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Will trim GST for masses: PM

Working on to bring 99% items in sub-18% slab, says Modi

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has indicated that the Government is contemplating to bring 99 per cent of goods at or below the 18 per cent Goods and Services Tax (GST) slab, while restricting the remaining one per cent of luxury items, like aircraft, expensive vehicles, liquor and cigarettes, to a GST slab above 18 per cent.

"I would like to tell you one important thing that we are heading towards a situation wherein we intend to bring 99 per cent of goods at or below the 18 per cent GST slab. We intend to restrict the remaining one per cent of luxury items like the purchase of aircraft, expensive vehicles, liquor and cigarettes to above 18 per cent. Our intention is to make GST as simple as possible. I have already made this suggestion for placement before the next GST Council meeting," Modi said while addressing the Republic TV summit in Mumbai on Tuesday.

The Prime Minister said the GST system has more or less been established in the country and his Government is committed to make the GST conducive to the needs of the common man.

"In 2014, 65 lakh entrepreneurs had registered themselves for payment of taxes. However, ever since the introduction of GST, 55 lakh more entrepreneurs have come under the taxation net," said the Prime Minister.



Prime Minister Narendra Modi addresses a gathering at the foundation stone laying ceremony of Metro Phase III via remote in Pune on Tuesday.

Bankruptcy Code, 2016 and the Fugitive Economic Offenders Act, 2018, and said the new legislations are helping prosecute those who had escaped the clutches of law.

He said the economic fugitives and bank loan defaulters would not be spared.

"Our national interest now guides India's foreign policy. India's voice is being heard at international forums," he said.

During the course of his day-long visit to Maharashtra, the Prime Minister laid foundation stone for upcoming first-ever Metro Corridors in Thane district, launched a housing scheme of 90,000 homes and also performed "bhoomi puja" for Pune Metro Rail Phase-3.

After performing ground-breaking ceremony for two metro rail corridors at Kalyan in the neighbouring Thane district, the Prime Minister said by 2024 Mumbai would have 275-km long metro line.

Later, while laying the foundation stone for the ₹8,000-crore Pune Metro-III corridor, Modi said during the past four-and-a-half years, the Government had constantly laid stress on infrastructure, speed of connectivity through highways, railways, airways, waterways.

"No one in the country, whether in villages or cities, wants to remain insulated from the 'development highway' which drives the Government to focus on developing and expanding the infrastructure network in the country," he said.

"We promised to waive loans in 10 days. In two States (Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh), we did it within six hours and we would do it in the third State very soon,"

Won't let Modi sleep till farm loan waived: Rahul

BJP terms Cong chief's remarks lowest in nation's public discourse

PNS ■ NEW DELHI



Congress president Rahul Gandhi addresses the media during the Winter Session of Parliament in New Delhi on Tuesday PTI

Rahul said talking to the media outside Parliament.

He was referring to the Congress' promises made ahead of the Assembly polls and waiving loans on Monday.

Reacting to the Gandhi scion's onslaught on Modi, the BJP said nothing better can be expected from Rahul, whose party ensured that Indians did not sleep during its 60 years of rule due to rampant

corruption. Hitting out at Rahul, Union Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad said he should come to Parliament and debate the Rafale issue there.

"Friends I am given to understand that Rahul Gandhi today said that he will not allow Prime Minister Narendra Modi to sleep. This is a new low in the public discourse of the country," Prasad said.

BJP writes off ₹600 cr debt in Assam, ₹650 cr Gujarat rural power bill

PNS ■ GUWAHATI

the loans taken through Kisan Credit Card (KCC) and from PSU banks, he said.

The MP Government had declared to waive individual loan of up to ₹2 lakh taken by farmers.

The Assam Government has also sanctioned an interest relief scheme which will enable around 19 lakh farmers to take loans at zero interest from the next financial year, said the Assam Parliamentary Affairs Minister.

The BJP-led Government in Gujarat announced it will waive electricity bills of connection holders in rural areas to the tune of ₹650 crore.

The Assam Government approved ₹600-crore farm loan waiver which it said will benefit around eight lakh farmers of the State. The decision was taken at a Cabinet meeting held on Monday night.

According to the Assam Government scheme, it will write off 25 per cent loan of farmers up to a maximum of ₹25,000, State Government spokesperson and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Chandra Mohan Patowary said.

The Cabinet also approved subsidy up to ₹10,000 to incentivise farmers if they take loan from KCC.



- ➡ Consumers of cable TV will have to renew their package under the new tariff regime from December 29
- ➡ Under the new tariff regime, a cable TV consumer's monthly bill will go up to ₹400 or ₹450 per month. If he or she is opting for premium bouquets, the bill will be over ₹600-700 per month
- ➡ Presently, there are as many as 30 crore households in the country. Of them, nearly 10 crore households have cable TV connections

localities.

As per the new tariff structure, a consumer will have to pay up to ₹130 (plus taxes) for first set of 100 channels, which will be mostly free-to-air (FTA) channels. As of now, Multiple System Operators or MSOs offer you a bundled package of channels.

The MSOs such as Tata Sky or DishTV, Airtel, Hathway, SITI, DIGI Cable (INDIA), INDUSIND, DEN, DDC network choose random channels into a package, and offer it to

consumers.

According to cable TV operators, all the broadcasters have also come up with their own MRP of their channels.

The first type of category is "free & cheap" channel package or "basic pack" which will be priced at around ₹150-200 by most cable players. This "basic pack" will be made out of "free" channels like B4U, Dabang and PTC, supplemented by the "1-rupee-channels" from big broadcasters like Star, Zee and Sony.

The waiver will be for all



3 Asiatic lions mowed down by train in Guj

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The animals were sub-adults in the age group of 1.5-2 years.

"A goods train, headed to Pipavav port from Botad, hit three of six lions of the pride during midnight, which led to the death of two lions and a lioness," said Chief Conservator of Forests, Junagadh wildlife circle, DT Vasavada. He said an enquiry has been ordered by the Gujarat Forest Department.

"We will enquire if the train was moving at a high speed which could have led to this unfortunate incident. We will also probe whether the forest staff or the lion trackers were at fault in discharging their duties. Stringent action will be taken against the guilty," he added.

The rail accident occurred near Borala village in Savarkundla taluka when a pride of six lions was walking along the railway track passing from the village, which is located near the Gir Forest.

Currently, consumers pay a monthly bill of ₹250-350 for a cable TV connection, which includes sports and regional channels depending on the

Cable TV to cost you more from Dec 29

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

Cable TV consumers will have to shell out more from December 29. As per new directives of the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India, a consumer will have to pay to choose individual channels, which they want to see. Consumer will need to pay individually for each channel. In other word, current package of cable TV consumers will go ineffective from December 29 and they will have to renew their package under the new tariff regime.

According to cable operators, under the new tariff regime, a cable TV consumer's monthly bill will go up to ₹400 or ₹450 per month. If he or she is opting for premium bouquets, the bill will be over ₹600-700 per month.

Presently, there are 30 crore households in the country. Nearly 19 crore households have TV connections. It is estimated that at least 10 crore have connections provided through cable TV network.

Currently, consumers pay a monthly bill of ₹250-350 for a cable TV connection, which includes sports and regional channels depending on the

August or maximum by September. However, this year is different. Sharing more interesting facts about the migration route to breeding areas, a Delhi University Professor said the migration route is extended from Narurzum wetlands in northern Kazakhstan, before diverging southwest to the Caspian Sea and southeast to India on journeys that navigate seven nations. The migration route of these birds takes them over Russia, Kazakhstan, Azerbaijan, Uzbekistan, Afghanistan, Pakistan and then to the Gangetic basin of northern India; much of the journey is hazardous and through difficult terrains," the ornithologist explained. However, he added a large number of birds have diverted to Rajasthan.

Dr Faizal Khudsar, Scientist in the Environment department, Delhi University, said December month has recorded good number of migratory birds. "We have recorded 1,000 birds of ten different species of migratory birds such as Northern Shoveler, Common Pochard," Dr Khudsar added.

MP Govt shifts top police officials who 'aided' BJP in polls

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Taking stern action on the administration and police officers that were suspected to have worked in favour of the BJP in State assembly elections, the State Government on Tuesday shifted Rewa Commissioner and Superintendent of Police of Chhindwara.

Commissioner of Police Rail, Bhopal. New posting of the shifted Superintendent of Police Chhindwara, Atul Singh is expected shortly.

Farmers express gratitude to Nath for waiving loan



apprised the Chief Minister with the feeling of jubilation prevailing among the farmers following his decision in their interest.

MLA Kamleshwar Patel led the delegation. Other people's delegation and farmers in a large number were present on the occasion.

Winged guests take rain check on India invite

SAPNA SINGH ■ NEW DELHI

At time when the presence of birds is considered a sign of wildlife opulence for any nation, the northern States of India are awaiting the arrival of migratory birds into their habitat. Ornithologists working on birds' navigation have found that since 2017 the arrival of winged guests into the Indian territory has been delayed by at least three months.

The delay in arrival of migratory birds has been ascribed to climate change, claimed ornithologists of Delhi University.

This means that due to relatively more conducive weather climate patterns in Russia and other cold countries, migratory birds preferred to stay put in the



homeland between August and

September. However, this year is different. Sharing more interesting facts about the migration route to breeding areas, a Delhi University Professor said the migration route is extended from Narurzum wetlands in northern Kazakhstan, before diverging southwest to the Caspian Sea and southeast to India on journeys that navigate seven nations. The migration route of these birds takes them over Russia, Kazakhstan, Azerbaijan, Uzbekistan, Afghanistan, Pakistan and then to the Gangetic basin of northern India; much of the journey is hazardous and through difficult terrains," the ornithologist explained. However, he added a large number of birds have diverted to Rajasthan.

'Farm loan waiver OK'd in a haste'

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Alleging that newly appointed Chief Minister Kamal Nath is under pressure to keep the poll promise, former finance minister of Madhya Pradesh Jayant Malaiya Tuesday said the Chief Minister announced the farm loan waiver in a haste and without planning.

The BJP leader also said the short term loan waiver is primarily being given to the farmers for the purchase of seeds and fertilisers.

Notably, hours after he was administered the oath of office by Governor Anandiben Patel on Monday, Nath cleared a proposal of waiving farm loans up to Rs 2 lakh as promised by Congress president Rahul Gandhi ahead of assembly polls.

After Nath signed the relevant file, the Farmers' Welfare and Agriculture Development



department issued an order in this regard. While talking to media persons, Malaiya also dismissed the Congress' charge that erstwhile BJP government was responsible for the fiscal mess in Madhya Pradesh.

"Kamal Nathji has announced the loan waiver hurriedly under pressure, as

Congress chief Rahul Gandhi had maintained during his pre-poll rally that he will fire new chief minister of Madhya Pradesh if he fails to grant a loan waiver within 10 days of Congress coming to power", he said, alleging that the new government did not chalk out the nitty-gritty of the loan waiver

before announcing it.

Addressing a public rally on June 7 at Pipiliya Mandi in Mandsaur district, Gandhi had announced his party would waive farm loans within 10 of coming to power in the state.

Later, this announcement was included in the Congress manifesto, titled 'Vachan Patra'.

Malaiya said, "The waiver would cost the state exchequer Rs 50,000 crore. This is primarily a short term loan waiver of Rs 2 lakh which is meant for the purchase of seeds and fertilizers."

To a query whether the State under BJP was running on an overdraft, the former minister said, "Madhya Pradesh borrowings stood at around Rs 1.60 lakh crore but it was not running on overdraft."

He further claimed that his government had Rs 3000 crore in the state exchequer on November 27, a day before the elections were held.



Chartered Accountants attired in Indian traditional costumes participate at a cultural programme 'Meraki' during CA students festival organised by The Institute of Chartered Accountants of India, at BSSS college in Bhopal on Tuesday

Pioneer photo



Aspirants shout slogans during a demonstration in front of the office of Madhya Pradesh Professional Examination Board protesting against alleged corruption in the recruitment test of Group-IV conducted by Vyapam

Pioneer photo

28-year-old man ends life by hanging at Chola Mandir area

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

A 28-year-old man committed suicide by hanging with the ceiling at Chola Mandir area under Chhola Mandir police station area on Tuesday.

According to the police the deceased Dinesh Kushwaha was found hanging and was rushed to a nearby hospital where he was declared dead.

The reason of the suicide remained unclear and would be investigated in the further investigation. The family members would be questioned during the further investigation to determine the reason behind the suicide.

Police were informed and on the receipt a police team

The reason of the suicide remained unclear and would be investigated in the further investigation

reached the spot and started investigation. After the preliminary investigation the body was sent for the post mortem and a case under section 174 of the CrPC was registered by the police. In the initial investigation police found that the deceased used to remain depressed but

Meanwhile, a 30-year-old man died under suspicious

circumstances while undergoing treatment on Tuesday; deceased was found in an unconscious state at a room where he used to work as laundry man around two weeks ago.

The deceased identified as Bablu a resident of Sharma Colony in Shahjehanbad. He used to wash clothes at pond near LBS hospital and used to stay at a room near the area where he used to wash clothes.

The body was sent for the post mortem after the preliminary investigation and a case under section 174 of the CrPC was registered by the police. The reason behind the death could not be found and would be investigated in the further investigation.

Rubella-Measles vaccination campaign to be conducted

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

A Rubella-Measles vaccination campaign (MR Vaccine) will be conducted to protect children of the state aged between 9 months and 15 years from fatal diseases from January 15. Parents have been urged that they should contact nearest health centers in this connection.

Painless vaccination will be given to children to protect them from fatal diseases during the campaign. It may be mentioned that women suffer miscarriage time and again due to infection of Rubella virus. Pregnant women suffering from Rubella virus give birth to still babies, undeveloped babies or babies with some physical and mental deformities.

Measles is also a dangerous disease. It resulted in blindness, brain swelling, pneumonia and diarrhoea. Children fall prey to malnutrition and sometimes die too. Thirty percent child mortality caused by measles in the entire world occurs in India

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New pitch inaugurated on city's Old Campion Cricket Ground

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

City's Old Campion Cricket Ground is now all set to host the National Cricket Tournament. The new pitch was inaugurated here on Tuesday. For the tournament the pitch of the ground is renovated. With the new format provided by International Pitch Curator of Sports and Youth Welfare Department the field pitch and the outfield were renovated.

The new pitch was inaugurated by Director Sports and Youth Welfare SL Thoussen. He played a cricket match there. After that the first match was played between Mayank Cricket Academy and Arora Cricket Academy. Thoussen introduced the players from both the teams and congratulated them and gave them best wishes. On this occasion, Joint Director B S. Yadav, District Sports Officer Bhopal Jones Chacko, Assistant Director Vikas Kharadkar, Mayank

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Cricket Academy's Sushil Thakur, Suresh Senani of Arora Cricket Academy and other officials including Hemant Kapur journalists and players were present.

Sports Director SL Thoussen said that the government is committed to the development of sports and the department is taking action in this direction promptly. He told that during his first tour,



Director Sports and Youth Welfare department SL Thoussen plays a shot after inaugurating the new cricket pitch and ground at Old Campion school cricket ground in Bhopal on Tuesday

Pioneer photo

State reels under severe cold, heavy rain recorded

Bhopal: With Malajkhand recording 2 cm of rainfall in the past 24 hours rains along with cold wave have weather condition extreme. The state reeling under extreme cold conditions temperatures have increased slightly provided little relief.

The weather conditions have turned extreme and would remain same for the next past two days as night temperature. The night temperatures which were near freezing temperature have improved on the higher side. The lowest night temperature was recorded at Nowrangpur which recorded 4 degree Celsius. Amarkantak recorded 22 degree Celsius on Tuesday.

Met officials said that weather conditions are likely to become normal in the next 2-

3 days in the state and state capital. Slight decrease is possible in the temperatures.

The cities with lowest night temperature recorded were Betul and Datia recorded night temperature around 5 degree Celsius. Mandla, Gwalior, Shajapur, Balaghat, Mandla, Dindori, Annupur, Shahdol, Gwalior, Chambal, Panna, Satna, Seoni, Chhattarpur districts.

On Monday state capital recorded lowest night temperature of the season after temperature dipped to 7.7 degree Celsius while day temperature provided little relief. The day temperature was recorded at 22 degree Celsius on Tuesday.

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In this program, dramatic conversion and video made people aware about various methods of financial management, such as savings, expenditure, government schemes.

Akshay Bajpai told the students about different mobile application on which cyber

Session on cyber security, online safety organised

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

bullying has become a trend. He told the students that the developers of few apps on mobile phone themselves agree that it is a bullying app. The students seemed excited to know about them all. He further told the students how to be cautious while using these apps.

On the other hand Tariq Khan told the students how the hacking can be done by hackers. He said that from mobile to computers every device can be hacked by hackers and so one should stay cautious about it. He told them about the social sites and how one can be prevented from cyber bullying.

The experts also shared the data across the globe related to cyber crime. They also highlighted the laws present in India related to cyber crime. Later the students asked their queries and doubts. It was an interactive session for the students.

National Handloom Expo 2018 concludes

Bhopal: The instrumental saga of unique rhythms on flute enthralled the audiences at National Handloom Expo 2018. The concluding day the exhibition cum sale was filled with excitement and huge footfall. The musical concert at Bhopal Haat, held here on Tuesday made the Bhopalites shopping a delightful experience. The instrumentalists of SMG group presented a flute recital in the evening.

The unique feature of their recital is that artists not only play the classical notes on flute but, also present the rhythms of Bollywood songs.

As the event was going on the audiences enjoyed the performance by artists leaving them mesmerized. It is to be noted that the 'National Handloom Expo 2018' was a big hit at the city. The expo concluded with a lot of fervor here on Tuesday at Bhopal Haat. SR

Financial Literacy Awareness Programme held

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

A Financial Literacy Awareness Programme was organised. It was organised with an aim towards making women financially literate and ensuring financial inclusion in India.

It was organised by Madhya Pradesh: Fusion Microfinance, a financial company. Over 700 women benefited from this program by mixing Madhya Pradesh Seoni and Chhindwara.

Among the guests who participated in the program organized in Balaghat, Rekha Wisen-District Panchayat President, Anil Nagar Palika Chairperson, Municipal Council, Sheikh Chandra Samaj Sewa Nagar Samiti Committee were present. At the same time, Mrs Aarti Shukla Municipal Council President and Akhilesh Rajkarchar increased the beau-

uty of the program. In Chhindwara, the program was promoted by Mahesh Aldkal Municipality Corporation Chhindwara. This attempt of Fusion by all the guests was greatly appreciated.

Fusion Microfinance considers its responsibilities in the direction of society development and is constantly employed in social welfare. Fusion is working regularly for women empowerment in social activities through its Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) functions. Various programs are organized in these programs to make people aware about various methods of financial management, such as savings charges and various government schemes.

In this program, dramatic conversion and video made people aware about various methods of financial management like savings, expenditure, government schemes.

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Photo electoral roll revision will be carried out soon: CEO

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Chief Electoral Officer VL Kanta Rao has informed that work to add names of persons who are completing 18 years of age on January 01, 2019 in photo electoral roll for Lok Sabha Elections will be carried out under the special brief revision programme.

A format of electoral roll will be published on December 26, 2018. Claims and objections will be received through BLO till January 25, 2019. Redressal of claims and objections will be done by the concerned election registration officer till February 11, 2019. The final electoral roll will be published on February 22, 2019. Work of Lok Sabha Elections will be done based on this electoral roll.

CEO Rao apprised political parties about the special brief revision programme. It has been expected from the political parties that they will appoint booth level agent at every polling booth so

Roa holds meet on Vidhan Sabha elections-2018

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Chief Electoral Officer VL Kanta Rao held meeting with the recognized political parties in connection with Vidhan Sabha Elections-2018 and preparations of the ensuing Lok Sabha Elections-2019. Representatives of all the political parties lauded the Election Commission for holding Vidhan Sabha election peacefully in the state and expressed gratitude towards the Chief Electoral officer.

The Additional Chief Electoral Officer Lokesh Jatav and representatives of the recognized political parties were present at the meeting.

that transparency and cooperation can be received in regeneration of electoral roll.

Rao has appealed all the voters that they should also confirm entry of their names in the electoral roll themselves and apply in the prescribed format to the concerned BLO in case of any kind of amendment.

Common voters can search their names in the electoral roll by visiting Commission's website www.nwvp.in and can also obtain information about their names and polling booths by SMS facility on number 51969 through mobile phones.

People are required to send SMS to by registering MP EPIC <Epic number of voter> on 51969.

Work to add names of all the eligible voters, who are completing 18 years of age on January 01, 2019 or names of any voter excluded or deleted from the electoral roll due to any reason will be done during the brief revision programme.

28-year-old woman sexually assaulted, hunt for accused on

According to police the accused made her obscene video at the farmhouse and threatened her to keep mum. He warned to make her video public

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

A 28-year-old woman was sexually assaulted at a farmhouse in Kolar locality on December 11 when she was returning home; police have registered a case on Tuesday after victim lodged a complaint.

Polic said that the victim was abducted and raped at farmhouse on December 11 and made her video which he used to blackmail her and sexually assaulted her several times in the past few days.

The accused identified as Abbas Ali works as care-taker at farmhouse which belongs to Munna Painter. According to police, the accused made her obscene video at the farmhouse and threatened her to keep mum. He warned to make her video public.

Victim in her complaint stated that she separated from her husband and has been living in Kolar with her son. Their was no toilet in her house due to which she had to go out for defecation. The accused used to harass her for the past few months. On December 11 when she was on her way to home after defecation the accused kidnapped her and took her to a farm where she was raped by the accused.

Based on the complaint after the preliminary investigation the police have registered a case under sections 376 (2) N and 506 of the IPC and started further investigation.

The search for the accused has been started who went missing after the incident and is still missing. Police said that the accused holds crime record and would be investigated.

Cultural festival to begin from December 20

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

School students from 18 States and two Union Territories would participate in a cultural festival beginning here on December 20, a senior official announced on Tuesday.

The two-day 'Rashtriya

Balrang-2018' is being organised by the School Education Department of Madhya Pradesh in collaboration with the Indira Gandhi Rashtriya Manav Sangrahalaya, said State's Public Instructions Commissioner Jaishri Kiyawat, Governor Anandiben Patel would inaugurate the event.

"Balrang" is a unique programme that has been held in Bhopal since the past 23 years. As many as 520 students from various schools in 18 states and two union territories will present folk dances, songs and other cultural programmes. Winning teams would be given awards," said Kiyawat.

On December 19, a com-

petition of teams from various divisions of Madhya Pradesh would be held, and a team would be selected for participation in 'Balrang 2018', she added. At the occasion, an exhibition about career counselling would also be organised.

While informing about the event, Kiyawat and other officials and IGRMS Director Prof Sarit Chaudhury released the logo and poster of the Bal Rang.

The state level competitions which includes patriotic poetry recitation (stage - Coastal Village Cenotaph), Literary (Essay, Poetry, Gazal, Folk News) at lake side open air auditorium, cultural (classical dance, music and folk dance) at Avriti Gallery, Sanskrit (Nritya Natika, Quiz, Ved Pat, speech and essay), Madrasa (Qawali, Bahasmubahisa and quiz), competitions for disabled children and Yoga competitions will be organized on Monday, December 19, 2018.

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The state level competitions which includes patriotic poetry recitation (stage - Coastal Village Cenotaph), Literary (Essay, Poetry, Gazal, Folk News) at lake side open air auditorium, cultural (classical dance, music and folk dance) at Avriti Gallery, Sanskrit (Nritya Natika, Quiz, Ved Pat, speech and essay), Madrasa (Qawali, Bahasmubahisa and quiz), competitions for disabled children and Yoga competitions will be organized on Monday, December 19, 2018.

