Instant reward

Karnataka gets political stability, even though it was achieved via dubious means

instant reward, not punishment, is what people willed for Karnataka lawmakers who defected from ▲ the Congress and the Janata Dal (Secular) to the BJP and sought a fresh mandate in by-elections held on December 5. Their defection and subsequent resignation from the legislature led to the collapse of the Congress-JD(S) coalition government in Karnataka, paving the way for the current Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) government in July, led by B.S. Yediyurappa. With the BJP winning 12 of the 15 seats to which by-elections were held, the party now has 117 MLAs and a comfortable majority in the Assembly. The party had fallen short of a majority in the 2018 election that threw up a hung legislature. The post-poll alliance of the JD(S) and the Congress was a legitimate move to end the impasse, but it was destined to be unstable. The JD(S) strength was less than half of the Congress strength, but its leader H.D. Kumaraswamy became the Chief Minister. The BJP, particularly Mr. Yediyurappa, turned the resentment in the Congress camp to his advantage. In a replay of similar sequence of events in the past, MLAs resigned, as if on cue. Sixteen of those MLAs were promptly admitted to the BJP, and 13 were fielded as its candidates. The Chief Minister hinted on Monday that at least 11 of the 12 winners would be given ministerial berths.

The Central leadership of the BJP had appeared to be keeping an arm's-length from the developments in Karnataka at the beginning but it was quick to own up to the victory on Monday, with Prime Minister Narendra Modi himself terming it as a popular rejection of the Congress. He accused the Congress of subverting the 2018 mandate. The BJP had won 104 seats in the 224strong Assembly in 2018 and its majority today has been won through a devious route. What rankles is the fact that there is now a Karnataka model of achieving a majority by engineering an adequate number of byelections through highly questionable means. In the present instance, it is legitimised by the voters but that is no reason to overlook the undermining of democratic processes. The BJP must be happy that its strategy succeeded but it must also reflect on the cost to democracy this might entail. Now that it has a clear mandate, the BJP must focus on governance and walk the extra mile to reassure the public on its commitment to democratic behaviour. The State's capital Bangalore is also a key centre of Indian economy and political stability there has a larger import for the country. The setback could trigger changes in the Congress also. Party chief Dinesh Gundu Rao and Leader of Opposition Siddaramaiah have resigned their respective posts. The party should reflect deeply on its character and strategy as an alternative to the BJP. Political opposition without a foundational ideological basis cannot be the answer.

Doping to win

Some athletes do cheat, but when they do so with official sanction it is an epic crisis

onday's decision by the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) to ban Russia from global sporting events for a four-year period is arguably the biggest sporting crisis the country has faced till date. The anti-doping watchdog's move will hurt Russia the most at the 2020 Tokyo Olympic Games and the 2022 Beijing Winter Olympics where the nation's flag, name and anthem will not be allowed. Russia will inevitably approach the Court of Arbitration for Sport with an appeal, for which it has three weeks, but if the sentence is upheld it could bar the nation from participation in several high-profile global sporting events including the 2022 football World Cup in Oatar. The saga has its roots in the scandal that erupted on the eve of the 2016 Rio Olympics, when whistle-blower reports nailed Russia for running one of the most sophisticated doping programmes. The allegations centred around the active collusion of Russian anti-doping experts, the sports ministry and members of the country's intelligence service in replacing dope-tainted urine samples with clean ones during the 2014 Winter Olympics in Sochi. In September 2018, as part of the resolution of that case, Russia reluctantly agreed to open up its database to corroborate the findings of the reports. WADA has now ruled that the country manipulated this very database in order to cover up large-scale violations.

However, as stiff as the latest sanctions seem, there is considerable doubt among anti-doping crusaders whether the measures go far enough. Even ahead of the Rio games, WADA had recommended that Russia be expelled, but the International Olympic Committee (IOC), under President Thomas Bach, had left the decision to individual sports' governing bodies, and, subsequently, athletes who were cleared of doping were allowed to compete as neutrals. A similar episode had played out during the 2018 PyeongChang Winter Games, where Russia was again banned but individual athletes competed. The IOC's hand may be forced this time around by the sheer magnitude of the findings, but there remains a similar possibility of Russian competitors still participating. It may be worth noting that despite Sochi, Russia still played host to marquee events such as the 2015 World Aquatics Championships and the 2018 FIFA World Cup and is again slated to host the swimming event in 2025. In a sense, both the IOC and WADA have had to straddle the thin line between two powerful but opposing arguments – of punishing Russia, the country, for its misdemeanours while at the same time preserving natural justice for athletes who are clean. But, increasingly it feels like a situation where even honest sportspersons may end up paying the price for

the machinations of their corrupt administrators.

A patently unconstitutional piece of legislation

The Citizenship Amendment Bill, 2019 has a sinister political logic — the first de jure attempt towards a Hindu Rashtra



SHADAN FARASAT

ow a country defines who can become its citizens delacksquare fines what that country is, because citizenship is really the right to have rights. For India, the choice was inexplicably made in 1950 when the Constitution was adopted, and Part II (concerning citizenship) provided citizenship based on domicile in the territory of India. In fact, under Article 6 of the Constitution, migrants from Pakistani territory to Indian territory were also given citizenship rights. Religion was conspicuous in this constitutional scheme, in its absence. The Constitution also recognises the power of Parliament to make provisions with respect to "acquisition and termination of citizenship". Pursuant to this, Parliament had enacted the Citizenship Act, 1955; again, religion is not a relevant criteria under the 1955 Act.

This position is now sought to be changed through the proposed Citizenship Amendment Bill, 2019 (CAB) that seeks to amend certain provisions of the 1955 Act.

The obvious question on which much of the debate has so far focused on is whether in a country such as India, with a secular Constitution, certain religious groups can be preferred in acquisition of citizenship. Especially when secularism has been declared to be a

basic feature of the Constitution in a multitude of judgments. But in addition to this basic question, a look at the proposed CAB shows that it is peppered with unconstitutionalities. The classification of $\frac{6}{5}$ countries and communities in the CAB is constitutionally suspect.

First to the countries. The basis of and Bangladesh together and thereby excluding other (neighbouring) countries is unclear. A common history is not a ground as country. Being a neighbour, geographically, is no ground too as Afghanistan does not share an actual mar, which share a land border with India, been excluded?

ment of Objects and Reasons' of the Bill is that these three countries constitutionally provide for a "state religion"; thus, the Bill is to protect "religious minorities" in these theocratic states. This reason does not hold water. Why then is Bhutan, which is a neighbour and constitutionally a religious state – the official religion being Vajrayana Buddhism – excluded from the list? In fact, Christians in Bhutan can only pray privately inside their homes. Many Bhutanese Christians in the border areas travel to India to pray in a church. Yet, they are not beneficiaries under CAB. Further, if religious persecution of "religious minorities" in the neighbourhood is the con-

Country classification

clubbing Afghanistan, Pakistan Afghanistan was never a part of British India and always a separate land border with India. More importantly, why have countries such as Nepal, Bhutan and Myan-

The reason stated in the 'State-



cern, then why has Sri Lanka, which is Buddhist majority and has a history where Tamil Hindus have been persecuted, been excluded? Why is also Myanmar, which has conducted a genocide against Muslim Rohingyas, many of who have been forced to take refuge in India, not been included? The CAB selection of only these three countries is manifestly arbi-

Focus on certain groups

On the classification of individuals, the Bill provides benefits to sufferers of only one kind of persecution, i.e. religious persecution. This itself is a suspect category. Undoubtedly, the world abounds in religious persecution but it abounds equally, if not more, in political persecution. If the intent is to protect victims of persecution, there is no logic to restrict it only to religious persecution. Further, the assumption that religious persecution does not operate against co-religionists is also false. Taslima Nasreen of Bangladesh is a case in point. She or similarly placed persons will not get the benefit of the proposed amendment, even though she may

have personally faced more religious persecution than many Bangladeshi Hindus. Similarly, Shias in Pakistan, a different sect of the same religion, also face severe persecution in Pakistan. The fact that atheists are missing from the list of beneficiaries is shocking.

Restricting the benefits of "religious minority" to six religious groups (Hindus, Sikhs, Buddhists, Jains, Parsis and Christians) is equally questionable. Ahmadiyas in Pakistan are not recognised as Muslims there and are treated as belonging to a separate religion. In fact, because they are seen as a religion that has tried to change the meaning of Islam, they are more persecuted than even Christians or Hindus. If the avowed objective of CAB is to grant citizenship to migrants on the basis of religious persecution in their country of origin, the absence of Ahmadiyas from the list makes things clear.

Article 14 of the Constitution of India, prevents the State from denying any "person" (as opposed to citizen) "equality before the law" or "equal protection of the laws" within the territory of India. From the serious incongruities of CAB, as explained above, it is not difficult to imagine, how it will not just deny equal protection of laws to similarly placed persons who come to India as "illegal migrants" but in fact grant citizenship to the less deserving at the cost of the more deserving.

How else does one explain how a Rohingya who has saved himself from harm in Myanmar by crossing into India will not be entitled to be considered for citizenship, while a Hindu from Bangladesh, expressed are personal

who is primarily an economic migrant and who may not have not faced any direct persecution in his life, will be entitled to be considered apparently on the ground of religious persecution? Similarly, why a Tamil from Jaffna who took a boat to escape the atrocities in Sri Lanka will continue be an "illegal migrant" and never be entitled to apply for citizenship by naturalisation? It is not difficult to imagine many other examples of this kind that reveal the manifestly arbitrary nature of CAB. There is also the reduction in the residential requirement for naturalisation – from 11 years to five. It is almost as if CAB in its provisions and impact is trying to give definitional illustrations of the word "arbitrary".

CAB is devoid of any constitutional logic, as explained above. But it does have a sinister political logic. By prioritising Hindus in matters of citizenship as per law, it seeks to make India a Hindu homeland, and is the first de jure attempt to make India a Hindu Rashtra. If India is to stay a country for Indians and not for Hindu Afghans, Hindu Pakistanis and Hindu Bangladeshis and eventually for Hindu Russians, Hindu Americans, CAB should not be passed in Parliament. If it is, the judiciary must call it out for what it is - a patently unconstitutional piece of legislation. Else, make no mistake, it is only the beginning and not the end of similar legal moves, which, with time, will bring an end to the Constitution as we know it.

Shadan Farasat is an advocate practising in the Supreme Court of India. The views

Wholly subordinated to the majoritarian nation

The NRC-CAB combine seeks the reconstitution of Indian nationhood on the lines of V.D. Savarkar's idea



VARGHESE K. GEORGE

7ith India for their basis of operation, for their Fatherland and for their Holyland... bound together by ties of a common blood and common culture (Hindus) can dictate their terms to the whole world." These words scratched by V.D. Savarkar on the walls of a prison, and published in 1923 as a book that defined Hindutva, are

roughly 100 years old Political boundaries are artificial and imagined barriers to human movement. Most violence in the modern history of humankind emanated from attempts to enforce boundaries that purportedly protect citizens and eject aliens. The Holocaust and the Palestinian dispossession are two egregious examples. Ascribing, and claiming legitimacy for a particular community-territory link is a political project, and Savarkar did this with remarkable clarity.

During the Second World War, he exhorted Hindus to join the British Army, not to fight fascism, but to prepare for the civil war with Muslims that he thought was inevitable. Muslims and Christians could never be loyal citizens, he argued. He wrote, "The tie of a common Holyland has at times proven stronger than the claims of a Motherland... Look at the Mohammedans. Mecca to them is a sterner reality than Delhi or Agra." The idea that nation is not territorial, but cultural, was the core of Savarkar's treatise. Though the notion of a Holyland is emphasised, it is only "a basis of operation" to dictate terms to the rest of the world. Not all those who are resi-

dents are a part of the nation, and not all outside the territory are outside the nation. India's founding fathers and public opinion overwhelmingly rejected this notion at the time of Independence, but an Islamic mirror image of it was born into reality as Pakistan.

Rooted and true

Though a group of sedate political experts were hallucinating a delink between Narendra Modi and Hindutva in 2014, he was clear in his promises and has been true to them in government. The non-territorial notion of citizenship and nationhood, the core of Hindutva, was reiterated in the 2014 manifesto of the Bharatiya Janata Party, foretelling the amendment to the Citizenship Act, which was passed by the Lok Sabha on December 9. "India shall remain a natural home for persecuted Hindus and they shall be welcome to seek refuge here," the manifesto said. "The NRIs [Non-Resident Indians], PIOs [Person of Indian origin] and professionals settled abroad are a vast reservoir to articulate the national interests and affairs globally. This resource will be harnessed for strengthening Brand India," the manifesto foretold Mr. Modi's diaspora politics.

Talking to the Indian diaspora in London on November 13, 2015, Mr. Modi said: "Our relations are based on the ties of our blood, not on the colour of our passports. All the rights of Narendra Modi has, you do too..." While the Citizenship (Amendment) Bill 2019 (CAB) seeks to enact as law the notion of India as the home for all Hindus anywhere, the National Register of Citizens (NRC) seeks to weed out those who are already in the territory but are not part of the nation, as per Savarkar's doctrine, echoed in numerous resolutions and statements of the BJP and its forebear, the Jan Sangh. For a non-Muslim excluded from the NRC, there



between "infiltrators" and "refugees" that Home Minister Amit Shah made during the debate on CAB in the Lok Sabha was made by Mr. Modi during the 2014 campaign As Mr Shah told Parliament, nobody can complain of being blindsided by the government on CAB – it was part of the BJP's agenda on which it sought a mandate in 2014 and 2019.

The outlines

If Muslims were not legitimate citizens of the nation, where would they go? While he would not accept them as part of the Hindu nation, Savarkar would also not concede to the demand for a separate country for them and he fiercely opposed the demand for Pakistan. It was left to M.S. Golwalkar of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh, with whom Savarkar had a hostile relationship, to spell out clearly what non-Hindus were supposed to do. They "... may stay in the country, wholly subordinated to the Hindu Nation, claiming nothing, deserving no privileges, far less any preferential treatment – not even citizen's rights." When India debates what happens to those who will not be able to prove their citizenship under the NRC, and are unable to seek citizenship under CAB, this is the future envisaged for them in the Hindutva notion.

This understanding of nation-

hood and citizenship is reflected in the government's move to end the special constitutional status of Jammu and Kashmir, and demote and divide the region into two Union Territories. Kashmiris, far from aspiring for autonomy and enjoying special protection of their cultural identity, are now reduced to seeking the restoration of basic citizenship rights and statehood; as and when they are allowed to speak, that is. Far from holding a veto on Indian politics as the BIP had accused them of for decades, Muslims would be seeking to restore their voting rights, if unable to meet the onerous requirement to be listed in the NRC. The shallowness and duplicity of the government's claim that the scrapping of the special status of J&K was about uncompromising uniformity of laws across the country stands exposed in CAB, that continues to provide special protection to the cultural rights of several communities. Mr. Shah also made the reassurance during the debate that Article 371 which protects the cultural integrity of many regions, would "never be altered". So, it is not a matter of principle for the government that no community shall be granted special cultural rights; it is only that Muslims will not be allowed

The U.S. and a parallel

The ongoing attempts in India to remake itself have striking parallels in the political project of U.S. President Donald Trump. In January 2017, soon after taking over, Mr. Trump ordered a religious test for admission to the U.S. Through an executive order he banned travellers from seven Muslim-majority countries from entry. The order also a had a provision, echoing the Modi government's CAB, which was then pending in Parliament. The President ordered to "prioritize refugee claims made by indivi-

duals on the basis of religiousbased persecution, provided that the religion of the individual is a minority religion in the individual's country of nationality". This would have excluded Muslims from Muslim-majority countries - the exact intent of the CAB. The American judiciary stalled the implementation of the order, and a third version of the travel ban \perp that was finally upheld by the U.S. Supreme Court in June 2018 did not have the above provision. Two non-Muslim countries were included in the amended list of countries from where travellers are banned. The U.S. Supreme Court upheld the principle that there cannot be a bar on entry based on religious cate though it allowed the third iteration of the Presidential order to

Justice Sonia Sotomayor, speaking for the minority in the 5-4 judgment said the Presidential order even the revised one - was discriminatory and unconstitutional. She held that a "reasonable observer" would view the executive action "as motivated by animus against Muslims", and termed the majority decision as a repetition of the past mistake of upholding the Japanese American internment camps in 1944. During the Second World War, when Savarkar was recruiting future soldiers to deal with the internal enemies, Franklin D. Roosevelt, hailed as a progressive President, was ordering the internment of thousands of American citizens of Japanese origin. That past appears to be returning, not as a haunting nightmare as it should be, but heralded as the promised glorious future. What makes Hindu majoritarianism more effective is its doctrinaire legacy, supported by texts and enforced by a quasi-military

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

enjoyed by refugees from

The citizenship door

The Citizenship Amendment Bill and its gradual passage in Parliament is against the non-discriminatory norms and secular credentials of the Constitution. The hue and cry being raised by the political Opposition and some of us in different walks of life teaches us one thing (Editorial, "Unequal, unsecular", December 10) We, the electorate, should never give any party such a massive electoral mandate as it makes them autocratic and arrogant in implementing their ideals, unmindful of the grave damage that is being caused

to the nation. Now, citizens have to look to the judiciary as the only option to set things right. SHALINI GERALD,

■ The Citizenship Amendment Bill would have been a good piece of legislation had it considered only the persecuted minorities of Pakistan and Bangladesh. We are indirectly responsible for their plight and cannot shy away from the responsibility of safeguarding them. But why should we grant citizenship to refugees from Afghanistan? They should be granted the same benefits

other countries. Persecution of minorities is not a phenomenon that is prevalent only in Islamic countries, as the government is trying to establish. If we give special treatment to refugees from Afghanistan, then refugees from Sri Lanka and Myanmar too deserve the same consideration. At a time when we need to involve the Muslim community in preventing the radicalisation of its youth. alienating them will only aid India's enemies. The Prime Minister recently emphasised the importance of communal harmony, unity and peace. Pieces of

NEERAJ NANDAKUMAR, Guruvayur, Kerala

legislation such as CAB foster

Criminal justice system

anything but that.

