



**Abrogation of special status will open up new vistas for J&K: Venkaiah**

Page 10



**P. Chidambaram endorses Modi's call for smaller families**

Page 12



**U.S. lawmaker Rashida Tlaib rejects Israeli offer to visit West Bank**

Page 14

**Ravi Shastri retained as head coach of Indian cricket team**

Page 20



**Kapil Mishra to join BJP today**

NEW DELHI  
Rebel Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) legislator Kapil Mishra, who was recently disqualified from the Delhi Assembly under the anti-defection law, will formally join the Bharatiya Janata Party on Saturday.

CITY PAGE 3

**Man on way to celebrate Rakhi killed by manjha**

NEW DELHI  
A 28-year-old man died after his throat was slit by a kite string on Thursday afternoon in Paschim Vihar. The police have registered a case and started a probe.

CITY PAGE 3

**JSW 4 PAGES (A SPACE MARKETING FEATURE) IN SELECT AREAS**

## End of special status an internal matter, says India

'Pakistan, China trying to impose their views on the world'

**SRIRAM LAKSHMAN**  
WASHINGTON DC  
Reiterating that issues around Article 370, i.e., special status to Jammu & Kashmir, were an internal matter, India played down the significance of Friday's UN Security Council's "closed consultation" meeting on Kashmir. Indian Ambassador to the UN Syed Akbaruddin accused Pakistan and China of attempting to impart greater significance to the meeting than was warranted.

"After the end of the Security Council's closed consultations, we noted that two states who made national statements tried to pass them off as the will of the international community," Mr. Akbaruddin said, as he took to the podium after the meeting. "The Security Council is a very deliberative... institu-



Syed Akbaruddin

tion. It works in a very considered manner. Its outcomes are provided to all of us through the [UNSC] President. So if national statements try to masquerade as the will of the international community, I thought I will come across to you too and explain our national position," he said, adding that Article 370 is an entirely internal matter of India with no external ramifications. Neither India nor Pakis-

tan were part of the UNSC closed consultations, which are informal meetings that do not have a formal outcome. Sometimes "press elements" can be agreed by consensus of the UNSC members, but no such statement emerged from Friday's meeting.

Mr. Akbaruddin told reporters that the abrogation of Article 370 was done to enhance good governance and socio-economic development in Jammu and Kashmir and that the UNSC consultations had taken note of this.

Mr. Akbaruddin, speaking after his Chinese and Pakistani counterparts and in sharp contrast to them, took questions from reporters, including from Pakistan.

**UN HAPPY WITH PEACE EFFORTS, SAYS AMBASSADOR** ▶ PAGE 12

## SC counsels patience over J&K

Give a little time for the situation to ease, Chief Justice of India tells petitioner

**KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL**  
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Friday called for patience over the situation in Jammu and Kashmir while hearing a petition filed by Anuradha Bhasin, executive editor of *Kashmir Times*, challenging the lockdown and media restrictions imposed by the Centre across the Valley.

Chief Justice of India Ranjan Gogoi said he had read in the morning's newspapers that landlines would be restored in the Valley by evening. "We would like to give it a little time," the CJI said, addressing Ms. Bhasin's counsel.

Justice S.A. Bobde cited a telephonic conversation he had had with the Jammu and Kashmir High Court's Chief Justice as proof that landlines were already working. "There is no problem with the landlines," Justice Bobde told senior lawyer Vrinda Grover, appearing for Ms.



**No respite:** Kashmiris offer Friday prayers amid the continuing restrictions in Srinagar. • AP

Bhasin. Ms. Grover said only the landlines of a few important persons may be working. The reality was different for ordinary people, she submitted.

Finally, the Bench chose to keep Ms. Bhasin's petition pending. The CJI said a date would be fixed on the administrative side for the next hearing. This is the second Bench of the Supreme Court that has decided to 'wait and

watch' while the government handles the unfolding events in J&K.

The lockdown in the Valley was imposed on August 4, preceding the issuance of a Presidential Order the next day, which read down Article 370 and scrapped the special rights and privileges accorded to the people of J&K since 1954.

**CONTINUED ON** ▶ PAGE 12

## Protesters clash with police in Srinagar

**AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE**  
SRINAGAR

Hundreds of protesters in Srinagar on Friday clashed with the police who responded with tear-gas shells and pellet-firing shotguns, an AFP reporter at the scene said.

The clashes broke out after several thousand people rallied in Srinagar, where a security lockdown entered its 12th straight day after the dilution of Article 370 and the reorganisation of J&K.

The protesters rallied inside the Srinagar locality of Soura that has witnessed regular protests since New Delhi announced its move on August 5.

**DETAILS ON** ▶ PAGE 13  
**CURBS WILL BE EASED** ▶ PAGE 12

## Chhattisgarh CM to double quota for OBCs

**SIDHARTH YADAV**  
BHOPAL

With an eye on the coming local body polls, Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel has announced that the government would almost double the reservation for the OBCs, making up close to half the State's population, in government jobs and educational institutions.



Bhupesh Baghel

Delivering the Independence Day speech in Raipur, Mr. Baghel said: "In our State, Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward Classes have been raising their demands peacefully. It's our duty to protect their constitutional rights. Therefore, in a major step, I announce 32% reservation for

STs, 13% for SCs and 27% for OBCs." It became imperative for the Congress - rattled after losing nine of the 11 Lok Sabha seats in this poll to the BJP - to secure the OBC flock.

In last year's Assembly election, the Congress had breached the seemingly impenetrable BJP bastion, to win 60 of the 90 seats.

**CONTINUED ON** ▶ PAGE 12

## Monsoon special



**Twin harvest:** A farmer catching fish in his field during a break in rain on the outskirts of Guwahati on Friday. • RITU RAJ KONWAR

## Santhal penalty stalls cremation

Odisha police seize body of woman



Police personnel shifting the body of Parbati Soren for post-mortem in Odisha's Mayurbhanj district. Her husband Kandra Soren is third from left. • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

**SATYASUNDAR BARIK**  
BHUBANESWAR  
Local police in Odisha's Mayurbhanj district on Friday recovered a woman's body which could not be cremated for three days because community members refused to participate in the last rites.

Villagers belonging to the Santhal tribe at Kuchel village under the Kuliana police station limits allegedly insisted that the husband, Kandra Soren, pay an old 'society penalty' before allowing anyone to assist him in the cremation. The penalty that included a goat, three chickens, 15 kg of rice and two pots of country liquor was imposed on the family of Kandra Soren because his father had married outside the clan decades ago.

Mr. Soren had himself married Parbati allegedly defying the tribe's tradition under which the groom's family must gift a cow or bullock to the bride's family at the time of marriage. His was a love marriage and he had not given any gift.

Mr. Soren, a daily wager, had expressed his inability to pay the penalty to the community and to his in-laws. As a result, he received help from neither of them.

Parbati Soren had died of unspecified illness on August 14. "Despite repeatedly assuring them that I will pay the fine later, the community members refused to budge," said Mr. Soren. "We have sent the body for post-mortem," said Kamalakanta Das, Inspector-in-Charge of Kuliana police station. "We are trying to find out if he is facing a social boycott."

## 'No First Use' nuclear doctrine is not rigid, says Rajnath Singh

Minister's tweet after his visit to Pokhran hints at a rethink

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT**  
NEW DELHI

The future of India's 'No First Use' policy on nuclear weapons depends on the "circumstances", Defence Minister Rajnath Singh tweeted on Friday, after visiting the nuclear test site in Pokhran.

The remark raised questions of a change in the nuclear doctrine. August 16, 2019 marks the first death anniversary of former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee, under whose government India conducted nuclear tests in 1998.

**'Indebted to Vajpayee'**  
Mr. Singh added that India attaining the status of a responsible nuclear nation became a "matter of national

pride" for every citizen and for this the nation will "remain indebted to the greatness of Mr. Vajpayee". India put in place its nuclear doctrine with 'No First Use' and massive retaliation forming its core tenets soon after it tested nuclear weapons in 1998. The concept of maintaining a minimum credible deterrence and a nuclear triad for delivery of weapons based on aircraft, missiles and nuclear submarines flow from that.

**CONTINUED ON** ▶ PAGE 12

## Prove that Masjid was built over temple, says Supreme Court

Counsel for Ayodhya deity refers to ASI excavation report

**LEGAL CORRESPONDENT**  
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court asked the Hindu parties on Friday to present proof of their claim that the Babri Masjid was built on the remains of an ancient temple or Hindu religious structure. A five-judge Constitution Bench headed by Chief Justice Ranjan Gogoi was hearing submissions on the seventh day. "Over the past two mil-

lennia we have seen civilisations settle and resettle on river banks. They have built upon pre-existing structures. But prove that the alleged ruins or demolished building [on which Babri Masjid was built] was religious in nature," Justice D.Y. Chandrachud, on the Bench, asked senior advocate C.S. Vaidyanathan, appearing for the Ayodhya deity, Ram Lalla Virajman.

## Rajasthan appoints SIT in Pehlu Khan case

The Rajasthan government on Friday appointed an SIT to probe the Pehlu Khan lynching case and examine the previous investigation to find the lapses, if any, which had led to the acquittal of the six accused by a Sessions Court in Alwar earlier this week.

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT**  
JAIPUR

**DETAILS ON** ▶ PAGE 12

**VISION IAS** INSPIRING INNOVATION  
LIVE/ONLINE Classes Available  
www.visionias.in

**"You are as strong as your Foundation"**  
**Foundation Course**  
**GENERAL STUDIES**  
**PRELIMS CUM MAINS 2020**  
**DELHI**  
Regular Batch | Weekend Batch  
**25 July 9 AM | 23 Aug 2 PM | 6 July 9 AM**  
JAIPUR: 12 Aug | LUCKNOW: 13 August | PUNE: 18 July  
AHMEDABAD: 25 July | HYDERABAD: 29 July

**ABHYAAS MAINS 2019**  
**ALL INDIA GS MAINS MOCK TEST (OFFLINE)**  
GS - I & GS - II | GS - III & GS - IV  
24 AUGUST | 25 AUGUST  
Feedback and Corrective Measures  
All India Percentile  
Available in English / हिन्दी  
Last Date for Registration: 19<sup>th</sup> Aug  
Register at:  
www.visionias.in/abhyas  
30 Cities  
AHMEDABAD | BENGALURU | BHOPAL | BHUBANESWAR | CHANDIGARH | CHENNAI  
COIMBATORE | DEHRADUN | DELHI | GHAZIABAD | GREATER NOIDA | GUWAHATI | HYDERABAD | INDORE  
JAIPUR | JAMMU | JODHPUR | KANPUR | KOLKATA | LUCKNOW | MUMBAI | PATNA | PRAYAGRAJ | PUNE  
RAIPUR | RANCHI | SHIMLA | THIRUVANANTHAPURAM | VARANASI | VISAKHAPATNAM  
• 2nd Floor, Apsara Arcade, Near Metro Gate 6, 1/8 B, Pusa Road, Karol Bagh  
**DELHI** • 635, Opp. Signature View Apartments, Banda Bahadur Marg, Mukherjee Nagar  
• Contact: 8468022022, 9019066066  
JAIPUR 900194244 | PUNE 8007500096 | HYDERABAD 9000104133 | AHMEDABAD 9909447040 | LUCKNOW 8468022022



## Man held for stealing gun of policeman

STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI

A 35-year-old man has been arrested for his alleged involvement in the theft of a machine gun belonging to a Punjab Police officer.

Deputy Commissioner of Police (North East) Atul Kumar Thakur said that Sohan alias Bhandra was arrested from Loni. "A carbine machine gun, one magazine and six live cartridges were recovered from his possession. Sohan said he and his associate had stolen the weapon last week from Man Sarovar Park in Shahdara," Mr. Thakur said.

The weapon belonged to Constable Kamal Kishor, who is posted in Patiala with the 1st Indian Reserve Battalion.