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Players enthralled on 2nd day of Football Fiesta '18

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

On the second day of Micro Mini Inter School Football Fiesta 2018 (under 12 Category) held at Sagar Public School, Saket Nagar exciting semifinals and final matches were played in boys and girls categories.

In the girls' category, the final match was played between Sagar Public School, Saket Nagar and St Thomas Convent School in which the girls team of Sagar Public School, Saket Nagar won the match by 2-0 to lift the Girls Micro Mini Inter School Football Fiesta 2018.

In the boy's category, first semi-final match was played between Billabong International School Vs Sagar Public School, Saket Nagar in which Sagar Public School, Saket Nagar won the match by 2-1 in an exciting match to lift the trophy of Boys Micro Mini Inter School Football Fiesta 2018.

in which Billabong International School won the match by 2-0 to enter the final. The second semi-final match was played Sagar Public School, Saket Nagar Vs Mansarovar School in which Sagar Public School, Saket Nagar won the match in penalties by 4-3 to enter the finals.

The Boys Final Match was played between Billabong International School Vs Sagar Public School, Saket Nagar in which Sagar Public School, Saket Nagar won the match by 2-1 in an exciting match to lift the trophy of Boys Micro Mini Inter School Football Fiesta 2018.

A prize distribution ceremony marked the day in presence of Chief Guest Santosh Kumar Sharma, Retd Sr Football Coach, Sports

Authority of India, Bhopal and Pankaj Sharma, Principal Sagar Public School, Saket Nagar presenting the trophies to winning teams and runner-up teams along with participation certificate to all teams.

Vartika and Aniket of Sagar Public School, Saket Nagar bagged the Best Goal Keeper Award in girls and boys category respectively. Aishanya Edla of Sagar Public School and Mohd Miran Khan of Billabong International School bagged the Best Scorer Award in girls and boys category whereas Anushree Baike of St Thomas Convent School and Manan Singh Oberoi of Billabong International School bagged the player of tournament trophy in girls and boys category.

PNS ■ CUTTACK

Director General of Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) Smt Usha Sharma on Tuesday told the Orissa High Court that the apprehensions shown by a petitioner that the Sun Temple at Konark is in "danger" is absolutely "baseless".

In an affidavit to the Court, she has submitted that: "Not even a single piece of stone has been removed from any portion of the surviving structural remains of the Sun Temple and no replacement of stone has been done for conservation or any other purpose."

Asked to file a comprehensive status report in response to a PIL filed by a city-based advocate, the ASI DG has stated that ever since ASI

took up the conservation and protection of the monument in 1938, every possible action has been taken in this regard.

"Conservation and maintenance of the Sun Temple at Konark in Odisha has been the responsibility of the ASI since 1938. Since then, the ASI is taking utmost care for the proper preservation and protection of the monument," Smt Sharma said in her affidavit.

Regular monitoring of the

historic temple is being carried out by experts and engineers of ASI as well as eminent scientists from structural institutions like Central Building Research Institute of Roorkee and IITs of Madras and Kharagpur, she said.

"There is no alarming situation at present to the structure. The CBRI has studied all such cracks and other structural issues for last few years and has not mentioned any imminent danger of the structural stability of the monument or any part of it," the affidavit said.

The Division Bench of Chief Justice K S Jhaveri and Justice B N Rath, however, asked the petitioner to file counter if any and posted the matter to be heard again on January 21 next.

Clerk has assets of ₹2.39 crore

PNS ■ CUTTACK

Basing on the allegations of disproportionate of assets disproportionate to income by Board of Revenue Junior Clerk Kiran Kumar Samantray, Vigilance sleuths conducted simultaneous searches on his office room and houses at different places and detected assets worth ₹2,39,39,216 in his and his family members' names.

The anti-corruption agency officials conducted raids at Samantray's double-storied building at Bidanasi, three-storied building at Seikh Bazar, three-storied building at Deulasahi, four-storied building at CDA and his office room in Cuttack on the strength of search warrants issued by the Court of Special

The detected assets include a four-storied building worth ₹35,55,950, two three-storied buildings 1,53,26,659, a double storied building worth ₹13,24,965, a car and two motorbikes worth ₹10,32,000, bank and insurance deposits of ₹13,91,417, gold ornaments of ₹7,92,000, hard cash of ₹8,970 and household articles worth ₹5,07,255

Judge, Vigilance, Cuttack.

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RELIEF FOR NON-POLLUTING SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES

112 out of sealing ambit, says SDMC

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

In order to save 112 types of non-polluting small-scale household industries from the ambit of sealing, South Delhi Municipal Corporation (SDMC) has changed the definition of household units, allowing them to use over 50 per cent of the area wherein 5 KW electricity connection will be sanctioned and not more than five workers will be allowed to work on such premises.

With this decision, thousands of people who run units such as packing, wool-knitting machine, sewing machine, sweets, jute products, computer software workshop for vehicle repair, units making incense sticks (*agarbatti*), khadi and handloom and candles etc will have sigh of relief, said an official. The civic body has already given its nod to online policy for issuance and renewal of license under this category.

A senior SDMC official said that it is essential for the owner to reside in the same building where household industry would be set up. Fire

prone material will also not be allowed to be stored in these industries and pollution generating industries are prohibited under the rule, he said.

Prior to this, only 25 per cent area of ground floor was allowed for setting up household industries, henceforth the same can be established over 50 per cent area in any floor.

The official also said that it will be essential to have a separate single phase industrial electricity connection for sanctioning of license.

The license shall be valid for a single financial year which could be renewed for the next year, he said. He further said that such industries are not allowed in group housing societies but the same is allowed in Janta Flats.

Standing Committee Chairperson Shikha Rai said that the rules and provisions of the MPD 2021 will be applicable for sanctioning and renewing of license.

Rai said that the household industry to be set up under the new policy will create employment opportunities

for thousands of persons and it will pave the way for economic prosperity of large number of families.

For submission of online application, one has to submit ₹1,000 as processing fee, proof of ID, ownership of the building and copy of electricity bill and other required documents," she said.

Traders in the national capital were hit hard after building department of the municipal corporations had started sealing business establishments for non-payment of conversion charges, encroachment, and illegal construction on the instructions of the Supreme Court-appointed monitoring committee. In the drive started in December 2017, thousands of shops including many small household industries were sealed.

Sealing of commercial units being run from private houses created chaos as people ran from pillar to the post seeking justice. The move by the SDMC to redefine household units will bring much needed relief", said a trader whose own fabrication unit was sealed.

Rafale, Cauvery issues rock both Houses

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Both the houses of Parliament witnessed pandemonium on Tuesday amidst stand-off between the Government and the Congress over the Rafale fighter jet deal issue. For their part, while Tamil Nadu parties AIADMK and DMK raised slogans over the Cauvery dam issue, the TDP demanded special status for Andhra.

The Government said it was ready for a discussion on the Rafale issue and charged the Congress with running away from the debate after the Supreme Court verdict last week. Congress said in the Lok Sabha it was ready for discussion, but demanded formation of a Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) to probe the Rafale deal. Speaker Sumitra Mahajan said constitution of JPC was not under her purview.

In the Rajya Sabha, Leader of Opposition Ghulam Nabi Azad said the privilege motion moved by the Congress should be taken up alleging the Government misled the Supreme Court and Parliament on the Rafale issue. He also said the Government has no right to continue and "should go." Chairman M Venkaiah Naidu, however, said that the Chair should be allowed to take a view.

Countering Azad, Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs Vijay Goel said the Government was ready to discuss all issues, including Rafale.



Rajya Sabha Chairperson M Venkaiah Naidu looks on as Opposition members protest in the Rajya Sabha during the Winter Session of Parliament in New Delhi on Tuesday

Court verdict has made things clear, indicating that there was no need for a JPC on the controversial issue.

Unhappy with the response, Congress members again started raising slogans, following which the House was adjourned for the day.

When the Upper House resumed in the afternoon, Naidu proposed to discuss a calling attention on the situation arising due to devastation caused by cyclones Gaja and Titli in some States and the action taken by the Government in this regard.

However, senior Congress leader Anand Sharma raised a point of order claiming that

Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs had referred to Rahul Gandhi and it is against the rule to demand his apology because he is member of other House. Soon after, the ruling party member again started raising slogans and demanded apology from Gandhi while some of the AIADMK and DMK members trooped into the well to protest over Cauvery issue.

The Chair adjourned the House for the day.

He demanded that the Congress apologise in the wake of the apex court's refusal to order an SIT probe in Rafale deal and Sajjan Kumar's conviction by the Delhi High Court in a 1984 anti-Sikh riots case.

Appeals by the Lok Sabha Speaker to allow the House to function went unheeded as Congress members displayed placards and trooped into the Well demanding JPC probe. In the din, the National Institute of Design (Amendment) Bill, 2018 was introduced in the House. The Bill seeks to declare the various NIDs as institutions of national importance.

In the Rajya Sabha too, Naidu urged the members to allow the House to function as various notices on urgent matters, ranging from cyclones affecting lives in some states to price rise to agriculture crisis,

have been admitted for discussion.

His appeal was of no avail as soon after the papers were laid by the Ministers when the proceedings for the day commenced, AIADMK and DMK came into the well carrying placards and shouting slogans on the Cauvery issue. Some members from Andhra Pradesh were also seen displaying placards demanding special status for the State.

Naidu initially adjourned the House till 2 PM at 11.10 am and as the din continued when the proceedings began again, he adjourned the House for the day.

In the lower house, upset with the disruption, Mahajan said the members were well aware that this was an important session as everyone will face elections after this. She said the Government was ready

for discussion, but the ruckus continued. Proceedings barely lasted for five minutes and it was initially adjourned till noon.

As the ruckus continued, only one query related to production of garlic was taken up during the Question Hour.

The BJP members raised slogans demanding an apology from Congress president Rahul Gandhi. Later, Parliamentary Affairs Minister Narendra Singh Tomar said the Supreme

Court verdict has made things clear, indicating that there was no need for a JPC on the controversial issue.

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Agriculture-schemes not disjointed but linked at various stages: Minister

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Government's agriculture schemes are "not disjointed" but linked at various stages of the farm sector. Union Agriculture Minister Radha Mohan Singh informed the Parliament that Indian agriculture is confronted with high price volatility and climate risk for which adequate preparedness has been in place.

Due to steps taken by the Government, despite climate risks, the overall crop production in the country is on the increasing trend, he said in a written reply to the Lok Sabha, Singh.

To reduce the dependence of farmers on private money lenders, Singh said that the Government has taken several measures to increase institutional credit flow and bringing down the interest rate on farm loans.

Further, with a view to provide better insurance coverage to crops for all stages, the

Government has launched crop insurance scheme under which ₹16,967.92 crore claims was settled during Kharif 2017, he added.

The Minister also mentioned that the Government has been "reorienting" the agriculture sector by focusing additionally on an income-centric approach.

In another reply, Singh said that more than 60 per cent markets in the country are still selling agricultural produce below the Minimum Support Price (MSP).

On the Prime Minister Fasal Bima Yojna (PMFBY), the minister informed that after implementation of the PMFBY since April, 2016, enrolment of non-loanee farmers for whom the scheme is voluntary, has increased from 27.81 lakh in 2015-16 under erstwhile schemes, to 136.66 lakh in 2016-17 and to 138.47 lakh in 2017-18, indicating acceptance of the scheme.

Irregular expenditure in KVAs: Panel says ₹59.67 crore due for recovery

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

There have been irregular expenditures in setting up and running of new Kendriya Vidyalayas for children of those working in PSUs and Government-run institutions with ₹59.67 crore due for recovery, a Parliamentary Committee pointed out on Tuesday.

The Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan sets up schools on request from PSUs and institutes like IIMs and IITs on their campus for children of employees working there. According to norms, the Public Sector Undertakings or the institutes are supposed to reimburse the cost of setting up and running the schools.

However, a report tabled in

Parliament Tuesday has pointed out that as on March 31, 2016 an amount of ₹59.67 crore was due for 81 such schools. Of this, 34 has been already been shut due to various reasons, making the possibility of recovery as remote.

"The committee notes that KVAs, an autonomous body under the HRD Ministry, establishes and manages KV and the scheme of KV has been extended to children of the employees of PSUs and government owned Institutes of Higher Learning (IHL) on the condition that all recurring and non-recurring expenditure on running these schools would be provided by the sponsoring agencies.

"The sponsoring authorities of some existing or functioning and closed project

Vidyalayas defaulted in payment of dues resulting in recoverable amount of ₹24.57 crore in the year 2003," the panel report said.

The committee said that along with the key concern of recovery of dues which have been long pending, the matter needs to be looked at in the larger perspective of the importance of Kendriya Vidyalayas in providing education.

The Parliamentary panel has recommended that after asking the sponsoring authority to transfer the infrastructural assets to KVAs, the state governments and corporate entities in the area may be requested to contribute towards running of such schools under their corporate social responsibility initiatives.

Drought in six States: Relief of ₹16,773 cr sought from Centre

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

As many as 1.95 crore hectare of land in 97 districts of six States-Maharashtra, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Jharkhand and Rajasthan are facing drought this year.

According to Ministry of Agriculture, these six States have sought relief of ₹16,773 crore from the Centre to tackle drought situation. But Bihar, West Bengal and Uttar Pradesh have not sought relief from the centre due to tedious process to get relief from the centre, officials said.

Odisha has also declared drought during Kharif 2018 but the State Government has not submitted any memorandum so far. As per IMD, 250 of the 681 districts across the country have faced deficient rainfall this year.

In a reply to Bhagwanth Khuba, Union Agriculture Minister Radha Mohan Singh said that 26 districts of Maharashtra, 24 of Karnataka, 18 of Jharkhand, 11 of Gujarat, 9 of Andhra Pradesh and Rajasthan each have faced drought this year and sought drought relief package of ₹16,773 crore. Memorandums to this effect have been submitted to the Ministry. Taking note of their memorandum, the Ministry has set up inter-ministerial high level committee to assess the damage and recommend the financial assistance from National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF).

5,804 NGOs receiving foreign funding to carry out religious works: Govt

New Delhi: The Union Home Ministry on Tuesday informed Lok Sabha that more than 5,800 NGOs in the country are receiving foreign funding to carry various religious activities. The Ministry also said that the Government has not received any proposal to extend the dates of registrations regarding the National Register for Citizens (NRC) in Assam.

Union minister of state for home Kiren Rijiju said as per the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act, 2010, registered NGOs can receive foreign contribution for five purposes—social, educational, religious, economic and cultural. "Presently 5,804 NGOs are registered for religious purpose under the Act," he said replying to a written question.

Rijiju said activities of the NGOs aimed at conversion through inducement or force either directly or indirectly, from one faith to another are prohibited under the Act. "For any such violations reported, action as per the FCRA, 2010 is taken against the defaulting NGOs," he said.

According to home ministry statistics, a total of 23,176 NGOs have received ₹15,329.16 crore during 2016-17. There are around 7,800 NGOs which work for social purposes and 4,800 NGOs which work for educational purposes. PNS

Information Technology Development Agency (I.T.D.A.)
(Department of IT, Government of Uttarakhand)
IT Bhawan, Plot No. T-07, IT Park, Sahashradha Road, Dehradun - 248001
Ph: 0135-2608330, email: dirida-uk@nic.in

e-Tender
Tender Notice No: 09/ITDA-346/Trans/2018 dated 18/12/2018
Notice of Invitation for e-Tender

RFP (Request for Proposal) is being issued by ITDA, Department of IT, Uttarakhand to the reputed IT companies meeting the qualification criteria, for Selection of System Integrator For establishing Horizontal Connectivity-Transport Department, Govt. of Uttarakhand. The RFP document can be downloaded from www.uktenders.gov.in from 19/12/2018. The tender document fee of Rs 5000/- (Rupees Five Thousand Only) through demand draft/Banker's Cheque (non-refundable) in favour of "Director, ITDA" payable at Dehradun should be submitted along with the Bid. The parties willing to participate in the bidding will have to apply through the Electronic Tendering Procedure (e-Tendering) as per the guidelines issued by Government of Uttarakhand available on the above mentioned web site under the link "Bidders Manual Kit". The Director, ITDA reserves the rights to cancel the tender at any point of time without assigning any reason thereof.

RO. 1134 Dated 18.12.2018 DIRECTOR

NOTIFICATION
On behalf of the Department of Science, Technology & Environment (DSTE), Government of Tripura, Director, seeks objections/suggestions (in writing) from all people/public authorities within 30 days before the issue of final notification on complete ban on plastic pouch packets. The detail draft notification is available at the Department website <http://dstetripura.nic.in>

Sd/- illegible
ICA/C-1986/18
(Director), DSTE

INDIAN COUNCIL OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH KRISHI BHAWAN, NEW DELHI

TENDER NOTICE

The Indian Council of Agricultural Research, Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi intends to dispose off old vehicle of the Council. The details of the vehicle is as under:-

Registration No. Model Make
DL-2CQ-6973 Ambassador (Petrol) May, 2011

The detailed terms and conditions for disposal of aforesaid vehicle can be obtained from Room No. 02, ICAR, Krishi Bhawan or downloaded from the website of ICAR viz. www.icar.org.in and CPP Portal. The bids alongwith the prescribed EMD can be deposited in the tender box kept outside room No. 506, 5th Floor, ICAR, Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi upto 3:00 PM. on 26.12.2018. Received bids will be opened on the same day at 3:30 P.M. in Room No. 02. ICAR, Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi-110001

Under Secretary (GAC)

davp 01302/11/0019/1819

NEW DELHI MUNICIPAL COUNCIL

Electricity Department

Building Maintenance Division-II, Vidyut Bhawan, Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam Road, New Delhi - 110011

E-Procurement Tender Notice

Tender ID No. - 2018_NDMC_163717_1

Name of work: Providing earthing for Residential and Commercial Building at various NDMC buildings of South of Rajpath, Under BM-II(E) Division.

Estimated Cost : ₹ 14,04,035/-

Date of release of tender : 17.12.2018 at 02.00 PM

Last date/time for receipt of tenders : 26.12.2018 at 03.30 PM

Date of opening of tender : 26.12.2018 at 04.00 PM

Further details can be seen at www.ndmc.gov.in or <https://govprocurement.delhi.gov.in>

Note: To participate in e-tender in NDMC, registration with application services provider (ASP) of NIC is mandatory.

Executive Engineer (E) BM-II

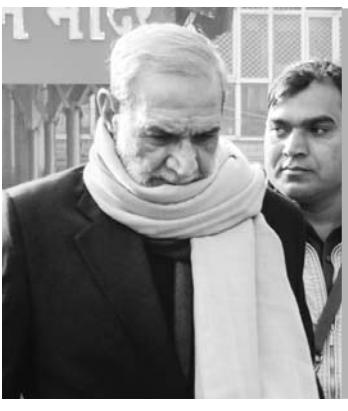
To be the global Benchmark for a Capital City

Sl.no.	Division	Block	Panchayat	Ward Nos.	Total No. of Schemes	Group No./ No. Of Schemes
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Justice at last

Sajjan Kumar's life sentence may bring some closure to Sikhs hit by 1984 but the court has asked questions of other killings as well



The Congress probably had not bargained for a bad day at the courts so soon after managing some respectable foothold on the electoral ground in the latest round of state polls. But its past ghosts came to haunt it swiftly, dim its newly-minted relevance and remind it that victories remain pyrrhic and there's still a long way to convince people why they should trust it ever again. While its poor homework led to the Supreme Court's dismissal of the Rafale petitions as baseless and without concrete evidence of wrongdoing, the Delhi High Court had a mountain of evidence with which to nail it over the carnage of Sikhs in 1984 after Indira Gandhi's assassination. It reversed earlier judgments and rightfully sentenced one of the pogrom leaders, Sajjan Kumar, to life imprisonment for what it classified as a crime against humanity, which needed closure despite the time lapse of 34 years. Justice delayed may be justice denied but for the generations of the 2,700 Sikh families that have borne the burden of pain, loss and utter humiliation viscerally, having seen their loved ones killed brutally, this is both vindication and reconciliation. Somewhat. It is also a reclamation of their identity that at one time was bracketed under terrorism against the state. The court also listed precedents to justify why delayed justice is necessary to prove that there is no getting away and restore faith in democracy as the ultimate arbiter of right and wrong even if the law and order system itself is held hostage by the perpetrators, in this case even enjoying political patronage as members of the ruling party. The court cited the Supreme Court of Bangladesh, which took up an appeal against the acquittal of the accused of mass killings of Bangladeshi citizens in 1971 by sympathisers of the Pakistani Army. The trial began in 2009, 38 years after the incident, and concluded in 2013. A Nazi war criminal was convicted after 56 years. As the court articulated, "no amount of time can be 'too long' to satisfy the needs for truth and some measure of accountability, nor can come arbitrary legal time limit be set. The argument that some wounds are too old to be exposed has little moral integrity... the wounds are still there for all to see." And in this case, it is that of a community that has contributed constructively to our national life.

The bigger problem for the Congress is that unlike Sajjan Kumar, who resigned after the verdict, bigger leaders like Jagdish Tytler and the newly-elected Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh, Kamal Nath, will now be facing the heat of inquiry. And though Nath claims the Nanavati Commission had found no ground to implicate him, petitioners of the Sajjan Kumar case say they will pursue a case against Nath as he was present at the spot as is documented. The BJP, seeing a ray of light post the Rafale ruling, is amping up its offensive and building up an emotive narrative for 2019, zeroing in on its nemesis in Madhya Pradesh. But the Congress sustenance is not likely to be affected much considering it sits pretty in Punjab and can sacrifice senior leaders if they are convicted. In such a situation, Rahul Gandhi can even cleanse the seniors to usher in the young and appear he is genuinely concerned about undoing past evil. But can the BJP itself rest easy? The Delhi High Court, after all, even listed the Gujarat riots of 2002 as one of the many genocidal crimes that needed redress as the accused evaded prosecution and punishment by using their political clout and manipulating the police. The court, therefore, called for a strong legal framework that would make the guilty answerable and not immune in real time. There's no doubt that the BJP has more than a few skeletons that can tumble out if the Congress counteracts with a similar "nail them" narrative. In the end, no political party in a democracy should go scot free or feel free to tweak the system with impunity just because it is in command.

Cricket's bad boy

We should all cut Virat Kohli and his behaviour on the pitch some slack



If there is a truism about India, it is that everyone over here seems to have an opinion about politics and cricket. So, one should really treat actor Naseeruddin Shah's comments on cricketer Virat Kohli's behaviour as just another Indian cricket fan expressing his/her opinion on sport. Just like the thousands, who shared their opinions on who should form India's opening pair for the Melbourne Test starting next week, others, mainly Australians, have been commenting on Kohli's aggressive, take no prisoners captaincy style. The irony that those who have been watching cricket for a few years feel about the new 'woke' Australian cricket team is palpable. Australian teams defined the aggressive and nasty cricketers on the field between the eras of Allan Border to Steve Smith. It appears after they were caught cheating in South Africa and with Smith and David Warner banished to the wilderness at least temporarily, this new Australian side is on a public relations spree to be likeable. But let us be honest, Kohli doesn't need to go on a PR campaign, he lets his bat and captaincy do the talking. While he is a bit lip on the field, he is a perfectly decent bloke off the field and doesn't need Anushka Sharma's certificate for that — anyone who has interacted with him will testify to his politeness off the field. And that was the same about most Australian cricketers of the past. Steve Waugh, who was never short of a snarky comment on the field, is a humanitarian for example.

That said, while we should be proud that Virat Kohli wears his heart on his sleeve and has the Indian flag in his heart when playing for the country, he should not forget that as the Captain of the Indian men's cricket team, he is possibly the most influential individual in the nation. There are millions of impressionable young children looking up to him and they might not have the degree of self-control that Kohli has to keep his on-field and off-field personae separate. And in an age of multiple cameras and powerful microphones, it might not be a bad idea to control his aggression. But if it is his aggressive nature on the field and pitch that will help us finally conquer Indian cricket's 'final frontier' (to borrow the term from Waugh) and win a test series down under, it is worth it. Let's be honest, despite their performance in the recently concluded Test in Perth, this is the weakest Australian cricket team for three decades and India has never had such an opportunity. Let us not lose sight of the big picture and take a cricket fan's opinion too seriously.

