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## NEARBY



### Four charred to death in factory fire; owner held

NEW DELHI  
 Four persons, including two women, were charred to death and one sustained burns in a fire that broke out at a cloth factory in Karol Bagh on Monday afternoon, the police said. The owner of the factory has been arrested in connection with the case. The police said the factory was being run illegally.

DELHI METRO ► PAGE 1

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DELHI METRO ► 6 PAGES

# Govt., RBI call truce after a marathon board meeting

Expert panel to review economic capital framework for future earnings

MANOJIT SAHA  
MUMBAI

The tension between the government and the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) appeared to have defused for the time being with both agreeing to settle for a middle ground at the end of an over nine-hour board meeting on Monday.

The most contentious issue between the central bank and the Finance Ministry was the RBI's capital. Now, while the RBI has agreed to set up an expert committee on the economic capital framework (ECF), its mandate is restricted to future earnings and not the existing reserves, sources privy to the board deliberations told *The Hindu*.

"The board decided to constitute an expert committee to examine the ECF, the membership and terms of

## Finding a way forward

**What the Centre wanted from the RBI**

- Aligning capital norms of banks to Basel levels
- Relaxation of Prompt Corrective Action framework on 11 PSBs
- Easier credit for MSMEs
- Transfer of part of the RBI's reserves
- Special liquidity window for NBFCs
- Fixing issues of governance in RBI

**What the RBI Board meet has decided**

- No change in Basel norms; deadline pushed back by a year for the last tranche
- Prompt Corrective Action on banks issue to be examined by RBI department
- Debt recast for MSME borrowers with loans of up to ₹25 cr. to be considered
- Committee to be set up to examine the Economic Capital Framework of RBI



**Left undecided**

- Special liquidity window for NBFCs
- Fixing issues of governance in RBI

reference of which will be jointly determined by the Government of India and the RBI," the central bank said in a statement.

### Detailed presentations

Sources indicate there were detailed presentations by the RBI on economic capital as well as other issues such as the prompt corrective action (PCA) framework.

On the PCA, the Board for Financial Supervision (BFS) of the RBI will review the norms and take a call if some of the parameters like net non-performing asset (NPA) ratio could be relaxed so that some of the banks come out of the PCA. There are 11 public sector banks out of 21 that are on the PCA.

The BFS consists of the Governor, four Deputy Go-

vernors and a few other board members. Another significant decision was relief to micro, small and medium enterprises – the sector which is badly hit by the twin blows of demonetisation and patchy implementation of the Goods and Services Tax (GST).

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 10

RBI CARRIES THE BAT ► PAGE 13

# NSA, Minister hampered Asthana probe: CBI officer

DIG plea in SC against transfer alleges interference, bribery

KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL  
NEW DELHI

A senior CBI officer, who supervised the team probing the corruption case against the agency's Special Director R.K. Asthana, moved the Supreme Court on Monday leveling a series of allegations involving National Security Adviser Ajit Doval, Central Vigilance Commissioner K.V. Chowdhary, Law Secretary Suresh Chandra and Union Minister of State for Coal and Mines Haribhai Parthibhai Chaudhary.

Urging the court to step in before the CBI became the 'Centre for Bogus Investigation,' Manish Kumar Sinha, DIG (Head of Branch), CBI, Anti-Corruption Branch, Nagpur, narrated alleged instances in which Mr. Doval seems to have stalled his team's investigation into the FIR against Mr. Asthana and

## Explosive charges

**Sinha's allegations against NSA Doval**

- NSA denied "immediate permission" to access the cellphones of CBI officials under probe for evidence

- NSA stopped an ongoing search on the premises of CBI officer Devender Kumar

- Manoj Prasad, accused in FIR against Rakesh Asthana, said his brother Somesh and Samant Goel had helped the NSA on an "important personal matter"

**Against CVC**

- "Sathish Babu Sana said he [Sana] met CVC K.V. Chowdhary along with Gorantla Ramesh somewhere in Delhi and they discussed Moin Qureshi's case"

**Against MoS for Coal and Mines**

- Union Minister Haribhai Parthibhai Chaudhary was paid "a few crores" in June 2018



CBI officer Devender Kumar, among others. "The investigation team has been penalised/victimised because of its impartiality and diligence," he said, seeking the quashing of his transfer.

A Bench led by Chief Justice of India Ranjan Gogoi is to hear the petition filed by

the exiled CBI Director Alok Verma in which he has alleged that his removal was the work of "high functionaries" who wanted to shackle the agency's probe into several sensitive cases.

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 10

VERMA FILES REPLY ► PAGE 10

# Sabarimala temple board seeks time



**Eye in the sky:** The police carrying out aerial surveillance from a naval helicopter in Sabarimala on Monday. ■ H.VIBHU

KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL  
NEW DELHI

The Travancore Devaswom Board on Monday moved the Supreme Court saying that about 1,000 women have registered their names to visit the temple, but it could not ensure their security against the "acts of hooliganism and assault" of protesters and certain political parties in and around the Sabarimala premises.

The board, which manages the temple, sought more time to implement the September 28 judgment of the

court allowing women aged between 10 and 50 to enter and worship in the hill shrine.

It said that even the 'unprecedented' efforts of the Kerala police to provide security to young women pilgrims were overwhelmed by the protesters.

The women had to be escorted back to safety, away from the threats of the protesters.

HIGH COURT COMES DOWN ON POLICE ACTION ► PAGE 5  
 TDB PLEADS INABILITY ► PAGE 5

# Dharmapuri bus burning convicts set free

Governor clears request for release of 3 AIADMK men

S. VIJAY KUMAR  
CHENNAI

Three AIADMK men, serving life sentences for setting ablaze a bus in Dharmapuri resulting in the death of three girls of the Tamil Nadu Agricultural University (TNAU), were granted remission and set free from the Vellore Central Prison on Monday.

Nedunchezian, Ravindran and Muniappan had re-

sorted to violence after a Special Court in Chennai sentenced former Chief Minister Jayalalithaa to one-year imprisonment in the Kodaikanal Pleasant Stay Hotel case on February 2, 2000.

Governor Banwarilal Purohit cleared the AIADMK government's recommendation to release them prematurely. The Governor had earlier returned the file seeking remission of their life sentence for reconsideration by the government. However, the State sent it back sticking to its stand, following which Mr. Purohit accepted

the recommendation to release them.

### Home Dept. issues GO

Inspector-General of Prisons R. Kanagaraj ordered their release on Monday, citing a Government Order issued by the Home Department on Sunday.

The convicts were originally awarded the death penalty by the trial court which was later upheld by the Supreme Court, but on a review petition their sentence was commuted to life imprisonment two years ago.

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 10



The bus, set ablaze on February 2, 2000, lying on the TNAU campus in Coimbatore. ■ S. SIVA SARAVANAN

# SC to hear Jafri's plea against Modi

STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday said it would hear on November 26 Zakia Jafri's plea challenging the clean chit given by a Special Investigating Team to Narendra Modi, who was then Gujarat Chief Minister, pertaining to the "larger conspiracy" behind the 2002 post-Godhra riots.

A Bench, headed by Justice A.M. Khanwilkar, cited paucity of time to post the case later.

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 10

# 'Shah benefited from Sohrabuddin case'

CBI officer deposes on fake encounter

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
MUMBAI

Amitabh Thakur, former Superintendent of Police in the CBI, Gandhinagar, and chief investigating officer in the alleged fake encounter of Sohrabuddin Sheikh in November 2005, said on Monday that the then Gujarat Home Minister Amit Shah had benefited politically and monetarily from the case. He was deposing before a CBI court here.

Apart from Mr. Shah, former Deputy Inspector-General of the Anti Terror-

ism Squad (ATS) D.G. Vanzara, former Superintendent of Police (Udaipur) Dinesh M.N., former Superintendent of Police (Ahmedabad) Rajkumar Pandiyan, and former Deputy Commissioner of Police (Ahmedabad) Abhay Chudasama had benefited politically, Mr. Thakur alleged.

He said Mr. Shah benefited financially as he was paid ₹70 lakh by the Patel brothers, owners of Popular Builders in Ahmedabad.

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 10

# A new bank scam using Google Maps loophole

Con artists edit bank contact details and get customers to share Personal Identification Numbers

GAUTAM S. MENGLE  
MUMBAI

Scammers seem to have stumbled upon a gold mine in the form of a loophole in the Google Maps interface. Taking advantage of the fact that on Google Maps, an establishment's contact details can be edited by anyone, a group of Thane-based con artists have been putting up their own contact numbers and getting customers who call them into revealing sensitive account details.

According to the Maharashtra cyber police, the trend began over a month ago. Police officers

said that if one searches for a particular branch of a bank on Google, the results include the Google Maps page. But the contact information on the page, such as the address and phone number, can be edited by anyone as part of Google's User Generated Content policy.

"We have received at least three complaints from the Bank of India (BoI) over the last one month. In all three instances, we immediately notified the authorities at Google,"



ILLUSTRATION: DEEPAK HARICHANDAN

Superintendent of Police Barsing Rajput of the State cyber police said. Mr. Rajput said many

customers search online for their bank's contact details, and after getting the incorrect number, call it with their queries.

Unknown to them, they are actually speaking to a scamster who, under some pretext, convinces them to reveal details such as their Personal Identification Numbers (PIN) or the CVV numbers of their debit and credit cards, enabling the scamsters to withdraw money from their accounts.

A BoI spokesperson said, "After these incidents came to our notice, we modified

the contact details on these branch listings on Google Maps. We asked users to use only Bank of India's official website to search for branch contact details."

When contacted, a Google spokesperson said, "Overall, allowing users to suggest edits provides comprehensive and up-to-date info, but we recognise there may be occasional inaccuracies or bad edits suggested by them. When this happens, we do our best to address the issue as quickly as possible. The Google Safety Center outlines tips to help consumers stay safe online."

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## DELHI Timings

<b>TUESDAY, NOV. 20</b>		
RISE	06:47	SET 17:26
RISE	15:46	SET 03:35
<b>WEDNESDAY, NOV. 21</b>		
RISE	06:48	SET 17:26
RISE	16:23	SET 04:32
<b>THURSDAY, NOV. 22</b>		
RISE	06:49	SET 17:25
RISE	17:03	SET 05:33

Delhi Weather	max	min
Delhi City	28	15
Safdarjang	28	15
Palam	27	17

**Delhi Palam Today**  
29°C Morning will be cool followed by a damp day. Sunny sky to persist. Night will be pleasant.

**Delhi Palam Tomorrow**  
28°C A comfortable morning is likely with a soggy afternoon. Sky will be clear. Night remains pleasant.

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## IN BRIEF



### Tripura CPI(M)'s State conference from Nov. 25

AGARTALA  
The Opposition CPI(M) in Tripura will hold a two-day conference from November 25. "We have invited party general secretary Sitaram Yechury, former general secretary Prakash Karat and politburo member Brinda Karat to join the conference. Whether they would be able to attend it is yet to be confirmed," CPI(M)'s State secretary Bijan Dhar said. PTI

### Two new judges take oath in Orissa High Court

CUTTACK  
Chief Justice K.S. Jhaveri of the Orissa High Court on Monday administered the oath of office to two new judges — Justice Shatrughana Pujahari and Justice Akshaya Kumar Mishra. With their inclusion the number of judges in the High Court has gone up to 14 now.

# Bengal House clears Bill to give land rights to enclave dwellers

CM says 'historic' move will help enclave residents get full-fledged status as citizens

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
KOLKATA

The West Bengal Assembly on Monday unanimously passed a Bill to give land rights to enclave dwellers in north Bengal, ending an era of uncertain future for the people residing in those enclaves.

Moved by Minister of State for Land and Land Reforms Chandrima Bhattacharya, the West Bengal Land Reforms (Amendment) Bill, 2018, was passed in the House unopposed.

Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee said this "historic Bill" would help the enclave dwellers to get full-fledged status as citizens of India, along with all civic amenities and rights.

The Bill will help in the distribution of land rights documents to the people of



**At home:** Enclave dwellers at Dinhata Settlement Camp in Cooch Behar district. • FILE PHOTO

the enclaves in the border district of Cooch Behar, the Chief Minister said, adding that the State government was working hard to give the beneficiaries their due.

**Enclave exchange**  
Bangladesh and India had exchanged a total of 162 enclaves on August 1, 2015, ending one of the world's

most-complex border disputes that had lingered for seven decades since Independence. In Cooch Behar, 111 Indian enclaves, spread across 17,160 acres, became a part of Bangladesh territory and 51 Bangladesh enclaves, comprising 7,110 acres, joined India.

The enclave residents were allowed to either reside

at their present location or move to the other country.

Around 37,334 people residing in the enclaves in the Indian side refused to go to Bangladesh, whereas 922 enclave dwellers from the Bangladesh side preferred to be in India, Ms. Banerjee said.

The State had already spent over ₹100 crore on the housing of the enclave dwellers, the Chief Minister said, adding that her government, which had received ₹579 crore from the Centre, still had a due of ₹426 crore.

The process will result in creation of 13 'mouzas' (administrative district), while the rest of the area would be amalgamated with the existing 31 'mouzas', the Bill said. Plot-to-plot verification has been undertaken to ascertain the ownership status of the land to the dwellers.

## Nagaland unit of AAP merges with NPF

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
KOHIMA

The Nagaland unit of the Aam Aadmi Party on Monday merged with the Opposition Naga Peoples' Front.

A formal merger was held at the NPF central office here in the presence of AAP's Nagaland chief S. Amos and NPF president Shurhozelie Liezietsu.

The State unit of the AAP was formed in May 2016. It contested in three seats in the February Assembly polls but did not taste success.

Despite the NPF being in the Opposition, the AAP members sought to join the party to work for better

transformation of society, Dr. Amos said.

"The AAP unanimously and willingly agreed to merge with the NPF after thorough analysis and preparation towards working in unity for the growth of the State," he said.

Welcoming the AAP members in the party, Dr. Liezietsu said Nagaland being a small State, its parties need to come together and remain strong.

"The AAP is a strong party and ruling in the national capital by surviving all onslaughts of the central government," said Dr. Liezietsu, a former Chief Minister.

## Odisha to build houses for 13,000 cyclone-hit families

Houses to be provided under Biju Pucca Ghar Yojana

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
BHUBANESWAR

Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik on Monday announced that the State will build houses for 13,000 families whose homes were destroyed during Cyclone Titli, officials said.

The houses will be provided under the Biju Pucca Ghar Yojana. The decision was taken at a high-level meeting here chaired by Mr. Patnaik, the officials said.

The Chief Minister asked the department concerned to expedite the process and



An aerial view of flooded Aska town in Ganjam district after Cyclone Titli hit Odisha last month. • FILE PHOTO

ensure transparency, an official said, adding that the houses will be constructed at an estimated cost of ₹176 crore. The State government will also urge the United Na-

## Innovative crop drying technology to boost harvest

Solar Bubble Dryer demonstrated for the first time in Odisha

STAFF REPORTER  
BHUBANESWAR

Farmers in Odisha will soon have a handy tool to bring down quantitative and qualitative losses caused by high moisture content during post-harvest operation.

An innovative drying technology, Solar Bubble Dryer, developed jointly by International Rice Research Institute, Philippines; Grainpro, a leading post-harvest solution providing company; and University of Hohenheim, Germany, was introduced to farmers here on Monday.

Krishni Vigyan Kendra-Khordha, affiliated to the Indian Council of Agricultural Research-Central Institute of Freshwater Aquaculture, held a demonstration of the technology which is claimed to dry up crop at minimal cost. "The SBD is a low-cost drying technology that aims



Farmers watch the demonstration of Solar Bubble Dryer at Central Institute of Freshwater Aquaculture, on the outskirts of Bhubaneswar, on Monday. • BISWARANJAN ROUT

to provide a simple and flexible alternative to sun-drying, while protecting from spillage, animals, weather and vehicles running over the grains," said P.N. Ananth, director, KVK.

Dr. Ananth said the technology was demonstrated for the first time in Odisha by IRRI, Philippines.

"The quantitative loss in traditional sun-drying method is estimated to be in the

range of 15 to 30% between harvesting and milling. Due to quality loss, farmer do not get proper price of their produce," said Martin Gummert, an IRRI scientist.

The new technology has been developed in such a way that farmers can dismantle the machinery and reassemble it on their own. Power can be drawn both from solar energy and traditional electricity.

## Din in Odisha House over 'CBI entry into Secretariat' report

Assembly adjourned for the day

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
BHUBANESWAR

The Odisha Assembly was adjourned for the day on Monday after the Opposition Congress created a ruckus demanding clarity on a report that said the CBI had entered the State Secretariat recently.

The issue was raised by Leader of the Opposition Narasingha Mishra as soon as the House reassembled at 3 p.m. Quoting a newspaper report, Mr. Mishra alleged that the central agency had entered the State Secretariat and probed into "something".

"We want a clarification from the State government on the authenticity of the newspaper report. Did the CBI come to the Secretariat and for what purpose? This House should know the reason behind the agen-



Narasingha Mishra

cy's entry into the Secretariat," Mr. Mishra said.

The Congress leader also appealed the Speaker, P.K. Amat, to give a ruling to the government to make a statement on the matter in the House.

When the Speaker did not issue any ruling, the Congress members led by its chief whip Taraprasad Bahinipati rushed to the well of the House and demanded a clarification.

Unable to run the House, Mr. Amat adjourned it first for 30 minutes till 3.41 p.m., and later till Tuesday.

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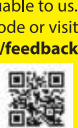
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THE HINDU PRESENTS  
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### ANNUAL DAY AT VIDYA DEVI

Vidya Devi Jindal School celebrated its 32nd Annual Day recently. Roopa Pai, Author, was the Chief Guest. Mr. Jagmohan Sood, Chief Operating Officer, JSL and Mr. Praneet Kumar, Executive Member, School Managing Committee, Vidya Devi Jindal School were present. Cultural events were organised in the auditorium. Prizes were distributed to achievers by the Chief Guest and the Principal. The Chief Guest addressed and interacted with the students.



### VISIT TO EMBASSY



Students of PP international School visited the Embassy of Azerbaijan along with the teachers. An interactive session was organised for the students. They discussed about the Silk route which was inaugurated last month in Azerbaijan and the education system and the literacy rate there.

### TAPSFEST 2018

TAPSFEST 2018 was organized at Army Public School. Events such as classic debate, group discussion, poetry writing, beat boxing and rap battle were conducted. The Gen-X trophy was awarded to Tagore International School. The Rolling Trophy was bagged by Army Public School, Noida.



For Subscription related queries, please contact Kapil Nagar:  
Handphone: +91 98100 89457/Email: [kapil.nagar@thehindu.co.in](mailto:kapil.nagar@thehindu.co.in)

## Assam rural polls: 44,731 candidates file nominations

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
GUWAHATI

A total of 44,731 candidates have filed nominations for 15,899 panchayats and zilla parishad seats in the first phase of rural polls scheduled to be held next month, officials said.

A total of 881 candidates have filed nominations for 251 posts in zilla parishads, 3,935 for 1,304 posts in Anchalik panchayats, 4,493 for 1,304 presidents post of gaon panchayats and 35,423 for the 13,040 member posts of gaon panchayats, Assam State Election Commissioner H.N. Bora told reporters here.

The number of candidates contesting the panchayat polls has decreased this time with around three candidates less against each seat, he said.

The number of nominations may have come down due to the Panchayat (Amendment) Bill passed by the Assembly which bars persons without functioning toilet and more than two children from contesting the polls, Mr. Bora said.

The commission has also stipulated minimum education qualification criterion for the candidates to be members and chief of different levels of panchayati raj bodies. The panchayat and zilla parishad polls will take place in two phases on December 5 and 9.

IN BRIEF



Brig. Chandpuri cremated with State honours

CHANDIGARH  
The mortal remains of Brigadier Kuldeep Singh Chandpuri (Retd.), the hero of Longewala battle during the 1971 Indo-Pak war, were consigned to flames with State and military honours on Monday. A large number of civil and military dignitaries paid their last respects to Brig. Chandpuri, an awardee of Mahavir Chakra. PTI

3 die as car falls into gorge in Uttarkashi

UTTARKASHI (U.KHAND)  
At least three persons were killed when their car fell into a gorge in Uttarakhand's Uttarkashi on Monday. The car was on its way to Dehradun when the accident occurred, police said. A man and a woman died on the spot, while another man succumbed to his injuries at a community health centre, said the police. PTI

Man stabbed following row over money

MUZAFFARNAGAR  
A man was injured after he was stabbed allegedly following an altercation over money, police said on Monday. According to SHO Kushal Pal Singh, the injured man was rushed to a hospital. The accused had allegedly borrowed money from the victim, he said. PTI

4 IIT professors booked for harassing Dalit faculty

KANPUR  
Four professors of the IIT-Kanpur have been booked by police for allegedly harassing a Dalit faculty member of the Institute's Aerospace department. The FIR against Eshan Sharma, Sanjay Mittal, Rajiv Shekhar and C.S. Upadhyay, and an unidentified person has been filed under relevant sections of the SC and ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, police said. PTI

Mughal road reopens after closure due to snow

JAMMU  
The Mughal road connecting the Poonch and Rajouri districts in Jammu region with South Kashmir's Shopian district was opened for restricted vehicular traffic on Monday after a week-long closure due to heavy snowfall, a senior traffic police officer said. Only a limited number of light vehicles were allowed from both sides on a trial basis, he added. PTI

## Muzaffarpur case: bail pleas of two rejected

Accused were child protection officials

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
MUZAFFARPUR (BIHAR)

A court here on Monday rejected the bail pleas of two suspended officials of the Bihar Social Welfare department who are currently facing trial in the shelter home sex scandal case.

Special POC SO Judge R.P. Tiwari dismissed the bail applications of Ravi Raushan and Rosy Rani – both of whom had formerly been posted here as assistant directors of the district child protection unit.

Raushan was arrested in July by the Muzaffarpur police which was then investigating the scandal that involved the now-sealed shelter home in the Sahu Road locality. Rani was held in September by the CBI, which took over the probe

# After OBCs, BJP set to woo Dalits in U.P.

Plans 'social meetings' in run-up to Ambedkar death anniv.

OMAR RASHID  
LUCKNOW

After holding caste-based meetings among OBCs, the BJP is out to woo Dalits in Uttar Pradesh through a similar tactic as it prepares for the 2019 Lok Sabha election.

From November 21 to December 2, days before the death anniversary of Babasaheb Ambedkar, which also marks the day the Babri Masjid was demolished, the BJP plans to stage 'samajik baithaks' or social meetings with Dalit castes.

The party will reach out to the major segments of Dalits individually. The meeting will start with the Jatavs, the largest Dalit community in Uttar Pradesh, on Wednesday and spread across the State.

Bahujan Samaj Party chief Mayawati is herself a Jatav and traditionally the community has been loyal to her, though in 2014 and 2017 the BJP claimed to make dents into that vote bank.

Following the Jatavs, the BJP will move to smaller Dalit castes – Katheria, Dusadh, Sonkar, Dhobi, Kori and Valmiki, before concluding the series with a meeting of the Pasis.



Kaushal Kishore ■ FILE PHOTO

Found mostly in central and eastern U.P., especially in the Allahabad-Varanasi-Lucknow divisions and near the India-Nepal border, the Pasis are the second largest Dalit caste in the State. However, unlike the Jatavs, no single leader can claim to command their support and they are scattered among parties, making them a prize catch before the elections. Mohanlal Ganj MP from BJP Kaushal Kishore is one of the well-known Pasi leaders in the State. As president of the BJP SC Morcha, he will oversee the meetings. Mr. Kishore told *The Hindu* that the party would communicate to the people the work done by the BJP government for the Dalits.

Among them would be gas connections, housing fa-

cilities, toilets and electricity connections, he listed.

"The BJP government has worked to fulfil the mission and vision of Dr. Ambedkar by empowering Dalits with these basic rights. The Dalits are starting to get benefits of basic rights only now under the BJP," claimed Mr. Kishore.

While the BJP has invested much in securing the backward caste vote, observers have been critical of its potential to garner Dalit support in 2019 in the context of the recent discontent among and protests by groups of the community. The SP-BSP alliance is also expected to change the equation.

Mr. Kishore, however, dismisses the idea that Dalits are angry with the BJP. "In fact, the BSP and SP are angry that what they could not do for Dalits in so many years, we have done," he said.

The Dalit meetings are also expected to feature references to caste icons of these communities. During the meetings of the OBC castes, the party appealed their icons such as Suheldev and Nishadraj and linked them to Hindutva.

## Sukhbir appears before 'politically motivated' SIT

Tells team he has never met Akshay Kumar outside Punjab

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Shiromani Akali Dal chief and former Punjab Deputy Chief Minister Sukhbir Singh Badal told members of the Special Investigating Team probing the 2015 police firing incidents at Behlala Kalan and Kotkapura on Monday that he has never met Bollywood actor Akshay Kumar outside the State.

Mr. Badal appeared before the SIT at Punjab police headquarters here and was quizzed for about an hour even as he described its investigation as "politically motivated".

The name of Mr. Kumar was mentioned in the Justice (Retd.) Ranjit Singh Commission report on sacrilege inci-



Sukhbir Singh Badal ■ FILE PHOTO

dents which was tabled in Punjab Vidhan Sabha in August this year. The police firings followed in the wake of the sacrilege incidents.

"They (SIT) asked me whether I met Akshay in Mumbai. I told them, 'You are asking me a question and not telling me who said this. They said they cannot

share,'" Mr. Badal told reporters later. "I told them I never met Akshay Kumar outside Punjab in my life. I met him at a sports function (in Punjab)."

According to the report, a meeting between Mr. Badal and Dera Sacha Sauda sect head Gurmeet Ram Rahim Singh in connection with the release of latter's movie *MSG* was held at the actor's flat in Mumbai in 2015. It said the meeting was held before the pardon given to the Dera head in a blasphemy case. *MSG* could not be released in Punjab in September 2015 because of an edict by Akal Takht.

Mr. Kumar had then denied having met the Dera head.

### Lighting lotuses



A devotee from Sri Lanka lights candles during the 'Robe Offering Ceremony' at Jayashree Mahabodhi Vihara in Bodhi Gaya on Monday. ■ PTI

## Probe in Dussehra tragedy complete

60 people had died when a train ploughed through a crowd on the tracks

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The magisterial probe, ordered by the Punjab government into the Amritsar train accident in which 60 people died, has recorded statements of more than 150 people, including railway officials and Navjot Kaur Sidhu, the chief guest at the Dussehra event.

"The report is complete and it will be submitted on Tuesday to the Punjab Home Secretary N.S. Kalsi," said Jalandhar Divisional Commissioner B. Purushartha, who was appointed Special Executive Magistrate by the government to probe the October 19 accident.

He said statements of



Security on high alert in Amritsar after the Dussehra incident. ■ FILE PHOTO PTI

more than 150 people including Railway officials and eyewitnesses were recorded. Statements of Navjot Kaur Sidhu, wife of Punjab Minister Navjot Singh Sidhu, and

the Dussehra event organiser Saurabh Madan were also recorded.

Navjot Singh Sidhu has submitted his statement in writing, Mr. Purushartha

said. The Opposition, the Akali Dal, has rejected the institution of the magisterial probe and sought registration of case against Ms. Sidhu and the event organiser.

Sixty people were mowed down by a passing train while watching the burning of a Ravana effigy in Amritsar as they could not see the train approaching them.

The Railways had initially refused to order a probe, saying it was a case of trespassing and not negligence by its officials or the loco-pilot.

But two weeks after the accident it said the Chief Commissioner of Railway Safety will probe the tragedy.

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**CORRIGENDUM**  
By mistake the office address of Tender Inviting authority of NIT No. 195/PR/JUSNL/2018-19 got wrongly published as Deputy General Manager, Transmission Operation/ project, Transmission Circle, Maharo, Dumka whereas the right address should be read as “General Manager, Transmission Zone-I, Kusai Colony, Doranda, Ranchi- 834002.  
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e- tender in two parts i.e. Technical (Part-I) and Financial (Part – II) is invited from the reputed parties ,having adequate financial and technical resources to undertake the following work:-

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<b>End date and time for uploading of BID</b>	<b>12/12/2018 upto 03:00 PM</b>
<b>Last date of submission of hard copy of bid, tender cost and EMD in the office of General Manager, Transmission Zone-I, Ranchi</b>	<b>Upto 13/12/2018 at 05:00 PM</b>
<b>BID Opening date for technical part</b>	<b>14/12/2018 at 12:00AM</b>
<b>BID Opening date for price part</b>	<b>Will be communicated</b>
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IN BRIEF



**Knife attack: SIT asks Jagan to depose before it**

**VISAKHAPATNAM**  
The SIT has issued a notice to Leader of Opposition Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy to depose before it on the knife attack on him at Visakhapatnam Airport on October 25. Commissioner of Police Mahesh Chandra Laddha told *The Hindu* on Monday that the SIT issued a third notice on Sunday to Mr. Reddy to record a statement on the attack made on him by J. Srinivasa Rao, a waiter at the airport. Mr. Reddy had earlier refused to record a statement before the police stating that he had no faith in the Andhra Pradesh Police.

**Kambala season set to begin from Saturday**

**MANGALURU**  
The districts of Dakshina Kannada and Udupi are all set for the kambala (a traditional slush-track buffalo race) from Saturday, with 18 races lined up for the season. The first race, 'sathya-dharma', will be held on November 24 at Kakkypadavu, Bantwal taluk in Dakshina Kannada. The last, 'soorya-chandra' kambala, will be conducted at Talapady-Panjala in Mangaluru taluk on March 23.

**Convicted in ganja case, man tries to end life**

**VISAKHAPATNAM**  
A 30-year-old man allegedly tried to end his life by slitting his throat, after he was sentenced to 14 years jail in a ganja smuggling case, on the Metropolitan Sessions Court premises here on Monday. The accused is in hospital in a critical condition. The convict, Rajanna Appala Naidu, hailing from the Visakhapatnam Agency, along with seven others, was caught with 292 kg of ganja in 2016. Police said he was on bail, and expecting a conviction, he could have carried a small knife in his pocket.

# High Court comes down on police action in Sabarimala

Bench says Ayyappa devotees should be allowed to stay at Nadapandal

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT KOCHI**

Expressing its displeasure over the police action in driving out the aged, the disabled, children and women from the Nadapandal at the Sabarimala Sannidhanam, a Division Bench of the Kerala High Court orally observed that these pilgrims should be permitted to stay at the Nadapandal.

The Bench comprising Justices P.R. Ramachandran and N. Anil Kumar observed that people from far-off places were visiting Sabarimala and they could not be prevented from using the Nadapandal.

Of course, the police could check them, interrogate or verify their identity.



**Tight vigil:** Police standing guard as devotees trek to the Sabarimala temple on Sunday. ■ AFP

In fact, the police had to remain in their barracks and not at the Nadapandal.

The court made these observations when a slew of writ petitions relating to Sabarimala incidents came up for hearing. The Bench also orally observed that those who had taken tickets for

Neyyabhishekam should not be sent back from the Sannidhanam at night.

**Directive to KSRTC**

The court directed the Kerala State Road Transport Corporation (KSRTC) to provide round-the-clock services to Pampa from Nilackal. Its

chain services to Pampa should be maintained uninterrupted.

The court said it had granted monopoly of the service to the KSRTC on the undertaking that buses would be operated every minute from Nilackal to Pampa. It warned that if any hardship was caused to pilgrims, the court might revoke the sanction given to the KSRTC.

Expressing concern over the safety of pilgrims, the court observed that Sabarimala had now been made a "war zone." The law laid down by the Supreme Court was the law of the land. However, there should not be any excesses under the guise of implementing the Supreme Court verdict.

## From 'hate speeches' to limelight

**N.J. NAIR THIRUVANANTHAPURAM**

It is a political coming-of-age process for the State president of Hindu Aikya Vedi K.P.Sasikala, popularly known as 'Sasikala Teacher', who spearheads the agitation against the Supreme Court verdict that eased age restrictions on women's entry to the Sabarimala temple in Kerala.

The Bharatiya Janata Party and Sangh Parivar organisations, which, too, are in the forefront of the agitation, see a potential candidate in the former teacher of Vallappuzha School, Palakkad, for either the coming Lok Sabha or the Assembly elections due in 2021.

Currently in her early fifties, Ms. Sasikala shot to fame on the strength of her



K.P. Sasikala

unsparing criticism of the Congress-led United Democratic Front and the CPI(M)-led Left Democratic Front for their alleged minority appeasement policies and denial of what she claimed to be "rightfully due" to Hindus.

**Grooming leaders**

The Hindu Aikya Vedi is an offshoot of the Vishwa Hindu Parishad and was floated under the tutelage of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh in

the State. Over the years, the organisation has become a school for grooming leaders for the BJP.

Among them is former State president and present Meghalaya Governor Kumanam Rajasekharan.

The BJP shares a love-hate relationship with the Vedi, but relies on it in times of need, mainly during the elections.

**'A rabble-rouser'**

Despite drawing flak from her critics who dub her as a rabble-rouser, Ms.Sasikala drove herself to the forefront of the Sabarimala agitation, warning women devotees that their "faith is in peril" and deftly placing the onus for the current situation on the LDF government led by Pinarayi Vijayan.

Her arrest the other day for violating ban orders in Sabarimala and her visit to the shrine only a day later may help her to reaffirm herself as a main campaigner or candidate. This is important for the State BJP that cannot boast an array of leaders who enjoy voters' appeal to run for an election from any segment in the State.

**Many cases**

The police have registered a number of cases against her, mostly for rendering hate speeches, inciting communal passions and fomenting violence in different stations across the State.

One of the cases was registered on the basis of a complaint filed by Congress Legislator V.D.Satheesan on August 8, 2017.



**Medical facility:** The Asha Kirana mobile medical unit that was flagged off in Thiruvananthapuram on Monday. ■ S. GOPAKUMAR

## Kerala to aid cancer care in Karnataka

C-DAC's mobile unit flagged off

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT THIRUVANANTHAPURAM**

A full-fledged, self-sufficient mobile medical unit for cancer screening, including all basic diagnostics and ultrasound scan, fully designed and equipped by the Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC), will now take medical care to the rural areas in Karnataka.

The mobile unit, named Asha Kirana, was flagged off from C-DAC here on Monday evening, to be delivered to Kidwai Memorial Institute of Oncology, Bengaluru.

This is the fourth such unit to be designed by C-DAC.

**Bus chassis**

The unit has been built out of a 11-m-long Viking chassis of a luxury bus. Apart from a spacious driver's cabin and seats for the medical team, the unit incorporates a miniblab with a haematology analyser, auto analyser and a digital microscope; an examination area with a surgical table for minor procedures; a digital X-ray unit in pneumatic design, housed within radiation protection walls; a 12-lead digital ECG machine; and an ultrasound scan area.

The examination area has a washroom with toilet and wash basin. The vehicle is built on air suspension, has

a back-up power generator, a UPS system, three air conditioners and a self-folding retractable ladder for entering the bus.

**₹2 crore project**

The project cost was nearly ₹2 crore. "We designed the unit as per the requirements of the Kidwai Centre, which wants to use this for cancer screening and follow-up care among the rural population. They wanted the unit so designed that all basic investigations can be completed and a preliminary diagnosis delivered to patient," said P. J. Binu, senior engineer at C-DAC.

"In the next phase, they want to incorporate telemedicine facility in this unit, for which the C-DAC has developed its own software with SNOMED CT-Dicom compatibility, so that the digital medical images and electronic medical records of patients can be transmitted using 4G connectivity," he added.

The previous mobile medical units designed by C-DAC has been having a very successful run in the State for the past few years.

Sanjeevani, a mobile unit with telemedicine facility, run by Malabar Cancer Care Society, an NGO, has been serving the rural population in five districts of north Kerala for 10 years.

## 6-time bride decamps with gold

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT KADAPA**

A bride, who allegedly conned six grooms in the name of marriage and decamped with gold jewellery, was arrested in Mydukur town on Monday, based on a complaint by her husband, who found her "missing."

Mounica, 20, daughter of Anantha Reddy of Modinipuram in Prakasam Reddy, "married" Bhumireddy Ramakrishna Reddy of Kommalur in Kadapa district three months ago.

In mid-August, her father said he was taking her home to which the husband agreed. With Mounica landing neither in her maternal home nor at her in-laws' place after two months, the husband complained to the police, who busted the case with the aid of technology.

Her mobile number was traced to Vijayawada, Visakhapatnam and Hyderabad, before she was finally arrested in Mydukur. According to Mydukur police, she first married a person in Markapuram, then another in Pandillapalle and then the third in Gid-dalur (all in Prakasam district), then wedded the fourth in Tenali, before tying the nuptials with Ramakrishna Reddy of Mydukur.

Even when the case was under investigation, she befriended a Hyderabad-based youth in Vijayawada, married him at Annavaram and left for Vizag, taking the number of victims to six.

Her *modus operandi* was to get married, get hold of the family-owned gold jewellery from the husband and decamp with it within months.

Her father is believed to have been cooperating with her in the crime. The police have slapped a cheating case on Mounica.

## Thousands of farmers from across Karnataka hold rally in Bengaluru

Agitation withdrawn after Cooperation Minister promises meeting with CM



Farmers from across Karnataka, especially sugarcane growing areas, taking out a protest rally to lay siege to the Vidhana Soudha in Bengaluru on Monday. ■ K. MURALI KUMAR

**STAFF REPORTER BENGALURU**

Amid farmer protests across Karnataka, especially over the non-payment of pending dues to sugarcane growers, thousands of farmers held a rally in the Central Business District (CBD) here on Monday.

**Loan waiver**

Their other demands include immediate implementation of the farm loan waiver, three-phase power for 12 hours a day, and Minimum Support Price (MSP) for a range of agri-products.

The protest in Bengaluru was withdrawn after Cooperation Minister Bandeppa Kashempur promised a

meeting for the farmers with Chief Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy. Farmers have now set a 15-day deadline for the meeting. Thousands of farmers from across the State started pouring in at Kranti-veera Sangolli Rayanna Railway Station on Monday morning. The farmers took out a protest rally from the Railway Station towards the Vidhana Soudha.

High drama ensued as police stopped them at Freedom Park, refusing to let them go any further.

The farmers launched a sit-in protest on the busy Seshadri Road, throwing traffic in CBD out of gear.

Leaders from the Karnataka Rajya Raitha Sangha

## TDB pleads inability on amenities

**KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL NEW DELHI**

The Travancore Devaswom Board, which sought more time on Monday from the Supreme Court to implement its verdict, said the women devotees were even physically impeded from undertaking the pilgrimage by the protesters.

The police presence in the Sabarimala areas has not 'discouraged' them from resorting to violence.

The board, which said it was in constant dialogue with the police authorities, informed the Supreme Court that "the security of women being its primary responsibility and consideration, it is not in a position to provide that much additional facilities for them."

"About 1,000 women have already registered their names to visit the Sabarimala temple during the pilgrimage between November 16, 2018 till January 20, 2019," the board's application, filed through advocate P.S. Sudheer, said. "The judgment (September 28) evoked strong response from certain people and political parties which led to severe law and order problems in Kerala and particularly in areas in and around the Sabarimala temple," it said.

