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## Workshop Highlights



Discussion on the changing exam pattern and preparation strategies



Special talk on Program & Policies, Recent Legislations and the dynamic part of the syllabus



Session by eminent faculty on how to master Current Affairs by interlinking different streams

Location	Date	Time	Venue
Allahabad	21-09-2019	03:00 PM	Hotel Placid, 161/48, Tagore Murti Circle, Tagore Town, Prayagraj, UP - 211002
Bhopal	21-09-2019	03:00 PM	Jahan Numa Palace, 157, Shyamla Hills Road, Shymala Hills, Bhopal, MP - 462013
Chandigarh	21-09-2019	03:00 PM	James Hotel, Block No. 10, Sector – 17 A, Chandigarh - 160017
Gwalior	22-09-2019	04:00 PM	Clarks Inn Suites, Maharani Laxmibai Marg, Phool Bagh, Gwalior, MP - 474009
Jaipur	22-09-2019	04:00 PM	Sarovar Portico, Plot No. 90, Queens Road, Vaishali Nagar, Jaipur, Rajasthan - 302021

### CSE 2018

11 Ranks  
in top 50

28 Ranks  
in top 100

183 Ranks  
in the final list

Rank 11  
Puja Priyadarshni

Rank 16  
Dhodmise Trupti Ankush

Rank 21  
Rahul Jain

Rank 24  
Anuraj Jain

### CSE 2017

5 Ranks  
in top 50

34 Ranks  
in top 100

236 Ranks  
in the final list

Rank 3  
Sachin Gupta

Rank 6  
Koya Sree Harsha

Rank 8  
Anubhav Singh

Rank 9  
Soumya Sharma

Rank 10  
Abhishek Surana

### CSE 2016

8 Ranks  
in top 50

18 Ranks  
in top 100

215 Ranks  
in the final list

Rank 2  
Anmol Sher Singh Bedi

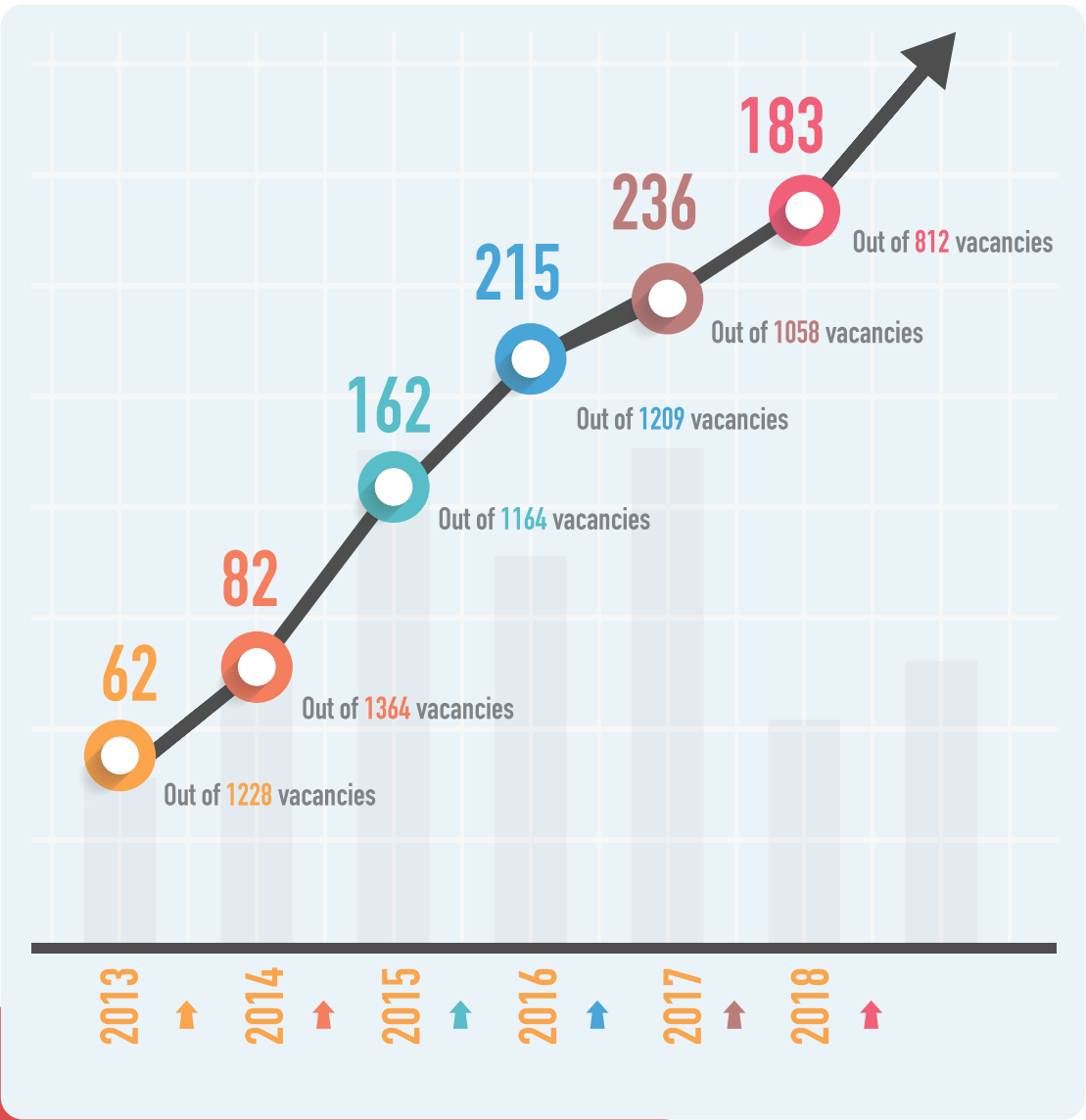
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Abhilash Mishra

Rank 12  
Tejaswi Rana

Rank 30  
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Rank 32  
Avdhesh Meena

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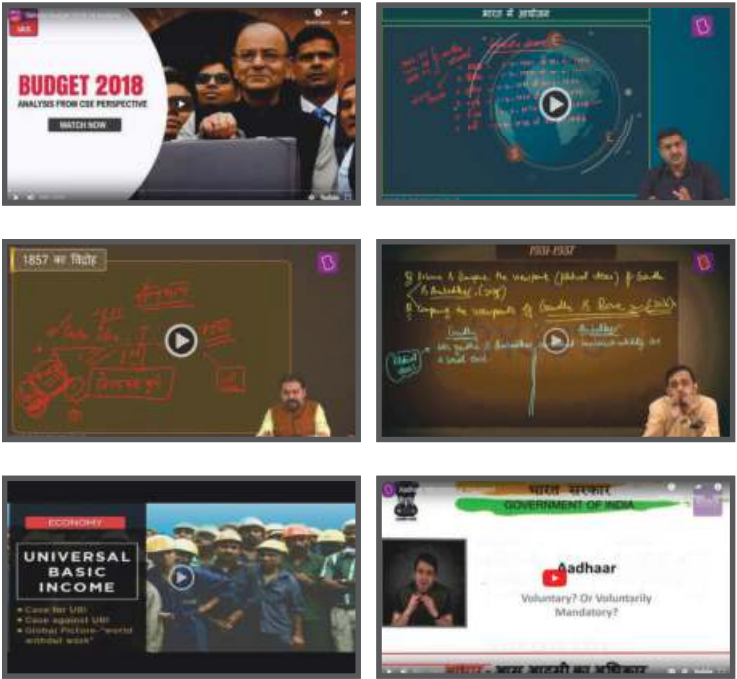
A K Puri  
(IPS Retd. Former DGP,  
Himachal Pradesh)

B L Vohra  
(IPS Retd. Former  
DGP, Tripura)

B S Lamba  
(IAS Retd. Former  
Indian Envoy to UNO)

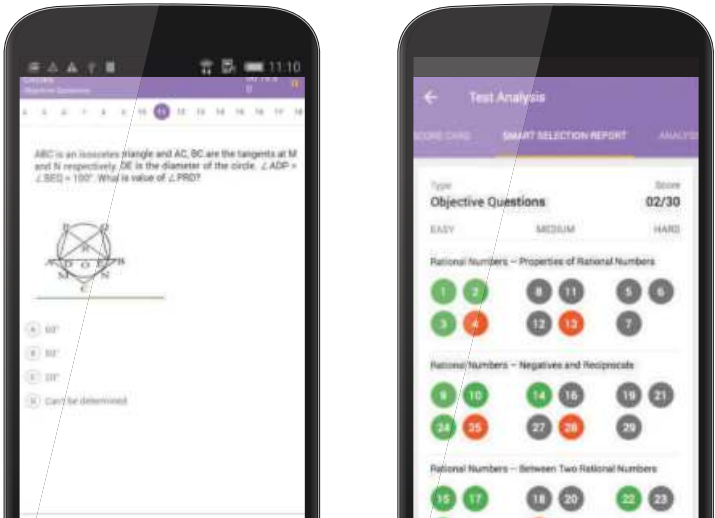
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**(Saturday)**  
**22<sup>nd</sup> SEPTEMBER 2019 - 11:00 AM**  
**(Sunday)**

**WORKSHOP HIGHLIGHTS**  

Comparison Between Changing Pattern 2017 To 2019

Special Talk On How To Make Notes And What To Cover

Session By Director Sir On How To Master Newspaper By Interlinking All Subjects

**Venue: Apsara Arcade, Office No-4 Near Karol Bagh Metro Station Gate #7**



### Hunt for missing jumbo ends, mahout arrested

**NEW DELHI**  
An elephant which had been missing for the last two months was rescued and its mahout arrested on late Tuesday night from east Delhi. The 47-year-old jumbo, Laxmi, was sent to an elephant rescue centre at Ban Santour in Haryana around 9 p.m. on Wednesday, said forest department officials.

**CITY** ▶ PAGE 3

### Court raps Delhi govt. over delay in sedition case

**NEW DELHI**  
A city court on Wednesday pulled up the AAP government for "delaying" the decision on a Delhi police request for sanction to prosecute former JNUSU president Kanhaiya Kumar and others in a sedition case. "The time which is being taken to finalise the issue of sanction or otherwise has caused wastage of judicial time as the case has been listed and adjourned repeatedly since the filing of the chargesheet," CMM Manish Khurana said.

**CITY** ▶ PAGE 3

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# SC allows Ayodhya mediation committee to resume talks

Court hints that hearings of the appeals are likely to be completed by October 18

**LEGAL CORRESPONDENT**  
**NEW DELHI**

The Supreme Court on Wednesday allowed the Ayodhya mediation committee to resume talks with the disputing Hindu and Muslim parties even as it indicated that the ongoing hearings of the appeals before a Constitution Bench is likely to finish by October 18.

Chief Justice of India Ranjan Gogoi is scheduled to retire on November 17. If the hearings are completed by October 18, the court will have a month to write the judgment for the over 70-year-old Ramjanmabhoombabri Masjid title dispute.

**Another chance**  
By giving mediation another chance, the court has opened the doors again for an amicable settlement of the dispute among the parties. The mediation panel, if it is successful in patching up a settlement, can move the court with the terms of the settlement anytime during the hearings or after the judgment is reserved but before the verdict is pronounced.

The court said mediation should continue to remain confidential and would be carried on simultaneously with the court proceedings, which have been going on

## Healing and hearing

**March 8:** Constitution Bench appoints former SC judge F.M.I. Kalifulla, senior advocate Sriam Panchu and spiritual guru Sri Sri Ravishankar as mediators to "heal minds and hearts" of Muslims & Hindus over title dispute

■ The committee filed an interim report, dated May 7, saying they were making "progress". Court gave them time till August 15

**On July 9:** Gopal Singh Visharad, an original claimant who filed a title suit in 1950, through his survivor Rajendra Singh, claimed the media-tors were making no real progress

**July 11:** SC asked Justice Kalifulla to submit a report by July 31

**July 29:** Efforts collapsed after hardliners on both sides refused to co-operate

**August 2:** SC said daily hearings to start from August 6

■ Over 25 hearings later, Nirvani Akhara and Sunni Waqf Board wrote to the mediation panel, urging it to resume talks



**September 18:** Bench allows talks to resume and continue simultaneously with court hearings. It urged lawyers to finish the hearings by October 18, giving the judges one month to write their judgments before the CJL, who heads the Bench, retires on November 17

for over 25 days. The Bench said it may even relegate Saturdays for the Ayodhya hearings if required.

On September 17, the court asked the lawyers to chalk out a timeline to present their oral arguments in the appeals. The lawyers had conveyed it on Wednesday, after which the Bench estimated the hearings could be closed by October 18.

On September 16, the mediation committee filed in parallel a short memorandum informing the court that parties across the Hindu-Muslim divide had approached it with a request to resume talks to amicably resolve the dispute.

The memorandum suggested that mediation could continue even as the court

continues to hear the appeals.

The parties asked the mediators – former Supreme Court judge F.M.I. Kalifulla, spiritual guru Sri Sri Ravi Shankar and senior advocate Sriam Panchu – that talks should resume from the point where they were abruptly dropped at the last minute on July 29 due to resistance from certain blocs across the religious divide, causing heartburn among other stakeholders.

### In limbo

The Constitution Bench announced the failure to reach a final settlement in a hearing on August 2. Adjudication of the pending appeals, which were kept in limbo due to the mediation, com-

menced from August 6. The Sunni Waqf Board is arguing its case.

The mediation effort was initiated by the court on March 8 in a bid to heal minds and hearts. The Bench had explained that the case was "not about the 1500 sq ft of disputed land, but about religious sentiments." The mediation committee had held several rounds of talks with the stakeholders in Faizabad district of Uttar Pradesh, of which the disputed area in Ayodhya is a part. The proceedings were held in camera and care was taken to maintain confidentiality to ensure its success.

**RAM CHABUTRA TURNS FOCAL POINT OF HEARING** ▶ PAGE 13

## Never spoke of imposing Hindi: Shah

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT**  
**NEW DELHI**

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Wednesday claimed that he did not push for Hindi over regional languages.

Referring to his speech on the occasion of Hindi Divas on Saturday where he made a pitch for a common language for India, the Home Minister said that to end the confusion, people should listen to his speech carefully but "if someone wants to do politics, it is their choice."

"I have just made the request. I have failed to understand what is wrong in that," he said at an event organised by Hindi daily *Hindustan* in Ranchi.

Clarifying his comments, he said, "A child can perform, a child's proper mental growth is possible only when the child studies in mother tongue. Mother tongue does not mean Hindi."

(With PTI inputs)

**CONTINUED ON** ▶ PAGE 12



## Cabinet approves ban on e-cigarettes

It cites need to protect public health

### Up in smoke

Wednesday's move follows an advisory by the government in 2018 to all States to consider banning e-cigarettes

■ e-cigarettes are brought from China and other countries and are not manufactured in India. They are also available online

■ WHO too urged member countries to take appropriate steps. It does not endorse e-cigarettes as cessation aids

■ 16 States & one Union Territory have already banned them. The Indian Council of Medical Research, in a recent paper, had recommended a complete ban on them



■ They are marketed as being safer than conventional cigarettes but this is false. Available literature suggests that they may act as gateway products to induce non-smokers to nicotine use

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT**  
**NEW DELHI**

The Union Cabinet on Wednesday approved a ban on e-cigarettes, citing the need to take early action to protect public health.

Upon promulgation of the ordinance, any production, manufacturing, import, export, transport, sale (including online sale), distribution or advertisement (including online advertisement) of e-cigarettes shall be a cognisable offence punishable with imprisonment of up to one year, or fine up to ₹1 lakh, or both for the first offence; and imprisonment of up to three years and fine up to ₹5 lakh for a subsequent offence. Storage of electronic-cigarettes shall also be punishable with im-

prisonment of up to 6 months or a fine of up to ₹50,000 or both.

### Children at risk

"Envisioned as a tool to combat tobacco addiction, electronic cigarettes and other vaping products have become a major problem and increase the risk of children adopting them," Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said at a media briefing.

As per a release issued by the Centre, owners of existing stocks of e-cigarettes on the date of commencement of the ordinance will have to *suo motu* declare and deposit these with the nearest police station.

**CONTINUED ON** ▶ PAGE 12

## Xi-Modi meet likely to skirt Kashmir issue

China had criticised Centre's move

**ATUL ANEJA**  
**BEIJING**

China on Tuesday signalled that the Kashmir issue is unlikely to be spotlighted during the informal summit in India between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chinese President Xi Jinping.

"I think for those things like Kashmir... I don't think it will be a major topic occupying the talks, that is my understanding," Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Hua Chunying said, during an interaction with media from Asia and Africa, undergoing an 11-month training course in China. "But for the leaders, they will be free to talk about



Xi Jinping

whatever they like," she said in response to a question.

China had earlier criticised India, especially for its August 5 decision to accord Union Territory status to Ladakh, which shares a disputed border with China.

**CONTINUED** ▶ PAGE 12

## Pak. denies use of its airspace for Modi's flight

**MEHMAL SARFRAZ**  
**LAHORE**

Pakistan on Wednesday announced that it would not allow the use of its airspace for Prime Minister Narendra Modi's flight to Germany. The official Twitter account of the Government of Pakistan (@pid.gov) shared a short video of Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi making this announcement.

Raveesh Kumar, MEA spokesperson, said, "We regret the decision of the Government of Pakistan to deny overflight clearance for the VVIP special flight for a second time in two weeks, which is otherwise granted routinely by any normal country."

**DETAILS ON** ▶ PAGE 13

## Tabrez case accused face murder charge

Jharkhand Police does U-turn, submits supplementary chargesheet

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT**  
**BHUBANESWAR**

Making a U-turn in the Tabrez Ansari lynching case after allegations of attempts to weaken the case, the Jharkhand police submitted a supplementary chargesheet on Wednesday, seeking punishment under Section 302 of the IPC (murder) against 11 of the accused.

Another two accused, who were apprehended later, would also face murder charges. The Seraikela-Kharsawan police had earlier dropped the murder charges against the accused, contending that Ansari had died of cardiac arrest due to stress, and not injury. The charges were changed on the basis of a fresh forensic re-



Sahista Pervaz, right, wife of Tabrez Ansari, being comforted by her mother. ■ FILE PHOTO

port.

The Jharkhand police headquarters, in a press statement, said: "The reason of death was reserved in view of pending viscera examination in the postmortem report received by police during the time of submission of charge sheet

earlier. In the report of the Forensic Science Laboratory, doctors had opined that the death was caused due to cardiac arrest. But, the reason of heart attack was not clear."

For further investigation, police had sought an opinion from a board of doctors of

the MGM Medical College and Hospital.

On the basis of the new report, police came to the conclusion that the cardiac arrest was caused by the preceding violence inflicted with "hard and blunt object."

Besides, the police have also received the integrity report of the video in which Tabrez was seen brutally beaten up.

"There has been no tampering found in the viral video. So during further investigation on the basis of additional evidences, accused have been charged under section 302," the police said.

**CONTINUED ON** ▶ PAGE 12

## Fuel prices see steepest hike since July 5

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT**  
**NEW DELHI**

Oil marketing companies on Wednesday raised petrol and diesel prices by 0.25 paise and 0.24 paise a litre, respectively, the largest increase in nearly two-and-a-half months.

Petrol will now cost ₹72.42 a litre and diesel ₹65.82 in Delhi, the reference market for the nation. The latest hike is the second consecutive large increase in petrol and diesel prices. On Tuesday, oil marketing companies increased the prices by 0.14 paise and 0.15 paise, respectively.

The increase on Wednesday was the largest since July 5.

**DETAILS ON** ▶ PAGE 13

## Livestock fine transforms Arunachal village

Ledum gets a makeover after elders prescribed penalties for roaming pigs & cows

**RAHUL KARMAKAR**  
**LEDUM**

Breaking the rules of the road attracts little or no fine in Arunachal Pradesh, unless the "traffic law" violator is a pig or a cow in a village in the Frontier State's East Siang district.

Three years before the Motor Vehicles (Amendment) Act, 2019, prescribed heavy penalties for traffic violators across India, the elders of Ledum village imposed fines on livestock loitering on the road leading to district headquarters Pasighat.

The quantum of fine read: a bullet for a pig, ₹500 for a cow and the possibility of it being auctioned off.

"It was difficult at first to impose the fine. Some village



Model village: The entrance to Ledum. ■ RAHUL KARMAKAR

youth came out with their hunting guns and began shooting the pigs to let people know the rules were not to be taken lightly," Tatar Taying, the 53-year-old *gaon burah* (village elder), told *The Hindu*.

A gun is a prized possession for many men of the Adi community whose festivals include Aran that involves community hunting.

Ledum has 112 Adi households while three families belong to the Galo community.

By early 2017, the village youth shot 10 pigs. The pig-rearers have never since let the animals out.

The fine on the cows was conditional, though. "We kept grazing in mind and let the cattle use the road during the day. But owners

were fined ₹500 per cow if it was let out after dusk," said Tatiram Padung, another elder.

In 2016-17, the village committee collected ₹5,000 in "bovine fine". It fell to ₹2,500 and ₹1,500 during the subsequent financial years. Only ₹500 has been collected since April this year. "The dip in fines is a good sign, implying the people are getting used to cleanliness, which is remarkable for a village that was once tagged the dirtiest in central Arunachal," said Ajay Kamsi, a cultural activist. He attributed much of the change in the mindset to John Pada, a local and now the Superintendent of Police of Kamle district, who spread awareness.

## 'Who said we are going to destroy Parliament?'

Urban Affairs Minister says all options are open for redevelopment plan

**DAMINI NATH**  
**NEW DELHI**

A new office building for staff and all MPs linked to Parliament via an underground pathway or a new structure on top of the existing building are among the options the Centre is open to as it works on its redevelopment plan for the Central Vista, Union Housing and Urban Affairs Minister Hardeep Singh Puri said on Wednesday.

After the government's ambitious plan of redeveloping Parliament, the 3-km Central Vista that stretches from Rashtrapati Bhavan till India Gate and development of a common Central Secretariat was announced last week, some architects raised concerns about the project. The Cen-



Hardeep Singh Puri

tral Public Works Department had floated a request for proposal on September 2 asking architecture firms to come up with designs for the redevelopment.

Referring to the criticism, Mr. Puri said, while speaking at a seminar on trends in architecture organised by the CPWD here, that he "did not want to engage" with it. "Who said we

are going to destroy Parliament? All we have done so far is to invite ideas. If merely by inviting ideas, a building falls, then I believe it's not an idea, it's something else," he said.

### Govt. to take call soon

Later, speaking to reporters, he said more space could be added "in the chamber" to make way for expansion of Parliament after future delimitation.

The offices of staff and Ministers in Parliament currently could be shifted to a new building in the complex connected through an underground path, he said.

In his speech earlier, Mr. Puri had said the option of making a "dhaancha" or structure on top was also on the table. The new building would also hold of-

fices for all MPs, which are not available to them now.

He said a "political call" would be taken after the CPWD assesses the bids, the last day for which is September 30.

Speaking about the history of the CPWD, which was established 165 years ago by the British, Mr. Puri said: "CPWD was born in the 1850s, in Lord Dalhousie's period. The buildings constructed in that period reflected the colonial ethos that the country was subjected to."

He added that the redevelopment of the Central Vista was only one part of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's dream.

"He has a vision for India," he said.

**CONTINUED ON** ▶ PAGE 12



ग्रेटर नौएडा औद्योगिक विकास प्राधिकरण				
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2 346	बिजेन्द्र सिंह पुत्र श्रीचन्द व श्रीमती संतरा देवी पत्नी स्व० श्रीचन्द निवासी ग्राम	701म 702म 1231 1232म 1236म	0.3080 0.0050 0.0630 0.0020 0.0450 का 1 / 4 भाग 0.4230 का 1 / 32 भाग कुल 0.0132	
332	रमेशचन्द, विनोद कुमार, नरेश कुमार पुत्रगण रिशोराय व श्रीमती रामचन्दी पत्नी स्व० रिशोराय व रकम सिंह पुत्र विक्रम निवासी ग्राम	763म 813 / 1म 762 / 1म	0.0230 0.0600 0.0200 कुल 0.1030 का 5 / 25 भाग 0.0206	
212 76	ज्ञानचन्द पुत्र नन्दा निवासी ग्राम	1290म	0.1950 का 117 / 1000 भाग 0.0228 0.1740 का 1 / 3 भाग 0.0580 कुल 0.0808	
212	श्रीमती कविता देवी पत्नी विक्रम निवासी ग्राम	1290म	0.1950 का 616 / 3170 0.0378	
332	श्रीमती ममता पत्नी उपेन्द्र पुत्री ग्यान सिंह निवासी ग्राम	763म 813 / 1म 762 / 1म	0.0230 0.0600 0.0200 कुल 0.1030 का 1 / 25 भाग 0.0041	
332	श्रीमती अलका पत्नी विजय पुत्री ग्यान सिंह निवासी डेरा दिल्ली	763म 813 / 1म 762 / 1म	0.0230 0.0600 0.0200 कुल 0.1030 का 1 / 25 भाग 0.0041	
332	कालू, नारायण सिंह पुत्रगण सियाराम व श्रीमती जगमती पत्नी स्व० सियाराम निवासी ग्राम	762 / 1म	0.0200 का 1 / 5 भाग 0.0040	
332	श्रीमती अनीता पत्नी संजीव कुमार पुत्री ग्यान सिंह निवासी जीट तहसील व खिला बुलन्दशहर	763म 813 / 1म 762 / 1म	0.0230 0.0600 0.0200 कुल 0.1030 का 1 / 25 भाग 0.0041	
355	संजय कुमार, राजवीर सिंह, सुरेन्द्र कुमार पुत्रगण भीम सिंह व श्रीमती भार्गवी पत्नी स्व० भीम सिंह निवासी ग्राम	813 / 2म 814म	0.0600 0.0050 कुल 0.0650 का 4 / 5 भाग 0.0520	
355	आलोक कुमार, अरुण कुमार पुत्रगण सूरज सिंह व श्रीमती लता पत्नी स्व० सूरज सिंह निवासी ग्राम	813 / 2म 814म	0.0600 0.0050 कुल 0.0650 का 3 / 15 भाग 0.0130	
335	जोधा पुत्र लिखी निवासी ग्राम	1316म 1317म 1318म	0.0240 0.1160 0.2470 कुल 0.3870 का 2033 / 5000 भाग 0.1573	
229 335	धर्मवीर सिंह, कर्मवीर सिंह, ओमवीर सिंह, मनवीर सिंह पुत्रगण रतीराम व श्रीमती जगवती पत्नी स्व० रतीराम निवासी ग्राम	657म 658म 659म 660म 661	0.0140 0.0900 0.0330 0.0300 0.0510 कुल 0.2180 का 1 / 8 भाग 0.0272	
245	रघुवीर पुत्र रामजीलाल निवासी ग्राम	1316म 1317म 1318म	0.0240 0.1160 0.2470 कुल 0.3870 का 125 / 837 भाग 0.0577 कुल 0.0849	
245	राजेन्द्र पुत्र रामजीलाल निवासी ग्राम	1221म	0.0700 का 5 / 12 भाग 0.0291	
2 346	चरत सिंह पुत्र बेदी निवासी ग्राम	701म 702म 1231 1232म 1236म	0.3080 0.0050 कुल 0.3130 का 25 / 96 भाग 0.0815 0.0630 0.0020 0.0450 कुल 0.1100 का 1 / 24 भाग 0.0045 कुल 0.0860	
2 346	अजीत सिंह पुत्र बेदी निवासी ग्राम	701म 702म 1231 1232म 1236म	0.3080 0.0050 कुल 0.3130 का 5 / 48 भाग 0.0326 0.0630 0.0020 0.0450 कुल 0.1100 का 1 / 24 भाग 0.0045 कुल 0.0371	
2 346	जितेन्द्र, पवन कुमार, प्रवीन पुत्रगण प्रेमसिंह व श्रीमती वती देवी पत्नी स्व० प्रेम सिंह निवासी ग्राम	701म 702म 1231 1232म 1236म	0.3080 0.0050 कुल 0.3130 का 25 / 96 भाग 0.0815 0.0630 0.0020 0.0450 कुल 0.1100 का 1 / 24 भाग 0.0045 कुल 0.0860	
221	सुनील कुमार, जितेन्द्र कुमार पुत्रगण दयानन्द व श्रीमती शान्ती देवी पत्नी दयानन्द निवासी ग्राम	1296म	0.0720 का 1 / 2 भाग 0.0360	
249	प्रकाश पुत्र रिष्माल निवासी ग्राम	678म 1284म 1285म	0.0190 0.2400 0.0900 कुल 0.3490 का 1 / 9 भाग 0.0387	
229	बलेश्वर, करतर पुत्रगण जयकरन निवासी ग्राम	657म 658म 659म 660म 661	0.0140 0.0900 0.0330 0.0300 0.0510 कुल 0.2180 का 1 / 3 भाग 0.0726	
79	रिष्माल पुत्र भिक्की निवासी ग्राम	886म 890म	0.0700 0.0400 कुल 0.1100 का 1 / 60 भाग 0.0018	
45	इन्दर पुत्र किरणपाल निवासी ग्राम	1222म 1223म 1224म 1224म 1237म 1238म 1239म	0.0430 0.0230 0.0340 0.1230 0.1030 0.0730 कुल 0.3990 हे. का 1 / 30 भाग 0.0133	
94 214	गुलाबचन्द यादव पुत्र श्री अक्खू यादव निवासी गोरखपुर	1456 / 1 1457 / 1 1458 1459 1460 1461 1462 1463 1464 1465 1466 1467 1468 1469 1470 1471 1472 1473 1474 1475 / 1 1476 / 1 1479क 1508 1509 1484क 1485	0.7710 0.1800 0.5190 0.1140 0.1010 0.6200 0.0380 0.0760 0.0780 0.1010 0.2530 0.2660 0.2530 0.0380 0.2150 0.1770 0.8600 0.1900 0.2020 0.2940 0.6640 0.0250 0.2530 0.2400 0.0890 0.2150 कुल का बकदर भाग	
172	बाबू पुत्र मुंशी निवासी ग्राम	1217म	0.0740 का बकदर भाग	
118 308	हरिओम पुत्र जयप्रकाश निवासी ग्राम	1391 1392	0.2020 1.4420 कुल का बकदर भाग	
96 90 187	प्रमोद, सतीश पुत्रगण दयानन्द व श्रीमती भगवती पत्नी दयानन्द निवासी ग्राम	1366म 1369 1370 1371 1380ख	0.2044 0.0540 0.7840 0.3670 0.2440 कुल का बकदर भाग	

उपरोक्त भूमि क्रय किये जाने में यदि किसी व्यक्ति को कोई आपत्ति है तो वह लिखित रूप में पन्द्रह दिनों के अन्दर अपर मुख्य कार्यपालक अधिकारी, ग्रेटर नौएडा के कार्यालय में प्रस्तुत कर सकता है। आपसी सहमति के आधार पर भूमि विक्रम हेतु यू-स्वामी/खालदारों द्वारा भूमि के विक्रय-पत्र निष्पादन किये जाने हेतु अगिलेखां की जानकारी ग्रेटर नौएडा औद्योगिक विकास प्राधिकरण के भूलेख अनुभाग से किसी भी कार्य दिवस में प्राप्त की जा सकती है।

अपर मुख्य कार्यपालक अधिकारी

IN BRIEF

HC pulls up man for 'half-hearted' plea

NEW DELHI

The Delhi HC pulled up a man for filing a PIL "half-heartedly" and without doing any homework before rejecting his plea over appointment of a medical superintendent at Hindu Rao Hospital here. The court said the papers, obtained without authority of law, could not be looked into. PTI

Air quality of Delhi-NCR

Delhi 110 Gurugram 90

Ghaziabad 98 Faridabad 60

Noida 91 Greater Noida 99

Good 0-50 Satisfactory 51-100 Moderate 101-200

Poor 201-300 Very poor 301-400 Severe >401

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

## New cultural centre to come up at Vikaspuri

STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI

Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia on Wednesday approved the construction of a new cultural complex for performing arts at Vikaspuri.

“Delhi needs more space for cultural performances. Therefore, we have come up with a plan to establish a cultural centre at Vikaspuri. This is not only for eminent

# Rapid Metro operators propose to continue service till Oct. 16

‘Process of metro links transfer will be supervised by two retired HC judges’

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
CHANDIGARH

Amid ongoing dispute over the process of transfer of assets and payment of the debt amount regarding Gurugram's Rapid Metro, the Rapid MetroRail Gurgaon Limited (RMGL) and the Rapid MetroRail Gurgaon South Limited (RMGSL) on Wednesday proposed to continue to operate the metro link till October 16.

### Next hearing on Sept. 20

The Punjab and Haryana High Court while hearing the case, fixed the next date for September 20, after fresh proposal about negotiations was offered by the RMGL and the RMGSL to Haryana Shehri Vikas Pradhikaran (HSVP), one of the petitioner in the case. The other petitioner is Haryana Mass Rapid Transport Corporation Limited (HMRTCL).

### ‘Debt due’

Senior advocate Chetan Mittal appearing for the HMRTCL, said that the respondents – the RMGL and RMGSL have come up with a fresh proposal, a deliberation would now be held between both the parties.

“As per their proposal, the key points among other are that the RMGL and the RMGSL will continue to operate their metro link for a period of 30 days [i.e. until Oc-



The Punjab and Haryana High Court has given more time to the petitioners to deliberate on fresh proposals. ■FILE PHOTO: MANOJ KUMAR

As per their proposal, the key points are that the RMGL and the RMGSL will continue to operate their metro link for a period of 30 days, during which the ‘debt due’ as per financing documents in terms of the concession agreement may be determined

CHETAN MITTAL  
Senior advocate for HMRTCL

tober 16, 2019], during which the ‘debt due’ as per financing documents in terms of the concession agreement may be determined by an auditor appointed by the court, and secondly the process

for transfer of the metro links may be undertaken under the supervision of two retired High Court judges, one being nominated by RMGL-RMGSL and one being nominated by the HSVP,” he said.

“The court has given us the time to deliberate on fresh proposals. The court will now take up the matter on Friday [September 20],” said Mr. Mittal.

The HMRTCL and the HSVP had approached the High Court challenging the validity of the termination notice and sought the court's directions on continuity of the metro by the RMGL and the RMGSL, the two special purpose vehicles (SPVs) floated by the Infrastructure Leasing & Financial Services for the rail project.

## 7 robbers arrested

STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI

Seven robbers have been arrested for allegedly committing two armed robberies in north-west Delhi, the police said on Wednesday.