The police said that Mr. Kishor had kept the weapon in his father-in-law's house at Man Sarovar Park during his visit to the city.

## Man on way to celebrate Rakhi killed by manjha

Victim was on a scooty; his sisters, riding pillion, were injured

STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI

A 28-year-old man died after his throat was slit by a kite string on Thursday afternoon in Paschim Vihar. The police have registered a case and started a probe.

Additional Deputy Commissioner of Police (Outer) Rajendra Singh Sagar said that the victim, Manav Sharma, was a resident of Budh Vihar's Kishan Vihar.

The incident happened around 12.30 p.m. when Manav and his two sisters were going to their maternal aunt's house in Hari Nagar to celebrate Raksha Bandhan, said the police. "When Manav crossed Peera Garhi and was on the elevated road towards the District Centre, a manjha [kite string] slit his throat," Mr. Sagar said.

Manav and his sisters were going to their aunt's house in Hari Nagar. When they were crossing Peera Garhi, a kite string slit Manav's throat... he lost balance and they fell off the scooty

RAJENDRA SINGH SAGAR  
Additional Deputy Commissioner of Police (Outer)

Manav fell on the road and his sisters suffered minor injuries. They were taken to a private hospital nearby where Manav was declared brought dead. The hospital authorities then informed the police about the matter.

A case under Section 336 (Act endangering life or personal safety of others) and 304A (Causing death by ne-

gligence) of the Indian Penal Code has been registered.

"Teams have inspected the accident site and CCTV footage is being obtained to ascertain who the kite string belonged to," the officer said.

**Warnings issued**

Mr. Sagar said that as a precautionary measure, announcements were made in the district asking shopkeepers not to sell certain types of kite strings; and urging people not to fly kites near roads.

In a statement, the Delhi Police has said that 17 cases have been registered under Section 188 (disobedience to order duly promulgated by public servant) of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) across the Capital in connection with people selling certain types of kite strings.

## Kapil Mishra to join BJP today

I had decided to join party sometime ago, says ex-AAP MLA

JATIN ANAND  
NEW DELHI

Rebel Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) legislator Kapil Mishra, who was recently disqualified from the Delhi Assembly under the anti-defection law, will formally join the BJP on Saturday.

When contacted to comment on rumours that he would be joining the BJP soon, Mr. Mishra told *The Hindu*: "I had decided to join the party sometime ago; the only remaining question was regarding the timing which, too, has an answer now. I will formally join the BJP tomorrow [Saturday]."



Kapil Mishra

"could have joined" the BJP last week but it was "somewhat delayed" due to the "health condition and circumstances surrounding a senior BJP leader" who is currently hospitalised - in a veiled reference to former Finance Minister Arun Jaitley.

On August 2, Mr. Goel had observed that Mr. Mishra's decision to campaign for the BJP and Prime Minister Narendra Modi in the recent Lok Sabha elections indicated that he had "given up the

**On social media**

He later took to Twitter to announce his decision: "I am joining BJP tomorrow at 11 a.m. Delhi let's go with Modi [sic]." However, he later deleted the tweet.

Sources said Mr. Mishra

## Court frames charges against Tejinder Singh

He had tried to bribe Army Chief in 2010

NIRNIMESH KUMAR  
NEW DELHI

A Delhi court on Friday framed charges against retired Lieutenant-General Tejinder Singh in the Tatra truck bribery attempt case of 2012.

Special Judge Arvind Kumar framed the charges under the Prevention of Corruption Act and fixed October 9-10 as the dates for recording of evidence by prosecution witnesses.

The CBI had chargedheeted Tejinder Singh in 2014 for allegedly offering a bribe of ₹14 crore to then Army Chief V.K. Singh on behalf of the supplier of the high-mobility trucks.

Mr. Singh is currently the Minister of State for Road Transport and Highways.

Former Defence Minister A.K. Antony is a witness in the case.

The chargesheet said that Mr. Antony has admitted that V.K. Singh had informed him of the offer of bribe by Tejinder Singh for clearing the file for purchasing the trucks.

The chargesheet adds that the case is based on circumstantial evidence. The investigating agency had lodged an FIR in the matter under Section 12 (abetting a public servant to indulge in corrupt practices) of the Act in October 2012.

In his complaint, the then Army chief had alleged that on September 22, 2010, Tejinder Singh had offered him a bribe of ₹14 crore.

## Woman found dead on Noida school premises

Family members claim she was killed

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NOIDA

The body of a woman was found hanging from a tree on the campus of a private school where she worked as a sanitation worker, the police said on Friday. No note left behind by the deceased has been recovered.

"The post-mortem report is awaited. Police and forensic teams have scanned the area where she was found dead," he said. The woman's husband and other family members protested outside the school on Friday, alleging that she was killed.

Around three dozen peo-

ple stood outside the school to protest this evening.

According to a police officer, the woman's brother had come to visit her for Raksha Bandhan on Thursday but they argued over some issue and she left the residence. "It is still not clear what the argument was about, and whether that prompted her to take the extreme step. A probe is under way," the officer said.

The police said they have not yet received any formal complaint from the woman's family.

The school could not be contacted for comment.

## Policeman found dead at railway station

STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI

A Government Railway Police officer was found dead at Anand Vihar Railway Station on Friday morning.

No note has been recovered, said the police.

Deputy Commissioner of Police (Railways) Dinesh Gupta said the deceased, Head Constable Naresh Pal, had been posted to the railways in 2016. "He reported for duty at 1.50 a.m. on Friday and was in his booth," Mr Gupta said.

The police said they received a call around 8.30 a.m. from a Railway Police Force officer, who informed them that Naresh was lying unconscious.

"He was found dead on the cement slab. His service pistol was lying on the ground and he had a gunshot injury on his right temple," the officer said.

Naresh's body was shifted to a government hospital for post-mortem. It was handed over to his family on Friday. A senior police officer said that prima facie no foul play has been found. "We are yet to ascertain the motive behind the step," said an officer.

**Suicide prevention helpline: Sanjivini, Society for Mental Health, Telephone: 011-4076 9002, Monday-Saturday, 10 am -7:30 pm**

## Man held for killing wife

STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI

A 40-year-old woman who was allegedly stabbed by her husband in North West Delhi's Subhash Place on Thursday succumbed to injuries on Friday.

The husband has been arrested, said the police.

A probe revealed that the accused, Sonu, suspected his wife Mohini of infidelity and fought with the victim over the issue frequently. "On Thursday, Sonu was drunk and again had an argument with his wife over the issue. The argument turned violent and he stabbed her with a knife," said an officer.

**Geography**  
By : Neetu Singh  
**WORKSHOP**  
18 August @5pm  
All are cordially invited  
**DIRECTION**  
INSTITUTE FOR IAS EXAMINATION  
011-25719862 | 14A/103 WEA, KAROL BAGH  
011-25719872 | Metro Pillar 112, N.Delhi-05

**Raymond**  
Summer Collection  
**SALE**  
Extra fine Linen, Cotton, Silk & Wool blended  
Fabric for Formals, Casual & Party Wear  
Shirts, Trousers, Suits & Ethnic Wear  
**50% off**  
**BLAZER • SUIT**  
**SHIRT • TROUSER • T-SHIRTS**

<b>PUNCHKUAN ROAD</b>	Garwal Bhawan, Opp. Metro Pillar 44, (Near Jhandewalan, Gole Chkkr.)
<b>WAZIRPUR</b>	A-5, Near Richi Rich Banquet (Opp. Shalimar Bagh)
<b>JANAKPURI</b>	B-1/2, Main Najafgarh Road, Opp. Metro Pillar 543, Adj. Umang Palace.
<b>NOIDA</b>	Nirula's Sec-2, C-135, Near Metro Station, Sec-15, Noida, UP
<b>LAJPAT NAGAR</b>	49, Main Ring Road, Adj. Haldi Ram, Near Moolchand, Crossing, Delhi

Economy Sales: 23539218

Admission Notice  
**IAS 2020**  
@  
**SHALIMAR PLACE & MUKHERJEE NAGAR**

ALS

Alternative Learning Systems

GENERAL STUDIES EXTENSIVE

Programme Director **Jojo Mathew**  
Associate Programme Director **Manish K Gautam**

GS Batch Begins at SHALIMAR PLACE

AFTERNOON BATCH  
**20 AUG, 1:45PM**

EVENING BATCH Admissions Open  
GS WEEKEND Admissions Open

ALS 3-YR GRADUATION PROGRAMME

**WHAT AFTER +2 ?**  
Join 3-year Full-time, Career Building  
Life-Skill Integrated  
**GRADUATION PLUS IAS PROGRAMME**

**BE A TRUE GRADUATE**

Study Full-Time at ALS while you graduate...

GS Mains Test Series

By **Jojo Mathew, Manish K Gautam, Alok S Jha & K M Pathi**

Test on Every Sunday | Admissions Open

GS FOUNDATION +

2-Year Weekend Foundation for Undergraduates  
Admissions Open

सामान्य अध्ययन EXTENSIVE

Programme Director **Manoj Kumar Singh**

GS 6 दिवसीय निःशुल्क कार्यशाला

<b>AUG 18</b> 11:30am	सिविल सेवा परीक्षा तैयारी की सम्पूर्ण रूपरेखा <b>R.C. Sinha</b>	<b>AUG 21</b> 11:30am	पाठ्यक्रम की समग्र सफलता का मूलमंत्र <b>Manish K Gautam</b>
<b>AUG 19</b> 11:30am	प्रारंभिक परीक्षा <b>Prelim first</b> "Clear Prelims in First Attempt" <b>Manoj Kumar Singh</b>	<b>AUG 22</b> 11:30am	अंतर्राष्ट्रीय संबंध एवं समसामयिक मुद्दे <b>Sharad Tripathi</b>
<b>AUG 20</b> 11:30am	भूगोल, पर्यावरण एवं लेखन कौशल संवर्द्धन <b>Sachin Arora</b>	<b>AUG 23</b> 11:30am	नीतिशास्त्र (पेपर-IV) <b>K.M. Pathi</b>

बैच प्रारंभ **MUKHERJEE NAGAR 27 AUG, 11:30AM**

OPTIONAL SUBJECTS OFFERED

History, Geography, Public Admin, Sociology, Political Sc, Anthropology, Kannada Literature  
Admissions Open

वैकल्पिक विषय

इतिहास, समाजशास्त्र, भूगोल | Admissions Open

Register online @ [www.alsias.net](http://www.alsias.net)

2,837+

SELECTIONS IN IAS RESULTS OVER PAST 18 YEARS

4 IAS TOPPERS

1 OUT OF EVERY 5

STUDENTS IN TOP 100 RANKS IS FROM ALS

OVER 5600

STATE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OFFICERS ARE ALS ALUMNI

ALTERNATIVE LEARNING SYSTEMS LTD

Regd Office: A-Block, Plot-II, Shalimar Place, Outer Ring Road, Above Passport Office, Near Haiderpur Metro Station, Delhi-88  
Dr Mukherjee Nagar: B-19, ALS House, Commercial Complex, Delhi-9

ALS ADMISSION ENQUIRY  
9999975666  
9999343999  
011-27651110

IN BRIEF

School eco-clubs to be part of plantation drive NEW DELHI Union Minister Hardeep Puri on Friday launched a scheme involving school eco-clubs under the Delhi Development Authority's plantation drive.

Indian Oil honours kin of slain soldiers NEW DELHI Indian Oil honoured the family of slain soldiers on the occasion of the 73rd Independence Day.

BJP wants CM to embark upon environment-friendly initiative

Party demands AAP government take effective steps to ensure plastic ban

STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI A day after Prime Minister Narendra Modi spoke about plastic pollution, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) demanded that Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal embark upon the "environment-friendly" initiatives.



