



Gram Sabhas to have power to ban liquor in Haryana

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Four Army personnel, two porters killed in Siachen avalanche

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Gotabaya sworn in, urges minorities to work with him

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India takes on Oman in the FIFA World Cup qualifier match today

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NEARBY



Kejiwal dares Paswan to test Delhi water

NEW DELHI
Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Monday hit out at Ram Vilas Paswan, who had accused him of doing politics over water in the Capital, and challenged the Union Minister to test it. "I invite Mr. Paswan to come along with us and take 1,500-2,000 samples," Mr. Kejriwal said.

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Uproar in LS over Farooq's detention

Opposition calls it 'illegal', demands National Conference leader's release

SANDEEP PHUKAN
NEW DELHI

A united Opposition in the Lok Sabha on Monday attacked the Narendra Modi government over the detention of National Conference (NC) leader and Lok Sabha member Farooq Abdullah, calling it "illegal" and demanded his immediate release so that he could attend the winter session.

On the first day of the new session, Opposition leaders also raised the issue of MPs not being allowed to visit Jammu and Kashmir after the removal of its special status under Article 370, while a delegation of European Union (EU) lawmakers was allowed.

Leader of the Congress in the Lok Sabha Adhir Ranjan

Chowdhury's description of the delegation as one that was "hired on rent" invited strong protests from the Treasury benches, with Parliamentary Affairs Minister Pralhad Joshi urging the Speaker to remove the Hindi expression.

'Operation over'

"The operation is over but the patient is dead," said Mr. Chowdhury, referring to the government's August 5 decision to abrogate Jammu and Kashmir's special status and convert it into a Union Territory. "Our leader Rahul Gandhi was not allowed to visit [Jammu and Kashmir], several MPs were sent back," said Mr. Chowdhury, while pointing to the EU delegation's visit and ad-

Batting for freedom



It is the right of Farooq Abdullah to attend Parliament... his detention is an atrocity

ADHIR RANJAN CHOWDHURY, Congress leader

What has happened with Farooq is illegal... You [Speaker] are the custodian of the House... You have to make [an] intervention

T.R. BAALU, DMK leader



Farooq Sahab represents Srinagar and it is right of the 20 lakh people of Srinagar that their voice be heard in the House

HASNAIN MASOODI, National Conference leader



ded, "Isn't it an insult to all MPs. I want to ask MPs of the ruling alliance, don't they think it was their insult."

Mr. Chowdhury said it was the "right" of Dr. Abdullah, in detention under the Public Safety Act (PSA) for 106 days, to attend Parliament and called his de-

tention an "atrocity."

The Congress leader also raised the issue of withdrawal of Special Protection Group (SPG) cover for former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and the Gandhi family.

DMK leader T.R. Baalu sought Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla's intervention and

asked him to direct the government to release Dr. Abdullah. "What has happened with Farooq is illegal... You are the custodian of the House... You have to make [an] intervention," he said.

'Not in judicial custody'

"Farooq Sahab represents Srinagar and it is the right of the 20 lakh people of Srinagar that their voice be heard in the House... I have proof that he is not in judicial custody, he is in preventive custody. Your one order can revoke it," NC MP Hasnain Masoodi said, while addressing the Chair.

Trinamool's Sougata Roy, who had given an adjournment motion, on Dr. Abdullah, also expressed concern about the former Chief Minister's health.

CONTINUED ON > PAGE 12

Learn from NCP, BJD members: PM

'They do not rush to the well of House'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday told the Rajya Sabha that all members, including those of his own party, should learn from the Nationalist Congress Party and the Biju Janata Dal, whose MPs follow the discipline of not rushing to the well. Mr. Modi said the House should play the role of a "check and balance" and not be "clogging and blocking."

Speaking during a discussion on the 'role of the Rajya Sabha in Indian polity and the way forward' at the start of the 250th session, he said the two parties had decided on their own not to jump into the well. "Despite following this rule, their political



PM Modi speaking to journalists in New Delhi on Monday. • SANDEEP SAXENA

progress has not stopped. That means that without jumping into the well, we can win the hearts of the people...," Mr. Modi said.

Quoting former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee, Mr. Modi said the Rajya Sabha was "the second House, but no one should think of it as a secondary House."

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UNIFORM CHANGED > PAGE 12

JNU students injured in face-off with police during 'march'

Police resorted to lathi-charge when students tried to break through barricades to reach Parliament

JAIDEEP DEO BHANJ
NEW DELHI

Scores of students of Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) participating in a "long march" to Parliament House on Monday were injured in police lathi-charge when they tried to break through barricades set up at multiple spots in the city.

The march was organised to "save public-funded education" and demand a "complete rollback" of the hostel fee hike. Police had barricaded all roads leading to JNU and created a two-tier security cordon on Baba Gang Nath Marg outside the university's main gate.

The Union Human Resource Development Ministry tried to pacify the students, announcing ahead of the march that it had formed a three-member "high-pow-



JNU students protesting against the fee hike in New Delhi on Monday. • R. V. MOORTHY

er" committee to restore normal functioning of the university and initiate a dialogue with the students and the JNU administration.

The students, however, continued with their planned march and thousands exited the campus to make their way towards Parliament

House on the first day of the winter session.

The JNUSU said it met G.C. Hosur, Joint Secretary, Department of Higher Education, on Monday evening and submitted a memorandum to him. "We were assured by the official that the JNUSU would be a part of the discus-

sions that the 'high-level' committee formed by the MHRD has been mandated to carry out. We have been invited for a meeting on Wednesday and we will participate in it," said JNUSU member Satish Yadav.

The police denied using sticks, water cannons and

tear-gas shells on students during the protest. Over 100 protesters were detained at different police stations and released in the evening.

Several of the students who were detained shared videos of themselves engaging in a dialogue with the police, explaining to them that their protest was to ensure that policemen's children too were able to access subsidised public-funded education.

CPI(M) leader Sitaram Yechury, who was the JNUSU president during the Emergency days, said: "This is not the way to deal with a democratic protest. The police deployment is much larger than deployment during Emergency days. This is [Narendra] Modi's emergency. We strongly condemn it."

SEE ALSO > PAGE 4

Pawar silent on ties with Sena after meeting Sonia

Govt. formation not discussed, he says

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Nationalist Congress Party chief Sharad Pawar, who met Congress president Sonia Gandhi here on Monday for over 45 minutes, claimed that he didn't talk about government formation in Maharashtra but only briefed her about the situation.

"There was no talk of government formation. This meeting was all about discussing the Congress and the NCP," he told reporters, asked if Ms. Gandhi was opposed to a coalition government with the Shiv Sena.

"We discussed in detail Maharashtra's political situation. I briefed her on it. Mr. A.K. Antony was also there. We will keep an eye on the situation. Some senior lead-



Sharad Pawar addresses a press conference after meeting Sonia Gandhi in New Delhi on Monday. • PTI

ers of both Congress and NCP will meet and discuss further and get back to us," he added. His meeting with Ms. Gandhi at her 10, Janpath residence comes days after he reportedly spoke with the Shiv Sena leadership on government formation.

CONTINUED ON > PAGE 12
SHIV SENa MPS SHIFTED TO THE OPPOSITION BENCHES > PAGE 12

Security for Gandhi family inadequate: Congress

Union government working in an irresponsible manner, says Venugopal

VARGHESE K. GEORGE
NEW DELHI

Ten days after the Special Protection Group (SPG) cover for the Gandhi family was withdrawn, the Congress on Monday said the alternative security protocol in place was "alarmingly unsafe and dangerous".

Congress president Sonia Gandhi and her children, former party president Rahul Gandhi and party general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, were protected by the SPG until November 8. The Centre withdrew the SPG cover for the family on November 8 and replaced it with Z plus category of security — the highest outside

Centre playing politics over the security of a family that lost two of its members to terrorist violence

K.C. VENUGOPAL
Congress general secretary

the SPG — staffed by the CRPF.

Congress general secretary K.C. Venugopal told *The Hindu* that party leaders were extremely upset and concerned over the quality of the security being provided by the CRPF and the Delhi police.

"November 19 is the 102nd birth anniversary of Indira Gandhi and we cannot forget

the chilling tragedies that struck the family, not once, but twice. In Rajiv Gandhi's case, his assassination occurred because his security was downgraded by the then government. The current government is acting in an irresponsible manner by playing politics over the security of a family that lost two of its members to terrorist violence," he said.

Congress leader in the Lok Sabha Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury raised the issue on the first day of the winter session.

According to the Congress, all three members of the family have been provided 10-year-old Tata Safari

vehicles for travel. Under SPG protocol, they were using ballistic-resistant Range Rovers. The SPG had phased out Safaris as they were found inadequate once reinforced heavily. "It is scandalous and dangerous," Mr. Venugopal said.

The Centre had also withdrawn the SPG protection of former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, but in his case, his new Z Plus security detail came with the car that he was using earlier. Former Prime Minister A.B. Vajpayee had SPG cover until his death, though he was bedridden for several years.

CONTINUED ON > PAGE 12

All Delhi roads to be paved by August 2020

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

All unpaved roads in Delhi and the National Capital Region will be fully paved by August 2020, said Union Environment Ministry Secretary C.K. Mishra at a press conference here on Monday.

He also warned of a "huge crackdown" on industries and construction work over the next fortnight and promised "intense monitoring" to keep sources of local pollution in the city under check until December 31.

DETAILS ON > PAGE 3

No more waiver, Bhutan to levy charges on Indian tourists

New charges necessitated by the sharp increase in tourists from the region, says visiting official

SUHASINI HAIDAR
NEW DELHI

In a major shift in policy, Bhutan plans to levy charges on tourists from regional countries, including India, Bangladesh and the Maldives, who at present are exempted from any charges.

The new draft tourism policy, which is likely to be finalised by the Bhutanese Cabinet next month, was among issues to be discussed by visiting Foreign Minister Tandi Dorji with External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar at meetings in New Delhi on Monday. The sharp increase in the number of tourists



Bhutan Foreign Minister Tandi Dorji with External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar in New Delhi. • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

from the region was cited for the move.

The MEA declined to comment on the policy. Accord-

ing to an official aware of the discussions, India has "some concern that the measures proposed should not cause

too many hassles to Indian visitors," and would want a predictable and reasonable policy.

"The essence of our 'High Value, Low Impact' policy (also called the 'High value, low volume' policy) is that we will monitor our tourist arrivals depending on our capacity to cater to them," Director-General of Tourism Council of Bhutan (TCB) Dorji Dhradhul told *The Hindu* in a recent interview. "Over the last few years the number of tourists has been increasing at a really rapid rate, growing about 10 times in the past decade, and this

policy was under threat."

In 2018, of the 2,74,000 tourists visiting Bhutan, the council estimated that about 2,00,000 were from the region, of which about 1,80,000 were from India. In contrast to other international tourists, who pay \$250 (Approx. INR. 18,000) as a minimum charge per day per person, which includes a \$65 a day "Sustainable Development Fee", as well as a \$40 visa charge, tourists from India, Bangladesh and the Maldives had so far paid no fees, and were able to cross over without visas.

CONTINUED ON > PAGE 12

Kejriwal challenges Paswan, asks him to test Delhi’s water

CM says 98.57% samples taken by govt. since January have passed the test

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

Of the 1.55 lakh water samples tested by the Delhi government since January this year, 98.57% passed the test, Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal said on Monday in response to a study released by the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS), which stated that Delhi’s water was the most unsafe among 21 State capitals.

The CM said that only 1.43% of the samples were found to be unsatisfactory and it was well within the World Health Organization’s limit of 5%.

Earlier in the day, Union Minister Ram Vilas Paswan had accused the CM of doing politics over the issue and had challenged him to name people for a team, comprising city and central officials, to test the water. Speaking in Lok Sabha during Zero Hour, the Minister said that water supplied by the Delhi Jal Board was not fit for drinking.

In response, the CM said: “I challenge, you [Mr. Paswan] to test the water, we will also test it. I invite Mr. Paswan to come along with us and take 1,500-2,000 samples.”



Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal addresses the media regarding potability of water, on Monday. •PTI

He added that the Centre had taken only 11 samples for their study from Delhi and ideally 2,000 samples should have been taken.

“On September 26, 2019, Union Jal Shakti Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat had said that Delhi’s water quality is better than European standards. From 20 locations in Delhi, the Union Water Ministry collected samples to come to this conclusion. All were better than European standards. These are his words, not mine.”

On Sunday, Union Minister Harsh Vardhan had said in a tweet that in the “name of free water, Kejriwal is making people of Delhi drink poi-

son”. “It is very unfortunate that the Minister is generating fear among the people about Delhi’s water, which is good,” Mr. Kejriwal said.

The CM also hit out at the Centre for allegedly not listing a Bill for regularisation of unauthorised colonies in the winter session of Parliament.

“The Centre always used to give irrelevant excuses for not clearing our proposal. After continuous pressure from our government and the people of Delhi, the Centre announced the regularisation process just before the Assembly elections. Not listing it in the government’s agenda for the upcoming winter session exposes their true inten-

Cong. says CM should resign as DJB chief

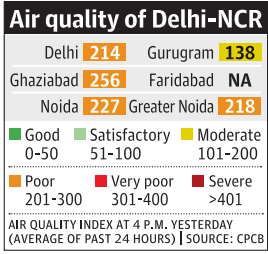
NEW DELHI

The Delhi Congress on Monday protested outside a Delhi Jal Board (DJB) pumping station near Ramila ground following a study which stated that contaminated water was being supplied by the DJB. Delhi Pradesh Congress Committee president Subhash Chopra said, “The Aam Aadmi Party government has failed to supply clean drinking water and clean air to the people of Delhi.” Demanding Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal’s resignation as DJB Chairman, Mr. Chopra said: “A criminal case should also be registered against him for... distributing contaminated water which is not fit for drinking.”

tion,” said Mr. Kejriwal.

“But until you actually get the registry, do not believe anyone. We have already been misled once using provisional certificates. Now they are trying website numbers,” he said.

The Aam Aadmi Party said it will launch a protest march to Parliament if regularisation of unauthorised colonies is not done by the Centre.



HC refuses to hear plea on new security for courts

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court on Monday declined to entertain a plea by two lawyers seeking to replace the police with some other security force in the courts here in view of the clash between the two sides earlier this month.

A Bench of Chief Justice D.N. Patel and Justice C. Hari Shankar refused to hear the matter saying that the situation between lawyers and the police needs to be settled and such petitions would not help.

It also said that the Centre, represented by its standing counsel Anil Soni, may consider providing additional training to police, if it was required.

Reepak Kansal and Yadunandan Bansal had claimed in their petition that since the November 2 clash between lawyers and police, advocates feared for their life as the policemen had fired upon them and also destroyed property at the Tis Hazari Court Complex.

DELHI TODAY

Talk: “Raag Rang - A visual exploration of North Indian classical music”, an illustrated lecture by Los Angeles-based award winning computer visual effects designer Dipankar Goswami at Lecture Room-II, Basement Annexe, India International Centre, 6:30 p.m.

Book release: “Moments of Being” book launch. Presentation of paintings by Subhash Malik and poetry by Sukrita Paul Kumar; edited by Anjali Capila. The book will be launched by Arpana Caur and Shobha Broota. The launch will be chaired by Prof. Neera Chandoke, at Conference Room - II, India International Centre (IIC), 6:30 p.m.

Book release: Launch of the book “The Perfect Predator: A Scientist’s Race to Save her Husband from a Deadly Superbug”, co-authored by Steffanie Strathdee and Tom Patterson. The launch will be followed by a lecture by Prof. Steffanie Strathdee. Besides, there will be a panel discussion on “Charting a Path Towards Bacteriophage Therapy” by eminent speakers at Multipurpose Hall, IIC, 6 p.m.

Music: SaMaPa Sangeet Sammelan 2019. The event will feature a Hindustani classical vocal concert by Piu Mukherjee with Durjay Bhaumik on the tabla and Paromita Mukherjee on the harmonium. This will be followed by a sitar duet performance featuring Raiz Khan and Hafiz Bale Khan with Rafuddin Sabri on the tabla at The Stein Auditorium, India Habitat Centre, 7 p.m.

Exhibition: “Phantom Limb”, an exhibition of contemporary artists, curated by Meera Menezes at Shridharani Gallery, Triveni Kala Sangam, 205, Tansen Marg, 11 a.m. - 8 p.m.

(Mail your listings for this column at cityeditor@thehindu.co.in)

SHINJINI GHOSH
NEW DELHI

According to internal exercises carried out by the Delhi Development Authority (DDA), certain sectors near Bawana and Sultanpur Dabas areas have accumulated 70% of contiguous land required for a particular sector to be developed under the land pooling policy.

Under the policy, at least 70% contiguous land is required to be accumulated before it can be developed.

Senior DDA officials said that the urban body has approached the Revenue Department of the Delhi government to appoint nodal officers to carry out verification of the applications.

Verification process

“Under internal exercises carried out by the DDA, Sectors 17, 20 and 21 of Zone N have qualified to be deve-

Under internal exercises carried out by the DDA, Sectors 17, 20 and 21 of Zone N have qualified to be developed under the policy

SENIOR DDA OFFICIAL

loped as there is 70% land accumulated. However, it will depend on the final verification to be carried out by the Delhi government. Once the verification also shows 70% contiguous accumulated land, the areas will be considered for development,” said a senior DDA official.

The land-owning agency is also carrying out mapping exercises to verify other areas and sectors where 70% land has been accumulated.

Under the land pooling policy, Delhi has been divided into five zones, which are then divided into smaller sec-

tors. “To qualify a sector for development, a minimum of 70% contiguous land of the developable area within a sector, free of encumbrances, is required to be pooled,” the policy states.

Once a particular sector accumulates the required amount of pooled land, the urban body will invite stakeholders to form a consortium for the development to take place, the official explained.

“We are also planning to hold a meeting soon with the land owners and those who have applied under the policy to pool their respective land. They will be invited to form a consortium, which is a requisite before the development can start,” the official said.

The land pooling policy, which has projected dwelling units for approximately 76 lakh people in the Capital, was approved by the Centre in October last year.

DDA not obligated to provide power to guardrooms: HC

Court pulls up Rohini RWA for filing plea

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court has said that there is no legal obligation on the part of the Delhi Development Authority (DDA) to provide electricity or water to the guards engaged by Residents’ Welfare Associations (RWA).

A Bench of Chief Justice D.N. Patel and Justice C. Hari Shankar made the observation while dismissing a plea seeking direction to the DDA to ensure electricity connection, drinking water supply and toilet facilities at the guardrooms of Pockets 1, 3 and 4 of Sector-34, Rohini.

“It appears that facilities like electricity, water, toilet etc. are not available at the guardrooms of the colony of the petitioner, and the petitioner wants the facilities to be provided in the guard rooms,” the Bench noted.

“In fact, the RWA should have provided these facilities at the guardrooms instead of filing the petition,” it said.

“The guards belong to the RWA. If the residents of the colony are unable to provide electricity, water, toilet facilities to their own guards whom they have engaged, then they should not have



The RWA should have provided these facilities at the guardrooms instead of filing the petition

HIGH COURT BENCH

engaged those guards,” the High Court remarked.

The Bench noted that the DDA has already provided 11 toilets for the guards apart from electric fittings and fixtures in the guardrooms.

“So far as supply of the electricity, water etc., the RWA of the colony should have provided these facilities to its own guards,” the Bench stated.

“In view of the above, there is no legal obligation on the part of the respondent (DDA) to provide electricity or water to the guards engaged by Residents’ Welfare Association of the colony,” the Bench concluded.

Submit sealed reply to Subodh Gupta’s plea: HC

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court on Monday allowed Instagram handle – Herdsceneand – to submit, in a sealed cover, its response to artist Subodh Gupta’s plea seeking removal of alleged defamatory content made against him on the photo-sharing app.

Justice Rajiv Sahai Endlaw also allowed the Instagram account handle to file in a sealed cover its ‘vakalatnama’ (document empowering a lawyer to act for and on behalf of his client) to maintain its interim anonymity and furnish a redacted copy of its response to Mr. Gupta.

The anonymous account holder will have to submit its response to Mr. Gupta’s suit within two weeks.

Mr. Gupta, in his suit, has sought ₹5 crore for damage caused to him and his family due to the alleged defamatory posts.

The HC had earlier directed social media giants, including Google, Facebook and Instagram, to remove anonymous posts containing sexual harassment accusations against Mr Gupta that emerged during last year’s #MeToo movement. It has listed the case for further hearing on January 22, next year.



More airlines get check-in facility at metro station

NEW DELHI
DIAL in collaboration with the DMRC on Monday extended the check-in facility at New Delhi metro station, on the Airport Express Line, for outbound passengers flying AirAsia, GoAir (International) and SpiceJet. Earlier, this facility was available only to passengers flying with Air India and Vistara.

'Non-forest activities' on forest land: reply sought

NEW DELHI
Following a plea seeking action against alleged non-forest activities on a parcel of land falling under the Aravali plantation in Gurugram, the National Green Tribunal (NGT) has directed the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Haryana, to furnish a report within one month. "Meanwhile, no tree may be cut without following due process of law," NGT said.

Air quality likely to be 'severe' again by Thursday

Condition may worsen from today



The air quality of Delhi on Monday was in the 'poor' category. ■ FILE PHOTO: PTI

STAFF REPORTER

NEW DELHI
The air quality of the city on Monday was in the 'poor' category, and is expected to deteriorate from Tuesday and reach 'severe' level by Thursday. The increase in pollution levels will be due to slow wind speed and increased affect of stubble burning happening in the neighbouring States, said forecasting agency SAFAR. Delhi's Air Quality Index (AQI) on Monday was 214 (poor), a notch down from 215 (poor) on Sunday, the CPCB said.

The average level of PM 2.5 on Monday was 104.3 ug/m3 at 6 p.m., according to the CPCB. The safe limit is 60 ug/m3. The contribution of stubble burning in neighbouring States to Delhi's pollution was 9% on Monday, and is expected to rise to 13% on Tuesday. The contribution was high as 44% earlier this season, stated SAFAR. "Pollutant accumulation leading to quick deterioration is predicted by November 20 and probability of AQI touching the lower end of 'severe category' on November 21 is high," SAFAR stated.

STAFF REPORTER

NEW DELHI
The Delhi Cabinet on Monday passed a scheme to provide free sewer connections to residents in areas where sewer lines have been laid. The residents have till March 31 next year to apply for the service, said Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal. Development, road-cutting and connection charges will be waived under the 'Mukhyamantri Muft Sewer Yojana'. The move is expected to benefit around 2.34 lakh households, said the Delhi government. The decision comes months ahead of the Assembly elections, which are due in February 2020. "The Delhi government has invested thousands of crores of rupees and laid thousands of kilometres of



Residents can apply for the service till March 31 next year. ■ FILE PHOTO: R.V.MOORTHY

sewer lines across the city. Despite this, lakhs of households have not taken sewer connections due to high installation and development charges," said Mr. Kejriwal. The CM added that the Delhi government had earlier decreased the development charges for sewer connections from ₹500 per

square metre to ₹100 per square metre, "but the individual charges to instal a sewer connection still burned a hole in the pocket of the people". "At a meeting on Monday, the Delhi Cabinet decided to provide relief to those people who have not taken the sewer connections despite

having a sewage line in their area," he said. The Delhi government will bear all costs for the infrastructure, installation, and development charges of household sewer connections under the scheme. "As per the Delhi Jal Board's data, around 2.34 lakh households in Delhi have not installed a sewer connection in areas where we have laid sewer lines. We hope that more households can take connections and take advantage of the scheme. This will also prevent waste from being dumped into stormwater drains and the Yamuna," said Mr. Kejriwal. He added that the Delhi government would be publicising the scheme so that people are aware of the scheme.

Odd-even will not be extended: CM

STAFF REPORTER

NEW DELHI
Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Monday said there is no need for the odd-even scheme to be extended as pollution levels in the city have come down. "The sky is clear now, there is no need of it [scheme]," he said at a press conference. The government had decided to implement the scheme starting November 4 after the city's air quality plunged into the 'severe' category. The scheme concluded on November 15 with Mr. Kejriwal saying it could be extended if required.

Two, including minor, held for stabbing man to death

'Victim used to abuse, thrash accused'

STAFF REPORTER

NEW DELHI
A 21-year-old man has been arrested and a minor detained for allegedly stabbing a youth to death in south Delhi's Ambedkar Nagar on Sunday night, the police said on Monday. The accused told the police that the victim used to abuse and thrash them regularly. Deputy Commissioner of Police (South) Atul Kumar Thakur said that the victim has been identified as Manoj alias Lavi (21), a resident of Madangir. The 21-year-old accused is Sooraj, who lives in the same area. The PCR received a call at 11.12 p.m. regarding an incident of stabbing in Madangir. When a police team reached the spot, it was informed that the injured person had been taken to a private hospital by his relatives. "It was found that the victim was declared brought dead by doctors. Stab injuries were found on his body," the officer said. A case under Section 302 (punishment for murder) of the Indian Penal Code was



registered and an investigation was taken up. During investigation, it was revealed that the victim was stabbed by three persons following an argument. The accused were identified after a police inquiry. "The accused, Sooraj, was arrested and a 16-year-old juvenile was apprehended on Monday. Teams are looking for the other accused involved in the case," the officer said. During interrogation, the accused told police that the victim, under the influence of alcohol, used to abuse them regularly. "They also said that Manoj used to thrash them regularly. They decided to take revenge and bought a knife from Haridwar. The knife has been seized," Mr. Thakur said.

Man robbed of gold chain at fuel station

STAFF REPORTER

NEW DELHI
A man, who was waiting to refill air in his car tyres at a fuel station on Pushta Road in Rajendra Place, has been robbed of his gold chain by two bike-borne men, the police said on Monday. The incident was caught on a CCTV camera. The incident happened when victim Sandeep Bholola came out of his car to ask the petrol pump staff to refill air in his car tyres. Two men riding a motorbike drove past him and snatched his gold chain. Mr. Bholola ran after them but the duo went to the wrong side of the road on their two-wheeler and sped away. The victim told the police that the snatchers were not wearing any helmet or mask. Mr. Bholola said he was on his way home after visiting his in-laws when the incident happened. The police have obtained the CCTV footage of the incident and are examining it to get registration number of the bike. "An FIR has been registered," said a senior police officer.

Ola, Microsoft to analyse street-level air quality

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI
Ola Mobility Institute and Microsoft Research on Monday announced a partnership to measure street-level air quality in Delhi-NCR. The companies will leverage their strong research and data science capabilities to jointly conduct research to provide periodic reports and insights from the data collected, read a statement issued by the firms. Data will be collected over the course of one year to record the spectrum of variation in Delhi's air-pollution. "PM 2.5 data will be collected through sensors mounted on Ola's fleet of cabs... vehicles have been identified based on a complex algorithm to ensure maximum geographical coverage of data. The sensors will be mounted in the engine compartment," the statement added. Deputy managing director of Microsoft Research, India, Venkat Padmanabhan said: "We are excited to be partnering with Ola ... leveraging their reach in the country and our expertise in cutting-edge technologies such as IoT-based sensing and AI, to perform a rigorous research study with the goal of enabling informed solutions." The data collected will be made public in the form of dashboards and reports.



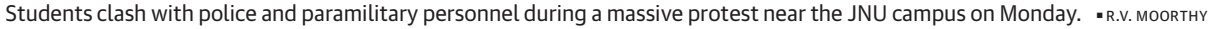
Intense monitoring of pollution activities is on. Deliberate omission by industries and construction will be punished

C.K. MISHRA
Union Environment Ministry Secretary

to get all roads paved comes in the backdrop of the Supreme Court summoning Chief Secretaries of Punjab, Haryana, U.P. and Delhi over pollution in the Delhi-NCR and expressing concern over the role of stubble burning in worsening the region's air quality.

'Intesified action'

"Unfavourable meteorology is a major cause for Delhi's pollution and we have had a spate of bad days recently. We have taken intensified action and intense monitoring of pollution activities is on. Deliberate omission by industries and construction will be punished," Mr. Mishra added.



CM
YK

A ND-NDE

DELHI 🌤️ Timings				
TUESDAY, NOV. 19				
☀️ RISE	06:46	🌇 SET	17:26	
🌙 RISE	23:47	🌇 SET	12:40	
WEDNESDAY, NOV. 20				
☀️ RISE	06:47	🌇 SET	17:26	
🌙 RISE	00:00	🌇 SET	13:24	
THURSDAY, NOV. 21				
☀️ RISE	06:48	🌇 SET	17:26	
🌙 RISE	00:52	🌇 SET	14:04	

Delhi Weather	max	min
Delhi City	26	15
Safdarjang	26	15
Palam	26	14

Delhi Palam Today
27°C Haze/mist in the morning. A windy and comfortable day. The sky will be partly cloudy.