The board application comes even as a five-judge Review Bench led by Chief Justice of India Ranjan Gogoi has agreed to hear 49 petitions filed against the September 28 judgment in open court on January 22. The Review Bench had specifically declined to stay the September judgment, thus, making it possible for women aged between 10 and 50 to worship during this season.



Union Tourism Minister K.J. Alphonse Kannanthanam inspecting facilities at Pampa on Monday. ■ LEJU KAMAL

## Conditions dismal at Pampa riverbed

Toilet facilities grossly inadequate

**RADHAKRISHNAN KUTTOOR PATHANAMTHITTA**

Three days into the annual pilgrim season, the conditions in Sabarimala continues to remain messy, with inadequate toilet facilities, leaking human waste collection tanks and open defecation along the banks of the Pampa and the forest fringes.

The majority of toilets at the Pampa Manalpuram (riverbanks) had become dysfunctional in the deluge of mid-August. Three multi-storey toilet blocks had been completely destroyed and the ground floor of the other three blocks became non-operational in the floods.

Though the Travancore Devaswom Board claims to have set right 270 toilets at Pampa, hardly 150 are usable in the absence of water supply. Pilgrims have to carry water from the river to the toilets. Many have no option but to defecate in the open at Pampa Manalpuram and along the forest fringes.

**STP non-operational**

Repair of the sewage treatment plant (STP) at Cherianavattom is yet to be completed, affecting sewage disposal at Pampa. Though fresh sewer lines

## UDF plans march today

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT KOCHI**

United Democratic Front (UDF) leaders will march to Sabarimala, violating the prohibitory orders on Tuesday.

Announcing this, Leader of the Opposition Ramesh Chennithala said the police were unleashing violence against the pilgrims. They were acting as instructed by the Chief Minister, leading to serious difficulties to pilgrims, he said.

have been laid from Pampa to the STP, pumping from sewage collection tanks is yet to begin.

The newly developed pilgrims' base camp at Nilackal too does not have adequate facilities. Water scarcity is said to be the worst problem. Though TDB claims to have provided 1,200 toilets at Nilackal, half of them are for police personnel deployed there.

The TDB is yet to start free feeding of Ayyappa devotees (Annadanam) at Nilackal and Pampa. This, coupled with shortage of hotels, has added to the woes of the pilgrims.

## Attapady to get court in six months

**K.A. SHAJI PALAKKAD**

Making the criminal jurisprudence system more accessible to tribespeople in Attapady, a munsif-magistrate court will start functioning in this backward region in six months. In response to an order from the Kerala High Court, the State government has identified building facilities for the proposed court and provided administrative sanction for 14 clerical posts.

Rights activists and tribal leaders had been demanding the setting up of a munsif-magistrate court complex in Attapady for the past three decades.

**Large number of cases**

The High Court directed its immediate constitution in view of a large number of tribal land appropriation cases reported from the region in recent years.

The guest house of the Attappady Valley Irrigation Project will function as the court after its renovation. Cases involving Attappady people and pending in different courts located in other parts of Palakkad district would be transferred to the new court in a phased manner.

**Land mafia**

At present, tribespeople have to travel over 80 km to reach the nearest court at Mannarkkad.

They have to stay there for three days to complete the process of filing a private complaint.

This had forced many tribespeople to skip the judicial process, making it beneficial for the thriving land mafia.

Though the special court dealing with atrocities against tribals was shifted from Palakkad to Mannarkkad two years ago, it had not yielded the desired results.

IN BRIEF



Bihar to be declared ODF before March 22: Sushil

**PATNA**  
Bihar Deputy CM Sushil Kumar Modi on Monday said the entire Bihar should be declared Open Defecation Free before State's foundation day on March 22 next year. The target has been set to declare the entire country ODF by October 2, 2019, he said while addressing a function on World Toilet Day here. **PTI**

Jammu Mayor lists plans for winter capital

**JAMMU**  
Newly elected Jammu Mayor Chander Mohan Gupta on Monday spelled out his plans to make the winter capital a 'smart city' through a multi-sectoral treatment. He said the ailing town needed a multi-pronged approach with regard to anti-encroachment drive, beautification, better sanitation and completion of development projects. **PTI**

Three arrested for raping minor girl in Nawada

**NAWADA**  
Three persons have been arrested for allegedly raping a minor girl, the video of which has gone viral in Bihar's Nawada district, the police said on Monday. The police said five persons had allegedly raped a minor girl in a village located under the jurisdiction of the Narhat police station three months ago. **PTI**

Two women killed as truck runs over them

**KOTA**  
Two women were crushed to death under a speeding truck in the early hours of Monday in Jhalawar district, the police said. They were returning home after allegedly defecating in the open when the incident took place near Rajasthan Roadways bus stand in Asnawar town of Jhalawar district, they said. **PTI**

# Naveen cancels brewery project in Dhenkanal

Villagers had protested against felling of trees for the bottling plant

SATYASUNDAR BARIK  
BHUBANESWAR

Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik on Monday cancelled the setting up of a brewery plant in Dhenkanal district where hundreds of trees were felled despite strong protests by the villagers.

Mr. Patnaik took the decision based on the recommendations of Revenue Divisional Commissioner D.V. Swamy, who probed the felling of trees in Jhinkargadi forest.

"Based on the factual report, the allocation of bottling plant may be cancelled and alternative site may be provided. Unnecessary felling of trees may be stopped forthwith, and immediate plantation should be taken up," Mr. Swamy noted in his report submitted to the government.

The government went back on its decision follow-



Women protesting against the felling of trees in Jhinkargadi forest. ■FILE PHOTO BISWARANJAN ROUT

ing a massive public outcry.

Mr. Patnaik had himself performed the ground-breaking ceremony of the ₹102-crore project, which was to be set up by P&A Bottlers Private Limited, on November 3.

The plant was to come up on 12 acres of forestland in Jhinkargadi.

In a throwback to the Chipko movement of the

1970s, women of Balarampur village successfully thwarted the tree-felling bid by the Dhenkanal district administration on November 7 by embracing the trees.

On November 17, the administration descended on the scene with hordes of police personnel and chased away the villagers who were putting up a stiff resistance to save the trees. Even then,

more than 500 trees were felled.

The images of women clasping the trees had then gone viral and condemnation of the police high-handedness poured in from all parts of the globe. Activists and citizens had rushed to Balarampur to give moral support to the villagers.

"Although our resistance was a small one, it never lacked the determination. We welcome the Chief Minister's decision to cancel the project. Now, we want the government to declare Jhinkargadi forest a prohibited zone for all non-forest use," said Sushanta Kumar Dhala, Secretary, Balarampur Gramya Parichalana Parishad.

Balarampur villagers, who had congregated at Jhinkargadi forest to intensify their agitation against the project, celebrated their victory on Monday by taking out a procession in the village.

## CIC asks RGI to change data collection norms

An RTI applicant had sought details about deaths in all wards of Mumbai in 2016

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NEW DELHI

The Central Information Commission (CIC) has directed the Registrar General of India (RGI) to change its practices of data collection, especially with regard to births and deaths.

Information Commissioner Yashovardhan Azad issued the directives to make changes in the software and practices of the RGI.

He was hearing a petition filed by an RTI applicant, seeking information about the deaths reported in all

the wards of Mumbai in 2016.

The information was not provided to him, following which he approached the CIC.

During the hearing, the official representing the RGI said the office was a data aggregator.

He submitted that the States were tasked with the overall implementation under Section 3 of the Registration of Births and Deaths Act, whereas the ground-level record was maintained by the registrars appointed

by the respective States, Mr. Azad noted.

"Despite the contention of the PIO that the CRS (Civil Registration System) Division of the Registrar General, India, cannot be held to be the custodian of ward-wise data as sought by the appellant, the commission finds that the role of the Registrar General in the implementation of the RBD Act cannot be lost sight of," he said.

Mr. Azad added that the present controversy was limited only to the practices

related to data maintenance and preservation.

### No legal hurdle

"There is no legal impediment in creation of two or more equally effective access points of information, both at the Central as well as at the State level. It is rather a question of 'data mirroring' and the essential question raised in the present case requires forging new practices of data management, which is in furtherance of the RBD Act as well as the RTI Act," he said.

## SC to direct States on draft witness protection scheme

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday said that it would direct all the States to implement the draft witness protection scheme framed by the Centre in consultation with the National Legal Services Authority (NALSA).

Attorney-General K.K. Venugopal told a Bench of Justices A.K. Sikri and S. Abdul Nazeer that the draft scheme, which has now been finalised, would be made into a law "in due course", but till then the court should direct the States to start implementing it.

"We will pass an order. We will give directions to all the States to start implementing it (scheme)," the Bench told Mr. Venugopal.

The issue of witness protection scheme had cropped up earlier when the top court was hearing a public interest litigation (PIL) seeking protection for witnesses in rape cases involving self-styled preacher Asaram Bapu.

During the hearing on Monday, advocate Gaurav Agrawal, assisting the court as an amicus curiae in the matter, told the Bench that the government has finalised the draft witness protection scheme after discussing it with all the States.

"Based on the inputs received from majority of the States, a draft witness protection scheme is finalised in consultation with the NALSA," Mr. Agrawal told the court.

He said that the scheme has three categories of witnesses based on the threat perception, and the States should start enforcing it.

### WEATHER WATCH

RAINFALL, TEMPERATURE & AIR QUALITY IN SELECT METROS YESTERDAY



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 17.00 HRS)

**Forecast for Tuesday:** Heavy/very heavy rain is likely at a few isolated places over Tamil Nadu, Puducherry and south interior Karnataka

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala.....	29.0	15.5		Kozhikode.....	35.8	25.6	
Ahmedabad.....	35.0	15.2		Kurnool.....	34.1	24.3	
Aizawl.....	30.9	12.7		Lucknow.....	28.0	12.4	
Allahabad.....	32.2	13.0		Madurai.....	32.2	24.2	
Bengaluru.....	30.0	20.3		Mangaluru.....	32.2	24.4	
Bhopal.....	32.4	16.4		Mumbai.....	34.2	21.9	
Bhubaneswar.....	32.6	20.3		Mysuru.....	30.5	18.9	
Chandigarh.....	26.6	14.1		New Delhi.....	28.2	15.3	
Chennai.....	0.2	32.1	25.2	Patna.....	29.4	14.1	
Coimbatore.....	1.7	31.6	23.0	Port Blair.....	32.2	30.7	24.8
Dehradun.....	25.8	10.6		Puducherry.....	31.5	22.4	
Gangtok.....	0.7	13.8	8.2	Pune.....	31.6	18.2	
Goa.....	3.7	28.4	24.5	Raipur.....	33.2	19.5	
Guwahati.....	26.4	16.0		Ranchi.....	29.2	13.2	
Hubballi.....	28.0	21.0		Shillong.....	17.0	7.2	
Hyderabad.....	32.7	21.9		Shimla.....	17.0	8.6	
Imphal.....	24.0	6.6		Srinagar.....	15.6	4.6	
Jaipur.....	31.0	17.5		Trivandrum.....	5.6	32.7	23.6
Kochi.....	1.0	31.0	24.6	Truchi.....	1.9	31.8	24.4
Kohima.....	22.0	8.5		Vijayawada.....	32.9	25.0	
Kolkata.....	31.1	19.6		Visakhapatnam.....	32.8	25.0	

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

CITIES	SO <sub>2</sub>	NO <sub>2</sub>	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE	Yesterday
Ahmedabad.....	92	100	47	220	—	■	In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Patna, Bihar recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 403 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Tirupati recorded a healthy AQI score of 30
Bengaluru.....	9	23	81	—	95	■	
Chennai.....	9	23	64	48	—	■	
Delhi.....	31	20	78	386	392	■	
Hyderabad.....	2	55	35	53	67	■	
Kolkata.....	13	88	43	323	243	■	
Lucknow.....	15	99	129	370	—	■	
Mumbai.....	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Pune.....	95	25	65	113	87	■	
Visakhapatnam.....	5	18	32	65	85	■	

Air Quality Code: ■ Poor ■ Moderate ■ Good (Readings indicate average AQI)  
**SO<sub>2</sub>**: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

**NO<sub>2</sub>**: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

**CO**: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

**PM2.5 & PM10**: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

### THE HINDU

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### THE HINDU

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### E-TENDER NOTICE

FCI, Headquarters, New Delhi invites e-tenders in two bid system from reputed firms for supply of 'Manpower viz Data Entry Operators, Drivers & Office-Boys' for one year extendable for another one year.  
Detailed terms & conditions can be downloaded w.e.f. 20.11.2018 from Central Procurement Portal (URL <https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app>) and FCI website <http://fci.gov.in/tenders/tender>.

**DY. GENERAL MANAGER (HQ)**  
राष्ट्र के खाद्य सुरक्षा प्रहरी

**Rail Wheel Plant/Bela**  
(Distt.: Saran), Bihar-841221

Open E-Tender Notice No.: S/RWP/E/07/2018-19, Dated:-15.11.2018  
**Principal Chief Materials Manager/ Rail Wheel Plant, Bela** for and on behalf of the **President of India** invites online "e-Open Tender" through Indian Railways E-Procurement Portal (IREPS) [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in) for supply of following Stores Item at RWP/Bela :  
**S.N. : 1, Tender No. : 01185148, Short Description : Supply, Erection, Testing, Commissioning & Proving out of 132/11KV Power Transformer, Tender Quantity : 01 Set, Tender Closing Date & Time : 05.12.2018, 14.00 hrs., Tender Document Cost (Rs.) : Rs. 00/-, Earnest Money Deposit amount (Rs.): Rs. 5,00,000/-, 1. For full details & submission of bid, kindly visit IREPS portal [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in). This Tender Notice is also available on the official website of Rail Wheel Plant, Bela [www.rwp.indianrailways.gov.in](http://www.rwp.indianrailways.gov.in). 2. The prospective firms/bidders submitting bid are advised to remain in touch with IREPS Portal ([www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in)) for updates including Addendum / Corrigendum/ Cancellation with respect to the above tender because no such any notice/information concerned that shall be published in newspapers.  
**Principal Chief Materials Manager/RWP RWP/CPRO/Advt./2018-19/36****

**GOVT. OF PUNJAB**  
**DEPARTMENT OF WATER SUPPLY & SANITATION**  
**REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL THROUGH E-TENDERING FOR INSTALLATION OF REVERSE OSMOSIS (R.O)PLANTS**

The Superintending Engineer-cum-Chairman, Tender Processing committee, Water Supply & Sanitation Circle Bathinda invites bids in electronic tendering system for Installation of 97 No. Reverse Osmosis (Ro) Plants, On Build-own-Operate, Transfer (BOOT) basis in the districts of Punjab Under Nabard-XXII from reputed agencies who are having experience in installation of Community based RO plants/Operation & Maintenance of Community based R.O Plants. The Bid Documents are available online and bids are to be submitted online through e-procurement portal <http://eproc.punjab.gov.in> only. Bids submitted manually will not be accepted.

Name of work	Period of Completion	Processing Fee	Period of sale of	Date & Time of Pre Bid meeting at Committee Room, Head Office, Nabha Road Patiala	Last date & Time of Receipt	Time & date of opening of Technical Bid.
Installation of Reverse Osmosis (RO) Plants on Build-own-Operate-Transfer (Boot)Basis Capacity (500 LPH to 1000 LPH) in various districts of Bathinda, Sangrur, Patiala, Ludhiana, Firozepur, Amritsar, Hoshiarpur, Jalandhar & Gurdaspur Including Operation & Maintenance Period for 2 years.	4 Months	As oer site	19.11.2018 to 05.12.2018 up to 11.00 AM	30.11.2018 at 11.00 A.M.	13.12.2018 at 11.00 A.M	18.12.2018 at 15.00 P.M

Disttt.	Nodal Officer	No. of R.O. Plants	E.M.D.(Rs. in lacs)
1	2	4	5
<b>Central Zone</b>			
Firozepur	EE, WSS Divn. No.2, Firozpur	11	1.51
<b>North Zone</b>			
Amritsar	EE, WSS Divn. No.2 Tarantaran.	8	1.17
Hoshiarpur	EE, Div. SSS Nagar	7	0.94
Jalandhar	EE, WSS Divn. No.2, Jalandhar	16	2.18
Gurdaspur	EE,WSS Divn. No. 1, Gurdaspur	12	1.70
<b>South Zone</b>			
Patiala	EE Div. No.2, Patiala	21	2.87
Ludhiana	EE, WSS Div, Khana	9	1.30
Sangrur	EE, WSS Divn, Sangrur	13	1.86
<b>Total</b>		<b>97</b>	

Corrigendum if any will only be given on website [www.eproc.punjab.gov.in](http://www.eproc.punjab.gov.in) only.  
Bid Document will be uploaded by Concerned Nodal Officer-Cum-Executive Engineer at website (<http://eproc.punjab.gov.in>) and same will be opened by him. For any specific information respective Nodal Officer may be contacted on any working day.  
Aspiring bidders who have not obtained user ID, Password and Class 3 Digital signatures for participating in e-tendering may obtain the same by registering in the e-procurement portal (<http://eproc.punjab.gov.in>) All other details can be seen in the bidding document uploaded on website.

Superintending Engineer cum  
Chairman Tender processing Committee  
Water Supply & Sanitation Circle, Bathinda .  
Phone 98140-33361,  
Email:se\_bi@yahoo.com

DPR-PB-2994

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निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना/Notice Inviting Tender - November 2018

**निविदा/TENDER**

Director, JNARDDC, Nagpur invites sealed offers from reputed firms for the following work.  
निदेशक निम्नलिखित निविदा की आपूर्ति के लिए प्रतिष्ठित कंपनियों से मुहरबंद प्रस्ताव आमंत्रित किया है।

Tender No.	Description of Equipments/ Work	Refundable EMD (₹)	Tender Fees (₹)	Last date of tender submission (upto 16.00 Hrs.)	Date of tender opening (11.00 Hrs.)	Date of down-loading tender
52	Provide consultancy services for developing road map for Indian Aluminium Industry	25 Lakhs	15,000/-	21.12.2018	22.12.2018	20.11.2018

The details are available in the tender document which will be available for download on our website [www.jnarddc.gov.in](http://www.jnarddc.gov.in) and CPP Portal.

वरिष्ठ प्रशासनिक अधिकारी

## IN BRIEF

**Lalu asked to depose via videoconferencing**

**NEW DELHI**  
A Delhi court on Monday directed Rashtriya Janata Dal chief Lalu Prasad to depose on December 20 through videoconferencing in connection with the IRTC scam case. Special judge Arun Bhargadwaj passed the direction after he was told that Mr. Prasad could not appear before the court, as per earlier direction, due to ill health. **PTI**

**Choksi seeks stay on ED probe in PNB fraud case**

**MUMBAI**  
Fugitive diamondaire Mehul Choksi's lawyer filed an application on Monday before a Prevention of Money Laundering Act court seeking a stay on the investigation by the Enforcement Directorate into his role in the Punjab National Bank fraud case.

**Two women Naxals killed in Maharashtra**

**GADCHIROLI**  
Two women Naxals were gunned down in an encounter with police commandos in Maharashtra's Gadchiroli district on Monday morning, a police officer said. The gun battle broke out between the ultras and C-60 commandos, a specialised combat unit of the Gadchiroli police, in the Nihalkay forest area, the officer added. **PTI**

**By-elections to 20 seats in T.N. before LS polls: CEC**

**T. RAMAKRISHNAN**  
**CHENNAI**

The by-elections to 20 Assembly constituencies in Tamil Nadu will take place before the Lok Sabha poll, Chief Election Commissioner O. P. Rawat said on Monday.

Asked whether the Election Commission had worked out a plan for the bypolls, Mr. Rawat told *The Hindu*, "Nothing has been planned. But by-elections will have to be held within six months of the vacancy. That is the law."

**Legal position**

When it was pointed out that there was an expectation in certain quarters that the by-elections would be held along with the Lok Sabha poll, Mr. Rawat made it clear that they would not be clubbed with the Lok Sabha election because of the legal position. On the possibility of the stipulated period of six months getting extended, he said: "It will not get extended."

Vacancies had arisen in 18 seats due to the Madras High Court confirming the disqualification of MLAs owing allegiance to AMMK leader T.T.V. Dhinakaran.

# 'Literacy levels in rural India suffer from migration of families'

UNESCO report says that 80% of seasonal migrant children in seven cities lacked access to education and 40% were likely to end up in work

**VIKAS PATHAK**  
**NEW DELHI**

Literacy levels in rural households of India dip with seasonal migration, the UNESCO global education monitoring report 2019 has observed, bringing out the educational challenges thrown up by migration.

"In India, 10.7 million children aged 6 to 14 lived in rural households with a seasonal migrant in 2013. About 28% of youth aged 15 to 19 in these households were illiterate or had not completed primary school, compared to 18% of the cohort overall," says the report. "About 80% of seasonal migrant children in seven cities lacked access to education near work sites, and 40% are likely to

end up in work rather than education, experiencing abuse and exploitation."

**Construction sector**

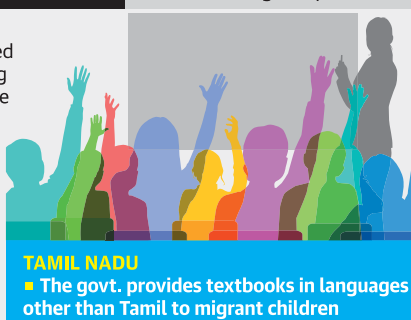
The report says that the construction sector absorbs the majority of short-term migrants. "A survey in Punjab State of 3,000 brick kiln workers in 2015-16 found that 60% were inter-State migrants. Between 65% and 80% of all children aged 5 to 14 living at the kilns worked there 7 to 9 hours per day. About 77% of kiln workers reported lack of access to early childhood or primary education for their children," it says.

Inter-State migration rates have doubled between 2001 and 2011. "An estimat-

**Erudite hosts**

**GUJARAT**  
■ It has introduced seasonal boarding schools to provide education to migrant children  
■ It has also collaborated with NGOs to begin online tracking of the children on the move

Some States in India have begun initiatives for the welfare of children of migrant parents



**TAMIL NADU**  
■ The govt. provides textbooks in languages other than Tamil to migrant children

**MAHARASHTRA**  
■ Authorities have enrolled volunteers to provide after-school psycho-social support to children left behind by migrating parents

**ODISHA**  
■ The State has taken up the responsibility of seasonal hostels run by NGOs

■ It also works with Andhra Pradesh to improve the well-being of migrants

ed 9 million migrated between States annually from 2011 to 2016," the report says.

It also warns of the negative impact on education for children who are left behind as their parents migrate: "Test scores were lower

among left-behind children aged 5 to 8."

**Addressing the issue**

The report, however, acknowledges that India has taken steps to address the issue.

"The Right to Education

Act in 2009 made it mandatory for local authorities to admit migrant children. National-level guidelines were issued, allowing for flexible admission of children, providing transport and volunteers to support with mobile education, create seasonal

hostels and aiming to improve coordination between sending and receiving districts and states," it says.

The report says some State governments have also taken steps for migrant children's education. It, however, observes that most interventions are focused on keeping children in home communities instead of actively addressing the challenges faced by those who are already on the move.

It also talks of a failed initiative: "A pilot programme used on brick kiln sites from 2010-2011 in Rajasthan to track the progress of out-of-school children did not improve learning in any substantial way. Teachers on the sites cited culture, language,

lifestyle, cleanliness and clothing as major barriers between them and the kiln labour community. Teacher and student absenteeism were rampant."

The report sees the growth of slums and informal settlements — where schools are often scarce — due to migration as a challenge. "18% of the students displaced by a riverfront project in Ahmedabad dropped out and an additional 11% had lower attendance," it says, citing an example.

The report shows there is only one urban planner for every 1,00,000 people in India, while there are 38 for every 1,00,000 in the United Kingdom.



**Fast forward:** The newly-inaugurated Kundli-Manesar-Palwal Expressway in Haryana. ■ MANOJ KUMAR

## 'UPA delayed infra projects'

PM inaugurates 83 km Expressway; Cong. says project lacks 'completion certificate'

**ASHOK KUMAR**  
**GURUGRAM**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday said the completion of the much-delayed Kundli-Manesar-Palwal (KMP) Expressway, more than 12 years after the work started on January 31, 2006, presented contrasting pictures of the work culture of the Bharatiya Janata Party governments and the functioning of the previous government.

He added that his government was working towards



PM Narendra Modi flagging off the Mujesar-Ballabhgarh Metro line. ■ MANOJ KUMAR

an integrated infrastructure system involving roadways, railways, waterways and i-ways to meet the needs of the 21st century.

Mr. Modi was addressing

the 'Jan Vikas Rally' at Sultanpur village here to mark the opening of the 83 km Kundli-Manesar section of the Western Peripheral Expressway or KMP Expressway. The 53 km-long Manesar-Palwal section was thrown open two years ago.

Mr. Modi also inaugurated the Mujesar-Ballabhgarh Metro link via video conferencing and flagged off the first train on the route.

In a scathing attack on then Congress government, Mr. Modi said the culture of

the previous government to mislead and cause delays had inflicted huge losses to the nation.

**Unsafe, says Congress**

Senior Congress leader Randeep Surjewala, however, accused the BJP governments of opening the Kundli-Manesar section of the expressway without "completion certificate" and putting the lives of the commuters at risk.

The Haryana government denied the charges.

## Make elephant corridors eco-sensitive zones: NGT

**STAFF REPORTER**  
**NEW DELHI**

The National Green Tribunal (NGT) has asked the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) to consider declaring all elephant corridors in India as eco-sensitive zones.

Following a plea that sought legal recognition for elephant reserves and corridors in the State of Assam, a Bench headed by NGT Chairperson Justice Adarsh Kumar Goel said, "After hearing the matter for some time, it was noted by us that the issue of elephant corridors has been raised by dif-



The NGT was hearing a plea on the rise in unnatural elephant deaths in Assam.

ferent applicants and various judgments have also been passed by the Tribunal. Therefore, we direct the MoEF&CC to look into this

aspect in a broader perspective and also to have a permanent solution."

The Bench further added, "We would like the Ministry to look into the issue by declaring all elephant corridors all over the country as eco-sensitive zones by exercising its power (under relevant Acts). We give two weeks time to the Ministry to look into the issue and to proceed in the matter."

The NGT was hearing a plea moved by Assam resident Pradip Kumar Bhuyan on the increasing number of unnatural elephant deaths taking place in the State.

## Quashed FIR against BJP MP by mistake: SC

**PRESS TRUST OF INDIA**  
**NEW DELHI**

The Supreme Court on Monday said it had quashed an FIR against BJP MP Anurag Thakur and others in a case related to alleged encroachment of land for the construction of the Dharamshala cricket stadium by "mistake."

A Bench of justices A.K. Sikri and S.A. Nazeer was told by counsel appearing for former Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Virbhadra Singh, who has been made a respondent in the case filed by the Himachal Pradesh Cricket Association (HPCA), that the November

2 order of the top court should be recalled first.

On November 2, the court had quashed two FIRs against Mr. Thakur, his father and former Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Prem Kumar Dhumal and others in two separate cases — one related to alleged irregularities in granting land on lease for the construction of the Dharamshala cricket stadium and another pertaining to alleged encroachment of government land.

After Mr. Singh's counsel sought some time to argue the case, the Bench posted the matter for hearing to November 29.

## Viewing Kartarpur via telescope

Govt. to instal instrument for across-the-border view of the gurdwara

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

India plans to install a "high-powered telescope" in Punjab's Gurdaspur for Sikh devotees to view Gurdwara Kartarpur Sahib across the border in Pakistan, the Home Ministry said on Monday.

This is part of a series of projects planned to commemorate the 550th birth anniversary of Guru Nanak Dev, the founder of the Sikh faith.

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) had criticised Punjab Minister Navjot Singh Sidhu in September, when he had announced that Pakistan's Army chief Gen. Qamar Javed Bajwa had given him an assurance about opening a route to Kartarpur Sahib from Punjab.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi had constituted a National Implementation Committee (NIC) under the chairmanship of Home Minister Rajnath Singh to plan events for the anniversary which falls in 2019. The committee's meeting,



Navjot Singh Sidhu paying obeisance while seeing the gurdwara through binoculars. ■ PTI

on November 8, was attended by Mr. Sidhu among others.

The telescope would be installed by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, the Home Ministry said in a statement.

Currently, pilgrims pay homage to the holy site with the help of binoculars, installed by the local gurdwara committee in Gurdaspur, on a raised platform that is manned by the Border Security

Force (BSF). The Centre would also release a commemorative coin and postage stamps, the Home Ministry said.

"Sultanpur Lodhi, where Guru Nanak spent much of his life, will be developed as a heritage city, also incorporating Pind Babe Nanak Da," the Ministry said. "A National Institute of Inter Faith Studies will be set up by Ministry of Human Resource Development in Punjab for which the State Government will provide land free of cost."

Chairs on Guru Nanak Dev would be set up by the Ministry of Human Resource Development, one in a university in the U.K. and another in Canada.

"Publication of Gurbani in different Indian languages will be made by National Book Trust (NBT), Ministry of Human Resource Development. UNESCO will be requested to translate and publish anthology of Guru Nanak Dev Ji's writings in world languages," the ministry added.

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER, RURAL WORKS CIRCLE: SUNDARGARH E-Procurement Notice, Online-PMGSY/RWSENG -05 of 2018-19						
1023-O: Ltr. No.3391 / Dtd.15.11.2018 E-mail address - serw_sundargarh@yahoo.com						
1. Type of the Work	Construction and Maintenance of Rural Roads under PMGSY Programme					
2. Total No. of Packages	31 No. of Packages (Percentage Rate Tender)					
3. Estimated cost	Varies from Rs.51.19 Lakh to Rs.341.51 Lakh.					
4. Class of Contractor	"B" Class, "A" Class & "Special" Class					
5. Period of completion	Six Calendar Months					
6. Cost of tender paper	Rs.10,000/- per set (Non-refundable) only in shape of D.D in favour of OSRRA payable at Bhubaneswar.					
7. EMD Required	2% of estimated cost of the package in form of Fixed Deposit receipt of a Scheduled Commercial Bank issued in favour of Executive Engineer of the concerned R.W. Division.					
8. APS	The successful bidder who has quoted less bid price / rate than the estimated cost put to tender shall have to furnish exact amount of differential cost i.e. estimated cost put to tender minus quoted amount as Additional Performance Security (APS) in the shape of DD / TDR pledged in favour of Executive Engineer of concerned Division within 7 days from date of intimation otherwise the bid shall be cancelled & security deposit shall be forfeited. Further, proceeding of blacklisting shall be initiated against the bidder.					
9. GST	Rate quoted by the Contractor shall be excluding GST. The GST as applicable for the work contract shall be payable to the contractor on each bill amount on production of tax invoice. The prevailing rate of GST on the gross amount of bill will be deducted from the contractor bill as tax deduction at source (TDS) as per rule.					
10. Bid Cost, EMD, along with other relevant documents submission on or before	26.12.2018 upto 5.00 PM.					
11. Other details:						
Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of Tender On-line for bidding	Last Date & Time of Seeking Tender Clarification	Technical Bid Opening	Financial Bid Opening	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Superintending Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Sundargarh	PMGSY / RWSENG-05 of 2018-19	22.11.2018 11.00 A.M	20.12.2018 3.00 PM	19.12.2018 3.00 PM	27.12.2018 11.00 A.M	07.01.2019 11.00 A.M
Further details can be seen from the website <a href="http://www.pmgsytenders.gov.in">www.pmgsytenders.gov.in</a>						
25133/11/0033/1819 Sd/- Superintending Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Sundargarh.						

**ALL INDIA INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES, PATNA - 801507**  
(An Autonomous body under MoHFW, Govt. of India)

**Advdt.No.AIIMS/Pat/Deputation/2018/1 Dated : 30.10.2018**

**VACANCY NOTICE**

Applications are invited in prescribed proforma from eligible officers / officials of Central / State / U.T. Government / Universities / Statutory / Autonomous Bodies / Public Sector Undertaking / Research and Development Organizations / Police Departments of the Central / State / U.T. / Armed Forces including Para Military Forces for filling up the various Group 'A' & posts on Deputation Basis at All India Institute of Medical Sciences, Patna. The detailed advertisement has been published in Employment News dated 17th - 23rd Nov 2018 and also uploaded on website [www.aiimspatna.org](http://www.aiimspatna.org). All further addendum, corrigendum, updates, if any will be available only in the website [www.aiimspatna.org](http://www.aiimspatna.org). Last date for receipt of complete application is 31.12.2018 upto 5 pm.

**Administrative Officer**

**TAMILNADU NEWSPRINT AND PAPERS LIMITED**  
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**NOTICE INVITING TENDER**

TNPL invites Tender for the following.

Tender No	Material Description	Tender due date
181913 004942	Steaming (Non-Coking) Coal in Bulk (Imported)	04.12.2018

Detailed terms and conditions, Tender Fee, EMD etc., are available in the tender documents which can be downloaded from websites: [www.tnpl.com](http://www.tnpl.com) / [www.tenders.tn.gov.in](http://www.tenders.tn.gov.in)

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Email: [jmsrao@nmcd.co.in](mailto:jmsrao@nmcd.co.in); [apreetakumar@nmcd.co.in](mailto:apreetakumar@nmcd.co.in); [gukundhan@nmcd.co.in](mailto:gukundhan@nmcd.co.in); [psvelam@nmcd.co.in](mailto:psvelam@nmcd.co.in)  
CIN: L13100AP1958G0001674

**Tender Notice (E-Procurement Mode Only)**

E-tenders are invited for following item from reputed manufacturers directly or through their accredited agents in India.

**Global Tenders are invited on-line for supply of following to NMDC Limited, BIOM Kirandul Complex, Dist. Dantewada, Chhattisgarh State, India-494 556**

Sl. No.	Tender No. date	Description	Pre-Bid Meeting Date & Time	Display and sale of Tender Documents	Last Date & Time for Submission of Tender through online
1	HQMM/1029-15/10D90/1 310 Dtd. 17.11.2018	Design, Engineering, Manufacture, Supply, Testing, Supervision of Erection & Commissioning and Demonstrating Performance of 6 nos. spring applied, hydraulically released fail safe disc brakes (at low speed side) with two identical calipers per disc having soft braking option alongwith gear couplings and including all accessories	3.12.2018 at 11 Hrs.	Draft Tender from: 21.11.2018 to 2.12.2018 Final Tender from: 12.12.2018 to 9.1.2019 (14.30 Hrs. IST)	9.1.2019 (14.30 Hrs. IST)
2	HQMM/1012-16/10B205/311 Dtd. 17.11.2018	Multi Jack Tensioners (56 nos.)	NA	21.11.2018 to 14.12.2018 (14.30 Hrs. IST)	14.12.2018 (14.30 Hrs. IST)
3	HQMM/0008-18/10D205/311 Storage Area/902 Dtd. 20.11.2018	Supply and installation of Upgradation of HPE 3 PAR 8200 SAN Storage as per Tender specification	NA	20.11.2018 to 11.12.2018 (14.30 Hrs. IST)	11.12.2018 (14.30 Hrs. IST)

**Open Tenders are invited on-line for supply of following to NMDC Limited, Masab Tank, Hyderabad**

Sl. No.	Tender No. date	Description	Pre-Bid Meeting Date & Time	Display and sale of Tender Documents	Last Date & Time for Submission of Tender through online
1	HQMM/1012-16/10B205/311 Dtd. 17.11.2018	Multi Jack Tensioners (56 nos.)	NA	21.11.2018 to 14.12.2018 (14.30 Hrs. IST)	14.12.2018 (14.30 Hrs. IST)

The detailed tender document can be downloaded from our website [www.nmcd.co.in](http://www.nmcd.co.in) under tender section. [www.eprocure.gov.in](http://www.eprocure.gov.in) and [www.msstecommmerce.com](http://www.msstecommmerce.com). Any corrigendum to the tender notices will be updated in tender section on our website [www.nmcd.co.in](http://www.nmcd.co.in) only and will not be published in newspapers. Prospective bidders may visit the NMDC website from time to time to note the corrigendum, if any.

**Executive Director (Materials)**



## Maldivian reprieve

Ibrahim Solih must hit the ground running to stabilise the economy

After five years of rule by a government that strong-armed political dissent domestically, the Maldives has put a pro-people administration in power, swearing in Ibrahim Solih, representing the Maldivian Democratic Party, as President on November 17. He has announced a slew of populist policies, and vowed to end an era of “large-scale embezzlement and corruption”. The last is an allusion to the untold millions allegedly paid to officials as kickbacks for various mega-construction projects. The Solih government came to power on the back of a coalition of unlikely bedfellows. The MDP, the party of former President Mohamed Nasheed, has joined hands with the Jumhooree Party of business tycoon Qasim Ibrahim, the Islamic-based Adhaalath Party, and the support base of former President Maumoon Abdul Gayoom. They will have to ensure that ideological differences do not cause the coalition to split at the seams, and unravel the consequences of previous President Abdulla Yameen flinging open the doors to Chinese investment, allowing a cascade of financing that caused the national debt to balloon to nearly a quarter of GDP. But a strategic return to India and its underlying democratic values could backstop the economic pummelling that Male is sure to face if creditors in Beijing start calling in their dues.

The new government is being cautious, but professedly firm, in unravelling this web of debt. The leadership has promised that what is owed will be paid, and not a penny more; and that wherever opacity cloaked the grant of land, lease rights, construction projects and more, the honouring of debts would be linked to whether a transparent and fair process was followed in the first place. Yet, there is little doubt that China is there to stay in the Maldives, and a balancing agreement will have to emerge through the plethora of commercial contracts the new government would ideally like to renegotiate. In this mission, the renewed bonhomie with India, reflected in the respect accorded to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the Indian delegation at the inaugural ceremony, will play a crucial role. Innumerable Indians work across the hospitality, education, and health-care sectors of the Maldives economy, and India contributes everything from helicopters to medical visas to Maldivians. The greatest threat to stability comes less from geo-strategic denouements than from within the fabric of its polity. Certain elements that backed the anti-democratic 2012 ‘coup’ that unseated Mr. Nasheed and supported the dramatically centralised power of the previous presidency still abide within the ruling combine. There is only one option for the fledgling coalition government: to strengthen Maldivian institutions and, by extension, democracy.

## Quota math

Maharashtra’s proposal on reservation for Marathas is bound to invite judicial scrutiny

After months of protests, the Maratha community has secured yet another promise of reservation in government jobs and educational institutions. The proposal has been cleared by the Maharashtra Cabinet, but is yet to be passed in the State Assembly. Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis defended this saying it is in line with the recommendations of a State Backward Class Commission (SBCC) report, yet to be made public, mandating reservations for Marathas under a new, separate Socially and Educationally Backward Class category. Mr. Fadnavis said it was the report’s assessment that Marathas are socially and educationally backward, with minuscule representation in government services, and the State is liable to take action considering the “extraordinary and exceptional conditions”. As any move to include Marathas among Other Backward Classes will cause a backlash, the BJP-Shiv Sena government has sought to provide the reservations under a separate category. But when the previous Maharashtra government, of the Congress-Nationalist Congress Party coalition, in 2014 moved to reserve 16% of seats in government jobs and educational institutions, it was stayed by the Bombay High Court. Creating a separate category now would increase the overall quota beyond the 50% limit the Supreme Court has set.