Arvind Kejriwal

Leader of Opposition in the Delhi Assembly Vijender Gupta alleged that despite the National Green Tribunal's (NGT) blanket ban on non-biodegradable plastic bags for the last two years, the Delhi government had done precious little to implement it.

today to take effective steps to ensure ban on prohibited plastic bags without any further delay. Delhi's citizens, especially the factory

owners and shopkeepers, must have the need for contributing to this important programme impressed upon them. There is a need for creating awareness against use of plastic bags. Citizens should be encouraged to use cloth and jute bags, Mr. Gupta said.

NGT ban "I would like to remind the Chief Minister that the NGT had banned the use of plastic bags below 50 microns two years ago. It had stipulated that environment compensation charge amount of ₹5,000 must be recovered from offenders. The tribunal

had directed to seize all such bags from Delhi within a week. But the government had failed to take strong and sustained action against violators," Mr. Gupta alleged.

Expressing concern over prohibited plastic bags being openly used in the Capital, he alleged that the Delhi government had not launched "strong and effective action" against offenders.

"The factories manufacturing prohibited plastic bags are running without fear. The shopkeepers are still openly packing their goods in plastic bags," he added.

'Kejriwal trying to mislead people through free ride announcement'

Tiwari claims AAP gov. has no intention to serve people

STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) on Friday alleged that Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal was trying to mislead the people through announcements related to free rides on Delhi Transport Corporation (DTC) buses and Delhi Metro trains.

The BJP has said that it is confident of winning the Delhi Assembly elections due next year and announced its intent to increase the number of State-run buses "after the party forms government in Delhi".

Delhi BJP chief Manoj Tiwari argued that considering the scarcity of buses being

operated by the public transporter, the announcement of free rides was a "fraud".

'Playing the gimmick' He claimed that the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) government was "playing the gimmick" of cooperating with the BJP-led Centre in view of the forthcoming Assembly elections.

"Kejriwal is trying to cheat the people by speaking new lies every day. The Delhi government is trying to mislead the voters by making false promises to every citizen of Delhi. This government has no intentions to serve the people because it is making announcements about freebies

one after another," Mr. Tiwari alleged.

First, the Delhi government announced free rides to women in DTC buses and metro trains. After that it "suddenly" started a programme revolving around free pilgrimage to senior citizens of Delhi "after the lapse of 54 months of its tenure", Mr. Tiwari said.

"Not just this, it announced free electricity supply up to 200 units... similarly, in view of the forthcoming Assembly elections, it announced installation of CCTVs, free wi-fi service and coordination with the Central government," Mr. Tiwari said further.

GOVERNMENT OF MAHARASHTRA EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, PUBLIC WORKS DIVISION, BEED E-TENDER NOTICE NO.BEED/ 06 OF 2019-20

JHARKHAND URBAN INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT COMPANY LIMITED (Govt. of Jharkhand Undertaking) 3rd floor, Pragati Sadan, Kutchary Road, Ranchi-834001, Jharkhand.

Table with columns: (a) Name of the work, (b) Scope of Work, Mode of Bid Submission, Estimated Cost (Rs.), Tender Fee and Bid Security, Date / Time of Publication of Tender on Website, Last Date/Time of Bid Submission, Last Date / Time of Submission of Tender Fee & EMD, Date of Bid Opening, Bid Submission Address, Helpline No. of e-Procurement Cell

Note: Only e-Tenders shall be accepted. Further details are available on Jharkhand Government e-procurement website and can be seen on the website http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in

बूढ़ - बूढ़ नही बदरती तो बूढ़ को तरसेंगे Sd/- General Manager (P&E) JUIDCO Limited

सुरक्षा भारतीय विज्ञान संस्था, हरियाणा सरकार, फरीदाबाद

WEST CENTRAL RAILWAY Signal & Telecommunication Department TENDER NOTICE - Date: 13/08/2019 Sr.DSTE/CO/Kota for and on behalf of President of Union of India invites e-tenders against Tender No. Kota/S&T/Sig/2018/45-A, Kota/S&T/Sig/2018/45-B, Kota/S&T/Sig/2018/45-C, Kota/S&T/Sig/2018/45-E, Due date to open mentioned below.

Four of gang held in two encounters

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA NOIDA

Four alleged members of a gang were arrested after successive gunfights with police within 12 hours in Greater Noida, officials said on Friday.

The gang had barged into a showroom on August 11 and looted ₹14,000 at gunpoint. The entire episode was caught on CCTV cameras. The gang members were all masked at the time of the incident but two of them were identified after a detailed analysis

of the CCTV footage, a senior officer said.

"An input about the movement of the accused in Dadri was received on Thursday night and soon police teams spread out to nab them," SP, Greater Noida, Ranvijay Singh said.

Opened fire at police

When intercepted near Shaifali school, the four accused, two on a motorcycle and two on a scooter, opened indiscriminate firing on the policemen, Mr. Singh said.

"Two of them, Lokesh and Gaurav, were held immediately after the exchange of fire, while two others managed to flee the spot. When questioned, they told the police about their partners and confirmed their involvement in the August 11 case," the SP said.

Based on the inputs, Mr. Singh said, a combing operation was launched for the absconding duo - Rajeev Sharma and Rahul Kashyap. "They were arrested following a gunfight near Bisahda village in Dadri on Friday," he added.

Woman dies after jumping in front of metro train

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA NEW DELHI

A 25-year-old married woman from Delhi allegedly killed herself by jumping in front of a metro train at a Yellow Line station on Friday, officials said.

The incident, which delayed the services on the busy corridor for some time, took place at Adarsh Nagar metro station in the morn-

ing, according to a senior DMRC official.

The woman got hit by the train that was going towards Vishwavidyalaya Station.

"An SDM inquiry has been ordered," a senior official said.

Suicide prevention helpline: Sanjivini, Society for Mental Health, 011-4076 9002, Monday-Saturday (10 a.m.-7.30 p.m.)

EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY E-TENDER NOTICE

E-Tender notice no. CRW-HRTM-Paint-Shop-19-1. Date: 13.08.2019. For and on behalf of President of India. Dy. Chief Mechanical Engineer, Carriage Repair Workshop. Harnaut invites open-e-tender for the following works as detailed :-

EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY e - Tender Notice

E-TENDER NOTICE NO. ECR-CAO-CN-ETN-64-19-20 E-TENDER IS INVITED ON BEHALF OF THE PRESIDENT OF INDIA FOR THE UNDER MENTIONED WORK.

INVITATION FOR BID (IFB) GOVERNMENT OF HIMACHAL PRADESH INVITATION FOR BID (IFB) FOR INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)

Table with columns: District, Package No., Name of Work, Estimated Cost (Rs Lacs), Total Cost (Rs. Lakh), Period of Completion (in days), Starting Date for downloading Bid, Bid Security (Rs. Lakh), Deadline for submitted of Bid, Eligible Class of Contractors, Cost of Bid (in Rs.)

हरियाणा सरकार

TENDER NOTICE

Table with columns: SR. No., NAME OF BOARD/CORP./AUTH, NAME OF WORK NOTICE TENDER, OPENING CLOSING DATE, AMOUNT / EMD IN RUPEES, WEBSITE OF THE BOARD CORP./AUTH, NODAL OFFICER/CONTACT DETAILS/EMAIL

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION KINDLY VISIT : www.haryanaeprocurement.gov.in or www.etenders.hry.nic.in PRDH 71538



**APPEAL**  
Name of Patient: SK Miskatul Rahaman, 2 years. Hospital Name: Christian Medical College. Diagnosis: Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia. His treatment is for 3 years and total cost of treatment is Rs. 7 Lakhs.  
We request Kind Hearted Philanthropists to save him. Kindly send donation by Cheque/D.D/M.O favouring Save Poor Lives A/c SK Miskatul Rahaman S/B Account No. 2000913487, State Bank of India, Raja Annamalapuram Branch, IFSC Code: SBN0001855, which is exempted under 80G of I.T. Act.  
Contact: SAVE POOR LIVES REGISTERED PUBLIC CHARITABLE TRUST (ADMIN DIVISION) Flat No.44, Ceebros Garden, Ground Floor, Old No.76, Kamarajar Salai, Raja Annamalapuram, Chennai - 600028. Ph: 044-42044165, Mobile: 9884607377, Email: savepoorlives@gmail.com Our website: www.savepoorlives.com  
Donation given to patients upto March 2019 for Rs. 4,26,89,335/- and scholarship 7,30,800/-

**THE HINDU**  
DISCLAIMER: Readers are requested to verify and make appropriate enquiries to satisfy themselves about the veracity of an advertisement before responding to any published in this newspaper. THE PUBLISHING PVT LTD., the Publisher & Owner of this newspaper, does not vouch for the authenticity of any advertisement or advertiser or for any of the advertiser's products and/or services. In no event can the Owner, Publisher, Printer, Editor, Director, Employees of this newspaper company be held responsible/liable in any manner whatsoever for any claims and/or damages for advertisements in this newspaper.

**TO ADVERTISE PLEASE CONTACT**  
Mr. N SELVA KUMAR  
PH: 98203 50726  
selvakumar.n@thehindu.co.in  
Mr. GAURAV SEHGAL  
PH: 98110 06590  
gaurav.sehgal@thehindu.co.in  
**THE HINDU**

# Odisha govt. nod to set up maritime board

It will administer, control and manage non-major ports, non-nationalised inland waterways

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT BHUBANESWAR**  
A proposal for establishment of the Odisha Maritime Board for administration, control and management of non-major ports and non-nationalised inland waterways was approved by the State Cabinet here on Friday.  
The Cabinet meeting, presided over by Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik, decided that the Board will function as a single window facilitator for the overall maritime development of the State.  
Earlier a Bill was passed in 2011 for constitution of the

Board but was withdrawn because some more issues were to be added, according to official sources.  
Odisha is endowed with a vast coastline of 480 km, having rich, unique and natural port locations and perennial rivers.  
**14 non-major ports** Out of the 14 sites identified for development of 14 non-major ports, two at Gopalpur and Dhamra are operational and two at Astarang and Subarnarekha are in the pipeline.  
According to the propo-



Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik ■ FILE PHOTO

ty and defence related concerns.  
The salient features of the Board will be to provide construction, maintenance and operation of all non-major ports in the State directly or through PPP mode.  
The Board will be constituted with 12 members, the Chief Secretary as the chairperson along with representatives of stakeholders departments as well as representatives of the Central government.  
Among other proposals, the Cabinet also gave its approval for financial restructuring of the Odisha State Road Transport Corporation by which old dues of the Corporation and the State government will be settled forever.  
**OSRTC's losses** As per the decision, OSRTC's accumulated losses of ₹189.99 crore will be taken up against the share capital in a phased manner. Once the losses are adjusted, the OSRTC will have the option to approach the financial institutions for taking up commercially viable projects for better passenger amenities.

