it is both natural and necessary that France and India do more together in the Indian Ocean to serve our shared interests of security. I am convinced that over the next few years, this cooperation will become one of the pillars of the strategic partnership between our two countries. We are ready to take up this challenge.

Alexandre Ziegler is the Ambassador of France to India

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.

Called off

Desperate problems require desperate remedies. Mere suspension of the by-election to the R.K. Nagar Assembly constituency in Chennai is only a palliative measure ("EC cancels R.K. Nagar bypoll", April 10). The problem will raise its ugly head again when a new schedule is announced. Money and muscle power have become so deep-rooted in Indian elections that I wish the Election Commission had used this instance as an opportunity to have acted strongly. This should have even included the bold step of banning the guilty parties from contesting again in constituencies where the EC has irrefutable evidence that corrupt practices have subverted fair electoral processes.

V. JAGADEESAN,
Hyderabad

■ The rescinding of the by-election is a blot on the people of Tamil Nadu as well as democratic values which have once again been

strangled by political parties with impunity. That voters are only too willing to take cash for votes reflects a steep fall in moral and ethical values despite rising literacy levels. The 'right to vote' has given way to the 'right to receive cash', almost as if it is an extension of the freebie culture which has engulfed the State for decades. Even if the by-election is held sometime later, there is no guarantee that things will be better. The EC has its task cut out in restoring its own image as a no-nonsense organisation.

V. SUBRAMANIAN,
Chennai

■ One is struck by the diametrically opposite election scenarios in R.K. Nagar, Chennai, and Srinagar in Jammu and Kashmir. While R.K. Nagar has been stopped due to voter bribing, the poll in Srinagar has been held despite large-scale violence, mayhem and the lowest-ever voter turnout. It seems as if the EC has one rule for R.K. Nagar and quite another

for Srinagar. Rather than checking the distribution of money using police and poll officials, the EC is adopting the much easier option of cancelling the election altogether. Did the EC prevent the bribing of voters in the Pennagaram and Thirumangalam by-elections 2009-10 with cash and freebies?

KANGAYAM R. NARASIMHAN,
Chennai

■ It is the ineffective functioning of the EC that has led to the present situation and it would not be out of place to mention here the work done by T.N. Seshan who never hesitated to take on corrupt politicians. Last but not the least, it is painful to note that people too are hand in glove with politicians in propagating corrupt practices.

TILAK SUBRAMANIAN V.,
Kunjibettu, Udupi, Karnataka

■ There is mirror-like clarity in the points of the article, "Clarity and facts on the Aadhaar concerns"

There is mirror-like clarity in the points of the article, "Clarity and facts on the

ground" (April 10), where the writer has also voiced the concerns of thousands of citizens over the lack of involvement by the Supreme Court on issues involving our privacy and fundamental rights. Even as one was despairing over how it handled the demonetisation process, its conduct as far as Aadhaar is concerned is even more saddening. The public has been totally ditched. The government has completely overwhelmed the top court in its efforts to create a surveillance state, which is ominous. The court appears to be clearly avoiding taking up issues of live conflict between the people and the government.

M. BALAKRISHNAN,
Bengaluru

■ Instances of imposing a ban on sale of liquor within the radius of highways, the ban on Bharat-3 stage vehicles and even the appointment of the Lodha panel for BCCI reforms are all termed as "judicial overreach". Under Article 142 of the Constitution, the court has the authority to do complete justice in any case of matter pending before it. It has the right to take bold steps for the betterment of society, considering a citizen's health and the need to remove any malfunctioning in the administration. It is the responsibility of the government to form laws and policies, but lax enforcement, electoral benefits and the importance of revenue-gathering by the government are what make it refrain from drawing up such policies and taking up bold steps such as those initiated by the Supreme Court. The government is failing in achieving its aim of better governance.

ANKIT GALAT,
Panipat, Haryana

■ Liquor ban

These days, it has become fashionable to protest against what is perceived to be Supreme Court interference in the legislative power of Parliament (Editorial - "None for the road", April

Cave-in in Chennai Sunday's successful rescue operation to lift to safety the car and the bus which fell into a sinkhole on Chennai's Anna Salai was quick and timely ("Sinkhole Salai", April 10). But the larger issue is one about general safety. Hundreds gathered at the site and were actually a hindrance to rescue work. One felt anxious even while watching the visuals on television when a Minister accompanied by security staff began moving close to the rim of the crater. What were Metro officials doing? As is the norm, quite a few shutterbugs were out, clicking selfies for posterity or otherwise. The authorities concerned do not seem to have in place a Standard Operating Procedure for disasters. The experience of mass flooding and the cyclone in Chennai, and their rescue responses, are two striking instances.

RAMALINGAM RAMASWAMY,
Bengaluru

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Mind the treatment gap

Implementation of the Mental Healthcare Act will require a restructuring of health-care services

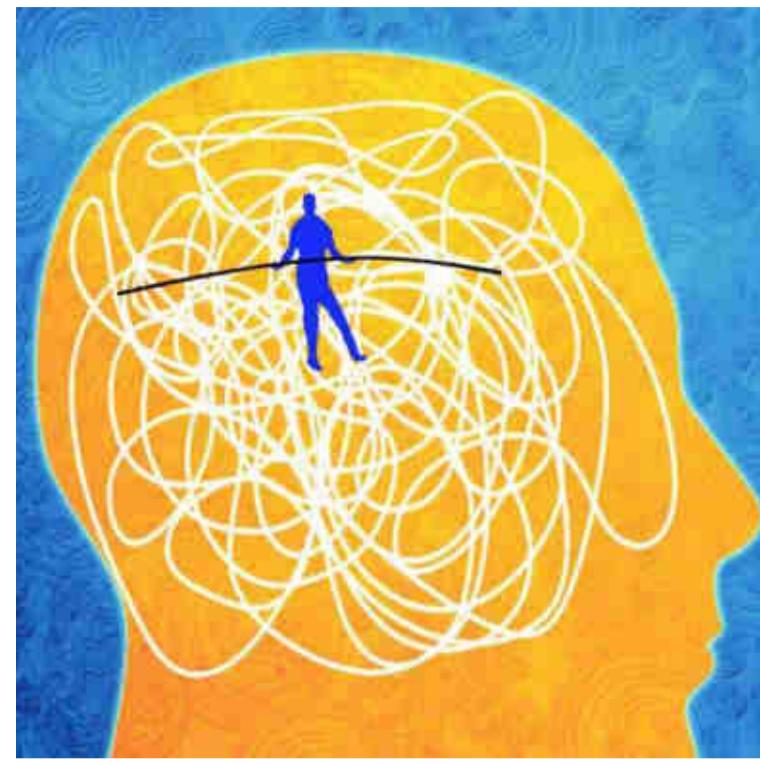


VANI S. KULKARNI & RAGHAV GAIHA

The Mental Healthcare Bill, 2016, which was passed in the Lok Sabha on March 27, 2017, has been hailed as a momentous reform. According to the Bill, every person will have the right to access mental health care operated or funded by the government; good quality and affordable health care; equality of treatment and protection from inhuman practices; access to legal services; and right to complain against coercion and cruelty. The Bill also empowers a mentally ill person to choose a treatment and her/his nominated representative, decriminalises attempted suicide, prohibits the use of electro-convulsive therapy (ECT) to mentally ill adults without the use of muscle relaxants and anaesthesia, and contains provisions for care, treatment and rehabilitation for those who have experienced severe stress and attempted suicide. While these are laudable and ambitious objectives as they address major concerns of mental health care, there have been some critiques drawing attention to the lack of funds, trained personnel, and insufficient emphasis on community care. The ground reality, however, suggests that these objectives are not just overambitious but an overkill.

Poor infrastructure, low funds
The Global Burden of Disease Study shows that in 2013, 50% of all disease burden in India was caused by non-communicable diseases, while mental disorders accounted for about 6% of the total disease burden. A third of this is due to depression, which also significantly contributes to suicide and ischaemic heart disease. Worse, suicide is a leading cause of death in people in India aged 15-29.

There are only 43 government-run mental hospitals across all of India to provide services to more than 70 million people living with mental disorders. There are 0.30 psychiatrists, 0.17 nurses, and 0.05 psychologists per 1,00,000 mentally ill patients in the country. The case of the Bareilly mental hospital – one of three major mental hospitals in Uttar Pradesh – is stunning. In this hospital, 350 patients can be admitted and around 200 patients can attend the out-pa-



GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCK PHOTO

tient department every day. But all these patients would be at the mercy of only one psychiatrist!

At the macro level, the proposed health expenditure of 1.2% of GDP in the Budget for 2017-18 is among the lowest in the world. In real terms, public health expenditure has consistently declined since 2013-14. Of the total health budget, a mere 1-2% is spent on mental health.

But this is a small part of the explanation of the inadequacy and abysmal quality of mental health services in India. Underlying this deplorable state of affairs is a pervasive perception that those with mental illnesses are pathological or even criminal; hence they do not deserve the type of rehabilitation given to those with physical ailments. Besides, the treatment gap (the difference between those suffering from mental illnesses and those seeking medical/psychiatric care) is widened because of the social stigma attached to such illnesses. In fact, many poor people hide their illnesses and endanger their lives. Others argue that it is not so much stigma but ignorance and lack of knowledge, myths, and supernatural beliefs that impede treatment. Women typically face larger treatment gaps as they are vulnerable to violence, sexual abuse and inhuman treatment.

Ethnographic evidence from the Human Rights Watch Report 2014 relating to women inpatients is gruesome. Deepali, a woman with a perceived psychosocial disability, said: "The nurse would sometimes forcefully put the pills in my mouth and stroke my throat to send them down, the way I feed my dogs... I woke up one night and I couldn't move; my body was in intense physical pain. A nurse came and jabbed an injection into my body, without even taking off my clothes. You are treated worse than animals."

Often, all women and girls were admitted without their consent and, as the team left, they cried out in despair, "send me home" or "take me home". Unable to cope with mentally ill relatives, families often abandon them in mental hospitals and elsewhere. In one case, a woman who was declared "fit for discharge" in the 1990s was still in the institution as of August 2013 because of lack of alternative resettlement options for her.

Some women were not even informed that ECT was being administered. Psychiatric nurses admitted that ECT was administered not just on violent and suicidal patients but also on new admissions who tend to be unmanageable.

Women and girls with psychoso-

cial or intellectual disabilities in institutions are often subject to not just physical and verbal abuse but also sexual violence. Some women went to a hospital for three months and returned one month pregnant. Not a single FIR was filed.

Government hospitals refuse to admit "mentally ill" persons in the ICU on the grounds that this facility could be put to better use. A woman suffering from breast cancer for two-three years was denied treatment and subsequently died.

Shift to community-based care
An emphatic case could be made for shifting from institutional care to community-based care for people suffering from mental disorders. A study published in *The Lancet Psychiatry*, 2017 offers corroborative evidence from VISHRAM (the Vidharbha Stress and Health Programme), which is a community-based mental health initiative. The reduction in the treatment gap was due to increased supply of mental health services through front-line workers and their collaborative linkage with the physicians and psychiatrists in the facilities, as well as increased demand for mental health services due to improved mental health literacy. The substantial reduction in the median cost of care resulted from availability of general as well as specialist services in the village itself.

Whether legislation such as the Mental Healthcare Bill will help overcome supply and demand barriers seems highly unlikely, as the root causes lie in pervasive negative attitudes, massive neglect of mental health care, rampant abuse and unchecked inhuman practices, and weak redressal and enforcement mechanisms. The Bill seeks to address major lacunae in mental health care and is thus an important step forward. However, its implementation will require substantially larger public resources and, more importantly, restructuring of mental healthcare services with a key role for the community in their provision, rapid expansion of mental health literacy, effective monitoring and enforcement of the objectives envisioned in it. With limited awareness of these challenges, and with a slight risk of exaggeration, the Bill is an overkill.

Vani S. Kulkarni teaches Sociology at the University of Pennsylvania, and Raghav Gaiha is (Hon.) Professorial Fellow, Global Development Institute, University of Manchester.

A short history of a big deal

The Teesta treaty continues to dominate relations between India and Bangladesh



SYED MUNIR KHASRU

Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's visit to India and the signing of 36 agreements of cooperation ranging from the economic, defence and power sectors to the peaceful use of nuclear energy shows that significant progress has been made in Indo-Bangla relations in the last eight years. However, the stalled Teesta treaty continues to eclipse bilateral relations as water affects the lives of ordinary people across vast spaces of land. It seems that in spite of the goodwill prevailing in Delhi, West Bengal has become a thorn in Indo-Bangla relations.

Bangladesh shares 54 of its 57 transboundary rivers with India. After the Ganges, Brahmaputra and the Meghna (GBM) river system, Teesta is the fourth largest river shared between the two countries. In 1983, an ad hoc water-sharing agreement allocated 39% of the water flow to India and 36% to Bangladesh and remaining 25% was left unallocated for a later decision. The Teesta river's floodplain covers an area of 2,750 sq km in Bangladesh, supporting roughly 10 million people. An estimated one lakh hectares of land across five districts of Bangladesh are severely impacted and face acute shortages during dry seasons. Apart from livelihood directly obtained from the river, agriculture is also affected as 14% crop production is dependent on the flow of the river. At stake are the lives of millions of people of Bangladesh who depend on the river for their survival. Therefore, it is imperative that the treaty provides equal allocation of the Teesta, a fair demand from the side of the lower riparian Bangladesh.

So near, yet so far

In 2011, during the visit of former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh to Dhaka, plans had been confirmed of an interim arrangement of 15 years, with India getting 42.5% and Bangladesh 37.5% of the river during dry seasons. The arrangement also included the setting of a joint hydrological observation station to gather accurate data for the future. The plans fell through when West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee opted out of the delegation led by Dr. Singh to Dhaka, expressing strong reservations against giving Bangladesh a greater share of water.

Hopes were renewed during Ms. Banerjee's visit to Dhaka in February 2015 when upon arrival she said, "Have trust on me on the Teesta issue... I will have talks on the matter with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina." Despite her reassurances, she continues to

flip-flop on her stance on the share Bangladesh should get. Again during the visit of Prime Minister Narendra Modi in June 2015, Ms. Banerjee accompanied the delegation and positive expectations were rife on both sides. The Modi government accepted the new arrangement between India and Bangladesh, but Ms. Banerjee did not. Hence, the deal was not inked despite Mr. Modi saying "rivers should nurture the India-Bangladesh relationship and not become a source of discord". The general perception was that the Teesta treaty could not be concluded before the West Bengal State elections in April-May 2016. Despite winning the elections for a second consecutive term, during her recent face-to-face talks with Prime Minister Hasina in Delhi, the Chief Minister stated, "Your problem is water, not Teesta. I am willing to look at any alternate proposal to address your issues."



Mamata's flip-flops

When the Chief Minister herself had appointed an expert committee headed by Kalyan Rudra in 2011 to study the Teesta issue, the report, though unpublished, was in favour of Bangladesh. Says Ainun Nishat, a prominent hydrology expert from Bangladesh, "India has completely dried out the river on our end during lean period by closing all the gates of the Gazaldoba barrage. That is unexpected from a friendly neighbour. This treaty is a formality, but India cannot ignore our rights to the river water."

Ms. Banerjee has sat on the issue and been changing goalposts for six years, with Bangladesh hostage to its neighbour's domestic politics as a State government refuses to play ball with the Centre. Speculation is now ripe that Ms. Banerjee is trying to secure a financial package from Delhi and the Teesta treaty has become the bargaining tool for it. It is ordinary Bangladeshis who are bearing the brunt of this impasse.

With elections slated for early 2019, it is Ms. Hasina whose credibility is at stake at home after all that she has done for taking Indo-Bangla relations to newer heights. Unfortunately, the Bengal of India has become the sore throat in an otherwise evolving and matured Indo-Bangla relations.