The Cabinet’s nod is in any case born of political expediency, not socio-economic reasons. The SBCC’s reported findings that a significant proportion of Marathas constitute a socially and educationally backward class do not square with available data. As with Jats in Rajasthan and Patels in Gujarat, they enjoy a socio-economic status closer to that of the forward classes (and castes) in Maharashtra. Three previous SBCC assessments have indicated as much. Besides, there is no reason to argue that Marathas face any social stigma that calls for affirmative action. The demand for reservations in this case is therefore less an acknowledgement of social backwardness from a politically powerful community and more a call for the accrual of welfare benefits to less well-off sections among the community. The assertions of backwardness by sections of dominant communities such as Marathas, Patels and Jats have largely been due to perceptions about the relative inability to move up the economic ladder, and the lack of adequate employment opportunities amid a sluggish agrarian economy. Faced with violent protests, the Fadnavis government had to accept this demand, especially after the SBCC gave its stamp of approval, but there is little to suggest any substantial change since 2014 to justify it. As judicial scrutiny is bound to be brought to bear on the government’s decision, it will be well-advised to look at measures to alleviate the State’s prolonged agrarian distress and the lack of adequate jobs, problems that affect all sections of society.

# Criteria for the courts

A discussion on the kind of judges that India needs must animate our public debates



SUHRITH PARTHASARATHY

In 1973, at the acme of Prime Minister Indira Gandhi’s move towards securing a “committed judiciary”, the then Minister of Steel and Mines, S. Mohan Kumaramangalam, offered a spirited defence of the government. In speeches made both in Parliament and outside, and through a number of writings, Kumaramangalam asserted the virtues of what he thought was a legitimate policy. It was important, he wrote, invoking the words of the great U.S. judge Benjamin Cardozo, for any government, “to examine the ‘philosophy’, the ‘outlook on life’, and the ‘conception of social needs’ of a proposed appointee” to the higher judiciary. In choosing persons for the Supreme Court, in particular, he believed, it was necessary to assess a judge’s outlook on “broad matters of the State,” and “on the crucial socio-economic matters” that concerned the nation.

### Made to measure?

To a casual observer, Kumaramangalam’s words might have sounded rational, but veiled behind them were the government’s rather more threatening motives. As Nani Palkhivala described it, the policy was really an effort at creating a judiciary that would be “made to measure”, that would bend to accommodate the government’s whims and caprices. Yet, even today, much as the policy of the time appears baleful to constitutional democracy, Kumaramangalam’s defence of the programme broods over the process followed in making appointments to the higher judiciary.

Only recently, on November 2,

four new judges were elevated to the Supreme Court. But neither the Collegium’s discussions on the appointees, as published on the court’s website, nor the popular discourse on the persons chosen concern themselves with a discussion on the records of these judges. We are left with little idea, for instance, on what broad constitutional philosophy these judges espouse, what their approach to constitutional interpretation might be, and on how they might view the general role of the higher judiciary.

Contrary to what some might believe, engaging with a judge’s outlook to the Constitution isn’t necessarily inimical to judicial autonomy. Kumaramangalam’s motives may have been ill-founded, but he was hardly at fault in arguing that the Constitution represented not merely a document of rules but also a certain tradition, and that the method involved in appointing judges to the higher judiciary is as much a part of that tradition as any other constitutional process might be.

It is important, no doubt, to resist the particular brand of commitment that Kumaramangalam was after. But there is at least a kernel of cogency in his argument that we cannot afford to ignore. Judicial review gains its legitimacy from the Constitution. But given that judges are unelected officials, won’t its continuing legitimacy be at stake if we deem it undemocratic to so much as wonder what the constitutional philosophy of a nominee might be? Should we dismiss all claims for democratic accountability in the appointment process by harking back to the dark days of the Emergency?

As things stand, the procedure adopted in appointing judges is seen as entirely divorced from the ordinary constraints of a democracy. This wasn’t quite how the Constituent Assembly saw things. The framers believed that the judiciary



GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCK PHOTO

was integral to the social revolution that the Constitution was meant to usher in. They, therefore, as Granville Austin wrote, “went to great lengths to ensure that the courts would be independent, devoting more hours of debate to this subject than to almost any other aspect of the provisions.”

To that end, the Constitution comprises a number of special clauses. It provides for, among other things, a fixed tenure for judges of the Supreme Court and the High Courts; ensures that salaries and allowances of judges are charged directly to the Consolidated Fund of India; confers powers on the courts to punish for contempt of themselves; and, importantly, ensures that judges can only be removed through a process of parliamentary impeachment. But, much as these provisions aim to ensure that the judiciary remains ensconced from governmental interference, the framers always believed that the power to appoint judges must vest with the executive.

Accordingly, the Constitution provides, in broad terms, that judges to the Supreme Court would be appointed by the President in consultation with the Chief Justice of India (CJI) and such other judges that he deems fit. But through a series of rulings the Supreme Court replaced the consultative method prescribed by the Constitution with one that gave the CJI and his four senior-most

colleagues (the “Collegium”) primacy in selecting candidates. But this system has proved notoriously opaque. Efforts to replace it with a National Judicial Appointments Commission (NJAC) came up a cropper after the court struck down the 99th constitutional amendment, in *Supreme Court Advocates-on-Record Association v. Union of India* (2015). The primacy enjoyed by the collegium in making appointments to the higher judiciary, the court declared, was a part of the Constitution’s basic structure.

### Between the lines

Extraordinary as these findings were, the court nonetheless promised to look into the prevailing system and reform it from within. Three years later, we’ve seen little in the way of tangible change. The problems inherent in the present system are evident even from a bare reading of the collegium’s decision, published on October 30, 2018, endorsing the new designees to the Supreme Court: “While recommending the name of Mr. Justices Hemant Gupta, R. Subhash Reddy, Mukeshkumar Rasikbhai Shah, and Ajay Rastogi, the Collegium has taken into consideration combined seniority on all-India basis of Chief Justices and senior puisne Judges of High Courts, apart from their merit and integrity. The Collegium has also kept in mind, while recommending the above names, that the High Courts of Punjab & Haryana, Gujarat and Rajasthan have remained unrepresented in the Supreme Court since long.”

Therefore, it was really only concerns over the relative seniority of these judges and the extent of State-wise representation that kindled the collegium’s attention. The report does state the candidates’ merit was also considered. But given that the criteria for selection is entirely unknown, what merit means remains ambiguous, at

best. In any event, the general constitutional values of a nominee have never been seen as a benchmark to review merit. Such discussions, on the other hand, are seen as anathema to judicial integrity, as a yardstick that ought to be extraneous to any selection made.

All of this still begs the question: even assuming the collegium did, in fact, discuss the constitutional philosophies of the various choices before it, ought we to leave it to our judges to select their own colleagues and successors? Should not a discussion on the kind of judges that India needs animate our public and political debates?

### No sunlight

The NJAC may well have been hastily pushed through. But if the publication of the collegium’s decisions has shown us anything, it is this: that the collegium’s workings are mysterious and undemocratic. And for the most part, the government is happy with this arrangement. It clears some recommendations with alacrity, while holding back, often for months on end, others comprising nominees that it deems uncomfortable.

What we need today is a more sustained discussion on the nature and workings of a body that can potentially replace the collegium. Such a body must be independent from the executive, but, at the same time, must be subject to greater transparency and accountability. This commission must also partake within it a facility for its members to have forthright discussions over the constitutional philosophies that a judge must possess. If we fail to bring these issues to the forefront, the rigours of democracy will never permeate into the judiciary, and we will only be further undermining public trust in the credibility of judicial review.

Suhrit Parthasarathy is an advocate practising at the Madras High Court

# A true counsellor

P.N. Haksar’s stint as Indira Gandhi’s key aide was a lesson in statecraft and integrity



MOHAMMED AYOOB

P.N. Haksar, whose 20th death anniversary falls this month, on November 25, was one of India’s most eminent public servants. He served with great distinction as Secretary and then Principal Secretary to Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, leaving an indelible mark on India’s domestic and foreign policies.

Congress politician Jairam Ramesh’s book, *Intertwined Lives: P.N. Haksar and Indira Gandhi*, illuminates the crucial role Haksar played at a critical juncture in India’s history. It does this by making Haksar speak in his own voice through letters, speeches, statements, and memos supplemented by reflections of people who knew him intimately during his years in office.

### Crucial years

The years 1967-1973, when Haksar was directly involved in affairs of state, were witness to major developments in India’s domestic and foreign policy arenas. They saw the breakup of the Congress Party, the consolidation of power by Mrs. Gandhi, the nationalisation of

banks and the abolition of the privy purses. They also saw the most fundamental geo-strategic change in South Asia since Partition – the breakup of Pakistan as a consequence of Indian military intervention. Furthermore, they witnessed the Indo-Soviet Treaty of August 1971 and the Shimla Agreement of July 1972.

Haksar mentored Mrs. Gandhi during her initial years in office and was the brain behind the breakup of the Congress believing that once she got rid of the “Syndicate”, she would be the instrument for social change that India needed desperately. He was initially not enamoured by the idea of dividing Pakistan. However, as the ‘East Pakistan’ crisis unfolded, he concluded that India had no option but to get militarily involved. He was the brain behind the diplomatic manoeuvres to elicit support from the international community for the liberation of Bangladesh. When war seemed imminent, and both the U.S. and China demonstrated overt support for Pakistan, Haksar, who was initially sceptical of a defence treaty with the Soviet Union, threw his weight behind such a pact. He became convinced of the value of such a treaty after U.S. National Security Adviser Henry Kissinger’s secret trip to China in July 1971 via Islamabad, which demonstrated the convergence of U.S. and Chinese interests in preventing Pakis-



THE HINDU PHOTO ARCHIVES

tan’s breakup.

Haksar came to the conclusion that a pact that locked in Moscow’s support for India’s political and military moves was essential to neutralise U.S. and Chinese support for Pakistan in the event of war. The treaty served its purpose by paving the way for the much-needed Soviet veto that prevented the UN Security Council from calling for a ceasefire before India had reached its goal of completely liberating Bangladesh.

He was the primary strategist behind the Indian negotiating positions in Shimla. His principal advice to the Prime Minister was to avoid doing a “Versailles” on Pakistan in order to prevent the emergence of a revanchist, military regime in Islamabad. This meant desisting from forcing Bhutto to accept the Line of Control in Kashmir as the international boundary. It also meant a sympathetic approach to the prisoners of war

issue that entailed persuading Dhaka to agree to their speedy repatriation.

Haksar formally retired from government service in 1973 but continued to act as Mrs. Gandhi’s informal adviser and personal emissary. However, as Mr. Ramesh documents, his relationship with her deteriorated with the rise of her son Sanjay Gandhi as her primary adviser and the imposition of the Emergency in 1975. Sanjay harassed Haksar and his relatives during the Emergency to avenge Haksar’s earlier opposition to his Maruti project. Haksar’s house was searched on flimsy grounds. Nonetheless, Haksar, always a gentleman, never criticised her in public for her and her son’s misdeeds although, as Mr. Ramesh points out, his wife never forgave Mrs. Gandhi for the way he had been treated.

### Of another time

There are three conclusions that one draws from Mr. Ramesh’s superb account of Haksar’s relationship with Mrs. Gandhi. First, he never hesitated to speak his mind to her on a variety of subjects regardless of her preferences and normally she adopted his views as her own on important matters of state. Second, Haksar’s extreme discretion in making certain that his advice and interaction with the Prime Minister remained private and that she was not to be seen as

his mouthpiece. This explains his reluctance to speak in public during his years of service when he was arguably the second most powerful person in the country. Haksar’s behaviour stands in stark contrast to that of public functionaries today who seek the limelight at the smallest opportunity. Third, he was a man of great integrity who never attempted to profit personally from the powerful position that he held. This again stands in great contrast to what is happening today when the line dividing the public and private spheres is being deliberately blurred so that those in power can benefit personally from the public offices they hold.

Haksar’s primary concern was to protect the interests of the Prime Minister, to whom he was intensely loyal. However, this loyalty did not emanate from self-serving concerns but from his belief that she was the best instrument available to implement the programme of social justice and unadulterated secularism that was dear to her father’s heart and to his own. Unfortunately, Indira Gandhi failed to fully live up to Haksar’s expectations.

Mohammed Ayoob is University Distinguished Professor Emeritus of International Relations, Michigan State University and Non-Resident Senior Fellow, Center for Global Policy, Washington DC

## 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.

### Haryana’s shame

The report on the sufferings of trafficked women, especially from eastern India, is heart-wrenching (“Ground Zero” page, “The ‘outsiders’ of Haryana”, November 17). It reminded me of a similar report on the plight of Adivasi girls and women at Araku Valley, near Visakhapatnam. Poverty and a lack of education and employment opportunities are the root causes for trafficking. It appears that the Prime Minister flagship slogan ‘Beti bachao, beti padhao’ (Save girl, educate girl) is a hollow one especially when one considers that the epicentre of trafficking, in Nuh, Haryana, is about 60 km from New Delhi. One cannot help think about how even a partial amount of the ₹2,989 crore spent on

the ‘Statue of Unity’ in Gujarat could have been usefully spent to alleviate the suffering of such victims. It is also a pity that it is only an NGO or two that is contributing its mite to help these women.

A. JAINULABDEEN,  
Chennai

### Then and now

The contrast between the article on the Ground Zero page and an advertisement in one of the supplements published by *The Hindu* could not have been starker. The first story showed a woman, abandoned after many years of abuse, eking out a living in a portion of a decrepit hovel while the advertisement nudged rich buyers to “take the luxury upgrade”. In his historic midnight address,

Jawaharlal Nehru called upon the nation to try to fulfil Gandhi’s wish “to wipe every tear from every eye”. Between the 1960s and 1970s, engineers and architects were sent abroad to study low cost housing. But post-1991, the country’s policies have taken an irretrievable turn –luxury and ostentation have become respectable. It is ironic that some in the political class claim Swami Vivekananda to be a hero. Do they recall his ethos?

S.S. KAIMAL,  
Thiruvananthapuram

### Sabarimala row

The situation in parts of Kerala over the Sabarimala temple issue is unprecedented and is affecting certain pockets of the State as there are frequent disruptions to

normal life (“BJP blocks highways over protest”, November 19). The Kerala government’s determination not to buckle under pressure and to uphold the Supreme Court’s verdict is only hardening stances on the opposite side. Therefore, all stakeholders concerned should negotiate a viable step out of the gridlock.

SHJU NEDUVELIL,  
Secunderabad

■ The stand-off has become cause for concern. While the State is piling police forces in and around the temple, political forces on the other side of the divide appear to be trying to gain political mileage and ensuring that the situation becomes more volatile. It appears to be a case of who will blink first. Adding to this is the “call” by

certain social activists to visit the temple by surprise. The Supreme Court needs to take cognisance of the situation and ensure that the issue is settled soon.

SRAVANA RAMACHANDRAN,  
Chennai

### Water stress

The government needs to focus on alternative sources of energy (Editorial page,

### CORRECTIONS & CLARIFICATIONS:

ONGC had in January 2018 bought 51.1% of *BPCL* for ₹36,915 crore from the government, said a report headlined “Modi govt. divested twice as much as UPA” (Nov. 19, 2018). Actually ONGC had bought 51.1% of *HPCL*.

In the Sunday Magazine story, “60 Minutes: With Kholud Waleed” (Nov. 18, 2018), both the headline and text had misspelt journalist Marie Colvin’s name as Mary Colvin.

The report, “Crown Prince Mohammad bin Salman not behind Jamal Khashoggi’s murder: Saudi prosecutor” (Nov. 16, 2018), erroneously said Khashoggi was last sighted entering the Saudi consulate in *Islamabad* on October 2. It was the Saudi consulate in Turkey.

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# A 21st century revolution

India must adopt reinvented toilets and omni processor waste treatment plants to scale up sanitation



G. ANANTHAKRISHNAN

When Microsoft founder Bill Gates displayed a glass beaker with human faeces on stage at a sanitation conference in Beijing recently, he was praised by World Bank president Jim Yong Kim for “making poop cool”. Mr. Gates was in China to pursue the serious business of reinventing the toilet. Innovation, he reasoned, would expand sanitation quickly and save children in developing countries from the crippling consequences of stunting. In many places, children play amidst faeces in the open and contract disease, resulting in malnutrition and stunting.

### Decentralising sanitation

Over the last seven years, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF) has devoted \$200 million to incubate new technologies that will dramatically scale up sanitation. It has announced a further investment of \$200 million to achieve this, and trials of new toilets and processing technologies are going on in India, among other countries. According to UNICEF, 22.2% of children, or 151 million, under five years were stunted globally in 2017. The World Bank says annual healthcare costs from lack of sanitation in developing countries is a staggering \$260 billion.

The challenge to decentralise sanitation, in Mr. Gates’s view, has parallels with the historic shift from main-frame computing, which only governments and large corporations could afford, to personal computers. Fast-expanding cities cannot have massive sewage treatment plants. What they need is stand-alone processors, which will help communities and individuals.

At the Beijing conference, which also hosted the Reinvented Toilet Expo, Mr. Gates observed that “in many places in India today, 30% or 40% of the kids end up malnourished.” That is because faeces containing pathogens lie exposed. Open defecation has a high health cost. It spreads disease, stunts children and prevents them from achieving normal physi-



“Reinvented toilets are special as they turn liquid waste into clear water for flushing, and solids into pellets or ash that is fertilizer.” Visitors look at a model of a self-contained toilet at the Reinvented Toilet Expo in Beijing. • AP

cal and mental development. The answer lies in new technologies, some of which are at a high stage of maturity now. If India adopts them, it can rapidly expand sanitation at low cost.

To many observers, including Mr. Gates, India is further behind on sanitation than on other issues, which is reflected in the high levels of stunting. This situation persists despite high levels of economic development over the years. The BMGF wants to change that not just for Indians, who form a significant proportion of the 4.5 billion people worldwide looking for solutions, but those in Africa and other parts of Asia. The solution it offers is the reinvented toilet and omni processor waste treatment plants.

Technologists and researchers have been working on these from the time the BMGF issued a “challenge” to them in 2011 seeking innovative solutions. The technology teams now have working prototypes. It is now up to politicians and policymakers to make decisions to adopt them, especially because the Sustainable Development Goal of sanitation and clean water for all by 2030 is not far away.

Innovation involves a shift away from the gold standard of flush toilets connected to sewers. In the new order, there will be stand-alone facilities that are aesthetically designed, finely engineered and equipped with reliable chemical processes that produce nothing more than ash from solids, while reusing the liquid as non-potable water after treatment. The

future, the BMGF hopes, will belong to these Multi-User Reinvented Toilets. The prototypes are undergoing trials in far-flung centres such as Coimbatore in Tamil Nadu and Durban in South Africa. The technologies that run inside them have been developed by research institutions such as California Institute of Technology (Caltech), University of South Florida, and Duke University. Some products are ready for prime time. Caltech’s partnership with toilet-maker Eram Scientific will help induct the technology and deploy it at scale. There may also be a mix-and-match approach, leveraging the best technologies from the individual prototypes.

What makes these reinvented toilets special is that they expel nothing. They turn liquid waste into clear water for flushing, and solids into pellets or ash that is fertilizer. Success will depend on making large community deployments, and developing cost-effective models for individuals. One reinvented toilet by Helbling of Switzerland has a classic European design and cost \$500 to develop. While the reinvented toilet gets optimised, India should, in parallel, look at omni processors for faecal sludge treatment plants (FSTP). These “zero emission” processors will end dumping of faecal sludge taken from septic tanks into rivers, lakes, farms and open spaces. They can also prevent the death of workers in septic tanks. Some models also attach a gasifier that can use

municipal solid waste, providing a solution to handle that urban waste stream as well.

### Spending on technology

India’s record in treating urban sewage is poor at 30%, and a third of about 847 large sewage treatment plants are not functional, according to BMGF estimates. The priority should be to put all these plants to full use, and equip them to handle faecal sludge by adding omni processors to them. In Beijing, Mr. Gates observed that “political leaders like Prime Minister Modi have been willing to speak about sanitation.” The Swachh Bharat Mission has brought faecal sludge treatment within its ambit, and many Chief Ministers want FSTPs. Put together, their orders total 415 such plants this year. Disappointingly, only a minority of these will have omni processors. Indians have contributed a lot by way of taxes for sanitation, and the money should be spent on the new technology.

Even in an advanced State such as Tamil Nadu, which is working to upgrade its infrastructure, only 30% of urban sewage is treated, says Alkesh Wadhvani, Country Director, Poverty Alleviation, BMGF. On the other hand, in 3,500 small cities, very little gets treated. There are some promising signs. Odisha wants 115 faecal sludge treatment plants. Andhra Pradesh has taken the lead and funded 33 plants, and, importantly, tendered for omni processors for these. Tamil Nadu has announced that it will build 48 plants out of its own funds, estimating that 80% of the faecal sludge problem can be managed across the State at a cost of less than about ₹200 crore. Large and often idle sewage treatment plants can be put to dual use, by adding an FSTP, preferably with an omni processor. In the case of small towns, a cluster approach will help, and two or three of them can come together to share treatment plant capacity.

Philanthropy of the kind advanced by Mr. Gates aims to take up issues that may not otherwise get attention, and to lower the barriers for governments to act. Now that technology is ready with a “zero effluent” toilet, national policy should make it accessible to everyone.

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# A gender curriculum

The #MeToo moment calls for a different kind of learning



ANUSHNA JHA

Over the past few weeks, many women have spoken about their experiences of sexual harassment. Some have named the accused. Many of these accounts have been of incidents at the workplace and by co-workers, and expose the prevalence of deep-seated sexism across professions. There have been various responses by the accused to these testimonies: unconditional apologies, resignations, stepping away from duties until further investigation – but also denial, intimidation and even further harassment. Some of these were immediate responses to mounting public pressure and questions; whether they reflected repentance or realisation on the part of the accused is debatable. Some other responses, such as intimidation through defamation cases, show the entitlement that many men in power enjoy. Both sexual harassment and the kinds of responses from the accused lay bare a critical failure of our education system. It will not be sufficient to say that it is society that allows, or even conditions, men to behave the way they do. Education, an important part of the socialisation process, is also to blame.

### What our education lacks

The education that we are imparted needs to be held accountable at this juncture because of its failure on fundamental grounds. The purpose of education is not to only ensure that people secure employment or rise to coveted positions of power alone, it is also to ensure that they learn and practice equality and mutual respect. Many of the accused are qualified, educated men. Their actions compel us to ask whether those years spent in school, college and university have been unsuccessful in instilling basic values. It seems as though rising to top positions and enjoying power have emboldened men to behave in unacceptable ways, and the education system has done nothing to prevent this.

It is not uncommon to hear of incidents of sexual harassment being justified as “casual flirting” or being attributed to the offender’s “glad eye”. Using these terms to explain away or even justify these acts reflects the depth and expanse of the problem. I am reminded of an encounter that a friend’s mother had with a senior bureaucrat (now retired) a few years ago. During a meeting regarding a project on which her organisation and his

department were collaborating, he told her that she was “smart and beautiful”. He then recited couplets in Hindi and Urdu. Such blatant display of inappropriate behaviour, which makes women uncomfortable, shows that men in power enjoy the impunity that accompanies attitudes and acts entrenched in patriarchy.

Today, many of us are not surprised at the volume of complaints of sexual harassment. This is because it has been normalised. Sexism is not casual, it is systemic. That our education system is failing to teach boys and men to recognise, challenge and refrain from sexist and even unlawful behaviour must be acknowledged and tackled.

### The way forward

Sexual misconduct or gender inequality is not a by-product of a lack in education. The spotlight is not to be put on the educated alone, but on the system too. Among other things, education has the basic duty of ensuring that we become socially aware and sensitive beings who know how to interact and engage with people of different genders, castes, classes and communities. We must teach students that consent is an essential component of any interaction and that decisions, even of refusal, must be respected.

While there is considerable discussion on the need to change mindsets, efforts to actually bring about such long-term structural changes are rare. Gender equality must not be limited to newsroom debates, stand-up themes or films, although these are necessary. What the #MeToo movement demands is a continuous and systematic process of learning that leads to equality.

There must be efforts to incorporate a gender curriculum in all school and college classrooms, establish anti-sexual harassment cells, organise regular awareness programmes on consent across the country, and formulate measures to address incidents of sexual harassment. The police should initiate community engagement drives so that students know how to report sexual harassment. Campaigns like Operation Nirbheek, initiated to improve safety and security of girls in schools, have proven to be successful to a large extent. Interventions in educational institutions will be a much-needed start to strengthen voices against sexual harassment and make homes and workplaces safe. It is imperative that we begin early if we are to secure a closure to our #MeToo experiences.

Anushna Jha is a postgraduate student in the Department of International Development at the London School of Economics and Political Science

## SINGLE FILE

# Science outside labs

Various outreach programmes are bringing science to the masses, but there is more to be done

SHUBASHREE DESIKAN



‘Chai and Why,’ a popular outreach programme conducted by a group of faculty members of Tata Institute of Fundamental Research, Mumbai, hosted its 250th event on November 18. The programme, which has been going strong since 2009, comprises talks and demonstrations by scientists or research scholars on a science topic, pitched at an easy-to-grasp level. These talks take place on alternate Sundays at Mumbai’s Prithvi Theatre, among other places.

A similar annual event, ‘Science at the Sabha’, is conducted by scientists from the Institute of Mathematical Sciences, Chennai. For three years since 2016, SATS, which includes four talks from four different disciplines in science, has been held at the Music Academy, Chennai, known as the premier city platform hosting musical and dance programmes. As a bonus, at last year’s event, the organisers distributed dodecahedral calendars for free.

The National Centre of Biological Sciences has in its cocktail of outreach activities a programme called ‘Out of the Lab,’ in which scientists from the institute can be invited to homes, where they address fascinating aspects of their respective fields to neighbours who have gathered together.

There is little doubt that outreach programmes have come far from the days when they were thought of as additions to academic work. Science in its very practice tends to lead researchers into ivory towers. The more demanding the task, the less time the scientist has to communicate the relevance of her work. The first casualty of this traditional workflow is that knowledge of what goes on within the lab is understood by few outside. The other is that labs within research institutes get separated from the universities, colleges and schools where future scientists are groomed. Add to this existing social gaps due to language, class or caste, and you have an apparently insurmountable situation.

Outreach programmes do a lot to break the notion that research can be understood only by people within the lab. They do, however, suffer from a couple of drawbacks such as of scalability and of reaching beyond urban borders. The Indian National Science Academy encourages its Fellows to travel to remote locations and give talks. Delhi-based Vigyan Prasara, in conjunction with science clubs across the country, holds camps to demonstrate science experiments beyond textbooks. For three years now, they have roped in many partners to commemorate zero shadow day (for two days in a year, those within the tropics can observe that a vertical pole does not cast a shadow).

While such activities enthuse participants and stoke scientific temper, they still may not convey the power of science fully. If collaborations proliferate that leverage the willingness of research institutions to engage in outreach, and use it creatively, much more can be achieved.

The writer covers science for The Hindu



## NOTEBOOK

# The many secrets buried in sheaves of paper

Filing an RTI can help obtain more information than is sought

ANURADHA RAMAN

The Right to Information Act of 2005 is a journalist’s favourite tool. It enables us to liberate information from bureaucratic stranglehold and discover the limits to how much information Ministries are willing to share.

The year was 2009. The Information and Broadcasting (I&B) Ministry held the key to “proper programming” of news on television, entertainment and cinema. This was also the year of *Indian Summer*, an adaptation of Alex von Tunzelmann’s book of the same name. It was about the last days of British rule in India and had the tantalising possibility of a romance thrown in between Edwina Mountbatten and Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru. You could say that it had all the ingredients of a good film. Hugh Grant and Cate Blanchett were to play the

Mountbattens, and the film was to be directed by British filmmaker Joe Wright. However, expectedly, the script had run into problems with the I&B Ministry. Nothing much was heard of it for a while. All we heard was a terse comment by Mr. Wright that he was waiting to hear from the Ministry.

It was then that an RTI was filed to obtain information on the inordinate delay in granting permission to the film. While the government was obliged to share only its decision or proffer reasons for the delay in approving or disapproving the script, buried in the official information shared was more: a sheaf of papers tied up with a string. This contained the script submitted to the Ministry and the observations of a one-man committee appointed by the Ministry to vet scripts submitted by foreigners. Surprisingly, the committee had taken a

very liberal view on what was largely a work of fiction. Yet, the Ministry, or the Minister, decided against giving a nod to the proposed film. *Indian Summer* was over even before it could begin.

Some years later, on the 25th anniversary of the ban on Salman Rushdie’s *The Satanic Verses*, the RTI was again deployed to understand how books are banned in the country. This was a tedious process and took almost a year as the Home Ministry did not have a reputation for sharing information. I kept appealing under the RTI with the sole purpose of wearing down the Ministry. From refusing to give information on how close to 30 books were banned in independent India and how those bans were never revoked, the Ministry finally relented and offered to give information on three books: *The Satanic Verses*, James W. Laine’s *Shivaji* and Peter Heehs’

*The Life of Sri Aurobindo*. But even here the Ministry continued to dig in its heels, citing potential law and order problems that would arise from sharing full information on the books, till the Central Information Commission ordered it to share whatever it had subject to the provisions of the RTI Act.

When the information was shared, it was nothing short of a miracle. In the thick files were inputs from the Intelligence Bureau, which were hidden by a tape. Section 8 of the RTI Act is a lifeline for bureaucrats, especially in the Intelligence and Home departments. It elaborates on exemption from disclosure of information. But all I had to do was to lift the tape, read the information, and stick the tape back. Also buried in the files were the photocopies of the banned books. And I got to read them all!

## FROM The Hindu. ARCHIVES

FIFTY YEARS AGO NOVEMBER 20, 1968

### Problems of man's moon trip

The Soviet Union claimed to-day [November 19, Moscow] it has solved the “fundamental problems” of sending man to the moon. The basic problem of re-entry of a spacecraft at second cosmic speed (lunar recovery speed) of seven miles per second was successfully accomplished by the latest moonship Zond-6, the official Soviet news agency Tass said. The spacecraft, which “soft-landed” on Soviet territory after an eight-day near lunar flight, also tested the “more complex and promising method of return of interplanetary ships”, Tass said. The flights of Zond-6 and its sister ship, Zond-5, which made the first circumlunar journey and splashed down in the Indian Ocean on September 21, 1968, were regarded as essential preliminary for a similar manned flight.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO NOVEMBER 20, 1918.

### Starving Germany. An Appeal.

The German Government has sent a wireless message to the Allies and America protesting that the conditions of Armistice seriously menace the economic conditions on the left bank of the Rhine and its relations with German territory on the right bank and declaring that if the conditions are not alleviated existence will become impossible and Bolshevism inevitable. In order to obviate this the German Government requests the following: Normal intercourse on the left bank of Rhine. Completely normal economic communications between left bank and the remainder of Germany and foreign countries even during Military occupation. German owners to exploit as heretofore coal, potash and ore mines on the left bank of the Rhine within the old territory of the Empire with transportation permission up and down and across the Rhine to the right bank. The general free use of the Rhine for transports within the old boundary of the German Empire. Free navigation via Rotterdam and the coast for the provisioning of Germany via North Sea and Baltic coasts with coal, potash and food supplies.

## CONCEPTUAL

### Menu cost

ECONOMICS

This refers to the cost incurred by firms due to the change in prices of goods and services that they sell. As prices change frequently, firms may need to print new menus to display their new prices, remove old price tags and replace them with new price tags, and in general invest more time and effort in managing the pricing of their products. A firm, however, may willingly incur menu costs only if there would be significant losses incurred by the firm if its prices are not changed immediately. The concept of menu costs was first proposed by Israeli economists Eytan Sheshinski and Yoram Weiss in their 1977 paper “Inflation and Costs of Price Adjustment”.

## MORE ON THE WEB

Watch: Kerala to rein in trans-fat in eatery foods

<http://bit.ly/keralatransfat>

FROM PAGE ONE

## Govt., RBI call truce after board meeting

“The Board also advised that the RBI should consider a scheme for restructuring of stressed standard assets of MSME borrowers with aggregate credit facilities of up to ₹250 million [₹25 crore], subject to such conditions as are necessary for ensuring financial stability,” the RBI said.

On the issue of capital adequacy ratio, after much deliberations to reduce it to 8%, it was finally retained at 9%. However, the deadline for implementing the last tranche of 0.625% under the capital conservation buffer (CCB), has been extended by one year, that is, up to

March 31, 2020. Two other important issues that could not be discussed – liquidity for non-banking financial companies and governance issues of the RBI – will be taken up in the next meeting, scheduled on 14 December, sources said. The board meeting proceeded amicably contrary to expectations, they added.

The tension between the RBI and the government started after the latter referred to section 7 of the RBI Act for consultation on these issues. Section 7 gives the power to the government to issue directions to the RBI.

## NSA, Minister hampered probe, says CBI officer

Mr. Sinha said Mr. Verma had briefed the National Security Adviser (NSA) on October 17 about the FIR against Mr. Asthana. The application alleged that when the NSA informed Mr. Asthana of it the same night, the latter “reportedly made a request to the NSA that he should not be arrested”.

The CBI officer said his team had wanted the cell-phones of officials involved in the FIR as they would contain evidence. But the CBI Director did not give “immediate permission and reverted that the NSA has not permitted the same”.

“The Director replied that he was not getting clearance from the NSA/Shri Doval,” the application, filed through advocate Sunil Fernandes, alleged.

The application narrated how Manoj Prasad, an accused in the Asthana FIR, “bragged” about his “close links” with the NSA when he was picked up by the CBI while on his way back from Dubai. The application said Manoj Prasad had threa-

tened that his brother Somesh, another accused in the Asthana FIR, was “very close” to Samant Goel, presently Special Secretary, R&AW and he could “get us ‘finished off’/‘kicked out’”.

Manoj Prasad, the application alleged, had said “his brother Somesh and Samant Goel, helped the NSA Shri Ajit Doval on an important personal matter”.

**Whistle-blower coerced** Mr. Sinha, in his application, detailed how Law Secretary Chandra got in touch with Sathish Babu Sana, the person who lodged the complaint against Mr. Asthana.

Mr. Sana was under investigation in the Moin Qureshi case before he became a “whistle-blower”. It was based on this complaint that the FIR against Mr. Asthana was lodged on October 15.

“The investigation team has been penalised/victimised because of its impartiality and diligence,” Mr. Sinha said, seeking the quashing of his transfer.

## Dharmapuri bus burning convicts freed

The case relates to the death of Kokilavani, Gayathri and Hemalatha – all students of the TNAU, Coimbatore, when the bus they were travelling in, along with 44 other students and two teachers, was torched by the three.

Earlier this year, the State government had recommended the premature release of about 1,800 life convicts, including the three, lodged in central prisons

across Tamil Nadu on the occasion of the birth centenary of former Chief Minister M.G. Ramachandran.

Though the files of all the 1,800 convicts were sent to Raj Bhavan, the Governor decided to look into the matter case-by-case. While more than half the proposals were cleared and convicts released, the bus-burning case was the first to be returned back to the State for reconsideration.

## SC to hear Zakia Jafri’s plea against Modi

Ms. Jafri, wife of slain ex-MP Ehsan Jafri, has challenged the October 5, 2017 verdict of the Gujarat High Court dismissing her plea challenging the SIT’s closure report. The High Court had upheld a magisterial court’s verdict, accepting the Supreme Court-appointed SIT’s closure report giving

clean chit to the then Chief Minister and others, citing lack of “prosecutable evidence” against them.

Ms. Jafri, whose husband was among the 69 people massacred in Gulberg society during the 2002 riots, has also sought for an order to the SIT to carry out further investigation in the case.

## ‘Shah benefited from Sohrabuddin case’

Mr. Thakur went on to say that Mr. Shah also benefited financially as he was paid ₹70 lakhs in three instalments by the Patel brothers, who are owners of Popular Builders in Ahmedabad. They were warned that if they did not pay the money, there would be dire consequences.

**‘Vanzara got ₹60 lakh’**

He said Mr. Vanzara benefited monetarily as well, as he was paid ₹60 lakh by the Patel brothers. He also said that none of the police offic-

ers facing trial had any “political or monetary benefit from the encounter.” He also agreed that there were no political motives for the current accused to kill Sohrabuddin. He also mentioned that all the 20 accused were acting under the directions of their superiors Mr. Vanzara, Mr. Pandiyan, Mr. Dinesh and Mr. Chudasma, and all of these had been discharged in the case.

Mr. Thakur denied that he was asked by CBI Director Ashwani Kumar to implicate all the 22 accused.

# Punjab CM sees Pak. hand in blast

‘Grenade used at Adliwal similar to the one recovered from a terror module busted last month’

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI/CHANDIGARH

A day after a grenade attack on a religious congregation at Adliwal village near Amritsar killed three persons, Punjab Chief Minister Capt. Amarinder Singh said the device used was similar to the HG-84 grenade recovered from a terror module busted by the police in October.

Capt. Singh said initial investigations indicated that the grenade used was similar to those being manufactured by the Pakistan Army ordinance factory.

**‘Not religious discord’**

He ruled out that the attack was a result of discord between the Sant Nirankari Mission and traditional Sikhs.

Capt. Singh was at Adliwal to take stock of the situation. He said the grenade indicated a high probability of the involvement of inimical forces from across the border.



**Crucial leads:** Punjab CM Capt. Amarinder Singh visiting the site of the grenade blast near Amritsar on Monday. •PTI

A senior Home Ministry official said in Delhi that consultations were on with the State government to hand over the case to the National Investigation Agency (NIA).

“As of now, no links of the attack to the Zakir Musa group has emerged. An NIA team visited the spot and various agencies are working on it,” the Home Ministry official told *The Hindu*.

Last week, the Punjab police had been put on high alert following intelligence inputs of movement of Zakir

Musa, the chief of the J&K-based terror outfit Ansar Ghazwat-ul-Hind, near Amritsar.

Capt. Singh said the attack seemed to carry Pakistan’s signature. “*Prima facie*, this appears to be an act of terror by separatist forces, organised with the involvement of ISI-backed Khalistani or Kashmiri terrorist groups,” said Capt. Singh, adding that his government was aggressively pursuing all angles of investigation.

**₹50 lakh for information**

“The culprits will soon be arrested. The State government has announced ₹50 lakh as reward for any information leading to the arrest of the assailants,” Capt. Singh said, adding that the NIA was also helping in the investigations.

In reply to a question, he said, “The attack cannot be equated with the Nirankari

# We have to save nation: Naidu

Andhra Pradesh CM, Mamata decide to postpone Opposition meet of Nov. 22

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
KOLKATA

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu announced here on Monday that a meeting of Opposition parties scheduled in New Delhi for November 22 had been postponed.

He was speaking to presspersons after meeting West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee at the State Secretariat. Mr. Naidu said senior leaders of the Opposition had a responsibility to save the nation, democracy and the institutions of the country.

“Earlier we wanted to meet on 22nd (November 22). [But] because of elections, we wanted to meet before Parliament [winter session]. Mutually we are discussing and a date will be announced very soon,” Mr. Naidu said.