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

**EDUCATIONAL**  
**ALS IAS**  
हिन्दी माध्यम | डॉ. मुखर्जी नगर  
सामान्य अध्ययन  
**6 दिवसीय निःशुल्क कार्यशाला**  
MEET YOUR FACULTY directly before commencement of the course  
EACH FACULTY HAS MORE THAN **20 YEARS** OF EXPERIENCE  
**AUG 18-23 | 11:30AM**  
Venue: ALS, Vardhman Plaza, Nehru Vihar

**AUG 18** 11:30am सिविल सेवा परीक्षा तैयारी की सम्पूर्ण रूपरेखा R.C. Sinha  
**AUG 19** 11:30am प्रारंभिक परीक्षा Prelims First "Clear Prelims in First Attempt" Manoj Kumar Singh  
**AUG 20** 11:30am भूगोल, पर्यावरण एवं लेखन कोशल संवर्द्धन Sachin Arora  
**AUG 21** 11:30am पाठ्यक्रम की समग्र सफलता का मूलमंत्र Manish Gautam  
**AUG 22** 11:30am अंतर्राष्ट्रीय संबंध एवं समसामयिक मुद्दे Sharad Tripathi  
**AUG 23** 11:30am नीतिशास्त्र (पेपर-IV) K.M. Pathi

**ALS IAS**  
राजनीति विज्ञान  
अभय कुमार वैकल्पिक विषय  
इंट्रोडक्टरी क्लास के साथ बैच प्रारंभ... **20** अगस्त | दोपहर: 3:30 बजे  
लोक प्रशासन  
अभय कुमार वैकल्पिक विषय  
इंट्रोडक्टरी क्लास के साथ बैच प्रारंभ... **20** अगस्त | 9:00 बजे  
B/18 प्रथम तल, अग्रवाल स्वीट्स के सामने, डॉ. मुखर्जी नगर, दिल्ली-9  
011-45109939 / 9870309939 / 9990188537

**दीक्षांत Education Centre**  
An Honest Effort  
सामान्य अध्ययन  
**FREE COACHING & SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMME**  
भारत सरकार एवं गैर-सरकारी संगठनों द्वारा वित्तपोषित  
नया फाउंडेशन बैच  
**एथिक्स** खंड से  
निःशुल्क कार्यशाला **20**  
के साथ कक्षा प्रारंभ **AUG 3 PM**  
आइए जानें... कैसे करें...  
**भूगोल** (वैकल्पिक विषय एवं सामान्य अध्ययन) की तैयारी  
जुनैद अहमद **18** **AUG** 12 PM  
AIR - 3  
289, Dhaka Jhark. Near Dushahara Ground, Dr. Mukherjee Nagar, Delhi-09  
011-27608204, 9312511015, 8851301204

**EDUCATIONAL**  
**ALS** Alternative Learning Systems  
**KAROL BAGH**  
OPTIONAL BATCHES BEGIN WITH **OPEN SESSION**  
YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED  
**SOCIOLOGY** BY DHARMENDRA Dharmendra's Sociology **16 AUG** 3:00pm  
**HISTORY** BY HEMANT JHA **19 AUG** 3:00pm  
**POL. SCIENCE** BY C.K. SINGH **22 AUG** 3:00pm  
**GEOGRAPHY** BY SACHIN ARORA **01 SEP** 3:00pm  
VENUE: 20 Pusa Road, Near Karol Bagh Metro Station, Opp. Metro Station Pillar No. 97, New Delhi-110005  
9999648884, 9891990011, 28751379

**GEOGRAPHY (OPTIONAL)**  
by **AJAY RAJ SINGH**  
New Classroom batch begins from **16th August at 9:00 AM** (Admission Open)  
For Pendrive Video Course Visit : [www.geographiaias.com](http://www.geographiaias.com)  
Add: 92, 1st Floor, Old Rajendra Nagar Main Mkt., Near Kotak Mahindra Bank, Ph. 011-43801172, 9958218172, 011-40194917, 9211703771

**GS ETHICS (Paper-IV)** INTEGRITY & APTITUDE  
QUALITY IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMME  
**3 DAYS** Only for Those Appearing in MAINS 2019 by Dharmendra Sir  
BATCH BEGINS  
REGISTRATION OPEN **16, 17, 18** 5:30 PM August Karol Bagh  
**PATANJALI**  
VENUE: UNIQUE SHIKSHA  
2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, 32 B Pusa Road, Opposite Metro Pillar No. 122, KAROL BAGH, New Delhi  
9810172345, 9811583851

**KSG**  
An Institute For IAS Exam...  
UPCOMING FOUNDATION BATCHES  
**INDORE** Bhawan Kuan **17th** AUGUST  
**DELHI** Hudson Lane **19th** AUGUST  
**DELHI** Rajender Nagar **2nd** SEPTEMBER  
SPECIAL FOCUS ON ANSWER WRITING SKILL DEVELOPMENT  
**BHOPAL** Plot No. 48, 1st & 2nd Floor, Behind Sargam Talkies, Zone II, M.P. Nagar Bhopali-462011  
**PATNA** Above Toyota Showroom, CIAT Compound, Exhibition Road, Near Gandhi Maidan, Patna- 800091  
**JAIPUR** 403-404, 4th Floor Apex Tower, Lal Kothi, Tank Road Jaipur- 302015  
**ADVANCE FOUNDATION COURSE**  
TWO YEARS PROGRAMME Especially Designed for College Students  
\*AVAILABLE IN BHOPAL & INDORE  
**KSG IAS** NOW IN BENGALURU ALSO  
116/C-1, 3rd Floor, behind Airtel office 2nd Cross Road, KHB Colony, 5th Block, Koramangala Bengaluru- 560095  
Call: 7619166663 | 08048544393  
[www.ksgindia.com](http://www.ksgindia.com) | DELHI- JAIPUR- BHOPAL- INDORE- PATNA- BENGALURU

**EDUCATIONAL**  
**ALS** Alternative Learning Systems  
**IAS 2020-21** **KAROL BAGH PUSAROAD**  
An Institute with **UNPARALLELED TRANSPARENCY**  
MEET YOUR FACULTY directly before commencement of the course  
**GS OPEN SESSIONS**  
YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED.  
**AUG 18-22** 11:30am  
**AUG 18** 11:30am GEOGRAPHY, ENVIRONMENT & WRITING SKILL DEVELOPMENT Sachin Arora  
**AUG 19** 11:30am DECODING ETHICS K.M. Pathi  
**AUG 20** 11:30am CRACKING CIVIL SERVICES - A NEW APPROACH R.C. Sinha  
**AUG 21** 11:30am AN APPROACH TO INDIAN POLITY Ajay Srivastava  
**AUG 22** 11:30am COMPLETE STRATEGY FOR HISTORY & INDIAN CULTURE Hemant Jha  
**GS EXTENSIVE Batch Begins**  
MORNING BATCH | EVENING BATCH  
**26 AUG, 11:30AM | 19 AUG, 06:15PM**  
Venue: 20 Pusa Road, Near Karol Bagh Metro Station, Opposite Metro Pillar No. 97, Delhi-05  
9999648884, 9891990011

**ALS IAS**  
Venue: डॉ. मुखर्जी नगर  
**इतिहास** By Hemant Jha  
कार्यशाला के साथ बैच प्रारंभ  
**AUG 19 | 8:30am**  
VENUE: ALS, Vardhman Plaza, Nehru Vihar  
9911172230, 9999343999, 27651110

**IAS PRE-CUM-MAIN REGULAR BATCH**  
**19 AUG | 8:30 AM & 5:30 PM**  
**IAS PRE-CUM-MAIN WEEKEND BATCH**  
**17 AUG | 5:30 PM**  
**IAS PT 2020 TEST SERIES**  
**18 AUG**  
**GOMTI NAGAR, LUCKNOW**  
FACE TO FACE CENTRE  
CP-1 JEEWAN SHOPPING COMPLEX, VIRAM KHAND-5, NEAR HUSARIYA CHAURAH, GOMTI NAGAR, LUCKNOW  
7234000501, 7234000502

**UPPCS PT -2019**  
NEW BATCH STARTS **20 Aug. 4.00PM**  
UPPCS PT - TEST SERIES  
साथ IAS 105 ज्योति मन मुखर्जी नगर **8800721827**  
**SITUATION VACANT**  
GENERAL  
**WANTED FOR IAS ACADEMY CONTENT DEVELOPER**  
RECEPTIONIST  
OFFICE ASSISTANT  
SEND YOUR RESUME TO [vivek9494@gmail.com](mailto:vivek9494@gmail.com)

**EDUCATIONAL**  
**ALS** Alternative Learning Systems  
**ORBIT**  
BEST SCORING & SAFEST OPTIONAL  
MORNING BATCH | EVENING BATCH  
NEW BATCHES COMMENCE **26 AUG. INSIGHT**  
73, OLD RAJINDER NAGAR  
011-45090051, 9818333201  
**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
Notice is hereby given that Mr. Shankar Mahto S/o Mani Mahto R/o Ormaichi, Ranchi at Ormaichi, PS- no.-61, Ranchi agreed to sell the part of land Khasra no.- 193, plot no-510, total land 95 1/2 Decimal, at Ormaichi, PS.- no.-61, Ranchi out of total 95 1/2 Decimal he is agreed to sell 20 decimal land to Prafull Choudhary S/o P C Choudhary, Anjali Kumari & Rinku Kumari, resident of Ranchi vide agreement dated 15.07.2019.  
All persons claiming an interest in the said property or any part thereof by way of sale, gift, lease, inheritance, exchange, mortgage, charge, lien, trust possession, easement, agreement, attachment or otherwise howsoever are hereby required to make the same known to the undersigned at mentioned contact details at Ranchi within 07 days from the date hereof, failing which the said sale will be completed, without any reference to such claim and the same, if any, shall be considered as waived.  
In Interest in Prafull Choudhary Maa tara aptt. 3D, Karamtoli, Morabadi-834008 Phno-7350337263/8709808714 Date:- 14 Aug 2019 Place:- Ranchi  
Sd/- Niraj Nayan Mishra (Advocate) Jharkhand High Court, Ranchi

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
Notice is hereby given that Mr. Shankar Mahto S/o Mani Mahto R/o Ormaichi, Ranchi at Ormaichi, PS- no.-61, Ranchi agreed to sell the part of land Khasra no.- 193, plot no-510, total land 95 1/2 Decimal, at Ormaichi, PS.- no.-61, Ranchi out of total 95 1/2 Decimal he is agreed to sell 20 decimal land to Prafull Choudhary S/o P C Choudhary, Anjali Kumari & Rinku Kumari, resident of Ranchi vide agreement dated 15.07.2019.  
All persons claiming an interest in the said property or any part thereof by way of sale, gift, lease, inheritance, exchange, mortgage, charge, lien, trust possession, easement, agreement, attachment or otherwise howsoever are hereby required to make the same known to the undersigned at mentioned contact details at Ranchi within 07 days from the date hereof, failing which the said sale will be completed, without any reference to such claim and the same, if any, shall be considered as waived.  
In Interest in Prafull Choudhary Maa tara aptt. 3D, Karamtoli, Morabadi-834008 Phno-7350337263/8709808714 Date:- 14 Aug 2019 Place:- Ranchi  
Sd/- Niraj Nayan Mishra (Advocate) Jharkhand High Court, Ranchi











# Paddy, tube wells and depleting groundwater

Rice cultivation in Punjab, which thrived in the past due to the easy availability of water resources and free supply of electricity to farmers, is under considerable strain now. **Vikas Vasudeva** examines how overexploitation has made groundwater not only scarce but also increasingly alkaline

Gurmeet Singh, 60, a tall land-owning farmer in Bhattiwal Khurd village, which is located in Punjab's Sangrur district, has yet again planted the water-guzzling paddy crop this summer (kharif) as he is sceptical of any other crop fetching him a remunerative price.

Standing on the edge of the Ghaggar branch canal, which flows barely a few metres away from his field, Gurmeet reveals that hardly anyone in the village irrigates his/her field with canal water. That is because motor-operated tube wells, with their powerful submersible pumps, have become an easy and preferred choice for most of the households to extract groundwater, he says.

Punjab's policy of providing free electricity to farmers, in place since 1997, along with the Central government's favourable attitude towards paddy cultivation, are the key factors that have motivated farmers like Gurmeet to persist with paddy, despite the grave groundwater crisis faced by the State.

"Most of us here in the village have tube wells installed, be it on our farm or inside our houses. We use groundwater for irrigation, drinking and other domestic purposes. In 1977, we got our first tube well drilled at a depth of 35 ft-40 ft. Water at that time was easily available at 15 ft-20 ft. Since then, we have drilled as many as four tube wells as the water levels have been consistently falling. I got the latest one installed two years ago at around 300 ft. It cost me around ₹1,00,000," he says, his head dropping in despair as he mentions the high cost of his latest tube well.

## The green revolution impact

Gurmeet's father Magar Singh, 90, intervenes to point out that farmers like him shifted to cultivation of rice and wheat during the *hara inquilab* (green revolution); till then, he says, crops like pulses, maize, vegetables and cotton were mainly grown in the village.