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SINGLE FILE

For the most deserving

A transparent selection process in the appointment of jury members for the National Awards will clear the air

ANURADHA RAMAN

Film director and producer Priyadarshan has laid bare a well-kept national secret and we should thank him for that. Who decides who is deserving of the prestigious National Awards for films has always been a mystery. Every year, the decisions are met with surprise. This year, Priyadarshan was critiqued by many for choosing Akshay Kumar for the National Award for Best Actor. He responded: "When Ramesh Sippy was jury head, Amitabh Bachchan won. When Prakash Jha was head of jury, Ajay Devgn won... none questioned at that time. So why all these questions are cropping up today?"

Besides proximity and enduring relationships between actors and their directors, and some nepotism that has stuck, the problem with the National Awards is that there is always the view that someone more deserving was overlooked in the run-up to the awards or in the finale. Regarding the jury which decided the winners of the 64th National Film Awards, doubts have been raised about whether its members were anti-homosexuality, anti-women's emancipation, and against films that do not conform to the cultural norms and mores of society. But these are questions for which we will never get an answer.

Composition of jury

So, let's instead set the composition of the jury. While Priyadarshan has to be praised where it is due, the question is not who chooses the jury (the Government of India), but how the members are chosen. This is as mysterious as how the members of the Central Board of Film Certification are chosen. Who takes the call, and after the composition, are the records of the oral deliberation of the jury maintained? It is understandable that the decisions have to be unanimous and dissenting members are persuaded to fall in line, save for the odd ones who refuse. But why not make the deliberations public? Cinema is an area where everyone has a point of view, especially when it comes to awards such as the National Film Awards. So, why not have a transparent selection process in the appointment of jury members?

A few years ago, sub-juries were formed to help the cause of language cinema. This was discontinued in favour of a centralised jury after complaints of a questionable selection of films reached the Centre, causing a reversal to the system of dedicated juries for language cinema. Back in 2000-01, when actress Raveena Tandon won the Best Actress Award, the mainstream media expressed outrage and referred to jury members who they said had been particularly partial to the actress. Very little seems to have changed over the years.

Whether Akshay Kumar deserved the award will be debated for some time now. But besides questions about proximity between him and Priyadarshan, it is also interesting to note that *Rustom*, for which he won the award, is based on the real life story of Naval Officer K.M. Nanavati. There is perhaps something about men in uniform who can do no wrong in the times we live in.



CONCEPTUAL Original Position

POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY

In John Rawls's *A Theory of Justice* treatise, the 'original position' was defined as a pre-political abstraction from reality in which a group of people who know nothing about themselves, such as their age, gender, or even names, are asked to choose principles of justice that could serve as the standard for a constitution, laws, and adjudication mechanisms. The most rational choices made from behind such a "veil of ignorance", Rawls contended, would result in equal rights and liberties for all; equality of educational and employment opportunities; and a guaranteed minimum of means.

MORE ON THE WEB

What you need to know about the HIV/AIDS prevention Bill and its provisions
<http://bit.ly/HivBill>

ABSTRACT

Better control, more efficiency

How politicians can exercise positive influence on schemes

SRINIVASAN RAMANI

How much does political commitment matter in the success of a scheme such as the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme? Does the ability of local politicians to control bureaucrats in charge of implementation help in the effectiveness of the scheme in rural villages?

A paper published in the *American Political Science Review* in December 2016, titled "Politicians, Bureaucrats, and Development", by Saad Gulzar and Benjamin J. Pasquale argues that implementation of the scheme is significantly better in administrative blocks and villages that fall under multiple political constituencies and otherwise. The variables used to evaluate implementation are the number of workdays created in the block and the total number of people who worked on the scheme's projects.

Using regression models they find out that compared to unsplit blocks, there are fewer people employed in MGNREGS in split blocks, and even among them, the number of workdays is lower.

Political representatives, they hypothesise, are better able to claim credit for the success of the

scheme if block development officers directly report to them and not to other political representatives.

In order to prove this, the researchers map out political (constituency level) and administrative (block/village level) boundaries and use GIS tools to identify different forms of overlaps. They then compare MGNREGS implementation in unsplit and split blocks, i.e. blocks and villages that fall under multiple political constituencies and otherwise. The variables used to evaluate implementation are the number of workdays created in the block and the total number of people who worked on the scheme's projects.

The larger implication of this paper relates to the multiple overlaps of governance between political and administrative boundaries. And that politicians can actually exercise positive influence on welfare schemes if they get the incentive to do so unlike the perception that politicians merely use such schemes for rent-seeking and patronage. In the case of the MGNREGS, the falling of its jurisdiction under political boundaries allows for greater accountability of the political representative. Hence there is better implementation.

Political representatives, they hypothesise, are better able to claim credit for the success of the

FROM The Hindu ARCHIVES

FIFTY YEARS AGO APRIL 11, 1967

Supreme Court upholds right to travel abroad

A constitution Bench of the Supreme Court, by a majority of three to two, has held that a 'person' in India has a fundamental right to travel abroad within the meaning of Article 21 of the Constitution, and, therefore, refusal by the Government to issue a passport is an infringement of this fundamental right. The majority judgment, delivered by the Chief Justice, Mr. Justice Subba Rao, with whom Mr. Justice Shelat and Mr. Justice Vaidialingam agreed, also ruled that the discretion claimed by the Union Government to issue or deny, or withdraw or cancel a passport was a violation of the doctrine of equality before law, enshrined in Article 14 of the Constitution.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO APRIL 11, 1917

Lahore Conferences

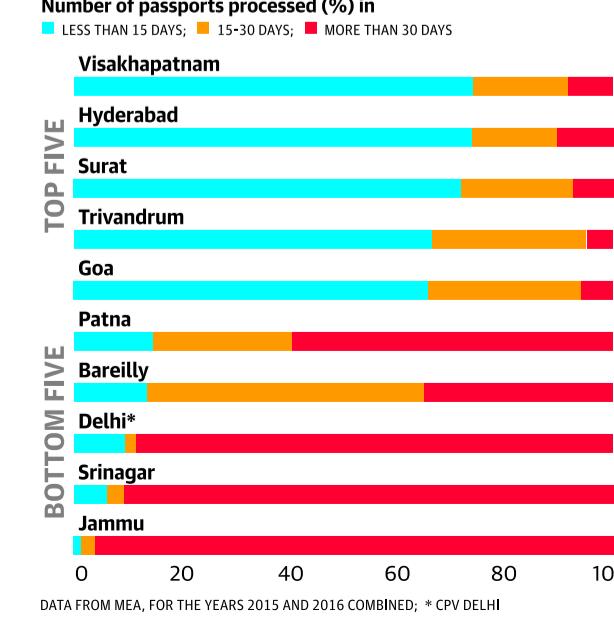
A result of the Anjuman Islamia, Sikh Educational and Sanatan Dharma Conferences held here (Lahore, April 10) during the Easter has been the great impetus given to the educational activity. Cash collection announced at the 32nd Anniversary of the Anjuman Himayat Islamia was over Rs.35,000 of which Rs. 10,000 was given by Prince Hamidulla Khan B.A. (Aligarh) of Bhopal who presided over the gathering and a lakh and half at the Sikh Educational Conference including Rs. 2000 each from the Maharajas of Kashmir and Darbhanga, while about Rs. 80,000 was promised or paid for the Sanatan Dharma College.

DATA POINT

Quick response time

Regional passport offices in south India – Visakhapatnam and Hyderabad in particular – process passport applications fastest

Number of passports processed (%) in



FROM PAGE ONE

Pak. court awards death to Indian

However, since Army Chief General Bajwa has already confirmed the sentence, there is little chance of relief for Mr. Jadhav, sources said.

The ISPR release that followed Major Ghafour's tweet, stated that Indian Raw Agent/Naval Officer Kulbhushan Sudhir Jadhav alias Hussain Mubarik Patel was arrested on March 3, 2016 through a counter intelligence operation from Mashkel, Balochistan for his involvement in espionage and sabotage activities against Pakistan.

Pakistan military claimed Mr. Jadhav had confessed before a magistrate that he was tasked by RAW to plan, coordinate and organise espionage/sabotage activities. The ISPR statement also said the accused was provided with defending officer as per legal process. The activities were aimed at destabilising and wage war against Pakistan.

Following the summoning of Pakistani High Commissioner Abdul Basit in Delhi, the Foreign Office held a consultative meeting in Islamabad.

New Delhi summons Pakistan envoy

"The claim in the ISPR release that Shri Jadhav was provided with a defending officer during the so-called trial is absurd in the circumstances," stated the note of protest.

Hours after Pakistan's decision to award the death sentence to Mr. Jadhav, India provided the release of 12 Pakistani prisoners, who were to be repatriated this week. "It is not the right time for the release of Pakistani prisoners. We are planning harsher steps to protest the death sentence to Jadhav," said a senior government official. The repatriation of Pakistani prisoners who have completed their sentences, has been routine since 2008 when the two countries signed an agreement.

India maintained that Mr. Jadhav was kidnapped last year from Iran, and Pakistan has not provided adequate explanation of how he landed in that country.

The government also said Pakistan had not granted consular access to him despite repeated requests.

"Shri Jadhav was kidnapped last year from Iran

by impeding the efforts of law enforcement agencies for restoring peace in Balochistan and Karachi.

The arrest of Mr. Jadhav was followed by intense diplomatic activity by Pakistan in terms of preparing dossiers for the United Nations alleging that India was trying to fuel insurgency in Baluchistan province.

Former Pakistan army chief General Raheel Sharif also met with Iranian President Hassan Rouhani on his visit to Pakistan last year and expressed concern that RAW was using the soil of Iran to create unrest in Baluchistan and urged the Iranian President to ask India to stop such activities. Tehran agreed to allay Pakistan's concern.

Following the summoning of Pakistani High Commissioner Abdul Basit in Delhi, the Foreign Office held a consultative meeting in Islamabad.

Parties want EVMS recalled

Opposition team tells EC that people's faith in the machines has been eroded

SMITA GUPTA

NEW DELHI

Following an initiative taken by the Congress, 16 Opposition parties on Monday urged the Election Commission to revert to the paper ballot system, saying the people's faith in EVMs had "eroded".

Representatives of parties, including the Congress, the BSP, the DMK, the Trinamool Congress and those of the Left, met top EC officials to demand reintroduction of the ballot paper system.

The EC which has thus far defended the EVMS as tamper-proof, following complaints by several parties in the wake of the recent Assembly elections, has now said it will convene an all-party meeting to discuss the issue, senior Congress leader Kapil Sibal and DMK leader T. Siva told journalists after the meeting.

The decision to make a collective demand with the



Ballot appeal: Opposition party leaders Ghulam Nabi Azad, Anand Sharma, D. Raja and others after meeting the Chief Election Commissioner on Monday. ■ SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

EC came in the wake of a meeting called by the Congress on Monday morning in Parliament House in the room of Leader of the Opposition in the Rajya Sabha Ghulam Nabi Azad.

Mamata's opposition

Initially, the Congress had proposed that the demand should be for using EVMS in half the constituencies

(along with Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trail machines) and using old fashioned ballot papers in the other half, so that the two could be compared. But Trinamool supremo Mamata Banerjee had strong reservations about EVMS, and finally there was an agreement on demanding a total return to the ballot paper system.

Congress leader Anand

Sharma said the EC had been told that the voting system needed to be "technically addressed, globally endorsed and accepted by all political parties here". He pointed out that many western nations had reverted from the EVMS to the ballot paper system.

The collective response by the Opposition parties to the EVM question is to be followed by these parties meeting President Pranab Mukherjee with a 15-point memorandum. These points will relate not only with the manner in which the Rajya Sabha is being rendered irrelevant by converting many controversial Bills into money Bills, but also to the manner in which democratic institutions are being subverted by the present government, anti-cow slaughter vigilanism, targeting of political opponents and growing instances of intolerance threatening Indian democracy.

Congress alleges witchhunt by ED

Party forces Rajya Sabha adjournment

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

The Rajya Sabha was adjourned twice on Monday as Congress members rushed to the well, alleging that the Enforcement Directorate and the CBI were being used against the Chief Ministers and former Chief Ministers of the Opposition, while no action was taken against the Chief Ministers of the BJP.

Congress leader Anand Sharma, whose notice under Rule 267 to raise the matter was rejected by the Chair, raised the issue. He alleged misuse of these agencies by the Centre. His intervention comes at a time when the ED has served summons on Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Virbhadra Singh over money-laundering charges.

"FIRs are being registered against Chief Ministers, whereas this government is

covering up the wrongdoings of its own Chief Ministers in respect of money-laundering, land allotment for commercial purposes, and on the land which they have given in Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh in the name of newspapers and magazines, commercial complexes have come up," Mr. Sharma said. "The CBI and the ED are being used for political vendetta... They cannot have two sets of rules for the Opposition-ruled States and the BJP-ruled ones," Mr. Sharma said.

Kurien's warning
"You cannot force me by coming to the well and shouting. Even if you come and shout here, I am not going to be cowed down by that. I am not going to allow [the notice under Rule 267]," Mr. Kurien said.

Ship rescue: China refuses to credit India

ATUL ANEJA

BEIJING

China on Monday declined to give the Indian Navy any credit for the rescue of hostages from a commercial ship pirated near the Gulf of Aden.

In response to a question, China's Foreign Ministry spokesperson Hua Chunying said that at 5 p.m. on April 8, the 25th convoy of the Chinese Navy that was conducting an escort mission received a report about the hijack of the ship OS 35, registered in Tuvalu, in the waters west of Socotra in the Arabian Sea. "Fleet vessel Yulin immediately set out after the vessel. A rescue operation started in the early morning of April 9. Under the cover of helicopters..., the Navy's special force members boarded the ship and rescued the 19 crew members. Both the ship and the crew members are safe now."

The Chinese Foreign Ministry's account, which excludes any reference to Indian participation in the operation, is in sharp contrast to a statement issued in New Delhi. The Indian Navy spokesperson was quoted as saying: "In a show of international maritime cooperation against piracy, a boarding party from the nearby Chinese Navy ship went on board the merchant ship, while an Indian naval helicopter provided air cover for the operation. It has been established that all 19 Filipino crew members are safe."

She did not give any additional detail when asked about India's participation in the rescue.

Court-martial for unarmed foreigner

Officials say Jadhav sentenced under controversial amendments to the Pakistani Army Act

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

Several observers and intelligence sources have questioned the legality of the Pakistani Army's court martial by which the former Naval Commander Kulbhushan Jadhav was awarded the death sentence.

According to an official Pakistan statement, the Chief of the Army Staff, General Qamar Javed Bajwa, confirmed the death sentence.

Diplomatic challenge

"I think it can be challenged diplomatically," a former intelligence chief said.

Indian officials believe that Mr. Jadhav has been sen-

Warning for plotters: Pak.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

ISLAMABAD

Pakistan's Defence Minister Khawaja Asif on Monday said the death sentence handed out to Indian national Kulbhushan Jadhav for "spying" should serve as a warning to those

"plotting" against the country. "Those plotting against Pakistan will not be spared," Mr. Asif said. He added that Pakistan would use all constitutional force on those acting against the sovereignty of the country.

tenced under the controversial amendments to the Army Act introduced two years ago, which allows civilians to be tried under terrorism charges secretly in Army

courts. In the past two years, under the provision, 160 people have been sentenced to death.

"It is legally not a very tenable thing. How could they

apply the same provision to an unarmed foreigner whose identity is known?" another officer said.

First instance

"I can't recall another instance of an Army general court martial sentencing an Indian like this," a retired intelligence officer said. "We have had Pakistani civil courts sentencing Indians accused of spying," he said.

Another retired official speculated that the Pakistani court-martial proceedings would not only name R&AW (Research & Analysis Wing) but some of its officials. "It is not good news for us," he said.

The Pakistan move to award the death sentence to Mr. Jadhav has been received with much disbelief by his former Naval colleagues and intelligence circles, though most of them were confident that he would be back home.

"As far as we are concerned he is a veteran who retired about 15 years ago. Beyond that we do not know anything," a senior naval officer said.

Commander Jadhav joined the National Defence Academy in 1987 and was commissioned into the Indian Navy in 1991.

According to the Navy, he retired from service in December 2001.

The Pakistan move to award the death sentence to Mr. Jadhav has been received with much disbelief by his former Naval colleagues and intelligence circles, though most of them were confident that he would be back home.

