

**OPINION 8**  
CELEBRITY AND  
MISTRUTHS

**WORLD 12**  
UKRAINE RESTRICTS ENTRY  
FOR RUSSIAN MEN AGE 16 TO 60

**SPORT 15**  
ARSENAL, CHELSEA POWER  
ON IN EUROPA LEAGUE

DEHRADUN, SATURDAY DECEMBER 1, 2018; PAGES 16 ₹2



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13 VIVACITY

## 21 Opp parties ride on kisan wave

### Leaders project protest rally as show of their strength ahead of LS polls

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Leaders from as many as 21 Opposition parties, including Congress chief Rahul Gandhi, Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, former Union Ministers Sharad Pawar, Farooq Abdullah, Sharad Yadav, and Left leaders on Friday lent their support to the agitating farmers sending a strong message to ruling dispensation and the BJP ahead of the 2019 Lok Sabha polls.

Trying to project the event as a show of strength of the Opposition, Rahul said, "We may have different ideologies, but for the future of the farmers and the youth, we are all standing together on one stage. We want to tell Modi ji and the BJP that if we need to change the laws, change the Chief Ministers or even the Prime Minister, we do that for the sake of future of farmers. We will not budge even an inch, you may do whatever you want."

The Gandhi scion, who recently promised farmers' loan waiver within 10 days of coming to power in the three poll-bound States, trained his guns at Prime Minister Narendra Modi alleging that if ₹30,000 crore can be given to Anil Ambani — an apparent reference to the Rafale fighter jet deal — "why can't loans of farmers be waived?"

Farmers from 24 States joined the protest to press for their demands, including debt relief and remunerative prices for their produce.

Kejriwal alleged the PM has "stabbed farmers in the back" by not fulfilling the promises made to them and warned him that they would "wreak havoc" in 2019 general elections if those promises are not fulfilled.

"The Government had made a number of promises to farmers in the last election (2014), but it has not fulfilled those promises. By not implementing the Swaminathan Commission report, Modi ji has stabbed the farmers in the



Farmers and agricultural labourers march towards Parliament during a protest rally in New Delhi on Friday

Ranjan Dimri

We may have different ideologies, but for the future of the farmers and the youth, we are all standing together on one stage. We want to tell Modi ji and the BJP that if we need to change the laws, change the Chief Ministers or even the Prime Minister, we do that for the sake of future of farmers

**RAHUL GANDHI**

By not implementing the Swaminathan Commission report, Modi ji has stabbed the farmers in the back

**ARVIND KEJRIWAL**

BJP, Modi and RSS have only one weapon in hand that is Ram Temple

**SITARAM YECHURY**

back (kisan ke peeth me chhura bhonka hai)," he alleged. He said the Union Government should implement the report in five months.

The Opposition parties have been looking for opportunities in recent times to join hands to stop the Modi juggernaut in the next general elections. All the leaders have taken up the cause of farmers and unemployed youths to cash in on voters' grievances. The leaders also took up the Ram Temple issue during the farmers' agitation.

While Sitaram Yechury said the BJP, Modi and the RSS have only one weapon in hand that is Ram Temple, Abdullah too raked up the temple issue and said Muslims are not against Ram Mandir.

"Muslims are not against the temple. The hatred that is being spread by the Government that Muslims are against the Ram Mandir is not true. Whenever elections come, these people remember

**KEY DEMANDS**

- Loan waiver
- Remunerative prices for their produce
- ₹5,000 pension for farmers per month

Ram. They (BJP) want to divide India on communal lines. We are 70 per cent Muslims (in Kashmir) and we will live and die for India. Your worries are our worries and we are standing with you. Elections are coming, let us stand together and not let them divide us and let us overthrow them," Abdullah said.

Addressing farmers, Rahul called for a farm loan waiver, asserting that peasants are asking for what is due to them and not a "free gift".

The farmers gathered to press for their demands, including debt relief and remunerative prices, for their produce.

## Attire lends colour to farmers' anguish

SHEKHAR SINGH ■ NEW DELHI

Thousands of farmers from across the country carrying flags of different colours and wearing their traditional dresses, including green turban and kurta pyjama, began their march to Parliament Street around 10.30 am on Friday.

The farmers, who were campaigning at the Ramlila Ground since Thursday, converged near Parliament Street police station after they were denied permission by the Delhi Police to march towards Parliament. Over 3,500 police personnel were deployed on the route of the farmer's march to maintain law and order.

Women protesters from Madhya Pradesh performed their traditional dance on way towards Parliament. Some other women were seen walking with photographs of their dead husbands, who committed suicide due to farm distress.

Widows of farmers, who committed suicide after they did not get adequate compensation from Telangana and Centre Government, were carrying yellow flags and human skulls on their bodies.

About 1,300 members of the National South Indian River Interlinking Farmers Association reached the national Capital in the early hours of Thursday and were

carrying seven skulls and bones, said their leader P Ayyakannu.

He said the skulls and bones were of the farmers who committed suicide. Nine farmers, without clothes, lay down in front of the stage by keeping bones on their bodies, and demanded profitable price for agricultural produce, waiver of loans, interlinking of rivers and pension for farmers over 60 years.

Five Gurdwaras in the Delhi region have extended their help to the farmers. Also students from various universities turned out in large numbers to lend support to the farmers.

## India's GDP growth slows to 7.1%, but retains fastest tag

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

India's economy slowed to 7.1 per cent in the July-September quarter of the year from 8.2 per cent in the previous quarter on the back of a sharp drop in manufacturing, agriculture and mining activities. Government data showed on Friday.

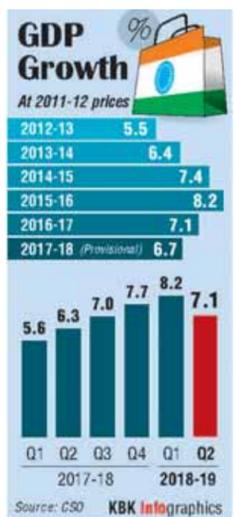
The GDP growth in July-September quarter is the lowest in three quarters but better than 6.3 per cent in the same period of the previous year, helping the country retain the tag of the world's fastest-growing major economy, ahead of China. The GDP growth had peaked to an over two-year high in the first three months of this fiscal, as consumption demand moderated and farm sector displayed signs of weakness. The Indian economy had grown by 8.2 per cent in the first quarter of the current fiscal year that began in April, according to data released by the Central Statistics Office (CSO) Friday.

The Government, naturally, was disappointed but took comfort in the fact that the expansion was "robust and healthy" when the average rate for the first six months of the current fiscal are taken.

"GDP growth for second quarter 2018-19 at 7.1 per cent seems disappointing.

Manufacturing growth at 7.4 per cent and agriculture growth at 3.8 per cent is steady. Construction at 6.8 per cent and mining at -2.4 per cent reflect monsoon months deceleration," Economic Affairs Secretary Subhash Chandra Garg tweeted.

The growth during April-September stood at 7.6 per cent, which is "quite robust and healthy", he said. "Still, the highest growth



rate in the world". The Ministry of Finance said the Q2 has seen a reasonable overall GDP growth.

**MARKETS**

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## ED summons Vadra for money laundering in Raj land scam

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has summoned Robert Vadra, controversial businessman and brother-in-law of Congress president Rahul Gandhi, in connection with the money laundering probe in the Bikaner land scam case of Rajasthan.

Vadra has been asked to appear before the investigating officer (IO) of the case next week. This is the second summons to him for recording his statement under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), officials said.

Vadra did not turn up before the IO when the first summons was served on him earlier in November.



The ED had registered a criminal case in connection with the deal in 2015, taking cognisance of a number of FIRs and chargesheets filed by the Rajasthan Police in connection with the dubious land deals by Skylight Hospitality, a firm allegedly linked to Vadra, in Bikaner. The local tehsildar

of Bikaner complained about alleged forgery in the allotment of land in the area, considered sensitive due to its proximity to the India-Pak border.

The ED has sought Vadra's presence for questioning him about the operations of Skylight Hospitality Private Limited, which had purchased land in the area. The agency is also seeking to confront Vadra with the statements of those linked to him.

The ED is also probing the role of a major steel firm that gave loans to a company that bought the land from firms linked to Vadra for a very inflated price. The agency had earlier raided the premises of persons linked to Vadra, like Mahesh Nagar.

## Ex-Coal Secy HC Gupta convicted in coalgate

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

A Delhi Court on Friday convicted ex-coal secretary HC Gupta in a corruption case relating to allotment of coal blocks in West Bengal during the previous UPA regime at the Centre.

Five others, including one retired and another serving public servant — KS Kropcha and KC Samria — were held guilty for various offences under the Prevention of Corruption Act and the IPC.

Gupta, who was the Coal Secretary from December 31, 2005 to November 2008, has already been convicted before in two other cases of coal block allocation in which he has been sentenced to jail for two and three years respec-

tively. He is out on bail in both the cases.

Kropcha, who was then the Joint Secretary, Ministry of Coal, retired in December 2017 as the Chief Secretary of Meghalaya. He has also been convicted and sentenced to two years in another coal block allocation scam and has been on bail.

Samria then held the rank of Director in the Ministry of Coal and is now working as a Joint Secretary in Ministry of Minority Affairs. He has already been convicted and sentenced to two years jail term in another case and has been out on bail.

All the convicted persons were taken into the custody on the order of the court.

## CAPSULE

**DELHI'S AIR QUALITY AT 'VERY POOR' LEVEL**  
New Delhi: Delhi's air quality was in the 'very poor' category on Friday due to unfavourable meteorological conditions that slowed dispersion of pollutants.

**AFSPA: SC REJECTS PLEAS OF ARMY MEN**  
New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Friday rejected the plea of over 300 Army personnel challenging the lodging of FIRs against soldiers involved in operations in Manipur and Jammu & Kashmir, where AFSPA is in force.

**DeMo MOVE WAS AGAINST CORRUPT, SAYS NITI V-C**  
New Delhi: Demonetisation was a move against corrupt people and not against elite as has been indicated by former Chief Economic Adviser Arvind Subramanian, Niti Aayog Vice-Chairman Rajiv Kumar said on Friday.

## Nitish's sniffer dog squad to make Bihar dry

FAIZAN AHMAD ■ PATNA

This is for boozers, illicit liquor producers, traders and suppliers in dry Bihar. For the last five months, an army of 20 Labrador sniffer dogs is being trained at Moinabad in Telangana to detect liquor and narcotics. The dogs are expected to arrive in Patna in the first week of February and play their role in implementing total prohibition in Bihar.

Chief Minister Nitish Kumar is unhappy with the police and excise officials for their slackness in catching the big fish in this trade and, as he said publicly, they were only arresting drivers and khalasis of the vehicles smuggling the liquor from other neighbouring States and Nepal.

The admission of the CM that liquor was being smuggled in and home delivery was still rampant has exposed the agencies involved in enforcing total prohibition. The home department is now expected to pin more hopes on canines than the army of officials in bid to satisfy Nitish, whose brainchild total prohibition has earned him bouquets and brickbats alike.

These 20 dogs had been purchased for ₹35 lakh when they were six months old in July last. Since then they are undergoing rigorous training at Moinabad under the supervision of professional.

Bihar has also deputed 30 handler policemen there to keep a close watch on their training to sniff out narcotics



and liquor. Additional Director General of Police (CID) Vinay Kumar said, "These dogs are

being imparted special training to search and find out all kinds of narcotics, liquor and spirit even if they are buried deep.

They can also catch people who have consumed even a little". Sources in excise department said that in the first

phase, these dogs would be deployed in border areas where they would be on duty on check posts with cops. They will check the vehicles entering Bihar from other neighbouring States. The sources said this would effectively check the smuggling of narcotics and liquor.

"For the first time, our dog squads will have services of sniffer dogs trained to catch liquor and this will help us effectively check the smuggling and smugglers," said dog squad chief Om Prakash Srivastava. In Bihar only 10 districts have dog squads.

Nitish suspects that police and excise officials are hands in glove with bootleggers and that was the reason that they were getting away.

Blank Verse

# The Scent and Feel of a Book Shop



Jaskiran Chopra

about the convenience of buying and reading books online, there can never be any experience that can match being amid real book shops, buying real books.

I would like to share with my readers my feelings about what the conventional way of buying a book has meant to me and how important it has been in my life.

Beginning from childhood, being the daughter of parents whose entire world was focused on books, I was a regular visitor to book shops in the Doon valley. Natraj, English Book Depot, Book World and some other shops that were spread over the town of Dehra (and are still flourishing) were familiar destinations for me ever since I can remember.

While my parents and brother went around the shelves to choose their books I would be seated on a stool somewhere to be kept out of the way. However, I was fascinated by the rows of colourful books and would manage to get a couple

of comic books or fairy tale story books in hand, requesting my father to buy them for me. He would tell me that I would not be able to read them yet or understand them (I was in Kindergarten then). My insistence would make him give in and when we went home he would read out the stories to me and make me understand them to the extent possible. The visits to the book shops continued as I grew up in the then idyllic valley of Doon. As soon as I entered these shops, I could sense a scent of books which, I am sure, all book lovers are quite familiar with. It is a unique scent-of books old and new-of books fresh from the press and of those whose pages have yellowed with age. The special atmosphere that a book shop exudes always enchanted me just as it does today.

There are some youngsters these days who have never had the good fortune of experiencing this typical environment of a book shop. Reading is not as popular a hobby as it once was.

And even people who are fond of reading have resorted to e-books and online shopping for real books. I find this trend a bit sad and unnecessary too. What prevents people, I often wonder, from stepping into a book shop near their home and browse around real, actual books to peep inside them, look into their hearts and feel their soft pages before deciding which ones to take home. That is the least, I feel, a book deserves.

The cosy comfort that books in a shop create with their presence in large numbers can never be felt through online shopping for them. It is simply not possible. There are many book shops that offer you the opportunity of sipping on coffee and sitting in comfort while browsing through the books. One can meet many like-minded people there and get into discussions about favourite books or favourite authors.

It is a wholesome experience which we all need once in a while in our hectic lives-to calm us down, to make us get

off the roller coaster that life has become for many of us these days. Believe me, you will never regret your visit to a book shop. It is one of the most soothing and pleasant things one can do—a favour to oneself.

Recently, a few of my friends were heard complaining that life has become too mechanical, people have stopped seeing each other, visiting each other, talking to each other. I feel that it is true. However, nobody else can help change this for us.

We will have to take a few steps to turn back our lives to somewhere near where it was some years ago. Giving up our reluctance to move out of home and trying to make a bit of an effort to go to meet our friends, to visit the bazaar as we did to choose from various things before buying one, to step into the good old book shops that are waiting to welcome us with their warmth and charm. Buy online books but also, do not forget the real book shops completely.

# Veterans Rally rescheduled to December 7 and 8

PNS ■ PAURI

The Veterans' Rally earlier scheduled on December 3 and 4 at Raiwala Military Station has now been rescheduled to December 7 and 8. The rally would be organised under the aegis of Garud Division of the Central Command the objective of which is to create awareness among the army veterans and the army widows about the latest welfare schemes rolled out by the Centre and the State Government.

The Veterans Rally is likely to be attended by some senior officers of the district and eminent persons besides the senior army officers.

A number of stalls would be put up during the rally from where the army veterans can collect information about the Pension Adalat dealing with their pension benefits, new pension schemes floated by various banks, Army Placement Node and Ex-Servicemen Contributory Health Scheme (ECHS) and the like. The army veterans

A NUMBER OF STALLS WOULD BE PUT UP DURING THE RALLY FROM WHERE THE ARMY VETERANS CAN COLLECT INFORMATION ABOUT THE PENSION ADALAT DEALING WITH THEIR PENSION BENEFITS, NEW PENSION SCHEMES FLOATED BY VARIOUS BANKS, ARMY PLACEMENT NODE AND EX-SERVICEMEN CONTRIBUTORY HEALTH SCHEME (ECHS) AND THE LIKE

would have interactive sessions with the senior army officers during the event. This aside, a medical camp would be organised where services of the medical specialists would be made available for the veterans and their families.

The army officers said that a string of civil institutes is also being incorporated in the rally and added that the two-day event would end with cultural programmes. Elaborate and extensive arrangements are being made for the event, they said.

The army veterans and the army widows should carry all the necessary identification documents, including Pension Payment Order, at the rally so as to be able to derive full benefit from the event being hosted for their welfare, said the army officers.

# Panchayat by-poll to be held in Pauri on Dec 13

Nominations to be filed from today

PNS ■ PAURI

Pauri District Magistrate who is also the district election officer has directed the officers concerned to conduct the by-election to 86 vacant posts of the gram pradhan, gram panchayat member and chatra panchayat in the all blocks of the district as per the notification issued by the State Election Commission.

The nomination of the vacant posts would be filed from December 1 to 3, the scrutiny of the nomination papers to be filed would be held on December 4 and the withdrawal of nomination would be done on December 5 after which the symbols would be allotted to the candidates. While the by-election would be held on December 13 the counting of votes would be done on December 15.

DM instructed the returning officers and the assistant returning officers appointed for the purpose of the state of the by-elections to act impartially and take all steps required to ensure peaceful by-polls.

DM said that according to the notification of the State Election Commission, the by-elections for the vacant posts spread over all the 15 blocks of the district would be conducted.

Giving the details, he said that the by-elections for nine posts of gram pradhan, 76 posts of the member of the gram panchayat and one post of chatra panchayat would be held in the district. He said that the places where the by-election to elect the gram pradhans would be held are Thalli Gaon (Pauri), Bhurpur Chota (Beerokhal), Ghaikhal (Yamkeshwar), Githoli (Paubo), Sundroli (Reeknikhal), Sumari and Khola (Khirsu) and Palkot and Sangora (Ekeswar). Besides, the places where members of the representative rural body would be elected through the by-elections are Nainandanda (8), Beerokhal (18), Yamkeshwar (14), Dwarikhal (13), Kot (7), Pokhra, Thalisain and Paubo (2 each), Duggada (5), Jharikhal (4) and Ekeswar (1).

The by-election to elect the sole member of the chatra panchayat would be held at Chaanda under Thalisain block.

# SPIC MACAY organises violin performance by N Rajam



PNS ■ DEHRADUN

SPIC MACAY conducted a violin performance by the legendary violinist Padma Bhushan N Rajam in the premises of Mount Fort Academy on Friday. She was accompanied by Pt Vinod Lele on Tabla and Prashant Mishra on violin.

Earlier during the circuit, she also performed at Rashtriya Anusandhan Vidhyalaya, Instruments Research and Development Establishment, Doon Business School, Selaqui, Lal Bahadur

Shashtri National Academy of Administration Mussoorie and Indian Institute of Remote Sensing.

The students attended the violin performance programme in a large number. Visibly overwhelmed, one of the students, Meenakshi said, "The performance has simply cast a spell on me. It is the first ever violin performance that I am presenting in my life. It is really enchanting. I will attend more whenever such programmes are held in the city," she said.

The world-renowned violin player N Rajam is the recipient of countless awards, including Padma Bhushan, Sangeet Natak Academy Award and Academy Ratna.

Rajam learned music from her father and practised raga under the guidance of Musiri Subramania Iyer and Pandit Omkarnath Thakur.

She was titled as the "Singing Violin" by the music lovers worldwide.

Apart from a musical career Rajam also served as Dean of the Faculty of Performing Arts at BHU.

# Rain likely in some districts, dry climate for Dehradun



PNS ■ DEHRADUN

The sky in Dehradun remained cloudy, though it did not rain as expected on Friday. The climate would remain dry here on Saturday too, though it might rain in some districts like Uttarkashi, Chamoli, Rudraprayag, Bageshwar and Pithoragarh on the day. The high-altitude places in these districts might also experience snowfall too as per the weather officers.

The residents of Dehradun woke up to a cloudy morning on Friday. They said they expected rain as the meteorological department forecast rain here under the impact of the western disturbances. "Rain eluded us, but things were cool since the morning as

the sky remained mostly cloudy. The sun rarely appeared throughout the day," said a resident.

Another said that though it was cool they were expecting rain or at least drizzle. "As it happens the real biting winter arrives after it rains or drizzles. We hope it would happen soon and we would have freezing cold," said another resident.

The weather forecast for Dehradun for Saturday is mostly clear to partly cloudy sky with possibility of mist forming in the morning hours. While the maximum temperature is likely to be in the neighbourhood of 24 degree Celsius the minimum would hover around 10 degree Celsius in the city on the day, the Met officers said.

In Dehradun, while the maximum temperature settled at 25.3 degree Celsius, two notches above the normal, the minimum was 11.3 degree Celsius, three notches above the normal, in the city on the day.

As per the chart sent by the weather department, in Pantnagar, the maximum and minimum temperatures were recorded at 25.3 degree Celsius and 8.9 degree Celsius, respectively. In Mukteshwar, the maximum and minimum temperatures were recorded at 16.6 degree Celsius and 5.9 degree Celsius.

In New Tehri, the maximum and minimum temperatures recorded were 17.4 degree Celsius and 7.8 degree Celsius respectively.

# MAD urges Gama to pursue long term vision for sustainable development

Group to meet mayor after swearing in to demand road-map for time-bound action on civic issues

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

Members of Dehradun based student activist group Making a Difference by Being the Difference (MAD) congratulated Mayor elect Sunil Uniyal 'Gama' on his victory and urged him to have a long term vision for sustainable development in Doon.

MAD has been active on environmental and civic

issues for about seven years now and had also carried out a campaign to elicit focus of all mayoral aspirants prior to the election.

A team of volunteers had reached out to them and given a token gift of a pair of gloves used in clean-up drives and a plant sapling to those who responded positively to the meeting request.

The gesture was meant to remind the aspirants to conserve the greenery of Doon and to ensure cleanliness-two of their major



responsibilities that are often lost out in vote bank politics. This handing over was done with both Gama and the Congress mayoral candidate Dinesh Aggarwal.

According to the group volunteers, when they had met Gama, he had smiled while accepting the token and said, "first let me become the mayor". MAD has often been at loggerheads with the municipal corporation of Dehradun leadership and has often campaigned on inaction on public property defacement, vacant plots

becoming garbage hotspots, encroachment on ravines, lack of cleanliness and the choking of the city's drains and rivers.

MAD plans to approach Gama soon after his swearing in and will demand a time bound roadmap to address each of the aforementioned concerns.

**14th Bn ITB Police Force**  
**NOTICE INVITING e- TENDERS**

The Commandant 14<sup>th</sup> Bn, ITBP Jajardewal, Pithoragarh (UK) on behalf of the President of India invites online item rate tender on two bid system of following works :-

1. **NIT No - 6891 Name of Work:-** Construction of Platoon office ops room, Gos Accommodation, 02 Nos jawan barrack, clothing, ration, kote & ammunition store, WT Office, MI room & Recreation hall for jawan, Tradesmen shop, Training shed and stable building at Bugdiyar post of 14<sup>th</sup> Bn ITBP Jajardewal, Pithoragarh (UKD). Estimated Cost : **Rs. 5,39,05,063/- Earnest Money : Rs. 10,78,101/-**, Period of completion : **36 (Thirty Six) months.** Last Date and time of Submission of bid: **19.12.2018 up to 1700 Hrs.**

The bid forms (Tender form) and other details can be obtained from the web site [www.eprocure.gov.in](http://www.eprocure.gov.in)

**COMMANDANT**  
**14<sup>th</sup> BN, ITB POLICE**

DAVP 19112/11/0289/1819

**14th Bn ITB Police Force**  
**NOTICE INVITING e- TENDERS**

The Commandant 14<sup>th</sup> Bn, ITBP Jajardewal, Pithoragarh (UK) on behalf of the President of India invites online item rate tender on two bid system of following works :-

1. **NIT No - 6888 Name of Work:-** Construction of toilet & bath block for SO's at Dung post of 14<sup>th</sup> Bn ITBP Jajardewal, Pithoragarh (UKD). Estimated Cost : **Rs. 10,31,930/- Earnest Money : Rs. 20,639/-**, Period of completion : **24 (Twenty Four) months.** Last Date and time of Submission of bid: **08.12.2018 up to 1700 Hrs.**

The bid forms (Tender form) and other details can be obtained from the web site [www.eprocure.gov.in](http://www.eprocure.gov.in)

**COMMANDANT**  
**14<sup>th</sup> BN, ITB POLICE**

DAVP 19112/11/0292/1819

बैंक ऑफ इंडिया Bank of India		HARIDWAR BRANCH, HARIDWAR, (UK)		POSSESSION NOTICE (For Immovable property)	
Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower/Guarantor	Description of the Immovable Property/ies	Date of Demand Notice	Outstanding as per Demand Notice	Date of possession
1.	Borrower : M/s AS Services, Sh. Vakeel Ansari S/o Sh. Mohd. Mustafa (Prop./Mortgagor) Guarantor: Sh. Mohd. Mustafa S/o Sh. Zakhir Miya	Mortgage of Property (Commercial Shop) Situated at B-10 (Basement), Alankar Place, Near Shankar Ashram, Pargana-Jawalapur, Tehsil & District - Haridwar, (UK), Area 8.36 sq. mtrs., (In the name of Sh. Vakeel Ansari S/o Sh. Mohd. Mustafa) On the North by: Shankar Ashram, On the South by: Common Passage, On the East by: Shop No. B 9, On the West by: Common Passage	07.08.2018	Rs. 8,31,097.00 as on 21.06.2018 + interest and other expenses w.e.f 22.06.2018	27.11.2018
2.	Borrower/Mortgagor: Sh. Antriksh Kumar S/o Sh. Virendra Kumar Guarantor: Sh. Shailender Kumar Saxena S/o Sh. Rajendra Prasad Saxena	Mortgage of Property Situated at Khasra No: 244/1, First Floor, Geeta Krishna Apartments, Shekhpura Kankhal, Pargana - Jawalapur, Tehsil & District - Haridwar, (UK), Area 950 sq. ft., (In the name of Sh. Antriksh Kumar s/o Sh. Virendra Kumar) Bounded: On the North by: Plot of Other, On the South by: 20 Feet Rasta, On the East by: Plot of Other, On the West by: House of Shiv Charan	07.03.2016	Rs. 20,73,736.50 as on 15.09.2018 + interest and other expenses w.e.f 16.09.2018	27.11.2018
3.	Borrower/Mortgagor: Smt Sangeeta W/o Sh. Parveen Goyal Guarantor: Sh. Parveen Goyal/S/o Sh. Babu Ram	Mortgage of Property Situated at Khasra No: 77, Flat No: 18, 3 <sup>rd</sup> Floor, Subhash Nagar Colony, Village & Pargana-Jawala -pur, Tehsil & District-Haridwar, (UK), Area 420.99 sq. ft., (In the name of Smt. Sangeeta W/o Sh. Parveen Goyal) Bounded: On the North by: Property of Other, On the South by: Flat No. 19, On the East by: Rasta, On the West by: Bagh	17.09.2018	Rs. 10,46,801.00 as on 31.05.2018 + interest and other expenses w.e.f 01.06.2018	27.11.2018

Authorized Officer, Bank of India

2021 Kumbh Mela

CM seeks ₹4570 cr special Central aid

Rawat meets Jaitley, seeks special assistance for Mela works in Haridwar

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

In view of the Kumbh Mela to be held at Haridwar in Uttarakhand during 2021, the Chief Minister Trivendra Singh Rawat met the Union Finance Minister Arun Jaitley and sought a one-time special central assistance of ₹4570 crore for the State. The Chief Minister said that the Kumbh Mela is slated to be held at Haridwar from January to April in 2021.

During these four months, more than 15 crore people are expected to arrive here. The Kumbh Mela will begin in Haridwar from January 1, 2021 and all works related to arrangements for this major



event are to be completed by October 2020 under any circumstances.

During his meet with the Union Finance Minister, the Chief Minister said that various works are to be undertaken on a large scale for the convenience and safety of people who will be visiting Haridwar during the Kumbh Mela.

These works include infrastructure related permanent works like road construction/improvement,

construction of ghats, facilitation of potable water and electricity supply, works related to maintenance of law and order, facilitation of adequate medical treatment facilities, maintenance of sanitation and proper garbage disposal in the Mela area, developing temporary camps for members of religious fraternity and devotees, facilitating parking space and other works.

All these works are to be completed without fail by October 2020.

Rawat further said that due to the State's financial resources being limited, financial assistance from the Centre for the organisation of the Kumbh Mela is essential. He requested the Union Finance Minister to make budgetary provision of one-time special central assistance of ₹4570 crore in the coming union budget.

Jaitley assured the Chief Minister of all possible assistance from the Centre.

Undertaking mandatory for admission in NIT Srinagar

Step taken in the wake of the students' agitation for shifting the institute

GAJENDRA SINGH NEGI ■ DEHRADUN

The students seeking admission in the National Institute of Technology (NIT) Srinagar, Garhwal would have to submit an undertaking that they would not demand shifting of the institute outside Srinagar and would not take mass leaves from the next academic session.

On demand of shifting of the institute, the students of the prestigious college have been on a path of agitation.

The Minister of State for Higher Education Dhan Singh Rawat told *The Pioneer* here on Friday that the demand of the students is unjustified.

On an emphatic note, he

said that there is no question of shifting the elite institute outside Srinagar. "The Union Human Resource Development Minister, Chief Minister of Uttarakhand and I have categorically stated that the institute would not be shifted anywhere," he said.

The Minister further said that an inquiry would be constituted to look into the conditions under which the 300 acre of land allotted for the institute had been rejected. He added that the Government has also provided 122 acre of land at Jaletha village to house the institute.

The student agitation in NIT had erupted on October 3 when two girl students were hit by a speeding car on the National Highway. The girls had been on their way to the lab from their hostel while passing the bustling National Highway.

Following the incident, the students had launched an agitation, demanding shifting of the institute to a safer

location in the plains. On October 22, the students had taken an extreme step of leaving the institute en masse.

The students had dispatched e-mails to President, Prime Minister, CM and Governor in which they demanded that the campus should be shifted to a place which ensures their safety, medical help, corporate exposure and accessibility to technological advances as per the standards.

On November 28 and 29, the NIT students had also held a protest meeting at Jantar Mantar in New Delhi to press for their demand.

Set up in the year 2010 in Srinagar in Garhwal, the NIT has been functioning from a temporary campus. The administrative block and the labs are situated in the old ITI campus while the students go to the Poly-technique college campus for classes.

For hostels of students, the administration has rented a hotel.