Delhi Palam Tomorrow
27°C Shallow fog/mist during cool morning. Day will be comfortable with partly cloudy sky. Night will be very cool.

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IN BRIEF

Petrol pump manager shot dead in Gorakhpur
GORAKHPUR (U.P.)
Bike-borne assailants allegedly shot dead a petrol pump manager and looted his bag containing ₹11.22 lakh near the Baghabeer Baba temple here on Monday. **PTI**

BJP blames AJSU Party for failing to reach pact

‘Won’t make any dent on BJP’s prospects in Assembly polls’

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
JAMSHEDPUR

The BJP on Monday held its NDA ally AJSU Party responsible for not being able to reach a seat-sharing arrangement between the two parties for the Jharkhand Assembly polls.

Except for two-three seats, the AJSU Party cannot make any dent into the BJP’s poll prospects in the elections, BJP State unit president Laxman Gilua claimed.

“The BJP had given eight seats to the AJSU Party in 2014 Assembly polls. This time, the party was ready to consider 13 to 14 seats. But AJSU president Sudesh Mah-to was rigid on his claim of 18 to 22 seats,” Mr. Gilua said.

Mr. Mahto had earlier said his party had given a list of 17 candiates for consideration by the BJP.

“The BJP is a national party and should be respected as such. They should have



CM Raghubar Das flashes the victory sign after filing his nomination papers in Jamshedpur on Monday. **•PTI**

agreed on seats proportionately,” he said referring to the regional status the AJSU Party has.

BJP names 73 candidates
So far the BJP has announced names of 73 contestants for the five-phase Jharkhand Assembly elections to be held between November 30 and December

23. On the other hand, the AJSU Party has released lists of 27 candidates so far for the 81-member House.

Till now, the two NDA partners will come face to face in 19 constituencies.

However, none of them has officially admitted that they have parted ways, leaving the scope open for a post-poll alliance.

Farmer found dead, kin blame loan burden

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
GHAZIABAD

Unable to repay a loan of around ₹50,000, a 38-year-old farmer in Bijnor district allegedly killed himself on Sunday. The police, however, suspect depression because of trouble in domestic life could be the cause.

Neighbours saw the farmer, a resident of Salempur village under Heempur Deepa police station, leaving his house around noon. When he didn’t return, relatives started searching for him. His body was found in the nearby jungle.

According to local sources, only his elder daughter was at home when the farmer left home.

The deceased’s wife said he was the sole earning member in the family and was tense for the past year because of being unable to repay the loan.

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

Gram Sabha to have power to ban liquor

Haryana to amend State Panchayat Act

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHANDIGARH

The Haryana Cabinet on Monday took an in-principle decision to bring an amendment in Section 31 of the Haryana Panchayati Raj Act, 1994, allowing devolution of powers to the Gram Sabha to ban liquor within the local area of a Gram Panchayat.

A Cabinet meeting, held under the chairmanship of Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar, decided that a Gram Sabha may, at any time, during the period commencing on the 1st day of April and ending with the 31st day of December of any year pass a resolution banning the opening of a liquor vend in its region from April 1 of the next year.

“The quorum of the Gram Sabha meeting for passing such a resolution shall be one-tenth of its members,” said an official statement.

The Cabinet also gave authorisation to the Chief



CM Khattar chaired a Cabinet meeting in Chandigarh on Monday. **•PTI**

Minister for a further period of 6 months for all matters pertaining to the implementation of the Goods and Services Tax in the State including framing of new rules and rate of tax, amendments thereto and issue of notifications under the Act.

More HRA for Ministers
The Cabinet also decided to revise the house rent allowance of Ministers from ₹50,000 to ₹80,000 plus ₹20,000 to cover electricity and water charges by bringing amendment in Rule 10-AA of the Haryana Ministers Allowances Rules, 1972.

11 killed in Rajasthan road accident

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
JAIPUR

In a gruesome accident, 11 persons were killed and over 15 injured when a bus full of passengers collided head-on with a truck on National Highway-11 near Shri Dungargarh in Rajasthan’s Bikaner district on Monday. The injured were rushed to the trauma centre at P.B.M. Government Hospital in Bikaner.

Both the vehicles caught fire after the accident. The bus overturned and its front portion was mangled, in which several passengers were trapped. Rescuers faced difficulty in extricating the passengers, though the local residents and policemen doused the fire by fetching water from the nearby villages.

The bus was on its way from Bikaner to Jaipur and the mishap occurred outside Lakhasar village. Police said the early morning fog and over-speeding could be the possible causes for the accident.

Will Agra be renamed?

Panel to examine if city had ‘old name’

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
AGRA (U.P.)

An Uttar Pradesh department has set in motion an exercise to examine if this city was known by any other name in ancient times, triggering speculation that the Yogi Adityanath government is planning to rename Agra.

Agra’s Bhim Rao Ambedkar University has now constituted a committee to go into the issue, following a letter from the local administration, Vice-Chancellor Arvind Dixit said on

Monday.

According to him, some Agra residents posted a demand to rename Agra on the State government’s Stamp and Registration Department website. This was then referred to Agra administration, which in turn approached the university.

In State capital Lucknow, there was no official confirmation on any such move. However, in the recent past, Allahabad has been renamed Prayagraj and Faizabad district is now called Ayodhya.

Odisha Assembly witnesses noisy scenes

Congress stalls proceedings over hardships faced by farmers in selling paddy

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BHUBANESWAR

The Odisha Assembly witnessed noisy scenes on Monday with members of the Opposition Congress stalling the proceedings blaming the government for the hardships that farmers were facing to sell their paddy in several districts in the State.

Slogans raised
The Congress members rushed to the well as soon as the House assembled for the day and raised slogans de-

manding withdrawal of the system of centralised issuance of tokens to farmers to sell their produce.

They said that thousands of farmers were agitating since they had not been issued the tokens for the past four days due to mismanagement in the online issuance of tokens introduced by the government at the State level.

The farmers should be issued token at the district level, they demanded.

Speaker Surjya Narayan

Patro adjourned the proceedings till 3 p.m. as normalcy could not be restored. The issue was again raised by the Congress members in the post-lunch session.

State Food Supplies and Consumer Welfare Minister Ranendra Pratap Swain, however, said that the tokens were being issued scientifically and no farmer will face any discrimination.

On the other hand, the main Opposition Bharatiya Janata Party boycotted the proceedings for most parts

of the day demanding a CBI probe into the death of a woman panchayat executive officer in Jajpur district and sat on dharna near the statue of Mahatma Gandhi in the Assembly premises.

Memo to Governor
The BJP members, who had boycotted the proceedings on Saturday over the same demand, later went to Raj Bhavan and submitted a memorandum to Governor Ganeshi Lal seeking his intervention in the matter.

Parties gang up on Governor, demand more aid for farmers

BJP, AAP join chorus, Koshiyari's office says amount already exceeds NDRF norms

SHARAD VYAS
MUMBAI

Governor Bhagat Singh Koshiyari is at the receiving end of the ire of political parties, which have demanded an increase in financial relief to nearly one crore rain-affected farmers in Maharashtra.

On a day the Supreme Court criticised the State government for not implementing the previously announced assistance for the rain-hit Sangli and Kolhapur regions, the Shiv Sena, Congress and Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) on Monday demanded that the norms set by the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) be expanded to give more help to farmers.

By the end of the day, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) had joined the chorus for a hike in compensation, along with the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), which demanded the relief amount be matched to the ₹50,000 given by the Delhi government.

Sources in the Governor's office said the package announced last week is already beyond what is recommended by the NDRF norms. The Governor on Saturday announced ₹8,000 per hectare up to two hectares for agricultural Kharif crops and ₹18,000 per hectare up to two hectares for horticultural/



Losses pile up: Farmers and brokers wait with heaps of soya bean at Kalmana market in Nagpur on Monday. Damage to yield and quality of the crop has resulted in a low price. • S. SUDARSHAN

ture/perennial crops. This is a hike from the ₹6,800 per hectare suggested for agricultural Kharif crops, and an increase in the upper limit in all categories from ₹16,800 to ₹18,000.

“The declared amount is already hiked and there is little margin for more improvement,” an official from the Governor's office said.

The Shiv Sena has demanded that the amount be hiked to ₹25,000 per hectare. The party held a protest outside Parliament on Monday, while an editorial in

its mouthpiece, *Saamana*, criticised the Governor for the “low” amount. The Congress and NCP, too, have demanded compensation of more than ₹20,000.

The AAP has gone a step ahead. Preeti Sharma Menon, national executive member of the party, said, “The Governor has announced ₹8,000 and ₹18,000 per hectare for Kharif crops and horticulture crops respectively, which is a pittance when compared to ₹50,000 per hectare, the highest in the country

awarded by the AAP government in Delhi. The AAP demands that given the large-scale devastation of the Kharif crops due to unseasonal rain, the government declare ₹50,000 per acre as compensation for farmers immediately.”

A Cabinet sub-committee headed by the then chief minister Devendra Fadnavis had approved ₹10,000 crore to provide immediate assistance to farmers. But the decision could not be formalised with the imposition of President's Rule.

Cane crushing to be held up as Shetti seeks FRP at one go

Factory owners say one-time payment difficult

SHOUMOJIT BANERJEE
PUNE

The Raju Shetti-led Swabhimani Shetkari Sanghatana (SSS) has demanded that sugar factories across Maharashtra pay the fair and remunerative price (FRP) to sugarcane farmers at one go, warning factory owners of an agitation if the FRP is paid in instalments.

The cane crushing season in the State is expected to be delayed well till the end of the third week of November. It is expected to start only after the SSS, which is influential in the sugar heartland of Sangli and Kolhapur, decides on the FRP during its sugar conclave at Jaysingpur in Kolhapur district on November 23.

“Because of the drought in the summer, the excess rains and now the unseasonal showers, hundreds of acres under sugarcane cultivation in Maharashtra have been ruined. This time, the State will witness a 40% decline in sugarcane production. The extensive destruction due to the floods that hit Kolhapur and Sangli will take a heavy toll in the sugar belt, while the drought has ravaged the sugarcane crop in Marathwada,” Mr. Shetti told *The Hindu*.

He said SSS activists had



Pending: As per the SSS, many sugarcane farmers have not received FRP payment from the previous year. • FILE PHOTO

urged two factories owned by Congressman Satej ‘Bunty’ Patil and senior Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) leader Hasan Mushrif to halt crushing operations.

In a stormy meeting with factory owners on Sunday, SSS representatives rejected their requests to pay the FRP in instalments due to the dire straits of the sugar market. “The SSS ought to accept the FRP payment in instalments owing to the situation brought on by first the flood and then unseasonal showers,” said Mr. Patil, a senior Congress leader from Kolhapur who is chairman and president of the Dr. D.Y. Patil cooperative sugar factory.

Incidentally, Mr. Shetti's political party, the Swabhimani Paksha, is in alliance with the Congress and the NCP. “Even if we are allies,

our fight is for the interests of the farmers. So irrespective of whether a sugar factory is owned by a leader of the Congress, NCP, Bharatiya Janata Party or Shiv Sena, our activists will not permit sugar mills to commence crushing operations,” he said.

SSS leader Jalinder Patil said many farmers had not received FRP payment from the previous year.

“It is detrimental to the interests of the farmers if the mills begin crushing operations early as they will not get a decent price for the standing crop which escaped the ravages of unseasonal rain. If we settle at a low FRP this year, we will not be able to negotiate a better FRP for the next crushing season [2020-21],” said SSS leader Savkar Madnaik.

Applicants allege delay in aid from CM relief fund

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
MUMBAI

Hopefuls seeking financial aid under the Chief Minister's Relief Fund (CMRF) in Maharashtra are complaining that their applications are not getting processed.

Governor Bhagat Singh Koshiyari had on November 15 issued a government resolution resuming the release of financial help under the CMRF, which had been suspended after the model code of conduct kicked in for the October 21 Assembly polls.

Beed resident Dinesh Denge, one such hopeful seeking financial assistance for heart treatment of his uncle, said he returned empty-handed on Monday. “I have already submitted the required documents. Despite several visits, my file has not been cleared. There is no one to inform us about whom to approach. The CMRF office is almost empty,” Mr. Denge said.

Suresh Bandi and Surekha Telam from Mumbai made similar claims.

Besides providing assistance to people affected by natural calamities like floods and drought, and fires, the CMRF also grants funds to citizens from the economically weaker section for medical treatment.

Since the State was brought under President's Rule on November 12, Mantralaya wears a deserted look. Ministers staff had been directed to hand over the offices to the administration. But officials said that despite the GR, there was no senior officer to accept and process the documents of the needy.

Pune sanitation worker recreates old songs for anti-trash campaign

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
PUNE

Pune-based sanitation worker Mahadev Jadhav's unique style of parodying old Bollywood songs to discourage citizens from dumping unsegregated garbage in public spaces is earning him kudos on social media.

The idea to recreate the old songs struck the 57-year-old employee of the Pune Municipal Corporation (PMC) when he saw some “educated people” throwing plastic bags containing trash on roads in Parvati while going for a morning walk.

“Since I have a penchant for singing and writing poems, I have been using the same interest to create awareness of waste management and segregation of dry and wet garbage at source, and discouraging people from dumping garbage in public,” said Mr. Jadhav, who is attached to the waste management department.

Videos of Mr. Jadhav holding people's attention by singing while sweeping the streets have gone viral on social media.

Mr. Jadhav said it all started one morning he saw well-to-do people dumping garbage on the roadside while out for a morning walk. “Annoyed by their attitude, I decided to create awareness about the bad practice through singing. I twisted the classic Hindi song, ‘*Kajra Mohabbat Wala*’, into ‘*Kachara Mohabbat Wala*’, into ‘*Kachara mohabbat geela, sabne mila kar dala, kachare ne leli sabki jaan re, gaur se suniye mehereban...*’ (everyone is dumping unsegregated garbage, which has killed us),” he said.

A member of a PMC cultural troupe, Mr. Jadhav and his like-minded colleagues visit schools, colleges as well as housing societies where they perform skits and songs on the



Mahadev Jadhav wants to create awareness of waste management and segregation at source.

• PICTURE FOR REPRESENTATION

importance of waste management.

Taking the ‘*Kajra mohabbatwala...*’ theme forward, Mr. Jadhav added, “*Carry bag ye plastic wala, isko aadat kar dala, aadat ne le li sabki jaan, gaur se suniye mehereban*’ (the habit of using plastic carry bags has killed us).”

Mr. Jadhav said he was getting invitations from residential societies who want him to create awareness among the residents about waste management through his unique style.

His senior, Dnyaneshwar Molak, who heads the PMC's waste management department, said Mr. Jadhav had turned a social cause into a personal mission, which is a matter of pride. “We are planning to appoint him as our cleanliness brand ambassador for the Central government's cleanliness survey, to be conducted by the civic body,” Mr. Molak said.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has appealed to people to stop using plastic to take care of environment. Last month, the PM had himself collected garbage at Mamallapuram beach during a morning walk.

IN BRIEF

Cong. MLA Tanveer Sait critical after assault

MYSURU
The condition of Congress MLA and former Minister Tanveer Sait is critical after an assailant stabbed him with a machete at a wedding ceremony in Mysuru late on Sunday. A bleeding Mr. Sait was rushed to a private hospital nearby. “He is responding well to the treatment,” doctors said. The assailant has been identified as Farhan Pasha, 24, a handicraft artisan, who told the police that he had approached Mr. Sait a couple of times for a job, but was disillusioned by the delay.

Walayar case: special public prosecutor sacked

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM
Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan told the Assembly on Monday that the government has dismissed Latha Jayarajan, the special public prosecutor for POCSCO (Protection of Children from Sexual Offences) cases under whose watch the accused in the Walayar case, relating to the rape and death of two minor Dalit siblings in 2017, were let off unpunished by the court for want of evidence. The government had suspended the sub-inspector who had conducted the investigation.

No daytime flights for four months from Kochi

KOCHI
The four-month-long runway re-surfacing work at Cochin International Airport is set to start on Wednesday and there would be no flights from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. till March 28, 2020. Since almost all services have already been re-scheduled, the project period would see cancellation of only five services — one service to Maldives, operated by Spice Jet, and four services in the domestic sector —, a statement from the airport said on Monday. **PTI**

‘Maoist held in Coimbatore was involved in Chhattisgarh ambush’

Sukma SP says they are trying to get a prisoner transit warrant for Deepak

WILSON THOMAS
COIMBATORE
Maoist leader Deepak, who was arrested by the Special Task Force from a forest near Anaikatti in Coimbatore on November 9, was part of the group of naxals who ambushed and killed 76 Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) personnel near Chintalnar village in Chhattisgarh on April 6, 2010, the State’s police have said.

“A former friend who later turned informer has identified Deepak. According to him, Deepak had a role in the 2010 ambush on CRPF men. Deepak was also involved in other major attacks on forces between 2010 and 2012,” Shalabh Sinha, Superintendent of Police, Sukma, told *The Hindu* over phone. Mr. Sinha said the police



Deepak undergoing treatment at the Coimbatore Medical College Hospital. **•SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT**

were trying to get a prisoner transit warrant to take Deepak to Sukma and produce him before a court for investigation into attacks he was involved in. He added that he was informed about Deepak’s hospitalisation and efforts to get the prisoner transit warrant might get delayed.

A police team from Sukma consisting of Deputy Superintendent of Police, an inspector and an assistant sub-inspector visited Deepak at the Coimbatore Medical College Hospital (CMCH) late on Sunday.

Deepak is currently undergoing treatment for injuries he suffered in the forest

when the STF men arrested him. Deepak is believed to be a central committee member of the People’s Liberation of Guerrilla Army, a military component of the CPI (Maoist), and a member of the Dandakaranya Special Zonal Committee.

A weapons trainer and an expert in making improvised explosive devices, Deepak reportedly escaped after a gun battle with the Thunderbolt special force of Kerala police at Agali forest in Palakkad district on October 28 and 29, in which four Maoists were killed.

The Principal District and Sessions Court, Coimbatore, will hear a petition filed by the Tamil Nadu police seeking Deepak’s custody for further investigation on Tuesday.



Show of strength: Supporters of political parties during the last day of filing nominations. **•K. MURALI KUMAR**

Karnataka bypolls: rush to file nominations

Monday was last date to file papers

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
BENGALURU
There was a rush of candidates to file nomination papers on Monday for the byelection to 15 Assembly segments in Karnataka to be held on December 5.

Majority of the candidates chose to file papers as it was the last date and an auspicious day.

More than anybody, it was a show of strength by the disqualified MLAs who are seeking re-entry to the Assembly on the BJP ticket. They were previously in the Congress and the JD(S) and had resigned from the Assembly and were eventually disqualified.

daughter Srishti Patil filed their nomination papers.

The JD(S) sprang a surprise in Hirekerur by fielding Shivalinga Shivacharya Swami of the Kabbina Kanti Math to take on Mr. B.C. Patil. This was a decision taken overnight.

Others who entered the fray as the BJP candidates were Dr. K. Sudhakar from Chikkaballapura, Anand Singh from Vijayanagar, M.T.B. Nagaraj from Hoskote, S.T. Somashekhar from Yashwanthapur, Byrathi Basavaraj from K.R. Puram, Narayana Gowda from K.R. Pet and Mahesh Kumathalli from Athani.

Rizwan Arshad too filed his nomination as a Congress candidate from Shivajinagar, who will take on Tanveer Ahmed from the JD(S) and M. Saravana from the BJP. There seems to be a triangular fight in Vijayanagar. Besides battling out against his former Congress candidate Venkat Rao Ghorpade, Mr. Anand Singh is also confronting with a rebel BJP leader Kaviraj Urs. Mr. M. Anjanappa and Mr. Raju Kage filed their nominations as the Congress candidates from Chikkaballapura and Kagwad.

Third Maoist suspect identified

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
KOZHIKODE
A special team of Kerala police has claimed that it has identified the third suspect in the Maoist link case.

A senior officer said that C.P. Usman, 40, hailing from Pandikkad, Malappuram district, was arrested oncharges of having association with the CPI(Maoist).

The police have been trying to find the third suspect in the case after they had taken two CPI(M) workers, Alan Suhaib and Thaha Fasal, into custody on November 1. Both were booked under UAPA.

Kerala varsity begins internal investigation into marks scam

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM
The University of Kerala has commenced an internal inquiry into the illegal modification of moderated marks that were obtained by students pursuing career-related courses.

The expert team, led by Pro Vice-Chancellor P.P. Ajayakumar, recorded the statements of senior officers, including the Controller of Examinations, Director of the Computer Centre, Joint Registrars and Assistant Registrars of various sections, and employees of the IT cell in the examination wing.

The panel, which comprised technical experts, in-



Arif Mohammed Khan

Meanwhile, Governor Arif Mohammed Khan summoned Vice-Chancellor V.P. Mahadevan Pillai to understand the circumstances that could have led to the ongoing controversy and the remedial measures that have been adopted to prevent such malpractices in future.

cluding Syndicate member K.G. Gopachandran, Senate member K.S. Anil Kumar and Ignatius Kunjumon, a retired professor of the Cochin University of Science and Technology, also blocked the related hard disks from the examination wing as part of the ongoing probe.

UDF walkout
Leader of Opposition Ramesh Chennithala has demanded a judicial inquiry into the issue.

The United Democratic Front staged a walkout in the Kerala Assembly on Monday demanding an impartial investigation into the complaints.

A.P. man throws niece from third floor, held

‘He had an argument with her parents’

STAFF REPORTER
VIJAYAWADA
A six-year-old is being treated for severe injuries at a hospital here after she was thrown from the third floor of the building allegedly by her uncle, who was reportedly in an inebriated condition, at Vambay Colony on the outskirts of Vijayawada in A.P.

The accused has been arrested and would be produced before a court.

Inebriated condition
The incident took place late on Sunday night when the accused, Kondaraju Krishna, a mason, had a heated argument with his elder brother Kondaraju Yesubabu and his sister-in-law Kondaraju Sridevi.

“Krishna who came home drunk for dinner

drew the ire of Sridevi for littering the house which was just cleaned. Sridevi confronted Krishna over his behaviour, which escalated into a heated argument between the couple and the accused,” Inspector M. Prabhakar said.

“In a fit of rage, Krishna grabbed Sridevi’s elder daughter Janaki and threw her from the balcony of their flat located on the third floor of the block in the housing colony,” Mr. Prabhakar said.

The accused was booked for attempt to murder and outraging modesty of woman under Sections 307 and 509 of IPC.

Krishna has been arrested and the girl, who received injuries including on the head, is out of danger, the Inspector said.

Mass protest



Members of the Tamil Nadu Thowheed Jamath (TNTJ), a non-political Islamic organisation, staging a protest against the recent Supreme Court verdict in Ayodhya case, in Chennai on Monday. **•R. RAGU**

32 bonded labourers wait to be rescued

They were found working in deplorable conditions at a brick kiln in A.P.

RAMESH SUSARLA
ANANTAPUR
Thirty-two bonded labourers from Odisha working at a brick kiln at Kanumpalli Cross in Garladinne mandal of the district sent out an SOS to their relatives and friends back home to rescue them from the travails they were undergoing for the past several months.

When the issue was brought to the notice of District Collector S. Satyanarayana by Human Rights activist Sushant Panigrahi, the district administration immediately sent Galadinne Tahsildar R. Madhav Reddy, along with the Garladinne sub-inspector of police and surveyed the working conditions. Mr. Madhav Reddy told *The Hindu* that all the 32 workers had expressed willingness to be rescued and return to their village in Od-



Bonded child labourers working at a brick factory at Kanumapalle of Anantapur district. **•R.V.S. PRASAD**

isha. The brick kiln owner got these labourers from Odisha from a manpower supplier for a period of six months to work at the factory abutting the Bengaluru-Hyderabad National Highway. They are reportedly paid ₹600 for making 1,000 bricks.

The Tahsildar said the living conditions were very bad

and on Tuesday they would make further inspection and book the owner of the factory under the Bonded Labour Act, if necessary.

The District Labour Commissioner said the issue was not under their purview, so he had not inspected the factory.

Tribal welfare activist Rebbapragada Ravi told *The*

Hindu that the labourers were Dalits, STs and OBCs and they had to be compensated under the Bonded Labour Act and proper rehabilitation process implemented.

Sandeep Tandi, 21, working there, had called up Mr. Sushant unable to bear the harsh conditions. Six children were also found working at the factory as they had come along with their parents. The women and children were staying in deplorable conditions without any basic amenities, Mr. Sushant alleged.

Child Welfare Committee Chairperson Nallani Rajeshwari, when contacted, said the issue had not come to her notice and that she would definitely book the owner of the factory if all this was true and try to rehabilitate the children.

‘Conversions high during YSRCP rule’

STAFF REPORTER
VIJAYAWADA
BJP Andhra Pradesh unit president Kanna Lakshminarayana on Monday alleged that religious conversions increased after YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) came to power and there was no doubt that it was sponsored by the government.

Governments were supposed to be secular and refrain from specially supporting any religion and encouraging their activities. The YSRCP government would bear the consequences of its actions, he cautioned.

Addressing presspersons, Mr. Lakshminarayana alleged that government money was being spent on the programmes of a particular religion.

Man trampled to death by elephant

He ventured into Bandipur forest

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MYSURU
A villager, who ventured inside Bandipur Tiger Reserve, was found trampled to death by an elephant on Monday. The victim was identified as Rangarajan, 54.

The incident is suspected to have taken place late on Sunday.

The relatives and family members of Rangarajan lodged a police complaint on Sunday night when he did not return home.

there were hundreds of elephants moving around in the vicinity, the Conservator of Forests T. Balachandra said.

On Monday morning, when the elephants had dispersed, the forest staff ventured into the reserve and discovered the body in the Yalchatti beat, which is in the Kundukere range of the tiger reserve.

‘No compensation’
Officials said people have been repeatedly advised and warned against venturing inside the forest.

As the incident took place within the forest limits, the family members will also not be eligible for compensation as per government norms, they added.

Ready to resume work, say TSRTC workers

MARRI RAMU
HYDERABAD
The 45-day-long strike by the Telangana State Road Transport Corporation workers, longest one in its history, is likely to end with their counsel D. Prakash Reddy informing the Telangana High Court on Monday that they were ready to resume duty since the State government was “not taking any step forward”.

Making this submission, the senior counsel requested the HC to direct the government to facilitate the workers’ withdrawal of strike. A Division Bench comprising Chief Justice Raghavendra Singh Chauhan and Justice A. Abhish-ek Reddy declined to do so but hoped the government would not create any obstacle upsetting the workers’ decision.

The employees, who decided to withdraw the agitation in the larger interest of the public, were a bit apprehensive of the government’s response, the counsel said. This doubt gained currency as TSRTC MD in-charge Sunil Sharma filed an affidavit three days ago maintaining that the workers had made it difficult for the RTC management to take a call on their continuance even if they voluntarily resume duty, Mr. Reddy told the court.

Citing a Supreme Court verdict, the senior counsel contended that the employer should not view the strike as abandonment of jobs. It should be considered as an attempt at raising demands for better working conditions or wages. Taking a note of a Supreme Court observation, the Bench said the State should be a “model employer”.

Bank to hold auction of Ganta’s properties

Major setback to TDP ex-Minister

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
VISAKHAPATNAM
In a major setback to Telugu Desam Party MLA from Visakhapatnam (North) and former Minister Ganta Srinivasa Rao, the Indian Bank has published a notification announcing the auctioning of his properties and those of other directors of Pratyusha Resources and Infra Private Limited, in which the MLA had served as director.



Ganta Srinivasa Rao

According to the notification published by the public sector bank, both firms had defaulted on the payment of a loan of ₹141.68 crore, and the bank had issued a demand notice on October 4, 2016. As the company did not clear the loan, interest on it accumulated to over ₹208.68 crore as on November 7, 2019.

It is learnt that about 26 properties, including those belonging to Mr. Rao, had been attached.

Mr. Rao said that he had stepped down as director of the company a few years ago and only one of his properties had been attached for auction. He resigned as director of Pratyusha in 2011 and there were no financial transactions with it, he said.

Mechanical failure delays train in A.P.

STAFF REPORTER
GUNTUR
A mechanical failure in Prasanthi Express delayed the train for more than two hours on Sunday causing a commotion in the railway station.

Railway sources said that a failure in the airconditioning in the A-1 coach of the train was noticed when the train chugged into the Guntur Railway Station. When the passengers brought the issue to the notice of the railway authorities, the railway personnel shunted out the coach and attached another coach. Tense moments were witnessed when the irate passengers entered into a verbal duel with the railway personnel.

