



**Chhota Rajan convicted for shooting hotelier B.R. Shetty in 2012**

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**Conte resigns as Italian PM, says Salvini harming nation for political gain**

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**SBI to waive processing fees on vehicle loans to boost loan demand**

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**Prannoy stuns Lin Dan in second round; Sai Praneeth also advances**

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**Yamuna swells, over 17,000 evacuated**

**NEW DELHI**  
 Over 17,000 residents of low-lying areas near the Yamuna have been evacuated as the water level continued to rise on Tuesday and was above the danger mark throughout the day, said officials. The water level at the Old Yamuna Bridge at 8 p.m. on Tuesday was 206.36 metres, which is above the danger mark of 205.33 metres.

CITY PAGE 3

**Another AAP MLA disqualified**

**NEW DELHI**  
 AAP Sultampur Majra MLA Sandeep Kumar was disqualified by Assembly Speaker Ram Niwas Goel on Tuesday under the anti-defection law. He was disqualified for allegedly supporting the Bahujan Samaj Party and the action was taken based on a petition moved by AAP MLA and chief spokesperson Saurabh Bhargava.

CITY PAGE 3

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OPPORTUNITIES PAGE 15

## Aadhaar-social media link: SC concerned over misuse of web

Court for balancing right to privacy with preventing crime, fake news

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT  
 NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Tuesday stressed the need to find a balance between the right to online privacy and the right of the State to detect people who use the web to spread panic and commit crimes.

A Bench of Justices Deepak Gupta and Aniruddha Ghose expressed concern over the dangers of the dark web. "Though I do not know how to access it, I have heard about the dark goings-on in the dark web. It is worse than what happens [in the service web]," Justice Gupta said.

The Bench's comments were in response to submissions by Attorney General K.K. Venugopal, appearing for the Tamil Nadu government along with advocate Balaji Srinivasan, about the need to link social media profiles of registered users with their Aadhaar numbers, and if required, have platforms such as Facebook and WhatsApp share the 12-digit unique identity with law enforcement agencies to help detect crimes.

Mr. Venugopal argued, "The linking of social media profiles with Aadhaar is needed to check fake news, defamatory articles, pornographic materials and anti-

### Keeping track

On Tuesday, the Supreme Court agreed to hear Facebook's plea to transfer various cases related to demands to link social media profiles with Aadhaar numbers. The court issued notices to the Centre, Google, Twitter, YouTube and others and sought their response by September 13.

Various petitions are pending in the Madras, Bombay and Madhya Pradesh High Courts involving Facebook.

The petition pending in the Madras High Court pertains to linking people's WhatsApp accounts to their Aadhaar numbers. The Supreme Court on Tuesday said the Madras High Court can continue the proceedings but cannot pass final orders.

Mukul Rohatgi and Kapil Sibal represented Facebook and WhatsApp at the hearing on Tuesday and asked that the petitions be transferred to the SC. Attorney General K.K. Venugopal represented Tamil Nadu and opposed the transfer.

Justice Deepak Gupta said the case represents a conflict between right to privacy and the duty to prevent online crimes.

national and terror contents in the online media."

He said the government found it a challenge to trace the 'originator' of such online content. The services of social media platforms, which were used to circulate such content, was the need of the hour. "We do not have the mechanism to find out the originator... We cannot have people commit crimes."

Senior advocates Mukul Rohatgi and Kapil Sibal, representing social media platforms, said they had moved the Supreme Court for the sole purpose of transferring the proceedings pending in High Courts to the apex court for adjudication.

**Multiple cases**

Facebook contended that there were four petitions – two in the Madras High Court

and one each in the Bombay and the Madhya Pradesh High Courts – on the issue. Mr. Rohatgi said Mr. Venugopal was unnecessarily delving into the merits of the case and he should only argue on the question of transfer.

The court, as the highest court in the country, and not the High Courts, should decide the issue that affected the privacy of an online user. A decision of the top court would cover the entire span of the country and would uniformly apply to all the States, he said.

There was a risk that the High Courts might arrive at conflicting decisions on the issue. It would be better to have the Supreme Court take the final call. The Tamil Nadu police were saying that Aadhaar should be used for linking user profiles, he said.

"They cannot tell us how to run our platforms. We have end-to-end encryption on WhatsApp and even we do not have access to the content. How can we tell them what is the Aadhaar number? We also have to take care of the privacy of the users," he stated.

Mr. Sibal said a decision of the Indian courts would have global ramifications.

Both lawyers pointed out that a nine-judge Constitution Bench had declared privacy as a fundamental right associated with life and dignity under Article 21 of the Constitution.

Mr. Venugopal asked why social media platforms have decided to approach the Supreme Court at this point of time.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12

### Free to fly



**Unease in the air:** A woman walks amid fluttering pigeons on the 16th day of curfew in Srinagar on Tuesday. Sporadic incidents of stone-throwing continued in parts of the Kashmir Valley. The government plans a major outreach to bring normalcy by organising public 'darbars.' ■ NISSAR AHMAD (REPORT ON PAGE 13)

## NRC is an internal matter, Jaishankar tells Bangladesh

Remarks indicate India's stand before publication of final list

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
 NEW DELHI

The National Register of Citizens (NRC) process, now under way in Assam, is internal to India, External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar said on Tuesday in Dhaka.

Addressing a press conference after meeting his counterpart A.K. Abdul Momen, Mr. Jaishankar said, "It's an internal matter." He was responding to a question on the future of more than four million people likely to be affected by the process.

His statement is significant as it indicates India's official position just days before the final NRC list is to be published on August 31. In July, Mr. Momen had expressed concern about the



S. Jaishankar speaking to journalists on his arrival in Dhaka on Monday. ■ PTI

### Time increased for NRC appeal

As the August 31 deadline for the final publication of the National Register of Citizens nears, the Home Ministry has said those who are left out will be given an opportunity to move the Foreigners Tribunals. The time limit to appeal has been increased from 60 to 120 days. ► PAGE 12

PROMISE OF HELP ► PAGE 12

## Kamal Nath's nephew Ratul Puri arrested

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
 NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate has arrested Ratul Puri, nephew of Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Kamal Nath, in connection with the money-laundering probe into an alleged bank loan fraud case involving ₹354.51 crore.

Mr. Puri was produced before a city court that granted his six-day custody to the ED.

The arrest was made late on Monday on the basis of a First Information Report (FIR) registered last week by



Ratul Puri

the Central Bureau of Investigation against Moser Baer India Limited (MBIL) and others.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12

## CBI and ED teams visit Chidambaram's house

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
 NEW DELHI

Teams of the Central Bureau of Investigation and the Enforcement Directorate reached the Jorbagh residence of former Union Minister P. Chidambaram on Tuesday to arrest him in the INX Media case, soon after the Delhi High Court rejected his application for anticipatory bail. However, he was not there.

Late at night, the CBI pasted a notice on the wall outside Mr. Chidambaram's house, asking him to appear



ED officials at P. Chidambaram's residence in New Delhi. ■ SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

before the probe team within two hours of the receipt of summons.

The agency is also learnt

to have sent the summons through email.

'A CLASSIC CASE' ► PAGE 12

## Chandrayaan-2 placed deftly in lunar orbit

Moon mission crosses a milestone

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
 BENGALURU

A nerve-wracking 30-minute manoeuvre performed from the Indian Space Research Organization's Mission Operations Complex here on Tuesday ensured that Chandrayaan-2, the Indian lunar lander-rover spacecraft, slid precisely into its planned orbit around its destination: the moon.

The Lunar Orbit Insertion was carried out at 9.02 a.m. from the ISRO Telemetry, Tracking and Command Network (ISTRAC).

It was a major milestone, K. Sivan, Chairman of ISRO, said at a media briefing after the event.

Around 9 a.m., a precise LOI [Lunar Orbit Insertion] manoeuvre was carried out for about 30 minutes to inject Chandrayaan-2 perfectly into the defined orbit," Dr. Sivan said. The spacecraft now goes around the moon in a pole-to-pole ellipse of 114 km x 18,072 km. Now that the orbiter is in place, the focus will shift to the Vikram lander riding on top with the small rover inside its belly.

Dr. Sivan said, "We will



The orbiter goes around the moon in a pole-to-pole ellipse of 114 km x 18,072 km.

now have four lunar burns starting tomorrow [Wednesday] at 1 p.m., followed by subsequent burns on August 28, August 30 and September 1. The orbit of Chandrayaan-2 will be reduced gradually from the present 18,072 km to make it orbit moon in a circle from a distance of around 100 km by September 1."

He said the next major event was slated for September 2. On that day the lander is due to separate from the orbiter and start descending towards the lunar surface – like "a bridegroom separating from his parental home and entering the bride's home."

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12

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IN BRIEF

**Schools to conduct water conservation campaign**

NEW DELHI To mobilise the community about the importance of conserving water, the Delhi government has asked all schools to conduct awareness activities on water scarcity and importance of conserving resources. "Recent studies and reports by various agencies and institutes have indicated that water scarcity is increasing day by day in the country. Jan Andolan will be held in each school on August 23," a DoE circular said.

**Air quality of Delhi-NCR**

Delhi	97	Gurgaon	78
Ghaziabad	114	Faridabad	75
Noida	102	Greater Noida	148

0-50 Good 51-100 Satisfactory 101-200 Moderate 201-300 Poor 301-400 Very poor >401 Severe

AIR QUALITY INDEX AT 4 P.M., YESTERDAY (AVERAGE OF PAST 24 HOURS) | SOURCE: CPCB

DELHI TODAY

**Talk:** Seminar on "Psychological Science and the India-China Conundrum" by Ravi Bhoothalingam, Founder & Chairman of Manas Advisory. The event will be chaired by Manoranjan Mohanty at Seminar Room, Institute of Chinese Studies, Civil Lines, 3 p.m.

**Exhibition:** "Pursuit of Vibrancy", a painting exhibition of recent works by Sanjay Purnekar and Sakshi Talwar at Convention Centre Foyer, India Habitat Centre (IHC), 11 a.m.-7 p.m.

**Exhibition:** "IhED in Perspective", a solo photography exhibition by Rajan Bhatt at Delhi 'o' Delhi Foyer, IHC, 11 a.m.-7 p.m.

**Exhibition:** "In Search of the Celestial", an exhibition of sculptures by Sandip Chakraborty at Triveni Gallery, Triveni Kala Sangam, 205, Tansen Marg, 11 a.m.-8 p.m. (Mail your listings for this column at cityeditor@thehindu.co.in)

# After 6-year gap, Delhi gets 25 new cluster buses

It is the first batch of 1,000 such vehicles that are to be inducted by the end of 2019

STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI

Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Tuesday flagged off 25 new cluster buses as part of the first lot of 1,000 such vehicles scheduled to be inducted by the government by the end of this year.

Mr. Kejriwal said that the buses were part of a larger lot of 3,000 State-run ones scheduled to be inducted over the coming months.

In a statement, the Delhi government said the new buses are equipped with hydraulic lifts for differently abled passengers, as well as panic buttons, CCTV cameras and GPS. This marks the "beginning of onground augmentation of public transport overcoming all difficulties", it added.

"Today is a day of happiness for Delhiites, since it marks the beginning of arrival of 3,000 new buses for Delhi. There were a lot of difficulties, but I am happy that all those hurdles have been overcome and finally the delivery of buses has started and the first lot has today hit the roads," the CM said.

According to the government, the existing fleet of buses being operated under the cluster scheme, is 1,679 and the induction of the remaining buses under it was delayed primarily due to the non-availability of bus depot space.



The new buses during the flag-off ceremony in New Delhi on Tuesday. The vehicles are equipped with hydraulic lifts for the benefit of differently abled passengers. • SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

<b>For safe commute</b>	Hydraulic lifts to facilitate boarding and alighting of wheelchair-bound passengers	CCTV cameras for women safety	Panic buttons with alarm bell
	GPS units for tracking buses	Anti-vandalism seats	

The last tender under the cluster scheme, the government said, was released on January 7, 2011, with the contract for their induction being signed on June 20, 2013.

The new buses are being procured after a gap of more than six years.

The Transport Department, according to the statement, has created depot space at Rewla Khanpur, Dwarka Sector-22, Kharkhari

Nahar, Bawana Sector-1 and Rani Khera -I, II & III, from where these 1,000 new buses will be operated and will cater to rural areas.

**More buses in September**  
According to the government, 125 more buses are scheduled to be inducted in September, 170 in October, 175 in November, 185 in December and 320 in January, 2020. In addition to the buses

inducted on Tuesday and those scheduled to be inducted till January next year, the statement added, 1,000 low-floor AC buses are also being inducted under the cluster scheme.

"The contract of 650 low-floor buses has already been awarded by the Transport Department for three clusters and these buses will start coming from January 2020," the statement added.

## 'AAP govt. fulfilled half per cent of poll promise'

BJP slams Delhi govt. for praising itself

STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI

The BJP on Tuesday attacked Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal for "praising himself" over the induction of 25 buses under the cluster scheme.

Reacting to the launch of 25 new cluster buses, Leader of the Opposition in the Delhi Assembly Vijender Gupta "congratulated" Mr. Kejriwal for "at last fulfilling half per cent of his party's promise" made in its 2015 election manifesto.

"At least 5,000 new buses were to be inducted during the period of five years... achieving half per cent of the target is a 'great achievement' for the Delhi government," Mr. Gupta said.

**Massive propaganda**  
"Though the government has been able to press into service only 25 buses, it is falsely boasting of launching 1,000 buses through massive propaganda. Moreover, these are not DTC buses but privately owned cluster buses," Mr. Gupta argued.

Delhi BJP chief Manoj Tiwari Kejriwal alleged that the AAP government had is-

**At least 5,000 new buses were to be inducted during the period of five years... achieving half per cent of the target is a 'great achievement' for the Delhi government**

VIJENDER GUPTA  
Leader of the Opposition in the Delhi Assembly

sued advertisements at the cost of the public exchequer for praising itself on the launch of new buses.

Criticising the move, Mr. Tiwari alleged that the AAP government was "misleading the people of Delhi by issuing advertisements for 1,000 buses" even as he reiterated the BJP's promise of increasing the number of State-run buses after coming to power post the upcoming Assembly elections.

"Only 3,000 buses are left in the fleet of DTC. There is need of 20,000 new buses to make the services reliable in Delhi... The number of buses in Delhi is very negligible and announcement of free rides is a fraud," Mr. Tiwari alleged.

## AAP to protest against temple demolition

STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI

The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) will hold a protest at Jantar Mantar on Wednesday against the Delhi Development Authority (DDA) for allegedly demolishing a Guru Ravidas temple in the city.

Earlier, AAP had alleged that the DDA had demolished the temple in Tughlakabad on August 10, while the DDA said the demolition was carried out following the Supreme Court orders.

**Assembly session**

Addressing media on Tuesday, Social Welfare Minister Rajendra Pal Gautam, said, "All AAP MLAs in Delhi will join the protest along with party volunteers from Punjab, Haryana and Delhi. The issue will be also taken up in the Delhi Assembly session which starts on August 22."

"Despite me writing a letter written to the Prime Minister on 12 August, and two days of protests at the BJP headquarters, the Centre has not taken any proactive measures to solve the issue of the demolition of the Sant Ravidas temple. Instead, the BJP government is trying to annihilate the voice of Dalits regarding the issue," the Minister said.

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**Corrigendum - III**  
(Tender Ref.: JCNL- 09/2019)

The Corrigendum-III for the tender (Tender Ref.: JCNL-09/2019) on published RFP for "Selection of Agency for Set up of Block Infrastructure for BharatNet Phase-II Project", has been published on Govt. official site at [jharkhandtenders.gov.in](http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in).

The advertisement PR No. is- 212120.

बूट - बूट नहीं बरतने तो बूट को तरसेंगे | Sd/- CEO  
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e-Procurement Notice  
SHORT TENDER (2<sup>nd</sup> Call)  
(Re)E\_Tender Reference No. RCD/KHUNTI/994 Date :- 19-08-2019

1. Name of the work	Construction of 2 Nos. H.L. Bridge Over Karma Nala in 14th KM and H.L. Bridge over Bartoli Nala in 15th KM of Karra More (Torpa) to Karra Road.
2. Estimated Cost (Rs.)	Rs. 6,57,52,900 Rs. Six Crore Fifty Seven Lakh Fifty Seven Thousand Five Hundred Twenty only.
3. Bid Security (Rs.)	Rs. 6,58,000.00 Rs. Six Lakh Fifty Eight Thousand Only.
4. Cost of Document (Rs.)	Rs. 10,000.00 Rs. Ten Thousand Only.
5. Time of Completion	15 Months
6. Last date / Time for receipt of bids	04.09.2019 up to 12:00 Noon
7. Date of Publication of Tender on website	22.08.2019 at 10:30 A.M.
8. Name & Address of office Inviting tender	Executive Engineer, Road Construction Department, Road Division, Khunti
9. Contact no. of Procurement Officer	06528-221215
10. Helpline number of e-Procurement Cell	0651-2401010

Note :- Estimated cost of tender can be increased or decreased  
Further details can be seen on website <http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in>

बूट - बूट नहीं बरतने तो बूट को तरसेंगे | Executive Engineer R.C.D., Road Division, Khunti  
PR 214704 Road (19-20)\_D

**Government of Jharkhand Directorate of Food & Consumer Affairs**  
Ground Floor, Engineers Hostel, HEC, Sector - III  
Dhurwa, Ranchi - 834004, Jharkhand

**Reverse Auction Procurement Notice**  
Tender Ref No: Kha.up.Ni-01-Namak-30/19-1060 Dated - 19/08/2019  
**Empanelment of Sellers for Procurement of Free Flow Refined Iodized Edible Salt for 3rd Quarter (Oct- Dec 2019) of FY 2019-20 through Reverse auction platform of NCDEX e markets limited.**

1. Tender published on website	19/08/2019
2. Name of the Client	Directorate of Food and Consumer Affairs, Ground Floor, HEC Engineers Hostel No.-2 Dhurwa, Ranchi-834004 Customer service Group - NCDEX e Markets limited, Akruati corporate park, 1st floor, Near GE Garden L.B.S. marg. Kanjurmarg (west) Mumbai - 400078 Tel- 022-48810555 or 7575002165 E-mail - askus@neml.in
3. Address and concerned person for Correspondence	
4. Registration Fees	RS 5000/- Only (Non-refundable) + 18% GST
5. EMD	2% of Value of Bid
6. Quantity (in MT)	17100
7. Last Date of Registration	11/09/2019
8. Date of Reverse Auction	13/09/2019

1. All eligible Individuals or partnership firm, Registered Company or Co-operative society or any legal organization should mandatorily register with NCDEX e- Markets Limited for participation in Reverse Auction.  
2. The schedule of Auction to be Conducted on Date-13/09/2019 will be posted on website <http://jharkhand.gov.in/food> or <http://www.neml.in/circulars.html>.  
3. Any changes/modification in the Tender documents in the tender documents will be posted on website <http://jharkhand.gov.in/food>.

बूट - बूट नहीं बरतने तो बूट को तरसेंगे | Sd/- Director (Sanjay Kumar)  
PR 214702 (Directorate of Food and Consumer Affairs) 19-20 (D)

**Office of the principal M.G.M Medical College, Jamshedpur**

Tender No: MC/ 1013/19 Dated :17.08.19

**Notice Inviting Tender**

Principal (Tender inviting Authority-TIA) M.G.M Medical College, Jamshedpur, invites sealed Bids in two part systems for "Selection of Agency for Providing Nursing Services , Paramedical Staffs & Other Technical Staffs in M.G.M Medical College, Jamshedpur through e-tender as detailed:-

<b>A. Important dates for Tenders</b>	
1. Date of uploading of sample tender document on website.	19.08.2019 from 09.00 A.M (The intending bidder may visit NIC website : <a href="http://www.jharkhandtenders.gov.in">www.jharkhandtenders.gov.in</a> )
2. Pre bid meeting for discussion on various technical issues regarding terms & conditions for providing manpower.	On 21.08.2019 at 11.30 A.M at Chamber of Principal, M.G.M Medical College, Jamshedpur. All the intending bidders must attend the pre-bid discussion meeting for clarification of their queries & requirements of Authority. No claims will be considered after pre-bid meeting and finalization of tender documents.
3. Date of uploading of final tender documents with amendments in sample tender paper, after pre-bid discussion meeting.	23.08.2019 (The intended bidder may download the final amended tender document & they have to submit demand draft for Rs. 5000/- in favour of 'Principal, M.G.M Medical College Jamshedpur' in original at M.G.M Medical College, Jamshedpur, Office as Cost of tender document.
4. Date of start for submission of online e-tenders	On 23.08.2019 from 09.00 A.M
5. Closing date of online submission of e-tenders	On 12.09.2019 till 06.00 P.M
6. Hard Copy of tender documents , Tender fee & EMD in the office of Principal , MGM Medical College, Dimna Road, Mango, Jamshedpur -831020 submission date	13.09.2019 till 4.00 P.M (by Registered Post/Speed Post /By Hand)
7. Opening of technical bid	On 14.09.2019 at 12:30 A.M. All the bidders must have to confirm the submission of original demand draft for tender processing cost Rs. 5,000/- & EMD 2,50,000/- DD. In favour of Principal, MGM Medical College, Jamshedpur. Latest tender due date. The tenders of only those bidders will be opened, who have submitted the demand drafts.

Note : 1. For details of tender terms, conditions & specification please visit website : [www.jharkhandtenders.gov.in](http://www.jharkhandtenders.gov.in) from 16.08.2019 for sample tender paper to attend the pre-bid meeting.

बूट - बूट नहीं बरतने तो बूट को तरसेंगे | Sd/- Principal, M.G.M Medical College, Jamshedpur  
PR 214669 (Health Med Edu and Family Welfare) 19-20 (D)

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**e-Procurement Notice**  
Tender reference no.: 07/JREDA/CANALTOP/19-20  
Dated: 19.08.2019

1. Name of the work	Design, Engineering, Procurement & Supply, Construction, Commissioning and Comprehensive Operation & Maintenance for Ten (10) Years of 2 MW Grid-Connected Canal-Top Solar Photovoltaic Power Plant at Sikidiri Canal, Village: Sikidiri, District: Ranchi, State: Jharkhand
2. Estimated Cost	Rs. 15.067 Crores.
3. Time of completion	06 (Six) Months
4. Date of publication of NIT on website: <a href="http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in">http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in</a>	20.08.2019 (Tuesday)
5. Date & time of Pre-bid meeting	30.08.2019 (Friday) at 1.00 P.M.
6. Last date & time for receipt of online bids	11.09.2019 (Wednesday) upto 05:00 PM
7. Submission of original copies of Bid fee & EMD (Offline)	11.09.2019 and 12.09.2019 up to 5.00 P.M.
8. Technical Bid Opening Date	13.09.2019 (Friday) at 03:00 PM
9. Name & address of office inviting tender	Director, Jharkhand Renewable Energy Development Agency(JREDA) 3 <sup>rd</sup> Floor, SLDC Building, Kusai, Doranda, Ranchi-834002 (Jharkhand)
10. Contact no. of procurement officer	0651-2491167/68/61
11. Helpline no. of e-procurement	0651-2491167/68/61

Any corrigendum/addendum can be seen on website: <http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in> & [www.jreda.com](http://www.jreda.com). Further details can be seen on website: <http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in> & [www.jreda.com](http://www.jreda.com)

बूट - बूट नहीं बरतने तो बूट को तरसेंगे | Sd/- Director, JREDA, Ranchi  
PR.214736 Energy(19-20)\_D

## Muslim body holds protest against Pak.

STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI

The All United Muslim Mocha (AUMM) staged a protest against Pakistan, at Jantar Mantar on Tuesday.

Addressing the demonstration, Hafiz Gulam Sarwar, the body's national spokesperson, said that Jammu and Kashmir was part of India.

"Due to Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru's mistake, it has become a controversial State between India and Pakistan over the last 70 years. We appreciate the brave step taken by Prime Minister Narendra Modi by scrapping out the defects in Article 370. It will definitely create peace at the border," Mr. Sarwar said.

## Controversy erupts over statues of freedom fighters on North Campus

AISA says busts have been put up without permission

STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI

The Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad-led Delhi University Students' Union on Tuesday installed busts of V.D. Savarkar, Bhagat Singh and Subhash Chandra Bose outside the Arts Faculty on the North Campus.

DUSU president Shakti Singh said that it had been a demand of the union to instal a statue of Bhagat Singh, but had not been paid heed to by the university administration. Revolutionary Bhagat Singh was held at a build-

## Miles to go



A differently abled man takes a break on a humid afternoon in the Capital. • V.V. KRISHNAN

ing here on campus during the Independence movement and many people are not aware of this, said Mr. Singh. The busts of Savarkar and Bose were also installed as a way of paying respect to these freedom fighters.

All India Students' Association (AISA) DU president Kawalpreet Kaur said that it was an attempt by the ABVP and the RSS to rewrite history by painting Savarkar as a prominent freedom fighter. Attacking Savarkar's legacy, she said, "This clubbing of Savarkar along with Bhagat

Singh and Bose shows the desperation on the part of the ABVP which wants to give legitimacy to Savarkar's vision of Hindu Rashtra."

**Relocation of busts**  
The statues, Mr. Singh said were put up using funds collected from students and were installed without permission on land belonging to the North Delhi Municipal Corporation. While he said that any attempt to remove the statue would be opposed, the union was open to relocating the busts.

## IIT-D start-up bags award

STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI

An IIT-Delhi-incubated start-up working on the design and development of inclusive learning resources for visually impaired people won the award for developing a multisensory kit. The device narrates the content in the picture when a visually impaired person touches it.

Ankita Gulati, founder of TouchVision was awarded the NCPEDP-Mphasis Universal Design Award 2019. The institute said that TouchVision aims at digital inclusion for 253 million persons with visual impairment globally.

## Be a top British official for a day

STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI

The British High Commission on Tuesday launched a competition to give its winner the chance to become the High Commissioner for a day. It invited Indian women from 18 to 23 years of age to grab the opportunity to head the diplomatic mission for a day.

This involves overseeing the U.K.'s largest overseas network, leading daily briefings and getting involved in a range of work.

The competition will celebrate International Day of the Girl Child on October 11.



# Fourth AAP MLA disqualified under anti-defection law

Sandeep Kumar has been accused of supporting BSP

STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI

AAP Sultampur Majra MLA Sandeep Kumar was disqualified by Assembly Speaker Ram Niwas Goel on Tuesday under the anti-defection law.



Sandeep Kumar

**Suspended MLA Sandeep Kumar, a disgrace, finally disqualified [sic]**

SAURABH BHARADWAJ, AAP chief spokesperson

## Action based on plea

He was disqualified for allegedly supporting the Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) and the action was taken based on a petition moved by AAP MLA and chief spokesperson Saurabh Bharadwaj.

"Sandeep Kumar has been disqualified under the anti-defection law," Mr. Goel said.

Mr. Kumar is the fourth AAP MLA to be disqualified by the Speaker in the last 20

days under anti-defection law based on petitions moved by AAP.

"The disqualification takes effect from 01.02.2019... Consequently, the Sultampur Majra Assembly Constituency (AC 10) seat has fallen vacant," an official statement read.

"Suspended MLA San-

deep Kumar, a disgrace, finally disqualified [sic]," Mr. Bharadwaj tweeted. Mr. Kumar did not respond to any calls.

On August 2, AAP MLA Kapil Mishra was disqualified by the Speaker under the anti-defection law. Mr. Mishra later joined the BJP.

On August 8, AAP rebel MLAs Anil Bajpai and Devinder Sehrawat were also disqualified by the Speaker.

# Couple held for snatchings

They committed over 20 such crimes

STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI

A couple has been arrested for their alleged involvement in several cases of snatching across the Capital, the police said on Tuesday.

They claimed to have solved six such cases with the arrest of "Bunty and Bubl". Deputy Commissioner of Police (West) Monika Bhardwaj said the accused has been identified as Raju (26) from Palam Colony and his girlfriend Anjali (22) from Sagarpur.

On May 7, a snatching incident was reported from Mayapuri in which the complainant said two persons, including a woman, came on a bike and snatched his expensive mobile phone.

"CCTV footage was obtained and examined and local intelligence was also collected after which the couple was identified," Ms. Bhardwaj said.

## Acted on tip-off

The police said they received a tip-off on Monday stating that the couple would come to Mayapuri after which a trap was laid and they were nabbed. The duo had stolen the bike that was used in the com-



The duo, called 'Bunty and Bubl' by the police, in custody on Tuesday. \* SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

mission of the crime.

During interrogation, the duo allegedly told the police that they have been involved in at least 20 cases of snatching and robbery.

"Raju said he fell in bad company and started committing snatchings and theft. His girlfriend also indulged with him and at the initial stage, Anjali could not be traced by the police which increased her confidence," the officer added.

Anjali used to wear masculine clothes to prevent herself from being identified as a female pillion rider. The accused used to target people walking in parks and near bus stops, the police added.

Ms. Bhardwaj said that while Raju is involved in 10 criminal cases, Anjali doesn't have a previous criminal record.

# Body of U.P. 'smuggler' found in pond

STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI

The body of a 22-year-old man and an SUV were found in a pond in Rohini's Kanjhawala on Tuesday, the police said.

A senior officer said the victim has been identified as Pushpender from Uttar Pradesh's Kasganj. The police said they received a call from a man regarding an SUV drowning in the pond on late Monday night.

On reaching the spot, they were told that the driver lost balance and the car fell in the pond. The officer said a few cartons of illicit liquor were also recovered from the vehicle.

## A few hours later

A few hours later, a body was seen floating in the pond after. It is suspected that Pushpender was in the car and was involved in smuggling illicit liquor from U.P. The police said it is being probed whether Pushpender was alone or with someone.

A case on charges of rash and negligent driving and under Excise Act has been registered and further investigation is under way, they added.



(Anti-clockwise from top) A man gathers his belongings before moving out of a flooded area near the Yamuna; evacuees wait for shelter, help from authorities; people line up for food at a relief centre. \* R.V. MOORTHY

# Yamuna swells, over 17,000 evacuated

Water level expected to peak today; many unwilling to move to government tents: officials

STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI

Over 17,000 residents of low-lying areas near the Yamuna have been evacuated as the water level continued to rise on Tuesday and was above the danger mark throughout the day, said officials.

"The people are staying in over 2,000 government-run tents," an official said.

The water level at the Old Yamuna Bridge, also known as Lohe Ka Pul, at 8 p.m. on Tuesday was 206.36 metres, which is above the danger mark of 205.33 metres. The water level had crossed the danger mark at 6 p.m. on Monday.

## Rising trouble

WATER LEVEL (at 8 p.m. on Tuesday)  
**206.36 metres**

DANGER MARK  
**205.33 metres**

HIGHEST LEVEL (September 1978)  
**207.79 metres**

SOURCE: DELHI GOVERNMENT

"We expect the water level to cross 207 metres between 3 a.m. to 5 a.m. on Wednesday. After this peak, the level is expected to gradually decrease," the official told *The Hindu*.

"Situation under control" Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal said the current situation is under control.

"Inspected relief camps at Haathi Ghat and Kanchan

Colony set up by Delhi Govt. Interacted with people who have been evacuated and now staying in relief camps. Have directed area DMs to ensure availability of all the relief materials [sic]," Revenue Minister Kailash Gahlot tweeted. A 55-year-old civil defence officer, Subedar Khan, who works at a government camp near floodplains in Mayur Vihar Phase 1, said around 170 tents have

been erected in the area but many people are unwilling to move in.

"About six to seven families have moved to the tents till now and some are still shifting their belongings. Since the area has not been flooded much, the people are saying that they will come when the water level rises," Mr. Khan said, adding: "They said that they do it every year but it will be a problem if the water level increases at the night."

Chetan Swarup, 40, whose brother lives in a shack close to the Old Yamuna Bridge, which has been flooded, said, "The level increased a lot today [Tues-

day]. Even the shacks under the bridge have been flooded and people have been moved out. Last night, my brother slept at the government tent."

The Northern Railway has suspended the movement of trains between Old Delhi and Delhi Shahdara stations.

Trains will be diverted via New Delhi railway station, a spokesperson said.

Not much rain is expected over the next 2-3 days and the mercury is likely to rise in the city, the Met department said on Tuesday.

A fresh spell of rain is expected on August 25 and 26. (With PTI inputs)

# 'Sunanda Pushkar was suffering from mental agony'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NEW DELHI

Sunanda Pushkar was suffering from mental agony due to a strained relationship with her husband Shashi Tharoor, a Congress leader, the police on Tuesday told a court here.

She had a scuffle with Mr. Tharoor resulting in various injury marks, a few days before her death, they said.

They accused Mr. Tharoor of torturing his wife which abetted her to take the extreme step. The former Union Minister, who is currently on bail in the case, was charged by the police under Sections 498-A (husband or his relative subjecting a woman to cruelty) and 306 (abetment of suicide) of the IPC. The probe agency told special judge Ajay Kumar Kuhar that according to the post-mortem, the cause of Pushkar's death was poisoning and 15 injury marks were found on various parts of her body. Special Public Prosecutor Atul Shrivastava told the court that Pushkar was upset and suffering from mental agony due to the scuffle between the duo.

The case is listed for hearing on August 31. Pushkar was found dead in a suite of Hotel Leela on January 17, 2014. The couple was staying at the hotel as the official bungalow of Mr. Tharoor was being renovated at that time.

# Man held for killing wife's boyfriend

Victim died on the spot after being hit with iron rod

STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI

A 28-year-old man was killed allegedly by his girlfriend's husband in south-east Delhi's Jaitpur in the small hours of Tuesday, the police said. The accused has been arrested.

Deputy Commissioner of Police (South East) Chinmoy Biswal said Kasim Shiekh from West Bengal allegedly killed Vinod Yadav, a resident of Shivpuri Meethapur. The police said they received a call at 12.30 a.m. regarding a murder in Shivpuri.

"On reaching the spot, Vinod was found lying



Accused Kasim Shiekh

dead," Mr. Biswal said. During investigation, it was revealed that Vinod was in a relationship with Kasim's wife and he got to know about it.

On Monday night, Kasim saw Vinod at his residence with his wife, said a senior

officer. An argument broke out between the two regarding the matter after which Kasim hit Vinod on his head with an iron rod leading to his death on the spot, the police added.

## Fled spot after crime

The accused then fled from the spot but was nabbed in a few hours, the police said adding that murder weapon has been recovered.

Mr. Biswal said Vinod lived alone in rented accommodation nearby and worked as a contractor while Kasim is a ragpicker and car cleaner.

# Water supply to be affected in many parts: DJB

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NEW DELHI

The Delhi Jal Board on Tuesday said the pumping of water from Wazirabad, Chandrawal and Okhla plants was affected due to high turbidity in raw water from the Yamuna.

"Due to high turbidity in raw water from the Yamuna, the pumping from Wazirabad, Chandrawal and Okhla plants are affected today [Tuesday] and likely to remain affected till the situation improves," the DJB said.

Water will be available at low pressure in Central and North Delhi, it said.

# Delhiites breathe easy as AQI remains 'satisfactory'

Air quality may slip to 'moderate' category over the next two days, says SAFAR

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NEW DELHI

The Delhiites breathed easy on Tuesday with the city recording its air quality in the "satisfactory" category. The air quality has been oscillating between "good" and "satisfactory" categories, mainly due to widespread rains last week.

On Tuesday, the city recorded an air quality index of 97 as against 81 on Monday.

The Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) had on both Saturday and Sunday recorded Delhi's AQI at 49, which falls in the "good" category.

