

CLASSIFIEDS MART

TO ADVERTISE:
www.thehinduads.com
011-43579738 • 43579797

EDUCATIONAL

GS SCORE

An Institute for Civil Services

IAS 2019

OPTIONAL FOUNDATION 2019

Political Science Foundation

Batch Starts

By: Dr. Piyush Chaubey

31 Oct. 2018

4 months comprehensive classroom program which covers:

- Complete UPSC Syllabus of PSIR
- Coverage of new theories and commentaries "Specially in Paper-1 Section-A, Paper-2 Section-A"
- Test Series including 11 Tests (7 Sectional & 4 Mock)
- Crisp and relevant material with focus on current trend.

Public Administration Foundation

Batch Starts

By: Ashutosh Pandey

31 Oct. 2018

- 4 months comprehensive classroom program which covers:
- Complete UPSC Syllabus of Public Administration
- Coverage of Paper 2 through 2nd ARC based issues and current perspectives, including various journals.
- Test Series including 9 tests (7 Sectional and 2 Mock)
- Comprehensive study material along with IIPA notes, 2nd ARC Gist and relevant articles that are in contemporary debates.

Off. No. 6, 1st Floor, Apsara Arcade, Karol Bagh, New Delhi-110005 (Karol Bagh Metro Gate No. 5)

9953595114, 9873870114 www.iasscore.in

ECONOMICS OPTIONAL

Ravindra N. Jha

RESULT - 2017

	677	307	169	297	112	294	204	285	337	261
KUMAR ANURAG			INDRA BADAN JHA		PALASH BANSAL		CHARU SHARMA		SANJALA SHARMA	
	293	275		263		262		262		257
RAVINKANT BHATT			NITIN AGARWAL		AYUSH DUBEY		ADITI GUPTA		SHRIMPAN SHARAN	
	293	275		263		262		262		257

Mains - 2019

Regular Batch & Test Series

Admission Open

OFFLINE & ONLINE CLASSES

BLISS POINT STUDIES®

Old Rajendra Nagar :- 57/17, 1st Floor Near HDFC Bank, DELHI.
North Delhi :- 2453, 1st Floor, Hudson Lane, Near GTB Metro.
9811343411 | 9811343938 | 9811343464

GUIDANCE IAS

More than a coaching...

Geography (Opt.) Classroom Programme

22 Oct. @ 8 a.m.

3-DAY OPEN WORKSHOP

for GEOGRAPHY (Opt.) Students!!!

By Himanshu Sir (Innovator of 500+)

Theme: Applied Climatology | Climate Change | IPCC(AR5) Report

Day 2: 18 Oct. } (@ 8 a.m.)

Day 3: 19 Oct. } Building Insight on above Topics!

Day 4: 20 Oct. (10 a.m.) Open Test on "Climatology"

'Come & Experience a NEW Way of Learning'

VENUE: 11/5-B, Basement, Param Tower, Pusa Road, Near Rajendra Place Metro Station (Pillar No. 132)

Registration MUST. Call us to Register: 011-45586299

9718793363

9540226688

Civil Services 2019 MAINS TEST SERIES

including

30 Tests : GS and ESSAY

₹ 14500 @ jlgyASa IAS

Call/WhatsApp: 9650294824

PUBLIC NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the share certificate for 424 Equity Shares bearing No. 5011529 and distinctive nos. 7420473-4240896 of Mahinda & Mahindra Ltd standing in the name(s) of Neena Sehgal have been lost or mislaid and the undersigned have applied to the said shares. Any person who has a claim in respect of the said shares should lodge such claim with the company at its Registered Office Gateway Building, Apollo Bunder, Mumbai 400001 within 15 days from this date also the company will proceed to issue duplicate Certificate(s).

Date: 18/10/2018, Neena Sehgal

SHAHEED UDHAM SINGH SAMARAK SHIKSHA SAMITI (Regd.) A-Block Shastri Nagar Delhi-52 Election Notification Known to all members of above society that its elections are to be held on 11/11/2018. Detailed information can be obtained on or before the 23/10/2018 on any working day.

Er. Satya Vir Sharma Asst. Engineer (Retd.) Returning officer SUSS Shiksha Samiti (Regd.) A-Block Shastri Nagar Delhi-52

Notice is hereby given that the share certificate for 424 Equity Shares bearing No. 5011529 and distinctive nos. 7420473-4240896 of Mahinda & Mahindra Ltd standing in the name(s) of Neena Sehgal have been lost or mislaid and the undersigned have applied to the said shares. Any person who has a claim in respect of the said shares should lodge such claim with the company at its Registered Office Gateway Building, Apollo Bunder, Mumbai 400001 within 15 days from this date also the company will proceed to issue duplicate Certificate(s).

Date: 18/10/2018, Neena Sehgal

Notice is hereby given that the share certificate for 424 Equity Shares bearing No. 5011529 and distinctive nos. 7420473-4240896 of Mahinda & Mahindra Ltd standing in the name(s) of Neena Sehgal have been lost or mislaid and the undersigned have applied to the said shares. Any person who has a claim in respect of the said shares should lodge such claim with the company at its Registered Office Gateway Building, Apollo Bunder, Mumbai 400001 within 15 days from this date also the company will proceed to issue duplicate Certificate(s).

Date: 18/10/2018, Neena Sehgal

Notice is hereby given that the share certificate for 424 Equity Shares bearing No. 5011529 and distinctive nos. 7420473-4240896 of Mahinda & Mahindra Ltd standing in the name(s) of Neena Sehgal have been lost or mislaid and the undersigned have applied to the said shares. Any person who has a claim in respect of the said shares should lodge such claim with the company at its Registered Office Gateway Building, Apollo Bunder, Mumbai 400001 within 15 days from this date also the company will proceed to issue duplicate Certificate(s).

Date: 18/10/2018, Neena Sehgal

Notice is hereby given that the share certificate for 424 Equity Shares bearing No. 5011529 and distinctive nos. 7420473-4240896 of Mahinda & Mahindra Ltd standing in the name(s) of Neena Sehgal have been lost or mislaid and the undersigned have applied to the said shares. Any person who has a claim in respect of the said shares should lodge such claim with the company at its Registered Office Gateway Building, Apollo Bunder, Mumbai 400001 within 15 days from this date also the company will proceed to issue duplicate Certificate(s).

Date: 18/10/2018, Neena Sehgal

Notice is hereby given that the share certificate for 424 Equity Shares bearing No. 5011529 and distinctive nos. 7420473-4240896 of Mahinda & Mahindra Ltd standing in the name(s) of Neena Sehgal have been lost or mislaid and the undersigned have applied to the said shares. Any person who has a claim in respect of the said shares should lodge such claim with the company at its Registered Office Gateway Building, Apollo Bunder, Mumbai 400001 within 15 days from this date also the company will proceed to issue duplicate Certificate(s).

Date: 18/10/2018, Neena Sehgal

Notice is hereby given that the share certificate for 424 Equity Shares bearing No. 5011529 and distinctive nos. 7420473-4240896 of Mahinda & Mahindra Ltd standing in the name(s) of Neena Sehgal have been lost or mislaid and the undersigned have applied to the said shares. Any person who has a claim in respect of the said shares should lodge such claim with the company at its Registered Office Gateway Building, Apollo Bunder, Mumbai 400001 within 15 days from this date also the company will proceed to issue duplicate Certificate(s).

Date: 18/10/2018, Neena Sehgal

Notice is hereby given that the share certificate for 424 Equity Shares bearing No. 5011529 and distinctive nos. 7420473-4240896 of Mahinda & Mahindra Ltd standing in the name(s) of Neena Sehgal have been lost or mislaid and the undersigned have applied to the said shares. Any person who has a claim in respect of the said shares should lodge such claim with the company at its Registered Office Gateway Building, Apollo Bunder, Mumbai 400001 within 15 days from this date also the company will proceed to issue duplicate Certificate(s).

Date: 18/10/2018, Neena Sehgal

Notice is hereby given that the share certificate for 424 Equity Shares bearing No. 5011529 and distinctive nos. 7420473-4240896 of Mahinda & Mahindra Ltd standing in the name(s) of Neena Sehgal have been lost or mislaid and the undersigned have applied to the said shares. Any person who has a claim in respect of the said shares should lodge such claim with the company at its Registered Office Gateway Building, Apollo Bunder, Mumbai 400001 within 15 days from this date also the company will proceed to issue duplicate Certificate(s).

Date: 18/10/2018, Neena Sehgal

Notice is hereby given that the share certificate for 424 Equity Shares bearing No. 5011529 and distinctive nos. 7420473-4240896 of Mahinda & Mahindra Ltd standing in the name(s) of Neena Sehgal have been lost or mislaid and the undersigned have applied to the said shares. Any person who has a claim in respect of the said shares should lodge such claim with the company at its Registered Office Gateway Building, Apollo Bunder, Mumbai 400001 within 15 days from this date also the company will proceed to issue duplicate Certificate(s).

Date: 18/10/2018, Neena Sehgal

Notice is hereby given that the share certificate for 424 Equity Shares bearing No. 5011529 and distinctive nos. 7420473-4240896 of Mahinda & Mahindra Ltd standing in the name(s) of Neena Sehgal have been lost or mislaid and the undersigned have applied to the said shares. Any person who has a claim in respect of the said shares should lodge such claim with the company at its Registered Office Gateway Building, Apollo Bunder, Mumbai 400001 within 15 days from this date also the company will proceed to issue duplicate Certificate(s).

Date: 18/10/2018, Neena Sehgal

Notice is hereby given that the share certificate for 424 Equity Shares bearing No. 5011529 and distinctive nos. 7420473-4240896 of Mahinda & Mahindra Ltd standing in the name(s) of Neena Sehgal have been lost or mislaid and the undersigned have applied to the said shares. Any person who has a claim in respect of the said shares should lodge such claim with the company at its Registered Office Gateway Building, Apollo Bunder, Mumbai 400001 within 15 days from this date also the company will proceed to issue duplicate Certificate(s).

Date: 18/10/2018, Neena Sehgal

Notice is hereby given that the share certificate for 424 Equity Shares bearing No. 5011529 and distinctive nos. 7420473-4240896 of Mahinda & Mahindra Ltd standing in the name(s) of Neena Sehgal have been lost or mislaid and the undersigned have applied to the said shares. Any person who has a claim in respect of the said shares should lodge such claim with the company at its Registered Office Gateway Building, Apollo Bunder, Mumbai 400001 within 15 days from this date also the company will proceed to issue duplicate Certificate(s).

Date: 18/10/2018, Neena Sehgal

Notice is hereby given that the share certificate for 424 Equity Shares bearing No. 5011529 and distinctive nos. 7420473-4240896 of Mahinda & Mahindra Ltd standing in the name(s) of Neena Sehgal have been lost or mislaid and the undersigned have applied to the said shares. Any person who has a claim in respect of the said shares should lodge such claim with the company at its Registered Office Gateway Building, Apollo Bunder, Mumbai 400001 within 15 days from this date also the company will proceed to issue duplicate Certificate(s).

Date: 18/10/2018, Neena Sehgal

Notice is hereby given that the share certificate for 424 Equity Shares bearing No. 5011529 and distinctive nos. 7420473-4240896 of Mahinda & Mahindra Ltd standing in the name(s) of Neena Sehgal have been lost or mislaid and the undersigned have applied to the said shares. Any person who has a claim in respect of the said shares should lodge such claim with the company at its Registered Office Gateway Building, Apollo Bunder, Mumbai 400001 within 15 days from this date also the company will proceed to issue duplicate Certificate(s).

Date: 18/10/2018, Neena Sehgal

Notice is hereby given that the share certificate for 424 Equity Shares bearing No. 5011529 and distinctive nos. 7420473-4240896 of Mahinda & Mahindra Ltd standing in the name(s) of Neena Sehgal have been lost or mislaid and the undersigned have applied to the said shares. Any person who has a claim in respect of the said shares should lodge such claim with the company at its Registered Office Gateway Building, Apollo Bunder, Mumbai 400001 within 15 days from this date also the company will proceed to issue duplicate Certificate(s).

Date: 18/10/2018, Neena Sehgal

Notice is hereby given that the share certificate for 424 Equity Shares bearing No. 5011529 and distinctive nos. 7420473-4240896 of Mahinda & Mahindra Ltd standing in the name(s) of Neena Sehgal have been lost or mislaid and the undersigned have applied to the said shares. Any person who has a claim in respect of the said shares should lodge such claim with the company at its Registered Office Gateway Building, Apollo Bunder, Mumbai 400001 within 15 days from this date also the company will proceed to issue duplicate Certificate(s).

Date: 18/10/2018, Neena Sehgal

Notice is hereby given that the share certificate for 424 Equity Shares bearing No. 5011529 and distinctive nos. 7420473-4240896 of Mahinda & Mahindra Ltd standing in the name(s) of Neena Sehgal have been lost or mislaid and the undersigned have applied to the said shares. Any person who has a claim in respect of the said shares should lodge such claim with the company at its Registered Office Gateway Building, Apollo Bunder, Mumbai 400001 within 15 days from this date also the company will proceed to issue duplicate Certificate(s).

Date: 18/10/2018, Neena Sehgal

Notice is hereby given that the share certificate for 424 Equity Shares bearing No. 5011529 and distinctive nos. 7420473-4240896 of Mahinda & Mahindra Ltd standing in the name(s) of Neena Sehgal have been lost or mislaid and the undersigned have applied to the said shares. Any person who has a claim in respect of the said shares should lodge such claim with the company at its Registered Office Gateway Building, Apollo Bunder, Mumbai 400001 within 15 days from this date also the company will proceed to issue duplicate Certificate(s).

Date: 18/10/2018, Neena Sehgal

Notice is hereby given that the share certificate for 424 Equity Shares bearing No. 5011529 and

Naveen raises ex gratia to ₹10 lakh for Titli victims' kin

Chief Minister promises relocation of hamlets to safer places in the foothills

SIB KUMAR DAS
CHAMPAPUR (ODISHA)

As death toll due to the Titli cyclone and subsequent floods in Odisha increased to 52, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik on Wednesday raised the ex gratia amount from ₹4 lakh to ₹10 lakh each for the next of the kin of the deceased.

Mr. Patnaik declared this when he came to visit this non-descript village in the worst hit Gajapati district. He interacted with the victims of the storm and landslide of Gangabada panchayat at Champapur and promised rehabilitation and relocation of the ravaged hamlets.

Orphaned children

He also announced that a vulnerability mapping of all the villages in the hilly regions will be done and if needed, they will be relocated to safer places with all amenities.

In Champapur, the Chief Minister met the two moth-



A damaged house in the Gangabada panchayat in Gajapati district in Odisha. ■ LINGARAJ PANDA

erless children, Simanchal Bhuyan and Kartik Bhuyan, who lost their father in the landslide at nearby Baraghara on October 11, when cyclone Titli had its landfall near Palasa in Andhra Pradesh. Mr. Patnaik declared that the State government will take care of all such children who have been orphaned by the cyclone.

The former sarpanch of the Gangabada panchayat, Sabitri Bhuyan, narrated the

problems being faced by the native tribals in the aftermath of the Titli cyclone.

Mr. Patnaik then declared that all the hamlets on the Mahendragiri hills will be relocated to safer plain areas at the foothills. He also handed over land pattas to ten families of landslide-hit Baraghara. This tribal hamlet with 76 families will be relocated to Dengasahi mouza.

Several other villages of the Gangabada panchayat

would also be relocated, Mr. Patnaik added.

Most villagers of the cyclone and landslide-hit villages of the panchayat expressed their willingness to be shifted to safe areas as landslide has also destroyed their agricultural fields.

Mr. Patnaik then flew down to Bhanjanagar area of the Ganjam district and met the cyclone and flood victims of the area.

Meanwhile, announcing the official death toll in Bhubaneswar, Chief Secretary Aditya Prasad Padhi said that maximum number of 39 deaths was confirmed in Gajapati district, 12 deaths were reported from Ganjam district and one from the adjoining Kandhamal district.

Reports of 10 more deaths were being verified, he added. Mr. Padhi said according to initial estimates, damages in the State were to approximately ₹2,200 crore. Final report will be prepared in the next two days, he added.

Mizoram government corrupt: Amit Shah

Failed to deliver services to the people'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
AIZAWL

BJP president Amit Shah on Wednesday criticised the Congress government in Mizoram as "corrupt" and said it failed to deliver services to the people of the State.

At a campaign rally at R. Dengthuama Indoor stadium in Aizawl, Mr. Shah accused Chief Minister Lal Thanhawla of running "a corrupt and dynastic rule" in the State. He claimed Mr. Thanhawla was trying to install his younger brother as the next Chief Minister.

Lal Thanhawla, the younger brother of the Chief Minister, serves as the Health Minister in the State government.

Mr. Shah said the BJP would not form an alliance with any other political party in Mizoram, including the Opposition Mizo National Front, a constituent of the North East Democratic Alliance (NEDA).

The BJP would contest all the 40 seats of the Mizoram Legislative Assembly to form a corruption-free go-



BJP president Amit Shah with Assam Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal at the Kamakhya Temple in Guwahati on Wednesday. ■ PTI

vernment to bring self-sufficiency in food grains and energy generation, he added.

Lal Thanhawla, also the Congress State unit president, has been the Chief Minister since 2008.

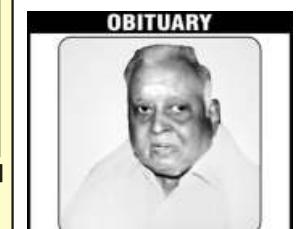
Mr. Shah held Mr. Thanhawla responsible for the poor condition of roads and highways as he holds the portfolio of the State Public Works Department.

Citing several Central projects and funds allocated for Mizoram, he alleged that the Congress government failed to take up any development projects.

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

DEATH

SHRI V.L.RAMASWAMY (83) Retd Ordinance Factory Passed away on 15 Oct 2018 Deeply mourned by family Ph: 99625 37173



SRI. R. CHANDRASEKARAN (Age 80)
Ex V.P. of W.S. Industries India Ltd,
Breathed his last on 16th October 2018,
Leaving Behind: His Daughter,
Son in Law, Sisters, Brother,
Brothers in Law, Sister in law
and host of grieving
Friends and Relatives.
Ph: 044 22452133, M: 9176242150

MR. B.THIGARAJAN (63), Retired Senior Engineer (Printing), The Hindu, Maraimalai Nagar passed away on 17-10-2018. Address: No. 5, Agatheeswar Koil Street, Kolappakkam, Chennai 600 112. Mobile : 9841481461

For enquiries on
announcements in this
section, please contact our
office at the following number
between 10a.m. and 8p.m.

New Delhi : 011- 43579797

Rate for New Delhi:
(Minimum Rs. 290/- 2 Lines
Extra Line - Rs. 145/-)
(B/W Display): Rs.50/Per Sq.cm
(Clr Display): Rs.60/Per Sq.cm

Log on to
www.thehinduads.com

For Placing Advertisements
Online

Youth gunned down near pandal

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
CHINNSURAH (W.B.)

Tension prevailed in Chinsurah after a youth was shot dead allegedly by unidentified gunmen in the Hooghly district, police said on Wednesday.

Thousands also thronged puja pandals during mid-day as 'Sandhi Puja' rituals were performed before the idol.

State Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, who had inaugurated a large number of Durga Pujas in the run up to the festival, wished people on her official Twitter handle on the occasion of Maha Ashtami.

In memory of your loved ones

To dedicate a space in this section, Please contact:

011-43579797

from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. &

For Placing Advertisements Online log on to

www.thehinduads.com

DONATE EYES-GIFT SIGHT

Pranab Mukherjee dons priest's robe at Maha Ashtami Puja



Former President Pranab Mukherjee performing the Puja of Goddess Durga at his ancestral home in Mirati in West Bengal. ■ PTI

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
KOLKATA

Former President Pranab Mukherjee on Wednesday took up the priest's role to offer Maha Ashtami Puja at his ancestral house in Mirati in Birbhum district.

Clad in a dhoti, Mr. Mukherjee chanted hymns before the idol on the second day of the four-day Durga Puja as the devotees repeated the shlokas and offered 'pushpanjali' (floral offerings) to the Goddess.

His son and Congress leader Abhijit Mukherjee was among those present.

"Durga Puja symbolises

peace and amity, Goddess Durga stands for power which slays evil. On this day, let's all take pledge for a peaceful world where everyone can live in harmony, a world freed of violence," Mr. Mukherjee said.

Extends greetings
"I extend my best wishes to all on the occasion of Durga Puja," he added.

Mr. Mukherjee had arrived at the house on Monday from Kolkata in a car.

He had been donning the priest's role at the household puja for years, including the time when he was

the President of India and a Union Minister earlier.

Lakhs of devotees offered 'anjali' (prayer) to the deity at the community and household pujas across West Bengal on Wednesday.

Thousands also thronged puja pandals during mid-day as 'Sandhi Puja' rituals were performed before the idol.

State Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, who had inaugurated a large number of Durga Pujas in the run up to the festival, wished people on her official Twitter handle on the occasion of Maha Ashtami.

SWEATER & JACKETS SALE
FESTIVE OFFER

Hi-Fashion winter Collection 2018
Best Brands Sweaters, Jackets & sweat shirts
upto 60% off
By Economy Sales: 23539218

ARROW Raymond PARK AVENUE LOUIS PHILIPPE

• PUNCHKUIAN ROAD, Garwal Bhawan, (Near Jhandewalan, Gole Chkr.)
• WAZIRPUR A-5, Near Richi Rich Banquet (Opp. Shalimar Bagh)
• JANAKPURI B-1/2, Main Najafgarh Road, Opp. Metro Pillar 543
• NOIDA, Nirula's Sec-2, Near Metro Station, Sec-15, Noida, UP
• LAJPAT NAGAR, 49, Main Ring Road, Adj. Haldi Ram, Near Moolchand Crossing

Public Notice

Let us join hands for A CLEAN CITY

ATTENTION:

Solid Waste Management Rules 2016 & Delhi SWM Bye-Laws 2017 have to be enforced. Please follow otherwise pay penalty.

- All individuals, bulk generators such as CGHS, RWA, MTA, market welfare associations, communities, institutions, hotels and restaurants must segregate, treat and then dispose waste.
- Store the segregated waste generated by keeping wet, dry & hazardous waste in separate bins.
- Handover segregated waste unmixed to authorized waste pickers.

PENALTY:

Failure to deal with waste in accordance with the Rule 4(6)(a) of SWM Rules	RWA Rs. 10,000/- MTA Rs. 20,000/-
Failure to segregate Rule 4(7)(c) of SWM Rules	Gated Community Rs. 10,000/- Institution Rs. 20,000/-
Failure to segregate Rule 4(8) of SWM Rules	Hotel Rs. 50,000/- Restaurants Rs. 20,000/-
Selling or marketing of disposable products without a system of collecting back the packaging waste generated due to their production Rule 17(2) of SWM Rules	Rs. 1,00,000/-

Let us share our responsibilities to reuse, reduce, recycle and manage solid waste for neat and clean environment.

Please Note:- Solid Waste Management Rules 2016 and Delhi SWM Bye-Laws 2017 are available at www.mcdonline.gov.in

RO No. 113DP/SDMC/2018-19

ONLY FOR 4 DAYS

GET 100% VALUE BACK.

SHOP FOR MRP ₹3000 & GET 100% VALUE BACK.

FLAT 40% OFF ON EVERYTHING ₹1200 + ₹500 + ₹1000 + ₹3000

FREE APPAREL WORTH ₹ 500 + PAYTM CASHBACK WORTH ₹ 300

GIVE ASSURED ₹200* CASH IN FUTURE PAY WALLET

Scan QR Code GIVE A MISSED CALL ON 8010350000 DOWNLOAD THE APP

ADDITIONAL BENEFITS ON BILL VALUE OF ₹3000/- & ABOVE

paytm CASHBACK

₹50 cashback + ₹250 movie voucher on payment via PAYTM wallet

BRAND FACTORY
BEST BRANDS • SMART PRICES

200+ BEST BRANDS • 20% - 70% OFF • 365 DAYS DISCOUNT

OPENING SOON: MALAD (W), UMANG TOWERS, BEHIND INORBIT MALL

10 STORES IN MUMBAI: ANDHERI, TIMES SQUARE • KALYAN, SARVODAY MALL • KANDIVALI, MAHAVIR NAGAR • MARINE LINES, OPP. METRO CINEMA • MIRA ROAD, PLEASANT PARK • TARDEO, NEAR A.C. MARKET • THANE, R-MALL • VASAI, DATTANI CUBE • VASHI, RAGHULEELA MALL • VIKHROLI, 24x7 PARK

www.brandfactoryonline.com | **Brand Factory** | @brandfactoryind | CUSTOMER CARE NO.: 18002101888

TU ranked 146th among BRICS nations

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
GUWAHATI

Tezpur University on Wednesday said it has been ranked 146th among 400 universities in BRICS countries, which is an improvement over the previous year.

"TU now ranks 146th amongst the BRICS nations," the central university said in an official release.

The rankings are for 2019, it added.

CMYK

THE HINDU NOIDA/DELHI
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 18, 2018

4 WEST

Bickering in Goa BJP over induction of Cong. MLAs

Former CM Parsekar demands State chief Tendulkar's resignation over move

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

PANAJI

Former Goa chief minister Laxmikant Parsekar on Wednesday termed state BJP president Vinay Tendulkar "shameless" and demanded his resignation over the induction of two former Congress MLAs into the party.

Mr. Parsekar accused Mr. Tendulkar of undermining the party cadre by his decision to induct his archrival Dayanand Sopate, along with Subhash Shirodkar, without taking him into confidence.

Mr. Sopate had defeated Mr. Parsekar, then sitting chief minister in the 2017 Assembly elections, from the Mandrem constituency in North Goa. Mr. Sopate and Mr. Shirodkar were formally inducted into the party in New Delhi on Tuesday.



Laxmikant Parsekar

Mr. Parsekar was speaking to reporters ahead of a BJP core committee meeting.

He said, "The president has shamelessly announced that there are two more Congress MLAs in the waiting. It is a matter of shame. I cannot tolerate it. He should resign if he cannot tell the national president that he has taken a wrong decision."

Mr. Parsekar received the support of two former BJP Ministers Dayanand Mandrekar and Rajendra Arlekar. Mr. Mandrekar said, "The decision was not discussed with the members of the core committee, which I am a part of. If it was discussed, I would have asked how can you take in a person [Sopate] who has betrayed the party on the election eve. People are unhappy with yesterday's episode."

Mr. Tendulkar said, "Not a single paisa was spent by the party. They even bought their own tickets [to Delhi]. They booked their own hotel rooms too. There was no exchange of money." He said that the party was in a stronger position now in the constituencies represented by Mr. Sopate and Mr. Shirodkar.

ments which would have an adverse effect on the party.