Yadav made additional secretary & project director

Decision comes days after conditional revocation of suspension

Dehradun: A few days after revoking the suspension of Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer Chandresh Kumar Yadav, the State administration has appointed him additional secretary of urban development and information technology. He has also been made the project director of Uttarakhand Urban Sector Development Agency (ADB). His suspension had been conditionally revoked earlier on Wednesday.

Yadav had been suspended in the NH-74 land compensation scam during September. A charge sheet had been filed against him after his suspension. Yadav had submitted a detailed explanation responding to the charges levelled against him to the Government, based on which the suspension order had been conditionally revoked. The other IAS officer suspended for alleged role in the NH-74 scam - Pankaj Pandey is still under suspension. PNS

Cong fared better than BJP in local body polls: PCC chief

Gairsain, sting operation issues to be raised in Assembly session

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

Accusing the Bharatiya Janata Party of blatantly misusing the State Government machinery in the recently concluded urban local body elections, the Uttarakhand Pradesh Congress Committee president Pritam Singh averred that despite this the Congress had performed quite well in the polls.

Addressing the media at the Congress Bhawan, the PCC chief averred that despite the BJP trying to influence the poll results, the Congress had performed better than the BJP in the urban local body elections. Of the 1064 posts of councillors and ward members, the Congress had won 423 compared to the 323 won by BJP.

In 53 of the 84 local bodies for which the polls were held, the Congress did not



field authorised candidates for the posts of councillors and ward members.

However, a large number of the independent candidates who had won have stated in writing to the Congress state in charge Anugrah Narayan Singh that they are Congress workers.

Reacting to the decision of the State Government to also open a Chief Minister's office in Nainital, Singh questioned it and said that the Congress opposes this decision.

He further said that the State Government should clarify its stand on the issue of making Gairsain the State capital.

Referring to the alleged sting operation conspiracy, he also questioned why the said CD had not been made public so far. Singh said that these issues will be raised prominently by the Congress in the winter session of the Vidhan Sabha slated to start on Tuesday.

Allegations a sign of Cong frustration: BJP

Opposing CM camp office in Nainital exposes anti-public mentality of Cong

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

Rebutting allegations levelled by the PCC chief, the Bharatiya Janata Party opined that the allegations were a sign of frustration of the state head of a defeated party. The public had once again rejected the Congress in the urban local body elections due to which the party is baffled.

Reacting to the allegations levelled by the PCC chief, the BJP State media in-charge Devendra Bhasin said that these are nothing more than bafflement the Congress is experiencing.

Ten days after the poll results were announced, the PCC chief now thinks of alleging that BJP tampered with the counting of votes. Ballot papers were used in these polls but if EVMs had been used, the Congress would have alleged problems in the machines. On the one hand,

the Congress is hit by internal bickering which is also one of the reasons for its leaders levelling odd allegations at the BJP.

Further, by opposing the chief minister's decision to open a camp office in Nainital, the Congress has once again exposed its anti-public mentality.

This development will be very convenient for the people of Kumaon region and is a sign of the Chief Minister's focus on good governance and decentralisation of power, added Bhasin.



Congress is counting the victorious independent candidates to claim highest number of victorious candidates while on the other hand it is accusing the BJP of tampering. Bhasin stressed that in fact the BJP had achieved a resounding victory as the people had approved the policies of the BJP governments at the Centre and State.

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Army chief agrees to army operating Srinagar medical college

State & Army to sign MoU in near future

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

The chief of army staff, General Bipin Rawat accorded his consent to the State's request for the army to operate the Srinagar medical college.

Chief Minister Trivendra Singh Rawat met the army chief in the national capital on Friday.

During their meet, they discussed the proposed operation of the Srinagar medical college by the army. General Rawat expressed his consent to this proposal.

A memorandum of understanding will be signed in the near future between the State and the army regarding the Srinagar medical college. Army officers will visit Dehradun and discuss the details of the MoU with officials of the State Government, according to Government sources.



CM office to be set up in Nainital

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

In an important move, the Uttarakhand Government has decided to set up a Chief Minister's office in Nainital to have a better administrative control over Kumaon region of the State.

Talking to the media persons at Doon University here on Friday, the Chief Minister Trivendra Singh Rawat said that the move had been initiated for the benefit of the people of Kumaon region who perform travel long distances to reach Dehradun to have their grievances addressed.

He added that a secretary level officer would permanently sit in the office and cater to the grievances of the people.

It is pertinent to mention here that in the recent reshuffle in the bureaucracy, the State Government had inducted the additional chief secretary Radha Raturi and secretary Ajay Rautela into the CM Secretariat.

Interestingly, Rautela also happens to be the Kumaon commissioner.

First convocation of Doon University held

Murli Manohar Joshi stresses on preserving Himalayas to prevent China from taking advantage

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

Former Union Minister and MP Murli Manohar Joshi stressed on efforts to protect and preserve the Himalayas with the possibility of China taking advantage of any gap in it looming large. He was addressing the first convocation of the Doon University here on Friday. He said that Himalayas are vital for the climate and water availability for the whole of South East Asia. Lauding the decision of the Doon University to open a centre on the Himalayan studies, the veteran leader and scholar said that both the Centre and the State Government should ensure that the proposed centre meets the purpose it is meant for.

Expressing apprehension over the model of growth-oriented economics, he said that as per the recent studies, such model of economics leads to concentration of capital in a few hands and besides, it

wreaks havoc on the environment.

Joshi also expressed concern over the rising pollution of the Ganga. Laying emphasis on learning Sanskrit, he said that the Uttarakhand Government should ensure that the students study Sanskrit and some research is held on the Sanskrit literature.

In her convocation address, the Governor Baby Rani Maurya said that the universities have great responsibility to promote research work as per the needs of the society and to assist in the formulation of policy for overall development. She added that the universities are not a mere degree-giving institutions but they play a vital role in the overall development of the society and the nation. She said that role of parents is paramount in shaping the future of the students.

Maurya said that there is a direct relation between the growth of the State and the number of the educated youths living in it. The higher the number of educated youth the more the progress of the State in social, economic and cultural domains, she said.

The Chief Minister Trivendra Singh Rawat expressed confidence that Doon University would soon find a place among the best

universities of the country. He on the occasion announced a special grant of ₹5 crore for the university.

Stressing on the need of good teachers, Rawat said that the good teachers can compensate the absence of library or laboratory. "But nothing can compensate a good teacher," he said.

The Minister of State for higher education Dhan Singh Rawat said that the State Government is committed to ensuring all-round development of Doon University.

He said that the university has received a grant of ₹20 crore from RUSA for two consecutive years. The Minister further said that convocations would be held regularly in all the universities of the State from now on. He claimed that the State Government is strictly implementing the education calendar in the State according to which minimum 180 days of studies are compulsory in a year.

Famous folk singer Narendra Singh Negi who was bestowed with D.Lit during the convocation said that it amounted to honouring the local languages of Uttarakhand.

HONOURS BESTOWED

The Governor Baby Rani Maurya as the chancellor of the university conferred honorary doctoral degrees to the former Union Minister Murli Manohar Joshi and the celebrated folk singer Narendra Singh Negi. While Joshi was conferred with Doctor of Science (D.Sc) Negi was honoured with Doctor of Literature (D.Lit).

In course of the ceremony, degrees were awarded to 617 post-graduates and 380 graduates besides Ph.Ds to five students who passed out from the university since 2011 to 2016.

Future officers of the Indian Army are as adept in soft skills as they are in warfare and physical endurance

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

The End of Term Indoor Club Exhibition-cum-Competition that was held at the Indian Military Academy (IMA) on Friday showed that the would-be officers of the Indian Army are as adept in soft skills as they are in warfare and physical endurance.

The exhibition was inaugurated by Anita Jha, the first lady of the Academy and wife of Commandant of IMA Lt Gen SK Jha.

The Chetwode building was adorned with beautiful exhibits of the Arts Club, Photography and Wildlife and Computer Club for the exhibition.

As the Arts Club cultivates and promotes creative arts skills among Gentlemen

DIN ALL THE WAY

Administration having gone all-out to make the first convocation a grand success, some students marred the seriousness of the programme as they were heard talking in high volume. The same continued during the time Murli Manohar Joshi was speaking, something which left the university administration embarrassed.

Some university officers tried to make the students to keep quiet, but they remained adamant on keeping the din on.

37 cadets of Army Cadet College awarded degree

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

In a gracious ceremony held at historic Chetwode Hall of Indian Military Academy (IMA) on Friday, 37 cadets of Army Cadet College (ACC) were awarded degrees. The ceremony was presided over by the officiating Commandant of IMA, Major General J S Nehra.

Among the Cadets who were awarded degrees, 20 were from humanities stream while 17 belonged to science stream. The cadets were conferred degrees by the prestigious Jawaharlar Nehru University, New Delhi.

The Commandant, in his convocation address, congratulated the Course for successfully completing their challenging three years of training at the ACC Wing.

The principal of the Army

- The Award Winners list
- I CHIEF OF ARMY STAFF (COAS) MEDALS.
  - 1 Gold Medal : Jitendra Chahar
  - 2 Silver Medal: Sanjay Singh
  - 3 Bronze Medal: S K Hariprasad
- II COMMANDANT'S SILVER MEDALS.
  - 1 First in Service Subjects - Jitendra Chahar
  - 2 First in Humanities Stream: Sanjok Chhetri
  - 3 First in Science Stream- Sanjay Singh

standards and commendable academic performance shown by the Cadets of the graduating course.

On the occasion, the Commandant's Banner to the Champion Company was awarded to 'Kargil Company'. The Banner is awarded to the Company which excels in various competitions like Sports, Academics, Camps, Debates and Interior Economy.

The Army Cadet College has a rich history of training selected personnel from other ranks of all three Services who have the potential to become officers in the Indian Army. After three years of training at the Army Cadet College, the graduated course will join the Indian Military Academy for one year for their pre-commissioning Training.



# PPCB reconstituted; replaces Padmashree Sant Seechewal

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

Punjab Government on Friday re-constituted Punjab Pollution Control Board. In a notable development, Baba Sewa Singh Khadur Sahib has been included as the Board member, replacing Padmashree environmentalist Sant Balbir Singh Seechewal.

Out of total 17 members, four are non-official. As per the notification issued by the state's Science, Technology and Environment Department, the Board is headed by the PPCB chairman, with Principal Secretaries of the departments of Science, Technology and Environment, Water resources, Local Government, Industries and Commerce, Agriculture,

or their nominee not below the rank of joint secretary are its members.

Besides, Municipal Corporation Commissioners of Amritsar and Ludhiana, GMADA chief administrator, Chief Town Planner, PAU vice-chancellor, Punjab Small Industries and Export Corporation managing director, Punjab Water Supply and Sewerage Board managing director, among others are also its members.

Among the four non-official members, the government has replaced Sant Seechewal with Baba Sewa Singh, also a noted environmentalist and religious preacher, who is heading the Nishan-e-Sikhi charitable trust.

However, Sant Seechewal's removal has failed to go down

well as it came at a time when the Sikh community is celebrating 550th birth anniversary of Guru Nanak Dev, and the padmashree awardee had worked day and night to clean Kali Bein — a rivulet of the Beas in Doaba region of Punjab — where the founder of Sikhism, Guru Nanak, is believed to have attained enlightenment after taking a dip, and led to the origin of Sikhism's mool-mantra 'Ik Onkar'.

It is believed that the move came in the wake of Sant Seechewal speaking against the pollution in the Beas river and death of thousands of fishes after industrial effluents were let off by a sugar mill associated with Paramjit Singh Sarna, the religious advisor of Punjab Chief Minister Capt

Amarinder Singh

The Beas river pollution turned out a major embarrassment for the Punjab Government as the National Green Tribunal (NGT) had imposed Rs 50 crore penalty on the authorities concerned.

Known as "Eco Warrior" or "Eco Baba", Baba Seechewal has been awarded Padma Shri for social service and rejuvenating Kali Bein, which was reduced to a filthy drain due to several dozen villages and towns discharging sewer water into it, into "Holy Bein" as it is known today.

Since 2000, Baba Seechewal has been cleaning the highly polluted Kali Bein with the help of a small team without any government help and has exhibited a rare example of cleaning the water.

Baba Seechewal has worked hard from running public awareness campaigns to uprooting water hyacinth himself, from evolving low cost sewerage system to raising funds, to beautification of river bank with trees, bathing ghats, and roads.

**SAD CONDEMNS CONG GOVT FOR REMOVING SANT SEECHEWAL**

Chandigarh: Condemning the Congress Government for removing noted environmentalist Sant Balbir Singh Seechewal as PPCB member, Shiromani Akali Dal on Friday said that it was especially painful that religious personality who had rejuvenated the Kali Bein rivulet associated with Sri

Guru Nanak Dev had been insulted in such a manner on the 550th parkash purb of the great saint.

The party asked the Congress Government to immediately reinstate Sant Seechewal as PPCB member, saying that this was necessary to encourage public trust in environment protection activities being taken up by the Pollution Board.

"Sant Seechewal had carved out a name for himself combining self help philosophy with the environmental essence of Gurbani. He should have been selected for special honour during celebrations of the 550th parkash purab of Baba Nanak as he has cleaned and rejuvenated the Kali Bein. Instead of doing this, the Congress government has

insulted Sant Seechewal and all right thinking environmentalists by removing him as member of the PPCB," said former minister and SAD spokesperson Daljit Singh Cheema.

Cheema said that the Punjab Government was in urgent need of Sant Seechewal's expertise not only to clean its rivers but also its village ponds. "However, it seemed that the government was in no mood to even listen to constructive criticism...The State's bid to clean its village ponds by using the Seechewal method would also suffer with the Sant not being associated with the PPCB," he said adding that it was unfortunate as many other States have adopted the Seechewal method to clean its rivers and ponds.

## Principal GDMC hands over charge



PNS ■ DEHRADUN

At the end of his three-year deputation, the principal of Government Doon Medical College (GDMC), Dr Pradip Bharati Gupta handed over the charge to the head of the department (HoD) of Pathology, Dr Naveen Thapliyal on Friday. Dr Gupta, a renowned Neuro-surgeon, would now rejoin Lala Lajpat Rai Memorial (LLRM) Medical College, Meerut, Uttar Pradesh. Considering his role in setting up the medical college in Dehradun, the Uttarakhand government had given him extension of one year but his NOC from UP Government has not reached yet. He is expected to rejoin GDMC once the necessary permission from UP arrives.

In his stint, Dr Gupta was instrumental in managing permission from the Medical Council of India (MCI) for three batches of MBBS students in the newly set up college. Prior to him, the attempts of the state medical education department to obtain nod of the MCI for medical college in Dehradun yielded no result.

On Friday, Dr Gupta handed over the charge to Dr Naveen Thapliyal who happens to be the senior most faculty member.

Faculty members Dr Rangeel Singh Raina, Dr Desh Dipak, Dr Chitra Joshi, Dr Anil Joshi and Dr Neeraj were present on the occasion.

## Hry Govt revises pay scale of teachers in LUVAS

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

Haryana Government has revised the pay scale of teachers and equivalent cadres in Lala Lajpat Rai University of Veterinary and Animal Sciences (LUVAS) at Hisar and College of Dairy Science and Technology on the recommendations of the 7th Central Pay Commission.

The revised pay of Vice-Chancellor of University has

**Revised pay of Vice-Chancellor of University has been fixed at ₹2,10,000 with the existing special allowance of ₹5,000 per month, said an official spokesman. He said that the revised pay of Assistant Professor (academic level 10) of LUVAS and College is ₹57,700, (Assistant Professor academic level 11) is ₹68,900**

been fixed at Rs 2,10,000 with the existing special allowance of Rs 5,000 per month, said an official spokesman.

He said that the revised pay of Assistant Professor (academic level 10) of LUVAS and College is Rs 57,700, (Assistant Professor academic level 11) is Rs 68,900, Assistant Professor at Academic Level 12 is Rs 79,800, Associate Professor at Academic Level 13A is Rs 1,31,400, Professor at Academic Level 14 is Rs 1,44,200 and Professor at Academic Level 15 is Rs 1,82,200. The revised pay would be effective from January 1, 2016.

The spokesman said that the pay revision would involve arrear amount to about Rs 12.21 crore from January 1, 2016 to March 31, 2019, however, 50 per cent financial liability would be borne by Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) and its annual financial liability would be about Rs 4 crore.

The incentive structure is built-in the pay structure itself wherein those having M.Phil. or Ph.D. degree would progress faster under Career Advancement Scheme (CAS), he added.

## HARYANA MUNICIPAL POLLS

# BJP CHALKS OUT STRATEGY

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

With the municipal polls in Haryana seen as a popularity test for the Manohar Lal Khattar Government, the ruling BJP has geared up for the key election in December, just few months ahead of 2019 Lok Sabha polls.

The saffron party has convened a meeting of its election committee on Saturday in New Delhi to chalk out a strategy for polls to five municipal corporations and two municipal committees in Haryana on December 16.

Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar, Haryana BJP incharge Anil Jain, Haryana BJP president Subhash Barala, Union Ministers Birender Singh, Rao Inderjit Singh and Krishan Pal Gurjar, Haryana Cabinet Minister Ram Bilas Sharma, Captain Abhimanyu, Anil Vij, and OP Dhankar among others are scheduled attend the meeting.

The BJP, which is contesting on its party symbol, is likely to announce its candidates after the meeting on Saturday. It would be for the first time that direct election to the post of mayor would be held in five civic bodies in the state.

The election is for the seats of mayor and members of all wards of five Municipal Corporations including Hisar, Rohtak, Yamunanagar, Panipat and Karnal and of two Municipal committees including Jakhhal Mandi (Fatehabad) and Pundri (Kaithal). The result will be announced on December 19.

"Discussions will be held on names shortlisted by the BJP for the post of mayor and members in MCs. The names are likely to be finalized at the meeting and the list of candidates will be released accordingly," said a senior party

leader.

The party leader said that the BJP would also chalk out its election strategy during the meeting. The issues which would be raised during the campaigning would also be discussed, he added.

The Chief Minister, his cabinet colleagues and party MLAs will be aggressively campaigning during the next fortnight for the MC polls.

The BJP election committee, in its previous meeting held on November 26 at Chandigarh had constituted a three-member committee each for five MCs to submit feedback for candidates in the election.

The party had also announced that a manifesto or a vision document will be released for the MC elections, to carry forward the development works of BJP led Central and Haryana Government.

The polls are seen as a popularity test for the ruling BJP, which has completed its four years tenure in Haryana recently while it would be a golden opportunity for the main opposition party—Indian National Lok Dal to prove itself ahead of Lok Sabha and assembly polls scheduled next year.

The Congress and Aam Aadmi Party have already announced not to contest on party symbol in these polls.

The nominations for the corporations and committees going to polls will be filed from December 1 to 6, except December 2 when it is a holiday.

As many as 1401157 voters including 746126 males, 655021 females and 10 transgender would exercise their franchise in these elections.

The high-stake electoral battle will be BJP and INLD attempting to put up an

**It would be for the first time that direct election to the post of Mayor would be held in five civic bodies.**

**The election is for the seats of mayor and members of all wards of five MCs including Hisar, Rohtak, Yamunanagar, Panipat and Karnal and of two Municipal committees including Jakhhal Mandi and Pundri. Result will be announced on Dec 19**

impressive show in Jat belt of Rohtak, Panipat, Hisar and Chief Minister's constituency Karnal.

**Issue of contesting MC polls on party symbol is under discussion, claims Tanwar.**

A day after the AICC general secretary incharge for Delhi, PC Chacko announced that the Congress will not contest the civic body polls on its symbol in Haryana, the state party chief Ashok Tanwar on Friday claimed that the matter is still under consideration.

Tanwar also announced to approach Congress President Rahul Gandhi or party leader PC Chacko again on the issue.

After holding a meeting with senior leaders of Haryana Congress in New Delhi on Thursday, PC Chacko had said that the Congress will not contest on its symbol in the polls. Former Chief Minister Bhupinder Singh Hooda, his son Rohtak MP Deepender Hooda, state Congress chief Ashok Tanwar, CLP leader Kiran Choudhry, Rajya Sabha MP Kumari Selja were present at the meeting.

The decision had come as a major blow to state Ashok Tanwar who wanted the party to contest on its symbol and had even initiated process to shortlist candidates for may-

oral post from five MCs.

Tanwar while talking to the mediapersons in Sonapat on Friday said that the issue of contesting elections on party symbol has not been finalized and is under consideration of the party high command.

The Congress leader said that he will be meeting PC Chacko again in this matter.

Tanwar said that the views of those people who had struggled at the ground level are being ascertained. These workers have expressed the view that these elections should be contested on the party symbol, so that BJP and its B team INLD are silenced, he added.

Tanwar's detractor, former Chief Minister Bhupinder was of the opinion that the party should not contest on its symbol. Infact, all senior leaders present at Thursday's meeting in New Delhi backed Hooda's viewpoint.

"The Congress has had a tradition of not contesting the local body elections on its symbol. Also, with several candidates approaching for contesting these elections, this could lead to resentment among party workers over the issue of selection of candidates," this was stated by the party leaders while stressing on not to contest on party symbol.

# Military carnival raises patriotic fervour



PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

The second day of the ongoing Military Carnival being held here in run-up to the much awaited Military Literature Festival 2018 saw sound and light show along with equestrian and polo events lined up on Friday.

The three-day Carnival is aimed at fostering a feeling of patriotism amongst youngsters while offering them a peep into the Army culture and legacy.

Inspired by Punjab Chief Minister Capt Amarinder Singh's book 'Saragarhi and the Defence of the Samana Forts: The 36th Sikhs in the Tirah Campaign 1897-98', on the historic battle, the synchronized fusion of Light and Sound show brought alive the Battle of Saragarhi against the backdrop of a digital set, showcased on a 50 feet LED screen.

The most famous Last Stand etched in the annals of Indian Military History had witnessed 22 gallant men of 36 Sikhs, now 4th Battalion of Sikh Regiment, choosing death over surrender in the attack by more than 10,000 Pashtun Orakzai tribesmen.

The one-hour light and sound show, choreographed by

45 artistes/actors, is predominantly in rural Punjabi language, which the soldiers who fought the Battle mainly spoke. The Pashtun soldiers are seen speaking rustic Urdu while the British use a mix of English and Hindi in the show.

Besides several retired Army officials, the show were attended by Major General Army Service Core Western Command R S Purohit.

Also evoking a sense of pride and achievement, especially amongst youngsters, was the Weapons Display at the Carnival, which showcased the artillery, armoured and engineering marvels of Indian Armed Forces, ranging from the 2008 Commissioned T 90 tank, Sweden make Bofors Gun, Howitzers and Medium Machine Guns (MMGs).

Underlining the pace of technological advancement and defence preparedness of our forces were a host of equipment, including Quantum Sniffer, Non Linear Junction Detectors, and amphibious Indian Combat Vehicle, which had played a significant role during the Kargil War.

A 12 seater pneumatic boat, employed by the Army

during wartime, besides the non radioactive based explosives detector used to identify the type of blast material, further evoked a sense of amazement and awe among the audiences.

In another attraction of the day, gutsy horse riders of Army, NCC, Punjab Police, besides local city clubs, enthralled both the young and the old as they flamboyantly galloped past the fire fence, motorbikes and gypsies during the Equestration Show.

Riding at breakneck speed of 800 meters per minute, Punjab Armed Police jawans, in the backdrop of piper band tunes played by 8 Sikh, showcased immaculate horse controlling skills during the Tent-pegging, drawing huge praise and appreciation from the audiences.

The events are an endeavour to make the younger generation imbibe the spirit of courage and sacrifice made by the Indian soldiers in the line of duty, said Colonel Chahal, a member of the organizing teams. He described MLF as yet another product of Punjab Chief Minister Captain Amarinder Singh's visionary leadership.

# Hry mulling spl service to take devotees to Kartarpur in Pak

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal on Friday said that the State Government would consider the matter of taking the devotees to Gurdwara Darbar Sahib Kartarpur in Pakistan

on the occasion of 550th Parkash Purab of Guru Nanak Dev and the same would be taken up with the Central Government.

"The State Government had earlier started two special trains one from Ambala and other from Sirsa to take devo-



tees for the 350th birth anniversary celebrations of Guru Gobind Singh in Patna Sahib last year," said Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal while presiding over the first meeting of State Level Committee for the celebrations of 550th Birth anniversary of Guru Nanak Dev at Kurukshetra.

He said that to commemorate the 550th birth anniversary of Guru Nanak Dev in a big way, a 'yatra' would be organized covering those places in the state which had been visited by the Guru.

"Such places have already been identified in the state," he added. Earlier, the Chief Minister sought suggestions from the members of the Committee for the year-long celebrations which will continue till November next.

The State Government has constituted a 100-member organizing committee under the chairmanship of Chief Minister for celebrating the 550th Parkash Purab of Guru Nanak Dev in the state.

Manohar Lal said that the yatra would pass through different parts of the state. He said that an App

- Govt considering special service to take devotees to Gurdwara Darbar Sahib Kartarpur in Pakistan
- Yatra to be organized covering those places in Haryana which had been visited by Guru Nanak Dev
- App to be developed to provide information about the places visited by Guru along with year of his visit and name of Gurughars
- Seminars, competitions to be organized in school, colleges and universities to apprise the young generation about the life and teachings of Guru Nanak Dev
- De-addiction centers to be named after Guru Nanak Dev.

Guru Nanak Dev, seminars and competitions would be organized in school, colleges and universities as a part of the year long celebrations, he said.

While exhorting the people to come forward and assist the State Government in its fight against the drug menace, he said that de-addiction centers in the name of Guru Nanak Dev would be opened in the state.

He said that the State Government has decided to launch an extensive campaign to keep the youth away from drugs. Recently, he has convened a meeting of Chief Ministers of northern states to evolve an effective mechanism to deal with the problem of drug menace especially in northern states due to increased smuggling of drugs through Pakistan border, he said.

said that the Sikh Community has always been in the forefront in serving the society.

Though Langar is arranged by the Gurughars, in case they want to start similar service at Chowks (roundabouts) for the poor people, the State Government would provide assistance for the same, he said.

He said that the State Government has started an 'Antyodaya Thali' programme under which food is provided to the poor people at nominal rate of Rs 10. The remaining cost is borne by the State Government.

**Department of Social Justice & Empowerment Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment Government of India REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL**

The Department of Social Justice & Empowerment invites e-Tender from qualified organizations for undertaking evaluation study on "Outcome Based Evaluation of Pre-Matric Scholarship Scheme for Other Backward Classes (OBCs)" latest by 10.12.2018 at 1500 hrs. For details please see CPP's Website <https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app> and Ministry's websites: [socialjustice.nic.in](http://socialjustice.nic.in), [nskfdc.nic.in](http://nskfdc.nic.in), [nbcfd.nic.in](http://nbcfd.nic.in) and [nsfdc.nic.in](http://nsfdc.nic.in). No manual bids will be accepted.

davp 381011/11/0041/1819

**14th Bn ITB Police Force NOTICE INVITING e- TENDERS**

The Commandant 14<sup>th</sup> Bn, ITBP Jajardewal, Pithoragarh (UK) on behalf of the President of India invites online item rate tender on two bid system of following works :-

- NIT No - 6889 Name of Work:** Construction / up gradation of helipad and VIP room at Dung post of 14<sup>th</sup> Bn ITBP Jajardewal, Pithoragarh (UKD). Estimated Cost : **Rs. 8,82,78,303/- Earnest Money : Rs. 17,65,567/-**, Period of completion : **36 (Thirty Six) months. Last Date and time of Submission of bid: 19.12.2018 up to 1700 Hrs.**

The bid forms (Tender form) and other details can be obtained from the web site [www.eprocure.gov.in](http://www.eprocure.gov.in)

**COMMANDANT 14<sup>th</sup> BN, ITB POLICE**

DAVP 19112/11/0288/1819

# SC rejects Army plea against lodging FIRs

**New Delhi:** The Supreme Court on Friday rejected the plea of over 300 Army personnel challenging the lodging of FIRs against soldiers involved in operations in Manipur and Jammu & Kashmir, where AFSPA is in force, though the Centre contended that it will have a "demoralising effect" on soldiers who are fighting terrorism.



The apex court brushed aside the fervent request of the Centre which supported the plea and said the issue should be "debated and discussed" so that a mechanism is evolved "where hands of our soldiers do not shake while fighting terrorism".

The Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act (AFSPA) gives special rights and immunity to security forces in carrying out various operations in "disturbed" areas.

The Government said that armed forces were operating in an "altogether different situation" in disturbed areas and a balance has to be struck, but the apex court said that it was for the Government, and not the courts, to come out with an internal mechanism so "that if somebody loses his life like this, it should be looked into".

"But who has stopped you

from coming out with a mechanism? Why you require our intervention? These are issues which you have to discuss, not the courts," a bench of justices Madan B Lokur and UU Lalit told Solicitor General (SG) Tushar Mehta, who was representing the Centre.

"When there is a loss of life, even in an encounter, should not the human life demands that it should be looked into and investigation should be done," the bench observed.

As soon as the apex court said it was dismissing the plea, the SG stood up and said he should be heard as the Centre wants that the issue be debated.

"There has to be a mechanism where hands of our soldiers do not shake while fighting terrorism," Mehta said, adding, "human life has a value which can never be disputed".

"The fact that over 300 soldiers of our country have to pray for this is itself unfortunate," he said, adding, "It has a demoralising effect. The country cannot afford that our soldiers are demoralised. Please do not stop the debate".

The bench reminded him that it has not yet issued notice to the Centre on the plea filed by these Army men.

When the SG said the matter was required to be debated upon before the highest court of the land, the bench said, "It does not concern the court. You can have your debate. You have to find it (mechanism and solution) out, not us".

"As a laymen, even the life, which the Army men put on stake, also have value," he said.

To this, the bench referred to the ongoing CBI probe into some Manipur encounter cases and said if a central agency finds that someone has exceeded his powers then inquiry should be done.

"Why Government of India cannot come out with an internal mechanism that if somebody loses his life like this, it should be looked into.

We cannot, as a court, devise such a mechanism," the court said. **PTI**

## Ceiling on party expenditure in elections likely soon: CEC

**New Delhi:** A ceiling on party expenditure in campaigning, for which the Election Commission (EC) has been pressing political parties and the Government, will see "the light of day in time to come", says Chief Election Commissioner O P Rawat.

Rawat, who demits office on Saturday, said his "only regret" as head of the poll panel is that the EC was unable to recommend to the Law Ministry a fresh "legal framework" in tune with the changing times vis-a-vis the use of money and social media.

Sunil Arora will take over as the new Chief Election Commissioner on Sunday.