An AQI between 0 and 50



The air quality has been oscillating between 'good' and 'satisfactory' due to rain last week. \* FILE PHOTO: SANDEEP SAXENA

is considered "good", 51 and 100 "satisfactory", 101 and 200 "moderate", 201 and 300 "poor", 301 and 400 "very poor", and 401 and 500 "severe".

The System of Air Quality and Weather Forecasting (SAFAR), a forecasting body under the Ministry of Earth Sciences, said Delhi's overall air quality was recorded

in the "satisfactory" category.

The lead pollutant was PM10, mainly due to westerly winds and hence "dominant contribution coming from the western part which is relatively dry and dusty".

SAFAR said the air quality may slowly slip to the "moderate" category over the next two days.

## 'Slow deterioration'

"Delhi and surrounding area are in low wind regime. Widespread rainfall is unlikely for the next three days that can lead to slow deterioration of air quality," it said.

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**Speakers**

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Amartya Lahiri, Director, Centre for Advanced Financial Research and Learning (CAFRAL)

André Aranha Corrêa do Lago, Ambassador of Brazil to India

Ashwini Chhatre, Associate Professor and Academic Director, Bharati Institute of Public Policy, ISB

Bhagwan Chowdhry, Area Leader and Professor, Executive Director - DIRI and Academic Director - CIE, ISB

Dhruva Jaishankar, Fellow, Foreign Policy, Brookings India

M Goutham Reddy, Minister for Industries, Commerce and Information Technology, Govt. of Andhra Pradesh

Harinder Sidhu, Australian High Commissioner to India

Harish P, IFS, Additional Secretary - Economic Diplomacy and States Division, Ministry of External Affairs

Jayadev Galla, Member of Parliament and Managing Director, Amara Raja

Jayesh Ranjan, IAS, Principal Secretary, Industries and Commerce (I&C) and Information Technology (IT), Govt. of Telangana

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S Niranjan Reddy, Minister for Agriculture and Civil Supplies, Govt. of Telangana

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Suresh Chukkappalli, Honorary Consul General of Republic of Korea, Telangana, Chairman Emeritus - Phoenix Group

T S Tirumurti, IFS, Secretary (Economic Relations), Ministry of External Affairs, Govt. of India

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## IN BRIEF



### Woman set on fire: DCW notice to police

**NEW DELHI**  
The Delhi Commission for Women (DCW) on Tuesday issued notice to the Delhi Police over a case in which a woman was allegedly set ablaze by her in-laws in Nizamuddin area. The women's panel said the notice was issued as only one arrest was made in the case which took place on Friday.

### BJP MLA files complaint against Anurag Kashyap

**NEW DELHI**  
BJP legislator Manjinder Singh Sirsa on Tuesday filed a police complaint against Anurag Kashyap, alleging he has hurt sentiments of Sikhs through his web series 'Sacred Games'. PTI

### Man arrested for using fake ticket to enter IGIA

**NEW DELHI**  
The CISF personnel has apprehended a man, identified as Vishal A Singh, at the Delhi airport's Terminal-3 for allegedly using a fake ticket to enter the terminal area, officials said on Tuesday. PTI

## Nuh village tense after interfaith marriage

Protesters demand the woman be 'returned' to her parents

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT GURUGRAM**

Tension gripped parts of Ferozpur Jhirka in neighbouring Nuh after an interfaith marriage. In protest against the marriage, a group of people blocked the Gurugram-Alwar highway for several hours on Monday. The market also remained closed.

The protesters called upon the shopkeepers to keep the shutters down on Tuesday demanding that the woman be "returned" to her parents.

Mewat Development Board member and local BJP leader Mahender Kumar said the community could not oppose the wedding on legal grounds, since both were adults, but socially they were demanding that the Muslim community leaders interfere to "return" the woman to their parents.

"Interfaith marriage is a sensitive issue and could cause strained relation between the two communities. The Muslim community

**Interfaith marriage is a sensitive issue and can cause strained relation between the two communities**

**MAHENDER KUMAR**  
BJP leader

leaders have assured us to look into our demand," said Mr. Kumar.

**Family absconding**  
Aalam Mandal, another BJP leader, said the law would take its own course in the matter, but the union was not socially acceptable. He said that efforts were on to resolve the matter amicably so that the communal harmony is not disturbed. He said the couple and the man's family are on the run.

The 20-year-old woman, an arts undergraduate student, had eloped with a 28-year-old man belonging to the Muslim community on August 14. The woman's brother dropped her at a college in the morning, but she left the college a few hours later on the pretext of

being unwell. She never returned home. Her family later reported the matter to the police alleging that the woman was kidnapped and a case was registered in this connection.

### Sought protection

However, the couple got married and appeared before the Punjab and Haryana High Court on August 17 seeking police protection. The family came to know about the marriage on August 19 when the court order reached the police. The man is married and has two children. He has reportedly sought divorce from his first wife.

Superintendent of Police, Nuh, Sangeeta Kalia told *The Hindu* that the couple is yet to contact the police and their location is not known. "We will provide protection to the couple as per the court order after they contact us. The situation is under control. The protesters are holding peaceful agitation in the matter," said Ms. Kalia.

## Kejriwal moves HC against defamation suit

CM seeks quashing of complaint by Gupta; court lists case for hearing on Friday

**STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI**

Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal has moved the Delhi High Court seeking to quash defamation complaint against him by BJP leader Vijender Gupta and summons issued to him in the case.

Justice Manoj Kumar Ohri noted that there was a High Court ruling which said whether retweets would constitute an offence of defamation under the Indian Pe-

nal Code has to be determined during the trial.

The judge asked Mr. Kejriwal's counsel to go through the judgment to ascertain whether it would be applicable in his case. The High Court listed the case for hearing on Friday.

Mr. Gupta, in his complaint, had accused Mr. Kejriwal and Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia of "maliciously" his image by allegedly accusing him on



Arvind Kejriwal

Twitter of being part of an alleged "conspiracy" to kill AAP chief.

Mr. Kejriwal has contend-

ed that he has neither made any defamatory comment against Mr. Gupta nor mentioned his name and therefore, the offence was not made out against him.

Senior advocate Vikas Pahwa representing Mr. Kejriwal in the case has argued that there were more than 3,000 retweets. Mr. Pahwa argued whether those people who also retweeted would also be considered as accused.

## Spell out steps to make currency notes user-friendly for visually impaired: HC

Court seeks response of Centre, RBI on the matter

**STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI**

The Delhi High Court on Tuesday sought response of the Centre and the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on steps they intend to take to make ATMs, online banking services and currency notes of ₹50 and lower denominations more user-friendly for the visually impaired.

A Bench of Chief Justice D.N. Patel and Justice C. Hari Shankar directed RBI to file

an affidavit on how it was going to make currency notes of ₹50 and lower values easily identifiable by the visually impaired.

RBI said that notes of ₹100 and higher denomination were identifiable by touch, but not the ones of lower denominations. It said the smaller denominations can be identified by their smaller dimensions.

The court, however, asked as to how a visually

impaired person was expected to measure dimensions of a note when making transactions.

RBI also told the High Court that it was in the process of developing a mobile phone app to identify the currency notes. Questioning the move, the High Court asked, "Will you also provide the visually impaired persons a mobile phone free of cost along with every ₹10 currency note?"

## BJP MLAs seek discussion on Article 370

**PRESS TRUST OF INDIA NEW DELHI**

Opposition BJP members in the Delhi Assembly have requested Speaker Ram Niwas Goel to dedicate a day in the upcoming Monsoon Session for discussion on abrogation of provisions of Article 370 in Jammu and Kashmir.

In a letter signed by BJP MLAs Om Prakash Sharma, Manjinder Singh Sirsa and Jagdish Pradhan, Leader of Opposition Vijender Gupta demanded that a resolution be passed in support of the Centre's policy on Jammu and Kashmir.

The Monsoon Session of the Delhi Assembly is scheduled to start on August 22.

## Around 17 lakh join BJP's Delhi wing

**PRESS TRUST OF INDIA NEW DELHI**

Nearly 17 lakh new members were added to the BJP's Delhi wing during its 45-day-long membership drive, which concluded on Tuesday.

"Around 17 lakh new members were brought into the party fold during the membership campaign and Delhi unit of the party has topped in the entire country," claimed Delhi BJP general secretary and state in-charge of the campaign Kuljeet Chahal.

## NGT panel to look into pollution due to defunct STPs in Ghaziabad

Committee told to furnish action-taken report within a month

**STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI**

Following a plea alleging pollution in Ghaziabad due to non-functional sewage treatment plants, the National Green Tribunal (NGT) has constituted a committee comprising officials from the Central Pollution Control Board and the Uttar Pradesh Pollution Control Board (UPPCB) to look into the issue.

Directing the committee to furnish a report, a Bench headed by NGT chairperson Justice Adarsh Kumar Goel said, "Let a joint committee comprising CPCB, UPPCB, District Magistrate, Ghaziabad furnish a factual and ac-



tion-taken report in the matter within one month."

### STPs malfunctioned

The directions came when the green panel was hearing a plea moved by Hindon River Resorts Pvt. Ltd. (and) others against the Ghaziabad Development Authority.

The plea had alleged that three STPs at Indirapuram had malfunctioned causing pollution.

"The plants are being managed by the GDA, UP Jal Nigam and Ghaziabad Nagar Nigam. The sewage is overflowing due to obstruction and dumping of garbage by scrap dealers on the side lanes of the open drains and due to encroachment by high rise complex and shops," the Bench observed while noting the allegations in the plea.

The tribunal directed the State pollution control board to be the nodal agency for compliance and coordination of the orders.

## Raising a stench



People walk past an open drain as pigs rest in dirty water in Gautampuri. ■SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

## Plea claims pollution from cement in Shakur Basti

NGT panel to suggest remedial measures

**STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI**

The National Green Tribunal (NGT) has constituted an independent expert committee to look into a plea alleging pollution resulting from loading and unloading of cement near the Shakur Basti railway station.

Noting that various authorities had differing views on the matter, a Bench headed by NGT chairperson Justice Adarsh Kumar Goel said: "A report has been received from the Chief Goods Supervisor, cement siding of the railway station to the effect that sheds are damaged in absence of basic amenities near platform number 1 but at platforms 2 and 3, covered warehouses with full amenities are available."

"The CRWC [Central Rail-

side Warehouse Company] has denied the allegations and stated that its warehouses are fully covered. All its activities are within the closed and fully covered complex. Cement bags loaded in trucks are also fully covered," the Bench observed while noting the two submissions.

Noting that the petitioner had "disputed the stand of the CRWC," the Bench said, "We are of the view that an independent expert committee needs to go into the issue and suggest remedial measures."

The green panel directed that the committee will constitute representatives of the CPCB, Delhi Pollution Control Committee and two professors from IIT-Delhi and Kanpur.

## Court lets off mother-in-law in dowry death case

Victim's mother gave contradictory statements, witnesses turned hostile in court

**NIRNIMESH KUMAR NEW DELHI**

A Delhi court has acquitted the mother-in-law of a woman who died at her matrimonial home in north-west Delhi in 2013.

The Delhi Police had lodged a case of subjecting the victim to cruelty and abetting her to take her life for dowry against the accused on a direction by a magistrate court when the probe agency refused to register an FIR on the basis of

statements of the mother and brother of the deceased before the area SDM.

### Brother turns hostile

Victim's brother turned hostile during the trial, while her mother gave contradictory versions in her evidence in the court. She also alleged that the SDM had forcibly taken her signatures on her statement.

"This court is of the opinion that the court testimony of the victim's mother may

be an attempt to implicate accused in order to take revenge on the death of her daughter. The actual reasons for her ending life are not known," Additional Sessions Judge wrote in the judgment.

"Contradictions in the testimony of victim's mother with her statement recorded by SDM have been brought on record during the cross-examination of this witness. In her statement before SDM, she specifically stated that she had no knowledge

that there was any quarrel of deceased with her husband or mother-in-law [accused]," the judge said.

Other witnesses, who were neighbours of the accused, also turned hostile.

"There is nothing in the entire testimony of witnesses that the accused had any knowledge that her daughter-in-law could have ended life. Hence, it cannot be said that the accused instigated her to do so..." the judge said.

## Noida builder booked for forging Allahabad HC order

**PRESS TRUST OF INDIA NOIDA**

A builder here, who allegedly tried to avoid paying dues of ₹26.80 crore his firm owed to the Noida Authority by forging an Allahabad High Court order, has been booked for fraud and forgery, officials said on Tuesday.

Sushant Agrawal, director of ET Infrastructure, owed the amount to the Noida Authority in connection with Plot CI in Sector 16,

they said.

"Agrawal came to the Authority office on July 20 and met officials claiming he has an order from the Allahabad HC which states that his dues of ₹26.80 crore not be taken. He said the court has passed the order on March 14," a Noida Authority spokesperson said.

"However, when our officials probed the matter it turned out that the High Court had not passed any such order," he added.

## Bringing baoli back to life

A baoli at Arab Ki Sarai is being revived where heritage and water conservation are being given equal weightage

**MADHUR TANKHA NEW DELHI**

At a time when many areas in Delhi and multiple cities across the country are facing acute water shortage, Mughal Emperor Jahangir-built baoli at Arab Ki Sarai can become a harbinger of hope for water conservation. It is being revived with the twin purpose of heritage and water conservation.

The baoli has historical significance as Emperor Jahangir would have drunk water from the well, near the baoli and perhaps interacted with traders, coming from far and wide, as they sold their wares near this 16th

century walled enclosure that stands within the Humayun's Tomb, a UNESCO world heritage site.

Taking a lesson from baolis that highlight traditional wisdom and are a sort of guidebook for water conservation, policy makers and environmentalists need to work on these lines in the current scenario when water is required for irrigation, fountain or watering the gardens. In olden days, it was also used for washing domestic animals.

### Crossing the hurdle

So far, the biggest challenge has been to ensure structural



Construction work in progress at the baoli within Humayun's Tomb. ■R.V. MOORTHY

stability and that the ongoing work is carried out in a systematic manner to prevent further collapse.

Comprising a circular well, this baoli can be accessed by a steep flight of steps. What made the work - part of ASI-AKTC project with support of the German Embassy - challenging for the team was that a roof that

covered the well had collapsed. This made conservation work risky and slow. "Many structural elements in the baoli have collapsed or are in an advanced state of collapse. The main walls of baoli were beyond repair and required urgent measures to prevent further deterioration," said a heritage conservationist, working

with the ongoing project. Throwing light on the project, which started in April, Aga Khan Trust for Culture head Ratish Nanda, who is credited with restoring baolis in Hyderabad where the collected water is used for irrigation, said: "Indeed, water conservation is critical. This baoli will also recharge groundwater aquifers. To en-

able this, grounds around baolis are being regraded. Currently, we have piped water for irrigation."

To revive the original function of baoli, AKTC also plans to re-grade the earth within the Arab Ki Sarai bazaar to collect rainwater within the baoli, a catchment area of 1.5 lakh litres.

Noting that water conservation is the need of the hour, Mohammad Imran, who works with ASI and looks after conservation work at Humayun's Tomb, evinced hope that water once treated properly would have multiple usage.

Giving his take on the conservation work carried out by experts, noted chronicler of history, R.V. Smith says: "Most baolis are neglected. They should be utilised as Delhi and surrounding areas are facing water shortage. Heritage conservationists need to think on those lines. They need to visualise how they were used during the Mughal era and how they can be used in the present times."

## APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION



General public is hereby informed that an unidentified deadbody of male **Age** : About 40 years, **Height** : 5'8", **Face** : Round, **Build** : Normal, **Complexion** : Fair, wearing khaki colour pant and white & grey colour T-shirt, was found dead on 13.08.2019 at Dwarka Mor Metro station, New Delhi. In this regard a DD No. 7-A dated 13.08.2019 has been lodged at P.S. Janak Puri Metro, New Delhi. The dead body has been preserved for 72 hours for identification in the mortuary of DDU Hospital, Hari Nagar, New Delhi.

Any person having any information or clue about the deceased may kindly inform to the undersigned on the following address or telephone nos.

**SHO - P.S. Janak Puri Metro, New Delhi**  
Tel. No. : 8750871326,  
8800294693, 7838037660



**DELHI Timings**

**WEDNESDAY, AUG. 21**  
RISE 05:54 SET 18:55  
RISE 22:25 SET 10:38

**THURSDAY, AUG. 22**  
RISE 05:54 SET 18:54  
RISE 23:00 SET 11:33

**FRIDAY, AUG. 23**  
RISE 05:55 SET 18:53  
RISE 23:39 SET 12:28

<b>Delhi Weather</b>	max	min
Delhi City	35	26
Safdarjang	35	26
Palam	35	26

**Delhi Palam Today**  
36°C A hazy and comfortable morning. Day will be warm with partly cloudy sky.

**Delhi Palam Tomorrow**  
35°C Dry and warm weather with light breeze to continue. A comfortable night.

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## Councillor 'beaten up' by police

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
JAIPUR

A councillor has said that he was allegedly beaten up by the police for protesting against the removal of encroachment in Bharatpur district of Rajasthan.

The incident happened on Monday evening when police and administration officials were removing encroachment, put up by the members of a nomadic community, in compliance with a court order in Nagar town.

Vedprakash, the councillor and the community members, objected to the drive following which the policemen allegedly thrashed him.

"It was when the dharna was concluded, police came and beat me. They slapped and took me to the police station and I was arrested," the councillor, who was released last night, said.

Nagar police station SHO Kailash Chand Meena said Mr. Vedprakash was obstructing the officials from doing their job.

"He was arrested under section 152 of CrPc and later released," the SHO said.

# AAP blames Cong., SAD-BJP govts. for floods in Punjab

'Chief Minister Amarinder succumbed to the pressure of sand mafia'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
CHANDIGARH

As Punjab faced the fury of floods during the past four days, the Aam Aadmi Party has blamed the successive BJP-SAD and Congress governments in the State and at the Centre for the widespread loss of life and property in the State.

Aam Aadmi Party's Harpal Singh Cheema, who is the Leader of the Opposition in the Punjab Assembly, and party's State farmer wing chief Kultar Singh Sandhwan said on Tuesday that floods have been creating havoc in Punjab time and again yet successive governments failed to address the problem. Had the governments been sensitive about the concerns of the people of the State, these rivers would



People move to safer places after water of the Satluj river entered villages in Jalandhar on Tuesday. ■ ANI

have proved to be a boon than a curse.

**Corruption alleged**  
The AAP leaders alleged that the corruption-ridden irrigation and drainage depart-

ment in connivance with the sand mafia lording over these rivers and enjoying political clout were responsible for the resultant loss of life and property. They alleged that Chief

Minister Amarinder Singh, like his predecessor, the Badals, had succumbed to the pulls and pressures of the powerful mafia.

**Rainwater harvesting**  
"For conservation of rainwater from the level of houses, farms and the factories, a permanent harvesting policy is urgently needed to be put in place," said the leaders.

The Punjab government has declared the current flood situation in the State as a natural calamity. The Chief Minister had asked Financial Commissioner, Revenue, to officially declare a natural calamity with the village as a unit, in order to facilitate the affected people to claim insurance against loss from various companies.

# Yamuna records highest water level in Haryana

Families evacuated from low-lying areas in four districts

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
CHANDIGARH

Incessant rain over the past few days has made the Yamuna river in Haryana record its highest water level till date, a senior official said on Tuesday.

Haryana Chief Secretary Keshni Anand Arora said that in the wake of the floods, 25 families have been safely evacuated from Sonapat and Karnal districts.

**Review meeting**  
She was participating in a review meeting through video-conferencing held on the flood situation in Haryana, Punjab, Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh and Delhi, under the chairmanship of Cabinet Secretary (government of India) Pradeep Kumar Sinha.

Ms. Arora said 8.14 lakh



A woman shifts her belongings as the water level rises in the Yamuna in Delhi on Tuesday. ■ R.V. MOORTHY

cusecs of water was recorded in the Yamuna in 2013, which was the highest till then. But due to above average rainfall in the last few days, this year, so far, the water level in Yamuna has increased to 8.28 lakh cusecs. "The Yamuna water would reach the Capital by this evening and the admi-

nistrative officials in Delhi have already been alerted about this," she said.

She said that after Delhi, the water would reach Fariabad and Palwal districts of Haryana, and therefore, about 500 families have already been evacuated from the low-lying areas along these two districts.

# U.P. Cabinet reshuffle today

Likely to fill slots that have fallen vacant in last few months

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
LUCKNOW

The first reshuffle of the Yogi Adityanath Ministry in Uttar Pradesh will take place on August 21, a Raj Bhavan official said on Tuesday.

The reshuffle, and the possible induction of new members, is likely to fill the slots that have fallen vacant in the last few months, particularly after some Ministers got elected to the Lok Sabha.

This will be the first Cabinet reshuffle after Mr. Adityanath took charge in the State in March 2017, heading a 47-member ministry.

Three of the 47 Ministers — Rita Bahuguna Joshi, Satyadev Pachauri and S.P. Singh Baghel — were elected to the Lok Sabha in May.

Another Minister, Om Prakash Rajbhar, who heads the Suheldev Bharatiya Samaj Party, was sacked for causing embarrassment to the BJP-led government with



CM Yogi Adityanath

his outbursts against the saffron party.

The Raj Bhavan official said the swearing-in will be held at the Gandhi Bhawan auditorium at 11 a.m.

There had been speculation over the reshuffle during the past few days.

A Raj Bhavan official had on Sunday said the event was slated for the next day, only to retract hours later saying "no request" was received from the State go-

vernment for it.

Mr. Adityanath called on Governor Anandiben Patel on Saturday, a day after he met BJP triggering talk of a possible rejig any day.

The recent appointment of OBC leader and Uttar Pradesh Minister Swatantra Dev Singh as the BJP's state unit chief also put the spotlight on a possible reshuffle of the Cabinet.

**one person-one post**

According to the BJP's "one person-one post" principle, Mr. Singh could not simultaneously hold the positions of a Minister and the State party chief.

He resigned as Minister of State (Independent charge) for Transport and Protocol on Monday.

Mr. Singh replaced Mahendra Nath Pandey, who gave up the organisational post after he was inducted into the Union Cabinet.

# Woman in U.P. forced to deliver on hospital floor

Staff refused to provide bed: kin

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
FARRUKHABAD

A woman was forced to deliver a baby on the corridor of a State-run hospital here after the staff failed to provide her a bed.

Sanjo, 34, from Runi village under the Jehanabad police station area, was brought to Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital late on Sunday night. But instead of admitting her, the hospital staff told her that there were no beds available, the woman's family members alleged on Tuesday.

She then delivered the baby on the floor in a corridor of the hospital, her husband Sujit said.

A video of the incident has gone viral.

District Magistrate Monika Rani has ordered a probe and warned that strict action will be taken against those found responsible.

**CMO to probe issue**

"The CMO and the ACO will probe the issue and give their reports in three days' time. Stern action will be taken against the officials and staff members responsible for negligence," Ms. Rani said.

Lohia Hospital CMS said the patient had come in a private vehicle and before she could be admitted, she delivered the baby.

# Policeman suspended after video of assault goes viral

Inquiry instituted against him

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
INDORE

An Assistant Sub-Inspector caught on camera assaulting men and misbehaving with women at a police station in Indore in Madhya Pradesh was suspended, a senior official said on Tuesday.

The incident occurred on Monday night when a group of people had reached Palasia police station in connection with a family dispute.

In the video, which was widely shared on social media, the ASI, manning the 'welcome desk' at the police station, can be seen kicking and slapping the men who had come there in connection with a family dispute.

He is also heard abusing the women accompanying these men, and threatening to put the group behind bars.

**'Intolerable behaviour'**

"ASI R.K. Mishra of Palasia police station has been suspended with immediate effect and a departmental inquiry has been instituted. No policeman has the right to behave indecently with common people. Such behaviour cannot be tolerated," said SSP Ruchi Vardhan Mishra.

The suspension came shortly after Home Minister Bala Bachchan expressed displeasure at the incident.

# Demand for tobacco vendor licensing

Will reduce children's access to tobacco products in Rajasthan, say activists

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
JAIPUR

After the successful ban on e-cigarettes, a demand has been raised in Rajasthan for the enforcement of vendor licensing mechanism to control and regulate the sale of tobacco products. Licensing is expected to act as a major deterrent, which will especially reduce children's access to cigarettes and other tobacco products.

Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot had announced a complete ban on production, distribution, advertisement and sale of e-cigarettes on May 30 last, a day before World No Tobacco Day. He said the ruling Congress had promised to take steps to

curb smoking and addiction among the youths in its election manifesto and the decision would prove to be effective.

**Successful action**

The successful action for imposing ban on e-cigarettes, after a sustained campaign by voluntary groups, was highlighted at the 41st session of the U.N. Human Rights Council in Geneva in June this year, with the emphasis on the rights of tribal children, among whom addiction starts at an early age.

Experts and activists said here on Tuesday that the State government should frame rules under the Cigarette and Other Tobacco Pro-

ducts Act (COTPA), 2003, making it mandatory for shopkeepers to obtain licence to sell any type of tobacco products. As of now, the vendors violating the rules pay a petty fine and go back to selling tobacco.

At an event organised against tobacco addiction, Sawai Man Singh Government Hospital's head of oncology surgery Suresh Singh said the enforcement of laws putting restrictions on tobacco consumption would be easier with the licensing mechanism and those selling tobacco without a valid licence could be arrested.

Dr. Singh said tobacco consumption was a major cause of oral cancer and the

number of such patients coming to SMS Hospital had increased from 60 in 2016 to 122 in 2018 and 111 till August this year.

Jayesh Joshi, secretary of Vaagdhara, a Banswara-based voluntary group working for tobacco control in the State, said licensing would automatically check the sale of tobacco products in and around educational institutions, hospitals and public places. He said the State government had authorised municipal bodies in 2018 to regulate the sale of tobacco products.

The Global Adult Tobacco Survey 2016-17 has stated that 24.7% of adults in Rajasthan were tobacco users.

# Nature strikes



An oil tanker came under a boulder after a landslide near Rohtang on Tuesday which blocked the Leh-Manali Highway. ■ ANI

# Rajasthan on high alert over terror threat

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
JAIPUR

The police have sounded a high alert across the State after information was received that four terrorists have infiltrated into India along with an agent of Pakistan's intelligence agency ISI.

All district superintendents of police in the State have been asked to stay vigilant. Sketches of all the terrorists have also been released, a senior official said on Tuesday.

He said the high alert was issued after information was received that four terrorists have infiltrated into India on

Apart from this, the movement of suspicious vehicles is also being monitored. Police personnel have been asked to remain fully alert and interrogate suspects, he said. Sirohi SSP Kalyanmal Meena said all police officers in the district have been asked to remain vigilant.

**Intensive search**  
The official said police have been instructed to carry out intensive searches at hotels, dhabas, railway stations, bus stands and in congested areas.

Apart from this, the movement of suspicious vehicles is also being monitored. Police personnel have been asked to remain fully alert and interrogate suspects, he said. Sirohi SSP Kalyanmal Meena said all police officers in the district have been asked to remain vigilant.

**UTTAR HARYANA BIJLI VITRAN NIGAM**  
**PUBLIC NOTICE/TENDER NOTICE**

SR.NO.: -1. NAME OF DEPARTMENT/BOARD/CORP./AUTH:-Chief Technology Officer,  
NAME OF WORK/NOTICE/TENDER:- Engagement of System Integrator (SI) for ERP Project Implementation in UHBVN & DHBVN from concept to commissioning under IPDS. **OPENING DATE CLOSING DATE (TIME):** - Opening 09.09.2019 (at 15:00 hrs.) and closing 09.09.2019 (upto 13:00 Hrs.). **AMOUNT/EMD (APPROX.) in Rupees:-** 10,00,000/- **WEBSITE OF THE DEPARTMENT:-** www.uhbvn.org.in, **NODAL OFFICER/CONTACT DETAILS/EMAIL:-** 9356063249 sep@uqbvn.org.in, **TENDER REF.NO / TENDER NO:-** 26/IPDS/SI/ERP/2019

**NORTH DELHI MUNICIPAL CORPORATION**  
Office of the Executive Engineer: (M-II) KPZ  
Shakti Nagar Extn. Delhi-110052

NIT No.: EE (M-II)KPZ/TC/2019-20/19 Dated 16.08.2019  
Date of Start for sale of Tender Document : 16.08.19 upto 18:01 P.M.  
Last Date of download of Tender Document : 06.09.19 upto 12:00 P.M.  
Last Date of Bid submission : 06.09.19 upto 12:15 P.M.  
Opening of financial bid : 06.09.19 at 12:30 P.M.

S. No.	Name of work	Head of A/c	Tender Amt.	Estt. Amt.	Earnest Money	Time of Completion	Cost of Tender
1.	Improvement/Development of road from H.No. 48UB to H.No. 101 UB, T-shape 101, 97 UB to 95 UB and H.No. 45UB to H.No. 76UB and 81 UB to H.No. 5634 behind Ambedkar Bhawan New Chandrawal Village by Pdg. RMC in Ward No. 78/KPZ, Kamla Nagar. F.T.C. Code: 14/66/XL/VIII-Z-F-I-XL-VIII-Z-F-I 31,50,812 34,65,700 63050 3 months 500/-						
2.	Improvement/Development of road by pdg. RMC from H.No. A-55 to H.No. T-34, Duplex No. 9 to H.No. 92 and adjoining (Pal Maidan and Duplex parking) in Rajpura Gurmandi at Ward 77/KPZ, Model Town. F.T.C. Code: 14/66/XL/VIII-Z-F-I-XL-VIII-Z-F-I 52,50,460 57,75,200 105050 3 months 1000/-						
3.	Improvement/Development of road by pdg. RMC from duplex H.No. A-95 to H.No. A-41 & lanes of H.No. A-55, H.No. A-71, H.No. 83, H.No. 85 in Rajpura Gurmandi at Ward 77/KPZ, Model Town. F.T.C. Code: 14/66/XL/VIII-Z-F-I-XL-VIII-Z-F-I 31,41,365 34,55,300 62850 3 months 500/-						
4.	Improvement/Development of road by pdg. RMC from H.No. 177 to H.No. 186 and adjoining near Park to Dispensary near double storey road in Rajpura Gurmandi at Ward 77/KPZ, Model Town. F.T.C. Code: 14/66/XL/VIII-Z-F-I-XL-VIII-Z-F-I 25,43,113 27,97,300 50900 3 months 500/-						

**Rates hold good for:** 6 Months  
**Note:-** This tender is also available on the website <http://mcdetenders.com> for bidding by approved and eligible contractor with MCD. The validity of rates hold good for 6 months. EE(M-II)/KPZ has the right to cancel any or all the tenders without any reasons.  
**RO No. 61/DP/INorth/2019-20 Executive Engineer (M-II) KPZ**

**IRRIGATION CUM PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT**  
**e-Procurement Notice**

Online bids on item rate basis are invited by the Executive Engineer IPH Division, Nurpur Distt. Kangra HP on behalf of Governor of H.P. in electronic tendering system in Two Covers for the under mentioned works from the contractors/firms of appropriate class enlisted with HPHIP Department.

**Name of Work:-** Augmentation of extension of LWSS Khel Moh Bhariara phase-1 "2" & 3" in Tehsil Nurpur Distt. Kangra (SH- Construction Water Treatment Plant of 0.75 MLD).  
**Estimate Cost:-** 6750000-00,  
E/M:- 108750,  
Time:- 6 Months

Date of online publication.	07.08.2019 at 5:00 PM
Documents Download start and End Date.	07.08.2019 at 5:00 PM to 28.08.2019 at 11:00 AM
Bid upload Start and End Date.	07.08.2019 at 5:00 PM to 28.08.2019 at 11:00 AM
EMD and cost of Tender Document through online mode (e-Payment)	07.08.2019 at 5:00 PM to 28.08.2019 at 11:00 AM
Opening of Technical Bid.	28.08.2019 at 11:30 A.M
Opening of Financial Bid	After Evaluation of technical bid

The tender forms and other detailed conditions can be obtained from the website [tender.gov.in](http://tender.gov.in).  
Sd/-  
**Executive Engineer, IPH Division Nurpur**  
HP/1530/19-20

**कार्यालय: जेल अधीक्षक, जिला जेल, पानीपत।**

**विज्ञापन**

सर्वसाधारण को सूचित किया जाता है कि हरियाणा सरकार की आउटसोर्सिंग पोलिसी पार्ट-1 दिनांक 08.04.2016 के तहत जिला जेल, पानीपत के निम्नलिखित रिक्त पदों को एक वर्ष के अनुकूल्य के अन्तर्गत भरना जाना है:-

सफाई कर्मचारी	- 08 पद
संवादाय	- 01 पद
लांगरी	- 02 पद

उपरोक्त पदों को भरने वाले आवेदनकर्ता को उम्र 18 से 42 वर्ष तथा न्यूनतम शैक्षणिक योग्यता 10वीं होगी। इसके अतिरिक्त लांगरी के पद हेतु, उम्र व शैक्षणिक योग्यता उपरोक्त रहेगी इसके अतिरिक्त अनुभव रखने वाले आवेदनकर्ता को प्राथमिकता दी जाएगी। चयनित कर्मचारियों को क्विज हरियाणा सरकार द्वारा जारी नवीनतम विधायी अनुसार प्रदान किया जाएगा। उपरोक्त पदों को भरने हेतु दिनांक 21.08.2019 को जेल अधीक्षक, जिला जेल, पानीपत कार्यालय में साक्षात्कार लिया जाएगा। इच्छुक अभ्यर्थी दिनांक 21.08.2019 को प्रातः 10:00 बजे निम्नलिखित स्थान/समय पर पहुंचें।

जेल अधीक्षक,  
जिला जेल, पानीपत।

नोट:- अधिक जानकारी के लिए श्री कर्मवीर सिंह, सहायक अधिकारी, जिला जेल, पानीपत के मो नं 94162-21579 पर संपर्क करें।



# Odisha to implement Centre's 'One Nation, One Ration Card' scheme

Ration card portability will begin from Sept. 1 in Bhubaneswar, says Minister

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
BHUBANESWAR**

The Odisha government has announced that it will implement the Centre's 'One Nation, One Ration Card' initiative in the State starting from September 1.

According to State Minister for Food Supplies & Consumer Welfare Ranendra Pratap Swain, the initiative will be implemented on a pilot basis for ration card holders under the Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation, and subsequently across the State.

"We are going to introduce ration card portability on a pilot basis in Bhubaneswar, and it will be replicated in other parts of the State in a phased manner," said Mr. Swain.

The Central government's 'One Nation, One Ration



Ranendra Pratap Swain.  
• FILE PHOTO

Card' initiative was launched recently. Once implemented fully, it will enable the beneficiaries to procure ration from any fair price shop across the country.

### Aadhaar link

The Minister said the beneficiaries under both the National Food Security Act and the State Food Security

Scheme will be able to get their ration items from any public distribution shop.

An official of the Food Supplies & Consumer Welfare Department said the ration cards will be linked to the Aadhaar card of the beneficiaries.

This will prevent those having multiple ration cards from procuring ration from two shops at different places.

However, the beneficiaries, who cannot enrol themselves in Aadhaar due to some reasons, will continue to get the benefits by producing certificates issued by the authorities concerned.

The Food Supplies and Consumer Welfare Department has directed the Khurda district administration to implement the scheme in 127 fair price shops in 67 wards

of the BMC from September 1, the officials said.

### Deadline Aug. 31

The beneficiaries will have to give their finger prints on a machine to avail rations, the officials added. The State government has set the deadline for linking Aadhaar number with the ration cards till August 31.