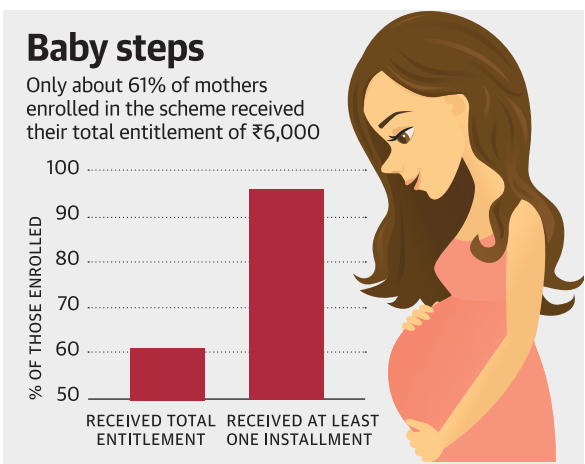
Finally, the train moved on after two hours.

‘Maternity scheme reaches only one-third of beneficiaries’

PMMVY scheme benefitted just 31% eligible mothers, say researchers who extrapolated data obtained under RTI

JAGRITI CHANDRA
NEW DELHI
A vital programme to support lactating mothers and pregnant women by compensating them for loss of wages during their pregnancy has been able to reach less than a third of the eligible beneficiaries, researchers who extrapolated from data obtained under the Right to Information (RTI) Act said.
Almost 61% of beneficiaries registered under the Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY) between April 2018 and July 2019 (38.3 lakh out of the total 62.8 lakh enrolled) received the full amount of ₹6,000 promised under the scheme, according to an RTI reply. However, the researchers, who are development economists, assert that since the scheme failed

to reach at least 49% of all mothers who would have delivered their first child (an estimated total of 123 lakh for 2017 according to the researchers), the scheme was able to benefit only 31% of its intended beneficiaries.
The PMMVY is targeted only at women delivering their first child. A cash amount of ₹6,000 is transferred to the bank account of the beneficiary in three instalments upon meeting certain conditions including early registration of pregnancy, having at least one ante-natal check-up and registration of child birth.
Given the stipulated conditions, the scheme brings under its ambit 23% of all births and pays full benefits to a mere 14% of all births, which was at 270.5 lakh for 2017. The meagre reach calculated is also an overesti-



mate, asserts Ritika Khara, Assistant Professor, IIM Ahmedabad. The actual number of beneficiaries would have been higher for 2018-2019, she contends, as the figure increases from one year to the next.
The data extrapolated from the RTI reply is also

machal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and Odisha – in 2019 to interview women and inspect anganwadis. A total of 706 women were interviewed, including 342 pregnant and 364 lactating women.
Inadequate awareness
The study found that only 50% of pregnant women and 57% of nursing women surveyed were eligible for the scheme. It also throws light on the need for higher awareness among the pool of beneficiaries – only 66% of pregnant women and 69% of nursing women knew about the scheme. Only 8% of pregnant women and 23% of nursing mothers received some benefits.
Several factors impeded proper implementation of

the programme that aims to fight malnutrition among children. These include an application form of about 23 pages, a slew of documents such as mother-child protection card, Aadhaar card, husband's Aadhaar card and bank passbook aside from linking their bank accounts with Aadhaar.
The requirement to produce the husband's Aadhaar card results in excluding women who may be living with men they are not married to, single mothers and those who may be staying at their natal home. Women must also have the address of their marital home on their Aadhaar card, which often results in newly weds being either left out or forced to go from door-to-door when pregnant and needing rest and care.

WEATHER WATCH
RAINFALL, TEMPERATURE & AIR QUALITY IN SELECT METROS YESTERDAY



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

Forecast for Tuesday: Heavy rainfall likely over Tamil Nadu, Puducherry and Karaikal. Thunderstorm accompanied with lightning likely at coastal Andhra Pradesh and Yanam, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, Karaikal and Rayalseema. Moderate to dense fog likely in isolated pockets over south Assam & Meghalaya.

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	...	30.2	19.3	Kozhikode	...	34.5	25.0
Ahmedabad	...	31.6	18.8	Kurnool	...	33.4	22.9
Aizawl	...	23.1	12.1	Lucknow	...	28.0	14.9
Allahabad	...	31.4	15.7	Madurai	...	33.4	24.5
Bengaluru	...	29.4	20.0	Mangaluru	...	34.4	23.8
Bhopal	...	28.3	14.8	Mumbai	...	34.8	24.0
Bhubaneswar	...	31.0	20.0	Mysuru	...	30.1	18.8
Chandigarh	...	25.7	13.0	New Delhi	...	26.5	15.3
Chennai	2.8	32.4	25.6	Patna	...	29.6	16.6
Coimbatore	...	31.4	22.3	Port Blair	0.5	31.2	24.3
Dehradun	...	26.6	11.1	Puducherry	...	32.2	23.8
Gangtok	0.8	16.8	12.4	Pune	...	30.1	16.2
Goa	...	34.8	24.5	Raipur	...	30.9	18.1
Guwahati	...	29.7	18.3	Ranchi	...	28.0	13.8
Hubballi	...	29.0	21.0	Shillong	...	18.0	9.1
Hyderabad	...	31.7	17.6	Shimla	...	19.9	9.7
Imphal	...	26.5	8.9	Srinagar	...	...	...
Jaipur	...	27.0	18.4	Thiruvananthapuram	37.4	33.3	24.1
Kochi	6.4	32.0	24.8	Tiruchi	...	32.7	24.0
Kohima	...	24.2	11.5	Vijayawada	...	32.5	24.5
Kolkata	...	31.0	20.1	Visakhapatnam	...	31.8	25.4

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)						
Pollutants in the air you are breathing						
CITIES	SO ₂	NO ₂	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	121	179	34	113	...	...
Bengaluru	...	13	93	97	...	...
Chennai	...	6	12	28	...	...
Delhi	82	72	...	...
Hyderabad	...	4	56	45	...	...
Kolkata	...	9	79	39	...	...
Lucknow	...	3	28	90	...	...
Mumbai	...	4	48	28	...	...
Pune	...	75	13	55	...	...
Visakhapatnam	...	10	29	33	...	...

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Muzaffarpur Bihar recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 330 indicating a severe level of pollution. In contrast, Eloor, Kerala recorded a healthy AQI score of 31.

Air Quality Code: ■ Poor ■ Moderate ■ Good (Readings indicate average AQI)
SO2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.
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, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.
PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

Wonders happen, says Rajini while taking a dig at T.N. CM

Film star's speech at Kamal Haasan's event triggers buzz about 2021 alliance

UDHAV NAIG
CHENNAI
At what was meant to be a concert by Ilayaraja to celebrate actor Kamal Haasan completing 60 years in cinema, fellow film star Rajinikanth gave a speech about how 'wonders' could happen, opening up the possibility of Mr. Rajinikanth and Mr. Haasan joining hands to take on the Dravidian parties in the 2021 Assembly election.



MNM party President Kamal Haasan and actor Rajinikanth seen together at an event earlier in November • FILE PHOTO

Wonders possible
After actor Vijay's father S.A. Chandrasekaran set the ball rolling by saying he wished to see Mr. Rajinikanth and Mr. Haasan in an alliance for the 2021 polls, Mr. Rajinikanth appeared to take a dig at Chief Minister Edappadi

K. Palaniswami.
"Two years ago, Edappadi Palaniswami wouldn't even have dreamt of becoming CM. [But] It happened. And then, they said he will be the CM for only a few days. But he has been in the post for

two years. So, wonders will happen," Mr. Rajinikanth said during Sunday's event.
"It happened yesterday, it is happening today and it will happen tomorrow," he added.
Just as Mr. Rajinikanth

was about to finish his speech, Mr. Haasan signalled to him to stay put, and ran up on stage to join him.
"Only love has seen us last 43 years together in this industry – don't you think we will last longer?" Me. Haasan asked. Just like our cinema careers took off in different directions after we acted together, we may move separately in the next facet of our lives. But no matter where our paths take us – and we don't know what the future holds for either of us – our friendship will never fade," Mr. Haasan said.
"Rajinikanth's seen it all during his time in this industry. That's why he is still supporting me and standing by me. Only love wins in the end," he added.

ISRO gets set for launch of Cartosat-3 next week

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU
The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) returns to launching its operational satellites this month after a hiatus of six months.

Best resolution
Cartosat-3, with an ISRO-best resolution of 25 cm, will be the first of a series of high resolution, third generation satellites planned for observing the Earth.
The satellite will be able to pick up objects of that size (25 cm) from its orbital perch about 509 km away. This will make Cartosat-3 among the few sharpest, if not the best, civil earth imagers worldwide.
Although ISRO sent up

Chandrayaan 2, the lunar orbiter probe, in July, its previous functional satellite was RISAT-2B, launched in May.

IN BRIEF



Bill Gates bats for seed development
NEW DELHI
To support small farmers, it is important to double investment in technology innovations to develop new seeds which are resistant to heat, drought, humidity and pests, said billionaire philanthropist and tech mogul Bill Gates. Mr. Gates was speaking at an international agricultural statistics conference on Monday.

Dalit man's family to receive compensation
CHANDIGARH
The Punjab government on Monday offered to pay compensation of ₹20 lakh and a government job to the deceased Dalit man's wife and free education for his children. The family of 37-year-old Jagmel Singh who was mercilessly thrashed and forced to drink urine earlier this month ended their protest after the announcement. PTI

TikTok causes religious hate, says petition
MUMBAI
A Public Interest Litigation has been filed at Bombay High Court seeking ban on TikTok because it claims that the app is "causing hatred, disbalance and enmity among religious groups and has affected the country's diversity".

3 professors quizzed over IIT-M student's death
CHENNAI
A special team on Monday interrogated three professors, whose names allegedly figured in the notes left by 19-year-old Fathima Latheef, the first year student who ended her life in her hostel room at the IIT Madras 10 days ago.

Revisiting Jallianwala Bagh through Victoria Memorial

Kolkata monument to hold exhibition

SHIV SAHAY SINGH
KOLKATA
Victoria Memorial Hall, a symbol of the grandeur of the colonial era, will for the first time host an exhibition on what is considered the worst blot on the British Empire, the Jallianwala Bagh massacre of 1919.
The installation exhibition titled, 'Ways of Remembering Jallianwala Bagh & Rabindranath Tagore's Response to the Massacre' is unique not only because it links Punjab and Bengal almost 100 years after the killings but because of the venue hosting it. It was only a couple of years after the massacre that Victoria Memorial was opened to the public in 1921 and this is the first time that the hall is holding some event around the killings.



Victoria Memorial was opened to the public a few years after the massacre.

"It was a conscious choice to approach the Victoria Memorial Hall and we are happy that they agreed," Sarmistha Dutta Gupta, a Kolkata based scholar and writer who is curating the exhibition, told The Hindu.
"The VMH and Ministry of Culture are providing full support for putting up the installation," she added.
Ms. Dutta Gupta said that the exhibition was not about providing information to people as to what happened on April 13, 1919, but to place it in context. "There is something called the politics of memory. This installation is to question our forgetfulness around many significant facets of this episode in our history," she remarked.
In Bengal, the response to the massacre was not limited to a letter by Tagore to Viceroy Chelmsford on

May 31, 1919, giving up his knighthood. Tagore engaged with the atrocities in Punjab in a major way in 1919-20 till the matter was discussed in the British Parliament.
His letters with C.F. Andrews and other public figures and various other kinds of archival documents have been used in the installation.
Ms. Dutta Gupta is collaborating with Sanchayan Ghosh, who teaches at Kala Bhawan Santiniketan, for the artistic direction of the installation and both of them travelled to Punjab to trace local memories around the massacre.
"We are using oral narratives recorded in the form of videos of families who were directly affected by the massacre," she said. "We have also explored parts of the city of Amritsar that faced brutally racist martial law orders like the Crawling Order and traced the changing meanings of the Jallianwala Bagh site for local people," she added.



Wrong signals

The release of killers of Melavalavu sends out an undesirable message to society at large

The release of 13 life convicts responsible for the massacre of six Dalit men in Tamil Nadu in 1997 has caused understandable disquiet among activists and members of the Scheduled Castes. The Madras High Court has voiced its displeasure over the release of the convicts, on grounds of ‘good conduct’ in prison, and asked the State government to produce the relevant orders. The murder of Murugesan, who was elected president of the Melavalavu panchayat in Madurai district, along with five others, by members of a dominant caste, who resented the local body’s leadership being reserved for Scheduled Castes, had created a sensation then. That was an era in which there was considerable communal tension between Dalits and intermediate castes. In the Melavalavu case, the Sessions Court and the High Court had sentenced 17 men to life terms. The Supreme Court confirmed the convictions in 2009. Three convicts in the Melavalavu case were released in 2008 by the DMK regime. Now, the AIADMK government has courted controversy by freeing the remaining 13 (one is no more). Last year, it convinced the Governor to agree to the release of three men found guilty of burning alive three students when they set fire to a bus in Dharmapuri during a protest in 2000. The Supreme Court had initially upheld the death penalty for the three, but, on a review petition, commuted it to life, citing their lack of intention to kill members of the public and that they had been gripped by “mob frenzy”.

The Supreme Court has repeatedly clarified that ‘life sentence’ means imprisonment till the end of one’s natural life. However, the law also provides for remission of sentences, including life terms. Under Section 433A of the Code of Criminal Procedure, a convict sentenced to life for an offence that also attracts the death penalty, or has had his death sentence reduced to life, can be considered for release only after completing 14 years in jail. Last year, the AIADMK government released hundreds of prisoners to mark the centenary of late party founder M.G. Ramachandran. While decongesting prisons by freeing inmates, especially for good conduct, and after they have served specified years, is permissible in law, there will be a question mark over mass release without regard to the nature of the crimes committed. Guidelines for remission do exclude those in prison for specified crimes such as terrorism, rape and economic offences. But when those guilty of a caste atrocity such as the Melavalavu massacre are released, it is certain to send out an undesirable message. Ideally, mass release of prisoners should be avoided, and the desirability of freeing each one of them should be separately considered. The Advisory Board that recommends such release should have the benefit of a social impact report as well as the opinion of the trial court.

A precedent

The court ruling on Essar Steel is important in enabling quick resolution of bankruptcy cases

The Supreme Court’s judgment on Friday in the matter of Essar Steel’s bankruptcy is a landmark in the short history of insolvency and bankruptcy resolution in India. Apart from clearing the way for eventual sale of Essar Steel to ArcelorMittal, the verdict has clarified on important aspects of insolvency resolution that had been interpreted variously by the National Company Law Tribunal and the National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT). First off, the apex court has upheld the primacy of financial creditors over operational creditors in the repayments waterfall, and rightly so too. It is the financial creditors who provide capital to an enterprise and their interests are secured in the form of collaterals on the firm’s assets. Operational creditors, who are largely suppliers of goods and services, are unsecured creditors and they cannot claim equality or precedence over financial creditors. Second, the Supreme Court has shown the NCLAT, which was attempting to appropriate the role of the Committee of Creditors (CoC) in an insolvency resolution, its place. The ruling is clear that the CoC is supreme when it comes to deciding on commercial issues, including the repayment waterfall, in an insolvency resolution. These two clarifications should alone help in quickening a number of other cases, big and small, that are stuck in the insolvency courts across the country.

The apex court has also held that the 330-day limit for resolution is not sacrosanct. This will ensure that creditors are not pressured to accept a below-par deal due to paucity of time. With critical aspects of the law clarified, there may also not be reason to fear that entrenched promoter-defaulters can misuse the unlimited time now available to them. With the go-ahead given to the sale of Essar Steel, it is expected that banks will recover over 90% of the over ₹40,000 crore that the company owes them. Operational creditors are set to receive close to ₹1,200 crore. This should clearly help improve the financial position of weak public sector banks and bolster profitability as the Essar dues were fully written off by them. Shares of banks such as State Bank of India, and Punjab National Bank rallied following the verdict. More importantly, the decision, it is believed, will serve as a useful precedent when it comes to deciding on future bankruptcy cases. The insolvency and bankruptcy process is still young in India. There is a long way to go yet, especially in the matter of recovery percentages. The Essar Steel resolution has raised the bar but the overall recovery in all cases that have been adjudicated is less than 50%. This has to improve, along with the time taken for resolution, because significant capital is locked up in bankrupt companies.

The mother of non-issues

Rules and provisions on maternity entitlements have been brazenly violated and ignored for years, but who cares?



JEAN DRÉZE

Sometimes I wonder what the world would be like if men, not women, were bearing and delivering babies. Quite likely, the maternity (oops, paternity) wards in hospitals would have the best equipment and doctors. The shelves of grocery shops would be filled with special food items for pregnant men. Women and children would be mobilised to attend to the needs and wishes of the heroic lads who give birth. An array of new professions, products and technologies would develop to make their life easier, and pregnant men would also have free bus passes and separate queues. Further, paternity benefits would be given through flagship social programmes, with hefty budgets.

In contrast, maternity benefits in India are a non-issue. The Central government is clueless about their legal, financial and political aspects; as are the Opposition parties.

Maternity benefits, of course, are reasonably generous (by international standards) for a small minority of Indian women employed in the formal sector and covered, in principle at least, under the Maternity Benefit Act. The vast majority of pregnant women, however, are left to their own devices.

Jaccha-Bachcha Survey

We had a telling glimpse of the hardships they face last summer, during the Jaccha-Bachcha Survey (JABS), conducted with student volunteers in six States of north India – Chhattisgarh, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha and Uttar Pradesh.

For lack of knowledge or power, most of the sample households were unable to take care of the special needs of pregnancy, whether it was food, rest or health care. Among women who had delivered a baby in the preceding six months, only 31% said that they had eaten more nutritious food than usual during their pregnancy. Their average weight gain during pregnancy was just seven kg on average, compared with a norm of 13 kg to 18 kg for women with a low body-mass index. In Uttar Pradesh, 39% of the respondents had no clue whether they had gained weight during pregnancy, and 36% had gone through it without a health check-up. It is only in Himachal Pradesh, where rural women are relatively well-off, well-educated and self-confident, that the special needs of pregnancy received significant attention.

Maternity benefits could help to relieve these hardships and give babies a chance of good health. Under the National Food Security Act, 2013, all pregnant women (except those already receiving similar benefits under other laws) are entitled to maternity benefits of ₹6,000 per child. For more than three years, the Central government simply ignored its duty to act on this. Whenever the Supreme Court enquired about it, the government made false promises. Finally, on December 31, 2016, the Prime Minister proudly announced that pregnant women nationwide would soon be getting maternity benefits of ₹6,000. He said this without any reference to the NFSA, as if maternity benefits were an act of generosity on his part – perhaps to sweeten the demonetisation pill.

In pursuance of this announcement, a maternity benefit scheme was rolled out in 2017: the Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY). The modalities of the



GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

scheme, however, violate the NFSA: benefits are restricted to the first living child, and to ₹5,000 per woman. A budget provision of ₹2,700 crore was made for it in the 2017-18 budget – a fraction of the ₹15,000 crore required for full-fledged implementation of maternity benefits as per NFSA norms. The actual expenditure was barely ₹2,000 crore; the allocation oddly reduced to ₹1,200 crore in the revised Budget of 2018-19.

A damp squib

Until recently, little was known about the performance of PMMVY, but two helpful sources of information are now available: summary statistics obtained from the Ministry of Women and Child Development under the Right to Information Act, and the JABS survey.

According to the Ministry’s response to our RTI query, 80 lakh women received at least one instalment of PMMVY money between April 1, 2018 and July 31, 2019, and 50 lakh received all three instalments. On a 12-month basis, this would correspond to 60 lakh and 37.5 lakh partial and full beneficiaries respectively in the Financial Year 2018-2019. Based on an estimated population of 134 crore and a birth rate of 20.2 per thousand (2017 estimates), the annual number of births in India

would be around 270 lakh. Of these, a little less than half would be first births.

These figures imply that in 2018-19 only around 22% of all pregnant women received any PMMVY money, and around 14% received the full benefits. This scheme, in other words, is a damp squib.

The JABS survey suggests that PMMVY has been ruined in three steps. First, the coverage and benefits were reduced (compared with NFSA norms, which are very modest in the first place). This defused public demand for PMMVY. Had the benefits been higher and universal, the scheme would have been a hit. Second, the application process is tedious. Aside from filling a long form for each instalment, women have to submit a series of documents, including their ‘mother-and-child protection’ card, bank passbook, Aadhaar card and husband’s Aadhaar card. Essential details in different documents have to match, and the bank account needs to be linked with Aadhaar. Had the government tried to discourage applications, it could not have done better. Third, there are frequent technical glitches in the online application and payment process. When an application is rejected, or returned with queries, the applicant may or may not get to know about it. Grievance redressal facilities are virtually non-existent.

Special mention must be made of Aadhaar-related problems. Some of them are replays of problems observed earlier with pensions, scholarships and the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act: for instance, rejected payments due to mismatch (say, in the spelling of the beneficiary’s name) between a person’s Aadhaar card and bank account. There are also new problems. For instance, more than 20% of the

respondents mentioned that they had faced difficulties because the address on their Aadhaar card was that of their *maika* (parents’ home), not of their *sasural* (in-laws’ house). Why women are required to submit their Aadhaar card in the first place, let alone their husband’s Aadhaar card, is far from clear.

Examples of T.N., Odisha

Meanwhile, some State governments have put in place effective maternity benefit schemes of their own. One notable example is Tamil Nadu, the serial pioneer in the field of social security. Under the Dr. Muthulakshmi Reddy Maternity Benefit Scheme, pregnant women in Tamil Nadu receive financial assistance of ₹18,000 per child for the first two births, including a nutrition kit. Odisha’s Mamata scheme also covers two births, albeit with lower entitlements – ₹5,000 per child, as with the PMMVY. The JABS survey suggests that the Mamata scheme is working reasonably well: among women who had delivered in the last six months, 88% of those eligible for Mamata benefits had applied, and 75% had received at least one of the two instalments.

It would take very little to extend and consolidate these initiatives on a national basis. The Modi government, however, is not interested. Nor, it seems, are the Opposition parties: efforts to draw their attention to these issues earlier this year, in the run-up to the Lok Sabha elections, made little headway. Even the Congress Party, chief sponsor of the NFSA, did not mention maternity entitlements in its elaborate manifesto. If only men were the ones who give birth...

The author is a visiting professor at the Department of Economics, Ranchi University

When longevity is the biggest achievement

This week, Abe is set to become Japan’s longest-serving PM; but his legacy may not be as enduring as his term in office



PALLAVI AIYAR

On November 20, Shinzo Abe will become the longest-serving Prime Minister of Japan, overtaking Taro Katsura’s record of 2,886 days in office.

Mr. Abe has been in power for two different spells: a short-lived one, between July 2006 and September 2007, and the current stretch since 2012. Over the last seven years, he has brought stability to a political landscape that had been fractured, honing the image of a strong, conservative leader readying Japan for a newly muscular role in a shifting geopolitical landscape.

Mr. Abe has steered the economy out of deflation and decline, if not into growth. He has presided over a significant increase in the country’s military capabilities and attempted to expand Japan’s strategic options beyond its traditional reliance on the United States.

The TINA factor

And yet, his legacy might not be as long-lasting as his time in office. Critics say the only reason Mr. Abe is still in power is because of a weak and uninspiring Opposition. In other words, the TINA (there is no alternative) factor that voters

around the world are all too familiar with.

When Mr. Abe returned to power in 2012, Japan had been through five Prime Ministers in as many years. His immediate order of business was implementing a set of economic reforms to stimulate the economy, popularly dubbed Abenomics. The three pillars of this stimulus included monetary easing, fiscal spending and deregulation to promote private investment. He also vowed to bring more women into the workforce, an attempt nicknamed “womonomics”. More recently, Mr. Abe has reinvented Japan, from a recalcitrant participant in trade liberalisation to a leader of the Trans-Pacific Partnership bloc, after the U.S. withdrew from it in 2017.

Under him, Japan has boosted defence spending and enhanced its ability to project power outside of its borders. In a historic shift in 2014, Mr. Abe’s government reinterpreted (without amending) the Constitution to permit Japanese troops to fight overseas for the first time since the Second World War. A five-year defence programme announced in 2018 allocated 25.5 trillion yen (\$233.7 billion) in spending, a 6.4% rise over the previous five years.

On the diplomatic front, Mr. Abe has reached out to traditional partners like the U.S. (he was the first foreign leader to meet with Donald Trump after the President’s election), while keeping ties



with rival China on an even keel. Mr. Abe made an official visit to Beijing last October (the first such visit in nearly seven years) and President Xi Jinping is expected in Japan next year. For Japan, it has been a difficult balancing act, to avoid excessive dependence on the U.S., while anticipating the dangers associated with a more assertive China. Mr. Abe has demonstrated considerable tactical pragmatism in walking this tightrope.

Mr. Abe has also reached out to strengthen alliances with regional powers like India and floated the idea of a Free and Open Indo-Pacific for which he has gained the backing, to varying degrees, of the U.S., Australia and India.

But, despite this smorgasbord of initiatives, Mr. Abe’s tenure has not been entirely rosy. The Japanese economy remains limp and Japanese corporations have so far proved unable to transform themselves into 21st century technology leaders. Though, during his tenure, Japan has benefited from periods of economic growth and low unemployment, the country re-

mains mired in a slow-growth, high-debt deflationary trap. The government recently downgraded its 2019 growth forecast to 0.9% from an earlier prediction of 1.3%.

Moving away from pacifism

Domestically, Mr. Abe’s vision of a less pacifist Japan remains deeply contested. His most cherished policy goal is the amendment of Article 9 in the Constitution: the clause that restricts Japan’s ability to maintain a military deterrent. But it is looking no closer to fulfilment than it did at the beginning of his reign. The Prime Minister wants to write the existence of Japan’s Self-Defense Forces, as the military is known, into Article 9, giving constitutional standing to de facto reality. However, a survey conducted by the *Asahi Shimbun* newspaper earlier this year showed that 64% of respondents opposed even this modest revision. While Mr. Abe continues to reiterate his pledge to push through the revision by 2020, it is looking increasingly unlikely that he will prove successful.

It is also not clear how effectively, or if at all, Japan can meet the challenge of China’s increasing heft. Relations with neighbour and potential ally, South Korea, are worse than ever. Under Mr. Abe, Japan has made little progress in facing up to its historical responsibility for the widespread atrocities of the Japanese Imperial Army in the Second World War. The recent

deterioration in relations with Seoul were prompted by unresolved grievances involving Koreans who were forced to work in Japan’s mines and factories during the war, as well as “comfort women” who were made to service the military’s brothels. Far from helping heal the historical wounds inflicted by Japan, Mr. Abe’s nationalistic stance is seen as unrepentant at best and provocative at worst.

Finally, for all his cosying up to the U.S. President, Mr. Abe has failed to insulate Japan from Mr. Trump’s transactional approach to international relations. The U.S. administration has recently asked Tokyo to pay roughly four times as much as it currently does to offset the costs of stationing American troops in Japan. The White House also threatened Japan with punitive tariffs on Japanese vehicles even as it was negotiating a bilateral trade deal with Tokyo. The administration had earlier raised tariffs on Japanese steel and aluminium.

Barring any major upheavals, Mr. Abe’s long reign will come to an end in September 2021 when his term as leader of the Liberal Democratic Party finishes. At the current juncture it looks as though he will get a pass in the history books, though not with distinction. ‘A’ for longevity, but a ‘B,’ at most, for everything else.

Pallavi Aiyyar is a writer and journalist based in Tokyo

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.

Reviewing the verdict

The Ayodhya verdict was unique in that the Supreme Court gave a self-contradictory message to the Muslims: ‘the land belongs to you but it does not belong to you.’ Many pieces of evidence were clearly placed showing that the Babri Masjid was in the possession of Muslims between 1857 and 1949. The court itself accepted that the placement of idols in the masjid in 1949 and its demolition in 1992 were both illegal, but the verdict gave an impression of rewarding the perpetrators of the acts, instead of punishing them. Faith must also have some grounding in reason. On this occasion,

the faith of one party was given a legal status against the faith of the other, which had placed incontrovertible proof (Front page, “Muslim law board to file review plea against Ayodhya verdict,” Nov. 18). We only hope that the review petition results in a correction of the discrepancies by the court.

K. MALIKUL AZEEZ,
Chennai

Sri Lanka election

It cannot escape notice that what has driven the majority voters in Sri Lanka to vote for Gotabaya Rajapaksa is the fear instilled in their minds by the blasts earlier this year, which killed more than 250

people (Front page, “Gotabaya wins in presidential poll,” Nov. 19). The security of the country appears to have been the paramount consideration, and the voters have backed a person known for his strong but reportedly controversial ways of putting down acts of terror.