Responding to a question on transparency in funding of political parties, Rawat told PTI in an interview that it is "a long-term reform".

"... All political party meeting in August (this year) had recommended that there should be a ceiling on party expenditure and commensurately there should be transparency in funding. I think it will see the light of day in time to come," he said.

Almost all parties agreed to a cap on expenditure, he added.

The election watchdog has been pushing for greater transparency in election-related expenditure by parties and candidates. **PTI**

## PAK'S UNPROVOKED ATTACKS BSF retaliates successfully every time: DG Rajnikant

**PNS ■ NEW DELHI**

**B**on Friday said there have been several incidents of sniping and unprovoked firing along the LoC and IB but the BSF has effectively retaliated through a comprehensive retaliation plan.

The BSF is also making a scientific study during the last five years to effectively counter such incidents like barbaric killings of Jawans by Border Action Team of Pakistan. "We will come out with suggestions by which these actions or incidents can be prevented and if it requires to undertake some civil, mechanical or operational work, we will do that," Mishra said.

Mishra said the BSF has developed bullet-proof bunkers as an in-house initiative to protect its troops against fatal sniper fire and has "surgically" targeted enemy posts in the recent past causing heavy losses to the Pakistan Rangers. The BSF secures the frontiers with Pakistan and Bangladesh.

The paramilitary is also undertaking a survey of the demographic and economic profile of villages on the western front as part of a "routine

exercise" to map the area and keep the Government informed about any shift in demography and economic activities, a senior BSF official said.

"The BSF responded in a targeted and deliberate manner to unprovoked firing and sniping incidents as a result of which the Rangers (Pakistan's border guarding troops) were pinned down and confined to their posts. Unable to contain the BSF assault, the Rangers were forced to open the entire front and a heavy exchange of fire started on the entire International Boundary. BSF surgically targeted Pakistan posts in retaliatory firing which resulted in heavy losses to the adversary," Mishra said on the eve of the forces' 54th raising day.

To counter BSF men from enemy sharpshooters who fatally snipe the paramilitary jawans, the DG said, the force has developed in-house bullet-proof sentry bunkers which are expected to better protect troopers guarding the border posts.

"We have demonstrated this new gadget before the Union home minister (Rajnath Singh) when he recently went

to Jaisalmer and we will soon replicate it on other border fronts including in Jammu. This has been developed in-house by the BSF," he said.

The new bunker is armoured, has a periscope mounted on the top for wide vision and it can accommodate four jawans at a time.

The DG said the force undertakes "routine" ground analysis of the demographic and economic profile of the area and their intelligence and other operational teams "keep observing" activities along the Indo-Pak border sends a report to the Union Home Ministry every month.

Asked if the force recently conducted a study in Rajasthan's border town of Jaisalmer and reported that the population of Muslims was increasing, the DG said he was "not aware" of any such study or report.

On a question if the opening of the Kartarpur corridor between India and Pakistan could fuel revival of Khalistani militancy, Mishra said it was "not a difficult" thing for the BSF to manage as it has been doing a similar task along the Attari-Wagah border front in Punjab for decades.

## Harsimrat warns Pak over 'googly' remark

**PNS ■ NEW DELHI**

**U**nion Minister Harsimrat Kaur Badal on Friday warned Pakistan that it should not use the Kartarpur corridor issue and religion to fulfil its "evil designs" of vitiating the peaceful atmosphere in India and particularly in Punjab. She had represented India at the groundbreaking ceremony of Kartarpur Corridor along with her colleague Hardeep Singh Puri.

She said the Indian and the Punjab Governments are ready to give a befitting response to Pakistan, which needs to build bridges or face further isolation across the world.

She said the issue was a matter of faith and there is no scope for "one-upmanship" and "petty politics" on it.

Her remarks come a day after Pakistan Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi claimed its Prime Minister Imran Khan's "googly" forced the Indian Government to engage with the country on the Kartarpur Corridor issue.

"Going to Sri Kartarpur Sahib was a matter of faith for me. Indulging in one-upmanship on this sacred issue is uncalled for. No one was bowled over by any 'googly'. PM Modi and Ministers have only respected sentiments of Sikhs by authoring and participating in this noble initiative," she said. **PTI**

## INSHORT

### SC NOTICE TO RAMDEV ON BOOK PUBLISHER'S PLEA

**New Delhi:** The Supreme Court on Friday issued notice to Yoga guru Ramdev on a plea by a publisher challenging the Delhi High Court's verdict restraining sale and publication of a book purportedly on his life.

### SUPREME COURT ACCEPTS SUBRAMANIAM'S REQUEST

**New Delhi:** The Supreme Court on Friday accepted the request of former solicitor general and senior advocate Gopal Subramaniam to relieve him from the role of assisting the court as an amicus curiae in a matter related to the Jagannath temple in Puri.

### SC SEEKS IG'S RESPONSE IN CUSTODIAL DEATH

**New Delhi:** The Supreme Court on Friday sought responses from former Inspector General of Police (IGP) Zahur Haider Zaidi and seven Himachal Pradesh policemen, accused in a case relating to the custodial death of a man, as to why the trial against them not be transferred to a Delhi court from Shimla.

### RAVINDRA MAITHANI NEW JUDGE OF U'KHAND HC

**New Delhi:** Supreme Court Secretary General Ravindra Maithani was appointed a judge of the Uttarakhand High Court on Friday.

### SC DEFERS HEARING IN ROHINGYA DEPORTATION

**New Delhi:** The Supreme Court on Friday deferred to January next year the hearing on pleas seeking to restrain the Centre from deporting over 40,000 Rohingya immigrants back to Myanmar.

### 'MONETARY ISSUE COMES IN WAY OF PENSION HIKE'

**New Delhi:** The Centre on Friday told the Supreme Court that monetary considerations come in the way of increasing monthly pension to old age persons as the Government "just cannot draw" money from other places.

## CBI books TN firm for duping 1.5 L investors

**PNS ■ NEW DELHI**

**T**he CBI has booked a company and its directors for allegedly duping over 1.5 lakh investors in Tamil Nadu to the tune of over ₹1,500 crore by offering lucrative returns on their investments.

The agency registered an FIR against Madurai-based Parivar Dairies And Allied Limited and its promoters Basant Lal Sharma, Rakesh Singh Narwaria, Ahibaran Singh, Chandra Bhan Yadav, Neeraj Singh, Banu Pratap Singh, all residents of Gwalior.

Alwar resident Pradeep Kumar Sharma and Madurai based Dheivam have also been booked under IPC sections related to criminal conspiracy, criminal breach of trust and cheating.

The CBI move comes on the directions of Madurai bench of the Madras High Court which asked the agency to take over the investigation, considering interstate ramifications of the case.

The petition before the



high court alleged that the company had lured over 1.5 lakh investors collecting over ₹1,500 crore.

The accused kept coming to Madurai to lure depositors through various investment meetings, it alleged.

It is alleged that the company which collected several crore from people did not redeem their deposits from 2014 and close down in October 2015 leaving the investors in the lurch.

A similar case against the company was also brought before Madhya Pradesh High Court which had handed over the investigation of the case to the CBI, the court noted.

"It is seen from the records that this case has interstate ramifications and also fraud has been committed across different states. The accused persons, who are said to be living in Delhi, have not been arrested by the respondent police (Tamil Nadu police) for the last two years," the court said.

It noted that the accused belonged to North India and they had not only cheated investors in Tamil Nadu but also in other states.

The court said the case involved the interest of lakhs of innocent depositors who have lost their hard earned money.

"The accused persons having cheated such a large number of people are moving around freely without any effective action being taken against them," it said.

The bench noted it reposed its confidence in the CBI to immediately take up the investigation and bring the accused to book besides recovering the amount to be distributed to innocent depositors.

## MEDIA REPORTING IN SEXUAL ASSAULT CASES

# SC highlights need to review guidelines

**New Delhi:** The Supreme Court on Friday said the issue related to guidelines for media reporting in cases of sexual assaults, particularly offences against minors, was required to be dealt with in "great detail".

A bench of justices Madan B Lokur and Deepak Gupta was told that the affidavits filed by media bodies including the Press Council of India (PCI) on action taken against media houses and scribes who have disclosed identity of victims of sexual assaults, contained "nothing much".

"They (media bodies) are almost saying that they cannot do anything.

There is nothing much (in the affidavits)," senior advocate Shekhar Naphade, representing the petitioner who has filed a plea in Muzaffarpur shelter home case, told the bench.

To this, the bench observed, "Yes, they are almost saying so".

"This guidelines issue has to be taken up in great detail," the bench said and posted the matter for hearing in the first



week of February.

In a separate case, the court Friday reserved its order on the issue related to interpretation of provisions of the Indian Penal Code, the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act and Contempt of Courts Act which deals with disclosure of identity of victims of sexual assaults and the procedure to be followed by media in reporting these cases.

The court had earlier asked media bodies including the PCI, the Editors Guild and the Indian Broadcasting Federation to file affidavits indicating whether they can inform the police about an offence related to disclosure of identity of vic-

**The issue had cropped up when the court was hearing a plea related to Muzaffarpur shelter home where over 30 girls were allegedly raped and sexually exploited**

Council was limited to censure such publication and they also send their orders to the Directorate of Advertising and Visual Publicity (DAVP).

The PCI's counsel had also said that prosecution should be launched in such cases but the Council needed "some more teeth".

The court had earlier said that documents filed before it by the News Broadcasting Standards Authority have "nothing" and it was quite clear from the affidavit filed by the authority that no prosecution was launched against any of the alleged offenders.

It had issued notices to these media bodies to assist the court in the matter which deals with alleged non-compliance of statutory provisions about disclosure of identity of victims of rape and sexual abuses by the media.

The issue had cropped up when the court was hearing a plea related to Muzaffarpur shelter home where over 30 girls were allegedly raped and sexually exploited. **PTI**

## SC rejects PIL seeking removal of fake stickers from vehicles

**New Delhi:** The Supreme Court on Friday refused to entertain a PIL seeking removal of unauthorised stickers from cars and other vehicles.

The PIL also sought banning of 15-year-old vehicles from plying on roads.

A bench of Chief Justice Ranjan Gogoi and Justice S K Kaul came down heavily on petitioner K Rajan for filing such PILs and said that even if an order is passed on the issue, it cannot be implemented.

"Suppose, we pass an order on this (removal of unauthorised stickers), then tell us, how



can we enforce this," the bench asked.

"Have you seen the traffic? Who is going to inspect whether the stickers are genuine or not? And is this the court's job to verify? Dismissed," the top court said.

**Suppose, we pass an order on this (removal of unauthorised stickers), then tell us, how can we enforce this," the bench asked**

The bench was hearing a PIL seeking imposing a ban on vehicles older than 15 years and removal of fake stickers from cars and vehicles which are used to dodge traffic policemen and other security agencies.



External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj and National Conference (NC) president Farooq Abdullah during the inauguration of the 'Luxury Symposium 2018' conference in New Delhi on Friday **PTI**

## TO ELIMINATE 'BAD CHOLESTEROL' FROM FOOD SUPPLY BY 2022

# India launches 'Heart Attack Rewind' drive

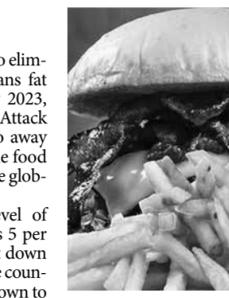
**PNS ■ NEW DELHI**

**I**n keeping with the WHO plan to eliminate industrially-produced trans fat from the global food supply by 2023, India on Friday launched "Heart Attack Rewind" campaign aiming to do away with the 'bad cholesterol' from the food supply by 2022, a year ahead of the global target.

The current permitted level of industrially-produced trans fat is 5 per cent in India which has to be cut down to 2 per cent by weight to make the country trans-fat free. Trans fats are known to increase the risk of coronary artery heart disease and stroke.

"We are in discussions with the industry to persuade them to reduce the amount of trans fatty acids in edible oil," said Pawan Kumar Agarwal, chief executive officer of the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India.

He said, the food regulator will reduce the industrially produced trans



fatty acids to less than 2 per cent by the year 2022 in a phased manner. We hope that our media campaign will educate consumers about the harmful effects and its link to cardiovascular diseases.

"Heart Attack Rewind" warns citizens about the health hazards of consuming trans fat and offers strategies to avoid them through healthier alternatives. The campaign was developed by experts at

known health benefits, and put Indians at risk for cardiovascular disease and other health issues. Healthier alternatives can be used without changing the taste or cost of food. Regulatory measures paired with strategic, large-scale mass media campaigns can help reduce the growing menace of trans fat in India."

Globally, trans fat intake leads to more than 500,000 deaths of people from cardiovascular disease every. Trans fat are made by adding hydrogen to liquid vegetable oils to make them more solid, and to increase the shelf life of foods. There are largely present in Vanaspati, margarine and bakery shortenings, and can be found in baked and fried foods.

In May 2018, WHO launched a comprehensive plan to eliminate industrially-produced trans fat from the global food supply by 2023. It provides a roadmap about how countries can remove and replace all trans fat from their food supplies with the intention to eradicate it from the globe.

Vital Strategies.

According to health experts, regular consumption of TFAs, even in small amounts, can be risky to one's health. In particular, the unsaturated fatty acids have a unique cardio metabolic imprint that is linked to insulin-resistance and metabolic-syndrome pathways.

Dr. Nandita Murukutla from Vital Strategies said, "Trans fats have no

## I support MNREGA, can't call it failure: Varun Gandhi

**Ahmedabad:** BJP MP Varun Gandhi on Friday said MNREGA, a scheme from the UPA era which guarantees employment in the rural areas, was a "good policy".

Prime Minister Narendra Modi had once called the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MNREGA) scheme a "living monument of UPA's failure" to tackle poverty.

"I actually support MNREGA. I think it is a good policy. It is a misconception to say that the scheme is a failure," Gandhi said, addressing students of the Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad

(IIM-A).

The Sultanpur MP was invited by the institute to speak on issues he had written about in his upcoming book 'A Rural Manifesto: Realising India's Future Through Her Villages'.

Gandhi said villagers should be given the power to decide what kind of work they wanted in the villages under MNREGA.

He said instead of focusing on "next elections", he would prefer to think about "next generation".

Gandhi also said that looking at the backgrounds of the Indian Administrative Service (IAS) Officers, it was clear that

privilege has played a major role in their success.

"As per the information I received through a query under the Right To Information, 69 per cent of serving IAS officers have been to private schools, 84 per cent of them have grown up in 25 big cities and 70 per cent have a post-graduate degree which is a luxury," he said.

Out of 15.5 lakh schools in the country, only 1.2 per cent are affiliated to "posh boards" such as CBSE or ICSE, while only 8 per cent students who got admission to the IITs in 2015-16 were from schools affiliated to state boards, he said. **PTI**



# Raja Bhaiya floats new party with anti-Dalit plank

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Reiterating his strident anti-Dalit stance, Raghuraj Pratap Singh alias Rajah Bhaiya, independent MLA from Kunda, who had opposed the "draconian" provisions of the SC/ST Act, on Friday floated a new party which he said would fight for "equality" among all castes. He added though he would be labelled anti-Dalit, he was only talking about equality.

On completion of his 25 years in politics, Singh organised a rally at Ramabai Ambedkar Maidan in Lucknow to announce his new party. He announced his party would have "Jansatta" as prefix. He said he was not against Scheduled Castes but the repressive laws and caste-based discrimination in the payment of compensation to different communities, who were victims of crime like rape and murder, was not acceptable to him.

He also hinted at forging an alliance with the Pragatisheel Samajwadi Party Lohia headed by Shivpal Yadav, the warring uncle of the Samajwadi party chief Akhilesh Yadav.

Addressing the rally, the MLA demanded ₹1 crore compensation for martyrs of Indian Army and para-military forces, payment of the cane dues to farmers within a week and ending the disparity in fundamental rights of citizens. An estimated over two lakh persons attended the rally.

"The prevention of the (atrocities) against the Schedule Castes and Scheduled Tribes Act was legislated during the regime of Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi in 1989 and ever since the act had been made more complicated and more repressive which was being used or misused to target the upper castes", said Rajah Bhaiya. He said if his party came to power, there would be no discrimination in distribution of compensation to martyrs laying down their lives on the borders and all would be given ₹1 crore irrespective of caste and religion.

He alleged that all political parties for their narrow political ends made the SC/ST



Independent MLA Raghuraj Pratap Singh alias Raja Bhaiya is being presented a sword during a rally in Lucknow on Friday

Act more stringent and complicated. The MLA also demanded that all those among the Dalit communities having availed the benefits of the reservation be denied the facility.

"After independence, all political parties were unanimous on only one issue and that was the SC/ST Act where a person is sent to jail for six months immediately after the registration of the FIR. This cannot be allowed to continue for an indefinite period as all citizens of the country have same fundamental rights", argued the independent MLA.

"We are for equality which is our fundamental right while as per the prevailing practice in the Government the compensation is determined on the basis of caste", said the MLA adding: "We are not demanding that all be given the facilities as given to Dalit community but at the same time demanding equality before law is no crime."

He alleged those who had sown the seeds of caste-based discrimination would never

have imagined that one day there would be a huge rally against inequality and injustice where the people from all caste and communities would participate. Keeping the cards about his future political plan close to his chest, he said whether his party would contest the Lok Sabha polls in 2019 or he would go for an alliance in the elections, the independent MLA clarified that a decision would be taken after ECI recognised the party. After the address of Rajah Bhaiya, a message sent by Shivpal Yadav expressing good wishes for the rally was also read out. The message has given rise to the speculation that both the parties could join hands ahead of the 2019 Lok Sabha elections. Former MP Shailendra Kumar, independent MLA Vinod Saroj and his cousin Akshay Pratap Singh were among those who were on the dais along with Rajah Bhaiya. A special train of 18 coaches came from Kunda Harnamganj railway station carrying his supporters for attending the rally.

## SOHRABUDDIN, PRAJAPATI FAKE ENCOUNTER

# Final arguments to take place on Dec 3

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

The final arguments in the keenly-followed twin encounters of Sohrabuddin Shaikh and Tulsiram Prajapati and the gruesome rape and murder of Kausar Bi will take place before a Special CBI Court from Monday.

During the course of the ongoing trial, Additional Sessions Judge SJ Sharma fixed December 3 as the date for final hearing in the case. "Let us begin final arguments from Monday," Judge Sharma told the lawyers who are representing 22 accused facing trial in the politically-sensitive case.

Judge Sharma announced the date of final hearing after he completed the process of the recording of statements of the accused under section 313 of the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC) and the lawyers representing the accused failed produce any defence witness in the case.

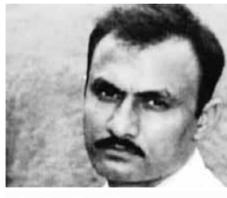
The alleged fake encounters of notorious gangsters Sohrabuddin and Tulsiram and disappearance of the former's wife Kausar Bi during 2005-06 had resulted in a major political fallout involving the BJP-ruled Gujarat.

The prosecution's case was that Sohrabuddin had connections with Lashkar-e-Taiba and was conspiring to assassinate an "important political leader", presumably then chief minister and current Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Initially, there were in all 38 accused in the case. Of them, 16 has been discharged — 15 by the special CBI court and one by the Bombay High Court.

The accused discharged in the case include BJP's current national President and the then Gujarat Minister of State for Home Amit Shah, Rajasthan Home Minister Gulab Chandra Kataria and high-profile Deputy Inspector General DG Vanzara, who headed the Anti-Terrorism Squad (ATS) and known for several encounters.

During the course of the trial, 210 prosecution witnesses were examined. Of the prosecution witnesses, 92 turned hostile. A "dreaded criminal" Sohrabuddin and his wife Kausar



Initially, there were in all 38 accused in the case. Of them, 16 has been discharged — 15 by the special CBI court and one by the Bombay High Court

Bi were killed in an alleged fake encounter in November 2004 by the Gujarat Police near Gandhinagar in Gujarat. The case assumed considerable public importance owing to the alleged involvement of some of the high-profile politicians and IPS officers in it.

An aide Tulsiram Prajapati, who was the prime witness to the killings was arrested by the police and later killed in an encounter in December 2006 after the law-enforcers claimed he tried to escape from custody.

Later, the police had named 33 persons as accused in the case. Shah, who was Gujarat home minister at the relevant time in 2005, the then home minister of Rajasthan and several Gujarat IPS officers, lower police officials from both states besides Andhra Pradesh, were among the accused.

Several police officers from Gujarat were among the 33 accused in the "fake" encounters of Sohrabuddin Shaikh, Kausar Bi in November 2005 and Prajapati in December 2006.

The alleged Sohrabuddin fake encounter case was transferred to Mumbai in September 2012 at CBI's request for fair trial. In 2013, the Supreme Court had clubbed Tulsiram Prajapati's encounter killing case with that of Sohrabuddin.

In December, 2014, Special CBI Judge M. B. Gosavi in Mumbai discharged Shah and 16 other co-accused, citing either lack of sanction for prosecution or insufficient evidence against them.

## TIGRESS 'AVNI' KILLING

# PIL seeks probe into 'unnatural deaths' of schedule-I animals in Maha, Goa

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

The recent killing of a tigress "Avni" by a State Government-hired sharpshooter in the forests of Maharashtra's Yavatmal district early this month has prompted a social and RTI activist to move the Bombay High Court seeking formation of a Special Investigation Team (SIT) to investigate the "unnatural deaths" of Schedule-I animals in Maharashtra and Goa since 2011.

In his public interest litigation, petitioner Nitin Deshpande also urged the high court to ensure adherence to the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972, Standard Operating Procedures as laid down by the National Tiger Conservation Authority, Guidelines for human-leopard conflict management (2011) and any other existing guidelines, procedures and protocols before taking any action against Schedule-I animals in Maharashtra and Goa.

Tigers, Lions, Leopards, Cheetah, wolf and deer are among others are categorized under the Schedule I of the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972, with highest statutory protection against hunting.

Dr. Sujay Kantawala and other lawyers representing Deshpande made a mention of the PIL before a HC division bench comprising Justice Ranjit More and Justice Revati Mohite-Dhere on Thursday. The case is expected to come up for hearing before the HC bench on December 12.

The respondents in the case are Union of India, National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA), Maharashtra Government, its Principal Chief Conservator of Forest and Chief Wildlife Warden, Goa Government, its Principal Chief Conservator of Forest and Chief Wildlife Warden, Zoological Survey of India and Wildlife Crime Control Bureau.

The petitioner stated that he had filed the PIL to prevent flagrant miscarriage of justice as may be occasioned if the hunting and brutal killing of

the Schedule-I animals was not transferred to an independent, impartial and a separate investigating team/agency.

"It is paramount that a fair, impartial, independent and thorough probe is conducted by a separate investigating team/agency to look into unnatural killing and hunting of Schedule-I animals in the absence of which it may not be possible to ascertain the true and actual facts and events which have given life to the present situation nor would it be possible to devise an effective solution to remedy the damages caused," Deshpande stated.

The petitioner pointed out that during the year 1950, according to the British hunter, tracker and conservationist Jim Corbett, the population of tigers was 18,000 and gradually reduced to 226 in 2015 as per the World Wildlife Foundation (WWF). However, 65% of the tiger population is found in India.

"According to the statistics provided by Wildlife Protection Society of India the killing and unnatural deaths of leopards in India has increased from 118 in the year 2014 to 159 in the year 2017 and that of tigers has increased from 26 tigers in the year 2015 to 50 tigers in 2016. Thus, showing the increase in the unnatural killing of Schedule I animals," Deshpande stated.

The petitioner submitted that as per the Status of Tigers, Co-predators and Prey in India, 2010 report by World Wild Foundation (WWF) and Wildlife Institute of India (WII), Maharashtra has a forested area of 50650 sq km constituting 16.46 per cent of the total geographical area of the state. The state has 4 tiger reserves, 6 National Parks and 35 Wildlife Sanctuaries administered by 14 Forest Divisions. Similarly, Goa covers an area of 2151 sq km i.e. approximately 58% of the State's total geographical area. The state has 1 National Park and 6 Wildlife Sanctuaries.

"There is a grave possibility that the real factual position of the implementation

and \*compliance to various laws and Standard Operating Procedures may not be followed and hence the ruthless killing and hunting of Schedule-I animals will continue in disregard of the same which would further lead to extinction of the endangered species and permanent loss and damage to the biodiversity of our country," the petitioner stated, as it made a case for an SIT probe under a retired judge of the Bombay High Court.

It may be recalled that the elusive tigress T1, better known as Avni of Pandharkawada hills - that had allegedly mauled as many as 13 persons to death during the past two years in Yavatmal district in Vidarbha region in Maharashtra - was shot dead by a state government-hired sharp shooter Asgar Ali, son of controversial sharp-shooter Nawab Shafath Ali Khan from Hyderabad, in the compartment number 149 of Borati forest on the night of November 2, after a massive 53-day hunt.

Alluding specifically to the elimination of tigress "Avni", the petitioner stated that as per the NTCA guidelines, an authorized Veterinarian should be present at the time of tranquilizing and capturing of any Schedule-I animal. "However, during the tigress T-1's killing on 2nd November, 2018 there were no Veterinarian(s) present to conduct the operation as per the Guideline and that Respondent No.3 (the Maharashtra government) has no permanent Veterinarian(s)."

Deshpande said that as per Section 11 of the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972 only the Respondent No.5 (Chief Wildlife Warden) could initiate the orders to kill/execute any Schedule-I animal which has become a danger to humans.

"However, in the case of the killing of T-1 tigress, Respondent No.4 (Principal Chief Conservator of Forests) had initiated the order. This calls for constitution of a committee of experts for reviewing and authorizing such orders," the petitioner added.



Air Force's Air Warriors drill team displays their rifle handling skills during a passing-out parade ceremony in Bengaluru on Friday

## 2 die, two injured after falling from 10th floor of under-construction building in Mumbai

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

In a freak mishap, two labourers were killed and two others injured when they fell down accidentally from the 10th floor of an under-construction building at Chembur in north-east Mumbai.

The mishap took place at around 9.30 am at under-construction building being developed by Shabri Enterprises located in the vicinity of the famous of R K Studios at Chembur. The labourers were setting up windows of a tenth floor flat.

Of the four labourers, two succumbed to severe injuries. The police identified two deceased as Ahmed Shahadat Shaikh (32) and Rajendra Bhattilal Kaul (45)

The labourers who fell from the tenth floor flat landed on the first floor and they had to be physically lifted and brought down.

Of the four labourers, two succumbed to severe injuries. The police identified two deceased as Ahmed Shahadat Shaikh (32) and Rajendra Bhattilal Kaul (45).

The two other injured persons were rushed Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC)-run Shatabdi Hospital.

# Sabarimala continues to rock Kerala Assembly



Thiruvananthapuram: For the third consecutive day the Congress-led Opposition disrupted the Kerala Assembly over the Sabarimala issue forcing the Speaker to adjourn the House within 20 minutes after it met on Friday.

As soon as Speaker P Sreeramakrishnan took his seat, Leader of Opposition Ramesh Chennithala demanded that either the Chair should suspend the question hour or allow an adjournment motion during the zero hour to discuss the "poor facilities" being provided in the temple town and end the prohibitory orders in place in Sabarimala.

"Yesterday the State Minister of Devasams Kadakampally Surendran told the media that we (opposition) ran away.

"We are very much here, but you do not give us the time and the space to present our

case. We demand that we be given time today," said Chennithala and blamed the Speaker of prejudice in his attitude towards the opposition.

Sreeramakrishnan then told the opposition that it was flouting all the accepted norms of the legislature and was behaving irresponsible.

"This issue has already been discussed for more than eight hours and there has been no new development at all. We will allow you to raise this issue as a submission," said the Speaker.

This led to sloganeering by the opposition near the Speaker's podium, forcing Sreeramakrishnan to rush through the day's business and adjourn the House till Monday.