The deaths in an encounter last Friday, of the four accused in the rape and murder of a young veterinarian in Hyderabad, have been viewed as a violation of fundamental rights (Editorial page, "A growing blot on the criminal iustice system", December 10). But what is of concern is the effectiveness of court trials and the delivery of judgments versus the cruelty, the pain and the barbarism that the rape

justice system is against the forms of punishment seen in North Korea (firing), Saudi Arabia (beheading), Afghanistan (shot in the head), then it should ensure judgments that are quick. JIT SARKAR,

victim suffered. If India's

V.K. Krishna Menon

As a young voter who had cast his vote in Bombay North in 1962 and got to know Indian politics, I can say with pride that V.K.

to the nation. As Defence Minister, he built up many institutions. He was the man behind Nehru's equi-distant foreign policy. As a great orator and a dazzling diplomat nonpareil, he would have ensured India followed a different path. K. RAIENDRAN.

Krishna Menon is an

outstanding leader, probably

next to Nehru. Here was a

person completely devoted

CORRECTIONS & CLARIFICATIONS:

The price of Brent oil and the % change given in the Market Watch column (Business page, Dec. 10, 2019) were incorrect.

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Chess as patterns and contextual memory

India's first Grandmaster says chess players don't necessarily have a photographic memory



Viswanathan Anand has been India's torchbearer in chess. Along with tennis star Leander Paes, he has embraced sporting longevity, and both are playing their respective sport beyond three decades, more than even the great Sachin Tendulkar. The former World chess champion, who turns 50 on Wednesday, has penned Mind Master along with sports writer Susan Ninan. The book, which is being released on his birthday, offers a peep into Anand's sharp mind, explains how he dismantled the Russian oligarchy in chess, and reveals his perspective about the sporting life. Having inspired a legion of chess players including the latest prodigy, R. Praggnanandhaa, 14, Anand shows that there is more to chess than a Sicilian Defence. In the book, he bares his thoughts about goals, rivals, strengths, and vulnerabilities like being forgetful even in a sport as cerebral as chess. An excerpt:

What's the last thing that slipped your mind? Was it a chore, your belongings at a hotel or on a flight, an appointment, or worse still, your wedding anniversary? If it's the last I hope your limbs are intact.

I'm a survivor myself. I run the risk of throwing my reputation off the cerebral pedestal with this story, which I've often shared at seminars and gatherings – but I'll do it once more anyway. It was January 1998, during my World Championship match against Karpov in Lausanne, when three-and-a-half inch floppy disks were still in vogue. Every night, whatever preparation had been worked on would be backed up, stored in floppies and stowed away in a safe by Aruna. One night after putting away the disks, she turned to me with a knowing smile and told me that the code to unlock the safe was easy to recall, 2706. Confused, I commented, 'That's a silly code... Which player has a rating like that?' Live Elo ratings weren't around then and ratings were usually updated to a difference of five. Aruna looked aghast. From the look in her eyes I could



sense her blood beginning to simmer. 'It's not anyone's rating,' she said coldly. 'It's our wedding anniversary!' I had the stupidest look on my face as I tried to make sense of why I should be trusted to remember this detail. We were just into the second year of our marriage.

Perception of eidetic memory

Coming from a chess player who is believed to thrive on plucking out endless moves, games and notations from memory, this might sound incredulous, even blasphemous. Most of us players can recall moves from all the games we've played and yet it is also true that we can be at sea when it comes to a five-point grocery list. The pre-Internet, pre-mobile era now appears to be buried in a glacial past from a Pleistocene Age. Then, it was our spouses to whom we'd turn for reminders on everything (though maybe not the wedding anniversary!). Today, we're a bunch of hunched figures with our thumbs on rollers, flitting between mobile applications and tools, gyroscopes and location data. Google reminds me there's a flight to catch, pops up directions to a restaurant I'm about to visit, and on many days I have a birthday alarm going off, making me choke on my morning cereal, and I can't for the life of me remember whom I'd set it for.

Broadly, chess players tend to be the subject of envy for their eidetic memory - or at least what's commonly perceived as eidetic memory. This belief was debunked by the Dutch psychologist and chess player Adriaan de Groot more than half a decade ago through his experiments. He tested four categories of players of varying strengths – Grandmaster, other pawns... White has a bishop here, and I recall this bishop position from my game last year. Ah, this is a Nimzo-Indian opening [a hypermodern opening that doesn't involve fianchettoing a bishop at the start], so I know what the pawn structure should look like and all I have to remember is that one pawn is out of place on both sides - maybe a3 and a6, or a2 and a6 – and everything else slots in.' The reason the Grandmasters and Masters were able to reconstruct what they were shown the first time was because the picture

An equivalent of this would be showing the photograph of a landscape to an artist. It may have a few striking features, like a red boat with a name painted across it in white letters, a chapel on the bank of a river, and mountains and trees forming the backdrop. Like the Grandmasters, the artists will recall the features of the photo perfectly, but if they are shown a version of it in which the details are messed up - the boat is broken, the chapel is missing and 20 new objects are now visible in the background – they will have trouble recreating the original. Much like the Grandmasters, what these artists would do is take in a couple of crucial elements and fill in the rest of the background in their minds.

Winning Lessons from

a Champion's

Viswanathan

Anand with

Susan Ninan

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Master, expert and class 'A' player,

the last a decent chess player who

ranks below expert level. De Groot

showed each of them a chessboard

configuration with 22 pieces from an

unknown game. The subjects were

then asked to reconstruct the board, either on another board or verbally.

The Grandmasters and Masters re-

produced it almost effortlessly and

got 93 per cent right, while the ex-

perts and class 'A' players struggled a

bit, missing a detail in a couple of

places, and got 72 per cent and 51 per

cent correct respectively. But when

the positions were randomized, mak-

ing no logical sense whatsoever, each

group, including the Grandmasters,

placed only three or four pieces cor-

rectly. It showed that Grandmasters

didn't look at or commit to memory

the positions of individual pieces:

rather, they remembered pieces in

Converting a picture into a story

So, essentially what chess players

have isn't an inexplicably photo-

graphic memory, but contextual me-

mory. What most of us do is convert

a picture into a story. The mental so-

liloquy in a seasoned player's head

goes something like this: 'Oh, these

three pawns haven't been moved, so

White was basically moving these

groups, structures or patterns.

Personally, I favour creating summaries, or collapsing a whole lot of positions into a story. While doing this, I keep the essential elements in mind. I could liken this to a situation in which you've lost your way and all you know is that you need to head north-west. With that basic information, even without the exact address of your destination or a set of directions, you might still find your way there. It works in the same way as a person recalling trivia through a story that makes the facts stick in their head. Who's ever going to forget Isaac Newton and the discovery of gravity, for example? An apple falling on his head while he was sitting in the garden and the flash of brilliant insight that inspired the understanding of gravitational force is perhaps the best-known anecdote in the study of science. The story that goes with the discovery makes it unforgettable.

Excerpted with permission from Hachette

Iraq's autumn of discontent

India can help Iraq create institutions which connect with the aspirations of a disgruntled youth



In its heyday in the late 1970s, Iraq was considered the luckiest Arab country as it had both oil and water, a relatively modern citizenry, and a Ba'athist regime which, though authoritarian, was progressive and less corrupt. Ironically, since then, Iraq has endured four decades of near ceaseless depredations with three 'Mother of All Battles', economic sanctions, occupation, and existential duels with al Qaeda and the Islamic State (IS). Recently, it has been crippled by agitations led by youth railing against an inapt and corrupt leadership. They are frustrated because of unemployment, decaying civic amenities, and foreign domination. On December 1, the Iraqi Parliament accepted the resignation of the Prime Minister throwing the country into a fresh bout of political instability.

Protests and the way ahead

Iraqis' discontent is rooted in reality. In 2018, Iraq's oil exports were \$91 billion, or over \$6 a day for each citizen. Yet, over 41% of population lived below the poverty line of \$3.2/day. Two years after the defeat of the IS, millions of internally displaced Iraqis still await rehabilitation. Iraqis also resent foreign hegemony, mainly by the U.S. and Iran. The attempts to burn down the Iranian consulates in Karbala and Najaf last month show popular antipathy.

The redeeming features of the protest movement have been its non-violence and inclusivity, despite Iraq being a sectarian, tribal society awash with weapons. The protests have often been met with excessive force by authorities leading to over 400 deaths. Last week, unknown gunmen massacred 22 protestors and three policemen in Baghdad.

Although the agitators reject the current political system, they lack a precise alternative. They call for a revolution to dismantle the Muhasasa system of sect-based allocation of government positions and replace it with direct elections and meritocracy. While they are resolute and united, the absence of any hierarchy or nationwide coordination renders them vulnerable to manipulation and divisions. But then, these attributes also allow them moral high ground and focus.

Arrayed against the utopian and inexperienced youth are formidable forces: the wily politico-clergy nexus (and their sectarian militias), anarchists like al Qaeda and IS scheming for a rerun, and renegade Ba'athists yearning for Saddam Hussein's authoritarianism. Since the U.S. invasion in 2003, anarchic and enfeebled Iraq has been a hunting ground for various foreign powers – the U.S., Iran, Israel, Sunni Gulf powers, and Turkey – and their local proxies. With its geostrategic location, massive oil reserves and large Shia population, Iraq is a big prize.

Although the Prime Minister's resignation has broken a protracted stalemate, the prospects for an early positive resolution appear dim. The agitation could either coagulate into a more inclusive political force, or fragment along sectarian lines, or morph into a militancy. To survive, Iraq's ruling politicoreligious elite would need a package addressing agitators' basic demands and mitigating their distress. The new dispensation would need to be sectarian-light. To make a clean break from the current discredited system, Iraq will need a new electoral law or even a new Constitution. In a young democracy, it is important to create institutions sympathetic to the youth's aspirations. The new leadership would also be under scrutiny for its nationalism.

India's role

For Indians, the developments in Iraq may appear as a distant rumble. They are not. One, Iraq is India's largest source of crude. A protracted instability in Iraq would result in oil price rise. Two, with direct bilateral trade of over \$24 billion in 2018-19, Iraq is already a large market for India's exports with sizeable potential for growth. Three, in the 1975-85 decade, Iraq was the biggest market for India's project exports; its post-conflict reconstruction requirement would be huge. Additionally, India can also help Iraq in MSMEs, skill development, healthcare, education, and improved governance.

But before all this can happen, India would need to help Iraq avoid the worst-case scenario. For this, it needs to hold Iraq's hand to foster political reforms and help create credible and effective socio-political institutions. Over the past 70 years, India has created such institutions suited for a multiethnic developing society. This makes it compatible to partner with Iraq. Moreover, India's millennia-long civilisational ties with Mesopotamia give it a tradition of goodwill with all sections of Iraqi society. This legacy needs to be leveraged not only to help transform Iraq, but also revitalise India's bilateral ties with this friendly country in the extended neighbourhood.

Mahesh Sachdev, a retired diplomat, was Ambassador to Algeria, Norway and Nigeria. He heads Eco-Diplomacy and Strategies in New Delhi

The Man Frindu.

FROM THE ARCHIVES

FIFTY YEARS AGO DECEMBER 11, 1969

Government has taken up with the Union

Public Service Commission the question of

preparing question papers for its examina-

tions in all the 15 languages mentioned in the

Eighth Schedule to the Constitution. Reply-

ing to Mr. S. S. Bhandari and other Jan Sangh

members in Rajya Sabha to-day [December

10, New Delhi], Mr. V. C. Shukla, Minister of

State for Home Affairs, said that the use of 15

languages, in addition to English, had been

permitted for two subjects in the combined

competitive examination conducted by

UPSC this year. Mr. Shukla said UPSC had

pointed out certain difficulties in setting the

question papers in all the 15 languages but

they were trying to overcome these difficul-

ties. The Jan Sangh members had demanded

that Hindi should be introduced with En-

glish in question papers of UPSC competitive

examination and for interviews. Mr. Shukla

said it was not at present possible to indicate

when Hindi would be permitted to be used,

in addition to English, for the interviews or

for the use of all regional languages for all

subjects in UPSC examinations.

UPSC papers in 15 languages

FACTWISE

Congress and Partition

The idea of a religious basis for nations came from the Hindu Mahasabha and the Muslim League

V. SUDARSHAN

During the course of the debate on the Citizenship (Amendment) Bill, 2019, Home Minister Amit Shah said, "If the Congress had not divided this country on the basis of religion, there would be no need to bring in this bill. It was the Congress that divided the country on religious lines, not us." It is important to note that Mr. Shah's comments are misleading; the truth is far more complicated.

The events leading up to Partition involved a bewildering array of historical characters and motives, often at variance with one another. Mr. Shah also overlooks the body of evidence that suggests that it is difficult to influence the course of history if various groups are united comprehensively for or against an idea.

The idea of religious identity being the basis for Partition has less to do with the Congress and more to do with the ardent advocates of a communal notion of nation-building -V.D. Savarkar of the Hindu Mahasabha and Muhammad Ali Jinnah of the Muslim League. The Muslim League had a firm grasp on the political value of such an idea. Jinnah outmanoeuvred political opponents on his way towards establishing Pakistan.

An idea that grew

By 1940, the germ of the idea, propounded initially in 1923 by Savarkar, had seized Jinnah's imagination and was fuelled by events on the ground. From the beginning, both M.K. Gandhi and Jawaharlal Nehru rejected the

When World War 2 broke out towards the end of 1939, Lord Linlithgow, the then Viceroy of India, did not receive the kind of support that he wanted from the Congress for war efforts, even though there were substantial differences of opinion on the way forward between Nehru and Gandhi. The Congress promised help, but with heavy caveats, including independence at the end of the war. On the other hand, Jinnah was far more canny, less conditional, and more tactical in extending his support. As the Congress increased pressure on the British, Jinnah, with the backing of Bengal, Punjab and Sindh,

increased Linlithgow's political interaction with and dependence on the Muslim League. Eventually, Jinnah (and the Hindu Mahasabha) did not support the Quit India Movement.

British Prime Minister Winston Churchill, predisposed to managing situations through divisions, saw innate merit in supporting Jinnah rather than giving into the Congress's demands. Soon after Iinnah articulated the idea of Pakistan in the Lahore Resolution of 1940, the British endorsed the essence of it, thereby pushing the idea further into the realm of reality.

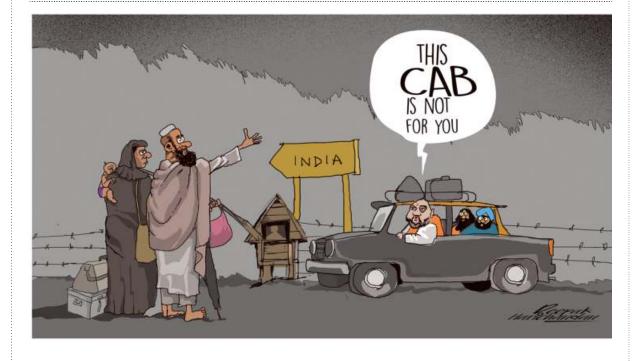
Failure of the Congress

It is also a fact that the Congress failed in persuading either Jinnah to give up his separatist dream or in convincing the British to not help Jinnah take that path. The Quit India Movement also contributed to the steady drift between the goals of the Congress and those of the British. In 1942, the Congress rejected the recommendations of the Stafford Cripps mission that endorsed the idea of Partition. Even before Partition, the failure of talks between Jinnah and the Congress had a fallout on the ground, helped by a parallel rise of extremist views and forces on both sides of the political spectrum. Till as late as 1946, the Congress remained opposed to the idea of nations being carved on the basis of religious

The various rifts came to the surface in the riots in West Bengal after a political fallout between Nehru and Jinnah. Jinnah called for "direct action" to realise the idea of Pakistan. Thousands died as the riots began in August 1946. Trouble began to spread to Noakhali in West Bengal and Bihar. This was probably the turning point when Congress leaders saw no further point fighting the idea that Jinnah had presented, the idea that the British had assiduously foist-

ed and aggressively worked towards. The short answer to Mr. Shah's postulation is it was not Congress that caused the division along religious lines. It was the last to reluctantly go along, for want of a better alternative, all things considered.

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DATA POINT

At the cost of health

A majority of Indians did not have health insurance as of 2017-18. Coverage levels varied widely based on 'wealth classes'. The poorest were the least covered as they mostly depended on government schemes, while the richest fared better and relied more on private insurance. By Sumant Sen and Vignesh Radhakrishnan

2. Insurance source | Of those with health insurance, most were dependent on government schemes. The only exceptions were the richest urban households who used private insurance the most. With just 9.6% coverage, the urban poor were the worst affected. In urban areas, workers in both government and private sectors were covered by their employers to an extent. Only a meagre share of rural folk received that benefit. Table shows % of households with insurance

Rural

Sources of insurance

| Wealth class | Govt. sponsored | Govt as an employer | Pvt. as an employer | Privately arranged | | |
|----------------------------|--------------------|------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|--|--|
| 1 (poorest 20%) | 9.9 | 0.2 | 0.1 | 0 | | |
| 2 | 9 | 0.2 | 0.1 | 0 | | |
| 3 | 12.1 | 0.4 | 0.1 | 0.1 | | |
| 4 | 15.1 | 0.3 | 0.2 | 0.2 | | |
| 5 (richest 20%) | 18.4 | 1.6 | 0.8 | 0.8 | | |

Urban

| 1 (poorest 20%) | 7.5 | 0.6 | 0.9 | 0.6 |
|--------------------|------|-----|-----|------|
| 2 | 10.7 | 1.2 | 1.5 | 0.5 |
| 3 | 11.6 | 2.6 | 2.1 | 1.6 |
| 4 | 9 | 4.2 | 2.8 | 4.1 |
| 5 (richest 20%) | 5.5 | 8 | 7.1 | 12.1 |

1. Absymal coverage | Among the poorest households, 90% did not have health insurance. While richer households fared better, coverage among them was still poor (67% of urban households lacked insurance). The table shows the % of households without health insurance across wealth classes (from poorest 20%: 1 to the richest 20%: 5)

| | Poorest | | Middle | | Richest | | |
|-------|----------|----|--------|----|---------|--|--|
| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | | |
| Rural | 90 | 91 | 87 | 84 | 78 | | |
| Urban | Jrban 90 | | 82 | 80 | 67 | | |

3. Health budget | Urban households spent more on hospitalisation than rural households across all wealth classes. Table shows average expense incurred for treatment for every case of hospitalisation (in ₹). As most households lacked insurance, they were forced to spend out of their pockets. This particularly affected the poor whose insurance coverage levels were lowest among wealth classes

| | | | _ | | | |
|-------|---------|--------|--------|---------|--------|--|
| | Poorest | | Middle | Richest | | |
| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | |
| Rural | 12,272 | 15,622 | 14,261 | 15,266 | 21,338 | |
| Urban | 14,140 | 18,759 | 23,591 | 26,612 | 44,573 | |

4. Money source | As out-of-pocket expenditure was high, households were forced to dip into their savings or borrow. Table shows % of hospital expenses that were made by dipping into savings and borrowing

| | Poorest | | Middle | Richest | | | | |
|--|---------|------|--------|---------|------|--|--|--|
| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | | | |
| Rural | 94.6 | 92.8 | 93.1 | 92.9 | 92 | | | |
| Urban | 91.5 | 91.7 | 92.8 | 93.2 | 91.8 | | | |
| Source: Key indicators of social consumption, NSS 75th round (2017-18) | | | | | | | | |

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO DECEMBER 11, 1919 Preparations at Amritsar.