"Paddy (rice) requires far more water than other crops and as farmers started cultivating paddy, the need for tube wells arose. The extraction of groundwater only increased as farmers shifted from the use of monoblock pumps in the 1980s to other types like submersible pumps," he says.

Ideally, groundwater should be available at a depth of 50 ft to 60 ft, but in Punjab, its level has significantly dropped to 150ft to 200 ft in most places. Many attribute this drastic fall to an indiscriminate extraction of groundwater in the last two decades.

Further, deepening of tube wells, and purchase of the powerful motors to carry out the deepening, is costing farmers ₹1,100 crore per year, according to government data. The State, which gives free power to farmers, is also facing an increased financial burden due to the rising use of electricity. This year, the total power subsidy to the farm sector is estimated at ₹9,674 crore.

To counter this, the Punjab State Farmers' Policy, drafted by the State's Farmers and Farm Workers' Commission in June last year, suggested rationalising of power subsidy and asked the government to restrict the subsidy to the non-income tax payee farmers. It also recommended that cultivation of paddy on common lands be disallowed. Common (*shamlat*) village lands, whose utilisation is regulated under Punjab Village Common Lands (Regulation) Act 1961, have been increasingly used for paddy cultivation over the years. Experts feel that a restriction on such usage can help arrest groundwater depletion. The government, however, is yet to take a final call on these policy proposals.

The Punjab government is well aware of the fast depleting groundwater reserves. Last month, Chief Minister Captain Amarinder Singh directed the State Planning Board to chalk out a comprehensive crop diversification model. The Board was also directed to undertake a detailed review of the various schemes of the agriculture department to bring in much-needed reforms in the sector.

The Chief Minister, who has been stressing the need to prioritise the cultivation of crops that consume less water like maize, cotton and sugar cane, asked the Board to come up with a strategy to persuade the farmers to shift to these crops.

However, while the State government has been advocating crop diversification to save groundwater, farmers don't seem to be keen on shifting to other crops unless they are given an assured market and a guaranteed price for their produce. "I am aware that paddy consumes more water than other crops but what is the alternative? Government agencies purchase rice and wheat (during rabi season) at the minimum support price (MSP), which assures me of a remunerative return. But in the case of other crops, there's hardly any such assurance. The government should purchase all major crops at MSP as is done in case of rice and wheat; until then, it's difficult to shift," says Randhir Singh, 51, who grows paddy at his three-acre farm in Bhattiwal Khurd village.



A farmer at his paddy field in Sangrur as a bore well extracts groundwater. Increased cultivation of the water-guzzling rice crop, augmented by free power supply, has caused depletion in water reserves. ■ AKHILESH KUMAR

This sentiment is echoed in other parts of the State as well. In Fatehpur village, located in the Chief Minister's pocket borough of Patiala, Karamjeet Singh says that after suffering financial loss owing to a price crash in the market, he stopped the cultivation of potato a few years ago. "Three years ago, I planted a potato crop in my field but prices in the market crashed badly. The potato was fetching as low as ₹2 per kilo in the market. I couldn't even recover the cost of my crop and suffered a loss of around ₹3,00,000. Since then, I have stopped its cultivation and have been sowing rice and wheat, for which I am assured of getting a remunerative price as government agencies will purchase my produce at the MSP," he says, as he takes a seat along with his fellow farmers at the public shed in the village.



products is guaranteed and they get an assured remunerative price," he says.

Punjab's economy is highly dependent on agriculture. The sector, however, is experiencing slower growth as the State's cropping intensity and irrigation potential have been fully exploited and the growth in productivity has also reached a saturation point.

The intensive groundwater extraction in the last few decades through installation of shallow tube wells is reflected in tube well numbers – which have increased by almost 200% in 35 years, from six lakh in the 1980s to 14.76 lakh in 2017-18. Also, the area under rice cultivation has increased from 11.83 lakh hectares in 1980 to 28.86 lakh hectares in 2017-18. On an average, there are 34 tube wells per sq. km of net sown area in Punjab (2015-16).

According to the Draft Dynamic Ground Water Estimation Report-2017, 109 blocks out of the 138 blocks taken for its study were "over-exploited", two blocks were "critical" and five blocks were "semi-critical" while 20 blocks are in "safe" category. The water table was

declining in nearly 80% of the area of the State.

The report also said that while the annual replenishable groundwater resource in Punjab was about 17.5 million acre-ft (MAF), the annual draft (extraction) was 29 MAF, implying that the extraction rate outstripped availability by quite a few notches.

"If this trend continues, it will adversely affect the agricultural economy of the State and it is apprehended that irrigated area may decrease by up to 15% in the year 2025. Further, in the coming 20 years, supply from about 60% of top aquifers may be jeopardised. There will be an increase in the cost of raising crops, placing an increased financial burden on farmers and the government. A shortage in water supply could also act as a deterrent when it comes to investment in industries requiring water. Around 30 million residents of the Punjab region may face a collapse in agricultural output," says S.K. Saluja, Superintending Engineer, Directorate of Ground Water Management.

## Salinity in water

The report also raised concerns about the deteriorating quality of groundwater due to pollution caused by urbanisation, industrialisation and an increased use of fertilisers and pesticides. It said that while nearly 50%-60% of groundwater was "fresh and fit", 20%-30% was "moderately saline and of marginal quality". Further, about 15%-25% of the groundwater was "saline, alkaline and not fit for irrigation".

Water in south and southwestern districts – like Sangrur, Muktsar, Bathinda and Mansa – came under the last category, containing "varying concentration of soluble salts" and its use for irrigation will adversely affect agricultural pro-

**Irrigated area in Punjab may decrease by up to 15% in the year 2025. Around 30 million residents could face a collapse in agricultural output**

S.K. SALUJA, Engineer, Directorate of Ground Water Management

duction, said the report.

An increased awareness about the need for safe drinking water has caused many households in Bhattiwal Khurd village to install RO (reverse osmosis) water purification systems. "I felt the need for RO system at my home after my family members started falling ill due to water-borne diseases at regular intervals. We have been consuming groundwater directly from tube wells for a long time," says Randhir Singh.

## Untreated industrial effluents

P.S. Ranghi, a noted agriculture economist and a former adviser to Punjab State Farmers Commission, says that water quality is being impacted by untreated or inadequately treated industrial effluents and sewage that flows into rivulets and rivers in Punjab.

"Also, traditional water bodies such as ponds and wells in the villages are under threat. In most of the places, ponds have been filled and encroached upon while in other places, they have become a dumping ground for sewage. The problem is further compounded by the mixing of storm water and sewage in various municipal towns. The pollution and contamination of water resources due to industrial waste, sewage and excessive use of chemical pesticides in agriculture is a major cause of concern that needs immediate attention," says Ranghi.

Given the grim situation, Punjab's Department of Water Supply and Sani-

tation is planning to implement 10 surface water projects at a cost of ₹1,021 crore. These projects intend to provide potable piped water supply to 1,021 "quality-affected" villages, making them less reliant on groundwater and more on canal water.

A total of 130 such villages – including 85 uranium-affected villages in Moga and 45 iron-affected ones in Roopnagar – have so far been shifted from groundwater to canal water.

Lakhwinder Singh, professor of economics at Punjabi University, Patiala, who has been mapping rural Punjab for decades, asserts that agriculture in the State thrived in the past due to easy availability of both groundwater and surface water but, over the past few years, the availability has reached a saturation point.

## Increase in indebtedness

"Successive State governments invested on drainage systems that saved crops from damage in the case of heavy and untimely rains. Over the years, due to an incentivising of groundwater irrigation by the government and an irrational increase in the number of electric tube wells, water tables have receded. Experts have been time and again cautioning the State on the long-term consequences of excessive exploitation of groundwater. Now, farmers are forced to borrow from informal and formal sources to install tube wells, causing indebtedness and farmer suicides," says Lakhwinder, adding that that faulty public policy and irrational cropping system should be blamed for the scenario.

"Governments never visualised a scenario where agriculture would block the natural groundwater recharging process and create conditions for falling water tables," he says.

He proposes that the drainage system be used for artificial recharge of groundwater. "There is also a dire need to change the cropping pattern, especially in major parts of Malwa, which need to take up cotton cultivation again," he says, adding that "water recharging system, if put in place, can solve weather-related problems and economic incentives can be used to change farmers' mindsets, making them shift to multi-cropping system".

He feels that a "major policy shift with long term vision can solve both the agrarian crisis and the problem of water depletion."

Realising the magnitude of agrarian crises, the draft policy framed by Punjab's Farmers and Farm Workers' Commission points out that a decade of business as usual has left farmers in an unenviable position.

The policy strikes a cautious note in telling that the State is struggling to meet the aspirations of its farmers and the time has come to take a critical look at the deteriorating resources, the changing economic environment and the emerging market scenarios.

**The government should purchase all major crops at MSP as it does for rice and wheat; until then, it's difficult to shift to other crops**

RANDHIR SINGH, Farmer at Bhattiwal Khurd village



Farmers in Fatehpur, Patiala, looking at an abandoned well, which once used to be a major water source for irrigation but has now run dry due to over-extraction of groundwater. ■ AKHILESH KUMAR









2019 marks 10 years in fashion for the New York-based designer. Now, taking the brand forward, Mohapatra is making plans for an exclusive India collection and collabs with Odisha weavers



• GETTY IMAGES

A decade later,

# BIBHU COMES HOME

JAGMEETA THIND JOY

Bibhu Mohapatra's designs are a juxtaposition of opposites (masculine vs feminine, tailored vs draped). So it is no surprise that this dichotomy also seeps into the New York-based designer's personal life. India is a special place despite spending half his life in the US. The Odisha boy enrolled in Utah State University to study economics before doing a U-turn to pursue fashion.

"I miss the smells, the food, the flavours... even things that are not tangible," says Mohapatra, 47, who was recently in Mumbai for an event with Preciosa, the producers of Bohemian crystals and jewellery stones. "It's a feeling of being home. Your senses respond to it but you can't articulate it in words." He is looking to build a winter home in his



ancestral village in Kalipur, in Odisha's coastal district of Bhadrak. "I love living in New York and it's very inspiring, but I miss my home and my people. Which is why I'm hoping to have a more permanent place here, too," says the designer, who will be back in the country in October.

**Tapping into his roots**  
This year marks the 10th anniversary of his eponymous label. "The last 10 years have been a huge learning experience. While I've learned about target audience and changing consumer habits, I realise that the model we started with is no longer relevant," says Mohapatra, who has dressed an array of influential women, including former US First Lady Michelle Obama and *Black Panther* actor, Lupita Nyong'o.

"The world has become a smaller place; people now have the means to reach the source [the designer label] through social media. I see the role of the retailer fast changing and we've to be ready for this," he says. Mohapatra's road map for the next 10 years includes taking a route that brings him closer to his roots. "For many years now, people have asked me why I don't sell my product in India? It's because of a practical problem. I make clothes in the US and by the time a \$1,500 top comes to

India [with import duties] its price becomes \$2,500. This just doesn't make sense," he says. "I'm now looking at a bigger audience here. I'll be designing a collection just for Indian women. This will include sharper price points and direct-to-consumer sales," he explains.

Known for his sharp evening wear and luxe resort collections, the designer says the India collection will be in sync with his "craft and design aesthetic", and also involve weavers from Odisha. "India has changed in the last decade. The way my sister used to dress 10 years, or even five years, ago is very different. Whether



(Clockwise from left) Michelle Obama in one of his outfits at the 2014 CBCF Phoenix Awards, designs from his Resort 2020 line, Mohapatra at the 2019 New York Fashion Week



they live in metros or in smaller cities, the lifestyle of Indian women has changed and I can't design for them without taking note of this," says Mohapatra, hinting at a more price-conscious diffusion line. Currently scouting for partners for the India debut, he is hoping to launch the first collection in under two years.