Mr. Tendulkar said, "Parsekar is an intelligent leader. He is a professor, principal, former chief minister and former State president. He needs to think before he speaks." He said that the inclusion of the two Congress MLAs was in sync with the BJP's vision of a Congress-free India. He also clarified that no money changed hands for the switch over.

Mr. Tendulkar said, "In response to Mr. Parsekar's tirade, Mr. Tendulkar said, "When an elephant walks, dogs bark. But the elephant does not pause to look around. He keeps walking unmindful of it." He also warned Mr. Parsekar to think before making such statements.

Think before you speak'

In response to Mr. Parsekar's tirade, Mr. Tendulkar said, "When an elephant walks, dogs bark. But the elephant does not pause to look around. He keeps walking unmindful of it." He also warned Mr. Parsekar to think before making such statements.

Maharashtra Finance Commission given one year to submit report

Move following rap from Fifteenth Finance Commission

SHARAD VYAS

MUMBAI

The Maharashtra government has directed the State Finance Commission to complete its latest report in one year's time.

The unprecedented directive has come following a rap from the Central government's Fifteenth Finance Commission. It had pulled up the State government for not completing the last report – the fourth – in its given five-year term.

U.P.S. Madan, Maharashtra Additional Chief Secretary (Finance), said, "We have directed the State's Fifth Finance Commission to complete the latest report by

We acknowledge it is the need of the hour to complete the report in a record time

U.P.S. MADAN

Additional Chief Secretary (Finance)

the end of 2019. A lot of the reforms undertaken by our government will only reflect on the ground and in reality when this important report is complete. We have acknowledged it is the need of the hour to complete the report in a record time."

The State government in its memorandum to the Centre said, "The key recommendation of the Fourth State Finance Com-

mission was a flat 40% devolution, which considering the resources of the government, the salary and other grants given to local bodies, was found not acceptable."

Earlier, the Central commission had raised concerns over Maharashtra's reluctance to devolve greater powers as part of its constitutional responsibility to strengthen local governance. Under the chairmanship of N.K. Singh, the Central team had carried out a two-day visit to the State last month. The team raised concerns over issues of inter-regional disparity, slow pace of decentralisation, and debt sustainability.

Goa Police on Wednesday announced a reward of ₹1,000 for citizens who detect ATM card skimming gear in the cash dispensing machines.

Goa police, in an advisory, said, "Any citizen, including police personnel, who is able to detect a cloning device [skimmer] in any ATM machine shall be rewarded with ₹1,000 by the Goa Police. In case, it leads to the arrest of the accused, the person shall be awarded by ₹5,000 and a commendation certificate."

This year, the Goa Police have so far registered 12 cas-

Practice session



Gearing up for action: Young actors taking part in a Ramleela performance rehearse their dialogues on a badminton court that doubled up as their backstage in Nashik on Wednesday. ■ V.S. CHAVAN

10 lakh bogus ration cards in Maharashtra

State to link ration cards with UIDAI

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

MUMBAI

Maharashtra has over 10 lakh bogus ration cards and 29 lakh dormant cards. Transactions worth ₹6.7 crore were carried out using dormant cards in the past one year alone.

The latest figures were released as part of the government's drive to weed out ration cards without any documentation and proof. The State government is making all efforts to link ration cards with the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI), which has received a report card from all States reporting over 3 crore bogus ration cards from

across the country. The cards found to be bogus in Maharashtra have been flagged in the State's e-system and frozen.

'Aadhaar to take over' While delivering a lecture to the State IAS Association this week, UIDAI CEO Ajay Bhushan Pandey, said, "The State governments have identified over 3 crore bogus ration cards across the country. Ultimately, the idea is that the Aadhaar should take over the system of issuing ration cards altogether. Because no matter how many cards you weed out, they keep popping up in larger numbers from nowhere."

₹1,000 award for finding ATM card skimming gear

₹5,000 for info leading to arrest of accused

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

PANAJI

Goa Police on Wednesday announced a reward of ₹1,000 for citizens who detect ATM card skimming gear in the cash dispensing machines.

The advisory said, "The electronic data on the magnetic chip is copied by the skimmers and stored in the memory card attached to it.

They also install a pinhole camera just above the keyboard of the ATM machine to record the PIN numbers of ATM card."

The police advisory claimed that from interrogation of the accused arrested so far, it has come to light that Goa was chosen for the racket as it is a popular tourist destination where debit/credit cards are used a lot.

PM Modi to visit Shirdi on Oct. 19

SHOUMOJIT BANERJEE

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will attend the valedictory function of the Sai Baba Samadhi centenary celebrations in Shirdi on October 19, authorities of the Sai Temple Trust said on Wednesday.

Mr. Modi will hand over the keys of houses to 40,000 beneficiaries of the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY) and attend the e-graev ceremony.

Dr. Suresh Haware, chairman of Sai Temple Trust, said, "The events will be held at the hands of the PM at 11 a.m. on Friday at the State Agriculture Corporation grounds."

EDUCATIONAL

FREE ORIENTATION, DEMO CLASSES & INTERACTION
WITH OUR HIGHLY REPUTED FACULTIES ON
21st October 2018 Sunday, 10:00 am

NEW BATCHES FOR CIVIL SERVICE EXAM IAS 2019-20
General Studies and Optional Subjects
Starting From 25th October 2018
At South Delhi Centre R.K. Puram

WEEKDAYS: (ENGLISH & HINDI MEDIUM)
Morning Batch: 8:30 am to 1:00 pm
Evening Batch: 6:00 pm to 8:30 pm
WEEKEND: (ENGLISH MEDIUM)
Saturday – Sunday 9:00 am to 8:00 pm

LIMITED SEATS

Book your seat with just ₹ 5,000 only.
Seat availability on first come first serve basis

INTEGRITY COMPASSION EXCELLENCE

SAMKALP
A socially committed organisation

IAS GUIDANCE CUM COACHING
Study Centres R.K. Puram, Dheerupur, Panchkuan Road

Samkalp Bhawan, Plot No.15, Sec-IV, R.K.Puram, New Delhi-110022
Nearest Munirka Metro Station Gate No-2 (Magenta Line)
Phone: +91-26196651, 26183070 (M) 9811582118, 9811279643,
8800674234, 9650139107, E-mail: samkalp86.rkpuram@gmail.com
Web: www.samkalp.org, www.samkalpiascoaching.com

BPSC (Pre)
Test Series

G.S., CSAT (UPSC)
Foundation Course

Class room Coaching

URDU
Test Series by Iqbal Khan

History (Optional)
Class room Coaching

Sociology by Sagar Dey

History (Optional)
Class room Coaching

By Liyaqut Ali Ansari

CRESCENT
Academy for Civil Services Exams

59, Ber sarai Old JNU Campus
New Delhi 10016 Mo. 98929376202

9891838808
9654086178

EDUCATIONAL

ESSAY SOCIOLOGY
18th Oct., 2018 Sun. Sharp 6.00 pm
WORK SHOP 23th Oct., TUE. Sharp 11 am

By Dr. RAMASWAMY (Pro Vice Chancellor)

Dr. RAMASWAMY IAS ACADEMY

Flat No.22, Rajendra Park, Old Rajendra Nagar,

Contact No. 9350933144, 9958589406, 9958589106

Online / Offline Admission www.ramaswamyiasacademy.org

Civil Services 2019 PRELIMS TEST SERIES

@ Jigysa IAS

₹ 7400: Online

₹ 8300: Offline

Call/WhatsApp: 9650294824

50 Tests (Online/Offline)

Including GS, casat and Current Affairs

Call/WhatsApp: 9650294824

JigyAsa www.jigyasaisas.com

Address : Jigysa IAS, 57/11, 1st Floor, Old Rajinder Nagar.

Call / WhatsApp : 9650294824 or 011-45508600, www.jigyasaisas.com

Starts 25th Oct.

IN BRIEF



Kerala HC issues notice to AMMA on WCC plea

A division Bench of the Kerala HC on Wednesday issued notice to the government and the Association of Malayalam Movie Artistes on a writ petition filed by the Women in Cinema Collective seeking a directive to AMMA to constitute a complaints committee on sexual harassment.

Kerala to become the first smoke-free State

Kozhikode
Kerala is set to become the first smoke-free State with public sector oil companies eyeing 100% LPG penetration here. The target has almost been achieved in most villages, mofussil towns and cities. With three bottling plants at Kochi, Kozhikode, and Kollam, LPG is being brought to 49.79 lakh customers.

Attacked for wedding Dalit, woman recounts her ordeal

Telangana couple thank Chief Minister for help, but say they fear more attacks

SYED MOHAMMED HYDERABAD

It is an emotional moment for Madhavi, who was hacked by her own father for marrying a man of her choice, as she stands up from her wheelchair. Bravey, she addresses the media.

"It's like my father is dead to me," Ms. Madhavi said on Wednesday as she described the ordeal at the time of the attack, as she was flanked by her husband and a phalanx of doctors at Yashoda Hospitals.

Her father, Manohar Charry, she said, wanted to meet her, but little did she know on that fateful day, September 19, that he would attack her and her husband B. Sandeep, a Dalit.

"I did not take my academic certificates and



Emotional moment: Madhavi addressing the media along with her husband B. Sandeep in Hyderabad on Wednesday.

clothes with me before the wedding. He said he would give them to me if I met him," she said. Soon after, the couple were attacked.

Ms. Madhavi believes she was attacked as her father was not informed of her marriage. But she said even

if she had, it would not have mattered to him much.

"I don't have faith in him. He would not have understood my feelings and emotions," she said.

Her husband, Mr. Sandeep, who was attacked too, has been a pillar of support

to her. "If he (Chary) is not punished, I fear that he will attack us again," he said and added, "I only want to live in peace with her."

Mr. Sandeep claims his mother-in-law sought to convince Ms. Madhavi to take a stand, which would save the attacker from the clutches of law. "But she refused to do anything of that sort," Mr. Sandeep said. The couple thanked caretaker Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao for helping them to deal with the ordeal.

A team of doctors at Yashoda Hospitals headed by vascular surgeon Devender Singh said Ms. Madhavi has made a 'smooth recovery'.

"When she was brought in, she had a major injury. Her hand was cut in two places," Dr. Singh said.

A high-pitched battle for dominance in Ballari

Cong. seeks to reclaim old glory; BJP wants to retain ground

M. AHIRAJ

BALLARI

Political parties have hit the ground running for the Ballari Lok Sabha byelection by holding a series of meetings soon after filing nominations.

The BJP on Wednesday launched the campaign with party leader B. Sriramulu holding meetings of leaders and public meetings from Hadagali. His sister and party candidate J. Shanta went around Ballari (ST) Assembly segments seeking votes.

Congress leaders, includ-

ing D.K. Shivakumar, Minister for Medical Education and in-charge of the district, were busy meeting senior party leaders in Ballari and Hosapet.

Congress candidate V.S. Ugrappa, along with local leaders, on Wednesday set



BJP candidate J. Shanta seeking votes in Ballari rural assembly segment on Wednesday. ■ SIDDALINGA SWAMY

out on a tour of all Assembly segments to meet party leaders.

The Ballari bypoll is seen as a prestige battle for Mr. Sriramulu and Mr. Shivakumar.

Since 1952, the Ballari parliamentary constituency had been the stronghold of the Congress when its candidates were returned in all

the elections held up to 2000 bypoll. The party suffered a jolt in 2004, when, for the first time, the seat was wrested by the BJP.

This time around, the Congress is desperately trying to regain the lost ground, while the BJP wants to hold on to the territory that it has dominated for over a decade.

Coal shortage hits power generation in Karnataka

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

BENGALURU

Karnataka's power sector is facing concerns after a severe shortage of coal. The Raichur Thermal Power Station (RTPS), described as the "workhorse of the State power grid", shut down three units on Wednesday owing to coal shortage.

The RTPS, which has a total installed capacity of 1,720 MW from its eight generating units, has also taken up another unit for annual maintenance.

With this, generation has reduced by about 600 MW from this station alone, according to sources.

Though the State-controlled Karnataka Power Corporation Limited (KPCL) operates three thermal power stations, the RTPS is the worst-hit due to the coal shortage. There is no stock of coal in the RTPS stockyard, and the daily supply too has dropped.

The RTPS, which requires about 28,000 tonnes of coal daily to operate all its eight units at the maximum capacity, is presently getting only around 18,000 tonnes, sources in the KPCL said.

The RTPS sources coal from the Singareni coal mines in Telangana, the Mahanadi coal fields in Odisha,

and the Western coal fields in Maharashtra.

It is learnt that cyclone Titli hit coal production in Mahanadi and the Western coal fields, forcing the thermal station to depend only on Singareni for its requirements. At present, the Yermaru Thermal Power Station (YTPS) of Raichur district, a two-unit power station with an installed capacity of 1,600 MW (2x800), has a coal stock of 72,000 tonnes.

Officials fear that a failure to get adequate stocks of coal within the next few weeks may affect the power supply scenario.

R. RAVIKANTH REDDY

HYDERABAD

Women in resplendent clothes danced around 'floral deities' singing Bathukamma songs for the first time, at the New South Wales Parliament in Sydney, Australia, in a celebration of Telangana's famed festival.

As the group of dancers moved around the floral deities clapping to songs, Parliamentarians from New South Wales and Ministers joined the chorus, according to Australian Telangana Forum (ATF) founder, Vinod Elete, in Sydney.

Among those present at the event were Minister for



Going global: Australian Telangana Forum members at the Bathukamma celebrations in Sydney. ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Multiculturalism Ray Williams and Shadow Transport Minister Jodi McKay, and several

"We are celebrating our commitment to Telangana community's 900-year-old heritage in continuation of what was floated in September 2006 as 'Sydney Bathukamma Ethnic Festival' at the Parliament House of New South Wales," Mr. Vinod said.

Pochampally weavers

At the celebration, the contribution of Pochampally handloom weavers to the textile history of the State, and their struggle to save the famed handloom sector was highlighted to the guests, said ATF vice-president Kavitha Reddy.

The participants were requested to patronise Pochampally sarees, which embodied traditional design, vibrant colour and creativity.

The ATF and Sydney Bathukamma and Dasara team presented Pochampally sarees to Gladys Berejiklian, the premier of New South Wales and several other guests.

The Bathukammams were prepared in central Parliament by Ms. Kavitha Reddy and Ms. Vani Elete, among others, with several members of the expatriate community including children participating.

Bathukamma blooms at NSW Parliament

Parliamentarians in Sydney celebrate the ethnic festival and learn about Telangana tradition



Going global: Australian Telangana Forum members at the Bathukamma celebrations in Sydney. ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

members of Parliament. Mr. Williams and Ms. McKay lit the lamps on eight Bathukammams.

TRAFFIC ADVISORY

DELHI POLICE

SHANTI SEWA NYAYA

IDOL IMMERSION OF GODDESS DURGA

ON 19.10.2018 (FRIDAY)
11 AM ONWARDS



IMMERSION GHATS

North District	Yamuna Ghat, Yamuna Bazar
North District	Yamuna Ghat, Wazirabad
North District	Yamuna Ghat, Kudesia Ghat & Geeta Ghat (Near Chandgi Ram Akhara)
Central District	Yamuna Ghat, ITO (Hathi Ghat)
South-East District	Yamuna Ghat, Kalindi Kunj
East District	Yamuna Ghat (Geeta Colony & Mayur Vihar)

Immersions would also take place at Haiderpur Canal, Bawana Nahar, Bhalaswa Lake and at various other water bodies in Delhi.

AREAS/ROADS LIKELY TO BE AFFECTED

From 01.00 PM to 5.00 PM	Mandir Marg, Panchkuian Road, Connaught Place outer circle, Minto Road, Deen Dayal Upadhyay Marg, Bahadur Shah Zafar Marg, Jawahar Lal Nehru Marg
From 2.00 PM to 11.00 PM	Ring Road/Outer Ring Road from Rajghat upto Burari via ISBT, Majnu Ka Tilla, Boulevard Road, Wazirabad Road including Wazirabad Bridge, Yamuna Bridge-Vikas Marg
From 01.00 PM to 5.00 PM	Chittaranjan Park, Outer Ring Road from Chiragh Delhi Flyover upto Mathura Road, Maa Anand Mai Marg, Josip Broz Tito Marg, Nehru Place
From 03.00 PM to 8.00 PM	Pushta Road Gandhi Nagar, Khajuri Pushta Road, Sonia Vihar Pushta Road, Mathura Road, G.D. Birla Marg (Road No. 13A)

DIVERSIONS

- Commercial vehicles and buses coming from Mukarba Chowk side will not be allowed on Wazirabad bridge and will be directed towards ISBT bridge from 12.00 Noon.
- Commercial vehicles and buses coming from trans Yamuna towards Ring Road (Wazirabad bridge) will be diverted from Khajuri Khas Chowk towards Shastri Park on Pusta Road from 02.00 p.m.
- Yamuna Pushta road towards Jaitpur from Kalindi Kunj would be one way. Traffic from Jaitpur side to Kalindi Kunj will be directed to Kachchi Colony Road, Agra canal.
- On exit from Kalindi Kunj Ghat all empty vehicles will take compulsory left turn on Jaitpur Pushta and use Kachchi Colony Road on Agra canal.

GENERAL APPEAL TO PUBLIC/ORGANIZERS

- The organizers should sensitize the devotees to obey traffic rules.
- Please don't indulge in driving without helmet, triple riding on two wheelers, carrying passengers in goods vehicles.
- Do not indulge in drunken driving.
- Organizers should use only LGVs or cars/small vehicles for carrying of idols.
- Do not use HVGs or tractor-trolleys for carrying of idols and people.
- Organizers should deploy sufficient numbers of volunteers at important intersections as well as during the immersion at Ghats.
- No loud music should be played.
- Idol immersion should be concluded before sunset.
- Drum beating and fire crackers will not be allowed at Ghats.
- Follow directions of policemen on duty.

PARKING

Devotees must avoid parking their vehicles on the road sides near the Ghats. Only limited parking is available near/at Ghats, at the following locations:

- Near U turn, Sanyas Ashram on Shahdara loop from Monastery side onwards near ISBT.
- Kudesia Ghat/Geeta Ghat ISBT.
- Hathi Ghat 4, Kalindi Kunj.
- Mayur Vihar Extension Ghat

CAUTION/ADVICE

Devotees should be careful at the ghats and must avoid entering deep waters.

Be watchful of any unidentified objects or suspicious persons.

DP/9019/2018

SEARCH FOR MISSING

Sonia

General public is hereby informed that a girl namely Sonia D/o Sh. Chander Pal, R/o 25/3, Nehru Academy School, Pipal Wali Gali, Pankaj Garden, New Delhi, Age : 16 yrs., Height: 5'4", Complexion : Fair, Face : Round, Hair : Black, Wearing : Blue Colour Kurti and White Colour Salwar, has been missing / kidnapped since 30.08.2018. In this regard a case FIR No. 355/18 dated 01.09.2018 u/s 363 IPC has been registered at PS. Chhawla, Delhi. Sincere efforts have been made by local Police to trace out the missing / kidnapped girl but no clue has come to light so far.

If anyone have any information about this missing / kidnapped girl please inform undersigned

Website: <http://cbi.nic.in>, Email: cic@cbi.gov.in, Ph.: 011-24368638, 24368641, Fax: 011-2436839

SHO
PS. Chhawla, Delhi
Ph. No. 011-25316300, 8750871029

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF MINES
REMOTE SENSING & AERIAL SURVEYS**

"Vasudha Bhawan, Kumaraswamy Layout, Bengaluru - 560 111 (INDIA)

Phone: 080-26662574/65; FAX – (080) 26662595/ 26662574
E-mail: hodrsas@gsi.gov.in / rsasddgpp@gmail.com

No.D-34/2018-19/45 DATED: 17-10-2018
OPEN/GOBAL TENDER NOTICE

On behalf of the President of India, the Dy. Director General, Geological Survey of India, Bangalore invites bids from internationally reputed Organizations / Institutions for engagement of Technical Supervision and Quality Control (TS-QC) Consultant for Aerogeophysical Surveys over 8 (5 to 12) Blocks of OGP and adjoining areas, covering an area of 0.608 million Sq. Km.

For participation and further details please visit <http://eprocure.gov.in> and <http://www.gsi.gov.in>.

Sd/- Dy. Director General & H.O.D,
Geological Survey of India, RSAS, Bangalore.

Sr. No.	Name of work	Estimated Cost	Earnest Money	Time	Cost of Form
1.	Special repair to Government Senior Secondary School at Kohbag in District Shimla (SH:- C/o boundary wall, cement asbestos ceiling and railing etc).	Rs. 4,48,739/-	Rs. 9,000/-	Two Months	350/-
2.					



Open to idea of grand alliance: Shivpal

LUCKNOW
Samajwadi Secular Morcha founder Shivpal Yadav said Wednesday he was open to the idea of joining a proposed alliance of opposition parties in Uttar Pradesh against the ruling BJP. PTI

Rape-accused bishop arrives in Jalandhar

CHANDIGARH
Roman Catholic bishop Franco Mulakkal, who faces allegations of raping a nun, received a rousing welcome from his supporters when he reached Jalandhar after being released on bail by a Kerala court. The bishop, who was escorted by Punjab police personnel, did not talk to the media. PTI

Three killed in road mishap in Kota

KOTA
Three persons were killed and as many injured after a collision between their car and an SUV in Rajasthan's Kota district, the police said on Wednesday. The incident took place late on Tuesday evening, they said, adding that among the dead are the car driver and a grandfather-grandson duo. PTI

Drug peddler held in Jammu, heroin seized

JAMMU
An alleged drug peddler was arrested in Jammu and 50 grams of heroin was seized from his possession, the police said on Wednesday. Rayees Ahmad Ganai, a resident of Verinag area of Anantnag district, was held near Ban in the Nagrota area on Tuesday evening while he was on his way to Jammu, they said. PTI

Kashmiri students defer decision to leave AMU

After the suspension order of two students was revoked by the university

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

ALIGARH

by raising "anti-India" slogans.

Former president of the AMU Students' Union Mahboob Ahmad Usmani told reporters that the decision to revoke the suspension order of the two Kashmiri students was a "welcome step" and will have salutary effect not only in the AMU, but also in the Kashmir Valley.

"We feel that slapping of a sedition case against the two Kashmiri students by the police was hasty, ill conceived and based on flimsy evidence," Mr. Usmani said.

"We are strongly opposed to any anti-national act and we will never allow any such

incident to take place on the campus. However, we are strongly opposed to any attempt to harass any student, be it from Kashmir or from any other part of the country.

"We feel that slapping of a sedition case against the two Kashmiri students by the police was hasty, ill conceived and based on flimsy evidence," Mr. Usmani said.

"He is reported to be in close touch with the Uttar Pradesh government and the AMU authorities.

Act against mischievous elements'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

JAMMU

Senior BJP leader Ravinder Raina on Wednesday sought action against "mischievous elements" who are trying to defame the Aligarh Muslim University and the Jawaharlal Nehru University besides bringing a bad name to Jammu and Kashmir.

Mr. Raina, who is the president of the BJP's J&K unit, however, did not identify the "mischievous elements".

"There are some mischievous elements in the AMU and the JNU who are trying to defame these institutions of learning. The name of Jammu and Kashmir crops up each time whenever there is

mischievous elements have decided to re-launch their protest and go ahead with their peaceful resistance by leaving the campus en masse.

According to AMU officials, Jammu and Kashmir Governor Satya Pal Malik is playing a key role in resolving the ongoing crisis at the AMU.

He is reported to be in close touch with the Uttar Pradesh government and the AMU authorities.

SC bars States from diverting money from CAMPA funds

No State Government can use funds for any activity other than afforestation, says the court

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court has barred State governments from diverting money from their Compensatory Afforestation and Management Planning Authority (CAMPA) funds meant for environmental protection, rehabilitation of displaced persons due to issues like depletion of forest, mining, etc.

The apex court's order came after realising that the Punjab government took

₹1.11 crore from CAMPA funds and to pay its lawyers and other legal expenses.

A Bench of Justices Madan B. Lokur, S. Abdul Nazeer and Deepak Gupta, on October 1, ordered the Punjab government to reimburse ₹1,11,01,420 to its CAMPA funds within a fortnight. The court discovered the diversion of funds from a document prepared by the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Punjab, and placed on record before the Bench.

"It is made clear that no State government can use the funds for any activity other than afforestation," the apex court cautioned State governments.

The court was hearing a *suo moto* case titled In Re: National CAMPA Advisory Council. This is part of a major effort by the Supreme Court since 1995 to prevent and monitor environmental degradation. The idea of having CAMPA funds and authority was introduced by the

apex court. The periodic orders of the court in this litigation finally led to the birth of The Compensatory Afforestation Fund Act of 2016.

In a March 2018 order, the Supreme Court recorded that the total amount in CAMPA funds is "tentatively put in the region of ₹70,00,75,000 crore approximately" and likely to go even higher.

The apex court had observed that this was a "huge amount" which can be used

Plot to target Badal: five booked

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

MUZAFFARNAGAR

The Shamli police on Wednesday booked five persons, associated with Sikh militant group Khalistan Liberation Front, under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act for "plotting to target" former Punjab Chief Minister Parkash Singh Badal, officials said.

The accused have been identified as Amrat Singh, Gurjan, Karan Singh, Jarman and Karma. Jarman and Karma are absconding, while the rest have been arrested, said Circle Officer Rajesh Kumar Tiwari.

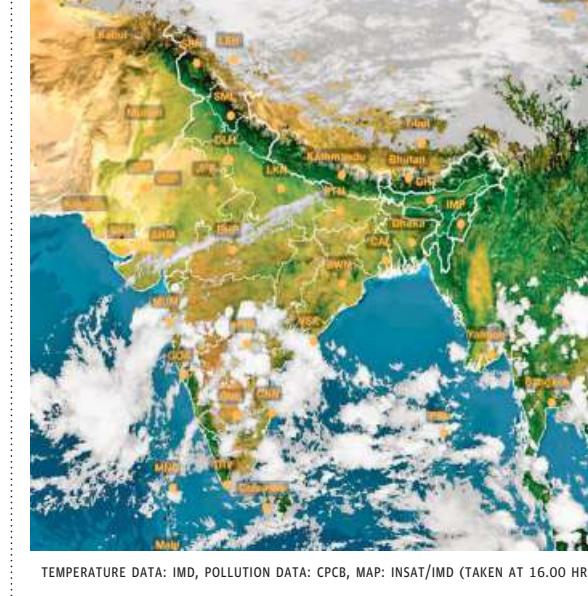
Police and intelligence agencies of Punjab, Haryana, Delhi and Uttar Pradesh are trying to locate the absconding persons, officials said.

During interrogation, the accused revealed they had looted police rifles and were planning to target the former Punjab Chief Minister.

The police recovered the stolen rifles from the arrested, which were hidden in a gurdwara in Shamli district.