The people of Amritsar have shown wonderful tenacity of purpose and an abundant fund of spirit and perseverance in connection with the holding of the next session of the Indian National Congress at Amritsar. They have over come by well directed firmness all obstacles in their way. They are now straining every nerve to make the coming Congress an unprecedented success. They deserve our good wishes and hearty support.

Various attempts have been made to dissuade the people of Amritsar from fulfilling their pledge to the nation. A deplorable instance of this nature came to my notice a short time ago. "The Civil and Military Gazette" of 31st October published a letter from the pen of Risaldar. S.B. Partap Singh who certifies himself to be "experienced in military and civil services" and to have "ruled on native state to the satisfaction of the Government." He believes that "outsiders" who are responsible for the "irreparable losses" in the Punjab "are again arranging" to hold the Congress at Amritsar. "Punjab" writes the Sardar "should be saved any how". And that he seems to believe can be best done by abusing the educated Indians!

FROM PAGE ONE

Violence mars protests against Citizenship Bill

The protesters in Assam blocked the movement of trains and vehicular traffic forcing the cancellation of some trains.

"The protest this time is more intense than the one in January. The common people have risen against an anti-constitutional Bill that threatens their land, language and culture," said Lurinjyoti Gogoi, general secretary of the All Assam Students' Union, a constituent of NESO.

In Guwahati, a large number of people laid siege to strategic areas chanting anti-BJP and anti-government slogans and burning tyres. Some tried to march to Dispur, the State's seat of power, but were prevented on the way by the police and paramilitary forces.

Such was the anger that the protesters prevented the movement of VIPs such as Assam's Education Minister Siddhartha Bhattacharya forcing his convoy to return to his private residence. Many staged protests outside the houses of the MLAs of the ruling BJP and Asom Gana Parishad with mobs attacking or damaging the offices of these political parties in some semi-urban

Apart from writers and intellectuals, some film personalities and singers too hit the streets and decided against taking part in any government functions. They also called for the boycott of the Indo-Japan summit from December 15-17.

SC flags delay in HC judges' appointment

On the Supreme Court collegium clearing the recommendees, the Union Law Ministry has to put up within three weeks the recommendations to the Prime Minister who would advise the President on the appointment. However, no time limit has been prescribed for action by the Prime Minister and the President.

The Bench directed that the list, which has to be vetted by Attorney General K.K. Venugopal, to also include other details of the 213 pending names, including the date when each recommendation was made by the High Court collegium concerned; date when the recommendation was forwarded to the collegium after consulting with the Law Ministry; the time period between these two dates: the date when the collegium cleared the names; the time period, etc.

Falling appointments

The Bench observed in the order that the number of judges appointed to the High Courts has steadily dipped since 2017. Judicial appointments to High Courts have nearly halved in 2019 compared to 2017 and

Only 65 judges have been appointed to High Courts in 2019. It was 115 in 2017 and 108 in 2018. The High Courts are functioning at nearly 50% of their sanctioned judicial strength. Of a total 1,079 judges sanctioned in the High Courts, there are

tion on the ground, specifi-

culty, being a Muslim.

could not join there [SVDV]. Incidentally, he got two more opportunities, a total of three opportunities. Among all three, he accepted the post he preferred the most. It is a good thing for him," said Mr. Pandey. The BHU is yet to issue a state-

the day Shantilal Salvi, a Dalit assistant professor in the Literature department of the SVDV, alleged that he was attacked by a group of students for supporting Mr.

Lanka police station against Shubham Tiwary, a Ph.D. scholar, Professor Kaushalendra Pandey, Munish Mishra, an outsider, and an unknown person on charges of criminal assault and relevant sections of the SC/ST

students who allegedly attacked Mr. Salvi, were also heading the protests against Mr. Khan, including Mr. Tiw-

J&K administration will decide on leaders' release: Amit Shah

There will be no interference from our side, says Union Home Minister

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Home Minister Amit Shah on Tuesday told the Lok Sabha that it was for the local administration of Jammu and Kashmir to make an assessment on just when detained political leaders in the Valley were to be released, and that the Centre was not going to interfere in the process.

"The government has no intention to keep any leader under custody even for one more day," he said in response to a question by leader of the Congress Legislature Party in the Lok Sabha Adhir Ranjan Chowdhary on normalcy in the State and detention of political

"It is for local administration to decide when political

SUHASINI HAIDAR

The European Union re-

mains "concerned" about

the situation in Jammu and

Kashmir and its position has

not changed in the months

since the government's deci-

sion on Article 370, the new-

ly appointed EU Ambassa-

Speaking to journalists,

Ambassador Ugo Astuto also

said the EU was following the

debate in Parliament over

the Citizenship Amendment

Bill and hoped that India's

"The European Union is

concerned about the situa-

traditions

constitutional

would be upheld.

dor said here on Tuesday.

NEW DELHI



Making a point: Union Home Minister Amit Shah speaking in the Lok Sabha on Tuesday. • PTI

Restore normalcy in Kashmir: EU

'It is crucial freedom of movement and means of communication are restored'

leaders will be released. We don't want to keep anyone [leaders] in jail even for a day more than that is required. As and when the local administration feels the time is appropriate, they will be released. There will be no interference from our side,"

Taking a potshot at the Congress, Mr. Shah said that Farooq Abdullah, former Chief Minister of Jammu and Kashmir, had been in custody for six months, whereas his father, the late Sheikh Abdullah, had been kept confined for 11 years by the Congress governments of the past. "Farooq Abdullah's father was kept in jail for 11 years by the Congress. We don't want to follow them and as soon as the administration decides, they will be released." All leaders should be con-

cerned about political leaders in the Valley. But if leaders were more worried about the people of Kashmir, it would send a better message, he said. Mr. Shah said the situation was normal. "99.5% of students of 11th class sat for exams there, but for Adhir Ranjanji, this is not normalcy; seven lakh people availed OPD services in Srinagar; Section 144 removed from everywhere. But for Adhirji, only parameter for normalcy is political activity," he said.

In order: Rajya Sabha chairperson M. Venkaiah Naidu during

the proceedings on Tuesday. • PTI

Women don't need firearms: RS Chairman

Others will protect them, he tells MPs

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

With two women MPs asking to speak as the discussion on the Arms (Amendment) Bill, 2019 was wrapping up on Tuesday evening, Rajya Sabha chairperson M. Venkaiah Naidu remarked that he thought women did not need firearms and that others would protect them.

"In my opinion, women don't need firearms, others will protect you," he said.

Though he said the time allotted to the discussion had finished, he said, "One of the two women" could speak.

He then allowed BJP MP Roopa Ganguly to speak. She said that she had been shooting since childhood and that she enjoyed it.

Arms Act Bill passed

A Bill amending the Arms Act, 1959 to bring in stricter punishments for those involved in the trade and use of illegal firearms and to reduce the number of licensed firearms a person could keep from three to two was passed by Parliament on Tuesday.

holders sharing a unique

identifier with the political

party may take away a key

feature of the scheme, which

is to protect the identity of

the donor from the political

scrips would help in popula-

rising EBs and cover people

Small donors may not be

familiar and comfortable

with the digital processing

and would like to get a phys-

In reply to another sup-

plementary, the Minister

said the government could

not access the information of

anonymous donors because

the gazette notification clear-

ly says that it had to be a mat-

ter of confidentiality by the

issuing authority.

of all strata of society.

Besides, she said physical

the Central Board (CCB) of of EBs in electronic (Demat)

the RBI in its meeting held format only with the bond

parties.

ical bond.

'Rape in India', not 'Make in India': Adhir NEW DELHI

Congress leader Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury raised the Unnao rape case in the Lok Sabha on Tuesday during Zero Hour, stating that the country was gradually moving towards "rape in India" from "make in India". "There have been many incidents in the past - from Kathua to Unnao where women/girls have been gang-raped and

killed," he said, highlighting the case of the 23-year-old rape victim in Unnao, who was recently set ablaze by five men.

Arms (Amendment) Bill, 2019 was introduced by Minister of State for Home Affairs G. Kishan Reddy in the Rajya Sabha on Tuesday afternoon. Apart from increasing the

punishments for dealing in illegal arms, the Bill makes snatching of a firearm from security personnel an offence carrying a 10-year to life imprisonment term and using firearms in celebratory firing punishable with up to two years in jail and/or a ₹1 lakh fine.

State government by the ⁺ Muslim teacher at BHU

switches to Arts stream

Some students and members of the Akhil Bharatiya Vidvarthi Parishad (ABVP), the students wing of the RSS, nave, since November 7, opposed Mr. Khan's appointment, saying he was ineligible to teach in the fa-

While they had called off their dharna for 10 days and issued an ultimatum to the varsity, the students resumed the protest last week, even as the faculty remained shut since the protests and due to the scheduled examinations.

"For some reasons, he

The resignation came on

Mr. Salvi has been among the few faculty members who openly spoke out against the treatment meted out to Mr. Khan.

An FIR was lodged at the

Incidentally, some of the

cally about the restrictions on fundamental freedoms," Campaigning for Jharkhand

STAFF REPORTER BHUBANESWAR

polls ends

Tuesday for the third phase of the Iharkhand Assembly elections to be held in 17 constituencies in eight districts on Thursday.

In the December 12 poll, a total of 309 candidates, including 32 women, are in the fray. The highest number of 31 candidates are contesting from the Ichagarh Assembly segment, while Ranchi and Kanke have 12 candidates each. Of the 17 seats going to poll, one is reserved for Scheduled Tribes while two are reserved for Scheduled Castes.

Jharkhand's Chief Electoral Officer Vinay Choubey said security had been beefed up for the smooth conduct of polling.



said Mr. Astuto, in his first press appearance after receiving his credentials. "It is crucial that freedom of movement and means of communication are restored along with all essential services. We have urged a restoration of normalcy, while we

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Finance Minister Nirmala

Sitharaman informed the Ra-

jya Sabha on Tuesday that

the Reserve Bank of India

(RBI) had not objected to the

issuance of electoral bonds

through the State Bank of In-

Replying to a supplemen-

tary during the Question

Hour on electoral bonds

through the SBI, the Finance

Minister said that being a sta-

keholder, the RBI was in-

volved in extensive consulta-

tions with the government at

"RBI, being a stakeholder,

was involved in the consulta-

tion process and during the

consultation process, they

had certain questions to ask

about the particular plat-

form of issuance as to who is

conceptualisation.

dia (SBI).

ban had been discussed on several occasions by the EU High Representative Federica Mogherini and External Minister Affairs Jaishankar. Significantly Mr. Astuto's call for a restoration of normalcy came on a day Home

ity concerns," he added, dis-

closing that the issue of de-

tentions and the Internet

Minister Amit Shah told Parliament that the situation in Jammu and Kashmir is "completely normal."

Mr. Astuto said the EU has not at present put in requests to visit Jammu and Kashmir to assess the situation, as the U.S. and other countries have, and added that the visit of more than 20 Members of the European Amendment Bill, which was passed by the Lok Sabha on Tuesday, Mr. Astuto said it had not been discussed between the EU and the govern-

Parliament in October was in

their individual capacities

and "not an expression of EU

Responding to questions

Citizenship

policy."

'RBI didn't stop SBI role in poll bonds'

Sitharaman says the central bank was involved in the consultation process

about the

ment yet. "The Indian Constitution guarantees equality before the law and prohibits all forms of discriminations. These are principles that we share, the European Union and India, and I trust that the outcome of discussions

[on the Citizenship Amend-

ment Bill] will be in line with

the high standards set by the

on October II, 2017 indirect-

ly agreed for electoral bonds

to be issued if it was done by

meeting and other internal

fora would have discussed

the multiple facets of the

She said the proceedings

of the CCB mentioned that

"the CCB supported the

bank's [RBI's] stand on not

issuing the EBs in scrip form,

and observed that if the go-

vernment decides to issue

EB in scrip form through the

SBI, the bank [RBI] should

let it be." The main reasons

for issuing EBs in bearer

form are to bring in transpa-

rency to funding in the polit-

RBI's suggestion on issuance

The Minister said the

ical system, she said.

electoral bond schemes.

The Bank in the CCB

the SBI.

After being passed in the



'1.29 lakh in Assam declared as foreigners' NEW DELHI

As many as 1,29,009 people were declared as foreigners and 1,14,225 as Indian citizens till October last by the foreigners tribunals (FTs) in Assam, Minister of State for Home Affairs Nityanand Rai told the Lok Sabha. Among the foreigners deported this year, four were Bangladeshi nationals and two Afghans. he stated, quoting information made available by the State government. In a written reply to a question, he said that no child had been declared foreigner.

Trinamool MPs demand recall of Governor

NEW DELHI Trinamool members walked out of the Rajya Sabha on Tuesday after Zero Hour protesting against West Bengal Governor Jagdeep Dhankhar for allegedly withholding the SC and ST legislation cleared by the Assembly. As soon as Chairman M. Venkaiah Naidu announced Question Hour, the MPs barged into the Well demanding raising of an issue related to the Governor. Party MP Derek O'Brien tried to raise the issue but the

J&K status altered irreversibly: Faesal

NEW DELHI

Chairman did not allow.

The President's proclamation to scrap the special status accorded to Jammu and Kashmir on August 5 and the subsequent "rushing through" of the State's reorganisation law by Parliament amounted to an "irreversible" alteration without taking the consent of the Kashmiri people, IAS topper-turned-J&K political leader Shah Faesal contended in his petition before the Supreme Court on Tuesday. The petition challenged the constitutionality of the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act, 2019

RCEP decision not last minute: Goyal

India should have put a pause at the beginning itself, says Union Minister

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

India's decision to leave the Comprehensive Regional Economic Partnership (RCEP) was not taken at the last minute, Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal told Parliament, in a statement, on Tuesday while defending the government's decision to quit the 16-nation Free Trade Agreement (FTA) among the ASEAN and other countries.

In a heated exchange with Congress leader Jairam Ramesh and other Opposition members, who asked why government "pressed the pause button" at the last minute, Mr. Goyal denied that there had been a sudden change in policy on the accord, which had been negotiated since 2012, and indicated that the previous



Other countries knew

UPA government's decision to join RCEP talks had been a mistake in the first place.

"Nothing happened in the past few days," Mr. Goyal said. "Other countries knew what direction we were going in, and that if our concerns were not met, we would not stay in RCEP," he said, adding that the final decision to pull out of the talks at the RCEP summit on November 4 was taken by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. "India should not have joined RCEP, it should have put a pause at the beginning itself," Mr. Goyal contended when members from the Congress, Trinamool Congress, RJD, CPI and CPM sought to counter him about the timing of the decision.

Sticking points In his statement to the upper house, Mr. Goyal listed several reasons for the government's call on RCEP, including the trade deficits India faces with 12 of the 15 RCEP partners it already has FTAs with, and blamed the UPA

ing the pacts more favourably for Indian companies. He said that the RCEP negotiators' refusal to consider the services sector in the agreement was a major factor, as were concerns over rules of origin, non-tariff barriers, and the subsidy regime in some RCEP countries. "A comparison of mer-

government for not negotiat-

chandise trade with these countries reveals that India's trade deficit has steadily increased. For example, the trade deficit with ASEAN from 2010-11 until 2018-19 increased more than 4 times from \$5.0 billion to \$21.8 billion. In fact, the merchandise deficit with all the RCEP countries increased more than 9 times from \$7.1 billion in 2003-04 to \$65.1 billion in 2013-14," Mr. Goyal informed the Rajya Sabha.

Lok Sabha nod for Bill extending SC/ST quota in State legislatures

MPs call for continuing nomination of Anglo-Indians

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Nirmala Sitharaman

going to issue it and also the

proforma with which it is go-

ing to be issued. These con-

sultations were recorded,

but, at the end of it, as long

as the bonds were going to

be issued by the SBI, they did

not have an objection. So,

when said 'indirectly', it

meant, subject to that," Ms.

She said the Committee of

Sitharaman said.

The Lok Sabha on Tuesday passed the Constitution (One Hundred and Twenty-Amendment) Bill, 2019, which continues the reservation of seats for the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes for another 10

semblies was due to end on

January 25, 2020.

years, till January 25, 2030. Law Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad noted that the quota in legislatures was required to build a new political leadership of the two communities. The Bill was passed with 352 memsiderate of Anglo-Indians. bers in favour and none against. The reservation for SCs, STs and Anglo-Indians given for the past 70 years in the Lok Sabha and the As-

The reservation for Anglo-Indians in the form of "nomination" is set to expire on January 25 as the Bill does not extend the facility to the community. The Minister, in his reply, said doors were not shut and the

matter would be considered. Speaking during the discussion, Congress leader Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury said the Minister should move an amendment to the Bill to the effect of extending the SC/ST reservation for 10 years but should have been more con-

'Quotas not enough'

Stating that the admission figures in the IIMs and IITs of SC/ST communities were very low, DMK MP Kanimozhi said, "Reservation alone

gures released by the Minister on the number of Anglo-Indians in India. "The Minister is seeking to take away what Dr. Am-

isn't enough; this intellec-

tual untouchability has to

end." Sougata Ray of the Tri-

namool questioned the fi-

bedkar gave us. Anglo-Indians have contributed immensely for the country. Do not obliterate a community of proud people," the MP said. TDP MP K. Ram Mohan Naidu, while supporting the Bill, said that with 98% jobs in the private sector, the government must also look at extending the reservation cover. Advocating for the Anglo-Indian community, he noted that the government was duty-bound to protect these Indians too.

