



12-year-old barred from proceeding to Lord Ayyappa temple

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Rajya Sabha will revisit design of marshals' new uniform, says Venkaiah

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Swedish prosecutors drop probe into rape charge against Assange

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Oman edges out India in FIFA World Cup qualifier

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NEARBY



**Trinamool MP speaks on pollution wearing mask**  
NEW DELHI  
Kakoli Ghosh Dastidar of the Trinamool Congress wore a mask while participating in a discussion in the Lok Sabha on air pollution and climate change on Tuesday. Calling the current state of air pollution a national emergency, she demanded that the government launch a 'Swachh Hawa Mission'.

CITY ► PAGE 2

**CNG made a difference to Delhi's air, says Sonia**

NEW DELHI  
Expressing concern over the deteriorating air quality in the national capital, Congress president Sonia Gandhi on Tuesday said the introduction of compressed natural gas in public transport by the Congress government in Delhi made a visible difference.

CITY ► PAGE 2

**Delhi Jal Board to test 1,400 water samples**

NEW DELHI  
The Delhi Jal Board on Tuesday said it will start collecting 1,400 water samples for testing from across the city after a study by the Bureau of Indian Standards last week said that water in the city was the most unsafe among 21 State capitals.

CITY ► PAGE 4

**Cong. sweeps municipal elections in Rajasthan**

JAIPUR  
The ruling Congress swept the municipal elections in Rajasthan on Tuesday, winning 965 of the 2,105 wards in 49 urban local bodies, for which the polling was held on Saturday. The BJP trailed behind with 736 wards.

NATION ► PAGE 9

OPPORTUNITIES ► PAGE 15

## Hyderabad techie, M.P. farmer held in Pak. for illegal entry

Software engineer aimed to go to Turkey to meet girlfriend

MEHMAL SARFAZ  
ABHINAV DESHPANDE  
LAHORE/HYDERABAD

Two Indian nationals, one from Telangana and the other from Madhya Pradesh, were arrested by the Pakistani police for illegally entering the country, authorities have confirmed.

Prashant Maidam, a software engineer from Hyderabad, and Durmi Lal, a farmer from Madhya Pradesh, were arrested in the Cholistan desert area of Bahawalpur in Pakistan's Punjab province last week, the police said. The Bahawalpur police registered an FIR against them under the Pakistan (Control of Entry) Act on November 14.

They had crossed the bor-



**In custody:** Prashant Maidam, who hails from Hyderabad, entered Pakistan without valid documents.

der without any identification papers and proper documents, such as a valid visa and passport, said the police.

Sources said Mr. Maidam told them that he was in love

with a woman in Turkey and was going there through Pakistan and Afghanistan. Mr. Lal wanted to see the border and crossed over by mistake.

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 12

## Network for intel agencies to share info will go live next year

NATGRID will help organisations to access database from a common platform

VIJAITA SINGH  
NEW DELHI

The ambitious National Intelligence Grid (NATGRID) project will be operational by December 31, 2020, the Lok Sabha was informed on Tuesday.

More than half the sanctioned positions are vacant, the government said.

The NATGRID will enable multiple security and intelligence agencies to access a database related to immigration entry and exit, banking and telephone details, among others, from a common platform.

The project, initially started in 2009 with a budget of ₹2,800 crore, is an online da-

### Banking on information

- NATGRID started in 2009 with a budget of ₹2,800 crore. This year, ₹84 crore has been allocated
- It is an online database for collating scattered pieces of information and putting them on one platform. Ten Central agencies will have access to the data on a secure platform
- 21 agencies, such as telecom firms, tax bodies and immigration department, will provide information
- While NATGRID's data recovery centre in Bengaluru has been constructed, its office complex in south Delhi is nearing completion



The NATGRID has developed application software for proof of technology, which is yet to be fully rolled out. NATGRID solution is planned to go live by 31.12.2020  
G. KISHAN REDDY  
Minister of State for Home

tabase for collating scattered pieces of information and putting them together on one platform.

At least 10 Central government agencies, such as the Intelligence Bureau, the Research and Analysis Wing

and others, will have access to the data on a secured platform.

### Periodic review

On Tuesday, Minister of State for Home G. Kishan Reddy informed the Lok Sabha that "NATGRID has developed application software for proof of technology (POT), which is yet to be fully rolled out. NATGRID solution is planned to go live by 31.12.2020." He said the progress was reviewed from time to time, and during the current financial year, ₹84.80 crore had been allocated to the project.

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 12

### Tracing His footprints



**From a faraway land:** South Korean monks offer prayers at the Maha Bodhi Temple in Bodhi Gaya on Tuesday. Buddhism travelled to China from India and then to Korea. Bodhi Gaya is the spiritual home of Buddhists across the world. •PTI

## Nithyananda faces charge of illegally confining two students

Bengaluru couple move court for custody of daughters

MAHESH LANGA  
AHMEDABAD

Controversial godman Nithyananda was caught in another controversy after being charged with "illegally confining" two daughters of a Bengaluru-based couple here.

A petition has been filed in the Gujarat High Court by the couple, seeking its help to get back the girls from an ashram set up by Nithyananda, who faces rape charges. The petition will be heard by the court on Wednesday.

Janardana Sharma and his wife, in their *habeas corpus* petition, said they had admitted their four daughters in an educational institution run by the godman in Bengaluru in 2013, when they were in the age group of 7-15.



Nithyananda

However, their daughters were shifted to another branch of Nithyananda Dhyanaapeetham, situated on the premises of the Delhi Public School in Ahmedabad, without their consent.

When they rushed to Ahmedabad and tried to meet them, the officials at the institution did not allow them inside.

### Complaint registered

The couple could bring back their two minor daughters with the help of the police and the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights. But their elder daughters, Lopamudra Janardhana Sharma, 21, and Nandhita, 18, refused to go with them. Based on their complaint, the Ahmedabad Rural police registered an FIR against Nithyananda and other ashram officials.

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 12

## Gotabaya to visit Delhi on Nov. 29: Jaishankar

New President accepts Modi's invite

MEERA SRINIVASAN  
COLOMBO

Sri Lanka's newly elected President Gotabaya Rajapaksa will visit New Delhi on November 29, External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar said after meeting him here on Tuesday evening.

Mr. Gotabaya's visit to New Delhi, his likely first trip abroad as the President, comes months after Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited Colombo in a goodwill gesture following the deadly Easter Sunday attacks.

"President @GotabayaR has accepted PM @naren-



S. Jaishankar meets President Gotabhaya Rajapaksa in Colombo. •PTI

dramodi's invitation to visit India on 29th November," Mr. Jaishankar wrote on Twitter soon after the meeting.

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 12

## Trade body pegs Kashmir's economic losses at over \$1 bn

KCCI plans to sue govt. for damages, move court

REUTERS  
SRINAGAR

Economic losses in Kashmir have run well over a billion dollars since India revoked its autonomy and statehood in August, the main trade body in the region said, adding that it planned to sue the government for damages.

India turned its erstwhile State of Jammu and Kashmir into a federally-controlled territory, tightening control in a shock move it said would rein in militancy in the region and promote its development.

But the Kashmir Chamber

of Commerce and Industry (KCCI) said development was elusive, thanks to a protracted shutdown after people closed markets and businesses as a mark of protest, and for fear of reprisals from insurgents.

### Telecom blackout

It estimated economic losses ran into at least ₹10,000 crore (\$1.40 billion) by September, but now exceeded that, said Nasir Khan, its senior vice president.

"We'll ask the court to appoint an external agency to assess the losses, because it is

beyond us," said Mr. Khan, adding that India's telecoms blackout in the region meant the body could not reach business owners by telephone to prepare estimates.

Instead, it had to send staff to meet them and gather details.

The Ministry of Home Affairs and local government officials did not respond to detailed requests for comment.

The clampdown has hit tourism as well as farming, horticulture and the arts and crafts that contribute the most to its export-oriented economy.

## An autorickshaw driver who turns lament into song

Provoked by inequality and inspired by folk tunes, he uses his compositions to take a jab at society

VIVEK NARAYANAN  
CHENNAI

His name is Isai Arasu and he frequently breaks into song. *Chennaiyila vasika namakku edamilla, singara Chennai yarruku theriyala* (We don't have a place to live in Chennai, for whom is Singara Chennai then?) hums the 42-year-old autorickshaw driver sitting in his vehicle in Adyar, waiting for a passenger.

Mr. Arasu, who makes ₹500 a day, has several personal challenges, including the ailment of his teenage daughter. This actually spurs him to

compose folk songs and render them with feeling to create awareness of social issues. Those include untouchability and forced resettlement of squatters. He has five own compositions, besides many where he has changed lyrics of film songs to carry a message.

"I first saw the impact music can have when I listened to my father singing a lullaby for my little brother. He also used to sing an *oppari* [a lament] to vent the pain of a penurious life. I also became fond of the medium listening to people



**Ballad of protest:** Isai Arasu comes up with impromptu songs on occasions such as slum evictions. • M. KARUNAKARAN

in my father's village sing, and even more so after listening to Ilaiyaraaja's songs," says Mr. Arasu.

He was born in Mylapore's Ambedkar Nagar, and his life has been a litany of problems. "I used

to sing the lyrics of Tamil poet Inquilab. My favourite was *Manusangada Naanga Manusangada*," which passionately draws attention to lack of humanity, he recalls. With his singing giving him an identity, he was invited by many Left parties to render songs at protests.

He composed *Chennaiyila vasika* after seeing the plight of people living along a canal at Tod Hunter Nagar. Whenever he visits sites where people are being evicted, it provokes him to come up with impromptu songs.



# Injured students complain of police brutality

They say women protesters were molested and manhandled; JNUSU to continue strike over fee hike

**SHINJINI GHOSH**  
NEW DELHI

Continuing its demand for a complete rollback of the hostel fee hike, the Jawaharlal Nehru University Students' Union (JNUSU) on Tuesday complained of police brutality and manhandling of women protesters during Monday's agitation.

The Delhi police had on Monday said that there was no "lathi-charge", but several students who were part of the protest recounted the events which resulted in injuries to them.

Shashi Bhushan Pandey, a visually challenged student, who is also a JNUSU councillor, said: "I kept telling the police that I am visually challenged and even removed my spectacles but they did not stop hitting. Later, I was told by one of the policemen 'aandha hain toh protest mein kyun aya' (why are you participating in the protest if you are visually challenged)."

"We are being asked about our so-called 'violent protest', but what violence will a visually impaired person inflict? Shouldn't this question be asked to the government or the ones with the lathis?"



Students addressing the media at JNU on Tuesday. ■SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

added Mr. Pandey. Another JNU student, Sucheta, recounted, "We were bleeding and asked for medical help but no heed was paid to our requests. The women protesters were molested and manhandled by the force."

**'Turned off lights, caned'** Into the 23<sup>rd</sup> day of its strike, JNUSU president Aishe Ghosh, while addressing the media, said: "It was a historic day on Monday as such brutal attacks on students

have not been seen in the recent past. The Delhi police lathi-charged students after turning off the lights in the area. Everything seemed to happen within a fraction of a second and the students were left severely injured."

Referring to the high-power committee constituted by the Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD) on Monday, Ms. Ghosh said, "We have been told that the Registrar has refused to meet the committee. If this is the state of af-

fairs, then what justice will the students get? Why should we end our strike?"

Demanding the Vice-Chancellor's resignation, Ms. Ghosh added, "If the V-C is not listening to the Ministry too then he should be removed. We are not going to succumb to the brutality unleashed on us and will march to Parliament several times if required."

Students, including JNUSU office-bearers, maintained that "dialogue and negotiations" with the

administration are what they demand.

"Either the MHRD or the JNU administration should come out with a statement saying that the hostel fee hike will be rolled back. We will continue our strike as we are fighting for a cause," said Ms. Ghosh.

Priyanka Bharti, another student, said, "They talk about *Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao* but does anybody notice how the women are being treated? It seems like our crime is that we want to study. We will not budge as we want affordable education and will continue to fight for it."

The police said if they receive a complaint, they will look into it but they haven't received any so far.

Meanwhile, the Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad in a statement said: "The ABVP condemns in harshest terms the manner in which Delhi Police placed barricades and manhandled peacefully protesting students. However, we would like to express our disagreement with the Left Unity's mode of agitation and we have decided to continue our struggle separately from the Left-led union."

## No funds for Delhi under clean air programme

Capital among 102 most polluted cities

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT**  
NEW DELHI

Despite being among the most polluted capital cities in the world, Delhi hasn't been allotted funds under the National Clean Air Programme (NCAP), an initiative launched by the Centre to reduce air pollution in 102 cities by 2024.

In response to a query from Prabhat Jha, BJP MP from Madhya Pradesh, on details of the NCAP, Union Environment Minister Prakash Javadekar gave a statement describing funds allotted to cities. Of the 102 cities, that have been identified as the most polluted and submitted voluntary emission reduction plans, funds allotted for 90 cities were provided. Delhi wasn't on the list.

A senior official in the Delhi government, who did not want to be identified, confirmed to *The Hindu* that no funds were allocated to Delhi under the NCAP. A senior official in the Union Environment Ministry, who also declined to be identified, said that funds for Delhi were available through multiple Ministries. "Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs has a budget of ₹206 crore for pollution." However, Delhi

is one among the 102 most polluted cities as per the NCAP document.

### Budget allocation

In the Union Budget this year, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman had allocated ₹406 crore for NCAP.

The 102 non-attainment cities have been identified under NCAP based on the ambient air quality data for the period 2011-2015 and WHO report 2014-2018.

Of the 102 cities, for 28 of them with million-plus population and air quality of PM10 > 90ug/m<sup>3</sup>, the Union Environment Ministry is providing ₹10 crore fund in the current year.

"For the remaining non-attainment cities, a funding of ₹10 lakh per city for those with a population of less than five lakh and ₹20 lakh per city for those with a population of five to 10 lakh have been sanctioned," according to the reply.

The 28 priority cities are: Vijayawada, Chandigarh, Raipur, Bilai, Surat, Ahmedabad, Dhanbad, Bangalore, Bhopal, Gwalior, Mumbai, Nagpur, Navi Mumbai, Pune, Bhubaneswar, Cuttack, Ludhiana, Amritsar, Jaipur, Jodhpur, Kota, Kolkata, Patna, Agra, Allahabad, Kanpur, Lucknow and Varanasi.

## Air quality likely to fall to 'severe' category

AQI was in 'poor' category on Tuesday

**STAFF REPORTER**  
NEW DELHI

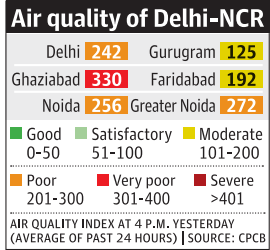
The air quality of Delhi stayed in the 'poor' category on Tuesday and is expected to fall to the 'severe' on Thursday and Friday, said forecasting agency SAFAR.

On Tuesday, the average level of PM 2.5 was twice (122.63 ug/m<sup>3</sup>) the safe limit (60ug/m<sup>3</sup>) in the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB). But the level is nearly five times the safe limit (25 ug/m<sup>3</sup>) set by the World Health Organization (WHO).

The contribution of stubble burning in neighbouring States to Delhi's pollution was 13% on Tuesday, and is expected to rise to 14% on Wednesday.

Delhi's Air Quality Index (AQI) on Tuesday was 242 (poor), up from 214 (poor) on Monday, as per the 4 p.m. bulletin by the CPCB.

"The AQI is likely to deteriorate to the higher end of 'very poor' category by early Wednesday and then



further deteriorate to the lower end of 'severe' category by early Thursday. AQI is likely to stay in the 'severe' category on Friday," said SAFAR.

The wind speed has already shown a decreasing trend and is likely to be very calm during the next 48 hours. Calm wind and low ventilation index are predicted for the next two days and conditions are conducive for sudden accumulation of pollutants in Delhi. The 'severe' air quality is not expected to last long. "A fresh western disturbance is expected to increase wind speed and improve ventilation by Saturday," said SAFAR.

## FIRs filed in connection with JNUSU protest march

No complaint from students yet: police

**STAFF REPORTER**  
NEW DELHI

The Delhi police on Tuesday registered two FIRs in connection with the protest march carried out by Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) students on Monday against the hike in hostel fee.

The police said that one case has been registered in south district's Lodhi Colony police station and another in south west district's Kishan Garh police station. Both cases have been registered against unknown members who were part of the protest, they said.

Cases have been registered under Section 186 (obstructing public servant in discharge of public functions), 353 (assault or criminal force to deter public servant from discharge of his duty), 332 (voluntarily causing hurt to deter public servant from his duty), 188 (disobedience to order duly promulgated by public servant), 147 (punishment for rioting), 148 (rioting, armed with deadly weapon), 149 (every member of unlawful assembly guilty of offence committed in prosecution

of common object), 151(knowingly joining or continuing in assembly of five or more persons after it has been commanded to disperse) and 34 (common intention) of the Indian Penal Code and 3 Damage to Public Property Act.

Police said that no complaint has been received from the students so far.

**No. of injured to rise** On Monday, during the protest, several students and officers sustained injuries and it was revealed that 15 students and 30 police officials were reportedly injured. However, the number rose to 27 and 46 on Wednesday which was likely to increase.

The students, during their long march to Parliament House, were contained near Safdarjung Tomb after they break through several barricades which were set up at multiple points, including the west gate of the university. The students were protesting to save 'public funded education' and demanded roll back of the hostel fee hike.

## Geelani's son delivers emotional address at his remembrance meet

Ex-students, colleagues speak of how he was labelled a 'terrorist'

**STAFF REPORTER**  
NEW DELHI

Narrating the experience of his father's time in jail and his prosecution, former Delhi University professor S.A.R Geelani's son, Atif delivered an emotional address at a remembrance meeting for him held at Arts Faculty on Tuesday. Former colleagues, friends and students also shared stories of the late professor, who was acquitted of his involvement in the 2001 Parliament attack case.

"Our family was never left alone. We were never allowed to live a life we always wanted," Atif told those gathered.

He spoke of seeing his father beaten up and

chained by the special cell when he was a child, of the trauma when his father was shot at after he was released from Tihar in 2004 and how the memories of his imprisonment returned when he was again imprisoned in 2016. Others present, including former students and colleagues, also spoke of how the professor was labelled a "terrorist" at Zakir Husain College, where he taught, even after his acquittal and how those who spoke in his support were silenced.

"I can proudly say baba devoted all his life to the cause of the people...and I am proud to say I am his son" said Atif, who along with his sister decided to

## JNU moves HC, seeks contempt action against students, police

**PRESS TRUST OF INDIA**  
NEW DELHI

The JNU on Tuesday approached the Delhi High Court seeking contempt action against its students and the Delhi police for allegedly violating a court order against holding a protest within 100 metres of the university's administrative block.

The JNU claimed that the students had grossly violated the August 9, 2017, order of the High Court by holding a protest within 100 metres of the administrative block and affecting its day-to-day working, which has been disrupted since October 28.

It said the police also violated the court order by refusing and failing to take action to maintain law and order in the university and removing the blockade around the administrative block.

The petition, filed through the Central government's standing counsel Monika Arora, sought direction to issue contempt notice against the alleged contemnors.

## MP wears mask to Lok Sabha

Members call for joint action, keeping aside party politics

**BINDU SHAJAN PERAPPADAN**  
NEW DELHI

Driving home the adverse impact of air pollution, Kakoli Ghosh Dastidar of the Trinamool Congress (TMC) wore a mask while participating in a discussion on air pollution and climate change in the Lok Sabha on Tuesday.

Calling the current state of air pollution a "national emergency", she demanded that the government should launch a 'Swachh Hawa Mission' (clean air mission) on the lines of the Swachh Bharat Mission. Though she took off her mask after being urged by the members of the Treasury Bench, the MP said that it was time the Central government took note of the seriousness of the problem and initiated corrective steps.

During the discussion initiated by Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla, the MPs noted that party politics should be kept aside to seriously deal with air pollution, and suggested that a high-level task force headed by the Prime Minister be put in place.

BJP MPs in the Lok Sabha



TMC MP Kakoli Ghosh wearing an anti-pollution mask to Parliament on Tuesday. ■SANDEEP SAXENA

said the Delhi government had done little to improve the situation and was instead shifting the blame on farmers in the neighbouring States.

**'Don't blame farmers'** BJP member representing West Delhi Parvash Sahib Singh slammed the Delhi government for blaming stubble burning for the pollution in Delhi-NCR and ignoring major pollutants, including vehicles and dust. "The Delhi government has spent sever-

al crores of rupees on advertisements but has done little to curb pollution. They have again spent on publicising the odd-even scheme but not taken steps to increase the number of public buses," he noted with both Pinaki Misra (BJD) and Manish Tewari (Congress) stating that stubble burning is not a major contributor to pollution in Delhi and the farmers should not be vilified.

Preet Kaur (Congress) said farmers of Punjab are being subjected to harsh criticism and being projected as almost villains for pollution in Delhi as "rhetoric is getting better of sound rational thinking".

A meeting of a parliamentary committee on the issue of air pollution in the national capital is scheduled for Wednesday, after the absence of most of its members and senior officials in its last meeting sparked outrage. Sources said Mr. Birla pulled up some of the key officials, who had skipped the panel's meeting on November 15, and asked them to ensure that it is not repeated.

## CNG made a difference to Delhi's air quality, says Sonia Gandhi

Cong. president lauds CSE's efforts to protect environment

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT**  
NEW DELHI

Expressing concern over the deteriorating air quality in the national capital, Congress president Sonia Gandhi on Tuesday said the introduction of Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) in public transport by the then Congress government in Delhi made a visible difference.

Speaking at the presentation of the Indira Gandhi Prize for Peace, Disarmament and Development, which was given to the Centre for Science and Environment (CSE), Ms. Gandhi recalled how Indira Gandhi had contributed to safeguarding India's natural heritage and environment even in the midst of the 1971 India-Pakistan war.

"We, who live in this Capital, notorious now as the world's most polluted city, can recall the difference in air quality when compressed natural gas was introduced in public vehicles. This transformation was made possible by the persuasive expertise of the CSE and the Congress government of the day," the Congress chief said.

She lauded the efforts of



Sonia Gandhi

the CSE in its fight to protect the environment.

"Since its establishment, CSE has become virtually India's conscience in the fight to preserve, protect and improve our natural environment. Over the years it has striven to raise awareness on the problem long before it became a major crisis we face today," she said.

Making her acceptance speech, Sunita Narain, director general of the CSE, pointed out how Indira Gandhi had moved to protect the environment by enacting various legislations with regard to water, air and land use.

Ms. Narain also dwelt on how climate change and weather patterns were now directly impacting India's economy.

"The weird weather

**We, who live in this Capital, notorious now as the world's most polluted city, can recall the difference in air quality when CNG was introduced in public vehicles**

**SONIA GANDHI**  
Congress president

events that are hitting the world should make us sit up; in India the monsoon is changing - I say again and again, the true Finance Minister of India was not or is not Mr. Mukerjee, Doctor Saab or Nirmala ji - it is the monsoon. Today, we are seeing extreme rain events like never before; we go from flood to drought; the intensity and frequency of cyclones has increased; the poor who did not contribute to the emissions in the atmosphere are the victims. And remember, this is just the beginning," Ms. Narain said.

The dignitaries who attended the event included former President Pranab Mukherjee, former Vice-President Hamid Ansari and Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh among others.

## DELHI TODAY

**Book release and discussion:** "Commercialisation of Medical Care in China: Changing Landscapes" authored by Rama V. Baru and Madhurima Nundy will be released in the presence of Amb. Ashok K. Katha, Director, Institute of Chinese Studies and Prof. Sanghamitra Acharya, chairperson, Centre of Social Medicine & Community Health, JNU. The release will be followed by a discussion on the book at Lecture Room II, Annexe, India International Centre, 7 p.m.

**Music:** SaMaPa Sangeet Sammelan 2019. The second day event will feature a sarod concert by Debansmita Bhattacharya with Mithilesh Jha on the tabla. This will be followed by a Hindustani classical vocal concert by Ruchira Panda with Akhtar Hassan on the tabla and Paromita Mukherjee on the harmonium 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.

**Exhibition:** "Yaatra", a paintings show by Dr Anjali Solanki at All India Fine Arts & Craft Society, 1 Rafi Marg, 11 a.m. - 7 p.m.

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



# CISF’s canine brigade calls it a day

Seven retiring dogs felicitated at first-ever farewell ceremony, handed over to NGO for old-age care

SAURABH TRIVEDI  
NEW DELHI

Seven canines which served in the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) for more than eight years received heartwarming salutes on the last day of service at a ceremony in Prakriti Park near Shastri Park metro station on Tuesday.

These dogs, aged between 8 and 10 years, served in the CISF squad deployed for Delhi Metro protection.

They had developed age-related ailments and were deemed unfit for operations by the force. The canines – Hina, Veer, Kite, Jelly, Jessy, Lucy and Lovely – have been adopted by a Delhi-based NGO which takes care of ailing animals, said a CISF officer.

Constable Vijay Kumar, the handler of Lovely, a female labrador, said he will miss the canine terribly because she had been a part of his life for last 10 years.



**Faithful service:** The canines during their farewell ceremony at Prakriti Park in New Delhi on Tuesday. ■R.V. MOORTHY

“She was very calm and sensitive compared with the other canines in the group. During the service, she has cleared 51 unattended baggages and 81 mock drills,” said Mr. Vijay.

Deputy Commandant, CISF, Raman Kumar said it was the first time in the force’s history that a ceremony was organised to honour the dedication and devotion of retiring canines.

“We organised a felicita-

tion ceremony for the canines because a batch of seven were retiring together. It was a rare moment and we wanted to give them a memorable goodbye,” said Mr. Kumar.

“We will always be grateful for the undying loyalty, devotion and faithful service from all seven of them. They will never be forgotten,” added Mr. Kumar.

The affection of the force for the canines was visible on the faces of all those

**We organised a felicitation ceremony for the canines because a batch of seven were retiring together..We will always be grateful for the undying loyalty, devotion and faithful service from all seven of them. They will never be forgotten**

RAMAN KUMAR  
Deputy Commandant, CISF

who attended the ceremony, especially the dog handlers. Many CISF personnel gathered around the dogs to take a selfie before bidding them adieu.

### ‘Best friends’

Constable Neeraj, the handler of Veer, a male cocker spaniel, said he cannot describe the pain he is feeling in handing over Veer to someone else. “When I got Veer he was just a month old. We were best friends.

He was very naughty but he had a way of telling me ‘get up friend, time to go to work’. He was loved by all other dogs in the kennel. I have taken one last selfie with him,” said Mr. Neeraj. The canines were trained for six months at the CISF Dog Breeding Training Centre in Ghaziabad before being inducted into the Delhi Mero squad.

During the ceremony, senior CISF officers presented mementoes, medals and certificates to the dogs. Thereafter, they were offered cakes and given a final salute as they walked down the red carpet.

Mr. Kumar said that a team of CISF personnel has been formed to visit the dogs at the NGO’s Gurugram centre where they will be kept for the rest of their lives. “We always form a team to look after retired dogs to avoid any ill-treatment to them,” said the officer.

## Elderly man dies on metro tracks

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NEW DELHI

A 75-year-old man died on Tuesday after jumping in front of a moving train at Laxmi Nagar metro station.

The elderly man was a resident of Laxmi Nagar. He

had undergone eye and knee surgery around two years ago, said the police.

He had come to the metro station without informing his family members, they added. Family members of the man said he had been

upset over the past few months. He is survived by a son and two daughters.

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

## Three brothers stab man to death in north Delhi

STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI

A 22-year-old man was stabbed to death allegedly by three brothers in north Delhi’s Sarai Rohilla. Two accused have been arrested, the police said on Tuesday.

A senior police officer said the victim has been identified as Firoz, and the accused are Ashfaq, Mush-taq and Mumtaz, who is still absconding.

The victim’s brother, Arman, reported the matter and said that Firoz had been assaulted. “Arman said that he was at his shop on Monday around 10.30 p.m., with his father when he heard a person cry. When he

stepped out, he saw three persons assaulting,” the officer said. Arman said that his brother tried to break away but the men stabbed him and fled.

Based on the complaint, a case under Section 302 of the Indian Penal Code was registered at Sarai Rohilla police station.

During investigation, it was revealed that Firoz had abused the mother of the accused, which enraged them and an argument broke out between the two sides leading to the incident.

The police said that the accused and the victim were previously involved in criminal cases.

### Fire in Alipur paper godown; none injured

NEW DELHI  
A fire broke out in a paper godown in Outer Delhi’s Alipur on Tuesday. No injuries were reported in the incident. The blaze began around 1.41 p.m. Fifteen fire tenders were rushed to the spot and the fire was brought under control by 4.30 p.m. The cause of the blaze has not yet been ascertained, said the police



# Over 1,600 died in road accidents in 2018

Fatal accidents in Delhi register a five-year high, hit-and-run cases also increase, reveal Centre's data

**JATIN ANAND**  
NEW DELHI

Road accidents in the Capital are on the decline but fatal accidents are at their worst compared to the last five years, as per data released by the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH).