NDA allies commend Modi's leadership

Say government has strengthened the federal structure and given a clean and honest administration

NISTULA HEBBAR

NEW DELHI

The 33 National Democratic Alliance (NDA) partners, which met here on Monday, passed a resolution endorsing Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership as "firm and decisive" going as far as the 2019 Lok Sabha elections. Mr. Modi promised them that he would continue to work for the basic principles of welfare and development.

"I will continue to work on our government's principles of development and welfare and will not allow anything to shake the confidence placed in me," Mr. Modi said at the end of a marathon five-hour meeting.

Union Finance Minister Arun Jaitley briefed the me-



Coming together: Shiv Sena president Uddhav Thackeray greets PM Narendra Modi, as Home Minister Rajnath Singh looks on, at an NDA meeting in New Delhi on Monday. ■ PTI

dia after the dinner meeting attended by Prime Minister Modi and leaders of alliance parties including N. Chandrababu Naidu of the Telugu Desam and Shiv Sena chief Uddhav Thackeray.

Mr. Jaitley said, "The resolution has many features, chief among them being an appreciation of the leadership of Prime Minister Modi and the government's pro-poor policies."

"The resolution notes that the government came to power at a difficult economic period, but has strengthened the federal structure, and given a clean and honest government,"

Mr. Jaitley said. This impression of popular support to Mr. Modi has been strengthened, he added, by the NDA's performance in the recently concluded Assembly polls in five States.

NDA's growth
Mr. Jaitley and Mr. Naidu said that this was a meeting held to acknowledge the growth of the NDA, with two parties joining it in Goa lately and partners from Jammu and Kashmir to Kerala.

Shiv Sena sources told *The Hindu* that Mr. Thackeray had a pull-side meeting with his BJP counterpart, Amit Shah. Mr. Jaitley however said, "Such meetings between leaders keep happening."

Teesta will transform ties: Hasina

In an emotional speech, she recalls India's contribution to Bangladesh liberation

SUHASINI HAIDAR

NEW DELHI

India-Bangladesh ties will undergo a "transformation" if the Teesta water sharing agreement is concluded, Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina said on Monday. She had discussed the matter at length with West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee during her visit to India, and had received assurances from Prime Minister Narendra Modi as well.

"On the Teesta issue, PM Modi once again reiterated his government's strong resolve to conclude the water sharing treaty. Once it happens, the face of Indo-Bangladesh relations will undergo another transformation," Ms. Hasina told an audience at an India Foundation event in Delhi that included Ministers, diplomats and members of Parliament.

"I didn't know what Didi [Mamata Banerjee] would say. When I met her, she suggested something new [sharing water of other trans-



Bangladesh PM Sheikh Hasina being felicitated by BJP leader L.K. Advani in New Delhi on Monday. ■ R.V. MOORTHY

der rivers]," Ms. Hasina said, breaking away from her written speech. "But then Modiji said, 'we are here to look after it' [Teesta]."

"We asked Didi for water, but at least we got electricity," she added in a lighter vein, referring to the 100MW of extra power India had promised in the joint statement issued during the visit.

'Friendliest' ties
In a speech marked by some emotional moments, when

she discussed India's contribution to Bangladesh's liberation, and several touches of humour, Ms. Hasina set out the course of India-Bangladesh relations, which she said were the "friendliest" for Bangladesh and cut across party lines in India.

"The land boundary agreement was supported unanimously in Parliament, for which I am grateful. That was a historic moment that united all people from all parties in India, and joined them with the people of Bangladesh. Like the 1971 war, when we shed blood together, side by side, this was another such moment," Ms. Hasina said, visibly tearing up during the speech.

The event was presided over by BJP leader L.K. Advani, who commended Ms. Hasina for forging relations with India as a neighbour that "all leaders in the region" should follow as an example. Mr. Advani said he had known Ms. Hasina for several decades.

Horror of 1975

Ms. Hasina also recounted her time in India after the assassination of her father and her entire family when she was abroad with her sister in 1975.

"When we were homeless and countryless, Indian PM Indira Gandhi said we could live here. Everyone was very welcoming to us," Ms. Hasina said, disclosing that she had been allotted a home very near Mr. Advani's in Delhi's Pandara Park.

Police told to trace 673 who jumped parole

RAJU PARULEKAR

MUMBAI

The Jail Authority of the Maharashtra Police has asked Commissioners to find out around 673 criminals who jumped parole. They did not come back to prison after their release on parole.

Some of the accused have been roaming free on the streets of Maharashtra for the past 20 years. All the details such as their names and offences for which they were arrested have been sent to Commissioner offices by the IG, Prison.

Most of them were released from Amravati, Talaja, Yerwada and Nagpur jails. Also, many of their photos are not clear and few had given wrong residential addresses due to which police are finding it difficult to trace them. Under the Home Department, there are around 9 Central jails, 31 State prisons. In Mumbai and Thane, four prisoners have been absconding since 2013. It has come to the knowledge of prison authorities that a few accused on parole might have died.

National law on cow killing not feasible

Mr. Bhagwat's remarks come in the wake of the killing of a Muslim dairy farmer, Pehlu Khan, by cow vigilantes at Alwar in BJP-ruled Rajasthan.

"We have to amend the Constitution if a nationwide law on banning cow slaughter is to be brought in. As many as 24 States have laws to tackle the issue, so it should serve the purpose," said a senior government official.

Another official also said no such plan to amend the Constitution for banning cow slaughter was on the cards

IN BRIEF



Minister's absence

irks Hamid Ansari

NEW DELHI

Rajya Sabha Chairman Hamid Ansari on Monday expressed concern at the "extraordinary situation" of a Minister not being present to answer a question during Question Hour. A Congress member raised a listed question. HRD Minister Prakash Javadekar, who was to answer the question on behalf of Environment Minister Anil Madhav Dave came in late, prompting Mr. Ansari's comment.

'Indian boat recovered, nine still held hostage'

MOGADISHU

Security forces recovered an Indian-registered boat hijacked by Somali pirates nearly a week ago, but nine of the Indian crew are still being held hostage, a Somal official said on Monday. Security forces from the semi-autonomous Galmudug region rescued two crew members in the boat last night, but pirates escaped to land and have nine of the Indian crew, Abdulla Ahmed Ali, the mayor of Hobyo, told The Associated Press. AP

Armed forces can buy from open market

NEW DELHI

To break the monopoly of the Ordnance Factory Board (OFB) in procurements and improve its performance, the Ministry of Defence will allow the armed forces to buy several non-core items in the open market. So far, it is mandatory for the services to buy these items from the OFB. The non-core items include troop-comfort items and ammunition boxes. The guidelines are being formulated, officials said.

BJP MP's remarks on jobs embarrasses govt.

NEW DELHI

BJP MP, Harinayan Rajbhar, on Monday caused visible discomfiture to the treasury benches when he said in the Lok Sabha that the government's claim that enough jobs have been created in the last few years was not true, inviting applause from the Opposition members. The MP representing Ghosi in U.P. said "no new jobs are created... please give us the figures." PTI

Australian uranium to arrive soon

Turnbull says working closely with India to meet its fuel requirements for civil nuclear programme

KALLOL BHATTACHERJEE

NEW DELHI

Australia will start supplying uranium to India "as soon as possible", the visiting Prime Minister, Malcolm Turnbull, said here on Monday.

Australia's promise on uranium was announced even as both countries signed six agreements, including one on countering terrorism.

"Our know-how and resources are already partnering with India's 24x7 Power For All, Smart Cities and Make in India programmes, but there is room for further growth. We've worked closely with India to meet our respective requirements for the provision of fuel for India's civil nuclear programme, and we look forward to the first export of Australian uranium to India as soon as possible," Mr. Turnbull said in a press statement at Hyderabad House following bilateral talks with Prime Minister



Same track: Australian Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull takes a selfie with Prime Minister Narendra Modi on a Metro train in New Delhi on Monday. PTI

Narendra Modi. Mr. Modi welcomed the passage of the Civil Nuclear Transfers to India Act in the Australian Parliament, opening up opportunities for Australia to support Indian en-

ergy generation. Australia has about 40 per cent of the world's uranium reserves and exports nearly 7,000 tonnes of yellow cake annually. Both sides agreed to extend bilateral engagement to

the Asia-Pacific region. In this context, a joint statement issued at the end of the meeting agreed to hold a bilateral maritime exercise named AUSINDEX in the Bay of Bengal in 2018 and also

pledged to hold a joint exercise of the Special Forces later this year. Both sides welcomed the decision for the first bilateral Army-to-Army exercise later this year.

The bilateral discussion also hinted at a growing agreement to oppose China's territorial claims over the South China Sea region.

Chinese presence

As part of the emerging Asia-Pacific focus of India-Australia ties, the joint statement took a firm position against China's growing presence in the South China Sea region and said, "Both leaders recognised that India and Australia share common interests in ensuring maritime security and the safety of sea lines of communication.

Both leaders recognised the importance of freedom of navigation and overflight, unimpeded lawful commerce, as well as resolving maritime disputes by peaceful means.

Be alive to challenges, says Manmohan

Ex-PM releases Ashwani Kumar's book

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

Former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh said on Monday that the many challenges facing the nation need to be addressed immediately, because if they are not, it "could have disastrous consequences ... as a nation we have to be alert".

Dr. Singh's remarks came after releasing former Union Law Minister Ashwani Kumar's book *Hope in a Challenged Democracy: An Indian Narrative* here on Monday evening.

In a short speech, interspersed with Urdu couplets, Dr. Singh also remarked, "I am also reminded of what Mao Zedong said when asked by a Western delegation what he thought of the French Revolution: 'It is too early to judge'."

Vice-President Hamid Ansari, who was the chief gu-



Manmohan Singh

set, said, "It is a truism that all democracies contain within them tensions between societal constraints and individual liberties, dictates of state security and citizen's freedom..."

Former diplomat K.S. Bajpai said democracy was facing a challenge not just in India but elsewhere too.

Shashi Tharoor, MP, and journalist Mrinal Pandit interrogated Mr. Kumar on the book.

SC orders on UID violated: Opposition

Says Centre making it mandatory

VIJAYA SINGH

NEW DELHI



Govt. is forcibly asking people to enrol for Aadhaar, says Jairam Ramesh

world. Surely they [the UPA government] started it, but after improvements, it is showing results and the benefits have to be considered objectively," he said.

Congress leader Jairam Ramesh attacked the government for violating Supreme Court orders which clearly outlined where to use Aadhaar.

Making it mandatory beyond subsidies was in gross violation of the Supreme Court orders, he said.

INTERVIEW | TARUN VIJAY

'I misspoke, and for that I feel regret'

BJP leader says he didn't blame anyone, and owned up to his mistake in the Gandhian spirit

AMIT BARUAH

Tarun Vijay, former BJP MP and Editor of *Panchjanya*, an RSS-linked journal, has expressed deep regret for his remarks that Indians could not be racists as they lived with "black" South Indians. Excerpts from an interview with The Hindu:

Do you think your comments that Indians could not be racists (aired on Al-Jazeera) were well thought-out?

■ I was single-handedly facing a barrage of accusations against India and Indian people for being racist. I said we firmly stand with African friends, want them to feel secure and immediate action is needed. I share their pain but this kind of incident is bad behaviour of ugly minds. We, in India, too, face a lot of discrimination on the basis of caste, class, religion, language, and community. But it's misleading to suggest we're all racist as a people. That was my basic point. And the path is to follow [is that of] Gandhi, Mandela and King.

Can you explain who is the 'we' that has been

living with 'black' people from Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Andhra Pradesh?

■ We includes all of us. It means people from Kanyakumari to Kashmir and Tawang to Okha. I was responding to a person who was persistently attempting to prove India is a bad country for Africans.

My answer to him was – don't defame your motherland. From Tamil Nadu to Kerala, Karnataka and Andhra, we live together as one people. Unfortunately, I couldn't find the right words to convey what I was trying to say and it ended up conveying exactly the opposite. It was an indefensible slip on my part.

No arguments there. And I immediately apologised on Twitter.

In your view, who are

'black' people in Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Karnataka and Andhra?

■ No one; absolutely no one. The word 'black', as you watch the video, was not used in reference to Tamil Nadu or any other State – it was, like we say in Hindi – people of all colours are around us and we all live together. I misspoke and that I feel great regret.

You have shown a particular interest in matters South Indian. Do you think your remarks have affected your credibility?

■ Initially, I felt it would. But the overwhelming support from common folk in Tamil Nadu is pouring in and that has given me hope. They know me better than any [other] politician. My work wasn't political and everyone from every party joined together for my campaigns for Thiruvalluvar – in Chennai and in New Delhi.

For the first time in Parlia-



When did you realise that your comments would come back to bite you?

■ The next morning when the media came to ask for my reaction, I was shocked. I read it again and realised I had misspoken.

I immediately tweeted my apologies without waiting for a second. I felt, though, the last words and the context in the interview was mischievously deleted to make my sentence look more horrible and harsh.

But no matter, I owned up to my mistake.

How do you react to the Congress party's demand in the Lok Sabha that an FIR should be registered against you for your comments?

■ Repentance is a Gandhian, and a universal value, accepted all over.

I didn't argue or blame anyone, but owned up to my mistake.

What they decide to do is their choice.

SC asks how children end up in J&K mobs

Advices State Bar association from taking sides

KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL

NEW DELHI

When told that security forces' indiscriminate use of pellet guns against mobs in Jammu and Kashmir is creating a "nation of blind people", the Supreme Court on Monday retorted by questioning the sense of humanity of the very people who form the mob and use children as cover while engaging security forces in pitched street battles.

The court was reacting to arguments by the J&K High Court Bar Association, which has filed a public interest litigation petition for a ban on pellet guns.

"But what are children aged seven, nine and 14



20 to 24 years. Young students are the ones most injured," Justice Chandrachud said.

"About a 100 security personnel within the distance of two to three booths. Why do they do it on polling day? Election is a symbol of democracy," Attorney-General Mukul Rohatgi submitted for the Centre.

Advice to Bar

The Supreme Court advised the Bar Association against taking sides.

"We feel we have an important role to play in this issue," Chief Justice Khehar said, while allowing the Association two weeks to file an affidavit.

The age-group of those injured are from 13 to 20 and

EC ignored advice on Kashmir: Centre

Srinagar bypoll saw rampant violence

VIJAYA SINGH
DEEVESH K. PANDEY

NEW DELHI

The Election Commission said on Monday that it was not bound to consult the Union Home Ministry before holding any election, following reports that it had ignored the Ministry's advice against holding by-elections in the Kashmir Valley considering the prevailing security situation.

A day after Srinagar witnessed rampant violence during the bypoll on Sunday, the Union Home Ministry said it had advised the Election Commission against conducting elections in Srinagar and Anantnag. Elections in Anantnag have since been deferred.

A senior Home Ministry official said that the election in Srinagar, which saw the lowest ever turnout of 7.14 %, was held ignoring the advice of the security agencies.

Immediately after the schedule for the by-elections was announced on March 10, the Ministry had sent a strongly worded letter, telling the Commission it was not consulted.

'Not the right state'

In its communication, the Home Ministry said the atmosphere in the Valley was not conducive.

Polling therefore should be held preferably after the Panchayat elections are conducted in the next few months.

However, an EC source said the electoral body's as-

sessment was that if the prevailing conditions were conducive for Panchayat polls, then parliamentary election was also possible.

CEO holds meeting

In Srinagar, Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) Shantanu met representatives of the PDP, NC and the Congress in Srinagar to assess the emerging situation in the wake of the widespread violence and the low voter turnout on Sunday.

The Chief Secretary has submitted an assessment report to the ECI.

However, Mr. Shantanu hinted that the Srinagar bypoll would not be cancelled. "I have not recommended cancellation of the by-election. However, the ECI can have a view," Mr. Shantanu said.

Deep alienation: CPI(M)

The abysmally low turnout in the Srinagar by-poll reflected the feeling of deep alienation among the people, the CPI(M) has said.

It urged the Centre to begin a process of engagement with the people in Kashmir.

"The Polit Bureau of the CPI(M) calls upon the Central government to immediately implement the assurance that the Central government itself gave to the country and the people and begin taking confidence building measures and start the political process," said a party release in New Delhi on Monday.

