

WORLD 7
ROUHANI: US SANCTIONS
ARE 'ECONOMIC TERRORISM'**MONEY 8**
GST FILING DEADLINE
EXTENDED TO MARCH 31**SPORT 10**
GAMBIIR SMASHES
TON IN LAST INNINGS

NEW DELHI, SUNDAY DECEMBER 9, 2018; PAGES 12+8 ₹4

sunday pioneer

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**USUAL SUSPECTS**

SWAPAN DASGUPTA

If success, it is Rahul's; failure is for lesser beings

There will always be sharp differences of opinion over the veracity of exit polls and, for that matter, exit polls. In view of the erratic track record of such polls there will always be those who are inclined to dismiss their projected outcome as erroneous. This temptation will be even more marked if the polls go against what politicians want the results to be, rather than what will be. TV channels don't make matters easier by often pretending that their exit poll constitutes the last word on the subject and equating it — at least for a few days — with the eventual outcome. The media, in fact, feeds on an impression that exit polls are a huge Tamasha.

As things stand over this weekend, the outcome of the exit polls don't seem to augur too well for the BJP. No doubt there are mixed outcomes forecast from Chhattisgarh, always a very difficult state to predict, and Madhya Pradesh. Many of the polls forecast either a hung Assembly or an outright Congress victory. They balance those exit polls that see the BJP returning to power in both Raipur and Bhopal.

In the case of Rajasthan, the exit polls seem unanimous that the see-saw pattern of politics will see the exit of Vasundhara Raje and her replacement by a Congress Chief Minister. In short, it would appear that the recurrent whisper of a late swing back to the BJP may well turn out to be illusory.

It is best to leave the state-wise post-mortem to the afternoon of December 11 when the actual results will be known. However, there is no mistaking the fact that the stalwarts of the ruling party and, indeed, the Narendra Modi government will be spending this weekend in a state of utmost anxiety.

It is still too early to enter into the realms of speculation but what seems certain is that in the event the outcome is unfavourable to the BJP — this, in effect, means that the party loses another state apart from Rajasthan, where a

If exit polls prove right, the Congress revival will be attributed to the inspirational leadership provided by Rahul. The contribution of local stalwarts be it Kamal Nath in Madhya Pradesh and Sachin Pilot will be discounted. If, on the other hand, these local leaders fail to push the Congress beyond the majority mark, they will be tarred with the brush of failure

majority mark, they will be tarred with the brush of failure. Success will always belong to Rahul Gandhi and failure to the lesser leaders.

There is no point trying to argue with the Congress ecosystem that such a version of events doesn't always correspond to reality. There are some conclusions that are carved in stone and the infallibility of the First Family is on top of the list.

That apart, however, a good performance by the Congress will introduce additional dimensions to Opposition politics.

First, and most important, it will persuade the Opposition that the BJP's election machine, formidable as it undeniably is, can be stopped. This will be an important input in terms of morale of workers and the future funding of elections are concerned. Secondly, if the Congress does well in the five State Assembly elections, it will clearly establish the party as the natural leader of any anti-Modi Grand Alliance. This naturally means that schemes such as the Federal Front of regional parties will have to reassess their general election strategies. Whether this will be a natural process or will be marked by horrible complications will be worth observing.

How will adversity affect the BJP? The answers are likely to be a little less unsettling. Modi believes, as does the rest of the party, that the next general election will be fought on the performance of the Government since 2014 and the leadership qualities of the Prime Minister. That approach will not change regardless of the results on Monday. What could witness some fine-tuning is the quantum of Hindu issues which are injected only to galvanise the committed voters. In short, there is likely to be less volatility in the BJP after the present round of Assembly elections. No one is likely to demand Amit Shah's head for failing and they won't elevate him further if he pulls it off again. At best, in the event she fails horribly, the position of Vasundhara Raje in state politics may warrant a review.

What could cause complications, however, is if alliance partners decide to review their positions. That will be a big imponderable.

However, all political reactions can't always be anticipated. There is a likely scenario resulting from a reading of exit polls and a real scenario post-results. Both don't necessarily follow the same script. Like cricket, politics is also riddled with glorious uncertainties.

