





# Perception changing Hindi play ‘Poster’ screened

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

A poster changed the life and perception of villagers. This was shown through the Hindi play Poster. The play was staged on Wednesday at Shaheed Bhavan auditorium.

The play marked the third day of Aadi Vidrohi Theatre Fest 2018. A classic story was written by Shankar Shesh. This play was directed by Ajit Bhagat. The play was performed by the artists of Avishkar theatre troupe from Mumbai.

The play revolves around an innocent incident, which leads to a revolution in a small village. Dr Shankar Shesh has created a wonderful play by using traditional "Kathakars" (storytellers), using songs and music to tell the story.

Poster creates a huge fuss that changes the lives of the vil-



A scene from the play 'Poster' staged at Shaheed Bhawan in Bhopal on Wednesday Pioneer photo

lagers. Interestingly, the play was originally directed by Jayadev Hatangadi, and continues to be performed over forty years now by different groups.

The play was beautifully

performed at the hall. Using those strategies that were used by Shankar Shesh while writing the play was made interesting and unusual. Audiences were awestruck as they watched the play glued to thier seats.

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Farmers are trained to produce farm organic inputs by themselves. The initiative is taken by Vasudha Organic, an initiative of PratibhaSyntex Ltd.

With efforts of Vasudha, farmers are trained to produce farm organic inputs by themselves. The effort has impacted on farmers' life significantly, as this has reduced cost of cultivation by 40%. And dependence on market has also reduced substantially.Endorsing the promotion of just, peaceful and inclusive society, Vasudha also encourages cooperatives, democracy, and working collaboratively to create shared values.

The untamed usage of fertilizers and pesticides in farming has not only seriously affected the health of all stakeholders but also severely damaged the entire eco system.

Vasudha Organic aligns

**The untamed usage of fertilisers and pesticides in farming has not only seriously affected the health of all stakeholders but also severely damaged the entire eco system**

with Sustainable Development Goals (the SDGs), which are adopted by all United Nations Member States in 2015. SDGs provide a shared blueprint for peace and prosperity for people and the planet, now and into the future. For revitalization of the global partnership for sustainable development, Vasudha collaborates with brands for different initiatives

like Fairtrade, Peace India, Textile Exchange, SAC, Cotton Connect, C&A Foundation, BCI, India Organic etc. A fundamental element of organic cotton production is its strong commitment to global partnerships and cooperation -recognizing the interdependencies at play.

Vasudha Organic adopts a strategy to focusits vision to achieve the following: no poverty, zero hunger, good health and well-being, quality education, life below water, life on land, peace, justice, strong institutions and partnership for the goals, which are also known as the Global Goals to end poverty, protect the planet and ensure that everyone enjoys peace and prosperity.

"One of the major aims of Vasudha Organic is to promote organic farming to ensure that farmers earn more, spend less on inputs such as agrichemicals, and reduce dependency on the commodity market thus

reducing their costs. Till 2020, Vasudha Organic aspires to double the farmer's income from present level. "Farmers used to procure agri-inputs from market, but after making the organic inputs at their farms, the cost has been substantially reduced. Farmers can spend this money for the well-being of their families" said Sardar Mathu, a farmer in Malwa region.

Vasudha Organic promotes organic farming in rural regions of Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan with intent that one and all get high nutritional food. Organic cotton is grown in rotation with food crops, ensuring adequate supply of high nutritional food. Engaging 35,000 farmers over 160,000 acres to produce sustainable cotton, Vasudha Team is working with farmers to develop innovative multi-cropping system for both seasons, which have potential to increase the income per acre substantially.

## Man assaults, demands money from wife, arrested

**Bhopal:** Kolar police have booked a 34-year-old man for assaulting and demanding money from his 28-year-old wife at Rajharsh Colony in the night on Tuesday.

Police said that Minakshi Awasthi lodged complaint against her husband Anant Awasthi for demanding money and assaulting her.

In her complaint, she alleged that her husband used to demand money and harass her over the demand frequently in the past. On Tuesday, the fight turned serious as Minakshi was harassed and assaulted. When her husband caught hold of her, she bit in his left arm and escaped the spot to lodge a complaint with the police.

The police have registered a case under sections 498 A, 294, 323 and 506 of the IPC against the husband Anant. On the other hand Anant claimed that she was assaulted by his wife along with Rajesh Mishra and Manju.

Anant has also lodged a complaint against his wife with the police and on the complaint police registered a case under sections 324, 294, 323 and 506 of the IPC. In his complaint Anant stated that his wife wanted to abandon his parents and used to fight with him frequently on the same issue. Parents of Anant live in the ground floor while Anant and Minakshi live at first floor and want the parents to abandon them to leave the house. Kolar police have registered case based on the complaint by Minakshi and Anant and started investigation. In the case no one has been arrested till now. The statements of the two and their family members would be recorded in the further investigation.

# Junior national equestrian contest: MP players bag 2 golds, 3 silvers, 2 bronzes

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

The players of Madhya Pradesh Equestrian Academy gave an impressive performance and bagged two gold medals, three silver medals, and two bronze medals.

In the junior national equestrian competition held in Kolkata from December 23 to 31, the players of Madhya Pradesh State Equestrian Academy performed brilliantly and brought laurels to Madhya Pradesh by winning seven medals including two gold, three silver and two bronze. Director Sports and Youth Welfare S.L. Thoussen congratulated the medal winners and encouraged them to perform thier best in other competitions as well.

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In the competition Academy player Raju Singh Bhadauria earned a gold medal in junior jumping and Pranay Khare Young Rider Jumping Event. Similarly, Akademi player Arjun Singh earned silver medal in the individual

competition of the jumping.

Similarly, Arjun Malaiya in Group-2 event and Bholu Parmar, Hamza, Akhil, Jyoti and Arjuna Malaiya earned each one bronze medal in the Group -2 jumping team event. The said players are participating under the leadership of Captain Bhagirath, the Chief Instructor of the Academy.



Chief Minister Kamal Nath, along with his Cabinet Ministers, pays tributes at the statue of Mahatma Gandhi at Minto Hall, in Bhopal on Wednesday Pioneer photo



Government of India

**DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY**

Recruitment of

**ENGINEERING GRADUATES AND SCIENCE POSTGRADUATES AS SCIENTIFIC OFFICERS**

Through the

**BHABHA ATOMIC RESEARCH CENTRE TRAINING SCHOOLS**

For the

**ACADEMIC YEAR 2019 - 20**





**Dr. Homi Jehangir Bhabha**  
1909 - 1966

The Department of Atomic Energy (DAE) was established through a Presidential Order on August 3, 1954, to be administered directly by the Prime Minister. The vision of DAE is to empower India by the use of technology for creation of wealth leading to a better quality of life for her citizens. DAE is engaged in the design, construction and operation of Nuclear Power/Research Reactors and the associated Nuclear Fuel Cycle Technologies covering exploration, mining and processing of nuclear ores, production of heavy water, nuclear fuel fabrication, fuel reprocessing and nuclear waste management. It is also engaged in basic cutting-edge research in frontier areas of Engineering and Science. The spin-off technologies, human resource being developed and technical services being rendered by DAE have been of great help to Indian industry. Since 1956, **DAE has been recruiting Scientific Officers annually through the BARC Training Schools** to drive its various nation building programs. This advertisement is to invite applications for the recruitment of Trainee Scientific Officers (TSOs) for the 2019-20 academic session of the BARC Training Schools. After successful completion of the Training Program, **the TSOs will be absorbed as Scientific Officers in a Group-A Post of the Government of India.**

**WHY SHOULD I JOIN THE DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY?**

**Scope of DAE Activities:** DAE offers opportunities for a career in Research in frontier areas of Engineering and Science, Design and Development of Next Generation Reactors and associated Advanced Technologies and State of the Art Manufacturing Facilities. It has expertise and comprehensive capability in all aspects of the Nuclear Fuel Cycle Technologies supported by an excellent infrastructure and unique facilities like the Research Reactors, Charged Particle and Ion Beam Accelerators, ultrashort high power Lasers etc. many of which are made available by DAE to the larger Indian scientific community through various national facilities operated by DAE at different locations across the country.

**Benefits on Absorption:** After successful completion of the Training Program, the selected candidates will be absorbed as Scientific Officers in a Group-A Post of the Government of India in the Level 10 - ₹ 56,100 of 7th CPC Pay Matrix. Total Emoluments, with three increments at the time of joining, will be approximately ₹ 89,000 p.m. at the present Mumbai rate. In addition, the officer would also be availing of other benefits such as L.T.C., medical facilities for the Officer and his / her dependent family members, Children's Education Allowance and Professional Update Allowance. Scientific Officers in all units of DAE have ample opportunities for professional development and attractive career progression up to the highest echelons.

**Educational Opportunities:** Trainee Scientific Officers who successfully complete the Training Program and whose performance meets a minimum eligibility criterion are allowed to enroll for M.Tech./M.Phil. in Homi Bhabha National Institute (HBNI), a Deemed to be University. Those not desirous of pursuing M.Tech. / M.Phil. are entitled to a Post-Graduate Diploma of HBNI. The Scientific Officers of DAE are also provided with an opportunity to pursue Ph.D. under the aegis of HBNI during their professional career, provided their academic performance is above a specified threshold

**WHAT ARE THE RECRUITMENT SCHEMES AND THE SELECTION PROCESS?**

**OCES-2019 (Scheme-I):** This is a one-year Training Program for Engineering Graduates or Science Postgraduates. The Training Program is conducted in the BARC Training Schools located at BARC, Mumbai/Indira Gandhi Centre for Atomic Research, Kalpakkam/Raja Ramanna Centre for Advanced Technology, Indore/Nuclear Fuel Complex, Hyderabad/Atomic Minerals Directorate for Exploration and Research, Hyderabad. Trainee Scientific Officers (TSOs) will be paid a stipend of ₹ 35,000 p.m and a one-time Book Allowance of ₹ 10,000 during the Training period.

**DGFS-2019 (Scheme-II):** Under this scheme, Engineering Graduates or Physics Postgraduates who have secured M.Tech./M.Chem.Engg. admission in 2019 in one of the Institutes listed below, in specified disciplines, will be offered a two-year DAE Graduate Fellowship. DGFS Fellows will be reimbursed their tuition fee during M.Tech./M.Chem. Engg. and additionally be paid a stipend of ₹ 35,000 p.m., a one-time Book Allowance of ₹ 10,000 and a Contingency grant of ₹ 25,000 towards M.Tech. project related expenses. DGFS Institutes: IIT - Bombay, Delhi, Guwahati, Kanpur, Kharagpur, Madras, Roorkee and BHU - Varanasi, NIT-Rourkela and Institute of Chemical Technology (ICT) - Mumbai. On successful completion of M.Tech./M.Chem.Engg., the DGFS Fellow would join DAE as a Scientific Officer, with additional increments (subject to conditions).

The selection procedure, which is common for both schemes, has two stages. An initial screening will be done either by a valid GATE-2018/GATE-2019 Score *in the applicable GATE discipline* or by performance in an Online Test to be conducted in March, 2019. As cut-off GATE scores for screening into Selection Interviews will be decided only after the Online Test has concluded, candidates are advised to maximize their chances of being screened into the Selection Interview stage by *availing both the screening avenues detailed above*. In the second stage, the screened in candidates will be called for Selection Interviews to be held in Mumbai and Hyderabad# during May-June 2019. Final Selection is solely on the basis of performance in Selection Interview, subject to medical fitness. #Only for Geology & Geophysics.

**WHAT ARE THE QUALIFYING DEGREES? HOW DO I APPLY?**

A minimum of 60% aggregate, as per the ordinances of the respective university, in the qualifying degree is an essential eligibility requirement. Science postgraduates are further required to have secured a minimum of 60% aggregate in B.Sc., to make them eligible. The eligible disciplines and degrees are as follows:

- For Engineering Disciplines:** B.E./B.Tech./B.Sc.-(Engg.)/5-year Integrated M.Tech. in Mechanical, Chemical, Metallurgical\*/Materials\*, Civil, Electrical\*, Electronics\*, Instrumentation\* Engineering, Computer Science/Computer Engineering, Nuclear Engineering/Nuclear Technology/ Nuclear Science & Technology.
- For Science Disciplines:** (a) M.Sc. in Physics, Applied Physics, Chemistry, Biosciences\*, Geophysics, Applied Geophysics (b) M.Sc./equivalent M.Tech. in Geology, Applied Geology, Applied Geochemistry, 5-Year Integrated M.Tech. in Geological Technology, Geophysical Technology (c) B.E./B.Tech. in Engineering Physics or B.E./B. Tech./B.Sc. (Tech.) in Food Technology

\*Applicants in these disciplines may refer the Information Brochure on the Online Application Portal for list of eligible degrees and disciplines. To apply online, applicants should visit the website <http://www.barconlineexam.in> and follow the instructions mentioned therein. **Website will also provide additional detailed information, including eligibility conditions, for the present recruitment.**

**DAE strives to have a workforce that reflects gender balance and women candidates are encouraged to apply.**

**Other Opportunities:** (i) A merit list created out of the Interview Marks during the present recruitment may also be used to offer admission to M.Sc.(Engg.)/Ph.D. or Diploma in Radiological Physics programs of BARC under the aegis of HBNI in the academic year 2019-20. M.Sc.(Engg.)/Ph.D. students selected through this process, will be paid a Fellowship/Stipend for the duration of their academic program. No permanent employment with DAE is assured to such Research Fellows. (ii) Candidates applying for OCES/DGFS-2019 may be considered for direct recruitment in Electronics Corporation of India Limited (ECIL). Such candidates will be governed by stipendiary norms of ECIL and terms and service conditions of ECIL on absorption.

**■ ONLINE APPLICATION PORTAL: <http://www.barconlineexam.in> ■**



**ONLINE APPLICATION PROCESS BEGINS: DECEMBER 26, 2018\*\***



**LAST DATE FOR SUBMITTING ONLINE APPLICATION: JANUARY 31, 2019\*\***



**LAST DATE FOR UPLOADING GATE-2019 SCORE: APRIL 1, 2019\*\***

**\*\*All Dates are tentative and applicants are advised to regularly visit the website [www.barconlineexam.in](http://www.barconlineexam.in) for updates**



# Negligence in governance will not be tolerated: Nath

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Chief Minister Kamal Nath has said that negligence and slackness in governance will not be tolerated. The government will have zero tolerance towards such an attitude. The public will sense that the government is for its service. Nath was addressing a joint meeting of the Council of Ministers and officials here today at the Mantralaya. Chief Secretary BP Singh was also present on the occasion.

Nath instructed that the work of the public should be done without any procrastination. Regular routine work should be carried out as the system and rules. Only those topics which are not in regular system should be brought before the Chief Minister. He said that the responsibility of the department will lie with the departmental minister. The responsibility of operating the administrative systems will not be of the Chief Minister's Secretariat but it will be of the concerned department.

Nath further said that the



responsibility of implementing all the points of the manifesto will be of the concerned department. The department should make a time-bound action plan for its implementation. He told the officials and ministers to look at the system with a new perspective. Change is necessary for innovation. Try to implement them. Changes in only rules and regulations will not be sufficient. Nath said that departmental meetings will also be held shortly after the meeting of the Council of Ministers.

With this all the ministers

will be familiarized with the functioning of departments. The Chief Minister said that the first meeting will be held with the Energy Department. This will be followed by a meeting of the Agriculture Department. Soon, the timetable of meetings of other departments will be issued.

Chief Secretary BP Singh informed that the format of action has been prepared by concerned departments in accordance with the manifesto. The guidance of the departmental minister will be obtained and presented. He assured the Chief Minister that the state has a team of qualified and hard working officials who are capable of completing their work within the stipulated time. At the outset of the meeting, all the officials introduced themselves. Principal Secretaries, Secretaries and Departmental Heads of all the departments were present at the meeting.

# Annual Sports Day at 2 branches of SPS



STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Sagar Public School, Gandhi Nagar and Rohit Nagar conducted their Annual Sports Day with great zeal and sportsmanship. Approx. More than 3000 students participated

from both campuses to mark the sports day in a series of events.

Sagar Public School, Gandhi Nagar witnessed its Fifteenth Annual Sports Day with Sanjay Singh, SP (PTS), MP Police Academy Bhopal as

its Chief Guest, whereas Sagar Public School, Rohit Nagar witnessed its Fifth Annual Sports Day with Latika Bhandari, International Taekwondo Player gracing the occasion as Chief Guest for the day. The guests and other dig-

nitaries were welcomed with saplings by School Principals Jaishree Kanwar and Madhubala Chauhan followed by unfurling of school flag and lighting of torch declaration of meet open by respective chief guests marking the commencement of sports day at respective campuses. Colorful balloons were released at both the campuses to represent expression of joy as students in their respective houses present an impressive and synchronized march past on the tunes played by the school band followed by pledge ceremony of sportsmanship. A series of track events for boys and girls included flat race, relay race, etc. created excitement and anxiety amongst the students to score for their houses. A synchronized display of yoga, PT Drill, Martial/ Judo Arts also marked the day spreading the message – 'Fit Hai, Hit Hai'.

A prize distribution ceremony also marked the day honoring awards and medals to winners by the respective chief guests. Himachal House at Sagar Public School, Gandhi Nagar and Aaruni House at Sagar Public School, Rohit Nagar bagged the trophy of the year 2018-19.

# Valuables worth ₹50K burgled in Kanchi Chola area

**Bhopal:** Miscreants targeted house of a trader at Kanchi Chola area and escaped with valuables worth ₹50000 on Tuesday; Chhola Mandir police have started investigation.

According to the police, the victim Golu Kuswaha along with his family had gone to Bina to attend last rituals of his elder brother who died on Sunday.

On Tuesday when the victim returned they found that the valuables were missing.

A complaint was made by the victim with the Chhola Mandir police and in the complaint the victim had claimed that on his return he found that the locks were broken and on entering the house was found ransacked.

Gold jewelry and other valuables worth ₹50000 were found missing claimed the victim.

In the burglary the almirah which was having the valuables was targeted and the other valuables were not disturbed.

Based on the complaint after the preliminary investigation the police have registered a case under sections 457 and 380 of the IPC and have started further investigation. **SR**

## INBRIEF

### 'TANSEN SAMMAN' FOR 2018 HELD

**Gwalior:** Noted sitar player Manju Mehta has been conferred with the 'Tansen Samman' for 2018 by the Madhya Pradesh government for her contribution in the field of music. Union minister Narendra Singh Tomar presented the award to Mehta, 74, at the inaugural ceremony of the Tansen Music Festival here on Tuesday. She was given a cash award of Rs 2 lakh and a memento. Mehta, a recipient of several honours, learnt music from legendary sitar maestro late Pandit Ravi Shankar, an official in Madhya Pradesh's culture department said. She runs a music school at Ahmedabad in Gujarat, the official added. Meanwhile, the 'Raja Mansingh Tomar Honour' was given to the Sankat Mochan Pratishthan in Varanasi for 2017 and the Natrang Pratishthan of New Delhi for 2018. The award is given to institutions for nurturing good music. The Tansen Music Festival is organised every year by the MP culture department in the memory of Tansen, one of the greatest artists in Indian history. It is being held in Gwalior since the past 94 years.

**CONG WILL REOPEN FARMERS' PROTEST CASE: MIN Bhopal:** Madhya Pradesh cabinet Minister Jitu Patwari on Wednesday said that the party will reopen the Mandsaur farmers' protest case of 2017, which claimed the lives of as many as six farmers. The Congress leader said, "We said before forming the government that people who fired at farmers shouldn't be spared. People were killed but there's no culprit, how is that possible? The investigation will be reopened." Last year, Mandsaur witnessed a massive protest as farmers demanded loan waivers and better prices for their produce. The agitation led to the loss of lives of several farmers, drawing criticism from political parties. The situation forced the district officials to impose Section 144, and restrict prominent personalities from visiting the violence-hit district. However, former Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan had earlier blamed Congress for the violence.



### ALUMNI MEET OF MEDI-CAPS UNIVERSITY

**Indore:** Medi-Caps University organizes alumni meet on Monday in University Premises. It is the first independent venture and 5th joint venture of such meet in its credit. More than 100 alumni took part enthusiastically in the meet and made the event a success. Alumni of Medi-Caps came together who are placed at various places in different cities and counties all over the world. The Professionals and Technocrats of various discipline shared their experiences and innovating ideas with one another. The supreme objective of that meet was to link alumni with their alma mater to derived new paradigms and create new paths for the betterment of society as well as their alma mater ie Medi-Caps University. Programme started at 11 am in University auditorium and all alumni recalled their past memories and golden days of college life in Medi-Caps campus. The Vice-Chancellor of Medi-Caps University Prof SK Somani expressed his best wishes to the gathering and appealed to be in touch with the organization and contribute to uplift the University with their valuable suggestions.

**19TH DEATH ANNIVERSARY OF EX-PREZ COMMEMORATED Bhopal:** The 19th death anniversary of the ninth President of India Shankar Dayal Sharma was commemorated at his samadhi 'Karmabhoomi' in New Delhi on Wednesday. A Sarvadharm prayer and bhajans were organised to pay tribute to the former President. A floral wreath was laid on the samadhi by the office of the President of India. The former Chief Minister of undivided Madhya Pradesh Motilal Vora, former Minister of State at Prime Ministers' Office Suresh Pachouri and other dignitaries paid their floral tributes. Cabinet Minister of Madhya Pradesh government PC Sharma received the dignitaries and paid tributes at the samadhi of Sharma. The family members of late Shankar Dayal Sharma including his wife Vimla Sharma and his son Ashutosh Dayal Sharma were present on the occasion. Special Commissioner Anurag Jain, Additional DG of Police Mukesh Jain and other senior officers of Madhya Pradesh Bhavan also paid homage.

**DRUG ABUSE FOR INTOXICATION UNDER SCANNER Bhopal:** Controller, Fertilizer and Drug Administration has become strict in the case of drug abuse for intoxication. The administration has launched a campaign for its prevention. The Drug Inspectors have started a surprise inspection of stores selling drugs that can be misused for intoxication from December 23 in the state. The inspection team conducted a sudden inspection of medical stores situated in Talajya, Jehangirabad, Karond and Lalghati in Bhopal recently. During the inspection, the licensee cancelled permission of storage, purchase and sale of medicines like Codeine, Alprazolam, Nitrovet with immediate effect of the medical stores who could not make the purchase and sale record available on the spot. Statutory action is being taken against these medical stores as per rules. At the same time, the team has also instructed to inspect bulk drug stores and send information of drugs which can be used for intoxication, to the Office of the Controller of Food and Drug Administration mandatorily.

# AGM of IEEE held at Rajiv Gandhi Technical University

PNS ■ GWALIOR

The Annual General Meeting of The Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers was held at the Rajiv Gandhi Technical University, Bhopal.

Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) is world's largest association of technical professionals from over 160 countries. Its main objectives are the educational and technical advancement of electrical and electronic engineering, telecommunications, computer engineering, and related disciplines. According to sources, IEEE is the largest organization engaged in the research of various topics related to engineering, telecommunications and such other disciplines.

During the AGM the Executive Committee of the Madhya Pradesh subsection of the IEEE was formed. Manish Dikshit of the MITS, Gwalior was elected as the Vice- Chairman of the Executive Committee.

While GS Tomar from Uttarakand was elected the Chairman, Jitendra Agarwal of Bhopal became the Secretary.

## According to sources, IEEE is the largest organisation engaged in the research of various topics related to engineering, telecommunications and such other disciplines

Speaking to the media persons at Gwalior Dikshit said that the association has over four lakh members in over 160 countries and has its head office in New York. He further said that the MP subsection of the International Association is mainly engaged in organizing conferences and seminars related to electrical and electronics. He also said that association is making all efforts to improve the research activities in Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh.

# Mutilated body found at nullah

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Sensation prevailed in Congress Nagar after dismembered body parts were found at nullah in the morning, Teelajamalpur police have started investigation.

The residents of the area spotted the body around 12 noon and informed police. After receiving the information police team rushed to the spot and started investigation.

SHO Teelajamalpur PL Chouhan said that the two dismembered legs were found covered with clothes.

The body parts were dumped or were dumped elsewhere in the nullah but surfaced at Congress Nagar could not be ascertained. The identity of deceased would be tough task which is under investigation. The post mortem report is awaited.

Only two dismembered

legs have been found at the spot while the other body parts were missing and police conducted searched in the area but nothing was found.

All the police stations have been informed to check for missing person which could

## Only two dismembered legs have been found at the spot while the other body parts were missing and police conducted searched in the area but nothing was found

help in revealing the identity of the deceased. The circumstantial evidence suggests that the deceased was killed and body parts were dismembered.

For the police it was hard to find that the deceased was a male or female and was FSL team informed that the deceased was female. Details which could help in the investigation would be revealed after post mortem report is received.

After the preliminary investigation body was sent for the post mortem. The police have registered a case under section 174 of the CrPC and started further investigation. Police said that case of murder would be registered against the unidentified person.



Senior officials of Assam State Mantralaya visited Madhya Pradesh State Assembly and met Principal Secretary AP Singh in Bhopal on Wednesday

Pioneer photo

# 40-year-old woman professor robbed of gold chain worth ₹32K

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

A 40-year-old woman professor of a private college was robbed of her gold chain worth ₹32,000 at Bajrangji Square under Kolar police station area late in the afternoon on Tuesday.

According to the police, the victim Aishwarya Mishra was on her way after work and was attacked by two bike borne miscreants and snatched the gold chain she was wearing.

A complaint was lodged with the police by the victim. In the complaint the victim claimed that while she was walking towards her house after alighting off

## A complaint was lodged with the police by the victim

the bus two bike borne miscreants appeared and attacked her and escaped with the gold chain she was wearing. She tried to oppose but failed and raised alarm but before she could be helped the miscreants managed to escape the spot.

In the sudden attack, the shocked victim was not able to notice the registration number of the bike as the miscreants

escaped the spot speedily.

Based on the complaint after the preliminary investigation the police have registered a case under section 392 of the IPC and have started further investigation.

The victim work as a professor with IES College and was returning after the work and when reached near Bajrangji square miscreants snatched the gold chain she was wearing which she had claimed was worth Rs 32000.

The broad day light robbery left the locals shocked and to further investigate police would investigate CCTV cameras installed in the nearby areas which would help in the nabbing the accused.

# Body of 45-yr-old man found near railway tracks

**Bhopal:** A 45-year-old man was found dead under suspicious near railway tracks near liquor shop behind Ashima Mall late in the night on Tuesday.

Misrod police received information of a man lying near railway track in the night. Police team reached the spot and started investigation.

According to the police, the man was hit by a speeding train and locals who spotted the youth informed the police. The deceased was identified as Santosh Naagar of Deepak Nagar.

He used to work as property dealer.

In the initial investigation police failed to find any detail and later in the morning when family members lodged missing complaint deceased was identified.

The circumstantial evidences suggest that the deceased committed suicide but to ascertain the reason of death is not possible at the moment.

# Man resumes wearing chappals after Cong win

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

A Congress worker who spent 15 years barefooted braving heat, summer and wounds, here on Wednesday wore shoes in the presence of Chief Minister Kamal Nath and former Chief Minister Digvijay Singh.

The Congress worker Durgalal Kirar had pledged that he would not wear shoes or chappal unless the Congress returns to power in Madhya Pradesh.

Kirar of Rajgarh broke his pledge by putting on shoes in the presence of Chief Minister Kamal Nath and ex-CM Digvijay Singh at PCC office.

Kirar, a staunch supporter of former CM Digvijay Singh had taken an oath of not putting on footwear unless the Congress returned to power in 2003 when

the BJP had dethroned Singh with a massive win.

Kirar declined to backtrack as his wait stretched to 15 long years and he roamed around barefooted in the last decade and half. "At times I felt heat or cold and sometime thrones injured my feet but I never broke my pledge," a relieved looking Kirar told the media. He claimed his pledge is not fulfilled as the Congress has returned to power in MP. "I was hopeful, the Congress returns to power some day."

The middle-aged worker was delighted that CM Kamal Nath himself offered his shoes in the presence of former Chief Minister Digvijay Singh. Nath on the occasion congratulated Kirar and workers like him on the formation of Congress government in MP.


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To,  
**1. Mr. Madhukar S Kamble,**  
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Nos.1 of you availed housing loan from our branch against the security of mortgage of the following asset/s belonging to No.1 of you. An amount of **Rs. 2417189/-** is due from you to Can Fin Homes Ltd. as on **30.11.2018** together with future interest at the contracted rate.  
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H.N.46,Satkashi Garden,Khajuri Kalan, BDA Road, Bhopal Boundaries: East: Road, West: Other property, North: Plot no.45, South: Road  
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**Date: 22.12.2018**  
**Place: Bhopal**

**Authorised Officer**  
**Can Fin Homes Ltd.**



# Meghalaya miners' kin await miracle as survival hopes fade

PNS ■ NEW DELHI, SHILLONG

As the war of words between the BJP and the Congress over trapped young miners in Meghalaya coal mine rages on, family members of the trapped workers are hoping for miracles for their safe return.

Since December 13, about fifteen people have been trapped in a flooded coal mine in Meghalaya. Those missing are believed to be teenage boys used by illegal mining groups to enter "rat hole" mines with small openings. Digging at the mine was banned four years ago, but illegal and unsafe activity by private landowners and the local community is rife.

In the meantime, contesting Congress president Rahul Gandhi's jibe on Prime Minister Narendra Modi over doing little to release trapped miners, the ruling NPP-BJP Government in Meghalaya on Wednesday said the State Government is making efforts to rescue the miners.