WEATHER WATCH

RAINFALL, TEMPERATURE & AIR QUALITY IN SELECT METROS YESTERDAY



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 16.00 HRS)

Forecast for Thursday: Heavy rain is likely at isolated places over Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, south interior Karnataka and Kerala. Thunderstorm accompanied with lightning likely at isolated places over Telangana, Rayalseema, coastal Andhra Pradesh, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry and Lakshadweep

CITY RAIN MAX MIN CITY RAIN MAX MIN
Agartala 31.5... 20.2 Kozhikode 38... 31.4... 23.0
Ahmedabad 37.9... 21.2 Kurnool 5.6... 33.1... 24.5
Aizawl 31.5... 13.2 Lucknow 34.7... 20.2
Allahabad 36.8... 19.5 Madurai 0.8... 34.0... 24.0
Bengaluru 28.5... 20.5 Mangaluru 31... 22.8
Bhopal 35.2... 19.2 Mumbai 34.8... 25.6
Bhubaneswar 33.0... 21.2 Mysuru 0.6... 30... 18.2
Chandigarh 32.0... 18.4 New Delhi 34.7... 19.2
Chennai 0.2... 31.3... 26.3 Patna 33.6... 19.0
Coimbatore 16.3... 30.5... 21.7 Port Blair 0.1... 29.7... 24.8
Dehradun 32.0... 13.6 Puducherry 2.5... 32.8... 22.5
Gangtok 0.7... 17.8... 12.7 Pune 32.2... 20.2
Goa 1.7... 31.0... 23.2 Raipur 31.6... 21.6
Guwahati 30.9... 20.0 Ranchi 32.4... 16.0
Hubballi 27.0... 21.0 Shillong 20.6... 12.0
Hyderabad 38... 30.7... 21.3 Shimla 21.9... 11.7
Kolkata 11... 47.5... 29.5 Srinagar 18.7... 7.9
Lucknow 12... 78.58... 28.6
Mumbai 23... 40.73... 87... 121...
Pune 34... 13.58... 104... 101...
Vishakhapatnam 34... 22... 90... 84...
(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

Yesterday

CITIES	SO ₂	NO _x	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	90	138	36	237	—	■
Bengaluru	11	54	67	110	—	■
Chennai	7	16	50	76	—	■
Delhi	28	82	36	312	385	■
Hyderabad	3	74	31	55	51	■
Kolkata	11	47	55	190	125	■
Lucknow	12	78	58	286	—	■
Mumbai	23	40	73	87	121	■
Pune	34	13	58	104	101	■
Vishakhapatnam	6	34	22	90	84	■

In observation made at 4:00 pm. Bhujia recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 348 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Tirupati recorded a healthy AQI score of 38

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

SO₂: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters. **CO:** Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

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

THE BAGALKOT DISTRICT CENTRAL CO - OPERATIVE BANK LTD., BAGALKOT

HO: Sector 24, Navanagar, BAGALKOT- 587 102.
Tel: 08354-236443, 235573, Fax: 235571
Email: bdcchobagalkot@rediffmail.com
Email: bdcchobagalkotbs@yahoo.com

No/Adm/CTD/3889/2018
Bagalkot: Date: 17/10/2018

TENDER NOTIFICATION

Postponement of Last Date to Submit RFP/Tender

The last date for receiving the proposals is modified as 29-Oct-2018 at 11.00 am in respect of RFP/Tenders (1) BgkDCC/RFP/1/DC/DBA/SA/2018-19 dated 10 September 2018, Ver-1-1 and (2) BgkDCC/RFP/2/ Biometric/2018-19 Dtd. 09 September 2018. Ver-1-0. The interested and eligible vendors/service providers shall browse our website www.bgdccbank.com on continuous basis till the present/future last date and time meant for submission of proposals under above two RFP/Tender documents.

Place: Bagalkot
Sd/-
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
Date: 17-10-2018

सार्वजनिक लोटिसा

सर्वजनिक लोटिसा को सूचित किया जाता है कि कार्यकारी विदेशक, ट्रेनिंग सेट फैलेरी सेट, पंचकुणा के पत्र कामक ईंट/एवारेज आउटपॉर्टी / 2017/ 413-4-28 लेटल 24/11/17 सी पालना में। जिला आगरिक डिप्टील, गुजरात का रिकार्ड आईपीओ/आईपीओ का रिकार्ड 3 साल का तथा एम्पलॉटी का रिकार्ड 15 साल का रखना जरूरी है अतः इससे पहले का रिकार्ड लब्ज लेट किया जाता है। यदि किसी को इसकी लेटिसा के एक मार्ग के अवध-अवध लिन्नलस्टाकरी के कार्यालय में सूचित करें अवध्या सभी रिकार्ड लब्ज कर दिया जायेगा।

प्रधान चिकित्सा अधिकारी,
जिला आगरिक डिप्टील,
गुजरात।

Appeal for Identification

General public is here by informed that one man dead body of Name: Unknown S/o: Unknown, R/o: Unknown, Age: Approx 50 years, Height: 5'6", Face: Round, Hair: Small Black, Complexion: Wheatish, Sex: Male, Wearing: Light Blue colour

Pant & Blue colour Shirt, was found dead on 05.10.2018,

Place of Recovery: On footpath, Near Rangpur Round about opp. Radisson Blue Hotel, Mahipalpur, New Delhi. In this regard DD No. 34 A, has been lodged at PS Vasant Kunj, South Delhi, on 05.10.2018. Any clue come to notice please inform undersign.

SHO

PS Vasant Kunj, South Delhi.

Ph.: 011- 26139360, 26139361

Government of India
Department of Atomic Energy
Atomic Minerals Directorate for Exploration & Research
No. 1-10-153-156, AMD Complex, Begumpet, Hyderabad-500016

BRIEF TENDER NOTICE

DATE : 12.10.2018

NIT NO. AMD/CD/DSR/2018-19-T(141-142)
The Director, AMD, Begumpet, Hyderabad invites for and on behalf of the President of India, sealed tenders in two parts (TECHNICAL and COMMERCIAL) from eligible Core Drilling contractors, for the following Drilling works in the parts of Karnataka.

Item No.	TENDER NO. & SCOPE OF WORK	Estimated Job
----------	----------------------------	---------------

IN BRIEF



Applications for Haj to be accepted from today

MUMBAI
The applications for the next year's Haj pilgrimage will be accepted online from Thursday and the process will be fully digital, the Haj Committee of India announced on Wednesday. Union Minister for Minority Affairs Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi said the pilgrimage will be free of subsidy. PTI

3 die as car collides with bus in Ramanathapuram

RAMANATHAPURAM
Three persons, including two teenagers, were killed when the car in which they were travelling collided with a Tamil Nadu State Transport Corporation bus at Keelalvelur in Ramanathapuram district of Tamil Nadu on Wednesday. The victims, hailing from Mayakulam, were returning from Sivakasi after purchasing firecrackers for Deepavali.

Man dies as gun goes off in Telangana

MACHILIPATNAM
A 35-year-old man from Telangana died on the spot when a countrymade gun went off in the Kanumuru forest area of Krishna district on Wednesday. The deceased was identified as G. Srinivasa Reddy of Korlagudem in Khamman district. Srinivasa Reddy reportedly tread a rope that was tied to the gun placed in the forest targeting wild boars. As a result, the gun went off leading to his death, the police said.

3 children buried alive while digging soil in M.P.

DAMOH
Three children were buried alive when a portion of the land they were digging caved in here in Madhya Pradesh on Wednesday, the police said. Five children were engaged in soil digging work at the plot located in Botrai village. Two of them were standing to collect the soil while the others were digging when suddenly a portion of the land caved in, burying the three children under the loose soil debris, the police said. PTI



Women interrupted: Protesters checking a car; Hindu activists attacking a media vehicle and the police taking a protester into custody at the Nilackal base camp on Wednesday. • AP, LEJU KAMAL, AFP

Women journalists come under attack

TV reporters were manhandled by protesters at Nilackal

STAFF REPORTER
NILACKAL

Media personnel, especially women reporters from national news channels, came under attack from protesters belonging to the Sangh Parivar and fringe groups at Nilackal, the hub of protests against the entry of women of all ages to Sabarimala. Most of the attacks began with "vehicle checks" by protesters to ensure that young women are not inside.

The series of attacks began close to noon on Wednesday, with a large mob surrounding a car in which Republic TV channel crew was travelling. The mob banged on the vehicle, while chanting Ayyappa slogans. The car's windshield was damaged. The channel's reporter Pooja Prasanna was pushed and shoved outside the Nilackal Maha-deva temple.

A large group, which had gathered to listen to Hindu Aikya Vedi leader Sasikala speaking here, soon surrounded the police van and hurled stones at it. A group of protesters hung on to the van's window and filmed her covering inside, as the crowd below chanted "Avallakkuthu venam [she deserves it], Ayyappa....Iniyum kittum [will attack again], Ayyappa."

Kicked and abused

Online news portal The News Minute's reporter Saritha Balan, who was travelling in a KSRTC bus, also came under attack. The channel's reporter Rajeev was injured and their equipment was damaged.



Inspector General of Police Manoj Abraham speaking to the media at Nilackal on Wednesday. • AFP

and pulled her out. Though police personnel formed a cordon around her, she was kicked on the back. A woman protester hurled a bottle at her. The protesters also hurled abusive slogans laced with Ayyappa chants at her. She was taken to the Nilackal police station, where she had to wait a long time as a mob had gathered outside.

A vehicle in which CNN News 18 crew, including reporter Radhika Ramaswamy, were travelling also came under attack. Reporter TV's vehicle was attacked by a mob carrying sticks later in the afternoon. The channel's reporter Rajeev was injured and their equipment was damaged.

A.P. devotee forced to turn back

RADHAKRISHNAN
KUTTOOR
SABARIMALA

Madhavi, a young woman devotee who reached Pampa all the way from Andhra Pradesh, could not make it to the Ayyappa temple at Sabarimala in the absence of adequate police protection on Wednesday.

The woman, accompanied by her daughter, reached Pampa in the foothills on Wednesday morning. According to Ms. Madhavi, she was not aware of the custom denying entry for menstruating women at Sabarimala.

She was detained for some time at Pampa by a few women attached to the Sabarimala Samrakshana Samiti. Though the police helped her to proceed to the hillock of Sabarimala Samidhanam via the Swami Ayyappan Road, she eventually chose to return to Pampa.

Another young woman, Liji from Cherthala in Alappuzha, too failed to undertake the pilgrimage due to protests at the Pathanamthitta bus stand.

Ms. Liji, who was detained by the group, was later escorted to the Pathanamthitta police station.

A dampener after a favourable order

Woman who reached Pampa heckled

S.R.PRAVEEN
NILACKAL

The violent scenes witnessed on Wednesday at the Nilackal base camp of Sabarimala, came as a dampener for Shinu Shyamalan, who was jubilant after the Supreme Court verdict allowing women of all ages to the shrine. The 29-year-old doctor had a keen desire to visit Sabarimala, where she had gone as a child.

She now knows that even expressing that opinion openly can invite abusive attacks and threats, as she discovered recently after a Facebook post. "I received quite a lot of abusive comments after making that post and appearing in a television debate.... I will certainly visit Sabarimala when the atmosphere is peaceful and safety is guaranteed," she says.

About the women protesting against the verdict and proudly calling themselves "impure," she said that we have had a history of women even coming out against being allowed to cover their breasts and tearing away the clothes of those who dared to do that.



Women activists protesting against the SC verdict. • AFP

For writer Suneetha Balakrishnan, the verdict has come a little too late. "When I really wanted to go to Sabarimala, the discriminatory rules did not permit it. Now that the rules have been done away with, my knee issues make it impossible for me to make the long trek."

C.S. Libi, one of the few women of menstrual age who managed to reach Pampa clad in black attire on Wednesday night in view of the violence that broke out at Pampa and Nilackal. He told *The Hindu* that protest marches and unlawful gatherings were prohibited in the specified areas for two days starting from Wednesday midnight in view of the violence that broke out at Pampa and Nilackal. He told *The Hindu* that protest marches and unlawful

gatherings were prohibited in the specified areas for two days. However, the orders would in no way affect pilgrims' movement in groups to Sabarimala.

Muslim outfit backs agitation by devotees

ERUMELY
The Muslim Jama-Ath of Erumely that controls the Vavar Mosque, where Ayyappa devotees offer prayer first before proceeding to Sabarimala, has extended its support to the ongoing agitation by devotees. P.H. Shahajan, president of the Jama-Ath, is of the view that the temple rituals should be protected and not altered at any cost. We are hopeful that an amicable solution will evolve shortly and the crisis will be resolved." Ayyappa devotees who travel to the hill shrine via Erumely attend the Peta Thullal, a ceremonial ritual at the nearby Dharama Sastha Temple, and then move to the Vavar Mosque.

Prohibitory orders in 4 areas for two days

SABARIMALA
District Collector P.B. Noohu has promulgated prohibitory orders under Section 144 of the CrPC at Sabarimala Sanidham, Pampa, Nilackal and Elavumkal for two days starting from Wednesday midnight in view of the violence that broke out at Pampa and Nilackal. He told *The Hindu* that protest marches and unlawful gatherings were prohibited in the specified areas for two days starting from Wednesday midnight in view of the violence that broke out at Pampa and Nilackal. He told *The Hindu* that protest marches and unlawful

Security cover



The Central Industrial Security Force being inducted at the international airport in Kannur on Wednesday. The airport will begin operations on December 9. • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

When Ilaiyaraaja throws open the doors of his Chennai house

The music director serves food to visitors during Navaratri

B. KOLAPPAN
CHENNAI
It was 12.15 p.m. when the gates of music director 'Isaignani' Ilaiyaraaja's house in T. Nagar opened. Soon, nearly 100 people gathered, some already waiting for this very moment.

It was a motley crowd – auto drivers, house maids, delivery boys, sweepers from the locality and a few women from the neighbouring apartments. A few men from the house carried a vessel full of tamarind rice, water packets, savouries and plates and placed them on a table. Ilaiyaraaja's son and

music director Karthik Raja came and served the crowd one by one. "There was waist-deep wa-

ter and we did not have anything to eat. So Bharathi-raja, my brother Baskar and I collected puffed rice and *pottu kadai* served in the stores from Padmaram theatre to Vadapalani Murugan temple in a cone made of *The Hindu* newspaper. We filled our stomach for three days with the stuff and waited," said Mr. Ilaiyaraaja.

When he narrated the story to his wife, she suggested that they should serve food for 10 days at their house.

As long as his wife Jeeva was alive, she took care of the *kolu*. After her death in 2011, it has been left to daughter-in-law Rajarajeswari alias Rajvi to manage the event.

That year, there was heavy rain during Navaratri. "There was waist-deep wa-

T.N. to get monsoon rain after October 20

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI

Monsoon-like conditions returned to Chennai, which was experiencing a dry spell, on Wednesday afternoon. Officials of the Meteorological Department said places such as Chennai got

rain due to convective activity.

The Met Department said conditions were favourable for the withdrawal of the southwest monsoon around October 20. Northeast monsoon is likely to arrive thereafter.

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT & PANCHAYATI RAJ

(An Organisation of the Ministry of Rural Development, Govt. of India)
Rajendranagar, Hyderabad - 500030.

NIRDPR is a premier Institute providing training, research and consultancy activities in rural development. NIRDPR invites applications through online from qualified and experienced persons for the following positions to work in CRTCN (Training) on contract basis—

- i) Senior Consultant -1 No. — Rs.60,000/- p.m.
- ii) Training Associate -1 No. — Rs.30,000/- p.m.
- iii) Project Associate -1 No. — Rs.20,000/- p.m.

For details & online registration visit : www.nird.org.in

Advt. No.17/2018 (Admn.A/A5/2018/29/CRTCN)

Last date - 12.11.2018

Sd/-
Assistant Registrar (E)

CSIR-AMPRI Bhopal:
A cradle nurturing talent
for Scientific and Innovative Research

CSIR Advanced Materials and Processes Research Institute (AMPRI), Bhopal, [a constituent laboratory of CSIR and the only one in the state of Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh] under the aegis of AcSIR is offering Integrated Dual Degree Ph.D. (IDP) programme in Engineering Sciences and Ph.D. in Engineering Sciences, Chemical Sciences & Physical Sciences for the session starting from January, 2019. AcSIR offers degrees in interdisciplinary science and technology under the guidance of internationally reputed Scientists / faculties. Scientifically inclined and bright young minds are invited to be a part of advanced R&D covering a wide spectrum of areas including Lightweight and high strength materials, Shape memory materials, Nanostructured alloys and composites, Natural resources and waste utilization, Natural fibre based construction materials, Radiation shielding materials, Microfluidics, and Environmental, Applied and Industrial Chemistry, Additive manufacturing, polymer based composites and many more.

For details refer : www.acsir.res.in and / or www.ampri.res.in

SUNDARAM FINANCE
Enduring values. New age thinking.
Revised Interest Rates effective 19.10.2018

SENIOR CITIZENS*			
Term in Months	Rate (% p.a. at Quarterly rests for FD and CD)	Monthly Interest Rate %p.a (FD)	Cumulative Deposits Maturity Value for
12	8.25%	8.19	₹10,000 ₹1000
18	8.25%	8.19	11300 1130
24	8.50%	8.44	11830 1183
36	8.50%	8.44	12870 1287

*Completed 60 years of Age on the Date of Deposit/Renewal

Term in Months	Rate (% p.a. at Quarterly rests for FD and CD)	Monthly Interest Rate %p.a (FD)	Cumulative Deposits Maturity Value for
12	7.75%	7.70	₹10,000 ₹1000
18	7.75%	7.70	11220 1122
24	8.00%	7.95	11720 1172
36	8.00%	7.95	12680 1268

OTHERS

Term in Months	Rate (% p.a. at Quarterly rests for FD and CD)	Monthly Interest Rate %p.a (FD)	Cumulative Deposits Maturity Value for
12	7.75%	7.70	₹10,000 ₹1000
18	7.75%	7.70	11220 1122
24	8.00%	7.95	11720 1172
36	8.00%	7.95	12680 1268

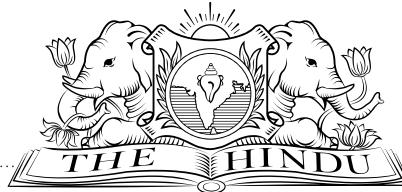
*Minimum Deposit ₹10,000 Per Account | *Interest rates on existing deposits remain unchanged

This advertisement appears further to the statutory advertisement published by the Company in 'Business Line' on 21.10.2018. The text of the statutory advertisement is also printed on all the application forms which may be referred to before investing in the Company's Deposit Schemes.

Regd. Office: 21, Patiala Road, Chennai 600 002, India, Ph.: (0) 2851181 (D) 2881301-1304, CIN: L65191TN1954PLC002429 E-mail: depositdesk@sundaramfinance.in www.sundaramfinance.in

BRANCHES : Vellore : 2223 433 Mangalore : 2459 609 Coimbatore : 2242 574 Bangalore : 2559 0978 Erode : 2223 623 Chembarambam : 2522 1989 Ernakulam : 2374 834 Pondicherry : 2357 366 Salem : 2333 095 New Delhi : 2332 7379 Thiruvananthapuram : 2327 871 Trichy : 2410 746 Kolkata : 2226 8071 Vijayawada CV : 2470 039 Tirunelveli : 2553 136 Hyderabad : 2337 3416 Vishakapatnam CAR : 2755 720

ALL INDIA COUNCIL FOR TECHNICAL EDUCATION
(A Statutory Body of Govt. of India)
Nelson Mandela Marg, Vasant Kunj, New Delhi-110 070
Ph. No. : 011-29581000, Website: www.aictc-india.org



No show

The poor turnout in the Valley for local polls is a wake-up call for the Centre

In elections held in Jammu and Kashmir, the turnout itself is a kind of verdict. The fact that just over a third of the electorate (35.1% provisionally) turned out to vote in the four-phase urban local body elections is a wake-up call to the Union government. The extremely low turnout in the Kashmir region – only 6.7% of those eligible voted in the first three phases, and 4.2% in the fourth phase – reflects the level of disconnection in the Valley. The turnout was not expected to be high, given the boycott by the two main regional parties, the National Conference and the Peoples Democratic Party. Their immediate protest was over the legal challenge in the Supreme Court to Article 35(A) of the Constitution that accords special powers to the Jammu and Kashmir legislature to decide who are the “permanent residents” of the State and on whom special rights and privileges can be conferred. Given the boycott by these two parties and others, there was little political mobilisation in the Valley. In Jammu, where both the Bharatiya Janata Party and the Congress have a strong base and where issues such as Article 35(A) don't have as much resonance, there was greater participation. The absence of any viable political competition in the local body polls in the Valley will only undermine the institutions and the victors. This dismal turnout comes against a particularly fraught timeline in Kashmir. With the collapse of the PDP-BJP coalition government in June this year, the absence of Kashmiri parties from the fray could heighten alienation at the street level.

The reversal is discouraging as voter turnouts had increased significantly in this decade, growing ever since the mid-1990s. Even between periods of intense protests, Assembly and parliamentary elections saw increased turnouts despite boycott calls by separatist groups. This indicated a willing acceptance of the need to engage in electoral democracy to address civic concerns even if there were substantive differences and anger with the State and Central governments over issues such as security, human rights violations and the status of J&K. The inability of the PDP-BJP government to come up with a coherent response to the unrest and protests that raged in 2016-17, and the subsequent imposition of Governor's Rule have only exacerbated matters. The work of the Centre's interlocutor, Dineshwar Sharma, to carry forward a dialogue with various groups and individuals in the State has also not been enough to arrest misgivings in the Valley. The Centre must see the lack of participation in the polls in the Valley as a serious sign of alienation among the people and double down on ways to forge greater engagement. Misguided steps taken to reverse the special status of J&K might appeal to the BJP's core constituency, but are bound to have a serious fallout in the Valley.

Another outbreak

A proper awareness campaign is vital to contain the Zika outbreak in Jaipur

With 80 laboratory-confirmed cases of the Zika virus already in Jaipur, including 22 pregnant women, the latest outbreak is India's most severe so far. In January 2017, three confirmed cases of Zika were reported from Ahmedabad, including a pregnant woman, and in July the same year a single case was reported from Tamil Nadu's Krishnagiri district. Unlike in the case of the Ahmedabad outbreak that was kept under wraps by the Health Ministry (even the World Health Organization was informed only in May), there has been more transparency in the last two instances. About 4.5 lakh people at the outbreak site in Rajasthan have been brought under surveillance. While steps to halt mosquito breeding have been initiated, it is to be noted that controlling the breeding of the *Aedes aegypti* mosquito, which transmits the Zika virus, is very challenging. Controlling the spread becomes even harder as the mosquito is widely prevalent in India, and the infection remains asymptomatic in about 80% of cases, allowing the virus to silently spread from one person to another. It can also spread from a pregnant mother to the foetus. Even when the infection manifests itself, the symptoms are very mild and non-specific, making it difficult to correctly and easily diagnose it. A study published in the journal *Neurology India* found 14 of 90 patients with the Guillain-Barré syndrome (a neurological complication seen in Zika-infected adults) in the Puducherry-based Jawaharlal Institute of Postgraduate Medical Education and Research tested positive for Zika virus antibodies. Four of the 14 patients also tested positive for an anti-dengue antibody. There is a remote possibility that the virus is circulating in some parts of India and could cause an epidemic at some point.

It is not clear if the first person (index case) or others who had contracted the infection had travelled to any country where there is a Zika infection risk. The absence of travel history outside India in the recent past by any of the infected individuals indicates the virus is prevalent in the mosquito population. Spread through sex, without multiple instances of infection by mosquitoes is unlikely, given the spurt in the number of cases within a narrow time window in a small community. Since Zika infection during pregnancy can cause severe birth defects, particularly microcephaly (small size of the head), all the 22 pregnant women infected must be monitored. Also, as there is no cure for microcephaly at birth, there should be campaigns to educate people living in the outbreak area to avoid sex, particularly with the intent of getting pregnant, till the outbreak is under control. The long winter ahead in north India and the imminent onset of the northeast monsoon in the eastern coast of India is conducive for the mosquito to multiply and spread. This calls for a high level of alert.

Myanmar and the limits of pan-Islamism

The paradox of Muslim solidarity is that its global character is dependent on the West, conceptually and politically



FAISAL DEVJI

Since Myanmar's latest bout of violence against the Rohingya began in 2012, there has been a slow uptake of outrage in the Muslim world. But it was only recently, once international observers described what was happening there as an ethnic cleansing, that Muslim concern became more vocal than protests in Europe or the U.S. In the past, Muslim-majority countries such as Bangladesh and Malaysia, at the receiving end of refugee flows from Myanmar numbering in the tens and even hundreds of thousands, have acted forcefully to prevent the Rohingya from entering their territories.

But last year everything changed, with Bangladesh, Turkey, Malaysia, Indonesia and Pakistan at the forefront of international demands to stop the flight of refugees from Myanmar and alleviate their suffering. Behind this change lay a number of causes, from the humanitarian, political and economic emergency created by the influx of refugees among Myanmar's neighbours, to growing Muslim protests around the world at the treatment of the Rohingya. The crisis also presented an opportunity for politicians to claim leadership in an otherwise fragmented Muslim world by demanding relief and justice for the Rohingya.

Turkey's President made strong statements about the crisis, putting it at the top of the agenda at the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation. His wife made a highly publicised trip to Bangladesh to be filmed and photographed in Rohingya camps, while donating and

promising more Turkish aid. Turkey, Indonesia and Malaysia also competed to deliver assistance in Rakhine state while engaging the Myanmar government in talks. The Bangladesh Prime Minister spoke about the plight of the refugees at the UN and demanded safe zones for the Rohingya in Myanmar.

Yet both Turkey's President and the Bangladesh Prime Minister use the same accusations of Islamic terrorism against their domestic opponents as are levelled against the Rohingya in Myanmar. And they do so for the same reason, in order to de-legitimise suspect minority groups and political opposition in their own countries. Like Myanmar, these states are all heirs to the ‘War on Terror’, deploying its language and practices to forge a new politics. What we are seeing is not disagreement between Muslim and non-Muslim states on the subject of the Rohingya, but instead fundamental agreement on a narrative of counter-terrorism that has been globalised beyond American control.

The Rohingya cause represents the return of states to leadership roles within the Muslim world, and it has made Islamic unity possible for the first time since the sectarian bloodletting of the Syrian war, to say nothing of the divide between Saudi-led and pro-Iranian movements across West Asia. All over the world, bar Afghanistan and Somalia, states are triumphing over their religious critics to champion Islamic causes long held by the latter. By suppressing such groups in the name of counter-terrorism, however, these states have also adopted their narrative of Muslim victimisation.