Narcotics seizures show deep poll rot

Liquor, drugs' use during elections worrying factor

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

Besides the failure of demonetisation to check the rampant use of black money in the just-concluded Assembly elections in the five States, the alarming haul of drugs and narcotics has been the most worrying factor. From heroin to brown sugar to anti-depressants, the ₹17-crore haul indicated how deep the problem is. As for the cash recoveries by the Election Commission (EC), barring Chhattisgarh, the seizures — besides gold and silver — almost doubled since the last Assembly polls in the other four States this time.

Of the seizures of over ₹300 crore, ₹170 crore was cash, with Telangana leading the way accounting for ₹115 crore. The Assembly polls in Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Telangana, Chhattisgarh and Mizoram was thus one heady mix of cash, jewellery, liquor and drugs/narcotics.

Interestingly, Chhattisgarh is the only State where overall seizure of cash, jewellery, drugs and liquor is lower this year as compared to the last Assembly polls in 2013.

As per the EC's data, apart from the recovery of unaccounted ₹300 crore cash from the five States during the election campaign, jewellery, gold, silver and platinum accounted



for ₹25.39 crore.

Booze flowed freely in the States as the recoveries were whopping 17.29 lakh litres worth ₹53.51 crore. The value of other items, including vehicles and illegal arms, stood at ₹31.35 crore.

But then, besides liquor, the new and the most disturbing trend that was observed this Assembly election was the use of drugs and narcotics in the five States during polls. The haul included brown sugar, smack, opium, ganja, cocaine, denatonium benzoate,

methamphetamine, heroin, tablets of antidepressants Alprazolam and Tramadol. All this worth ₹16.85 crore.

In Telangana, the EC's seizure stood at ₹137 crore which included ₹115.16 crore in cash and 689 gram diamond, 147 gram platinum, 18 kg gold, 106 kg silver worth ₹6.70 crore. As much as 3,754 kg drugs (ganja, denatonium benzoate, cocaine, brown sugar, opium, afem doodh) were seized since the announcement of election schedule in the first week of October.

Former Chief Election Commissioner OP Rawat has pointed out that demonetisation didn't reduce the use of misuse of black money in elections. Apart from cash, over 10 lakh litres of liquor worth ₹15 crore was seized across Telangana over the last one month.

The amount of money seized this year is nearly ₹50 crore more than the amount seized during the 2014 Assembly elections held for the combined Andhra Pradesh.

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Bulandshahr SSP among 3 shifted, Jitu Fauji arrested

PNS/AGENCY ■ LUCKNOW/JAMMU

The Uttar Pradesh Government on Saturday transferred Bulandshahr Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Krishna Bahadur Singh to the DGP office in Lucknow, five days after two people, including police inspector, were killed in violence in Syana police station area in Bulandshahr over the alleged cow slaughter.

On Friday night, the UP Government had transferred the Circle Officer of Syana, Satya Prakash Sharma, and Chingravati police outpost in-charge Suresh Kumar.

Meanwhile, Armyman Jitendra Malik, known as Jitu Fauji, who is alleged to be behind the killing of inspector Subodh Kumar Singh, was arrested by the Army's 22 Rashtriya Rifles (RR) from north Kashmir's Sopore, where he is posted, on Saturday. Malik has been shifted to Srinagar.

"The accused soldier will be handed over to UP Police's

Special Task Force for further investigation," said police.

UP Principal Secretary (Home) Arvind Kumar on Saturday said that the Bulandshahr SSP will be replaced by Sitapur SP Prabhakar Chaudhary.

Additional Director General (ADG) Intelligence SB Shiradkar had on Friday submitted a report on the Bulandshahr violence. The transfers are understood to be in line with the findings of the report on police handling of the situation.

On December 3, Inspector Subodh Kumar Singh and a local youth, Sumit, were killed in violence over the alleged cow slaughter incident in Bulandshahr. The inspector and his team had gone to the village to tackle the violence when they came under attack.

The UP Police has arrested nine accused in the Bulandshahr case but the main conspirator, Yogesh Raj, the district convener of the Bajrang Dal, is on the run.

Bengal BJP files caveat in SC, HC for rath yatras

Kolkata: Stepping up efforts to make sure that the Bengal Government does not pose any more hurdles for its "rath yatras" on December 12, the West Bengal unit of the BJP filed caveat in the Supreme Court and the Calcutta High Court on Saturday.

The Bengal Government will now have to give notice to the BJP if they move an application to the apex court against the HC Bench order of Friday.

