

NEARBY



Police recce Sentinel isle, sight tribals

**PORT BLAIR**  
A police team took a boat just off North Sentinel island on Saturday and spotted men from the Sentinelese tribe on the beach where American missionary John Allen Chau was last seen, Andaman & Nicobar Islands' police chief Dependra Pathak told AFP. Using binoculars, officers in a police boat, about 400 metres from the shore, saw men armed with bows and arrows.

**NATION** ▶ PAGE 7

Nariman Light House set to open

**MUMBAI**  
A rooftop memorial at Nariman House, the Jewish centre in Colaba, will be formally inaugurated on Monday, the tenth anniversary of the Mumbai terror attacks. The memorial is to be called the Nariman Light House.

**NATION** ▶ PAGE 7

Auto driver beaten to death by mob: police

**NEW DELHI**  
An autorickshaw driver was beaten to death allegedly by a mob that suspected him of being a thief in south-west Delhi's Uttam Nagar, the police said on Sunday.

**DELHI METRO** ▶ PAGE 1

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**EDGE** ▶ 4 PAGES  
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# VHP raises temple pitch in Ayodhya

Asks Muslims to give up claim to land; says construction date will be announced at 2019 Kumbh Mela

**OMAR RASHID**  
**AYODHYA**  
Putting up a show of strength in Ayodhya ahead of the 26th anniversary of the Babri Masjid demolition, the Vishwa Hindu Parishad-led Dharma Sabha on Sunday asked Muslims to give up their claim to the disputed land and appealed to the BJP government to expedite the process for construction of a Ram temple.

Addressing the sabha after the inauguration, Ramji Das of Nirmohi Akhara said, "The date for construction of the Ram temple will be declared at the 2019 Kumbh Mela."

**Assurance from Minister**  
Swami Jagatguru Bhadracharya of Chitrakoot, a Padma Vibhushan awardee, said he had received assurances from a top Minister of the Narendra Modi government that after December 11, when



**Back in focus:** VHP supporters stand atop pillars kept ready for building a Ram temple in Ayodhya. • RAJEEV BHATT

the model code of conduct (in force for the Assembly elections in five States) would be lifted, the Centre would "find a solution clearing the path for the Ram Mandir."

The pontiff said the Minister hinted at an ordinance and assured him that Mr. Mo-

di would "not deceive" the Hindus. "The Minister told me that we are taking such a decision that nobody can stop the construction of a Ram Mandir," Swami Bhadracharya said, addressing thousands of VHP and RSS activists at the Bada Bhakt Maal ki Bagiya grounds.

## Cong. scared judges: Modi

Prime Minister Narendra Modi alleged on Sunday that the Congress threatened Supreme Court judges with impeachment when they tried hear the Ayodhya dispute cases earlier this year. Without naming anyone, he said Congress Rajya Sabha members tried to scare the judges to ensure the hearing was delayed until after the 2019 Lok Sabha election. ▶ PAGE 10

## U.P. to build Ram statue

The BJP government in Uttar Pradesh has cleared a proposal to build a 221-metre-tall statue of Lord Ram on the banks of the Sarayu river in Ayodhya. The details of the funding, the construction agency and the location of the statue have not been disclosed. The size of the statue will outdo the 182-metre-tall statue of Sardar Patel, opened recently, in Gujarat. ▶ PAGE 10

Chants of 'Jai Sri Ram' reverberated at the venue, located a few kilometres away from the disputed site, which was heavily guarded. VHP international vice-president Champat Rai, who led the rally, said the Hindus would not settle for any division of the disputed land, re-

ferring to the 2010 verdict of the Allahabad High Court. "We want the entire land. The day we get it, there will be peace and happiness in the country and development," said Mr. Rai.

**CONTINUED ON** ▶ PAGE 10  
**UNEASY CALM** ▶ PAGE 10

## Can't work with Ranil, says President Sirisena

'Will not make him Prime Minister'

**MEERA SRINIVASAN**  
**COLOMBO**  
President Maithripala Sirisena on Sunday said he cannot work with Ranil Wickremesinghe as Prime Minister "ever," virtually ruling out a parliamentary resolution to Sri Lanka's month-long political crisis. "Even if his party [United National Party or UNP] has the majority, I have told them not to bring Ranil

Wickremesinghe before me, I will not make him Prime Minister," he told the Colombo-based foreign correspondents.

"Not in my lifetime," he asserted, a month after he controversially sacked Mr. Wickremesinghe, installing former President Mahinda Rajapaksa in his place.

**RAJAPAKSA WAS ONLY THIRD CHOICE: SIRISENA** ▶ PAGE 12

## Pakistan invite: Punjab CM says no, Minister Sidhu yes

Amarinder cites killing of soldiers and terror attacks



N.S. Sidhu and Amarinder Singh are not on same page.

**VIKAS VASUDEVA**  
**CHANDIGARH**  
Citing continued killing of Indian soldiers and terror attacks in the State, Punjab Chief Minister Amarinder Singh on Sunday declined Pakistan's invitation to the ground-breaking ceremony for the Kartarpur corridor. But his Cabinet colleague Navjot Singh Sidhu has accepted the invite.

Pakistan hinted at its annoyance with the negative note from the Chief Minister, in a tweet by Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Fawad Hussain. Capt. Amarinder, however, said he hopes to visit the shrine across the border once normalcy between the two countries is restored.

**CONTINUED ON** ▶ PAGE 10

## Touch and go



**Wrong destination:** A helicopter carrying BJP chief Amit Shah attempting to land in a ground by mistake in Sangareddy district of Telangana on Sunday. It took off immediately and safely landed at the designated helipad in Narayankhed. • MOHD. ARIF (PAGE 5)

## Three ISJK militants arrested in Srinagar

They were planning to extend their activities to Delhi; one of them was a Jamia student

**SAURABH TRIVEDI**  
**NEW DELHI**  
In a joint operation, the Delhi and Srinagar police arrested three alleged militants affiliated to the Islamic State-Jammu and Kashmir (ISJK) in Srinagar on Saturday.

Deputy Commissioner of Police (Special Cell) Pramod Kushwah said the arrested militants have been identified as Tahir Ali Khan, a resident of Tral; Haris Mushtaq Khan of Budgam; and Asif Suhail Nadaf of Rainawari, all in J&K.

Haris Mushtaq Khan, 24, completed his graduation in Arts from Jamia Millia Isla-

mia, Delhi, and was pursuing his M.A. in International Studies from the same university. He left studies and joined the militant ranks towards the end of 2017, the police said.

"We received information about the hideout of militants affiliated to the ISJK in Srinagar...a police team shared the information with senior officers of the Srinagar police. A joint team was formed for the operation," said Mr. Kushwah.

After being tipped-off about their movement, a search was carried out near the Tourism Reception

Centre in the heart of Srinagar. During the operation, a suspected militant tried to lob a grenade at the police party. Alert policemen, however, overpowered him and his two accomplices.

At their instance, an underground hideout frequented by members of an ISIS-inspired module was located in an apple orchard in Awantipora.

**Financial support**  
During interrogation, they disclosed the names of people who were assisting them with logistic and financial support. About half a dozen

over-ground workers have been picked up for questioning. The ISJK is strengthening its unit in J&K and planning to extend its activities to Delhi and nearby areas, the police added.

"The arrested militants confirmed that Ahtesham Bilal Sofi, a resident of downtown Srinagar, who was pursuing his graduation from Sharda University in Greater Noida, has joined the ISJK," said Mr. Kushwah. Bilal went missing on October 28 from his college and later his picture in a black outfit surfaced in social media claiming he had joined the ISJK.

**PEERZADA ASHIQ**  
**SRINAGAR**

Nine people, including seven militants, one soldier and a civilian, were killed during operations by security forces against militant outfits in south Kashmir on Sunday, ending the Valley's bloodiest week this year with 26 casualties.

A senior police officer said six militants, including Hizbul Mujahideen's district commanders for Kulgam and Shopian, were surrounded by an operation team of the Army, the police and the CRPF in a pre-dawn offensive in the Batagund area of Kapran village in Shopian following specific inputs.

The dead were identified as Mushtaq Ahmad Mir alias Hammad from the Lashkar-e-Taiba and Mohammad Abbass Bhatt, Umar Majeed Ganaie alias Maaz alias Abu Hanzalla, Muhammad Wassem Wagay alias Saifullah

and Khalid Farooq Malik alias Rafi alias Talha, all from the Hizb.

"The five militants were locals from Shopian and Kulgam, while the sixth was a Pakistani," the police said.

Massive protests broke out as news of the death of militants spread. A civilian, Nouman Ashraf Bhat, among 15 injured during clashes between locals and security forces in Shopian, was declared brought dead at a hospital. Four other critically wounded protesters were admitted to Srinagar hospitals. A two-year-old baby, Hiba, was among those admitted to Srinagar's Shri Maharaja Hari Singh Hospital for pellet injuries.

In a separate operation, a Jaish-e-Muhammad militant was killed in a brief encounter in Pulwama.

**CONTINUED** ▶ PAGE 10



## Kerala village trains women to pack a punch

In a first, 7,800 women of Kangazha panchayat in Kottayam district get self-defence instruction

**HIRAN UNNIKRISHNAN**  
**KOTTAYAM**

Come December, Kangazha village in Kottayam will earn the distinction of having all its women aged 10-60 trained in self-defence – a first for any local body.

Launched as part of the Nirbhaya scheme in April 2017, the project has so far covered over 7,800 women and is slated to include the remaining 2,000-odd by mid-December. B. Pradeep, president of the Kangazha panchayat, said, "The training was imparted initially through a core team of five master trainers from

the Kerala police, who then reached out to the Kudumbasree units. Classes were held on weekends and soon the attendance outgrew the space."

**Legal provisions**  
Hema Subash, a Civil Police Officer with the Vaikom station and the project coordinator, said the training comprised modules on the various types of assaults women face, such as molestation on public transport and domestic violence. "Besides attacking the primary target, awareness of different



**Defensive move:** The training comprises modules on the various types of assaults women face.

aspects of crimes against women, including the legal provisions, were imparted," she said.

Instead of complex martial arts techniques, women are taught easy-to-remember defence tactics

that incapacitate the attacker, explained Jayasree, a 41-year-old mother of two. "As a surveyor with the Kudumbasree office in Kangazha, I feel the need to protect myself from advances and threats, not just on the street but also at work. Now I have the confidence to face a stranger at any time of the day," she said.

"The feeling that we are strong enough to face any situation has helped us shed the usual reaction of cowering – people are now calling us the tigresses of Kangazha," she added.

## Employee has right to resign, says Supreme Court

Can't be compelled to serve, says SC in case of Air India employee

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

To resign is a right of an employee and he cannot be forced to continue, the Supreme Court has said in a recent order.

An employee cannot be compelled to serve in case he is not willing "until and unless there is some stipulation in the rules or in the terms of appointment or disciplinary proceedings is pending or contemplated which is sought to be avoided by resigning from the services."

A Bench of Justices Arun Mishra and Vineet Saran made the observations while allowing the appeal of a former Air India engineer, who was refused his dues by the Central government carrier.

**Past arrears**  
Sanjay Jain served in Air India for the stipulated minimum five-year period before he resigned and served his 30-day notice.

He joined a private airline and later approached his former employer to pay his

dues, Provident Fund, gratuity and unpaid wages.

Air India said it had refused to accept his resignation and asked him to re-join duty.

The Bombay High Court dismissed his petition in September 2010. Subsequently, Mr. Jain moved the Supreme Court.

Setting aside the High Court's decision, the Supreme Court ruled that Mr. Jain had "rightly terminated the relationship by serving the requisite notice for his resignation."



DELHI ☀️ Timings			
MONDAY, NOV. 26			
☀️ RISE	06:52	🌇 SET	17:25
🌙 RISE	20:35	🌅 SET	09:46
TUESDAY, NOV. 27			
☀️ RISE	06:53	🌇 SET	17:25
🌙 RISE	21:39	🌅 SET	10:44
WEDNESDAY, NOV. 28			
☀️ RISE	06:54	🌇 SET	17:24
🌙 RISE	22:44	🌅 SET	11:37

Delhi Weather	max	min
Delhi City	27	10
Safdarjang	27	10
Palam	27	12

**Delhi Palam Today**  
**28°C** Light breeze is likely. A comfortable afternoon and a cool night are ahead.

**Delhi Palam Tomorrow**  
**28°C** Light breeze is likely. A cool morning, a dry day and a cozy night are likely.

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# It’s a fight for legacy between INLD and breakaway faction

The former to kick-start its ‘Jan Adhikar Yatra’ from December 1; the yet-to-be-named breakaway group to garner support on Tau’s policies

VIKAS VASUDEVA  
CHANDIGARH

After the split in the Indian National Lok Dal, the fight between the original party and its breakaway faction to claim the legacy of its founder, Chaudhary Devi Lal, is all set to hot up in the coming days.

While the INLD will kick-start the ‘Jan Adhikar Yatra’ from December 1 with the emotive Sutlej-Yamuna Link canal issue to consolidate its position ahead of the Assembly polls in Haryana next year, the leaders of the breakaway faction are travelling across the State, carrying forward the policies and principles of Chaudhary Devi Lal.

Last week, the INLD saw a split after the party’s national president Om Prakash Chautala’s elder son Ajay Singh Chautala announced that he would float his own political party. Mr. Ajay and his younger brother Abhay Singh Chautala, currently Leader of the Opposition in the Assembly, had been at loggerheads amid a fight for supremacy within the party.

### Reaching out to people

The INLD now plans to reach out to the people and its traditional voters through rallies across all the 90 Assembly constituencies ahead of the elections.

“From December 1, we will be undertaking the ‘Jan



Abhay Singh Chautala (left) with his elder brother Ajay Singh Chautala. ■ FILE PHOTO

Adhikar Yatra’ across the State. While we will press for early construction and completion of the controversial SYL canal and other issues during the Yatra, we will also

use this opportunity to strengthen the party and consolidate our position ahead of the elections,” Haryana INLD spokesperson Praveen Atrey told *The*

*Hindu*.

Mr. Atrey said the ‘Jan Adhikar Yatra’ led by Abhay Singh Chautala would start from Kurukshetra and cover all the 90 Assembly segments in the coming months.

“Besides the SYL, early construction of the Dadupur-Nalvi and Mewat canal is also on our list of demands. Implementation of the Swaminathan report, jobs for the youth and the deteriorating law and order situation would be the other issues that we will take to the masses,” he said.

Political experts believe that the fight between the brothers is for claiming the legacy of Chaudhary Devi

Lal.

“After the split, the fight between the brothers (Abhay and Ajay) is for claiming the legacy of Chaudhary Devi Lal. INLD’s Jan Adhikar Yatra is an attempt towards establishing this claim of legacy,” said Ashutosh Kumar, professor of political science at Panjab University.

Mr. Ashutosh said with the SYL and issues of the farming community at the core of this ‘Yatra’, the INLD seems to be focusing on its traditional vote bank. “They want to project themselves as the real INLD among their voters as against the breakaway faction. The 2019 Assembly polls would be a litmus test for the INLD and

the faction, the name for which is likely to be announced by Ajay Chautala in the coming days,” he added.

### ‘Not met Amit Shah’

Meanwhile, ahead of December 9, when the name is likely to be announced, Ajay’s sons – Dushyant, MP from Hisar, and Digvijay Singh, his younger brother – on Sunday denied reports that they have met BJP national president Amit Shah.

“I would like to make it clear that neither me nor my brother Dushyant Chautala has had any meeting with BJP president Amit Shah. Rumours are being spread to weaken the new party,” said Mr. Digvijay.

## Hooda flays BJP, says ‘its days are numbered’

‘No person is safe, State has become a hideout for criminals’

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
CHANDIGARH

Former Haryana Chief Minister Bhupinder Singh Hooda on Sunday hit out at the ruling BJP, saying the days of the Haryana government are numbered as the people have made up their minds to vote out the “anti-people” government.

“The BJP stands exposed before the people of the State for the false promises it has made. All sections of society, be it farmers, workers, traders and government employees, have been hit by the anti-people policies of the party. No person is happy or safe as the State has become a hideout for criminals,” said Mr. Hooda in Hisar’s Barwala, where he launched the seventh phase of the “Jan Kranti Yatra”.

Mr. Hooda said that the Congress made Haryana the number one State in the country in development, but the BJP government had turned it into number one in crime against women. “Women, traders, travellers, government employees -- no one is safe in the State,” the former Chief Minister said.

Talking about the Sutlej-



Haryana ex-Chief Minister Bhupinder Singh Hooda greeting his supporters at Barwala town during the ‘Jan Kranti Yatra’ in Hisar on Sunday. ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Yamuna Link canal, Mr. Hooda said the canal would be the lifeline of Haryana and building it was critical for the State. “It is sad that the BJP government is not serious about building the canal and the main Opposition party, the INLD, is only indulging in drama in collusion with the government. Despite repeated reminders, the Chief Minister has not been able to seek time from the Prime Minister for an all-party delegation of leaders from Haryana in the last four years. We will not rest until we are able to get our due share of water,” he said.

“The INLD has been split

into two and both the factions are blaming each other for working in connivance with the BJP. I have been saying that the INLD has become the B team of the BJP,” he said.

### Promises galore

Mr. Hooda said once the Congress assumes power in the State it would increase old age pension by ₹300 per month, provide full electricity at half the price, bring a loan waiver scheme for the poor and farmers, provide unemployment allowance to the unemployed youth and waive all application fee for government services.

## 9 dead, 25 injured as bus falls into river in Himachal

According to eyewitnesses, the bus was over-speeding

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NAHAN (H.P.)

At least nine people were killed and 25 injured when a bus fell from a bridge into a river in Himachal Pradesh’s Sirmaur district on Sunday, the police said.

The accident took place near Khadri village on the Renuka-Dadahu-Nahan road, 168 km south of Shimla, at 4.30 p.m. The private bus was on its way from Renuka Ji to Nahan when the driver lost control, broke the railing of the Jalal bridge and fell 40-feet down into the Jalal river, said Additional Su-

perintendent of Police Virender Singh Thakur.

Four passengers, including three women, died on the spot, while five critically-injured persons succumbed to their injuries in a hospital. Twenty-five people are under treatment in the Nahan medical college and Dadahu sub-divisional hospital, the ASP said.

Mr. Thakur, who reached the spot and supervised the rescue operation, said prima facie the accident happened due to the negligence of the bus driver.

According to eyewitness-

es, the bus was over-speeding when it was crossing the bridge.

### Another mishap

In another accident, as many as 21 people from Delhi were injured after their bus fell into a gorge near Kyari in Himachal Pradesh’s Solan district on Sunday, the police said.

The accident took place when the bus was returning to Delhi from a trip to Shimla and nearby tourist places, they said.

Police are yet to verify the exact cause of the accident

## Ambedkar’s statue vandalised in Ambala

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
AMBALA (HARYANA)

Unidentified miscreants have vandalised a statue of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar in Dadpur village near Barara, around 30 km from here, the police said on Sunday.

The incident took place on Saturday night and came to notice on Sunday morning when a villager reported the matter to the police, they said.

Deputy Superintendent of Police Sudhir Taneja reached the spot and tried to pacify villagers angered by the incident, officers said. The DSP assured the villagers that the police would nab the accused soon.

A few months ago, unidentified miscreants had damaged Ambedkar’s statue in Kalpi village, also close to Barara.

A case was registered in the fresh incident, the officers added.

## 64 kg drugs worth ₹3 lakh seized; 2 held

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
MUZAFFARNAGAR (U.P.)

Two drug smugglers were arrested with 64 kg of contraband worth ₹3 lakh on the Karnal-Meerut highway in Shamli district, the police said on Sunday.

Acting on a tip-off, the police raided a dhaba on the highway and arrested the accused involved in selling the contraband on Saturday, Shamli Superintendent of Police Ajay Kumar Pandey said.

The police have registered a case under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, the SP said.

## Amarinder seeks Gadkari’s help

For speedy clearance of road projects in historic towns of Sultanpur Lodhi, Batala

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
CHANDIGARH

Punjab Chief Minister Amarinder Singh on Sunday sought the personal intervention of Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari for expeditious clearance of road projects in the historic towns of Sultanpur Lodhi, Batala and Dera Baba Nanak.

The towns are associated with the life of Sikhism founder Guru Nanak Dev, whose 550th ‘Parkash Parv’ (birth anniversary) is being observed this month.

### Extra funds

In a letter to Mr. Gadkari, the Chief Minister thanked the Centre for acceding to the request of the Punjab government related to the projects and announcements in this regard, especially the opening of the Kartarpur Corridor to facilitate smooth and easy access to Kartarpur Sahib. In view of the historic importance of these reli-



Former PM Manmohan Singh, Punjab Governor V.P. Singh Badnore, Chief Minister Capt. Amarinder Singh and former cricketer Kapil Dev in Kapurthala on Friday. ■ PTI

gious towns, Capt. Singh sought an additional allocation of ₹150 crore under the Central Road Fund for the upgradation of the road network in Sultanpur Lodhi, Batala, Dera Baba Nanak and Gurdaspur.

Capt. Singh also asked for four-laning of a 21.3 km stretch of the Jalandhar-Kapurthala-Sultanpur Lodhi NH-703-A, which is currently

two-laned, at an estimated cost of ₹260 crore. The highway connects the holy town of Sultanpur Lodhi with the rest of Punjab and beyond.

“Certain stretches of this highway are already four-laned... but due to the expected increase in pilgrim traffic during the upcoming celebrations, it was imperative to four-lane the stretch of 21.3 km,” he wrote in the

letter on Sunday.

### National Highway status

The Chief Minister also urged Mr. Gadkari to declare the Tarn Taran-Goindwal Sahib-Kapurthala Road a national highway as it is related to the life of Guru Nanak Dev and connects Sultanpur Lodhi with Amritsar.

He apprised the Minister of the central government’s grant of in-principle approval for declaration of the road as a national highway.

Capt. Singh added that in view of the announcement to open the Kartarpur Corridor, Dera Baba Nanak should be connected with Batala by a four-laned highway to enable devotees visit Kartarpur Sahib on a shorter route.

Notably, Sultanpur Lodhi in Kapurthala district is of great religious significance as Guru Nanak Dev spent 14 years of his life here and attained enlightenment, before embarking on his missionary travels.

## SSB to patrol Dudhwa tiger reserve

Intelligence, information to be shared among various security agencies

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
LAKHIMPUR KHERI (U.P.)

Dudhwa Tiger Reserve and Sashastra Seema Bal have joined hands to provide security to Dudhwa forests and its rich wildlife.

“A consensus was reached among all security agencies including SSB on the border and the Dudhwa field staff to strengthen the patrolling in and around Dudhwa to check forest and wildlife crimes,” DTR Field Director Ramesh Kumar Pandey said.

Mr. Pandey along with Deputy Director Mahavir Kaujagi on Saturday held a meeting with the SSB, central and local intelligence officers,



Wildlife Trust of India veterinarians and rescue team tend to an adult tigress in Dudhwa Tiger Reserve. ■ FILE PHOTO

customs and excise officials, Special Tiger Protection Force and the reserve’s field staff to discuss the issues in-

volving safety of Dudhwa forests and its wildlife.

“It was agreed that joint long route patrolling com-

prising SSB, STPF and DTR field staff would be held at regular intervals,” he said adding that first such long route patrolling is proposed to be launched on December 22.

Mr. Pandey said stress was also laid on intelligence and information sharing among various security agencies about activities of wildlife and forest criminals.

Sharing his interaction with the SSB officials, Mr. Pandey said “a mechanism to establish SSB border outpost level communication and information sharing was resolved to be developed to strengthen the safety of Dudhwa.”



# Has Citizenship Bill made ULFA-I relevant again?

Several youth volunteering to join it on social media has fuelled the theory

RAHUL KARMAKAR  
GUWAHATI

Unrest in Assam over the Centre's move to clear the Citizenship (Amendment) Bill, 2016, appears to have reinvigorated the outlawed United Liberation Front of Asom-Independent that was seen as a spent force a few months ago.

A few subversive attacks - the last one was a bomb blast that killed two Hindi-speakers at Demow in Sivasagar district on November 22 - and several youths volunteering to join the ULFA-I on social media have fuelled the theory that the popularity of the outfit has been increasing.

### ‘Nothing unusual’

But security agencies say this is nothing unusual. There has always been some “misguided” youth joining the ULFA before and after it split into the pro-talks group led by its chairman Arabinda



A section of the media has been glorifying the ULFA, says Finance Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma

Rajkhowa and the anti-talks faction (ULFA-I) led by military chief Paresh Baruah.

“A section of the media has been glorifying the ULFA and saying it is regrouping. Young boys and girls joining the outfit are being hailed as heroes. It is similar to 1992 when there was a design to motivate the youth to join the ULFA, whose existence cannot be for the good of the nation,” Assam’s Finance Mi-

nister Himanta Biswa Sarma said on Sunday.

“You can vote for or wipe out the BJP (for pursuing the Citizenship Bill), but this does not mean that an outfit responsible for brainwashing 9,000 youth and getting them killed should be glorified,” he said.

Police and intelligence agencies say at least 10 youth have joined the ULFA-I this year, though some reports have put the number between 30 and 100. This happened quietly expect in the case of Pankaj Pratim Dutta, a leader of the influential All Assam Students’ Union and Karishma Mech, a 16-year-old schoolgirl who went missing. Both took to social media to say they have joined the ULFA-I to “protect the Assamese people” from being outnumbered by “Bangladeshis who would be encouraged by the Citizenship Bill to settle in Assam”.

“We have no evidence

that they joined the ULFA-I. Claiming to have joined an outlawed group via Facebook could be a fad. But even if they have chosen to go underground, they are not the first and possibly won’t be the last,” a senior police officer, declining to be quoted, said.

### Women leaders

The ULFA had a few women leaders during its heydays. They included its cultural secretary Pranati Deka, who spent years in Bangladesh before being arrested while trying to sneak into India a decade ago. In 2003, the police had arrested a 20-year-old Dwipamani Kalita, who was behind all major mortar attacks by the outfit.

The ULFA-I, meanwhile, claimed responsibility for the Demow bomb blast but denied carrying out the massacre of five Bengali-speaking villagers in Tinsukia district’s Dhola on November 1.

## 1 killed as car rams truck in Kolkata

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
KOLKATA

A driver was killed and four persons travelling in the car were injured when the vehicle rammed a container on Vidyasagar Setu here on Sunday.

The accident took place at around 5 a.m. when the car hit the container from behind on one flank of the bridge, a police official said.

The driver was killed on the spot while the four others, travelling in the Kolkata-bound car which was coming from East Midnapore district, were injured, he said.

Two teachers of a high school at Egra and two non-teaching staff of the same institution were among the injured, he said.

## Meghalaya leader accused of attack on activists

The duo had gone to take photos of illegal coal mining

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
SHILLONG

Amita Sangma, who was recently assaulted in Meghalaya’s East Jaintia Hills district along with rights activist Agnes Kharshiing, on Sunday accused National Peoples’ Party (NPP) leader Nidamon Chullet of “masterminding” the attack.

The two women had reportedly gone to the district to take photographs of illegal coal mining.

Ms. Kharshiing, who received serious head injuries in the attack, is currently undergoing treatment at the North Eastern Indira Gandhi Regional Institute of Health and Medical Sciences.

“I know him (Nidamon Chullet). He was the first per-

son to have stopped our vehicle. Soon after, his followers attacked us,” Ms. Sangma, who has lost part of a finger in the assault, said.

One of her family members said Ms. Sangma, in a statement, had described the features of one of the attackers to the police, following which pictures of Mr. Chullet were shown to him.

### ‘Identified from photo’

“Amita identified Chullet from the pictures provided to her by the police. We found out that the attacker was a local NPP leader,” he said.

The woman has also written to DGP R. Chandranathan, accusing Mr. Chullet of “masterminding” the attack

on the afternoon of November 8.

“Agnes and I will continue to live in fear till the time he (Chullet) is arrested,” she claimed.

Mr. Chullet, working president of the ruling National People’s Party (NPP), also functions as the headman of Mynkrem village and looks after the operations of the Jaintia Hills Truck Owners Association.

Seven people, including a woman, have been arrested so far in connection with the November 8 incident.

The Meghalaya High Court has admitted a petition moved by Ms. Sangma, directing the investigating officer to file a report in person on November 27.

### Megabite



Supercop: A police dog in action as the NCC commemorates its 70th Raising Day in Kolkata on Sunday. •PTI

## 3 children killed in Arunachal blast

Bomb goes off near Army firing range

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
ITANAGAR

Three children, aged 2-10 years, were killed when a live bomb they thought was a toy went off accidentally near an Army firing range in Arunachal Pradesh’s Anjaw district, an official said on Sunday.

The incident occurred at Chirang village under Hayuliang circle on Saturday evening. The children, including two girls, were playing with the live explosive device, which was collected by their parents from the nearby firing range and kept at their house. They died on the spot, said Deputy Commissioner (DC) D Riba.

The victims have been identified as Anisha Krong (10), a student of Class V, Yuman Krong (2) and Riya Krong (8), said Khupa police station incharge Hage Loder.

Chief Minister Pema



CM Khandu has announced ex gratia of ₹4 lakh for kin of each victim. •PTI

Khandu expressed shock and grief over the incident. He also announced an ex gratia of ₹ 4 lakh each to the next of kin of the victims from the Chief Minister’s Relief Fund.

Mr. Khandu cautioned the villagers to avoid going near danger zones like the firing ranges. He requested the Army to issue an advisory or put up signboards, saying ‘Danger Zone’ or ‘Restricted Area’, to avert trespassing.

## Odisha crackdown on marijuana cultivation

Illegal crop worth ₹71 cr. destroyed

STAFF REPORTER  
BERHAMPUR

Over ₹71 crore worth of illegal marijuana plantation was destroyed in Odisha’s Kandhamal district during joint raids by the police and the excise department over the past 13 days.

On Saturday (November 24), illegal plantations over 142 acres were destroyed in the Phiringia police station area. Raids under the Baliguda police station area led to destruction of 45 acres of marijuana plantation.

Speaking to *The Hindu*, excise superintendent of Kandhamal district, B. Sethi, said over 712 acres of marijuana plantation have been destroyed during the anti-drug drive in the district since November 13.

Each acre of illegal marijuana plantation has around 1,000 plants and each of these plants produce around ₹1000 worth of ma-

rijuana. So, the total value of destroyed cultivation is worth more than ₹71 crore, Mr Sethi said.

Marijuana is cultivated in remote hilly jungle areas. Outsiders finance the cultivation and use the local tribals for the purpose. Most of it is forest land. But modern irrigation system through pipelines and pumps is used for these plantations.

As the areas under marijuana cultivation were huge and in remote pockets accessible only by foot, over 100 persons including police and excise department staff along with hired labourers were used during each of these joint raids.

According to Crime Branch of the State police, the nodal agency to tackle marijuana menace in the State, 3,599 acres of marijuana cultivation was destroyed in the State during 2016-17.

## Crime Branch to probe assault on former MP

Attacked in Odisha on Saturday

STAFF REPORTER  
BERHAMPUR

The Crime Branch of Odisha Police will probe the assault on former MP and Utkal Bharat Party chief Kharabela Swain at Kashipur in Rayagada district on Saturday.

Odisha Director General of Police R.P.Sharma told newsmen in Bhubaneswar on Sunday that the Crime Branch has been directed to probe into the matter and find out the persons behind the conspiracy as well as motive behind the attack on Mr. Swain.

In recent past Mr. Swain had faced similar attacks by miscreants during his speeches at street corner meetings at Aul in Kendrapara district and Khaira in Balasore district.

The former MP met the Additional Superintendent of Police of Rayagada on Sunday and also filed an official complaint before police about the incident. Mr Swain had also posted a video of the attack on social media.

The attacker, a youth named Sushant Nayak has been arrested by police.

## Schoolchildren lead sanitation drive

Take responsibility for maintaining hygiene in classrooms and homes

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
GUWAHATI

School begins early for Pompy Biswas, Nitraban Hazarika and Kritika Das as they don the hats of ‘swachh sevaks’ to check whether the water tank has been filled, hand washing area cleaned and soaps put in place.

The three students of Azara Ketopara Lower Primary School, along with their fellow mates, have set an example in Kamrup (Metro) district, near here, by taking upon themselves the responsibility of maintaining hygiene and keeping the environment clean, not just around classrooms but homes too.

At Sajjanpara Lower Primary School, nearby, children keep a

check on their parents and relatives too. They take time out to impart lessons on cleanliness to their neighbours and other members of the community.

The Assam chapter of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, along with UNICEF, has piloted the cleanliness drive to ensure less absenteeism in schools, said Rajib Dutta, the project’s engineer for Kamrup (Metro) district.

### Role models

“It is the schoolchildren who have become role models for the community at large by moving beyond the confines of the campus to take their cleanliness initiatives to their family and the extended community,” he said.

A UNICEF report had pointed out that there was consistent evidence that hand washing with soap at critical times - before eating, while preparing food and after using the toilet - can reduce diarrhoea risk by about 45 per cent, Mr. Dutta added.

Likumoni Das, a Class III student of Azatpara school, said they were keen on passing the knowledge they have acquired to their parents and relatives.

The headmaster of her school, Kamal Goswami, said he has built separate toilets and hand-washing facilities for boys and girls.

“I am happy to see that students have become torch-bearers of the cleanliness drive here,” he stated.

## Cruise to Bangladesh likely from March

It will also connect the northeastern destinations in India through the river route

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
KOLKATA

Buoyed by the successful trial of cargo movement to Bangladesh via the inland waterways protocol route, India is now preparing to exploit the path for the purpose of tourism, an official said.

A trans-boundary river cruise operation is expected to commence from Kolkata in March next year through Sunderbans to Bangladesh and then to connect the northeastern destinations by private operators, a senior official said.

“Bilateral secretary-level meetings between India and Bangladesh were held in October. It has been decided that one of the river cruise operators would be starting operations from March, 2019 from Kolkata through Sunderbans via the protocol



Both sides agreed to allow private operators to run cruise to Cox’s Bazar in Bangladesh. •PTI

route to Bangladesh and then to northeast,” Member, Inland Waterways Authority of India, S.V.K. Reddy said.

Mr. Reddy was in the city to participate in a transport seminar organised by the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) recently.

Bangladesh shipping secretary Abdus Samsah had earlier said that private

players will be allowed to operate river cruise between the two countries, which will cover about 1,539 km.

Both sides also agreed to allow private operators to run cruise to Cox’s Bazar in Bangladesh.

Mr. Reddy said night navigation facility has been installed up to the Indian border while Bangladesh is

expected to do the same.

He said India has agreed to fund up to 80% of the dredging cost in some identified stretches within Bangladesh in the Indo-Bangla protocol route to make it navigable.

Regularly, 15-20 barges carrying fly ash are now heading to Bangladesh and navigation up to the Indian border is smooth, he said.



# Youth come together against ‘temple politics’

14 organisations, Opposition party leaders hold rally to save Constitution

**STAFF REPORTER**  
MUMBAI

Youth leaders of Opposition parties and organisations joined hands to save the Constitution, which they said is being targeted under the guise of the Ram temple movement, on Sunday.

“Religion is not in danger. An atmosphere is being created to pit Hindus against Muslims. The only thing in danger is our Constitution. The temple is being made an issue to hide failures of this government,” said Kanhaiya Kumar, former president of Jawaharlal Nehru University students’ union and Communist Party of India leader.

The ‘save the Constitution rally’ was organised by 14 different youth organisations across the country and saw



**Call to action:** (From left) Kanhaiya Kumar, Hardik Patel and Jignesh Mewani shout slogans while passing by the Shiv Sena headquarters during the rally on Sunday. ■ ASHISH RAJE

participation from the Congress, Nationalist Congress Party, Gujarat MLA Jignesh Mewani and Patidar leader Hardik Patel. It was kicked off from Rajgruha in Dadar, the residence of Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar, and culminated at Chaityabhoomi

near Shivaji Park.

Mr. Mewani said, “Every youngster must join hands to save our Constitution. Discussions should be held on the Rafale deal, malnutrition in Jharkhand, employment and demonetisation. Not on Ram temple,” he said.

Mr. Patel said, the way this government is pressurising the Supreme Court and CBI shows that it wants to compromise the Constitution. “The temple issue is being hyped up to impact the Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan elections,” he said.

The youth of this country wants employment, Mr. Patel said. “How can the Shiv Sena and Vishwa Hindu Parishad organise programmes in huge numbers in Ayodhya when Section 144 is imposed?” he asked.

Maharashtra Youth Congress president Satyajit Tambe said that the association of all youth organisations will continue even in the future and joint agitations will be held to expose the government.

## White water



**Causing contamination:** Untreated sewage water flows into Godavari river from the Nashik Municipal Corporation Sewage Treatment Plant on Saturday. The river has been severely polluted in recent times due to such discharge. ■ AJAJ SHAIKH

# Uddhav returns; CM says temple issue not political

Sena chief back from two-day tour of Ayodhya; Congress terms visit political stunt

**STAFF REPORTER**  
MUMBAI

As Shiv Sena chief Uddhav Thackeray returned to the city from his two-day tour of Ayodhya as a part of his mission to construct the Ram temple, Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis said that the temple issue is not political.

Mr. Fadnavis, who was in Karad to pay tribute at the memorial of the State’s first Chief Minister Y.B. Chavan, said, “Shri Ram is a deity for the entire country, he (Mr. Thackeray) will get his blessings too,” he said.

Mr. Thackeray, who offered prayers at the Ram Lala temple in Ayodhya on Sunday, said the BJP govern-

ment at the Centre “may not last” if the temple is not constructed and demanded an ordinance for it.

The Sena chief returned to the city on Sunday afternoon where he was welcomed by a large number of party workers and leaders amidst loud sloganeering and victory chants. At home, Mr. Thackeray and other Sena leaders offered prayers before a photo of party founder late Bal Thackeray. Prior to leaving Ayodhya, in a press conference there, Mr. Thackeray questioned why the BJP had made promises in its manifesto if everything was going to be as per the Supreme Court.



Uddhav Thackeray asks Diwakar Raote to garland Bal Thackeray’s chair at his house on Sunday. ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Meanwhile, State BJP president Raosaheb Danve said the Sena’s stand on the Ram temple is similar to that of his party’s. “The Sena has not backed the BJP recently,

but we have been together for decades. To avoid division of votes, the Sena is going to be our partner for the general and Assembly elections next year,” he said. Ho-

wever, the Sena had earlier said that it will fight all the upcoming elections solo.

The Opposition criticised the Sena over its Ayodhya visit. “This is a political stunt targeted at polarising Hindu-Muslim voters. Had this government fulfilled its election promises, they would not need to do this,” said State Congress president Ashok Chavan.

Leader of Opposition in State Assembly Radhakrishna Vikhe-Patil asked if the Sena immersed its letters of resignations from the State government in the Sarayu river. “At a time when Maharashtra is battling drought, such events are like rubbing salt on the wounds of the people,” he said.

# Pawar-Shetti bonhomie sparks rumours of pre-poll alliance

NCP chief’s alleged support likely to cause schism within party

**SHOUMAJIT BANERJEE**  
PUNE

Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) chief Sharad Pawar’s three-day Kolhapur tour last week saw bonhomie between him and Swabhimani Paksha leader and MP Raju Shetti, leading to rumours about new alliances against the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) before elections.

During a closed-door meet, Mr. Shetti reportedly invited Mr. Pawar to join him in another farmers’ protest on November 29-30 against the Modi government’s “anti-famer” policies in New Delhi.

Mr. Pawar has allegedly

backed Mr. Shetti’s candidature from the Hatkanangale Lok Sabha constituency in Kolhapur for the 2019 Parliamentary election. The move, however, has upset candidates within the NCP as well as the Congress in the Kolhapur-Sangli belt.

Mr. Shetti, a two-time MP from Hatkanangale, was a Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) ally, who exited from the NDA in August last year. After winning the Shirol Assembly seat as an Independent in 2004, he trumped the NCP’s MP Nivedita Mane to win the Hatkanangale Lok Sabha constituency in Kolhapur in the 2009 Parlia-

mentary poll. He defeated former Congress MP Kallapa in the 2014 Parliamentary election. “Ms. Mane and Mr. Awade have expressed their disapproval to Mr. Pawar in person over backing Mr. Shetti for the Hatkanangale seat,” said an NCP leader from Kolhapur.

Before the last Parliamentary election, Mr. Shetti had hoped that allying with the BJP would help shake off Mr. Pawar’s yoke from the sugar belt.

In February, Mr. Shetti had met Mr. Pawar in New Delhi. Mr. Shetti has launched milk blockades against the State BJP government.



IN BRIEF



**Amaravati will be made a world tourism hub: Naidu**  
VIJAYAWADA  
Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu on Sunday said Amaravati had a vast potential for tourism development and it would be groomed as an international tourism hub. He was addressing a meet at the valedictory function of a three-day air show at Punnami Ghat on the banks of the Krishna here.

**20 pilgrims injured in bus accident**  
TIRUMALA  
Twenty pilgrims were injured, three of them seriously, when a Tirumala-bound APSRTC bus ithey were travelling in met with an accident on the second ghat road here on Sunday. The driver reportedly lost control of the vehicle while negotiating a curve and hit the rocks.

# Ambareesh, a rebel till the end

Actor-politician remained a star campaigner for Congress

NAGESH PRABHU  
MURALIDHARA KHAJANE  
BENGALURU

Actor-politician H.M. Ambareesh, who passed away on Saturday, was called a “Rebel Star” by his large fan base across Karnataka because of the action-hero roles he played. It suited as much his chequered political career. As a politician he switched parties, won and lost elections from Mandya, was a Minister in both Union and State Council of Ministers, but resigned from both of them. Many felt that this Vokkaliga politician with a mass base and popularity would have reached greater heights in politics had he been less of a rebel and more circumspect. He once said: “Like my entry into cinema, my entry into politics is also accidental. I came to politics to serve the people, not for power.” He had quit as the Minister of

State for Information and Broadcasting in the Manmohan Singh government at the Centre, when he thought the verdict of the Cauvery Water Dispute Tribunal (CWDT) went against the interests of Karnataka in 2008. He refused to withdraw his resignation despite pressure. In 2016, he rebelled against the then Chief Minister Siddaramaiah when he was dropped from the Ministry. His only grouse was not being consulted before the decision was made. He resigned his membership of the Assembly. **Waning interest** However, he remained a “star campaigner” for the Congress in the Cauvery basin where he connected with the masses well. His passing has left a vacuum to that extent and the party has no leader from the film industry to galvanise party workers in

the region. His return to the cinema world in more recent years was an indication of his waning interest in politics. He focussed more on his son's career. Abhishek's debut film *Amar* – Ambareesh's name before he joined films – is set for release soon. While Ambareesh's own films have crossed the 200 mark, one of his big budget films – *Kurukshetra* – is yet to be released. This multi-starrer casts him in the role of Bhishma. Interestingly, having started out in the role of a villain in Puttana Kanagal's film *Nagara Haavu* in 1972 and moving on to play “hero” in hundreds of films, he had indeed become a “Bhishma” of sorts for the Kannada film industry in recent years, taking a leadership role when any crisis arose. His funeral will be conducted on Monday.



Rajinikanth with Sumalatha and Abhishek at the Sree Kanteerava Stadium in Bengaluru on Sunday. ■ MURALI KUMAR

# Jaffer Sharief passes away

He was member of LS 8 times

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
BENGALURU

Veteran Congress leader and former Railway Minister Challakere Kareem Jaffer Sharief, 85, passed away at a private hospital on Sunday following a cardiac arrest. The eight-time member of the Lok Sabha was hospitalised on Friday after he collapsed as he was getting ready for *namaz*. He was in the ICU of the Fortis Hospital here and had been put on a temporary pacemaker. Hospital sources said Mr. Sharief suffered an attack in the operation theatre where he was taken for implanting a permanent pacemaker. Mr. Sharief, son of revenue inspector Kareem Saheb, was born in 1933 in Chellakere taluk of Chitradurga district.