A missed opportunity

Despite all the calibrated contradictions between India and Pakistan, Imran Khan's wish for talks will be fulfilled after the 2019 elections. Terror and talks will go together



ASHOK K MEHTA

For those who are intrepid optimists, giving Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan a chance to prove he can do more to better India-Pakistan relations is a fair bet. After all, he has been handpicked by the Army and the Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) played no small role in installing him as the Prime Minister. Khan claimed that Pakistan Army chief Gen Qamar Bajwa and he are on the same page. The Kartarpur corridor confidence building measure (CBM) is an Army-approved Khan's first step awaiting an Indian response which will be followed by Khan's promised additional steps, whatever those might be. Prime Minister Narendra Modi compared Kartarpur with the fall of the Berlin wall, adding: "Kartarpur will not be a corridor but a reason to bring people together." The two Sikh Ministers he sent were equally euphoric, especially Union Minister for Food Processing, Harsimrat Kaur, who said that Kartarpur was a perfect way to start a "new beginning." But spoilers are on both sides. Union External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj was quick to guillotine hope with her famous one-liner: "Terror and talks cannot go together." Similarly, Swaraj killed an earlier agreed meeting on the sidelines of UNGA of a conversation between Indian and Pakistan Foreign Ministers in reaction to media outrage over beheading of a soldier and Line of Control violations. Both incidents were missed opportunities to test Khan's strategic autonomy under Bajwa's watch.

Linked to the resumption of bilateral dialogue is Islamabad's yearning to hold the 19th Saarc summit, which was postponed in 2016 following the Uri attack, and rejected by Swaraj citing lack of conducive environment (read Pakistan's backing for terrorists). The killing of 19 soldiers in the Uri attack was not due to any ingenious or suicidal terrorist action but was accidental, caused by the careless storage of gas cylinders which engulfed the tent in which they were sleeping. During the Vajpayee-led NDA Government, even after a major terrorist attack on Parliament in December 2001—which led to Operation Parakram—Vajpayee did not skip the 11th Saarc summit in Kathmandu in January 2002, where the then Pakistan Prime Minister Pervez Musharraf shook hands even as India's armed forces were on full-scale deployment, ready for war. India's attempts to isolate and punish Pakistan have seen the re-emergence of sub-regional groupings, like the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (Bimstec), which includes Bangladesh, India, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Nepal and Bhutan. According to a World Bank report, 'Glass Half Full: The Problem of Regional Trade in South Asia' (by Sanjay Kathuria), the formal trade between India and Pakistan could be \$37 billion but is only \$2 million due to a variety of surmountable barriers. South Asia, as a region, is locked down by India-Pakistan tensions and an upswing in relations between the two nations would benefit other Saarc countries too.

In conformity with Modi's muscular policy — surgical strikes *et al* — his Government has become the first one to not engage in official dialogue with Pakistan since it started in 1996. Except for the likes of Mani Shankar Aiyar of uninterrupted and uninterrupted dialogue fame and Sudhendra Kulkarni, who have suffered repeated indignities at the hands of Hindu goons, the majority of soldiers, diplomats and intellectuals are on the side of no dialogue with Pakistan as it attracts the law of diminishing returns, coupled with doses of despair and frustration. Still, there are those who hang around in fatigued Track II simply because the official track is closed. The 26/11 Mumbai attacks, whose perpetrators have gone unpunished and are being mainstreamed, marked the turning point in the dialogue process, especially after India and Pakistan came breathlessly close to agreeing on the four or five point Kashmir formula during the single-window Musharraf regime, which turned out to be a flash in the pan. Ten and six years of Generals Musharraf and Ashfaq Parvez Kayan had upset the collegium of Corps Commanders, disturbing the channel of promotions. The Generals agreed to replace the era of direct with proxy rule, thereby obviating international and domestic costs. This mechanism gave rise to new terminologies — elected Government and establishment (deep state).

While the last two elected Governments completed their

SOUND BITE

India would be happy to associate with Zambia in any area, including training of officials in the institutional or technical human resource development.

Vice President
—Venkaiah Naidu



India will never forgive Hafiz Saeed for his role in 26/11 Mumbai attacks. You can be certain, sometime or the other, justice will be met.

UN representative
—Syed Akbaruddin



I get disturbed when the media exaggerates. If radical, violent groups are not given attention, then maybe this world would be a better place to live in.

Actor
—Sunny Leone

Cartoons do not hurt but have a healing power. Cartoonists are closer to God as they can minutely observe different characteristics of various human beings.

Prime Minister
—Narendra Modi



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Failed policy

Sir — This refers to the article, "No salvation in shooting the reformist" (December 18) by Bindu Dalmia. In the just-concluded Assembly elections to five States, the BJP got one out of 40 seats in Mizoram, one out of 119 seats in Telangana, 15 out of 90 seats in Chhattisgarh, 73 out of 199 seats in Rajasthan and 109 out of 230 seats in Madhya Pradesh. Barring Madhya Pradesh, the BJP could not come anywhere near the halfway mark in the five State Assemblies.

These election results clearly indicate that the people did not like the BJP's bottom-tight-top-loose kind of policy to undertake reformation.

While measures, like demonetisation and Goods and Services Tax, took the water away for small firs, big crocodiles happily survived on the land without water, with help of plastic money. On the other hand, soft-dealing with macro bank loan defaulters and the hard approach on farm loans did not go down well with the farmers.

Sujit De
Kolkata

Ban loan waivers altogether

This refers to the article, "Resurrect Indian economy" (December 18) by Shivaji Sarkar. There must be a complete ban on promises such as subsidies and loan waivers that routinely make up poll manifestos of political parties. The ultimate sufferer of such promises is the middle category of the middle-class taxpayer, who bears the brunt of additional taxes and cost inflation due to a deficit in the economy.

Even the subsidy system should be abolished in a gradual manner. Agricultural incomes over a certain limit should be taxed because it's not the farmers, but ultra-rich personalities, including famous celebrity icons and politicians, who benefit from such tax-free income. They misuse the provision by declaring their unaccounted income from land use as agricultural income.

A loan waiver to farmers is a big election gimmick and, in fact, makes them more dependent on middlemen because banks, compelled to write off grants, refuse to finance them

in the future. Also, such loan waivers are limited only to previous years during which many farmers have already repaid their loans. But political gimmick means that even those who can repay are kept out.

Madhu Agrawal
Delhi

Better hopes

Sir — This refers to the article, "GST, unaddressed Hindu concerns blighted BJP" (December 16) by Swapna Dasgupta. With regards to Telangana and Mizoram, where both the BJP and Congress lost badly, regional considerations played a major role over there. As for the other Hindi

heartland States anti-incumbency led to the BJP's defeat.

In Madhya Pradesh, Shivraj Singh Chouhan's impartiality, strictness and adherence to rules annoyed the people of the State and even his near and dear ones. As for Chhattisgarh, Naxals, being afraid of the BJP's aggressiveness, threatened that the electorate could not vote for the party. This had a questionable effect. In

Rajasthan, people were more dissatisfied with Vasundhara Raje than Prime Minister Modi.

While the Congress can now rejoice over its victories, people will soon get disenchanted with it. Prime Minister Modi's policies, particularly in the sectors of Foreign Affairs, Defence and Home are remarkably fine. The Government needs more time to clean up the mess created by

UPA Government. We must hope for the better.

LR Gupta
Lucknow

Bleak chances

Sir — DMK President MK Stalin's call to the Opposition to rally around Rahul Gandhi is no doubt a big boost for the Congress president but it is too early to say whether the entire Opposition would stand united and endorse Rahul as their prime ministerial candidate.

Electoral victories in the three crucial northern States have infused confidence in the Congress and bolstered the image of Rahul as a leader with a potential to take Modi head-on in the Lok Sabha battle. But given its organisational weakness in electorally significant States like West Bengal, Bihar, Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh, the Congress has no option than to ally with regional heavyweights to improve its electoral prospects.

M Jayaram
Chennai

Send your feedback to:
letterstopioneer@gmail.com

FIRST COLUMN

Congress has to tread carefully

The Grand Old Party must not get carried away with new-found victories. It must first anchor Opposition unity and keep watch on BJP moves



KALYANI SHANKAR

For a party that appeared to be in an existential crisis, the Congress has much to cheer about following its win in three big States — Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh — this month. Success in elections is always heartening and it becomes even better given the fact that the Congress has been in a political wilderness since 2014. Though it seemed the BJP had all the momentum since 2004, the saffron space has shrunk a little after December 11, 2018. The challenge now for the Congress leadership is to take the momentum forward until the 2019 Lok Sabha election in which stakes are very high for both the Congress-led UPA and the BJP-led NDA. After all, momentum does matter in politics. A diminished BJP is not going to sit quiet and allow the Congress to have a free run in the 2019 poll. It might even redouble its efforts to win the general election. Narendra Modi is an assertive Prime Minister and might re-package himself and reintroduce 'brand Modi' in a different mould. In all probability, alternative politics might gain momentum if Congress chief Rahul Gandhi goes the right way and projects a new narrative for himself and his party as going by the poll results, people are willing to give him a chance.

Gandhi's priority should be to set his organisation, which has shrunk electorally, and redouble efforts for Opposition unity. The Congress is now at number four position in States such as West Bengal, Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu. It also finished at the third or fourth place in other States as well. Many sections, like the Dalits, tribals, upper castes and even Muslims have drifted away. The BJP's strength is that it is a cadre-based organisation; it has unlimited resources, best communication skills and a wonderful propaganda machine. Internally, the young Gandhi has chosen to go with the old guard. The message became clearer with his choice of Chief Ministers in Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh. He more or less told the youth that younger leaders will be allowed to build their profiles, even if that means they have to wait a bit longer for leadership roles.

Second, he must focus on building alliances. Even with the wind in its sails, the Congress is faced with challenges. The Opposition parties have inherent contradictions but Gandhi has been showing some boldness. He walked with Jignesh Mehta and Hardik Patel in Gujarat, which helped the party reduce the BJP's numbers in the State. Similarly, the decision to support the Janata Dal (Secular) in Karnataka earlier this year, to stop the BJP from forming the Government, also showed his political adventurism. Besides, the party has tied up with alliance partners in different States like Bihar, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana and Jharkhand. Further, it is in the process of aligning with the Samajwadi Party and the Bahujan Samaj Party in Uttar Pradesh. The Grand Old Party has to keep the UPA flock together and also expand wherever necessary. As a bigger party, the Congress has to be flexible in sharing seats with other regional parties.

Third, he has to build a new narrative. It may not be enough to indulge just in Modi-bashing and negative campaigning. Gandhi successfully tapped political resentment of the farmers against the BJP Government as also discontent among the unemployed. These are the two major issues that helped him win the three States. Negative sentiments circling demonetisation and GST, too, helped. The caste factor played its role for the grand old party.

The fourth option is to stitch Opposition unity. The success in Assembly polls has given Gandhi a new image and he must now be able to reach out to senior leaders and regional Opposition parties and ensure that the Congress is able to anchor the coalition. Following the Karnataka polls, the Opposition showed interest in forming a 'grand alliance' which fell apart with the BSP and SP moving away. It is now clear that the prime ministerial face of the Opposition will be decided only in a post-poll scenario. These parties can do the trick if they come together and make sure that Opposition votes are undivided. In fact, Modi's strength lies in Opposition disunity. The road to success in 2019 is challenging but Rahul Gandhi has made a good start. Despite setbacks, the BJP remains a formidable opponent and must not be taken lightly. As Union Finance Minister Arun Jaitley pointed out, the BJP won the same three States in December 2003 but lost the 2004 general election. Hence, the Congress should not be carried away by the present success. It has won the battle but not the war as yet. Time is very short and Opposition parties must decide their course of action now itself.

(The writer is a senior political commentator)

WE (CONGRESS) WILL NOT RETRACT A SINGLE INCH.
WE WILL NOT LET THEM SLEEP AT NIGHT TILL
FARMER LOANS ARE WAIVED.
—CONGRESS PRESIDENT
RAHUL GANDHI

POINT COUNTER POINT



NOTHING BETTER CAN BE EXPECTED FROM GANDHI. HIS PARTY ENSURED THAT INDIANS DID NOT SLEEP DURING ITS 60 YEARS OF RULE DUE TO RAMPANT CORRUPTION.

—BJP LEADER
RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD

Small businesses, big contribution

The viability of small and medium-sized firms is greater than that of large firms. Not only do they bring prosperity to the people but also play a fundamental role in driving the economy



HIMA BINDU KOTA

Small businesses, start-ups and entrepreneurs are some of the most important influencers of economic growth because, in any economy, they represent more than 90 per cent of all employers and create 60 to 80 per cent of all new jobs, annually. In 2018, there were 30.2 million small businesses in the US, which represented 99.9 per cent of all businesses in the country, employing about 58.9 million people. Out of the total small business, 39 per cent were owned by women, who contributed to eight per cent of employment and generated 4.2 per cent of the revenues. According to a survey by Randstad Workmonitor, entrepreneurial ambition was the highest in India with 83 per cent of the Indian workforce wanting to be entrepreneurs. This is even higher than the global standard of 53 per cent. According to the survey, 58 per cent of the respondents were willing to leave their current job to start their own venture. This is important because although big businesses may dominate the stock market, it's the small businesses and startups that keep the economy moving.

Small businesses create job opportunities and drive the country's economic growth in smaller geographic areas. They make the market more competitive. A local farmer, for example, may be able to offer cheaper products because he doesn't have to spend money on shipping. Similarly, an agile start-up may be able to innovate new technology faster than a bulky bureaucratic counterpart, thereby forcing changes in thinking and behaviour.

Second, small businesses also operate locally. This gives them a strong preference for hiring local people. Big corporations often move into new territories with a team already in place. This can improve a city's population but nothing drives new job growth in a region as small businesses do.

Third, small firms have more flexibility. Anyone can start a new business. This makes them more diverse in form, function, culture and increases their potential as against large corporations. Greater the diversity in an economy, easier it is for the country to withstand tough conditions.

There are many reasons why men and women are turning to entrepreneurship and starting their own businesses. Decreasing wages, demands for more family and personal time are a few reasons that propel one towards entrepreneurship. Generally, it is seen that wages have not kept pace with the increased cost of living. What used to take the average income of only one worker to support a family today can take almost two-and-a-half. In contrast, entrepreneurs have the potential to earn more as business owners than as employees. Because entrepreneurs are working in small businesses for themselves. As their own boss, they have the flexibility to arrange their hours around their family schedules.

Moreover, salary raises of the employees, too, have become fewer. Companies generally tend to give performance bonuses so as to keep fixed costs low. And often, managers have to adhere to strict guidelines for standard operations procedures, or their bonuses are unlikely. An electronic chain corporation not only demands its managers to work six days a week but it also sends inspectors into the stores, unannounced, to deduct points for

“

SMALL BUSINESS IS AMONG THE MOST POWERFUL SYMBOLS OF MODERN CAPITALISM AND ITS OWNERS ARE FREQUENTLY DESCRIBED AS VIRTUOUS, SELF-RELIANT AND INDEPENDENT. STARTING A VENTURE IS THE EASY PART BUT STAYING IN BUSINESS IS THE HARDEST TASK. THERE ARE MANY REASONS FOR THE SUCCESS OF SMALL AND HOME-BASED BUSINESSES, BUT THE MOST IMPORTANT CAN BE SUMMED UP IN THREE DS — DESIRE, DISCIPLINE AND DETERMINATION

”



minor infractions.

On the other hand, small business owners start as owners of their own company. Although they have responsibilities that go with being a business owner, they can take their businesses in whatever direction they choose. They also have the ability to strive and provide benefits to their employees and families as well. Additionally, economies world over are witnessing unprecedented changes — the job scenario is changing rapidly. Many jobs have discontinued, others may not return. So, unemployed workers have to find new jobs, often at much lower pay, or undertake training and education as a new career option.

Unstable economic conditions are inducing people to start ventures to secure their financial future. This makes entrepreneurship and small business ownership a viable career option. Although many companies now offer their employees flexible hours to handle family needs, there are times when employees, especially women — who are still the primary care-givers of family members — face scheduling conflicts while handling everyday personal concerns. Therefore, many entrepreneurs opt to work from home so that they can be with their families, attend their children's school events, or even run errands.

Lastly, having a small business is a definite way to escape from a job that one dislikes or no longer finds challenging or fulfilling. A recent study found that nearly 25 per cent of the people detest their jobs but remain trapped due to financial commitments like loans, rents, payments and living expenses.

Therefore, if they cannot afford to quit a full-time job to start a business, entrepreneurs can start a small business on the side until their business profits enable them to quit. According to the Small Business Administration (SBA), US, the number of part-time business-

es steadily increased since the mid-1980s and is expected to increase by about 10 per cent each year.

Once the employees leave to set up their own venture, there are several reasons why these owners of small, home-based and micro-businesses stay in such businesses to survive. First, small business owners network well within their industry, communities and beyond by encouraging and sharing with one another. Successful entrepreneurs will find mentors or themselves be the mentor to new business owners.

Second, many people, who are in their 50s, want to try their hand at entrepreneurship. Not only do such people bring a vast array of experience to their ventures, they also have a more mature approach. They are more likely to care about their employees or respect them. This can foster repeat business.

Third, entrepreneurs are not afraid to fail. Statistics reveal that it takes an average of three business start-ups for an entrepreneur to achieve a successful enterprise. Entrepreneurs constantly learn from mistakes and persist until one or more of their ventures succeed. They can respond to challenges and quickly change to stay competitive in the market and satisfy their customers.

Fourth, time management issues, family responsibilities and the desire for more money are just a few reasons why men and women tend to start a small-scale venture. Because their ventures are small, owners can pay attention to details that promote positive image.

Many business owners have gone on to expand their small ventures into multi-million enterprises, especially as venture-capital investment resources became available. Others chose to stay small so that they could serve specialised and niche markets. Thus, starting smaller and growing slowly decreases the likelihood of making

hasty and costly decisions that can lead to failures. Surveys also show that small business owners generally care more about the quality of their product and services than bigger companies. They believe this is the best way for them to compete with large companies that have access to more resources but are less personal.

Owners of small businesses strive to keep their customers satisfied to encourage repeat business. Small businesses can respond flexibly to problems and challenges as there is little hierarchy or chain of command. Large businesses may have set ways of operating and establish procedures that are hard to change. Small businesses are often far more flexible. They can also reach a quick decision on whether or not they can do what is required. Also, small businesses are well-positioned to introduce and develop new ideas. This is due to their owners not having to report or seek approval from anyone else. For example, when Anita Roddick set up The Body Shop, she developed a range of environment-friendly cosmetics in unsophisticated packaging. This would have been frowned upon in a conventional cosmetics company.

Due to the small scale of operation, small businesses have lower overhead costs. They operate in small premises with low heating and lighting costs, limited rent and rates to pay. Low costs result in lower prices for consumers. Small business is among the most powerful symbols of modern capitalism and its owners are frequently described as virtuous, self-reliant and independent.

Starting a venture is the easy part but staying in business is the hardest task. There are many reasons for the success of small and home-based businesses but the most important can be summed up in three Ds — desire, discipline and determination.

(The writer is Assistant Professor, Amity University)

India's power sector paradox

Problems surrounding India's energy sector are so complex and voluminous that the immediate need is for a policy environment that can push the country ahead on the innovation curve. Hopefully, this can help the nation seize leadership of an industry segment in the future, says SAURABH BISWAS

The energy sector, electricity in particular, is undergoing a phase of rapid change. Provisional data from the Central Electricity Authority (CEA) showed that up to October 2018, electricity supply deficit was only 0.6 per cent of the total energy demand and deficit at peak was only 0.8 per cent. This in itself is suggestive of the fact that our country has come a long way since a decade. In fact, for the entire financial year of 2018-19, CEA's Load Generation Balance Report anticipated 4.6 per cent overall energy surplus and 2.5 per cent surplus at peak demand. However, below the surface, there is a long list of challenges already being faced and even bigger ones looming ahead.

India's electricity demand is projected to more than quadruple by 2035-36. Its demand grows concomitant with economic development, which is aided by increased penetration of necessary and discretionary goods powered by electricity, rise of disposable income and

access to credit. One particular item, air-conditioners, is of special interest. It has already led to a temporal shift in demand patterns. The situation will only get heightened in the future due to increased market penetration of the product and growing demand for cooling, given the rising temperatures.

A further spurt in demand is expected due to the electrification of the transport sector that is now almost inevitable. Even the Saubhagya scheme is expected to unlock latent demand by bringing electricity connection to a multitude of homes. Planning to meet the shifting demand is of essence. We

are in a situation where we are constrained about our choice of electricity generation because of the conditions set by global climate change.

Quite rightly, therefore, the Government has declared its intention to increase the share of renewable energy to 40 per cent by 2030.

Efforts to incentivise renewables

are also palpable in the National Tariff Policy 2016 and the proposed

amendments to the Electricity Act. Most industry watchers have expressed hope in meeting the 175GW renewable target. However, certain things demand attention. The intermittency of renewables and challenges of grid integration underscore heightened risk of curtailment, both of technical nature and misalignment with demand-supply forecast. These problems will keep exacerbating as the quantum of renewable power available for grid injection increases as planned.

At this point, technical challenges of renewable power evacuation are compounded by flexible operations requirement of base power plants. Immediate focus is needed on storage that can smoothen out intermittence of renewables and longer-term network infrastructure planning.

Notably, conventional power sources, particularly thermal, is now at 64.1 per cent of the installed capacity (CEA: October 2018 provisional figures) that is predominantly coal-fed. Discussions are

already rife about the financial debacle lurking in many of these assets as their cost-competitiveness vis-à-vis renewables has eroded and policy thrust is shifting away. This needs attention since there is no prudence in thinking that a collapse of investments made in this sector will not have collateral damage for investor sentiment in renewable sector.

Overall, the power sector needs to demonstrate policy reliability due to long-time horizon of investments. Therefore, a carefully managed decrease in share of thermal power needs to be staged, including looking at technologies, that can reduce negative impact of these power plants and, therefore, provide cushion for managing the transition.

Well none of the challenges in generation can be compared to what is brewing on the distribution side. The Ujjwal DISCOM Assurance Yojana (UYDAY) continues to be in a perilous economic condition. Their tottering health emanates from both revenue reali-

sation deficit as well as aggregate technical and commercial (AT&C) losses, which is about 19 per cent. As rural electrification becomes more pervasive due to policy prerogatives, there is a growth of subsidised customers entering the fray and ultimately deepening the ongoing crisis.

There is also a lingering threat from the prospect of rooftop solar and net-metering as this increases the chance of net revenue from paying customer base falling rapidly. Though Uday has provided a pathway for shifting the burden of losses, it hasn't really come up with a roadmap to reduce the burden.

Overall, India can benefit from foresight in planning the transition to a sustainable generation paradigm. Planning should have place for technology discovery, upgradation of transmission and distribution networks to handle load patterns of a new era and solutions for plugging revenue leakages. Immediate focus on research and development (R&D) in areas of local

importance, like dust sustaining solar panels, storage solutions that work in extreme weather while hopefully being less dependent on import-oriented minerals, economically meaningful solutions for dramatic reduction in emissions from thermal power plants, and smart metering will help alleviate the financial stress on DISCOMS.

That the Government isn't oblivious to boosting a local ecosystem is evident in its efforts to support local manufacturing in solar industry. The approach, however, has been reliant on erecting trade barriers which remains a contentious and politically thorny strategy. One often thinks whether such policy decisions focus on attracting investments in R&D. Ultimately, what is needed is a policy environment that will push the country ahead on the innovation curve and hopefully help the nation seize leadership of an industry segment in the future.