Coming down heavily on the State Government for failing to respond to letters of the BJP seeking permission for its "rath yatras", a Division Bench of the Calcutta HC had on Friday directed Bengal Chief Secretary, Home Secretary and Director General of Police to sort out the yatra imbroglio by December 12 and inform the appellant (the BJP) about their decisions. The decision should be reasonable and not arbitrary, the Judges said.

The court's direction was described as a "big win for democracy" by BJP president Amit Shah.

Agencies

Congress protests raid on Vadra aides, says scared Modi targeting Opp

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Congress on Saturday jumped into the defence of its leader Sonia Gandhi's son-in-law Robert Vadra whose associates were raided by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) saying that people in power, especially Prime Minister Narendra Modi, is scared "thinking that the exit polls are right" and worried about defeat in Assembly elections.

A battery of top Congress leaders, including Kapil Sibal, Ahmed Patel and Abhishek Manu Singhvi, attacked the Government for the searches by the ED against three persons

linked to Robert Vadra on Friday.

"The people in power especially PM is thinking that the exit polls are right and are scared. People in Opposition are being targeted by sending IT, ED. I want to ask Modi rather blame him why such things are happening in his rule," Sibal questioned at a Press conference in the evening after Singhvi had already lashed out at the Modi Government earlier in the day claiming that the raids were a reflection of "the highest degree of panic" of the ruling dispensation, "awaiting" poll defeats in the Assembly polls.

Detailed report on P5



Congress leaders during the special Press briefing in New Delhi on Saturday PTI

Mass arrests in Paris; 'yellow vest' protests spill to Belgian

AFP ■ PARIS/BRUSSELS

Armoured vehicles rolled through central Paris on Saturday as riot police clashed with and arrested "yellow vest" protesters, who set fire to barricades and hurled rocks in the latest demonstrations against President Emmanuel Macron.

Shouts of "Macron, resign" mingled with tear gas on the Champs-Elysees avenue, which was the scene of the worst rioting in Paris in decades last week. Thick plumes of black smoke from fires could be seen rising high into the sky over the city.

Meanwhile, around 70 people were arrested on Saturday in the Belgian capital Brussels during copycat "yellow vest" demonstrations rocking neighbouring France, Belgian police said.

The area housing European institutions including the offices of the European Commission and the European Parliament was sealed off as a precautionary measure.

Related reports on P7

Asian Palm Civet rescued from dog's life

SAPNA SINGH ■ NEW DELHI

An injured Asian Palm Civet was rescued from near Sanjay Van adjoining a residential area in Mehrauli on Friday evening. According to Wildlife SOS and rescue team officials, the civet was attacked by a pack of feral dogs and sustained bite wounds on its torso and neck.

"An injured Asian Palm Civet was rescued by Wildlife SOS on a temple premises near Qutub Minar. The animal was in need of immediate medical attention and is currently being treated by the Wildlife SOS veterinarians," said Wildlife SOS' rescue team.

"The civet was spotted on the fringes of Sanjay Van adjoining a residential area in Mehrauli. Owing to the repetitive sightings, the residents consider such occurrences natural and common," a Wildlife SOS official said, adding, the civet sustained wounds.

Wildlife SOS CEO Kartick Satyanarayan said, "The civet is under immense stress and will take time to recover from the ordeal. Our dedicated team of veterinarians is carrying out the necessary treatment for the injuries. Upon complete recovery, it will be released back into its natural habitat. It is heartening to see people taking timely action to help this civet and for reaching out to Wildlife SOS."

Explaining about the nature of Asian Palm Civet, Wasim Akram, Manager on Special Projects, said the civet can be seen in urban environments rarely as they tend to be shy and wary of humans.

"Rapid encroachment on civet's habitat and deforestation is beginning to redefine the boundaries between forest and urban areas. Consequently, incidents of wild animals straying into urban area are increasing," said the Manager on Special Projects.