The victim's tale

Non-state groups had been among the first to promote a narrative of Muslim victimisation, with jihadis as much as liberals drawing from a



familiar humanitarian repertoire in which suffering demands an immediate and therefore violent response. But this storyline only dates back to the aftermath of the Cold War, beginning with Muslim mobilisations over the fate of the Bosnians during the breakup of Yugoslavia. International Muslim causes had earlier been political rather than humanitarian. They called for the establishment of certain kinds of states, rather than emergency measures to guarantee a people's survival.

In the ideologically defined conflicts of the Cold War, groups like the Palestinians emerged as political heroes rather than simply humanitarian victims. But nowadays they, too, are seen by their supporters as representing a humanitarian cause. This is due to their loss of an institutionalised political identity with the creation of the Palestinian Authority as an Israeli partner and the sequestration of Gaza. It is therefore their Israeli enemies who ironically are the only ones to grant Palestinians a political existence, by considering them actors motivated by ideas freely adopted rather than by pure biological needs.

Humanitarianism today is premised upon a distrust of politics, which is blamed for every crisis humanitarians seek to resolve. This means that any relief or intervention deemed to be political is condemned as hypocritical. Indeed, hypocrisy has become the gravest charge in the lexicon of liberals and militants alike. And it is the humanitarian or anti-political

character of Muslim outrage that has allowed states such as Bangladesh and Turkey to appropriate it, just as al-Qaeda and the Islamic State had done before them for very different reasons.

It is not simply state violence that has muffled the voice of non-state actors in mobilising Muslims globally. Their outrage over Rohingya suffering has been viewed with suspicion among Muslims more widely. Pakistani newspapers have levelled accusations of hypocrisy against the religious and militant groups that specialised in charging others with it. And so Islamists outraged by the treatment of the Rohingya are reproached for their own violence against non-Muslim or sectarian minorities. Signalling the decline of such actors, this mistrustful response illustrates the internal shifts in Muslim opinion and protest.

European midwife

The narrative of Muslim victimisation is arbitrary in its application. Palestinians, Bosnians and now the Rohingya might enjoy global attention as victims of this kind, but not Uighurs, Somalis, Yemenis or Chechens. The lack of Muslim solidarity in these cases cannot be attributed to politics understood as hypocrisy. Neither are they explained by the economic interests that are often thought to underlie such hypocrisy. They must instead be understood in terms of familiar storylines. Only a crisis that can be attributed to western imperialism, or Zionism understood as its surrogate, is a candidate for global Muslim solidarity.

Muslim outrage over the persecution of the Rohingya follows a familiar script. Like all such global mobilisations, whether prompted by the victimisation of fellow believers or Islam itself in alleged insults to its prophet, these demonstrations of solidarity are midwifed in the West. This was the case with the first global mobilisa-

tion of Muslims in 1989, against Salman Rushdie's novel *The Satanic Verses*. It is only books, cartoons, speeches or desecrations in Europe and America that give rise to Muslim protests globally, with similar publications or events in other places possessing merely local significance. Similarly, it is only those wars and humanitarian crises receiving either positive or negative attention in the West that end up as Muslim causes worldwide.

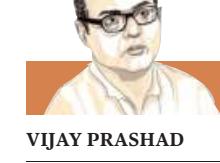
This trajectory illustrates the consequences of Western political and economic dominance. Since colonial times, Asians, Africans and Latin Americans have had to relate to each other through Europe and America. But such mediation also suggests the intimate way in which Islam's globalisation is linked to a West often seen as its enemy. As Myanmar but also Bosnia and Kosovo demonstrate, global forms of Muslim solidarity are not only prompted by calls for humanitarian relief in the West, but also favour the kind of military intervention whose deployment by western powers Muslims otherwise criticise.

Linked as they always have been to the West, global forms of Muslim protest are transient and easily dissipated. The ethnic cleansing of the Rohingya having been accomplished by Myanmar, and Muslim politicians with their constituencies around the world having had the chance to denounce it, the matter can be dropped until Rakhine's violence and refugees once again attract the interest of a European or American public. The paradox of Muslim solidarity is that its global character remains dependent on the West conceptually as well as politically, even and especially when it is explicitly anti-western in form.

Faisal Devji teaches history at Oxford University

Advantage Bolsonaro

As the final round of a polarised election nears, Brazil's future tilts towards the far-right



VIJAY PRASHAD

Anticipation is in the air. Three weeks divide the first round (October 7) of the Brazilian presidential election from the second (October 28). In the first, the far right's candidate, Jair Bolsonaro, won the most votes, a convincing 46%. His closest challenger, Fernando Haddad of the Workers' Party (PT), earned 29% of the votes. Had Mr. Bolsonaro won over 50% of the votes, he would have become Brazil's eighth president since the fall of the military dictatorship (1964-1985). However, there are as many as those who voted for him who are not for him, saying that they will never vote for him. The hashtag #EleNao or #NotHim continues to resonate. But, many people fear that in the time left, Mr. Bolsonaro might appeal to enough of the deeply polarised electorate to win.

Regional pull

Polling data favours Mr. Bolsonaro. Datafolha announced that 58% of voters favour him over the 42%

who are with Mr. Haddad. In the country's northeast, the centre of Brazil's Afro-Brazilian population, Mr. Haddad has a clear lead, while in the populous and more prosperous south-east, Mr. Bolsonaro wins by a considerable margin. Nonetheless, the PT is struggling to build a ‘national anti-fascist front’ with the left and progressive, humanist and liberal democratic sections’, says Professor Monica Bruckmann who teaches politics at the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro. The PT, she says, hopes to attract the 54% who voted against Mr. Bolsonaro in the first round. Mr. Haddad and the PT, she adds, warn that a victory for Mr. Bolsonaro will mean a ‘regression to the darkest days of authoritarian governments in Brazil and in Latin America’.

Dark days ahead

Evidence of these ‘darkest days’ has not had to wait for the final election result. In Salvador, a Bolsonaro supporter murdered a 63-year-old man who had said he voted for Mr. Haddad. In Nova Iguaçu, a 41-year-old transgender person was attacked by Bolsonaro supporters who chanted, “such trash should die.” In Porto Alegre, a gang of men attacked a 19-year-old woman who was carrying an

LGBTQ flag and had an anti-Bolsonaro sticker; they carved a swastika on her skin. In Copacabana, along the beach, men without shirts and in military fatigue pants jogged in formation down the avenue for Mr. Bolsonaro. At football matches, the cheer has gone up – Bolsonaro will kill all queers. Several reporters have also been threatened and attacked, according to the Brazilian Association of Investigative Journalism (Abraji).

Mr. Bolsonaro, a military man, has surrounded himself with military men, which include the vice-president, defence minister and infrastructure minister. Mr. Bolsonaro has said he would give greater powers to the police and the armed services to tackle crime. He is on record as having said that the main problem with the military dictatorship is that it did not kill enough people. Ugliness governs the Bolsonaro camp.

Why would more than half the

Brazilian electorate elect a man who wants to reintroduce a military dictatorship to the country; someone who is vicious against women and homosexuals? The parallels with U.S. President Donald Trump are easy – both men are open in their intolerance and fantasise about using the hammer to shape society in their image. But, there is something specific in Mr. Bolsonaro's rise. He has emerged – for the elite – as the antidote to the left-leaning policies of the PT and – for the middle class – as an angel, a Seraphim (as Ms. Bruckmann put it), against violence.

The extreme right

There is no question that Brazil's oligarchy despised the governments of the PT (2002-2016). During this period, the PT under Presidents Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva and Dilma Rousseff used high commodity prices to conduct a modest redistribution scheme for the very poor. Hunger was defeated, and educational opportunities opened up to the most marginal sections (Mr. Haddad was the minister of education in both the Lula and Rousseff governments). Ms. Rousseff's impeachment – a legislative coup – and Mr. Lula's arrest – a judicial coup – pushed the PT out of power. Polls show that if the judiciary had not denied Mr. Lula

from running in this presidential election, he would have won outright in the first round. Prof. Valter Pomar, who teaches international relations at the Federal University of ABC and a leader of the PT, says the ‘normal’ right encouraged the extreme right to overthrow Ms. Rousseff and ensnare Mr. Lula. They thought that this extreme right – represented by Mr. Bolsonaro – would do their work and then get out of the way. Of course, Mr. Bolsonaro is going nowhere.

Democracy does not appeal to Brazil's oligarchy. Terrible violence in the country (175 murders a day in 2017) has turned some of the middle class towards the hardness of Mr. Bolsonaro and against the PT's progressive values. It is this combination of the oligarchy – which controls the media and has depicted Mr. Bolsonaro as reasonable – and the middle class that is pushing him forward. It is still possible for the verdict on October 28 to go against Mr. Bolsonaro. A quarter of voters did not cast their ballot on October 7, despite voting being mandatory in Brazil. If they do come to the polling booths, it will be hard to predict this election.

Vijay Prashad is the Director of Tricontinental: Institute for Social Research and the Editor of 'Strongmen'

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.

RAW 'plot'

The startling allegation by Sri Lankan President Maithripala Sirisena that India's Research and Analysis Wing is plotting to eliminate him needs to be taken with a pinch of salt (Page 1, October 17). There is no denying the fact that Mr. Sirisena, of late, is under immense pressure from his partymen to quit the ruling coalition and explore other political possibilities. Such an unfounded charge is hardly expected of a leader from a neighbouring country with which India shares long-standing cultural and trade interests. Has Mr. Sirisena unwittingly laid the foundation to triggering ethnic conflict again?

V. SUBRAMANIAN,
Chennai

judgment permitting the entry of women to the Sabarimala temple are disturbing, especially as Kerala is an advanced State in terms of social indices. It is not understood what the protesters are trying to convey. If tradition, faith and belief are the basis for retaining religious customs and practices, several obsolete and inhuman practices would still be prevalent. Till a review petition is filed, such protests would be out of place.

B. HARISH,
Mangaluru

17). A solution is not impossible. It should ensure an improvement in transport infrastructure and promotion of mass transport. Energy efficient methods should be made mandatory in all sectors and industries. Energy audits too.

JJI PANICKER K.,
Chengannur, Kerala

The Rafale deal

With reference to the article, “Decoding the Rafale controversy” (Editorial page, October 16), the sentence, in the ninth paragraph, “This is inconsistent with former French President Francois Hollande's statement to a French news website, Mediapart, in September, that Reliance was proposed by the Indian Government and that the French did not have a choice in the matter”, has overlooked the statement of Mr. Hollande –

in an interview to AFP, and published in the *Le Monde* on September 24, 2018 – which said, “Dassault partnered Reliance without the French Government being consulted about it. The two partners found each other by themselves.” In the next paragraph, the sentence, “Adding to this is a set of timing coincidences. Reliance Defence Limited was registered in March 2015, weeks before Mr. Modi's visit to France. Reliance Aerostructure Limited was registered on April 24”, does not reflect Reliance having registered as many as 14 different companies between November 2014 and April 2015. There was a public announcement about Reliance's entry into the defence business at ‘Aero India’ [air show], in February 2015. In any case, Reliance Defence is not an offset partner for the Rafale

aircraft deal. Therefore, any coincidences and their linkage to the offset contract are purely imaginary.

In the 11th paragraph, the sentence, “The agreement for the 36 aircraft was signed by two Defence Ministers on September 23, 2016. DRAL was registered on October 3...”, overlooks that Dassault Reliance Aerospace Limited (DRAL) was registered on February 10, 2017.

Finally, in the penultimate paragraph, the sentence, “Since Reliance subsidiaries were awarded a clutch of

defence licences during 2016-17, it is unclear as to how many of these are engaged with the Rafale offsets”, overlooks Reliance Defence having issued a press statement and conducted a formal interview clarifying all issues related to Reliance Defence. DRAL is the only Indian Offset Partner (IOP) of Dassault Aviation, in which Reliance holds 51% equity and Dassault Aviation 49% equity.

RAJESH K. DHINGRA,
CEO, RELIANCE DEFENCE

MORE LETTERS ONLINE:
www.thehindu.com/opinion/letters/

CORRECTIONS & CLARIFICATIONS:
The third paragraph of “Ten at home is great, but zero where it matters is not” (Between Wickets column, Oct. 17, 2018) said: “Four years ago, after a wipe-out in England (I-4), India took on the Windies at home.” India actually lost that series I-3. After the first Test was drawn, India won the second and England took the last.

In “India's air-walker poised for lift-off” (Weekend Sport, Oct. 13, 2018), Sreesankar's profile erroneously gave his year of birth as 1997. It should have been 1999.

The Readers' Editor's office can be contacted by Telephone: +91-44-28418297/28576300; E-mail: readerseditor@thehindu.co.in

A N D N D E

Labelling, the new illiteracy of our times

Instead of reading and understanding a piece of writing, labelling it as 'leftist' or 'rightist' is the practice today



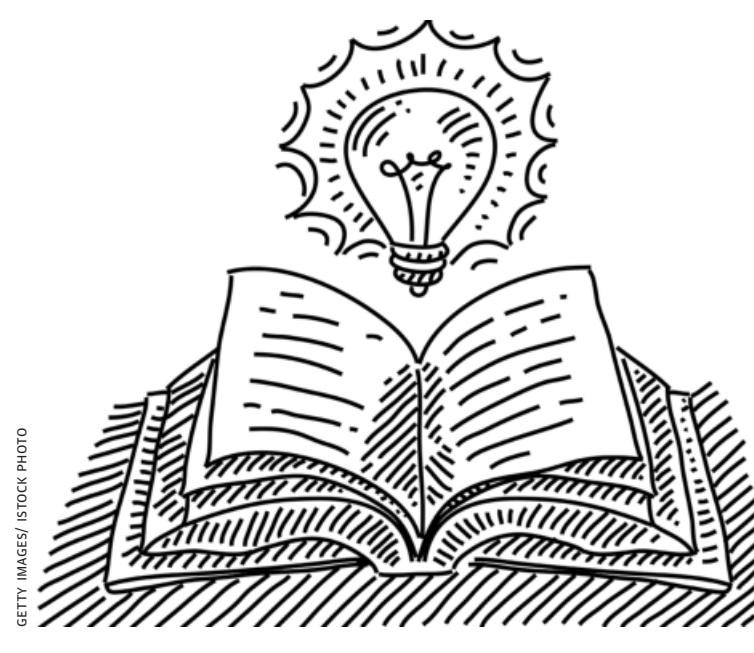
SUNDAR SARUKKAI

Today, we are under the dangerous influence of a new form of illiteracy. According to the Census, "a person aged seven and above, who can both read and write with understanding in any language, is treated as literate." We are now seeing a form of illiteracy creeping on those who are literate and this has to do with the term "understanding" in the above definition. Today, under the influence of digital technologies and a dominant visual culture, are we reading (and seeing) with less understanding?

The art of reading

This new form of illiteracy has to do with certain incapacities of reading and writing. Reading is matter of fact and habitual; yet it has many hidden dimensions to it. Reading is more than seeing words. It is about making sense of words, about discovering and constructing meaning. The meaning of the words we read are not gathered from dictionaries alone. They are also created from our memories and experiences. The meaning of every sentence is dependent on the context in which it is used.

If reading is so complex, how is it that we read so effortlessly? The strategies of reading have to be taught and they become part of our habits of reading. For example, we often take for granted the relation between reading and writing, or writing a sentence from left to right (say, in English). Even this simple practice of writing has deep cognitive consequences. When we read from left to right, our experiences of reading are different than when we read from right to left. We also tend to read, like this article, from top to bottom. These practices of writing deeply influence how we make meaning of what we read. Experiments have shown that our notion of time as moving from left to right has a strong correlation with the way we write. People who write from right to left (as in Urdu or Hebrew) tend to understand time as moving from right to left.



GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCK PHOTO

Reading practices have always been culturally influenced. Every age has had different strategies of reading. Even the pleasure of reading silently, which is so endemic today, was not always the social norm since reading aloud was a common practice in various medieval societies. It is said that ancient libraries had people reading out aloud and shouting across tables, which is quite unlike our idea of a library today.

The act of labelling

What really is the dominant practice of reading today? What are the skills of reading that are part of public practices? A troubling practice that has crept into our contemporary reading practices is the act of labelling instead of 'reading'. When we read we discover and/or create meaning of what we read. One easy way of discovering meaning is not to struggle through reading but through the act of labelling. Labelling is a way of saying that the article is about something without even reading it. It is remarkable how so much of our reading gets judged by the act of labelling. To show that you have read an article, all you have to do is say that this article is 'leftist' or 'rightist' and it is as if all meaning becomes transparent.

Labelling is the new illiteracy of our times. Labelling is an obstacle to really understanding what is being said and how it is being said. It is also

a lazy and unethical way of reading. The motivation for labelling is not to learn and understand but to attack without justification. It is a symptom of how a literate people can become dangerously illiterate when labelling replaces understanding.

It is the spread of labelling as a form of social reading that has also contributed to the spread of hate in our society. If you do not want to hear what a woman has to say, all you have to do is label her as a 'feminist'. Similarly, if you do not want to be persuaded by the reasonable arguments of those who are concerned about so many things going wrong around us, all you have to do is to label them 'anti-national'. This habit of labelling has become so deep and endemic that we will not read a book or an article if the author is labelled in a particular way. Everything in our society today has been reduced to labels: Left, Right, man, woman, Brahmin, Dalit, Hindu, Muslim, and so on. Labelling is our new social disease of illiteracy.

Two events that happened over the last few days are a good illustration of this illiteracy. One was the attack on a play, performed in Bengaluru, titled 'Shiva', about the LGBTQ community. A bunch of hooligans stopped the performance as they objected to the title. If you thought that we are reaching new levels of absurdity with such 'protests', at around the same time the government sent a

circular to all universities that implied that government-funded teachers cannot be critical of the government. There is really no difference between the hooligans and the ones who created this rule. Both groups are illiterate and don't know how to read a play or an article. They are labelling instead of understanding.

The freedom of interpretation

We are often told that artists, activists and some academics misuse the freedom of expression to say what they want. But what about the reader or the spectator? They are also using a 'freedom of interpretation' to interpret what they want in the text or the play. What is the responsibility of hearing, reading and seeing? It is ironic that the hooligans as well as the representatives of this government want complete freedom of interpretation, but do not want to allow freedom of expression.

These acts are unethical because the task of a democratic society is not only to protect freedom of expression, but to also protect and enable the freedom of interpretation. Like all freedoms, this freedom has to be used ethically. This is exactly what intolerant people as well as the government are not capable of understanding.

In the case of the play, the few people who are labelling it without reading or watching it are misusing the hard-won freedom of interpretation for their personal ends. Similarly, the government is behaving in an intolerant manner by passing a rule that the faculty cannot write any critical articles about the government, its actions, its policies. How should the government read these critical pieces? They can be read as being against the government or, equally, they can be interpreted as helping the larger society by pointing out the mistakes in policies or governance.

The problem is not the articles that are critical about the government; rather, it is about the way those articles are being read by those in the government. These authoritarian responses are not just against art in the public domain or university teachers but against the very ethos of literacy itself.

Sundar Sarukkai is Professor of Philosophy at the National Institute of Advanced Studies, Bengaluru

SINGLE FILE

Cleanliness and godliness

Ganesh Chaturthi is an opportunity to see the failure of Swachh Bharat

SAMIR NAZARETH

Across India, the celebration of Ganesh Chaturthi last month witnessed not only devotional joy but also public consternation at the environmental destruction caused by the immersion of idols in water. Notwithstanding the considerable media attention given to waste, fish-kill and pollution, the grandiosity of the idols and celebrations seemed undiminished.

In a sense, this festival is an opportunity to see the failure of the Swachh Bharat campaign. In this, and many other related cases of public celebration, the apparent apathy to civic cleanliness is based on the belief that someone else will clean up. Unfortunately, this campaign appears to be pandering to this aspect of the Indian psyche. Keeping India clean is different from not dirtying it. The nuance may be subtle but its impact is writ large across this country's landscape, be it in the sewer workers dying on the job or in the penchant to litter in public places.

There are people employed to keep modern India clean. However, those tasked, willingly or via coercion, into this important role have never been respected. So, it should come as no surprise that political leaders sometimes choose to stand uncomfortably with brooms surrounded by artistically strewn waste to suggest the social value of sweeping. Maybe they are trying to simultaneously elevate the status of those who clean up after them.

The polluter pays principle (PPP) is a philosophy that not only deters pollution but also incentivises alternatives. The Swachh Bharat campaign is not based on PPP; rather it emphasises certain generational roles and responsibilities. Thus, there is an uncomfortable silence in the aftermath of idol immersion, both by the devotee and government.

Although clay is environmentally friendly, large statues of Ganeshas tend to be made of plaster of Paris. So, it would stand to reason that concern for the environment would limit the Lord's earthly dimensions for this period. Unfortunately, it does not. Our hubris raises the Lord to new heights for Ganesh Chaturthi and then our callousness brings the Lord crashing down.

Sculptors of eco-friendly Ganeshas have become creative in the last few years – for example, by making idols out of chocolate and bananas, which they later distribute as prasad. However, efforts by some households to make this festival eco-friendly can't compete with the size and numbers of plaster-of-Paris Ganeshas installed in homes and by various Ganesh mandals.

If the Swachh Bharat initiative had a punitive element, it could potentially drive civic sense forward and change the way people consume, generate and dispose waste. It would ensure that the Lord is not forgotten after the idol immersion ritual, and thus save devotees the visual of idols as detritus. A secondary, if substantively meaningful, benefit would be additional protection gained for the environment.

The writer is the author of *1400 Bananas, 76 Towns & 1 Million People*

CM YK



CONCEPTUAL Pollution haven hypothesis

ECONOMICS

This refers to the hypothesis that companies that cause a lot of environmental pollution generally prefer to set up their factories and other facilities in developing countries that have lax environmental regulations. This is because complying with the tough environmental standards in developed countries is usually a costly affair. So it makes economic sense to locate operations in countries with poor environmental standards. Apart from lax environmental regulations, people and policymakers in developing countries also attach a lower value to the need for a clean environment.

MORE ON THE WEB

The Hindu Science Quiz:
Do you know how 'lens'
got its name?

<http://bit.ly/THScienceQuizLens>

The writer is the author of *1400 Bananas, 76 Towns & 1 Million People*

FAQ

Understanding Zika

Why there's an outbreak and who should be worried

PRIYANKA PULLA

What is Zika?

Zika, a flavivirus spread mainly by mosquitoes, belongs to the same genus as dengue and chikungunya. Some evidence that Zika has been in India for long comes from a 1954 survey, which found several Indians with Zika antibodies. However, this evidence wasn't conclusive, because other flaviviruses, like dengue, can also trigger Zika-neutralising antibodies. The first confirmed Indian case occurred in 2016 in Gujarat. Later, three more cases were detected, before the 2018 Rajasthan outbreak. Despite its long presence in Asia, Zika outbreaks in this region have been benign. This changed with a large French Polynesian outbreak in 2013 and a larger Brazilian one in 2015.

What are the symptoms?

In Rajasthan, where 72

have been infected, Zika is causing fever, rash, muscle and joint pain. But the French Polynesian and Brazilian outbreaks were linked to deadlier conditions such as microcephaly, in which the child of a Zika-infected mother is born with an abnormally small head. In rare cases, patients also developed Guillain-Barre syndrome, which causes potentially fatal muscle weakness. Indian officials are watching out for these complications, since the Rajasthan strain is closely related to the Brazilian strain.

If Zika has been in India since 2016, why is there a large outbreak only now?

First, Rajasthan's residents may not have been exposed to Zika before, and thus lack immunity. According to Nathan D. Grubaugh, a Zika genomics researcher at the Yale School of Public Health, American studies show that if 50-60% of a popula-

Unclogging our oceans

India can emulate innovative solutions from across the world to tackle the problem of ghost gear



AATHIRA PERINCHERY

In March 2018, fishermen hauled 400 kg of fishing nets out of the sea in a few locations off Kerala's south coast. There are many such reports of divers regularly making underwater trips just to extract nets that have sunk to the ocean floor off India's coasts, ranging from Tamil Nadu to Maharashtra. The problem of ghost gear (any fishing equipment that has been lost, discarded or abandoned in water bodies) has grown from a fishing fallout that people had not heard of to one that is now difficult to ignore.

Consequences of marine debris

And rightly so, for the consequences of marine debris are many. Between 2011 and 2018 alone, the Olive Ridley Project, a U.K. registered charity that removes ghost nets and protects sea turtles, recorded 601 sea turtles being entangled in ghost gear near the Maldives, of which 528 were Olive Ridleys – the same species that come in thousands to Odisha's coasts to nest. Other casualties worldwide include whales, dolphins, sharks and even pelagic birds.

In 2016, when a team of marine biologists reviewed 76 publications and other sources of literature on ghost gear from across the world, they found that over 5,400 marine animals belonging to 40 different species were recorded as entangled in ghost gear, or associated with it. This analysis also showed a huge gap in data from the Indian, Southern and Arctic Oceans, prompting the team to recommend that future studies focus on these areas.

Yet, two years later, there are still no data pertaining to the extent of prevalence of ghost gear off India's coast. And data is crucial here, for the detrimental effects of these nets also spillover into other countries and oceans. Ghost nets are often 'ghost fishers'. Ocean currents carry them for thousands of km across the ocean floor, ensnaring, injuring and drowning marine life and damaging live corals along the way. Discarded Indian and Thai fishing nets, for instance, have been fished out of Maldivian coasts, reports a study that examined 74 separate ghost net collections between 2013 and 2014.

The Hindu recently reported that scientists at Kochi's Indian Council of Agricultural Research-Central Institute of Fisheries Technology studied ghost nets in Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh, Kerala and Tamil Nadu. However, the results of the report, which were submitted

to the Food and Agricultural Organisation of the UN in April, have not been released yet. According to the scientists, the government is also currently preparing a national ghost net management policy.

While that would be an extremely welcome and timely move to tackle the growing ghost gear phenomenon, a larger question remains. When bigger violations, such as large vessels fishing where they are not supposed to, are not checked, would a policy on the management of ghost nets be implemented, asks Divya Karnad, a marine biologist. The effects of ghost nets are evident and tug at heartstrings. Images of turtles tangled in nylon and of beautiful blue oceans blem-



ished by a mist-like white net floating about highlight the plight of marine life and prompt immediate action. But the consequences of overfishing, using nets of the smallest mesh size, and illegal fishing are far less visible, though more worrying. Entire fishing communities are affected by these actions, especially in developing countries like India where the demand for fish keeps rising.

Transforming used nets

But that does not mean that the problem of ghost gear should not be addressed. There are numerous innovative solutions to tackle it, if we can learn from projects across the world. In countries like Canada and Thailand, fishermen retain their used nets; these are recycled into yarn to craft socks and even carpet tiles. For the first time in a developing country, a gear-marking programme is being tested in Indonesia so that the trajectory of gear, if it drifts away, can be studied better. Outreach and education among fishing communities would be crucial along with policy-level changes.