(With inputs from Peerzada Ashiq and Vikas Pathak)

Backward Classes Commission gets constitutional status

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

The Lok Sabha on Monday cleared The Constitution 102nd Amendment Bill, that grants constitutional status to the Backward Classes Commission, now called the National Commission for Socially and Educationally Backward Classes. The Bill also enjoins that any addition to the Central list of communities under the

Other Backward Classes will have to be cleared through Parliament.

Minister for Social Justice and Empowerment Thawarchand Gehlot said that the bill would ensure the rights of the Other Backward Classes, and give the National Commission for Backward Classes the constitutional safeguards enjoyed by the National Commission for Scheduled Castes and

Tribes. Mr. Gehlot also tried to allay fears expressed by several opposition parties on the Centre's encroachment on the rights of State government to include the names of OBC castes in the Central list.

"I want to assure all the honourable members that their fears of an attack on the rights of the State government via this bill are unfounded," he said.

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ELSEWHERE



Le Pen denies French role in round-up of Jews

PARIS
Far-right French leader Marine Le Pen has prompted a major outcry by denying that the French government was responsible for the roundup of Jews in World War II at the Vélodrome d'Hiver, where thousands of Jews were held before being sent to death camps. AP

Uganda jails academic for 'insulting' President

KAMPALA
A prominent academic in Uganda was jailed on Monday for "insulting" the country's president. Stella Nyanzi, a postdoctoral research fellow at Uganda's Makerere University, was charged with cyber harassment and offensive communication Monday. She denied the charges and said President Yoweri Museveni has "offended the people of Uganda." AP

Russian 'hacker' arrested in Spain at U.S. request

MADRID
An alleged Russian hacker has been detained in Spain at the request of American authorities. The arrest set cybersecurity circles abuzz after a Russian broadcaster raised the possibility it was linked to the U.S. presidential election. Pyotr Levashov was arrested in Barcelona on a U.S. computer crimes warrant, according to a spokeswoman for Spain's National Court. AP

Egypt's journey: A rejoinder

Hatem Tageldin, the Egyptian Ambassador to India, writes:

An Editorial of March 30, headlined "Back to square one", seemed to overlook the fact that the journey of democracy is a marathon and not a sprint, and that the Egyptian people had in three years witnessed the overthrow of a decades-long dictatorship, the ruling of a theological regime, and a revolution to oust the oligarchy of the Muslim Brotherhood that seemed defiant despite protests by millions of citizens against the increasingly autocratic policies the regime adopted. These people are seriously committed to stay the course to consolidate democracy.

The Editorial mentioned that "though the government... claims the legacy of the 2011 revolution, it took a lenient view of Mubarak-era crimes...". This conclusion implies a sort of suspicion on the part of the current regime regarding the legitimacy of the revolution because of the President's military background, and gives little attention to the fact that since 2011 all the criminal charges against Hosni Mubarak and Mohamed Morsi have been dealt with by an independent civil judiciary. A final ruling took six years in the case of the former, while the trial goes on in the case of the latter.

The Public Prosecutor, under the interim government of the Military Council, referred Mr. Mubarak and his two sons and a number of officials to stand trial in a criminal court; he was sentenced to imprisonment for life. The Court of Cassation, Egypt's highest court for criminal matters, in January 2013 – during the Muslim Brotherhood regime – cancelled this ruling and acquitted the Minister of Interior of charges. The same court decided to repeat Mr. Mubarak's trials in 2015 under President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi, whereby the court of appeal sentenced him to three years' imprisonment for embezzlement of public money. Later, in March 2017, the court absolved him of the charge of killing protesters as prosecutors were unable to provide conclusive evidence against him. Likewise, Mr. Morsi is facing several charges, among them

over colluding with foreign militants to organise a mass prison breakout in 2011, a case originally initiated by the Public Prosecutor in 2013 when the Muslim Brotherhood regime was in power, and he was sentenced to death in May 2015. The Court of Cassation overturned the sentence and ordered a retrial in 2016. The charges against him and other members of the Muslim Brotherhood are still before the courts, with due respect for the right to a fair trial and due process.

The absence of rallies opposing or supporting the release of Mr. Mubarak, as the Editorial mentions, reflects the public's belief in the importance of the independence of the judicial authority and the role of democratic institutions in providing checks and balances. It is worth remembering that the political path that Egypt chose since 2013 was agreed upon by the leaders of all the opposition groups representing moderate secular political forces. A road map was set for the transitional period, by which the head of the Supreme Constitutional Court ran the country since July 2013 until the presidential elections in May 2014. A new Constitution was drafted and approved by a referendum, followed by presidential elections in which President al-Sisi won a landslide majority. Lastly, the legislative elections took place in 2015 to ensure full oversight of the government.

Now to look at where Egypt is heading. Economic and political reforms are under way to improve legislation and the political climate to safeguard the freedoms of opinion, expression and assembly. Some 48,000 Egyptian NGOs and about 200 foreign organisations are registered and functioning freely. Efforts are being made to deliver what the revolution of 2011 promised, namely, dignity, liberty, and social justice. Meanwhile, the country faces unprecedented challenges that have emanated from regional instability and the proxy wars some regional powers are waging. This is the reality Egypt faces, and we are determined to tackle all challenges in a manner that would ensure a better future for the coming generations.

He showed photos on his phone of the carnage: human remains, blood and shattered glass strewn across the floor of the

U.S., U.K. call on Putin to rethink support for Syria

Trump's NSA says defeating IS and removing Assad from power are twin goals

ASSOCIATED PRESS
AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
WASHINGTON/LONDON

The United States and Britain have called on Russian President Vladimir Putin to re-evaluate his country's support for Syrian President Bashar al-Assad.

In his first televised interview, H.R. McMaster, the National Security Adviser to President Donald Trump, pointed to dual U.S. goals of defeating the Islamic State terror group and removing Mr. Assad from power. As Secretary of State Rex Tillerson was making the Trump administration's first official trip this week to Russia, Mr. McMaster said Moscow will have to decide whether it wanted to continue backing a "murderous regime".

Weighing the steps

Mr. Trump is weighing next steps after ordering airstrikes last week. "It's very difficult to understand how a political solution could result from the continuation of the Assad regime," Mr. McMaster said on *Fox News Sunday*.

"Now, we are not saying that we are the ones who are going to effect that change. What we are saying is, other countries have to ask themselves some hard questions. Russia should ask themselves ... Why are we supporting this murderous regime that is committing mass murder of its own population?"

"Right now, I think everyone in the world sees Russia



Fight of their lives: U.S.-backed Syrian rebel fighters on a boat carrying water supplies that docked on the bank of the Euphrates river, west of Raqqqa, on Monday. ■ REUTERS

as part of the problem," Mr. McMaster said.

After last Tuesday's chemical attack, Mr. Trump said his attitude toward Mr. Assad has changed very much".

Separately, British Foreign Secretary Boris Johnson said on Monday, ahead of a meeting of G7 Foreign Ministers in Italy, that "it's time for Vladimir Putin to face the truth about the tyrant he is propelling up."

"We need to make it clear to Putin that the time to back Assad has gone... He must understand that Assad is now toxic in every sense. He is poisoning innocent people with weapons that were banned 100 years ago – and he is poisoning the reputation of Russia."

REUTERS
MOSCOW

The Kremlin said on Monday that U.S. Secretary of State Rex Tillerson will not meet President Vladimir Putin when he visits Moscow on Wednesday, a move that could point to tensions over a U.S. missile attack on a Syrian air base last week.

John Kerry, Mr. Tillerson's predecessor, often met Mr. Putin as well as the Russian Foreign Minister when he visited Moscow, and Mr. Putin granted several audiences to

the Texan when he ran oil company Exxon Mobil before taking his current job.

But Mr. Putin's spokesman, Dmitry Peskov, told reporters on Monday that no such meeting was planned, suggesting Mr. Tillerson will follow strict diplomatic protocol and only meet his direct counterpart, Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov.

Mr. Peskov did not say why Mr. Putin was not planning to receive Mr. Tillerson.

REUTERS LOS ANGELES

Gorsuch sworn in as U.S. Supreme Court justice

A devoted conservative, he will occupy Antonin Scalia's seat

JULIE HIRSCHFELD DAVIS
WASHINGTON

Neil M. Gorsuch was sworn in Monday as the 113th justice of the Supreme Court, placing a devoted conservative in the seat once occupied by Justice Antonin Scalia and handing President Donald Trump a victory in his push to shape the court for decades to come.

Justice Gorsuch, 49, took his judicial oath in the White House Rose Garden with Mr. Trump looking on. It was the fulfilment of a vital campaign promise made by Mr. Trump to make the appointment of a strict conservative to the Supreme Court a top priority.



Responsibility of a lifetime: President Donald Trump watches as Justice Anthony Kennedy administers the judicial oath to Judge Neil Gorsuch at the White House on Monday. ■ AP

chance to influence the direction of the high court.

"Justice Gorsuch, you are now entrusted with the sacred duty of defending our Constitution," Mr. Trump said during the ceremony.

Justice Kennedy's presence was symbolic personally for Justice Gorsuch, who served as a clerk for Justice Kennedy and considers him a mentor.

It is the first time in the

history of the Supreme Court that a sitting justice will serve with a justice who had been his clerk.

About two hours before the Rose Garden ceremony, Chief Justice John Roberts administered a separate oath, the one given to all federal officials to support and defend the Constitution, to Justice Gorsuch in a private session at the Supreme Court. NYT

Two dead in California school shooting

REUTERS LOS ANGELES

At least two adults were killed and two persons, possibly students, were struck by gunfire in a classroom shooting on Monday at a Southern California elementary school, police and fire officials said.

San Bernardino Police Chief Jarrod Burguan said the shooting at Northpark Elementary School in San Bernardino, east of Los Angeles, appeared to be a "murder-suicide" and that two wounded students had been taken to the hospital for treatment.

"We believe the suspect is down, and there's no further threat," Mr. Burguan said in a Twitter post. He said the dead were adults.

ABC News, citing information from a police spokesman, earlier reported that three people, including a teacher, were hit by gunfire,

in addition to the shooter.

The San Bernardino County Fire Department said in a Twitter post that there were "multiple gunshot victims" from the incident. The elementary school was being evacuated and students were being taken to a nearby high school. Aerial television footage from the scene showed students walking single-file across the campus from the school building.

Maldives political crisis intensifies

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE COLOMBO

Maldives Opposition parties said on Monday they would launch a fresh bid to seize control of Parliament by impeaching the Speaker, weeks after their first attempt failed when the President called in troops to evict lawmakers.

A coalition of Opposition parties said it had submitted a motion of no-confidence motion on Sunday with the support of 31 MPs – enough to force a vote in the 85-member Parliament.

Changing rules
But after the motion was submitted the government increased the number of signatures required for such a

motion to 42, leaving it unclear whether a vote would go ahead.

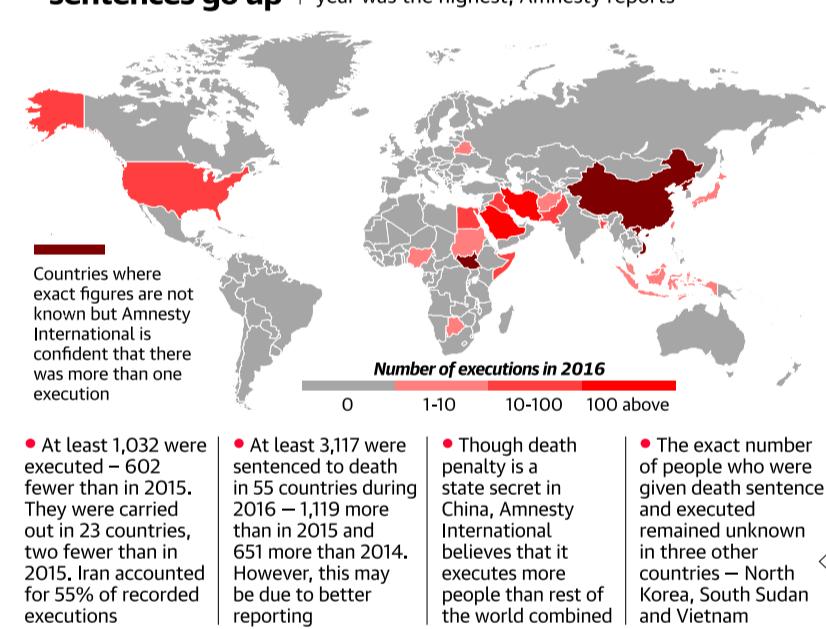
The coalition, led by exiled Opposition leader Mohamed Nasheed's Maldivian Democratic Party, is trying to undermine President Abdulla Yameen before elections next year.

On Monday, the coalition accused the government of making "abrupt and arbitrary changes to the parliamentary standing orders, designed to derail the second no confidence motion submitted against the Speaker".

Mr. Nasheed has said that taking control of the legislature is crucial to ensuring a free and fair presidential election in 2018.

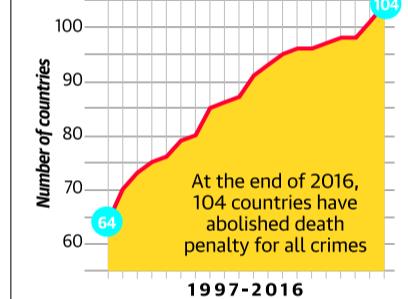
Executions come down, death sentences go up

Number of people executed around the world had come down in 2016 from the historical high reported in 2015. But the number of people sentenced last year was the highest, Amnesty reports

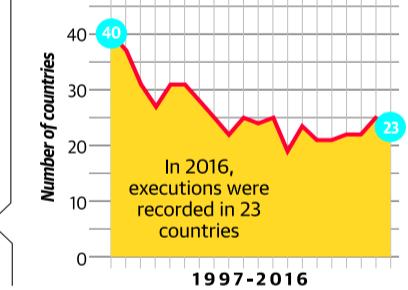


CAPITAL PUNISHMENT TRENDS

Nations which abolished death penalty



Nations which carry out executions



Egypt's Christians feel abandoned by the state

Copts point to lack of security at churches despite threats

REUTERS TANTA

Egyptian Christians wept with rage on Monday as they recovered the bodies of loved ones killed in twin church bombings, furious at a state they believe will no longer protect them from neighbours bent on their murder.

Forty-four people were killed in the attacks on Palm Sunday, a joyous festival a week before Easter. At Tanta University hospital morgue, desperate families were trying to get inside to search for loved ones. Security forces held them back to stop overcrowding, enraged the crowd.

"Why are you preventing us from entering now? Where were you all this happened?" shouted one woman looking for a relative. Hours after the attack, Kerols Paheg and other young Coptic Christians

were already digging graves in the basement of the devastated St. George Church in the northern Nile Delta city, where the first of the bombs exploded, killing 27 and wounding around 80.

He showed photos on his phone of the carnage: human remains, blood and shattered glass strewn across the floor of the

church on one of the holiest days in the Christian calendar. From now on, Christians will have to protect their churches themselves, rather than rely on the police, "because what's happening is too much. It's unacceptable," he said.

Repeatedly targeted

Copts make up about 10% of Egypt's 92 million people, the largest Christian minority in West Asia. Yet despite a presence dating back to the Roman era, the community feels increasingly ostracised and has repeatedly been targeted in attacks, including by Islamic State, which claimed responsibility for Sunday's bombings.

Hours after the blast in Tanta, the second bomb blew up at the entrance to Saint Mark's Cathedral in Alexandria, the historic seat of the Coptic pope, killing 17 people. President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi has promised to protect the Christian minority as part of a campaign against extremism. But Copts in Tanta said security was almost non-existent on Sunday despite repeated warnings in recent weeks.

"We were not expecting

people who live with us in the same country, people with whom we've shared love and friendships, and with whom we're familiar, to do these things," said Tanta priest Tawfik Kabeish.

REUTERS ALEXANDRIA

Alone in grief: A man mourns at the funeral for those killed in a Palm Sunday church attack in Alexandria on Monday. ■ AP

"We were not expecting people who live with us in the same country, people with whom we've shared love and friendships, and with whom we're familiar, to do these things," said Tanta priest Tawfik Kabeish.