Jaffer Sharief

He entered the Lok Sabha winning the 1971 elections from Kanakapura constituency. He was Railway Minister in the Narasimha Rao government and had served as Minister of State in the Indira Gandhi and the Rajiv Gandhi governments. Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Congress president Rahul Gandhi, Chief Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy and State Congress leaders mourned the passing of Mr. Sharief.

# ‘KCR misleading people on Muslim quota’

Constitution does not permit religion-based reservation, says Amit Shah

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
ADILABAD

Bharatiya Janata Party national president Amit Shah on Sunday demanded that TRS president and Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao make public the reasons for not putting Akbaruddin Owaisi of the All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimin (AIMIM) on trial in a hate speech case at Nirmal town in December 2012. “Challan him before the election or you will lose the chance to do so,” he suggested, predicting the defeat of the TRS in the State. Mr. Shah, addressing a public meeting at Nirmal, while campaigning for party can-



BJP national president Amit Shah addressing a public meeting in Parakala in Warangal district on Sunday. ■ M. MURALI

didates Aindla Swarna Reddy from Nirmal, Padakanti Rama Devi from Mudhole and Satla Ashok from Khanapur (ST) constituencies, dwelt on the TRS-AIMIM ties and the “failure” of the TRS

government on all fronts. “Why did the TRS shun celebrating September 17 as Telangana Liberation Day,” he asked. “Only the BJP can confront the Razakars and Majlis,” he declared as he

promised celebrating Telangana Liberation Day officially once his party was voted to power in Telangana. Countering KCR's charge that the BJP-led Centre was hindering the State's resolution to increase reservation percentage for Muslims and tribals, Mr. Shah vowed that there would be no reservation based on religion so long as the BJP was in power at the Centre. Mr. Rao knew that the Constitution would not allow religion-based reservation, but he still sent the resolution, he said. (With inputs from S. Harpal Singh, Gollapudi Srinivasa Rao and R. Avadhani

# Kerala to seek SC guidance on verdict

State will apprise court on hurdles in implementing order on Sabarimala

G. ANAND  
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The Kerala government will apprise the Supreme Court of the legal complications and other obstacles it had encountered while attempting to implement the apex court's order on September 28 allowing women, irrespective of their age, to worship at the Sabarimala Ayappa temple. Official sources said the government was in consultation with State's standing counsel in New Delhi. The administration wanted to file a petition this week itself to seek more clarity and guidance from the Supreme Court in the intervening time



Police removing protesters who staged a 'namajapom' at sannidhanam late on Saturday. ■ H. VIBHU

it takes for the highest court consider the pleas seeking a review of the decision. The Supreme Court is scheduled to examine the review petitions on January 22. They

said the move came against the backdrop of as many as 45 petitions filed in various lower courts by different parties challenging the police strategy in Sabarimala.

The government felt the petitions filed by individuals and organisations were part of a larger plan to frustrate the implementation of the court order. Moreover, the officials said the government could not ignore the personalised attacks on police officers, the questioning of their language credentials, the portrayal of their past actions in the line of duty in poor light and openly doubting their experience in regulating crowds any more. Officials said the government priority was to ensure safe passage for devotees, including women, to Sabarimala.

# Centre defaming me through ED searches: TDP MP

No irregularities: Sujana Chowdary

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD

Former Union Minister and Telugu Desam Party MP Y. Satyanarayana (Sujana) Chowdary said on Sunday that he had not indulged in any irregularities or fudging of accounts in managing the companies he owned. Mr. Chowdary alleged that the recent inspections conducted by the Enforcement Directorate personnel exposed the BJP-led Central government's vindictive attitude against him. The inspections were part of the Centre's efforts to ‘defame’ him for being active ever since he entered politics, Mr. Chowdary said. He spoke to his auditors and found everything to be in order. Mr. Chowdary asked the Opposition parties not to cast aspersions on him.



Satyanarayana Chowdary

while he owned a vehicle valued at ₹3 lakh purchased from New Delhi. He said he had relinquished business activities ever since he entered active politics during the 2009 general election. He had started two firms, Sujana Universal Industries Limited and Sujana Metal Products, initially and one more was added subsequently after the merger of one of the companies. “What are these shell companies as is being claimed,” he said.

**Loans dues** He said the ED had asked him to appear before it on November 27 and that he had informed the officials that he had to attend the Parliament session commencing on Monday. Asked about the loans due to banks, he said: “Banks are there to lend money. It will be a civil dispute even if there is a default.” He said he was holding consultations with legal experts on the ED inspections and would take legal recourse as and when necessary. **Summons issued** To a question, he said the ED had issued summons under the provisions of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act and termed the inspections “hasty.” “We are a law-abiding corporate. How can they jump to conclusions before any trial/audit?” he asked.

# Will they bite?



**Morning venture:** Fishermen trying their luck in a pond on a foggy winter morning near Araku in Visakhapatnam district. The temperature dips to single digit in the early hours of the day in the Agency Areas of the Eastern Ghats. ■ K.R. DEEPAK

# Campaign against land pooling

STAFF REPORTER  
VISAKHAPATNAM

Alleging that the Andhra Pradesh government is acquiring land belonging to poor farmers under the land pooling scheme in violation of the norms of Land Acquisition Act, 2013, the leaders of Left parties and Lok Satta have said that they will launch a campaign at various villages covered as part of the move. Demanding that the government must stop the land pooling in Visakhapatnam district, the representatives of the CPI, the CPI (M), the Lok Satta and a few others convened a meeting at Visakha Public Library on Sunday and decided to take up a series of campaigns at the villages being covered under the exercise.

# 2 saltwater crocodiles sighted in A.P.

They are healthy and would be shifted to the Bhitarkanika National Park

T. APPALA NAIDU  
MACHILIPATNAM

At least two saltwater crocodiles (Crocodylus porosus) have been sighted in the State coast within a month indicating migration of the species from the Odisha coast. A sub-adult crocodile sighted on the Machilipatnam coast on November 23 and another one on the Srikakulam coast early November had been recovered by the wildlife authorities from the local communities and shifted to the Indira Gandhi Zoological Park (IGZP) in Visakhapatnam. **‘Isolated instance’** District Forest Officer N. Rama Chandra Rao and IGZP Curator R. Yesoda Bai told *The Hindu* that there was no record of such sightings in the Krishna-Guntur and the



The saltwater crocodile rescued off the Machilipatnam coast at Pallipalem in Krishna district. ■ T. APPALANAIDU

North Andhra coastal belt. “These two crocodiles might have arrived through flood water. However, they were isolated sightings,” said Ms. Yesoda Bai. The two crocodiles are healthy and are awaiting to be shifted to the Bhitarkanika

National Park (BNP), Odisha, a home for them. “A letter for shifting them to the BNP has been sent to the Chief Wildlife Warden (Andhra Pradesh) and the BNP authorities,” Ms. Yesoda Bai said over phone. In the case of the one

sighted on the Machilipatnam coast, it had returned from the sea after it was released into the Bay of Bengal in an undisclosed location, prompting the forest authorities to send it to the IGZP. It survived the nearly 10-hour road journey during the shifting from Machilipatnam to Visakhapatnam.

**Scientific investigation** Andhra University (Visakhapatnam) Zoology Department Retired Professor D.E. Babu said the Chilka lake and the BNP were contiguous to the Andhra coast and the reasons for the presence must be scientifically investigated. In India, the BNP, the Sundarbans and the Andaman & Nicobar Islands are the prime habitats of the saltwater crocodile.

# Mujahid women seek entry in all mosques

STAFF REPORTER  
MALAPPURAM

The Muslim Girls and Women's Movement, popularly known as the Mujahid Girls Movement (MGM), has demanded that women be given entry in all mosques in Kerala. A State delegate conference of the MGM, held at Randathani near Kottakkal on Sunday, said that no Islamic teaching prevented women from entering mosques for prayers. The conference warned against those trying to deny the rights of women in the name of tradition. The women pointed out that both the Koran and the Hadith, the ultimate source of Islamic teachings, allowed and encouraged women to pray in mosques. “All mosques in the State should be thrown open to women,” they said.

**Representation** The meeting also demanded that Muslim women be given representation in the conduct and maintenance of mosques and Mahal committees. “Women have a vital role to play in the community's progress, and they should not be sidelined in the name of tradition,” the MGM said. The meeting blamed the government for promoting liquor trade and liquor shops, saying that it was a challenge to women. It called upon women of all communities to stand united against liquor. United Religions Initiative's Asian coordinator and woman activist Qutub Jehan Kidwai inaugurated the conference. MGM State president Khadeeja Nargis presided. Kerala Nadvathul Mujahideen general secretary Abdul Ali Madani, Ithihadu Shubbanil Mujahideen State president Jabir Amani and others spoke.



IN BRIEF



Nitish unveils Buddha statue in Rajgir

PATNA  
Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar on Sunday unveiled a 70-foot-tall statue of Lord Buddha at Rajgir in Nalanda district. Mr. Kumar unveiled the statue of Lord Buddha, the second tallest statue of Buddha in the country, in the presence of Mahabodhi temple's chief monk Bhante Chalinda amid the chanting of hymns, an official release said. PTI

Married woman raped by three men in U.P.

MUZAFFARNAGAR  
A 26-year-old married woman was allegedly raped by three people at her home in the absence of her husband in Uttar Pradesh's Shamli district, the police said on Sunday. The accused had threatened the woman of dire consequences if she disclosed the matter to anyone, SHO Officer Bhagat Singh said. PTI

Over 100 bovines rescued, 8 arrested

JAMMU  
Eight suspected smugglers have been arrested and more than 100 bovines rescued in Jammu district, the police said on Sunday. A truck was intercepted at a toll plaza on a highway on the outskirts of Jammu and over 100 bovines were recovered, the police said. PTI

Man dies after car hits him in Kolkata

KOLKATA  
One person was killed on Sunday after car hit him when he was waiting for a bus on the EM bypass here, the police said. The car was allegedly being driven by a woman fashion designer. She was arrested and booked under relevant non-bailable sections, they said. PTI

Inside Kashmir



A woman tends to her flock of sheep on a cold day in Budgam district on Sunday. ■NISSAR AHMAD

RIMES terms Titli cyclone ‘rarest of rare’

It has recommended a detailed assessment to understand the risks in the wake of the devastation

STAFF REPORTER  
BHUBANESWAR

The Regional Integrated Multi-Hazard Early Warning System (RIMES) for Africa and Asia, a 45-nation international organisation on disaster warning, has termed ‘Titli’, the severe cyclonic storm that devastated Odisha in October, as ‘rarest cyclone’.

“More than 200 years of cyclone track history in the Odisha coast reveals that the Titli cyclone is the rarest of rare in terms of its characteristics such as recurvature after landfall and retaining its destructive potential after landfall and recurvature away from the coastal areas for more than two days,” says RIMES in its latest report.

The UN-registered organisation said: “Considering the history of cyclone tracks, no synthetic track projection captures the Titli type of cyclones. The forecast information available lacks actionable early warning information such as no indication of occurrence of secondary hazards, including landslides far away from the coasts.”

The severe cyclonic storm left more than 60 people dead, mainly due to land slide in interior Gajapati district. Odisha, which takes immense pride in disaster preparedness, was confounded in the wake of the damage to both life and property caused by Titli in interior



A fisherman rushes for shelter as Titli hits the Gopalpur coast in Ganjam district. ■FILE PHOTO

districts.

Earlier, India Meteorological Department had called the formation of Titli as a ‘rarest of rare’ occurrence. The severe cyclone had changed its path after landfall.

According to RIMES, the Odisha State Disaster Management Authority faced challenges in anticipating and managing Titli's impact due to lack of impact-based actionable early warning information and prior experience not only in India but also elsewhere.

“The OSDMA, by learning the lessons from Titli cyclone, could evolve measures to minimise impacts in both coastal and non-coastal regions more effectively in future,” it said.

The international body said: “The State government actions linked to the cyclone-risk management are also heavily focused on the coastal areas where cyclones

Bengal CPI not to participate in TMC rally

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
KOLKATA

The CPI's West Bengal unit on Sunday said that it would not participate in the January 19 mega rally called by the Trinamool Congress chief and Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee to oust the BJP in the next general election.

Ms. Banerjee has called for the mega rally of all anti-BJP parties in Kolkata on January 19.

“We appreciate that she has forwarded her invitation (for the January 19 Brigade Rally). But the State CPI has decided not to participate in it,” CPI state secretary Swapan Banerjee told reporters here.

Mr. Banerjee said the party's national executive would take a final decision in connection with the matter.

WEATHER WATCH

RAINFALL, TEMPERATURE & AIR QUALITY IN SELECT METROS YESTERDAY



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 17.30 HRS)

**Forecast for Monday:** No significant weather system is likely to affect major parts of the country, resulting in dry weather conditions that are likely to prevail over most parts of the country. No weather warning

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala.....	28.2	14.6		Kozhikode .....	4	34.8	25.1
Ahmedabad.....	33.2	15.8		Kurnool.....	33.1	20.3	
Aizwal .....	30.0	11.6		Lucknow.....	26.2	10.2	
Allahabad .....	29.8	11.4		Madurai.....	31.6	23.2	
Bengaluru.....	28.8	19.2		Mangaluru .....	32.2	23.4	
Bhopal.....	28.8	12.5		Mumbai.....	34.4	21.0	
Bhubaneswar .....	31.1	13.6		Mysuru.....	29.9	16.0	
Chandigarh .....	28.0	9.1		New Delhi .....	26.9	14.9	
Chennai.....	30.6	24.6		Patna.....	28.6	14.2	
Coimbatore.....	29.6	22.3		Port Blair .....	30.8	23.2	
Dehradun.....	26.6	10.1		Puducherry.....	30.0	21.1	
Gangtok.....	18.0	9.6		Pune.....	29.7	14.9	
Goa.....	34.3	22.8		Raipur.....	29.9	15.0	
Guwahati.....	28.4	13.8		Ranchi.....	25.5	10.0	
Hubballi.....	31.6	19		Shillong.....	20.3	7.6	
Hyderabad.....	31.6	15.1		Shimla.....	20.1	12.1	
Imphal.....	24.8	6.1		Srinagar.....	14.6	0.7	
Jaipur.....	29.4	14.1		Trivandrum.....	31.4	32.3	24.0
Kochi.....	1.4	32.4	24.0	Tiruchi.....	0.7	30.2	23.0
Kohima.....	22.8	9.2		Vijayawada.....	30.9	19.9	
Kolkata.....	28.2	17.5		Visakhapatnam.....	32.2	21.4	

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing										Yesterday
CITIES	SO <sub>2</sub>	NO <sub>2</sub>	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE				
Ahmedabad .....	.78	111	.39	130	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	In observation made at
Bengaluru.....	.12	.23	.24	232	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	4.00 p.m., Patna, Bihar
Chennai.....	.6	.15	.57	289	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	recorded an overall air
Delhi.....	.37	.....	.57	326	305	.....	.....	.....	.....	quality index (AQI)
Hyderabad.....	.7	.88	.36	153	142	.....	.....	.....	.....	score of 398 indicating
Kolkata.....	.16	.84	.28	406	363	.....	.....	.....	.....	an unhealthy level of
Lucknow.....	.20	.83	.60	338	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	pollution. In contrast,
Mumbai.....	.27	.48	103	83	139	.....	.....	.....	.....	Thiruvananthapuram,
Pune.....	102	.29	.71	174	121	.....	.....	.....	.....	Kerala recorded a
Vishakhapatnam .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	healthy AQI score of 59

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



# HIV infected children likely to suffer cognitive impairment: study

Research on children under ART treatment in eastern India showed lower neuropsychological test scores, calling for better nutritional, psychological support

**JYOTI SHELAR**  
MUMBAI  
Children infected with the Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) have to endure a significant adverse impact on their neurodevelopment and cognitive functioning, a new study has revealed.  
Analyzing resting state functional MRIs, the study, published recently in the online journal *NeuroImage Clinical*, reveals that HIV-infected children have lower neuropsychological test scores thus reflecting reduced memory span, attention deficit and decreased visual-motor coordination among other conditions.  
Published on October 29, the study, carried out by a team of doctors at Fortis Memorial Research Institute in Gurugram, King George Medical University in Lucknow and Sidra Medicine in Doha, Qatar, highlighted significant fluctuations in regions of

the brain that are associated with auditory, language, sensory and motor functional networks of HIV infected children.  
“Decline of mental processes has been commonly observed in HIV infected adults. The common condition we see in adult patients is dementia, which broadly refers to a decline in memory or thinking skills and encephalopathy, a condition that affects the structure or function of the brain. This new study asserts similar impact on HIV infected children”, said neurologist Dr Ravindra Garg from Lucknow’s King George Medical University, one of the investigators of the study.  
The researchers assessed 26 perinatally HIV infected children being treated under the National AIDS Control Programme in eastern Uttar Pradesh and 20 non-infected children from the same region. The mean age of the children was 10 years.

### Killer virus

- Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) attacks the immune system
- The virus is found in semen, blood, vaginal and anal fluids and breastmilk
- The virus can be transmitted from mother to child during pregnancy, birth or breastfeeding

- According to the National Aids Control Organization (NACO), as of 2017, India had 2.14 million people living with HIV
- The most affected population are people who inject drugs, transgenders, gay men and commercial sex workers

**Cognitive changes**  
“We carried out resting state Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) of all children and generated maps of Amplitude of Low Frequency Fluctuations (ALFF), a neuroimaging method to gauge spontaneous fluctuations and Functional Connectivity (FC) that analyses brain networks”, explained Dr Rakesh Gupta, a neuro-radiology expert from

Fortis, adding that the findings were co-related with neuropsychological assessment scores.  
The study concluded that all HIV infected children had lower neuropsychological test scores as compared to the control group.  
**Altered brain regions**  
The HIV infected children in the study were also found to have significantly decreased Ampli-

tude of Low Frequency Fluctuations (ALFF) and Functional connectivity (FC) in multiple brain regions that are related to cognition. Such reduction suggests altered brain functional activity, the study said. “We were able to locate altered cortical thickness, subcortical volumes and structural connectivity anomalies in the HIV infected children which reflects attention deficits, behavioural implications, and other

cognitive issues,” said Dr. Mohammad Haris from Qatar’s Sidra Medicine, one of the authors of the study.  
Dr Haris, an expert in translational imaging, said the findings will facilitate early detection of structural and functional brain changes, allowing appropriate treatment and therapies to improve functional activities in children with immunity disorders.  
**Larger studies**  
HIV is a virus that attacks the immune system and is known to affect almost every organ in the human body.  
Nearly 60,000 children in India are currently taking Anti-Retroviral Therapy (ART) for HIV. Doctors treating these children commonly observe slackened physical as well as mental growth.  
“The virus is present in patient’s bloodstream and thus gets

lodged in every part of the body. It affects the brain, heart, kidney, liver etc., leaving the patient extremely immuno-compromised,” said paediatrician Dr. Yashwant Gabhale who heads civic-run Sion Hospital’s paediatric ART centre in Mumbai.  
“The key to achieving overall growth in HIV infected children is a good diet, 100% medicine compliance and regular physical activity. This ensures that their viral load is low and CD-4 (immune cells) count is high. However, a large majority of children fail to achieve this,” said Dr Gabhale, adding that larger studies with bigger sample size will reflect the ground realities more coherently.  
Doctors say such studies highlight the need for a holistic approach to HIV programmes. The emphasis should not only be on medication, but also nutritional, psychological and neurodevelopmental support.

**IN BRIEF**  
  
**Theni may get an elephant corridor**  
THEVARAM  
Disturbed by frequent raids by wild elephants in the Thevaram range, the Forest Department has proposed that it would cost ₹1.75 crore to build elephant-proof fences and grow protective vegetation cover to keep the animals away from villages. The forest range has been in the news with wild elephants raiding the fields and damaging crops and even killing humans.

**PDP leader, supporters joins BJP in Jammu**  
JAMMU  
Senior PDP leader Vikas Bhatti along with his supporters joined the BJP on Sunday in the presence of party State president Ravinder Raina. BJP State general secretary Yudhvir Sethi and others were also present on the occasion. PTI

**11, 232 Bru refugees to vote at Kanhmun**  
AGARTALA  
The Election Commission has chosen a place for Bru refugees to vote in the Mizoram Assembly election scheduled for November 28. As many as 11,232 refugees can vote at Kanhmun in Hachhek, one of the 40 constituencies in Mizoram.

**Hunt on for accused teacher in Kerala**  
MALAPPURAM  
The police have launched a hunt for a schoolteacher after a group of students accused him of sexually abusing them. The police registered a case against the Urdu teacher of a higher secondary school in Malappuram, under the POCSO Act.



**Let there be light:** Rabbi Israel Kozlovsky explains the details of the Nariman Light House, in Mumbai on Sunday; and (Right) The light atop the Nariman House lit later in the evening. ■ EMMANUEL YOGINI & ARUNANGSU ROY CHOWDHURY

## Nariman Light House is set to open

The ‘only memorial that honours all the victims’ of 26/11 Mumbai terror attacks

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT**  
MUMBAI  
A rooftop memorial at Nariman House, the Jewish centre in Colaba, will be formally inaugurated on Monday, the tenth anniversary of the Mumbai terror attacks. The memorial is to be called

the Nariman Light House.  
“This is the only memorial that honours all the victims of the attack. Even as the attack took place at many locations, we felt that it was one attack and the memorial should have all the names together. The water and plants



The light atop the Nariman House lit

are sources of energy. We call it a living memorial,” said Rabbi Israel Kozlovsky, who heads the Nariman House.  
The memorial features a waterfall monument inscribed with the names of all the victims of the attack, in-

cluding policemen and National Security Guard (NSG) personnel, and plaques of the sites at which the attacks took place. It is surrounded by lush green plants.  
While the waterfall signifies the flow of life and purification, plaques of sites of the

attack – Kuber boat, the Taj Mahal hotel, the Oberoi-Trident, Leopold Cafe, the Cama & Albless Hospital, Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminus and Nariman House – serve as a reminder of that night.  
The memorial will be opened for the public soon.

## India better prepared since 26/11 attack, says Navy Chief

**PRESS TRUST OF INDIA**  
NEW DELHI  
India is better prepared and better organised since 26/11, Admiral Sunil Lanba of the Navy said on Sunday.  
“We have come a long way since then,” he said in an interview on the eve of the 10th anniversary of 26/11.  
The Navy Chief said there has been a paradigm shift in coastal security as vulnerabilities and risks were fixed, and a layered maritime sur-

veillance and security architecture was put in place, making the coastline almost impregnable.  
“The country is now better prepared and better organised,” Adm. Lanba said, when asked about possibility of terrorists taking the sea route again to mount a similar attack on India.  
He said the Navy is now a potent multi-dimensional force, safeguarding India’s interests in the seas and

that it is fully prepared to deal with any security challenge facing the country in the maritime domain.  
Adm. Lanba, who is also chairman of Chiefs of Staff Committee, said critical gaps and vulnerabilities in the country’s coastal infrastructure have been addressed.  
“We now have a multi-layered security architecture for coastal security, involving the Coast Guard and the Navy,” he said.

## U.S. readied special teams for Mumbai

**PRESS TRUST OF INDIA**  
WASHINGTON  
The then George Bush administration had mobilised special forces to neutralise Pakistan-based LeT terrorists holding people hostage in hotels during the Mumbai terror attack in November 2008, a former White House official has revealed.  
But, before the Indian authorities gave the necessary clearances and the special forces could take off for Mumbai, Indian comman-

dos had already completed their job, said Anish Goel, who was part of the White House’s 26/11 crisis management group.  
“I’m a bit hazy on the details now. It’s been 10 years. But, we were offering to send commando teams to Mumbai to root out the terrorist cells that were there,” Goel, the director of South Asia in the National Security Council of the White House at the time of the 26/11 attack, said.

## Police recce Sentinel isle, sight tribals

Avoid confrontation with Sentinelese

**AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE**  
PORT BLAIR  
A police team took a boat just off North Sentinel island on Saturday and spotted men from the Sentinelese tribe on the beach where  
American missionary John Allen Chau was last seen, Andaman & Nicobar Islands’ police chief Dependra Pathak told AFP.  
Using binoculars, officers in a police boat about 400 metres from the shore, saw men armed with bows and arrows, Mr. Pathak said.



A file photo of a Sentinel man with his bow and arrow at the island. ■ AP

**Boat withdrew**  
“They stared at us and we were looking at them,” said Mr. Pathak. The boat withdrew to avoid any chance of a confrontation with the armed tribals.  
Police are taking painstaking efforts to avoid any disruption to the Sentinelese, a pre-neolithic tribe, as they seek Chau’s body. The island is off-limits to outsiders. Various anthropologists have concluded that the tribe does not appreciate intrusions.  
The death of the 27-year-old on November 17 has cast a new spotlight on efforts to protect one of the world’s last “uncontacted” tribes, whose language and customs remain a mystery to outsiders.  
Fishermen who took Chau to North Sentinel said they saw the tribe burying the body on the beach.  
Though Chau’s death is

officially a murder case, anthropologists say it may be impossible to retrieve the American’s body, and that no charges will be made against the protected tribe.  
Seven people, including six fishermen who were involved in ferrying Chau to North Sentinel, have been arrested. The fishermen accompanied the police teams to the island to help efforts to pinpoint where Chau was killed.

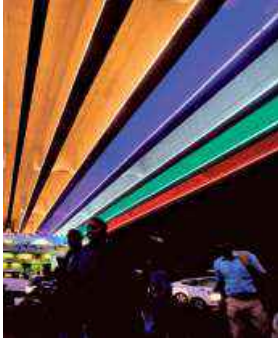
**Expert advice**  
Anthropologists and tribal welfare experts who have had the previous rare contacts with the Sentinelese have been heavily involved with the inquiry. “Their advice will be important,” said Mr. Pathak. “We are taking their advice to advance this case.”

## Hockey fever grips Bhubaneswar

City dons an eclectic look

**SATYASUNDAR BARIK**  
BHUBANESWAR

Hockey fever has taken over Bhubaneswar, with the Kalinga Stadium here all set to host the 14th edition of the Men’s Hockey World Cup from November 28.  
Sixteen teams divided into four pools are in the fray between November 28 and December 16. Most teams have arrived in the city, which now sports an eclectic, vivid look.  
The opening ceremony on November 27 is expected to showcase performances of Bollywood stars Shahrukh Khan, Madhuri Dixit and A. R. Rahman, among others.  
The catchy teasers of the forthcoming World Cup Hockey anthem by Mr. Rahman have already become a hit, residents said. The musician has already visited Odisha as part of rehearsal for



A brightly-lit flyover in Bhubaneswar.  
■ BISWARANJAN ROUT

## Woman gang-raped in Kolkata beauty parlour

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT**  
KOLKATA

A woman in her early 30s has filed a complaint at an east Kolkata police station, alleging she was repeatedly raped by the clients who frequented a beauty parlour, where she worked, near Park Street.

She alleged that she was also “gang-raped,” and the parlour owners shot it on a mobile phone to “black-mail” her, a police officer said. A medical examination done on the woman confirmed rape.  
The survivor told the police that she joined the parlour on Mirza Ghalib Street

as a worker, but she was “forced to have sex for many days.” She was told that it was video-graphed. As she tried to file complaints at the Park Street police station, she was “stopped and threatened.” “Perhaps, she was told that the images will

be made public,” an official said.  
Finally, she lodged a complaint with the Tiljala police, and three persons, including the woman who introduced her to the parlour owners, were arrested. The accused are in police custody till November 27.

## ‘Situation grim in Gaja-hit districts’

Central team visits Thanjavur, Tiruvarur and Nagapattinam

**C. JAISANKAR**  
THANJAVUR

The Central team assessing the havoc wreaked by Cyclone Gaja, on Sunday said the situation in delta districts was grim.  
State officials had earlier described as debilitating the impact the cyclone had on infrastructure and standing crops.  
Daniel E. Richard, Joint Secretary, Ministry

of Home Affairs, told *The Hindu* that it was pathetic to see the pain and suffering of affected people.  
“We have met several affected farmers and got first-hand accounts of the extent of destruction. The cyclone damage is beyond our imagination,” Mr. Richard said.  
**Lending an ear**  
He gave a patient hear-

ing to various farmers at Pudukottai Ullur, where the cyclone had destroyed more than 90% of coconut trees raised on 282 hectares and other places in Thanjavur and Tiruvarur districts.  
Accompanied by K. Satyagopal, Principal Secretary, Revenue; Thanjavur Collector A. Annadurai; and senior officials of the State government, the team comprising six mem-

bers started the second day tour from Orathanadu Pudur, one of the worst-hit areas in Thanjavur district.  
A grief-stricken coconut farmer Nagarajan, who lost almost all 75 coconut trees raised on his two acres at Pulavan-gadu, complained that he had lost everything. Mr. Nagarajan used to earn around ₹.50, 000 once in two months by harvesting coconuts.





Leave them alone

Calls to take action against the Sentinelese for a tragic death are dangerously misguided

The death of a young American man at the hands of the inhabitants of North Sentinel Island in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands has led to dangerous lines of debate. Some have called for the Sentinelese to be convicted and punished and others have urged that they be integrated into modern society. Both these demands are misguided, and can only result in the extinction of a people. John Chau's killing was a tragedy but his attempt to make contact with the Sentinelese, who he seemed to know something about, was foolhardy and dangerous, not only to himself but to them. There is a reason why no one – whether missionary, scholar, adventurer, U.S. citizen or Indian – is allowed to venture near North Sentinel Island without permission, which is given only in the rarest of circumstances and with meticulous precautions in place to ensure that the Sentinelese are not disturbed. Having lived in isolation in an island in the Bay of Bengal for thousands of years, the Sentinelese have no immunity or resistance to even the commonest of infections. Various degrees of protection are in place for the indigenous people of A&N Islands, but it is complete in the case of the Sentinelese. The administration enforces “an ‘eyes-on and hands-off’ policy to ensure that no poachers enter the island”. A protocol of circumnavigation of the island is in place, and the buffer maintained around the island is enforced under various laws. The Sentinelese are perhaps the most reclusive community in the world today. Their language is so far understood by no other group and they have traditionally guarded their island fiercely, attacking most intruders with spears and arrows. Arrows were fired even at a government aircraft that flew over the island after the 2004 Tsunami.

Chau knowingly broke the law, as did those who took him to the waters off North Sentinel Island. Seven persons, including five fishermen, have been arrested for facilitating this misadventure. To call for an investigation on the island, however, is to fail to see its historical and administrative uniqueness. At the heart of the issue is the survival of the Sentinelese. According to the 2011 Census, their population was just 15 – though anthropologists like T.N. Pandit, who made contact with them in the 1960s, put the figure at 80-90. This degree of ignorance about the Sentinelese often sparks an Orientalist public discourse, instead of understanding the dangers of trying to physically overpower them. Chau's death is a cautionary incident – for the danger of adventurism, and for the administration to step up oversight. But it is also an occasion for the country to embrace its human heritage in all its diversity, and to empathetically try to see the world from the eyes of its most vulnerable inhabitants.

Ahead on malaria

Odisha shows the way in bringing down the incidence of new cases

India has suffered from a major burden of malaria for decades, with high levels of morbidity and death. But the declining trend of the scourge shows that sustained public health action can achieve good results. The World Malaria Report 2018 of the World Health Organisation notes that India's record offers great promise in the quest to cut the number of new cases and deaths globally by at least 40% by 2020, and to end the epidemic by 2030. A lot of that optimism has to do with the progress made by Odisha, one of the most endemic States. Investments made there in recruiting accredited social health workers and large-scale distribution of insecticide-treated bednets, together with strategies to encourage health-seeking behaviour, seem to have paid off. The WHO report highlights a sharp drop in the number of cases in the State. The reduction in cases by half in 2017 compared to the same study period in 2016 appears to reinforce research findings: malaria cases in Odisha have been coming down steadily since 2003, with a marked reduction since 2008, attributed to greater political and administrative commitment. This positive trend should encourage authorities not just in Odisha, but in the northeastern States and elsewhere too to cut the transmission of the disease further. Importantly, the reduction in the number of cases should not produce complacency and lead to a reduction in deployment of health workers and funding cuts to programme components. Where allocations have been reduced, they should be reversed. It should be pointed out that even in 2017, the Union Health and Family Welfare Ministry put the number of malaria cases in Odisha at 3,52,140.

One issue that requires monitoring in India is resistance to combination therapy using artemisinin. Recent reports indicate that some patients in West Bengal became resistant to the treatment protocol used for the falciparum parasite, which causes debilitating cerebral malaria and leads to a high number of deaths. The phenomenon requires close monitoring – although the WHO said in a recent assessment that the treatment policy was changed to another efficacious set of combination drugs in some northeastern States, after statistically significant treatment failure rates were found in 2012. Eliminating malaria requires an integrated approach, and this should involve Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand and West Bengal, which have a higher burden of the disease. Odisha's experience with using public health education as a tool and reaching out to remote populations with advice needs to be replicated. Given that emerging resistance to treatment has been reported in Myanmar, among other countries in this belt, there is a need for a coordinated approach to rid southern Asia of malaria.

Ten years after the Mumbai attack

Vigilance is important against new variants of the terror, remaining ahead of the curve is even more vital



M.K. NARAYANAN

Ten years ago on this day, Pakistan carried out one of the most heinous of terror attacks perpetrated anywhere in the world. The 26/11 Mumbai terror attack, named after the date in 2008 when the attack took place, is in some respects comparable to the September 11, 2001 terror attacks in the U.S. Comparisons with the Madrid train bombings in 2004 and the London bombings in 2005 are, however, misplaced.

India, and Mumbai city, are no strangers to terror. In 1993, over 250 people were killed in Mumbai in a series of coordinated bomb explosions attributed to Dawood Ibrahim, reportedly as reprisal for the demolition of the Babri Masjid. In July 2006, bomb explosions in a number of suburban trains in Mumbai killed over 200 people and injured several more. The most audacious terror attack till the 26/11 Mumbai terror incident was the attack on the Indian Parliament in 2001 by the Pakistan-based terror outfits, Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) and Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM).

Into the 21st century

Terrorism is hardly a post-modern phenomenon. Several of the terror attacks in the 21st century, however, reflect a paradigmatic change in the tactics of asymmetric warfare, and the practice of violence. Today's attacks carried out in different corners of the world by al-Qaeda and its affiliates, the Islamic State, al-Shabaab, and similar terror outfits, are very different from those witnessed in the previous century. The tactics employed may vary, but the objective is com-

mon, viz. achieving mass casualties and widespread destruction.

The 26/11 Mumbai terror attack was one of a kind, and not a mere variant of previous instances of terrorist violence. It was the rarest of rare cases, where one state's resources, viz. Pakistan's, were employed to carry out a series of terror attacks in a major Indian city. It was a case of 'war by other means', in which the authorities in Pakistan, the Inter-Services Intelligence Directorate, the Pakistani armed forces, were involved. It is difficult to recall any recorded instance in modern times where a state and its various agencies were directly involved in carrying out a terror attack of this nature. As is now known, the Mumbai terror attack was not based on a sudden impulse or whim. Several years of planning and preparation had preceded the attack, even as the Pakistani President, Pervez Musharraf, was talking peace with then Indian Prime Minister, Manmohan Singh.

The degree of involvement of the Pakistani deep state in the planning and preparation of the attack is evident from many aspects that have come to light subsequently. Seldom has any terrorist group then, or for that matter even now, used such highly sophisticated, state-of-the-art communications, including Voice over Internet Protocol. Planning for the attack involved the use of a third country address. Handlers in Pakistan were given unfettered freedom to provide instructions to the terrorists during the entire four-day siege. The choice of the sea route aimed at deception and avoiding detection, was again dictated by official agencies.

The involvement of the Pakistani Special Forces in preparing the 10-member fidayeen group was confirmed by one of the conspirators, Abu Hamza, arrested subsequent to the 26/11 terror attack. The training regimen dictated by



the Pakistani Special Forces involved psychological indoctrination by highlighting atrocities on Muslims in India and other parts of the globe, including Chechnya and Palestine; basic and advanced combat training; commando training; training in weapons and explosives; training in swimming and sailing – all under the watchful eyes of Pakistani instructors from the Special Forces. An even more unusual feature of the Mumbai attacks was the involvement of two U.S./Canadian nationals of Pakistani origin, David Headley (who at the time was a LeT operative) and Tahawwur Hussain Rana. The 10 attackers came via the sea from Karachi in a small boat, hijacked an Indian fishing trawler en route, and reached Colaba in a rubber dinghy on November 26 evening.

Horror over four days

The targets were carefully chosen after having been reconnoitred previously by Headley for maximum impact, viz. the Taj and Oberoi Hotels, Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus, the Jewish centre at Nariman House, and the Leopold Cafe, since these places were frequented by Europeans, Indians and Jews. The Mumbai terror attack went on for nearly four days, from the evening of November 26 to the morning of November 29. Seldom has a terrorist incident lasted this length of time, since the Munich Olympics mas-

Along the new Silk Roads

Regional agreements such as the BRI could embrace greater trade liberalisation goals



LEÏLA CHOUKROUNE & JAMES J. NEDUMPARA

At the recent Paris Peace Forum commemorating the end of World War I, the heads of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank made the case for a more inclusive multilateralism. Drawing comparisons between 1914 and today's situations in terms of inequalities, they warned against the temptation of a divisive globalisation which could only benefit the wealthiest.

China's discourse on a new "connected" multilateralism, through the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), is building upon the same inclusive project now led by a non-Western and non-democratic superpower. There is indeed an ambition to influence the world – if not directly control it – by making the rules on which it functions. This normative determination to achieve a far greater objective has hardly been addressed when analysing China's BRI and its impact.

There is more to the BRI than the six economic corridors spanning Asia, Europe and Africa, of which the \$50 billion China-Pakis-

tan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is perhaps the most controversial. The BRI is included in the Constitution of an officially socialist China. The BRI "shared interest" and "shared growth" hence coexist with Marxism-Leninism and "capitalism with Chinese characteristics" in a country now said to be more trade-friendly than its protectionist American rival, the U.S. Beijing has never been afraid of contradictions in terms and this capacity to 'Sinicise' concepts is a signature trait. The BRI is a political project and a Chinese one no matter the number of other partners joining the effort and participating to its funding.

Normative yet not legal

In this regard, the normative framework put in place by Beijing plays an interesting role. These norms manifest themselves in the form of guiding principles, declarations, general agreements and other communication tools including the hardly studied "Digital Silk Road" envisaging "innovation action plans for e-commerce, digital economy, smart cities and science and technology parks". They constitute a normative discourse, a form of behaviour, a standard to abide by, but are not legally binding yet. The BRI indeed develops without any dedicated law, nor is it a comprehensive trade or economic partnership. It is different from

conventional trade agreements that seek to eliminate market access barriers, harmonise regulations and impose preconditions for entry. The only legal texts one could refer to are to be found in the network of foreign trade agreements, bilateral investment treaties and other international investment agreements China is a party to. However, these networks of agreements have no special link with the BRI, although they could be brought in to resolve issues emanating from the BRI. China is a party to numerous state-sponsored business contracts between Chinese firms, including state-owned companies, and foreign business partners, public or private.

This non-legal yet rather dominating proposal is not a surprise. The fluid, if not vague, nature of the BRI is nothing but a manifestation of a pragmatism with Chinese characteristics that has the capacity to constantly adjust to a fast-changing environment. The absence of law is actually partial and temporary. China is preparing for the domestic resolution of BRI disputes with the creation by the Supreme People's Court of two dedicated branches of the China International Commercial Court, one in Shenzhen to tackle the Maritime Road disputes, and one in Xi'an to settle overland Belt issues. In addition, the Hong Kong International Arbitration Centre has specific BRI arbitration clauses



and administered arbitration rules. Naturally, investor-state disputes could also be settled on the basis of China's investment agreements, nationally or internationally, in a given arbitration forum – for example, the World Bank-sponsored International Centre for Settlement of Investment Dispute (ICSID).

Institutional strategies

The institutional setting of the BRI is also rather light. Joint committees are put in place and the existing institutions mobilised from the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation to the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB), which is contributing to the BRI despite the rather distant position of some of its members and India in particular, which is the largest recipient of AIIB funding. In this context, China is not challenging the existing institutional set-up or proposing something different than what exists in the Bretton Woods Institutions. From the functioning of the banks to their advisory committees, the same structure and often

the same people are found.

The BRI as it stands is not conceived as a tool for economic integration. The Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) negotiations between the Association of Southeast Asian Nations and six countries is better equipped to deal with market access and integration goals within the Asia-Pacific region. Again, the BRI's dispute resolution will be predominantly on commercial disputes, involving either projects or contractual obligations. However, with the world trading system passing through a turmoil, the possibility of regional trade agreements or amorphous legal devices such as the BRI embracing greater trade liberalisation goals cannot be entirely ruled out. A failure to resolve the WTO Appellate Body crisis or any consequent weakening of the multilateral dispute resolution process could present an opportunity for purely nationalistic initiatives to transmute and assume larger objectives.

Leïla Choukroune is Professor of International Law and Director of the University of Portsmouth Research and Innovation Theme in Democratic Citizenship. James J. Nedumpara is Head and Professor of Centre for Trade and Investment Law, Indian Institute of Foreign Trade. They co-Chair the South Asia International Economic Law Network (SAIELN). The views expressed are personal

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.

Kartarpur corridor

At last there seems to be some movement in bilateral relations after the change in guard in Pakistan (Editorial, "Corridor of hope", November 24). People-to-people contact can be furthered by sports and cultural exchanges, especially between youth of both countries. Reviving the SAARC grouping for political dialogue can also be looked at. However, terror and talks cannot go together.

HARSAHIB SINGH,  
Ludhiana, Punjab

■ That Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan would do a ground-breaking ceremony for the corridor on November 28 and the statement on the Sikh community being welcome

in Pakistan for the auspicious occasion" can be considered a defining moment – that things might become better in the future.

SIMRAN KAPOOR,  
Dehradun

■ Why can't both countries implement a common and normal visa regime – easy visas, or visa on arrival for elders, on a reciprocal basis? Or work towards an open transit trade regime like in the EU? Both nations have suffered enough for 70 years since Independence. Religious pilgrimages can revive commerce and the economy.

SANTHOSH MATHEW,  
Puducherry

■ The slight thaw in relations, made possible by the idea of the Kartarpur corridor, is a

positive sign especially after the two sides have been mired in no-holds-barred aggression for many years. Religion has been a cause of riots and animosity but this step is sure to promote brotherhood. This baby step should be extended to other domains such as a much-needed revival of sports ties.

DEEPAK SINGHAL  
Noida

■ Any peace offer seen coming from Pakistan should be taken with a pinch of salt. History is witness to many distressing examples. India needs to be on guard against certain elements present in Pakistan having a likely influence on pilgrims and attempts at disrupting communal harmony. Such a strategy was evident recently when Indian officials were

prevented from gaining access to certain important Sikh shrines in Pakistan.

AMIT MANGAL,  
New Delhi

Medical marijuana

The initiative taken by the CSIR-IIIM and the Tata Memorial Centre in Mumbai to research the effectiveness of strains of marijuana in cancer treatment is praiseworthy. The research project needs to be transparent so that the public understands the possible benefits of medicinal cannabis.

SAHELI MUKHERJEE,  
Kolkata

Mary Kom

The indomitable spirit of Mary Kom, the legendary pugilist, deserves praise. Her exploits in the ring are a

source of inspiration especially for women.