The Kerala Police has clamped prohibitory orders at the temple town till Friday midnight following ongoing protests by Hindu groups and

**PARADIP PORT TRUST**  
e-TENDERING NOTICE  
Online tenders in three bid system i.e. (1) EMD Bid (2) Technical Bid (3) Price Bid are invited from manufacturers/authorized dealers for supply of **Different pipes**. The last date and time of submission of the tender is 17.15 Hours on Dt. 17.12.2018. For details, log on to website <https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app>.  
Sr. Dy. Materials Manager  
PPT/PR/501/18-19 Dt. 30.11.2018

**DELHI JAL BOARD: GOVT. OF NCT OF DELHI**  
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER WEST-I  
O.H.T. BERIWALA BAGH, SUBHAS NAGAR, NEW DELHI 110064

**PRESS NOTICE TENDER NO. 64 /W-I/ (2018-19)**

Sl. No.	Name of Work	Amount put to tender	Date release of tender in e-procurement Solution	Last date /time of receipt of tender through e-procurement Solution
01	Improvement of water system by replacing old damaged water lines in Sant Nagar Extension H Block Gali No. 2 and 3, G-Block Gali No. 1, 4 and 5, WZ-15 to WZ-25 and WZ-81 Sant Nagar in Ward No. 006S Rajouri Garden AC No 27 under E(WEST-I) Tendre ID: 2018_DJB_162736_1	Rs. 37,77,260/-	29.11.2018 onward	17.12.2018 up to 3.00 PM
2	Replacement of old damaged AC Water line of 200 MM, 150 mm, 100mm, dia from H-20 to shop no 42, Street No 1, 2 and 3, H-45 to G-29, H-44 to WZ-56 Arya Samaj Road to WZ-56 school road and G-29 to G-15 in Milap Nagar ward No-119 AC-30 Under West-I Tendre ID: 2018_DJB_162736_2	Rs. 42,36,067/-	29.11.2018 onward	17.12.2018 up to 3.00 PM

The view this particular statement in detail <https://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in>  
ISSUED BY P.R.O (WATER)  
Advt. No. J.S.V. 555/2018-19 EXECUTIVE ENGINEER WEST-I (O) 25125273

**NEW DELHI MUNICIPAL COUNCIL**  
Vidyut Bhawan, Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam Road, New Delhi-110011  
e-Procurement Tender Notice

**2nd Call**  
Tender ID - 2018\_NDMC\_162753\_1

Name of work: Purchase of Energy Efficient LED Street light fittings of 120 Watt ≥ 2%

Estimated Cost : ₹ 6,77,480/-  
Date of Release of Tender : 29.11.2018  
Last date/time for receipt of tenders : 06.12.2018 at 03:00 PM

Further details can be seen at [www.ndmc.gov.in](http://www.ndmc.gov.in) or <https://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in>  
Note: To participate in e-tender in NDMC, registration with e-tendering system, Government of NCT of Delhi is mandatory.  
Executive Engineer (E) S-41  
To be the global Benchmark for a Capital City

**PARADIP PORT TRUST**  
Corrigendum-I to e-TCN No:TD/TM/GEN-235/18/2838 Dtd.01.11.18  
The last date of bid submission has been extended upto 01.12.2018, 17.00 hrs. and bid opening date will be 03.12.2018, 15:00hrs.  
Traffic Manager  
PPT/PR/499/18-19 Dt. 30.11.2018

**BSES Yamuna Power Limited, New Delhi**  
... A joint venture with Govt. of NCT of Delhi

**TENDER NOTICE** Date: 01.12.2018

Sealed tenders under two Bid System (Unpriced & Priced) are invited for following jobs from all bidders

NIT No	Brief Item Description	Estimate Cost (₹)	Cost of EMD (₹)	Due to & Time of Submission	Date & Time of Opening
CM/CBY/18-19/RB/VKS/078	Supply and Installation of Battery Energy Storage System in BYPL	₹ 8.68 Crores	₹ 8.68 Lacs	22.12.2018 15:00 HRS	22.12.2018 15:30 HRS
CM/CBY/18-19/RB/VKS/079	Supply of Transformer New insulating oil in BYPL	₹ 2.42 Crores	₹ 4.84 Lacs	22.12.2018 15:00 HRS	22.12.2018 16:00 HRS

Cost of each Tender Documents: ₹ 1180/-  
For details in respect of qualifying requirements, Terms & Conditions, Purchase and Services /Submission of tender documents/Corrigendum (if any) etc. please visit our website [www.bsesdelhi.com](http://www.bsesdelhi.com) -> BSES YAMUNA POWER LTD -> Tenders -> open tenders.  
Regd.Off: BSES Yamuna Power Ltd, Shakti Kiran Building, Karkardooma, Delhi-110032 | CIN: U40109DL2001PLC111525  
TEL: 011-39997111 | Fax:011-39992076 | Website: [www.bsesdelhi.com](http://www.bsesdelhi.com)

**NORTHERN RAILWAY**  
TENDER NOTICE  
Sealed tenders are invited by Sr. Divisional Material Manager, Northern Railway, New Delhi for and on behalf of President of India, on the prescribed form with the following details:

1. Name of work	"Hiring of Non AC Multi-Utility Road Vehicle i.e. Innova, Tavera, Safari or similar type of vehicles for transportation to attend the hearing of CIC related to RTI cases. Feed urgent requirement of Hon.ble MR, MOSR, CRB, Member of Board, GM, DRM and Other Sr. Officers of Railway Board, inspection of stores over Delhi Division, Sarap survey, safety inspection/night inspection, inspection related to Swachh Bharat Abhiyan for the period of 08 months on monthly hire basis under Sr.DMM, DRM's Office, New Delhi".
2. Work Location	Sr. DMM, DRM's Office, New Delhi
3. App. cost of Works	Rs. 346400.00
4. Earnest Money	Rs.6930.00 (in favour of Sr. Divisional Finance Manager, Northern Railway, New Delhi in the form of Cash/ DD/Banker's Cheque from any Nationalized Bank
5. Cost of Tender form	Rs. 1000/- +GST 18%
6. Address of office from where the tender form can be purchased	O/o Sr. Divisional Material Manager, Northern Railway, Delhi Division, State Entry Road, New Delhi-110055.
7. Period of work	08 months from the date of execution
8. Date from which tender documents will be available for sale	03.12.2018 to 28.12.2018 Upto 12:00 hrs.
9. Last date & time for receipt of tender documents	28.12.2018 upto 15:00 hrs.
10. Date & time for opening of tender documents	28.12.2018 at 15:15 hrs at Sr.DMM office, Divisional Railway Manager's Office, Northern Railway, Delhi Division, State Entry Road New Delhi - 110055. If the date of opening happens to be public holiday, the tenders shall be opened on next working day at same time & place.
11. Validity of offer	90 days from the opening of tender
12. Website to downloading tender documents	<a href="http://www.nr.indianrailways.gov.in">www.nr.indianrailways.gov.in</a> . In case the tender documents is downloaded from the 'Website' the tenderer must submit his offer along with the cost of tender document through a separate demand draft of Rs.1180/- in favour of Sr. Divisional Finance Manager, Northern Railway, New Delhi

No.:Sr.DMM.NDLS/Vehicle/Contract/2018 Dated: 30.11.2018 3068/18  
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

**EASTERN COALFIELDS LIMITED**  
(A Subsidiary of Coal India Limited)

**E-TENDER NOTICE**

01) Name of Area: ECL, HQ, Sanctoria, CMC Deptt. 02) Tender Notice No. & dt.: ECL/HQ/CMC/e-tender/Khottadih 10.92 L.Cum OB/781, Date: 28.11.2018. 03) Name of the work: Hiring of HEMM for removal of 10.92L.Cum of parting OB between R-VI & R-V seam at Khottadih OC Patch of Pandaveswar Area (3<sup>rd</sup> call). 04) Estimated cost: Rs.7,84,27,440.00 (Excluding GST). 05) Document download start date & time: 06.12.2018 at 11.00 Hrs. 06) Document download end date & time: 24.12.2018 at 17.00 Hrs. 07) Bid opening date & time: 26.12.2018 at 11.00 Hrs. N.B.: Detail of tender can be seen in ECL Website & NIC Portal [www.easterncoal.nic.in](http://www.easterncoal.nic.in) or [www.coalindiatenders.nic.in](http://www.coalindiatenders.nic.in) and tender digest.

VISIT US AT [www.easterncoal.nic.in](http://www.easterncoal.nic.in)

# Perils of EVMs

Most political analysts have dismissed those who question EVMs. But why do these machines keep failing at the booth?



When many Western election observers come to India, they get astounded by the sheer scale of any major Indian election. In fact, elections to the municipalities of some large Indian cities are larger in scale than the general elections in many smaller countries and even larger ones like Australia. It was for this very reason that the Election Commission of India moved the country away from the tedious, time-consuming and expensive system of paper ballots to

Electronic Voting Machines from 1999 onward for Central, State and occasionally local body elections. One of the basic premises of EVMs was not just the fact that they were easier to use but also that they were tamper-free. Those born after the turn of the millennium, after the introduction of the EVM, would not be aware how corrupt Indian elections had become with muscle-power and booth capturing becoming *de rigueur* in many parts of the rural hinterland.

But it is the very march of technology itself that made people question the EVMs. And while none of the charges about EVMs being tampered have been proven — in fact those attacking EVMs have often been sore losers — the fact is that the rate of EVM failure should ring alarm bells. The ECI has maintained that it is only the newer EVMs that have the Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trail (VVPAT) printer system attached that are failing, and they should be trusted, but any failure leads to immense speculation that EVMs have been 'tampered'. That EVMs are more secure than paper ballots, and a single machine as of today can only store 3,840 votes, is the main argument against tampering. Given the scale of elections with many State legislative seats having millions of voters, tampering will need to be done in a scientific and methodical manner. However, modern data analytical systems can inform a person who wants to hack the system where to manipulate the machines for maximum gain. Also, while there is no proven hack into EVMs, can modern over-the-air technologies be used to create a backdoor into EVMs whether by a political party in India or a foreign power? Even the most secure systems in the world, including those of financial services firms, can be compromised, sometimes deliberately by malicious forces or intelligence agencies. And many times it is only a whistleblower or through a fortuitous discovery that these backdoors are revealed even if the existence of such backdoors is often denied. Some have argued that the ECI should make the source code for EVMs public but that will perversely allow a person with malicious intent to discover weaknesses in the system which one could sell to the highest bidder because one should never assume that humans are altruistic. Most people are selfish and self-serving because that is how we have been wired. That said, the public at large continues to trust EVMs in India and elsewhere. Without this trust, Indian democracy will be in peril. But distrust can grow when the machines fail. Given the scale of Indian elections, some failures will be par for the course. The ECI should do its utmost to keep malfunctioning machines to a bare minimum.

# Heat is on

As global temperatures increase year-on-year we need to reimagine our gizmo-oriented lives



We didn't really need a heatwave index to convince us that we are on the road to perdition as far as the existence of the human race is concerned. And though we may castigate US President Donald Trump for dismissing such reports with a cursory wave of "I don't believe it," the fact is we ourselves go about pulling the wool over our eyes. What is worrisome is that global temperatures have been rising continuously since 2015, year on year, which means that we haven't

downsized our resource needs enough to regrow the planet. Latest studies also show that there has been no mitigation of greenhouse gases in real terms, dots of effort notwithstanding, and the polar ice caps are melting faster.

The World Meteorological Organisation (WMO) report for the first 10 months of the year reveals that Earth was nearly a centigrade above the pre-industrial baseline. The WMO warned that going by current trends, the Earth could very well heat up by five degrees by the end of this century. Which means that even the natural cycles of cooling ocean currents like La Niña are not enough to simmer down the Earth. While one would usually visually interpret rise in ocean levels to submergence of islands and low-lying coastal areas, fact is, as the WMO Deputy Secretary-General Elena Manaenkova rightly said, it makes "a difference to human health and access to food and fresh water, to the extinction of animals and plants, to the survival of coral reefs and marine life. It makes a difference to economic productivity, food security, and to the resilience of our infrastructure and cities." This year, record temperatures were seen over parts of the Mediterranean Sea, New Zealand and areas across North America, Asia and Australia. At the other end of the climate spectrum, no land or ocean areas had recorded cold temperatures in the January to June period. It also explains why forest fires were reported all across the northern hemisphere. India itself has been at the receiving end with unprecedented heat waves and unexpected heavy rain events becoming much more frequent and intense than they used to be. Europe, normally described as the cool climate, has been roasting under a massive high-pressure ridge that is trapping the tropical heat and forcing it to move to the Arctic and impeding the chances of rainfall. Who would have thought that Sweden would ever see a wildfire, something that nation was completely unprepared for.

Plant and animal ranges have shifted as have their blooming patterns and behaviour. As far as India is concerned, we have already committed to keeping our temperature rise under 1.5°C as per the Paris Agreement. This is a challenge for all emerging economies in the middle of an infrastructural overhaul, paying for the sins of the developed world and marshalling resources wisely to keep development goals going. Being an agrarian economy, we are also looking at more droughts and fall in crop yields. A World Bank report recently mentioned that rising temperatures, coupled with erratic rain, could force rural people into poverty, and lower living standards of 800 million people across South Asia. Cities will pay a heavy price as well with a micro heat bubble forming due to pollution, haze and depleting green cover. Even our gizmo-oriented lives are generating a huge carbon footprint to ensure our daily comforts. It's not only time to reimagine the future, it is time to live down our life as we know it today.

# Celebrity and mistruths

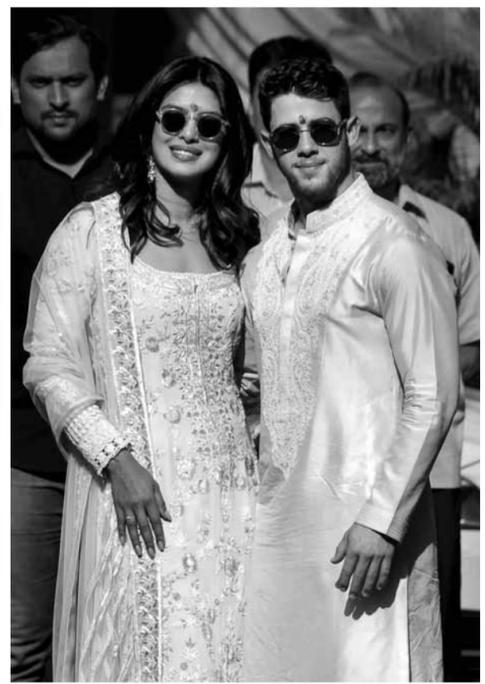
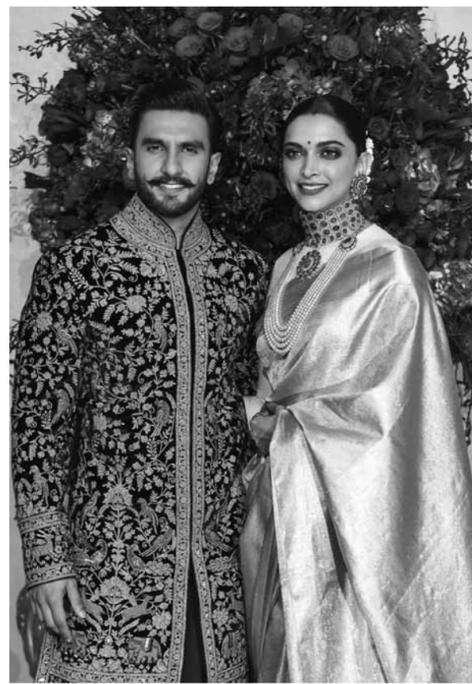
As society moved from manufacturing to consumerist, our celebrities, too, moved away from being leaders by virtue of their achievements to being famous for being famous



RINKU GHOSH

They say no news is consumable till it has gone viral in curiosity value, trending on social media tickers or generating coffee cup conversations in between work. That's why on a day India sent a crucial heavyweight communication satellite into outer space, it was the wedding of actors Deepika Padukone and Ranveer Singh that had extra-terrestrial status through pop-ups and notifications. So much so that one news portal interestingly put out a disclaimer of sorts with a headline '10 other things that happened in India' while Deepika and Ranveer got married in Lake Como. And when two days ago, camera crews covering the Bollywood reception of the two stars called Ranveer *bhaiyya* and Deepika *bhaabi*, and the two even acknowledged it with a heartfelt laugh and banter, the celebrity takeover and cooption of social media was complete. Even in neighbouring Pakistan the hashtag #DeepVeerWedding knocked off some pressing problems of the day from the radar. Now it is #NickYanka, the elaborate coupling of our Bollywood diva Priyanka Chopra with Hollywood's Disney star Nick Jonas that is defining our transnational alliance in the social space.

Days before the wedding, Priyanka herself unveiled a campaign called #SocialForGood, advocating the use of social media for a transformative impact on society, helming a news positive revolution so to speak. But truth be told, that turned out to be kind of a CSR aside for sustaining the wedding franchise that our stars are investing in for personal branding but which in the end is leading to a pernicious Bollywoodisation of the entire culturescape. Much to the detriment of real innovators. This is not just setting standards of an aspirational lifestyle that's unattainable and impossible in most cases but one where celebrities, pretending to be one of us by feeding everyday details of their lives, have turned online media into a giant performance space and are fomenting elitism by legitimising their club rules as the only benchmark of social engagement. Let's take the #DeepVeer wedding as a case in point. It was beautifully choreographed and synced to charm all of us into submission, "head to toe" as it were. By denying mainstream intrusion, it elevated their shrouded and manicured privacy into the most wanted commodity and kept their couple value going beyond the main event. If it had been available on a mass scale, they would not have been able to sustain their cultivated mystique beyond the event horizon. And where did bits of that appear? On social media platforms from their personal handles and those of their providers and friends. In a full-scale promotion of a mutual admiration society, designer Sabyasachi even turned sto-



ryteller, releasing videos of how the bride and groom was part of the Make in India narrative, the boatmen and weavers of Varanasi featured not quite carelessly. Simultaneously, the designer even insta-advertised his two jewellery exhibitions in Mumbai and Delhi, featuring the same pieces sported by the nation's most adorable couple of the hour. Needless to say this wedding did to Lake Como what no brochure, blog or even PB Shelley's poetry could do. As for the love story, it was presented cinematographically in a dulcet glow, a bigger hit than their films together, one that was idealised and shareable at the same time. This intimacy got both their fans closer to themselves, who felt they were being embraced in the seeming candid moments than being treated like a fodder for their future sustenance. Both may be individual stars but with social media granted a ringside view of their projected divine union, their fanbases merged and the countless hits and heart emojis raised their dual and individual brand worth substantially. New ads featuring both were released immediately after their wedding. With their relationship becoming a social influencer itself via their photo stories, they have negotiated their shelf life even beyond films to advertisements, real-

ity shows, fireside chats and even pop psychology talks. By refusing gifts and urging well wishers to donate to her mental health foundation instead, Deepika has kept herself relevant for the seminar circuit as well as writing books. But this pedestal, bolstered by exclusive coverage in lifestyle magazines, has set dreamy relationship and lifestyle goals that are impossible to emulate. And because our celebrities are posited as multi-talented enough in achieving them, they are considered good enough to be an advisory for how we minions should run our lives, even enhance them with meaning. This communicability has made them easy role models to follow. Nobody typifies this complete capture of the Indian mindset than Amitabh Bachchan himself, who picks up the broom, hammers home Government propaganda, oils his head, clears farmers' debts and even pushes toddler carts suggesting winterwear for babies. His *pater familias* act has made him a real time Mr India, breathing down our everyday moments. He himself has become the gross national product instead of the causes or brands he is promoting. Such is the pervasive celebrity culture in our country today that Andy Warhol's prophecy of "15 minutes of fame" has

leapt to 24-hour highs. The star/icon has seeped so insidiously under our skin that we now almost have a conversational relationship with him/her and claim to be their palliative and significant other instead of being the solo crusader ourselves within our grossly different dynamics. So much so that stars pouring out everything to legitimise their frailties and flaws are now acceptable, from affairs to alcoholism. No need for salacious gossip anymore. The confessional, honest mode is a new tool of trade, seeking instant redemption by virtue of being, for want of a better word, human. Even their irreverence is a matter of consumer reverence. Are we then transferring our weight of expectations on their lives, taking a prurient interest in their private pursuits, deviant or otherwise, instead of looking at our own?

As society has moved on from manufacturing to consumerist, the celebrity, too, has moved away from being a leader by virtue of his meritorious achievements to one that is consumable and aspirational, largely fuelled by the media. Be it positive or negative publicity, the media has promoted, created, deified and even sullied the celebrities from entertainment and sports, like commodities on the stock exchange. This extravagant value attached to the lives of public figures — whose accomplishments may be limited than what is projected — has empowered their fans as legitimate stakeholders in deciding their destinies in the multiple and viral media space. Today celebrities are considered functional equivalents of leaders who are just "being human." And the fan follower feels s/he is sharing the same stage when the star endorses his/her post. Popstar Madonna began selling her "material" image to the media in the late 1980s, promising to be as see-through as long as the media kept her everywhere. This quid pro quo deal has now reached critical mass and is about to explode. The celebrity has acquired a new status in society and is the new thought leader and life coach, articulating our fears and concerns. Even politicians and spiritual leaders want to be interviewed by them. That's debasing real worth for the misperceived one. More seriously, it is about allowing the cult of celebrityhood to dictate every agenda of our national life, from culture, entertainment, causes, sports and even tourism. At the time of writing, Virat-Anushka's proposed anniversary celebration at an Australian retreat was being talked about. There we go again.

(The writer is Associate Editor, The Pioneer)

## SOUNDBITE

Indian Air Force will see the largest ever induction of indigenous aircraft in the country. The first batch of Rafale jets is likely to arrive in 2019.



IAF chief —BS Dhanoa

US welcomes efforts by India and Pakistan to increase people-to-people contact with regard to Kartarpur Corridor.



US State Department spokesperson —Robert Palladino

I am not going to say this feels like the beginning of the end for Trump. I want to say it. But he is like Star Wars. Keeps coming back.



Actor-comedian —Vir Das

India is not going to experiment with a failed idea for the fifth time. The mahagathbandhan is a momentary idea that will collapse.



Union Minister —Arun Jaitley

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Determination needed

Sir — This refers to the editorial, "Too clever by half" (November 30). Numerous attempts have been made in the past to improve the relationship between India and Pakistan, such as the Shimla Agreement, the Agra Summit, the Lahore Declaration and the Samjhauta Express, among others, but there has been no significant improvement till date.

While laying the foundation stone for the historic Kartarpur Corridor, Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan reportedly said, "We only need determined leadership on both sides" to resolve the Kashmir issue. This shows that he is keen on improving relations with India. But at the same time, Pakistan must also stop its terror activities against its neighbour.

Muhammad Tarique  
Mumbai

### Conditions apply

Sir — This refers to the editorial, "Too clever by half" (November 30). Pakistan's obses-

### Pakistan must get the message loud and clear

This refers to the editorial, "Too clever by half" (November 30). The opening of the Kartarpur corridor is most welcome but for any talks to take place, a crackdown on terrorism is most essential. In this context, India has time and again made it abundantly clear to Pakistan that talks and terror cannot go hand in hand. Nevertheless, it was a nice gesture on the part of Pakistan to have agreed to construct its portion of corridor to facilitate the Sikhs from India to visit Gurdwara Darbar Sahib Kartarpur on the banks of river Ravi in Pakistan. Reference to Kashmir is unwarranted in this pious occasion. Pakistan is under an illusion if it thinks that it can snatch away Indian-administered Kashmir by the 'gesture' shown by it to India.

External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj has rebuked Pakistan by expressing India's unwillingness to attend the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (Saarc) summit in light of long strained rela-



tions. In doing so, India has conveyed the right message to Pakistan that it (India) cannot be carried away by the blandishment moves of Pakistan.

While India is right in declining to accept the invite, it is preposterous on the part of New Delhi to have expressed its view well before the invite came.

KV Seetharamaiah  
Hassan

sion with Kashmir once again came to the fore. Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan has been talking big but has not matched his talk with walk.

I agree with the views expressed in the editorial that pro-Khalistan extremist Gopal Singh Chawla's presence at the inauguration of the Kartarpur corridor was not merely a coincidence. Something serious must

be brewing between the Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) and Mumbai attack mastermind and banned Jamaat-ud-Dawah (JuD) chief Hafiz Saeed. It is very convenient for Pakistan to revive Sikh militancy in the region with help from such people. It is an open secret now that any Prime Minister in Pakistan, who dared to not follow its Army's template, had to pay a huge price.

On the same lines, Imran Khan will have to work in tandem with his Army. It must not be forgotten that it was the Army over there that helped his rise to the Prime Minister's position. It is, therefore, an obligation for him to follow the advice of the military.

However, it is now up to Imran Khan to walk the talk and take a decisive action against the

terrorists. Unless cross-border terrorism comes to an end, India must not accept any peace dialogue initiative.

In fact, we must now beef up security at our borders, especially around Punjab and keep a close watch on the internal activities. Pakistan-sponsored terrorists have found new areas to enter into India. We need to be extra cautious.

Bal Govind  
Noida

### Awaiting the verdict

Sir — This refers to the editorial, "Critical State" (November 29). Results to Assembly elections in five States — Chhattisgarh, Mizoram, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Telangana — will set the tone and tenor for next year's Lok Sabha poll. Who wins is a matter of keeping patience for political pundits while both rivals (BJP and Congress) can make respective claims for victory.

Azhar Ali  
Via web

Send your feedback to: [letterstopioneer@gmail.com](mailto:letterstopioneer@gmail.com)

## FIRST COLUMN

## Power dynamics &amp; gender norms

To end violence among children, school-based comprehensive sex education is a must. It's high time we change mindsets



NEHA CHAUHAN

Over the past many decades, ignorance and a conscious inhibition to prevent the young generation from accessing correct information have been persistent. While the pre-Internet generation was left on their own to deal with physical and emotional aspects of growing up and starting relationships, the present generations are left to explore the most important aspects of growing up through readily available information over the Internet, which may not always be correct. There can be no denial to the fact that young people are naturally curious about sex and sexuality and it is a right of every young person to receive Comprehensive Sexuality Education (CSE) that facilitates well-informed choices in relationships and sexual lives. Unlike popular myth, CSE does not increase sexual activity, sexual risk-taking behaviour or STI/HIV infection rates but focuses on young people's well-being and their ability to make healthy decisions. This involves empowering the young ones, especially girls, so as to address gender norms and power dynamics.

Access to CSE has been a much-debated subject in India ever since the launch of the Adolescent Education Programme (AEP) that was vehemently opposed and immediately banned by almost 12 States, some of which had the highest adolescent fertility and gender-based violence rates. Access to sexual and reproductive health services and information for the young people is largely governed by the crude dichotomy of married and unmarried. A recent report by UNICEF (2018) said that there has been a significant drop in the number of child marriage in India but the country also accounts for the highest number of child marriages. In addition, the fourth National Family Health Survey (NFHS 4) reflected that 33.6 per cent of India's population is born of adolescent pregnancies. Yet, owing to cultural and social barriers, our decision-makers do not support full implementation of CSE. Are our young ones too young for sex education but old enough for marriage? The struggles of the young ones who are forced into child marriage or those who face reproductive or sexual health-related issues can be prevented manifolds just by ensuring timely and correct information. At present, there is no mandate for a compulsory curriculum for sexual education, which makes it difficult to monitor its progress. The attitude of teachers and trainers is another challenge in providing whatever limited information made available. The lack of skills and personal inhibition to talk about sensitive subjects such as relationships, lack of encouragement to question prevailing social and cultural norms that support unequal gender and power structures, often leads to violence.

The absence of sex education and counseling increases the risk of acquiring Sexually Transmitted Infections (STI) and even HIV among the young and adolescent. Estimates from NFHS 4 suggest that around 31 per cent of India's AIDS burden is contributed by young population between 15-24 years. Growing sexual aggression accompanied by the absence of CSE further increases vulnerability of young people, especially girls. Growing number of cases of gender-based violence and child abuse are becoming chronic issues and it is an indicator of a systemic failure and existing mechanisms to promote gender equality. High-quality, age-appropriate, and evidence-based comprehensive sexuality education is the only true, long-term solution to end gender-based violence. Sexual violence doesn't start with rape but is any kind of violence or aggression that is sexual in its expression or intention. This includes coercion within and outside relationships, withholding affection or threatening violence until unwanted sex is agreed to, abuse of power for sexual ends, forced sexual touching, *et al.* What we need is stronger preventive strategies which include an education system that promotes health and well-being, respect for human rights and gender equality, and empowers children and young people to lead safe lives.

UNESCO's International Technical Guidance on Sexuality Education outlines the key concepts, topics and learning objectives to help education, health, and other relevant authorities to develop and implement sexuality education programmes. There are also several other guidelines and toolkits from various Government, UN and international organisations for the implementation of CSE in different settings. All we need is a commitment from national and local authorities to recognise the importance of CSE, strong monitoring and feedback mechanisms for teachers and students as well as a well-funded programme.

(The writer is a Senior technical advisor - Advocacy and Accountability, International Planned Parenthood Federation - South Asia Regional Office)

WHEN FRANCE AND GERMANY, WHICH HAVE FOUGHT MANY WARS, CAN LIVE AS GOOD NEIGHBOURS TODAY, WHY NOT INDIA AND PAKISTAN?

—PAKISTAN PRIME MINISTER IMRAN KHAN

## POINT COUNTERPOINT



FOR THIS IDEA OF COUNTRIES COMING TOGETHER, PAKISTAN WILL HAVE TO LOOK AT ITS OWN INTERNAL SITUATION. IT HAS MADE ITSELF AN ISLAMIC STATE.

—INDIAN ARMY CHIEF BIPIN RAWAT

## Powering fintech with enablers

For India to be able to reap the benefits of digital financial services fully, it is essential that the accompanying risks are understood and adequately addressed



MOIN QAZI

A new dimension to financial inclusion is digital finance which is being powered by Fintech or financial technology. Technology is now the new mantra which India has embraced vigorously. At the recent Fintech festival in Singapore, Prime Minister Narendra Modi proclaimed that India will be the new destination of financial technology or Fintech.

Three major technological developments have changed financial services in profound ways:

- 1) The capability of machine learning and Artificial Intelligence to process huge amounts of data at ever-greater speeds and ever-lower costs.
- 2) The possibility to move that data back and forth through the Internet almost for free.
- 3) The ability to download and upload that data stream through smartphones.

Fintech stands for financial technology or technology used for the financial sector, and comprises of multiple things — Artificial Intelligence, virtual reality, blockchain, cloud-based software, machine learning — all of which provide a mantra for financial institutions as they are powering them with limitless reach.

Fintech refers to the use of innovative technology to provide, enable and enhance financial services such as payment, money transfer, insurance, fund raising and so on. Fintech is a combination of the words "financial" and "technology". According to the World Economic Forum, it involves "the innovative use of technology in the design and delivery of financial services and products" including things like cryptocurrency, blockchain, mobile and Internet banking. Fintech is enabling us to shift towards a future where communities are empowered to drive their own financial security, resilience and freedom.

Innovations in technology are enabling previously unbanked people to gain access to financial services at an unprecedented speed and scale. Global revolution in mobile communications, along with rapid advances in digital payment systems, is creating opportunities to connect poor households to affordable and reliable financial tools through mobile phones, and other digital interfaces. Digital Financial Inclusion (DFI) has emerged as a new wave with hopes that it will reach the last mile consumer in the most convenient and affordable manner.

Innovations in technology, such as mobile banking, mobile payments and borrower identification using biometric data (fingerprinting and iris scans among others), is making it easier and less expensive for people to use financial services, while also increasing financial security. Novel mechanisms have broadened financial inclusion. ATMs, cellular phones, personal digital assistants, handheld computers and smart cards are attempting to dramatically reduce the cost of service provision in rural areas.

Financial institutions are using social media data, bill payment patterns, mobile call data records and psychometric testing to establish credit profiles and target previously invisible consumers. India has to contend with a geographical and cultural divide of a great magnitude. The aversion of the 'other India' to digital finance has more to do with their aversion to everything that

“ BUILDING INCLUSIVE DIGITAL ECONOMIES REQUIRES THE COLLECTIVE ACTION OF GOVERNMENTS, INDUSTRY, FINANCIERS AND CIVIL SOCIETY. BEFORE SPEEDING AHEAD, WE NEED TO BUILD THE INFRASTRUCTURE, ALIGN THE POLICIES AND CREATE THE TOOLS THAT WILL ENABLE THE POOR TO COMFORTABLY BOARD THE DIGITAL TRAIN ”



has to do with technology. And this stems from their lack of trust in it. It is also partly on account of lack of comfort with technology and literacy needed to fully use these services. Women often face additional barriers: Less access to mobile phone, lower literacy levels, less confidence in using technology and restrictions on travel or social interaction.

When we design solutions that recognise everyone as an equal partner, we will have a real chance of achieving our aims. Each society is at a different stage of digital financial inclusion and, thus, the solutions needed to bring it up-to-date must be appropriate to the social, cultural and economic context. By respecting the cultural outlook of the people and embracing their concerns we enlist their support for the change, and that is what will pave the way for lasting and sustainable success.