**‘Democracy in danger’**

At the upcoming meeting, all parties opposing the BJP “will discuss and chalk out a programme to move forward and to take up the momentum”.

Alleging that democracy is in danger in the country, Mr. Naidu said there were “democratic compulsions” and the leaders of different Opposition parties had to come together.



**Joint fight:** West Bengal CM Mamata Banerjee greeting A.P. CM Chandrababu Naidu in Kolkata on Monday. •PTI

“I came here to meet Mamataji. Today, senior leaders like Mamataji and I have a responsibility. We have to save the nation. We have to save democracy, we have to protect the institutions,” Mr. Naidu said.

**To attend Kolkata rally**

During the meeting which lasted over an hour, the Telugu Desam Party leader ac-

cepted the invitation of Ms. Banerjee to participate in a rally of Opposition parties organised by the Trinamool Congress in Kolkata on January 19.

Mr. Naidu did not elaborate on his government’s decision to withdraw the “general consent” to the CBI, only saying that the institutions in the country were “under severe pressure”.

## CBI chief files reply to CVC findings in SC

Investigation into corruption charges

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NEW DELHI

CBI Director Alok Kumar Verma on Monday filed his response to the findings of the CVC’s preliminary probe report on corruption charges against him in a sealed cover in the Supreme Court after he was told to do so “as quickly as possible” as the scheduled Tuesday hearing on his plea would not be deferred.

Mr. Verma, who was asked to file his response to the Central Vigilance Commission’s (CVC) report in a sealed cover by Monday 1

p.m., sought some more time from the Bench headed by Chief Justice Ranjan Gogoi for filing his reply with the secretary-general around 12.40 p.m.

“We are not shifting the date [of hearing]. You file it as quickly as possible as we will have to read it,” the Bench, also comprising Justices S.K. Kaul and K.M. Joseph, told Mr. Verma’s lawyer Gopal Sankaranarayanan.

“Even though we sought a little time from the court, Mr. Verma’s reply was filed at 1 p.m.,” the lawyer said.

## Don’t share videos of killings, say J&K police

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
SRINAGAR

The Jammu and Kashmir police on Monday warned netizens against uploading or sharing videos on the killing of two civilians by militants in south Kashmir.

“Some social media handles are committing a crime by propagating the videos. With the cooperation of the service provider, the police will be able to nab them,” said Inspector-General of

Police-Kashmir, S.P. Pani.

The police’s move comes on a day when pro-militant handles on a few social media platforms, including Instagram and WhatsApp, uploaded videos of “confessions” of the two civilians, Huzaif Ashraf, 19, and Nadeem Manzoor, 18, before they were killed. “I was offered ₹10,000 for passing on information about militants in my area,” Ashraf is seen saying in the new video.

# Maratha quota is a betrayal: OBC groups

‘The community can’t be included in SEBC category’

STAFF REPORTER  
MUMBAI

A day after Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis announced a new Socially and Educationally Backward Class (SEBC) category under which Marathas will be given reservation, organisations of the Other Backward Classes (OBCs) said on Monday that this was an attempt to give a share of their reservation to that community. They said the BJP-led State government had betrayed the OBCs.

“As per Section 340 of the Constitution, the term Socially and Educationally Backward Class is being used for the OBCs. How can Marathas be termed so and get the same reservation? This is nothing but an attempt to encroach on our legal share of reservation, and OBC organisations across the State will unite against this,” Shravan Deore, president, Maharashtra OBC Organisation, said.

He said the State Backward Classes Commission report, by giving Marathas the SEBC status, had included them in the OBCs. They would hence be eligible for a share of OBC reservation.



Shiv Sena MLAs protest outside the Assembly against the grant of Maratha quota under a special category. •P. SRUSHTI

The Chief Minister’s claim that it would not happen had no basis. “In addition, the report of the Backward Classes Commission, which the government is talking about, should be scrutinised. The commission had an overwhelming majority of Marathas, and the report came out in favour of Marathas,” he said.

**‘Will vote BJP out’**

“We will show our power through vote bank. It was we who supported the BJP in 2014, and it will be us who will bring them down in 2019,” he said.

The Opposition parties on Monday alleged that the government was delaying re-

servation for Marathas. Former Chief Minister Prithviraj Chavan said that with the report of the Backward Classes Commission in hand, why was the Chief Minister waiting to announce the exact quantum of the reservation? “What’s the need of a sub-committee? Why has the report not been tabled in Assembly,” he asked.

Inspector-General of Police, Border Range (Amritsar), S.P.S Parmar told *The Hindu* that the police had unearthed certain leads and they were being investigated. “As of now, the assailants have not been identified or arrested,” he said.

Punjab Governor V.P. Singh Badnore has asked the Chandigarh police to be on high alert and ensure complete security to the people at religious places, especially Nirankari missions in and around the Union Territory.

# Modi has lost credibility: Cong.

Wants CBI officer’s allegations probed

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his office have lost credibility, the Congress said on Monday, responding to what it termed “deeply shocking revelations” by IPS officer and Nagpur branch head of the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) Manoj Kumar Sinha in the Supreme Court.

Mr. Sinha, in a plea challenging his transfer from CBI headquarters to Nagpur, accused Minister of State Haribhai Parthibhai Chaudhary of taking a bribe of a “few crores of rupees” to settle a case. He also accused Minister in the PMO Jitender Singh of aiding Mr. Chaudhary. Mr. Sinha further claimed that National Security Adviser Ajit Doval had intervened in investigations against Special Director Rakesh Asthana.

The affidavit filed by him in the Supreme Court also mentions Chief Vigilance Commissioner K.V. Chowdhary and Law Secretary Suresh Chandra.

The Congress has appealed to the Supreme Court to constitute an independent enquiry into the revelations and also demanded a parliamentary probe.

## Army selects Russian Igla-S missile

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

India has picked Russia’s Igla-S missile system as the choice for the Army’s multi-billion dollar contract for man-portable air defence systems, officials said on Monday.

“The Igla-S bid from Rosoboronexport of Russia has been declared the LI in the Very Short Range Air Defence (VSHORAD) deal,” said a defence official on condition of anonymity.

The declaration of the Russian bid as the lowest, which was reached after a series of delays that saw several trials and retrials, still doesn’t guarantee a certain transaction given some concerns about the possible threat of U.S. sanctions for arms purchases from Russia.

The other bidders were MBDA of France and SAAB of Sweden.



Randeep Surjewala

Addressing a press conference, Congress media in-charge Randeep Surjewala said the “deeply shocking revelations” have put a “question mark” on Mr. Modi and the functioning of the PMO. The PMO is protecting the accused, he said.

He pointed out that the revelations were made by an officer who had access to information and had been investigating important cases of corruption as DIG in the CBI headquarters Delhi, before he was unceremoniously transferred to Nagpur.

“Never in the 71-year-old of history of the country has the stench of corruption so pervaded a government and the PM’s office as also the entire spectrum of bureaucracy in this fashion,” Mr. Surjewala said.

IN BRIEF



**Modi’s remarks on Kesri not true: Tariq Anwar**

NEW DELHI Congress leader Tariq Anwar, who was a political adviser to Sitaram Kesri, has denied Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s remark that the late party president was a Dalit and was removed to make way for Sonia Gandhi. “Kesriji belonged to the Vaish community,” he said.

**Nod from all States except A.P., Mizoram: CBI**

NEW DELHI The CBI has permission from all States, excluding Andhra Pradesh and Mizoram, to institute cases and carry out investigations, the agency has said. “We have not yet received any communication on the West Bengal government’s said decision to withdraw its general consent to the CBI,” said an official.

**Christian Michel likely to be extradited soon**

NEW DELHI The Cassation Court in Dubai has approved India’s request for the extradition of British national Christian James Michel, wanted in connection with bribery charges in the AgustaWestland VVIP chopper deal. He is expected to be extradited soon, the *Gulf News* reported on Monday.

[Q & A: DHARMENDRA PRADHAN]

# ‘With good work, expectations increase’

Minister says the BJP governments in Madhya Pradesh and other States have broken the pattern of anti-incumbency

NISTULA HEBBAR

Union Petroleum Minister Dharmendra Pradhan, in charge of the Madhya Pradesh elections for the BJP, speaks on the polls, anti-incumbency factor, the nature of the welfare state and rebel candidates. Excerpts:

The BJP is facing the challenge of anti-incumbency in Madhya Pradesh. How does the party plan to counter it?

I wouldn't term it anti-incumbency. When, for a long time, you give a welfare state, benefits to the people, do good work, expectation levels also increase. It is basic psychology that expectations are from those who perform. The Shivraj Singh Chouhan government and other BJP governments in other States have broken this pattern of anti-incumbency. These questions were asked even during Gujarat polls and other States where BJP has been in government, so it's nothing new. Elections are never smooth sailing. In a democracy, between expectation management and reality, the party that raises the index of the former, wins. In the BJP, we have brought this into our working culture of managing ex-

pectations and therefore do not look at anti-incumbency as a negative thing.

People were expecting more sitting MLAs would be dropped, but that didn't happen. And yet rebel candidates also abound...

In Madhya Pradesh, we find that in the Assembly polls, around 30% of new candidates are chosen, regardless of party, by voters. We have changed ticket based on that calculation.

The shadow of the Mandsaur agitation looms large, with agricultural distress an important rallying point against the government...

The number of pro-farmer initiatives taken by the Shivraj Singh Chouhan government is not matched by any other State. If you consider the years 2003 and 2018 as benchmarks, and look at any parameter connected to agriculture, like irrigation, storage, procurement, loan, infrastructure, marketing, production, any other, and compare to any other Congress government in any State, the Shivraj government gets 10/10. As I said earlier, in an aspirational country full of young people, expectations keep ris-



Between expectation management and reality, the party that raises the index of the former, wins

ing, and we shall fulfil them. Recently, Prime Minister Modi has taken certain initiatives, after raising minimum support prices, to take up the challenge of marketing agricultural produce. Domestic markets have their own saturation levels as does storage; we are pushing food processing, and to link farmers to markets. We are doing

this and we are sure the results will be good.

In the industrial belt outside Indore, there was a demand that petroleum be linked to GST. As the Minister, what is your view?

Under GST, the council is such a unique arrangement in the post-Independence era that any decision has to be ratified by two-thirds of the council to be operational. Petroleum products are there in GST, in principle, but is yet to be implemented. It has only been a year of GST; States had their own ap-

prehensions about how it would work out, how it would affect inflation, etc. The council was a little conservative therefore, in these matters, to begin with. Now, the way the GST is taking off, I feel that the day is not far when all products will come under GST.

What do you make of the Congress's distinction between Hindutva and Hinduism?

For the BJP, Hindutva and Hinduism cannot be an electoral plank. Yours and my lifestyle cannot be an electoral issue. Congress party has, with its limited understanding post-Independence, created a prison for themselves. They are a victim of their own political prison, and they want to now break out of that, it is entirely the Congress's issue, we have nothing to do with it. When they emulate the BJP and apply short cuts, they get caught. What was Kamal Nathji's statement that day? *Nipat lenge*. Is that what their Hinduism is?

He [Kamal Nath] was talking of politically dealing with the BJP and RSS after the polls...

What is the Congress's issue with the RSS? It proves

that development is not their issue. From 1993 to 2003, it was a Congress government in Madhya Pradesh, but you [Congress] do not have the guts to put a picture of Diggy Raja [former Chief Minister Digvijaya Singh] on your campaign posters. That is the state of governance that you had left behind.

The government led by Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan has focussed on its welfare policies, even giving grants for the last rites of deceased persons. Do you agree with that degree of welfarism?

It is the role of the state. A State which has been BIMARU needs to be empowered via welfare benefits. In his [Shivraj Singh Chouhan] policies and the BJP's governance model, welfare is more than just dole, it is to empower the bottom of the pyramid.

Do you know, in our society, how much indebtedness a poor person incurs just to perform the last rites of a dead relative, so if the state helps to avoid a debt trap for that person and from slipping below subsistence level, what is wrong?

This welfarism via empowerment has its own narrative and credibility.

It's spooky



Ballot message : Madhya Pradesh Election Watch volunteers organise a 'ghost rally' in Bhopal to urge voters to reject 'criminal and corrupt leaders' in the election. \*A.M. FARUQUI

## Congress, BJP on an even keel in booth management

Deploy micro-level management networks in Chhattisgarh

SUVOJIT BAGCHI  
RAIPUR

Satya Singh Parihar, the 72-year-old Block Congress Committee president in Bastar, has rarely worked as hard as he has over the past few months.

"The instructions came from the highest command that we have to put in place booth, sector and zone level committees under blocks," said Mr. Parihar, who has been associated with the Congress for over five decades.

"We used to have booth committees earlier also, but this time the party wanted everything on paper," said Mr. Parihar as he took out a slim file of about a dozen white sheets titled *Nirbachak Namabali*, containing details of polling booths.

On the condition that the names of the booth will not be disclosed, Mr. Parihar showed us the papers.

It had names of all the *paras*, or localities, on the first



Congress leader Satya Singh Parihar with a booth list in Bastar.

page. The second page had a list of 21 Congress members, including a coordinator who handles social media in the respective booth area, with their names and coordinates.

"I think we are ahead in the booth management this time," said Vinod Verma, a former journalist.

Manish Gupta, a senior journalist of Chhattisgarh, thinks BJP too has done a

good job, as it has done every year. "They have this concept of *Panna Pramukhs* in Gujarat and Uttar Pradesh. They have now introduced this in Chhattisgarh for the first time," he said.

A BJP official said each of them are given charge of about 50 votes.

PR work

"The person is expected to do engage in a public relations exercise to ensure that the voters come to vote for us." But besides the Panna Pramukhs, the BJP in Chhattisgarh has an organised booth and vote management network headed by both regular party activists and dedicated RSS Pracharaks. This time, it had a team of 12 central election observers, mainly from the RSS, for 12 seats in Bastar.

The BJP has similar teams across the State "in a cluster of seats," said Mr. Gupta, who closely monitors the BJP.

## Unsavoury happenings in Congress in land of Bhujia

Party had to rejig candidate list in a hurry after trouble erupted in Bikaner over denial of ticket to a former PCC president

MOHAMMED IQBAL  
BIKANER

After trouble erupted in the Congress over denial of ticket to veteran leader Bulaki Das Kalla, the party named him for Bikaner West, shifting Yashpal Gehlot to Bikaner East, in its third list of 18 candidates released on Sunday.

The Congress feels that strong public sentiments are ruling against the BJP government. As they struggle to make ends meet, farmers, labourers and nomadic tribes in the seven Assembly constituencies in the Bikaner region will vote for the party that offers livelihood solutions.

Farmers' agitations have broken out in this land of toil and tolerance over irrigation water, low minimum support price for crops and increase in power tariff. The decline in livelihood opportunities confronts the youth who have rested their hopes on institutions such as Bikaner Technical University.

Surendra Prajapati, owner of the "Nakshatra" brand of Bikaneri Bhujia, which he launched in 2015, says the lo-



In full swing: Rajasthani artists during an election awareness campaign in Bikaner. \*PTI

cal manufacturers are still reeling under the impact of demonetisation and the GST, though the product was given the Geographical Indication tag in 2010.

The supporters of Mr. Kalla, a former Pradesh Congress Committee president who has been active in public life for four decades, had accused Leader of the Opposition in the Assembly Rameshwar Dudi of disturbing the equations in all consti-

tuencies to secure his Nokha seat.

A section of party workers alleged that Kanhaiya Lal Jhanwar, who was defeated by Mr. Dudi in 2013, was brought to the Congress fold at Mr. Dudi's behest and fielded from Bikaner East.

Protests erupted over the weekend in the seats where the "unexpected candidates" were brought in despite the need to give a tough fight to the ruling BJP. Con-

gress workers staged a demonstration, burnt tyres on roads and blocked the railway track in Bikaner West to protest against the candidature of Mr. Gehlot.

After the party shifted Mr. Gehlot and withdrew Mr. Jhanwar's candidature, an agitated Mr. Dudi announced at a public meeting here that he would not contest the election if the Congress failed to review its decision. Political observers feel that

such a reaction by the senior party leader was more in the nature of a "pressure tactic".

However, former municipal councillor Shyam Tanwar told The Hindu that it was high time the senior Congress leaders gave an opportunity to the second-rung leadership to emerge and let the young generation enter the electoral fray. In his initial round of campaign, Mr. Jhanwar had promised resolution of the long-pending construction of an elevated road near Kote Gate in the heart of the city.

Family ticket

In the BJP camp, veteran Rajput leader and former Minister Devi Singh Bhati, who has retired from active politics, has managed to obtain party ticket for his daughter-in-law Punam Kanwar from his stronghold, Kolayat. Mr. Bhati had opposed the party central leadership's move to appoint Union Minister of State Gajendra Singh Shekhawat BJP State president.

Two-time MLA Siddhi Kumari, belonging to the erstwhile royal family, is the face of the BJP once again from

Bikaner East, though she carries the tag of an "absentee legislator". According to a report of the Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR), Ms. Kumari attended only 18 of the 139 sittings of the Assembly since 2013 and asked 11 questions. The BJP workers are also making preparations for a grand roadshow of party president Amit Shah in the city on Wednesday, when he will land at the Nal airport here.

Anees Akhtar, social activist, recalls that even during the so-called wave in 2013 when the BJP received a historic mandate, the party lost three of the seven constituencies.

The Bahujan Samaj Party is testing the waters in Bikaner district by astutely trying for a Dalit-Muslim alliance, wherever possible. Rafiq Shah, BSP candidate from Bikaner East, an erstwhile Congress leader and sarpanch of Jamsar village, says the "arrogance" of the Congress and its leaders' attitude of ignoring the weaker sections after coming to power had made the party unpopular.

POLL POURRI



Rajasthan CM Vasundhara Raje flagging off the BJP campaign in Jaipur. \*ROHIT JAIN PARAS

BJP starts Rajasthan campaign

JAIPUR

Rajasthan Chief Minister Vasundhara Raje, along with Union Ministers Gajendra Singh Shekhawat and Prakash Javadekar, flagged off the BJP campaign here on Monday. "From today, the election campaign has finally begun in the State of Rajasthan.. I am fully assured that the BJP will come to power again in the State," Ms. Raje told presspersons. ANI

New opponent for Sachin Pilot

JAIPUR

In a change of strategy, the BJP on Monday fielded State Transport Minister Yoonus Khan against Congress Rajasthan chief Sachin Pilot in the Muslim-dominated Tonk Assembly constituency by replacing sitting MLA Ajit Singh Mehta. After the Congress fielded Mr. Pilot in Tonk, the BJP replaced Mr. Mehta, who figured in the first list issued on November 11. PTI

BJP MLA leaves party

JAIPUR

Gyan Dev Ahuja, controversial BJP MLA from Ramgarh constituency in Alwar district of Rajasthan, has quit the party after being denied ticket. Mr. Ahuja, 68, said he was not told of any reason for his name being dropped. He will contest as an Independent candidate from Sanganer in Jaipur. He said he would raise the issues such as cow protection, Ram temple and Hindutva to seek the support of the electorate. The BJP has fielded Sukhwant Singh from Ramgarh after dropping Mr. Ahuja.



BJP for Mizoram post-poll ties

AIZAWL

The BJP on Monday said "friends" in the ruling Congress and the Mizo National Front (MNF) will help it be part of the next government in Mizoram even if it wins very few seats. The BJP, which

hopes to record the best performance after 1993 when it garnered only 3.11% voters, is seen as a fringe player in Mizoram. Assam Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma, one of the key BJP campaign managers, indicated some leaders of the Congress and the MNF were in the BJP's scheme of things. "We will spring a surprise by winning seats in the (majority) Mizo areas besides those where Brus and Chakmas are in a majority," he said.

The people of Madhya Pradesh can only be served by public servants like Narendra Modi and Shivraj Singh Chouhan. Congress cannot serve the people as it is a private limited company belonging to the Nehru-Gandhi family, and it has no concern for anyone else



DATA BYTE

Phase-off

A look at the key census data for Assembly constituencies in Chhattisgarh shows significant variations between the two phases

Parameters	Phase I	Phase II
Total no. of seats	18	72
Literacy Rate	61.8%	53%
Working Population	46.71%	52%
SC Population	5.6%	14.4%
ST Population	25.6%	53.1%

Data was arrived for Assembly seats by deriving from unit-level census information. SOURCE: GRAMENER INC

POCKET | SURENDRA



You won't find a more loyal party worker than me. I've come back to the party six times in five years.

## 12 WORLD

## ELSEWHERE



## 'Putin spoke to Pence, denied collusion claims'

MOSCOW

Russian President Vladimir Putin denied any Russian involvement when Mike Pence asked last week about meddling in the 2016 election, the Kremlin's spokesman said. Dmitry Peskov said that Mr. Pence had a 10-minute talk with Mr. Putin on the sidelines of an Association of Southeast Asian Nations summit in Singapore. AFP

## Acosta's press pass could be revoked again

WASHINGTON

CNN on Monday called on a federal court to hold emergency proceedings after the White House said it would again revoke press access to Jim Acosta despite a restraining order on Friday to reinstate him. Top White House communications officials told Mr. Acosta late on Friday that the White House had already decided to suspend his access once the two-week restraining order expires. REUTERS

## Sri Lanka House adjourned till Friday

MPs aligned to Ranil seek the suspension of state funds to the PM's Office, now occupied by Rajapaksa

MEERA SRINIVASAN  
COLOMBO

The Sri Lankan Parliament, which met on Monday following violence and disruption last week, was adjourned minutes after it convened, without a resolution to the ongoing political crisis.

MPs aligned to ousted Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe and from other Opposition parties have sought the suspension of state funds to the PM's Office, now occupied by former President Mahinda Rajapaksa, whose administration they consider illegitimate. The debate on the motion is expected to commence on Friday. The development is the latest in the series of events since President Maithripala Sirisena sacked Mr. Wickremesinghe on October 26, and replaced him with Mr. Rajapaksa.

The political stalemate in Sri Lanka's legislature has been dragging since, because MPs backing the Sirisena-Rajapaksa combine continue opposing a vote in the House that could test claims to a majority.



Mahinda Rajapaksa speaking in Sri Lankan Parliament in Colombo on Monday. ■ REUTERS

Last week, Mr. Wickremesinghe's front, with support from Opposition parties Tamil National Alliance and the Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna, proved its majority through a voice vote thrice, braving the chaos and violence caused by Mr. Rajapaksa's MPs. However, Mr. Rajapaksa's side has rejected the vote, citing "breach of parliamentary procedure", a claim that the Opposition has since countered.

In a bid to resolve the complex political quandary, Mr. Sirisena convened an all-party conference on Sunday evening, where he urged

MPs to go for a vote by name or by the electronic system.

"We offered to take a vote by name or by the electronic voting system today, but it was once again prevented by the members of the purported government who are illegally holding onto power. Clearly, they fear that they will be exposed without a majority," said Sri Lanka Muslim Congress leader and MP Rauff Hakeem, aligned to Mr. Wickremesinghe's front.

**Sirisena transfers official** Meanwhile, President Sirisena has transferred a top official from the Criminal Inves-

tigation Department (CID) out of the role.

Chief Inspector Nishantha Silva was probing several high-profile cases, including ones that allegedly involve Mr. Rajapaksa's family and the military, and is said to have been close to making a key arrest.

Mr. Rajapaksa had accused the Sirisena-Wickremesinghe administration — that recently collapsed — of being on a political witch-hunt, and denied any wrongdoing.

The President's decision comes less than a month after he realigned with his

former rival Mr. Rajapaksa, and subsequently took control of the Law and Order Ministry. It raises questions about the future of the investigations, many of which are said to be near-complete, according to lawyers and investigators.

## 'A strong message'

Senior human rights lawyer J.C. Weliamuna said the transfer sent a "strong message" to the investigators, witnesses and victims.

"The suspects appear to be getting cover from the highest office and it is telling that this investigating officer's transfer comes at such a critical time," he told *The Hindu*. "We are considering legal action challenging it."

Mr. Silva was one of the key investigators handling cases such as the assassination of journalist Lasantha Wickrematunga, the abduction of dissident cartoonist Prageeth Eknaligoda, and the abduction and murder of 11 young men allegedly by a naval officer. All these incidents took place between 2008 and 2010, when Mr. Rajapaksa was in power.

## Taliban confirms holding talks with U.S. officials

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE  
KABUL

The Taliban held talks with U.S. officials in Qatar on ending the Afghan conflict last week, the militants confirmed on Monday, but said no agreement was reached on "any issue".

Senior Taliban officials met with a "high-ranking" U.S. delegation in Qatar on November 14, 15 and 16, the militant group said in a WhatsApp message, without mentioning U.S. envoy Zalmay Khalilzad.

"These were preliminary

talks and no agreement was reached on any issue," spokesman Zabiullah Mujahid said.

U.S. envoy Khalilzad was in Kabul after a second round of regional meetings with top Afghan officials to coordinate efforts on ending the conflict.

In a meeting on Monday, Mr. Khalilzad told Afghan President Ashraf Ghani that the "ground for intra-Afghan talks is more ready than any other time", according to a presidential palace statement.

## Imran asks Trump not to make Pak. a 'scapegoat'

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE  
ISLAMABAD

Pakistani Prime Minister Imran Khan hit back on Monday at Donald Trump's claim that Islamabad does not do "a damn thing" for the U.S., calling on the President to name an ally which has sacrificed more against militancy.

"Pakistan suffered 75,000 casualties in this war & over \$123 bn was lost to economy. US "aid" was a mi-

niscule \$20 bn," Mr. Khan tweeted on Monday.

"Our tribal areas were devastated & millions of ppl uprooted from their homes. The war drastically impacted lives of ordinary Pakistanis."

Instead of making Pakistan "a scapegoat for their failures", the U.S. should do a serious assessment of "why the Taliban today are stronger than before", he concluded.

## May reaches out to businesses

Cites Indian software developers, JLR in bid to convince industry of Brexit deal

VIDYA RAM  
LONDON

British Prime Minister Theresa May continued to defy her critics as she reached out to businesses, with an attempt to focus on her vision for the post-Brexit immigration regime.

EU nationals, regardless of skill level, could no longer "jump the queue ahead of... software developers from Delhi", she said.

The end to free movement is an aspect of the withdrawal deal that Ms. May has sought to focus on. The agreement she reached with EU leaders has sparked several ministerial resignations and led to members of her party submitting letters of no-confidence in her.

## Accessing skills base

While immigration concerns were seen as one of the catalysts of the Brexit vote, industry has voiced its concerns, particularly about the ability for it to access the skills base it needed.

Carolyn Fairbairn, director general of the Confederation of British Industry (CBI), while welcoming the progress that had been made in the deal overall, cautioned about the government's vision for post-Brexit immigration policy. She warned that a policy focused only on highly-skilled workers would lead to a skills shortage.

"What has been proposed so far won't work; the idea



**Not for us:** Anti-Brexit campaigners protesting near the U.K. Parliament last week. ■ AFP

that anyone earning less than £30,000 can't contribute to our economy, for instance.

"The government may be listening to businesses when it comes to immigration, but they still aren't hearing. A false choice between high and low-skilled workers would deny businesses, from house builders to health-care providers, the vital skills they need to succeed," she added.

## Tough situation

Her concerns were echoed by Surinder Arora, an Indian-origin businessman who founded the Arora Group of hotels, who raised concerns about the ability of businesses such as his to access the skills base he needed. The situation had been

"tough" for businesses since the referendum, he said.

He urged the Prime Minister not to forget all businesses, including the tourism and travel industry, during a question and answer session at the conference. However, Ms. May insisted her strategy of focussing on enabling access for highly-skilled workers was the strategy recommended by the independent Migration Advisory Committee. She suggested it was a time for businesses to step up their work too, including by helping to develop the skills base in the U.K.

A summit is still set to take place this weekend in Brussels for EU leaders to formalise the deal that has the official backing of the British Cabinet. EU lead negotiator Michel Barnier appealed for

calm on Monday to ensure that Britain could lead the EU in "an orderly manner".

While businesses have been critical of the government's post-Brexit immigration policy, they have welcomed the clarity, including on arrangement for the smooth flow of goods between the U.K. and the EU, an aspect that Ms. May also focussed on in her attempt to reach beyond parliamentarians and sell the deal to business leaders and the public.

## 'A deal for all'

Pointing to automakers such as Jaguar Land Rover (JLR), Nissan and others that relied on "just in time supply chains" and supported tens of thousands of jobs directly and indirectly in the country, she said the proposed deal would "work for all of them and sustain the livelihoods they provide to working people across the country". The auto industry has been cautious in its response to the withdrawal agreement, saying it was a positive step to avert the "devastating consequences" of a no-deal Brexit. "For the automotive industry, Brexit is about damage limitation," said the industry body SMMT.

"Truly frictionless trade is the only way to ensure the industry's future success and this should be the objective of all parties as we move into negotiating the permanent U.K.-EU relationship."

## Saudi King praises judiciary

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE  
RIYADH

Saudi King Salman heaped praise on the kingdom's judiciary on Monday, in his first public remarks since Jamal Khashoggi's murder tipped the country into one of its worst international crises. The Saudi prosecutor last week called for the death penalty against five men as he announced indictments against 11 people.

"We are proud of the efforts of the judiciary and the public prosecution and the performance of the job entrusted to them," the King said in his annual address to the Shura Council, a top advisory body. He did not directly address Khashoggi's murder.

In a sign of further international pressure, Germany on Monday said it will bar 18 Saudis from entering its territory and Europe's Schengen passport-free zone over their alleged links to the murder.

## Maldives to pull out of China FTA

Trade imbalance between the two is too huge: Nasheed

REUTERS  
MALE

The Maldives' new government will pull out of a free trade agreement (FTA) with China, said Maldivian Democratic Party leader Mohamed Nasheed.

"The trade imbalance between China and the Maldives is so huge that nobody would think of an FTA between such parties," said Mr. Nasheed. "China is not buying anything from us. It is a one-way treaty."

## Signed last year

Former President Abdullah Yameen signed the FTA during a visit to Beijing in December last year, and the same month, his Parliament ratified the treaty. Mr. Nasheed, now an adviser to President Ibrahim Mohamed Solih, said that Parliament would not pass the changes required for the agreement to come into force.

"It was ratified by Parliament, but fortunately it calls for different sets of legislation. We are not going to



Maldives former President Mohamed Nasheed. ■ AP

have this further legislation. We can't go with that," said Mr. Nasheed in an interview in the capital Male.

China's Foreign Ministry said in a statement that Culture and Tourism Minister Luo Shugang, President Xi Jinping's special envoy to the inauguration, told Mr. Solih that China paid great attention to developing relations with the Maldives.

Between January and August this year, the Maldives' imports from China were \$342 million, while its exports to China were just

\$2,65,270, according to Maldives customs data. The island nation bought meat, agricultural produce, flowers, plants, electronics and toys from China among many other items.

## Yameen's claim

The Yameen administration said at the time that the FTA would help diversify the \$3.9 billion economy and boost fisheries exports from the Maldives, crucial since the European Union declined in 2014 to renew a tax concession. The two countries would open up services such as finance, health care and tourism, China said at the time. The Maldives has no free trade pacts with any other country.

A member of Mr. Solih's transition team also said the administration was thinking of cancelling the pact. "It makes no business sense," said the official. "This is not something we are going to pursue, we expect the Cabinet to meet and take a formal decision on this."

**KERALA STATE ELECTRICITY BOARD LTD E - TENDER NOTICE**

Office of the Executive Engineer Electrical Division – Nilambur

1. E Tender I D: 2018\_KSEB\_247548\_1 \* Providing and laying 5km HT XLPE AB cable (3x150+1x120 sq mm) along the existing HT/LT Kalkavu feeder under Electrical Section Nilambur \*  
PAC : Rs. 76,85,000/- \* Last Date : 23-11-2018 12 noon

2. E Tender I D: 2018\_KSEB\_247683\_1 \* Providing and laying 5km HT XLPE AB cable (3x150+1x120 sq mm) along the existing HT/LT Kalkavu feeder under Electrical Section Nilambur \*  
PAC : Rs. 80,54,000/- \* Last Date : 23-11-2018 12 noon

Visit [www.etenders.kerala.gov.in](http://www.etenders.kerala.gov.in) and [www.kseb.in](http://www.kseb.in) - Ref: PR/MC1/D103/E-Tender/2018

**CENTRE FOR DEVELOPMENT OF TELEMATICS**

Telecom Technology Centre of Govt. of India  
C-DOT CAMPUS, Electronics City, Phase – I,  
Hosur Road, Bangalore – 560 100

Tender Ref. No. C-DOT/TENDER/2019-2022/001-A Dated: 20/11/2018  
Tender Ref. No. C-DOT/TENDER/2019-2022/001-B

**TENDER NOTICE**

C-DOT, a Telecom Technology Centre of Government of India, invites sealed quotations on 2-Bid system from reputed agencies for providing the following services:

1. C-DOT/TENDER/2019-2022/001-A (Packing, Forwarding & Allied Services)
2. C-DOT/TENDER/2019-2022/001-B (Freight Forwarding & Customs Clearance Contract)

**Cost of each Tender Document :** Rs.1050/- (incl GST @ 5%)  
Payable by way of DD favouring C-DOT(Non Refundable)

**Issue of Tender Documents :** 20/11/2018 to 20/12/2018 (upto 1400 hrs)  
**Pre-Bid Meeting :** 04/12/2018 from 1100 hrs onwards  
**Due Date :** 20/12/2018 at 1400 hrs

The Bidders have option to quote for any or both Tenders.  
Any Pre-Bid clarifications / amendments to the Tender Specifications / Date of opening etc. will be uploaded only on the website: [www.cdote.in](http://www.cdote.in).  
The Bidders are advised to check the website before submitting the Tender. The Tender document can also be downloaded from our website [www.cdote.in](http://www.cdote.in).

**Mangaluru City Corporation**  
Mangaluru, Karnataka - 575003

No:MCC/MNG/KUIDFC/AMRUT-MNG 04/2017-18/ Call 2/486 Date: 17-11-2018  
**Tender Notification (Through E-Procurement Portal Only)**

On behalf of Governor of Karnataka Government, inviting Tenders from the eligible contractors for the following work.  
**Name of Work:** Improvement of Bulk Water Supply system upto WTP for Mangalore City.

S.N	Details	Description
1	<b>Tender Number</b>	KUIDFC/2018-19/WS/WORK_INDENT 160
2	<b>Amount Put to Tender</b>	Rs. 3109.93 Lakhs
3	<b>Period of Completion</b>	24 Months including monsoon and 3 months trail run
4	<b>Tender Processing Fee</b>	As per e-procurement portal
5	<b>Earnest Money Deposit</b>	Rs. 31.10 Lakhs
6	<b>Date and Time for commencement of downloading of Tender document</b>	17-11-2018 after 17.00 hours
7	<b>Last Date and Time for Tender Queries/ Clarifications</b>	28-11-2018 up to 17.00 hours
8	<b>Pre-Bid Meeting</b>	30-11-2018 at 11.00 hours
9	<b>Last Date and Time for receipt of Tenders</b>	17-12-2018 up to 17.00 hours
10	<b>Date and Time of Opening of Technical Bid</b>	19-12-2018 at 17.00 hours

All other terms and condition could be obtained from Website: <http://eproc.karnataka.gov.in> or e-procurement helpdesk 080-22371090/22373788, email support: [hphelpdesk.blr@intarvo.com](mailto:hphelpdesk.blr@intarvo.com) or The Office of the Commissioner, Mangaluru City Corporation, Mangaluru or E-mail: [commissioner.mcc@gmail.com](mailto:commissioner.mcc@gmail.com) or Executive Engineer, PUJ, KUWMP, 3rd Floor, Mangaluru City Corporation, Lalbagh, Mangaluru- 575003, email: [jalasirirancheeemng@gmail.com](mailto:jalasirirancheeemng@gmail.com) Ph: 0824 2984623.

DIPR/MNG/AKAR/1228/18-19 dt: 19-11-2018

Sd/-, Commissioner

**KOLKATA MUNICIPAL CORPORATION e - TENDER**

## CORRIGENDUM-10

This is published for the appraisal of intending bidders for "Development of Sewage Treatment Plants on Hybrid Annuity PPP basis in Kolkata Municipal Corporation (KMC) Area, State of West Bengal" under *Namami Gange* Program of NMCG, Ministry of Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation, Govt. of India—vide e-tender Reference No. KMC/DG(S&D)/Central 2018-19/TNP dt. 27.04.2018 and e-Tender ID: 2018\_KMC\_170730\_1 that the Bid due date for the above-mentioned KMC tender has been finally extended as follows : Last date and time for Receipt (upload) for Bids: **04.12.2018 till 13.00 hrs.** Submission of hard copies of requisite documents: **06.12.2018 till 13.00 hrs.** Opening of Technical Bids (Qualification Proposals): **06.12.2018 at 14.00 hrs.** Opening of Financial Bids: **12.12.2018 at 13.00 hrs.** The bidders are requested to go through carefully the addenda/corrigenda to the bidding document, as uploaded along with this Corrigendum-10 in <https://wbttenders.gov.in> 842/18-19

**CENTRAL PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT**  
**NOTICE INVITING e-TENDERS**

The Executive Engineer, Mysore Central Division, CPWD Mysore on behalf of President of India invites online **Percentage rate bids** from approved and eligible contractors of CPWD for the following work :-

1. 59/MyCD/SE/e-tender/2018-19 Name of work: "Construction of Office building including development works, providing IEI & Fans, Lighting Conductor, Street Lighting, DG Set, AC Unit, Fire Fighting Down comer System and Fire alarm System for Mercantile Marine Department at Mangalore." Estimated cost : Rs. 7,87,20,885/- (Rs. 7,33,52,956/- (C) + Rs. 53,67,929/- (E)) Earnest money : Rs. 15,74,418/- and period of completion 350 days Last date and time of submission of bid **02-12-2018 upto 17.00 Hrs.**

The bid forms and other details can be obtained from website [www.tenderwizard.com/cpwd](http://www.tenderwizard.com/cpwd) or [www.cpwd.gov.in](http://www.cpwd.gov.in). Contact 0821 -2473649.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, DEPARTMENT OF SPACE  
INDIAN SPACE RESEARCH ORGANISATION  
(CONSTRUCTION & MAINTENANCE GROUP)  
ISRO TELEMTRY TRACKING AND COMMAND NETWORK (ISTRAC)  
Plot No. 12 & 13, 3rd Main, 2nd Phase,  
PEENYA INDUSTRIAL AREA, Bengaluru-560 058  
Ph: 080-28094182, 4541 Fax: 080-28094180

## BRIEF E-TENDER NOTICE

On behalf of President of India, item rate E-Tender is invited from Contractors of appropriate class for following works.

NT No.: ISTRAC/CMG/CON/C/ETN-60/2018-19 Dated: 19.11.2018

Name of Work: Construction of antenna supporting Structure and facility building for 18m dia antenna at IDSN campus, ISTRAC, Bengaluru (Civil and PH works), Retender with revised scope.