In a sharp attack against

Modi, the Congress chief said while trapped miners struggled for air, Modi strutted on Assam's Bogibee Bridge. The PM inaugurated the bridge on Brahmaputra river on Tuesday.

Union Minister Kiren Rijiju asked Rahul not to do politics over the "tragedy". He blamed the previous Congress Government in Meghalaya for the "unsafe illegal mining activities" in the State.

"No politics on tragedy please @RahulGandhi ji. We have been helping the State Govt with all possible means. But the unsafe illegal mining activities were due to the negligence of the previous Congress govt (sic)," Rijiju tweeted.

Meghalaya Chief Minister Conrad K Sangma, without mentioning Rahul's comment, said there is no inaction and that the administration and the NDRF had really worked hard to trace the miners, but, unfortunately, the operation did not yield any result.

So far, 12 lakh litres of



water has been pumped out of the mine, but it seems the whole river has gushed into the pit. Getting high-powered

pumps and transporting them to the site of the mishap is not an easy task, he told a private news.

On if the rescue operation could be called off under such circumstances, Sangma said there is no question of abort-

ing the rescue work.

The Chief Minister also hoped that the high-powered pumps would be available soon.

Sangma-led NPP's ally in the State, the BJP, also said the Meghalaya Government is doing its best under the Chief Minister's leadership to bring the victims out of the rat-hole mine in East Jaintia Hills district.

"The Government has done and is doing its best under Sangma. We have full faith in him. He has taken up the matter with the central Government to send bigger pumps," BJP Minister A L Hek told PTI.

The State Government tried its best but water at the mine has not receded, he said.

The Chief Minister has written to Coal India requesting for the high-powered pumps, the BJP leader said.

East Jaintia Hills Deputy Commissioner F M Doph said district authorities have taken up the matter with the State

Government and is awaiting a response. The high-powered pumps, as advised by ace mining mishap expert Jaswant Singh Gill, are not available in the entire North East region, as far as we are aware, Doph told PTI. Doph, who ordered temporary suspension of rescue operation last Saturday, said until the bigger pumps are made available, the operations cannot resume.

Congress spokesperson H M Shangpliang told PTI that with Rahul's intervention, "we hope the Centre will direct the State Government to change its insensitive attitude and do what is necessary to help save lives". He said a special team of the Congress Legislature Party (CLP) will soon visit the site at Lumthari village and will try and meet the affected families.

However, a senior member of the ruling National Peoples Party (NPP) criticised the Congress, saying the Opposition party was creating a "fuss" over the entire December 13 episode.

"The Congress has forgotten what happened in 2012 when it abandoned the 14 miners who were trapped when a mine collapsed in South Garo Hills. Then the UPA and the Congress were in power. What have they done?" the NPP leader said, requesting anonymity.

"The Chief Minister is taking special interest in this case and is trying to retrieve the miners dead or alive," he said.

In the 2012 case, none of the victims could be retrieved out of the mine and "I do not remember compensation was paid to any of the affected families by the then Congress Government," the NPP leader said.

National Disaster Response Force workers joined local authorities in the rescue effort. In 2016, six illegal miners died when a section of a closed mine collapsed in Burdwan district in West Bengal. The accident occurred when about 200 illegal miners were extracting coal from the mine.

## Golfer Randhawa taken in custody for poaching in Dudhwa Reserve

PTI ■ BAHRAICH (UP)

Ace golfer Jyoti Randhawa was arrested on Wednesday on charges of poaching in Dudhwa Tiger Reserve's protected area in Uttar Pradesh and remanded in 14-day judicial custody by a court, an officer said.

Randhawa (46) was hunting in the forest area near the Motipur range along with his associate Mahesh Virajdar and was in possession of a loaded .22 bore rifle when both of them were arrested, field director of Dudhwa Tiger Reserve Ramesh Pandey alleged.

A deer hide, equipment used for hunting, the telescope-mounted .22 bore rifle, 80 live cartridges and three empty shells and some cash were seized from the SUV in which the two were travelling, he said. The officer said Randhawa was drunk.

Police slapped serious charges under the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972, and the

Indian Forest Act, 1927 against the two. They were produced before magistrate who denied them bail and remanded them in judicial custody for 14 days.

Randhawa, ranked among the top 100 of the Official World Golf Ranking several times between 2004 and 2009, has a farm house in Dudhwa-Katarniaghat forest area and was said to be staying there for the past few days. Pandey said the luxury SUV vehicle with registration number HR-26 DN-4299 was also seized from the golfer whose full name is Jyotinder Singh Randhawa. Virajdar has served the Indian Navy as a Captain, a post equivalent to Colonel in the Indian Army and Group Captain in the IAF. He was court martialled four years ago on charges of financial irregularities. Randhawa, who turned professional in 1994, has been a well-known name in Indian golf. He won 16 professional titles in all, eight of them on the Asian Tour. He also has a Japan Tour title to his credit and topped the Asian Tour

Order of Merit in 2002.

He is a three-time winner at the prestigious Indian Open. But his form had been on the wane and the last time he won a title was back in 2009 -- the Thailand Open. Randhawa won seven titles on the Professional Gold Tour of India (PGTI), making him a celebrated name in the domestic circuit.

The Delhi-based golfer was married to actress Chitrangada Singh for 13 years before they divorced in 2014. They have a son, Zorawar, from the marriage.

The Katarniaghat Wildlife Sanctuary, which is about 200 km from state capital Lucknow, is a part of the Dudhwa Tiger Reserve.

It covers an area of 400.6 sq km in Terai belt of Bahraich district.

In 1987, it was brought under the purview of the 'Project Tiger'. It provides strategic connectivity between tiger habitats of Dudhwa and Kishanpur in India and the Bardia National Park in Nepal.

## Maya, Akhilesh give KCR...

From Page 1

KCR had met his Odisha counterpart Naveen Patnaik on Sunday and West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Monday. In his first meeting with the Prime Minister after taking over as Chief Minister for the second time last week, KCR discussed a variety of issues with Modi, including release of funds for 10 backward districts, setting up of a separate high court for Telangana, Kendriya Vidyalayas in new district and an IIIT in Karimnagar district.

## BJP will explore all options if SC delays...

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"I want to make an appeal, not as a Law Minister but as a citizen. A lot of evidence is available and this is the best part. People come to me and ask me when adultery case can be heard in just six months, the court can resolve the Sabarimala issue in 6 months, urban Maoist case can be heard in two months... our Ram Lalla dispute is pending for the last 70 years and in the SC, the appeal is pending for the last 10 years, why there is no hearing?" he said. On another political question, Madhav accepted that the Congress president scored some political victories but refused to comment on the merit of his leadership.

"Rahul Gandhi is leader of Congress. It's for them to decide if his leadership is beneficial to

them or not. How can we comment on his leadership for Congress? He tried his electoral mettle in recent polls and brought some victories to Congress, there's no doubt about it," said the BJP leader.

Madhav further sought to qualify his praise for Rahul by not seeing him as prime ministerial candidate from the Opposition side. "If Rahul Gandhi could've been option for PM candidate because of recent victories, then there would've been no need for mahagathabandhan. Even today, no one, except Stalin, is ready to confirm name of the leader of mahagathabandhan. There are six people in queue to become PM," he went on to say to suggest that Opposition is still in disarray in so far as the choice of PM candidate is concerned.

## 'Don't disturb elephants during their passage'

**Athagarh:** A workshop on elephant protection and conservation was held here on Wednesday by the Athagarh Forest Division in collaboration with the Save Elephants Foundation Trust.

DFO Sasmita Lenka while chaired it, former PCCF and Director of Indira Gandhi National Forest Academy Vinod Kumar attended as chief guest. Others like ACF Rajendra Kumar Das, Honorary Wildlife Wardens Ashok Pattnaik and Bijaya Das joined the dais. Expressing concern, Vinod Kumar attributed the rising man-elephant tussle to destruction of fruit bearing plants in the jungle, drinking water sources for wild animals and cultivation near the jungle by encroaching upon the forest land.

PNS

## Terror bids foiled in nick...

From Page 1

The seized items include 25 kg of explosive materials like Potassium Nitrate, Ammonium Nitrate, Sulphur, Sugar material paste, 12 pistols, 150 rounds of live ammunition, one country-made rocket launcher, 112 alarm clocks, mobile phone circuits, batteries, 51 pipes, remote control car triggering switch, wireless digital doorbell for remote switch, steel containers, electric wires, 91 mobile phones, 134 SIM cards, three laptops, knife, sword, ISIS-related literature besides the cash.

The chief conspirator Suhail, 29, was working as Mufti in a madrasa at Hakim Mahtab Uddin Hashmi Road, Amroha, UP. He was presently staying at Jaffrabad in the national Capital and had tasked other team members to procure arms, explosives and other accessories to prepare IEDs and pipe-bombs. He had also given a demonstration on fab-

rication of the IEDs, Mittal said.

The other arrested accused Anas Yunus, 24, is a resident of Jaffrabad, Delhi and is pursuing Civil Engineering course at a private University in Noida. The third year engineering student was instrumental in procuring electrical items, alarm clocks and batteries in furtherance of the terror conspiracy. Zubair Malik, 20, of Jaffrabad, Delhi, is studying in third year student of BA at a university in Delhi.

The fourth accused Rashid Zafar Raq alias Zafar, 23, is also a resident of Jaffrabad and he is into garments business. The fourth accused Saeed alias Sayeed, 28, is a resident of Saidapur Imma, Amroha and has a welding shop there.

Other accused Raees Ahmad of Saidapur Imma, Amroha is also an owner of welding shop there.

The two brothers Saeed and Raees had procured huge quantity of explosive material/gun powder (approximately 25 kg) for preparing IEDs and pipe bombs and were instrumental in fabricating a

rocket launcher to carry out terrorist attacks, the NIA said.

Zaid and Zubair, both brother, were part of the terror conspiracy and were instrumental in procuring batteries, connectors, SIM cards on fake documents and mobilising funds for buying bomb-making materials.

Saqib Iftekar, 26, of Simbhaoli, Hapur, Uttar Pradesh was working as Imam in Jama Masjid, Baksar, Uttar Pradesh. He helped the mastermind Suhail in procuring weapons. Mohammad Irshad of Mohalla Qazi Zada, Amroha is an auto-rickshaw driver and was helping Suhail in arranging a hide-out for keeping the material for making IEDs and bombs. Mohammad Azam, 35, is a resident of Chauhan Bajar, Gashi Mendu, Delhi. He runs a medical shop in Seelampur, Shahdara and helped the mastermind in arranging weapons.

Apart from these accused, some other suspects are being examined and more arrests may be subsequently, Mittal said.

The arrested accused would be produced before the

NIA Special Court on Thursday and the agency is likely to seek police remand to unearth the larger terror conspiracy.

Jaish-e-Mohammad chief Maulana Masood Azhar had on December 4 said that he was keeping a watch on the political developments related to Ayodhya and will strike back when needed. The busting of the module could also be linked to Al Qaeda affiliate JeM. JeM is a franchise of Al Qaeda and Al Qaeda in Indian subcontinent is operating directly. Ansar Ghazwatul Hind is also a franchise of Al Qaeda and its operations are limited to Jammu & Kashmir.

The busting of the module also hints at insufficiency of the measures taken by the UP police and Delhi Police against crime and criminals as the inimical forces not only radicalized themselves but were on an advanced level of planning for the series of attacks in Delhi and North India, sources in the security agencies said adding counter radicalisation measures have also not been up to the mark.

## Modi betrayed on Ram temple: Togadia

Says his pro-Hindu party will contest polls

RAJ KUMAR SHARMA ■ JHARSUGUDA

Former Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP) leader Pravin Togadia was in Jharsuguda on Tuesday and he addressed a gathering of more than 1,500 supporters and activists from Bajrang Dal, Marwari Mahila and Marwari Yuva Manch.

Togadia announced that after leaving the VHP he has formed a new Hindutva outfit called Antarrashtriya Hindu Parishad (AHP).

Attacking Prime Minister Narendra Modi's four and a half years in office, Togadia said the Modi Government has failed on both Hindutva and development front.

Hinting at the BJP for its failure to build a Ram temple in Ayodhya, Togadia said those people who came to power on the name of Ram temple have



managed to make a party office worth over Rs 500 crore for themselves in Delhi while Lord Ram continues to be forced to live under a tent below the open sky in his own homeland. Togadia alleged that PM Modi has betrayed Dharam Sansads by taking their support for his election and then leaving the matter of Ram temple in the hands of reluctant

Supreme Court judges.

Setting the agenda for 2019, Togadia said, "We want a Government of the Hindus. Our slogan for the 2019 general election is 'Ab ki baar Hinduon ki sarkaar'. In case such a Government is formed, it will construct the Ram temple at Ayodhya and solve unemployment issues, plight of farmers, price rise issue and ensure all-

round development."

He said that within a month, he would announce a new political party which will contest on all parliamentary constituencies to fight on a platform of pro-Hindu cause and look to solve the nation's long-standing problems.

Replying to the question by local mediapersons about his tie-up with Patidar leader Hardik Patel and Gujarat Congress leader Arjun Modwadia, Togadia said he does not have any political link with them. He clarified that he is open to engage with anyone from across the political spectrum on the issues that matter. He called upon Hindus to join hands together. When asked how he would fund the party he was going to form, Togadia said that the party would be funded by his supporters. National general secretary of Rashtriya Bajrang Dal Manoj Kumar Sahoo and working president of AHP Arun Kumar Upadhyaya were present.

## Odisha shelter homes shame: NHRC seeks ATR

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has sought an action-taken report (ATR) from the Chief Secretary of Odisha over the illegal shelter homes, within four weeks.

Acting on a petition filed by Supreme Court lawyer and rights activist Radhakanta Tripathy, the apex human rights panel passed the order.

For a couple of years, the inmates of shelter home, the Good News India Dream Centre, at Beltikiri in Dhenkanal district subjected its inmates to sexual abuse, harassment and rights violation. The Dhenkanal police had no clue about what was happening there despite the fact that it was running without registration since 2015. The illegal shelter home which was operating in blatant violation of the Juvenile Justice Act, Tripathy said in his

petition.

The District Child Protection Unit (DCPU) had issued closure notice to the shelter home in 2015 for not complying with the guidelines of the Juvenile Justice Act and had even repatriated the inmates to their respective districts. However, the shelter home continued its illegal operations right under the nose of the district administration.

Had the officials concerned cared to carry out inspections at regular intervals, the abuse would not have taken place, Tripathy said.

In Rayagada, the NGO was running a shelter home near Siriguda area where 76 girls were lodged. It has been operating for the last nine years. Rayagada has at least 80 shelter homes or hostels and a majority of them are running without complying the norms and parameters of JJ Act, RTE Act

and other acts applicable to the welfare of the minor children, the petitioner said.

Women and Child Development Minister Prafulla Samal informed that the institution was unregistered and running illegally. Tripathy contended that if the Minister was aware of the developments, then why he could not take action against the erring institution for years.

According to Department of Women and Child Development, there are 300 recognised child care institutions in the State. Good News India Dream Centre has registered child care shelter homes in Mayurbhanj, Kalahandi, Deogarh and Baleswar districts. However, the authorities had denied permission to the organisation for running the institute in 2015. The main registration of the centre is believed to be in West Bengal.

## BJD Foundation Day celebrated by Paradip trade union



PNS ■ PARADIP

Chief Minister.

The 21st foundation day of the Biju Janata Dal (BJD) was celebrated by the Eastern India Oil Refinery Workers' Union on Wednesday at its Zero Point office premises. Union president Santosh Kumar Pattnaik presided over the meeting.

Pattnaik said that late Bijubabu is a rare outstanding political leader of India, after whom a political party has been named, and his son, the president of the party, has been ruling Odisha since last 19 long years as its popular

Union working president Dilip Kumar Behera, members Netrananda Samal and Mihir Kanta Sahoo, advocate Debabrata Sahoo, journalist Prasanta Kumar Rout also spoke on the occasion.

Behera, advocate Sahoo, journalist Rout said how popular the BJD has become since all these years.

Early in the morning, the statues of Bijubabu at Rahama, Kujang and Paradip were garlanded. Sweets and fruits were distributed to the patients of the Kugang and Paradip Government hospitals.

## Centre delaying clearances to OMC mines in Odisha

State's revenue hit

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

The State Government is worried over inordinate delay in grant of forest and environmental and exploration clearances for some of the major mines of the Odisha Mining Corporation (OMC).

The OMC is regularly applying for forest and environmental clearances for its iron ore and chromite mines. But there is inordinate delay in receiving such clearances from the Union Government. Take for example though the OMC has requested the Union Government for environmental clearances for its South Kaliapani chromite mines since 2015; however, the Gold Category State PSU is yet to receive such clearance from the Government of India.

The OMC has been growing steadily over these years and today it stands as the largest State

PSU in the mining sector of the country. In fact, it recorded the highest ever turnover of Rs 2,850 crore in Financial Year 2017-18.

The revenue generated from operation of mines of OMC is one of the potential sources for the State exchequer. However obtaining of forest and environmental clearance from the Government of India has turned to be a Herculean Task as for years together it is pending with the Centre, pointed out a senior official. Due to such inordinate delays, productions from these mines are halted and harming the interest of the State, admit officials. Prolonged delay in obtaining amendment of environmental clearance pertaining to South Kaliapani mines is eroding its production target.

The OMC submitted the proposal on May 5, 2015 for amendment of EC due to change in tailing pond location within the mining lease area. The proposal was approved by the

Environment Appraisal Committee (EAC) after due scrutiny on July 21, 2016.

Later, a few discrepancies were pointed out by the Union Government and those were complied with by the OMC on May 1, 2017.

The compliance report to the observations of Ministry of Environment and Forests and Climate Change (MoEFCC) has also been forwarded by the Regional Office of the MoEFCC, Bhubaneswar, to the Ministry since September 20, 2017. The OMC later submitted a time bound action plan to the MoEFCC for compliance to EC conditions on November 3, 2017.

After lapse of another year, the OMC is yet to get EC for the major chromite mines, which is the cause of worry for the State Government. Similarly, for the Stage II forest clearance of Kumitar and Tiringpahar iron ore mines, the OMC has applied in time.

# RAHUL'S JIBE AT MODI ‘Miners struggling for air, PM for cameras’

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

In a sharp attack against Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Congress chief Rahul Gandhi on Wednesday said 15 labourers trapped in a coal mine in Meghalaya since December 13 struggled for air while he strutted about on Assam's Bogibeel Bridge posing for cameras.

Asking Modi to “please save the miners”, Rahul alleged the Government was not organising high-pressure pumps needed for rescue operations. The Congress president's attack came a day after Prime Minister inaugurated the country's longest rail-cum-road bridge over the Brahmaputra river at Bogibeel near Dibrugarh in Meghalaya's neighbouring State Assam.

Rahul appealed to the Prime Minister to save the miners, who were trapped in the coal mine a fortnight ago. Search operations have been suspended by the Meghalaya Government for want of high-powered pumps to flush out water from the pit. “15 miners have been struggling for air in a flooded coal mine for two weeks. Meanwhile, PM struts about on Bogibeel Bridge posing for cameras. His Government refuses to organise high pressure pumps for the rescue. PM please save the miners,” Rahul tweeted.

His remarks come amid

**15 miners have been struggling for air in a flooded coal mine for two weeks. Meanwhile, PM struts about on Bogibeel Bridge posing for cameras. His Government refuses to organise high pressure pumps for the rescue. PM please save the miners. RAHUL GANDHI TWEETED**



reports that the operation to rescue the 15 miners is hampered by lack of equipment. The miners were trapped after water from the nearby Lytein river suddenly gushed into the pit.

A senior Meghalaya home department official has said the police force in East Jaintia Hills district, where the mine is located, do not have adequate personnel to deal with the problem. “It is very sad. 14 days have passed since the Meghalaya miners have been trapped while State and Central

Governments are busy exchanging letters for rescue equipments. Why this lackadaisical approach?” senior Congress leader Ahmed Patel tweeted.

Earlier, Congress' chief spokesperson Randeep Surjewala said more than 13 days on, as 15 miners are stuck at the difficult terrain in Jaintia Hills, Meghalaya, and water extraction should be swiftly expedited.

## Govt making all efforts to rescue trapped miners: Meghalaya CM

**New Delhi:** Meghalaya Chief Minister Conrad K Sangma, without mentioning Rahul's comment, said there is no inaction and that the administration, made all efforts to rescue miners and the NDRF had really worked hard to trace them. But, unfortunately, the operation did not yield any result. So far, 12 lakh litres of water has been pumped out of the mine, but it seems the whole river has gushed into the pit. Getting high-powered pumps and transporting them to the site of the mishap is not an easy task, he told a private news, reported *PTI* from Shillong. **PNS**

## IN SHORT

### PREZ ISSUES ORDER FOR SEPARATE HC IN ANDHRA

**New Delhi:** President Ram Nath Kovind on Wednesday issued orders for the creation of a separate high court for Andhra Pradesh which will start functioning from January 1, 2019 from Amravati. After the creation of Telangana, the high court of the two states was functioning from Hyderabad. With the creation of the new high court, the country will have 25 high courts.

### 'ENSURE REPRESENTATION OF SC, ST IN JUDICIARY'

**New Delhi:** BJP MP Udit Raj on Wednesday demanded the setting up of the All India Judicial Service to ensure adequate representation of the Scheduled Castes (SC) and Scheduled Tribes (ST) in the judiciary. Raj, who belongs to the Dalit community, said he supported Union Law Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad's proposal advocating reservation for SCs and STs in the judiciary, through the judicial service to help people from the deprived sections.

# Central Govt institutes annual awards to recognise excellent work in disaster management

**New Delhi:** The Centre has instituted annual awards to recognise the excellent work done by individuals and institutions in the country in the field of disaster management. Three eligible institutions and individuals will be given the 'Subhash Chandra Bose Aapda Prabandhan Puraskaar' every year with cash rewards ranging from ₹5 lakh to ₹51 lakh, a statement issued by the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) said.

If the awardee is an institution, it will be given a certificate and a cash prize of ₹51 lakh and the prize money will be utilised for disaster management-related activities only. If the awardee is an individual, the person

shall receive a certificate and a cash prize of ₹5 lakh, it said. An application by an institution does not debar any individual from that institution to apply for the award in his individual capacity. The statement said there is a need to recognise the efforts of individuals and organisations who have been working assiduously to alleviate the human suffering caused by disasters. Only Indian nationals and Indian institutions can apply for the award.

The last date for filing of application for the year 2018 shall be January 7, 2019, and the award will be announced on January 23, 2019, on the birth anniversary of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose. **PNS**

# Doctors seek medical manifesto for '19 polls

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

As the country gears up for the Lok Sabha polls next year, a group of well-known doctors on Wednesday released the “Ethical Doctors” manifesto urging political parties to make ‘health for all’ their poll agenda, and regulate and reform the private sector on a priority basis to cut down the catastrophic health expenditure that is taking a toll on the common man.

“It's time that the Government brings ‘healthcare for all’ on top of its agenda given that increasing out of pocket expenditure on the health is pushing people below the poverty level. The commitment to bring in a system of universal healthcare by strengthening and expanding the public health system will ensure a rationale, humane health care system in India,” said Dr Arun Mitra, ENT Surgeon and member of the Alliance of Doctors for Ethical



Healthcare (ADEH).

Gurinder Grewal, a physician in Ludhiana and former president of the Punjab Medical Council, backed the proposal put forward by the Niti Ayog to cap the trade margins to 30 per cent for all medical devices. Last year, he had sent to the PMO the Government pharmaceutical industry documents to show how maximum retail prices of

medicines are fixed to help hospitals earn profits on each tablet or injection sold.

“We want strict action against such unethical practices and other forms of corruption in healthcare and medical education. We want the common man to have faith and trust in the medical profession which at present is depleting,” Grewal said while taking to reporters here.

**We want strict action against such unethical practices and other forms of corruption in healthcare and medical education. We want the common man to have faith and trust in the medical profession which at present is depleting, says Gurinder Grewal, a physician in Ludhiana and former president of the Punjab Medical Council**

The doctors also expressed their displeasure at the provisions enabled in the recently launched National Health Protection System as well as the programme for the provision of Comprehensive Primary Health Care alleging that they were based on “faulty foundation.”

“Apart from low budgetary provision, there is every possibility that the majority of the

Government's expenditure on healthcare will be diverted to the high-end interventional procedures only available in medium and big hospitals.

“In the absence of robust regulatory mechanism and mandatory standard treatment guidelines, we fear that the schemes will be misused by the corporate and big private hospitals,” said Dr Samiran Nundy, Delhi-based surgical gastroenterologist.

The ADEH members have been actively voicing their concerns about malpractices in the medical profession, education, corporatisation of healthcare and other systemic issues afflicting the medical sector at the national level.

“We felt the need to release this manifesto since affordable and quality healthcare, despite being a fundamental right, never gets the attention from political parties it deserves,” said Arun Gadre, a Pune-based gynecologist.

# PM to visit Himachal to mark BJP Govt's one year today

PNS/AGENCIES ■ NEW DELHI/SHIMLA

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will attend an event in Dharamshala on Thursday to mark one year of the BJP Government in Himachal Pradesh. He will release a document highlighting achievements of the State Government on the occasion, said PMO in a statement.

The Prime Minister will reach Dharamshala at around 11.30 am and address a public rally. He will also interact with the beneficiaries of various government schemes, the statement said. Himachal Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur, Union Health Minister JP Nadda, BJP State in charge Mangal Pandey and BJP State president Satpal Singh reached Dharamshala on Wednesday and took stock of the preparations at the rally site.

Thakur expressed his gratitude towards the people of the state for their cooperation in an “all-round and equitable development” of the state. He also thanked Modi for providing financial assistance of crores of

rupees to the state for various development works. He said one year's tenure of his government has been “very successful and full of achievements”.

In a statement, the Chief minister said that his government has made best efforts to benefit every section of the society by launching various new welfare schemes like Himachal Grihini Suidhha Yojana, Mukhya Mantri Savavlamban Yojana and Mukhya Mantri Chikitsa Kosh. “The Jan Manch programme initiated by the government has proved a boon for the common man in redressing their complaints and demands immediately at their door-steps.

“Similarly, the decision of the state government to reduce age limit for getting old-age pension beyond any income limit from 80 to 70 years has benefitted more than one lakh people in the state,” Thakur said.

He said he has covered 63 assembly constituencies of the state in this period, which has helped him to interact directly with the masses.

# HRD Ministry clears backlog of scholarships

## Special grant of ₹250 crore also sanctioned

PNS ■ NEW DELHI



He further named various scholarship schemes which are running successfully under MHRD, AICTE and UGC. National Means-Cum Merit Scholarship Scheme, Central Sector Scheme of Scholarship for College and University Students and Special Scholarship Scheme for Jammu and Kashmir under MHRD, Scholarship for Girls (PRAGATI), Scholarship for Differently abled Students under AICTE and “ISHAN UDAY” Special Scholarship Scheme for North Eastern Region under UGC, JRF etc are some of the noteworthy scholarship schemes of HRD Ministry, he said.

The Union Minister also informed that Study in India programme has taken off well and nearly 2,000 students have got admission in selected 100 top Indian institutions for the

first season. He said that we are expecting nearly 20,000 foreign students from 30 Asian, African, Middle East and Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) countries under this programme in next 3 years.

The Minister also shared details about ambitious ‘Study in India’ programme being conducted by the Centre. He termed it to be an innovative initiative to attract students from 30 partner countries in South Asia, South-East Asia, Middle East and Africa to come and experience the very best of academic learning at the top institutions in India. He said the target about Study in India programme is to get about 20,000 students during the next three academic years at the about 100 partners institutes which includes the IITs, IIMs and other prestigious academic and technical institutes.

“The programme includes setting-up of a large portal, call centre, social media campaign, branding, event management and setting up of a facilitation centre to attract more and more foreign students towards Indian Institutions,” said the HRD Minister.

# Coast Guard to check uninhabited areas along K'taka, Goa coast to find trawler

**New Delhi:** With the search operation launched by the Coast Guard to trace the missing trawler ‘Suvarna Tribhuj’ off Karnataka and Goa waters yielding little success, the maritime agency is now looking at uninhabited areas along the coasts of these two States, a senior official said.

The Coast Guard has also approached the Maharashtra Government to check whether the ship had ventured in its waters.

The ship, carrying seven crew members, belonged to one Nityanand Kotian. The last contact established with the ship was on December 16, the official said. The Coast Guard had launched an operation to trace the fishing trawler on December 22 with its multiple ships and aircraft.

“We have not been able to trace the ship despite the search and rescue efforts over the last few days. The ship owner had given a location off the Goa

coast, but there was no trace of any ship at that location,” the official said.

He said there were chances of engine failure of the trawler and in such cases, they take time to reach the coast.

“We are now looking at uninhabited areas along the Karnataka and Goa coasts. We are also in touch with the Maharashtra fisheries department to check whether the trawler had ventured into their area,” the official added. **PTI**

## ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT

### CHANDIGARH ADMINISTRATION U.T., CHANDIGARH

**E-TENDER NOTICE**

The Executive Engineer C.P. Division No.6, U.T. Chandigarh Re-invites online the percentage rate tenders on behalf of the President of India from eligible reputed contractors/agencies fulfilling the eligibility criteria mentioned below which shall be uploaded and received on <http://etenders.chd.nic.in/nicgep>.