R.V. EASWAR,
New Delhi

Economic malaise

The article by the former Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh lays out threadbare India’s economic situation (Editorial page, “The fountainhead of India’s economic malaise,” Nov. 18). It is, however, silent on

the questionable measures adopted by the government such as appropriation of central bank reserves and privatisation of many undertakings. The government is facilitating accumulation of wealth in the hands of corporates, who are euphemistically called ‘wealth creators’. Dr. Singh’s article is also silent on the agrarian crisis. With the regime engrossed in non-issues like building a temple in Ayodhya, the common man’s future has never been so bleak.

G.B. SIVANANDAM,
Coimbatore

Sabarimala entry

The Kerala government has rightly said that it would

await the Supreme Court judgment of the review petition pertaining to the entry of women of a certain age in the Sabarimala temple, knowing full well the interplay of religion and politics in today’s context. The Left government faced a lot of difficulty in enforcing the verdict last year when right-wing forces tried to disrupt the peaceful atmosphere. The review has to be seen in the context of such forces wanting to consolidate

communal politics. It should be said that there cannot be any compromise on the emancipation of women but such emancipation cannot be secured solely by entry of women of a particular age into temples. In taking this decision to send the review petition to a larger Bench, the Supreme Court perhaps saw the writing on the wall.

N.G.R. PRASAD,
Chennai

CORRECTIONS & CLARIFICATIONS: >>>The report titled “MPs, bureaucrats skip meeting on Delhi pollution” (Nov. 16, 2019) erroneously gave the Cabinet Secretary’s name as *Pradeep Kumar Singh*. The current Cabinet Secretary’s name is *Rajiv Gauba*.

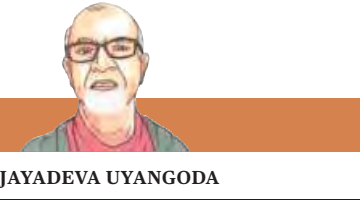
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An elusive reconciliation in Sri Lanka

It can be achieved only through democratic, inclusive, and accommodative means



JAYADEVA UYANGODA

The outcome of Sri Lanka’s presidential election has surprised the winners, the losers as well as the observers. The most obvious, arguably disquieting, and unanticipated trend is the re-sharpening of the majority-minority divide in electoral choices. Gotabaya Rajapaksa, the winner, has received overwhelming backing of the majority Sinhalese-Buddhist community. He has been almost totally rejected by the minority Tamil and Muslim voters who are concentrated in the Northern and Eastern provinces, the Central province’s plantation country, and some urban areas of the Western and Southern provinces. Sajith Premadasa, Mr. Rajapaksa’s main challenger, has received support of a majority of Tamil and Muslim voters. He has been rejected by the Sinhalese voters.

The vote shares show that Mr. Rajapaksa has received a clear mandate that has also rocked Mr. Premadasa’s coalition, the New Democratic Front. The vote distribution between the two candidates is a reaffirmation of the continuity of ethnic polarisation in shaping the political destinies of Sri Lankan society. This is a factor that the new government should not fail to address in a manner that will heal the wounds of the past. The outcome is also a severe blow to candidates who emerged to form a ‘third force’, with the hope of breaking the monopoly of the two main political coalitions in the near future. These ‘alternative’ candidates could not secure even 4% of the total votes.

Impact of the Easter attacks

There is one major reason that seems to have contributed to this polarising outcome: the political impact of the Easter Sunday bombings. The attacks targeted Sinhalese and Tamil Catholics as well as civilians. The attacks exposed the utter failure of the government leadership and the defence establishment to prevent them, despite prior warnings. The far-reaching consequences of the attacks run parallel to the way in which the 9/11 terrorist attacks on the U.S.



“Gotabaya Rajapaksa’s campaign focused primarily on the promise of establishing a national security regime.” Supporters of the Rajapaksas rejoice in Colombo after Gotabaya Rajapaksa’s victory. ■ GETTY IMAGES

changed the contemporary politics of the U.S. and Western Europe.

The political impact of the attacks was seen in multiple ways. The bombings created a deep sense of insecurity among citizens as well as a loss of faith in the capacity of the leadership to provide security and safety. Amidst public outrage, the government began to face an unprecedented crisis of public confidence. The attacks also set in motion a new wave of Islamophobia, spearheaded by social media, which spread rapidly, particularly among the Sinhalese-Buddhists.

This new phase of Sinhalese nationalism gave rise to a fresh political consensus: the ‘weak and ineffective’ government should be replaced with ‘a strong government’ headed by ‘a strong leader’ with the capacity and resolve to protect citizens from a new generation of terrorists, with international connections and modern technological capabilities.

By this time, Mr. Rajapaksa, a former Defence Secretary who was in charge of the war against the LTTE, had already begun his campaign to be a candidate for the election. He and the Sri Lanka Podujana Peramuna had also developed a political campaign focusing primarily on the promise of establishing a national security regime led by a strong leader free from the shackles of liberal democracy. This was the alternative offered to replace the deeply divided, inept and crisis-ridden government jointly headed by President Maithripala Sirisena and Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe.

How did the Sinhalese, Tamils and Muslims respond to the two oppos-

ing political alternatives presented by the two principal candidates? Mr. Premadasa was the candidate of the New Democratic Front, a broad coalition formed a few weeks before the election. Its key partner is the United National Party (UNP), headed by Mr. Wickremesinghe. The multi-ethnic coalition is supported by the main Tamil and Muslim parties.

Mr. Premadasa, deputy leader of the UNP, was given party candidacy only in late September, due to internal party differences between the two factions led by him and Mr. Wickremesinghe. Having entered the fray rather late, Mr. Premadasa developed a welfare state narrative that countered his government’s neoliberal economic and social reform policy agenda as well as his opponent’s national security narrative. During the election campaign, Mr. Premadasa also projected himself as the candidate of the poor and marginalised.

Election results indicate that Mr. Premadasa’s central promise of bringing the welfare state back, with an ideology of paternalistic populism, failed to make any significant impact on the Sinhalese-Buddhist electorate. The fact that he was the candidate of a ruling party that had lost public trust and the resultant anti-incumbency disadvantage added to his woes. However, the most important reason why he was rejected by the Sinhalese section of the electorate by a substantial margin was the perception that he was not nationalist enough to be President in the post-Easter Sunday context.

It is also Mr. Premadasa’s weak Sinhalese nationalist credentials that ensured him overwhelming support

– in many electorates over 80% of the valid votes – among Tamil and Muslim voters. The Tamil and Muslim citizens seem to have had an insecurity problem different from their Sinhalese counterparts. The source of this is the political elite of the Sinhalese nationalist coalition led by the Rajapaksas. The latter’s past track record, from the point of view of the minority communities, has had a distinctly Sinhalese-nationalist orientation. Mr. Rajapaksa’s development agenda for Tamil- and Muslim-majority provinces could hardly resolve the insecurity dilemma of the ethnic minorities. In the districts where the Tamil and Muslim communities are dominant numerically, Mr. Premadasa polled more than 1 million votes over Mr. Rajapaksa. These votes contributed to his national total and national average quite significantly. In many electorates in the North and East, Mr. Rajapaksa’s share of votes is as low as 20%.

The pressures of big electoral victories are such that the new President and his family members, who will constitute the core of the new regime, might find it difficult to resist the temptation of giving into the wishes of their Sinhalese nationalist constituency. This is particularly so in view of the ethnic polarisation of the verdict.

Healing wounds

However, to fulfil his promise of taking the country out of its present state of deep economic and governance crisis as well as ushering in an era of economic prosperity and political stability, the new President will need to rebuild the trust between the majority and minority communities. The best, incurring possibly the lowest political cost, to achieving that goal lays through democratic, inclusive, dialogical, and accommodative means, despite the popular support for a possible retreat from traditional forms of democracy.

Thus, the election outcome highlights once again how inter-ethnic reconciliation continues to be centrally relevant to any recovery and reform agenda for post-war Sri Lanka. Reconciliation is needed to heal the wounds in a country that is struggling to come out from a recent past of violence and democratic setbacks.

Jayadeva Uyangoda is Emeritus Professor of Political Science, University of Colombo

BRICS on the ball?

The grouping must first focus on its existing commitments



RAJIV BHATIA

The 11th summit of the BRICS grouping comprising Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa was held in Brasilia last week. Pitted as a counterweight to G7, the combine of developed economies, BRICS represents the world’s top emerging economies and claims to serve as a bridge between the developed and developing world. What are its current concerns and priorities? Questions are also being raised about its efficacy and impact.

Brasilia outcome

With Brazil’s President Jair Bolsonaro as the chair, BRICS was supposed to go into a slow mode. Instead, it hosted 116 meetings of leaders, ministers and others. During Brazil’s chairship, the grouping reported 30 new outcomes, initiatives and documents. The latest summit needed a 73 para-long Brasilia Declaration to spell out the leaders’ shared worldview and spectrum of their work.

However, it is difficult to identify new elements in the BRICS’s endeavour to strengthen and reform the multilateral system. The “urgent need” to reform the UN, the World Trade Organization, the International Monetary Fund and other international organisations was stressed once again, even as little progress has occurred on this score. Interest in open and free trade was reiterated, despite growing protectionist tendencies. On expansion of the UN Security Council, BRICS exposed its disunity yet again by sticking to the formulation that refuses to go beyond China and Russia supporting the “aspiration” of Brazil, India and South Africa “to play a greater role in the UN”.

Much to India’s satisfaction, the commitment of BRICS to counterterrorism seems to be getting strengthened. Its working group on countering terrorism has expanded its activities through five thematic subgroups that deal with terrorist financing, use of Internet for terrorist purposes, countering radicalisation, issue of foreign terrorist fighters, and capacity building. If these exertions make India more secure, they will be most welcome.

Where the BRICS shows signs of advancing is in the economic domain. Here, five facets need to be highlighted. First, the New Development Bank (NDB), the grouping’s flagship achievement, has 44 projects with its lending touching \$12.4 billion, in just five years. This is not a small gain, but the bank needs to grow as “a global development finance institution”. A move is now afoot to

open its membership selectively. The summit leaders are understood to have agreed on the criteria and probably on a list of nations as possible new members, although a formal decision has been left to the bank’s board of governors. NDB has opened its regional centres in South Africa and Brazil, and will do so in Russia and India in 2020.

Second, with a successful Contingent Reserve Arrangement in the bag, BRICS governments are set to establish a local currency Bond Fund. But the earlier proposal to launch a credit rating agency remains shelved due to internal differences.

Third, business promotion among member-states has been accorded a new salience. The BRICS Business Council held a substantive dialogue to foster cooperation in areas ranging from infrastructure and energy to financial services, regional aviation and digital economy. Its cooperation with the NDB is being encouraged. The national trade promotion agencies signed an MoU on cooperation among themselves. A BRICS Women Business Alliance was created, both as a women empowerment measure and as a tool to bring “a distinctive perspective on issues of interest for the business community.”

Fourth, following up on the decisions taken at the previous summit, operationalisation of the Partnership on New Industrial Revolution is underway. It is focused on cooperation in digitalisation, industrialisation, innovation, inclusiveness and investment. This partnership will be concretised by establishing industrial and science parks, innovation centres and business incubators.

Fifth, the stress on developing people-to-people interaction remains unchanged, with each chair-country drawing up a calendar of activities to strengthen links of culture, arts, sports, media and academic exchange.

To what avail?

The contribution of BRICS to project the perspectives of developing economies is laudable. However, by hosting outreach meetings with countries in its neighbouring (or broader) region, each chair (with Brazil’s exception) gave the impression that BRICS would do more for them. But the NDB has been lagging behind on this score. It needs to start extending loans for projects in non-BRICS countries to create a solid constituency of supporters. Also, is such a plethora of meetings really essential? Do the results justify the expenditure? India’s representatives should ask, do they help the poor and vulnerable sections of the BRICS community? Finally, BRICS should ponder if in the short term it needs to focus on fulfilling existing commitments instead of taking on new ones.

Rajiv Bhatia, a former High Commissioner to South Africa, is Distinguished Fellow, Gateway House

Odisha’s strides in nutrition

While health outcomes have greatly improved, tribal communities still lag behind

SHOBA SURI

Odisha, which is one of the Empowered Action Group States, or eight socioeconomically backward States of India, has done remarkably well in health and nutrition outcomes over the past two decades. Its infant mortality rate has significantly declined. Its under-five mortality rate almost halved in the National Family Health Survey (NFHS)-4 from NFHS-3. It has seen a steep decline in stunting in children under five. Anaemia in children and pregnant women has also decreased since NFHS-3. Antenatal care and institutional deliveries have shown good improvement. All these changes have been possible with financing, policy support, robust leadership, and innovations in delivery of services.

Nutritional interventions

Nutrition has a strong correlation to health, and is integral to growth and development. Timely nutritional interventions of breastfeeding, age-appropriate complementary feeding, Vitamin A supplementation, and full immunisation are effective in improving nutrition outcomes in children. Odisha has performed better than other Empowered Action Group States in reducing undernutrition, and sets an example with its nutrition action plan calling for convergence with health, nutrition, and WASH (water, sanitation and hygiene) programmes. Odisha has taken a decisive step of decentralising the procurement of supplementary nutrition under the Integrated Child Development Services programme. This has led to fair access of services under the ICDS by all beneficiaries. This is evident from the rise in utilisation of services under the ICDS as compared to a decade ago. There has been a marked improvement in supplementary nutrition received by pregnant and lactating women in NFHS-4 compared to NFHS-3.

However, despite progress in child and maternal indicators, Odisha continues to be plagued by a high level of malnutrition. There is stark variability across districts in stunting ranging from as high as 47.5% in Subarnapur to a low of 15.3% in Cuttack. Wasting

is high in 25 out of 30 districts. Almost half of the under-five children from tribal communities in Odisha are underweight, and 46% are stunted. The infant mortality rate among tribals is the fourth highest in Odisha, after Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh.

Supplementary food given under the ICDS programme has shown a significant increase. However, data show that less of such food is given as children grow older. There is also a decline in children receiving timely complementary feeding. Less than 10% of children receive a minimum acceptable diet. This can be attributed to a possible lack of understanding and awareness about nutrition due to illiteracy.

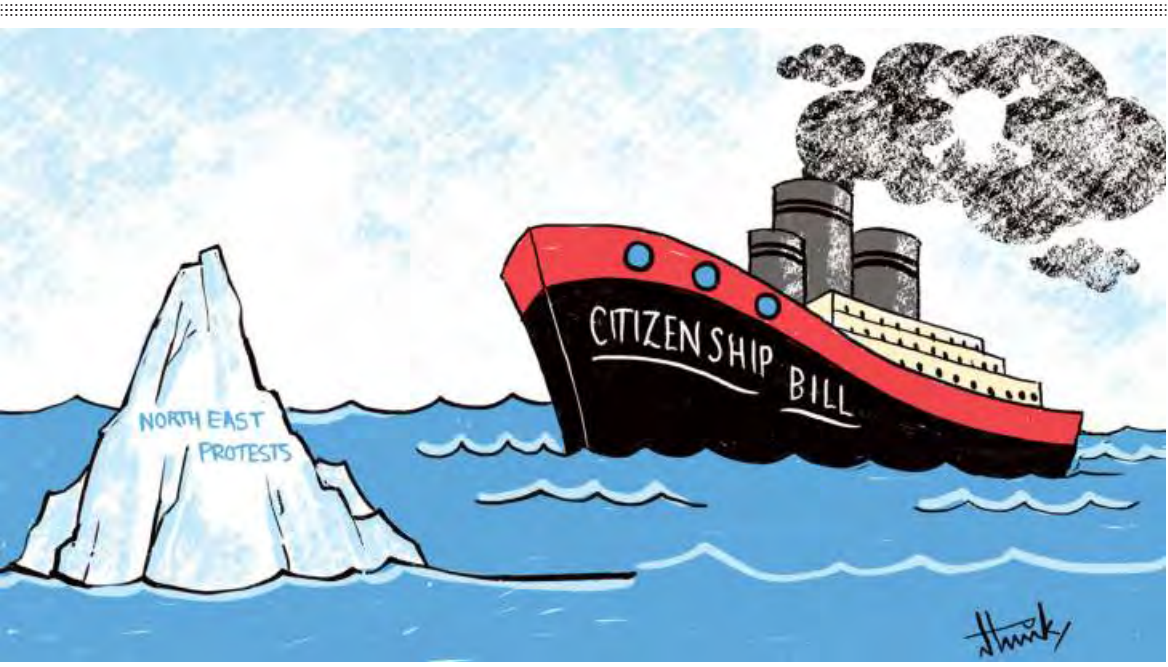
Improving implementation

Another challenge for Odisha is in reaching out to remote and particularly vulnerable tribal groups. This could be the reason why tribal women and children are lagging behind the national average on nutrition and health indicators. It is essential to improve the implementation of schemes, and ensure last-mile delivery of nutrition services. A part of the solution lies in setting up mini Anganwadi centres catering to far-flung tribal hamlets. Raising awareness through community campaigns on the need for good nutrition would help improve utilisation of services by beneficiaries.

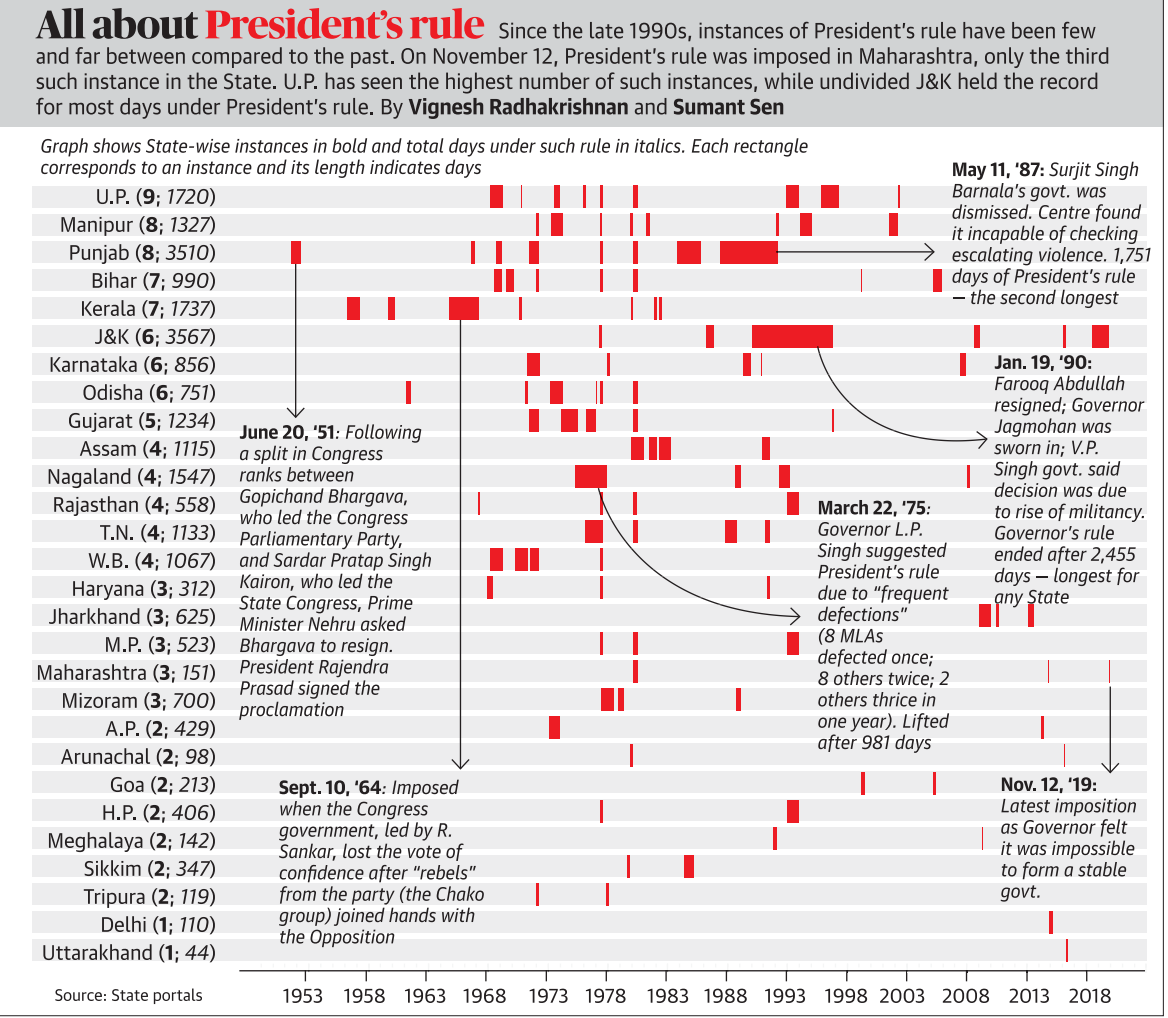
The International Food Policy Research Institute, in its research, called for inter-department engagements to accelerate the nutrition outcome in Odisha. There is a need to improve sanitation, women’s education and underlying poverty, to be able to tackle undernutrition.

Underweight children should also be identified precisely so that the monitoring mechanism for improving service delivery can be strengthened. The National Nutrition Mission sets an example with its inter-ministerial convergence and real-time monitoring mechanism for tracking each beneficiary and tackling malnutrition.

Shoba Suri is Senior Fellow, Health Initiative, Observer Research Foundation



DATA POINT



The Hindu.

FROM THE ARCHIVES

FIFTY YEARS AGO NOVEMBER 19, 1969

Fresh efforts to effect settlement

Encouraged by their easy victory in Parliament, the Prime Minister and her senior colleagues are now making an ambitious bid to forge ahead with a well co-ordinated plan of action to capture the Congress organisation, reshuffle the Central Cabinet and consolidate their political grip on the country before the next Republic Day, if possible. After moving a no-confidence motion against Mr. Nijalingappa and electing an acting Congress President in his place at the requisitioned meeting of AICC members in Delhi this week-end, Mrs. Gandhi’s supporters want to hold a plenary session of their own in the first week of January to formalise this seizure of power. According to her present time-table, the Prime Minister will thereafter make some radical changes in her Cabinet to make it more representative of the new Congress Parliamentary Party and provide some additional berths for the starry-eyed younger elements in her camp who have been in the forefront of this power struggle. Mrs. Gandhi is reported to have indicated to some of her senior colleagues that she would not like the total strength of the new Cabinet to exceed 50 as far as possible.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO NOV. 19, 1919.

Elementary Mathematics Association.

The second meeting of the Association was held at 4.15 P.M. on the 15th instant., at the Hindu High School, Triplicane, with Mr. K.R. Ramasami Aiyangar M.A. L.T. in the Chair, when Mr. K. T. Sundara Rajachariar B.A. L.T. delivered a lecture on “The Present Day Mathematics Teacher.” The lecturer pointed out one improvement at the present day that the subject was taught only by teachers who had specialised in it; another distinct advantage was that the old hard and fast lines between Arithmetic, Algebra, and Geometry had been broken through, and the subject now lent itself to a harmonious development as one whole. But the Mathematic teacher had yet to face a number of difficulties in his way, chief among them being the want of a common syllabus, absence in the school libraries of up-to-date books on method and subject-matter, want of adequate co-ordination of the work of the lower forms with that of the higher, the medium of instruction, and lastly the widely differing aptitudes of pupils for the subject, especially in large classes of forty.

FROM PAGE ONE

Uproar in LS over Farooq’s detention

On his part, the Speaker informed the House that though Dr. Abdullah was not under detention when Home Minister Amit Shah had spoken in the House, subsequently he was taken into custody.

He also assured the members that the Business Advisory Committee (BAC) would discuss when the

House can debate Kashmir.

The Lok Sabha witnessed slogan shouting and uproarious scenes as soon as question hour started, with around 30 members from the Congress trooping into the Well and shouting slogans against the government for registering false cases against Opposition leaders.

Learn from NCP, BJD members, says PM

He said the Rajya Sabha represented the country’s diversity and reflected the spirit of the federal structure. Speaking about the contribution of the House, he said it had passed important legislation on Goods and Services Tax, triple talaq and Article 370.

Speaking after Mr. Modi, former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh said the Rajya Sabha had a central role in providing “checks and balances to a majority government in the Lok Sabha, along with its other key role to represent the interest of the States in our federal Union.”

Hitting out at the government, he said misuse of the money Bill provision by the executive had been observed recently. This had led to the Rajya Sabha being bypassed on important legislations.

“Those in the Treasury benches must ensure that such instances are avoided. It dilutes the stature and importance of our institutions, including the Rajya Sabha,” he said.

He said the House should have a greater role in legisla-

tion with far-reaching consequences, like “redrawing the boundaries of States”, in a reference to the Reorganisation of Jammu and Kashmir Bill, 2019 that was passed in the last session.

‘Need to introspect’

Earlier, Rajya Sabha chairperson, Vice-President M. Venkaiah Naidu, kick-started the discussion by saying there was a need to introspect, while appreciating the Upper House’s contribution.

“A week back, one committee appointed by the Parliament, a Standing Committee, led by Jairam Ramesh was able to complete its work and submit the first report. That is the positive side. One committee when its meeting was called, 25 of the 29 members were absent from the meeting which drew widespread criticism,” he said.

Meanwhile, addressing the media earlier in the day, Mr. Modi said the government wanted an open debate on all issues and hoped that the winter session of Parliament would be a productive one.

Bhutan to levy charges on tourists from India

According to the new policy, however, they would be charged a Sustainable Development Fee, which is yet to be determined, as well as a “permit processing fee.”

Mr. Dhradhul denied that

the new charges were aimed at cutting down tourism numbers, especially from India, in the next few years, but at allowing them to “grow in a sustainable manner.”

Pawar silent on ties with Sena after meeting Sonia

Last week, the NCP chief had said a government will soon be in place and will last the full term of five years.

However, after his meeting with the Congress president, Mr. Pawar displayed no sense of hurry and said they still have to consult a few more pre-poll allies like Samajwadi Party and the Swabhimani Shetkari Sangathan headed by Raju Shetti.

“We want to talk to all parties who supported us. We did not talk about the Shiv Sena,” the NCP chief said and refused to categorically rule out the possibility of a government with the Sena. To a question on the possibility of the NCP providing outside support to a BJP-led government, Mr. Pawar said “majority of the seats won by the NCP was against the BJP.”

The NCP chief’s Monday meeting also comes amid reports that Shiv Sena chief Uddhav Thackeray had postponed his plan to visit Ayodhya (post the Supreme

Court verdict) after reported reservations by the Congress-NCP alliance.

“Sharad Pawar met the Congress president... and it was decided that in a day or two, representatives from the NCP and the Congress will meet in Delhi to discuss the way forward,” Congress chief spokesperson Randeep Surjewala said in a tweet.

On November 12, Maharashtra was put under President’s Rule after no party or alliance could provide numbers to back their claim.

Though the Sena had met the Governor and claimed ‘in-principle’ support from the Congress-NCP alliance, it could not produce any formal letter as none was given to them.

The issue of supporting the Sena had divided the Congress: while the Maharashtra leaders wanted to be part of a Sena-led government, several national leaders, especially those from Kerala like Mr. Antony and K.C. Venugopal, are opposed to it.

Security for Gandhi family inadequate: Cong.

Access control to Ms. Gandhi’s 10 Janpath residence, handled by the Delhi police, is also turning out to be a serious concern, Mr. Venugopal said.

“The quality of access control at 10 Janpath is dete-

riorating by the day. The Delhi police are taking a casual approach,” Mr. Venugopal said.

He also requested the Centre to take measures to “ensure that our leaders are protected”.

Sena in Opposition benches

Party signs notice moved by Trinamool seeking discussion on economic crisis

SOBHANA K. NAIR
NEW DELHI

Sanjay Raut, Rajya Sabha member of the Shiv Sena, on Monday, signed a notice moved by the Trinamool to initiate a short duration discussion on “the grave economic crisis in India and how to improve the situation” in the Rajya Sabha.

This comes days after the Sena walked out of the ruling National Democratic Alliance over sharing of power in Maharashtra. The Sena’s three MPs have been shifted to the Opposition benches. In keeping with the alliance talks with the Nationalist Congress Party (NCP), Mr. Raut was seated next to Ma- jeed Memon of that party.

The signatories to the notice include the Dravida Mun-



Sanjay Raut

netra Kazgham, Samajwadi Party, Aam Aadmi Party, CPI (M), CPI, the Rashtriya Janata Dal and the NCP. The Congress has submitted a separate notice.

The Opposition had demanded a discussion on the state of the economy during the all-party meeting on Sunday where Prime Minister Narendra Modi had given an

assurance that the government was prepared to hold discussions on any topic proposed by the Opposition.