♦ The Asian Palm Civet (*Paradoxurushermaphroditus*) is also called toddy cat

♦ The creature is a small member of the family Viverridae native to South and Southeast Asia

♦ Civet cats play an important role in the ecosystem by controlling the rodent population and are prime contributors to the dispersal of seeds as they often feed on fruits, berries, coffee beans, insects and small mammals



SHOW TIME

Arresting love story amid disaster

KEDARNATH
***ing:** Sushant Singh Rajput, Sara Ali Khan, Nitish Bharadwaj, Aika Amin, Sonali Sachdev, Pooja Gor, Nishant Dahiya
Rated: 7/10

Love in the time of catastrophe, especially a disaster as recent in public memory as the Kedarnath tsunami, is pregnant with possibilities and this Ronnie Screwvala production for most part of the film lives up to the expectations. The brewing inter-religion romance between Sara Ali Khan and Sushant Singh Rajput is peppery enough to hold much of your attention even though the imminent deluge that would eventually sweep away everything is constantly knocking the doors of your mind.

You get to wait endlessly for the disaster while unravelling the common nuts and bolts of a love story between a *pandit ki beti* and a *musalmaan pithuwala* in a Bholey Baba *ka* pilgrim town. Sushant makes his presence felt not just with his



dimpled cheeks but also the effort he puts into living the part of a hesitant boy who knows his limits when it comes to the girl he is romancing. Rajput gives you many moments in the film as does debutante Sara Ali Khan.

She is feisty, full of verve and displays a body language which goes with her *bindaas* take-it-all attitude with which she graces the screen with all the pedigree that comes from the Khan *khandan* of patiala.

Together they stitch up the film till the deluge builds up to breach all barriers of life and take 4300 people to their watery grave. The credits tell you 70000 are still missing since the 2013 catastrophe.

Going by that figure alone, one would have wanted to know more about the tragedy than one gets to know through this big canvas, well shot, slim on music film which engages the audience nevertheless. The debate will be on whether the love angle could have been the side story and the disaster notes kept on a tidal high. For me, *Kedarnath* work as a good combination story told and depicted excellently.

It is strangely compelling

MORTAL ENGINES
***ing:** Hugo Weaving, Hera Hilmar, Robert Sheehan, Jihae, Ronan Rafferty, Leila George, Patrick Malahide, Stephen Lang
Rated: 8/10

All the human emotions of betrayal obsession anger jealousy and revenge are the nuts and bolts of this machine centric freaky post apocalyptic action adventure.

The good news is that even if you are spareparts allergic, you will get caught in marvelling at the super human imagination that has been put into the movie to show you how London is a tanker city on wheels headed to collide and destroy anything that comes in its way.

Hollywood's cinematic imagination has long been running wild and *Mortal Engines* is a quantum but intoxicating leap in that direction. The wheel city of



London looks amazingly similar to a pirate ship on Tanker crawlies and the entire story of revenge, ambition and survival mix well into the well-knit scenario which keeps you on the hook for the entire show. Brilliant localing and special effects get you going in a manner that may even surprise your responses.

A must film to watch and enjoy.

Neither here nor there

THE POSSESSION OF HANNAH GRACE
***ing:** Shay Mitchell, Grey Damon, Kirby Johnson, Stana Katic
Rated: 6/10

As possession films go, this one, for once, is in a totally new setting — the morgue where dead bodies come in with clockwork regularity. It is dark, dingy and spooky despite the gizmotic interiors where you can fingerprint the bodies and pack them off hygienically. But when Hannah Grace is wheeled in all hell and fear break loose and the audience never have enough of it. A moderately fearful horror movie which comes with an adult tag.



Plan Your Sunday

SEA FOOD FESTIVAL
WHERE: Larry's China at the Vivanta Ambassador
WHEN: December 9, 2018
TIMINGS: lunch & dinner
COST: A la Carte
This winter, sink your teeth into some authentic sea food at Larry's China, the premiere Chinese restaurant at the Vivanta Ambassador. The Sea Food Festival offers a potpourri of scrumptious Chinese seafood creations and drinks prepared by master chefs for foodies to revel in. The seafood menu is specially curated to infuse the indigenous flavours and aroma of Chinese cuisine. The menu offers a wide variety of fresh seafood delicacies like Lobster with double mushroom along with ginger wine sauce and many more to choose from.