Sr. No.	Name of Work	Estimated Tender Amount	Earnest Money	Time Limit	Last date of submission of Bid	Date of Opening of Bid
1	Restoration, Preservation, Conservation and Management of Capital Complex (World Heritage), Chandigarh: Punjab & Haryana High Court (Composite Work).	(a) Civil Component: Rs. 04,02,90,036/- (b) PM Services : Rs. 30,85,300/- (c) Electrical Installation: Rs. 1,06,86,336/- Total: 5,43,64,971/-	Rs. 10,87,300/-	09 Months	31-12-2018 11:00 AM	31-12-2018 12:00 PM

DA/-

Executive Engineer,  
C.P. Division No.6,  
2nd Floor, Additional Deluxe Building,  
Sector 9-D, U.T. Chandigarh, Ph. No. 0172-2740064  
E-mail: [xencp6@gmail.com](mailto:xencp6@gmail.com)

Memo No. 9732-34 Dt. 26-12-2018

## New Okhla Industrial Development Authority

**Administrative Building, Sector-6, Noida - 201301 (U.P.)**  
Website : [www.noidaauthorityonline.com](http://www.noidaauthorityonline.com)

### E-TENDER NOTICE

E-Tenders are invited from firms/contractors registered with UPLC Lucknow for the following jobs against which bids can be uploaded and same shall be opened/downloaded as per schedule mentioned. The details and conditions of all tenders are available on Noida Authority's official website: [www.noidaauthorityonline.com](http://www.noidaauthorityonline.com) & <http://etender.up.nic.in> Please ensure to see these website for any changes/amendments & corrigendum etc.

A) 91/DGM(Jal)/AO/SM-Jal-III/ET/18-19, M/o W/s (Annual R/o Bowl assy and tubeshaft for Network Sector-39, 40, 41 & 45), Noida. Cost. Rs. 43.28 Lacs

(2) 113/DGM(Jal)/AO/SM-Jal-III/ET/18-19, M/o W/s Labour/Operation (Operation of pumping plant, D.G. Set at WWC & Tube wells for Network Sector-80 UGR & Tube Wells) Noida. Cost Rs. 26.11 Lacs

(3) 115/DGM(Jal)/AO/SM-Jal-III/ET/18-19, M/o W/s (P/L D.I. Water line from UGR-45 to Near Kashiram Awasya Yozna), Noida. (Balance Work) Cost. Rs. 29.69 Lacs

The above tenders can be uploaded by date 09.01.2019 upto 5.00 PM. Pre-qualification shall be opened/downloaded on date 10.01.2019 at 11.00 AM

B) (1) 95/DGM(Jal)/AO/SM-Jal-III/ET/18-19, Emergency Work (Strengthening of Sewerage (Cleaning of Sewer Manholes & Sewer line by super sucker Machine in Various Sewerage Networks)), Noida. Cost Rs. 42.58 Lacs

(2) 80/DGM(Jal)/AO/SM-Jal-III/ET/18-19, M/o Sewerage (Cleaning of Sewer Manholes & Sewer line by super sucker Machine in Sector-50 & 51) Noida. Cost Rs. 38.07 Lacs

(3) 84/DGM(Jal)/AO/SM-Jal-III/ET/18-19, Emergency Annual Work (Strengthening of Sewerage (P/L & Repairing of Damaged Sewer lines at different places in Sector-46, 47, 48, 80, 81, 84, 85 & Phase-II)) Noida Cost. Rs. 37.28 Lacs

(4) 468/CE(Jal)/AO/SM-Jal-III/ET/17-18, Strengthening of Sewerage (Desilting & Cleaning of deep sewer line in Hospiery Complex & Sector-83) Noida. Cost. Rs. 29.26 Lacs

The above tender can be uploaded by date 02.01.2019 upto 5.00 PM. Pre-qualification shall be opened/downloaded on date 03.01.2019 at 11.00 AM.

Office:-  
Sector-39  
NOIDA

Sd/-  
(M.K. JAIN)  
SENIOR MANAGER (JAL)-II  
NOIDA

## CLEAN, GREEN, SAFE & SECURE NOIDA

## TENDER NOTICE

SR. No	NAME OF BOARD/CORP./AUTH	NAME OF WORK NOTICE TENDER	OPENING DATE CLOSING DATE (TIME)	AMOUNT / EMD (APPROX) IN RUPEES	WEBSITE OF THE BOARD CORP./AUTH	NODAL OFFICER/CONTACT DETAILS/E-MAIL
1	MUNICIPAL COMMITTEE INDRI	CONST. OF STREET FROM SHIV MANDIR GATE TO DHARAM SINGH KAMBOJ WARD NO-2 + 1 OTHER WORKS	CLOSING 04.01.2019	NIL	<a href="http://etenders.hry.nic.in">etenders.hry.nic.in</a> T.N. MCI 2018 DEC 001,002	9900020780 secymc.indri@gmail.com
2	HARYANA STATE WAREHOUSING	ENGAGEMENT OF SERVICE PROVIDER TO CARRY OUT PRESERVATION, MAINTENANCE & SECURITY (PMS) SERVICES FOR FOOD GRAINS & NOTIFIED COMMODITIES IN GODOWNS.	28.12.2018 28.01.2019	NIL	<a href="https://haryanaeprocurement.gov.in">https://haryanaeprocurement.gov.in</a>	01722578830 hssc@hry.nic.in
3	UHBVN	PROVIDING BRICK FLOORING AT CENTRAL STORE UHBVN ROHTAK	21.12.2018 09.01.2019	2.23 LACS	<a href="http://www.uhbvn.org.in">www.uhbvn.org.in</a> T.N. 30/CS/2018-19	xenciviluhbvnrohtak@gmail.com
4	UHBVN	ANNUAL BUILDINGS MAINTANANCE AND REPAIR OF 33KV S/STN UNDER "OP" DIVN.SAMLAKHA	24.12.2018 09.01.2019	9.41 LACS	<a href="https://haryanaeprocurement.gov.in">www.https://haryanaeprocurement.gov.i</a> n T.N. 31/CCR/2018-19	xenciviluhbvnrohtak@gmail.com
5	HARYANA STATE POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD PANCHKULA	SUPPLY, INSTALLATION, COMMISSIONING AND OPERATION & MAINTENANCE SERVICES OF CONTINUOUS AMBIENT AIR QUALITY MONITORING STATIONS (CAQMS) AT 06 LOCATIONS IN STATE OF HARYANA NAMELY FARIDABAD(03 NOS.), GURUGRAM(02 NOS)& CHARKHI DADRI(01 NO.)	26.12.2018 25.01.2019	15.6 LACS	<a href="https://haryanaeprocurement.gov.in">https://haryanaeprocurement.gov.in</a> , <a href="http://www.nspcb.gov.in">www.nspcb.gov.in</a>	9953764159 hsnecbeha@gmail.com
6	HARYANA SEED CORPORATION DEVELOPMENT LIMITED	PURCHASE OF PESTICIDES/WEEDICIDES/INSECTICIDES FOR SALE DURING RABI 2018-19 ON CONSIGNMENT BASIS	26.12.2018 01.01.2019	1 LACS	<a href="http://www.haryanaseeds.gov.in">www.haryanaseeds.gov.in</a> T.N. 13881/109039	9617660933 rakesh_sas@hshs.com
7	HSAMB	CONST. OF ROAD FROM SHAMLO KHURO TO NIDANI + 4 OTHER WORKS	CLOSING 14.01.2019	536.84 LACS	<a href="http://hsamb.haryanaeprocurement.gov.in">http://hsamb.haryanaeprocurement.gov.i</a> n	jindse.hsamb@gmail.com 01681255039
8	ROHTAK CO-OP MILK PRODUCERS UNION LTD, ROHTAK	OLD POLY SCRAB OLD GATTA SCRAB OLD PLASTIC CRATES SCRAB, OLD IRON, OLD TYRE AND TUBE, OLD GUM MATTER SCRAB, OLD D-FREEZER ETC	CLOSING 21.01.2019	1 LACS	<a href="http://www.vitaindia.org.in">www.vitaindia.org.in</a>	vitarohtak@gmail.com
9	CAD DIVISION BHIWANI	LINING OF WATERCOURSES (34 NOS.)	24.01.2019	AS DETAILED IN THE NIT PUBLISHED ONLINE	<a href="https://etenders.hry.nic.in">https://etenders.hry.nic.in</a> T.N. CANA/BVN/2018/09CC	9996759765 xsnbhwanicad@gmail.com
10	CAD DIVISION JHALLAR	18150-R KHACHROLI MR + 5 OTHER WORKS	CLOSING 14.01.2019	51.60 LACS	<a href="https://etenders.hry.nic.in">https://etenders.hry.nic.in</a> T.N. 1256-66/11-A.DL.24.12.18	01251257075 xsnjhallasad@gmail.com
11	MC BARARA	CONSTRUCTION OF HALL AT BALMIKI DHARAMSHALA IN BALMIKI BASTI IN WARD NO-01 VILLAGE BARARA	25.12.2018 07.01.2019	7.15 LACS	<a href="https://mchbarara.haryanaeprocurement.gov.in">https://mchbarara.haryanaeprocurement.g</a> ov.in	0468412123 scvc.mchbarara@gmail.com
12	MUNICIPAL CORPORATION PANCHKULA	CONSTRUCTION OF 32 NOS MUNICIPAL CORPORATION ENTRY GATES FOR PINJORE AND KALKA VILLAGES PANCHKULA, RECALL 2	28.12.2018 04.01.2019	192.85 LACS	<a href="https://ulb.haryanaeprocurement.gov.in">https://ulb.haryanaeprocurement.gov.in</a> T.N. 109021	01722583695 mcpnchkula@gmail.com
13	MUNICIPAL COMMITTEE RAJOUND	CONST OF PAVOR BLOCK STREET AND DRAIN FROM OLD PATWAR BHAWAN TO ARYAN JEWELLERS IN WARD 11 AT RAJOUND + 5 OTHER WORKS	24.12.2018 03.01.2019	26.65 LACS	<a href="http://www.etenders.hry.nic.in">www.etenders.hry.nic.in</a> T.N. 1 to 6 Jan	9466461367 mcurendradk75@gmail.com
14	MUNICIPAL CORPORATION GURUGRAM	RE-CALL LOI FOR REMOVAL OF UNAUTHORISED HOARDINGS FROM PUBLIC AND PRIVATE PROPERTY	CLOSING DATE 17.01.2019	1 LACS	<a href="http://mcpurugram.haryanaeprocurement.gov.in">http://mcpurugram.haryanaeprocurement</a> gov.in T.N. EE-Adv/JMC/2018/106386, Dt. 24.12.2018 T.N. 108975	ee3@mcp.gov.in 9821395203
15	MUNICIPAL CORPORATION GURUGRAM	CONSTRUCTION OF REVENUE RASTA FROM PARK HOSPITAL TO MALIBU TOWN IN WARD NO.29, UNDER MGG. + 1 OTHER WORK	CLOSING 15.01.2019	138.5 LACS	<a href="http://mcpurugram.haryanaeprocurement.gov.in">http://mcpurugram.haryanaeprocurement</a> gov.in T.N. EE-Adv/JMC/2018/106386, Dt. 24.12.2018 T.N. 108975	ee3@mcp.gov.in 9821395203
16	MC HISAR	CONSTRUCTION OF COMMUNITY CENTRE NEAR PATWAR BHAWAN, CITY THANA HISAR + 5 OTHER WORKS	CLOSING 11.01.2019	1.32 CRORE	<a href="http://mchisar.haryanaeprocurement.gov.in">mchisar.haryanaeprocurement.gov.in</a> T.N. 108946, 108981, 108984, 108986, 109009, 109012	xenmchisar@gmail.com

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION KINDLY VISIT : [www.haryanaeprocurement.gov.in](http://www.haryanaeprocurement.gov.in) or [www.etenders.hry.nic.in](http://www.etenders.hry.nic.in)**

**RO NO. 74432**



## Annus Horribilis

Narendra Modi and his Government have not had a great 2018 and the BJP’s election machine has broken down. Can things look up in 2019?



Back in May 2014, when Narendra Modi was sworn in as the Prime Minister, India looked forward to five years of sensible policies and growth. With his trusted lieutenant Amit Shah corralling the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) workers into an unstoppable force, Modi had an advantage that had not been seen for three decades, a majority in the Lok Sabha. And the BJP’s electoral steamroller continued, winning States like Assam, Haryana and Maharashtra, both States where the party had little of an organisation previously. It was not as if the BJP did not suffer electoral reverses like in Bihar,

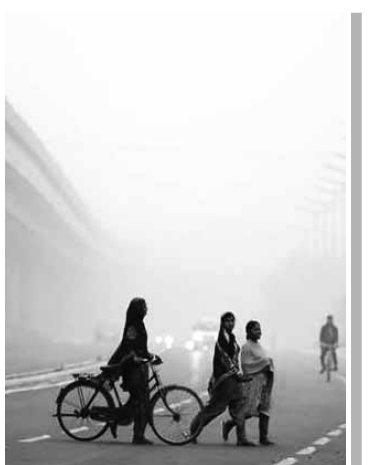
Punjab and Delhi, but those were viewed as minor blips. Modi had the electorate and the media on his side. However, this year things seemed to have unravelled for Modi and the BJP. The steamroller has broken down, the toll of fighting a rearguard electoral win in Gujarat was followed by failure in Karnataka and losing the three States in the Hindi heartland. Back in 2014-16, the BJP made the promise of a ‘Congress-*mukt* Bharat’, their main plank, and it seemed achievable with the Congress imploding. Political commentators were already taking the 2019 elections for granted, and this was being spoken about as only his ‘first-term’. BJP supporters were talking of ‘Mission 350’ and winning a dominating majority. But that talk has certainly disappeared with an angry electorate taking out their frustration at issues like demonetisation and slow economic growth, among others. This, at the same time when the Opposition has seemed to get its mojo back, taking on the BJP and the ruling Government on issues both real and imagined.

And with constant issues with some of democratic India’s largest institutions, problems with the Supreme Court, the complete meltdown in the Central Bureau of Investigation and the resignation of the Reserve Bank of India Governor are evidence to some that the Modi Government has failed in bringing people inside. While some in the BJP look to blame the entrenched bureaucracy, that is the so-called ‘deep state’ and imaginary ‘anti-national’ interests of attacking them, there is little doubt that many in the Government themselves have not helped the situation. Particularly, issues concerning the acquisition of the Rafale fighter jet have been arrogant. Modi came to power on the back of being a reformer and an economic visionary, but appears to have played the same populist povertarian game that Indian politicians love. Foreign investment into India has dried up. While the Indian stock markets have performed reasonably well, India, which could have been a beneficiary of the US-China trade spat, has not managed to take advantage of the situation. To be fair to Modi, he has boosted spending on major infrastructure projects, cleared long-pending ones and has cultivated an image of being seen as a go-getting hard worker. It will be a major problem for the Opposition to paint him as a personally corrupt individual. Some mud might stick on some of his Ministers and party leaders, but he has a teflon skin to such allegations.

And that will remain his greatest asset heading into the 2019 elections, which are now clearly in play, even if he, through a shared hatred of him, is the bonding force of the Opposition. He will be the major issue in the coming elections. Expect a lot more talk of failed policies towards agriculture and missed opportunities for reforms. And then there will be demonetisation, an exercise that Modi’s first-term will undoubtedly always be remembered by, a move that it is becoming increasingly clear with hindsight that stalled the economy. But make no mistakes, Narendra Modi and the BJP have been the dominant force in Indian politics, and no matter what the final outcome of the elections in the coming months, he will remain the most important politician in India for years to come. But it might still be a bridge too far to prevent himself losing the Prime Ministership come May 2019.

## No more excuses

There are no culprits to pin the current levels of air pollution in Delhi on; yet little action is being taken by the authorities



Residents of Delhi and its surrounding areas have become used to the arrival of cold weather because the air quality index goes for an utter toss. And for several years different strawmen have been found to bear the brunt, first the burning of stubble by farmers, then it was vehicular pollution and of late firecrackers on Diwali. However, this year’s extended period of poor air quality must highlight the main cause of the problem: The constantly increasing human population in the capital and its surroundings and the resultant activity. And the solution to the air

quality problem will require some brave political decisions that none of Delhi’s politicians or those from surrounding States are willing to take, that is to tackle population growth, immigration and the fallout from illegal colonies.

Some small measures can be taken though and those must be taken soon, because the problem is only getting worse every passing day and it affects the young and old particularly hard. Those from the economically weaker backgrounds, who can’t afford protection, have little choice. More and more evidence is emerging that poor air quality is cutting years off the life expectancy of Delhi residents and cases of lung cancer even among non-smokers is on the rise. If our politicians, many of who live in homes with air purifiers, want to do something about this, they have to crack the whip and invest in the future. And those investments include rapidly ramping up public transportation options and even vehicle rationing, but no half-hearted measures to keep parts of the electorate happy.

At the rate that the air quality is deteriorating, it is only a matter of time that poor air will become a year-round problem in Delhi and surrounding cities. If urgent and strict measures are not taken today, the national capital will become unlivable sooner rather than later. This is a national crisis and all our politicians should rise to the challenge. But as of today, they are all, no matter what their political persuasion, failing us.

# A case for land reclamation

Had India not surrendered so tamely at Tashkent, the China-Pakistan axis would have been under conspicuous pressure pertaining to their illegal actions



ABHIJIT BHATTACHARYYA

Union Minister for External Affairs Sushma Swaraj’s statement in the Lok Sabha on Wednesday, December 12, 2018, undoubtedly makes for a perfect politico-diplomatic posturing by India towards Pakistan. However, what made Swaraj’s statement stand out was its carefully crafted semantics. Thus read the stated position of New Delhi over Jammu & Kashmir: “India’s ‘consistent and principled’ position is that the entire State of Jammu & Kashmir has been, is, and shall be an integral part of India”.

Spot on the Minister was, as she continued and concluded: “Pakistan has been in an illegal occupation of approximately 78,000 square kilometre of the Indian territory in the State of Jammu & Kashmir...under the so-called ‘Boundary Agreement’ signed between China and Pakistan on March 2, 1963; Pakistan illegally ceded 5,180 square kilometre of the Indian territory in Pakistan-occupied Jammu & Kashmir to China.

“We have repeatedly and consistently called upon Pakistan to immediately vacate all areas under its illegal occupation, most recently on November 30, 2018,” the Minister informed the Parliament. Yet, the picture appears grim as “Pakistan continues to be in illegal and forcible occupation of a part of Jammu & Kashmir”, she asserted. What then does this mean to India? It’s simple, yet adverse, to say the least.

That the ‘illegal occupation of approximately 78,000 square kilometre of the Indian territory’ by Pakistan does not figure in Delhi-Islamabad bilateral any more. Swaraj’s clarification to the Parliament on Pakistan, however, did not mention that with the “so-called ‘Boundary Agreement’ signed between China and Pakistan on March 2, 1963”, and with the ceding of “5,180 square kilometre of the Indian territory in Pakistan-occupied Jammu & Kashmir”, China automatically emerged as a stake holder with the very physical presence of its troops and civilians. This amounts to Chinese occupation of the Indian territory. It’s the presence of foreign China as ‘third party’ deep inside Jammu & Kashmir. It’s a live ‘dragon in the room’.

In other words, China has been ‘existing’, though illegally, deep inside the Indian territory since more than 55 years. And there is no way that China is going to withdraw voluntarily, or show some diplomatic niceties like Jawaharlal Nehru consistently did throughout the 1950s towards China, or give up illegal occupation of the Indian territory and retreat from there in the foreseeable future.

Especially, since (now) China’s Belt & Road Initiative (BRI) and the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) are deeply entrenched within, and pass through



the State of Jammu & Kashmir.

For China, it’s a question of geo-politics, geo-economics and geo-strategy for its super power status-aspiration.

It constitutes an hydra-headed future game-plan: Control, rather than visible physical occupation, of key land-locked territories, where the ‘great game’ was played by the empires of Russia and Britain. It’s also the terrain which was dreamily aspired by Han rulers from far off Hwang Ho valley and who saw recurring aggression by numerous hostile sultans, *badshahs* and principalities across the corridor connecting Istanbul with the great alluvial soil of South Asia. The terrain of Jammu & Kashmir also connects the mighty and lofty landmass of Euro-Asia around the Pamir and the Karakorum with declining demography and promising mineralogy with easy access to warm water ports of the Indian Ocean (which the Romanovs and Czars of Russia always dreamt of, and yet always failed to turn it into reality).

Plain speaking, therefore, there doesn’t seem to be an easy way out (especially in the 21st century), to either alter the possession of physical geography of Jammu & Kashmir by the menacing tri-flanking China-Pakistani axis,

or owing to the immensely complicated demography and distribution thereof across South Asia.

India has been badly cornered for its own past inability to reclaim (and even retain) its own land from ‘illegal occupation’ of Pakistan and China. Unlike China, India has shown a peculiar propensity to cede its own territory to foreign country, thereby diluting its own professed stand at the diplomatic table; tamely capitulating even when there simply did not exist any ‘cause of action’ to do so.

It may sound bizarre, unpleasant and harsh, but recalling past reality of India’s conspicuous failure on Jammu & Kashmir may be of some consolation and form a lesson for the future. It should not be repeated, else things can go worse than what it was in the past.

Thus, when the Minister of External Affairs was referring to “illegal occupation of Jammu & Kashmir”, her words pertained to the whole territory thereof which legally acceded to India on October 26, 1947, following the same procedure and documentation as done by 548 other princely States *vis-à-vis* New Delhi (with 16 acceding to Pakistan).

Logically and legally, it,

therefore, follows that when any of the “illegal occupied land of Jammu & Kashmir” is reclaimed by India, as was done by the valiant soldiers of the Indian Army (under the able military leadership of Zorawar Chand Bakshi and Ranjit Singh Dayal) in Haji Peer Pass in the 1965 India-Pakistan war, was it not a case of supreme folly to return India’s own territory in the diplomatic table of Tashkent in January 1966 by the galaxy of Indian stars themselves?

All the more, as it happened within 35 months of the China-Pakistan illegal occupation of Indian territory of Jammu & Kashmir? Had India not surrendered so tamely at Tashkent, the China-Pakistan axis would have been under conspicuous pressure pertaining to their illegal actions.

Hence, this one single act damaged India till no end. Suddenly, India’s avowed legal position on Jammu & Kashmir appeared fragile and illegal when our country surrendered its own territory to Pakistan, thereby giving the world an impression as if Haji Peer Pass was Pakistan’s bona fide possession and that India had illegally usurped it during the course of the war in 1965.

Hence, New Delhi was morally, logically and diplomatically bound to “return the

Jammu & Kashmir land to Pakistanis”, thereby legitimising their illegal act. What an irony! In one stroke, legal India became illegal! And grossly, illegal China-Pakistan occupation of the Indian land continued, unchallenged, unharmed and unaffected, thereby transforming Islamabad-Beijing duo’s perfidy and illegal act into an indisputably ‘legal act’!

Seen in this background, the bona fide statement in Parliament by the Foreign Minister needs to be supplemented with/by a sustained teaching of the Constitution of India to the members of Indian legislature who act as executive and guardians of law while protecting the territory and sovereignty of India.

Article 1 (1) of the Constitution is explicit and categorical: “India, that is Bharat, shall be a Union of States” and Article 1 (2) stipulates “The States and the territories thereof shall be.” “(c) such other territories as may be acquired.” The point is loud and clear. India can ‘acquire territories’. India cannot surrender territory, least of all, its own territory. That is the crux, and the ruling class of India has to follow the Constitution thereof, in letter and in spirit.

(The writer is an alumnus, National Defence College)

## SOUNDBITE

The drama of dynastic politics staged by the Congress and their ‘Modi Hatao’ movement is just an eyewash.



Union Minister  
—Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi

We do not have a political or religious agenda. We want to make a spiritual India... not Hindu India or communal India.



Yoga guru  
— Baba Ramdev

Today’s society is going down the drains. We live in well-connected world, but we must strive to revive our value system.



Director  
—Tigmanshu Dhulia

We (TMC) have never been influenced by political colour, if any, of the recipients and only went by eligibility criteria.



West Bengal CM  
—Mamata Banerjee

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Height of hypocrisy

Sir — Prime Minister Narendra Modi repeatedly insulted the farmers from Tamil Nadu and other States, who demonstrated in Delhi for almost a year. He sought relief by refusing to meet them even once and also used the police force. One wonders how could the Prime Minister declare in Odisha that his party’s focus is on the farm sector. Given the Vyapam scam, Lalit Modi fiasco, and the multi-crore rice scam in Chhattisgarh, all of which happened during the BJP’s rule, it is an irony that Prime Minister Modi is calling the Naveen Patnaik Government corrupt. It is not the Congress that is duping the farmers but the BJP that has gone back on its election promises to the poor farmers.

Shalini Gerald  
Chennai

### Rise above politics

Sir — This refers to the editorial, “Out in the cold” (December 26). It is shameful that millions of our very own people have to lead a hell-resembling life out on the

### India’s integrity is unquestionable

This refers to the editorial, “Why Naser?” (December 24). Actor Naseeruddin Shah has been thrown into a controversy after he voiced his opinion that India was “unsafe” for its children. One does not know whether Shah was overcome by emotion or was keeping a cool head when he spoke about intolerance. India is a nation which prides on its Constitution. It cannot be denied that our country has been a witness to the worst form of lynching in the last four years. Fringe groups running amok, and the police doing precious little to bring them to book, have highlighted one aspect of lawlessness. In the same breath, many radical elements have verbally gone berserk on India and its ethos.

The vital question is whether we should doubt our democratic values because of the mindlessness of a stray mob and over-the-board tendency of a few radical elements? Shah is entitled to worry, but he, being a senior artist, should instill confidence among his



brethren that they need not be worried by incidents orchestrated by rogues who are hell-bent to create a wedge in the society. The essence of this country lies in its capacity to rebound with elan even in the face of worse disasters. India has done it in the past, post Delhi and post Gujarat, and it will again.

Ganapathi Bhat  
Akola

streets, enduring scorching heat, biting cold and monsoon deluge. Far from remaining sympathetic to their woes, privileged Indians and political masters scandalously boast about ‘elitism’ in attaining Mars orbit and ‘might’ by performing mass Yoga on streets.

When the urgent need is to uplift the poor and the downtrodden by ensuring minimum human rights and dignity for

them, concerned authorities squander billions of money in space missions, bullet trains, sky-kissing statues and lofty flags to reap electoral dividends. If India really wants to attain true progress, then it must first ensure basic human rights of food, attire, shelter, medicine, education and justice for all.

Kajal Chatterjee  
Kolkata

### Cautious decision

Sir — Retention of coalition partners within the NDA fold is an important exercise for the BJP. This is why the party played its card really well in parting with 17 seats for the Janata Dal (United) and six for the Lok Janshakti Party.

For political opponents, the new arrangement between the

three parties has become an object of ridicule. They are now laughing at the plight of the BJP for its climb-down.

But, it is a known, that in politics, conditions do not always remain the same. Seat-sharing ratio depends upon prevailing conditions at the time of elections. Before JD(U) chief Nitish Kumar came back to the NDA, when the Bihar Assembly election was held, the performance of the BJP was no better than that of JD(U). As such, sharing equal number of seats with the JD(U) is a respectful bargain. made by the BJP.

KV Seetharamaiah  
Hassan

### Help Indonesia

Sir — The massive tsunami that hit Indonesia’s coast and beaches recently left more than 300 people dead. The world community must extend helping hand and help the country and its people come up out of the difficult situation.

Shubham  
Via email

Send your feedback to:  
letterstopioneer@gmail.com



FIRST COLUMN

## Importance of the Agni series

The successful test-firing of Agni IV marks a great leap forward for India to become a super power



HIRANMAY KARLEKAR

The successful test-firing of the indigenously-developed, nuclear-weapons-capable, surface-to-surface missile, Agni-IV, on December 23, 2018, marks a significant leap forward towards India becoming a super power. The goal is warranted not only by the country's size, potential and role in maintaining global peace, but the uncertain conditions in the world and, particularly, the region around the country. An India, that is a super power, will not only deter efforts to push it around, but enable it to retaliate forcefully if some country engages it in armed conflict.

The two countries that feature prominently in any discussion concerning India's security are Pakistan and China: India has fought four wars with the former and one with the latter. Agni IV, which has a striking range of 4,000 kilometres, is not needed against the former, which can be hit by Agni I, II and III with striking ranges of 700, 2,000 and ,000 kilometres respectively. Agni IV would enable India to strike some parts of China but not Beijing and its industrial hubs on the eastern sea board. Agni V, which was last test-fired on December 10, 2018, and is expected to be inducted for use soon, would be able to do that and also hit parts of Asian and European land mass. Further, Agni-V would carry concurrently-developed Multiple Independently Targetable Re-entry Vehicles (MIRV) payloads. This will help evade interception by China's ballistic missile defence system. Indeed, India should also have Manoeuvrable Re-entry Vehicles (MARV), which can drastically change trajectory to evade interception in the terminal stage.

A word of caution. Though a reference to China is unavoidable in any discussion pertaining to India's security, it will be unwise to be inflexible and remain frozen in a posture of hostility. While New Delhi must do everything to neutralise any threat from China and any strategically inimical economic penetration, it must also be engaged in bridge-building with Beijing given vagaries of Donald Trump's foreign and economic policies. This will not be easy given China's close alliance with Pakistan, attempts to hem India in with its presence in adjoining countries, dominate the Indian Ocean and corner India in most international fora — all of which stems from its refusal to countenance India's rise to a position where it can be perceived as an equal.