In one instance in India, ghost nets hauled from Kerala's Kollam have been used to pave roads. This shows that transformation is possible, though more efforts to make the process more organised across the over 7,500 km of India's coasts, as well as inland water bodies, are the need of the hour.

aathira.p@thehindu.co.in

FROM The Hindu ARCHIVES

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO OCTOBER 18, 1918.

Indian Reforms. Sydenham Scheme.

The Indo-British Association has issued a pamphlet severely criticising the main features of the proposals contained in the Report and suggesting an alternative scheme. It is suggested that the administration in defined areas shall be handed over to Indians, these areas being increased when experience has proved that Indian interests are being secured and promoted by the transfer. One or two districts of every Province should wholly be under the Indian Members of different services. This has been done in Bengal but the experiment was inconclusive owing to lack of revenue system.

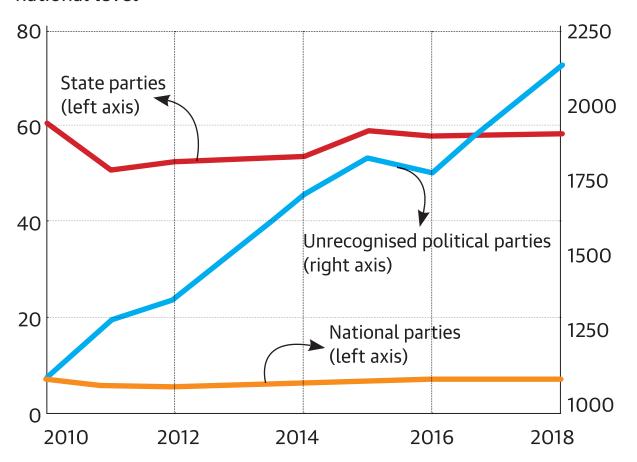
Jam Bazaar Looting Case.

Mr. Nugent Grant with Mr. R. N. Aingar moved, this morning [October 18], for the admission of a Revision Petition on behalf of one Azimmuddin, a Chaffeur of Mr. Venkiah, to set aside the order of the Chief Presidency Magistrate convicting Azimmuddin of rioting in connection with the Jam Bazaar looting on the 9th September last and sentencing him to one month's rigorous imprisonment and Rs. 50 fine. The Chief Presidency Magistrate in convicting the accused held that the accused was found among the looters scattering rice from the shop. It was argued in revision that the accused was roped in by the Police along with the others whether they did or did not take part in the looting. The accused was sent on a perfectly lawful errand to the market, to wit, to purchase fruits and flowers. It was quite possible that he sought refuge in the shop amidst the confusion that prevailed in the bazaar owing to looting. The Inspector of Police himself did not give evidence to show that the accused took part in the looting.

DATA POINT

More parties, few recognitions

Registrations of unrecognised political parties nearly doubled in the last nine years, while the number of recognised State parties and national parties has remained nearly the same. Only a handful of the new entrants have met the conditions to become a State party in the last decade, while there have been no additions at the national level.



Source: Election Commission

A N-DNE

FROM PAGE ONE

Violence mars temple reopening

The agitators were in an aggressive mood since morning. There was a heavy turnout of protesters who came in small prayer groups and assembled in front of the Mahadevar temple.

Violence broke out just hours before the temple's official opening for the monthly pooja after the women protesters had ended their sit-in and vacated the area by 3 p.m.

The protesters attacked KSRTC buses and other government vehicles parked at Nilakkal. They smashed the window panes of many private vehicles.

Chased protesters
The police chased many protesters up to two km towards Elavumkal side on the main trunk road leading to Sabarimala.

The protesters alleged that they had resorted to stone-throwing in retaliation after the policemen hurled stones at them.

The protesters turned their ire on mediapersons.

'No Indian link to assassination plot'

The statement follows reports in select Sri Lankan media and *The Hindu* about Mr. Sirisena reportedly accusing India's Research and Analysis Wing (RAW) of plotting his assassination.

The PMD also said "among other topics discussed at various times during the Cabinet meeting, was the development of the Eastern terminal of the Colombo port. The President highlighted the importance of Sri Lanka having a deep-sea port terminal in the interest of the national economy."

The statement further said India and Sri Lanka maintained "cordial relations and cooperation since the inception of this government."

Additionally, the Sri Lankan Foreign Ministry and the Cabinet issued official clarifications on Wednesday. "The Ministry wishes to clarify that the media reports in this connection are baseless and false," an official statement said.

Relations between Sri Lanka and India at the highest levels of government were strong, the Ministry said, "encompassing multiple spheres including intelligence sharing."

Separately, the Cabinet Secretary issued a note denying news items on the Cabinet meeting, "in print and electronic media", terming

Reporters of three national TV channels were assaulted and the vehicle carrying the crew of one of the channels was attacked.

Call for bandh

The Sabarimala Samrakshna Samithi later called for a bandh on Thursday in protest against the police action in Nilakkal and Pampa. The National Democratic Alliance and the BJP in separate statements, announced their unconditional support.

In the forenoon, the police arrested Devaki Antharajanam, 83-year-old mother of the Sabarimala Tantri, Kandararu Mohanararu, and her daughter Mallika, the former TDB president Prayar Gopalakrishnan, and the Pandalam Palace representatives who were staging satyagraha at Pampa.

Congress workers staged a satyagraha and prayer meet at Nilakkal expressing solidarity with the devotees staging the Namajapa Yagnam, or prayer protest.

#MeToo storm pushes Akbar out

Govt. did not want to be tainted by his alleged behaviour when he was editor

SUHASINI HAIDAR
NISTULA HEBBAR
NEW DELHI

Minister of State for External Affairs M.J. Akbar's statement announcing his resignation on Wednesday was in sharp contrast to the defiant note he struck on Sunday, when he refused to step down and hinted at a political agenda to the timing of the allegations of sexual harassment against him "ahead of elections."

The government also seemed to support his stand as he appeared with External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj for official meetings on Monday and met with National Security Advisor Ajit Doval.

However the issue snowballed subsequently, and on

Tuesday evening a statement signed by 20 journalists added to the accounts from those who had worked at various times with Mr. Akbar at the *Asian Age*, *Telegraph*, *Sunday* and the *Deccan Chronicle*, and were willing to testify against him. One particularly damaging account came from a young journalist who claimed Mr. Akbar had invited her to his room, and greeted her wearing only his underwear.

According to government sources, in the wake of all the #MeToo allegations, it would have been difficult to explain Mr. Akbar's appearance in court on Thursday as a serving Minister.

"The government felt that it was his call since the allegations pertained to his stint



Courting controversy: M.J. Akbar is the first Minister in the Modi Cabinet to step down under public pressure. ■ REUTERS

in the media and did not have anything to do with his work as a minister, but once he decided to go to court, then a call was taken that he should do this independently, as a citizen rather than a part of the government," said a senior Minister.

According to sources, the RSS also put pressure on the

government including a very public endorsement of the #MeToo movement by the organisation's joint general secretary Dattatreya Hosabale.

"It was felt that till now the Modi government had successfully avoided major taints, scams etc., why should they allow the negativity of this issue to attach it-

self," said a source. Mr. Akbar is the first Minister to step down in this manner under public pressure during Mr. Modi's tenure.

We feel vindicated

Reacting to the resignation, journalist Priya Ramani against whom Mr. Akbar filed the defamation case, tweeted, "As women we feel vindicated by M.J. Akbar's resignation. I look forward to the day when I will also get justice in court."

Another journalist Ghazala Wahab, who has accused Mr. Akbar of molesting her in office, told *The Hindu* that she would support Ms. Ramani in court. "I feel euphoric. I would like to believe that he responded to voice of conscience. I would not see it as a beginning or end of the Me Too movement, which I hope reaches small towns and villages too."

sources also say that a panel of judges and legal persons announced by Women and Child Development Minister Maneka Gandhi to look at ways to strengthen the legal and institutional framework was being examined by the Ministry of Law but it may not be a legally sound instrument.

Strengthening laws

"The GoM, therefore, will go into strengthening the existing laws so that justice can be availed without having to bring the matter to court all the time," said a senior Minister.

Both Ms. Gandhi and Textile Minister Smriti Irani have been the two voices within the government that have batted for survivors of sexual harassment at workplace.

"The Prime Minister has always given top priority to the rights of women. The first programme that he launched was 'Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao'. We don't save our daughters to allow big shots to insult them later in life," Ms. Gandhi had told PTI in an interview.

Better late than never, says Opposition

It is a vindication of the power of truth even if it began with one brave person speaking up: Congress

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Opposition parties on Wednesday said the resignation of Union Minister of State for External Affairs M.J. Akbar was late in coming, but saw it as a necessity in view of the complaints of sexual harassment made against him by about 20 women.

The BJP, however, called the resignation a positive step, saying a government that was "committed" to women's empowerment would

not want to get embroiled in such a controversy.

Congress leader Abhishek Manu Singhvi told *The Hindu*, "Better late than never. The BJP itself seems to have reversed its stand of obstinacy even though belatedly."

BJP spokesperson and Lok Sabha MP Meenakshi Lekhi said: "The allegations are personal and the party would not want to get embroiled, specially when the Modi government has done a lot for women's empower-

ment... This is a matter of an editor and the media should also have a look at these equations, as the allegations are by reporters."

A salute for the women

The Congress' Priyanka Chaturvedi, however, questioned the Prime Minister's silence. "The resignation of M.J. Akbar is a vindication of the power of truth even if it began with one brave person speaking up," she tweeted. "I salute these women who

stood their ground despite the brazen stance of the GoI, silence of the PM who speaks of women empowerment and the misuse of power by deploying a battery of lawyers against one woman."

Communist Party of India (Marxist) general secretary Sitaram Yechury said: "The CPI (M) has been saying from day one that it is morally untenable for M.J. Akbar to continue as Minister."

The CPI's D. Raja, too, said the resignation should have

come long back.

Rashtriya Janata Dal spokesperson and RS MP Manoj Jha said, "This is more than anybody else's a victory of the women who spoke out through the Me Too campaign. Their voices were consistent and they did not get cowed down before intimidation by M.J. Akbar. May be that message finally reached Raisina Hill and the government feared that it could snowball into a bigger crisis."

Two Lashkar militants among 4 killed in Srinagar



Pitched battle: A jawan tackling protesters near the encounter site in downtown Srinagar on Wednesday. ■ NISSAR AHMAD

Security forces fire smoke shells, pellets as protests break out in city

PEERZADA ASHIQ
SRINAGAR

Two Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) militants, their "accomplice" and a policeman were killed in a fierce encounter in the heart of Srinagar's Fateh Kadal on Wednesday morning, fuelling a spate of protests in the capital.

"The police and the CRPF launched a joint operation after receiving specific inputs about the militants' presence inside a house in the city. The hiding militants opened fire when the search party arrived at the house. A policeman was killed. Later, we recovered three bodies – two militants and their active accomplice – at the encounter site," Director General of Police (DGP) Dilbagh Singh said. The deceased constable was identified as Kamal Kishore. Two jawans were also injured.

The slain militants were identified as Mehraj-ud-Din Bangroo from Fatehkadal's Narparistan and Fahad Mushtaq Waza from Khanayar. "Bangroo was active since 2015 and was involved in many attacks and weapon snatching," said DGP Singh.

"The police and the CRPF launched a joint operation after receiving specific inputs about the militants' presence inside a house in the city. The hiding militants opened fire when the search party arrived at the house. A policeman was killed. Later, we recovered three bodies – two militants and their active accomplice – at the encounter site," Director General of Police (DGP) Dilbagh Singh said. The deceased constable was identified as Kamal Kishore. Two jawans were also injured.

The separatist Joint Resistance Leadership has called for a shutdown on Thursday.

Jaswant Singh's son joins Congress

Senior leaders announce Manvendra Singh's entry at special press meet

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

lined by the Vasundhara government.

In sharp contrast, the Congress announced his entry with a special press conference addressed by senior leaders including former Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot, State Congress chief Sachin Pilot and communications chief Randeep Surjewala among others.

The Congress sent out two clear political messages: to the Rajput community that



Manvendra Singh

had traditionally voted for the BJP and two, that supporters including family members of BJP's tallest leaders like Jaswant Singh among others.

The Madhya Pradesh elections will see a new political party speaking against reservations field candidates on most seats.

Founded by a JNU alumnus and former journalist, the Anaarkashit Samaj Party – meaning Reservation-free Society Party – that has been registered recently will contest a majority of the seats in the Assembly polls on an anti-reservation plank. While its default constituency is the upper castes, the party says it does not believe in the caste system and thus opposes caste-based quotas.

Helmet symbol
Its election symbol is the helmet, standing for a defence shield against any force trampling on our rights".

"We want an India free of

were being ignored under Prime Minister Narendra Modi and BJP president Amit Shah. "A man [Jaswant Singh] who had been country's Finance Minister, Defence Minister and External Affairs Minister, who was Prime Ministerial material, had been targeted by the BJP in pursuance of a conspiracy," said Mr. Gehlot.

The Congress also welcomed another former BJP MLA from Maharashtra, Ashish Deshmukh, representing Katol in the Vidarbha region, who resigned allegedly over the Rafale jet deal.

had traditionally voted for the BJP and two, that supporters including family members of BJP's tallest leaders like Jaswant Singh among others.

Probe begins into arms licence scam

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has launched a probe into a massive scam in illegal issuance and renewal of arms licences under various Deputy Commissioners in Jammu and Kashmir, particularly from 2012 to 2016, on forged documents.

It is alleged that 4.29 lakh licences were either issued or renewed in the State over the past decade.

The issue came to light during probe by the Rajasthan Police's Anti-Terrorism Squad (ATS) in 2017, following which the J&K Governor referred the matter to August for CBI probe.

Accordingly, the CBI has registered two FIRs. "The cases pertain to alleged irregularities in issuance and renewal of arms licences by the then Deputy Commissioners of various districts, particularly Udhampur and Kupwara in lieu of monetary considerations," said an official.

PM must end silence on Rafale: Congress

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

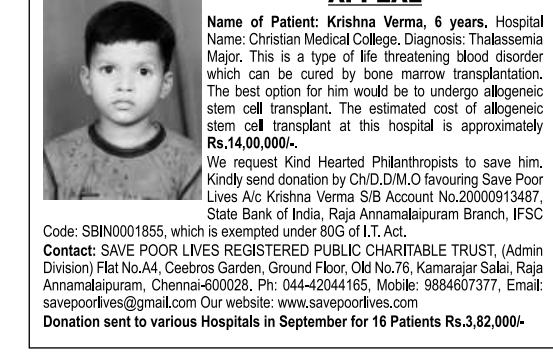
The Congress on Wednesday urged Prime Minister Narendra Modi to break his silence on the controversial Rafale deal after claiming that fresh documents revealed that Mr. Modi had facilitated a "sweetheart deal" between Dassault Aviation and Reliance Defence.

"Undisputed evidence now corroborates brazen 'crony capitalism' and 'quid pro quo' by the Modi government in the multi-crore Rafale scam," Congress communication chief Ran-

deep Surjewala told reporters here.

The 'fresh documents' that the Congress referred to are minutes of the meetings of two trade unions, referred to as Central Works Council or CCE in France.

"[In] the minutes of the meeting with one such union, CGT, Dassault Aviation's COO Loïc Segalen is quoted as saying that 'it was imperative and mandatory for Dassault Aviation to accept this counteroffer in order to obtain the export contract Rafale India,'" Mr. Surjewala said.



APPEAL
Name of Patient: Krishna Verma, 6 years, Hospital Name: Christian Medical College, Thalassery Major: This is a type of life threatening blood disorder which can be cured by bone marrow transplantation. The best option for him would be undergo allogeneic stem cell transplant. The estimated cost of allogeneic stem cell transplant at this hospital is approximately Rs.14,00,000/-
We request Kind Hearted Philanthropists to save Poor Lives A/c Krishna Verma S/B Account No.2000913487, State Bank of India, Raja Annamalaiapuram Branch, IFSC Code: SBIN001855, which is exempted under 80G of I.T. Act.
Contact: SAVE POOR LIVES REGISTERED PUBLIC CHARITABLE TRUST, (Admin Division) Flat No.44, Ceebos Garden, Ground Floor, Old No.76, Kamarajar Salai, Raja Annamalaiapuram, Chennai -600028. Ph: 044-2044165, Mobile: 9884607377, Email: savepoorlives@gmail.com Our website: www.savepoorlives.com
Donation sent to various Hospitals in September for 16 Patients Rs.3,82,000/-

Anti-quota party to fight M.P. elections

VIKAS PATHAK
NEW DELHI

At a time when the Centre has reversed a Supreme Court ruling introducing procedures for the application of SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act through a Bill passed by Parliament and has set the ball rolling for a Constitutional Commission for the Socially and Educationally Backward Classes,

the Madhya Pradesh elections will see a new political party speaking against reservations field candidates on most seats.

Founded by a JNU alumnus and former journalist, the Anaarkashit Samaj Party – meaning Reservation-free Society Party – that has been registered recently will contest a majority of the seats in the Assembly polls on an anti-reservation plank. While its default constituency is the upper castes, the party says it does not believe in the caste system and thus opposes caste-based quotas.

Helmet symbol
Its election symbol is the helmet, standing for a defence shield against any force trampling on our rights".

"We want an India free of

Tiruchi.

CM

AN-ND-NDE

IN BRIEF



'BJP Yuva Morcha, Bajrang Dal behind attack'

PATNA

A day after the attack on his convoy, former Jawaharlal Nehru University students union president Kanhaiya Kumar on Wednesday accused members of the BJP Yuva Morcha and the Bajrang Dal activists of "orchestrating it."

EC for capping anonymous donations to ₹2,000

NEW DELHI

The Election Commission (EC) has again written to the Law Ministry for capping anonymous donations to parties to ₹2,000 for greater transparency in funding. However, the context in which the request had been made was not clear.

Chandigarh police merger with other UTs put on hold

NEW DELHI

The Union Home Ministry has suspended a notification issued last month to merge senior ranks of police from Chandigarh and five other Union Territories, including Delhi. The decision was opposed by the Congress government in Punjab and the Shiromani Akali Dal.

Sirisena calls up Modi, denies blaming India's RAW

Says he was misquoted on charge of assassination plot

SUHASINI HAIDAR
MEERA SRINIVASAN
NEW DELHI/COLOMBO

Narendra Modi and Maithripala Sirisena

Worried about the fallout of reports emanating from a Cabinet meet, Sri Lankan President Maithripala Sirisena telephoned Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday evening to clear the air over the contention that he had blamed India's intelligence agency R&AW for an alleged assassination plot targeting him.

"Mr. Sirisena said his words had been misquoted and distorted, and he denied having said that Indian agencies would be involved in the case in any manner," MEA spokesperson Ravneesh Kumar told *The Hindu* after the telephone conversation, which lasted about 20 minutes.

"Prime Minister Narendra Modi appreciated his prompt action in clarifying the issue and initiating the call," Mr. Kumar added, saying that the leaders assured each other of their friendship and the importance of India-Sri Lanka ties.

The Prime Minister's Office said in a statement that the Sri Lankan President termed the "mischievous and malafide" reports as "utterly baseless and false," and seemed intended to create misunderstanding between the two leaders, as well as damage the cordial relations between the neighbours.

Mr. Sirisena apprised PM Modi of "the urgent steps" taken by him personally and the Government of Sri Lanka, to publicly reject the reports, it said.

President Sirisena's Media Division too released a statement following the call, saying the two leaders held "a

cordial discussion", in which Mr. Modi assured him of all support for Sri Lanka's development and prosperity. According to the media release, Mr. Modi "expressed appreciation" over President Sirisena's efforts "to maintain close relations with neighbours as well as other countries."

Media leaks

According to sources in Colombo and New Delhi, Mr. Sirisena also discussed the problem of the "media leaks" from the government of Sri Lanka pointed to the inconsistencies within the government, days ahead of Mr. Wickremesinghe's arrival in New Delhi on Thursday.

"Mr. Sirisena is upset that India has been dragged into the internal politics of Sri Lanka in this manner," the aide said. Sources in New Delhi and Colombo said the challenges of domestic politics, especially in an election year that the two leaders face, figured in their telephone conversation as well.

Meanwhile, intelligence experts saw the move as deliberately targeting India. Former R&AW chief Vikram Sood said it seemed more a case of internal politics, designed to upset India. "In democracies, intelligence agencies do not have an independent foreign policy, and neither do we. In fact, it is more to embarrass GoI ahead of Mr. Wickremesinghe's visit," he told *The Hindu*.

Mr. Wickremesinghe and Mr. Sirisena are also divided over the issue of handing India the operations of Colombo port terminals.

SC orders release of man who served 29 years in jail

Ram Sewak was undergoing life term for murder

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

In a display of its humane approach towards aged convicts serving life imprisonment, the Supreme Court has ordered the immediate and premature release of an elderly prisoner who has served over 29 years behind bars.

36 years totally

Ram Sewak, who was found guilty of murder and voluntarily causing hurt during a robbery, was sentenced to life imprisonment by a trial court in Uttar Pradesh. His case dates back to 1981.

A Bench of Justices Kurian Joseph

A.P. hamlets shine in rural survey

Rural Development Ministry conducts a gap analysis of more than 3.5 lakh villages in the country

PRISCILLA JEBARAJ

NEW DELHI

Kuligod in Karnataka's Belagavi district is the country's best developed village, but more than a third of the gram panchayats ranked in the top 10 are in Andhra Pradesh, according to the findings of an ongoing Rural Development Ministry survey.

With multiple panchayats assigned the same score – and thus tied at the same ranking – there are 97 panchayats in the top 10 ranks. Of these, 37 panchayats are in Andhra Pradesh while 24 are in Tamil Nadu.

Villages from other States are represented only in single digits. Of the States going to the polls next month, Telangana and Madhya Pradesh have five and four panchayats in the top 10 ranks respectively.

The Rural Development Ministry has done a gap analysis of more than 3.5 lakh villages, in more than 1.6 lakh panchayats under the Mission Antyodaya convergence scheme. A team of officials surveyed and scored village level facilities and amenities using parameters

related to infrastructure, economic development and livelihood, irrigation facilities, health, nutrition and sanitation, women's empowerment, and financial inclusion.

While in October 2017, an

initial baseline survey was carried out in 50,000 gram panchayats, this year, the exercise is expected to cover all of the country's 2.5 lakh panchayats by the end of November. The rankings will be updated as more panchayats

are included, the Ministry said.

At the national level, the data shows progress in some areas and also spotlights discrepancies in respect of targets met under some other government schemes.

Compiled by Varun B. Krishnan

*The indicators are infrastructure, health, women empowerment, economic development, basic village parameters and financial inclusion

On top of the charts

A total of 97 gram panchayats appear in the top 10 ranks in the list released by the Ministry of Rural Development. The ranking is based on six indicators*

Best of the best

Rank	Panchayat	District	State	Score
1	Kuligod	Belagavi	Karnataka	94
2	Sri Ramapuram	Chittoor	Andhra Pradesh	92
2	Tellapur	Sangareddy	Telangana	92

Best districts

Andhra Pradesh

- Chittoor (11 villages in top 97)
- Visakhapatnam (10 villages)

Tamil Nadu

- Vellore (4 villages)
- Dindigul (4 villages)

State-wise split

The highest number of villages in the top 10 ranks is in Andhra Pradesh, while Tamil Nadu stands second

Andhra Pradesh 37

Tamil Nadu 24

Karnataka 8

Telangana 5

Madhya Pradesh 4

Others 19

No. of villages in top 10 ranks

Best of the best

Best districts

Andhra Pradesh

▪ Chittoor (11 villages in top 97)

▪ Visakhapatnam (10 villages)

Tamil Nadu

▪ Vellore (4 villages)

▪ Dindigul (4 villages)

State-wise split

The highest number of villages in the top 10 ranks is in Andhra Pradesh, while Tamil Nadu stands second

Andhra Pradesh 37

Tamil Nadu 24

Karnataka 8

Telangana 5

Madhya Pradesh 4

Others 19

No. of villages in top 10 ranks

Best of the best

Best districts

Andhra Pradesh

▪ Chittoor (11 villages in top 97)

▪ Visakhapatnam (10 villages)

Tamil Nadu

▪ Vellore (4 villages)

▪ Dindigul (4 villages)

State-wise split

The highest number of villages in the top 10 ranks is in Andhra Pradesh, while Tamil Nadu stands second

Andhra Pradesh 37

Tamil Nadu 24

Karnataka 8

Telangana 5

Madhya Pradesh 4

Others 19

No. of villages in top 10 ranks

Best of the best

Best districts

Andhra Pradesh

▪ Chittoor (11 villages in top 97)

▪ Visakhapatnam (10 villages)

Tamil Nadu

▪ Vellore (4 villages)

▪ Dindigul (4 villages)

State-wise split

The highest number of villages in the top 10 ranks is in Andhra Pradesh, while Tamil Nadu stands second

Andhra Pradesh 37

Tamil Nadu 24

Karnataka 8

Telangana 5

Madhya Pradesh 4

Others 19

No. of villages in top 10 ranks

Best of the best

Best districts

Andhra Pradesh

▪ Chittoor (11 villages in top 97)

▪ Visakhapatnam (10 villages)

Tamil Nadu

▪ Vellore (4 villages)

▪ Dindigul (4 villages)

State-wise split

The highest number of villages in the top 10 ranks is in Andhra Pradesh, while Tamil Nadu stands second

Andhra Pradesh 37

Tamil Nadu 24

Karnataka 8

Telangana 5

Madhya Pradesh 4

Others 19

No. of villages in top 10 ranks

Best of the best

Best districts

Andhra Pradesh

▪ Chittoor (11 villages in top 97)

▪ Visakhapatnam (10 villages)

Tamil Nadu

▪ Vellore (4 villages)

▪ Dindigul (4 villages)

State-wise split

The highest number of villages in the top 10 ranks is in Andhra Pradesh, while Tamil Nadu stands second

Andhra Pradesh 37

Tamil Nadu 24

Karnataka 8

Telangana 5

Madhya Pradesh 4

<p

12 WORLD



UN's Syria envoy to quit in November

UNITED NATIONS

UN's Syria envoy Staffan de Mistura said on Wednesday that he would step down at the end of November for personal reasons, but would use his final month to push for the formation of a panel to rewrite the Constitution. Mr. De Mistura, in the job for more than four years, is the longest serving of three UN mediators. **REUTERS**

Rocket attack on Israel prompts strikes on Gaza

Gaza

A rocket fired from the Gaza Strip hit a house in the largest city in southern Israel early on Wednesday, prompting Israeli air strikes that killed a militant in the Palestinian enclave. The rocket hit a two-storey house in Beersheba before dawn. Another rocket launched from Gaza fell into the Mediterranean Sea, the military said. **REUTERS**

Pak. man convicted of rape, murder executed

LAHORE

Mohammad Imran, convicted of killing eight children, was executed at a Pakistani prison early on Wednesday after the country's top court rejected a request for his public hanging, officials said. The rape and murder of a seven-year-old girl in January by Imran had sparked nationwide outrage. **AP**

Melania's plane returns to base after smoke scare

WASHINGTON

First Lady Melania Trump's plane was forced to return to a Washington military base on Wednesday because of smoke in the cabin. According to reporters travelling with her, the flight was in the air about 10 minutes when smoke filled the cabin, and then Secret Service agents rushed to the front. **AP**

Khashoggi was tortured before being killed: report

Turkish media cites an audio recording of writer's slaying at the Saudi consulate

ASSOCIATED PRESS

ANKARA

A pro-government Turkish newspaper on Wednesday published a gruesome recounting of the alleged slaying of Saudi writer Jamal Khashoggi at the Saudi Consulate in Istanbul, just as America's top diplomat arrived in the country for talks over *The Washington Post* columnist's disappearance.