THE IRISH CHRISTMAS
WHERE: The Irish House – Nehru Place, connaught place & Noida
TILL: December 30, 2018
TIME: Noon – 12 am
COST FOR TWO: ₹1700
Get your jing-bang to The Irish House and celebrate the most magical month of the year by digging into a wide range of dishes such as the Spinach and cheese tortellini on a cheesy onion jalapeno smear; mushroom ragout puff; cheesy potato skins with herb cream; cheesy potato skins with turkey ham and crispy bacon; turkey ham and cheese sandwich; roast chicken with blueberry balsamic sauce, grilled brussels sprouts and bread pudding; pork ribs with cranberry apple sauce, roasted carrots and baby potatoes; and a classic yule log for a sweet ending. The Irish House offers a wide range of festive winter cocktails like the winter sangria, earl grey & blackberry martini, rosemary & maple sour, christmas toddy, Irish butterbeer, and also bon-bon orange shake, caramel hot chocolate and non-alcoholic Butterbeer.



WILDERFEST—VEGAN FESTIVAL
WHERE: Plaza area, Select Citywalk, Saket
WHEN: Till December 9
TIME: 12 noon onwards
COST FOR TWO: ₹1700
WilderFest will offer the patrons a wholesome variety of scrumptious vegan food and is directed towards making veganism accessible and enabling the masses in making more conscious life choices in the long run. From lip-smacking live food to cruelty free fashion to vegan flea market to mind opening talk shows to cooking and baking workshops & entertaining music.

GLASS BLOWING AND FLAMEWORK WORKSHOP
WHERE: Glass Sutra, 19, Ambavatta Green Road, Chattarpur Farms, Delhi
TILL: December 13
TIME: 12 noon onwards
REGISTER: Email at glasssutrateam@gmail.com
Indulge in its one-of-a-kind Christmas workshops for three day, one day as well as experiential for one hour. Under the guidance of experienced visiting artist Brent Sheehan, Reshmi Dey and skilled craftsman from Firozabad, you will learn techniques of Hot Glass Blowing and Flame-work. Doesn't matter whether you have the experience (of working with glass) or not, this workshop is suitable for those who would like to try their hands on flame-working and Glass Blowing for the first time. Surely something new for the month of Christmas!



दिल्ली सरकार
आप की सरकार

An Opportunity to work with Delhi Government as Field Surveyor

Planning Department of Govt. of NCT of Delhi is to make assessment of future needs of the people of Delhi for planning and policy formulation. The future requirement of basic infrastructure and amenities, like number of Schools, Colleges, Hospitals, employment, need of water, electricity, and the spread of welfare network etc can be assessed through collection and updation of data. For this purpose, information on education, health, income & employment, social security and Socio-Economic profile etc. will be collected from each household in Delhi. The data will be updated from time to time so that it can be used for planning and policy formulation.

For this work, Delhi Government requires about 7000 Field Surveyors.

Applications are invited from aspirants as detailed below:

NAME	DUTIES	ELIGIBILITIES
Field Surveyor (Short-term basis)	Data of each individual member of household is to be collected through Mobile App by door-to-door visit	<ul style="list-style-type: none">12th passedHaving typing skill in English on Smart PhoneCandidate must have Smart Phone

For detail information and online application log on to:

<http://des.delhigovt.nic.in>

Directorate of Economics & Statistics, Planning Department, Government of NCT of Delhi

Laying of Foundation Stone for Development Work in Unauthorized Colonies in Shalimar Bagh

On Sunday 09th December, 2018 at 4:00 P.M.

Venue: Max Hospital Chowk, Shalimar Village, Shalimar Bagh, Delhi

Chief Guest

Arvind Kejriwal

Chief Minister, Delhi

Guest of Honour

Satyendar Jain

Irrigation & Flood Control Minister, Delhi

Presided by

Bandana Kumari

MLA, Shalimar Bagh

दिल्ली सरकार
आप की सरकार

दिल्ली सरकार
आप की सरकार

Irrigation & Flood Control Department
Government of NCT of Delhi

ULTIMATUM TO FATEHPURI MOSQUE
COMPLEX SHOPKEEPERS

Accept new rents
or face eviction:
Delhi Waqf Board

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Waqf Board has given an ultimatum to shopkeepers on the Fatehpuri mosque complex, warning them of eviction if they do not accept new rentals by December 20. Delhi Waqf Board chairman Amanatullah Khan said around 120 shops have been paying meagre rents for years.

They are required to pay revised rents as per the new lease rules, but they have failed to do so, he said. "I met the shopkeepers on Friday and tried to convince them. If they do not agree to new rent agreement, they will be evicted after December 20," Khan said.

A Waqf Board official said that according to Section 54 of the Waqf Act, the chief executive officer of the panel can direct area SDM to evict occupants of its property.