According to the Road Accidents in India 2018 report, the Capital has been ranked first in the total number of road fatalities when compared to other Indian cities.

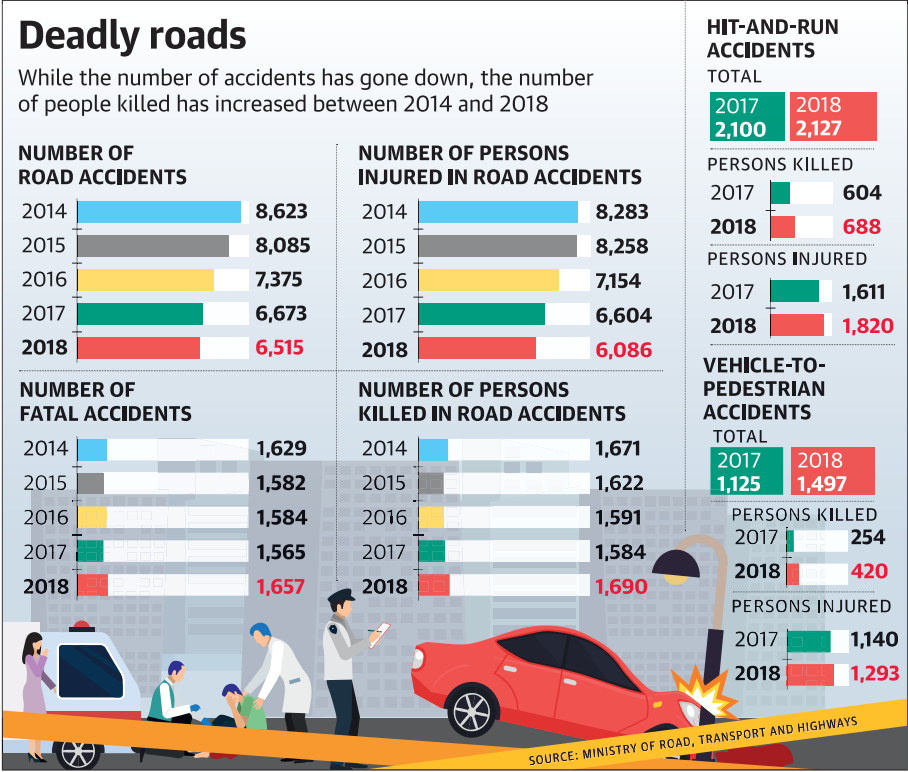
A total of 6,515 accidents were reported in the city out of which 1,657 were fatal. A total of 1,690 people died in road accidents in 2018 – or five every day.

**Straight roads**

The number of hit-and-run accidents and vehicle-to-pedestrian accidents have also increased.

The report further pointed out that the maximum number of road accidents occurred on straight roads.

After a steady decline for three years – from 2015 to 2017 – last year recorded the maximum number of road accident deaths in Delhi compared to other Indian cities. The city recorded its highest road fatalities since 2014, when 1,671 people lost



their lives on the streets.

Chennai ranked first in terms of the total number of road accidents (7,580) as well as the number of persons injured in these accidents (7,438).

In Delhi, both the total number of fatal accidents and the number of people

who lost their lives due to such accidents registered a five-year high.

However, the total number of accidents and the number of persons injured recorded a five-year low.

“Chennai ranks first followed by Delhi, Bengaluru, Bhopal and Indore in terms

of accidents in 2018. While in terms of those killed in 2018, Delhi ranks first followed by Chennai Kanpur, Jaipur and Bengaluru,” the report stated.

Bengaluru recorded 4,611 road accidents, Bhopal 3,508 and Indore 3,434.

In terms of the total num-

## ‘Have drafted rules for vehicle scrapping units’

Centre tells National Green Tribunal

**STAFF REPORTER**  
NEW DELHI

The Ministry of Road, Transport and Highways on Tuesday informed the National Green Tribunal (NGT) that the draft guidelines for the setting up and operation of vehicle-scrapping centres have been prepared and uploaded on its website for public suggestions and objections.

A Bench headed by NGT Chairperson Justice Adarsh Kumar Goel was informed by the Ministry that a policy paper on the creation of an ecosystem for scrapping old vehicles and ensuring the transition into environment-friendly new vehicles, has also been circulated.

According to the draft Authorised Vehicle Scrapping Facility (AVSF) guidelines, individuals, firms, societies and trusts will be allowed to set up such facilities. However, it will be subject to meeting the requisite eligibility criteria and authorisation from the authorities.

The guidelines added that the authorisation will be valid for a decade and



The Delhi pollution control body told the NGT that it is monitoring scrapping units in Mayapuri. ■ FILE PHOTO

can be renewed for another 10 years.

Additionally, the Delhi Pollution Control Committee (DPCC) submitted before the Bench that a special task force is monitoring Mayapuri on a weekly basis to keep a check on any units dismantling vehicles on the roads. “The DPCC has constituted 16 teams to carry out night patrolling of industrial areas of Delhi to identify dumping and burning of any type of waste, apart from identifying industries emitting black smoke,” the DPCC submitted.

## Two held with heroin worth ₹50 crore

**PRESS TRUST OF INDIA**  
NEW DELHI

Two men were arrested in Delhi's Rohini on Tuesday for allegedly smuggling heroin into the city.

The police said they have seized 14 kg of the drug worth over ₹50 crore. The accused, Sanjeev Kumar Singh (34) and Pardeep Kumar Yadav (24), both residents of Uttar Pradesh, were arrested in Rohini's Sector-24. They used to get heroin from a woman in Manipur, they added.

“We got a tip-off that two persons will come to Rohini with heroin to smuggle it in the national capital,” said Sanjeev Kumar Yadav, Deputy Commissioner of Police (Special Cell).

A trap was laid and the accused were arrested around 7 a.m.

During the search, two parcels, each containing 7 kg of heroin, were recovered from their backpacks, the DCP said, adding that the woman allegedly procures the drugs from Nepal, Myanmar and Bangladesh.

## Man to face trial for admission fraud

Had duped Class 12 student of ₹50,000

**NIRNIMESH KUMAR**  
NEW DELHI

A Delhi court has directed a person to face trial in a cheating case for allegedly defrauding a student of ₹50,000 on the pretext of getting him admitted in the Bachelor of Ayurveda Medicine and Surgery (BAMS) course in an Ayurveda Medical college in Karnataka.

According to the complainant, the accused had taken ₹25,000 in cash from him for admission in the college.

But the man failed to fulfil the promise, saying that the student could not get admission as his marks in Class 12 was less than required for it.

The accused cheated him of ₹25,000 a second time on the pretext of arranging a forged Class 12 marksheet.

Thereafter, the complainant got suspicious and demanded his money back but the accused refused.

Later, the complainant came to know that the accused had cheated many students on the pretext of getting them admission in

different courses.

He filed a complaint in a Metropolitan Magistrate court seeking a direction to the Delhi Police to lodge a cheating case against the accused. The court allowed his petition. After the probe, the city police chargesheeted the man under Section 420 (cheating). Later, the court added the charge of forgery for the purpose of cheating, and put him on trial after framing the two charges.

The accused, through a revision petition, challenged the framing of charges in the court of Additional Sessions Judge Pooran Chand on the ground that the trial court did not take into account all the material annexed with the chargesheet while framing the charges.

Dismissing the petition, the Judge said: “Prima facie material exists against the accused persons for framing of charges under aforementioned sections. I find no material irregularity or illegality in the impugned order”

## Fake cumin factory busted in Bawana, five arrested

Grass, stone powder, jaggery residue used to make product

**STAFF REPORTER**  
NEW DELHI

The Delhi Police on Tuesday said that a fake cumin manufacturing factory was busted in Bawana and five persons have been arrested in connection with the case.

Deputy Commissioner of Police (Outer North) Gaurav Sharma said that the accused have been identified as Harinandan, Kamran alias Kammu, Ganga Prasad, Harish and Pawan, all residents of Shahjahanpur in Uttar Pradesh.

The police said they received information on Monday about manufacturing of fake cumin in Bawana. The information was shared with the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI). A team was constituted comprising policemen and two officials from the food safety authority.

“A raid was conducted in Pooth Khurd and it was found that some people were manufacturing fake cumin with the help of grass, stone powder and sheera (jaggery residue). FSSAI officials have taken



The accused in custody along with the 19,400 kg of fake cumin seized during the raid on Tuesday. ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

samples of the fake cumin,” Mr. Sharma said, adding that a case under relevant sections has been lodged.

During interrogation, the accused allegedly told the police that they learned to manufacture fake cumin from people in their hometown.

“The manufacturing process involves a special type of grass being mixed with Sheera... then stone powder is mixed in and the material resembles cumin,” the officer said.

The police said that Harinandan and another identified accused who is at large are the masterminds behind

the operation. The other four are labourers.

Mr. Sharma said that the accused used to procure raw material from Rajasthan and would sell the finished product in U.P. and Rajasthan. “Now the accused persons were trying to run their illegal business here in Delhi and they had taken a warehouse on rent in August,” he said.

The police said that the price of cumin in the market is ₹400 per kg but they used to sell their product for ₹20 per kg. The police claim to have recovered 19,400 kg of fake cumin and 8,075 kg of raw material.

**Data digest**

Out of the 6,515 road accidents reported in Delhi in 2018, the maximum were vehicle-to-vehicle collisions: 3,993 incidents, or 61% of total accidents reported.

Such collisions claimed 1,033 lives, in addition to injuring 3,694 persons.

There were 2,127 (or over 32%) incidents of hit-and-run in which 688 people were killed and 1,820 were injured. A total of 1,497 road accidents (or close to 23% of total accidents) were vehicle-to-pedestrian collisions in which 420 people died and 1,293 were injured.

The maximum number of road accidents (3,688) occurred on straight roads.

In 2017, a total of 6,673 accidents were recorded in Delhi, according to a similar MoRTH report released last year. There were 2,100 hit-and-run cases recorded in which 604 people were killed and 1,611 were injured.

# Delhi Jal Board to collect, test 1,400 water samples

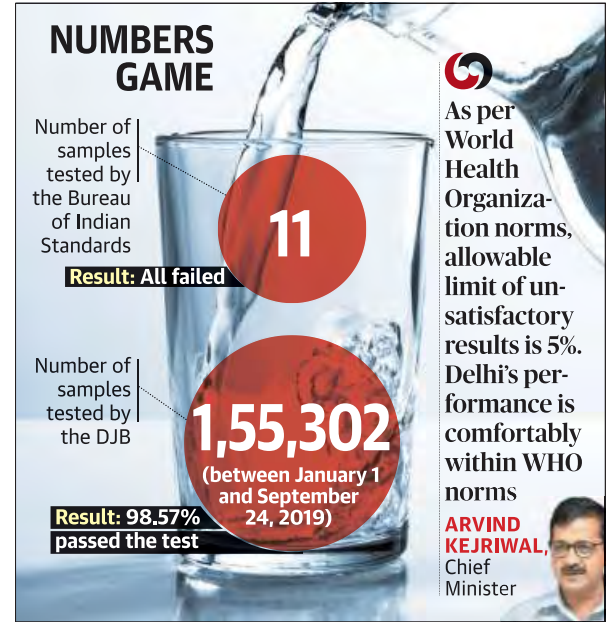
Move comes after Centre's report states city's water unsafe

**STAFF REPORTER**  
NEW DELHI

The Delhi Jal Board (DJB) on Tuesday said that it will start collecting 1,400 water samples for testing from across the city, after a study by the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) last week said that water in Delhi was the most unsafe among 21 State capitals. The result was based on 11 water samples taken from across the city.

On Tuesday, the DJB also opened its water treatment plant in Sonia Vihar to the media and explained the different processes involved in treating water. The officials said that the DJB's water is 100% safe.

The DJB will deploy 32 teams to take five samples from each ward and a third party, which will be part of the process, will also test the water at their own facility, said the officials.



**AAP MP writes to Union Minister on water quality**

NEW DELHI

AAP MP Sanjay Singh wrote to Union Minister Ram Vilas Paswan on Tuesday asking him to clarify whether the report stating Delhi's water quality is better than European standard is correct or the one which finds it most unsafe among 21 major cities of India. On September 26, Union Jal Shakti minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat said that Delhi's water quality is better than European standards.

has to pass all parameters, or else we do not supply it.”

Mr. Sharma said if they feel that the quality of the treated water is not up to BIS standards, then the water is

taken to a recycle chamber, and if it is treatable, then it is taken through the whole treatment process again.

“If there is any problem with the raw water, then we stop the production immediately. If at any point during the treatment we feel that we cannot treat it up to the desired standards, then we flow it out into the Yamuna,” he added.

Mr. Mohaniya said that the treatment is done through a four-stage process. “We do not know from where the Centre took the water for the study. As per the WHO, one sample should be taken for every 10,000 of population, but the Centre took only 11 samples for a city as big as Delhi.”

# Man impersonates pilot to skip queues, nabbed at IGIA

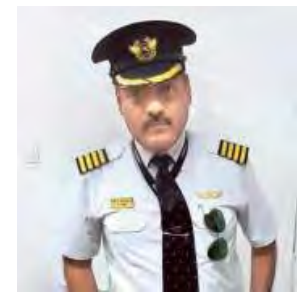
Police also find pictures of him dressed as Army Colonel

**STAFF REPORTER**  
NEW DELHI

A 48-year-old man has been arrested for allegedly impersonating a pilot of Lufthansa Airlines to get preferential treatment. Deputy Commissioner of Police (IGI Airport) Sanjay Bhatia said that the accused, Rajan Mahbunani, is a resident of Vasant Kunj and runs a consultancy firm.

The police said that on Monday, Chief Security Officer of Lufthansa Airlines reported that one passenger, wearing the uniform of a pilot and intending to travel to Kolkata by Air Asia, was found suspicious.

When he was questioned, it was found that he was pretending to be a pilot and was not enrolled in Lufthansa Airlines. “A



Rajan Mahbunani

search revealed an ID card bearing the name of Lufthansa Airlines. It was found to be fake,” Mr. Bhatia said, adding that based on the complaint, a case was registered and the man was arrested.

During interrogation, he allegedly told the police that he pretended to be a pilot because he was a frequent flyer and wanted to gain ea-

sy access during the security clearance and enjoyed preferential treatment from the security agencies and airlines. “He used to get into the passage, which is normally used by the crew members for getting into the aircraft. He wanted to escape the long queues. Sometimes he managed to get his seat upgraded as well,” Mr. Bhatia said.

It was also discovered that the accused was fond of wearing uniforms of different professions and getting himself snapped in different poses. “There are pictures of him posing as an Army Colonel in his phone. It also revealed that the passenger had shot videos wearing different uniforms on the video-sharing application Tik Tok,” Mr. Bhatia said.

# BJP alleges scam in LED streetlights procurement

Party approaches CBI seeking probe

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT**  
NEW DELHI

The Delhi BJP on Tuesday met the CBI director to inform him about a “scam” in the procurement of 2.1 lakh LED streetlights by the Aam Aadmi Party government.

AAP denied the allegation and accused the BJP of “running a factory of lies”.

The BJP delegation, led by Leader of Opposition in the Delhi Assembly Vijender Gupta, demanded a probe into the alleged scam which, it claimed, was to the tune of ₹100 crore.

Mr. Gupta said that BJP MLAs met CBI Director, Rishi Kumar Shukla at his office and submitted a memorandum regarding the “scam” in procurement of LED streetlights.

“The Delhi government did not entrust the work to the municipal corporations whose mandate is to instal streetlights. [The government] arbitrarily chose to outsource the tendering process to the power discoms, which are private players,” Mr. Gupta said, ad-

ding that the tenders were floated by the discoms to procure 2.1 lakh LED lights.

The Rohini MLA further alleged that the LED lights procured by the Delhi government through the discoms were costlier and have shorter warranty periods than those available in the open market.

In response to the accusations, AAP chief spokesperson Saurabh Bhardwaj said: “The BJP has started a factory of lies. In the last 4.5 years, they have filed two dozen cases against the Delhi government, with the CBI and the Anti-Corruption Branch. Despite the fact that the BJP-ruled Centre controls these agencies, nothing has been found.”

Mr. Bhardwaj added that the discoms were merely executing agencies that invited tenders from the open market. The streetlights being installed are LED lights and they are far more economical than those being installed by the BJP-ruled municipal corporations in the city, he added.



DELHI🌤️Timings

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	
FRIDAY, NOV. 22				
☀️RISE	06:49	🌇SET	17:26	
🌙RISE	01:56	🌇SET	14:43	

Delhi Weather

	max	min
Delhi City	27	12
Safdarjang	27	12
Palam	26	13

Delhi Palam Today

27°C

Shallow fog/mist during cool morning. Day will be comfortable with few clouds. Night will be cool. Pollution level to increase.

Delhi Palam Tomorrow

27°C

Shallow fog/mist during cool morning. Day will be comfortable with few clouds. Night will be cool. Pollution level to increase.

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IN BRIEF

'False' dope tests: probe ordered against hospital

AMRITSAR

The Deputy Commissioner of Punjab's Tarn Taran district on Tuesday constituted a team to probe against a civil hospital that is accused of falsely clearing over a dozen police personnel in dope tests, officials said. PTI

# Protest against ‘Muslim’ faculty continues in BHU

Appointment as per norm, clarification not needed: varsity

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

LUCKNOW

Protests against the appointment of a “Muslim” assistant professor in the Sanskrit Faculty of Banaras Hindu University continued on Tuesday, 12 days after it began.

The university, however, reiterated that the appointment was made as per norms and there was no need for further clarification.

The students opposed to the appointment of Assistant Professor Firoz Khan in the Sahitya (Literature) Department of the Sanskrit Vidya Dharm Vigyan of the central university staged a sit-in and recited the Hanuman Chalisa.

They argued that Mr. Khan may be eligible to teach the Sanskrit ‘language’ but not the Sanskrit ‘vidya dharma’, primarily due to his religious identity.



The BHU campus

The students have been demanding that Mr. Khan be transferred to another faculty.

‘Dharma yudh’

“The dharma yudh (holy war) goes on,” posted Shubham Tiwary, one of the students leading the protest, on Facebook.

While he was not reachable on phone, in another Facebook post Mr. Tiwary, a Ph.D scholar, said: “Everyone has rights over a lan-

guage, but not over religion”.

Umakant Chaturvedi, the head of department, said the deadlock was still on and classes were not being held in the department.

Amid speculation that the administration held another meeting to convince the students to drop the protests and resume classes, BHU spokesperson Rajesh Singh clarified there was no such discussion by the Vice-Chancellor on Tuesday.

“Once appointment is made as per rules, we have taken a stand, [there is] no use to reiterate it,” the spokesperson said.

However, asked about Mr. Khan not being able to discharge his duties as a teacher, Mr. Singh said: “He has officially joined and is getting his salary.”

Mr. Khan did not respond to phone calls.

# Google removes ‘anti-India’ mobile app from Play Store

IT giant takes action on request from Punjab Chief Minister

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

CHANDIGARH

Days after Punjab Chief Minister Amarinder Singh asked Google to remove an anti-India mobile application – ‘2020 Sikh Referendum’ – from its play store, the mobile app has been removed, said a government statement on Tuesday.

A press release from Punjab Chief Minister’s office said that the app was not available any more on Google play store for mobile users in India.

Centre alerted

The Chief Minister, who had also urged the Central government to persuade Google in the matter, had asked the State Director General of Police to coordinate with central security agencies to tackle the threat resulting from the launch of the app.



Punjab Chief Minister Amarinder Singh

Notably, the app invited general public to register themselves to vote in the “Punjab Referndum 2020 Khalistan”.

Data stored

The statement said that during analysis of the said application and an associated website in the Digital Investigation Training and Analysis Centre (DITAC)

Lab, Punjab, it was found that the data of voters registered through the app was also linked and stored in the web server of the website, namely www.yes2Khalistan.org, created and handled by ‘Sikhs For Justice’ (SFJ), an outfit banned by India.

Notice to Google

“Based on these findings, the Cyber Crime Centre of the Bureau of Investigation, Punjab, had moved to get the app removed from the Google play store and the website blocked for usage in India.

On November 8, 2019, a notice under Section 79 (3) B of Information Technology Act was sent to the Google Legal Cell for immediate removal of the mobile application from the Google Play Store,” said the statement.

## Six peahens found dead in Bijnor

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

GHAZIABAD

Six peahens have died in a village in Bijnor. Four were found dead and four others were recovered in an unconscious state from a field in Shadipur village on Monday, district forest officials said.

“Two more died on Tuesday during treatment,” M. Semmaran, Divisional Forest Officer, told *The Hindu*.

He said two doves and a partridge were also found dead in the same field. Mr Semmaran, who is a veterinary doctor as well, said the cause of the deaths were not clear yet.

Wild berries

He said around 100 wild red berries were found stuffed in the digestive tract of peahens along with a few wheat grains.

Mr. Semmaran didn’t rule out pesticides that farmers spray on crops for the deaths.

# Savarkar photo found defaced in BHU

Incident took place in Political Science Department; varsity orders probe

OMAR RASHID

LUCKNOW

Banaras Hindu University on Tuesday constituted a probe after a photograph of Vinayak Damodar Savarkar placed in a classroom was found to be defaced.

The incident took place in the Political Science Department of the central university.

On Tuesday morning, students discovered the defaced photograph of Savarkar lying on the ground in Lecture Room No. 103, of

Incident was a minor one, but not an ordinary one from the national perspective

ASHOK UPADHYAY

Head of the Dept., Political Science

M.A.(final) and reported it to the administration. Following this, angry students sat on a dharna and submitted a memorandum demanding action against the culprit(s).

There is a “nexus at work,” a student told reporters,

drawing a parallel with the defacing of the statue of Swami Vivekananda at Jawaharlal Nehru University.

“We fully oppose this,” he said and demanded that CCTVs be installed in all classrooms and the miscreant be arrested.

The department said it replaced the defaced photograph with a new one. The photographs of other national icons also adorn the walls of the department.

Ashok Upadhyay, department head, said somebody

splashed the photograph with ink, causing discontent among the students.

Mr. Upadhyay said the incident was a minor one but “not an ordinary one from the national perspective”.

Three-member panel

A three-member committee was formed by the Dean of the department to probe the matter, he said.

“We will try to find out about the culprits, report and punish them,” said Mr. Upadhyay.

## 16 farmers held for stubble burning in U.P.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

MATHURA

Sixteen farmers have been arrested for allegedly burning stubble and two lekh-pals suspended for dereliction of duty in Uttar Pradesh’s Mathura district, officials said on Tuesday.

District Magistrate Sarvagya Ram Mishra said a total fine of ₹13.05 lakh is being realized from the guilty farmers. He also said 300 cases of stubble burning have been detected.

## Akali leader shot dead in Gurdaspur

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

BATALA (PUNJAB)

A local Shiromani Akali Dal leader was allegedly shot dead and his legs were chopped off following an altercation with his neighbour in Punjab’s Gurdaspur district, police said on Tuesday.

Batala Senior Superintendent of Police Opinderjit Singh Ghuman ruled out any political motive behind the killing of Dalbir Singh Dhilwan, 51, who was the vice-president of the Gurdaspur unit of the SAD and also a two-time village head.

The incident occurred at Dhilwan village in Dera Baba Nanak area on Monday.



Tiger on prowl in MIHAN: forest officials

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NAGPUR

An adult tiger has been spotted in Multi-modal International Cargo Hub and Airport at Nagpur (MIHAN) in Maharashtra, forest officials said on Tuesday.

The forest department had installed several camera traps in MIHAN on Saturday after they got information about a tiger sighting near the Infosys campus road here.

Authorities have alerted workers and people living in villages in and around MIHAN about the presence of the big cat.

The tiger's presence was confirmed after the inspection of camera traps in the area, deputy conservator of forests (Nagpur) Prabhunath Shukla said.

"Forest officials and MIHAN authorities have taken necessary steps to avoid any untoward incident," Mr. Shukla said.

Several tech companies including Tata Consultancy Services, Infosys, HCL, Dassault Reliance Aerospace Ltd (DRAL) etc. have their campuses in the area.

Prolonged rains help tackle drought

Survey predicts dip in number of villages facing water scarcity in 2020

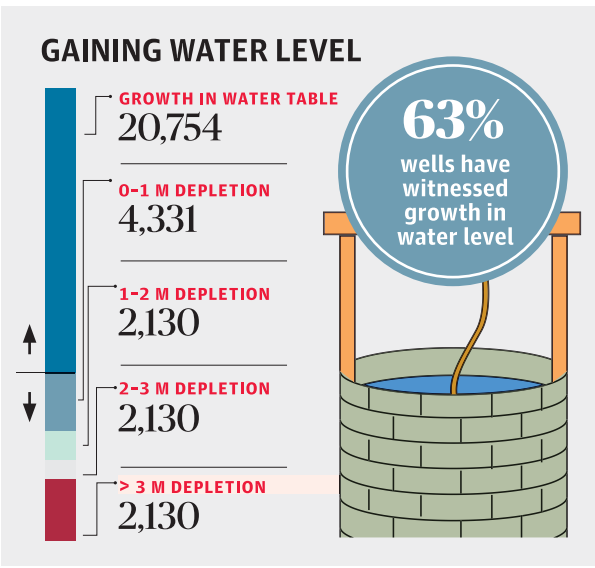
ALOK DESHPANDE  
MUMBAI

While the prolonged rains in Maharashtra have led to destruction of crops in many parts of the State, it has also given authorities a breather in tackling drought.

According to the drought prediction survey 2019-20, prepared by the Groundwater Surveys and Development Agency (GSDA) of the State government, around 689 villages in 14 tehsils of the State could face water scarcity in 2020. Of these 359 villages may face the problem from January while the rest from April 2020. The survey was released in the first week of November and is available online.

As per the survey, the villages which might face water scarcity in 2020 are in Latur, Osmanabad, Solapur, Parbhani, Yavatmal, Amaravati and Chandrapur districts.

The GSDA survey for 2018-19 had estimated that 11,487 villages from 167 tehsils would face water scarcity due to rainfall deficit. For this year's survey, the GSDA had set up 32,769 observation wells where the water



levels were measured till October-end.

According to the survey, entire Konkan region including Mumbai, Kolhapur, Bhandara, Gondia, and Gadchiroli fall in the region which received more than 1200 mm rainfall while Pune, Satara, Nasik, Nandurbar, Latur, Parbhani, Hingoli, Nanded, Amaravati, Washim, Yavatmal, Nagpur, Wardha and Chandrapur receive around 1200 mm to

700 mm rainfall. The rest of the State falls in the less than 700 mm rainfall category.

"Earlier, the prediction was broadly based on merely 32,00 observation wells. But considering the size of the State, we decided to set up 32,769 wells this time. These were geo-tagged with Maharashtra Remote Sensing Application Centre. The gram panchayat and jal surakshaks were given training. As a result, this report is a pro-

duct of a survey from almost every village in the State," said Kaustubh Diwegaonkar, Director, GSDA. He added that the survey will help plan and prepare for drought mitigation methods.

"We will be updating the report after incorporating latest reports following the total withdrawal of rains by January," he added.

Considering the geography of Maharashtra, 28% area is a highly dissected plateau, which includes Konkan, western ghats and other hilly regions. At least 44% area is moderately dissected plateau with medium water seepage capacity. The rest of the 28% area is undissected plateau and/or valley fill where groundwater availability is higher.

In addition, 82% of the State consists of balsamic rock which has the capacity to store merely 1 to 3% water. Metamorphic rock covers 10% region which too does not hold water. Of the remaining 8%, around 5.5% is sedimentary rock while rest is alluvium where water storage is considerably good, around 5 to 10%.

BJP's Mohol all set to be elected next Pune Mayor

Party has 97 corporators in the 162-seat PMC

SHOUMOJIT BANERJEE  
PUNE

The Bharatiya Janata Party's (BJP) Murlidhar Mohol is set to become the next Mayor of Pune. Election for the top civic post is scheduled to be held on November 22.

Though the Congress-Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) alliance has fielded Prakash Kadam, the contest is expected to be completely one-sided as the BJP has an overwhelming majority of 97 corporators in the 162-seat Pune Municipal Corporation (PMC).

Current Mayor Mukta Tilak's tenure ends on November 21. Ms. Tilak was fielded by the BJP from the Kasba Assembly segment and won an emphatic victory there.

Given the changing political equations in the State following the Assembly polls, even if the Shiv Sena, the NCP and the Congress join hands in the PMC Mayoral election to replicate the 'Mahashiv Aghadi', the BJP's superior numbers will be enough for it's candidate to



Murlidhar Mohol

sail through.