The report by *Yeni Şafak* adds to the ever-increasing pressure on Saudi Arabia to explain what happened to Mr. Khashoggi, who vanished on October 2 while visiting the consulate to pick up paperwork he needed to get married.

Pompeo's visit

U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo held separate meetings with Turkey's President and Foreign Minister for around 40 minutes each on Wednesday in the Turkish capital, Ankara. No details were immediately released about the talks with President Recep Tayyip Erdogan and Foreign Minister Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu. The three posed for photos, but said nothing together in front of reporters.

Mr. Pompeo met with Saudi King Salman and his son, the 33-year-old Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, on Tuesday. Before leaving Riyadh, Mr. Pompeo told reporters that the Saudi leaders "made no exceptions on who they would hold accountable".

"They made a commitment to hold anyone connected to any wrongdoing that may be found accountable for that, whether they are a senior officer or official," Mr. Pompeo said. "No major decisions are

U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo with Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan in Ankara on Wednesday. **AP**

Trump criticises rush to condemn Saudi Arabia

ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON

U.S. President Donald Trump criticised rapidly mounting global condemnation of Saudi Arabia over the mystery of missing journalist Jamal Khashoggi, warning against a rush to judgment and echoing the Saudis' request for patience.

Mr. Trump on Tuesday compared the case of Mr. Khashoggi, who Turkish officials have said was murdered in the Saudis' Istanbul consulate, to the allegations of sexual assault levelled

against Supreme Court Justice Brett Kavanaugh during his confirmation hearing.

"I think we have to find out what happened first," Mr. Trump said. "Here, we go again with, you know, you're guilty until proven innocent. We just went through that with Justice Kavanaugh and he was innocent all the way as far as I'm concerned."

The remarks were his most robust defence yet of the Saudis, a U.S. ally he has made central to his West Asian agenda.

made outside of the ultra-conservative Kingdom's ruling Al Saud family. Mr. Khashoggi had fled the country last year amid the rise of Prince Mohammed, whom he wrote critically about in

the Post.

The *Yeni Şafak* report cited what it described as an audio recording of Mr. Khashoggi's slaying, which it said showed that the writer was tortured.

British MPs to debate making Deepavali a public holiday

11,000 people have signed a petition on Parliament website

VIDYA RAM

British MPs are set to hold a debate in Parliament later this month on whether Hindu and Muslim religious occasions such as Deepavali and Id should be made into public holidays, following public calls for change, including through petitions submitted to Parliament.

Over 45,000 people have signed a petition on Parliament's e-petition website, calling for Id-ul-Fitr and Id ul-Adha to be made public holidays, while over 11,000 have signed a petition to make Deepavali and Dussehra public holidays.

The petitions noted that despite both religions accounting for sizeable sections of the British community (the 2011 census said

Blast kills Afghan candidate

REUTERS

KABUL

despite the signatories not reaching the 1,00,000 threshold, which would automatically require the holding of a debate on the issue.

Martyn Day, a Scottish National MP and member of the Petitions Committee who will open the debate, said he was in the process of gathering data, and evidence on the arguments to and against changes. "Even in this country, for example, England has eight public holidays, Scotland, nine and Northern Ireland 10 so there is no consistency."

In addition, the message that reflecting different communities occasions via public holidays could have bolstering a strong multicultural society also had to be considered, he said.

The Afghan Taliban claimed responsibility for the blast in the southern province of Helmand, saying in a statement: "We have killed Qahraman, a renowned communist."

17 killed in Crimea shooting

REUTERS

MOSCOW

At least 17 people were killed and dozens injured at a college in the Black Sea region of Crimea on Wednesday when a student went through the building shooting at fellow pupils before killing himself, Russian officials said.

Vladislav Roslyakov, 18, turned up at the college in the city of Kerch on Wednesday afternoon, carrying a firearm, and then began shooting, investigators said. His body was later found in the college with what they said were self-inflicted gunshot wounds. There were no immediate clues as to the motive.

Many of the victims were teenage students who suffered shrapnel and bullet wounds.

WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange. **AP**

Newly released Ecuadorian government documents have laid bare an unorthodox attempt to extricate the WikiLeaks founder from his Embassy hideaway in London by naming him as a political counsellor to the country's Embassy in Moscow.

But Mr. Assange's new career in international affairs was nipped in the bud when British authorities vetoed his diplomatic status, effectively blocking him from taking up his new post in Russia.

Made public in Ecuador The files were made public late on Tuesday by Ecuadorian Opposition lawmaker Paola Vintimilla, who opposes her government's deci-

Moscow with a monthly salary pegged at \$2,000. Ecuador even went so far as to apply for a diplomatic ID card, the documents show, but the plan appears to have fallen apart with the British veto. A letter dated December 21, 2017, from Britain's Foreign Office says that U.K. officials "do not consider Mr. Julian Assange to be an acceptable member of the mission".

An eight-page memo written to Ms. Vintimilla summing up the whole episode notes that Mr. Assange's position as counsellor was scrapped a few days later.

Last month, the AP published internal WikiLeaks files showing that Mr. Assange tried to move to Russia as early as 2010.

Ecuador tried moving Assange to Russia by giving diplomatic status'

However, documents show the move was vetoed by U.K.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

LONDON

They largely corroborate a recent *Guardian* newspaper report that Ecuador attempted the elaborate manoeuvre just before Christmas last year.

Russian diplomats called the story "fake news", but the files show that Mr. Assange was briefly named "political counsellor" to the Ecuadorian Embassy in

clues as to the motive.

Many of the victims were teenage students who suffered shrapnel and bullet wounds.

CM YK

'Won't accept the blame if GOP loses in midterm polls'

Trump says his endorsements have helped many candidates

ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON

The newspaper said Saudi Consul General Mohammed al-Otaibi could be heard on the tape, telling those allegedly torturing Mr. Khashoggi: "Do this outside; you're going to get me in trouble."

The newspaper said one of the Saudis torturing Mr. Khashoggi replied: "Shut up if you want to live when you return to (Saudi) Arabia."

Saudi officials have not responded to repeated requests for comment from AP in recent days. Mr. Al-Otaibi left Turkey on Tuesday afternoon, Turkish state media reported. Security services in Turkey have used pro-government media to leak details of Mr. Khashoggi's case.

Certain evidence

On Tuesday, a high-level Turkish official told the AP that police found "certain evidence" of Mr. Khashoggi's slaying at the consulate, without elaborating. The official spoke on condition of anonymity because the investigation was ongoing.

Police plan to search the Saudi Consul General's home, as well as some of the country's diplomatic vehicles, Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu said. Leaked surveillance video shows that cars travelled to the Consul's home shortly after Mr. Khashoggi went into the consulate.

Police put up barricades around the Consul's official residence on Tuesday night. The search, however, did not happen overnight and reasons for that weren't immediately clear. A team of Saudi officials went into the residence on Wednesday afternoon and police arrived to again put up barricades amid reports the search could happen.

U.S. President Donald Trump speaking during an interview on Tuesday. **AP**

On the ongoing Russia investigation, Mr. Trump defended his son Donald Trump Jr. for a Trump Tower meeting with a Kremlin-connected lawyer offering damaging information about Democrat Hillary Clinton. He called his son a "good young guy" and said he did what any political aide would have done. Mr. Trump again cast doubt on climate change, suggesting, incorrectly, that the scientific community was evenly split on the existence of climate change and its causes.

Mr. Trump said he'd be seeking another term because there was "always more work to do".

"The new motto is Keep America Great," he said. "I don't want somebody to destroy it because I can do a great job, but the wrong person coming in after me sitting right at this desk can destroy it very quickly if they don't do the right thing. So no, I'm definitely running."

Canada legalises marijuana

REUTERS

TORONTO

Marijuana plants in Smiths Falls, Ontario. **NYT**

censed retailers, although delivery will take a few days.

The move is a political win for Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, who vowed to legalise cannabis in his 2015 election campaign. That pledge was aimed at taking profits away from organised crime and regulating the production, distribution and consumption of a product that millions of Canadians had been consuming illegally.

Ontario, home to Canada's most populous city, Toronto, will have no physical stores until April 2019, due to a change to the province's retail model by a new provincial government.

Century-long ban

The day was historic for the country as adult Canadians will be able to legally smoke recreational marijuana after



An APPEAL to PUBLIC

FOREIGN ORIGIN FIRECRACKERS ENDANGER LIVES AND HARM THE ENVIRONMENT!



Illegally imported foreign made firecrackers containing 'Sulphur or Sulphurite' in admixture with any Chlorate are hazardous in nature and can ignite spontaneously. Such firecrackers endanger lives, cause accidents and harm the environment.

You can save lives, prevent accidents & protect the environment.

In the interest of safety & security, please report any information about possession and/or sale of such firecrackers of foreign origin to the Jurisdictional Customs or Goods & Services Tax (GST) authorities* in your city.

Possession and sale of firecrackers of foreign origin is illegal in India and punishable under the law.

Central and State Authorities are alert to prevent and detect such illegal foreign firecrackers.

Customs Authorities have booked 43 cases in last four years, wherein-

Value of Firecrackers seized: ₹ 106 Crore

Number of persons arrested : 16

Figures are provisional.

USE ONLY PRODUCTS MADE IN INDIA THIS FESTIVE SEASON.

*For details, visit "Contact Us" on www.cbic.gov.in

Central Board of Indirect Taxes & Customs

www.cbic.gov.in

Follow us on

@cbic_india cbicindia

day 15/02/13/0057/1819

MARKET WATCH

	17-10-2018	% CHANGE
Sensex	34,780	-0.25
US Dollar	73.61	-0.17
Gold	32,030	-0.47
Brent oil	79.69	-1.48

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Ports	313.90	-19.45
Asian Paints	1259.00	-8.60
Axian Bank	576.05	-12.80
Bajaj Auto	2547.80	-62.70
Bajaj Finserv	5380.25	-276.85
Bajaj Finance	2150.50	-158.35
Bharti Airtel	288.50	-5.50
BPLC	285.15	-16.95
Cipla	640.45	0.70
Coal India	279.90	3.50
Dr Reddy's Lab	2565.00	-8.60
Eicher Motors	21978.10	-1024.05
GAIL (India)	345.35	-6.95
Grasim Ind	881.95	-23.55
HCL Tech.	1024.25	20.85
HDPC	1737.80	-18.45
HDPC Bank	1974.60	-18.15
Hero MotoCorp	2807.55	-87.65
Hindalco	227.75	-2.80
HPLC	207.30	-4.85
Hind Unilever	1562.00	15.80
Indiabulls HFL	788.65	-118.70
ICICI Bank	314.80	-5.85
IndusInd Bank	1603.90	-16.65
Bharti InfraNet	260.00	-6.25
Infosys	705.35	10.10
Indian Oil Corp	132.30	-3.15
ITC	286.45	3.80
JSW Steel	361.65	-11.95
Kotak Bank	1176.00	0.25
L&T	1211.90	-12.75
M&M	759.40	-18.30
Maurti Suzuki	6885.60	-265.30
NTPC	162.90	-1.05
ONGC	162.10	-3.50
PowerGrid Corp	189.10	1.90
Reliance Ind	1151.30	-12.50
State Bank	261.15	-9.15
Sun Pharma	593.45	-9.25
Tata Motors	179.95	-5.90
Tata Steel	554.65	-18.15
TCS	1929.40	-32.90
Tech Mahindra	720.50	1.80
Titan	800.10	-10.50
UltraTech Cement	3723.00	-29.70
UPL	638.25	-3.85
Vedanta	207.95	-4.50
Wipro	323.15	4.10
YES Bank	231.90	-17.00
Zee Entertainment	463.60	-6.15

EXCHANGE RATES

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	73.40	73.72
Euro	84.65	85.02
British Pound	96.18	96.61
Japanese Yen (100)	65.36	65.64
Chinese Yuan	10.59	10.64
Swiss Franc	73.88	74.21
Singapore Dollar	53.33	53.56
Canadian Dollar	56.59	56.84
Malaysian Ringgit	17.68	17.76

Source: Indian Bank

BULLION RATES CHENNAI

Retail Silver (1g)	41.7	(41.7)
22 ct gold (1 g)	3034	(3043)

Source: Indian Bank

RIL rides on Jio, retail push

Company posts 17.4% growth in consolidated net profit at ₹9,516 crore

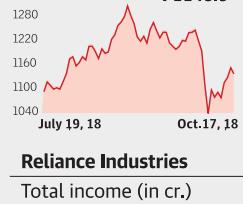
SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI

Supported by strong performance by its petrochemicals, retail and Jio businesses, Reliance Industries Ltd (RIL) reported 17.4% growth in consolidated net profit at ₹9,516 crore for the second quarter ended September 30, 2018, as compared to ₹8,109 crore for the same period last year.

During the period, the company's consolidated revenue grew by 54% to ₹1,56,291 crore as compared to ₹1,01,169 crore.

"Our company delivered robust operating and financial results for the quarter despite macro headwinds, with strong growth in earnings. Our integrated refining and petrochemicals business generated strong cash flows in a period of heightened volatility in commodity and currency markets," said Mr. Ambani.

On a high



C Our integrated refining and petrochemicals business generated strong cash flows in a period of heightened volatility in commodity and currency markets

MUKESH AMBANI, CMD

Reliance Industries	Q2 FY 19	Q2 FY 18	Growth%
Total income (in cr.)	1,47,268	97,402	51.19
Net profit (in cr.)	9,516	8,109	17.35
EPS (₹)	16.06	13.67	

Mukesh Ambani, chairman & managing director, RIL said.

"Our world class petrochemicals assets contributed record earnings, endorsing benefits of diversified feedstock, integration and superior product portfolio," Mr. Ambani said.

"The financial performance of both retail and Jio reflect the benefits of scale, technology and operational efficiencies," he added.

Mr. Ambani said that the retail business EBITDA had grown threefold whereas Jio's EBITDA had grown nearly 2.5 times.

Jio has now crossed 250 million subscribers milestone and continues to be the largest mobile data carrier in the world.

Jio recovers

During the quarter, Jio reported net profit of ₹681 crore as against a net loss of

₹271 crore in the same period last year.

To further strengthen the offering from Jio, Reliance industries on Wednesday announced the acquisition of Den Network and Hathway Cable & Data for over ₹5,200 crore.

Deven Choksey, MD & CEO, KR Choksey Share & Securities, said: "The consumer-centric businesses have done well while there is little bit of disappointment in the refining business."

"RIL disappointed in the oil and gas segment and gross refinery margins, but made up on the strong volume growth in retail and telecom segments. Net profit was more or less in line. The transition from an energy giant into a technology company is now very much evident in the earnings," said Sanjiv Bhasin, EVP, Markets,

IIFL Securities. Among the few IPO (initial public offer) listings that gained are HDFC AMC, Bandhan Bank, Mishra Dhatri Nigam and RITES.

ICICI Securities, which listed in April, is currently trading at ₹256.30, much lower than its issue price of ₹520.

Apollo Micro Systems has fared the worst with the shares currently trading at ₹119, compared with its issue price of ₹275.

According to experts, while the markets have been quite volatile with a negative bias in the recent past, the fact that so many public issues have lost ground much more than the benchmark indices shows that pricing was done aggressively by the merchant bankers and promoters.

Based on sentiment

"While merchant bankers always maintain that the pricing is decided on the basis of extensive roadshows and feedback from potential investors, the fact remains that it is done more based on sentiment and ability of the

Of 24 IPOs made this year, 17 trade below offer price

Stocks such as ICICI Securities have seen prices halve

ASHISH RUKHAIYAR

MUMBAI

The ongoing volatility in the secondary markets has taken a toll on new listings too, with more than 70% of the issues that listed in the current calendar year trading below their issue prices.

Since the start of 2018, a total of 24 companies made their debut on the bourses and shares of 17 such entities have fallen below their issue price.

Further, companies like Apollo Micro Systems and ICICI Securities have seen their share prices halve since listing on the bourses.

Among the few IPO (initial public offer) listings that gained are HDFC AMC, Bandhan Bank, Mishra Dhatri Nigam and RITES.

ICICI Securities, which listed in April, is currently trading at ₹256.30, much lower than its issue price of ₹520.

Apollo Micro Systems has fared the worst with the shares currently trading at ₹119, compared with its issue price of ₹275.

According to experts, while the markets have been quite volatile with a negative bias in the recent past, the fact that so many public issues have lost ground much more than the benchmark indices shows that pricing was done aggressively by the merchant bankers and promoters.

Interestingly, some issues, that have fared badly on the bourses, saw huge oversubscription, especially in the segment reserved for high net worth individuals (HNIs) bringing to the fore the age-old issue of IPOs getting subscribed primarily on account of leveraged financing.

HNIs, who borrow money and invest in IPOs, typically do it for the listing gains and hence, sell the shares immediately after listing.

Apollo Micro Systems, which is the worst performer among all companies listed in 2018, saw the HNI portion of its public issue subscribed a whopping 958 times.

"It is high time that an issue which has been debated so often and is still pending with the regulator should be resolved. Until this unrealistic demand is not nipped in the bud, you will have such instances time and again," said Mr. Kejriwal.

St. No.	Tender No. & Date	Description of Equipment	Qty. (No.)	Pre-Bid Meeting	Display & Tender Document Period	Last date & Time for submission of offer	Tender Fee in Rs. / USD	Earnest Money Deposit in Rs. / USD
1.	HOMM/2015-18/02N29/261 Dated: 15.10.2018	Motor Grader along with Operation and Maintenance Spares for 4 years.	01	-----	17.10.2018 to 19.11.2018	19.11.2018 by 2.30 PM (IST)	Rs. 5900/- USD 100/-	Rs. 200000/- USD 3500/-
2.	IITDh/GA/CRF/2018-2019/06	SPECTROPHOTOMETER	01	26.10.2018 at 11.00 AM	DRAFT 17.10.2018 to 26.10.2018	19.11.2018 by 2.30 PM (IST)	Rs. 5900/- USD 100/-	Rs. 200000/- USD 3500/-

Online Tenders are invited through E-Procurement Mode for the following items from reputed Manufacturers directly or through their accredited Agents in India. Item St.No.1 is required for NMDC Ltd, Donimalai Complex of Bellary (Dist), Karnataka (State) and Item St.No.2 is required for Bacheli Complex, Dantewada (Dist) of Chhattisgarh (State), India.

St. No.	Tender No. & Date	Description of Equipment	Qty. (No.)	Pre-Bid Meeting	Display & Tender Document Period	Last date & Time for submission of offer	Tender Fee in Rs. / USD	Earnest Money Deposit in Rs. / USD
1.	HOMM/2015-18/02N29/261 Dated: 15.10.2018	Motor Grader along with						

IN BRIEF



Ramco Systems ties up with Airbus Helicopters

CHENNAI Ramco Systems has teamed up with Airbus Helicopters SAS to develop a MIS Data Pack Connector – a product feature that automates Airbus' fleet management data, with Airbus systems. Ramco would build a Management Information System (MIS) data pack connector for Airbus, which would be bundled with Ramco's aviation software for fleet maintenance and engineering.

Sundaram Finance raises interest rate on deposits

CHENNAI Sundaram Finance Ltd. (SFL) has decided to revise upwards the interest rates on deposits. The rate hike will come into effect from October 19, SFL said. The interest rate on fresh deposits/renewals will be increased to 7.75% (7.5%) for 12 and 18 months. The rate will be raised to 8% (7.75%) for deposits of 24 and 36 months. Senior citizens will get higher interest rate of 8.25% (8%) for deposits of 12 and 18 months.

WhizJuniors to raise \$10 mn to expand base

MUMBAI WhizJuniors, an online platform, is close to raising \$10 million to expand its business, a top official said. The firm uses technology to educate school students and teachers in computer skills to help them develop a technological bent of mind. "We are looking forward to spread our mission of 'digitally educated India' and we are happy that our efforts are appreciated by schools from across India," said CEO Vidushi Daga.

DipShabdarth/D0133/18-19

Travel, hi-tech boost Mindtree Q2 net

Automation helping drive larger deals, says managing director and chief executive officer Ravanan

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

Mindtree's standalone net profit for the second quarter ended September rose 42.1% year-on-year to ₹ 216.2 crore on the back of increased business from travel and hospitality and high-tech and media business.

The BSE-listed firm, whose clients include Microsoft, GlaxoSmithKline, ING Vysya, and the Carlyle Group, posted a profit on revenue of ₹ 1,708.1 crore, which grew 31%.

"Our deep expertise across both digital [equivalent to 'change the business'] and run [the business] landscapes are delivering competitive advantage for our clients while fuelling Mindtree's continued growth" Rostow Ravan, chief exec-

Robust growth

Automation is playing a significant role in modernising our service delivery, enhancing both efficiency and speed

ROSTOW RAVANAN,
CEO and managing director

Mindtree Consulting

	Q2 FY 19	Q2 FY 18	Growth %
Total income (in crore)	1,755.4	1,331.6	31.8
Net profit (in crore)	206.3	124.7	65.4
EPS (basic) (₹)	13.17	9.09	
Dividend (₹)	3	4	

tive officer and managing director.

Reskilling efforts

"By investing in an 'automate-everything' platform-based approach, we are consistently driving larger deals and industry recognition. During this quarter, we also

further advanced the innovation in our reskilling efforts, helping our people to succeed in the modern information economy."

Travel and hospitality grew by 37% while hi-tech and media grew by 25.7%. Banking, financial services, and insurance 8.2% year-on-

year. Revenue from digital business rose 34.9%. Application, development, and maintenance accounted for 50.8% of the company's revenue. Infrastructure, maintenance, and support came second with 23.4%.

Attrition rate

The attrition rate for the last 12 months stood at 13%. The Bengaluru-based company had 341 active clients as of September.

"Automation is playing a significant role in modernising our technology service delivery, enhancing both efficiency and speed-to-results for our clients," Mr. Ravan said.

Travel and hospitality grew by 37% while hi-tech and media grew by 25.7%. Banking, financial services, and insurance 8.2% year-on-

and accomplish larger goals. We have 484 Bots employed as of September 30."

A Bot is a software that acts autonomously, free from any interference, human or otherwise, to perform a significant task which will otherwise be performed by a human.

Mindtree is now a digital transformation partner for a large multi-national company in the consumer packaged goods industry across their marketing channels, according to a statement.

It also provides cloud operations under managed services model for a world leader in enterprise cloud data management and is establishing a data lake and setting up an analytics platform for one of the world's largest investment firms.

SEBI asks Fortis to get back ₹403 cr. from 10 entities

List includes Singh brothers

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has ordered Fortis Healthcare to recover ₹403 crore, along with interest, from about 10 entities, including the company's erstwhile promoters, Malvinder Singh and Shivinder Singh, within three months.

Further, the capital markets regulator has directed the Singh brothers not to associate themselves with the affairs of Fortis Healthcare (FHL) in any manner till further directions.

Regulatory probe

The SEBI order follows a regulatory probe that, among other things, found that the Singh brothers were the ultimate beneficiaries when funds were moved from the listed entity to a subsidiary and thereafter to three borrower entities.

"...though the funds have moved from FHL through FFSL (Fortis Hospitals) to three unrelated borrower entities... and in turn to two promoter-related entities... the ultimate beneficiaries of such fund diversion prima facie are Shivinder Mohan Singh and Malvinder Mohan Singh," stated the 21-page SEBI order.

The SEBI probe was initiated in February after reports surfaced that the promoters of Fortis Healthcare took out ₹500 crore from the company and that the auditors - Deloitte Haskins & Sells LLP - refused to sign the accounts for the second quarter of the financial year 2017-18. According to the SEBI probe, Fortis Hospitals gave loans to three borrower entities - Best Healthcare,



Fern Healthcare and Modland Wears - by way of inter-corporate deposits (ICDs). The ultimate beneficiaries of the three entities were RHC Holding and Religare Finvest with the former being controlled by the Singh brothers.

"The prime facie role of FHL and Fortis Hospitals in the alleged diversion of funds through the conduit entities... for the ultimate benefit of... Shivinder Mohan Singh and Malvinder Singh has already been established," said the SEBI order. "Thus, all these entities have prima facie acted in a fraudulent manner in the said diversion of funds... to the tune of ₹403 crore (approximately) from a listed company... for the ultimate benefit of its parent company," it added.

Interestingly, while Fortis Hospitals entered into multiple structured transactions between June 2016 and June 2017, the loans were given at the beginning of each quarter and returned by the companies by the end of the quarter and thereby were never being reported in the balance sheet as the outstanding amount at the end of the quarter was nil, as per SEBI.

NIIT Tech net rises 66%

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

NIIT Technologies announced a year-on-year rise of 66.3% in net profit to ₹111.8 crore for the second quarter ended September 30, 2018.

It registered a net profit of ₹67.2 crore in the same quarter last year. Sequentially, the net rose 30% compared with ₹85.8 crore in the April-June quarter.

The firm posted revenue of ₹907.4 crore, up 23.1% from ₹737.2 crore a year earlier and higher by 10% from ₹824.9 crore in the previous quarter.

Insurance vertical grew 11.2% during the quarter contributing to 28.8% of total revenues, while banking and financial services rose 6.2% contributing 16.2% of the total revenues.

M&M and Ford beef up alliance with powertrain sharing pact

To work for joint development of a telematics control unit

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI

Mahindra and Mahindra Ltd. and Ford Motor Co. have formed a strategic alliance on powertrain sharing and connected car solutions.

With the signing of definitive agreement on Wednesday, both the automakers have strengthened their ongoing strategic alliance in India.

Under the definitive agreement on powertrain sharing, Mahindra Group will develop and supply a low-displacement petrol engine to Ford India for use in its present and future vehicles starting in 2020, said a company statement.

The BS-VI compliant po-

wertrain will help Ford extend and strengthen its existing offering of petrol engines, that currently includes the all-new 3-cylinder Ti-VCT family.