Estimated Cost put to Tender	Rs. 445.00 Lakhs
Tender Document details	E-Tender
Period of Completion	Eleven Months
Period during which tender document can be downloaded	20.11.2018 to 10.12.2018
Bid Clarifications	21.11.2018 to 10.12.2018
Last date of reply to Bid Clarification	Upto 1630 hrs. on 11.12.2018
Last date & time for receipt of tenders	Upto 1430 hrs. on 12.12.2018
Due date and time of opening of tenders	1130 hrs. onwards on 14.12.2018
Earnest money deposit (EMD)	Rs.3,90,000/-

Interested Tenderers may please refer Detailed Notice Inviting Tender (NIT) for eligibility criteria and other details in website: [www.isro.gov.in](http://www.isro.gov.in) and download the tender documents from [www.tenderwizard.com/ISRO](http://www.tenderwizard.com/ISRO)

GROUP DIRECTOR-CMG, ISTRAC

MARKET WATCH

	19-11-2018	% CHANGE
Sensex	35,775	0.90
US Dollar	71.67	0.36
Gold	32,100	-0.15
Brent oil	65.86	-3.10

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Ports	350.55	3.15
Asian Paints	1312.15	-9.15
Axis Bank	616.30	-3.50
Bajaj Auto	2679.65	-15.70
Bajaj Finserv	5725.95	30.30
Bajaj Finance	2360.95	-41.15
Bharti Airtel	336.85	4.10
BPCL	322.95	0.90
Cipla	528.25	-2.35
Coal India	264.15	0.50
Dr Reddys Lab	2528.60	51.55
Eicher Motors	24897.10	162.10
GAIL (India)	334.70	-7.50
Grasim Ind	849.40	17.50
HCL Tech	1040.10	17.90
HDFC	1899.35	10.35
HDFC Bank	2013.90	9.60
Hero MotoCorp	2980.65	18.75
Hindalco	234.45	4.50
HPCL	244.30	0.65
Hind Unilever	1701.40	12.30
Indiabulls HFL	733.80	-32.40
ICICI Bank	362.40	-5.15
IndusInd Bank	1537.95	36.85
Bharti Infratel	259.95	0.35
Infosys	651.70	0.85
Indian OilCorp	142.55	-0.80
ITC	284.50	7.95
JSW Steel	336.65	1.55
Kotak Bank	1175.25	6.65
L&T	1417.20	18.15
M&M	781.35	13.75
Maurti Suzuki	7411.65	70.45
NTPC	152.95	-1.10
ONGC	154.55	-1.80
PowerGrid Corp	189.70	1.60
Reliance Ind	1150.00	22.60
State Bank	288.15	-2.75
Sun Pharma	531.55	11.80
Tata Motors	184.60	4.70
Tata Steel	582.40	8.30
TCS	1902.45	15.85
Tech Mahindra	732.55	4.55
Titan	920.55	-0.80
UltraTech Cement	4031.95	69.55
UPL	775.20	3.35
Vedanta	211.35	4.55
Wipro	332.85	6.65
YES Bank	204.80	13.80
Zee Entertainment	446.80	3.20

EXCHANGE RATES

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

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	71.44	71.76
Euro	81.66	82.03
British Pound	91.62	92.04
Japanese Yen (100)	63.33	63.62
Chinese Yuan	10.29	10.34
Swiss Franc	71.73	72.06
Singapore Dollar	52.05	52.31
Canadian Dollar	54.24	54.49
Malaysian Ringgit	17.05	17.14

Source: Indian Bank

BULLION RATES CHENNAI

November 19 rates in rupees with previous rates in parentheses

Retail Silver (1g)	40	(40)
22 ct gold (1 g)	2957	(2957)

# SC upholds tribunal order backing UltraTech’s Binani bid

NCLAT had ruled in favour of the revised resolution plan for ₹7,950 crore

STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday upheld the National Company Law Appellate Tribunal’s (NCLAT) order that approved the revised bid of Aditya Birla group firm UltraTech Cement for acquiring debt-ridden Binani Cement at ₹7,950 crore.

A Bench of Justices R.F. Nariman and Navin Sinha dismissed the plea of Dalmia Group-led Rajputana Properties Pvt. Ltd. challenging the decision of the NCLAT.

Last week, the tribunal went in favour of the revised Resolution Plan submitted by UltraTech Cement, noting that it had taken care of maximisation of the assets of the ‘Corporate Debtor’ and also balanced the claim of all the stakeholders of the ‘corporate debtor’.



Shot in the arm: UltraTech’s resolution plan had taken care of maximisation of assets of the ‘corporate debtor’. ■ REUTERS

The NCLAT rejected the rival bid by Rajputana Properties saying it was “discriminatory” to some of the creditors of Binani Cement.

**Initial top bidder**  
Initially, Rajputana had emerged as the top bidder with an approximate ₹6,932

crore, but UltraTech revised its bid to about ₹7,950 crore.

The insolvency case against Binani Cement was initiated in July last year.

The firm owes about ₹7,000 crore to financial and operational creditors.

In April, the Supreme Court had refused UltraTech

## Yes Bank board may be revamped

Director R. Chandrashekhara resigns; board members’ performance under lens

MANOJIT SAHA  
MUMBAI

The board of private sector lender Yes Bank is set to be revamped with the nomination and remuneration committee reviewing the performance of all the members.

According to sources, the clean-up exercise of the board started after both the promoters of Yes Bank — Rana Kapoor and Madhu Kapoor — agreed on the need for overhauling the board to weed out under-performing members and address past governance issues.

The new board, including the chairman, will be such that it is acceptable to both



R. Chandrashekhara

the promoters, sources said.

The bank also announced on Monday that R. Chandrashekhara, independent director, had tendered his resignation from the bank’s board with immediate effect,

citing personal reasons. Last week, the bank’s non-executive chairman Ashok Chawla, a former bureaucrat, had resigned. The members on the board currently include MD & CEO Rana Kapoor, Mukesh Sabharwal, Brahm Dutt, S.C. Kalia, Ajai Kumar and Pratima Sheoroy.

Search for MD on

The move comes at a time when the bank is looking for a successor to Mr. Kapoor after the Reserve Bank of India extended his term only till January 31, though the board had approved a 3-year extension.

The bank has appointed an external agency to guide the

nomination and remuneration committee to find a successor for Mr. Kapoor.

Sources said the board will recommend 3-5 candidates’ names for the CEO’s post, in order of preference to the RBI, for approval.

The bank is expected to finalise the names of the candidates by the end of this year. Earlier, the bank had decided to elevate senior group presidents Rajat Monga, who handles financial management, and Pralay Mondal, who heads the focus area of retail, as executive directors. Yes Bank shares rose 7.2% on the BSE to close the day at ₹205.05.

## RBI carries the bat

RAGHUVIR SRINIVASAN  
CHENNAI

The Reserve Bank of India seems to have carried the day, after all, in Monday’s marathon 9-hour board meeting.

Going by the brief statement that it put out, of the six deliveries that it had to play, the RBI has shouldered arms to two — PCA relaxation and capital framework which have been referred for expert study; deftly glanced two more — on liquidity for NBFCs and governance of the central bank — to the next board meet, and effectively fended off the last two bouncers on capital norms and MSME borrowings.

NEWS ANALYSIS

Interestingly, of the two issues on which the RBI has seemingly conceded, the concessions are minimal and appear mainly designed for optics so that the government can have something to take back to Delhi from Mumbai.

The deferment by a year for a part of the additional capital framework is a small give-away in the face of the Centre’s demand for relaxation of the capital ratio itself.

Similarly, the MSME credit recast concession is not a big one, considering the demand from the Centre was for easier NPA norms for the sector and more credit flow.

Finally, after all the pre-match sledging, the game seems to have gone off smoothly with both sides playing responsibly.

## Nissan set to oust Carlos Ghosn over financial shenanigans

He had under-reported compensation

REUTERS  
TOKYO

Nissan Motor Co. Ltd. said it was ousting chairman Carlos Ghosn for alleged financial misconduct while the Japanese media reported he had been arrested.

The Japanese automaker said Mr. Ghosn’s alleged misconduct included personal use of company money and under-reporting how much he had been paid. Mr. Ghosn is also chairman and chief executive of Nissan’s French partner Renault and one of the best-known figures in the global car industry, and his departure would raise questions over the alliance.

Nissan said it launched a months-long investigation after a whistle-blower tipped it off to wrongdoing by Mr. Ghosn and representative director Greg Kelly.

“The investigation showed that over many years both Mr. Ghosn and Mr. Kelly have been reporting compensation amounts in the Tokyo Stock Exchange securities report that were less than the actual amount, in order to reduce the disclosed amount of Carlos Ghosn’s compensation,” Nissan said in a statement.

It said CEO Hiroto Saikawa would propose that the Nissan board remove Mr. Ghosn and Mr. Kelly. Renault shares tumbled 11% in Paris to be among the worst performing stocks in Europe. Nissan’s German-listed securities plunged 10%.

French President Emmanuel Macron said the government, the French carmaker’s top shareholder, would be vigilant about Re-



Carlos Ghosn

nault and its alliance with Nissan.

‘Le Cost Killer’

Known as “Le Cost Killer”, Mr. Ghosn is credited for reviving the Japanese automaker and has remained popular despite the massive job cuts that he brought and recent controversy over his lucrative pay package.

Japanese media reported that Mr. Ghosn had reported around ¥10 billion worth of compensation as around ¥5 billion. Renault owns 43.4% of Nissan, while Nissan owns 15% of Renault, with no voting rights in a partnership that began in 1999. Since 2016, Nissan has held a 34% controlling stake in its rival, Mitsubishi.

Brazilian-born, of Lebanese descent and a French citizen, Mr. Ghosn began his career at Michelin in France, moving on to Renault. He joined Nissan in 1999 after Renault bought a controlling stake and became its CEO in 2001. He remained in that post till last year. In June, Renault shareholders approved Mr. Ghosn’s €7.4 million (\$8.45 million) compensation for 2017. He also received €9.2 million in his final year as Nissan chief executive.

## AirSewa 2.0 portal, app unveiled

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
MUMBAI

The Ministry of Civil Aviation has introduced the upgraded version of AirSewa 2.0 web portal and mobile app to provide superior user experience with enhanced functionalities to air travellers.

Major improvements include features such as secure sign-up and log-in with social media, chatbot for travellers support, and improved grievance management, including social media grievances and details of flight schedule. The improved version operates through an interactive web portal as well as through a mobile app for both android and iOS platforms.

## Talks on with 150 nations to reform WTO: Prabhu

Multilateral trading system is under stress, says Minister

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

Commerce Minister Suresh Prabhu on Monday said he was in talks with at least 150 countries to work out the way forward for reforming the World Trade Organisation (WTO). He said that the multilateral trading system was under stress and a number of fresh trade-restrictive measures, which would affect global trade and economic growth, had surged.

“It is necessary that we look at making the WTO improve further,” Mr. Prabhu said at a conference on a strategic alliance for the WTO and trade remedy



Suresh Prabhu

laws. “The WTO has to change, and change for the better. We are preparing an agenda that does not exclude any country in the process of making the WTO better.”

He said that he had perso-

nally met with 150 trade ministers to move a reformed WTO agenda forward. “I am getting a positive response from all concerned, including the Director General of WTO, in our endeavour to take all countries on-board.” “Expansion of global trade hinges on rules and processes determined by the WTO and unless global trade expands, national economies will not benefit,” he said. “It is important that all substantive issues that have been agreed to at the Doha and other trade rounds, as well as new issues that have cropped up, are addressed with a sense of urgency.”

## ‘Corruption no longer among top 3 hurdles to doing business in India’

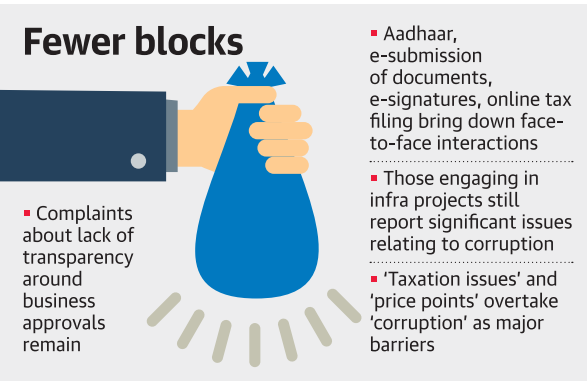
Number of firms seeing it as a big barrier has fallen: U.K. India Business Council

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

The perception among U.K. businesses that corruption is a major barrier in doing business in India has halved, according to the latest edition of the U.K. India Business Council’s Ease of Doing Business report compared with what it was in 2015.

‘Halved since 2015’

“Since the first report was launched, there has been a considerable year-on-year fall in the number of companies that viewed ‘corruption’ as a major barrier — from 34% in 2016 to 25% in 2017, halving since 2015, where it stood at 51%,” the report said. “This decline shows a major improvement, indicating that the current government’s efforts to mitigate corruption appear to be delivering tangible and much-desired results.



“Those identifying ‘corruption’ as a major barrier has declined far more dramatically over the four-year course of this survey among those currently doing business in India [decline of 27% in the last two years] where it is no longer considered a ‘top-three’ barrier compared to those not currently active in India,” the report added.

The report noted that in-

itiatives such as Aadhaar, electronic submission of government documents, acceptance of electronic signatures, and the push to file taxes online, have all reduced face-to-face interactions where corruption is most likely to take place.

“The extent of digitalisation, however, varies markedly across sectors, as does corruption, with those engaging in infrastructure pro-

jects still reporting significant issues relating to corruption,” the report added.

“Taxation issues’ and ‘price points’ overtook ‘corruption’ as major barriers identified by 36% and 29% of respondents, respectively, the report said. However, the proportion of respondents identifying ‘taxation issues’ was 3% lower in 2018 than 2017, which, the report said, suggests that businesses may be starting to adjust to the GST.

“Those currently doing business in India cite ‘taxation issues’ as a consistent barrier, whilst those looking to enter the Indian market understandably rate ‘identifying a suitable partner’ as their most salient issue after a considerable decline in reports of ‘legal and regulatory impediments’ from 2017 to 2018,” the report said.

## ‘Give reasons for delay in announcing results’

Investors must know the reasons, as these impact investment decisions: SEBI

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
MUMBAI

The Securities and Exchange Board of India has made it mandatory for listed firms to disclose the reason for delay, if any, in announcing the financial results within the stipulated time period.

For quarterly numbers, companies get 45 days from the end of the quarter while

in the case of annual results, sixty days from the end of the financial year are given to the company to submit their results.

While current regulations require companies to disclose the delay, if any, in announcing the results, there is no regulatory compulsion to disclose the reasons.

“Nevertheless, wherever

there were delays in submission of financial results by certain listed entities to the stock exchanges in the past, while the fact of delay was intimated by the listed entity, the reasons for the same were not disclosed/were not brought out clearly. In such cases, the investors were often left unaware as to the reasons for such delays

which may have had an impact on their investment decision. Hence, a need for disclosure by listed entities of reasons for delay in submission of financial results arises,” a SEBI circular said. The new norms require firms to disclose the reasons for the delay within one day of the due date for the submission of results.

**KERALA STATE SPORTS COUNCIL**  
Thiruvananthapuram  
15.11.2018  
E Tenders are invited for the purchase of sports kit for coaches of Kerala State Sports Council, Thiruvananthapuram.  
**For more details please visit [www.etenders.kerala.gov.in](http://www.etenders.kerala.gov.in)**  
Sd/-Secretary  
(3009675/D3/2018/PR)

भारत सरकार / GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
अंतरिक्ष विभाग / DEPARTMENT OF SPACE  
राष्ट्रीय सुदूर संवेदन केंद्र / NATIONAL REMOTE SENSING CENTRE  
बालानगर, हैदराबाद - 500 037 / BALANAGAR, HYDERABAD - 500 037

**शुद्धि पत्र / CORRIGENDUM**  
एनआरएससी / एचपीएस / 01 / यूनिट - 3 / NRSC/HPS/01/UNIT-3/2018-19 दिनांक / Date : 19.11.2018  
इओआई सूचना सं. एनआरएससी / एचपीएस / 01 / यूनिट - 3 2018-19 के शुद्धिपत्र के क्रम में अधिरुचि की अभिव्यक्ति (इओआई) जमा / प्रेषित करने की अंतिम तिथि बढ़ा कर 26.11.2018 कर दी गई है।  
CORRIGENDUM TO EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI) NO.NRSC/HPS/01/UNIT-3/2018-19 FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF SMART CLASS ROOM.  
DUE DATE OF BID SUBMISSION EXTENDED UP TO 26/11/2018 AT 1500 HOURS.  
संपूर्ण विवरण के लिए लॉग इन करें। For complete details please log on to [www.nrsc.gov.in](http://www.nrsc.gov.in)  
Sd/-  
HEAD, PURCHASE & STORES

**SREE CHITRA TIRUNAL INSTITUTE FOR MEDICAL SCIENCES & TECHNOLOGY**  
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM-11  
(An Institute of National Importance under Government of India)  
PHONE: (91) 0471 2524 445/225/155; FAX: 0471 2550728  
Email: [purchase@scitinst.ac.in](mailto:purchase@scitinst.ac.in)  
Sealed Tenders are invited from Foreign Manufacturers/their accredited Indian Agents, Indian Manufacturers/their Distributors under two bid system for various **Equipments and consumables**  
**Please visit website for more details: [www.scitinst.ac.in](http://www.scitinst.ac.in) & <http://eprocure.gov.in/epublish>**  
Date: 19/11/2018 (Sd/-) Director

**Gandhinagar Railway and Urban Development Corporation Limited (GARUD)**  
8th Floor, Block No. 18, Udyog Bhawan, Sector 11, Gandhinagar, Gujarat, India - 382017 Email: [garud.gandhinagar@gmail.com](mailto:garud.gandhinagar@gmail.com)

**TENDER NOTICE**  
GARUD Invites "RFP for Finishing Work of Extended Deck Slab and Utility Building for Development of 300-room Hotel at the Airspace above Gandhinagar Railway Station Gandhinagar, Gujarat" will be available for download on 20/11/2018 at Website. The Last of Submission is 07/12/2018. Details of Tender are available on Website : <https://garud.nprocure.com>

**V.O.CHIDAMBARANAR PORT TRUST**  
(MEE DEPARTMENT)  
NOTICE INVITING TENDER (NIT)  
Only through E-Tendering Mode, V.O.C.P.T E-Tendering Website: [www.tenderswizd.com/VOCPT](http://www.tenderswizd.com/VOCPT)  
Tender No. MEE/SE/3E1/Ele/F/2/7/2018  
Online Tenders (in Two Bid system) are invited by V.O.Chidambaranar Port Trust Tuticorin from reputed contractors for fulfilling Minimum Qualifying Criteria as stipulated in this notice for the following work:  
1 Name of the work Replacement of SV/HH light fitting with LED fittings on existing 20 mtr High masts at the Port area  
2 Estimate Amount Rs. 43,87,320/-  
3 Earnest Money deposit EMD Rs. 88,000/- Payment in the form of RTGS/NEFT payable to V.O.Chidambaranar Port Trust, Tuticorin.  
4 Downloading of Tender from VOCPT online e-tendering website. 21/11/2018 to 06/12/2018 (up to 1500 Hrs.)  
5 Last Date and Time for submission of Tenders online. BEFORE 1500 Hrs. on 06/12/2018  
6 Submission of Hard copies of Technical Bid & tender 06/12/2018 after 15:30 hrs  
7 Online Technical Bid opening date and time At 1530 Hrs. on 06/12/2018  
Sd/-  
CHIEF MECHANICAL ENGINEER

**V.O.CHIDAMBARANAR PORT TRUST**  
(MEE DEPARTMENT)  
NOTICE INVITING TENDER (NIT)  
Only through E-Tendering Mode, V.O.C.P.T E-Tendering Website: [www.tenderswizd.com/VOCPT](http://www.tenderswizd.com/VOCPT)  
Tender No. MEE/SE/1E2/Ele/F/18/10/V/1-18  
Online Tenders (in Two Bid system) are invited by V.O.Chidambaranar Port Trust Tuticorin from reputed contractors for fulfilling Minimum Qualifying Criteria as stipulated in this notice for the following work:  
1 Name of the work Annual Maintenance contract for attending day to day Preventive and Breakdown Maintenance of Electrical Installation in operational area of V.O.C. Port Trust for a period of two years.  
2 Estimate Amount Rs. 27,78,472/-  
3 Earnest Money deposit EMD Rs. 55,570/- Payment in the form of RTGS/NEFT payable to V.O.Chidambaranar Port Trust, Tuticorin.  
4 Downloading of Tender from VOCPT online e-tendering website. 21/11/2018 to 11/12/2018 (up to 1500 Hrs.)  
5 Last Date and Time for submission of Tenders online. BEFORE 1500 Hrs. on 11/12/2018  
6 Submission of Hard copies of Technical Bid & tender 11/12/2018 after 15:30 hrs  
7 Online Technical Bid opening date and time At 1530 Hrs. on 11/12/2018  
Sd/-  
CHIEF MECHANICAL ENGINEER

**MO FPI**  
MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES  
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

**INDIAN INSTITUTE OF FOOD PROCESSING TECHNOLOGY**  
Ministry of Food Processing Industries  
Government of India  
Pudukkottai Road, Thanjavur - 613 005.  
Tel. 04362-228155  
Email: [director@iifpt.edu.in](mailto:director@iifpt.edu.in) • Website: [www.iifpt.edu.in](http://www.iifpt.edu.in)  
No.F/257/2018 Date: 20.11.2018

**RE-TENDER NOTICE**  
Director, IIFPT, invites sealed tenders for the supply of Laboratory equipments for Indian Institute of Food Processing Technology, Liaison Office, Guwahati from reputed Manufacturers/Suppliers/Authorized dealers for the supply, installation, commissioning of Equipments confirming to national/international standards wherever applicable. Interested parties may download the tender document, EMD, Tender fee and terms and conditions from our website [www.iifpt.edu.in](http://www.iifpt.edu.in).  
Last date for submitting tender documents : 10.12.2018 Time: 5:00 pm  
Technical bid opening (S.No 1 to 4) : 11.12.2018 Time: 3:00 pm  
Technical bid opening (S.No 5 to 7) : 12.12.2018 Time: 3:00 pm  
The Director, IIFPT reserves the right to accept or to defer the above dates or, reject any tender in full or part thereof without assigning any reason.  
**DIRECTOR**

Competition Commission of India invites comments of the stakeholders on the proposed acquisition of the electrical and automation business of Larsen & Toubro Limited by Schneider Electric India Private Limited and MacRitchie Investments Pte. Limited

Disclaimer

Under Section 29(2) of the Competition Act 2002, the Competition Commission of India, if it is of the prima facie opinion that the combination has, or is likely to have, an appreciable adverse effect on competition, shall direct the parties to the said combination to publish details of the combination for bringing it to the knowledge or information of the public and persons affected or likely to be affected by such combination. In accordance with the provisions of Section 29(2) of the Competition Act, 2002, the Competition Commission of India requires Schneider Electric India Private Limited and MacRitchie Investments Pte. Ltd. to publish details of the Proposed Combination.

The contents given herein do not represent in any manner the views of the Competition Commission of India and do not prejudice the view that the Competition Commission of India may take of the Proposed Combination. The Competition Commission of India is not responsible for any incorrect or misleading information contained herein.

FORM IV

I. Details of combination under sub-section (2) of Section 29 of the Competition Act, 2002 ("Act")

1. The Competition Commission of India ("Comission") is investigating into the combination between Schneider Electric India Private Limited, having its registered office at C-56, Mayapuri, Industrial Area, Phase-II, New Delhi-110064, India ("SEIPL") and MacRitchie Investments Pte. Ltd., having its registered office at 60B Orchard Road, #06-18 Tower 2, The Atrium Orchard, Singapore, 238891 ("MacRitchie") (SEIPL and MacRitchie are collectively referred to as "Acquirers") and Larsen & Toubro Limited ("L&T"), having its registered office at L&T House, Ballard Estate, P. O. Box: 278, Mumbai - 400 001, India (the Acquirers and L&T are collectively referred to as "Parties").
2. The proposed transaction contemplates (a) the acquisition of the electrical and automation ("E&A") business of L&T (excluding the marine business unit and Servowatch Ltd., which are currently part of the E&A business of L&T) ("Target Business"), by SEIPL, as a going concern on a slump sale basis; and, (b) the acquisition of 35% of the shareholding in SEIPL by MacRitchie (together, the "Proposed Combination").

II. The details of the combination in the form of the summary, as provided by the Parties to the combination under column 1 of Form II are as under:

Parties to the Proposed Combination

SEIPL

3. SEIPL is a company incorporated in India and is an indirect, wholly-owned subsidiary of Schneider Electric SE ("Schneider"). Schneider is present in power management – Medium Voltage ("MV"), Low Voltage ("LV") and secure power, and in automation systems. Schneider operates through its subsidiaries and affiliates in India and offers products and services relating to, *inter alia*, E&A. In relation to the overlapping products/solutions [i.e., products offered by both Schneider and L&T] mentioned in Paragraph 20 below, the business of Schneider in India is conducted through the following six legal entities, i.e., SEIPL, Schneider Electric Infrastructure Limited ("SEIL"), Schneider Electric President Systems Limited ("SEPSL"), Schneider Electric IT Business India Private Limited ("SEITB"), Luminous Power Technologies Private Limited ("Luminous"), Schneider Electric Systems India Private Limited ("SESIPL"), collectively "Schneider India".

MACRITCHIE

4. MacRitchie, a company incorporated in Singapore, is an indirect wholly-owned subsidiary of Temasek Holdings (Private) Limited, a global investment company headquartered in Singapore. MacRitchie is an investment holding company and does not have any business operations other than holding investments.

L&T

5. L&T is a company incorporated in India. L&T is a technology, engineering, construction, manufacturing and financial services conglomerate, with global operations and customers in over 30 countries around the world. L&T's manufacturing footprint extends across eight countries (in addition to India), and it also has several international offices and a supply chain that extends around the globe. L&T is engaged in core, high impact sectors of the economy and caters to various industries, including hydrocarbon, infrastructure, power, process industries and defence.

Rationale, objectives, strategy and the likely impact of the Proposed Combination

6. The Proposed Combination involves the acquisition of the Target Business which is strongly complementary to, and in line with, Schneider's business in India (through Schneider India). The Proposed Combination will combine Schneider's strong global technology platform, digital offers and global presence with L&T's wide domestic reach, coupled with its end-to-end Research & Development ("R&D") and manufacturing capabilities specific to the Indian market.
7. The Proposed Combination will help accelerate Schneider India's manufacturing footprint in India which will result in greater domestic production, reduced dependence on imports and increased employment opportunities. The combined business will have an optimized manufacturing base, through use of superior technologies, native engineering systems and economies of scale, which will permit Schneider India to undertake local manufacturing of products and solutions in India that are currently largely imported from overseas.
8. The Proposed Combination is in alignment with L&T's growth strategy and strategic plan, under which L&T plans to focus on its core business activities and to divest its non-core businesses which includes the Target Business. Therefore, L&T proposes to divest the Target Business to the selected buyer, i.e., SEIPL.
9. The Proposed Combination will harness the strengths of the combined entity to address the energy, and electrical & automation requirements of consumers in India and in other new economies such as, the Middle East, Africa and South-East Asia, along with an accelerated focus on the contribution to "Make in India" to serve the fast-growing Indian LV and industrial automation market.
10. The Proposed Combination will also enhance Schneider India's ability to offer a wider range of products and technologically superior solutions to Indian consumers across portfolios and price points in India. The Proposed Combination leverages the complementary businesses of Schneider India and L&T, including L&T's widespread network of distributors/ channel partners and extensive geographical reach across India (in over 260 cities), enabling Schneider India to access consumers in tier II and tier III cities and semi-urban and rural areas across India, where Schneider India currently has a limited presence.
11. Post the Proposed Combination, Schneider aims to develop India as the "fourth hub" for Schneider globally (the other three being US, France and China) to cater to the growing Indian market as well as to develop India as the hub for new and emerging markets such as, the Middle East, Africa and South-East Asia.

Nature of the Proposed Combination

12. On 1 May 2018, SEIPL and L&T entered into a Business Transfer Agreement ("BTA") that contemplates the proposed acquisition of full and complete ownership and control over the Target Business by SEIPL. Further, the Share Subscription Agreement dated 1 May 2018 executed between SEIPL, Schneider Electric Industries SAS and MacRitchie contemplates an acquisition of 35% of the shareholding in SEIPL by MacRitchie. The parties also entered into a brand license agreement permitting SEIPL to use the brand and certain registered marks of L&T for a limited duration.
13. The Proposed Combination is in the nature of an acquisition (under Section 5(a) of the Act). As mentioned above, the Proposed Combination contemplates the acquisition of the Target Business of L&T by SEIPL, as a going concern on a slump sale basis and the proposed acquisition of 35% of the shareholding in SEIPL by MacRitchie.

Area of activities of the parties to the combination

14. SEIPL is a company incorporated in India and is an indirect, wholly-owned subsidiary of Schneider. Schneider is actively involved in the digital transformation of energy management and automation in homes, buildings, data centres, infrastructure and industries. With a global presence in over 100 countries, Schneider is present in power management - MV, LV and secure power, and in automation systems. Schneider provides integrated efficiency solutions, combining energy, automation and software. Schneider is operating through its subsidiaries and affiliates in India and offers products and services relating to, *inter alia*, the E&A business. Schneider India offers around 74 different products/solutions in the E&A sector in India.
15. MacRitchie is an investment holding company and does not have any business operations other than holding investments.

16. L&T is a company incorporated in India. L&T is a technology, engineering, construction, manufacturing and financial services conglomerate, with global operations and customers in over 30 countries around the world. L&T's manufacturing footprint extends across eight countries (in addition to India), and it also has several international offices and a supply chain that extends around the globe. L&T is engaged in core, high impact sectors of the economy and caters to various industries, including hydrocarbon, infrastructure, power, process industries and defence. The Target Business offers a wide range of LV and MV switchgears, electrical systems, industrial and building automation solutions, energy management systems and metering solutions. L&T offers around 46 different products/solutions in the E&A sector in India.

The market(s) (including its structure and state of competition) in which the combination will have or is likely to have an impact

17. The Proposed Combination relates to the E&A sector in India. Schneider India and the Target Business are engaged in providing E&A products and solutions in India and provide similar products/solutions across a number of product/ solution categories.
18. Based on the application, substitutability, functionality, and end-use, there are 29 Overlapping Products/Solutions between Schneider India and the Target Business in India ("Overlapping Products/Solutions"), each of which constitutes a separate relevant product market in India.
19. The 29 Overlapping Products/Solutions between Schneider India and Target Business are primarily intermediate products (inputs) used in the provision of E&A business applications, specified by downstream customer demands, which mostly comprise panel builders, electrical contractors and original equipment manufacturers. The Overlapping Products/Solutions on a standalone basis are different and are not substitutable with each other.
20. **Relevant Product Market:** The 29 Overlapping Products/Solutions between Schneider India and the Target Business in India, are set out below:

S. No.	Overlapping Products/Solution
1.	Wires
2.	Human Machine Interface ("HMI")
3.	Wiring devices/Wiring accessories ("WAS")
4.	Programmable Logic Computers ("PLC")
5.	Active Harmonic Filter ("AHF")
6.	Servo
7.	Low Voltage Panel and Solutions ("LV Panel and Solutions")
8.	Automatic Power Factor Correction Panels ("APFC Panels")
9.	Low Voltage Variable speed/ Frequency Drives ("LV Drives")
10.	Busways Power/ Busbar Trunking ("BBT")
11.	Digital Protective Relays/ Numerical Relays ("DPR")
12.	Medium Voltage Equipment ("MVE")
13.	Final Distribution Enclosure Systems/Distribution Board ("DBs")
14.	Changeover Switches ("COS")
15.	Electrical and Automation Solutions ("EAS")
16.	Residual Current Devices ("RCD")
17.	Final Distribution Breakers Devices/Miniature Circuit Breakers ("MCB and Isolators")
18.	Power Factor Correction Components ("PFC Components")
19.	Power Metering Products/Digital Panel Meters ("DPM")
20.	Industrial Starters
21.	Motor Management Relays ("MMR")
22.	Panel Accessories
23.	Outdoor Cabinets ("ODC")
24.	Air Circuit Breakers ("ACB")
25.	Moulded Case Circuit Breakers ("MCCB")
26.	Switch Disconnecter Fuse ("SDF")
27.	Contactors (Including Control Contactors) ("Contactors")
28.	Motor Protection Circuit Breaker ("MPCB")
29.	Overload Relays

21. **Relevant Geographic Market:** The conditions for manufacturing/ selling each of the separate relevant product markets as mentioned above in the entire country are uniform and homogenous. There are no barriers within the territory of India in terms of geographic location of the consumers for availing these products/solutions, as irrespective of where the plants and distributors are located, the products are being sold across India and transportation costs are low. Therefore, the 'relevant geographic market' is 'India'.

Information with reference to sub-section 4 of Section 20 of the Act

- A. Extent of barriers to entry into the market:
22. The Acquirers are of the view that the Indian E&A industry in India is characterized by low barriers to entry which is evidenced by the fact that over the last few years, several new players have entered the relevant markets (both domestic and international players). The market has witnessed the entry of more than 11 organized competitors, including competitors with a global presence like Legrand (India) Pvt. Ltd. ("Legrand"), Eaton Corporation ("Eaton"), Mitsubishi Electric Corporation ("Mitsubishi"), Hager group ("Hager"), low-cost Chinese players like Chint group ("Chint Electric") and Indian players like Havells India Limited ("Havells").
- B. Level of combination in the market:
23. The Acquirers are of the view that the relevant markets as mentioned above in India are sufficiently competitive and contestable with the presence of at least 7-20 competitors in each relevant market offering choice to the customers, including Siemens AG ("Siemens") and ABB group ("ABB") who are global giants with recognized brands and sophisticated technology as well as cost-competitive Indian players such as, C&S Electric ("C&S") and Havells and Chinese players such as Chint Electric.
- C. Degree of countervailing power in the market:
24. The Acquirers are of the view that there is a high degree of countervailing power in respect of the Overlapping Products/Solutions, which are primarily used in commercial and industrial projects. The customers in this segment are sophisticated buyers, and well-positioned to exercise countervailing bargaining power. Additionally, the sale of the Overlapping Products/Solutions in India by Schneider India is largely based either on fixed pricing (based on what is shared with distributors) and individualized negotiations based on the negotiations held with Schneider India's customers. As such, the customers who purchase the Overlapping Products/Solutions from Schneider India, have the ability to negotiate the terms of sale based on their requirements. At the overall LV switchgear market level, the industrial and commercial customers represent around 50% of the global LV switchgear market (as of 2014).
- D. Likelihood that the combination would result in the parties to the combination being able to significantly and sustainably increase prices or profit margins:
25. The Acquirers are of the view that the Proposed Combination is unlikely

to result in SEIPL being able to significantly and sustainably increase prices on account of the presence of at least 7-20 competitors in each relevant market mentioned in Paragraph 20, which includes global competitors such as, ABB, Siemens, C&S, Legrand, Eaton, Mitsubishi, etc. as well as price competitive domestic competitors such as, C&S, Havells, BCH Electric Limited ("BCH Electric"), Polycab Wires Pvt. Ltd. ("Polycab"), HPL Electric & Power ("HPL") etc., which exert and will continue to exert significant competitive constraint on Schneider India post the Proposed Combination. Furthermore, the market is characterized by excess capacity, which hinders and will continue to hinder the ability of the combined entity to sustainably increase prices post the Proposed Combination.

- E. Extent of effective competition likely to sustain in a market:

26. The Acquirers are of the view that after the completion of the Proposed Combination, effective competition will continue to be sustained in the market. There is presence of large competitors in India, such as, ABB, Siemens, C&S, Legrand, Eaton, Mitsubishi, etc., as well as price competitive domestic competitors such as, C&S, Havells, BCH Electric, Polycab, HPL, etc., who pose significant competitive constraints and will continue to do so post the Proposed Combination. Any attempt to increase prices by SEIPL will result in customers shifting their procurement to other competitors which have the resources to increase their production capacities within a short time-period.

- F. Extent to which substitutes are available or are likely to be available in the market:

27. The switchgear products of all manufacturers comply with the IS / IEC 60947 standard, and are closely matched on specifications, along with being substitutable in nature. Accordingly, there are no technical constraints in using the products/ solutions from different manufacturers in the same panel, and this aspect significantly increases the level of competition within the competitors.