All this is precisely why India should hasten with enhancing its conventional and nuclear warfare capabilities while keeping all avenues open for an improvement of relations with its northern neighbour. The three key requirements of any nuclear warfare infrastructure are an adequate number of nuclear warheads, a nuclear doctrine and an effective delivery system. India has developed, manufactured and deployed its own warheads. In 2003, it announced a nuclear doctrine based on a "no-first use" principle. India will use nuclear weapons only in case of a nuclear attack on its own soil or Indian forces anywhere. The doctrine also provides for the maintenance of a "credible minimum deterrent", and the possession or sufficient and survivable nuclear forces, to inflict unacceptable damage on the enemy.

As for a delivery system, India can, at a pinch, use Mirage 2000 or Su 30 aircraft for dropping a nuclear warhead on a designated target. Neither, however, can be a substitute for a missile delivery system which can hit any target in an enemy's territory. It is important to remember this in the context of India's adoption of the "no first use" principle, which makes it mandatory for the country to retain the capacity to launch a devastating retaliatory strike after suffering a nuclear attack.

Underground silos may not be able to provide the kind of total protection the missiles need as the enemy can get to know their locations and mount devastating strikes against them. The answer lies in missiles that can be moved from one place to another, which, along with the deployment of dummies, will keep the enemy guessing about their location. Agni IV can be moved by road. Agni V is both road and rail mobile, though roads and bridges will have to be strengthened in many parts to carry its much greater weight.

Finally, India must not rest on its oars even after Agni V is inducted. It requires missiles with ranges between 8,000 to 10,000 kilometres to become a truly global super power. Also, it needs to vastly increase its ability to launch nuclear-tipped missiles from the sea, which are more difficult for the enemy to detect than land-based systems. It has the technical ability to do all this. Agni IV is a highly sophisticated missile with compact and modern avionics, a fifth-generation on-board computer and ability to follow the correct path, guiding itself in the midst of in-flight disturbances and hit its target with precision. Agni-V incorporated advanced technologies involving ring laser gyroscope and accelerometer for navigation and guidance.

India has shown formidable resolve in pursuing its missile development programme in the teeth of opposition from a number of countries and not just China. This speaks for itself and also suggests that it will use nuclear weapons if forced to do so. That message is central to the deterrence its nuclear arsenal is meant to convey. (The writer is Consultant Editor, The Pioneer, and an author)

## POINTCOUNTERPOINT

FORMATION OF A FEDERAL FRONT IS THE NEED OF THE HOUR. OUR AIM IS TO DISMANTLE THE BJP GOVT AND WE ARE COMMITTED TO DOING THAT.

—SAMAJWADI PARTY PRESIDENT

AKHILESH YADAV



AS ELECTIONS DRAW CLOSER, THE CONGRESS' ISOLATION AND NON-ACCEPTANCE OF RAHUL GANDHI'S LEADERSHIP IS BECOMING CLEAR.

—BJP SPOKESPERSON

GVL NARASIMHA RAO

# An NCA for backlog-hit judiciary

Now that CJI Gogoi has undertaken the task of appointing judges to various courts, the next step should be the establishment of a Court of Appeal that can help reduce the judiciary's problems



RAGHAV PANDEY



NEELABH BIST

The recent expeditious filling up of judicial vacancies, right from the position of the judicial magistrate to that of a Supreme Court judge, speaks volumes about the monumental task undertaken by the Chief Justice of India (CJI), Justice Ranjan Gogoi, to reduce pendency of cases at various Indian courts.

Justice Gogoi seems to be resolute in doing the same as he has already held myriad collegium meetings for the filling up of vacancies. Thereafter, he made appointments of judges to different High Courts and the Supreme Court. As far as the lower judiciary is concerned, Gogoi passed many orders, wherein he asked the High Courts to fill all vacancies in a time-bound manner.

However, the filling up of vacancies in the judiciary may just be one way of managing the bewildering problem of pendency of cases. The chorus for the establishment of the National Court of Appeal (NCA) has once again gained momentum with several academicians making demands for its establishment. They believe a Court of Appeal can stem the burgeoning pendency of cases. Their argument is that the NCA would not just help annihilate the problem of pendency but would also help resolve multiple issues that plague the country's legal system.

Initially, the Supreme Court of India was entrusted upon the primary responsibility of interpreting ambiguities in various laws and the Constitution that may arise from time to time. However, with the passage of time, the top court skewed away from that responsibility and shifted its focus on dealing with appeals arising from the decision of the High Courts.

The Law Commission of India, in its 125th report, highlighted that the disposal and establishment of Constitutional Benches has declined from 15.5 per cent in 1950-54 to 0.12 per cent in 2005-2009. Thus, the growing need of finding an alternative to disposing the appeals was felt by the apex court so that the sanctity of the court as a Constitutional entity could be restored.

The proposed NCA was supposed to be an adjudicating body that would deal with all types of matters, except those relating to the Constitution or public importance, which would ordinarily fall under the domain of the Supreme Court. The NCA will, thus, act as an intermediary between the High Courts and the Supreme Court with regional Benches in Delhi, Chennai, Mumbai and Kolkata. The NCA would also act as the last appellate court from where no appeal would lie with the Supreme Court.

The idea of the establishment of the NCA in different parts of the country can be dated back to the time of the formulation of the Constitution when Jaspat Roy Kapoor suggested the same. Despite being seconded by BR Ambedkar, the NCA could never find its way into the Constitution. Later, the 95th, 125th and the 229th report of the Law Commission also dealt with the issue of NCA but to no avail. Interestingly, the Supreme Court, too, has had its fair share of comments about the NCA.

In the case of Bihar Legal Support Society



vs The Chief Justice of India, the court proposed the formation of the NCA with four different regional branches. In 2016, the apex court ordered for the formulation of a Constitutional Bench to decide on the viability of the NCA in view of the pendency of cases in the country.

People, who supported the establishment of the NCA, attributed multiple reasons for the same. Apart from the argument of pendency and the recreation of the Supreme Court as the Constitutional court, a major block in the litigant's path of seeking justice is the cost of litigation. From the commencement of the suit in the district court to its final disposal in the Supreme Court, the path that a litigant walks on, is filled with various applications, adjournments, inter-court appeals, *et al*.

Added to this is the burden of travelling from one part of the country to the other. Nick Robinson in his report, 'Interpreting the Constitution: Supreme Court Constitution Benches since Independence' showed that appeals to the Supreme Court are made by litigants belonging to nearby areas. This issue can be readily resolved by the setting up of four regional NCAs in four corners of the nation.

Although the idea of NCA might appear to be very appealing, however, to guarantee its effectiveness, several steps need to be taken. First, the very practice of filing frivolous appeals will have to be discouraged. This can be accomplished if heavy penalties are imposed on the litigants, who waste the court's time. But history is a proof that this solution has not been successful.

Despite the apex court laying down guidelines for the filing of Public Interest Litigation (PIL) in *State of Uttaranchal vs Balwant Singh Chauhal*, the practice of filing frivolous PILs is far from over yet. For the working of the NCA in the most efficient form, strict adherence to various guidelines will have to be ensured, otherwise the body would act just as

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IT HAS BEEN REPORTED THAT IN INDIA, ONE JUDGE HANDLES OVER 1,800 CASES. THIS NOT ONLY RESULTS IN THE IMPROPER AND UNTIMELY DISPENSATION OF JUSTICE, BUT ALSO STAGGERS THE SPEED OF DEVELOPMENT OF THE CONSTITUTIONAL JURISPRUDENCE IN THE COUNTRY

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another additional step before the Supreme Court of India.

Another important aspect to be looked at before the formulation of the NCA will be the rules surrounding the appointment of judges. The hierarchy of judges, their transfer and subsequent elevation are all questions that have to be firmly resolved before the NCA can be set up. Attorney General KK Venugopal had earlier suggested that for the smooth functioning of the NCA, the age of the judges should be increased from 65 years to 70 years. This suggestion must be taken seriously because usually, the years of experience of judges come to a stop at the age of 62 or 65, without proper exhaustion of their mental faculties. For this reason (in addition to that of transparency), in the US, there is no retirement age for the judges. They hold their offices till their voluntary retirement or death.

It has been reported that in India, one judge handles over 1,800 cases. This not only results in the improper and untimely dispensation of justice, but also staggers the speed of development of the Constitutional jurisprudence in the country. The setting up of the NCA would allow ample time for the adjudication of the rights of disputing parties as well as for the development of law in the Supreme Court.

It is worthy to note that if the idea of NCA does conceptualise, India would not be the first country in the world to have introduced it. Colombia, Australia, the United States, France, Germany, Iran, Italy, Russia, South Africa and many other countries already have in place such an adjudicatory body. Thus, it can be optimistically presumed that the conception of NCA will help reduce the problems which have plagued our judicial system for centuries.

(Raghav Pandey is an Assistant Professor of Law at Maharashtra National Law University, Mumbai and Neelabh Bist is a Fourth Year student of Law at Maharashtra National Law University, Mumbai)

# Swachhhta needs awareness, not toilets

The Government has made sincere efforts in breaking records for toilet construction. But any such move can be successful only when these facilities are actually used. India lags far behind in encouraging its citizens to use toilets



KOTA SRIRAJ

The National Democratic Alliance (NDA) Government's efforts to drive the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, coupled with its sanitation drive, rested on ensuring the building of more toilets in record time. It is to the credit of the Government that registered substantial improvements in the building of toilets. The Government's toilet-building drive spurred some not-for-profit institutions and individuals to build more toilets, making the entire effort a truly national one. But did the Government misread the requirement? This uncomfortable question does make us sit up because tremendous amounts of money have been spent on the building of toilets and their publicity.

The question whether the Government got it right or not was fuelled by a recent World Bank report that concluded that mere building of toilets won't stop Indians from defecating in the open as long as their attitude towards latrines do not change.

The research was conducted by Varun Gauri, Tasmia Rahman and Iman Sen. The researchers surveyed five villages in the Ghazipur district of eastern Uttar Pradesh. The State has a high burden of open defecation. The first round of the survey was conducted at the household level, across 204 households that owned latrines, between January and February 2017. The second phase was conducted in March 2017. The surveys threw up some interesting findings.

Researchers measured four key aspects of open defecation: Defecation practices, acceptability of open defecation, enforcement of toilet use and notions of purity attached to toilet construction.

They found that around 40 per cent of the people, who had toilets in their house, did not use them. Many even associated toilets with *gandagi* (dirt).

Further, people's beliefs were closely linked to their perception of what others believed. This means that social norms have a big say on individual attitudes and that more toilets in more homes may not necessarily mean more cleanliness in the environs outside.

The World Bank research has given the authorities and the people of this country an opportunity to understand that proper planning is the need of hour before we embark on a nation-wide mission, like Swachh Bharat. This research should have been commissioned by the Government before it embarked on this mission that involved millions of taxpayers' money.

Designing of facilities without creating awareness about it is akin to putting the horse before the cart. And this is what happened to

Swachh Bharat. Our policy-makers should have given it a proper thought before making efforts to build toilets. Desired change in behaviour related to toilet use should have been the first step.

Eliminating open defecation has been a herculean task for India. Since 1970, many programmes have been initiated but all failed to bring the desired result. However, the lessons learnt from the efforts undertaken till date is that reduction of open defecation needs not just access to improved sanitation facilities, but also a serious effort to change mindsets.

In 2014, India had almost 70 per cent of the rural population defecating in the open. To curtail this rampant problem, the Government claimed that around 94 per cent of the rural households have been provided with toilets till date. But the question remains: How many of these toilets are actually being used?

The Government can still turn

around the project and get the population to actually use the built toilets. For change to happen, there has to be initiation of sufficient deterrents against open defecation — be it in the form of penalties or other measures of the similar kind.

Countries such as China, too, were grappled with the same problem during the early 1990s but the ambition to catapult itself to the world stage as a developed nation forced the country to adopt tough measures to keep a check on open defecation. Today, the country is almost open defecation free. China is just one of the many examples. There are other countries, too, that India can emulate.

Rural India needs to be open defecation free as quickly as possible due to other pressing problems. Apart from environmental concerns, the issue of open defecation is deeply connected with hygiene problems — diseases and infections. Thanks to open defecation, a number of diseases, that have been

expelled from other countries, have raised their ugly heads once again.

Local water bodies and top-soil are the largest sufferers of open defecation while the local population only experiences the resultant health problems. This aspect needs to be brought to the notice of the local villagers in order to increase general awareness.

India can rein in open defecation by launching a nationwide awareness campaign, which is connected with the ever-growing number of new toilets. Strategy must be based on self-respect. Only this can bring instant results. The Government has set October 2, 2019, as the deadline to make India open defecation free. However, if the World Bank reports results are anything to by, it will be clear that the Government needs to give an extra push to heighten awareness among the people about the benefit of using toilets.

(The writer is an environmental journalist)



## FOREIGN EYE



### DISENCHANTMENT WITH LEADERS

Ranil Wickremasinghe's burden is heavy; he cannot complain nor can he place that on another. He and he alone has to carry that. That is the burden of leadership. He has to both treat that burden as his privilege and take it to its logical end of good governance. His other choice is brutal, unkind and terminal: continue in the same mode and perish. He has won a battle; yet he could still lose the war. (Daily Mirror editorial)



# Civilian killed in cross firing along LoC

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

A civilian porter was killed in a fresh ceasefire violation along the Line of Control (LoC) in Nowshera sector of Rajouri on Wednesday. In response, Indian army too retaliated in equal measure.

Regular exchange of firing in the area has once again triggered panic reaction from the local residents.

In the absence of start of construction work of bunkers in the most vulnerable areas large number of people have once again appealed to the State administration to expedite construction work of bunkers in the area.

Pakistan army had earlier violated ceasefire agreement on Monday in Nowshera forc-

**Pakistan army had earlier violated ceasefire agreement on Monday in Nowshera forcing the local admin to shut down educational institutions in areas falling close to the line of control to prevent school children from receiving injuries**

ing the local administration to shut down educational institutions in areas falling close to the

line of control to prevent school children from receiving injuries.

According to reports, a group of three porters, ferrying supplies to forward posts, received injuries after Pakistan army initiated 'unprovoked' firing in Nowshera sector of Rajouri on Wednesday around 12.00 p.m

Defecne PRO in Jammu said, One civilian identified as Bodhraj, aged 55 years was evacuated for medical aid but he succumbed to his fatal injuries". He said the army authorities have promised all possible assistance and help to the family of the deceased. According to local reports the condition of two others, injured in the exchange of firing, was stated to be stable.

**IIT ASPIRANT FROM BIHAR HANGS SELF IN KOTA HOSTEL ROOM, THIRD SUICIDE SINCE DECEMBER 22**

**Kota:** A 17-year-old IIT aspirant from Bihar was found hanging in his hostel room in Rajasthan's Kota, the third suicide of a student since Saturday, police said. Jitesh Gupta of Bihar's Siwan district was on Tuesday found hanging from the ceiling fan of his hostel room in Kota's Mahavir Nagar-II area, sub-inspector Ramswroop said Wednesday. Jitesh, who has completed his schooling, was in Kota for the last three years to prepare for IIT-JEE, the entrance test for Indian Institute of Technology (IITs). He was a student of a premier coaching centre here, he added. Jitesh did not take calls from his parents Tuesday morning, following which they informed his friends. When his friends went to his room they found it locked from inside and after peeping through the window they found Jitesh hanging from the ceiling fan, police said.

PTI



People pay tributes to the victims of tsunami 2004 on the 14th anniversary of the calamity, at Foreshore Estate beach (Pattinapakkam beach) in Chennai, Wednesday PTI

# Ayyappa Jyothi lights up 795 km in Kerala, K'taka, TN

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

Ayyappa Jyothi, an offering by the devotees of Lord Ayyappa, to the authorities in Kerala not to shatter the age old customs and traditions at the Holy Shrine situated in the Western Ghats took the State by storm on Wednesday evening.

The 795-km stretch between Mangalore in Karnataka and Kanyakumari, the land's end in southern Tamil Nadu saw millions of devotees which included men, women and children holding lighted lamps and chanting Swamy Saranam and Ayyappa Saranam with a prayer to the Lord to make the authorities see reason and resist from their move to allow women in the 10-50 age group inside the temple.

The Ayyappa Dharma Samiti which organised the Jyothi sprang a surprise by ensuring the participation of some of the most venerated cultural leaders of Kerala in this unique event. Those who took part in the Jyothi led by Swamy Chidanandapuri included T P Senkumar, MGA Raman, former directors general of police, Prof KS Radhakrishnan, for-



mer vice-chancellor of Sree Sankara Sanskrit University and national award winning actress Menaka Suresh.

"It was an enlightening experience. I feel this Jyothi will lead Kerala to a world of light and peace," said Senkumar, an apolitical person who had earned appreciation from all over the State for his 35 years of service as a police officer.

Govind Bharathan, senior lawyer of Kerala High Court who had to fight his way

through the massive crowd to get a position in the Jyothi in front of the Adi Sankara Tower at Kaladi said the event was a tremendous success. "This is the first time I am seeing an apolitical rally like this in Kerala and I hope the message will reach the authorities in the right perspective," said Bharathan.

The 45 km stretch between Angamally in the National Highway and Muvattupuzha in the Main Cetral Road leading

to Sabarimala turned out to be an ocean of humanity, each person holding tray with lighted chirath made of mud. Interestingly, many Christians were seen taking part in the rally at Perumbavoor. Mazhuvencherry Jaison, a Christian businessman said he and most other Christians were with the devotees in their agitation to preserve the traditions of Sabarimala.

Elsewhere in the State, there were reports from

Kannur of attacks on women and children who were on their way to take part in the Jyothi allegedly by DYFI activists. Eight persons including three children who were injured in pelting of stones by unknown persons have been admitted to hospitals in Kannur. The event saw unprecedented participation of women, especially housewives hitherto confined to their homes. Geetha Rajagopal, Anitha Prakash and hundreds of housewives like them joined the Jyothi much to the joy of the organisers.

Ayyappa Temple at Chennai's Mahalingapuram saw hundreds of devotees with lighted lamps joining the Jyothi.

"This is our silent message to the authorities who are out to tamper with age old traditions in Sabarimala. If they ignore this Jyothi, the repercussions may be very severe," said Anita Pillai, a Chennai housewife. While the Ayyappa Jyothi concluded peacefully, Kerala is in for another spectacle y the CPI-M sponsored Women Wall to be organised on January 1, 2019 which has been described as the beginning of a renaissance in the State.

# Didi raises doubts over Cong farm loan waiver schemes

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

Triggering speculations over the future chemistry between the Trinamool Congress and Congress, Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Wednesday expressed reservations about the blanket waiver of farm loans by "some States" (read Congress ruled states).

In tandem with lambasting the BJP for claiming credit about farmer insurance schemes the Trinamool Congress chief also questioned the efficacy of "some States who are blindly waiving farmers' loans."

Banerjee said during an administrative meeting that she was collecting information regarding the benefit the farmers were getting from loan waiver schemes. "There are some (governments) who are waiving farmers' loans and I am gathering papers to find out whether farmers are actually benefited or not," Banerjee said without referring to the Congress directly.

She said, "none other than the Trinamool Congress government has given better services to the farmers. Here in Bengal we have seen how the entire flock of the farming

population has benefited from our pro-farmer policies."

The Congress had waived farmers' loans till ₹2 lakh after coming to power in Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh. Banerjee's twisty reference of the Congress ruled States could give rise to speculations on whether she was keen to ally with the tri-colour party in immediate future, experts said drawing reference to how the Chief Minister congratulated her Telangana counterpart K Chandrashekhara Rao personally at his "marvelous victory" in the recently concluded Assembly elections but desisting from doing so in the case of Congress.

The Chief Minister also attacked the BJP for trying to "claim entire credit" about the farmer insurance schemes. "They (BJP) are telling the people that the Central Government is giving farmers' insurance whereas the truth is that the Centre is only contributing 20 percent of the money. The rest is being given by the State. They are trying to mislead the people by telling lies. I am telling this in public and dare them to slap defamation charges against me," Banerjee said.

The Bengal Government would pay the entire insurance money to the farmers and that it did not need Centre's contribution, she said adding the BJP's was an anti-farmer Government. "Look at the rising numbers of farmers' suicides during this regime. About 12,000 farmers have committed suicide during this regime, she said reminding how the farmers in Nasik and elsewhere were being forced to destroy their garlic and onions on the highways. Reacting to her attack senior BJP leader Rahul Sinha said "the BJP does not want to react to statements made by a Chief Minister who is worthless and has lead Bengal to the path of anarchy."

State Congress president Somen Mitra on the other hand wondered, "How does a question of alliance arise between the Congress and the Trinamool Congress at a time when our workers are being attacked and tortured everyday by the Trinamool Congress and its police State. The Congress is taking care of itself in Bengal," adding he did not expect good words from the TMC chief as she was "bound to feel frustrated by the Congress' success."

# Church holds key in many LS seats in TN

**BJP IN FOR MAJOR TROUBLE**

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ CHENNAI

The news about the bishops and vicars of all Churches in Tamil Nadu declaring their support to the DMK in the upcoming Lok Sabha election has jolted the ruling AIADMK as well as the BJP.

Though the Church or the Bishops Council of Tamil Nadu have not made any formal declaration about the support to the DMK, the deal was struck during the Christmas gala held at Tiruchirappalli last Saturday which was attended by party chief MK Stalin and heads of all Churches and "Ministries" in the State.

It may be noted that the Bishops Council of Tamil Nadu had declared their support to the DMK-led alliance in the 2016 assembly election. A signed statement by Antony Pappusamy, Archbishop of

Madurai, was read out during congregations and was released to the media in the run up to the assembly election.

The result of the 2016 assembly election was in the expected lines. The AIADMK led by Jayalalithaa won by a whisker. But what stood out in the assembly election was the wash out suffered by the AIADMK in the southern district of Kanyakumari where Christians constitute 46.9 per cent of the population.

The DMK-Congress alliance swept the Kanyakumari district by winning all the six assembly constituencies with comfortable margins. All the candidates who got elected from the district belonged to Christian community. These six constituencies constitute the Kanyakumari Lok Sabha constituency which is presently represented by Pon Radhakrishnan of the BJP who is also the minister of state for finance and surface transport. Radhakrishnan won the 2014 election because there was no alliance between the DMK,

the Congress and the Left parties.

The 2004 Lok Sabha election saw the Rainbow Alliance led by the DMK and which had the blessings of the Church obliterating the Jayalalthaa-led AIADMK by sweeping all the 40 Lok Sabha seats (39 from Tamil Nadu and the lone seat from Puducherry).

In the eventuality of the Lefts too join the DMK-Congress bandwagon, Radhakrishnan and the BJP are in for trouble, said a senior BJP leader in Tamil Nadu. But the DMK-Congress alliance alone could derail the chances of Radhakrishnan making it to Lok Sabha in the 2019 election

A scientific paper published by Centre for Policy Studies, a Chennai based independent think-tank specialising in demographic studies and which was accessed by The Pioneer points out that Christians constitute 6.12 per cent of the total population of 7.22 crore in Tamil Nadu.

"Tamil Nadu has a considerable Christian population. Of the total 2.78 crore

Christians counted in India in 2011, 44 lakh are in Tamil Nadu, where they form 6.12 percent of the population. Their number and share in Tamil Nadu is the highest of all major States except the adjoining Kerala. Tamil Nadu and Kerala account for more than 1 crore of Christians in the country," said the paper authored by JK Bajaj, MD Srinivas and AP Joshi, all demography experts.

What stands out in the study is the observation made by the authors that despite their not so big presence in the State, Christian population is distributed in the State in such a way that they wield big influence. The three districts of Thanjavur, Tiruchirappalli and Dindigul have a total Christian population of 5.5 lakh .While Tiruchirappalli has 9 per cent Christian population, Dindigul and Thanjavur closely follow with 7.9 and 5.6 per cent respectively. No political parties in Tamil Nadu can hope to win the election without enlisting the support of the Christian community in the State.

# Kashmir reels under intense cold

KHURSHED WANI ■ SRINAGAR

Entire Kashmir Valley is reeling under intense cold wave as plummeting temperatures have frozen parts of several water bodies and left majority of residents to face plethora of hardships. Most people chose to stay indoors as the cold wave triggered several ailments mostly targeting children and old age people.

The cold wave is more intense in Ladakh region where lowest temperature in Leh district touched minus 17 degrees Tuesday night, meteorological department officials said.

The normal life is affected in most parts of Kashmir due to the intense cold wave that has hampered water and electricity supply. Despite heavy load shedding, the power supply schedule has gone awry as most residents complain that they have not received charge for long hours.

The cold wave has frozen water supply pipes in many areas leaving the residents to go for alternate means to fetch



water for domestic use.

The summer capital Srinagar recorded coldest night in 11 years on Monday with temperature slipping to minus 6.8 degrees Celsius. Parts of famed Dal Lake were frozen especially in the interiors. The famous resort of Pahalgam in south Kashmir recorded 7.9 degrees Celsius below freezing point.

The cold wave has equally hit the north Kashmir regions

where Kupwara district headquarters recorded 6.4 degrees Celsius.

Gulmarg, the famed ski resort in north Kashmir's Baramulla district has witnessed a trickle of tourists on eve of Christmas and New Year. The officials said that Gulmarg recorded temperature of minus 9.4 degrees Celsius. With a thin layer of snow enveloping the famous resort, the cold wave has added

to the charm of the place. The tourists are awaiting snowfall on eve of New Year to make their trip memorable, a hotelier from Gulmarg said on phone.

The cold wave began in the Valley last week coinciding with the onset of Chillai-Kalan - the 40-day period of harsh winter. It begins on December 21 and lasts till the end of January. The authorities have closed all educational institutions for winter vacations.



Bank employees stage a protest against the proposed merger of Vijaya Bank and Dena Bank with Bank of Baroda during a nation-wide strike at JDA garden in Jabalpur on Wednesday PTI

# Two drown in dam near Gondia

**Gondia (Maharashtra):** Two young men drowned Wednesday in Khairbandha dam near here in east Maharashtra, police said.

The incident occurred around 1 pm after Krishnakumar Arre (18) and Dharmendra Lilhare (21), along with their friend, entered the water for bathing though they didn't know how to swim, they said.

According to police, Arre and Lilhare got trapped in the water current and drowned.

However, their friend survived as he had come out of water to attend a nature's call.

After the youth raised alarm, villagers rushed to the spot, but couldn't save the duo, police said.

PTI

# ‘Thanka Anki’ reaches Sabarimala temple

PTI ■ SABARIMALA

Amid high security, the ceremonial procession carrying the sacred 'Thanka Anki' (golden attire), to be worn by Lord Ayyappa, the presiding deity of the Sabarimala temple, reached here Wednesday evening.

The procession, which had set off four days ago from the Sree Parthasarthy temple at Aranmula, reached the Lord Ayyappa temple by around 6.30 PM, temple sources said.

Lord Ayyappa would adorn the sacred attire tomorrow for the 'Mandala pooja'. After the 'Athazha pooja' in the evening, the shrine will be closed for two days, marking the culmination of the 41-day pilgrimage season, the first

phase of the annual festivities.

The shrine will re-open on December 30 for the 'Makaravillaku' festival, which falls on January 14.

Meanwhile, during this mandala puja season, 32 lakh pilgrims have so far trekked to the hill shrine, A Padmakumar, president, Travancore Devaswom Board (TDB), which manages the temple, said.

During this pilgrim season, there has been a dip in the revenues compared to the previous years, he said.

Last year, revenue collection at the temple touched Rs 160 crore, while this year it was rs 105 crore so far.

By the time the Makaravillakku is over, the

earnings are expected to touch that of last year, he said.

The temple had witnessed heavy rush in the past few days after a lull in footfalls, following the restrictions imposed due to protests by devotees.

The Ayyappa temple had witnessed frenzied protests by devotees against the state government's decision to implement the Supreme Court's September 28 verdict, opening its doors to women of all ages to offer prayers.

Traditionally, girls and women in the menstruating age group of 10-50 years were barred from offering prayers, the presiding deity of which is "Naishitika Brahmachari" (perennial celibate).



## IN 2019 LOK SABHA POLLS

# Akhilesh to go for non-Cong front

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Apparently miffed over the exclusion of the lone Samajwadi Party MLA in the Cabinet of Congress-led Government in Madhya Pradesh, SP chief Akhilesh Yadav said that his party would go for an alliance of non-Congress parties for the 2019 Lok Sabha elections.

The SP chief slammed the Congress for not including the lone SP legislator in the MP Cabinet saying, “He was excluded even as my party extended unconditional support to the Kamal Nath government.”

“Samajwadi Party will contest the 2019 Lok Sabha polls in alliance with non-Congress parties but will keep all options open and decide about it in near future,” said the former Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh.

**“SP will contest the 2019 Lok Sabha polls in alliance with non-Congress parties but will keep all options open and decide about it in near future”**



Akhilesh Yadav

“I want to thank both the Congress and the Bharatiya Janata Party for removing all obstacles from my party’s way and enabling it to charter an independent course in politics,” Akhilesh said.

Without naming any party, the SP chief said, “I remember each word said for the Samajwadi Party over its alliance with other parties for 2019 Lok Sabha elections.”

Akhilesh lashed out at the BJP for making him realise that he was from the backward

caste. “I never thought about my caste and wanted to take along all sections of society for development but the BJP won the 2017 UP assembly poll by deceit and cheating the people.”