China, Myanmar ink oil pipeline deal

Also sign nine cooperative agreements

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE BEIJING

China and Myanmar agreed a deal on a crude oil pipeline between the neighbouring countries as part of a raft of agreements signed when their leaders met Monday in Beijing.

Chinese President Xi Jinping met with Myanmar President U. Htin Kyaw at the end of the Burmese statesman's first visit to China since taking office last spring.

The countries signed an agreement on a partially-completed crude oil pipeline between western Myanmar's Kyaukpyu port and southern China's Kunming city, which Beijing expects to be "up and running soon", Chinese Vice Foreign Minister Liu Zhenmin said.

The two leaders also discussed the development of the controversial Myitsone dam, a \$3.6 billion Beijing-backed project on hold since protests in 2011, Mr. Liu told reporters after the summit.

Stabilising the north

The two countries signed nine cooperative agreements on areas spanning public health, sports and transportation.

China also expressed its support for Myanmar's efforts to maintain stability in northern part of the country, where deadly clashes have broken out near the border between Myanmar's army and ethnic insurgents.



Chinese President Xi Jinping with his Myanmar counterpart U. Htin Kyaw.

Beijing offers rewards to unearth spies

RE

MARKET WATCH

	10-04-2017	% CHANGE
Sensex	29,575	-0.44
US Dollar	68.56	-0.43
Gold	29,290	-0.03
Brent oil	55.67	-1.23

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
ACC	1473.80	5.70
Adani Ports	352.15	5.00
Ambuja Cements	244.90	2.45
Asian Paints	1059.20	-23.75
Aurobindo Pharma	654.95	-3.10
Axis Bank	510.75	6.55
Bajaj Auto	2837.00	6.55
Bank of Baroda	171.10	2.45
Bharti Airtel	345.70	1.00
Bosch	22730.25	-96.55
BPCL	700.30	24.95
Cipla	589.65	-0.35
Coal India	286.75	2.85
Dr Reddy's Lab	2635.85	-25.50
Eicher Motors	25578.25	-28.60
GAIL (India)	384.85	-1.80
Grasim Ind	1090.65	33.55
HCL Tech.	833.05	-16.25
HDFC	1467.50	-17.25
HDPC Bank	1434.15	-4.70
Hero MotoCorp	3199.40	-15.90
Hindalco	195.05	1.55
Hind Unilever	925.95	1.45
Indiabulls HFL	935.20	-20.65
ICICI Bank	277.65	0.30
IndusInd Bank	1425.35	13.15
Bharti InfraLtd	357.00	9.40
Infosys	953.40	-28.15
Indian Oil Corp	411.25	13.90
ITC	273.55	0.90
Kotak Bank	877.35	4.25
L&T	1674.05	-11.45
Lupin	1415.35	5.30
M&M	1280.80	5.25
Mauriti Suzuki	6268.85	9.50
NTPC	166.75	-1.50
ONGC	186.45	0.05
PowerGrid Corp	195.30	0.30
Reliance Ind	1381.35	-25.25
State Bank	289.35	-0.10
Sun Pharma	667.75	1.80
Tata Motors	474.90	6.60
Tata Motors DVR	290.30	5.95
Tata Power	87.05	-0.45
Tata Steel	495.35	2.15
TCS	2422.25	-6.80
Tech Mahindra	443.05	-0.15
UltraTech Cement	4058.90	-22.10
Wipro	504.40	-7.50
YES Bank	1599.60	43.05
Zee Entertainment	553.45	5.85

EXCHANGE RATES

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	64.36	64.68
Euro	68.07	68.41
British Pound	79.81	80.22
Japanese Yen (100)	57.80	58.09
Chinese Yuan	9.32	9.37
Swiss Franc	63.72	64.04
Singapore Dollar	45.75	46.00
Canadian Dollar	48.09	48.33
Malaysian Ringgit	14.50	14.59

Source: Indian Bank

BULLION RATES CHENNAI

Retail Silver (1g)	44.50	(45.60)
22 ct gold (1 g)	2,763	(2,761)

Flipkart raises \$1.4 bn. as it battles Amazon

Acquires eBay's India business as part of the funding deal

PEERZADA ABRAR

BENGALURU

India's largest online retailer Flipkart has raised a total of \$1.4 billion from China's Tencent, U.S.-based e-commerce firm eBay and software maker Microsoft. The funding is expected to help Flipkart build its war chest in the battle against Amazon.com Inc., which is rapidly gaining share in India's online retail market.

The Bengaluru-based firm will also buy eBay's India business as part of the transaction.

Flipkart said the new funding round valued the company at \$11.6 billion. This is about 24% lower than the \$15.2 billion valuation it commanded in 2015 based on the \$700 million it raised at the time.

"This is a landmark deal for Flipkart and for India as it endorses our tech prowess, our innovative mindset and the potential we have to disrupt traditional markets," Flipkart co-founders Sachin Bansal and Binny Bansal said in a statement.

"It is a resounding acknowledgement that the homegrown tech ecosystem is indeed thriving and succeeding in solving genuine problems in people's daily lives across all of India," the founders said.

The latest investment adds to an existing group of marquee investors that include Tiger Global Management, Naspers Group, Accel Partners and DST Global.

Strategic investor

Tencent has joined as a strategic investor, bringing experience in linking social networking and e-commerce. In leading this funding round, Tencent will lend



A leg up: Tencent will lend significant expertise to Flipkart as the Indian e-tailer tries to bolster its leadership position. • AFP

significant expertise to Flipkart as it seeks to bolster its leadership position in India's e-commerce market.

"This strategic partnership enables Tencent to participate in the exciting opportunities in e-commerce and payments in India," Martin Lau, Tencent President, said in a statement.

Interestingly, in February, Microsoft had announced a strategic partnership with Flipkart, with the e-commerce company adopting the Microsoft Azure cloud computing platform.

EBay's investment is accompanied by a strategic commercial agreement: In exchange for an equity stake in Flipkart, eBay will make a \$500 million cash investment and sell its eBay.in business to Flipkart. eBay and Flipkart have also entered into an exclusive pact in which they will jointly pursue cross-border trade opportunities.

"eBay is committed to winning in India in partnership with Flipkart," Devin Wenig, president and chief executive of eBay Inc., said in a statement. "Our exclusive global trade partnership will allow eBay and Flipkart to reach even more consumers around the world."

The funding deal is expected to give Flipkart leverage against arch-rival Amazon, the world's largest online retailer. Founded by billionaire Jeff Bezos, Amazon has pledged to invest \$5 billion in India in the next few years.

"This is good news for Flipkart as it solidifies it as a market leader at least in the short term, keeping competition especially Amazon at bay," said Sandy Shen, research director at research firm Gartner. Ms. Shen said the latest funding round brings investment from strategic investors which would bring technology and market expertise that Flipkart needs, in contrast to the previous rounds of mostly financial investors. "The next challenge is to strategise the path to a sustainable business model within a set time frame," she said.

In December, Flipkart co-founder Sachin Bansal, and Ola Cabs co-founder Bhavish Aggarwal, called for policies that protect domestic companies against their global competitors Amazon and Uber. They alleged that these firms were "dumping capital" to win customers.

Hasina invites Indian companies to Bangladesh, promises SEZs

The nation needs \$20 billion a year to take advantage of demographic dividend

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina invited Indian companies to invest in the country's infrastructure sector that requires investments of about \$20 billion a year till 2030, promising to exclusively dedicate at least three of the 100 proposed special economic zones in the country for Indian investors.

Speaking at the India-Bangladesh Business Forum on Monday, Ms. Hasina, who has a 250-member industry delegation accompanying her, said she would encourage Indian investors to consider investments in Bangladesh in infrastructure projects especially in the energy sector, as well as manufacturing, transport and food processing.

"We need \$20 billion annually till 2030 to take full advantage of our high demographic dividend and cheap labour costs," Ms. Hasina said, stressing that apart from a bilateral investment pact to protect Indian investors, the country was also offering packages that allow 100% repatriation of profits and invested capital by foreign investors.

With a per-capita income of \$1,446 and a growth rate of 6% to 7% in the last eight years, Bangladesh offers a fast-growing domestic market of 160 million consumers as well as special duty-free access to various global markets, Ms. Hasina pointed out, expressing hope that the country's economy will grow at 8% by 2020.

As many as thirteen pacts were signed between Indian and Bangladeshi firms at the summit, entailing investments of about \$9 billion. Apart from joint ventures between public sector firms of the two countries, these



Red carpet: Sheikh Hasina says her nation allows 100% repatriation of profits and invested capital by foreigners. • PTI

pacts included a \$2-billion deal between Adani Power Limited and Bangladesh Power Development Board (BPDB) for the first phase of the 750 MW LNG power project at Meghnaghat, near Dhaka in Bangladesh, entailing investments of \$1 billion, the largest FDI in Bangladesh.

"These agreements include Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) and Implementation Agreement (IA) for the proposed integrated combined cycle power project," the company said in a statement, adding the agreements were exchanged in the presence of Prime Minister of Bangladesh Sheikh Hasina at a business summit in New Delhi on Monday.

Reliance Power also signed an MoU with PetroBangla to set up a 500-mmscf/d LNG terminal at Kutubdia Island near Chittagong in Bangladesh. The definitive agreements for setting up the LNG terminal will be executed with PetroBangla shortly. Full LNG terminal capacity will be used by PetroBangla to meet the high demand for power and other industries and replace costly and highly polluting fuels.

Reliance Power will install the equipment procured previously for its 2,250 MW combined cycle power project at Samalkot in Andhra Pradesh, which will be relocated in a phased manner.

"The biggest hurdle is the visa system. Bangladesh gives Indian people a visa so they can enter from any airport or any land port. But when Bangladeshi people get a visa from India, we are given either for Petrapole or Agartala or some other place, (entry is) limited to only one point. Unless and until we can change this, it will be very difficult for the regional cooperation to ultimately come in place," Mr. Ahmad said.

+ Vodafone seeks TRAI's intervention on Jio offer

Reliance Jio still luring customers for 'Summer Surprise'



On April 6, Reliance Jio said it had withdrawn the offer after TRAI's advice.

ing free services to users since unveiling the brand in September last year under two separate offers, was supposed to start charging users April 1 onwards.

It, however, extended the deadline for buying the Jio plan by 15 days. It further announced the 'Jio Summer Surprise' offer wherein subscribers who bought the ₹99 Prime membership till April

Align bank pay to that in CPSEs: BBB

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

MUMBAI

The Bank Board Bureau (BBB) has recommended that the government bring in reforms in the compensation process in public sector banks on the lines of Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs).

BBB, set up in April 2016 to select board members including MD & CEO in PSBs, put out the list of recommendations that it had submitted to the government on its website.

BBB has suggested compensation reforms in PSBs so that best practices can be introduced on the lines already prevalent in Central Public Sector Enterprises. To attract high-quality talent for non-executive directors and chairmen, BBB suggested a level-playing field with the private sector with respect to role, responsibility and remuneration.

Can a new CEO end IDBI Bank's woes?

The lender is one of 10 state-owned banks identified as requiring a turnaround



global investors.

The bank is one of 10 lenders identified by the Centre as requiring a turnaround inside three years. Future capital infusion is linked to the turnaround.

IDBI Bank posted a ₹2,255 crore loss in the quarter ended December, 2016. That was wider than the ₹2,184 crore loss in the year-earlier period. For the nine months ended December, the loss

was ₹1,958 crore. This was on top of a ₹3,665 crore loss in 2015-16.

Ambit, a broking firm, said IDBI Bank had the maximum exposure to stressed assets among peers. It estimated the bank's exposure to the stressed sector at 49%.

Bankers said there were a few things a CEO could focus on straightaway.

"You should be able to take the team along," said M.D. Mallya, a former CMD at both Bank of Maharashtra and Bank of Baroda.

"The CEO should quickly assess the weakness and strength. One should build on the strength and fix the weakness. There could be issues with NPA, low current and savings account, low interest income. These need to be identified early," he said. It was possible to turn around a bank in two to two-and-a-half years, he added.

NEWS ANALYSIS

The stressed assets at lenders largely emanate from industry and infrastructure sectors. According to RBI, the total stressed assets in Indian commercial banks rose to 11.5% with public sector banks leading with 14.5% exposure as at the end of March 2016.

"With nearly 49% exposure to the stressed sector, IDBI Bank stands out as the bank with the maximum

IN BRIEF



Tata Motors global sales rise 9% in March

NEW DELHI

Tata Motors on Monday reported an about 9% rise in global sales in March at 1,29,951 units, including that of Jaguar Land Rover (JLR) vehicles. The company had sold 1,18,750 units in March 2016, Tata Motors said in a statement. In the passenger vehicles category, global sales stood at 87,355 units last month as against 73,515 units during the same period in 2016, up 19%. PTI

Abhinav to expand through franchise route

MUMBAI

Abhinav Outsourcings, an immigration and visa consultancy firm has announced plans to expand within and outside India through the franchise route. "We plan to open 130 franchise outlets by 2020, besides setting up 12 zonal offices, and strengthening the number of staff from 115 now, to up to 500," said Ajay Sharma, president, Abhinav Outsourcings. The franchise business is expected to be rolled out from mid-2017.

Investors exit gold ETFs, pull out ₹775 cr. in FY17

NEW DELHI

Investors remained bearish on gold exchange-traded funds (ETFs) as they pulled out ₹775 crore from the instrument in the last fiscal, making it the fourth consecutive financial year of outflow. Assets under management (AUM) of gold funds plunged by 16% in the just concluded financial year. Trading in the segment was tepid during the last four financial years. An outflow of ₹903 crore was seen in 2015-16. PTI

RP-Sanjiv Goenka group enters FMCG

The group is eyeing acquisitions to strengthen distribution

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

KOLKATA

The RP-Sanjiv Goenka group is in dialogue with a few companies to grow its newly-created FMCG business, chairman Sanjiv Goenka said here on Monday.

Announcing the group's entry into the segment, with two snack foods, under a new company, Guiltfree Industries Ltd., Mr. Goenka said that while the company had just unveiled its own brand, "acquisitions would help in strengthening distribution, infrastructure and in product offerings.... we will be hungry for buys but not foolish, and growth will be both organic and inorganic." ■ PTI

Initially, 10 products with 40-50 variants in the healthy-snacking category will roll out from Kolkata, Pune and Gurgaon this week and go pan-India this fiscal, through a 20,000-strong distribution network which includes modern retail and mom-and-pop stores. The group is targeting \$1 billion in FMCG sales in five years and is looking to expand into segments beyond foods into personal care and premium organic foods.

"For the next nine months we will concentrate on foods only" he said.

Over the next five years, a ₹10,000 crore investment is proposed to be made on the new business. "This would be on brand-building, distribution-network and also on a plant," he said.

Presently, the manufacturing has been outsourced to four units in Maharashtra, Gujarat and Delhi. Before this fiscal ends, the distribution would be through one lakh outlets in 40 cities, he said.

Stressing on the health aspect of the snack foods, Mr.



New ground: Sanjiv Goenka, chairman of the group, said growth would be both organic and inorganic. ■ PTI

To recast CESC

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

KOLKATA

A restructuring of CESC Ltd., the RP-Sanjiv Goenka group flagship, is on the anvil.

Sources said that the proposed exercise aimed at segregating the group's power generation and distribution activities. For a while now, the promoters have been stressing on the need for an asset-light model and to concentrate on the distribution business.

Group chairman Sanjiv Goenka declined to elaborate on the issue and said that the group would follow regulatory guidance in the matter. "If at all, announcements in

this regard will be made only after a SEBI nod," he said.

Currently, CESC has distribution rights in Kolkata and owns generation units in West Bengal.

The other generation units, at Haldia in West Bengal and Chandrapur in Maharashtra come under two separate subsidiary companies — Haldia Energy Ltd. and Dharial Infrastructure Ltd.

CESC which has distribution rights in Kolkata, parts of Howrah and Hooghly, forayed into the distribution franchise business through different firms and has operations in Noida and Rajasthan.

Bon Pain Café India Ltd.