(The writer is Practice Lead, Climate, Environment and Sustainability, Chase India)



FOREIGNEYE



RUSSIA'S CULTURE OF CONTROL

Though older generations everywhere get worked up over radical developments in art, music and cultural forms — recall how American parents reacted to Elvis Presley, the Beatles, hippies and beat poets — the arts have a powerful history as a political force in Russia and the Soviet Union. Putin's "lead and direct" suggested that authoritarian delusions die hard. (*The New York Times* editorial)

Roads sealed off to foil separatist stir

KHURSHED WANI ■ SRINAGAR

The authorities on Monday sealed off all roads leading to headquarters of XV Corps in Srinagar to thwart separatists plan to stage a protest demonstration in the garrison area against the spree of civilian killings. Police detained two main separatist leaders Mirwaiz Umar Farooq and Yasin Malik to foil their march towards the largest cantonment in summer capital Srinagar.

The separatists had called for a protest demonstration in front of the office of the XV Corps Commander who commands the military operations in the entire Kashmir Valley. The army had counselled the people against paying heed to the separatists' call. The proposed protest was part of 3-day shutdown called by the separatists against the killing of seven civilians in Srinagar village of south Kashmir's Pulwama district on Saturday. Three Hizbul Mujahideen terrorists and an Army soldier were also killed in the encounter. The locals blamed the security

forces for "target killings."

Senior separatist leader Mirwaiz Umar Farooq defied police restrictions on his mansion in Nigeen area of Srinagar outskirts and led a group of his supporters to march towards the cantonment area. However, he was intercepted by a large contingent of police, mostly masked personnel, who took him into brief custody after a bout of slogan-shouting. Before being whisked to police station, Mirwaiz was allowed to address his supporters. He blamed the state authorities for unleashing a reign of terror by killing what he called innocent civilians.

"After indiscriminate killings, civilians are branded as over ground workers and terrorists which is preposterous in itself, but what is worse is that this propaganda is used as a means of endorsing and justifying the civilian killings by armed forces. Delhi has overplayed the terrorist, Pak proxy and instigators card and no one is buying this narrative except some people in India at whom it is aimed for electoral gains,"

Mirwaiz said adding the world sees for itself the ever-growing graph of atrocities and massacres of Kashmiris who are seeking peaceful resolution of the Kashmir dispute.

Another separatist leader and JKLF chairman Yasin Malik also detained by police after he tried to march towards Badami Bagh cantonment in Srinagar. Reports said Malik along with his supporters including several women assembled at Gaw Kadal locality to begin their march.

Eyewitnesses said as soon as Malik reached near Budshah bridge a police party swung into action and detained him. Police fired tear gas smoke shells to disperse the crowd.

The authorities had ordered restrictions on public movement under Sec 144 CrPC in various parts of Srinagar district in view of Joint Resistance Leadership (JRL) call for protest march towards Army's XV Corps Headquarters. The authorities ordered imposition of restrictions within the territorial jurisdiction of Khanyar, Rainawari,

Safakadal, MR Gunj and Ram Munshi Bagh police stations of the district. In addition, partial restrictions are in force within the territorial jurisdiction of Maisuma and Kralkhud police stations in the up town city.

The normal life remained affected across Kashmir Valley on third consecutive day in response to the JRL's shutdown call. No untoward incident was reported from any part of Valley.

Shops, business establishments and fuel stations remained closed while public transport was off the roads in summer capital Srinagar. However, scarce private vehicles besides ambulances plied on the city roads. The attendance in government and semi-government offices is also affected.

Similar reports of shutdown and effect on normal life were received from other districts.

Heavy deployment of police and paramilitary security personnel was made in Pulwama district and adjoining Shopian district. Train services

between Srinagar and Banihal in Jammu and connecting north Kashmir's Baramulla district remained suspended for the third day. The mobile internet services in Srinagar besides Pulwama and Shopian districts are suspended as a precautionary measure.

The civilian killings evoked widespread condemnation from both separatist as well as mainstream political parties including NC, PDP, Congress and other smaller parties calling for halt to such killings and political initiatives to resolve Kashmir issue.

Governor Satya Pal Malik expressed grief over killings and directed security forces to adhere to Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) during anti-militancy operations. He also directed divisional administration Kashmir to conduct probe into the Pulwama incident.

Advisor to Governor K Vijay Kumar held a security review meeting in Srinagar on Sunday and urged upon the security forces to adhere to SOPs while conducting counterinsurgency operations.

ESIS hospital fire: Death toll reaches to 8, probe ordered

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

The toll in Mumbai's ESIS hospital fire mounted to eight on Tuesday, even as the Maharashtra Government orders an inquiry into the alleged negligence and lapses leading to the mishap.

While two more injured persons succumbed to burn wounds, the condition of at least 25 of the total 147 injured persons admitted to various hospitals in the city was described as "critical". Many of the injured persons were discharged from various hospital after treatment.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who was on a day-long visit to Maharashtra, extended his condolences to the families of those killed in the mishap and made anxious enquiries about those injuries in the mishap.

"I have discussed the incident with Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis. All help is being extended to the families of those killed and also to the persons injured in the mishap."

Modi said, while speaking at the Republic TV summit.

Meanwhile, Union Health Minister JP Nadda spoke to Fadnavis while Labour & Employment Minister Santosh Gangwar rushed to Mumbai.

The Maharashtra government announced an ex-gratia of ₹10 lakh to the families of those killed, ₹2 lakh to those seriously injured and ₹1 lakh to those who suffered with minor injuries.

Till Monday night, six persons had been killed and 147 others injured late on Monday afternoon after a major fire broke out in the state government-run Employees State Insurance Corporation (ESIC) Kamgar Hospital at Andheri (East) in north-west Mumbai.

The fire had been noticed at around 4 pm on Monday, near the operation theatre of the hospital located at Marol locality of Andheri (East). Before long, the fire spread to other floors stranding more 150 people in the fire-engulfed building.

As the fire spread in the building, a few patients panicked

and jumped out of the fourth floor window. They suffered fractures.

However, within minutes of the fire being reported, at least 12 fire tenders, 15 water tankers and other specialised equipment arrived on the scene to battle with the blaze. The fire brigade used ladders to bring down those trapped in the third and fourth floors of the hospital building. The fire brigade personnel extinguished the blaze after battling for three hours.

Meanwhile, informed sources said that the hospital had failed a fire safety audit conducted a fortnight ago.

Taking cognizance of the lack of adequate fire safety measures at the hospital, chief minister Fadnavis ordered an inquiry into the circumstances leading to the mishap and fix responsibility for it.

Talking to media persons, Mumbai Mayor Vishwanath Mahadevshwar said: "Whether the fire audits were done or not and whether the systems were in place or not, will be investigated".

PM releases book 'Timeless Laxman'

I am happy to be part of Laxman's timeless journey, says Modi

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

In a bid to give fillip to the tourism sector and enhance economic activities in Ladakh, the Home Ministry has approved new tourist and trekking routes in the 'Land of High Passes'.

The move likely to boost adventure tourism also

The Home Ministry, in a statement, said the decision has been taken buoyed by the success of many tourism initiatives announced under the Prime Minister's Development Package-2015.

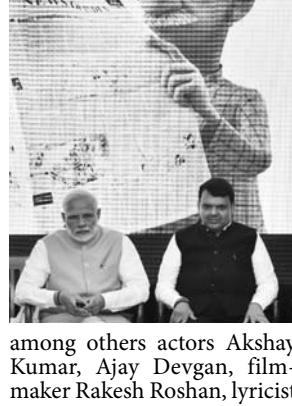
The Government of Jammu & Kashmir has taken yet another leap by proposing to open up more tourist and trekking routes in Ladakh with the aim of recapturing the glory, rich culture and beauty of the region, it said. The move will give a big boost to adventure tourism too.

The proposed new tourist routes are Merak-Lema Bend, Chushul-Kartsangla-Mahe, Durbuk-Shahkul-Tharuk-Sato, Kargyam-Parma-Erath-Chusul and Loma-Hanley.

Korzok-Nurbo-Sumdo-Parangla-Kazaand and Agyan-Shayok-Durbuk are the two other tourist routes.

The proposed new trekking routes include Phyang-Dokla-Hunder-Dok-Hunder, Basgo-Ney-Hunder-Dok-Hunder, Temisgam-Largo-pa-Panchathang-Skuru and Saspol-Saspoche-Rakurala-Skuru.

The delegation also expressed its strong support of the Prime Minister's vision for making India a five trillion dollar economy in the near future. They gave an overview of the vast growth potential of the media and entertainment industry in India, and said that this sector is poised to contribute in a significant way towards this goal.



among others actors Akshay Kumar, Ajay Devgan, filmmaker Rakesh Roshan, lyricist Prasoon Joshi, producers Karan Johar and Siddhartha Roy Kapur, rooted for lower and uniform rates of GST, for the entertainment industry in India.

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Members of the delegation strongly made a strong case for developing Mumbai as the global entertainment capital, through various initiatives and proactive approaches.

On his part, Modi said that the Indian entertainment industry enjoyed immense popularity across the world and it was one of the key elements of India's rising soft power status, globally.

All-women political party launched, to contest LS polls

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Inspired by the decades old National Women's Party in the United States, a 36-year-old doctor and social activist launched a woman's only party on Tuesday to fight for issues like reservation for women in Parliament and harassment of women at workplace.

The newly formed National Women's Party (NWP) is being headed by Swetha Shetty, who said the party's goal was to represent "women" particularly the underprivileged who "have suffered at the hands of system. Those who have run from office to office in expectation of some help to make their lives better and got nothing" and those who suffered from domestic abuse or are struggling against the social establishment.

The actual ground work for National Women Party began in 2012. The motive behind formation of National Women Party is to get 50 per cent reservation for women candidates in Lok Sabha Election.



Even in 2018 women rights are avoided easily and there is so much crime against women and no significant reformation is being considered so far hence she felt the need for women party," Shetty said.

"The political world in India has been majorly male dominated and women have always felt excluded. The party will attempt to eradicate the present challenges as there is need for women participants who understand the subject more delicately. Women empowerment will be a fair play to persistent paradoxes of our times," she said.

Shetty said while she was working with an NGO in Telangana, she worked upon the idea of starting a mass movement. "I wanted to make a national movement. To serve the original purpose women need higher commitment from the governing body. We need higher participation in the parliament to amend the laws for women welfare and progress," she said.

While Shetty urged more and more women to join the party to be able to collectively raise up the issues, she did not elaborate on any plans of contesting any elections.

TENDER NOTICE

NAME OF WORK NOTICE TENDER

SR. NO.	NAME OF BOARD/ CORP./ AUT H	OPENING DATE CLOSING DATE	AMOUNT / EMD (APPROX.) IN RUPEES	WEBSITE OF THE BOARD CORP./ AUTH	NODAL OFFICER/ CONTACT DETAILS/ EMAIL
1	MUNICIPAL COUNCIL, REWARI	CLOSING DATE 25.12.2018	45.05 LACS	http://etenders.hry.nic.in TENDER NO : 2018_HRY_72884_1 TO 6	vashist.ankit@gmail.com 9467874888
2	MUNICIPAL COUNCIL, GOHANA	CLOSING DATE 20.12.2018	12.08	https://www.haryanaeprocurement.gov.in/ TENDER NO : ME_GOHANA_160	manojbagaria@gmail.com 9468356418
3	MUNICIPAL COUNCIL, JIND	15.12.2018 28.12.2018	2.00 LACS	https://mcjind.haryanaeprocurement.gov.in/ v.in	mcjind2013@gmail.com 01681-246358
4	MUNICIPAL COMMITTEE NISSING	CLOSING DATE 24.12.2018	11.99 LACS	https://mcnissing.haryanaeprocurement.gov.in/ T.O: 53 & 54 ME/MCN/2018	8684009444
5	MUNICIPAL CORPORATION GURUGRAM	CLOSING DATE 03.01.2019	1145.18 LACS	https://mcgurugram.haryanaeprocurement.gov.in/ T.O: EE-IV/MCG/2018/53540, 107918	eevss3@mogov.in 9821395213
6	MUNICIPAL COMMITTEE BHUNA	CLOSING DATE 20.12.2018	1 LACS	www.etenders.hry.nic.in T.O: 2018_HRY_72573_2	bhunamo@gmail.com
7	KAITHAL COOP. SUGAR MILLS LTD, KAITHAL	1. SALE OF MOLASSES 2. SALE OF M-30 SUGAR 3. CONTRACT FOR RUNNING OF R.O.PLANT	18.12.2018 23.12.2018	MOLASSES 250000/ SUGAR 50000 www.kaithalsugarmills.com TENDER NO : 107286, 107286, 107289	ktsugar@gmail.com 9466112307
8	HVPNL	AUGMENTATION OF 132 KV SUB-STATION HVPNL,...	3.41 LACS	https://www.hvpn.org.in T.O 20/xen/Ts/Sx/2018-19, 14.12.2018	0172-2583789 pro@hvpn.org.in
9	HVPNL	PROVIDING 1 NO. ADDITIONAL 20/25 MVA, 132/33KV TF WITH 33 KV O/G FOR 33KV LAKHU BUJAN,...	9.15 LACS	www.hvpn.org.in T.O TS/Divn/PNP/61/2018-19	0172-2583789 pro@hvpn.org.in
10	HARTRON	PURCHASE OF SERVERS + 2 OTHER WORKS	3.62 CRORE	https://hartron.haryanaeprocurement.gov.in/ T.O Hartron/HW/2018-19/53,54,55	0172-2720113 agmprocurement@gmail.com
11	UHBVN AMBALA	TO CARRY OUT THE DIFFERENT ELECTRICAL WORKS UPTO 11KV UNDER (OP) DIVN. UHBVN ETC	2.50 LACS	www.uhbn.org.in NIT-27/AMB/2018-19, Dt 12.12.2018	0172-2565625 www.uhbn.org.in
12	UHBVN	HIRING OF 1 NO. VEHICLE FOR THE OFFICE OF XEN/VIGILANCE UHBVN, ROHTAK	6000	www.uhbn.org.in E-6/XEN/VIG/ROHTAK/2018-19	0172-2565625 www.uhbn.org.in
13	VITA SIRSA	SUPPLY OF 15 LITER GHEE TIN (FOR ALL MILK PLANT OF HARYANA)	60000	http://vitamins.haryanaeprocurement.gov.in/	01666-2245059 vitasri@gmail.com
14	HSAMB	CONSTRUCTION OF LINK ROAD FROM VILLAGE SI RASGARH TO BUDIYON (ROAD ID 9380) + 5 OTHER WORKS	3.36 CRORE	www.hsamb.org.in T.O: 108116 to 108121	0171-2530675 xenambala2018_hsamb@gmail.com

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RO NO. 74232



Govt of Bihar

PATNA SMART CITY LIMITED

(SPV formed by Government of Bihar & Patna Municipal Corporation)

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL



Smart City
SUSTAINABLE CITY

Dated-15.12.2018

Sl. No.	Activity	Timeline & Address
1	Online Sale/Download date of Tender documents	From 24.12.2018 (10:00 Hrs) Till 14.01.2019 (14.00Hrs) www.eproc.bihar.gov.in (Under Patna Nagar NiGam)
2		

No pre-poll tie-up with Cong: TMC

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA



**INCIDENTALLY
CHIEF MINISTER
MAMATA
BANERJEE HAS
ALREADY MADE
IT CLEAR THAT
HER PARTY
WILL CONTEST ALL THE 42 LOK SABHA
SEATS OF WEST BENGAL**

There is no plan for any alliance with the Congress before the Lok Sabha elections, Bengal's ruling Trinamool Congress leadership said on Tuesday.

When asked to comment on whether the TMC would for once consider any electoral alliance with the Congress in 2018 general elections senior TMC leader and State Minister Subroto Mukherjee said "there is no question of any alliance at least before the elections. There will be no pre-poll alliance. Whatever tie-up that may be taken up for consideration will be after the elections."

All parties had their separate views and strategies about the elections and the TMC too had its. But on the question of defeating the BJP all the opposition parties were thinking in one direction "that is this party has to be defeated," and the TMC was of the view that "the party which is strong in a particular region should be supported by the other parties against the BJP".

Incidentally Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee had already made it clear that her party would contest all the 42 Lok Sabha seats of the State alone.

Reacting to the issue State Opposition Leader and

the State BJP for three tentative dates for the proposed Rath Yatra.

The Court of Justice Tapabrat Chakrabarty also asked the State Advocate General to submit before it the video recording of the meeting held under the Court's direction between the State officials and the BJP leadership in which the saffron outfit reportedly claimed that the Yatra had no religious undertones and that it was purely a political programme.

The State was categorically told by our leaders that it is a political and not religious Yatra but still they are not giving permission for it," BJP leader JP Majumdar said. The next hearing for the matter will be held on Wednesday.

Modi takes dig at Cong on Rafale

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI



PM Narendra Modi addresses the 'bhoomi pujan' of proposed two Metro V lines and inauguration of a CIDCO housing project at Kalyan in Thane PTI

*ki sab se badi adalat gaye aur
adalat ne unhe do took jawab
mila hai ki jo kaam hua hai,
woh paardarshita se hua hai, imaadari se hua hai. Humare
desh me aisa bhi hoga, char saal
pehle kisi ne nahi socha tha (It
has happened for the first time
that some people moved the
country's highest court with
allegations of corruption against
the Government and the court gave a befitting reply
to the litigants concerned that
whatever work that took place
happened in a most transparent
and honest manner. No one
would have imagined four years
ago that such a thing can happen
in this country),*

Modi said: "Hamare yaha ek psychology rahi hai ki jab sarkar ke khilaf aarop lagate koi adalat me jata hai, to mana jaata hai ki sarkar ghalat hogi aur aarop lagane wala sahi hoga. Yeh aarmtaur pe manyata hai, ghotale ho, bhrash-tachar ka aarop ho, ye mansika-hare man me ghar kar gayi hai. Kyuki humne yahin dekha hai pehle (It has been our psychology that whenever some goes to court with allegations of corruption, we presume that the Government is in the wrong and the people making allegations are right. That's what we have to come to accept. That's what has been our mindset when it comes to scams or allegations of corruption. Because, we have seen these things in the past)."

"Lekin ye pehli bar hua hai jab kuchh, sarkar par bhrash-tachar ka aarop lagate hue desh case by Delhi High Court.

"No One thought four years ago that one day we would be able to bring Christian Michel to India to face trial in the AgustaWestland chopper scam. No One thought four years ago that one day that a Congress leader would be sentenced in the 1984 Sikh riots case. We are the same country. We have the same bureaucracy. We have the same infrastructure. But what is the change in the situation we are witnessing today?"

Modi asked.

Modi also took an indirect pot shot at the Nehru Gandhi family on the issues of the issues of extradition of Christian Michel, the alleged middleman in the AgustaWestland chopper scam from Dubai and the life sentence handed to Congress leader Sajjan Kumar sentenced to life in a 1984 anti-Sikh riots case by Delhi High Court.

In his key note address at the Republic TV summit here, Modi listed his Government's achievements during the last four and a half years and said that that the country was witnessing the change which was a strong representation of "Surging India" wherein the Government was moving forward with "Policy-driven governance" and "Predictable transparent policies". As a result, we are constructing highways, doubling of railway lines twice the pace of the work executed earlier. We have constructed more than 100

airports and helipads in the country. We are completing the projects which had remained pending for the past 30 to 40 years," the Prime Minister said.

The Prime Minister said that four years ago, no one would have imagined that India would be surging towards becoming a five trillion dollar economy and rising up the ranks in the ease of doing business from 142 in 2014 to 77 in 2018. "We are moving fast to get into the under 50 bracket in the world in terms of ease of doing business," he said.

Referring to the rapid pace of infrastructure development taking place in the country, Modi said that his Government had - through reviews undertaken at the monthly PRAGATI meetings which he chaired - had reviewed projects worth Rs 12 lakh crore which had been pending for years on end and was speeding up these works.

"Go to any part of the country, we can get to see sign boards mentioning 'Work in Progress'. The importance of these sign boards is indicative of the fact that 'India in Progress' We are not just constructing highways, flyovers, metros etc. But, what is happening is building of a new India. The city (Mumbai) that I am in today is often described as a 'city that never stops'. Speaking from this city, I would like to say that 'India is a country that never stops'.

India has made up its mind that neither would it stop nor would it slow down," the Prime Minister said.

Tej Pratap meets Lalu, claims father asked him to take RJD forward

PTI ■ RANCHI

Two days after resuming political activities, Tej Pratap Yadav, the elder son of jailed RJD chief Lalu Prasad, Tuesday met his father and claimed that he was advised to "take the party forward" by him.

The over two-hour meeting between Tej Pratap and his father took place at the Rajendra Institute of Medical Sciences, where the Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) chief is undergoing treatment for various ailments after being convicted in fodder scam cases.

The former Bihar health minister had been keeping a low profile for several months on account of differences with younger brother Tejashwi Yadav and estrangement with his wife of six months.

It was a long time since I met my father. I became emotional. I love him. My father is my God---Krishna, Vishnu and Mahadev, Yadav told reporters.

He further claimed that the RJD chief had asked him "to take the party forward", reiterating that he saw Tejashwi as "Arjuna" and vowed to play the role of Lord Krishna who was the warrior prince's charioteer in the epic Mahabharata.

Asked about his divorce petition, Tej Pratap refused to divulge the details, saying the matter was in court.

'Despite promises, Modi Govt has been unable to create job opportunities'

India ranks 158/195 nations on the Human Capital Index: TMC leader

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

T he Trinamool Congress on Tuesday alleged that despite promises made by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, his Government has not been able to create job opportunities for the youth.

Addressing a press briefing, the Trinamool's parliamentary party leader in Rajya Sabha Derek O'Brien said that the Government was using data selectively.

"Shifting time series, and the selective use of data deflects attention from the quality of jobs that are being created and whether they are in fact 'new jobs'. PM Modi promised in 2015 that he will turn

India into the 'human resource Capital of the world'. In 2018, India ranks 158/195 nations on the Human Capital Index, just behind Sudan," O'Brien said.

He said wages in India continue to be well below the Seventh Pay Commission and when adjusted for inflation, wage rates have grown in most sectors at three per cent per annum.

"31 million Indians are without a job...10 per cent increase in GDP results in less than one per cent increase in employment," he said. The TMC protested outside parliament over lack of jobs for the youths.

He said that according to Labour Ministry data, over the past year, the National Career Service portal witnessed a 29 per cent decline in the number of advertised vacancies but a 56 per cent increase in job seekers.

Ram temple issue echoes in BJP Parl party meeting

DEEPAK K UPRETI ■ NEW DELHI

The politically sensitive temple issue figured in the BJP's Parliamentary Party meeting on Tuesday with some of the members wanting to know the timeline for its construction at the disputed site at Ayodhya. The meet also discussed Triple talaq and Rafale deal.

The meeting was held in the absence of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and party president Amit Shah. Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh addressed the meet, the second of the current Winter Session.

BJP's MPs from UP, Ravindra Kushwaha and Hari Narayan Rajbhar, raised the temple issue which is part of party's manifesto, and were backed by other MPs when Rajnath was addressing the party MPs.

The Home Minister was quoted by sources as telling party MPs that it was everybody's wish to see a Ram temple in Ayodhya and that MPs should be

patient.

RSS head Mohan Bhagwat had recently called for the construction of Ram temple saying that its fulfillment would remove one of the main constraints in way of Hindu-Muslim rapprochement. RSS has advocated a law to facilitate the construction of the temple.

Though the BJP has agreed with the sentiments of these organisations, it has so far not officially spoken on the subject.