On attempts of Telangana CM K Chandrasekhar Rao to float a third front comprising non-BJP and non-Congress parties, Akhilesh opined, “I am looking forward to meeting the Telangana CM. We were scheduled to meet either on December 25 or 26 but he meeting did not materialise for

some reason. I will soon seek appointment with KCR and may go to Hyderabad to meet him.”

In an apparent dig at the Yogi Adityanath government for its decision to install the statue of former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee at Lok Bhawan, the SP chief said, “The BJP government has started a new tradition by putting up statues of political leaders in the building. We will follow them when our party comes to power.”

Targeting Governor Ram Naik over law and order, Akhilesh said, “When I was the Chief Minister, the Raj Bhawan was hyperactive over law and order situation. The Governor is now maintaining a studied silence and those responsible for deterioration of law and order are being honoured in Raj Bhawan.”



MLA Jignesh Mevani and Student leader Kanhaiya Kumar during a rally to mark the 94th foundation day programme of Communist Party of India (CPI) in Kolkata on Wednesday

## If voted to power will send BJP leaders to the gallows: Cong leader

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

A minority cell leader of the Congress party Haji Sagheer Saeed Khan has triggered a fresh row by announcing if Congress party is voted to power BJP leaders, responsible for killing of ‘innocent’ people in Kashmir valley, will be ‘sent to the gallows.’

Haji Sagheer Saeed Khan, who is currently observer of Minority cell of AICC, also announced that the Congress party will award 1 crore compensation to all those ‘innocent’ people killed in Kashmir due to terrorism and job each for one family member.

He made this announcement during a brief interaction with the media in state Congress headquarters in Jammu on Tuesday.

Flanked by minority leaders of the Congress party, Saeed Khan, also announced that the congress party will also release all those prisoners currently kept behind bars due to terrorism, to restore peace in the region.

Addressing a press conference in Jammu Haji Sagheer Saeed Khan said, BJP leaders that have carried out these killings, how ever big the leader is, a new law will be formed and the BJP leaders will be sent to the gallows. Referring to the recent incidents of violence which rocked Bulandshahr in Uttar Pradesh, Congress leader claimed if ‘terrorists’ of Bajrang Dal, ‘terrorists of RSS, ‘terrorists’ of BJP can be compensated then why compensation cannot be given to innocent people killed during terrorism in Kashmir valley. He said Congress party will also implement Minority Commission in the State, if voted to power.

## Shivpal ready to join hands with Congress

**Lucknow:** Pragatisheel Samajwadi Party (Lohia) chief Shivpal Singh Yadav said that he was willing to join hands with the Congress to defeat the Bharatiya Janata Party in the 2019 Lok Sabha elections.

To a question on the possibility of a coalition for the coming general election, Yadav said in Bareilly, “We have our party’s organisation in 75 districts of UP. The party has decided to contest all seats against the BJP in the 2019 Lok Sabha elections. For defeating the BJP, we can also enter into an alliance with the Congress.”

Shivpal stressed that all those talking about forming a morcha to defeat the BJP should also talk to his party as it was ready to deliberate on the issue.

On the controversy over Lord Hanuman, the PSPL chief said, “Lord Hanuman is a God and those who are out to confine him to a particular caste have a very narrow mindset”.

Yadav also reiterated his stand on the Ram temple, saying that the temple should not be constructed on disputed land. **PNS**

## Sumitra highlights role of lawyers

**Lucknow:** Lok Sabha Speaker Sumitra Mahajan on Wednesday termed lawyers as priests in the temple of law and highlighted their role in the freedom struggle.

“The lawyers’ community played a vital role in the freedom struggle. What a priest does in the temple, the advocates do the same in the temple of law,” asserted Mahajan while addressing the concluding ceremony of the three-day convention of Akhil Bharatiya Adhivakta Sangh in Lucknow on Wednesday.

Attacking the #Metoo campaign, Mahajan said that advocates should feel their responsibility towards the society and instead highlight #Ytoo.

“Advocates at present are eyeing high packages by getting engaged in the corporate world instead of practising in courts and facilitating justice to the common man. Lawyers have to maintain integrity and they should feel their responsibility in building up high standard in the society,” the Lok Sabha Speakers said.

Claiming that even her husband and she were advo-

cates, Mahajan said that lawyers should remain aware and facilitate the government in implementing new laws enacted to forward justice to the last person of the society.

She also appealed to the lawyers’ association to come forward not just in improving the system, but also with suggestions on how India’s judicial system could be strengthened further.

Speaking at the function, West Bengal Governor Keshari Nath Tripathi said that the Adhivakta Parishad was an example of showing the way to the society and facilitating justice to all. He added that advocates should not indulge in any agitation or protest so that the High Court has to take cognisance and ban their unwanted stir and declare it unlawful.

Tripathi highlighted the importance of Public Interest Litigation claiming that it had become a powerful tool to extend justice or check unlawful activities of Government or even expose corrupt practices.

However, he cautioned that people should keep in mind that such tools should be not misused. **PTI**

## Bal Thackeray biopic trailer out, CBFC suggests 3 cuts

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

Hours after the Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC) three dialogue cuts suggested in the films, the makers on Wednesday went ahead and released the trailers of the Marathi and Hindi versions of the much-awaited biopic on late Shiv Sena chief Bal Thackeray “Thackeray”.

Shiv Sena president Uddhav Thackeray, who was present at the release of the trailers of both Hindi and Marathi versions of “Thackeray” held at the Carnival IMAX theatre at Wadala in north-central Mumbai, responded tersely to the three dialogue cuts suggested by the CBFC. “Whatever has happened has happened. But there is no point in hiding things. If the CBFC does not take immediate decision (in clearing the film), it is better if it would be better if the immediate decision in Babri matter”.

Expected to be used by the Shiv Sena as a vehicle for its campaign in the run-up to the 2019 Lok Sabha polls, “Thackeray” features actors Nawazuddin Siddiqui and Amrita Rao in the lead roles as Bal Thackeray and his wife Meenatai respectively.

Executive Editor of the Sena mouth-piece “Saamana” and Sena spokesperson Sanjay Raut has only written the script and screen play, but he has also produced the film. Well-known Marathi filmmaker Abhijit Panse has directed the film.

There is confusion about the exact date of the release of the film. While the makers have said the film will release on January 25, 2019, Uddhav said that the film would hit the screen across the country on January 23, 2019 – the birth anniversary of late Thackeray.

Responding to the cuts suggested by the CBFC, Raut said: “When we talk of late



Nawazuddin Siddiqui and Shiv Sena chief Uddhav Thackeray during the trailer launch of film in Mumbai

Balasabeh, who will decide as to what is right or wrong? The film is true story of late Balasaheb. Balasaheb’s life is not a fiction. Balasaheb’s life was an open book. Not event relating to Balasaheb’s life is hidden. It takes time CBFC to understand this. For some people, it has taken 50 years to understand for what Balasaheb. For instance, Madhya Pradesh’s new chief minister Kamal Nath is now talking about preference to local people – a thing that Balasaheb crusaded 50 years ago”.

Of the three cuts suggested by CBFC, two are remarks “Utalo Lungi bajao Pungi” and “Endu Gundu walle” that late Thackeray had made in reference to south Indian migrants settled in then Bombay in late sixties which witnessed attacks by the Shiv Sainiks against the migrants from south India. The third reference relates to the Babri Masjid.

The two trailers – Marathi and Hindi – have different set of dialogues. The Marathi trailer talks about the lack of jobs for local because of south

Indian migrants, late Thackeray’s references about them, Shiv Sena’s against Air India demanding jobs for locals, his utterances against late Prime Minister Morarji Desai, his famous dialogues “Aap Apne Desh ke cricket bare me sochtke hain me cricket khelnewale desh ke bare me sochta hun” and “Ramllala Pakistan me Paida Hue the?”

The Hindi version trailer contains dialogues like “Bheek mangne acha hain, goonda banke apna hak china”, threat handed to then Union Home Minister Morarji Desai (for early resolution to the Belgaum (Karnataka-Maharashtra) border dispute) that he will not be allowed to enter Maharashtra, agitations to force cinema owners in Mumbai to screen Marathi films, his explanation for saying “Jai Hind, Jai Maharashtra” (For me, nation comes first, then my state), court room scenes where he insists that Lord Ram was born in Ayodhya and rebuts a lawyer questioning as how sure he was that Lord Ram was born in Ayodhya by saying “Nahi tho Ramllala Pakistan me Paida Hue the kya?”, his saying whether he is right or wrong will be decided by the people of the country and how he handles media questions about the Sena’s role in the communal riots in Mumbai in the post-Babri Masjid demolition period.

## Assam court summons MoS Gohain in rape case, orders to appear

PTI ■ GUWAHATI

The CJM court of Assam’s Nagaon district has summoned Minister of State for Railways Rajen Gohain to appear before it on January 8, 2019 in connection with the alleged rape of a 24-year-old woman in that district.

In August this year, a case under Indian Penal Code sections 417 (punishment for cheating), 376 (rape) and 506 (criminal intimidation) was registered against Gohain for allegedly raping and threatening the married woman.

The summons, which became public Wednesday, was issued on November 28.

When contacted, Gohain told PTI, “I have heard that the court has issued a summons, but I have not received it yet. The case is totally false and I am a victim of political rivalry,” he said.

The complaint alleged that the incident took place seven to

eight months ago at the her home when her husband and other family members were not present.

Gohain, who has been representing the Nagaon Lok Sabha constituency since 1999, had claimed that the victim herself went to the court and wanted to withdraw the case, which was not accepted.

Nagaon sadar police station officer-in-charge had said in August that the woman had pleaded at the court to withdraw the case, two days after the case was filed.

Both Gohain and the woman knew each other for a long time and the minister used to visit her home, a senior official of the Nagaon Police Station had said.

The minister’s officer on special duty Sanjiv Goswami had then claimed that Gohain had filed some complaints of blackmailing against the woman and her family.

## PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON

**See Section 82 Cr.P.C.**

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused person **Vivek Chandela S/o Sh. Prem Raj R/o WZ-102, Village Khyala, Delhi** has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in case **FIR No. 265/18 u/s 376D/506/354C/328 IPC & 66E/67/67A IT Act** has been registered at PS Naraina, Delhi and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said **Vivek Chandela** cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said **Vivek Chandela** has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant). Proclamation is hereby made that the said **Vivek Chandela** accused of **FIR No. 265/18 u/s 376D/506/354C/328 IPC & 66E/67/67A IT Act** has been registered at PS Naraina, New Delhi is required to appear before this Court to answer said complaint on or before **29.01.2019**.

By Order  
**Manisha Tripathy,**  
Metropolitan Magistrate-03  
Patiala House Courts, New Delhi

## SEARCH FOR KIDNAPPED PERSON



Shantnu Bhattacharya

description is as under:-

**Complexion :** Wheatish, **Height :** About 5'3", **Face :** Round, **Build :** Thin, **Clothing :** wearing pink colour kurta and yellow colour half pant.

Any person is having any information or clue about this missing person may inform SHO, Hari Nagar, New Delhi at **E-mail: cbc@cbi.gov.in or Website: http://cbi.nic.in**  
**Tele No. : 24368638/24368641, Fax: 24368639,**

**SHO : P.S. Hari Nagar, New Delhi**  
**Ph. : 011-28125719, 28124092**

DP/8027/WD/18

**NEW DELHI MUNICIPAL COUNCIL**  
BM-PK Division, Civil Engineering Department  
ROOM NO. 1615, 16<sup>th</sup> Floor, Palika Kendra New Delhi

**e-Procurement Tender Notice**

**Name of work :** Sanitation Work.  
**SH** : Providing Safai Karamcharies for Housekeeping Work at Shivaji Stadium, Chander Lok Building, Mayur Bhawan, Lok Nayak Bhawan, Pragati Bhawan, and Zonal Centre at Fire Brigade Lane.  
**E.C. :** Rs. 11,94,659/- **Tender I.D. No.** 2018, NDMC, 164400\_1

**Date of release of tenders through e-procurement solution is 24.12.2018**  
**Date & time for pre-bid meeting is - N.A.**  
**Last date/time for receipt of tenders through e-procurement solution is 03.01.2019 upto 16:00 Hours.**  
Further details can be seen at <https://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in/mcgep> & [www.ndmc.gov.in](http://www.ndmc.gov.in) (e Tendering System Government of NCT of Delhi)  
**Note :- To participate in e-tender in NDMC, registration with e-tendering system, Government of NCT of Delhi, is mandatory.**  
The tender shall be read only through e-Procurement procedure and this supersedes all conditions of NIT for issue/receipt of tender in normal tendering process for the purpose.

**Sd/-**  
**Executive Engineer (BM-PK)**

### PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT NOTICE INVITING QUOTATION

The Executive Engineer, (C) KKD Court Division, PWD Under Akshardham Flyover, Metro Pillar No. 5.3, Noida Mor Delhi-91 invites percentage rate tender on behalf of the President of India, from approved and eligible contractors of CPWD, and also MES, BSNL and other state Govt. Departments dealing with buildings and roads and others experienced contractors by E -Tendering for the following work

**1. Name of Work : A/R & M/O D A staff quarter, Karkardooma, Delhi dg 2018-19. S Head : Provision of wall tiles, hand rail in stair case and other misc. work in type IV qtrs. NIT No 123/EE/KKD COURT DIVN./PWD/NIT/2018-19 ID No. 2018, PWD 164210. 1 Estimated Cost. Rs. 24,39,423/- Earnest money Rs. 48,788/- Period of completion 90 Days**

**2. Name of Work : Re-Modelling of existing Kitchen and Store at HLTB Complex, Tahirpur, Delhi under KKD Court Divn., M-231dg. 18-19. NIT No :- 124/EE/KKD COURT DIVN./PWD/NIT/2018-19 ID No. 2018, PWD 164233. 1 Estimated Cost. Rs. 10,54,728/- Earnest money Rs. 21,095/- Period of completion 90 Days**

Last date and time of Receipt of tender up to 15:00 PM on 05.01.2019  
**Date & time of opening of bid on 05.01.2019 at 15:30 PM Execution of similar works please see in NIT**  
**Earnest Money in favour of Executive Engineer CBM Divn. M - 231, PWD Other details of tender can be obtained from the website: <https://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in> DIP/Shabdarth/2583/18-19**



West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee offers prayers at Kapil Muni Temple at Sagar Island on Wednesday. Head priest Mohanta Gyandas is also seen

PTI



# Sensex zooms 180 points

**Nifty reclaims 10,700 mark**

PTI ■ MUMBAI

After gyrating nearly 700 points on Wednesday, benchmark equity indices reversed initial losses and ended higher, driven by a rebound in financial stocks amid firming trend in the US market.

The BSE Sensex broke its three-day falling streak by ending 179.79 points, or 0.51 per cent, higher at 35,649.94. Intraday, the index fell to a low of 35,010.82.

The broader NSE Nifty too recovered to reclaim the 10,700 level, rising 66.35 points, or 0.62 per cent, to 10,729.85.

"Market recovered in the second half following a recovery in Dow futures. At current levels, Nifty 50 is on track to deliver nominal positive returns in CY18. Nifty is the only index among large markets that is positive for the calendar year," said Viral Berawala, CIO of Essel Mutual Fund.

The 30-share index had ended the previous session 271.92 points lower at



35,470.15, while the Nifty had lost 90.50 points.

"Globally, investors would closely track political developments in US and slowdown in global economies. In the short term, liquidity and sentiment are set to drive the market," Hemang Jani, Head-Advisory, Sharekhan by BNP Paribas, said.

Nifty ended above 10,700 levels led by financials, FMCG stocks, he added.

The biggest gainers on both bourses were Bharti Airtel, HDFC duo, L&T, Bajaj Auto, Kotak Bank, Reliance Industries, Axis Bank, ICICI Bank, SBI, ITC and Bajaj Finance, rising up to 4 per cent.

On the other hand, Sun Pharma, Yes Bank, TCS, NTPC, Tata Motors, Infosys

and ONGC fell up to 2 per cent.

The rupee, meanwhile, gained against the US dollar, and was trading at 70.08 per dollar.

Brent crude, the international benchmark, was up 0.73 per cent at \$51.14 per barrel.

On a net basis, foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) sold shares worth ₹577.10 crore Monday, while domestic institutional investors (DIIs) were net buyers to the tune of ₹186.14 crore, provisional data available with BSE showed.

Elsewhere in Asia, Korea's Kospi ended 1.31 per cent lower, Hong Kong's Hang Seng fell 0.40 per cent and Shanghai Composite Index slipped 0.26 per cent; while, Japan's Nikkei rose 0.89 per cent.

## Air India should disclose lease income from assets abroad: CIC



PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Cash strapped national carrier Air India should disclose its assets abroad and earnings from them, the Central Information Commission has ruled.

It "summarily" rejected the contention of Air India that the information sought by activist Aseem Takyar regarding rent, lease fee fetched by it from April 01, 2008 with regard to its properties abroad; demarcation plan and total area of these properties, arrears attracts exemption of commercial confidence under the RTI Act.

"Commission summarily rejects the application of Section 8(1)(d) of the RTI Act in the matter as CPIO has failed to provide any tenable justification for the same," Information Commissioner Divya Prakash Sinha said.

Section 8(1)(d) exempts from disclosure the information which is of commercial

confidence, trade secrets or intellectual property, the disclosure of which would harm the competitive position of a third party, unless the competent authority is satisfied that larger public interest warrants the disclosure of such information.

"Appellant has merely sought to know the amount of rent, lease fee and arrears of rent accruing to Air India from its properties abroad and disclosure of this information can by no stretch of imagination impact aspects of commercial confidence," Sinha said.

He noted that arguments of Air India Central Public Information Officer in written submission appear rather feeble and moreover during hearing no argument was forthcoming from him.

"CPIO is directed to provide available and specific information...Of the RTI Application for the period mentioned therein..." he said.

## Maruti India recalls 5,900 units of Super Carry

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The country's largest car-maker Maruti Suzuki India (MSI) on Wednesday said it is recalling 5,900 units of its light commercial vehicle Super Carry to replace faulty fuel filter.

The company will inspect a possible defect in fuel filter of 5,900 Super Carry vehicles manufactured between April 26, 2018, and August 1, 2018, MSI said in a regulatory filing.

The recall also includes vehicles in which fuel filter has been replaced in field during this period, it added.

MSI dealers will start contacting owners of the suspected vehicles Wednesday onwards to inspect and replace faulty part free of cost, it said.

Recall campaigns are undertaken globally to rectify faults that may potential be safety defects.

Earlier in October, MSI had announced recall of 640 units of Super Carry to fix a possible defect in the fuel pump supply.

The recall covered Super Carry units manufactured between January 20 and July 14, 2018.

MSI rolls out Super Carry from its Gurugram facility. The vehicle comes equipped with a 793-cc diesel engine.

## HELO UNVEILS MOST POPULAR TRENDING TOPICS OF 2018

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Helo, a regional language social media platform, on Wednesday unveils the top three most popular trending topics that have engaged users nationwide.


According to Helo, this year's festive Diwali season was the biggest trending topic of 2018, as the platform garnered over 600 million views, with users exchanging wishes and engaging with posts by Indian celebrities.

The second most popular

trending topic among Helo users was the launch of the film 2.0. The release of this biggest Indian science fiction film of the year last November garnered over 220 million views on the platform. This trending topic sparked discussions around the film as well as on the topics of science and technology, resulting in various posts and memes.

Helo is available in India in 14 vernacular languages, including Hindi, Telugu, Tamil, Malayalam and more.

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



**The Executive Engineer (Elect), Parliament House Electrical Works Division, CPWD, Parliament House Complex, New Delhi** invites on behalf of President of India online item rate bids for the following work:-

**NIT No – 79/EE(E)/PHEWD/2018-2019, Name of Work – AM & O (2018-19) Audio Visual and Presentation System in Parliament House, New Delhi.** (SH: Provision of Channel selector & Delegate unit in Chamber & upper galleries, Rajya Sabha). **Estimated Cost– Rs. 9.43,710/- Earnest Money - Rs. 18,874/- Period of Completion- 10 Days.** Last time & date of submission of bid – 03.01.2019 upto 03.00 PM

**The bids forms and other details can be obtained from the website [www.tenderwizard.com/CPWD](http://www.tenderwizard.com/CPWD) or [www.eprocure.gov.in](http://www.eprocure.gov.in).**

## APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION



General public is hereby informed that an unknown dead body was found on **Footpath in front of St. Stephen Church, Church Mission Road, Lahori Gate, Delhi**, dated 20.12.2018. In this regard a **DD No. 13-A dated 20.12.2018**, has been lodged at **P.S. Lahori Gate, Delhi**.

The Description of the dead body is given as under: **Name:** Unknown, **S/o:** Unknown, **R/o:** Unknown, **Sex:** Male, **Age:** 60 Years, **Height:** 5'7", **Complexion:** Shallow, **Wearing:** Grey Colour Jacket, Green Colour Pant and Bare Footed.

Sincere efforts have been made by the local Police to trace out the dead person but no clue has come to light so far. If anyone having any information about this dead person, please inform undersigned.

**SHO**

**P.S. Lahori Gate, Delhi**  
**DP/9487/N/18**      **Ph: 011-23953776, 08750870122**

## PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF A PERSON ACCUSED

**See Section 82 Cr. PC.**

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused **Binay Tudu @ Jhabroo S/o Sh. Marang Tudu R/o Village-Rahmat Pur, PS-Barharwa, PO-Islam Pur, District- Saheb Ganj, Jharkhand** has Committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence under **FIR No. 277/15 u/s 323 IPC 23 JJ Act & 3/14 CL Act** has been registered at **P.S. Kirti Nagar, Delhi** and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said **Binay Tudu @ Jhabroo** cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said **Binay Tudu @ Jhabroo** has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant).

Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused **Binay Tudu @ Jhabroo** of **FIR No. 277/15 u/s 323 IPC 23 JJ Act & 3/14 CL Act** has been registered at **P.S. Kirti Nagar, Delhi** is required to appear before this Court to answer the said complaint on or before **29.01.2019**.

**By order**

**Sh. Ajay Singh Shekhawat,**  
**Chief Metropolitan Magistrate**  
**Room No. 146, 1st Floor**  
**Tis Hazari Court, Delhi**  
**DP/8022/WD/18**

## Commerce Min in favour to hike import duty on aluminium: Prabhu

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The commerce ministry is in favour of hiking import duty on aluminium with a view to support domestic manufacturers, Union Minister Suresh Prabhu has said.

"That is a proposal to protect our domestic industry. The proposal is under examination and we support the proposal," Prabhu added.

The Commerce and Industry Minister said that there has been a complaint by aluminium industry about dumping of the commodity.

He was replying to a question about the Government's plan to increase import duty on aluminium.

The industry has demanded increase in import duties on aluminium scrap and primary aluminium amid a high growth in inward shipments of these items. They are demanding to raise the duty on primary and scrap aluminium to 10 per cent.

Currently, the basic customs duty on aluminium scrap and primary aluminium is 2.5 per cent and 7.5 per cent, respectively.

Besides this, domestic players have also urged to impose minimum import price and some kind of quota on the imports for the user industry.

Total production of aluminium in India is about 4 million tonnes and consumption is about 3.6 million tonnes.

The demand comes in the wake of the US imposing 10 per cent duty on certain aluminium products. China too has raised the duties.

Aluminium is required by the industries like automobile, construction, consumer goods etc.

All these industries are growing in India and the country is producing sufficient amount of the required metal domestically, an industry expert has said.

As per estimates, during the first quarter of the current fiscal, imports of aluminium scrap increased to 36,000 tonnes from 16,000 tonnes.

Further talking about a proposal to cut export duty on iron ore, the Commerce and Industry Minister said the Ministry has sought views of steel and mines ministry on the issue.

FORM G - INVITATION FOR RESOLUTION PLANS	
(Under Regulation 36A (1) of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (Insolvency Resolution Process for Corporate Persons) Regulations, 2016)	
FOR THE ATTENTION OF THE PROSPECTIVE RESOLUTION APPLICANTS OF VISHAL GLOBAL LIMITED	
RELEVANT PARTICULARS	
1. Name of the corporate debtor	Vishal Global Limited
2. Date of incorporation of corporate debtor	31/12/1985
3. Authority under which corporate debtor is incorporated / registered	Registrar of Companies, Delhi/ Ministry of Corporate Affairs under the Companies Act 1956
4. Corporate identity number / limited liability identification number of corporate debtor	U51909DL1985PLC022920
5. Address of the registered office and principal office (if any) of corporate debtor	52/124 Property No.124, Pocket-52, EPDP Colony, Chittaranjan Park Delhi-110019
6. Insolvency commencement date of the corporate debtor	27.06.2018(Copy of order received by IRP on 05.10.2018)
7. Date of invitation of expression of interest	26.12.2018
8. Eligibility for resolution applicants under section 25(2)(n) of the Code is available at:	Details can be sought by emailing on E-Mail: <a href="mailto:vishalglobal.in@gmail.com">vishalglobal.in@gmail.com</a>
9. Norms of ineligibility applicable under section 29A are available at:	As per section 29(A) and other provisions of the Insolvency & Bankruptcy Code, 2016 Available at the website of IBBI <a href="http://ibbi.gov.in/webfront/legal_framework.php">http://ibbi.gov.in/webfront/legal_framework.php</a>
10. Last date for receipt of expression of interest	10.01.2019
11. Date of issue of provisional list of prospective resolution applicants	20.01.2019
12. Last date for submission of objections to provisional list	25.01.2019
13. Date of issue of final list of prospective resolution applicants	04.02.2019
14. Date of issue of information memorandum, evaluation matrix and request for resolution plans to prospective resolution applicants	25.01.2019
15. Manner of obtaining request for resolution plan, evaluation matrix, information memorandum and further information	Information Memorandum shall be shared by the resolution Professional with prospective resolution Applicants(s) after obtaining a duly signed confidentiality undertaking as per provision of Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016 via e-mail at Email id: <a href="mailto:vishalglobal.in@gmail.com">vishalglobal.in@gmail.com</a>
16. Last date for submission of resolution plans	28.02.2019
17. Manner of submitting resolution plans to resolution professional	Prospective resolution Applicants(s) may submit their plan to the resolution professional by E-mail at <a href="mailto:vishalglobal.in@gmail.com">vishalglobal.in@gmail.com</a> followed by the physical copy to the address of the resolution professional at 407, Indraprakash Building, Barakhamba Road, New Delhi-110001
18. Estimated date for submission of resolution plan to the Adjudicating Authority for approval	10.03.2019
19. Name and registration number of the resolution professional	Mr. Ashish Singh (IBBI/PA-002/JP-N00416/2017-18/11230)
20. Name, Address and e-mail of the resolution professional, as registered with the Board	Name: Mr. Ashish Singh   Add:-Flat No. 515, Baghban Apartment, Sector – 28, Rohini, New Delhi – 110 042 Email id: <a href="mailto:ashishsinghcs@gmail.com">ashishsinghcs@gmail.com</a>
21. Address and email to be used for correspondence with the resolution professional	407, Indraprakash Building, Barakhamba Road, New Delhi-110001 Email id: <a href="mailto:vishalglobal.in@gmail.com">vishalglobal.in@gmail.com</a>
22. Further Details are available at or with	27.12.2018
23. Date of publication of Form G	27.12.2018
Sd/- Ashish Singh Resolution Professional of Vishal Global Limited	
Registration Number: IBBI/PA-002/JP-N00416/2017-18/11230 Reg address:- Flat No. 515, Baghban Apartment, Sector – 28, Rohini, New Delhi-110 042 E-Mail ID: <a href="mailto:vishalglobal.in@gmail.com">vishalglobal.in@gmail.com</a>	
Date: 27.12.2018 Place: New Delhi	

## Sebi slaps ₹10 cr fine on 3 promoters of Man Industries

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Markets regulator Sebi has slapped a penalty of ₹10 crore on three promoters of Man Industries for failing to make an open offer to the company's shareholders.

The three promoters are JPA Holdings Pvt Ltd, Nikhil Mansukhani and Anita Mansukhani.

The regulator conducted a probe in the shareholding of Man Industries during June to September 2010.

It observed that the shareholding of the company's promoters increased from 51.29 per cent to 55.18 per cent due to acquisition of shares in open market as well as by conversion of warrants.

Under Substantial Acquisition of Shares and Takeovers (SAST) regulations, it is mandatory to make an open offer if the promoters' shareholding crosses the threshold limit of 55 per cent.

However, the promoters failed to do so.

The promoters argued that they belonged to two different groups and hence should not be considered as persons acting in concert (PAC).

Rejecting the argument, Sebi said,"both groups were acting in concert and their shareholding has to be taken as a whole and thus the notices have breached the threshold of 55 per cent thereby violating ... SAST regulations.

CA MANEET PAL

More than a year has passed, since the MNDA Government rolled out the Goods and Services Tax (GST), on 1 July, 2017. The introduction of this indirect tax regime marked the end of over a decade of squabbling, where politicians struggled to build accord across party lines. Heralded as India's greatest tax reform, the aim of the GST was to free Indians from multiple taxes and setting the base for a unified common market — One Nation, One Tax, One Market.

However, with the introduction of GST came multiple challenges related to implementation both at the organisation and the country level. Some of the common challenges that organisations faced post GST implementation were change in business processes, change in product pricing, Tax positions, Transition and Compliances. However, to ensure the unbroken implementation of GST law on notified entities, the Government entrusted on Chartered Accountants and Cost Accountant to conduct audit and submit report under the notified form. Instance, the Section 35(5) read with Section 44 and Rule 80(3) of Goods and Services Tax (GST) Laws, provides that every registered person, whose aggregate turnover during a financial year exceeds two crore rupees, is required to get its accounts audited. In GST, there are 3 types of audits, Audit by Chartered Accountant or Cost Accountant, Audit by Department and Special Audit.