The race to digitalisation, therefore, cannot be a sprint. India culturally believes in cash and a paradigm shift in thinking will need time and resources. It will actually involve a migration to new social and cultural patterns and habits. There are marked demographic and class issues built into India's cashless transition. The tech class will have to get a better grasp of the impact on the ground. India speaks 438 languages, according to The Economist, each with multiple dialects and scripts.

A major headway has been made largely due to the JAM trinity (Jan Dhan Yojana, Aadhaar and mobile phone respectively). Block chain technology holds the potential to streamline land records and asset registries. To create the right conditions and context to facilitate a seamless transition in digital financial services we have to enable the following:

- i) Balancing the regulatory framework to support innovation and competition while ensuring safety, stability and soundness of the financial system.
- ii) Supportive regulations and openness to banks and non-banks, including fintechs, telecom-supported financial players, crowd funding, and big data analytics.
- iii) Regulatory sandboxes to test new digital ideas and initiatives.
- iv) Adequacy of digital infrastructure.
- v) Government support for digital financial service adoption
- vi) Efficient and fast settlement systems between financial service providers
- vii) Good national identification systems and the role of biometrics and tiered know-your customer digital solutions. India's Aadhaar is the world's most revolutionary concept in this direction.

For the financial inclusion industry to be able to capitalise fully on the benefits of digital financial services, it is important that the accompanying risks are understood and adequately addressed. Though these risks cannot be eliminated, they can be mitigated. We need to keep in mind the concerns of these new financial channels. With many opportunities provided by groundbreaking technology and innovative business operations also comes new risks. The risks related to implementing digital financial services extend far beyond operational and technical risks. The fintech revolution is no different. Loss of privacy is the most obvious risk; indeed, despite efforts to create safeguards, it is all but inevitable.

Changing the financial framework is also not enough. Consumers

will have to walk that extra mile if they want to reap the harvest of these new financial tools. The new revolution will have better chances of success if it is driven less by financial prudence and more by empathetic governance. People take to new technologies when they see clear benefits; have greater confidence in the markets and services; find it convenient; and can afford it. The painful reality is that providers, too, often focus on short-term incentives at the expense of long-term consumer trust and loyalty.

The Reserve Bank of India has been rightly espousing a cautious approach in addressing concerns around consumer protection and law enforcement. The key objective of the regulator has been around creating an environment for unhindered innovations by Fintech, expanding the reach of banking services for the unbanked population, regulating an efficient electronic payment and providing alternative options to the consumers. Building inclusive digital economies requires the collective action of Governments, industry, financiers and the civil society. Before speeding ahead, we need to build the infrastructure, align the policies and create the tools that will enable the poor to comfortably board the digital train. As Ghanaian diplomat Kofi Annan had said in 2004, "In managing, promoting and protecting the Internet's presence in our lives, we need to be no less creative than those who invented it. Clearly, there is a need for governance, but that does not necessarily mean that it has to be done in the traditional way, for something that is so very different."

(The writer is Member, NITI Aayog's National Committee on Financial Literacy and Inclusion for Women)

## The politics of laddu

The traditional sweetmeat has a long history in the sub-continent but its political history is surprisingly short. Its status has now been enhanced. It has now become a norm to offer and eat laddus to celebrate a political victory



NADEEM PARACHA

Laddu, the yellow 'sweet ball' made from butter/oil, gram flour and chopped nuts is perhaps one of the most popular sweetmeats in the subcontinent. And there's a good reason why this is so. It originated in South Asia. According to the food and culture historian, Madhulika Dash, the laddu was probably introduced thousands of years ago. In a feature for the November 18, 2018 edition of *The Indian Express*, Dash wrote that the origins of laddu were medicinal. They were used as a cure for various ailments, and also given to teenaged girls 'to keep their raging hormones in check'.

AK Sinha, in his book, *Anthropology of Sweetmeats*, wrote that (in India) the tradition of sweetmeats being distributed and enjoyed during

festivals is linked to them first being used in this manner during religious occasions. By then the laddu had evolved from being a medicinal item to becoming a popular sweet.

The Sultans of the Delhi Sultanate and the Mughals, too, played a role in enhancing the status of the laddu. According to Dash, they introduced the "Shahi laddu" by adding to it dates, figs, fruits and vegetable seeds brought from Persia. The immediate ancestor of the modern-day laddu is about 300 years old, when the British colonialists first introduced white sugar in India. According to Dash, the locals called the sugar "white poison", but this did not stop them from adding large amounts of it to their beloved laddu.

So, for centuries the laddu has been the leading sweetmeat offered during various Hindu and Muslim festivities in South Asia. These include weddings, Diwali, Eid, the birth of a child, professional and educational successes, the urs of saints, birthdays of holy figures, *et al.* So it was natural that the practice of offering and eating laddus to celebrate a political victory would also

become a norm. But surprisingly, the tradition in this context — though common in the region today — is not as old as one would expect. For example, during my research, I was unable to come across even a single news in any of the major pre-Partition Indian English and Urdu newspapers of the laddu or any other sweetmeat being distributed during a political win.

In reports on the results of the crucial 1946 election, for example, there is no mention of laddus being enjoyed by the winning candidates of the Indian National Congress and the All India Muslim League. What's more, no laddu can be found even in the most detailed reports of the celebrations that broke out with the respective independence of Pakistan and India. The first mention of laddus being distributed for political reasons only exists in the shape of anecdotes of those who were alive during Pakistan's first military coup in 1958. They say that many people celebrated the coup by distributing laddus, even though there is no published evidence to substantiate this claim. However, ironically, I did come across

a report about some students distributing laddus in Karachi the day Ayub Khan resigned in March 1969. The report was published in the April 1969 issue of the now defunct monthly, *The Mirror*.

Laddus, in this context, become easy to find in newspaper reports after 1969. For example, various Urdu newspapers carried photos of winning candidates being offered a laddu after their victory in the 1970 election. Then, a report published in a 1974 edition of the *Bangladesh Times* mentions how laddus in their thousands were distributed on the streets of Dhaka after East Pakistan broke away to become Bangladesh in December 1971. But the politics of laddus suddenly becomes rather morbid after 1977. JC Batra — in his 1979 book, *The Trial and Execution of Bhutto* — and Christina Lamb — in *Waiting for Allah* — wrote that men in Lahore and Karachi were seen distributing laddus after former Prime Minister, ZA Bhutto was hanged in April 1979.

A similar thing happened in India in 1984. SJ Tambia in *Levelling Crowds*

writes that reports of groups of Sikhs distributing laddus and dancing after the assassination of Indian Prime Minister, Indira Gandhi (by her Sikh guards) instigated violent riots against the Sikh community. SJ Iqbal, in the December 1988 issue of *Third World International*, writes that laddus were enthusiastically distributed in some areas of Punjab and Sindh after Zia perished in a plane crash in August 1988.

After 1988, the political usage of laddu transcends morbidity and becomes outright absurd. Newspapers carried photos of PPP supporters distributing laddus after Benazir Bhutto was elected Prime Minister in late 1988. Such images are followed, just two years later, with images of Nawaz Sharif supporters distributing laddus after Benazir's regime was dismissed by then president Ghulam Ishaq Khan, in 1990. Then in April 1993, photos of PPP supporters treating each other with laddus can be found in various newspapers after the Nawaz Sharif regime was dismissed by Ishaq.

However, in May the same year, pictures of Nawaz supporters munch-

ing on laddus appeared after the Supreme Court restored his Government. But by October 1993, the laddus were back in the PPP's hands after Benazir won that year's election. The laddus then slipped back into the possession of cheerful PML-N supporters after Benazir's second Government was dismissed in 1996.

Gen Musharraf's October 1999 coup could not stop the laddu madness. In fact, Mathew Joseph — in *Understanding Pakistan* — and Feroz Khan — in *Eating Grass* — wrote that newspapers then were full of reports about how hundreds of Pakistanis were seen distributing laddus and dancing on the day of Musharraf's coup. So there is a reason why on July 17, 2016, the current Prime Minister, Imran Khan, was quoted by newspapers as saying "People will distribute sweets if the Army takes over." He was in the Opposition at that time. Was this a clever way to use the political laddu imagery to tempt the sweet tooth of the 'umpire'? I am sure he is not thinking the same now that he is in power.

(Courtesy: Dawn)



## MAKING LIFE BETTER...

Mims Davies, the Minister who replaced Tracey Crouch, announced that tech giants would be called to account for their role in exacerbating loneliness. All this is refreshing. When our politics has been completely taken over by Brexit to the exclusion of almost everything else, it is a relief to see evidence that the Government has some ideas about how to make people's lives better.

(The Guardian editorial)

# 'Demonetisation was against corrupt not elite'

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Demonetisation was a move against corrupt people and not against elite as has been indicated by former chief economic advisor Arvind Subramanian, Niti Aayog vice-chairman Rajiv Kumar said on Friday.

Subramanian in a soon to be published book, 'Of Counsel: The Challenges of the Modi-Jaitley Economy' has criticised demonetisation as a massive, draconian, monetary shock that accelerated economic slide.

"I have seen a report which quoted Subramanian as saying that demonetisation was against elite. I don't know why he used the word elite. It was a step against those who are corrupt and had stored ill-gotten wealth.

"I hope my friend Arvind is not equating these people with the elite of the country because elite of this country I hope and I believe that is honest, hard working and law abiding," Kumar said on the sidelines of CII Health Summit.

Subramanian in a recent article said one answer to the



demonetisation puzzle was that poor people were willing to overlook their own hardship, knowing that the rich and their ill-begotten wealth were experiencing even greater hardship.

"I lost a goat but they lost their cows," Subramanian added.

Anti-elite populism, or 'rich bashing,' as The Economist put it, could have taken the form of other punitive actions — taxation, appropriation, raids — targeted just at the corrupt rich, he said, adding, "Why entangle the innocent masses and impoverish them in the bargain?"

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on November 8, 2016, had announced demonetisation of ₹1,000 and ₹500 notes

## Bengal's cement capacity may touch 30mn tn in 3 yrs: Officials

PTI ■ KOLKATA

West Bengal's cement capacity is likely to see robust expansion to the tune of about 10 million tonne in the next few years, officials said on Friday.

State Finance Minister Amit Mitra said the capex of the state is at ₹19,000-20,000 crore, a rise of 8.5 times since 2011-12, which had an impact on cement demand.

"When we came to power (in 2011), there were only five cement companies with a combined capacity of 4.8 million tonne. Now, there are 16 companies with a total installed capacity of about 20 million tonne," Mitra said at 'Cementing India,' organised by the Indian Chamber of Commerce here.

A number of cement companies have announced expansion plans in the state, including JSW Cement (2.4 million tonne to 4.8 million tonne) and Dalmia Cement (1.7 million tonne to 4 million tonne).

Star Cement will set up a greenfield grinding plant at Jalpaiguri district of 2-million tonne capacity.

"The combined new cement capacity expansion of the industry in West Bengal is about 10 million tonne over the next two-three years," said Star Cement Director Sanjay Agarwal.

## ₹ rises 27 paise to end at 4-month high, extends gain for 4th day

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The rupee strengthened further by 27 paise to close at a four-month high of 69.58 against the US currency Friday, extending gains for a fourth day in a row aided by easing crude oil prices and firm stock markets.

The rupee traded firm against the US currency despite a firm dollar overseas, signalling a change in sentiments of forex speculators, analysts said.

At the Interbank Foreign Exchange (Forex), the rupee opened higher at 69.68, and soon gathered momentum to touch a high of 69.57.

The domestic unit, however, pared some gains and settled the day up by 27 paise at 69.58 a dollar, a level not seen since August 1.

On Thursday the rupee had vaulted 77 paise to a three-month high of 69.85 per US dollar.

"The INR remained unchanged today despite dollar strength, signaling changing sentiments amongst forex speculators, a rise in FII inflows and crude stabilising below \$60," said Sunil Sharma, Chief Investment Officer, Sanctum Wealth Management.

Sharma further noted that the key events this week would be the discussion on trade between China and the US at the G20, and agreements, if any,



## Business Corner

**ORONA PARTNERS WITH GILCO GLOBAL**

Spain's leading lift, elevators, escalators and moving ramp manufacturers Orona have joined hands with India's Gilco Global. Gilco Global Private Limited is the official Orona Authorized distributor of Orona 3G product platform in India. Orona, a high-end solution provider for all kinds of urban mobility, is known worldwide for its sustainable products - elevators, escalators, and moving walkway.



**NCC CELEBRATES 70TH ANNIVERSARY**

National Cadet Corps (NCC), the largest uniformed youth organisation in the world, celebrated its 70th Raising Day. The raising day function was marked by paying homage at the Amar Jawan Jyoti, India Gate on 24 Nov 2018 to the martyrs who made the supreme sacrifice of their lives. DG NCC Lt Gen PP Malhotra, VSM laid a wreath on behalf of the entire NCC fraternity.



**NORTHERN RLY HONOURS 11 EMPLOYEES**

In keeping with the practice of honoring employees, whose alertness and prompt action have resulted in averting a possible accident, through Safety Awards and recognition of meritorious services, Northern Railway honored the services of eleven of its employees through Safety Awards at a ceremony held at Northern Railway Headquarters Office, Baroda House, New Delhi on Friday. The Awards were presented by TP Singh, General Manager, Northern Railway. Also present on this occasion were Rajesh Tiwari, Additional General Manager, Northern Railway, Seema Kumar, Chief Safety Officer, Northern Railway and the Principal Heads of all departments of Northern Railway.



**DELHI WINS THE TITLE OF 'FAVOURITE INDIAN CITY'**

Delhi won the award for 'Favourite Indian City' at the eighth edition of Condé Nast Traveller Readers' Travel Awards. The ceremony was held at The Lodhi, New Delhi, on 29th November, 2018, in the presence of industry leaders, influencers and recognized names from the travel and tourism sector including Government bodies. Sudhir Sobti, Chief Manager (PR & Publicity) received the award on behalf of Delhi Tourism and Transportation Development Corporation (DTDC), Govt. of Delhi.



## MyBox launches Alexa Voice service solution provider

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

MyBox Technologies, a Hero Electronics venture, specialising in the research & development and manufacturing of set-top boxes, announced it is now an Alexa Voice Service (AVS) solution provider. Collaborating with Amazon, MyBox is one of the first systems integrators to build an AVS solution for the video platform. MyBox's solution allows set-top box manufacturers to bring the power of Alexa to their devices,

providing customers with the simplicity of voice control and access to more than 15,000 Alexa skills.

The MyBox solution enables cable and DTH operators to bring Alexa to compatible, pre-existing set-top boxes. Paired with MyBox's hub and microphone-equipped remote control, customers will have access to Alexa and the ability to control smart home devices, play music, shop for household goods, and more — hands-free.

## Tata International wins CLE Export Awards

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Tata International, the global trading arm of the Tata group and one of India's leading exporters of Leather and leather products, won top Council for Leather Exports (CLE) Awards in recognition of their excellent export performance during the year 2017-18. The CLE organized the 'CLE Export Awards and Leather Conclave' on November 29, 2018 in New Delhi in the presence of Chief Guest Suresh Prabhu, Hon'ble Union Minister of Commerce & Industry and Civil Aviation, Govt of India.

Tata International bagged the 3rd place in Overall Exports — Leather & Leather Products including Non-Leather Footwear followed by 2nd place in Leather Footwear category (Above ₹300 Crores) and 1st place in the Finished Leather Category (Above ₹200 Crores & Upto ₹300 Crores).

Commenting on the occasion, V Muthukumar, Head of Leather Products, Tata International Limited said, "We are honored that our efforts have been recognized and I would like to congratulate our team at Tata International for this achievement."

## Diplomats struggle for agreement on G-20 summit statement

AP ■ BUENOS AIRES

Diplomats from the Group of 20 countries were haggling hard over a final summit statement on Friday, with deep divisions over what language to use on the Paris climate accord and the World Trade Organisation, according to two European officials involved in the discussions.

Facing the prospect of a no-statement summit, European delegations were trying to create a common front and may come out with their own separate declaration if they can't get the US or others on board. European leaders were meeting in the morning at the summit venue in the Argentine capital to stake out common positions on trade, climate and the killing of dissident Saudi journalist Jamal Khashoggi.

France is seeking to build coalitions on certain issues or "ad hoc partnerships" to try to salvage the spirit of the G-20 even if all countries can't agree, according to a French official.

The officials weren't authorised to be named speaking about the closed-door discussions and spoke on condition of anonymity.

The G-20 was supposed to focus on issues like development, infrastructure and investment, but as the gathering officially kicked off, those themes seem like afterthoughts, overshadowed by contentious matters from the US-China trade dispute to the conflict over Ukraine.

European Council President Donald Tusk urged G-20 leaders to discuss "trade wars, the tragic situation in

Syria and Yemen and Russian aggression in Ukraine."

He said the European Union is expected to extend sanctions on Moscow over its "totally unacceptable" seizure of Ukrainian ships and their crews near Crimea.

"Europe is united in its support for Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity," Tusk said, calling the standoff "a cause of great concern."

Russian President Vladimir Putin, who arrived in Buenos Aires on Friday morning, is among the leaders involved.

Russia and Ukraine have traded blame over the ship incident.

Also expected to loom large amid dozens of bilateral meetings in Buenos Aires: the gruesome slaying of Khashoggi in Saudi Arabia's Istanbul consulate and how the Saudi crown prince, who is alleged to have ordered the killing, is received by world leaders.

He didn't mention the killing itself, but stressed the importance of the "basic safety of journalists" and said "it's our obligation to press our partners to respect these basic principles."

Saudi Arabia has denied that Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman played a role, but some leaders may be cool toward him to avoid seeming to legitimize a man who US intelligence agencies concluded ordered the killing.

US President Donald Trump's administration has made clear it does not want to torpedo the longstanding US relationship with Riyadh, however. It is the prince's first significant appearance overseas since the killing.

## Govt breaches full-year fiscal deficit target at Oct-end

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The full-year fiscal deficit target of ₹6.24 lakh crore was breached at October-end mainly on account of lower revenue collections, showed Government data on Friday, reflecting deterioration in public finances.

The fiscal deficit or gap between expenditure and revenue was ₹6.48 lakh crore or 103.9 per cent of Budget Estimate (BE) during April-October of the current financial year. At end of October 2017-18, the deficit was 96.1 per cent of the BE.

The Government has budgeted to cut fiscal deficit to 3.3 per cent of GDP in 2018-19 from 3.53 per cent in the previous financial year.

According to the data released by the Controller General of Accounts (CGA), the revenue receipts of the Government totalled ₹7.88 lakh crore or 45.7 per cent of the BE for 2018-19 as compared to 48.1 per cent of BE last year. The Government has budgeted to mop up ₹17.25 lakh crore revenue during the current fiscal.

Tax revenue was 44.7 per cent of BE compared to 51.6 per cent achieved in the comparable period of the last year.

As per the CGA data, the total expenditure of the Government at October-end was ₹14.56 lakh crore or 59.6 per cent of the BE. The expenditure in terms of percentage of the BE was marginally higher in the year-ago period.

"Fiscal deficit figure shown in monthly accounts during a financial year is not necessarily an indicator of fiscal deficit for the year as it gets impacted by temporal mismatch between flow of not-debt receipts and expenditure up to that month on account of various transitional factors both on receipt and expenditure side, which may get substantially offset by the end of the financial year," CGA said.



केन्द्रीय लोक निर्माण विभाग  
ई-टेंडर्स आमंत्रण सूचना

भारत के राष्ट्रपति की ओर से कार्यपालक अभियंता, 'एस' मंडल, कोलकोता/विओ, रामा कुष्मा पुरम, नई दिल्ली द्वारा अधोलिखित कार्यों के निष्पादन हेतु कोलकोता/विओ के approved and eligible ठेकेदारों से ऑनलाइन प्रतियोग्य दर निविदा प्रणाली आमंत्रित की जाती है।

1. निष्पादन/सुधार 113/EE/S Div/2018-19 Name of Work "Upgradation of 652 Type-IV Qtrs at Sec-4 R.K. Puram New Delhi during 2018-19 (SH: Upgradation of 5 Nos. Type-IV Qtrs)", अनुमानित लागत ₹ 25,49,417/- घरोहर राशि ₹ 50,988/- कार्य निष्पादन अवधि-03 (तीन) मास बिड को जमा कराने की अंतिम तिथि व समय 10.12.2018 को 12:00 बजे तक।
2. निष्पादन/सुधार 114/EE/S Div/2018-19 Name of Work "Upgradation in type-IV GPRA qtrs. at Sec-4 R.K. Puram, New Delhi dg. 2018-19 (SH: Improvement of staircase with kota stone flooring in Balance Qtrs. Gehlot Design for Qtr. No. 263 to 326)", अनुमानित लागत ₹ 26,80,274/- घरोहर राशि ₹ 53,605/- कार्य निष्पादन अवधि-03 (तीन) मास बिड को जमा कराने की अंतिम तिथि व समय 10.12.2018 को 12:00 बजे तक।
3. निष्पादन/सुधार 115/EE/S Div/2018-19 Name of Work "Repair/Rehabilitation of Lok Sabha & Rajya Sabha Qtrs at Vasant Vihar, New Delhi during 2018-19 (SH: Blocks no. 66 & 74)", अनुमानित लागत ₹ 25,47,973/- घरोहर राशि ₹ 50,959/- कार्य निष्पादन अवधि-02 (दो) मास बिड को जमा कराने की अंतिम तिथि व समय 10.12.2018 को 12:00 बजे तक।

नोट:- बिड प्रपत्र और अन्य विवरण वेबसाइट [www.tenderwizard.com/CPWD](http://www.tenderwizard.com/CPWD) से प्राप्त किया जा सकता है। प्रेस विज्ञापन [www.eprocure.gov.in](http://www.eprocure.gov.in) पर भी उपलब्ध है।

**Public Notice: Loss of POA**

**ICICI Bank**  
ICICI Bank Limited

Registered Office: ICICI Bank Ltd., ICICI Bank Tower, Near Chakli Circle, Old Padra Road, Vadodara-390007.  
Corporate Office: ICICI Bank Towers, Bandra Kurla Complex, Bandra (E), Mumbai - 400051

I, Divya Chaturvedi, D/O Shri Rajendra Kumar Chaturvedi working with ICICI Bank Ltd. since June 2008 in capacity of Legal Manager having employee number 178570 and currently posted at New Delhi is giving the below mentioned undertaking:

1. That I was issued a Power of Attorney on December 29, 2012 and that the said Power of Attorney authorised me to represent ICICI Bank Ltd.
2. That I had brought the above mentioned Power of Attorney to ICICI Bank, NBCC Place, New Delhi on November 15, 2018 for the purpose of relinquishing and returning the same to the concerned authority at ICICI Bank Ltd.
3. That I misplaced the Power of Attorney in the outdoor parking at NBCC Place on November 15, 2018.

That the above mentioned is true to the best of my knowledge.

Emp no: 178570  
D.O.J: June 11, 2008  
Date: November 30, 2018  
Place: Delhi/ Ncr

Sd-  
For ICICI Bank Ltd.,

**PRASAR BHARATI**  
**INDIA'S PUBLIC SERVICE BROADCASTER**  
**CIVIL CONSTRUCTION WING : ALL INDIA RADIO**  
**NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER**

The Executive Engineer (Civil), Civil Construction Wing, All India Radio, PB (BCI), MHP Division, 11th floor, Soochna Bhawan, CGO Complex, New Delhi-03, invites on behalf of President of India online item rate e-tenders from approved and eligible contractors of CPWD and those of appropriate list of BSNL, MES, Railways, Department of Post and PWD (B&R) of NCT Delhi, upto 15.00 hrs on 11.12.2018 for the following work:

**NIT No:- 32/EE(C)/MHPD/2018-19, Name of work : - Construction of peripheral road from Gate No. 1 to departmental canteen, connecting road to NBH basement, rain water storage & harvesting tank, development of lawn at BH and construction of lift well from lower basement to ground floor at NBH, New Delhi. Estimated cost:- Rs. 53,51,168/-, Earnest Money: Rs. 1,07,023/-, Period of completion: 06 (Six) Months.**

i. Last date and time for uploading of documents and on-line submission of tender: upto 15.00 hrs. 11.12.2018.

ii. Date and time for opening of online tender: 11.12.2018 at 15:30 hrs.

The tender forms and other details can be [www.tenderwizard.com/AIR](http://www.tenderwizard.com/AIR). This press tender notice can [www.allindiaradio.gov.in](http://www.allindiaradio.gov.in).

Sd/  
davp 22446/11/0026/1819  
Executive Engineer (C)

**INVITING e-TENDER**

The Executive Engineer, East Bldg Maint. Civil Divn. (M-221), Public Works-Department, Level-2, Delhi Sachivalaya, New Delhi-2 invites on behalf of the President of India, Online Percentage Rate tender through e-Procurement from approved and eligible registered contractors of CPWO for the following:-

1. Name of Work: E.O.R. to Rajkiya Sarvodaya Kanya Vidyalaya No-1 at Shakarpur Delhi (School ID-1002196). SH:- Upgradation of floors, classrooms, corridor, toilet and other misc. civil work. SW:- Balance work of toilets renovations

NIT No. 110/EE/EBMD-M 221/PWD/2018-19  
Tender ID: 2018\_PWD\_162272\_1  
Estimated Cost: Rs. 18,43,175/-  
Earnest Money: Rs. 36,864/-  
Period of Completion: 90 Days

Last date and time of Online Submission of Tenders upto 3:00 PM on 10.12.2018 Further details can be seen at <https://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in>

DIP/Shabdarth/2301/18-19

**कार्यालय अधिशासी अभियन्ता, उत्तराखण्ड जल संस्थान, शाखा अल्मोड़ा**

पुंनसं: 2924 / निविदा / 750

निविदा सूचना

दिनांक : 30 / 11 / 2018

एतद्वारा अल्मोड़ा नगरीय सीवरेज योजना के अन्तर्गत निम्न कार्य हेतु अनुमोदी फर्म जो वाणिज्य कर विभाग में पंजीकृत हो से मुहरबन्द निविदाये पंजीकृत ऑफ के माध्यम से उनके समुच्च अंकित लिथि को अपरान्ह 3:00 बजे तक प्राप्त की जानी है, जो उसी दिन अपरान्ह 3:30 बजे अधोस्तम्भरी अथवा उनके द्वारा अधिकृत प्रतिनिधियों द्वारा उपस्थित निविदादाताओं के समक्ष खोली जायेगी, निविदा की विधी की अन्तिम तिथि उनके समुच्च उल्लेखित है।

क्र. सं.	कार्य का नाम	बिड की रकम ₹.	निविदा प्रपत्र का मूल्य ₹.	निविदा की तिथि	निविदा प्रपत्र खोलने की तिथि	निविदा खोलने की तिथि	कार्य पूर्ण करने की अवधि
1	अल्मोड़ा नगरीय सीवरेज योजना के अन्तर्गत एमबी0बी0आर0 टेक्नालॉजी पर आधारित 02 एमएल0डी0 सीवर ट्रीटमन्ट प्लान्ट में बख हेतु विभिन्न क्षमताओं को 3-फेज, 415 वोल्ट, 50 हर्ज लो स्पीड इन्वर्टर मोटर्स की आपूर्ति एवं अधिस्थापन का कार्य।	5600.00	500.00	01.12.2018 से 12.12.2018 तक	21.12.2018 (03 बजे तक)	21.12.2018 (03:30 बजे तक)	03 माह
2	अल्मोड़ा नगरीय सीवरेज योजना के अन्तर्गत एमबी0बी0आर0 टेक्नालॉजी पर आधारित 02 एमएल0डी0 सीवर ट्रीटमन्ट प्लान्ट में बख में प्लास्टिक मीडिया की आपूर्ति एवं अधिस्थापन।	16200.00	500.00	01.12.2018 से 12.12.2018 तक	21.12.2018 (03 बजे तक)	21.12.2018 (03:30 बजे तक)	03 माह
3	अल्मोड़ा नगरीय सीवरेज योजना के अन्तर्गत एमबी0बी0आर0 टेक्नालॉजी पर आधारित 02 एमएल0डी0 सीवर ट्रीटमन्ट प्लान्ट में बख में एयर ब्लोअर विओ 30 एम्पी0 3-फेज, 415 वोल्ट, 50 हर्ज इन्वर्टर मोटर की आपूर्ति एवं अधिस्थापन का कार्य।	18900.00	500.00	01.12.2018 से 12.12.2018 तक	21.12.2018 (03 बजे तक)	21.12.2018 (03:30 बजे तक)	03 माह

सात

1. ससत निविदाये स्वीकृत नही होगी।
2. शेष कर्त निविदा प्रपत्र के अनुसार होगी।
3. निविदा विधी की अन्तिम तिथि / खोलने की तिथि को अवकाश होने की दशा में अगले कार्य दिवस में निविदा की विधी की जायेगी / प्राप्त की जा सकेगी एवं तदनुसार खोले जायेगी।

"जल संवचय-जीवन संचय"

अधिशासी अभियन्ता

# 'Govt can claim up to Rs 7 tn from RBI's excess capital'

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Former chief economic advisor (CEA) Arvind Subramanian has made a strong pitch to the government to claim ₹4.5-7 trillion in excess capital from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). RBI is an outlier among its peers as it is keeping close to 28 per cent of its balancesheet in the reserves, against an 8.4 per cent global average, Subramanian, who was the CEA from October 2014 to June 2018, writes in a soon-to-be-published book 'Of Counsel: The Challenges of the Modi-Jaitley Economy'.

Stating that the swelling capital base of the RBI needs to be held accountable, he pegs the excess capital that the apex bank holds from ₹4.5 trillion from the ratio of shareholder equity to assets, and at ₹7 trillion from a BIS-mandated average based on 1 per cent of risk cover ratio.

"The RBI is an outlier among major central banks. It holds about 28 per cent in reserve capital, which is the fifth largest amongst all major central banks compared to the typical central bank (8.4 per cent ratio), it has excess capital of about ₹7 trillion," he writes.

He goes on to argue that "when looked at the practices of all the major central banks and the Bank for International Settlements (BIS), nearly all the

other central banks choose a risk tolerance level of 1 per cent and when we apply this tolerance level to the risks facing RBI, the formula shows that RBI has an excess capital amounting to ₹4.5 trillion". As per the RBI's annual report for FY18, its balance sheet stood at ₹361.75 trillion, up 9.5 per cent from FY17, boosted by rising foreign investments and growth in foreign exchange reserves. On June 30, 2017, its balance sheet stood at ₹330.4 trillion.