Mr. Mohol had played a vital role in engineering the victory of BJP State unit president Chandrakant Patil from the hotly-contested Kothrud Assembly segment in the recently-concluded Assembly polls.

Prior to the Assembly polls, the party had dropped its sitting Kothrud MLA, Medha Kulkarni to make way for Mr. Patil, who was perceived as an 'outsider' on account of his hailing from Kolhapur. Mr. Mohol, too, was an aspirant for the candidature of the Kolhapur

segment.

The Kothrud seat is considered a BJP bastion and was a 'safe' constituency for the BJP State chief, whose prestige was at stake in the electoral contest. According to sources, Mr. Mohol, a three-time corporator is being compensated for his part in ensuring Mr. Patil's victory in the Assembly polls.

In a related development, the NCP's Surmanjiri Latkar was on Tuesday elected as the 49th Mayor of the Kolhapur Municipal Corporation (KMC).

Ms. Latkar trounced Bhagyashree Shetke, fielded by the BJP and the Tararani Front, by securing 43 votes against Ms. Shetke's 32.

All four corporators from the Shiv Sena remained absent during the voting.

The NCP-Congress coalition is in power in the 81-member KMC. An internal power-sharing arrangement between the Congress and the NCP necessitates a mayoral election every 18 months.

Let the show begin



Last-minute preparations in full swing in Panaji on Tuesday at the venue of the golden jubilee edition of the International Film Festival of India, which begins on Wednesday. •PTI

'Fee hike shouldn't hit poor students'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NAGPUR

Bihar-based Anand Kumar, founder of the famed Super 30 facility which prepares underprivileged children to crack the IIT entrance exams, said here on Tuesday that the JNU fee hike protest

should be resolved amicably.

Students have been protesting for nearly three weeks over the draft hostel manual, which proposes hostel fee hike, dress code and curfew timings.

"I feel fees should be ap-

plicable to those who are capable of paying them. The rich and those who have no dearth of money should pay the (hiked) fees," Kumar said. "The authorities, students should sit together and reach a solution," he added.

Two warkaris killed, 15 hurt in road mishap near Pune

Descendant of the 14<sup>th</sup> century Saint Namdev among the dead

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
PUNE

Two warkaris were killed and 15 injured after a JCB earthmover mowed down a group of pilgrims at Dive ghat near Saswad, 25 km from Pune city.

The deceased included Sopan Namdas (35), said to be the 17<sup>th</sup> descendant of the 14<sup>th</sup> century Saint Namdev (a significant figure in the Bhakti movement) and his disciple, Atul Alashi (23).

The warkaris had set out from the temple town of Pandharpur carrying a palanquin bearing footprints of the poet-saint Namdev, and were heading towards the holy city of Alandi when the tragedy occurred. A pall of gloom descended among the pilgrims with the passing away of Sopan Namdas.

According to police authorities, the driver of the JCB machine, which was heading to Pune from Saswad, lost control after the brakes

of the machine allegedly failed, causing it to crash into the group of warkaris near Dive ghat.

The driver was later arrested under section 304 (2) (culpable homicide not amounting to murder) of the Indian Penal Code (IPC), a police official said.

"Despite the frequency of such accidents, police have not provided us with adequate protection. We request that the authorities take serious note of this during the wari (the annual pilgrimage to the shrine of Lord Vithoba in Pandharpur)," said a pilgrim.

The injured were rushed to Noble multi speciality hospital in Hadapsar.

"Two warkaris were brought dead while two others, one of whom suffered head injuries, have been admitted to the ICU and are critical. The others suffered minor injuries and will be discharged soon," said Dr. H.K. Sale, Director,

Noble Hospital.

Offering his condolences, Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) State chief Chandrakant Patil, after a visit to the hospital, said the party would bear the expenses of those undergoing treatment from a special party relief fund.

"The BJP has formed a special relief trust from which they will give ₹5 lakh compensation to the kin of the deceased and bear the medical expenses of those under treatment. A persistent refrain from the warkari fraternity is that they ought to have adequate police protection. We will work on this immediately once a government is in place," said Mr. Patil.

District Collector Naval Kishore Ram, who also visited the hospital, said a proposal to provide financial aid for the deceased and injured is being forwarded to the State administration.

'Report sought on Navy craft crash'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
PANAJI

The Goa government has sought a detailed report from its district administration and the Indian Navy on the cause of Saturday's crash of a MIG-29K trainer aircraft here, Chief Minister

Pramod Sawant said.

Mr. Sawant told reporters he sought a report after preliminary reports claimed the crash was due to bird menace around the airport.

Both pilots of the twin-seater aircraft had ejected safely.

Javadekar writes to Goa CM on project on Mahadayi

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
PANAJI

The Union Environment, Forest and Climate Change ministry has written to Goa Chief Minister Pramod Sawant stating it would form a committee to look into the decision to exclude Karnataka's Kalasa-Banduri project on Mahadayi river from the need for environmental clearance.

The letter, dated November 18, was in response to a memorandum submitted on November 4 by an all-party Goa delegation led by Mr. Sawant, officials said here on Tuesday.

Goa recently protested over a reported Central nod to Karnataka to go ahead with the Kalasa-Banduri project which aims at providing drinking water to three north Karnataka districts by diverting Mahadayi water.

Union minister Prakash Javadekar's letter to Mr. Sawant says, "regarding the Kalasa-Banduri project, it is informed through your memorandum that the proposal submitted to the ministry is more than a drinking water project and thus requires to be reviewed in detail by the ministry".

"In this connection, a committee is being constituted to look into the issues raised in detail," the letter added.

Mr. Sawant said, "The minister has taken due cognisance of the representation submitted by our all party delegation and has constituted a committee to examine the issue."

He said he was confident the committee will safeguard Goa's interest with a favourable decision. Mr. Sawant had led an all party delegation from Goa on November 4 asking Mr. Javadekar to withdraw his ministry's letter to Karnataka on excluding the need for environment clearance for Kalasa-Banduri project.

Earlier on Monday, Mr. Sawant had asked people to have patience on the dispute with neighbouring Karnataka over the sharing of Mahadayi river waters.



IN BRIEF



Cong. MLA Tanveer Sait out of danger, say doctors

**MYSURU**  
Former Minister and Congress MLA Tanveer Sait was declared out of danger on Tuesday after doctors found significant improvement in his medical condition. Mr. Sait was hospitalised after an assailant stabbed him at a wedding ceremony in Mysuru on Sunday.

Walayar case: Congress seeks Shah's intervention

**NEW DELHI**  
In a surprise move, the Congress has sought the intervention of Union Home Minister Amit Shah to initiate a CBI probe into the death of two sisters at Walayar, in which the accused were being allegedly shielded by the CPI(M)-led LDF government. Congress MP Kodikumil Suresh raised the issue during zero hour in the Lok Sabha. The case relates to the mysterious death and sexual exploitation of two minor Dalit siblings at Walayar in Palakad in 2017. **IANS**

12-year-old girl stopped from going to Sabarimala temple

Kerala police stop her at Pampa after examining her Aadhaar card

**PRESS TRUST OF INDIA SABARIMALA**

A 12-year-old girl from Pudukerry, who had come with her father for darshan at the Lord Ayyappa temple here, was not allowed to proceed from Pampa on Tuesday morning.

The age of the girl had been shown as 10 in the 'Virtual Q' booking. Women police examined her Aadhaar card and found that she was 12 years old and refused to allow her to proceed further, the police said.

After those accompanying the child were informed about the current situation in Sabarimala, her father and other relatives proceeded to the temple.

'Ready to wait'

A nine-year-old girl from Kerala, who came to the temple complex from Karnataka on Monday, had a placard around her neck that said "Ready to wait. Will visit the shrine after attaining 50 years." Hailing from Thrissur, Hridayakrishnan said she had visited the shrine thrice



Police personnel examining the Aadhaar card of a 12-year-old girl, who had come to offer prayers at Sabarimala. •PTI

thus far and would have darshan of Lord Ayyappa again only after she was 50.

The Pampa base camp is at the foothills of Sabarimala, about 5 km from the shrine. The Lord Ayyappa temple opened on November 16 evening for the two-month long Mandala-Makavillakku pilgrimage season.

The State and temple precincts had witnessed protests by right wing outfits and BJP workers last year after the LDF government decided to implement the Su-

preme Court's verdict allowing women of all age groups to offer prayers at the shrine. However, the government is exercising caution this year, even though the top court has not stayed its verdict while posting various petitions on the matter to a larger bench.

Devaswom Minister Kadakampally Surendran has made it clear that Sabarimala was not a place for activists, and said the government would not encourage women who wanted to visit the shrine for publicity.

HC allows light vehicles till Pampa

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT KOCHI**

A Division Bench of the Kerala High Court on Tuesday allowed private light motor vehicles (LMVs), including ones with 15 seats carrying Sabarimala pilgrims, to Pampa and back. The Bench of Justice C.T. Ravikumar and Justice N. Nagesh also made it clear that these vehicles should not be allowed to park on the roadside between Pampa and Nilackal.

The court ordered the vehicles to drop the passengers at Pampa and return to Nilackal for parking. The order came on a petition filed by P. Prasannakumar. The government had imposed restrictions on the entry of vehicles to Pampa last year following the devastation and damage due to the floods.

Maoist held in Coimbatore associated with armed wing

An explosives expert, he was active in Chhattisgarh till 2012

**WILSON THOMAS COIMBATORE**

Maoist Deepak, arrested by the Special Task Force (STF) from Coimbatore earlier this month, was associated with battalion-1, one of the most dreaded armed units of the People's Liberation Guerrilla Army (PLGA), according to Chhattisgarh police.

Shalabh Sinha, Superintendent of Police, Sukma, told *The Hindu* over phone that Deepak was part of battalion-1 of PLGA, the military component of the CPI (Maoist), and he was active in Chhattisgarh till 2012.

According to Chhattisgarh police, Deepak, as he is called within the party, had been with the battalion-1 in Bastar, one of the most Maoist-affected areas in the country.

He is an expert in making explosives and has also worked with the communication wing of the central military committee (CMC), the military governing body of the CPI (Maoist) which is responsible for conducting guerrilla attacks and for buying and supplying arms.

Mr. Sinha had earlier confirmed that Deepak had a role in the April 6, 2010 ambush on Central Reserve Police Force in which 76 men were killed in Chintalnagar village. As per the records with the Chhattisgarh police, Deepak's original name is Ramlu Korsa, and he hails from Mankeli village of Bijapur district in Chhattisgarh.

Aged 32, he was also associated with the Dandakaranya Special Zonal Committee (DKSZC) of the CPI (Maoist), according to Chhattisgarh police. When picked up by the STF men from a forest near Anaikatti in Coimbatore on November 9, he had claimed that he



A file photo of the Special Task Force personnel taking Deepak for medical examination. •S. SIVA SARAVANAN

CPI(M) leader Mohanan's comments trigger a row

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT KOZHIKODE**

A statement made by Communist Party of India (Marxist) Kozhikode district secretary P. Mohanan that Muslim extremist outfits are offering help to Maoists has triggered a political storm in Kerala with the Indian Union Muslim League and the Social Democratic Party of India (SDPI) accusing the

ruling party of trying to save itself when its members have been booked for Maoist links. The Popular Front of India said the CPI(M) was echoing the anti-Muslim posture of the Sangh Parivar.

P. Abdul Hammed, SDPI State general secretary, said the statements only paved the way for strengthening Hindutva apologists.

was a central committee member of the PLGA.

Meanwhile, a special court in Jagdalpur in Chhattisgarh issued a warrant against him on November 15 in a case registered under Sections of the Arms Act and the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act at Bheji police station in 2012. The warrant directs the police to produce him before the court on November 26.

Police plea dismissed

On Tuesday, the Principal Sessions and District Court, Coimbatore, dismissed the petition filed by the district police seeking his custody

for five days. Bhavani B. Mohan, who appeared for him on behalf of the Centre for Protection of Civil Rights-Tamil Nadu, argued that there could be a threat to the life of the accused in police custody.

Though the court had issued an order on Tuesday directing the authorities of Coimbatore Central Prison and the Coimbatore Medical College Hospital to permit Mr. Mohan and two others to meet Deepak, the police and the hospital did not allow them. On Tuesday evening, he was discharged from CMCH after treatment for injuries and shifted to prison.

PAC asks Karnataka govt. to put a stop to all turf club activities

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT BENGALURU**

With non-renewal of land lease agreement with the Karnataka government for the last one decade, the Public Accounts Committee (PAC) of the Assembly on Tuesday directed the State to take steps for the closure of all activities, including racing, of the Bangalore Turf Club (BTC) in Bengaluru

from December 2.

It also directed the government to recover pending rentals amounting to ₹32.86 crore before November 30.

A 15-member PAC headed by Congress MLA H.K. Patil has directed the Law Secretary to take all steps to settle a legal dispute regarding the BTC in the Supreme Court and submit a report on ac-

tions taken to the committee in the first week of December.

The PAC held deliberations on the BTC, located on 83.14 acres in the central business district in Bengaluru, and directed Rajneesh Goyal, Additional Chief Secretary of the PWD, to take steps to recover the pending rental from 2010-11 to 2017-18, before November 30.

RTC panel awaits HC order, to continue strike

**SYED MOHAMMED HYDERABAD**

The TSRTC Joint Action Committee on Tuesday said that the workers' strike would continue till they obtain clarity on Telangana High Court's orders on a batch of petitions seeking declaration of the strike illegal.

Speaking to the media, TSRTC JAC convener E. Ashwathama Reddy said, "We

have taken everybody's views. The strike will continue till we receive the High Court order. Then we will sit with our advocate and discuss it. We are expecting to receive the order copy on Wednesday. The central committee has decided to abide by the JAC's decision."

Sources at the meeting said that the opinion among workers on continuing the strike was divided.

Farmer's bid to set ablaze Tahsildar office foiled

He was irked by delay in solving issue

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT KARIMNAGAR**

Even as the people of Telangana are yet to recover from the shocking incident of Abdullapurmet Tahsildar Vijaya Reddy being burnt alive by a villager, an aggrieved farmer doused petrol on the office furniture, computers and on some of the employees of Chigurumamidi Tahsildar office in Karimnagar district on Tuesday.

Sources said Kanakiah from Lambadipalli village of Chigurumamidi mandal had been visiting the tahsildar office for the last two years appealing to the revenue officials to look into a land dispute.

Disturbed over the undue delay in solving his problem, the farmer arrived at the tahsildar office with a petrol bottle and doused the same on the office computer, files and on some staff.

As he was about to light a matchbox, revenue officials overpowered him and confined him in a room and alerted the police.

The police took him into custody and said they would register a criminal case and remand him to judicial custody.

The revenue officials said that there was no delay on their part for the redressal of his grievance.

There was a land dispute between the brothers and there was no role of revenue officials in it, the officials maintained.

Commissioner V.B. Kamalasan Reddy warned that people involved in the assault of revenue or any government officials and obstructing their duties would be dealt with firmly. Any attack on revenue and government officials would not be tolerated, he said.

Lessons on safety



Students learning self-defence techniques as a part of 'Mission Sahasi' (making of the fearless) to mark the birth anniversary of Lakshmi Bai, the Rani of Jhansi, in Visakhapatnam on Tuesday. •C.V. SUBRAHMANYAM

Kerala House opposes disinvestment of BPCL

CM slams Centre's privatisation policy

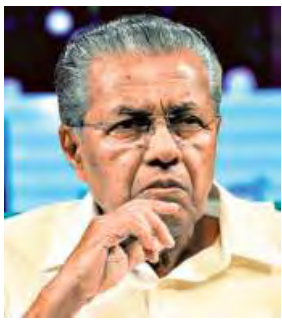
**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT THIRUVANANTHAPURAM**

The Kerala Assembly on Tuesday adopted a resolution condemning the Union government's move to privatise Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL).

Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan pointed out that the Centre had put up the refinery in Kochi, a BPCL asset, also for disinvestment. He slammed the Bharatiya Janata Party-led Central government for pushing ahead with a policy of privatisation that allowed corporates to gobble up profit-making public sector assets. The BPCL had registered profits since its inception.

'Security compromised'

The move would imperil the future of 30,000 employees. It would deprive households of subsidised cooking gas. The Modi go-



Pinarayi Vijayan

vernment had compromised the country's energy security by selling critical sectors to private profiteers.

The State had invested heavily in Kochi refinery. It had planned a large-scale petrochemical plant there at a cost of ₹25,000 crore. Moreover, the firm owed Kerala ₹1,500 crore in loan. The State urged the Centre to withdraw its disinvestment plan in public and national security interests.

Clear look at solar eclipse in Cheruvathur

Kasaragod site will have first view of the Dec. 26 phenomenon in India

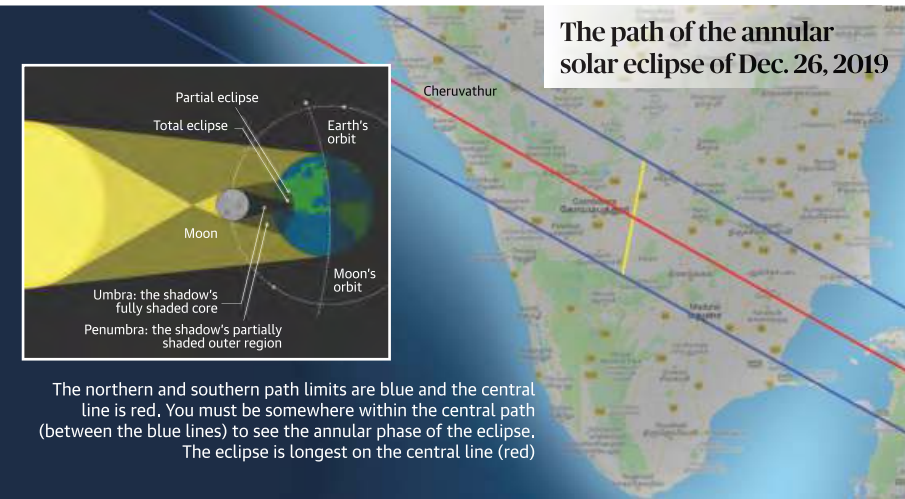
**C.P. SAJIT KASARAGOD**

The people of Kasaragod district will have a rare opportunity to witness the December 26 solar eclipse first in all of India. Cheruvathur here is one of the three places in the world where the eclipse will be most clearly seen.

District Collector Sajith Babu said the district administration would make arrangements for the public to watch the eclipse from Kadakkottu in Cheruvathur.

The partial eclipse will begin at 8.04 a.m. At 9.24 a.m., the annular phase will begin and the full eclipse would be visible by then.

The annular solar eclipse will be fully visible in Cheruvathur. Observers will be able to experience the "ring of fire" that is characteristic



for this kind of solar eclipse. This is a rare event that can be seen only along a relatively narrow strip on the earth's surface. The eclipse is also visible in other areas, but the moon will not move central-

ly in front of the sun there and the "ring of fire" will not be visible. Partial eclipses will be seen from Mangaluru to Bepore. "The eclipse will start in Qatar in the UAE, and in Oman. Due to its geo-

logical positioning, Cheruvathur will be the first place in India where it will be very visible," said Sachin Bamba of Space India, which works in the field of astronomy education.

'Srisaillam dam needs maintenance'

Foundation in peril if plunging pool erodes towards dam, says Rajendra Singh

**G. VENKATARAMANA RAO VIJAYAWADA**

'Waterman of India' and Magsaysay Award winner Rajendra Singh has said the Srisaillam Dam needs repair and maintenance works urgently.

Following up on a report on the damage caused to the dam, its downstream apron and plunging pool by the several floods that have battered it in recent times, Mr. Singh visited the reservoir and interacted with operations and maintenance officials.

Speaking to *The Hindu* over telephone from atop the dam, Mr. Singh said the Superintending Engineer had told him that the plunging pool was growing and there was a need to arrest its growth. The foundation of



Rajendra Singh at the Srisaillam Dam along with dam SE Chandrasekhara Rao on Tuesday. •SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

the dam would be in danger if the plunging pool eroded towards the dam.

Mr. Singh said more men and money were needed for the maintenance of the Srisaillam dam, on which the lives of lakhs of people depended. Top priority should be given to the issue, he ad-

ded. Mr. Singh said he was told that around ₹60 crore was needed to take up works to prevent the "expansion" of the plunging pool both towards and away from the dam.

Several dams in the country were poorly maintained, Mr. Singh pointed out, ad-

ding that infrastructure was being developed but there was no proper maintenance of it.

Jalbiradiri national convener and environmental activist Bolisetty Satyanarayana said that considering the financial position of Andhra Pradesh, the Union government should ensure that the Central Water Commission included the protecting of plunge pool works under the World Bank's Dam Rehabilitation and Improvement Project (DRIP) II.

The extended parts of the dam's plunge pool should be filled with M50 concrete, Mr. Satyanarayana said. The outcome of the underwater study made by National Institute of Oceanography is expected in a couple of weeks.



WEATHER WATCH

RAINFALL, TEMPERATURE & AIR QUALITY IN SELECT METROS YESTERDAY



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

Forecast for Wednesday: Heavy to very heavy rain likely at isolated places Tamil Nadu, Puducherry and Karaikal.

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

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Table with 3 columns: CITIES, SO2, NO2, CO, PM2.5, PM10, CODE. It lists air quality data for various cities including Ahmedabad, Bengaluru, Chennai, Delhi, Hyderabad, Kolkata, Lucknow, Mumbai, Pune, and Visakhapatnam.

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

'53 road crashes, 17 deaths per hour in 2018'

Over-speeding is a major killer, followed by driving on the wrong side, says annual government report

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

More than 1.5 lakh people lost their lives in road crashes in the country in 2018, registering an increase of 2.4% as compared to the year before, when there were 1.47 lakh fatalities.

The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways released the annual report on road accidents in India on Tuesday, which shows a daily average of 1,280 road crashes and 415 deaths. This translates into 53 crashes and the loss of 17 lives every hour. Road traffic injuries constitute the eighth leading cause of deaths in India in 2018.

India is the most unsafe country in the world for road users across 199 countries, as reported by the Geneva-

based World Road Federation's World Road Statistics 2018. It's followed by China (63,000 deaths) and the U.S. (37,000 deaths).

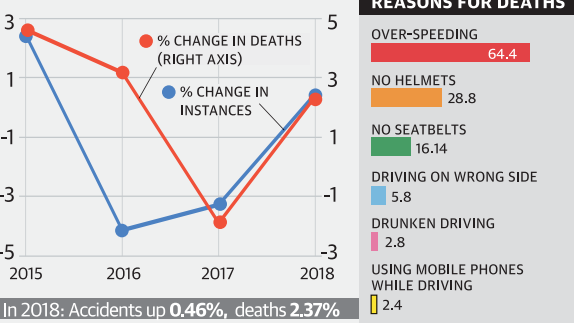
The annual report also reveals that of the total people killed in road crash deaths in 2018, 48% were between 18 years and 35 years old. Minors involved in road crash deaths were at 6.6% of the total deaths.

Over-speeding

Over-speeding is a major killer, accounting for 64.4% of the persons killed. This category was followed by driving on the wrong side of the road, which accounted for 5.8% of the accident related deaths. Use of mobile phones accounted for 2.4% of the deaths and drunken driving accounted for 2.8%

Speed hazards

Instances of road accidents and deaths increased in 2018 compared to 2017. Over-speeding was the reason for the maximum road-accident fatalities



In 2018: Accidents up 0.46%, deaths 2.37%

of the persons killed.

Not wearing helmets and seat belts are not causes of crashes, but are critical for avoiding grievous injuries and fatalities. As many as 43,614 deaths or 28.8% of total road accident deaths in the country. Among the States, Tamil Nadu (13.7%)

the country last year were caused due to "non-wearing of helmets". "Non-wearing of seat belts" was linked to 24,435 deaths or 16.1% of total road accident deaths in the country. Among the States, Tamil Nadu (13.7%)

SC recommends permanent commission for women in Army

Court urges the Centre to expand the ambit of benefit

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Tuesday said the armed forces should consider granting permanent commission to women officers under the Short Service Commission (SSC) before March 2019.

The Army had notified permanent commission to women officers, who join the forces under SSC, after March 2019.

'Retrospective effect'

The court asked the Centre to look at the positive side of granting permanent com-



mission to women officers with retrospective effect, and expand the ambit of the benefit to those serving under SSC before March 2019. "It will show India in a dif-

ferent way on the world platform," observed the court.

Issued notification

The government has already issued notification for permanent jobs to women officers in 10 branches of the Army.

A Bench headed by Justice D.Y. Chandrachud frowned at the Army's move to grant permanent commission to women officers who joined the forces under the SSC after March 2019, and not to include those who are already serving under the SSC before March 2019.

Puducherry CM lashes out at Bedi

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT PUDUCHERRY

Referring to Lieutenant Governor Kiran Bedi as "sister to Adolf Hitler," Puducherry Chief Minister V. Narayanasamy lashed out against Ms. Bedi for "arm-twisting" officials to work in her favour.

Speaking at the birth anniversary function of former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi at the PCC office on Tuesday, the Chief Minister al-

leged that the Lt. Governor was functioning in an authoritative manner. "No other Lt. Governor or Governor is as obstructionist as Ms. Bedi. She is like Hitler's sister," he said.

The officials were being threatened to toe her line and take orders from Raj Nivas, Mr. Narayanasamy claimed.

"I feel sympathy for the officials," he said.

IN BRIEF



Police force to be modernised: Minister

CHANDIGARH

The Haryana Police will be modernised to effectively tackle the menace of drugs, trafficking and other criminal activities, State Home Minister Anil Vij said on Tuesday. He was launching 'Operation Prahar' against drug abuse in the State.

ED attaches assets in NH-74 corruption case

NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate has provisionally attached 36 immovable properties and cash deposits in 11 bank accounts in connection with the alleged ₹215-crore corruption in the National Highway-74 widening project.

Hearing in Maratha quota case posted for next year

NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Tuesday posted for January 22 next year the hearing on a batch of pleas challenging the constitutional validity of a Maharashtra law granting reservation for Marathas in education and jobs in the State.

Turkish nationals part of ATM heists nabbed

AGARTALA

The Kolkata police on Tuesday arrested four persons — two Turkish nationals and two Bangladeshis — in connection with ATM heists in Tripura. The Turkish nationals were also accused of tampering with ATMs in Assam.

Congress sweeps municipal elections in Rajasthan

The party dominated in most of the 49 civic bodies

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT JAIPUR

The ruling Congress swept the municipal elections in Rajasthan on Tuesday, winning 965 of the 2,105 wards in 49 urban local bodies, for which polling was held on Saturday.

The BJP trailed behind with 736 wards.

The Congress dominated in most of the 49 civic bodies, situated in 24 districts.

The results declared by the State Election Commission showed 385 independent candidates emerging victorious. The Bahujan Samaj Party's candidates won in 16 wards, while the Communist Party of India (Mar-

xist) contestants won at three places.

The civic bodies which went to polls included three municipal corporations, 18 municipal councils and 28 municipalities. The Congress got clear majority in 20 local bodies, while the BJP's majority was confined to six civic bodies.

Desperate villagers pool money to make their voice heard

Day 4 of sit-in by Sardar Sarovar project-affected persons

SIDHARTH YADAV BHOPAL

Kusum Adivasi, an agricultural labourer, has found herself at the same protest as her former employer, Sashikala Patidar. Back in Nisarpur, the two lived miles apart. But in the past three days here, they've slept beside each other on the street, shared meals and even cried in unison: Medha tai aaghe badho, hum tumhare saath hai (Medha aunt stride ahead, we're with you).

While Ms. Patidar lost two acres of fields, a pucca house and three goats to the swelling backwaters of the Narmada, her labourer for two years lost her livelihood. Cooped up at the same relief camp now, in Dhar district, the two set out to hunt for work together ev-



Activist Medha Patkar along with the villagers protesting in Bhopal, on Sunday. ■PTI

ery morning. On Day 4 of the sit-in by 1,200 Sardar Sarovar project-affected persons outside the office of the Narmada Valley Development Authority on Tuesday, the two and 100 others from Nisarpur tehsil, nominated by village elders to represent them, spelt out issues confronting their communities: incomplete rehabilitation, inadequate compensation and food crisis at relief

camps.

Just to make sure their voice is heard, villagers from Kotda, Koteshwar, Karondiya and Katnera in the tehsil pooled in travelling fare for their representatives.

"Since there is no work, we don't have money to travel to even Indore, 170 km away," says Lakshminarayan Patidar, of Nisarpur. "So, those back home decided to support us for one-way travel for the sit-in." Each paid ₹130 for the bus travel to Indore, from where they boarded a train to reach Bhopal, free on request to the Railways. Besides, a truck from Barwani carried wheat and rice, gas cylinders, stoves, first-aid kits, tents, computers, micro-phone systems and flags — all donated by villagers.