At present, the beneficiaries covered under NFSA and State Food Security Scheme get five kg subsidised foodgrains per head every month. The State government has also rolled out a pilot project in Malkangiri district to supply fortified rice grains containing iron, folic acid, Vitamin A and Vitamin B12 to reduce malnutrition among the PDS beneficiaries.

(With PTI inputs)

## No idle time



Men preparing Lord Ganesha idols at a workshop ahead of Ganesh Chaturthi in Kolkata on Tuesday. • PTI

# Swachh Saathis to be deployed

They would bring about changes regarding waste collection

**STAFF REPORTER  
BHUBANESWAR**

The Odisha government has mooted deploying 'Swachh Saathis', ground-level workers, who would act as agents to bring about collective behavioural changes at the household level regarding waste collection.

They would raise awareness on collection of segregated waste to ensure decentralising of wet waste and collection of dry waste.

Swachh Saathis, who will be nominated by women self-help groups of the locality, must not have educational qualification below

Class XII. In the event of unavailability of suitable candidates, the SHG can make relaxation in the criterion.

Apart from demonstrating segregation of waste, the Swachh Saathis will also explain method of composting, preferably micro composting, in the locality.

### Incentive suggested

The government has suggested that an incentive of ₹4,000 per month should be paid to Swachh Saathis for every 600 households.

"The incentive will be given directly to the women self-help group and not to the Swachh Saathis. The

groups are, however, free to use one or more members for performing the assigned responsibilities," said a senior officer.

The State government is now emphasising on collection of basic statistics on the map of urban local bodies with ward boundary, roads, parks, bulk waste generators, commercial areas and other land masses.

Besides, demographic details will be collected. It will help authorities quantify waste generation. "This will enable us to put a dynamic solid waste management system in place," he said.

# Mamata hits out at para-teachers

**PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
KOLKATA**

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee has hit out at para-teachers for launching an agitation demanding salary hike, instead of taking classes.

Para-teachers, contractual educators in government and government-aided schools of the State, had

recently staged a protest in Nadia's Kalyani, following which they were allegedly caged by the police.

Mentioning that the para-teachers had been recruited by the previous Left Front regime, Ms. Banerjee claimed that her government had effected a substantial rise in their salary from ₹4,000 in 2011-12.

# March 2022 deadline set for Arunachal's Hollongi airport

The project triggered fall of Cong., upsurge of BJP in State

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
GUWAHATI**

The Union Civil Aviation Minister has set March 2022 as the deadline for completion of a greenfield airport that triggered the fall of the Congress and upsurge of the BJP in Arunachal Pradesh.

Hollongi airport near Itanagar was among a slew of projects for which Prime Minister Narendra Modi had laid the foundation stone in February. The airport is estimated to cost ₹1,200 crore.

Union Minister of State (Independent) for Civil Aviation Hardeep Singh Puri, during a videoconference with Arunachal Chief Secretary Naresh Kumar, said that the Centre would assist the State to ensure that the Hollongi airport is completed by March 31, 2022.

### Helipads at 5 sites

The focus of the discussion was also on developing helipads at five strategic locations in Arunachal Pradesh,

apart from Tawang. The State government suggested air connectivity between India and Bhutan via the Tawang helipad.

The Hollongi airport project has been a touchy topic for successive governments in Arunachal Pradesh. Mr. Rajkhowa's letter stated that Mr. Tuki, his cousin and former Assembly Speaker Nabam Rebia and other relations own most of the land in Hollongi "because of which the original site for the airport was moved".

### Site change

The cold war between Mr. Rajkhowa and Mr. Tuki intensified and led to the latter's ouster in January 2016. The Supreme Court reinstated Mr. Tuki as the Chief Minister in July that year. However, Mr. Tuki quit handing over the reins to Pema Khandu, who first headed a Congress government that changed to the regional People's Party of Arunachal before switching to the BJP in December 2016.

crore in land compensation.

He advised upgrading the Lilabari airport in Assam's North Lakhimpur town, adding that he was echoing the suggestion of Opposition leaders, students' organisations and social activists in Arunachal Pradesh. Mr. Rajkhowa's letter stated that Mr. Tuki, his cousin and former Assembly Speaker Nabam Rebia and other relations own most of the land in Hollongi "because of which the original site for the airport was moved".

The cold war between Mr. Rajkhowa and Mr. Tuki intensified and led to the latter's ouster in January 2016. The Supreme Court reinstated Mr. Tuki as the Chief Minister in July that year. However, Mr. Tuki quit handing over the reins to Pema Khandu, who first headed a Congress government that changed to the regional People's Party of Arunachal before switching to the BJP in December 2016.

# CBI probe not linked to politics: Sovan Chatterjee

Kolkata ex-Mayor joined the BJP recently

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
KOLKATA**

Former Kolkata Mayor Sovan Chatterjee, who is being investigated for cash-on-camera scam, said politics and probe are not connected and that he can serve the BJP while being probed by the central agencies.

Mr. Chatterjee, once the top confidant of Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, had joined the BJP last week. He addressed a press conference at the BJP office in Kolkata on Tuesday with party's State president Dilip Ghosh by his side.

In 2014, Mr. Chatterjee was seen in videos along with other Trinamool Congress leaders purportedly accepting cash on camera. On the ongoing Narada probe by the central agencies, Mr. Chatterjee said a probe did not mean that he was guilty. "Probes by ED and CBI are ordered by the Supreme Court. There is a huge difference between being accused and proven guilty. It is not correct to link



Sovan Chatterjee.  
• FILE PHOTO

the investigation to political decisions which people are making," he said.

### 'Loyal soldier'

Responding to questions on whether he will contest against Ms. Banerjee, Mr. Chatterjee said he will do whatever the BJP asks him to do. "When I was in Trinamool, I was a loyal soldier of that party. Now I have joined the BJP and will remain its loyal soldier. I will do whatever my party asks me to do. If they ask me to contest against Mamata Banerjee in next election, I will do so," he said.

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## Cabinet ok for AMRUT to help EWS youth

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
MUMBAI

In a move to strike the caste balance ahead of the Assembly elections in Maharashtra, the Cabinet on Tuesday approved foundation of an autonomous institute to ensure educational and financial growth of the economically-weaker sections (EWS) from the general category.

The proposed Academy of Maharashtra Research, Upliftment and Training (AMRUT) will be an autonomous body like the BARTI, SARTHI and MAHAJYOTI that will work for the welfare of the EWS youth, a statement issued by the Chief Minister's Office said.

The Babasaheb Ambedkar Research and Training Institute's (BARTI) aim, among others, is to provide opportunities to the Scheduled Caste youths in various sectors, to work or to start their own micro enterprises.

The Chhatrapati Shahu Maharaj Research Training and Human Development Institute (SARTHI) is a non-profit government company for policy advocacy and training for socio-economic and educational development of Maratha, Maratha-Kunbi, Kunbi-Maratha, and Kunbi communities and the families dependent on agriculture in Maharashtra.

The Mahatma Jyotiba Phule Research and Training Institute (MAHAJYOTI) was set up last month to work for the social, educational and economic development for the special backward class, OBC and VJNT communities.

# 'Political will lacking to nab masterminds of murder'

Activists, citizens gather to mark Narendra Dabholkar's sixth death anniversary

SHOUMAJIT BANERJEE  
PUNE

Despite some progress in the Dr. Narendra Dabholkar murder case last year, investigative agencies have failed to nab the masterminds behind the crime while successive State governments have lacked the political will to bring a closure to the case, said the Maharashtra Andhashradha Nirmoolan Samiti on Tuesday on the sixth death anniversary of the eminent rationalist.

As is the custom on each anniversary, activists from the MANS and ordinary citizens gathered at the city's Omkareshwar Bridge, where Dr. Dabholkar was gunned down while out for a morning stroll on August 20, 2013.

Chants of 'Phule! Shahu! Ambedkar! Amhi Saare Dabholkar, Pansare, Kalburgi, Gauri Lankesh!' rent the air and as scores of demonstrators taking part in the 'Jawab Do' campaign questioned the government's tardiness in bringing the masterminds of the murders of Dr. Dabholkar, veteran Communist leader Govind Pansare, scholar M.M. Kalburgi and senior journalist Gauri Lankesh to book.

"While there have been eight arrests in the case last year, the main orchestrators of the conspiracy have yet to be arrested," said his son Dr. Hamid Dabholkar.

He said he is the erstwhile Congress-Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) government or the present Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)-Shiv



Seeking answers: Members of Maharashtra Andhashradha Nirmoolan Samiti (MANS) at the start of the 'Jawab Do' campaign in Pune on Tuesday to mark the sixth anniversary of Dr. Narendra Dabholkar's (below) murder. ■ MANDAR TANNU.



Sena, none of the administrations had ever taken the lead in bringing the case to a satisfying conclusion.

"We find that it is only after the Bombay High Court keeps rapping the probe agencies on their knuckles from time to time that there is some progress in the form

of a few arrests, as in the case of Sachin Andure and Sharad Kalaskar [named by the CBI as the assailants of Dr. Dabholkar]," said Dr. Hamid Dabholkar.

Activist Mukta Dabholkar, the late rationalist's daughter, pointed out that the scope of violence on part of these right-wing, hardline outfits was no longer limited to progressive thinkers or activists, but extended to common citizens as well.

"It is not only the question of Dabholkar, Kalburgi and Pansare, but now concerns ordinary people as well, as was proved by the Nallasopara arms haul. Think of the enormous loss of life that would have entailed had these bombs gone off," said Ms. Dabholkar.

"Investigative agencies have detailed the ways in which these young assailants were influenced to carry out their deeds, and how they were motivated after reading a particular kind of literature. The question arises as to who is sheltering them and funding them," she said.

"It is extremely painful if the death of someone close [Dr. Dabholkar] has to be revived again and again [in the form of anniversary protests]. But we think more of Dr. Dabholkar than merely being our father...he was a symbol of progressive thought and remains an inspiration to youths. His killing is emblematic of intolerance and the crushing of progressive thought," Ms. Dabholkar said.

## Yatras of CM, Sena reflect their failure: Ajit Pawar

'Under this govt.'s watch, the State debt has increased to ₹5 lakh crore'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
WASHIM

Nationalist Congress Party leader Ajit Pawar on Tuesday attacked the Bharatiya Janata Party and Shiv Sena over their respective pre-poll yatras, saying they had to undertake the mass outreach initiatives as the coalition government had "failed" to perform.

He also alleged that Opposition leaders were being lured and threatened to join the ruling parties.

"Why are you taking out the yatras if you think your government has performed? These (the yatras) reflect the failure of your government," Mr. Pawar said without naming any party.

The former deputy chief minister made the remarks at a press briefing in Washim district on the sidelines of NCP's ongoing pre-poll Shivswarajya Yatra.

Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis began his mass outreach campaign, Mahajanadesh Yatra, on August 1 while Shiv Sena's Aaditya Thackeray launched his Jan Ashirwad Yatra on July 18.

However, both later suspended their campaigns due to the devastating floods in Sangli and Kolhapur districts earlier this month.

Mr. Fadnavis is set to resume his yatra from Wednesday. Mr. Pawar claimed that unemployment and crime rate was increasing in the State. "Under this government's watch, the State debt has increased to ₹5 lakh crore," he said, while calling for electing the NCP to buck



Only noise, no substance: Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis began his mass outreach campaign, Mahajanadesh Yatra, on August 1 while Shiv Sena's Aaditya Thackeray launched his Jan Ashirwad Yatra on July 18. ■ FILE PHOTO

the trend. He alleged that the opposition leaders were being "lured and threatened" to join the ruling parties. Mr. Pawar said, "We were in power for 15 years. But, we never tried to get people from the opposition parties to our fold. What's happening in Maharashtra now has never happened in the State before."

The BJP was wooing only those leaders who could win election, he claimed, adding that such a practice was "deleterious" to democracy.

Sharad Pawar meets CM  
Meanwhile, NCP president Sharad Pawar met Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis here and asked the government to take efforts at a war-footing to compensate and rehabilitate those affected by the floods.

He also asked the State government to provide basic amenities at the earliest to the people of Kolhapur, San-

gli, Satara and other areas. "I requested the Chief Minister to take efforts at war-level to bring on track those hit by the unprecedented flood crisis, compensate them for losses, rehabilitate affected ones and provide basic amenities," the NCP chief said on Twitter after the meeting.

The former Union minister also hoped the CM would address the concerns raised by him on priority and resolve them before the model code of conduct for Assembly polls, due in September-October, comes into effect.

The NCP chief said he had raised some issues on August 14 during his visit to flood-ravaged Kolhapur district and observed that the Cabinet sub-committee had taken them into consideration while taking some policy decisions. "However, there are some flaws. So, raised the concerns voiced by affected people in detail," he said.

## Tenders for water grid project in Beed to be floated soon: Lonikar

'We are not doing injustice to one group to benefit others'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
MUMBAI

Minister for Drinking Water and Sanitation Babanrao Lonikar said on Tuesday that tenders would be floated soon for work in the Beed district as part of the ambitious 'water grid' project to connect dams.

The tendering process was on hold as the code of conduct is in force due to election for a Legislative Council seat from Jalna, Mr. Lonikar told reporters.

The election results are expected on Thursday, after which the tender would be floated, he said.

"Beed is the first district in the Marathwada water grid project (where the work will start) with a cost of ₹4,802 crore," the Minister said.

The cost of the entire project is estimated at ₹16,000 crore.

The project reports for Beed and other seven districts of Marathwada region are being prepared by Meko-rot, the national water company of Israel, he said.

"Project reports of Latur and Osmanabad too will be out soon," Mr. Lonikar added.

Asked if those who currently benefit from dam waters would object to the grid

## 'Water management, not scarcity, a challenge'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
PUNE

India does not have scarcity of water but the challenge is to manage it well, Union Minister for Jal Shakti Gajendra Singh Shekhawat said on Tuesday.

He said the country's annual average rainfall is good when compared to several other countries, adding that headlines, which spoke of parched regions till 15 days ago, were now centred on floods.

"Our challenge is not that we have water scarcity, our challenge is of water management. And the challenge is faced by a

country where water is revered as god," he said.

He was speaking at the induction training programme for newly appointed Central Water Engineering Service officers at the National Water Academy.

"India's average rainfall is 1068 mm, which is very good compared to other countries. One month ago, there was only one news everywhere, and that was about the (adverse) water situation in Chennai. The main headline was that India is parched," he said.

"In the last 15 days, the only news everywhere is that of floods," he added.

project, he said, "The idea is to connect all the dams. We will be mostly transferring excess water from one dam to another.

"All the dams will be connected with pipelines and the needy areas will get water as per demand. There will always be some groups objecting to such sharing

but we are not doing injustice to one group to benefit others."

Ujani in Solapur district, Jayakwadi in Aurangabad and Isapur in Yavatmal are three major dams which would be interconnected along with other small and medium dams, the Minister said.

## Water level in Narmada dam just 5 metres short of upper limit

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
AHMEDABAD

The water level in the Narmada dam at Kevadiya on Tuesday rose to 133 metres, just five metres short of its upper limit, due to heavy inflow of water from upstream, officials said.

The water level of the dam, located in Narmada district, stood at 132.98 metres this afternoon, according to Sardar Sarovar Narmada Nigam Limited (SSNNL) officials.

"The dam received an inflow of water at the rate of

2.99 lakh cusecs (cubic feet per second), out of which 2.18 lakh cusec water has been released by opening 15 of the 30 gates," said an official. As of now, the dam, which has a capacity to store 4.75 million acre feet (MAF) water, is 81.27% full.

Chief Minister Vijay Rupani has expressed hope that the water level will touch its full reservoir level for the first time since 2017 when its height was raised.

"The full reservoir level of the dam is 138 (.68) metres. For the first time since the

work on raising its height was completed (in 2017), the dam will be full to the brim," the Chief Minister told reporters on the sidelines of an event.

"In a true sense, the water of the dam, which is Gujarat's lifeline, will contribute greatly to the development of the State," he said.

According to officials, 204 dams in Gujarat have over 70% of their total storage capacity. "Of the 204 dams, 41 are full to the brim while 40 dams are 70-100% full. Another 22 dams are 50-70% full," they said.

## Picking up the pieces



Operation clean-up: Workers clear the damaged parts of the loom after the recent devastating flood at Ichalkaranji, known as loom town, near Kolhapur. Ichalkaranji, on the Maharashtra and Karnataka border is the third largest producer of textiles after Bhiwandi and Malegaon. ■ ABHIJEET GURJAR

## Two accused of looting ₹53 lakh in Amravati held

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
THANE

Two people on the run after looting ₹53 lakh from Amravati were arrested here by the Thane Crime Branch, an official said on Tuesday.

Shiva Singh Virsingh Salkar (30) and Muktasinh Jogansingh Tak (35) had looted ₹20 lakh under Paratwada police station limits and then ₹33 lakh from Chandurbazar recently.

"On a tip-off that they may be hiding in Thane, a joint team of local and Amravati police raided Ambivali and Ambernath on Sunday and Monday and arrested the two," he said and added 172 grams of gold, 800 grams of silver, and ₹59,000 cash have been recovered.

## Goa may conduct GPSC exam in Konkani

Chief Minister also wants State to have an anthem, and a unique souvenir

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
PANAJI

The Goa government is considering conducting the Goa Public Service Commission (GPSC) exam in Konkani along with English to provide a level-playing field to candidates from all backgrounds, Chief Minister Pramod Sawant said on Tuesday.

The government also wants to have an anthem and a unique souvenir of Goa, which will reflect the State's culture, Mr. Sawant said.

He was speaking at the Goa University after unveiling the Konkani research paper *Sasay*, which would be regularly published by the State-run institution.

Mr. Sawant said the Goa



Chief Minister Dr. Pramod Sawant is seeking to revive Goan pride and glory. ■ FILE PHOTO

Public Service Commission (GPSC) should hold its examination in Konkani language also along with English.

He said the government was also planning to have an anthem (official song) for Goa, like Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra, which could be played on all important occasions.

"The department of official languages will be given the responsibility to choose the anthem, which will depict the ethos and culture of Goa to the world," he said.

The Chief Minister also said that Goa should have its unique souvenir, reflecting the State's culture.

"When we think of what

to gift our guests during State-level functions, we don't have our own souvenir like other States have. We should decide on our souvenir," he said.

"Only things like cashew nuts or feni (popular Goan brew) come to mind when anyone wants to gift a souvenir," he said in a lighter vein.

Mr. Sawant also said that the School of Law and Governance, proposed to be set up at the Goa University, would be named after former chief minister Manohar Parrikar, in recognition of his contribution to the coastal State.

"We have already set up a budget of ₹10 crore for the law school project, for which a separate infrastructure would be created within the Goa University," he added.



## IN BRIEF



## Actor, crew rescued from flood-hit village in H.P.

**SHIMLA**  
A 30-member film crew from Kerala, including award-winning actor Manju Warrier (in picture), was rescued after being stranded in a remote Himachal Pradesh village following heavy rain and floods for the past few days. The plight of the crew came to light after the actress contacted her family in Kerala through a satellite phone. **PTI**

## Vizag student drowns in the U.S. lake

**VISAKHAPATNAM**  
A student from the city, N. Sumedh, 27, who was doing M.S. in robotics in Oregon State University, U.S., died after he drowned in the Crater Lake, the Oregon police said on Tuesday. He reportedly jumped from a height of 7m from a rock cliff, Jumping Rock.

## 17 inducted into Yediyurappa Ministry

Both seniors and new faces in Karnataka Cabinet; 7 are from Lingayat community; 4 from Bengaluru

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
BENGALURU**

Twenty-five days after forming the government, Karnataka Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa expanded his Ministry on Tuesday by inducting 17 members. They were administered the oath of office by Governor Vajubhai R. Vala at the Raj Bhavan.

The new team is a blend of seniors and freshers, with four new faces and 13 who have worked earlier as Ministers. Four of them are getting the Ministerial opportunity for the first time though they have been elected to the Assembly multiple times.

## Former CM inducted

Interestingly, former Chief Minister Jagadish Shettar too was inducted. This is the second such instance in Karnataka after that of veteran leader and former Vice-President B.D. Jatti. He had worked as Finance Minister



**Much-awaited event:** The new Ministers with Governor Vajubhai Vala and Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa. **• V. SREENIVASA MURTHY**

in the S. Nijalingappa Cabinet in 1962 after stepping down as Chief Minister.

The BJP has rewarded its political support base of Lingayats by including seven members from it in the Ministry, in addition to Mr. Yediyurappa. The party has also given prominence to Bengaluru city, where it has a strong political presence. The party has accommodated four legislators from the city in the Ministry.

The BJP leadership ap-

## Kateel is new Karnataka BJP president

**BENGALURU**  
The BJP appointed the three-time MP from Dakshina Kannada, Nalin Kumar Kateel, as president of its Karnataka unit. The 53-year-old Mr. Kateel will replace Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa, who was holding the post.

pears to have not been able to strike a balance in terms of regions, as several districts and areas are yet to be repre-

sented in the Ministry.

This is being attributed to the fact that the party is expected to earmark some Ministerial berths for disqualified MLAs from the rival camps from these districts soon after legal clarity emerges on their position.

Most parts of the Old Mysore region have not been represented in the Ministry. Hyderabad Karnataka too has only one representation.

The Ministerial expansion triggered heartburn, with

supporters of the disappointed aspirants staging protests.

The Ministerial expansion exercise, which remained a closely guarded secret till late on Monday, shows that the BJP high command tried to strike a balance between the party organisation and the Chief Minister's followers in terms of Ministerial representation. This is showing up with Mr. Yediyurappa's close aides - M. P. Renukacharya and K. G. Bopaiah - missing the opportunity.

## 'Siddaramaiah brought down coalition govt.'

Deve Gowda lashes out at former CM

**SHARATH S. SRIVATSA  
BENGALURU**

Nearly a month after the Janata Dal (Secular)-Congress coalition crumbled after the en masse resignation of MLAs from both parties, JD(S) supremo and former Prime Minister H.D. Deve Gowda has accused his former party colleague-turned-rival, former Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, of being responsible for the collapse of the coalition government.

"Mr. Siddaramaiah's aim was to have B.S. Yediyurappa as Chief Minister and become Leader of Opposition," Mr. Deve Gowda told the *The Hindu* on Tuesday.

## 'Not consulted'

Mr. Gowda said while the Congress's intention was to keep the BJP out by forming the coalition government, Mr. Siddaramaiah could never reconcile with the decision. He added that Mr. Siddaramaiah was not consulted by either Sonia Gandhi or Rahul Gandhi before the decision on forming the coalition government was taken.

"It became difficult for him to see H.D. Kumaraswamy as the Chief Minister. He was hurt and angry. His resolve to destroy the JD(S) became stronger after his defeat in Mysuru (Chamundeshwari seat)," the veteran leader said.

Tracing the history of the animosity between the two to the time when Mr. Siddaramaiah was expelled from the JD(S), Mr.



H.D. Deve Gowda

Gowda alleged that the latter had been attempting to "damage the party" since 2004 and it had continued.

The consequences of his attempts to destroy us has brought down the Congress's strength in the Assembly from 130 to 79 [from 2013 to 2018]... Misled by him, Rahul Gandhi called us the BJP's B team in Hassan. The consequences were that Hassan went to the BJP, and in local elections the BJP won 14 seats for the first time. If the BJP is threatening to enter Hassan and Mandya, it is again because of him," Mr. Gowda said.

However, Mr. Gowda did not rule out of the possibility of an arrangement with the Congress in the bypolls. "There is no communication with the Congress... What Siddaramaiah says is that they have lost the polls having gone with Deve Gowda. No local leader is ready to talk. Siddaramaiah wants to show his strength. However, if Sonia Gandhi speaks on seat-sharing in bypolls, then it will be a different thing," he said.

## Polavaram project: HC reserves verdict in case filed by Navayuga

Both sides argue over cancellation of the contract

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
AMARAVATI**

The High Court on Tuesday reserved judgment in a case filed by Polavaram project contractor Navayuga Engineering Company Limited (NECL) challenging the Andhra Pradesh government's termination of its contract.

Justice D.V.S.S. Somayajulu heard the arguments and reserved the orders.

## 'Image hit'

Former Advocate General Damalapati Srinivas, representing NECL, said the sudden cancellation of the contract had adversely

impacted the image of the company. The government was unfair to the company, the advocate argued, and asked the court to order the government to continue the contract. Mr. Srinivas said the company did not violate the contract in anyway while executing the work. The government had done injustice by cancelling the contract of a company that was doing work expeditiously and calling for reverse tendering, he argued.

The company challenged the cancellation of the contract without showing any proper reason. He told the

court that work on the hydel project was delayed because A.P. Genco failed to identify the land for the power plant in time and not because of any lapse on its part.

The government pleader argued that the company should have approached the arbitrator if the government cancelled the contract, but it directly approached the High Court, which was most inappropriate. The government pleader also argued that there were enough grounds for cancelling the contract and requested the court to permit reverse tendering in the project.

## Priest humiliated me in social media post, says Kerala nun

'In video, he used vulgar language to disgrace me'

**PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
KOCHI**

A Kerala nun, who supported a protest against a Bishop accused of rape, on Tuesday accused a Catholic priest of Mananthavady diocese of using social media to "humiliate" her.

Sister Lucy Kalappura alleged that the priest, who is part of PRO team of the Mananthavady diocese of the Catholic church, posted the CCTV visual of mediapersons visiting her in the convent on social media plat-



Sister Lucy Kalappura

forms to "humiliate" her. The nun was expelled by the Aluva-based Franciscan Clarist Congregation (FCC) early this month for her lifestyle that was "in violation" of the laws of the FCC.

Following her expulsion, the congregation asked the nun to leave the nunnery.

The nun had on Tuesday alleged that the priest collected the CCTV visuals of mediapersons visiting her at the convent and made a video aiming to humiliate her in public.

"In the video, he [the priest] used vulgar language to humiliate me. He did so to disgrace me, to humiliate me," Sister Kalappura told reporters outside her convent.

The Mananthavady diocese disowned the views expressed by the priest in the video, saying they were his personal views.

## Telephone tapping: police register case

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
BENGALURU**

The cybercrime police registered a case of telephone-tapping on Monday charging unknown persons under the IT Act and the Telegraph Act.

Kuldeep Kumar R. Jain, deputy commissioner of police (crime), is the complainant in the case, but the FIR has not mentioned the name of any suspect or accused.

The alleged illegal interception of telephone conversations of members of the Karnataka ruling party, opposition parties as well as their relatives and government servants from August 1, 2018, till the date of the order would be probed. A senior police officer said that it is not mandatory to mention the name of a suspect or accused as the details could be added later.

## At home



A Baya weaver (*Ploceus philippinus*) busy making its nest on a tree in Palakkad, Kerala, on Tuesday. Earlier seen all over the district, the birds are now a rare sight due to the change in agricultural patterns and environmental degradation. **• K. K. MUSTAFAH**

## Kerala to give ₹5,200 crore to acquire land for highways

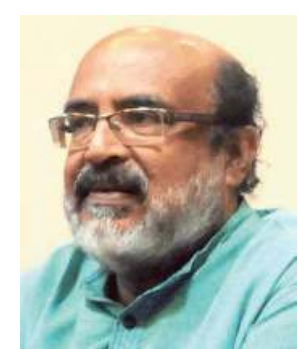
'Mode of payment of 25% cost to NHAI yet to be decided'

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM**

The Kerala Infrastructure Investment Fund Board (KIIFB) will provide 25% cost of the remaining land to be acquired for the four/six-laning of the National Highway 66 corridor from Kasaragod on the Kerala-Karnataka border to Karode on the Kerala-Tamil Nadu border in the capital.

The 36th board meeting of the KIIFB chaired by Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan here on Tuesday decided to make available the estimated ₹5,200 crore, the 25% cost of the remaining land to be acquired in the State for the NH development.

The fund will be made available from the ₹14,000-crore earmarked by the KIIFB for land acquisition for



T.M. Thomas Isaac

the development projects funded by it.

Finance Minister and Vice-Chairman of KIIFB T.M. Thomas Isaac said it was yet to be decided on the mode of payment of the 25% cost to the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) that is executing the four/six-laning project.

"The KIIFB funding will

help take off the much-delayed NH development from Kasaragod to Thiruvananthapuram. We are hopeful that the NHAI will expedite the project," the Finance Minister told presspersons after the board meeting.

The decision of the KIIFB comes close on the heels of the Chief Minister informing the Centre the State's willingness.

The Centre had sought 50% cost of the land to be acquired in view of the prohibitive cost of land acquisition in Kerala compared to other States and in view of the resource crunch faced by the NHAI.

Mr. Vijayan had informed Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari on July 30 in New Delhi that the State was ready to give 25% share.

## Guinness entry of documentary celebrated

100 years of *Chrysostom* is the longest biographical documentary

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
PATHANAMTHITTA**

Thiruvalla in Kerala celebrated the Guinness Book entry of the documentary, *100 years of Chrysostom*, on the 102-year-old Metropolitan Emeritus Philipose Mar Chrysostom on Sunday.

The documentary made by filmmaker Blessy has been adjudged the longest biographical documentary.

Union Minister of State for Foreign Affairs V. Muralidharan inaugurated the event at the SC Seminary Higher Secondary School grounds. Head of the Mar Thoma Syrian Church of Malabar Joseph Mar Thoma presided.

Mr. Muralidharan presented the Guinness certificate to Mr. Blessy.

Despite age-related ail-



Actor Mohanlal felicitating Metropolitan Emeritus Philipose Mar Chrysostom in Thiruvalla on Monday. **• SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT**

ments, Mar Chrysostom was also present and spent about 10 minutes on the stage. He was honoured by actor Mohanlal with a 'ponnada'. The actor has also presented the

narrative for the documentary.

M. Jayachandran who scored the music of the documentary; K.S. Chitra, playback singer; Benyamin, no-

velist; K.R. Meera, writer; and Stephen Devassy, musician, were present.

Mar Chrysostom's one-to-one interaction with 100 celebrities and 10 prominent cartoonists form an important part in the documentary. The voice over is by Mohanlal and music by M. Jayachandran, Stephen Devassy and Saa. Photography is by Satheesh Kurup and script by Blessy.

P.J. Kurien, former Deputy Chairman of Rajya Sabha; Anto Antony, MP; Raju Abraham, Thomas Cahndy, Mathew T. Thomas, Mons Joseph, Veena George, and Saji Cherian, MLAs; Cherian Polachirackal, municipal chairman; Varghese Mammen, and M. Salim, programme committee conveners addressed the gathering.

## Naidu says Andhra floods were 'artificial'

'They were created by the govt. in a bid to inundate my house and trouble me'

**STAFF REPORTER  
VIJAYAWADA**

After taking serious objection to the use of drones near his residence, Telugu Desam Party (TDP) national president N. Chandrababu Naidu has alleged that the recent floods in the State were "artificial and man-made."

On Tuesday, Mr. Naidu visited areas that were inundated in the city by floods in river Krishna. He toured Geeta Nagar, Bhupesh Gupta Nagar and Taraka Rama Nagar, and interacted with residents.

Interacting with the flood victims, the former Chief Minister expressed the view that the State government had miserably failed in taking up relief measures. Flood victims would have received a square meal had the Anna



Former A.P. Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu interacting with residents of a flood-affected area in Vijayawada. **• V. RAJU**

Canteens were functioning, he said.

The government should have made proper plans to store and release water from reservoirs, Mr. Naidu said. Instead of filling up the reservoirs, the government had released the flood wa-

ters at one go, which resulted in the inundation of many localities, he alleged. "These are artificial floods created by the government in a bid to inundate my house and trouble me. But my house is safe. In the process, the people suffered and are facing

hardships as their dwellings are inundated," he said.

"The Ministers made rounds around my house but did not focus their attention on people's sufferings. At least now, the government should come to their rescue and help them. It is not correct on the part of Ministers to say that the people shifted to other places from their present location. Instead, the demand to complete the retaining wall should be addressed. Also, *pattas* should be issued to all the flood victims," Mr. Naidu said.

A. Syamala of Bhupesh Gupta Nagar said that none of the Ministers had visited her locality, though their houses had been under water for many days now. The government's help was not on expected lines, she said.



IN BRIEF



Raj Thackeray to appear before ED

MUMBAI Maharashtra Navnirman Sena chief Raj Thackeray will appear before the Enforcement Directorate (ED) which has summoned him in the IL&FS scam probe, the party said on Tuesday. In a statement, Mr. Thackeray said he would "honour" the summons, and appealed to his workers to maintain "peace and harmony". PTI

M-sand policy coming in three months

CHENNAI In three months, Tamil Nadu will put in place an M-sand policy to promote its use as an alternative building material and eliminate sub-standard products through regulation of trade.

Woman gets job on fake papers, works for 17 yrs.

MUZAFFARNAGAR (U.P.) A woman who got a government teacher's job by submitting fake documents and worked for 17 years before being caught has now been arrested here, police said on Tuesday. Pervaish Kumari was arrested at Tugalpur village in Purquazi block on Monday, Sub Inspector (Crime Branch) Vijaypal Singh said. He said Kumari was appointed as a primary school teacher in 2000 and dismissed in 2017. PTI

BSF inspector killed, jawan injured in clashes

KOLKATA/GUWAHATI A BSF inspector was killed and a jawan critically injured in clashes with cattle smugglers in separate incidents along the India-Bangladesh international border in Assam and West Bengal respectively, officials said on Tuesday. The first incident took place on Sunday in Dhubri. The second took place near the Gobardah border post on Tuesday.

# Indore hospital had blamed patients for loss of vision in 2011

Authorities let OTs reopen after initial query on 'destroying evidence'

SIDHARTH YADAV  
BHOPAL

The Indore Eye Hospital, which lost its licence earlier this month after 11 patients who underwent cataract surgery contracted infection and suffered impairment of vision, had wriggled out of a similar situation in 2011 by blaming 18 patients who had lost sight for not following doctors' orders.

In 2011, Madhya Pradesh's Directorate of Health Services had initially raised doubts whether the hospital had attempted to destroy evidence after the surgeries. The hospital termed the allegations false and blamed the infections on the patients, correspondence obtained by RTI activists and seen by *The*

Hindu show.

Authorities ended up granting permission to the private eye hospital to reopen its operation theatres (OTs) less than three months after 18 of its cataract surgery patients lost vision due to infection.

On Monday, trading barbs with the BJP, the ruling Congress had hit back, saying the hospital had been let off 'too easily' in 2011 (when the BJP was in power in the State) and had been granted permission to resume cataract surgeries, thereby leading to the present situation.

A letter dated March 30, 2011, reveals that the then Indore Chief Medical and Health Officer (CMHO) Sharad Pandit permitted the



In the dark: Shanta Bai, one of the victims of the botched eye surgery in Indore, on Sunday. \*A.M.FARUQUI

hospital to reopen its three OTs, closed since early January, after an inspection team found the results of a culture swab report 'negative'. And in September, the hospital was permitted to resume organising camps as well.

Earlier, accusing the hospital of negligence in orga-

nising camps, the Joint Director of Health Services had written to the hospital claiming that during a tour there, "No objects were found in OTs. Eye OTs were empty. They were being white-washed. And you didn't even convey this to us before shifting the objects from the OT."

## 'Patients responding well'

STAFF REPORTER  
BHOPAL

Doctors from Sankara Nethralaya have performed corrective surgeries on four patients and referred three to their facility in Chennai, out of the 11 who suffered significant impairment of vision due to post-operative infection following cataract surgeries at a private hospital in Indore.

"For all four, the eye is

safe," Rajiv Raman, who performed the surgeries, told *The Hindu*. Another woman, who was administered only antibiotics, had regained vision. For one, the cornea of the affected eye had been changed and he will soon be able to see from the eye. Another was being administered antibiotics and the third would be operated upon.