THE HINDU DELHI WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2019

Nagaland brings ILP in Dimapur

November 21, 1979, is the cut-off date for people from outside

VIJAITA SINGH

Even as the Lok Sabha debated the Citizenship (Amendment) Bill, 2019, on Monday, the Nagaland government extended the Inner Line Permit (ILP) system to Dimapur, the commercial hub of the

The decision makes it mandatory for "every nonindigenous person" who entered the district after November 21, 1979, to obtain an ILP within 90 days.

The notification said nonindigenous persons living in Dimapur prior to November 21, 1979, would have to produce documents as evidence to get a certificate from the Deputy Commissioner for exemption from the permit

Except Dimapur, the ILP has been applicable to the rest of Nagaland. Known as



Rage of a region: People protesting during the 12-hour Assam bandh called by the North East Students' Organisation in Guwahati on Tuesday. • RITU RAJ KONWAR

"mini India", Dimapur district has a mixed population.

Exempt from CAB

Nagaland, Arunachal Pradesh and Mizoram, protected by the ILP requirement, have been exempted from the provisions of the CAB along with the whole of Meghalaya, Mizoram and the tribal areas of Tripura and Assam as covered in the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution. Residents of other States have to mandatorily obtain an ILP to visit the protected States.

On Monday, Home Minister Amit Shah told the Lok Sabha that Manipur would be brought under the ILP system, exempting it from provisions of the CAB. Except non-tribal areas in Assam and Tripura, the entire

There have been protests across the northeastern States against the Bill that nullifies the 1985 Assam Accord, which called for detection and deportation of anyone who entered the State after March 24, 1971. The Bill makes the Accord redundant as it is likely to benefit non-Muslims among the over 19 lakh people excluded from the National Register of Citizens.

720 eminent people flay CAB, NRC

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

More than 720 writers, actors and activists have spoken out against both the Citizenship Amendment Bill and the NPR-NRC, calling them "ill-conceived."

In a statement signed by Justices P.B. Sawant (SC retd.), Hosbet Suresh (Bombay HC retd.) and B.G. Kolse Patil (ex-Bombay HC), and Javed Akhtar, Harsh Mander, Aparna Sen and Swami Agnivesh, among others, the group said: "We must unequivocally reject CAB 2019 and at the same time in the same breath, NPR/NRC."

"For the first time there is a statutory attempt to not just privilege peoples from some faiths but at the same time relegate another, Muslims, to second-rate status," noted the group.

"...the present government appears intent on causing huge upheavals within Indian society."

U.S. panel recommends sanctions against Amit Shah

'Bill sets a legal criterion for citizenship based on religion'

and other

principal

SRIRAM LAKSHMAN WASHINGTON

In the wake of the passage of the Citizenship Amendment Bill (CAB) in the Lok Sabha, the U.S. International Commission on Religious Freedom (USCIRF) has expressed concern over it and considered recommending sanctions against Home Minister Amit Shah and other top leaders.

"If the CAB passes in both Houses of Parliament, the United States government should consider sanctions against the Home Minister and other principal leadership," a December 9 statement from the USCIRF said.

The Commission, an independent and bi-partisan federal government body, called the Bill's "deeply troubling"

"The CAB enshrines a pathway to citizenship for immigrants that specifically If the CAB passes in both Houses of Parliament, the **United States** government should consider sanctions against the Home Minister

leadership U.S. INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION ON RELIGIOUS FREEDOM

excludes Muslims, setting a legal criterion for citizenship based on religion. The CAB is a dangerous turn in the wrong direction; it runs counter to India's rich history of secular pluralism and the Indian Constitution, which guarantees equality before the law regardless of faith," it said.

"In conjunction with the ongoing National Register of Citizens (NRC) process in As-

sam and nationwide NRC that the Home Minister seeks to propose, USCIRF fears that the Indian government is creating a religious test for Indian citizenship that would strip citizenship from millions of Muslims," it

Not warranted: India

In response, the External Affairs Ministry said India had the prerogative to validate its citizenry through various policies like any other country. "The statement made by the USCIRF is neither accurate nor warranted. The Bill provides expedited consideration for Indian citizenship to persecuted religious minorities already in India from certain contiguous countries...," said Ministry spokesperson Raveesh Ku-

> (With inputs from Kallol Bhattacherjee)

JD(U) leaders slam party for supporting Citizenship Bill

It violates secular principle, say Prashant Kishor, Pavan Verma

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

The passage of the Citizenship (Amendment) Bill, 2019, in the Lok Sabha on Monday has sent ripples across BJP ally Janata Dal(U), with party vice-president Prashant Kishor and national general secretary Pavan Verma expressing disappointment over the party's support for the Bill.

In a tweet late on Monday night, Mr. Kishor sought to underscore that the Bill was "incongruous" with the constitution of the party, headed by Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, which swore by secularism and Gandhian

"Disappointed to see JDU supporting #CAB that discriminates right of citizenship on the basis of religion. It's incongruous with the party's constitution that car-



Prashant Kishor

ries the word secular thrice on the very first page and the leadership that is supposedly guided by Gandhian ideals," the poll strategistturned-politician tweeted.

Mr. Verma too took to the micro blogging site on Tuesday to express much the same. "I urge Shri Nitish Kumar to reconsider support to the CAB in Rajya Sabha. The Bill is unconstitutional, discriminatory, and against the unity and harmony of the country, apart from being against the secular principles of the JD(U). Gandhiji would have strongly disapproved of it," he tweeted.

Party unfazed

While the party did not comment specifically on Mr. Kishor or Mr. Verma's comments, Rajya Sabha member and JD(U) Bihar unit chief Bashishstha Narayan Singh said the party was keeping to its stance of supporting the Bill in the Rajya Sabha as well. "There is a line the party has taken and will keep to it," Mr. Singh told The Hin-

Participating in the debate on the Bill, the party's leader in Lok Sabha, Rajiv Ranian alias Lalan Singh, said the JD(U) was supporting the legislation since it "not against secularism".

Congress hints at moving Supreme Court on CAB

Bill is unconstitutional, says Rahul

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

A day after the Citizenship Amendment Bill (CAB) was passed in the Lok Sabha, the Congress on Tuesday targeted the government. The party appeared to be preparing to move the top court on the issue, as the Opposition may not have the numbers to stall the Bill's passage in the Rajya Sabha on Wednesday.

Former party chief Rahul Gandhi said in a tweet, "The #CAB is an attack on the Indian Constitution. Anyone who supports it is attacking and attempting to destroy the foundation of our nation."

Former Union Finance Minister P. Chidambaram said the Supreme Court would now be the battleground of the contentious Bill, as "elected representatives had abdicated their responsibility". "CAB is unconstitutional. Parliament passes a Bill that is patently



Rahul Gandhi

unconstitutional and the battleground shifts to the Supreme Court," he said in a

Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra said in a tweet, "Last night at midnight, India's tryst with bigotry and narrow minded exclusion was confirmed as the CAB was passed in the Lok Sabha. Our forefathers gave their lifeblood for our freedom. In that freedom, is enshrined the right to equality, and the right to freedom of religion."

Sena to oppose Bill in RS, seeks clarity on queries

The party voted for the Bill in the Lok Sabha on Monday

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI/ MUMBAI

In a political somersault, Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray announced on Tuesday that the Shiv Sena would oppose the Citizenship Amendment Bill in the Rajya Sabha till there was clarity on the queries posed by the party during the debate in the Lok Sabha.

On Monday, the Sena had voted with the government on the Bill.

Speaking to reporters in Mumbai, Mr. Thackeray said a detailed discussion on the Bill was necessary. "We need to change this notion that one who supports the Bill and the BJP is a patriot and one who opposes it is antinational. The government should answer all the issues raised on the Bill," he said.

The change in stance of



the Shiv Sena with three members will not alter the equation in the Rajya Sabha. The Congress with 46 members, Trinamool (13), SP (nine), TRS (six), DMK (five), NCP (four), RJD (four), CPI (M) (five), BSP (four), AAP (three), PDP (two) and ID(S), CPI, MDMK, IUML and Kerala Congress(M) (one each) are opposed to the Bill. With two Independents and one nominated member, they have a total of 109.

The BJP, which is the lar-

gest party in the Rajya Sabha with 83 members, has the support of the AIADMK (11), BJD (seven), JD(U) (six), Akali Dal (three), TDP and YSR Congress Party (two each), and Sikkim Democratic Front, Bodoland People's Front, Naga People's Front, Lok Janshakti Party, RPI, PMK and AGP (one each), along with four Independents and three nominated members. Together they stand at 128.

According to sources, Sena MPs were originally instructed to abstain from voting. The decision was changed at the last moment under pressure from a senior Lok Sabha member of the party. The displeasure of the NCP and the Congress over the difference of opinion was conveyed to Sena leader and Rajya Sabha member Sanjay Raut.

Trump to face two impeachment charges

Democrats in the House of Representatives accuse him of abusing power and obstructing Congress

SRIRAM LAKSHMAN

President Trump is being formally charged with abuse of power and obstruction of Congress in the impeachment inquiry into his dealings with Ukraine, leading House Demoannounced Tuesday.

The House Judiciary Committee will vote on the articles later this week, before recommending them to the full House, the committee's chairman Jerrold Nadler said at a press briefing, where the House's Democratic leadership, including Speaker Nancy Pelosi were present.

Mr. Trump is the fourth President in American history to face the prospect of a House impeachment, after Andrew Johnson, Richard Nixon (who resigned before the vote) and Bill Clinton.

Senate trial

If the House votes next week, and if they vote to impeach Mr Trump (as a Democratcontrolled House is likely to), he will have to stand trial in the Senate – a process that could commence early next year. Current indications are



Impeachment roadmap: House Speaker Nancy Pelosi addressing the media in Washington. • AFP

that Mr. Trump will not be convicted by the Senate, which is controlled by Republicans.

Based on their impeachment inquiry of over two months, House Democrats have concluded that Mr. Trump conditioned a White House meeting with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenksy and the release \$ 391 million in military aid to Ukraine on the Ukrainians publicly announcing investigations into Mr. Trump's political rival, former Vice-President Joseph Biden and his son, Hunter. Mr. Trump had also wanted Ukraine to

probe a thus far unsubstantiated theory that Ukraine had meddled in the 2016 American elections.

"Our President holds the ultimate public trust. When he betrays that trust, and puts himself before country, he endangers the Constitution, he endangers our democracy and he endangers our national security," Mr.

"It is an impeachable offence for the President to exercise the powers of his public office to obtain an improper personal benefit while ignoring or injuring the national interest. That is

exactly what president trump did when he solicited and pressured Ukraine to interfere in our 2020 presidential election," he said, about the abuse of power charge.

A 300-page report by House Democrats last week on their impeachment inquiry's conclusions said that Mr. Trump tried to obstruct the process by trying to publicly attack and intimidate witnesses. "President Trump engaged in unprecedented, categorical and indiscriminate defiance of the impeachment inquiry," Mr Nadler said.

"No one, not even the Pre-

Suu Kyi in ICJ to defend Myanmar in genocide case

Gambia's team details mass rapes, burning alive of families

REUTERS

Mass rapes, the burning alive of Muslim Rohingya families in their homes and the killing with knives of dozens of children were described by Gambia's legal team as it set out its genocide case against Myanmar at the U.N.'s highest court on Tuesday.

Myanmar's leader and Nobel Peace laureate Aung San Suu Kyi looked on impassively as the alleged atrocities were detailed on the first of three days of hearings at the International Court of Justice in The Hague. The case was instituted by Gambia against Buddhist-majority Myanmar in November.

"All that The Gambia asks is that you tell Myanmar to stop these senseless killings," Gambia's Justice Minister Abubacarr Tambadou said in opening comments.

"To stop these acts of barbarity and brutality that have shocked and continue to shock our collective conscience. To stop this geno-



Battle lines drawn: Aung San Suu Kyi at the start of a threeday hearing on a Rohingya genocide case at the ICJ. • AFP

cide of its own people."

Suu Kyi is expected on Wednesday to repeat denials of genocide and argue that military "clearance operations" launched in August 2017 were a legitimate counterterrorism response to attacks by Rohingya militants.

Detailing events at the village of Min Gyi, Gambia's lawyer Andrew Loewenstein drew on witness accounts recorded in a report by U.N. investigators, who estimated 750 people were killed there, including over 100

children under the age of 6. "There were dead bodies

on the floor: young boys from our village," Mr. Loewenstein quoted from one survivor's testimony to the U.N. fact-finding mission.

"As we entered the house, the soldiers locked the door. One soldier raped me. He stabbed me in the back of my neck and in my abdomen. I was trying to save my baby, who was only 28 days old, but they threw him on the ground and he died."

At the end of Tuesday's hearing, Gambia asked the court to order special measures to protect the Rohin-

Cabinet reshuffle not an immediate task: Lam

She is scheduled to visit Beijing for the first time since humiliating poll debacle

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

A reshuffle of Hong Kong's Cabinet is not an "immediate task", the city's Beijingbacked leader Carrie Lam said on Tuesday, as she prepared to visit the Chinese capital for the first time since her government's humiliation at local polls last month.

On Sunday, pro-democra-

ELSEWHERE

Martial law in Southern

Philippines may be lifted

President Rodrigo Duterte is

likely to lift martial law in the

southern Philippines by year's

end, more than two years

the Islamic State from

after it was imposed to stop

gaining a foothold there. AFP

In a sign of thaw, Qatari

PM attends Gulf summit

Oatar's PM Sheikh Abdullah

bin Nasser Al Thani attended

a Gulf Cooperation Council

summit in Saudi Arabia on

Tuesday, a first sign of thaw

in relations since the boycott

of Doha began in 2017. REUTERS

cy protesters participated in the largest rally since their candidates scored a land-

is prepared to back Ms. Lam. Declaring her priority was

dress that she would depart

slide victory in the district

elections, raising further

doubts over how long Beijing

on Saturday for a regular visit to Beijing, where she would brief officials on Hong Kong's biggest political crisis in decades. With pressure mounting

on her government, the Apple Daily newspaper, owned by pro-democracy publishing tycoon Jimmy Lai, reported that China was considering a Hong Kong Cabinet reshuffle by end of the year.

until now, Ms. Lam has avoided mention of the pros-

"My first priority now is really to restore law and order in Hong Kong and to ensure that Hong Kong could continue to move ahead, both economically and socially," Ms. Lam said during her weekly address to the media. "This is not an immediate task that I would ac-

cord a lot of attention to,"

she said, when asked about a

potential reshuffle. **Bomb defused**

Meanwhile, Hong Kong police said they defused two homemade nail bombs discovered in the grounds of a school, and are investigating whether the devices were linked to political unrest in the city.

sident, is above the law".

House Intelligence Com-Chairman Adam

Schiff said the argument that

Democrats should have wait-

ed for the courts to compel

individuals who had been or-

dered by the White House

not to testify before the im-

peachment panel, was giving Mr. Trump the opportunity

"The argument, 'Why

don't you just wait?'

amounts to this: 'Why don't

you just let him cheat in one

more election? Why not let

him cheat just one more

time? Why not let him have

foreign help just one more

time?'," Mr. Schiff said.

It's witch hunt: Trump

"WITCH HUNT!" Mr. Trump

tweeted shortly after the De-

mocrats' press briefing had

concluded. The President al-

so said that Mr Nadler's

charge that he [Mr Trump]

pressured Ukraine to inter-

fere in the 2020 election was

He has denied any wrong-

doing and the Republicans

have argued that Democrats

have been trying to overturn

the results of the 2016 presi-

"ridiculous".

dential elections.

to cheat again.

"The bombs were complete, fully functional and ready to be used," senior bomb disposal officer Alick McWhirter said.

Nails had been added to the bombs, which used a homemade ammonium nitrate based explosive, to increase their destructiveness, he

Israeli MPs submit Bill to dissolve Parliament

ASSOCIATED PRESS JERUSALEM

Israeli legislators submitted a Bill on Tuesday that would dissolve Parliament and trigger an unprecedented third national elections in less than a year.

Israel has been mired in political deadlock months.

With the two largest parties, Likud and Blue and White, unable to form a power-sharing agreement dline, lawmakers from the rival sides together tabled

It is expected to go to a vote in Parliament on Wednesday, setting the date for the next election on March

"Under the exceptional circumstances that have emerged, and after two adjacent election campaigns in which no government was formed, the dissolution of the 22nd Knesset is being

Chile military plane missing with 38 aboard

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Chile's Air Force lost radio contact with a transport plane carrying 38 people on a flight on Monday evening to the country's base in Antarctica, and authorities indicated several hours later that they were not optimistic about the aircraft's fate.

The military said earlier that it had declared an alert and activated search and rescue teams.

The C-130 Hercules carried 17 crew members and 21 passengers, including three civilians. The personnel were to check on a floating fuel supply line and other equipment at the Chilean base.

President Sebastiŕn Piũera said via Twitter that he along with his Ministers are at the Air Force headquarters monitoring developments.

On Tuesday, the Air Force said the plane had not been heard from in more than seven hours and likely would have run out

of fuel around 12-40 a.m. Drake's Passage, where the plane was missing, is infamous for severe weather conditions, including freezing temperatures and ferocious storms. But the Air Force said late on Monday that the weather was

good when the plane be-

gan its flight.

to restore law and order after more than six months of of-Since the protests began ten violent protests, Ms. Lam said at a weekly media ad-

kills self in Czech hospital PM describes it as an 'individual act'

Gunman shoots down six,

REUTERS

A 42-year-old gunman killed six people on Tuesday at a hospital waiting room in the eastern Czech city of Ostrava before fleeing and fatally shooting himself in the head, police said.

It was unclear what motivated the shooting, which happened in the early morning at the outpatient clinic of the University Hospital in Ostrava.

Prime Minister Andrej Babis told reporters it was an "individual act". "He came home and announced he had shot people, and that he is going to shoot himself,"

Mr. Babis said. He said the attacker's mother was coop

erating with police. The shooter fled the hospital after the attack. prompting a manhunt involving hundreds of officers. He later shot himself in the head in his car with a police helicopter flying overhead.

The shooter was identified as Ctirad Vitasek, a construction technician, by the company's chairman Ales Zygula.

Vitasek had been on medical leave for over a month and was convinced he was seriously ill and that no one wanted to cure him, Mr. Zvg-

'U.S., Saudi Arabia at bottom of climate class'

For the first time, India ranks among the top 10 in terms of performance: CCPI

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

The U.S. and Saudi Arabia are among major polluters showing "hardly any signs" of reducing their greenhouse gas production, a global assessment of countries' emissions trajectories said on Tuesday at United Nations climate talks.