## House not in order

No Parliament can condone the preventive detention of its members for long periods

More than 1,300 people who were detained around the Centre's abrupt move on August 5 that downgraded and bifurcated Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) continue to be so 15 weeks later. In detention are dozens of elected representatives including a member of the Lok Sabha, Farooq Abdullah, who also happens to be a former Chief Minister. Senior functionaries of the government have repeatedly said the situation is normal in J&K, but indefinite preventive detention of people is difficult to justify under any circumstances. With continuing restrictions on communication, gauging the mood of the people may be tricky, but some signs of normalcy are visible as more businesses open and vehicular traffic increases in the Valley. Now that the first Lieutenant Governor has also taken charge in J&K, immediate steps must be taken to open up political and civil society space. Instead of trying to hard sell an improbable portrait to the outside world, the Centre would do well by engaging with those most affected by its decisions – the people of J&K. The government cannot possibly see merit in undermining mainstream political leaders in J&K.

The paradox of continuing detentions and restrictions in J&K was stark when Prime Minister Narendra Modi spoke about the forthcoming Constitution Day and the role of the Rajya Sabha in sustaining India's federal structure on the first day of the winter session of Parliament. As the PM rightly indicated, Parliament is for giving meaningful voice to the people, not to make disruptive noise. But those prevented from attending the House are denied the right to speak for the people they are elected to represent. The PM's call for frank discussions and dialogues in the current session would ring hollow when some of them remain in detention. The government has refused to make any commitment on Mr. Abdullah's release, while a member of Rajya Sabha, Congress leader P. Chidambaram remains in judicial custody as government agencies and law officers show an alacrity that they reserve exclusively for pursuing Opposition leaders. The PM's appreciation of the Rajya Sabha's role in the hollowing out of Article 370 through a hurried resolution in the last session was disingenuous. The non-deliberative manner in which a full-fledged State was reduced into two UTs in one stroke was an unprecedented assault on federalism. Disruption by the Opposition is a marginal challenge to the role of Parliament at present. The real and graver trial of the legislature is the executive's refusal to be scrutinised by it. By undermining parliamentary committees and brazenly labelling any Bill as a money Bill in order to bypass the Rajya Sabha, the government has shown scant regard for parliamentary precedents and processes. A course correction is in order.

## Iran on the boil

Iran, struggling under the weight of U.S. sanctions, needs to revive the nuclear deal

Nationwide protests that broke out over the weekend are the latest challenge to the Iranian regime that's already struggling to fix a battered economy, hostile ties with the U.S. and waning influence in West Asia. The trigger was the government's decision to raise the price of rationed fuel. Thousands of people took to the streets, reminiscent of recent protests in Hong Kong, Chile, Lebanon and neighbouring Iraq. The protesters chanted slogans against the Islamic regime, carried "Death to Khamenei" posters, in a direct challenge to the country's Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei, and burned down banks and stores. Security personnel reportedly unleashed violence on the protesters, while the government shut down the Internet. According to Iranian media, at least 12 people were killed, including security personnel, and some 1,000 protesters were arrested. Both President Hassan Rouhani and Ayatollah Khamenei, the real ruler of Iran, have condemned the protests, while the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps, the country's top paramilitary force, has threatened to crack down on the demonstrations, raising the prospects of more violence.

Iran still has one of the lowest fuel prices in the world. But the rise was enough for a people reeling under high inflation, joblessness and a collapsing economy to take to the streets. President Donald Trump's decision last year to pull the U.S. out of the 2015 nuclear deal and reimpose sanctions has dealt a blow to Iran's economy. Inflation has risen to 40%. A quarter of Iran's youth are unemployed. And according to the IMF, the country's economy is expected to contract by 9.5% this year, while the currency, the rial, has plunged to record lows against the dollar. It is now evident that the collapse of the nuclear deal has cost the Iranian economy dearly. And the protests broke out at a time when Iran's influence in Lebanon and Iraq is being challenged by protesters. In Iraq, protesters burned an Iranian consulate and turned their anger against Iran-trained militias. In Lebanon, where Iran-backed Hezbollah is a key pillar of the government, protesters demand the resignation of the entire political class. And now in Iran, the protesters challenge the regime itself. In recent years, Iran has seen many protests and labour agitations. And the regime's response has always been typical. It branded the protesters as counter-revolutionaries and blamed foreign hands. The economic woes have weakened the delicate balance between the regime and its angry youth. The latest round of protests might die down. But Iran needs a lasting solution to address its revolting underbelly. It can't violently suppress the protesters forever and needs to get the nuclear deal back on track.

# A harbinger of the new hard-right normal

Trump is the logical end product of an old GOP strategy of appealing to the white community's worst instincts



SANKARAN KRISHNA

In the weeks after Barack Obama's stunning victory in the presidential elections in November 2008, the Republican leadership was conducting its own post-mortem on John McCain's defeat. Things did not look good at all. Around 60% of Hispanics; 62% of Asians; 95% of African-Americans; and, most significantly, two out of three voters below the age of 30 had voted for Mr. Obama. While he got only 43% of the white votes, Mr. Obama outpolled McCain by a full 10% (54% to 44%) among young white voters. Other than elderly whites and evangelical Christians, the Grand Old Party (GOP) could not count on any constituency as a stronghold. Given the demographic changes under way (the proportion of non-Hispanic whites is projected to drop to below 50% of the U.S. population by the year 2045), the white vote as a share of the overall electorate has dropped in every election since 1992. Quite simply, it was hard to see where the GOP could turn for renewal. Defeat followed again in 2012 as Mr. Obama handily beat Mitt Romney, and pundits were predicting a prolonged presidential drought for the GOP. Sen. Lindsey Graham remarked in 2012, "We're not generating enough angry white guys to stay in business for the long term."

### Angry white voters

Seven years later, Sen. Graham need have no worries about the supply of angry white guys in the U.S. And in Donald Trump, they have 'one of their very own' ensconced in the White House. The unabashed appeal to the idea of a white America, alongside the impediments to minority voting; the

gerrymandering of districts; and a politics of constant spectacle centring on issues such as race, abortion, 'Christian values', immigration, crime, gun control, and anti-elitism, has kept the GOP from the obsolescence it feared. While Mr. Trump is the latest manifestation of this trend within the Republicans, there is abundant evidence that at least since Richard Nixon's "war on crime" (read "on minorities") in the name of a "silent majority" (read "whites"), the politics of race-baiting, minority voter suppression, and pandering to the fears of whites has long been a core strategy.

So much of the focus on the 45th President of the U.S. is trained on him being an 'exception'. It is fair to say that no previous President has ever combined mendacity, ignorance, arrogance, bigotry, and vulgarity in the way that he has. And yet, in contrast to this narrative of Mr. Trump being an 'egregious exception', it is time to regard him as the harbinger of the new normal. For all his distastefulness, Mr. Trump is the logical end product of a 50-year-long Republican strategy of winning elections through appeal to the worst fears and instincts of the whites, especially those at the lower end of the educational ladder, whose greatest fear is losing their status vis-à-vis blacks and other coloured minorities. White supremacism has always been barely concealed throughout the history of the U.S., and events on the ground are making it increasingly likely that the open bigotry espoused by Mr. Trump may not just disappear when he is done being President.

Consider this: about 41% of Americans approve of the job Mr. Trump is doing as President (al-most the same as Mr. Obama's approval rating three years into his first term). However, not one Senator or Congressman from one of the world's oldest political parties



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has broken ranks with him; and his approval rating among Republican voters runs around 90%, as it does amongst all those who voted for him in 2016. In early November, a *New York Times*/Siena College poll and analysis found that only Joe Biden bested Mr. Trump in a head-to-head contest (but by a margin of less than 2%) in six key States (Michigan, Pennsylvania, Florida, Wisconsin, Arizona and North Carolina). Mr. Trump was even with Bernie Sanders and clearly bested Elizabeth Warren in these States. The piece concluded that if present trends continued, there is a good possibility that Mr. Trump may lose the popular vote by a larger margin than the three million by which Hillary Clinton beat him in 2016 – but that he might win the Electoral College by an even wider margin than he did last time.

These facts are the background against which the Democratic move to impeach the President is unfolding. That Mr. Trump's conduct clearly exceeds the bar set for bringing charges of impeachment ("The President... shall be removed from Office... for treason, bribery, or other high crimes and misdemeanors" as per the Constitution) is beyond doubt to anyone except the wilfully blind. Yet, the chances of impeachment resulting in Mr. Trump's ouster or resignation are practically zero. Even if

the House votes to impeach him (quite likely given the evidence and the Democratic majority in that chamber), the next step is for the Senate (where the Republicans have 53 of the 100 seats) to agree to first hold a trial, and then, by a two-third majority, vote to convict the President. The GOP's unanimity that Mr. Trump has done nothing impeachable rivals that of the Politburo under Joseph Stalin, so that possibility can be ruled out.

### Impeachment hearings

The first week of televised impeachment hearings before the House committee has confirmed that Speaker Nancy Pelosi's initial hesitation in embarking on impeachment was well-founded. Despite testimony that unequivocally indicates that President Trump personally vetted a policy of withholding already approved foreign aid to Ukraine until it agreed to dig up some dirt on the Bidens; that he had the U.S. Ambassador to Ukraine fired because she would not play along with such extortion; and that he has since lied about all of this, Mr. Trump's popularity within his own base is unaffected. If anything, the longer the impeachment hearings play out, the more credible his claim – this is all a diversionary witch-hunt – will seem to the faithful. Despite the endless deployment of phrases such as

"smoking guns," and "this time he's gone too far," the truth is that most Americans, but especially those predisposed to like the President, now live in discrete media silos: they hear and see only what they already agree with. The idea that these impeachment hearings could uncover something that would result in a significant number of people changing their minds about him seems unlikely.

At the same time, the sheer outrageousness of what the whistleblower revealed about the quid pro quo sought to be exacted from Ukraine left Ms. Pelosi with no choice but to proceed with impeachment. Though it might play into Mr. Trump's hands, it was still the right thing to do. In the meantime, the already unwieldy list of Democratic contenders for the nomination just increased, bringing the scrum up to 19. With none of them able to establish a clear frontrunner status, Mr. Trump can focus on what he does best: be the ringmaster of a media circus that energises his core constituencies and mocks the rest.

Whether or not Mr. Trump wins re-election, it is clear that one of the two parties in the U.S. has decided to throw away dog whistles and openly champion the politics of racial majoritarianism. How the Democrats respond to that challenge could well be the question of the next decade. Mr. Trump's reign will end, but the GOP's swing to the hard right may be hard to reverse. In this, the U.S. is in line with developments in Britain and all across Europe, and when one considers Turkey, Brazil, the Philippines, India, and Sri Lanka, in sync with the world. Much as one might like to think Mr. Trump is an aberration or a one-off, I fear it's more probable that the content and style of his politics is here to stay, in the U.S. and elsewhere.

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# Turning the policy focus to child undernutrition

India has sustained its progress in reducing stunting and the number of underweight children in the last decade



SUNNY JOSE

The Comprehensive National Nutrition Survey (CNNS) report, brought out recently by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, assumes salience, especially against two important factors. One, the latest Global Hunger Index (GHI), 2019 ranks India at the 102nd position out of 117 countries. Two, India's past performance in reducing child undernutrition has been rather mixed: there was a moderate decline in stunting but not in wasting. Between 2005-06 and 2015-16, child stunting and the condition of being underweight declined by 10% and 7% points, respectively. In wasting, the decline was a paltry 1% point. These factors make the CNNS (2016-2018) report timely and important.

The report covers dimensions of nutrition, some of which are new and important, and thereby heralds a new beginning in collecting national level nutrition data. It reveals that India has sustained its progress made in reducing the number of stunted and underweight children in the last decade. Despite such sustained decline,

the present stunting level still belongs to the threshold level of 'very high'. Hence, what is of urgent requirement is increasing the rate of decline. Though there is no magic policy wand to reduce stunting drastically within a short span of time, the CNNS report draws our attention to an all too familiar factor, which has not received the necessary attention.

### Educated mothers

Stunting among children under four years came down from 46% to 19%, a whopping 27% points decline, when maternal education went up from illiteracy/no schooling to 12 years of schooling completed. This phenomenal decline was also true for the number of underweight children. The difference was close to the gap between the poorest and richest wealth groups. It is next to impossible to transform poorest households into richest so soon. However, increasing the educational attainment of women significantly is certainly feasible. Women's education, besides being of instrumental significance, has an intrinsic worth of its own. Possibly, as studies suggest, women's secondary education might be capturing the cumulative effects of household wealth, women's empowerment and knowledge and health-seeking behaviour.

Ending open defecation and en-



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hancing access to safe water and sanitation are indeed appropriate policy goals, which need to be sustained. However, ending open defecation alone will not reduce stunting phenomenally, as is evident from the experience of Bangladesh. Also, the so-called Muslim advantage in child mortality in India – relatively lower child mortality among Muslims compared to Hindus – which occurs ostensibly due to the former's better sanitation and hygiene practices, does not translate into a similar stunting advantage among Muslims. Unlike child mortality, child stunting levels remain almost the same between Muslims and Hindus.

More efforts, besides ending open defecation, are required, if we are to accelerate the decline in child stunting. One related aspect, which is yet to be firmly embed-

ded into nutrition policy, is dietary diversity. It is important to move away from the present focus on rice and wheat, which studies denounce as 'staple grain fundamentalism,' of Public Distribution System (PDS), to a more diversified food basket, with an emphasis on coarse grains. It would be worth including millets in the PDS on a pilot basis, in States where stunting levels are high. Evidence suggests that dietary diversity is indeed good for reducing iron deficiency anaemia, levels of which also remain high in India. It may be useful learning from the virtues, in terms of food habits, of the marginalised than from the vices of the privileged groups. The rising obesity among the latter is a cause for concern, and is an emerging public health problem in India which demands equal attention.

### Decline in wasting

What about child wasting, in which India's past performance has been rather poor? Here, the report reveals an interesting, rather surprising, turnaround. The extent of decline in wasting is larger than that of stunting: about 4% points within 22 months. This is indeed a remarkable achievement, especially against a measly decline in wasting in the last ten years: 21% in 2015-2016 from 19.8% in 2005-2006. A closer look at the

performance of States reveals that Uttarakhand, Arunachal Pradesh, Gujarat, Punjab and Haryana have reduced wasting by 10% points or more within just 30 months or less, the best performer being Uttarakhand that has reduced wasting by 14% points.

While a fair measure of decline in wasting, consistent with that of stunting, is expected, the magnitude in this case appears rather high. This is especially so, as all these five States had witnessed an increase in wasting during the last decade, between 2005-06 and 2015-16. If the decline has actually happened, then it means that many States have achieved unprecedented decline in wasting, reversing their past poor record, within a short span of time. Surprisingly, these States have not performed equally well in reducing stunting, despite the fact that wasting and stunting share many common causes. Is this 'empirical reality' rightly captured by the CNNS? Or, alternatively, do these estimates indicate a possibility of some sort of anomaly in data? An independent validation would not only dispel any doubt regarding data quality but also help identify the drivers of rapid reduction in child wasting in India.

*Sunny Jose is RBI Chair Professor at Council for Social Development, Hyderabad. Views are personal*

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Letters emailed to [letters@thehindu.co.in](mailto:letters@thehindu.co.in) must carry the full postal address and the full name or the name with initials.

### An MP in detention

It is close to four months since the Centre revoked the special status for Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) and the government has inexplicably kept the National Conference leader Dr. Farooq Abdullah still under preventive detention. The former Chief Minister of J&K has played an important role in the politics of the erstwhile State. The Speaker should intervene and facilitate the participation of Dr. Abdullah in the winter session. Such detentions exhibit the dictatorial character of the Narendra Modi government. In a democracy, there should be

no misuse of legislation like that of the Public Safety Act (Front page, "Uproar in LS over Farooq's detention," Nov. 19)

ARCHANA VENKATAMADHIVARAJ,  
Thoothukkudi, Tamil Nadu

■ Dr. Abdullah is a sitting Member of Parliament. He has every right to take part in the winter session. To keep him under detention is illegal. By silencing his voice, the Modi government is only justifying our suspicion that all is not well in Kashmir.

T. ANAND RAJ,  
Chennai

### Release of convicts

The High Court has rightly rapped the Tamil Nadu

government for its decision to release six convicts undergoing life imprisonment for the gruesome killing of six Dalits in Melavalavu in 1997. (Editorial, "Wrong signals," Nov. 19). Considering the fact that this was a case where the casteist overtones in the crime appeared to be crystal clear, the government should have applied its mind a little more before arriving at the decision to release the convicts. While the government has the prerogative to effect such releases, the gravity of the case and the heinousness of the crime should have weighed over factors such as the longevity of the jail term

and the good conduct of the prisoners.  
C.V. ARAVIND,  
Bengaluru

### Return of Rajapaksa

Gotabaya Rajapaksa's success in the presidential elections in Sri Lanka marks the return of the Rajapaksa family to power after about four years in the wilderness. Mr. Gotabaya's nationalist campaign, with a promise of security and a vow to crush religious extremism, found favour with the Sinhalese majority in the country but his victory will be a concern for Sri Lanka's Tamil and Muslim minorities who voted against him. While Prime Minister Narendra Modi lost

no time in greeting him and offering an invitation to him to visit India, it will be a tall order to dissociate the island nation from its pro-China tilt (Op-Ed page, "An elusive reconciliation in Sri Lanka," Nov. 19).

N.J. RAVI CHANDER,  
Bengaluru

### Maternity benefits

The absence of adequate maternity benefits and leave provisions in India's policy measures is despite the fact that mothers, even those working in the formal sector, are forced to disproportionately bear the care-giving burden while facing discrimination in recruitment, promotion and

work allocation. Not only maternity provisions but other women-centred health care services are ignored, as is evident from a dearth of breast-feeding stations and separate functioning toilets in offices and workplaces. Underlying such policy neglect on the part of the government is an unwillingness of policymakers to de-glorify motherhood and see the liabilities, risks and forgone opportunities it entails (Editorial page, "The mother of non-issues," Nov. 19).

TANVI SONI,  
Jalandhar, Punjab

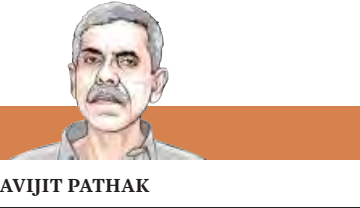
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# The threat to the idea of a public university

Education is a right, not a privilege reserved for the select elite



Even though Jawaharlal Nehru University, where I teach, is in turmoil because of an incompetent administration incapable of communicating with the students and teachers, the larger crisis confronting the idea of a public university needs to be understood. From Jamia Millia Islamia to Jadavpur University, from Visva-Bharati University to Aligarh Muslim University, and from the University of Hyderabad to Delhi University, we are witnessing an organised attack on the fundamentals of a creative centre of learning: critical pedagogy with deep politico-ethical sensibilities; epistemological pluralism; and a minimalist and enabling administration nurturing a transparent and democratic milieu for students, researchers and teachers to flourish as active participants in the cultivation and dissemination of foundational knowledge traditions. With politically appointed vice chancellors, philosophically impoverished technomanagers, new technologies of surveillance, and the militaristic notion of discipline and punishment, it seems some of our finest universities are dying.

**The purpose of education**  
To begin with, it is important to realise that if public universities with good quality, affordable education begin to crumble, the spirit of egalitarian democracy will be in danger. In times characterised by the market-driven principle, where there is commodification of education and reduction of higher education into market-friendly technical skills; where there are fancy private universities and all sorts of institutes of technology and management; and where teachers are seen as mere 'service providers' and students as 'consumers', education becomes a mere utilitarian/instrumental transaction. And this sort of education can by no means be emancipatory; it is inherently non-democratic, conservative and status quoist.

If, as a nation, we are really eager to resist the process of asymmetrical



"JNU aroused hope about the possibility of excellence with social justice and equity. It is sad that the administration is preparing the ground for the death of this grand dream." A student protest in JNU in 2018. **■SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT**

distribution of cultural capital, and the resultant reproduction of social inequality, we have to nurture creative, sensitive citizens through an environment of life-affirming teaching and an egalitarian practice of socialisation. And for this, we have to keep the dream of a public university alive. As I look at JNU, I feel that its promise was essentially the fulfilment of this dream – possibly, some sort of a Nehruvian dream of a welfare state. With an innovative admission policy; heightened sensitivity to heterogeneity; a blend of critically nuanced social sciences, cultural studies and foundational sciences; and a reasonable degree of autonomy regarding teaching, research and evaluation, the university made its presence felt as a liberating site. It embraced all: a tribal girl from Manipur, a Dalit boy from Maharashtra, a young leftist from Kerala, a radical feminist from Delhi, an Ambedkarite from the hinterland of Uttar Pradesh, and a young wanderer from Germany or Sri Lanka. JNU aroused hope about the possibility of excellence with social justice and equity. It is sad that the present administration is preparing the ground for the death of this grand dream.

**Repression of alternative voices**  
A deeper understanding of the crisis would enable us to see the changing nature of politics – the Machiavellian play of the ruling regime. As the doctrine of hyper-masculine religious nationalism tends to become hege-

monic, we see the repression of what I would regard as alternative voices – or a different reading of nation, culture and identity. It is obvious that young minds and researchers who have seen beyond placement and salary packages, and have engaged with Marx and Ambedkar, Gandhi and Tagore, and Foucault and Butler, would interrogate the dominant ideology of nationalism – its patriarchy, its hierarchy, its aggression and its indifference to cultural pluralism. This is why JNU has been castigated as "anti-national", this is why a bunch of zealots seek to invade Jadavpur University, and this is why the curriculum of Delhi University is under scrutiny.

**A new politics of knowledge**  
Furthermore, because of a mix of technocratic rationality and right-wing nationalism, a new politics of knowledge begins to emerge. It suspects the criticality of social sciences or reflexivity of liberal arts and quite often, the young minds pursuing research in these disciplines are seen as a 'burden' – something that, as noisy television channels propagate, taxpayers cannot afford. For instance, when one sees the enthusiasm of the JNU administration to remove aesthetically and politically enriched posters from the walls of the university, and their urge to introduce schools of engineering and management, the message, I believe, becomes obvious.

Yes, students are angry, restless, and unhappy. However, what is real-

ly pathetic is that the administration sees it merely as a 'law and order' problem. Instead of reflecting on the roots of the crisis, and engaging meaningfully with students and teachers, the administration relies heavily on all sorts of coercive measures. The JNU administration is known for issuing show-cause notices and charge sheets to its students and teachers. With a non-dialogic administration, the presence of police and paramilitary forces, and surveillance, the culture of learning has been severely damaged. Is it the assertion of the profane, and the death of the sacred?

As a teacher with a keen interest in culture and pedagogy, I believe that the larger society has to come forward to save our public universities, particularly at a time when the corporate elite or the market-driven aspiring class refuses to see the significance of any shared, egalitarian public domain, and the dominant political force fears creative and critical ideas. For instance, when JNU students protest against the hostel fee hike, they are essentially reminding us of the need for the state to fund public universities so that higher education becomes accessible to all. The message is that education is our right, not a privilege reserved for the select elite. Or when the students of the University of Hyderabad expressed their concern over the suicide of Rohith Vemula, it was an attempt to remind us of the danger of violence – physical as well as psychic – that stigmatised students from marginalised sections are often subject to.

Students and teachers have to be immensely careful and alert. Never should they allow their struggle and resistance to degenerate into a reactive violent act. And the university should not be seen as a war zone. It is really sad to see the administrators asking the police to give a 'tough' lesson to the students. We need a spirit of communion and dialogue. However, what is worrying is that it is not easy to educate our vice chancellors and other academic bureaucrats. Quite often, because of their obsessive indulgence with power and psychic insecurity, they miss what characterises a mentor: the art of listening, the skill of persuasion and the ethics of care.

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# Rebalancing counterterrorism

As Israel shows, an effective strategy must be comprehensive



How should India respond to the next terrorist attack sponsored by Pakistan? Future attacks are inevitable – the sponsorship of cross-border terrorism is a core tenet of Pakistan's security strategy, even as Kashmiri militancy is increasingly dominated by radicalised locals. The BJP-led government has repeatedly declared that it will emulate Israel's apparently successful strategy in responding to cross-border terrorism. But the government's fetishisation of Israeli counterterrorism mischaracterises Israeli strategy. New Delhi risks overemphasising the showy but narrow role of military punishment, and it elides other elements of strategy, which Israel itself has embraced, that are critical to counterterrorism effectiveness.

India's military responses in 2016 and 2019 were framed as attempts to impose costs on the Pakistani terrorist groups and their Army backers. But such minor actions have marginal material impact on the target; at best they may have killed fighters and temporarily damaged a training facility, although even those claims are contentious.

**Uses of punishment**  
Strategies of punishment work when an actor can impose sufficiently heavy costs on the enemy such that the enemy is dissuaded from attacking again. But the Pakistan Army and its terrorist proxies have already shown a willingness to absorb enormous material costs, as their wars with India showed – and their anti-India ideology has only hardened over time. Minor cross-border military action will not exact a cost sufficient to change the adversary's preferences or strategy.

Punishment can have other uses. Most particularly, it serves a domestic political purpose, shoring up popular support for the government – and the Modi government did use its national security credentials after Balakot to win the 2019 election. And as Israel has shown, it can be used to eliminate specific enemy capabilities, such as weapons manufacturing, although such tactics only work if they are enabled by exquisite intelligence and targeting, and even then the destroyed capabilities are likely to be reconstituted.

Punishment, then, never affords a resolution to a rivalry. At best, it allows the punisher to manage the ongoing conflict, and communicate diminishing patience with the adversary. On the other hand, it can also carry the risks of inadvertent escalation, especially if the punishment actions themselves

are escalatory, like the Balakot strikes. And they can create a commitment trap, binding the government to a policy of retaliation, lest it be seen as weak in the next crisis. Thus, the next crisis will be shaped by the Balakot crisis and, with each side thinking it can safely escalate force, could be more dangerous.

**An effective counterterrorism strategy**  
A more effective counterterrorism strategy goes beyond punishment. As Israel itself has shown, counterterrorism requires a balance, including at least three other lines of effort. First, it requires effective denial operations, to make terrorist attacks more difficult for the enemy. At the tactical level, this means simple adherence to security procedures – the attacks on the Pulwama and Pathankot air force base, for example, were costlier because of sub-standard force protection measures. Beyond security, this means addressing the grievances of the local population, which drive radicalisation. This requires managing trade-offs: heightened security measures since August 5 may help to control the population, but likely also exacerbate radical anti-India sentiment in Jammu and Kashmir.

Second, it requires shaping operations to incentivise the adversary to limit its attacks. Israel can use carrots and sticks in occupied territories, including economic development programmes or harsher security restrictions, but India lacks such leverage over the Pakistani Army and terror groups, and must rely on international actors. Thus counterterrorism must be synchronised with wider foreign policy, using harsh action through the Financial Action Task Force, or productive bilateral talks with China, to isolate Pakistan and make its strategy of supporting cross-border terrorism less appealing.

Third, it requires cultivating resilience, to reduce the political impact of terrorism. The BJP's 2019 election manifesto declared a "zero tolerance" policy on terrorism. Such policies only serve to sharpen public fears and box-in their governments to respond aggressively to the next attack. Despite all its counterterrorism experience, Israel still suffers terrorist attacks, but most can be absorbed without generating public hysteria.

There is a place for punishment in counterterrorism, but the Modi government's single-minded celebration of it yields primarily political benefits, rather than security. Effective counterterrorism requires a more comprehensive strategy. It requires a constant process of evaluation and adjustment – Israel does not have all the answers and relies on trial and error for different contexts. India should learn from Israel's tragic experience, but make sure to learn the right lessons.

Arzan Tarapore is a non-resident fellow at the National Bureau of Asian Research, and an adjunct professor at Georgetown University

## A lost opportunity in 1971

Indira Gandhi failed to convert India's victory in the 1971 war into a durable peace with Pakistan

UDAY BALAKRISHNAN

November 19, 2019 marked the 102nd birth anniversary of former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi. Thirty-five years after her death, she continues to be regarded as the most courageous and decisive leader India has had. Her time in office was marked by epoch-making achievements, including the swift and successful prosecution of the war with Pakistan in 1971. But there were also serious lapses of judgment, including the 1975-1977 Emergency and the storming of the Golden Temple in Amritsar in 1984, an ill-advised move that cost the Prime Minister her life.

**A disadvantageous peace**  
Among her failures, the least talked about was also her worst. Until all official records related to the Simla Agreement signed on July 2, 1972 are made public, we will never know what led Indira Gandhi to conclude such a disadvantageous peace with Pakistan following the 1971 war. The Simla Agreement, and the subsequent Delhi Agreement, gave Pakistan everything it wanted: the territory it lost to India in the war and the safe return of all its soldiers without one of them being held responsible for the genocidal campaign unleashed in what is now Bangladesh.