HELDON FERNANDO,  
Thoothukudi, Tamil Nadu

Smart Alyque

The passing of ad guru Alyque Padamsee is a great loss. In the 1980s and 1990s,

His jingles that were aired during TV commercial breaks were a delight. Many ads, such as with "Lalitati", were out-of-the-box.

T.S. KARTHIK,  
Chennai

MORE LETTERS ONLINE:  
www.hindu.co.in/opinion/letters/

CORRECTIONS & CLARIFICATIONS:

In the Ground Zero feature, "Stopping the virus" (Nov. 24, 2018), a sentence that read, "This delay in launching intensive communication campaigns can cost lives, according to Zika researchers, because all Zika strains have been shown to cause birth defects" should be recast to read: "This delay in launching... because all Zika strains can probably cause birth defects."

The picture caption in the report headlined "Maratha quota is a betrayal: OBC groups" (Nov. 20, 2018) erroneously said Shiv Sena MLAs protested against the grant of Maratha quota under a special category. Actually, the MLAs were supporting the grant of the quota.

A Sports page story titled "Sonia Chahal scripts a grand fight to reach summit clash" (Nov. 24, 2018.) said, "The 21-year-old's entry into the title clash made sure that more than one Indian was in the finals after 2006 and fans will look forward to Mary Kom and Sonila's final bouts on Saturday." The correct year is 2014.

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# Touchstone of the Republic

The unity of India is sustained by the Constitution and not by any particular faith



D. RAJA

The adoption of the Constitution on November 26, 1949 by the Constituent Assembly was a historic moment that laid the foundation for a sovereign, socialist, secular, democratic republic. The Constitution provides a framework for good governance based on law and jurisprudence.

### Finding a place

From its first meeting on December 9, 1946 till the completion of its work and adoption of the Constitution, the Constituent Assembly had to work in a politically turbulent environment. Some may not know that B.R. Ambedkar did not find a place among the 296 members initially sent to the Constituent Assembly. Only the withdrawal of Jogendra Nath Mandal, who was nominated from East Bengal, paved the way for Ambedkar to enter the Constituent Assembly. On June 3, 1947, Lord Mountbatten, the Viceroy of India, announced the Partition of India. Bengal and Punjab were to be divided. Ambedkar ceased to be a member of the Constituent Assembly when India was partitioned.

Given the dependence of the Assembly on Ambedkar, who had done extraordinary work, Rajendra Prasad and Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel took efforts to get him elected from Bombay Presidency. It was only then that Ambedkar was immediately re-inducted as a member of the Constituent Assembly. By that time he was already Law Minister in the Cabinet headed by Jawaharlal Nehru, who had moved the Objectives Resolution that defined the aims of the Constituent Assembly. Historians point out that Mahatma Gandhi, who knew about Ambedkar's excellent work in the Constituent Assembly and in various other committees, was keen that Ambedkar head the Drafting Committee. On August 30, 1947, the Drafting Committee formally met and unanimously elected Ambedkar as the Chairman of the Drafting Committee. Thereby he became the prime architect of the Constitution.



"Ambedkar had warned that even without altering the Constitution, administrators could use their powers to subvert it." The President of the Constituent Assembly, Rajendra Prasad, signing the full text of the Constitution in New Delhi in 1949. ■ THE HINDU ARCHIVES

Partition witnessed huge tragedies: Hindu-Muslim clashes and killings, migration of large numbers of people, and the assassination of Gandhi. Ambedkar remained firm that "the destiny of the country ought to count for everything". He did not compromise with divisive communal forces. He stoutly rejected the idea of a Hindu Rashtra. He warned that if at all Hindu Rashtra became a reality, it would be a calamity for the nation. He rejected the idea of a theocratic state and a presidential form of government. He believed in the idea of a republic and wanted India to be a secular state.

### Challenge to the Constitution

Today there is an open challenge to the Constitution. The Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh, Vishva Hindu Parishad, Bajrang Dal, Bharatiya Janata Party and Shiv Sena are all competing and coordinating with one another to achieve their agenda of converting the Indian secular state into a Hindu Rashtra. They have become desperate and aggressive in their pursuit to subvert the Constitution.

Ambedkar defined the Indian state as a welfare state in a society that is stratified by caste and deeply mired in structural forms of inequalities. The state, he said, should strive "to secure to all its citizens, Justice, Liberty, Equality and Fraternity."

The way the Constitution was drafted and the way Ambedkar explained the provisions enshrined in it brought out its secular and socialist contents. They are of abiding significance in our time when communal and fascist forces have created a counter culture that endangers the Constitution itself. The way the Indian state is emerging as a neoliberal state goes against the socialist feature of our Constitution. When Professor K.T. Shah moved an amendment on November 15, 1948 to insert the words "secular, federal, socialist" in to the Constitution, his proposal was vetoed. Ambedkar said that the Directive Principles of State Policy were declared to be fundamental in the governance of our country. In other words, the socialist contents enshrined in the Directive Principles must be the guiding force for governance. He said, "If these directive

principles... are not socialistic in their direction and in their content, I fail to understand what more socialism can be." The Directive Principles must be followed in letter and spirit when rising levels of income inequality perpetuate other inequalities. Liberalisation, globalisation and privatisation have further exacerbated the problem of unequal access to basic opportunities. As President K.R. Narayanan said in his speech on the eve of Republic Day in 2000, "Our three-way fast lane of liberalisation, privatisation and globalisation must provide safe pedestrian crossings for the unempowered India also, so that it too can move towards 'equality of status and opportunity'."

The manner in which constitutional objectives are being deliberately ignored by the present government in pursuit of the goals set by various corporates reminds me of Ambedkar's warning in his last speech in the Constituent Assembly. He said that if political parties put creed ahead of the interests of the country, then we would stand to lose our independence forever.

### Protecting the idea of India

Ambedkar had warned that even without altering the Constitution, administrators could subvert it using their powers, causing it to collapse. We need to address such problems, which have assumed the proportion of a crisis today. We need to defend the Constitution and cultivate constitutional morality. In Kerala, for instance, we are seeing people being mobilised to prevent the implementation of the Supreme Court judgment that allows women to enter the Sabarimala temple. This is a violation of the law and the Constitution. The leaders of the ruling party are openly making statements which are inconsistent with the constitutional scheme of governance. Let us be mindful of the fact that the unity and integrity of India are sustained by the Constitution and not by any particular faith. Constitutional values combined with the civilisational values of acceptance and tolerance are the need of the hour to defend the idea of India. In undermining the Constitution, we are undermining and diminishing the very idea of India.

D. Raja is National Secretary, Communist Party of India, and Member of Parliament

### FROM THE READERS' EDITOR

## What's in a name?

We need to interrogate some words for their pejorative connotations



A.S. PANNEERSELVAM

The crucial difference between technology companies and news organisations came out in an unambiguous manner over the last fortnight. Two instances clearly showed that platform companies, despite their financial muscle, have few moral and ethical resources to deal with diversity, contentious issues and public discourse on such issues. The first was a major investigation by *The New York Times* headlined, "Delay, Deny and Deflect: How Facebook's Leaders Fought Through Crisis". The second was how Twitter handled the controversy of its CEO Jack Dorsey's interaction with a group of women journalists, activists and organisers in New Delhi. While the former showed how inadequate internal structures led to the manipulation of democratic processes in the U.S. presidential elections and the Brexit referendum, the controversy in India erupted over Mr. Dorsey holding a poster that read, "Smash Brahmanical Patriarchy".

### The importance of self-reflection

News organisations are accountable to the public, they provide attribution in their stories and have established rules of engagement. All this ensures that they report on multiple issues without being bulldozed by intolerant sections. On the other hand, platform companies need to understand the rules of public engagement, which go beyond metrics and algorithms. They can learn a lesson or two from responsible media organisations on these issues. This requires reflection and contemplation – being self-critical is a virtue and not a sign of weakness.

A debate has been playing out online over the use of the word 'tribe' by the media, and this calls for discussion and self-reflection. This happened after John Allen Chau, an American national, was killed by the protected Sentinelese in North Sentinel Island in the Andaman and Nicobar region. *The Hindu* carried an explainer on the Sentinelese which read: "The Sentinelese, a negro tribe who live on the North Sentinel Island of the Andamans, have not faced incursions and remain hostile to outsiders. The inhabitants

are connected to the Jarawa on the basis of physical, as well as linguistic similarities, researchers say. Based on carbon dating of kitchen middens by the Anthropological Survey of India, Sentinelese presence was confirmed in the islands to 2,000 years ago. Genome studies indicate that the Andaman tribes could have been on the islands even 30,000 years ago."

### The use of the term tribe

Some people objected to the use of the word 'tribe' to describe the Sentinelese. Poet Ranjit Hoskote tweeted: "I'm appalled that many of us still use the contested and demeaning term 'tribe', with its baggage of colonial taxonomy and early, invasive anthropology (perhaps I should say "primitive anthropology") while discussing the predicament of such communities as the Sentinelese people." Some readers wanted to know what was wrong in the use of the term.

Nomenclature is a political act. There has been effective criticism against the term 'tribal' from Africa, for instance. Anthropologist Michael Olen wrote: "The term tribe has never satisfied anthropologists, because of its many uses and connotations. Societies that are classified as tribal seem to be very diverse in their organisation, having little in common." Some scholars argue that if the term 'tribe' accurately conveys and clarifies truths better than other words, even if they are hard and unpleasant truths, we should use it. But some also contend that the term is vague and confusing.

How can journalists describe a group of people who have been officially categorised using objectionable words is the question. The Government of India has categorised the Sentinelese as "Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups" along with the Onges, the Jarawas, the Great Andamanese and the Shompens of the Great Nicobar. This is a progressive change from its earlier classification of them as "Primitive Tribal Groups". In the case of Africa, given its strong anti-apartheid struggle, the term 'tribe' has given way to different words such as ethnic group, nation, people, community, chiefdom, kin group and village with the focus on empirical accuracy and intellectual honesty. We need to interrogate some words for their pejorative connotations. Journalism does not have answers to many questions. But unlike the ostrich-like responses from the Silicon Valley giants, it grapples with contentious issues.

readerseditor@thehindu.co.in

### SINGLE FILE

## Pursuing Lashkar-e-Taiba

The U.S. has sought to pressure Pakistan over the terror group but the fundamental problem remains

MICHAEL KUGELMAN



Today, on the 10th anniversary of the Mumbai terror attacks, it is worth considering how U.S. policy towards the Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) has evolved over the last decade. The conventional wisdom is that the Afghanistan war has compelled Washington to give more attention to Afghanistan-focussed militants in Pakistan than to the LeT and other India-oriented jihadists. This is accurate to an extent – and especially today. Senior administration officials often emphasise that U.S. President Donald Trump's top foreign policy priority is to protect American lives. With 15,000 U.S. troops in Afghanistan, the Taliban is a much more clear and present danger to American lives than the LeT and its India-focussed ilk.

Still, the U.S. hasn't exactly sidelined the LeT issue. And one wouldn't expect it to. This is an organisation with American connections and enablers, including the infamous David Headley. And it killed six Americans in Mumbai.

The U.S. government has sought to pressure Pakistan over the LeT in ways that go beyond its formal designation of the LeT as a foreign terrorist organisation in 2001, and the \$10 million bounty it put on Hafiz Saeed in 2012. Jason Blazakis, a top State Department counterterrorism official between 2008 and 2018, recently wrote of U.S. attempts to get the UN to designate individual LeT members as terrorists. Such efforts fell short, given China's opposition. Early this year, however, the Financial Action Task Force penalised Islamabad for failing to curb the finances of the LeT-affiliated Jamaat-ud-Dawah. Additionally, China has signed on to BRICS and Heart of Asia declarations condemning the LeT. In April, the State Department designated the LeT's newest affiliate, Milli Muslim League, as a terrorist organisation.

True, such moves have done little to address the fundamental problem: the LeT, its various front organisations, and many of its top leaders enjoy relative freedom in Pakistan, and Pakistani legal action against the Mumbai perpetrators remains limited. Nonetheless, impelled in great part by counterterrorism imperatives, the U.S.-India defence partnership continues to grow. Indeed, the Mumbai attacks are a tragic yet powerful symbol of the shared threat of terrorism that brings the two nations together. U.S.-India counterterrorism cooperation is poised to increase.

This isn't to say Washington is about to start raining drones down on anti-India militant facilities in Pakistan. But there are other ways America can help India. Recent bilateral deals have paved the way for more intelligence sharing, arms sales, and technology transfers. Rumours persist that America may soon provide India with drone technologies. Such cooperation could go a long way towards helping strengthen India's capacities to pre-empt and tackle terrorist threats and reducing the likelihood of another 26/11.

The writer is Deputy Director and Senior Associate for South Asia with the Asia Programme at the Woodrow Wilson International Centre for Scholars, Washington, DC

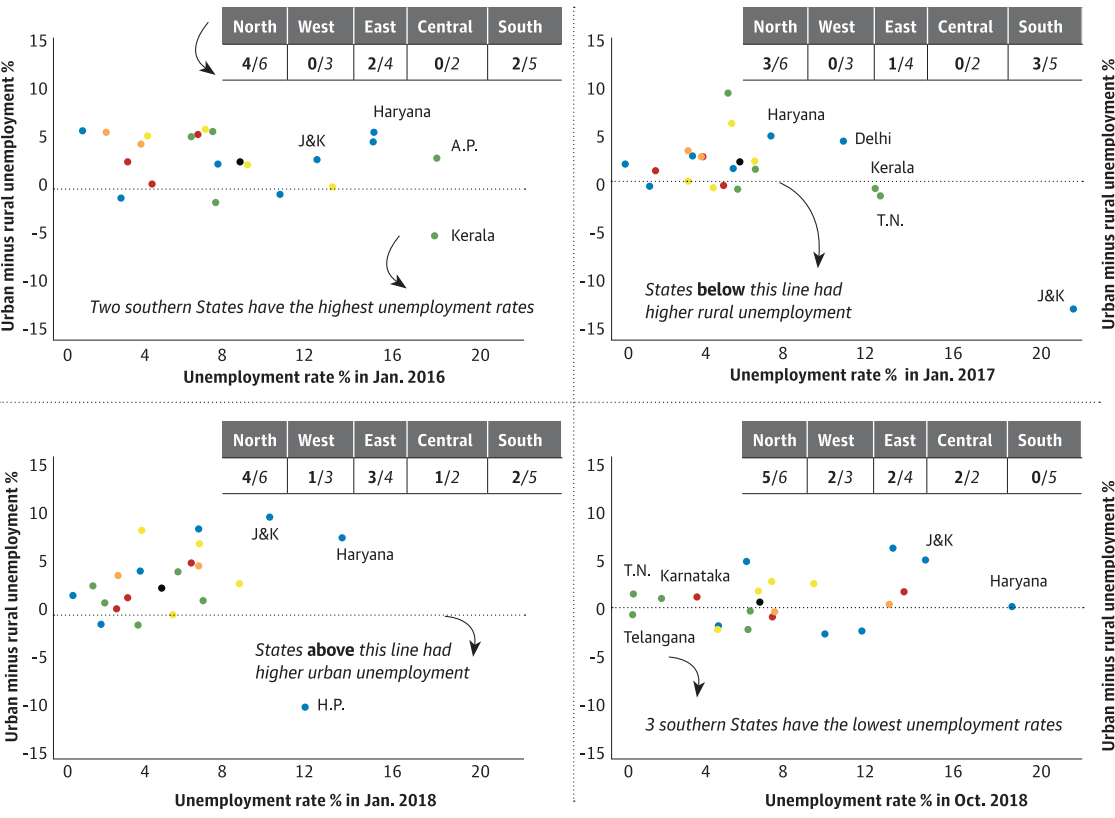


### DATA POINT

## Jobs going south

A look at country-wide unemployment rates\* (●) over time shows that the rates had come down in 2017 after demonetisation (due to a spike in MGNREGA jobs) but increased again in 2018. The hike in 2018 has been fuelled by increases in the northern (●), eastern (●), western (●) and central (●) regions, while unemployment has receded in the southern States (●)

Tables show number of States with a higher unemployment rate than the Indian avg. / Number of States in the region



\* The CMIE's 'Unemployment Rate in India' database provides estimates of the unemployment rate based on a panel size of over 158,000 households across 20 States

### FROM THE HINDU ARCHIVES

FIFTY YEARS AGO NOVEMBER 26, 1968

## Armed attack by Marxists

About 200 Marxist-led agricultural workers are reported to have attacked the office of a big landlord in Kuttanad (Alleppey District) to-day [November 25]. According to the report the attackers were armed with lethal weapons like daggers, knives, lathis, sticks and country-made guns. It is stated that the workers went in two country boats to Chitrapuram lake, an area belonging to Mr. Murickan, the landlord. They entered his office, damaged some articles there and also threw paddy, crude oil, etc. into the nearby lake. A son of Mr. Murickan who was in the office at that time managed to escape and took shelter in a nearby church. The workers were reported to have pelted stones at the church also. Soon after, when Mr. Murickan came to the scene with his men, the Marxists ran away, and while retreating fired three rounds in the air.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO NOVEMBER 26, 1918.

## Famine in Bombay.

The Government have under consideration the question of formal declaration of the existence of scarcity or famine in tracts of the [Bombay] presidency affected by the failure of monsoon. Measures which are required to be taken by Collectors and other officers on first warnings of scarcity including liberal distribution of takair, institution of enquiries for suspension of revenue, test works for distribution of gratuitous relief, etc., have been adopted. Although observations of district officers and results obtained by the institution of test works have not as yet disclosed anywhere a general prevalence of distress among the people, the failure of crops in certain areas had been so complete and the pressure of high prices so severe that it is evident that sooner or later distress in a more or less acute form will appear and that even if the maintenance of regular relief works does not become necessary, distribution of gratuitous relief on a considerable scale and other relief measures will have to be resorted to.

### CONCEPTUAL

## Rational choice theory

SOCIOLOGY

This refers to a model of human behaviour which states that people act the way they do because they believe that the benefits of their actions will be higher than the associated costs. Proponents of the theory believe that people act in such a way that they are able to maximise their benefits while minimising their costs. A person committing a crime, for instance, will likely weigh the benefits and costs of such action. Rational choice theory, since it tries to model the general behaviour of individuals within any particular society, can be used to explain wider phenomena across any society.

### MORE ON THE WEB

Photo story | Remembering 26/11: Images from then and now

<http://bit.ly/2611ThemsNow>



FROM PAGE ONE

## VHP raises temple pitch in Ayodhya

The VHP also asked the Sunni Waqf Board to withdraw its case and “come forward and voluntarily hand over to the Hindus their place.”

More than two-dozen heads of various sects assembled under the banner of the VHP. Much of the rhetoric was dominated by critical comments against the Supreme Court for delaying the hearing and the Congress for causing obstacles in the construction of a temple. The speakers urged the Modi government not to keep the Hindus waiting any longer.

Many speakers also said the temple would be built notwithstanding an adverse SC decision.

Swami Ravindracharya said if a decision was not taken soon, they would announce a course of action at the Dharm Sansad during the Prayagraj Kumbh.

Swami Bhadracharya said

the apex court “might betray us but the *“janta ka nyayalay”* (people’s court) won’t betray us.”

Swami Anand Brahmachari said in case of a further delay, the temple would be constructed in a fashion similar to the demolition of the Babri Masjid. “...if there is no decision, Hindus don’t need any decision. The decision will be taken by the majority community living in India.”

Amid tight security, all roads leading to the disputed site were blocked. While the VHP claimed it had amassed a gathering of over two lakh, much of the rally site was empty, as shown by the drone footage of the U.P. police.

Reminiscent of the Ram Janmabhoomi movement of the 1990s, the VHP activists used provocative sloganeering to mobilise crowds on their way to the rally.

## Six ultras, soldier killed in Shopian

“With the elimination of the six local militants, all notorious terrorists of the [Shopian-Kupwara] belt have been successfully eliminated,” said the police spokesman.

The police claimed Mohammad Abass Bhatt was involved in the brutal decapitating of 19-year-old civilian Huzair Ashraf. A video of the killing had been posted online. “Bhatt was also wanted in the killing of Army officer Lt. Omar Fayaz, advocate Imtiyaz Khan and four police personnel in Shopian,” the police said. The slain Pakistani militant was behind the gruesome killing of civilians, including slitting the throat of a local and uploading a video of it on the social media, said the police.

Ganaie, who clicked pictures at Srinagar’s commercial hub Lal Chowk recently and uploaded them online, had earlier escaped from the Batmaloo encounter site in the city.

The soldier killed in the encounter was identified as Nazir Ahmad of 162 Territorial Army from Kulgam.

In a separate operation, one Jash-e-Muhammad militant was killed in an encounter in Pulwama’s Pampore area on Sunday evening. “Slain militant, Waseem, was a resident of Pakistan,” said the police.

The separatist Joint Resistance Leaders (JRL) comprising Syed Ali Geelani, Mirwaiz Umar Farooq and Yasin Malik, called for a total shutdown on Monday.

## Pak. invite: Punjab CM says no, Sidhu yes

Mr. Hussain tweeted, “Pakistan through its conduct has once again showed who stands for peace in South Asia and which force is not sincere. PM @ImranKhanPTI has clearly shown Pakistan stands for peace – KartarpurBorderOpening is history in the making, history will judge those who stood on wrong side.”

Capt. Amarinder, in a letter to Pakistan Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi, wrote, “...My reasons for declining your invitation are two-fold. Firstly, not a single day passes when Indian soldiers are not killed or injured on the Line of Control in Jammu and Kashmir. Rather than moving towards normalcy these incidents are increasing.”

“...Secondly the ISI has started its nefarious activities within my State. Since my government was sworn

in, in March 2017, we have neutralised 17 modules handled-controlled by the ISI and its associates, apprehended 81 terrorists...the last attack was in Amritsar last Sunday on a peaceful religious congregation, in which 3 men were killed.”

Mr. Qureshi had invited Capt. Amarinder and Mr. Sidhu to the ground-breaking ceremony on November 28. Pakistan’s Prime Minister Imran Khan will be inaugurating the ceremony.

Mr. Sidhu, meanwhile, in a letter to Mr. Qureshi wrote, “It is with great honour and unalloyed joy that I accept your invitation to attend the ground-breaking ceremony...I look forward to meeting you on this historic occasion.”

His application to attend is now lodged with the Ministry of External Affairs, he added.

## 106 judicial postings in a month

Govt. clears many Collegium recommendations after CJI Gogoi took over

KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL  
NEW DELHI

The government has singularly honoured the recommendations of the Supreme Court Collegium since October 3, the day Justice Ranjan Gogoi took office as the 46th Chief Justice of India.

The Ministry of Law and Justice website shows that 106 judicial appointments to the High Courts and the Supreme Court were issued by the government from October 3 till date. These orders include the appointment of four new judges to the Supreme Court on November 1, less than a month since Chief Justice Gogoi took over as the top judge.

The government also approved 16 transfers of judges



The Centre also approved appointment of four new Supreme Court judges.

to the various High Courts.

In fact, the total 122 appointments and transfers (106+16) come within 26 days of CJI Gogoi taking over. That is, the number of orders of appointments issued by the government is 4.8 times more than the number of

# Cong. delayed Ayodhya hearing: PM

Alleges that party lawyers tried to intimidate Supreme Court judges with threat of impeachment

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
JAIPUR

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday hit out at the Congress, accusing the party of creating impediments to the hearing of the Ayodhya title suit in the Supreme Court and creating an atmosphere of fear for the judiciary. “The Congress scared the judges with the threat of impeachment when they tried to hear the case,” he said.

At a campaign meeting in Alwar district for the Rajasthan Assembly election, Mr. Modi said the Congress’s lawyer-Rajya Sabha members had tried to intimidate the judges or delay the hearing until after the 2019 Lok Sabha election.

Without naming Congress MP Kapil Sibal, who ap-



**Blame game:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressing a rally at Vidisha in Madhya Pradesh, on Sunday. ■PTI

peared in the Supreme Court as counsel in the case, Mr. Modi said: “When a Supreme Court judge wants to hear all parties in a serious and sensitive matter like the Ayodhya dispute, the Congress’s lawyer-Rajya Sabha mem-

bers start the game of scaring the judges in the name of impeachment.”

Mr. Modi’s remarks came on the day when the Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP) organised a “Dharma Sabha” in Ayodhya to push for the Ram

temple’s construction on the disputed site. The notice for impeachment of the then Chief Justice of India, Dipak Mishra, was moved by seven Opposition parties, led by the Congress, in April, with the accusation of “misuse of authority” by him.

### ‘Dangerous game’

Mr. Modi said the Congress was playing a “dangerous game”, as it had no faith in democracy and judiciary. “This party does not hold dialogue and stalls proceedings in Parliament. And now the Supreme Court? We will not allow this *kala kaarna* (black deed) in the temple of democracy,” he said.

In an apparent reference to senior Congress leader C.P. Joshi’s remarks on the caste of Mr. Modi and others

in Nathdwara, from where he is contesting, the Prime Minister said the Congress was bringing the caste issue in the election campaign because it did not have the courage to talk about development.

“Will you vote on the basis of the caste of Modi,” he asked the audience.

Mr. Modi said Congress leaders believed in casteism and had an aversion for the poor and downtrodden. Such statements reflected the basic behaviour and conduct of the Congress, he said.

Rajasthan Chief Minister Vasundhara Raje and the Bharatiya Janata Party candidates from all the 11 Assembly constituencies in Alwar district were present at the meeting.



A replica of the proposed statue of Lord Ram.

■SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

## U.P. to build 221-metre Ram statue

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
AYODHYA

While the Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP) organised a show of strength for a Ram temple in Ayodhya, the BJP government in Uttar Pradesh cleared a proposal to erect a 221-metre-tall bronze statue of Lord Ram on the banks of the Saryu river in the temple town.

The details of the funding, the construction agency or the exact location of the statue have not been made available.

The Ram statue is set to be taller than the 182-metre-high statue of Sardar Patel recently inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in Gujarat.

The proposed structure will comprise a 151-metre Ram statue, a 20-metre umbrella overhead and a 50-metre pedestal, bringing the total height to 221 metres, a government spokesperson said. The pedestal will hold an “ultra-modern museum” showcasing the history of Ayodhya, the Ikshvaku dynasty and the Ram Janmabhoomi, the government said in a note.

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath chose the design from a shortlist of five.

## An uneasy calm in Ayodhya

Some Muslim families left the temple town ahead of VHP meeting

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
AYODHYA

The congregation of right-wing activists in Ayodhya for the Vishwa Hindu Parishad’s mega event to push for the construction of a Ram temple has triggered painful memories of the 1992 tragedy among many residents, with a few Muslim families temporarily leaving the town fearing for their safety.

Some Muslim families had left the pilgrim town for good after the large-scale violence that had erupted here with the demolition of the 16th-century Babri Mosque 26 years ago on December 6, and now many others have temporarily left their homes, say local residents.

Despite high security deployment in Ayodhya and the twin town of Faizabad, many families from minority communities have decided to move out, feeling uncomfortable amid the “din and provocative speeches” surrounding the VHP’s ‘Dharma Sabha’ that is being touted as the largest congregation of “Ram bhakts” in Ayodhya since the 1992 ‘kar seva’, they said.



**Big gathering:** VHP activists near a model of Ram temple in Ayodhya. ■RAJEEV BHATT

An uneasy calm prevailed

in Muslim-dominated areas such as Dharam Kanta, Qaziana and Katra.

“I live here and, many of my Muslim neighbours, who were here till a few days ago, have now left, either to their

relatives’ places nearby or temporarily shifted out of Ayodhya,” Nisha said, pointing to a locked house in her neighbourhood. The situation is similar in Saidwada and Begumpura areas.

## Kartarpur marks a fresh start

Decision to open corridor an unprecedented form of diplomacy, say experts

SUHASINI HAIDAR  
NEW DELHI

As Vice-President Venkaiah Naidu and Punjab Chief Minister Amarinder Singh together unveil a foundation stone on Monday for a six-km route leading from Dera Baba Nanak in Punjab to Kartarpur in Pakistan’s Punjab on Monday, it will not just be the reopening of a route closed by Partition but would also mark the beginning of an unprecedented form of diplomacy, diplomats say.

On Wednesday, Pakistan’s Prime Minister Imran Khan will be joined by two Indian Ministers to lay the foundation stone at the Pakistani side, where pilgrims from India will be able to visit their revered Kartarpur Sahib Gurdwara by November 2019, to mark the 550th an-



**Beyond boundaries:** Devotees near Amritsar viewing the Gurdwara Kartarpur Sahib in Pakistan on Sunday. ■AFP

niversary of Guru Nanak. No Indian Minister has visited Pakistan since Home Minister Rajnath Singh’s SAARC visit in 2016, which were followed by the Uri attacks.

“It just shows that India-Pakistan relations can change very quickly, and change over issues which are not expected,” said former

High Commissioner to Pakistan TCA Raghavan.

### Thaw in ties

To begin with, the emergence of the Kartarpur corridor and cross-border invitations are unique since they come at a time when India and Pakistan have had no dialogue and little contact.

Although a ministerial team of the previous Pakistani caretaker government had visited Delhi in August to console former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee’s death and met External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj, a proposed meeting between the Foreign Ministers in New York in September was called off over terrorist attacks, leaving all plans for dialogue with the new government in limbo.

Secondly, according to former officials involved in the past dialogue process who spoke to *The Hindu*, this is the first time Pakistan has publicly accepted the demand for the corridor, that was made first by Vajpayee during his Lahore visit in 1999 and raised regularly by leaders of the Sikh community.

## PMO refuses to give black money details

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NEW DELHI

The Prime Minister’s Office (PMO) has refused to disclose the quantum of black money brought back from abroad, citing a provision of the Right to Information Act that bars disclosure of information that may impede investigation and prosecution of offenders.

Its response came on an October 16 order passed by the Central Information Commission (CIC), asking the PMO to provide details within 15 days.

The PMO said a special investigation team had already been formed and its investigation was under way. As such, disclosures at this juncture might impede investigation and hence would attract the provision of exemption under Section 8 (1) (h) of the RTI Act, it said in response to the application filed by whistle-blower bureaucrat Sanjiv Chaturvedi. Such investigations came under intelligence and security organisations excluded from the ambit of the RTI Act, the PMO said.

## Accused in Ajmer dargah blast held

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
AHMEDABAD

An accused in the 2007 Ajmer dargah bomb blast, who had been on the run for 11 years, was arrested on Sunday by an anti-terrorism squad from Bharuch in Gujarat.

The National Investigation Agency (NIA), which is probing the case, had announced a reward of ₹2 lakh on the head of the accused, identified as Suresh Nair.

According to the agency,

Nair had allegedly supplied a bomb to the perpetrators and was also present at the blast site, the Gujarat Anti-Terrorism Squad (ATS) said in a statement.

Three persons were killed and 17 injured in the blast that occurred on October 11, 2007.

After he was apprehended from Bharuch, Nair was shifted to Ahmedabad for further investigation, the ATS said. He is a resident of Thasara in Kheda.



[IN FOCUS: CONGRESS VS BJP]

# Rural voters hold the key in Madhya Pradesh

Shivraj Singh Chouhan faces his biggest test yet as discontent with the State government rises among farmers

**VIKAS PATHAK**  
BHOPAL

Livelihood and opportunity: these are the buzz words of the Madhya Pradesh election this time.

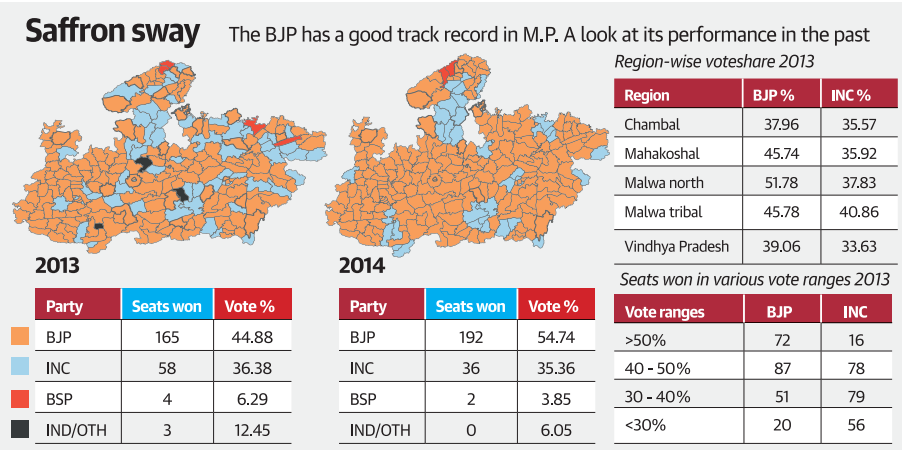
There is an anti-incumbency mood among farmers across large swathes of the State, which makes this election more challenging for Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan than the previous ones.

As much as 72% of the State's population live in villages, meaning rural voters can be a decisive influence on the polls.

"Farming has become a losing proposition now. In this election, we want change," Manoj Patidar, a Mandsaur farmer, says.

Issues of employment also resonate in urban areas, though political preferences are mixed here and the BJP seems to be doing better here than in villages. However, one does come across traders who are complaining about the GST, including upper caste ones.

While an anti-BJP sentiment is on the rise, there is



no positive wave for the Congress. It is largely a default beneficiary of the churn.

**Dominant refrain**  
While in villages one hears of a "mood for change (*parivartan*)", the dominant refrain in cities is that this election will be keenly fought (*Kaante ki takkar*).

For the first time since he came to power, there are signs of weariness with Mr. Chouhan, even if most people acknowledge his past work.

People talk of corruption

at lower levels now. Some say the Centre's decisions on the GST and a strong move towards Aadhaar in recent times have hurt people, as the access of the poor to services, payments and subsidies has got procedurally complicated.

**Past patterns**  
The BJP was ahead of the Congress by nine percentage points in 2013, which may offer the former some solace. However, the massive vote swings in recent polls in Tripura, Uttar Pradesh and

Delhi suggest that each election is a fresh test.

Another factor that may give the BJP some hope is that it has a stronger organisation than the Congress. However, its leaders like Sar-taj Singh, Sanjay Sharma and Kam-lapat Arya – apart from the Chief Minister's own brother-in-law – have shifted to the Congress this time.

While the Congress has tried to show a more united face this time, party workers on the ground still have strong loyalties to one or other of the three State leaders:

Jyotiraditya Scindia, Kamal Nath and Digvijaya Singh. The Scindia-centricism of the party around Morena and Gwalior suddenly shifts into a Digvijaya-loyalty in Raghogarh.

**Cultural nuances**  
This election also seems to be throwing some cultural nuances: a subterranean presence of competing upper caste and Dalit concerns over the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Pre-vention of Atrocities) Act, and a nebulous sense of a tribal identity among educated Bhils and Bhilalas. The latter current may now benefit the Congress in Malwa, with the young leader of JAYS (Jai Adi-vasi Yuva Shakti) Hiralal Alawa becoming a Congress candidate. Farm discontent and tribal realignments make the 65-seat Malwa region, the BJP's stronghold, an interesting contest this time.

While more upper castes are still with the BJP, one comes across those among them who are critical of the State government. The rea-

sons vary from complaints about employment to a hint of unease over the restoration of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Act), which has led to general discontent over reservation also surfacing. And there is already the SAPAKS Party looking to wean away a section of the upper castes from the BJP.

There is a palpable anti-government sentiment among Dalits this time. The complaints range from rural unrest to a feeling of bitterness over police action against those who protested the Supreme Court's introduction of procedural safeguards to the SC/ST Act. This, however, is likely to complicate Dalit voting patterns in the Chambal region, where the BSP has been a player in the past.

"Yes, the BSP is also our party but we want the Congress to come to power replacing the BJP," says Shri-pad Jatav of Morena.

He admits the BSP will take away the Congress' votes, but insists Dalits will vote tactically to defeat the BJP.

## Little room for women in Mizoram polls

**RAHUL KARMAKAR**  
AIZAWL

Women comprise 51.25% of the 7,68,181 voters in Mizoram. But the strike rate for women candidates in the Assembly elections has been poor – only four have become MLAs since the first election in 1972.

The Mizo Hmeichhe In-suihkhawm Pawl (MHIP), an influential women's organisation, helped Vanlalawmpuii Chawngthu win a bye-election in 2014 and eventually become the Minister of State for Sericulture, Fisheries, and Cooperation in Lal Thanhawla's Congress government.

Ms. Chawngthu would probably not have been considered had Mr. Thanhawla not given up Hrangturzo, one of the two seats he won in 2013.

In the current election, Ms. Chawngthu is one of 15 women contesting but the

only one fielded by the Congress. "The party trusts my ability to win," she said.

The BJP has fielded five women while the evangelical Zoram Thar has five woman candidates, the Zoram People's Movement two and the Nationalist Congress Party one.

The Mizo National Front defended its lack of women candidates. "We did not find a suitable candidate. It is always the smaller, unsure parties that field women," party president and former Chief Minister Zoramthanga said.

"We had appealed to all parties in 2013 to field women, but they were not forthcoming. We threw our weight behind Ms. Chawngthu in the 2014 bypoll to make a gender statement, and not show our loyalty to any party [Congress]," MHIP's finance secretary Thanpuii told *The Hindu*.

## Signpost



**Press the button:** Models of an EVM and a VVPAT machine kept by the Election Commission on a road in Khammam of Telangana to create awareness among voters. \* G.N. RAO

## You first! Parties delay manifestos

Congress, TRS play the waiting game

**N. RAHUL**  
HYDERABAD

It's a game of cat and mouse between the Telangana Rashtra Samiti and the Congress as they delay the release of their election manifestos with just 12 days left for the Assembly election in the State.

Each party wants to score a point over the other, and hence is waiting to find out what all promises and schemes the rival manifesto contains.

The game has been going on since October 16 when TRS president and Chief Minister K. Chandrababhan Rao partially released the contents of the proposed document in the hope that the Congress would build on it and come up with its own paper.

The Congress did not rise to the bait, but reiterated the promises it has been making in the past six months – raising the ceiling of crop loan waiver, social security pension and investment support for agriculture, and unemployment allowance.

**Plans ridiculed**  
The TRS mocked the proposals, saying they were impractical and not within the budget of the State.

"It would require the budget of four States to fulfil such promises," a party leader said.



Mr. Rao even dismissed the plan to pay dole as he sought to know the definition of unemployment and the basis for identifying beneficiaries.

The TRS missed quite a few deadlines in the release of manifesto after the initial proposals, and the latest word from the party is that it will be done in a couple of days.

**Draft given to CM**  
K. Keshava Rao, manifesto committee chairman and parliamentary party leader, met Mr. Rao on Sunday and handed over the draft document together with fresh representations received from people for inclusion of their demands.

B. Vinod Kumar, Karimnagar MP, told *The Hindu* that Mr. Rao did not have time to attend to the preparation of the manifesto in the middle of the campaign. He said the document would address health and educational issues, in addition to the promises made.

## Joblessness haunts tribal Magardha

People forced to leave the village to distant States to earn a living

**SANDEEP PHUKAN**  
MAGARDHA

Beyond the picture perfect landscape of the Bargi dam on the Narmada river lies Magardha, a tribal-dominated village in Madhya Pradesh, about 40 km from Jabalpur city.

"My two sons are working in Nagpur and I live on the money they put in my bank accounts. It would be good if our boys can get jobs nearby and stay with us," says Komal Bhumiya, a member of the Bharia tribe, sharing his expectations from the Assembly election.

The village, with nearly 350 residents, has a primary school and electricity from the neighbouring hydel power plant and is connected by a new road. The biggest complaint here is a lack of jobs.

**"Only fishing"**  
"Our only source of income is fishing and, in that too, the rates are very low. For small fish, we get ₹10 to ₹20 a kg, while larger fish fetch ₹25 a kg," said Ballu Barman, a 28-year-old fisherman.

Magardha is part of the Bargi Assembly constituency, where Pratibha Singh of the BJP is the MLA. Though her main opponent is Sanjay Yadav of the Congress, her daughter-in-law Jyoti Singh is contesting against her on Samajwadi Party ticket.

The contest has become interesting as the SP has tied up with the Gondwana Gan-tantra Party (GGP), which



People like Hisabi Lal of Bargi talk of livelihood concerns rather than politics. \* A.M. FARUQUI

has made inroads in the tribal areas of the Mahakoshal region. The alliance could eat into tribal votes for both the parties.

About 21% of the State's population is tribal and 47 of the 230 seats are reserved for them. But though the Congress had appointed a tribal leader, Kanti Lal Bhuria, before the previous Assembly election, the strategy did not work and the BJP won 35 tribal seats.

In the upcoming election, the Congress is hoping to gain support by highlighting the Shivraj Singh Chouhan government's flip-flop over the SC/ST Act.

Opinions at Bargi, as in other areas, are sharply divided. Families of workers who were employed during construction at the dam site

in the early 1970s have now settled here.

The village has a functional dispensary and a community hall. Lack of jobs and corruption at the panchayat level in providing the benefits of welfare schemes are common complaints.

"The main problem here is employment. To find work, we have to go to Nagpur, Hyderabad and even Tamil Nadu," says Narendra Rajjak, one of the few graduates here, who earn a living by selling milk.

**"Rampant corruption"**  
He does not indicate his voting preference but talks of "rampant corruption".

"Look at this temple that has been constructed by the panchayat. Does it look like a temple costing ₹1.5 lakh,"

asked Mr. Rajjak, pointing to a temple without walls, with a few idols placed under a concrete roof.

Hisabi Lal, a Gond Adivasi who rears goats for a living, is open about his political preference. "This time, I think will vote for the *panja* (hand)," he says, alluding to the Congress symbol.

**No wishlist**  
Despite being a part of one of the poorest families here, Mr. Lal does not have a wishlist, other than that the "new government should make our lives comfortable".

Govind Rajjak joins in on seeing a group of four or five villagers. "Development is a gradual process and people must compare [the present government] with what the Congress has given us in the past 50-60 years. The BJP has done a lot of development for the poor whereas the Congress is led by *rajas* and *maharajas*," he says.

**'Royal lineage'**  
In all its campaigns, the BJP has targeted the "royal lineage" of leaders like Jyoti-raditya Scindia and Digvijaya Singh with the slogan "*Maaf karo Maharaj, hamara neta Shivraj*" (Pardon us, king. Our leader is Shivraj [Chouhan]).

"The Congress only talks about the poor but the BJP actually works for them. The people of Madhya Pradesh know this and will give an answer on November 28," Mr. Rajjak says.

## POLL POURRI

'Mama' in a new playing field

**AIZAWL**

Footballers are stars in Mizoram. Hence, the Election Commission chose the 34-year-old Shylo Malsawmtluanga as the State's SVEEP (systematic voters' education and electoral participation) icon. Mama, as Shylo is popularly known, was a familiar face in Kolkata's football circles before returning to Mizoram in 2017 to play for Aizawl FC. He left the club this year to earn a trainers' licence for running his new football academy. "Motivating people to vote is a new game, and I am enjoying every bit of it," he said.



Chouhan is BJP's USP: Bharti



**NEW DELHI**

Rallying behind Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan, Union Minister Uma Bharti said he was the BJP's USP (unique selling proposition) in the election. Ms. Bharti was replaced as Chief

Minister by Mr. Chouhan in 2004, just a year after she was elected to the top post. She said the BJP would continue its winning run in the State. To a question on the Congress's prospects, she said: "The Congress is a divided house. It has no vision for the State. People of the State are with us, we will win." PTI

Adityanath targets Rahul

**INDORE**

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath launched a scathing attack on Congress president Rahul Gandhi at an election meeting here. "I do not understand what Rahul Gandhi says. Sometimes it is difficult to understand if he is speaking in India or in Pakistan," he said. "The only thing that the Congress got from Italy is mafia. They made six Hindi-speaking States 'Bimaru'. The party has done nothing in 70 years." ANI



NPP thinks long term

**AIZAWL**

The National People's Party, contesting nine seats in Mizoram, has no pretensions about making a big splash. The party's president and Meghalaya Chief Minister, Conrad K. Sangma (in photo), has

indicated that the NPP, a member of the BJP-led North East Democratic Alliance, is only testing the waters. "We have a long-term plan and hope to be a major player in Mizoram and other north-eastern States within 40 years," he said during a campaign. Lianzuala, one of the NPP candidates, is contesting two seats where Brus are a major electoral force.