This won't be the first time he'll be working with Indian weavers. Some years ago, he collaborated with textile historian Rta Kapur Chishti on a craft revival project from Odisha. "I worked with weavers from three districts. They are still making those 30 designs I'd put together," he says. The designer was also part of the Make in Odisha Conclave in November last year, where he showcased his Fall 2018 collection alongside locally-produced *ikat* textiles.

**Stories and silhouettes**  
An avid cook (conversations often include reminiscences of *sukhua*, a dried *hilsa* preparation, or his mum's fermented rice, *pakhla*), he also admits to being a people watcher. He loves to see what women wear and wonder why they chose a particular

outfit. This, he often states, "fuels his designs". Who has inspired him in India? "I've been following the works of writers, activists and artists who may not be in the limelight but are doing phenomenal work." Mohapatra says he also likes actor Alia Bhatt "who is very good at her craft and also Ananya Birla, a young musician with a unique style".

His Fall-Winter 2019 collection was an ode to women horticulturists who helped create the "fantastical gardens" of Mount Stewart in the UK. But it is his Resort 2020 range of clothes that has a truly interesting genesis. While renovating his 200-year-old farmhouse in Stuyvesant in upstate New York - which he shares with his partner, artist Bobby Beard - he discovered period newspapers, which had been used as insulation. It got him researching old periodicals, architecture maps and railways plans of the city. You can spot the references in the checks and abstract linear patterns, mimicking city streets, in his new line dedicated to the 'urban woman'. Now, we must wait to see what aspects of Indian life inspire his first local collection.

## The Taj

Mohapatra was in Mumbai to launch Preciosa's new 'Alpha' stones. "I've been collaborating with them for over six years, using their crystals as embellishments in our clothes," he says. "This stone, however, needs to be set in metal. So I created a structural piece called 'The Taj', similar to the felt headpieces I made for my Fall-Winter 2019 collection," he adds.

## Accessory alert

In 2016, Mohapatra designed a fine jewellery line in association with Forevermark, called 'Artemis'. Later this year, he will be unveiling its second edition, 'Artemis 2'. Meanwhile, he also has a home collection in the pipeline. "For this, I'll be using textiles from Odisha. I want to reinforce my roots and rope in weavers from my state," he says.

## Star factor

He may still be friends with Michelle Obama - Mohapatra even attended the White House farewell party for President Barack Obama - but Bollywood and its stars are his weakness. He watches Hindi films at least once a week and, as he admitted to *livemint.com* last year, "I get star struck. If you put Rekha in front of me, I will melt."



Growing old together A still from *Aunty Sudha, Aunty Radha* SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

NAMRATA JOSHI

There is something fascinating about personal films in which the maker becomes a participant or a role player. The most intensely realised recent example would be Sarah Polley's family memoir-like film, *Stories We Tell*, in which she goes about unravelling secrets about her family and her own

identity. Closer home, there has been Pushpa Rawat's *Nirnay*, that probed into why her romance with a childhood friend couldn't culminate in marriage. Ajay Noronha's *A Picture of You* was an attempt to piece together a picture of his father, whom he lost in childhood.

Now, add Hindi filmmaker Tanuja Chandra's first documentary, *Aunty*

# Sunshine girls

Tanuja Chandra's new documentary, which premiered in Madrid, sees her 86- and 93-year-old aunts in the best phase of their lives

*Sudha Aunty Radha*, to this list. The film, which had its world premiere recently at the Madrid International Film Festival, is about her two aunts, aged 86 and 93, spending the sunset years of their lives together in Lahra village, in Uttar Pradesh.

## Memories in Lahra

Chandra shot the film over a week last year, when she went visiting Lahra, where they'd moved over a decade ago. "Everyone came together just out of affection for the subject," she says of her producer Anupama Mandloi and the crew. The aunts allowed them unconditional access. "In old age, you become unencumbered; they have lived life to the fullest and don't care what the world thinks of

them," says Chandra. The charm lies in the personalities of the lively protagonists - Radha Rani Sharma and Sudha Garg - and their belief that they are living through the best phase of their lives.

The fly-on-the-wall camera captures the unhurried rhythm, the little details as they go through their day: the first cuppa, the strong opinions on the titillating news, the skirmishes over the flowers and fountain in the garden, the joy of increased amounts of pension thanks to the hike in dearness allowance or showing off their collection of saris.

## Life lessons

They can't resist taking potshots at themselves and each other. "*Bemulki*

*nawab*" (royalty without a kingdom) is the turn of phrase they use for themselves and their extravagant ways. Or *rath* (chariots) as they call the walkers they are saddled with.

It's a rare friendship of sisters that is as much about affection as it is about constant fights. Behind their infectious cheerfulness are the more profound lessons of life. While one is thankful for having been granted a largely happy and peaceful life, the other is stoic about the many ups and downs - the illness, early marriage and widowhood - in hers. The dignity remains, even in adversity.

## The little helpers

Then there is the retinue of staff and helpers. In bonding with them, the old-world hierarchies are maintained as much as they are broken. The aunts may yell at them but they can be as insolent and cheeky.

Most heart-warming is the two admitting feeling happy to be living for themselves, being in the "oasis of warmth and freedom" as Chandra puts it. And they'd rather be where they are, eating *lauki* and *turai*, than live any place else in the world.

## PRODUCT

### Bag for a reason

In commemoration of the brand's 50th anniversary, Ralph Lauren has launched a series of totes titled RL50, echoing the American designer's mission to create "enduring style". Already spotted on the arms of Priyanka Chopra, Poppy Delevingne, and Taylor Hill (who is also the face of the campaign), it comes in four sizes: mini, medium, large, oversized. The bag is available in a range of supple materials, including alligator and python, across a colour palette of deep red, lime, purple and hot pink.

Available on [ralphlauren.com](http://ralphlauren.com); approximately ₹2 lakh (small) upward



Contact us at [delhimetro@thehindu.co.in](mailto:delhimetro@thehindu.co.in)

## 5 EVENTS WORTH YOUR WHILE



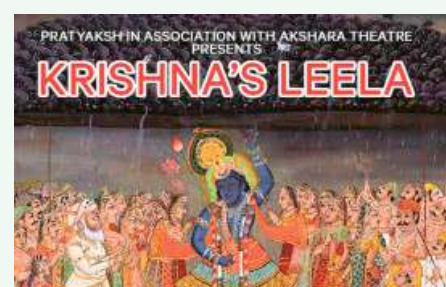
### CONCERT

**ABBA tribute**  
UK-based band, Name of the Game will be performing a special tribute to the legendary Swedish pop band ABBA as part of Concert For A Cause this evening. Created and directed by Michelle Cleave, the proceeds from this musical night will go towards the welfare of underprivileged thalassemia patients.  
**VENUE:** Weightlifting Auditorium, JNU Stadium  
**TIME:** 7 p.m. - 10 p.m.



### CUISINE

**Parsi delights**  
SodaBottleOpenerWala, a restaurant that specialises in Parsi food, is offering a Parsi Bhoju menu on the occasion of Parsi Navroz. The menu comprising traditional Parsi dishes, will have veg items such as Russian Pattice, Smoked Brinjal Patio and non-veg dishes like Fish Pattice, Chicken Pulao. On until August 24.  
**VENUE:** All outlets in Delhi/NCR.  
**TIME:** 12 noon onwards



### THEATRE

**Shadow puppet show**  
Pratyaksh Theatre in collaboration with Akshara Theatre presents a shadow puppet show, *Krishna's Leela*, this evening. Directed by Vandana Gupta, the show takes us through the life of Lord Krishna, his birth and many childhood adventures, including his face-off with Kalia Nag, to purify the Yamuna.  
**VENUE:** Akshara Theatre, Baba Khark Singh Marg  
**TIME:** 6 p.m.



### FOOD

**Sunday brunch**  
Ctrl Alt Dlt. (CAD), a tech-themed bar and restaurant serving modern Indian food, has introduced a Sunday brunch. The menu has veg and non-veg variants, including starters, soup, salads, and veg or chicken biryani, paneer tikka or mutton curry, steamed rice, assorted bread, and two desserts.  
**VENUE:** CAD, Sector 15, Gurugram  
**TIME:** 12 noon - 4 p.m.



### FILM

**Gaon film festival**  
This two-day festival will feature screenings of a selection of films by award-winning filmmaker, Rajendra Talak. Today's films, *O Maria!*, is a story of a middle-aged woman who fights to save Goa from the ravages of developers; and *Antarudh* that explores the lives of millennials who expect instant fame at the click of a button.  
**VENUE:** C.D. Deshmukh Auditorium, IIC  
**TIME:** 4 p.m.



**Up in the mountains** (Clockwise from right) Imtiaz Ali at the 2017 festival; Sarah Kay and Nilanjana Roy; and scenes from previous editions • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT



In its 10th year, Mountain Echoes is making a name for itself internationally and helping shape the country's cultural landscape



power bid to 'culturally influence' the country," recalls investigative journalist Tenzing Lamsang, founder-editor of *The Bhutanese*, a weekly newspaper that is among a dozen operating in the country today. "But the annual festival has, in fact, been a soft power advantage for Bhutan to influence and gain the appreciation of prominent writers, journalists, artists and activists from India and around the world," he says. The festival, in its previous editions, has hosted best-selling author Markus Zusak, TV host and author Padma Lakshmi, popular slam poetry figure Sarah Kay, and singer Usha Uthup.

This year, the list of 62 speakers includes the likes of Aamir Wani, an Instagram star and Kashmir-photographer; Swapna Liddle, a historian specialising in Delhi's past; Sanjeev Sanyal, currently India's principal economic adviser; and Neil MacGregor, director of London's National Gallery.

Jane Hancock, a local resident, feels it hasn't got enough exposure. The photographer and educator, who is on one of the festival's panels, says she hasn't encountered much discussion about it in her professional and personal circles. "But some accomplished people are going to be visiting and speaking [this time], and from that I'd say it has gained a reputation for being a quality festival," she says.

Meanwhile, Bhutanese participation is on the rise. Having the Royal Queen Mother Ashi Dorji Wangmo Wangchuck, an author herself, as the festival's official patron, helps. Kapur says that while they had an equal break-up of Bhutanese to Indian and international names in their initial years, this year more than 60% of the speakers are Bhutanese, with names like Tshering Denkar, the country's first solo travel vlogger and Pema Choden Tenzin, editor-in-chief of Bhutan's only women's magazine.

**A festive spirit**

The festival's theme this year is 'Many Lives, Many Stories', the slight ambiguity affording them flexibility in the panels they'll stitch together. "I don't know how [given the shortage of funds], but we will do it... Everyone tells me it should be a cake walk now that it has been 10 years. But really, every year it's a new challenge, with new lessons," says Kapur.

Mountain Echoes also has a new capsule: a day-long film festival where writers will engage with audiences before every screening. Additionally, Kapur has planned a one-day pop-up on August 17 in Paro, an hour's drive from Thimpu. It will showcase Bhutanese lifestyle products, and will end with a night of performances by local artists. Kapur says "this pop-up is symbolic of the festive spirit of the 10-year celebrations of Mountain Echoes".

The festival takes place in Thimpu, from August 22 to 25

# On a killing spree

How Mahie Gill, Sayani Gupta and Ragini Khanna geared up for some extreme female toxicity in the psychological thriller, *Posham Pa*



Life in crime Stills from *Posham Pa* • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

KARISHMA UPADHYAY

While shooting for the film, *Posham Pa*, Mahie Gill couldn't stop thinking of her daughter who turns three later this month. On any other set, this wouldn't seem odd, but in this Zee5 original, Gill plays a serial killer who drives her two daughters into a life of crime and violence.

"There is a lot of pent up rage in her, which probably comes from something in her childhood. Her daughters grow up seeing violence as a daily occurrence. It made me think about the ideas of nurture and nature. This film has made me think that I need to be extra cautious around my daughter," she says.