Deputy Commissioner of Police (North-West) Vijayanta Arya said that the accused have been identified as Raj Kumar, Parveen Sheoran, Ranjeet Sharma, Vikas Narwal, Ajeet Sehrawat, Vishal Rao, and a minor.

The police said that on September 7, Ma-

hender Pal Narang, a jeweller, reported that he was shot at and robbed of ₹5 lakh and gold by two men.

During investigation, the police said that the team of special staff visited the scene of crime of robbery, route from shop to residence, CCTVs were checked all around the area and more than 500 CCTV footages were analysed to identify and nab the accused. On Tuesday, the accused were arrested from Sant Samagam on a tip-off, Ms. Arya said.

## IIT-Delhi to hold third edition of Industry Day

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi, will be organising the third edition of Industry Day on September 21. The event is to spread awareness in the industry about the various research projects being conducted at the institute and build a close rapport between faculty, students and investors.

“It is the flagship event of the institute that aims to harness and promote the power of industry-academia collaboration, kindle ideas for cogent partnerships and showcase cutting edge research by the IIT Delhi researchers. NITI Aayog member V.K. Paul will be the chief guest at the event,” the institute said on Wednesday.

Over 200 product prototypes and posters by researchers will be on display and the institute is expecting over 500 participants from the industry to be present on campus.

The five themes for the event are clean energy for sustainable economy and environment, sustainable medical technologies, emerging nano and advanced materials, sustainable education and Make in India, the institute said.

IIT, Delhi director V. Ramgopal Rao said that industry-driven research will also focus on creating jobs for our youth, and achieve our ambition of \$5 trillion Indian economy. “We believe that since we are a public-funded institute, our aim should be to do research that benefits the public,” he said.

### DELHI TODAY

**Talk:** Lecture on “Challenging the Stigma that Surrounds Dementia / Alzheimer” by Dr. Mala Kapur Shankardass, Gerontologist, at Gulmohar Hall, India Habitat Centre, 7 p.m.

**Concert:** “Jivan Raga” a musical rendition of Kunwar Narain's poetry by Shubha Mudgal, as part of the two-day event, Remembering Kunwar Narain, a leading poet in Hindi. Accompanying artists are: Aneesh Pradhan on the tabla and Sudhir Nayak on the harmonium at C.D. Deshmukh Auditorium, India International Centre, 6.30 p.m.

**Exhibition:** “Beyond Canvases”, a solo painting exhibition by Renu Vidwatharathi at Convention Centre Foyer, IHC, 11 a.m. - 7 p.m.

**Exhibition:** “Rumination of An Unfettered Mind”, a solo show by Laxmi Gupta at Triveni Gallery, Triveni Kala Sangam, 205, Tansen Marg, 11 a.m. - 8 p.m.

**Exhibition:** “Urges”, an art exhibition showcasing more than 120 artworks in various mediums by 55 upcoming artists at All India Fine Arts and Crafts Society, 1 Rafi Marg, 11 a.m. - 6 p.m.

**Exhibition:** “Lucid”, an amalgamation of two series of works by photographer Abhishek Basu at Art Explore, 23 Lakeside, Hauz Khas Village, 11 a.m. - 6 p.m. (Mail your listings for this column at cityeditordelhi@thehindu.co.in)

Government of Jharkhand  
Directorate of Industries

Corrigendum

Advertisement PR No: 216558, dated 11.09.2019

With reference to Advertisement PR No: 216558, dated 11.09.2019 regarding Selection of Creative Agency/Event Manager for Design, Erection, Conceptualization of “22<sup>nd</sup> India International Security Expo, 2019” During 03-05 October, 2019 at Pragati Maidan, New Delhi it is to inform that due to unavoidable circumstances the tender opening date is extended to 23.09.2019 at 03.30 PM in lieu of 19.09.2019. Point No. 13 under heading Terms & Condition in eliminated. Rest Terms & Condition remains same.

बुद्ध - बुद्ध नहीं बरसेंगे तो बुद्ध की तरसेंगे sd/-  
P.R. 217282 Industries(19-20)-D Director Industries

SEARCH FOR MISSING



Roshni


General public is hereby informed that a girl namely **Roshni, D/O Sh. Virender, R/O H.No. 245 H, Durga Mandir Galli, Kondli, Delhi.** The girl has been missing since 22.06.2019 from the area of P.S. New Ashok Nagar, Delhi.

In this regard **DD No. 32-A dated 23.06.2019** has been registered at P.S. New Ashok Nagar, Delhi. Sincere efforts have been made by the police to trace out the missing girl but no clue has come to light so far.

The description of the missing girl is as under:  
**Name:** Roshni, **Age:** 19 Years, **Height:** 5'3", **Complexion:** Fair, **Face:** Long, **Built:** Thin, **Wearing:** Red Colour Kurta and Black Colour Salwar.

If anyone has any information regarding this missing girl, kindly inform SHO/ P.S. New Ashok Nagar, Delhi.

**Email:** [cic@cbl.gov.in](mailto:cic@cbl.gov.in), **Website:** <http://cbl.nic.in>  
**Ph. :** 011-23015229, 23015218 **SHO**  
**Fax:** 011-23011334  
**P.S. New Ashok Nagar, Delhi**  
**DP/6896/ED/19** **Ph. No. 011-22610839, 08750870637**



New Okhla Industrial Development Authority

Administrative Building, Sector-6, Noida-201301 (U.P.)  
Website : [www.noidaauthorityonline.com](http://www.noidaauthorityonline.com)

E-TENDER NOTICE

E-Tenders are invited from firms/contractors registered with UPLC Lucknow for the following jobs against which bids can be uploaded and same shall be opened/downloaded as per schedule mentioned. The details and conditions of all tenders are available on Noida Authority's official website: [www.noidaauthorityonline.com](http://www.noidaauthorityonline.com) & <https://etender.up.nic.in>. Please ensure to see these website for any changes/amendments & corrigendum etc.

1. Job No.- 05/E-TENDER/SPO/2019-20, Name of Work:- Supply of Printing & Stationary Items, NOIDA, Estimated Cost-Rs. 1712050.00

Which can be uploaded by date 26.09.2019 upto 5.00 PM. Pre-qualification shall be opened/ downloaded on date 27.09.2019 at 11.00 AM.

Store Purchase Officer,  
Sector-39, Noida

CLEAN, GREEN, SAFE & SECURE NOIDA



JHARKHAND BIJLEE VITRAN NIGAM LIMITED

(CIN - U40108JH2013-SGC001702)

Engineering Building, HEC, Dhurva, Ranchi - 834004,  
Email:- [cecr2018@gmail.com](mailto:cecr2018@gmail.com), Fax: 0651-2400799

3rd TIME EXTENSION NOTICE

for “Appointment of Agencies for Improving Consumer/Households Database of JBVNL through mapping of feeder with DTs, DTs with consumers using DT code generated through software for Implementation of Energy Accounting”

Sl. No.	e-tender Notice No.	Package No.	Name of Electric Supply Area
1	36/PR/JBVNL/ 2019-20	Package-A	Ranchi & Medniganagar
2	37/PR/JBVNL/ 2019-20	Package-B	Jamshedpur
3	38/PR/JBVNL/ 2019-20	Package-C	Dhanbad
4	39/PR/JBVNL/ 2019-20	Package-D	Dumka
5	40/PR/JBVNL/ 2019-20	Package-E	Hazaribagh & Giridih

Extended Timelines for participating in the all the above e-tender is detailed below :

Sl. No.	Particulars	Estimated Date
1	Last date & time of receipt of Bid documents online	Upto26/09/2019 at 18:00 hrs.
2	Last date of physical submission of tender fee & EMD:	Upto30/09/2019 at 13:00 hrs.
3	Due date of opening :	Part - I - Technical Bid:- 30/09/2019 at 16:00 hrs.

1. Amendment in certain clauses has been made which may be downloaded from e-tendering website.

2. Bid uploading/ opening will be through e-tendering norms only. The complete Tender documents can be downloaded through website [www.jharkhandtenders.gov.in](http://www.jharkhandtenders.gov.in) Bidder may contact help desk of e-Procurement system at the following web address: [www.jharkhandtenders.gov.in](http://www.jharkhandtenders.gov.in).

Contact Officials:- EEE (R) - 9661842194 / EEE (EA)- 8210860249

PR No.-214718

बुद्ध - बुद्ध नहीं बरसेंगे तो बुद्ध की तरसेंगे

बिजली एवं एयरलिन में कर्जा बढ़ाई। कृषा अपनी रिकवरी को दौल की नं० 1800 345 8570 पर कर सकें।

PR 217275 (Jharkhand Bijlee Vitran Nigam Ltd)19-20#D

Sd/-  
Chief Engineer (C&R)





**Delhi Police launches app for citizen-centric services**

NEW DELHI  
Lieutenant-Governor Anil Bajjal on Wednesday launched ‘Tatpar’ app, developed by Delhi Police, which is a one-stop destination for access to over 50 citizen-centric services, the police said. Delhi Police Commissioner Amulya Patnaik and other officials were present during the launch at the India Gate, they added.

**Delhi Metro Training Institute gets new name**

NEW DELHI  
The Delhi Metro Training Institute in Shastri Park was on Wednesday renamed as the Delhi Metro Rail Academy, DMRC officials said. The academy, which was started in 2002, has trained around 25,000 DMRC personnel and 2,000 personnel from other metros in the country, said officials. DMRC Managing Director Mangu Singh said, “The Delhi Metro Rail Academy will further raise the bar in the quality of training in the field of mass rapid transit system. The faculty will also be strengthened.”

**25 arrested for gambling, ₹8 lakh recovered**

NEW DELHI  
In a raid conducted in Central Delhi’s IP Estate on Tuesday night, 25 people have been arrested for allegedly indulging in gambling, the police said. Nearly ₹8 lakh was recovered from their possession, they added.

# Hunt for missing jumbo ends, mahout arrested

Elephant rescued, sent to rescue centre in Haryana

STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI

An elephant which had been missing for the last two months was rescued and its mahout was arrested by the Delhi police on late Tuesday night from east Delhi.

The 47-year-old elephant, Laxmi, was sent to an elephant rescue centre in Ban Santour in Haryana around 9 p.m. on Wednesday, according to officials of forest department.

Deputy Commissioner of Police (East) Jasmeet Singh said that a complaint was filed after the forest department team was allegedly attacked while rescuing the elephant from Yamuna Khadar area in July. The caretaker’s family then escaped with the jumbo.

“An FIR was registered against the caretaker’s family for restraining government servant [forest department] from performing his duty. The elephant was missing with the mahout since then and we were searching for him,” said a police officer.

“We launched a search operation on Tuesday to locate the elephant. Three teams comprising around 12 officials carried out combing operation in the areas along the banks of the Yamuna,” said Mr. Singh. Finally, they found the elephant and rescued it. The mahout, identified as Saddam, was arrested.

The police said that it



The 47-year-old elephant, Laxmi, was traced after a combing operation along the banks of the Yamuna. ■ SANDEEP SAXENA

took more than 12 hours for the forest department officials to reach Shakarpur police station and take away the elephant.

**Forest officials came late**

“We found the elephant at midnight and immediately informed forest department as we have no place to keep the animal at the police station. But the forest department replied that they will come in the morning,” said a police man, who was part of team that rescued the elephant.

On Wednesday morning, a team of forest department officials arrived at the police station, but they failed to make the elephant board a truck, the police said.

“First we tried to shift the elephant directly from the police station to Ban Santour, but the elephant refused to board the truck. Later, it was moved to a

nursery of the forest department near ITO,” the forest department official said.

Later at night, when the jumbo calmed down, it was sent to the elephant rescue centre in Haryana.

**The story so far**

Laxmi was supposed to be shifted to Ban Santour in Haryana as there were not enough facilities for elephants in the Capital. In February, the forest department had issued a seizure notice for Laxmi and on July 1, the authorities in Haryana informed their counterparts in Delhi that the elephants can be shifted.

The officials later filed a complaint alleging that they were attacked by the caretakers of the elephant and they escaped with the animal. An FIR was filed based on their complaint and the officials had been searching for Laxmi since July.

# Sedition case: Delhi govt. rapped over delay

Government ‘expected’ to take decision within one month, says court

NIRNIMESH KUMAR  
NEW DELHI

A city court on Wednesday pulled up the AAP government for “delaying” the decision on a Delhi police request for sanction to prosecute former JNUSU president Kanhaiya Kumar and others in a sedition case.

The police request has been pending with the Delhi government for the past six months, leading to adjournment of hearing on every date.

“The time which is being taken to finalise the issue of sanction or otherwise has caused wastage of judicial time as the case has been listed and adjourned repeatedly since the filing of the chargesheet,” Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Manish Khurana said while posting the matter for October 25.

“It is expected of the government of NCT of Delhi that decision regarding the



Kanhaiya Kumar

sanction or otherwise would be taken within one month from today [Wednesday] so that further proceedings in the present case may be done, and Assistant Public Prosecutor for the State is directed to file the report regarding the same by the next date of hearing,” the CMM said.

A deputy secretary of the government, in a letter to the Directorate of Prosecution on April 4, had said that a decision on the sanction re-

quest would be taken within one month of the receipt of opinion from the Standing Counsel (Criminal) and the Law Department, but no decision had been taken till date, the court said.

Section 196 of the Criminal Procedure Code states that “no court shall take cognisance of any offence punishable under Chapter VI of the Indian Penal Code except with the previous sanction of the Central government or of the State government”. Section 124A (sedition), under which the accused persons have also been charged, is placed under this chapter.

The Arvind Kejriwal government on Wednesday informed the court that no decision had been taken in the sedition case yet. The reply also stated that the file was pending before Delhi Health Minister Satyendar Jain, who is also handling the Home

portfolio.

On January 14, the police had filed a chargesheet in the court against Kanhaiya Kumar and others, including former JNU students Umar Khalid and Anirban Bhattacharya, saying they were leading a procession and supported seditious slogans raised on the JNU campus during an event on February 9, 2016.

The Delhi government had on April 6 informed the court that the police had chargesheeted the accused in a “hasty and secretive manner” without taking prior prosecution sanction from the competent authority.

A Special Cell Deputy Commissioner of Police had in March informed the court that there was no lapse in chargesheeting the accused persons without prior prosecution sanction.

(With agency inputs)

# Proposal to pay students’ CBSE exam fee gets Cabinet approval

The move will benefit 3.14 lakh students, cost govt. ₹57 crore

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
GURUGRAM

A woman has been arrested along with her male accomplice for allegedly befriending a man on a dating app and robbing him of ₹1.36 lakh through online money transfer. The woman allegedly rendered the man unconscious during their meeting at a hotel and made off with his mobile phone and other belongings.

The duo – Deepali Das (39) and Ashwani Sharma (40) – were earlier arrested by the Delhi Police in a similar case registered at Greater Kailash Police Station and had spent three months in jail.

The victim working at a private company in Gurugram for the last four years made a complaint at Palam Vihar police station saying that a woman had illegally withdrawn ₹1.36 lakh from his bank account through online and had also taken away his wallet containing ₹1,500 in cash and his identity cards, including Aadhaar, PAN and voter ID.

The two came to know each other through a dating app and had been chatting for almost 20 days before the woman asked him to come and meet her at a hotel, the police said.

remit the total exam fee of students directly to the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) through heads of schools concerned.

The fee will include that paid towards practical examinations for science stream and vocational subjects opted by students of Class XII. “No fee shall be collected from students on account of CBSE board exam fee,” the government said.

## ₹1,800 per student

“There are 1,79,914 students studying in Class X, and 1,33,802 students in Class XII. There are five compulsory subjects and one optional

subject for which fee is to be remitted. This will be ₹1,800 per student,” the government said.

Earlier, the government had announced that it will pay the fees of students after the CBSE notified the hike last month.

The CBSE had increased the fee for general category students from ₹750 to ₹1,500 for five subjects. Justifying the increase in examination fee, CBSE had said that expenditure on Class X and XII exams amounted to approximately ₹500 crore last year and that earnings from student exam fee was less than ₹250 crore.

# Did not give written resignation: Alka Lamba

Rebel AAP MLA says she quit on Twitter, now it’s up to Speaker to decide on issue

STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI

Rebel AAP MLA Alka Lamba on Wednesday said that she has not submitted a written resignation to the party and has not taken up a Congress membership. She said this during a hearing at the Delhi Assembly on a disqualification petition moved by AAP chief spokesperson Saurabh Bharadwaj.

Ms. Lamba had earlier this month tweeted that she has resigned from the party (AAP) membership.

“There was a twitter war by Saurabh Bharadwaj and I told him over twitter than I am resigning from the party. But I never gave a written resignation. Now, it is up to the



Alka Lamba

Speaker to decide whether he can treat it as an official resignation,” Ms. Lamba told *The Hindu*.

She told the media that people have elected her and she would not resign as an MLA and also alleged that the Assembly Speaker was under pressure from AAP.

The rebel MLA said that if she is disqualified as an MLA, then she would protest outside the Chief Minister’s house to get people’s work done.

Attacking Ms. Lamba, Mr. Bharadwaj said in a tweet, “Alka Lamba is scared today. She claimed her Twitter resignation from AAP should not be taken seriously After announcing her Congress joining with Sonia Gandhi, she claims everything was a lie. Can such people be trusted for anything? Is there any value of their announcements? [sic]”

## Long fight

Ms. Lamba has been maintaining the stand that she

will contest on a Congress ticket if the party approaches her, else she will contest as an independent from Chandni Chowk.

In December 2018, Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal had sought disciplinary action against Ms. Lamba for being at the forefront of criticism against a demand by some AAP MLAs to recall the Bharat Ratna conferred on late Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi.

This rift between Ms. Lamba and the party has been growing ever since, but she has not formally resigned from the party. She has been vocal against AAP for the last couple of months and has not been called for party meetings.

# Live-in partner among 3 held for killing man

STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI

A 25-year-old woman, her brother and another relative have been arrested for allegedly killing the woman’s live-in partner in south-east Delhi’s Amar Colony, the police said on Wednesday.

Deputy Commissioner of Police (South East) Chinmoy Biswal said that the arrested accused have been identified as Anita, her brother Bijay Chhetri (30) and relative Rajender Chhetri, all residents of West Bengal’s Kalimpong. The accused allegedly planned and killed Sunil (28), who hailed from Nepal.

The police had on September 10 received a call around 2.20 p.m. from Lajpat Nagar regarding a man’s body lying in a room. They reached the spot and found that the body had a sharp cut on the neck

When the officials questioned Anita, she broke down and confessed to have killed Sunil along with her brother and a relative. On September 13, Bijay was arrested from his village and subsequently Rajender was arrested, they said.

# Officials in a fix over plan to distribute masks, saplings

‘Decision taken without consulting depts.’

NIKHIL M BABU  
NEW DELHI

Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal’s decision to distribute 50-60 lakh anti-pollution masks and saplings to households has left government officials in a fix over how to execute the plan. Senior officials of environment and forest departments said the decision was not discussed with them before the announcement.

While forest department officials said that survival rate of saplings will be less as monsoon (planting season) is almost over, officials of environment department said that they are yet to decide on how to distribute the masks and saplings.

“No decision has been taken on exactly which mask would be procured or how it would be distributed. We were not consulted before the announcement was made. But since then there have been multiple meetings on the issue,” an official told *The Hindu*.

“Just in case of distribution of masks, a lot of decisions have to be made and then we have to procure them through a tendering process,” the official added.

Environment Minister

Kailash Gahlot is scheduled to chair another meeting on the issue on Thursday.

Asked about the decision, Dialogue and Development Commission Vice-Chairperson Jasmine Shah said: “Work is in progress. At this time we cannot share further details.” When asked why the plans were not discussed with departments concerned before the Chief Minister made the announcement, Mr. Shah refused to comment.

On Friday, the Chief Minister had announced a seven-point programme to fight air pollution, including introduction of odd-even vehicle rationing scheme and distribution of masks and saplings.

Mr. Kejriwal had said that “50-60 lakh” N95 anti-pollution masks will be procured and distributed in October. He had also said that the government would conduct a “Delhi Tree Challenge”

“We are aiming at planting a total of 40 lakh saplings in the next six months under the campaign. For those who can’t afford one, they can call at a number and the government will deliver them a sapling,” an official statement had said.

# NGT dismisses plea against vehicle rationing scheme

Plea claimed that move had no impact

STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI

The National Green Tribunal (NGT) on Wednesday dismissed a plea challenging implementation of the odd-even vehicle rationing scheme in Delhi while raising questions on the maintainability of the petition.

“Under which section is the plea maintainable,” asked a Bench headed by NGT chairperson Justice Adarsh Kumar Goel while dismissing the plea.

The observations came when the green panel was hearing a plea moved by advocate Gaurav Bansal who claimed that previous reports of the Central Pollution Control Board had stated that the vehicle rationing scheme had no impact on the ambient air quality in the Capital.

The petition was filed on Monday following Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal’s September 13 announcement on the fact that the odd-even policy will be rolled out in Delhi between November 4 and 15.

Mr. Kejriwal had said that the odd-even policy was part of a seven point action plan that also included distribution of anti-pollution



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# जन भागीदारी-जवाबदेह सरकार उत्तर प्रदेश में पहली बार



## विकास एवं सुशासन के 30 माह



### कृषि

- रु. 73,000 करोड़ से अधिक गन्ना मूल्य का भुगतान • रु. 36,000 करोड़ से 86 लाख लघु एवं सीमान्त किसानों का ऋण मोचन • सभी किसानों को प्रधानमंत्री किसान सम्मान निधि योजना का लाभ • गेहूं, धान, दलहन, तिलहन की एम.एस.पी. में वृद्धि करते हुए किसानों से 227 लाख मी. टन खाद्यान्न की सरकारी खरीद

### सिंचाई

- 46 वर्षों से लंबित बाण सागर परियोजना सहित 8 सिंचाई परियोजनाओं को पूर्ण कर लगभग 2 लाख 67 हजार हेक्टेयर सिंचन क्षमता में वृद्धि • बुन्देलखण्ड में 8384 खेत-तालाबों का निर्माण • 50 लाख किसान ड्रिप स्प्रिंकलर सिंचाई योजना से लाभान्वित • निःशुल्क बोरिंग के माध्यम से 1 लाख 61 हजार 485 हेक्टेयर सिंचन क्षमता में वृद्धि

### चिकित्सा एवं स्वास्थ्य

- 'आयुष्मान भारत' योजना से 1 करोड़ 18 लाख गरीब परिवारों को रु. 5 लाख तक का चिकित्सा कवर। छूटे हुए 10 लाख 56 हजार परिवार 'मुख्यमंत्री जन आरोग्य योजना' से आच्छादित • जे.ई./ए.ई.एस. के रोकथाम हेतु प्रभावी प्रयासों से इस बीमारी में 35% एवं मृत्यु दर में 65% कमी • गोरखपुर एवं रायबरेली में एम्स का निर्माण • 15 नये मेडिकल कॉलेज की स्थापना-कार्य प्रगति पर, जिनमें से 7 मेडिकल कॉलेज में पढ़ाई प्रारम्भ

### शिक्षा

- 'स्कूल चलो अभियान' में 1.80 करोड़ बच्चों का नामांकन • बालिकाओं को स्नातक तक निःशुल्क शिक्षा • एन.सी.ई.आर.टी. पाठ्यक्रम लागू • नकलविहीन परीक्षाएं • 193 नये इण्टर कालेज संचालित • 51 नये राजकीय महाविद्यालयों की स्थापना-कार्य प्रगति पर • 2 नये विश्वविद्यालयों की स्थापना हेतु भूमि-बजट की व्यवस्था • 24 राजकीय पॉलीटेक्निक की स्थापना • 4 राजकीय इंजीनियरिंग कॉलेज की स्थापना

### बिजली

- जनपद मुख्यालयों को 24 घंटे, तहसील मुख्यालयों को 20 घंटे एवं ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों को 18 घंटे विद्युत आपूर्ति • 1 करोड़ 9 लाख से अधिक नये विद्युत कनेक्शन • 1 लाख 30 हजार मजरे विद्युतीकृत • सूर्यास्त के बाद ग्रामीण क्षेत्र विद्युत कटौती से मुक्त

### निवेश

- लगभग रु. 2 लाख करोड़ की निवेश परियोजनाओं पर कार्य प्रारम्भ, 5 लाख लोगों को रोजगार • रु. 20,000 करोड़ के निवेश वाले डिफेंस कॉरिडोर की स्थापना-प्रक्रिया प्रारम्भ, 2 लाख 50 हजार लोगों को रोजगार मिलेगा • ओडीओपी योजना में 1 लाख 92 हजार लाभार्थियों को रु. 18 हजार 345 करोड़ का ऋण वितरित, 5 लाख लोगों को रोजगार

### एक्सप्रेसवे

- 341 किलोमीटर लम्बे पूर्वांचल एक्सप्रेसवे का तेजी से निर्माण • 91 किमी. लम्बे गोरखपुर लिंक एक्सप्रेसवे एवं 297 किमी. लम्बे बुन्देलखण्ड एक्सप्रेसवे के लिए निर्माण-प्रक्रिया प्रारम्भ • मेरठ से प्रयागराज तक 640 किमी. लंबे गंगा एक्सप्रेसवे के निर्माण का निर्णय

### समाज कल्याण

- अनुसूचित जाति/जनजाति के कुल 33 लाख 43 हजार, पिछड़ी जाति के कुल 55 लाख 83 हजार एवं सामान्य वर्ग के 19 लाख से अधिक छात्र-छात्राओं को पूर्वदशम एवं दशमोत्तर छात्रवृत्ति • वृद्धावस्था पेंशन प्रतिमाह रु. 400/- से बढ़ाकर रु. 500/- करते हुए 41 लाख 57 हजार 308 वृद्धजन को पेंशन • दिव्यांगजन पेंशन प्रतिमाह रु. 300/- से बढ़ाकर रु. 500/- करते हुए 9 लाख 84 हजार 709 दिव्यांगजन को पेंशन • वनटांगिया, मुसहर, कोल तथा थारू समुदाय के ग्रामों में मूलभूत सुविधाओं का विकास

### स्वच्छता

- सभी जनपद ओडीएफ घोषित • ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों में 2 करोड़ 61 लाख परिवार व्यक्तिगत शौचालयों से आच्छादित • नगर क्षेत्र में 4000 सामुदायिक शौचालयों का निर्माण

### श्रमिक-कल्याण

- 60 वर्ष की आयु पूर्ण कर चुके श्रमिकों को प्रतिमाह रु. 1000/- की पेंशन • प्रधानमंत्री श्रम योगी मान धन योजना के अन्तर्गत 5 लाख 13 हजार 917 श्रमिकों का पंजीकरण • पारम्परिक कारीगरों, बढ़ई, दर्जी, टोकरी बुनकर, नाई, सुनार, लोहार, कुम्हार, हलवाई आदि के लिए विश्वकर्मा श्रम सम्मान योजना • उत्तर प्रदेश माटी कला बोर्ड का गठन

### कानून व्यवस्था

- कानून व्यवस्था पर जीरो टालरेन्स की नीति • संगठित अपराध पर नियंत्रण • सभी प्रमुख पर्व, त्यौहार, मेले, धार्मिक आयोजन तथा लोकसभा चुनाव शांतिपूर्ण एवं सकुशल सम्पन्न

### महिला सशक्तिकरण

- प्रधानमंत्री उज्ज्वला योजना में गरीब महिलाओं को 1 करोड़ 35 लाख निःशुल्क रसोई गैस कनेक्शन • एंटी रोमियो स्कॉयड का गठन • मुख्यमंत्री कन्या सुमंगला योजना क्रियान्वित • मुख्यमंत्री सामूहिक विवाह योजना में निर्धन परिवारों की 68108 कन्याओं की शादी • निराश्रित महिला पेंशन हेतु आयु सीमा की बाध्यता समाप्त • 21 लाख 69 हजार निराश्रित महिलाओं को पेंशन • अल्पसंख्यक वर्ग की निर्धन पुत्रियों की शादी के लिए अनुदान • प्रधानमंत्री मातृ वंदना योजना से 18 लाख 57 हजार 38 माताएं लाभान्वित • सभी जिलों में 181 महिला हेल्पलाइन व रेस्क्यू वैन संचालित

### प्रधानमंत्री आवास योजना

- प्रधानमंत्री आवास योजना (ग्रामीण) में 12 लाख 82 हजार आवास निर्मित • प्रधानमंत्री आवास योजना (शहरी) में स्वीकृत 12 लाख 97 हजार 212 आवासों का निर्माण कार्य प्रगति पर • मुख्यमंत्री आवास योजना (ग्रामीण) में 16700 आवास निर्मित

### नगर विकास

- स्मार्ट सिटी मिशन योजना में प्रदेश के 10 शहर (लखनऊ, कानपुर, प्रयागराज, वाराणसी, आगरा, सहारनपुर, बरेली, झांसी, मुरादाबाद, अलीगढ़) में रु. 20 हजार करोड़ की परियोजनाएं प्रगति पर • 60 शहरों में अमृत योजना के अन्तर्गत कार्य • नमामि गंगे परियोजना के तहत 45 सीवरेज परियोजनाएं स्वीकृत, 12 परियोजनाएं पूर्ण एवं शेष पर निर्माण कार्य प्रगति पर

### पारदर्शी भर्ती प्रक्रिया

- अब तक 2 लाख 25 हजार भर्तियां पूर्ण • पुलिस, शिक्षा व अन्य विभागों में भर्ती की पारदर्शी प्रक्रिया जारी

### सड़क, वायु, मेट्रो कनेक्टिविटी

- 129441 किमी. सड़कें गड़ढामुक्त • 66700 किमी. मार्ग का नवीनीकरण • 7948 किमी. ग्रामीण सड़कों का निर्माण • प्रधानमंत्री ग्राम सड़क योजना में 6003 किमी. सड़कों का निर्माण • 8 हवाई अड्डे क्रियाशील • जेवर इंटरनेशनल एयरपोर्ट का कार्य प्रगति पर • 11 नये हवाईअड्डों का निर्माण जारी • लखनऊ में अमौसी से मुंशी पुलिया तक मेट्रो का संचालन • नोएडा से ग्रेटर नोएडा तक मेट्रो का विस्तार • कानपुर, झांसी, वाराणसी, आगरा, प्रयागराज, गोरखपुर और मेरठ में मेट्रो/रैपिड अर्बन ट्रांसपोर्ट हेतु कार्य योजना तैयार

### पर्यटन

- प्रयागराज में 'दिव्य कुम्भ-भव्य कुम्भ' का आयोजन • मथुरा में रंगोत्सव एवं अयोध्या में भव्य दीपोत्सव का आयोजन • काशी विश्वनाथ मंदिर कॉरिडोर का विकास • स्वदेश दर्शन योजना के अन्तर्गत समेकित पर्यटन विकास

### पशुधन व दुग्ध विकास

- प्रत्येक जनपद में दो-दो वृहद गोवंश संरक्षण केन्द्र की स्थापना हेतु रु. 180 करोड़ एवं छुट्टा गोवंश के भरण-पोषण हेतु रु. 158.50 करोड़ की स्वीकृति • बुन्देलखण्ड के 7 जनपदों में 36 पशु आश्रय गृहों के निर्माण हेतु रु. 10.32 करोड़ की स्वीकृति • वित्तीय वर्ष 2018-19 में 305 लाख मी. टन दुग्ध उत्पादन कर उत्तर प्रदेश देश में प्रथम स्थान पर

### राशन की कालाबाजारी पर रोक

- 63 लाख से अधिक फर्जी राशन कार्ड निरस्त • 3 करोड़ 55 लाख परिवारों को नये राशन कार्ड • 15 करोड़ से अधिक लाभार्थियों को पोर्टेबिलिटी के माध्यम से राशन दुकान चुनने का अवसर • ई-पास मशीनों के माध्यम से भ्रष्टाचार रहित खाद्यान्न वितरण

### वन एवं पर्यावरण

- वृक्षारोपण महाकुम्भ के अन्तर्गत रिकार्ड 22 करोड़ से अधिक वृक्षों का रोपण • प्रयागराज में एक निश्चित समयावधि में एक ही स्थान पर 76824 पौध रोपण कर 'गिनीज बुक ऑफ वर्ल्ड रिकार्ड' में नाम दर्ज • स्वच्छ पर्यावरण के लिए पॉलीथीन के निर्माण एवं उपयोग पर पूर्ण प्रतिबंध

उच्च गुणवत्ता वाले हेलमेट का ही उपयोग करें।

सबका साथ-सबका विकास-सबका विश्वास



सूचना एवं जनसम्पर्क विभाग, उत्तर प्रदेश



‘Unauthorised colonies to be regularised in 6 months’

BJP will ensure regularisation: Tiwari

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

Delhi BJP president Manoj Tiwari on Wednesday said that the party will ensure the regularisation of all unauthorised colonies in the city that number around 1,797, within six months.

The BJP's central leadership, the North East Delhi MP said, had directed elected leaders from its Delhi unit to conduct public events to take feedback from the residents of such colonies in the city. Mr. Tiwari said efforts were also being made to ensure in-situ rehabilitation of residents of jhuggi jhopri clusters in Delhi.

“All the unauthorised colonies will be regularised in

six months from now. The Delhi BJP leaders – be it MPs, MLAs or councillors – will on September 22 visit unauthorised colonies across 22 Assembly segments to get feedback from people and expose the Arvind Kejriwal-led Delhi government which has failed to regularise these settlements despite being in power for five years,” Mr. Tiwari said while addressing the media here.

Mr. Tiwari argued that had the Delhi government been committed to the issue, such colonies would have been regularised already and ownership rights would have been bestowed upon their residents.

Three injured as bus rams vehicles in east Delhi

STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI

Three persons sustained injuries after a cluster bus hit several other vehicles near Akshardham Temple in east Delhi's Pandav Nagar, the police said on Wednesday.

DCP (East) Jasmeet Singh said that the injured have been identified as Akhilesh

(21), Chandan (32) and Mohd Amir (41). They are currently out of danger. The bus was coming from Sarai Kale Khan and going towards Akshardham flyover. It first hit an autorickshaw, which hit three four-wheelers. Another four-wheeler hit the bus from behind while a two-wheeler hit it from another side.