Supreme court which is hearing the title suit for in the Ram-temple-Babri Masjid dispute is expected to fix time-table for the hearing of the trial early next year when Lok Sabha poll are also due to be.

In the meeting Rajnath spoke about the high popularity of Modi and claimed that none in the Opposition could match it. "We are far ahead of the Opposition. Circumstances are very good for us," Parliamentary Affairs Minister Narendra Singh Tomar Singh quoted.

Rajnath asked MPs to work

hard to repeat the success of the BJP in the 2019 hustings.

The issue of BJP's defeat in Assembly polls — Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh — was, understandably, not deliberated in the gathering. The poll set back in the Hindi heartland has come when the crucial Lok Sabha polls are only few months away and pose a big challenge to the leadership of Modi and Shah. The grand alliance of the Opposition which is yet to take shape, seeks to have state-to-state tie up against the BJP in the Lok Sabha poll.

Tomar also told newsmen that the passage of the triple talaq bill, which stipulates jail term for Muslim spouses accused of giving instant divorce to their wives, in Parliament is a top priority for the Government.

The Opposition has opposed to the non-bailable warrants against husbands. The Government has brought some changes in the bill stipulating bail to Muslim husbands by the court if consented by the affected wives.

SSB sets up 15 outposts along Bhutan borders

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

"Three new BOPs in Sikkim and 15 in Arunachal Pradesh were established and they have started functioning this year to provide better security and patrolling in the areas bordering Bhutan. The three new BOPs are in Western Sikkim which touches Bhutan border."

Addressing a Press conference ahead of the force's 55th Raising Day, Deswal, however, clarified that his force has nothing to do with the operations along India-China Border or the Doklam issue which was being looked after by sister agencies.

The 18 new BOPs are among the 72 such posts that have been made operational this year, he further said.

The strengthening of the Indo-Bhutan frontier comes months after the troops of India and China were locked in a 73-day stand-off at Doklam on the tri-junction of India-Bhutan-China—from June 16, 2017. The stand-off began after the Indian side stopped road construction by China's People's Liberation Army in the area that belonged to Bhutan. The standoff ended on August 28 last year.

Presently, 53 battalions of SSB are deployed on the 699 km Indo-Bhutan and 1,751 km India-Nepal borders. The SSB secures the frontiers through a network of 708 BOPs along the two countries.

As many as 176 BOPs are operational along the India-Bhutan border that runs along the states of Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh, West Bengal and Assam while 533 are along India-Nepal border that runs across the states of Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, West Bengal and Sikkim.

The SSB has also begun the process of transferring around 1,800 non-combat personnel of the SSB to the Intelligence Bureau and the exercise will be completed in the next one month, Deswal said.

The move is part of the Centre's plan to bolster the Intelligence Bureau's presence along the borders.

CBI books two Army officers for graft

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

T he CBI has booked two Army officers for allegedly taking bribes of over ₹82 lakh from a civilian contractor engaged in supply of rations for troops posted in Nagaland.

The action has been taken on a complaint from Brigadier Rajiv Gautam posted at the headquarters of the Army's 3 Corps headquartered in the Northeast.

Lt Col Amit Sharma and Lt Col Sutikshan Rana, officers of the Army Service Corps, received bribes worth ₹82 lakh between 2012 and 2016 from a supplier of ration, according to the complaint.

Sharma was Commanding Officer of the ASC at Dimapur from July 27, 2012, to October 15, 2014, while Rana held the position from October 16, 2014, to September 10, 2016.

The Army had carried out a Court of Inquiry during which it was found that ₹82 lakh were allegedly paid to these two officers by the contractor Jai Prakash Singh, the complaint alleged.

During a seven-month-long Preliminary Enquiry, the CBI managed to establish alleged payments of ₹10 lakh and ₹3.40 lakh from Singh to Sharma and Rana, respectively, the officials said.

The payments were made through bank deposits of third parties known or close to the family members of Sharma and Rana, the officials said.

IAF sets new records, airlifts 463 tonnes of load in one go

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The IAF on Tuesday created a record of sorts by airlifting nearly 500 tons of load from Chandigarh in a single wave to airfields and drop zones in the Ladakh region as part of winter stocking. The region remains cut off from the rest of the country through land route due to snow and the IAF plays a crucial role in maintaining operational readiness of the army deployed on the Line of Actual Control (LAC) facing China through round the year logistical maintenance.

The feat was accomplished by a fleet of 16 fixed wing aircraft comprising C-17 Globemaster, the IL-76 and AN-32. "All aircraft were loaded and took off from Chandigarh airbase early in the morning. The entire wave was accomplished in little less than six hours," IAF said.

This was a demonstration of the 'rapid airlift capability' of the IAF for quick response both during times of war and natural disasters and the Western Air Command (WAC) airlifted a record 463 tonnes.

Moreover, construction of airfields and advanced landing grounds(ALG) in the Ladakh region is a tough call given the terrain and climate where building activity is restricted only five to six summer months before snow blocks everything.

₹1,000 cr take hawala route to terrorists: ED

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

The Enforcement Directorate while investigating into illegal hawala deals in Kolkata has bumped into transactions that have terror links, sources said.

ED sleuths who conducted a series of raids throughout Kolkata a few days ago have reportedly found strong terror links of the hawala deals prompting the National Investigating Agency to jump into the case. The NIA will soon take up the matter for finding out its terror angle, sources said.

According to officials the cash collected from Kolkata and perhaps other parts of Bengal were routed to countries like Singapore, Dubai, Bangladesh and Nepal from where they were sent to the various terror outfits for carrying out militant activities in India, sources said adding about Rs 1,000 crore have been siphoned out of Kolkata through hawala.

A part of the hawala money had gone into the hands of dreaded terror outfits like Jaamat Mujahideen Bangladesh, sources said adding other terror outfits have also received money from such transactions.

The hawala money was being transferred out of Kolkata for the past six months or so, sources maintained

adding whether more money was sent before that period was being looked into.

The Tuesday's report came in the wake of Bongaon sessions court awarding death penalty to a Lashkar-e-Toiba terrorist Sk Naeem a resident of Aurangabad in Maharashtra. Naeem was arrested by the BSF at the Bangladesh border in 2007 along with three accomplices. He was involved in a train blast in Mumbai.

That parts of Bengal were being used by the terror outfits like JMB came to light way back on October 2, 2014 when a blast killed two militants who were manufacturing explosive devices at a house at Khagrachari in Burdwan district.

Subsequent investigations conducted by the NIA into the case took the lid off an elaborate terror network that was active in border districts of Nadia, Birbhum, Malda and North 24 Parganas. A number of undercover JMB militants and moles were arrested then. The JMB militants were working on a plot to assassinate some key leaders in Bangladesh, it was alleged.

On whether the hawala money allegedly sent to some terrorist organisations had any backward political linkage the ED officials would not reveal saying the NIA would soon investigate into the terror angles.



Indian Space Research Organisation's GSAT-7A onboard GSLV-F11 being taken to the launch pad during the countdown for its launch, at Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota on Tuesday. The rocket will be launched from the launch pad 2 at 4.10 pm on Wednesday

₹ logs best day in over 5 yrs, vaults 112 paise



PTI ■ MUMBAI

The Indian rupee on Tuesday rallied by a whopping 112 paise, its best single-day gains in over five years, to settle at 70.44 against the US dollar as softening crude oil prices eased concerns over India's current account deficit expansion.

Besides, sustained selling of the American currency by exporters and banks as well as the greenback's weakness against its key rivals globally ahead of the US Fed policy decision Wednesday also helped the domestic unit scale further heights.

The Brent crude, an international benchmark, was trad-

ing 2.26 per cent lower at \$58.26 per barrel, a 14-month low.

At the Interbank Foreign Exchange (forex) market, the rupee opened on a firm note at 71.34 from. It gained further ground to hit a high of 70.44, a massive climb of 112 paise over its previous closing.

The Indian currency had gained 34 paise to close at 71.56 against the US dollar Monday.

The Tuesday's 112 paise ascent marked the best day for the rupee since September 19, 2013, when it had surged by 161 paise against the US dollar.

Forex dealers said a drop in bond yields easing liquidity concerns in the market and

bullish trend in equities trading also supported the rupee in maintaining its upward movement.

The benchmark Sensex Tuesday wiped off early losses to end 77 points higher at 36,347 on Tuesday, the sixth consecutive session of gains. The broader NSE Nifty edged higher by over 20 points to end above the 10,900-mark.

The Financial Benchmark

India Private Ltd (FBIL) set the reference rate for the rupee/dollar at 71.1940 and for rupee/euro at 80.7554. The reference rate for rupee/British pound was fixed at 89.8829 and for rupee/100 Japanese yen at 63.21.

MAOI draws attention of Civil Aviation towards dwindling maintenance

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The MRO Association Of India (MAOI) has written to Ministry of Civil Aviation drawing its urgent attention to the dwindling Maintenance, Repairs & Overhaul (MRO) industry. Declaring the industry's present state to be in dire straits, the Association has appealed to the Ministry to offer the Indian MRO industry at least a fair chance to compete with foreign MROs that enjoy a favourable import tax policy of the Indian Government.

The MAOI has stated that the lopsided tax policies have led to 90 per cent of the MRO requirements of India being imported; causing severe loss to the Indian MRO industry and the Government's tax revenues. With the Government's timely intervention and support, the MAOI aims to convert today's US \$1.4 Billion of net import of MRO into a US \$5 Billion export in the next 5 years.

"The Indian MRO business has been on a gradual decline and for the first time in its history has registered negative numbers this year. We cannot stress enough on the plight of our industry and are hoping for the Government to intervene before it's too late. It



Govt didn't seek Urjit's resignation, says Jaitley

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Finance Minister Arun Jaitley on Tuesday said the Government did not seek resignation of Urjit Patel as RBI Governor over differences on some issues, and went on to cite how central bank heads were made to resign under prime ministers Jawaharlal Nehru and Indira Gandhi and when Yashwant Sinha was finance minister.

Defending his Government's demands from the Reserve Bank to address certain issues including liquidity or fund problem in certain sectors, he said that there is no threat to the autonomy of the central bank.

Patel, who was brought in by Prime Minister Narendra Modi-Government in 2016 after a second term was denied to outspoken former IMF chief economist Raghu Rajan, in a surprise move resigned as RBI Governor on December 11.

Many blamed the pressure brought by the Government on the central bank to ease lending restrictions and release more of its capital to bolster the economy for Patel's resignation.

"Sarkar ki unse koi istifa ki apksha nahi thi (The Government did not seek Patel's resignation)," Jaitley said when asked about Patel's resignation at 'Agenda Aaj Tak' programme here.

The Government had cited the never-used-before provision of the RBI Act that gives it powers to issue directions to the Governor, to get the central

bank to discuss its areas of concern.

and said I want your resignation," he added.

Former finance minister P Chidambaram, Jaitley said, was "not on speaking terms with two Governors during his tenure."

Many central banks around the world maintain 8 per cent of gross assets as reserves while conservative ones maintain at 13-14 per cent. RBI maintains it at 28 per cent, Jaitley said.

In 2013 they said that you give. Then no one said that it is raiding the Reserve Bank," he said, adding reserves released can be used for infusing capital in public sector banks as well as for schemes for the benefit of poor.

"If I don't need these funds for funding fiscal deficit, or government expenditure for this year till the month of May, I don't need even one rupee," he said and cited a letter written by Rajan as the chief economic advisor of the Government in 2013 to RBI asking how much capital did it require.

"My Government has the best fiscal record and even this year we will maintain the fiscal deficit. And therefore to maintain fiscal deficit I don't need that kind of money," he said.

On charges that the final straw in Patel's strained two-year term was the appointment of S Gurumurthy on the RBI Board, he said when the BJP came to power, a then Rajya Sabha Member of Parliament of the Congress party was a member of the board of the central bank.

NSE to launch weekly options on NIFTY50 Index

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

National Stock Exchange of India limited (NSE) has received permission from Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) to launch weekly options on NIFTY 50 Index.

NIFTY 50 weekly options will have seven consecutive weekly expiry contracts (excluding the week where monthly contracts expire).

"We are also looking at other areas of strategic importance including bullet proof jackets," Shinghal said.

CEL is also developing products for Smart Cities concepts, Solar Warehouses, Solar Railways Platform Sheds etc and also working on development of solar charging stations for electric vehicles.

tracts.

Mr. Vikram Limaye, MD & CEO of NSE, said, "With the successful launch of weekly options on the NIFTY BANK index, there was demand from the market participants for a similar product variant of the NIFTY 50 index.

NIFTY 50 weekly options will have seven consecutive weekly expiry contracts (excluding the week where monthly contracts expire).

NSE recently launched weekly options in the currency derivatives segment on the USDINR currency pair. In 2016, NSE had launched weekly options in the equity derivatives segment on the NIFTY BANK Index. Both product variants have seen widespread acceptance amongst market participants.

NSE is currently evaluating readiness of market participants for the product launch and shall announce a launch date shortly.

Chinese products affecting 'Make In India' initiatives

DEEPAK KUMAR JHA ■

NEW DELHI

While the Centre is looking forward to add a humongous 100 Gigawatt solar power generating capacity by the year 2022, the domestic production of the solar energy equipment has suffered badly due to the influx of Chinese products, also affecting the Government's Make In India initiatives.

The demand of Indian solar manufacturers, including several State-owned companies, to impose anti-dumping duty on Chinese products is still to see light of the day even as the recently-introduced Safeguard duty of 25 per cent is considered highly inadequate. Currently, India meets about 85 percent of its solar module demand through imports from China while at the same time, capacity utilization in the solar manufacturing sector in the country is hardly 25 percent.

Creation of 100 GW of solar generation capacity will require a total investment of almost ₹4.5 lakh crore in the coming years. In the present scenario, a major chunk of this will be on imports.

According to the Indian Solar Manufacturers Association (ISMA), cheap imports from China have



flooded the market as the power developers prefer Chinese panels and equipment rather than that manufactured in India. ISMA has petitioned the Government to impose an anti-dumping duty on inbound shipments from China.

"To make solar energy sector sustainable in the long run, the interests of the domestic manufacturers have to be safeguarded. Solar energy will play an important role in the dream to bring electricity to every home in the country. Given the ambitious size of our Solar Energy Programme, the country needs to establish a complete Silicon chain from sand to

solar panel.

For this, planned development of the sector, with involvement of all the stakeholders, is essential," said Dr Nalin Shinghal, Chairman and Managing Director (CMD), Central Electronics Limited (CEL), under Ministry of Science and Technology.

CEL has recently re-energised itself and turned around, after many years of losses. It has registered increasing profits for the last five consecutive years.

"We have wiped out the accumulated losses and are now looking at rapid growth in years to come," Shinghal told

The Pioneer.

To sustain the growth of the company, Shinghal claimed to have focused on multiple sectors including collaboration with DRDO labs for development of products like Missile Radomes, which are presently imported at very high cost.

"We are also looking at other areas of strategic importance including bullet proof jackets," Shinghal said.

CEL is also developing products for Smart Cities concepts, Solar Warehouses, Solar Railways Platform Sheds etc and also working on development of solar charging stations for electric vehicles.

Indians 2nd-most plagued by spam calls: Truecaller

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Indians were second-most affected by spam calls this year, only behind Brazil with 37.5 spam calls received per user in 2018, compared with 20.7 such calls last year, an increase of 81 per cent.

It added that 6.1 per cent of the overall calls received by the Indian users in 2018 were spam calls.

However, the average spam calls received per user in India dropped to 22.3 calls per user per month, a reduction of 1.5 per cent as compared to the previous year, the report said.

The users in Brazil received about 37.5 spam calls a month in 2018, compared with 20.7 such calls last year, an increase of 81 per cent.

Other countries in the top-20 tally included Chile, South Africa, Mexico, Peru and the

'Kahani Zidd Ki' initiative unveiled at Ace Tech

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

A IPL Marketing Pvt. Ltd, a popularly recognised as APIPL ABRO has unveiled new collection namely Zorro Bond, PU foam, Zorroxif, and Masking Tape at ACE Tech Delhi 2018, being held at Pragati Maidan, New Delhi.

Apart from the product portfolio, Abro is also taking an initiative to inspire people with their new campaign called 'Kahani Zidd Ki' that aims to acknowledge and showcase the inspiring stories from everyday lives of common people by creating a platform for everyone to participate. The campaign invites everyone to come and share their 'zidd' with the rest of the world and have the acknowledgement that is much deserved. These stories will help inspire the youth for creating a better future and taking India to great heights.

'Kahani Zidd Ki' initiative is unveiled at Ace Tech to promote inspirational stories of common man of not letting go of their zidd or desire to achieve something from every hurdle that came across that

dream. Also, Abro is promoting their ongoing campaign 'Phenk Mat', aiming to spread awareness on keeping India clean.

Talking about the program, Chanhan Rohival, COO APIPL ABRO said, "The drive is meant to be as much educational as it is a cleaning exercise. The idea is to involve schools to involve the future of our nation to improve the current public hygiene situation. We believe that once these young minds are inculcated with the practice of public hygiene, India will have a cleaner and brighter future. Phenk mat is a small step with huge aspirations towards that goal. We plan to take 'Phenk Mat' further by such drives and activities throughout the future."

"As a responsible Citizen we are with the nationwide Clean India Movement, I admire these socially relevant campaigns that are so pertinent to every individual. Swachh Bharat is a simple yet powerful idea and I would like to request every single vehicle owner to go ahead and play their role in the Clean India Movement, he added."

Turkish trade Minister calls on Agri Min; discusses agri MoU

Two leaders talked about extending cooperation through greater interaction

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Turkish trade minister

Ruhars Pekcan Tuesday

called on Agriculture Minister Radha Mohan Singh and discussed areas for extending cooperation under a pact signed between the countries.

The two leaders talked about extending cooperation through greater interaction among Government agricultural institutions, experts, scientists and agro businesses, an official statement said.

Both the countries have

agreed to prioritise the sectors for cooperation and also identify nodal officers so that progress can be made on the memorandum of understanding (MoU) signed between the two countries.

Work Plan had also been prepared.

In the meeting, Singh informed that India has achieved food security and become a net exporter of agriculture commodities under the Modi Government.

He further said that the Government has resolved to double farmers' income by 2022 through a series of focused programmes.

Appeal for Identification



General Public is hereby informed that a female dead body Name: Unknown, S/o Unknown, R/o: Unknown, Age: Approx. 25-35 years, Height: 5'2", Gender: Female, ID Mark : Nil, Wearing: She was in naked condition wearing a black dora in left leg and a green nara on stomach was found dead in West Yamuna Canal, Near Harewali Jhal, Delhi on 15.12.2018.

In this regard, FIR/DD No. 25-A dated 15.12.2018 has been lodged at PS Bawana, Delhi. Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out information about this female but no clue has come to light so far. Any person having any information or clue about this female may kindly inform to the following.

SEARCH FOR MISSING



General Public is hereby informed that a female namely Laxmi W/o Lalit, R/o 9691, Gali No. 9, Multani Dhanda, Pahar Ganj, Delhi has been missing since 09.12.2018 from her house. In this regard a DD No. 27A dated 10.12.2018 has been lodged at PS, Pahar Ganj, New Delhi. The description of missing female is as under:

Name : Laxmi, Husband's Name : Lalit, Age : 21 years, Height : 4'6", Face : Round, Complexion : Shallow, Built : Thin, Wearing : Yellow Colour Suit and Sleeper in feet. If anyone having any clue/information, kindly inform the undersigned.

Website : <http://cbi.nic.in>

e-mail : cic@cbi.gov.in

Fax : 011-24368639

Ph. : 011-24368638, 24368641

DP/5917/CD/18

SHO

P.S., Pahar Ganj

New Delhi

Ph : 011-23520787

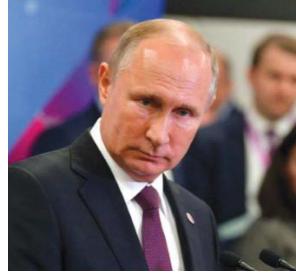
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PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Ph. : 011-27752534, 8750870321

DP/2381/RD/18

US polls: Kremlin denies targeting Black voters



Moscow: The Kremlin on Tuesday rejected Washington's accusations that Russia tried to disrupt the 2016 presidential vote and sought to demoralise African-Americans, calling the charges incomprehensible.

According to a new report for the US Senate, the primary goal of Russia's Internet Research Agency (IRA) was to deepen divisions in US society and convince Democrat-favouring liberals — including Latinos, youths and the LGBTQ community — not to vote.

The most extensive analysis yet of thousands of IRA ads and posts across social media in 2015-2017 showed an emphasis on provoking the anger of black Americans so that they would stay home on election day.

For example, the IRA-created account "Blacktivist" sent out messages on the Democratic candidate such as: "No lives matter to Hillary

Clinton. Only votes matter to Hillary Clinton." Another IRA account, "Black Matters", posted on Facebook: "Cops kill black kids. Are you sure that your son won't be the next?" Russian President Vladimir Putin's spokesman Dmitry Peskov said the report by the Computational Propaganda Project at Oxford University and social media specialists Graphika caused "nothing but incomprehension."

"It voices absolutely general charges and accusations and some of them are absolutely unclear to us," Peskov told reporters on a conference call. "We are reproached that someone critically thinks of a situation in this or that social sphere in the United States but it is not explained what Russia has to do with it," he said.

He reiterated Russia's long-standing position that any such claims were unfounded.

"The Russian state, the Russian Government had and has nothing to do with any interference, especially one that is described in such abstract terms," Peskov added.

The IRA is believed to have been set up by Yevgeny Prigozhin, a businessman close to Putin, as a propaganda tool.

Russia has been accused of manipulating the 2016 US presidential vote through a vast propaganda campaign in favour of Donald Trump.

US investigators are probing alleged collusion between Russian agents and Trump's campaign.

Former FBI chief lashes out at Trump, Republicans

Washington: Former FBI director James Comey lashed out at Donald Trump on Tuesday for telling "lies" and undermining the rule of law, and urged Republicans to stand up to the president.

"The FBI's reputation has as taken a big hit because the president of the United States, with his acolytes, has lied about it constantly. In the face of those lies, a whole lot of good people... Believe that nonsense," Comey told reporters in the halls of the US Senate.

"People who know better, including Republican members of this body, have to have the courage to stand up and speak the truth."

Comey spoke after a spurt of anti-FBI tweets from the president over the past week alleged that the investigative body abused its powers in probing his former personal lawyer Michael Cohen and his former national security advisor Michael Flynn.

Cohen and Flynn have both been convicted for various crimes and have both offered evidence potentially damaging to their former boss.

With Cohen, Trump tweeted on Sunday: "The FBI did something which was absolutely unthinkable & unheard of until the Witch Hunt was illegally started. They BROKE INTO AN ATTORNEY'S OFFICE!" In fact the FBI had a court order to search Cohen's office.

As for Flynn, Trump alleged that he had been tricked into lying in a January 2016 interview with the FBI that led to his arrest.

"So General Michael Flynn's life can be totally destroyed while Shady James Comey can Leak and Lie," Trump tweeted earlier this month.

Comey said that politicians, and especially Republicans, have to stop remaining quiet when Trump makes false statements.

"Republicans used to understand that the actions of a president matter, the words of a president matter, the rule of law matters, and the truth matters. Where are those Republicans today?"

AFP

Rajapaksa main LoP in Lankan Parliament



Colombo: Mahinda Rajapaksa on Tuesday became Sri Lanka's main Opposition leader in Parliament, days after he resigned as Prime Minister after clinging on to power for nearly two months, amidst the unprecedented political turmoil in the country.

Rajapaksa, 73, replaced veteran Tamil leader of the main Tamil party R Sampanthan who held the position from 2015.

His appointment was announced by Speaker Karu Jayasuriya in Parliament which met for the first time after the reinstatement of Ranil Wickremesinghe as Prime Minister that ended the 51-day political standoff in the country.