Directed by National Award-winning filmmaker Suman Mukhopadhyay, *Posham Pa* is a psychological thriller inspired by true events. Actors Sayani Gupta and Ragini Khanna play the daughters of Gill's character. The film also stars Shivani Raghuvanshi and Imaad Shah as two documentarians chronicling their lives and crimes while the three women are on death row.

**Keeping it real**

What caught Mukhopadhyay's attention in Nimisha Misra's script (it is his first feature for a digital platform) "was its objective look at criminals on death row. I thought it would be an interesting challenge to honestly explore their complex minds. I was very conscious that I wanted to keep the story and the characters believable. Also, while there is violence in the content, I didn't want the film to be too graphic".

Meanwhile, Gupta, who was shooting for

the second season of two hit digital shows – *Four More Shots Please!* and *Inside Edge* – was so keen on being a part of the film that she did some serious time management to fit it into her schedule. "There was one day when I shot for *Four More...* in the morning, *Posham Pa* in the afternoon, and then went back to *Four More...*," she says. What made this film a must-do for her was her 'look', which required four hours of prosthetics.

**In their skin**

Shooting a film about multiple serial killers can never be easy. Mukhopadhyay wanted the actors so immersed in their respective characters that they didn't question the women's sinister motives.

"Normally, directors and actors have conversations about what had driven a character to do something. In this case, there really isn't any logic," he says. Among the three, only Gill didn't find it difficult to disengage from the character the moment she heard 'cut'. A cold-blooded killing scene affected Gupta for a while. "I had to keep telling myself that the character has her reasons," she says.

Khanna, who was excited to explore 'extreme female toxicity' "broke down multiple times during the shoot. I just couldn't understand what made my character, Shikha, commit 49 murders, or how she could not feel any remorse. In her head, she was 'releasing these people from hell on Earth'. It was really hard to completely let go of everything I know to become this cold-blooded killer," she says, about her first negative character.

*Posham Pa* will be released on Zee 5 on August 21

# How an arts festival influenced Bhutan



VANGMAYI PARAKALA

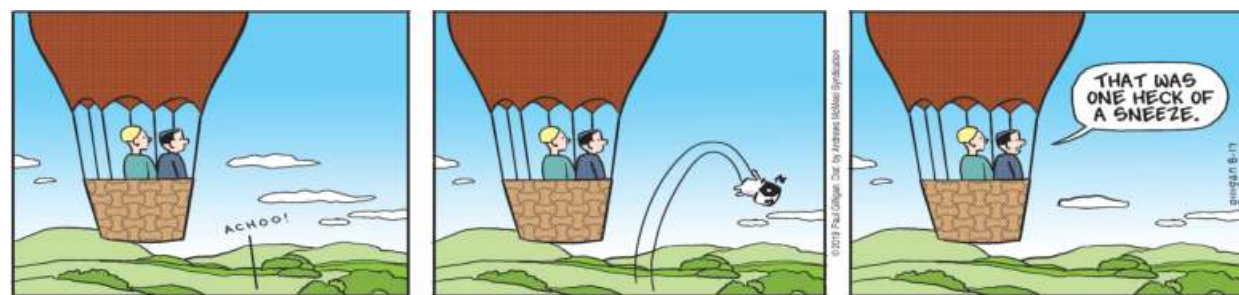
"Bhutan is not an easy terrain to raise money for," says Mita Kapur over the phone. The faint rustle of papers is audible in the background, as are snatches of conversations. Siyahi, the Jaipur-based literary consultancy of which Kapur is the founder-CEO, is understandably busy. They are the force behind Bhutan's annual Mountain Echoes - Festival of Art, Literature and Culture – an initiative of the India Bhutan Foundation – and are gearing up for the festival's 10th year.

Mountain Echoes started off with a budget of ₹35 lakh, which went up to ₹1.5 crore last year, including barter-based transactions. Despite the logistical hurdles, the festival has grown in cultural consciousness. Last year saw a footfall of over 10,000 people, with at least a couple of thousand more expected this year. Bhutan's increasing appeal as a holiday destination has helped, despite its regulated visa policy. Has it succeeded in putting the Himalayan kingdom on the international map of art fests?

**Working the advantage**

"When Mountain Echoes first came to Bhutan, there were some sceptics who felt it may be an Indian soft

**POOCH CAFE**



**HAGAR THE HORRIBLE**



**TIGER**



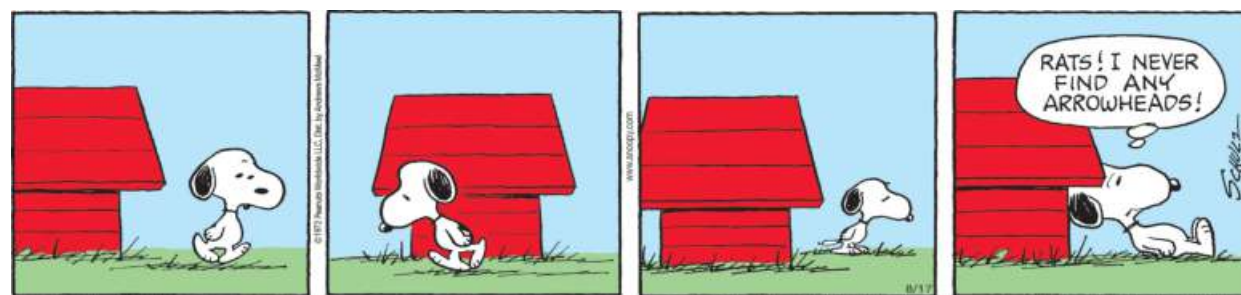
**WUMO**



**PEARLS BEFORE SWINE**



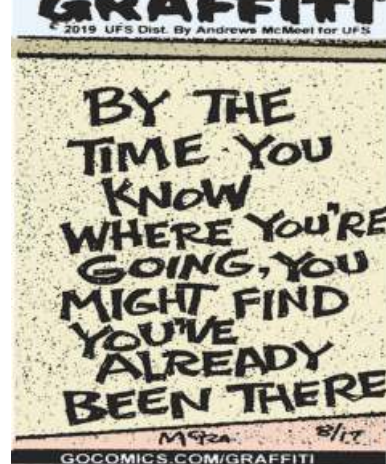
**PEANUTS**



**CALVIN AND HOBBS**



**GRAFFITI**



**HEALTH CAPSULES**

WHAT ARE THE MICROMINERALS?  
40% of AMERICAN ADULTS HAVE DENTAL FLUOROSIS, A CONDITION CAUSED BY EXCESSIVE FLUORIDATING WATER.  
MICROMINERALS, ALSO REFERRED TO AS TRACE MINERALS, ARE PRESENT IN LOW LEVELS IN THE BODY. THEREFORE SMALLER SUPPLEMENTAL AMOUNTS ARE REQUIRED. THEY INCLUDE: IRON, MANGANESE, COPPER, IODINE, ZINC, COBALT, AND SULFUR.

**THE GUARDIAN QUICK CROSSWORD-13151**

1	2	3	4	5	6	7			
8									
9			10						
11			12						
14				15		16			
18	19								
22				23					
24									

© GUARDIAN NEWS AND MEDIA LTD., 2016

- Across**
- 1 Heart specialist (12)
  - 9 Lifeless (5)
  - 10 Cases (7)
  - 11 Yanks (4)
  - 12 Intermittently (2,3,3)
  - 14 Extreme fear (6)
  - 15 To an equal extent (2,4)
  - 18 Cures (8)
  - 20 Star Wars warrior (4)
  - 22 Minty sweets (7)
  - 23 Roosting place (5)
  - 24 Commendable (12)
- Down**
- 2 One who retaliates – engrave (anag) (7)
  - 3 Show excessive affection (4)
  - 4 Accessible via the internet (6)
  - 5 Cathedral musician (8)
  - 6 Its state capital is Boise (5)
  - 7 Shakespeare play (7,5)
  - 8 Totalitarian regime (12)
  - 13 State of inactivity or stagnation (8)
  - 16 Dig up (7)
  - 17 Playground item (6)
  - 19 Venomous African snake (5)
  - 21 Stimulus (4)
- Solution No. 13150**
- |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| M | I | S | E | R |   | M | A | L | L | E | T |
| I | U | E | C | D |   | E | R |   |   |   |   |
| S | H | R | I | V | E | L | A | L | O | N | E |
| H | E | I | E | P | T | A |   |   |   |   |   |
| A | C | R | E | S | T | R | A | C | T |   |   |
| P | E | T | R |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| F | I | N | D | T | H | E | L | A | D |   |   |
| G | M | O | L | I | S |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| E | M | P | E | R | O | R | B | O | S | O | M |
| V | L | A | P | E | L | L |   |   |   |   |   |
| S | W | I | F | T | E | A | R | H | A | R | T |
| R | E | E | E | S | T | I | H |   |   |   |   |
| R | U | I | D | E | I | S | T | D | N | E | I |





# Barcelona's Messi-dependencia

As the 32-year-old Argentine enters his post-prime phase, Valverde has to use him judiciously to maximise his impact

SRINIVASAN RAMANI

2018-2019 was a curious season for FC Barcelona. The club lost yet another knockout tie in the coveted UEFA Champions League, this time a soul-crushing 0-4 loss in the return leg to eventual champion Liverpool FC.

The psychologically deflated team then folded against Valencia FC in the Copa del Rey final, a crown that Barca had owned for years.

But the team thoroughly dominated La Liga, cruising to win its 10th title in 15 years, a daunting feat considering its rivalry with the other Spanish behemoth Real Madrid. It is not a coincidence that these 15 years have featured the services of arguably the world's best footballer - Lionel Messi.

Messi is now 32, but he still lives up to what the writer Michael Cox once called him - a combination of three world-class players: the ace dribbler, the precise passer and the decisive poacher. In 2018-19, the pint-sized genius was his usual, efficient self-scoring, creating, dribbling, passing and leading by example.

Statistics bear these out quite well. Messi scored the most goals (36) and had the highest ratio of goals and assists per 90 minutes in all four major leagues in Europe - 1.63, way ahead of the next best, Napoli's Dries Mertens (1.08).

Among players who featured in at least 30 games, only Soufiane Boufal of Celta Vigo had more dribbles per 90 minutes (6.2) than Messi (4.4). Including the Champions League and Copa del Rey, Messi scored an astounding 51 goals in 50 games overall.

## New and old

Messi was forced to miss the opening game of the 2019-20 La Liga season against Athletic Bilbao owing to a calf injury, but coach Ernesto Valverde has new reinforcements in French forward Antoine Griezmann and Dutch midfielder Frenkie de Jong who add quality and depth to the squad. In the quest to win it all, though, he will have to rely on the magician to be at his best again.

As had been the case in the past, as Messi went, so did Barca in 2018-19. In fact, the season added a new dimension to Barcelona's 'Messi-dependencia'.

Under the stewardship of Valverde, the Argentine had a much freer role in taking up positions and possessions in attacking midfield, forward areas and even in the wing. But he also had bigger responsibilities: to create in those positions, link up with other players, set up goals and also score off set-pieces, where he excelled, in particular, in 2018-19.

One of the more emblematic set of sequences in a football game featuring Barca last season was the Messi-Jordi Alba link-up on the left wing.

Time and time again, Messi would draw defenders to the left-centre or the central part of the advanced midfield, dribble across them, dink up a weighted pass to an onrushing Alba in the vacant advanced third of the left wing and then dance around the defenders towards goal.

Alba, who was in his best form for the club last season, would invariably cross or pass to Messi in open space, beating the bevy of defenders who seemed to know what was coming but could hardly prevent it. More often than not, Messi converted those moments into goals or a pass leading to a strike.

Valverde also used Messi in deeper positions in order to retain possession, or set off a counter-attack by acting as a spigot after receiving the ball from the defence.