**Congress has not given a penny to farmers, let alone a bonus. The Congress president says he will do this and that within 10 days; ask him to get the moon and he might do that as well in 10 days. Not a single paisa of farm loans has been waived off in Punjab, Karnataka**

**SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN**  
MADHYA PRADESH CHIEF MINISTER



## DATA BYTE

### Deepening Pockets

The assets of re-contesting candidates in the Madhya Pradesh Assembly elections have significantly increased since the last election in 2013.

Party	MLAs*	Average Assets in 2013 (₹ cr.)	Average Assets in 2018 (₹ cr.)	Average Rise in Assets (%)
BJP	107	4.6	8.5	84.64
INC	53	6.59	9.82	49.1
BSP	4	3.22	7.74	139.99
IND	2	2.58	2.89	11.97
SP	1	0.41	1.72	311.58

The table below shows the MLAs whose assets have increased the most in absolute terms (₹ cr.)

MLA	Seat	Assets in 2013	Assets in 2018
Satyendra Pathak (BJP)	Vijayraghavgarh	121	226
Sanjay Sharma (INC)	Tendukeda	65	130
Divyaraj Singh (BJP)	Sirmour	4.16	62
Sudhesh Rai (BJP)	Sehore	10	67

\*Re-contesting MLAs Source: ADR

## POCKET | SURENDRA



These parties take the rebel problem sportingly. Two rebels are exchanging party colours while switching parties.



# EU leaders back May’s Brexit deal

Spotlight shifts to U.K. govt.’s ability to persuade Parliament to approve the agreement later this year

**VIDYA RAM**  
LONDON

A year and a half of negotiations on the terms of Britain’s withdrawal from the EU came to an end formally on Sunday, as leaders of the 27 EU nations agreed to the terms of the controversial agreement at a summit in Brussels.

The approval comes after Britain and Spain reached agreement on the status of Gibraltar, removing a last-minute dispute that threatened to jeopardise the deal. However, it is far from the end of the battle for Britain’s Conservative government, which faces stiff opposition within its own ranks and from other political parties, who could vote down the deal as it passes through the parliamentary approval process.



**Common view:** European Council President Donald Tusk, left, and British Prime Minister Theresa May attending a round table meeting at the EU summit in Brussels on Sunday. ■AP

**‘Partners & allies’**

Donald Tusk, the President of the European Council, announced that the EU 27 leaders had endorsed the withdrawal agreement and the non-binding political declaration of future relations between the EU and the U.K. “We will remain partners, allies, friends,” said Michel Barnier, the lead EU negotiator, at the start of the summit on Sunday.

The course to the Sunday summit appeared set last week, after negotiators on both sides reached agreements on the terms of the treaty and the political declaration. However, uncertainty returned as Spain expressed its concerns about the inclusion of Gibraltar in the withdrawal agreement and threatened

to exert its veto unless there were assurances that the territory would be the subject of separate bilateral negotiations between Spain and the U.K.

A compromise has since been reached - which Spain has touted as a concession by Britain (a suggestion Britain has in turn rebutted), which resulted in the Spanish government withdrawing its opposition.

However, the significant developments in Brussels will now put the spotlight firmly back on Westminster, and the government’s ability to persuade Parliament to approve the deal later this year. Over the past week, as opposition to the deal increased within Parliament,

Theresa May attempted to reach out to the public and businesses in the U.K. to get them on her side. On Saturday she published an open letter to the public, urging “renewal and reconciliation” and for people to get behind the deal. She insisted that the deal worked for both the ‘Leave’ and ‘Remain’ supporters.

**DUP warning**

However, parliamentary opponents show no sign of backing down, calling for the removal of the controversial “backstop” mechanism to ensure there isn’t a danger of a hard border developing in Northern Ireland.

While Conservatives believe the backstop’s existence

prevents Britain from truly taking back control (while at the same time leaving Britain without a voice at the table), the DUP of Northern Ireland believe it would threaten the country’s territorial sovereignty.

Speaking on the BBC on Sunday morning, the party’s leader Arlene Foster indicated that they would vote against the deal and urged the government to return to the negotiating table to avoid this. Ms. Foster warned that the party would have to review the confidence and supply agreement, under which it has been supporting the Conservative government.

The Labour Party also insisted that the deal represented the “worst of all

worlds.” “It gives us less say over our future, and puts job and living standards at risk,” said Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn.

**‘Best one’**

Speaking in Brussels, however, Ms. May insisted that the deal was the “best one” available to the U.K., and urged parliamentarians to back the deal and avoid any move that would “open the door to yet more division and uncertainty.”

President of the EU Commission Jean Claude Juncker also indicated that there was no possibility for further concessions from the EU side. “The European Union will not change its fundamental position,” he said.

# Rajapaksa was only third choice: Sirisena

Jayasuriya, Sajith Premadasa declined offer, says President

**MEERA SRINIVASAN**  
COLOMBO

Sri Lankan President Maithripala Sirisena on Sunday said Mahinda Rajapaksa was only his third choice for the Prime Minister’s post, after Karu Jayasuriya, Speaker and former UNP politician, and UNP Deputy Leader Sajith Premadasa declined the offer.



**Power point:** In this file photo, Mahinda Rajapaksa, left, speaks with President Maithripala Sirisena at a rally in Colombo. ■AFP

“I didn’t have any other option,” he told foreign correspondents, as he sought to justify Mr. Rajapaksa’s disputed appointment in place of Ranil Wickremesinghe.

Since October 26, Mr. Rajapaksa has effectively lost four votes in the legislature, including two trust votes whose outcomes Mr. Sirisena has refused to accept, citing “breach of parliamentary procedure.”

**Long-simmering discord**

Mr. Sirisena’s differences with Mr. Wickremesinghe - which he said were not recent but began in 2015 after they jointly formed the government - were largely on two issues: Mr. Wickremesinghe’s “corruption and destructive neoliberal economic policy”, and his “attempt to underplay” the alleged assassination plot targeting the President.

There were “over 100 instances” of tension - both major and minor - between the two leaders, and the Cabinet was aware of their friction, said Mr. Sirisena.

However, following the crisis Mr. Wickremesinghe

said he was willing to work with Mr. Sirisena, as the Constitution didn’t provide for “personal prejudices.”

Asked how he could partner with Mr. Rajapaksa - whom he had earlier accused of mass corruption and possible murder - President Sirisena said: “If you look at accusations made in the past, no two politicians can work together... we have now agreed on a common future course for our country. Just the way Ranil and I had agreed in 2015, despite our very different political paths.”

**Tamil concerns**

On whether he could fulfil promises on long-pending post-war reconciliation given that he is now partnering Mr. Rajapaksa, who the minorities emphatically rejected in 2015, Mr. Sirisena said: “Irrespective of who I am with, I take the fullest responsibility for that. I have asked the military to fully vacate people’s land by the end of the year, and have given directions to the task force on the north and the east to expedite development efforts.”

While the Sirisena-Wickremesinghe administration has returned some of the military-held private land to war-affected Tamils, civilians have been protesting incessantly to reclaim their land that still remains under military occupation. Those who have returned to their original land have received little support to rebuild their destroyed homes.

Meanwhile, Mr. Rajapaksa, in an address on Sunday at the Prime Minister’s office that he has occupied since his disputed appointment, said his “new administration” was only a “caretaker government” until snap general elections. He sought wide support for his attempts “to get the country out of the current economic crisis.”

# Trump’s ex-aide sent to jail

**REUTERS**  
WASHINGTON

A U.S. federal judge on Sunday denied a motion by George Papadopoulos, a former aide for Donald Trump’s 2016 Presidential campaign, seeking to postpone his sentence pending a separate case he hoped would lead to his conviction being overturned.

Mr. Papadopoulos will report to jail on Monday to start his 14-day sentence after judge Randolph Moss dis-



George Papadopoulos. ■AFP

missed his 11th hour bid to remain out on bail.

Mr. Papadopoulos, who pleaded guilty to lying to federal agents probing ties between the campaign and

Russia, had sought to delay his sentence while a separate case challenging the legality of Special Counsel Robert Mueller’s appointment is ongoing. Mr. Moss said Papadopoulos’ motion lacked merit.

Mr. Papadopoulos pleaded guilty in October 2017. In addition to the two-week jail term, he was sentenced to one year of supervised release, 200 hours of community service and a \$9,500 fine.

# Democrats to probe Trump money ties

This is to determine whether they are driving U.S. foreign policy on Russia and Saudi Arabia: lawmaker

**AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE**  
WASHINGTON

Democrats intend to probe U.S. President Donald Trump’s financial ties to determine whether they are the “hidden hand” driving U.S. foreign policy on Russia and Saudi Arabia, the incoming chairman of the House Intelligence Committee said on Sunday.

Adam Schiff, currently the

ranking Democrat on that committee, accused Mr. Trump of being “dishonest” about the role of Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman in the murder of journalist Jamal Khashoggi.

**‘Have to find out’**

“What is driving this?” Mr. Schiff asked, questioning “whether there’s a financial motivation; that is, his own

personal finances.”

“Is his personal financial interest driving U.S. policy in the Gulf? Vis-a-vis the Russians? We don’t know, but it would be irresponsible not to find out,” he said on CNN’s ‘State of the Union’.

Khashoggi, a *Washington Post* columnist, was murdered in the Saudi consulate in Istanbul. The Saudis, who changed their version of

events as evidence was made public in Turkey, have insisted that Prince Mohammed had no prior knowledge of the assassination - an interpretation which Mr. Trump has accepted.

“The CIA doesn’t say they did it,” Mr. Trump said on Thursday. “They do point out certain things, and in pointing out those things, you can conclude that

maybe he did or maybe he didn’t.”

Republican Senator Mike Lee, an opponent of the U.S. involvement in the Saudi-led intervention in Yemen, said Mr. Trump’s assessment was “inconsistent with the intelligence I’ve seen.” “The intelligence I’ve seen suggests that this was ordered by the Crown Prince,” he said on NBC’s ‘Meet the Press’.

## IN BRIEF



**Iraq floods leave 21 dead in two days**

**BAGHDAD**

At least 21 people have died and tens of thousands displaced by heavy rains that have battered Iraq over two days, the Health Ministry and United Nations said on Sunday. Women and children were among the dead, Health Ministry spokesman Seif al-Badr said. Some had drowned, but others died in accidents, were electrocuted, or were trapped when their houses collapsed. ■AFP

**Taiwan voters reject same-sex union**

**TAIPEI**

Voters in Taiwan passed a referendum asking that marriage be restricted to one man and one woman. The vote on Saturday goes against a May 2017 Constitutional Court ruling, which directed legislators then to make same-sex marriage legal within two years, a first for Asia. ■AP

**Pak. arrests 2 for attack on Chinese consulate**

**KARACHI**

Two persons have been arrested in Pakistan in connection with the recent terror attack on the Chinese consulate here in which seven people, including three militants, were killed, media reports said on Sunday. Those arrested are the brothers of Abdul Razzaq Baloch, who was one of the three militants of the Balochistan Liberation Army which claimed the attack on Friday. ■PTI

# Scores poisoned in Aleppo, Russia, Syria blame rebels

**REUTERS**  
BEIRUT

More than 100 people were wounded in Syria’s Aleppo late on Saturday in a suspected toxic gas attack, which the government and its ally, Russia, blamed on insurgents.

A health official said victims suffered breathing difficulties, eye inflammation and other symptoms suggesting the use of chlorine gas. Rebel officials denied the allegations and said their forces did not possess chemical weapons.

Russia’s Defence Ministry said on Sunday that its warplanes bombed militants in the insurgent stronghold of



A man receiving oxygen at a hospital in Aleppo. ■SANA/AP

Idlib. Major-General Igor Konashenkov said Moscow sent advance warning to Ankara, which backs some rebel factions and helped broker a ceasefire in Idlib.

A monitoring group said air strikes hit rebel territory in northwest Syria on Sunday for the first time since Russia and Turkey agreed a buffer zone there in September. In Aleppo city, which the government controls, the shells had spread a strong stench and caused breathing problems, the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights also said.

State news agency SANA said 107 people were injured, including children, after militants hit three districts with projectiles containing gases that caused choking. “We suspected chlorine and treated patients on this basis because of the symptoms,” said Zaher Batal, the head of the Aleppo Doctors Syndicate.

# 30 dead in Uganda boat capsizes

**AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE**  
KAMPALA

Thirty people drowned and more than 60 were feared dead after a party boat sank in Lake Victoria, the Ugandan police said on Sunday.

“Thirty bodies have been recovered and 27 people rescued,” said police spokesperson Zura Ganyana.

“According to one of the survivors there were more than 90 people on board,” said Asuman Mugenyi, director of operations for the Uganda police.

The boat carrying nearly 100 revellers sank in bad weather on Saturday.

# ‘Facebook ads helped Trump win poll’

His team spent \$44 million for advertisement during the 2016 campaign: study

**PRESS TRUST OF INDIA**  
LONDON

Micro-targeted advertising on Facebook was very effective in persuading undecided voters to support Donald Trump during the 2016 U.S. Presidential elections, a study has found.

According to the researchers from the Charles III University of Madrid in Spain, Mr. Trump’s team spent 44 million dollars on Facebook, with 1,75,000 different adverts during the 2016 election campaign, compared to a spend of 28 million dollars by Democrat candidate Hillary Clinton.



A file photo of the U.S. President at a poll campaign

In order to carry out these campaigns, the messages were sent out to Facebook users based on various factors, such as their gender, location or political allegiance. This increased the probability that a non-aligned voter

would decide to vote for candidate Trump by at least five percentage points, according to the study.

On the other hand, the results showed that Ms. Clinton did not manage to increase support among her potential natural voters nor boost their participation in the elections. “Unfortunately, we do not have the necessary data to be able to understand why it worked for Mr. Trump and not for Ms. Clinton,” the researchers said.

The impact of the campaign was strongest among voters who used Facebook regularly, those who used

this social media as their main source of news and among voters without university or college-level education.

“Our results show that learning about politics on Facebook does not make voters more informed, but does make them less likely to change their voting choice, which is very in line with the concept of political polarisation,” said Federica Liberni, from the ETH Zurich in Switzerland. “This effect is particularly visible among men, Republican voters and people with a low level of education,” she said.



IN BRIEF



**I-T dept. sells Cairn stock towards tax recovery**  
NEW DELHI  
The Income Tax Department has sold almost all of Cairn Energy Plc.'s attached shares to recover a part of the ₹10,247 crore retrospective tax demand, regulatory filings showed. Cairn Energy held 4.95% stake in Vedanta Ltd., which the department attached after issuing a ₹10,247 crore tax demand in 2014 on alleged capital gains the British firm made on a decade-old reorganisation of its India business. PTI

**FPIs' inflow in November stands at ₹6,310 crore**  
NEW DELHI  
Foreign investors have pumped in ₹6,310 crore into capital markets this month so far, after pulling out massive funds in October, on easing crude oil prices and a strengthening rupee. Of these, most of the funds were infused in the debt market by foreign portfolio investors, depositories data showed. The recent inflows come after a net outflow of more than ₹38,900 crore in October. PTI

**InterGlobe Aviation chairman passes away**  
NEW DELHI  
InterGlobe Aviation, which operates the country's largest airline IndiGo, on Sunday said its chairman Devadas Mallaya Mangalore passed away in the morning. He was also a non-executive independent director. He had served as the CMD of Bank of Baroda and Bank of Maharashtra. "Mr. Mallaya's demise is an irreparable loss to the company and all the directors and employees convey their condolences to his family," it added. PTI

Mahindra launches premium SUV Alturas G4

Auto major prices model at ₹26.95 lakh, aims to garner 10-12% share in high-end segment

**LALATENDU MISHRA**  
JAIPUR  
Mahindra & Mahindra Ltd. (M&M) has introduced its high-end SUV, the Alturas G4, in the Indian market. This is the most expensive vehicle from the Mahindra stable and possibly the most premium one by any Indian automobile brand. Alturas G4, which is Rexton G4 of Ssangyong, a Mahindra subsidiary, will be available at Mahindra dealerships across India starting November 26 at an introductory price of ₹26.95 lakh (all India ex-showroom) for the 2WD variant and ₹29.95 lakh for the four wheel drive. Pawan Goenka, MD, M&M said: "The launch of the Alturas G4 is a significant moment in the automotive journey of Mahindra which will take the brand to the next le-



**Brand boost:** Alturas G4's 'endorsed' brand strategy will heighten brand aspiration, says Pawan Goenka, MD, M&M. which is also its positioning," he said. **Indian peers** This vehicle will compete with Toyota Fortuner, Ford Endeavour, Skoda Kodiaq, Hyundai Santa Fe, Isuzu MU-X, Honda CR-V and

Volkswagen Tiguan and a host of luxury cars in this segment. Mahindra has created separate space at its dealerships for the retailing of this vehicle and a relationship manager will be provided to each Alturas G4 owner for personalised service. The company plans to sell 500 units every month and corner 10-12% of the segment. Rajan Wadhwa, president, Automotive Sector, M&M said: "The Alturas G4, with its imposing design, exquisite interiors, state-of-the-art technology, exhilarating performance and unmatched safety, all at an attractive price point, is poised to redefine the high-end SUV segment." *(The writer was in Jaipur at the invitation of Mahindra & Mahindra)*

'Won't use SsangYong brand here'

**LALATENDU MISHRA**  
MUMBAI  
Following lukewarm response to the SsangYong Rexton SUV in India, M&M has decided not to launch SsangYong-branded vehicles in the country. Instead, it will use the Korean subsidiary's expertise to develop and sell SUVs in India under the M&M brand. The launch of Alturas G4, which is the Rexton G4 of SsangYong, is a step in this direction.

Essar Steel bid: SCB files plea in NCLT

Seeks rejection of ArcelorMittal's bid  
**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT**  
MUMBAI  
Standard Chartered Bank (SCB) has approached the Ahmedabad Bench of the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT), seeking to reject the resolution plan of ₹42,000 crore submitted by ArcelorMittal for Essar Steel. Last month, the bank had filed a caveat in the Essar Steel insolvency case in the dedicated bankruptcy court as dissenting financial creditor, so that it could be heard before the tribunal decides on ArcelorMittal's bid. The case is likely to come up for hearing on Monday. SCB said it was aggrieved by the discriminatory practice of the Committee of Creditors (CoC), in illegally forming a core committee of CoC (beyond the scope of IBC) to negotiate with ArcelorMittal. It said that the core committee included SBI, ICICI Bank, IDBI Bank and Edelweiss ARC, which "illegally negotiated with ArcelorMittal and retained the right to distribute the amount of ₹42,000 crore of upfront payment among the financial creditors as per the choice of the core committee members." The Indian subsidiary of British banking major Standard Chartered, which has more than 7.5% weightage in the voting process, has voted against the resolution plan of ArcelorMittal, which was approved by the CoC and sent to NCLT for approval.

Cotton production estimated to decline

'Mill performance points to good year'

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT**  
COIMBATORE  
Cotton production this season might be less than that seen last year. According to provisional estimates made by the Cotton Advisory Board, which met on November 22, the production from October 2018 to September 2019 is estimated to be 361 lakh bales as against 370 lakh bales last season. While the total area under cotton for last year was 124.29 lakh hectares, it was 122.38 lakh hectares for this season. The average yield (kg per hectare) has also reduced from 506.07 to 501.47. Cotton demand by textile mills, including small-scale units, might be slightly higher this year at 305 lakh bales

from 303 lakh bales last year. K. Selvaraju, secretary general of Southern India Mills' Association, who took part in the Board's meeting, said that while there is not much change in area, parts of cotton growing areas in Gujarat and Maharashtra experienced shortfall in rains. This might hit cotton production. However, crop estimates are provisional and can change in the coming months. With a better domestic market, the performance of textile mills has improved after March. So, cotton demand by the mills is projected to be higher. It is likely to be a comfortable year for both farmers and the industry, he said.

Lack of awareness pushes buyers into flat-rate loans

'Lenders not obligated by norms to disclose effective interest on a reducing-balance basis'

**TCA SHARAD RAGHAVAN**  
NEW DELHI

Lack of awareness among loan applicants, reluctance among non-banking finance companies (NBFCs) to be upfront about their products, and a certain laxity about disclosure norms by the sector regulator have meant that customers end up paying much higher interest on loans than they should, according to new-age industry players.

**Reducing-balance loan** A frequent occurrence is when NBFCs don't convey to the borrower that a reducing balance loan works out cheaper than a fixed-rate loan, even though the latter ostensibly starts at a lower interest rate. "There are two types of interest rate schemes in per-



No bliss in ignorance: Customers fall for loans with higher interest as they ignore the fine print. •GETTY IMAGES / ISTOCK

sonal loans," said Aditya Kumar, founder and CEO of Qbera, a Bengaluru-based digital lending start-up. "The first is a reducing-balance interest and the other is a flat rate of interest. Reducing balance means that every month, as you repay the principal, the interest

flat rate of 10% will mean the borrower pays a total interest amount of ₹30,000. On a reducing-balance loan of 15%, the borrower ends up paying only ₹24,795 of interest. "A customer, however, will immediately choose the 10% flat rate loan because of the lower interest rate," Bala Parthasarathy, co-founder and CEO, MoneyTap, an app-based credit line, said. "The details are in the fine print, which nobody tends to read." The reason for this, Mr. Kumar explained, is partially that consumers do not know the difference between flat rates and reducing balance rates. "Some lenders are saying they are giving a personal loan at 9.99%. They don't say whether this is a flat rate or a reducing-balance rate. As of today, they are not obligated by the RBI to disclose what the effective interest on a reducing balance basis would be," Mr. Kumar noted. "It's a combination of consumers being misled, the lenders not being transparent, and the regulator not putting the onus on the lenders to make appropriate disclosures. In the U.S., for example, there is something called 'truth in lending', and they have similar Acts elsewhere in the world that govern fair practices and mandatory disclosures." "The banks typically don't do it, but the NBFCs do. And this is a big problem, because the NBFCs cater to that segment of the population that is not too educated about financial matters," Mr. Parthasarathy added.

INTERVIEW | SESHAGIRI RAO

We have not missed opportunities to acquire assets under IBC: JSW Steel

'We offered realistic numbers in our bids. If better prices were offered, that's fine'

**PIYUSH PANDEY**

**Seshagiri Rao, joint managing director at JSW Steel helped steer the company's steel making capacity from 1.6 million tonnes per annum (MTPA) in 2002 to make it India's largest private sector steel producer with a capacity of 18 mtpa. In a interview, Mr. Rao talks about plans to increase the capacity by 2.5 times to 45 mtpa, competition from international players, and resolution under the IBC process. Edited excerpts.**



**Geographically, we will be the leading player in the west and south**

Do you see ArcelorMittal and other global players coming to India impacting the existing players and change the competitive landscape? ■ Steel is a global commodity, whether you are in X country or Y country, you have to compete globally. After liberalisation in 1991 till 2016, anybody could have exported steel to India as the duties were lower, whatever imports were there, we were competing with them. Similarly, if you see the exports of steel from India from 1991 till 2007, we were net exporters of steel. JSW at that time exported 40% of its production. We were not exporting to some unknown markets but developed markets. India is an open market and anybody can compete globally, steel is a globally traded commodity. We are exporting and also facing import competition, so I don't think it will change the landscape and create any issues in India.

**Why do we suddenly see global players eyeing India. Is it assets under IBC or something else?** ■ India is a growing economy and if there is any country in the world where you see 7% plus steel demand, it's India. We had 91 million

tonnes of steel demand last year and it is expected to be 230 million tonnes in the next 10-12 years. It's a big growth opportunity in India. **How healthy will be competition from ArcelorMittal?** ■ We think any competent player with technology coming into India will bring in healthy competition, which we welcome. Earlier, the small players were desperate to sell products at any price. So it is good today if any strong player is coming and will bring in healthy competition. Geographically, we will be the leading player in West and South. **Under IBC, you missed big opportunities like Bhushan Steel and Essar Steel, and had to be content with Monnet Ispat. Your take?** ■ Wherever we have submitted our bids, we were very competitive and given realistic numbers. If the competitors have given a better price than us, it is fine, but we don't think we have missed a better opportunity. **What's the road ahead for JSW Steel now?** ■ We are expanding our capacities by 40% from 18 mtpa to 25 million. We have also done some acquisition in Europe. In the long run, we plan to have 45 mtpa of capacity by 2030 to maintain our 15% market share. We are planning to almost double our Vijayanagar steel plant to 23 mtpa from 12 mtpa now. We also plan to double the Dolvi plant capacity to 12 mtpa. Monnet Ispat is 1.5 mtpa now with scope for further expansion. We recently signed an MoU with Odisha government to set up a 12 mtpa greenfield plant for ₹35,000 crore.

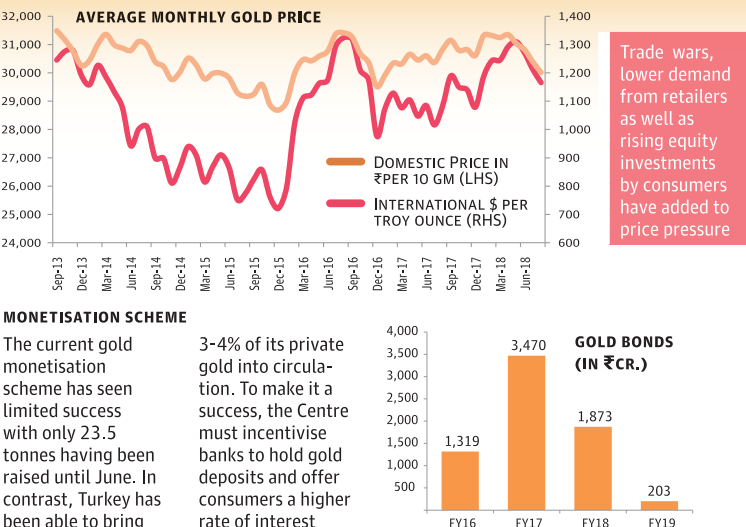
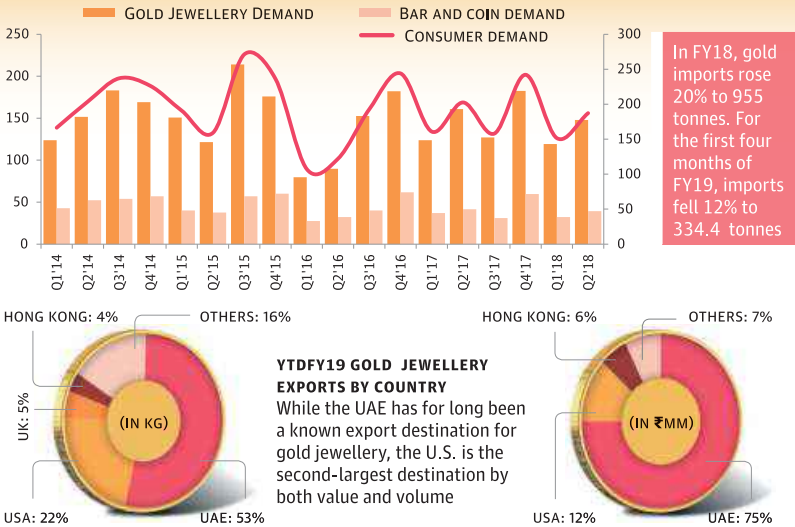
What's your take on the Binani Cement judgment by NCLAT? Does it help your case for Bhushan Power, given your revised bids are higher than the Tatas? ■ This judgment clarifies that maximisation of value can be done till the resolution plan is approved by the adjudicating authority. But it has to be achieved within the process of the IBC. If I understand the judgment correctly, a resolution plan can be improved until it is approved by the adjudicating authority. The second is balancing the interest of all stakeholders. [However] if the value of the assets is less than what secured lenders get, then how is it possible to balance the interest of all the stakeholders? In that case, the judgment says that all should get proportionately. That's one area [where] we need more clarity. This can alter the evaluation of bids, as the evaluation, in my view, is not done based on the proportionate consideration. These two issues need to be finally confirmed. **Isn't it unethical or mockery of IBC process when you are allowed to revise your bids three times from ₹11,000 cr.**





# Will the sheen return?

For the first four months of FY19, a lower than anticipated demand and a depreciating rupee hindered gold imports. Prices were volatile in FY18 and have been on a general downward trend. Trade disputes, a strong dollar and a hike in U.S. interest rates may continue to keep prices muted



The gems and jewellery industry contributes significantly to India's merchandise exports and job creation. A tough business environment has held the industry back in the first four months of FY19

SOURCE: CARE RATINGS | GRAPHIC: KARTHIK S.T

# Ghoshn and the knotty Renault-Nissan dynamics

Allegations against the sacked CEO sound so familiar that we run the risk of accepting them at face value

RAGHUVIR SRINIVASAN

There's an old Tamil saying which says that truth is not what you see or hear but it is what comes out of deep enquiry.

One was reminded of this saying while following developments in the sensational arrest of Carlos Ghosn last week over alleged financial impropriety. Le Cost Killer, as he was known, fell from the dizzying heights of power and fame to the depths of a cold detention centre in Tokyo literally overnight.

It is easy to believe what is being put out in the public domain by Japanese authorities on Mr. Ghosn simply because it is so believable. And because somewhere within us, we want to believe that the high and mighty suffer from the same frailties as the average Joe.

What if Mr. Ghosn was the powerful head of a mighty alliance that was the largest carmaker in the world? He proved to be an average human being in the end. Allegations of under-reporting of income and use of company assets for personal purposes made against Mr. Ghosn sound so familiar that we run the risk of accepting them at face value and thus missing the larger picture.

## Not proved

This is not to suggest that the allegations are a pack of lies; but equally, they've not been proved true either. At least, not yet. Meanwhile, we need to look at the surrounding circumstances of this de-

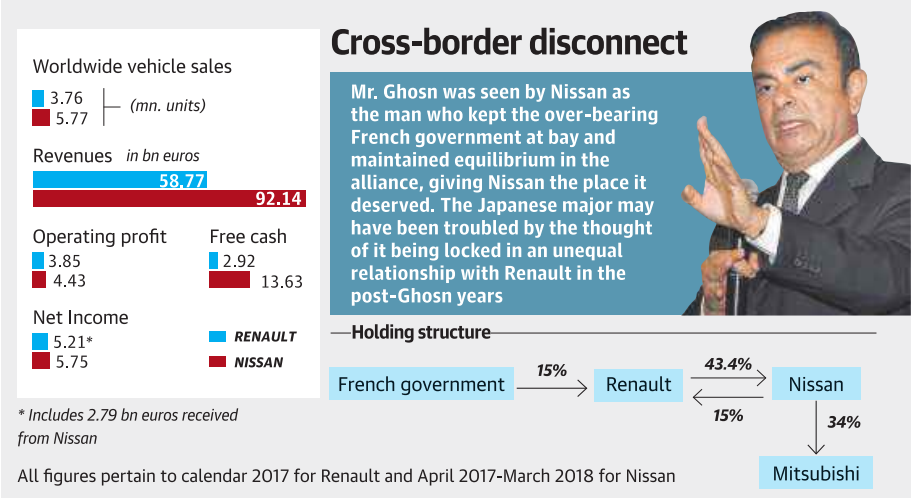
nouement to understand and place the issue in context.

The grim truth is that Mr. Ghosn is locked up now and cannot share his side of the story. All that we have to work with is the information released by the Japanese authorities and the statements by Nissan CEO Hiroto Saikawa. But that's just one side of the story. The French partner in the alliance, Renault, underlined this fact in its press release a continent away: "the [Renault] Board is unable to comment on the evidence *seemingly gathered* against Mr. Ghosn by Nissan and the Japanese judicial authorities."

Second, corporate scandals are not new to Japan. There have been serious lapses by Japanese firms recently. Airbags manufacturer Takata produced faulty products that endangered millions; Suzuki, Yamaha, Mazda and even Nissan faked emissions tests and Kobe Steel falsified quality data on its products used in automobiles, trains and aircraft.

Yet, the authorities did not react the way they have now with Mr. Ghosn.

So, what gives? Mr. Ghosn, with his larger-than-life image and flamboyant lifestyle is the very anti-thesis of what the Japanese believe they stand for. Not for the Japanese stuff such as the Marie-Antoinette themed party that Mr. Ghosn threw for his second marriage in the Palace of Versailles in 2016. This persona of Mr. Ghosn was always jarring for the Ja-



## Cross-border disconnect

Mr. Ghosn was seen by Nissan as the man who kept the over-bearing French government at bay and maintained equilibrium in the alliance, giving Nissan the place it deserved. The Japanese major may have been troubled by the thought of it being locked in an unequal relationship with Renault in the post-Ghosn years

panese but it was tolerated because Nissan needed him.

Mr. Ghosn shoehorned a complex alliance 19 years ago when Nissan was bankrupt, but today Nissan has grown to be bigger and more profitable than its saviour, Renault, and it obviously doesn't go down well with the Japanese that Mr. Ghosn (and Renault) continues to act like the superior partner.

That takes us to a deeper, more complex dynamic that appears to be at play. Mr. Ghosn has managed almost the impossible by maintaining an uneven equilibrium between Renault, which holds a majority 43.4% of Nissan, and Nissan in the last two decades.

## 'Irreversible' alliance

And he has been talking of making the alliance "irreversible" which may have upset the false equilibrium and unsettled the Japanese. There were reports earlier this year

that the French government was interested in pushing through a merger of Renault with Nissan which did not exactly please the Japanese.

A recent report in the Financial Times says that before his arrest, Mr. Ghosn had been planning a merger between Renault and Nissan, which was opposed by the latter's board. Mr. Ghosn was seen by Nissan as the man who kept the over-bearing French government at bay and maintained equilibrium in the alliance, giving Nissan the place it deserved.

However, the Japanese major may have been troubled by the thought of being locked in an unequal relationship with Renault in the post-Ghosn years if he was allowed to make the alliance irreversible.

An auto industry veteran who has worked with the Renault-Nissan alliance summed this up best: "Mr. Ghosn went from being a guy

who was trying to maintain an equilibrium among a set of unequal factors, to a guy who was likely to forge an irreversible relationship that could leave Nissan perpetually handicapped."

While Nissan does hold 15% in Renault, it has no voting rights. It has the cash to buy another 15% in Renault but that would take it past the French government (15.01%) which may not be acceptable to the latter.

An increase in Nissan's stake beyond 25% of Renault would also nullify Renault's voting rights in Nissan as per Japan's Companies Act, which Renault might not want. Mr. Ghosn's arrest must be seen in the context of such complex dynamics.

With the deed now done, what are the options for the alliance? A break-up of the uneasy marriage is obviously the first one. But that will come with tremendous costs in a world that is moving to-

wards common platforms, sourcing and collaborations between OEMs. It will go against the trend and also handicap both partners in their future plans.

Ironically, the alliance is now implementing a plan to synergise its purchasing, engineering, manufacturing and supply-chain management aiming at cost savings of €10 billion by 2022. The synergies have already helped it save €4.3 billion in 2015 and €5.7 billion in 2017.

The second choice is to sustain the present lopsided balance by having a chairman each for Renault and Nissan and a council of chairmen to oversee the alliance. But that would need a strong character at the top, acceptable to both sides, and with Mr. Ghosn now out, there might be none to fill that slot.

The final choice, which appears the most doable even if it comes with its own set of issues, is a renegotiated management structure for the alliance that acknowledges the rise of Nissan in the last two decades and creates a new equilibrium in the relationship.

Striking such a deal may involve either Renault reducing its stake in Nissan or Nissan increasing its stake in Renault that would give it voting powers. Both appear to be easy on paper but will be a challenge to negotiate. Yet, it may be in the best interests of the alliance to find a common ground on these lines and live with each other rather than go their own, separate ways.

# Making farmers do wonders with this grass

A kg of Vetiver oil yields up to ₹58,000

ANNAMALAI S

*Vetiver*, 'the wonder grass' of Tamil Nadu, which has a wide range of applications in the pharma and cosmetic industries, besides anti-soil erosion properties, is spreading roots in the State.

The grass, which grows up to five feet and whose fragrant root reaches up to 10 feet, has huge global demand in the aromatic industry. The grass is popular for its quality to combat soil erosion and absorb carbon dioxide, thus erasing carbon footprints. In the last few years, niche products have been created with *vetiver* by value addition.

*Vetiver* is ideal for the long coastline, as it is suited for sandy soil, says C.K. Ashok Kumar of the India Vetiver Network, which is involved in popularising cultivation in association with Tamil Nadu Agricultural University.

"It is easy to harvest this crop, which fetches very high returns. The vast coastline can be utilised to raise *vetiver* in a big way," says Mr. Ashok, who has been encouraging youngsters, especially those in fishing hamlets, to turn agripreneurs. The grass can be used to purify polluted water bodies, especially temple tanks, and to arrest soil erosion in ghat sections, especially in Kerala and Kodakanal. The grass is now a favourite among inland farmers as well. The yield is low, compared to coastal



Vetiver grower C. Pandian at his farm in Sivaganga district of Tamil Nadu.

areas, but the quality of grass is high, says C. Pandian, who grows *vetiver* on a 10-acre farm in Kuruvadi-patti village of Sivaganga district. Against a yield of two to 2.5 tonnes per acre in coastal areas, inland farmers get 1.5 lakh tonnes. Essential oil recovery is 0.8% in coastal grass and 1.49% in inland grass. One kg of essential oil fetches between ₹30,000 and ₹58,000.

One kg of *vetiver* yields 300 grams of oil and it is possible to realise over ₹1.5 lakh per acre, excluding all expenses, over a period of 10 months, says Mr. Pandian.

Its moisture retention property makes *vetiver* a natural choice for soil conservation and replenishment of ground water. It is ideal for dry land cultivation using organic farming practices, says Mr. Pandian. It is also used in ethanol extraction, as cattle feed and for making handicrafts. Another quality of *vetiver* is that it is an anti-depressant.

# GST gives textiles a leg up

But some gaps remain; expectations are high in new regime

SANJAY JAYAVARTHANAVELU

A year after implementation of the Goods and Services Tax (GST), the system is getting streamlined for the intended purpose of achieving the objective of 'One nation one tax'. In the excise regime, multiple tax systems had increased administrative costs for manufacturers and distributors. With GST in place, the compliance burden has eased.

GST brought in developments and changed the way businesses conducted themselves.

It is commendable on the part of the GST Council to arrive at decisions on a consistent basis, despite differences of opinion among various sectors and political parties.

The textile sector is one of the oldest and largest in the country and a major contributor to the development of the economy. The industry employs both skilled and unskilled manpower and contributes over 10% of the total annual exports of the country, which is likely to increase under the GST regime.

## Tax burden declines

Many from the textile industry have stated that the overall tax burden has come down for the sector to 18% from 20% and that the new system has also increased transparency in the sector, which provides employment to 45 million people.

A majority of the Indian industry functions in the un-



organised sector or the composition scheme, creating a gap in the flow of input tax credit (ITC). If a registered taxpayer procures the input from taxpayers under the composition scheme or the unorganised sector, ITC will not be allowed for him.

With the implementation of GST, the input credit system has smoothly shifted the balance towards the organised sector. By subsuming different taxes such as entry tax, luxury tax and octroi, the costs for manufacturers will be reduced in the textile industry.

For textile mills, the import cost of the latest technology to manufacture textile goods is expensive because the excise duty paid for the same was not allowed in ITC. Under GST, ITC is available for all the tax paid on capital goods.

The process of claiming ITC is simplified in GST, which allows the textile sector to be competitive in the export market.

Expectations are high on three counts. First, yarn now attracts 5% GST and the machinery to manufacture

yarn attracts 18%. This is uneven. Yarn manufacturers will be left with a huge input credit which they won't be able to utilise.

There is no provision under GST to get such accumulated credit as refund for capital goods. This will contribute to dead investment for the textile industry over several years.

Second, a foreign manufacturing company is now permitted to set up a unit without any investment from the domestic market, bring in 100% of their share, and repatriate profit to their countries. This has made the domestic textile machinery manufacturing companies to compete in an unfavourable environment. To safeguard the domestic industry's interest, government should create a level-playing field which will pave the way for 'Make in India' to prosper.

It also keeps domestic industries healthy and facilitates a healthy employment environment. Also, more incentives must be given to the textile sector to help explore the export market at competitive prices.

Finally, a simplified procedure is needed in the e-way bill legislation to ease transportation of goods by minimising documentation, physical verification and the like.

(The author is Deputy Chairman, CII Southern Region & Chairman & Managing Director, Lakshmi Machine Works Ltd.)

## INTERVIEW | T.T. SRINIVASARAGHAVAN

# 'Wanted long-term partner in insurance'

Like Sundaram Finance, Ageas is retail-focussed, says the managing director of SFL

K.T. JAGANNATHAN  
K. BHARAT KUMAR

Sundaram Finance Ltd. (SFL) recently brought in Ageas Insurance International N.V. as partner in its insurance arm Royal Sundaram. T.T. Srinivasaragavan, managing director, SFL, explains why Ageas was chosen and the way forward, among other issues. Excerpts from an interview:

Did SFL also look at private equity investors to divest stake in the insurance arm? Why did you decide on a strategic partner?

■ We did consider the PE option and were in conversations with a few of them. However, philosophically, we prefer and actively seek long-term partnerships and given our DNA, it did not suit our line of thinking, given a PE's typical time horizon of five years. The prospect of an engagement with a strategic partner was therefore very appealing to us since we ourselves are a long-term player.

Ageas, the strategic partner that we have just signed up with, traces its roots to Belgian life insurer Assurances Générales (now AG Insurance), founded in 1824. The company is the largest provider of insurance in Belgium. Like us, they too are a retail-focused company with a strong Asia presence and importantly, have a strong and proven track record of working in joint ventures. That is



something we value greatly. We expect to be able to tap into their expertise and given that they operate in more sophisticated markets in Asia, we hope to leverage some of their best practices in claims management, automation in underwriting and analytics.

With the liquidity stress in the system, this income should help Sundaram Finance.

■ Liquidity has not been a problem for Sundaram Finance, for us it is business as usual. The only adverse impact is that borrowing costs have gone up in light of the liquidity squeeze. This inflow provides us growth capital and will certainly help fund our growth plans.

Has the pressure on Royal Sundaram to go for an initial public offering gone now?

■ IPO was one of the three options we had examined. In the last three years — after the exit of RSA — Royal Sundaram has registered strong

■ We greatly value the fact that Ageas has a strong track record of working in joint ventures

growth, both in top-line and bottom-line. However, the timing was inopportune, given the spate of insurance IPO's in the past 12 months or so. We did not, therefore, pursue that option.

How have their JVs fared in other countries?

■ Their JVs have generally fared well globally. In China, they have been a JV partner with Taiping Life Insurance Company for several years and [it] is a very profitable business. This is the case with several of their JVs in other geographies.

You have retained the Royal name even after the exit of your previous partner...

■ Royal Sun Alliance changed their name to RSA Group several years ago and stopped using 'Royal' in their

name. When we disengaged, we specifically obtained their consent to continue using it. The Royal Sundaram brand is well known in the market and we were keen to retain the name.

What is the current scenario with issues relating to NBFCs dominating headlines?