“We will be taking up the fact that the GDP is on a decline and to hide it all, the government has been suppressing data,” said a senior Opposition leader, declining to be identified. “Apart from this, the government is doing large-scale disinvestment of PSUs and Air India which is as good as selling the family jewels,” he said.

The Congress had called for a meeting of the Opposition on Monday. The meeting, however, was cancelled at the last minute as the Lok Sabha was not adjourned in time.

Over the next few sessions, the Upper House will

see two ordinances being introduced: one on banning e-cigarettes and another on amendments to taxation laws.

The surrogacy Bill that bans commercial surrogacy will also be tabled in the Rajya Sabha.

CPI(M) stand

CPI(M) general secretary Sitaram Yechury said India’s economy had entered a recession.

“As per the international standards, if the GDP falls continuously for two quarters then it’s officially considered as recession. India’s data credibility is the lowest in the world, which is why our global ratings are also being downgraded,” Mr. Yechury said.

Marshals’ olives raise hackles

Veterans voice concern over resemblance to the uniform of Army officers

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Military veterans have voiced concern over the resemblance of the new uniform of Rajya Sabha marshals to the military uniform, complete with peak caps and lanyards.

At the 250th session of the Upper House, which opened on Monday, the marshals came wearing a new olive green uniform in place of the safari suits they wore during summer and the *bandhgalas* during winter along with turbans.

“Copying and wearing of military uniforms by non-military personnel is illegal and a security hazard. I hope VP Secretariat, Rajya Sabha and Rajnath Singh ji will take early action,” former Army chief Gen.V.P. Malik wrote on Twitter.

Army sources said the new uniform of the marshals



Sartorial shift: Rajya Sabha Chairman M. Venkaiah Naidu flanked by Upper House marshals in new uniform on Monday and, below, in their previous uniform on August 8, 2018. •PTI

was similar to that of senior officers. “The peak cap with two oak leaves resembles that of a colonel and those ranked above. There is also

the red band,” an officer said on condition of anonymity.

Lt. Gen. Vinod Bhatia (ret’d) asked, “Why do organisations, private and govern-

ment, and now the respected Rajya Sabha want similarity in attire with armed forces without any consideration for the dignity of soldiers ... Is it because the public holds them in the highest esteem? Legal provisions needed to respect uniform,” he tweeted.

Rajya Sabha members, too, were taken by surprise. Jairam Ramesh, of the Congress, raised the issue, but was not allowed to complete his statement. “Sir, the marshals...,” he started, but Chairman Venkaiah Naidu cut him short, saying, “We are in the midst of a condolence motion.”

Speaking to *The Hindu* later, Mr. Ramesh said, “It seems ‘marshal’ law has been imposed in the Rajya Sabha.”

Rajya Sabha Secretariat officials said the uniform was designed in-house.

Govt. ignored RBI fears: Congress

BJP used electoral bonds scheme to tap black money, says Priyanka

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Congress on Monday accused the Modi government of overruling the RBI to introduce electoral bonds to enable “black money to enter the BJP coffers”, and demanded that the scheme be scrapped immediately.

Attacking the government over the issue, former Congress president Rahul Gandhi said, “In ‘New’ India, bribes and illegal commissions are called electoral bonds.”

The electoral bonds system was implemented hurriedly and national security concerns were dismissed simply to help “black money” pour into the BJP’s coffers, Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra tweeted.

The Congress comments were in response to a media report that quoted commu-



nications between the RBI and the Ministry of Finance on electoral bonds.

The communications showed that while the RBI had expressed serious concerns, the Ministry had brushed these aside and implemented the system.

The RBI, in a letter dated January 30, 2017 and reviewed by *The Hindu*, said the government’s proposal to enable scheduled banks to

issue electoral bonds would result in multiple, non-sovereign entities being authorised to issue bearer instruments, which was the RBI’s preserve.

‘Undermine faith’

“Bearer instruments have the potential to become currency and if issued in sizeable quantities can undermine the faith in bank notes issued by the central bank,” the RBI letter said. “Amending Section 31 of the RBI Act would seriously undermine a core principle of central banking legislation and doing so would set a bad precedent.”

The central bank further said that “there is no special need for, or advantage by” the creation of an “electoral bearer bond.”

Revenue Secretary Hasmukh Adhia, in response to

the RBI’s concerns, had said, “It appears to me that the RBI has not understood the proposed mechanism.”

He said the central bank’s fears about electoral bonds being used as currency were “totally unfounded.”

“Also, this advice has come quite late at a time when the Finance Bill is already printed,” Mr. Adhia added. “We may, therefore, go ahead with our proposal.”

The Congress called it a “corruption-inducing scheme” and demanded an inquiry on what prompted the Finance Ministry to devise the scheme.

“We demand that the BJP government reveal the names of the entities who have bought bonds and to what extent,” Congress MP Rajeev Gowda said at a press conference, demanding that the scheme be scrapped.



Mentor remembered: Trinamool leader Derek O’Brien addressing the Rajya Sabha on Monday •PTI

Rajya Sabha offers tributes to 5 leaders

Jethmalani, Libra, Mishra remembered

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

In a departure from parliamentary norms, the Rajya Sabha allowed many leaders from various parties, instead of just the Chairman of the House, to pay tributes to five parliamentarians, including former Finance Minister Arun Jaitley.

Members recounted their personal experiences with Arun Jaitley, Ram Jethmalani, Jagannath Mishra, Sukhdev Singh Libra and Gurudas Dasgupta.

“He was a democrat to the core and a consummate strategist, knowing when to take a hard stance and when to be accommodative. This talent combined with his innate and unique ability of offering solutions, without compromising on the basic position, made him the most effective interlocutor of the government, both inside and outside Parliament,” Rajya Sabha Chairman M. Venkaiah Naidu said about Jaitley.

Champion of the law

Referring to Ram Jethmalani, he said the country had lost an advocate par excellence, a great champion of legal assistance to the needy and an outstanding parliamentarian.

Jaitley’s death, Leader of

Occasional duellist with us in the media – yet, to many of us, he [Arun Jaitley] was a mentor in Parliament

DEREK O’ BRIEN
Trinamool MP

the Opposition Gulam Nabi Azad said, was a loss not only to the BJP but also to the country.

Deputy Leader of the Opposition Anand Sharma said Jaitley was a bridge builder between the Opposition and the treasury benches.

Trinamool Congress MP Derek O’Brien said, “Polar opposite in ideology across the floor, occasional duellist with us in the media – was yet, to many of us, he [Arun Jaitley] was a mentor in Parliament,” he said.

NCP supremo Sharad Pawar recounted the beginning of his relationship with Jaitley as adversaries in the election to the Delhi & District Cricket Association but never let bitterness seep in.

Many members paid glowing tributes to Gurudas Dasgupta too.

Binoy Viswam of the CPI said Dasgupta had fought all his life for the working class. “His slogan to the workers was, ‘live to fight and fight to live’,” Mr. Viswam said.

Equal representation to all States in RS sought

Members offer fresh suggestions

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Giving all States, irrespective of their population and size, an equal number of seats in the Rajya Sabha and all members, irrespective of their parties’ strength in the House, the same amount of time to speak in debates were among the suggestions made by members during a discussion of the role of the Upper House on Monday.

During the discussion held on the role and future of the Rajya Sabha on the occasion of its 250th session, several members called for equitable representation. Ram Gopal Yadav of the Samajwadi Party said all States should have perhaps six each. The north-

eastern States, he said, did not have enough representation. He said the House should also be able to discuss matters related to judiciary.

Prasanna Acharya of the Biju Janata Dal too said population should not be the basis for deciding representation.

In response to former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh’s charge that only 25% of Bills in the 16th Lok Sabha were referred to committees as opposed to 71% and 60% in the previous two Lok Sabhas, BJP’s Bhupender Yadav said while 17 Bills had been referred to committees in the past five years, only five had been from 2009 till 2014.

Tight curbs on Internet in J&K offices

Security agencies seek complete access to digital content and infrastructure to restore access

PEERZADA ASHIQ
SRINAGAR
Security agencies have directed top J&K officials to sign undertakings to grant complete access to digital content and infrastructure in government offices if their leased line-based Internet were to be restored. The agencies fear there will be “online mobilisation and anti-government protests” against the revoking of the special status of J&K under Article 370.

Going by a signed official undertaking by a senior official, accessed by *The Hindu*, the security agencies have sought “complete access” to all content and infrastructure “whenever required”. The undertakings, signed by the heads of government departments, are vetted by the security apparatus. Even if Internet access is approved, there will be no access to social networking platforms or permission to



No connection: Newspaper offices and other media houses still function without Internet in Kashmir. ■ NISSAR AHMAD

generate proxies, VPNs and Wi-Fi connections. “No encrypted file containing videos or photos should be uploaded. Internet will be restricted to registered devices through a single PC. All USB ports will be disabled,” the undertaking

reads. It makes it clear that “annexation” will follow “any kind of breach and misuse”. The authorities have decided to provide government offices with Internet that has remained blocked for 108 days. Sources said there

were departments that completely relied on Internet and access had been restored to allow them to function normally. “Limited Internet access has been provided to the Srinagar Municipal Corporation, Health Department,

Forest Department, Planning Department, the office of the Deputy Commissioners at the district level, hospitals, etc.,” a senior government official told *The Hindu* on the condition of anonymity. However, the government has so far denied the service to local newspapers and media houses, including the Kashmir Press Club. A government-run media felicitation centre continues to remain single window for hundreds of journalists to file their daily reports. A majority of hospitals and universities, including Kashmir University and the Islamic University of Science and Technology, continue to function without Internet. However, a few FM ratio stations have been allowed controlled access. A police official said the government may restore Internet in phases and with certain restrictions.

No ‘cut and paste’ in bail order, says Delhi High Court

Judge says only a reference made from another case order

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court on Monday clarified that there was no “cut and paste” from an unconnected money-laundering case order to its 41-page judgment passed last Friday denying bail to former Finance Minister P. Chidambaram. A Bench of Justice Suresh Kumar Kait took up the issue on its own, pursuant to a November 17 report in *The Hindu* which had highlighted that facts from an unconnected case of Delhi-based lawyer Rohit Tandon seem to have crept into the order. “I hereby clarify that in paragraph No. 34 of the judgment dated 15.11.2019 [in the case of P. Chidambaram], only a reference to the observations made by this Court in ‘Rohit Tandon vs. Enforcement Directorate’ in

ED seeks rectification of order

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI
The Enforcement Directorate on Monday approached the Delhi High Court seeking rectification of an “inadvertent” error in the order denying bail to former Union Finance Minister P. Chidambaram in

the INX Media money laundering case. The ED urged the court to correct the “accidental slip/inadvertent error” in the November 15 verdict passed by Justice Suresh Kait. The ED sought correction of the errors in paragraphs 35, 36, 39 and 40 of the order.

Bail Appln. No.119/2017 has been recorded,” Justice Kait said. “In paragraph No.35, the facts of the aforesaid case have been mentioned. It has nowhere been mentioned that the observations made in para 35 of the judgment are of the present case,” the judge added. “Thus, there is no cut and paste as alleged and I hereby make it clear that observa-

tions made in paragraph No.35 shall be read as and are confined to the case of ‘Rohit Tandon vs. Enforcement Directorate’,” Justice Kait clarified. “The above mentioned portion in the judgment dated 15.11.2019 passed in Bail Appln. No.2718/2019 titled ‘P. Chidambaram vs. Directorate of Enforcement’ thus stands clarified,” the judge added.

Don’t militarise South China Sea: Rajnath

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI
Taking note of the start of negotiations between the Association of South East Asian Nations (Asean) and China for a Code of Conduct on the South China Sea (SCS), Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said on Monday that India “emphasises the need to protect the rights of states that are not party to these negotiations.”

“It is natural for the international community to have an interest in open sea lanes of communication. We hope that the situation remains stable, without the use, or threat of use of force, or militarisation of the region,” Mr. Singh said at the 6th Asean Defence Ministers’ Meeting Plus (ADMM Plus) in Bangkok. He hoped that the outcome of the talks would be in keeping with all relevant international laws, including the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, and promote freedom of navigation, overflight and lawful commerce in the SCS.

6 killed in Siachen avalanche

Four Army personnel, two civilian porters lose their lives

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI
Four Army personnel and two civilian porters were killed after an eight-member team was buried under an avalanche about 20,000 feet on the Siachen Glacier on Monday. “Despite best efforts, six casualties, which include four soldiers and two civilian porters, succumbed to

extreme hypothermia,” the Army said in a statement. The eight personnel were operating in the northern sector of Siachen Glacier at an altitude of 19,000 feet. Avalanche rescue teams from the nearby posts were rushed to the location for rescue work, the Army said. “All eight personnel were pulled out of the avalanche debris.”

Seven individuals who were critically injured, accompanied by medical teams providing critical care, were evacuated by helicopters to the nearest military hospital, where resuscitative measures were initiated, the Army added. Army sources said the team was proceeding to rescue someone who wasn’t well in a post ahead.

Woman languishing in Assam detention centre since 2010

Wrong details received twice have delayed her release

RAHUL KARMAKAR
GUWAHATI
Wrong details received twice by the authorities have delayed the release of a woman lodged in one of Assam’s six detention camps for foreigners since 2010.

Mamiran Nessa, lodged in western Assam’s Kokrajhar detention centre, should have been set free following the Supreme Court’s order in May to conditionally release all declared foreigners who have completed three or more years in detention. But officers of the Assam Police Border Organisation - it has been tasked with detecting and deporting foreigners or illegal immigrants since 1962 - said she could not be released as they “twice received details wrongly”. In July, the State government informed the Assembly that 335 out of the 1,145 declared foreigners across the six detention centres had spent three years or more in captivity. About a dozen had by then been released.

More than 25 declared foreigners have been released and another 56 are to be released soon. Ms. Nessa is not among them. “Her case is in process. Police are hand-holding to submit the correct information,” Bhaskar Jyoti Mahanta, Special Director General of Police (Border), told *The Hindu* via message.

Formalities fulfilled
Guwahati-based lawyer Aman Wadud, who fights cases of poor declared foreigners *pro bono*, said all formalities according to the Supreme Court’s guidelines have been fulfilled in Ms. Nessa’s case. The formalities include two sureties of ₹1 lakh each and collection of biometric information. On Sunday, a team that included activist Harsh Mander, SC lawyer Prashant Bhushan and Mr. Wadud visited Ms. Nessa’s paternal home near Abhayapuri in Bongaigaon district. “When she was detained, her sons were 2 and 9 years

old. Both brothers were brought up by their elder sister who was still a minor. She dropped out of school and worked as maid to raise them at their maternal uncle’s place,” Mr. Wadud said. Ms. Nessa was married in the 1990s to Jel Hussain of village Takakata near Baghor in western Assam’s Bapeta district. Her family said she was randomly marked a doubtful voter in 1997 without any investigation. “She was subsequently declared a foreigner without any competent legal representation,” Mr. Wadud said. Ms. Nessa’s parents took her children home after her husband fell ill and was mostly confined to the bed. He could visit her in the detention centre only once in nine years. Mr. Hussain died two months ago due to cardiac arrest. Members of his family said his last wish was to see his wife out of jail and beside him. Ms. Nessa has not been told about her husband’s death yet.

ED takes over 7 properties in Kashmir

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI
The Enforcement Directorate on Monday took possession of seven properties attached in Jammu and Kashmir in connection with a terror-funding case against Hizb-ul Mujahideen (HuM) chief Syed Salahuddin and others. “The properties are located in Anantnag, Sopore and Bandipora. They were earlier provisionally attached. After confirmation of the orders by the competent authority, the ED officials visited the places and put up notices declaring that the agency has taken over physical possession of the parcels of land,” said a senior official. Under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act, the ED had issued orders for provisional attachment of 13 assets belonging to accused Mohammad Shafi Shah and six other HuM terrorists. The action was taken on the basis of a chargesheet filed by the National Investigation Agency against them.

Diplomats seek talks on Kalapani

Withdrawal of Indian military sought

KALLOL BHATTACHERJEE
NEW DELHI
Dialogue is the only way forward for addressing the Nepal-India border issue, a senior Nepali diplomatic source said on Monday. The comment from the diplomat came a day after Prime Minister K.P. Sharma Oli demanded withdrawal of Indian military personnel from the Kalapani region which the new political map of India has shown as part of Uttarakhand.

“Dialogue is the only way out given our centuries-old multifaceted bilateral relationship,” said the Nepali diplomatic source on Monday requesting anonymity. He described the Kalapani issue as “a highly sensitive matter” which requires cautious diplomacy. The border issue flared up again on Monday after Mohan Baidhya, leader of the Nepal Communist Party (Revolutionary Maoist), asked for the withdrawal of military presence. Addressing a press conference organised by his party at Janakpurdham in Dhanusha district, Mr. Baidhya said the stationing of the military in Nepali territory is a matter that calls for diplomatic solution. “The government should be serious about the encroachment of Kalapani and seek its resolution,” said Mr. Baidhya who is known for



Mohan Baidhya

his strong views. Nepal has witnessed street protests since India published a new political map on November 2 which portrayed the newly-created Union Territories of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh as separate entities. The same map drew strong protest from Nepal’s Foreign Ministry on November 6 as it depicted the Kalapani region as part of Uttarakhand. Nepal’s Foreign Ministry had said Kathmandu is committed to safeguarding its sovereign territory. Its Ambassador Nilambar Acharya met Foreign Secretary Vijay Gokhale on November 8 and the embassy of Nepal announced that the two sides discussed the “boundary issue”. Sources indicated that a preliminary dialogue to resolve the issue was held and more talks were not ruled out.

Hong Kong protesters make daring campus breakout

Beijing will not sit back if protests continue, warns China envoy

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
HONG KONG

Dozens of Hong Kong protesters escaped a two-day police siege on a campus late on Monday by shimmying down a rope from a bridge to awaiting motorbikes in a dramatic and perilous breakout that followed a renewed warning by Beijing of a possible intervention to end the crisis engulfing the city.

Clashes rumbled throughout the day between protesters and the police who had threatened to use deadly force to dislodge activists holed-up in the Hong Kong Polytechnic University (PolyU). The university siege has become a battle of wills between Hong Kong's stretched police force and the constantly-innovating protest movement.

Late on Monday, dozens of black-clad protesters used a rope to slither down several metres on to a motorway below where they were picked up by waiting motorbike riders.

In an apparently co-ordinated effort, thousands of Hong Kongers streamed towards the PolyU campus to break the siege, as clashes simultaneously raged with the



No let-up: Protesters taking cover from tear gas canisters in Kowloon area of Hong Kong on Monday. *AP

Court rules ban on face masks unconstitutional

HONG KONG
Hong Kong's High Court ruled on Monday that a British colonial-era emergency law revived by the government to ban protesters wearing face masks was unconstitutional. It said the law was "incompatible with the Basic Law", the mini-constitution under which Hong Kong returned to Chinese rule in 1997. REUTERS

police nearby in Kowloon. It was not immediately clear how many protesters remained inside PolyU.

China has refused to budge on any of the protesters' demands, and warned it will not tolerate dissent in the semi-autonomous city. China's Ambassador to

Britain upped the ante on Monday. "The Hong Kong government is trying very hard to put the situation under control," Liu Xiaoming said. "But if the situation becomes uncontrollable, the Central government would certainly not sit on our hands and watch. We have enough resolution and power to end the unrest."

Earlier, the police made dozens of arrests as protesters made a dash for it – sometimes beating people with batons as they held them on the ground.

"Other than coming out to surrender I don't see any viable option for them," Cheuk Hau-yip, Police Commander of Kowloon West, told a press conference, before the daring breakout.

Join me in building Sri Lanka: Gotabaya

New President appeals to minority Tamils and Muslims to work with him after being sworn in

MEERA SRINIVASAN
COLOMBO

Sri Lanka's new President Gotabaya Rajapaksa has urged minorities – who emphatically voted against him in the recent election – to work with him to build the country.

Mr. Gotabaya was sworn in on Monday, following a huge win in the November 16 presidential poll, with 52.25% votes.

Beating his main challenger Sajith Premadasa by a margin of more than 13 lakh votes, he paved the way for his family's return to power, five years after his brother and former President Mahinda Rajapaksa was dislodged from office.

Mr. Gotabaya succeeds President Maithripala Sirisena, who did not seek re-election.

"The main message of the election is that it was the Sinhala majority vote that allowed me to win the presidency," the former Defence Secretary said. "I knew that I could win with only the



Centre of attraction: President Gotabaya Rajapaksa greeting people after the swearing-in ceremony at the Ruwanwelisaya Buddhist shrine in Anuradhapura on Monday. *AP

votes of the Sinhala majority. But I asked Tamils and Muslims to be a part of my success. Their response was not what I expected. However, I urge them to join me to build one Sri Lanka," he said in a televised speech.

Emphasising national security as a top priority, the 70-year-old President vowed to rebuild the state security structure. Speaking of a non-aligned foreign policy approach, Mr. Gotabaya said: "We will remain neutral in

our foreign relations and stay out of any conflict of world powers."

Fielded by the Sri Lanka Podujana Peramuna (SLPP or People's Party), Mr. Gotabaya campaigned on a plank of enhanced national security – a dominant concern for many citizens after the Easter terror attacks in April – development, and prosperity for citizens. He beat the incumbent United National Party's Mr. Premadasa with a decisive mandate, mostly

from the country's Sinhala-majority areas.

Symbolic start

On Monday, he was sworn in near the Ruwanwelisaya, a Buddhist shrine in the historic city of Anuradhapura in the island's North Central Province. The symbolism was hard to miss.

Considered a sacred site by Buddhists, the shrine was reputedly built by Sinhalese King Dutugemunu. According to popular legend, Dutu-

gemunu defeated Elara – a Tamil prince from the Chola kingdom – more than 2,000 years ago, and reigned as the king of entire Lanka. The site has remained symbolic in the stage of Sinhala-Buddhist political history, according to Nirmal Ranjith Dewasiri, a historian at the University of Colombo. "There are many mythical constructs around Dutugemunu that some historians are sceptical of," he told *The Hindu*.

However, the king "defeating" the Tamil prince became a "paradigmatic" event in popular Sinhala-Buddhist perception and "whoever is trying to defeat a perceived enemy is seen by some as a reincarnation of the king," he said. "The image was invoked when they [Rajapaksa administration] defeated Prabhakaran [LTTE] too."

The choice of venue and the symbolism around it, Mr. Dewasiri said, went in line with Mr. Gotabaya's vote base this election, which was "overwhelmingly" Sinhala-Buddhist.

U.S. tells Gotabaya to uphold human rights commitments

Ready to work with him, says Secretary of State

SRIRAM LAKSHMAN
WASHINGTON

The U.S. has called upon Sri Lanka's new President, Gotabaya Rajapaksa, to uphold Sri Lanka's commitments to human rights and non-recurrence of violence, saying it stands ready to work with him.

"The United States congratulates the people of Sri Lanka on their democratic election and stands ready to work with Gotabaya Rajapaksa as the new President of Sri Lanka," a statement from Secretary of State Michael Pompeo on Monday, released to *The Hindu*, said.

"We call on President Rajapaksa to uphold Sri Lanka's commitments to security sector reform, accountability, respect for human rights, and non-recurrence of violence. Sri Lanka continued to show the strength and resiliency of its democracy with a free, fair, and transparent presidential election befitting Asia's oldest democracy," the statement said.

Mr. Gotabaya has a reputation for ruthlessness – he is accused of war crimes for his role during the civil war in Sri Lanka. The new President has cases against him in the U.S., including for torture.

Mr. Gotabaya's own human rights record is not the only cause for Washington's



Michael Pompeo

wariness of the new government in Colombo.

China's influence

The U.S.-Sri Lanka relationship has been challenging, with China making inroads into the country during the 2005-2015 term of Mahinda Rajapaksa, Mr. Gotabaya's brother, when Sri Lanka drifted towards Beijing rather than New Delhi or Washington.

Specifically, the U.S. has been concerned about some countries in the Indo-Pacific region accumulating unsustainable debt and getting into 'debt traps' with China's infrastructure and development projects as part of its Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). Beijing has pumped billions of dollars into infrastructure projects in Sri Lanka – most notably the Hambantota Port.

"Sri Lanka is a valued partner, and we want to work with the government and people of Sri Lanka to advance cooperation on bilateral and regional issues, including fostering a free and open Indo-Pacific re-

gion where all countries can prosper, deepening good governance, and promoting justice, reconciliation, and human rights," Mr. Pompeo's statement said.

The return of the Rajapaksa clan could pose a challenge for the U.S.'s "free and open" Indo-Pacific policy.

A case in point is the proposed rollout of development projects funded by a \$480 loan from U.S. aid body the Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC). The MCC funding has been protested, turning it into an election issue. Buddhist monks, who have strongly supported the Rajapaksa brothers, are among those who have been in opposition to the MCC.

With Mr. Gotabaya now in the President's seat, the rollout of the MCC project may be all the more challenging.

"The U.S. will worry about two issues: human rights and governance and ties with China. The Rajapaksas have claimed they have learned from the past about over reliance on China but their track record is uninspiring. There is little reason to expect any positive movement on human rights or reconciliation," Paul Staniland, a South Asia specialist and academic at the University of Chicago told *The Hindu*. "But American interests in competing with China may limit Washington's interest in pushing too hard on human rights, especially in a Trump administration," he added.

'Unfair to attribute racist dimension to Tamil vote'

People's choice must be accepted, says Sampanthan

MEERA SRINIVASAN
COLOMBO

It is unfair to attribute a "racist" dimension to the Tamil vote in Sri Lanka's presidential election, according to senior Tamil leader R. Sampanthan.

His remark comes a day after the election results were declared. The winner – newly elected President Gotabaya Rajapaksa – garnered his 52.25% vote share almost entirely from areas where the majority Sinhalese community is concentrated. On the other hand, Sajith Premadasa – who was defeated – drew huge support in the north, east and central parts of the country that his home to Tamils and Muslims.

All the same, the question of a vote on "racial lines" does not arise, said Mr. Sampanthan, who leads the Tamil National Alliance that endorsed Mr. Premadasa this election. "Both Gotabaya and Sajith are Sinhala-Buddhists. On economic matters, they are probably on the same page, but in regard to minority issues, Sajith was more forthcoming in this campaign," he said.

Since the time Sri Lanka's poll outcome emerged on Sunday, many social media users shared a map of the island, colour-coded to distinguish the regions that voted for Mr. Rajapaksa and Mr. Premadasa. Some commen-



R. Sampanthan

tators pointed to an "ethnic divide" in the mandate, or called it a "polarised verdict". Others went a step further and accused the Tamils of having voted on "racial lines" by rejecting popular candidate Mr. Rajapaksa.

"If the Tamil people had wanted to vote on racial lines, wouldn't they have voted for Tamil candidate M.K. Shivajilingam who, it may be argued, had racist overtones in his manifesto? Instead, they voted in large numbers for Sajith Premadasa."

Various factors

It is also important not to reduce Mr. Gotabaya's mandate to a vote on racist lines, Mr. Sampanthan argued. "Many people who voted for him have done so because of their disappointment with the performance of this government. The non-delivery on various fundamental issues like costs of living, corruption, fertiliser [subsidy], and employment," he said, emphasising there were "various factors".

"People are entitled to make their democratic choice and as long as their vote has been validly cast, it must be accepted."

IN BRIEF



Will consider testifying, says Donald Trump

WASHINGTON
President Donald Trump said on Monday he is "strongly" considering accepting a challenge from Opposition Democrats to testify in his own impeachment investigation. After the Speaker of the lower house, Nancy Pelosi, upped the ante by suggesting that Mr. Trump come forward to tell the "truth," the President said he was keen. "Even though I did nothing wrong, and don't like giving credibility to this No Due Process Hoax, I like the idea & will, in order to get Congress focused again, strongly consider it!" AFP

Pak. successfully tests nuclear-capable missile

ISLAMABAD
Pakistan on Monday successfully test-fired a nuclear-capable surface-to-surface ballistic missile which can strike targets up to 650 km. According to a press release issued by the media wing of the Pakistani military, the launch of the Shaheen-I missile was held as part of a training exercise "aimed at testing the operational readiness of Army Strategic Forces Command". *PTI

Three dead in shooting at Walmart store in U.S.

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
WASHINGTON

Three people were killed in a shooting early on Monday at a Walmart store in Duncan, Oklahoma, local media reported citing the State's highway patrol and the local police.

According to reports, Duncan Police chief Danny Ford said the shooting took place in a parking lot in front of the store and the suspect is one of those killed.

Schools in the area had been placed on lockdown temporarily before being gi-

ven an "all clear" by the police, according to a Facebook statement from Duncan Public Schools.

The shooting took place shortly before 10 a.m. on Monday, the police said. They said two men and a woman died in the incident.