The Simla Agreement reads more like a communiqué than a peace agreement with a country that had waged war on India. Nothing in the Agreement pinned Pakistan down to future good behaviour. It also included some laughable expectations, such as the clause requiring both governments "to take all steps within their power to prevent hostile propaganda directed against each other".

Hardly had the Agreement been signed when the Pakistani Prime Minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, who had never hidden his intention to make Pakistan a nuclear power, began disparaging India. Indira Gandhi ought to have taken note. Writing in the *Foreign Affairs* magazine in April 1973, Bhutto disingenuously observed that "Pakistan had been the victim of un-

abashed aggression: her eastern part seized by Indian forces. It was this fact that made it difficult for our people to be reconciled to the fait accompli, more so because the invasion was not an isolated phenomenon. On the contrary, it was but the climax of a long series of hostile and aggressive acts by India against Pakistan since the establishment of the two as sovereign and independent states".

What the Simla agreement failed to achieve for India could well have been obtained through the 1973 Delhi Agreement signed by India, Pakistan and Bangladesh.

**An inflection point**  
If ever there was an inflection point in India's relations with Pakistan, it was the moment when India had Pakistan on its knees, holding over 15,000 square kilometres of its territory and 93,000 its soldiers – nearly a quarter of its army – as prisoners of war. It is mystifying why India so easily returned both. A former Indian diplomat, Sashanka Banerjee, provided an explanation, when he said that the decision to repatriate Pakistani prisoners of war "was taken to get Sheikh Mujibur Rahman back to his country alive and well". But that doesn't sound right. The repatriation of Pakistani prisoners of war occurred after the signing of the Delhi Agreement, long after Sheikh Mujibur Rahman had returned to Bangladesh in January 1972.

India ought to have rightly insisted that an international tribunal try those prisoners of war who had contributed to the well-documented genocide in Bangladesh. This would have also eroded the credibility of the Pakistani Army, eliminated it as a political force and led to a more enduring peace in the region. Indira Gandhi's inexplicable failure to convert India's victory in the 1971 war into a durable peace will remain a blot on her record. We will continue to bear its consequences, one of them being confronting a nuclear Pakistan.

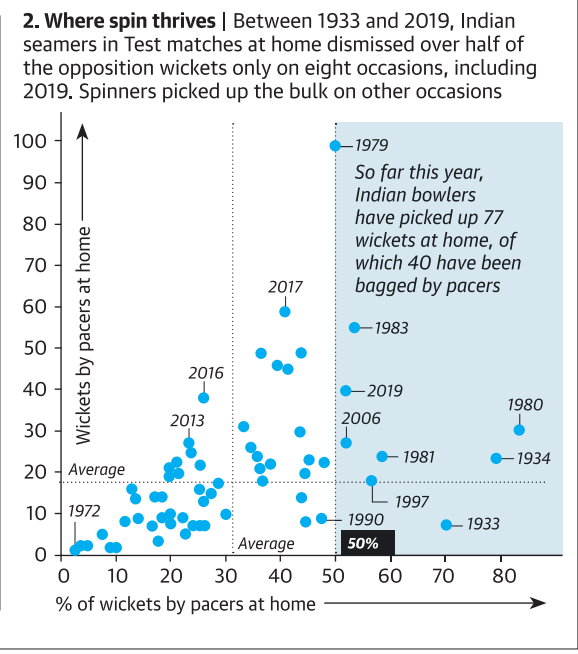
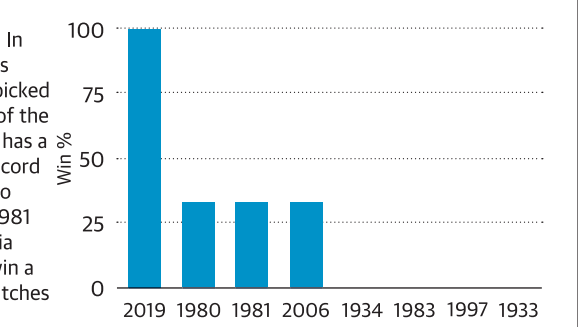
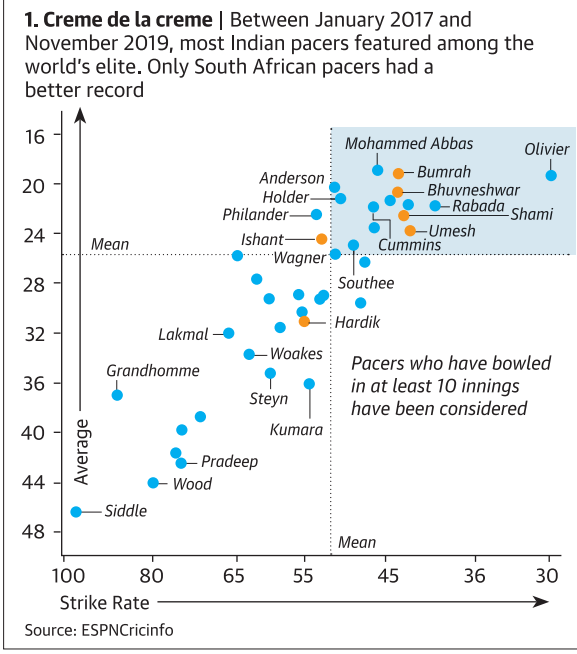
Uday Balakrishnan teaches at IIS, Bengaluru



### DATA POINT

#### Speed wins

Mohammad Shami, Umesh Yadav and Ishant Sharma have been instrumental in India's emphatic wins in Test matches at home over the last one month. Not only are they among the world's best fast-bowlers in the last three years, they have helped clinch a perfect win record so far for India in Tests at home in 2019. By **Sumant Sen**



## The FROM THE ARCHIVES FIFTY YEARS AGO NOVEMBER 20, 1969 Historic 4-hour moon walk

Two more Americans, Charles Conrad and Alan Bean, strode the moon to-day [November 19] after an astonishing bull's-eye landing at 12-24 I.S.T., on the dusty Ocean of Storms and set up a lunar scientific station powered by a nuclear generator. They also raised their nation's flag. The exultant astronauts stepped out of the landing craft Intrepid, after a voyage of more than a quarter million miles and spotted their target – a 1967 Surveyor robot – not more than 180 metres away. They returned to Intrepid after spending nearly four hours walking about the lunar surface in the first of two scheduled excursions outside Intrepid. The 39-year-old Conrad, America's shortest spaceman, hummed as he worked. "I feel great", Conrad kept saying. Bean joined him on the moon half an hour later, lowering his visor against the dazzling sunlight and exclaiming with delight at the sight of shining glass beads sparkling on the lunar ground.

## A HUNDRED YEARS AGO NOV. 20, 1919. Hunter Committee.

Bombay, November 19. – Mr. C.F. Andrews has made the following statement to the representative of the Associated Press in regard to the decision of the Congress Sub-Committee regarding Hunter Committee. Before sailing for South Africa I wish to identify myself with the decision of the Congress Sub-Committee not to appear and lead evidence before the Disorders Enquiry Committee at Lahore. While I recognise the conciliatory attitude of Sir Edward Maciagan in offering to release on parole the Punjab political leaders during the time when they might be called upon to give evidence, I regard His Honour's decision to withhold from them the right of even ordinary criminals to be present under police escort when their own cases are being tried as not only nullifying the value of the concession but also as depriving them of an important safeguard against injustice. It appears to me to be opposed to every canon of fair play that serious allegations reflecting on the character and honour of these gentlemen should be allowed to be made behind their backs, and they themselves prevented from confronting their accusers on the spot. Mr. C.F. Andrews sails for South Africa tomorrow, and will probably stay for a short time in British Africa on his way to Natal.



FROM PAGE ONE

## Hyderabad techie, M.P. farmer held in Pakistan

Bahawalpur Judicial Magistrate Yazman asked the local police to travel to Multan and hand over the two Indians to the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA). Bahawalpur police sources confirmed to *The Hindu* that the two Indian nationals were thoroughly investigated and were sent back from Multan as the FIA doesn't think this case falls under its jurisdiction.

The two are now back in the custody of the Bahawalpur police.

"Prashant is lucky he was arrested here. We don't know what would have happened if he had gone to Afghanistan via Pakistan," said one police officer.

Police sources said the two will most likely be repatriated after due process is followed. The Indian High Commission will have to get in touch with the police and initiate the process of repatriation.

Telangana police said Mr. Maidam has been missing from Hyderabad since April 2017. Cyberabad Police Commissioner V.C. Sajjanar said they have written to the State government, which will contact the Ministry of External Affairs seeking his extradition from Pakistan.

### A father's appeal

Earlier on Tuesday, Mr. Maidam's father Babu Rao met Mr. Sajjanar and appealed to him to bring his son back. Two years ago when Mr. Maidam left for office and did not return home, his father lodged a complaint with the Madhapur police of Cyberabad and a man missing case was registered on

April 11. Mr. Rao said he got to know that his missing son was in Pakistan through news channels. "He was working in Bengaluru for one and a half years, before starting a new job at a software firm in Hyderabad," he said, adding that their family moved to Hyderabad from Visakhapatnam in 2014. "The earlier our son is handed over to us, the happier we will be," he said.

### Video message

In a video message to his parents on Monday night, the techie said he would be released from jail within a month and would come home soon. "Now they brought me to court from the police station after it was declared that there was no problem. They will now send me to jail and inform the Indian Embassy here and then I can contact you," he said.

He said the bail process would start and both the countries would exchange prisoners, which would take time. At the beginning of the video, Mr. Maidam was seen taking permission from the Pakistani officials to speak in Telugu.

The arrest has left residents of Mithilapuri Colony, Visakhapatnam in a state of shock. "Their family lived for about five years in this Ganga Residency apartment and they were very close to us. Prasanth was nice to everyone and speaks in a friendly manner. He used to visit Vizag regularly, before he went missing," said Ch Sai Baba, a resident.

(With inputs from Gilai Harish)

## Intel network to go live by the end of next year

"Against 119 sanctioned government posts, a total of 53 officers are presently in position; whereas against 123 contractual posts, 21 consultants have been deployed. Central agencies will have access to the data on NATGRID platform in the first phase," Mr. Reddy said.

He said NATGRID was exempted from the Right to Information Act, 2005 under sub-section (2) of Section 24.

He added that "physical infrastructure" is planned

to be completed by March 31 next year and "IT Solution to go live by 31.12.2020."

Earlier, Home Minister Amit Shah reviewed the progress of NATGRID in September. The NATGRID links intelligence and investigation agencies. The 10 user agencies will be linked independently with certain databases which will be procured from 21 providing organisations including telecom, tax records, bank, immigration etc. to generate intelligence inputs.

## Nithyananda accused of illegal confinement

"Our team is probing the matter," Ahmedabad (Rural) Superintendent of Police R.V. Asari said.

In their petition, the couple alleged that their two younger daughters were kidnapped and kept in illegal confinement for more than two weeks and were deprived of sleep.

The Sharmas have urged the court to direct the police as well the institution's authorities to produce their daughters who, they alleged, are being kept under

"illegal confinement", before the court and hand them over to them.

Meanwhile, the Gujarat Congress slammed the BJP government in the State for not initiating action against the ashram. "It is a well-known fact that Nithyananda enjoys protection from the State government despite the fact that many children are being confined in the ashram against the wishes of their parents," Gujarat Congress spokesman Manish Doshi said on Tuesday.

## Gotabaya to visit Delhi on Nov. 29: Jaishankar

In another tweet, Mr. Jaishankar said: "A warm meeting with Sri Lanka President @GotabayaR. Conveyed PM @narendramodi's message of a partnership for shared peace, progress, prosperity & security. Confident that under his leadership, #IndiaSriLanka relations would reach greater heights."

Indian High Commissioner Taranjit Singh Sandhu was also present at the meeting.

Mr. Modi was among the first international leaders to congratulate Mr. Gotabaya on Twitter and on the phone, after his decisive vic-

tory in the November 16 election.

Replying to Mr. Modi on Twitter, Mr. Gotabaya said he looked forward to meeting him in "the near future".

Pakistan's Prime Minister Imran Khan, Nepali Prime Minister K.P. Sharma Oli and Maldivian President Ibrahim Mohamed Solih were among the regional leaders who wished the new President, who won with 52.25% of the vote, riding on his promise to revive the economy and enhance national security, a concern for many Sri Lankans after the bombings.

# 'Stone-throwing on the decline'

Home Ministry says such incidents in J&K have reduced after August 5

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

The number of stone-throwing incidents in the Kashmir Valley has come down after August 5 when Jammu and Kashmir was put under lockdown after its special status was revoked, the Union Home Ministry informed the Lok Sabha on Tuesday.

The government admitted that pellet guns were used as a "matter of abundant caution" only to deal with "severe law and order problems and to avoid civilian casualties".

In a written reply to a question, Minister of State for Home Affairs G. Kishan Reddy said that from August 5 to November 15, 765 persons were arrested in 190 cases of "stone-throwing and law and order".

He said 361 such cases were registered from January 1 to August 4 this year. The number of arrests during this period was not provided.



Protesters throwing stones in the streets of Srinagar on August 8, 2019. • ATUL LOKE/NYT

"The government has initiated multi-pronged policies to check the menace of stone-throwing and succeeded in curbing it to the extent that a large number of troublemakers and instigators have been identified, and preventive measures, including detention under the Public Safety Act, have been taken

against them," Mr. Reddy said. He said an investigation revealed that separatist organisations and activists, part of the Hurriyat Conference, were behind the incidents of stone-throwing.

The NIA had charge-sheeted 18 persons in the terror-funding cases so far, he said. Mr. Reddy said that initial-

ly student attendance in the Valley was thin, but it picked up gradually and stood at 99.7% during the ongoing examinations. He said 34,10,219 tourists, including 12,934 foreigners, visited Jammu and Kashmir in the past six months, and ₹25.12 crore was earned from tourism.

# We're becoming a police state, counsel tells SC

Dushyant Dave questions the need for 'blanket restrictions' in Jammu and Kashmir, asks court to stand up for the people

SOIBAM ROCKY SINGH  
NEW DELHI

"We are slowly becoming a police state," senior advocate Dushyant Dave said in the Supreme Court on Tuesday, while referring to the "blanket restrictions" placed in Jammu and Kashmir after its special status under Article 370 of the Constitution was revoked on August 5.

Mr. Dave said the government had brought "draconian and sweeping" restrictions on all persons in the State without knowing whether they had a criminal history or not. Such blanket

restrictions violate the right to life and liberty under Article 21, he said.

"This kind of restrictions is unheard-of in a democracy," Mr. Dave, who was appearing for the Foundation for Media Professionals, said, urging the Supreme Court to step in to protect the rights of the people.

"This court has to stand up for the people," Mr. Dave said, invoking the words of B.R. Ambedkar that rights without remedies was of no use. "Individual liberty cannot be subsumed for social control," he said citing Con-



stituent Assembly debates.

He said that even in the Hong Kong protests, which have been going on for over 50 weeks, the government has not imposed such restrictions. Even a Hong Kong court has ruled against the government's decision to

ban wearing of masks by protesters, he said.

Mr. Dave also brought the attention of the three-judge Bench of Justices N.V. Ramana, R. Subhash Reddy and B.R. Gavai to the "cavalier" affidavit filed by the Centre and State government on the

# Cong. protests removal of SPG cover

Speaker warns party MPs of action after they troop into the well of the Lok Sabha

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla on Tuesday warned of action against protesting members as Congress MPs trooped into the well of the House over withdrawal of Special Protection Group (SPG) cover provided to the Gandhi family, and demanded a response from Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah.

"Sonia Gandhiji and Rahul Gandhiji are not normal protectees. Vajpayeeji had allowed Special Protection Group security for the Gandhi family. From 1991 to 2019, the NDA came to power twice but their SPG cover was never removed. I don't know what has happened to them [Modi government]," Leader of the Congress in the Lok Sabha Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury said after raising the issue during Zero Hour - when an MP can raise any issue with notice.



Parliament disrupted: Opposition members protesting in the Lok Sabha on Tuesday. •PTI/LSTV

DMK leader T.R. Baalu too supported the Congress leader, and questioned inadequate security to Congress president Sonia Gandhi, who along with former party chief Rahul Gandhi and party general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra are now provided security by the Central Reserve Police Force.

Union Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs Arjun Meghwal, however, objected

to Mr. Chowdhury raising the issue, and pointed out that the Speaker had already rejected his adjournment motion on it.

As soon as proceedings started at 11 a.m. and Question Hour got under way, Congress MPs walked into the well, shouting slogans such as "Prime Minister give reply", "We want justice" and "Please stop revenge politics".

After the Speaker's re-

quest to the members to go back to their seats failed to have any effect, Mr. Birla issued the warning.

"There might have been precedents of protesting in the well. From today onwards, no [member] will protest in the well. If not, I will be forced to take action," he said.

Members of the Congress and the DMK later walked out in protest after the Speaker did not allow a discussion on the issue.

### Rahul absent

During Zero Hour, Mr. Birla took note of Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's absence as another Congress MP, K. Suresh, got up to speak from Mr. Gandhi's seat. "His [Rahul Gandhi's] question was listed for the Question Hour and I wanted to give him a chance had he been present," the Speaker remarked and asked Mr. Suresh to speak from his own seat.

## RS Secretariat to revisit marshals' dress code

Uniform was recently changed

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

Following outrage from military veterans and MPs alike, Rajya Sabha Chairman M. Venkaiah Naidu informed the House on Tuesday that the Secretariat would revisit the design of the uniform of the marshals.

On Monday, the first day of the 250th session of the Rajya Sabha, the marshals came wearing new olive green uniform, complete with peak cap and lanyard. The marshals used to wear safari suits during summer and *bandhgala*s during winter, along with turban.

"I have a small observation to make that the Secretariat of the Rajya Sabha, after considering the various



M. Venkaiah Naidu

suggestions, has come out with a new dress code for the marshals. But we have received some observations by some political and well meaning people. So, I have decided to ask the Secretariat to revisit the same and then take a conclusive decision," Mr. Naidu said.

Some MPs had said that the obvious similarity with the Army uniform was a violation of the rules.

# BJP MPs briefed on PM's foreign tours

Modi's visits abroad boosted India's standing, says External Affairs Minister

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

The BJP held the first meeting of its parliamentary party for the winter session on Tuesday with External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar briefing MPs on Prime Minister Narendra Modi's recent trips abroad and Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal explaining to MPs why India decided to keep out of the Regional Comprehensive Partnership (RCEP).

Mr. Modi was not present at the meeting.

Party MPs who attended the meeting said that Mr. Jaishankar emphasised the point that Mr. Modi's foreign visits had boosted India's standing and furthered the country's interests.



Union Home Minister Amit Shah with other leaders after the BJP parliamentary party meeting on Tuesday. •PTI

He spoke in detail about the Prime Minister's participation in the United Nations General Assembly meeting in the U.S. in September and the "Howdy Modi" rally, at-

# Oppn. wants Speaker to act on Farooq issue

'Ensure Srinagar MP's presence'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

The Opposition parties are going to approach Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla seeking his intervention on behalf of the House to ensure that Srinagar MP Farooq Abdullah is allowed to attend the ongoing Parliament session.

The Opposition parties are arguing that the onus lies on the Speaker to ensure the presence of Mr. Abdullah in the House since he has not sought a leave of absence and has been detained without any genuine grounds for his detention. Mr. Abdullah was re-elected from the Srinagar constituency in May 2019.

The government has detained Mr. Abdullah under the Public Safety Act (PSA). The Opposition parties had taken up the issue during the all-party meeting on Sunday, and then once again in the Lok Sabha on



Farooq Abdullah

Monday. The government has so far not come up with a concrete reply except for Parliamentary Affairs Minister Pralhad Joshi saying that the government would look into it and do whatever possible within the framework of the law.

"We seek to take all legitimate steps within the framework of Constitution to ensure Mr. Farooq Abdullah's presence in the House," National Conference MP Hasnain Masoodi said.

issue. "Their affidavit is a casual approach towards what they have done in the State," Mr. Dave said, adding that the blanket restrictions were not supported by hard facts.

He also argued that the restrictions should be temporary and could not go on for over 100 days.

### Internet freedom

Accusing the government of stifling voices of citizens using the Internet shutdown, Mr. Dave said the right to freedom of speech and expression included freedom of propagation of ideas, in-

cluding the freedom to circulate one's ideas. He referred to a recent verdict of the Kerala High Court that had stated that Internet freedom was a fundamental right.

After Mr. Dave concluded his submission, senior advocate Meenakshi Arora, appearing for activist Tehseen Poonawala and Shoaib Qureshi, began her arguments. She said that apart from Internet shutdown, there was no public transport such as bus services in the State.

The Bench has posted the case for further hearing on November 21.

# Govt. running away from questions: Opposition

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

The Opposition expressed anguish at the abrupt adjournment of the Rajya Sabha within seven minutes of convening on Tuesday, and accused the government of running away from answering their questions.

The Upper House proceedings adjourned after an Opposition uproar over alleged police action on protesting JNU students and detention of political leaders in Jammu and Kashmir. Soon after the House met for the day, the Left and other Opposition party members raised the two issues.

Chairman M. Venkaiah Naidu said the adjournment notices received from members do not warrant setting aside the listed business of the day.

Trinamool Congress MP Derek O'Brien pointed out that not a single member of the Opposition went into the well, yet within minutes

## Surrogacy Bill introduced

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

The government on Tuesday introduced the Surrogacy (Regulation) Bill, 2019 in the Rajya Sabha, with Health Minister Harsh Vardhan terming it a "game-changer" as it aims at regulating surrogacy in India for the first time.

the House was adjourned.


"The government had four good reasons to do so. The first four questions listed today to be answered by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman were on hoarding notes after demonetisation, PMC bank fraud, public sector banks fraud and PSU disinvestment. You run away when you don't have answers to any of the questions," he said.

### Decision on RCEP

In his briefing on India's decision to keep out of the RCEP, Mr. Goyal said it was in the national interest as joining the grouping would have widened India's trade deficits with some countries and harmed its domestic industry, sources said. He said the UPA government favoured joining the RCEP but the Modi government had stood for the country's interest by keeping out of it.



IN BRIEF



**Allow Kartarpur visit without passport: MP**

NEW DELHI  
Congress MP Gurjeet Aujla on Tuesday urged the Centre to ensure that pilgrims can visit Gurdwara Kartarpur Sahib in Pakistan with Aadhaar cards instead of passports, and the \$20 fee is waived. He also urged restoration of trade between the two countries, at least in the border areas.

**Don't distort Periyar's image, says DMK**

NEW DELHI  
DMK MP S. Senthilkumar on Tuesday condemned Yoga guru Ramdev for allegedly describing Periyar as a "Dalit terrorist" and asserted that the image of the social reformer should not be distorted. "Periyar fought for social equality and woman empowerment," he said.

# Anti-lynching Bills being examined, says Centre

They were passed by the Rajasthan and Manipur Assemblies

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI**  
The anti-lynching Bills passed by the Rajasthan and Manipur Assemblies were still being examined and are yet to get the President's consent, the Lok Sabha was informed on Tuesday.  
Union Minister of State for Home Nityanand Rai said the Centre, following a Supreme Court directive, had issued two advisories to State governments to check incidents of lynching.  
"In pursuance to the Hon'ble Supreme Court's judgment on July 17, 2018, two advisories – on July 23, 2018, and September 25, 2018 – were issued to the State governments and Union Territories' administrations for taking measures to curb inci-



dents of mob lynching in the country," he said in reply to a written question.  
On whether a number of States have enacted laws, making lynching a non-bailable offence and recommending life imprisonment for those involved in such violence, Mr. Rai said as per

information available, two Bills on the subject passed by the State legislatures of Manipur and Rajasthan and reserved by the Governor for consideration of the President had been received.  
**Creating awareness**  
"The Bills so received are examined in consultation with the concerned Central Ministries," he said.  
Mr. Rai said the government through audiovisual media has also generated public awareness to curb the menace of lynching. The government has also sensitised service providers to take steps to check the propagation of false news and rumours having potential to incite mob violence and lynching.

## RS passes Jallianwala Trust Bill

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI**  
The Jallianwala Bagh National Memorial Trust will no longer have the Congress president as a member, and the Central government will have the power to end any member's five-year term before its expiry, according to an amendment passed by the Rajya Sabha on Tuesday.  
The Jallianwala Bagh National Memorial (Amendment) Act, 2019, which was passed by the Lok Sabha on August 2, replaced the Congress president as a member of the Trust with the Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha, or the leader of the single largest Opposition party in case there is no Leader of Opposition.  
The Trust was first set up by then Congress president Motilal Nehru in 1920.

## House panel to take up spyware issue

Officials summoned for meeting today

**SOBHANA K. NAIR  
NEW DELHI**  
The Standing Committee on Information and Technology, headed by Congress leader Shashi Tharoor, will meet on Wednesday to discuss the recent breach in WhatsApp using the Pegasus spyware.  
The committee has also received a representation from 17 persons who have come together on a common platform, "Pegasus Targeted Persons."  
Officials from the IT and Home Ministries have been summoned for the meeting. Kudankulam Nuclear Plant authorities too have been asked to depose. The nuclear plant had reported a malware attack on its system. "We will summon the WhatsApp officials later once we have spoken to the



government representatives," a member of the Committee told *The Hindu*.  
In its representation, the "Pegasus Targeted Persons" group has asked the committee to probe the role of the Indian government, and to find out whether "public money has been expended for these illegal and unauthorised attacks". It also sought to know "who authorised this expenditure?"

## More litigants back Ayodhya review plea

**INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE  
AYODHYA**  
After the All India Muslim Personal Law Board decided to file a review petition against the Ayodhya verdict, seven Muslim litigants have announced their support for the AIMPLB.  
After the meeting of the AIMPLB held in Lucknow on Sunday, the Jamiat Ulema Hind had announced its decision to file a review petition.  
The first three Muslim litigants who supported the move were Mohammad Umar and Misbahuddin, residents of Ayodhya and Faizabad, respectively, and Maulana Mahfuz Ur Rahman of Ambedkar Nagar.  
On Monday, four more litigants – Haji Mahboob, Haji Asad, Hafiz Rizwan and Maulana Hizbullah – said they would back the AIMPLB and the Jamiat.

# Electoral bonds: CEC objected to 1% vote share norm

Finance Ministry brushed aside objections, including those of Law Ministry, documents obtained via RTI application show

**PRISCILLA JEBARAJ  
TCA SHARAD RAGHAVAN  
NEW DELHI**  
In the process of vetting the electoral bonds scheme in December 2017, the Law Ministry repeatedly objected to the Finance Ministry's stipulation that political parties must have a 1% vote share in the Lok Sabha or State Assembly elections in order to be eligible for the scheme, documents obtained through an RTI query by activist Anjali Bhardwaj show.  
The documents, which were viewed by *The Hindu* on Tuesday, show that the

Law Ministry recommended the imposition of a 6% vote share requirement (similar to the requirement for recognised State, national parties) or the removal of the vote share requirement entirely. The Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) also objected to the vote share requirement as discriminatory, while political parties themselves were not consulted.  
However, the Finance Ministry chose to ignore these concerns and insisted that only registered political parties which had "secured not less than one percent of

votes polled in the last general election to the House of the People or the Legislative Assembly, as the case may be, shall be eligible to receive the bond."  
According to the latest data from the Election Commission of India, there are eight recognised national political parties, 52 recognised State parties and 2,487 unrecognised parties registered with the Commission. A 6% vote share is one condition for recognised parties. It is not clear how many of the unrecognised parties have a 1% vote share.

In May 2017, the Finance Ministry wrote to all State and national parties asking for their comments on the electoral bond scheme. Only four parties – the Congress, the Bahujan Samaj Party, the Communist Party of India and the Shiromani Akali Dal – responded, with most asking for a draft of the scheme.  
The documents obtained through Ms. Bhardwaj's RTI application show that in June, some early drafts of the scheme only referenced "registered political parties" as eligible to receive the bond, while another said the party

would need to be a national/State political party.  
**No public comment**  
On August 5, a draft incorporated the 1% vote share stipulation for the first time.  
On August 21, the draft was presented to Prime Minister Narendra Modi. After that meeting, a proposal to circulate the draft to all national and State parties or to open it for public comment was scrapped.  
On September 22, in a meeting with the Economic Affairs Secretary, CEC A.K. Joti raised concerns that in-

dividual candidates and new political parties would not be able to receive donations under the scheme and cautioned that the "somewhat discriminatory" provision might be challenged in the courts.  
When the draft went for vetting in December, the Law Ministry recommended an amendment to a 6% vote share requirement, saying that the scheme should be aligned with the RPI Act.  
In response, the Economic Affairs Secretary replied: "we have to retain the formulation of 1% votes".