Delhi Weather	max	min
Delhi City	35	26
Safdarjang	35	26
Palam	36	25

**Delhi Palam Today**  
34°C A comfortable and hazy morning lies ahead. Day will be warm with partly cloudy sky.

**Delhi Palam Tomorrow**  
35°C A warm and humid day sky is likely. Short spells of light rain will affect a few places.

DELHI Timings
THURSDAY, SEPT. 19
RISE 06:08 SET 18:22
RISE 21:37 SET 10:22
FRIDAY, SEPT. 20
RISE 06:08 SET 18:21
RISE 22:18 SET 11:19
SATURDAY, SEPT. 21
RISE 06:09 SET 18:19
RISE 23:04 SET 12:17

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NIT No. EE (M-I)/NGZ/2019-20/8 Dated :- 11.09.2019

**NOTICE INVITING TENDER**

The Executive Engineer (M-I)-NGZ, SDMC, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor SDMC Community Hall, Sector-17A, Near DDA Market, Dwarka, New Delhi invites on behalf of the Commissioner, SDMC sealed item rate/percentage rate tenders as mentioned below from the approved and eligible contractors registered with General Wing. Detailed NIT/Bidding documents can be seen and downloaded from online website [www.tenderwizard.com/SOUTHDMCETENDER](http://www.tenderwizard.com/SOUTHDMCETENDER). The condition of Dense carpeting will be applicable in the cases of Dense Carpet.

**Last Date of Download of Tender Document:- 30.09.2019 at 14:00 HRS, Last Date of Bid Submission:- 30.09.2019 at 15:00 HRS. Last Date of deposit of Tender cost & Earnest Money D.D. :- 01.10.2019 at 15:00 HRS, Opening of Financial Bid :- 01.10.2019 at 15.30 HRS.**

- N.O.W.-** Construction of Road by Pdg RMC & Drain from Rajender Hs to Joginder Hs, Vinod Plot to Phimi Road, Jitender to Krishan Tyagi & Raising of Drain from Park to Phimi Road & Amerjeet Hs to Sanjay Hs in Village Rewala Khanpur in C-40-S NGZ. **Tender No. :- 2019-20/8-01, Estimated Cost: Rs. 43,74,000/-, Earnest Money:- Rs. 87,500/-.**
- N.O.W.-** Construction of Road by Pdg RMC and Drain from Nathan Sharma to Post office, Mata Chowk to Miha Kua, Anil Sharma to Harkesh Shop, Ravi Sharma to Jaswant Sharma in village Pandwala Kalan in C-40-S NGZ. **Tender No. :- 2019-20/8-02, Estimated Cost: Rs. 59,40,000/-, Earnest Money:- Rs. 1,18,800/-.**
- N.O.W.-** Raising of Drain from Shamadhi Chowk to Panchayat Ghar in Village Pandwala Kalan in C-40-S NGZ. **Tender No. :- 2019-20/8-03, Estimated Cost: Rs. 67,61,000/-, Earnest Money:- Rs. 1,35,300/-.**
- N.O.W.-** Const. of Road by Pdg RMC and Drain from Shree Bhagwan to Daurala Road, Satpal Wali Gali, Mata Chowk to Nareish Shop to Omparkash, Kuldeep Tokas to M.C. Pry School to Daurala Road, Ragbir Hs to Daurala Road, Dispensary to Bhagwana Hs in Village Rawata in C-40-S NGZ. **Tender No.:- 2019-20/8-04, Estimated Cost: Rs. 93,93,000/-, Earnest Money:- Rs. 1,87,900/-.**
- N.O.W.-** Construction of Road by Pdg RMC and Drain from Tempal to Phimi Road, Master Vedparkash to Phimi Road, Vinder to Phimi Road, Hari Ram Yadav to Chowpal to Mata Chowk in Village Dariyapur in C-40-S NGZ. **Tender No. :- 2019-20/8-05, Estimated Cost: Rs. 95,49,000/-, Earnest Money:- Rs. 1,91,000/-.**
- N.O.W.-** Construction of Road by Pdg RMC and Drain from M.C. Pry School to Pond to Vinod Hs, Subhram to Babu Lal Yadav Hs, Vikash Hs to Phimi Road in Village Kharkhari Jatmal in C-40-S NGZ. **Tender No. :- 2019-20/8-06, Estimated Cost: Rs. 1,00,93,000/-, Earnest Money:- Rs. 2,01,900/-.**
- N.O.W.-** Construction of RCC Drain from Tempal to F.C. Drain in Village Pandwala Khurd in C-40-S NGZ. **Tender No. :- 2019-20/8-07, Estimated Cost: Rs. 1,53,54,000/-, Earnest Money:- Rs. 3,07,100/-.**
- N.O.W.-** Construction of RCC Box Type Drain from Bala Ji Building Material to Tilak Hs Nr. Holi Chowk in Village Ghumanhera in C-40-S NGZ. **Tender No.:- 2019-20/8-08, Estimated Cost: Rs. 2,21,97,000/-, Earnest Money:- Rs. 4,44,000/-.**
- N.O.W.-** Construction of Road and Drain by Pdg RMC from PNB to Main Bus Stand and along with Phimi Road in Village Paprawat in C-40-S NGZ. **Tender No.:- 2019-20/8-09, Estimated Cost: Rs. 2,47,58,000/-, Earnest Money:- Rs. 4,95,200/-.**

Head of A/c for S.No. :- XL-VIII-Z-F.  
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Pkt-V, Sector-G7/G8, Narela	<b>10% concession</b> in construction cost of <b>621 EWS flats</b> at Pocket-V, Sector-G7/G8, Narela	9.55	29.77

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THE HINDU

## EASTERN RAILWAY

**Abridged Tender No. : 07-DCE-CON-ROB-SDAH-19-20 - e-tendering (Open Tender in Two Packet System); Dated : 13.09.2019. Tender for e-tendering is invited by Dy. Chief Engineer/Con/ROB/Eastern Railway/Sealdah for the following work : Name of work : Construction of two lane Road Over Bridge (Railway portion) with Bow String Steel Girder (Span 1x60M) in lieu of existing ROB at Sainthia Station over the same alignment of existing ROB under Dy. CE/CON/ROB, Eastern Railway, Sealdah. Approx Value : ₹ 10,42,49,863.63; Earnest Money : ₹ 6,71,300; Date of opening : 30.09.2019. The Tender Document and other details can be obtained from the website [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in). The bidding for the tender is to be submitted through e-tendering on above website. Manual offers are not allowed against this tender. (CON-93/2019-20)**

Tender Notices are also available at Eastern Railway's website : [www.eir.tenders.gov.in](http://www.eir.tenders.gov.in)

## THE HINDU

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## Capital witnesses steep fall in traffic violations

'Cases came down by 78% after implementation of new rules'

SAURABH TRIVEDI  
NEW DELHI

The city witnessed a steep fall of 78% in traffic violations across categories within a fortnight of the implementation of the amended Motor Vehicles (MV) Act, the Delhi Traffic Police said on Wednesday.

The amended MV Act was implemented on September 1 and as per the traffic police department, a total of 73,712 traffic challans were issued to violators till September 15. Prior to the introduction of the amended Act, as many as 3,48,272 challans were issued between August 16 and 31.

The outer range always records highest number of traffic challans, but things have changed with the new Act. It is good for the safety of drivers and others on the road.

"We have found steepest fall in traffic violations in outer Delhi. It is good to see people obeying traffic rules. It makes our job easier," said a traffic police officer.

A traffic police constable in New Delhi said they have witnessed behavioural changes in drivers. "One can witness the change... Drivers at any traffic signal in the city can be



Traffic police officers issue challans to a bus driver in the Capital on Wednesday. ■SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

## FINE FIGURES

AREA	AUGUST 16-31	SEPTEMBER 1-15
CENTRAL RANGE	51,318	14,485
EASTERN RANGE	52,532	10,083
NEW DELHI RANGE	46,303	8,765
OUTER RANGE	63,757	11,604
SOUTHERN RANGE	71,528	14,748
WESTERN RANGE	63,834	13,227

SOURCE: DELHI TRAFFIC POLICE

seen obeying rules now. People now prefer to obey rules over paying hefty fines," the constable said.

In all the categories of traffic violations, fines have been increased by several folds. Under the new law, driving without a seat belt now invites a fine of ₹1,000, which earlier was ₹100. People are now fined ₹10,000 for drunk

driving.

Meanwhile, another traffic constable said: "We are having a tough time dealing with violators after the amended MV Act has been implemented. To avoid paying hefty fines, violators get into arguments with the policemen and often create a scene. We record the activities of such trouble makers as proof."

## Commercial vehicles call for strike, to stay off roads today

Transport union demands relief from hefty fines, withdrawal of amended MV Act

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

A symbolic strike in protest of several recent government announcements, including the enforcement of the amended Motor Vehicles Act, will take lakhs of commercially-registered vehicles including cabs being operated by app-based services providers such as Uber and Ola off the roads on Thursday.

Commuters across Delhi and the NCR are expected to face inconvenience due to

the move which office-bearers of United Front of Transport Associations (UFTA), on Wednesday, alleged was the sole alternative left to them, given lack of response to the concerns flagged by them to both the Centre and the Delhi government.

"We have been seeking redressal of our grievances related to the new MV Act from both the Centre and the Delhi government for last 15 days but no solution is within sight, forcing us to go on this one-day strike," said UFTA

general secretary Shyam-lal Gola.

The UFTA is an umbrella body representing 41 associations and unions of goods and passenger segments, including trucks, buses, autos, maxi cabs and taxis plying in the Delhi-NCR region. According to the body, these vehicles will be off the roads between 6 a.m. and 10 p.m. on Thursday.

The road transport sector is already passing through its worst phase due to rising economic uncertainties, ex-

orbitant taxes, penalties and corruption, Mr. Gola said.

"The exorbitant and non-viable penalties imposed through the amended Motor Vehicles Act has increased the corruption, high-handedness and harassment of vehicle owners and drivers," he alleged.

Among the other demands of the federation are the withdrawal of the provisions of the amended MV Act, such as steeply hiked penalties and limiting liability of insurer to ₹5 lakh.

## Constable challaned in city, car impounded

Departmental action initiated against him

STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI

A Delhi traffic police personnel deployed at Mori Gate circle was fined for violating traffic rules, the traffic police said on Wednesday.

The police said that a man and a woman approached the traffic zonal officer deployed at Mori Gate red light and said a car with black tinted glasses parked near the red light belonged to Constable Vishal Dabas.

After the police found that Mr. Dabas was driving the car without insurance, PUC certificate and with tinted windows, he was challaned. The car was impounded. Departmental action has also been initiated against him for misconduct.

Another man was fined ₹33,000 for riding his bike without wearing a helmet and for not carrying required documents, in South Delhi, the police said.

## Maken leads dharna against new policy

'People being robbed in name of challans'

STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI

Former president of the Delhi Pradesh Congress Committee, Ajay Maken, on Wednesday organised a protest in Trinagar against the Centre and the Delhi government for implementing the new transport policy.

"People are being subjected to daylight robbery in the name of traffic challans, but the Kejriwal government turns a blind eye to this harsh reality," Mr. Ma-

ken said.

He also pointed out that the State governments in Bengal, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Goa and Haryana were reviewing the transport policy of the BJP government at the Centre by using the Supreme Court order to adapt to local conditions in these States in order to lessen the burden on the people as in the name of challans, people were being looted even for minor traffic transgressions.

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I, PRATAP Vishnubhatta, hereby confirm that my name is same as "Pratap V", "V Pratap" and "Vishnubhatta" as given in my various government IDs. This is done through an affidavit vide

KA96429323266897R sworn before Notary Indira.S.S (Reg no: 12348), Bangalore-37.

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

DEATH

Tmt.Sowmini Vidyadharan (81)

Passed away on 18.9.19 at Chennai

Deeply mourned by Husband: N.Vidyadharan Son: Manoj Narayanan, USA Daughter: Maya V, USA D-in-Law: Deepa Narayanan, USA Grandson: Ram Mohan, USA Anagh Narayan, USA Ph: 89393 51320 / 044-2654 0820

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PERSONAL CHANGE OF NAME

I, IRFAN Ali father, of Zoha, residence of zakir Nagar Okhla New Delhi 110025, have changed my name to Mohd Irfan Ali vide affidavit, 16/09/2019

DEATH ANNIVERSARIES

FIRST ANNIVERSARY

Shri.A.PURUSHOTHAMAN, M.A, LL.B, MBA, PGDM (Retail. Senior Manager, Legal) B.P.C.L - Chennai DOB : 10.01.1957 - DOD : 19.09.2018

It's been a year, since you have left us. Your thought lingers every moment inside us. We hope you are safe and guiding us from heaven.

Wife : P.Prabavathy Daughters, Relatives & Friends.

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Sorcery  
suspicion: 1  
dead in attack

STAFF REPORTER  
BERHAMPUR

A man was killed and his wife and nephew were injured when their relatives attacked them on the suspicion of the woman practising sorcery, at Marabai village under Kavisuryanagar police station in Odisha's Ganjam district.

Banamali Swain (40) died on Wednesday morning while he was being shifted to SCB Medical College and Hospital in Cuttack from MKCG Medical College and Hospital in Berhampur.

His wife, Namita Swain, and nephew, Manu Swain, are being treated at MKCG Medical College and Hospital.

Ms. Swain alleged that sons of her husband's elder brother were behind the attack. They had accused her of practising sorcery and the ailments in their family.

No arrests had been made till Wednesday afternoon.

M.P. to seek ₹11,861 crore  
from Centre as flood aid

'More than 22 lakh farmers hit as crops were destroyed'

SIDHARTH YADAV  
BHOPAL

The Madhya Pradesh government is going to seek a special assistance of ₹11,861 crore from the Centre for flood relief in the State.

As many as 8,000 villages in 36 of the 52 districts of the State had been battered by excess rain. The 33% more-than-normal monsoon has so far claimed 220 lives, and prompted shifting of 50,000 people to relief camps.

More than 22 lakh farmers had been affected as their crops over 24 lakh hectares was destroyed due to rain. Based on the preliminary assessment, the damage to crops had been pegged at ₹9,600 crore, said Law Minister P.C. Sharma here on Wednesday. "Already, ₹325 crore was extended as relief to farmers," he said.

"While the Prime Minister was celebrating his birthday at the Sardar Sarovar Dam, thousands were drowning



Flood-hit people on a makeshift raft in Morena district on Wednesday. •SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

here. We may even approach court if our request is denied," he said.

On September 16, Mr. Tomar had written to Chief Minister Kamal Nath directing his attention to flood in the Chambal river which had affected Morena, his constituency, and Sheopur district.

Due to excess rain in a few hours, the inflow in the

Gandhi Sagar Dam rose to 16 lakh cusecs from 3.5 lakh cusecs, and this caused flooding in the backwaters of the Chambal river.

Record rainfall

Meanwhile, at 168.89 centimetres Bhopal had received the highest rain during the southwest monsoon since 1980, said IMD scientist G.D. Mishra.

Court says no to plea for CBI  
probe against Unnao doctors

'It's the prerogative of the CBI to conduct the prosecution'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NEW DELHI

A Delhi court has refused to direct the CBI to initiate a probe against the doctors who had treated the father of the Unnao rape survivor when he was injured and in judicial custody, saying it was the prerogative of the CBI to conduct the prosecution.

District Judge Dharmesh Sharma was hearing a plea filed by the counsel of the woman, who was allegedly

raped by Uttar Pradesh MLA Kuldeep Sengar in 2017.

The court, however, said that if during the course of the trial any evidence surfaces about the role played by any of the doctors in the entire episode, appropriate orders would be passed.

Senior Public Prosecutor Ashok Bhartendu had opposed the plea saying that nothing has come up in their investigation so far to call the doctors as accused before the court.

The plea, filed by advocate Dharmendra Mishra, had alleged that the doctors at the district hospital deliberately did not examine the father of the woman properly at the behest of Sengar.

Charges framed

The court had earlier framed charges against Sengar and nine others for allegedly assaulting and framing the rape survivor's father in an arms case and murdering him in judicial custody.

No court relief  
for Punjab  
lawmaker

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
CHANDIGARH

The Gurdaspur sessions court on Wednesday refused relief to Lok Insaaf Party chief and MLA Simarjit Singh Bains in a case of altercation with the Gurdaspur Deputy Commissioner, terming his behaviour as "irresponsible and intimidating".

Rejecting the MLA's anticipatory bail plea, District and Sessions Judge Ramesh Kumari found his custodial investigation necessary for establishing the truth.

SEARCH FOR KIDNAPPED GIRL



Mehama

General public is hereby informed that one girl namely Mehama, D/o Shri Ganesha @ Pujari, R/o Banipan Chowk, Madho Singh Dr. Dehi Choki, Village Bhava Ka Pova, Kudila, Tikamgarh Madhya Pradesh, Age 14 years & 5 months, Height 4'6", Complexion Black, Long Face, Medium Built, Wearing Green colour suit, brown colour salwar and plastic shoes in feet has been kidnapped from H.No. R-803, Rajinder Nagar, Delhi since 08.03.19. In this regard a case FIR No. 31/19 dated 18.03.19 U/S 363 IPC has been registered at PS Rajinder Nagar, Delhi.

Any person having any information or clue about this kidnapped girl may kindly inform to the following.

E-mail ID:cic@cbi.gov.in

SHO  
Tele: 011-24368638, 24368641

Ph.: 28744012, 28742712

PS : Rajinder Nagar, Delhi

DP/6578/CD/19

**MEMBER SECRETARY HARYANA STATE CHILD PROTECTION SOCIETY WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT**  
Bays No. 15-20, Pocket-II, Sector-4, Panchkula Phone No. 0172-2580359

**ADVERTISEMENT**

Applications are invited to fill up the following posts as per provisions under **Juvenile Justice (Care & Protection of Children) Act, 2015** and Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Model Rules, 2016 as per Following qualification, terms and conditions:-

Sr. No.	Name of Post	District wise number of posts
1	Chairperson (Child welfare committee)	Gurugram, Sonapat & Yamunanagar
2	Member (Child welfare committee)	Gurugram, Sonapat & Yamunanagar(2), Bhiwani, narnaul (2), Hisar, Kaithal, Karnal, Krukshetra, Panipat & Sirsa, Jhajjar & Rohtak (3)
3	Member (Juvenile Justice Board)	Amritala, Gurugram (2) 1 Post for female, Sonapat (2) 1 Post for female, Yamunanagar (2) 1 Post for female, Bhiwani (2) 1 Post for female, Kaithal, Krukshetra (2) 1 Post for female, Panipat (2) 1 Post for female, Sirsa (2) 1 Post for female, Rohtak, Faridabad (2) 1 post for female, Fatehabad (only for female), Jind, Nuh (2) 1 post for female & Rewari (only for female)

**Qualification of JJB Member:** Minimum seven years experience of working with children in the field of education, health, or welfare activities, or should be a practicing professional with a degree in child psychology or psychiatry or sociology or in the field of law.

**Age of JJB Member:** Not less than 35 years on the date of Advertisement.

**Qualification of Chairperson/ Member of CWC :** Seven years of experience of working with children in the field of education, health, or welfare activities, or should be a practicing professional with a degree in child psychology or psychiatry or social work or sociology or human development or in the field of law or a retired judicial officer

**Age of CWC Chairperson :** Above the age of 35 years on the date of advertisement.

**Tenure :** Three Years.

**Honorarium :** Member of the Board on Chairperson / Member of CWC shall be paid as per sitting which shall including sitting allowance, travel allowance and any other allowance, as the state Government may prescribe.

**Term & Conditions:**

1. Applicant must have a domicile of Haryana.
2. Applicant will maintain his/her headquarters as the presence is required even at odd hours or on short notice and the appointment will be cancelled if headquarter is not maintained.
3. Applicant shall have to submit a self-declaration/affidavit on the following points with application form. All conditions from (i) to (vii) of the following point must be fulfilled.  
(i) He/She does not have previous conviction record.  
(ii) He/She has not been involved in any immoral act or in the Act or Child abuse or employment of child labour.  
(iii) He/She is not holding such other full time occupation that does not allow him/her to give necessary time and attention to the work.  
(iv) He/She will give details about his/her previous/ Present post tenure in any district of Juvenile Justice Board and Child Welfare Committee.  
(v) No enquiry is pending against him/her in any agency/court.  
(vi) The applicant should not have any past record of violation of human rights or child rights for (JJB).
- (vii) The applicant should not have been removed or dismissed from service of the central Government or a State Government or an undertaking or Corporation owned or controlled by the Central Government or a State Government for (JJB).

4. Willing candidates may send/submit their application form on the prescribed format on or before 07-10-2019 till 5:00 P.M. along-with supporting documents i.e. educational qualification and experience certificate etc. in the office of concerned District Programme Officer-Women and Child Development of respective district.

5. Direct application received at Headquarter of WCD, will be rejected.

6. Department has reserved the right to reject the incomplete application form without any prior notice of the candidate.

7. Incomplete Application form in any manner will be rejected.

8. Prescribed Application Form may be downloaded from the department website [www.wcdhy.gov.in](http://www.wcdhy.gov.in)

**Member Secretary-cum-Director Woman and Child Development Department, Haryana, Panchkula.**

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
**DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION, HARYANA.PANCHKULA**

This is brought to the notice of public that in a bunch of CWP's Nos. viz.,16931 of 2019(O&M), 20840, 15763, 16937, 17266,17379, 17486, 16931, 18358, 19049, 19201, 19202, 19212, 19351, 16353, 17783, 17787, 19787, of 2019 and some other similar Civil Writ Petitions, the Hon'ble Punjab and Haryana High Court has disposed of the CWP's 16931 and other CWP's with 'the directions reiterated as under:-

"In order to avoid impasse, I deem it appropriate to dispose of writ petitions with direction to respondents to decide representations of petitioners and pass a speaking order thereon after affording opportunity of hearing within a period of two months after admission process is over. In case no representation is given till date, liberty is granted to submit appropriate application/representation within a period of one week from the date of receipt of certified copy of this order. If decision is not taken by concerned respondent to whom representation is made as directed by This Court, it will entail into imposition of costs of 25,000 /- to be paid to petitioner(s) from salary of officer/official found responsible for not deciding representation. This condition of imposing costs is only to prevent petitioner(s) to run from pillar to post and avail remedy of contempt in case of non-compliance of directions issued by this Court. "

There are also some similar directions in other civil writ petitions w.r.t. those incumbents who claimed to have worked as extension lecturers In various Govt. Colleges. In light of all such directions given by Hon'ble Punjab and Haryana High Court, all those petitioners/ similar claimants, -who claims to be the displaced "Extension lecturer" are hereby given the chance of to be heard in person on 26th and 27th September, 2019 from 10.30 a.m. onwards in the Conference room, O/o Director Higher Education, Haryana, Shiksha Sadan,sector-S, Panchkula.

All the petitioners are requested to report as per the aforementioned schedule along with the experience certificate, authentic proof of the period of working as extension lecturer at a Government College in the state and the certified copy(s) of the acquaintance roll duly verified by the concerned college Principal of the college and the reason of displacement, i.e. whether displaced by joining of new recruitment (regular)/ by transfer of regular teaching staff/ by deputation of regular teaching staff.

All the Principals of Govt. Colleges are also directed to issue a certified and duly verified copy of acquaintance roll/ salary bill(s) along with the time wherein the extension lecturer has worked in the college, if demanded by any of the petitioner.

**Director Higher Education, Haryana, Panchkula.**

**National Projects Construction Corporation Limited**  
(A Govt. of India Enterprise)  
WA-61A, Sec-135, Noida - 201304

**NOTICE INVITING TENDER (NIT)**

NIT No. UPZ/347/JNV-Farrukhabad/Tender/19-20/774 Date: 18.09.2019

Sealed item rate tenders are invited from the experienced and reputed agencies for execution of "Special Repair Works at JNV Farrukhabad, Distt. Farrukhabad (U.P.)" having estimated cost of ₹456.05 lacs. The detailed NIT available at NPCC website [www.npcc.gov.in](http://www.npcc.gov.in), <https://eprocure.gov.in> & <https://npcc.eproc.in> and in also can be seen in the office of the undersigned during office hrs. Last date of submission is 09.10.2019.

ZONAL MANAGER (UP ZONE)

**Himachal Pradesh Irrigation & P.H. Department.**  
**"Notice Inviting Tender"**

E. E., Tubewell Division, Gagret  
Telephone No. : 01976-241358, E-mail : [td6940@gmail.com](mailto:td6940@gmail.com)

The Executive Engineer, Tubewell Division, Gagret invites offline tenders on behalf of Governor of Himachal Pradesh from approved eligible contractors for the following works:-

Sr. No.	Name of work	Estimated Cost.	Earnest Money	Cost of Tender	Time
1.	Repair of Dozer D-50-8003 S.R.F.M.P Sub-Division, Haroli (2) Dozer D-50-12853 of Flood Protection Sub-Division, Gagret	Rs. 1,02,041/-	Rs. 2,041/-	Rs. 250/-	15 days
2.	Repair of Dozer D-50-12955 Flood Protection Sub-Division, Gagret	Rs. 1,70,684/-	Rs. 3,414/-	Rs. 250/-	15 days

1. Last date of physical submission of Earnest Money deposit and cost of tender documents etc on **25-09-2019 upto 05:00 PM**

2. Last date of submission of tender upto **25-09-2019 at 05:00 PM** and the same will be opened on the day on **26-09-2019 at 11:30 AM.**

Executive Engineer,  
Tubewell Division, Gagret  
& PH Deptt.

HP/2122/19-20 -HIM SUCHNA AND JAN SAMPARK-

**PUBLIC NOTICE/TENDER NOTICE**

Sr.No.-1

Name of Department/ Board/Corp./ Auth:- UHBVN

Name of Work/ Name/ Tender:- Const. of 05 No. new 33 kV S/stn, i.e. Bansa, Chakda, Sadarpur, Swabri Ranjipur & Power House Panipat with 33 kV & 11 kV lines and complete civil works on turnkey basis

Opening Date/ Closing Date/ Time:- 18.09.2019 (17:00 hrs)/ 10.10.2019 (17:00 hrs.)

Amount/ EMD (Approx.) in Lacs:- 10.00

Website of the department:- [www.uhbvn.org.in](http://www.uhbvn.org.in)

Nodal officer/ Contact details/ Email:- CE/ PD&C, UHBVN, Panchkula Ph. No. 0172-2570431, 3019109, 3019145, 3019146 Email: [cepd@uhbvn.org.in](mailto:cepd@uhbvn.org.in), [sepd@uhbvn.org.in](mailto:sepd@uhbvn.org.in), [xendd3@uhbvn.org.in](mailto:xendd3@uhbvn.org.in)

Tender Ref.No/ Tender No:- NIT-274/P&D/2019(B-617)

PRDH-78833

**NORTH DELHI MUNICIPAL CORPORATION**  
Office of the Executive Engineer/(M-I)-RZ  
Road No. 44, Village Pitam Pura, Delhi-110034

**NOTICE INVITING TENDERS**

E.E.(M-I)-RZ/TC/2019-20/24 Dated : 17.09.2019

Date of start for Sale of Tender Document : 18.09.2019 at 14:00 PM

Last Date of Download of Tender Document : 01.10.2019 upto 14:00 PM

Last Date of Bid Submission : 03.10.2019 upto 15:00 PM

Opening of Financial Bid : 04.10.2019 at 15:15 PM

S.No. : 1, Name of Work : Imp. and Dev. of road by pdg. RMC and drain from B-5/29 to 38, B-5/43 to 52, B-4/15 to 24, B-3/42 to 48 and B-3/28 to 35 in Sector-17, Rohini in Ward No. 24-N, M-I/RZ. Head of A/c : XL-VIII-S, Tender Amount : Rs. 33,97,785/-, Earnest Money : Rs. 71,050/-, Time of Completion : 3 Months, Rates hold goods for : 5 Months, Cost of Tender : Rs. 500/-, Tender No. : 24/01.

Tender document can be downloaded online on website <https://www.tenderwizard.com/NORTHDMCETENDER> and also available on the website <https://www.tenderwizard.com/NORTHDMCETENDER> for bidding by approved and eligible contractors, details of NIT can be seen on website.

R.O. No. 88/DPI/North/2019-20 Executive Engineer/(M-I)-RZ

**MAHARASHTRA JEEVAN PRADHIKARAN**  
Office of the Chief Engineer,  
Post Box No.556, Opp.Milind College, Cantonment, AURANGABAD 431002  
Office 0240- 2371386, Direct 0240-2370326  
Fax 0240-2370238 E-mail - [cmjpabd@gmail.com](mailto:cmjpabd@gmail.com)

**E- TENDER NOTICE NO.01 OF 2019-20**

MJP invites e-tender notice for the work of Aurangabad City Water supply project Tq. & Dist. Aurangabad in the state of Maharashtra, valued at Rs. 1308,23,42,395/-

The e-tender details will be available on [www.mahatenders.gov.in](http://www.mahatenders.gov.in) from dated 20.09.2019.

All relevant dates will be as per the tender published in web portal [www.mahatenders.gov.in](http://www.mahatenders.gov.in)

Date : / 09 / 2019

sd/-  
Chief Engineer (I/c).  
Maharashtra Jeevan Pradhikarn, Aurangabad.

DGIPR/2019/2020/3097





**Balabhaskar case: Kerala not to oppose CBI probe**  
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The Kerala government on Wednesday weighed whether it should rope in the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) to reinvestigate the death of violinist Balabhaskar in a controversial car accident here in 2018. Officials said the government reckoned the Crime Branch probe, which has found no foul play in the death of the musician, to be exhaustive and diligent. However, they said the State was unlikely to oppose the family's persistent demand for a CBI enquiry.

**Botched surgeries: two lose vision in one eye**

BENGALURU  
Seventy days after cataract surgery of 24 patients went awry at the Karnataka-run Minto Ophthalmic Hospital in Bengaluru, doctors have concluded that two have lost complete vision in one eye. "While 10 have lost vision partially, the remaining 12 have normal vision," hospital director B.L. Sujatha Rathod told *The Hindu*. However, disputing the director's claims, most of the 24 patients that *The Hindu* spoke to said they were "unable to see properly" even now.

**A.P. govt. to ban private practice by govt. doctors**

VIJAYAWADA  
The Andhra Pradesh government is going to ban private practice by doctors working in government hospitals and increase their salaries as compensation, in accordance with the recommendations of the committee on health sector reforms headed by former Union Health Secretary K. Sujatha Rao. Chief Minister Y. S. Jagan Mohan Reddy conferred with the committee which handed over to him its report with over 100 suggestions on Wednesday.

# State funeral plan dropped after Kodela's kin reject it

Family members, TDP workers bid tearful adieu to former A.P. Speaker

STAFF REPORTER  
NARSARAOPET

The mortal remains of former Andhra Pradesh Assembly Speaker Kodela Siva Prasada Rao were consigned to flames on Wednesday afternoon in the presence of family members and hundreds of Telugu Desam Party leaders, supporters and admirers.

Police personnel were deployed in strength to avert any untoward incident.

The government wanted to accord a State funeral for the late leader, but dropped the plan after the family rejected it outright. On Tuesday, Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy had directed Chief Secretary L.V. Subramanyam to make arrangements accordingly, keeping in mind the high constitu-



The funeral procession of former A.P. Speaker Kodela Siva Prasada Rao in Guntur district on Wednesday. \* T. VIJAYA KUMAR

tional post held by Siva Prasada Rao.

TDP national president N. Chandrababu Naidu lashed out at the government for imposing prohibitory orders

in the area and at the same time deciding to accord a State funeral.

Hundreds of followers from across the State thronged the residence of

the leader from where the body was taken in a flower-bedecked carriage to the crematorium. Heart-rending scenes were witnessed as many of the supporters broke down on seeing the body.

People recollected how 'Dr. Garu' mustered all his resources to develop burial grounds of Hindus, Muslims and Christians. He was also instrumental in the development of roads and construction of resting places.

Narsaraopet MP Lavu Krishnaadevarayulu, chairman of the Vignan Group of Educational Institutions Lavu Rathiah, former Ministers Prathipati Pulla Rao and Nakka Ananda Babu, and Telugu Desam MLA Karanam Balaram were among those present.

# A.P. boat tragedy: seven more bodies retrieved, 13 still missing

The toll in the accident has gone up to 34

RAJULAPUDI SRINIVAS  
RAMPACHODAVARAM

Three days after a boat capsized in river Godavari in the Agency area in East Godavari district of Andhra Pradesh, rescue teams retrieved seven more bodies on Wednesday, taking the toll to 34.

The search teams, along with expert swimmers, located seven bodies on Wednesday in the river in Devipatnam mandal.

The private tourist boat carrying 73 persons capsized at Kachluru village on September 15. Locals saved 26 persons.

Thirty four were confirmed dead and the remaining are missing since then.

"Search operations are continuing for 13 more missing persons," East Godavari



A Navy helicopter searching for the missing tourists in East Godavari district on Wednesday. \* S. RAMBABU

district Superintendent of Police Adnan Nayeem Asmi said.

**Boat traced**

Meanwhile, the boat was found at a depth of 210 feet near Kachluru village by a team of the State Disaster Response Force team of U-

tarakhand. The boat was located with the help of a sonar camera, but the exact position could not be immediately ascertained.

However, it may not be possible to extricate the boat immediately due to continuing flood in the river, officials said.

# N. Srinivasan, Sudha Murthy among TTD Board members

A.P. government appoints 24 members to the panel

STAFF REPORTER  
CHENNAI

The Andhra Pradesh government on Wednesday appointed 24 members and four ex-officio members to the Board of Trustees of Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams. The board's chairman will be Y. V. Subba Reddy.

N. Srinivasan, vice-chairman and managing director of India Cements, B. Parthasaradhi Reddy, chairman, Hetero group, and Jupalli Rameshwara Rao, chairman of My Home Group, were among the members nominated to the Board.

Infosys founder Narayana Murthy's wife Sudha Narayana Murthy was also appointed as a member.

According to a Government Order, the ex-officio members are the Special Secretary, Revenue (Endowments) Department, the Commissioner of the Endowments Department and the Chairman of the Tirupati Urban Development Authority (TUDA). The Executive Officer, TTD, will be the ex-officio member-secretary.

The new Board now includes eight members from Andhra Pradesh, seven from

Telangana, four from Tamil Nadu, one from Delhi, three from Karnataka and one from Maharashtra.

Apart from Mr. Srinivasan, AIADMK Ulundurpet MLA R. Kumaraguru, Krishnamurthy Vaidyanathan and Nichitha Muttavarapu are the other members nominated from Tamil Nadu.

"I thank the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh Jagan Mohan Reddy for bestowing this honour. As an ardent devotee of Lord Venkateswara, I am humbled by this choice," Mr. Srinivasan said in a statement.