The incident comes in the wake of another shooting that took place in Fresno, California, on Sunday. The police said four people were shot dead and six others wounded on Sunday during a shooting at a gathering in a backyard to watch a football game.

Iran's Guards warn of action if unrest continues

REUTERS
DUBAI

Iran's powerful Revolutionary Guards warned anti-government protesters on Monday of "decisive" action if the unrest over gasoline price hikes does not cease, state media said, in a hint that a harsh security crackdown could be on the cards.

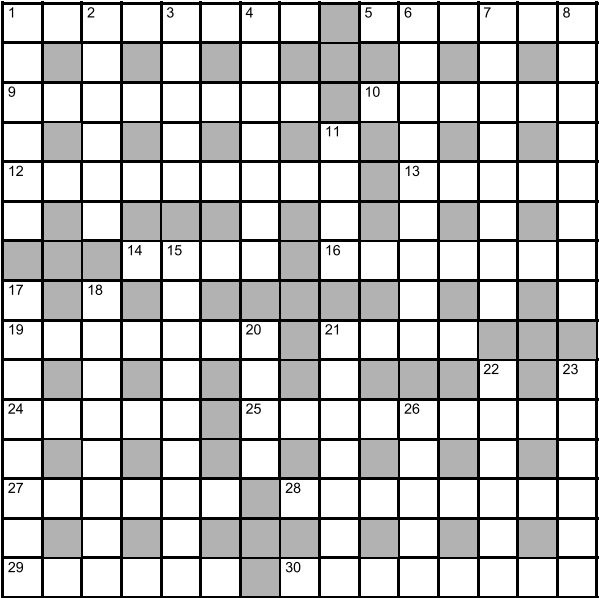
The protests have spread across the Islamic Republic since Friday, turning political with demonstrators de-

manding that top clerical leaders step down. At least 100 banks and dozens of buildings and cars have been torched.

"If necessary we will take decisive and revolutionary action against any continued moves to disturb the people's peace and security," the Revolutionary Guards, Iran's heavily armed main security force, said in a statement carried by state media.

THE HINDU CROSSWORD 12784

Log on to crossword.thehindu.com for more puzzles



ACROSS

- 1 Read out one of the gospels as a farewell message (4,4)
- 5 Entrance of sadly empty plant (6)
- 9 Computer to be assembled during recess (8)
- 10 Alert to look around for sustenance (6)

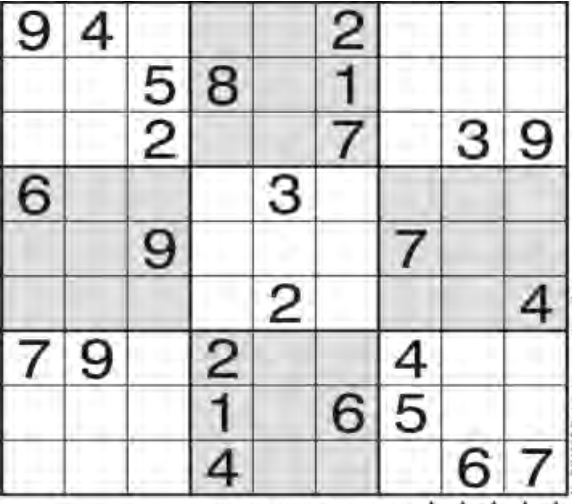
DOWN

- 1 Study short story about canines, perhaps (6)
- 2 Sons and I somehow got lost in Rocky Mountains (US) this season (6)

(set by KrisKross)

- 3 One substituting nothing in work by editor, gets derided (5)
- 4 Buzz circulating over crazy old gangster (7)
- 6 Nobody quips about wearing crown (9)
- 7 Again chooses rock, pop etc. over core classical (8)
- 8 Used long pole's tip for support, finally (8)
- 11 Student going through note gets a shock (4)
- 15 Tore helter-skelter around burning English shrub (5,4)
- 17 Bottle with sticker on top: "Please turn it over" (8)
- 18 Permitted husband to lead, being worthy of respect (8)
- 20 Poem I made up describing an actor (4)
- 21 Hurt and angry without a piece of chocolate after dessert (7)
- 22 KrisKross will break iron bar to make a narrow strip (6)
- 23 Remained calm in discussion (6)
- 26 Cracked by you: "Love" cryptically means "egg" (5)

SUDOKU



Solution to puzzle 12783

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

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

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

FAITH

Amazing simplicity

Nammazhvar says that the Lord is accessible and easy to comprehend as far as His devotees are concerned. He can easily be won with our love, as seen in the case of His attitude towards Yasoda. When Yasoda wanted to punish Krishna, He yielded to her wish and allowed her to tie Him up. If one thinks of His immeasurable greatness, of His infinite auspicious qualities, one cannot help wondering at His simplicity. Yasoda was not a practitioner of any of the three types of yoga, which Krishna later recommended to Arjuna. But her love for Krishna was huge, and it was this love that bound Him, said Kidambi Narayanan in a discourse.

How great a matter this is can be seen if we pick up an example from life. Think of a temple elephant that is led to a river every day by its mahout. He scrubs its body and splashes water all over it, and the elephant enjoys the bath. But on its return to the temple, it picks up dust and sprinkles it over its body. Of course, the mahout, even if unhappy, cannot ask the elephant why it does so. Let us assume the elephant can answer. Then what will the elephant say? It will say that it likes putting sand all over its body, and it will do what it likes. If the mahout were to ask, "If so, then why did you bathe?" The elephant will then reply, "I allowed you to bathe me, because I also like baths."

So, in both cases, the elephant does only what it wants to do, and is not bound by what someone else wants. If an animal can have so much independence, then think of how much more independence the Supreme One will have. The Lord is described as an elephant by Thirumangai Azhvar. But whereas, a four-legged elephant does what it wants, the Supreme One as Krishna submitted Himself to Yasoda, so that she could tie Him up.



To play an interactive version of this crossword online, scan the QR code

MARKET WATCH		
	18-11-2019	% CHANGE
Sensex	40,284	-0.18
US Dollar	71.84	-0.08
Gold	38,775	-0.21
Brent oil	62.66	-0.12

NIFTY 50		
	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Ports	365.65	-0.65
Asian Paints	1739.00	-21.70
Axis Bank	722.95	6.05
Bajaj Auto	3156.90	-58.45
Bajaj Finserv	9104.25	46.40
Bajaj Finance	4154.90	-32.70
Bharti Airtel	409.20	16.15
BPL	521.75	15.20
Britannia Ind	3140.90	-54.65
Cipla	460.60	-2.65
Coal India	200.30	-0.85
Dr Reddys Lab	2737.00	6.20
Eicher Motors	21477.40	153.35
GAIL (India)	124.80	0.50
Grasim Ind	769.50	14.35
HCL Tech	1141.10	-1.20
HDFC	2236.30	12.25
HDFC Bank	1262.05	-15.85
Hero MotoCorp	2502.90	-40.30
Hindalco	193.60	5.85
Hind Unilever	2056.20	-1.50
ICIIC Bank	498.35	-1.50
IndusInd Bank	1374.40	15.40
Bharti Infratel	226.80	-0.35
Infosys	705.20	1.30
Indian OilCorp	132.55	0.85
ITC	250.75	0.10
JSW Steel	249.60	4.85
Kotak Bank	1627.20	4.45
L&T	1364.50	-13.15
M&M	573.70	-9.35
Maruti Suzuki	7098.45	-48.75
Nestle India Ltd.	14085.55	-210.00
NTPC	117.45	0.10
ONGC	133.90	-1.65
PowerGrid Corp	190.65	3.00
Reliance Ind	1459.20	-11.65
State Bank	325.10	3.20
Sun Pharma	424.55	9.50
Tata Motors	170.10	1.55
Tata Steel	410.05	15.55
TCS	2152.60	-21.85
Tech Mahindra	751.80	-0.15
Titan	1158.80	0.35
UltraTech Cement	412.65	48.95
UPL	549.00	18.70
Vedanta	143.40	1.30
Wipro	249.45	-3.10
YES Bank	65.85	-2.85
Zee Entertainment	294.15	6.25

EXCHANGE RATES		
Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on November 18		
CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	71.64	71.96
Euro	79.22	79.57
British Pound	92.82	93.23
Japanese Yen (100)	65.86	66.16
Chinese Yuan	10.19	10.24
Swiss Franc	72.39	72.72
Singapore Dollar	52.63	52.86
Canadian Dollar	54.14	54.39
Malaysian Ringgit	17.23	17.32

BULLION RATES CHENNAI		
November 18 rates in rupees with previous rates in parentheses		
Retail Silver (1g)	47.7	(47.7)
22 ct gold (1 g)	3629	(3638)

‘Indian pharma can gain from U.S.-China trade war’

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD

Chairman of CII National Committee on Pharmaceuticals and Dr. Reddy’s Laboratories co-chairman and managing director G.V.Prasad on Monday said the U.S.-China trade war was an opportunity opening up for the pharma industry of India.

The trade war was making companies in the West take a re-look at the tariff structure as well as worried about security of supply from China. Other factors emerging as a window of opportunity were, China’s stress on shutting high polluting industries and move away from low-end, low-value add products to more innovation. Moreover, China is a big market for Indian pharma.

“China was giving competition in starting materials [but] they have vacated that space,” Mr. Prasad said at a Health and Pharma Conclave of CII and the Institute of Management Technology here and in an interaction with the media on the sidelines.

Highlighting the need for Indian pharma firms to give shape to their backward and forward integration projects, he said “larger companies are looking at India more for product sourcing and services.”

On the regulatory concerns for the Indian pharma industry, in the wake of the increased scrutiny by the US Food and Drug Administration, he said “lot of companies have approvals stalled because of warning letters [from the USFDA]. That has affected new product introduction and growth.” The companies, however, needed to “up their game, systems, integrity of data...” he said, even while citing the regulatory actions as a reason for slowdown.

Vodafone Idea, Airtel to hike tariffs

No word on quantum of increase in rates from Dec., move follows financial impact of AGR ruling

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT MUMBAI/NEWDELHI

Reeling under the impact of the Supreme Court’s ruling on adjusted gross revenue (AGR), Vodafone Idea and Bharti Airtel on Monday announced that they will be increasing tariffs from December, although both telcos did not specify the quantum.

Vodafone Idea Limited (VIL), India’s second largest telco by number of subscribers, has decided to increase the tariff from December 1, 2019, due to the acute financial stress in the telecom sector.

“To ensure that its customers continue to enjoy world class digital experiences, Vodafone Idea will suitably increase the prices of its tariffs effective December 1, 2019,” Vodafone Idea said in a statement without elaborating on the quantum of increase.

However, the telco reiterated its commitment to play its due role in realising the vision of Digital India by continuing to provide seamless mobile services to customers across India despite posting a loss of ₹50,921 crore for the second quarter, the highest in India Inc.

Jio may buy RCom assets ‘at discount’ as Airtel backs out

Valuation will differ from that of the 2017 deal, as bids this time are under IBC, says Jio executive

PIYUSH PANDEY MUMBAI

Reliance Jio is likely to buy out bankrupt telco Reliance Communications (RCom), under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, with Bharti Airtel withdrawing its bids.

This time, Mukesh Ambani’s offer to buy RCom will be at a steep discount compared to the ₹25,000-crore deal between the Ambani brothers announced in December 2017, sources in the know of the development told *The Hindu*.

A senior Reliance Jio executive said, “Earlier, the deal



Distress call: The telecom industry, under severe financial stress, has been demanding a relief package. • P.V. SIVAKUMAR

was for buying certain assets of RCom like spectrum, towers, fiber assets and allied infrastructure. But this time, the bids are for RCom under the IBC process, so the valuations will change.”

On request by Reliance Jio, RCom’s Committee of Creditors (CoC) has extended the deadline and has now decided to open the bid on November 25.

A consortium of Bharti Airtel, its towers arm Bharti Infratel, and private equity firm Varde Partners, which had submitted bid to buy spectrum and tower assets,

India were by far the cheapest in the world even as the demand for mobile data services continued to grow rapidly.

Vodafone Idea shares on the BSE gained 21.47% at ₹4.47 on Monday, as investors anticipate government relief for the sector.

“Building on its largest spectrum footprint and by accelerating its network integration, VIL is speedily expanding both its coverage and capacity and is well on



has sought to withdraw it.

“We hereby formally withdraw our resolution plans while reserving all rights, including the right to submit our resolution plan afresh within the new deadline communicated now,” said

track to offer 4G services to 1 billion Indian citizens by March 2020,” the statement said adding that the company would continue to actively invest in making its network future-fit by embedding new age technologies and launching new products/services to cater to the evolving needs of its over 300 million customers.

Bharti Airtel’s tariff hike announcement comes close on the heels of the company posting a quarterly net loss of ₹22,830 crore for the July-September period

“The telecom sector is highly capital intensive with fast changing technology cycles that require continuing investments. It is, therefore, extremely important that the industry remains viable to support the vision of Digital India,” the company said in a statement.

It added that Airtel would ‘appropriately increase’ price offerings in the month beginning December.

Currently, a Committee of

Secretaries headed by the Cabinet Secretary is examining the financial stress in the sector, and is likely to soon recommend measures to mitigate it.

“While continuing to provide affordable tariffs to customers, it would balance the needs of the company to remain viable and thereby continue to invest in the much needed digital infrastructure and maintain the quality standards required by our customers,” the company said.

‘Prices unsustainable’

Bharti Airtel has for long been pitching for an increase in telecom tariffs stating that the current prices were “unsustainable.”

“We understand that Telecom Regulatory Authority of India is likely to initiate a consultation for bringing rationality in pricing in the Indian mobile sector which has been operating at prices that have been eroding the viability of the sector,” it added.

Harjeet Kohli, authorised signatory for Bharti Airtel, in a letter to resolution professional Anish Niranjan Nana-vaty.

Investment advisor S.P. Tulsian said, “Mukesh Ambani will be the biggest beneficiary as he will pick up RCom assets at steep discount compared to what he promised to pay his brother Anil, two years ago. Bharti Airtel’s cash flow won’t permit it to bid given that it has huge liability due to Supreme Court’s order.”

Bharti Airtel shares rose 4% to close at ₹401.95 in a

weak Mumbai market on Monday, after the company withdrew its bids, while RCom shares fell 3.4% to 57 paisa on Monday after its chairman Anil Ambani resigned on Friday. A Bharti Airtel spokesperson declined to comment.

“Bharti Airtel’s balance sheet is already stretched and they may not want another hole on their balance sheet by acquiring RCom. Reliance Jio is the only profitable telco left and may end up buying RCom,” said Sanjiv Bhasin, executive V-P, IIFL Securities.

SC stays SAT’s order holding that SEBI lacks power to bar auditors

SEBI challenged SAT’s ruling quashing ban on PwC in Satyam

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday stayed an order of the Securities Appellate Tribunal (SAT) which had held that markets’ watchdog Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) does not have the power to bar auditors.

A Bench comprising Justices Arun Mishra and Indira Banerjee also issued notice on the appeal filed by the SEBI against the SAT’s September 9 order.

The SAT, in its order, which set aside the ban on audit firm Price Waterhouse (PwC), had noted that the SEBI does not have the power to bar auditors.

Earlier, the SEBI had challenged SAT’s decision to quash a two-year ban that was imposed on PwC in connection with the ₹7,800 crore Satyam fraud.



On January 10, 2018, the watchdog slapped a two-year ban on Price Waterhouse (PwC), an arm of PricewaterhouseCoopers India, from auditing any listed company in connection with the PwC’s role in the scam.

The tribunal had quashed the order but partly allowed disgorgement of the ₹13 crore fee from the auditors concerned.

‘RBI surplus transfer will be as per panel norms’

Policy as per Section 47 of RBI Act

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA NEW DELHI

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Monday said transfer of surplus reserves from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to the government in future would depend on net income and other financial parameters of the central bank besides the recommendations of the expert committee on excess capital.

The surplus distribution policy of the RBI is determined in accordance with Section 47 of the RBI Act, 1934, Ms. Sitharaman said in a written reply to the Lok Sabha.

“The quantum of surplus transfer to the government in the coming years would depend on RBI’s net income, ‘required realised equity’ as per cent of RBI’s

balance sheet and ‘available realised equity’ as a per cent of RBI’s balance sheet in the coming years, and shall be governed by the legal provisions of the RBI Act, 1934 read with the recommendations of the committee as accepted by RBI,” Ms. Sitharaman said.

The Minister was replying to a question asked by Gopal Chinnaya Shetty if the issue of surplus reserves of RBI was resolved as per the suggestions of the Jalan committee and whether in future the government was likely to get additional dividend from RBI as per the recommendations of the said committee.

The Bimal Jalan expert committee had submitted its report to the Reserve Bank of India on August 14, 2019.

Sundaram BNP Paribas HF renamed

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT CHENNAI

The name of Sundaram BNP Paribas Home Finance Ltd. has been changed to Sundaram Home Finance Ltd. with effect from Monday, following the receipt of all regulatory approvals relating to the acquisition of BNP Paribas Personal Finance S.A. France

In June 2019, Sundaram Finance Ltd. (SFL) and BNP Paribas Personal Finance had reached an agreement, whereby BNP Paribas Personal Finance had agreed to sell its entire 49.9% equity stake in Sundaram BNP Paribas Home Finance Ltd. to SFL.

The transaction was completed on September 30 after regulatory approvals. The name change is a consequence to this, the company said.

MINI TEJASWI BENGALURU

Being the torchbearer of Indian IT, Karnataka’s contribution will be extremely crucial for the country to reach its ambitious mandate of becoming a \$1-trillion digital economy by 2025, according to industry leaders.

The State government said it had a commitment to grow its technology business to \$150 billion in the next five years from the current \$50 billion.

However, large technology firms, start-ups, R&D outfits, accelerators, incubators and educators participating at the State’s annual IT show, Bengaluru Tech Summit, here on Monday, unanimously said the technology sector in the State required a revamp for it to get back to quick growth and contribute meaningfully to the country’s \$1-trillion digital



Nivruti Rai

journey.

Speaking on the occasion, Nivruti Rai, country head, Intel India, said, at present, the focus areas for R&D in India were electrical engineering, chemistry, mechanical engineering and healthcare.

However, in the patent front, the country has to do a lot more. Giving out data, she said, in 2008, India had filed 750 global patents, when China had 6,000, and the U.S. had 53,000 patents. In the next 10 years, that’s in

2018, the U.S. had only 56,000 patents, but China had 60,000 patents and India just 2,100 patents. That means, for every 6,000 people, the U.S. has a patent, for every 25,000 people, China files a patent and in India one patent is filed for a population of 6,00,000 people.

“This is no sad story, but it is a huge, 600 times bigger opportunity out here for India, its entrepreneurs, start-ups, innovators and R&D outfits,” insisted Ms. Rai.

Participating in a session on Bengaluru’s Role in Achieving \$1-trillion Digital Economy, Biocon CMD Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw said: “To achieve something big, one need to be a risk-taker and a change-maker. We need to have a clear strategy and roadmap to make it happen. We also need to have regulations and policies to build an economy around data.”

In the 1670s Maratha King Shivaji's son Sambhaji Bhonsle added tamarind to the dal, creating sambar. Now the Palace of Thanjavur is, for the first time, sharing other heirloom recipes

RANJANI GOVIND

Did you know that the Thanjavur Marathas first started combining dal, vegetables and tamarind to make *sambar*? This royal kitchen, which does not use tomato, was also the first in South India to make kebabs.

At Dakshin ITC Windsor in Bengaluru, Abaji Rajah Bhonsle, the younger brother of the present king Rajah Bhonsle of the Palace of Thanjavur, is discussing his family's heirloom recipes. A member of the 16th generation of the Thanjavur Marathas, from Rajah Venkoji's (who was the half-brother of Maratha king Shivaji) lineage, Bhonsle will be travelling with his royal menu from Bengaluru to Jaipur and Kolkata next.

Tracing a culinary trail from the times of Venkoji (the first Raja of Thanjavur from the Bhonsle dynasty who took over administration in 1674) Bhonsle and wife Dhanashree Abaji Bhonsle, spoke about rare dishes that have never been cooked outside the royal kitchen before. "We are happy to make some heritage dishes from our platter public," he says. He adds that "Praveen Anand (Executive Chef Southern Cuisine, ITC Hotels) has translated them impeccably in this seven-city tour (of the festival titled Thanjavur Royal Kitchen)."

All the vegetables used are of Indian origin. "We don't use cauliflower, carrot, beet or potato. Even the fish we use is from the nearby lakes of Thanjavur. Now tell me, aren't we different in our taste buds?" jokes Bhonsle.

He explains how the royal kitchens were earlier divided into very specific categories. There were Maratha (non-vegetarian), vegetarian and *angrezi* (European) kitchens, of course. But the palace also had kitchens with very specific functions: sherbet khana (sherbets),



The king who made sambar

In a pickle

• The Thanjavur kitchens make an unusual pickle. Made with lime, fish, mutton and prawns, they avoid vinegar as a preservative, instead using turmeric and salt along with garlic, mustard seeds, red chilli and gingelly oil. • Their sweet Dood Bhopla Peta is largely made of grated bottlegourd, which is then mixed with khoya and milk. The consistency of the sugar syrup is very important, so this dish requires a skilful hand.

obdhar khana (water) and thatti mahal khana (milk). From these kitchens mouth-watering kebabs, khalias, kor-na, kozhambu and many-splendoured delicacies were produced.

The Maratha kingdom in Thanjavur under the rule of Rajah Serfoji II thrived as the king was a scholar and an eye surgeon whose achievements spanned culture, music and cuisine as well. Serfoji built Saraswathi Mahal Library in Thanjavur within the precincts of the Palace to house his enormous book and manuscript collection.

"One amongst the umpteen treasures are ancient heirloom recipes

dating back to the 1780s," says Bhosle. He explains how these form a compendium of palm leaf documents, more than 500 bundles in all, written in Modi-script under the name 'Sarabendra Pakashastra.'

"Although the first print of the palm leaf was taken in 1812, it was only in the 20th Century that we translated some of the dishes from just 50 bundles into Hindi, Tamil and Marathi for a present-day re-



#DELHIMOVES

Meet after work

GAGAN DHILLON KULLAR

After sunset, the AstroTurf at the National Sports Club of India (NSCI), near Pragati Maidan, is lit by stadium lights. On most days you can catch players defending their goalpost against the opposite team. These are not professional footballers but regular office-goers who prefer to sweat it out on the field before calling it a day.

Vikalp Mudgal, 31 a Delhi-based lawyer, often plays here. Twice a week 12 lawyers get together after work for a sweat session reminiscent of their childhood. "Playing football after work lets me unwind from a pressure driven routine," says Vikalp.

The Vasant Kunj Tricky Taka set up FIFA-approved AstroTurf for 6 vs 6 football matches with facilities open around the clock. TheFootballLink, also in Vasant Kunj, offers similar amenities, and also a 5 vs 5 ground option.

There is clearly a demand for sporting venues that function past sunset. Both companies offer a pay to play option. It takes approxi-

Play team sports at pay-to-play venues, as an outlet for stress and an opportunity to build or make new connections

mately ₹2,000-3000 to book the ground for an hour.

Venues are relatively easy to book but it can be challenging to find teammates. Usually co-ordination and joining a game takes places on WhatsApp. It is a matter of securing an invitation from a member of a football or cricket group on the chatting app. Facebook is another great platform to find active sports groups in your area. Do look for local sports and fitness groups on meetup.com/cities/in/delhi/sports-fitness. To book a field or join a game try apps like Sportido or Playo.

Connecting with others over a game can be rewarding for school



Sweating it out Vikalp Mudgal in action •SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

and college-going students too. It's a great opportunity to interact with professional in a non-formal setup. The lucky ones may even find a mentor in a teammate.

Besides burning off steam, playing a sport with peers can go a long way in building relationships and networking, minus the small talk. That's another reason that Vikalp

Royal menu Chef Praveen Anand (left) along with the Thanjavur Maratha royals Abaji Rajah Bhonsle and Dhanashree Bhonsle
■ SAMPATH KUMAR GP

cord. A comprehensive 150-odd recipes with exact measures are mentioned," says Bhonsle adding that about 50 of these were shared with Chef Praveen for the festival menu.

This included *kelyachi bhaji*, which is raw banana tossed with *karivadagam* and *hurit*, which is a blend of dals that are roasted with sesame and rice before being pounded into a grainy powder. There is *khendatta*, a curry of vegetables made with four kinds of pulses, and a bowl of brinjal gravy that is rich in coconut, all these served with *lad bakri* or rice pan cake and hot rice.

The meaty dishes include poppy and chilli-smearred fish fillets, pan fried in ghee and the *komdiche*, chicken kebabs made with coriander, pepper and ginger.

The recipes also include directions for *Dhanedhar Shunti*, which are parcels of pounded lamb meat with spices and the unusual *kesari maas*, a mutton mince tossed with saffron. The palace's answer to biryani is *komda* pulao, Tanjore's chicken pulao.

"We have some of the best sweets. *Shakar Biranji*, for example, which is sweetened pulao with almonds, coconut and sultanas. And grated bottlegourd cake with dry fruits and sugar," says Dhanashree. She adds that some of the favourite foods of Rajah Serfoji, such as *lad bakri*, *khendatta* and *kesari maas* are still being cooked today.

Consider another revolutionary invention of the royals. Shivaji Maharaja's son Sambhaji Bhonsle, in the late 1670s, was the first to use vegetables and dal with tamarind for a new dish, according to Palace records. It later came to be known as sambar, our staple today.

"Sambhaji was attempting to make *amti*, the Maharashtrian dal, but instead of lemon juice he used tamarind with extra vegetables," said Bhonsle.

"His accidental innovation was widely appreciated. Gradually with a mixture of masala powders it started being called *sambar* as people would say '*Sambhaji Aahar Aahe*' (dish made by Sambhaji)."

PRODUCTS

A brief history of time

Now wear a Kanjeevaram silk on your wrist, or just the Tamil script, in a watch



Tamil Nadu is famous for the timeless architecture of the Madurai Meenakshi Temple, the delicate craftsmanship of Kanjeevaram silk weavers and a script that carries the legacy of the mighty Pallava dynasty. Now, you can carry a piece of the state's heritage with Titan's Namma Tamil Nadu Collection, timepieces that celebrate it.

Inspired by the state's culture, there are three themes. The first presents the Annapakshi or 'divine swan' motif, which is thread embroidered on silk and positioned next to a mother of pearl dial. Yali, a mythical creature commonly found on the pillars of South Indian temples is the highlight of the second design, alongside an abstract lotus pattern and the iconic skyline of the Meenakshi temple of Madurai. The Slip on the third watch has the Tamil script denoting the time with a smart date sub dial encased within a gold-plated bezel.

Walking customers through the collection, Revathy Kant, chief design officer, Titan Company, said, "The collection pays a contemporary ode to the legacy of the state." She added that the symbols chosen represent the state's vibrant past. "The design resonates with the local culture while catering to the modern man and woman," she adds. The watch also features the brand name in Tamil, a first in the regional language.

With seven time-pieces for both men and women, the craftsmanship also boasts artistic dials crafted with different techniques — material fusion, embossing, 3D forming and knurling. They are available in gold, rose-gold and steel finishes.

Available at Titan.co.in and the World of Titan stores; upward of ₹4,495

ADITI SUBRAMANIAN

SERVICE

Home for a haircut



On International Men's Day today, the five-year-old UrbanClap has launched a men's grooming in Delhi-NCR and eight other Indian cities, including Mumbai, Bengaluru, Pune, Hyderabad, Chennai, Chandigarh, Kolkata, and Ahmedabad, out of the 14 cities they operate in. On offer are services such as a hair cut, shave, beard grooming, facials, pedicures, and hair colour. The services are available across ages, including for children. Similar to the at-home salon services for women, professionals will arrive on site with grooming products and tools. Expect disposable towels and sheets along with a post-service clean up.

On the UrbanClap app, between 7 a.m. and 10 p.m., daily, including weekends

Contact us at delhimetro@thehindu.co.in

5 EVENTS WORTH YOUR WHILE



ART

Canvas

Art curator Kishore Labar has a group art exhibition titled Conversation that has the participation of about 30 artists who are showcasing their memories on canvases. The participating artists include Amrit Kapoor, Christina Dipa Patowary, Deepika Bedi Puri, Deepika Singh, Rashmi Malhotra, Shobha Nagar. **VENUE:** Visual Arts Gallery, India Habitat Centre **TIME:** 11 a.m. - 8 p.m.