The copy of audited annual accounts and a reconciliation statement, duly certified, in Form GSTR-9C has to be submitted on or before the 31st Day of December (extended to 30th June 2019 for FY 2017-18 by Government in its 31st GST council meeting) by the tax payer. In this regard, the Government has also notified Form comprising of reconciliation statement, certification, records, returns

and other documents maintained by the registered person to verify the correctness of declared turnover, taxes paid, refund claimed and input tax credit availed and to assess his compliance with the GST provisions. With the higher emphasis on compliances by Government and the comprehensive reporting burden on companies, GST reconciliations and documentations will not be an easy task, but GST audit allows companies to self-examine the tax positions taken and allow improving the same for next year. To ensure timely and efficient compliance of GST audit, companies should appoint their GST auditor, plan way forward, start gathering documents, and create internal controls for been GST law compliant.

It's important that companies start preparing for these audits in order to avoid any loss of credits, applicability of interest/penalties, etc. Some of the key aspects to be considered by companies during audit should be:

**Reconciliations:** Ensure reconciliations of output tax/input tax between the books of accounts, returns and e-waybills issued;

**Taxpositions:** Review the tax positions adopted and also whether these are correctly reflected in documentation;

**Credits:** Review if any ineligible credits have been availed and, in the process, also ensure completeness of credits;

**Reverse Charge:** check all inward supply of goods or services which are covered under reverse charge mechanism and whether tax has been remitted in capacity of recipient of supply, where required;

**Export/RFD01:** check the option selected to supply for export without payment of integrated tax and has paid the tax or vice versa.

Also, it is essential to take make note of the sector wise considerations during the GST audit. Some of these include:

Banking/NBFC Sector — Reversal of ITC in according to the rule 38 of the

CGST Act, 2017, & time limit for issuance of Invoice is 45 days (Instead of 30 days as per general rule).

E-Commerce Sector — E-commerce aggregators are made responsible under the GST law for deducting and depositing tax at the rate of 1% from each of the transaction. Any dealers/traders selling goods/services online would get the payment after deduction of 1% tax. It is a significant change which would increase a lot of compliance and administration cost for online aggregators.

Exporters- Exporter will export under the Letter of Undertaking (LUT) that would be valid for a financial year or Bond, or with payment of tax. Filing of RFD-01 for claiming the Input tax credit is paid on the inward supplies.

Real Estate Sector — Sale of immovable properties before or after completion certificates are issued, sale of property under the credit linked subsidy scheme. Reconciliation will be an issue because builders recognise the income based of percentage completion method as per IND-AS which is not in line with time of supply as per GST.

Presumptive Taxpayers (Life Insurance companies, Travel Agents) — Turnover in Financial statements would be different from turnover in GST.

Sectors where outward supplies are exempted (Like Power Sector, Universities) -Focus on Reverse charge mechanism liability to be discharged.

Apart from the above, there are numerous issues which taxpayers might face during audit depending on the nature of business. Therefore it is well suggested that taxpayers should start working on annual GST return with their auditors in order to execute the compliances well before time.

(The article is contributed by CA Maneet Pal, IP Pasricha & Co, Partner. Views expressed are personal)

## Business Corner



As part of its current year CSR programme, NMDC has partnered with Shantigiri Vidya Bhavan Senior Secondary School, Tiruvananthapuram for development of sports infrastructure viz., 'Indoor games courts' and creation of 'Toilet' facilities as part of Swachh Bharat Mission. NMDC has provided an assistance of ₹20.00 Lakh (Rupees Twenty Lakh) towards the same. The facility was inaugurated by N Baijendra Kumar, CMD, NMDC Limited underlining the importance NMDC attributes to the cause of wholesome education especially among the poor.

### NORTHERN RLY ORGANISES 1ST SCRAP PURCHASE MEET

Store Department of Northern Railway organised 1st Scrap Purchasers Meet -2018 at Shakurbasti Store Depot recently. On this occasion, Ram Lal, Principal Chief Materials Manager, Northern Railway, was the Chief Guest. Several other officials viz a viz Chief Material Manager, Sale, Chief Material Manager/Marketing and Sr. Divisional Material Manager's all the Divisions and Depot complex Auction conducting Officers were present in the meet. Purchasers from different location i.e. Jagadhari, Moradabad, Lucknow, Ferozpur, Delhi and Ambala attended the meeting. In the meet, suggestions and complaints of purchasers were invited from the participants.

## Govt tightens norms for retailers, bars exclusive deals

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Tightening norms for e-commerce firms having foreign investment, the Government on Wednesday barred online marketplaces like Flipkart and Amazon from selling products of companies where they hold stakes and banned exclusive marketing arrangements that could influence product price.

The revised policy on foreign direct investment in online retail, issued by the commerce and industry ministry, also said that these firms have to offer equal services or facilities to all its vendors without discrimination.

The revised norms are aimed at protecting the interest of domestic players, who have to face tough competition from e-retailers having deep pockets from foreign investors, the ministry said.

The policy would be effective from February 2019.

"The move would completely prevent influencing prices by e-commerce players. This will also ensure better enforcement of FDI guidelines in e-commerce companies," a senior official said.

The policy says a vendor will not be permitted to sell

more than 25 per cent of its products on an online platform of a single e-marketplace firm.

"Inventory of a vendor will be deemed to be controlled by e-commerce marketplace entity if more than 25 per cent of purchases of such vendor are from the marketplace entity or its group companies," the commerce and industry ministry's press note said.

"An entity having equity participation by e-commerce marketplace entity or its group companies, or having control on its inventory by e-commerce marketplace entity or its group companies, will not be permitted to sell its products on the platform run by such marketplace entity".

E-commerce marketplace entity "will not mandate" any seller to sell any good "exclusively" on its platform "only", the note said.

Any service like logistics provided by e-commerce companies to vendors in which they have direct or indirect equity participation or common control stake, should be fair and non-discriminatory.

These services include logistics, warehousing, advertisement, marketing, payments, financing etc.



# Post-holiday, partial Govt shutdown to gain impact

**Washington:** Christmas has come and gone but the partial Government shutdown is just getting started.

Wednesday brings the first full business day after several Government departments and agencies closed up over the weekend due to a budgetary stalemate between President Donald Trump and Congress. And there is no end in sight.



So far, the public and federal workers have largely been spared inconvenience and hardship because Government is closed on weekends and federal employees were excused from work on Christmas Eve and Christmas, a federal holiday. The shutdown began at midnight last Friday.

Trump said on Tuesday that the closed parts of the Government will remain that way until Democrats agree to wall off the US-Mexico border to deter criminal elements. He said he's open to calling the wall something else as long as he ends up with an actual wall.

Asked when the Government would reopen fully, Trump said he couldn't say.

"I can't tell you when the Government's going to be open. I can tell you it's not going to be open until we have a wall or fence, whatever they'd

like to call it," Trump said, referring to Democrats who staunchly oppose walling off the border.

"I'll call it whatever they want, but it's all the same thing," he told reporters after participating in a holiday video conference with representatives from all five branches of the military stationed in Alaska, Bahrain, Guam and Qatar.

Trump argued that drug flows and human trafficking can only be stopped by a wall.

"We can't do it without a barrier. We can't do it without a wall," he said. "The only way you're going to do it is to have a physical barrier, meaning a wall. And if you don't have that then we're just not opening" the Government.

Democrats oppose spending money on a wall, preferring

instead to pump the dollars into fencing, technology and other means of controlling access to the border. Trump argued that Democrats oppose a wall only because he is for one.

The stalemate over how much to spend and how to spend it caused the partial Government shutdown that began Saturday following a lapse in funding for departments and agencies that make up about 25 per cent of the Government.

Some 800,000 Government workers are affected. Many are on the job but must wait until after the shutdown to be paid again.

Trump claimed that many of these workers "have said to me and communicated, 'stay out until you get the funding for the wall.' These federal workers want the wall.

The only one that doesn't want the wall are the Democrats." Trump didn't say how he's hearing from federal workers, excluding those he appointed to their jobs or who work with him in the White House. But many rank-and-file workers have gone to social media with stories of the financial hardship they expect to face because of the shutdown. **AP**

# Japan announces IWC withdrawal, will resume commercial whaling

**Tokyo:** Japan said on Wednesday it is withdrawing from the International Whaling Commission and will resume commercial whaling next year, in a move expected to spark international criticism.

The announcement had been widely expected and comes after Japan failed in a bid earlier this year to convince the IWC to allow it to resume commercial whaling.

"We have decided to withdraw from the International Whaling Commission in order to resume commercial whaling in July next year," top Government spokesman Yoshihide Suga told reporters.

"Commercial whaling... Will be limited to Japan's territorial waters and exclusive economic zones. We will not hunt in the Antarctic waters or in the southern hemisphere," Suga added.

Tokyo has repeatedly threatened to pull out of the body, and has been regularly criticised for catching hundreds of whales a year for "scientific research" despite being a signatory to a moratorium on hunting the animals.

Suga said Japan would officially inform the IWC of its decision by the end of the

year, which will mean the withdrawal comes into effect by June 30.

Leaving the IWC means Japanese whalers will be able to resume hunting in Japanese coastal waters of minke and other whales currently protected by the IWC. But Japan will not be able to continue the so-called scientific research hunts in the Antarctic that it has been exceptionally allowed as an IWC member under the Antarctic Treaty.

The withdrawal means Japan joins Iceland and Norway in openly defying the IWC's ban on commercial whale hunting.

Japan has hunted whales for centuries, and the meat was a key source of protein in the immediate post-World War II years when the country was desperately poor.

But consumption has declined significantly in recent decades, with much of the population saying they rarely or never eat whale meat.

Whale hunting has become a rare thorny subject in Japan's otherwise largely amiable foreign policy, with international opposition only serving to make conservatives dig in deeper in support of the tradition. **AFP**

# Russia expands economic sanctions on Ukraine

**Moscow:** Russia on Tuesday expanded its economic sanctions on Ukraine, adding more than 250 people and businesses to a blacklist first announced at the start of November.

According to a decree by Prime Minister Dmitri Medvedev, 245 individuals and seven companies, mostly in the energy and defence sectors, were sanctioned by Moscow.

Relations between Moscow and Kiev have deteriorated since a pro-Western Government came to power after the 2014 revolt against a pro-Russian leader, Moscow's annexation of the Crimea and the outbreak of war in eastern Ukraine.

A total of 567 individuals and 75 Ukrainian companies now face Russian economic sanctions, which put a freeze on any assets they have in Russia.

On his Twitter account, Medvedev said the sanctions were "to defend the interests of the Russian Government, businesses and people."

Tensions between the two neighbours have worsened since November when Russia's coastguard captured three Ukrainian naval vessels and their crews off the Crimean coast. **AFP**

# Koreas broke ground on railways but sanctions block project

**Seoul:** North and South Korea broke ground on Wednesday on an ambitious project to modernise North Korean railways and roads and connect them with the South, but without progress in nuclear negotiations, trains won't be crossing the border anytime soon.

The ceremony at the North Korean border town of Kaesong came weeks after the Koreans conducted a joint survey on the northern railway sections they hope to someday link with the South. It's one of several peace gestures agreed between North Korean leader Kim Jong Un and liberal South Korean President Moon Jae-in as they push ahead with engagement amid a stalemate in larger nuclear negotiations between Washington and Pyongyang.

But beyond on-site reviews and ceremonies, the Koreans cannot move much further along without the removal of US-led sanctions against the North.

A South Korean train carrying about 100 people — including Government officials, lawmakers and aging relatives separated by the 1950-53 Korean War — rolled into the North Korean border town of Kaesong, where they were greeted by North Koreans

including Ri Son Gwon, who heads an agency dealing with inter-Korean affairs.

North and South Korean officials signed a wooden railroad tie, unveiled a new signboard and observed a ceremonial connecting of northern and southern tracks at Kaesong's Panmun Station, according to South Korea's Unification Ministry.

Officials from China and Russia were also invited to witness the symbolic start of an ambitious project Seoul hopes will one day link South Korea with the Trans-China and Trans-Siberian railways. **AFP**

## NOTICE INVITING E-TENDERS

The Executive Engineer, Civil Division No. VIII, Irrigation & Flood Control Deptt, Govt. of NCT of Delhi, Sector- 15, Rohini, Delhi invites online **Item Rate** E-tenders on behalf of the President of India from approved and eligible contractors of i&FC Deptt. The contractors who are registered with other Departments but granted provisional permission by the Chief Engineer (i&FC) are also eligible for participation of e-tendering for the following works:-

1. NIT No.- EE/CD-VIII/2018-19/90 N.O.W.- Improvement of road from Bawana road ( Near Govt. School) to Gausahla.

H.O.A:- MLA LAD works in NCT of Delhi

**Estimated Cost:-** Rs 31,73,569  
**Earnest Money:-** Rs. 63,471  
**Period of completion:-** 30 Days;  
**Last date and time of submission of tender:** upto 3:00 P.M. on 02.01.2019 (ID. No. 2018\_IC\_163979\_1)

2. NIT No.- EE/CD-VIII/2018-19/91 N.O.W.- Construction/Improvement of Phirni road and connecting streets at village Nangal Thakran in Distt. North (Balance work).

H.O.A:- D.V.D.B. Works in N.C.T. of Delhi.

**Estimated Cost:-** Rs 61,88,476 :  
**Earnest Money:-** Rs. 1,23,770  
**Period of completion:-** 120 Days;  
**Last date and time of submission of tender:** upto 3:00 P.M. on 02.01.2019 (ID. No. 2018\_IFC\_163983\_1)

3. NIT No.- EE/CD-VIII/2018-19/92 N.O.W.- Improvement of existing streets at village Bajitpur in Distt. North

H.O.A:- D.V.D.B. Works in N.C.T. of Delhi.

**Estimated Cost:-** Rs 78,49,561  
**Earnest Money:-** Rs. 1,56,991  
**Period of completion:-** 120 Days;  
**Last date and time of submission of tender:** upto 3:00 P.M. on 02.01.2019 (ID. No. 2018\_IFC\_163985\_1)

4. NIT No.- EE/CD-VIII/2018-19/93 N.O.W.- Restoration of remaining old phirni road and streets at village Kanjhawala in Distt. N.W.

H.O.A:- D.V.D.B. Works in N.C.T. of Delhi.

**Estimated Cost:-** Rs 67,40,402  
**Earnest Money:-** Rs. 1,34,808  
**Period of completion:-** 120 Days;  
**Last date and time of submission of tender:** upto 3:00 P.M. on 02.01.2019 (ID. No. 2018\_IFC\_163990\_1)

# 13 Nigerian troops, policeman killed in Boko Haram attack

**Kano:** Boko Haram jihadists ambushed a military convoy in northeastern Nigeria, killing 13 soldiers and a policeman, the army said Wednesday.

But an officer, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the militants had overrun an army base, and put the death toll at 18.

An army statement said the attackers ambushed a military

convoy late Monday on a highway linking Maiduguri, the capital of Borno state, with Damaturu in neighbouring Yobe state.

"Sadly, 13 military and a police personnel... Paid the supreme price while extricating themselves from the ambush," said the statement, signed by local military spokesman Colonel Onyema Nwachukwu.



The attack followed an attempted raid on a nearby military base along the highway in Kukareta village, 20 kilometres (12 miles) from Damaturu, Nwachukwu said.

That attack was "repelled" by troops who "engaged and overpowered the terrorists, killing several of them", Nwachukwu said, adding that a soldier was injured. **AFP**

# Afghan postpones presidential election

**Kabul:** Afghanistan's presidential election, initially scheduled for April, will be postponed for several months to allow time to fix technical problems that surfaced during October's parliamentary elections, officials said Wednesday.

More time is needed to verify voter lists and train staff on a biometric identification system designed to reduce fraud, said Abdul Aziz Ibrahim, deputy spokesman for the Independent Election Commission.

Parliamentary elections were fraught with delays after the few staff trained on the biometric system did not show up at the polling booths and countless registered voters could not find their names on voter lists. Polling had to continue for a second day after hundreds of polling stations opened several hours late. Several legal complaints have been filed to challenge the results. No new date for the presidential election has yet been set.

The last presidential election, held in 2014, was mired in controversy and widespread allegations of fraud.

The two leading candi-

dates, Ashraf Ghani and Abdullah Abdullah, fought a tight race that went to a second vote. But before the results of the runoff could be announced, Abdullah alleged massive vote fraud and warned of widespread protests.

John Kerry, the then U.S. Secretary of state, interceded and helped cobble together a unity government and convinced the election commission to hold off on announcing the results of the runoff, which Ghani seemed poised to win.

Ghani was named president and Abdullah was given a newly created title of Chief Executive. The arrangement was intended to last only two years but has continued up to the present, resulting in a government marked by deep divisions that has struggled to combat a resurgent Taliban.

The postponement of the election could give more time for U.S. Efforts to end the 17-year war. US peace envoy Zalmay Khalilzad has crisscrossed the region several times since his appointment in September, reportedly meeting with the Taliban on several occasions. **AP**

**POSSESSION NOTICE (for Immovable Property)**

Whereas, The undersigned being the authorized officer of the **Citibank N.A.**, having Office at-3rd Floor, 27, Central Market, Western Avenue Road, Punjabi Bagh, New Delhi- 110026, under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest (AcSI), 2002 (54 of 2002) and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(2) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a **Demand Notice dated 10.11.2017** calling upon **Mrs. Sakshi Sehgal, Mr. Manish Sehgal, Mr. Kewal Sehgal, M/s Nimbus Fabrics** (hereinafter referred to as "**Borrowers**") to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being **Rs. 1,02,03,203.86/- (Rupees One Crore Two Lakhs Three Thousand Two Hundred Three and Eighty Six Paise only)** within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

The Borrowers, having failed to repay the abovementioned amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrowers and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under sub-section (4) of Section 13 of Act read with rule 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 on this **21st of December of the year 2018**.

The Borrowers in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the Citibank N.A. for an amount of **Rs.1,14,44,870 /- (Rupees One Crore Fourteen Lakhs Forty Four Thousand Eight Hundred and Seventy only)** as on 31.12.2018.

The Borrower's attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of Section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

**DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY**

All that part and parcel of the property consisting of Apartment No.237, 2nd Floor, Dhudial, Co-operative Group Housing Society Ltd., Dhudial Apartments, Madhuban Chowk, Pitampura, Delhi

Dated: 27th December, 2018  
Place: Delhi

Authorized Officer  
(Citibank N.A.)

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

The Deputy Director (Hort.) Horticulture Division No. 1, CPWD, South Avenue, New Delhi (Ph: 23018234), e-mail ID hort.dhhd1@yahoo.in on behalf of the President of India, invites online item rate tenders on two bid system from Eligible florist as per criteria laid down in NIT for the following work:-

**NIT No. 160/DD/HD-1/2018-19, Name of Work:-** Providing & arranging of cut flowers in flower vases and their display in different offices / Departments at Defence Blocks, (CSSA Works), NSCS of PMO at SP Bhawan & Floral Decoration at VVIP locations under Sub-Divn. 2/HD-1, CPWD, New Delhi, dg. 2018-19. **Estimated Cost:** 92,82,800/-, **Earnest money :** 1,85,656/-, **Period of completion :** 12 Months, **Last date and time of submission of Eligibility bid** 03-01-2019 upto 11:00 A.M.

The bid forms and other details can be obtained from the website [www.tenderwizard.com/CPWD](http://www.tenderwizard.com/CPWD). the press notice is also available on [www.eprocure.gov.in](http://www.eprocure.gov.in).

**NOTICE INVITING e-TENDERS**

The Deputy Director (Hort.) Horticulture Division No. 1, CPWD, South Avenue, New Delhi (Ph: 23018234), e-mail ID hort.dhhd1@yahoo.in on behalf of the President of India, hereby invites online tenders from eligible contractors for the following works.

**NIT No. 155/DD/HD-1/2018-19 (CPWD/Non CPWD Contractors), Name of Work:-** Making arrangement for Republic Day Celebration – 2019 (SH: Preparation of Floral Tableaux – Providing of refreshment/food), Estimated Cost: 8,25,600/- Earnest money: 16,512/-, Period of completion: Upto 25th January 2019, Last date of submission of bid 03.01.2019 upto 11:00 AM, Date of opening of bid 03.01.2019 at 11:30 AM.

**NIT No. 157/DD/HD-1/2018-19 (Horticulture Category)**  
**Name of Work:-** S/R Turfing and upgradation of lawn at different VVIP's Bungalows under Sub-Divn. 2/HD-1 (Pandara Road Section), CPWD, New Delhi, 2018-19., Estimated Cost: 22,63,361/- Earnest money: 45,267/-, Period of completion : 03 Months, Last date of submission of bid 03.01.2019 upto 11:00 AM, Date of opening of bid 03.01.2019 at 11:30 AM.

**NIT No. 159/DD/HD-1/2018-19 (Nursery Category)**  
**Name of Work:-** M/o G.A. attached to different VVIP's Bungalows under Sub-Divn. 3/HD-1, CPWD, New Delhi dg. 2018-19. (SH: Providing and displaying of different types of plants. (Clarkia, Ciliathus, Cylecmen hybrid etc).. Estimated Cost: 19,02,900/- Earnest money: 38,058/-, Period of completion: 01 Month, Last date of submission of bid 03.01.2019 upto 11:00 AM, Date of opening of bid 03.01.2019 at 11:30 AM.

The Bid forms and other details can be obtained from the website [www.tenderwizard.com/CPWD](http://www.tenderwizard.com/CPWD). The Press Notice is also available on [www.eprocure.gov.in](http://www.eprocure.gov.in).

# B'desh Opp demands CEC's resignation

**Dhaka:** Bangladesh's main Opposition alliance has demanded the resignation of the chief election commissioner, questioning his neutrality, days ahead of the December 30 general elections, a senior official has said.

Members of Bangladesh's opposition BNP-NUF alliance on Tuesday walked out of an Election Commission meeting, alleging that the behaviour of Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Nurul Huda was "inappropriate" and he was not taking their views into consideration during the talks.

The Opposition delega-

tion led by National Unity Front (NUF) convenor and eminent jurist Kamal Hossain met Huda to discuss the alleged arrests of the coalition's supporters in police crackdown ahead of the general elections this week.

The NUF has demanded Huda's resignation accusing him of bias ahead of the polls, a senior BNP leader said last evening.

BNP secretary general Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir said they demanded the CEC's resignation as they fear a free and fair election cannot be expected under Huda's leadership. **PTI**

# Thailand Govt OK's draft to legalise same-sex civil union

**BANGKOK:** The Thailand Government has approved a draft legislation to allow same-sex civil union, a step which could make it the first Asian country to recognise such partnerships once the bill is passed, official sources said on Wednesday.

The Government approved the Civil Partnership Bill on Tuesday, Efe news quoted Apichat, a Government spokesperson, as saying.

The official said no date has been fixed yet for the legislation to be presented in the National legislative Assembly for a debate and approval as the State Council was reviewing its details. **IANS**

**LOST AND FOUND PUBLIC NOTICE**

Notice is hereby given to the public that Meenu Bhartiya R/O D-1087, New Friends Colony, New Delhi - 110 025 is owner of the property D-1087, New Friends Colony, New Delhi - 110 025.

Following original documents of the above property has been lost/misplaced:

1. Original Allotment letter issued by New Friends CHBSL to Smt. Bimla in respect of the said Property.
2. Original Possession letter issued by New Friends CHBSL to Smt. Bimla in respect of the said Property.
3. Original SPA dated 02.04.1981 executed by Smt. Bimla Khanna W/o Shri D.P. Khanna in favour of Smt. Sheela Devi Bhartiya W/o Shri J.K. Bhartiya in respect of the said Property.
4. Original GPA executed by Smt. Bimla Khanna W/o Shri D.P. Khanna in favour of Smt. Sheela Devi Bhartiya W/o Shri J.K. Bhartiya in respect of the said Property.
5. Original agreement to sell dated 02.04.1981 executed by Smt. Bimla Khanna W/o Shri D.P. Khanna in favour of Smt. Sheela Devi Bhartiya W/o Shri J.K. Bhartiya in respect of the said Property.
6. Original will executed by Smt. Bimla Khanna W/o Shri D.P. Khanna in favour of Smt. Sheela Devi Bhartiya W/o Shri J.K. Bhartiya in respect of the said Property.
7. Substitution letter in favour of Smt. Meenu Bhartiya and Smt. Pooja Bhartiya in respect of the said Property.
8. Original GPA dated 02.04.1981 executed by Smt. Bimla Khanna W/o Shri O.P. Khanna in favour of Smt. Sheela Devi Bhartiya W/o Shri J.K. Bhartiya (SUB) Smt. Meenu Bhartiya and Smt. Pooja Bhartiya in respect of the said Property.

If someone has any objection/dispute over this publication then he / she may contact HDFC Bank Ltd., Mr. Gulvez Ahmed, Mobile No.: 9891883083 within 15 days from the date of this publication.

**APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION**

General public is hereby informed that one male was found unconscious at footpath Bhairon Road near Bhairon Mandir, New Delhi and admitted in Lady Harding Hospital, Delhi where he was declared dead vide MLC No.73261/18 on dated 20.12.2018. The Dead Body has been preserved in Mortuary of Lady Harding Hospital, Delhi for further proceedings. In this regard a **DD No.7-A, Dated 20.12.2018** has been lodged at **P.S. Tilak Marg, Dist. New Delhi**. The description of the dead body is given as under:

**Name:** Unknown, **S/o:** Unknown, **R/o:** Unknown, **Age:** 65 years, **Height:** 5'10", **Face:** Round, **Complexion:** Wheatish, **Built:** Thin, **Hair:** Grey long hair, **Wearing:** White colour T-Shirt and Brown Blazer and Grey Pant.

Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the information about the dead male but no clue has come to light so far. If any one is having any information about this dead male please inform the undersigned.

**S.H.O**  
**P.S. Tilak Marg, New Delhi**  
**Ph: 011-23382100, 8750870526**  
**DP/1889/NDD/18**

# Indonesia asks people to avoid coast near erupting volcano

**Sumur (Indonesia):** Indonesian authorities asked people to avoid the coast in areas where a tsunami killed more than 420 people last weekend in a fresh warning issued on the anniversary of the catastrophic 2004 Asian earthquake and tsunami.

The big waves that followed the eruption of Anak Krakatoa, or "Child of Krakatoa" island volcano, hit communities along the Sunda Strait on Saturday night. The eruption is believed to have set off a landslide on the volcano, displacing the water that slammed into Java and Sumatra islands.

Indonesia's Meteorology, Geophysics and Climatology Agency asked people late Tuesday to stay at least 500 meters (1,640 feet) and up to 1 kilometer (less than a mile) from the coastline along the strait, which lies between the two main islands.

Government workers were monitoring Anak Krakatoa's eruptions and high waves and heavy rain were possible Wednesday, said agency head Dwikorita Karnawati.

"All these conditions could potentially cause landslides at the cliffs of the crater into the sea, and we fear that that could trigger a tsunami," she said at a news conference. She asked

# UK launches review on global persecution of Christians

**London:** Britain has launched a review into the persecution of Christians worldwide in response to a surge in violence against members of the faith, Foreign Secretary Jeremy Hunt announced Wednesday.

The report will make recommendations on steps the government can take to better support persecuted Christians.

The Foreign Office cited a "dramatic rise" in violence that saw 215 million Christians face persecution for their faith last year.

Women and children are particularly vulnerable and often subjected to sexual violence, the Ministry said.

Last year, on average 250 Christians were killed each month because of their faith, the Foreign Office said.

"So often the persecution of Christians is a telling early warning sign of the persecution of every minority," Hunt said. "We can and must do more." The report, due in April, will attempt to map Christian persecution across the Middle East, Africa and Asia, analyse the levels of British Government support and suggest a comprehensive policy response. **AFP**

1. The enlistment of the contractors should be valid on the last date of opening of tenders. In case, the last date of opening of tender is extended, the enlistment of contractor should be valid on the original date of opening of tenders.

2. Earnest money in physical form and self attested copy of Registration of enlistment & other documents (eg. ESI & EPF registration, copy of PAN card, Copy of VAT documents ) should be submitted in the Office of Executive Engineer, Civil Division-VIII, i&FC Deptt., Govt. of NCT of Delhi, Sector-15, Rohini, Delhi-110005 before the last date and time of submission of technical bids.

3. The details of above mentioned work(s) can be seen and downloaded from the website <http://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in>

4. The agencies who do not fulfill eligibility criteria/ do not submit required documents upto the stipulated time, their tenders shall be rejected summarily at technical bid stage.

5. Tenders submitted through e-procurement portal shall only be considered and no manual tender shall be accepted. 6. Intending tenders participating in tendering process in EE CD-VIII, i&FC shall furnish ESI & EPF registration along with other required documents and the same shall be uploaded while bidding. Moreover the ESI & EPF registration documents of all contractors shall be kept on records and ESI & EPF registration documents of lowest tenderer to whom the work awarded shall form the part of the agreement.(i&FC department office order No. 1417-48 dated 29.01.2016).

Sd/-  
**EXECUTIVE ENGINEER**  
**DIP/Shabdarth/2571/18-19**



# INDIA GRAB ADVANTAGE IN BOXING DAY TEST

## Mayank's 76, Virat-Pujara's unbeaten score put India in driver's seat

PTI ■ MELBOURNE

Debutant Mayank Agarwal provided the base with a confident half-century before Virat Kohli and Cheteshwar Pujara steered India to a solid 215 for two on day one of the third Test against Australia, here on Wednesday.