Stressing that as per protocol after the first case of infection becomes known, swab samples from walls and instruments should have been sent for testing by the CMHO, the official wrote: "Yet, by shifting the objects and whitewashing the OT,

did you try to destroy the evidence?"

Replying to the letter, Sudhir Mahashabde, Medical Director of the hospital, asserted that the patients had contracted infection as they hadn't followed doctors' instructions post-surgery.

"There was no infection in the eyes of patients at the point of being discharged. Each patient was given in writing precautions they had to take," he wrote.

Claiming that there were no rules making it mandatory to shut an OT in case of an infection or for samples to be taken from there, Dr. Mahashabde had contended that neither was it mandatory to inform the CMHO in case of modifications to the operation theatre.

Mr. Pandit, now retired, told *The Hindu*, "The permission was granted based on three samples collected from the OTs over three months which turned negative. The Directorate was also informed about the results. Secondly, as a CMHO, I was the appropriate authority to make a decision based on the pathology report."

# Centre to study flood-hit States

Under new Ministry rules, team to visit affected areas even before State memo

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

An Inter-Ministerial Central Team (IMCT) under the Home Ministry will soon visit 11 flood-affected States, including Kerala and Assam, to assess the damage. The Ministry has changed rules and from now on, the IMCT will visit the affected areas even before receiving a memorandum from the State concerned.

The other States that will be visited by the Central team are Meghalaya, Tripura, Bihar, Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, Gujarat, Rajasthan, Maharashtra and Karnataka.

Criticism by Kerala

On Tuesday, Kerala's Finance Minister Thomas Isaac took to Twitter to criticise the Union Home Ministry of allocating "zero" funds



Water-logged: People wading through a flooded area on the banks of the Yamuna in Delhi on Tuesday. \*REUTERS

to Kerala.

"Home Ministry approves ₹4,432 crores from National Disaster Response Fund for the flood-affected States. Share of Kerala, the worst affected, is zero!" Mr. Isaac said on Twitter.

A senior Home Ministry official said the Central team would soon visit other flood-affected States, including Kerala.

In the combined rescue operations in the States affected by floods, landslides etc. during the current monsoon season, the NDRF, Army, Air Force, Navy and Coast Guard have rescued and shifted to safer places more than 1,53,000 people.

'Constitute immediately' "The IMCT will henceforth be constituted immediately

in the aftermath of any natural calamity of severe nature, which will visit the affected areas in the State so as to have first-hand assessment of damages caused and relief work carried out by the State administration. The IMCT will again visit the State after submission of the memorandum for detailed assessment of the damage and relief operations conducted for making final recommendations for allocation of additional funds," the Home Ministry said in a statement.

At present, the IMCT visits the affected State only once, after the receipt of the memorandum from the State. The Centre has also approved release of over ₹4,432 crore to Odisha, Karnataka and Himachal Pradesh for the damage caused by natural calamities in these States during the last financial year.

# Chhota Rajan convicted in case of bid on hotelier's life

Gangster, along with five others, sent to jail for eight years

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
MUMBAI

The city civil and sessions court on Tuesday convicted gangster Chhota Rajan and five others in a case of attempting to murder city-based hotelier and builder B.R. Shetty in 2012.

In May last year, the same court awarded life imprisonment to Rajan for the murder of Mumbai-based journalist J. Dey.

Rajan is currently lodged in Tihar jail in Delhi after his deportation to India from Indonesia in October 2015.

Besides Rajan, the five others convicted are Nityanand Nayak, Selvin Daniel, Rohit Thangappan Joseph alias Satish Kalia, Dilip Upadhyay and Talvinder Singh.

All the accused have been sentenced to eight years rigorous imprisonment and fined ₹5 lakh each.



Chhota Rajan

hyay opened fire at Mr. Shetty injuring him on his right arm. The accused fled from the spot after the hotelier was rushed to the nearby Oshiwara police station from where he was admitted to a hospital.

Plot to murder

During the investigation, the AEC arrested Nityanand Nayak, a property dealer from Dharavi area, who indicted Selvin Daniel, a brother of Satish Kalia.

Daniel's arrest led the AEC to unravel the plot behind the firing. The arrests of Nayak and Daniel also led the AEC team to Dilip Upadhyay and Talvinder Singh, who were arrested from Jalandhar in Punjab.

Special Public Prosecutor Pradeep Gharat relied on call record details and examined about 50 witnesses.

WEATHER WATCH

RAINFALL, TEMPERATURE & AIR QUALITY IN SELECT METROS YESTERDAY



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.00 HRS)

Forecast for Wednesday: Heavy to very heavy rain likely at isolated places over east Rajasthan, east Uttar Pradesh, west Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Odisha, coastal and south interior Karnataka, coastal Andhra Pradesh, Yanam, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, Karaikal, Kerala and Mahe

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	0.3	34.3	27.2	Kozhikode	0.3	31.2	24.8
Ahmedabad	0.3	33.0	25.9	Kurnool	0.3	31.5	24.2
Aizawl	0.3	29.2	22.2	Lucknow	0.6	33.6	26.0
Allahabad	41.3	34.0	26.0	Madurai	0.3	32.8	27.8
Bangaluru	17.6	29.0	20.1	Mangaluru	43.6	29.3	22.5
Bhopal	9.2	31.7	22.0	Mumbai	1.0	31.7	25.5
Bhubaneswar	0.3	33.8	26.2	Mysuru	0.3	30.9	20.4
Chandigarh	1.8	33.0	24.0	New Delhi	0.3	34.4	25.6
Chennai	0.3	32.2	23.1	Patna	0.3	32.8	27.8
Coimbatore	0.3	32.2	23.1	Puducherry	6.2	28.2	24.7
Dehradun	0.7	24.5	18.0	Pune	0.3	30.1	21.9
Gangtok	0.8	31.0	24.5	Raipur	2.2	32.3	25.0
Goa	0.3	34.8	26.1	Ranchi	0.3	30.2	23.0
Guwahati	0.3	28.0	21.0	Shillong	0.3	25.1	17.0
Hubballi	0.3	32.6	25.2	Shimla	32.3	24.1	15.2
Hyderabad	0.3	31.6	23.1	Srinagar	0.3	27.8	13.0
Imphal	0.3	34.6	25.1	Thiruvananthapuram	0.3	31.4	24.8
Kochi	0.3	29.6	24.8	Tiruchi	0.3	33.4	26.4
Kohima	33.0	28.4	18.0	Vijayawada	0.3	33.4	26.4
Kolkata	0.3	33.7	27.4	Visakhapatnam	0.3	32.4	27.8

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

CITIES	SO <sub>2</sub>	NO <sub>2</sub>	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	53	69	39	86	135	1
Bangaluru	02	55	103	48	84	2
Chennai	21	32	67	78	112	3
Delhi	19	25	41	84	184	4
Hyderabad	49	78	14	83	112	5
Kolkata	06	30	14	40	46	6
Lucknow	04	22	52	116	116	7
Mumbai	14	19	05	33	133	8
Pune	74	08	67	60	60	9
Visakhapatnam	15	15	54	85	111	10

Air Quality Code: 1 Poor 2 Moderate 3 Good (Readings indicate average AQI)  
SO<sub>2</sub>: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.  
NO<sub>2</sub>: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.  
CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.  
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.

# Hindu Rashtra ideology denies equality and justice to all: N. Ram

'Ruling party has been getting support from fringe groups'

SHOUMJOIT BANERJEE  
PUNE

Communalism as a political mobilisation strategy had made "disturbing progress" over the past several years, said N. Ram, Chairman, THG Publishing Private Ltd., on Tuesday, while remarking that the 'Hindu Rashtra' ideology preached by the powers that be flagrantly denied equality, fairness and justice to all citizens of the country.

Mr. Ram was delivering the first Dr. Narendra Dabholkar Memorial lecture entitled 'Three challenges facing contemporary India' at the city's Tilak Smarak Mandir organised by the Maharashtra Andhashraddha Nir-moolan Samiti (MANS), which the late rationalist helped to found.

"The challenge to secular, democratic, and pluralist India has come to the fore at a time the party of the Hindu Right, led by a Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh pracharak-turned-charismatic mass political-leader, has won a renewed and stronger mandate and is actively consolidating its power at the Centre," said Mr. Ram, remarking that the ruling par-



N. Ram, Chairman, THG Publishing Private Ltd., delivering his keynote address at the Tilak Smarak Mandir. \*MANDAR TANNU

ty has flanking support from a family of militant Hindutva organisations that used to be regarded as belonging to the 'fringe'.

'Blow at secularism'

"It is no secret that this new dispensation is armed with an ideology and a socio-political programme that are at odds with what we have been accustomed to for most of India's independent career. It is important to realise that when the RSS supremo proclaims that India is a 'Hindu nation' and 'Hindutva' is its identity, he is striking a blow at the secular concept of Indian citizen-

ship and at the Constitution itself," he said.

"It does this crudely through spraying anti-Muslim venom into society and, at a more sophisticated level, by advocating the value of 'positive secularism'," Mr. Ram said, observing that it was "fashionable" today to decry secularism as "a tired, formulaic, hack concept".

"Legitimising Hindutva, pushing the validity of majoritarianism and calling for an authoritarian 'national unity' and 'patriotism' in this deeply divisive basis is what pseudo-nationalism seeks to achieve for the communalists," said Mr. Ram.

# 'NEXT' groundwork in six months'

Target is six months though time given is a year: Minister

BINDU SHAJAN PERAPPADAN  
NEW DELHI

The Union Health Ministry claims to have given itself a deadline of six months for preparing the groundwork for the implementation of the common final year undergraduate medical examination (NEXT) which will come into effect in three years.

"It is going to a large exercise and we understand that multi-layer co-ordination is required to ensure that we are able to roll-out this standard exam for all our medical students and even for foreign graduates who want to work in India," explained a senior health official.

Union Health Minister Harsh Vardhan said the Mi-

nistry is targeting six months to prepare the ground for ensuring that the country is ready to host the exam. "We are giving ourselves six months though the time allocated for us to do the groundwork is a year," he said.

The Minister said NEXT will set common standards for doctors nation-wide.

# Overdose of laddoos leads to divorce plea

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE  
MEERUT

A resident of Uttar Pradesh's Meerut district has sought divorce on grounds that his wife, under the influence of a *tantrik* (shaman), was giving him only 'laddoos' to eat.

The man approached a family court where he said that on the instructions of the *tantrik*, his wife gave him four laddoos to eat in the morning and four in the evening. He was not allowed to eat anything else.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS & CLIMATE CHANGE  
FOREST SURVEY OF INDIA, SOUTHERN ZONE  
B-Wing, 8th Floor, Kendriya Sadan, Koramangala, Bengaluru-34.

**NOTICE**

Pension Adalat will be held for retired employees / family members (for employees who expired during the service) of Forest Survey of India, Southern Zone, Bangalore to redress their grievances regarding pension / family pension at Forest Survey of India, Southern Zone, 8th Floor, B-Wing, Kendriya Sadan, Koramangala, Bangalore-560034 on **23.08.2019 from 10.00 AM to 05.00 PM**.  
Contact Number: 080-25520135.  
Sd/- Regional Director

**Andaman & Nicobar Administration**  
**DR. B.R. Ambedkar Institute of Technology**  
**Port Blair**

**VACANCY NOTICE**

Name of the Post: Professors and Associate Professors  
Nature of appointment: on contract basis under TEQIP-III Project.  
Period of appointment: Initially for 01 year and extendable to 03 years

It is for the information of all interested candidates that Andaman & Nicobar administration has decided to recruit Professors and Associate Professors on contract basis under TEQIP-III Project for the establishment of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Institute of Technology, Port Blair for UG programs. The details may be seen online in the url: <https://erecruitment.andaman.gov.in> for the following posts. The last date of online application is 7th September 2019.

Sl.No	Department	Professor	Associate Professor
1.	Civil Engineering	01	01
2.	Computer Science & Engineering	01	01
3.	Electronics & Communication Engineering	01	01

Dean (Academic)

**National Institute of Electronics & Information Technology, Calicut**  
NIT Campus Post, Calicut, Kerala - 673601  
Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, Government of India

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- PG Diploma in Cloud Computing (18-Sep) - 24 Weeks  
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Linux, Java, Python, Hadoop, Hive, Pig, Spark, Machine Learning,...
- Advanced Diploma in Artificial Intelligence (15-Oct) - 12 Weeks  
R, Python, Machine Learning, Deep Learning, NLP, RL,...
- Advanced Diploma in Information System Security (18-Sep) - 12 Weeks  
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## Trump calls

While India opposes third party mediation, it can expect U.S. pressure on Pakistan

The United States views Jammu and Kashmir as a nuclear flashpoint, considering the capabilities of India and Pakistan, and this is a rare point of agreement between U.S. President Donald Trump and the country's professional strategists. He conveyed the importance of reducing tensions and maintaining peace to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan. He also urged Mr. Khan to "moderate rhetoric with India", echoing India's sentiments. He had spoken to Mr. Khan last week too, as relations between the neighbours took a turn for the worse after India's decision to revoke the special status of J&K on August 5. Under Mr. Modi, India has revised its long-held policy on J&K and ruled out any role for Pakistan in New Delhi's ties with the troubled region, while reiterating its claim over Pakistan occupied territory. Pakistan's ruling establishment has flourished by using Kashmir as a trope of Islamic nationalism, even as its society sank in radicalism and violence. With Islamabad crying itself hoarse over the sudden turnaround in India's posture and considering the history of conflicts between the two countries, the U.S. — even under an isolationist President — could not have looked the other way.

Mr. Trump's anxiety about India-Pakistan tensions is also linked to his desperation to disentangle the U.S. from the conflict in Afghanistan — now in its 18th year — before his reelection bid in 2020. In the jihadi world view, Kashmir and Afghanistan are two fronts of the same war, and the Pakistani state has conveniently peddled this idea for long. The U.S. is no longer swayed by Pakistan's argument that the 'road to peace in Afghanistan runs through Kashmir', but it is certainly conscious of Islamabad's proclivity to mischief, most evidently by supporting terror groups launched into Afghanistan and Kashmir. India has always resisted, rightly, any linkage between Afghanistan and Kashmir but it cannot be dismissive of the implications of the U.S.'s inevitable withdrawal from Afghanistan. The U.S. has gradually but decisively tilted in favour of India on a range of regional strategic questions in recent years, but its search for an Afghan escape route forces it to keep Islamabad in good humour. While Mr. Trump and his administration have been largely sympathetic to India's latest move on J&K, his tweet on Monday projected parity between Mr. Modi and Mr. Khan by terming them "my two good friends." While India opposes any third party mediation, it expects the U.S. to keep Pakistan on a tight leash. India's position that Kashmir is strictly an internal matter can be reinforced only by holding its citizens close and reassured. New Delhi's dealings with J&K must be becoming of the world's largest democracy.

## Free fall

No end to the Afghan crisis is in sight as the IS emerges as the third player in the conflict

The suicide attack at a crowded wedding hall in Kabul on Saturday night that killed at least 63 people and injured more than 180 others is yet another tragic reminder of the perilous security situation in Afghanistan. The blast, claimed by the local arm of the Islamic State (IS), occurred at a time when the U.S. and the Taliban are preparing to announce a peace agreement to end the 18-year-long conflict. But if the IS attack is anything to go by, it is that peace will remain elusive to most Afghans irrespective of the agreement reached between the Taliban and the U.S. It's now a three-way conflict in Afghanistan — the government, the Taliban insurgents and the global terrorists. The government in Kabul, backed by the U.S. and the international community, is fighting to preserve the existing system, which despite its faults, at least offers a semblance of democracy. But the government is a failure in ensuring safety and security of the people. The Taliban, which controls the mountainous hinterlands, wants to expand its reach to the urban centres. The IS, which has declared a province (Khorasan) in eastern Afghanistan's Nangarhar, has emerged as the third player. Attacks against civilians, especially the Shia minority, is the central part of its brutal military tactics. Afghanistan's Hazara Shias were the target of the wedding hall bombing as well. The IS, which released a video of the purported bomber, a Pakistani, said he attacked "polytheistic rejectionists", as the group calls Shia Muslims.

This complex, mutually destructive nature of the conflict is the biggest challenge before any attempt to establish order and stability in Afghanistan. As part of a potential peace deal, the U.S. is ready to pull troops from Afghanistan in return for assurances from the Taliban that they will not allow the Afghan soil to be used by transnational terrorists such as the IS and al-Qaeda. It will be left to the Taliban and the government to have their own peace talks and settle differences. Arguably, a peace deal or at least a ceasefire between the Taliban and the Kabul government would allow both sides to re-channel their resources to fighting terrorist groups. But the Taliban's intentions are hardly clear. What if the Taliban, which ran most of Afghanistan according to its puritanical interpretation of the Islamic law from 1996 to 2001, turns against Kabul once the Americans are out? What if the country plunges into a multi-party civil war as it did after the Soviet Union pulled out in 1989? The IS has demonstrated an ability to survive and strike in Afghanistan despite the U.S.'s heavy air campaign in the east. Ideally, the international community should have strengthened the hands of the Kabul government against all kind of terrorists, before seeking a settlement with the insurgents. They should have helped alter the balance of power in the conflict. But it does not seem likely now. And Afghanistan is in a free fall.

# Choppy waters lie ahead

Anger in Kashmir and adverse global opinion are but expected; policymakers must learn from similar world events



M.K. NARAYANAN

In a series of swift moves, New Delhi has effectively altered the character of Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh, setting certain new terms for engagement. Between August 5 and 7, Parliament passed several resolutions; emasculating the special status of Jammu and Kashmir (J&K); making Article 35A a dead letter; abolishing J&K as a State of the Indian Union and replacing it with two separate Union Territories — the Union Territory of J&K and the Union Territory of Ladakh. These provisions were endorsed by both Houses of Parliament with huge majorities.

The dramatic turn of events, and the swiftness with which they were carried out, stunned the nation. Preceding this, Kashmir had come under a blanket of secrecy. The Amarnath yatra as well as other yatras and similar activities were prematurely called off. All non-J&K personnel were asked to leave the State. Communications with the outside world, including the Internet, were disrupted. An unprecedented number of paramilitary personnel were inducted into the Kashmir Valley and still remain. All combined, it gave the impression of a total lockdown of a kind and on a scale not previously attempted.

### A decline and fall

The change in status of J&K from a princely State (under the tutelage of the British from 1846 to 1947) to a Union Territory now with few legislative powers, mirrors the State's decline and fall. No special circumstances were mentioned for removing the special status accorded to J&K, enshrined in Article 370 of the Constitution. Article 35A was a casualty of this step. The decision was merely presented as a "fait accompli". Not explained

again was the need to take the step under such a cloak of secrecy. The Prime Minister has since characterised the decision as 'historic' and as providing a new beginning for J&K and Ladakh. Further steps have been initiated to complete J&K's integration with India so as to transform Kashmir from a 'civilisational backyard' to a modern State.

It would be an error of judgment, however, to believe that "all is well" in J&K. The nation does confront a situation which could have many, and unintended, consequences. Many 'isms' have, no doubt, collapsed during the past half century and more. Today, communism is a pale shadow of what it was in the 20th Century. Humanism is under threat. Liberal ideas face attacks from all sides. Nationalism is the dominant imperative, and comes in many shades and sizes. India had been slow to adopt nationalism as a creed but is now tilting towards majoritarian nationalism. Whether it would dilute India's "diversity", which had always been regarded as the country's greatest virtue remains to be seen.

### Federal imperative

The immediate concern in many quarters, even though it is not being publicly articulated at this time, is whether other "Guarantees" enshrined in the Constitution would wilt under the juggernaut of "majoritarian nationalism", with the ruling dispensation having an overwhelming majority in Parliament. Whatever might be the demerits of constitutional guarantees such as Article 370 (which aimed to protect J&K's autonomous status), it cannot be ignored that it was intended to accommodate not only Kashmir's diversity but also to meet prevailing circumstances at the time of accession. Over time, it helped India put at rest speculation, as far as the world was concerned, about the status of J&K within the Indian Union.

It is imperative to recognise that preservation of the asymmetric



character of India's federal structure necessitates effecting several compromises. It also needs to be recognised that the manner in which India had dealt with such asymmetry in the past is what has made India and the Indian Constitution the envy of the rest of world. Every Article in the Indian Constitution has an appropriate role in sustaining India's diverse and asymmetric federalism.

The least of our concerns in the coming days, however, may not be the "dumbing-down" of Article 370 and Article 35A. Equally inconsequential may be the sledgehammer tactics employed to swat remnants of Kashmir's autonomy. There are far weightier issues that India may have to contend with.

For the present, criticism may be muted regarding the manner in which the changeover in Kashmir was effected. Within Kashmir itself, reeling under a veil of secrecy, it is difficult to gauge the depth of anger and the extent of animosity towards New Delhi. When the current measures are relaxed, a recrudescence of violence in the State can be expected.

### Global reactions and lessons

International opinion is unlikely — whatever gloss we may apply — to accept at face value our reasons as to why the steps taken in Kashmir were necessary. Already, voices critical of India's actions are beginning to be heard. China made its views clear to India's External Af-

fairs Minister S. Jaishankar on August 12, implicitly rejecting his argument that a bifurcation of J&K and the voiding of Article 370 were India's internal matters. China also did not heed Mr. Jaishankar's caution that "the future of India-China relationship will depend on mutual sensitivity".

Most nations across the world may adopt a similar line, with a few even pontificating that when push comes to shove, India is no different from most other Second and Third World countries, which make and break rules of their own choosing. India could, hence, once again find itself isolated, having to defend its actions in Kashmir in the international fora.

At a time like this, policymakers in India would do well to heed the lessons of history and take suitable prophylactic measures. Without drawing any parallel, one situation that immediately comes to mind is the crisis that ravaged Bosnia in the 1990s, following the break-up of Yugoslavia and the collapse of the post-1945 Communist order. Before the break-up, Muslims, Serbs and Croats lived reasonably amicably in mixed communities. As the war intensified, clashes between different communities increased. Support for, including a supply of arms to, different communities, were forthcoming from nations supporting each group. Pakistan, for instance, was one of the countries that at the time defied the existing United Nations ban on a supply of arms, and airlifted missiles to Bosnian Muslims. What followed was one of the worst carnages in history. We must ensure that nothing of this kind happens here.

### Regional concerns

We must also realise that the geopolitical situation in our region at this juncture is not entirely in our favour. The power play in Afghanistan, together with the fact that India has been excluded from the talks to deal with Afghanistan's problems, and that Pakistan and China are playing key roles, has put India on notice. Pakistan is al-

ready using its leverage in Afghanistan to regain greater acceptance internationally, specially with the U.S. The nexus between China and Pakistan has, if anything, become stronger.

We can, hence, anticipate a joint effort by Pakistan and China to muddy the waters as far as Kashmir is concerned. Pakistan will almost certainly intensify terror attacks and whip-up local sentiments inside Kashmir. China, which is already concerned about a "rising nationalist India", is likely to adopt more insidious tactics, aimed at weakening India's influence across the region. Buoyed by the fact that it possesses one of the most powerful militaries in the world and with growing acceptance of the Belt and Road Initiative, China can be expected to raise the ante on both the border and in the Indian Ocean region.

Given the complex nature of the international situation, India also needs to be on its guard on how the situation in Kashmir might encourage radicalist Islam to exploit the situation. Across both Europe and Asia, widespread concerns exist that radicalised Islamist ideas and concepts thrive in conflict situations. Experts warn of the inherent dangers in such situations, and their recipe is that apart from utmost vigilance devising more inclusive and diversified policies is important to achieve positive results. Policy makers in India would do well to heed these concerns.

One final word. The removal of Article 35A should not result in demagogic "aggression" in Kashmir, with outsiders seeking to "colonise" Kashmir. This could be highly counter-productive. It could also induce fears across the entire Northeast, even though Article 371 still holds sway there. In short, authorities must avoid any kind of 'colourable exercise of power' in many other areas as well, including on the language issue.

M.K. Narayanan is a former National Security Adviser and a former Governor of West Bengal

# A top post, its promise and peril

The post of CDS can lead either to a transformation of the defence forces or it could sink with a middling mandate



ANIT MUKHERJEE

On Independence Day, in his inimitable style, Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced the creation of the post of Chief of Defence Staff (CDS). Officially, this post was first proposed by the Group of Ministers Report in 2001 but the idea for a CDS can be traced back to Lord Louis Mountbatten, the architect of India's high defence organisation. In many ways then, this is a culmination of a long cherished dream, and Mr. Modi deserves full credit for it. However, implementation is key, something that perhaps he knows all too well, having dealt with the aftermath of the Goods and Services Tax (GST) rollout and demonetisation.

The Prime Minister therefore needs to be bold with this initiative and should understand that his military and civilian advisers, institutionally, have an interest in undermining it. So the manner in which this office is set up portends either the greatest, necessary transformation of the Indian military or a *naam-ke-vaastey* appointment with a middling mandate and a middling job.

Currently there are no further details on the proposed powers of the CDS. According to one report, an "implementation committee"

has been established comprising the Defence Secretary, Chief of Integrated Defence Staff and other unnamed officers. This itself is a mistake. The committee should ideally be headed by a political leader and/or a rank outsider, who should have no skin in the game. Indeed, the experience of defence reforms in other countries suggests that it is best to have qualified 'outsiders' involved in the process. Serving officials can of course assist such an individual or a team but expecting them to, if necessary, curtail their own powers is quixotic.

### Overcoming resistance

After his first term in office, Mr. Modi must have realised the aversion within the service headquarters to reform. In more than one Combined Commanders Conference, the annual gathering of senior most officers from all three services, Mr. Modi challenged them to come up with a common plan for greater integration. It is still unclear what the modalities of this proposed plan were, submitted sometime in 2018, but according to Admiral Sunil Lanba, till recently the Chief of Naval Staff and Chairman of the Chiefs of Staff Committee, they recommended creating a Permanent Chairman of the Chiefs of Staff Committee. Fortunately, Mr. Modi did not settle upon this term, which perceptually is a step below a CDS. These interactions, however, must have revealed an obvious detail — the service chiefs and their headquarters will bitterly oppose creating



an empowered CDS. India's is perhaps the only large military wherein the service chiefs retain both operational and staff functions. This anomaly cannot continue merely because that is the tradition. If this government wants a "new India" it will have to break decisively from the past and draw up a time-bound road map to divest the chiefs of their operational command.

Perhaps one of the best approaches is to focus squarely on the powers and capacity of the Integrated Defence Staff (IDS), which will serve (or served) as the secretariat to the CDS. The IDS is the joint staff, created in 2001, and comprises around 270 officers. The services have viewed it with a mix of irritation bordering on contempt. It is usually treated as a career backwaters and perhaps the Prime Minister should examine how many recent chiefs have served in this institution. Going forward, civilians should emphasise joint staff experience as an important consideration for senior officer promotions. On another

count, one of the aspects worth looking into is the physical location of the IDS and the office of the CDS. According to some reports, an IDS headquarters is proposed to be built somewhere in Delhi Cantonment. Instead of being shunted, officers in the IDS should occupy prime offices in South Block and the office of the CDS should be located right next to that of the Defence Minister.

### Zeroing in

One of the most closely watched decisions will be on appointing the first CDS. The government need not go with the seniority rule and should instead consider a "deep selection" from current pool of flag officers. To begin with, and to assuage the fears of the smaller services, it may be wise to not let an Army officer to first tenet this post. Moreover, it is not necessary, or perhaps even desirable, for a former service chief to be appointed as the CDS. As a fulcrum for future defence transformation and armed with a possible mandate to examine inter-services prioritisation, long-term planning, officer education (including the perennially-imminent Indian National Defence University) and jointness, the CDS can emerge as the biggest "game changer". But if the service chiefs have their way then this will be just another glorified post, without much effective powers.

Finally, an important aspect of any reorganisation should look at the inter-se relations between the military and the Ministry of Defence. This needs to focus on ca-

capacity, expertise, decision-making powers and aligning responsibility and accountability. The relations between the civilian bureaucracy and the military are among the biggest fault-lines in the defence apparatus and remedial actions are required, on both sides, to create a professional, well-developed and qualified bureaucracy which integrates both civilian-military expertise.

With this announcement, Mr. Modi and Defence Minister Rajnath Singh have an opportunity to finish a project which Lord Mountbatten was so passionate about. But this is not just about dead Englishmen. Arun Singh, one of the most forward looking quasi-defence ministers, was, according to those who worked closely with him (Mr. Singh), was keen to establish theatre commands back in 2001. However, he was unsure if political leaders at that time would fully support such a transformation. Eventually they did not and the Indian strategic community has been complaining about reforms which "failed to deliver". Over the next few months, this government has an opportunity to usher in a revolution in defence management — whether they realise this dream or not is up to question.

Anit Mukherjee is Assistant Professor at the S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore, and the author of the forthcoming book, "The Absent Dialogue: Politicians, Bureaucrats and the Military in India"

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Letters emailed to letters@thehindu.co.in must carry the full postal address and the full name or the name with initials.

### The govt. we deserve?

The adage that people get the government they deserve rings true in today's India. The electorate has voted Bharatiya Janata Party to power and literally give it a mandate to lord over the people. What is happening in the name of governance, especially in Jammu and Kashmir (J&K), amounts to a subversion of the very principles of democracy. Further, as the author has pointed out in the article "Democracy under siege," (Editorial page, Aug. 20),

the judiciary has failed time and again in checking the executive's powers.

R. PRABHU RAJ,  
Bengaluru

■ Any number of write-ups condemning the manner of abrogation of Article 370 will fail to appeal to the common man. Successive governments could not bring peace to the Valley and the people there were not treated on par with the people of other States. This disparity was a stumbling block for any growth. Contrary to what the author

argues, there was no disrespect meant to the Indian Constitution. The situation was extraordinary and called for an unconventional measure.

V. LAKSHMANAN,  
Tirupur, Tamil Nadu

### A far-fetched view

The writer is taking a far-fetched view by saying that the rest of India has never integrated itself with Kashmir ("The idea of India is failing," Aug. 19). Appreciating the beauty of a State or visiting it during holidays by itself does not

reduce its value in people's eyes. Rather, it is the provisions of Article 370, which do not carry the same meaning as special status given to other States like Mizoram and Nagaland, that kept J&K and its citizens aloof from the rest of India. Simply because these provisions were necessary at the time of J&K's accession to India does not mean that they hold relevance and use even after 72 years of Independence of the country.

DAMINI MEHTA,  
New Delhi

### Unifying the forces

A synergy between the forces is necessary and a Chief of the Defence Staff (CDS) can provide the best answer to this problem (Editorial, "Soldier Number One," Aug. 20). At a time when India is struggling to deal with the potentially destabilising tactics of Pakistan and China, the need for a CDS is imminent. Also, the response-time gap is a major problem when either two or all three forces are needed. A CDS can bridge this gap.

VISHWJEET SINGH,  
Chandigarh

### Farewell Khayyam

A long-standing link with the 'golden era' of Hindi film music was snapped in the death of the famous music maestro Khayyam. Though he composed music for a limited number of films, his songs are quite memorable and have a lilting appeal about them. The song 'Sham-e-gham ki qasam' from *Foot Path*, rendered in the velvety voice of Talat Mahmood, will linger in our ears forever.

SESHAGIRI ROW KARRY,  
Hyderabad

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# The monk who shaped India's secularism

Vivekananda was a proponent of a multicultural nation rooted in religious tolerance and modernity



RAHUL MUKHERJI

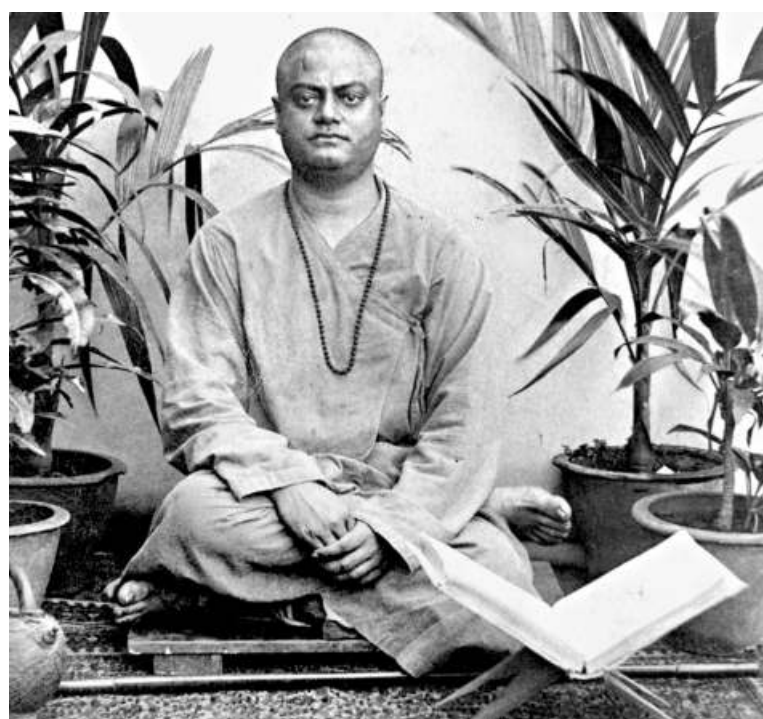
Has Indian nationalism turned utterly exclusivist? What would one of the icons of nationalism, Swami Vivekananda, have to say about this shift? Nationalism, after all, is a battle for the myths that create a nation.

The practice of Indian secularism, despite its pitfalls, has distinguished the country from many of its neighbours. India is the nation with the third-highest number of Muslims in the world. Its ability to consolidate democracy amidst unprecedented diversity could teach a lesson or two even to advanced industrial economies that have operated along the lines of a classic monocultural nation. The country's secular ideals have their roots in its Constitution, promulgated by its people, a majority of whom are Hindus. Would this state of affairs change because a different morality, Hindu nationalism, has surreptitiously overtaken India's tryst with secular nationalism?

Indian secularism has always attempted, however imperfectly, to respect the credo of *sarva dharma sama bhava* (all religions lead to the same goal), which translates to an equal respect for all religions. However, the early-day Hindu nationalists were clearly at odds with the idea. This was the reason Nathuram Godse assassinated one of its strongest proponents, Mahatma Gandhi.

## Hindu nationalism today

For the likes of Godse, a corollary of the two-nation theory was that independent India was primarily a land for Hindus. More than 70 years after Independence, this notion has gained prominence as never before in India's post-colonial history. This is evident when the Central government says it will consider all Hindus in neighbouring countries as potential Indian citizens. The most recent example of this is the bifurcation of Jammu and Kashmir, the country's only Muslim-majority State, into two Union Territories, with all special provisions taken away from the erstwhile State's residents.



Swami Vivekananda believed in the philosophy of *sarva dharma sama bhava* (all religions lead to the same goal). • VIVEKANANDA ILLAM/THE HINDU

Not only were Kashmiris not consulted, they were made to suffer an information blackout. Does this kind of Hindu nationalism align with the cosmopolitan nature of India's millennial traditions?

Another question that needs to be asked is: Is it fair to appropriate Swami Vivekananda, another follower of the *sarva dharma sama bhava* philosophy whom Prime Minister Narendra Modi keeps citing, as a Hindutva icon?

Here, it is necessary to understand what Vivekananda's life and world view said about Indian nationalism. His Chicago lectures (1893) marked the beginning of a mission that would interpret India's millennial tradition in order to reform it and he later spent about two years in New York, establishing the first Vedanta Society in 1894. He travelled widely across Europe and engaged Indologists such as Max Mueller and Paul Deussen. He even debated with eminent scientists such as Nicola Tesla before embarking on his reformist mission in India.