The Climate Change Performance Index (CCPI) measures the emissions, renewable energy share and climate policies of 57 countries and the European Union.

It found the U.S. ranks last, followed by Saudi Arabia and Australia, although several countries did report falls in emissions last year, largely due to an industry-



Time to act: Swedish activist Greta Thunberg, right, at the COP25 Climate Conference in Madrid on Tuesday. • GETTY IMAGES

wide fade out of coal.

While climate performance varied greatly – even within the EU, with Sweden leading the way – the report found that none of the countries surveyed were current-

ly on a path compatible with the Paris climate goals.

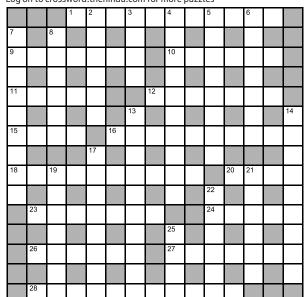
The 2015 accord saw nations agree to work towards limiting global temperature rises to "well below" two degrees Celsius above pre-in-

China, the world's largest single emitter, was found to have taken "medium action due to its high investment in renewables.

India, for the first time, ranks among the top 10 in this year's Climate Change Performance Index (CCPI) presented on Tuesday at the COP25 climate summit here.

The current levels of per capita emissions and energy use in India, ranked 9th in the "high category", are still comparatively low and, along with ambitious 2030 targets, result in high ratings for the green house gas emissions and energy use categories, said the report released here in the Spanish capital.

THE HINDU CROSSWORD 12803 Log on to crossword.thehindu.com for more puzzles



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

ACROSS

1 Indifference to deformed icy iron suit (11)

9 Schematic of Indian city in blur 10 Holiday internal to lone

asteroid (6) 11 Picture of one wizard (5)

12 Mother houses broker in shade

15 Start to call for piece of work

16 Food that does not need to be cooked (5-2-3)

18 Started shooting candid editor's passion (6,4)

20 Starts assembling petrol industry at Samoa capital (4)

23 Crush boyfriend's armour plate 24 Due to faction is outstanding

26 Finch to endlessly circle (6)

27 At home, doctor stern with

28 Christians house worker during appeals (11)

DOWN

trainees (7)

2 Somehow sever new source of tension (6)

3 Muslim community found in

Belgium, Malaysia (4)

(set by Anon)

4 With indignation, needing no introduction, defames Europeans (10)

back government industry into divisions (8) **6** Initially the hero evacuates all

trapped runners expertly

5 Calls into question putting

from auditorium (7) 7 Dependence on flyer for

speech (9)

(5,3)

8 Dishes for South Africa boys

13 Yeomen are meat consumers?

14 Most unusual province between two streets (9) 17 In a riot, they'd bar bowler

19 Charm eccentric Euro man (7)

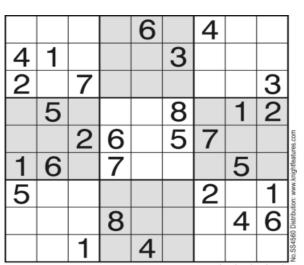
from torn slipper (6) 22 Roman god returned, idiot

21 Tools to remove first part

broke down (4.2)

25 Prima donna's enthusiastic comeback (4)

SUDOKU



Solution to puzzle 12802 Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

DIFFICULTY RATING:

| _ | | | | | | | | | | _ | _ | _ | _ | _ | $\overline{}$ | _ | _ | _ | _ | _ | _ | _ | _ |
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| Ν | | R | | | | Е | | Е | | 0 | | | | М | 5 | Ω | 3 | 7 | 1 | 6 | 1 | 2 | a |
| | Α | О | 7 | U | S | Т | | Е | R | \Box | О | 1 | Т | Ε | 9 | O | J | 1 | 7 | U | ш | _ | 9 |
| Α | | Е | | Ρ | | | | | | S | | М | | D | 1 | 9 | 4 | 2 | 3 | 8 | 7 | 5 | 6 |
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FAITH

The path of Bhakti

The Itihasas and the Puranas are said to contain the essence of the Vedas and the Upanishads, wherein scriptural truths are reinforced in such a way that people are able to imbibe them and gain spiritual progress. The Bhagavata Purana plays an important role in Kali Yuga to counter its evil domination. It is vibrant with the effects of Krishna avatar which in turn continues to have a direct bearing on the moral and virtuous life of many by enabling them to experience His greatness and remain devoted to Him. Narada, who had provided the stimulus to Valmiki to write the Ramayana, also had motivated Vyasa to compose the Bhagavata Purana, pointed out Sri R. Krishnamurthy Sastrigal in a discourse.

Narada advised Vyasa to expound the glories of the Lord and His incarnations with Krishna as the main theme. Vyasa, who had composed the other puranas and had also classified the Vedas into simpler versions for the benefit of mankind, then composed the Bhagavata Purana that stirs devotion in those who read or listen to it. Vyasa taught it to his son Suka and Suka narrated it to Parikshit who was under a curse to die of snake bite in seven days.

As the narratives unfold the glories and auspicious qualities of the Lord, it is also made clear that no elaborate qualifications are necessary to enter into spiritual life except getting drawn to the path of bhakti. The antecedents of Narada show that he had a chequered background but by the grace of the Lord was blessed to become one of the greatest bhaktas. The study and teaching of the Bhagavata Purana sets the record straight about the main purpose of life, which is to gain salvation through devotion. It first destroys the ignorance in people who tend to think that practice of dharma is to gain wealth and with this wealth to satisfy one's desires.

MARKET WATCH

| | 10-12-2019 | % CHANGE |
|-----------|------------|----------|
| Sensex | 40,240 | -0.61 |
| US Dollar | 70.92 | 0.17 |
| Gold | 38,460 | -0.25 |
| Rrent oil | 64.03 | 0.11 |

| NIFTY 50 | | |
|------------------|--------|--------|
| WII 11 30 | PRICE | CHANGE |
| Adani Ports | | |
| Asian Paints | | |
| Axis Bank | | |
| Baiai Auto | | |
| Bajaj Finserv | | |
| Bajaj Finance | | |
| Bharti Airtel | | |
| BPCL | | |
| Britannia Ind | | |
| Cipla | | |
| Coal India | | |
| Dr Reddys Lab | | |
| Eicher Motors | | |
| GAIL (India) | | |
| Grasim Ind | | |
| HCL Tech | | |
| HDFC | | |
| HDFC Bank | | |
| Hero MotoCorp | | |
| Hindalco | | |
| Hind Unilever | | |
| ICICI Bank | | |
| IndusInd Bank | | |
| Bharti Infratel | | |
| Infosys | | |
| Indian OilCorp | | |
| ITC | | |
| JSW Steel | | |
| Kotak Bank | | |
| L&T | | |
| M&M | | |
| Maruti Suzuki | | |
| Nestle India Ltd | | |
| NTPC | | |
| ONGC | | |
| PowerGrid Corp | | |
| Reliance Ind | | |
| State Bank | | |
| | | |
| Sun Pharma | | |
| Tata Motors | | |
| Tata Steel | | |
| TCS | | |
| Tech Mahindra | | |
| Titan | | |
| UltraTech Cement | | |
| UPL | 557.75 | -5.80 |

| EXCHANGE RATES Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on December 10 | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---------|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| | TT SELL | | | | | | | | |
| 0.72 | 71.04 | | | | | | | | |
| 8.37 | 78.73 | | | | | | | | |
| 3.21 | 93.63 | | | | | | | | |
| 5.15 | 65.44 | | | | | | | | |
| 0.05 | 10.09 | | | | | | | | |
| 1.76 | 72.08 | | | | | | | | |
| 2.01 | 52.24 | | | | | | | | |
| 3.41 | 53.66 | | | | | | | | |
| 6.98 | 17.06 | | | | | | | | |
| | 0.90 | | | | | | | | |

-2.25

238.15

YES Bank

| BULLION RATES CHENNAI | |
|--|--|
| December 10 rates in rupees with previous rates in parentheses | |

SBI under-reported ₹12,000 cr. NPA, finds regulator's inspection

Divergence leaves bank with ₹6,968 cr. loss in FY19 versus profit reported earlier

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

State Bank of India (SBI), the country's largest lender, under reported ₹11,932 crore of bad loans in the financial year 2018-19, according to a Reserve Bank of India inspection report. This has pushed the bank into losses for the said financial year.

According to a filing with the exchanges, SBI had reported ₹1,72,750 crore of gross non-performing assets in FY19, while according to RBI's risk assessment report (RAR), it was ₹1,84,682 crore.

The divergence, which is the gap between the regulator's assessment of net NPA and that of the bank, was also ₹11.932 crore.

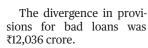
Stark contrast

SBI reported ₹1,72,750 cr. of gross non-performing

However, according to RBI's risk assessment report, GNPAs came to **₹1,84,682**

Divergence in provisions for bad loans was **₹12,036 crore**

Remaining impact on provisioning during third quarter will be ₹4,654 crore



2018-19. After taking provisions into account, SBI post-The increase in provision ed a net loss of ₹6,968 crore requirement for bad loans in FY19, as compared to the resulted in SBI plunging into ₹862 crore profit reported

₹687 crore. The remaining impact on provisioning during the third quarter would be ₹4,654 crore, it said. Last month, markets regu-

lator SEBI issued a circular mandating listed banks to disclose divergences and provisioning within 24 hours of receipt of the RBI's final Risk Assessment Report (RAR). Earlier, banks used to disclose the information on divergence along with their annual financial statements.

earlier. SBI said after subse-

quent slippage or upgradation during the current fi-

nancial year, the remaining

impact on the gross NPAs

during the third quarter of

the current fiscal was ₹3,143

crore and for net NPAs it was

HDFC Bank, BoB, UBI cut lending rates

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Public sector lenders Bank of Baroda, Union Bank of India and Bank of India, reduced their marginal cost of funds based lending rate, a day after State Bank of India (SBI) announced such a reduction.

Private sector lender HDFC Bank has reduced its one-year MCLR by 10 basis points (bps) to 8.15%. Bank of Baroda reduced its oneyear MCLR by 5 bps to 8.25% effective Thursday.

Union Bank of India has reduced its MCLR by 5-10 basis points across all tenors. The one-year MCLR now will be 8.2% compared to 8.25%, with effect from Wednesday.

Bank of India has cut its one-year MCLR to 8.2% from 8.3%

Value ladder: An officers' body said that recent transactions by peers highlighted the valuation differential. • REUTERS

Notional loss in BPCL sale plan at ₹4.5 lakh cr.

Assets worth over ₹9 lakh crore: PSOA

PIYUSH PANDEY MUMBAI

The divestment of Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) a state-owned oil firm, is likely to fetch the government ₹74,000 crore, including control premium of 30% for its 53.29% stake in the company, but would also cause a 'notional loss' of ₹4.46 lakh crore to the country, given that its market price of total assets exceeds ₹9 lakh crore, according to Public Sector Officers Association (PSOA).

According to the association, which has the support of the Federation of Oil PSU Officers (FOPO) and Confederation of Maharashtra Company Officers Associa tion (COMCO), BPCL's assets are valued at more than ₹9 lakh crore according to the replacement value method.

The government's 53.29% stake is worth about ₹5.2 lakh crore, according to the calculation presented by the association.

The worth of assets totals ₹7,50,730 crore – including, for example, ₹1,76,500 crore for refining capacity, ₹80,000 crore for terminals, ₹1,50,870 crore for retail outlets, ₹11,120 crore for pipelines, ₹22,700 crore for brand value, ₹46,000 crore for the upstream business and ₹98,500 crore for the gas business.

The total amount will go up to ₹9,75,980 crore if control premium of 30% - or ₹2,25,218 crore – is added.

Mukul Kumar, convenor, FOPO and COMCO, told The Hindu, "We will write to the Prime Minister tomorrow to remind him not to sell BPCL to any private or foreign player. We will seek an appointment to present other alternatives

government." BPCL has 24% market share among oil PSUs and reported net profit of ₹7,132 crore on a turnover of over ₹3.37 lakh crore in FY19.

'No benefit to anyone' "Against the current preli-

minary indicative market price of the total assets of BPCL of ₹9 lakh crore (inhouse estimates), there would be a minimum notional loss of ₹4.46 lakh crore to the country. Besides, the disinvestment is not going to benefit the company or the country in any manner.

productivity, competitiveness, revenue earning potential, technology or manpower skills," he said.

Yes Bank to consider Citax's \$500 million offer

Says it is also open to other investors

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Yes Bank said it may consider \$500 million investment offer from the Citax Group.

"The board is willing to favourably consider the offer of \$500 million of Citax Holdings and Citax Investment Group and the final decision regarding allotment to follow in the next board meeting," the bank said. It said the binding offer of \$1.2 billion of Erwin Singh Braich/SPGP Holdings conti-

nues to be under discussion. "The bank shall continue to evaluate other potential investors to raise capital up to \$2 billion," it added. Last week, Moody's Investors Service downgraded the



bank's debt instruments and said its funding and liquidity compared weakly to other rated private sector peers in India. The common equity tier 1 ratio of 8.7% at the end of September 2019 will come under significant pressure, unless the bank can raise new capital in the next few quarters, it said.

RIL, ADNOC mull unit in Abu Dhabi

losses for the financial year

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) has signed a framework agreement with the Abu Dhabi National Oil Company (ADNOC) to explore development of an Ethylene Dichloride (EDC) facility in Ruwais.

Under the terms of the agreement, ADNOC and Reliance Industries Limited will evaluate the potential creation of a facility that manufactures EDC adjacent to ADNOC's integrated refining and petrochemical site in Ruwais, Abu Dhabi, and strengthen the companies' existing relationship supporting future collaboration petrochemicals.

Car sales dip 10.8% in Nov.

CVs shrink 15%, two-wheelers fall 14.3%

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Passenger car sales dipped 10.8% in November 2019 compared with November 2018, according to data released by the Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers (SIAM).

Commercial vehicle sales dipped by almost 15% while two-wheeler sales dropped by 14.3%

The data shows that overall vehicle production - including that of passenger vehicles, commercial vehicles, three-wheelers, twowheelers, and quadricyles contracted by 13.75% in the April-November 2019 period to 1.89 crore vehicles compared with the 2.19 crore units produced a year earlier.

The eight-month period

senger cars and vans) sales contract by 17.98% compared with a year ago. The utility vehicles segment bucked the trend, with

of April-November saw over-

all passenger vehicle (pas-

November seeing a 32.7% sales growth. In April-November, utility vehicle sales increased 3.83%. Sales of commercial vehi-

cles contracted 14.98% in November 2019, while it contracted 22.12% in the April-November period. While two-wheeler sales

dipped 14.27% in November 2019, they registered contraction of 15.7% in April-November 2019. Scooters, motorcycles and mopeds saw contract 15.47%, sales 15.29% and 25.24%, respectively in April-November.

"The move will not add to

+ Skyworth bets big on TV market in India

Eyes sales of 2 million units by 2020

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Hong Kong-based Skyworth Group, which plans to invest \$100 million in a manufacturing facility in Hyderabad, is upbeat on the growth prospects in the Indian television market.

"For 2020, our plan is to sell 2 million TV units," Skyworth India Electronics Managing Director Criver Liu said at a media interaction here on Tuesday.

Television sales by the company, under the Skyworth, Metz and Coocaa brands, were 4.82 lakh units this year as against about 2.5 lakh in 2018.

Capacity expansion

Tata Motors

15% in Nov.

wholesales dip

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Tata Motors Group global

wholesales in November

2019, including that of Ja-

guar Land Rover (JLR), de-

clined by 15% to 89,671 un-

November 2018. Global

wholesales of Tata Motors'

commercial vehicles and Tata Daewoo range in No-

vember 2019 stood at

31,030 units, lower by 19%.

passenger vehicles in No-

vember 2019 stood at

58,641 units, lower by 12%.

were 48,105 vehicles (in-

cludes that of CJLR (a JV of

JLR and Chery Automo-

biles of China, with vol-

umes of 6,224 units), Tata

Motors said in a statement.

JLR's global wholesales

Global wholesales of all

with

its, compared

On plans to increase the manufacturing capacity in India, he said Skyworth had been making and marketing products in association with a local partner and would invest \$100 million over the

next three to five years in expanding the Hyderabad fa-

The company, on completion of the expansion programme, would have a capacity to make four million TV units in Hyderabad and also manufacture more products, including washing machines, refrigerators and air-conditioners.

cility located near the inter-

national airport here.

Besides manufacturing under its brand, Skyworth is also a third party manufacturer, he said, without sharing details regarding the existing manufacturing capacity and on the stake in the joint venture. To gueries, he said the aim was to generate employment for more than 5,000 people in

Hyderabad, over time. He added that washing machines would be the next product line that the company would launch in India next year.

Oracle onboards ex-Infosys CEO Sikka

Chairman Ellison welcomes 'AI expert'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

BENGALURU Vishal Sikka, former CEO of Infosys, has been inducted in Oracle's board of directors, the Redwood Citybased tech major said in a press release posted on its global website.

Mr. Sikka, 52, who recently floated his AI start-up Vianai Systems, was a top executive with SAP before he joined Infosys.

Welcoming his induction, Oracle Chairman and CTO Larry Ellison said, "Vishal is one the world's leading experts in artificial intelligence and machine learning. These AI technologies are key foundational elements of the Oracle Cloud's Autonomous Infrastructure and Intelligent Applications.

"Vishal's expertise and experience makes him ideally suited to provide strategic vision and expert advice to our company and



Vishal Sikka

to our customers," Mr. Ellision said.

Oracle CEO Safra Catz said, "The digital transformation of an enterprise is enabled by the rapid adoption of modern cloud applications and technologies. Vishal clearly understands how Oracle's Gen2 Cloud Infrastructure, Autonomous Database and Applications come together in the Oracle Cloud to help our customers drive business value and adapt to change."

Alstom India to double New ED takes output by April 2020

Company says not hit by slowdown

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

The Indian subsidiary of France's Alstom said it planned to double its production capacity by April 2020 and increase headcount by 70% in three years, said a top official.

"We have not been affected by the economic slowdown as there is increasing need for mobility," said Alain Spohr, MD, India and South Asia, Alstom.