# Computer devices stolen from aircraft carrier

Police constitutes special team after theft reported from the machine room

STAFF REPORTER  
KOCHI

A few computer hardware components have been stolen from the machine room of the Indigenous Aircraft Carrier being built at the Cochin Shipyard Limited (CSL).

The CSL authorities informed the police as soon as the theft was detected on Monday, following which the Inspector General of Police, Kochi range, and District Police Chief (Kochi City) Vijay Sakhare constituted a Special Investigation Team (SIT), led by Assistant Commissioner of Police, District Crime Branch, Biji George.

The SIT has discovered some fingerprints from the crime spot. "The detection



A file photo of the indigenous aircraft carrier at the Cochin Shipyard. \* S. ANANDAN

of finger prints from the crime scene is a good start and we are now looking for potential matches..." said Mr. Sakhare.

The SIT, which now com-

prises six officers and numerous police personnel, will be strengthened further if need be. The probe is being directly supervised by the Deputy Commissioner of

Police (Law and Order) under the monitoring of Mr. Sakhare. Asked whether the police suspected the theft to be part of an espionage plan, Mr. Sakhare said the police had not ruled out anything. "Prima facie it appears to be a case of petty theft and there is no reason to panic," he said.

A spokesperson of the shipyard said there was no data of strategic value at the moment on board the under-construction vessel and that the yard had constituted an internal inquiry team to probe the incident.

The police are learnt to have prepared a check list to figure out the sequence of incidents leading to the theft.

# Steps Towards Overcoming Recession

The Government of Chhattisgarh has taken many decisions for inclusive development in the last 9 months, which has paved the way for all sections of the society to participate in economic development. This Chhattisgarhi model of all-round development has provided relief and justice to various sections of the state. It is also prepared for beating the growing footsteps of the nationwide economic recession.

Labour Participation Rate	- January to April 2018	- 42.83%
	- January to April 2019	- 42.98%
Unemployment Rate (Graduate and above)	- January to April 2018	- 16.18%
	- January to April 2019	- 10.90%
Assets Dealings	- 25 July to 10 September 2018	- 90 Crore Rs.
	- 25 July to 10 September 2019	- 150 Crore Rs.
Vehicle Registration	- Decline Rate National Level	- 19%
	- Increase in Chhattisgarh (March 2019)	- 36.75%

## Chhattisgarh Model of Economic Development

### Measures taken to Reinvigorate Economy

- **Paddy procurement** - 80.37 M.T. paddy procured at ₹ 2500 per quintal, highest in the country
- **Waived off Agriculture Loan** - ₹ 8818 Crore agriculture loan of 18 lakh 5 thousand farmers waived off by Chhattisgarh Government
- **Waived off Irrigation Tax** - ₹ 207 Crore irrigation tax pending for 15 years waived off by Chhattisgarh Government
- **4 Times Compensation** - Compensation for acquiring agricultural land for development purposes is increased from 2 times to 4 times.
- **Narwa, Garwa, Ghurwa, Bari** - Reinvigorating rural economy & environment
- **Zameen Wapasi** - Land acquired for TATA Steel Plant returned to farmers upon failure to establish an industry
- **Tendupatta** - Tendupatta collectors receiving ₹ 4000 per sack as wages, highest wage rate in the country
- **Land Dealings** - Ban lifted from purchasing and selling less than 5 dismil land
- **Purchasing Power increased** - BPL will receive 35 Kg. Rice, Additional 7 Kg. for 6th member of family, APL will receive Rice for ₹ 10 per Kg.
- **Employment** - Thousands of vacancies to be filled in government departments, 3 Kanishth Karmachari Chayan Board formed in Tribal Areas

### Measures taken for Industrial-Commercial Development

- 2 food parks are being constructed in Tribal Areas, 6 more in process
- Exemption from annual renewal of Gumasta License, minimum labour limit allowed for shop increased from 1 to 10
- Minimum number of employees required for compulsion of Gumasta issuance under Factory Act will be increased 10 or more for electricity-run industries and from 20 to 40 for industries running without electricity.
- Core sector industries would be removed from restricted list and promoted in State
- 30% reduction in the land allotment rates in industrial areas
- Lease rent rate in Industrial Areas would be reduced from 3% to 2%
- Single-window for all the approvals required for establishing industries
- New applications would be collected in all the district industrial centres and lands would be allotted on first-come-first-serve basis
- Industries which are being operated in the State for more than 10 years in the area up to 2 hectares would be given freehold
- Transfer fee of industrial lands to be reduced, rules to be slackened
- Concessions to be provided for establishment of food-processing, small forest produce and herbal-based industries in state, policy to be formulated in two months

**BHUPESH BAGHEL**  
Chief Minister, Chhattisgarh

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[@DPRChhattisgarh](#) [@ChhattisgarhCMO](#) [@ChhattisgarhCMO](#)





IN BRIEF
SC raps govt. for manual scavenging deaths

NEW DELHI
The Supreme Court on Wednesday slammed the Centre for deaths due to manual scavenging and said it is the greatest proof of human beings being degraded in the name of their community and caste.

DGCA grounds 3 IndiGo pilots, 2 engineers

NEW DELHI
The Directorate General of Civil Aviation has grounded three pilots and two aircraft maintenance engineers of IndiGo for not reporting vibrations in the Pratt and Whitney engines. The PW engine-powered aircraft have been facing glitches since their induction in 2016.

Railway employees to get 'productivity bonus'

NEW DELHI
The Centre on Wednesday approved payment of productivity-linked bonus worth 78 days' wages to employees for 2018-19. The move will cost the exchequer around ₹2,000 crore and will benefit about 11.5 lakh non-gazetted employees.

Revised DPP norms to be ready by November

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

The Defence Ministry intends to put out revised drafts of the Defence Procurement Procedure (DPP) and Defence Procurement Manual (DPM) by November end, Apurva Chandra, Director General (Acquisition) in the Defence Ministry said. "We have constituted 13 subcommittees for the revision. We have also invited representatives from the industry associations. Chairpersons of the subcommittees are mostly from the

India is the top source of immigrants across the globe

UN report reveals that one-third of all immigrants come from 10 countries

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

India has emerged as the leading country of origin for immigrants across the world, with 17.5 million international migrants in 2019 coming from India, up from 15.9 million in 2015, according to a dataset released by the Union Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA) in New York on Tuesday.

Sharp increase

The International Migrant Stock 2019, released by the UN DESA's Population Division, said the number of international migrants in the world had reached an estimated 272 million 2019 – 51 million more than in 2010. The percentage of international migrants of the total global population has increased to 3.5% from 2.8% in 2000.

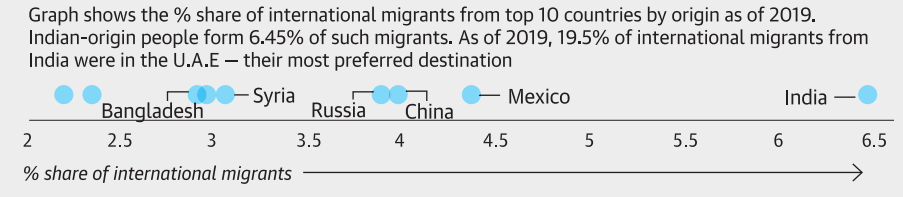
While India remained as the top source of international migrants, the number of migrants living in India saw a slight decline from

Final destination

As of 2019, one-third of all international migrants originated from 10 countries. India led the pack with 17.5 million such people. Most of them were in the U.A.E followed by the U.S.



Labourers installing paving stones in the Marina district of Dubai, U.A.E. The country hosts close to 34.2 lakh Indian migrants



5.24 million in 2015 to an estimated 5.15 million in 2019 – both 0.4% of the total population of the country.

Bangladesh was the leading country of origin for migrants in India, the report stated.

In a statement, the UN DESA Population Division said that one-third of all international migrants originated from 10 countries – after India, Mexico ranked second as the country of origin with

12 million migrants, followed by China (11 million), Russia (10 million) and Syria (8 million).

U.S. biggest host

The European region hosted the highest number of the immigrants at 82 million in 2019, followed by North America (59 million) and Northern Africa and Western Asia (49 million). Among countries, the U.S. hosts the highest number of interna-

tional migrants (51 million), about 19% of the global population.

The statement also said that around two-fifths of all international migrants had gone from one developing country to another.

The statement added that further, forced displacements continue to rise, with the number of refugees and asylum seekers having increased by about 13 million from 2010 to 2017.

IIM-A denies SC/ST quota for next year's Ph.D. admissions

Staff, alumni say reservation provisions must be honoured

PRISCILLA JEBARAJ

NEW DELHI

The Indian Institute of Management-Ahmedabad (IIM-A) has not made any provision to implement reservations for historically marginalised social groups in its 2020 Ph.D Programme in Management. When the premier management institute opened its admissions portal for next year's doctoral programme last week, it had no provisions for an SC/ST (Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe) quota.

Some IIM staff and alumni have called out the institu-

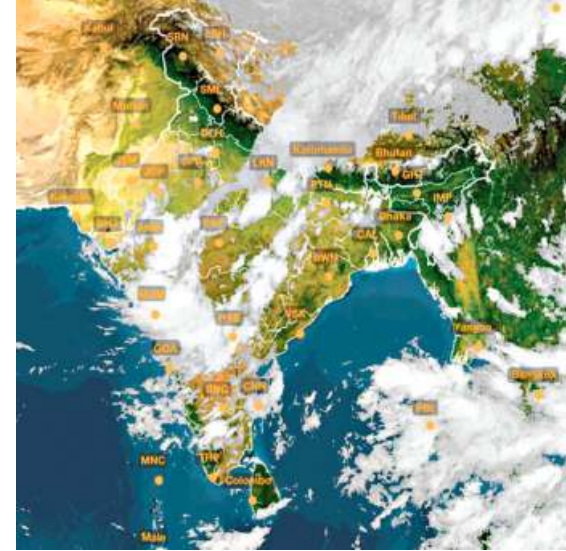
tion on its continued refusal to comply with the law that requires all Central educational institutions to reserve seats for each course and branch of study. "The IIM Act, 2017, which gave unprecedented autonomy to the IIMs and enabled them to grant the Ph.D degree in the first place, also makes it explicitly clear that they must comply with the provisions of the Central Educational Institutions (Reservation in Admission) Act, 2006," said Siddharth Joshi, an IIM-B alumni who wrote an open letter to IIM-A director Errol

D'Souza on the issue on Wednesday, along with IIM-B professor Deepak Malghan.

The pair have published a research report showing that there are hardly any IIM faculty from the SC and ST communities. "Out of 500 faculty [across IIMs], only four or five were SC/ST. One-third of IIM faculty are graduates of the IIM's own doctoral programme. Unless there is reservation in the Ph.D programme, it will be difficult to address the unconscionable diversity deficit of IIM faculty," said Mr. Joshi.

WEATHER WATCH

RAINFALL, TEMPERATURE & AIR QUALITY IN SELECT METROS YESTERDAY



Forecast for Thursday: Heavy to very heavy rainfall very likely at isolated places over central Maharashtra, Konkarn region, Goa, Vidarbha, Gujarat, coastal Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry and Karaikal. Thunderstorm accompanied with lightning very likely to occur at isolated places over Bihar, Jharkhand and Odisha.

Table with 3 columns: CITY, RAIN, MAX, MIN. Lists weather data for various cities like Agartala, Ahmedabad, Aizawl, Allahabad, Bengaluru, Bhopal, Bhubaneswar, Chandigarh, Chennai, Coimbatore, Dehradun, Gangtok, Goa, Guwahati, Hubballi, Hyderabad, Imphal, Jaipur, Kochi, Kohima, Kolkata, and Visakhapatnam.

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)
Pollutants in the air you are breathing
CITIES SO2 PM10 PM2.5 AQI CODE
Ahmedabad 100 21 99 119
Bengaluru 52 98 46 97
Chennai 12 30 38 38
Delhi 78 200 84 114
Hyderabad 21 35 27 66
Kolkata 7 13 32 39
Lucknow 6 25 91 37
Mumbai 8 90 33 33
Pune 74 66 40 40
Visakhapatnam 25 25 25 25

Air Quality Code: Poor Moderate Good (Readings indicate average AQI)
SO2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can cause visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.
NO2: 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, 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

Hear Rajeev Kumar's side, court urged

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

KOLKATA

The legal tussle involving senior IPS officer Rajeev Kumar in the Saradha chit fund case moved to the Alipore district court on Wednesday as his counsels urged the additional chief judicial magistrate court to hear their arguments when the CBI moved its petition seeking a non-bailable warrant against him.

Meanwhile, special teams set up by the CBI to look for Mr. Kumar reached Kolkata. The CBI said that the look out notice issued against him is valid for a year from the date of its issuance in the third week of May.

Bengal Governor seeks clarification on Bill

Leaders have cited 'grave irregularities'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

KOLKATA

Governor Jagdeep Thakur on Wednesday sent a letter to the West Bengal Legislative Assembly seeking a clarification on The West Bengal (Prevention of Lynching) Bill, 2019.

A communication from the Raj Bhawan said the Governor wanted to know the response of the Assembly Secretary on the contention made by Leader of the Opposition Abdul Mannan and Leader of the Left Front Legislature Party Sujana Chakraborty.

Both the leaders who met the Governor on Tuesday said the Bill circulated in the

House "was not in consonance with the Bill in respect of which the Governor imparted his recommendation for introduction of the Bill in the Assembly in terms of Article 207." Both the leaders submitted a "written representation on grave irregularities and legislative improprieties in respect of The West Bengal (Prevention of Lynching) Bill, 2019." "According to them, the reason for this cannot be a printing mistake and this is a serious lapse in as much as the change is in respect to insertion of 'death sentence' as the maximum quantum of punishment," a statement from the Raj Bhawan said.

Kandhamal tops the list for institutional deliveries in Odisha

District records a higher rate than the State average of 76%

STAFF REPORTER

BERHAMPUR

Despite a large number of inaccessible villages, institutional delivery has shown praiseworthy rise in Odisha's Kandhamal district due to use of bike ambulances, delivery vans and 'Janani' autorickshaws.

According to an assessment of the percentage of institutional deliveries against estimated pregnancies during the period from April to July this year, Kandhamal district has topped among 30 districts in Odisha.

According to Ashis Kumar Mohanty, deputy manager in-charge of reproductive and child health at the National Health Mission in Kandhamal, during these



For transportation, 'Janani' autorickshaws have been introduced in remote areas.

four months, as against the target of 4,887 institutional deliveries, 5,055 institutional deliveries were registered, raising the percentage in the district to 103%.

This is higher than the State's average rate of 76% for institutional delivery dur-

ing the same period. At-home deliveries by expectant mothers are on the decline in the district, although it has around 810 inaccessible villages that can only be reached by foot. This could be achieved because of efforts of grass-roots-level medical officers, paramedics, Asha volunteers and other health officials, said Kandhamal's chief district medical officer, Dr. Nrusingha Behera. Apart from regular monitoring and awareness measures, five bike ambulances, 14 'Janani' autorickshaws and an institutional delivery van are being used in remote areas of the district to transport expectant mothers in inaccessible regions.

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Dangerous vacuum

If mainstream politicians are discredited in J&K, the space will be filled by secessionists

The detention of National Conference leader Farooq Abdullah under the Public Safety Act on Monday marks a new, dangerous low in the over-reach of state power to curtail liberty in Kashmir. The 81-year old leader has been thrice Chief Minister, Union Minister and five times Member of Parliament. He is currently MP from Srinagar. His father and National Conference founder, Sheikh Abdullah, led Kashmir's Muslim population in rejecting the two-nation theory that led to Partition and the formation of Pakistan in 1947. And his son, Omar Abdullah, former Chief Minister and Union Minister, is also under detention since August 5, when the Centre abrogated Article 370 through a controversial process, ended J&K's relative autonomy and is reorganising it into two Union Territories. While the BJP and the Centre have claimed massive public support for these moves, the Kashmir Valley has been in shutdown since then. Despite his declining popularity in the Valley, Farooq Abdullah continued to argue that Kashmir's destiny was with secular, pluralist India. To treat him as a threat to public safety is a travesty of justice and an assault on democratic principles.

The manner in which he was detained smacks of complete disregard for the rule of law and accountability. His detention, for 12 days, was announced hours before the Supreme Court was to consider MDMK chief Vaiko's plea seeking a directive that Mr. Abdullah be produced before it. In Parliament last month, Home Minister Amit Shah had said the NC leader was not in detention but was staying at home on his own volition. The detention has now been legalised under a stringent law that allows limited remedies and could be extended to as long as two years. The moves to silence and humiliate Kashmir's senior-most politician betrays a dangerous tactic of marginalising the moderate, mainstream politicians. Almost all Kashmir's political leaders are in jail, including former Chief Minister and PDP leader Mehbooba Mufti and the IAS officer-turned-politician Shah Faesal. They have kept the political process alive in Kashmir against all odds, and despite threats even as some sections of the population remained aloof or hostile to India. The argument that Kashmiri politicians used the State's special status to shield their corruption and nepotism is disingenuous, as these problems are endemic to Indian politics. The amorality of the government's treatment of pro-India forces is certainly dispiriting, but dangerous is the vacuum this is creating. The void will be filled only by forces inimical to India, if the government removes politicians from public spaces by wrongly labelling them anti-India.

The Taliban problem

Terrorists will not be keen on talks, but finding a solution to the Afghan crisis must continue

When the U.S.-Taliban talks collapsed last week, the insurgent group threatened to step up attacks in Afghanistan. It made good on its pledge on Tuesday using two suicide bombers who killed at least 48 people by targeting a rally being addressed by Afghan President Ashraf Ghani north of Kabul, and also the capital. These attacks are yet another warning of the security challenges Afghanistan faces, especially when it is gearing up to the September 28 presidential poll. Both the 2014 presidential election and last year's parliamentary poll were violently disturbed by the Taliban. This time, the group has asked civilians to stay away from political gatherings, making all those who participate in the political process potential targets. Rising attacks against Afghan civilians make the Taliban's claim that it is fighting on behalf of them against the foreign invaders hollow. The Taliban did not suspend its terror campaign even while holding talks with the U.S. in Qatar. In July, when the talks were under way, Amrullah Saleh, Mr. Ghani's running mate and the former intelligence chief, escaped a serious assassination attempt. Now that the talks have collapsed, a vengeful Taliban is unleashing itself on the Afghans.

The Afghan government seems determined to go ahead with the election. It has deployed some 70,000 troops to protect over 5,000 polling stations. But the threat from the Taliban is so grave that the President is largely addressing campaign rallies through Skype. Even if the elections are over without further attacks, the Taliban problem will remain. Afghanistan needs a solution to this crisis and regional and international players should help the new government. The fundamental problem with the U.S.-Taliban peace process was that it excluded the Kabul government at the insistence of the insurgents, which itself was a major compromise by the U.S. On the other side, the Taliban was not even ready to cease hostilities. A peace agreement dictated by the Taliban won't sustain. The Taliban can't be allowed to have a free terror run either. A permanently unstable Afghanistan and an insurgent group growing further in strength is not good news for any nation, including Afghanistan's neighbours. Afghanistan needs a comprehensive peace push in which all stakeholders, including the government, the U.S., the Taliban and regional players will have a say. The U.S. should continue to back the Kabul government, put pressure on Pakistan to crack down on the Afghan Taliban, double down its counter-insurgency operations in Afghanistan and invite regional players such as Pakistan, Iran, Russia, India and China to take part in the diplomatic efforts. In other words, the Taliban should be forced to return to talks. The U.S.-Taliban peace talks may have collapsed. But it need not be the end of the road for finding a settlement for the Afghan crisis.

Obama was right about Iran

Unlike his carrot-and-stick policy with Tehran, his successor Donald Trump's unilateralism has felled the regional order



President Trump cannot expect to be unpredictable and expect others to be predictable," Iran's Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif said in a speech at the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute last month. He added, "Unpredictability will lead to mutual unpredictability, and unpredictability is chaotic." He was perhaps summing up Iran's response to the U.S. President's "maximum pressure" policy.

When Mr. Trump unilaterally pulled the U.S. out of the Iran nuclear deal in May last year and subsequently reimposed sanctions on the Islamic Republic, his expectation was that the renewed pressure tactics would force Tehran to return to talks so that he could bargain for a tougher deal. But Iran was so unpredictable in its response that tensions have rocketed in West Asia over the past year. In the latest flare-up, two critical Saudi Arabian oil installations near the Gulf coast were attacked on September 14, which forced Riyadh to cut its oil production by 5.7 million barrels a day, almost half of its daily output. Shia Houthi rebels in Yemen have claimed responsibility for the attack, but the U.S. has blamed and threatened to strike Iran.

Whether Tehran was directly involved in it or not, the attack on Saturday is a demonstration of Iran's capability and influence. Perhaps the most sophisticated and daunting of its kind in the Gulf

in years, it proved Saudi Arabia's air defence to be worthless even in protecting its most critical economic assets. If the attacks had originated from Iran, as the U.S. has claimed, it is a serious act of aggression. And if it had originated from Yemen, Iran's continued support for the Houthis, which enables them to carry out a high-precision, cross-border attack such as this, would come under renewed focus. Either way, Iran cannot escape blame. Mr. Trump failed to foresee the magnitude of Iran's resistance when he started putting "maximum pressure" on the country. He may have thought that since Iran had once caved in to American pressure and signed an agreement, it could do that again if the pressure was multiplied. But Iran acted exactly in the opposite way.

Maximum resistance

After Mr. Trump withdrew from the P5+1-European Union (EU) and Iran nuclear deal despite international certification that Iran was fully compliant with the terms of the agreement, Tehran waited for a year, perhaps hoping that the remaining signatories, including the EU, Russia and China, would fix the deal. But they remained more or less spectators when the U.S. continued to squeeze Iran's economy with sanctions. By May this year, the U.S. had effectively cut off Iran's oil industry, critical for its economy, from the global economy. Faced with a precarious economic situation and mounting U.S. pressure, Iran adopted a two-pronged strategy – start violating the nuclear deal step by step and target oil supplies through the Strait of Hormuz, a choke-point between the Gulf and the Arabian Sea and through which a third of crude oil exports transported on



tankers pass.

Since May, a number of oil tankers, owned by Norway, Saudi Arabia and Japan, have come under attack near the Strait of Hormuz. In June, Iran shot down an American drone alleging that it had violated Iranian air space, taking tensions to the brink of a direct conflict with the U.S. In July, when an Iranian oil vessel was seized by British troops off Gibraltar, Iran captured a British oil vessel.

Iran did all these without inviting any major military response either from its regional rivals or from the U.S. On the other side, it got its vessel released by Gibraltar despite U.S. opposition. With Saturday's attack on the Saudi oil installations, Iran has upped the ante further, sending a message across the world that no oil facility or tanker is safe in the Gulf as long as Iran is not allowed to trade its oil.

It's a high-risk game. When Iran shot down the U.S. drone, Mr. Trump ordered a strike and called it off with only 10 minutes to spare. What Iran wants is sanctions relief. But it will not surrender totally to American demands for that as it thinks it was Washington that killed a hard-bargained, functioning nuclear deal. Also the U.S. pullout from the deal appears to have tilted the balance of power within

the Iranian regime in favour of the hardliners. During the nuclear talks, Iranian Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei backed Iranian President Hassan Rouhani and Foreign Minister Zarif. But now, the security establishment appears to be calling the shots. They may be betting on Mr. Trump's reluctance to launch an open-ended war in the region. Or they are ready to risk even a direct conflict to break the stranglehold of status quo. Egypt had done that *vis-à-vis* Israel in 1973 by launching the Yom Kippur War because Egypt wanted the Sinai Peninsula back from Israel. Iran is either playing a lose-win game (where it is ready to bear with some setbacks for eventual gains) or a calamitous lose-lose game (where everyone could end up as losers in the event of a conflict).

The order in Gotham

U.S. President Obama's approach was different. Unlike Mr. Trump, he had a strategic goal – to deny Iran a nuclear bomb. He did not act unilaterally on sanctions. He consolidated international opinion, got both allies and partners on his side, imposed UN-recognised sanctions and then offered the olive branch of talks. It was a classic carrot-and-stick policy that works for rational actors. And Iran accepted the offer despite all the bad blood between the U.S. ("the great Satan") and the Islamic Republic, joined the talks and agreed to scuttle its nuclear programme in return for the removal of the international sanctions.

Mr. Obama could have acted unilaterally. He could have made greater demands from Iran such as ending its support for regional proxies. Or he could have threatened Tehran with military action. He did not do any of these primari-

ly because he was aware of the risks involved in a direct conflict with Iran, a country that has always lived in insecurity and cultivated proxies across the region as part of its forward defence doctrine. He carefully avoided anything that could have strengthened the hands of the hard-liners within the complex Iranian regime. He also believed that for peace in West Asia, Saudi Arabia and Iran should dial down tensions between themselves.

He told *The Atlantic*, in 2016: "The competition between the Saudis and the Iranians requires us to say to our friends as well as to the Iranians that they need to find an effective way to share the neighbourhood and institute some sort of cold peace." The nuclear deal had set the state for a détente between the U.S. and Iran. Mr. Obama's successor should have followed that policy up – force Iran to restrain itself through engagement and promote a new equilibrium in the region. It is like Gotham in "The Dark Knight", to use a metaphor used by Mr. Obama in a different context, where the gang leaders have established some sort of order. But then comes the Joker and the city is on fire.

Mr. Trump may be reluctant to launch a new war. But he lacks a strategy to put this reluctance into a policy framework. He has surrounded himself within the administration with warmongers and neocons. He has failed to foresee how far Iran would go if it is pushed to a corner. His unilateral actions have destroyed even the fragile order that existed in the region before May 8, 2018, the day he killed the nuclear deal. If the Gulf is in flames today, Donald Trump is its arsonist.

stanly.johny@thehindu.co.in

A self-inflicted economic slowdown

The government has failed to heed recommendations made by economists and bureaucrats on turnaround measures



One of the visitors to pay a courtesy call on Prime Minister Narendra Modi after his re-election this summer was a former Secretary to the Government of India holding a high-profile constitutional office. During the conversation, the Prime Minister asked: "Arthvyavastha ka kya karna chahiye? (What should be done about the economy?)"

The former bureaucrat , who had studied economics at college, replied: "All of that listed in the presentation I made to you in 2015," referring to the marathon brainstorming sessions the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) had held nearly four years ago to set the policy agenda for Mr. Modi's first term. It was a sharp remark to make. For it implied that Mr. Modi's government had made little progress on translating agenda in to action.

Ending the paralysis

Back then, the economy was still in recovery phase. In the final 18 months of its 10 years, the Manmo-

han Singh-led United Progressive Alliance (UPA) government had moved the economy into repair phase.

For all its faulty handling of the economy, the Manmohan Singh-led government did manage to end the parliamentary paralysis and pass its land and food Bills in 2013, the choice of legislative action dictated by ideological inputs, rather than the wisdom of the then Prime Minister expressed by his key economic aides. A mechanism for handling projects which had been stalling for both economic and administrative reasons was set up in the Cabinet Secretariat and the PMO. The economy that had been named as one of the so-called 'Fragile Five' was no longer counted so and had exited the ignoble clubbing.

The policy paralysis –an administrative and political bottleneck – had ended. The fiscal and current account deficits had been compressed, and GDP growth was slowly picking up momentum year after year, a recovery that continued till 2016-17, the year of demonetisation. Inflation remained out of control, also, in part, due to the sharp uptrend in global crude prices. In May 2014, after Mr. Modi's Cabinet was sworn in, it was made clear to the new government that purposeful steps would strengthen this recovery. Without



reforms, though, the recovery would be difficult to sustain.

Among officers that made precise recommendations on action needed was the Prime Minister's close aide and IAS officer, Hasmukh Adhia, who, as the Financial Services Secretary, made a presentation that detailed in the strongest possible terms the crying need for corrective action in public sector banks: the quicker the banking sector recovered its health, the speedier a pullback in the overall economy could be expected. A recovering economy would have meant, borrowers would be less likely to default on loans and bank NPAs (non-performing assets) would rise at a slower pace if at all.

Ignoring advice

But advice on action needed and decisions that should be avoided were ignored. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) cautioned the government against demonetisation in

writing; the former RBI Governor, Raghuram Rajan, did so orally.

Ahead of the rollout of the Goods and Services Tax (GST), on invitation from the government, well-regarded economist and former Finance Secretary Vijay Kelkar briefed the Prime Minister and key Cabinet ministers on the criticality of avoiding the business-unfriendly rate structure and compliance system that had been worked out for introduction. He was invited to the midnight launch in Parliament's Central Hall of the GST, but his advice went unheeded.

As late as in the run-up to the July 5 Budget, economists openly sympathetic to the ruling party called for bold steps aimed at reversing the slowdown. After the Budget was tabled, economist Surjit Bhalla drew attention to the need for changing the status quo in agriculture and the impossibility of doubling farmer incomes. Economist Subramanian Swamy has consistently drawn attention to the dire consequences to be expected as a result of the Modi government's approach to the economy. Members of the Prime Minister's Economic Advisory Council have been a measured voice of wisdom. Arvind Panagariya is writing with concern over the lack of appetite for growth-accelerating reforms.

The consequences of five years of ignoring advice are, well, hard to ignore now: the weak recovery inherited in 2014 has indeed petered out. A growth slowdown has been on for three years. The loss of growth momentum in the three years from 2016-17 to 2018-19 is significant: 8.2%, 7.2% and 6.8%. GDP growth hit a 25-quarter low of 5% in the April-June 2019 quarter.

Scores of private sector jobs are getting axed. Growth in car sales, retail loans and property has plummeted to multi-year lows, as the impact of the slowdown spreads across the economy.

Several policy pronouncements have been made since the day the courtesy call was paid. These include the July 5 Budget and the weekly press conferences of the Finance Ministry aimed at announcing measures for accelerating GDP growth. That the measures fall woefully short of the recommendations made by economists and bureaucrats over the last five years is an understatement. The government has also failed to take the steps required urgently at this stage of the slowdown.

When there is a mine of advice sitting in government files, gathering dust for five years, who should be blamed for the unfolding economic slowdown?

Puja Mehra is a Delhi-based journalist

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.

**Politics and language**  
Every language in India has its own charm and identity. Being confined to a particular region should not be reason for them to be sidelined and Hindi given priority to be proclaimed as a unifying force in India as it is spoken by the majority. How did the administration function so far in non-Hindi speaking States for the last many decades? All languages listed in the Constitution are equally important and the Home Minister should be reminded that India's strength lies only in its unity among diversity. Instead of employing what is an attention diverting strategy in the midst of an economic slowdown, the Home Minister should value the sentiments of the people. He must not forget that the massive mandate his party has won is to boost employment opportunities, reduce

inflation and ensure poverty alleviation.  
P. PARAMASIVAN, Chennai

India has done a remarkable job as a nation in resolving the diversity of languages. It is difficult to think of any other country with so many ancient languages complete with their own rich literature and history as India's. Despite such linguistic diversity, there is no discord in the country. At a time when our leaders should be focusing on grave economic concerns of the nation, the attempt to polarise people using language is unfortunate. The focal point of 'language dominance' has created enough strife in many countries: Sinhala versus Tamil in the case of Sri Lanka, Urdu versus Bengali in the case of West and East Pakistan, Dutch versus French in the case of Belgium and English versus

French in the Quebec province of Canada. India is a fine example to the rest of the world on how to figure out a consensus and have total harmony.  
PRAVEEN NALLURI, Vijayawada, Andhra Pradesh

**Kashmir policy**  
All is not well internally in Kashmir despite the Central government's claims of everything being "normal" (Editorial page, "In Kashmir, shaking the apple tree", September 18). However, steps need to be taken to focus on youth as they are a stabilising factor – they need quality jobs. There is a need to start as many industries as we can in the State to give fillip to the local job market. There is also a need for extended tax concessions in order to encourage industrialists. Improving the economic conditions of the State's residents will also help a great deal.  
JITENDRA G. KOTHARI, Mumbai

The Prime Minister's statement that Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel's vision had inspired the government's move in Jammu and Kashmir was unconvincing (Inside pages, September 18). Patel's action cannot be compared with the government's move in Jammu and Kashmir. The States that moved to the Indian Union were princely states, and even in integration, Patel convinced and educated them about the importance of joining the mainstream of the Republic. The threat of force was a step of last resort. Incidentally, the use of strong methods may be applicable only in the case of Hyderabad, and after repeated pleadings to join the rest of India. In Jammu and Kashmir, an elected government was dismissed. Local leaders were not consulted or convinced about the action proposed to be taken. And suddenly, the voices of local leaders and people were silenced

through arbitrary action. Even Patel would never have adopted such inhuman measures in the name of integration.  
D. SETHURAMAN, Chennai

Despite many statements by some politicians about the immense troubles the people in Jammu and Kashmir are being put through after the dilution of Article 370, it is unfortunate that the media has been practically gagged in J&K ("Government using Kashmir to divide India",

September 18). If the government has nothing to hide in Kashmir one fails to understand why the media is still unwelcome to do objective reporting of the state of affairs. There are signs of sycophancy in some sections of the media singing paens to the ruling establishment without actually doing field reports. How long will the curbs continue?  
ANUSREE RAMESH, Mangaluru

**MORE LETTERS ONLINE:**  
www.hindu.com/opinion/letters/

**CORRECTIONS & CLARIFICATIONS:**  
The second deck headline in a Business page story headlined "Federal Bank gets into expansion mode" (Sept. 18, 2019) erroneously said doorstep gold loans yielded ₹100-cr *revenue* in 4 months. It should have been ₹100-cr *credit* growth.

A quote in the penultimate paragraph of "Amazon India expects 'bigger and better' festive sales this year" (Business page, Sept. 17, 2019), had been wrongly attributed to Mr. Jain. It was Mr. Mayank Shivam, Director, Category Management, Amazon Fashion India, who said it.

It is the policy of The Hindu to correct significant errors as soon as possible. Please specify the edition (place of publication), date and page. The Readers' Editor's office can be contacted by Telephone: +91-44-28418297/28576300 (11 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday to Friday); Fax: +91-44-28552963; E-mail:readerseditor@thehindu.co.in; Mail: Readers' Editor, The Hindu, Kasturji Buildings, 859 & 860 Anna Salai, Chennai 600 002, India. All communication must carry the full postal address and telephone number. No personal visits. The Terms of Reference for the Readers' Editor are on www.thehindu.com



# Shaking the foundation of fake news

Battling disinformation must involve a fight against the narratives that act as grist for the rumour mill



RUCHI GUPTA

Combating fake news is a growing preoccupation of the technology platforms, the political class, the news media, and an increasing tribe of citizens concerned about democracy being hijacked. There is a perception that fake news is a new phenomenon linked to the rise of social media; however, this is only half the story. Governments and political actors (anyone in the business of mobilising public opinion) have always invested in disinformation campaigns to build narratives of their choice. In fact, it is because the institutional news media is no longer seen as an arbitrator of the ‘real news’ – having lost credibility due to complicit and motivated reporting – that fake news has been able to thrive now. The advent of social media has merely decentralised the creation and propagation of fake news. It is this that has led to the ubiquity of and difficulty in controlling/eliminating fake news.