- G. Market share, in the relevant market, of the persons or enterprise in a combination, individually and as a combination:

28. The market shares of SEIPL, L&T and the combined entity post the Proposed Combination along with the market shares of the top five (5) competitors of the combined entity for the calendar year 2016 in respect of all 29 Overlapping Products/Solutions are provided in the table set out below:

S. No.	Product/ Solution	Market share (%)			
		Schneider	L&T	Combined MS	Top 5 Competitors
1.	Overload Relays	20-25%	35-40%	55-60%	Siemens (15-20%), C&S Electric (10-15%), ABB (5-10%), BCH Electric (0-5%), Eaton (0-5%)
2.	MPCB	40-45%	10-15%	50-55%	Siemens (25-30%), ABB (5-10%), C&S Electric (5-10%), Others (5-10%)
3.	Contactors	20-25%	25-30%	45-50%	Siemens (20-25%), ABB (10-15%), C&S Electric (5-10%), BCH Electric (0-5%), Eaton (0-5%)
4.	SDF	0-5%	45-50%	45-50%	Siemens (25-30%), C&S Electric (5-10%), ABB (5-10%), Havells (5-10%), Others (0-5%)
5.	MCCB	20-25%	25-30%	45-50%	ABB (10-15%), Siemens (10-15%), C&S Electric (5-10%), Others (15-20%)
6.	ACB	20-25%	25-30%	45-50%	ABB (20-25%), Siemens (15-20%), C&S Electric (5-10%), Others (5-10%)
7.	ODC	20-25%	15-20%	35-40%	Rittal (25-30%), MaxBros (10-15%), Netrack (0-5%), Valrack (0-5%), Others (15-20%)
8.	Accessories	10-15%	20-25%	35-40%	Teknic (10-15%), Esbee (10-15%), Selectron (5-10%), Omron (5-10%), C&S Electric (5-10%)
9.	MMR	25-30%	5-10%	35-40%	Siemens (35-40%), ABB (15-20%), C&S Electric (5-10%), Eaton (0-5%), Others (0-5%)
10.	Industrial Starters	0-5%	30-35%	30-35%	Siemens (20-25%), BCH Electric (20-25%), C&S Electric (20-25%), Others (0-5%)
11.	DPM	25-30%	0-5%	30-35%	Elmeasure (10-15%), Secure (10-15%), HPL (5-10%), Trinity (5-10%), Rishabh (5-10%)
12.	Components	5-10%	15-20%	25-30%	Epcos (30-35%), Vishay electronics (5-10%), Neptune (0-5%), Shreem (0-5%), Subodhan engineers (0-5%)
13.	RCD	10-15%	10-15%	25-30%	Legrand (25-30%), Havells (20-25%), ABB (5-10%), Hager (5-10%), Siemens (0-5%)
14.	MCB and Isolators	10-15%	10-15%	25-30%	Legrand (25-30%), Havells (15-20%), Siemens (5-10%), ABB (5-10%), Hager (5-10%)
15.	EAS	10-15%	10-15%	25-30%	Siemens (10-15%), ABB (10-15%), Honeywell (10-15%), Yokogawa (5-10%), Emerson (5-10%),
16.	COS	0-5%	25-30%	25-30%	HPL (35-40%), C&S Electric (10-15%), Havells (5-10%), Indosian (5-10%), Others (5-10%)
17.	DBs	10-15%	5-10%	15-20%	Legrand (30-35%), Havells (25-30%), Hager (5-10%), ABB (5-10%), Siemens (0-5%)
18.	MVE	10-15%	0-5%	15-20%	Siemens (10-15%), ABB (5-10%), Crompton & Greaves (5-10%), BHEL (0-5%), C&S Electric (0-5%)
19.	DPR	10-15%	0-5%	15-20%	Siemens (25-30%), ABB (20-25%), General Electric (10-15%), Ashida (0-5%), Nari Group (0-5%)
20.	BBT	10-15%	0-5%	10-15%	C&S Electric (15-20%), EAE (5-10%), Godrej (5-10%), Legrand (0-5%), Entraco (0-5%)
21.	LV Drives	5-10%	0-5%	10-15%	ABB (20-25%), Danfoss (15-20%), Siemens (10-15%), Delta (5-10%), Fuji (5-10%)
22.	APFC Panels	10-15%	0-5%	10-15%	Neptune (25-30%), ABB (20-25%), EPCOS (10-15%), Claritas (5-10%), Shreem (5-10%)
23.	Servo	10-15%	0-5%	10-15%	Mitsubishi (10-15%), Siemens (5-10%), Delta (5-10%), Rockwell (5-10%), Others (45-50%)
24.	AHF	0-5%	0-5%	5-10%	Consul Neowatt (15-20%), P2 power (15-20%), Emerson (10-15%), Schaffner India (5-10%), Epcos (5-10%)
25.	PLC	5-10%	0-5%	5-10%	Siemens (20-25%), Rockwell (15-20%), Mitsubishi (5-10%), ABB (0-5%), General Electric (0-5%)
26.	LV Panel and Solutions	0-5%	0-5%	5-10%	C&S Electric (0-5%), ABB (0-5%), Siemens (0-5%), Others (85-90%)
27.	WAS	0-5%	0-5%	5-10%	Panasonic (20-25%), Legrand (10-15%), Havells (10-15%), GM (5-10%), Greatwhite (5-10%)
28.	HMI	0-5%	0-5%	0-5%	Siemens (5-10%), Advantech (0-5%), Rockwell (0-5%), Mitsubishi (0-5%), Portwell Laxons (0-5%)

Source: Schneider India's internal estimates based on publicly available data and actual sales of L&T; Market share estimates for ACB, MCCB and COS are based on competitor sales data from F&S report on Indian LV Switchgear market for the year 2016 and the actual sales of Schneider India and L&T.

29. The Acquirers are of the view that high market shares in the LV industry do not translate into market power on account of (i) sufficient number of



**CIL reappoints five independent directors**  
NEW DELHI  
State-owned Coal India (CIL) on Monday announced the reappointment of five independent directors - Loretta M Vas, Vinod Jain, DC Panigrahi, Khanindra Pathak, SB Agnihotri - to its board. The appointment is for a period of one year, with effect from November 17. With these reappointments, there are seven independent directors on the board. CIL accounts for over 80% of the domestic coal output. PTI

**TRAI to meet telcos to finalise 2019 agenda**  
NEW DELHI  
TRAI is expected to meet telecom industry players next month, to deliberate on the issues that will be taken up in 2019, Chairman R.S. Sharma said on Monday. The discussion is, however, expected to entail a wider set of players in the telecom space this time, spanning operators, infrastructure providers and others. "We will talk to them and ask them about the items they think, should be taken up in the next calendar year." PTI

**Centre mulls linking e-way bill with FASTag**  
NEW DELHI  
The revenue department is planning to integrate e-way bill with NHA's FASTag mechanism and DMICDC's Logistics Data Bank services, to facilitate faster movement of goods and check GST evasion. The proposal will improve operational efficiencies across the logistic landscape. It will also help in preventing GST evasion by unscrupulous traders who take advantage of the loopholes in the supply chain, an official said. PTI

# Essar Steel: GAIL, GETCO move NCLT against ArcelorMittal bid

Say resolution plan for Essar doesn't include ₹1,800-crore due to them

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT**  
MUMBAI  
GAIL (India) and Gujarat Energy Transmission Corp (GETCO) have moved the Ahmedabad Bench of the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) seeking rejection of ArcelorMittal's ₹42,000-crore bid for Essar Steel, saying operational creditors had been left out in the proposal.

**Separate pleas**  
In separate interlocutory applications, GAIL and GETCO claimed that they had outstanding dues of over ₹1,800 crore against Essar Steel India, which are not being fully cleared by ArcelorMittal. Seeking rejection of Arce-



**No solution:** The resolution plan is neither legal nor proper in the interest of all creditors, GAIL said. •MEETA AHLAWAT

lorMittal's resolution plan, GAIL said in the petition, "The resolution plan submitted is in contravention of Section 30(2) of Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC)

2016. That even otherwise resolution plan is neither legal nor proper in the interest of all creditors. The resolution plan is arbitrary, irrational, illogical that puts in

jeopardy the interest of operational creditors and completely fails to protect the interest of operational creditors." GAIL has claims of ₹907 crore against Essar Steel, while GETCO has outstanding dues of ₹896.52 crore. Dhaval Vussonji of Dhaval Vussonji & Associates told *The Hindu*: "The Supreme Court [on Monday] upheld the order of the NCLAT in the case of Binani Cement that the interest of operational creditors must be taken care of on a par with financial creditors. This judgment will set a precedent in the upcoming cases for operational creditors."

## App unveiled for retail investment in T-bills

Investors can pay via UPI, net banking

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT**  
MUMBAI  
The National Stock Exchange (NSE) has launched an app and web-based platform, 'NSE goBID', for retail investors to buy government securities. The new app would allow investors to invest in treasury bills (T-Bills) of 91 days, 182 days and 364 days and various government bonds from one year to almost 40 years, said a statement by the exchange. The retail investors would be able to make payment directly from their bank accounts using Unified Payments Interface (UPI) and Internet banking, the statement added. While investment could be done almost every week



after a one-time registration, the app would be available to all investors registered with NSE's trading members. "The launch of NSE goBID for investing in government securities is a milestone at a time when India is seeing surge in digital payments," said Ajay Tyagi, Chairman, Securities and Exchange Board of India.

## Ford India's new models to get greater domestic flavour

Company bets big on upcoming technology centre

**N. ANAND**  
CHENNAI  
Ford's product development team in India will play an increasingly bigger role in the launch of new models in the country, according to Anurag Mehrotra, Ford India president and MD. "India product development team is already playing a big role. Next year, we will launch our global technology and business centre. Once the centre comes into being, there will be more product development in India. In future, it will be much higher," he said. "During 2010-11, the product development work done by the Indian team here was about 30%. This year, it touched over 55%. In



fact, it is about 50% to 60% in models such as Freestyle and Aspire," he added. The largest passenger car exporter from India has two plants - at Sanand in Gujarat and Chennai - with an installed capacity to produce 4.4 lakh cars and 6.1 lakh engines per annum. At present, the plants were operat-

## Discoms owe GST dues to solar firms

**PRESS TRUST OF INDIA**  
MUMBAI  
State power distribution companies (discoms) will have to shell out nearly ₹2,000 crore as one-time compensation towards GST impact on solar power developers, according to rating agency ICRA. The Central Electricity Regulatory Commission, in its order in October, had approved the claims raised by solar power developers related to the impact of introduction of the goods and service tax (GST) on their capital cost. Icr group head and senior VP, corporate ratings, Sabyasachi Majumdar said, "... the one-time compensation towards GST impact is around ₹2,000 crore on an all-India level.



**Key component:** Own damage component is made available as a cover against damage to the vehicle. •GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCK

## IRDAI to revisit 'own damage' motor cover

To study vehicle tech developments

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT**  
HYDERABAD  
Insurance regulator IRDAI has decided to revisit the product structure of the Own Damage (OD) component in motor insurance, for which it has constituted a working group comprising representatives from both public and private insurers and its own officials as well. The OD component is made available as a cover against damage to the vehicle. Unlike Third Party or Personal Accident covers, this is not mandatory. Though de-tariffed in 2007 - insurers decide the price of the cover - the basic product structure of OD continues to be governed by general regulations and other provisions of the erstwhile India Motor Tariff. However, insurers are allowed to file add-ons to the package policy, subject to the product filing guidelines.

latory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) order to set up the working group said. "There is a need to revisit the current product structure keeping in view the developments in technology relating to motor vehicles as well as the fast changing eco-systems," according to the regulator. The working group would revisit classification of products under OD as well as the product structure and design, including aspects such as duration of products and expansion of product suite, to include technology enabled ones. It would "take stock of various add-ons in the market, identify ones that could be standardised across the industry, and identify those categories that could be left for insurers to innovate," IRDAI said. For arriving at a revised framework, the working group would take into various developments over the past few years, including impact of de-tariffing of the pricing component. It has been given 16 weeks to submit its recommendations.

**Working group**  
"The number of such add-ons has become humongous, given the evolving nature of the business and demand for various types of covers," the Insurance Regu-

competitors offering choice to the consumers; (ii) cost-conscious nature of the Indian consumer; (iii) inability of Schneider India to dictate end-prices to the distributors; (iv) no lock-in for distributors; (v) no regulatory requirement for entry in the relevant market(s); (vi) contestable market characterized by ease of entry and expansion; and, (vii) competitive constraints posed by the unorganized sector.

30. In relation to ACBs, the combined market share of SEIPL post the Proposed Combination is between 45-50%. However, the market for ACBs is characterized by the presence of at least 13 competitors (i.e., Siemens, ABB, C&S, Havells, Legrand, Mitsubishi, BCH Electric, Hager, Eaton, HPL, Indo Asian, LSIS Industrial Systems Co. Ltd ("LSIS") and Chint Electric) who will continue to exert competitive constraint on Schneider India post the Proposed Combination. It is also pertinent to note that the market for ACBs also witnessed entry of several new players between 2008 to 2015, i.e., Legrand, Mitsubishi, Eaton, Hager, and Chint Electric.
31. In relation to MCCBs, the combined market share post the Proposed Combination is between 45-50%. However, the market for MCCBs is characterized by the presence of at least 13 competitors (i.e., Siemens, ABB, C&S, Havells, Legrand, Mitsubishi, BCH Electric, HPL, Chint, Hager, LSIS, Indo Asian and Eaton) who will continue to exert a competitive constraint on Schneider India post the Proposed Combination. It is also pertinent to note that the market for MCCBs witnessed entry of several new players between 2010 to 2017, i.e., Mitsubishi, Eaton, Hager, Havells and Nader.
32. In relation to Contactors, the combined market share post the Proposed Combination is between 45-50%. However, the market for Contactors is characterized by the presence of at least 12 competitors (i.e., Siemens, ABB, C&S, Eaton, BCH Electric, Legrand, Chint Electric, Mitsubishi, LSIS, HPL, Indo Asian and Havells) who will continue to exert a competitive constraint on Schneider India post the Proposed Combination. The market for Contactors also witnessed entry of several new players between 2012 to 2017, i.e., Eaton, Legrand, Chint Electric, Havells and Mitsubishi.
33. In relation to Overload Relays, the combined market share post the Proposed Combination is between 55-60%. However, the Acquirers are of the view that the market is characterized by the presence of at least 12 competitors (i.e., Siemens, ABB, C&S Electric, Eaton, BCH Electric, Legrand, Chint Electric, Mitsubishi, LSIS, Havells, HPL and Indo Asian) who will continue to exert a competitive constraint on Schneider India post the Proposed Combination. The market for Overload Relays also witnessed entry of several new players between 2012 to 2017, i.e., Eaton, Mitsubishi, Legrand, Chint Electric and Havells.
34. It is also pertinent to mention that post the Proposed Combination, the combined entity would not be the market leader in 15 of the 29 Overlapping Products/Solutions (in terms of market share), i.e., MMR, DPR, PLC, HMI, RCD, DBs, PFC Components, COS, BBT, LV Drives, APFC Panels, Servo, AHF, WAS and Wires. Further, in relation to SDF, the market share of SEIPL prior to the Proposed Combination is less than 5%.
- H. Likelihood that the combination would result in the removal of a vigorous and effective competitor or competitors in the market:
35. It is submitted that although Schneider India's and L&T's product portfolio overlap with each other, their products are different in terms of some functionality, geographic reach and brand recognition and as such cater to different customers across various price points and geographies.
36. Schneider India and L&T cater to different set of customers with varied functional requirements and features.
- I. Nature and extent of vertical integration in the market:
37. The Proposed Combination is horizontal in nature; however, Schneider India supplies three products to L&T's E&A division that are part of the Proposed Combination (i.e., PLC, MVE and DPR). In this regard, the market share of Schneider India is less than 15% in these three relevant product markets. Similarly, the market share of downstream product markets of L&T, which procure these products from Schneider India, are also less than 15% in each of the product markets. As such, the overlapping products and services between Schneider India and L&T do not give rise to such upstream or downstream concentration that would enable post-acquisition vertical foreclosure.
- J. Nature and extent of innovation:
38. R&D in the LV sector is necessary and important, but it is neither a barrier to entry nor a big differentiator between competitors. Currently, R&D in the LV sector is focused on incremental improvement to features, cost

and material rather than achieving breakthrough innovation. Such incremental improvements allow players to be cost effective and keep pace with ever-evolving customer requirements.

39. The core product design of products in the LV sector has been the same for over 30 years now and all competitors have designs to meet the same specifications. Furthermore, the entry of new competitors in the relevant markets clearly establishes that R&D and intellectual property rights do not act as a bulwark in this industry either for entry or expansion. R&D does not create any competitive advantage in the market or any entry barriers for other competitors in the market.
40. Schneider has a high focus on R&D globally as well as in India, with the aim to make India the 4th global hub for R&D for the group, and focus on developing products in India which are suited for India and other emerging markets. Accordingly, the Proposed Combination will deliver better products and solutions to customers across India and promote India as a strong R&D hub in line with the Government of India's 'Make in India' objective and pro-business policies. The Proposed Combination will also further the Government of India's objective of 'Invest in India' and 'Digital India' given that Schneider focuses on digitized and connected products. Schneider will extend the right level of resources and global expertise to Target Business' India R&D which will advance innovation in the Indian market and make more digitized products available to Indian customers.
- K. Relative advantage, by way of the contribution to the economic development, by any combination having or likely to have appreciable adverse effect on competition:
41. The Proposed Combination also allows Schneider India to offer wider product ranges and solutions to the Indian consumers across portfolios and price points and the combined business will be well-positioned to serve the fast-growing Indian LV and industrial automation market.
42. The Proposed Combination allows Schneider India through L&T's extensive distribution network to access Tier II and Tier III cities, (over 260 cities) as well as rural areas across India, where it currently does not have significant presence. The geographic market extension and entry/expansion by Schneider India into Tier II and III cities in India will increase competition and choice for distributors and customers.
43. The Proposed Combination will help accelerate Schneider India's manufacturing footprint in India which will result in greater domestic production, reduced dependence on imports and increased employment opportunities.
44. The Proposed Combination will be in line with the Government's 'Make in India' objective and pro-business policies. Post the Proposed Combination, India will become an innovation and manufacturing hub for LV and industrial automation products for India as well as manufacturing in India and exporting to emerging economies such as, Middle East, Africa, South-East Asia. Schneider will develop India as the 'fourth hub' for Schneider globally to cater to the growing Indian market as well as develop India as the hub for other new and emerging markets.
- Expected timeframe for completion of various stages of the Proposed Combination
45. The Parties expect to close the Proposed Combination within six months from receipt of the approval of the Hon'ble Commission.
- Inviting comments on the Proposed Combination
- III. In order to determine whether the combination has or is likely to have an appreciable adverse effect on competition in the relevant market in India, the Commission invites comments/ objections/ suggestions in writing, from any person(s) adversely affected or likely to be affected by the combination, to submit, in writing, as provided under sub-section (3) of section 29 of the Act, to be addressed to the Secretary, Competition Commission of India, 10th Floor, Office Block, Tower - 1, Ring Road- opposite AIIMS, Kidwai Nagar (East), New Delhi-10023, within fifteen working days from the date of this publication.
- IV. The comments/ objections/ suggestions shall state:
  - (a) **Name, address and contact details of the person(s) writing to the Commission; and**
  - (b) **With supporting documents, how such a person(s) is adversely affected or is likely to be affected by the combination, keeping in view the relevant provisions of the Act/ factors provided under sub-section (4) of Section 20 of the Act.**

The Commission is not likely to consider unsubstantiated objections.



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# Everybody needs to step up, says Rohit

‘When you do well in Australia, you feel good as a team’

## OZ CHALLENGE

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
BRISBANE

Australia's towering pacers are at an advantage against the “not that tall” Indian batsmen, says visiting vice-captain Rohit Sharma, but insisted that his team is ready to rewrite the script of the battle this time.

India starts the tour with the T20Is from November 21 here, and Rohit said it would be a tough task on the fast pitches.

“India have always played either at Perth (venue for second Test from December 14 to 18 this time) or Brisbane.

“These two conditions are challenging and the Australians have tall bowlers who exploit the conditions and use it to their advantage,” he said.

“The Indian batsman are generally not that tall, so it is not easy for us, but the guys are determined to change things this time, we are ready to accept the challenge,” he asserted.

“It is challenging for our

He's got a good record all around the world, so he's a definite player to watch

NATHAN COULTER-NILE  
on Rohit Sharma

batsmen... but most of the guys have come to Australia before. So they understand the conditions.

“Of course, their bowling attack will challenge us in whichever format we play, but as a batting unit we are prepared,” Rohit said.

India will begin with a three-match T20I series, followed by a four-match Test series and a three-game ODI series.

The visitors have never won a Test series in Australia, drawing three and losing eight of the 11 so far.

**Special feeling** “Whenever we travel outside India, there is always a special feeling.

“Australia is one place where we want to leave our mark and do well as a unit,” Rohit said after India's practice session at The Gabba.

Stressing on the significance of putting up a good performance in Australia ahead of the 2019 World Cup, Rohit said: “When you do well in Australia, you feel good as a team and thinking about the World Cup ahead, it can only give you confidence winning in places like Australia.”

Rohit said everybody in the team needs to step up against a formidable side like Australia.

“Australia in Australia will always be dangerous, without a doubt. In places like Australia you want the whole unit to come together, that is our focus,” he said.

“We don't want a few individuals to step up, we want the whole lot of guys to put their hands up and take up the challenge. So, we want everybody to step up and make it count.

“We have some quality bowlers, in particular, the spinners... so we will try to challenge them with our spinners. They still have a quality batting line-up, so let's see how we go.”



Special visitor: Virat Kohli and Adam Gilchrist share a laugh during India's nets. ■BCCI TWITTER

# India meets England

## WORLD T20

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
GROS ISLET (SAINT LUCIA)

India will face England in the second semifinal after the West Indies defeated the 2009 champion in a last-over thriller by four wickets in their Group A match here on Sunday.

The holder will take on Australia in the first semifinal. India will have revenge on its mind, having lost to England in the 50-over

World Cup final last year. **The scores:** England 115 for eight in 20 overs (Sophia Dunkley 35, Anya Shrubsole 29, Shakera Selman two for 15, Deandra Dottin two for 21) lost to West Indies 117 for six in 19.3 overs (Deandra Dottin 48, Shemaine Campbelle 45, Anya Shrubsole three for 10). South Africa 109 for nine in 20 overs (Marizanne Kapp 25, Salam Khatun three for 20, Khadija Khubra two for 18) bt Bangladesh 79 for five in 20 overs (Rumana Ahmed 34 n.o.).

## Final standings after the league phase

	TEAM	M	W	L	Points	NRR
GROUP A	West Indies (Q)	4	4	0	8	2.241
	England (Q)	4	2	1	5	1.317
	South Africa	4	2	2	4	-0.277
	Sri Lanka	4	1	2	3	-1.171
	Bangladesh	4	0	4	0	-1.989
GROUP B	India (Q)	4	4	0	8	1.827
	Australia (Q)	4	3	1	6	1.515
	New Zealand	4	2	2	4	1.031
	Pakistan	4	1	3	2	-0.987
	Ireland	4	0	4	0	-3.525

<b>Nov. 23</b> FIRST SEMIFINAL West Indies vs. Australia, 1.30 a.m.	<b>Nov. 23</b> SECOND SEMIFINAL India vs. England, 5.30 a.m.	<b>Nov. 25</b> FINAL Winner of SF1 vs. winner of SF2, 5.30 a.m.
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(All matches in North Sound; Timings in IST)

## TV PICKS

**PKL:** Star Sports 1 & 2 (SD & HD); 7.45 p.m. & 9 p.m.  
**I-League:** Star Sports 3; 1.45 p.m.  
**Ranji Trophy:** Star Sports 2 (SD & HD); 8.15 a.m.  
**Boxing World championships:** SS Select 1 (SD & HD); 1 p.m. & 5 p.m.  
**International friendlies:** Sony Ten 2 HD; 11 p.m.

## Vijay, Shaw and Vihari shine

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
MOUNT MAUNGANUI (NZ)

The Australia-bound Test specialists – veteran M. Vijay and youngsters Prithvi Shaw and Hanuma Vihari – helped themselves to half-centuries on the final day of India-A's first unofficial “Test” against New Zealand-A which ended in a draw.

India-A was 247 for three in 65 overs in its second innings when the match was called off. Openers Shaw (50, 53b) and Vijay (60, 113b) got valuable match time as they added 74 for the first wicket.

The young Mumbaikar smashed eight fours and a six during his knock.

**The scores:** India-A 467 for eight decl. & 247 for three (M. Vijay 60, Prithvi Shaw 50, Hanuma Vihari 51 n.o., Ajinkya Rahane 41 n.o., Mayank Agarwal 42) drew with New Zealand-A 458 for nine decl.

## Shubhankar is ‘rookie of the year’



Shubhankar Sharma. ■STUART FRANKLIN/GETTY IMAGES

IAN S  
NEW DELHI

Shubhankar Sharma capped a dream season on the European Tour by becoming the first Indian to win the tour's Sir Henry Cotton Rookie of the Year award.

Shubhankar achieved the feat soon after finishing tied 41st at the season-ending DP World Tour Championship event in Dubai.

The 22-year-old claimed a creditable 28th place on the Race to Dubai rankings, thanks to his two wins and three other top-10 finishes.

His total points for the season stood at an impressive 1,431,741.

# Ajaz spins Kiwis to an incredible win

Returns a five-for as Pakistan collapses and falls short by a mere four runs

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE  
ABU DHABI

Debutant spinner Ajaz Patel took five wickets to lead a never-say-die approach from New Zealand bowlers as they pulled off a thrilling four-run win over an indisciplined Pakistan in the first Test on Monday.

With Pakistan chasing a modest target of 176, the New Zealand bowlers, led by Ajaz (five for 59), fast bowler Neil Wagner (two for 27) and fellow spinner Ish Sodhi (two for 37), bowled the opponent for 171 on a drama-packed fourth day.

## Fifth smallest victory

The fifth smallest win in terms of runs in Test history gave Kane Williamson's men a 1-0 lead in the three-match series.

Azhar Ali, with 65, waged a lone battle for Pakistan and was the last man out when he was trapped leg-before-wicket by Ajaz.

The second Test starts in Dubai on Saturday (Nov. 24).



Gung-ho: The New Zealanders are ecstatic after their remarkable victory. ■AFP

## SCOREBOARD PAKISTAN VS NEW ZEALAND, FIRST TEST, DAY FOUR

**New Zealand – 1st innings:** 153.

**Pakistan – 1st innings:** 227.

**New Zealand – 2nd innings:** 249.

**Pakistan – 2nd innings:** Imam-ul-Haq lbw b Ajaz 27, Mohd. Hafeez c de Grandhomme b Sodhi 10, Azhar Ali lbw b Ajaz 65, Haris Sohail c & b Sodhi 4,

Asad Shafiq c Watling b Wagner 45, Babar Azam run out 13, Sarfraz Ahmed c Watling b Ajaz 3, Bilal Asif b Ajaz 0, Yasir Shah c Taylor b Wagner 0, Hasan Ali c sub b Ajaz 0, Mohd. Abbas (not out) 0; Extras (b-4): 4; Total (in 58.4 overs): 171.

**Fall of wickets:** 1-40, 2-44, 3-

48, 4-130, 5-147, 6-154, 7-154, 8-155, 9-164.

**New Zealand bowling:** Boult 7-0-29-0, de Grandhomme 3-0-15-0, Ajaz 23.4-4-59-5, Sodhi 12-0-37-2, Wagner 13-4-27-2.

**Man-of-the-match:** Ajaz Patel.

New Zealand won by four runs to lead series 1-0.

# Sonia packs off Stanimira

## WORLD BOXING

Y.B. SARANGI  
NEW DELHI

Sonia Chahal's upset victory over Bulgarian Olympian and former World championships medallist Stanimira Petrova was one of the highlights of another bright day for India in the World women's boxing championships at the Indira Gandhi Stadium Complex here on Monday.

The host enhanced its prospects of another successful campaign in the tournament after a long time as Sonia (57kg), Pinki Rani (51kg) and Simranjit Kaur (64kg) joined five other Indians – including Seema Poonia (+81kg) who directly reached the quarterfinals – in the last-eight stage.

Sonia rode her luck to stun Stanimira 3-2. With both showcasing open guard and waiting for the other to strike, it was a case of who blinked first. Having sparred with Stanimira before the championships, Sonia knew what was in store. The Indian, looking for counter-attacks, could not check the Bulgarian whose quick instincts and accurate head shots put pressure on Sonia in the first two rounds.

Sonia switched to attack mode in the nick of time and went on to clinch the bout. “I thought I was losing in the second round, so I had to be aggressive in the final one,” said Sonia who will meet Colombian Yeni Castenada, a



On the prowl: Simranjit Kaur's flurry of punches shocked Megan Reid. ■SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

5-0 winner over Russia's Maria Sartakova.

Stanimira, 27, was shocked at the referees' decision.

**‘Not a fair result’** She said: “I want to say one thing – all judges (sic) in corruption. Not a fair result.”

The 1980 Moscow Olympics flyweight gold medallist Petar Lesov, who coaches Stanimira, flung a water bottle in anger and also gestured at the home supporters.

The International Boxing Association (AIBA) “decided to remove the accreditation, and therefore the right to be in the corner, from Lesov due to his unacceptable behaviour... the incident will be forwarded to the Disciplinary Commission”.

Pinki overcame Alice Jones of England 5-0. She conceded some ground in the opening round before catching up through her

counter-punching skills.

Simranjit saw off Scottish Megan Reid 5-0. After a sluggish first round, she improved her footwork, delivering hooks and straight punches to win the contest convincingly.

Saweety Boora, a 2014 Worlds silver medallist in 81kg, lost to Polish Olympian Elzbieta Wojcik 5-0.

**Other important results (preliminary rounds):** 51kg: Tsukimi Namiki (Jpn) bt Ceire Rose Smith (Irl) 3-2; Zhaina Shekerbekova (Kaz) bt Ingrid Victoria (Col) 3-2; Virginia Fuchs (USA) bt Euna Jang (Kor) 5-0. 57kg: Skye Nicolson (Aus) bt Nilawan Techasuep (Tha) 3-2; Ornella Wahnner (Ger) bt Victoria Glover (Sco) 5-0.

64kg: Milana Safronova (Kaz) bt Maya Kleinhaus (Ger) 3-2; Sema Caliskan (Tur) bt Dana Maria Borzei (Rou) 5-0.

75kg: Nouchka Fontijn (Ned) bt Myagmarjargal Munkbhat (Mgl) 5-0; Lauren Price (Wal) bt Aoife O'Rourke (Irl) 5-0; Natasha Louise Gale (Eng) bt Asunta Canfora (Ita) 5-0.

## Seferovic is Switzerland's hero

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE  
PARIS

Haris Seferovic starred with a hat-trick as Switzerland staged a sensational comeback to thrash Belgium 5-2 in Lucerne on Sunday and qualify for the UEFA Nations League Finals in dramatic fashion.

The other teams through were host Portugal and England.

**The results: League A: Group 2:** Switzerland 5 (Rodriguez 26-pen, Seferovic 31, 44, 84, Elvedi 62) bt Belgium 2 (T. Hazard 2, 17). **League B: Group 3:** Northern Ireland 1 (Evans 57) bt Austria 2 (Schlager 49, Lazaro 90+3). **League C: Group 2:** Greece 0 bt Estonia 1 (Lambropoulos 44-og); Hungary 2 (Szalai 29, Nagy 37) bt Finland 0.

## Chess Worlds deadlocked

SPORTS BUREAU  
LONDON

Magnus Carlsen and Fabiano Caruana were still in search of a win after playing out a seventh straight draw in their World chess championship match on Sunday.

The three-time defending champion from Norway, who signed the peace treaty with the American in 40 moves, said it was “overall a solid draw without too many problems.”

# Fairytale finish for Zverev

The young German eases past Djokovic in the final

## ATP FINALS

REUTERS  
LONDON

An inspired Alexander Zverev beat World No. 1 Novak Djokovic 6-4, 6-3 to win the ATP Finals on Sunday – the biggest title of the German's fledgling career.

The 21-year-old broke serve once in the opening set and three times in the second to pull off a shock victory in a packed O2 Arena – denying Serbian Djokovic a record-equalling sixth title at the blue riband event.

“I really can't describe it. It is the biggest title I have ever won,” said Zverev after becoming the first German to win the ATP's most prestigious title since Boris Becker in Frankfurt in 1995 and the youngest since Djokovic won at the same age in Shanghai in 2008.

**The results (finals):** Singles: Alexander Zverev bt Novak Djokovic 6-4, 6-3. **Doubles:** Mike Bryan & Jack Sock bt Pierre-Hugues Herbert & Nicolas Mahut 5-7, 6-1, [13-11].



Smacking success: Alexander Zverev captured the biggest prize of his career with a superlative show against five-time champion Novak Djokovic. ■AFP

## Alexander Zverev factfile

<b>Born:</b> April 20, 1997	■ Zverev is the first player to beat both Djokovic and Federer in the same ATP Finals
<b>Turned pro:</b> 2013	
<b>ATP titles:</b> Singles: 10 (2014-16); Doubles: 1 (2017)	■ ‘Sascha’ is also the first to beat the top two seeds in the semifinals and final of the event since Andre Agassi in 1990
<b>Highest ranking:</b> Third (Nov. 6, 2017)	■ Zverev at 21 years and six months is the youngest champion at the ATP Finals since Djokovic in 2008
<b>Prize money:</b> \$14,107,926	■ First German winner since Boris Becker in 1995
<b>Coaches:</b> Ivan Lendl and Alexander Zverev Sr.	

# Goveas and Manish crash out

Both find their opponents too hot to handle

## PUNE CHALLENGER

G. VISWANATH  
PUNE

India's two wild card recipients – Aryan Goveas and Manish Sureshkumar – found superior and ranked opponents tough nuts to crack on the opening day of the \$50,000 KPIT-MSLTA Challenger tennis tournament here on Monday.

Just 20, the tall and strapping Goveas was ready for a combat against Canadian Brayden Schnur on Centre Court. Though his chances of survival were not bright,

Goveas pounded three aces in the penultimate game of the second set before falling 6-3, 6-4 to a player ranked 564 places above him.

After Goveas' exit, Sweden's No. 1 hotshot Elias Ymer, who served well and exhibited his repertoire of strokes, especially in the second set, put it across Manish Sureshkumar 6-4, 6-1.

On a hot and humid day, things looked promising when Goveas broke Schnur in the opening game. However, the Indian soon lost his first service game as the advantage was neutralised.

As the set progressed,

Schnur's quality came to the fore as he displayed his skill and power, firing aces and producing solid returns.

Schnur – who lost in straight sets to Prajnesh Gunneswaran in the semifinals of the Bengaluru Open – benefited from a double fault by Goveas in the eighth game and held serve without much fuss to take the first set.

## Aggressive vein

The Indian wasted little time in winning the opening game of the second set, sending down two aces in the process, but Schnur continued in the same aggressive vein to seize control of the contest.

“I played some loose shots in the second game after breaking him in the opening game of the first set. After the Bengaluru Open, I played better here, but conceded points through unforced errors,” said Goveas.

Manish looked determined to make an impact but could not match Ymer's all-round game in the other match.

## The results (first round):

Brayden Schnur (Can) bt Aryan Goveas 6-3, 6-4; Elias Ymer (Swe) bt Manish Sureshkumar 6-4, 6-1; Nadier Masur (Ger) bt Jelle Sels (Ned) 6-4, 6-4; Nicola Kuhn (Esp) bt Andrej Martin (Svk) 6-2, 6-3.

Jay Clarke (GBR) bt Cem Ilkel (Tur) 6-3, 6-7(3), 6-2; Max Purcell (Aus) bt James Ward (GBR) 6-4, 6-4.



Dominating: Brayden Schnur revealed his skill and power to fire past Aryan Goveas. ■SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

# Hyderabad needs to raise its game

Delhi will miss the services of Gautam Gambhir and Ishant Sharma

## RANJI TROPHY

V.V. SUBRAHMANYAM  
HYDERABAD

Hyderabad needs to raise the bar against a confident Delhi when the two teams meet in the third round of the Ranji Trophy championship Group-B match at the Rajiv Gandhi Stadium here from Tuesday.

For a team which had the satisfaction of denying Kerala three points and then being at the receiving end against Tamil Nadu, it is time to re-draw the strategy for better results.

Captain Akshath Reddy, who scored a double century against Tamil Nadu, doesn't actually rue the delayed declaration against a spirited Tamil Nadu. "We had more than 150 overs to bowl them out and couldn't do so. So, I don't think there was any delay in declaration. Yes, we need to start winning matches now," says Akshath.

"The pitch looks good and should hopefully yield a result," he said.

Delhi captain Nitish Rana confessed they would miss the services of Gautam Gambhir and Ishant Sharma. "But, in Mithun Manhas who is wonderful coach and



**Workout:** Delhi captain Nitish Rana and his teammates at a net session on the eve of the Ranji Trophy match against Hyderabad. ■K.V.S. GIRI

with half the team having played with him, we can always look up to him even as we chase an outright win here," Rana said. "I think toss will be crucial in a match against a very good side," he said. For Hyderabad, two points from the first two games, is not the kind of start it would have hoped for before its home game.

The onus is on the opening pair of southpaw Tanmay Agarwal and Akshath Reddy to give the desired starts for the others like Rohit Rayudu, Himalay Agarwal, 'Mr. Dependable' B. Sandeep, wicketkeeper batsman K. Sumanth to come good. In bowling, the variety by way of pace trio of left-armed Chama Milind, Ravi Kiran and Ravi Teja and spinners

leggie Akash Bhandari, offie Saketh Sai Ram and left-armed Mehdi Hasan should be spot on to get full points. On the other hand, Delhi, with three points from the drawn game against Himachal, would love to keep the momentum going. **The teams (From):** Delhi: Nitish Rana (capt), Dhruv Shorey (vice-capt), Hiten Dalal, Himmat Singh, Amuj Rawat, Kul-

want Khejroliya, Vikas Mishra, Lalit Yadav, Simarjit Singh, Vaibhav Rawal, Varun Sood, Sarthak Ranjan, Prashant Bhandari Pulkit Narang and Gaurav Kumar. **Hyderabad:** P. Akshath Reddy (capt), Tanmay Agarwal, B. Sandeep, K. Rohit Rayudu, K. Sumanth, Mehdi Hasan, M. Ravi Kiran, Chama Milind, Saketh Sai-ram, Akash Bhandari, T. Ravi Teja, Tanay Thyagarajan, Himalay Agarwal, K.S.K. Chaitanya and Mudassir Hussain.

Ranji Trophy Schedule - Round Three (Nov. 20 to 23)			
<b>GROUP A:</b> Chhattisgarh vs. Railways (Raipur), Gujarat vs. Saurashtra (Nadiad), Karnataka vs. Mumbai (Belgavi), Vidarbha vs. Baroda (Nagpur). <i>Not playing: Railways</i>	<b>GROUP C:</b> Assam vs. Odisha (Guwahati), Harayana vs. Goa (Lahli), Jharkhand vs. Rajasathan (Ranchi), Jammu & Kashmir vs. Tripura (Srinagar), Services vs. Uttar Pradesh (New Delhi)		
	<b>PLATE:</b> Mizoram vs. Manipur (Jorhat), Sikkim vs. Uttarakhand (Bhubaneswar), Meghalaya vs. Nagaland (Shillong), Puducherry vs. Bihar (Puducherry)		
<b>GROUP B:</b> Bengal vs. Kerala (Kolkata), Andhra vs. Tamil Nadu (Ongole), Hyderabad vs. Delhi (Hyderabad), Madhya Pradesh vs. Punjab (Indore). <i>Not playing: Himachal Pradesh</i>			

## Highly Acclaimed wins Bhagyanagar Cup

**HYDERABAD:** Highly Acclaimed (Surya Prakash up) won the Bhagyanagar Cup (1,400m), the main event of the races held here on Monday. The Deshmukh-trained winner is owned by Ahmed Alam Khan. **1 VEGAVATHI PLATE (DIV. II),** (1,200m), 3-y-o & over, rated 26 to 46 (Cat. III): **LONG RANGE** (Akshay Kumar) and **YOUR GRACE** (Nakhat Singh) 1, Symbolic Star (Dhebe) 3 and Tokyo Jam (Srinath) 4. Deadheat, 2-1/2 and 3/4. Im, 13.31s. ₹6 and 9 (w), 7, 6 and 13 (p), SHP: refunded, FP: 27 and 24, Q: 26, Tla: 413 and 198. Favourite: Tokyo Jam. Owner Col S. B. Nair and trainer Sequeira (for Long Range) and Messrs P. Prabhakar Reddy & Dr. Peddy Reddy and trainer Laxman Singh (for Your Grace).

and 3/4. Im, 4.96s. ₹11 (w), 6, 7 and 11 (p), SHP: 17, FP: 47, Q: 28, Tla: 282. Favourite: Classic Remark. Owners: M/s. S.M. Ruia & Surendra Ramachandra Sanas. Trainer: M. Srinivas Reddy. **3 TWIN CITIES CUP (1,400m),** 4-y-o & over, rated 42 to 62 (Cat. II): **CLARISA** (Akshay Kumar) 1, Somerset (Arshad Alam) 2, Hu-maaghar (Rafiqo Sk.) 3 and Av-antika (A.A. Vikran) 4. 2-1/4, 3-1/4 and hd. Im, 25.93s. ₹14 (w), 9 and 27 (p), SHP: 20, FP: 120, Q: 75, Tla: 2,329. Favourite: Mozambi-que. Owner: Mr. Prakash Babu. Trainer: Sequeira. **4 VEGAVATHI PLATE (DIV. I),** (1,200m), 3-y-o & over, rated 26 to 46 (Cat. III): **AMAZING SCRIPT** (Dhebe) 1, Happy To-gether (C.P. Bopanna) 2, Farm-ville (Koushik) 3 and Freedom Fire (G. Naresht) 4. Hd, 1/2 and 1-1/2. Im, 12.81s. ₹14 (w), 7, 8 and 13 (p), SHP: 22, FP: 55, Q: 31, Tla: 321. Favourite: Amazing Script. Owners: M/s. Zaveri Stud Farm Pvt.Ltd. rep. by Mr. Champaklal Zaveri, Mrs. Bindu C. Zaveri, Miss

Harsha N. Desi & Miss Niti N. De-sai. Trainer: Deshmukh. **5 BHAGYANAGAR CUP (1,400m),** 3-y-o & over, rated 58 to 78 (No whips), (Cat. II): **HIGHLY AC-CLAIMED** (Surya Prakash) 1, Be Sure (C.P. Bopanna) 2, Durango (Dhebe) 3 and Tootsie Roll (Jitendra Singh) 4. 1/4, 3-1/4 and 2-3/4. Im, 25.40s. ₹26 (w), 7, 6 and 6 (p), SHP: 15, FP: 73, Q: 42, Tla: 175. Favourite: Durango. Owner: Mr. Ahmed Alam Khan. Trainer: Deshmukh. **6 BHONGIR PLATE (1,400m),** 3-y-o & over, rated upto 25 (Cat. III): **VALLEE IKON** (Md. Ismail) 1, Southern Meteor (Ajit Singh) 2, Diesis Dream (A.A. Vikrant) 3 and Brush The Sky (Gaddam) 4. 2-1/4, 1-1/2 and 1/2. Im, 27.63s. ₹23 (w), 8, 13 and 31 (p), SHP: 41, FP: 254, Q: 164, Tla: 4,310. Favourite: Vallee Ikon. Owner: Mr. V. Naren-dra Reddy. Trainer: Faisal Has-san. Jackpot: ₹5,392 (83 tkts.), Runner-up: 403 (476 tkts.), Treble (i): 102 (254 tkts.), (ii): 533 (259 tkts.).