The ₹21,000-crore-turnover RP-Sanjiv Goenka Group is present in the energy space (including generation and distribution), retail, music and in carbon black manufacturing.

It also has a presence in the plantation sector.

'Healthcare needs innovative funding'

Alternatives needed to boost healthcare spending to 2.5% of GDP by 2030: PwC

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

MUMBAI

Conventional modes of resource mobilisation must be aided by an innovative funding mechanism to improve healthcare investments in India, a Healthcare Federation of India (NATHEALTH)-PwC report has said.

The report said funding should be mobilised from pension funds and that investments should be routed through public-private partnership and long-term debt.

It has also suggested funding through business trust entities such as Real Estate Investment Trusts along with funds sourced through bilateral investment treaties.

Underlining the need for huge funding requirements, the report said, "FDI in the sector has significantly increased in the last three years. However, healthcare expenditure's share in GDP



Health for wealth: The report recommends investments by pension funds, REITs and through long-term debt.

remained around 1.6% in FY16 and innovative funding modes would support the target of taking it to 2.5% by 2030."

'Quantum leap'

It has also highlighted the fact that private equity deals were supporting funding in the sector and the value of

transactions had increased from \$94 million in 2011 to \$1.28 billion in 2016, a jump of 13.5 times.

"Access to capital has been one of the biggest roadblocks to the growth of the Indian healthcare sector," said Dr. Rana Mehta, partner and leader, healthcare, PwC India.

"Today, the Indian government spends only about 1.5% of its GDP on healthcare, which is among the lowest globally for any country," he said.

"Along with building highways, firing up power plants and ensuring there is a roof over every Indian's head, there is a need to focus on the healthcare needs of the country."

Anjan Bose, Secretary General, NATHEALTH said,

"While the opportunity for improvement of health services in India is huge, it is for the government and the entire healthcare ecosystem to work together so that benefits percolate to the segment that require them the most."

The New Health Policy 2017 too had highlighted that innovative modes of funding were needed to meet the requirements of the healthcare sector, the report said.

M&M, Zoomcar tie up for EVs

Expects threefold jump in e-vehicle sales this year

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

NEW DELHI

SAIC Motor Corp. has not signed any formal agreement with General Motors to take over the latter's car plant in the western Indian state of Gujarat, the Chinese automaker said in a statement on Monday.

No deal yet on GM India plant: SAIC

REUTERS

NEW DELHI

SAIC has signed a term sheet to evaluate buying the plant but the deal is subject to General Motors securing all government approvals and settling pending labour issues, SAIC's chief India representative, P. Balendran said in the statement.

General Motors has two plants in India and it said in 2015 it planned to stop production at one of its plants in Halol town in Gujarat state.

Mahindra Electric expects its electric vehicle sales to jump threefold this year as it focuses on offering mobility solutions, including partnering with rental firms and cab aggregators.

The company on Monday announced a partnership with Zoomcar, a self-driven car-rental firm, to promote shared mobility of electric cars in India.

"Last year, our focus was to launch new products and this year our focus would be to create mobility solutions with these products, on fleet, retail and shared mobility platform," Mahindra Electric CEO Mahesh Babu told PTI.

The company unveiled its small electric car e2oPlus, sedan eVerito and passenger

and cargo electric vehicle eSupro and sold more than 1,100 units last year.

"Overall, [with] what we are doing in fleet as well as retail, we are expecting at least [a] 3x increase in volume this year on various cars we have," the CEO added.

On the association with Zoomcar, Mr. Babu said the "first-of-its-kind association" will enable the company to make green mobility available to a larger audience.



Plugged in: Mahindra Electric CEO Mahesh Babu, pictured above, says the focus would be on mobility solutions.

IN BRIEF



Rohit reprimanded for showing dissent

MUMBAI Mumbai Indians captain Rohit Sharma has been reprimanded by the match referee for showing dissent during the match against Kolkata Knight Riders. Rohit showed his disappointment after being given leg-before off Sunil Narine and expressed his anger while walking back. An IPL statement said that Rohit had "admitted to the Level 1 offence 2.1.5 of the IPL Code of Conduct for Players and Team Officials." PTI



Injured Lynn doubtful for rest of IPL-10

MUMBAI Chris Lynn's availability for the rest of IP-10 appears to be in doubt after the opener hurt his shoulder while attempting a diving catch running backward in the match against Mumbai Indians on Sunday. He left the ground clutching his left arm close to his body and was later seen with an ice pack strapped to his shoulder.

Lots to learn from David, says Billings

PUNE England wicketkeeper-batsman Sam Billings said working with greats like Rahul Dravid in the IPL has made him a much-improved player of spin. Billings, who is into his second season at Delhi Daredevils, went to the extent of saying that past year has seen him improve like never before. Asked how much he has learnt from the likes of team mentor Dravid and head coach Paddy Upton, Billings replied: "He (Dravid) is one of the best to have played the game. So there is lots to learn from him and even from Paddy." PTI



Pollard slams Manjrekar for on-air comments

MUMBAI Mumbai Indians' Kieron Pollard has slammed Sanjay Manjrekar for his on-air comments about his batting wherein the former India batsman suggested that Pollard "does not have the brains" to play early in the innings. The West Indian all-rounder tweeted: "@sanjaymanjrekar u feel any positive can come out of your mouth bcz u get pay to talk u can continue with your verbal diarrhea (diarrhoea)." PTI

Amla, Maxwell make it a no-contest

de Villiers' one-man show goes in vain as RCB crashes to an eight-wicket defeat to KXIP

S. DINAKAR
INDORE

It was a good toss to win, but Royal Challengers Bangalore opted to bat on a greenish wicket that was bound to lend early assistance to bowlers. The surface eased out as the match progressed, and Kings XI Punjab breezed its way to a spectacular eight-wicket victory with more than five overs remaining in this IPL duel at the Holkar Stadium on Monday.

Cricket can be a cruel game, and A.B. de Villiers, whose 46-ball unbeaten 89 was the most brilliant effort of the day, ended up on the losing side.

For KXIP, left-arm spinner Axar Patel – adjudged Man of the Match – bowled with exemplary control, and had key batsman Shane Watson castled with the new ball. He gave little away, bowling close to the body and exacting bounce.

During the chase, Manan Vohra batted fluently, whether stroking through cover or whipping off his legs.

And Hashim Amla (58 not out) showed it was possible to play good, solid cricket and still get runs in this format. The elegant batsman has the gift of timing. There seems little effort even when he is lofting the ball into the stands.

Despite a couple of hiccups, Kings XI was seldom threatened. Then, Glenn Maxwell (43 not out) cut loose, striking the most audacious of sixes, further demoralising the attack. Brute force apart, Maxwell is an intelligent cricketer who plays around with field placements.

Earlier, de Villiers dazzled. He innovates, finds gaps with a surgeon's precision and sends the ball climbing into the stands ef-



Style and substance: While making a 38-ball 58 to take Kings XI home, Hashim Amla showed it was possible to play good, solid cricket and still get runs in this format. • AFP

IPL-10

Billy Stanlake off Tymal Mills. Then Maxwell, on 13, was dropped by Mandeep Singh at point, off Shane Watson.

Earlier, de Villiers dazzled. He innovates, finds gaps with a surgeon's precision and sends the ball climbing into the stands ef-

fortlessly. The feature of de Villiers' batting is the quickness with which he picks the length. He can both dance down the track or stay back and play the ball late off the back-foot. To top all that, his bat speed is incredible.

Sandeep Sharma thought he had foisted de Villiers when he saw the South African jumping out and pitched short and wide. de Villiers,

almost magically, shifted his body weight and somehow retained his balance as he got under the ball to direct it over cover-point for one of his nine sixes, a lot of which were slog-sweeps off pacemen.

There are times when he premeditates, but is so quick that he can still fall back on a plan-B if needed. Mentally, he also forces the bowlers to

SCOREBOARD

Royal Challengers Bangalore:

Shane Watson b Axar 1 (4b), Vishnu Vinod c Maxwell b Sandeep 7 (12b, 1x4), A.B. de Villiers (not out) 89 (46b, 3x4, 9x6), Kedar Jadhav lbw b Aaron 1 (4b), Mandeep Singh c Saha b Aaron 28 (34b, 1x4, 7x6), Stuart Binny (not out) 18 (20b, 1x4, 7x6); Extras (lb-1, w-3); 4; Total (for four wkts. in 20 overs): 148.

Fall of wickets: 1-2 (Watson, 0.6 overs), 2-18 (Vinod, 3.3), 3-22 (Jadhav, 4.6), 4-68 (Mandeep, 13.1).

Kings XI Punjab bowling: Axar Patel 4-0-12-1, Sandeep Sharma 4-0-26-1, Mohit Sharma 4-0-47-0, Varun Aaron 4-0-21-2, T. Natarajan 1-0-13-0, Marcus Stoinis 3-0-28-0.

Kings XI Punjab: Manan Vohra lbw b Mills 34 (21b, 4x4, 1x6), Hashim Amla (not out) 58 (38b, 4x4, 3x6), Axar Patel b Chahal 9 (6b, 1x6), Glenn Maxwell (not out) 43 (22b, 3x4, 4x6); Extras (lb-4, w-2); 6; Total (for two wkts. in 14.3 overs): 150.

Fall of wickets: 1-62 (Vohra, 5.6), 2-78 (Axar, 8.1).

Royal Challengers Bangalore bowling: Billy Stanlake 4-0-41-0, Iqbal Abdulla 2-0-19-0, Shane Watson 2-0-28-0, Tymal Mills 2-0-22-1, Yuzvendra Chahal 3.3-0-29-1, Pawan Negi 1-0-7-0.

Toss: RCB.

Man-of-the-match: Axar Patel.
KXIP won by eight wickets with 33 balls remaining.

operate to his strengths. de Villiers then manipulates their length.

Another gripping moment in the innings came when a fighting Mandeep top-edged a short one from Varun Aaron, and 'keeper Saha ran it down, read the swirl and flung himself to his right to come up with the ball a few yards short of the ropes. It was a sensational effort.

There have been occasions when the skilful Saha with fast hands has stood up even to pacemakers in T20 matches to dissuade batsmen from stepping out.

Saha dwells on the three 'A's

Be alert, athletic and adaptable

S. DINAKAR
INDORE

He is a wicket-keeper batsman in a format dominated by batsmen who can 'keep.'

Wridhiman Saha can inflict plenty of damage with the bat in T20 cricket but donning the big gloves is his primary job in any form of the game.



Saha. • FILE PHOTO:

Saha said, "It's an aggressive format and you need to put doubts in the batsmen's mind sometimes, keep him within the crease."

Keeping to spinners makes its own demands in this format since the 'keeper, with the batsman attempting different types of strokes, can get blinded on occasions.

Revelling in a crisis

For Kings XI, Saha has been a valuable, free-stroking batsman who revels in crisis situations. Saha said, "The situation you walk in dictates your approach. There are times when you have to consolidate before launching into the bowling. On other occasions, you attack the bowling straightaway."

Saha said he was willing to bat at any position. "I am very flexible about my batting slots. It's about adapting to the needs of the team."

The legendary Adam Gilchrist is Saha's inspiration. "He was such a good wicket-keeper and could change a game just like that with the bat."

Saha has been impressed with Glenn Maxwell's captaincy for Kings XI Punjab. "He's pro-active. He keeps telling me 'be positive.'"

Pandya in full bloom

The Baroda all-rounder has started to bring value to MI

G. VISWANATH
MUMBAI

Hardik Pandya appears to be on top of his game and has started to bring value to Mumbai Indians in this edition.

He showed guts and gumption to produce two remarkable cameos against Rising Pune Supergiant in Pune and against Kolkata Knight Riders at the Wankhede Stadium on Sunday.

Pandya scored a 15-ball 35 against RPS, making Ashoke Dinda quiver in the last over of the MI innings in Pune with four sixes.

The Baroda all-rounder hammered a 11-ball unbroken 29 with three fours and two sixes against KKR.

He was quite severe in the last two overs sent down by seamers Ankit Rajpoot and Trent Boult. He had his slice of luck when Rishi Dhawan dropped him at deep square.

Chasing KKR's 178, MI suffered early setbacks with Jos Buttler and skipper Rohit Sharma succumbing to bad decisions. And Pandya was in the thick of things in the end after Kieron Pollard and



Swinging it: Hardik Pandya, left, guided Mumbai Indians home in a tight finish. • VIVEK BENRE

Rana left the scene.

In the previous two seasons, MI gave a lot of opportunities to Pandya and the results were far from spectacular. In eight innings, he made only 112 with an unbroken 61 against KKR at the Wankhede. In nine innings in 2016, Pandya managed a mere 44 runs.

While MI has given the No. 4 position to Rana, Pandya came to bat at No. 7

against KKR, whose captain Gambhir said at the post-match that Rana and Pandya played an unbelievable innings.

Manish Pandey who made an unbroken 81, said: "Pandya finishes the game for India, that's his role batting at No. 7."

"Playing a lot of tournaments, he has matured as a player and he is also gaining in confidence."

CoA to meet BCB chief

Hassan is part of ICC's SWG

G. VISWANATH
MUMBAI

The Supreme Court-appointed Committee of Administrators (CoA) will meet the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) president Nazmul Hassan in New Delhi on Wednesday.

Hassan has been part of the ICC's Special Working Group (SWG) that has proposed changes to the ICC's Constitution and Financial models which has been accepted in principle by the ICC board in the first week of February.

Both models are likely to be considered clause-by-clause at the ICC's next meeting on April 26 and 27.

The ICC Board's decision will then be placed before

the ICC AGM after the ICC Champions Trophy in June.

The new financial model has worked out an improved payment – up from \$75-80 million to \$110-115 million over a period of eight years to the BCB as well as Cricket Australia, Cricket South Africa, Cricket Zimbabwe, West Indies Cricket Board, Sri Lanka Cricket and New Zealand Cricket.

Sources said that the BCB chief would request the CoA not to cut its share of the ICC revenue at the April meeting.

The CoA has scheduled two more meetings, one among itself and another with the three BCCI office-bearers (not disqualified) on the same day.

Ineligible persons can't be nominated for ICC meeting, says Supreme Court

KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL
NEW DELHI

N. Srinivasan • FILE PHOTO

overnment bodies who are BCCI members, said the disqualifications do not apply to persons who participate in BCCI meets to select nominees for the ICC meeting.

Senior advocate Gopal Subramanium intervened as amicus curiae to ask whether a man found not eligible to contest the BCCI polls should go to the ICC.

"There is a cap of 70 years given by this court. It is difficult to comprehend that a man who is not eligible goes to the ICC meeting to represent the BCCI.

"We do not want violation of our orders," Justice Misra remarked orally.

Hearing on April 17

The court found that the question required debate, and posted the matter for

hearing on April 17.

Meanwhile, the CoA, led by former former Comptroller and Auditor General Vinod Rai, submitted that it had already filed its third report in the court on April 6.

Senior advocate C.U. Singh, appearing for the CoA, asked whether persons like N. Srinivasan and Niranjan Shah, who have been rendered ineligible by virtue of the court judgement, can be nominated by their respective State associations to take part in the ICC meeting as nominees of the BCCI.

Earlier, the court had accepted major recommendations of the Lodha Committee on reforms in the BCCI, including a bar on ministers and civil servants and those above 70 from becoming its members.

BCCI's adjourned SGM to be held on April 18

G. VISWANATH
MUMBAI

BCCI joint secretary Amitabh Choudhary, under instructions from the acting president C.K. Khanna, has convened the adjourned Special General Meeting (SGM) in New Delhi at 5 p.m. on April 18.

This was after the Supreme Court-appointed Committee of Administrators (CoA) has received the attendance register of the SGM that was adjourned.

The CoA had nominated BCCI CEO Rahul Johri to attend the SGM at New Delhi on Sunday (April 9).

But, he did not attend and the CoA was represented by BCCI CFO Santosh Rangnekar.