M A Sumanthiran of Tamil National Alliance (TNA) and Rauff Hakeem of the Sri Lanka Muslim Congress raised objections against Rajapaksa's appointment.

They claimed that Rajapaksa has ceased to be a member of Parliament because he had joined another political party recently.

Rajapaksa, by obtaining the membership of the Sri Lanka People's Party (SLPP), left the United People's Freedom Alliance (UPFA) from which he was elected to Parliament in 2015.

Speaker Jayasuriya asked Sumanthiran to make a written submission on his complaint against Rajapaksa so that a select committee could go into details.

On Sunday, President Maithripala Sirisena, whose controversial actions plunged the island nation into an unprecedented political turmoil for nearly two months, reinstated Wickremesinghe as Prime Minister, after sacking him on October 26 and appointing former president Rajapaksa in his place and also dissolving Parliament, some 20 months early.

Sirisena was left with no other option following two separate decisions by the Supreme Court, which nullified his illegal moves.

The president said he offered to reappoint Wickremesinghe as the Prime Minister as he respects parliamentary traditions and democracy.

Ex-strongman Rajapaksa resigned from the post of prime minister on Saturday, a day after the apex court refused to stay another court order restraining him from acting as the Prime Minister.

PTI

Putin says open to third nations joining nuclear treaty

Moscow: Russian President Vladimir Putin suggested on Tuesday he was open to the idea of other countries joining a key Cold War treaty limiting mid-range nuclear arms or to starting talks on a new agreement.

The president spoke after Washington this month said it would withdraw from the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces treaty (INF) within 60 days if Russia did not dismantle missiles that the US claims breach the deal.

At a Defence Ministry meeting, Putin repeated accusations that Washington had itself violated the bilateral treaty and suggested other countries join the US-Russia agreement in a bid to salvage it.

Signed in 1987 by then US president Ronald Reagan and Mikhail Gorbachev, the treaty puts no restrictions on other major military actors like China.

"Yes, indeed there are certain difficulties with this treaty," Putin said.

Imran Khan to go extra mile for Afghan peace

Islamabad: Prime Minister Imran Khan said on Tuesday that Pakistan will do everything within its power to further the peace process in Afghanistan as talks sponsored by the country between the US and the Taliban were being held in the UAE to end the 17-year bloody conflict.

The US and the Taliban have previously met on at least two occasions in Qatar but it is the first time that they are holding talks outside Doha, where the insurgent group has a political office, according to officials.

Khan highlighted the role being played by Pakistan in holding the talks between the US and the Taliban in Abu Dhabi.

He expressed his desire for peace to end the suffering of the people of Afghanistan.

"Pakistan has helped in the dialogue between the Taliban and the US in Abu Dhabi. Let us pray that this leads to peace and ends almost three decades of suffering of the brave Afghan people," Khan said on Twitter.

Khan also said "Pakistan will be doing everything within its power to further the peace process".

Saudi Arabia, the UAE and Pakistan were the only three nations to recognise the Taliban government during its five-year rule from 1996-2001.

The Taliban are fighting to flush out international forces and re-establish their regime in Afghanistan after their ouster in 2001.

Afghan sends team to join Taliban peace talks in UAE

Kabul: An Afghan peace negotiations team has arrived in Abu Dhabi, an official said on Tuesday, a day after talks attended by US and Taliban representatives were held in the city aimed at ending the 17-year conflict.

The team, led by chief negotiator Abdul Salam Rahimi, "arrived in Abu Dhabi to begin proximity dialogue with the Taliban delegation and to prepare for a face-to-face meeting between the two sides", the Afghan presidential spokesman Haroon Chakhsuri tweeted.

The 12-person team was first announced in November by President Ashraf Ghani as part of a diplomatic effort to bring the Taliban to the table for peace talks with the government in Kabul.

But the Taliban have not confirmed a meeting, and issued a statement on Monday reiterating their long-standing vow not to speak with Afghan officials.

In a new message released Tuesday the militants said they had held "preliminary talks" with the US State Department's special envoy, Zalmay

Khalilzad, on Monday, with the discussions to continue.

They also said they had held "extensive" meetings with officials from Pakistan and Saudi Arabia and the UAE, repeating demands for international forces to be withdrawn from Afghanistan.

Saudi Arabia, the UAE and Pakistan were the only three countries to recognise the Taliban government during its five-year rule from 1996-2001.

The US did not confirm direct meetings between Khalilzad and the Taliban in Abu Dhabi. Late Monday Washington said meetings were ongoing in the UAE city "to promote an intra-Afghan dialogue toward ending the conflict", and that Khalilzad was in the region.

Khalilzad "has in the past met, and will continue to meet with all interested parties, including the Taliban, to support a negotiated settlement to the conflict", it continued.

The meetings are the latest in a flurry of diplomatic efforts as Washington seeks a way out of the conflict, which began with the US invasion in

2001. Khalilzad, who has expressed hopes for a deal to be in place before Afghanistan's presidential election scheduled

for April next year, has made several trips to the region since his appointment in September.

TATA CAPITAL FINANCIAL SERVICES LIMITED
Cont. Add. 7th Floor Videocon Tower, Jhandewalan Extension, New Delhi -110055. India

DEMAND NOTICE

Under Section 13 (2) of the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 ("Act") read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 ("Rules"). To,

1. Devender Khurana

House No-166, Deerwood Nirvana Country, Sector-50, Gurgaon, Haryana-122018, Contact No 9810236486

2. Mrs Sukham Khurana

House No-166, Deerwood Nirvana Country, Sector-50, Gurgaon Haryana-122018

3. M/S Super Solution Provider Private Limited

Through its Director Mr Devender Khurana House no 78-79 Uppal South end Sector 48-49 Gurgaon Haryana - 122002

Also At: House NO-166, Deerwood Nirvana Country Sector-50, Gurgaon Haryana -122018

Dear Sir/Madam,

Kindly ignore our previous demand notice u/s.13(2) dated 23/May/2018 issued in this account, this notice will be considered as final.

A sum of Rs.1,94,86,215/- (Rupees One Crore Ninety Four Lakh Eighty Six Thousand Two Hundred & Fifteen only) in loan account no. 5788563, 6612394 is due to the Tata Capital Financial Services Ltd(hereinafter referred as TCFSL) as on 7th Dec 2018 for future interest under the Home Equity (LAP) loan granted to you by the Delhi Branch of TCFSL on 8/12/2016 in LAN 6612394 and on 28/2/2016 in LAN 5788563. In spite of our repeated requests, you have not paid any amount towards the amount outstanding in your account which has been classified as NPA Account

To, On December 7, 2018, as per RBI guidelines pursuant to your default in repaying TCFSL's dues. Myself, exercising the powers of the Authorized Officer of the Tata Capital Financial Services Ltd, in pursuance to the provisions of the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, had issued a notice DATED December 10, 2018 under Section 13 (2) of the aforementioned Act calling upon you to discharge the said debt amounting Rs.1,94,86,215/- (Rupees One Crore Ninety Four Lakh Eighty Six Thousand Two Hundred & Fifteen only) in loan account no. 6612394 & 5788563 with future interests and costs within 60 days of the notice, failing which the TCFSL shall exercise all or any of the rights detailed u/s 13(4) of the above Act including enforcement of the security interest created by you in favour of the TCFSL over the property described below.

Schedule of the Properties

(1)Entire First Floor having Covered Area 1300 Square Foot along with Impartible and un-divided share of Land constructed on Plot bearing no 166 in Block S Admeasuring 303.90 Square Meters at Deerwood in the residential Colony known as nirvana Country , Southcity I Located in and around of villages Adampur, Fatehpur , Tigr , Ktiri , Smasrap Ghosla , and Badshahpur, Tehsil and District Gurgaon . More particularly Described in sale deed dated 15.05.2014 registered as document no 3604 in the book no 1 volume no 3578 on page no 49 to 50 with the Sub Registrar Of Assurances Gurgaon and Bounded as East : Deerwood Plot no 167, West: Deerwood Plot no 165 North Road, South: Other Land.

(2)Office Unit no 201 Admeasuring 542.003 Square Feet / Super Area (50.3838) on Second floor of the Trade complex known as ILD Trade Centre More particularly Described in Conveyance Deed dated 12.06.2012 Registered as document no 6633 in the book no 1 Volume no 13003 on page no 64 additionally in the book no 1 volume no 2186 on page no 86 to 87 with the Sub-Registrar of Assurances Gurgaon and Bounded as North : unit no 202 , South : Passage , East : Lift Lobby West: Unit no 219

(3)All That Apartment no M1B-051 Ad measuring 180.538 square meters (1943.00 square feet) , Located on 5th Floor Along with parking space NO POB 006 built upon and in the building known as Express Greens Sector M-1, Gurgaon More particularly described in Sale Deed dated 09.11.2015 registered as document no 1953 in the book no 1 Volume no 230 on page no 88 additionally in the book no 1 volume no 232 on page no 59 to 60 with the Sub Registrar of Assurances Manesar Haryana and Bounded as North : M1B-054 , South :M1A-051, East:Lift Lobby:West : Open

Since the notice December 10, 2018 sent to you in the address in which you originally reside / carry on business / personally works for gain has not been served, we are constrained to cause this notice published. You are hereby called upon u/s 13(2) of the above Act to discharge the above mentioned liability within 60 days of this notice failing which the TCFSL will be exercising all or any of the rights u/s 13(4) of the above Act. You are also put to notice that as per terms of Sec 13(3) of the above Act, you shall not transfer by lease, sale or otherwise the aforesaid secured assets.

Place: New Delhi

Date: 19.12.2018

Authorised officer,
Tata Capital Financial Services Ltd

OK PLAY INDIA LIMITED
CIN: L28219HR1988PLC03047
Regd. Office: 17-18, Reg-Ka-Meo Industrial Estate, Tehsi Nuh, District Mewat, (Haryana)

NOTICE OF LOSS OF SHARE CERTIFICATE

NOTICE is hereby given that the following Share Certificates issued by the Company are stated to have been lost or misplaced or stolen and registered shareholders / the legal heirs(s) thereof have been applied to the Company for issuance of Duplicate Share Certificates:

Shareholder Name Certificate No. Distinctive No.
ASHOK KUMAR DHINGRA 35102 5364800

The public are hereby warned against purchasing or dealing in any way, with the above mentioned Share Certificates. Any person (s) who has/ have any claim in respect of the said Share Certificates should lodge such claim with the Company at its registered office within 15 days of the publication of this notice, after which no claim will be entertained and the Company will proceed to issue duplicate Share Certificates.

for OK PLAY INDIA LIMITED
Sd/-
Rajan Handa
Managing Director

Date : 18.12.2018
Place : New Delhi

General public is invited to send expression of interest for sale (by Resolution Professional appointed by Hon'ble NCLT, New Delhi) of Car MERCEDES BENZ S320 bearing Registration No. HR 70546. E-Auction will be conducted on the website : <https://ncltauction.auctonliger.net>. For More information mail at cirpwrc@gmail.com or contact 9888618660. Detailed Sale Notice uploaded on the following websites <https://ncltauction.auctonliger.net> and www.almondzipe.com.

Detailed Notice uploaded on said websites is integral part of this notice.

-sd-
Umesh Garg, Resolution Professional, World Consulting & Research Corporation Pvt Ltd (in CIRP), IBB/IPA-001/IP-Poo135/2017-18/10277.

Address : Almondz Insolvency Resolution Services Pvt Ltd, F3/3, Okhla Industrial Area, Phase-II, New Delhi- 110020

Place: New Delhi
Date: 18.12.2018

UNCAPPED VARUN FETCH BIG MONEY AT IPL AUCTION, YUVRAJ FINDS A BUYER AT LAST

PTI ■ JAIPUR

Unheralded architect-turned-cricketer Varun Chakravarthy on Tuesday fetched a sensational bid of ₹8.4 crore, more than 40 times his base price, before veteran Yuvraj Singh finally found a buyer at the IPL players' auction that had an unmissable Caribbean flavour to it.

Chakravarthy, with a base price of ₹20 lakh, went to Kings XI Punjab after a bidding war that also involved Delhi Capitals, Chennai Super Kings and Rajasthan Royals.

KXIP, who had the maximum money going into the auction, also spent big on England all-rounder Sam Curran, buying him for ₹7.2 crore, the most for an overseas player on Tuesday.

Yuvraj fans must have also heaved a sigh of relief when the 37-year-old was bought by Mumbai Indians for his base price of ₹1 crore after going unsold initially.

"If you are wondering why this took time...We've just got back to senses! Welcome to Mumbai," tweeted Mumbai Indians.

Yuvraj secured a last minute deal but his IPL fortunes have been declining rapidly. In 2015, he fetched a record ₹16 crore deal with the Delhi franchise but was picked up by KXIP at his base price of ₹2 crore last season before the team released him.

Both uncapped and capped Indians were in demand at the auction.

Medium pacer Jaydev Unadkat became a millionaire once again with a ₹8.4 crore bid from Rajasthan Royals but the spotlight was firmly on

Chakravarthy, the 27-year-old mystery spinner from Tamil Nadu who gave up a career as freelance architect to pursue cricket.

"We had to wait and see how the bid was going (for Chakravarthy). He can bowl in the Powerplay and in the death and can also bat," said KXIP coach Mike Hesson.

Chakravarthy has risen to prominence owing to a strong showing in the Tamil Nadu Premier League. He has been widely credited for Madurai Panthers maiden TNPL title win this year.

Unadkat, on the other hand, is back in the RR fold after being released at the end of the 2018 sea-



son. He had been bought for ₹11.5 crore by RR earlier this year. On Tuesday, the Royals lapped him up him after a bidding battle with KXIP, CSK and Delhi Capitals.

Besides Chakravarthy, the other uncapped players who attracted huge amounts were 16-year-old all-rounder Prayansh Ray Barman from Bengal (₹1.5 cr to RCB), Punjab wicketkeeper Prab Simran Singh (₹4.8 cr to KXIP), Mumbai batsmen Shivam Dube (₹5 cr to RCB) and Uttar Pradesh batsman Akshdeep Singh (₹3.6 cr to RCB). Akshdeep was bought after he re-entered the auction pool.

With uncertainty over the availability of Australian and

ROYAL CHALLENGERS BANGALORE PAID ₹4.2 CRORE FOR HETMYER. KOLKATA KNIGHT RIDERS, RAJASTHAN ROYALS AND DELHI CAPITALS ALSO BID FOR THE STYLISH WEST INDIAN BATSMAN, WHO HAD A BASE PRICE OF ₹50 LAKH. HIS TEAMMATE BRATHWAITE, THE STAR OF 2016 WORLD T20, WAS SOLD TO KKR

England players in a World Cup year, the teams went after the West Indians.

Out of the 20 overseas slots available, six were sealed by the Caribbean players including Shimron Hetmyer, Carlos Brathwaite, Nicholas Pooran, Oshane Thomas, Keemo Paul and Sherfane Rutherford.

Royal Challengers Bangalore paid ₹4.2 crore for Hetmyer. Kolkata Knight Riders, Rajasthan Royals and Delhi Capitals also bid for the stylish West Indian batsman, who had a base price of ₹50 lakh.

His teammate Brathwaite, the star of 2016 World T20, was sold to KKR for ₹5 crore after a bidding war between the Dinesh Karthik-led side and Kings XI Punjab.

The all-rounder had entered the auction with a base price of ₹75 lakh.

Another West Indian to get an attractive deal was wicketkeeper Nicholas Pooran. The 23-year-old, who came with a base price of ₹75 lakh, went for ₹4.20 crore to KXIP. He is a T20 find and is yet to play Test cricket. Delhi Capitals paid ₹2 crore and ₹50 for Rutherford and Keemo

Paul while Royals bought Thomas for ₹1.1 crore.

Amongst other Indians, spinner Axar Patel (Rs five crore), pacer Mohit Sharma (₹ five crore) and Mohammad Shami (₹4.8 crore) were the other names to fetch big bids.

Patel, who made his name at KXIP, was bought by Delhi Capitals after a bidding battle with the Punjab franchise.

Shami, who turned up for Delhi last season, was sold to KXIP while Mohit went back to Chennai Super Kings after a stint with KXIP.

Indian Test player Hanuma Vihari was sold to Delhi Capitals for ₹ two crore, four times his base price.

Pacer Ishant Sharma, who had a base price of ₹ 75 lakh, went to Delhi Capitals for ₹ 1.1 crore while wicketkeeper Nicholas Pooran, the 23-year-old, who came with a base price of ₹75 lakh, went for ₹4.20 crore to KXIP. He is a T20 find and is yet to play Test cricket. Delhi Capitals paid ₹2 crore and ₹50 for Rutherford and Keemo

TOP PICKS

DELHI CAPITALS

Player	Price
Hanuma Vihari	2 crores
Axar Patel	5 crores
Ishant Sharma	1.1 crores
Ankush Bains	20 lakhs
Nathu Singh	20 lakhs
Colin Ingram	6.4 crores
Sherfane Rutherford	2 crores
Keemo Paul	50 lakhs
Jalaj Saxena	20 lakhs
B Ayyappa	20 lakhs

ROYAL CHALLENGERS BANGALORE

Shivam Dube	5 crores
Shimron Hetmyer	4 crore
Gurkeerat Mann	20 lakhs
Devdutt Padikkal	50 lakhs
Heinrich Klaasen	65 lakhs
Himmat Singh	20 lakhs
Milind Kumar	1.5 crore
Prayas Ray Barman	1.5 crore

SUNRISERS HYDERABAD

Jonny Bairstow	2.2 crores
Wridhiman Saha	1.2 crores
Martin Guptill	1 crore

KOLKATA KNIGHT RIDERS

Carlos Braithwaite	5 crores
Lockie Ferguson	1.6 crores
Andrich Nortje	20 lakhs
Nikhil Naik	75 lakhs
Harry Gurney	20 lakhs
Prithvi Raj Yarra	1 crore
Joe Denly	1 crore

CHENNAI SUPERKINGS

Mohit Sharma	5 crores
Ruturaj Gaikwad	20 lakhs

KINGS XI PUNJAB

Varun Chakravarthy	8.4 crores
Sam Curran	7.2 crores
Mohammed Shami	4.8 crores
Nicholas Pooran	4.2 crores
Moises Henriques	1 crore
Sarfraz Khan	25 lakhs
Hardus Viljoen	75 lakhs
Arshdeep Singh	20 lakhs
Darshan Nalkande	30 lakhs
Simran Singh	4.8 crores
Agnivesh Achary	20 lakhs
Harpreet Brar	20 lakhs
M Ashwin	20 lakhs

MUMBAI INDIANS

Barinder Sran	3.4 crore
Lasith Malinga	2 crores
Yuvraj Singh	1 crore
Anmolpreet Singh	80 lakhs
Pankaj Jaiswal	20 lakhs
Rasik Dhar	20 lakhs

RAJASTHAN ROYALS

Jaydev Unadkat	8.4 crores
Varun Aaron	2.4 crores
Oshane Thomas	1.1 crores
Shashank Singh	30 lakhs
Liam Livingstone	50 lakhs
Shubham Ranjane	20 lakh

SINGLES

MESSI CLAIMS 5TH GOLDEN SHOE

BARCELONA: Lionel Messi collected a record fifth Golden Shoe award on Tuesday for finishing last season as the top goalscorer in Europe. The striker scored 34 goals in 68 games for Barcelona, putting him ahead of Liverpool's Mohamed Salah and Tottenham's Harry Kane. Cristiano Ronaldo, who has won the award four times, hit 26 goals in 52 matches for Real Madrid. After being presented with his latest prize in Barcelona, Messi said: "The truth is I had no idea this would happen when I started. I dreamt of playing professional football and enjoying success, I love the game, but I never imagined I would have so much. "I enjoy the work, the effort, I'm at the best team in the world and play with the best team-mates in the world, so everything is easier."

ZAHEER IS MI DIRECTOR OF CRICKET

MUMBAI: Three-time IPL champions Mumbai Indians Tuesday appointed former India speedster Zaheer Khan as Director of Cricket Operations. The announcement was made by the franchise on its website. Zaheer was also part of the Mumbai Indians in the IPL seasons 2009, 2010 and 2014. He has 29 wickets to his name from 30 outings for the franchise. Zaheer took to Twitter to share his thoughts and said it was a pleasure to be back with the Mumbai Indians. "Complete pleasure to be back in my home city with the Mumbai Indians squad. Looking forward to be a part of the dressing with @lmRo45 and @mipaltan. Can't wait for the season to start," the former left arm pacer tweeted.

BENGALURU BULLS THRASH TITANS

PANCHKULA: Bengaluru Bulls notched a thumping 44-28 victory over Telugu Titans in the southern derby of Vivo Pro Kabaddi Season 6. The victory ensured that Bengaluru Bulls have now qualified for the playoffs. Pawan Sehrawat continued his fine form and got another super 10 and top scored with 13 points. It was a solid defensive performance by the Bulls defence as they 12 tackle points. Rahul Chaudhari scored 12 points for Telugu Titans but couldn't muster enough support from his teammates. Titans still remain in the hunt for a place in the playoffs but are under pressure now.

LAZIO'S WINLESS STREAK CONTINUES

BERGAMO: Lazio are without a victory in their last five matches after losing 1-0 to Atalanta in a Serie A contest where the video assistant referee (VAR) played a decisive role. The Roman side, who came into the match in Bergamo on the back of four consecutive draws, found themselves trailing in the 1st minute after conceding a goal to Atalanta's Duvan Zapata on Monday night. It was the Colombian's fifth goal in three games for the Bergamo club. The visitors continued to press in the second half and appeared to pull level with Francesco Acerbi's goal in stoppage time. But VAR showed that he was offside and the marker was disallowed. Lazio, with 25 points from 16 matches, are fifth in Serie A, a point behind AC Milan, who have a game in hand.

Agencies



Kusal Mendis (right) and Angelo Matthews return to pavilion after batting entire Day four of first Test

Mendis, Mathews defy NZ

AFP ■ WELLINGTON

Angelo Mathews celebrated with push-ups on the pitch after joining Kusal Mendis in passing 100 on Tuesday as Sri Lanka batted the whole day without losing a wicket to give themselves hope of an unlikely first Test draw in Wellington.

Mendis was 116 not out at stumps on day four and Mathews 117, with their record-breaking unbroken 246-run partnership setting a Sri Lankan record against New Zealand.

It was also the first time in

New Zealand that a full day's play has been completed without a Test wicket falling and the first time anywhere since South Africa achieved the feat against Bangladesh in Chittagong in 2008.

The pair's epic vigil meant the tourists ended the day at 259 for three after starting in a seemingly hopeless position with three wickets down for just 20 in their second innings after conceding a first-innings deficit of 296 to New Zealand.

Sri Lanka still need a further 37 to avoid an innings defeat but with a flat pitch offering nothing to New Zealand's seam attack and rain threatening on the final day, a draw is now a real prospect.

"Even though it's a belter of a wicket, the concentration and commitment they had was unbelievable," bowling coach Rumesh Ratnayake said.

"We couldn't have asked for anything more."

vivacity

AUSTRALIA CRUSH
INDIA BY 146
RUNS IN 2ND TEST

— P16



H1B FOR STUDENTS

US education facilitates easy access to H1B visa, says DR TP SETHUMADHAVAN

The recent proposal of the United States' Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to give priority to advanced degree holders from the US Universities for H1B visa will benefit Indian students. During 2018, out of 65,000 H1B visa sanctioned, 74 per cent applicants were from India.

The H1B is a visa in the United States under the Immigration and Nationality Act, section 101(a) (15) (H) that allows US employers to temporarily employ foreign workers in specialty occupations. A specialty occupation requires the application of specialised knowledge and a bachelor's degree or the equivalent of work experience. Laws limit the number of H-1B visas that are issued each year.