FOOD

Winter special

Time Machine, a North-Indian and Continental restaurant in Noida has unveiled a special Tandoori Menu for the winter. The Maharaja's Tandoori veg platter offers dishes like Tandoori Malai Broccoli, Bhatti ka Paneer Tikka, and the non-veg platter has Lamb Galouti, and Chicken Kathi Rolls, Ajwaini Fish Tikka, and more. **VENUE:** Gardens Galleria, Sector 38 **TIME:** 12 noon - 12 midnight



WORKSHOP

Skincare

Beauty author and *The Hindu* columnist Vasudha Rai will conduct a skincare workshop called Glow, named after her book, this evening. Vasudha will offer tips and tricks on how to detoxify in order to enhance the skin's radiance. The session also includes three breathing techniques that help to cleanse the body. **VENUE:** Second Floor, Select Citywalk, Saket **TIME:** 4 p.m. - 6 p.m.



GIG

Latin grooves

The Piano Man Gurugram is hosting the Raffaele Matta Trio live this evening. Raffaele Matta is a modern guitar player inspired by Western classical, Indian classical, and contemporary musical forms. With Andrea Parodo on the bass and Nicola Vacca on the drums, this Italian trio promises Latin grooves and modern jazz. **VENUE:** 32nd avenue, Sector 15 Part 2 **TIME:** 9 p.m. - 11:55 p.m.



EXHIBITION

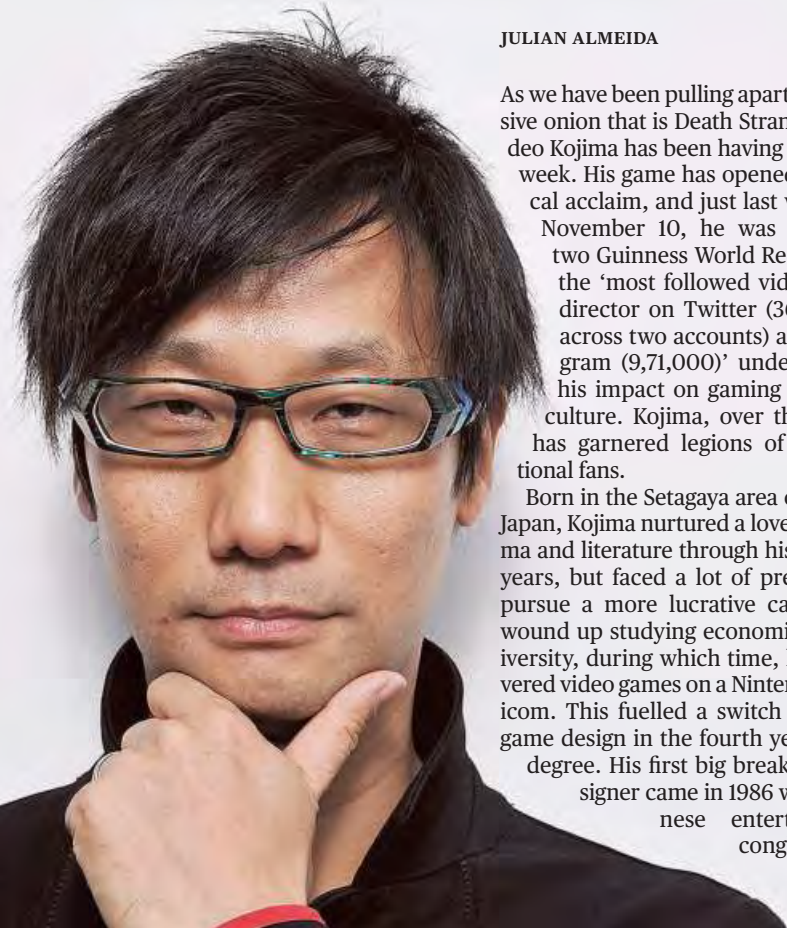
Oil on canvas

Yaatra, a solo show of paintings by Pathologist and Medical Teacher Dr. Anjali Solanki is currently on display at the All India Fine Arts & Crafts Society. A self-taught artist, Anjali's paintings depict vulnerability, fragility and sufferings of life along with the quest to attain union with the environment. **VENUE:** AIFACS, 1 Rafi Marg **TIME:** 11 a.m. - 7 p.m.



Godfather of gaming

Through Metal Gear Solid and Death Stranding, Hideo Kojima has proven to be a marker of the evolution of entertainment tech



What a player
(Clockwise from bottom left) Hideo Kojima, stills from Death Stranding, Metal Gear Solid 4 and Metal Gear Solid, Kojima with Guillermo del Toro
SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT



JULIAN ALMEIDA

As we have been pulling apart the massive onion that is Death Stranding, Hideo Kojima has been having quite the week. His game has opened to critical acclaim, and just last week, on November 10, he was awarded two Guinness World Records for the ‘most followed video game director on Twitter (36,26,300 across two accounts) and Instagram (9,71,000)’ underpinning his impact on gaming and pop culture. Kojima, over the years, has garnered legions of international fans.

Born in the Setagaya area of Tokyo, Japan, Kojima nurtured a love for cinema and literature through his teenage years, but faced a lot of pressure to pursue a more lucrative career. He wound up studying economics at university, during which time, he discovered video games on a Nintendo Famicom. This fuelled a switch to video game design in the fourth year of his degree. His first big break as a designer came in 1986 with Japanese entertainment conglomerate Konami’s MSX home computer division.

MSX is a standardised home architecture system favoured by early game developers, including Konami. This would later frustrate him due to the restrictions of technology then. Eventually, his bold visions would motivate him to innovate and create the technology that would support them.

A foray into the intense

Kojima’s debut title Penguin Adventure (1986) was one of the first instances of multiple endings in a game. It also opened a door for him to take on the reins of the Metal Gear franchise – which not only introduced Solid Snake to us, but was also one of the first true stealth games. His other success then came in the form of the Blade Runner-esque game called Snatcher (1988), where he first experimented with camera tilts and mature content. Kojima kept evolving this cult favourite with recorded dialogue as it transitioned to CD-ROM formats in 1992.

Metal Gear Solid was unveiled at the 1996 Tokyo Game Show in Chiba, and – much like Death Stranding now – no one had experienced anything quite like it, for its complex storyline and movie quality cut-scenes.

Never wanting to be in one vertical, he also worked on other projects, including space-mecha-combat game Zone of the Enders, courting mild successes in rebooting vampire-based game Castlevania with Lords of Shadow. Yet, his fate was always entwined with that of the Metal Gear universe, until a radically different project.

Released as a free demo in 2014, P.T. (or Playable Teaser) is a first-person psychological horror video game set in

a looping hallway of jump scares. While the game did not have cut-scenes, the entire hallway sequence was structured like a playable handheld horror movie.

To many gamers’ delight, it was co-directed by Kojima and Guillermo del Toro, and this experience would eventually lead to a reboot of the well-known Silent Hill franchise. Sadly, things soured between Kojima and Konami, and as a result, P.T. was pulled out. Till today, those surviving P.T. demos have remained undeleted on PlayStations and players are actively experiencing new phenomenon. Prior to leaving Konami to re-form his studio, Kojima made Metal Gear Solid V: The Phantom Pain. Kojima Productions is entirely independent, and they with Sony unleash his full potential with Death Stranding, of which the trailer was unveiled at the E3 conference in 2016.

He explained his philosophy in a recent interview with *Game Informer*, “Previously, in design, you had to create the rule because you couldn’t do the realism. In our everyday lives, there are so many mechanisms we have to work through, and we have to



take the balance of what we do, how we maintain ourselves, and how we live. I wanted to free the game design concept that we had to live by because we didn’t have the technology to do so in the past.”

Kojima is known to flagrante global anticipation prior to his creations’ releases. For example, the feverish viral confusion that followed the trailer of the recent Death Stranding. Now, gamers are working hard at piecing together that one big puzzle he created. Meanwhile, Kojima has already got future plans, to get back to what got him started down this path in the first place: making films.

Driving tech

But what about the futurist in Kojima? He is a proponent of technology, openly adapting the tech to be a conduit for his stories. If the stories in his head require Virtual Reality, he will do so. For Metal Gear Solid V: The Phantom Pain,

Odes to Kojima



“In films, you see the same ideas, the same tropes, the same something that a few years earlier might have been groundbreaking now become kind of cliché. And, that’s where the creative courage comes in. Somebody, like Kojima-san, who’s prepared to push the boundaries.”

— George Miller, director of *Mad Max: Fury Road*, to IGN



“Kojima is in a league of his own and I love his work for two things: his storytelling style and the way he keeps the world in suspense till the game’s release.”

— Vinay Karantha, a marketing professional who has worked for gaming brands throughout his career



“Kojima is a true auteur of storytelling in gaming, due to his expressive ideology of human connection, his detail of game-play mechanics and underlying truth that as a species we hold responsibility to the world. Kojima is an important voice in a world of storytelling, far beyond cinema.”

— Amit Tida, documentary producer and shamanic gamer



he created the Fox game engine from the ground up. With up-to-date performance capture tech, Kojima also pushes actors to the next level in the game, a trait vocally commended by Norman Reedus (who portrays Death Stranding’s protagonist).

The 56-year-old is one of the first game directors to explore cinematic-style cut-scenes at an early stage to support his zest for film-making. This prompted *Mad Max* director George Miller to praise his “creative courage”, a trait he sees in all great film-makers. Plus, Kojima has star power on quick-dial, as seen by the all-star cast in Death Stranding, and the full support of Sony. The stage is set for the next phase of Hideo Kojima’s journey and everyone has front row seats.

POOCH CAFE



HAGAR THE HORRIBLE



TIGER



WUMO



PEARLS BEFORE SWINE



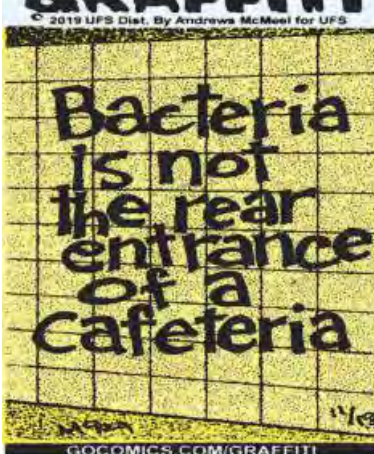
PEANUTS



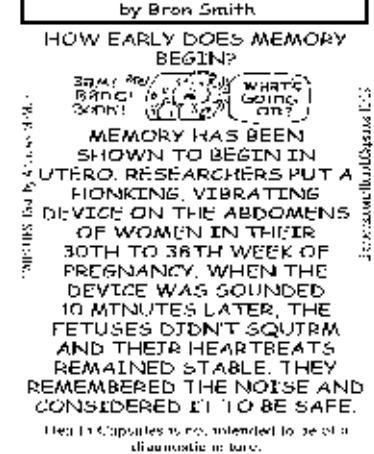
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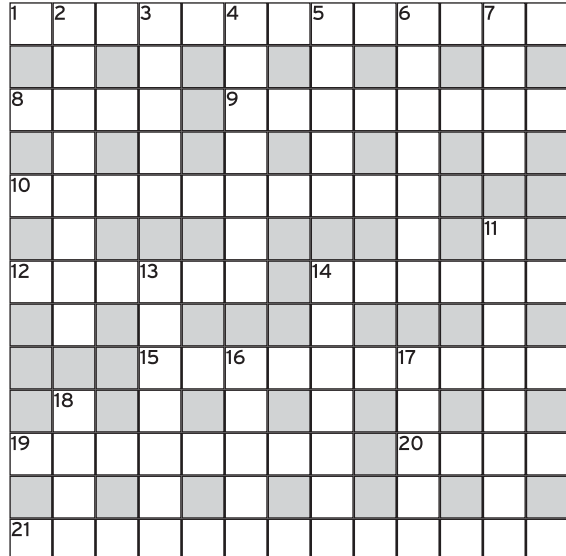
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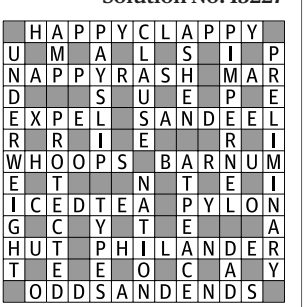


THE GUARDIAN QUICK CROSSWORD-13228



- 7 Running birds (4)
- 11 Woodland spring flower (8)
- 13 Wind instrument (7)
- 14 Model of perfection (7)
- 16 Agreement – wedding (5)
- 17 Number of paper sheets (5)
- 18 Insect (which you don't want in your ear!) (4)

- Across
- 1 Army officer responsible for administration (13)
- 8 Dash (4)
- 9 Filbert (8)
- 10 Circular 'in-and-out' dance (5-5)
- 12 Kind of tea-like drink (6)
- 14 Small amount of standing water (6)
- 15 Nickname (10)
- 19 Healthy – flowering (8)
- 20 Thing (4)
- 21 Eyed mender? (7,6)
- Down
- 2 Free (8)
- 3 Wash without using soap (5)
- 4 Principled (7)
- 5 Piped notes (5)
- 6 Spread out (7)



Solution will appear in The Hindu dated November 20, 2019.
Solution No. 13227

A struggling India finds itself in a do-or-die situation

Faces Oman in a World Cup qualifying round away match

FOOTBALL

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
MUSCAT

Winless in four games so far in an increasingly disapointing campaign, the Indian football team faces higher-ranked Oman in a do-or-die World Cup qualifying round match here on Tuesday.

A first half strike from Sunil Chhetri gave India hopes of beating Oman in the first leg in Guwahati in September but it ultimately turned out to be so-near-yet-so-far as the Gulf nation struck twice in the final 10 minutes to outwit the home side.

Oman is coming into this match after an emphatic (4-1) win over Bangladesh here on November 14.

Late equalisers

India, on the other hand, is struggling after an impressive goal-less draw against Asian champion Qatar as it needed late equalisers in its

identical 1-1 draws against lower-ranked Bangladesh and Afghanistan.

After three draws and a defeat, India is fourth in the Group E table with three points while Oman is second with nine points from four matches. Qatar is on top with 10 points from four matches.

An upset win over Oman will certainly keep Igor Stimac's side in the hunt for a next round berth but a loss will virtually send India out of reckoning as far as the 2022 World Cup qualification is concerned.

If India loses, it will trail Oman by nine points and has only three matches – maximum nine points – left to play in this second round of the qualifiers.

Even the runner-up sides from the eight groups are not guaranteed an automatic spot in the third round of the qualifiers.

A draw against Oman will also make it difficult for India to qualify for the next round.

The squad

- Gurpreet Singh Sandhu, Amrinder Singh, Dheeraj Singh Moirangthem, Pritam Kotal, Nishu Kumar, Rahul Bheke, Narender Gahlot, Adil Khan, Sarthak Golui, Subhasish Bose, Mandar Rao Dessai, Udanta Singh, Jackichand Singh, Seiminlen Dounget, Raynier Fernandes, Vinit Rai, Sahal Abdul Samad, Pronay Halder, Anirudh Thapa, Lallianzuala Chhangte, Brandon Fernandes, Ashique Kuruniyan, Sunil Chhetri, Manvir Singh, Farukh Choudhary.

Its last three matches – all to be played next year – are against Qatar (at home on March 26), Bangladesh (away, June 4) and Afghanistan (at home, June 9).

But getting at least a point against Oman may prove crucial as it will make it easier for India to get an automatic third round berth for the 2023 Asian Cup qualifiers.

This campaign is also a joint qualifying round for the 2023 Asian Cup and the third-placed teams and the best four fourth placed teams from the eight groups automatically get a spot in the third round of the qualifiers of the continental championships.

No attack or defence

Stimac's side has struggled not just in defence but four matches into this campaign, it is also clear that its attack is also not in the best of form.

India is no longer dependent on only Chhetri to score the goals but the inability to convert the chances has cost the team dear.

Stimac has no illusion about who is the favourite on Tuesday but he is also hoping that his players will convert the chances which come their way and score goals.

“Oman are much better now than the team we played against in Guwahati. They are the favourites. We know

for a fact that match is going to be very difficult for us,” the high profile Croatian coach said.

Historical underdog

Historically too, India is the underdog, having not won any of the 11 matches it has played against Oman, which has emerged victorious on eight occasions.

Before the Guwahati match in September, the two sides played out a 0-0 draw in the run-up to the 2019 Asian Cup in the UAE. In the two legs of the 2018 World Cup qualifiers played in 2015, India had lost to Oman 0-3 in Muscat before a 1-2 defeat in Bangalore.

India welcomes the return of senior central defender Anas Edathodika after he missed the Afghanistan match due to a family emergency.

India, however, will miss the services of Sandesh Jhingan, Rowling Borges and Amarjit Singh due to injuries.



Key person: With its back to the wall, India will need skipper Sunil Chhetri to step up and deliver. ■SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT



Records in pink

India will play its first day-night Test, against Bangladesh, in Kolkata from Friday. A look at major milestones in pink-ball Tests so far:

- Pakistan's Azhar Ali was the first to cross the three-figure mark, going on to amass a phenomenal, unbeaten 302 against the West Indies (Dubai, 2016)
- Australia's Josh Hazlewood picked up the first wicket in a day-night Test, dismissing New Zealand's Martin Gupthill (Adelaide, 2015)
- Kiwi Tom Latham scored the first half-century, making 50 off 103 balls in the inaugural Test against the Aussies
- Australia has figured in the most number of day-night Tests, competing in six out of the 12 played so far (five by the men and one by the women). The men have hosted all the pink ball Tests and won all five
- All the men's matches have witnessed a result while the only women's contest, between Australia and England, ended in a stalemate
- The Adelaide Oval has hosted three games, the most by any ground
- Nine out of the 11 Tests have been won by the home team. Sri Lanka is the only side to record away wins, against Pakistan at Dubai (October 2017) and West Indies at Bridgetown (June 2018)

COMPILED BY ANANTAAJITH RA

Ombudsman rejects Rajat Sharma's resignation

Resumes charge as president of DDCA

VIJAY LOKAPALLY
NEW DELHI

Rajat Sharma is back as president of the Delhi and District Cricket Association (DDCA).

Two days after submitting his resignation, Rajat Sharma assumed charge following a directive from DDCA Ombudsman Justice (retd.) Badar Surrez Ahmed. The Ombudsman rejected the resignation on Sunday.

In a letter to the Apex Council on Monday, Rajat Sharma stated, "Pursuant to my resignation on 16.11.2019, certain members approached Hon. Ombudsman who, in an interim order dated 17.11.2019 has put in abeyance my resignation and directed me to continue as president, DDCA. Hon. Ombudsman has fixed 27.11.2019 to formally hear the matter."

Rajat Sharma said, "In the light of present developments, no meeting of the Apex Council can be convened without my concurrence. I would, therefore, urge all of you to neither convene nor hold or attend any meeting of the Apex Council which has not been convened by me or has been convened without my concurrence."

On the Apex Council meeting called by the dissident group, Rajat Sharma said, "I have also learnt that a notice for a meeting of the Apex Council has been sent to a few select members for a meeting to be held on 19.11.2019 to discuss certain agenda items which have been rendered infructuous on account of the aforesaid order passed by Hon. Ombudsman. "There is, therefore, no

point in holding the said Apex Council meeting tomorrow. I accordingly direct that the said Apex Council meeting or any such scheduled meeting stands cancelled.

"I would request you all to cooperate with me in running the affairs of the DDCA in an efficient, honest and transparent manner," he concluded.

Former India cricketer Kirti Azad welcomed Rajat Sharma's return. "We are happy that you have withdrawn your resignation and have resumed office. We are sure that you realise the implication of leaving a rudderless ship – even more, when it is a ship like DDCA which never moves in the right direction. Now that you have resumed charge of DDCA, we implore you to initiate action on our suggestions."

Chinmay and Sharath star for India

BENGALURU: Chinmay Sutar (104 n.o.) and B.R. Sharath (90) set up India's thumping 120-run win over Hong Kong in the ACC Emerging Teams (under-23) Asia Cup being held in Savar, Bangladesh.

The scores: India 322/5 in 50 overs (B.R. Sharath 90, Armaan Jaffer 28, Chinmay Sutar 104 n.o., Shubham Sharma 65 n.o., Kinchit Shah 3/33) bt Hong Kong 202 in 47.3 overs (Ahsan Abbasi 25, Shahid Waseef 68, Ehsan Khan 36, Shubham Sharma 4/32).

India women make it 4-0

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
PROVIDENCE (GUYANA)

The series already won, India continued its domination over the West Indies by notching up a five-run win in the rain-truncated fourth women's T20 International here on Sunday.

India now leads the five-match series 4-0.

In the rain-marred fourth T20I, reduced to nine overs a side, India made 50 for seven wickets after being put in.

The Indians then bowled and fielded with discipline to restrict the West Indies to 45 for five in their nine overs.

The scores: India Women 50/9 in nine overs (Hayley Matthews 3/13, Afy Fletcher 2/2, Sheneta Grimmond 2/10) bt West Indies Women 45/5 in nine overs (Anuja Patil 2/8).

Bhubaneswar to host HPL home matches

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

Bhubaneswar will host India's home matches of the 2020 Hockey Pro League, the sport's governing body announced on Monday.

The second Hockey Pro League will be played between January 11 and June 28, the FIH said in a statement.

The first team that India will host is the Netherlands on Jan. 18. The Pro League will feature 144 matches in the coming season.

Australia's home matches will be played in Perth and Sydney, while England will be playing in London.

The venues: **Argentina:** Buenos Aires, San Miguel de Tucuman; **Australia:** Perth, Sydney; **Belgium:** Antwerp. **China:** Changzhou; **Germany:** Menglbadach, Hamburg, Berlin.

Great Britain: London; **India:** Bhubaneswar; **The Netherlands:** Utrecht, Rotterdam, Hertogenbosch, Amsterdam. **New Zealand:** Christchurch, Auckland; **Spain:** Valencia; **USA:** North Carolina.

Pospisil gives Canada early lead

Russia and Belgium also take opening singles

DAVIS CUP FINALS

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
MADRID

Canadian Vasek Pospisil claimed a surprise victory over Italy's Fabio Fognini to put his side ahead in their Davis Cup Finals tie on Monday, while Andrey Rublev got Russia off to a winning start on the opening day.

World No. 12 Fognini slumped to a 7-6(5), 7-5 defeat by the 150th-ranked Pospisil in Group F at the Caja Magica. In-form youngster Rublev eased to a 6-3, 6-3 victory over Borna Gojo, who is playing for reigning champion Croatia in the absence of the injured Marin Cilic, in Group B.

Russia is without US Open runner-up Daniil Medvedev after he pulled out due to exhaustion following a gruelling end to the season.

Rafael Nadal's Spain is the other team in what promises to be a closely-contested



Well begun is... Vasek Pospisil took out Italy's Fabio Fognini in straight-sets to give Canada a good start. ■REUTERS

group. In Group D, Belgium also took an early advantage as Steve Darcis saw off Colombian Santiago Giraldo 6-3, 6-2. The South Americans are playing at the top level of Davis Cup tennis for the first time.

The nations have been split into six groups of three, with the pool winners and two best runners-up to play in the quarterfinals of the first edition of the revamped

tournament. The teams will face off in two best-of-three-set singles matches in each tie, with one doubles rubber.

The results: **Group B:** Russia leads Croatia 1-0 (Andrey Rublev bt Borna Gojo 6-3, 6-3).

Group D: Belgium leads Colombia 1-0 (Steve Darcis bt Santiago Giraldo 6-3, 6-2).

Group F: Canada leads Italy 1-0 (Vasek Pospisil bt Fabio Fognini 7-6(5), 7-5).

Hamilton penalised, drops to seventh

FORMULA ONE

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
SAO PAULO

Lewis Hamilton was handed a five-second penalty and relegated to a provisional seventh, after finishing third, following his clash with Alexander Albon in the final laps of Sunday's dramatic Brazilian Grand Prix won by Red Bull's Max Verstappen.

The newly-crowned six-time World champion in his Mercedes clipped the luckless Albon's Red Bull, causing him to spin and costing the Thai driver his first career podium finish in his rookie season.

Hamilton apologised to Albon immediately after the race and said the clash was all his own fault.

His demotion means that Spaniard Carlos Sainz of McLaren was promoted to third to claim his first Formula One podium finish.

Vettel, Leclerc summoned Meanwhile, Ferrari team boss Mattia Binotto has called drivers Sebastian Vettel and Charles Leclerc to a clear-the-air meeting after

their collision that wrecked the team's hopes.

The pair, who collided while fighting for fourth place on Sunday, were forced to retire from the race, leaving Ferrari embarrassed and pointless and the drivers arguing about who was to blame.

"There will be time (for us all) together at Maranello to understand what happened," said Binotto, in the wake of a tempestuous race.

"It's not for me to blame them, it's for them to recognise it."

ATP FINALS

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
LONDON

Stefanos Tsitsipas battled back from a set down against Dominic Thiem to win the ATP Finals title, emphatically staking his claim as the leader of the next generation of aspiring global superstars.

The Greek 21-year-old, who won, 6-7(6) 6-2, 7-6(4) on Sunday, is the youngest champion since Lleyton Hewitt in 2001 and the fourth first-time champion at the season-ending event in as many years.

Season's third

It is Tsitsipas' third title of the season and comes a year after he was crowned champion at the Next Gen ATP Finals in Milan.

"I can't sum up my emo-



Worthy winner: Tsitsipas on Sunday became the youngest ATP Finals champion since Lleyton Hewitt in 2001. ■AFP

tions right now," said Tsitsipas. "It's amazing to be remembered as the 2019 champion. It is a dream come true and the best way to end this match."

Defeat is a bitter disap-

pointment for Thiem, who won five titles this year, including the Indian Wells Masters, and reached a second successive French Open final.

There was little to choose

India-Pakistan Davis Cup tie in Kazakhstan

Injured Rohan Bopanna pulled out; Jeevan Nedunchezhiyan included

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The International Tennis Federation (ITF) has informed the All India Tennis Association (AITA) that if the venue for the Indian-Pakistan Davis Cup tie is confirmed to be staged on neutral ground, then it would be in Kazakhstan.

The Pakistan Tennis Federation had appealed to the ITF to reconsider its decision to shift the tie out of Islamabad, after the announcement for a neutral venue was made on November 4.

Since Kazakhstan has the visa on arrival procedure,

the formalities are believed to be a lot more easy than elsewhere, with the tie scheduled to be staged on November 29 and 30.

Originally Pakistan had been given five days to confirm the neutral venue on November 4, but that has been stretched till November 18.

Meanwhile, Rohan Bopanna pulled out of the tie against Pakistan due to a shoulder injury, paving the way for Jeevan Nedunchezhiyan's inclusion in the playing squad.

Bopanna, who underwent an MRI scan on Monday,

communicated his unavailability to non-playing captain Rohit Rajpal.

The 39-year-old was expected to be paired with veteran Leander Paes for the doubles rubber of the November 29-30 tie.

Left-handed Nedunchezhiyan was named as one of the three reserves in the eight-member squad announced by the AITA selection committee.

Now the two best-ranked players are not available for the tie. Divij Sharan is also unavailable because of his wedding reception.

(With inputs from PTI)

Aisam pulls out in protest

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
KARACHI

Pakistan's doubles player Aisam ul Haq Qureshi on Monday refused to compete, protesting against ITF's decision to shift the tie to a neutral venue. Aisam took to Instagram to reason out his decision and made it clear that he won't play unless the tie is hosted in Islamabad.

TV PICKS

NBA: Sony Six (SD & HD), 6.30 a.m.
Abu Dhabi T10 League: Sony Ten 2, Six (SD & HD), 5 p.m.
FIFA World Cup qualifier: India v Oman, Star Sports 1 & 2 (SD & HD), 8.30 p.m.
Euro Qualifiers & friendlies: Sony ESPN (SD & HD), 10.30 p.m.

IN BRIEF



Hield on a high for Sacramento Kings
LOS ANGELES
Bahamian guard Buddy Hield scored a season-high 35 points and Sacramento Kings snapped Boston Celtics' 10-game NBA win streak with a 100-99 home triumph on Sunday. Richaun Holmes sank two decisive free throws with 13 seconds remaining to give the Kings their fifth win in seven games after a 0-5 start.
The results: LA Lakers 122 bt Atlanta Hawks 101; Orlando Magic 125 bt Washington Wizards 121; New Orleans Pelicans 108 bt Golden State Warriors 100; Memphis Grizzlies 114 lost to Denver Nuggets 131; Cleveland Cavaliers 95 lost to Philadelphia 76ers 114; Sacramento Kings 100 bt Boston Celtics 99. **AFP**

Airbnb becomes a leading Olympic partner
LONDON
Airbnb on Monday announced a nine-year deal to become a leading partner of the Olympics, promising safe and sustainable accommodation for visitors and athletes' families. IOC President Thomas Bach said the "landmark" deal would help to bring the Olympics into "the digital age". **AFP**



'Medvedev was running on empty'
MADRID
Russian star Daniil Medvedev pulled out of the inaugural Davis Cup Finals, starting on Monday, due to exhaustion, his captain Shamil Tarpishev said on Sunday. The World No. 4 lost all three of his matches at this week's ATP Finals in London. Tarpishev said Medvedev told him after his defeat to Alexander Zverev on Friday that he would not make the trip to Madrid. "He told me he was running on empty," said Tarpishev. **AFP**

India-A lifts trophy

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD
India-A scored a 43-run win over India-B in the final of the BCCI Challenger Trophy (under-19) one-day cricket tournament here.