The SGM was convened

IN BRIEF



Westbrook's day out

DENVER Russell Westbrook capped his record-setting 42nd triple-double with a game-winning three-pointer and the Oklahoma City Thunder beat the Denver Nuggets 106-105 on in the NBA on Sunday. **Other results:** Hawks 126 bt Cavaliers 125 (ot); Raptors 110 bt Knicks 97. AGENCIES

Saina withdraws from Singapore Super Series

SINGAPORE Saina Nehwal on Monday pulled out of the \$350,000 Singapore Super Series to spend more time in training to improve her game ahead of the hectic international circuit. PTI

Sasi Kumar Mukund loses

LUZHOU (CHINA) Sasi Kumar Mukund and Wang Chuhan lost 6-3, 7-6(4) to He Yacong and Zhang Zhichen in first round of the \$15,000 ITF Futures tennis tournament here on Monday. **The results:** First round: He Yacong & Zhang Zhichen (Chn) bt Wang Chuhan (Chn) & Sasi Kumar Mukund 6-3, 7-6(4).

TV PICKS

West Indies vs Pakistan: 3rd ODI, TEN 3 & TEN 1 HD, 7 p.m. **Champions League:** TEN 1, TEN 2, 12.15 a.m. (Wednesday). **NBA:** Sony Six & Sony Six HD, 5.30 a.m. (Wednesday).

Indians shine at Asian youth chess

SPORTS BUREAU TASHKENT India won four gold, five silver and three bronze to finish on top of the medal tally at the Asian youth chess championship, which concluded here on Saturday. **The medalists:** Gold: Alanksha Haganwala (girls u-18), D. Jishitha (girls u-14) and Sahithi Varshini (girls u-10), Eriyaisai Arjun (boys u-14). Silver: C. Sai Vishwesh (boys u-18), L. Jyothsna (girls u-14), Rakshita Ravi (girls u-12), B. Savitha Shri (girls u-10) and A.R. Ilamparathi (boys under-8). **Bronze:** Rohith Krishna (boys u-10), Divya Deshmukh (girls u-12) and Tanmay Jain (boys u-10).

Joshna advances

SPORTS BUREAU EL GOUNA (EGYPT) Joshna Chinappa beat World No. 9 Alison Waters of England 11-5, 7-11, 9-11, 11-8, 11-9 to enter the quarterfinals of the squash World championship here.

Dipika Pallikal bowed out in the first round losing 11-9, 12-10, 11-6 to Nicol David of Malaysia.

India beats Chile in shoot-out

Qualifies for World league semifinal; Savita adjudged goalkeeper of the tournament

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
WEST VANCOUVER

WOMEN'S HOCKEY WORLD LEAGUE

India defeated Chile in the shoot-out in a pulsating contest to win the Women's Hockey World League Round 2 and qualify for the World League semifinal, here.

The match went into the shoot-out after both the teams were locked at 1-1 at the end of regulation time.

In the shoot-out, Indian goalkeeper Savita came up with a stunning display to help her side emerge winner.

Savita, who was adjudged the goalkeeper of the tournament, was outstanding under the bar as she denied scoring chances to Kim Jacob and Josefa Villalabeitia which gave India a head start in the shoot-out.

Though India earned its first penalty corner in the 22nd minute, the effort was saved by Chile goalkeeper Claudia Schuler.

Chile continued to stay in lead until the third quarter when Anupa Barla successfully converted a penalty corner in the 41st minute to

level the scores.

The fourth quarter saw both the teams press hard for goals and Indian striker Rani came close to converting a field goal in the dying minutes but her shot was saved by Claudia.

"It was a very good match and we are happy with the way we played. Chile was a tough side to beat and we really had to keep ourselves motivated to keep pushing for a goal after they took an early lead. It was a challenging tournament for us with difficult weather conditions as it rained for a few days but we are extremely thrilled that we are through to the World League semifinal," said India skipper Rani after winning the final.



We did it! Rani and Namita celebrate after India's win. PTI

NZ selection issue takes serious turn

VIJAY LOKAPALLY
NEW DELHI

The North Zone selection meeting here on Saturday ended on a bitter note with one of the selectors accusing the convenor of high-handedness. But the issue took a serious turn on Monday when the convenor, Siddharth Sahib Singh, brought out the brazen behaviour of the Delhi representative, Ashu Dani, in insisting on the selection of a particular player.

In a complaint to the DDCA administrator Justice Vikramjit Sen, the convenor claimed the "meeting went smooth and all the players were unanimously selected as per the directions and as per the break up of categories given by the BCCI."

Siddharth Sahib pointed out, "The only unfortunate incident of the meeting was when Mr. Ashu Dani (selector representing DDCA) pressurised for one particular player in a bossy way

and was intimidating other selectors to do so. When his unfair demand was not agreed upon by rest of the selectors he walked out of the meeting uttering unnecessary words. He then returned after five minutes and grabbed the register from Mr. Sarvpreet Singh and wrote his dissent."

Elaborating on the incident, Siddharth Sahib maintained, "Mr. Dani's unruly behaviour was duly noted and was signed by other selectors."

Dani was a replacement for Maninder Singh for this meeting along with the rest – Munish Bali (Punjab), Naseer Ahmed Bhatt (J&K), Rajesh Bawa (Haryana) and Yodhinder Puri (Himachal).

Siddharth Sahib will also be bringing the unsavoury incident to the notice of the BCCI since it was a selection to name the players for the Zonal Cricket Academy camp. A total of 25 players were picked for the camp.

DELHI ROUND-UP

Dabas hits 180

Opener Ankit Dabas smashed 180 to help Telefunken CC register a 131-run victory over Indian Air Force and enter the quarterfinals of the 27th All India Om Nath Sood memorial tournament.

The scores: TCC 338 for six in 40 overs (Ankit Dabas 180, Sagar Sehrawat 63; Vikas Hathwala three for 60) bt IAF 207 in 34.3 overs (Rajat Palwal 117). **Big win for Modern**

Karan Sharma and Lakshay Dalal both slammed centuries and Biren Singh picked up four wickets as Modern Academy beat Triloki Nath Memorial Club by 98 runs in the 10th Hargopal under-19 tournament. **The scores:** Modern Academy

289 for five in 40 overs (Karan Sharma 118, Lakshay Dalal 117) bt TNMC 191 for nine in 40 overs (Prateek Raman 65; Biren Singh four for 30).

Zenith XI posts win

Ekanash Gulati scored 56 and Aditya Kaushik made 49 as Zenith XI beat Clever Fox by 19 runs in the 5th Roshanara Premier League.

The scores: Zenith XI 173 for six in 20 overs (Ekanash Gulati 56, Aditya Kaushik 49) bt Clever Fox 154 for one in 20 overs (Shiv Puri 64 not out, Abhishek Jain 50, Arjun Gupta 28 not out); Nav Durga XI 139 for nine in 20 overs (Hriday Sagar 34; Kshitij Garg four for 15, Vinayak Gupta two for 34) lost to Saya Rowdy Rhinos 141 for two in 15 overs (Kshitij Garg 62 not out, Vinayak Gupta 56 not out).

Reinstated in his favourite

No. 3 spot in the batting order, Babar held a faltering Pakistan innings together

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
PROVIDENCE

Babar Azam stroked yet another hundred against the West Indies, and Hasan Ali claimed five wickets as Pakistan won the second ODI by 74 runs at the National Stadium in Guyana on Sunday.

Pakistan made 282 for five and then dismissed the host for 208 off 44.5 overs, despite a battling knock from Jason Holder, who was last out to Ali for a top score of 68.

Babar received critical support from Imad Wasim, the allrounder finishing unbeaten on 43 in an unbroken sixth-wicket stand of 99 which released the shackles of previously disciplined West Indian bowling on a pitch lacking the pace and bounce from the first match – which the home team won by four wickets – two days earlier.

Both teams meet in the decider on Tuesday at the same venue.

and then accelerated towards an unbeaten 125, his fifth century in ODIs and fourth in five innings against the Caribbean side.

Babar received critical support from Imad Wasim, the allrounder finishing unbeaten on 43 in an unbroken sixth-wicket stand of 99 which released the shackles of previously disciplined West Indian bowling on a pitch lacking the pace and bounce from the first match – which the home team won by four wickets – two days earlier.

Both teams meet in the

SCOREBOARD WI VS PAKISTAN, 2ND ODI

Pakistan: Ahmed Shehzad c

Hope b Gabriel 5, Kamran Akmal c Hope b Joseph 21, Babar Azam (not out) 125, Md. Hafeez st. Hope b Nurse 32, Shoaib Malik c Hope b Bishop 9, Sarfraz Ahmed c Walton b Gabriel 26, Imad Wasim (not out) 43, Extras (b-1, lb-9, w-9, nb-2) 21; Total (for five wkts. in 50 overs) 282.

Fall of wickets: 1-16, 2-27, 3-

4-51, 5-56, 6-75, 7-133, 8-

13, 4-128, 5-183.

West Indies bowling: Gabriel

10-1-50-2, Holder 9-0-48-0,

Joseph 9-0-69-1, Bishop 10-0-

40-1, Nurse 10-0-42-1, Carter

2-0-23-0.

West Indies: E. Lewis lbw b

Amir 13, C. Walton c Hasan Ali b

Junaid 10, S. Hope c Shadab b

Hasan 15, K. Powell lbw b

Hasan 11, J. Carter lbw b Hafeez 12, M. Mohammed c Sarfraz b Hafeez 1, J. Holder c Babar b Hasan 68, A. Nurse lbw b Hasan 44, D. Bishop lbw b Shadab 16, A. Joseph c Babar b Hasan 15, S. Gabriel (not out) 0, Extras (lb-1, w-2) 3; Total (in 44.5 overs) 208.

Fall of wickets: 1-22, 2-27, 3-

4-51, 5-56, 6-75, 7-133, 8-

13, 4-128, 5-183.

Pakistan bowling: Md. Amir 7-

1-36-1, Junaid Khan 6-0-41-1,

Hasan Ali 8-5-1-38-5, Md.

Hafeez 6-0-23-2, Imad Wasim

7-0-29-0, Shadab Khan 10-1-40-1.

Man-of-the-Match: Babar

Azam.

Pakistan won by 74 runs

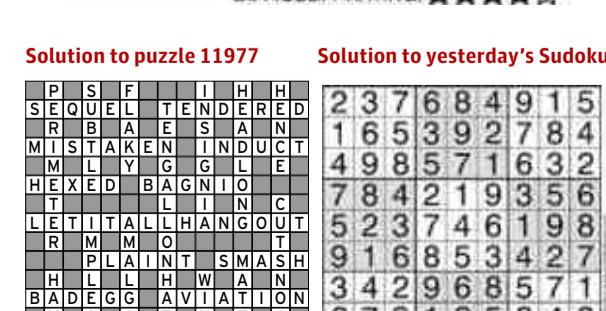
Pakistan draws level

Yet another ton for Babar; Ali bags five

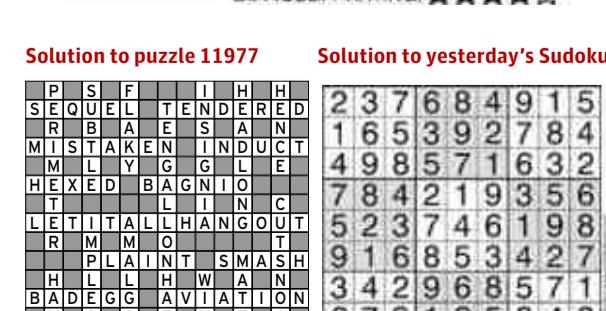
SUDOKU



Solution to puzzle 11977



Solution to yesterday's Sudoku



Wimbledon Foundation's charity initiatives

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

With about 7,000 under-14 players involved, the Road to Wimbledon is the biggest junior tennis event in the UK, and the programme has now strengthened the competition by extending to India, China and now Hong Kong.

Thanks to the initiative, Indian players have not only got to play on the grass courts at Wimbledon, they have also won UK under-14 titles.

Addressing the media during the Masters event here on Monday, the tournament director, Paul Hutchins revealed that Rolex, which has had a long standing association with Wimbledon, would contribute about £90,000 pounds to help about 3,000 juniors from the more deprived communities, in collaboration with Magic Bus.

Hutchins said that it was a delight to see Indians making it to the Wimbledon junior tournament after taking the baby steps and tasting success in the UK under-14 championships.

Vijay Amritraj, Rolex brand ambassador, praised the difference that the Wimbledon Foundation, in association with Magic Bus, was making to the lives of under-privileged children.

Divesh rallies

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Divesh Gahlot dug deep to get past Denim Yadav, winning 4-6, 7-6(4), 6-2 in a pool-D league match of the Road to Wimbledon Masters under-14 tennis championship on the grass courts of the Delhi Gymkhana Club on Monday.

In the girls' section, Gargi Pawar was beaten with surprising ease by Akansha Nitture in pool-A.

The results (league): Boys:

Pool-A: Ajay Malik bt Rudra Kapoor 6-4, 6-2; Nishant Dabas bt Dhruv Tangri 6-3, 6-2.

Pool-B: Krishan Hooda bt Nikhil Niranjan Thirumale 6-3, 6-1; Udit Gogoi bt Pranav Ikkhury 6-1, 6-4.

Pool-C: V.M. Sanjeev bt Aman Dahiya 6-1, 6-3; Sushant Dabas bt Shashidhar Kota 6-1, 6-2.

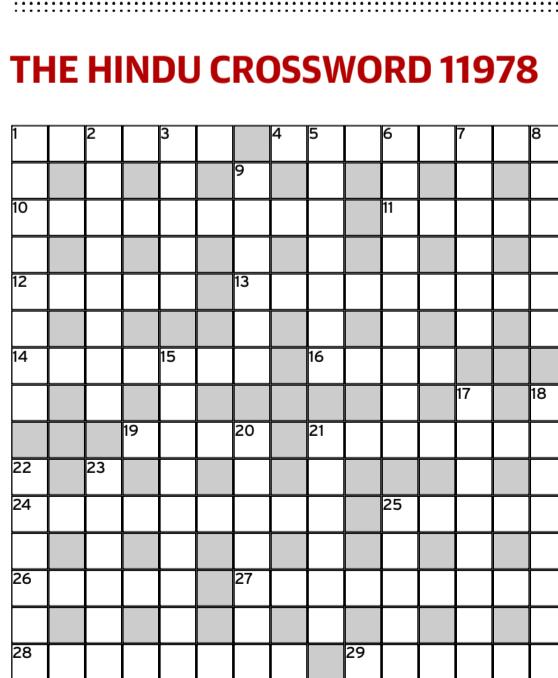
Pool-D: Divesh Gahlot bt Denim Yadav 4-6, 7-6(4), 6-2; Sanjith Devineni bt Kartik Saxena 7-6(8), 6-0.

Girls: **Pool-A:** Sandeepi Singh Raab ot Hrudaya Shah 6-3, 6-0; Akansha Nitture bt Gargi Pawar 6-4, 6-1. **Pool-B:**

Sudipta Senthil Kumar bt Mushrath Anjum Shaik 6-0, 6-1; Aditi Narayan bt Ayushi Singh 7-5, 6-2. **Pool-C:** Sarah Dev bt Avi Shah 6-1, 6-0; Naisha Srivastav bt Divya Bhardwaj 3-6, 6-4, 6-4.

Pool-D: Srujan Rayarala bt Renne Singla 6-3, 7-5; Priyanshi Bhandari bt Yana Dhamija 6-3, 6-4.

THE HINDU CROSSWORD 11978



ACROSS

1 Improvises using present day progressive party members (2-4)

4 A police department near Kashmir town initially compromises by tolerating a highly sour environment (8)

Sergio Garcia gets the Major monkey off his back

Spaniard wears the Green Jacket after beating Justin Rose in a playoff

US MASTERS

AGENCIES

AUGUSTA Spain's Sergio Garcia ended nearly two decades of Major disappointment when he beat England's Justin Rose in a playoff to win the U.S. Masters on Sunday, donning the Green Jacket on what would have been the 60th birthday of his hero and two-time champion, the late Seve Ballesteros.

After 73 Majors, four heartbreaking runner-up finishes and years of self doubt, Garcia finally delivered the long awaited title when his 12-foot birdie putt at the first extra hole dropped into the cup at the par-four 18th, triggering a massive cheer from a gallery that had been on the edge of their seats.