The current response to fake news primarily revolves around three prongs – rebuttal, removal of the fake news item and educating the public. While these are necessary measures, it is not apparent that they are sufficient in themselves to address the larger ‘political’ problem posed by fake news.

### Rebuttal and removal

Rebuttal is a form of fact checking wherein the fake news is debunked by pointing out errors like mismatch, malicious editing and misattribution. To the extent that the fake news item appears on institutional handles, attempts are made to have it removed after rebuttal. There is much pressure on companies like Facebook and YouTube to proactively remove fake news from their platforms and rework their algorithms to ensure that such content does not gain prominence. The newly introduced limits on forwarding messages on WhatsApp are an offshoot of this discourse, where accountability to address fake news is offloaded on to the technology platforms. The third leg



GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

of the response revolves around educating the end users to be more discerning consumers of news by informing them of verification tools so that they can ascertain the accuracy of a news item before sharing it.

Another emerging strand in this discourse, propagated by the government, concerns tracking the ‘source’ of fake news, ostensibly to address the issue at its root. However, this suggestion, when combined with another proposal to de-anonymise all social media accounts, is fraught with serious issues concerning invasion of privacy and free speech, and will more often than not be used by governments to quell dissent.

While the measures outlined are important and must be expanded upon, there are some evident shortcomings in this approach. First, attempting to rebut fake news is akin to hitting a moving target, with a steady stream of fake news getting churned out consistently. It may be possible to rebut news on one fake instance of children getting abducted or on Indian citizens toting Pakistan’s flags but the ‘fake news factory’ will keep churning out similar stories to advance its chosen narrative.

Second, it is impossible to com-

pletely ‘remove’ fake news even after rebuttal, given the decentralised nature of dissemination. Propagation and virality of a news item are contingent not on its accuracy but on how well it conforms to the dominant narrative and also on the strength of the associated distribution networks that spread the narrative. Thus, the act of ‘rebuttal’, instead of supplanting the original fake news item, could end up vying for space with the latter. Moreover, in India, the right-wing propagators of fake news are often better organised, especially on messaging platforms like WhatsApp, than the liberal Opposition.

### Reinforcing the fake account

However, the biggest shortcoming of this approach – the fact that the very act of rebuttal reinforces the fake narrative being pushed – goes beyond this cat-and-mouse problem. Since the act of rebuttal gets confined within the original framework of the fake news item, the political impact of the rebuttal is far less than ideal.

The average consumer relies on overall frameworks/narratives to evaluate a piece of information. The

increasing complexity of issues, in conjunction with the deluge of information – with the relevant jostling for space with the irrelevant – has made it impossible for any individual to develop a well-researched stand on all the topics. When an individual piece of information (fake news or otherwise) conforms to someone’s held beliefs, it is readily accepted and shared.

### Confirmation bias

Studies have confirmed that people don’t care about finding the ‘truth’ behind a news item and instead look for evidence to support their preferred narrative (confirmation bias). Therefore, debunking discrete items of fake news without addressing this battle of narratives will have only a marginal value. This is because when an individual fake news item having a reinforcement value is debunked, the purveyors simply discard it and replace it with another piece of similar fake news.

It is evident that if we are concerned about the impact of fake news, we must address the underlying narratives, instead of merely trying to rebut individual items. This needs to be done in two connected ways: first, by addressing the weaknesses that allow the fake news narrative to take root. For instance, the right wing’s narrative across the world, while propelled by fake news, is premised on the loss of credibility of the liberal camp, which is perceived to be elitist and corrupt. Any forward must involve a rebuilding of this lost credibility.

Second, we must not get sucked into a losing narrative while attempting to rebut fake news. Instead, we must mobilise public opinion around an alternate narrative that makes the fake news item irrelevant. Most people cannot hold multiple stories in their head and thus, instead of poking holes in an opponent’s story, it may be more effective to replace it with a different narrative built on facts. Ultimately, all fake news is in service of a political, if not electoral, agenda. We should thus not lose sight of the wood for the trees by focussing disproportionately on individual fake news items instead of the larger narrative.

Ruchi Gupta is joint secretary in-charge of the Congress Party’s student wing

# The multitudes dispossessed by the ‘Gujarat model’

Extractive projects like Sardar Sarovar have hit many people



ARYAMAN JAIN & ASEEM SHRIVASTAVA

The Gujarat government has filled up the Sardar Sarovar this year, flooding the Narmada. In Madhya Pradesh alone, reportedly, more than 28,000 families still live in the submergence zone. They have not been given due rehabilitation or compensation. However, despite opposition by many groups, the Gujarat and Union governments are going ahead with this forced mass displacement of communities. Disturbing videos are circulating. In one, a woman is seen refusing to leave her home, even as it is flooded to waist level. In another, two childhood friends are seen consoling each other as they watch the only place they’ve called ‘home’ go under water. There are thousands of such scenes along the Narmada. Crops grown over the season have been destroyed and around 13,500 hectares of forests are being drowned by this developmental mayhem.

### Ingress of sea water

Beyond Sardar Sarovar, the once mighty Narmada is now a seasonal drain that carries sewage and industrial effluents. At the mouth of the river in Gujarat, because of lower freshwater pressure on account of the dam, the sea water has ingressed several km inland, rendering vast fertile lands saline. With some 10,000 hectares of agricultural land having been destroyed, the farmers of the area are devastated. Just in Bharuch, a fishing community of around 30,000 has lost its livelihood. The estuary’s once-thriving population of the coveted Hilsa fish is in danger due to the ingress. In response, the Gujarat government has built a barrage which, paradoxically will only end up destroying the breeding grounds of the Hilsa.

When the dream of the Sardar Sarovar was sold to the people of Gujarat, these features of the dam were not mentioned. Even today, when proponents continue to defend the project after all that has happened, they fail to report these ‘gifts’ of the dam.

But how was such a disaster allowed to unfold? For years, industrial lobbies constantly pushed politicians to build the dam despite activists raising important questions about it. The politicians found it opportune to go along with the industrialists’ agenda.

The Sardar Sarovar was promised as a new lease of life for farmers across Gujarat. Even the Supreme Court, in allowing the project to go ahead in a 2000 verdict, relied pivotally on the argument that there was no other way to provide water to the dry areas of Gujarat. Farmers as far as Kutch were promised Narmada waters. They are still waiting as the canals leading to their agricultural lands have not been built as yet. Instead, the situation has worsened. As Gujarat neglected its own water resources and the changing climate, farmers, fishermen and herders have begun leaving, signalling the beginnings of a climate refugee crisis.

### The primary beneficiaries

Today, it is clear that the primary beneficiaries of the dam were the industrialists of Gujarat. Tata’s plant in Sanand, shifted from West Bengal after farmers there protested illegal land grab, draws a generous amount of Narmada’s water and as does Coca-Cola, which was thwarted from expanding in Plachimada, Kerala, and Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh, due to protests. Meanwhile, Gujarat’s own river, Sabarmati, now draws water from the Narmada to fill it.

The plight of the farmers of Dholera, who were once promised Narmada water and were successfully mobilised against anti-dam protests, brings out the cruel irony of the State’s policies. The soil of the area has turned saline, thanks to Gujarat’s neglect of its local water bodies. To add insult to injury, the State government now wants to build a ‘Special Investment Region’ there and has asked farmers to vacate the land. Any protest is being beaten into the earth. Such are the perverse ‘achievements’ of those relentless in their advocacy of the dam. The riches of Gujarat – shown as a model to the rest of the country – are the result of such violent extraction, exploitation and destruction that benefit a few while victimising many.

As we near Mahatma Gandhi’s 150th birth anniversary, let’s recall these words of warning from him: “God forbid that India should ever take to industrialisation after the manner of the West. The economic imperialism of a single tiny island kingdom [Britain] is today keeping the world in chains. If an entire nation of 300 million took to similar economic exploitation, it would strip the world bare like locusts.”

We are now looking at 1,300-1,700 million people wanting to live like Britain. The ultimate outcome is a foregone conclusion.

Aryaman Jain is an Environmental Engineer; Aseem Shrivastava teaches Ecosophy at Ashoka University

# Nigeria’s war against wild poliovirus approaches a climax

Country could be declared ‘polio-free’ next year

R. PRASAD

On August 21 this year, Nigeria crossed an important milestone in the eradication of polio when it successfully completed three successive years without a single case of wild poliovirus. A country is said to have eradicated polio when no fresh case of wild poliovirus is reported for three successive years.

The last case of type 1 wild poliovirus in Nigeria was reported in August 2016 in Borno State, in the country’s insurgency-hit northeast. The official announcement by the World Health Organization (WHO) is expected by early next year.

With Nigeria almost winning the war against the wild poliovirus, the endgame is getting closer. Today, wild poliovirus is endemic only in two countries – Pakistan and Afghanistan. Global eradication will depend on stopping the disease in these two countries. But as long as polio exists in any part of the world, children are at threat everywhere.

### Spike in Afghanistan, Pakistan

Just as it appeared to be easy to snuff out the virus in these two Asian countries, there has been a spike this year. As on September 11 this year, there have been 16 and 62 wild poliovirus cases reported in Afghanistan and Pakistan respectively. Compared to 2018, the number of cases in Afghanistan reduced while it increased manifold in Pakistan.

After being removed from the WHO’s list of ‘polio endemic countries’ in September 2015, Nigeria came close to eliminating polio the very next year. However, it faced a setback in July-August 2016 when three fresh cases were reported.

The wild virus strain that caused the fresh cases was found to be linked to the virus detected in 2011 in Borno, indicating that the strain was still present in the environment. This did not come as a surprise as health-care workers had not been able to access as much as 60% of settlements in Borno due to the decade-long insurgency in northeast Nigeria.

As a result, about 5,00,000 children in the State were deprived of health services by 2016.

Like the Democratic Republic of

Congo during the latest outbreak of Ebola, Nigeria had to rely on security personnel to escort health workers to Borno. But certain areas were out of bounds for health-care workers and access was limited to only military personnel. Nigeria came up with a unique strategy to reach out to children by training the military personnel to double up as vaccinators.

These strategies have borne fruits. Health workers, accompanied by security personnel, were able to immunise



A health worker immunising a child in Kano, northwest Nigeria, in April 2017. • GETTY IMAGES

nise 80% of children with three doses of the vaccine containing only type 1 and type 3 polio viruses. Military personnel by themselves were able to reach 26%.

### 60,000 yet to be vaccinated

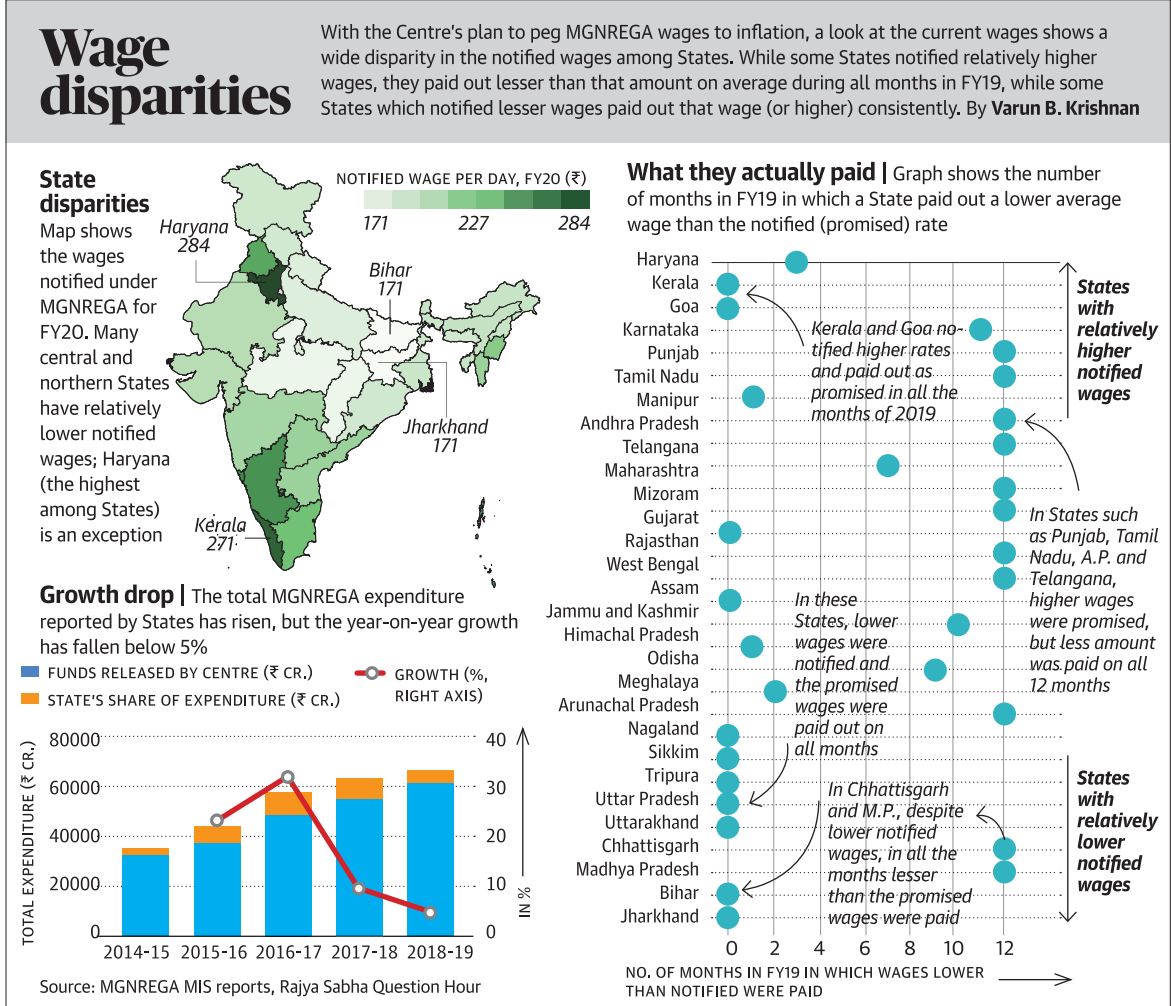
However, the success of the two strategies notwithstanding, about 60,000 children are yet to be vaccinated in the insurgent-held areas, according to a July 2019 paper; the true status of wild poliovirus in these children remains unknown.

And even as wild poliovirus appears to be tamed in Nigeria, as on August 28, 2019, the weakened type 2 virus used in oral polio vaccine had turned virulent and caused 16 cases of paralysis, down from 34 last year. Though vaccine-derived polio cases will not come in the way of Nigeria being certified as ‘polio-free’ by the WHO, multiple outbreaks of such kind are concerning, particularly the emergence of new strains in areas where oral vaccine containing only type 2 was used.

prasad.ravindranath@thehindu.co.in



### DATA POINT



### The Hindu.

#### FROM THE ARCHIVES

FIFTY YEARS AGO SEPTEMBER 19, 1969

#### Political silence of Sheikh Abdullah

Busy in planning the construction of a new mosque at Hazratbal near Srinagar to house Prophet Mohammed’s sacred hair (brought to Kashmir in 1700 A.D.), Sheikh Abdullah is significantly silent about his future course of action in the political field. This is puzzling to his critics and admirers alike. Political analysts believe that apart from the fact that he might have become more religious-minded with his advancing age, he is conserving his energy for the 1972 General Election in which the Plebiscite Front, of which he is the patron and trouble-shooter, is going to participate with an eye to capturing a majority of seats in the State Legislative Assembly. The Sheikh’s seeming “political inactivity” is, therefore, interpreted as a part of his unexpressed overall strategy not to get involved in any such agitation as would make him unable to lead the Plebiscite Front to “victory” in the next General Election. Accordingly, it is explained in political circles, the Kashmiri leader gives the impression of letting things slide for the time being. Knowledgeable circles argue that it is futile to believe that the Sheikh is tired of politics. Nor is there any evidence to show that he has become pliant or is chary of shouldering the political consequences of his plebiscite slogan. On the contrary, it seems that for the present he is only trying to avoid a war of words – and action – which may create an explosive situation. And the new mosque at Hazratbal is expected to take two years to be completed. That is about the time when preparations for the next General Elections will start.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO SEPT. 19, 1919.

#### Help the Punjab: An appeal.

The Press Sub-Committee of the Punjab Relief Committee has issued the appeal:

Yesterday we gave our reader breathing time. Not breathing time to rest, but breathing time in which to carry out the numerous suggestions we have been making on behalf of the Relief Committee. What Madras city has been doing remains to be seen, but the muffasal is waking up, meetings have been held all over the Presidency, and here and there a Punjab Week has been decided upon. Let us remind our readers that next Sunday is Mahatma Gandhi’s birthday – his Swadeshi birthday. In Madras we are going to celebrate it by a monster meeting on the Beach, near the Aquarium opposite the Presidency College. We are going to make a special collection from the audience to send in Mahatma Gandhi’s name to the Punjab sufferers. Muffasal friends, we suggest to you to go and do likewise.



FROM PAGE ONE

## Never spoke of imposing Hindi, says Amit Shah

“It is the language of a particular State, like Gujarati in my State. But there should be one language in the country, if someone wants to learn another language, it should be Hindi.”

“I too come from a non-Hindi speaking State. I come from Gujarat where Gujarati is the language, not Hindi. One has to listen to my speech carefully...,” Mr. Shah said.

Mr. Shah’s statement came following widespread criticism of his earlier remarks.

Several Opposition parties accused the Centre of attempting to impose Hindi over other languages.

The Congress said the three-language formula should not be tinkered with.

“The Polit Bureau of the CPI(M) strongly opposes these efforts which stem from the RSS conception of one nation, one culture, one language,” said the party in a statement.

The CPI also described Mr. Shah’s comments as an “attack on the very concept of diversity.”

## Cabinet approves ban on e-cigarettes

The sub-inspector has been designated as the authorised officer to take action under the ordinance. The Central or State governments may also designate any other equivalent officer (s) as authorised officer for enforcement of the provisions of the ordinance.

The Prohibition of E-cigarettes Ordinance, 2019, was recently examined by a Group of Ministers (GoM) following directions from the Prime Minister’s Office. In the draft ordinance, the Health Ministry had proposed a maximum imprisonment of up to one year along with a penalty of ₹1 lakh against first-time violators.

E-cigarettes are battery-operated devices that produce aerosol by heating a solution containing nicotine, which is the addictive

substance in combustible cigarettes.

### Complete prohibition

The Minister noted that as per data the misuse of e-cigarettes is very high among students. The Union Health Ministry had earlier issued an advisory to all States and Union Territories to ensure that Electronic Nicotine Delivery Systems (ENDS), e-cigarettes, heat-not-burn devices, vape, e-sheesha, e-nicotine flavoured hookah, and devices that enable nicotine delivery are not sold (including online sale), manufactured, distributed, traded, imported and advertised in their jurisdictions.

Union Health Secretary Preeti Sudan had also written to the Commerce Secretary to block the entry of a U.S.-based company manufacturing vaping devices.

## Xi-Modi meet likely to skirt Kashmir issue

Beijing had also backed Pakistan on taking the Kashmir issue to the UN Security Council, following India’s decision on August 5 to deny special status to Kashmir.

“As for Kashmir being on the agenda, I’m not sure because this is kind of an informal summit and leaders’ meeting, I think better we need to give the leaders much time to discuss whatever they would like to discuss,” Ms. Hua observed.

But the spokesperson reiterated China’s stance backing direct talks between India and Pakistan as well as the UN’s role in resolving the Kashmir issue.

Ms. Hua pointed out that Kashmir issue was a problem between India and Pa-

kistan.

The Chinese diplomat hoped that as good neighbours of China, India and Pakistan could live together in peace. “And both India and Pakistan can try their best to resolve the issue peacefully through negotiations,” she said.

Analysts say that despite China’s apparent decision not to focus on Kashmir, the Indian side appears inclined to raise “tough questions” with China regarding its ties with Pakistan that have faltered with India.

On China’s Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), Ms. Hua said it is up to the Indian side to decide when and how to join the enterprise, which is gaining in popularity.

## Tabrez case accused face murder charge

“Due to expeditious investigation, 11 accused were arrested and sent to jail within 72 hours of the incident. Special emphasis was given on scientific accumulation of evidences. We have taken other mob lynching cases quite seriously. As many as 66 accused in mob lynching cases have so far been punished. We are committed to prevent such cases in the State,” the police said.

“I am happy that the accused will now be facing murder charges. We will not let anyone off the hook,” Sahista Pervaz, wife of deceased Tabrez, told *The Hindu*.

A couple of days ago, Ms. Pervaz had threatened a fast-unto-death alleging that the administration was not cooperating in supply of necessary documents in connection with the murder.

## ‘Who said we are going to destroy Parliament?’

On the colonial architecture, he said: “The English ruled for 190 years. Their architecture is very good, everyone praises it and it is a part of our cultural and architectural heritage. That will stay. You think we will break down North Block or South Block? No. But you may decide that one or both may be made a museum to reflect those 190 years.”

He clarified that while Rashtrapati Bhavan, Parliament House and North and South Blocks would not be

demolished, “some of the buildings made in the 1960s and 1970s should have been torn down much earlier.”

“From the time the CPWD built Rashtrapati Bhavan, something went wrong. Either we lowered our standards or we took our eye off the ball,” he said.

Durga Shanker Mishra, the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs Secretary, said he would soon be setting up a “core team” of CPWD officials to oversee the project.

# India, U.S. to end dogfight over ground handling

Civil Aviation Ministry to amend rules after Air India was barred from carrying out operations in America in July

JAGRITI CHANDRA  
NEW DELHI

India is set to amend its ground-handling regulations for foreign airlines after the U.S., in a retaliatory action, recently barred Air India from performing ground operations on its own at American airports.

“We are adjusting ground-handling norms and devising a mechanism to attempt to address their concerns without compromising security,” P.S. Kharola, Secretary, Civil Aviation Ministry, told *The Hindu*.

### Tit for tat

On July 30, the U.S. Department of Transportation served an order amending Air India’s foreign air carrier permit, and barring it from performing its own ground-handling functions in the U.S., after India failed to al-

### Turbulent phase

**April 14, 2005:** Air Service Agreement between India and the U.S. allows airlines to self-handle operations in the territory of the other party

**December 15, 2017:** New ground handling regulations released, foreign airlines barred from ground handling

**April 19, 2019:** U.S. Department of

Transportation (DoT) asks why India is not allowing U.S. carriers to exercise their bilateral right to self-handle

**July 30, 2019:** U.S. DoT bars Air India and Jet Airways from self-handling

**September 2019:** Civil Aviation Ministry says it will “adjust” norms on ground handling



We are adjusting ground handling norms and devising a mechanism to attempt to address their [U.S.] concerns without compromising security  
P. S. KHAROLA, Secretary, Civil Aviation Ministry

low U.S. airlines to “exercise their bilateral right to perform their own ground-handling (to “self-handle”) at Indian airports”.

Air India is the only Indian carrier that currently flies to the U.S.

“A special dispensation will be allowed to those

countries with whom we have an air services agreement to perform ground operations,” said another official in the Ministry of Civil Aviation, speaking on condition of anonymity.

The employees of these foreign airlines would, however, be subjected to stric-

ter security monitoring, the official added.

It is reliably learnt that the Ministry will be seeking an in-principle approval from the Union Cabinet as the issue pertains to national security, before moving to modify the clause in the Airports Authority of India

## SC reserves orders on SC/ST Act

Government had filed a review petition against the dilution of the law

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Wednesday reserved orders on a review petition filed by the government against a March 20, 2018 judgment allowing anticipatory bail to persons accused of committing atrocities on people belonging to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

The March 20 verdict had reasoned that the anti-atrocities law was misused as a means for “blackmail”.

A three-judge Bench of Justices Arun Mishra, M.R. Shah and B.R. Gawai heard the review petition, which was referred to it by a two-judge Bench.

### Govt. intervention

A huge public backlash followed the verdict. Several people died in protests and property worth crores of rupees was destroyed. The government then filed the review petition and subsequently amended the 1989 Act back to its original



The court earlier said that the law was misused as a means for “blackmail”.

form last year.

The Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Amendment Act of 2018 nullified the March 20 judgment of the Supreme Court, which allowed anticipatory bail to those booked for committing atrocities against the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes members. The original 1989 Act bars anticipatory bail.

Several petitions were

filed last year challenging the Amendment Act. The three-judge Bench has scheduled these petitions for hearing next week.

The lead petitioner, advocate Prithvi Raj Chauhan, has even called the amendments a “blunder” and a violation of the fundamental right to equality and personal liberty. The Supreme Court, however, had refused to stay the implementation of the amendments.

The Centre has argued in the court that the amendments were necessary as the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes would continue to face the same social stigma, poverty and humiliation that they had been subjected to for centuries.

The government said there was no decrease in the atrocities committed on members of SC/ST communities despite the laws meant to protect their civil rights.

It said the sad state of affairs was prevalent despite the existence of 195 special

courts across 14 States to exclusively try Prevention of Atrocities (PoA) cases.

### Status quo

As per the National Crime Records Bureau statistics, there is no decrease in the crimes against SC/ST members.

The number of cases registered under the PoA in 2014 is 47124, while in 2015 it is 44839 and 47,338 in 2016.

In 2014, 28.8% of the cases were convicted, 71.2% acquitted and 85.3% cases pending. The next year saw 25.8% convictions, 74.2% acquittals and 87.3% pendency. In 2016, there was 24.9% convictions, 75.1% acquittals and 89.3% pendency.

“The SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act of 1989 is the least which the country owes to this section of the society who have been denied several civil rights since generations and have been subjected to indignities and humiliations,” the government argued.

## Equations in Bihar have changed, says BJP

Party may seek more seats from JD(U) for the Assembly polls owing to better performance recently

NISTULA HEBBAR  
NEW DELHI

Bihar Deputy Chief Minister and BJP leader Sushil Kumar Modi may have tried to quieten the demand by some party colleagues for a rethink on whether or not the National Democratic Alliance should persist with Nitish Kumar as Chief Minister going into the 2020 Assembly election, but the party is girding up for serious bargaining over seats with the Janata Dal(U).

The BJP and the JD(U) last fought the Assembly election in the State together in 2010 under a seat-sharing arrangement. The JD(U) contested 142 seats while the BJP fought in 101 constituencies. The two split just before



Sushil Kumar Modi had pacified BJP members who demanded more seats for the 2020 Assembly polls. • RAMESH SHARMA

the 2014 Lok Sabha election, and the JD(U) then tied up with the Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD), led by Lalu Prasad, for the 2015 Assembly election.

Much water has flowed in the Ganga since then, with Mr. Kumar having broken his

alliance with the RJD, tying up with the BJP again, and contesting the 2019 Lok Sabha election in an equal 17-17 seat split.

Senior BJP leaders, both in Delhi and Patna say the political ground has shifted a

lot since the previous Assembly election when the JD(U)-RJD alliance swept to power, with the BJP a distant third.

“In the last Lok Sabha elections, while we fought an equal number of seats, our vote share was 2% more than that of the JD(U). Also while the JD(U) won 16 of their 17 seats, their margins were not as big as ours, where the lowest margin was for Ram Kripal Yadav, around 38,000 votes,” a senior BJP office-bearer said. “Clearly, the Modi effect had led to such results,” he said.

The recent membership drive of the BJP, he said, has seen enthusiastic response from new sections.

At a meeting between

Bhupendra Yadav, BJP general secretary in charge of Bihar, and Mr. Kumar, along with other party officials, the Chief Minister reportedly admitted that the BJP’s organisational strength had grown by leaps and bounds.

### New pact needed

“All of this points to the fact that the old seat-sharing arrangement cannot continue as before, and the ground realities have to be acknowledged by the Janata Dal (U),” sources said.

The BJP had, in the past, broken with the Shiv Sena in Maharashtra and contested the Assembly election alone and formed the government. The situation in Bihar, say party men, is similar.

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

The Centre cleared the appointments of Justices V Ramasubramanian, Krishna Murari, S. Ravindra Bhat and Hrishikesh Roy as Supreme Court judges.

The Supreme Court Collegium led by Chief Justice of India Ranjan Gogoi had recommended Chief Justices of Himachal Pradesh, Punjab and Haryana, Rajasthan and Kerala High Courts, V. Ramasubramanian, Krishna Murari, S. Ravindra Bhat and Hrishikesh Roy, respectively, as Supreme court judges.

One of the four judges would replace the vacancy following the retirement of Justice A.M. Sapre recently.

## PDP man gets parole to attend brother’s burial

He was let out for three hours

PEERZADA ASHIQ  
SRINAGAR

Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) leader Khursheed Alam was released on a parole for just three hours on Wednesday to attend the last rites of his younger brother Shah Nawaz Alam, who died of lung cancer on Tuesday evening.

An official said the former employees union leader who joined the PDP a few years ago, was shifted from the Centaur Lake View hotel, a designated sub-jail, on Wednesday morning to attend the last rites here.

“Mr. Alam was escorted by a posse of security per-

sonnel to Khanyar and was again whisked away after the burial. We expected the State government to release him for at least four days so that he could participate in all the congregational prayers to be offered,” a relative said on the condition of anonymity.

A police official said the agencies were “weighing the options to release him again to attend the congregational prayers.”

Mr. Alam was among 179 political leaders arrested in the crackdown launched on the mainstream leaders in J&K before the Centre revoked J&K’s special status.



‘Howdy economy doin’: Rahul

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

Ahead of Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s visit to the United States where he is scheduled to address the Indian diaspora at an event called “Howdy Modi!” on September 22, former Congress chief Rahul Gandhi on Wednesday played on the colloquial American expression to take a dig at Mr. Modi.

“‘Howdy’ economy doin’, Mr Modi? Ain’t too good it seems,” Mr. Gandhi tweeted using the “HowdyEconomy” hashtag.

For the past several weeks, the Congress has been attacking the Modi government on the economic slowdown and its handling of the economy.

The party also questioned the government’s use of Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) funds.

Gabbard out of ‘Howdy Modi!’

35 lawmakers, senators and Congressmen have confirmed their participation

SUHASINI HAIDAR  
WASHINGTON DC

U.S. lawmaker and presidential candidate Tulsi Gabbard confirmed on Wednesday that she would not attend the “Howdy Modi” event in Houston this Sunday, but hopes to meet Prime Minister Narendra Modi during his week-long stay in New York.

Denying a report that Ms. Gabbard had decided to pull out of the event over concerns about the government’s actions in Kashmir, she said in a tweet that she cancelled her appearance in Houston over “scheduled presidential campaign events”.

Bilateral ties

“However, I’m hoping to meet PM Modi on his visit to discuss the importance of maintaining the strong partnership of the world’s oldest



**Pulling crowds:** Narendra Modi at the Madison Square Garden event. A larger participation is expected in Houston. • PTI

& largest democracies,” she wrote. Others suggested that Ms. Gabbard’s decision to pull out may have followed U.S. President Donald Trump’s decision to join Mr. Modi at the rally for Indian-Americans, and that other Democratic Party members may have reservations about appearing with Mr. Trump.

“We are expecting many more Republican lawmakers to join the event now due to

the U.S. President’s appearance, and we hope others in the Opposition will also attend to show the bipartisan support for ties with India,” said an official involved in the arrangements.

Indian Ambassador to the U.S. Harshvardhan Shringla is flying to Houston on Wednesday, and expected to oversee the final planning, and changes needed in the schedule because of Mr.

Mamata calls on PM, skirts NRC issue

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI/KOLKATA

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Wednesday called on Prime Minister Narendra Modi and discussed a host of issues including the Assembly’s proposal to rename the State Bangla.

Ms. Banerjee said while the move to change the State’s named had topped her agenda, she had also invited Mr. Modi to inaugurate the second-largest coal block in the world, Deocha Pachami, after Durga Puja.

Asked if the issue of the National Register of Citizens (NRC) had figured in the discussions, she replied in the negative and termed it “an Assam-specific issue”.

When pointed out that the BJP had announced plans for a nationwide NRC, she said it would not be done in Bengal.

Left parties and the Congress flayed her for not raising the NRC issue.

Pakistan not to allow use of airspace by Modi’s flight

India asks it to reflect upon violation of international norm

MEHMAL SARFRAZ  
LAHORE

Pakistan on Wednesday announced that it would not allow the use of its airspace for Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s flight to Germany.

The official Twitter account of the Government of Pakistan (@pid.gov) shared a short video of Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi making this announcement.

“India had sent in a request to us that Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi would like to go to Germany and seeks to use Pakistani airspace for an overflight on September 20 and then again on 28 on his way back. Given the situation in Occupied Kashmir and keeping in mind the Indian state’s cal-



As in the case of the President’s flight, Pakistan has tied its reason for denying permission to the situation in Kashmir.

lous attitude [towards Kashmiris], tyranny and violation of human rights, we have decided that Pakistan will not grant permission to the Indian Premier. We have conveyed our decision to the Indian High Commission,” Mr. Qureshi said in the video.

Asked for response, Ra-veesh Kumar, official spokesman of the External Affairs Ministry, said, “We regret the decision of the Government of Pakistan to deny overflight clearance for the VVIP special flight for a second time in two weeks, which is otherwise granted routinely by any normal country. Pakistan should reflect upon its decision to deviate from well-established international practice, as well as reconsider its old habit of misrepresenting the reasons for taking a unilateral action.”

Earlier, Pakistan had denied permission to President Ram Nath Kovind’s flight to Zurich.

(With inputs from Kallol Bhattacharjee)

Ram Chabutra turns focal point in Ayodhya hearing

Allahabad HC had deduced the space as birthplace of Ram

KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL  
NEW DELHI

Justice D.Y. Chandrachud of the Supreme Court on Wednesday wondered if Hindus thronged Ram Chabutra, which “coincidentally” came up after 1855 along with the railing barricading the Babri Masjid, to actually set their eyes on, and pray to, the space under the central dome of the mosque, believed to be where Lord Ram was born.

The observation from the judge is significant as the Allahabad High Court, in its 2010 judgment, took a “leap of faith” and deduced the space under the central dome of the masjid, demolished by kar sevaks in 1992, to be the exact birthplace of Lord Ram.