One of the key elements of his message, based on the experiments of his spiritual mentor Sri Ramakrishna Paramahansa, was that all religions lead to the same goal. Parama-

hansa is unique in the annals of mysticism as one whose spiritual practices reflect the belief that the ideas of personal god and that of an impersonal god as well as spiritual practices in Christianity and in Islam all lead to the same realisation.

While in Chicago, Vivekananda stressed three important and novel facets of Hindu life. First, he said that Indian tradition believed "not only in toleration" but in acceptance of "all religions as true". Second, he stressed in no uncertain terms that Hinduism was incomplete without Buddhism, and vice versa.

Finally, at the last meeting he proclaimed: "[I]f anybody dreams [of] the exclusive survival of his own religion and the destruction of others, I pity him from the bottom of my heart, and point out to him that upon the banner of every religion will soon be written, in spite of resistance: 'Help and not fight'; 'Assimilation and not destruction', and 'Harmony and peace and not dissension'.

## Religion and rationality

Vivekananda's interpretation of India's past was radical and, when he returned from the West, he had with him a large number of American and European followers. These women

and men stood behind his project of establishing the Ramakrishna Mission in 1897.

Vivekananda emphasised that India needed to trade Indian spirituality for the West's material and modern culture and was firmly behind India's scientific modernisation. He supported Jagadish Chandra Bose's scientific projects. In fact, Vivekananda's American disciple Sara Bull helped patent Bose's discoveries in the U.S. He also invited Irish teacher Margaret Noble, whom he rechristened 'Sister Nivedita', to help uplift the condition of Indian women. When she inaugurated a girls' school in Calcutta, Vivekananda even requested his friends to send their girls to this school.

Vivekananda also inspired Jamsetji Tata to establish the Indian Institute of Science and the Tata Iron and Steel Company. India needed a secular monastery from where scientific and technological development would uplift India's material conditions, for which his ideals provided a source of inspiration.

## Influence on Gandhi, Nehru

Vivekananda made a remarkable impact on the makers of modern India, who later challenged the two-nation theory, including Mahatma Gandhi, Jawaharlal Nehru and Subhas Chandra Bose. He used the term 'Daridra Narayan' to imply that 'service to the poor is service to god', many years before Gandhiji addressed the socially oppressed as 'Harijan' (children of god). The Mahatma in fact opined that his love for India grew thousand-fold after reading Vivekananda.

It is for these reasons that the latter's birthday was declared as the National Youth Day.

Was Vivekananda then a proponent of Hindutva or of the millennial traditions that have survived many an invasion and endured to teach the world both "toleration and universal acceptance"? Should Hindu nationalism take his name but forget his fiery modern spirit that rediscovered and reformed India's past? And shouldn't India's secular nationalism also acknowledge its deeply spiritual roots in the beliefs of pioneers like the reformer?

Rahul Mukherji is Professor, South Asia Institute, at the Centre for Asian and Transcultural Studies, Heidelberg University

# After Hamza bin Laden

The collaboration of competing anti-Indian and pro-Islamist outfits and standalone clerics is a deadly prospect



R.K. RAGHAVAN

A notorious surname can be a burden. For Hamza bin Laden, the surname was probably a curse as well as a blessing. Not many around the world had probably heard his name until news of his death was broadcast in early August by the U.S. media.

Some reports say that Hamza, 30, was killed in a military operation about two years ago. He was apparently last seen in Iran after he and a few others of his group had been flushed out of Afghanistan. There is also speculation that he sought refuge in Pakistan, like his father Osama bin Laden.

No one knows why it took so long for the U.S. to be convinced that Hamza had indeed died. In 2017, the U.S. had classified Hamza as a Specially Designated Global Terrorist. This decision was possibly on account of the realisation that Hamza's vitriolic utterances against the U.S. could inflame passions in the Islamic world, inside al Qaeda and outside.

Ironically, the U.S. announced a bounty of \$1 million on his head only early this year, an indication that there was some doubt about his death until July 31. This reinforces the impression that targeted terrorists are elusive, fleet-footed and are able to hide their identities and movements for long, even from the Central Intelligence Agency and the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

## Impact on al Qaeda

Terror experts are divided on the impact of Hamza's killing on al Qaeda. Some say he was charismatic and had great oratorical skills that won him some admirers looking for straws to clutch on to in the post-Osama era. But beyond this there wasn't anything spectacular about Hamza to write home about. There is no account of his assuming a front-line role on any occasion – as a strategist, propagandist or fighter. In sum, he was a nondescript personality from whom a lot was expected. He disappointed his small number of followers.

Whispers went around in al Qaeda circles for a while that the mantle of leadership of the dreaded outfit was waiting to fall on Hamza. This was because Ayman al-Zawahiri, the current head, who took over from Osama bin Laden, was reportedly suffering from a potentially debilitating heart condition and had failed to provide inspiration for any major attacks. He also chose not to target

the West and its allies.

But if one looks at it objectively, Osama bin Laden himself was unable to carry out any attacks after 9/11 as he was on the run. Realising that the U.S. would somehow get him, bin Laden was desperate that the outfit he had built assiduously should not become rudderless after him. Bin Laden groomed Hamza hoping that he would continue to work with the same zeal after his time. But Hamza did not live up to his father's expectations. He made occasional noises against the U.S., which were possibly feeble attempts to avenge his father's killing. But nothing more.

Perhaps Hamza could not have been able to do much after his father's death anyway. In the post-Osama era, al Qaeda began to be overshadowed by the arrival of a belligerent Islamic State (IS). With a relatively young leadership which exploited modern technology, the IS attempted to establish a Caliphate rather than focusing on winning followers by banking on a fossilised ideology, as al Qaeda did and suffered irretrievably.

## Preventing a coalescence

Where does all this leave counterterrorism policymakers? They should focus on a strategy to prevent a coalescence of al Qaeda and the IS. The two are not bitter enemies (though al Qaeda believes less in reckless attacks) as some mistakenly believe. There are no doubt differences between them, such as the territory they should concentrate on and the methods they should employ in unleashing terror. Al Qaeda's targets are essentially the U.S. and its allies, while the IS has worked overtime in capturing geographical areas and associated assets in Syria and Iraq. The IS had huge appeal among the youth.

There was no major conflict between the two organisations which have demarcated among themselves territories from which to operate. On a handful of occasions the two have actually worked in tandem. This is why any tactic of playing one against the other may not work to destabilise either. Both are formidable and their prowess cannot be underrated. The two can individually or together work to muddy the troubled waters on our borders. Both are looking for space to expand. The recent intemperate utterances in Kashmir of Maulana Abdul Aziz, a cleric who was close to Osama bin Laden and who was the Imam of the historic Lal Masjid in Islamabad in 2007 when the Pakistan Army laid siege, are mischievous. This is why collaboration of an assortment of competing anti-Indian and pro-Islamist outfits and standalone clerics is a deadly prospect.

R.K. Raghavan is a former CBI Director. Views are personal

# Recognising fair criticism

The central focus of 'The Lancet' has always been on health, and the editorial on J&K is no different

R. PRASAD

The anger against the British medical journal, *The Lancet*, for publishing on August 17 a strongly worded editorial on Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) was initially restricted to social media. However, two days later, the Indian Medical Association (IMA) waded into the controversy with a letter admonishing Richard Horton, the editor-in-chief of the journal. "The reputed medical journal *The Lancet* has committed breach of propriety in commenting on this political issue" and the editorial amounts to "interference into an internal matter of Union of India," the letter says. It adds that "*The Lancet* has no locus standi on the issue of Kashmir" and questioned the "credibility and the mala fide intention behind the uncalled for editorial."



## The Lancet editorial

The editorial is broadly divided into three parts. The first lists facts. The second focusses on the findings of two reports: one by the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights on human rights violations in J&K and the second by Médecins Sans Frontières on the state of mental health in J&K. The third part carries the opinion of the journal. The ground reality and the findings of the two reports are given equal treatment and weightage.

The controversial part is found in the beginning and end of the editorial. The editorial begins by calling the revocation of Article 370 a "controversial move" that gives the government "greater authority over the State's affairs". It then adds that "militant presence raises serious concerns for the health, safety, and freedoms of the Kashmiri people". It concludes that the "people of Kashmir need healing from the deep wounds of this decades-old conflict, not subjugation to further violence and alienation."

While those outside the medical fraternity may not know about *The Lancet's* stand on issues such as J&K, it is unfortunate that the IMA reacted in the manner that it did. How can a

body of over 500,000 doctors, which is supposed to be reading the journal regularly, be unaware of what the journal has always stood for?

## The role of a medical journal

The editorial is not an "act of commission" by *The Lancet*, as the IMA calls it, but what the journal considers as its behelmed duty to speak up for people in health distress. This may be the first time that *The Lancet* has written critically about the J&K issue, but it is naive to assume that it has never written on such matters before. In fact, it regularly denounces any action or policy of any nation or group that harms people's health. It has commented on Pakistan, Sri Lanka, the refugee crises in the U.S. and Canada, Sudan, the Arab Spring, and several times on Afghanistan, Iraq, and the Rohingya.

In a July 2014 editorial on Gaza, *The Lancet* wrote: "The Lancet is a general medical journal that publishes research, news, and opinion about all aspects of human health and well-being. In situations of war and conflict – such as in Iraq, Syria, Afghanistan, and elsewhere – our perspective has always been to put the interests of civilian lives ahead of the politics of military engagement... The role of the doctor is to protect, serve, and speak up for life. That, too, is the role of a medical journal."

The same day that the editorial on J&K was published, *The Lancet* also carried another on mass shootings in the U.S. After putting the editorial in context and referring to a report on mass violence, the journal criticised the government saying: "The far right and the Trump administration have fomented and normalised white nationalist sentiment and entitlement with anti-immigrant rhetoric, which is amplified by conservative media and then consumed by the disenfranchised."

Unlike in the case of the editorial on J&K, the journal has been scathing at times while commenting on other countries. But the central focus has always been on health, and the editorial on J&K is no different.

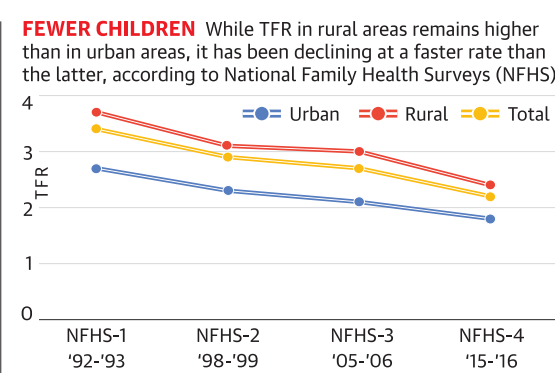
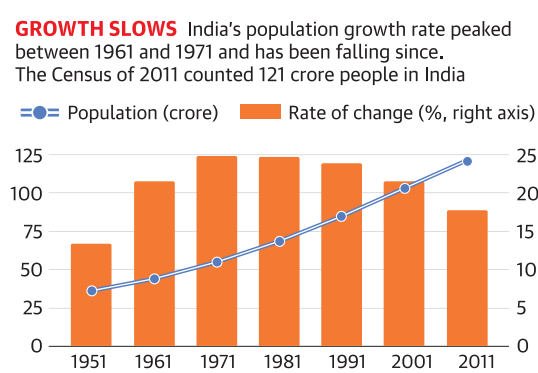
prasad.ravindrath@thehindu.co.in



## DATA POINT

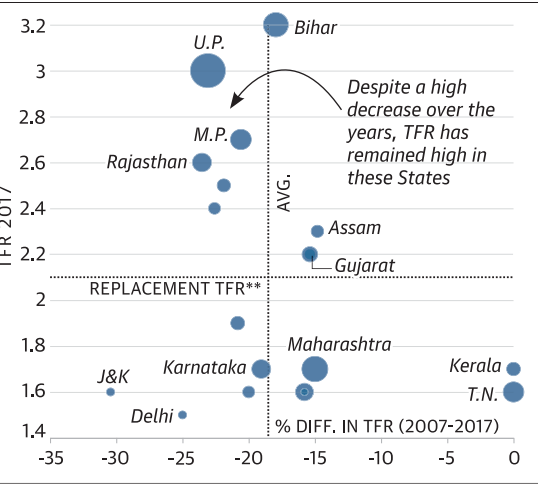
### Taking a headcount

In his Independence Day speech, Prime Minister Narendra Modi touched upon the need to control 'population explosion' in India. However, the growth rate of the country's population has been falling since 1971. The Total Fertility Rate\* (TFR) has also been falling across most States. By Varun B. Krishnan



### STATE OF FERTILITY

Among bigger States\*, J&K and Delhi registered the biggest drop in TFR (in % terms) from 2007 to 2017, while Kerala & T.N. showed no change. Size of the circle indicates the State's population as a % of the total



### POPULATION CHANGE

Increase in population was highest in Bihar between 2001 and 2011 and lowest in Kerala. The table lists the top and bottom three States (in % terms)

State	Population increase 2001-2011
Bihar	25.42%
J&K	23.64%
Chhattisgarh	22.61%
Punjab	13.89%
West Bengal	13.84%
Kerala	4.91%

## The Hindu

### FROM THE ARCHIVES

FIFTY YEARS AGO AUGUST 21, 1969

#### Giri elected new President of India

The independent candidate, Mr. V. V. Giri, who became the non-official Congress nominee of the Prime Minister in the wake of her current power struggle with the Syndicate, was to-day [August 20] declared elected the fourth President of India, defeating his official Congress rival, Mr. N. Sanjiva Reddi, in the most bitterly contested election since Independence, which might well alter the course of history in this country. Though Mr. Giri had a clear lead of 35,551 votes - having secured a total of 401,515 against the 313,548 polled by Mr. Sanjiva Reddi and 112,769 by C.D. Deshmukh - he fell short of 16,659 votes for an absolute majority in the first count under the system of proportional representation prescribed for the Presidential election. But Mr. Giri managed to meet this requirement in the second count which gave him a margin of 14,650 votes over his nearest rival, Mr. Sanjiva Reddi. The President-elect got in the second count 420,077 votes as against 405,427 secured by the official Congress candidate. Mr. S. L. Shaktcher, Returning Officer, announced at 10-33 p.m., "I declare Mr. V. V. Giri duly elected President."

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO AUGUST 21, 1919.

#### The Inter-Caste Marriage Bill.

Colonel Yate intends to ask the Secretary of State for India on Monday next, whether he is aware that the introduction of the Patel Hindu Inter-Caste Marriage Bill in the Indian Legislative Council and its circulation by the Government of India through local government for opinion has caused great alarm amongst orthodox Hindus of all classes of society in India, as an interference with their most sacred religious and social usages which it has been the policy of the British Government hither to never to interfere with. In view of the considerations mentioned, Colonel Yate wants the Secretary of State to ascertain from the Government of India whether it would be desirable to take action to reassure orthodox Hindu opinion that no interference with religious usage is contemplated by the British Government. The subject was also raised by Lord Sydenham in the Joint Committee yesterday for purpose which you can well imagine. Most of his questions to Mr. Ramaswami Aiyar were intended to make as much as possible of the differences which exist amongst social and political reformers in India. Hence we had the questions about rival Home Rule Leagues and their respective relations with the National Congress.



FROM PAGE ONE

## SC concerned over misuse of web

"Why are they coming now? Eighteen hearings have already taken place [in the Madras High Court]. The proceedings are at an advanced stage. They [social media platforms] had accepted the jurisdiction of the High Courts," he said, opposing the move to transfer the cases from the Madras High Court.

The court finally issued

notice to the Centre and the States on the plea made by social media platforms for transferring the proceedings in High Courts to the apex court. It further scheduled the next hearing to September 13.

The Bench said the "hearing before the Madras High Court may go on but no effective order be passed till further orders."

## Chandrayaan-2 placed deftly in lunar orbit

Precise actions with the latest LOI and the earlier TLI, besides improved sensors, guidance and navigation systems and repeated tests on them, he said, should enable Vikram to soft-land on the moon at 1.45 a.m. on September 7.

As for the manoeuvre to put the spacecraft in lunar orbit, Dr. Sivan said that at 3 p.m. on Monday, Chan-

drayaan-2 reached the vicinity of the moon and started picking up speed due to the moon's gravity.

"The latest LOI manoeuvre was essential in order to reduce its speed from 2.4 km per second to 2.1 km per second. If we had not done it or done it improperly, we would have lost the spacecraft as it would have gone astray," he said.

## Bank fraud: ED arrests Kamal Nath's nephew

Among the accused are the company's managing director Deepak Puri, whole-time director Nita Puri and the then executive director and their son Ratul Puri.

In its response, Moser Baer said: "The arrest by the Enforcement Directorate is unfortunate. Moser Baer had operated in accordance with all legal compliances and this case now, when Moser Baer is before the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT), is motivated."

The ED is also probing Mr. Puri's alleged role in the AgustaWestland case and a city court has issued a non-bailable warrant against him. On Monday evening, he appeared before the probe team in that case for questioning.

Mr. Puri said that he was

unwell, following which the officials handed over to him a copy of the summons related to the CBI case.

He allegedly tore up the papers, after which he was arrested and taken to a doctor.

In the bank fraud case, the company and its functionaries have been accused of cheating the Central Bank of India of ₹354.51 crore. The bank, in its complaint, said the company had availed itself of credit facilities under multiple-institution arrangement from 14 public sector banks.

As on November 30, 2011, the outstanding was ₹960.60 crore in term loans, fund-based working capital of ₹646.69 crore and ₹355.45 crore in non-fund based working capital.

## No question of debate on reservation: Athawale

Minister reacts to Bhagwat's remark

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
KOLKATA

Union Minister of State for Social Justice and Empowerment Ramdas Athawale said on Tuesday that reservation for Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward Classes will continue and there will be no debate on that.

"I want to assure the Dalits of this country that there is no question of debate or rethinking on the issue of reservation. Whatever [RSS chief] Mohan Bhagwatji had said, the RSS has clarified it," Mr. Athawale said.

He was speaking in Kolkata during a seminar on 'Social Justice and Empowerment in India: Progress made and Way Ahead' organised by the Merchant Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

Mr. Bhagwat had on Sunday called for a "harmonious conversation" between those in favour of reservation and those against it. The Minister said that reservation is a constitutional right and no one can take it away from the Dalits. On the issue of attack on Dalits in the country, the



Ramdas Athawale.  
FILE PHOTO

Minister said that casteism is the main reason for the attacks and it should not be politicised. Mr. Athawale said that legislation is not sufficient for preventing attacks on Dalits and the mindset of the people needs to change.

The Minister also spoke about the steps to make India free of manual scavenging. "There are nearly 53,000 people involved in manual scavenging throughout the country. We are giving ₹40,000 [to identified manual scavengers] so that they can start something on their own... No people should be doing this work in next five years," Mr. Athawale said.

## 'Ban DMK for secessionism'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
CHENNAI

The ruling AIADMK on Tuesday demanded that the DMK be banned for promoting "secessionist tendencies" in Tamil Nadu.

Raising the demand, D. Jayakumar, AIADMK organising secretary and Fisheries Minister, alleged that DMK spokesperson A. Saravanan had, during a tele-

vised debate, made certain remarks to the effect that Jammu and Kashmir was not an integral part of India.

"The DMK is testing the waters by letting its spokesperson make these kinds of remarks. It is a dangerous trend which should be nipped in the bud. This is why I demand that the Centre ban the DMK," Mr. Jayakumar said.

# NRC exclusion is not the end of the road: MHA

Time limit to appeal is being increased from 60 to 120 days

VIJAITA SINGH  
NEW DELHI

As the August 31 deadline for the final publication of Assam's National Register of Citizens (NRC) nears, the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) said on Tuesday that "non-inclusion of a person's name in the NRC does not by itself amount to him/her being declared a foreigner." Affected persons would be given adequate opportunity to present their case before the Foreigners Tribunals (FTs). The time limit to appeal before the FTs is also being increased from 60 to 120 days.

On Monday, the Union Home Minister reviewed the NRC process with Assam Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal and senior officials.

In a statement, the MHA said, "It was decided that in order to facilitate the persons excluded from the NRC, adequate arrangements will be made by the State government to provide full opportunity to appeal against their

non-inclusion. Every individual, whose name does not figure in the final NRC, can represent his/her case in front of the appellate authority, i.e. Foreigners Tribunals. Under the provisions of the Foreigners Act 1946 and the Foreigners (Tribunals) Order 1964, only Foreigners Tribunals are empowered to declare a person as a foreigner. Thus, non-inclusion of a person's name in the NRC does not by itself amount to him/her being declared as a foreigner."

**Legal aid** The State government would "make arrangements to provide legal aid to the needy people amongst those excluded from the NRC." Adequate number of such tribunals were being established at convenient locations, it said.

"As it may not be possible for all those excluded from the final NRC to file the appeal within the prescribed



Paper trail: NRC officials verifying documents in Morigaon district of Assam. ■ RITU RAJ KONWAR

time, the MHA will amend the rules to increase the present time limit of filing of appeals in FTs from 60 days to 120 days regarding exclusion from final NRC. The Citizenship (Registration of Citizens and Issue of National Identity Cards) Rules, 2003 are also being amended accordingly," the statement stated.

In order to maintain law and order, Central security forces were being provided as per an assessment of the State government, it said.

The register, first pu-

lished in Assam in 1951, is being updated as per the directions of the Supreme Court. It is a list to segregate Indian citizens living in Assam from those who had illegally entered the State from Bangladesh after March 25, 1971. The Supreme Court has, in the past fortnight, twice rejected the State's and the Home Ministry's plea for reversion. Around 41 lakh people have been excluded from the draft lists published in July 2018 and June this year.

## 'Mosque slab had inscription on temple'

Counsel for Ram Lalla informs SC

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

Senior advocate C.S. Vaidyanathan for Ram Lalla, Ayodhya's infant deity, told the Supreme Court on Tuesday that a stone slab, which fell out of the western wall of the disputed Babri Masjid structure, had Sanskrit inscriptions dating back to the 12th century about a Lord Vishnu temple.

Appearing before a Constitution Bench led by Chief Justice Ranjan Gogoi, Mr. Vaidyanathan said the slab and the inscriptions give credence to the version that the Babri mosque was built on the remains of an ancient temple or Hindu religious structure.

Justice S.A. Bobde, also a part of the Constitution Bench, had asked Mr. Vaidyanathan to buttress his arguments that the structure was a temple, and that too, one dedicated to Lord Ram.

**'Enough artefacts'** Mr. Vaidyanathan said there are enough artefacts and materials to support the belief of devotees that Ram Janmabhoomi is the birthplace of Lord Ram.

The senior lawyer quoted a statement made by a journalist from the *Panchajanya* magazine to the court that he had seen the slab fall from the Western wall. The photographs of the spot where the slab fell and the inscriptions were shown to the High Court.

The structure excavated by the Archaeological Survey of India is the Vishnu temple. Despite the coming up of the disputed structure in the 16th century, the Hindus had continued to believe the land to be the birthplace of Lord Ram, he submitted.

Later, Mr. Vaidyanathan read out from the statements of a Muslim witness in the dispute, who said if



the mosque was built after demolition of a temple, Muslims will not consider it a mosque. The Supreme Court had last week asked the Hindu parties to present proof of their claim that Babri Masjid was built on the remains of an ancient temple or Hindu religious structure.

Justice S.A. Bobde, also a part of the Constitution Bench, had asked Mr. Vaidyanathan to buttress his arguments that the structure was a temple, and that too, one dedicated to Lord Ram.

**Pre-existent structure** Mr. Vaidyanathan had responded by referring to the Archaeological Survey of India excavation report that the structure found underground, dated back to second century BC, was massive in circumference with a large number of pillars endowed with sculptures, plastered walls and circular shrine. The Babri Masjid was not built on vacant or agricultural land, but on a pre-existent structure, which was at the time either in ruins or was demolished.

He had acknowledged that there was nothing to show that the structure was a temple dedicated to Lord Ram. But the unstinting faith and belief of the people and the "preponderance of probabilities" show that it was indeed a temple for Lord Ram, he said.

## No scope for quota debate, says Paswan

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution Minister and Lok Janshakti Party leader Ram Vilas Paswan on Tuesday said there was no scope for a debate on reservation as it was a constitutional right.

He was reacting to RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat's call for a sober conversation on reservation. "I am not aware of exactly what Bhagwatji said. But as far as reservation is concerned the Narendra Modi government is committed to it... It will not be tampered with," Mr. Paswan said.

## Shah wants proper assessment of leaders wishing to join BJP

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

BJP president Amit Shah urged senior leaders at a meeting on Tuesday to do a proper evaluation of leaders of Opposition parties wanting to join the BJP.

Leaders of various parties have been flocking to the BJP recently. In the Rajya Sabha alone, four members of the Telugu Desam Party and one each of the Congress and the Samajwadi Party have joined the BJP.

BJP general secretary Anil Jain, who is the organisational in charge for Haryana, said the leaders discussed the strategy for the Assembly elections.

## Rajiv remembered



Floral tribute: Sonia Gandhi paying homage at Veer Bhoomi in New Delhi on Tuesday. Top leaders, including former President Pranab Mukherjee and former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, paid tributes to Rajiv Gandhi on his 75th birth anniversary. ■ SANDEEP SAXENA

## Social justice is at risk, says Priyanka

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra on Tuesday linked RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat's comments on reservation to the Narendra Modi government's legislative agenda and alleged that the 'real target' was social justice.

"The confidence of the RSS is high and intentions are dangerous. At a time when the BJP government is throttling pro-people laws, the RSS has also raised the issue of debate on reservation," Ms. Vadra tweeted. "Debate is just an excuse, the real target of the RSS-BJP is social justice. Will you allow this to happen?" she wrote on Twitter.

On Sunday, Mr. Bhagwat had said there should be a conversation in a harmonious atmosphere between those in favour of reservation and those against it.

## It's a classic case of money laundering, says Delhi HC

Custodial interrogation of Chidambaram required: judge  
Politics of vendetta: Cong.

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

In a setback to senior Congress leader P. Chidambaram, the Delhi High Court on Tuesday dismissed his anticipatory bail application in the INX Media case.

"Facts of the case *prima facie* reveal that petitioner [Mr. Chidambaram] is the kingpin, that is, the key conspirator in this case," Justice Sunil Gaur remarked, noting that custodial interrogation of the former Finance Minister was required for effective investigation.

Terming it a "classic case of money laundering", Justice Gaur said the gravity of the offence and Mr. Chidambaram's evasive responses weighed against him.

He also declined Mr. Chidambaram's plea for interim protection from arrest so that he could approach the

## 221 new members for Foreigners' Tribunals

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
GUWAHATI

A panel of 221 members has been selected for the existing and upcoming Foreigners' Tribunals (FTs) in Assam. Another 50 applicants have been put on the wait list.

In a notification on Monday, the Gauhati High Court said the panel comprised retired judicial officers, advocates and civil servants, who were called for interviews

from July 16 to August 11. It recommended the candidates, selected in order of merit.

The list had been prepared and published less than a fortnight before the completion of the final NRC on August 31.

Each FT is headed by a judge-like member appointed under the FT Act, 1941, and FT Order, 1984, as per the guidelines issued by the government.

## Marriage off over NRC

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
GUWAHATI

A family at Silchar in Assam has called off the wedding of their daughter when the groom failed to provide citizenship credentials.

Dilwar Hussain Laskar of Nayagram near Silchar was in love with a local woman

and the two families had agreed to their marriage. But trouble arose when the woman's family wanted to know on August 15 whether his name was in the citizens register. But Mr. Laskar's name was not in the draft NRC. The woman's family called off the wedding.

## 'Intolerance can damage our polity'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NEW DELHI

Former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh on Tuesday said "unpleasant trends" of growing intolerance, communal polarisation and incidents of violent crimes propelled by hatred of certain groups would damage our polity.

Remembering former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi on his 75th birth anniversary for his efforts to promote peace, Mr. Singh said the unpleasant trends were repugnant to communal harmony, a cherished objective enshrined in the Constitution.

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

Backing former Union Minister P. Chidambaram who is facing arrest in the INX Media case, the Congress on Tuesday said the action of the CBI and the ED is "selective targeting and politics of

vendetta." "We fail to understand what is going to happen in the night. Heavens have not opened up. Mr. Chidambaram is an eminent citizen," said Anand Sharma, Deputy Leader of the Congress in the Rajya Sabha, questioning the urgency.

Supreme Court. Within hours of the High Court verdict, Mr. Chidambaram's legal team, led by senior advocate Kapil Sibal, rushed to the Supreme Court for an urgent hearing of the appeal.

Mr. Sibal was joined by senior advocates A.M. Singhvi and Salman Khurshid in the Supreme Court. However, their efforts for an immediate hearing did not bear

fruit. They were advised by the Supreme Court Registry to make an oral mention in court on Wednesday.

Since Chief Justice Ranjan Gogoi and Justice S.A. Bobde are both part of the Ayodhya Constitution Bench, Mr. Chidambaram's plea is likely to be mentioned before Justice N.V. Ramana. Mr. Sibal said they were yet to get a copy of the High Court decision.

## India assures Dhaka all help for development

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

External Affairs Minister, S. Jaishankar who is on his first visit to Bangladesh after taking charge in May announced at a press meet in Dhaka on Tuesday that Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is expected to visit India in autumn.

Stating that Delhi will extend "all possible support" to the development agenda of Bangladesh, Mr. Jaishankar added that the India-Bangladesh relationship is a "model" of cooperation within the Neighbourhood First policy of the government of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Addressing the press with Mr. Jaishankar, his Bangladeshi counterpart, A.K. Abdul Momen said the bilateral talks had satisfied the Bangladesh team. Both sides had also discussed the repatriation of the Rohingya from refugee camps in Chittagong to Myanmar.

"We agreed that the safe, speedy and sustainable return of displaced persons is in the national interest of all the three countries. And we reaffirm our readiness to provide more assistance to the displaced in Bangladesh and to improve socio-economic conditions in Rakhine State," said the External Affairs Minister.



IN BRIEF



**Modi takes up London protests with U.K. PM**

**NEW DELHI**  
In a telephone conversation with U.K. Prime Minister Boris Johnson, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday took up the anti-India protest outside the Indian mission in London on August 15. "He referred to the violence and vandalism perpetrated by a large mob against the High Commission of India in London on the Independence Day," the MEA said.

**Jawan killed in Pak. firing along LoC in Poonch**

**NEW DELHI**  
An Army jawan was killed in fresh ceasefire violation by Pakistan along the Line of Control on Tuesday while Army sources rejected claims by Pakistan that six Indian soldiers were killed in the firing. "Pakistan Army resorted to unprovoked ceasefire violation along Mendhar and Krishna Ghati Sectors in Poonch district of Jammu and Kashmir," the Army said. The deceased was identified as Naik Ravi Ranjan Kumar Singh, 36, from Gope Bigha village from Rohtas district in Bihar.

**A cut in fee for acquiring electronic visa proposed**

**NEW DELHI**  
With the aim of attracting more foreign travellers to the country, it has been proposed to reduce the e-visa fee while also offering the option of a short-term as well as long-term tourist e-visa. The Tourism Ministry has proposed to introduce a short duration e-visa for tourists with one month validity for \$25. However, this will be applicable during peak tourism season between July and March. To attract more tourists in the lean period between April to June, the visa fee has been proposed at \$10.

# Trump calls Imran on anti-India rhetoric

U.S. President tells Pakistan Premier to tone down comments on the situation in Kashmir

**SRIRAM LAKSHMAN**  
WASHINGTON DC

U.S. President Donald Trump spoke with Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan on Monday and asked him to reduce tensions and dial down the rhetoric with India on the Kashmir issue.

"President Donald J. Trump spoke by telephone with Prime Minister Imran Khan today to discuss the need to reduce tensions and moderate rhetoric with India over the situation in Jammu and Kashmir," a statement from the White House read.

In a series of tweets over the weekend, Mr. Khan had called the Narendra Modi go-



**President Donald J. Trump spoke by telephone with Prime Minister Imran Khan today to discuss the need to reduce tensions and moderate rhetoric with India over the situation in Jammu and Kashmir**  
A STATEMENT FROM THE WHITE HOUSE

vernment "fascist, racist, Hindu Supremacist" and a threat to Pakistan and minorities in India.

"The President reaffirmed

the need to avoid escalation of the situation, and urged restraint on both sides. The two leaders also agreed to work together to strengthen

United States-Pakistan economic and trade cooperation," the White House said.

**After call to Modi**

The call with Mr. Khan, the second in a span of four days, came within hours of a call between Mr. Trump and Prime Minister Modi.

In addition to discussing the strategic partnership and trade relationship between India and the U.S., Mr. Modi had told Mr. Trump that "extreme rhetoric and incitement to anti-India violence" was not conducive to peace in the region, as per an External Affairs Ministry statement released on Monday.

On Friday Mr. Khan had spoken to Mr. Trump before a United Nations Security Council (UNSC) closed consultation on the situation in Kashmir following India's abrogation of Article 370 (special status for Kashmir) on August 5.

"Spoke to my two good friends, Prime Minister Modi of India, and Prime Minister Khan of Pakistan, regarding Trade, Strategic Partnerships and, most importantly, for India and Pakistan to work towards reducing tensions in Kashmir. A tough situation, but good conversations!" Mr. Trump tweeted on Monday evening.

# U.S. flags detentions in Kashmir

J&K is an internal matter but has external implications, says American official

**SRIRAM LAKSHMAN**  
WASHINGTON DC

The U.S. believes that the dilution of Article 370 in Jammu and Kashmir by India is an internal matter for the country but has external ramifications. This was conveyed to a group of reporters here by a senior State Department official, who did not want to be named.

"We recognize that it's an internal matter, but it obviously has implications outside of India's borders. And so we have long called for direct conversations between India and Pakistan to resolve what have been the decades of tensions generated by that issue," the official said.

The U.S. view on the situation in Kashmir has defined its policy towards India and Pakistan. For India, a focus on the human rights situation in Kashmir and a quick return to normalcy and for Pakistan, a continued emphasis on undoing its sup-



**Lake placid:** A vendor carrying vegetables on his boat on the Dal Lake in Srinagar on Tuesday. ■ NISSAR AHMAD

port for terror.

"And so I think when you look at our approach to Kashmir we focused in the near term on the human rights situation, encouraging India to move quickly to release detainees to restore basic freedoms, to implement what the Prime Minister laid out in his own address of a return to political normalcy for Jammu and Kashmir, whether first as a Union Territory but then as a State and the restoration of

political dialogue. So we look to the India government to undertake those steps," the official said.

**Concern over curbs**

"We continue to be very concerned by reports of detentions and the continued restrictions on the residents of the region. We urge respect for individual rights, compliance with legal procedures and an inclusive dialogue with those affected," the official said on changes

# Azad now sent back from Jammu

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT**  
NEW DELHI

Leader of the Opposition (LoP) in the Rajya Sabha, Ghulam Nabi Azad, was on Monday not allowed to attend a meeting with party workers in Jammu and sent back to Delhi from the Jammu airport for a second time.

Congress functionaries said that after Mr. Azad landed at the Jammu airport, police officers told him that he would not be allowed to go out.

Party leaders claimed that the LoP was in the city to take part in a function to commemorate the 75th birth anniversary of Rajiv Gandhi but the local administration didn't allow it.

On August 8, Mr. Azad was detained and sent back from the Srinagar airport, after the Centre ended special status for Jammu and Kashmir and bifurcated it into UTs.