Batting first, India-A scored 304/8 with Sai Sudarshan (74) and Arjun Murthy (47) being the main contributors.

In reply, India-B was bowled out for 261 in 46.2 overs.

The scores:
Final: India-A 304/8 in 50 overs (Sai Sudharshan 74, Jay Gohil 30, Sameer Rizwi 38, Arjun Murthy 47, Nitish Kumar Reddy 30, Vivek Kumar 3/48) bt India-B 261 in 46.2 overs (Sagar Dahiya 45, Priyam Garg 50, Divyansh Joshi 36, A. Atharva 48, Nitish Kumar Reddy 3/50).

Third place: India-C 258/6 in 50 overs (Arya Sethi 31, Vikrant Singh 50, Saurav Kumar 58 no, H. Shubhang 36 n.o., D. Sagar 3/37) bt Nepal 103 in 32.5 overs (H. Shubhang 3/24).

Shreyasi comes good when it matters

Rajeshwari Kumari, who finished second best, had the consolation of bagging the team gold

SHOTGUN NATL.

KAMESH SRINIVASAN NEW DELHI
Shreyasi Singh shot as if in a dream, especially in the climax, to clinch the women's trap gold with a four point margin over qualification topper Rajeshwari Kumari in the 63rd National shotgun championship at the Dr. Karni Singh Range, here on Monday.

The Commonwealth Games gold medallist in double trap, the 28-year-old Shreyasi was quite in command as she shot 42 out of 50 in the single-barrel final, getting better in the second half with 22 out of 25.

This was one aspect that had seen Shreyasi lose many finals in the past and she credited coach Daniele Di Spigno of Italy, the former World Champion, for the change of fortunes.

"Whether it is single or double barrel, I felt strong in this championship. All credit to the coach", said Shreyasi, who had qualified with a



On target: Shreyasi Singh took the trap gold with a four point margin over Rajeshwari Kumari. ***KAMESH SRINIVASAN**

modest score of 112, as compared to the National record 118 by Rajeshwari.

"It was a tough final and shooters were even losing on the basis of their back number. I myself didn't have a great number," said Shreyasi, who had qualified in the fourth place.

The six shooters are

ranked before the final, and the ones with the lower rank get eliminated in case of a tie.

However, for the gold, there is a shoot-off in case of a tie, as was the case in the junior final, when Varda Sharma pipped former national champion Manisha Keer 2-1 after the two had tied on 40.

In fact, Pragati Dubey who

endured a shoot-off to make the final lost out on a chance for a better medal, after being tied with Rajeshwari on 31.

Shreyasi was a class act in the climax as she shot all the 10, while Rajeshwari who had trailed by a point after 40 shots, lost three of the last 10.

Ngangom Bala Devi called up by Rangers Women for trials

FOOTBALL

MANASI PATHAK CHENNAI
Indian women's National team player Ngangom Bala Devi will attend a week-long trial at Rangers Women FC, which plays in the top division of Scotland.

She will travel to Scotland on November 19 and return on November 26.

"This is great news because it shows people are following women's football," she told *Sportstar*.

"I don't know if I will be selected because I don't know much about Scotland. I have only been to Spain twice and I think Scotland will be much different. Nonetheless, I will try my best at the trials," she added.

"I want to experience



Ngangom Bala Devi.

their training methods and (learn) how to develop my game. Everyone plays football but there are differences in the way it is played. Through this trial, I have an opportunity to learn the differences," she added.

Bala, who made her international debut in 2005, said that this opportunity will open doors for other Indian

players in the future. "I don't know if Rangers will select me, but I am sure other good Indian women footballers, too, will get such opportunities."

"Indian football has been growing day by day – the Indian Women's League began in 2016, the U-17 men's World Cup took place in India in 2017 and next year, the women's U-17 World Cup will be held too," she said.

Bala Devi was the top-scorer at the IWL this year with 26 goals for Manipur Police SC and won the senior women's National football championship with Manipur, scoring 21 goals in five matches to be the top-scorer.

Rangers finished fourth in the Scottish Women's Premier League 1, which ended on November 17.

Vijender next takes on former C'wealth champ

BOXING

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT KOLKATA

Unbeaten Indian professional boxer Vijender Singh will take on former Ghanaian Olympian and two-time Commonwealth super middleweight champion Charles Adamu in his next bout in Dubai on November 22.

The fight is part of the #RotundaRumble2 card, featuring top stars such as WBO super lightweight World No. 1 Jack Catterall and WBO bantamweight World No. 4 Thomas Patrick Ward.

In his last fight, 34-year-old Vijender had defeated Mike Snider on his US debut in July. The WBO Asia Pacific and Oriental super middleweight champion from India holds an 11-0 record, with eight knockouts.

Adamu, 42, is an experienced boxer with a 33-14-0 record, including 26 knockouts.

"After having rigorous training sessions for more than two months, I am fully prepared to end my year on a winning note.

"For me, this fight will be a build-up to the World title I aim to bag in 2020.

"I am sure my debut fight in Dubai will be exciting and I am looking forward to an early knockout win," said Vijender.

Adamu sounded confident as well. "Vijender Singh must know that this fight isn't going to be easy for him... I will put up a tactical masterclass he has never seen before. I have fought more than three times the number of fights he has," said the Ghanaian.

Garg to lead India colts

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA NEW DELHI

Mumbai left-hander Yashasvi Jaiswal, who recently hit a double century in the Vijay Hazare Trophy headlined a strong India U-19 squad that will take on Afghanistan in the first two games of the five-match one day series.

The Indian team, led by Priyam Garg, is preparing for next year's U-19 World Cup.

The five-match series will be played at Lucknow on November 22 24, 26, 28 and 30.

The squad for the 1st and 2nd one-day: Yashasvi Jaiswal, Tilak Varma, Arjun Azad, Priyam Garg, capt, Shashwat Rawat, Kumar Kushagra (wk), Divyansh Joshi, Manav Sutar, Ravi Bishnoi, Kartik Tyagi, Akash Singh, Atharva Ankolekar, Vidyadhar Patil, CTL Rakshan, Kruthik Krishna (wk).

Delhi Metro Region-1 beat DMR-3 by 16 runs to lift the Bank Of Baroda Inter-Zonal cricket tournament. Kartar Nath picked up two wickets for the winner.

The scores: DMR-1 148/5 in 20 overs (Varun Sood 62, Sanjay Sharma 40, Rakesh Kumar 2/18) bt DMR-3 132/4 in 20 overs (Abhishek Kumar 55, Anurag Rawat 48, Kartar Nath 2/17).

Inter-ministry badminton
The inter-Ministry badminton tournament will be held at the AIIMS Gymkhana from December 2 to 13. Entries close on November 22, with the Central Civil Services Cultural and Sports Board.

Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy League Table							
GROUP A	Team	M	W	L	N/R	Pts	NRR
	Karnataka (Q)	6	5	1	0	20	2.052
	Baroda (Q)	6	5	1	0	20	1.351
	Services	6	4	2	0	16	0.234
	Andhra	6	3	3	0	12	0.797
	Uttarakhand	6	2	4	0	8	-0.448
GROUP B	Goa	6	2	4	0	8	-0.917
	Bihar	6	0	6	0	0	-2.972
	Tamil Nadu (Q)	6	5	1	0	20	3.195
	Rajasthan (Q)	6	4	2	0	16	1.938
	Vidarbha	6	4	2	0	16	0.566
	Kerala	6	4	2	0	16	0.503
GROUP C	Uttar Pradesh	6	3	3	0	12	-0.509
	Tripura	6	1	5	0	4	-1.983
	Manipur	6	0	6	0	0	-3.929
	Maharashtra (Q)	7	5	2	0	20	0.510
	Punjab (Q)	7	4	3	0	16	1.026
	Chandigarh	7	4	3	0	16	0.701
GROUP D	Chhattisgarh	7	4	3	0	16	0.686
	Hyderabad	7	4	3	0	16	-0.255
	Railways	7	4	3	0	16	-0.872
	Himachal	7	3	4	0	12	0.564
	Arunachal	7	0	7	0	0	-2.685
	Mumbai (Q)	7	6	1	0	24	2.126
GROUP E	Rajasthan (Q)	7	6	1	0	24	1.744
	Bengal	7	4	3	0	16	1.289
	Madhya Pradesh	7	4	3	0	16	0.780
	Pondicherry	7	4	3	0	16	0.050
	Meghalaya	7	3	4	0	12	-1.520
	Assam	7	1	6	0	4	-0.490
GROUP F	Mizoram	7	0	7	0	0	-4.283
	Delhi (Q)	7	5	1	1	22	1.331
	Jharkhand (Q)	7	5	1	1	22	0.982
	Gujarat	7	4	2	1	18	1.974
	J&K	7	4	2	1	18	0.449
	Odisha	7	3	3	1	14	0.576
GROUP G	Saurashtra	7	3	4	0	12	0.559
	Nagaland	7	1	6	0	4	-2.437
	Sikkim	7	0	6	1	2	-3.002
	25, Rahul Tewatia 31 n.o.) bt Meghalaya 103 in 19.3 overs (Abhay Negi 25, Harshal Patel 3/22).						
	Assam 140/8 in 20 overs (Shib Shankar Roy 41, Riyan Parag 31, Pallab Kumar Das 30, Ishan Porel 3/23) lost to Bengal 141/2 in 16.5 overs (Vivek Singh 46, Manoj Tiwary 43 n.o., Abhimanyu Easwaran 36 n.o.).						
	GROUP E Jammu & Kashmir 101 in 18.3 overs (Abdul Samad 27, Chintan Gaja 4/15, Hardik Patel 3/17) lost to Gujarat 104/2 in 13.3 overs (Kshitij Patel 44 n.o., Chirag Gandhi 32 n.o.).						
	Delhi 149/6 in 20 overs (Shikhar Dhawan 35, Dhruv Shorey 26) bt Odisha 129 in 18.1 overs (Biplab Samantray 34, Suryakant Pradhan 48, Lalit Yadav 3/10).						

Brazil brings joy to the faithful

Comes from behind to trump Mexico with a last-gasp winner

FIFA U-17 WC

REUTERS
BRASILIA
Brazil staged a remarkable comeback for the second time in a week on Sunday to beat Mexico 2-1 in front of its own fans at the Estadio Bezerrea and win the FIFA Under-17 World Cup for a fourth time.

Just three days after it recovered from being 2-0 down to beat France 3-2 in the semifinals, Brazil scored two goals in the last 10 minutes to overcome its Latin rival.

Although Brazil had more of the early chances, Mexico took the lead in the 66th minute when Bryan Gonzalez rose between two defenders to head a cross from the left into the net.

VAR used
Kaio Jorge equalised from the penalty spot with six minutes remaining after the Video Assistant Referee (VAR) advised officials to pull play back following a challenge on Veron.

Then three minutes into stoppage time, substitute La-



The best: Brazilian players are an ecstatic lot after claiming the FIFA Under-17 World Cup in front of the home crowd on Sunday. ■AFP

zaro ran on to a cross and calmly fired home, to the delight of the home crowd.

The Flamengo forward had also come off the bench to score the winner in Thursday's last-minute win over France.

"They use the VAR when it is convenient for them," said an unhappy Mexican coach Marco Ruiz.

"We had the game under

control until the VAR decision. They grew after that."

The win was revenge of a sorts for Brazil, which lost 3-0 to Mexico in the under-17 final in 2005, as well as in the final of the 2012 London Olympics.

France third
Earlier in the day, Arnaud Kalimuendo-Muinga scored a hat trick to help France

come from behind to beat the Netherlands 3-1 and take third-place.

Dutchman Sontje Hansen won the golden boot for the top goal-scorer with six goals.

The results: Final: Brazil 2 (Jorge 84, Lazaro 90+3) bt Mexico 1 (Gonzalez 66).

Third-place: France 23 (Kalimuendo-Muinga 22, 54, 62) bt The Netherlands 1 (Taabouni 15).

Portugal labours to a win, qualifies

France rounds off its engagements with win over Albania

EURO QUALIFYING

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
PARIS

Cristiano Ronaldo scored his 99th international goal as reigning champion Portugal secured its place at the Euro 2020 finals on Sunday with a 2-0 victory away to Luxembourg, while France ended its qualifying campaign with victory.

Bruno Fernandes struck the opening goal on 39 minutes before Ronaldo tapped in a scrappy second late on to clinch second place in Group B behind winner Ukraine, which drew 2-2 in Serbia. Iranian striker Ali Daei holds the world record with 109 international goals scored in 149 appearances between 1993 and 2006.

Portugal became the 17th nation to qualify for next year's multi-host tournament, which kicks off in Rome on June 12, joining the likes of France, Spain, Italy and England.

Portugal knew it would book its place at Euro 2020 with a win or by matching Serbia's result from its game in Belgrade.



Tap-in: Cristiano Ronaldo nudges the ball in after a scrappy goalmouth scramble for his 99th international goal. ■AFP

But it was made to work hard by a Luxembourg team ranked 96th in the world.

Sporting Lisbon midfielder Fernandes broke the deadlock before half-time, controlling Bernardo Silva's pinpoint pass expertly before lashing in from 20 yards.

Ronaldo, who smacked in a hat-trick in Thursday's 6-0 thrashing of Lithuania, moved to the brink of his international century four minutes from time.

Silva's far-post cross was forced towards goal by Diogo

Jota, with Luxembourg goalkeeper Anthony Moris getting a hand to the ball before Ronaldo turned in from the goalline.

France wrapped up top spot in Group H as goals from Corentin Tolisso and Antoine Griezmann sealed a 2-0 win over Albania in Tirana.

Anthem booed at
The French national anthem was roundly booed before kick-off as retribution for the error that saw the Andorran anthem played instead of the

Albanian one when the teams met in September.

The visitor made a quick start on the pitch, though, as Bayern Munich midfielder Tolisso headed Griezmann's free-kick into the bottom corner. The Barcelona star slotted in the second himself on the half-hour mark, before the dead rubber petered out in the second period.

The other games in the group saw Turkey, which had also already sealed qualification, beat Andorra 2-0, while Iceland edged to a 2-1 victory at Moldova.

Impressive campaign
England rounded off an impressive campaign with a 4-0 thrashing of Kosovo.

The results: Group A: Kosovo 0 lost to England 4 (Winks 32, Kane 79, Rashford 83, Mount 90+1); Bulgaria 1 (Bozhikov 56) bt Czech Republic 0. **Group B:** Serbia 2 (Tadic 9-pen, Mitrovic 56) drew with Ukraine 2 (Yaremchuk 32, Besedin 90+3); Luxembourg 0 lost to Portugal 2 (Fernandes 39, Ronaldo 86). **Group H:** Moldova 1 (Milinceanu 56) lost to Iceland 2 (Bjarnason 17, Sigurdsson 65); Andorra 0 lost to Turkey 2 (Unal 17, 21-pen); Albania 0 lost to France 2 (Tolisso 9, Griezmann 30).

Prachi sets meet record in 200m freestyle

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Prachi Tokas of Delhi bagged her second gold with a new meet record, as she won the women's 200m freestyle with a time of 2 minute 10.57 seconds, in the 65th National School Games swimming championship at the Shyama Prasad Mukherjee Swimming Pool here on Monday.

The others to set meet marks were Harsh Saroha, Kareena Shankta, Nina Ven-

katesh, Kiara Bangera, Anushka Patil and Jasnoor Kaur.

The results: Men: Under-19: 200m freestyle: 1. Gourav Chavan 1:59.22; 2. Saif Chandran 1:59.85; 3. Mohit Venkatesh 2:00.07. **200m backstroke:** 1. Tanish Kaswan Nayasar 2:24.40; 2. Ashish Kadam 2:28.92; 3. B. Akash Navin 2:30.28.

50m butterfly: 1. Swapnil Chakraborty 26.11; 2. P. Vikas 26.60; 3. M. Jeya Vikesh 26.62.

Women: Under-19: 200m freestyle: 1. Prachi Tokas 2:10.57

(NMR); 2. Bhavika Dagar 2:12.67; 3. V. Varsha 2:16.56. **200m breaststroke:** 1. Yashika Rawat 2:48.84; 2. Silki Nagpure 2:56.42; 3. Abisha Angelin 3:04.30. **800m freestyle:** 1. Prachi 9:16.75 (NMR); 2. Bhavika 9:16.77; 3. V. Varsha 9:52.46. **50m butterfly:** 1. Shristi Upadhaya 30.35; 2. Sunaina Manjunath 30.55; 3. Priyanga Pugazhurasu 30.75. **4x100m medley relay:** 1. Delhi 4:54.96; 2. TN 4:55.61; 3. West Bengal 4:56.07.

Boys: Under-17: 200m freestyle: 1. R. Sambhav 1:57.30; 2.

Aneesh Gowda 1:57.96; 3. Veer Khatkar 1:59.37. **200m backstroke:** 1. Srish Maulik 2:27.91; 2. Bhargav Phukan 2:28.25; 3. Kalp Bohra 2:31.26. **50m butterfly:** 1. Harsh Saroha 25.86 (NMR); 2. Sathya Sai Krishnan 26.03; 3. Laksh Peri 26.69.

Under-14: 200m freestyle: 1. Raghav Tandon 2:06.10; 2. Sanjeevan Kumar Das 2:10.01; 3. S. Guna Balan 2:10.53. **200m backstroke:** 1. Vidith Shankar 2:33.76; 2. Abhinandan Khandelwal 2:33.90; 3. Zainul Hussain 2:35.14. **50m butterfly:** 1. Athar-

va Jarange 28.59; 2. Aditya Thapa 28.70; 3. Pranjal Patra 28.92.

Girls: Under-17: 200m freestyle: 1. Swarna Harith 2:13.10; 2. Niva Sharma 2:16.66; 3. Anwayi Maske 2:19.12.

200m backstroke: 1. Kareena Shankta 2:42.81 (NMR); 2. Zaara Jabbar 2:49.44; 3. Arushi Manjunath 2:49.64. **50m butterfly:** 1. Nina Venkatesh 28.87 (NMR); 2. Nilabja Ghosh 30.08; 3. Sanjiti Saha 30.32. **4x100m medley relay:** 1. International Board Schools 4:39.22; 2. Council for Indian School 4:44.33; 3. Karna-

taka 4:50.25.

Under-14: 200m freestyle: 1. Kiara Bangera 2:13.33 (NMR); 2. Jahnabi Kashyap 2:17.18; 3. Cynthia Choudhury 2:18.30.

200m backstroke: 1. Anushka Patil 2:43.78 (NMR); 2. Shriya Ishwar Prasad 2:53.07; 3. V. Hitaishi 2:53.68. **50m butterfly:** 1. Jasnoor Kaur 30.16 (NMR); 2. Sanjana Pala 30.69; 3. Dhara Patel 31.20. **4x100m medley relay:** 1. Maharashtra 4:52.22; 2. Assam 4:59.07; 3. Council for Indian School 5:01.50.

Rijiju rewards para athletes



Champions all: The Union Sports Minister Kiren Rijiju with the awardees at the felicitation function on Monday. ■TWITTER/KIREN RIJIJU

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

Sports Minister Kiren Rijiju on Monday felicitated the medal-winning Indian para athletes with cash awards for their best-ever performance at the recently-concluded World para athletics championships in Dubai.

India won nine medals – two gold, two silver and five bronze – and also secured 13 quota places at the Tokyo Paralympics.

"On behalf of the country, the ministry and the government, we salute you for the show. We have made sure to reward you with the financial support on time," Rijiju said.

"I hope in the future you continue winning medals for the country. We are also looking at ways to improve your training and we'll extend all possible help."

The awardees:
Gold medal winners (₹20

lakh): Sandeep Chaudhary (men's javelin F64), Sundar Singh Gurjar (men's javelin F46).

Silver medal winners (₹14 lakh): Sumit Antil (men's javelin F64), Sharad Kumar (men's high jump T63).

Bronze medal winners (₹8 lakh): Vinay Kumar Lal (men's 400m T44), Yogesh Kathuniya (men's discusF56), T. Mariyappan Thangavelu (men's high jump T63), Nishad Kumar (men's high jump T47) and Ajeet Singh (men's javelin F46).

Conduct of PVL in jeopardy

SPORTS BUREAU
JAIPUR

Season-2 of the Pro Volleyball League (PVL) may not happen after all!

The Volleyball Federation of India (VFI), at its annual general body meeting on Monday, announced it had terminated the contract with Baseline Ventures, PVL co-owners, following a "breach of agreement".

In a press release, VFI said "it has decided to amicably settle/[sent] termination notice to Baseline Ventures India Private Limited with immediate effect since they [Baseline Ventures] have breached the agreement."

The release stated the VFI had decided to rename PVL as Indian Volley League (IVL) or National Volleyball League (NVL) and conduct it from February 25, 2020.

The release added that the venues, broadcaster and franchisees would be "communicated in due course". Six to eight teams will be participating, it said.

"The house", the statement emphasised, "has unanimously authorised the Governing Council to take all major decisions for the conduct of the League."

VFI president S. Vasudevan, executive vice-president Raj Kumar, secretary Ramavtar Singh Jakhar, senior vice-president Rathin Roy Chaudhary and treasurer Shekhar Bose attended the meeting which saw the participation of 30 affiliated States/units.

Baseline Ventures CEO Joy Bhattacharjya said the VFI decision had come as a "complete surprise".

He said the VFI president and secretary, FIVB secretary and Baseline Ventures had agreed at a meeting on November 1 in New Delhi to hold the PVL from February 7, 2020. "It was also announced [on Nov. 7] that the FIVB president would attend the [PVL] final. We await a formal communication from VFI," Bhattacharjya said.

VFI secretary Jakhar could not be reached for comment.

Srikanth eyes good show; Saina pulls out

KOREA MASTERS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
GWANGJU

K. Srikanth will hope for another good outing even as Saina Nehwal pulled out of the Korea Masters World Tour Super 300 badminton tournament, which starts with the qualifiers on Tuesday.

After going through a tough phase since his final finish in the India Open this year, Srikanth boosted his confidence with a semifinal appearance at the Hong Kong Open last week.

It was his first appearance in the last-four stage since the India Open and Srikanth will look to continue the good run when he opens against Hong Kong's Wong Wing Ki Vincent in men's singles.

World No. 13 Srikanth enjoys a 10-3 head-to-head record against Vincent, who is making a comeback after losing his father in

August.

Early exits

World No. 9 Saina, who made early exits in a series of tournaments recently, decided to skip the tournament but is likely to feature in the Syed Modi International World Tour Super 300 in Lucknow next week.

With Saina's withdrawal, there is no Indian participation in women's singles.

World No. 16 Sameer Verma will take on top seed Chinese Shi Yu Qi in the first round while his brother Sourabh Verma will face a qualifier.

Subhankar Dey, who had claimed the SaarLorLux Open last year, will need to fight it out against Olympic champion and second seed Chen Long of China.

The world No. 44 Indian had lost to the Chinese at the Swiss Open this year in their only career meeting.

No Indian is taking part in doubles.

CRICKET

ANANT KAUR
NEW DELHI

Simon Taufel, one of the finest umpires cricket has seen, cautions against making sweeping statements on the performance of officiating officials. The Australian, five times voted ICC Umpire-of-the-Year, said nowadays umpires faced tremendous pressure. He was in the city to promote his book *Finding The Gaps*. "People expect you to start at perfect and then get better."

"Umpires were often held responsible for any mistake on the field. Questions were raised on the ability of officials involved, he said.

"You need to be very careful about making sweeping general statements on the quality of officiating. To be



Simon Taufel. ■V.V. KRISHNAN

honest, when we look at the quality of technology today, it proves an awful lot how much the umpires get it right. Umpiring and officiating is like everything else. There is always room for improvement," Taufel said.

Technology, Taufel observed, contributes to the pressure on the umpires.

"With all the information from various camera angles

– which the umpire on the field don't get to hear or see – you are probably more educated and informed about a particular decision. You also get four or five replays. And, you still have the expert commentators to tell you what the decision should be."

Taufel also gave an insight into how umpires analysed cricketers. "After every match and series, we share information with colleagues. For example, in the World Cup we share information to help colleagues prepare for a match. We talk about behaviour traits, team tactics or personal tactics of players," he said. Taufel also touched on the leg-side wide, saying the rule was "tough but fair".

"It's one of those things. If they (bowlers) don't want to be called wide, then let them bowl at the stumps," he concluded.

Karin makes it to the main draw

Rashmikaa goes down

TENNIS

SPORTS BUREAU
BHOPAL

Karin Kennel of Switzerland beat Jennifer Luikham 6-2, 4-6, 10-8 in the second and final qualifying round of the \$25,000 ITF women's tennis tournament on Monday.

Shrivalli Rashmikaa Bhamidipaty who had knocked out second seed Silvia Njiric of Croatia in the first round, lost 6-1, 4-6, [10-4] to Punnin Kovapitukted of Thailand.

In fact, none of the Indian players managed to qualify into the main draw, but two players Snehal Mane and Ashmitha Easwaramurthi made it as the lucky losers.

Ankita Raina is seeded second and could potentially

have a second round against Karman Kaur Thandi. Rutuja Bhosale and Riya Bhatia are the other direct entrants, while the four wild cards were given to Sowjanya Bavisetti, Sara Yadav, Mihika Yadav and Rashi Malviya.

The results: Qualifying singles (second and final round): Karin Kennel (Sui) bt Jennifer Luikham 6-2, 4-6, [10-8]; Punnin Kovapitukted (Tha) bt Shrivalli Rashmikaa Bhamidipaty 6-1, 4-6, [10-4]; Melanie Klaffner (Aut) bt Vaidehi Chaudhari 6-3, 6-3; Vlada Katic (Isr) bt Snehal Mane 6-3, 6-1.

Freya Christie (GBR) bt Ashmitha Easwaramurthi 6-3, 7-6 (2); Maria Timofeeva (Rus) bt Zeynep Sonmez (Tur) 7-6(3), 6-0; Mana Kawamura (Jpn) bt Funa Kozaki (Jpn) 6-1, 6-2; Dan Ni Wang (Chn) bt Evgeniya Burdina (Rus) 6-2, 6-2.

Amiesh Saheba bids adieu

Bengal presents team jersey to the retiring umpire

G. VISWANATH
MUMBAI

It was a thoughtful gesture from the Bengal team – represented by skipper Abhimanyu Easwaran, coach Arun Lal and senior batsman Manoj Tiwary – to present the team jersey to umpire Amiesh Saheba at the conclusion of the last Group-D league match of the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy Twenty20 tournament at the Wankhede Stadium here on Monday.

Saheba, who turned 60 on November 15, officiated in his last competitive match held under the aegis of the BCCI on Monday; it was between Bengal and Assam. The Ahmedabad based umpire was felicitated by the Mumbai Cricket Association last Friday.

Emotional
After posing for a group photograph with the Wankhede Stadium ground staff, a visibly emotional Saheba said: "On occasions there were tears in my eyes, when I vi-



One for the album: Amiesh Saheba, second left, receives the team jersey from Bengal captain Abhimanyu Easwaran, left, Arun Lal and Manoj Tiwary. ■G. VISWANATH

sualised events of the last 30 years. He (Sai Darshan Kumar, co-umpire in the match) supported me."

Saheba agreed with Australian umpire Simon Taufel that a lot more has to be done to enhance the profile

of Indian umpires.

"It's become a full time job. Today the umpires don't take umpiring as a profession; they have multiple skills. I used to tell my bank manager that give me four months leave for cricket and

I will not take leave for eight months. I am going to retire as chief manager from SBI this month. My targets are high, but I manage it," said Saheba, who played 15 First Class matches for Gujarat.

Long innings
Saheba has officiated in well over hundred First Class matches; also 51 ODIs, three Test matches and four Twenty20 Internationals, the Twenty20 World Cup in England in 2009 and the ICC Cricket World Cup in India in 2011. He was in the ICC Panel from 2005 to 2011. He was also the winner of the BCCI's first best umpire award in 2008-09.

"It's been 28 years and my first partner in white coat was the late J.N. Jadeja from Rajkot. The old umpires have struggled. Something needs to be done for them."

Saheba hopes to have a chat with Jay Shah, the Ahmedabadd based BCCI secretary. He thanked his wife for supporting him right through his career.