## Will feel like a star only when I win an Olympic medal: Mirabai

The weightlifter happy with all that she has achieved so far

KAMESH SRINIVASAN  
PATIALA

It was the same hall from where Karnam Malleswari had trained to become World Champion and Olympic medallist in weightlifting. In the breathtaking set up of the National Institute of Sports, the weightlifting centre had also helped Kun-jarani Devi win World Championship medals. Malleswari and Kunjarani also went on to win the Ra-jiv Gandhi Khel Ratna award more than 20 years ago.

The third lifter to be chosen as the Khel Ratna this year, World champion Mira-bai Chanu, has resumed training to prepare for the Asian Championship, which will also serve as the Olympic qualifier. "We will definitely win the Olympic medal and bring it to India," said the 24-year-old Mirabai, when queried as to how nobody could follow up on Malles-wari's bronze in the 2000 Sydney Olympics.

As the reigning World champion, Mirabai had done 2kg better in lifting a total of 196kg for the gold at the Gold Coast Common-wealth Games, but a lower back strain stopped her



Mirabai Chanu. ■PTI

**We will definitely win the Olympic medal and bring it to India**

from competing in the Asian Games in Indonesia. Fully recovered and being chosen as one of the two lifters for the Target Olympic Podium Scheme (TOPS) along with Ragala Venkat Rahul, Mirabai has set her vision clear on the path ahead as she goes through the training sessions under the guidance of coach Vijay Sharma. Of course, there is the Youth Olympics gold medalist Jeremy Lalrinnunga who lifted 274kg in the 62kg section in Buenos Aires and has been kept as one of three prospects along with

Achinta Sheuli and Jhili Da-labehera under TOPS for the 2024 Olympics in Paris.

### Quite at home

Mirabai is quite at home in the SAI Centre here, pleased with the quality of food and facilities. She is happy with all that she has achieved so far, including the recognition.

She received the Khel Ratna from the President along with India cricket captain Virat Kohli.

"I will feel like a star only when I win an Olympic medal," Mirabai said.

The pain of "no lift" in the Rio Olympics still hurts as she had failed with all three lifts in clean and jerk.

The gold in Rio was won with a total of 200kg by Thailand's Sopita Tanasan, while the silver and bronze were bagged with 192kg and 188kg respectively by Sri Wahyuni Agustiani of Indo-nesia and Hiromi Miyake of Japan.

It was an Asian sweep and well within the reach of Mirabai.

No wonder Mirabai and the rest have already assem-bled to train for the Asian Championship in China in April 2019, as there is a promise to keep in Tokyo.

## Rakibul re-elected AICF president

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

The All India Carrom Federation (AICF) conducted its election here on Sunday, as directed by the Delhi High Court, vide its judgement dated August 6.

After a prolonged case over the civil writ petition 3314/2016, when the AICF questioned the government's order to disaffiliate the federation following the last election in 2015, the early election was conducted as desired by the judiciary. Rakibul Hussain was re-elected president while Bharti Narayan was elected the first woman General Secretary. Arun Kedar was elected treasurer and Girish Bachharaj Vyas executive president.

## Benton Camper tennis scholarship

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

The *ExpertConnect.pro* in collaboration with Celsius Tennis Academy will offer the Benton Camper Tennis Scholarship for players "with exceptional drive, talent and potential."

From January next year, "10 gifted young players will be given a full year scholarship to one of the finest academies in the world – Celsius Tennis Academy," said a release from the academy. USTA coach of the year Cary Cohenour and the Expert-Connect pro owner, Benton Camper, are behind the initiative.

The aspiring trainees would need to submit the basic information form, a 10-minute video of match

play, and an essay of 100 to 200 words, describing their qualification.

### The criteria

Selection will be based on "form and skill level; athletic ability and physical potential; tournament results and ranking; attitude and mindset; willingness to learn and desire to improve; and overall personality."

The collaboration has stressed that the "goal is to build champions and the current level of a player may not be the biggest indicator of where his/her game can rise to, if they are given the best training and opportunities".

Further details can be had from *ExpertConnect.pro*.

## REGIONAL ROUND-UP

which has been seeded directly into the last-eight stage.

In the other quarterfinals, host AMU, which won 15-1 against Kumaon, will play Maharishi Dayanand, Rohtak, Jamia Millia Islamia will face Punjab, Chandigarh and Delhi will play Guru Nanak Dev, Amritsar.

**The results:** AMU 15 (Mohammad Faraz 4, Naved Khan 4, Sonu Kumar 3,

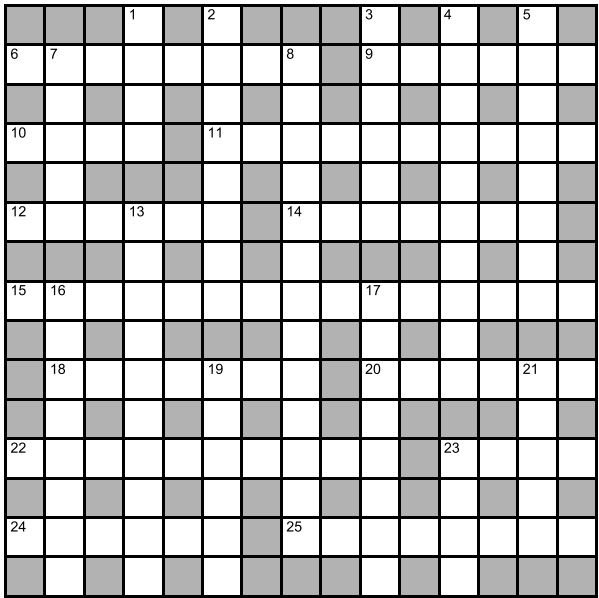
Lakish Kumar 2, Akhtab Ahmad, M. Zubair) bt Kumaon, Nainital 1 (Vijay Kishore).

University of Delhi 8 (Vibhanshu Kumar 3, Pulkit Kumar 3, Ashish Singh, Naved Ali) bt Lucknow 0.

RML Avadh, Faizabad 3 (Abhishek Singh, Anshuman, Sonu Kumar) bt Kurukshetra 2 (Gagandeep Singh, Sahil Kumar).

Jamia Millia Islamia w/o Chaudhary Devilal, Sirsa.

## THE HINDU CROSSWORD 12476



### ACROSS

- 6 Afraid Lost Diadem's hiding a bit of You-Know-Who (8)
- 9 Tea and sympathy at first for couples (6)
- 10 Favourite local denizen of Europe (4)
- 11 Shining one going off like a signal when stopping (5,5)

(set by Buzzer)

- 12 Word for silence that's anagram of itself! (6)
- 14 Opposed to guards trashing half of island (7)
- 15 Being convivial, to some downright silly (2,4,5,4)
- 18 Not oddly superb in ring, one at the receiving end of stick (3,4)
- 20 Happy and steady runs for good solver (6)
- 22 Fashionable diva greets with jumper in a rock concert (5-5)
- 23 Way indifference is shown by not taking sides (4)
- 24 Tries Ecstasy – it transports people into another world (6)
- 25 Charity club member on-air at orphanage overwhelmed on reflection (8)
- 3 Not say no to say except (6)
- 4 Speaking out in Latin, a habit that is reducing (6,4)
- 5 As a whole caught man red-handed (2,3,3)
- 7 Stupid one. Drinking Iodine (5)
- 8 Mudra – wave I love ritually covered in mask (4,1,4,4)
- 13 Wedding helper will for e.g. cast around roses primarily (6,4)
- 16 New and cool Bond's fine points (8)
- 17 More than half coming of age (8)
- 19 Article depicted to make name for a man (6)
- 21 Fanatic, unorthodox ritual, one needing sacrifice (5)
- 23 A grand benefit (4)

### DOWN

- 1 'Ladies only' sign? (4)
- 2 Foodstuff be dreary to bake (3,5)

## SUDOKU



Solution to puzzle 12475								
C	O	D	I	F	Y	A	M	A
H	E	I	P	E	E	E	E	E
A	C	O	R	D	I	O	N	E
N	O	M	C	T	L	S	R	
C	U	R	R	A	N	T	A	S
E	U	M	U	C	L	K	H	
R	A	M	I	E	R	E	F	A
Y	L	A	N	E	T	G	H	P
C	L	I	A	T	E	O	N	T
L	O	B	S	T	E	R	O	I
O	E	A	F	D	S	H	L	
S	C	R	A	P	E	L	E	C
E	A	E	C	R	I	M	O	S
T	O	L	E	R	A	T	E	

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku								
4	2	1	9	5	3	7	8	6
7	6	5	2	1	8	9	4	3
8	9	3	6	4	7	2	5	1
2	4	7	1	8	6	5	3	9
9	5	6	7	3	4	1	2	8
3	1	8	5	2	9	6	7	4
1	7	4	3	6	5	8	9	2
6	3	9	8	7	2	4	1	5
5	8	2	4	9	1	3	6	7

## FAITH

### Service to Acharya

The importance of an Acharya is stressed in religious literature. In fact, an Acharya is shown even more respect than God Himself, said Akkarakkani Srinidhi in a discourse. Vaduga Nambi was a disciple of Ramanuja. One day, when the processional deity of the Srirangam temple was taken through the streets of the town, Ramanuja called out to Vaduga Nambi. The Acharya wanted his disciple to have darshan of the deity. It was a boon that he wanted his disciple also to have. He acted as any good Acharya would, wanting a spiritual experience for his sishya. But Vaduga Nambi was an excellent sishya and therefore he did not pay heed to Ramanuja's call! This may seem puzzling, for why would a good sishya not rush when his Acharya sent for him? But Vaduga Nambi had an explanation for his non-appearance upon Ramanuja's calling out to him. He said that he was busy boiling milk for Ramanuja and, while Lord Ranganatha may be important to Ramanuja, as far as Vaduga Nambi was concerned, it was his own Acharya Ramanuja who was more important to him than Lord Ranganatha!

Lord Rama said that He liked Shatrugna the best among His brothers. The reason was that Shatrugna never even looked at Rama. Had he looked at Rama, he would have been distracted by the latter's looks and would have forgotten to serve Bharata. For this reason, he avoided looking at Rama. Such devotion to Bharata won Rama's affection for Shatrugna.

The Lord always looks favourably upon those who serve their Acharya with utmost devotion. This reverence is justified, because it is the Acharya who shows us the path that leads to the feet of the Supreme One. It is the guidance of the Acharya that leads us to moksha.

IN BRIEF



Painting found in Romania not by Picasso

**BUCHAREST**  
A Romanian novelist who thought she had found a painting by Pablo Picasso stolen from a museum in the Netherlands six years ago seems to have been the victim of a prank. Mira Feticiu said an anonymous tip led her to the picture supposedly Picasso's *Tete d'Arlequin* under a tree in eastern Romania. **AP**



Facebook to pay to train reporters in U.K.

**LONDON**  
Facebook is donating £4.5 million to train journalists in U.K. to support communities that have lost local newspapers and reporters, largely due to ad revenue and readers switching to the social media giant. Around 80 trainee reporters funded by Facebook will be recruited by publishers. The firm said it wanted to do more to support local publishers. **REUTERS**



Best-picture Oscars up for sale in rare auction

**LOS ANGELES**  
Two Academy Awards for best picture are going up for sale in a rare auction of Oscars. An Oscar awarded to *Mutiny on the Bounty* in 1936 and another given to *Gentleman's Agreement* in 1948 will go up for auction in Los Angeles starting December 11. **AP**

# Global fight on malaria stalled: WHO

The number of cases of the killer disease climbed by 2 million to 219 million in 2017

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE  
MAPUTO

The World Health Organisation on Monday said global efforts to fight malaria have hit a plateau as it reported there were more cases of the killer disease in 2017 than the previous year.

The latest WHO report showed that the number of malaria cases climbed to 219 million last year, two million higher than 2016, while international funding has declined.

"The world faces a new reality," WHO director-general Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, warned as the UN agency launched the new report.



**Mosquito menace:** Fogging in progress to control mosquitoes in Chennai, in this file photo. ■K. PICHUMANI

"As progress stagnates, we are at risk of squandering years of toil, investment and success in reducing the number of people suffering from the disease," the WHO chief said.

Malaria, which is spread

to people through the bites of infected female mosquitoes, occurs in 91 countries but about 90% of the cases and deaths are in sub-Saharan Africa.

Foreign funding to some of the most affected coun-

tries has declined, in certain instances by more than 20 percent for every individual at risk of contracting the disease.

"A considerable proportion of people at risk of infection are not being protected, including pregnant women and children in Africa," the WHO chief said.

Kids at risk

The disease killed 4,35,000 people last year, the majority of them children under five in Africa.

Another constraint in fighting malaria has been mosquitoes building up resistance to some insecticides, it said.

## Flying high



**Global show:** Hot air balloons during the 18th International Balloon Festival in Leon, Guanajuato State in Mexico. About 200 balloons from more than 23 countries fly over the Palote dam in the Metropolitan Park. ■AFP

# Prison inmates bring Kolkata of the past alive on canvas

In a first, 40 paintings made by 14 prisoners are on display at the Indian Museum

SHIV SAHAY SINGH  
KOLKATA

As part of the World Heritage Week celebrations, an exhibition of 40 paintings titled *Aitirjya* (Our Heritage) has been curated at the Indian Museum, Kolkata. What makes it special is that the paintings have not been created by renowned artists, but those confined within the high walls of correctional homes in the city.

A painting of the Great Eastern Hotel, which appears to be taken straight out of the Bourne and Shepherd photograph of late 19th century, a bullock cart passing through Shyam bazar four point crossing, among others, are on display in the courtyards of the museum that attracts thousands of visitors.

The brushstrokes by 14 in-



**Art behind bars:** One of the paintings by the inmates on display at the Indian Museum, in Kolkata. ■SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

mates, including 10 women and four men from the Dum Dum Central Correctional Home, have brought the old metropolis back to life.

The canvas for the artworks was also prepared by the inmates.

"This is the first time that an exhibition of paintings of inmates are displayed at such a prominent museum

in Kolkata. These artworks mean a lot to the inmates. It is through these artworks that they can communicate with the world outside," Chaitali Das, a representative of Rashak Foundation said.

Training session

Over the last couple of years, Rakshak Foundation has

provided training to prison inmates so that they can acquaint themselves with canvas and paints.

"The Indian Museum wanted to make the celebration of World Heritage Week more inclusive and participatory, and what can be better than organising an exhibition of paintings by prison inmates," said Rajesh Purohit, Director of Indian Museum.

Within hours of the paintings going on display, scores of visitors, including French Consul General Virgine Coeteval who was part of the inaugural, expressed interest in buying these artworks, Arun Kumar Gupta, Director General and Inspector General, Correctional Home Services of West Bengal, said.

Eight of 40 paintings have been booked, Ms. Das said.

## Faculty made us do personal work: students

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
WASHINGTON

A prominent Indian-origin professor in the U.S. has been accused of exploiting his students as servants and compelling them to do his personal work, an American daily has claimed.

Ashim Mitra, a longtime pharmacy professor at the University of Missouri-Kansas City, made his students tend his lawn, look after his dog and water the house plants, sometimes for weeks at a time when he and his wife were away, the *Kansas City Star* reported.

According to the paper, over his 24 years in the UMKC School of Pharmacy, Mr. Mitra compelled his students to act as his servants, a charge dismissed by him. They hauled equipment and bused tables at his social events, it said, quoting a dozen former students of Mr. Mitra.

## Mamata's biography hits the shelves

It explores her struggles, style of politics

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
KOLKATA

A biography of West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee was released in bookstores across the country on Monday.

The biography, penned down by journalist Shutapa Paul, has been published by Penguin India.

The book, titled *Didi: The Untold Mamata Banerjee*, brings out the unique position the Trinamool Congress supremo has occupied in Indian politics.

Describing Ms. Banerjee as one of the country's toughest women, the book explores her unique style of



Mamata Banerjee

politics, her struggles and achievements, starting from her days in college politics to defeating the Left Front government in West Bengal. It also explores the role she is expected to play in the 2019 parliamentary polls.

# International Film Festival of India set to kick-off today

The event will showcase 212 films from over 68 countries

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
PANAJI

The 49th edition of the International Film Festival of India (IFFI) 2018 will kick-start on Tuesday evening with an opening ceremony that will showcase the theme of a "New India" through a variety of genres of cinema.

The ceremony will be held at the Shyama Prasad Mukherjee Indoor Stadium on the outskirts of the city from 4.30 p.m. onwards.

The inaugural would entail a 90-minute programme incorporating elements and narratives of the rich and diverse kaleidoscope of the Indian film industry, showcasing the themes of history, action and romance.

This festival will showcase 212 films from over 68 countries. International Competition section incorporates 15 films, including three Indian films.

As many as 26 feature and 21 non-feature Indian films will be screened in the Indian Panorama section.

The festival will open with director Julien Landais' debut movie *The Aspern Papers*. The historical drama, based in late 19th century Venice, tries to capture the story of obsession, grandeur lost, and dreams of Byronic adventures.

Addressing a press-conference, the French-born director said, "The film was set in the overwhelmingly repressive Victorian era, when people could not express their feelings and emotions, and still you will see how it is connected to our world today. Especially concerning women and their independence and freedom. I love what Henry James created at the end of that novel." He went on to describe it as the "perfect ending for today."

A host of celebrities, led by Akshay Kumar, Karan Johar, Julien Landais, Hrishita Bhatt, Madhur Bhandarkar, Subhash Ghai, Arijit Singh, Ramesh Sippy and Chin Han, among others, will walk the red carpet.



Cutouts displayed at Kranti circle near KTC Bus Terminus, in Panaji on Monday. ■ATISH POMBUFEKAR

## Special tribute to Mahatma Gandhi

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
PANAJI

To coincide with the celebrations of the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, IFFI-2018 will pay tribute to the Father of the Nation.

The National Film Archives (NFAI) of India, in collaboration with the Bureau of Outreach and

Communication, will hold a multi-media digital exhibition as a tribute to the Mahatma.

Titled "Mahatma on Celluloid", the exhibition provides a state-of-the-art digital experience to the viewers who can relive the life and times of Mahatma, and draw inspiration from his ideals and work.

The International Competition jury comprises Adrian Sitaru, Anna Ferraioli Ravel, Tom Fitz Patrick, Polish Director Robert Glinski, and Indian member Rakeysh Omprakash Mehra.

Nearly 8000 delegates have registered for the IFFI 2018, of which over 4,000 have been confirmed, said the organisers.

While *OLU* directed by Shaji N. Karun will be the opening feature film of the Indian Panorama 2018, Marathi film *Kharvas*, directed by Aditya Suhas Jambhale, will be the opening non-feature film.

Country of Focus

Every year IFFI features a "Country of Focus" that brings out the cinematic excellence and contributions of that particular country. This edition will have Israel as the Country of Focus.

Ten films from Israel, in collaboration with the Consulate General of Israel in Mumbai, have been selected in the category, which will open with *The Other Story* by Avi Nesher.

The State focus section, introduced for the first time, will have films from Jharkhand take the centre stage. It includes *Death in the Gunj*, *Ranchi Diaries*, *Begum Jaan*, among others.

A new section Sketch on Screen (Animation Film Package) has been introduced, which will screen three international feature length films made in collaboration with Indian studios.

The 'Homages' section will pay tribute to veteran actors Shashi Kapoor, Sridevi, M. Karunanidhi and Kalpana Lajmi. In the global section, homages will be paid to Terence Marsh, Milos Forman and Anne V. Coates.

# China's youth embrace street dance amid hip-hop crackdown

Though street dance scene took root as early as the 2000s, thanks in part to Korean boy band H.O.T., it wasn't until recently that it exploded into mainstream culture

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE  
BEIJING

In China, where children are often saddled with a packed schedule of extracurricular activities before they even enter grade school, some parents are making room for a surprising pursuit: hip-hop dance classes.

Inside a dance studio in central Beijing, a group of kids bopped up and down to an American hip-hop beat as they mimicked their teacher, a young woman in a dark blue beret and loose clothing.

Some practised in earnest — bending their arms just so — while others giggled, treating the class more like play.

"I want my son to be more extroverted. Kids these days

lack spunk," explained Liu Li, whose son, a shy four-year-old with a large dimpled smile, just started taking dance classes at the studio, FunkAsista, this year.

Breaking the mold

It is not uncommon for children as young as three to take English lessons, piano classes and other more traditional after-school activities in China, where the pressure to compete with other students can be all-consuming.

But Ms. Liu wanted something different for her son, who often struggles to feel comfortable in group settings.

"I want to encourage him to be more lively and care-free," the 36-year-old said.



**Street culture:** Students practising street dance at a studio and children, right, learning some moves from their teacher at a dance school in Beijing. ■AFP



Though China's nascent street dance scene took root as early as the 2000s — thanks in part to Korean boy band H.O.T. — it wasn't until recently that the style exploded into mainstream culture.

Underground street dancers were thrust into the limelight after a few TV competitions featuring celebrity judges, such as "Street Dance of China", blew up.

Young parents like Ms. Liu view the contemporary

dance style as a cure for introversion while others see it as a hip form of exercise or even an alternative way of living that embraces self-expression at the expense of traditional social norms.

"All parents want their

daughters to be well-behaved and find a stable job, then find a good husband, get married, and have kids," said Ya Xin, a 25-year-old dancer.

Ms. Ya moved to Beijing in May to pursue dance full-time, renouncing her 9-to-5 gig at a government bureau in Hebei province. Her parents were not pleased.

"They didn't agree, but I am willing to push back," she said. "They are not paying for my living expenses, so doing what I want isn't their burden."

Street culture

The buzz has not, however, resulted in a movement towards actual dancing in the street, with most aspiring dancers practising within the

confines of a studio instead.

There are over 5,000 street dance studios in China, according to local media reports citing figures from the national dance association.

The association has also developed a level-based certification test for street dance — though many dancers feel the system is antithetical to street culture.

"I personally feel that certification tests are not useful because street dance comes from the street," said Zhao Lun, who started street dancing in 2001 and co-founded FunkAsista in 2016.

"There's no concept of 'levels'."

Earlier this year, high-profile rap musicians from "Rap

of China" faced censure over explicit song lyrics and tattoos.

In mid-January a leaked government directive banned airtime for "artists with tattoos, hip-hop music" and other content that "conflicts" with party morals.

Zhang Jianpeng, a well-known street dancer in China, said he was forced to remove his makeup before going onstage during a televised dance competition.

"On TV shows, you can't show tattoos" and "men cannot dress like women," said Zhang whose dance workshop, T.I. Studio, hangs a large rainbow-coloured flag in its lobby, and prides itself on being a LGBT-friendly space.

# DELHI METRO

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## Train robbers in police net

Police bust gang of inter-State train robbers involved in over 1,000 robberies in last three years **Page 3**



## CSE wins Indira Gandhi prize

Manmohan Singh conferred with Indira Gandhi Prize for Peace, Disarmament and Development for 2017 **Page 4**



## Not just a 'pleasure palace'

An amalgamation of Pakistani and Indian talent, *Pinky Memsaab*, explores nuances of the expat life in Dubai **Page 5**



## The tech edge to healthcare

Technology is changing how healthcare is being administered in the country **Page 6**

### IN BRIEF



#### CM to officers: address complaints on priority

**NEW DELHI**  
Delhi CM Arvind Kejriwal on Monday directed officers to work on reducing the number of complainants dissatisfied with the way their grievances were addressed by various government departments. **CITY** ▶ **PAGE 2**

#### Youth arrested for rape, murder of 3-year-old girl

**NEW DELHI**  
More than a week after a three-year-old girl was raped and murdered in Sector 66 in Gurugram, the police on Monday arrested the accused from Uttar Pradesh's Magapur village. **CITY** ▶ **PAGE 3**

#### Air quality of Delhi-NCR

Delhi	330	Gurugram	280
Ghaziabad	364	Faridabad	323
Noida	348	Greater Noida	346
0-50	51-100	101-200	
Good	Satisfactory	Moderate	
Poor	Very poor	Severe	
201-300	301-400	>401	

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

## 'Laxity of authorities brings city to state of decay'

KASTURI SWAIN  
NEW DELHI

Speaking at a session on 'Challenges of National Capital Region', Environment Pollution (Prevention and Control) Authority Chairman Bhure Lal on Monday termed enforcement agencies as "dormant". Mr. Lal gave an incisive account of how the administration has a crucial role to play in the sad state of affairs.

"Laxity of administration has reduced this beautiful city to a state of decay," he said.

The session, organised by the Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations, was held at the India Habitat Centre. Recounting a visit to west Delhi's Mundka village, Mr. Lal gave a harrowing account of how out of a population of 7,000, more than 100 were battling cancer and how 54% of the children residing in Prem Nagar were suffering from lung diseases. Mr. Lal said that the most sustainable solution to urban challenges was going "vertically up" and allocating surplus area for greening purposes.

# Four charred to death in factory fire; owner arrested

One sustains injuries; cloth factory was being run illegally from a house: police

HEMANI BHANDARI  
NEW DELHI

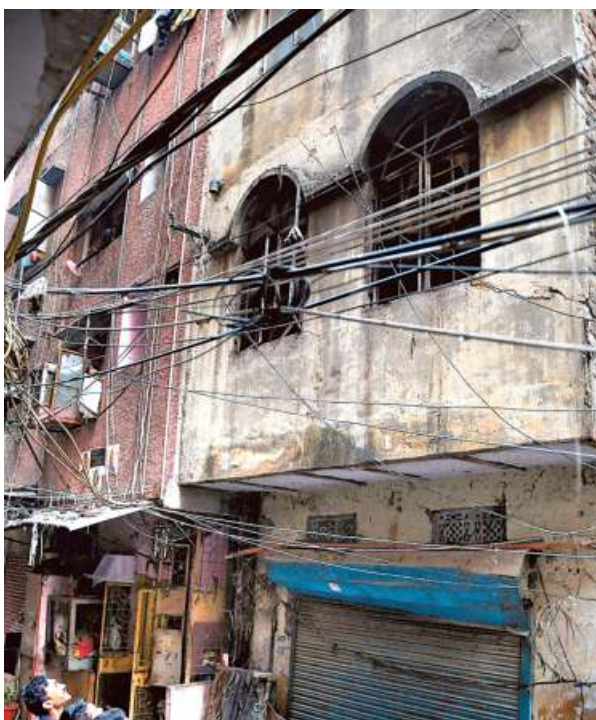
Four persons, including two women, were charred to death and one sustained burn injuries after a fire broke out at a cloth factory in Karol Bagh on Monday afternoon, the police said. The owner of the factory has been arrested in connection with the case.

The police said that the factory was being run illegally.

Additional Deputy Commissioner of Police (Central) Amit Sharma said that the deceased have been identified as Bhagan Prasad (55), Ram Naresh (40), Aarti (26), and Asha (40) and the injured person as Ajit (23). The owner of the factory, Ajay Khurana (45), has been arrested on charges of culpable homicide not amounting to murder, Mr. Sharma said.

"The owner was asked to produce documents obtained from the Fire Department, but he is yet to do so. Also, the factory was running at a residential complex," Mr. Sharma said.

Sitting in the emergency ward at Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital, Mr. Ajit, a resident of Patel Nagar, said that around 12.15 p.m., he and six others — three women and three men — were working at the factory, when he heard of a short circuit and clothes catching fire. "Within se-



The fire broke out in the factory in Karol Bagh on Monday.

• SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

conds, the fire engulfed the entire room. I ran towards the main door of the factory, which is on the first floor, while the others ran towards the wall at the back. They thought they would get out from the windows but those were locked and they got stuck," he said. He said he had asked the others to come out, but they could not reach the door. Mr. Ajit has been working at the factory for nearly a year.

The police, however, said that Mr. Ajit had put a solvent in the spray machine and that led to the fire.

Mr. Ajit and Mr. Khurana tried to douse the fire using an extinguisher, which was present at the factory, but to no avail.

Parmanand Jalutria (43), a resident of the area, said he was told by Mr. Khurana that the fire was caused by a solvent used in ironing and finishing of clothes. "Clothes of

The owner of the factory was asked to produce documents obtained from fire department, but he is yet to do so

AMIT SHARMA  
Additional DCP (Central)

children were manufactured at the factory and unfinished clothes of adults were brought here for finishing, packaging and ironing. The solvent that they used was inflammable and is suspected to have led to the fire. We saw smoke coming out of the windows of the factory," he said, adding that Mr. Khurana, who was in his office in an adjoining building, helped two persons come out.

#### Narrow streets

The Fire Department was called at 12.22 p.m. Two fire tenders were rushed by 12.50 p.m. Mr. Jalutria said that the streets are so narrow that the fire tenders could not reach the factory. "The fire tenders were parked on the backstreet. We opened doors of houses in between for the pipe to reach the factory," he said. Locals said that the situation could be brought under control as most of the markets here stay shut on Mondays.

SEE ALSO ▶ **PAGE 3**

# AAP, BJP spar over transfer of Delhi Chief Secretary

'AAP wants political advantage out of a routine transfer'

STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI

Two days after the Central government transferred Delhi Chief Secretary Anshu Prakash, the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) on Monday said the decision was taken without consulting the elected government of Delhi, which is awaiting a Supreme Court decision on whether it will get control over matters of services.

On November 17, the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet approved the transfer of Mr. Prakash to the Union Department of Telecommunication as an Additional Secretary. Mr. Prakash, who had taken over as the Chief Secretary on December 4, 2017, had accused AAP MLAs of assaulting him at Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal's residence in February this year.

...It seems that the SC decision [on matters of services] will go in favour of the Delhi government. Then, the Centre will say that they have appointed a new Chief Secretary and the elected government can decide next time

SAURABH BHARADWAJ  
AAP spokesperson



Anshu Prakash.

When asked about Mr. Prakash's transfer, media advisor to the Chief Minister, Nagendar Sharma said: "We have no information about this, nor have we been consulted."

AAP spokesperson and Greater Kailash MLA Saurabh Bharadwaj said that the Centre had stopped consulting the elected government of Delhi about appointments of officers, including the Chief Secretary, after a notification in May 2015 that said matters of services would be under the Centre.

"It is unfortunate that they have done this. The Supreme Court is likely to decide the services matter soon. Since the court has already laid down the principles, it seems that the decision will go in favour of the elected government. Then, the Centre will try to say that they have just appointed a new Chief Secretary and that the elected government can decide next time," Mr. Bharadwaj said.

Meanwhile, terming it "misleading and mischievous", Leader of Opposition in the Delhi Legislative Assembly, Vijender Gupta, on Monday took on the AAP's stand on the transfer of the Chief Secretary.

"It is malicious on its part to say that he was transferred as the court is due to give its verdict in the matter of Services in the Delhi government. The transfer of a Chief Secretary is an administrative matter and cannot be related to a judicial decision which is yet to be pronounced," Mr. Gupta argued, adding that the AAP's motive was to gain "political advantage out of a routine transfer".

"His transfer was due any time. He has now been transferred with a number of other IAS officers of similar seniority," Mr. Gupta also said.

He added that it was "foolishness" on part of the AAP to say that in the eventuality of the elected government getting control over "services", it would like to appoint the Chief Secretary of its choice and not that of the Centre. "The Delhi government can transfer officers within its own jurisdiction once they are appointed. But posting officers to the Delhi government lies within the jurisdiction of the Centre," he argued.

# Appointing Chief Secretary is prerogative of L-G, Centre: MHA

Prakash to continue in his post till he is relieved by L-G

VIJAITA SINGH  
NEW DELHI

The Home Ministry on Monday said that appointing Delhi's Chief Secretary was the prerogative of the Lieutenant-Governor (L-G) of Delhi and the Centre.

The Appointments Committee of Cabinet had on November 17 transferred Delhi Chief Secretary Anshu Prakash to the Department of Telecommunications. Mr. Prakash had alleged that he was assaulted by Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) Ministers at Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal's residence in February this year.

A senior Home Ministry official said that Mr. Prakash would continue in his post till he was relieved by the Delhi L-G.

"Delhi Chief Secretary will continue as of now. The Home Ministry will look at

an appropriate replacement soon and he or she will be appointed on the orders of the Delhi L-G," said the official.

#### 1993 rule

The official also explained that according to Rule 55 (2) (B) of the Transaction of Business of the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi Rules, 1993, the L-G will have to inform the Centre regarding the appointment of the Chief Secretary.

"Subject to any instructions which may from time to time be issued by the Central government, the Lieutenant-Governor shall make a prior reference to the Central government in the Ministry of Home Affairs in respect of proposals for the appointment of Chief Secretary and Commissioner of

Police, Secretary [Home] and Secretary [Lands]," the Rule stated.

The official said there was no rule of involving the Delhi government in appointment of the Chief Secretary. Among the seven Union Territories, only Delhi and Puducherry have Legislative Assemblies.

"Transaction of business rules were framed under Article 239 AA of the Constitution that clearly says that Delhi is a Union Territory and the L-G its administrative head. So all appointments are under the purview of the Centre," the official also said.

On July 4, the Supreme Court had held that the L-G of Delhi is bound by the "aid and advice" of the Delhi government and both have to work harmoniously with each other.

# Delhiites' life expectancy reduced by 10 years due to pollution: report

Fine PM concentration increased by 69% in India in 20 years

STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI

If air pollution levels in the Capital adhered to World Health Organization (WHO) standards, a typical Delhiite would live 10 years longer, a report released by the University of Chicago's Energy Policy Institute on Monday stated.

The report, titled "Introducing the Air Quality Life Index (AQLI)," said the average Indian would live 4.3 years longer if the country's air quality met the WHO standards, which are more stringent than that of the Indian government. In comparison, the average resident

of Beijing and Los Angeles would lose six years and one year respectively due to high pollution, the report also said.

The report said that the concentration of fine particulate matter had increased by an overall 69% in India in the past two decades. The sustained exposure to particulate pollution used to reduce life expectancy by 2.2 years in 1998.

As of 2016, the average life expectancy at birth could have gone up from 69 years to 73 years if the WHO standards were complied with, the report said. This would be a greater gain than that

from solving the problems of unsafe water and poor sanitation, the report added.

"The AQLI reveals that the average person on the planet is losing 1.8 years of life expectancy due to particulate pollution exceeding the WHO guideline — more than devastating communicable diseases like tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS, behavioural killers like cigarette smoking, and even war," the report read.

Apart from India, China and Bangladesh were the other countries witnessing a large loss in life expectancy due to pollution, the report further stated.

# DJB-commissioned sewer cleaning machine bags prize

Awards given on World Toilet Day; meant to recognise technological innovations to stop manual scavenging

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

A newly designed high-power water jet and grabbing device meant to clean sewers in narrow streets, commissioned by the Delhi Jal Board (DJB), was a winner in the Centre's Urban Sanitation Technology Challenge on Monday.

More than 150 of the devices are expected to be on the streets of the Capital by January, stated the makers of the device.

The awards, presented by the Urban Affairs Ministry on World Toilet Day, were meant to recognise technological innovations to

avoid human entry into sewers and septic tanks, thus helping prevent manual scavenging.

"A big problem in many parts of Delhi is that the streets are too narrow for big sewer cleaning machines. So the DJB sent us a problem statement, and we have come up with this new device," said Ganesh Parhad, a design engineer with KAM-AVIDA, which won the award. The high-velocity jet has a water capacity of 1,500 litres. It also includes a grabbing mechanism to clean clogged sewer lines.

While one pilot device has been tested in Paharganj

to ensure that it would work on narrow streets, the DJB has ordered a total of 155 such devices, which will be delivered early next year. Representatives of the Hyderabad Metropolitan Water and Sewage Board and Chennai Metrowater, which were also bagged award for their sewer-cleaning systems, were seen making enquiries about the device at the event.

#### ₹25 lakh each

The machines cost ₹25 lakh each.

In the category of septic tank cleaning, the winner was Hoolock Technologies, which developed a type of

double boosting pump which can be used to create sufficient pressure to clean tanks without human entry.

Delhi took the decision to completely mechanise its sewer cleaning system in August 2017, in the wake of outrage over ten deaths of manual cleaners in the span of just five weeks. More than a year later, complete mechanisation is yet to be completed partly due to court cases contesting the decision to give former manual scavengers preference in mechanised cleaning contracts, and also because of difficulty in finding and adapting machines that are suitable

for the city's needs.

Social Justice Minister Ramdas Athawale released new standard operating procedures for sewer and septic tank cleaning, which stipulate the precautions that must be taken by sanitation workers. These procedures are, however, not legally enforceable.

Liability is one of the pivotal ways through which manual scavenging prohibitions can be enforced, said Delhi Lieutenant-Governor Anil Bajjal, noting that the State has begun holding employers and not just contractors liable for sewer deaths in the Capital.