The H1B visa is the job visa for students from countries

other than United States. Visa holder will get all benefits, including better pay and allowances. Moreover, they will get the opportunity to progress towards green card and citizenship in future as the case may be.

Under H1B visa,

Success in getting admission to US universities depends on environment, effort and direction. If the student has a keen interest, good aptitude, attitude and a set goal, it is easy to get admission. The right choice and involvement coupled with appropriate decision-making process facilitates success in US education

technocrats, scientists, doctors, accountants, engineers, veterinarians and teachers can work in the US. Science, technology, engineering, mathematics, nursing and management are some of the prospective sectors which gain more H1B visas.

Recently, more and more Indian students have started pursuing overseas education especially in United States. South Indian students rank more in US when compared to students from North Indian States in the country.

ADVANCED DEGREES FROM US

Internationally, our graduate programmes are undergraduate programmes and our post graduate programmes will come under graduate programmes. Under advanced degree from US Universities, it can be graduate, honours, higher degree, post graduate or doctoral programmes. Compared to other Asian countries, more Indian students are pursuing advanced degree programmes in United States.



Proposed rule will facilitate for advanced degree holders from the US Universities to get priority in getting H1B visa up to first 20,000 level. DHS published the draft rule on December 3 and will be finalised by December 31, 2018. It will come into effect from 2019 onwards.

ADMISSION PROCESS

Students interested in the US education after graduation from India require one-year homework for the admission process. They can start the preparation from final year onwards. Preparation of bio-data in two pages and applying for passport are the preliminary steps for pursuing education abroad.

The US universities offer courses during winter (January to February) and falls (September to October) semesters. Indian students can pursue for admission during fall semester. Students are required to clear Graduate Record Examination (GRE) and Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) with better test scores.

Review of bio-data will create impression about the student among the US universities. So, they need to prepare the bio data in an attractive manner with a font size of 11 in Times New Roman. Filled-in application requires a statement of purpose from the students and two recommendation letters from referees. Referees can be senior faculty members who can judge about the abilities and skill of the students.

Initially, a student can apply for four to five universities. Project works, internships, work experience, extra-curricular activities and publications

will get additional scores during the admission process. Two or three universities will offer admission based on test scores.

Again, pursue them for funding options like fellowship, scholarship or assistantship. Students can do part time work up to 20 hours per week to support their studies. Students aspiring for US education will get more information from United States India Education Foundation (USIEF).

Prometric India is conducting GRE and TOEFL/ IELTS tests. Test preparation requires minimum three months period. Students can take the examination date three months ahead and start preparation. Since the examination fee is high, it is preferable to appear for the examination on the prefixed dates. Postponement of examination requires additional minimum 40 dollars.

Various textbooks, apps, online coaching and software's facilitate the students for examination preparation. Test prep platform Kaplan offers excellent text book series. For more details visit, www.prometricindia.com, www.gre.org and www.toefl.org.

Success in getting admission to US universities depends on environment, effort and direction. If the student has a keen interest, aptitude, attitude and goal, it is easy to get admission. The right choice and involvement coupled with appropriate decision-making process to facilitate success in US education.

The writer is education & career consultant, director, UL education.



behavioural change, information technology in the health sector, food security and nutrition and rural development.

The programme has a total intake of 30 students (part-time as well as full-time). The registration in PhD depends on the subject to passing qualifying examination which will be based on the course work in the first year of the programme.

Eligibility criteria: The candidates should have a master's degree or MPhil degree by the corresponding statutory regulatory body, with at least 55 per cent marks in aggregate or its equivalent grade 'B' in the UGC 7-point scale (or an equivalent grade in a point scale wherever grading system is followed). Or an equivalent degree from a foreign educational institution accredited by an Assessment & Accreditation Agency which is approved, recognised by an authority, established or incorporated under a law in its home country.

Selection process: The admission process will include three steps—screening of applications, IIHMR Research Aptitude Test (IRAT) and personal interview. The IIHMR University will conduct a qualifying test after the screening of applications and short-listing candidates. IRAT will be a written test consisting of multiple choice questions from English language proficiency, reasoning, basic quantitative analysis and research aptitude.

Important dates: March 15, 2019.

PHD PROGRAMME

The IIHMR University, Jaipur invites application for three-year PhD programme in different areas of research. Some of them includes public health, pharmaceutical management, health and hospital management, nursing, management, population and development, health economics and finance, rural and urban health, health communication and

UGC CSIR qualified JRF & NET, SLET, GATE and Teacher Fellowship holder and have passed MPhil programme in relevant subjects are categories which will be exempted from writing the IRAT. A personal interview will be conducted on the day of IRAT or next day after IRAT at the IIHMR University, Jaipur.

Important dates: Last date to apply is January 25, 2019. IRAT and personal interview is on February 1 and 2, 2019.

For more information, log on to www.iihmr.edu.in.

NEW INNOVATION CENTRE

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

As a part of the Ministry of Human Resource Development's flagship scheme of promoting innovations in the higher education institutes in country, The Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) has set up Institutions Innovation Council (IIC) at the National Centre for Innovation in Distance Education (NCIDE).

The IIC at IGNOU aims at promoting idea generation, grassroots innovation, develops prototype, solve problems in the local context with a view to generating intellectual property.

The IIC, IGNOU is organising an 'Idea Competition' or which bonafide IGNOU students can submit their ideas in the prescribed proforma to the director, National Centre for Innovations in Distance Education (NCIDE) at IGNOU through email at ncide@ignou.ac.in or by post. The proforma can be downloaded from IGNOU's website — www.ignou.ac.in. The last date for receiving the

ideas is January 20, 2019.

The selected students from different regions will be invited to present their work in the Festival of Ideas & the selected best three entries will be awarded prizes & certificates.

The selected students will be invited to participate and present their ideas in the Festival of Ideas on February 28, 2019 at IGNOU, Maidan Garhi, New Delhi. Further, they will be mentored and nurtured for developing a business plan to work on the ideas. This will be a unique opportunity for IGNOU students to showcase their ideas and vision.

IGNOU students can submit their original and creative ideas that can solve any daily life problem in any of the fields including food, agriculture and rural development, clean energy and alternate fuel, clean water and water management, swacchhata initiatives and waste management, health care and hygiene, education and open university system and smart transportation and traffic management.

Conference on green energy

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The SRM University-AP, in association with Amara Raja Batteries, is hosting an International Conference on Green Energy Technologies for Smart Cities (GETSC-2018) at its Amaravati campus from December 19 to 21, 2018. Dr VK Saraswat, member, NITI Aayog, (National Institution for transforming India) will be inaugurating the conference.

A series of presentations and panel discussions will cover basic and advanced fields of research—materials & computational sciences, biotechnology, environmental science and engineering, health education and environment. Equal emphasis will be placed on practical technologies and applications for smart cities such as smart grids, storage solutions (hydrogen production, batteries & energy storage technologies) fuel cells & sensor technologies, carbon footprint as well as smart waste management systems.

The conference will be chaired by SRM AP pro VC Prof D Narayana Rao; director of Texas Materials Institute, UT-Austin, USA Dr Arumugam Manthiram, and CTO, Amara Raja Batteries, India M Jagadish. Over 45 international delegates from over 10 countries and 150 delegates from across India will be attending.

#MainBhiHero campaign

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Tech Mahindra Foundation, under its initiative Tech Mahindra Smart Academy for Healthcare, has launched a movement #MainBhiHero to create awareness around the role of paramedical and allied healthcare professionals in the healthcare sector. The movement aims at bridging the prevalent skill-gap in our healthcare sector by creating a pool of skilled and qualified healthcare professionals at the Smart Academy for Healthcare located in New Delhi, Mohali and Mumbai.

The #MainBhiHero movement lays emphasis on fostering Individual Social Responsibility (ISR) motivating the society to guide aspiring youths towards paramedical courses. With the #MainBhiHero movement and the Smart Academies for Healthcare, Tech Mahindra Foundation has strengthened its alignment to the WHO vision of "Health for All" and various UN Sustainable Development Goals ranging from quality education, gender equality and decent work & economic growth.

CP Gurnani, MD & CEO, Tech Mahindra, said: "The #MainBhiHero movement, not only encourages us to further the ISR initiative and Rise for Good, but also addresses the issue of skill gap faced by the industry today. I urge one and all to contribute towards this initiative that aims at creating a pool of skilled and qualified healthcare professionals."

Speaking about the initiative, Dr Loveleen Kacker, CEO, Tech Mahindra Foundation, says: "At the Tech Mahindra SMART Academies for Healthcare, we are trying to change the definition of the word Hero. The youth come here as students and leaves as healthcare professionals with lifelong skills, employment, and a feeling to serve and improve the healthcare services of our country. Now that's exactly like a Hero."

Life Skill Olympiad

The Skillizen Learning Foundation, a Singapore headquartered global socio-educational company, has launched "International Life Skills Olympiad (ILSO)" for 2018-19. This is the world's first Olympiad that tests young citizens on life skills and will be held online on January 27, 2019.

Aimed at school children from Class III to XII, ILSO is a global online test that will be based on the Skilizzen Curriculum, the world's first Critical Life Skills Curriculum. This curriculum follows a unique method that transfers the most practical life skills in such a manner that even an eight-year-old can playfully master those skills.

The registration lines for ILSO is live, with a nominal registration fee of ₹490. This is the first Olympiad in which, besides schools, parents can also directly enroll their children online. Home schooled children can also participate.

Launching the Life Skills Olympiad, Sidharth Tripathy, founder & CEO, Skillizen Olympiad Foundation, says: "The children of the 21st century need a whole range of critical life skills to engage, manage and lead the world. When children grow up and join the workforce, we often find organisations complaining that Indian students might be bright, having passed through one of the toughest educational curriculums in the world, but they are mostly not

employable. Critical Life Skills are extremely essential to convert the children into responsible citizens and successful individuals."

This unique life skills test will focus on assessing skills and competencies that are essential for young children of the 21st century to lead their personal and professional lives. The questions of ILSO 2018-19 will be based on real life scenarios that will test the young students on their application of critical life skills like leadership, ethics, teamwork, communications, empathy, goal setting and many more. The main prizes for the winners of ILSO would include free tickets to visit Harvard University in USA, mini iPads and Kindles. Besides the top prizes, there are assured prizes for all participants.

"Life skills are a set of skills that enable us to lead our life to its fullest potential; skills that we all need to effectively manage the challenges of everyday life, be it at school, at work or in our personal lives. Our objective is not to prepare the children for the next educational level but for the real world. School children are always comparing themselves against their classmates or at best with other children in their own school. While preparing for this test, young minds from Class III-XII will be able to acquire new life skills and compare their skill levels against the smartest children across 100 plus countries," Tripathy adds.



There are several ways by which one can finance ideas. But the best way forward to market a start-up is to begin with a modest budget to encourage innovation, says PRADEEP SHUKLA

Boostrapping builds character. There are endless ways to finance your ideas, but there's nothing like marketing a startup with a modest budget to encourage innovation. Limited funds give you an excuse to flex your creative muscle and truly share your vision with the world. Being an entrepreneur is risky business.

We've all read stories of startup companies that spent too much money getting off the ground and crash upon takeoff. Managing your money when you have very little coming in the door is tricky but it's not impossible.

Don't rely on the same old banner ads and Google reviews. Instead, try these eight marketing strategies to place the spotlight on your business. Below are strategies for getting the most bang for your buck as an entrepreneur.

Go to startup events. These events are frequented by those who have similar interests, and most of these people are operat-

ing on shoestring budgets, too. Many of them are happy to introduce you to someone who can help your startup; others will be willing to develop a *quid pro quo* relationship with you to get both of your businesses off the ground. Either situation is a cost-effective win-win.

Take advantage of free offers. Many people shy away from free stuff; they're afraid that taking advantage of it implies that they don't have money. Instead, look at it this way: When a company is offering something for free, they believe the item has value. They want you to experience it so badly that they're willing to give you a taste at no cost. Take them up on it. You're helping a fellow businessman out, and you're saving cash on your end.

Access an incubator and use other business resources. Incubators can provide you with a lot of the structure that your entrepreneurial endeavour is missing, but without any of the



TAKE TIME TO CONSIDER WHO YOU ARE, WHO YOUR CUSTOMERS ARE, WHAT YOU WANT YOUR BRAND TO REPRESENT AND WHAT YOUR MESSAGE SHOULD BE. THEN STICK TO IT

interference that a partner company might entail. They have amazing free resources; these can include everything from office space to snacks. Search for one on Google, or try lists of ranked startup accelerators to find a good fit.

Track your finances. From the start, you should be carefully watching how much you spend. Cash flow is one of the easiest areas for start-ups to get ahead of themselves you need to turn a profit at some point, but you'll never know where that point is if you don't track your money.

Make smart hiring decisions. It's important to build the best team possible. Your startup is your baby. Find people who are all in, and you'll get the most from them with each of their paychecks.

Avoid burnout. Many entrepreneurs get so caught up in saving money that they find it hard to balance rewarding themselves with pumping money into the company. If you want to be suc-

cessful with your startup, then you should enjoy what you're doing. Your reward will be the excitement you reap from your success. That means that most of your money should go into your startup but not all of it. Set aside time (and money) to travel, visit friends and relax. If you forget to do these things, it won't matter how much money your startup has — it won't have an effective leader.

Every entrepreneur goes through ups and downs; it's the nature of the beast. But struggling to make ends meet doesn't have to be one of your problems. Find the balance between fueling your jet and pulling back on the throttle. You don't want your start-up — or you — to crash upon takeoff. Take time to really consider who you are, who your customers are, what you want your brand to represent, and what your message should be. Consider this a very simple marketing roadmap. Then stick to it.

The writer is Co-founder, OOFFRR App

A great design is meant to influence, it is meant to astonish, and it is meant to astound. Saul Bass, a virtual designer, rightfully said: Design is thinking made visual. It is to imbibe values, personality, creativity, and character into an innate object. A true design transforms prose into beautiful poetry.

Today, India with a phenomenal growth rate of 23 to 25 per cent annually is the rising star among the design superpowers all across the globe. There are various aspects of designing and all of them hold astounding importance in the fundamentals of our culture and lives. Many designers like Sabysachi, Ritu Beri, Manish Arora and many others have set a

benchmark that has put India on the map of rising stars in the design industry.

The four most prominent of them have been discussed below.

Jewellery designing: India has traditionally been called the land of gems and jewellery. Contributing to around seven per cent of the country's GDP and 15.7 per cent of the total exports in the country, it is one of the fastest growing sectors, employing over four million professionals. India today not only competes but completely dominates the sector of jewellery design globally and can already claim to be a superpower in the sector exporting 75 per cent of the world's polished diamonds.

With an industry worth billions, our

nation is right at the pinnacle among other fashion capitals of the world featuring top of the line designs in jewelry.

Communication designing: Today India ranks among the top global giants in communication designing. From acquiring luxury automobile brands like Jaguar and Land Rover by Indian companies to creating global standards in industrial design, our nation is not far behind.

Interior designing: India today, ranks not only among the top design capitals in the world but also competes among the best in

the business of innovation. Interior design in India has taken a huge leap within a very short span and is consistently rising in demand.

The work of an interior designer is relatively complex as the profession involves not only making precise geometric calculations but also attempt beautification within a limited space requiring ingenuity in both architectural sense and creative, illustrative and durable designing which the owner can call home.

The unique thing about India in interior

designing is that how our designers can innovate in a space as small as a few hundred square feet and achieve brilliant results in the process.

Fashion designing: Every beautiful piece of love in your closet that you adore so much and dutifully save for those special occasions began its journey from the tip of a pen held by a passionate fashion designer. It is widely stated by fashion eccentric persons that a fashion designer weave dreams with their fingers, not clothes and nothing can be far from the truth.

Designing something that is both aesthetically pleasing and also functional at the same time requires a lot of insight blended with skill, a sharp eye, and a creative

mind as well. This is the space where the Indian fashion designers are gradually tapping in, owing to which the fashion design industry of India has already begun to make global headlines. The Indian textile industry is estimated to be at around 108 billion dollars and expected to reach 223 billion dollars by 2021. More than just adopting western trends, India seems to be a step ahead in creating a perfect blend of fusion clothing that other fashion capitals are struggling to keep up with. India is currently generating a growth of 9.5 percent per annum whipping up a storm in the global design world.

The writer is Dr Kulneet Suri, Senior Director at Institute of Management Studies Noida



depended on your academic achievement please email the Undergraduate Admissions Team for your chosen Department.

For details visit: <https://www.sheffield.ac.uk/faculty/engineering/study/scholarships>.

Applications are invited from students for a scholarship in advance training in Hindustani Music. The value of the scholarship is ₹7,500 per month — April 2019 to March 2020. Send in your application to nepascholarships@gmail.com or in an envelope marked — Citi-NCPA Scholarship for Young Musicians to the National Centre for the Performing Arts, Nariman Point, Mumbai 400021. The shortlisted candidates will be informed via email or telephone and be required to appear for an audition in Mumbai. The decision of selection committee is final.

Eligibility: Age Limit: khayal/tabla/pakhawaj — 18 to 30 years of age (March 1, 2019); For dhrupad: 18 to 35 years of age (March 1, 2019). Students who are beneficiaries of other scholarship/grant in the field of music during April 2019–20, are not eligible to apply. Professional musicians including those with 'A' grade from AIR are not eligible to apply. Only Indian citizens are eligible to apply.

Application deadline: It is December 31, 2018.

STUDY CENTRES

Many of us familiar with the term Internet of Things (IoT) but may not know what it means and that one can make a career in this sector. The IoT can connect devices in various systems to the Internet. For example: IoT can be a person with a heart monitor. To work in this field one must have the basics knowledge of electronics. One can work as an IoT Product Manager, IoT Architect, IoT Developer and Robot Coordinator and IoT Cloud Engineer. The good part is that an IoT professional is paid than IT professionals. Beginners can earn between ₹6–₹10 lakh or even more per annum depending on their industry and location. A few institutes where one can study are:

■ **Collabora TACT**, Vadodara. **Course:** IoT Training
■ **Grapskills Pvt Ltd**, Bengaluru. **Course:** IoT Training
■ **Birla Institute of Technology and Science (BITS) Pilani**, Pilani. **Course:** PG Diploma in Internet of Things
■ **National Institute of Electronics and Information Technology (NIELIT)**, Kozhikode and New Delhi. **Course:** PG Diploma in Internet of Things

Eligibility: Age Limit: khayal/tabla/pakhawaj — 18 to 30 years of age (March 1, 2019); For dhrupad: 18 to 35 years of age (March 1, 2019).

Students who are beneficiaries of other scholarship/grant in the field of music during April 2019–20, are not eligible to apply. Professional musicians including those with 'A' grade from AIR are not eligible to apply. Only Indian citizens are eligible to apply.

Application deadline: It is December 31, 2018.

SOCIAL MEDIA MARKETING AT IMAGINE MARKETING

Location: Delhi
Stipend: ₹15,000 per month
Link: internshala.com/i/16786
Application deadline: December 27, 2018

HUMAN RESOURCES (HR) AT PEARSON INDIA EDUCATION SERVICES

Location: Noida
Stipend: ₹10,000 per month
Link: internshala.com/i/16787
Application deadline: December 25, 2018

GRAPHIC DESIGN AT NESTAWAY TECHNOLOGIES

Location: Bengaluru
Stipend: ₹5,000–₹7,000 per month
Link: internshala.com/i/16788
Application deadline: December 27, 2018

CHARTERED ACCOUNTANCY (CA) AT MAHINDRA COMIVIVA

Location: Gurugram
Stipend: ₹15,000–₹20,000 per month
Link: internshala.com/i/16789
Application deadline: December 31, 2018

CONTENT WRITING AT MERITNATION

Location: Delhi
Stipend: ₹20,000 per month
Link: internshala.com/i/16790
Application deadline: December 25, 2018

OPERATIONS AT INCRFT FASHION VENTURES

Location: Delhi
Stipend: ₹10,000 per month
Link: internshala.com/i/16791
Application deadline: December 27, 2018

WEB DEVELOPMENT AT TRAVEL TUTOR

Location: Work From Home
Stipend: ₹5,000–₹10,000 per month
Link: internshala.com/i/16792
Application deadline: December 28, 2018

IN BRIEF

IIT-M PARTNERS WITH DIGITAL FIRM THALES

Indian Institute of Technology Madras has partnered with Thales to design a Shakti RISC-V processor compatible with the highest safety critical standards. The collaboration will result in defining and prototyping a processor suitable for mix-criticality applications, including safety critical applications.

A fault-tolerant framework will be developed and will undergo evaluation by the world's top

MOBILE APP FOR SEAMLESS LOGIN

Shine.com has introduced face recognition and touch ID capabilities in its mobile application. The technological milestone marks the first time that any Indian online jobs portal has integrated features designed

around hardware-based tech in its mobile app.

When a user of the portal signs up on or logs into the mobile app for the first time, they are prompted to create a face/touch ID for future sessions.

One user session on

the application lasts for a month, after which users need to log in again.

This has ensured that users can seamlessly log back into the app without any hassle, even if they forget their passwords.

SKILL-O-FEST FOR CHILDREN AT KIIT

The KIIT World School Junior organised a Skill-O-Fest for the children of ages two to 10. The fest was organised to showcase a variety of skills like dance, theatre, art, culinary, gardening, scientific language, and mathematical activity.

The students mesmerised the audience with a great cultural show with their beautiful performances.

Science-Magica brought them a unique science show. They made glow jars, wishing bottles, fancy soaps and slime play. Pottery and gardening were a big attraction and

they had fun making pots and planting saplings.

The KIIT mentor Neelima Kamrahan said: "It is important to develop skill in young children. Parents need to encourage children in participating more in physical activities. Physical skills are equally important for children for their proper development."

Rashmi Srivastava, principal KIIT made special efforts to include the underprivileged girls of Kasturba India Vision School and gave them the stage to perform too.

COUNSELLORS CONCLAVE

The Indian School of Hospitality's (ISH) newest venture and a newcomer in the hospitality education space hosted its first international counsellor summit — the Counsellors' Retreat 2018. It was inaugurated by VC of the Gurugram University Dr Markanday Ahuja. The summit saw a gathering of school counsellors representing some of the most prominent schools from across the entire country and neighbouring regions, including world leaders in hospitality education École hôtelière de Lausanne.

The retreat was called with the mission and aim to introduce school counsellors to the diverse range of professional opportunities and career paths in the world of travel, tourism, hospitality, culinary arts and other new age industries for their students.

DIGITAL CONFERENCE

A two-day FORE International Conference on digital innovation was inaugurated on December 14, 2018 and included academic speakers from the British Academy UK, King's College London, Swansea University UK, IIM Kozhikode, IMT Ghaziabad, IIT Delhi, Faculty of Management Studies, BITS Pilani, ICFAI and FORE School of Management. The objective was to provide a collaborative platform for researchers and experts in which discussions about the impact of digital technologies in creating safer cities in India could be held.

There was a special address by Dr Vinayashil Gautam, founder-director, IIM Kozhikode & Member Executive Board, FORE School of Management, New Delhi.

SNAP 2018 ANALYSIS

The SNAP exam conducted on December 16 in the computer-based test format went glitch-free. ANKUR JAIN gives a low down

The Symbiosis National Aptitude Test (SNAP) exam conducted on 16 Dec 2018 in the computer-based-test format went glitch-free. The overall difficulty level of the exam was lower as compared to last year's. Since there were no sectional cut-offs, it made the job of the students a lot easier — they could focus on maximising their overall score instead of performing trying to improve their sectional performances in tougher sections.

SECTION WISE ANALYSIS

■ **General English:** The section had a total of 35 questions. There were 30 normal questions of 1 mark each. There were 5 special questions (non-MCQ or Input box types where the answer had to be entered on the screen) of 2 marks each.

The RC area had two passages with five questions each. The passages were lengthy in nature with around 750-850 words.