# Sporadic protests continue in J&K

**Centre plans outreach through public darbars**

**PEERZADA ASHIQ**  
SRINAGAR

Sporadic stone-pelting continued in parts of Kashmir Valley for the 16th consecutive day on Tuesday, as the J&K government plans a major outreach to bring normalcy by organising public darbars.

Officials said violent protests broke out in Srinagar's Dangerpora and Khrew and adjoining Ganderbal district. There were no reports of casualties.



**First impressions:** A Kashmiri family walking past a blockade in Srinagar on Tuesday. ■ REUTERS

Locals blocked major roads in south Kashmir's Pulwama, Shopian and Kulgam districts, where very thin traffic was witnessed on the roads.

The authorities said barri-

cades around the Ghanta Ghar in Lal Chowk area, the main commercial hub, was also lifted on Tuesday. Concertina and razor wires were removed from the roads in the area to allow movement

of people. A large part of Srinagar continued to face security restrictions, especially areas in the old city. However, private vehicles were seen plying in commercial hub Lal Chowk.

J&K government spokesman Rohit Kansal said 12 out of 22 districts were functioning normally in J&K, which saw a lockdown immediately after Article 370 was abrogated on August 5. "Of 197 police stations across J&K, 136 stations have no daytime restrictions," said Mr. Kansal.

He said out of 93,000 landlines, 73,000 have started functioning and the rest would operate soon.

# Three NIA officers transferred on extortion charge

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT**  
NEW DELHI

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) has transferred three officials after it received a complaint of misconduct against them, a spokesperson of the agency said.

The three officials, including one of the rank of Superintendent of Police, have been accused of demanding ₹2 crore from a Delhi-based businessman in the Falah-e-Insaniyat Foundation (FIF) terror funding case, involving Lashkar-e-Taiba chief Hafiz Saeed.

"A complaint of misconduct was received by the NIA. An inquiry into the allegations is being conducted by an officer of the rank of DIG. In the meantime, the three officials have been transferred to ensure a fair probe," the spokesperson said.

**Conspiracy angle**

According to the NIA, Hafiz Saeed and Shahid Mahmood, deputy chief of the FIF, hatched a conspiracy in 2012 to recruit sympathisers and create a base in Delhi and Haryana under the pretext of religious work.

"Shahid Mahmood tasked his associate Mohammad Kamran, a Pakistani national based in Dubai, with re-routing funds from Pakistan to Dubai and further to India through hawala channels," the NIA said. The businessman came under the scanner when the three officials were conducting a probe into the hawala transactions.

The NIA has filed a chargesheet in the case that was registered last year.

**TAMIL NADU GENERATION AND DISTRIBUTION CORPORATION LTD.**  
**DUE DATE EXTENSION NOTICE**  
The tender notice pertaining to the Specification No. Coal 58 dated 18.07.2019 published in The New Indian Express (All) and The Hindu (All) dated 24.07.2019 for the procurement of coal with due date of submission/opening at 14.00 Hrs /15.30 Hrs on 20.08.2019 is extended upto 14.00 Hrs /15.30 Hrs on 28.08.2019. All other terms and conditions remain unaltered.  
**CHIEF ENGINEER/MECH/COAL**  
Viewing and Downloading of documents : [www.tangedco.gov.in](http://www.tangedco.gov.in)  
[www.tantranas.gov.in](http://www.tantranas.gov.in), [www.tenders.tn.gov.in](http://www.tenders.tn.gov.in), [www.tntenders.gov.in/nicgep/app](http://www.tntenders.gov.in/nicgep/app)  
DIPR/2829/Tender/2019

**REGIONAL CANCER CENTRE**  
Thiruvananthapuram - 955011. Phone - 0471 2442541 Fax No. 0471 2447454  
Website: [www.rccctvm.gov.in](http://www.rccctvm.gov.in), Email: [webmaster@rccctvm.gov.in](mailto:webmaster@rccctvm.gov.in)  
**No. RCC/2019-20/P3 09.08.2019**  
**e-Tender Notice**  
Online Tenders are invited in two bid system for the supply, installation & commissioning of the following items in Regional Cancer Centre, Thiruvananthapuram.  
**No. Description**  
1 Purchase of New Linear Accelerator  
2 Purchase of Anti-Cancer Drugs  
Tender documents and all other information related to tender and bidding process can be downloaded from the website [www.etenders.kerala.gov.in](http://www.etenders.kerala.gov.in)  
Director of RCC reserves the right to accept or reject all or any tender at his sole discretion without assigning any reason.  
(3748429/D3/2019/1&PR) Sd/- Director

**Kempegowda INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT**  
Name and Address of the entity seeking Proposal:  
**BANGALORE INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT LIMITED**  
Alpha2, Administration Block, Kempegowda International Airport, Bengaluru, Bangalore 560 300  
Web : [www.bengaluruairport.com](http://www.bengaluruairport.com)  
**NOTICE TO EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI)**  

Sr. No.	Tender Title	Short description of Scope of Work
1	Construction of taxiway apron, engine run up bay, AGL and associated/enabling works for Indigo MRO.	Construction of Taxiway and Taxi lane, Engine run up bay, Aeronautical Ground Lightings (AGL), High Mast and its associated electrical works, Jet blast fence, Security wall, Watch tower, Oil water separator, Firefighting Hydrants and storage, Utilities protections, Dismantling & Allied works etc.

  
Pre Qualification Criteria & other Information: Available on BIAL website (<http://www.bengaluruairport.com/ourBusiness/tender.jsp>)  
Submission Due Date & Time for all the above: 6<sup>th</sup> Sep, 2019 at 16.00 Hours.  
Note: Any Further Addendums to this EOI shall be made available in BIAL website.  
Applicants who are interested shall express their interest through E-Mail [embiid2@biaairport.com](mailto:embiid2@biaairport.com) and upload the relevant documents in the BIAL E-Tendering website (<https://www.bialtenders.com>) writing to:  
Head - Procurement & Contracts  
Bangalore International Airport Ltd.  
Alpha2, Administrative Office  
Kempegowda International Airport,  
Devarahalli, Bengaluru - 560 300  
Email: [embiid2@biaairport.com](mailto:embiid2@biaairport.com)  
Phone No: 080 - 6678 2203  
[www.bengaluruairport.com](http://www.bengaluruairport.com)

**KARNATAKA URBAN WATER SUPPLY & DRAINAGE BOARD**  
**OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ENGINEER KALABURAGI**  
Opp. Mini Soudha, Aivan-e-Shahi Road, Kalaburgi-585 102.  
Tel: 08472-220817, Fax: 08472-260818, E-mail: [kwcbekbl14@gmail.com](mailto:kwcbekbl14@gmail.com)

**TENDER NOTIFICATION**  
(Through e-Procurement portal only)  
Item-rate Tenders are invited for the following works through e-Procurement portal from eligible Agency/Contractor as detailed below  
**Package No. KWB/CE(K)/TEC/AE-2/SANDUR-UGD/667/2019-20 Date: 19-08-2019.** Work indent in e-procurement portal: **KUWSDB/2019-20/WS/WORK\_INDENT 2501.**  
**Name & Description of Work: Part-A:** Providing, laying, jointing and commissioning of SWG/RCC/PVC-U/DI Sewer Network and outfall sewer lines, Allied works including house service connections, construction of Wetwells (2 Nos), Providing and laying of DI rising main with allied works, Fencing and Approach Road to STPs in Sandur town (Item Rate tender).  
**Part-B:** Construction, Supply, Installation, Testing & Commissioning of Civil, Mechanical, Electrical and Instrumentation works of 6.0 MLD at Sandur town and 0.55 MLD Capacity Sewage Treatment Plant of Sequential Batch Reactor (SBR) Technology near Nandihalli PG Center (Lumpsum).  
**Part-C:** Operation & Maintenance of the 6 MLD and 0.55 MLD STP executed under this Project for Sandur town for the period of 3 years (Lumpsum) under UGD Scheme to Sandur town.  
Approx. value of work: **Rs. 59,95,12,140.54** (Excluding GST).  
EMD: **Rs. 60,00,000/-**. Tender processing fee: **As per e-procurement portal**. Period of completion (including monsoon): **30 (Thirty) months.**  
**Calendar of Events**  

1 Date & Time for Commencement of downloading of tender documents	22.08.2019 after 12.30 Hrs.
2 Last Date & Time for receipt of queries	23.09.2019 upto 11.00 Hrs.
3 Date & Time for Pre-Bid Meeting	23.09.2019 at 11.30 Hrs.
4 Last Date & Time for submission/ uploading of the tender in e-procurement portal	24.10.2019 upto 17.30 Hrs.
5 Date & time of opening of the Technical tenders	30.10.2019 after 11.00 Hrs.
6 Date & time of opening of the Financial tenders	Will be notified later.

  
Tenders should quote the rates excluding GST. Prevailing GST will be paid separately at the time of payment.  
For further details, the Office of the Chief Engineer, KUWS&D Board, Kalaburagi, may please be contacted or website <https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in> or e-Procurement helpdesk: 080-25501216/25501227. e-mail support: [hphepdesk.blr@intarvo.com](mailto:hphepdesk.blr@intarvo.com).  
Sd/- CHIEF ENGINEER  
KUWS & D BOARD, Kalaburagi Zone, Kalaburagi.

**GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA, "e"-PROCUREMENT NOTICE**  
**WORKS DEPARTMENT**  
E-mail : [ceworldbankprojects@gmail.com](mailto:ceworldbankprojects@gmail.com)  
**116-B: Bid Identification No. CE-W.B.P.(O) - 01 / 2019-20**  
1. The Chief Engineer (World Bank Project), Odisha on behalf of Governor of Odisha invites percentage rate bid in double cover system in ONLINE MODE from eligible contractors for construction of Road & Bridge works as detailed below :  
2. Nature of work : Bridge / Road works  
3. No. of work : 03 nos.  
4. Tender cost : Rs.10,000.00 (on-line)  
5. Class of Contractor : Super / Special / "A" Class Contractor  
6. Available of bid document : From 10.00 AM of 28.08.2019 to 5.00 PM of 16.09.2019 in the website  
7. Date of opening of Bid : Dt.17.09.2019 at 11.30 AM  
8. The Bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only. Further details can be seen from the website : <https://tenderodisha.gov.in>. Any addendum / corrigendum / cancellation of tender can also be seen in the said website.  
Sd/-  
Chief Engineer, World Bank Project, Odisha.  
34003/11/0001/1920

**GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA**  
**OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, P.H. DIVISION, BARIPADA.**  
**131-C: NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING THROUGH e-Procurement**  
**Bid Identification No. EEPHBD-04 of 2019-20 Dt.19.08.2019**  

1. Name of the Work	: 04 Nos.
2. Estimated Cost	: Rs.25.52 Lakh to Rs.154.01 Lakh
3. Period of Completion	: 04 months to 06 months.
4. Date & Time availability of bid document in the portal	: From 11.00 hours of 31.08.2019 to 17.00 hours of dt. 20.09.2019
5. Last date and time of receipt of bids in the portal	: 17.00 hrs. of dt.20.09.2019
6. Date and Time of opening of Bids	: 11.00 hours of dt.26.09.2019
7. Name and address of the Officer Inviting Bid.	: Executive Engineer, P.H.Division, Baripada -757002, Odisha. Phone - 06792252682. e-mail : <a href="mailto:eephbapriada2016@gmail.com">eephbapriada2016@gmail.com</a>

  
Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal "<https://www.tendersodisha.gov.in>".  
Sd/-  
Executive Engineer, P.H.Division, Baripada.  
13016/11/0001/1920

**FACT THE FERTILISERS AND CHEMICALS TRAVANCORE LIMITED**  
PIONEERS IN PROGRESS (A Govt. of India Enterprises)  
CENTRALISED MATERIALS, PD ADMINISTRATIVE BUILDING, UDOVGAMANDAL, COCHIN, KERALA- 683 501  
Tel. (0484) - 256 8273, 256 8260 / 254 5196, E-mail: [julian@facttd.com](mailto:julian@facttd.com), [vsree@facttd.com](mailto:vsree@facttd.com), Website: <http://www.facttd.co.in>  
**E-Tender for Clearing, Handling & Transportation of Bagged Products at various Rail heads in Tamilnadu**  
(ENQUIRY NO. MM/VS/E2104 dtd. 19-08-2019)  
Online Bids are invited through <https://eprocure.gov.in> portal for undertaking the work of Clearing, handling and transportation of bagged products at various Rail Heads (RH) in Tamilnadu for a period of 2 years, through <https://eprocure.gov.in> portal. Any change / Extensions to this tender will be informed only through our website / CPP e-procurement portal and will not be published in newspapers.  
Due date/ time for submission of bids: 05.09.2019/ 03.00 p.m.  
Sd/-  
Asst. General Manager (Materials) T&S

**सेन्ट्रल माईन प्लानिंग एंड डिजाईन इंस्टीट्यूट लिमिटेड**  
**CENTRAL MINE PLANNING & DESIGN INSTITUTE LIMITED**  
(A Subsidiary of Coal India Ltd.)  
Gondwana Place, Kanke Road, Ranchi-834031, Jharkhand, India  
Phone - +91-0651-2232637, Fax No. +91-0651-2230875  
Website <http://www.cmpdi.co.in> & <http://www.eprocure.gov.in/cpp>  
**GLOBAL TENDER:** For Outsourcing of Coal exploration in -  
(I) TANGARDIHI EAST BLOCK, Ib Valley Coalfield, Jharsuguda District, Odisha &  
(II) TANGARDIHI BLOCK, Ib Valley Coalfield, Sundergarh District, Odisha  
CMPDI intends to offer outsourcing of Coal Exploration through **CIL Portal** in the following blocks :  
(i) 2-D Seismic Survey along with Detailed Coal Exploration in Tangardihi East Block, Ib Valley Coalfield, Jharsuguda District in the state of Odisha &  
(ii) 2-D Seismic Survey along with Promotional Coal Exploration in Tangardihi Block, Ib Valley Coalfield, Sundergarh District in the state of Odisha  
The complete NIT, General Terms & Condition, Letter of Bid and Bill of Quantity can be seen and downloaded from <http://www.coalindiatenders.nic.in> from 21.08.2019 onwards. Office of the General Manager (Exploration) may be contacted for details/ clarification on Phone on any working day between 10.00 Hrs to 17.30 Hrs (IST) or through mail ([gmexpl.cmpdi@coalindia.in](mailto:gmexpl.cmpdi@coalindia.in)) or Fax.  
**Ranchi 21.08.2019**  
On and behalf of **CMPDIL**  
General Manager (Exploration)



# Italian PM resigns, denounces Salvini for sinking government

Giuseppe Conte says his Interior Minister is harming nation for political gain

REUTERS  
ROME

Italy's Prime Minister announced his resignation on Tuesday as he made a blistering attack on his own Interior Minister, Matteo Salvini, accusing him of sinking the ruling coalition and endangering the economy for personal and political gain.

Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte, addressing Parliament after it was recalled from its summer recess to decide the future of the 14-month-old government, accused League party chief Mr. Salvini of seeking to cash in on his rising popularity.

## Serious risks

"(Salvini) has shown that he is following his own interests and those of his party," Mr. Conte told a packed Senate, a stony-faced Mr. Salvini sitting by his side. "His decisions pose serious risks for this country."

He described the actions



Political crisis: Giuseppe Conte at the Senate in Rome. AFP

of Mr. Salvini, who declared the coalition unworkable 12 days ago and called for snap elections, as recklessness "liable to tip the country into a spiral of political uncertainty and financial instability".

Mr. Conte, who belongs to neither of the coalition's two parties, said he would hand in his resignation later in the day, allowing the head of State to start consultations with parties to see if a new coalition can be formed.

Failing that, President Sergio Mattarella would have to dissolve Parliament, three and a half years ahead of schedule, a move that could trigger elections as early as the autumn.

Financial markets rallied on Mr. Conte's resignation, seemingly hopeful that snap polls could be avoided amid reports the ruling 5-Star Movement might seek an alliance with the centre-left opposition Democratic Party.

Mr. Salvini at times shook his head, rolled his eyes or nodded to League senators as the Prime Minister accused him of being "irresponsible", "reckless", "alarming" and "disrespectful".

## Full powers

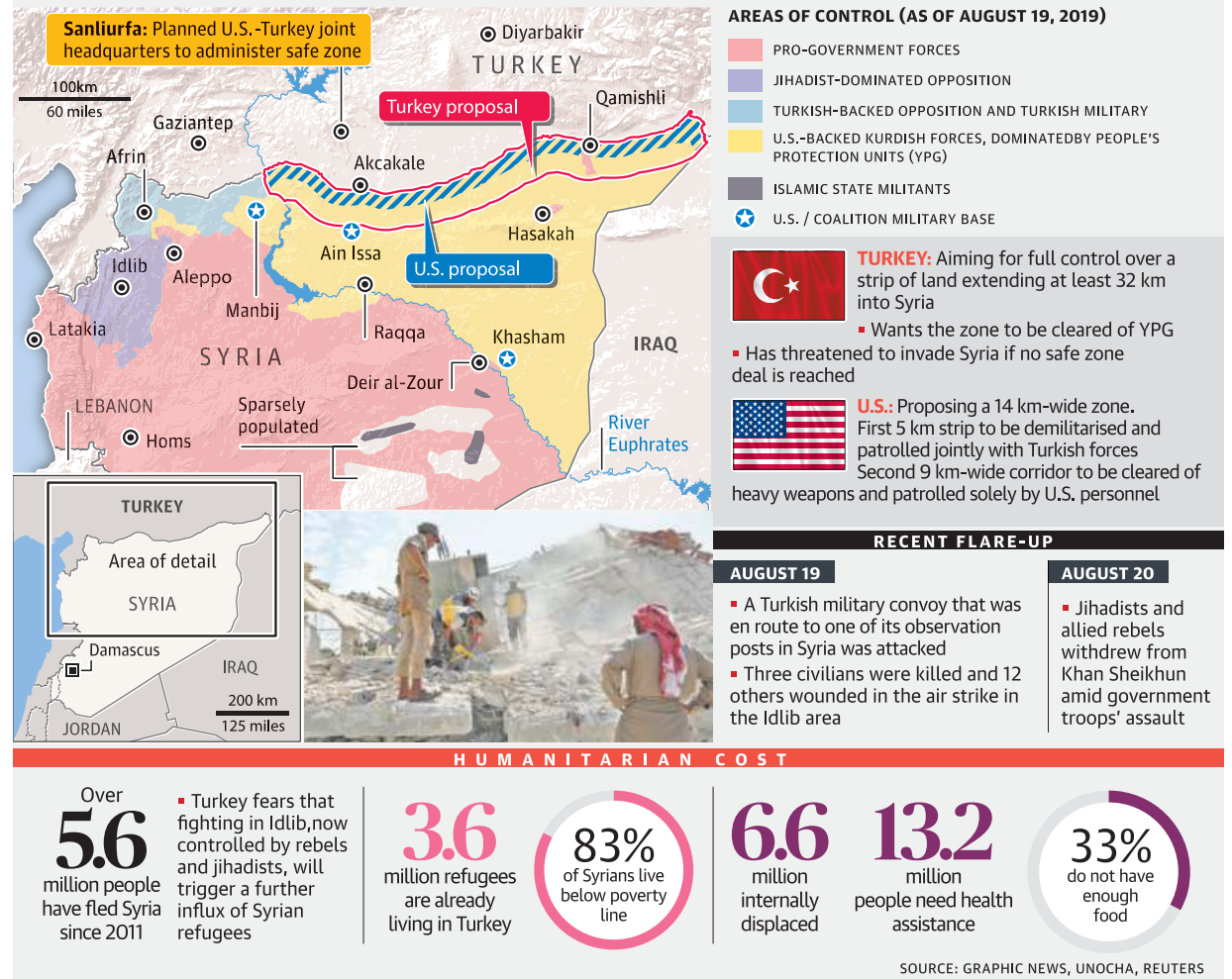
Mr. Conte said he was worried by Mr. Salvini's threat to call people into the country's squares if his drive for elections were thwarted, as well as his demand for "full powers".

"We do not need men who have 'full powers', but people who have institutional culture and a sense of responsibility," he said in an hour-long speech in which he also denounced Mr. Salvini's habit of brandishing the cross at his political rallies.

Mr. Salvini rejected Mr. Conte's comments, saying other parties were afraid of going to elections and losing their influence.

# A 'safe zone' on the Syria-Turkey border?

The U.S. and Turkey are planning to establish a "safe area" in northern Syria for refugees fleeing conflict in the war-torn country



# U.S. mulls steps to boost economy

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE  
WASHINGTON

The White House is considering cutting taxes or reversing tariffs to head off a recession, U.S. media reported on Monday, despite President Donald Trump's insistence the economy was in rude health.

Senior White House officials are mulling several moves to stimulate the economy, including temporarily cutting the payroll tax to increase workers' monthly take-home pay, *The Washington Post* reported.

Also under consideration

is reversing new tariffs the Trump administration imposed on Chinese goods, according to *The New York Times*.

The discussion is still in the early stages, and officials have not brought up the idea with Mr. Trump, who would have to seek approval from Congress, the newspapers said.

The White House disputed the reports in a statement to the *Post*, saying "cutting payroll taxes is not something under consideration at this time."

Mr. Trump on Sunday

pushed back against talk of a looming recession after a raft of U.S. data reports last week gave a mixed outlook for the economy.

"I'm prepared for everything. I don't think we're having a recession. We're doing tremendously well," Mr. Trump told reporters.

"And most economists actually say that we're not going to have a recession," he added.

Earlier on Monday, a survey was released showing that a majority of economists expect a U.S. recession in the next two years.

# IS is regaining strength in Iraq and Syria

Group is carrying out guerilla attacks, retooling financial networks just five months after it was ousted

ERIC SCHMITT  
ALISSA J. RUBIN  
WASHINGTON

Five months after U.S.-backed forces ousted the Islamic State from its last shard of territory in Syria, the terrorist group is gathering new strength, conducting guerilla attacks across Iraq and Syria, retooling its financial networks and targeting new recruits at an allied-run tent camp, U.S. and Iraqi military and intelligence officers said.

Though President Donald

Trump hailed a total defeat of the Islamic State this year, defence officials in the region see things differently, acknowledging that what remains of the terrorist group is here to stay.

A recent report warned that a drawdown this year from 2,000 U.S. forces in Syria to less than half that, ordered by Mr. Trump, has meant the U.S. military has had to cut back on its support for Syrian partner forces fighting the Islamic State.

Although there is little concern that the IS will reclaim its former physical territory, a caliphate that was once the size of Britain and controlled the lives of up to 12 million people, the terror group has still mobilised as many as 18,000 remaining fighters in Iraq and Syria.

## Huge war chest

These sleeper cells and strike teams have carried out sniper attacks, ambushes, kidnappings and assassina-

tions against security forces and community leaders.

The IS can still tap a large war chest of as much as \$400 million, which either has been hidden in Iraq and Syria or smuggled into neighbouring countries for safekeeping. It is also believed to have invested in businesses, including fish farming, car dealing and cannabis growing. And the group uses extortion to finance clandestine operations. Farmers in northern Iraq who refuse to

pay have had their crops burned to the ground.

During the past several months, IS has made inroads into a sprawling tent camp in northeast Syria, and there is no ready plan to deal with the 70,000 people there, including thousands of family members of IS fighters. U.S. intelligence officials say the Al Hol camp, run by Syrian Kurdish allies, is evolving into a hotbed of IS ideology and a breeding ground for future terrorists. NY TIMES

## ELSEWHERE



### Criticism over army chief unwarranted: Sri Lanka

COLOMBO  
Sri Lanka on Tuesday brushed aside as "unwarranted and unacceptable" international criticism of its decision to name Shavendra Silva, 55, a war veteran accused of human rights violations, as its army chief. REUTERS

### Brazil bus hijacker, armed with toy gun, shot dead

RIO DE JANEIRO  
A hijacker armed with what turned out to be a toy gun was shot dead by police in Rio de Janeiro on Tuesday after he held a busload of passengers hostage for several hours on a bridge in peak-hour traffic. AFP

# 'China backing discord campaign in Hong Kong'

Twitter and Facebook suspend accounts linked to campaign that targeted pro-democracy movement

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE  
HONG KONG

Twitter and Facebook have accused the Chinese government of backing a social media campaign to discredit Hong Kong's pro-democracy movement and sow political discord in the city.

The American tech giants announced on Monday they had suspended nearly 1,000 active accounts linked to the campaign. Twitter said it had shut down about 2,00,000 more before they could inflict any damage.

"These accounts were deliberately and specifically attempting to sow political discord in Hong Kong, including undermining the legitimacy and political positions of the protest move-



Writing on the wall: Students looking at a wall decorated with sticky notes supporting the Hong Kong protests. REUTERS

ment on the ground," Twitter said, referring to the accounts it shut down.

## Smear posts

Facebook said some of the posts from accounts it banned compared the prot-

esters in Hong Kong with Islamic State militants, branded them "cockroaches" and alleged that they planned to kill people using slingshots.

Hong Kong is in the grip of an unprecedented political crisis that has seen millions

of people take to the streets demanding greater freedoms.

China's communist rulers have warned they may be prepared to deploy force to quell the nearly three months of unrest, and likened violent protesters to "terrorists".

## Reliable evidence

The Chinese government is seeking to sway public opinion about Hong Kong, according to Twitter and Facebook.

"We have reliable evidence to support that this is a coordinated State-backed operation," Twitter said.

Twitter and Facebook are banned in China, part of the government's so-called

"Great Firewall" of censorship. Because of the bans, many of the fake accounts were accessed using "virtual private networks" that give a deceptive picture of the user's location, Twitter said.

"However, some accounts accessed Twitter from specific unblocked IP addresses originating in mainland China," it said.

Facebook said it had acted on a tip-off from Twitter, removing seven pages, three groups and five Facebook accounts that had about 15,500 followers.

Asked in Beijing about the closure of the accounts, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Geng Shuang said: "I am not aware of the specific situation."

# Malaysia bans Zakir Naik from public activities

He apologises for his racist remarks

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
KUALA LUMPUR

Zakir Naik on Tuesday apologised to Malaysians for making racist comments, after the radical televangelist was grilled for 10 hours by police. He has been banned from any public activities in the multi-ethnic country.

The official Bernama news agency reported that Naik, wanted by Indian authorities since 2016 for alleged money laundering and inciting extremism through hate speeches, issued an apology for the hurt caused by his controversial remarks against Malaysian Hindus and Chinese during a talk on August 8. Malaysian Prime Minister

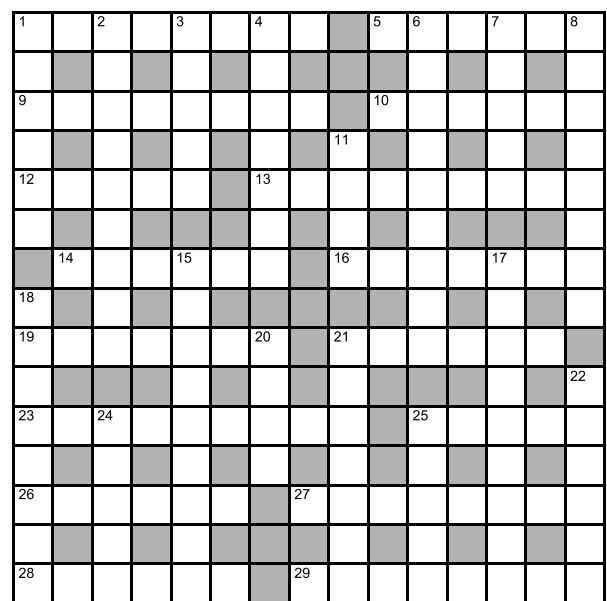


Zakir Naik

Mahathir Bin Mohamad Mahathir on Sunday said it was "quite clear" that Naik wanted to participate in racial politics.

"He is stirring up racial feelings. The police will have to investigate whether it is causing tension; obviously, it is," he said.

## THE HINDU CROSSWORD 12710



- (set by Lightning)
- Clever bishop's tirade about hostile institute (9)
  - Ninja guards withheld animal (6)
  - Instrument to smuggle ecstasy with ocean herb (7)
  - Electronic design is delicate (7)
  - Hundred and two engineers getting away to Java, maybe? (6)
  - Kit a valet misplaced being chatty (9)
  - Departed consuming first tropical refreshment (5)
  - Screen document covering temperature resistance (6)
  - Buy large net, building equipment primarily to get chemical substance (8)
  - European breaking box to build (6)
  - Perhaps a shot of energy thus protecting force? (8)
  - Caught at fight beside public house with iron rod (7)
  - Essentially searching for a river eel distributed in underwater ecosystem (5, 4)
  - Drink tea following medical officer (5)
  - Musical symbols a tenor included in principle (8)
  - Tax he removed with old statesman (4)
  - Capable of joining with one, set off via tunnel (9)
  - Well-organised, passed net with proficiency (9)
  - Hit provided one with century, expressing supreme happiness (8)
  - Leave former lover with appeal (4)
  - Attache questioned smuggling bills for exchanging money (7)
  - Engineering other changes for this purpose (6)
  - Not doing well in the French city (5)
  - Covering segment of play erratically (5)

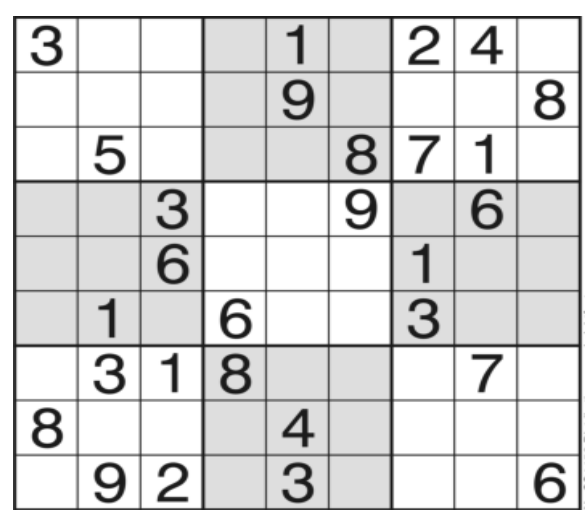
## ACROSS

- Liberal parting financial return for sound recording (8)
- Sharp male supplanted Tesla with new and keen insight (6)
- One that runs musical show on a hill (8)
- Curtailed prank to return knitted fabric (6)
- Nearly produce electromotive force with salt solution (5)

## DOWN

- Nationalist leaving ring with black oriental bird (6)
- US native with ordinary beverage (9)
- Idle for the most part, entering engineering degree, show great emotion (5)

## SUDOKU



DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★☆☆☆

## Solution to puzzle 12709

G	D	F	R	B	B	M		
D	O	Z	E	O	I	L	E	R
O	A	O	O	O	R	I		
E	D	I	T	E	D	N	E	C
H	I	D	C	E				
D	I	S	R	A	E	L	I	O
R	O	E	L	L	U			
D	A	G	O	O	D	D	I	T
T	H	E	D	O	I	D	G	L
W	E	D	E	O	I	D	G	L
A	E	R	O	N	A	U	T	C
R	W	I	S	A	W	R		
K	I	S	S	D	A	I	S	E
N	Y	S	E	S	D	N		

## Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

8	3	7	9	5	6	2	4	1
9	5	4	1	2	3	8	6	7
6	2	1	4	7	8	5	9	3
2	7	9	5	3	1	4	8	6
3	6	5	2	8	4	1	7	9
4	1	8	7	6	9	3	2	5
5	8	2	3	9	7	6	1	4
1	9	6	8	4	5	7	3	2
7	4	3	6	1	2	9	5	8



## Is your learning and development strategy tested?

Two HR professionals on why internal training programmes should have a built-in mechanism to assess their effectiveness

LIFFY THOMAS

### 'A training programme is just the beginning, and not the end'

Training programmes should be outcome-driven. So, a mechanism to assess the impact of a training programme should be built into it.

Jacob Jesuroon, head - People Function, Access Healthcare, points out that the assessment should be taken step-by-step, and he illustrates the idea with one of the training systems followed at his company.

Step one: The immediate response to a training programme. When a training programme has been completed, feedback is sought from the participating employees about the trainer, training content and training environment.

Step two: The effectiveness of a training programme is gauged from how much it has improved workaday behaviour. "So, after the training is done, we have 30 days of on-the-job coaching, which is es-

**Line managers have to ensure their team members are upskilled from time to time and are growing internally**

essentially about observing the extent of behaviour and capability improvement of employees. Wherever necessary, the trainer works with the participants to ensure that lessons taught during the training are reiterated," says Jesuroon.

If the trainer had identified any specific need for the employee, 45 days of

personalised coaching is provided to them. Following this, they are issued a certificate.

Jesuroon says, "It takes time to exhibit competitiveness, so we measure the overall effectiveness of a training initiative at the 120th day. We are happy seeing any improvement above 20% and a continuous learning attitude," says Jesuroon.

Out-come metrics of an effective supervisor training programme are: managing their team, providing for a productive work environment, empowering their team, and providing employees with the right career opportunities in the organisation.

Another indicator of effective supervisor programme is the happiness quotient of the team members, measured every day through an internally developed app called "Happiness Meter."

Jesuroon says that it is the job of line managers to support the career goals of employees. "Line managers have to ensure their team members are up-



ILLUSTRATION: SEBASTIAN FRANCIS

### Bridging the gap between learning and performance

skilled from time to time and are growing internally," says Jesuroon, adding that they insist that at least 70% of the members in a team are promoted once in two years.

Reliance Nippon Life Asset Management Limited runs what it calls 'CEOs Club', a talent pool development programme that is aimed at

grooming future leaders internally.

As part of this programme, every two years, 50 top-performing employees from the 300 loca-

tions of the company are selected for a two-year programme.

This elite group is taken through various developmental initiatives and men-

**Internal talent development programmes will help identify leaders who understand the culture of the organisation very well**

tored by the top leadership. They also get cross-functional exposure and opportunity to work on live projects. So, learning and performance are seamlessly woven together.

"This year's, KPI (Key Performance Indicator) for sales team was developed by members of the CEO Club themselves," says Rajesh Derhagawen, chief human resources officer, Reliance Nippon Life Asset Management Limited.

Career progression is another factor that determines the success of development programmes. "From the last three batches, we have had 18 regional heads and five fund managers. Besides, national positions have been filled by talent from the CEOs Club," says Derhagawen, adding that 50% of key roles got filled this way in the last financial year.

Besides savings for the company, this internal talent development programme helps identify leaders who understand the culture of the organisation very well and can therefore be effective from day one onwards, says Derhagawen.

### 'Employer reputation is a key factor'

More than 70% of job-seekers will not apply for a post if there is no information about a company's employer reputation online, a survey by job-site Indeed has said.

A vast majority (97%) of job aspirants in the country consider it essential to have an insight into a company's "employer reputation" while considering a new job opportunity, the survey says.

Close to 95% of job-seekers consider it important to have access to up-to-date information about a company while evaluating it. More than 65% of the respondents said they would automatically distrust the company if there was no information about its "employer's reputation".

Employer reputation is one of the key factors that are considered by job-seekers while deciding on which companies to apply to.

When it comes to belief in the genuineness of job postings, 72% of the employees said that they would not consider a job opportunity real, if there was no information about a company's employer reputation available online, the survey said.

The survey also revealed that the employees' focus went beyond salary and employment perks, career prospects and stability.

It said "63% of job-seekers have said online company reviews by current and former-employees would be the most important factor when trying to decide whether to apply for a role at a company."

The survey said that almost two-thirds (65%) of the respondents said their perception of a company would become more positive if an employer responded to a negative review online.