The alliance between the two focuses on leveraging the benefits of Ford's global reach and expertise and Ma-

hindra's scale in India and its successful operating model.

Building on their intent to co-develop a suite of connected car solutions, Mahindra and Ford announced joint development of a telematics control unit. Once developed, the connected vehicle solution will be deployed across Mahindra and Ford vehicles, it said.

"Today's [Wednesday] announcement further builds on commitments made so far, leading to a fruition of exciting new opportunities. We are confident to meet customer expectations by working together on a number of joint development areas," said Pawan Goenka, MD, M&M.

Hershey's Kisses will come in three variants - milk chocolate, almonds and cookies 'n' cream flavours.

The Kisses range has been modified to provide the right taste for Indian consumers seeking a premium chocolate, the company said. The milk chocolate is priced at ₹50 for a small pack of 36 gm.

During the first phase, Kisses will be available in the south at modern trade, large general stores and on e-commerce platforms.

Hershey brings Kisses to India

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI

Hershey India Pvt Ltd., a part of The Hershey Company, has introduced Kisses chocolate brand in India to expand its product offering in this growing market.

Hershey's Kisses will come in three variants - milk chocolate, almonds and cookies 'n' cream flavours. The Kisses range has been modified to provide the right taste for Indian consumers seeking a premium chocolate, the company said. The milk chocolate is priced at ₹50 for a small pack of 36 gm.

During the first phase, Kisses will be available in the south at modern trade, large general stores and on e-commerce platforms.

Opportunity to join #DelhiGovernanceRevolution

Delhi Government Announces

Chief Minister's URBAN LEADERS FELLOWSHIP PROGRAMME

ABOUT THE PROGRAMME

The Chief Minister's Urban Leaders Fellowship programme provides a unique opportunity to young leaders across India to work within Delhi government to address some of the most pressing urban challenges in India, and experience what 'making change happen' looks like. The Fellowship aims to attract outstanding young men and women from across the country under the age of 35 years who are passionate about public service and are willing to work for two years.

- Fellows will be assigned to work with Ministers or Senior officials across various departments of Delhi government such as Education, Health, Water, Environment, Transport, Art & Culture etc.
- Fellows will provide analytical support in the formulation of policies, implementation of projects and various governance initiatives
- Remuneration of ₹1,25,000 per month will be provided to Fellows (20 positions) and ₹75,000 per month to Associate Fellows (10 positions).

"Delhi government has received global acclaim for its policies - be it the transformation of government schools, introduction of Happiness Curriculum in schools, provision of high-quality primary healthcare at mohalla clinics, 24 hrs assured electricity at low tariff and home delivery of government services. It's your time to join and be a part of the change to make Delhi among the best governed cities in the world."

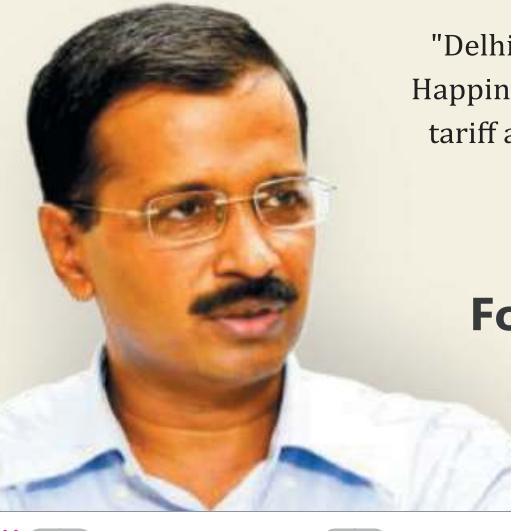
- Arvind Kejriwal
Chief Minister, Delhi

For more details and to apply, visit www.cmulf.dtu.ac.in

Last date : 4th November, 2018

Administrative Reforms Department, Government of NCT of Delhi

दिल्ली सरकार
आप की सरकार

CM
YK

A ND-NDE

Lewis pulls out of India tour

Opener cites personal reasons; Kieran Powell gets the nod for one-dayers

WINDIES IN INDIA

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
GUWAHATI

The struggling Windies was dealt another blow on Wednesday with opener Evin Lewis pulling out of the limited-over leg of the India tour, citing personal reasons.

Lewis had recently declined a central contract offered by Cricket West Indies, potentially making him more available for leagues around the world, following in the footsteps of Chris Gayle and other stars from the region.

Gayle, who is playing the Afghanistan Premier League in Sharjah, had already made himself unavailable for the five ODIs and three ODIs in India.

Lewis would have come handy in India, having played for Mumbai Indians in the IPL. He has two ODI hundreds in 35 games and as many in T20 format in just 17 matches.

Replacements

Kieran Powell will be Lewis' replacement in ODIs and Nicholas Pooran in the T20s. Uncapped pacer Obed McCoy has also been drafted into both the squads.

"Powell and Pooran have been asked to replace Evin Lewis in the ODI and T20 squads, while McCoy will replace Alzarri Joseph who remains under observation for his return to full fitness," read a Cricket West Indies



Making his way in: Kieran Powell, who proved himself in the Tests, has been rewarded with selection in the ODIs. ■ VIVEK BENDRE

statement. The five-match ODI series against India begins in Guwahati on Oct. 21.

Revised Windies squads:

ODIs: Jason Holder (Capt.), Sunil Ambris, Devendra Bishoo, Chanderpaul Hemraj, Shimron Hetmyer, Shai Hope, Obed McCoy, Ashley Nurse, Keemo Paul, Kieran Powell, Rovman Powell, Nicholas Pooran, Denesh Ramdin, Andre Russell, Sherfane Rutherford and Oshane Thomas.

Powell, Kemar Roach, Marlon Samuels and Oshane Thomas.

T20Is: Carlos Brathwaite (Capt.), Fabian Allen, Darren Bravo, Shimron Hetmyer, Obed McCoy, Ashley Nurse, Keemo Paul, Khary Pierre, Kieron Pollard, Nicholas Pooran, Rovman Powell, Denesh Ramdin, Andre Russell, Sherfane Rutherford and Oshane Thomas.

ODI schedule

Oct. 21: Guwahati
Oct. 24: Visakhapatnam
Oct. 27: Pune
Oct. 29: Mumbai
Nov. 1: Thiruvananthapuram
Matches begin at 2 p.m.

Mumbai storms into the final with facile win over Hyderabad

Shaw's delightful cameo overshadows Rohit Rayudu's effort in rain-affected encounter



Entertaining: Prithvi Shaw regaled the crowd with some classy strokes. ■ SUDHAKARA JAIN

HAZARE TROPHY

ASHWIN ACHAL
BENGALURU

The Mumbai juggernaut rolled on with a comfortable win over Hyderabad, in a rain-affected Vijay Hazare Trophy semifinal outing at the M. Chinnaswamy Stadium on Wednesday.

Set a modest target of 247, Mumbai cruised to 155 for two in 25 overs, before rain stopped play. The VJD par-score for Mumbai stood at 95 for two, which gave the side a 60-run victory. Prithvi Shaw (61, 44b, 8x4, 2x6) and Shreyas Iyer (55 n.o., 53b, 5x4, 2x6) stood out for Mumbai.

Shaw's cameo, in particular, enlivened proceedings and delighted the crowd. The teenage opener, who returned to the State side after a successful Test stint, got going by clipping pacer Ravi Kiran over mid-on.

A few overs later, a comical sequence embarrassed Kiran and the Hyderabad side no end. With Shaw on 30, fast bowler Mohammed Siraj got him to top-edge a hook. Kiran, stationed at deep fine-leg, put down a regulation catch. Just a few deliveries later, an action replay occurred. Once again, Kiran dropped a simple chance, which left Siraj and skipper Ambati Rayudu doubly livid.

Shaw was eventually bowled by left-arm spinner Mehdi Hasan, who got one to stay low. Shaw was bothered by pain in his left shoulder, and took a few breaks to get treatment from the physiotherapist. The discomfort started immediately after he hit a powerful slog-sweep off leg-spinner Akash Bhandari.

Mumbai coach Vinayak Samant later said, "It looks like Prithvi has pulled his shoulder muscle slightly. We will assess the situation tomorrow, and take an X-Ray if needed."

Hasan also cleaned up the dangerous Rohit Sharma for 17. An unbroken 73-run second-wicket stand between Shreyas and Ajinkya Rahane (17 n.o.) kept Mumbai on the right path.

Purposeful knock

Earlier, Hyderabad put on a respectable score, thanks to a perfectly-paced century from Rohit Rayudu.

"If I take my time to get in, it is very easy for me to accelerate later. I have the shots, but I wanted to stick around until the end today," Rohit said.

The 24-year-old, who batted at one-drop, described Ambati as his idol. "I was inspired to join a coaching camp and start playing cricket after watching my (cousin) brother (Ambati)," Rohit said.

The scores: Hyderabad 246 for eight in 50 overs (Rohit Rayudu 121 n.o., B. Sandeep 29, Tushar Deshpande three for 55) lost to Mumbai 155 for two in 25 overs (Prithvi Shaw 61, Shreyas Iyer 55 n.o.) by 60 runs via VJD method.



Rescue act: Rohit Rayudu's unbeaten century bailed Hyderabad out of trouble. ■ SUDHAKARA JAIN

Abbas helps Pakistan take control

Debutant Fakhar again lifts the hosts with a 66 in the second innings

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
ABU DHABI

Medium pacer Mohammad Abbas registered a five-wicket haul to steer Pakistan into a dominating position in the second Test against Australia on Wednesday.

Abbas finished with five for 33 to bowl out Australia for a paltry 145 to give Pakistan a 137-run lead in the first innings on the second day at Sheikh Zayed Stadium.

Pakistan stretched that lead to 281 as it was 144 for two at close, with Azhar Ali batting on 54 for his first half century in the series and Haider Sohail on 17.

With eight wickets in hand, Pakistan was in a great position to force a 1-0 lead in the two-match series after the first Test ended in a fighting draw in Dubai last week.

Azhar batted with resolve, having so far hit three boundaries.

But it was once again debutant Fakhar Zaman who lifted Pakistan with a brilliant 66 following up his 94 in the first innings, before giving a return catch to Nathan Lyon who took an evasive action but still managed to hold onto the ball.



Kingpin: Mohammad Abbas finished with five for 33 to bowl out Australia for a paltry 145. ■ AP

SCOREBOARD PAKISTAN VS AUSTRALIA, SECOND TEST, SECOND DAY

Pakistan — 1st innings: 282.

Australia — 1st innings: Usman Khawaja c Sarfraz b Abbas 3, A. Finch c Zaman b Asif 39, P. Siddle lbw b Abbas 4, S. Marsh c Sohail b Abbas 3, T. Head c Shafiq b Abbas 14, M. Marsh c Shafiq b Yasir 13, M. Labuschagne run out 25, T. Paine lbw b Asif 3, M. Starc lbw b Abbas 34, N. Lyon c b Asif 2, J.

Holland (not out) 2; Extras (lb-3); Total (in 50.4 overs): 145.

Fall of wickets: 1-16, 2-20, 3-36, 4-56, 5-75, 6-85, 7-91, 8-128, 9-132.

Pakistan bowling: Abbas 12.4-

4-3-5, Hamza 9-2-27-0, Yasir 19-3-59-1, Asif 10-3-23-3.

Pakistan — 2nd innings: Fakhar Zaman c & b Lyon 66, Mo-

hammad Hafeez c Head b Starc 6, Azhar Ali (batting) 54, Haris Sohail (batting) 17; Extras (nb-1); Total (for two wkts. in 44 overs): 144.

Fall of wickets: 1-15, 2-106.

Australia bowling: Starc 4-22-1, Siddle 6-0-28-0, Lyon 20-3-59-1, Holland 10-3-17-0, Labuschagne 4-0-18-0.

Australia-A registers four-wkt. win

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI

Australia-A women beat their Indian counterparts by four wickets in the second One-Day International, at the MCA's BKC facility on Wednesday, to take a 2-0 lead in the three-match series.

Electing to bat, skipper and opener Punam Raut made a 99-ball 64 with ten hits to the fence and Mona Meshram a 71-ball 59 with eight fours. But the inability of the home team to string partnerships, apart from the 50-run fourth-wicket stand between Punam and Mona, scuttled its chances of posting a formidable total.

Tahlia McGrath, who took two wickets bowling right-arm medium pace, blasted 47 (45b, 7x4, 1x6) and put on 74 for the fourth-wicket with Heather Graham (68 n.o., 87b, 8x4).

The scores: India-A 197 for seven in 50 overs (Punam

Raut 64, Mona Meshram 59,

Molly Strano three for 23)

lost to Australia-A 200 for six in 40.3 overs (Tahlia McGrath 47, Heather Graham 68 n.o., Shikha Pandey three for 38).

Praveen takes triple jump bronze

The talented youngster finished third in Stage 2



Great show: Praveen Chitravel, right, gave India its second athletics medal on Tuesday. ■ OIS/IOC

YOUTH OLYMPICS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
BUENOS AIRES

Praveen Chitravel, a farm labourer's son from Tamil Nadu, clinched the bronze medal in the men's triple jump in the ongoing Youth Olympics here on Tuesday.

The 17-year-old, who hails from a village in Thanjavur district, cleared a distance of 15.68m to finish fifth in the Stage 2 competition on Tues-

day night but his good showing in Stage 1, where he was third with a jump of 15.84m, took him to the podium with a combined effort of 31.52m.

Alejandro Diaz of Cuba won gold with a 14.18m (17.14+17.04) while Emmeael Oritseymeyi (16.34+15.51) of Nigeria came second.

Praveen was a gold medalist in the inaugural Khelo India School Games and won a silver at the junior Nationals in Coimbatore earlier this year.

"Praveen has the talent and he is very hardworking. I want to groom him as a National champion and then represent the country in the Asian Games and the Olympics," said Indira Suresh, an athletics coach at the Centre of Excellence for Boys in Chennai, who has mentored the young star and trains with him at Nagercoil.

"He rarely goes home, and so his father comes to meet him," added Indira.

TV PICKS

Vijay Hazare Trophy: Star Sports 2 (SD & HD), 9 a.m.
Pakistan vs Australia: Second Test, day three, Sony ESPN (SD & HD), 11.30 a.m.
Golf: Women's Indian Open, DSport, 12.30 p.m.
ISL: Star Sports 1 (SD & HD), 7.30 p.m.
PKL: Star Sports 2 (SD & HD), 7.30 p.m.
Hockey: Asian Champions Trophy, India vs Oman, Star Sports 2 (SD & HD), 10.30 p.m.

IN BRIEF



Steyn named for Australia tour
JOHANNESBURG
Dale Steyn was named on Wednesday as part of a strong South African fast bowling arsenal for the limited overs tour of Australia later this month. Steyn, 35, was named in the 15-man squad which includes Kagiso Rabada and Lungi Ngidi, as well as returning fast bowler all-rounder Chris Morris, who has recovered from a lower back injury. AFP

Bulls beat Thalaivas in 'southern derby'

SOPNIPAT
Bengaluru Bulls earned the bragging rights in the 'southern derby', Tamil Thalaivas 44-35 in the Vivo ProKabaddi Season 6 here on Wednesday. Bengaluru posted its second consecutive win, thanks to Pawan Sehwat (16 points) and Kashilng Adake (12), while Thalaivas suffered its fifth straight defeat. In the second match of the evening, U Mumba outplayed Haryana Steelers 42-32 with Siddharth Desai top-scoring for the former with 15 points and Monu Goyat logging in the same points for the Steelers. PTI



'Even Messi would struggle at United'

LONDON
Paul Scholes says even Lionel Messi would struggle to shine in the current Manchester United team and that the struggling club is being laughed at by rivals. "I feel like we could sign Lionel Messi at the moment and he'd struggle in this team. United now feels like Liverpool from years ago, like we're making all the same mistakes as they did. I feel like people at Liverpool and Man City are looking at us and laughing like we did at them many years ago," Scholes told ESPN. AFP

Griezmann's double strike sinks Germany

Leads France's fightback from a one-goal deficit; doubts increase over Low's future after sixth defeat in the last 10 matches

NATIONS LEAGUE

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
PARIS

Antoine Griezmann hit a pair of second-half goals as World Champion France came from behind to beat Germany 2-1 in the UEFA Nations League on Tuesday and cast further doubt on Joachim Low's future.

Rousing fightback
Toni Kroos struck a 14th-minute penalty for Germany, but Griezmann engineered a rousing fightback.

Olivier Giroud lifted over a difficult chance from a Lucas Hernandez cross just before half-time, shortly after a teasing Griezmann delivery eluded a lunging Mbappe in the Germany box.

France nearly equalised through Mbappe minutes into the second half, the teenager denied by Manuel Neuer's left boot as he bore in on goal.

Magnificent
Sane scuffed wide from a Nic Schulz cut-back, but France levelled on 62 minutes as Griezmann rose magnificently to head a driven Lucas Hernandez cross beyond a helpless Neuer. Gnabry intercepted a risky



Bolt from the blue: Antoine Griezmann heads home a driven cross from Lucas Hernandez beyond a clueless Manuel Neuer.

REUTERS

Kimpembe pass and saw a rasping 25-yard strike fisted away by Lloris.

France was awarded a penalty 10 minutes from time when Paul Pogba slipped in Blaise Matuidi, the Juventus

midfielder upended by Mats Hummels as he tried to round Neuer.

Griezmann smacked the resulting spot-kick past Neuer to condemn Germany to an alarming sixth defeat in

its last 10 outings, and rule Low's side out of Nations League title contention.

The results:

League A: Group 1: France 2 (Griezmann 62, 80-pen) bt Germany 1 (Kroos 14-pen).

League B: Group 1: Ukraine 1 (Malinovsky 43) bt Czech Republic 0; **Group 4:** Republic of Ireland 0 lost to Wales 1 (Wilson 58).

League C: Group 3: Norway 1 (Elyounoussi 31) bt Bulgaria 0;

Slovenia 1 (Skubic 83) drew with Cyprus 1 (Papoulis 37).

League D: Group 1: Kazakhstan 4 (Seidakhmet 21, Turysbek 39, Gomes 61-og, Murtagayev 74) bt Andorra 0; Latvia 0 drew with Georgia 3 (Kankava 8, Gvi-

lia 29, Chakvetadze 61);

Group 4: Armenia 4 (Pizzelli 12, Movsisyan 67, Ghazaryan 81, Mkhitaryan 90+4) bt Macedonia 0; Gibraltar 2 (Cabrera 61, J. Chipolina 66) bt Liechtenstein 1 (Salanovic 15).

Low point

The Germans no longer win always. The current scenario is largely down to Joachim Low's inability to foster team spirit, traditionally the country's biggest strength. It looks like he has been torn between the established players who won the World Cup in 2014 and the hungry youngsters who lifted the Confederations Cup.

Low, who became Germany's first head coach not to concede a goal in his opening four games, has now seen his side let in goals in 11 of the 12 recent matches.



JOACHIM'S OVERALL STATS	
Matches 169	2-1
Wins 110	
Draws 30	
Losses 29	
Goals scored 402	
Goals against 166	

REVERSES IN 2018
NATIONS LEAGUE

Lost to France 2-1
Lost to the Netherlands 3-0
WORLD CUP
Lost to South Korea 2-0
Lost to Mexico 1-0

FRIENDLIES

Lost to Austria 2-1 | Lost to Brazil 1-0

Maimouni gives ATK its first win

ISL-5

VIJAY LOKAPALLY
NEW DELHI



Curling it in Balwant's perfect finish put ATK ahead.

• ISL/SPORTZPICTURES

A strike in the 84th minute by Noussair Maimouni saw ATK beat Delhi Dynamos 2-1 in their ISL encounter here on Wednesday. Having surrendered a 1-0 lead, ATK came back strongly to finish on a high. It was ATK's first win after two losses while Dynamos suffered its first reverse in two games.

A timely substitution worked wonders for ATK. Nine minutes from the final whistle, Maimouni was ideally placed when he received the ball from another substitute Jayesh Rane and made no mistake, burying the ball

The Kolkata side was

quick to establish its hold, its moves not restricted to one flank. Dynamos felt the pressure, but stood firm even as Dorronsoro was tested twice. The trend continued

The result: Delhi Dynamos 1 (Kotal 45) lost to ATK 2 (Balwant 20, Maimouni 84).

as Dynamos spent the first half thwarting the ATK raids which grew in intensity as the contest progressed.

ATK's efforts were rewarded in the 20th minute. Manuel Lanzarote darted in and lobbed the ball to Balwant Singh who scored off a stunning curler, leaving the Dynamos defence stunned.

Pritam Kotal nodded home the equaliser nine minutes after resumption. The ball floated over the defence off a corner but was headed back cannily by Rana Gharami. Kotal rose to provide a clinical finish. However, it was Maimouni who had the last laugh.

The result: Delhi Dynamos 1 (Kotal 45) lost to ATK 2 (Balwant 20, Maimouni 84).

It's 2-0 for England

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
KANDY

England beat Sri Lanka by seven wickets in the rain-hit third ODI to take an unbeatable 2-0 lead in the five-match series on Wednesday.

Chasing a target of 151 in the 21-overs-a-side contest, the tourists rode on an unbeaten 49-ball 58 from skipper Eoin Morgan and Ben Stokes' 24-ball 35 to cross the finish line in 18.3 overs.

Earlier, the England bowlers Adil Rashid and Tom Curran shared seven wickets between them to help restrict the hosts to 150 for nine.

Put in to bat after nearly six hours of play was lost due to rain, Sri Lanka was off to a breezy start, courtesy a 20-ball 36 from Nirosh

an Dickwella. The left-hander added 57 off 33 deliveries with opening partner Sadeera Samarawickrama who made a brisk 35.

Fast bowler Curran got Dickwella caught at mid-off to check Sri Lanka's surge. Rashid then hit Sri Lanka hard with the wickets of Samarawickrama and Thisara Perera for nought off consecutive deliveries.

The fourth ODI will be held here on Saturday.

The scores: Sri Lanka 150 for nine in 21 overs (Niroshan Dickwella 36, Sadeera Samarawickrama 35, Dinesh Chandimal 34, Adil Rashid four for 36, Tom Curran three for 17) lost to England 153 for three in 18.3 overs (Eoin Morgan 41, Jason Roy 41, Ben Stokes 35 n.o.).

Srikanth vs Lin Dan in round two

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
ODENSE

World No. 6 K. Srikanth set up a second-round clash with the legendary Lin Dan, after an 21-16, 21-10 win over local hope Hans-Kristian Solberg Vittinghus in the opening round, at the Denmark Open here on Wednesday.

The results (first round):

Men's singles: K. Srikanth bt Hans-Kristian Solberg Vittinghus (Den) 21-16, 21-10.

Women's doubles: Ashwini Ponnapa & N. Sikki Reddy bt Ariel Lee & Sydney Lee (USA) 21-7, 21-11; Emma Karlsson & Johanna Magnusson (Swe) bt J. Meghanna & S. Ram Poovisha 21-17, 21-11.



Meeting a legend: Pranjal is a huge fan of Roger Federer.

A change in attitude has transformed Pranjal

V.V. SUBRAHMANYAM
HYDERABAD

Y. Pranjal is delighted with the timing of her two back-to-back titles in the \$25,000 events (her first) in Lagos (Nigeria) and hopes that she can sustain the momentum she got now over the next few months.

"Well, ever since I joined Aussie Stephen Koon's Impact Training Centre in Thailand which he set up to help, mostly, the Asian players, I feel a huge change in my attitude itself," says the Hyderabad girl.

"I am lot more fitter which automatically changed my

game too. I feel more confident and can take on the best in the most challenging conditions too," says Pranjal, who has won her last 10 matches on the trot.

Eying consistency
"Yes, consistency has been one factor which I will strive to achieve. I am really working hard and beating some tough players over two weeks is a huge morale-booster too," she says.

"Essentially, I am target-

ing to break into the top 200 (she will be around 280 after her two recent wins) to be in with a chance to play in the qualifiers for the next year's Grand Slams. That is one big dream I am really chasing now," Pranjal said.

"I have couple of big events in India itself over the next two months and I hope to keep winning to be closer to achieving my target," she added.

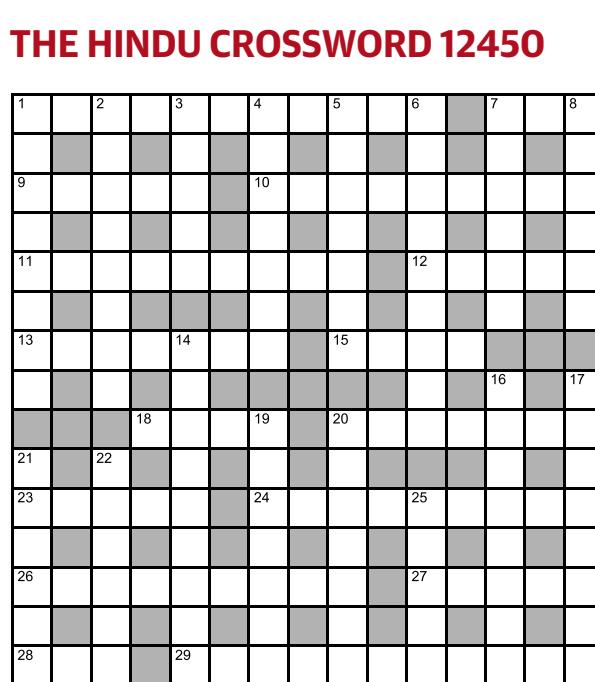
"Right now, I am not playing doubles on the advice of

my coach. Will take a call on what he feels is better for me.

"I am lucky to find such a perfect mentor at this stage of my career as he knows what exactly I need to be a much better player," says the second year BA Mass Communication student of St. Mary's College.

A huge fan of Roger Federer whom she met a couple of times, Pranjal signed off, promising to be a more complete player very soon.