"We have ongoing orders in hand for Montreal Metro, Mumbai Metro and Sydney Metro. The last batch of trainsets for Chennai Metro

will be despatched soon." According to company officials, the order for Montreal Metro will be completed by 2021, Mumbai Metro 3 by 2022, Sydney Metro by 2023 and the e-locomotive orders by 2026.

Currently, Alstom India exports 50% of its production. "We are happy with the production mix of 50:50. And it would stay at this level. The indigenisation level is about 75%.

On Tuesday, the company announced the commencement of a new production line for the manufacture of rolling stock for Mumbai Metro Rail Corporation (MMRC) Line 3 (Aqua line) valued at €452 million.

He added Alstom had 4,700 employees at its four facilities in India and this would rise to 8,000 in the next three years.

charge at SEBI

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

V. S. Sundaresan has taken charge as the executive director at the Securities and Exchange Board of India

Prior to his promotion, Mr. Sundaresan was working as the chief general manager in enquiries and adjudication department of the regulatory body. Mr. Sundaresan joined

the markets regulator in the year 1989 and has worked in various departments while supervising investigation in various cases related to market manipulation, insider trading, takeover of companies, public issues, collective investment schemes and compliance with continuous listing requirements, among others.

Baahubali 2 in Hindi is the biggest Bollywood film of the decade Over 10 years: (Clockwise of Backubali 2: Uri and Took Maar Kha

Over 10 years: (Clockwise from below) Stills from Baahubali 2; Uri and Tees Maar Khan • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

NAMRATA JOSHI

Bollywood's box office business (nett domestic) may have more than doubled from 2010 to 2019 from about ₹1,700 crore to about ₹4,000 crore – but the biggest success story of the decade is not a Hindi film. According to the box office numbers compiled by Mumbaibased media consulting firm, Ormax Media, it's the Hindi dubbed version of the Telugu-Tamil bilingual Baahubali 2: The Conclusion that has raked in the most money for Bollywood. Ormax Media estimates the Hindi version's nett domestic box office earnings to be ₹510 crore, which is ₹135 crore more than the second biggest earner of the decade Dangal.

It's interesting to note that none of the top 20 earners are led by female actors. Women-centric films, that too only two, feature in the list of the most liked films of the decade (based on positive Word of Mouth generated) with Kangana Ranaut's Queen perched at the ninth position and Vidya Balan's Kahaani down at No. 17.

stagnant in the ₹28-32 crore range for the last seven to eight years, the increase in nett earnings for the Hindi film industry has come largely because of a steady year-on-year increase in the ticket price and a more friendly tax structure because of Goods and Services Tax (GST). "The average ticket price today is about ₹140, compared to less than ₹100 in 2010," says Shailesh Kapoor, CEO and founder of Ormax

Star power

While Salman Khan, with almost six films in the top 20 grossers' list, is the top male star of the decade,

In the last 10 years, Salman Khan has emerged as the biggest male star, Katrina Kaif as best female star and *Tum hi ho* the most popular song While the footfalls have been

> Akshay Kumar has left the other two Khans - SRK and Aamir - behind to occupy the number two position. Kumar is also second after Ranveer Singh in the list of the ris

ing male stars of the decade compiled on the basis of the growth in their popularity in 2015-2019 as against 2010-2014.

Katrina Kaif is the female star of the decade followed by Deepika Padukone, Kareena Kapoor, Priyanka Chopra and Alia Bhatt. Alia followed by Deepika and Kangana head the rising female star list.

The most popular soundtrack of the decade is the music for Aashiqui 2 with Tum hi ho sung by Arijit Singh at number one; and Sunn raha hai na tu by Ankit Tiwari at the third spot. The list, otherwise, has a number of item numbers strewn all over - Munni badnaam hui (Dabangg,2010); Sheila ki jawani (Tees Maar Khan, 2010); Baby doll (Ragini MMS 2, 2014); Chikni chameli plosion of digital content/OTT plat-

formats, making the viewers expect a certain quality of production, VFX and storytelling from Indian



forms in the latter half of the decade has meant that it's either the big budget films like Baahubali and War, which offer a big-screen experience, that have been performing well in cinemas or it's concept films like Badhaai Ho that have stood out. The middle-of-theroad content is not getting traction because the audience would rather watch it online later," says Kapoor.

It's not just the language films like Baahubali that are setting the benchmark for Bollywood. An important shift this decade has been the growth of the Hollywood business in India, which has tripled from 2010 to 2019. Says Kapoor: "It has created more exposure to international content, often in dubbed

> In Sharbari Zohra Ahmed's Dust Beneath her Feet, Yasmine Khan, 26-year-old proprietor of the Bombay Duck, has created a home away from home for a vibrant cast of characters. There is Asma who imagines she's a character content out of Bronte novel; Patience, the good-time girl; and Radhika, who is light on her feet and has darkness in her mind. It is Kolkata in 1942 and the city swarms with American soldiers. "Yasmine wanted to create an environment for the American soldiers that was similar to

PEOPLE

Of all the jazz clubs

in Sharbari Zohra Ahmed's debut novel

Love, loss, war and the fight for freedom come together

economy had to be created to entertain and house them." Dust Beneath her Feet tells the story of Yasmine and Edward Lafaver, an American soldier, set against the backdrop of momentous events. The 48-year-old author says. "I didn't set out to write a feminist text. I think these women are feminists. I was focused on the characters and their story, of this independent woman falling for this

something that might have been in New York - a nightclub

with singing, dancing, food and drink," says Sharbari.

"When the Americans started coming in, a separate

American soldier in the twilight of the Rai."

The Connecticut-based writer insists that people who have criticised the book as looking at feminism, race and gender through a modern lens are misquided, "If they knew anything about the women who would have worked in a club like Bombay Duck, they would see that these women were much

more modern some women today.

They are financially independent; some had opportunities to marry, which they deliberately turned down because it would mean the loss of their freedom. They were well educated, well read, politically savvy and schooled in the art of conversation."

Sharbari says there is no attempt to exoticise India. "I don't think there is anything exotic about war, famine or deprivation, not to mention institutional bigotry and oppression. The West has a tradition of romanticizing the Raj but it was cataclysmic for our people. I show the women as whole people, flawed, glorious and human."

Describing the beginnings, Sharbari says, "Yasmine showed up, started poking at me saying 'I have a story'. I couldn't get her out of my head. I am still not sure what she looked like. Yasmine is more of a feeling. I started writing 15 years ago. I was a very different writer then, much younger, still idealistic... Many things happened in between, life happened and then I started writing for television and that was a very consuming job."

In the process of adapting the novel into a screenplay, Sharbari's dream cast includes Kalki Koechlin for Patience and Rekha as Shireen. Yasmine's no-nonsense mum.

FOOD REVIEW

NAVAL SATARAWALA CHOPRA

All through the '70s and '80s there were only two cuisines that dominated the Delhi restaurant scene, Indian (predominantly Mughlai) and Chinese. Of course, we had our own version of Chinese food, which became so popular and famous that there exist Indo-Chinese restaurants in Manhattan and New Jer sey. But we struggled with authentic Chinese restaurants.





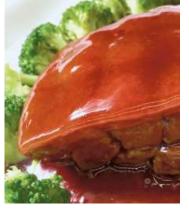




changed menu; Tea House of the August Moon at the Tai Palace, which closed doors in 2009; and Taipan at the Oberoi, which has been replaced by the horribly expensive, Baoshuan.

In the last decade, there have been only two additions to this list, China Kitchen at the Hyatt Regency (which, by the way, is introducing a new hot pot option which I've tried and is fantastic) and Shang Palace at the Shangri La's-Eros Hotel.

So when I heard that a new Chinese restaurant has opened at the Sheraton New Delhi, which boasts of the fabulous south Indian restaurant, Dakshin, I was very excited. Yi Jing (Mandarin for, to change the classic), claims to serve Chinese food "incorporating traditional cooking techniques... in refreshing and inventive ways". However, despite the charming manager, Abhinav Kumar, and his colleague Teresa, the food reminded me of



will be the future de-

terminants? The ex-

Mainland China, on a bad day.

The vibe: It felt as if halfway through the project, the budgets were cut. The designs are grand, a private dining room to accommodate 16 with its own bar and large balcony, a separate hot pot section and a Tie Ban (iron plate, similar to teppanyaki) counter. But then the tables, the chairs and sofas all seemed poor. The red crystal chandeliers seemed cheap, but were probably authentic - made in

Do try: The Sichuan Chilli Chicken, which was delicately fried and had the awesome hit you get from Sichuan Pepper. The White Chocolate and Ginger Cheesecake, which is served like an ice cream bar. Innovative and with a good balance of flavours

Skip: The dimsums – the skin

On offer Oriental (Clockwise from extreme left) Chicken Char Sui Dumplings; Prawn Crystal Hargao; Sichuan Braised Pork Belly; chef Zhena Wei SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

was too thick and the fillings poor. Whilst the Prawn Hargao was okay, the filling in the pan-fried lamb sticklers tasted like desi keema. The water chestnut and taro dumpling was a lump of pastry with some chestnuts thrown in and was tasteless.

The Beijing Roast Duck is also avoidable. The meat was cold; there was no crispy skin and it felt as if the condiments and duck had just been thrown on to the plate. The Crispy Pork Ribs were no better - no crispiness or crunch, and poor flavours. The exotic mushrooms in mala sauce was the nail in the coffin so to speak. Insipid at best. Mala sauce is meant to be an oily, spicy and almost numbing sauce. At Yi Jing it was definitely not any of that. Finally, the handmade noodles were more like a fettuccine

don't want to pay five-star rates.

Spacebar: 6,000 sq. ft with seating for 112 How much? ₹4,500 for two ex-

Getting there: The first floor of the Sheraton, Saket. Best to cross the restaurant and enter Dakshin

(cooked al dente) than anything Chinese. **Go with:** Someone you need to take to a five-star hotel, but you

cluding cocktails

SPACE

Co-working in health



OneCulture describes itself as a luxury co-working space that provides amenities such as ergonomic furniture customised to provide lumbar support and Persian wool carnets. There's 24/7 access. WiFi, private offices. conference and meeting rooms, printing and stationery, gaming areas (with a pool table, Playstation, Football and table tennis), a bar with cafe, house-keeping and security services. With the use of tech users can benefit from selfcheck-ins and app-driven booking of almost every activity. A yoga centre, napping point, and meditation spot are also a part of what you get.

At Eros City Square IInd floor, Rosewood City Rd, Ghasola, Sector 49, Gurugram; Private events ₹499 per room per hour over the weekend, Flexible desks: 24 days in a month ₹8,999

Contact us at delhimetro@thehindu.co.in

5 EVENTS WORTH YOUR WHILE



Guitar duet

Internationally acclaimed Australian guitar music duo, Grigoryan Brothers, will be performing this evening. The brothers, Slava and Leonard Grigoryan, working professionally as a duo for 16 years, are popular for the breadth of their repertoire embracing genres such as classical, jazz and contemporary music.

VENUE: Multipurpose Hall, IIC **TIME:** 6:30 p.m.



Canvas

The ongoing solo art show titled *Mysterious* Lines by Lucknow-based Dheeraj Yadav conveys the intensity of human emotion. Curated by Vandana Sehgal, the artist paints his subject on a related book and blends the physicality metaphorically through colours and thoughts which aet inscribed.

VENUE: Art Konsult Gallery, Hauz Khas Village TIME: 10:30 a.m. - 6:30 p.m.



Winter special

Playboy Tap Bar and Kitchen, a restaurant in Gurugram, has rolled out its new food menu for the onset of winter. On till 15th December, the menu offers signature dishes like Avacado Cucumber Salad, Mezze Platter, New Orleans Grilled Chicken Pizza, Wok Tossed Tiger Prawns, Olive Tapenade Grilled Fish, to name a few. **VENUE:** Global Foyer Mall, Sector 43 TIME: 12 noon - 12 midnight

EXHIBITION

instead.

Iss ghat antar baag bagiche is a homage to Haku Shah, the reticent artist who grew up imbibing the Gandhian philosophy. Eighty works from the archive of the late artist including paintings, sculptures and work from the series Nitya Gandhi/ Living Reliving Gandhi are on display. **VENUE:** Kiran Nadar Museum of Art, South Court Mall, Saket 145, DLF TIME: 10-30 a.m. - 6:30 p.m.



The Piano Man Gurugram is hosting David Bressat Quintet live tonight. The pianist and composer David Bressat, who has been on the jazz scene for 15 years, will play originals from his albums. The band comprises bassist Florent Nisse, drummer Charles Clayette, saxophonist Eric Prost, and trumpeter Aurélien Joly. **VENUE:** 32nd avenue, Sector 15 Part 2 TIME: 9 p.m. - 11:55 p.m.

NIKHIL BHATIA

boxes for now.

tinctive face.

C-pillar.

In a nutshell, the Altroz is Tata's answer to

the Maruti Suzuki Baleno, Hyundai i20

and Honda Jazz. The Altroz not only marks Tata's entry into the competitive

premium hatchback segment, but is also the launch vehicle for their all-new modu-

lar ALFA (Agile, Light, Flexible, Ad-

vanced) architecture that will form the

basis for a slew of new Tatas to come. The

Altroz also happens to be the first Tata to

get BS-VI-compliant engines – a 1.2-litre naturally-aspirated petrol and a 1.5-litre

turbo-diesel - paired with manual gear-

While the Altroz's silhouette is conven-

tional hatchback, the multiple stylistic

flourishes on the body work cohesively to

elevate the overall look of the car. The

shark nose-like front end, the black-fin-

ished sleek grille, the swept-back hea-

dlights and high-set fog lamps (also home

to the LED DRLs) give the Altroz its dis-

dows come underlined by a black embel-

lishment that tapers towards the rear, in

effect, giving the illusion of a car with a

sporty tipped-forward stance. What is

sure to be a bit polarising is the place-

ment of the rear door handles on the

Round the back, the Altroz gets a

dual-tone theme, with the spoiler, tail-

light surround and upper tail gate fin-

ished in black. Buyers also have the

option of a black roof for the full

Each of the Altroz's four

doors opens to 90 degrees,

and getting into the front sec-

tion of the cabin is particu-

larly easy. The Altroz's dash

has a layered look to it,

with the centre console

featuring turquoise back-

lighting. The free-standing

7.0-inch touchscreen is posi-

tioned atop the dashboard (in

clear sight), and material quality is

effect (XZ trim only).

Moving to the sides, the upswept win-



TATA ALTROZ XZ DIESEL **SPECIFICATIONS**

LENGTH 3990mm

WIDTH 1755mm

HEIGHT 1523mm

WHEELBASE 2501mm

KERB WEIGHT 1150kg

ENGINE 1497cc, 4-cyl, turbo-diesel

POWER 90hp at 4000rpm

TORQUE 200Nm at 1250-3000rpm

GEARBOX 5-speed manual

TYRES 185/60 R16

Flight of the ALTROZ

A peppier petrol engine, more refinement and a greater focus on connectivity would make the hatchback easier to recommend

good by class standards. However, there are places where the panel gaps aren't consistent.

Large seats mean comfort up front is well taken care of, while the flat-bottomed leather-wrapped steering feels great to hold. Frontal visibility is good, though the thick A-pillars do create blind spots. The part-digital instrumentation also requires some getting used to. The



First view The Altroz makes an immediate impression because of the way it looks ■ GAURAV THOMBRE, SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

squared-out dials aren't easy enough to follow and the digital tacho - displayed on a 7.0-inch display – only highlights an engine speed range, rather than a specific rpm. The digital screen also houses an informative multi-information display, and what's nice is that it even relays

> connected smartphone. The cabin also scores well on storage space and gets plenty of cupholders in-

navigation instructions from a

the glovebox, which also has a compartment to stow your tablet - a storage bay under driver's the armrest and even an umbrella holder on each of

front

cluding within

Getting into the back seat is not as comfy as it's made out to

the

doors.

be. The doors open wide, but the aperture between the seat and B-pillar isn't the largest. The rear cabin doesn't feel as airy or spacious as some rivals, but you really won't have reason to complain on either count. There's enough knee room for six-footers to sit in comfort, and if you sit bolt upright, you will find headroom just about adequate. The relatively highset rear seat also offers a fairly good view out the windows. There is enough shoulder room to seat three abreast at the back. What also helps is the flat floor, which will be a trait on all ALFA architecture Tata cars.

The high loading lip for the 345-litre boot can make it difficult to load heavy luggage, but the well-shaped boot means you can fit in plenty of stuff. The singlepiece rear seat backrest can also be folded to increase room.

Where the Altroz lags behind the curve is in connectivity. There's no eSIM-based connected tech, and even the 7.0-inch screen doesn't work as slick as you'd like it to. The Harman sound system does deliver fair sound quality though.

There's much to like about the way the Altroz drives. The new platform shines immediately, with a great ride and handling balance. The suspension manages to absorb the rough stuff at low speeds with ease, and the ride improves the faster you go, with the car feeling comfortable and sure-footed at triple-digit speeds. There's a confidence in the way the Altroz changes direction too. Turn-in is slick (better so on the heavier diesel) and there's a lovely feeling of connect at the steering, which is light at low speeds but weights up effectively as speeds increase.

Moving to the petrol engine, the unit is essentially an updated version of the Tigor's 1.2-litre, three-cylinder unit featuring dual variable valve timing and a higher compression ratio. Resultantly, power is up to 86hp while max torque is 113Nm. The figures are par for the course, but overall performance does leave you wanting. Part-throttle responses are pleasant and the engine is earnest at low speeds, but it lacks the pep you get in a Baleno. The engine also doesn't have much to give at the top end and the three-cylinder thrum becomes audible as you rev harder. The 5-speed gearbox isn't the slickest, though a light clutch does make the car easy to live with in town.

It's the diesel that feels like the more complete package. The 1.5-litre, four-cylinder engine is from the Nexon, albeit in a lower 90hp/200Nm state of tune. It can feel a bit hesitant in on-off throttle driving, but it's quick to settle into a rhythm too. The build-up of power is linear from low down, and there's a mild step up closer to 1,800rpm. You'll like the easy access to power and the comfort with which the diesel gets to cruising speeds. Again, this isn't an engine to wind hard - it gets gravelly beyond 3,000rpm - but keep it in its comfort zone and you'll manage to rake up the kilometres without much fuss. A point worth highlighting is that the diesel test cars were running on BS-VI-grade diesel brought in from Delhi. The 5-speed gearbox, here too, feels its best with gentle inputs, and the clutch is light enough.