■ We have to recognise that there are serious structural issues in the system. These have not cropped up overnight. In the instant case, a 30-year asset book was being funded by commercial paper and people naively believed that the plug would never be pulled! They expected roll-overs to continue quarter after quarter. But suddenly, the music stopped.

The problem is that a completely heterogeneous bunch of entities are clubbed together as NBFCs, ignoring the nature of the assets they finance, their asset duration and risk profiles.

An infrastructure financing firm's horizon could be 20 to 30 years, while for a typical commercial vehicle or auto financing NBFC, it is 4-5 years. For consumer goods financing, the average asset duration is typically 6-9 months. To put all of them into one box and tar them with the same brush is grossly unfair. At an extreme, one could argue that a consumer goods financing company can virtually fund its whole business with short-term money. If you refer to ALM

mismatch for long-term infrastructure financing firms or even housing finance companies (HFCs) that is perhaps justified. HFCs have been functioning for many years and lending long-term going up to 15-20 years.

They still do not have matched funding. As their loans are typically at variable rates, they have covered the interest rate risk. But the liquidity risk remains.

But where is the ALM mismatch for short and medium term lenders? By repeatedly referring to ALM mismatch in NBFCs, a panic situation has been created. The other problem is that in the past year, the bond market has dried up and rates have tightened. Debt issuances have come down. Inevitably, some sections of the media played their own part in creating this panic situation by calling it a crisis. No other NBFC has defaulted to date. Sadly, it is the small and medium NBFCs that have been badly hit. For them, the liquidity issue is very real.

They are the ones who provide last-mile credit delivery, lending to the MSMEs (micro, small and medium enterprises) such as small truck owners, traders and small businessmen. We understand that even their previously sanctioned limits have been frozen by some banks. Their growth is likely to be affected and asset quality could be negatively impacted as well.



# Kohli delivers in yet another chase, India shares honours

After a good start, Australian batting comes unstuck against left-arm spinner Krunal Pandya

## OZ CHALLENGE

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE  
SYDNEY

Captain Virat Kohli smashed an unbeaten 61 to steer India to victory with two balls to spare in the third and final T20I against Australia on Sunday, ensuring the series ended all square.

The prolific batsmen lived up to his reputation, coming in when the two openers fell in quick succession after an entertaining 68-run partnership, to prevent Australia earning bragging rights ahead of the four-Test series starting next month.

The home team won a nail-biting and rain-affected first match in Brisbane by four runs, with the second in Melbourne abandoned due to persistent showers.

### Praise for openers

“I thought overall skill-wise we were better today,” said Kohli. “When our openers get into the zone they are difficult to stop. There were a few nervous moments in between, but (for me) it’s always easy when the guys at the top do what they do.”

After being told to bowl, India restricted Australia to 164 for six, with all-rounder Krunal Pandya taking four

### Stat attack

India has never lost the third match of a bilateral T20I series

**1** Krunal Pandya’s four for 36 is the best figures by an Indian in T20Is in Australia and the best by a spinner in the country. It is also the second best by an Indian against Australia



**1** Virat Kohli now has the highest aggregate against a particular opponent (488 vs Australia) in T20Is, surpassing Martin Guptill’s 463 (vs Pakistan)

**4** The India captain (2167 runs, 60 inns) went past Brendon McCullum (2140, 70) to take the fourth spot in the T20I top scorers’ list which is led by Guptill (2271, 73). Rohit sharma (2237, 82) and Shoaib Malik (2190, 101) are second and third respectively

**11** India has not suffered a defeat in a series / tournament consisting of two or more result-oriented games since losing in the 2016 ICC World T20. Of 11 such series, India has emerged victorious in nine, with two ending level

**14** The number of games Kohli has remained unbeaten when chasing in T20Is and India has won on each occasion!

## SCOREBOARD AUSTRALIA VS INDIA, 3RD T20I

### Australia

D’Arcy Short lbw b Krunal 33 (29b, 5x4), Aaron Finch c Krunal b Kuldeep 28 (23b, 4x4), Glenn Maxwell c Rohit b Krunal 13 (16b, 2x4), Ben McDermott lbw b Krunal 0 (1b), Alex Carey c Kohli b Krunal 27 (19b, 4x4), Chris Lynn run out 13 (10b, 1x4), Marcus Stoinis (not out) 25 (15b, 3x4), Nathan Coulter-Nile (not out) 13 (7b, 2x4); Extras (b-1, lb-2, w-9): 12; Total (for six wkts. in 20 overs): 164.

### Fall of wickets

1-68 (Finch, 8.3 overs), 2-73 (Short, 9.1), 3-73 (McDermott, 9.2), 4-90 (Maxwell, 13.1), 5-119 (Carey, 15.5), 6-131 (Lynn, 17.2).

### India bowling

Bhuvneshwar 4-0-33-0, Khaleel 4-0-35-0, Bumrah 4-0-38-0, Kuldeep 4-0-19-1, Krunal 4-0-36-4.

### India

Rohit Sharma b Zampa 23 (16b, 1x4, 2x6), Shikhar Dhawan lbw

b Starc 41 (22b, 6x4, 2x6), Virat Kohli (not out) 61 (41b, 4x4, 2x6), K.L. Rahul c Coulter-Nile b Maxwell 14 (20b, 1x6), Rishabh Pant c Carey b Tye 0 (1b), Dinesh Karthik (not out) 22 (18b, 1x4, 1x6); Extras (w-6, lb-1): 7; Total (for four wkts. in 19.4 overs): 168.

### Fall of wickets

1-67 (Dhawan, 5.3), 2-67 (Rohit 6.5), 3-108 (Rahul, 12.6), 4-108 (Pant, 13.1).

### Australia bowling

Starc 4-0-26-1, Coulter-Nile 3-0-40-0, Stoinis 1-0-22-0, Zampa 4-1-22-1, Maxwell 4-0-25-1, Tye 3.4-0-32-1.

### Toss: Australia.

**Man-of-the-match:** Krunal Pandya.

**Man-of-the-series:** Shikhar Dhawan.

India won by six wickets with two deliveries to spare to end the three-match series 1-1.



Guiding star: Virat Kohli once again played the role of the finisher with aplomb. ■AFP

## Harmanpreet is World team captain

SPORTS BUREAU  
NORTH SOUND (ANTIGUA)

Harmanpreet Kaur was named skipper of the team of the tournament of the ICC women’s World T20 2018 based on performances during the 16-day event held in the West Indies.

The selection panel comprised Ian Bishop, Anjum Chopra, Ebony Rainford-Brent, journalist Melinda Farrell and Geoff Allardice, ICC’s General Manager – Cricket.

**The team of the tournament (in batting order):** Alyssa Healy (Aus, 225 runs), Smriti Mandhana (Ind, 178), Amy Jones (Eng, wk, 107, five dismissals), Harmanpreet Kaur (Ind, Capt., 183), Deandra Dottin (WI, 121 runs, 10 wkts), Javeria Khan (Pak,



Harmanpreet Kaur. ■FILE PHOTO: VIVEK BENDRE

## Aussie women crush England in final

Lift their fourth crown; Gardner stars with bat and ball

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE  
NORTH SOUND (ANTIGUA)

All-rounder Ashleigh Gardner starred with bat and ball as Australia cruised to an eight-wicket victory over England in the final of the World T20 on Saturday.

Gardner and teenage leg-spinner Georgia Wareham combined for five wickets to restrict England to 105 off 19.4 overs after it chose to bat.

Gardner then featured in an unbroken third-wicket partnership of 62 with her captain Meg Lanning as the Aussies reached the target with almost five overs to spare to lift their fourth World T20 crown.

Given her significant con-



On top of the world: The Australian players with the trophy. ■AFP

tributions in both the innings, the 21-year-old Gardner was the obvious choice for ‘player of the match’ award.

The ‘player of the series’

honour was also a predictable selection with opener and wicketkeeper Alyssa Healy getting the award.

**The scores:** England 105 in 19.4 overs (Danielle Wyatt 43,

Heather Knight 25, Ashleigh Gardner three for 22, Georgia Wareham two for 11) lost to Australia 106 for two in 15.1 overs (Ashleigh Gardner 33 n.o., Meg Lanning 28 n.o.).

## Uphill task for Lanka

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE  
COLOMBO

Sri Lanka limped to 53 for four on Sunday, chasing the target of 327 to win the third and final Test against England and avoid a series whitewash.

Later, Sri Lanka Cricket

(SLC) sacked the entire selection panel, headed by former Test bowler Graeme Labrooy.

SLC said a four-member team headed by former Test player Asantha de Mel will choose the squad to play New Zealand next month.

## SCOREBOARD SRI LANKA VS ENGLAND, THIRD TEST

**England — 1st innings:** 336.

**Sri Lanka — 1st innings:** 240.

**England — 2nd innings:** R. Burns lbw b Dilruwan 1, K. Jennings lbw b Dilruwan 1, J. Bairstow c sub b Dilruwan 15, J. Root c & b Pushpakumara 7, B. Stokes c Pushpakumara b Dilruwan 42, J. Buttler st. Dickwella b Sandakan 64, Moeen Ali c de Silva b Sandakan 22, B. Foakes (not out) 36, A. Rashid c Dickwella b Pushpakumara 24, S. Broad c Mendis b Pushpakumara 1, J. Leach c Dickwella b Dilruwan 0; Extras (b-3, lb-4, w-1, nb-3): 11; Total (in 69.5 overs): 230.

**Fall of wickets:** 1-3, 2-20, 3-35, 4-39, 5-128, 6-168, 7-171, 8-

215, 9-217.

**Sri Lanka bowling:** Dilruwan 29.5-3-88-5, Pushpakumara 12-2-28-3, de Silva 9-1-24-0, Lakmal 3-1-7-0, Sandakan 16-1-76-2.

**Sri Lanka — 2nd innings:** D. Gunathilaka c Stokes b Moeen 6, D. Karunaratne b Moeen 23, D. de Silva lbw b Leach 0, K. Mendis (batting) 15, A. Mathews c Broad b Stokes 5, L. Sandakan (batting) 1; Extras (w-3): 3; Total (for four wkts. in 17 overs): 53.

**Fall of wickets:** 1-15, 2-24, 3-34, 4-52.

**England bowling:** Broad 4-0-11-0, Moeen 7-1-16-2, Leach 3-0-12-1, Stokes 3-1-14-1.

## Sohail, Babar on song

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE  
DUBAI

A career-best hundred from Haris Sohail and a maiden century from Babar Azam helped Pakistan post a big total to boost its chances of a series-levelling win against New Zealand on the second day of the second cricket Test here on Sunday.

Sohail’s snail-paced 147 in nine hours and 34 minutes and Azam’s unbeaten 127 steered Pakistan to an imposing 418 for five declared.

The Kiwis were 24 for no loss in reply.

## SCOREBOARD

**Pakistan — 1st innings:** Imam-ul-Haq c Latham b de Grandhomme 9, Mohd. Hafeez c Latham b de Grandhomme 9, Azhar Ali run out 81, Haris Sohail c Watling b Boult 147, Asad Shafiq c Wagner b Ajaz 12, Babar Azam (not out) 127, Saifraz Ahmed (not out) 30; Extras (b-2, nb-1): 3; Total (for five wkts. decl. in 167 overs): 418.

**Fall of wickets:** 1-18 (Hafeez), 2-25 (Imam), 3-151 (Azhar), 4-174 (Shafiq), 5-360 (Sohail)

**New Zealand bowling:** Boult 34-7-106-1, de Grandhomme 30-11-44-2, Wagner 37-12-63-0, Ajaz 39-5-120-1, Sodhi 22-1-63-0, Williamson 5-0-20-0.

**New Zealand — 1st innings:** J. Raval (batting) 17, T. Latham (batting) 5; Extras (lb-2): 2; Total (for no loss in nine overs): 24.

**Pakistan bowling:** Abbas 2-0-8-0, Hasan 2-1-4-0, Hafeez 2-1-1-0, Yasir 2-0-9-0, Asif 1-1-0-0.

## Barca’s Dembele denies Atletico

Super Spurs dismantle Chelsea, jump to third spot

## EURO LEAGUES

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE  
MADRID

Atletico Madrid came within a whisker of its first *La Liga* win over Barcelona in eight years on Saturday only for Ousmane Dembele to dash its hopes with a dramatic equaliser in injury-time.

Diego Costa looked to have won a dreary contest at the Wanda Metropolitano when he headed in his first league goal since February with 12 minutes left, as Atletico prepared to go top of the table with a long-awaited victory. Instead, Barca produced another fightback as Dembele, on as a substitute, slid home a cool finish in the 90th minute to earn the visi-

tors a 1-1 draw. Meanwhile in the Premier League, Arsenal extended its unbeaten run to 17 games in all competitions on Sunday with a 2-1 victory at Bournemouth.

### Sarri’s first defeat

On Saturday, Tottenham inflicted Maurizio Sarri’s first competitive defeat as Chelsea boss to leapfrog its London rival into third place with a 3-1 win at Wembley that barely reflected Spurs’ dominance.

Dele Alli and Harry Kane put the hosts 2-0 in front inside 16 minutes and Heung-min Son’s brilliant solo run and finish early in the second-half hauled Mauricio Pochettino’s side back to within five points of league

leader Manchester City.

Olivier Giroud pulled back a late consolation goal for Chelsea.

### Important results:

**Premier League:** Bournemouth 1 (King 45+1) lost to Arsenal 2 (Lerna 30-og, Aubameyang 67); Wolves 0 lost to Huddersfield 2 (Mooy 6, 74).

**La Liga:** Sevilla 1 (Silva 30) bt Real Valladolid 0.

**Serie A:** Napoli 0 drew with Chievo 0.

**Saturday: La Liga:** Valencia 3 (Mina 35, 61, Gameiro 76) bt Rayo Vallecano 0; Atletico Madrid 1 (Costa 77) drew with Barcelona 1 (Dembele 90).

**Premier League:** Tottenham 3 (Alli 8, Kane 16, Son 54) bt Chelsea 1 (Giroud 85).

**Serie A:** Juventus 2 (Ronaldo 29, Mandzukic 60) bt SPAL 0; Inter Milan 3 (Balde 10, 82, Martinez 57) bt Frosinone 0.



Talk of the town: Heung-Min Son’s 50th goal for Tottenham was a gem as he accelerated past Chelsea’s Jorginho and David Luiz before finding the target. ■DAVID RAMOS/GETTY IMAGES

## Jamshedpur adds to Chennaiyin’s woes

Morgado’s stunner changes the complexion of the game

## ISL

AMITABHA DAS SHARMA  
JAMSHEDPUR

Host Jamshedpur FC returned to winning ways, registering a 3-1 victory against defending champion Chennaiyin FC in their Hero ISL fixture at The Furnace in the JRD Tata Sports Complex here on Sunday.

Backed by a holiday crowd of over 23,000, Jamshedpur secured full points to climb to the third spot in the table with 14 points from nine games.

Pablo Morgado, Carlos Calvo (penalty) and Mario Arques found the target for the hosts while Raphael Augusto scored the lone reply off a penalty for the visitors who succumbed to their sixth defeat in eight matches to remain ninth with just four points.

### Fantastic finish

Jamshedpur went ahead in the 14th minute, thanks to a pile-driver from Spaniard Morgado. The half-volley from around 25 yards, packed with incredible power and precision, gave Karanjit Singh in the CFC goal no chance.

Chennaiyin started well, keeping possession of the ball and making a couple of raids before Morgado’s stunning strike. The hosts then



Over the moon: The Jamshedpur FC players celebrate the team’s third strike. ■SPORTSPICS/ISL

took control of the proceedings and its attempts to enhance the lead bore fruit in the 28th minute.

Michael Soosairaj’s right-footer from the top of the box saw a diving Karanjit come with a good save.

However, the clearance reached Sumeet Passi but the Jamshedpur strike was brought down by Chennaiyin defender Jerry Lalrinzuala. Carlos Calvo converted with ease from the spot.

Chennaiyin regrouped after the break.

### Penalty

The visitors were awarded a penalty in the 66th minute

when Jamshedpur midfielder brought down Chennaiyin’s Gregory Nelson inside the box. It was the assistant referee who brought this to the attention of the referee.

Brazil’s Chennaiyin midfielder Raphael Augusto found the target to bring his team back into the contest.

However, Mario Arques nodded home a Carlos Calvo corner in the 72nd minute to seal the issue in Jamshedpur’s favour.

### The result:

Jamshedpur FC 3 (Pablo Morgado 14, Carlos Calvo 29-pen, Mario Arques 72) bt Chennaiyin FC 1 (Raphael Augusto 68-pen).

## Mary moves into the lead

SPORTS BUREAU  
JAIPUR

Second seed Mary Ann Gomes inched closer to regaining the National women’s chess title after beating S. Meenakshi in the 10th and penultimate round here on Sunday.

Mary (8.5) moved into sole lead ahead of her final-round clash against P.V. Nandhidhaa (7.5) after M. Mahalakshmi, the other overnight leader, stayed at 7.5 points following her defeat to J. Saranya on the second board.

Mary’s nearest rival is Bhakti Kulkarni (8), who will face Saranya in the final round. **The results (10th round):** S. Meenakshi (6.5) lost to Mary Ann Gomes (8.5); J. Saranya (7.5) bt M. Mahalakshmi (7.5); Bhakti Kulkarni (8) bt P. Catherine Michelle (6.5).

Priyanka Kumari (6.5) lost to S. Vijayalakshmi (7.5); P. V. Nandhidhaa (7.5) bt Arpita Mukherjee (6.5); A. G. Nimmy (6.5) drew with Nisha Mohota (6.5).

## Steelers and Pirates win

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
PUNE

Haryana Steelers put up a great team effort to register a much-needed 34-27 win over Dabang Delhi in a Pro-Kabaddi League Zone A match here on Sunday.

Later in the evening, Patna Pirates edged out Bengaluru Bulls 35-32 in Zone B.



# Clinical Cilic seals it for Croatia

The triumph comes as a salve for the heartbreak against France in FIFA World Cup final

## DAVIS CUP FINAL

REUTERS  
LILLE

Marin Cilic clinched Croatia's second Davis Cup title as he beat France's Lucas Pouille 7-6(3), 6-3, 6-3 to give his side a decisive 3-1 lead in the final at Stade Pierre Mauroy on Sunday.

The powerful World No. 7 was relentless as he snuffed out any hope of a famous French fightback – giving Pouille little chance of sending the showpiece into a fifth rubber.

Pouille, 24, did not have a single break point and despite pushing Cilic hard in the first set, he lost the last four points of the tiebreak and never threatened a comeback.

Cilic wasted four set points when Pouille battled back from 0-40 down at 2-5 in the second set but with his own serve rock-solid he calmly moved into a two-set lead.

### Local support, but...

The mainly French 22,000 crowd kept roaring its support for Pouille, but it was the Croatia contingent, decked out in their distinctive red and white, who



History-makers: Croatia will enter the record books as the last champion in the present format. ■ AFP

would soon be celebrating. Cilic broke for a 3-2 lead in the third set and then closed in for the kill when Pouille served at 3-5. The Frenchman saved two match points from 0-40 but Cilic would not be denied and finished it off with a lob.

Immediately the 30-year-old former U.S. Open champion was swamped by a swarm of his team mates as

Croatia could begin the party after emulating its triumph of 2005. Croatia's sports-mad President Kolinda Grabar-Kitarovic was among the fans at courtside to savour a landmark title which offered some consolation after France beat Croatia in this year's football World Cup final.

"It's not every day that

you become a World champion," Cilic, draped in a Croatian flag, said on court. "For us it's a dream come true, for this nation".

Croatia will enter the history books as winner of the last final played in the traditional format before the 118-year-old team competition gets a major revamp.

Next November a new format will see 18 teams assem-

ble in Madrid for a World Cup-style event to decide the champion.

### The result:

France 1 lost to Croatia 3 [Lucas Pouille lost to Marin Cilic 7-6(3)

6-3 6-3; Pierre-Hugues Herbert & Nicolas Mahut bt Mate Pavic & Ivan Dodig 6-4, 6-4, 3-6, 7-6 (3); Jo-Wilfried Tsonga lost to Cilic 6-3, 7-5, 6-4; Jeremy Chardy lost to Borna Coric 6-2, 7-5, 6-4].

# Lewis Hamilton signs off in style

## Hulkenberg unhurt after crash

### ABU DHABI GP

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE  
ABU DHABI

New five-time champion Lewis Hamilton claimed his 11th win of the season on Sunday when he drove his Mercedes to a well-judged triumph in an incident-filled season-ending Abu Dhabi Grand Prix. The 33-year-old Briton, who started from his 83rd pole, came home 2.5 seconds ahead of his main title rival four-time champion German Sebastian Vettel of Ferrari.

The win came after a race that began with an horrific opening lap crash from which Nico Hulkenberg escaped unhurt, his blazing Renault car having barrel-rolled into the barriers.

Dutchman Max Verstappen finished third ahead of

his Red Bull team-mate Daniel Ricciardo, in his 100th race for Red Bull and 150th overall before moving to Renault, and Valtteri Bottas in the second Mercedes.

### Alonso bids farewell

Retirement-bound two-time champion Fernando Alonso finished 11th for McLaren in his 311th and farewell appearance.

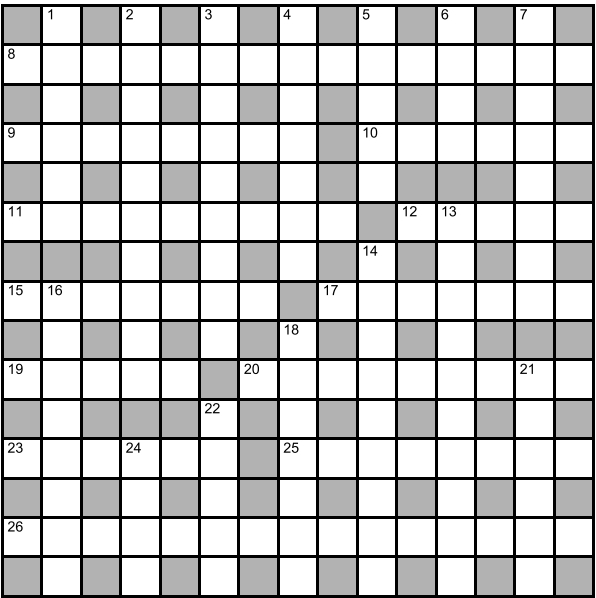
Hamilton's victory completed a season of total dominance for the Englishman. "I am so happy right now," he said, before praising Vettel. "I know next year he's going to come back stronger. Whatever people say, we always do our best."

Vettel responded generously. "He deserves to be champion," Vettel said. "It's been a tough year and I tried until the last lap.



All smiles: Champion Lewis Hamilton, snapping a selfie with actor Will Smith, dominated the season-ending Abu Dhabi GP on Sunday. ■ CLIVE MASON/GETTY IMAGES

## THE HINDU CROSSWORD 12481



### ACROSS

- 8 Illusion somehow makes don faithfully represent society (5,3,7)
- 9 To influence retiring salesman, used a trick (8)
- 10 Held back battered, neglected male for one (6)

(set by Lightning)

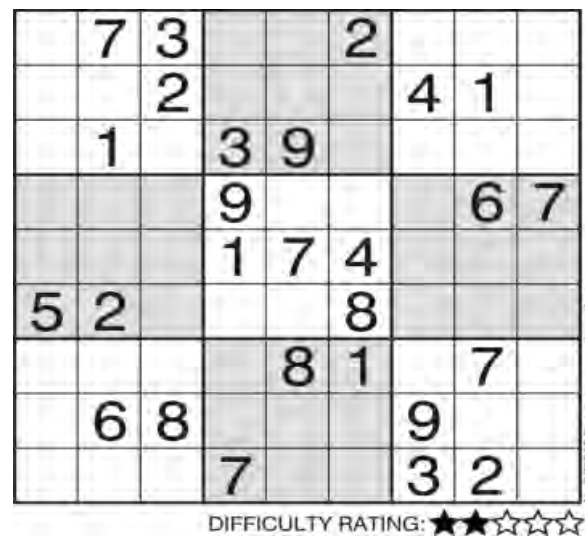
- 11 Contracts demand rings because security's foremost (9)
- 12 Child caught in Mumbai suburb (5)
- 15 Makeshift spinner penetrating batsman's core space (7)
- 17 German managed a district attorney in this province (7)
- 19 Southern trading place is expensive (5)
- 20 It could flutter by after morphing (9)
- 23 Excellent and right introductory book (6)
- 25 Temporary worker (not new) at established concern (8)
- 26 Brew drink today, charm everyone (3,4,3,5)

### DOWN

- 1 A parliamentarian before becoming a physicist (6)
- 2 Engineer scraps key recipe for tall building (10)

- 3 A gent nearly sped after animal on sailboat (9)
- 4 Conformed with total around this place (7)
- 5 Keen and desperate to catch last song (5)
- 6 One fled to this country (4)
- 7 Complimentary supply of sponge (8)
- 13 Rejecting popular opinion, ran car into building (10)
- 14 Feeling thankful that class admitted bird first up (9)
- 16 Medical officer interrupted to mostly fret about the next day (8)
- 18 Surprisingly claims university of Chicago for one (7)
- 21 Saint trapped by temptation of splendour and glory (6)
- 22 Bishop with people's support (5)
- 24 Fashion design left out (4)

## SUDOKU



Solution to puzzle 12480

G	E	M	I	N	T	U	P	S	T	I	C	K	S	8	7	3	4	9	2	1	5	6
O	E	E	I	E	A	W	L	O						4	1	2	8	6	5	3	7	9
R	E	L	I	S	H	I	T	O	F					5	6	9	3	7	1	2	8	4
I	O	T	C	R	N	I	N	T						3	5	6	2	1	9	7	4	8
L	A	M	E	L	L	A	E	I	N	D	E	N	T	7	9	8	6	4	3	5	2	1
L	A	E	P	A	I	J	O							1	2	4	5	8	7	9	6	3
A	U	N	T	B	U	T	T	O	N	E	D	U	P	6	3	1	7	2	4	8	9	5
I	A	C	R	G										9	4	7	1	5	8	6	3	2
D	U	A	L	S	C	H	O							2	8	5	9	3	6	4	1	7
R	I	N	G	E	R	M	Y	C	H	O												
C	A	P	S																			
T	A	L																				
S	A	L	V	A	G	E	D															

## FAITH

### Suniti's wise advice

Dhruva was the son of King Uthanapada and his wife Suniti. The King had another wife called Suruchi and he favoured her. Suruchi used harsh words to Dhruva, telling him that only her son was fit to be king. No son of Suniti could aspire for the throne. Suruchi says that if Dhruva wants to be king, then he should resort to tough penance and seek the blessings of the Paramatma.

Dhruva's mother Suniti then gives her son wise advice, elaborated Akkarakkani Srinidhi in a discourse. She tells him that he who harms others will pay for his misdeeds. She tells Dhruva that perhaps the king's rejection of her and her son Dhruva must be because of their karma in previous births. It was wrong to blame others for their plight. She adds further that he should not hesitate to seek the Lord. Suruchi might have spoken angrily, but it was best to seek the Lord's help for everything. She points to the benefits that Brahma's penance had brought him. Because of his penance, Brahma had become the head of Satyaloka, which was the best of all 14 lokas. Vishnu's feet were worshipped by sages, who had control over their minds. She tells her son that his ancestor Manu had attained happiness in this world and also moksha by worshipping Lord Mahavishnu.

She points out to Dhruva that nothing but pure bhakti will get the Lord to shower His blessings on a person. None can give the joy that He can give. She says, "The Lord is not partial like your father. He overlooks the faults of those who place their trust in Him and He is very affectionate towards them. He has the capacity to enable ordinary householders to worship Him in the same way that Nityasuris do. This is something others cannot even dream of doing. Turn your thoughts towards Him and think of nothing else."

## Dr. UPSC Android App



TV PICKS

**Pakistan vs. New Zealand:** Second Test, Sony Ten 2, 11.30 a.m.  
**ISL:** Star Sports 1 (SD & HD), 7.30 p.m.  
**PKL:** Star Sports 2 (SD & HD) & Star Sports First, 8 p.m.

IN BRIEF



**Shubhankar finishes tied sixth, Aaron Rai wins**  
HONG KONG  
hubhankar Sharma Sunday followed up his European Tour Rookie of the Year award season with a top-10 finish at the Hong Kong Open, strengthening his chances of winning the Asian Tour Order of Merit. The 22-year-old Sharma shot a three-under par 67 on the final day to improve to tied sixth place at nine-under par 271. England's Aaron Rai, who is of Indian origin, won his first tournament on the European Tour with a 263. **PTI**



**Neymar and Mbappe boost for PSG**  
PARIS  
Paris Saint-Germain coach Thomas Tuchel said his two star forwards in Neymar and Kylian Mbappe could be fit to face Liverpool in the Champions League. "They're getting better every day, we have time before now and Wednesday. It's good for us. I think they'll be able to play," the German told television programme Telefoot on TF1. **AFP**

**Abhay loses in final**  
SUTTON COLDFIELD (ENGLAND)  
Abhay Singh's fine run in the Sutton Coldfield squash International, a PSA challenger event, came to a disappointing end in the final late on Saturday at the hands of second seed Victor Crouin of France. The fourth-seeded Indian lost to Crouin 11-4, 11-6, 11-8.

Age fraud — Mukhi suspended

**AMITABHA DAS SHARMA**  
JAMSHEDPUR  
The All India Football Federation (AIFF)'s disciplinary committee has imposed a six-month suspension on Gaurav Mukhi, the Jamshedpur FC forward, over doubts about his actual age. Contradictory statements from the player about his actual age forced AIFF's verdict. In a statement AIFF said it had suspended "on the basis of the evidence presented by him, his admissions and the statements of manager of U-16 AIFF academy in 2015." No action was taken against Jamshedpur FC.

Snehlata in lead

**SPORTS BUREAU**  
JAIPUR  
Snehlata Singh Rajawat of Rajasthan led with 71 out of 75, following rounds of 23, 24 and 24 in women's trap in the 62nd National shot-gun championship at the JDA Range on Sunday. Manisha Keer of Madhya Pradesh, who was leading among the juniors on 70, was the second behind Snehlata. They were followed by Soumya Gupta (68), Varsha Varman (67), Rajeshwari Kumari (66), Kirti Gutpa (65), Olympian Shagun Chowdhary (65), World Cup silver medalist Seema Tomar (64). Nivetha Nenthirasigamani had shot 61, and Shreyasi Singh could muster only 59.

Sameer wins a pulsating final

Saina and doubles pairs fail to live up to expectations

SYED MODI SUPER 300

**PRESS TRUST OF INDIA**  
LUCKNOW  
A gritty Sameer Verma produced a sensational performance to defend his men's singles title, making up for the failure of his compatriots in the other finals at the \$150,000 Syed Modi Super 3000 international badminton here on Sunday. World No. 16 Sameer defeated China's Lu Guangzu 16-21, 21-19, 21-14 in a pulsating summit clash even as Saina Nehwal, the men's doubles pair of Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty and the women's doubles combination of Ashwini Ponnappa and N. Sikki Reddy bit the dust. Former champion Saina failed to produce her best, losing 21-18, 21-8 to China's Han Yue, while Satwiksairaj and Chirag went down 21-11,



**Winning show:** Sameer Verma made up for the lacklustre show from the other Indian finalists when he successfully defended his men's singles crown. **• RAJEEV BHATT**  
22-20 to second seeds Fajar Alfian and Muhammad Rian Ardianto of Indonesia. Ashwini and Sikki also couldn't live up to expectations, losing 21-15, 21-13 to the third-seeded Malaysian pair of Chow Mei Kuan and Lee Meng Yean. The Indian pair had lost in the final in the last edition as well. **The results (finals): Men:** Sameer Verma bt Lu Guangzu (Chn) 16-21, 21-19, 21-14. **Doubles:** Fajar Alfian and Mu-

On-a-roll BFC wary of complacency

Winless Dynamos will be desperate for a turnaround

ISL

**N. SUDARSHAN**  
BENGALURU  
The last time Bengaluru FC (BFC) played on its home turf at the Sree Kanteerava Stadium was more than seven weeks ago. In the time since then, the side has notched up four impressive away victories, has racked up the best defensive record in the Indian Super League conceding just five goals and is joint-top of the table (16 points from six matches) with FC Goa despite having played two games fewer. Its return to the city for the game against bottom-placed Delhi Dynamos on



**Full of zest:** Bengaluru FC midfielder Kean Lewis at full tilt in training. **• SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT**  
Monday ought to have been a happy occasion for the club faithful but will instead be somewhat muted. The demise of popular actor-politician Ambareesh, whose mortal remains were kept at the Stadium on Sun-

drat warned against complacency. "Delhi is the only team to yet register a win and that makes it a dangerous opposition," he said on match-eve. "It will try harder than ever and we need to enter this game by turning a blind eye to the points table." Whether the Dynamos can capitalise remains to be seen. They didn't have the best of starts as their practise session on Sunday morning at the Stadium had to be cancelled because of the prevailing situation. Instead, the outfit travelled a good 25kms to the Padukone-Dravid Centre for Sports Excellence on the outskirts of the city, but could only train on an artificial surface.

Maiden home win for Kashmir

Churchill Brothers thrashes host Mohun Bagan

I-LEAGUE

**PRESS TRUST OF INDIA**  
SRINAGAR  
A super strike from Surchandra Singh and a well-judged header from Bazie Armand saw Real Kashmir pull off a 2-0 win over Indian Arrows for its maiden victory at home in the Hero I-League here on Sunday. The Kashmir players seemed in a hurry to score as they played long balls often, taking advantage of their height advantage. Kashmir broke through in the 25th minute when Surchandra made no mistake in finding the back of the net from a brilliant cross from Mason Lee Robertson. It was also the first home goal for Kashmir. In the 68th minute, a beautiful corner kick from Surchandra, followed by a lofted shot from Danish Fa-



**Piercing through:** Real Kashmir's Gnohere Krizo muscles past Indian Arrows' Boris Singh Thangjam. **• PTI**  
rooq to Armand saw the Cote D'ivorian make no mistake in doubling the lead with an excellent header. **Churchill's day out** Meanwhile in Kolkata, visiting Churchill Brothers embarrassed Mohun Bagan 3-0 after former Trinidad and Tobago international Willis Plaza made a stunning return to the city, heading in a brace on Sunday. The Goans jumped to second spot with nine points from five matches, while Mohun Bagan (eight) slipped to fourth in the table, one point and spot ahead of Real. **The results:** Real Kashmir 2 (Surchandra Singh 25, Bazie Armand 68) bt Indian Arrows 0. Mohun Bagan 0 lost to Churchill Brothers 3 (Dawda Ceasey 21, Willis Plaza 51, 55.

Sarnobat revels in 25m pistol

Ravi Kumar pips Sandeep to retain men's 10m air rifle title

NATL. SHOOTING

**A. VINOD**  
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM  
Rahi Sarnobat, the first ever Indian woman to win a gold medal in the Asian Games, proved her class as she colared the 25m sports pistol title in the 62nd National shooting championships here on Sunday. The Pune-based 28-year-old struggled through the qualifiers to finish only fifth. With the final field included the likes of the experienced Heena Sidhu (ONGC) and the new pin-up girl of India shooting Manu Bhaker (Haryana), it was expected to be anybody's game. However, Rahi's showing in the 10-round final of 50 shots was a class act marked with poise and consistency. Having started with an identical three each in the first two rounds, the Maharashtra shooter raced ahead of the field with four hits out of



Rahi Sarnobat. **• A. VINOD**  
five through the next six rounds and proved that she was the one to beat. In the men's section, Ravi Kumar (Air Force), who had helped himself to a bronze in the Gold Coast Commonwealth Games, retained the men's 10m air rifle title edging out Sandeep Singh (Army Marksman Unit) in a close finish. **The results: Men: 10m air rifle:** 1. Ravi Kumar (AF), 627.4 (250.2), 2. Sandeep Singh (AMU), 624.7 (249.6), 3. Keval Jashvantbhai Prajapati (Guj), 628.3 (229.1).

Sacchitt, Shivani get top billing

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT**  
NEW DELHI  
Sacchitt Sharma and Shivani Amineni have been seeded No. 1 in the boys' and girls' sections in the ITF grade-4 junior tennis tournament at the DLTA Complex here from Monday. Dev Javia, Suresh Dakshineswar and Aaryan Zaveri are the other Indian boys to be seeded in a strong field which features players from Thailand, Japan, Sweden, Malaysia, Belgium, US and Britain. Salsa Aher, Kaavya Sahney, Malika Marathe and Muskan Gupta are the other Indian girls to be seeded. The equally strong field features layers from Chinese Taipei, Russia, Korea, Thailand, the United States and Britain.

**The seedings: Boys:** 1. Sacchitt Sharma, 2. Karsid Samrej (Tha), 3. Dev Javia, 4. Ryuhei Azuma (Jpn), 5. Roman Faucon (Bel), 6. Laucelot Carmello (Swe), 7. Suresh Dakshineswar, and 8. Aaryan Zaveri. **Girls:** 1. Shivani Amineni, 2. Erin Richardson (GBR), 3. Pimrada Jattavapornvanit (Tha), 4. Salsa Aher, 5. Kaavya Sawhney, 6. Chae Hyun Sim (Kor), 7. Malika Marathe, and 8. Muskan Gupta. **The results: Boys (qualifying event third and final round):** Sarthak Sudan bt Kartik Saxena 6-0, 6-4; Sushant Dabas bt Divesh Gahlot 7-6(6), 6-2; Ajay Malik bt Yash Chaurasia 6-2, 6-3; Tarush Bagai bt Gourav Gulia 6-4, 7-6(1). **Second round:** Sarthak bt Udit Gogoi 6-3, 5-7, 6-2; Kartik Saxena bt Iqbal Mohd. Khan 6-2, 6-2; Sushant bt Karthik Singh Panwar 6-4, 6-3; Divesh bt

Deepender Grewal 6-4, 6-3; Ajay bt Chirag Duhan 6-3, 6-4; Yash Chaurasia bt Tushar Madan 3-6, 6-4, 6-4; Gourav bt Udit Kamboj 7-5, 6-4; Tarush bt Sourabh Sehrawat 6-4, 6-4. **Girls (qualifying event third and final round):** Sanjana Sirmalla bt Vanshika Choudhary 6-7(5), 6-3, 7-6(5); Farhat Aleen Qamar bt Akshaya Suresh 6-2, 6-0; Jagmeet Kaur Grewal bt Renne Singla 6-3, 6-0; Gargi Pawar bt Priyanshi Sharma 6-1, 6-2. **Second round:** Sanjana bt Riya Uboveja 6-7(4), 7-6(5), 6-2; Vanshika bt Tanvikhaa Saravanan 6-1, 6-3; Akshaya bt Sanvi Ahluwalia 6-3, 6-4; Farhat bt Divya Bhardwaj 6-0, 6-1; Jagmeet bt Chavana Mallela Sreenath 6-1, 6-2; Renne bt Ritu Rai 6-0, 6-3; Gargi bt Harivarshine Murugesan 6-1, 6-2; Priyanshi bt Sri Sanchana Sampath 6-1, 6-3.



IN BRIEF



**U.K. Royals to move to Windsor Estate**  
LONDON  
Britain's Prince Harry and his wife Meghan are moving to Windsor Estate early next year in time for their first child's birth. They are now living with Harry's brother William and his family at Nottingham Cottage. REUTERS



**Don't Look Now director Nicolas Roeg dies at 90**  
LONDON  
British director Nicolas Roeg, a director of provocative and otherworldly films who gave Mick Jagger and David Bowie enduring screen roles, has died. He was 90. He directed films such as *Don't Look Now*, *Performance*. AP

Gandhi's letter to British peer up for auction  
‘Thank you’ note for birthday wishes

**PRESS TRUST OF INDIA**  
BOSTON  
A signed letter, penned by Mahatma Gandhi a year before India's independence, thanking a British lord for wishes on his birthday is expected to fetch over \$20,000 at an online auction.  
Signed 'M.K. Gandhi', the one-page letter to Lord Pethick-Lawrence, Secretary of State for India and Burma, was written from New Delhi on October 10, 1946.  
**Spinning wheel**  
“Dear friend, It was good of you to send me your wishes for my birthday which is synonymous with the re-birth of the spinning wheel in 1918,” the letter reads.  
Mahatma Gandhi's refe-

rence to the spinning wheel is exceptionally important, as he had adopted it as a symbol of economic independence very early on in his movement, U.S.-based RR Auction said in a statement.  
Shortly after the First World War, he developed a broad base of support from Indians for peaceful non-cooperation.  
After December 1921, Gandhi expanded his non-violence programme to include the swadeshi policy – the boycott of British goods.  
From this originated his spinning wheel, as he encouraged all Indians to wear khadi instead of British-made textiles.  
The bidding for the online auction ends on December 5.

A call for filmmaking that promotes inclusiveness

Add-ons like audio description and subtitles in movies will improve accessibility for persons with disability

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT**  
PANAJI  
The movement for social inclusiveness and accessibility via films got a major boost on Sunday following an endorsement by renowned filmmaker Ramesh Sippy for making audio description and same language sub-titling of films a part of movie production process.  
Two films, *Sholay* and *Hitchki*, both carrying audio description, were screened at the ongoing IFFI 2018 under a special section, in collaboration of Saksham, a Delhi-based NGO working



Ramesh Sippy, second from left. ■SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

for social inclusiveness and accessibility for Persons with Disability (PwD), last week.  
The special initiative was aimed at persons with visual

and hearing disability.  
Participating in an interactive session, Mr. Sippy, in response to question from Dipendra Manocha and

Rummi K. Seth, co-founders and trustees of Saksham, said he appreciated the initiative and assured to take it up with the Producers Guild of India.  
Mr. Manocha, who himself is visually impaired, brought to the notice of Mr. Sippy that having audio-description and subtitles in films would not only benefit the visually impaired, but also the elderly people. Lending his support, Mr. Sippy agreed that the “senior citizens are indeed a big segment of film and television audience and that it is our

duty to make things accessible to them.”  
Mr. Manocha went on to explain that including audio-description in films would not entail additional cost and should go simultaneously as part of the film production.  
With his wide experience, Mr. Sippy was quick to offer some tips on technical aspects, saying that with the state-of-the-art technology and latest sound-track systems, not only it would be possible to do it simultaneously, but in cases where filmmakers face deadline

pressures, these can also be done after a film is released.  
He asserted that no filmmaker would say no to it and that it would only help expand viewership.  
Mr. Sippy later told press persons that this initiative was a big stride by Saksham and he himself was very supportive of it.  
“It is an important step that a person like Mr. Ramesh Sippy has agreed to be part of the initiative. We have lot of hopes that we will be now able to take forward this movement like never before,” said Mr. Minocha.