THE HINDU CROSSWORD 12450



ACROSS

- 1 Unusual? No matter – has to cover one's head (3-1-7)
- 7 Pixie on the ledge, won't keep quiet (3)
- 9 Lashes spy agency over exposed film (5)
- 10 Flag – colour will fade gradually (4,5)
- 28 Place for a song (3)
- 29 Grime spread on land, it's just the beginning (11)
- 30 ...himself exposed to church (6)
- 31 Countrymen accept 50% share (8)
- 32 One allows air lift to a city in Sudan (5)

- 1 Followed very closely to get laid at random (9)
- 12 Lied about writing gear (5)
- 13 Animal egg kept over pot (3,4)
- 15 It isn't counterfeit money (4)
- 18 Call to attention – doubles break point (4)
- 20 Films he makes in a European language (7)
- 23 Host said to stash money (5)
- 24 Avoids work as mother waits (9)
- 26 It's hot onion, but not on sausage (9)
- 27 Some return by taxi cab available at counters (5)
- 28 Place for a song (3)
- 29 Grime spread on land, it's just the beginning (11)
- 30 ...himself exposed to church (6)
- 31 Countrymen accept 50% share (8)
- 32 One allows air lift to a city in Sudan (5)

(set by Arden)

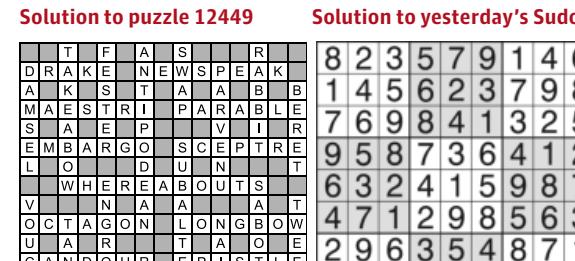
SUDOKU



DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★

Solution to puzzle 12449

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku



FAITH

IN BRIEF



Keita third Liverpool star hurt in Africa

KIGALI
Liverpool midfielder Naby Keita had to be piggy-backed off the field by a Guinean teammate on Tuesday after hurting a hamstring because no stretcher was available in a Rwandan Stadium. He was the third Anfield star to be injured on Africa Cup of Nations duty after attackers Mohamed Salah (strained thigh muscle) and Sadio Mane (broken thumb) since last Friday. AFP

Vasudevan assumes office as VFI president

CHENNAI
S. Vasudevan will assume the role of president of Volleyball Federation of India and hold office till 2021, said Ramavtar Singh Jakharia, secretary, VFI, in a release on Wednesday. Ramavtar said that the Delhi HC had endorsed the elections held by VFI on April 11 2016 and upheld the removal of Avadesh Kumar Chaudhary as president.

Abishek, Sonu propel Tamil Nadu to victory

JAIPUR
S. Abishek (78, 90b, 8x4, 1x6) and R. Sonu Yadav (66, 62b, 8x4) powered Tamil Nadu to a five-wicket win over Kerala in an Elite-C match of the Vinoo Mankad Trophy u-19 one-day league on Wednesday. They added 133 for the fourth wicket. **The scores:** Kerala 232 for seven in 50 overs (T.J. Aadivek 59, Vathsal 51, Ashwin Anand 44, H. Trilok Nag four for 33) lost to Tamil Nadu 235 for five in 45.4 overs (P. Praveen Kumar 43, S. Abishek 78, R. Sonu Yadav 66).



Mary Bono quits following criticism

LOS ANGELES
Newly appointed head of USA Gymnastics resigned just four days after being named to the job on Tuesday following stinging criticism of her appointment by Olympic stars Simone Biles and Alexandra Raisman. Former Republican politician Mary Bono said she was quitting over "personal attacks" that made her position untenable. AFP

Big shoes to fill in for Vani

Carries India's hopes on home turf in Aditi's absence

INDIAN OPEN

UTHRA GANESAN
NEW DELHI

India's hopes in the Hero Women's Indian Open starting Thursday would rest on home favourite Vani Kapoor even as the biggest Indian name in world golf at the moment, Aditi Ashok, would be conspicuous by her absence.

The only Indian winner of the tournament, now in its 12th year, Aditi is also currently the only Indian on the prestigious Ladies PGA Tour and would be participating in the Buick LPGA event in Shanghai at the same time.

"As a past champion, it wasn't easy to make this decision but I look forward to playing many more Indian Opens in the coming years," Aditi said in a statement.

In her absence, it would be Vani carrying the burden on expectations on her home course. As the best Indian at tied-sixth last year, Vani has been honing her skills and experience on the Ladies European Tour the last two years and it has been visible in her game. A sudden flaring of tendinitis is her only concern.



Improving: Vani Kapoor has been honing her skills on the Ladies European Tour the last two years. ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

"The last one year has been one of great learning and I have been preparing hard. I am hoping to get over

my tendinitis soon. This is my home course and I know it well," Vani said on the eve of the tournament. The oth-

er Indian expected to do well is current Indian Order of Merit leader Tvesa Malik, playing her first Indian Open as a pro. Tvesa, 22, would be hoping for a good result ahead of her attempts to go on the LET Q-School.

Big names

Among the big foreign names in the fray, defending champion Camille Chevalier of France, who went on to become Rookie of the Year after her win here in 2017, would be hoping for a similar turn of fortunes to get over her struggles on the tour this year but would face tough competition from Swede Caroline Hedwall, who won the title in 2011, 2016 LET Order of Merit winner Beth Allen of USA and Sarah Kemp.

A victory here for Hedwall would make her only the second multiple winner after Thai Phatnum Pornanong (three times) and the first to

win on both the old Arnold Palmer and new Gary Player courses. With a \$500,000 prize purse and 120 golfers from 30 countries, this would also be the first time the competition would be played over four full days and telecast live on D Sports.

Chiellini urges footballers to study

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
MILAN

Italy and Juventus defender Giorgio Chiellini urged players to think more about their careers after football on Wednesday as he helped launch an education campaign led by global players' union FIFPro.

Chiellini, 34, studied for a degree in economics and a Masters in business administration at Turin University at the same time as winning seven straight Serie A titles with Juventus from 2012.

"Studying helped me relieve pressure in the world of football, and kept my brain sharp," he said. "At 35 your career is more or less finished. You then have the rest of your life in front of you, and just being able to play football is not enough."

"Only a few players manage to find a job in football. There's also the risk of depression, and there are many former players with financial problems because they have not thought about what they are going to do, they have not opened their minds by studying."

Holder India faces Oman in opener

The former is the highest-ranked nation in the tournament

ACT

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
MUSCAT

Determined to redeem pride after a below-par show at the Asian Games, the Indian men's hockey team is expected to make a solid start when it clashes with host Oman in the Asian Champions Trophy (ACT) opener, here on Thursday.

India was the favourite to win gold in Jakarta but had to settle for a bronze after a disappointing loss to Malaysia in the semifinals.

World No. 5 India goes into the tournament as the highest-ranked Asian nation and tackling Oman should not be a problem for the side at the Sultan Qaboos Sports Complex.

India beat Oman 7-0 when the two teams met last time during the 2014 Asian Games 2014, and coach Harendra Singh believes that facing the host will be a good test for his team ahead of other crucial round-robin matches.

"We are very excited to start our campaign against the hosts. The opening



match will be a good test for us ahead of some crucial pool matches against the likes of Malaysia, Pakistan, Japan and South Korea," Harendra said.

"It is important for us to start the competition by doing the basics right and producing our best performance in order to build momentum for the upcoming fixtures."

India won the 2016 edition by defeating Pakistan 3-2 in the final in Kuantan, Malaysia.

But Harendra believes his team needs to keep the errors to the minimum if it has to lift the trophy again.

India fixtures: Oct. 20: vs Pakistan; Oct. 21: vs Japan; Oct. 23: vs Malaysia; Oct. 24: South Korea.

Yuki loses on his return

INDIANS ABROAD

SPORTS BUREAU
ANTWERP

Yuki Bhambhani returned to the circuit with a good fighting game, but was beaten by lucky-loser Salvatore Caruso of Italy 7-6(6), 5-7, 6-1 in the first round of the ATP tennis tournament on Wednesday.

In doubles pre-quarterfinals, Divij Sharan, seeded fourth with Artem Sitak of New Zealand, beat Leander Paes and Miguel Angel Reyes-Varela 7-5, 6-4.

In the \$150,000 Ningbo Challenger in China, Davis Cupper Prajesh Gunnswaran made the quarterfinals, getting past local star Li Zhe in three sets.

The results: €686,080 ATP, Antwerp: Singles (first round): Salvatore Caruso (Ita) bt Yuki Bhambhani 7-6(6), 5-7, 6-1. Doubles (pre-quarterfinals): Artem Sitak (Nzl) & Divij Sharan bt Miguel Angel Reyes-Varela (Mex) 7-5, 6-4.

Newly appointed head of USA Gymnastics resigned just four days after being named to the job on Tuesday following stinging criticism of her appointment by Olympic stars Simone Biles and Alexandra Raisman. Former Republican politician Mary Bono said she was quitting over "personal attacks" that made her position untenable. AFP

Thrilling win for Brazil; Japan stuns Uruguay

Miranda nets late winner against Argentina

FRIENDLIES

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
JEDDAH

Brazil snatched a dramatic 1-0 win over Argentina with an injury-time header from Miranda in a friendly match in front of a sell-out crowd in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia on Tuesday.

The Inter Milan centre-back was left all alone to thump in a 93rd-minute effort from Neymar's corner when the match between the fierce South American rival seemed destined for a stalemate.

The lapse spoiled an otherwise strong defensive performance from Argentina, who contained Brazil for long periods.

With Neymar to the fore, Brazil exerted late pressure and could have scored in the



Sucker punch: Brazil's Miranda, second from left, thumped in a Neymar cross in the dying moments. ■ AFP

few minutes before Miranda struck.

Casemiro came close with a 25-yard free-kick manufactured by Neymar that flew

past goalkeeper Sergio Romero's left post. Then Nicolas Otamendi stuck out a boot to deflect a diverted shot from Richarlison in the

last minute.

Argentina's best chance came during a period of pressure around the hour mark, when Leandro Paredes hit a swerving, dipping drive that had Brazil keeper Alisson beaten.

Japan stunned Uruguay 4-3 at home in a free-flowing international friendly to complete a miserable trip to the Far East for the South Americans.

Takumi Minamino netted twice against the World Cup quarterfinalist as Japan made it three wins out of three under new coach Hajime Moriyasu.

The results: Brazil 1 (Miranda 90+3) bt Argentina 0; Belgium 1 (Mertens 6) drew with Netherlands 1 (Groeneweld 27); Denmark 2 (Lerager 29, Braithwaite 90+3) bt Austria 0; Sweden 1 (Guidetti 52) drew with Slovakia 1 (Rusnak 84); Japan 4 (Minamino 10, 66, Osako 36, Doan 59) bt Uruguay 3 (Pereiro 28, Cavani 57, Rodriguez 75); United States 1 (Sargent 49) drew with Peru 1 (Flores 86).

REGIONAL ROUND-UP

Prince puts up a regal show with nine strikes

NEW DELHI: Captain Prince led from the front, slamming home nine goals, as Government Rajkiya Senior Secondary School, Sangrur, thrashed Gautam Public School, Ahmad Nagar 26-0 in a Group A match in Phase II of the 36th Nehru Sub-Junior boys hockey tournament here on Wednesday.

Lovepreet Singh added six goals to the total while Gaurav scored five.

The results: Group A: Govt. SSS, Sangrur 26 (Prince 9, Lovepreet Singh 6, Gaurav 5, Akhil Gill 3, Kamaljit Singh 2,

Harkaran Singh) bt Gautam Public School, Ahmadnagar 0;

Group B: OTHL 3 (Md. Sameer 2, Manmohan Kumar) bt Motilal Nehru School of Sports, Rai 1 (Tanu); Punjab State Institute of Sports, Mohali 10 (Kuldeep Singh 2, Deepak Singh 2, Simranjeet Singh, Gurnoor Singh Grewal, Jaspal Singh, Arshdeep Singh, Abhitab Singh, Amarbir Singh) bt SNBP School, Puna 0;

Group D: Jai Hind HS, Imphal 14 (Bidyandha Yumkham 4, Suresh Adhikaryam 3, Ricky Tonjam 2, Mankata Wahengbam, Rohit Keisham, Rohit Irengbam, Heriot Ningombam, Somikant Khamgembam) bt Sri Guru Nanak Khalsa HS, Sri Ganganager 4 (Abhishek 2, Rounak, Prince).

Dhruvpal Godara on a goal-scoring spree

Seven goals by Dhruvpal Godara helped LA Pegasus Polo Knights to a 8-7 victory over Army Service Corps (ASC) in a league match of the Bhopal-Pataudi Cup polo tournament at the Army Equestrian Centre, Delhi Cantonment, on Wednesday.

The results (league): Araval

Polo 7 (Manisha Llorente 5,

Angad Kalaan 2) bt 61st Cavalry

3-1/2 (Ravi Rathore 2, Akshay

Malik, handicap 1/2); LA

Pegasus Polo Knights 8

(Dhruvpal Godara 7, Pratap

Singh Kanota) bt ASC 7

(Naheed Singh 4, Shamsheer

Ali 2, G.S. Pandher); LA

Pegasus Polo Titans 12 (Siddhant Sharma 5, Samir Suhag 4, Mitesh Mehta 3) bt World Cup 4-1/2 (Deepak Udar 2, Arjun Patil, handicap 1-1/2).

'Fun Run' in Port Blair A 'Fun Run' marked the launch of a sports, arts and cultural development program in the Andaman and Nicobar Island capital on Wednesday. The run was organised by Tribal Development Council of Port Blair and New Delhi YMCA.

The 3km run took over 200 participants to the historic Cellular jail and through the crowded Port Blair market before coming back to the stadium.

The 'Fun Run' was on the lines of PM Narendra Modi's Khelo India project where tribal and youth of rural India are given a platform to excel.

Delhi women make the winning moves

NOIDA: Delhi (12 points) won the North Zone women's inter-university chess championship, organised by Association of Indian Universities, at Amity University here.

Lovely Professional University (10 points) and Guru Nanak Dev University (9) finished behind Delhi in the championship which featured 27 teams.

Manish sizzles

SHOOTING

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Manish Narwal impressed by topping both the men's and junior men's events in 10m air pistol in the sixth National shooting selection trials at the Dr. Karni Singh Range, Tughlakabad, on Wednesday.

Manish beat the seasoned Deepak Sharma by 0.4 points for the top spot in the men's event, in which Olympians Jitu Rai (574) and Prakash Nanjappa (573) were placed 31st and 33rd respectively, in a strong field of 24 shooters.

Manish, who beat qualification topper Tejas Prakash Dhore by one point to top the junior section, placed seventh in the youth men's

event, in which Monu Kumar won the shoot-off to top the event, after being tied on 241.1 with Vijayveer Sidhu.

Former world champion Tejaswini Sawant topped women's rifle prone with a score of 620.3.

The results: 10m air pistol:

Men: 1. Manish Narwal 240.8 (578), 2. Deepa Sharma 240.4 (580), 3. Tejas Prakash 218.9 (581).

Junior men: 1. Manish

Narwal 240.9 (578), 2. Tejas

Prakash Dhore 239.9 (581), 3.

Anmol Jain 219.5 (579).

Youth men: 1. Monu Kumar 241.1 (577), 2. Vijayveer Sidhu 241.1 (572), 3. Arjun Singh Cheema 220.3 (573).

50m rifle prone: Women

IN BRIEF



UN launches mental health strategy

UNITED NATIONS
The United Nations has launched a strategy to help its staff deal with workplace mental health issues. "The strategy underscores the need to care for each other, and to reach out to colleagues who may be in distress," said UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, adding that tackling stigma is key to the programme. IANS



China tests world's largest unmanned drone

BEIJING
China has successfully tested the world's largest unmanned transport drone which can carry a payload of 1.5 tonnes, official media reported on Wednesday. A commercial drone Feihong-98 (FH-98) developed and modified by the China Academy of Aerospace Electronics Technology made a test flight in the Baotou site in north China on Tuesday. PTI



YouTube is back after widespread outage
Google-owned YouTube said on Tuesday a widespread issue with some of its services has been resolved, almost two hours after several people took to social media to complain of broadcasting issues. The video streaming service did not say what caused the outage. REUTERS

Anna Burns wins Booker Prize

Milkman talks of political and sexual oppression in the 1970s in Northern Ireland

ASSOCIATED PRESS
LONDON

Anna Burns has won the prestigious Man Booker Prize for fiction for *Milkman*, a vibrant, violent story about men, women, conflict and power set during Northern Ireland's years of Catholic-Protestant violence.

Ms. Burns is the first writer from Northern Ireland to win the £50,000 (₹48 lakh) prize, which is open to English-language authors from around the world. She received her trophy from Camilla, Duchess of Cornwall, during a black-tie ceremony at London's Guildhall.

The 56-year-old Belfast-born novelist said she was "stunned" to have won. Ms. Burns said her books took a long time to complete, and she has often struggled financially since her first novel, *No Bones*, was released in 2001.



Coveted honour: Anna Burns is the first Northern Irish writer to win the Man Booker Prize. ■ AFP

"I just wait for my characters to come and tell me their stories, and I can't write until they do," Ms. Burns told reporters.

Milkman is narrated by a bookish young woman dealing with an older man who uses family ties, social pressure and political loyalties as weapons of sexual coercion

and harassment. It is set in the 1970s, but was published amid the global eruption of sexual misconduct allegations that sparked the "Me Too" movement.

"I think this novel will help people to think about 'Me Too', and I like novels that help people think about current movements and

challenges," said philosopher Kwame Anthony Appiah, who chaired the judging panel. "But we think it'll last... it's not just about something that's going on in this moment," he said.

Ms. Burns beat five other novelists, including the bookee's favourites – American writer Richard Powers' tree-centric eco-epic *The Overstory* and Canadian novelist Esi Edugyan's *Washington Black*, the story of a slave who escapes from a sugar plantation in a hot-air balloon season.

Experts told local media that the rare late blooms could be the result of this year's unusual weather, including a particularly active typhoon season.

Weathernews, a meteorological firm, said more than 300 people across Japan had reported that cherry blossoms were blooming in their neighbourhood.

A series of unusually warm days after typhoons could also have confused the plants into flowering, said



Cherry blossoms usually indicate spring. ■ AFP

tree specialist Hiroyuki Wada. "This has happened in the past, but I don't remember seeing something of this scale," he said.

Japan has been battered by a series of typhoons this year, including Jebi, which claimed 11 lives and shut

down Kansai airport in September. But Mr. Wada said the freak flowering should not affect the hugely popular cherry blossom season, which draws tourists from around the world. Japanese flock to hold 'hanami' picnics under the trees.

Facebook takes on YouTube with reality TV

Three new versions of *The Real World* to be launched; viewers can directly interact with contestants

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
CANNES

Facebook said on Wednesday that it was reviving the pioneering MTV reality show *The Real World* as its secret weapon to lure viewers away from YouTube.

The social media giant said it was also trying to harness the formidable online power of the "cute kitten" factor with a new show called *World's Most Amazing Dog* on its new Facebook Watch platform. Users who think their pooch is cute enough to be a contender can enter audition videos from their phones, it told TV executives at MIPCOM in Cannes, the world's top entertainment showcase.

Three versions of the new



Facebook variant of the show will be launched simultaneously in the U.S., Mexico and Thailand. Users will be able to "co-watch with their friends and interact with the contestants", stealing a march on its Internet rivals, Mr. Henick told the gathering

in the French Riviera resort.

Mr. Rajwat said Facebook Watch was "completely open" and was already being used by broadcasters, with new contestants on Germany's *X Factor* recently being introduced to fans on the platform before they made their TV debuts.

He said its interactivity means "watching videos doesn't have to be a passive experience... with friends able to co-watch together in real time".

Watch and comment
A new service called "Watch Party" allowing "people to watch and comment all at the same time" has already been used on celebrity chef Jamie Oliver's *Veggie Challenge*, he added.

A Facebook Watch show called *Sorry For Your Loss* about a "young widow struggling to put her life back together has led to long meaningful conversations about dealing with grief", Mr. Rajwat said, with many users "offering help to people who lost their beloveds. This is where Facebook is different", he said.

MTV boss Chris McCarthy predicted that Facebook Watch was going to "create a whole new genre of shared reality TV", and help shows lift off when it was "harder and harder to break through with more and more content" out there.

Stress sensors a hit at Tokyo tech fair

May prove useful at the workplace



Pulse perfect: A Panasonic employee shows analysis data from a chair combining different types of sensors. ■ AFP

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
MAKUHARI

State-of-the-art sensors that can measure stress levels, mood, posture, performance and even smell took centre stage at Asia's top high-tech fair in Tokyo.

The big-screen TVs and entertainment systems that were all the rage 10 years ago at the CEATEC fair have gradually been replaced by tiny sensors that accurately measure the minutest facet of the human body – a Japanese specialty.

Electronics giant Panasonic showcased a prototype of an armchair that measures how much the user's hands sweat along with the seating position and facial expressions via a camera, all to determine stress levels.

This could be useful for an airline pilot or long-distance truck driver for example but could also one day find its way into the workplace.

"You could imagine such a chair in the office and by combining the results with air conditioning and lighting levels, you could adjust the ambiance of the office to enable people to relax if necessary," a Panasonic demonstrator said.

Components manufacturer Murata Manufacturing has pioneered a small device that is held for a minute between the thumb and forefinger to measure pulse rates and the nervous sys-

tem. "We are going to start selling this very soon to companies, so they can measure how stressed their employees are.

Transport and taxi companies are especially interested," said Takashi Hayashida, a spokesman for the +

TDK.

Staff equipped with sensors could be under permanent surveillance to "improve their posture and productivity", according to Japanese electronics firm TDK.

This also extends to the field of play, with Fujitsu demonstrating a 3D analytical system based on sensors to improve the performance of gymnasts.

For the elderly
Sensors are also being put to work to improve healthcare – especially for the elderly, with nearly 28% of the Japanese population over 65.

Using a device created by hygiene firm Lion, patients worried about their teeth can flash a smile at a smartphone and send it to a specialised server that returns data on oral hygiene.

Housing equipment firm Lixil has developed a sensor for the bathtub that measures water temperature and key vital signs like pulse and body temperature in an attempt to reduce sudden bath deaths, which afflict more than 5,000 people annually in the country, 90% of them over 65.

Puerto Rico's insects affected by climate change

Scientist warns of cascading effect on the food chain

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
WASHINGTON

After bees and birds, insects and other arthropods have also suffered massive losses, a study from a Puerto Rico forest published on Monday showed, citing the impact of climate change.

Measuring the population of arthropods, which includes insects, caterpillars, and spiders, is not simple but one method is to place sticky traps on the ground and in the forest canopy.

Researchers can also pass nets hundreds of times over the ground or in the foliage before weighing the dry captured biomass.

That is what the biologist Bradford Lister did in 1976 and 1979 in El Yunque National Forest in the U.S. Caribbean commonwealth of Puerto Rico.

Mr. Lister, of Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in Troy, New York, returned there



ton Post, warning of cascading effects on the food chain.

"If the tropical forests go, it will be yet another catastrophic failure of the whole Earth system," he said, "that will feed back on human beings in an almost unimaginable way."

According to the model used by the researchers, the blame lies principally with global warming. They reach this conclusion by noting Puerto Rico's rising temperature over about 40 years.

The mean maximum temperatures, recorded by a forest weather station, increased 2°C between 1978 and 2015.

But the effect of climate change is not uniform.

A study published in the journal *Science* in August concluded that, except in tropical regions, an increase in temperature was going to stimulate the population of harmful insects.

with another biologist in 2011 and 2012 to use the same methods.

They found that the dry weight biomass of arthropods captured in sweep samples had declined by four to eight times, and by 30 to 60 times in sticky traps, according to their findings published in the U.S. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*.

This decline was accompanied by parallel reductions in insectivorous lizards, frogs, and birds, according to observations by the researchers.

"Everything is dropping," Mr. Lister told *The Washington Post*, warning of cascading effects on the food chain.

Tall tale



Pride before a fall: People throng to see a huge effigy of Ravana in Panchkula, Haryana, after it was installed on Wednesday. The height of the effigy is 210 feet. ■ AKHILESH KUMAR

Bulgaria urged to save giant monument

The structure, built in 1981, stands neglected as the country tries to forget its communist past

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
BUZLUDZHA PEAK

Perched like a vast flying saucer on a central Bulgarian mountainside, Buzludzha is a brutalist concrete monument that was built to glorify communism nearly 40 years ago. The striking circular building has been left to fall victim to vandalism and decay, as Bulgaria has been eager to forget its communist past, but now Western experts want to preserve it as a heritage site.

The 230-foot-high structure – made of 70,000 tonnes of concrete, 3,000 tonnes of reinforced steel and 40 tonnes of glass – looks like it is hovering at



A crumbling relic: Experts arriving for an inspection at the Buzludzha building in Bulgaria. ■ AFP

around 1,400 metres above sea level. It has a 40-metre-wide ceremonial hall and was covered from floor to ceiling in mosaics depicting the history of Bulgaria's com-

munist party. Inaugurated in 1981, it fell into disrepair following the collapse of the 'Iron Curtain' in 1989 and now lies empty and crumbling.

Following their visit, the

experts called for "urgent action" to stop the decay. And they proposed giving the site national protected status, which would allow EU funds to be used for its rescue.

It is a Bulgarian architect, Dora Ivanova, born a year after the fall of the regime, who has been responsible for the revival in interest in Buzludzha.

She came across the monument on the Internet while she was at university in Germany and started a campaign for its conservation four years ago.

She said her aim was to

conserve the building, rather than restore it. "I just want to explain history," she added.

Unusual weather in Japan impacts cherry blossoms

Profusion of flowers unexpected in autumn, say experts

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
TOKYO

The delicate blossoms of the cherry tree might be synonymous with the onset of spring in Japan – except this year they're also blooming in autumn, a weather forecasting company said on Wednesday.

Experts told local media that the rare late blooms could be the result of this year's unusual weather, including a particularly active typhoon season.

Weathernews, a meteorological firm, said more than 300 people across Japan had reported that cherry blossoms were blooming in their neighbourhood.

A series of unusually warm days after typhoons could also have confused the plants into flowering, said

tree specialist Hiroyuki Wada.

"This has happened in the past, but I don't remember seeing something of this scale," he said.

Japan has been battered by a series of typhoons this year, including Jebi, which claimed 11 lives and shut

down Kansai airport in September.

But Mr. Wada said the freak flowering should not affect the hugely popular cherry blossom season, which draws tourists from around the world. Japanese flock to hold 'hanami' picnics under the trees.

tree specialist Hiroyuki Wada.

"This has happened in the past, but I don't remember seeing something of this scale," he said.

Japan has been battered by a series of typhoons this year, including Jebi, which claimed 11 lives and shut

down Kansai airport in September.

But Mr. Wada said the freak flowering should not affect the hugely popular cherry blossom season, which draws tourists from around the world. Japanese flock to hold 'hanami' picnics under the trees.

tree specialist Hiroyuki Wada.

"This has happened in the past, but I don't remember seeing something of this scale," he said.

Japan has been battered by a series of typhoons this year, including Jebi, which claimed 11 lives and shut

down Kansai airport in September.

But Mr. Wada said the freak flowering should not affect the hugely popular cherry blossom season, which draws tourists from around the world. Japanese flock to hold 'hanami' picnics under the trees.

tree specialist Hiroyuki Wada.

"This has happened in the past, but I don't remember seeing something of this scale," he said.

Japan has been battered by a series of typhoons this year, including Jebi, which claimed 11 lives and shut

down Kansai airport in September.

But Mr. Wada said the freak flowering should not affect the hugely popular cherry blossom season, which draws tourists from around the world. Japanese flock to hold 'hanami' picnics under the