The Altroz makes an immediate impression because of the way it looks. It's got a show value that no other car in this class can match. And that counts for a lot today. It makes for a practical family car too, with a cabin that offers enough by way of space and comfort. As an added plus, it is also good to drive, with arguably the best dynamics among premium hatchbacks.

A peppier petrol engine, better refinement and a greater focus on connectivity are things on our wish list, and are elements that would make the Altroz easier to recommend. What's also a question mark for now is fuel economy. All said, the Tata Altroz has some solid positives and has the potential to make its place in the premium hatchback segment. All that's left is for Tata to price it well. With a price tag between ₹5-8 lakh (estimated. ex-showroom), the Altroz could just upset the apple cart.

POOCH CAFE











PEANUTS







HAGAR THE HORRIBLE





CALVIN AND HOBBES









2 Go into solution (8)

6 Honey-based drink **7** Symbol written on sheet music to indicate pitch (4) 10 Scene of uproar and confusion (4,6) 12 Unconnected (8) 13 Third largest of the

Channel Islands (8) **16** Coercion (6)

18 Fire – bag (4)

19 Enthusiastic (4)

Solution will appear

in The Hindu dated

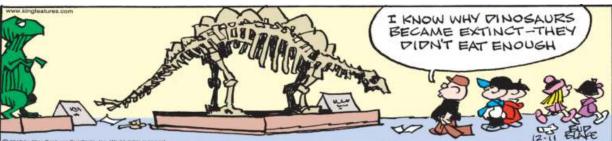
December 12, 2019. Solution No. 13246

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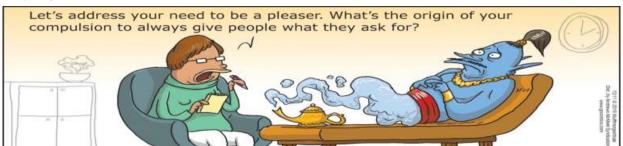
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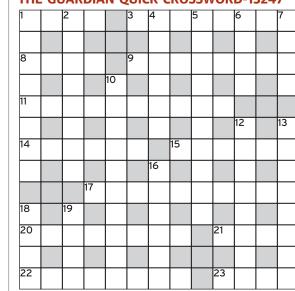


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of a balcony (10) 8 Twilight (4) 20 The Granite City (8) 9 Capital city on the 21 Front of the lea below the knee (4) **11** Teenage (10)

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22 Benevolence (8) 23 Nervous (4) 1 Easily influenced (8)

Kohli's men should get their act together

There will be no dearth of support for the Caribbean crusaders

WI IN INDIA

AMOL KARHADKAR MUMBAI

"It's coming home" was the theme song for the 2018 FIFA World Cup, but by the time England started living up to the tag of 'favourites', it had been adopted as the unofficial theme song for the ICC World Cup earlier this year.

The fans in the Maximum City, while entering the Wankhede Stadium for the deciding rubber of the threematch T20I series between India and West Indies, could well be humming the same song. Not just in anticipation of India's series triumph but even with multiple "home" connect the match offers, from both the teams.

Three Indian players vice-captain Rohit Sharma, middle-order dasher Shreyas Iyer and the new kid on the block Shivam Dube - are Mumbaikars.

Quiet series

While Dube will be keen to continue in the same vein after making his promotion to No. 3 count in Thiruvananthapuram, Rohit and Shreyas will hope to turn things around on their home turf after a relatively quiet series so

Thanks to the Indian Pre-



Ready to fire: Rohit Sharma, second from left, and Shreyas Iyer, right, will hope to turn things around on home turf. • VIVEK BENDRE

mier League (IPL), though, support will not be limited to the home team. With Kieron Pollard – who has spent more years in the Mumbai Indians (MI) camp than captain Rohit - leading the West Indies, there will be no dearth of support for the Caribbean crusaders come Wednesday night. Pollard isn't the lone

member in the opposition camp with a strong local

Lendl Simmons, the opener who repeated his World T20 semifinal heroics on Sunday by anchoring a perfect chase, has been a star performer in one of MI's four IPL title-runs. So has Evin Lewis, whose twin knocks so

far would have reinvigorated interest among IPL franchises for the auction after being released by MI.

If Simmons and Lewis can stage an encore of the strong foundation they laid on Sunday, the Men in Blue will have to play out of their skin in order to avoid the ignominy of conceding the series.

One of the clichés used by teams all around the world is to "focus on our own performance rather than worry about the opposition". Kohli's comrades - most of whom preferred to take it easy with only six turning up for Tuesday's optional practice session – would have to use the same yardstick and

make drastic improvement in their performance to avoid the series from slipping away.

In an effort to build the squad with an eye on the T20 World Cup, India may be giving a long rope to some of the fringe players. It has resulted in errors – not just with bat and ball, but more worryingly in the field – at inopportune times.

If India is to enjoy a home run at the Wankhede, such basic mistakes will have to be eliminated. Otherwise the fans will have to sing "it's coming home" to praise Pollard instead of Kohli.

The teams (from): India: Virat Kohli (Capt.), Rohit Sharma, K.L. Rahul, Shreyas Iyer, Manish Pandey, Rishabh Pant, Shivam Dube, Washington Sundar, Ravindra Jadeja, Yuzvendra Chahal, Kuldeep Yadav, Deepak Chahar, Mohammed Shami, Bhuvneshwar Kumar and Saniu Samson.

West Indies: Kieron Pollard (Capt.), Lendl Simmons, Evin Lewis, Shimron Hetmyer, Brandon King, Nicholas Pooran, Jason Holder, Keemo Paul, Khary Pierre, Denesh Ramdin, Sherfane Rutherford, Hayden Walsh Jr., Fabian Allen, Sheldon Cottrell and Kesrick Williams.

Umpires: Nitin Menon and Nandan; Third umpire: C. Shamshuddin; Fourth umpire: Anil Chaudhary; Match referee: Da-

Match starts at 7 p.m.

'My game doesn't change when we bat or bowl first'

Masters of the chase

India has won nearly 70% of the T20 matches in which it batted second while West Indies has managed a win % of just above 40 in games it has chased

| Team | Matches | Matches batting 2nd | Wins batting 2nd | % wins batting second | | |
|-------------|---------|---------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------------|--|--|
| India | 125 | 62 | 42 | 67.7 | | |
| West Indies | 118 | 60 | 25 | 41.7 | | |

AMOL KARHADKAR

It is among the most dominant outfits in world cricket in longer formats, but when it comes to the shortest avatar, the Men in Blue have been consistently inconsistent. One of the major issues to have plagued Virat Kohli and Co. in the last 12 months is the inability to win while batting first.

As much as India's reputed batsmen have failed to put up a formidable total while batting first, as opposed to chasing down gargantuan totals, its bowlers have faltered in defending moderate to sizeable totals.

Vice-captain Rohit Sharma stressed that while he prefers to assess the conditions before starting to play shots, batsmen have to execute the roles assigned to

"It also depends on how your partner is batting. It's very, very important that

you complement your partner and specific role has been given to all our batters. We try and stick to that role and yes at times, you need to be different and we all are prepared to do that.

"When we need to approach differently, we are prepared to do that. But the situation should provide us to do that. My game doesn't change when we bat first or bowl first," Rohit said.

Rohit was non-committal whether Shivam Dube's promotion - the left-hander batted at No. 3 in the second T20I - will be persisted with.

"I don't know if it's going to be a long-term plan or just for one game, but everything depends on the composition, what are the bowling options they have.

"Just to change the momentum we did that in the last game. You never know if it will happen in this game or not," Rohit said.

Pollard is a smart leader: Rohit

Proactive with all players, says Windies coach Simmons

G. VISWANATH

These are early days for Kieron Pollard as captain of the West Indies' white-ball crick-

After an undistinguished start, losing the Twenty20 series 2-1 to Afghanistan in Lucknow recently, the 32year-old Trinidadian led his team to a 3-0 win in the ODI series.

All along, the all-rounder, who has lit up many an IPL match, knew that the bigger challenge was to come against India.

Pollard, presently the most popular West Indian among fans in India, especially Mumbai, has made a fine impression as captain in the two matches so far.

This was readily acknowledged by his Mumbai Indians captain Rohit Sharma here on Tuesday.

"The West Indies plays well as a team and now is under the leadership of Kieron Pollard whom I know really

"As a leader I know what



In control: Kieron Pollard's captaincy skills has come in for appreciation. • VIVEK BENDRE

he expects from his team. Pollard is a smart player.

"When it comes to MI, he has always been part of the leadership group. He's a very smart thinker of the game. He has great knowledge about the game and this helps him handle situa-

tions on the ground pretty

well," Rohit said.

West Indies coach Phil Simmons pointed out that Pollard is proactive with all players.

"He lets them know exactly what he wants from them. He's been good in the sense that they know that he'll give everything for the team. That's where he's started," said Simmons

'Don't mess around with Dhoni'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

India coach Ravi Shastri says no one can "mess around with" Mahendra Singh Dhoni if he decides to be in contention for next year's T20 World Cup but the former captain would "never impose himself" on the team.

"That (Dhoni) guy is a legend. The last thing he will want is to impose himself on an Indian team, having known him. He is wanting to take a break but he is going to play the IPL," Shastri said on the show 'The Inspiration' to be telecast on India Today TV.

Asked if he isn't ruling out a comeback by the 38-yearold, Shastri answered, "The amount of sport he has played... if he puts himself in contention... if he feels after the IPL that 'I am good enough to play for India', don't mess around with

Dhoni had recently stated "don't ask anything till Ianu-

National selection committee chairman M.S.K. Prasad has, however, made it



will never impose himself on the Indian team. ■ FILE PHOTO: R.V. MOORTHY

clear that the panel has "moved on" and Dhoni is aware of its intent to blood youngsters such as Rishabh Pant keeping in mind next year's T20 World Cup in Australia. Dhoni was seen training with Jharkhand's under-23 team in Ranchi last month, triggering a fresh round of speculation on a possible comeback.

Russian star Lasitskene slams officials over ban

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

One of Russia's top athletes, three-time World champion high jumper Mariya Lasitskene, on Tuesday called sports officials to account after her country was banned for four years from international competition. In her open letter

published by Championat.com sports website, Lasitskene, a long-time critic of Russian sports officials, demanded to know who has been punished over the country's doping scandal and the fact that she cannot compete under the Russian flag

Lasitskene missed the 2016 Rio Olympics because of the doping crisis and had threatened to leave Russia so as not to miss the Tokyo Olympics in 2020.

"Have we done an internal investigation?



Lasitskene. • FILE PHOTO

Who was punished?" Lasitskene asked.

In Paris, Russian President Vladimir Putin slammed the decision as a "politically motivated" ruling that "contradicted" the Olympic Charter.

"There is nothing to reproach the Russian Olympic Committee for and if there is no reproach towards this committee, the country should take part in competitions under its own flag," Putin

The man who dignified and illuminated the craft

Neville Cardus learnt the importance of lacing his reports with humour



SURESH MENON

Is Neville Cardus relevant today? That's a question asked often. Just the fact that it is being asked is testimony to his significance. As Alan Gibson, writer and commentator said: "All cricket writers have been influenced by Cardus, whether they admit it or not, whether they have wished to be or not, whether they have tried to copy him or tried to avoid copying him.

Changed the course of writing

"He was not a model, any more than Macaulay, say, was a model for the aspiring historian. But just as Macaulay changed the course of the writing of history, Cardus changed the course of the writing of cricket. He showed what could be done. He dignified and illuminated the craft.'

The pioneer never loses relevance. Now, over four decades after his death, Duncan Hamilton has written a superb biography of this fine writer who just happened to focus on cricket and music. *The Great Romantic:* Cricket and the Golden Age of Neville Cardus earned Hamilton his third William Hill Sports Book of the Year award. Biographer and subject are well matched; Hamilton is the modern stylist who writes with enviable

Cardus-assessment has veered between hagiography and peremptory dismissal, getting closer to the latter thanks to increasing number of formats and instant communication. Reading cricket reports for their style and elegance is not as popular as getting the running scores on the phone.

Here's Cardus on left-arm spinner Wilfred Rhodes' bowling: "Every ball a decoy, a spy sent out to get the lie of the land; some balls simple, some complex, some easy, some difficult; and one of them – ah! which? – the master ball."

What, nothing about 'dot' balls or strike rates?

Well researched

Hamilton's is a modern biography: definitive, well researched, sympathetic, and with a profound understanding of the times Cardus lived in and wrote about. Cardus aspired to literature; the sport needed that am-

In his debunking essay, Cardus and the Aesthetic Fallacy, Derek Birley upset legions of Cardus-worshippers; yet even he admitted that "The hankering after aesthetic significance is harmless and often enjoyable."

Hankering after significance is human, after all. No one likes to believe that what he is doing is of no import whatever. To ensure that his work be seen as important, Cardus had to first show that what the cricketer did was important. Performer and recorder

(or critic) need each other more than either is willing to admit.

Witty and intelligent

Cardus may not have planned it that way, but he could not have been unaware of its advantages. His players often came across as witty and intelligent because he was witty and intelligent. It gave heroes a new dimension and drew into the game thousands who might not otherwise have cared

Cardus was self-taught, worked his way up from the slums where he was born to a prostitute. His fans included Bradman and Wodehouse, Pinter and Beckett. The novel of a person of that background going on to receive a knighthood might have been rejected by publishers.

As Hamilton writes, "He managed to transform himself so successfully into the figure he wanted to be all along – a gentleman writer – that the figure he had once been all but vanished...throughout his early life, Cardus purposefully dusted over the tracks of his upbringing even when pretending to come clean about it."

He put words into the mouths of his characters that "god intended to," said Cardus when challenged about some of his quotes. This was perhaps necessary to elevate the craft from the basement of sportswriting to its attic. In his centenary year, I wrote that Cardus was the Dickens of cricket writing, bringing to it characters and dialogues the novelist might

Hamilton has dug much deeper. From Dickens, he says, Cardus learnt prolificacy. He learnt how to exploit plot; to create and develop characters. He learnt the importance of lacing his reports with humour. "No one can understand Cardus's approach to cricket writing without also understanding his absorption in Dickens."

Impressionist painter

Commenting on Cardus' description of fast bowler Ted McDonald, Hamilton says, "He admired him in paragraphs that were almost heartshaped with love." Cardus was an impressionist painter - not a documentary photographer. Anyway, as John Arlott said, Cardus hadn't made up nearly as much as he was accused of.

The reason Cardus didn't go to Australia to report on the Bodyline series was not because "I knew trouble was brewing," but, as Hamilton points out, it was because he had become infatuated with a woman and couldn't bear to stay away for so long.

"He had his cricket friends, his music friends, and his girlfriends," said Arlott, "and he stored them in different rooms." Hamilton's book provides the key to two of those rooms. The music room generally remains locked.

This book might lead to a Cardus revival. Or not. Hamilton has achieved the difficult task of humanising an icon while clearing the rubbish away from the pedestal on which he stands.

India signs off with a record haul of 312 medals

Six Indian boxers emerge victorious on the final day



Champion: The triumphant squash team of Tanvi Khanna, Sanya Vats, Urwashi Joshi and Sunayna Kuruvilla. • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

SAG

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA KATHMANDU

India ended its South Asian Games campaign with a best-ever medal haul of 312 and finish on top for the 13th time-in-a-row, in the regional multi-sporting event, here on Tuesday

India collected 174 gold, 93 silver and 45 bronze after 10 days of competitions to surpass the 309 it had won in the previous edition at home in 2016.

But the number of gold In-

dia won this time was 15 less mit clashes. than the previous edition.

Sri Lanka was a distant second with 251 medals while Nepal finished with 206.

On the concluding day, India added 18 medals (15 gold, 2 silver and 1 bronze) with the boxers fetching six gold and 1 silver.

Overall, the country's pugilists won 12 gold, 3 silver and 1 bronze.

The Indian cagers fetched both the men's and women's gold by defeating Sri Lanka (101-62) and host Nepal (127-46) in their respective sumMixed luck

In squash, India won gold and a silver in the women's and men's team events respectively.

Prominent medallists: Boxing: Gold: Men: Vikas Krishan (69kg), Sparsh Kumar (52kg), Narender (+91kg). Women: Pinki Rani (51kg), Sonia Lather (57kg), Manju Bamboriya (64kg). Silver: Varinder Singh (men's 60kg).

Squash: Gold: Women; Silver:

Basketball: Gold: Men & women.

TV PICKS

NBA: Sony Ten 1 (SD & HD), 8.30 a.m. **BWF World Tour Finals:** Star Sports 1 (SD & HD), 8.30 a.m. & SS Select 2 (SD & HD),

Ranji Trophy: Star Sports 2 (SD & HD), 9.30 a.m. Pakistan v Sri Lanka: 1st Test, Sony ESPN (SD & HD), Hero I-League: DSport, 5

p.m. India v West Indies: 3rd T20I, Star Sports 1 & SS Select 1 (SD & HD), 7 p.m. ISL: Star Sports 2 (SD & HD), 7.30 p.m.

UEFA Champions League: Sony Ten 1 & 2 (SD & HD), 11.30 p.m.; Sony Ten 1,2, 3, Six & ESPN (SD & HD), 1.30 a.m. (Thursday).