Andaman & Nicobar Islands: home to a tenth of India's fauna species

The islands, comprising only 0.25% of country's geographical area, has 11,009 species, according to a publication by the Zoological Survey of India

**SHIV SAHAY SINGH**  
KOLKATA  
The Narcondam hornbill, its habitat restricted to a lone island; the Nicobar megapode, a bird that builds nests on the ground; the Nicobar treeshrew, a small mole-like mammal; the Long-tailed Nicobar macaque, and the Andaman day gecko, are among the 1,067 endemic faunal species found only on the Andaman and Nicobar Islands and nowhere else.  
A recent publication by the Zoological Survey of India (ZSI) titled *Faunal Diversity of Biogeographic Zones: Islands of India* has for the first time come up with a database of all faunal species found on the island, putting the number at 11,009. The documentation proves that the islands, comprising only 0.25% of India's geographical area, are home to more than

10% of the country's fauna species.  
**Note of caution**  
The publication, however, also cautions that tourism, illegal construction and mining are posing a threat to the islands' biodiversity, which is already vulnerable to volatile climatic factors.  
“The presence of a large number of species in such a small area makes the Andaman and Nicobar Islands one of the richest ecosystems and biodiversity hot spots in India. Some of the species in A&N Islands are restricted to a very small area and thus more vulnerable to any anthropogenic threat,” Kailash Chandra, Director-ZSI, and one of the authors of the publication, said.  
The total area of the A&N Islands, which comprises of 572 islands, islets and rocky



(From left) Narcondam Hornbill , Andaman serpent eagle, Microhyla chakrapanii. ■ZSI

**The dugong and the Indo-Pacific humpback dolphin, are classified as vulnerable under the IUCN Red List**  
outcrops, is about 8,249 sq. km. The population of the islands, which includes six particularly vulnerable tribal groups (PVTGs) – Great Andamanese, Onge, Jarawa, Sentinelese, Nicobarese and Shompens – is not more than 4 lakh. The number of tourists visiting the islands has crossed the number of people residing in them, with latest data showing 4.87 lakh tourists visiting the islands annually.  
In a recent development, the Government of India relaxed the Restricted Area Permit (RAP) norms for some foreign nationalities notified

under the Foreigners (Restricted Areas) Order, 1963, to visit 29 of its inhabited islands, till December 31, 2022. This has triggered further concerns of increased anthropogenic pressures over the islands' ecosystem.  
Pankaj Sekhsaria, Senior Project Scientist, DST-Centre for Policy Research, Indian Institute of Technology (IIT)-Delhi, who has written extensively about the islands, said

that some of the islands opened up for tourists are very difficult to access for a day visit.  
**Restricted Area Permit**  
Some of the islands removed from the RAP list have no habitation except PVTG like Sentinelese in case of North Sentinel Island, and there is nothing other than a police outpost on the Narcondam Island, Dr. Sekhsaria pointed out.  
“The development paradigm that we are pushing for this place at the macro level, such as tourism, construction and development of military, are not taking in account three factors – ecological fragility of the area (the endemism), geological volatility (earthquakes and tsunamis), and the impact they will have on local communities,” he said.



Egypt unveils ancient tomb and sarcophagi

**REUTERS**  
LUXOR  
Egyptian authorities on Saturday unveiled a well-preserved mummy of a woman inside a previously unopened coffin in Luxor in southern Egypt dating back to more than 3,000 years.  
The sarcophagus, an ancient coffin, was one of two found earlier this month by a French-led mission in the northern area of El-Asasef, a necropolis on the western bank of the Nile. The first one had been opened earlier and examined by Egyptian antiquities officials.  
“One sarcophagus was rishi-style, which dates back to the 17th dynasty, while the other sarcophagus was from the 18th dynasty,” Minister of Antiquities Khaled Al Anani said.  
“The two tombs were present with their mummies inside.” The Eighteenth Dynasty dates back to the 13th century BC.



The mummy of a courtier during the Eighteenth dynasty of Egypt. ■AFP

Amur falcon makes it to Somalia from Manipur

**IBOYAIMA LAITHANGBAM**  
IMPHAL  
A female Amur falcon named ‘Tamenglong’ after the place in Manipur by forest officials and set free by them with a GPS-fitted transmitter on November 5 reached Somalia at 1 pm on Saturday after flying a distance of 5,700 km.



Amur Falcon, in Nagaland. ■SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Forest Minister T. Shyamkumar said here on Sunday that its male companion named ‘Manipur’ could not make it since some tribal hunters shot it down soon after it was released on the same day.  
The Minister assured bird lovers that steps will be taken to ban air guns used in killing indigenous and migratory birds in the district.  
Every year Amur falcons take a long journey covering many countries including China, Mongolia, Russia and India to reach Somalia. A few thousands halt in Tamenglong district of Manipur and some parts of Nagaland where they feed on termites and other insects for about three weeks.

Dr. Suresh Kumar, a senior scientist of Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun said, “Another Amur falcon named ‘Longleng’ which was fitted with a transmitter is doing well.”  
In the recent past hunters caught Amur falcons in hundreds everyday in Tamenglong district. Live and barbecued falcons were on open sale in many parts. However, elders of the district have opposed wanton killings of these migratory birds, which help farmers by feeding on termites and other insects which destroy the verdant crops.  
Forest officials said there have been several awareness campaigns in the district not to kill the migratory falcons.





The highest education is that which does not merely give us information but makes our life in harmony with all existence.

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DELHI  
MONDAY • NOVEMBER 26, 2018

ARCHANA SUBRAMANIAN

Gopalakrishnan R. graduated with a B.A. L.L.B. (Constitutional Law) Hons degree from National Law University, Jodhpur. Today, he is a basketball correspondent with FIBA.com. H. Arjun studied Ocean Engineering from IIT Madras but today he is a business analyst with Food Panda. There are many others like them who have changed tracks right after graduation for various reasons, the most common being – passion.

#### Powered by passion

Sreekar Suravajhala completed his B.Com in Bank Management from Ramakrishna Mission Vivekananda College, Chennai, and was well on his way to pursuing chartered accountancy, as was his initial plan. After working with one of the Big 4, he understood that he was inclined towards media and film production in particular and hence proceeded to pursue an MBA in Media Management from Amity Univer-

sity, Noida, in 2016. He is now an Associate Product Manager in a technology-based organisation that has its roots in the film industry.

Venukumar Chakamuri's story is similar. Having graduated with a B.Tech in Electronics and Communication Engineering from NIT University, he is now a film director, directing his bilingual debut film in Telugu and Tamil. "I discovered my love for

films and decided to join the Asian Academy of Film and Television and did a diploma in Screen Writing."

While passion is the first step towards initiating the change, seeking out the opportunities is the next. Nimeshika Jayachandran is a journalist with TheNewsMinute, in Bengaluru. Prior to that she had completed her

MBBS and worked for around two years in a clinical set up. "I've always been passionate about journalism and enjoy writing as well, so when the opportunity came up to pursue the same, I did." She went on to study journalism at the National School of Journalism in Bengaluru. It was not without its challeng-

es: "I learnt that challenging oneself, and the need to get out of one's comfort zone is necessary. Though my family was confused with my decision, they found calm once they saw how I enjoy my current work."

The common thread in all their stories is the passion for a certain subject or field, which plays a major role in the decision making process. As a student, many a times, our decisions are governed by what our parents want us to do, or what will land us a lucrative job, despite having a clear interest in another field. However, once we start to look for jobs or even after working for a couple of years, if the passion remains intact, the decision to switch slowly sets in.

#### Assessed choices

Raj Mohan, Behavioural

Scientist and Founder BOD-HI explains, "In our educational system, students can choose their stream of choices only from Class XI. Children choose their subjects broadly based on the following reasons: The subject in which they get more marks, the subject they like more, peer group pressure, parents/teachers' advice, and market demands and trend. If you ask me, do all students choose the right career in life? The answer is a big No." The reason for this is a lack of awareness about the different careers and courses and an absence of a scientific way of choosing one's career; moreover, choosing one's career based on interest alone will not help and bring out one's potential. The solution is to choose a career after identifying one's interest, inter-

nal motivators, aptitudes and personality, and integrate all this before making a decision. According to Raj Mohan, the best time to choose one's career is in Class IX and X.

While Abhinav Smith agrees that people change tracks mid-way due to passion or interest, his reason is unlike no other. "I was part of the 2011-15 batch of Mechanical Engineering at VTU University, Karnataka. I dropped out due to the feudal mindset of the faculty who bullied me for belonging to a particular cast.

Now, I work with a firm that implements socio economic process."

With so ma-

ny students not batting an eyelid before ditching their educational background and choosing something different, how difficult is it for a company to choose a candidate for a particular job. Do companies adopt a different criteria to assess these candidates? Deepti Srivastava, Principal Consultant, Korn Ferry - Advisory, Mumbai, says, "What you study in college is not as important as the skills, both cognitive and interpersonal, that you pick up through varied experiences which gets assessed during job interviews. That

said, the institute that you come from still plays a crucial role, often becoming a filtering criteria while shortlisting resumes, unfortunately."

"With today's digital world being technology driven, I am glad that my education won't go waste," says Ramalingam S., who pursued his Bachelors in Electrical and Electronics Engineering from SSN College of Engineering, Chennai. He later realised that his heart beats for civil services. "Schemes like the Smart City initiatives directly offer opportunities to implement skills from my technical background," he explains.

If you are among those contemplating a shift, or have already made the decision to, you may come to agree with Abhinav: "I know that with a degree I would have done better but job satisfaction is something dear to me now."



ILLUSTRATION: SATHEESH VELLINEZH

The solution is to choose a career after identifying one's interest, internal motivators, aptitudes and personality...

## Commitment to integrity is the way forward at XIME

Business Initiative

"Knowing, Doing and Being are the three core points that together make the MBA course", shares Prof.J.Philip, Chairman Xavier Institute of Management & Entrepreneurship.

As we enter the appealing campus of Xavier Institute of Management in Bengaluru, an erudite semblance surrounds us. We walk along the corridor to the office of the Chairman of the institute and we are welcomed by a smiling septenary. Prof.J.Philip, Chairman of XIME who, without wasting time, gets into a talk straightaway. "Time Management is essential for an efficient MBA professional", he stated during his discussion and "he walks the talk", speaking on his way of living by example for students to imbibe. With a legacy of more than 25 years of academic excellence in Management Studies, Xavier Institute of Management Entrepreneurship (XIME) has been on an assertive journey to invigorate the young minds, inspire and innovate them with an unbeatable tutelage. In a fiercely competitive environment where top Business Schools are vying to draw out the most productive Management Graduates befitting the



Prof.J.Philip, Chairman XIME

Market requirements, XIME has successfully been holding the beacon of learning high in the scholastic empyrean. Continuously raising the bar for a value-based education that is receptive to new ideas and a focused approach to creativity and entrepreneurship have given the institute that extra edge over the rest of the B-Schools in the world. A strong concept, a clear vision

and a passion to excel are the pillars of the institute that have edified the construct of XIME during the travelling years. Progressing rapidly from a humble beginning, the institute holds its lamp aloft in producing several brilliant leaders who today hold significant positions in various industries.

"The market, the respectability and compensation is growing rapidly as

Management graduates continue to hold key positions in various organizations while globalization and awareness have supported", said the Chairman on the growing market for MBAs. While the admission score determines the eligibility of a student into a premier institute like XIME, cracking the interview that follows is also equally essential. Some of the key tests include CAT, XAT and GMAT that help a student to get into the list itself. XIME, with its brand image, global standards, use of Harvard case studies and an entirely different set of courses emblazing the program structure into a comprehensive learning wins over the pedagogy. "Through bridge courses like Learning Circle and Contemporary Business Environment, we introduce students to classic literature environment. Students are exposed to scholarly literature and allowed to have interactive sessions on it thereby inculcating their debating skills. They are made to scan the current business scenario and tune them to remain contemporary. Our winning streak is the heavy emphasis on presentation skills. Socially Useful and Productive Activity(SUPA) is one other dimension which is imparted in XIME that unplugs the socially relevant aspect", shared Prof. Philip.

The Institute's three campuses at Bengaluru, Chennai and Kochi with extensive residential and infrastructure facilities not to mention the institute's vision for an excellence in erudite curriculum have been attracting students from across the globe each year. Extend-



ing a global exposure to students at XIME is the international study tour that is a part of the course of their study. As a part of a collaborative endeavor and to enable a comprehensive approach, XIME organizes interna-

minent professionals from India and abroad in respective fields ensures a holistic approach not only enabling a professional expertise for the faculty but also securing their personal gratification.

based in USA. The institute's continuous ranking among the learned elite as one of top Business Schools in India on par with international standards speaks volumes about the quality of academic training imparted

programs and effective placements. Entry of students solely based on eligibility is one factor that puts in place the alacrity of students for a wholesome training. "There is no substitute to hard



tional events in partnership with various institutions abroad allowing unbounded Management Exchange Programs for students. The institute's memoranda of understanding with 16 International B-Schools spread across the world stands a testimony to their teaching-learning process on a global front. Exchange Programs for faculty at regular intervals with

XIME spearheads the Association of BRICS Business Schools (ABBS), a platform for management education in Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa and has been awarded International Accreditation for its PGDM programme by Accreditation Council for Business Schools and Programmes (ACBSP) which is a reputed global accreditation agency



here and its professional standing. The institute accredits its success to their distinctive methodology which encompasses a common curriculum to their campuses at Bengaluru, Kochi and Chennai peppered with courses relevant to local market requirements in each city and a strong faculty. This ensures an industry-connect training easing internship

work", the Chairman quotes Thomas Alva Edison as he signs off. Strengthening the innovative skills through case studies, role plays and interactive sessions, XIME is surging ahead on an emphatic journey of carving out sterling pacesetters driven by values and proficient in dynamizing the global facet into an irrefutable intellect.







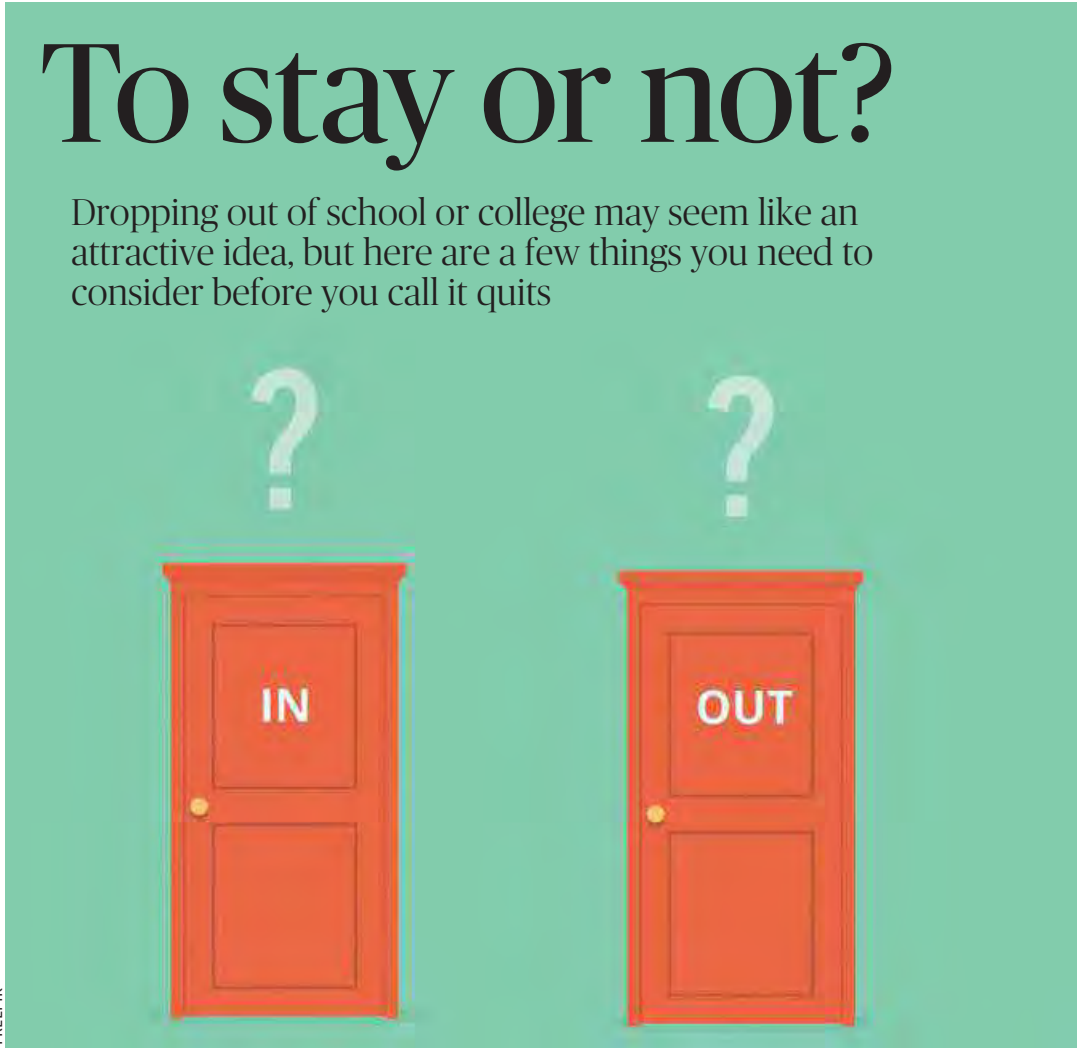
CAREER CUES  
RICH A DWIVEDI SAKLANI

Imagine sitting by a sunny window in a dreary class, stealing a glance at the green fields outside every time your teacher turns to the board. The thought of dropping out certainly seems meaningful at such a moment; or when exams loom large and you are struggling to study subjects you neither enjoy nor find relevant.

Should you drop out of school or college? After all, so many successful people did – Bill Gates set up Microsoft, Steve Jobs set up Apple and Pixar, Richard Branson set up the Virgin Group, Oprah Winfrey...well, she's Oprah. Closer home, we have Dhirubhai Ambani, Azim Premji, Ritesh Agarwal of OYO rooms fame, Gautam Adani, and numerous sports people and film stars. But then, what about the many who dropped out whose stories we don't hear about because they didn't make it big?

**Closer look**  
If you are toying with the idea of dropping out, here are some ways to think about it:

1. Most successful drop-outs already had a business or career going and dropped out because it was difficult to manage both work and college. Oprah was a TV star at 19. Ritesh Agarwal founded OYO (then Oravel Stays) at 18. Mark Zuckerberg dropped out of Harvard to build Facebook. Sachin Tendulkar was a star at 15. Aishwarya Rai got featured in American Vogue at 18. Let me not set the bar so high. The simple point I am making is that many successful drop-outs dropped out to handle their growing careers; not to escape dreary lectures. They no longer needed a college degree – a



compelling path to success was laid out to them and college was, in fact, a minor inconvenience to it.

2. After sports people and actors, the most successful drop-outs are entrepreneurs. But not because they had a great idea. Business ideas are overflowing on the worldwide web and most ideas do not lead to successful businesses. The potential does not lie in the idea, but in relentless execution when most people reject your idea and in persistent learning when your first three launches fail miserably.

Some good questions to ask yourself would be: Do I already have a sustainable flow of income that can support my lifestyle? Do I have a financial and career plan that requires me to leave college and work at it full time? Can I work 90-hour weeks for the next few years? Can I handle multiple failures, learn from them, and forge ahead? Can I sell my idea over and over again when most people don't find it convincing?

If these questions seem inspiring, you may be ready to make the big move that you will be one day telling your grandkids about. If

they seem daunting though, think again.

**Staying put**  
There are some compelling reasons to stay in college; so, bear with me while I do a quick recap. It is tough to get jobs without a college degree. Colleges offer placement processes that let you interview with many companies. College life is widely known to be fun, full of friends, clubs and parties, and coping with studies may just be worth the while. Many professional and certifi-

## Cut out the toxicity



KNOW YOUR ENGLISH  
S. UPENDRAN

"I ran into Anjali's brother yesterday. He said that Anjali and Rahul are getting a divorce. Don't you find that strange? They're such a..."

"No, I don't find it strange at all! I'm happy she's getting out of that toxic relationship."

"Toxic relationship? Doesn't 'toxic' mean poisonous or something?"

"Yes, one of the meanings of 'toxic' is poisonous. One can talk about 'toxic waste', 'toxic chemicals', and so on. But the word can also be used to refer to something that is very bad or harmful. Something that causes a lot of unpleasantness and..."

"In other words, something that causes unhappiness."

"Exactly! And this unhappiness or unpleasantness usually lasts for some time. Ever since the workers went on strike last month, the situation at the office has been toxic."

"Anjali's husband doesn't have too many friends because of his toxic sarcasm."

**In good books**  
"That's a good example. Now that he's divorcing Anjali, he won't have any friends left. If he wants to keep some of them, he'll need to be nice to them. Butter them up, if he..."

"Butter them up? What does it mean?"

"It's an expression mostly used in informal contexts. When you 'butter someone up', you flatter them. You do this because you want to..."

"You want something from them. You're being nice to them because you need a favour."

"Very good! In schools and colleges, it's very common to see students trying to butter their teachers up."

"A little bit of buttering up goes a long way in getting a student a few extra marks."

"That's true. If you want to tide over the crisis, you need to butter up all the investors. If you don't, the company will definitely collapse."

"You have a point there."

But sometimes, it backfires. I tried to butter up my grandfather by cleaning and rearranging his room. Instead of being happy, he became extremely angry. Had a difficult time finding his things."

"So by trying to butter him up, you succeeded in cheesing him off!"

"First 'butter', and now 'cheese'! Does 'cheese off' mean to annoy someone?"

"When you 'cheese someone off', you make the person very angry or irritated. Like 'butter up', it's used in informal contexts. My father was really cheesed off with his boss."

**Annoyed**  
"Something that the Principal said at the meeting seems to have cheesed most teachers off. How does that example sound?"

"Good! Two of my best friends are really cheesed off with each other. They are..."

"So, what are you doing to do to bring the fight to an end? What are you doing to help them patch up?"

"Absolutely nothing! I don't want to get involved, so I'm avoiding them both. I'm keeping my head down."

"Keeping your head down? Are you doing that because you don't want to be seen?"

"The expression is mostly used to mean to avoid being seen – to make sure that no one notices you. It can also be used to mean not to get involved in the things happening around you."

"I see. Radha decided to keep her head down while her two brothers argued about which restaurant they should go to on their parents' anniversary."

"I don't get involved in office politics. I keep my head down and do my job."

"Sensible thing to do."

\*\*\*\*\*

*Keep your head up in failure and your head down in success.* Jerry Seinfeld

The author teaches at the English and Foreign Languages University, Hyderabad. upendrankye@gmail.com

## 'Toni-kela'

Selflessness is a way to counter the culture of self-regard among the millennials



ETHICS AND YOU  
MINI KRISHNAN

Early this year I spoke to a group of high school students at a site outside Chennai called Toni-kela, a large grassy patch of land on which camps, meetings and picnics are held. On the way back I asked the gentleman who had accompanied me, "Who or what is Toni Kela?" He laughed and said that it was what the British had understood of the Tamil word "thanakkilai" ...not for the self.

What a wonderful thought. Not for the self! It was a site which belonged to no one exclusively but rather to everyone. In it were echoes of what an elderly Adivasi had told Sudha Murthy when she had asked him to whom their forests belonged. "To everyone. Is the air and the sunlight someone's property?" Toni-Kela.

In the session meant for sharing that followed my talk which the mike delivered through a burst of echoes, I asked students to name

their greatest fear.

"The thing I'm most afraid of is being scolded for what I might have done accidentally," said the first girl.

"My greatest fear is that I will be rejected by my friends," said the second.

"I am always afraid that I will judge someone wrongly" said the third student.

Not one of them was older than 15. I left the meeting both impressed and much more thoughtful than I had been when I reached the site. I was reminded of this hour when I watched a video describing millennials and their socio-emotional disabilities. A chilling list of features: entitlement; self-obsession, narcissism, low tolerance, inability to focus on anything for any length of time. Now this might well be true of some of them but not all of them. Many youngsters everywhere are responding warmly to outreach messages for help. Any request sent out on behalf of students in distress or appeals for food or gifts for orphanages or animal shelters is almost immediately met with a flood of calls and assurances. Some of the respondees are school-goers. Indeed there is more than one story of Asian school children from ordinary backgrounds who have actually set up informal and free teaching ser-

vices. They hurry home to help groups of poor children with reading and writing.

**Inspiring**  
'Project Fresh Start', is the brainchild of 14-year old Nikita Nambiar, Bengaluru, who felt she had to do something for women prisoners. From getting permission from her parents to finding a good teacher who could train the women to prepare paintings in the Thanjavur style, to convincing the depressed and angry prison inmates to try their hand – every step was a struggle. The paintings are sold online and help the inmates to earn money in a creative way.

When she was five years old, Hannah Taylor saw a homeless man eating out of a garbage can. For a whole year she asked her parents, "Why? Why can't everyone just share what they have to end such poverty and hunger?" Three years later, Hannah founded The Ladybug Foundation which has raised over three million dollars towards ending homelessness in Canada.

Twenty years ago Janine Licare and Aislin Livingstone were only nine when they saw the rainforest disappearing from their home in Costa Rica and how it was affecting the lives of animals. They set out to begin their own organisation: Kids Saving the Rainforest and promoted conservation in their own small way.

"Toni-kela" is an excellent code word we might teach our youngsters to counter the culture of self-regard that is corroding our family-oriented social structure.

The writer is Series Editor, Living in Harmony (OUP India). minioup@gmail.com

### SCHOLARSHIP ALERT

■ **Post Graduate Scholarship for Professional Courses for SC/ST 2018-19**

1000 graduation degree holders from SCST are offered opportunity by University Grants Commission to help the under-privileged with the persuasion of higher education.

**ELIGIBILITY:** The candidate must have obtained admission in post-graduation for regular full time course in any of the professional subject from recognised institutions, colleges and universities.

**PRIZES AND REWARDS:** ₹ 7800 p.m. to M.E., M.Tech. and ₹ 4700 p.m. for other courses will be given.

**DEADLINE:** November 30  
**APPLICATION:** Online only  
<http://www.b4s.in/edge/PGS6>

■ **All India Pre-Medical Scholarship Test (Primary) 2018**

Students who aspire to study B.Sc., Bio. Tech., B.Sc. Nursing, B.Pharm. and Paramedical programmes in more than 270 Government approved institutions.

**ELIGIBILITY:** Candidates who have cleared Class XII with minimum 50% or those appearing for Class XII may apply.

**PRIZES AND REWARDS:** Varying tuition fee and a laptop based on this test.

**DEADLINE:** November 30  
**APPLICATION:** Online and offline  
<http://www.b4s.in/edge/AIP23>

■ **Post-Graduate Indira Gandhi Scholarship for Single Girl Child 2018-19**

Girl students, who are in their first year of post-graduation, are extended economic assistance by University Grants Commission

**ELIGIBILITY:** Applicants who are the only girl child or are twin daughters in their family, pursuing regular full time post-graduation with age not more 30 years.

**PRIZES AND REWARDS:** ₹ 36,200 for a period of two years.

**DEADLINE:** November 30  
**APPLICATION:** Online only  
<http://www.b4s.in/edge/PIG8>

Courtesy: www.buddy4study.com

### KNOWLEDGE

**Q1**

Howard Carter was an archaeologist who earned fame after discovering something designated as KV-62 in 1922. Lord Carnarvon, an aristocrat, funded Carter's expedition in Egypt, and gave him only a year's time to make the historical find. After a young water boy stumbled upon a staircase leading downward, Carter was able to discover the tomb of the youngest Egyptian Pharaoh to die in power.

Who was the Pharaoh, who was discovered exactly on this day, 96 years ago?

**Q2**

"8 out of 10 Cats" is a British TV comedy panel game, hosted by comedian Jimmy Carr. The show is based on statistics and opinion polls, and the panellists have to guess different questions based on different rounds and visuals. The show's name comes from a famous ad campaign by a popular cat food brand, known for its bright purple branding. The tagline goes, "8 out of 10 cats prefer \_\_\_\_." The brand's name is a slight variation on a part of a cat's body.

What is the brand called?

**Q3**

R. Norris Williams, a descendant of Benjamin Franklin, was born in 1891, in Geneva, Switzerland, and was a tennis player by profession. He went to Harvard a year after winning the 1911 Swiss Championships. However, his career was threatened to be cut short in the year he joined Harvard, when he had to remain afloat at sea, in the ice-cold water for several hours. Doctors recommended amputation, but he refused, exercised and went on to win two US Open Singles and Doubles titles, a US Open Mixed Doubles title, a Wimbledon Doubles title and the Olympic Gold Medal in Mixed Doubles.

Which incident was this, that could have drawn the curtains early on his career?

**Q4**

Malcolm X was an American Muslim minister and human rights activist. He was a courageous advocate of black rights and encouraged African-Americans to defend themselves using any means necessary. Martin Luther King Jr., on the other hand, was a civil rights leader, who used non-violence, civil disobedience and peaceful protests to campaign for civil rights. Inspired by these two influential leaders, Marvel Comics created two characters who also stood up for the rights of 'differently abled' people.

Who are these two characters, who adopt violent and non-violent methods respectively, to further equal rights for their kind?

**Q5**

This author's seminal set of works were first published as a sequel to a previous book, as part of a trilogy. During his career, he wrote numerous acclaimed fantasy and mythological novels. However, when his good friend and famous author C.S. Lewis nominated him for the 1961 Nobel Prize for Literature, the committee rejected the nomination, with the quote, '(his writings have) not in any way measured up to storytelling of the highest quality'.

Who is the author in question?

**Q6**

Plantar Fasciitis is a disorder of the connective tissue which supports the arch of the foot. It results in pain in the heel, usually with the first steps of the day, or after a period of rest. This disorder has a more common name, named after a profession that requires a lot of standing and walking around, being constantly "on the beat" for the better part of the day.

Which profession is this?

COURTESY: WALNUT KNOWLEDGE SOLUTIONS

Answers

A6. Policemen. (called Policemen's Heel).

A5. RRR Tolkien.

A4. Martin Luther King Jr.).

A3. Magneto (inspired by Malcolm X), and Professor X (inspired by the sinking of the Titanic, in 1912).

A2. Whiskies (from Whiskers).

A1. Tutanekhamun

### VIDEO CAFE

■ ASTHA NAHAR

#### Hackschooling makes me happy

What do you want to be when you grow up?" It's a question that all kids get asked by their parents. Logan LaPlante, a 13 year old and a free skier talks about being "happy and healthy" when he grows up, something that is not taught in the traditional schooling system.

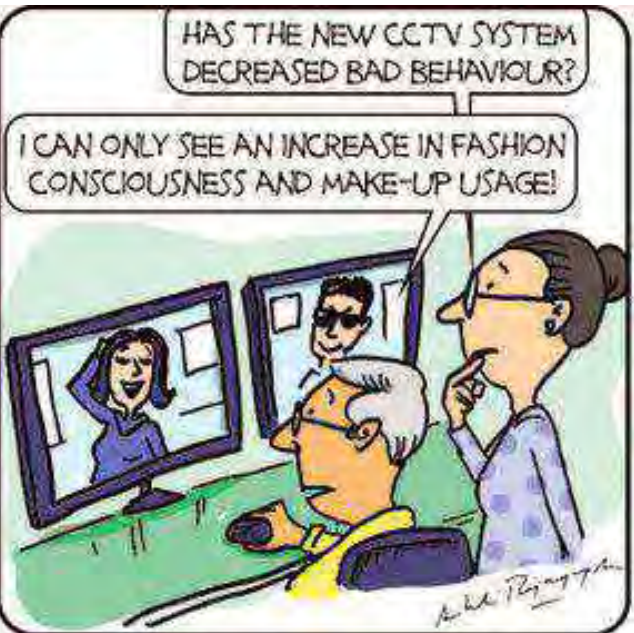
He also talks about Hackschooling, a term coined by him that means education, not in its traditional form. It is education that is open to being hacked or improved, not by working with the current system, but by going outside the traditional educational system to find better ways to get to the same goals. He talks about a world that needs more hacker mindset, and not just of technology, but education or skiing as well.

He also talks about how the current educational system is oriented towards making a living, not a life, and what his journey from a traditional schooling system to hackschooling was like.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=htlu3vtcpaY>

### EAR SHOT

ASHOK RAJAGOPALAN





WHAT'S NEW

Goldmine of opportunity

The US CPA remains an untouched career option for chartered accountants in India



New avenues: Look beyond the usual

PANKAJ GOYAL

In recent times, there has been an unexpected surge in the number of students who have enrolled themselves with professional bodies like ICAI (Institute of Chartered Accountants / Cost Accountants of India) and ICSI (Institute of Company Secretaries of India). This is primarily due to the limited number of career options available for commerce students who are not able to score well in the senior secondary examinations. Even scoring 95% at senior secondary level turns out to be insufficient for securing a place in top colleges. Having said that, these professional bodies do carry their own value in terms of the responsibilities assigned and respect given to enrolled members.

However, there is another career option simple to pursue but suffers from obliviousness in India. United States of America Certified Public Accountants (US CPA) certifies a professional to work like a Chartered Accountant in the world's largest economy. Not only in the U.S., countries like Canada and many countries comprising the European Union recognise US CPA to act like a chartered accountant in their country.

Testing and scoring

Unlike the Indian CA, where an aspirant needs to appear for about 20 exams and undergo training for three years, US CPA requires to clear four exams with a minimum score of 75% marks in each subject and undergo a training of 12 months. However, passing CPA exams comes with a couple of conditions where a candidate

needs to appear for these exams outside India (i.e. either in the U.S. or UAE) and all four exams should be passed within a limited time period of 18 months – from the date of appearing in the first examination.

While the exams are conducted in the first two months of every quarter (sometimes extended to another 10 days of succeeding month), candidates are free to choose their own exams dates for the subject they wish to appear for. Examinations are computer based and comprise task-based simulations, where a candidate's skills and understanding of the concepts (rather than memory) are tested.

Overseas candidates are treated as international students and are thus required to evaluate the credentials (i.e. graduation / post-graduation results) from the international evaluating agency NASBA in accordance with the evaluation requirements set by selected board of accountancy. It is imperative to note that U.S. comprises 55 state boards of accountancy, which all together conduct uniform CPA examinations. Qualified personnel can practice in any of the state subject to passing of an additional ethics examination conducted by the state separately.

Passing CPA exams will not only buy you a ticket to fly and settle down outside India, but also open numerous opportunities in India.

Pankaj Goyal is a qualified Chartered Accountant from India and a qualified Certified Public Accountant from United States of America.

IN CONVERSATION

Empowering future LEADERS

“One thing no one can ever take from you is your education” — these words power Shabana Basij-Rasikh's fight for girls' education in Afghanistan

MADHUMITHA SRINIVASAN

“Everything you have in your life can be taken from you. Your money, your home, everything you own. But there's one thing that no one can ever take.” Shabana Basij-Rasikh's life has been shaped by her parents' belief in the power of education.

Shabana has come a long way from the time she studied in a secret school for girls during the Taliban regime in Afghanistan when girls' education was banned.

“There were many times during those years that my sister and I begged our parents not to send us to those secret schools. We cried, we pleaded, we said we were scared and didn't want to go. My parents were so strong, though. My father would point to his head, and say, ‘Your education is yours forever. It's your greatest asset. Treasure it.’”

Shabana is now an educator, humanitarian, women's rights activist and the President of School of Leadership, Afghanistan (SOLA), a school she co-founded for Afghan girls in 2018 while studying at Middlebury College in Vermont, U.S. The school – the first Afghan boarding school for girls – aims to change its students from believing that their role in society is to raise a family to becoming critical thinkers and leaders.

With more girls entering schools, the changes being witnessed in the country are twofold – some for the better, and unfortunately, some are for the worse. Explains Shabana, “For instance, there are women-owned businesses in Kabul and across Afghanistan today, and Afghan women hold positions of authority in professions like law and journalism, and certainly that's something you'd never have seen during Taliban times. That said, many of these women are taking risks simply by holding these positions, and girls still face harassment – both

verbal and physical.”

She speaks to *EDGE* about her belief in the power of education to create change and why educating girls is a win-win for all.

Why is education seen as a threat in some societies?

Education is the bridge we build between “what is” and “what could be,” and that's something that some people, especially people with power, can find upsetting. Levelling girls up doesn't mean levelling men down; it doesn't mean that family bonds will be weakened or that deeply and truly held religious convictions will be negated. Educated girls marry later, have fewer and healthier children, earn higher wages, and spend the majority of their income on their families – these facts have powerful upsides for every society.

You received your education in different environments: a secret school in a restricted society and then a liberated one – college in the U.S. What are some of the best takeaways from each?

I'm often asked what surprised me the most about studying in America. It was the fact that I was surrounded by a number of students, both male and female, who took their educations for granted. They didn't act like education was a privilege. For the first time, I was seeing what it was like to live in a society where equal access to education was a given. In America, a girl didn't have to struggle to be educated. She didn't have to take risks. She had the freedom to learn – and the freedom to skip class. Girls' education was normal, not so

...the goal of an educator should be to make students unafraid to ask questions - I mean, everywhere in the societies in which they live.

mething that needed to be fought for.

What should quality education aim to do?

I think, more than anything, the goal of an educator should be to make students unafraid to ask questions - I mean, everywhere in the societies in which they live.

To my mind, the most beautiful question a child can ask is “why?” It's the means by which a child gains knowledge of the societal norms that underlie our interactions with each other – and by answering the question, we as adults are inevitably led to consider the validity of these norms ourselves. It's a small word with the power to create huge changes.

In your school, how do you strike a balance between regular education and imparting a global perspective?

There's a national curriculum in Afghanistan that private schools like SOLA are required to adhere to, but we supplement and enrich it with significant educational opportunities that we deliver 100% digitally. Our students interact on Skype with international tutors on an almost daily basis, and our teachers benefit from online training provided by highly-qualified mentors from around the globe. We intend for our students to grow to be proud Afghan women who see themselves as citizens of the world, and online learning is critical to that effort.

We've partnered with schools from New Delhi to Pune, and with organisations around the world, in developing a curriculum that has powerful real-world applications - for example, we've been fortunate to have professionals at tech giants like Google volunteer their time to create and teach a coding curriculum.

Shabana is one of the speakers at the TEDxGateway in Mumbai in December 02, 2018, the theme of which is 'Ideas Worth Spreading'.

POSTCARD FROM...AMSTERDAM

Navigating a new culture

For Thirumurugan, the summer at Netherland's Vrije Universiteit was a good mix of learning and fun



NAME: Thirumurugan Elango  
COLLEGE: Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam  
COURSE: Summer school course in 'Brain and Mind'

When I was in my second year of integrated M.Sc Physics course at Pondicherry University, I dreamed of applying physics for a medical purpose. As a result, my interest turned towards neuroscience.

When I was in my third year, seeing my interest, one of my professors informed me about an opportunity of doing summer school in Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, Netherlands. I did some research and found that the Vrije University summer school offers a lot of courses. The one which I found related to my area of interest was the course 'Brain and Mind'. The application process was really easy and the university summer school representatives were very helpful in completing the application process.

As soon as I reached Schiphol, in the Netherlands I was amazed by the Dutch weather and I found the people really friendly. The summer school started with the ice-breaking and orientation programme, where we got to meet students from other courses too.

Organised system

The first day of our class started and I found the professors had sound knowledge over the subject which made the class really interesting and completely different from what I had expected. In the afternoon, we had practicals where what was taught in the morning, we did as practi-

cals in the afternoon.

We also had social activities and trips, which showed us how the Dutch education system works. The Dutch education system is extremely organised and I had no difficulty in completing my assignments.

We were also asked to collaborate with a company and we were asked to do a project. This shows the nexus between Dutch universities and industries in the country.

As we were studying about neuroscience, we were asked to do a survey about the wayfinding in Amsterdam. Wayfinding is about how we find a way, using what we see such as directions sign boards with letters and symbols.

We were asked to survey people and it was an awesome experience. This, in turn, helped the company to solve problems faced by people. This shows how they make use of education where the universities and industries tie up to solve the problems faced by the people.

The social trips organised by the university were an incredible experience for me. I took part in the trip to The Hague, the Anne Franke House and the Escher museum. With this, they acquainted us with the Dutch culture and history.

Thirumurugan Elango is currently pursuing his first year in M.Sc Medical Physics in Anna University, Chennai

Bilingual NEET papers

With the National Testing Agency (NTA) taking over, the upcoming NEET examination is hoped to be more streamlined. Students are allowed to opt for question sheets in any of the 11 languages listed by NTA: English, Hindi, Assamese, Bengali, Gujarati, Kannada, Marathi, Odia, Tamil, Telugu, and Urdu. To avoid any confusion, NTA will also issue English question papers to students opting for regional language.

This year, candidates opting for English would be provided test booklet in English

only, however, candidates opting for Hindi or any other regional language would be provided bilingual test booklet in English and Hindi/opted regional language.

“Around 10,000 students go abroad for MBBS every year. It is important that there are no lapses in 2019 NEET examination and admissions to Indian and overseas medical universities happen smoothly without any delay,” said Saju Bhaskar, President of Caribbean based Texila American University, a MCI-recognised medical university.

VOICES

Upskilling for the future

Andhra Pradesh has launched a cloud-based skill initiative with Amazon Web Services (AWS) that aims to skill students across engineering and non-engineering colleges in the state by 2020. Some reactions

NEHA RUPEJA



BALGURI AAKANKSHA REDDY, II, B.SC ECONOMICS & FINANCE, INDIAN SCHOOL OF BUSINESS & FINANCE, NEW DELHI

This is a step towards mass growth. Revolutionising education in government schools via digitisation and similar forms of skill training initiatives is a dire need. I believe it is necessary to leverage vocational training and skill development as it is key in primary and secondary sectors. The use of advanced technology in agriculture is an example. Therefore, it is important for skill development to be accessible to all.



ARCHANA A., IV, ECE, SRI KRISHNA COLLEGE OF TECHNOLOGY, COIMBATORE, TAMIL NADU

We live in a society where we are employed in positions that are irrelevant to our higher education. The major reason is that either the student is not well adept in their area or because the opportunities are few. In such cases students getting an opportunity to be skilled in cloud computing, which is the foundation of future technology, will play a major impact on higher employability and lead to a brighter future.



SHWETA MISHRA, VII, B.TECH CSE, AMITY UNIVERSITY, NOIDA

It is beneficial for students because it makes them learn an important and useful technology nowadays. Companies will get cloud professionals and the problem of storage will get a solution. However, there is a challenge to make companies engage with it to make it successful in a developing country like India. But nonetheless, it is a golden opportunity as the upcoming years will be of big data and cloud computing along with Artificial Intelligence.



SHIVAM RALLI, II, KLE TECHNOLOGICAL UNIVERSITY, HUBLI

Keeping pace with the rapid changes in technology is an arduous task. Currently, the trend is cloud computing. With all data and processing tasks being computed on the cloud, it's the opportunity of a lifetime. Local development and storage alternatives are slowing creeping into history, as this change occurs. This initiative pushes students to enter new, lucrative fields for themselves, while entering a new realm of possibilities for the entire nation.



# Lessons that engage

With online English language learning apps on the rise, en.news stands out with its relevant and engaging content



WIDE ANGLE  
ALBERT P'RAYAN

The number of English language learners learning the language online is on the rise. As smartphones are ubiquitous and access to high-speed Internet is easy these days, online learning has become more popular than ever before. A great demand for learning English as a second language (ESL) and English as a foreign language (EFL) among non-native speakers of English across the globe has resulted in experts and edupreneurs creating English learning apps.

**Innovative learning**  
Recently, I came across an app called en.news. The app, available on both web and mobile, is unique in many ways. The users of the app are provided with authentic mate-

rials pulled from CNN's latest news and articles on various topics including entertainment, sports, news, politics, travel, and technology. The materials are so appealing and compelling that users enjoy reading them. As Dr Stephen Krashen, a well-known expert in second language acquisition, says, the input (reading material / audio / video) must be comprehensible and compelling to have an effect on language acquisition and literacy development.

Each lesson helps learners to develop their reading and listening skills, acquire vocabulary in context, learn pronunciation of correct words, know the definitions of key concepts and practice the language in an engaging way. The tool enables learners to learn authentic pronunciation and also recognises their pronunciation. The application supports full audio playback of articles. A range of dialects and voices facilities, using the same voice technology as Amazon



GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

Alexa, are available to read the selected article out loud to the learner.

A typical lesson has an interesting reading text or video and based on that there are many useful reading, writing, and listening activities. Each lesson is characterised by type (news, sports, entertainment, and so on), difficulty level (1 to 5 or CEFR A1 to C1), number of words, videos, meanings of words and phrases, interesting activities, etc. As the learner completes each part of a task, they score points and are thus motivated to do more exercises.