## Govt. lied about EC view on poll bonds: Congress

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI**  
The Congress on Tuesday said it will expose in Parliament how the Finance Ministry "lied" about the Election Commission's objection to electoral bonds in the Rajya Sabha.  
Addressing a press conference at the Congress headquarters with party spokesperson Supriya Shrinate, Congress MP Gaurav Gogoi said when an MP had asked if the Election Commission (EC) had objected to the electoral bonds, the former Minister of State for Finance had lied about it.

The Congress released the EC letter of May 2017 to the Law and Justice Ministry in which the poll panel expressed its strong opposition.  
"Despite knowing this, the then MoS for Finance told a 'horrendous lie' in the Upper House that the government received no complaint from the EC," Mr. Gogoi said, adding that the issue was a breach of parliamentary privilege.  
"The Electoral Bonds scheme by the BJP government is nothing but a mechanism to legitimise bribery," Ms. Shrinate said.



# Israel settlements not illegal, says U.S

Decision will provide greater space for Israelis and Palestinians to negotiate peace, says Pompeo

LARA JAKES  
DAVID M. HALBFINGER  
WASHINGTON

The Trump administration declared on Monday that the U.S. does not consider Israeli settlements in the West Bank a violation of international law, reversing four decades of U.S. policy .

The announcement by Secretary of State Mike Pompeo was the latest political gift from the Trump administration to Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, who has vowed in two elections this year to push for the annexation of the West Bank. His chief opponent, Benny Gantz, has until Wednesday night to gather a majority in Israel's Parliament or he will relinquish his chance to form a new government, raising the prospect of a third round of elections.

The U.S. has in the past described the settlements as illegitimate, and Palestinians have demanded the land for a future state, a goal that has been backed by the UN, European governments and U.S. allies across West Asia.

### Political support

But President Donald Trump has been persistent in changing U.S. policy on Israel and the Palestinian territories – moves aimed at bolstering political support for Netanyahu, who has failed to form a government after two rounds of elections with razor-thin outcomes.

Monday's decision reversed a 1978 legal opinion by the State Department concluding that the settlements were inconsistent with international law. Mr. Pompeo said that ruling "hasn't advanced the cause of peace".

"We've recognised the

reality on the ground," Mr. Pompeo told reporters at the State Department. (President Ronald Reagan also told reporters shortly after taking office in 1981 that he did not believe the settlements were illegal but called new Israeli communities in Palestinian territory "unnecessarily provocative".)

The settlements have been a main sticking point in peace negotiations that have failed to find a solution for generations. They are home to Israelis in territory that Palestinians have fought to control, and their presence makes negotiations for a two-state solution all the more difficult. The two-state solution has been a primary focus of past peace plans, calling for a separate state for Palestinians.

Within hours of the announcement, the State Department issued a travel alert to Americans planning to visit Jerusalem, the West Bank or the Gaza Strip. "Those opposed to the Secretary of State's announcement may target U.S. govt facilities," interests, and citizens," the department said on Twitter.

In Washington, Mr. Pompeo said the decision would provide greater space for the Israelis and Palestinians to negotiate over the status of the settlements.

He said that the issue could be largely left to Israeli courts to decide, and that it had no bearing on legal conclusions regarding similar situations elsewhere in the world.

Instead, Mr. Pompeo said the issue must be solved by the Israelis and the Palestinians. "And arguments about who is right and wrong as a matter of international law will not bring peace," he said. NY TIMES



**Fighting over land:** Israeli border guards keeping watch as bulldozers demolish Palestinian houses near the al-Arub camp, on the outskirts of the West Bank town of Hebron. AFP

## Palestinians rail against U.S. decision, Israelis hail it

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE  
JERUSALEM

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Tuesday hailed a U.S. announcement that it no longer considers settlements in the West Bank and annexed east Jerusalem illegal, but the Palestinians pledged new measures to oppose it.

Mr. Netanyahu visited the Gush Etzion settlement bloc south of Jerusalem, where he told settler leaders he was "very moved" by the announcement made by U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo on Monday.

"Here, we are on a historic day with another tremendous achievement for the State of Israel, which we have greatly worked for," he told them, according to a statement released by his spokesman.

"The Trump administration has corrected an historic injustice and lined up with truth and justice."

Mr. Pompeo said that after legal consultation Washington had concluded the establishment of settlements was "not, per se, inconsistent with international law".

More than 6,00,000 Israelis live in settlements in east Jerusalem and the West Bank, alongside more than 3 million Palestinians.

The Arab League criticised Mr. Pompeo's announcement, calling it an "extremely adverse development".

The only two Arab states to have signed peace treaties with Israel – Egypt and Jordan – also sharply criticised the U.S. policy shift, with Jordanian Foreign Minister Ayman Safadi warning of its

"dangerous consequences".

The EU reiterated that it considers all settlement activity "illegal under international law".

The direct impact on the ground may be limited but analysts say it will further embolden the settlement movement.

The Palestinian Authority – which considers the U.S. biased and has rejected the Trump administration as a mediator if peace talks are ever revived – denounced the latest decision.

Chief negotiator Saeb Erekat said the Palestinians would take a series of measures to oppose it. "We began deliberations in the UN to present a draft resolution in the Security Council," he said. "We expect a (US) veto but we will do it. Let the U.S. veto international law."

# Hong Kong university holdouts desperately seek escape routes

1,100 protesters arrested; about 100 still remain on campus

REUTERS  
HONG KONG

Anti-government protesters holed up in a Hong Kong university were frantically searching for escape routes on Tuesday after more than two days of clashes with police, dramatic breakouts by rope and motorcycle and more than 1,000 arrests in 24 hours.

About 100 protesters were trapped in the Polytechnic University a day after students, some tired and fearful of police storming the campus, tried again and again to flee, only to be beaten back by police firing rubber bullets, water cannon and tear gas. Some 235 in-



**Out in the open:** Injured protesters leaving the Hong Kong Polytechnic University on Tuesday. AFP

jured were hospitalised.

Police have made about 1,100 arrests in the past 24 hours on charges, including rioting and possession of offensive weapons. The total number of those arrested since protests began in June is more than 5,000.

Hong Kong leader Carrie Lam said she had told police to handle the protests humanely.

The university is the last of five that protesters have occupied to use as bases from which to disrupt the city.

# Trump's call with Zelensky 'inappropriate'

Officials give firsthand accounts of conversation between Ukraine & U.S. Presidents

SRIRAM LAKSHMAN  
WASHINGTON DC

As the second week of public impeachment hearings got underway, Americans heard from witnesses who could provide firsthand accounts of conversation between U.S. President Donald Trump and Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky. Calling what he heard on the July 25 phone call "inappropriate", Lieutenant Colonel Alexander Vindman, the top Ukraine expert at the National Security Council, testified that it was "improper for the President to request... to demand an investigation into a political opponent".

Foreign Service professional and an adviser to Vice President Mike Pence, Jennifer Williams, who was on



Lt. Col. Alexander Vindman

the call and testified alongside Lt. Col. Vindman on Tuesday, called the call "unusual". "... I found the July 25th call unusual because in contrast to other Presidential calls I had observed, it involved discussion of what appeared to be a domestic political matter.

Lt. Col. Vindman also tes-

tified that he spoke to State Department official George Kent and an unnamed intelligence official about the call.

A decorated Army officer, who has served in South Korea and Iraq, Lt. Col. Vindman was brought to the U.S. as a child by his family, which left the Soviet Union forty years ago. On Tuesday, he called attacks on the character of testifying public servants "reprehensible" and "vile".

Addressing his father during his opening remarks, he said his decision to leave the Soviet Union forty years ago was the right one. "Do not worry, I will be fine for telling the truth," he said.

Mr. Trump has publicly criticised those testifying, including on Twitter while

their hearings were in progress, as in the case of former Ukraine Ambassador Marie Yovanovitch's last week.

The U.S. Army is considering moving Lt. Col. Vindman and his family to a military base for their physical safety, if required, the *Wall Street Journal* reported.

Both provided firsthand testimonies of the call. This is significant given that one of the core Republican strategies has been to discount the testimonies, saying they are based on second- or thirdhand accounts.

In his opening remarks, ranking Intelligence Committee member, Devin Nunes, focused his criticism on "media", referring to some of them as "puppets of the Democratic Party".

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE  
STOCKHOLM

Swedish prosecutors said on Tuesday they have dropped their investigation into WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange over a 2010 rape allegation, even though they found the plaintiff's claim "credible".

"My assessment is that all investigative measures that can be taken have been taken. But... the evidence is not strong enough to file an indictment," deputy director of public prosecutions Eva-Marie Persson told reporters.

The investigation was launched after a Swedish woman who met Assange at a WikiLeaks conference in Stockholm in August 2010 accused the Australian of having unprotected sex with her while she was sleeping.



Julian Assange

She said she had previously repeatedly refused to have unprotected sex with him.

The statute of limitations in the case was to expire in August 2020.

Mr. Assange has always denied the allegation.

"I want to stress that the plaintiff has given a credible and reliable account (of events). Her statement is clear, long and detailed," Ms. Persson said in a statement.

"But altogether, my assessment is that the evidence has weakened in such a way that there is no longer reason to continue the investigation."

Mr. Assange, 48, has been held at a top-security British prison since April after police dragged him out of the Ecuadoran embassy in London, where he had been holed up since 2012 to avoid an extradition order to Sweden.

He was subsequently sentenced to 50 weeks in prison for breaching bail conditions when he took refuge in the embassy.

Swedish authorities closed the rape investigation in 2017, saying it was not possible to proceed as Mr. Assange could not be reached. But the case was reopened following his arrest.

# Three killed by 'rioters' in Iran

Internet will be unblocked once abuse stops, says govt.

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE  
TEHRAN

Three security personnel have been killed by "rioters" in Iran, the latest deaths in protests that showed no sign of subsiding on Tuesday, despite a wave of arrests and an internet shutdown.

A shock decision to impose petrol price hikes sparked the nationwide demonstrations in which officials say at least five people have been killed.

The United Nations expressed alarm on Tuesday "that the use of live ammunition has allegedly caused a significant number of deaths

across the country".

The situation in the streets remains unclear largely due to the government-imposed internet outage now in its third day.

Footage of masked young men clashing with security forces has been broadcast on State television, which rarely shows any signs of dissent.

In the latest bloodshed, assailants wielding knives and machetes ambushed and killed three security personnel west of Tehran, the ISNA and Fars news agencies reported late on Monday.

In response to the vio-

lence, the authorities say they have arrested hundreds of people.

Iran said on Tuesday the internet will only be unblocked when authorities are sure it will not be misused. "The internet will come back gradually in some provinces where there are assurances the internet will not be abused," government spokesman Ali Rabiei said.

Netblocks, a website that monitors global net shutdowns, said internet connectivity in Iran was at 4% on Tuesday compared with normal levels.

### ELSEWHERE



#### Rajapaksa seeks PM's resignation

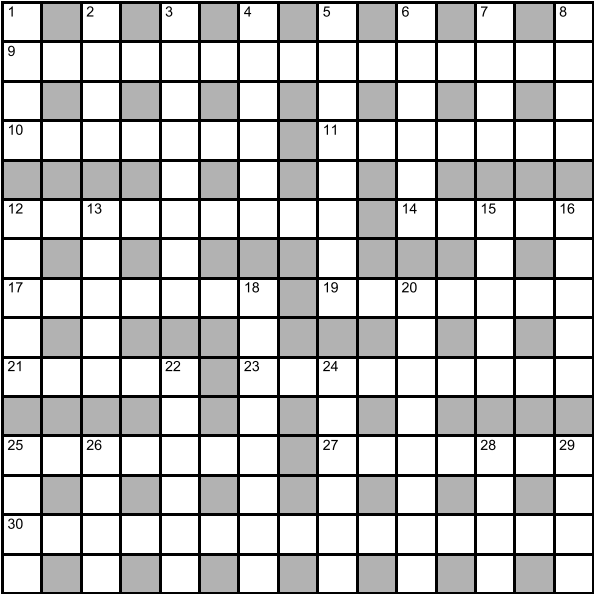
COLOMBO  
Former President Mahinda Rajapaksa has sought the resignation of Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe, asserting that governance will improve if the President and the Cabinet are from the same party. PTI

#### Sharif flown to London for further treatment

LAHORE  
Pakistan's ailing former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif on Tuesday left for London in an air ambulance to seek better treatment for multiple illness. This comes days after a court here allowed him to travel abroad for four weeks. PTI

## THE HINDU CROSSWORD 12785

Log on to crossword.thehindu.com for more puzzles



### ACROSS

- 9 French official boarding party bus condemned hypocrisy (6,9)
- 10 Busy Santa Claus oddly left dried fruit (7)
- 11 Since French and German articles are separated (7)
- 12 Drama staged in front of love sick creature (9)

(set by Hypatia)

- 14 Thin recorder? (5)
- 17 Say, extras in total, e.g. by estimation (3,4)
- 19 Sensible paper trashed without liberal notion (7)
- 21 Stole and returned without a fight (5)
- 23 Cushy life at her Edinburgh house (9)
- 25 Eat bear (7)
- 27 Around lunch time, two queens became increasingly lustful (7)
- 30 Face up to something else (7,3,2,3)

### DOWN

- 1 They're not even large to cover priest (4)
- 2 Roll up flag after fine address (4)
- 3 When it doesn't rain on Spooner's beloved earth (5,3)
- 4 Attack gangster without one back-up (6)
- 5 Ratnam, perhaps devours Italian's favourite pasta (8)
- 6 Judge wore a clean suit (6)

- 7 Boring book finally offered for reading to a toddler (4)
- 8 For starters, ultimately someone employing resources (4)
- 12 World-class book for students? (5)
- 13 Mother and grandmother rock! (5)
- 15 Former busybody on the telephone (5)
- 16 Hard cryptic grid cracked by Incognito, at first (5)
- 18 Picked up comfy clothes for program (8)
- 20 Robbed diamond that made Robinhood broke (3-1-4)
- 22 Awkwardly lift hubby's coat that's dirty (6)
- 24 Launching regularly, can ISRO gain gravity with World body's projectile? (3,3)
- 25 Members go up and trade (4)
- 26 Crazy man in perfect condition (4)
- 28 Hint: Reverse the first 9 letters (4)
- 29 Scan metal with the other hand (4)

## SUDOKU



### Solution to puzzle 12784

DEAR JOHN SPURGE  
EUI OI JEEK  
NOTEBOOK UPKEEP  
TUE D J S LEE  
ARMADILLO QUEEN  
LNZ U C U C D  
ZOOM THEATRE  
GHL M A S D  
URANIUM POKEFS  
MELVIL T F S  
PULSE MNE MONIST  
TO T E R V L A  
INWARD ACTUALLY  
OE E E E L E E  
NODDED ADOVERTED

### Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

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

## FAITH

### Narasimha emerges

When Prahlada said that the Lord was everywhere, even in a small atom, Hiranyakasipu struck the pillar before him, and out came Narasimha. Hiranyakasipu had requested Brahma that he should not be killed by man or animal; he should not be killed inside a structure or outside; he should not be killed during the day or during the night; he should not be killed by any weapon. Brahma had granted him all his requests. And that is why Vishnu had to come as Narasimha – in half-man, half-lion form, said M.A. Venkatakrishnan in a discourse. The Lord killed Hiranyakasipu in twilight, which was neither day nor night. He sat on the threshold and put the demon on his lap and tore him with His nails. So, he was killed neither outside nor inside his palace, and since the Lord's nails were used, clearly the boon of not being killed by a weapon was also kept.

The Lord went to such lengths to kill Hiranyakasipu, because He wanted to ensure that Brahma's promises were kept. As Narasimha, the Lord assumed a huge form, which extended beyond Satyaloka, the abode of Brahma. Satyaloka was near His navel. Vedanta Desika, in his Dasavatara Stotra, writes that it seemed as if Brahma was emerging again from His navel. Hiranyakasipu was himself a huge demon, and the Uttara Kanda of the Ramayana gives us an idea of his size. Ravana goes on a digvijaya, and reaches the netherworld, of which Mahabali is king. Ravana sees a dazzling mountain there, and asks Bali about it. Bali says that what Ravana referred to as a mountain had once been the ear ornament of his (Mahabali's) great-grandfather – Hiranyakasipu! So, if an ear ornament looked like a mountain, the size of the demon can be imagined. It was such a huge demon whom Narasimha lifted easily, and killed using His nails.



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



# Bringing the office closer home

Companies with multiple addresses in a city can easily help their employees tide over commuting-related problems

LIFFY THOMAS

Last month, tyre-manufacturing company CEAT opened an office in Borivali, a suburb in Mumbai, primarily to spare a sizeable section of its workforce the hassle of a long commute to the company's headquarters in Worli.

Frequent traffic congestion on the Western Express Highway, which is part of the arterial route leading to Worli, is reportedly among the factors that contributed to this decision.

In August 2018, semiconductor multinational company Advanced Micro Devices set up a "satellite office" in Bengaluru, and the move is said to have been shaped by a survey that showed 40% of its workforce lived in areas close to the Central Business District.

Early this year, when the Electronic City flyover, the lifeline to a major IT Corridor in Bengaluru, was closed for maintenance, Robert Bosch Engineering and Business Solutions Private Limited allowed its employees to choose any of its four facilities in the city to work from.

When a company has multiple addresses, it can help its workforce tide over commuting-related problems. It can come in handy particularly for companies whose nature of operations is not conducive to readily offering a work-from-home arrangement.

### A different scenario

Sometimes, companies may have to centralise their oper-



The challenges of travelling to work. FILE PHOTO: SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

## Co-working spaces to the rescue

While some companies go in for satellite offices, there will also be others who go the other way – bringing their various offices in a city into one common space.

Usually, the reasons are obvious: Reducing operational costs; and creating synergy among its various wings. In Bengaluru, this year, Goldman Sachs, Swiggy and Quest have turned

their back on the multiple-offices model. Oracle is joining the club. Last year, Flipkart moved its associates to a new office at Embassy Tech Village in Bengaluru.

"In Chennai, TCS, for example, closed its Cathedral Road office to move its associates to the Siruseri facility a few years ago," says Sanjay Chugh, city head – Chennai, Anarock Property Consultants. Chugh says

that with many co-working spaces on offer, having multiple offices may not be great idea anymore.

Companies with its operations concentrated in one space can always book a co-working space for its employees, or let them work from home, says Chugh, adding that many companies offer employees a pick-and-drop provision at the closest metro or from their houses.

ations, and in process shut down a few offices. In this scenario, a good part of the workforce will suddenly be faced with the problem of a long commute. How does a company deal with this issue?

In 2017, NetApp India consolidated its offices in Bengaluru and moved to a 15-acre space in Whitefield.

The company offered many doles, including a relocation allowance to those who

moved closer to the new office; one-time reimbursement of packing-and-moving charges for those moving within 10 km from the office; reimbursement in brokerage fee and one-time broadband installation.

A 50% subsidy on items bought at the cafeteria was offered as an incentive to move closer to the new office.

"About 20% of our employees availed the offer,"

says Aanandita Bhatnagar, director, Corporate Communications, NetApp. Today, the company has 2,000 employees with a host of added amenities on the campus.

"We were able to take our employees with us and engage them so well that we climbed nearly 30 spots to rank #7 in 2017 in the Good Place To Work survey. It was the same year that we moved to the new office," says Aanandita.

### ENGG./PRODN./TECH.



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Visakh Refinery

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**Any corrigendum will be posted on website only**



**Online Applications will be open from : 22-11-2019**

**Last date for receipt of online application : 21-12-2019**

### GENERAL



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**Start Date of Application – 18<sup>th</sup> November 2019**

**Last Date for Application – 31<sup>st</sup> December 2019**

**Corrigendum, if any, would be uploaded on our website only.**



### NEWS BYTES

#### A hackathon in textile technology

A technical textile hackathon will be held in Mumbai on November 22 to identify solutions to the challenges of sustainable urban living.

The hackathon aims to build business models that can be funded, scaled, and taken at a global level.

It is expected to bring the country's top 10 technical textile start-ups under one roof, according to a statement issued by the organisers Messe Frankfurt India.

While the manufacturing side will be represented by companies engaged in the production of products relating to specialty fibres, yarns, textiles, fabrics, along with brands and traders, the entrepreneur side will be represented by SMEs, start-up ecosystems and accelerators.

Topics centred around India's sustainability challenges will be taken up with the objective of developing focused solutions, the statement says.

#### Forum for healthcare professionals

The Occupational English Test (OET), the English language test designed specifically for healthcare professionals, is conducting 'Healthcare Communication Forum 2019' at Kochi on November 21.

The Forum will focus on the shared responsibility of healthcare stakehol-

ders and English language assessors in ensuring patient safety and quality of care.

Healthcare professionals, hospital administrators, employers, educators and academicians can attend the meet.

They can register via <http://cloud.2occupationallenglishtest.org/Kochi-Forum19>.

#### Finding entrepreneurs in health sector

IIT Hyderabad's Centre for Healthcare Entrepreneurship (CfHE) is calling for applications for its fully-paid fellowship for the year 2020.

According to a release, the fellowship is dedicated to the goal of creating universal healthcare solutions, and it seeks to achieve this by igniting the spark of entrepreneurship and providing successful applicants with training and incubation opportunities.

Successful applicants will learn about the bio-design process from IIT Hyderabad academicians and be provided with access to mentors, industry professionals, investors and advisors. The successful start-ups selected from this programme will be given an opportunity to be incubated at CfHE Incubator with a grant of ₹25 lakh to establish their companies, added the release. The last date to apply is November 30. Interested candidates can apply at <http://bit.do/cfhe-application2019-II>

### GENERAL

**TEACH OUR STUDENTS TO ASK THE RIGHT QUESTIONS**



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Andhra Pradesh

SRM University – Andhra Pradesh invites applications from candidates for faculty positions.

The university is looking for applicants with a passion for teaching and demonstrated excellence in research. Selected candidates will be expected to teach undergraduate courses, conduct independent research and provide services to the university. Our faculty members have graduated from world's leading institutes and 100% are Ph.D. holders with international exposure. SRM University AP is looking for illustrious candidates in the following streams, to join our intellectual team of academicians.

**Schools with Positions Open:**

**School of Engineering and Applied Sciences:** Computer Science and Engineering, Electrical and Electronics Engineering, Electronics and Communications Engineering, Mechanical Engineering, and Civil Engineering

**School of Liberal Arts and Basic Sciences:** Environmental Science, Physics, Chemistry, Mathematics & Statistics, Biology, Bioinformatics, Economics, Psychology, History, and English

**School of Management and Business Administration:** Marketing, Finance, Operations, Human Resources, International Business

**Qualification and Experience:**

**Ph.D. in the relevant disciplines is mandatory. Candidates from IISc, IITs, IIMs, JNU, National Laboratories, and Foreign Universities will be given preference.**

**Professor:** 10 years teaching/research/industrial experience of which at least 4 years should be at the level of Associate Professor or equivalent

**Candidates are encouraged to Apply online:**

Submit detailed resume with complete list of publications, research experience and professional references by 15<sup>th</sup> December 2019 at [www.srmap.edu.in/careers](http://www.srmap.edu.in/careers)

**REGISTRAR**

SRM University, Andhra Pradesh Neerukonda, Mangalagiri Mandal, Guntur Dt, Andhra Pradesh – 522 502 📞 HR Contact: Mr. Riaz @ +91 83099 21918



**Associate Professor:** 6 years teaching/research/industrial experience of which at least 3 years should be at the level of Assistant Professor or equivalent

**Assistant Professor:** At least 3 years of teaching/research/industrial experience. Outstanding fresh Ph.D. candidates may also be considered

**Compensation & Benefits:**

- Salary ranges from INR 12 to 36 lakhs per annum commensurate with the candidate's experience and achievements
- Compensation will not be a constraint for outstanding candidates
- Additional benefits like subsidized accommodation and child care in the campus, transportation option, and medical insurance are provided



MARKET WATCH

	19-11-2019	% CHANGE
Sensex	40,470	0.46
US Dollar	71.71	0.18
Gold	39,028	0.84
Brent oil	61.57	-1.73

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Ports	364.05	-1.60
Asian Paints	1721.35	-17.65
Axis Bank	747.80	24.85
Bajaj Auto	3161.05	4.15
Bajaj Finserv	9152.80	48.55
Bajaj Finance	4135.75	-19.15
Bharti Airtel	439.35	30.15
BPLCL	518.95	-2.80
Britannia Ind	3120.35	-20.55
Cipla	472.10	11.50
Coal India	199.60	-0.70
Dr Reddys Lab	2743.00	6.00
Eicher Motors	21747.35	269.55
GAIL (India)	125.10	0.30
Grasim Ind	786.15	16.65
HCL Tech	1134.65	-6.45
HDFC	2212.10	-24.20
HDFC Bank	1271.90	9.85
Hero MotoCorp	2468.95	-33.95
Hindalco	192.35	-1.25
Hind Unilever	2037.75	-18.45
ICICI Bank	493.50	-4.85
IndusInd Bank	1392.75	18.35
Bharti Infratel	250.55	23.75
Infosys	712.85	7.65
Indian OilCorp	133.00	0.45
ITC	249.30	-1.45
JSW Steel	247.90	-1.70
Kotak Bank	1623.80	-3.40
L&T	1365.75	1.25
M&M	560.65	-13.05
Maruti Suzuki	7045.45	-53.00
Nestle India Ltd.	14117.10	31.55
NTPC	117.35	-0.10
ONGC	133.25	-0.65
PowerGrid Corp	195.45	4.80
Reliance Ind	1509.75	50.55
State Bank	330.40	5.30
Sun Pharma	425.90	1.35
Tata Motors	167.75	-2.35
Tata Steel	401.75	-8.30
TCS	2108.80	-43.80
Tech Mahindra	763.15	11.35
Titan	1163.20	4.40
UltraTech Cement	4100.15	-26.20
UPL	551.25	2.25
Vedanta	141.70	-1.70
Wipro	250.40	0.95
YES Bank	64.15	-1.70
Zee Entertainment	285.85	-8.30

EXCHANGE RATES

Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on November 19

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	71.51	71.83
Euro	79.18	79.53
British Pound	92.45	92.87
Japanese Yen (100)	65.77	66.07
Chinese Yuan	10.18	10.23
Swiss Franc	72.12	72.44
Singapore Dollar	52.56	52.80
Canadian Dollar	54.14	54.38
Malaysian Ringgit	17.20	17.28

Source: Indian Bank

IN BRIEF

Now, Reliance Jio to hike mobile tariffs soon

NEW DELHI  
Reliance Jio on Tuesday said it will increase mobile phone call and data charges in the next few weeks. This comes a day after Airtel and Vodafone Idea announced a hike in call and data charges from next month. Jio said TRAI is likely to initiate a consultation process for revision in tariffs. “Like other operators, we will also work with the Centre and comply with the regulatory regime to strengthen the industry to benefit consumers,” it said. PTI

5 independent directors’ posts fall vacant at CIL

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT KOLKATA

The posts of five independent directors at Coal India Ltd. have fallen vacant together, following the expiry of their tenure, the PSU said in a regulatory filing on Tuesday. CIL said the matter had been taken up with the Union Coal Ministry.

The five directors are Loretta M. Vyas, S.B. Agnihotri, D.C. Panigrahi, Khannindra Pathak and Vinod Jain. They were among CIL’s seven independent directors.

While Ms. Vyas and Mr. Agnihotri had served in the Indian Administrative Service, Mr. Pathak is a well-known mining expert and Mr. Jain is a chartered accountant.

Their term (re-appointment for a year) expired on November 16, 2019.

They were appointed in November 2015 for a period of three years.

CIL has four functional directors in charge of marketing, technical, personnel and finance, besides the chairman and managing director. The vacancies come at a time when CIL, which produces over 80% of India’s coal, is struggling to increase its output. October was its third straight month of production decline. Between April and October 2019, CIL produced 280.4 million tonnes, 8.5% lower than a year ago.

Karvy Group under SEBI scanner after delayed payouts to clients

Firm cites technical issues, says it’s working on auto payout for online customers

ASHISH RUKHAIYAR MUMBAI

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has begun an initial inquiry based on reports that Hyderabad-based Karvy Group is facing liquidity issues, even as the financial services entity clarified that the delay in payouts to certain clients was only due to technical issues.

Karvy Group has been in the news over the last few days after its equity clients took to social media to air their grievances over delayed payouts.

Incidentally, some of the clients alleged that they had not received the payout even though more than a week had passed since trading.