Passage 1: A lengthy passage on 'Google tracks your movement whether you like it or not' or 'privacy taken from CBS News'. The questions included 1 title, 1 specific detail, 3 contextual reference (of a phrase)/inference based questions.

Passage 2: Another lengthy passage on 'Tired of globalisation — Trade and Poverty' taken from 'The Economist'. There were four specific detail questions and 1 vocab-based question.

Around 22-24 can be considered to be a good number of attempts in this section.

■ **Quantitative Ability, Data Interpretation and Data Sufficiency:** The section was relatively easier compared to the last year. There were 30 questions of 1 mark each (normal MCQ type). There were 5 special questions of 2 marks each (non-MCQ type). Unlike last year, apart from the standalone ones, there were also some tough ones to crack. The level of the section could be pegged at a moderate level of difficulty. Out of 35 questions in this section, 19 to 22 would be a good number of attempts.

■ <b

Govt says all geared up for '24X7 Power for All'

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Confident of meeting '24X7 Power for All' target by March, the government wants to take forward its reform agenda for the power sector in 2019 including by providing consumers options to change their service provider even as the industry wants immediate steps to ease the "pains" relating to coal shortage, financial stress and high pricing.

After 100 per cent house hold electrification under the government's ambitious Saubhagya scheme, the next big policy move for the sector could be the proposed electricity amendment bill that provides for separation of carriage and content business. This would help consumers to change their service providers for electricity supply, just like they do for the telecom and other services.

Under the ₹16,320 crore Saubhagya scheme, the government has already provided electricity connections to 2.2 crore families and expects to complete the task of connecting the remaining 78 lakh households latest by February 2019. "The last one year has been momentous for power sector in the country. Electricity reached every village this April and we are on the verge of electrifying every household. The whole

world is looking at India's electrification journey with admiration," Power Minister R K Singh told PTI.

"Now we have set ourselves on the path of '24X7 Power for All' by March 31, 2019 and the government is committed to take every step to achieve this through expansion and strengthening of infrastructure for power generation, transmission & distribution as also putting in place a robust regulatory framework in terms of amendments to Electricity Act and Tariff Policy," he said.

The industry players, however, also wants an urgent attention on possible measures from the government side on tackling various stress points for the sector, including those regarding their financial viability.

Association of Power Producers (APP) Director General Ashok Khurana said 2018 has been a painful year with some positives for the power sector.

He said rise in power demand across states due to accelerated household electrification under the Saubhagya scheme and a pick-up in economic activity augur well for the stranded and under-utilised power assets. Despite many infirmities, the new coal allocation framework, 'Shakti', has helped 9 GW of operational capacity having power purchase

agreement access coal, he added.

A High-Level Empowered Committee (HLEC) has recommended review of certain flawed provisions of Shakti, he said, while hoping that the government would act fast on the recommendations and make coal allocation framework more equitable and ownership-neutral.

According to the APP, whose members include Adani Power, Essar, Tata Power, PTC India and Vedanta, power plants have experienced huge coal shortages, necessitating imports and purchase from auction platforms, thus increasing the price of power despite rise in coal production.

The industry body pointed out that adequate availability of coal is must to achieve the "reliable and quality power supply to all" round the clock.

It suggested opening the coal mining sector to competition and appointing a coal regulator to bring in transparency and commercial discipline. On financial stress of the sector, Khurana said: "RBI's ill-conceived circular of February 12, prescribing stringent definition of default and impractical timelines without taking into account the sector-specific genuine difficulties and that its application in present form will neither help banks nor sector at large".

Saudi Arabia, RIL in talks for refinery, petrochem project

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

World's largest oil exporter Saudi Arabia and richest Indian Mukesh Ambani-run Reliance Industries are discussing joint investment in petrochemicals and refinery projects, the Saudi Oil Minister Khalid al-Falih said.

Al-Falih, who has known Ambani for over a decade now, travelled to Udaipur earlier this month to attend the pre-wedding festivities of Ambani's daughter Isha's marriage with Ajay Piramal's son Anand.

During that visit, he also held talks with Ambani but choose to tweet about those discussions only this week.

In an Arabic tweet, which was translated using online tools, Al-Falih said he was delighted to meet Ambani.

At the meeting "we discussed opportunities for joint investments and cooperation in petrochemical, refining and communications projects".

He also tweeted a picture of the meeting where Ambani is dressed in a business suit, a sharp contrast to other pictures of his in traditional attire during the pre-wedding festivities held on December 8 and 9. No details of the meeting were available from Reliance.

Reliance operates two refineries at Jamnagar with a total capacity of 68.2 million tonnes per annum.

Reliance plans to expand its only-for-exports SEZ refining capacity to just over 41 million tonnes from current 35.2 million tonnes but does not have any plans to set up a new refinery in the country.

It is presently focused on expanding petrochemical and telecom business, industry sources said.

Crude oil is the basic raw material for the manufacturing of petrochemicals.

Saudi Arabia, on the other hand, is keen to get a foothold in the world's fastest-growing fuel market so as to get a captive customer for crude oil it produces.

Saudi Aramco, the world's biggest oil company, and its partner Abu Dhabi National Oil Co (ADNOC) have picked up 50 per cent stake in a planned USD 44-billion refinery in Maharashtra but the project is facing problems in acquiring land due to protests from local politicians.

Aramco and ADNOC will together hold 50 per cent stake in the 60 million tonnes per annum (MTPA) refinery and adjacent 18 MTPA petrochemical complex planned to be built at Ratnagiri district of Maharashtra by 2025.

The two will supply half of the crude oil required for processing at the refinery.

Like other major producers, the two are looking to lock in customers in the world's third-largest oil consumer through the investment. Kuwait too is looking to invest in projects in return for getting an assured offtake of their crude oil.

Saudi Aramco is also keen on retailing fuel in India. A refinery in India can also be a base for it to export fuel to deficit countries in Europe and the Americas. India has a refining capacity of 247.6 million tonnes, which exceed the demand of 206.2 million tonnes.

According to the International Energy Agency (IEA), this demand is expected to reach 458 million tonnes by 2040.

BUSINESS CORNER

KAPIL CHOPRA UNVEils NEW LUXURY HOTEL BRAND

New Delhi: Hospitality industry veteran Kapil Chopra Tuesday unveiled a new luxury hotel brand, The Postcard Hotel, and launched three new properties in Goa under the label. Chopra, who has earlier served as the president of Oberoi Hotels and Resorts, said seven more luxury hotels under the brand would come up at different locations like Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh over the next 12-18 months. "Work has already started on few of these seven properties. We are looking to have around 50 hotels in the next five years," Chopra, CEO and founder of The Postcard Hotel told PTI. Three hotels, part of the proposed seven new properties, would come up in eastern and north eastern parts of the country in partnership with Ambuja Neotia group, he added. Elaborating on future plans, Chopra said he would first like to establish the brand in India and then venture out into international locations. "We plan to build a luxury hospitality company out of India. People are ready to pay but there are no properties which could offer intimate and personalised luxury experience. The entire segment needed a disruption," he added. The new brand would focus on hotels with 8-50 rooms so that the guests could have a personalised experience, Chopra said. "What I wanted to do with The Postcard Hotel is make luxury hotels for the modern audience but bring back the romance and charm of sun kissed holidays...as a strategy, we will either go to mountains, sea and wildlife sanctuaries," he noted. The properties under the new brand would not have a check in or check out time, no mini bar or breakfast hours, Chopra said "We want travel to be experiential and transformative. We believe guests want to stay in a place where the hotel does the thinking for them, where they get the simple things right, yet offer fantastic spaces for them to relax, meet like minded people and experience local culture," he added. On opening properties abroad, Chopra said the first hotels could come in countries like Sri Lanka and Bhutan. Chopra, who is also the chairman of the board of restaurant reservation application EazyDiner, said the company has received funding from Small Ventures, a venture capital firm based out of UAE. He added that the brand would prefer combination of strategic buy outs and long term leases for its upcoming properties. Headquartered in Delhi, The Postcard Hotel already has 300 employees on its rolls.

IL&FS GROUP COS CLIMB UP TO 10PC

New Delhi: Shares of IL&FS group companies surged up to 10 per cent on Tuesday as it announced its plan to sell equity stakes in its road assets to raise funds. IL&FS Investment Managers was trading 9.86 per cent higher at ₹ 7.02 at 1230 hours on BSE, IL&FS Transportation Networks Ltd (ITNL) rose 5 per cent to ₹ 11.55 and IL&FS Engineering and Construction advanced as much as 4.98 per cent to ₹ 14.13. However, the benchmark BSE Sensex was down 139 points at 36,137 during the same time. On Monday, Infrastructure Leasing & Financial Services (IL&FS) group, which sits on a debt pile of about ₹90,000 crore, said it will sell equity stakes in its road assets to raise funds.

NIFTY 50

BSE 500

SCRIPT	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	LTP	CHANGE
NIFTY 50	10850.90	10915.40	10819.10	10908.70	20.35
SUNPHARMA	421.00	434.90	418.85	432.75	11.80
BAJFINANCE	2469.70	2538.20	2446.60	2533.00	58.60
JSWSTEEL	299.10	306.70	298.10	306.70	6.85
VEDL	204.90	210.00	204.25	209.80	4.30
M&M	755.60	772.00	754.20	772.00	15.65
ASIANPAINT	1338.45	1361.00	1327.55	1360.40	24.55
LT	1405.00	1430.00	1405.00	1429.95	21.95
SRBN	287.85	294.00	287.00	293.90	4.40
POWERGRID	192.90	197.00	190.90	195.35	2.80
HCLTECH	969.95	988.80	959.40	985.00	13.35
IOC	143.70	145.00	143.00	144.75	1.85
HINDPETRO	231.20	232.5	228.10	231.20	2.75
KOTAKBANK	1214.90	1239.65	1214.00	1236.90	14.45
DREDDY	2601.80	2645.00	2582.15	2643.40	30.25
ICICIBANK	356.75	362.90	354.60	362.50	4.05
NTPC	146.00	148.40	145.25	147.75	1.65
GRASIM	845.70	857.60	832.65	855.00	8.70
BPLC	353.10	357.60	348.70	353.40	3.05
BAJAJFINSV	6090.00	6165.00	6076.70	6138.50	50.70
ADANIPORTS	369.90	374.35	365.00	374.35	2.95
EICHERMOT	2357.00	2390.00	2343.95	2386.15	16.37
RELIANCE	1123.30	1139.00	1120.50	1137.75	7.85
BHARTIARTL	314.20	320.70	311.60	317.25	2.05
TATATEEL	523.00	528.50	519.60	527.00	3.00
MARUTI	771.00	778.00	765.00	776.00	33.95
TATAMOTORS	174.00	177.60	173.20	174.70	1.75
DREDDY	2601.80	2645.00	2582.15	2643.40	30.25
ICICIBANK	356.75	362.90	354.60	362.50	4.05
ULTRACEMCO	399.00	401.70	397.00	400.80	-1.30
COALINDIA	252.50	253.85	249.05	251.30	-0.15
BAJAJ-AUTO	284.00	287.80	282.05	285.80	-5.15
TITAN	932.50	938.75	930.90	932.95	-2.35
TCS	1991.90	2002.00	1976.40	1987.90	-6.40
HINDUNILVR	1848.90	1848.90	1833.00	1844.00	-6.70
IBULHSGFIN	774.00	784.90	768.70	778.00	-3.45
ONGC	147.90	148.95	146.30	147.55	-0.70
ITC	279.05	280.60	277.00	278.50	-1.35
HDFC	1955.00	1957.90	1932.50	1949.05	-11.30
YESBANK	180.00	180.90	176.75	178.75	-2.25
WIPRO	335.25	338.40	335.25	335.00	-4.60
TECHM	715.00	716.55	704.20	708.60	-11.15
INFY	686.50	686.50	674.55	677.00	-17.40
UPL	762.00	774.10	741.00	744.50	-23.55
ZEEL	498.00	498.00	454.05	459.70	-42.15

NIFTY NEXT 50

SCRIPT	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	LTP	CHANGE
NIFTY NEXT 50	27978.00	28244.05	27966.55	28169.80	135.45
INDIGO	1070.00	1124.00	1062.00	1121.00	60.90
DMART	1619.00	1685.00	1616.50	1681.20	64.95
MOTHERSUMI	165.10	174.00	165.05	173.80	6.10
BHEL	67.65	70.15	67.30	70.00	2.30
GICRE	278.00	284.95	275.00	284.60	-0.35
HINDZINC	273.40	279.00	271.00	278.20	4.85
MCDOWELL-N	639.00	647.70	627.25	646.00	10.85

INDIA CRASH AT 140, AUSTRALIA DRAW LEVEL

Starting from overnight 112/5, India lose last five wickets for 28 runs to face humiliating defeat by 146 runs

PTI ■ PERTH

India crumbled in the face of Australia's remarkable metamorphosis and crashed to a 146-run defeat in the second Test here on Tuesday, surrendering a rare hard-earned ascendancy in a series Down Under.

The hosts levelled the four-match series 1-1 after India were bowled out for 140 runs in 56 overs in their second innings on the fifth and final day.

Starting from overnight 112 for five, India lost their last five wickets for 28 runs and it was all over within 55 minutes of play.

This was Australia's first Test win since the ball-tampering scandal broke out in South Africa earlier this year.

Having won the opening game by 31 runs to go in front, India had been talked up as a threat coming into the capital of Western Australia, but they wilted as the pace-spin duo of Mitchell Starc and Nathan Lyon worked in tandem at the Optus Stadium.

Starc (3-46) and Lyon (3-39) finished with three wickets apiece, while Josh Hazlewood (2-24) and Pat Cummins (2-25) took a brace each.

While Starc and his pace colleagues were expected to thrive on the lively track, it was off-spinner Lyon's exceptional outing that gave Australia the edge. He finished the match with eight wickets, including a five-for in the first innings and a deserving Man-of-the-Match award.

India surely missed a trick in not playing a specialist spinner, something that was admitted by one of their own at the end of fourth day's play.

Hanuma Vihari (28) and Rishabh Pant (30) had continued their overnight partnership, and batted out only six overs before the first wicket fell on this day. Overall, they added 21 runs for the sixth wicket.

Vihari was the first to go, lobbing a catch off Starc to short point. Pant then tried to play a few more attacking strokes, but he didn't comprehend the situation well and was confused whether to farm the strike at all.



Jasprit Bumrah walks off as Australian players celebrate winning the second Test between Australia and India in Perth on Tuesday

Kohli didn't boast, didn't belittle Paine: BCCI

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Indian cricket board (BCCI) on Tuesday rubbished media reports in Australia which claimed that captain Virat Kohli bragged about being the best batsman in the world while ridiculing Tim Paine during the second Test in Perth.

The two captains were consistently involved in banter during the match but both insisted that no line was crossed. Reports in Australia claimed that the world's No 1 Test and ODI batsmen boasted about being the best in the business during the showdows.

The BCCI came out in support of Kohli, saying the statement attributed to Kohli was just hearsay and he never boasted about himself.

"It is assumed' that Kohli said, I am the best player in the world and you are just a stand-in captain. These claims were based on hearsay and the BCCI would like to bring into notice that no such words were spoken on the field by the Indian captain," BCCI said in a statement.

"The BCCI got a clarification



Virat Kohli, centre, looks to the umpire ICC from the team management about the incident and would like to classify the reports as baseless."

With the banter reported by the media on the last two days of the match, Kohli faced questions on the issue but he said no one crossed the line.

"As long as there is no swearing on the field, and there's no personal attacks, the line doesn't get crossed. That's it! But look in competitive spirit it stays on the field. I am not going to go into details but to be honest it's not of importance for me to speak on and it's something that's done," Kohli said after India lost the Test by 146 runs.

INDIA'S WORST YEARS IN TESTS				
Year	P	W	L	D
1959	9	1	7	1
1983	18	—	7	11
2018	13	6	7	—
2014	10	1	6	3



Ishant and Jadeja argue on field

PTI ■ PERTH

Tension flared up between teammates Ishant Sharma and Ravindra Jadeja during a mid-game break on the fourth day of the second Test.

Ishant and Jadeja were engaged in a heated discussion before two other teammates, including Mohammed Shami, separated them.

Though it did not look like a friendly discussion, the

reason behind their argument was not clear.

"It does seem pretty animated," former Australia captain Ricky Ponting had said.

"There's lots of finger pointing. They were separated on a couple of occasions."

While Ishant played in the first two Tests, Jadeja has been limited to drinks duty and substitute fielding at the Optus Stadium.

STARCS (3-46) AND LYON (3-39) FINISHED WITH THREE WICKETS APIECE, WHILE JOSH HAZLEWOOD (2-24) AND PAT CUMMINS (2-25) TOOK A BRACE EACH

In doing so, he attacked Lyon and holed out to mid on, with Peter Handscomb taking a low diving catch. It hastened the end for India, with Umesh Yadav (2) returning a simple catch to Starc.

Ishant Sharma (0) was caught behind off Cummins, and Jasprit Bumrah (0) hit a skier for another return catch to the pacer as Australia sealed their first Test win since Durban before the ball-tampering scandal hit the headlines.

Australia had scored 326 runs in their first innings, and India replied with 283 runs, thus conceding a lead of 43 runs. The hosts scored 243 runs in their second innings to post a 287-run target.

INDIA'S UNSUCCESSFUL CHASES IN 2018		
Score (Target)	Opponent	Venue
345	England	The Oval
184	England	Southampton
162	England	Birmingham
151	South Africa	Centurion
140	Australia	Perth
135	South Africa	Cape Town

Faisel Features



Paine makes light of banter with Kohli

PTI ■ PERTH

Australia captain Tim Paine on Tuesday played down the verbal showdowns with Virat Kohli during the second Test here but insisted that he won't sit back and be "walked all over" if faced with a similar situation in the remaining matches.

The two skippers had quite a bit of banter in the middle, so much so that they almost made physical contact at one point. But Paine shrugged it off, saying that Australia will invite India for a beer in the change rooms as per their team tradition.

"I don't think we did touch to be honest. It got



Australian skipper Tim Paine shake hands with counterpart Virat Kohli after the end of second Test cricket.com.au

pretty close. It was a highly competitive Test match from both teams. There's a lot on the line and both teams desperately want to win and sometimes that stuff happens" Paine said in the post-match press conference.

"I love it. I enjoy watching Kohli, I always have. I think he brings out the competitive spirit in a lot of people which is great, and I'm sure it was great to watch."

"I was really proud of the way our team conducted themselves on the field this week. We definitely will (the Indian team for a beer) after the series. That's always been the thing that has happened and will always be the case,"

he added.

But the wicketkeeper-batsman was quick to assert that he won't back down in the face of a showdowm if it happens again.

"I think it's just one of those things, at times you have got to draw a line and start sticking up for yourself and sticking up for your teammates."

"...We are certainly not going to sit back and be walked all over. Sometimes those things happen and you have to get involved. Was it a decision as a captain to try and assert myself on the game? No. It was just two competitive cricketers trying to do their best to win the game," he said.

Kohli defends four-pacers move

PTI ■ PERTH

Captain Virat Kohli on Tuesday firmly backed his decision to play four pacers in the second Test against Australia, rejecting criticism that India erred in not playing a spinner.

"We didn't have that control particularly in the first innings, not to the extent that we wanted. But in the second innings for sure, especially yesterday (day four) the first session, giving away only 56 runs without getting a wicket.

"I think it was outstanding bowling and obviously Mohammed Shami did what he did in the next session with the ball, which was again wonderful to see. I think they executed their plans to 95 per cent of what we expected. I think you definitely can be happy with that.

The India skipper added, "In the past when we have played four quicks, we definitely haven't been as consistent as we were in this game. So, I think they were pretty accurate, pretty consistent and we were convinced about going in with four fast bowlers looking at the conditions."

Kohli admitted that playing four fast bowlers weakened the tail and didn't provide as much control over Australia's scoring rate in the first innings. But at the same time, he added that they didn't comprehend picking a spinner at all despite a long tail.

"You obviously have two situations that you can think of. When you pick another fast bowler, obviously R Ashwin or Ravindra Jadeja have more ability with the bat, we all know that. It's a very tricky decision to make - what kind of a bowling option you want to go with or

Aus announce unchanged squad for remaining Tests

PERTH: Cricket Australia on Tuesday announced an unchanged 13-man squad for the remaining two Tests against India in Melbourne and Sydney.

The only noticeable change is that uncapped pacer Chris Tremain, who did not travel to Perth for the second Test either, has been released from the list.

The Australian team management feels that they have sufficient back-up in Mitchell Marsh and Peter Siddle should they need to bolster their four-man bowling attack for the remaining two tests.

Squad: Tim Paine (capt), Aaron Finch, Peter Handscomb, Marcus Harris, Josh Hazlewood, Travis Head, Usman Khawaja, Nathan Lyon, Mitch Marsh, Shaun Marsh, Peter Siddle, Mitchell Starc.

PTI

you want to think that guy can contribute with the bat as well. "So eventually you come to one decision. We backed that decision and went ahead with it. Whether it comes off or not, that's a different thing but we were totally convinced in the team that that was our best combination to go with and the batsmen have to take responsibility."

"There are lots of variables that can happen during the course of a cricket match but before that, you need to have clarity as to what you want to do and as a side, we were totally clear that this was the combination we wanted to go with," he added.

Virat, Shastri's roles must be assessed: Gavaskar

PTI ■ PERTH



afford to send even 40 people down there. However, I feel that an India cap, an Indian blazer has to be made a lot more valuable... By carrying players and taking 19 players, I do believe that the selection committee has not handled their responsibility well," he said.

"A lot of those players can come back and play domestic cricket which will not only embellish our domestic cricket, lift the standard of our domestic cricket but also give these guys, unlikely to be picked in the Test matches, an opportunity to regain form and make a case for getting back in the team," he added.

The first one on the flight back home from Perth should be India opener KL Rahul according to Gavaskar.

"He (Rahul) has no chance of playing in the remaining two Tests unless of course there is an injury to any player. I think that he should be coming back and playing Ranji Trophy for Karnataka. It is not just that he is out of form, he is just not there and you can see that. He can prove me wrong and I will be very happy to be proven wrong as long as the Indian team benefits."

Meanwhile, Ricky Ponting reckons India's batting woes have outweighed their opponents after the visitors slumped to a massive 146 run defeat.

"I compared the two teams at the logic for picking a jumbo squad.

"I want to find out who has authorised 19 players to go because the next question is why not three more? The BCCI is a very rich body, it can

'India erred by not including spinner'

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Former India batsman Sanjay Manjrekar feels India made a mistake in not including a front-line spinner in the second Test that Australia won on Tuesday at Perth to square the four match series 1-1.

He said the team management should take the blame for selections which have "back-fired".

"(Australian spinner) Nathan Lyon is a great bowler, so we can't assume that a (Ravindra) Jadeja would have been as effective (as him)."

"But India, I think, made an error in going with four seamers, especially (with) Umesh Yadav and not Bhuvneshwar Kumar," Manjrekar, an expert with official broadcaster Sony Pictures Networks, said.

"If there was one spinner (in the team) there's always cracks and roughs, especially with left-handed batsmen in the opposition, to exploit. Jadeja could have been of more use than the fourth seamer," he said.

"So, it was a selection error that may have also contributed to India eventually losing the match," explained the 53-year-old batsman-turned-commentator.

As per experts, India had committed selection errors in



the past, following which the team lost.

"You don't lose because of one factor and you can't say that we lost because of poor selection. But you can say that there have been selections which have taken the world by surprise, not just a few people."

"These are selections which are unexpected and eventually have proved to be wrong selections. The team management will have to take responsibility for those selections that have back-fired," Manjrekar remarked.

He opined that India could go in with Mayank Agarwal and Murali Vijay as openers in the next Test at Melbourne.