Skills focused are listening, reading, vocabulary, grammar, and pronunciation. Flash cards enable learners to learn the meanings of words and phrases in context. Learners can regulate the speed while listening to the reading of any text or watching any video.

en.news (<https://www.en.news>) is managed by Mike Elchik, the founder and president of WeSpeke, a global language technology company based in the U.S. and affiliated with the Language Tech-

nologies Institute at Carnegie Mellon University. WeSpeke has partnerships with CNN and *The Wall Street Journal* and together they use artificial intelligence technology to repurpose media content for English education for free.

**Lessons for all**  
I spoke to Mike Elchik and asked him a range of questions. When asked why WeSpeke launched en.news and which target group they aim at, Elchik said en.news is designed to automatically repurpose CNN news stories into English lessons that are pedagogically structured for learning, levelled for proficiency and gamified to make English learning fun and personalised.

The predominant demographic for English language learners globally is 18 - 36 year olds. These are individuals that are required to have English skills to be admitted to a university, individuals that are required to have a baseline English proficiency for a first job, and individuals that are required to have a specified level of English to get a job promotion. en.news supports

The tool enables learners to learn authentic pronunciation and also recognises their pronunciation.

English learners at all levels of proficiency – from beginner to fluent, with any native language.

Selecting materials that are compelling and engaging to the learners is a challenge. When asked on what basis the reading materials and videos for each lesson are selected, Mike said that the en.news application generates 30 - 40 lessons per day. A patented algorithm is used to sort and filter every CNN article and video to select those best suited for en.news lessons, based on linguistic complexity, relevancy, trending interest, and topics followed by en.news users. en.news turns today's news stories into today's English lessons.

How is the en.news app different from other English learning apps? Mike Elchik states these four reasons: relevant real-world content, new lessons every day, unlimited learning for free, and part of a daily routine.

How can teachers use the app to help their learners improve their level of proficiency in English? en.news has a Learning Management System (LMS) for English teachers available at: <https://teachers.en.news/> This LMS allows English teachers to build a roster of their classes, assign English lessons based on news stories, and track student progress (e.g. lessons taken, average score, time on task, questions missed, etc.). We are continuing to build out our suite of features for English teachers, based on feedback from the teachers who are successfully using en.news to support their teaching, he said.

The users' feedback is awesome. It has a rating of 4.7/5 on both Google Play and the Apple App Store.

The author is an English Language Teaching resource person, columnist and freelance writer.  
[rayanal@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:rayanal@yahoo.co.uk)

## Believe and visualise



OFF THE EDGE  
NANDINI RAMAN

I scored 94.7% in my class X boards. However, the main motivation for me to study was to impress a girl. When she rejected me, I totally lost a reason to study. Even then I tried hard in class XII. But, my efficiency plummeted. I scored 93.8% in my boards but failed to crack IIT. I joined NIT Durgapur for my B.Tech in ECE and I do not like the curriculum. I have lost the drive and thus score average marks. Please help me to regain my drive. – Anonymous.

Wow! 95% and 94% is rather impressive. You are still the same person who scored these marks in the X and XII! You need to believe it, that's all. Please thank that girl for having ignited the motivation in you. Now you know you can, if you really want to. You seem to be disinterested, bored or perhaps heartbroken? You just need to switch on again! Equip yourself with a sound education (and you know you can do this), set a goal that you want to achieve and work towards that. You will find the girl of your dreams when the time is right. Can you move from ECE to another stream now mid-semester? What would you enjoy studying? Where do you see yourself post your B.Tech? Masters? India or overseas? Work aspirations? What industry? The best will happen, believe it and visualise it.

I completed my graduation in 2013 and started preparing for Civil Services. I wrote IAS and PCS Mains and still in the process of PCS Mains' second attempt. I could not get the best guidance at the right time, otherwise I might have done a post graduation in some field. Now I wish to know what options I have to start earning by working in something? Are there any opportunities for those who prepared for IAS and can directly do something based only on interview, without pursuing further education. I need to start earning now. Also what courses I can opt for while working? Are there any good distance education courses in fields like journalism or law which I can join while having a career after a few years? – Sumit Sharma

Dear Sumit,  
Yes, it is a tiring, excruciatingly tough, painfully long, and difficult process to crack. Unfortunately despite your attempts, there is no extra privilege provided during hiring and interviews for those who have prepared for IAS for many years though you can certainly share the information with the HR / interview panel.

What have you done your graduation in? Yes, it's been a while since you graduated and you should start earning. Find a job that interests and excites you, get in touch with good friends and family (that are well placed and can provide you with suitable openings and leads), meet HR placement consultants and explain to them what you would like to do. You can shortlist a list online, with your city preferences. There are various online and distant education courses certified from national and international universities that you can sign up to, once you find a job. You will find a rich directory for these online as well, if you look for the specific courses.

I scored 70% in Class X and XII, after that completed my Bachelor's in Technology (Mechanical) and secured 65% marks. I never had any interest in engineering. When I was in the final

year I accidentally cracked my GATE exam, and everyone started thinking I am studious. But honestly I am not and I have no idea how I cracked it. Although my GATE score was just at par, it was considered a huge achievement since there were only two of us from my branch who cracked this exam. At that time I had no idea what the benefits of clearing this exam were. After completing my Bachelor's I didn't get campus placement and afterwards I wasted about nine months in Delhi preparing for SSC CGL. After completing the course I returned home and found a job as an installation engineer for three months and later realised that it wasn't for me. Later I decided to go for Masters and got admission in Thapar University. After completing Masters, I worked hard with my partner and opened an automobile company. It's been two years of successful working in the company and now I've realised that I am still not happy and want to go into civil services via SSC CGL. I am already 27 now and worried because the age limit for SSC CGL for the general category is 30. Should I try for SSC now or should I continue with my business? – Nischay Chauhan

I do believe that you are seeking the true meaning of your name – "Nischay" – a resolve, a final decision, and surety of your identity perhaps. What do you want to do in life? What gives you joy and happiness? You have a Master's degree in mechanical engineering and running a successful company but what is it that you are seeking deep within? How are you so sure that you are cut out for SSC CGL and that it will be an answer to your search now? Would it be possible for you to meet with a proficient counsellor who can work with you in greater depth and help you understand and identify your interests, hobbies, fears and concerns. I would like you to be a little more realistic and not romantic. You certainly don't want SSC GCL to be another escape exit for the next two to three years.

My daughter completed her Class XII with a very good score of 95% in the commerce stream. With a keen interest, she took up economics as joined B.A Economics in Chennai. She wants to do her postgraduation with economics as major subject. What are her options in Chennai and other cities. She is not keen on pursuing MA or M.Phil. Please advice. – Sandhya

Dear Sandhya,  
Your daughter can do a MBA in Business Economics, M.Sc. in Applied Economics or, Mathematical Economics, a MBE – Master of Business Economics or a PG diploma course like Applied Economics or Econometrics. What does she want to do? Depending on that she will need to start looking out for colleges and universities across the country that offer the course of her choice. Madras School of Economics, Delhi School of Economics, St. Stephen College, Delhi University, Indian Statistical Institute Kolkata, Sri Ram College of Commerce, IIT Kanpur and Banaras Hindu University are some of the very well reputed institutions.

**Disclaimer: This column is not a substitute for long-term therapy. It is merely a guiding voice. Some issues may need medical intervention.**

The author is a practising counsellor and a trainer. She will answer questions sent to [eduplus.thehindu@gmail.com](mailto:eduplus.thehindu@gmail.com). The subject line should be: 'Off the edge'.

### OFFBEAT...PROFESSIONAL GAMING

## No child's play this

The world of gaming is anything but a walk in the park. To be a professional, one requires commitment and passion

■ MUHAJID RUPANI

If Saahil Arora's parents had discouraged him from gaming, they would have deprived their son of an income of \$3,030,318. The Dota 2 player from Wisconsin, USA, has amassed the income in just about seven years of being a professional esports player. Saahil Arora, or 'UNIVeRse', is one of the hundreds of successful gamers in the world who are making careers out of what was earlier thought to be a recreation.

The gaming industry, valued at \$108.9 billion globally, has been growing at a rate of 7.8% year on year over the past few years. Today, esports is a legitimate, popular profession with an audience of over 380 million. The industry comprises of PC gaming, mobile gaming and console gaming and is pegged at over a whopping \$905.6 million. This solid industry strongly hinges on its professional players.

Prospective gamers typically begin their careers by choosing a game of their choice – from PUBG, Dota 2 and Counter Strike to League of Legends, Heroes of the Storm and Overwatch, and more; there are several options. The game one picks usually depends on the genre one excels at. Although there is no basic educational qualification required to be a pro gamer, it helps to have completed a basic 10+2. The player then decides the platform they prefer – whether they want to use the controller or the mouse or the keypad. They practice, join a team and try competing in tournaments, both online and LAN. As they get better, sponsorships begin pouring in and then the sky is the limit for how far one can go.

ed a basic 10+2. The player then decides the platform they prefer – whether they want to use the controller or the mouse or the keypad. They practice, join a team and try competing in tournaments, both online and LAN. As they get better, sponsorships begin pouring in and then the sky is the limit for how far one can go.

#### What it takes

But turning pro requires immense commitment. The career is as rigorous and requires as much time and effort, if not more, than mainstream careers. It begins with having enormous focus and motivation. Gaming as a professional is vastly different from playing for hobby and it is vital to know the difference. Giving yourself a professional environment and getting a coach, who walks you through the technical as well as soft skills required, is essential.

Finding equally passionate team players, sponsors and a support system is challenging but crucial. It is important to note that most professional players are full-time players, so part-time gaming is not advisable. It requires way more dedication than playing three hours every day.

However, it is a challenging job that wears



GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

Beyond recreation: Making a career out of playing video games

you out. Young players must take care of both their mental and physical health as they immerse themselves in this profession. The money too is big once you make it to the top. It is a fast-changing world that demands all players keep adapting to new levels, rules and leagues. In India, since it is still a growing profession, players have to battle social curiosity, lack of a professional eco-system and sponsorships – although a lot of this is fast changing.

Ranked 17th globally in the gaming sector and estimated to be about an \$818 million industry that is growing at 9.2% year on year, the growth of Indian gaming industry is expected to be similar to that of the Chinese, which is valued at \$27.5 billion. By 2020, India will have a full-fledged gaming industry that competes professionally with all the

leading countries of the world.

The gaming industry also supports a range of other professionals, like game designers, developers, coaches, production crew, event management companies, analysts and shout casters.

The industry set to cross the billion-dollar mark in India by 2021, by when we are also expected to have over 300 million Indian gamers. Add to it professional leagues, sponsorships, brand support and a large captive international audience. So by all means, gaming is a promising future career that is already here. And we must prepare our ecosystem and future gamers such that we can compete with the best in the world.

The writer is the Co-Founder and C.E.O of Cobx Gaming.

### EMPOWERMENT

## Tackling inequity in education

The government and private stakeholders need to come together to bridge the gap between quality education and economic disparity



GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

■ NEHA RUPEJA

The educational inequity in our country has hindered the right of education for all. The multi-fold socio-political and economic problems encumber the growth of the nation by keeping education missing from its seekers.

In order to challenge this inequity, Avanti Fellows, an NGO founded by the alumni of IIT Bombay, has been working on improving access to premium STEM college courses for the underserved, by addressing the systemic bias which exists against low-income students. They select the concerned students from Narvodia Public Schools and provide free tuition for NEET and IIT-JEE examinations in order to make them at par with the competition.

#### Grassroot solution

"The rural students are unable to aspire to pursue a career in medical, engineering, or even commerce. As one not only has to be exceptionally smart but also fortu-

...the commercialisation of education is hindering the right to education of students.

nate enough to come from a strong economic background," said Avanti Fellows' Director, Deepak Kamble.

"There is a seven times lesser chance of a rural student making it to a good institution as compared to his urban counterpart due the lack of facilities. The vast gap between the education offered at private schools and the public schools deplete the chances of a bright student making it to the top notch colleges as they stand nowhere near the expected markers of qualification," he adds.

According to him, the need of the hour is to work at the grassroot level and raise the quality of schooling in order to prepare students to fight the inequity of the educational system. "This is the beginning of a long battle, as the chances are very less that these



DELHI METRO

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Audacity of hope, renewed

Last week, a Delhi court convicted Yashpal Singh, Naresh Sehrawat for murders of two men in 1984 **Page 2**



Polo to the people

The royals and the Army are no longer its exclusive keepers. The game is coming into the open **Page 4**



Saving innocence

Satyarthi talks about truths that *The Price of Free* deals with and his struggle at red carpet events **Page 5**



Is your phone a babysitter?

If your child cannot finish a meal without checking the phone, you may have a problem **Page 6**

IN BRIEF



'No leave for JNU teachers violating rule'

NEW DELHI The JNU has said it has decided that appropriate action will be taken against faculty members not marking their attendance. It said concerns were raised over some faculty members refusing to adhere to attendance rules for teachers. **CITY ▶ PAGE 2**

Man held for abducting, assaulting woman in car

NEW DELHI A 22-year-old car driver was arrested on Sunday for allegedly kidnapping and assaulting a 25-year-old on Friday. Deputy Commissioner of Police (South-East) Chinmoy Biswal said the accused was arrested from Meerut. The car used during the crime has been seized and the victim's phone has also been recovered. **CITY ▶ PAGE 3**

Air quality of Delhi-NCR		
Delhi	262	Gurgaon -
Ghaziabad	295	Faridabad 183
Noida	268	Greater Noida 271
Legend: Good (0-50), Satisfactory (51-100), Moderate (101-200), Poor (201-300), Very poor (301-400), Severe (>401)		
AIR QUALITY INDEX AT 4 P.M., YESTERDAY (AVERAGE OF PAST 24 HOURS)   SOURCE: CPCB		

Man held with forex, steroids worth ₹3 crore

NEW DELHI The Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) arrested a man with foreign currency and muscle-enhancing steroids worth over ₹3 crore at Indira Gandhi International Airport here, an official statement issued on Sunday stated. Acting on a tip-off, the DRI intercepted the accused on the intervening night of November 23 and 24, when he was going to board a Bangkok-bound Air India flight. DRI officers seized foreign currencies worth ₹1.28 crore from his possession the statement said. **PTI**

Traffic Police adds selfie filter to Signature Bridge

Cops have a tough time when it comes to controlling people who throng the bridge to take pictures

SAURABH TRIVEDI NEW DELHI

Visitors at the newly inaugurated Signature Bridge are risking their lives to strike poses for the social media, with the policemen facing a tough time trying to stop them, said a policeman on duty at the bridge on Sunday.

To tackle the “selfie menace” the Delhi Traffic Police has deployed a police van with loud speaker that request visitors to decongest the bridge.

“People are climbing the bridge’s suspenders, walking on railings and climbing on their vehicles for the perfect shot. They are posing a threat to life of commuters by suddenly stopping their vehicles to click photos,” said a policeman, who was deployed to stop unauthorised parking in middle of the bridge.

After three people lost their lives two separate road accidents at Signature Bridge in two consecutive days, the police presence on the bridge were increased on Sunday. The Traffic Police has also installed barricades on both sides of the road to slow down speeding vehicles.

The bridge has become a major attraction in the city and people from all over the city have been paying a visit to take a glimpse and clicking a picture with it.

“It [the bridge] is a new attraction for Delhiites. Everyone wants to click a picture on the bridge, but the policemen are asking us not to do the same. It should not

**People are climbing the suspenders, walking on railings and climbing on their vehicles for the perfect shot. They are posing a threat to life of commuters by suddenly stopping their vehicles to click photos**

POLICEMAN



People from all over the city and outside visit the Signature Bridge and violate rules to click pictures. • SAURABH TRIVEDI



Construction material lying next to a divider on the bridge. (Right) An electricity board kept open by the road here. • R.V. MOORTHY



be done. It is a tourist attraction, the government should develop proper parking and other facilities for visitors,” said Surbhi Gupta, a visitor.

A policeman here said that entire day he keeps on asking visitors not to park their vehicles on the bridge or not to climb railings, but visitors do not refrain from doing “stunts”.

The railings in the centre are easy to climb. Visitors

cross the roads recklessly that could prove fatal.

“We have barred entry of vendors to stop visitors from stopping to buy food or other things from them, but it has hardly made an impact. After sunset, locals from the nearby areas throng the bridge and make it tough for the policemen on duty to control the crowd,” said a policeman, who wished not to be named.

“We have deployed extra police personnel, a tow van and barricades on the bridge. Besides, a police patrol van has also been deployed,” said Joint Commissioner of Police (Traffic) Alok Kumar.

Eve-teasers

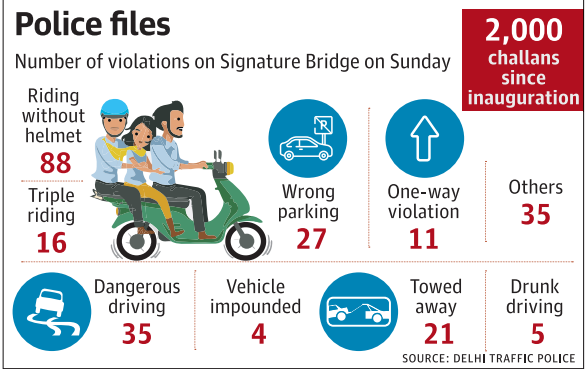
Visitors, meanwhile, complained that though the police presence is good enough on the bridge, stunt biking

and eve-teasers start causing trouble to people here after sunset.

“Electrical fittings are still uncovered. Construction materials are scattered on the sides of bridge. Despite public urinal and many other basic facilities being unavailable on the bridge, the Delhi government has inaugurated it. Why was the government in a hurry?” said Damoder Saha, a visitor.

Govt turned a deaf ear to our requests: police

On installation of security measures



SAURABH TRIVEDI NEW DELHI

The Delhi government has turned a deaf ear to the request of Delhi Traffic Police regarding installation of speed bumpers, CCTV cameras and deployment of traffic marshals at the Signature Bridge to avoid road accidents, said a senior Traffic Police officer on Sunday.

‘Several letters ignored’

The Traffic Police said that they have written several letters to the Executive Engineer of Delhi Tourism and Transportation Development Corporation (DTTDC) regarding the deployment of traffic marshals, installation of CCTV cameras, view-cutters and construction of speed-breaking measures, but no action was taken based on any of the requests.

“On November 13, we had sent a letter to the DTTDC Executive Engineer, requesting installation of a view-cutter on the Signature Bridge in order to discourage visitors from halting and parking their vehicles on the bridge for taking photographs. People have been doing so everyday, thereby interrupting a smooth flow of traffic. The ones who have been climbing railings of the bridge and to the top of vehicles just for a photo do not understand that their activities are putting their own lives in danger as well,”

said a police officer.

Another letter, sent on November 15, requested the installation of CCTV cameras at different points on the bridge which has turned into a picnic spot. The letter said that CCTV systems should be installed with cautionary sign boards reading: ‘You are under CCTV surveillance’, in the larger interest of general public. It read that cases of speeding are now common on the bridge, while motorists and bikers have also been performing stunts here and film videos. These are very dangerous and can lead to fatal accidents, it stated.

The Traffic Police had also requested construction of speed-breaking measures like cat-eye rumble strips and sufficient number of cautionary sign boards reading “Go slow”, “Merging traffic ahead” and “Speed bumpers ahead”. The request of deployment of traffic marshals on the bridge was also made.

“In a meeting with Delhi government officials, held before the inauguration of the Signature Bridge, we had suggested several methods to control traffic on the bridge, but those were never implemented. We are now awaiting their reply to our letters, which we have sent recently,” said Joint Commissioner of Police (Traffic) Alok Kumar.

Foreign nationals fear mob violence, stay away from houses

2 others leave house to hide; locals divided over rumours

SIDHARTH RAVI NEW DELHI

Fear of the mob that gathered in front of their house following rumours of kidnapping and cannibalism in Dwarka’s Kakrola village on Friday have kept the foreign nationals away from their residence. Two other foreign nationals, residing in a house a few streets away, also have also left the house to hide out of the same fear, their landlords said on Sunday.

“There are as many stories as there are mouths,” said Pinky Mishra, sitting outside her house a few doors away on Sunday. “Around 6 p.m. two boys, supposedly from Haryana, came here claiming that their brother had been kidnapped and kept in that house. Soon a mob gathered and the police were called.”

Investigations, however, proved the allegations to be false. “People who had spread the rumours just wanted to get their names in the media. We have never seen them [the foreign nationals] bother anyone. What is there to be afraid of?” she said. “Those were just rumours,” said Mohan Kumar, who lives on the street.



Foreign national Silvam Usam said he takes special precautions while walking on the streets alone at night. • HIMANSHU VATS

However, other residents of the area continue to hold a grudge.

“We are going to tell the owner to not rent out the house to such people. They create raucous, come and go in the middle of the night and even scare our children. Two persons jumped on to the roof of the house behind theirs and ran away yesterday, and this was not the first time that this happened,” said Meena Devi, a neighbour. “They should stay in places where people keep to themselves. We have a problem with them living in this locality,” said another neighbour.

The victims, who were picked up by the police to be provided protection and subsequently let go, refused

to speak to *The Hindu*. Their landlords, who did not wish to be named, said: “If the government is not able to ensure their safety, then why do they give them visas?”

Praveen Kumar, who has rented out rooms to two other foreign nationals, said that following the recent incident his tenants were scared of returning to the house, which is in the said locality. “I said I will keep whoever I want in my house. People here keep staring at foreign nationals, making them uncomfortable for no reason,” he said.

Silva Usam, a foreign national, who has been living in the city for the last four years, accused the Indians of being racist. “They think we are slaves and some say it on our faces,” said Usam, who belongs to Nigeria. He said he takes special precautions while walking on the street alone in the night. “If I see a group of young boys, and feel that they might attack, I change the way I walk,” he said. “I pretend I am carrying a machete or something, and they leave me alone” he said.

The association of African students in India, in a statement, has condemned the recent incident.

Gay vibes: Queer Pride celebrates victory

It was the first march after the SC verdict striking down Section 377 of IPC

STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

The Delhi Queer Pride after a decade of being a protest march demanding striking down of Section 377 of the Indian Penal Code in its 11<sup>th</sup> edition on Sunday was a celebration on the streets of the new-found freedom of the LGBTQ+ community.

It was the first march organised after the September 6 verdict of the Supreme Court decriminalising gay sex and thousands sang and danced their way from Tolstoy Marg to Parliament Street.

What was different from previous years, was the absence of protest slogans that would pierce through the sound of the beating drums and the posters calling for striking down of Section 377 were replaced with those addressing issues like marriage

**It has not only changed the life of people who are gay, but has opened up conversations and discussions in the classroom and elsewhere so that homophobia is dispelled**

PROTEEK MUKHERJEE Student



Delhi Queer Pride participants walked from Tolstoy Marg to Parliament Street in the Capital on Sunday. • SANDEEP SAXENA

rights and social acceptance.

‘Largest turnout’

Those who had been attending the annual parade since its inception said that it was the largest turnout ever at the event as participation was not only restricted to LGBTQ+ people but to their friends, family and supporters.

Rishi, a middle-aged businessman, said: “It is so heartening to see that there are so many youngsters participating this year and carrying the rainbow flag forward with pride. This is what we

have been fighting for and now we can walk on the streets without being looked upon as criminals,” he said.

‘Battle to continue’

The pride was also a nostalgic event for some. Gayatri Narang, who remembers attending the pride as a student, said: “Every year, we would sing the song ‘Hum honge kaamyab ek din’ with lots of hope. It gives me immense joy that we did not have to sing that song today. The battle will continue for acceptance and rights but for now, we need to pause

and bask in this wonderfully positive vibe.”

Derogatory joke

Delhi University student Proteek Mukherjee, who was attending a pride for the first time, said “It is remarkable what the Supreme Court verdict has done. It has not only changed the life of people who are gay, but has opened up conversations and discussions in the classroom and elsewhere so that homophobia is dispelled. If someone makes a derogatory joke, it is not taken to kindly any more.”

Auto driver beaten to death by mob: police

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA NEW DELHI

An autorickshaw driver was beaten to death allegedly by a mob that suspected him of being a thief in south-west Delhi’s Uttam Nagar, the police said on Sunday.

Two other men were also thrashed on the suspicion of being thieves, they added.

The two men had boarded the autorickshaw driven by victim Avinash Kumar on November 24, the police said.

Subsequently, they asked Kumar to wait for them and got off, while the autorickshaw driver went to urinate, they also said.

The police said when Kumar came back, he saw a crowd thrashing the passengers. The two men told the mob that Kumar was their leader, following which the crowd attacked him, they also said.

The police revealed that the passengers had allegedly stolen batteries and kept them in Kumar’s autorickshaw.

One of the accused was nabbed, while the others are yet to be identified, the police further said.



Last week, a Delhi court awarded death penalty and life term to Yashpal Singh and Naresh Sehrawat respectively for the murders of two Sikh men in Mahipalpur on November 1, 1984. Thirty-four years after they lost their loved ones, families still fighting cases tell **Hemani Bhandari** how the November 14 verdict has restrengthen their resolve to keep fighting for justice

# Audacity of hope, renewed

**G**Ab lagta hai ki shayad kuch ho jaaye. Hamari ladai zaya nahi jayegi. Humein poori umeed hai [Now we have hope that something will happen. Our fight will not go waste. We have complete hope]...

**GOPI KAUR**  
Lost her husband in the riots

**A**n entire generation was left uneducated because of the 1984 riots... We all had to start earning as soon as possible because our mothers did not have enough money to educate us

**DALJEET SINGH**  
Gopi Kaur's son

Gopi Kaur keeps glancing at her husband Hotu Singh's black and white photograph on the side table in her two-room home. The 72-year-old's son Daljeet Singh, an autorickshaw driver, sits next to her. Daljeet's curious 9-year-old peeps inside the room, his tiny brow scrunch up in concentration as he tries to follow the topic of discussion he has heard so much about – the 1984 anti-Sikh riots that claimed his grandfather's life. Daljeet was just 2-year-old when his father was killed. Over the next few years, his bedtime stories revolved around how his father and other relatives were beaten and torched to death, why his mother had to go to court every few weeks and why he could not get formal education because his mother did not have enough money. Daljeet and many others like him believe they have lived the history which others have only read about in class. Daljeet's cousin Gurbachan Singh, who was 1-year-old at the time of the riots, said his childhood memories are marred by the stories his mother told him. "I was told how our house was set on fire, and how my father and grandfather were beaten up.

How we stayed in the camp and how there was no food or water while we were in hiding," says a teary eyed Gurbachan. **Painful past** After the cousins, now Daljeet's son is told repeatedly about his family's painful brush with the riots. "If we do not tell them about the riots, they will learn about it from others. It is a painful part of their life they have to live with. Who else will continue the fight," asks Gopi. On November 14, a Delhi court convicted Yashpal Singh and Naresh Sehrawat for the murders of Avtar Singh and Hardev Singh in Mahipalpur on November 1, 1984. On November 20, Yashpal was awarded capital punishment and Naresh life imprisonment. The verdict has brought hope to all families who have been fighting for justice for the past 34 years. "Ab lagta hai ki shayad kuch ho jaaye. Hamari ladai zaya nahi jayegi. Humein poori umeed hai [Now we have hope that something will happen. Our fight will not go waste. We have complete hope]," says the septuagenarian. Recalling her life before the riots, Gopi says she lived in Sultanpuri with her husband and their five children. Her husband



Anti-Sikh riots survivor Gopi Kaur (72) looks at her husband Hotu Singh's photograph at her residence in Tilak Vihar in New Delhi. While being dragged away by a mob on November 1, 1984, he begged them not to kill him in front of his children and told his wife to save their children. ■ SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

drove an autorickshaw and the family lived a comfortable life. Talking vividly about November 1, 1984, as if it happened yesterday, she says she remembers how a mob, allegedly by Congress leader Sajjan Kumar, chopped her husband's legs before setting him on fire. **'Gurdwara set afire'** "The gurdwara was set on fire. A few, including my husband, asked the mob why they had set the gurdwara on fire. The police asked them to return home. My husband came back. He and the children were in a room and I was in the lobby. Those people [in the mob] forced their way inside our house. They broke into the room, took him out in the street and

killed him," she recalls. "Unhone un logon ko kaha tha ki bacchon ke samne mat marna... mujhe kaha bacchon ko bacha lena...[He told them not to kill him in front of the children... He told me to save the children," she says. Gopi ran to the first floor, where a man from Nepal lived with his wife and a son. He let Gopi and her children stay though non-Sikh families were asked to not shelter Sikh families. "Daljeet kept asking for water. But there was no water and no one could go outside. I made him relieve himself in a cup and then wet his lips...." she adds with a sob. If the riots were tough, life in the aftermath was unimaginable.

The family lived in a camp in Rani Bagh for a week before returning home to ashes. A year later, the Tilak Vihar's 'Widow Colony' was born. All those who had lost family members in the riots were rehabilitated there. Gopi raised her children by becoming a house help, something she had never envisioned herself doing. "An entire generation was left uneducated because of the riots... We all had to start earning as soon as possible because our mothers did not have enough money to educate us," says Daljeet. But life moves on. Gopi's children grew up, started earning, got married and gave her grandchildren. In fact, she says wryly,

**I** was married off to my brother-in-law after the riots. He was younger and an alcoholic. He would beat me. My first husband was a kind man. Besides him, I lost my life too in the riots

**SHEELA KAUR**  
Lost her husband, father-in-law and a brother-in-law in the riots

**483 FIRs were registered but 9 cases are pending trial... Over the last few years, we had mellowed down but this verdict has given us the strength to fight vigorously**

**ATMA SINGH**  
DSGMC member and president of Victims of 1984-Anti-Sikh Riots Society

she is now a heart patient since she had a minor attack. Nonetheless, the senior citizen and her bundle of painful memories still trudge to court every few months to fight her case in the hope of justice. A hope now strengthened after the November 14 verdict. **Horrific memories** Sheela Kaur, a 55-year-old mother of five, too lost her husband in the riots. She was just 21 and lived with her family in Sultanpuri in 1984. When asked her story, she narrates it in one go, almost as if giving a statement in a court. At this remark, she says she has retold her story many times since the late 1980s – mostly in court – but cannot give the exact number of times she has had to relive that horrific day. Sheela lost her husband Balbir Singh, father-in-law Basant Singh and brother-in-law Baihar Singh. Her son – her only biological child with Balbir Singh – was 2-year-old at the time of the incident. After the riots, Sheela was forcibly married off to her surviving brother-in-law who was younger than her and an alcoholic. "In the park nearby, [Congress leader] Sajjan Kumar was encouraging people to kill Sikhs [on November 1, 1984]. They came, took

away all three of them and thrashed them before setting them on fire. I tried to save them but they said they will kill me too if I did not leave," she recalls. "He [her second husband] is no more but he would get drunk and beat me. My first husband was a kind and decent man. He was employed and took care of us. I lost more than a husband in the riots, I also lost my life too," she says, as she recalls how a Muslim family gave shelter to her remaining family and her. She says she will always remain grateful to them. **'225 cases closed'** Atma Singh, member of Delhi Sikh Gurdwara Management Committee (DSGMC) and president of Victims of 1984-Anti-Sikh Riots Society, claims nearly 3,000 people were killed and about 5,000 injured in the 1984 riots. He says 483 First Information Reports were registered but 9 cases are still pending trial. "Over 225 were closed. The reason given was that witnesses in the cases could not be traced. For the last few years, we [the survivors] had mellowed down but this [November 14] verdict has given us the strength to fight vigorously for many years to come," he adds.

## IN BRIEF



**CM lays foundation for development work**  
NEW DELHI  
CM Arvind Kejriwal on Sunday laid the foundation stone for development work in 14-unauthorised colonies in Kirari. "Under the project, roads and drains will be constructed in these colonies at an expense of ₹5,322.74 lakh," a statement said. The work will begin between December and January, and end between July and August. STAFF REPORTER

**UN invites Noida to participate in 2025 bid**  
Noida  
The UN on Sunday invited Noida and Greater Noida to become a member of its initiative which aims to create 25 model cities across the globe that will be compliant with sustainable development goals by 2025, officials said. PTI

## 'No leave for teachers violating attendance rule'

Varsity Registrar says decision was taken at a recent Executive Council meeting

STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI

The Jawaharlal Nehru University has said it was decided at a recent Executive Council meeting that appropriate action will be taken against faculty members not marking their attendance. The university said concerns were raised during the meeting over some faculty members refusing to adhere to attendance rules that have been in place since August 28, 2018. "The matter regarding marking of attendance by JNU teachers is not sub judice and the decision was taken by the statutory bodies of the university," said Registrar Pramod Kumar. In case of faculty members applying for leave, he said, the university was seeing information regarding their adherence to the attendance rule and not granting leave to those few faculty members



Last week, JNU Professor Nivedita Menon said she had to pull out of the Kappen Memorial Lecture she was to deliver in Bengaluru on Friday because she was not granted leave by JNU. ■ FILE PHOTO: SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

who were defying the rules of JNU as well as the University Grants Commission (UGC). Last week, JNU Professor Nivedita Menon said she had to pull out of the Kappen Memorial Lecture she was to deliver in Bengaluru on Friday because she was not granted leave by JNU. "The JNU administration has taken a decision not to process any applications from faculty, from leave to medical bills, unless they comply with an order to sign a register for attendance daily," she had told the organisers in a letter. Prof. Menon had said the decision that students, in-

cluding research scholars, should mark attendance daily has been challenged in court and is sub judice, during which period the JNU administration is prohibited from coercing students to follow the attendance rule. "The JNU faculty has refused to sign attendance as we continue to teach and work as we always have, with sincerity and commitment, and will not be coerced into the petty bureaucratic conception of teaching and learning being forced upon us," she had written. The university had said its Executive Council had decided to implement the attendance rule for teachers as per the UGC's Minimum Qualifications For Appointment Of Teachers and Other Academic Staff, and Maintenance of Standards in Higher Education Regulations, 2018, which JNU had adopted.

## JNUTA slams university

STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI

On the eve of its day-long hunger strike, the newly elected Jawaharlal Nehru University Teachers' Association (JNUTA) said its request to the Vice-Chancellor for a meeting was not acknowledged till Sunday. The association added that administration had not released the pending ₹50 lakh Merit-cum-Means (MCM) scholarship to undergraduate and postgraduate students over the last eight months, the university said there was no provision for MCM funds in the annual grant received from the University Grants Commission. It added that it was becoming very difficult for the university to meet the cost. **Tuition fees** Finance officer Heeraman Tiwari said, "JNU has been distributing MCM scholarship from the tuition fees collected from JNU students. The total fee collected from students is about

## 'Meeting cost of MCM funds becoming difficult'

₹50-lakh scholarship pending: JNUSU

STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI

Reacting to allegations by the Jawaharlal Nehru University Students' Union that the administration had not released the pending ₹50 lakh Merit-cum-Means (MCM) scholarship to undergraduate and postgraduate students over the last eight months, the university said there was no provision for MCM funds in the annual grant received from the University Grants Commission. It added that it was becoming very difficult for the university to meet the cost. **Tuition fees** Finance officer Heeraman Tiwari said, "JNU has been distributing MCM scholarship from the tuition fees collected from JNU students. The total fee collected from students is about

₹1.90 crore per year, while JNU distributes an average of ₹3.50 crore annually. With the current tuition fee structure in JNU, meeting the cost of MCM scholarship is becoming very difficult." The JNUSU has alleged that money for MCM is allocated from university's funds and if the administration does not have the money to release to students, it simply means that funds are being illegally diverted for other purposes. This, the JNUSU said, only entails corruption at the highest places in JNU administration. Mr. Tiwari added that forms for MCM scholarship received until November 2018 were being processed and that the students will receive their money shortly. He denied that there was any delay in disbursing the MCM scholarships.

## BJP, Congress slam AAP ahead of Monday's special Assembly session

Called to discuss the recent 'chilli powder' attack on the CM

STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI

The Bharatiya Janata Party and the Congress on Sunday criticised the government for calling a special session of the Delhi Assembly on Monday to discuss the "chilli powder" attack on Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal rather than discussing important issues of public interest. **'Fictitious political issue'** Leader of Opposition Vijender Gupta said the session was called "purely to raise fictitious political issues to bluff the public rather than raise public interest issues, which can lead to Delhi's development". "The Kejriwal government is bent upon raising a storm over these non-existent issues. It has never

deemed it fit to deliberate on serious issues such as controlling pollution, providing civic amenities in unauthorised colonies, upgrading medical facilities, increasing the number of beds in hospitals and opening new schools in uncovered areas," said Mr. Gupta. He wondered why the government was shirking from discussing public interest issues by focussing on "fictitious public issues". In a letter to Delhi Assembly Speaker Ram Niwas Goel, Pradesh Congress Committee president Ajay Maken has demanded that the Speaker should not give permission to hold special sessions of the Assembly to discuss "personal matters". Instead, he wrote, Monday's one-day session should be

used to discuss important issues, like the rising level of pollution, illegal sealing, dengue, and the worsening law and order situation in the Capital. **'Personal matter'** "If a special session of the Assembly is called to discuss a personal matter or an unimportant issue, it will not only harm the dignity of the House but also result in squandering of the hard-earned public money," said Mr. Maken. He added that the Aam Aadmi Party government had during its over three-and-a-half-year rule in Delhi convened 15 special sessions of the Delhi Assembly, and that none of these sessions discussed any issue affecting the people of Delhi.

## 'Remembering the personalities who drafted Constitution'

STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI

On the eve of Constitution Day, celebrated on November 26, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said during the 50th episode of *Maan Ki Baat* that "it is a day to remember those great personalities who drafted our Constitution". The Constitution was adopted on November 26, 1949, and came into force on January 26, 1950. Constitution Day was first celebrated four years ago in 2015, when the government decided to mark the day as a tribute to B.R. Ambedkar, who played a seminal role in the framing of the Constitution. Mr. Modi said the constituent assembly took "two years, 11 months and 17 days to accomplish the stupendous task of drafting the Constitution". "Just imagine, these luminaries gave us such a comprehensive and detailed

### Notable Amendments to the Constitution

**1956: THE 7<sup>th</sup> AMENDMENT**  
Reorganised States along linguistics lines

**1971: THE 26<sup>th</sup> AMENDMENT**  
Abolition of privy purse paid to former rulers of princely States

**1976: THE 42<sup>nd</sup> AMENDMENT**  
Enacted during the Emergency period. Introduced a set of 10 Fundamental Duties and gave the Directive Principles precedence over the Fundamental Rights. Limited the powers of the judiciary

**1978: THE 43<sup>rd</sup> AMENDMENT**  
Restored civil liberties after Emergency. Restored the power of higher judiciary to invalidate State laws

**1978: THE 44<sup>th</sup> AMENDMENT**  
Right to Property removed from the list of Fundamental Rights

**1988: THE 61<sup>st</sup> AMENDMENT**  
Reduced age for voting rights from 21 to 18 years

**1995: THE 78<sup>th</sup> AMENDMENT**  
Land reform laws included in the Ninth Schedule so that they are not challenged before the Courts

**2002: THE 86<sup>th</sup> AMENDMENT**  
Free and compulsory education to all children of the age of six to 14 years

**2016: THE 101<sup>st</sup> AMENDMENT**  
Introduced the Goods and Services Tax (GST)



Constitution within a period of just less than three years. The extraordinary pace at which they drafted the Constitution is an example of time management and productivity to emulate even today," the Prime Minister said. A "unique point" in the Constitution, he remarked, is that the rights and duties have been very comprehen-

sively detailed. "If we respect the rights of others, our rights will automatically get protected. Similarly, if we fulfil our duties, then too our rights will get automatically protected," Prime Minister Modi said in his monthly radio address, broadcast on the last Sunday of each month. "I still remember how in 2010, when 60 years of the

adoption of the Constitution were being celebrated, we had taken out a procession by placing the Constitution atop an elephant," Mr. Modi said, noting that it created awareness about the Constitution among the youth. For the first time in India, a joint project by the Buddhist Association For the Blind (Nashik) along with Saavi Foundation and Swagat

Thorat, who started India's first Braille newsletter *Sparshdnyan*, will make the Constitution available in five parts in Braille. The Constitution comprises 90,000 words carefully handwritten in English and Hindi, and 271 men and women were part of the constituent assembly that drafted it. There were no foreign consultants involved in framing of the Constitution as the founders were adamant that Indians should have full control over the drafting procedure. The books were also illustrated with events from Indian history, exquisitely prepared by Indian art pioneer Nandalal Bose of Santiniketan. Through its unprecedented abolition of untouchability, the Constitution serves as a powerful emancipation proclamation ending centuries of caste-based discrimination and social exclusion. B ND-NDE



# Man held for abducting, assaulting woman in car

Incident happened on November 23

STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI

A 22-year-old car driver was arrested on Sunday for allegedly kidnapping and assaulting a 25-year-old on Friday.

Ram Kaushik is accused of abducting the woman from Millennium Depot near Sarai Kale Khan, and then dumping her at UP gate after assaulting her and snatching her phone, the police said.

DCP (South-East) Chinmoy Biswal said Ram was arrested from Meerut. The car used during the crime has been seized and her phone recovered. The police received information about the incident from a Ghaziabad hospital at 1 a.m. on November 24, a day after she was admitted there. “She told the police that she was thrown out of the car near UP gate by an unknown

man and sustained injuries,” Mr. Biswal said.

“The victim, a sanitation worker at Akshardham, was on the way to see her sister at Millennium Indraprastha Park when the incident happened. Ram told the police that he had visited the park earlier and spotted the woman’s mother working there. He later approached the woman. Claiming he knew her mother, he offered to drop her back,” he stated.

The woman cross-checked this claim with her mother, who said she did not know the man. The victim refused to go with him. Ram got furious and started following the woman in his car. As she reached Millennium Depot, he forcibly pushed her inside the car and later dumped her at UP gate, said police.

## Kidnapped boy rescued

Found in Rajasthan a week after incident

STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI

A four-year-old boy allegedly kidnapped from New Delhi railway station on November 17 was rescued from Rajasthan on Sunday, the police said. The boy and his parents have been reunited, they said.

E-rickshaw driver Vidhya Bhushan alias Raju (25), who belongs to Siwan in Bihar, has been arrested for kidnapping the child, the police said. Vidhya took the boy to his brother’s house in Sikar, Rajasthan, and had planned to take him to Bihar later. He claimed he took the boy as his wife keeps unwell since they are childless.

DCP (Railways) Dinesh Gupta said the boy’s mother

told the police that she and her son were waiting for a Jaipur-bound train at the station when she met Vidhya.

“He befriended the duo. When the boy started crying around 6.45 p.m, Vidhya took him away on the pretext of buying biscuits. The woman reported her son missing when he failed to return,” said Mr. Gupta.

During investigation, footage from CCTVs cameras at the station was scanned. Several autorickshaw and e-rickshaw drivers, and rickshaw pullers were questioned. The police made a list of suspects and further questioning led to Vidhya’s identification. He was arrested from R.K. Ashram Marg.

## Teacher thrashes child, fired

STAFF REPORTER  
GREATER NOIDA

The services of a schoolteacher have been terminated for allegedly thrashing a student with a stick on November 22 for not maintaining pin-drop silence in class in a Greater Noida-based village. The accused is on the run, the police said.

They have registered a non-cognisable report in connection with the case and have sought a medicolegal certificate from the hospital. Sacche Singh (40), who taught social science at Janta Public School in Girdharpur village, allegedly thrashed the boy after he lost his concentration due to the student’s “cough”.