The RBI follows a July-June fiscal year. The note-ban of November 2016 had shrunk the central bank's balancesheet by close to ₹15.8 trillion.

Admitting that counting RBI balance from the 1 per cent risk ratio perspective as a "too crude a way of calculating it", Subramanian says central banks across the world are using the analytical framework based on economic capital framework to arrive at the optimal level of capital, which essentially involves conducting a value-at-risk analysis for the various sources of potential risk for a central bank.

The book, to be published by Penguin Random House India, comes at a time when the recent spat between the government and RBI over a host of issues including this capital demand, ended up RBI ceding ground and agreeing to set up a panel to look into the details of

a new economic capital framework for the central bank.

Stating that the range of RBI's actual capital position reflects an ambiguity, he says the ratio of shareholder equity to assets "varies from over 40 per cent in the case of Norway to negative capital in the case of Israel, Chile and Thailand, with a median holding of 8.4 per cent for 54 major developed and emerging market economies for 2016-17". But he also underlines that any change in the capital position of the central bank involves many risk such as market risk that captures the risks arising out of change in the value of their assets like forex reserves, gold and government securities; credit risks in the form of losses arising due to default by counterparties; operational risk; and contingent risks among others. But he also adds that none of these risks can justify the large capital that RBI sits over as the sovereign's security is more important and credible than that of its central bank.

"Central banks are part of the government, and it is the broader government balance sheet that matters, not that of any of its constituents. As long as overall conditions are reasonable, the stream of profits will eventually make up for any capital shortfalls because central banks have a unique ability to generate income," he says.

# Governance lapses led RBI to trim Kapoor's term at Yes Bank: Sources

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The RBI has cited "serious lapses" in governance and a "poor compliance culture" at Yes Bank as reasons for its "regulatory discomf" in allowing Rana Kapoor to head the private sector lender, sources said, citing a communication from the central bank.

Asking the Yes Bank board to appoint a successor to Kapoor latest by February 1, 2019, the RBI in its letter dated September 17 to the lender's then chairman Ashok Chawla also said the bank has displayed "highly irregular" credit management practices.

While Chawla, who resigned from the board earlier this month, was not reachable for comments, an e-mail sent to the RBI on the matter remained unanswered.

Despite repeated queries from PTI, Yes Bank did not comment on specific "concerns" raised by the RBI in its letter, saying that "any communication exchanges between the Bank and its regulator (RBI) are secret, confidential and privileged".

Sources close to the bank, however, said several of the concerns raised by the RBI have already been addressed and the same were reflected in its communication. They also claimed that the bank has complied with all corrective actions sought by the RBI, most of them having been done before the September 17 missive.

In a BSE filing on September 19, Yes Bank had said it has been intimidated by the RBI vide a letter dated September 17 that Kapoor may continue as the MD and CEO till January 31, 2019, but did not disclose any fur-

ther details on the RBI's communication.

Sources citing the RBI's letter said the central bank also wrote about its "concern" relating to a steep hike in Kapoor's remuneration by the board while seeking a three-year reappointment, saying it was in defiance of its earlier recommendations to bank boards to cut CEO bonuses.

The central bank said these happenings reinforce its "grave concern and regulatory discomf with the role of the incumbent MD & CEO in the governance, management and superintendence of the affairs of the Yes Bank".

Rejecting Yes Bank's request for reappointment of Kapoor, the RBI said there have also been other serious violations of statutory and regulatory guidelines during the past three financial years at the bank.

Ever since the RBI curtailed Kapoor's tenure at Yes Bank, its stock, which used to be a top pick of many brokerages, has taken a massive beating. In the two trading sessions after the RBI move, the stock crashed over 40 per cent and it is now down to its 33-month low. The Yes Bank board had written to the RBI on May 31, seeking reappointment of Kapoor for three years with effect from September 1.

Earlier, the RBI had in an April 11 letter said it had found a number of "serious lapses in the functioning and governance of the bank", which are matters of "utmost concern". The regulator had also flagged these issues to the then chairman Ashok Chawla, and had said that the corrective actions initiated at the bank were "post-facto".

## BUSINESS CORNER

### SAMSUNG INTRODUCES LINE-UP FOR HOSPITALITY TV SEGMENT

New Delhi: Consumer electronics maker Samsung India on Friday extended its product range in the hospitality TV segment by introducing a new UHD (Ultra-high-definition) line-up with personalised interface and other features. The company is eyeing the growing hospitality business and new hotels coming up in the luxury and budget segment across the country to boost its business in the segment. "We do see a good potential in the segment when it comes to hospitality," said Samsung India VP Consumer Electronics Enterprise Business Puneet Sethi. The company, however, declined to share its market share in the segment, in which it competes with other TV manufacturers. "We are leading the market and would take the position forward," he said. All eight models of hospitality TV introduced, run through Samsung Tizen operating system and would have facilities as interface, soft access point, LAN Out etc. Besides, there is an option to play content via Bluetooth connectivity from any handset - Android, Tizen, Windows, Ubuntu and iOS, the statement added. Hospitality TV, which are sold through B2B channel are identical in looks with the normal TV, but are loaded with several features and are customised as per the customer's requirement.

### GOVT EXTENDS DEADLINE FOR FILING TDS RETURNS FOR OCT-DEC TO JAN 2019

New Delhi: The government has extended the due date of filing tax deducted at source (TDS) returns under GST laws for the October-December period till January 31, 2019. The TDS provisions under the goods and services tax (GST) were brought into effect from October 1, 2018. According to the Central GST (CGST) Act, the notified entities are required to collect TDS at 1 per cent on payments to goods or services suppliers in excess of Rs 2.5 lakh. Also, states levy 1 per cent TDS under state laws. The Finance Ministry, through a notification, extended the due date for filing TDS returns under GST for the October-December 2018 period, till January 31, 2019.

### JLR TO LAY OFF STAFF TEMPORARILY AT UK PLANT TO ADJUST VEHICLE PRODUCTION

New Delhi, Nov 30 (PTI) Tata Motors-owned Jaguar Land Rover (JLR) Friday said it is undertaking adjustment of vehicle production at its plant at Wolverhampton, central England, as a result of which 250 temporary jobs will be affected. The company further said it will undertake a two-week production pause at the plant in December and has asked 500 workers to stay at home although they would continue to draw salaries during the period. Terming the external environment as challenging, the company said it is taking decisive actions to achieve the necessary operational efficiencies to safeguard long-term success. "To deliver a growing range of electrified cars for our customers we are making tough decisions, but the transformation of the business relies on this," JLR said in a statement.

SCRIP	OPEN	High	LOW	LTP	CHANGE
NIFTY 50	10892.10	10922.45	10835.10	10876.75	18.05
YESBANK	164.00	171.35	160.45	170.50	10.05
WIPRO	315.05	326.40	313.70	324.80	9.90
CIPLA	528.00	542.00	527.00	540.60	15.90
DREDDY	2661.00	2734.55	2657.05	2730.00	74.70
TECHM	688.80	709.90	686.95	706.80	19.30
M&M	778.00	796.00	776.70	790.95	17.75
KOTAKBANK	1209.00	1238.40	1197.70	1235.00	22.05
HDFC	1970.00	1998.75	1962.80	1992.00	35.70
IHUGLHSGFN	718.95	725.00	708.10	712.95	11.10
BRASIL	855.00	872.75	850.80	864.00	12.70
INFY	661.00	672.00	660.95	670.00	8.95
MARUTI	7574.00	7727.00	7570.05	7649.00	102.25
SUNPHARMA	486.95	493.95	481.75	490.80	6.40
HEROMOTOCO	3025.00	3061.80	3020.00	3055.00	38.20
ZEE	486.05	496.70	485.00	487.65	5.50
GAIL	342.20	348.25	337.75	342.55	3.35
BAJFINANCE	2538.00	2564.40	2507.05	2531.35	24.85
TCS	224.45	227.40	220.70	226.10	1.70
HINDALCO	196.00	199.10	1959.85	1974.80	14.25
BAJAJ-AUTO	2721.00	2769.70	2702.00	2743.00	19.00
IT	1425.15	1438.15	1410.00	1430.00	7.55
HINDUNILVR	1770.95	1798.30	1742.25	1774.30	5.80
GLTECH	1018.00	1026.30	1004.25	1015.10	1.65
IOC	135.50	135.90	132.40	135.00	0.15
BAJAJFINSV	6019.70	6100.00	5960.00	6011.00	0.25
TITAN	929.95	931.00	918.00	930.50	4.90
RELIANCE	1172.30	1186.00	1162.30	1167.10	-1.40
ASIANPAINT	1352.80	1361.75	1342.15	1348.65	-1.65
POWERGRID	181.00	183.55	178.30	180.20	-0.30
ITC	289.50	290.00	284.80	286.20	-1.35
HDFCBANK	2130.00	2137.55	2110.00	2120.45	-10.60
COALINDIA	247.00	248.40	239.05	245.35	-1.55
ULTRACEMCO	4030.00	4081.00	3985.90	4003.00	-27.40
BHARTIARTL	319.00	324.30	310.70	315.00	-2.20
EICHERMOT	23500.00	23799.95	23310.00	2335.05	-171.25
BPC	329.10	331.80	320.40	326.05	-2.45
JSWSTEEL	318.60	322.80	314.35	315.00	-2.45
SBIN	288.80	290.90	283.20	284.05	-2.35
ONGC	141.60	143.70	138.50	139.40	-1.20
ADANIPOWER	369.80	374.60	363.60	366.50	-3.30
TATASTEEL	535.00	536.80	525.50	528.30	-5.25
AXISBANK	633.00	635.25	624.00	624.45	-6.95
INDUSINDBK	1664.50	1674.45	1623.00	1640.90	-19.65
VEDL	200.80	201.10	194.85	196.05	-2.75
ICICIBANK	365.00	365.00	353.80	355.25	-6.95
NTPC	142.00	142.60	137.55	138.70	-3.55
UPL	780.15	785.50	755.05	759.20	-19.90
TATAMOTORS	172.00	174.90	170.15	172.15	-5.10
INFRAEEL	262.60	265.95	255.30	255.95	-9.50
HINDPETRO	242.95	246.30	230.30	232.20	-10.70

## NIFTY NEXT 50

SCRIP	OPEN	High	LOW	LTP	CHANGE
NIFTY NEXT 50	27489.20	27604.80	27391.35	27593.70	20.15
MCDOWELL-N	626.25	675.00	602.25	606.25	36.65
PGHH	9275.00	9799.00	9256.05	9650.00	378.25
ICICI	812.90	840.00	812.90	831.05	29.60
BIOCEN	606.00	626.40	602.65	624.10	21.70
DMART	1438.00	1500.00	1438.00	1487.00	48.90
BRITANNIA	3040.90	3197.00	3040.80	3132.80	104.35
SIEMENS	927.50	957.60	910.55	951.20	30.10
AUROPHARMA	788.00	814.95	788.00	809.45	17.30
CADILAHC	356.00	367.45	354.35	363.90	7.00
PEL	2169.00	2240.00	2153.00	2200.05	42.05
ASHOKLEY	110.25	112.65	110.25	112.10	1.95
ICICIPRULI	321.00	328.35	316.60	323.10	5.50
HINDZINC	263.00	268.80	263.00	267.00	4.50
ACC	1463.20	1498.00	1463.20	1487.45	23.65
LUPIN	870.00	891.60	866.00	881.30	13.05
NMDC	94.50	96.20	94.20	95.80	1.35
HDFCLIFE	393.30	400.00	392.25	396.90	4.20
BOCHSLTD	1890.00	1943.25	1865.00	1870.00	18.30
ABB	1390.25	1412.10	1374.05	1398.25	11.95
GODREJCP	750.00	753.00	745.00	751.20	6.15
SAIL	55.00	55.85	54.45	55.15	0.40
SHRECEM	16400.00	16750.00	16380.00	16490.00	94.30
OFSS	3417.95	3449.90	3348.10	3420.00	14.35
AMBUJACEM	217.60	220.90	215.70	217.45	0.65
L&TFH	145.00	145.65	143.50	144.20	0.35
ABCAPITAL	105.00	105.65	103.85	105.10	0.20
MOTHERSUMI	155.95	157.00	152.80	155.00	0.05
CONCOR	62.50	68.00	65.80	67.50	0.15
NHPC	27.65	26.15	25.60	26.00	0.00
BANKBARODA	105.50	106.65	103.70	105.00	0.00
BHEL	68.75	70.35	66.15	68.20	0.00
NICL	199.65	199.85	196.55	197.60	-1.15
COLPAL	1232.80	1239.65	1202.00	1228.00	-2.35
BANDHANBNK	489.00	498.20	470.20	486.00	-1.00
SHRILIFE	571.65	577.70	569.10	570.00	-1.65
DLF	180.00	180.00	175.95	178.55	-0.90
DABUR	415.15	418.40	406.55	411.50	-3.45
MARICO	363.00	364.30	353.45	357.00	-3.00
LICHSGFN	473.20	475.40	461.60	466.10	-3.65
INDIGO	1050.45	1052.65	1028.45	1038.80	-4.95
HAVELLS	693.85	707.00	675.80	682.00	-2.75
PETRONET	214.30	218.00	210.70	211.00	-7.55
MRF	6840.00	6887.55	6719.90	6790.00	-98.90
PIDILITIND	1182.00	1186.10	1155.20	1165.00	-20.10
GICRE	290.00	293.20	284.05	285.50	-5.80
BEL	84.75	85.40	82.75	83.00	-1.80
SRTRANSFIN	1186.20	1193.55	1147.90	1152.00	-25.95
SUNTV	611.55	611.55	587.05	590.75	-2.50
IDEA	37.50	37.65	35.10	35.25	-2.60
OIL	190.00	195.80	185.35	186.75	-15.15

## Bse 500

Script Traded	Last Price	Abs Change	% Change
3MINDIA	21650.00	4.29	4.29
8KMILES	181.80	8.65	5.00
AARTINDI	1436.20	-19.65	-1.35
ABB	1395.05	12.55	0.91
ABBOTINDIA	7440.00	81.05	1.10
ABCAPITAL	105.00	0.35	0.33
ABFRL	180.95	-4.55	-2.45
ACC	1483.75	21.05	1.44
ADANIPOWER	365.90	-3.45	-0.93
ADANITRANS	55.40	-0.05	-0.09
ADENSYZMES	22.90	-2.05	-9.00
AEGISLOG	183.80	2.00	1.10
AEGISLOG	209.80	-13.75	-6.15
AIAENG	1697.40	80.90	5.00
AJANTPHARM	1175.00	53.00	4.72
AKZOINDIA	1577.40	-6.80	-0.43

# Ukraine restricts entry for Russian men age 16 to 60

**Kiev:** Ukraine on Friday limited entry for Russian men age 16 to 60 after Moscow seized three of its ships in a sea confrontation last weekend, the head of the country's border service said.

The move comes after Kiev imposed martial law in border regions this week over the seizure.

"As of today, entry is restricted for foreigners — in

the first instance for male citizens of the Russian Federation age 16 to 60," the head of the border service Petro Tsyhykal said at a meeting with President Petro Poroshenko that was broadcast live.

Poroshenko said travel for Russian men will be limited, expect in "humanitarian cases." Ukraine imposed martial law for 30 days in 10 regions that border Russia, the Black Sea

and the Azov Sea on Wednesday.

The move came after Poroshenko warned of a build-up of Russian forces near Ukraine's borders, escalating the most dangerous crisis in years between the ex-Soviet neighbours.

Russia has held 24 Ukrainian sailors since it seized the ships.

US President Donald Trump scrapped a planned meeting at the G20 summit with his Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin over Moscow's detention of the sailors. **AFP**

# US, Mexico, Canada sign new USMCA trade deal

**Buenos Aires:** The leaders of the United States, Mexico and Canada on Friday signed a new trade deal replacing the old NAFTA in a triumph for President Donald Trump who insisted on what he said were better conditions for US workers.

"This is a model agreement that changes the trade landscape forever," Trump said at the signing ceremony in Buenos Aires, on the sidelines of a summit between the leaders of the G20 countries.

Trump said negotiating the deal known as the USMCA had seen the leaders take "a lot of barbs and a little abuse."

But he insisted that the "incredible milestone" would aid US workers, especially in the auto industry, while putting in place "intellectual property protection that will be the envy of nations all around the world."

Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau was less effusive about the renegotiated regional trade deal, but said the USMCA would resolve the threat of "serious economic uncertainty" that

"would have gotten more damaging." While praising the "historic" nature of the deal, Trudeau also told Trump that the progress gave "all the more reason why we need to keep working to remove the tariffs on steel and aluminum between our countries."

Mexican President Pena Nieto, on his last day in office, called the revamped version of NAFTA important in shoring up "the view of an integrated North America with the firm belief that together we are stronger and more competitive."

For Trump — whose G20 diplomacy is overshadowed by legal troubles back home and his abrupt cancellation of a bilateral meeting with Russian President Vladimir Putin — the signing was a victory.

He said he did not foresee a problem in getting congressional approval. "It's been so well reviewed I don't expect to have very much of a problem," he said.

The USMCA "marks a critical step in modernising and rebalancing North American trade," US Treasury Secretary said in a statement. **AFP**

# Israel in first Syria strikes since air defence upgrade

**Beirut:** Israeli bombs have hit several positions south of Damascus, its first such strikes since Syrian air defences were upgraded following the accidental downing of a Russian plane in September.

Damascus claimed its air defence systems shot down all "hostile targets" late Thursday. Israel did not confirm carrying out raids but denied any losses. According to the Syria Observatory for Human Rights, the strikes hit two positions in the south of Damascus province, including an area believed to be an Iranian weapons depot near the capital.

"Israeli forces bombarded for an hour," Observatory chief Rami Abdel Rahman said.

Two missiles hit Kisweh, where he said there are "weapons depots belonging to the Lebanese Hezbollah (militant group) as well as Iranian forces."

Another missile hit the area of Harfa, where there is a Syrian military base, the Britain-based monitor said.

In Kisweh, "the depots that were targeted are used to temporarily store rockets until they are taken somewhere else," Abdel Rahman said.

"It appears the Israelis had intelligence that weapons had arrived there recently," he said.

The state news agency said the attack was foiled and did not admit to any losses.

"Our air defences fired on hostile targets over the Kisweh area and downed them," SANA said, citing a military source.

A military source quoted by the pro-government Al-Watan daily said "the aggression, despite its intensity, was not able to implement any of its goals and all enemy bodies were downed." Initial reports by the Observatory suggested there were no casualties.

The Israeli military denied any of its assets were hit but stopped short of denying it had conducted strikes at all.

"Reports regarding an IDF (Israeli military) aircraft or an airborne IDF target having been hit are false," it said in an English-language statement.

It said a Syrian surface-to-air missile was fired in the direction of an open area of the Israeli-occupied Golan Heights but it was unclear if it had hit Israeli-held territory.

Israel has carried out hundreds of air strikes in neighbouring Syria against what it says are Iranian targets, many of them in the area south of Damascus. **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:-

- NIT No.:- EE/CD-VIII/2018-19/69**  
N.O.W.:- Improvement of road from Daryapur crossing to village Bajitpur H.O.A.:- D.V.D.B. Works in N.C.T. of Delhi.  
Estimated Cost:- **Rs 1,69,34,532** Earnest Money:- **Rs 3,38,691**  
Period of completion:- 180 Days; Last date and time of submission of tender: upto 3:00 P.M. on 04.12.2018 (ID. No. 2018\_IFC\_162221\_1)
- NIT No.:- EE/CD-VI 11/2018-19/70**  
N.O.W.:- Improvement of Phirni road and side drain from Kanjhawala Qutubgarh road to NDPL Office at village Jaunti in Distt. N.W. H.O.A.:- D.V.D.B. Works in N.C.T. of Delhi.  
Estimated Cost:- **Rs 1,54,59,729** Earnest Money:- **Rs 3,09,195**  
Period of completion:- 120 Days; Last date and time of submission of tender: upto 3:00 P.M. on 04.12.2018 (ID. No. 2018\_IFC\_162222\_1)
- NIT No.:- EE/CD-VIII/2018-19/71**  
N.O.W.:- Construction of Internal road at village Nizampur in Distt. N.W. H.O.A.:- D.V.D.B. Works in N.C.T. of Delhi.  
Estimated Cost:- **Rs 2,18,80,498** Earnest Money:- **Rs 4,37,610**  
Period of completion:- 180 Days; Last date and time of submission of tender: upto 3:00 P.M. on 04.12.2018 (ID. No. 2018\_IFC\_162223\_1)
- NIT No.:- EE/CD-VIII/2018-19/72**  
N.O.W.:- Improvement of phirni road from D.C. Office to Delhi Jal Board Office at village Kanjhawala in Distt. N.W. H.O.A.:- D.V.D.B. Works in N.C.T. of Delhi.  
Estimated Cost:- **Rs 1,21,25,898** Earnest Money:- **Rs 2,42,518**  
Period of completion:- 120 Days; Last date and time of submission of tender: upto 3:00 P.M. on 04.12.2018 (ID. No. 2018\_IFC\_162227\_1)
- NIT No.:- EE/CD-VIII/2018-19/73**  
N.O.W.:- Improvement of road from Barat Ghar(MPCC) to Bamroli at village Jaunti.  
H.O.A.:- D.V.D.B. Works in N.C.T. of Delhi.  
Estimated Cost:- **Rs 1,66,36,374** Earnest Money:- **Rs 3,32,727**  
Period of completion:- 120 Days; Last date and time of submission of tender: upto 3:00 P.M. on 04.12.2018 (ID. No. 2018\_IFC\_162230\_1)
- NIT No.:- EE/CD-VIII/2018-19/74**  
N.O.W.:- Improvement of Sajra road from Delhi-Bawana road (Balraj Farm House) to Sultan Pur Minor in extended lal dora at village Pooth Khurd in Distt. North. H.O.A.:- D.V.D.B. Works in N.C.T. of Delhi.  
Estimated Cost:- **Rs 3,94,97,595** Earnest Money:- **Rs 7,89,952**  
Period of completion:- 120 Days; Last date and time of submission of tender: upto 3:00 P.M. on 04.12.2018 (ID. No. 2018\_IFC\_162232\_1)
- NIT No.:- EE/CD-VIII/2018-19/75**  
N.O.W.:- Construction of road and Side drain in 19 Nos. Galis of Village Pooth Khurd in Bawana A.C.  
H.O.A.:- D.V.D.B. Works in N.C.T. of Delhi.  
Estimated Cost:- **Rs 4,74,60,147** Earnest Money:- **Rs 9,49,203**  
Period of completion:- 90 Days; Last date and time of submission of tender: upto 3:00 P.M. on 04.12.2018 (ID. No. 2018\_IFC\_162235\_1)
- NIT No.:- EE/CD-VIII/2018-19/76**  
N.O.W.:- Construction of Puuca channel for filling the pond bearing Kh. No. 22/34 with water from Haryana Irrigation Channel at village Mungeshpur in K. Block. H.O.A.:- D.V.D.B. Works in N.C.T. of Delhi.  
Estimated Cost:- **Rs 57,83,107** Earnest Money:- **Rs 1,15,662**  
Period of completion:- 180 Days; Last date and time of submission of tender: upto 3:00 P.M. on 04.12.2018 (ID. No. 2018\_IFC\_162239\_1)
- NIT No.:- EE/CD-VIII/2018-19/77**  
N.O.W.:- Development of Kabristan at village Kanjhawala in Distt. N.W. H.O.A.:- D.V.D.B. Works in N.C.T. of Delhi.  
Estimated Cost:- **Rs 19,81,034** Earnest Money:- **Rs 39,621**  
Period of completion:- 60 Days; Last date and time of submission of tender: upto 3:00 P.M. on 04.12.2018 (ID. No. 2018\_IFC\_162241\_1)
- NIT No.:- EE/CD-VIII/2018-19/79**  
N.O.W.:- Construction of road from Plot No. 576 to 584 in extended lal dora at village Pooth Khurd in Distt. North. H.O.A.:- D.V.D.B. Works in N.C.T. of Delhi.  
Estimated Cost:- **Rs 51,68,379** Earnest Money:- **Rs 1,03,368**  
Period of completion:- 60 Days; Last date and time of submission of tender: upto 3:00 P.M. on 04.12.2018 (ID. No. 2018\_IFC\_162269\_1)
- NIT No.:- EE/CD-VI 11/2018-19/80**  
N.O.W.:- Improvement of existing pond and providing and fixing wire mesh around wet area of pond at Kh. No. 77/22/3, 23/2 and 24/1 at village Ladpur in Kanjhawala Block.  
H. O.A.:- D.V.D.B. Works in N.C.T. of Delhi.  
Estimated Cost:- **Rs 19,22,441** Earnest Money:- **Rs 38,449**  
Period of completion:- 90 Days; Last date and time of submission of tender: upto 3:00 P.M. on 04.12.2018 (ID. No. 2018\_IFC\_162273\_1)
- NIT No.:- EE/CD-VIII/2018-19/81**  
N.O.W.:- Raising and providing cement concrete interlocking tiles in cremation ground at village Mubarakpur in Kirari A.C..  
H.O.A.:- MLA LAD Works in NCT of Delhi.  
Estimated Cost:- **Rs 59,48,207** Earnest Money:- **Rs 1,18,964**  
Period of completion:- 180 Days; Last date and time of submission of tender: upto 3:00 P.M. on 04.12.2018 (ID. No. 2018\_IFC\_162279\_1)
- NIT No.:- EE/CD-VIII/2018-19/82**  
N.O.W.:- Improvement of link road from prem Piau Boodhanpur Majra road to Chandpur Khurd up to phirni road Distt N/W H. O.A.:- D.V.D.B. Works in N.C.T. of Delhi.  
Estimated Cost:- **Rs 61,26,912** Earnest Money:- **Rs 1,22,538**  
Period of completion:- 90 Days; Last date and time of submission of tender: upto 3:00 P.M. on 04.12.2018 (ID. No. 2018\_IFC\_162282\_1)

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-110085 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://govprocurement.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: CD-VIII**

DIP/Shabdarth/2296/18-19

# Trump calls off Putin meeting over Ukraine crisis

**Washington:** US President Donald Trump on Thursday scrapped a planned meeting at the G-20 summit with his Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin over Moscow's detention of a group of Ukrainian sailors.

"Based on the fact that the ships and sailors have not been returned to Ukraine from Russia, I have decided it would be best for all parties concerned to cancel my previously scheduled meeting in Argentina with President Vladimir Putin," he wrote on Twitter.

"I look forward to a meaningful Summit again as soon as this situation is resolved!," Trump added, shortly after taking off for the weekend summit in Buenos Aires. **AFP**

Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau was less effusive about the renegotiated regional trade deal, but said the USMCA would resolve the threat of "serious economic uncertainty" that

# Uninvited guests keep watch for China inside Uighur homes

**AP ■ ISTANBUL**

The two women in the photograph were smiling, but Halmurat Idris knew something was terribly wrong.

One was his 39-year-old sister; standing at her side was an elderly woman Idris did not know. Their grins were tight-lipped, mirthless. Her sister had posted the picture on a social media account along with a caption punctuated by a smiley-face.

"Look, I have a Han Chinese mother now!" his sister wrote. Idris knew instantly: The old woman was a spy, sent by the Chinese government to infiltrate his family.

# Iran cannot 'wait forever' for EU path to skirt US sanctions

**Tehran:** Iran said Friday the European Union must be given more time to set up a trade mechanism meant to circumvent reimposed US sanctions on Tehran, but warned it could not "wait forever".

Brussels is working on a payment system to continue trade and business ties with Iran after the US ditched a landmark 2015 nuclear deal with Tehran earlier this year and reintroduced a raft of sanctions on the country.

"Europe's efforts for implementing a financial mechanism are continuing despite mounting US pressure," Iran's deputy foreign minister Abbas Araghchi told the official IRNA news agency. "We believe that Europe must be given more time... They

have so far been unable to introduce operational measures, but we are not supposed to wait forever," he added.

The US sanctions aim to cut off Iran's banks from international finance and significantly reduce its oil exports.

The EU hopes its "special purpose vehicle" (SPV) announced in September will keep the nuclear deal alive and persuade Tehran to stay on board by giving companies a way of trading with Iran without fear of US sanctions.

But Brussels is struggling to find a host for the SPV and many EU countries are fearful of repercussions from US President Donald Trump's administration. **AFP**

# Sri Lankan Parliament votes to cut finances to ministries

**Colombo:** A majority of Sri Lankan legislators on Friday voted in favour of a parliamentary motion to halt finances to former President Mahinda Rajapaksa's Cabinet and junior ministers, a day after Parliament passed a motion to cut finances to the Prime Minister's office.

Amidst a severe political turmoil ongoing in the island country, the motion to cut finances to the ministries was submitted to Parliament by MP Patali Champika Ranawaka from the Jathika Hela Urumaya, a party loyal to ousted Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe, Xinhua news agency reported.

The motion was passed with 122 MPs in the 225 member Parliament voting in favour whilst MPs from Rajapaksa's government boycotted parliamentary sessions for the fourth consecutive time.

Rajapaksa, who was appointed the Prime Minister in the new Cabinet by President Maithripala Sirisena on October 26, earlier said that he and his party opposed Speaker Karu Jayasuriya's behaviour and they would boycott sessions till such time they were recognized as the ruling party. **IANS**

# Merkel set for late G20 arrival after 'serious' plane malfunction

**Berlin:** Germany's air force on Friday was investigating a serious technical mishap on Chancellor Angela Merkel's plane that forced an emergency landing and delayed her arrival at the G20 summit by more than 12 hours.

The latest embarrassing glitch for the German military forced Merkel to instead take a commercial flight to Buenos Aires with a vastly reduced delegation and miss scheduled talks with several world leaders.

It was not yet clear whether Merkel could hold her planned talks at a later stage with US President Donald Trump, Russia's Vladimir Putin and Xi Jinping of China.

Shortly after takeoff from Berlin on Thursday, Merkel's Airbus A340-300 was forced to turn back over Dutch airspace, and make an emergency landing in Cologne.