According to SEBI guidelines, the payouts should happen on a T+2 basis, which means that the client should get the money on the second day from the day of the



Rule book: According to SEBI guidelines, the client should get the money on the second day from the day of trade. • REUTERS

trade. While the market has been abuzz with talks of a liquidity crisis at Karvy, the company on Tuesday said that the delays were only on account of technical issues and that it was in the “process of enabling T+2 auto payout for all online customers to eliminate manual payout process.”

“In the month of October 2019, we have had some technical issues in reconcilia-

tion between ledger postings and bank payout file creation process. This issue has led to some delays in giving payouts to some customers who have asked for payouts,” Karvy said in a statement in response to a query from *The Hindu*.

SEBI, however, has taken note of the developments and is examining the matter to ascertain if there were any lapses in terms of risk and

settlement mechanisms by Kotak Stock Broking, a person familiar with the development said. An email query sent to SEBI remained unanswered till the time of going to press.

Meanwhile, Karvy has denied that it is facing any liquidity crisis and added that it had the “wherewithal” to settle the dues, which it had been doing consistently.

“Some of the codes would have been missed out during reconciliation process [and] are being processed and settled, we wish to bring to your notice that such unreconciled customers would be less than 50 to 60 unique customers a day,” said Karvy.

“We are building processes to ensure that such unreconciled cases are reconciled the very next day, instead of the existing reconciliation process which is being done on a monthly basis,” it added.

‘Vodafone Idea, Airtel lose over 49 lakh users’

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA NEW DELHI

Vodafone Idea and Bharti Airtel lost over 49 lakh users in September this year, while rival Reliance Jio added 69.83 lakh new users to its network, according to data from sectoral regulator Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI).

Total wireless subscribers (GSM, CDMA and LTE) increased to 117.37 crore at the end of September 2019 from 117.1 crore at the end of August, a monthly growth of 0.23%.

Wireless subscription in urban areas declined to 65.91 crore at the end of September, while that in rural areas increased to 51.45 crore, it added. Bharti Airtel lost 23.8 lakh users in September to take its total user base to 32.55 crore. Similarly, Vodafone Idea lost 25.7 lakh users in the month to take its total user base to 37.24 crore.

Yes Bank under-reported bad loans of ₹3,277 crore, finds RBI

Rana Kapoor and his companies exit almost fully from bank

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT MUMBAI

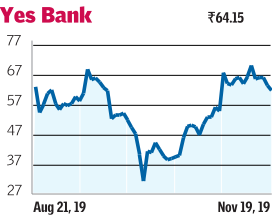
Yes Bank reported a whopping ₹3,277 crore divergence of bad loans in the financial year 2018-19, following which its gross non-performing assets will increase by 41.5%.

In a communication to the exchanges, the lender said it had reported gross NPAs of ₹7,883 crore in FY19, but the RBI, during its inspection, identified NPAs worth ₹11,160 crore.

Hence, the divergence or under-reporting of gross NPAs was ₹3,277 crore. The divergence in net NPAs was ₹299 crore for 2018-19.

As a result of the increase in NPAs, provisions for bad loans for FY19 increased to ₹978 crore. Hence, net profit for FY19 fell to ₹1,084 crore from ₹1,720 crore reported while finalising the results.

The bank further informed the exchanges that out of the ₹3,277 crore, ₹1,259 crore had already



been identified as NPAs till September 30.

The remaining ₹2,018 crore is across four accounts, of which exposure of ₹1,041 crore is across three accounts and was internally rated and disclosed as ‘BB & Below’ as on September 30.

Also, out of the additional provisioning requirement of ₹978 crore, the bank has made a provision of ₹346 crore till end September and ₹632 crore of more provisioning will be required.

Kapoor sells stake

A year ago, Rana Kapoor, the bank’s co-founder and former MD & CEO, said ‘Diamonds are forever’, indicating that he would never sell

his stake in the company.

A year later, Mr. Kapoor and promoter entities, Yes Capital and Morgan Credits, are left with only 900 shares after they sold 0.8% stake on November 13 and 14, according to an exchange filing.

Morgan Credits and Yes Capital started selling stakes in September. On September 19, Morgan Credits Pvt. Ltd sold 2.3% shareholding in the bank for about ₹340 crore to prepay non-convertible debentures subscribed by various schemes of Anil Ambani’s Reliance Nippon Life Asset Management (RNAM) Company.

On September 26, Yes Capital sold 1.8% shareholding in the bank to prepay non-convertible debentures (NCDs) subscribed by various schemes of Franklin Templeton Asset Management.

Also in September, Reliance Nippon Life Asset Management invoked 3.92 % of its stake in Yes Bank.

Xiaomi to raise offline presence

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT CHENNAI

Chinese smartphone maker Xiaomi, which started as an exclusive online seller, is planning to ramp up its offline retail presence to 50% across India by this year end, said a top official.

“We have a clear focus of expanding our offline retail presence by the year end,” said B. Muralikrishnan, COO, Xiaomi India. We are planning to double the number of retail outlets from the present 10,000 to 20,000 in the near future.” Xiaomi ventured into the offline retail route in 2017.

Asserting that offline retail accounted for one-third of mobile sales – both for Xiaomi and for the industry in general – and the rest online, he said: “Over the years, our offline sales has been growing by leaps and bounds. By the end of the year, it will probably be 50:50 [online vs offline].”

PV sales up 11% in October: FADA

Over 2.48 lakh passenger vehicles sold in festive season

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

Retail sales of passenger vehicles in the country increased by 11% to more than 2.48 lakh units in October, with consumer sentiment turning positive amid the festive season, according to data released by the Federation of Automobile Dealers Associations (FADA).

“October retails were in the positive, giving a much-needed respite to the auto industry and especially our dealer community after months of de-growth. The festivals saw very good footfalls at dealerships across most of the geographies, the consumer sentiment was positive, and purchase decisions were concluded as it used to be during the growth year,” FADA president Ashish Harsharaj Kale said.

**Two-wheeler sales up 5%**  
The data released on Tuesday showed that retail sales of two-wheelers were up by



Top gear: The festival season saw very good footfalls at dealerships across most of the geographies, says FADA. • PTI

5% to over 13.34 lakh units in the last month, as against more than 12.70 lakh units in October 2018.

Commercial vehicle sales, however, continued to decline with a fall of 23% to 67,060 units as compared with 87,618 units in the year-ago month. Three-wheeler sales saw an increase of 4% to 59,573 units. Total sales across categories rose 4% to over 17.09 lakh units, as against more than 16.38 lakh units in the same month last year.

The given figures, based on the number of vehicle registrations from the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways *Vaahan* platform, does not include numbers from Telangana, Madhya Pradesh and Andhra Pradesh.

Mr. Kale added that while inventory levels for all vehicle categories had come down, more needed to be done towards inventory reduction to avoid dealer losses “heading into the unknown territory of BS6 transition”.

Telcos asked to share infra

DoT advisory aims to boost connectivity in public places

YUTHIKA BHARGAVA NEW DELHI

In a move that is likely to lead to better telecom connectivity for consumers, the government has advised all service providers to share their in-building infrastructure with their peers in all public buildings, including government offices, airports, railway stations and hospitals.

“All the telecom service providers (TSPs) are advised to share the in-building infrastructure (IBS, OFC and other cables, ducts, etc.) with other TSPs, in all the existing government/public

buildings, places like airports, railway stations, bus terminals, metro stations/lines, hospitals etc., as per the terms and conditions of their respective licenses,” the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) said in an advisory.

In order to provide a better network for voice calls as well as high speed broadband inside buildings, TSPs need to install in-building solutions (IBS) as well as lay cables including copper, optical fibre and LAN cables. For this, they may require permission from the owner of the building. However, in

many cases, building owners enter into an exclusive agreement with one of the TSPs, and deny access to others.

“Such practices not only limit competition, it also leaves no choice to consumers except to avail services from the TSP with whom the contract is done; taking away choice and flexibility from the consumers which they would have had in terms of quality of service (QoS), tariff, redundancy etc.,” the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) observed in its recommendations in March 2017.

CSB Bank to raise ₹410 cr. via IPO

Offer opens on Nov. 22 and priced at ₹193-195 a share

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT MUMBAI

Thrissur-based old generation private lender CSB Bank – earlier known as Catholic Syrian Bank – has set a price band of ₹193-195 per share for its initial public offer (IPO), valuing the bank at ₹3,400 crore. The IPO opens on November 22 and closes on November 26.

The IPO consists of fresh issue up to ₹24 crore and an offer for sale of up to 1,97,78,298 equity shares.

Three insurance companies – HDFC Life, ICICI Prudential and Edelweiss Tokyo Life Insurance Company, which have stake in the bank – will exit following the IPO. The book running lead managers to the offer are Axis



C.V.R. Rajendran

Capital Limited and IIFL Securities Limited. Indo-Canadian billionaire businessman Prem Watsa’s Fairfax India, which has 50.09% stake in the bank, will see its stake falling to 49.74% post the IPO, C.V.R. Rajendran, MD & CEO, CSB Bank, told reporters.

The RBI has given promoters a 15-year-time period to

reduce stake to 15%. Promoters will have 5 years to reduce stake to 40%, 10 years to reduce stake to 30% and 15 years for bringing it down to 15%. The bank is going for the IPO mainly to meet regulatory requirements.

RBI had asked the lender to list by September but there was a delay due to procedural issues. The bank reported ₹44 crore profit for the half-year ended September 2019 as compared with a ₹197 crore loss for the full financial year 2018-19. While the loan book of the bank is at ₹11,500 crore its deposit base is ₹15,000 crore, 25% of which is from NRIs. Mr. Rajendran said the bank was going slow on deposits as the bank had surplus liquidity.





American illustrator and author Adam Ellis says he likes to create comics that he feels good about and not think about how many ‘likes’ it gets on social media

SRAVASTI DATTA

On Adam Ellis’ Instagram page, @adamtots, his character (a bearded Adam) checks into the airport a day earlier. The airline staff is stupefied and asks, ‘why are you so early?’ Well, that is just the point. Air travel is so cumbersome: reaching on time, checking in, waiting for the flight while hoping it is not delayed.

This experience is almost universal, so it was only natural that illustrator and author Adam Ellis would depict it. The word ‘natural’ is the right word here as Adam’s creativity is spontaneous. “I have been told my work is real and relatable. But I try not to think about what will be relatable to people. I try to make stuff I like and think is funny. The fact that people also relate to them is an added bonus. If you try too hard to create something, thinking about how many likes it’s going to get on social media, then it does not feel as genuine. I like to make stuff that feels good to me,” says a bashful Adam, who was at the Bengaluru Comic Con 2019, held last week at Maruti Suzuki Arena, KTPO, Whitefield.

Adam adds: “The protagonist Adam is a heightened version of me. I sort of explore insecurities and quirks in a more exaggerated way. But I am not quite as neurotic as the character.”

Adam says he stumbled into illustrating as a career by accident. “I was working part time at a job that I did not like. So in my down-time, I started making comics to pass the time and put them on my blog *Books of Adam* in 2010 and it took off pretty quickly. Within about six months, I was able to quit my job and focus on comics and writing full time.”

Tete-a-tete

Adam says his inspiration is Belgian cartoonist Georgis Remi, whose pen name was Herge, and created *The Adventures of Tintin*. The making of the film on Dear David has been announced, says Adam

Adam says the online space works well for artists looking to reach out to their audience faster: “Instagram feels a lot like the Sunday comics in the newspaper. It’s removed a lot of obstacles. You don’t have to go through a syndicate or a publisher

In 2013, he published *Books of Adam: The Blunder Years*—a humorous take on his life. “Even a couple years ago I would have never anticipated that being an illustrator would allow me to attend conventions in India and Europe. I have been able to travel and talk about my art and feel lucky.”

Adam also worked in *BuzzFeed* in 2015. “I was there for about four-and-a-half years and learned so much while I was there. But, at



Stories and toons  
Adam Ellis ■ SUDHAKARA JAIN

a certain point, I realised I needed to pursue things I like,” shares Adam, who even created a web-comic on him leaving *Buzzfeed*.

For Adam, the idea is more important than the art work. “I have seen a lot of people, who may not be the most accomplished artists, but are doing well on Instagram. That is because they are smart and funny.”

As for his creative process, Adam says: “It’s very quick for me. I just sit down at my desk, sketch, add colour, and since it’s all digital, it goes pretty quickly. Usually, from the idea to the finished product, it takes only a couple of hours and that is one of the things I love about making stuff for the internet, you can put your idea out there.” Adam is quite open about his life. His recent book *Super Chill: A Year Of Living Anxiously*, which, as the title suggests, is about his emotional struggles. His other books include *Tiny Hats on Cats: Because Every Cat Deserves to Feel Fancy*, which shows his love for cats. In 2017, Adam tweeted extensively about a child ghost allegedly haunting his apartment. The ghost, which he called ‘Dear David’, also began to appear in a series of dreams. “That is another thing that was completely unexpected. I told a friend about it. And she said, ‘this is crazy, you should put this on the internet.’ I thought nobody wants to hear about my dreams, but eventually put it out there and went out for lunch. By the time I returned, it had gone viral and was trending on Twitter. It was a complete surprise, and opened up all these avenues that I never thought I would be a part of – like there is a movie in production. Then there is *Trending Fear*, in which my friends and I travel around America, investigating other people’s hauntings, and that has been a strange-cool experience. We did six episodes and it is going to premiere in December and that just happened by chance.” The conversation veers to his visit to Bengaluru—his first time in the city. When asked what comic he would create on his first impressions, Adam replies, “I will probably make a comment about the traffic I live in New York, so I feel like I know what crazy traffic is like. This is a completely different world, though,” he signs off.

FOOD REVIEW

# Dressed to impress

The Kimono Club has excellent dimsum and sushi rolls, once you pass the obnoxious hostess

NAVAL SATARAWALA CHOPRA

An ambitious project in the luxury mall, The Chanakya, the Kimono Club is an establishment whose success will lie in the crowd it will attract. With interiors which appear inspired from Park Chinois, London (think red velvet, bell lamp shades and dim lighting) the expansive space designed by adman-artist Freddy Birdy is sexy, but not sexy enough; kitsch but restrained. It’s almost as if Freddy was not allowed to go all the way.

On the Monday night I visited, my wife was first told over the phone that they don’t take reservations after 8.30 pm - a policy which I abhor; Bukhara can do it, but a new and mostly empty restaurant just cannot. Then, despite having a reservation, the ‘posh’ hostess told us we didn’t, but as a special favour, she would arrange a table for us (in



an empty restaurant!). Others have similar complaints, and it is a shame because it detracts from the great food that chef Vikramjit Roy puts out.

Kimono Club is part bar and part restaurant. The 40 foot long bar is a lovely place to sit at and the barten-



For the epicurean Dimsums; the interiors; and nibbling prawns ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

ders definitely know how to shake a cocktail or two. The restaurant serves a mix of Chinese and Japanese favourites, with a plethora of vegetarian options.

**Do try:** Their dimsums. Perhaps the finest in Delhi by a stretch, the ‘skin’ of the dimsums are super thin and the filling delicious. Their Xiaolongbao’s (soup dumplings) rival the legendary Taiwanese chain, Din Tai Fung - bursting with flavour and juicy. The Crispy Prawn Cheung Fun was also excellent - succulent

prawn, perfectly fried and with a light skin. The spicy avocado rolls had generous amounts of avocado and were well put together.

**Skip:** The Duck Carpaccio - apart from being too thick, the yuzu and orange flavours were not not-



iceable. From the dessert menu, both the caramel chocolate tart and the aerated tofu cheesecake lacked depth and soul.

**Go with:** A date or your friends.

**Spacebar:** 175 covers, 5,000 square feet

**How much:** ₹3,500 for two (sans alcohol)

**Getting there:** Let’s face it, you’re either going in your car or if sensible, using a ride sharing app.

# SHOWCASE 17

CONSCIOUS LIVING

## No-waste cooking and plating



Hand-woven leaves as a platter and bowl



Guacamole served with no cutlery, in the fruit’s shell



Coconut and corn salad in coconut shell bowls

Ayandrali Dutta, a food blogger, does a 35-hour elective on food at the National Institute of Fashion Technology. Her course treads through the Harappan Civilisation, the Mughal Era, and moves across major food hubs like Delhi and Kolkata, while also taking into account temple foods. Dutta breaks the course’s evaluation down to three parts. “The first evaluation is written,” she says. She asked her recent batch of 40 students, a mix from various disciplines within NIFT, to write about one dish that had kindled a sense of family. “The second is after a food-walk to old Delhi, where I ask them about the food they experienced. The last one, is where I ask them to make something on the spot, which doesn’t need any cooking,” she says. She encourages them to serve and plate it with a no-waste ideology.



Churned cucumber juice shots served in scooped out cucumbers

PRODUCTS

## Scandinavian accessories



Skagen, the once-Danish watchmakers, have launched their jewellery line in India with two collections: Agnethe and Ellen. Agnethe uses imitation pearls and mother of pearl in new ways, along with both 925 Sterling Silver as well as stainless steel for its durability and anti-erosion properties. The Ellen Collection, also available in both sterling silver and stainless steel variations, features rose quartz and onyx stones in its pieces.

Available at the Skagen kiosk at Mall of India; and from next month online on Amazon, and offline at Fossil stores; upwards of ₹1,995

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

5 EVENTS WORTH YOUR WHILE



FAIR

Crafts mela

Dastkar has organised Nature 2019, its annual winter mela, dedicated to craftspeople and traditional Indian handicrafts. On till 24th November, the exhibition-cum-sale features a wide array of paintings, handwoven garments, tribal weaves, wood crafts, terracotta and sea-shell craft.

**VENUE:** Kisan Haat, Andheria Modh  
**TIME:** 11 a.m. - 7:30 p.m.



FOOD

Kulcha special

Singh Sahib, an eatery at Eros Hotel, is offering signature Amritsari Kulcha found on the streets of undivided Punjab. On till 27th November, this special menu has variety of kulchas such as Murgh Afghani Kulcha, Tandoori Prawn ka Kulcha, Kacche Kele aur Pyaz ka Kulcha and Mushroom Methi ka Kulcha, and more.

**VENUE:** Eros Hotel Nehru Place  
**TIME:** 12 noon-3 p.m. and 7 p.m.-12 midnight



EXHIBITION

Photography

The ongoing exhibition titled 99+1 Japan: Travelling through Art, Design and Architecture, at Tenshin Okakura Gallery is based on a brochure published by the Japan National Tourism Organisation. The photo show is organised with an aim to provide tourist information about the country for the travellers.

**VENUE:** The Japan Foundation, Lajpat Nagar IV  
**TIME:** 11 a.m. - 7 p.m.



CUISINE

Winter menu

Anglow, an Anglo-Indian themed bar and kitchen, has launched a new winter menu. Curated by food consultant Bridget White Kumar, the menu features Duck Ting Ding, Chicken Liver & Kidney, Bengal Lancers Shrimp Curry, Vegetable Chops, Aubergine and Potato Vindaloo, Deviled Scotch Eggs, to name a few.

**VENUE:** 57, Khan Market, Rabindra Nagar  
**TIME:** 11 a.m. - 1 a.m.



GIG

Indus Creed live

Saints & Sinners will be celebrating their 500th gig by hosting the award-winning band Indus Creed with Traffic Jam tonight. Indus Creed comprises Uday Benegal on the vocals and guitars, Mahesh Tinaikar on the guitars and Zubin Balaporia on the keyboards. The band plays indie alternative and rock.

**VENUE:** Golf Course Road, Gurugram  
**TIME:** 7 p.m.



# Isuzu D-Max V-Cross gets an update



This truck is now available with two engines and transmissions and gets an all-black theme on the inside

SAUMIL SHAH

Pick-up trucks are looked at as utilitarian vehicles, but in India, this body style is rare; it caters to a rather niche set of buyers. Isuzu has refreshed its D-Max V-Cross pick-up truck and added several premium features to go well with its lifestyle image. This truck is now available with two engines and transmissions – the lower variants are still powered by the 2.5-litre diesel engine mated to the 5-speed manual, while there's an all-new range-topping Z Prestige variant which gets an all-new 1.9-litre diesel engine mated to a 6-speed automatic transmission, and that's the variant reviewed here.

The Isuzu V-Cross is a typical ladder-frame pick-up truck that's equipped with four-wheel drive. This massive truck towers over regular hatchbacks and sedans, and is even longer than a Mercedes S-class. With this facelift, it

gets new bi-beam LED headlamps with DRLs, a massive chrome grille, and chrome inserts around the fog lamps.

This Isuzu now sits on large 18-inch alloys, and other new bits include a side-step and a shark-fin antenna. The tail-lamps get LED elements, and the rear sports several badges, massive 'ISUZU' lettering, and a chunky chrome bumper. As before, the cargo area remains uncovered and has a load-carrying capacity of 235kg.

On the inside is where most changes are – it gets an all-black theme, which goes well with its outdoorsy character, and there are many premium touches like some soft-touch bits on the dashboard fascia and over the hood of the instrument cluster. The large and comfy seats now wear new brown leatherette upholstery, which feels nice, and the driver's seat also gets electric adjustment. Getting into the rear (like the front) is a bit of a trek, but, once in, you realise the space here is generous. The seat is low-set and backrest a bit upright, still, passengers will be quite comfy over long journeys.

The cabin retains its practical design

with several storage areas, and all the buttons and switches are large and built to last. There are multiple charging provisions too – three USB slots and two 12V sockets. In terms of equipment, this range-topping Z Prestige variant gets cruise control, six airbags, ESP, traction control, hill-descent control, hill-start assist, reverse camera, a new MID, keyless entry and go, among other features.

The talking point of the V-Cross automatic is its new 150hp, 1,898cc, four-cylinder diesel engine, which makes 16hp more than the larger 2.5-litre diesel available in the lower variants. Curiously, this new 1.9-litre en-



**Rough and ready** If it is sheer road presence you seek, then you could check out the V-Cross

■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

a manual mode, and those who take it off the road will appreciate the fact that it holds on to gears in this mode – it will only downshift automatically if the revs fall too low. This motor is quite refined, but it does get clattery when under load, and from there on there's no hiding from the fact that there's a big diesel mill under the bonnet.

The V-Cross rides on massive 255/60 tyres, which iron out road imperfections and smaller potholes, and despite riding on 18-inch wheels, it filters road shocks from larger bumps well. The V-Cross is typically rear-wheel drive; however, it gets a 4-high and a 4-low mode to tackle some tricky situations, and reach places where few SUVs can. In terms of ride quality, there's plenty of movement in the cabin at all speeds, and it feels rather bouncy, especially at the rear, particularly when the cargo bed isn't loaded up. Its steering feels heavy at low speeds and, because of its large turning circle, it is a bit ponderous to drive. On the flip side, this hefty infuses confidence in the driver at highway speeds.

The V-Cross is a tough four-wheel-drive vehicle that ranks high when it comes to utility and capability. The automatic transmission and other parking aids have made it a lot easier to live with than before. Still as a daily driver, the V-Cross isn't ideal due to its massive dimensions, heavy steering, and large turning circle. At ₹19.99 lakh (ex-showroom, Delhi), this truck is too expensive. What you get for this price are several premium yet usable features, a four-wheel-drive system and the convenience of an automatic transmission, and if it is sheer road presence you seek, there's simply nothing that comes close to the V-Cross.

## POOCH CAFE



## HAGAR THE HORRIBLE



## TIGER



## WUMO



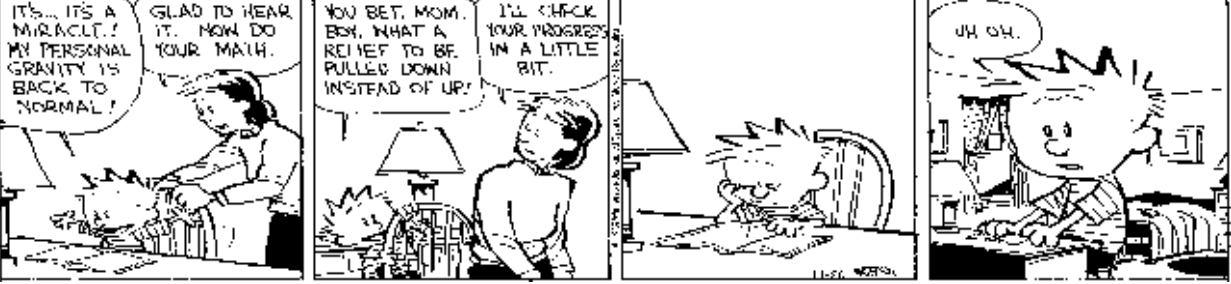
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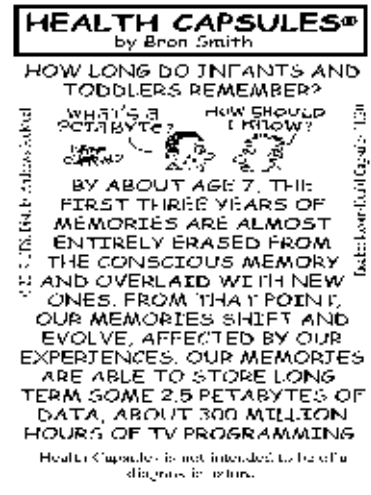
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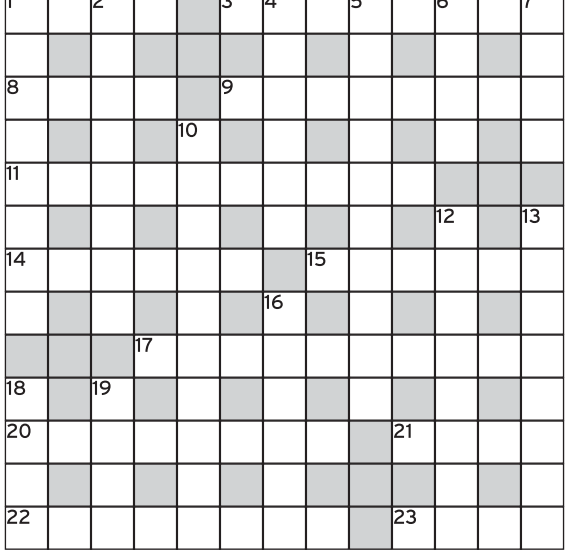
## CALVIN AND HOBBS



## GRAFFITI



## THE GUARDIAN QUICK CROSSWORD-13229

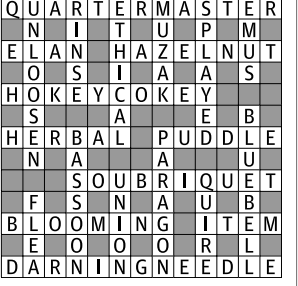


- Across
- 1 Release a long breath (4)
  - 3 Impeccable (8)
  - 8 Excessively forward (4)
  - 9 Evocative (8)
  - 11 Instrument measuring speed of rotation (10)
  - 14 Squalid (6)
  - 15 Skit (6)
  - 17 Poster-securing device? (7,3)
  - 20 Area furthest from the stumps (8)
  - 21 Old South American (4)
  - 22 Old film about current events (8)
  - 23 Tiny piece (4)
- Down
- 1 Wreck (8)
  - 2 Wedge from Royal

- Portrush? (4,4)
- 4 Grey and overcast (6)
  - 5 Child prodigy (10)
  - 6 Way to go! (4)
  - 7 Powdery starch used in cooking (4)
  - 10 Royal Artillery soldier (10)
  - 12 Get a move on! (4,2,2)
  - 13 Ghostly figure – man's path (anag) (8)
  - 16 Three fours (6)
  - 18 Urban area (4)
  - 19 Keep (4)

Solution will appear in The Hindu dated November 21, 2019.

Solution No. 13228







Slipping away: Oman's Mohsin al-Khaldi, left, gets past India's Nishu Kumar and Vinit Rai. Oman won 1-0. ■AFP

# India almost out of contention

Loses to Oman, courtesy Al-Ghassani's 33rd-minute goal

## WC QUALIFIERS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
MUSCAT

The Indian football team was on Tuesday virtually knocked out of the 2022 World Cup qualifying round after losing 0-1 to Oman here.

Muhsen Al-Ghassani scored the all-important goal in the 33rd minute at the Sultan Qaboos Sports Complex Stadium as Oman beat India for the second time in the campaign.

Oman had defeated India 2-1 in the first leg in September in Guwahati.

With just three points from five matches, India still remain at fourth spot in the Group E table, headed by Asian champions Qatar which has 13 points from five matches. Oman is at second spot with 12 points.

With a nine point gap with the second-place team (Oman) in the group table,

India is almost out of reckoning for a third round berth. It has only three more matches – maximum nine points – left to play in this second round of the qualifiers.

Even the runner-up team is not guaranteed an automatic spot for the third round of the qualifiers.

The Indian team is, however, still in the hunt for a 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.

Earlier, head coach Igor Stimac made three changes to his side that drew Afghanistan 1-1 in Dushanbe on November 14 with Manvir Singh, Farukh Choudhary

and Nishu Kumar coming in for Pritam Kotal, Mandar Rao Desai and Sahal Abdul Samad.