Agarwal, thrust into the squad following failure of KL Rahul and Murali Vijay, responded with a 76-run knock off 161 balls, sorting out India's opening woes to some extent.

The conditions, though, were completely different from what Rahul and Vijay had countered in bowler-friendly Adelaide and Perth.

The MCG pitch turned out to be docile, ideal for someone making his Test debut as the Australian pacers had to bend their back to get the Kookaburra ball to rise sharply.

Make-shift opener Hanuma Vihari did not make many runs, getting just 8 off 66 balls in his 40-run stand with Agarwal but they batted out 18.5 overs, India's longest opening stand in terms of balls faced in Test cricket across Australia, New Zealand, England and South Africa since December 2010.

Virender Sehwag and Gautam Gambhir had batted out 29.3 overs against the Proteas at Centurion in that year.

The combination of Agarwal and Vihari was India's sixth opening pairing in 2018, and fifth in 11 overseas Tests this year.

Agarwal missed out on scoring a hundred on Test debut but grabbed the opportunity with both hands. His 76 came off 161 balls with eight shots to the fence and one over it.

During his knock, he became only the second Indian to make a 50-plus score on debut on Australian soil after Dattu Phadkar (51) at SCG in December, 1947.

Overall, he became the seventh Indian batsman to score a half-century on Test debut. He fell at stroke of tea, caught down the leg side to be the second victim of paceman Pat Cummins, the only successful bowler for the hosts today.

Skipper Kohli and Pujara then took control over the proceedings denying



Cheteshwar Pujara, right is congratulated by teammate Virat Kohli, left after scoring 50 runs

AGARWAL, THRUSTED INTO THE SQUAD FOLLOWING FAILURE OF KL RAHUL AND MURALI VIJAY, RESPONDED WITH A 76-RUN KNOCK OFF 161 BALLS, SORTING OUT INDIA'S OPENING WOES TO SOME EXTENT.



the hosts any more success in the final session. However, Kohli survived the hostile Mitchell Starc over towards the end to stay unbeaten on 47.

Tim Paine grassed a caught behind chance when Kohli chased one from Starc in that over.

Kohli and Pujara, who is batting on 68, have stitched together a 92-run stand for the third wicket.

The Indian captain had walked out to bat to a mixture of cheers and boos, but soon impressed the capacity crowd at the MCG with his repertoire of strokes. He sped off the blocks and at one stage was scoring at strike-rate 70-plus before Australia reined things in with some tight bowling.

It soon reflected in India's overall run-rate as well which didn't cross 2.5/over all day.

At the other end, Pujara continued in his usual manner and brought up his 21st Test half-century off 152 balls.

Australia tried their best to etch out a breakthrough and in desperation also wasted a DRS review for lbw off Nathan Lyon (0/59).

They took the second new ball in the 83rd over, and the big moment came in the 87th over when Tim Paine dropped Kohli (on 47) off Starc (0/32).

Earlier, Agarwal kept the scoreboard ticking after a watchful initial period, reaching his maiden Test half-century off 95 balls.

It was only the second instance in 11 overseas Tests this year that Virat

Kohli was yet to arrive at the crease with 100-plus runs on the scoreboard. The first instance was in Nottingham during the second innings against England.

To their credit Australia created chances in the latter half of this second session. In the 52nd over off Mitchell Marsh, a delivery looped up towards gully off Pujara but fell just short of a diving Usman Khawaja.

Then, three overs later, Agarwal edged Cummins through the vacant third slip. The pacer picked himself up though and three balls later he had Agarwal as Australia got a boost going into tea.

It showed in how Lyon came on to bowl as early as the eighth over, only the second time in his Test career that he had done so.

Vihari took 25 balls and 33 minutes to score his first run as he batted with patience.

He was hit on the helmet in the 13th over off Cummins as Australia started bowling short and attacking the batsmen more. The makeshift-opener shrugged it off and went on to face 66 balls, the second highest for an Indian opener in five innings this series.

Cummins got him off a sharp rising delivery in the 19th over, as Vihari took his eyes off the ball and gloved it to Aaron Finch in the slip region. The Australian pacers continued to test the Indian batsmen with sharp bouncers at every opportunity possible.



## 'It wasn't easy to check emotions and focus'

PTI ■ MELBOURNE

Mayank Agarwal had been waiting for his India debut for the past one year but when dream turned into a reality, there was such a surge of emotions that the Karnataka batsman found it difficult to focus on the job at hand.

"It was a tremendous feeling to get the India Test cap. I had a lot of emotions (running through mind) when I got the cap. I will cherish it for the rest of my life. The first thought was 295 (his India cap number)," Agarwal said after his impressive 76 at the iconic Melbourne Cricket Ground.

But the occasion does get better at times, especially when someone scores mountain of runs and is kept waiting for that elusive India cap.

"It wasn't easy to get hold of those emotions and focus there, but it needed to be done. I just stuck to my plans and just kept telling myself, 'there is a plan that I have to go through and I am just going to stick to that'. Even though it was overwhelming, it was good and I am happy with the way I started," Agarwal added.

Agarwal felt good that the seniors came up and egged him to leave a mark on his debut.

"It's a big stage, and a big opportunity, and I had the seniors walk up to me,

telling that bigger the day, bigger the opportunity to leave a mark," said Agarwal.

Agarwal feels blessed that he made his debut at the MCG and also crossed every step towards international cricket with flying colours.

"I just want to say that whatever happened and whatever kept happening, I feel very, very special. I am very lucky because I made my debut at MCG. Every player has to go through scoring runs in Ranji Trophy and doing what he has to do.

"I did that and I am very happy about that. And I learnt a lot as well. When you play Ranji Trophy for five years and play in all parts of India, you learn a lot from that. You face different situations, and it's always a great learning," he added.

When asked about a flat pitch at the MCG, which showed some variable bounce as the day progressed, Agarwal replied, "I won't complain about the pitch. I thought it was good to bat on. It did do a bit early on and it was slow. And as the day progressed and when we batted after lunch, it got a little quicker."

"Obviously, I didn't think too much about the wicket. I just wanted to stay blank and take it as it comes. I thought while I am at the wicket, let me assess the wicket and see how to go about this."

## Ponting formally inducted into ICC 'Hall of Fame'

PTI ■ MELBOURNE

Former Australia captain Ricky Ponting was Wednesday formally inducted into the ICC Cricket Hall of Fame.

To mark the occasion, Ponting received his commemorative cap from compatriot ICC Cricket Hall of Famer Glenn McGrath during the tea break on the opening day of the third Test against India at the MCG.

Ponting was named in the ICC Cricket Hall of Fame along with former India captain Rahul Dravid and England woman wicketkeeper-batter Claire Taylor during the ICC Annual Conference in Dublin in July, which Ponting could not attend.

Ponting, after receiving the cap, said: "It's an incredible feeling. I think for it to happen here at the MCG is what makes the whole thing a little bit more special. I found out today I am one of 25 Australians to be inducted."

"When you play one Test for Australia, you join a very elite group of players but now to part of the ICC Hall of Fame, you join an even more elite group of cricketers, so it's a pretty special day today," Ponting said.

Ponting spoke fondly about his association with McGrath.

"I have lots of great memories with Glenn. I went to the cricket academy with Glenn in about 1990, so I have known Glenn for a long time.

"It's a really cool thing that they do to have a fellow inductee actually hand over your cap and induct you in, so to have someone like Glenn do it, with whom I am working with now and have played with for 10 or 12 years, makes the whole thing a little bit better," Ponting said.

"It's great recognition. I thank the ICC for what they have done in making this possible. To be here in the MCG with 75,000 people, it makes it an awesome day," the former Australian captain added.

Ponting, a three-time ICC Cricket World Cup winner including two times as captain, is the 25th Australia cricketer to be formally inducted into the ICC Cricket Hall of Fame.

The 44-year-old retired from international cricket in 2012 after scoring 13,378 runs in 168 Tests with 41 centuries, 13,704 runs in 375 ODIs with 30 centuries and 401 runs in 17 T20Is with two half-centuries.

Ponting was named the ICC Player of the Year in 2006 and 2007 while also being named the ICC Test Player of the Year in 2006.

## Disappointed to miss Kohli's wicket: Head

PTI ■ MELBOURNE

Australia were disappointed to miss out on the prized wicket of Virat Kohli on a tough opening day of the third Test, said Travis Head, stressing on the need to make the still-hard Kookaburra ball count in the second morning.

Kohli was dropped on 47 by Australian skipper Tim Paine during Mitchell Starc's brilliant over towards the end of the innings.

"... The best over today was from Starc. Beating Kohli inside and outside, that new ball hopefully can come out and do that tomorrow again. It was disappointing to leave that chance but it happens," Head said on Wednesday.

Australian bowlers had to toil hard as India finished at 215-2 with Kohli (47) and Cheteshwar Pujara (68) remaining unbeaten at stumps, following Mayank Agarwal's 161-run 76 on debut early in the day.

"We would have liked to have 4-5 wickets tonight, but it is a massive morning and if we can still get them down two wickets in the morning, it will be good while the ball is still reasonably hard and a couple left handers coming later on," he said.

"Hopefully as the game goes on



Travis Head walks off the field after getting dismissed in the second Test at Perth

we will get more spin, but we have been able to restrict a lot of runs today even though we didn't get the wickets we would have liked. It makes for an exciting morning and momentum can change."

Head said the bowling unit did

well to restrict the flow of runs on a grinding day and hoped they can continue in the same vein Thursday.

"Yeah it was a tough day. A grinding day of Test cricket and they batted well. We created pressure and we have seen for the whole

series there hasn't been high run rate for the day," said Head.

"Sometimes that's Test cricket. It is not always going to be clear sailing and good wickets, and today was a case when we had to grind it out.

"It makes for another massive morning tomorrow to create pressure and make sure we bowl tomorrow the day we did today. I thought we restricted India in trying conditions," he added.

Head also lauded Pat Cummins for his two-wicket haul on the opening day.

"Cummins led from the front and got two wickets for us. He bowled hard and aggressive, used his bouncer well, and extracted something from the wicket. And he put pressure on Indian batsmen all day," he said.

The pitch at MCG came under scrutiny once again for a lack of general aid to the bowlers and Head said they need to wait and watch how it goes through the next four days.

"I thought it would offer a little bit more than it did in the first couple hours. We thought it would offer more life leading into it. If you hit the wicket the pacers were able to get some pace off it but in other parts they weren't able to," he said

## Olivier claims maiden five-wicket haul

AFF ■ CENTURION

Duanne Olivier claimed a maiden Test five-wicket haul as Pakistan were bowled out for 181 on the first day of the first Test against South Africa at SuperSport Park on Wednesday.

Olivier, effectively South Africa's fifth-choice fast bowler, took six for 37 to steal the limelight on a day when Dale Steyn became South Africa's leading all-time wicket-taker.

Babar Azam made a defiant 71 off 79 balls to give the Pakistan innings some respectability after their batsmen were subjected to an onslaught of fast, short-pitched bowling.

Steyn took the second wicket of the day to claim the South African record but had no further success. He was punished for 40 runs in four overs in his third spell of the day as Azam went on the attack while batting with the tail. Azam hit ten of his 15 fours off Steyn, who finished with one for 66.

Olivier, who gained his sixth Test cap following injuries to



Vernon Philander and Lungi Ngidi, was consistently hostile, especially in a seven-over spell after lunch when he ripped through Pakistan's middle order, taking three for 17.

He returned to take the last wicket shortly before the scheduled tea break.

Steyn claimed his 422nd Test wicket, going past previous record-holder Shaun Pollock, when Fakhar Zaman edged him to third slip for 12, sparking exuberant celebrations from his team-mates.

Rabada lifted his new-ball partner onto his shoulders as other players rushed in to congratulate him.

## Warner encouraged me to tamper with ball: Bancroft

PTI ■ MELBOURNE

Banned Australian cricketer Cameron Bancroft on Wednesday revealed that it was David Warner, who encouraged him to tamper with the ball in the ill-fated Cape Town Test, and he did it since he wanted to "fit in" and feel "valued" in the team.

Bancroft was handed a nine-month ban while Warner and then skipper Steve Smith were handed one-year bans by Cricket Australia in exemplary punishment for their role in ball-tampering scandal in March this year.

"Dave (Warner) suggested to me to carry the action out on the ball given the situation we were in the game and I didn't know any better," Bancroft said



in an interview, conducted by former cricketer Adam Gilchrist for *Fox Cricket*. "I didn't know any better because I just wanted to fit in and feel valued really. As simple as that," Bancroft who is days away from completing his ban, said.

However, he also admitted that he was guided by his own

distorted values in making the horrendous decision.

"The decision was based around my values, what I valued at the time and I valued fitting in... you hope that fitting in earns you respect and with that, I guess, there came a pretty big cost for the mistake."

However, while introspecting what would have happened if he had refused Warner's suggestion, the 26-year-old Bancroft said he may have buried himself under the doubt that probably he did not put team's interest before him.

"I would have gone to bed and I would have felt like I had let everybody down. I would have felt like I had let the team down. I would have left like I had hurt our chances to win the game of cricket."

## Southee, Lakmal leave NZ-SL Test evenly poised

AFF ■ CHRISTCHURCH

Suranga Lakmal and Tim Southee vied for early honours as 14 wickets fell to leave the deciding second Test between New Zealand and Sri Lanka evenly poised on day one in Christchurch on Wednesday.

"The first session (on Thursday) will be important for both teams," Southee said at the end of a day in which he top-scored for New Zealand with 68 and then took three quick Sri Lankan wickets.

After Sri Lanka won the toss and opted to bowl, Lakmal produced a career-best five for 54 as New Zealand crumbled and were all out for 178 in 50 overs.

At stumps, Sri Lanka were 88 for four in reply with Angelo Mathews not out 27 and Roshen Silva on 15 while Southee had three for 29.

"I'd say it's evenly poised," Sri Lankan bowling coach Rumesh Ratnayake said, as he praised Lakmal's vital contribution.

While during the start if the day's play New Zealand knew they were in for a tough time when they lost the toss,



with Southee feeling their fortunes improved after he took 14 off one Lakmal over to put the star Sri Lankan performer out of the attack.

In a marathon opening session, Lakmal bowled unchanged for 16 overs as he tore New Zealand apart with figures at one stage of four for 11. He returned late in the innings to remove Neil Wagner to eclipse his previous best of five for 63 against South Africa two years ago.

Southee and BJ Watling (46) offered spirited resistance for New Zealand with

a 108-run stand for the seventh wicket while Ross Taylor (27) was the only other home batsman to score more than 10.

SL are pushing to end a run of six consecutive Tests against NZ without a win.

There were catches by the wicket-keeper, second slip and mid-off as well as a bowled as he sent Jeet Raval, Latham, Kane Williamson and Henry Nicholls back to the pavilion in his opening spell. Lahiru Kumara joined the wicket spree with two dismissals, including the fortunate run out of Taylor.





# Tips for healthy stomach

According to a survey, a healthy stomach plays a vital role in order to keep your entire body in good condition. A disturbed stomach can bring you many physical ailments but it can be avoided if you refrain eating when you feel anxious, stressed or unhappy, says **TEAM VIVA**

You may have noticed a feeling of unease in your stomach during times of stress. That's because anxiety and worry can upset the delicate balance of digestion. Your stomach is one of the most important organs in your body, since it plays a crucial role in the digestion of food. Keeping your stomach healthy not only prevents abdominal pain, but also works to keep your entire body in good working order. If you're concerned about the health of your stomach, talk to your doctor to rule out a medical condition.

In some people stress slows down digestion, causing bloating, pain and constipation, while in others it speeds it up causing diarrhoea and frequent trips to the loo. Some people lose their appetite completely.

One solution is to avoid eating when you're feeling very anxious, stressed or unhappy.

It also helps your digestion if you avoid arguing at the dinner table, as getting angry can put you off your food or make eating harder. Try to keep mealtimes happy and relaxed.

You know you've eaten more than your fill when you have that uncomfortable ache in your belly that you can only relieve by unbuttoning your pants. In addition to the discomfort, eating too much is bad for your stomach. Consuming large portions of food at one time puts strain on the lower esophageal sphincter, which separates the stomach from your esophagus, allowing the acidic contents of the stomach to back up into your esophagus and cause heartburn. Overeating may also cause you to eat more calories than you need, which leads to weight gain.

To keep your stomach healthy, prevent the burning sensation and limit excess

calorie intake, try to keep portions in check. Use smaller plates and bowls, wait 20 minutes before you go back for seconds and don't skip meals. Skipping meals may lead to intense hunger, causing you to eat more than your stomach can handle.

It's very easy to spend our working lives eating on the move or at our desks, gulping down food between meetings and then crashing out in front of the TV with a takeaway in the evenings. But eating this way can play havoc with our digestive system.

Not digesting food properly could lead to many health issues. You may experience constant belch, may suffer from flatulence and even face bloated stomach. The uneasiness could make the condition worse which may also lead to pain and discomfort in the stomach.

We tend to ignore indigestion without realizing that it could cause more serious problems. It can damage your health and may cause ulcers, gastro esophageal reflux disease (GERD) or even gallbladder disease.

Don't rush your food. Take the time to eat slowly. Try putting your fork down between bites and chew each mouthful well. Don't overeat. Reduce the size of your portions at mealtimes, or try eating four to five small meals instead of three large ones. Eat regularly and try not to skip meals.

Avoid eating a big meal just before you go to bed. Eat your last meal at least two to three hours before lying down. Make sure you have plenty to drink.

Moderate drinking won't hurt your digestive system, but binge drinking increases acid production in your stomach and can cause heartburn and aggravate other digestive disorders.

The gut is composed of a whole host



of microbes that affect your physiology and keep your body and brain functioning as they should.

High intakes of processed meats such as deli turkey, bacon and sausage may increase your risk of stomach cancer, according to the American Cancer Society. Although researchers need to confirm the cause with more studies, it's been theorized that stomach cancer risk may be caused by heme-iron, which is a type of iron found in meat. As studies tell us, these gut microbes affect the way you store fat, how you balance levels of glucose in your blood, and how you respond to hormones

**It's very easy to spend our working lives eating on the move or at our desks, gulping down food between meetings and then crashing out in front of the TV with a takeaway in the evenings. But eating this way can play havoc with our digestive system**

that make you feel hungry or satiated.

The wrong internal mix can set the stage for obesity and other health issues later in life. Scientists have also found that gut bacteria produce neurotransmitters that regulate your mood including serotonin, dopamine, and GABA. When it comes to maintaining your microbiome at its healthiest level, nothing is more important than what you eat and drink. The internal environment of your gut is dictated by what you put in your mouth so the foods you choose to eat are a crucial component of maintaining gut health. The good news is, even a lifetime of

bad eating is fixable at least as far as your microbes are concerned. Amazingly, your body can create a new microbiota in as little as 24 hours just by changing what you eat.

Soluble fiber helps lower blood glucose levels and LDL cholesterol. You can find it in oatmeal, legumes, and some fruits and veggies.

Insoluble fiber, on the other hand, offers more of a cleansing effect on your digestive environment. Find it in whole grains, kidney beans, and in fruits and veggies, too.

Excess toxins can be a cause of digestive problems for many people, causing either diarrhea, constipation or in the case of many with IBS – both! Eliminating the foods that create inflammation in your body while replacing them with whole, nourishing and nutrient-dense foods is one of the best ways to reset your digestive and help you troubleshoot what's really going on in there.

Ditch the artificial sweeteners. These have been shown to drastically alter gut bacteria which we already know is a very important part of healthy digestion and overall health. Eat fewer processed foods. These foods tend to be empty calories with little to no nutrient value and are often full of refined sugars, artificial flavors, colors and preservatives that cause harm to your kidneys and liver and are addictive.

Eliminate gluten from your diet. Gluten is a common allergen and gut irritant (even for those without gluten allergies like celiac disease).

Avoid processed soy. Soy interferes with the absorption of nutrients and causes a hormone imbalance in the body when consumed in large quantities (i.e. as soy protein isolates in processed foods and beverages).



# A POETIC AFFAIR IN ODISHA

The 39th World Congress of Poets (WCP) will be held at the Kalinga Institute of Industrial Technology and the Kalinga Institute of Social Sciences (KISS), in Bhubaneswar, in October 2019

The president of the World Congress of Poets (WCP) and the founder of the Kalinga Institute of Industrial Technology (KIIT) and the Kalinga Institute of Social Sciences (KISS), Prof Achyuta Samanta, informed that the World Academy of Arts and Culture (WAAC) and the two institutes—KIIT and KISS, will jointly organise the next WCP in Odisha. This announcement was made in the presence of the executive board member of the WCP and WAAC, Jacob Isaac and the senior advisors at KIIT and KISS, Dr RK Das and Dr BN Nanda, at a press meet in New Delhi.

Dr Samanta informed that the event is expected to be attended by more than 500 poets from around 100 countries. He further added that besides the poets, 2,000 writers and poets from India and another 2,000 delegates from Odisha are expected to join the congress.

“On the request of KIIT and KISS, the decision to organise this prestigious event at KIIT and KISS was taken by the executive board members of WAAC, the president of WAAC, Dr Maurus Young, senior vice president, Prof Ernesto Kahan and the general secretary Dr Maria Eugenia Soberanis, during the 38th WCP, which was hosted in Suiyang County of China’s Guizhou province,” said Dr Samanta.

WAAC, a UNESCO-affiliated body, auspices the World Congress of Poets (WCP). The WAAC was founded in 1969 and its Golden Jubilee will be celebrated along with the 39th WCP in 2019. Though WAAC is a 50-year old institution, it has so far conducted 38 WCPs. For the third time, the World Congress of Poets is going to be held in India.

Dr Samata elaborated that in a preliminary meeting, it was tentatively decided to hold the forthcoming World Congress of Poets from October 2-6, 2019. The inaugural ceremony will be held on October 2, which also coincides with the



150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi. “It has been planned to hold a session on tourism poetry at Konark and a session on spiritual poetry in Puri, to promote tourism and culture of Odisha, in particular, and of India, in general,” said Dr Samanta.

The Kalinga Institute of Industrial Technology (KIIT) Deemed to be University, and the Kalinga Institute of Social Sciences (KISS) Deemed to be University, are two prominent academic institutes in India. The former is exclusively for the professional education, having more than 30,000 student from across India and 10 countries. Despite being a very young university, KIIT has secured an impressive position of 1001+ in the global university ranking of the Times Higher Education World University Ranking 2019.

On the other hand, KISS is the human face of KIIT. It is a home for 50,000 tribal students—27,500 existing students, and 12,500 well-placed alumni along with more than 10,000 students in its various satellite centers. The institute provides quality education from kindergarten to post-graduation in a fully-free, fully-residential setting. KISS holds the distinction of being



DESPIKE BEING A VERY YOUNG UNIVERSITY, KIIT HAS SECURED AN IMPRESSIVE POSITION OF 1001+ IN THE TIMES HIGHER EDUCATION WORLD UNIVERSITY RANKING 2019

the only university, exclusively for tribal students in India and globally. With the backing of huge infrastructure and other world-class facilities at KIIT and KISS, the universities have proved their mettle by organising hundreds of very prominent, national and international seminars, workshops and conferences for the last 10 years.

KIIT has hosted the prestigious national and international meets like the 99th Indian Science Congress in 2012, attended by 20,000 academicians from across India and abroad. Similarly, KISS had organised the Commonwealth Big Lunch in 2018, where the High Commissioners from 50 Commonwealth countries interacted with 27,000 tribal students over lunch.

Dr Samanta also added that the Congress will see a good academic exchange as poets and writers from across the globe will come together. “I feel it will definitely give a very good boost to poets and writers in the state of Odisha and in India as well. The Odisha state government has extended its cooperation to make the 39th WCP a grand success and we are seeking the support from the Ministry of Culture, Government of India as well,” said Dr Samanta.

## CORPORATE BRIEFS



In order to give a momentum to the Digital India programme, the Housing and Urban Development Corporation (HUDCO) has inked a pact for Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP)

### ACCORHOTELS ANNOUNCES 20TH NOVOTEL IN INDIA



AccorHotels has opened its 227 room Novotel Vijayawada Varun which is the first international hotel to open in Andhra Pradesh’s commercial centre and is the 20th Novotel to open in India. Strategically located in the heart of the city, this property is only a 45-minute ride from the Vijayawada International Airport and a 20-minute ride from the Vijayawada railway station.



### 68TH ANNUAL CELEBRATIONS OF SANGEET NIKETAN

The Sangeet Niketan organised its 68th Annual Celebrations at the LTG Auditorium recently. According to the principal of the institution Chakravarthy Ram Mohan Rai, the staff and students of all three branches (East Delhi, Old Delhi and South Delhi) presented many colourful cultural programmes based on classical dance and music. Renowned personalities of the classical dance music field like Meenakshi Chand, Mamata Chaturvedi, Medha Bhargava and Ashok Rai graced the occasion.

### INDIAN TOURISTS CAN ENJOY MAMMA MIA! MUSICAL IN SRI LANKA

Cinnamon Life is presenting one of the world’s most loved musicals, *Mamma Mia!* for the very first time in Colombo, Sri Lanka this December. With a nine day run from December 22 to 30, London’s West End stage production will present the play at the Nelum Pokuna Mahinda Rajapakse Theatre in Colombo as part of their international tour. *Mamma Mia!* is expected to play a crucial role in becoming one of the biggest holiday season attractions in Colombo this year allowing people from South Asia to experience globally acclaimed talent, technique and technical prowess to present a theatrical masterpiece.



## Orient reinvents fans with new launches

Orient Electric Limited, part of the diversified CK Birla Group, has launched a new range of lifestyle portable fans, featuring distinctive designs.

With the launch of this series, Orient Electric aims to reinstate its thought leadership in the category while meeting aspirational needs of the consumers. The company is targeting to not only grow this category exponentially, but also build a dominant share in the next one year.

The senior vice president and Business head of fans for the company, Atul Jain, believes that with the changing climatic conditions and prolonged summers, increasing dust and air pollution, shrinking spaces and need for more personalised cooling solutions, there arises a need for solutions beyond the traditional ceiling and table fans. Jain commented, “The need for safer portable



fans for kids, need for better air circulation in air-conditioned rooms, far more personal need for air in confined spaces like puja rooms, were some of the insights

which inspired us to think and find solutions for the consumers, beyond traditional ones. Each of our lifestyle range of fans addresses the unique con-

sumer insights and latent requirements. Designed to bring alive exclusivity, these fans exude sheer elegance.”

The company has launched four fans in its lifestyle series. The Orient Bladeless fan uses a combination of physics and aerodynamics, flaunting a distinctive design. The curvaceous fan has no blades and comes with a remote control, in-built mood lighting with four colour options and 7.5 hours of standby timer. The Orient Monroe tower fan being compact, can fit easily into any space big or small, like the kitchen top, shop or office workstation. The fan comes with three speed settings, in-built timer and a remote control for ease of use. The Orient Auctor, is fit with the 3-D auto-oscillation feature which helps the air to circulate to every nook and corner of the room. Stylish

and compact, the Orient Auctor has a touch screen control, in-built timer function and a remote-controlled operation for ultimate convenience. The Orient Proteus is a luxury box fan with compact design, super silent motor, vertical adjustment feature and three speed settings along with a timer control.

Jain further added that with rising incomes and aspirations, along with increased exposure to digital and the global lifestyle and technologies, individualisation trend is catching up fast in consumer durables space. He explained, “Consumers today want to have individualised solutions that make life simpler and experiences better. Our luxurious breed of mobile lifestyle fans is sure to interest the modern aspirational consumers and add a glam quotient to their home and office interiors.”

## MALAYSIA’S ‘FANTASTIC DEALS’ FOR INDIA

To promote more value-for-money holiday packages to Malaysia for the Indian tourists, Tourism Malaysia has launched the ‘Malaysia Fantastic Deals’ package. For this initiative, Tourism Malaysia is offering five packages, designed specifically for the India market. The packages can be purchased through select Indian travel agents based in Chennai, Delhi, Mumbai and Kolkata from December 15 to January 15, 2019 for travel to Malaysia between February 1, 2019 to July 31, 2019. For this, Malindo Air is also offering a 10 per cent discount on air fares from Chennai, Delhi, Mumbai and Kolkata. Meanwhile, industry partners like the Sunway Hotel and Resorts, MeritusPelangi Beach Resort and Spa Langkawi, Lexis Hotel and Group and Atmosphere 360 Revolving Restaurant KL Tower, have come together to offer deals for destinations like Kuala Lumpur, Port Dickson, Langkawi and Penang in Malaysia.

The director of package development division of Tourism Malaysia Tuan Syed Yahya Syed Othman, said, “We are proud of this partnership with some of the key names in Malaysia’s tourism industry, and believe that tourists from India will enjoy better value and have a memorable experience of Malaysia. These packages bring together the best of Malaysia’s islands and beaches, city, gastronomy and family-friendly experiences, and will provide a broader experience of Malaysia.” Malaysia is also promoting the concept of ‘experiential shopping’ at the destination.

Malindo Air’s CEO Chandran Rama Muthy, added, “Our flights offer spacious legroom, in-flight entertainment, meals, baggage allowance as well as Business Class option. In 2019, we are targeting a 12 per cent incremental of passenger’s load from India compared to this year. We believe this partnership will contribute in achieving our goal and boost the number of visitors to Malaysia.”