Justice Chandrachud, one of the five judges on the Ayodhya Bench led by Chief Justice of India Ranjan Go-



Justice D.Y. Chandrachud

goi, began his remarks by observing that it was “coincidental” that Ram Chabutra came up along with the construction of the railing by the British following an armed clash between Hindus and Muslims in 1855. Prior to that year, both Hindus and Muslims entered it for prayers.

After the violence, Muslims entered the mosque and Hindus prayed at the Chabutra, a platform erected merely 50 yards away

from the mosque’s central dome.

“After 1855, Ram Chabutra was erected just outside the railing. So it must be that worshippers believed that praying at the chabutra meant actually praying at the central dome,” Justice Chandrachud observed.

Justice Ashok Bhushan intervened to say, “They went to the railing because they believed that birth happened there [under the central dome]”.

Justice Chandrachud observed, ““Why do you need to pray at the railing? You go to the railing to look beyond the railing.” Senior advocate Rajeev Dhavan, for the Sunni Wakf Board, dismissed the judge’s reasoning as mere “conjecture”. Justice Chandrachud shot back, saying it was a “preponderance of probabilities”, which the court could indulge in.

Chinmayanand case: SIT rues ‘media trial’

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
LUCKNOW

A Special Investigation Team probing rape charges against former Union Minister Swami Chinmayanand said on Wednesday that it would not be influenced by accusations of shielding the accused or questions raised by people or a “media trial”.

All the findings of the probe, based on a “scientific investigation”, would be submitted to the Allahabad High Court in its status report, the SIT said, refusing to divulge details of the investigation so far or why it was yet to act against the accused. The SIT also asked both sides to refrain from revealing too many details to the media.

The SIT clarified that officially it had not arrested anyone in the case so far, amid demands for Mr. Chinmayanand’s arrest raised by the law student who has accused him of rape and blackmail.

“You will have to have faith in some agency. If the investigation is going in the wrong direction, the High Court will monitor us. If we make any mistakes, it is authorised to take cognisance of it,” Naveen Arora, the officer heading the SIT, said at a press conference in Shahjahanpur. “We can’t be swayed by a particular person or media trial to take the investigation in the wrong direction,” he said.

Mr. Arora was responding to questions on why Mr. Chinmayanand was not yet booked for rape despite the law student’s accusation and her statement in a local court.

Joining the dots

The officer also explained the time being taken in the investigation, saying the priority of the SIT was to join the dots in both the cases and not leave behind any evidence which could weaken prosecution. While the first case pertains to the allegations levelled against Mr. Chinmayanand, the second case pertains to the alleged extortion threats received by the former BJP MP.

“We don’t want any lapse due to hurry in the probe,” Mr. Arora said, adding that the SIT was mandated to submit its report to the HC on September 23.

The SIT also said it would take into consideration videos associated with the case only after they are assessed by a forensic laboratory.

**INDIAN MARITIME UNIVERSITY**  
(A Central University Govt. of India)  
East Coast Road, Semmencherry,  
Sholinganallur (P.O.) 9, Chennai-600 119.  
Tel: (044) 2453 9020, Fax: 2453 9026

**Tender No. IMU-HQ/R/70/29/1/2019-PUR** **Dated: 17.09.2019**  
**TENDER NOTIFICATION**  
Sealed Bids in Two bid system are invited from reputed and established Suppliers for the supply, installation, testing, commissioning and maintenance of Rack Servers and System Software with Five years Warranty at Indian Maritime University-Headquarters. The Tender Document can be downloaded at free of cost from IMU’s website [www.imu.edu.in](http://www.imu.edu.in) from **17.09.2019** onwards. There shall be a pre-bid meeting on **27.09.2019**. Last date for receiving tender at IMU HQ is **15:00 Hrs on 14.10.2019**.  
**REGISTRAR**

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Fax : 040-2726 2951 BDA PHASE II,  
E-mail : [ign.hyderabad@spmcil.com](mailto:ign.hyderabad@spmcil.com) CHERLAPALLY R.R. Dist.  
Website : <http://ignhyderabad.spmcil.com> Hyderabad-500051, INDIA

**NOTICE INVITING EXPRESSION OF INTEREST**  
Sealed Tenders are invited for submission of Expression of Interest for "Design, Manufacture, Supply, Installation, Commissioning, Testing, Training of Coin/Coin Blank Destruction Machine". For Further details interested bidders may visit the Mint website <http://ignhyderabad.spmcil.com> and may download the tender document from 19.09.2019 onwards. Further if any amendment/Corrigendum to this tender will be notified on the above website only.  
**Sd/-**  
**Addl. General Manager**

**TAMIL NADU NEWSPRINT AND PAPERS LIMITED**  
UNIT 2

**GLOBAL NOTICE INVITING BIDS FOR DESIGN, MANUFACTURE, SUPPLY, ERECTION AND COMMISSIONING OF WASTE WATER TREATMENT PLANT**

Tamil Nadu Newsprint and Papers Limited (TNPL), which owns and successfully operates a 200,000 tpa Multilayer Coated Board Mill at Mondipatti, Trichy District (Unit 2) in the State of Tamil Nadu, India, is embarking upon a Mill Expansion Plan.

TNPL now invites sealed Bids for Design, Manufacture, Supply, Erection and Commissioning of Waste Water Treatment Plant as per the scope specified in the Bid Document. The Bidder or Bidder's with collaborator shall be a reputed manufacturer (either separately or in combination) having designed, manufactured, supplied and successfully commissioned two (2) Waste water treatment plants of capacity not less than 8000 m<sup>3</sup>/day with inlet COD of 1000 mg/l for treating chemical based process industrial effluents in the past ten (10) years, which are in successful operation at least for the past one year. Reference installations for sewage treatment plants will not be qualified.

A complete set of Bid Document may be purchased by any Interested vendor on the submission of a written application to TNPL and upon payment of a non-refundable bid fee (incl. GST) of Indian Rupees 11,800/- or EUR 150 or USD 165 by way of Banker's Cheque/Demand Draft in favour of Tamil Nadu Newsprint and Papers Limited, payable at Trichy from the following address:

Project Management Division  
Tamil Nadu Newsprint and Papers Limited  
Kagithapuram 639 136, Karur District, Tamil Nadu, INDIA  
Phone : 04324-277001 (10 lines) Extn: 2278/2456  
Telefax : 04324-277027

E-mail : [pm4@tnpl.co.in](mailto:pm4@tnpl.co.in), Web : [www.tnpl.com](http://www.tnpl.com)  
Alternatively, details of the bid may be viewed in the TNPL website and a soft copy of the Bid Document can be obtained against request by way of e-mail to the above id.

A single stage, two-envelope (Technical Bid and Price Bid envelopes) bidding procedure will be followed. All Bids must be delivered to the above office of TNPL not later than 15.00 hours on **18<sup>th</sup> October 2019**. Technical Bids will be opened at 16.00 hours on the same day in the presence of the Bidder's representatives who choose to attend.

TNPL reserves the right to qualify the bids received and/or reject any or all the bids, without assigning any reasons therefor.

DIPR/3259/Tender/2019

TNPL - Maker of bagasse based eco-friendly Paper

**TAMILNADU NEWSPRINT AND PAPERS LIMITED**  
KAGITHAPURAM – 639 136, KARUR DIST. TAMIL NADU  
Phone : 04324-277001 (10 lines)  
E-mail ID : [purchase.lsfm@tnpl.co.in](mailto:purchase.lsfm@tnpl.co.in) / [purchase.rawmatl@tnpl.co.in](mailto:purchase.rawmatl@tnpl.co.in)

NOTICE INVITING TENDER		
Tender No.	Material Description	Due date
129033 000352	PP Bag for Power Bond Cement	03.10.19
129013 003983	Hydrogen Peroxide	05.10.19
129013 003984	Cationic Starch (in Jumbo Bags)	04.10.19
129013 003985	Maize based Native Starch (in Jumbo Bags) for TNPL Unit-I & Unit-II	03.10.19

Terms & conditions, Qty., Tender Fee, EMD are available in tender document at our websites: [www.tnpl.com](http://www.tnpl.com) / [www.tenders.tn.gov.in](http://www.tenders.tn.gov.in)

DIPR/3258/Tender/2019 TNPL - Maker of bagasse based eco-friendly Paper

**BHARAT COKING COAL LIMITED**  
'A Mini Ratna Company'  
(A Subsidiary of Coal India Limited)

**Sub :- Open Domestic cum Reverse Auction Notice No.- 34**  
Online bids are invited from prospective bidders **Supply of Coal Tub with draw Bar & Shackles Size : 4'6" x 3' x 3', size : 5' x 3' x 3', size : 6' x 3' x 26" without Wheel & Axle against Open Domestic cum Reverse Auction Tender No. - BCCL/PUR/119060/Coal Tub/OTE-R/34** having estimated value of Rs. 147.84 LAKH (Approx.). Bid Submission end date **03.10.2019** & Bid/Tender Opening date is **04.10.2019**. Full details of above tender is available on website <https://coalindiatenders.nic.in>, [www.bcclweb.in](http://www.bcclweb.in) & <https://e-procure.gov.in>. Prospective bidder are advised to visit the aforesaid websites to participation against above tenders and to note time to time the any corrigendum, clarifications etc. (if any).  
**Sd/-**  
**Chief Manager (MM)**

**NMDC Limited**  
(A GOVERNMENT OF INDIA ENTERPRISE)  
Khanji Bhawan, 10-351A, Condo Bldg, Keshavnagar, Hyderabad - 500026.  
Telephone: 09914023538710 / 23538713 to 23538721 Ext: 229  
Email: [ksmurthy@nmdc.co.in](mailto:ksmurthy@nmdc.co.in); [bnkumar@nmdc.co.in](mailto:bnkumar@nmdc.co.in); [venkatesan@nmdc.co.in](mailto:venkatesan@nmdc.co.in)  
CIN: L13100TG1958GOI001674

**NOTICE INVITING TENDER (GTE) (E-Procurement Mode Only)**

E-tenders are invited for following item from reputed manufacturers directly or through their dealers / accredited agents through MSTC portal website [https://www.mstcecommerce.com/eprocure/nmdbcuyer\\_login.jsp](https://www.mstcecommerce.com/eprocure/nmdbcuyer_login.jsp)

Tender No. & Description	Display and sale of Tender Documents Period	Last Date & Time for Submission of Tender Through Online
HQMM/2033-19/03R075/341 Dtd:19.09.2019 (MSTCRet: NMDC/HQ/9619-20470) Dtd: 19.09.2019 Supply of Armatures (03 Items) for Motors and Generators fitted in Bucyrus Make, 182M Electric Rope Shovel for BLOM, Bachelri Complex, CG	19.09.2019, 04.00 PM IST to 15.10.2019, 02.30 PM IST	15.10.2019 (02.30 PM IST)

Prospective bidders may visit our websites: [www.nmdc.co.in](http://www.nmdc.co.in); CPP Portal <https://eprocure.gov.in>; <https://mstcecommerce.com> and may download the tender documents. Any corrigendum to the above tender notice will be uploaded on our website [www.nmdc.co.in](http://www.nmdc.co.in) only.

**Jt. General Materials (Materials)**

**KARNATAKA STATE DRUG LOGISTICS AND WAREHOUSE SOCIETY (R)**  
No.1, Dr. Siddhaiah Puranik Road, KHB Colony, Magadi Road, Bangalore - 560 079. Ph: +91-80-23283218 Fax: +91-80-23281477  
e-mail: [ad.kdlws@gmail.com](mailto:ad.kdlws@gmail.com)

**No: KDL/AD/Re-TND/Inj/50/2019-20** **Date:18.09.2019**

**TENDER NOTIFICATION**

Ref: 1.Tender Notification No. KDL/AD/Re-TND/Inj/50/2019-20, (IND-619) Dtd: 17.09.2019

Nation wide Tender is invited through **e-Tendering system** under KTPP Act 1999 and Rules 2000 for the following tender:

**1. Tender for Supply of Injections for the year 2018-19.**The tenderers who have registered under e-Procurement department may participate through e-tendering system. Details regarding EMD, Terms and Conditions and other information are available in the Tender Document, which can be downloaded from the website <https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in> from 17.09.2019. The eligible tenderers shall submit their e-tenders under e-procurement platform for above mentioned tenders. Further information if any may be obtained from this office.  
**Sd/- Additional Director, KSDLWS.**

DIPR R.O.-1241/2019-20

**Government of Kerala**  
**TENDER**  
**FOREST & WILD LIFE DEPARTMENT**

Window No:prpd 19/e 221 • Tender No. A2-2376/2018• Divisional Forest Officer, Timber Sales Division, Perumbavoor, Mudikkal P.O, Pin-683547, Phone-0484-2522219• E-auction of timber on 18/10/2019, 22/10/2019 from various depots of Timber sales division, Perumbavoor • PAC : 4 Crore.

Full details on Tender Advertisement appeared above are exhibited before the Office from which the tender originates.For Details on all Tenders above please visit [www.kerala.gov/tender/index.htm](http://www.kerala.gov/tender/index.htm)Please put in reach the Window No for getting the advertisement of your choice. • R.O.No.132/G1/2019/P&D.

**KARNATAKA STATE ROAD TRANSPORT CORPORATION**  
Central Offices, Purchase Department, Shanthinagar, Bengaluru-560 027. Ph: (091)-080-22221321 (E: 224)  
Fax: (091)-080-22223424, e-mail: [cosp@ksrtc.org](mailto:cosp@ksrtc.org)  
Website: [www.ksrtc.org](http://www.ksrtc.org)

No.: KSRTC/CO/S&P/SSD/1484/2019-20 Date: 18.09.2019

**e - Auction Notice**

Scrapped Vehicles available at various units of KSRTC, BMTC & NEKRTC will be sold through e-Auction to be conducted by M/s. M.S.T.C. (A Govt. of India undertaking). The e-Auction schedule is as under:

**e-Auction Starts from: 10-10-2019.**

**“The bidders shall take delivery of scrapped vehicles from Depots, Divisional Workshops and Regional Workshops of respective corporations”**

The interested Bidders may log onto [www.mstcecommerce.com](http://www.mstcecommerce.com) for further details and registration. They may also contact M/s. M.S.T.C. Ltd., at below mentioned address for needful clarification.

**Address:** M/s. M.S.T.C. Ltd., No. 19/5, 19/6, 3rd Floor, Kareem Tower, Cunningham Road, Bangalore - 560 052, Contact Phone Nos.: 080 - 22260054, 22266417, 22287356, Fax No.: 080-22256365. KSRTC Contact Phone Nos.: +91 7760990221 / 224,080-22221321, Extn.: 298.

**Sd/-**  
**Controller of Stores & Purchases**

**PIMPRI CHINCHWAD SMART CITY LIMITED**  
CIN: U75302PN2017SGC171439  
Registered Office: Administrative Building, PCMC, Mumbai Pune Road, Pimpri, Pune- 411018  
Email: [smartcity@pcmcindia.gov.in](mailto:smartcity@pcmcindia.gov.in)

**Notice Inviting Tender**

Selection of Concessionaire for Development, Operation, Maintenance and Management of ‘Village Plaza’ at Pimple Gurav in Pimpri Chinchwad under Smart City Initiative Tender No.21

Pimpri Chinchwad Smart City Limited (PCSCL) intends to appoint a Concessionaire for Development, Operation, Maintenance and Management of ‘Village Plaza’ in Pimpri Chinchwad under Smart City Initiative. The Concessionaire shall be selected on the basis of Least Cost Based Selection methodology after declared technically qualified. Interested Bidders may download the RFP document from the website of <http://mahatenders.gov.in> & also PCMC i.e. [www.smartcitypimpinchinchwad.in](http://www.smartcitypimpinchinchwad.in) or [www.pcmcindia.gov.in](http://www.pcmcindia.gov.in) from 19/09/2019, 11.00 pm onwards.

No	Name of Work	Document Fees (Rs)	EMD (Rs)
1	Selection of Concessionaire for Development, Operation, Maintenance and Management of the ‘Village Plaza’ in Pimpri Chinchwad under the Smart City Mission	33,418	48,00,000

CEO, PCSCL reserves the rights to reject any or all tenders without assigning any reasons thereof. In this regard his decision will be final and legally binding on all the bidders.

ADVT No. 84 Sd/-  
Tender No 21 CEO & Director,  
Date: 18th September 2019 Pimpri Chinchwad Smart City Limited



### Likud, Blue and White in a deadlock

Preliminary reports suggest that Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's right-wing Likud is tied with rival Benny Gantz's centre-left Blue and White

**13**  
\*Joint List  
Arab parties

**5**  
\*Democratic Union  
Left-wing

**9**  
^Shas  
Ultra-orthodox

**6**  
\*Labor-Gesher  
Left-wing


**8**  
^United Torah  
Judaism  
Ultra-orthodox

**5**  
\*Democratic Union  
Left-wing

**7**  
^Yamina  
Religious nationalist

**6**  
Yisrael Beiteinu  
Right-wing secular, led by Avigdor Lieberman, who wants to form three-party unity government with Blue and White and Likud

**Voice of voters:** Likud supporters chanting slogans at the party office in Tel Aviv



**\*CENTRE-LEFT BLOC 56 seats**   **\*RIGHT-WING PARTIES 55 seats**

**WHAT'S NEXT**

- 1. Unity government:** A new governing bloc of Likud and Blue and White. This could be possible without Netanyahu as Likud leader
- 2. Likud government:** Possible only if Yisrael Beiteinu's leader Avigdor Lieberman changes his mind and agrees to join the Likud coalition
- 3. A third election**



**Benjamin Netanyahu**, Israel's longest-serving PM, has been in office for 10 years and is seeking a record fifth term in office

- The Likud leader has pledged to annex Jewish settlements and other territories in the occupied West Bank if he is returned to office

**Blue and White leader Benny Gantz** has not advocated any form of annexation, but his position on the creation of a Palestinian state is unclear

- Like Netanyahu, Gantz supports undivided Jerusalem as Israel's capital, while Palestinians want East Jerusalem as the capital of their future state

**The nominee has up to 42 days to form a government. If he fails - as Netanyahu did after the previous poll held in April - the President can ask another politician to try**



**KNESSET 120 seats**

61 seats needed for majority

**31** ^LIKUD RIGHT-WING

**32** \*BLUE AND WHITE CENTRIST

Results after 90% of the votes were counted

# Israel's Netanyahu fails to win majority

The right-wing coalition he leads wins 55 seats, 6 short of majority in the 120-member Parliament

REUTERS JERUSALEM  
Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu failed to win a ruling majority in an election that produced a virtual tie between his right-wing bloc and a centre-left grouping that would be led by former military chief Benny Gantz.

The outcome, according to almost complete results published on Wednesday,

dealt a new blow to Israel's longest-serving leader who was already weakened by the inability to put together an administration after an inconclusive election in April.

But with coalition-building again key to forming a government, it could be days or even weeks before it becomes clear whether the wily politician hailed by supporters as "King Bibi" has been dethroned after a de-

cade in power.

With Israeli media reporting more than 90% of votes counted in Tuesday's election, the bloc led by Mr. Netanyahu's Likud party was more or less even with a likely grouping headed by Mr. Gantz's centrist Blue and White party.

A Likud-led bloc looked poised to control 55 of Parliament's 120 seats, with 56 going to a centre-left alliance,

numbers falling short of a majority government of 61 lawmakers.

A Likud spokesman said the leaders of right-wing factions met Mr. Netanyahu at the Prime Minister's office on Wednesday and pledged to work with him to form the next government.

The ballot's wildcard, former Defence Minister Avigdor Lieberman, emerged as a likely kingmak-

er as head of the secular-nationalist Yisrael Beiteinu party, projected to capture nine seats.

Mr. Lieberman has been pushing for a unity government comprised of the biggest parties. He declined to back Mr. Netanyahu's bid to form a narrow right-wing and religious coalition after the April election, bringing about Tuesday's unprecedented repeat vote.

# Iran sponsored attacks on oil facilities: Riyadh

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE RIYADH  
Saudi Arabia said on Wednesday that strikes on its oil infrastructure came from the "north" and were "unquestionably" sponsored by Iran, but that the kingdom was still investigating where exactly they were launched from.

"The attack was launched from the north and unques-

tionably sponsored by Iran," Defence Ministry spokesman Turki al-Maliki said.

Mr. Maliki displayed pieces of what he said were cruise missiles and drones used in the strike. He said a combination of 18 drones and seven cruise missiles fired at the oil installations came from a direction that ruled out its southern neighbour Yemen as a source.

# Trump orders more curbs on Iran

Tehran denies involvement in Saudi attacks, terms U.S. measures 'illegal' & 'inhuman'

REUTERS JEDDAH/DUBAI  
President Donald Trump on Wednesday said he ordered a major increase in sanctions on Iran in the latest U.S. move to pressure Tehran, which U.S. officials say probably carried out the attack on Saudi oil facilities.

Mr. Trump gave no explanation in a brief Twitter post-

ing announcing the order, but the initiative follows repeated U.S. assertions that the Islamic Republic was behind Saturday's attack on the kingdom, a close U.S. ally.

"I have just instructed the Secretary of the Treasury to substantially increase sanctions on the country of Iran!" he wrote.

Iran, however, again de-

nied involvement in the September 14 raids. "They want to impose maximum ... pressure on Iran through slander," Iran's President Hassan Rouhani said. "We don't want conflict in the region ... Who started the conflict?" he added, blaming Washington and its Gulf allies for the war in Yemen.

Foreign Minister Moham-

mad Javad Zarif said the newly announced sanctions against Iran showed that the U.S. was aiming at civilians.

President Donald Trump's move was an "admission that (the) U.S. is DELIBERATELY targeting ordinary citizens," Mr. Zarif wrote on Twitter, adding that the measures were "illegal" and "inhuman".

# Robert O'Brien is new U.S. National Security Adviser

He replaces Bolton, whom Trump fired

REUTERS WASHINGTON  
U.S. President Donald Trump on Wednesday picked U.S. hostage negotiator Robert O'Brien as National Security Adviser, replacing hardliner John Bolton who was fired abruptly last week after clashing with the President on a host of issues.

Mr. O'Brien, who will be the fourth person to hold the post in the Trump administration, has served as Mr. Trump's special envoy for hostage affairs at the U.S. Department of State since May 2018 and has a long history in Republican foreign policy circles.

"I have worked long & hard with Robert. He will do a great job!" Mr. Trump wrote on Twitter.

Mr. Trump fired Mr. Bolton after disagreements over handling foreign policy matters relating to North Korea, Iran, Afghanistan, Russia and Venezuela.



Robert O'Brien

handled a number of high-profile legal cases and previously served in several State Department positions, including as an alternative representative to the UN General Assembly in 2005.

Mr. Trump recently dispatched Mr. O'Brien to Sweden for the court hearing of U.S. rapper A\$AP Rocky, who was later convicted for assault.

Senate Republicans praised Mr. Trump's pick as a solid choice.

"He understands the world for the dangerous place it is. He's got great negotiating skills as our hostage negotiator," Senator Lindsey Graham told reporters. "He'll be a very sound policy adviser."

## IN BRIEF



### Taliban open to new talks with U.S.

KABUL  
The Taliban's chief negotiator has said their "doors are open" to resuming talks with U.S., hours after two attacks killed at least 48 people in Afghanistan. Speaking to the BBC, Sher Mohammad Abbas Stanikzai argued that the U.S. had also admitted to killing thousands of Taliban during the discussions, and that the insurgents had done nothing wrong by continuing to fight throughout the talks. AFP

# Xi cites Mao as touchstone to build new China

'Maintain a fighting spirit and strengthen the ability to struggle to meet the targets set by the party'

ATUL ANEJA BEIJING  
Amid a trade war with the U.S., Chinese President Xi Jinping has visited the ground zero of the revolution, pointing to the continuity of the "great struggle" to build a new China, ahead of the 70th anniversary of the formation of the People's Republic of China (PRC).

During his back-to-the-roots visits, President Xi is evoking memories associated with Mao Zedong, the founding father of the PRC, and the nascent phase of China's socialist revolution.

So far, during his carefully choreographed travels, President Xi has hardly mentioned Mao's successors, including Deng Xiaoping, as China heads to celebrate 70 years of socialism on October 1. Last week, Mr. Xi visited Fragrant Hills, briefly the headquarters of the Communist Party of China (CPC), just before the triumph of the revolution in October 1949. Accompanied by Wang Huning, the CPC's top ideologue and part of the seven-member Standing Committee of the Politburo, China's top leadership, Mr. Xi first vi-

sited Shuangqing Villa, Mao's abode at Fragrant Hills, on the outskirts of Beijing. The walk-around also included visits to living areas of the first generation of revolutionaries - Zhu De, Liu Shaoqi, Zhou Enlai and Ren Bishi.

After keeping a relatively low profile recently, Mr. Wang was also part of Mr. Xi's entourage that visited the CPC's Party School in Beijing on September 3. During an address at the Party School, where the CPC's elite is trained, Mr. Xi delivered a stirring back-to-the-trenches speech. In his address, Mr. Xi

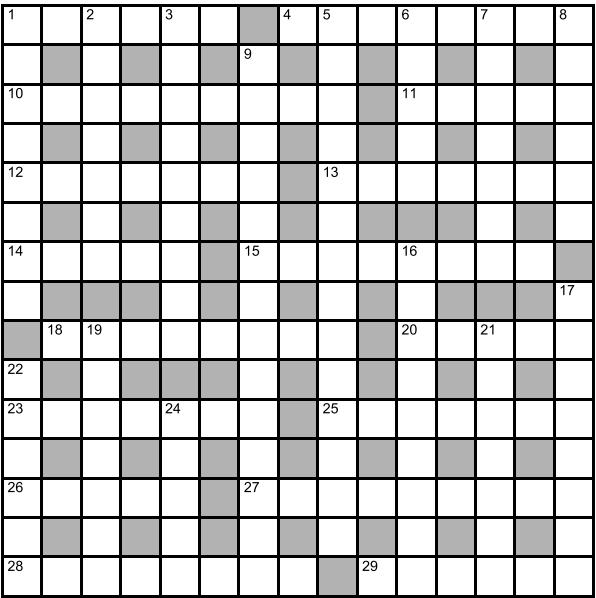
cited the word "struggle", a Maoist era coinage in the context of China, over 50 times.

**Prosperous society**  
The President exhorted his audience of young and middle level officials "that maintaining a fighting spirit and strengthening the ability to struggle is a must in meeting the targets set by the party," which include the two centenary goals - achieving a moderately prosperous society in the next two years and delivering an advanced socialist nation by 2050.

He warned of the "unthinkably challenging" road ahead and cited the "long-term nature of various struggles". Mr. Xi urged his audience to "notice a deer passing by, looking at the grass and leaves, see a tiger jumping out by hearing the wind in the pines, and know the coming of autumn by spotting the changed colour of a tree leaf".

At Fragrant Hills, eight revolutionary sites have been opened earlier this month, including the Shuangqing Villa, following extensive renovation since last year.

## THE HINDU CROSSWORD 12734



### ACROSS

- Consider vacating residence and pull over (6)
- Complete work, current is constant but creates adverse reaction (8)
- Hide under stone? He's mean (9)
- Street urchin mostly gambling (5)

- Wine in the making, one gallon for a horse (7)
- Stylish and neat, tailored clothing for cricket side (7)
- Material or any substitute (5)
- Tales of a disaster in the recent past (2,2,4)
- Fear grips the party, it's widespread (8)
- They're brilliant - green, vivid, seen regularly... (5)
- ...but it's fortified (7)
- It stops, follow in a series (2,5)
- Vessel takes four in turn (5)
- Deception is in - even beer comes in any container (9)
- Left on board, in no time can be carried (8)
- Let down, bet one ends in loss (6)

### DOWN

- Railroad added to a tourist spot in South Dakota (8)

(set by Arden)

- Dispute profits over a year (7)
- Avoided if rear end is shifted (9)
- Landlord forced out, it is a commercial document (6,2,6)
- Finally the tailender comes in time to score (5)
- Athlete gets indirect tax cover for many sports (7)
- Nice to see one accepted as King (6)
- Indian way to help lift it - a calm representation using drawings (14)
- It's on but delayed to do parliamentary work (9)
- Fish eye in two dimensions, surprised? (4-4)
- Hampshire town, a new port (7)
- Most trusting, natives are free (7)
- Support for a pet (4,2)
- 'Extremist' - insult rankles somewhat (5)

## SUDOKU



### Solution to puzzle 12733

S A I G F G W D  
H O S A N N A L A R D I E R  
T C C A C L O E N E N U  
I C E F A L L U P E N D E D  
C N N A O N N F G  
K I D N A P P E D B L A D E  
H B E E L R  
C H E L S E A R U R A L L Y  
A V I L O M E A L L Y  
S W E L L A B O U T T U R N  
H S E L L T R A N A  
M U S E T T E D A R L I N G  
E O I U E O S O  
R A N C O U R A L I M O N Y  
E G N S C L N A

### Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

6 1 3 8 4 9 7 2 5  
2 8 9 7 5 1 3 4 6  
7 4 5 2 6 3 8 9 1  
8 5 6 1 9 2 4 3 7  
9 3 4 5 7 8 1 6 2  
1 2 7 4 3 6 9 5 8  
4 6 2 3 1 7 5 8 9  
3 7 8 9 2 5 6 1 4  
5 9 1 6 8 4 2 7 3

## FAITH

### Service to Guru

Among the many pleasant exchanges that take place between Krishna and Kuchela, Krishna recalling the role of their Guru Sandipani in shaping and moulding their personalities and character is of special significance, pointed out Sri Kesava Dikshitar in a discourse. The meeting of friends after years-long gap can itself be a thrilling experience. It is an occasion to savour the joyous moments of childhood days.

Both Krishna and Kuchela hark back to many unforgettable incidents during the period of training in the Gurukula days. Once they went to collect fuel from the forest for the Guru's wife. They had wandered deep into the forest and got lost. In addition, there arose a dust storm, followed by rains, thunder and lightning.

In that situation, Krishna recalls how they both held each other's hands for security, not knowing what else to do. The whole night was spent in this wilderness and in the early morning the other students came searching for them. Along with them the Guru also had come and praised them for their endurance and courage. More than that, the Guru appreciated their spirit of selfless service, an ideal quality to be cultivated by every student. The Guru blessed them with the spiritual jnana that will always help them all through their life.

The grace and blessings of the Guru will ensure lifelong happiness and peace of mind to every student, whatever may be the state of life and calling he is placed in later life. The greatest gift a Guru bequeaths to his disciple is the jnana marga by which one travels towards salvation. The real guru dakshina is selfless service to the Guru. This will pave the way for other attainments in life automatically.



MARKET WATCH
18-09-2019 % CHANGE
Sensex 36,564 0.23
US Dollar 71.24 0.75
Gold 38,676 -0.55
Brent oil 64.07 -0.91

NIFTY 50
PRICE CHANGE
Adani Ports 366.35 1.05
Asian Paints 1547.75 16.85
Axis Bank 648.40 7.95
Bajaj Auto 2777.05 3.90
Bajaj Finserv 7255.05 104.55
Bajaj Finance 3413.85 45.45
Bharti Airtel 335.60 -4.25
BPCIL 382.10 13.35
Britannia Ind 2613.85 -78.60
Cipla 458.65 -2.00
Coal India 192.35 -5.25
Dr Reddys Lab 2743.65 5.60
Eicher Motors 16030.40 -254.55
GAIL (India) 134.95 3.05
Grasim Ind 703.10 2.15
HCL Tech 1058.45 2.60
HDFC 1988.30 -7.95
HDFC Bank 2187.75 -23.60
Hero MotoCorp 2576.10 7.15
Hindalco 198.00 0.05
Hind Unilever 1829.20 -2.00
Indiabulls NPL 419.25 -9.90
ICICI Bank 399.35 -1.30
IndusInd Bank 1330.40 -2.20
Bharti Infratel 253.50 3.30
Infomys 829.85 -1.40
Indian OilCorp 128.15 2.95
ITC 239.25 2.05
JSW Steel 221.40 5.20
Kotak Bank 1464.75 16.45
L&T 1318.00 4.30
M&M 527.00 5.05
Maruti Suzuki 6095.05 -35.35
NTPC 122.50 1.60
ONGC 127.00 -2.70
PowerGrid Corp 202.05 1.60
Reliance Ind 1205.70 8.25
State Bank 280.40 6.45
Sun Pharma 416.80 -3.85
Tata Motors 321.75 -0.25
Tata Steel 132.75 13.30
TCS 2138.55 15.90
Tech Mahindra 716.75 10.80
Titan 1160.70 2.45
UltraTech Cement 3902.80 2.40
UPL 557.05 -6.25
Vedanta 149.70 4.30
Wipro 244.30 0.15
YES Bank 64.10 -1.00
Zee Entertainment 335.40 -1.95

EXCHANGE RATES
Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on September 18
CURRENCY TT BUY TT SELL
US Dollar 71.03 71.35
Euro 78.51 78.86
British Pound 88.46 88.86
Japanese Yen (100) 65.67 65.97
Chinese Yuan 10.02 10.07
Swiss Franc 71.40 71.72
Singapore Dollar 51.71 51.95
Canadian Dollar 53.60 53.84
Malaysian Ringgit 16.97 17.07
Source: Indian Bank

BULLION RATES CHENNAI
September 18 rates in rupees with previous rates in parentheses
Retail Silver (1g) 50.2 (50.4)
22 ct gold (1 g) 3600 (3615)

Fed cuts rates by 25 bps on 7-3 vote

WASHINGTON
The U.S. Federal Reserve cut interest rates by a quarter of a percentage point for the second time this year on Wednesday in a widely expected move meant to sustain a decade-long economic expansion, but gave mixed signals about what may happen next. The central bank also widened the gap between the interest it pays banks on excess reserves and the top of its policy rate range, a step taken to smooth out problems in money markets that prompted a market intervention by the New York Fed this week. In lowering the benchmark overnight lending rate to a range of 1.75% to 2.00% on a 7-3 vote, the Fed's policy-setting committee nodded to ongoing global risks and "weakened" business investment and exports.

Ambani hikes stake in RIL to 48.87%

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA NEW DELHI
Billionaire Mukesh Ambani has raised promoter stake in flagship Reliance Industries by 2.71% to 48.87%, according to a regulatory filing by the company. Reliance Services and Holdings Ltd, controlled by promoter group firm Petroleum Trust, acquired 2.71% stake in Reliance on September 13, it said. The acquisition was pursuant to a scheme of arrangement not directly involving Reliance, the filing said without giving details. Mr. Ambani and his private firms held 47.29% stake as on June 30, 2019. As on June 30, FIIs held 24.4% stake in the firm, mutual funds had 4.56% and insurance companies 7.1%. The remaining share was with the public.