**Daati rape case: CBI told to proceed with probe**

**NEW DELHI**  
The Delhi HC on Monday directed the CBI to proceed with its further investigation into the rape allegation against self-styled preacher Daati Maharaj and file its report before a trial court. An HC Bench, which had earlier asked the agency to submit the inquiry report, clarified that it should be filed before the magistrate who is dealing with the matter. PTI

**Jamia student attacked by masked men**

**NEW DELHI**  
A student of Jamia Millia Islamia was allegedly assaulted by a few masked men in his hostel room on Monday afternoon. DCP (South-East) Chinmoy Biswal was unavailable for comment. Sources said no FIR has been registered till 11 p.m. There was a ruckus in canteen over a cockroach found in the meal, of which, Danish was a part. After this, he went to his room where he was attacked, they added. STAFF REPORTER

**Shooter held after gunfire in Noida**

**STAFF REPORTER  
GREATER NOIDA**  
The police on Monday arrested an alleged shooter after a brief exchange of fire in Greater Noida. Deepak Hapad (30), from Ranoli Latifpur Village, was carrying a reward of ₹25,000 on his head. They said he was wanted in over 20 cases of attempt to murder, robberies and petty crimes across National Capital Region. At 4 a.m. on Monday, a police team was patrolling around Bisahda bypass road after they were informed about the movement of the accused in the area. “Deepak and his accomplice Sonu were seen standing at the service road when the police officers tried to approach them. They immediately opened fire to which the officers fired in retaliation. One bullet hit Deepak in his right leg while his accomplice fled the spot on a bike,” said Station House Officer (Dadri) Ramsen Singh. He was taken to district hospital in Noida, the officer said, adding that a countrimade pistol with four bullets was recovered from him. “Deepak is an alleged member of the Sundar Bhati gang since 2010 where he assisted Ankit Gurjar, who is currently in jail. He used to extort money from the people,” Mr. Singh added.

**DELHI TODAY**

**Talk:** Mahatma Gandhi: 150 Years - a new series of programmes organised from October 2018 to October 2019 to mark the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi. Lecture on “Gandhi Matters: Truth from the beginning to the Mahatma” by Dr. Ganesh Devy, a literary scholar and cultural activist at Seminar Rooms - I, II & III, Kamaladevi Complex, India International Centre (IIC), 6:30 p.m.  
**Dance:** Samarpan Kala Kendra presents Kathak and Bharatanatyam performances by students. Odissi dance by Sudarshan and group Bharatanayam dance by Falguni Mazumdar at Kamani Auditorium, Cornpericus Marg, Mandi House, 5:30 p.m.  
**Dance:** India International Rural Cultural Centre (IRCCN) presents Bharatanatyam dance by Shreyasi Gopinath in Govt. Co-ed. Vidyalaya, Sector-8, Rohini, 9 a.m. and Govt. Sarodha Co-ed. Vidyalaya, Sector-9, Rohini, 11 a.m.  
**Exhibition:** “India Remembers Octavio Paz” - an exhibition of graphic design posters on Paz’s verses on India by young designers and artists, to honour the Mexican poet at Main Art Gallery, Kamaladevi Complex, India International Centre (IIC), 11 a.m. - 7 p.m.  
**Exhibition:** “A Bouquet” - solo exhibition by Anjali Mittal at Convention Centre Foyer, India Habitat Centre (IHC), 11 a.m. - 7 p.m. (Mail Your Listings For This Column At Cityeditor@thehindu.co.in)

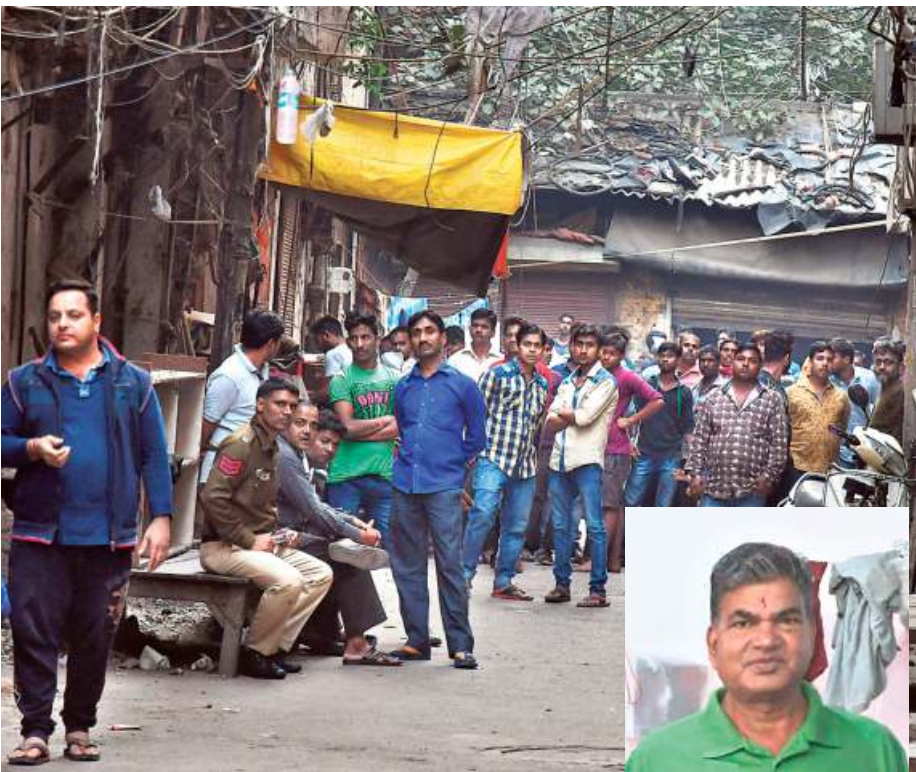
# Factory fire: two of the victims were sole breadwinners

Bhagan had a differently abled son and four daughters; Ram Naresh had 3 kids

**HEMANI BHANDARI  
NEW DELHI**

Two of the four persons killed in a factory fire in Karol Bagh on Monday were sole breadwinners, said their families. The deceased have been identified as Bhagan Prasad (55), Ram Naresh (40), Aarti (26), and Asha (40) and the injured person as Ajit (23).

**‘Planned to go home’**  
Bhagan Prasad, from UP’s Deoria, who used to reside in a rented accommodation on Tank Road, had planned to go home next month, said his cousin Umesh Prasad. The family said Bhagan, the sole breadwinner of the family, was working at the factory for a monthly salary of ₹12,000 for over two decades. He is survived by his wife, four daughters and a son. “One of his daughters died two years ago,” the cousin said. The family said his 25-year-old son Pappu is hearing-impaired. “He is unemployed because of his condition. He was also dependent on his father,” said Umesh. The cousin also said Bha-



Locals stand outside the factory in Karol Bagh where a fire broke out on Monday morning, killing four workers. Inset: Bhagan Prasad ■SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA, SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

gan had found a groom for his 20-year-old daughter Nandini. “Who will take care of the family now?” he asked. Another victim, Ram Na-

resh, was also the sole breadwinner, included his three children and wife. Naresh’s nephew Avinash Chaudhary said the victim, from Allahabad, used to stay

with his wife and three children in Baljeet Nagar. “He has two sons and a daughter. One son is in college while the other two children are in school,” he said.

## Youth arrested for rape, murder of 3-year-old girl

The 20-year-old accused was evading arrest for over a week

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
GURUGRAM**  
More than a week after a three-year-old girl was raped and murdered in Sector 66 here, the police on Monday arrested the accused from Uttar Pradesh. Acting on a tip-off, a team led by Sub-Inspector Raj Kumar, in-charge, Crime Branch Sector 39, arrested the accused, Sunil Kumar (20) from Uttar Pradesh’s Magapur village in the afternoon. Gurugram police spokesperson Subhash Boken said the team was expected to return late at night. The accused is from UP’s Mahoba district in UP. A day after the incident came to fore, different teams were sent to Mahoba, Gwalior and



Sunil Kumar (20) in police custody on Monday. ■SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Jhansi in search of the accused. Sunil used to eat community kitchens, sleep on the roads and did not use mobile phone, the police said, adding that he also did not contact his family over this period. Mr. Boken said the police

checked the antecedents of more than 2,000 workers at construction sites and jhuggis during its search operation.

**The incident**  
On November 11, the victim was playing outside her jhuggi, when the accused allegedly lured her with a chocolate and also offered her ₹10 note. Her parents were at work while her 12-year-old brother was inside the jhuggi, the police said. The victim’s body was found at an abandoned shop around two km from the cluster the following day. The autopsy report revealed that she was subjected to brutality during rape causing severe injuries in her private parts.

## Three arrested, one apprehended for burglary; police recover over ₹2 lakh

In September, a woman had complained about a loot at her house following which teams were formed to nab the accused

**STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI**

Three men have been arrested and one juvenile apprehended for their alleged involvement in several cases of burglary, the police said on Monday. The accused trio - Jitender, Suraj Kocher and Shiva - deposited ₹2, 35,524 in a bank by selling the stolen jewellery, they said. Shiva was the receiver of stolen items. In September, a woman had filed a complaint stating that she was returning



The three accused in police custody on Monday. (Right) The police recovered over ₹2 lakh and a scooter from the accused persons. ■SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

home at 5.40 p.m. when she saw one boy coming out from her house. The boy allegedly told

her that he had come to enquire about a tuition centre. On entering, she found the house ransacked and all

her jewellery was missing. A case was registered at Punjabi Bagh police station. “We obtained CCTV foot-



**We obtained CCTV footages of the area. An attendant of a de-addiction centre identified the juvenile. Later, the boy was apprehended and his accomplices were arrested**

**POLICE OFFICER**  
ages of the area. An attendant of a de-addiction centre identified the juvenile. Later, the boy was ap-

prehended and his accomplices - Jitender and Suraj Kochar - were arrested,” said a senior police officer. Another accused Shiva, has also been arrested, the officer added. A total of ₹2, 35,524 from a bank account and a scooter has been seized, the police said. **17 cases solved** They claimed to have worked out 17 cases with the arrest. During interrogation, the accused said they have

been committing day burglary for the past one year. **‘Wrong house’** Jitender used to find a target following which the juvenile would enter the house, the police said. The juvenile, if caught, would say that he had entered the wrong house by mistake, the police said. The accused allegedly told the police they have committed burglaries in Janakpuri, Vikaspuri, Narayana and other areas of the west district.

## 26-year-old victim had high aspirations in life, says father

‘She shared responsibilities of the family with me’

**HEMANI BHANDARI  
NEW DELHI**

Father of 26-year-old victim Aarti could not contain his tears while waiting at Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital, where the woman’s post-mortem will be conducted on Tuesday. The woman was charred to death after a fire broke out at a factory in Karol Bagh on Monday. Inderpal (55), working for a company in a Sultanpuri, said Aarti started earning about five years ago and “played the role of a son”. “She was my eldest daughter and took care of the family as a son,” he said. Whenever the family used to ask her for marriage, she would say: “*Papa main kuch ban jaun, fir shadi karungi* (Father let me do something in life. Then I will get married”,

**I had come for work in Karol Bagh. I thought I will call and meet her. Instead, I got a call saying that she was unwell**

**INDERPAL  
Victim’s father**

her father said. The family said the woman was working in the factory for a year and before this, she worked with the same employers in Pitampura for over three years. “Till a few months ago, she used to travel from home in Vijay Vihar. Recently, she said the employer is giving her an accommodation near the factory. So she started living here in Karol Bagh. She used to visit us every few days,” he said. Recalling his last meet-

ing, Inderpal said he met her on Diwali when she had come home and had plans to meet her on Monday. “I had come for some work to Karol Bagh. I thought I will call and meet her as I was in the area. Instead, I got a call saying that she was not well. I reached the hospital where I got to know that she has died,” the father said. He sobbed that he could not meet her one last time. Inderpal said in the last few years, his daughter shared the responsibilities of the family with him. “She used to help me monetarily. I have two more daughters and a son. How will I take of them alone,” the father cried. Four persons were killed in the fire while one has been grievously injured, the police said.

## Police bust inter-State train robbers’ gang

The five accused committed over 1,000 train robberies in the past 3 years: police

**STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI**

The police on Monday claimed to have busted a gang of inter-State train robbers who committed over 1,000 robberies in the past three years. The arrested persons, all from the city, have been identified as Vikram, Vicky, Rajinder, Sonu and Mustakim, they said. Vicky was pursuing ITI (Electricals) but discontinued the diploma in the second year, the police said, adding that in 2016, he joined a company at a salary of ₹14,000/month but quit it and joined the gang. “The gang members were wanted in a case where they had stabbed a passenger multiple times on the stomach to rob ₹20,000 from him. They jumped off the moving train near Shakur



Five persons, arrested for committing train robberies, in police custody on Monday. ■SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Basti. A case was registered,” said Deputy Commissioner of Police (Crime) Joy Tirkey. On Sunday, acting on a tip-off about the movement of Vikram and his gang members, the police laid a trap. Following this, the accused were nabbed. Three of them were found carrying sharp blades (pap-

Immediately after the crime, they would jump off the moving train, the police said. The most opportune time of the attack was when the train would leave the station or approaching one, they added. “The robbers used to board trains from Delhi. They operated till Mathura. Daily they used to target around three to four passengers. After committing theft, they would travel back to Delhi. The maximum part of the robbed money was spent on drugs and liquor,” said Mr. Tirkey. The miscreants were also wanted in the robberies they committed in Uttar Pradesh and Haryana. The police stations concerned have been informed regarding the arrest, the police said, adding that further investigation is under way.

## Man held for shooting at business partner

Incident took place on June 10

**STAFF REPORTER  
GREATER NOIDA**

A 36-year-old man was arrested on Sunday for alleged shooting at his business partner in Greater Noida, the police said on Monday. He has been sent to judicial custody. The incident happened on June 10, they said, adding that Rajeev Chauhan, from Ghaziabad, was nabbed following a tip-off. The accused, who has a property business, shot at Satpal Yadav, from Ghaziabad, they said. At that time, he was with eight other men. The incident took place at Grand city colony where the victim was present with a few other men. Rajeev went there along with his accom-

plices and asked for the money he had lent Satpal, the police said. When he refused to pay, both the sides got into a brawl and Rajeev shot at him. Following this, the accused along with his accomplices fled the spot, the police said. “The accused has revealed the names of his accomplices,” said SHO (Dadri) Ram Sen Singh. The accused have been booked under Sections 147 (rioting), 148 (rioting, armed with deadly weapon), 307 (attempt to murder), 323 (punishment for voluntarily causing hurt), 504 (intentional insult with intent to provoke breach of the peace), 506 (punishment for criminal intimidation) of the IPC, the police said.

## Bhondsi murder: SC orders status quo on JJB proceedings

Matter has been posted for further hearing on January 21

**PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NEW DELHI**

The Supreme Court on Monday stayed the proceedings of the Gurugram Juvenile Justice Board (JJB), which was to consider afresh whether the teenager accused of killing a seven-year-old boy inside a private school should be tried as an adult in the case. **‘In six weeks’** The JJB was directed by the Punjab and Haryana High Court on October 11 to decide afresh in six weeks whether the teenager was to be tried as an adult in the case. A Bench of justices R.F. Nariman and Navin Sinha

said there would be status quo on the proceedings of the JJB. Also, it posted the matter for further hearing on January 21. The Bench also issued notices to the teenager and the CBI and sought their response on a petition filed by the father of the victim through an advocate. **Challenged HC** The victim’s father had challenged the High Court’s October 11 order on the ground that it was illegal and contrary to established procedure of the law. The High Court had allowed the petition of the accused, filed in July, challeng-

ing the decision of the JJB to try him as an adult in the murder case. The CBI, in a charge sheet, had alleged that the teenager had murdered the student on September 8 last year in a bid to get examinations postponed and a scheduled parent-teacher meeting cancelled. **Found murdered** The victim’s body, with the throat slit, was found in the washroom of the school at the Bhondsi area here. The CBI had taken up the case from the Gurugram police on September 22, 2017, following a nationwide uproar over the killing.



IN BRIEF



**Gourmet battle**  
The culinary traditions of Delhi and Lucknow are being revived with an event titled "Clash of The Titans" at Daniell's Tavern of The Imperial in Delhi. Chef Ved Prakash and Chef Mirza Munawar Baig, who are culinary experts at the hotel, are presenting a confluence of Indian culinary heritage. They are presenting recipes from their archives.

The duo are cooking tantalising biryanis from Lucknow's royal gharana along with rich curries from the Walled City to recreate the magic of lost traditions. For foodies, there is plenty to relish as there are curries to warm their heart and sizzling hot kebabs to take them back to the bygone days.

On the kind of recipes on offer, Vijay Wanchoo- Sr. Executive Vice President and General Manager, The Imperial, says: "The magic is being recreated for the discerning diners by Chef Mirza and Chef Ved." On till November 24, it is open only for dinner.

**Celebrating bonds**  
A year after the inauguration of Bonjour India, the French Institute in India recently launched *The Bonjour India Book*, and unveiled the 'Six Programmes' that will inspire its action over the coming months and years.

Bonjour India saw over 320 events in 33 cities over four months concluding in March 2018 with the Knowledge Summit during the visit of the President of France, Emmanuel Macron.

The *Bonjour India Book* recaptures the foundations laid during this period. Through a kaleidoscope of voices and images, the book retraces the essence of the unique platform, along with the testimonies of many of those associated with the FI during this journey.

# Not just a 'pleasure palace'

An interesting amalgamation of Pakistani and Indian talent, Shazia Ali Khan's *Pinky Memsaab* explores the expat life in Dubai

MURTAZA ALI KHAN

The trailer of Pakistani filmmaker Shazia Ali Khan's *Pinky Memsaab: A Dubai Story* is creating buzz the world over. An urban drama about the unconventional kinship between two women from two different worlds – an unhappy Dubai socialite and her impressionable young maid – *Pinky Memsaab* is shot almost exclusively in Dubai. The parts are essayed by Kiran Malik and Hajra Yamin, respectively. "The main thing I was trying to depict through *Pinky Memsaab* is that life is not black and white. The characters in my film are also not stock characters but rather ones deeply enriched by shades of grey. Dubai often gets stereotyped as a 'pleasure palace' of sorts for people that have money and want to live the high life but the reality on ground is far more diverse and there are so many more of those stories to tell," explains Shazia.

*Pinky Memsaab* also stars Indian actor Sunny Hinduja, an FTII alumnus best known for films such as *Brij Mohan Amar Rahe* and *Bal-lad of Rustom*, as an Indian living in Dubai. One of the film's songs is sung by the renowned Indian singer Kavita Seth with her son Kanishk Seth composing the score. Also, the film is edited by Suraj Gunjal. "I have no qualms in saying that the Indian film industry is technically leaps and bounds ahead of the Pakistani film industry. But, the grit, attitude and creativity towards cinema on both sides of the border remain the same. I was overwhelmed, actual-

ly floored, when Kavita Seth agreed to do a song for the film. Moreover, the technical crew, including Suraj Gunjal and the sound editing team came with such a vast experience, that it was a joy working with them and learning from them. There's no shame in asking for help from people who you admire regardless of their backgrounds," reveals Shazia.

Shazia, a Pakistani expatriate living in Dubai, has drawn heavily from her own experiences for the story of *Pinky Memsaab*. The film endeavours to capture the nuances of the expat life. "In a way it is my story. I don't mean that the details of my life are reflected in the film but rather the flavour and treatment of the story carries the spirit of the life I am used to. Much like Kiran's character in the film, I too am married to an investment banker and currently reside in Dubai. Moreover, I move around in similar social circles to those depicted in the movie. I have also consistently come into close interaction with the domestic help that make up the backbone of the country and our story. We see a lot of movies that are exceptionally entertaining but deep down you intuitively feel that it's devoid of reality. *Pinky Memsaab*, hopefully, will prove to be one of the exceptions to the rule," believes Shazia.

Shazia has taken great pain to get the casting absolutely right for the film. Kiran Malik, who plays the role of the socialite, explains,



**Dynamic relationship:** A still from "Pinky Memsaab"; director Shazia Ali Khan •SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

"All the characters in the film are so real. A Filipino actor was cast as a house keeper and then Shazia got Sunny Hinduja to play the character of Santosh, my Indian driver in the film. We also had this lovely gentleman from South India on our sets. This is all so reflective of the everyday life in Dubai. *Pinky Memsaab* was a great collaboration and I hope these kinds of projects can be done more often."

**Rewarding experience**

Shazia, who fought the temptation of casting a Pakistani actor in the role of Santosh, tells, "The easiest thing would have been for me to bring a Pakistani actor on board, however, even with the best of Pakistani talent, I believe audiences can always tell the difference and that would be a disservice to the honesty of the film and the theatre goers." For Hinduja, it was a rewarding experience to work with Shazia. He reveals, "Although, it was Shazia's first film, she had complete grip on the film. This is probably because she wrote it herself and knew each and every character, in and out. So

it became so easy for us to get involved in her world. As an actor it is very important to portray what my director and writer are asking for. I would pester her whenever I needed any insights and she supported me in whatever ways she could."

A film like *Pinky Memsaab* with humanistic characters closely resembling the real life tends to rely heavily on character interactions. The key relationship dynamic central to the film is between the socialite and her maid. Although, Hajra Yamin is a more accomplished actor back in Pakistan she was initially a little nervous to be working with Kiran Malik, a model based in Dubai who has been a part of many big campaigns, having worked with everyone known in Pakistan, over the last 13 years. "When I finally met her I saw a Lahori girl in her who loves food so we just instantly connected. I think we also gained a few pounds as well during the shoot. Kiran is very professional and very flexible person to work with honestly and the passion that she has for her work it shows in her acting. Her fo-

cus and attitude kept me motivated as well," recalls Hajra.

Sharing her experiences of working with Hinduja, she adds, "His name is still saved as Santosh in my phone's contact list. Sunny is such a genuine person that it only made me more comfortable to work with him. He is really open to experimenting and trying new ways of doing the scenes. And the fact that he is from India only gave me one more reason to learn as much as I can from him, especially since he is a trained actor with great discipline and focus."

Owing to the difficulties in finding a distributor in India, Shazia is planning for digital release for *Pinky Memsaab* in order to reach the audiences in India. "Since I have also co-produced the film a priority on my agenda was that I wanted Indian audiences to watch the film. Owing to a very unique relationship between the people, there is an inherent curiosity to see what's going on and to understand life on either side. However, the issue is that Pakistani films, unfortunately, have a tough time finding distribution in India.

There have been some fabulous movies coming out of Pakistan that have even become awards contenders and winners but haven't find distribution in India. The policies are quite strict," regrets Shazia.

**'Two siblings'**

Shazia sees India and Pakistan as "two siblings joined at the hip". She believes that cinema can play an important role in bringing two siblings closer together. "Through more collaborative efforts, across multiple platforms, I would love to see talent being brought in from both sides, not driven by agenda, but because of the value they bring to project," avers Shazia for whom the film is all about "showcasing how beautiful the relationship between Indians and Pakistanis can be without being over the top" and so she hopes to reach out to as many Indians as she can through a digital release. Even as the talks for the same are currently in progress, *Pinky Memsaab* is set for a December release across the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) and Pakistan.

## + An age-old love affair with cork

Jhunjhun Jain of Outlin'd Studio invites India to bring heritage into their home — in the form of cork

DIVYA KALA BHAVANI

We've seen homes across India go more green and 'back to the earth' in a big way with canvas bags, reusable straws of bamboo or steel, more minimalist in their aesthetics and using technology which aims to be minimal with their emissions. Now make some room for cork, Jhunjhun Jain says.

Using an in-house technique – a secret kept under lock and key –Jhunjhun oversees the creation of some cork coasters at Outlin'd Studio in Delhi. Strictly no use of printing, she affirms, as her careful illustrations of her Amer Jaali coasters are digitally burned into a piece of cork sheet. The warm smell of burnished cork fills the room. The designs are burned into the cork for longevity, authenticity and sharper finishes, she says.

The 26 year-old designer doesn't compromise when it comes to the right cork; she sources the material from Spain as well as Portugal, the epicentre of this industry. Presently, the total value of the cork market, according to Cork Quality Council, is at €644 million. "We use pure cork. The designs done on the material are actually burned into it."

So how do you know if you've invested in cork which hasn't been tainted with chemicals? Jhunjhun responds, "One can't really tell until you decom-



**Earthy homeliness:** Outlin'd Studio combines practicality, creativity, heritage and sustainability and sends it home with you •SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT



pose the product. Obviously if there's a printing or painting done, there's an unmissable outer layer."

Jhunjhun's love affair with cork began years ago; she'd done her Masters in Product Design from Loughborough University. "At college in Singapore, I did carpentry and we would do a lot of research and development with different materials. I stumbled across cork and my interest in it progressed. I eventually made my first product; six coast-

ters inspired by Jharokas, an ornate style of balconies used in Rajasthani architecture. I was just 20 when I publicly exhibited them at Singapore's Red Dot Museum."

Now Outlin'd Studio has a whole range of cork home decor inspired by heritage sites around India, including a bauldi-inspired bookstand, an Aiyana-kaari wine glass stand reminiscent of Sheesh Mahal and a range of Charni-nar-esque coasters. Buyers from Benga-

luru, Hyderabad, Chennai and Mumbai found themselves drawn to the quirky yet elegant pieces. "The theme is ancient architecture above anything," Jhunjhun states, "I didn't want to go too in-depth with what said architecture was all about – but rather trying to outline our heritage, the motifs and patterns. Having a part of that in our homes is special. Photo shoots and walk-bys feel very transient so translating what I ob-

served and keeping that at home elevates that."

**Zero-waste**

The primary pull of cork is that it's zero-waste as it's ground to grain before being compacted into a sheet. On a cellular level, cork has a honeycomb structure, each cell a 14-sided polyhedron. The bark itself is 89% air making for low-density so when the substance is compressed, air is not squeezed out due to the strong and flexible cell membranes.

Essentially cork is the way forward, being a durable insulator which is light, flexible and hypo-allergenic.

She adds that cork is especially attractive in terms of sustainability rather than wood since it is sourced from the renewable, outer-bark of the tree and does not require as much environmental interference. "It's like picking a fruit and where can you go wrong with that?" Jhunjhun chuckles, "As I played around with the material, I realised that



cork was also quite versatile; like when I burnt it, the colour, and the smell, was very enticing to me. It took me a good two to three months to develop this technique of burning cork. It took a lot of trial and error."

It takes roughly 25 years for a cork tree to start to produce cork. From this point, it can then be harvested every nine years and these tall trees can surpass 150 years of age, so most trees are usually harvested at least 15 times.

**Generational impact**

Jhunjhun joins a generation that is furthering the betterment of our world through design and sustainability – breathing fresh life of minimalist design into the homes of her customers.

"So far I haven't received negative feedback," she responds, "especially when it's regarding the practicality of the product; people are discovering a different use to cork and it's propelled a great conversation. People these days are not hoarders, wanting just 'two' instead of 'two hundred' around their space. They also want things which have a story behind them. Plus tons of Indians move a lot so the wine glass stands, tea trays and even bookshelves have that easy portability and durability to them."

This ethos had been mapped out before Outlin'd Studio's conception, proving there's nothing more effective than a plan. Not painting the cork and leaving the granular appearance to come through is extremely important to Jhunjhun – just as one would leave and preserve heritage.

*Jhunjhun's designs can be found at outlin'd.studio.*

5 EVENTS WORTH-YOUR-WHILE



MUSIC

**Aarohi'18**  
Organised by Kaladharmi, "Aarohi '18" is a two-day festival of music, celebrating the Gharana Heritage. Today's event will see the performance of sarod recital by Pt. Narendra Nath Dhar of the Rajshahi-Shajahanpur Gharana and vocal recital by Pt. Shantanu Bhattacharya of the Patiala Gharana.  
**VENUE:** Stein Auditorium, India Habitat Centre  
**TIME:** 7 p.m.



EXHIBITION

**Unwarping time**  
Hosted by Alliance Française de Delhi, the ongoing solo art show titled "Unwarping Time" features the artworks made by Aishwarya Sultanania. Curated by Shruthi Issac, the exhibition is a series of art show aims to promote young Indian artists with a French connection.  
**VENUE:** Galerie Romain Rolland, Alliance Française de Delhi  
**TIME:** 11 a.m. - 8 p.m.



PERFORMANCE

**Carnatic recital**  
As part of 'The IIC Baithaki' series, India International Centre presents Carnatic violin and mridangam recital. The show will feature Carnatic violin recital by Charumathi Raghuraman disciple of Prof. T. N. Krishnan, and Anantha R. Krishnan disciple of Vidwan Palghat R. Raghu on mridangam.  
**VENUE:** C.D. Deshmukh Auditorium, IIC  
**TIME:** 7 p.m.



THEATRE

**Priyadarshika**  
The second year students of National School of Drama present Harsha's "Priyadarshika" a Hindi Play, directed by KS Rajendran. Composed in four acts during 7th century A.D. by Harsha, the theme of this drama has been taken from Gunadhyaya's *Brihatkatha* (1st century A.D.).  
**VENUE:** Bahumukh Auditorium, National School of Drama, Bahawalpur House  
**TIME:** 3 p.m. and 7 p.m.



EXHIBITION

**Canvas**  
"Dream" is an ongoing solo show of paintings by Arpita Chandra, which represents fantasy and reality similarly in canvas. The art works depicts the tale of women who might be physically at home but their imagination runs wild and unrestrained. Long, flowing hair and voluptuous bodies define many of her works.  
**VENUE:** Triveni Kala Sangam, 205, Tansen Marg  
**TIME:** 11 a.m. - 8 p.m.

TECH-A-BYTE



WhatsApp testing new add contact feature

WhatsApp is working on two new features that will allow users to add contacts more easily and also share their contact information via a QR code. The first one will allow users to add contacts directly in the application, according to a blog post on WABetaInfo. "It was already possible in the past, but WhatsApp wanted to start to redesign this functionality on iOS and Android, making it easier to use. The feature will replace the current option, so it will be located in the same menu," it said. The other feature allows users to add a new contact in WhatsApp by choosing to add it using a WhatsApp QR Code, if you have it.



The CoWrks Foundry concludes first cohort

The CoWrks Foundry, a premier acceleration program, has announced the completion of its first cohort, comprising five innovative startups. The programme was designed to nurture early-stage startups in the field of Urban Tech, Enterprise Tech and Social Impact Enterprise. Out of the over 350 startups that applied, the final five that were selected to be a part of the accelerator are Wagonfly, Betterly, T-Scale Hub, Understand Better and Ayasta. While Wagonfly is a single-stop, cashless, queueless solution for brick-and-mortar stores, Betterly is an anonymous, tech-enabled platform to address mental health issues. T-Scale Hub is a platform for architects and vendors. Understand Better manages people intelligently, with an AI-powered HR solution; and Ayasta ascertains deterioration, predicts faults and impending risk within a facility and in the external electrical grid.



Google Safety Center now in India

To help users stay safe online in India, Google has expanded its Safety Center to the country in nine languages. The center has a wide range of tools and resources, right from basic security guidelines to information on important topics such as data security, privacy controls, and important tips for ensuring a family-friendly experience on the web. The Safety Center will be made available in Hindi, Bengali, Gujarati, Kannada, Malayalam, Marathi, Tamil, Telugu and Urdu, Google said. Google recently launched the Family Link app in India that aims to empower parents to set digital ground rules by managing their Google Accounts, device and app usage.



Mindtree ties up with IISc for AI research

Leading IT services firm Mindtree has tied up with Indian Institute of Science for advanced research in Artificial Intelligence. "The partnership will facilitate teaching and research in AI for data sciences and natural language processing, introduce the institute's students to solving modern business problems using AI and machine learning (ML)," a company statement said. As part of the tie-up, a fund christened 'Mindtree Associate Professor Chair on AI' will be set up to attract faculty working on AI research. The inaugural chair will be headed by the institute's Computer Science and Automation Department Professor, Vijay Natarajan. With 12 years in related fields, Natarajan works in scientific visualisation, computational topology and computational geometry.

Send in your queries and feedback to techknow@thehindu.co.in

The tech edge to healthcare

BINDU GOPAL RAO

Healthcare is breaking out of silos, becoming increasingly connected, but also increasingly complex. While it poses an opportunity for medical professionals to learn more than before, the enormous amount of medical information can overwhelm the decision-making processes. This is where artificial intelligence (AI) systems come in.

The specifics

Here's how it works. Data from different sources are fed into a system. With the use of algorithms, programmes and systems to simulate human intelligence, AI can analyse big data sets. These data sets can be from clinician's notes, reports from a patient's file, medical research publications, and clinical trial outcomes. In a matter of seconds, it can create an actionable gist of all, for a particular clinician or a group to review.

Technology is changing how healthcare is being administered in India, with artificial intelligence making waves in the sphere

Ajit Narayanan, CTO, mfine, Bengaluru, explains, "Typical applications in healthcare fall in the categories of diagnosis processes, treatment plan development, drug development, personalised medicine, patient monitoring, process automation, robotic surgery and clinical trials."

How it helps

Take the pharmaceutical industry, where technology is being used to curtail lead time. "AI and machine



learning use data sets and algorithms to model various scenarios in the drug-discovery process. This modelling is used to arrive at a predictive hypothesis much faster than the traditional trial-and-error method, which results in much shorter time for creating proof of concepts," says Suhas Tamras, Global Head, Medical Devices and Healthcare Practice, Tata Elxsi, Bengaluru.

AI in healthcare can help to leverage technology to deploy efficient, impactful interventions at exactly the right moment in a patient's care. "As patients demand more from their providers, and the volume of available data continues to increase at a staggering rate, artificial intelligence can provide insights into diagnostics, care processes, treat-

ment variability, and patient outcomes," says Dr Garima Anandani, Head (Clinical Operations), QI Spine Clinic, Mumbai, that uses a knowledge management system to diagnose, manage, and prevent pain in the back and neck. These insights could mean the difference between over-prescription, over-testing, and over-treatment.

Changing dynamics

Some important aspects of computational systems are that they can perform repetitive tasks and analyse billions of data bytes in a matter of seconds. "Now, if we train such systems to seek specific information in such huge piles of data and throw up results, it can be done easily. Further, we can grade and qualify such information. It may not be as intuitive as a human, but it can be precise," says Arindam Haldar, CEO, SRL Diagnostics, Gurugram.

AI systems can bring in better standardisation of processes, and therefore subjectivity in interpreting information will be reduced. There are AI systems already in operation that have demonstrated the ability to identify sight-threatening conditions with equal accuracy to human ophthalmologists. There are those which can scan a human chest X-ray faster



The machines take over In the health realm • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

GAMESPOT

Travel to new places, meet new people, assassinate them in the new Hitman 2, which also features Mumbai as a location

HITMAN 2

DEVELOPER: IO Interactive

PUBLISHER: Warner Bros. Interactive Entertainment

PRICE: ₹3499 for the Xbox One and Playstation 4

JULIAN ALMEIDA

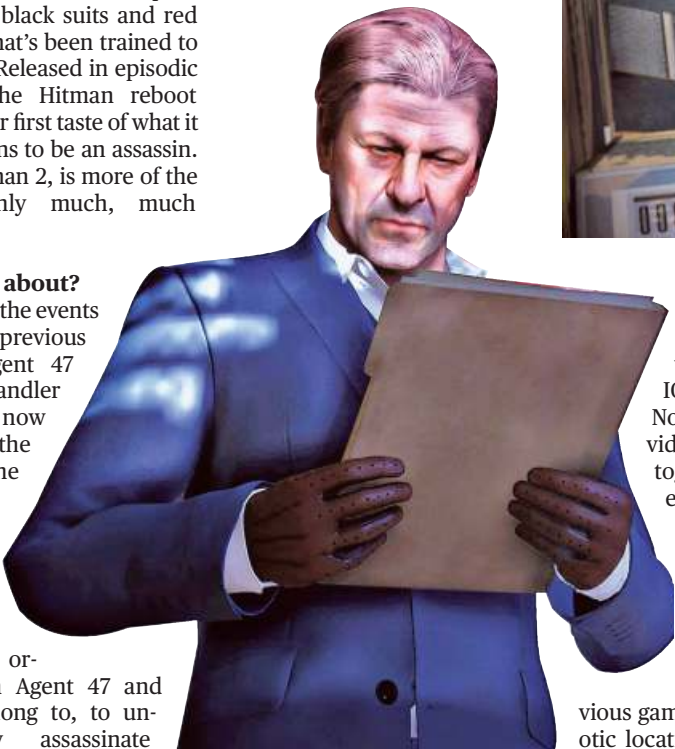
Hitman 2 is not to be confused with Hitman 2: Silent Assassin, the 2002 game of the same name, though it's easy to get muddled. 2016 saw the successful reboot of Hitman, the series that's been made into many a feature film and centres around Agent 47, an assassin sporting a barcode on the back of his neck, a penchant for black suits and red ties and that's been trained to blend in. Released in episodic format, the Hitman reboot gave us our first taste of what it truly means to be an assassin. Now, Hitman 2, is more of the same, only much, much better.

What's it about?

Following the events of the previous game, Agent 47 and his handler Diana are now hot on the heels of the mysterious shadow client, who has hired the ICA, the organisation Agent 47 and Diana belong to, to unknowingly assassinate



Agent 47 and his handler Diana are now hot on the heels of the mysterious shadow client



members of a powerful organisation called Providence, so the ICA foots the blame. Now the ICA and Providence must work together to put an end to the shadow client's grand plans of plunging the world into chaos. So, who's up for a spot of travel?

Where the previous games took you to exotic locations such as Hok-

kaido and Paris, Hitman 2 takes you from Miami to Mumbai. As the story, told through several cut-scenes in between missions, using some flashy cinematics, is mostly the only story you'll get. Honestly, though, the gameplay itself is so good that the story will take a back seat, despite the fact that it's well told.

How does it play?

Hitman 2's levels are little sandboxes, that are living and breathing slices of life cut neatly out of the city they're set in. Often fictional settings within

those countries, Hitman's gameplay mechanics set out to make these large levels a realistic playground, trying to simulate the depth and complexities of being an assassin.

There are many ways of killing your target. You can go about it the old-fashioned way, gun-to-the-head, knife-in-the-back style. Where's the fun in that, when you can use indirect, but lethal methods of using the environment to your advantage, like pushing your target down a convenient hole. Yet, the game takes you deeper down that rabbit hole,

Target acquired Images from Hitman 2 • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

allowing you to fully disguise yourself, infiltrate and poison the food or even better, cause a convenient accident. These elaborate 'stories' are the most fun you'll ever have in this game. Requiring you to pursue a series of events, like infiltrating and sabotaging a sports car causing a crash or getting a military robot to do your dirty work.

The gameplay elements are incredibly detailed. For example, assuming the disguise of a security guard, you could slip by unnoticed into a guarded event, but get too close to another guard and you could risk being spotted. Some levels will need you to smuggle weapons into the premises, as you have padlocks you need to get by. Among all this grim realism, Hitman 2 has spots of humour; like in the Mumbai level, the disguises are hilarious, as a large white man wearing a turban, and sporting a pen tries to blend.

Hitman 2 looks crisp and refined, in both the experience and presentation. From its excellent graphics, to the way the scripted, as well as organic events unfold, it is a sight to behold. As you can keep replaying the levels to see how many ways you can kill one target. IO Interactive has also been releasing new reasons for you to go back to the killing field, with in-game events known as 'elusive targets', which give you a subject to assassinate periodically. Most recently it was Ned Stark himself, as actor Sean Bean appeared as a target.

Should you get it?

If you love stealth games and want something new to creep around in, then Hitman 2 is perfect – with its addictive gameplay and excellent fleshed-out levels, letting you experience tourism in a whole new colour – red.

The writer is a tech and gaming enthusiast who hopes to one day finish his sci-fi novel