The plane had suffered a complete breakdown of the on-board communication system, a problem described as extremely rare, which forced the pilot to communicate via a satellite phone instead. "It was a serious malfunction," Merkel told reporters travelling with her aboard the "Konrad Adenauer", a former Lufthansa airlines jet named after post-war Germany's first chancellor. **AFP**

NORTHERN RAILWAY					
Corrigendum-1					
<b>No. 7 PUB/LED DISPLAY/VIDEO WALL/2011</b>					
Ref: Open Tender for Commercial Advertisement Rights through LED Screens (Video Walls) of 5x4 meters at New Delhi, Delhi, Hazrat Nizamuddin and Anand Vihar Terminal Railway Stations over Delhi Division, Northern Railway for a period of five years.					
In connection to above Notice Inviting Tender invited vide NIT dated 20.11.2018, published in various newspapers on 21.11.2018 which is scheduled to be opened on 14.12.2018, it is to inform that Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) for this contract has been revised as following:					
SN	Name of work	Estimated Value/ Assessed Earning Potential (For first year) (Rs.)	Estimated Value/ Assessed Earning Potential (For Five Years) (Rs.)	Revised Earnest Money Deposit (Rs.)	Cost of Bid Document (Inclusive of GST @ 18%) (Rs.)
1	Commercial Advertisement through LED Screens (Size 5 Mtrs. x 4 Mtrs.) at Delhi Railway station over Delhi Division for a period of five (5) years.	55,10,340/-	2,92,59,905/-	5,85,200/-	11,800/-
2	Commercial Advertisement through LED Screens (Size 5 Mtrs. x 4 Mtrs.) at New Delhi Railway station over Delhi Division for a period of five (5) years.	73,47,120/-	3,90,13,207/-	7,80,270/-	11,800/-
3	Commercial Advertisement through LED Screens (Size 5 Mtrs. x 4 Mtrs.) at Hazrat Nizamuddin Railway station over Delhi Division for a period of five (5) years.	29,38,848/-	1,56,05,283/-	3,12,110/-	5,900/-
4	Commercial Advertisement through LED Screens (Size 5 Mtrs. x 4 Mtrs.) at Anand Vihar Terminal Railway station over Delhi Division for a period of five (5) years.	29,38,848/-	1,56,05,283/-	3,12,110/-	5,900/-
Rest terms and conditions of the tender remain same. The information regarding corrigendum-1 in this tender is available on the official website of Northern Railway i.e. <a href="http://www.nr.indianrailways.gov.in">www.nr.indianrailways.gov.in</a> 3065/18					
<b>SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE</b>					

NORTHERN RAILWAY						
Corrigendum-1						
<b>Ref: Open Tender for Commercial Advertisement Rights through LED Screens at Railway Stations over Delhi Division, Northern Railway for a period of five years.</b>						
In connection to above Notice Inviting Tender invited vide NIT dated 20.11.2018, published in various newspapers on 21.11.2018 which is scheduled to be opened on 12.12.2018, it is to inform that Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) for this contract has been revised as following:						
SN	Name of work (please participate in every group separately)	Total no. of LED Screens	Estimated Value/ Assessed Earning Potential (For First Year) (Rs.)	Estimated Value/ Assessed Earning Potential (For Five Years) (Rs.)	Revised Earnest Money Deposit (Rs.)	Cost Of Bid Document (Inclusive of GST @ 18%) (Rs.)
1	Commercial Advertisement Rights through LED Screens at Delhi (DLI) Railway station over Delhi Division.	106	36,94,206/-	1,96,16,243/-	3,92,330/-	5,900/-
2	Commercial Advertisement Rights through LED Screens at Kurukshetra (KDE), Karnal (KUN), Panipat (PNP), Sonapat (SNP) Railway stations over Delhi Division.	82	14,28,932/-	75,87,629/-	1,51,760/-	5,900/-
3	Commercial Advertisement Rights through LED Screens at Delhi Sarai Rohilla (DEE), Delhi Cantt (DEC), Gurgaon (GGN), Delhi Shahdara (DSA) Railway stations over Delhi Division.	109	18,99,434/-	1,00,85,995/-	2,01,720/-	5,900/-
4	Commercial Advertisement Rights through LED Screens at Merrut City (MTC), Merrut Cantt (MUT), Muzaffarnagar (MOZ), Ghaziabad (GZB) & Sahibabad (SBB) Railway stations over Delhi Division.	78	13,59,228/-	72,17,501/-	1,44,360/-	5,900/-
Rest terms and conditions of the tender remain same. The information regarding corrigendum-1 in this tender is available on the official website of Northern Railway i.e. <a href="http://www.nr.indianrailways.gov.in">www.nr.indianrailways.gov.in</a> , No. 7 PUB/LED/TN/NZM/2011 3066/18						
<b>SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE</b>						

## SEARCH FOR MISSING GIRL

General public is hereby informed that one girl namely: Rahat, D/o Arsh Khan, R/o RZ S-161, Nihar Vihar, Delhi, Age: 16 Years, Height: 5'4", Face: Round, Complexion: Wheatish, Identification: A tattoo mark "UMAKANT" on her left hand, has been missing/kidnapped since 25.10.2018 from the area of P.S. Nihal Vihar, Delhi.

In this regard a FIR No. 710/18 u/s 363 IPC, dated 06.11.2018 has been registered at P.S. Nihal Vihar, Delhi.

Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out information about this girl but no clue has come to light so far.

Any person having any information or clue about this girl kindly inform to the following.

**SHO**  
**P.S. Nihal Vihar, Delhi**  
**Ph. 011-25946700, 25946710**  
**DP/1622/OD/18**

## SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED

General Public is hereby informed that one girl namely **Anjali D/o Raghuraj R/o H. No. 148/149, Khasra No. 21/10-21/9, Ranhola Ext., Part-II, Mundka, Road, Village Ranhola, Delhi Age: 06 years, Height: 3'6", Complexion: Wheatish, Face: Round, Wearing: White T-Shirt-Black Underwear** has been missing/ kidnapped since **25.08.2017** from the area of P.S. Ranhola, Delhi. In this regard a case vide **FIR No. 572/17 U/s 363 IPC dated 26.08.2017** has been registered at P.S. Ranhola, Delhi. Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the girl but no clue has come to light so far. If any one having any information about this girl please inform undersigned.

**SHO**  
**P.S. Ranhola, Delhi**  
**Ph. 011-24368638, 24368641**  
**DP/1621/OD/18**

**ZUMA'S GRAFT CASE POSTPONED TILL MAY '19**  
**Johannesburg:** A South African court on Friday postponed the corruption case against former President Jacob Zuma till May 2019 after defence lawyers petitioned the court to drop all charges.

**WOMEN AGAINST GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE IN EGYPT**  
**Cairo:** The UN Population Fund in Egypt in collaboration with the National Council for Women and the Ministry of Youth and Sports organised on Friday the first all-women's race in support of ending violence against females.

**MARRIOTT DATA BREACH HITS 500 MILLION GUESTS**  
**New York:** Marriott International said on Friday that its guest reservation system has been hacked, potentially exposing the personal information of approximately 500 million guests.

**WHALES DIE AFTER MASS STRANDING OFF NZ**  
**Wellington:** Fifty-one whales have died after becoming stranded on a beach on the Chatham Island off New Zealand.

**23 KILLED IN US AIR STRIKE IN AF: UN**  
**Kabul:** At least 23 civilians, including women and children, were killed by a US air strike in southern Afghanistan earlier this week, according to an UN investigation, as ordinary Afghans continue to bear the brunt of the 17-year conflict.

**MOON ROCKS SELL FOR \$855,000 IN US AUCTION**  
**New York:** The only documented moon rocks still in private hands sold at an auction house here for \$850,000. Thursday's sale - including all sorts of objects and items pertaining to outer space - took place a month before the 50th anniversary of the Apollo 8 mission to send men around the Moon for the first time.

# UN: 1.5 mn kids in Central Africa need emergency aid

**Geneva:** Two-thirds of all children in Central African Republic need emergency aid, the UN said on Friday, sounding an alarm about the impoverished country's worsening "neglected" crisis.

Some 1.5 million children nationwide are in need of humanitarian assistance, an increase of 300,000 compared with 2016, the United Nations children's agency UNICEF said in a new report.

The agency's top representative in the country, Christine Muhigana, told reporters in Geneva that the situation in CAR is "probably even worse" than during the country's sectarian conflict of 2013.

That year, longtime leader Francois Bozize, a Christian, was overthrown by a predominantly Muslim rebel alliance called the Seleka.

Much of the country, roughly the size of France, is now controlled by rival militia groups. "What we are trying to do under these extraordinary circumstances is to keep children alive," Muhigana said. **AFP**



**ANUSHKA SHARMA**  
When I took up my role in *Zero*, it was an opportunity to know and get into the mind of a character with a certain physical condition that I do not know anything about...that's what excites me, an opportunity that allows me to reinvent the actor in me, whenever I come on-screen.



**SANYA MALHOTRA**  
I had a really good experience working with Ritesh Batra and Nawaz sir. It was a huge thing for me to work with Nawaz sir because he is my favorite actor. Initially, I was a bit nervous working with him. But then I watched all his interviews to know how he prepares for his roles so that I could chill out working alongside.



**ISABELLE KAIF**  
Sooraj (Pancholi) is a really good dancer. We had a great time shooting for our film *Time to Dance*. Everyone working in the film was very passionate about it. As this is my debut in the Bollywood, My sister (Katrina Kaif) advised me to keep my head down and work hard to sustain in the industry.



**KEVIN BRIDGES**  
I have been ill for a few days but I didn't want to cancel the gigs as I felt the adrenaline of performing. People shouting nonsense throughout the gig is something I'm well used to after 15 years in stand-up, but tonight I hit a wall physically and maybe mentally and I'm sorry to everyone who I let down.

**AMY SCHUMER**  
The last few days have been tough. I'm grateful as hell and know it's temporary but tough just the same. Please if you don't mind post pics of your kids and tag me #amyschumer. My friends sending me pics of their kids is making me feel so much better



SHORT CIRCUITS

ENCOUNTER 30 MINUTES

# 'ACTORS, STUNTMEN NEED TO HELP EACH OTHER'

VLADIMIR FURDIK, the Night King from *The Game of Thrones*, talks about his love for India, horses and an early start in the movie business. By ASMITA SARKAR

Vladimir Furdik's character, the Night King, in *The Game of Thrones* has come to be one of the pivotal ones. When the show began, the Night King was almost a myth but of epic proportions. While humans struggled for thrones and waged bloody wars, the king of the winter rode long and hard to overtake the human civilisation with his army of zombies.

And while fans are waiting with bated breathe for April 2019, which is when the final and eighth season of the epic fantasy show comes to an end, either in tragedy or in heroic victories, Furdik is making a detour to India and will soon head to the country for the Delhi Comic Con.

No stranger to India having visited two decades ago for filming the movie *Alisea and the Dream Prince*, he said, "I was in India for almost two months and met a lot of nice people. I also had the opportunity to see the beautiful countryside and to taste traditional Indian food. I am looking forward to a similar experience now. I've never met such friendly people as I have in India. After Comic Con I only have two days, then I have to go back. But I promise to come back soon for at least four months."

To look his part in the film based on George RR Martin's novel, the entire transformation process takes almost six laborious hours. "My make-up consists of eight parts which stick to my face. It is not that hard to wear and it also protects you from the cold and wind," he said. That is certainly a blessing as they shoot in extreme conditions.

However, Furdik was not the first choice for the role and was asked to step in later. But as it developed, the char-



“THE LAST TIME, I SAW THE BEAUTIFUL COUNTRYSIDE AND TASTED TRADITIONAL INDIAN FOOD. I AM LOOKING FORWARD TO A SIMILAR EXPERIENCE NOW. I’VE NEVER MET SUCH FRIENDLY PEOPLE AS I HAVE HERE”

acter has come to be known as one of the most brutal villains in a fiction series.

"I was offered to play the role as I had prepared and created a lot of stunts for the production in the past. I think working on any project is the same but the people you work with are different. Some are better prepared and some are worse. On GOT people were super ready and everyone knew what to do," he said.

How then was the transition from being a stunt supervisor and performer to playing one of the central characters in GOT?

"I have been working on movies since I was 15-years-old. First, I helped with horses because horse riding was my hobby at that time I loved doing that. I trained horses, cleaned their stables, groomed and cared for them during the shooting. That was my first contact with the movie business. The next 15 years I watched and learned. Of course I still do that. Every new film project gives me a new experience. I never forget that it's because others, especially teachers helped me that I am successful. Stuntmen and actors are close and need to help each other," he said.

The Comic Con will have multiple experience centres such as an Amazon zone, and cosplay remains one of the biggest attractions. This year there will be professional cosplayers and regular folks will also be encouraged to dress up as their favourite fictional characters. It might not be a surprise if the reel Night King chances upon someone playing it in real life.

(Delhi Comic Con will be between December 7 to 9.)

CHAT 30 MINUTES

# 'Non-film music allows singers to explore'



Bollywood has given ANKIT TIWARI his identity and success but he seeks novelty

After creating a niche in the Bollywood music industry, *Aashiqui 2* fame singer Ankit Tiwari is now on a roll with his non-film songs and says that the latter have given him a new identity.

"Non-film music allows singers to explore themselves... It not only gives them a freedom to create songs in their own way but also gives them a facial identity which is taken away from them by the stars," Ankit said.

The 32-year-old, who launched his new single titled *Naina* earlier this month, spoke

about the challenges he faced while making independent songs.

"Creating non-film songs, in a country where everyone is fond of Bollywood, is quite challenging. Reaching the mass audience through singles is a little bit difficult but such a scenario is also changing in our country as now people have started following independent artists," he said.

Despite the challenges and difficulties in creating non-film music, Ankit will continue making music independently as it gives him creativity to play with the songs.

Also, while talking about the film industry, Ankit expressed anger over the prevailing 'royalty'

issue in the industry.

"Indian singers have been fighting for the royalty of the songs for long time. Obviously it hurts when you don't get due credits for your own songs. In independent music, there is no such issue...It's your own loss and your own profit."

Asked if he is not interested in working in Bollywood projects anymore, the *Galliyen* hitmaker said: "No, it is not that I am pulling away myself from Bollywood. Whoever I am today is because of this industry only. It is just that I wanted to do something new and that's why I started creating my singles."

—JANS

DIALOGUE 40 MINUTES

This is not your first swing at Harry Potter. You actually auditioned to be the young Voldemort. How hard was it to not get that and how exciting was it to then get this?

Eddie Redmayne: Yeah, thanks for bringing up the painful elephant in the room (laughs). Honestly, I was at university at the time that they were starting to make those films. And they were doing a full-on search of the world for the young Voldemort, Tom Riddle. So, this was an audition that came to the university. I walked in the room, I think I said three lines and was asked to leave. So, it wasn't like I had much of a chance. But, no, now I look back, and Jude's the same, actually. Jude (Law) and I were commiserating with each other the other day about how basically every British actor in the world ever was in Harry Potter at some point, and we never got the invite. But now we feel like we lucked out by playing the long game (laughs).

# 'Rowling is extraordinarily talented'

Actors EDDIE REDMAYNE and KATHERINE WATERSTON talk about the difficulties of shooting with imagined 'fantastic beasts'

that a compliment. He's sort of this incredibly talented school boy/hero, formidable at sport, and a wonderful human being. And there was a moment when James came to the set where I just sort of looked around the corner and found Callum and him having this sort of quite deep and meaningful conversation. I felt like saying something like, "Whoa whoa whoa, wait a second, step away from the vehicle." But the amazing thing about Callum and me, weirdly, is we grew up about a hundred meters from each other. It's sort of surreal that we come from the same part of London.

Did he kiss you on the forehead in his audition?

Eddie Redmayne: It got him the part! Except, what almost didn't get him the part was the fact that he did this brilliant thing called *War and Peace*, a book you may have heard of.

Katherine Waterston: It's really well written. (laughs)



Eddie Redmayne: BBC did an adaptation of it recently, which Callum was in. I was watching it with my wife Hannah, and when he came on screen, Hannah went, "Oh my God, that guy looks like you, but he's just taller and darker and maybe more handsome" (laughs)

Eddie Redmayne: So when Callum was auditioning for this, David Yates said, "I've got this lovely actor who's coming in to audition with you." And Callum literally walked through the door, and I was

like, "Of course. It's him." (laughs)

With such a big visual effects component in this film, what would you say was the craziest or most challenging scene for both of you to shoot?

Katherine Waterston: Actually, most of it was practical, and when we're dealing with the creatures, they're usually being performed by one to three amazing puppeteers. So, we're not just staring at a spot on the wall and trying to imagine that it's a really cool creature. We're just looking at three dudes acting like a really cool creature. But that really helps. When Eddie was chasing the baby Nifflers, I imagined they weren't really there. So that probably was really hard.

Eddie Redmayne: That scene was so much fun. But, basically, they were using hacky sacks. I went down like a whole YouTube rabbit hole of extraordinarily talented people who like play hacky sack games of keep-

ing it up in the air and catching it on weird parts of their bodies, and it becomes like this weird dance. And I had that idea that catching the baby Nifflers should be like that, which is one of those lovely kind of whimsical ideas you have, but the reality of it is kind of... (laughs). So, I spent about four days just seeing if I could catch one of these little green hacky sacks in my pocket, but I ended up having to mime it. It was quite funny to watch if you were there because there was nothing in the air, and I just looked like I was doing some bonkers dance.

The Harry Potter universe is iconic; everybody loves it. Do you feel like as actors you still have creative freedom with these characters, even though they're already part of this established universe?

Eddie Redmayne: The amazing thing about JK Rowling is that she's one of these people who are so extraordinarily talented and sort of content in their

own skin and their own imagination and brilliance; she writes these scripts with such detail, and they're formidable. But then she hands it over to you and says, "Go play with it." So, like those tracking scenes we did, all of those things you just get to invent.

Out of all of the fantastic beasts in these films, which beast would you say is most like you in real life?

Eddie Redmayne: That's a much more interesting question than what we normally answer, which is our favorite. I think I'm probably most like Pickett, a bit needy.

Katherine Waterston: But very reliable.

Eddie Redmayne: What are you? Katherine Waterston: I mean, I wish I was like the Thunderbird.

Eddie Redmayne: Yeah, noble, elegant. Interesting. Who's the Chinese dragon, do you think? The Zouwu?

Katherine Waterston: Dan (Fogler)?

Eddie Redmayne: Dan, yeah, because Dan can be incredibly strong and powerful, and then he can suddenly turn into a complete softy. Yeah, that probably is Dan. That's a good point.

(Fantastic Beasts: The Crimes of Grindelwald released earlier this month.)

CONVERSATION 20 MINUTES



# Unbreakable spirit

As mallakhamb practitioner RAJESH MUDKI becomes the only Indian to be associated with Cirque Du Soleil, he tells CHAHAK MITTAL how his hard work helped him traverse struggles

India has always been a hub of sports and has harboured a well-entrenched tradition of indigenous games — *gilli-danda*, *kho-kho*, *teen-patti*, *kanche*, *kabaddi*, *mallakhamb*, *pahalwani* or even *shatranj*. A believer and practitioner of this is Rajesh Mudki, a mallakhamb artist from Santa Cruz, who was introduced to the traditional Indian sport at a tender age of six. This is a sport in which a gymnast performs yoga aerially by keeping a grip on a vertical stationary or hanging wooden pole, cane, or hanging rope. The artist is now all set to deliver a power-packed performance with other international artists in the Canadian company Cirque Du Soleil's current production *Bazaar*, debuting in India.

If you ask Rajesh about what it takes to be a mallakhamb artist and prepare for it, he will tell you that all it takes is a sportsman spirit that an artist should never leave as well as a lot of "concentration that would only help one to analyse and plan out things for the future." He adds, "It's after many years of practice, many bone-breaking experiences and body aches that you reach a certain level of expertise."

The artist has also showcased his talent at the reality show *India's Got Talent*, grabbing eyeballs and gaining applause. He believes that such shows provide a huge platform to aspiring artists. "It's not only a tool to showcase your talent and reach out to masses, but also a stage to boost your confidence. I never thought about sports seriously. But soon I realised that it is something that can help reach a large audience," says Rajesh.

Indeed, art connects you to a larger part of the society domestically and also globally. He feels that in 27 years of his practice, countless tournaments and championships, there was only one thing that was lacking — "taking mallakhamb outside the country." It was only after he relieved his highest award, Shiv Chhatrapati Award, that he decided to take the sport to global frontiers.

"My team and I started thinking about what and how we take it forward. We started a website to create awareness about the sport through it," he says.

However, success still didn't knock at his doors as there were no responses. He didn't hear from anybody for a year and then they finally started getting some queries. "We then started teaching them through online classes and people began inviting us to their countries and cultural programs."

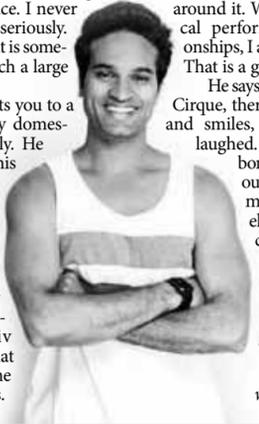
Since the act doesn't involve any traditional musical elements, Rajesh strung his performance to a few beats to give it an entertaining touch when he performed it at the reality TV show.

Talking about how he joined Cirque's *Bazaar*, he tells us that the company first contacted Rajesh during December 2017. "I had applied there but never received a response until last year. They told me that they wanted me to join their team of acrobats and gymnasts. That is how all the talks and experiences began," says he, adding, "It was surreal. I have always followed Cirque. I saw it as a great opportunity to bring alive my dream of making the sport international."

He believes that with time, the prominence and popularity of the act has surely "increased." When he began, not many people knew about it or attempted to learn it. Now that it is being performed and viewed by so many people, "there has been a lot of dialogue around it. We started with theatrical performances and championships, I am sure people noticed. That is a great development."

He says that while practising for Cirque, there have been both tears and smiles, "We have cried and laughed. We have had broken bones, but hardly did we let our spirits break down. No matter how difficult the elements were, we kept calm and smiled to entertain the audience." The artist has an indomitable spirit that says that the show must go on!

(Cirque Du Soleil's performances in Delhi will begin in December.)



IMMERSIVE 60 MINUTES

# YARNS WITH A TWIST

Naayab exhibition brings together the young and the old, the contemporary and the edgy for their latest edition at The Lodhi. By ASMITA SARKAR

Well, seems textile engineering is the buzzword for reimagined fashion. Studios like Akaaro, which define themselves as organic chic, have looms and create their textile, which can take months. In one of the pieces, a crop top, the placement of the design was woven as a single piece and there were no repeats in it all.

There is much that is happening in India towards celebrating the traditional textile craft of the country but like they say the more the merrier. And when there are innovations like merged fabrics, new silhouettes or engineered fabrics, all under one roof, options for the buyer are galore. The diversity in the textile can also be seen from the different regions they come from — Kashmir to Tamil Nadu, West Bengal to Baroda. From Kanjeevarams to Balucharis, the Naayab exhibition curated by Rupa Sood, a former designer, and Sharan Apparao, both members of the Yarn Club, which was facilitated by The Lodhi to encourage textile lovers.

At the current exhibition, among the many fabrics stood a lone En Inde that had stainless steel and jute accessories inspired from tribal designs since the designer spent a large part

of her youth in Africa. Started by Anupama Sukh Lalvani and Sonal Sood, the brand is cutting edge, quite literally since many of the necklaces are inspired from African tools. The sharp edges of the cold metal surface entwined with jute and horse hair is an amalgamation of the old and the new, the rustic and the industrial.

While brands like Akaaro by Gaurav Jai Gupta and Urvashi Kaur stood apart for being contemporary in their silhouettes, there were fundamental differences in their colour palette. Gupta's collections were divided into sections for the winter, festive, engineered textiles and sarees. Straight and A-line cuts ruled the collection mostly but the use of metals was also heavy. The studio has its own loom and a single piece could take up to four months of time to go from start to finish.

Kaur brought her winter and festive collections, but the contemporary winter pieces were what caught our eye for their European colours, subtle and sometimes dark, with minimalism being the overarching tone. She wanted to create pieces that can be worn daily or while travelling since the Indian woman has begun to choose travel as essential to well-being. With multiple jackets and drapes, she believes in layering the



A-line or straight silhouette pieces with sarees or dresses. "You can dress them up or dress them down, they are versatile," Kaur, a Delhi-based designer, said.

Meanwhile, designer Karan Torani, who dressed in a kurta and pashmina and stayed barefoot indoors, was passionate about his creations, which according to him are meant for women of all sizes, shapes, colours and ages. Heavily inspired by his grandmother, who would call *kalamkaari* artists to her home in Bhopal to do up her walls, and his mother, who made him realise that fashion has erroneously become focussed on the youth alone. So, he creates oversized Persian influenced jackets for all seasons, which he calls the Choga jacket, which according to him are much like the Kimono but have more definition.

"I love the sarees and I have many in my collection but those in my mother's generation shouldn't be restricted to sarees alone. Also, my

creations are not for an occasion alone. It's a lifestyle. If somebody enjoys a Chanderi or Banarasi, they should be able to wear it all through the day," he said.

The exhibition also has pashmina shawls, ornate and subtle Banarasis and cotton sarees.

Sood and Apparao believe that those working with Indian textile crafts have been chosen for the exhibition but they chose designers young and old, doing conventional and contemporary for it to create diversity in choice.

"India is the only country with such a vast textile heritage. The focus of Naayab is Indian textile quality crafts, people who are working with artisans," said Apparao.

On being asked what they wore to the occasion, Sood said that since they like to encourage the artists whose works they curate they wore their outfits. She was dressed in an Bodhi outfit while Apparao was in a Perro outfit.

EVENT 10 MINUTES

Without ambition one starts nothing. Without work one finishes nothing. The prize will not be sent to you. You have to win it." So said Ralph Waldo Emerson, whose motivational words continue to inspire Jagwinder Singh, a national award-winning paracyclist. And he continues to ride his difficulty levels to inspire those less fortunate. "We have to be motivated and work hard to achieve our goals. Nothing will just be handed over to us. The only thing we get from life is what we put into it. I have now learnt this through experience. I realise that we must have the courage to do anything in life, be it cycling or may be reciting a poem."

He is primed in time to run for humanity as Delhi is all set to host the third edition of the Super Sikh Run, a marathon organised for all participants beyond the feeble barriers of caste, creed, religion, sex, race and the challenges thrown by life. The run will start from the heritage site of Gurudwara Rakabganj Sahib in Lutyen's Delhi, and will have a special category for differently-abled athletes. This year, the theme of the marathon is Run-De-Dilli. "It's a great honour for me to be a part of this run. As the motive is to inspire everyone to be a superhero by believing in themselves, I am sure it will ignite a new flame among the millions of differently-abled people to live like a real

## Super Sikhs

National award-winning paracyclist JAGWINDER SINGH talks about how his parents were the originating point of his strength of character. By AYUSHI SHARMA



hero," added he. Super Sikh Run is centered around the philosophy of, One Race Human Race.

Recalling his past, Jagwinder said though he had to face difficulties in life, it wasn't as if his life had turned upside down, as are in the cases of people who lose their body parts due to unfortunate incidents. "I do not have both my hands since birth. So I did not have to deal with any traumatic situation physically, as I did not even know how it feels to be a person with hands. However, it was a cause of concern and problems for my parents."

Thanking his parents for all the pains that they have taken in bringing him up, the armless cyclist said that his parents had always been an inspiration of his life. "The problem for people like me arises when parents do not accept the situation. My parents were different. Though our neighbours kept on discouraging them as to how would they raise me, they hardly paid heed to their words. After I started understanding the society, I also had to face these problems. However, my parents were of the view that their child should see the world, know the world whether they had to feed me for rest of my life," said Jagwinder, adding that his father works in a boutique and does petty jobs to feed his family.

"My mother taught me to write and draw with legs. She is not that well edu-

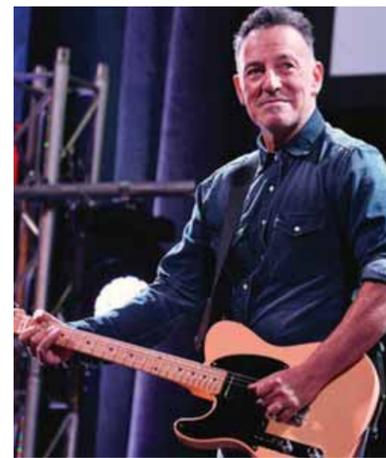
cated but I consider her as a very educated woman. I want to tell all the parents not to underestimate their children with disabilities as every child has his or her own unique qualities. My mother also saw my desire to draw. She taught me to draw and I have even won a gold medal in drawing," added he.

Major Devender Pal Singh, a Kargil war veteran, also known as India's first blade runner and Super Sikh Run Ambassador said, "We are proud of the fact that the run is today the most prestigious cause led Half Marathon race in New Delhi. This has been achieved due to the support and guidance that the event receives from the administration, patrons and participants alike. Furthermore we are taking a step forward, and this edition would also witness an addition special category, that is, *Sahas*, for differently-abled athletes."

Some other prominent people at the conference included Pritam Rani Siwach, former captain of the Indian women's hockey team and Sohinder Singh Gill, CEO, Hero Electric India. Super Sikh Run consists of 5 km Chardi Kala run, 10 km One Race and the most popular Half Marathon race for those who like to go the long way. All categories are chip-timed and every runner receives a finisher's medal and electronic certificate.

(The Super Sikh Run will be held on December 9.)

WELLNESS 10 MINUTES



## 'I am not well'

Singer-songwriter BRUCE SPRINGSTEEN opens up about his mental health struggles

Rock star Bruce Springsteen says he knows he is not completely well.

In an interview he discussed two emotional breakdowns he suffered — one when he was 32 and another when he was in his 60s. "I have come close enough to (mental illness) where I know I am not completely well myself," said Springsteen.

"I've had to deal with a lot of it over the years, and I'm on a variety of medications that keep me on an even keel; otherwise I can swing rather dramatically and... just... the wheels can come off a little bit. So we have to watch, in our family. I have to watch my kids, and I've been lucky there. It ran in my family going way before my dad."

Springsteen also spoke about his late father, Doug Springsteen, who wrestled with his own demons and was diagnosed with schizophrenia later in his life.

"All I do know is as we age, the weight of our unsorted baggage becomes heavier... much heavier. With each passing year, the price of our refusal to do that sorting rises higher and higher. Long ago, the defences I built to withstand the stress of my childhood, to save what I had of myself, outlived their usefulness, and I've become an abuser of their once lifesaving powers," said he.

"I relied on them inaccurately, to isolate myself, seal my alienation, cut me off from life, control others, and contain my emotions to a damaging degree. Now the bill collector is knocking, and his payment will be in tears."

Springsteen said that although he has never been hospitalised, he thinks maybe he should have been. The second breakdown, which he also discussed in his 2016 memoir, *Born to Run*, was especially crippling.