## '42% of the companies struggle with sourcing quality tech talent'

PTI

Digital transformation may be sweeping across domains, but finding talent is a challenge for companies, says a report by Mercer Mettl titled "Tech Hiring and Technology Adoption Trends 2019".

For 42% of the companies that have been surveyed, sourcing top-tech candidates was the biggest challenge in recruitment.

The report is based on a survey of 350 industry leaders from over 200 companies of different sizes.

According to the report, one-fifth (20%) of the respondents cited the time taken to close a tech position as the primary reason for the potential engagement to fall through.

The report further reveals that a competitor firm offering better pay package constituted more than half of the reasons (60%) for a candidate to decline a job offer.

Recruiters also reported that they have conducted re-hiring exercises for the same position 23% of the times in a financial year, it says.

The main reasons (85%) for a candidate accepting a job offer include pay and quality of work.

Regarding the channels used by tech recruiters to source candidates, more than one-fifth (23%) of the respondents say they depend on employee referrals while 22% used job portals and forums.

On the other hand, organ-



REPRESENTATIONAL PICTURE

**The Mercer Mettl report is based on a survey of 350 industry leaders from over 200 companies of different sizes.**

isations (12%) that conducted campus hiring reported of having the highest success rate by closing tech positions 67% of the time, it says.

While evaluating candidates, proficiency in the required tech skills was the top criterion for 20% of the organisations, while 18% of them tested the candidates with the objective of upskilling them, whenever necessary.

In this case, cognitive ability and learning agility formed the basis for evaluation, it adds.

### NEWS BYTES

#### Recruitment drive in Nagpur

HCL has planned a mega recruitment drive in Nagpur on August 24 and 25. Engineering, non-engineering and diploma students as well as students who have completed their Class XII exams can take part in the drive.

According to a press re-

lease, HCL started its business operations in Nagpur in April 2018 and has more than 800 employees servicing global accounts. It plans to increase the headcount at the Delivery Centre.

\*\*\*

#### Summit on new technologies

The 5th edition of Data Platform Summit (DPS) 2019, a conference focusing on da-

ta, analytics, artificial intelligence and cloud technologies, will be held in Bengaluru from August 22 to 24. According to a press release, the summit organised by Data Platform Geeks (DPG) will feature sessions, round tables and technology tracks. Subject matter experts from 21 countries will discuss new-age technology.

Data Science including Artificial Intelligence and Ma-

chine Learning, Business Intelligence and Advanced Analytics, Database Administration, Database Development, Cloud, IoT and NoSQL, Big Data and Open Source will be the focus of the summit. DPG is a global community of Data, Analytics and AI professionals with more than 3,00,000 members from 121 countries, the release adds.

For registrations, log on to [www.dps10.com](http://www.dps10.com).

### GENERAL



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#### IMPORTANT DATES

Commencement of online application : 19<sup>th</sup> August 2019

Last date of online application : 16<sup>th</sup> September 2019

Note : Advertisement released in Aug 2018 for the recruitment of Refinery Engineers, R&D Professionals, Fire & Safety Officer, QC Officers, Law Officers, Chess-Players stands cancelled. For further details please visit our website.



### GENERAL

#### Banks Board Bureau

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Secretary

Banks Board Bureau

NOTE: Further details including corrigendum, if any, will be published only on the Bureau's website.







IN BRIEF



**IL&FS case: no interim relief for Deloitte, BSR**

**NEW DELHI**  
The National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT) on Tuesday declined to give any interim relief to auditing firms Deloitte Haskins & Sells LLP and BSR Associates LLP with regard to a ban imposed on them in the IL&FS case. The NCLAT Mumbai will continue its scheduled hearing in the case of their alleged role in the IL&FS fraud matter, a three-member bench headed by Chairperson Justice S.J. Mukhopadhyaya said.

**Wipro partners with IISc on robotics, 5G**

**BENGALURU**  
Wipro announced a strategic partnership with the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) to conduct advanced applied research in autonomous systems, robotics and 5G. They have jointly set up the Wipro IISc Research and Innovation Network (WIRIN), a hybrid industry-academia collaboration unit, which will drive idea discovery, research and innovation in technology and product design, said the company.

**Dr. Reddy's launches generic anticonvulsant**

**HYDERABAD**  
Dr. Reddy's Laboratories has launched Vigabatrin Powder for Oral Solution, USP, an anticonvulsant, in the U.S.. A therapeutic equivalent generic version of Sabril (vigabatrin), the product has been launched with the USFDA approval. The Sabril brand and generic had U.S. sales of approximately \$274 million in moving annual total for the twelve months ended June 2019, the company said in a release.

# Tyre-maker TVS Srichakra unveils Eurogrip

Products to meet needs of millennial customers; company plans to enter new export markets

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
CHENNAI**

Leading two- and three-wheeler tyre manufacturer, TVS Srichakra Ltd., on Tuesday, announced the launch of TVS Eurogrip, a brand targeted at meeting the needs of the millennial customer. It also unveiled a new identity and a logo.

Under the TVS Eurogrip umbrella, the company launched a portfolio of 19 premium tyres that include zero-degree steel belted radial tyres.

These tyres will be produced in the two TVS Srichakra plants and cater to vehicles ranging from 70cc mopeds to 500cc super-bikes.

"India will remain a promising market for two-wheelers and we see tremen-



P. Vijayaraghavan, director, (left) and P. Srinivasavaradhan, president, TVS Srichakra, at the launch. ■BIJOY GHOSH

dous growth opportunity... TVS Eurogrip will cater to the needs and requirements of the new-age Indian rider," said P. Vijayaraghavan, director, TVS Srichakra. Over the next six months,

TVS Tyres (the existing brand) would get merged with TVS Eurogrip, according to P. Madhavan, executive vice-president, sales and marketing. Mr. Madhavan also said

**The firm has hired specialists to help understand global trends in tyre technology**

the company had established an R&D centre in Milan some 7-8 months ago.

The company had hired specialists to help understand international trends in the tyre technology space.

Meanwhile, replacement sales and exports have helped the company to buck the current slowdown in the automobile industry.

**Aftermarket sales up**  
"Our OEM sales have been coming down in the line with the slowdown in the automobile sector. However, the aftermarket sales is steadily

climbing.

"Exports are also growing rapidly. As far as exports are concerned, we are planning to enter new geographies and expand in existing geographies," said P. Srinivasavaradhan, president, TVS Srichakra Ltd.

Asserting that the tyre industry did not feel the current impact of the economic slowdown like original equipment manufacturers (OEMs) did, he called it a 'temporary phase'.

Pointing out that he had been witness to three-four recessions and that the 2007-08 recession had an impact on the tyre sector, Mr. Srinivasavaradhan said the long-term strategy of the company was to invest during a recession and consistently outgrow the market.

# Srei Equipment to raise ₹100 crore via NCDs

Issue proposed to be listed on BSE

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
KOLKATA**

Srei Equipment Finance Limited, a wholly owned subsidiary of Srei Infrastructure Finance Limited, is proposing to come out with a public issue of secured, redeemable, non-convertible debentures with ₹1,000 face value each, to raise ₹100 crore.

It has the option to retain oversubscription of up to ₹400 crore, totalling up to ₹500 crore. The issue is currently open and closes on September 18, the company said in a statement.

The NCDs have a credit rating of 'BWR AA' with 'negative' outlook by Brickwork Ratings India Private Limited and 'Acutie AA-' by Acuite Ratings and Re-

search. Instruments with such ratings are considered to have a high degree of safety regarding timely servicing of financial obligations and carry low risk, the company said in the statement.

A company spokesperson said that the negative outlook pertained to that of the sector and not that of the company.

**10.65% per annum**  
The highest coupon is 10.65% per annum for a 5-year tenor. The lowest rate is 10.1% for one year.

The issue is proposed to be listed on the BSE. Lead managers to the tranche one issue are Karvy Investor Services Limited, SMC Capitals Limited and Srei Capital Markets Limited.

# Gold imports up 15.4% in April-July

Except for Feb., monthly growth in 2019 in double digits

**PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NEW DELHI**

The country's gold imports, which have a bearing on the current account deficit (CAD), increased by 15.4% to \$13.16 billion (about ₹92,000 crore) during the April-July period of the current fiscal, according to Commerce Ministry data.

Imports of the yellow metal stood at \$11.41 billion (about ₹80,000 crore) in the same period of 2018-19.

CAD, which is the difference between the inflow and outflow of foreign exchange, increased to \$57.2 billion or 2.1% of GDP in 2018-19 as against 1.8% in the previous year.

It stood at \$48.7 billion in 2017-18.

Since January this year, gold imports have recorded



trade deficit and CAD, the government increased the import duty on gold to 12.5% from 10% in this year's budget.

**High duty impact**

According to industry experts, there are apprehensions that sectoral players may shift their manufacturing bases to neighbouring countries due to high import duty on gold in India.

The Gems and Jewellery Export Promotion Council (GJEPC) had expressed disappointment over the hike in import duty.

Gems and jewellery exports declined 5.32% to \$30.96 billion in 2018-19.

The country's gold imports dipped about 3% in value terms to \$32.8 billion during 2018-19.

a double-digit growth, except in February, when it dipped by about 11%.

India is the largest importer of gold, which mainly caters to the demand of the jewellery industry.

**Annual import**

In volume terms, the country imports 800-900 tonnes of gold annually.

To mitigate the negative impact of gold imports on

# Maersk ropes in online trucking platform

Partnership with BlackBuck to facilitate 'seamless' container movement in India

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
BENGALURU**

Maersk, the Danish integrated container logistics firm, has roped in BlackBuck, an online marketplace for trucking.

The partnership will facilitate online container trucking solutions to tie up both the export and import ends of logistics. Maersk and BlackBuck would jointly address key industry challenges around demand-supply visibility, real-time tracking and improving asset utilisation by creating better network visibility for customers, the company said.

The partnership is expected to amplify Maersk's efforts towards accelerating innovation in the logistics space, enabling trade and supporting the vision of be-



coming the global integrator of container logistics.

**'Fragmented vendors'**

Speaking at a media conference, Arjun Maharaj, head of sales, Maersk - South Asia, said, "Our customers are dealing with fragmented vendors with varying service levels of communication, geographical, financial & infrastructural disparities re-

**The two firms will jointly address key challenges around demand-supply visibility and real-time tracking**

sulting in suboptimal supply chains.

"At Maersk, we have committed ourselves to working with partners who understand these challenges, match our set of values and have expertise in both logistics and technology."

To speed up its digital transformation journey, Maersk has entered into collaborations with start-ups that are capable of addressing various logistics challenges pertaining to cost and efficiencies.


The Indian government has set a target to reduce lo-

gistics cost from 14% of the GDP to less than 9% by 2022.

Maersk has also launched an accelerator programme OceanPro, and digital solutions developed by start-ups here are already being implemented to accelerate technology innovation in shipping and logistics industry in India and globally.

Maersk has 29,000 customers in India. Every one out of five dry containers and every one out of four refrigerated containers is a Maersk container.

BlackBuck, an Indian start-up, claims to be the country's largest trucking network with over 3,00,000 partner trucks operating across 3,000 villages and 400 industrial and services more than 10,000 clients across industry verticals.



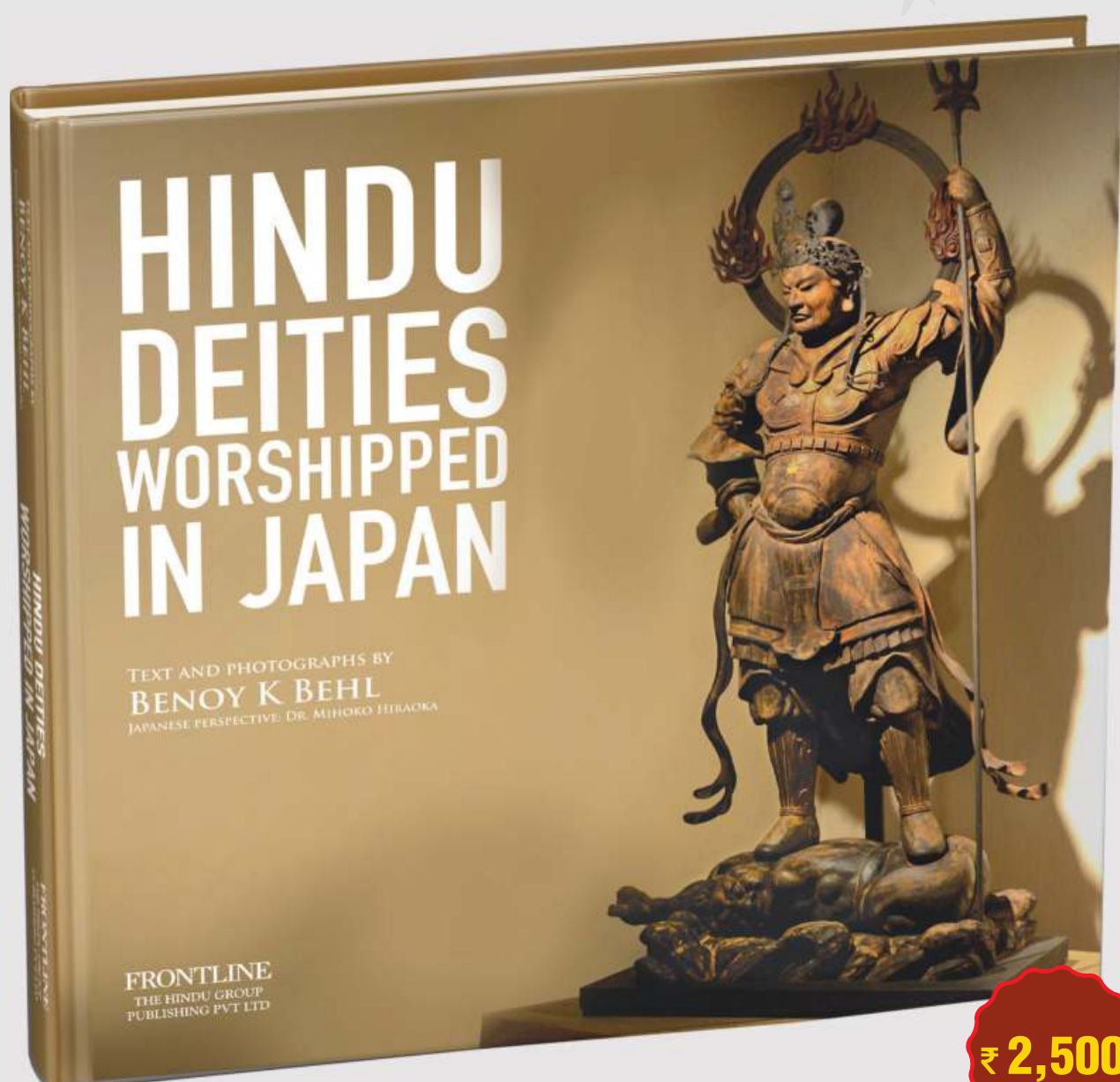
THE HINDU GROUP

**A SPECIAL PUBLICATION FROM THE HINDU GROUP**

This coffee-table book opens a window to the practice of Buddhism in Japan, right from its arrival in that country 1,000 years ago to its growth through the worship of deities of Indian origin. Benoy Behl's images illuminate the pages and present an invaluable account of Japan's links with Hinduism and with its Buddhist past

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# A step, well back in time

A new book on Delhi's stepwells, by heritage-enthusiast Vikramjit Singh Rooprai will be launched on Friday. A look into what went into its making

VANGMAYI PARAKALA

Vikramjit Singh Rooprai wants to "chuck the formal subject of history and bring in a little bit of the subject in everything" that students are taught in school - even science and mathematics. The 36-year-old Delhiite who started a company called Heritageshaala in 2017 does this just in his talks to schools and colleges.

He is a software engineer-turned marketing consultant, and is now a full-time heritage educator, quitting his job in 2016. Seven years before he made the switch, he'd started reading up on Delhi's monuments and its culture, even starting a Facebook page called The Heritage Photography Club, encouraging people to visit various sites and submit photos on the page.

On Friday, Rooprai, who's been spearheading these and many other heritage initiatives like walks around the city, will be launching his first book, called *Baolis*, published by Niyogi. This is only the first volume in a series called Delhi Heritage Top 10, which aims to be a "comprehensive guide to Delhi's heritage icons and architectural gems."

This is the first of its kind in that it exclusively focuses on the stepwells of Delhi. It is a guidebook of sorts, with Rooprai listing the capital's

32 known baolis, expanding into longer notes on each of his top 10, including details of their location and accessibility.

Ahead of the launch, he talks about how he got into and taught himself about his city's heritage, and the research that went into this book.

Edited excerpts.

**In [historian] Sohail Hashmi's forward to your book, he ends with the thought that restoration of Delhi's stepwells might help in replenishing its water-table. You however, are more sceptical about this. Why?**

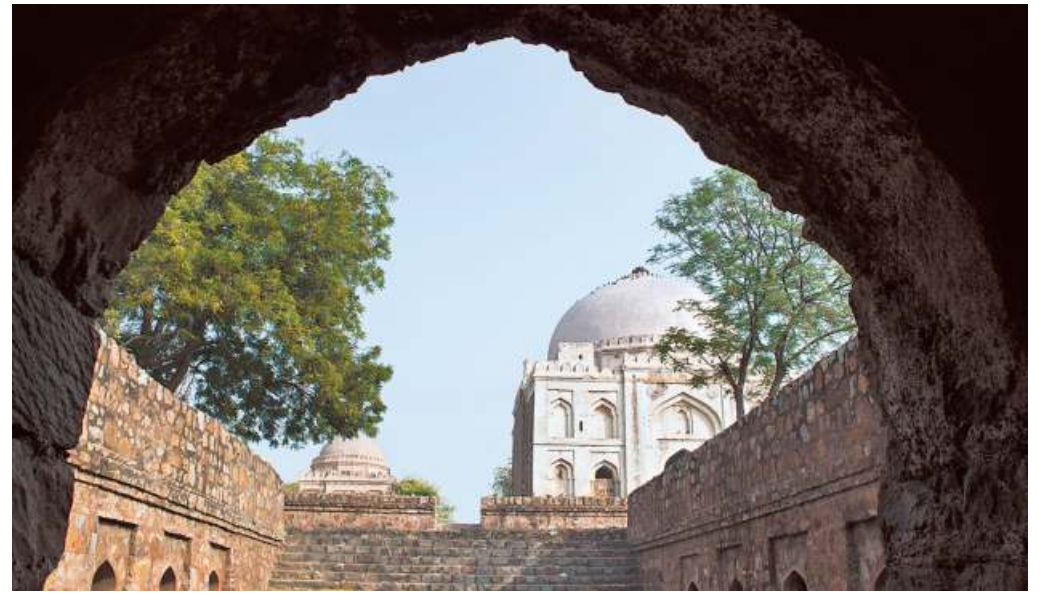
What I feel is that while it is possible to recharge the water table, I just think it isn't easy. The amount of political will required for this...and then you have to deal with the builder mafia, etc. Also people who've been able to buy even a small piece of land to build their houses after decades of hard work - and now you're asking them to modify their structures or land use? Major structural changes on 30, 40, 50-year-old homes are not easy - or cheap. This requires a bigger movement, something as big as the 1857 revolt, where the entire country was shook.

**You had to learn Urdu to continue your research. When did you start, how long did it take you?**

I started learning Urdu in 2013. I went online, a friend tried to teach me too,



**Time travel in the city** (Clockwise from top) Vikramjit Rooprai; a view from the Munirka Baoli; at the Red Fort Baoli; and below, a view of the Rajon ki Baoli • VIKRAMJIT SINGH ROOPRAI AND SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT



but that wasn't too efficient because I was not regular. Then, I joined the Zabaan School for Languages in Kalkaji for a four-class crash-course. That really helped. After that, I purchased a lot of books in Urdu and started reading them. In total it took me about 4-6 months to read a sentence in a flow. It's been 3-4 years now, but I can do it slowly.

**You mention that you had dipped into archival material in Japanese too.**

Yes. There is one book [Delhi, architectural remains of the Delhi Sultanate period], and it's probably the biggest treasure on Delhi's built-heritage, done by Tatsuro Yamamoto, Matsuo Ara, Tokifusa Tsukinowa, and Taichi Oshima, who were students at the University of Tokyo in the 1950s [published in 1970]. It was recently digitized, and you can use Google



Translate to read it. There are beautiful pictures - the authors had apparently left copies with various individuals and libraries around here, but only a few remain. One with [historian] Prof. Narayani Gupta and a couple copies at the Central Archaeological Library.

**In your book, you mention the first time that you went to Rajon ki Baoli [in Mehrauli Archaeological Park], along with the exact date of visit too. Can you recall the visit?**

There was a point when I thought, 'I've travelled to a lot of places through India, but knew nothing about Delhi'. Which is when I demarcated Delhi into north, south, east, west, and decided to use my weekends to explore these sections in detail.

When I reached Satpula, I was mesmerised. From there, I went to the Mehrauli Archaeological Park and came to the Rajon ki Baoli. At that time, the Jamali Kamali mosque was open too - what we saw inside...*jaise pairon ke neeche se zameen kisak gayi*. It's just so beautiful.

The common refrain when I asked around for more details about these places is 'the government doesn't do anything for them.' So I figured I'd do something - which is when I started promoting the place. For one entire year, I would return to Mehrauli Archaeological Park every other weekend. I

tried to document almost every piece of stone I saw. Even today, I end up finding something new there each time I visit.

**You've used photos from ASI archives. How easy or hard is it, as a lay person who's interested in Delhi heritage, to access this?**

It's very easy. All you need to do is go to their library, which is open and free for the public, and tell them you want to see these drawings, or books. I just wrote to them, and spent about three months at their photo archives. But this is limited to only monuments under the ASI - which is 174 monuments. Not all the baolis come under ASI protected structures. So the conjectural site plans you see in the book [other than the Ferrozshah Kotla Baoli] have been done by my former colleague at Heritageshaala, Nupur Bhatnagar, who is an architect.

**Similarly, there are quite a few baolis listed in the book that require ASI permission to visit. Is it easy to get this permission?**

They're very responsive. You just have to write to the head of the Delhi circle, or the Director General of ASI. Depending on what you want to do there, they can grant or deny you permission. If your motive is merely tourism, it might be hard to get because some of the structures are fragile or risky to be opened up to the stream of general pu-

## OTHER NOTABLE BOOKS ON INDIA'S STEPWELLS

**THE QUEEN'S STEPWELL AT PATAN** by academic Kirit Mankodi, back in the early '90s, provided insight into the restoration of the Rani ki Vav in Gujarat

**STEPS TO WATER: THE ANCIENT STEPWELLS OF INDIA**

by architectural photographer Morna Livingston in 2002 gave a birds-eye view into these structures across India

**THE VANISHING STEPWELLS OF INDIA** by a Chicago-based freelance journalist Victoria Lautman in 2017 recorded her travels to various stepwells in the country in a photo-book

blic. But they allow researchers, and charge commercial visitors. The fee is waived if the purpose of the commercial activity is education, as in the case of my visits for this book.

**Many parts of your book, while being traditionally informative in tone, talk conjecturally too. Was this ever an editorial problem with your publishers?**

My editors didn't interfere with the subject matter at all. But Sohail [Hashmi] sir and I went through many iterations to check for factual discrepancies. I gave him my manuscript in the last week of November 2018. We got to the final draft only in mid-March. There was a lot of cross-questioning and debating the information in the book.

We encountered so many errors - not due to me, but there were historical and archiving errors that have changed the course of narratives. For example, the baoli that's recently in the news, the one in Humayun's Tomb that's to be revamped - Maulvi Zafar Hasan spells its name as "Mihir Banu" in his English listing. Sohail sir pointed out that this doesn't make sense, and that it's probably "Meher Bano". But when I looked this up further, it turned out it's actually named after Meherban Agha [a eunuch who built a fruit and vegetable market nearby during the reign of Emperor Jahangir]. There are so many such things that have been distorted with time.

## FOOD REVIEW

# I'll take this table, please

Plum by Bent Chair Lutyens is Delhi in a nutshell: everything's over the top, and you can walk in, and buy it all, except the real estate

SUNALINI MATHEW

Concept stores are having a moment. As are immersive experiences, collaborations, online furniture shopping, and 'Asian' cuisine. In a mash-up (mish-mash) of all of these is Plum by Bent Chair Lutyens, where Bent Chair is a furniture company by daughter-father duo Natasha and Neeraj Jain that retails online, and at similar concept stores, in Mumbai, and Delhi's Aerocity.

Plum brings in the food by Priyank Sukhija, Delhi's successful mass-market restaurateur (Lord of the Drinks, Lazeez Affaire). Here's how the experience works: you walk in to art and statement pieces (about 80 pieces of furniture and 400 home décor bits), order (Pan-Asian) food which appears in mismatched crockery, and then leaf through the menu again, to see if you'd like to shop anything in the retail-restaurant space. You can check

off the animal-print upholstered, round-backed chair immediately; or the gold lip-shaped napkin holder.

**The vibe:** A little overpowering, even dark. This is your space if you can order food, while taking in plum-hued walls with faux plants cascading down from brass stands on the ceiling, poly-resin horses eerily cut in half, their heads



on one wall and body and tails on another. "Quirky" is how it's described on the menu. You'll either want to stay a long time and look at every OTT chair and table, or get the hell out - now.

**Do try:** Like most of Sukhija's places, this is not gourmet food, but the 162-dish menu is decent enough and you'll find something among the 13 divi-

sions (soups and salads, baos, burgers and so on). We had the Pork Rib With Black Rice (all sticky and earthy with flavour) and the Fermented Garlic Oil Chicken With Sticky Rice and Edamame, reasonably good. The Black Pepper Chicken, Prawns Tempura, Rock Shrimp all went well with the drinks (I tried the Elderflower and Blueberry Spritzer, which I'd do

**OTT with a side of food** Asian Duck Sliders; interiors at Plum by Bent Chair Lutyens

•SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

again). Also try the Nutella sushi, gimmicky but effective, with a banana centre, rice coloured green around, and the choco-hazelnut goo all over.

**Skip:** The healthy stuff. You're sitting in what you'd picture as a gangster's paradise - you really don't want Steamed Prawns.

**Go with:** Someone who is not easily overwhelmed by an onslaught of colour. Avoid taking kids, because there's not much space between tables.

**Space bar:** 3,000 sq ft, 80 covers

**How much?** ₹2,000 for two (sans alcohol)

**Reach:** No.22, Janpath, (above the Lexus showroom); there's valet parking and sparse public transport

## PRODUCT

### Slinging the blues

Pure Ghee, an accessories brand influenced by the colours and textiles of India, recently launched its new collection, Neel. This collection of indigo bags is inspired by the Indian monsoon. The limited edition Neel Arya Sling Shibori is made using the technique of Shibori tie-and-dye, and is enhanced with hints of hand embroidery. The leather strap adds definition. The Neel Japan Potti Indigo, a replica of the traditional Japanese drawstring purse, is made with Mashru silk, which imparts a subdued sheen. The ends of the ties are finished with handmade textile flowers.



Available on at [Puregheedesigns.com](http://Puregheedesigns.com), upwards of ₹2,450

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

## 5 EVENTS WORTH YOUR WHILE



TALK

**Academic**  
Social Works is holding a discussion Hometown Hustlers: The Age of the Polymaths. The talk will have new age polymath professionals on a panel to discuss every aspect of their twisted but rewarding journey. Speakers include architect Virkein Dhar, singer Tanya Nambiar, and historian-cum-environmentalist Pradip Krishen.  
**VENUE:** Hauz Khas Social, Near Deer Park  
**TIME:** 7 p.m. - 10 p.m.



ART

**Mixed media**  
An ongoing exhibition titled The Famous Returns is an international group art show, organised by Kalaakar Foundation. It showcases a series of modern paintings and sculptures. The participating artists include Harishankar Balothia, Laxman Kumar, Harikant Dubey, Sunil Suyal and Mala Negi.  
**VENUE:** AIFACS, 1 Rafi Marg  
**TIME:** 11 a.m. - 7 p.m.



MUSIC

**Classical performances**  
Raza Foundation is presenting the 15th edition titled Aarambh, its series of classical music and dance to promote young talent. This one-day event will feature performances like a flute recital by Rajat Prasanna, a Bharatanatyam dance by Radhika Kathal and a Kathak recital by Shipra Joshi.  
**VENUE:** Triveni Kala Sangam, Mandi House  
**TIME:** 5:30 p.m.



GIG

**Rock**  
The Piano Man Jazz Club is hosting the Indian rock band SteelRush tonight. Influenced by bands like Europe, Def Leppard, and Winger, SteelRush defines their music as a mixture of hard rock and AOR (album-oriented rock). This two-member outfit consists of Apoorv Chouhan on the vocal and Aham Saxena on the guitar.  
**VENUE:** B 6-7/22 Safdarjung Enclave Market  
**TIME:** 9 p.m. - 11:55 p.m.



FILM

**The River**  
This 1951 technicolour film is based on a novel of the same name by English author Rumer Godden. Directed by Frenchman Jean Renoir, the film eloquently contrasts the growing pains of three young women, including a British girl, living in Bengal, who in love with Captain John, an older American soldier who returns from war.  
**VENUE:** C.D. Deshmukh Auditorium, IIC  
**TIME:** 6:30 p.m.







# Prannoy prevails over Lin Dan

Makes pre-quarterfinals; Ashwini & Sikki get a walkover in opening match

## BADMINTON WORLDS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
BASEL (SWITZERLAND)

India's H.S. Prannoy stunned London Olympics gold medalist and multiple-time world champion Lin Dan in a hard-fought match to enter the pre-quarterfinals of the World badminton championships here on Tuesday.

The unseeded Indian beat the highly-decorated Chinese, seeded 11th, 21-11, 13-21, 21-7 in an hour and two minutes in the second round.

In the pre-quarterfinals, Prannoy will meet top seed Kento Momota of Japan who eased past Enrique Penalver of Spain 21-10, 21-7.



**Super show:** H.S. Prannoy was not intimidated by the reputation of the former world No. 1 Lin Dan, winning in three games. • REUTERS

## Dominant

Prannoy completely dominated the first game and led all the way after 2-2. The Indian was ahead 10-5 and then raced to 19-11 before pocketing it. In five meetings between the two, Prannoy has emerged victorious thrice.

Lin, who had also won gold in the 2008 Olympics, apart from seven World titles, roared back in the second game.

They were tied 5-5 but

from there on, the Chinese legend did not give any chance to Prannoy.

Prannoy, however, was not going to be intimidated by the reputation of the former world No. 1.

## Pulling away

The Indian reserved the best for the last and left Lin far behind after being 4-4 and wrapped up the match.

In another clash, B. Sai

Praneeth scored a 21-16, 21-15 victory over South Korea's Lee Dong Keun.

In women's doubles, Ashwini Ponappa and N. Sikki Reddy got a walkover from Chinese Taipei's Chang Ching Hui and Yang Ching Tun in their opening match.

## The results:

**Men (second round):** H.S. Prannoy bt Lin Dan (Chn) 21-11, 13-21, 21-7; B. Sai Praneeth bt Lee Dong Keun (Kor) 21-16, 21-15;

**Doubles (first round):** M.R. Ar-

jun & Shlok Ramchandran bt Tobias Kuenzi & Oliver Schaller (Sui) 21-14, 21-16; Manu Attri & B. Sumeeth Reddy bt Gicquel Thom & Labar Ronan (Fra) 21-13, 21-13; Takuto Inoue & Yuki Kaneko (Jpn) bt Arun George & Sanyam Shukla 21-18, 21-11.

**Women's doubles (first round):** Ashwini Ponappa & N. Sikki Reddy w/o Chang Ching Hui & Yang Ching Tun (Tpe).

Hsu Ya Ching & Hu Ling Fang (Tpe) bt Pooja Dandu & Sanjana Santosh 21-15, 21-14.

# Team India faces selection quandary

A difficult choice between Rohit and Rahane if it opts for a fifth bowler

## INDIA IN WI

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
COOLIDGE (ANTIGUA)

The Indian team management will be fretting on possible combinations for the first Test against the West Indies with a difficult choice between Rohit Sharma and Ajinkya Rahane if it opts for a fifth specialist bowler.

Unless India goes with a safety-first four-bowler strategy which allows both Test and ODI vice-captain to figure in the scheme of things, one of them would be cooling heels and it could be Rahane going by his wretched form in red-ball cricket.

## Moot point

The moot point will be whether the Kohli-Ravi Shastri duo goes for an additional sixth batsman or an extra bowler for the first Test starting on Thursday.

If the Indian team's think-tank employs conservative strategy, K.L. Rahul and Mayank Agarwal should be opening the innings but Rahul, it may be recalled, was dropped for the last two Test matches in Australia with Hanuma Vihari opening.

If one looks at the pattern



**Pace power:** While Ishant Sharma, right, is a certainty, Umesh Yadav's inclusion depends on the team's policy. • COURTESY BCCI

of playing XI selections, Vihari, who batted at No. 3 and scored a fifty in the warm-up game against West Indies-A, could once again open in the first Test if Rahul's poor Test record during the past one year is taken into account.

Pujara and Kohli are the two pillars at No. 3 and 4 respectively but the problem starts after that.

## Unenviable task

With Rishabh Pant expected to come in at No. 6 and Ra-

vindra Jadeja with his all-round skills bringing in the necessary balance at No. 7 in the absence of an injured Hardik Pandya, Kohli may be left with an unenviable task of putting either Rahane or Rohit on the chopping block.

The only option to include both is to go for a four-bowler strategy with three pacers in Jasprit Bumrah, Mohammed Shami, Ishant Sharma, along with R. Ashwin or Kuldeep Yadav as the lone spinner.

## Kohli a win away from Dhoni's record

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NORTH SOUND (ANTIGUA)

Virat Kohli is a win away from M.S. Dhoni's record of most victories as India Test captain.

He will get the opportunity to draw level with Dhoni when India locks horn with West Indies in the opening Test beginning here on Thursday.

Apart from taking India to the top of the Test rankings for the first time, Dhoni also led the team to 27 wins from 60 matches – the most by an Indian skipper.

His successor Kohli has 26 victories from 46 games.

There is a perception that this Indian team can take 20 wickets with four bowlers, but will Kohli take that risk in India's World Test Championship opener? Thursday will answer that question.

## Competition in Tests is up two-fold: Kohli

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NORTH SOUND (ANTIGUA)

Excited about playing in the inaugural World Test Championship, India captain Virat Kohli says the competition in the traditional format has "gone up two-fold" in recent years.

The inaugural edition will see the elite nations fight for top honours across 71 Test matches in 27 series over the next two years.

According to the star India batsman, "People have been talking about Test cricket not being relevant or dying down."

"For me, the competition has gone up two-fold the last couple of years. It's up to the players to take the challenge and go for victories."

## WI needs to work on mental aspect: Lara

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NORTH SOUND (ANTIGUA)

Brian Lara is impressed with the talent available in West Indies cricket but he wants the youngsters to work on the "mental aspect" of their game ahead of the Test series against India starting on Thursday.

Lara and Ramnaresh Sarwan have been invited by Cricket West Indies to conduct a session with the Test squad before the start of the two-match series.

"Where I feel I can make an impact is their mental approach to the game. The practical side is there for the young players but I feel mentally they can grow a little bit and learn a little bit more," Lara said.

## Rain has the final say

### DULEEP TROPHY

ASHWIN ACHAL  
BENGALURU

Rain and wet outfield continued to disrupt the Duleep Trophy match between India Green and India Blue, which ended in a dull draw at Just Cricket ground here on Tuesday.