Partly the reason why Valverde depended upon Messi so much was because Barcelona's days of having Xavi, Andres Iniesta and a younger Busquets helping with the creation and possession were long gone. It also made tactical sense.

Unlike the past, when Barcelona would dominate possession and play a high risk and high defensive line to win back possession, the team under Valverde was far more conservative and allowed its opponent to attack.

With teams getting higher chances to attack in transition, Messi also got more

space to operate in the front in order to play his high-intensity and high-impact role, and did it to a very high degree.

Messi also gunned more for goal from outside the penalty area and via set pieces at a rate that was unprecedented for him. He scored six goals (out of 36 overall) off direct free kicks in 2018-19 and attempted more shots from the outside the box than ever before.

Clearly, this was an outcome of the new Barcelona squad which no longer featured the creative abilities of a Xavi or an Iniesta to set Messi further up near goal.

## Less international duty

Valverde sought to conserve his talisman in Barca's eternal quest for the treble without getting on the ultra-competitive captain's wrong side by limiting his minutes.

Messi also had relatively lesser international duties for Argentina and was primed for success in the Champions League, as Barca won its first leg against Liverpool largely aided by his brilliance. But the collective superiority of the Reds' hard-pressing game at Anfield was enough to overcome the one-man threat of Messi, and put paid to the team's hopes of winning its sixth Champions League.

## Hunger to improve

For years, Messi had to constantly prove his mettle as he had sturdy competition for the tag of the world's best in Cristiano Ronaldo, who offered a counterpoint as Real Madrid's key player and achiever.

Ronaldo's move to Serie A and Juventus has not quenched Messi's thirst to constantly improve and help his team attain glory as his performance last season showed.

As he enters the past-the-prime stage of his career, Barcelona's think-tank in coach Valverde and the front office will have to find ways to maximise the strengths of the team around him without over-working its best-ever player.

# No longer a one-horse race

With Conte taking over at Inter and Ancelotti staying at Napoli, Sarri's Juventus could be pushed this season

N. SUDARSHAN

For years, Italy has been exporting its best coaches. But the upcoming season will see two of its best minds, Antonio Conte and Maurizio Sarri, return to the Serie A.

Following a sabbatical year, Conte will helm Inter Milan while Sarri, fresh after a Europa League triumph with Chelsea, will lead Juventus. With the richly decorated Carlo Ancelotti set to start his second campaign at Napoli, it will be a triumvirate worth watching out for.

The expectation is now for a competitive title-race. Juventus is the eight-time defending champion and has been run close in recent years only by the Sarri-led Napoli, in the 2017-18 season, when the latter came within four points of winning the Scudetto. Last season, Cristiano Ronaldo arrived in Turin to much fanfare and Juventus duly won the championship by 11 points, despite going winless in its final five games.

## Considerable churn

It does appear though, that things will be far tighter this season. There has been considerable churn in the summer with four of the teams that finished in the top six last year appointing new managers. Paulo Fonseca, formerly of Shakhtar Donetsk, has taken over at AS Roma, while Marco Giampaolo has joined AC Milan from Sampdoria. Only

Ancelotti at Napoli and the highly impressive Gian Piero Gasperini, who led Atalanta to third position, remain.

Champion Juventus hasn't had a mere coaching change, but will undergo a complete overhaul in its playing style under Sarri.

The astute Massimiliano Allegri had no doubt made his wards serial-winners, but the football was often functional and those running the club seem to want much more.

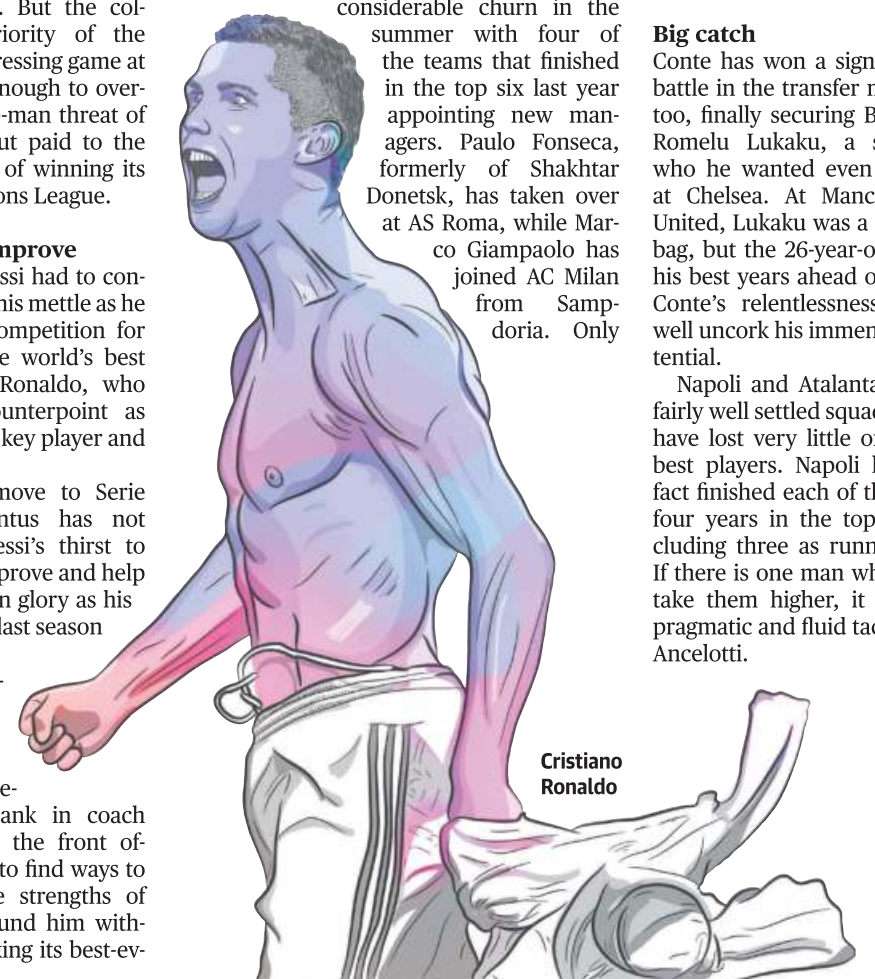
The big-money arrival of young Dutch defender Matthijs de Ligt, schooled in the tenets of Cruyffian football at Ajax, is a move in that direction. But it remains to be seen how early his fellow players will be able to imbibe Sarri's philosophy.

In Conte, Juventus will face a stiff challenge. One of the sport's great strategists, the 50-year-old has made a name by dismantling such hallowed structures; be it in bursting the Spanish bubble at the 2016 Euros with a comparatively ordinary Italian national team, or in winning the 2016-17 Premier League by finishing ahead of the likes of Pep Guardiola, Jurgen Klopp and Jose Mourinho.

## Big catch

Conte has won a significant battle in the transfer market too, finally securing Belgian Romelu Lukaku, a striker who he wanted even while at Chelsea. At Manchester United, Lukaku was a mixed bag, but the 26-year-old has his best years ahead of him. Conte's relentlessness may well uncork his immense potential.

Napoli and Atalanta have fairly well settled squads and have lost very little of their best players. Napoli has in fact finished each of the last four years in the top-3, including three as runner-up. If there is one man who can take them higher, it is the pragmatic and fluid tactician Ancelotti.

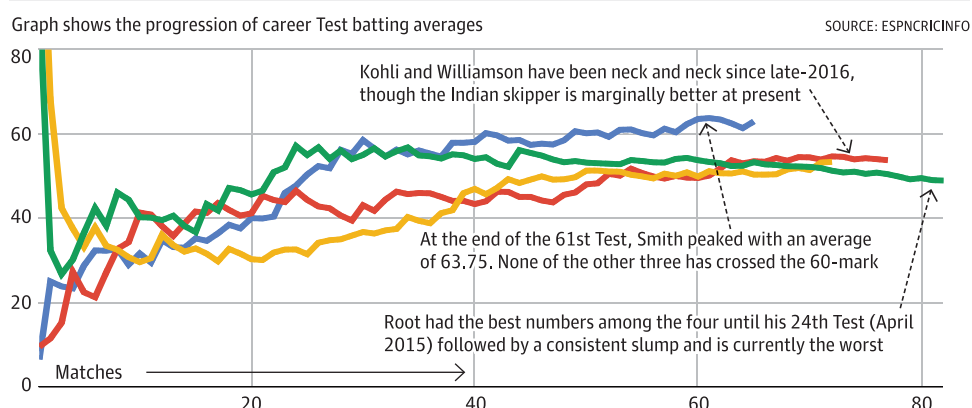


## GAME THEORY

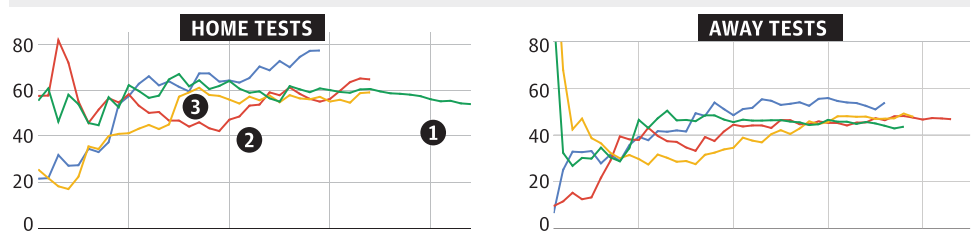
### Smith races ahead

On his return to Test cricket after more than a year, Steve Smith notched up two centuries in the first Test of Ashes 2019, which were instrumental in Australia's victory. Ahead of the second Test which started on Wednesday, he averaged 62.96 in the format - currently the second-highest in the all-time list. Among Smith, Virat Kohli, Kane Williamson and Joe Root - arguably the best Test batsmen currently active - the former Australian skipper has raced ahead of the pack. By Sumant Sen

**CAREER GRAPH** | Smith had a relatively sedate start compared to Kohli and Root but has been well ahead of Williamson throughout his career. Smith overtook Kohli after the first 24 matches when the latter's average dropped below 40. After his 40th Test in 2016, the Australian has widened his lead over the others



**HOME AND AWAY** Smith turned on the beast mode in his last 10 home Tests with his average zooming from 64 to 77. The gulf between Smith and others at home was more pronounced while the gap was relatively narrow in away Tests. However, he is the only batsman to maintain an away average of above 50 consistently



- 1 Root's overall slump is largely because of his poor performance in England which slipped after the 34th home Test (August 2017). The dip accelerated during India's 2018 tour
- 2 Kohli's record in India took a turn for the better after his 20th home Test (October 2016) after a lean patch which began in November 2015
- 3 Williamson's performance at home underwent a dramatic rise after his 14th Test (December 2014) during the Sri Lanka tour. His home average since then has dropped below 55 only twice

IN THE ONGOING 1ST TEST OF NEW ZEALAND'S TOUR OF SRI LANKA, KANE WILLIAMSON SCORED 0 AND 4 | ALL DATA UP TO THE CONCLUSION OF 1ST ASHES TEST 2019

## PICTURE THIS



### Push it to the limit

USA Gymnastics might still be limping back to normalcy following the storm former team doctor and abuser Larry Nassar caused. But the 56th National Championships held in Kansas City, Missouri, last week saw some spectacular displays of

athleticism all around. Simone Biles, unsurprisingly, brought her A-game and swept most of the senior women's golds - the odd bronze came in the uneven bars event.

It was here, in the floor routine, that Biles successfully landed the now-famous triple-double. The never-seen-before move is now

being hailed historic, and for good reason.

The triple double involves bouncing off the ground - seemingly defying gravity - to perform three mid-air twists over the course of two back flips. Even a gymnastics novice can understand the difficulty associated with performing a double twist on one

back flip and a single in the second before the feet hit the ground, perfectly.

Biles, who already has a vault skill and a floor exercise manoeuvre named after her, was just as excited to see the move as anyone! She watched replays of the routine between rotations, saying "I didn't want to be the last person to see it."