### Missed penalty

India was, however, lucky not to have conceded a goal in the seventh minute when Al-Ghassani shot over the bar from the penalty spot.

Al-Ghassani himself earned the spot kick after a clumsy challenge inside the Indian box by Rahul Bheke who was beaten for pace by Omani striker.

Al-Ghassani later made amends as he fired home in the 33rd minute past Indian goalkeeper Gurpreet Singh Sandhu after a beautiful defence-splitting through pass by Mohsin Johar Al Khaldi.

Oman had more of the ball possession in the first half but it had few clear chances. Ahmed Al Kaabi got a free header in the 27th minute but sent the ball over the bar from a corner kick.

India had a few raids at the opposition goal but could not pose any threat to the Omani goalkeeper Ali Al Habsi.

### Three substitutions

India made three substitutions in the first half with Vinit Rai coming in for Pranoy Halder who was booked in the 26th minute while an injury to central defender Adil Khan led to Anas Edathodi-ka taking his place.

India played better in the second half with a lot of ball possession and attack at the opposition citadel but a clear chance eluded it.

Oman nearly doubled its lead in the 64th minute but Indian goalkeeper Gurpreet dived full length to his left to block an Al Khaldi free kick.

All of India's last three matches will be played next year – against Qatar (at home on March 26), Bangladesh (away, June 4) and Afghanistan (at home, June 9).

# Memories from another era

A fan, a player and an umpire recall the first-ever floodlit ODI on Indian soil

## PINK-BALL TEST

Y.B. SARANGI  
KOLKATA

At 60, Praveen Kumar Soni is eagerly waiting to witness another chapter in Indian cricket unfold.

As a 25-year-old ardent fan, Soni was at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium to watch the first-ever floodlit white ball ODI, between India and Australia on September 28, 1984 – six years after the glamorous version of international cricket was first played at Sydney.

After 35 years, he is ready to see the country host the first-ever pink-ball Test at the Eden Gardens here from Friday.

### 'Fantastic atmosphere'

"Fantastic atmosphere. I remember cover-drives from Kapil Dev and Sunil Gavaskar. Also, a tremendous catch by Graham Yallop at gully to dismiss Dilip Vengsarkar.

"It was great to be part of history – the first-ever floodlit ODI match on Indian soil. A new cricket culture had arrived. I will be at the Eden Gardens for the pink-ball Test," said Soni, now the Delhi and District Cricket Association (DDCA) media manager, told *The Hindu*.

However, Soni pointed out that the stands of the huge Nehru Stadium were filled only 60%, perhaps, due to the 'skepticism' of the cricket purists.

Another Delhiite, Suresh Khanna, the Indian wicketkeeper in that match, shared his experience of keeping to the white ball under lights.

"It was an artificial turf but the lights were magnificent. I had no trouble spotting the ball.

"The ODI against Australia was as good as any other match. There was the novel-



Here I am... Cheteshwar Pujara arrives in Kolkata on Tuesday, ahead of the historic Test. ■PTI

ty of floodlights, there was history.

"The only minus point was when the fielder had to spot the ball in the air with the lights in the background. You had to wait for the ball to descend to spot it. Other-

wise, it was an unforgettable experience," said Khanna, who incidentally coached Delhi in the Ranji Trophy final against Bombay when the match was played under

lights at Gwalior in 1997.

The first white-ball ODI in the country also brought good tidings for umpire Pilo Reporter, who made his international debut in that match.

"What excitement! It took a few deliveries for us (umpires) to settle down and then it was fine. I remember giving an early decision – caught behind. Light was fine. We had a superb turn



Praveen Kumar Soni. ■SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT



Suresh Khanna. ■FILE PHOTO



Pilo Reporter. ■FILE PHOTO

out. For me, it was memorable because both the teams complimented me for my work," said the 81-year-old Reporter.

As the Eden Gardens is all set to script a similar history with the pink ball – first experimented in Adelaide, in 2015 – the cricket fraternity in India will keenly watch whether the idea can bring back the spectators to the longer version of the game.

# Pink ball a challenge for umpires, too: Taufel

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
KOLKATA

Sighting the pink ball during the twilight period will be a challenge not only for the batsmen but also the umpires, who are expected to attend some practice sessions to get used to the new colour, retired Australian umpire Simon Taufel said on Tuesday.

Taufel, who was present at the first-ever pink-ball Test in Adelaide as ICC Umpire Performance and Training Manager, said the umpires can use artificial lenses to have a better view.

"I don't know whether they will wear any special lenses to see the ball differently. That's entirely up to them. But they will be attending as many net sessions as possible," Taufel told PTI.

"They will be going through their net session and simulation activities. Maybe trying to see some



Simon Taufel. ■AFP

practice session with the pink ball so that they are pretty confident of seeing the right things at the right time," he said.

"You have a twilight period when the light changes as it goes from very bright to sunshine to artificial light. That period is more challenging for the batsmen to pick up the ball. I would expect a similar type of challenge for the umpires as well."

# A sport for nerds which makes millionaires of players



## BETWEEN WICKETS

SURESH MENON

Cricket's version of Saul Bellow's much-quoted question: "Who is the Tolstoy of the Zulus?" is, "Who is the Cardus of T20?"

The Cardusian philosophy is that the scoreboard is an ass, that figures don't matter, that beauty is all. It reflects the mistake in assuming that T20 is a version of 50-over or even first class cricket.

But in T20, the scoreboard is everything, and the best writing would focus on data, its usage and constant re-appraisals. *Cricket 2.0: Inside the T20 Revolution* by Tim Wigmore and Freddie Wilde does exactly that.

It is the first serious book on a format that began by confusing players and commentators alike, but has evolved into something both challenging and fascinating. The data may become obsolete in

two years' time, so T20 is a sport for nerds and number-crunchers. Old theories do not apply; nor do old ways of calculating how good a player is.

### Variety of changes

Some of the changes are inevitable given the essential shift to a winning-is-everything philosophy. Some changes are cultural, as when emotions are taken out of team selections, and top players like Sourav Ganguly and Rahul Dravid are dropped by their teams. Some changes nod in the direction of American sport with projections worked out by experts.

T20 burst into prominence with the IPL just over a decade ago. It was "cricketainment" then, but with so many millions of dollars involved, it outgrew that early label. Now the auctions no longer surprise, cheerleaders no longer shock. Data is the new cover drive. The beauty is in the relationship between figures.

Wigmore and Wilde take us on an absorbing ride while emphasising this change. It is possible that the pre-tournament computations made in air-conditioned offices are

far more interesting than the actual game on the field, whatever the number of sixes hit. Some might prefer to read the book to watching a match.

Sometimes the philosophy of a thing is more interesting than the thing itself.

I have been arguing for many years now that T20 is a sport that looks and feels like cricket, uses the same equipment, and many of the same personnel, but it is in fact a different sport altogether. In time it might even have its own governing body. *Cricket 2.0* is a history of the format, its evolution speeded up by the IPL, and its possible future. Clearly the format works differently.

### Revelations

Some of the revelations come with the startling force of unexpected thunder on a still night. Who imagined, for example, that part of Chris Gayle's impact lay in the way he forced bowlers into bowling wides to him to keep him in check, thus giving his team extra deliveries to play with? Gayle received nearly twice as many deliveries as the average batsman!

Cricket, like all sport, generates statistics and allows for comparisons between players and eras. But what is unique to the numbers generated in T20, especially the IPL, is that these lead directly to commercial gains for the player. The best batsman is not the one who scores the most or averages the highest, but the one who can be relied upon in tight situations. This happy marriage of the concrete and the abstract adds to the format's uniqueness.

The chapter 'Why CSK win and RCB lose' summarises the authors' clear-headed reading of what makes T20 the sport it is, and why mining data is so crucial to it.

Some teams, like Rajasthan Royals, were quick on the uptake. Others, like KKR worked it out as they went along. The basis on which they picked their players, made clear what was expected of them, and suggested the harmful effects of ego – whether belonging to the players or owners – is well written.

### 'Team' format

Kane Williamson says T20 is the most "team" format of cricket, and

the authors explain why. "No team," they say, "identified undervalued players as consistently as KKR." This is no mere "gut feeling". Everything – as in the format itself – is supported by figures.

Things are still evolving, of course. As R. Ashwin said in an interview, "I basically think that six well-constructed bad balls could be the way to go forward..." Thus, the value of unpredictability.

Equally important are the problems, both current and future. The scope for fixing games, something the IPL has seen, is one. With power-hitting an important element, there is the likely issue of performance-enhancing drugs raising its head too. In 2018, say the authors, there were 719 fixtures worldwide, hence the potential for corruption. A game built on six-hitting is clearly vulnerable to doping.

By not ignoring the potential for danger, the authors give us a rounded picture. Cardus loved to tell us the stories behind the scoreboard, of the players behind the figures. Wigmore and Wilde do that too. But the real heroes are not the players, but the data analysts. This is the nerds' triumph.

# France overcomes Japan; Russia bests champion Croatia

## DAVIS CUP FINALS

ASSOCIATED PRESS  
MADRID

Two days after clinching the doubles title in the ATP Finals, French duo Pierre-Hugues Herbert and Nicolas Mahut gave France an opening win over Japan in Group A of the Davis Cup Finals on Tuesday.

The French duo squandered two match-points while serving at 5-4 against Ben McLachlan and Yasutaka Uchiyama, but capitalised on its chance at 6-5 to clinch victory for last year's runner-up.

The teams were tied after Jo-Wilfried Tsonga cruised past Uchiyama 6-2, 6-1 and Yoshihito Nishioka defeated Gael Monfils 7-5, 6-2.

In other day matches, Argentina comfortably defeated Chile 3-0 in Group C,

while Kazakhstan also needed the doubles match to beat the Netherlands 2-1 in Group E.

Meanwhile on the opening day, Karen Khachanov and Andrey Rublev helped Russia open with a 3-0 victory over defending champion Croatia.

Canada claimed a 2-1 victory over well-fancied Italy to strike first in Group F and Belgium made a victorious start in Group D with a win over Colombia.

### The results:

**Group A: France bt Japan 2-1** [Jo-Wilfried Tsonga bt Yasutaka Uchiyama 6-2, 6-1; Gael Monfils lost to Yoshihito Nishioka 7-5, 6-2; Pierre-Hugues Herbert & Nicolas Mahut bt Ben McLachlan & Uchiyama 6-7(4), 6-4, 7-5]

**Group C: Argentina bt Chile 3-0** [Guido Pella bt Nicolas Jarry 6-4, 6-3; Diego Schwartzman bt Cristian Garin 6-2, 6-2; Maxi-

mo Gonzalez & Leonardo Mayer bt Jarry & Hans Podlipnik-Castillo 6-3, 7-5]

**Group E: Kazakhstan bt The Netherlands 2-1** [Mikhail Kukushkin bt Botin van de Zandschulp 6-2, 6-2; Alexander Bublik lost to Robin Haase 7-5, 3-6, 7-6(5); Kukushkin & Bublik bt Haase & Jean-Julien Rojer 6-4, 7-6(2)]

**Monday: Group B: Russia bt Croatia 3-0** [Karen Khachanov bt Borna Coric 6-7(4), 6-4, 6-4; Khachanov & Rublev bt Ivan Dodig & Nikola Mektic 7-6(3), 6-4]

**Group D: Belgium bt Colombia 2-1** [David Goffin bt Daniel Elahi Galan Riveros 3-6, 6-3, 6-3; Sander Gille & Joran Vliegen lost to Juan Sebastian Cabal & Robert Farah 6-7(5), 6-4, 7-6(3)]

**Group F: Canada bt Italy 2-1** [Denis Shapovalov bt Matteo Berrettini 7-6(5), 6-7(3), 7-6(5); Pospisil & Shapovalov lost to Berrettini & Fognini 6-2, 3-6, 6-3]



Maximum effort: France's Nicolas Mahut stretches to play a return, as Pierre-Hugues Herbert looks on, in their exciting decider against Japan's Ben McLachlan and Yasutaka Uchiyama. ■AP

# Camp from Nov. 21

Davis Cup tie to be held at Nur-Sultan

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

The Indian Davis Cup team will assemble at the DLTA Complex here for three days of training from November 21, before departing on November 24 for the Asia-Oceania tie against Pakistan to be hosted by Kazakhstan at Nur-Sultan on November 29 and 30.

The International Tennis Federation (ITF) had confirmed that the tie would be held at a neutral venue, which had been decided as Kazakhstan earlier itself.

### Indoor hard courts

The tie will be played on indoor hard courts. The Indian team will have physiotherapists Anand Dubey and Yash Pandey, with Sunder Iyer as the manager.

As announced earlier, Rohit Rajpal will be the non-playing captain and Zeeshan Ali will continue as the coach.

Sumit Nagal, Ramkumar Ramanathan, Saketh Myneni, Sasi Kumar Mukund, Leander Paes and Jeevan Nedunchezhiyan will be travelling for the tie, along with Sidharth Rawat as the reserve.

Even though he will not be travelling for the tie, Sri-ram Balaji may assist the team during the three-day training camp in Delhi.

Since, Sasi Kumar Mukund has entered the €46,600 Challenger in Mai, Portugal, this week, he may join the team later.

The rest are scheduled to assemble in the Capital by Wednesday evening.



TV PICKS

**NBA:** Sony Ten 1 (SD & HD), 6.30 a.m.  
**T10 League:** Sony Ten 3 & Sony Six (SD & HD), 5.30 p.m.  
**Euro 2020 Qualifiers:** Sony Ten 2 (SD & HD), 1.30 a.m. (Thursday)  
**New Zealand vs England:** First Test, day one, Star Sports Select 1 (SD & HD), 3.30 a.m. (Thursday)  
**Australia vs Pakistan:** First Test, day one, Sony Six (SD & HD), 5.30 a.m. (Thursday)

IN BRIEF



Harden, Westbrook shine to extend Rockets' winning streak

**LOS ANGELES**  
James Harden scored 36 points and Russell Westbrook bagged a triple double as the Houston Rockets extended their red-hot winning streak to eight games with a 132-108 rout of the Portland Trail Blazers on Monday.  
**The results:** New York Knicks 123 bt Cleveland Cavaliers 105; Indiana Pacers 115 bt Brooklyn Nets 86; Toronto Raptors 132 bt Charlotte Hornets 96; Milwaukee Bucks 115 bt Chicago Bulls 101; Houston Rockets 132 bt Portland Trail Blazers 108; Dallas Mavericks 117 bt San Antonio Spurs 110; Boston Celtics 99 bt Phoenix Suns 85; Minnesota Timberwolves 112 bt Utah Jazz 102; Los Angeles Clippers 90 bt Oklahoma City Thunder 88.

ISL: Chennaiyin, JFC fixture rescheduled

**JAMSHEDPUR**  
The Indian Super League (ISL) fixture between Jamshedpur FC and Chennaiyin FC has been moved to December 9 with a 7.30 p.m. kick-off time. The tie was originally scheduled on Dec. 6 at the J.R.D. Tata Sports Complex, here. The rescheduling, the press release said, is done in conjunction with the city authorities and administration in view of the Jharkhand State Assembly Phase 2 polling on Dec. 7.



Bangladesh's Shahadat banned for assault

**DHAKA**  
The Bangladesh Cricket Board on Tuesday banned former national team fast bowler Shahadat Hossain for five years, two of them suspended, after he assaulted teammate Arafat Sunny Jr. in a National Cricket League match on Sunday. Shahadat, who admitted a charge of "physical assault", was also fined 300,000 taka (\$3,540), the board said.

Sasi Kumar crashes out

**MAIA (PORTUGAL)**  
Daniel Masur of Germany ousted Sasi Kumar Mukund 6-3, 6-0 in the first round of the €46,600 Challenger tennis tournament here on Tuesday.



Luis Enrique to return as Spain's coach

**MADRID**  
Luis Enrique will return as coach of Spain and replace Robert Moreno ahead of Euro 2020, the Spanish Football Federation (RFEF) confirmed on Tuesday. Moreno took charge in June after Luis Enrique had resigned to take care of his daughter Xana, who died in August of bone cancer.

Rashford puts tough start behind him

**LONDON**  
With nine goals in his last 10 games for Manchester United and England forward Marcus Rashford says he has put a tough start to the season behind him and is feeling confident once more. "It has been a tough period and now I'm getting consistent games. When you're in the team it's important to come up with the goods and once you start that it becomes second nature," he said.

Italy signs off with a perfect record

Scores nine against Armenia; Spain blanks Romania, Denmark and Switzerland qualify

EURO QUALIFIERS

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE  
PARIS

Denmark and Switzerland secured spots at Euro 2020 at the expense of the Republic of Ireland on Monday as Roberto Mancini's Italy completed a perfect qualifying campaign by scoring nine.

Ireland needed to beat Denmark in Dublin to clinch qualification for next year's 24-team European Championship finals, but Matt Doherty's late header was only enough to earn Mick McCarthy's men a 1-1 draw at the Aviva Stadium.

Switzerland secured top spot with a 6-1 away win against minnow Gibraltar as Cedric Itten scored twice. Skipper and Arsenal outcast Granit Khaka netted its final goal.

Italy had already wrapped up qualification from Group J but saved its best for last,



Opening salvo: Martin Braithwaite shoots to score Denmark's goal against Ireland

making it 10 wins from 10 by hammering Armenia 9-1 in Palermo with seven different scorers.

Ciro Immobile and Nicolo Zaniolo both scored braces, while Nicolo Barella and Alesio Romagnoli found the net

before Chelsea midfielder Jorginho converted a penalty.

Riccardo Orsolini came off the bench to score on his Italy debut and Federico Chiesa finished off the scoring after Edgar Babayan had pulled one back for Armenia.

Meanwhile, Group F winner Spain rounded out its qualifying campaign with a 5-0 destruction of Romania in Madrid

Gerard Moreno scored twice after midfielder Fabian Ruiz opened the scoring.

Astha makes a splash, rewrites 100m butterfly mark

SCHOOL SWIMMING

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

Astha Choudhary of Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan set a new meet mark in the heats and broke it in the finals of the under-17 girls' 100-metre butterfly event on the third day of the 65th National School Games at the Shyama Prasad Mukherjee Swimming Pool on Wednesday.

Astha clocked 1 minute 4.57 seconds to beat Nilabjaa Ghosh of West Bengal for the 100-metre butterfly gold.

Prachi Tokas of Delhi continued with her record breaking performance by winning the 400-metre freestyle in the under-19 girls' section with a new

meet mark of 4 minutes 33.18 seconds. She beat Bhavika Dagar of Tamil Nadu who was more than two seconds behind her.

Aneesh Gowda, Aanya Wala, Kiara Bangera, Tanmay Das, Nina Venkatesh and Ridhima Veerender Kumar were the others to set new marks.

**The results:**  
**Men: Under-19: 50m backstroke:** 1. K. Mohith Kumar 27.58; 2. Gourav Chavan 28.99; 3. Prashanna Khedekar 29.17.

**100m butterfly:** 1. C.J. Sanjay 57.33; 2. .P.A. Prasidha Krishna 57.77; 3. Swapnil Chakraborty 58.88.

**Women: Under-19: 50m backstroke:** 1. Soubritry Mondal 32.11; 2. Bhavjot Kaur 32.57; 3. Jispa Doshi 32.66.

**100m butterfly:** 1. Shristi Upadhaya 1:07.69; 2. Sucheta-

na Chakraborty 1:08.91; 3. Priyanga Pugazharasu 1:09.03.

**4 x 100m freestyle:** 1. Tamil Nadu 4:16.15; 2. Karnataka 4:23.03; 3. Maharashtra 4:24.76.

**Boys: Under-17: 50m backstroke:** 1. Tanmay Das 27.44 (NMR); 2. Vedant Bapna 27.97; 3. V. Vinayak 28.13.

**100m butterfly:** 1. Aryan Panchal 57.16; 2. Harsh Saroha 57.21; 3. Divyanshi Arora 58.94.

**Under-14: 50m backstroke:** 1. Md. Rehan Mirza 30.63; 2. Aryaman Jain 30.67; 3. Abeer Singh Mehta 31.21.

**100m butterfly:** 1. Yug Chelani 1:02.27; 2. Atharva Pradeep Jarange 1:03.31; 3. Parambrata Biswas 1:04.15.

**200m medley:** 1. Yug Chelani 2:19.74; 2. Vidith Shankar 2:23.64; 3. Sanskar Bhuyan 2:25.30.

**Girls: Under-17: 50m backstroke:** 1. Nina Venkatesh 31.20

(NMR); 2. Palak Kalpesh Dhami 33.05; 3. Tanusmita Das 33.06.

**100m butterfly:** 1. Ashttha Choudhury 1:04.57 (NMR); 2. Nilabjaa Ghosh 1:06.87; 3. Sanjiti Saha 1:07.78.

**4 x 100m freestyle:** 1. International Board Schools 4:11.40; 2. Council for the Indian School 4:16.85; 3. Maharashtra 4:17.00.

**Under-14: 50m backstroke:** 1. Ridhima Veerendra Kumar 32.03; 2. Rajoshri Routh 33.09; 3. Essha Chattopadhyay 33.21.

**100m butterfly:** 1. Kiara Bangera 1:07.62 (NMR); 2. Dhara Patel 1:07.97; 3. Subharanshini Priyadarshini 1:11.07.

**200m medley:** 1. Anushka Patil 2:36.32; 2. Sanjana Prabhu-gaonker 2:38.46; 3. Lavleen Das 2:40.14.

**4 x 100m freestyle:** 1. Maharashtra 4:22.96; 2. Council for the Indian School 4:24.77; 3. Assam 4:29.21.

Legal options explored against Ombudsman's action

I am not happy with the way he has handled his power, says Manchanda

VIJAY LOKAPALLY  
NEW DELHI

In a show of strength, nine members of the Delhi and District Cricket Association (DDCA) Apex Council, asserted their power to run cricket affairs at the Ferozeshah Kotla. "We have assembled to make our point that we are not being heard," said Ravinder Manchanda, leading the campaign against DDCA president Rajat Sharma.

Manchanda spoke to the media in his capacity as a member of the DDCA Advisory Committee. "I am not an Apex Council member but I have spent many years at the DDCA and am well versed with cricket administration. Rajat Sharma is a friend but here I am not happy with the way he has handled his power at the DDCA," said Manchanda, whose younger brother, Rajan, is the joint-secretary in the current set up.

"Rajat Sharma resigned from his position and it is deemed to be accepted by the Apex Council in accordance with the rules of the association," insisted Ravinder Manchanda. The grouse of the Apex Council members was not against Rajat Sharma as much as the "functioning" of the DDCA Ombudsman Justice (Retd.) Badar Durrez Ahmed.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NEW DELHI

National motorsports federation FMSCI has banned its own president J. Prithiviraj from officiating in the wake of the organisational blunder that led to death of three, including a minor, during the ill-fated Rally of Jodhpur.

While Prithiviraj will continue to be president of the FMSCI, he won't be allowed to officiate in national championships for three years. The five-member FMSCI panel recommended a three-year ban on Prithiviraj, the event's clerk of the course (COC).

Rajput misses the final

SHOOTING WC

SPORTS BUREAU  
PUTIAN (CHINA)

Sanjeev Rajput shot 1153 but missed the final in men's rifle 3-position event by one point in the shooting World Cup Finals here on Tuesday.

Olympian Sanjeev, who had narrowly missed gold in the last World Cup in Rio after qualifying with a national record 1181, shot 384 in kneeling, 388 in prone and 381 in the standing positions.

The other Indian in the field, Akhil Sheoran, who had won gold in the World Cup in Guadalajara, Mexico, last year, could muster only 1147 and placed 13th.

In women's rifle 3-position event, Anjum Moudgil also scored only 1147 for the

13th spot, following 377 in kneeling, 390 in prone and 380 in the standing positions.

It will be the 25-metre events, the rapid fire for men, and sports pistol for women, on Wednesday. Asian Games gold medalist Rahi Sarnobat will be competing in sports pistol along with Manu Bhaker, while it will be Anish Bhanwala in the men's rapid fire.

**The results:**  
**50m rifle 3-position: Men:** 1. Filip Nepejchal (Cze) 462.9 (WRJ) 1160; 2. Milenko Sebic (Srb) 461.5 (1165); 3. Sergey Kamenskiy (Rus) 449.8 (1165); 9. Sanjeev Rajput 1153; 13. Akhil Sheoran 1147.

**Women:** 1. Seonaid McIntosh (GBR) 462.1 (1171); 2. Pei Ruijiao (Chn) 457.4 (1158); 3. Nina Christen (Sui) 449.1 (1166); 13. Anjum Moudgil 1147.

Pakistan seeks elusive win on Aussie soil

PAKISTAN IN AUS

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE  
BRISBANE

Pakistan head into the opening Test in Brisbane on Thursday seeking a rare win on Australian soil, and could unleash a 16-year-old debutant in a teenage pace attack against seasoned stars Steve Smith and David Warner.

Pakistan has drawn a series in Australia, but has never won one, and last tasted a Test victory at Sydney in 1995.

A handful of players, including new skipper Azhar Ali, Babar Azam and the in-form Asad Shafiq, were part of their last tour in 2016/17 when they crashed 3-0, but are better for it, said then-captain and now head coach Misbah-ul-Haq.

How the bowlers fare will be key on a Gabba wicket traditionally seen as a pace-man's paradise.

Australia boasts the experienced Pat Cummins, Mitchell Starc and Josh Ha-

zelwood, however James Pattinson will be missing after being suspended this week for player abuse.

Pakistan may unveil teenage quick Naseem Shah, 16, for his debut as part of a young attack boasting 19-year-olds Shaheen Afridi and Musa Khan, alongside the impressive Muhammad Abbas and veteran Imran Khan senior.

The squads (from):

**Australia:** Tim Paine (Capt.), Cameron Bancroft, Joe Burns, Pat Cummins, Josh Hazlewood, Travis Head, Marnus Labuschagne, Nathan Lyon, Michael Neser, James Pattinson, Steve Smith, Mitchell Starc, Matthew Wade and David Warner.

**Pakistan:** Azhar Ali (Capt.), Abid Ali, Asad Shafiq, Babar Azam, Haris Sohail, Imam-ul-Haq, Imran Khan senior, Iftikhar Ahmed, Kashid Bhatti, Mohammad Abbas, Mohammad Rizwan, Nusa Khan, Naseem Shah, Shaheen Shah Afridi, Shan Masood and Yasir Shah.

Messi is Argentina's saviour

REUTERS  
TEL AVIV

Argentina's Lionel Messi scored an added-time penalty to salvage a 2-2 draw with Uruguay as it twice came from behind in an entertaining friendly match in Israel on Monday.  
**The result:** Argentina 2 (Aguiro 63, Messi 90+2) drew with Uruguay 2 (Cavani 34, Suarez 68).

Riya advances

ITF WOMEN'S

SPORTS BUREAU  
BHOPAL

Former National champion Riya Bhatia saved a bunch of match-points to beat eighth seed Valeriya Strakhova of Ukraine 1-6, 7-6(12), 6-3 in the first round of the \$25,000 ITF women's tennis tournament on Tuesday.

**The results: Singles (first round):** Sarah-Rebecca Sekulic (Ger) bt Jacqueline Cabaj Awad (Swe) 6-4, 6-4; Eri Hozumi (Jpn) bt Dan Ni Wang (Chn) 6-1, 6-1; Hiroko Kuwata (Jpn) bt Gozal Ainidinova (Kaz) 6-0, 6-2; Riya Bhatia bt Valeriya Strakhova (Ukr) 1-6, 7-6(12), 6-3; Diana Marcinkевичa (Lat) bt Rashi Malviya 6-0, 6-2; Karman Kaur Thandi bt Snehal Mane 6-1, 6-1.

**Doubles (pre-quarterfinals):** Emily Webley-Smith (GBr) & Rutuja Bhosale bt Vlada Katic (Isr) & Prarthana Thombare 6-2, 6-4; Jennifer Luikham & Mihika Yadav bt Humera Shaik & Sara Yadav 7-5, 4-6, [10-6]; Melanie Klaffner (Aut) & Sarah-Rebecca Sekulic (Ger) bt Sravya Shivani Chilakalapudi & Snehall Mane 6-2, 6-2; Sarah Pang (Sgp) & Arthi Muniyan bt Shrivalli Rashmikka Bhamidipaty & Avika Sagwal 6-2, 6-2; Jacqueline Cabaj Awad (Swe) & Nudnida Luangnam (Tha) bt Petia Arshinkova & Gergana Topalova (Bul) 7-6(4), 6-4; Punnin Kovapitukted (Tha) & Maria Timofeeva (Rus) bt Berfuu Cengiz (Tur) & Freya Christie (GBr) 4-6, 7-5, [10-6].