## VIT chancellor felicitated on his 80th birthday



The former minister of Tamil Nadu, Panruti S Ramachandran believes that the chancellor of the Vellore Institute of Technology, Dr G Viswanathan, should take the lead in uniting the Tamils throughout the world to protect the interests and cause of the Tamils living in different countries. He was speaking at the 80th birthday celebration of Dr Viswanathan, organised by a committee of well-wishers, recently.

The former minister said, “Dr Viswanathan had the privilege of having carved a niche in the heart of the former Chief Minister and Dravidan Munnatra Kazhagam founder late C N Annadurai (popularly known as Anna). Dr Viswanathan was the right person to unite the Tamils of the world, transcend-

ing religious, caste and other barriers.” The VIT Chancellor-80th Birthday Celebration Committee informed that a sum of ₹15 lakh was collected by the well-wishers in connection with the birthday celebration and this will be donated to the Universal Higher Education Trust (UHET), founded by Dr Viswanathan to provide financial assistance to poor students to pursue higher education.

The Tamil Nadu Minister for Commercial Taxes and Registration K C Veeramani, released a book—‘Viyarvaiyin Vetri’. The former minister, Ramachandran, released the book—‘Stars and Saplings’, while the book titled—‘Vendhar 80’ was released by another former minister, C Ponnaiyan.]

## Italy non-stop from Delhi & Mumbai



To offer easier travel to Indians to Italy, Air Italy has launched its first triple weekly direct operations from Delhi and Mumbai each to Milan. India is the fourth international addition to Air Italy’s expanding network, following the successful commencement of its operations to New York (JFK), Miami (MIA) and Bangkok (BKK) earlier this year. The three-times weekly non-stop flight from New Delhi will be served on an Airbus A330-200, offering 24 fully-reclining flatbed seats in the Business Class and 228 seats in the Economy Class.

The chief operating officer of Air Italy, Rossen Dimitrov, said “The launch of our India-Italy sector represents another major step forward for Air Italy and reinforces our commitment to our network expansion plans in Asia. Our average load factor on both routes for the first month is already at around 70 per cent which is well within our business plan expectations and will only continue to grow now that

**The three-times weekly flight from New Delhi will be served on an Airbus A330-200, offering 24 fully-reclining flatbed seats in the Business Class and 228 seats in the Economy Class**

operations have commenced.”

He informed that Italy is the second European destination for Indians travelling to Europe in terms of tourism, compared to other countries, and this route has been a long-standing request from local authorities, leisure travellers and various trade organisations. “India is a fascinating and dynamic destination and is a significant base for business and tourism. We are delighted to welcome Delhi as a part of our global network and

look forward to providing more flexibility of travel choices to our customers, contributing to this ongoing growth.”

From Milan Malpensa, Air Italy will provide domestic connecting flights to Rome, Catania, Palermo, Naples and Lamezia Terme, as well as convenient connections to its US-bound flights to New York and Miami. Commencing in April 2019, there will also be connectivity to Los Angeles and San Francisco with the launch of those two new destinations.

Dimitrov further elaborated that the exclusive Business Class cabin of Air Italy allows maximum comfort on fully reclining seats, an Italian and Indian menu accompanied by a selection of fine Italian wines and champagne, Wi-Fi service, extensive in-flight entertainment and personalised attention from the on-board staff. The Economy Class cabin offers the guests a comfortable flight, a highly personalised service, Wi-Fi and a wide choice of on-board entertainment.



## Trend Blazer

### KJo gets emotional with Alia's *Kalank*

Filmmaker **KARAN JOHAR** feels that actress **Alia Bhatt** has done a wonderful job in forthcoming period drama *Kalank*, says he got emotional after seeing her performance.

"I was so moved by what Alia has done in *Kalank*," Karan said. "When I see Alia, I feel like I'm seeing my daughter perform. And because I have that emotion for her, I just started crying in the end. I'm going through something internally which I'm not aware of and just got teary. I rang her up and said, well done," he added. Karan talked about Alia while he was at *No Filter* Neha season 3.



**'I feel that people who are not saying good things**

**about me or my film (Manikarnika) will have to shut their mouths after watching it and those who are saying good things, their mouths can't be shut by anyone. We just can't wait to present the film to the audience.'**  
—Kangana Ranaut



To celebrate Christmas, actress **BHUMI PEDNEKAR** decided to spend some time with children from a local orphanage in Mumbai. The actress paid a heartwarming visit to the St. Catherine's Home for orphans in Andheri this Christmas to spend some time with the children. She entertained the children by dancing and singing with them. She also clicked loads of pictures with the kids. Bhumi will be seen next in *Son Chirya* coming early in 2019 followed by *Bala* and *Dolly Kitty Aur Woh Chamakte Sitare*. The film also stars Amol Parashar opposite actress Konkana Sen Sharma.

### David hasn't apologised yet

Singer **KATHERINE JENKINS** says that retired football legend **David Beckham** still hasn't apologised after slamming her for 'singing at the rugby and taking coke' in leaked emails.

The 38-year-old singer said she was "disappointed" to see the comments allegedly made by the footballer in leaked emails published in 2017, despite his team vehemently denying all accusations. This came after it was alleged that Beckham slammed Jenkins for receiving an OBE in an email to his PR manager, as he also lamented not receiving a knighthood. Speaking about the comments Beckham made towards her, the singer admitted she has no reason to feel anything but proud of her achievements.



## Lookback 2018

# DISRUPTIVE REELS

This year has been a mysterious magical pot for the Indian cinema, says **SUSHILKUMAR AGRAWAL**

**Y**ears tick by, films come and go, so does the ebb and flow in the film industry. Cine-omnivores crank out the countdown lists every December, but what makes a film truly unforgettable, no one knows.

2018 seemed to be a good year for Bollywood as compared to the past two years. Not only did some actors get their first 100-crore marks, many small budget, low star cast and good content films outperformed the biggies at the box office. Many films worked unexpectedly and also witnessed many young and debutant filmmakers making their mark. Starring Ranbir Kapoor, *Sanju* ruled the roost reaching ₹300-crore mark, followed by Deepika Padukone's *Padmaavat*. Following were *Race 3*, *Badhaai Ho*, *Stree*, *Raazi*, *Sonu Ke Titu Ki Sweetie*, *Raid*, *Gold*, *Satyamev Jayate*, *Padman*, *Veere Di Wedding*, *Sui Dhaaga*, *Dhadak*, *Parmanu*, *Andhadhun*, *2.0* and others. Many content-driven films registered ₹100 crore at the box office.

Actor Rajkumar Rao's *Stree* turned out to be one of the biggest surprise hits grossing over ₹100 crore in just two weeks. Whereas, *Sonu Ke Titu Ki Sweetie* turned out to be a smashing hit. Ayushmann Khurrana's *Badhaai Ho* earned more than *Baahubali 2* in its sixth weekend. There were four films from the South Indian cinema, *Sarkar*, *Rangasthalam*, *Bharat Ane Nenu* and *2.0*, each of which grossed more than ₹150 crore globally.

Apart from Bollywood, Hollywood also had a great year in 2018. *Avengers Infinity War* garnered over \$43,594,456 followed by *Black Panther* collecting \$10,458,639 and *Incredibles 2* over \$7,641,308 in India. These films were released in English and many other Indian languages. In fact,



*Incredibles 2* collected ₹22.3 crore within just five days of its release here, becoming the highest grossing animation English film ever released in India. Interestingly, *The Stolen Princess* became the first English animation film from Ukraine to release in India in English, Hindi and Tamil and found favour with the audience.

Another interesting trend seen this year was the acute traction that OTT platforms garnered. Netflix India became profitable in its first year of operations clocking a net profit of ₹20.2 lakh. Series like *Sacred Games*, *Lust Stories*, *Mirzapur* and many others which were streamed on various OTT platforms had the audience hooked for more unconventional content. The combination of mobile phone penetration and cost-effective data prices have made it easy for the consumers to watch it as per their convenience and schedule. On the last count, there are roughly around



30 OTTs active in India currently, including Amazon Prime, Hotstar, Alt Balaji, Eros Now, Zee 5 and others.

Over and above China, newer non-traditional, non Indian diaspora global markets like Russia, Turkey, Taiwan, South Korea, Germany, Poland,

**KEEPING IN MIND THE DISMAL SCREEN COUNT IN INDIA, THIS YEAR ALSO WITNESSED EXISTING MULTIPLEX CHAINS EXPANDING THEIR FOOTPRINTS INTO SMALL TOWNS AND CITIES TO CAPITALISE ON THEIR POTENTIAL**



Portugal, Latin America and France are opening up to the Indian cinema. Over and above theatrical release, their television and digital platforms also are being explored to make our films get an access to their audience. In this year, Indian film content has been customised for the mainstream audience's languages and sensibilities. Rani Mukerji-starring *Hichki* has so far been released in Russia, Kazakhstan, Taiwan, Hong Kong and China. It extended the frontiers that *Bajrangi Bhaijaan* had started to chart out with its release in China and Turkey this year.

The year also witnessed a revolution in the acoustics department. For the first time in India, the 4D SLR sound system technology was introduced with the release of the film *2.0*. In this technology over and above the speakers placed on both the sides and above the watcher, there would be speakers below the seats to provide the audience with sound from the closest source, hence elevating their film watching experience.

Keeping in mind the dismal screen count in India, the year also witnessed existing multiplex chains expanding their footprints into small towns and

cities to capitalise on the potential that these have to offer. This was done keeping in mind the substantial appetite of filmgoers who do not have enough space or platforms to see the films. According to the FICCI Frames Report 2018, India has 9,530 cinema screens compared to over 44,000 in China and over 40,393 in the United States. Despite producing the largest number of films in the world per year, India still remains one of the most under-penetrated markets with an average of eight screens per million people. This is primarily due to lack of screens in Tier II, Tier III and Tier IV cities, hence leaving a large section of the population with limited screen access. The biggest films in India reach only about 30-35 per cent of the population. The country has the capacity of at least 23,000 more screens to be implemented in the next 10 years.

Sensing this opportunity, new players have entered the exhibition business while strongly concentrating on the Tier II to Tier IV markets in MP, UP, Rajasthan and other places. Actor Ajay Devgn under his brand name NY Cinemas already has 17 operational screens and is expanding in more geographical areas.

With the recent slash in GST on film tickets from 18 per cent to 12 per cent and from 28 per cent to 18 per cent, both the exhibition infrastructure and creative development will get a strong impetus and attract substantial investments.

Indeed the year has proven to be a disruptive one for the entire film industry's ecosystem and the end consumer. With major films releasing in 2019, one can look forward to more positive and interesting disruptions to follow in 2019 too.

(The author is the CEO of Ultra Media and Entertainment Group.)



## Is theatre in crisis?

Drama connoisseurs believe that televising India's most cherished art form will extend its reach

**T**heatre has been so much a part of Indian culture that it is where some of the renowned Bollywood names have cut their teeth. However, it is struggling to keep its identity alive in the present-day, tech-driven frenzy, prompting some of the veterans to suggest it be given a cinematic and digital touch to make it more relatable and reachable. Film and theatre actress Sonali Kulkarni felt that theatre is an important part of "our culture and it is our responsibility to pass on the legacy to the future generations."

She said, "Today's generation is impatient, wants the best quality service, doesn't want to be stuck in a theatre, feeling deprived that they couldn't sit in the front row — televising a play is the best opportunity for everyone to feel that they are at the centre of the first row."

She also feels that drama is one of the most original forms of art. "I really like this culture of entertaining each other by storytelling. There are stories — mythical, political, social, stories about our livelihood, society, romanticism and poetry — and everything can be conveyed through a play."

"I believe this basic form of storytelling should be preserved. Today's audience is always racing against time. They need convenient options of entertainment. Hence, it is important to make theatre easily available to them," she said.

Joy Sengupta, another theatre veteran, echoed this and also pointed to the limitation of theatre. "Performing art is experienced live and by several people at one given time and venue. But a particular performance cannot reach everywhere. That is the limitation of theatre as opposed to cinema, which can be showcased, or a serial which can be tele-

cast in multiple mediums or places at the same time.

"Millions of people can experience a film or serial at the same time, but not theatre," said Sengupta.

So, is the emergence of new age Bollywood stories taking away the essence of watching a play? "I don't think so," said Sengupta, adding, "I think Bollywood has actually benefitted from theatre. The best of actors, writers and directors have actually come from theatre. It serves as a base for introspection of life, psychology, emotions, society, politics, everything. So theatre, in that sense, is probably the best vehicle for communicating human truth and the magic of theatre will never go out of fashion."

He disagreed that theatre is in any kind of crisis. "Youngsters in India right now are definitely turning towards theatre as an outlet for their expression and are benefitting from it. More and more youngsters are experiencing theatre right from their college time, post college, into group theatre, into professional theatre. Theatre is benefitting from it, the youth is benefiting from it. I don't think theatre is in any kind of crisis," he said.

Mita Vashisht, whose oeuvre spans theatre, TV and films, pointed out that the cinematic format will give theatre a new boost.

"When it comes to educating the youth about the significance of theatre, exposing them to the exemplary performances of theatre stalwarts and reviving its glory, the cinematic format of theatre is the way to go," said Vashisht.

She also felt it's vital to increase theatre's social and cultural space in society. "It reflects the rich cultural heritage

of our country and teaches society about itself, bringing to light the mindsets of current society and educating them about their conditions," she said.

Aiming to preserve the art of drama and emotions of theatre, increase its reach beyond a few privileged cities and take it to the audience short of time, Tata Sky has recently launched a theatre portal — a 24-hour dedicated platform to provide an ad-free theatre-watching experience on digital devices.

The content is curated with the best plays and performances from the finest theatre groups, bringing multiple genres of plays under one platform to be accessible from the comfort and convenience of one's home.

"We believed that, theatre, which is one of the oldest and the most appreciated entertainment art forms of India, should also be given a new stage and reach. That's when we planned this concept of 'archiving' and 'televising' popular plays," said Pallavi Puri, chief commercial officer, Tata Sky.

So is televising theatre the next big step on the small screen? "Television viewership is only growing stronger with each passing day and televising India's most cherished art form is an interesting phase for the small screen."

"The plays have been recreated to suit the sensibilities of today's viewers and is shot using different techniques and technology. The result gives viewers a refreshing experience of watching excellent content and enjoying acclaimed theatre performances from the comfort and convenience of your home and across devices such as mobile, tablet, laptop and desktops," Puri explained.

—JANS

## 'Script matters'

Actor **SONU SOOD** extends his oeuvre with his character in *Simmba*. By **TEAM VIVA**

**F**or actor Sonu Sood, 2019 promises to be a good year. He is waiting for the release of *Simmba* which will be only three days old when the New Year kicks in. He plays Durga, the most powerful guy in Goa who is a foil to Ranveer (Singh). "I have not played a character which is similar before. Despite it being a negative one, there's a positive side to it as well. The kind of layering that Rohit Shetty has done is quite commendable," he says.

Following this, he will be heading back to the South to complete his Kannada film and two other releases which are lined up for later next year. "My production house has got the rights of a film on PV Sandhu so that too needs to be worked upon," says he.

For Sood, there are some things which are essential while signing up for a film. On top of the list is the script. "There might be big production houses but when it comes to the script, it might not always be something that you want to do. It's a tough call to take but I always believe that if the script and the role is not as per your taste, there's no point landing it," he says. Whenever he chooses a role, in the order, he looks at the script first, then the director and then the producer.

For the actor, the decision is often taken in the first five minutes when he first hears the script. "When I sat for the narration of *Simmba*, I was hoping for it to be the kind of role I was waiting for since the last few years. When the narration begun, I knew that Durga is me and that this is a role that I'll enjoy playing. I felt that the role was challenging. I have done films in various languages including Kannada, Telugu and Tamil but have never played a Marathi character in a Hindi film."

However, despite carefully choosing films, there is no surety of it being a hit on box office, as he believes. Sood says, "I wish there was a formula to choose the right script which would say, 'do this and you'll succeed.' Most of the actors just follow their instinct."

He believes that going by the trends this year focus on the content has certainly increased. Sood says, "The change was long overdue. There was a phase when content-driven work was not being noticed, which gave leverage to filmmakers who took the audience for granted. We have to make good cinema to pull the people to the theatres. I'm glad that this year was a learning process for a lot of filmmakers and actors. It is because of the audience that there is this emphasis on good scripts."

Many feel that the change and improvement in the content of Hindi films has come about due to digital platforms, which have practically exploded with fresh storylines, new content and actors extending their oeuvre further. The actor says, "It has challenged actors and filmmakers because people now have easy



access to good performances and content. So you have to make something good which can be compared to those high-content web shows."

It has helped in other ways as well. "It has provided a lot of job opportunities to different actors. If you are good, you are bound to get busy. It's challenging to stay there. I would say the competition has become very tough. But the opportunities have increased."

Sood is not just known on account of his work in the Hindi film industry but has acted in many movies down South. So how easy or difficult is it to mouth dialogues in a language that one is not familiar with? He answers, "You never actually get too comfortable with the language. Moreover, you have to take care that the expressions and the timing are right. I derived this formula where I make the assistant director say the line before me," says Sood who has done almost 65-70 films and believes he is a professional now. And in the process, he has started understanding the languages quite a bit, "I don't know these languages completely but I do understand them now."

Another leap of faith that he had taken was turning into a producer when he launched Shakti Sagar Productions, which is named after his father, in 2016. He says, "As a producer, I would know how actors function. And as an actor, I know what does a producer want. It's good to experience both the sides. It helps you develop on an individual level too. I'm glad I have stood at both the sides," he says as he signs off.

Photo: Munna S.



# JUVE HOLD ATALANTA 2-2

Ronaldo's 78th minute goal helps The Old Lady to continue its winning streak; Milan ties 0-0 with Frosinone

AFP ■ ATLANTA

Cristiano Ronaldo came off the bench to score a late equaliser as 10-man Juventus salvaged a 2-2 draw at Atalanta on Wednesday to move nine points clear of Napoli at the top of Serie A.

Carlo Ancelotti's Napoli visit third-placed Inter Milan later in the day, though, with the chance to cut the gap to the reigning champions.

Juventus coach Massimiliano Allegri decided to rest Ronaldo as the former Real Madrid man did not start a league game for the first time since moving to Italy, but the 33-year-old was needed to level in the 78th minute after Dušan Zapata's double had put the hosts in front following Berat Djimsiti's own goal.

Ronaldo's efforts keep Juventus unbeaten in Serie A, ahead of the final game before the winter break against Sampdoria on Saturday.

Everything appeared to be going to plan for Juve when they grabbed the lead in only the second minute when Atalanta centre-back Djimsiti completely mis-kicked Alex Sandro's deflected cross into his own net.

But Zapata put a spanner in the Juve works with a fantastic individual goal midway through the first half, spinning centre-back Leonardo Bonucci with ease before drilling a left-footed strike into the far corner.

Douglas Costa fired wide just after the half-hour mark as the visitors looked to restore their advantage, but the Turin giants were reduced to 10 men eight minutes after half-time when Rodrigo Bentancur was shown a second yellow card for a poor tackle on Timothy Castagne.

Colombian striker Zapata wasted little time in making Bentancur pay, bundling in from almost on the goal line to put Atalanta ahead and score his ninth league goal of the season.

Allegri sent on Ronaldo with 25 minutes remaining, and less than 60 seconds after Robin Gosens wasted a golden opportunity to seal victory for Atalanta, the Portuguese star pounced to nod home from close range.

## MILAN FAIL TO SCORE AGAIN

**MILAN:** AC Milan's push for a top-four finish in Serie A took a hit on Wednesday as Gennaro Gattuso's side were held to an uneventful 0-0 draw at struggling



Cristiano Ronaldo, third from left, scores his side's second goal during the Serie A match; (downside) Samuel Castillejo, center, in action with Paolo Ghiglione during the Serie A match

AP



## Ronaldo's efforts keep Juventus unbeaten in Serie A, ahead of the final game before the winter break against Sampdoria

Frosinone.

The seven-time European champions have now failed to score in four consecutive league games for the first time since 1984, managing three goalless stalemates in the process.

Milan remain fifth, behind fourth-placed Lazio on goal difference in the race for Champions League qualification.

Milan have said they will appeal to the Court of Arbitration for Sport after UEFA threatened to ban them from

European competition for a season if they do not break even by June 2021.

The club won a previous appeal to CAS earlier this year, following a Europa League ban for breaching Financial Fair Play regulations.

But their efforts to secure European football for next season suffered a setback against a resolute Frosinone outfit who almost snatched a dramatic 93rd-minute winner when Camillo Ciano was denied by visiting goalkeeper Gianluigi Donnarumma.

Ciano had already seen a goal ruled out by VAR for a foul eight minutes before half-time.

Frosinone remain second-bottom above only winless Chievo, having managed just one victory all season.

Later on Wednesday, reigning champions Juventus travel to Atalanta looking to extend their eight-point lead at the top of the table, before second-placed Napoli face third-placed Inter Milan.

# KUTTAPPA APPOINTED AS CHIEF BOXING COACH

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Dronacharya awardee C A Kuttappa has taken over as India's chief boxing coach at the ongoing national camp from which star pugilist Vikas Krishan (75kg) was left out following his professional plunge.

The 39-year-old Kuttappa, credited with shaping some of the country's most successful boxers such as Vijender Singh, M Suranjay Singh and Shiva Thapa among others, took over from veteran coach S R Singh at the beginning of the camp which started December 10. Singh has now retired.

"It's such a huge responsibility but I am trying to do my best. I have a few plans and hopefully, I will be able to execute them," Kuttappa, who was an assistant coach, he said.

The Army man said his elevation was High Performance Director Santiago



Nieva's idea.

"He asked me if I was interested. I sought some time because I needed to think it over. I am not most senior in terms of age and that was playing on my mind. I told this to Santiago and he told me I shouldn't be bothered about it," the former National

Games gold-medallist from Karnataka said.

His first major assignment would be the second edition of the India Open scheduled in January in Guwahati.

"Earlier it used to be more about pumping up my boys but now I am going to be directly responsible for their performance. So, I know the pressure is going to be huge but I hope I can deliver," he said.

Kuttappa is just one of the two coaches from the Services Sports Control Board (SSCB), the reigning national champions, in the camp and the line-up is dominated by coaches from the Railways Sports Promotion Board (RSPB).

As for the boxers in the camp, Vikas, a Commonwealth Games Gold-medallist and Asian Games Bronze-winner this year, is the most notable omission following his decision to sign up with American promoter Bob Arum.

# India gear up to play Oman behind closed doors

PTI ■ ABU DHABI

Not willing to reveal their tactics, India and Oman will play behind closed doors their final international friendly before the AFC Asian Cup, here on Thursday.

A day prior to the match at the Baniyas Stadium, India's head coach Stephen Constantine stressed they "haven't come here expecting to play easy games".

The match is part of Blue Tigers' preparation for the forthcoming Asian Cup. Both the head coaches have decided on playing behind closed doors, the result of which there won't be any telecast of the match and the crowd and media will be missing from the stands.

India begin their campaign in the Asian Cup against Thailand on January 6.

Commenting on the match against Oman, Constantine stated: "It's going to be extremely hard. We have come here to play the big boys of Asia. We played against the likes of Jordan, China. We need to play these sort of games to prepare in the best possible fashion."

Oman are currently ranked 82 in the FIFA rankings, while India are at 97. India last played Oman in the FIFA World Cup Russia 2018 qualifiers twice, with Oman winning on both occasions.

"We were very unlucky to lose the first leg in Bengaluru," Constantine reflected. "That was our first group stage game in the qualifiers. But we are a much improved side now, and much



younger."

Central midfielder Pronay Halder, who wasn't part of the squad in the first leg in Bengaluru complemented his coach, saying "we are a much matured side now".

"We have matured a lot since then. Our organisation on the field is much better compared to what we were in 2015," he opined.

India have been the first team to land in Abu Dhabi for the Asian Cup.

"The facilities have been superb and it has been going on according to the plan so far. We have done our homework as well," Constantine insisted.

In the continental showcase, India are looking to improve on their showing from the last time they took part in the tournament, in the 2011 edition, when they suffered three heavy defeats for a group stage-exit.

India's 13-match unbeaten run under Constantine has given them hope of a better outing this time around, coming into the event not long after scaling their second-best ranking in the FIFA chart.

# Fortunegiants beat Patna Pirates 37-29 in PKL

PTI ■ KOLKATA

Gujarat Fortunegiants saw off a spirited fight from defending champions Patna Pirates to secure a 37-29 win in an Inter-Zone Wildcard Pro-Kabaddi League fixture here on Wednesday.

The loss meant the holders were on the brink of elimination, giving a lifeline to UP Yoddha, who will face Bengal Warriors Thursday to decide the third team from Zone B.

Gujarat's defence proved to be the difference as they prevailed over Patna's star-studded attacking lineup featuring the season six's leading raider Pradip Narwal.

Captain Sunil Kumar, with five tackle points, was Gujarat's mainstay in the defence as he got a fine support from Iran's Asian Games Gold medallist Hadi Oshstorak.

Leading by a slender three-point margin with three minutes left on the clock, the duo effected a super tackle to pin down Narwal to give them a decisive 32-28 point advantage.

Narwal finished with 10 raid points but it was not enough with the Fortunegiants putting up a fine show in defence with their captain leading the way.

Gujarat scored some crucial raids through Ajay Kumar (8) and Rohit Gulia (10) to extend their lead by three points with less than 10 minutes.

Season six's leading raider Narwal spear-headed Patna's attack as he made early inroads to give the defending champions a 6-2 lead.

But the Fortunegiants, who are the most consistent team of the season, ensured that they kept Patna's lead in check with Gulia leading their attack.

# ARTHUR PRAYING FOR NEYMAR'S BARCELONA RETURN

IAN S ■ RIO DE JANEIRO

Barcelona midfielder Neymar has expressed the hope that Brazil teammate Neymar will return to the Catalan club, less than 18 months after his world-record transfer to Paris Saint-Germain (PSG).

Neymar has scored 44 goals in 49 matches for the French side but there has been speculation that the 26-year-old is unhappy and



angling for a return to the Camp Nou.

"Personally, I'm praying that he comes because he is a great player," Arthur was quoted as saying by Brazil's Uol news portal on Tuesday, reports Xinhua news agency.

"That's unquestionable. The more top quality players we have, the better [for Barcelona]. But only he knows. I don't know if there are negotiations and possibilities of him coming back. He is a

personal friend and a footballer who I admire a lot. I'd be really happy if he came back," he added.

Neymar won two La Liga titles, a Champions League title, three Spanish Cups, a Spanish Super Cup and the FIFA Club World Cup in a four-year spell at Barcelona.

He became the most expensive footballer in history when he joined Paris Saint-Germain for 222 million euros in August 2017.

Agencies

# NORTH EASTERN WARRIORS SEEK TO IMPROVE PBL FORTUNES

IAN S ■ HYDERABAD

The North Eastern Warriors (NEW) will look to turn their fortunes around when skipper Saina Nehwal takes the court for the first time in the 4th Vodafone Premier Badminton League (PBL) against Mumbai Rockets here on Thursday.

With a close 2-3 win-loss record out of the five ties in their last fixture, the Warriors, led by India's first woman to win an Olympic Bronze Saina Nehwal, will be looking to unleash their firepower when they take on the Mumbai Rockets, the second placed on the leaderboard with five points.

If she provides the start that NEW wants, it will be a great inspiration to the players following her.

"It wasn't the start that we were expecting, but we drew satisfaction from the success of Rituparna when she beat Kirsty Gilmore, a top 50 ranked player and Tian backing with a brilliant game. We are confident of a fresh start as the team has regrouped and we aim to have the first win tomorrow," a confident Saina said.

"I had not played the last match, but I am practising and moving well on the court, so will do whatever is best possible for the team's success," she added.

Without a doubt, Saina will want Chinese Tian Houwei, the winner of China Masters Open who made his debut last year against Delhi Dashers, to do his part as well as he did the other night in Mumbai. His value addition of this veteran will definitely add to the firepower in men singles.

Tanongsak Sansomboonsuk, the first Thai shuttler to win a Superseries, has loads of experience and credentials — seven SEA Games medals and the 2010 Asian Games Bronze medal in his



swelling kitty — to do a thorough job in singles.

NEW also has a good mix of doubles players in Kim Ha Na - she won her first title in India Open in 20112. The Silver medal winner at the Incheon Games in 2014 is a tricky customer and possesses the strokes and guile of a mixed doubles pair to outdo the best in business. After having had a quiet year, she will look to prove her worth.

South Korean stalwart Yoo Yeon Seong was a vital cog in the title-winning efforts of Hyderabad Hunters last season. He brings in not only the experience but also a big boost to Warriors' doubles lineup and the PBL veteran will look to make his experience count along with Liao Min Chun, the 2014 Games bronze winner. The Taiwanese, a star attraction in the lineup, with his experience can provide the edge that NE

Warriors needs.

But Mumbai Rockets do have a solid attack to counter the Warriors with the likes of Le Yong Dae and Sameer Verma in doubles and singles respectively will look for their second win.

In addition, they have proved themselves to be a tough team, having been the runners-up in Season 1 and 2. The only disadvantage could be that they will be playing the Saina-led New Warriors for the first time as they didn't meet them in Season 3.

The momentum is certainly with Mumbai Rockets and Sameer Verma agrees that they will look to keep it going till the end of the season.

"We had a good start and it will be critical that we get a good start here too against the North East. It will be important that we continue the winning momentum," Verma said.