“The teacher was reading a chapter when my son coughed. The other students, who were silent till then, started making noises. This made the teacher angry. He

decided to make an example of my son. He punished him first and then thrashed with a stick,” said the victim’s father.

The boy returned home around 2 p.m. with a swollen leg. He told the family about the incident. He was first taken to a hospital and then the police station.

“After the thrashing, he asked the teacher to let him go home as he was in pain. However, the teacher warned him against telling anyone about the beating and told him to stay put,” the father claimed.

Ghanghola Chowki in-charge Manoj Kumar said a non-cognisable report was registered immediately after the complaint was received.

Principal Balraj Singh said, “The teacher’s behaviour was unacceptable, which is why his services were terminated. We do not permit such behaviour in our school.”

## Relief for visually impaired all-India clerk exam candidates

STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI

Granting interim relief to visually impaired candidates of the all-India level Lower Division Clerk exam, the Delhi High Court has stayed the announcement of the results.

Justice Suresh Kumar Kait gave the decision after candidates approached the court seeking a stay on the results and re-examination of the Hindi typing test. The court also directed the Centre and Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan (KVS), which conducted the test on November 13, to sub-

mit their replies. The petitioner, a visually impaired candidate, alleged that there should have been two types of keyboards as per a notification by the authorities conducting the exam but only one keyboard (InScript ) was available on November 13. As a result, candidates who had practised on Remington CBI keyboards did not give the exam.

The petition, filed through advocate Ganesh Chand Sharma, said the candidates had written hundred of emails to KVS but did not receive a satisfactory reply.

### DELHI TODAY

**Talk:** Panel discussion on the book “The Psychological Impact of the Partition of India” edited by Alok Sarin and Sanjeev Jain. Panelists: Sanjeev Jain, Tarun Saint, Ayesha Kidwai and Hina Nandrajog. Moderator: Urvashi Butalia, publisher, at India International Centre, 6:30 p.m.

**Dance:** Third edition of Naval Kathak Utsav. First day performance include Tridhara Trio by Nitisha Mondal, Apala Verma, Sushmita Kanjilal; Presentation by Pooja Pant Dance Company, Mumbai; Followed by a group choreography by Birju Maharaj Parampara Repertoire Delhi. Choreography: Pt. Jaikishan Maharaj at India Habitat Centre (IHC), 7 p.m.

**Dance:** India International Rural Cultural Centre (IRCEN) presents Odissi dance recital by Pompi Paul from Siliguri in Govt. Girls Senior Secondary School, AH-Block, Shalimar Bagh, 9 a.m. and Govt. Girls Senior Secondary School, AP-Block, Shalimar Bagh, 11 a.m.

**Concert:** Piano recital by Moroccan and Hungarian pianist Marouan Benabdallah at IIC, 6:30 p.m.

**Exhibition:** “Metanoia”, a solo show of canvas art by Mohan Singh at Gallerie Ganesha, Greater Kailash-II, 11 a.m. - 7 p.m.

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



# POLO TO THE PEOPLE

The royals and the Army are no longer its exclusive keepers. The game is coming into the open, abandoning its 'hidden heritage' tag, and opening itself up to a new generation of Indians

SUNALINI MATHEW

It is a little like Ascot. No one is sure of what really goes on, except that there are lots of beautifully-dressed people. And even though hats are not compulsory, they are encouraged. Polo in India has been synonymous with royalty, the Indian Army, breeches and pearls. It is a close-knit fraternity where everybody knows everybody, and unless you are really good, you may not make it to the after-party; even if you are at the high tea.

"It runs in families, and it's really about a lifestyle. People come out with their kids and dogs, and have a polo picnic," says Shiwani Joshi, from the quarterly *La Polo*, a two-year-old magazine founded in India (by Maninder Sethi, president of Maharaja Ranjit Singh Polo Federation) and distributed in 169 countries. It is a lifestyle that reeks of entitlement and privilege. "Events in polo-playing nations abroad, whether it's Argentina or the UK, are ticketed. But in India, they're still invite-only affairs," she adds. Even within the Army's structured hierarchies, it is the Armoured Corps (the erstwhile cavalry) officers who have the best access, their children growing up watching polo matches like most do school football. Polo teams have specifically derived a number of officers from 61 Cavalry, one of the world's last remaining non-ceremonial mounted regiments, and one that has seen many generations of individual families.

And yet, of the players on this year's national team, only one is a royal (Maharaja Padmanabh Singh), and one an army man (Col Ravi Rathore). Angad Kalaan and Dhruvpal Godara (with Army dads) are civilians, while Pranav Kapur and Siddhant Sharma have no military or royalty in their blood.

### Horsing around

With a different kind of India emerging, things are changing, opportunities are more widespread, and polo is being seen as a sport. "Sports overall are getting a boost, and just as parents are taking, say, football or basketball seriously, they are also looking at polo as a possibility. Sports is like wine; academics like *roti-kapda-makaan*. We've taken care of academics, so now we're talking about quality of life, recreation. Like other sports, polo is only going to improve," says an Indian Army officer, who has been one of the game's propa-

gators, especially in Bengaluru's Agram Riding and Polo Academy, where he has trained several young people.

The horse is really where it all begins. "Imagine controlling a 500 kg beast that's flying at 40 feet per second," says Joshi. It is this element of 'danger' that makes it desirable. "I've lost a couple of teeth and broken about 16 bones, but it's not as dangerous as it seems," says Col Tarun Sirohi (ret'd), a four-time World Cup player and four-time Indian Open winner. There is very little money in it in India – the winner gets a trophy, and is paid a

professional fee by the patron – it is all about guts and glory.

A couple of decades ago, if you wanted to ride, you would have to own a horse. All this changed in the '90s, with the rise of polo clubs. Today, there are schools investing in the sport, pushing this change. Take La Pegasus Polo Centre. Owned by Sanjay Jindal (Jindal Drugs), and helmed by Col Sirohi, it is developing a polo academy on the outskirts of Gurugram. The first of its kind in India, it is set across 300 acres, with 60 horses, and is the only one to get accredited by the Asociación Argentina de Polo (AAP) – which, in its 96-year history, has so far accredited facilities only within Argentina (considered the world's number one polo playing nation).

Raul Ignacio Guastavino, the Argentinian Ambassador, says he looks at it not just as a promotion of the game, but also as a promotion of his country. "It's a two-way win-win," he says, calling India the "cradle of modern polo". He acknowledges that even in Argentina it is an expensive sport, though the crowd support is "like a football game".

While the facility is not in the heart of town – and takes you across dirt tracks, past Haryanvi women milking cows, and turbaned men smoking hookahs – it

is accessible if you live in the suburbs.

For about ₹14,000, you will get 12 classes a month, and when you are ready to buy a horse, there are stabling facilities that include grooming, feeding, and vet cover at ₹25,000 a month.

"Right now, polo is in need of first-aid: horses, trucks to transport them, vets, grounds, opportunities, foreign players coming down and Indian players going abroad, openness, and a global awareness that this [India] is where polo began," says Jindal. The more children that learn riding, the more will enter not only polo, but also others like eventing (dressage, cross-country, show-jumping), an Olympic sport.

### The money game

Salim Mahmood, Deputy Director at Hindustan University, is one of the people responsible for polo's revival in Chennai. He recalls it being a big sport in the '70s, played at the Raj Bhawan and the Officers' Training Academy (OTA). Today, OTA allows civilians to use the field on a Sunday. He himself learnt to ride late in life, in his 30s, when, after a trip to Kodaikanal, the touristry horses caught his attention.

"Horses are expensive, but we have an advantage in Chennai because of the racing track," he says.

Racing horses have a short life: they begin at age two or three and race for five years or so. "Once retired, we buy and retrain them for polo (or any other equestrian sport). Such a horse can cost anywhere from about ₹10,000 to ₹2 lakh, and can play for 10-12 years." This is typically how it is done in India's amateur circles.

An imported warm-blood horse (bred for equestrian sport) from Europe can cost anything from ₹40 lakh upwards. A polo pony from Argentina or New Zealand costs about ₹30 lakh upwards. Top grade horses can be in the region of several crores of rupees. Ideally, a horse should be bred for polo, but a polo pony will only start playing at age four or five, which means a bigger investment.

### Teams and totals

Mahmood and a group from Chennai plan to head to Argentina soon, for training. There are currently four teams in the city, but he is hopeful that with institutes like the Chennai Equestrian Centre and the Madras School of Equitation (formerly Madras Riding Club), the number of children playing will increase. Meanwhile, in Bengaluru and Hyderabad, the army grounds are open to the general public for tournaments only during the season.

**Did you know?**  
In 1922, in a match between Jodhpur and Patiala (played at the Red Fort), the latter had two +10 goal players, the strongest polo allows: Joginder Singh and Jaswant Singh. In the audience, there were 1,50,000, with 47 maharajas in attendance. Punjab just had to win. They lost, and the Maharaja of Patiala burnt the mallets, declaring Punjab would never play again. In 2014, *La Polo* took the game back to the state, in the Maharaja Ranjit Singh Polo Premier League, after the horse-loving patron. Some of the top players Jaipur royal Padmanabh Singh and Dhruvpal Godara participated.

In the early 1900s, there were 175 polo clubs; today there are 39 registered ones, says Joshi. (The national team is picked from the players registered with the Indian Polo Association, so there are no zonal or state-level matches). The problem is that now not too many people know about polo, its ancestry, or the fact that it is a 2,500-year-old sport that was actively played in the Punjab-Manipur belt, much before the British took it to other parts of the world. *La Polo* is attempting to take it to schools, and most recently visited Modern School, Delhi. Similarly, La Pegasus has a tie-up with Pathways School, Gurugram, to give kids access to the sport. In a smaller format of the game (150-yard x 70-yard), called arena polo, this is possible (a regular field is 300 yard x 200 yard).

Jindal sees polo as a bigger game. As it evolves, he says, "we intend to get into retail, lifestyle experiences (games in India and at the international level), even homes and entertainment around the idea". The first of their experiences will be held on December 7, British High Commissioner's Polo Day, with a friendly – between the British Army team and the Indian armed forces team – to commemorate 100 years of the Armistice. "There'll be a sit-down lunch for 150 people, then we'll have the game, followed by cocktails, dinner and dancing," he says. Soon, they will also do a tour of Argentina, which will be reciprocated. "We're then going to invite three teams, and do a triangular game," he says. La Pegasus does PR and social media, both class-smashing tools.

## POOCH CAFE



## PEANUTS



## HAGAR THE HORRIBLE



## CALVIN AND HOBBS



## TIGER



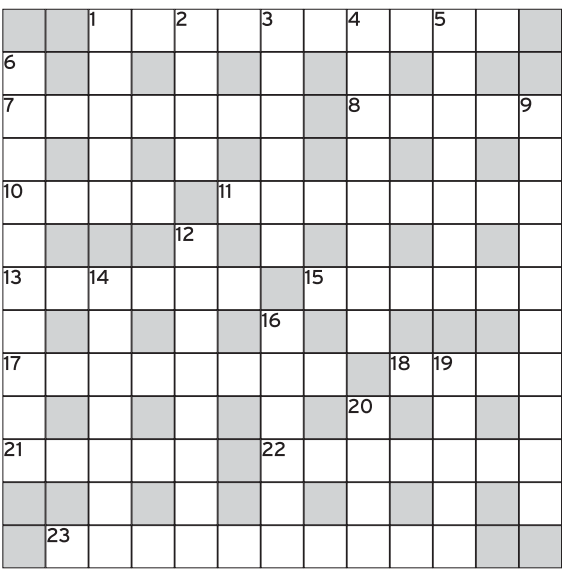
## WUMO



## PEARLS BEFORE SWINE

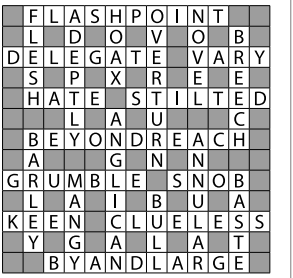


## THE GUARDIAN QUICK CROSSWORD-12925

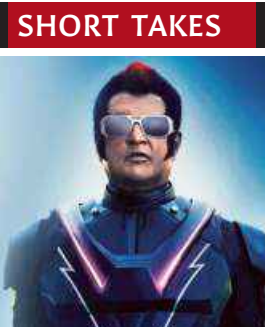


- Across
- 1 Before anything else (5,2,3)
  - 7 Pasta envelopes with savoury filling (7)
  - 8 Insipid – uninteresting (5)
  - 10 Indifferent (2-2)
  - 11 Pitmen (8)
  - 13 Highwayman, for example (6)
  - 15 Commotion (6)
  - 17 Shabby (8)
  - 18 Open pastry filled with fruit (4)
  - 21 Live in (5)
  - 22 Facility for use without leaving one's car (5-2)
  - 23 Under way (2,8)
- Down
- 1 Court game (5)
  - 2 Chess piece (4)
  - 3 Rialto (anag) – adjust to a specific need (6)
  - 4 Extremely pleasing (8)

Solution will appear in Delhi Metro dated November 27, 2018. Solution No. 12924







**‘2.0’ in 4D SLR sound**  
Director Shankar’s 2.0, releasing later this week, promises to be more than a visual extravaganza. The Shankar directed film starring Rajinikanth, Akshay Kumar and Amy Jackson will be released both in 2D and 3D versions and will have sound in 4D. Oscar-winning sound designer Resul Pookutty reveals that the 4D SLR technology used in the film will give the audience a new sound experience. 2.0 is the first Indian film to use this sound technology, according to a statement from the makers. Resul emphasises that this is his best sound design for a film, ever, and adds that while watching a movie in theatre, so far the speakers on both sides or above the viewers distribute the sound. In 4D sound, the speakers would be under the seat. The film releases in Tamil, Telugu and Hindi worldwide on November 29.

**Karan Anshuman eyes ‘Kashmirnama’**  
Karan Anshuman who’s reaping in all the praise for his new gangster drama series *Mirzapur*, and working on the second season of Emmy-nominated drama *Inside Edge*, is also prepping for his next big project, *Kashmirnama*. The writer-director is keen on developing his debut novel *Kashmirnama* into a series. The book is a political thriller focusing on Kashmir. Says Anshuman, “The adaptation process comes with its own challenges, like how does one translate thoughts into visuals.”

# Saving innocence

Ahead of the web premiere of *The Price of Free*, Kailash Satyarthi talks about the inconvenient truths that the film deals with, and his struggle at red carpet events

ANUJ KUMAR

“I have just returned from Hollywood,” beams Kailash Satyarthi as we meet at his Delhi office. One could sense a tinge of irony in his voice as we usually find him either at the hot spots of child labour across the world or at conferences that talk about the issue. Well, this time he was rubbing shoulders with the best in glamour world at the private screenings of *The Price of Free*, releasing tomorrow on YouTube. The Sundance Grand Jury Prize winner traces the efforts of the Nobel Prize winner in abolishing child labour across the world.

“The project started around three years back when producer Davis Guggenheim, who won an Oscar for *The Inconvenient Truth*, approached me for a film on my life and work. He attended the Nobel Prize ceremony in 2014 and fell in love with the subject.” Guggenheim’s team, led by director Derek Doneen, followed Satyarthi for two-and-a-half years. “Not strictly a biopic, it captures my struggle and the work that Bachpan Bachao Andolan does. The crew also followed me during rescue operations, which I still do to re-energise myself,” informs Satyarthi.

He clarifies there is no dramatic recreation of his early life. “Some of the important events like my first rescue operation in 1981 in

Sirhind and the murder of one of my close colleagues in 1983 have been presented through animation.” He reminds that when he started in the early 80s there was no UN Convention on the Rights of Child. “It has been a long struggle.” And sometimes it acquired dangerous proportions like the way he and his team were attacked by circus owners in 2004 in Gonda district of Uttar Pradesh.

To explain his work, Doneen followed three rescued children. “Out of many, they zeroed in on Karim, Sanjit, and Sonu because they could express themselves better than others. However, he



At the Cannes Film Festival, I failed to recognise Cate Blanchett. When she asked to take a selfie with me, I thought she was a media anchor. Others around me were surprised as I was not showing any excitement



Building trust: Kailash Satyarthi in a still from “The Price of Free” ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT, AP

didn’t interview them. He only followed their interactions with BBA members and child counsellors from a distance. It was quite unlike the Indian media where most try to talk as much as possible to get first-hand information. They understood that rescued children lose trust in the world and it takes a lot of effort to build it again. Even after years of practice, I find it difficult. It is an emotional draining process.”

**Painstaking process**  
Satyarthi says the team’s respect for norms of child rights was laudable. “For them, capturing the reality was important even if it took a lot of time. There was no effort to dramatise the events. In fact, once I asked them what was going on and why the director was not directing. Then he shared his moral dilemmas.”

Satyarthi had his share of concerns. “I made it clear that the film should not tarnish the image of India in any way. Child labour is a global problem and our foundation is working in 144 countries across the world for the last 20 years. I have been saying that India is a land of 100 problems but it is also the mother of one billion solutions. This movement against child labour was not started by a western country. It emerged from India. Secondly, it should not show despair or pessimism. Every person who watches the film should carry a ray of hope. That though it is a serious and complicated problem, it is possible to abolish child labour and slavery and I think it has profoundly come across.”

Interestingly, Satyarthi has been facing criticism from some sections of the ci-

vil society for not realising that child labour is an Indian reality and that it is not always bad for the economy. “Child marriage was also a reality once. All kind of social evils could be justified by giving some logic. Some people justify casteism and dowry as well by saying that they have been there for ages. We have to realise that this is evil and the film very strongly establishes that child labour is inhuman, illegal, and is not good for the economy of any country, including India,” reiterates Satyarthi.

**Vicious cycle**  
The film explains that there is a vicious cycle between child labour, poverty, and illiteracy. “Every single child is working at the cost of an adult labourer. And that adult is usually the parent or a family member. A child is preferred because he is the

cheapest source of labour. A child can work for 15 to 16 hours a day and can be exploited sexually or otherwise. Our data shows that around 152 million children are working as labourers today and around 210 million adults are jobless. Isn’t it strange?”

On the positive side, Satyarthi says there is a growing understanding against the practice of keeping children as domestic help. “I remember when the malls started to come up in Delhi NCR, upper-middle-class families would go shopping with a child domestic help in tow. She could be seen standing outside the eatery holding a baby or the shopping bags. We lodged a number of complaints and initially, the police also saw it as interference in personal life but slowly people realised that there was something

wrong in this practice.”

These days Satyarthi has no time for films but there was a time in the 70s when the electrical engineer used to watch Amitabh Bachchan films. “I identified with the characters he played. I was equally angry with the System. I had no time for *pre-mohabbat ki kahani*. Both of us haven’t aged, I guess,” he laughs. However, during the promotion of *The Price of Free*, he found himself handicapped. “I don’t recognise the people from the glamour world. At the Cannes Film Festival, I failed to recognise actress Cate Blanchett. When she asked to take a selfie with me, I thought she was a media anchor. Others around me were surprised as I was not showing any excitement. I went through the same process at the screenings during the recent visit to New York and Los Angeles. For the film media, I am a celebrity, who would pose in front of 100 flashbulbs, which I fail to live up to. I am weak in this subject.”

**Miles to go**  
Despite all the attention, Satyarthi doesn’t feel that he has peaked. “I have not achieved what I wanted to. We have not been able to eradicate child slavery yet. Of course, the number of child labour has declined in the last 15-18 years from around 260 million to around 150 million. I have also been successful in getting the abolition of child labour, slavery, and trafficking incorporated in sustainable development goals and the global development agenda. Now the global commitment is that all forms of child labour should be eradicated by 2025.” But, he adds, India is still a hot spot. “We should realise that the Nobel Prize was not for me; it was for India. And, it will truly make sense when we would ensure that child labour is eradicated from the country,” sums up Satyarthi.

## DOWN MEMORY LANE

# Glimpses of an inclusive culture

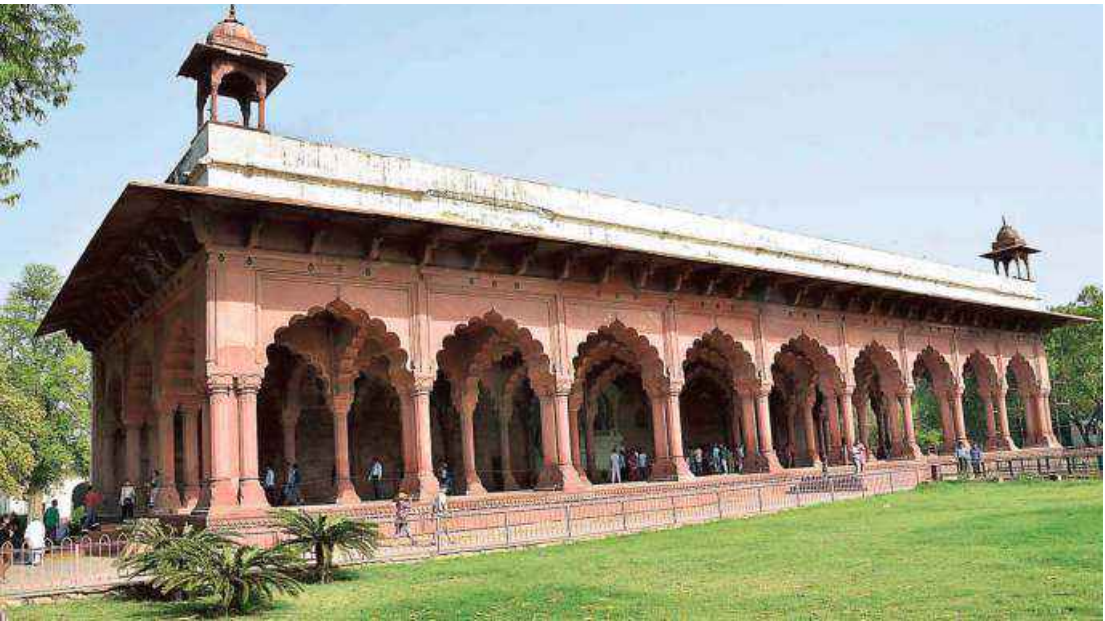
“City Of My Heart” captures the pulse of Delhi during the last days of the Mughal Empire

R. V. SMITH

Delhi has had the distinction of being the premier city of the world (“Alam mein intikhah”) at a time when even the great kingdoms of the West were hardly a patch on it. As such accounts of that period even today make one’s heart swell with pride. One such treatise is “City Of My Heart” (Hachetta India), based on a fantastic translation by Rana Safvi of Urdu works by Syed Wazir Hasan Dehlvi, who wrote “Dilli-ka-Akhri Deedar” (Last glimpse of Delhi), “Qila-e-Mullah Jhankhinan” (Glimpses of exalted fort or Lal Qila) by Mirza Ahmad Salim “Arsh” Taimuri, “Begmat-ke-Aansu” (Tears of the Mughal Begums) by Khwaja Hasan Nizami and “Bazm-e-Akhir” (The Last Assembly) by Munshi Faizuddin. The focus in this piece is on the Munshi’s book, published in 1885. It’s a record of the last days of the Mughal Empire, “after the lamp was extinguished” in the 1857 revolt.

The author was an attendant of Mirza Mohammad Hidayat Afzan (also known as Mirza Illahi Baksh), father-in-law of Bahadur Shah Zafar, as his daughter, Rahim Baksh Bai Begum was married to the last Emperor. But the Mirza was also the “Samdhi” of Zafar as his other daughter, Hatim Zamani Begum was married to Bahadur Shah’s son, Mirza Fakhru. The book was written 28 years after the end of the Mughal dynasty and the Munshi heard the accounts of the reigns of Akbar Shah II and Zafar from his employer. Extracts from them are worth quoting as they throw light on the life in the court, harem and kingdom and the political, social and religious milieu of the time:

At night the emperor rests on his bed. “Chappiwaaliya’n” press the feet, while the “qissakhwans” “Female attendants” stand outside the room and narrate stories. All passages leading up to the palace where the Emperor rests are locked and guarded by female guards. None can go past these Abyssinians and Turkish women-warriors to disturb the Emperor’s sleep. When dawn comes, the royal gun is fired to announce its arrival. The attendants bustle around getting everything ready before the Emperor awakes.



Rich past: Diwan-i-Am at the Red Fort in Delhi ■ SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

In the afternoon, the sun is high up in the sky, and it’s time for the royal rest. The attendants in charge of the beds arranges them with covers, bolsters and cushions. Once his bed is ready, the Emperor comes to the Khwaabgah and sits on the bed to smoke his hookah. After an hour, he asks for Aab-e-Hayat, and the superintendent of the department of water brings him water from the river Ganga, which is stored in an earthen urn and placed on ice. At midday, the Emperor lies down on his bed and the curtains of the Khwaabgah are drawn for privacy. In the evening, he hears Tanras Khan and other musicians and watches dancers perform. Then a cannon is fired and dinner is laid for the Badshah after which he hears the dastanyos and then retires to bed.

**Court Celebrations :** Besides Phool Walon-ki-Sair, ladies outings, Saints, Urs and Moharrum, there were Nauroz and cushions. Once his bed is ready, the Emperor comes to the Khwaabgah and sits on the bed to smoke his hookah. After an hour, he asks for Aab-e-Hayat, and the superintendent of the department of water brings him water from the river Ganga, which is stored in an earthen urn and placed on ice. At midday, the Emperor lies down on his bed and the curtains of the Khwaabgah are drawn for privacy. In the evening, he hears Tanras Khan and other musicians and watches dancers perform. Then a cannon is fired and dinner is laid for the Badshah after which he hears the dastanyos and then retires to bed.

and the princesses.

**Ramzan :** Two days before Ramzan dromedary (camel) riders are sent off in all directions to spot the new moon. Cannons are fired on its sighting and the Emperor makes his vow of roza, which he observes diligently for the whole month.

**Eid-ul-Fitr :** As soon as morning breaks, the Badshah bathes and changes into robes adorned with jewels. The dastarkhwan is quickly laid out with vermicelli and milk, sweet candies, dry fruits and plain rice. The Badshah consecrates the food and tastes all the dishes. After rinsing his mouth, he goes outside. The “Jasolni” (herald) immediately calls out to alert every one of his presence. A trumpet is sounded and a procession falls into place. A 21-gun salute is given from the parade grounds when the procession reaches the Eidgah. The Badshah gets down from his elephant and offer namaz.

**Eid-ul-Adha (Bakr-Id) :** On the tenth day of Zil-hajj, the Badshah’s procession leaves for the Eidgah. The protocol remains the same, except that this time, a masnad is set aside for him in a royal tent that faces south. It is now time for the ritual sacrifice when the Badshah arrives, a sheet of cloth is put up between the camel and him. The superintendent of the armoury gives him a spear. The qazi reads

out the prayers for offering the sacrifice. After the prayers, the Badshah throws the spear at the chalk mark on the camel’s chest. The qazi slaughters the camel and completes the sacrifice.

**Raksha Bandhan** is celebrated as Salona festival when a rakhi is tied to the emperor’s wrist by a Hindu woman. On Dussehra, the Badshah holds a durbar. An Indian Roll-er bird is let off in front of the Badshah. The superintendent of the falconry brings a falcon and a hawk to the Badshah, who places the falcon on his wrist.

**Deepavali :** When the time comes for the first diya, no one enters or leaves the royal apartments. No vegetable enters the mahal, and all vegetables have to be peeled beforehand for fear that someone may do black magic on the ladies inside the Qila which is illuminated on all sides.

**On Holi :** All the groups that did mimicry, impersonation, play-acting, etc in the city during Holi would come to the jharoka and be rewarded by the Badshah.

Thus did the Mughal emperors preserve the composite Hindu-Muslim culture known as Ganga-Jamuna tehzeeb of which alas there are few practitioners.

THE AUTHOR IS A VETERAN CHRONICLER OF DELHI

## Cover stories and more

Often it is the illustrations in a book that lure you into buying it and nobody knows that better than Priya Kuriyan

AISHWARYA UPADHYE

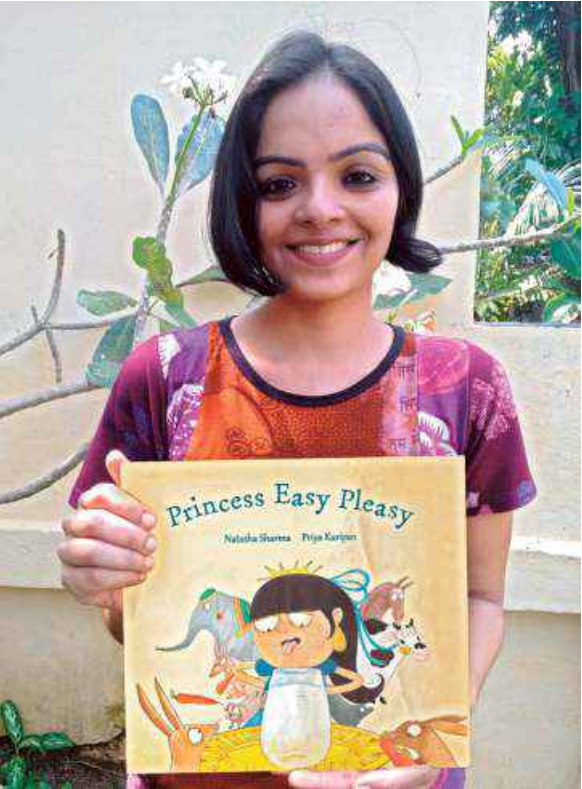
‘Never judge a book by its cover’, may be an old adage, but Priya Kuriyan, knows how much rides on the cover. In a store full of books that are screaming for attention, it is the cover that shoulders the responsibility of being catchy and at times book lovers allow themselves to be lured by it.

Priya was recently a part of the Vizag Junior Lit Fest where she conducted illustration workshops for children.

**Changing times**  
Comics and illustrations were a major part of her childhood. “Today, India is a booming market for children’s books. Kids find the Indianised books familiar and relatable as they have been conceptualised based on their surroundings,” she says. The Bengaluru-based artist who hails from Kochi believes that though a lot has changed over the years, a lot more can be done with the children’s book. “New designs and more experimentation is required in the layout. Elements like pop-ups make the books more interesting and eye-catching for the children,” she says.

During the lit fest, Priya’s workshops on illustrations were quite a hit with the children as they also read along with her. The session ended with them making their own pair of glasses using paper.

**Her works**  
A keen observation, meticulous eye for detailing and a quirky sense of humour is what makes Priya’s illustrations stand out. Merging the world of words with drawings, Priya has been illustrating for children’s books



Visual narrative: Priya Kuriyan pays attention to make her work inclusive ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

for the past 15 years. A sense of joyfulness is an underlying theme in all the books. “However, joyful books need not necessarily be just random illustrations with bright colours. It is more to do with happy characters and circumstances that have a positive ending with a moral to draw from,” she says.

The beauty of Priya’s work is in its detailing. Be it Ammachi, the grandmother in her picture book *Ammachi Glasses*, who has a faint moustache or the illustrations of the only female prime minister of India, Indira Gandhi in the book *Indira*, Priya studies her characters closely and adds layers to her illustrations.

She is also mindful of making her work inclusive. She makes sure that her little readers are not fed with unrealistic notions about a certain body type or skin colour. “My characters are of different shapes, colours and sizes. Every child should feel as if he or she belongs. Children should not have a narrow definition of acceptance and develop prejudices,” she says. Go-

ing beyond fairy tale stories, the children’s books are now tapping into a wider genre.

A student of the National Institute of Design (NID), Ahmedabad, Priya draws heavily from the people she observes in her daily life – be it the man at the grocery store or a lady she sees at the airport. A sketchbook and a pen are her constant companions which help her document the things that she sees around. “I try to keep my characters normal so that children can easily relate to them. For instance, Mr Muchwala a character in my book is a typical Indian unclewif with the nail on his little finger painted. These are the things that everyone sees but not many remember,” she adds.

Priya’s journey as an illustrator began in 2004 when she illustrated for Tulika Books. Written by Radhika Chadha, *I’m So Sleepy*, was about a baby elephant that forgets how to sleep. Since then, she has worked on over 100 children books. She recently completed her 10th book with Tulika publishers.



# Is your phone a babysitter?

SWETA AKUNDI

The teen is nose-deep in her phone, earphones plugged in both ears. Hesitatingly, the mother ventures, “You’ve been on the phone for an hour...” The reply is acerbic, as only a 16-year-old’s can be, “It’s for my schoolwork! Priya is sending me pictures of the notes I missed!”

With schools replacing the diary with WhatsApp groups and notes shared online, parents and children alike are hooked to screens. According to multiple reports, even Silicon Valley giants are trying to wean their children off the teat of technology. With good reason: research suggests that spending more time online leads to greater loneliness among teenagers. Here, real parents tell us how they’ve done it.

**Fix a timetable**  
Many parents believe in scheduling ‘phone’ time. Hyderabad-based Sireesha B, mother of an 11-year-old son and 9-year-old daughter says, “My kids don’t have their own cell phones, but they are allowed to use mine for some designated breaks. My phone is password-protected, so they can’t take it anytime they wish,” she says.

It’s the same for Chennai’s Janu Joseph – her 6-year-old son, gets exactly 20 minutes of playtime on the iPad. “After that, it doesn’t matter how much tantrums he throws. Rules are rules, and eventually, he will get used to it,” says Janu.

**Provide alternatives**  
Surround your children with more interesting things to do. Urmila Sampath, from Mumbai, explains how she takes her girls, 12 and 7, on nature walks on weekends. “On weekdays, they are busy with school and play, but on weekends, we take out some family time, and go bird-watching,” she says.

Mother-of-two Susan K, from Hyderabad, advises helping children explore their interests at a

If your child can’t finish a meal without having to resort to checking the phone, you may have a problem. Fellow parents tell you what helped them



**Take time off:** Employ a ‘no phones before bedtime or during meals’ rule. • GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCK

young age. “I had them join taekwondo, music – guitar and drums, basketball, art...” Eventually, they continued with the classes they enjoyed,” she says. At the same time, she made sure they got enough unstructured playtime as well. “Technology is everywhere, you can’t limit it, but you can distract them,” she says.

Sireesha, on the other hand, likes to spice things up by playing to her kids’ competitive side. “We used to have weekly contests as to which sibling spent less time on their screens, with a gift for the winner,” she says.

“Your toddler doesn’t eat, you give them a phone to play with while you feed them, and

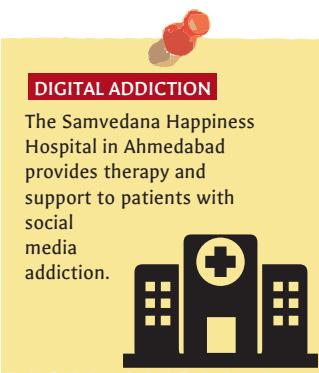
then later, when he is a teenager, you crib that he doesn’t eat without his phone!” laughs Susan. Janu engages her 6-year-old with 3-D jigsaw puzzles and colouring books. “I see many parents on metros and buses, letting children use their phones so that they don’t make a noise,” she says.

“Let them look out the window, talk to them, answer their questions,” she says, adding that journeys should be looked at as a time to let the mind wander.

**Admit to a problem**  
Sudha Sireesh, from Hyderabad, confesses: “I’m a bit of a phone addict myself.” Mother to a 12-year-old, she says she makes

sure that she is not on her phone when her daughter is around. Similarly, in Janu’s family, there is a strict no-phones-before-bedtime policy.

“My husband, my son and I all



have to follow it; no using phones for an hour before we sleep,” she says.

**Try an open-door policy**  
As we speak, Urmila is reminded of the notification she got earlier today: an online quiz for her 12-year-old as a part of her schoolwork. “The teachers show presentations in class, and those are also shared via Google,” she says. When the school calls for the use of screens, what can a parent do?

“If it’s for schoolwork, I allow them to use the phones, but it is always under partial supervision,” says Urmila. She finds support from Susan, who refuses to believe that this may be an invasion of their privacy. (“He’s 11!” she exclaims.) Admittedly, however, this can’t continue beyond a certain age. “At one point, you just have to hope you’ve taught them well enough and trust them,” says Urmila.

**Try a different approach**  
Technology need not be the horn-and-tail demon protective parents make it out to be. It’s here to stay, so you might as well make a good use of it, feels Janu. “Change is constant,” she says, “And we have to deal with that.” Instead of completely banning screen time, she monitors the kind of games her son plays on it.

And that means, “No mindless addictive fruit-slashing games. Instead, I have him play something that’ll challenge his brain, and hand-eye coordination,” she says.

She also credits learning apps with helping children visualise theoretical concepts such as pi, the pythagorean theorem... things children would learn by rote before.

## COULD IT BE THAT...

# Sexual diversity is the new conversation



SUNALINI MATHEW

A friend in college could never say the word ‘sex’. She used the euphemism ‘kissing and cuddling’ instead. I laughed at her 20 years ago. Now, I am tempted to resort to it when I speak to my son about that three-letter word. As parents today, we have an additional responsibility: to talk about safety, about consent, and also about sexual diversity – the choices we have about whom to love, the choice to identify or not identify with the gender we were born with.

There was something about choices that scared our parents (and some of us too). My son’s generation has it easier. They didn’t wait for us to give them choices; they took them. They decided, very young, who they’d like to be, what they’d like to do, who to ‘kiss and cuddle’ with and who to say no to. Or that they were figuring it out.

Where does that leave our ‘sandwiched generation’? We’d really like to have these discussions – about sex, sexuality, gender – but don’t know how, or even where to begin. We’re still holding that brown paper bag of sanitary napkins and condoms.

Having ‘The Talk’ is no longer recommended by mental-health pros. It’s not Band-Aid, where you go through the ripping-off ordeal once, never to have to revisit it. The more evolved parent

will perhaps go back to the subject once a year or so. But there is awkwardness.

Like the kind at a friend’s wedding. She was marrying an Englishman, and as discussions of how the ceremony would proceed unfolded, he brought in the bit about kissing her. She said her parents would be horrified to see something like that. He said his would if they didn’t. They met midway, settling on a hug and a kiss. They were in their 40s and hosting their own wedding. They gave ‘kissing and cuddling’ a new meaning.

How do we tell our children that sex is a celebration – of being, of joy, of love – not necessarily for someone else but of ourselves? Can we just come out and say it like that? Will they understand? Will they listen? Or will our awkwardness filter down?

“Conversations are not a part of our culture,” a psychiatrist told me recently. It’s really about talking without judgement, and listening. It’s also about NOT lecturing/ordering/shouting – an impossibility when you’re doing it through the day (“Throw your clothes for a wash”; “Make your bed”; “Do your homework”; “Wear a condom”).

Which is why peer parenting has found its way into our lives. “Don’t you have anything better to do than gossip about us?” my son asked me, of one of our mum meet-ups, where we drink wine (or rum or beer) and catch up on who’s seeing whom in school, and who’s saying what on Instagram. That was the opening to a conversation. I took it. Sometimes, wine (for the adult) is all it takes. Yes, I’m the adult.



## IN THE NEWS

# Social media for good



• MEETA AHLAWAT

Starting at noon tomorrow, actress Priyanka Chopra will go live to talk #SocialForGood on Facebook India’s page and her own Facebook and Instagram handles.

She will be joined by producer Soundarya Rajinikanth and entrepreneur Upasana Kamineni in the live-a-thon which will go on until 4 pm.

Both Soundarya and Upasana will be a part of the ‘Mental Health’ and ‘Women Entrepreneurs’ panels respectively, talking about how social media has been at the forefront of spreading awareness about mental health and giving women entrepreneurs the opportunity to empower themselves.

“Over the past few years, I’ve personally experienced the power of social media globally towards causes that I hold dear to my heart,” says Priyanka Chopra in a public post.

This is part of Facebook and Instagram’s initiative to bring together some of the biggest names in popular culture, who believe in the power of social media to educate supporters and inspire advocacy.

The event will feature some of the biggest names from films, sports, music, etc.

Driven by Priyanka, these conversations will range from Mental Health Awareness and Standing Against Cyber Bullying to Celebrating Women Entrepreneurship and Making a Difference, one contribution at a time.

## BODY IN MOTION

Here’s why you should get moving

# Stressed?



• GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

VANI B PAHWA

Stress has become an inevitable, omnipresent part of our lives. We all experience it to varying degrees. While some stress is good to spur us into action, and it is an important ingredient of our instinctive ‘flight or fight’ response, too much of it or too long with it impacts us negatively. This negative effect erodes our mental, emotional and physical equilibrium, leaving us drained, vulnerable, and in severe cases, incapacitated.

The triggers for stress (stressors) are varied, and so is each one’s response to them. As a stress response, the body produces larger quantities of chemicals like cortisol, adrenaline and noradrenaline, triggering both physical and psychological symptoms.

**How stress affects the body**  
● Raises blood pressure and pulse rate  
● Makes breathing faster, and often shallower  
● Tenses muscles (may even lead to muscular spasms)  
● Impairs the digestive and immune systems  
● Causes fatigue, skin irritations, headaches, excessive sweating, nightmares, among other symptoms  
● Impacts sleep, may cause insomnia

**How stress affects the mind and behaviour**  
● Fosters worrying, indecision, negativity, restlessness  
● Muddles thinking, impairs judgement  
● Triggers irritability, anger, depression, apathy, alienation, forgetfulness

● Alters appetite (eating more/less)  
● Loss of sex drive  
● Can make one more accident-prone  
● Increased smoking, drinking

**How does exercise help with stress?**  
You may not feel motivated to exercise, especially when stressed, but there are some strong reasons to add it to your stress-management plans.

Don’t like the word ‘exercise’? I recommend thinking more in terms of ‘movement’ than the traditional, limited interpretation of the word ‘exercise’ our minds instantly conjure up. Experience shows, for many, this association is unattractive and not really placed anywhere consequential on their list of ‘to-do’ things in life. My simple suggestion: choose any activity that invigorates and excites

## MAKE MOVEMENT YOUR FRIEND

You don’t need to pursue heavy-duty action to get the benefits. But remember, if it’s too comfortable it won’t engage you either physically or mentally, and the purpose is lost.

Get outdoors with it, if you can. It’s refreshing, rejuvenating and helps one reconnect with the self.

Exercise with friends. The company might elevate your mood and enjoyment.

Try practices like meditation, chanting, and deep breathing. They calm the mind and have a deep, cellular impact as well.

If you need to, split up the activity over small time segments during the course of the day. But be regular.

I have always believed small can be big, provided you make it count. Move. Make yourself count.



• GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCK

you, but also challenges you physically. It could be a sport, dance, walking, running, swimming, yoga or any structured programme. It’s a good start. This should equip you with an excuse-free way of addressing the ‘How?’

Now, here’s the ‘Why?’ Exercise (movement) improves your overall health and well-being, putting you physically and mentally more in control of your body and mind. It helps establish discipline in life in general, while keeping those important health parameters looking good. What it also does is, provide stress-reducing benefits. Exercise, especially of the aerobic variety, increases the production of ‘feel-good’ hormones in the body (endorphins). Endorphins are brain chemicals (neurotransmitters) that reduce the perception of pain, produce feelings of euphoria, help modulate appetite, release sex hormones and enhance the immune system. That rush or ‘high’ you feel after a good run, game, or your favourite physical activity, is thanks in big part, to these endorphins. So these ‘happy hormones’ as they are sometimes alluded to, help to beat stress! Time and again, people respond by saying that their pain levels actually diminish when they pursue a regular exercise programme.

Combine this with focused breathing to aid your movements, and you get a great way to practise being mindful, refocus on yourself, away from the triggers, and reach out for action and positivity.

Vani B Pahwa is an ACE-certified Personal Trainer, a certified Cancer Exercise Specialist, a Master Rehab Trainer, a Functional Movement, Barefoot Training Specialist, BarefootRX Rehab Specialist, Foot & Gait Analyst, and a BOSU Personal Trainer. She is also a Mohiniyattam dancer