SBI's teaser loan plan may not find favour with the RBI

Banking regulator still has concerns over fixed-cum-floating rate loans

MANOJIT SAHA MUMBAI

State Bank of India's (SBI) plan to offer fixed-cum-floating home loan rates – known as teaser loans – is likely to hit a regulatory hurdle as the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) is uncomfortable with such products.

Teaser loans are those which charge comparatively lower rates of interest in the first few years after which the rates are increased.

During a recent media interaction, SBI chairman Rajnish Kumar said the bank will engage with the RBI for the product which will bear fixed interest for about 10 years and then, turn floating. There is no fixed rate home loan product in the market though there is demand for such a product, and a fixed-cum-floating rate product could have addressed that demand.



Cautious stance: RBI feels borrowers may find it difficult to service loans once normal rates take effect. PHOTO BY REUTERS

According to sources, the RBI is of the view that some borrowers may find it difficult to service the loans once the normal interest rate, which is higher than the rate applicable in the initial years, becomes effective.

In addition, a bank, while extending the loan, does not take into account the borrowers' repayment capacity

after lending rates increase.

While such teaser products are not banned by the regulator, the standard asset provisioning requirement is higher for such loans. For normal home loans, the standard asset provisioning is 0.4% but for teaser loans it is 2%. RBI had increased the provisioning by five times for such loans since these loans

are perceived as more risky.

Following the introduction of higher risk weights, banks had discontinued those products.

SBI's decision to ponder over such products came after the banking regulator mandated banks to link floating rate retail and MSME loans to an external benchmark. SBI, in fact, pioneered such a product by linking its home loan rate to repo rate, which it started offering from July.

Many other public sector banks followed suit before the RBI mandated such products for the entire banking system from October 1.

SBI, however, decided to withdraw the product earlier this month following the RBI norms on external benchmark-linked floating rate loans and is re-working the product in line with the guidelines.

NBFC loan pricing under RBI lens

Banking regulator may mandate anchor rate

MANOJIT SAHA MUMBAI

After mandating banks to implement external benchmarking for retail loan pricing, the Reserve Bank is now looking at the loan pricing regime of non-banking finance companies to make the practice more transparent.

According to sources, the central bank is internally discussing the loan pricing mechanism of the non-banking sector. At present, there is no anchor rate for NBFCs, similar to banks, that is linked to the lending rate of a particular loan.

For example, banks have the marginal cost of fund based lending rate (MCLR) – the anchor rate – and all the loans are linked to such a rate. Earlier, the base rate acted as an anchor rate.

Banks were not allowed to lend below the base rate or the MCLR rate. Banks are allowed to add a spread, based on the risk assessment, to the anchor rate.

However, there is no such



mandate for NBFCs to have an anchor rate to which all the loan rates are linked.

"There is no anchor rate for NBFCs.

"So, first, we have to see how they are pricing loans," sources said, adding it would take some time before mandating an anchor rate for NBFCs.

Unresponsive to changes

It has often been noticed that lending rates of banks and NBFCs, including housing finance companies, are not responsive to changes in the RBI's policy rate or the repo rate. As a result, the banking regulator has now

mandated banks that floating rate retail loans for homes, vehicles and loans to small and medium enterprises should be linked to an external benchmark like repo rate or Government of India T-bills, for example.

The main objective behind linking loans to an external benchmark was for faster transmission of monetary policy rates, particularly in a declining interest regime. At the end of September 2018, the number of NBFCs registered with the Reserve Bank of India declined to 10,190 from 11,402 at the end of March 2018. Only a handful of large NBFCs are supervised by the banking regulator.

The consolidated balance sheet of NBFCs expanded in 2017-18 and also in 2018-19, helped by strong credit expansion. The profitability of NBFCs improved on the back of fund-based income. low NPA levels relative to banks and strong capital buffers, RBI had observed in a recent report.

FY20 worst in 15 years for FMCG, says Credit Suisse

'Impact of multiple factors playing out'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT MUMBAI

For the fast moving consumer goods (FMCG) sector, which has been facing extreme headwinds in the last few quarters, the current financial year could be the worst in 15 years in terms of revenue growth on account of agriculture slowdown, liquidity concerns, employment issues and slower-than-expected impact of government initiatives.

"Agri GDP growth has been at a 15-year low since 2018. Liquidity worsened post Oct-2018 as NBFCs faced pressures. Employment challenges for small businesses started with demonetisation and GST, and was aggravated due to liquidity. The simultaneous impact of these factors is playing out," stated a report by Credit Suisse.

"The PMKSN (Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi) direct income transfer rollout has been slower than ex-

pected and has only covered 50% of the intended beneficiaries by Sept-2019. As per our analysis, PMKSN can, in Year 1, provide a 2-3% boost to overall FMCG growth, but there will be a lag effect after full coverage," it added.

Trade disruptions

According to the global financial major, the slowdown in the FMCG sector started in 2016, though it was camouflaged first by trade disruptions in 2017 caused by demonetisation and Goods and Services Tax, and then by the low-base effect leading to high growth in FY19.

This assumes significance as most leading FMCG players are witnessing a multi-quarter low in terms of volume growth.

HUL, which is the country's largest pure-play FMCG entity, registered a 7% volume growth in the quarter ended June 30, the lowest volume growth in seven quarters.

Road tax hikes by States making cars unaffordable, says Maruti's Bhargava

Cars can't be treated as luxury products, taxed heavily, says the auto major's chief

YUTHIKA BHARGAVA NEW DELHI

Citing increases in road taxes by various States as one of the main reasons for higher car prices, making them unaffordable, Maruti Suzuki chairman R.C. Bhargava said that cars cannot be treated as luxury products capable of bearing any level of taxation.

"I think the most important thing is [to understand] why there is a slowdown. Why have customers stopped buying cars like they had been buying before? One part of it is the financial aspect; and to some extent, because of the intervention by the Centre, that is beginning to change... the attitude of the banks has certainly become much more favourable... But the price problem still remains. To a large extent, it is because in the last few months, nine States added substantially to



Off lane: It is illogical to relate overproduction with slowdown, says the Maruti Suzuki chairman. PHOTO BY KAMAL NARANG

road tax," Mr. Bhargava said.

These States, including Bihar, Punjab and Kerala, have raised road taxes leading to an increase ranging between ₹5,000 and ₹57,000 in the on-road prices of cars.

"State governments have to realise that this industry is unable to bear this kind of heavy taxation; in many cases, the officers concerned seem to think that car is a luxury product capable of bearing any amount of tax-

ation. It isn't, as we have seen now," he said.

"We are selling 3-3.5 million cars; we want to go to 5-10 million, how do you do that if the price goes beyond the reach of people? You cannot get growth in the manufacturing industry, especially in a poor country like India, if the price of the manufactured product is not kept within the reach [of mass buyers]," he said. He added, "It's not in my hands

GCX plans to cut bond debt by \$150 million

Arm of Reliance Communications files for bankruptcy protection in U.S. court

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT MUMBAI

Reliance Communications (RCom) on Wednesday said its wholly owned subsidiary Global Cloud Xchange (GCX), which has filed for bankruptcy protection in a U.S. court, was planning to reduce its bond debt by \$150 million.

"GCX has announced a pre-packaged plan of reorganisation to support its long-term growth and development by reducing bond debt by \$150 million, providing a permanent capital structure that includes working capital facility and transitioning the business to new ownership," the company



Bill Barney

said in a filing with the exchanges.

New loans to firm

Under the new plan, GCX's senior secured note holders would become owners of the

company and provide new loans to support and grow the business. GCX, that owns one of the world's largest private sub-sea cable systems, filed for bankruptcy protection in a U.S. court on September 15 after it missed payments on its \$350 million of 7% bonds that matured in August this year.

"Upon emergence from this process, the company expects to be well-positioned to aggressively pursue its business plan independent of the overhang caused by its corporate parent's challenges," GCX said, adding that more than 75% of the company's lenders have already committed

their support for the plan.

To ensure GCX maximises value for its stakeholders in this process, the company will also use the protections and framework of Chapter 11 to undertake a sale process that welcomes additional prospective buyers. GCX expects to complete the Chapter 11 process and emerge as a stronger company within the fourth quarter of 2019.

"We appreciate the strong collaboration with our lenders, which has resulted in a plan of reorganisation that allows us to honour our commitments to employees, customers and suppliers," said Bill Barney, chairman and CEO, GCX.

Foreign funds 'take over' Indian road assets

Overseas investors have so far pumped in up to ₹25,000 crore in projects

LALATENDU MISHRA MUMBAI

In a new trend in the road infrastructure space in India, pension funds, sovereign wealth funds and private equity funds from Canada, Abu Dhabi, Australia and Singapore are seen emerging as new owners of road assets, replacing traditional owners like IRB, GMR, Dilip Buildcon and L&T, to name a few.

So far, these funds have collectively pumped in about ₹20,000-₹25,000 crore in up-and-running road assets and more funds are on their way. "Ownership of road assets has signif-

GIC, CDPQ, CTPID, CPPIB, Macquarie are new names on the block

JAGANNARAYAN PADMANABHAN Director and Practice Leader, Transport Infrastructure Advisory, CRISIL Ltd.

icantly changed over the last two years. Suddenly, there has been a change in ownership pattern," said Jagannarayan Padmanabhan, director and practice leader, Transport Infrastructure Advisory, Crisil Risk & Infrastructure Solutions.

"Earlier it was L&T IDPL, Ashoka Buildcon, IL&FS and others who were the road developers. Now, you are

having a separate set of owners of assets who were not active in this space. These include GIC, CDPQ, CTPID, CPPIB, Macquarie and Esquire Capital, who have now become owners of road assets."

Some of the other foreign investors in Indian assets include AMP Capital and National Infrastructure & Investment Fund (NIIF), in which Abu Dhabi Investment Authority (ADIA) has made significant investment.

"What this means is that other than NHAI, foreign investors are controlling a certain percentage of India's road assets. That is a signifi-

cant twist in how things pan out," he said. These strategic investors are looking at the long term, he said. He added that the Centre's plans for investment of ₹100 lakh crore in infrastructure in 5 years seemed to be far-fetched.

"Internally, last year we had a view that in the next 5 years, the need for investment is about ₹50 lakh crore.

"While the share of central government funding is close to 45%, State governments will spend 25-27% and the rest will be done by the private sector. This means that the Centre is not going to spend the planned entire ₹100 lakh crore," he said.

Table with 4 columns: Item No., Name of work, Estimated Cost, Date of release of tender in E-Procurement solution, Last date/time of receipt of tender through e procurement. Includes details for water line replacement and tender dates.

Table with 2 columns: Issued by P.R.O (Water) Advt. No. J.S.V. 365/2019-20, Ex. Engineer (NW)III

Table with 9 columns: S. No., Name of work, Reserve Price, Date of release of tender in e procurement solution, Last date and time for download & RTGS through e procurement solution. Includes details for water bodies rejuvenation.

Table with 4 columns: S. No., Name of Work, Reserve Price, Date of release of tender in e procurement solution, Last date and time for download & RTGS through e procurement solution. Includes details for water bodies rejuvenation.



IN BRIEF



Boards okay Indian Bank, Allahabad Bank merger

**CHENNAI**  
The board of Indian Bank gave its in-principle approval for the amalgamation of Allahabad Bank with the former. Similarly, the board of Allahabad Bank gave its in-principle nod on Monday. Both the banks expect the merger to be completed by March 31, 2020. Besides, the Indian Bank board also accorded its approval for capital infusion of up to ₹5,000 crore by the Centre through preferential allotment, the bank said in a regulatory filing.

IOB to raise ₹800 crore through issue of bonds

**CHENNAI**  
Indian Overseas Bank said it proposes to raise Tier-II capital by issue of BASEL-III Compliant Tier-II bonds via a bond issue at a size of ₹500 crore with green shoe option of ₹300 crore, aggregating ₹800 crore on a private placement basis. In May, its board had approved the bank's capital raising plan for FY20 including the issue of such bonds up to a maximum of ₹1,500 crore.

Laurus Labs to acquire South African firm

**HYDERABAD**  
Pharmaceutical company Laurus Labs on Wednesday said it would acquire 100% shares of Phekolong Pharmaceuticals Pty Ltd, a wholly owned subsidiary of Pharmicare Ltd. t/a Aspen Pharmacare, South Africa. The South African Rand 75,000 purchase will provide Laurus access to the South African public antiretroviral (ARV) sector, which manages the world's largest public ARV programme.

AMC stocks rally in lacklustre market

In 2019, HDFC AMC and RNAM surged 75% and 47% respectively, compared to Sensex's rise of 1.37%

On a roll

In the last six months, when Sensex lost a little over 4%, shares of HDFC AMC and Reliance Nippon AMC gained 76.23% and 20.42%, respectively

Name	YTD*	3-month	6-month	Returns in %
HDFC AMC	74.97	46.14	76.23	140.16
Reliance Nippon AMC	46.51	5.64	20.42	(7.44)
Sensex	1.37	(6.36)	(4.02)	-

Source: BSE \*Year-to-date

while Reliance Nippon is at the fifth slot with an AAUM of ₹2.23 lakh crore.

While the shares of HDFC AMC has more than doubled gained 140.16% since listing, Reliance Nippon has outperformed the Sensex by a wide margin in the recent past. In 2019, when the Sensex has gained a paltry 1.37%, shares of HDFC AMC surged nearly

75% while Reliance Nippon AMC rose nearly 47%.

Further, in the last six months when the Sensex lost a little over 4%, shares of HDFC AMC and Reliance Nippon AMC gained 76.23% and 20.42%, respectively.

At the current market price of ₹2,641.75, shares of HDFC AMC are trading close to their 52-week high of

₹2,697.45.

Meanwhile, shares of Reliance Nippon AMC have recently touched their 52-week high of ₹289.05, though the last few days have seen the shares witness selling pressure as Reliance Capital has been diluting its stake in the company.

Exiting MF business

Incidentally, Reliance Capital is completely exiting the mutual fund business, having sold a large chunk of its holding to Nippon Life Insurance Company and thereafter selling its residual stake through offer for sales.

In its report, global financial major Morgan Stanley said it was bullish on Indian mutual funds as there is a huge structural opportunity for mutual funds to grow in

India. "India's total and equity mutual fund AUM to GDP was 13% and 6% as of FY18 versus global averages of 62% and 35%. The share of equity mutual funds has been rising in India's growing financial savings, and so has individual investors' share in AUM. Longevity and predictability of growth are improving with strong growth in AUM from smaller cities and inflows coming via monthly plans."

"Our view is that given the stage at which mutual funds are in India today, the long-term compounding opportunity is significant, although it won't be linear," it added, while forecasting a 23% CAGR in equity AUM for the industry over the next 10 years and a 20% CAGR over the next 20 years.

Colliers buys majority stake in Synergy

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
BENGALURU**

Toronto-based commercial real estate services and investment management consultancy, Colliers International, has acquired a controlling stake in Synergy Property Development Services.

The merged entity would create one of India's top players in the commercial real estate (CRE) space.

Responding to a query, from *The Hindu*, on the size of the deal, David Hand, CEO, Asia Pacific at Colliers International, said, "We have acquired a majority stake, close to 80%, in Synergy. The deal involves a financial transaction, however, we are not able to reveal the size of it."



**Linguistic expert:** Alexa should be a native citizen, says Amazon's Rohit Prasad. \*REUTERS

Amazon's Alexa now speaks Hindi, Hinglish

More local languages may be added

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI**

Amazon on Wednesday announced support for Hindi and Hinglish for its voice assistant Alexa.

With this update, users in India will be able to interact with Alexa using Hindi (and Hinglish) as opposed to only English at present.

Till now, Alexa, which was launched in India in 2017, was able to understand and pronounce names of popular places, names and songs in regional languages, including Hindi, Tamil, Telugu, Marathi and Punjabi, but supported commands only in English.

"Our goal is that Alexa should be a native citizen. With this update, Alexa can now understand customers speaking to her completely in Hindi or Hinglish, in multiple contexts and varied regional accents and dialects," said Rohit Prasad, vice president and head scientist, Alexa AI, Amazon.

Linguistic diversity

Stating that India had uniquely challenged the firm's AI teams with its cultural and linguistic diversity, Mr. Prasad added that many Indian users contributed to Hindi development through

the Cleo skill on Alexa. He also indicated that more regional languages could be added to Alexa in the future.

"In India, pronunciation, diction and accents in Hindi are different across the country even if the language being spoken is the same... With today's launch, Alexa becomes more local. Alexa will not only understand and respond in Hindi or Hinglish but is also armed with knowledge about topics that interests users in the country," said Puneesh Kumar, country manager, Alexa Experience and Devices, Amazon India, said.

Amazon said about 500 skills – which is the term for various things that Alexa can do such as playing music, bringing up news, stories or giving weather forecasts – are available in Hindi and more will be added.

Mr. Prasad said overall, there were over 90,000 Alexa skills of which about 30,000 were India-specific.

Alexa, which competes with digital assistants such as Apple's Siri and the Google Assistant, powers the Amazon Echo range of home-assistance devices besides products from brands such as Bose, MyBox, and Syska.

THE HINDU

# BusinessLine

## Table Talk

Conversations with Leaders

A SPECIAL PUBLICATION FROM

A BOOK THAT DOES ALL THE TALKING

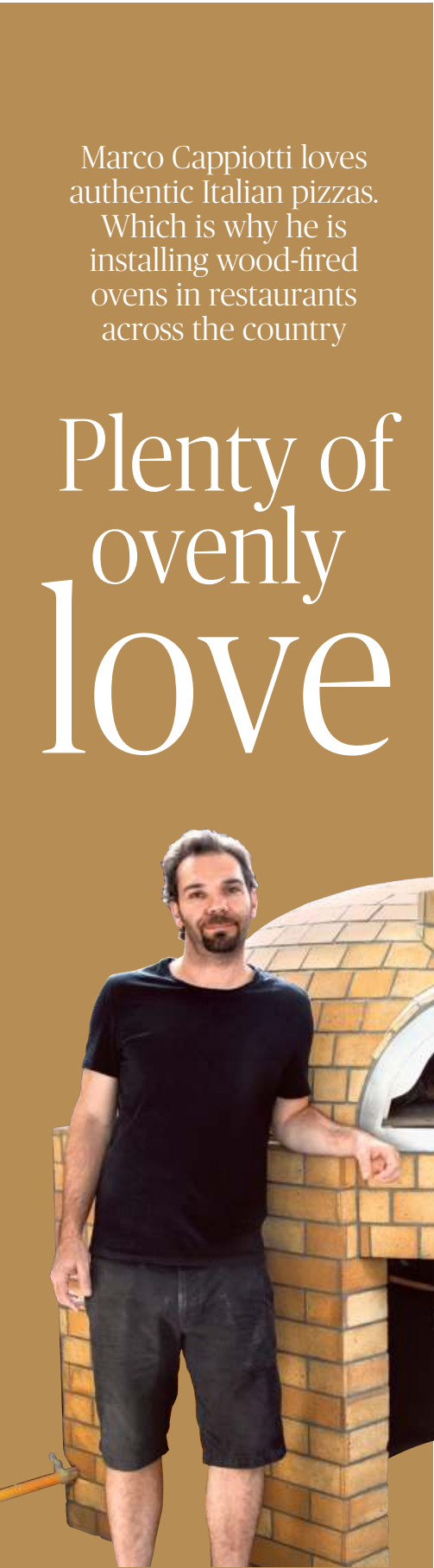
Table Talk is a collection of conversations with leaders like N Chandrasekaran, Venu Srinivasan, Shiv Nadar, Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw and many more. So, if you're looking for some thought leadership or just an interesting read, this one's for you.

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DIVYA KALA BHAVANI

The first time I heard about, Il Forno by Marco, a wood-fired oven-making business, was through Hyderabad's Zza Bar. Zza bar uses mango-wood in their too-hot-to-stand-by ovens, which adds a delicate flavour to the base and doesn't take away from the essence of a good and true pizza. Marco Cappiotti also made a portable oven in a truck for the restaurant so Zza Bar can cater at parties or go to food truck festivals.

Srini Uppuluri of Zza Bar says the process was long and tough, but Marco persevered until it was complete and perfect right down to wheels. Marco, in turn, says he loves working with passionate restaurateurs rather than the quotidian businessman, as it engenders a stronger pizza movement across India.

Marco's love for authentic pizza is part of what drives his business of making these ovens for businesses all over the country. The proverbial cup which hold the energy of this Delhi-dwelling Italian transplant truly runneth over and it's evident as he talks about his journey.

In 1994, Marco and his family emigrated to India, choosing the cool relief and verdant surroundings of Manali as their restaurant's nesting ground. Barely in full 'adulthood mode', Marco watched as his father and a friend made a wood-fired oven by hand. "People there were already interested and curious about the oven, with many wanting one for themselves. When I was about 20 years old, I started to make a

Marco, Polo, pizza  
These wood-fired ovens create a satisfying crust  
• BY ARRANGEMENT



few," he recalls, "and I kept upgrading our existing one with new improvements. So this was borne out of passion."

Coming into his own

Eventually the family's restaurant changed hands and Marco moved to Delhi with the mindset of turning this activity into a business, teaming up with a supplier in Gujarat for the not-so-widely available materials.

"I got to know some people in Delhi who were in the same industry as me and I started working as an oven-maker. Soon everything was scaled up. Around four years ago, I started hiring people. I also created my online presence, so for the last three years, I've been doing this for major metro cities and more recently, for tier-2 cities as well, which shows the awareness and concept growth."

Marco currently has a factory in Delhi and travels two or three times a month for wood-fired oven installations, all of which have that well-known dome for convection of heat, while the exterior is customised as per the surrounding environment. Many are painted a solid colour over the stucco, while others have mosaic tile-work of quirky designs.

What of unconventional wood-fired pizza ovens? He recalls one client in Bengaluru who wanted him to construct a rotating wood-fired oven, similar to a microwave oven. "There were a lot of structural challenges and while keeping to the true nature of the ovens I make, I had to make it work. I don't get a lot of, so to speak, adventurous requests but this was something different."

Naturally, the idea of cost comes to mind; a creation from Il Forno by Marco

can range between ₹60,000 and ₹4,00,000.

Know the risks

Marco doesn't suggest making your own wood-fired ovens as it requires very specific materials and the process demands a lot of science acumen coupled with pragmatism as well as years of experience. Maintenance of a wood-fired oven is no small feat either. They are preferred as they cook breads, vegetables and fruits quickly while, helping them retain specific nutrients and antioxidants.

A regular oven, however, doesn't have the same effect a wood-fired oven does. First off, there's the added delicious smokiness to the flavour profile. Most regular ovens don't reach the higher temperature parameter so only certain pizza crusts can be pulled off.

It's worth pointing out, though, that a wood-fired oven isn't exactly eco-friendly given the amount of wood or fossil fuels with which it operates. The heat generation also runs between 575°C to around 800°C, making it a safety concern.

Evolved pizza IQs

That said, Marco explains that the pizza IQ of India has evolved tremendously over the years he's been living here. He explains, "In the last two to three years, more places are doing good quality Neapolitan pizzas. More people don't mind paying double the price if they know they're eating premium pizza and the way it's made is also a talking point."

Exhibitionism in the kitchen has become a thing of the present; people love watching their food being made and plated. Pizza ovens, however old and timeless they are, offer just that.

MARCO'S OVEN COUNT

Hyderabad: 3  
Delhi: 20  
Mumbai: 5  
Bengaluru: 10  
Chennai: 3

IN OUR BACKYARD



ABHISHEK GULSHAN

The boring butterfly?

Not quite. The Indian Lily Moth is among the prettiest insects around us

pinks, yellows and whites on its body. It derives its name from lilies that serve as host plants. This moth is nocturnal and may easily be seen in our backyard, though it sometimes 'follows' the light and enters houses.

The Pink Rain Lily (*Zephraura carinata*), a plant native to Mexico, adapts well to potted life in cities and to well-maintained soil beds. In the rainy season, the plant yields flowers with a flashing array of hues. You'll find beautiful purple and red caterpillars of the Indian Lily Moth on them.

This moth belongs to the family of 'Noctuidae', present world over except in the harsh cold of the Antarctic region. A few moths from

this family are known to develop a strong connection with their host plants, where the larvae not just feed on the plant, but the adults also pollinate the flowers. In fact, moths are great specific-plant pollinators, where they pollinate a lot of night-blooming flowers.

There are about 10 times the number of moths in the world than butterflies. They occupy diverse habitats, but the majority has not been described. Moths are be-

lieved to have evolved long before butterflies, with fossils dated to almost 190 million years ago. We still have moths with no mouth parts.

It is believed that these are old-world moths that existed when they didn't need to pollinate plants (most were pollinated via the wind). Moths were born, lived, reproduced, and died (they didn't feed). Their purpose was to be prey for other organisms and maintain the balance in the food chain.

Many moths though do feed on fruits and leaves and have a proboscis to suck nectar. Moths frequently circle artificial lights. The reason for this behaviour is unknown but it seems that celestial light objects like the moon help them fly in a straight line.

The life cycle of both moths and butterflies are

fairly similar, but a moth larva makes cocoons instead of turning into a chrysalis.

Another difference is that butterflies have thin antennae with clubs at the ends, whereas moths' antennae are feathery with no clubs.

Considering their nocturnal nature and the fact that moths are cold-blooded, they perform something called the 'Shiver Effect', where they flap their wings rapidly to generate heat in their flight muscles in the absence of the heat energy from the sun.

The writer is the founder of NINOX - Owl About Nature, a nature-awareness initiative. He is the Delhi-NCR reviewer for Ebird, a Cornell University initiative, monitoring rare sightings of birds. He formerly led a programme at WWF India.

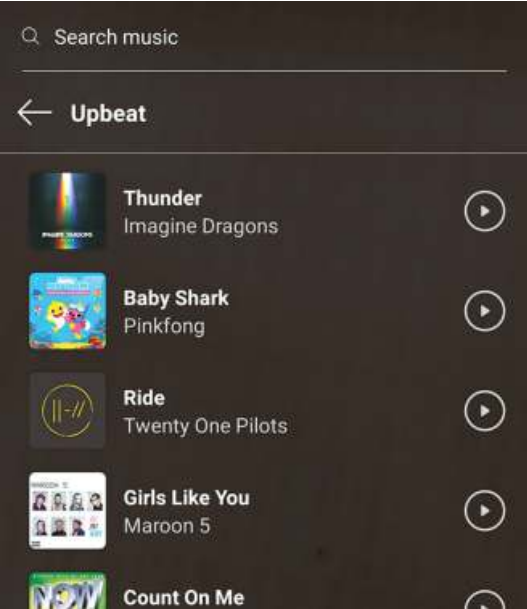


The Lily Moth, (right) as a caterpillar • BALAKRISHNAN VALAPPIL/WIKIMEDIA COMMONS AND RISON THUMBOOR/ WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

SOUND

Let the stories be musical

Instagram Music is finally in India. Here's what you need to know



Instagrammers of India, rejoice. Instagram Music is finally available in the country, more than a year after US-based users began enjoying the feature.

In India, the most popular tracks seem to be the ones from Bollywood - 'Apna Time Aayega' from *Gully Boy* is in the top five - at least in the first couple of days. All tracks on the app are official ones, with Facebook having entered into partnerships with a number of labels like T-Series Music, Zee Music Company and Yash Raj Films way back in March.

But if mainstream music is not your thing, don't worry. You can search for lesser-known favourites too, or just select your 'mood' and then pick from the options that show up. Billie Eilish fans can just go ahead and tap on 'Dreamy', while 'Fun' throws up a mix of Kanye West, Kendrick Lamar and Bruno Mars. Shankar Ehsaan Loy, of course, are everywhere. For certain tracks, such as Ellie Goulding's 'Love Me Like You Do' from *50 Shades Of Grey*, there's an option for lyrics to show up on your story as an overlay!

You can also search by genre, which includes Indian Pop, Punjabi, Tamil, Telugu, Marathi, Hip Hop and Reggae, among others. And then there is the lyrics feature, which lets you choose a snippet of the song instead of an entire track and play up the words, with font style, size and colour of your choice.

To explore Instagram Music, just tap on the plus sign that you usually do, when uploading an Instagram story. Among the options like Boomerang, Type and others that line up at the bottom of your screen, you will see the 'Music' option sitting right before 'Live'. For now, Instagram music can be used on stories alone.

PRODUCTS

Jewels on your feet

Two popular indie footwear brands, Lakshmeeta Govil's Fizzy Goblet and Shirin Mann Sangha's Needledust have recently announced big-ticket collaborations. Govil's brand is launching a collection with Tribe by Amrapali, while Sangha's brand is working with Swarovski.

Fizzy Goblet X Tribe is a limited-edition line of Charm Juttis inspired by charm bracelets. The collection draws on motifs of childhood joy such as puppets, marigolds, parrots, and bottle charms, along with traditional symbols of luck like *nimbu mirchi*, *doli* (for auspicious occasions), the elephant for wisdom, and the beetle leaf for purity. There is a subset of this collection, targeted at brides-to-be.

Needledust's Autumn Winter 2019-20 Collection, in collaboration with Swarovski, the crystal jewelry brand, comes in two styles - champagne gold and deep silver made with Swarovski Crystals. The collection is lustre-based with crepe, Indian and Italian satins. For this collection, the jutti boxes will be accompanied by a Swarovski 'certificate of authentication'. Needledust sticks to the traditional ghungroo style of juttis, and has them in colours like red and baby pink.



Available on Fizzygoblet.com, upwards of ₹3,590; and Needledust.com, upwards of ₹6,200

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

5 EVENTS WORTH YOUR WHILE



DISCUSSION

On suicide prevention

On World Suicide Prevention Day (10th September) and World Mental Health Day (10th October), the American Center is hosting a panel discussion on 'Suicide prevention in India: Conversations on the way forward'. The panelists include Tanmoy Goswami, a journalist working on mental health and Dr. Soumitra Pathare.

VENUE: 24, Kasturba Gandhi Marg  
TIME: 6 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.



GIG

Jazz

The Piano Man, Gurugram, is hosting music band Rythem & Friends tonight. The quartet consists of Rythem Bansal on the piano, Pranai Gurung on the guitar, Aditya Dutta on the drums and Shashank Das on the bass. They will play the compositions of their favourite composers in the genres jazz, blues, R&B, and funk.

VENUE: 32nd Avenue, Sector 15 Part 2  
TIME: 9 p.m. - 11:55 p.m.



MEAL

Bento Box

R.E.D. (Rare Eastern Dining) has organised a month-long Bento Box Festival, which offers traditional Japanese meals in lunch boxes. The vegetarian Bento Box serves delicacies such as Tofu in Tobanjan sauce, and the Mix Meat box serves Lamb in hot bean sauce. The Seafood box has Prawn Cantonese soup and more.

VENUE: Radisson Blu MBD Hotel, Noida  
TIME: 12:30 p.m. - 2:45 p.m.



MUSIC

Thursday flick

SkillBox, a social network for musicians presents Heat Sink supported by Hanita Bhambri, tonight. Heat Sink is an indie band based in Ahmedabad, founded by guitarist Chirag Todi. The outfit has recently released their debut album, Euphony. Hanita Bhambri songs are melancholic reflections about love and loneliness.

VENUE: Cafe Turquoise Cottage, Green Park  
TIME: 9 p.m. onwards



EXHIBITION

Mixed media

Curated by Girish Shahane, Burnish / Tarnish, a group art show, which opens today showcases the recent works of 23 artists from India and the subcontinent. Metal is the focus of the show. The artists explore metal as material and subject, using a variety of mediums including sculpture, painting, video and installation.

VENUE: Palette Art Gallery, 14, Golf Links  
TIME: 7 p.m. - 10 p.m.





VANGMAYI PARAKALA

When Zostel launched in 2013, they came in with an aim to make budget-travel and backpacking accessible to a whole generation of Indians who were already on a steady diet of travel posts on Instagram. The photo-sharing platform had launched only three years before that, but had already seen the likes of Russian photographer Murad Osmann's #followmeto trend – photos of a certain aesthetic, from places like Barcelona to Bali – go viral.

Now, six years later, Zostel has launched ZoZo Bus, a neat marketing strategy and logistical extension to their already-existing network of youth-focussed budget-travel hotels. In essence, the ZoZo bus is a 12-15-seater bus, with a volunteer guide from Zostel, which takes you on a pre-planned trip, to a handful of destinations in a specific region.

To even launch this concept though, Zostel did a test-run in early July – through a call on Instagram. “Board the coolest bus on the evening of July 5th and begin the trip with games, songs, and a lot of random fun,” they posted at the end of June. The slide show of pictures for this started off with a girl in a narrow Manali lane, back (and backpack) to camera, looking out towards hill-homes and the towering mountains at the far

Bring your friends, family or just yourself and go touring with Zostel's ZoZo Bus that has opened up new ways to explore India

# On the bus to ANYWHERE

end. Its harkening back to the #followmeto and #wanderlust, undeniable.

While this test-pilot was a short trip, the ZoZo Bus goes on longer 10-day holidays too. Like

the one starting this weekend, for nine days to Spiti; just last weekend, the Bus did a three-day trip to Pushkar. You can come solo, or with a few friends, but the idea is for “people to

make new friends, and to communicate and evolve as a person,” says Aviral Gupta, the company's chief strategy officer. Prateek Verma, a 22-year-old videographer based in Delhi,

**Zostel on wheels** Buses of the future will be designed to encourage camping  
• SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

had stumbled upon Zostel's call for the Manali pilot, and decided to hop on – it would cost him only ₹5,500 inclusive of travel and stay. He recalls having filled out a form prior to joining, in which he answered a few brief questions about why he wants to be a part of this trip and what he could bring to the group.

“It was a mix of people between the ages of 20-27, and some of them were travelling to the mountains for the first time,” he says, recalling how the Bus, while just another traveller from the outside, was done up with dreamy fairy lights and posters inside.

“A lot of us were solo travellers, except for one couple and two friends from Mumbai. The girl who was in the mountains for the first time actually stayed back for longer and did not return with the Bus,” he adds.

That is the other feature that Zostel is using as the ZoZo Bus' USP: While the Bus and the hotels you stay at during these trips are all Zostel properties, the itinerary they provide is only a rough guide – you are free to sleep in, or chill at a café instead of going hiking as suggested.