Neck-and-neck

Deadlocked after nine holes, the two friends and rivals produced an enthralling back nine showdown worthy of any Masters champion in what became a head-to-head battle.

Garcia and Rose both carded 69 to finish tied on nine-under-par 279 at the end of regulation and send the year's first major to a playoff when both missed birdie putts and settled for pars at the 72nd hole at the August National.

Garcia becomes the third Spaniard to wear the Green Jacket, joining Jose Maria Olazabal, who also triumphed twice at Augusta, in 1994 and 1999.

"It is amazing. To do it on his (Ballesteros') 60th birthday and to join him and Jose Maria Olazabal, my two idols in golf, it is something amazing," said Garcia before accepting the Green Jacket from last year's winner



My first! Sergio Garcia finally landed a Major after 73 attempts. ■REUTERS

Danny Willett in Butler Cabin.

Jose Maria texted on Thursday saying how much he believed in me and to believe in myself. Everybody has been great. My whole family, my fiance.

Praise from all around

"I felt pretty much in control of my game and the tournament for the most part all day," Rose told reporters. "It is going to sting for sure but I really feel that this is a tournament that I can win."

"Sergio and I have played a lot of golf together since we were 14 years old," said Rose, 36, who has been a teammate with Garcia on four European Ryder Cup teams. "We have a great friendship and a good rivalry. It is good for him to have the monkey off his back and I am very pleased for him."

Top scores: 279: Sergio Garcia (Esp) (71-69-70-69), Justin Rose (Eng) (71-72-67-69). *Garcia won with birdie on first play-off hole.*

282: Charl Schwartzel (RSA)

The Garcia file

- Nicknamed El Nino (the boy)
 - Was only three when he swung his first club under the supervision of Victor Garcia, his father and mentor
 - Made the cut at an European Tour event when he was just 15 and turned pro at 18
 - Hit the headlines at the 1999 PGA Championship at the Medinah Country Club, Trailing Tiger Woods by a single stroke, the Spaniard hit an incredible shot from an awful lie behind a tree on the 16th hole and managed to get the ball to the green.
 - Became the fifth former Masters 'Low Amateur' award winner (given to lowest-scoring amateur to make the cut) to capture the Green Jacket as a professional. The others were Jack Nicklaus, Tiger Woods, Phil Mickelson and Ben Crenshaw.
- Titles:** Ryder Cup: 2002, 2004, 2006, 2012, 2014.
Major: Augusta Masters 2017.
PGA tour titles: 9.
European Tour wins: 12.



(74-72-68-68). 283: Matt Kuchar (USA) (72-73-71-67), Thomas Pieters (Bel) (72-68-75-68). 284: Paul Casey (Eng)

(72-75-69-68). 285: Kevin Chappell (USA) (71-76-70-68), Rory McIlroy (NIR) (72-73-71-69).

KALPANA CHAWLA GOVT. MEDICAL COLLEGE, KARNAL, HARYANA GOVT OF HARYANA

NOTICE INVITING TENDERS (NIT) - On E-TENDER BASIS

Director General, Medical Education & Research, Panchkula, Govt. of Haryana through its consultant HSCC (I) Ltd. invites On-line bids from eligible bidders, in single stage two bid system for Supply, Installation, Testing, Commissioning & Handover-of various Medical Equipments for Hospital & OPD Block at Kalpana Chawla Govt. Medical College, Karnal, Haryana:

S.No.	Tender Ref No.	Available to download from
1	HSCC/KCGMC/Medical Equipment/2015-06/13	11.04.2017

For submission and other details please refer HSCC e-tender portal www.tenderwizard.com/HSCC, www.hsccltd.co.in, www.eprocure.gov.in from the date mentioned above. All Prospective bidders are advised to regularly visit/scan through HSCC E-tender portal www.tenderwizard.com/HSCC, www.eprocure.gov.in, www.hsccltd.co.in as corrigendum/modification/amendments etc, if any, shall only be notified on these portal/website and no separate advertisement/correspondences shall be made for this.

CHIEF GENERAL MANAGER, HSCC (I) Ltd. For & on behalf of DGMR, Panchkula.

ANDHRA PRADESH POWER DEVELOPMENT COMPANY LIMITED

e - PROCUREMENT NOTIFICATION

Tender Notice No : SDSTPS: E-68/CGM/APPDCL/2017-18

APPDCL invites bids for the work of "Transportation of washed coal from the Railway siding of M/s Spectrum Coal & Power Limited washeries at Talcher area (BBMT) to Sri Damodaran Sanjeevaiah Thermal Power Station/APPDCL at SPSP Nellore District, Andhra Pradesh by Rail Cum Sea mode via Paradip and Krishnapatnam Ports". Bid document down loading start from: 10.04.2017, 17.00 Hrs onwards. Last Date for submission of bids online: Up to 17:00 Hrs on 02.05.2017. For further details, please visit website: www.apgenco.gov.in (Joint ventures/tenders).

CHIEF GENERAL MANAGER/APPDCL

PUNE MUNICIPAL CORPORATION

Tender Cell

EXTENSION NOTICE

Advt. No. 3/749 Dated 05-01-2017 Tender No. 3-2016, 4-2016, 5-2016 and 6-2016 Water supply Project Department has been Extended

Date of purchase :- 19/04/2017 upto 2.30 p.m.

Date of submission :- 20/04/2017 upto 2.30 p.m.

Technical Bid Opening :- 20/04/2017 at 3.00 p.m.

Only Online Purchase & Submission for the above tenders is available on PMC's website : www.pmc tenders.abcprocure.com & www.pmcprocurement.org

All other details of Above mentioned tenders remain same as per Sd/-

(Rajesh Shinde)

Deputy Engineer

Tender cell department

जाहिरत क. ३/१५ दि. १०/४/१७

GOVERNMENT OF ANDHRA PRADESH RURAL WATER SUPPLY, SANITATION DEPARTMENT OFFICE OF THE PROJECT MANAGER, DPSU, APRWSSP & SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER, RWS, VISAKHAPATNAM

Tender Notice

Bid Notice No.: 01/2016-17/NCP/W-2/MVS-K-D Peta Dyke/ DPSU/ APRWSSP/VSPM Date: 24.03.2017

Name of Work : Construction of Subsurface Dyke with Protection works near Infiltration Well at Thandava River for MVS to K.D.Peta and other Habitats in Gollugonda Mandal, Visakhapatnam District (Andhra Pradesh) Est.Cost Rs.100.00 Lakhs Bid Notice No.: 02/2016-17-NCP/DPSU/APRWSSP-VSPM / Date: 23.03.2017 Name Works: 1. Providing SCADA for MVS Scheme to Padmanabham and other Habitats of Padmanabham Mandal Visakhapatnam District (Andhra Pradesh) Est.Cost Rs.60.00 Lakhs. 2. Providing SCADA for MVS Scheme to K.D.Peta and other Habitats of Gollugonda Mandal Visakhapatnam District (Andhra Pradesh) Est.Cost Rs.70.00 Lakhs.

Sale of Bidding Documents : 03.04.2017 to 02.05.2017 up to 5.00PM.

Submission of Bidding Documents : On or before 03.05.2017 up to 3.00 PM.

Date of Opening : 03.05.2017 at 3.30 PM. Name of the Officer for offering Tender : Sri N. Meher Prasad, Project Manager, DPSU, APRWSSP & Superintending Engineer, RWS&S, Visakhapatnam Contact Ph. No.: 0891 2550470. Details are available in the Notice board of this office. For any other information and Tender conditions, please contact this office during office hours.

Sd/- Project Manager (FAC)

DPSU/APRWSSP & Superintending Engineer RWS&S, Visakhapatnam

DIPR 14PP/CL Dt: 10.04.2017



THE SINGARENI COLLIERIES COMPANY LIMITED

(A Government Company)

Registered Office: Kotagudem Collieries - 507 101

E-Procurement Notice

The following list of Tenders have been floated through GEP NIC Portal for procurement. For details, please visit <http://singareni-tenders.gov.in>

NIT/Enquiry No. - Description/Subject - Last date for Submission of bid(s)

E041700001 - Castrol make lubricants to use in Dragline #10 M Shovels - 26/04/2017

E051600491 - Procurement of Aluminium Ingots and Aluminium Shots for foundry industry, Central workshop, KGM - 25/04/2017

E041700002 - MS Pipe HF/W 5.4MM THICK 140MM OD - 25/04/2017

E051600490 - Procurement Ferro Molybdenum for use at CWS, KGM - 25/04/2017

E131600496 - Procurement of Soya Lecithin (Industrial Fluid grade) for use in SMS Support plants at RGM and MNG Areas for a period of 12 months - 26/04/2017

E131600495 - Procurement of Ammonium Thiocyanate for use in SMS Support plants at RGM and MNG Areas for a period of 12 months - 25/04/2017

E131600494 - Procurement of Sorbitan Mono Oleate for use in SMS Support plants at RGM and MNG Areas for a period of 12 months - 22/04/2017

E031600452 - Supply of Spares For GPS 165 CDS Model Mud Pumps On RC Basis for 2 Years - 24/04/2017

E031600481 - Procurement of Spares For ME-1000 CDS Model Drills On RC Basis for 2 Years - 17/04/2017

E031600451 - Supply of DC Drill Skid Mounted - 24/04/2017

E031600458 - AMC for PENPOL BLOOD BANK REFRIGERATORS available at SCCL Colliery for a period of 2 Years and RC for Spares for a period of 2 Years - 24/04/2017

E031600453 - Procurement of DUPLEX DBL ACTING REC. MUD PUMPS - 02/05/2017

E031600471 - AMC for FULLY AUTOMATED HAEMATOLOGY ANALYSERS Hemo 2062 PLUS for a period of 2 Years and RC for Spares for a period of 2 Years - 24/04/2017

PR/10/2017-18/CRP/PD/RW/1 Closing time for above all Tenders: 17.00 hrs For GM (MP)

HINDUSTAN PETROLEUM CORPORATION LIMITED

(A Government of India Enterprise)

HP Green R&D Centre, KIADB Industrial Area, Tarabanahalli,

Devangundi, Hoskote, Bengaluru - 560067.

Phone: 080-2807-8570 / 8572 Fax: 080-2807 5810

Please visit our Websites: <http://www.hindustanpetroleum.com> or <https://etender.hpcltd.co.in> or Govt. Website: <http://eprocure.gov.in/cpp> for the detailed PQ Document with contact details. Interested Bidders to submit the Bid as per PQ document in the Tender Box kept at HP Green R&D Centre on or before the Due Date & Time given above. All amendments, time extension, clarifications etc. (if any), will be uploaded in the Websites only and will not be published in newspapers. Bidders should regularly visit the above Websites to keep themselves updated.

Chief Manager-Purchase

Corporate R&D, Bengaluru

Please visit our Websites: <http://www.hindustanpetroleum.com> or <https://etender.hpcltd.co.in> or Govt. Website: <http://eprocure.gov.in/cpp> for the detailed PQ Document with contact details. Interested Bidders to submit the Bid as per PQ document in the Tender Box kept at HP Green R&D Centre on or before the Due Date & Time given above. All amendments, time extension, clarifications etc. (if any), will be uploaded in the Websites only and will not be published in newspapers. Bidders should regularly visit the above Websites to keep themselves updated.

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Corporate R&D, Bengaluru

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Chief Manager-Purchase

Corporate R&D, Bengaluru



Rare diamond earrings may fetch up to \$68 mn

Sotheby's said on Monday it would auction a pair of "phenomenally rare" blue and pink diamond earrings next month that together may fetch up to \$68 million. "The Apollo and Artemis Diamonds will be the stars of our May sale in Geneva," said a statement from Sotheby's international jewellery division. AFP



British Vogue gets new chief editor after 25 yrs

LONDON British Vogue's search for a new leader has come to an end with Ghana-born Edward Enninful being named the magazine's chief editor. He was the creative and fashion director at W magazine, and will replace Alexandra Shulman, who is stepping down on August 1 after more than 25 years. AP



Amazon Prime to stream Paramount films in India

NEW DELHI Amazon Prime has inked a deal with Paramount Pictures to offer Indian subscribers a selection of popular films by the U.S.-based studios. It will also have streaming rights to recent releases such as *Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles: Out of the Shadows*, *Star Trek Beyond* and *10 Cloverfield Lane*. PTI

British DJ to hold a gig on Everest

The show will have a seated audience as people may run out of breath quickly



The hills are alive: A practice session of DJ Paul Oakenfold under way at Pheriche village, near Everest's base camp. • AFP

he had no trekking experience before he set out on the 10-day walk to Everest with a

team of yaks and porters hauling the audio equipment for the event. Mr. Oakenfold

The 53-year-old artist said

trained for four months before arriving in Nepal in between a hectic schedule of late night gigs, he said. "I'm not going to pretend it was easy getting here... but it has been a wonderful trek. I'm looking at the view, it is very inspiring," he said.

"The audience will probably be sitting mostly. The air is so thin here, you will run out of breath quite quickly," said Ranzen Jha, a Nepali DJ accompanying Mr. Oakenfold. The gig is the first in the record producer's SoundTrek series, aimed at drawing attention to the effects of global warming and to raise funds to help survivors of Nepal's devastating 2015 earthquake.

Beijing 'hutongs': village life in the city

Rents have shot up in the Chinese capital but packed dwellings in an ancient locality remain affordable



Making do: Vendors play badminton inside a supermarket as they wait for customers in a space-starved hutong in Beijing. • AFP

Most mornings, he rises from a twin bed that he shares with his wife and walks a few feet to pull aside drapes covering the windows on the doors facing the street.

Then, the 58-year-old settles onto the concrete stoop fronting his shop and gets to work repairing electronic appliances for his neighbours.

Rent has increased five-fold in the past decade, but Mr. Gu still seeks only a modest payment for each repair.

"It is still affordable here compared to the modern apartments... I don't have to pay additional rent for a separate shop," he said.

Mr. Gu's home is located on the outer edge of a courtyard dwelling with curved tiled rooftops, hundreds of which form networks of "hutong" alleyways in the

heart of China's capital city. The narrow streets come alive each morning with residents selling breakfast snacks from small stalls – crisp-fried egg crepes, steamed dumplings and warming bowls of millet porridge.

Fruit vendors, butchers and convenience shop owners start their days by setting

stools out on the street so they can easily converse with passersby.

They greet each other and gush over children as if they are all family members.

Hundreds of years ago, stately red doors lining the alleys led to spacious courtyards decorated with carved roof beams and painted pillars. Even commoners

homes featured open spaces in the middle.

Tumultous time

But since the mid-20th century, especially during the tumultuous Cultural Revolution, many "hutong" homes were taken from their original owners and eventually bulldozed.

Nowadays, with space

scarce in the city of 21.5 million, most "hutong" courtyards are filled with makeshift wood-panel shacks or higher-quality concrete rooms – allowing each courtyard to accommodate multiple households.

The people who live in each nook may not be kin, but they are very close.

"There is no privacy here, everyone sees your comings and goings and overhears your conversations," said Luo Pu, a young man living in an alley near the Drum Tower, a historic landmark that was used to keep time during the Qing Dynasty.

Although many of the refined old homes are now rundown, gentrification has begun to transform some of the neighbourhoods into havens for hipsters – with numerous craft breweries and art galleries cropping up.

The changes have made residents optimistic about their neighbourhood's future: many surviving hutongs have recently been chosen for historic preservation work.

Keepers at the Weltvogelpark bird park in Walsrode found two-year-old Sockchen (Little Socks) in her aviary with a broken left leg. Her lower leg had to be amputated.

Zookeepers turned to Lars Thalmann of e-Nable, which makes free prosthetic hands for children. The DPA news agency says it was the first time the organisation had made a prosthesis for an animal.

Park spokeswoman Janina Buse says Mr. Thalmann built a second leg without talons – "it looks much simpler, but the bird is managing brilliantly with it."

ASSOCIATED PRESS

BERLIN

A secretary bird is now strutting around her home in northern Germany with an artificial leg produced using a 3D printer.

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BERLIN

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Zookeepers turned to Lars Thalmann of e-Nable, which makes free prosthetic hands for children. The DPA news agency says it was the first time the organisation had made a prosthesis for an animal.

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