No play was possible on the final day, much like the previous two days. Both teams shared a point each. The match witnessed only 49 overs of action on the first day, with India Blue moving to 112 for six.

The next outing, between India Red and India Blue, begins on Friday.

## Bangar stakes claim for retention

### SUPPORT STAFF

AMOL KARHADKAR  
MUMBAI

While a majority of India players took it easy in Antigua on Tuesday morning – a day after the three-day warm-up game ahead of the first Test – most of the support staff members spent a hectic morning, staking a claim for retention in an interview with the national selection panel. Sanjay Bangar, the batting coach for five years, would have been the most anxious of the lot.

Bangar interacted with M.S.K. Prasad & Co., who sat at the BCCI headquarters, through video-conferencing. While Bangar's record – along with his fellow-assistant coaches, B. Arun for bowling and R. Sridhar for fielding – is impeccable, there are murmurs of a push for a change from a camp in the India dressing room.

## Intriguing

It was intriguing that Ravi Shastri, a day after being reappointed as the head coach last week, didn't even make a mention of Bangar in an interview while highlighting the achievements of Arun and Sridhar. Shastri is also understood to have made a strong pitch for a change in batting coach –



**Anxious moments:** Incumbent Sanjay Bangar was interviewed for the post of batting coach on Tuesday. • REUTERS

and preferred an Indian for the role – during his interaction with the Cricket Advisory Committee last week.

However, it will be interesting to see if the selection panel decides to look beyond Bangar for a possible replacement from a dozen other candidates. The *Hindu* understands that whether to opt for a new batting coach will be finalised after Prasad's informal discussion with captain Kohli. Despite Shastri's reservation about him, Kohli has established an excellent rapport with Bangar.

## Front-runner

If the selectors decide for a change in guard, Vikram Rathour, the former India opener, will be the front-runner, with Mumbai stal-

wart Amol Muzumdar likely to be an underdog. The duo was also interviewed last month for the National Cricket Academy batting coach position in Bengaluru.

Despite a question mark over Rathour's alleged conflict of interest due to his family relations with India U-19 chief selector Aashish Kapoor, Rathour is a top contender for the India job. The selectors interacted with Sridhar and Jonty Rhodes via video-link, while India-A fielding coach Abhay Sharma and former Pakistan and Bangladesh fielding coach Julien Fountain appeared in person.

Physios and trainers will be interviewed on Wednesday and Thursday is reserved for the administrative manager's post.

# There are no simple answers, but we must learn to care



**BETWEEN WICKETS**  
SURESH MENON

The processes which lead a man to take his own life are at least as complex and difficult as those by which he continues to live. This is from Al Alvarez's study of suicide, *The Savage God*. To find a rationale for suicide – especially one involving a friend – is near-impossible. But we try. The shock is followed by the question: What could I have done? Family and close friends must feel the helplessness of that query with far greater force.

When the news of V.B. Chandrasekhar's death came, it wasn't his entertaining batting that flashed into my mind, but his smiling eyes and the look of a man satisfied you had enjoyed his spontaneous one-liner.

Once, during a function, he asked why I was going home early. "I have a little baby waiting," I said of my son, then a few months old. "So you want to go home and watch him grow?" he asked.

It is tempting to look for simple answers to the complicated question of why a man apparently in good health and much loved should

choose to self-destruct. As Mike Brearley wrote in the foreword to David Frith's book on cricket suicides, *Silence of the Heart*, "In the end, we know little... human motivation is mysterious." Perhaps it was a financial problem, perhaps it was a combination of issues; nothing matters now. VB loved cricket, and cricket loved him back, welcoming him back in various capacities, as coach, selector, commentator, team owner. In each of those fields he left his mark.

## Understanding failure

On the New Zealand tour of 1989-90, he began with scores of 92 (13 fours and four sixes), opening the batting with Navjot Sidhu, and made 71 in the next game, opening with W.V. Raman. Yet, when Sidhu

had to return home with injury, Chandrasekhar didn't open in the Tests. Manoj Prabhakar did, as Dilip Vengsarkar replaced Sidhu. In the end he finished his career with just seven One-Day Internationals and a single fifty. It may have helped him understand failure better, as he took young players under his wing.

"It seems so counter-intuitive," wrote Ed Smith, author and current England selector, "that professional sportsmen are psychologically at risk. Sport begins as a dream. Why, then, does the dream sometimes sour? The drive which motivates sportsmen is the same drive which leaves them perpetually dissatisfied. Having climbed one rung, sportsmen just want to focus on the next heave upwards – a ladder that never ends."



V.B. Chandrasekhar was many things to many people. • COURTESY TWITTER

## Smith out of third Test

Not enough time to recover: Langer

### THE ASHES

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE  
LONDON

Australia's star batsman Steve Smith has been ruled out of the third Ashes Test beginning on Thursday after suffering concussion, a decision which coach Justin Langer said was a "no-brainer".

"It is always a blow, no doubt about that. When you take your best players out, it always has an impact."

"We have to make sure our senior players and the younger guys step up and fill what are almost unfillable shoes because he's the best player in the world."

The team doctor Richard Saw had the final say on whether Smith played or not, and he was seen speaking with him during team training on Tuesday. Smith was seen with his head in his hands and Langer looking glumly at the ground.

"It was really a no brainer. He felt a bit better yesterday [Monday] but he's not going to have enough time



**Big blow:** Australia will miss Smith, who is yet to fully recover after being felled by an Archer bouncer. • AFP

to tick off everything he's got to do. It's not unlike England losing James Anderson. He's arguably their best bowler and we're going to lose arguably our best batsman for this Test," said Langer.

"It is always a blow, no doubt about that. When you take your best players out, it always has an impact."

"We have to make sure our senior players and the younger guys step up and fill what are almost unfillable shoes because he's the best player in the world."

The team doctor Richard Saw had the final say on whether Smith played or not, and he was seen speaking with him during team training on Tuesday. Smith was seen with his head in his hands and Langer looking glumly at the ground.

## Sreesanth's ban ends in August 2020

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NEW DELHI

Tainted Indian pacer S. Sreesanth's ban for alleged spot-fixing will end next August, BCCI Ombudsman D.K. Jain has ordered, observing that the cricketer is well past his prime having

already served six years.

## Reduced to seven years

In an order passed on August 7, Jain said "ends of justice" would be met by making it a seven-year suspension and letting him play next year.

## 'Itching to get back'

P.K. AJITH KUMAR  
KOZHIKODE

S. Sreesanth is delighted that his wait is finally over and that he could return to cricket next year.

"I was expecting this, but was still keeping my fingers crossed," the seamer told *The Hindu*, reacting to the BCCI ombudsman D.K. Jain's order on Tuesday. "I am itching to get back to cricket."

He was in fact on his way to practice when he talked over phone from Kochi. "I had never given up hope and tried to keep myself in shape and train whenever I could," said Sreesanth, who took 87 wickets from 27 Tests before his life turned upside down following the IPL spot-fixing scandal in



S. Sreesanth. • FILE PHOTO

2013. "My first priority is to get back into my best shape."

He added he would cancel all his other commitments so that he could focus on cricket.

"I have to complete one Kannada film in which I am playing the hero; but its shooting will be over by October," he said.

## Anti-concussion helmets: BCCI briefs players

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NEW DELHI

The BCCI has briefed its players on the importance of wearing anti-concussion helmets, but left the decision to use neck guard on the cricketers despite growing calls to make it mandatory.

Compulsory neck guards on helmets for Australian cricketers are "not far away", the national team's sports medicine chief said on Monday after Jofra

"Once the new rules on concussion came into effect, the BCCI briefed the captain and the coaching staff. We have told them about helmets with anti-concussion element – neck guards."

"A few players, including Shikhar Dhawan, use it but we can't force them. Helmet is also a matter of comfort," said a senior BCCI official, privy to the development. He informed that after the Phil Hughes tragedy, the BCCI had asked its players to speak to their respective helmet suppliers.



# Dharmaraj Cheralathan — going on and on and on

Credits the longevity to maintaining his fitness, diet and weight

## PKL

**S. PRASANNA VENKATESAN**  
CHENNAI  
Longevity is Dharmaraj Cheralathan's thing as a kabaddi player. He's 44 years old and says he's played for around 25 years now.

So much so, his 16-year-old son Aditya, he says, will try and get into the ProKabaddi League (PKL) in two years. "He's studying in Pune now. He's been practising. When he's 18, he'll try and get into the league."

"My desire is to play until then. But I don't know if I can. Let's see."

### On coaching

"Those who've played with me have become coaches now! I'll think about it (coaching), but I definitely want to do something for ka-

baddi in my village after I retire."

Cheralathan, who captains Haryana Steelers in the ongoing PKL season, has started playing kabaddi for fun in his village Thiruchennampundi in Thanjavur district.

He endorses the portrayal of the conduct of kabaddi tournaments in the Tamil movie "Vennila Kabaddi Kuzhu" as being similar to how it was like playing kabaddi in his early days.

"We (his team from the village) used to go to a lot of places to play tournaments. We especially used to play in the night."

It was in 1995, when he played for the Sun Paper Mill Ltd. for six months that he had his first coach. "That was when I had my first taste of professional training. Until

then, I had no coach. Christopher sir was my first coach."

By that time, he had already started playing for the State team. So, he also played his first Nationals that year. The first of "around 22" Nationals he's played so far. In 1997, he'd been employed with the Railways and has been representing the team in the Nationals until now.

"I think I've won around 13 gold medals. Only four or five times, have I gone without a medal in the Nationals."

Having played many Nationals and won many medals is what he's proud of. That, he says, is his biggest achievement.

He owes his 2016 World Cup selection to his collective performance in the first four seasons of the PKL. He picks the World Cup and the

1999 South Asian Games as the two remarkable big-ticket tournaments he's played so far.

### Only regret

"My only regret is that I haven't got to play in the Asian Games."

He adds as an afterthought: "But I think my long career and the Nationals medals make up for it."

He's had his share of injuries, but says he doesn't remember considering retirement at any point in his career. "When I think about it, even ten years of playing is a big achievement. So, what I've done makes me feel proud."

"I've been relentless in maintaining my fitness, diet and weight. That's what is so important for a long career, I believe."



**Silver jubilee star:** At 41 years old — 25 of those playing kabaddi — Dharmaraj Cheralathan wants to carry on till his son starts playing professionally in a couple of years. ■SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

## Rutuja loses the plot

**SPORTS BUREAU**  
GGUIYANG (CHINA)

Rutuja Bhosale lost her way after a robust start, saved five matchpoints, but finally lost 0-6, 7-5, 7-5 to Su Jeong Jang of Korea in the first round of the \$25,000 ITF women's tennis tournament on Tuesday.

### Other results:

**\$15,000 ITF men, Jakarta, Indonesia:** **Singles (first round):** Alexander Crnokrak (Aus) bt Karuneday Singh 6-2, 6-2; Jumpei Yamasaki (Jpn) bt Kunal Anand 6-3, 6-2.

**Doubles (pre-quarterfinals):** Matthew Romios (Aus) & Aryan Goveas bt Bill Duo (US) & Anthony Susanto (Ina) 6-4, 6-4.

Niki Poonacha & Manish Sureshkumar bt Dusty Boyer (US) & Ray Ho (Tpe) 6-4, 2-6, [10-7]; Justin Barki (Ina) & Ruan Roelofse (RSA) bt Kunal Anand & Rishi Reddy 6-1, 4-6, [10-6].

## Officials need to keep fit, says Sandhiya

She's been a match official in the PKL for the second consecutive season now

**S. PRASANNA VENKATESAN**  
CHENNAI

Former kabaddi player M.K. Sandhiya has been a match official in the ProKabaddi League for the second consecutive season now.

"They selected a fresh batch last year. I was picked from the selection in Chennai, attended a workshop in Mumbai and was initiated into the league," says the 29-year-old who works as a physical education teacher in a school in Vellore.

She had been officiating in the all-India, south zone and State tournaments before the PKL.

There are seven match officials for a PKL match. The referee, two umpires, two line umpires, and two assistant referees.

According to her, an offi-



M.K. Sandhiya.

cial will be assigned for both matches on the day (there are single match-days as well).

"I'll be told (that she's going to officiate) roughly 45 minutes before the start of

the first match. I'll be assigned two different roles for the two matches.

### Imagining

"Once I get to know, I go on the mat and prepare — practising signals and coordination with the other officials. We imagine match situations and react to them."

"For instance, we'll imagine that a raider has entered the lobby without a touch, and I will signal to the line umpire who has to make proper eye contact with me."

She says there are two sets of match officials — groups A & B. Each group has 14 members, she added. "I belong to group-A. Each group is assigned six venues. This (Chennai) is our group's third venue after Hyderabad and Patna. We'll next go to

Bengaluru, Pune and Panchkula."

Two out of the nine women officials are from Tamil Nadu.

She says the officials need to keep fit throughout the season. "Morning gym workout is mandatory for us."

They attend a camp for around eight days just before the league begins. "Besides fitness training, there is this workshop for practising signals, pronunciation, and voice modulation and clarity. Like, we practise pronouncing team names and how to talk in the match."

### Tests

"For instance, saying things like 'raider safe, one point to Gujarat Fortunegiants; or, defender out of bounds.' We also take tests in which we'll

have to write how we'll handle the given match situations."

Kabaddi is a rapid, alternating game of small margins; errors in judgement dearly cost teams.

She says she finds a match official needs to have focus and observe very carefully. "The primary aim is to not make any mistake."

She added that the match officials (all 14) attend a near-one-hour review meeting headed by the league's technical director Prasad Rao in the morning after every match day.

Asked to name a greatly skilled player in the ongoing season, from a match official's perspective, she said, "I would say Naveen (Kumar) of Dabang Delhi. He's real quick and shrewd!"

## India to bid for 2024 Worlds

### TABLE TENNIS

**A. VINOD**  
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The Table Tennis Federation of India (TTFI) has decided to bid for the 2024 World championships with the support of the Union Government.

During an interaction with *The Hindu* here on Tuesday, TTFI secretary M.P. Singh, TTFI advisor Dhanraj Choudhary, and newly elected president of the Commonwealth Table Tennis Association Vivek Kohli said the federation has already sounded its intentions to key officials of the International Table Tennis Federation recently and has received a positive response.

The bid process is to start next year. The Union Ministry of Sports and Youth Affairs has offered all possible

help for the development of the game through the last three years, enhancing the financial outlay for table tennis to ₹12 crore last year. "We are hopeful that the Government will also support us in bringing the World championships back to India," they said.

### Olympic qualification

In the next few months TTFI will have to ensure the Indian men's team qualification for next year's Olympics in Tokyo. With this in mind, it has lined up a coaching camp in China, prior to next month's Asian championships in Indonesia. This will be followed by a camp each in Germany and Portugal before the team qualification process is held in the Iberian nation in January 2020.

Efforts are also being made to help Achanta Sha-

rath Kamal and Manika Batra get a Olympics qualification spot in mixed doubles.

### New coach

Likewise, the TTFI is also involved in the identification of a new foreign coach for India's senior teams, now that the Canadian coach who was supposed to join the side early this month pulled out of his commitment due to a knee injury.

"We hope to sort this out within the next few weeks so much so that the new coach will be able to join the players prior to the qualifying team event in Portugal."

Giving in to players' demand, TTFI has also decided to use a same quality brand of balls in all tournaments henceforth. TTFI top brass was also all praise for the conduct of the ongoing South Zone championships.

## Ankita played like a top-100 player: Narendranath

The coach, who is guiding her in New York, says he wants her to serve better

### TENNIS

**KAMESH SRINIVASAN**  
NEW DELHI

Travelling with a coach is a rare luxury for Ankita Raina. At the Grand Slams where she has been trying to qualify into the main draw in recent times, she has travelled with her long-time coach Hemant Bendrey.

The 26-year-old Ankita, who had a bright start, beating the ninth seed Ysaline Bonaventure of Belgium 6-1, 1-6, 6-2 in the first qualifying round of the US Open, has the experienced coach Suraath Narendranath to guide her in New York.

### Very good match

"Ankita played a very good match yesterday. She played like a top-100 player in the first set. She could not maintain that level in the second set, and made many unforced errors. She regrouped and played very tough in the third set which helped her



**Welcome addition:** Ankita Raina should benefit from the services of a travelling coach.

\*FILE PHOTO: ARUNANGSU ROY CHOWDHURY

pull through the match," summed up Narendranath, who had travelled with Sania Mirza in the US circuit in 2006.

Meanwhile, Bendrey clarified about the coaching assistance to Ankita, from his base in Pune.

"I was with Ankita for the last 45 days. So, had to come back to look after my academy. Chubby (Narendranath) is not only my friend, but my guru for coaching. I used to

work with him for a long time, and have learnt coaching from him. He has agreed to travel whenever possible," said Bendrey.

Narendranath runs his coaching centre in Hyderabad, and had worked with Sania for a long time as well, apart from a bunch of good players.

### Started believing

"I have always believed that Ankita is a top-100 player.

She will soon be achieving it. I think, slowly, she has also started believing in it," said Bendrey, about his ward who won the Asian Games singles bronze medal last year.

For the 194th-ranked Ankita, it was a commendable performance to beat Ysaline whom she had defeated in 2009 in the junior circuit and in 2014 in the professional circuit.

"I want Ankita to serve better and maintain good level of play through the course of the whole match," said Narendranath about Ankita's second round against Denisa Allertova of the Czech Republic.

"This is my second tournament with Ankita. Hopefully, will be travelling more in the future," said Narendranath.

Travelling with a coach will not be a rarity for Ankita any more, and that should hasten her progress to the higher echelons of the game.

## Areeba finishes 29th

**SPORTS BUREAU**  
LAHTI

Areeba Khan shot 64 out of 75, with rounds of 18, 24 and 22, in women's skeet in a field of 72 shooters in the Shotgun World Cup on Tuesday.

The 29th-placed Areeba was nine points behind leader Caitlin Connor of the United States. The other Indian shooters — Karttiki Shaktawat (58) and former National champion Saniya Sheikh (57) — were way behind.

Two more rounds on Wednesday will be followed by the final for the top six.

National champion Maheshwari Chauhan, competing in the MQS section, shot 62, following rounds of 20, 20 and 22.

## Riding to glory



**Creating a ripple:** Fouaad Mirza, who won a silver in the individual and team event at the 2018 Asian Games, has been recommended for the 2019 Arjuna award. The 27-year-old trains at the Embassy International Riding School (Bengaluru). He became the first Indian to win an Asian Games individual medal in equestrian since 1982. ■SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

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## IN BRIEF

**Holder is West Indies Test Player of the Year**

ST. JOHNS (ANTIGUA)  
Jason Holder, West Indies skipper in Test and ODIs, has bagged the West Indies Test Player of the Year award at the seventh CWI/WIPA Awards 2019.

**Other awards:** Shai Hope: ODI Player of the Year. Keemo Paul: T20I Player of the Year. Oshane Thomas: Emerging Player of the Year. Rahkeem Cornwall: Championship Player of the Year. Andre Russell: Caribbean T20 player. Deandra Dottin: Women Player of the Year, Women's ODI Player of the Year and the T20 Player of the Year. IANS

**Rashid Khan to lead Afghanistan**

KABUL  
Spinner Rashid Khan will lead Afghanistan in its one-off Test against Bangladesh and the triangular series featuring Zimbabwe. The Test will begin on September 5.

**The squads:** Test: Rashid Khan (captain), Asghar Afghan, Mohammad Nabi, Ihsanullah, Ibrahim Zadran, Rahmat Shah, Hashmatullah Shahidi, Ikram Alikhil (wk), Zahir Khan, Javed Ahmadi, Ahmad Shirzad, Yamin Ahmadzai, Afsar Zazai (wk), Shapoor Zadran, Qais Ahmad. IANS

**Murray loses to Sandgren in round one**

WASHINGTON  
Andy Murray fell in the first round of the ATP Winston-Salem Open, losing to the 73rd-ranked American Tenny Sandgren 7-6(8), 7-5 in a contest lasting two hours and 10 minutes. The Brit showed glimpses of his once-dominant self, but was inconsistent. AFP

**Satterthwaite announces pregnancy**

WELLINGTON  
New Zealand's women's cricket captain Amy Satterthwaite will take a break from the game as she is expecting her first child. In a statement, Satterthwaite said she is expecting her first child with wife and teammate Lea Tahuhi in January next year. Satterthwaite said she would continue to be a "mentor" for the team during the break. PTI

**Dembele injured, out for five weeks**

BARCELONA  
Ousmane Dembele, Barcelona's French international striker, will miss five weeks after suffering a hamstring injury, the club said. AFP

**Williamson, Dananjaya's actions reported**

DUBAI  
New Zealand captain Kane Williamson and Sri Lanka's Akila Dananjaya have been reported for suspect bowling action after the first Test between the two sides in Galle, the International Cricket Council (ICC) said on Tuesday. Both are off-spinners and their bowling actions came under scrutiny during the opening Test which ended on Sunday. "The match officials' report, which was handed over to the management of both teams, cited concerns about the legality of the bowling actions of both players," the ICC statement read.

# India men, women make it to the final

Mandeep stars with a hat-trick as men swamp Japan; women hold China goalless

## OLYMPIC TEST

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
TOKYO

Striker Mandeep Singh struck a fine hat-trick to help the Indian men's hockey team beat host Japan 6-3 and enter the final in the Olympic Test Event here on Tuesday.

The Indian team bounced back from its 1-2 loss against New Zealand with an impressive display in its third match at the Oi Hockey Stadium here. India again faces New Zealand in the summit clash on Wednesday.

Mandeep found the target in the 9th, 29th and 30th minutes while Nilakanta Sharma (3), Nilam Sanjeev Xess (7) and Gurjant Singh (41) were the other scorers for India.

Kentaro Fukuda (25th), Kenta Tanaka (36th) and Kazuma Murata (52nd) scored the goals for Japan.

## Excellent story

Nilakanta gave India an excellent start through a field goal in the third minute. Buoyed by the early lead, the Indian team put tremendous pressure on the Japan defence as Gurjant Singh took a shot on goal, but saw his effort going wide of the post.



**Star of the match:** Mandeep Singh was at his fluent best as India outplayed Japan. ■FRANK UIJLENBROEK

Soon Nilam Sanjeev converted a penalty-corner for the team to go 2-0 up.

India continued to be aggressive and Mandeep found the back of the net with an

excellent field goal in the ninth minute.

Japan tried to make inroads in the last few minutes of the first quarter and won a penalty corner. Gurinder

Singh positioned himself brilliantly and defended the shot on the goal line. India led 3-0 at the end of the first quarter.

Japan managed to open its account through Kentaro Fukuda who scored a field goal in the 25th minute, but Mandeep stuck in quick succession in the 29th and 30th to help India take a 5-1 lead.

Japan started the third quarter on an aggressive note and found a field goal through Kenta Tanaka in the 36th minute.

India forward Gurjant found the back of the net in the 41st minute to make it 6-2. Japan scored its third goal through Kazuma Murata in the 52nd minute.

The win put India in the second spot in the points table and its faces topper New Zealand in the summit clash on Wednesday.

## Women impressive

Following an impressive performance against Australia, the Indian women's team on Tuesday secured its place in the final of the Olympic test event by playing out a 0-0 draw against China here.

The Indian team looked in good rhythm during the initial stages of the first quar-

ter, and constantly built pressure on the Chinese defence.

The side looked comfortable in possession, and rotated the ball well to threaten the opponents in the opening 10 minutes, which also reflected when it won its first penalty corner in the 8th minute.

India's penalty corner expert Gurjit Kaur stepped up to take the set-piece, but could not find the back of the net as the Chinese Goalkeeper Dongxiao Li deflected the ball away from danger.

India started the second quarter also with great attacking flair, and won another penalty corner in the 17th minute. Gurjit Kaur tried to aim for the other side this time, but her try was again denied by Li. The following minutes saw both the teams battle it out in midfield, with neither team giving much space and time to their opponents.

China needed the victory to make sure that they progress to the final but India's defence was up to the task.

With five points from three matches, India topped the points table, and will now face host Japan in the final on Wednesday.

## Davis Cup committee to decide on venue

KAMESH SRINIVASAN  
NEW DELHI

The International Tennis Federation (ITF) took a concrete decision to let the Davis Cup Committee decide on the fate of the India-Pakistan tie scheduled to be held in Islamabad on September 14 and 15.

With time running, it was a step forward in the current scenario, as the ITF was trying in vain to impress upon the All India Tennis Association (AITA) about the strong security arrangements at the venue.

The planned tele-conference between the AITA, Davis Cup team captain Mahesh Bhupathi, with the ITF and the concerned security agency in Pakistan, which was postponed from Monday, did not take

place.

The Davis Cup committee – with Ismail El Shafie of Egypt as the chairman and seven members including Olympic gold medalist and multiple Grand Slam champion Mark Woodforde of Australia – will take up the matter with the national federations concerned.

The AITA had quoted the prevailing tension between the two countries and had demanded the ITF to take a *suo moto* decision to either postpone the tie or shift it to a neutral venue.

Once the Davis Cup committee decides on the subject, it will convey the same to the ITF Board of Directors, for suitable follow up action.

## Can East Bengal stop Gokulam's run?

Bagan will look to get past Real Kashmir in the other semifinal

## DURAND CUP

AMITABHA DAS SHARMA  
KOLKATA

Local favourite East Bengal will take on the impressive Gokulam Kerala FC in the first semifinal of the 129th Durand Cup at the Salt Lake Stadium here on Wednesday.

The climactic phase will see four I-League clubs in the fray after they overcame the challenges posed by the developmental ISL club teams.

The second semifinal pits Mohun Bagan against Real Kashmir FC.

Preferring to field their first-choice teams, the I-League clubs have treated this as a pre-season fixture. All the semifinalists remained unbeaten in the league stages.

## Different ambitions

The Kolkata giants – East Bengal and Bagan – have both won the title 16 times each and will be eager to add to the collection. On the

other hand, newcomers like Gokulam and Real Kashmir will be driven by the desire to clinch their maiden crown.

The opening semifinal will witness two sides with in-form foreigners battling it out. East Bengal has Spain's Jaime Colado and Borja Gomez in attack and defence while France's Kassim Aidara will man the midfield.

For Gokulam, striker Marcus Joseph of Trinidad and Tobago has been the cynosure, performing two hat-tricks in three matches.

His compatriot Andre Etienne and Brazilian Bruno Pelissari complete the team's spine through their strong presence in defence and midfield.

Both East Bengal and Gokulam have invested in young Indians, some of whom are already looking to make it big.

In the other last-four match, Bagan and Real Kashmir will seek to strike the right balance between foreign and Indian recruits.

## Garg to lead India u-23

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
MUMBAI

Uttar Pradesh's Priyam Garg, 18, will lead the India under-23 team in the five-match one-day cricket series against Bangladesh u-23 at Raipur.

The matches will be played on September 19, 21,

23, 25 and 27.

**The team:** Priyam Garg (capt.), Yashasvi Jaiswal, Madhav Kaushik, B.R. Sharath (wk), Samarth Vyas, Aryan Juyal (wk), Ritwik Roy Choudhary, Kumar Suraj, Atit Seth, Shubhang Hegde, Hrithik Shokeen, Dhrushant Soni, Arshdeep Singh, Kartik Tyagi, and Harpreet Brar.

## Sushil Kumar books berth in style

The 74kg category was the focus in the trials on Tuesday

## WRESTLING

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
KOLKATA

Two-time Olympic medallist Sushil Kumar, who had a bitter tussle with the Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) over the 74kg quota place prior to the 2016 Rio Olympics, recorded comprehensive wins in the National selection trials on Tuesday, and claimed the men's freestyle 74kg berth in the Indian squad for the upcoming World Championships – the first major Olympic qualifying event – in Kazakhstan.

The 36-year-old Sushil's selection clears his path for a quota place in next year's Tokyo Olympics.

All eyes were on the 74kg category, the lone Olympic weight class among the



Sushil. ■PTI

men's freestyle sections in the trials held in Delhi on Tuesday.

## Easing through

Sushil convincingly defeated Vinod, who had overcome Gaurav Baliyan, 3-0 to set up a bout with Jitender.

The former World champion then got the better of Jitender, who had beaten Amit Dhankar 5-0, 4-2 in the final bout that witnessed several stoppages due to Sushil 'unintentionally' poking into his rival's eye and taking two medical breaks (bleeding nose and sore knee).

Sushil later told the media that his plan was to win the bouts without exerting too much.

## Three make the cut

Rahul Aware (61kg), Karan Mor (70kg) and Praveen (92kg) were the wrestlers who made it to the Worlds squad in the non-Olympic weights. Jitender will again try his luck in 79kg, in which he needs to defeat Veer Dev Gulia to make it to the Worlds squad.

## Anand leads

SPORTS BUREAU  
SAINT LOUIS (USA)

Viswanathan Anand drew with Levon Aronian to stay half-a-point ahead of the field after three rounds of the Sinquefeld Cup chess here on Monday.

With all the boards ending in draws, Anand's 42-move deadlock following repetition of moves proved enough to protect his lead.

## The results (third round):

Levon Aronian (Arm, 1.5) drew with Viswanathan Anand (2); Magnus Carlsen (Nor, 1.5) drew with Fabiano Caruana (USA, 1.5); Ding Liren (Chn, 1.5) drew with Maxime Vachier-Lagrave (Fra, 1.5); Wesley So (USA, 1.5) drew with Anish Giri (Ned, 1.5); Hikaru Nakamura (USA, 1.5) drew with Sergey Karjakin (Rus, 1.5); Ian Nepomniachtchi (Rus, 1) drew with Shakhriyar Mamedyarov (Aze, 1.5).

## Overseas experience may help India

The host looks to reclaim the SAFF under-15 football title

Y.B. SARANGI  
KALYANI

Useful exposure trips in Italy and Thailand hold India in good stead as it aspires to reclaim the SAFF under-15 football championship, starting at the Kalyani Stadium here on Wednesday.

Even in the absence of a quality side and last year's runner-up Pakistan, the tournament is expected to be a keen affair among the development squads of the South East Asian nations – including defending champion Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Nepal and Bhutan.

India coach Bibiano Fernandes said this would be a good preparation for the AFC Asian under-16 championship qualifier next month.

Fernandez hoped that the overseas experience would help the first-time host regain the title for a third time.

"We started our preparation in February. We had an exposure trip to Italy in May. We played against some good teams and made a lot of changes there. We also had a good trip to Thailand (last month), where we fielded the core of the team," said Fernandes on Tuesday.

## Home advantage

While India, captained by local boy and central defender Anish Mazumder, would have the advantage of playing in front of the home crowd, it would have to bear with the fatigue due to the long drive from Kolkata owing to hotel issues here.

**We started our preparation in February**

BIBIANO FERNANDES  
India coach

"It's a three-hour drive. But we have got gaps and have to adapt and recover in time," said Fernandes.

Mazumder was excited to lead the National side in his backyard. "Feels good to be playing at home. We learnt a lot playing abroad. Now we look forward to do well here," he said.

India, which had managed a third-place finish after losing to eventual champion Bangladesh in the semifinals on tie-breaker in the event in Nepal last year, will meet Nepal in the opening match.

## Pogba penalty miss costs Manchester United dear

Wolves fight back and hold the Red Devils to a draw

## PREMIER LEAGUE

ASSOCIATED PRESS  
WOLVERHAMPTON

Paul Pogba pulled his jersey over his face when the final whistle sounded, his latest spot-kick failure costing Manchester United two points and casting doubt over the wisdom of the team rotating its penalty-takers.

The France midfielder saw his 68th-minute attempt saved – his fourth penalty miss in the past year – as United had to settle for 1-1 at Wolverhampton Wanderers in the English Premier League on Monday. Pogba won the penalty af-



**Fluffed shot:** Paul Pogba reacts after his penalty is saved by goalkeeper Rui Patricio. ■AP

ter being tripped by Wolves defender Conor Coody and opted to take the kick himself after talking with Marcus

Rashford. "The two of them are designated penalty-takers," United manager Ole Gunnar

Solskjaer said. "It's up to them, there and then."

"Marcus scored last week but Paul was also confident. I like players with confidence."

Rashford said Pogba "wanted to take it, it's that simple."

"Anyone can miss a penalty," Rashford said. "He has scored so many penalties and it is normal to miss one. I took one last week, so for me it's no problem that he took it. It's unfortunate he didn't score but that's football."

**The result:** Wolves 1 (Naves 55) drew with Man United 1 (Martial 27).

## Shashank rallies to post win

## TENNIS

SPORTS BUREAU  
CHANDIGARH

Shashank Teertha recovered from a slow start to beat seventh seed Lakshya Gupta 4-6, 6-4, 6-4 in the first round of the ₹100,000 AITA men's ranking tennis tournament at the CLTA Complex on Tuesday.

## Lively encounter

In another lively encounter, Irfan Husain beat Jagmeet Singh 6-4, 6-7(3), 7-6(5).

Top seed V.M. Ranjeet and second seed Dalwinder Singh progressed smoothly into the second round.

**The results (first round):** VM Ranjeet bt Taha Kapadia 6-3, 6-3; Digvijay Singh Mehta bt

Puru Upadhyay 7-6(9), 6-2; Irfan Husain bt Jagmeet Singh 6-4, 6-7(3), 7-6(5); Faisal Qamar bt Tushar Mada.

6-1, 6-4; Jatin Dahiya bt Parav Dev Garg 6-4, 6-1; Abhishhek Gaur bt Shivank Bhatnagar 6-2, 6-2; Hardeep Singh Sandhu bt Neeraj Yashpaul 6-4, 7-5.

Shashank Teertha bt Lakshya Gupta 4-6, 6-4, 6-4; Calvin Golmei bt Anurag Nwami 6-1, 6-4; Megh Patel bt Ominder Baisoya 6-0, 6-4.

Ayyoouque Ahmed Khan bt Ravikiran Ribhav 6-4, 6-4; Suraj Prabodh bt Drona Walia 6-2, 6-3.

Armaan Bhatia bt KS Dheeraj 6-1, 7-5.

Gunjan Jadhav bt LR Balaji 4-6, 6-3, 4-2 (conceded); Deepender Singh Bains bt Atharva Sharma 6-2, 6-2.

Dalwinder Singh bt Udit Kamboj 6-1, 6-2.

## Ankita in second round; Ramkumar ousted

US OPEN QUALIFIERS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NEW YORK

India's Ankita Raina knocked out ninth seed Belgian Ysaline Bonaventure to progress to the second round of the US Open Qualifiers but Ramkumar Ramanathan bit the dust in the men's singles.

The 194th ranked Ankita was up against a higher-ranked player but prevailed 6-1, 1-6, 6-2 for her second win against the Belgian on the Pro Tour.

She had beaten Bonaventure in her own country on

clay in 2014.

Ankita converted five of the six breakpoints and saved five of the eight chances on her own her serve.

"I started solid. There were a very few unforced errors in the first set.

"I stayed longer in the points and kept her moving. She had aggressive forehand and when she was in position, she would absolutely kill. So I had to make sure to keep her on the run," Ankita said.

In men's singles, Italy's Filippo Baldi downed Ramkumar Ramanathan 7-5, 7-6(9).

## Easy for RFS

NEW DELHI: Reliance Foundation School (RFS) defeated Jharkhand 4-1 in a under-14 category Pool 'A' match of the Subroto Cup football tournament at the Ambedkar Stadium here on Tuesday.

Reliance Foundation School took the lead through Sanathoi Singh in the fourth minute. Sanathoi added another in the 22nd and a minute later, Srijarai made it 3-0. A goal by Akash Hembram for Jharkhand at half-time reduced the margin.

A 38th-minute goal by Aditya Dhingra sealed the contest in Reliance's favour.