“It's all very DIY,” says Gupta. Over the years, they had noticed how those staying at Zostels around the country would most likely ask for local recommendations once they got to a new place. “We just standardised that... it's like a Zostel on wheels.”

Currently, the starting point for all these trips is Delhi. They hope to expand to other parts of the country too, perhaps with Mumbai as their next port, for trips to other ‘millennial-favourite’ destinations like Goa and Gokarna.

“The goal is to create the best travel ecosystem around. We will be customising the trips – future buses will have convertible bunk-beds, in-house pantries and toilets, possible self-drive options – all creating the culture of camping and caravanning in India,” Gupta concludes.

The next ZoZo Bus goes to Bir. More on Zostel.com/escape/zozo-bus

## Top of the charts

Booking.com's list of the fastest-growing destinations within India, for the first half of 2019, reveals a few surprises

When we talk about fastest-growing destinations within India, one wouldn't immediately think of places such as Tiruchi in Tamil Nadu or Nedumbassery suburb in Kerala. However, when Booking.com did a deep-dive to analyse travel patterns in the first half of 2019, these places, along with Rishikesh, Varanasi, Chandigarh and Munnar, emerged in the list of the fastest-growing destinations in India.

The study also found that South India topped the list as a favourite destination among international travellers visiting India in the first half of the year. Some of the findings are:

- Fastest-growing destinations in quarter one and two of 2019: Rishikesh, Varanasi, Chandigarh, Pune, Tiruchi, Palolem, Nedumbassery, Jodhpur, Coimbatore and Munnar.
- Most popular destinations for travellers from all countries visit-

ing India in the first half of 2019: New Delhi, Mumbai, Bengaluru, Chennai, Jaipur, Hyderabad, Kochi, Pune, Kolkata and Agra.

● Most popular destinations for Indian travellers travelling within India: Beyond the metro cities like Delhi-NCR, Mumbai, Bengaluru, Chennai, Hyderabad, Pune and Kolkata, the destinations that figured next in the line are Jaipur, Kochi, Mysuru, Ahmedabad, Ooty, Chandigarh, Coimbatore, Pondicherry, Calangute and Varanasi.

● For travellers from Asia, North America, Europe and Africa, cities such as Mumbai, Delhi, Bengaluru, Chennai, Jaipur, and Kochi remained popular.

● Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh were popular places of travel for travellers from South America, North America, Europe and Africa.



Munnar is among the fastest-growing destinations within India ■ AFP

### POOCH CAFE



### PEANUTS



### HAGAR THE HORRIBLE



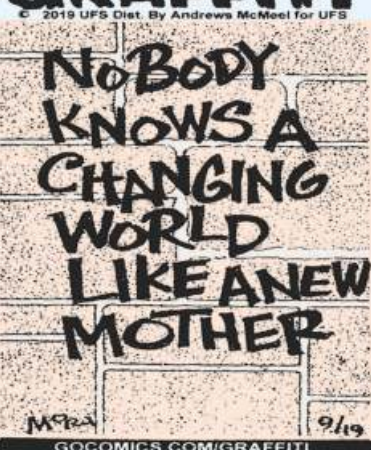
### CALVIN AND HOBBS



### TIGER



### GRAFFITI



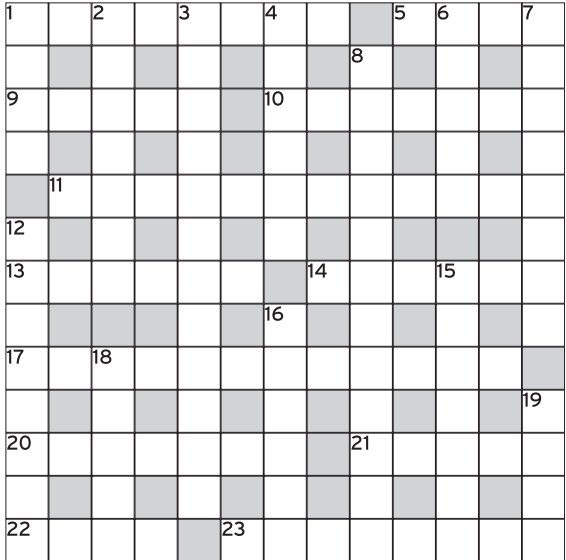
### WUMO



### HEALTH CAPSULES

WHAT IS THE IDEAL RELATIVE HUMIDITY INSIDE MY HOUSE?  
RELATIVE HUMIDITY TELLS US HOW MUCH WATER VAPOR IS IN THE AIR, COMPARED TO HOW MUCH IT COULD HOLD AT THAT TEMPERATURE.  
THE IDEAL INDOOR RELATIVE HUMIDITY FOR MAXIMUM HEALTH AND COMFORT IS BETWEEN 40% AND 60%. MOLD AND MILDEW CAN BECOME A PROBLEM WHEN HUMIDITY RISKS ABOVE 50%. USE A HYGROMETER TO MEASURE INDOOR TEMPERATURE AND HUMIDITY.  
Health Capsules is not intended to be a diagnostic device.

### THE GUARDIAN QUICK CROSSWORD-13178

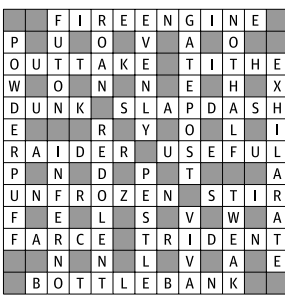


- Across  
1 Ear membrane – my MP a nut (anag) (8)  
5 Sudden sharp feeling (4)  
9 Tycoon – ski slope mound (5)  
10 Gulf sheikdom (7)  
11 Grouchy (12)  
13 Expresses audibly (6)  
14 Calm (6)  
17 Dinosaur with a long neck and tail (12)  
20 In the open air (7)  
21 Dirty (5)  
22 Boot (4)  
23 No 1 in the periodic table (8)  
■ Down  
1 Hours clocked up? (4)  
2 Person moving abroad (7)

- 3 Poetic rhyming device using words with the same initial letter (12)  
4 Cultured (6)  
6 Where Davy Crockett died, 1836 (5)  
7 Hoodlum (8)  
8 Fast food – begs cure here (anag) (12)  
12 Skin cream to filter out ultraviolet light (8)  
15 Droll (7)  
16 Up the garden path? (6)  
18 Device for measuring out spirits (5)  
19 Bluish green (4)

Solution will appear in The Hindu dated September 20, 2019.

Solution No. 13177









# A big boost to my confidence: Lakshya

The 18-year-old shocked second seed Victor Svendsen to clinch the Belgian title

**BADMINTON**

**PRESS TRUST OF INDIA**  
NEW DELHI

Rising Indian shuttler Lakshya Sen is hoping to continue the consistency that fetched him the Belgian Open as he looks to break into top 50 in the World ranking, which will help him qualify for bigger tournaments next season.

The 18-year-old from Al-mora shocked second seed Victor Svendsen of Denmark in straight games to clinch the men's singles title at the Belgian International Challenge last Saturday.

"I think I played consistently well throughout the week and I'm happy with my performance," Lakshya, who didn't drop a single game throughout the tournament, said. "This win will give me lots of confidence to do well in the coming tournaments," he said.

"This year I can play more tournaments than last year in the senior circuit and I hope to prepare well."

Playing his first full-fledged season in the senior circuit, Lakshya had broken into the top-100 in March this year. The Belgian Open win saw him jump 12 places to grab the World No 67th spot in the latest BWF ranking.

Lakshya is currently in Europe playing in the Danish League for Aarhus club.

**The Lakshya file**

<b>Date of birth:</b> 16/08/2001	<b>2016:</b> Won the all-India ranking tournament, the youngest to do so
<b>Birthplace:</b> Almora (Uttarakhand)	<b>2018:</b> Silver, Youth Olympics (Buenos Aires)
<b>World ranking (men's singles):</b> 67	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Gold, Asian junior tournament (Jakarta)</li><li>Bronze, World junior championship (Canada)</li></ul>
<b>BWF International Challenge/Series titles (5):</b> Belgian Open, Tata Open, India International Series (2), Bulgarian Open	



**Looking ahead:** The Belgian Open win helped Lakshya Sen jump 12 places in World rankings.   
• FILE PHOTO: RITU RAJ KONWAR

# India well placed to pick up the remaining seven Olympic quotas

Asian Championship in Doha offers final chance

**KAMESH SRINIVASAN**  
NEW DELHI

While India was happy topping all the four World Cups in rifle and pistol this season in Delhi, Beijing, Munich and Rio, power house China was quietly collecting 25 Olympic quota places for Tokyo 2020.

Interestingly, world leader China's supremacy, as compared to nine Olympic quota won by India so far, should favour the Indian shooters when they make a final attempt for the Olympic berths in the Asian Championship in Doha, Qatar, in November.

**Bright chances**

With China virtually out of the race in most of the events, having won maximum possible two quotas in each event, and Korea with 12 quotas so far, India will have bright chances to pick up the remaining seven

Olympic quotas that it is eligible to win, in the rifle and pistol events.

India has won the maximum possible two Olympic quotas in women's air rifle, men's air pistol and women's air pistol.

Thus, it should not matter much as to who shoots in these events in the Asian championship.

Of course, the Olympic quota-winners Saurabh Chaudhary and Abhishek Verma in men's air pistol, Anjum Moudgil and Apurvi Chandela in women's air rifle and Yashaswini Singh Deswal and Manu Bhaker in women's air pistol, top the averages.

**A tussle**

Following the last set of selection trials, Sharvan Kumar has risen to the third spot in men's air pistol, Elavenil stays world No. 3 and the Indian No. 3 ahead of

Mehuli Ghosh in women's air rifle. It is a tussle between Olympian Annu Raj Singh and the 14-year-old Esha Singh for the third spot in women's air pistol, as the two are tied with an average of 577.67.

Two-time Olympian Heena Sidhu has slipped to the 16th spot with an average of 568.33 in air pistol.

The fact that Annu Raj figures third in women's sports pistol, behind quota-winners Rahi Sarnobat and Manu Bhaker, should see her make the cut in that event, along with Chinki Yadav and Neeraj Kaur. For, there are four Olympic quotas on offer in sports pistol in Doha, and India needs to add to the one won by Rahi.

Equally, India will aspire to win one or two Olympic quotas from the four available in the men's 25-metre rapid fire pistol.

# U Mumba roars back

**PKL**

**NANDAKUMAR MARAR**  
PUNE

Fazel Atrachali's empty raid was greeted with a roar by the U Mumba fans as the captain ran down the clock and took his team to a rousing 39-36 win over UP Yodhha in their ProKabaddi League match at the Balewadi indoor stadium on Wednesday. The Iranian's guidance brought out the best in fellow catcher Surinder Singh and raider Abhishek Singh in a thrilling fightback.

Three all-outs, many Super Tackles, one Super Raid amidst frayed tempers and flying leaps resulted in an exciting contest. Yodhha was in charge before the defenders cracked under pressure. Three catchers went out in an attempt to stop Abhishek (11 points). Surinder's bold tackles as right cover earned him six points.

The decibel levels rose when the second half start-

ed with U Mumba one point behind Yodhha. With two all-outs in an action-packed first half, both squads with quality in their ranks raised the tempo. Yodhha bounced back from four players down, Sachin Kumar managed a Super Tackle and Surinder returned the favour with a crunching Super Tackle.

Shrikant Jadhav and Rishank Devadiga, taking on former U Mumba teammates, did their bit before being overshadowed by the defence when an aggressive Surinder stood out.

The Yodhha raiders and catchers worked in tandem right through the first half before losing the plot. Both teams remain in the race for the playoffs.

**The results:** U Mumba 39 (Abhishek Singh 11, Arjun Deshwal 7, Surinder Singh 6) bt UP Yodhha 36 (Rishank Devadiga 9, Shrikant Jadhav 8).

Punei Patlan 36 (Manjeet 11, Pankaj Mohite 8, Amit Kumar 4) tied with Tamil Thalavas 36 (Ajith Kumar 18, Rahul Chaudhari 4, Shabeer Bapu 4).



**In the thick of it:** Surinder, right, shone for U Mumba.

# Advani in knockout stage

**WORLD 6-RED**

**PRESS TRUST OF INDIA**  
MANDALAY (MYANMAR)

Top Indian cueist Pankaj Advani received top billing in the knockout stage of the IBSF World 6-Red Snooker Championship here on Wednesday.

Advani, who won the 150-up format at the IBSF World Billiards Championship last

# Saketh and Jeevan enter doubles quarterfinals

Ramkumar and partner advance in Glasgow

**INDIANS ABROAD**

**SPORTS BUREAU**  
KAOHSIUNG, CHINESE TAIPEI

Saketh Myneni and Jeevan Nedunchezhiyan combined well to get past the Aussies Alex Bolt and Jacob Grills 4-6, 6-4, 10-8 in the doubles pre-quarterfinals of the \$162,480 Challenger tennis tournament here on Wednesday.

In the quarterfinals, the Indian pair will play the third seeded Taipei pair of Cheng-Peng Hsieh and Tsung-Hua Yang.

In the singles second round, however, Sasi Kumar Mukund was beaten 6-4, 6-1 by Marc Polmans.

Ramkumar Ramanathan made the doubles quarterfinals of the Challenger in Glasgow, in partnership with Marek Gengel of the Czech Republic.

**The results:** \$162,480 Challenger, Kaohsiung, Chinese Taipei: (second round): Marc Polmans (Aus) bt Sasi Kumar Mukund 6-4, 6-1. **Doubles (pre-quarterfinals):** Saketh Myneni & Jeevan Nedunchezhiyan bt Alex Bolt & Jacob Grills (Aus) 4-6, 6-4, [10-8].

**€46,600 Challenger, Glasgow, United Kingdom: Doubles (pre-quarterfinals):** Marek Gengel (Cze) & Ramkumar Ramanathan bt Scott Clayton & Lloyd Glasspool (GBR) 7-5, 7-6(7).

**\$15,000 ITF men, Nanchang, China: (first round):** Prithvi Sekhar bt Xian Yao Zhou (Chn) 4-6, 6-3, 6-4; Kaza Vinayak Sharma bt Nitin Kumar Sinha 6-1, 6-3. **Doubles (pre-quarterfinals):** Luca Castelnuovo (Sui) & Anirudh Chandrasekar bt Nathasith Kunsuwan (Tha) & Rukai Wang (Chn) 6-2, 7-6(7); Poi Wattanakul (Tha) & Nitin Kumar Sinha bt Xiaoyu He & Changil Zhang (Chn) 6-2, 0-6, [10-8]; Kosuke Ogura & Ryota Tanuma (Jpn) bt Oleg Khotkov (Ukr) & Tarun Anirudh Chilaka-

lapudi 2-6, 6-3, [10-7]. **\$15,000 ITF men, Cairo, Egypt: (first round):** Simone Roncalli (Ita) bt Aryan Goveas 6-2, 3-0 (retired). **\$15,000 ITF men: Tabarka, Tunisia (first round):** Zachary Eisinga (Ned) bt Kabir Gupta 6-0, 6-0. **\$15,000 ITF men, Antalya, Turkey (first round):** Michael Vrbensky (Cze) bt Adil Kalyanpur 6-4, 6-1. **Doubles (pre-quarterfinals):** Kelsey Stevenson (Can) & Adil Kalyanpur bt Gabriele Bosio & Carlo Alberto Fossati (Ita) 6-2, 6-2. **\$15,000 ITF men, Anning, China: (first round):** Meiqi Guo (Chn) bt Soha Sadiq 6-4, 6-1; Zhibek Kulambayeva (Kaz) bt Sowjanya Bavisetti 2-6, 6-3, 6-4. **Doubles (pre-quarterfinals):** Oleksandra Oliynykova (Cro) & Sowjanya Bavisetti bt Eun Se Jang (Kor) & Nikita Ubeiroi (US) 6-2, 6-1. **\$15,000 ITF women, Tabarka, Tunisia: (first round):** Alice Amendola (Ita) bt Likhitha Kalava 7-5, 7-5.

# Sahal wants to become the 'Indian Messi'

He is one of the youngsters blooded into the national team

**PRESS TRUST OF INDIA**  
NEW DELHI

Just seven matches old, midfielder Sahal Abdul Samad has already brought some fresh air into the Indian football team with his dribbling, feints and turns.

Not surprisingly, the youngster wants to mould himself like Argentine maestro Lionel Messi.

The 22-year-old from Kerala made an immediate impact in his debut match against Curacao in the King's Cup in June and within four months, he has become the midfield pivot of the Indian team.

"I love dribbling, gunning for a sprint and I love to do that wherever I play. I love to put through balls, penetrate the defence, attack with the ball. I'm a fan of Lionel Messi, I watch him a lot and try to learn as much as possible," Sahal said. "That's my way of playing."

Sahal is one of the youngsters blooded into the national team by new head coach Igor Stimac. He showed his

**The pivot:** Midfielder Sahal Abdul Samad has impressed with his dribbles and body feints.   
• SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

talent while turning out for Indian Super League club Kerala Blasters where he has been playing for the last two years. He did not, however, make it to India's final squad for the Asian Cup in January.

Naturally, he is loving Stimac's possession-based football, building from the back with neat passes and smooth transition to attacking.

"In modern football, it's all about keeping the ball and making the opponent run and get them tired. I, personally, and the whole team like the brand of football which we are playing," said the current Emerging Player of the Year for both the AIFF and the ISL.

"Supporters also continue to cheer for us – everyone has been enjoying our brand of football, which is a positive sign for us."

Sahal said India can surprise Oman in its own den and hope for a berth in the next round of the World Cup Qualifiers.

# Pugnacious Wade ever ready for a pay-back

The 'keeper-batsman lifted his team's spirits with a typically Australian approach in the Ashes

**S. DINAKAR**  
CHENNAI

With his scruffy appearance, combativeness and a penchant for exchanging words, Matthew Wade is a "fair dinkum Aussie".

You can picture him on the outback, living the hard life. The 31-year-old Wade, when handed a lifeline during an unforgettable Ashes series, breathed life into this Australian team.

It was not just about his gutsy left-handed batting against Jofra Archer's extreme pace or his two flamboyant Test hundreds under pressure or his sharp reflex catches close to the wicket.

**Feisty approach**

Wade brought with him a feisty, typically Australian approach, often getting under the skin of the batsmen with his chatter from short-leg, or verbal duels with the bowlers, without crossing the line.

This was a refreshing change from the Aussie methods against India at home when the side appeared 'soft', treading the safe path following Sandpargate, the effects of which impacted Australia's attacking approach.

Yet, as Tim Paine's Aussies retained the Ashes with a 2-2 verdict in a gripping series, Wade's biggest contribution was in injecting the team with a dose of aggression. The Aussies, sledging on occasions, were their own selves again without employing offensive language.

And Wade, the orchestrator, was at the centre of it.

He was bound to be targeted by Archer. Wade, though, displayed character, withstanding a spell of brutal pace and venom from Archer during his counter-punching hundred at the Oval.

He was peppered with the short stuff, was struck on the shoulder, but did not flinch. When glared at by Archer, he glared back.



**Perfect riposte:** Matthew Wade didn't flinch when glared at by Jofra Archer, and returned the compliment.   
• GETTY IMAGES

Then followed the words. Wade replied in kind.

**Replying in kind**

Wade isn't the most accomplished of 'keepers but coach Justin Langer, who comprehends the value of having a vocal fighter in the mix, was spot on with his judgement. Actually, these are good days for wicketkeeper-batsmen.

Many feature in the eleven as specialist batsmen. For instance, England has the spirited Jonny Bairstow donning the gloves and the free-stroking Jos Buttler adding weight to the middle-order.

And the West Indies plays the talented Shai Hope as a pure batsman.

Sri Lanka has picked three wicketkeeper-batsmen – Kusal Perera, Kusal Mendis and Niroshan Dickwella – in the Test eleven with the last-named wearing the gloves.

The influential Mushfiqur Rahim and the promising Litton Das join hands for Bangladesh.

And the explosive Rishabh Pant and the experienced Dinesh Karthik have featured in the limited-over side as specialist batsmen.

**Natural ability**

Factors in favour of 'keepers surfacing as specialist batsmen include their natural ability to pick the length, read bowlers' hand, decipher the pitch, bat-speed and strong backfoot play.

Wicketkeeper-batsmen are, generally, good cutters and pullers.

And a street-fighter such as Wade brings that precious pugnacious streak with him.

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TV PICKS

**World wrestling:** Sony Ten 3 & Sony ESPN (SD & HD), 4.30 p.m.  
**Asian Table Tennis Championships:** Star Sports Select 2 (SD & HD), 5 p.m.  
**PKL:** Star Sports 1 & 2 (SD & HD), 7.30 p.m.  
**UEFA Europa League:** Sony Ten 1, 2 & Sony Six (SD & HD), 10.30 p.m.

Delhi squad for Hazare Trophy

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

Delhi, on Wednesday, named its line-up for the Vijay Hazare cricket tournament. Delhi will play its matches in Baroda.

Rishabh Pant will play the first two matches and Navdeep Saini all the ten. Shikhar Dhawan will join the team from the third match while Ishant Sharma was not considered since he has to undergo a rehab for his shoulder injury.

**The squad:** Dhruv Shorey (Capt.), Nitish Rana, Rishabh Pant, Himmat Singh, Hiten Dalal, Kunal Chandela, Lalit Yadav, Pawan Negi, Navdeep Saini, Subodh Bhati, Kulwant Khejroliya, Manan Sharma, Kunwar Bhiduri, Vikas Tokas, Tejas Baroka and Anuj Rawat.

Kunal keeps winning

SPORTS BUREAU  
LUDHIANA

Kunal Anand stretched his progress from the qualifying rounds into the semifinals with a fighting 4-6, 6-1, 6-3 victory over former National champion Mohit Mayur in the ₹250,000 AI-TA men's ranking tennis tournament at the Harvest Tennis Academy, Jassowal, on Wednesday.

In the semifinals, the top seeded Kunal will face Suraj Prabodh who put out another former National champion Dalwinder Singh in straight sets.

The other semifinal will feature Jatin Dahiya against second seed Ishaque Eqbal.

Mohit Mayur made the doubles final with Ishaque Eqbal and will challenge the Sood twins, Chandril and Lakshit.

**The results:**  
**Singles (quarterfinals):** Kunal Anand bt Mohit Mayur 4-6, 6-1, 6-3; Suraj Prabodh bt Dalwinder Singh 7-5, 6-3; Jatin Dahiya bt Shashank Theertha 6-4, 6-2; Ishaque Eqbal bt Lakshya Gupta 6-1, 6-0.  
**Doubles (semifinals):** Mohit Mayur & Ishaque Eqbal bt Shashank Theertha & Taha Kapadia 7-6(3), 4-6, [10-4]; Chandril Sood & Lakshit Sood bt Anurag Nenwani & Yash Yadav 6-3, 3-6, [10-7].

Jharkhand 'spins' into last eight

WOMEN'S FOOTBALL

SPORTS BUREAU  
PASIGHAT (ARUNACHAL)

Railways, Madhya Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Himachal Pradesh, Odisha, Jharkhand, Manipur, and Arunachal Pradesh progressed to the quarterfinals of the senior women's National football on Wednesday.

Railways dominated Group A and MP led Group B, both with seven points each. Tamil Nadu (Group C) maintained a 100% record, along with Odisha (Group E), Manipur (Group G) and Arunachal (Group H). Himachal was the table topper in Group D with one win, while Jharkhand qualified from Group F.

Jharkhand's berth in the last eight was decided by a spin of coin after it was tied on points and goal difference with Punjab in Group F. The number of wins, losses and draws were also the same, and the two teams also conceded and scored an equal number of goals!

No decision on head-to-head could be made either as the two were involved in a 1-1 draw. No yellow or red cards were registered in their matches either.

Jharkhand proved lucky at the toss and progressed to the quarterfinals.

Markram steadies a rocky South Africa-A

Saha, Dube and Saxena push India-A to a big score

SA-A IN INDIA

ASHWIN ACHAL  
MYSURU

A confident Aiden Markram (83 batting, 140b, 12x4) held firm even as South Africa-A crumbled against India-A on the second day of the second 'Test', at SDNR Wadiyar Stadium here on Wednesday.

South Africa-A limped to 159 for five, 258 runs behind India-A's first innings total of 417.

Markram, part of the senior Test side to face India, made maximum use of valuable match practice. He was confident from the start, planting his front foot forward and driving through the line. He was severe on left-arm chinaman bowler Kuldeep Yadav, smashing him through the cover region regularly.

Markram received good support from fellow Test team member Theunis de Bruyn, the duo adding 82 runs for the second wicket. de Bruyn looked fluent in his 54-ball 41, until he was castled by left-arm spinner Shabbaz Nadeem.

Senuran Muthusamy fell to terrible shot selection, attempting a reverse sweep to Kuldeep with only around 10 overs left for close of play. Kuldeep had another scalp, when Heinrich Klaasen's up-pish drive resulted in a simple caught and bowled catch.

Earlier, contributions from Wriddhiman Saha (60,



Doing his bit: India-A skipper Wriddhiman Saha played his part with a half-century. ■ G.P. SAMPATH KUMAR

126b), Shivam Dube (68, 84b) and Lalaj Saxena (48 not out, 105b) pushed India-A to a big score. Karun Nair, 78 overnight, could not add to his tally, falling to a loose drive outside off.

Saha was compact, but was taken out leg-before to an inswinger from pacer Vernon Philander. Dube was his usual attacking self, chancing his arm to anything wide. His luck ran out when he slashed a full and wide one from fast bowler Wiaan Mul-

der to slip.

Umesh Yadav (24, 13b, 2x4, 2x6) entertained the small crowd, going after the bowlers with impunity. Left-arm spinner Muthusamy was at the receiving end, his flighted deliveries greeted with mighty heaves over mid-wicket. Offspinner Dane Peidt and Mulder emerged as the most successful bowlers with three wickets each.

**The score: India-A — 1st innings:** Abhimanyu Easwaran lbw b Ngidi 5, Shubman Gill c Muthusamy b Sipamla 92, Pri-

yank Panchal c de Bruyn b Mulder 6, Karun Nair c Klaasen b Mulder 78, Wriddhiman Saha lbw b Philander 60, Shivam Dube c de Bruyn b Mulder 68, Lalaj Saxena (not out) 48, Kuldeep Yadav lbw b Piedt 2, Shabbaz Nadeem c de Bruyn b Piedt 11, Umesh Yadav (run out) 24, M. Siraj b Piedt 0, Extras (nb-2, b-14, lb-7): 23; Total (in 123 overs): 417.

**Fall of wickets:** 1-10, 2-31, 3-166, 4-239, 5-286, 6-349, 7-356, 8-374, 9-409.

**South Africa-A bowling:** Philander 19-3-45-1, Ngidi 18-3-63-1, Mulder 22-7-47-3, Sipam-

la 21-2-77-1, Piedt 29-4-78-3, Muthusamy 14-0-86-0.

**South Africa-A — 1st innings:** Aiden Markram (not out) 83, Pieter Malan c Saha b Siraj 6, Theunis de Bruyn b Kuldeep 41, K. Zondo lbw b Nadeem 5, Senuran Muthusamy b Kuldeep 12, Heinrich Klaasen c&b Kuldeep 2, W. Mulder (not out) 9, Extras (nb-1): 1; Total (for five wickets in 46 overs): 159.

**Fall of wickets:** 1-20, 2-102, 3-118, 4-136, 5-142.

**India-A bowling:** Umesh 7-1-38-0, Siraj 5-0-27-1, Nadeem 18-2-41-2, Kuldeep 15-2-51-2, Saxena 1-0-2-0.

India swamps Turkmenistan in opener

FOOTBALL

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
TASHKENT

Sridarth scored a brace as India registered a convincing 5-0 win over Turkmenistan in its opening match at the AFC U-16 Championship qualifiers here on Wednesday.

Shubho Paul, Taison Singh and substitute Himanshu Jangra were the other scorers.

Both sides had a go at each other in the opening exchanges. While Anish Mazumder and Singson held off the Turkmen attack, the combination of Pritam and Taison, down the right flank, looked dangerous for India.

**The result:** India 5 (Sridarth 2, Shubho Paul, Taison Singh, Himanshu Jangra) bt Turkmenistan 0.

nediction (12) Irvan 60.5, 3. Cav-arozzi (5) C. Umesh 60, 4. Decisive (9) Nazerul 59.5, 5. Tanoura (10) Darshan 59, 6. Nagarjuna (4) R. Pradeep 58.5, 7. Propine (8) S. Shiva Kumar 58.5, 8. Rajveer (2) M. Prabhakaran 57.5, 9. Kingsfield (1) Yash 57, 10. Scarlet Princess (7) Sai Kiran 57, 11. Defender (1) A. Imran 56.5 and 12. Grand Reward (6) Dhebe 55.

1. DEFENDER, 2. KINGSFIELD, 3. CAVAROZZI.

8 T. DOUGALL MEMORIAL PLATE (1,600m), rated 20 to 45, 5-y-o & over, 5-00: 1. Sufficient Proof (10) H. Rahul 61, 2. Carnival Express (8) S. Shareef 60, 3. Momotaro (1) Madhu Babu 59.5, 4. Tashkent (2) A. Imran 57.5, 5. Even Money (3) H.M Akshay 54.5, 6. Star Holiday (5) Chetan G 54.5, 7. Vijaya Arjun (9) C. Umesh 54, 8. Veni Vidi Vici (6) T.S. Jodha 52.5, 9. Pikachu (7) Jagadeesh 52 and 10. Eudora (4) Irvan 51.

1. TASHKENT, 2. VENI VIDI VICI, 3. EDUORA.

Day's best: THAILAND.

Double: CUBAN PETE — BREAKING BOUNDS.

JKt: 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8; Tr (i): 1, 2 and 3; (ii): 3, 4 and 5; (iii): 6, 7 and 8.

Sindhu, Kashyap and Sai Praneeth advance

Saina Nehwal makes her exit

CHINA OPEN

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
CHANGZHOU (CHINA)

Reigning world champion P. V. Sindhu sailed into the pre-quarterfinals with a convincing win over former Olympic gold-medallist Li Xuerui but Saina Nehwal crashed out of the China Open Super 1000 tournament here on Wednesday.

In the men's section, Sai Praneeth and Parupalli Kashyap also progressed to the second round after notching up contrasting opening-round wins.

Ashwini Ponnappa and N. Sikki Reddy too found a place in the pre-quarterfinals after crossing the opening hurdle.

Replicating her World championship form, Sindhu produced another strong performance to get the better of the currently 20th-ranked Chinese 21-18, 21-12 in just 34 minutes.

Saina lost 21-10, 21-17 at the hands of Busanan Ongbamrungphan in 44 minutes.

**Tough going**  
In men's singles, Praneeth



Easy one: P.V. Sindhu produced a strong performance to down Li Xuerui. ■ FILE PHOTO: PTI



Philander. ■ G.P. SAMPATH KUMAR

**Rabada is a world-class bowler. He is a wonderful prospect for South Africa**

and wonderful partnership" with Steyn, and that the South Africans have found a more than able replacement in Kagiso Rabada.

"Rabada is a world-class bowler. He is a wonderful prospect for South Africa," Philander, who has played 58 Tests, said.

As the most experienced member of the bowling attack, Philander takes on the role of mentor. "Rabada and I will lead the attack. But my role will go a little further than being just the new ball bowler. We will sit and work out plans for each batsman, as well as the conditions."

Indian men finish fifth; win gold in First Division

SPORTS BUREAU  
VOGYAKARTA (INDONESIA)

The Indian men's team blanked Hong Kong 3-0 in the playoff match for the fifth and sixth positions in the Champions Division of the ITTF-ATTU Asian table tennis championships here on Wednesday.

India claimed the gold in the First Division, blanking Iran 3-0 in the final.

G. Sathiyam was the lone Indian who did not lose a single match in the team event.

**The results:**  
**Champions Division: India bt Hong Kong 3-0** (A. Sharath Kamal bt Lam Siu Hang 9-11, 11-6, 7-11, 11-7, 11-7; A. Amalraj bt NG Pak Nam 9-11, 11-4, 11-6, 11-7; G. Sathiyam bt Kwan Man Ho 11-5, 11-13, 11-7, 14-12).

**First Division: Final: India bt Iran 3-0** (Sharath bt Amin Ahmadi 11-5, 9-11, 11-6; Sathiyam bt Air Hossein Hodaee 6-11, 11-4, 10-12, 11-7, 12-10).

Amaraj bt Noshad Alamiyan 18-16, 5-11, 11-9, 6-11, 11-9).

Hima out of Worlds

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
KOCHI

The Athletics Federation of India (AFI) finally confirmed that Hima Das will not take part in the World Championships in Doha next week. "Unfortunately, 400m athlete Hima Das will not compete at the Worlds due to a back injury," the AFI tweeted on Wednesday.

Rawat scalps seven

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

Nitish Rawat's brilliant spell of seven for 13 helped PGDAV beat Bhim Rao Ambedkar by 24 runs in the Dweepinder Singh Bola memorial inter-collegiate cricket tourment at the Khalsa College ground.

Nitish was named man-of-the-match. **The scores:** PGDAV 154 in 42 overs (Mukul Khatri three for 28) bt Bhim Rao Ambedkar 130 in 38.3 overs (Prateek 52, Vishesh Kumar 30, Nitish Rawat seven for 13).

Sreeshankar's coach Murali not included for Worlds

ATHLETICS

STAN RAYAN  
KOCHI

He is one of India's most consistent athletes, the national record holder and one with potential to reach the final at next week's World Athletics Championships.

But M. Sreeshankar will be going to Doha without his

father and coach S. Murali.

"They have not put me in the team. It's okay, I will try to book my own tickets and go to Doha.

**Watching from the stands**

But since it's the World championships, I can only watch him from the stands, I hope I can manage a seat near the long jump area," Murali, who has helped

Sreeshankar to his national record effort of 8.20m late last year, told *The Hindu* on Wednesday.

A few months ago, Chief National Coach Bahadur Singh said Murali had done an excellent job with Sreeshankar and picked the youngster as a medal prospect in the 2024 Olympics.

That is why the Athletics Federation of India (AFI) allowed the Kerala athlete to

train with Murali, a former triple jump international, at his base in Palakkad.

**Good performance**

"There will be somebody to look after him in Doha, Sreeshankar will come up with a good performance," said Bahadur on Wednesday. Volker Herrmann, the AFI's new high performance director, will likely be guiding the long jumper in Doha.



To no avail: M. Sreeshankar's father-cum-coach S. Murali had drawn praise from chief coach, but it wasn't enough. ■ FILE PHOTO