"All I remember was feeling really bad and calling for help," he said.

"I might have gotten close to that and for brief, brief periods of time. It lasted for — I don't know. Looking back on it now, I can't say. Was it a couple weeks? Was it a month? Was it longer? But it was a very bad spell, and it just came.

"And it came out of the roots that I came out of, particularly on my father's side, where I had to cope to the fact that I also had things inside me that could lead me to pretty bad places," added he.

INTROSPECTION 15 MINUTES

## 'CAN'T WATCH ANY OF MY FILMS'

Filmmaker SHEKHAR KAPUR says that he can only find scope of improvement in his past works

Veteran filmmaker Shekhar Kapur says that he cannot watch any film he has directed because then he can only see what he could have done better. "I have not seen *Masoom* since I made it. I can't watch any of my films because I only see what I could have done better. I still cannot watch as an outsider. So cannot fathom why it has such a following all these years after its first release," Shekhar wrote on social media.

The filmmaker is known for directing films like *Masoom*, *Mr. India*, *Bandit Queen*, *Elizabeth* and *Elizabeth: The Golden Age*.

Shekhar is known for his works in Bollywood and international cinema. He gained international recognition with the 1994 Bollywood film *Bandit Queen*, based on Mala Sen's biography of infamous Indian bandit and politician Phoolan Devi, which won the National Film Award for Best Feature Film in Hindi. The film was also premiered in



the Directors Fortnight section of the 1994 Cannes Film Festival and was screened at the Edinburgh Film Festival.

—IANS

FLASHBACK 10 MINUTES

## Old tale with a new spin

A new animated series is inspired by Indian culture and customs for the young ones

*Mira, Royal Detective*, an animated mystery-adventure series inspired by the culture and customs of India, is slated to debut on Disney Junior channel and programming blocks around the world in 2020. The production has already begun.

Set in the magical Indian-inspired land of Jalpur, the series follows the brave and resourceful Mira, a commoner who is appointed to the role of royal detective after solving a mystery that involves saving the kingdom's young prince.

The role of Mira will be voiced by 15-year-old newcomer Leela Ladnier.

"We are eager to introduce kids and their families to the rich, diverse cultures and customs of India through Mira, a young girl who looks at things with her own unique lens to gain different perspectives and help others in her community.

"We hope that she will encourage our audience to actively engage with the



inspiring world around them and appreciate the little details that make life extraordinary," Joe D'Ambrosia, Senior Vice President, Original Programming, Disney Junior, said.

As a royal detective, Mira travels throughout the kingdom helping royals and commoners alike. Along with her friend Prince Neel, a talented inventor, creative cousin Priya, and comical mongoose sidekicks Mikku and Chikku, she will stop at nothing to solve a case, taking young viewers on adventures that highlight critical thinking and encourage deductive reasoning.

Rooted in India's vibrant heritage, each episode will

weave authentic music, dance and customs into two 11 minutes stories.

In addition to Ladnier, the *Mira, Royal Detective* voice cast includes Freida Pinto as Queen Shanti; Hannah Simone as a young commoner named Pinky; Jameela Jamil as Mira's Auntie Pushpa; Kal Penn and Utkarsh Ambudkar as Mikku and Chikku respectively, Aasif Mandvi as Mira's

FOR THE FIRST TIME, A YOUNG INDIAN COMMON GIRL WILL PLAY A ROYAL DETECTIVE IN THIS WHODUNIT SHOW

father, Sahil; Sarita Choudhury as Prince Neel's Great-Aunt Rupa; Aparna Nancherla as Mira's cousin Meena; Kamran Lucas as Prince Neel; Karan Brar as Prince Veer; Karan Soni as twins Ranjeet and Manjeet; Sarayu Blue as the palace tailor; Parvesh Cheena and Sonal Shah as bandits, Manish and Poonam, respectively; and newcomer Roshni Edwards as Mira's cousin Priya.

—IANS

TODAY'S FIXTURES	
NL vs MY	5:00pm
GER vs PAK	7:00pm
Live on	
STAR SPORTS SELECT 1	

# STICKATHON

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15

## Australia struggle past Ireland 2-1

Title holder Aus start with a hard-fought win; China draw with England 2-2 in debut

PTI ■ BHUBANESWAR

Australia's quest for a record hat-trick of titles started with a hard-fought 2-1 win over Ireland in the opening Pool B match of the men's hockey World Cup here on Friday.

Having won the back-to-back World Cups in 2010 and 2014, world no.1 Australia came into the ongoing tournament as a firm favourite but they were far from impressive and were made to toil hard by Ireland in their opener.

World no. 10 Ireland gave Australia a run for their money with impressive display in both attack and defence. The Kookaburras were dismal with penalty corners, converting just one out of five.

Blake Govers (11th minute) and Tim Brand scored for the winners, while Ireland's lone goal came from the sticks of Shane O'Donoghue.

Ten places might separate the two teams, but the Irish fought valiantly and matched the title holders stick-for-stick in the first two quarters.

In fact, it was Ireland who had the first shot at the goal and Australia goalie Andrew Charter had to come up with a double save to deny Sean Murray and then Matthew Nelson from the rebound in the fourth minute.

Australia grew in confidence as time passed by and earned a penalty stroke in the 11th minute but the umpire's decision was changed to penalty corner after Ireland asked for video referral.

From the resultant penalty corner, Australia secured another and this time Govers' flick found the back of the Irish net.

But Australia's lead lasted just two minutes as Ireland drew level when O'Donoghue scored after he was set up by Murray, who dribbled past two defenders to pass the ball on to the goal scorer.

The second quarter too produced exciting hockey as both the teams went on the offensive and it



Australian players celebrate after winning the match. (down) China's player struggles for the ball in the match

was Australia who came close to scoring, but Ireland captain David Harte made a fine save in front of the post to deny Dylan Wotherspoon.

Five minutes into the quarter, Ireland secured their first penalty corner and Charter came to Australia's rescue and kept out O'Donoghue's attempt.

Towards the end of the second quarter, Australia secured back-to-back penalty corners but wasted both as the two teams went into the halfway break locked at 1-1.

Australia restored their lead four minutes after the breather through Brand. Corey Weyer's workmanship in the midfield finally helped Australia when his in-ch-perfect through ball found Brand unmarked inside the box and the striker scored from his second attempt.



### CHINA HOLD ENGLAND 2-2

Eighteen brave men from Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region produced a gritty performance to help debutants China register a fighting 2-2 draw against higher-ranked England in a Pool B match of the men's hockey World Cup here

Friday. Charlesworth, who has also played cricket at the first-class level for Western Australia besides serving as the High Performance Manager of New Zealand Cricket in the past, said Indian hockey will find it difficult to sustain the rise with-  
out HIL.

These 18 brave hearts fought hard and stunningly held World No 7 England with a last-minute goal to eke out a point from the encounter.

China's men's hockey team's best result in the sport till date is a Silver medal finish at the 2006 Doha Asian Games but they sprung a surprise in its maiden World Cup match.

England started the match as overwhelming favourites, but the Chinese stunned their opponents early in the game when Xiaoping Gao (5th minute) scored a brilliant field goal from a tight angle after dribbling past three defenders.

China's persistence finally bore fruit and the brave men broke England's heart just a minute from the final hooter.



Pakistan players practice during a training session ahead of their match

## Pak hope for positive start against Germany

PTI ■ BHUBANESWAR

Four-time champions Pakistan would look to shrug off years of disappointment and a chaotic build up when they take on higher-ranked Germany in their opening match of the men's hockey World Cup here on Saturday.

The most successful team in the history of the World Cup with four titles, the last of which came in the early 90s, Pakistan hockey has witnessed a steady decline in the last two-and-a-half decades.

Once a formidable force in world hockey, Pakistan have now slumped to 13th position in world rankings, mainly due to lack of exposure and mismanagement and years of apathy by the national federation (PHF).

Such is the condition of Pakistan hockey that their participation in the ongoing World Cup was in serious doubts due to lack of funds and it took a last minute intervention from Haier Pakistan to ensure the team's appearance in the tournament.

The home appliance company came in as a last-minute sponsor and released nine million Pakistani rupees to cover the team's expenses in the tournament.

Pakistan's build up has been far from rosy as Tauqeer Dar, a member of 1984 World Cup winning side, took over the reins of the team only earlier this month after Roelant Oltmans quit from the position just four months into the job before the Asian Champions

Trophy in Oman.

Despite boasting of a rich World Cup history, few people are counting Pakistan in the tournament as their last world title came way back in 1994.

But in the last eight years, Pakistan hockey has slumped to the lowest ebb, having returned with the wooden spoon (12th) from New Delhi in 2010 and then failed to qualify for the last edition at The Hague, Netherlands in 2014.

Pakistan have been going through a bleak period in recent times. They stuttered in qualifying, but somehow managed to finish seventh in the Hockey World League Semifinals in London to secure their place in the World Cup.

The composition of the pool also doesn't favour Pakistan as they are placed in a tough Pool alongside three-time champions Netherlands and two-time winners Germany.

The other side, Malaysia have made steady progress over the years and is placed above Pakistan at 12th in the rankings.

Pakistan coach Dar said their aim would be to win one match and ensure a spot in the cross-overs.

"Germany is a tough team and we haven't played them for a long time. But the Germans too haven't played any big tournament in last 2 years. We had a few hiccups before the tournament but we never lost focus," he said.

"Despite the uncertainty we kept on preparing to the best of our abilities. We just need to win one match to survive in the pool," Dar added.

## India need to revive HIL to continue growth: Charlesworth

PTI ■ BHUBANESWAR

For Indian hockey to capitalise on the gains made in the past decade, the national federation must revive the "revolutionary" Hockey India League, feels legendary Australian coach Ric Charlesworth.

Charlesworth, who has worked with Indian hockey as the men's and women's teams' Technical Advisor for four months in 2008, is a widely respected coach around the world.

"I think India have been making steady progress. A decade ago

they were 10th in the world, now realistically 5th. My view always is that it would take a decade to climb into the medal positions," the 66-year-old said.

"But I am not sure the domestic competition is deep enough in India. India need to get the Hockey India League (HIL) going. That's been the principle reason for the change," he said.

"India is playing in this tournament without Sardar (Singh), Rupinder (Pal Singh), SV Sunil and they still have a good team. India now has more depth," added Charlesworth on the sidelines of the



Ric Charlesworth in a file picture

ongoing men's hockey World Cup here.

The cash-rich HIL's future looked uncertain when Hockey India postponed the 2018 edition because of financial issues. Some of the franchises threatened to withdraw claiming financial losses in the five seasons it played out.

Charlesworth, who has also played cricket at the first-class level for Western Australia besides serving as the High Performance Manager of New Zealand Cricket in the past, said Indian hockey will find it difficult to sustain the rise with-  
out HIL.

"The Hockey India League made a big difference. It played an important role in the re-development of hockey in India," he said.

"The foreign coaches helped. The HIL saw foreign coaches and foreign players mixing with Indian players and that was important. It created a deeper pool of players but also gave the Indian players confidence that they could play against the best of the world," added Charlesworth, who guided title-holders Australia to back-to-back World Cups in 2010 and 2014.

Stating that the hosts have the firepower to recreate history for the

first time since 1975, the former politician said the World Cup title will go to one of the top six teams.

"The winner will come from six teams and I have said that before. I think Germany, Holland, Argentina, Belgium and India are favourites. One of them will be the winner," Charlesworth said.

Asked about eight-time champion India's podium chances in the 2020 Tokyo Olympics, he said, "I think it is possible. Realistically, India could win something here. But in the end, you have to be good enough to get into the semifinals from where anything can happen."



Sardar Singh speaks during a press conference

## It has been a dream start for India at World Cup: Sardar

PTI ■ GREATER NOIDA

Former skipper Sardar Singh is impressed with India's "dream" start to their campaign at the hockey World Cup and Friday hoped the hosts will continue the superb run to reclaim the coveted title after 43 years.

India registered a comprehensive 5-0 win against South Africa to make a sizzling start to the World Cup — a tournament the hosts won only once — in the 1975 edition at Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

"It has been a dream start for India at the hockey world cup. We played simple hockey and it is always important to win the first match," Sardar said on the sidelines of HCL Foundation Annual National Sports Meet - 'Sports for Change'.

"However, the tournament has just begun and a lot of matches are yet to be played. I hope India continues the momentum," added the 32-year-old, who had retired from international hockey last September.

Over 500 students across 120 schools and 72 Gurukuls were part of the 'Sports for Change' initiative and more than 350 under privileged children were short-listed for the national qualifier round across different sports.

Sardar, who was the chief guest in the event, interacted with the participants and encouraged them for active participation in sports.

"It gives me immense pleasure to see these children excel in sports with passion and enthusiasm. I congratulate HCL for recognizing its importance. Inculcating the spirit of sportsmanship in these young children will lead to better and brighter future for these budding sporting talents," he said.

## Arsenal and Chelsea power on in Europa League

AFP ■ LONDON

Londoners Chelsea and Arsenal both enjoyed high-scoring Europa League wins on Thursday as Glasgow giants Celtic and Rangers were left with work to do on the final matchday to qualify for the next stage.

Unai Emery selected a youthful Arsenal to play in the Ukraine and they romped past Vorskla Poltava 3-0, guaranteeing top spot in Group E in a match switched to freezing Kiev after security concerns in the east of the country.

Teenagers Emile Smith Rowe and Joe Willock scored either side of an Aaron Ramsey penalty as the Gunners went in 3-0 at half-time.

Vorskla Poltava's coach had complained that the switch forced by UEFA had deprived the city of a "holiday", and had also distracted his players.

Arsenal will now avoid any of the Champions League drop outs in the draw for the next round as they have a better head-to-head record with second-placed Sporting Lisbon.

Maurizio Sarri had demanded a reaction from his Chelsea side after they lost at Tottenham in the Premier League and the Blues answered his call, beating PAOK Salonika 4-0 to win their group with a brace from French target man Olivier Giroud.



Joe Willock, right, celebrates with his teammates after scoring his side's 3rd goal. (right) Olivier Giroud gestures to the crowd after scoring a goal



"The main target was to win, we needed a strong team reaction and we did it well tonight," said the World Cup winner Giroud.

"I am really happy with the team spirit and we can move forwards now and start some new momentum."

"I've scored goals in the past but it's true that I was waiting for more chances," said Giroud, who broke a long streak without a goal in the last round.

"You need a bit of luck in front of goal. I had a good assist from my team-mates. I love this kind of ball behind the defence. Four goals plus a clean sheet, a good

night for us. When the manager starts me I try to give my best, do my part."

Meanwhile, Celtic still need a final day draw to go through after beating pointless Rosenborg away for the second year in a row thanks to Scott Sinclair's emphatic header just before the break.

The Scots can thank Austrian outfit RB Salzburg, who won Group B outright with a victory over their German sister club RB Leipzig 1-0. The Germans now have to win in Glasgow to qualify ahead of Celtic.

Rangers drew 0-0 at home with Spain's Villarreal, keeping their hopes of last day qualification from Group G alive a point behind the Spaniards and Rapid Vienna.

## Dabang start for Delhi

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Meraj Sheikh led Dabang Delhi start its home leg in Delhi win a big win over Anup Kumar's Jaipur Pink Panthers by 48-35 here at Tyagaraj Sports Complex in New Delhi.

Iranian raider Meraj was the star performer for the capital franchise and he was ably supported by his other teammates who not only helped their star player with continuous collection of valuable points but also the defenders who made it way more than difficult for the opposition players to get points.

Apart Deepak Hooda none of the other player was able to leave any positive in the field and their defensive unit played vulnerable because of which now it become very difficult for the inaugural edition winners to make it into the playoffs. The local side in the very first raid of the match tackled opposition skipper Anup Kumar and in the immediate next raid Meraj got a tackle point to add to Delhi's lead. Boosted by this strong start, Delhi started gaining momentum in the following one's and kept the scorecard moving.

However, Pink Panthers was also fighting hard for every point and when it was looking like it could be an even contest just then the momentum shifted to Delhi's favour and Meraj Sheikh made a super raid to all-out Jaipur and clinch 5 points for Delhi to put them in Drivers seat. And after that all of the sudden momentum shifted to Delhi's end and immediately within next eight raids they all out Pink Panthers once again to completely dominate the game.

After the setback of two all-out within first 15 minutes of the game, Pink Panthers start-



ed playing bit cautiously but even that approach didn't work in front of enthusiastic Dabangs and by the end of half time they were on the brink of another all-out. At the end of first regulation time, the scorecard was reading 29-10 and there was no doubt in anyone's mind that it's going to be next to impossible thing for Anup's men to turn over the result.

However, in the later half they improved on their game and especially Deepak Hooda lead the raiding unit to keep the scorecard moving. But the poor form of Panther's defence keep all his efforts go in vain.

After the third all out within two minutes of start in second half, Jaipur compiled all its energy to not leak any easy points and this worked for them even. They managed to sweep all the players to the dugout and enforce their first all-out. Sensing opposition's fight-back, Delhi revived their team strategy and tried to slow the pace of the game by avoiding unnecessary risks. This strategy clicked and they managed to finish easily.

# 'IT'S NOW OR NEVER FOR INDIA'

Dean Jones feels that India will be able to seal the upcoming Test series against Australia with a big win

PTI ■ SYDNEY

Former Australian batsman Dean Jones doesn't foresee the current team beating India in the upcoming Test series and feels the hosts will be better off without "provoking" opposition skipper Virat Kohli.

Australia are a depleted unit in the absence of Steve Smith and David Warner, providing India their "best" chance of winning a maiden Test series Down Under.

"If India doesn't win this series, they will never win in Australia. India is miles better than Australia in all formats but do they have the belief, and will their fast bowlers last the distance?" Jones was quoted as saying by the Sydney Morning Herald.

Despite India having a poor overseas record, Jones has backed the visitors to win the four-Test series starting December 6 at Adelaide.

"With India's history, maybe this series will not be a fait accompli. I do feel the result will go India's way to the tune of a 2-0 or 3-0 result, as I just can't see Australia winning a Test anywhere.

"Normally when Australia play at home they are very hard to beat. But now there is no Steve Smith and David Warner, who consistently make 40 per cent of Australia's runs. For Australia to win, who is going to fill those shoes?" asked Jones, who played 52 Tests and 164 ODIs.

Jones also said not engaging Kohli in a verbal battle will serve them well.

"Do not talk or provoke him. Make him your best mate."

On how to contain Kohli the batsman, Jones added: "Trying to find a weakness in Kohli's game is like trying to find something wrong with the Mona Lisa. Teams must stop his cover drive and bowl in different areas.

"At the start of Kohli's innings, quicks need to bowl at a fourth-stump line and make him play on the back foot. Do not give him width and length outside off-stump.

"Bowlers must try to set him up with short stuff first and then the odd wide ball on the drive to find the edge. Slips and gully stay on high alert."

## 'I AM PICKING AUSTRALIA OVER INDIA'

He can't really figure it out yet but Ian Chappell believes India would be "missing" something in the Test series against Australia and will end up on the losing side despite things look-



Virat Kohli plays a shot during the tour match against Cricket Australia XI, (right) Indian players celebrate after taking a wicket



ing good for them on paper. The Test rivalry, which has risen in stature and intensity over the years, will be renewed with the latest assignment starting December 6 in Adelaide.

"I am going to pick Australia, but don't ask me why I am picking them. I think the only reasonable reason I can give is that I was disappointed the way India played in England and I thought they should have won that series," Chappell told ESPNcricinfo.

"Certainly, on talent, they should beat this Australian side, but there might just be something missing. The other thing is the Australian attack.

"It is a very good one. It is proven under Australian conditions and the Indian attack is not proven under Australian conditions. So it is pretty flimsy evidence but I am going to pick Australia," he added.

Chappell nonetheless expects Indian skipper Virat Kohli to score heavily in the series.

"...I'm particularly looking forward to the competition between Australia's pace bowlers and Virat Kohli. That should be a great contest. Last time he was here, Kohli played really well," he said.

Another positive for India, according to Chappell, is their pace bowlers, who did quite well in England.

"They got the ball to move around. I'm not sure they will get the same kind of assistance in Australian conditions, so I'm interested to see how they bowl, and I think those two things could tell a big story in the series," he said.

Asked about India coach Ravi Shastri's recent assertions of this being the best travelling Indian team in the last 15 years, Chappell said there are reasons to agree with it to an extent.

"I think it is one of the better teams to come from India, and certainly, as far as the fast bowlers are concerned, they are better suited to Australian conditions than any other pace-bowling attack I have seen come from India.

Chappell said India will be handicapped significantly by the absence of all-rounder Hardik Pandya. Pandya is out nursing a back injury.

"...Because he was the balance to the team. If you had Pandya there under Australian conditions, he could perform as your third seamer and you could play two spinners in places like Adelaide and Sydney, where I think it is very handy to have five bowlers," he said.

**"If India doesn't win this series, they will never win in Australia. India is miles better than Australia in all formats but do they have the belief?"**

## Bowl in tandem and knock them over: Ashwin

PTI ■ SYDNEY

Partnerships will hold the key not just in batting but bowling as well during India's Test clashes with Australia as the hosts cannot really be blown away in a single burst, visiting off-spinner R Ashwin said on Friday.

"You have to stitch together partnerships even when bowling and it's very important to ascertain your role to get what you can out of the game," Ashwin said.

"It's very important to soak together good partnerships as a bowling group then try and knock them over. You won't blow oppositions away, it might happen once in a while - but you have to get your noses ahead and keep it ahead," he said.

Ashwin said he expects the wickets to be flat, which would require his teammates to play "smart cricket through the series."

He also added that bowling in partnerships will be of paramount importance especially since India will be missing a fifth bowler in injured Hardik Pandya.

However he refused to call India the favourites going into this series.

"...Even when Australia came to India they were talking us up, and it looks like more of a strategy for us. I personally think you have to go one day at a time. It's never easy to come over to Australia and win series.

"In the Ashes they almost whitewashed England, knocked them over, and so as far as I'm concerned they are starting favourites," he signed off.



## CA XI FRUSTRATE INDIAN BOWLERS

PTI ■ SYDNEY



Umesh Yadav, left, fields off his own bowling during the match

A largely frustrating outing for most of the Indian bowlers was made worse for the team by batting sensation Prithvi Shaw's injury setback on the third day of the tour game against Cricket Australia XI.

Cricket Australia XI were 356/6 in 102 overs at stumps in response to India's 358 all out at the Sydney Cricket Ground on Friday.

Opener D'Arcy Short topped scored for the hosts with 74 runs off 91 balls, inclusive of 11 fours.

Max Bryant (62), Harry Nielsen (56 not out) and Aaron Hardie (69 not out) were the others to score half-centuries in response to India's first innings' 358 runs.

India didn't start the day two well as the new ball pairing of Umesh Yadav (1-81) and Mohammed Shami (3-67) was taken for runs.

Ashwin though was India's best bowler on the day, at least in terms of control, finishing with figures of 1-63 in 24 overs. Cricket Australia XI lost

four wickets for 21 runs in the second session to reach the tea break at 246-6. Ashwin ran out Param Upplal for 5 runs, while Yadav had Whiteman caught behind for 35.

Ishant Sharma (0-57) and Ravindra Jadeja (0-37) also bowled a couple of spells during the day, but didn't pose any major threats to the batsmen in the 27 overs they sent down.

India tried a few other bowling options with Hanuma Vihari (0-33) and skipper Virat Kohli (0-6) also turning his arm over.

## Indian Eves hope for controversy-free future

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The feud between senior India woman cricketer Mithali Raj and Ramesh Powar is heading towards an end without any intervention from the administrators with the coach's three-month interim tenure ending on Friday.

With the conclusion of Powar's term, fresh applications will be invited by the BCCI for the job and in all likelihood, the former India spinner will not be considered even if he applies.

"His contract is coming to an end today and there is little chance that he will be brought back," a top BCCI official said.

The Indian women's team has had its fair share of controversies and the latest one was triggered after Mithali was dropped from the playing XI for the World T20 semifinal which the side lost to England by eight wickets.

After Powar's departure, it remains to be seen how T20 captain Kaur and ODI captain Mithali bury their differences. India's next assignment is the tour of NZ in January and under a new coach, the team would hope to steer clear of more controversy.

"It will be interesting to see how Harman and Mithali get along after whatever happened in the West Indies. It is imperative that they get along well for the team's sake," an official said.

## Setback for India: Shaw out of first Test with ankle injury

PTI ■ SYDNEY

Indian opener Prithvi Shaw was on Friday ruled out of the first Test against Australia after suffering an ankle injury during the ongoing tour game against Cricket Australia XI.

His injury is a massive setback for the visitors as the 19-year-old was expected to open in the first Test beginning December 6 at Adelaide.

With Shaw unavailable, K L Rahul and Murali Vijay will be India's open-

ers in the first Test. The BCCI did not name any replacement for the Mumbai teenager.

"Opening batsman Prithvi Shaw suffered a left ankle injury while attempting a catch at the boundary ropes in the tour game against CA XI at The Sydney Cricket Ground," said the BCCI in a statement.

"Shaw underwent scans this morning and the reports revealed a lateral ligament injury. Shaw will be unavailable for the first Test against



Prithvi Shaw is carried by support staff

Australia. He will undergo an intensive rehabilitation program to hasten the recovery and be available for selection at the earliest," it added.

Shaw picked up the injury in the 15th over of Cricket Australia XI's innings, when Max Bryant latched on to Ravichandran Ashwin's delivery and hit him for a six at midwicket.

Shaw was visibly in pain and didn't get up immediately. He was carried off the field by two members of the Indian support staff.

## RANJI TROPHY

### Punjab maul Delhi by 10 wickets

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Punjab pummeled Delhi by 10 wickets for their maiden win of the season here on Friday while handing the hosts their first loss at home in five years.

With Punjab controlling the game from day one, it was only a matter of time before they scored an outright win, fetching seven points.

Delhi, who were gasping at 106 for six in their second innings and trailing Punjab by 69 runs at stumps on day two, ended up with 179 courtesy Pulkit Narang (31) and Pulkit Sood (25).

Punjab needed just five runs for a big win and they knocked it off in 2.1 overs with Jivanjot Sharma and Abhishek Sharma in the middle.

With the emphatic win, Punjab have revived their Ranji campaign after having collected just two points from the previous two games.

On the other hand, Delhi's troubles have increased with their first loss of the season. They had conceded the first-



Vinay Choudhary celebrates with his teammates after taking a wicket

innings lead against Hyderabad and could not dismiss Himachal Pradesh in their opener for an outright win.

Delhi's batting let them down again though they did a tad better than the first innings, in which they were bundled out for 107.

### Bijoy spins Bengal comeback

PTI ■ CHENNAI

Off-spinner Wriddick Bijoy Chatterjee on Friday bowled Bengal back into contention in the Elite Group 'B' match against Tamil Nadu with a five-wicket haul at the M A Chidambaram stadium.

Trailing by 74 runs in the first innings, Chatterjee's efforts (5 for 22) helped Bengal dismiss Tamil Nadu for 141 in 62.5 overs, leaving the visitors a target of 216 to secure its first win of the season.

Chatterjee removed the first



Bengal players celebrate after taking a wicket

innings centurion Baba Aparajith (21) and N Jagadeesan (38) while fellow spinner Pradipta Pramanik dismissed captain B Indrajith (4).

Some late order resistance by J Kousik (10) and M Mohammed (23

not out) helped the home team stretch the lead.

Bengal began the chase cautiously with left-handed opener Abhishek Kumar Raman, who made 98 in the first knock and Kousik Ghosh (13) seeing off the early threat from T Natarajan and Mohammed.

Abhishek Raman and captain Manoj Tiwari (13 batting) added 35 runs before the former fell to Kousik for 53. Bengal requires 129 more runs on the final day Saturday to secure a much-needed win.

## Mumbai earn first innings lead

PTI ■ CHENNAI

Hosts Mumbai eked out a crucial 16-run first innings lead after they bundled out Gujarat for 281 in their Elite Group A Ranji Trophy game here Friday.

Hosts Mumbai eked out a crucial 16-run first innings lead after they bundled out Gujarat for 281 in their Elite Group A

Ranji Trophy game here Friday. Mumbai had posted 297 in their first innings at the Wankhede Stadium.

Gujarat resumed the penultimate day of the four-day match on 232/8 with wicket-keeper Dhruv Raval unbeaten on 60.

Raval added 39 runs to his tally, but missed out

on a deserving hundred after he fell on 99 and was the last man to be dismissed.

For Mumbai, Shivam Dubey (3-50), Dhawal Kulkarni (3- 71) and Royston Dias (3-74) shone with the ball.

However, Mumbai had a disastrous start in their second essay as Gujarat bowlers lead by medium pacer Chintan Gaja (4-50) wreaked havoc.

At one stage, Mumbai were reeling at 6-66 as Akhil Herwadkar (10), Jay Bista (0), Siddesh Lad (17), Surya Kumar Yadav (1), Arman Jaffer (5) and Dhawal Kulkarni (6) fell in quick succession. But then Aditya Tare (59) used his experience as he and Shivam Dubey rebuild the innings.

### BHULLAR MOVES UP TO TIED-8TH IN GOLD COAST

**GOLD COAST:** Indian golfer Gaganjeet Bhullar squandered a superb start to turn in a two-under 70 to lie tied 8th at the halfway stage of the Australian PGA Championship here. Bhullar fired three birdies on the front nine, but he gave away most of those gains on the journey home on the back nine. However, his card was good enough to see him rise two places. The Indian had two birdies on 12th and 15th on back nine, but bogeys on 10th, 14th and 18th pulled him back. Bhullar had his breakthrough win on the European Tour at Fiji International last year and is looking to consolidate his position early in the season with a start in Australia as it counts towards European season for 2019. Defending champion Cameron Smith carded a brilliant 65 on day two to take a one-shot lead into the weekend at RACV Royal Pines Resort.

### WOODS MAY RETURN TO INDIA IN 2020

**GOLD COAST:** "I will be back," said Tiger Woods, triggering speculations of the golf legend's return to India for a full-fledged tournament sometime in 2020 or 2021. The 14-time Major winner had been to India in 2014, but that trip lasted just 36 hours. Now that Woods has renewed his relationship with Hero MotoCorp, there is a lot of talk about his coming to India for an entire tournament. The visit will happen, depending on the schedule of the legend. Munjal, who seems to have struck up a good relationship with Woods, said, "I have been asked when is Tiger coming to India many times in India. All I can say is that he is coming back for sure." Agencies