IN BRIEF



George returns to haunt Pacers

LOS ANGELES Paul George returned to haunt his former team as Los Angeles Clippers scored a 110-99 NBA victory over Indiana Pacers. Meanwhile, NBA champion Toronto Raptors was given a scare before securing a late 93-92 victory over Chicago Bulls. The results: Milwaukee Bucks bt Orlando Magic 110-101; Boston Celtics bt Cleveland Cavaliers 110-88; Chicago Bulls lost to Toronto Raptors 93-92: Indiana Pacers lost to LA Clippers 110-99: Houston Rockets lost to Sacramento Kings 119-118. AFP



I'm no cheat, says Reed after penalty row

Former Masters champion Patrick Reed denied he was a cheat on Tuesday after being penalised for improving his lie, insisting his actions were not intentional. Reed was docked two strokes for improper swings during the Hero World Challenge in the Bahamas. "... If you do something unintentionally that breaks the rules, it's not considered cheating...," Reed said. His Presidents Cup teammates, including Woods have rallied behind him. AFP

IOCL and **ONGC** cruise into the final

NEW DELHI Ramkumar Ramanathan scored a 6-1. 6-3 win over Udit Gogoi that helped Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL) beat Oil India Limited 2-0. after the country's No.1 Sumit Nagal had beaten Chandra Shekar Mohanty 6-1, 6-1, in the semifinals of the 39th Petroleum Sports Promotion Board (PSPB) inter unit tennis on Tuesday. In the other semifinal, Vishnu Vardhan and V.M. Ranjeet guided Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) to a 2-0 victory over Gas Authority of India Limited (GAIL). The women's event, which had attracted only seven players, had a blow as the country's No.1 Ankita Raina withdrew, owing to a strained knee. In her absence, defending champion Mahak Jain set up a title clash against Prerna Bhambri, who got past Riya Bhatia, in the individual event. The results: Men (semifinals): Indian Oil bt Oil India Limited 2-0 (Sumit Nagal bt Chandra

Shekar Mohanty 6-1, 6-1; Ramkumar Ramanathan bt Udit Gogoi 6-1, 6-3); ONGC bt **Gas Authority of India** Limited 2-0 (Vishnu Vardhan bt Jitender Sharma 6-1, 6-0; VM Ranieet bt Viiav Sundar Prashant 6-2, 6-4). Women (final): Indian Oil bt

Engineers India Limited 2-0 (Prarthana Thombare bt Aarti Narayan 6-0, 6-0; Riya Bhatia bt Rima Singh 6-0, 6-0).

Dhruv, Atharva in quarters NEW DELHI

Dhruy Sunish and Atharya Sharma defeated Tarun Anirudh Chilakalapudi and P.C. Vignesh 4-6, 6-4, 10-5 in the pre-quarterfinals of the \$15,000 ITF men's Futures tennis tournament in Cairo. Facundo Juarez and Argentian's Octavio Volpi got the better of lancu-Lustinian Ghinda of Canada & Arpit Sharma 6-3, 6-3.

Baby puts Kerala in the driver's seat

With two wickets down, Delhi has a huge task on hand

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

In making his sixth championship century, skipper Sachin Baby guided Kerala to a massive first innings total of 525 for nine declared on the second day of its Ranji Trophy Elite Group A and B match at the St. Xavier's Stadium, Thumba, on Tuesday.

With two days remaining, Kerala further strengthened its grip reducing Delhi to 23 for two at close.

The day belonged entirely to Kerala captain Baby as he converted his overnight 36 (in the team total of 276 for three) into a huge century with a superb display of batsmanship and determination.

The start of the day was in no way promising for Kerala as Vishnu Vinod and Mohammed Azharuddeen fell rather cheaply, leaving Kerala on 310 for five after nine overs. But, Baby and Salman Nizar combined for a fine 156-run partnership, the latter especially keeping the strike rotating and coming up with a stroke-filled 77 (144b, 9x4, 2x6).

The 'superstitious' Baby, in an apparent endeavour to keep his focus, asked the scorer to blank out his individual contribution from the scoreboard after he had reached 75. The captain obviously did not want indivi-



Single-minded focus: Sachin Baby carved out a well-constructed century to give Kerala the advantage. • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

dual milestones to distract him from his focus on the team's cause. He appreciably cut down on strokes, waiting for chances to score, leaving the rival bowlers in absolute frustration.

Lunch was taken at 410 for five with Baby having duly completed his century off 194 balls. Finally he made his exit after a masterly 155 (274b, 13x4). The declaration came almost 40 minutes after tea, leaving Delhi to play out a possible 14 overs.

But, as it turned out, neither Anuj Rawat nor Kunal Chandela was able to rise to the occasion, being cleaned up by Sandeep Warrier and Jalaj Saxena.

A huge task remains for the rest of the Delhi batsmen to avoid an abject surrender. staring at an arrears of 502

The scores:

Kerala — 1st innings: P. Rahul

Lalit b Baroka 32, Robin Uthappa c Lalit b Sangwan 102, Sachin Baby b Lalit 155, Vishnu Vinod b Shivam 5, Mohammed Azharuddeen c Rawat b Baroka 15, Salman Nizar c Mishra b Baroka 77, S.K. Monish lbw b Shivam 9, Sijomon Joseph (not out) 14, Sandeep Warrier c Rawat b Lalit O, K.M. Asif (not out) 7; Extras (nb-5, b-5, lb-2): 12. Total (for 9 wkts. decl. in 165

Fall of wickets: 1-68, 2-186, 3-276, 4-281, 5-310, 6-466, 7-

overs): 525.

Delhi bowling: Sangwan 14-4-38-1, Saini 17-3-64-0, Mishra 34-8-107-1, Shivam 34-5-112-2, Baroka 30-0-128-3, Rana 15-3-22-0, Lalit 21-3-47-2.

Delhi — 1st innings: Anui Rawat b Saxena 15, Kunal Chandela c Azharuddeen b Warrier 1, Dhruv Shorey (batting) 6. Nitish Rana (batting) O; Extras (lb-1): 1. Total (for 2 wkts. in 12.5 overs):

Fall of wickets: 1-15, 2-17. Kerala bowling: Warrier 5-2-9-1, Asif 4-2-6-0, Saxena 3-0-7-1, Monish 0.5-0-0-0.

RANJI SCORES, ROUND 1, DAY 2

Group A: Andhra 211 vs Vidarbha 268/4 in 97 overs (Ganesh Satish 113 batting, Mohit Kale

Hyderabad 233 vs Gujarat 295/9 in 83.2 overs (Manprit Juneja 94, Rujul Bhatt 65, Mehdi Hassan 4/78).

Kerala 525/9 decl. in 165 overs (P. Rahul 97, Robin Uthappa 102, Sachin Baby 155, Salman Nizar 77) vs Delhi 23/2 in 12.5 overs.

Rajasthan 257 in 79.4 overs (Mahipal Lomror 60, Ashok Menaria 60, Salman Khan 53, Siddarth Kaul 4/69) vs Punjab 290/6 in 84 overs (Gurkeerat Mann 68, Mandeep Singh 122, Anmol Mal-

hotra 68 batting). Group B: Mumbai 431 in 106.4 overs (Prithvi Shaw 66, Ajinkya Rahane 79, Shams Mulani 89, Shardul Thakur 64) vs Baroda 301/9 in 69 overs (Kedar Devdhar 154 batting, Vishnu Solanki 48, Shams Mulani

Himachal 120 & 182 in 38.3 overs (Rishi Dhawan 53, Ankush Bains 74, Jaydev Unadkat 6/51) vs Saurashtra 141 in 36.2 overs (Snell Patel 42, Dharmendrasinh Jadeja 47, Vaibhav Arora 6/48) & 96/3 in 28 overs (Harvik Desai 46)

Karnataka 336 in 110.4 overs (Mayank Agarwal 43, Devdutt Padikkal 78, Pavan Deshpande 65, K. Gowtham 51, R. Ashwin 4/79) vs Tamil Nadu 165/4 in 58 overs (Abhinav Mukund 47).

Railways 253 in 85.3 overs (Arindam Ghosh 42, Navneet Virk 58, Dinesh Mor 91 n.o., Yash Dayal 5/48) & 58/5 in 18 overs vs Uttar Pradesh 175 in 53.1 overs (Almas Shaukat 92 n.o., Amit Mishra 4/52, Himanshu Sangwan 4/71). **Group C:** Services 124 & 130/4

in 45 overs vs Assam 162 in 64.2 overs (Riyan Parag 66, Diwesh Pathania 5/58).

Chhattisgarh 134 & 45/1 in

17 overs vs Odisha 215/9 in 76.4 overs (Sujit Lenka 56, Puneet Datey 4/58).

Haryana 401 in 124.2 overs (Shubham Rohilla 142, Shivam Chauhan 117, Sumit Kumar 40, Anupam Sanklecha 4/82) vs Maharashtra 88/4 in 44 overs.

Tripura 289 in 81.2 overs (Pratyush Singh 40, Milind Kumar 59. Harmeet Singh 56) vs. Jharkhand 136 in 43 overs (Virat Singh 47, Rana Dutta 4/42) & 91/2 in 20 overs (Nazim Siddiqui 40).

Jammu & Kashmir 182 & 304 in 65.4 overs (Abdul Samad 60, Fazil Rashid 73 n.o.,

Ram Dayal 41, Rahil Shah 5/74) vs Uttarakhand 84 in 31 overs (Mohammed Mudhasir 5/13, Ram Dayal 4/ 28) & 18/3 in 9 ov-

Plate: Bihar 173 & 61/4 in 27 overs vs Pondicherry 300 in 79.3 overs (S. Anand 41. S. Kar-

thik 41, Paras Dogra 70, Ashith Rajiv 50, Vivek Kumar 5/51, Ashutosh Aman 4/84). Arunachal Pradesh 147 &

75 batting) vs Chandigarh 503/2 decl. in 76 overs (Arslan Khan 233 n.o., Shivam Bhambri 105, Manan Vohra 124). Sikkim 136 & 22/2 in 8 overs

164/6 in 45 overs (Rahul Dalal

vs Goa 436/6 decl. in 105.4 overs (Smit Patel 53, Amit Verma 113, Snehal Kauthankar 134, Suyash Prabhudessai 91).

Mizoram 65 & 290 in 75.1 overs (Lalhruaizela 60. K.B. Pawan 124) vs Manipur 289 in 80.1 overs (Chingangbam Singh 89, Rex Singh 65, Bobby Zothansanga 5/92, K. Lalhmingmawia 4/47).

Meghalaya 285 in 96.5 overs (Puneet Bisht 125, Sanjay Yadav 61, Imliwati Lemtur 7/ 53) & 89/9 in 33 overs (Imliwati Lemtur 6/32) vs Nagaland 136 in 45.1 overs (Sanjay Yadav

Home

League

© GRAPHIC NEW

"With India playing the

FIFA U-17 women's World

Cup, this award is a huge

source of motivation for me

and I hope I can inspire ma-

ny other girls to take up foot-

ball. I hope to see each one

of you coming out to sup-

port us next year," said

The awardees: Male: Best

player: Ayush Adhikari; Best

youth player: Rudransh Singh;

Best coach: Paritosh Sharma;

Best referee: Umesh Bora; Best

club: Garhwal Heroes; Best

club of the decade: Hindustan

FC; Oldest club: Youngmen FC.

Diamond Award (ex-interna-

tional players): Aziz Quraishi

and Surender Kumar: Gold Award (ex intl. players): Tarun

Roy, Santosh Kashyap and Bhu-

pinder Thakur.

Aveka.

We need a complete overhaul in doubles: Jwala

Jwala's Academy of Excellence launched

BADMINTON

RAKESH RAO

Echoing the growing murmers in the Indian badminton circles, doubles specialist G. Jwala has questioned the centralization of badminton power in the Gopichand Academy.

"He (Gopi) is the chief coach, chief selector, owns his coaching academy, holds the posts of district association president, secretary of Telangana association, he is part of Khelo India, Premier Badminton League, TOPS, GoSports Foundation etc.

"It's all on paper, not my imagination. So if there is conflict of interest, ask questions," she asked mediapersons soon after the launch of Jwala Gutta Academy of Excellence here on Tuesday.

Questioning the idea behind holding the National camps only at the Gopichand Academy in Hyderabad, Jwala said: "I have attended camps at many



New venture: Jwala Gutta, Sushil Kumar and Vijender Singh at the launch. • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

places such as Bangalore, Ja- a non-Telugu player to play landhar, and after 2006, it for the country. Even people has only been happening at who are non-Telugu, they the Gopichand Academy. Personally, I had no problems since I live there, but it is not fair. Why camps only in Hvderabad?"

Raising the pitch, Jwala asked, "tell me how many Telugu players are there in the Indian team? Are you trying to tell me that in last 10 years India couldn't produce are playing for Telangana

Asked if she believed playing for Gopichand Academy was seen as a passport to get into the Indian teams at various levels, Jwala said, "I don't think so.'

Responding to a question pertaining to Gopi's recent comment that he had no

authority, Jwala said, "when I read that interview, I had a laugh. How could anyone, who built the system since 2006 and stays in charge even to this day, complain of not having authority?"

Presently on the junior selection panel, Jwala said: "I can't think of one doubles player with whom I want to play today. What we need is a complete overhaul in doubles. We need a different ecosystem for doubles, that's how doubles will come up. Doubles doesn't needs just a coach right now.

"It needs correction in the administration of doubles. The whole system is wrong

Earlier, the Jwala's Acadeof Excellence was launched by former Union Minister Rajiv Pratap Rudy in the presence of Olympic medallists Sushil Kumar and Vijender Singh, besides Iwala and her father, Kranti.

The 55-acre Academy, located about 30 minutes drive from the Gopichand Academy in Moinabad, Hyderabad, is expected to be a worldclass facility. It is expected to begin operations in the next couple of months. With a tieup with Sujatha School, 100 residential slots are also available.

With 14 courts under the supervision of Dronacharya awardee Mohammad Arif, the Academy begins operations with badminton before opening up other disciplines

Mentor

Jwala said, "my role will be that of a mentor and obviously, I want to focus more on doubles. Since I am not help the children by sharing my experience.

"There will be a lot of work since I will be dealing with parents, coaches, children and looking after every aspect that makes my Academy different from the rest. One more thing is sure. I will pay my coaches well and look after them."

EXECUTE UEFA Champions League 2019-20 MATCHDAY 6: DEC 11 Standings GD Pts Club Brugge BEL PSG PSG FRA Olympiacos GRE Red Star SRB Red Star -16 3 1 1 Shakhtar UKR Atalanta ITA Juventus ITA Atletico ESP 3 1 0 Leverkusen -2 Diego Simeone LAST CHANCES Atletico have lost last two Champions Manchester City and Juventus have all secured top spot in their groups with one match remaining – crucially avoiding toughest Last 16 ties

It's an emotional moment: Azhar Ali

Test cricket returns to Pakistan



Raring to go: Sri Lanka skipper Dimuth Karunaratne, left, and his Pakistan counterpart Azhar Ali with the trophy. • AP

SL IN PAKISTAN

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

The return of Test cricket to Pakistani soil is an emotional occasion, captain Azhar Ali said on Tuesday. But that will not come in the way of his team's efforts to make amends for a disastrous tour of Australia.

Pakistani players will play Test cricket at home after a gap of 10 years when they take on Sri Lanka in a two-Test series starting here on Wednesday. A 2009 terrorist attack on the Sri Lankan team had led to a freeze on cricket in Pakistan, which

matches on neutral venues. "All the players are very emotional about this Test

series. It is great to be back to our home grounds and I just hope that Test cricket returns regularly to Pakistan now, Azhar told a media conference. Azhar also conceded that

the series is a make-or-break situation for his team, as it has not been playing well in Test cricket for some time now. "It is unacceptable the way we lost in Australia. The last two series in South Africa and Australia have been tough for us.

"We need to turn to reverse our results and get back on the winning track," he said.

Arsenal ends worst winless run in 42 years

AGENCE FRANCE PRESSE

Arsenal caretaker manager Freddie Ljungberg believes a weight has been lifted off his players' shoulders after a three-goal blitz in nine second-half minutes helped the team down West Ham 3-1 on Monday to end the Gunners' worst winless run in 42

Arsenal suddenly sparked

into life after Gabriel Martinelli scored his first Premier League goal as Nicolas Pepe finally started to deliver on his club record fee by curling home a brilliant second, before crossing for Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang to secure all three points.

The result: West Ham 1 (Ogbonna 38) lost to Arsenal 3 (Martinelli 60, Pepe 66, Auba-

Punjab bests CCFC

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Late strikes from Dipanda Dicka, Thoiba Singh and Sergio Barboza helped host Punjab FC beat holder Chennai City FC 3-1 and register its first win in the I-League on Tuesday. Pedro Manzi scored for CCFC.

At Ludhiana: Punjab FC 3 (Dipanda Dicka 78, Thoiba Singh 88. Sergio Barboza 90+1) bt Chennai City FC 1 (Pedro Manziu 85).

At Imphal: Neroca FC 1 (Boubacar Siaka Diarra 31) lost to East Bengal 4 (Jaime Colado 21-pen, 52-pen; Juan Mera 33, Marcus Espada 65).

Rampage meets Maharaja

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Rampage defeated Team C.V. Rao 145-136 to enter the semifinals of the Winter National bridge championships at the Netaji Indoor Stadium here on Tuesday. Rampage will meet Mah-

araja, which beat Bangur Cement 190-108 in the quarterfinals. Indian Railways-A,

which got past Team Hemant Ialan 150-139, will take on Formidables, a 163-63 winner over Team Arun Jain, in the other semifinal.

Ayush, Dalima adjudged the best

Germany 14.1%

Source: UEFA

Last 16 places since 2003/04

England 21.5% of all places

19.5%

VIJAY LOKAPALLY

Football Delhi (FD) feted some of the best talent from the Capital on Monday at a function held at the Nehru Memorial Hall here. This was the first time ever that such an event was organised officially with awards given in 34 disciplines. This was on the initiative of FD president Shaji Prabhakaran.

Ayush Adhikari, who top scored for the team with six goals in the Santosh Trophy, was presented the best player (male) award while defender Dalima Chibber was adjudged the best player (female).

because my father was also a footballer and it was my en-

"I started playing football

Recognition: Ayush Adhikari (best male player) and Dalima

Chibber (best female player). • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

tire family's dream to see me doing well in the sport. This award will provide me all the inspiration needed to work harder and make both my family and India proud in the future," said Ayush.

Dalima called it, "an incredible feeling to see the efforts of all the footballers being recognised. Such awards and events motivate us. The best thing is even the people behind the scenes are getting the recognition they deserve.'

India's under-16 player Rudransh Singh was chosen as the best youth player (male) while National under-17 vice-captain Aveka Singh won the best youth player (female) award for the

Lifetime Service Awards (individuals): O.P. Malhotra, Syed Shaheen, N.K. Bhatia, Sunil Ghosh, Shanker Lal, Sharafatullah, N.K. Arora and Joginder Journalist (Lifetime award): Kewal Kaushik: Football expert and commentator (Lifetime Award): Novy Kapadia; Best College: Zakir Hussain; Best groundsman: Rajesh.

Outstanding referees award: Melwyn D'Souza, Rizwan-ul-Haq, Mohammed Kamil, Ravi Female: Best player: Dalima

Chibber; Best youth player: Aveka Singh; Best coach: Disha Malhotra; Best referee: Usha Bhainsora; Best club: Hans Football Club; Best College: Janki Devi Mahavidyala.

has been playing its home