Shops in Chandani Chowk are currently paying rents as low as ₹200-₹600 per month whereas the existing rate in the area is around ₹2-3 lakh, the official claimed.

If the new lease rules are implemented, the shopkeepers will have to pay revised rents — around ₹12,000 to ₹25,000 per month, he said.

The Waqf Board plans to renovate the shops and auction them through open bidding, he added.

VHP CONGREGATION AT RAMLILA MAIDAN

Traffic police
issues advisory

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Following the congregation planned by the Vishva Hindu Parishad (VHP) at Ramlila Maidan on December 9, Delhi Traffic Police on Saturday issued traffic advisory for residents of Delhi to ensure smooth functioning of traffic in national Capital.

will go to Old Delhi Railway Station," said the Joint CP.

"Ring Road from Sarai Kale Khan to Chandgi Ram Akhara, Jawaharlal Nehru Marg, Asaf Ali Road, Netaji Subash Marg, Bahadur Shah Zafar Marg, Deen Dayal Upadhyay Marg, Minto Road, Ranjeet Singh Flyover, DeshBandhu Gupta Road, Shradhdhanand Marg,



Representational image

According to Alok Kumar, Joint Commissioner of Police, Delhi Traffic Police, to avoid congestion and traffic jams, no traffic will be allowed on Ranjeet Singh flyover from Guru Nanak Chowk to Barakhamba Road, Vivekanand Marg, JLN Marg, Kamla Market to Guru Nanak Chowk, Chaman Lal Marg near VIP Gate and Ramlila Maidan.

"Buses coming from Sikandra Road and Tilak Marg and bound for Red Fort to Railway Station through Delhi Gate will be diverted on Ring Road via Vikas Marg and will take Salimgarh bypass up to Hanuman Setu and from there

Ajmeri Gate Side of New Delhi Railway Station and ITO can witness jam," said the Joint CP.

"Motorists are advised to follow the directions issued by the traffic personnel to ensure smooth movement to minimise traffic congestion and disruption. They are also advised to follow the Delhi traffic police Twitter handle to follow traffic updates," The Joint CP added

The right-wing group VHP is organising a "dharam sansad" on Sunday, demanding the early construction of a Ram temple in Ayodhya. The rally comes just days before the winter session of Parliament begins.

AAP, BJP spar over missing Bania vote

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) and the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) locked horns over alleged mass deletion of Bania vote in Delhi, with Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal saying the traders community would not vote for ruling party at the Centre.

With the AAP alleging deletion of four lakh Bania votes in Delhi, Union Minister Vijay Goel tweeted, saying AAP was fooling them.

"The Banias in Delhi are angry that Arvind Kejriwal and his party considers them as fools. If the

Vaishya community will believe this that the BJP is singling them out and getting their votes deleted, while reality is that two Vaishya leaders from Delhi are Ministers in the Central Government," Goel tweeted.

Replying to this, Kejriwal alleged that the BJP got deleted four lakh out of eight-lakh Bania votes in Delhi.

"The wrong policies of the BJP like notebandi and GST devastated business of traders. Banias are not voting for the BJP. So, you will get their votes deleted. Will you win like this?"

Kejriwal tweeted in reply to Goel.

Many other AAP leaders including party MP Sanjay Singh and spokesperson Saurabh Bhardwaj also attacked Goel over his tweet.

"Sirji 2 prominent Ministers out of 7 from AAP Cabinet are baniyas, speaker of Delhi Vidhan Sabha is a baniya. BJP's 80% donation comes from baniyas yet only two out of 73 Ministers in Modi Govt are baniyas. What a joke?", Singh tweeted.

Air quality very poor,
to worsen in fog



STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi's air quality remained 'very poor' on Saturday even as authorities warned of a spike in pollution level from the next week when dense fog is expected to engulf the national Capital.

Jahangirpuri and Nehru Nagar recorded severe air quality while 26 areas recorded very poor air quality and two areas poor air quality, according to Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB). The overall PM2.5 level was recorded at 193 and the PM10 level at 353, it said.

In national Capital Region (NCR), Faridabad and Noida recorded 'very poor' air quality, the CPCB data showed. The Centre-run System of Air Quality and Weather Forecasting (SAFAR) said the overall air quality of Delhi continues to remain in the 'very poor' range. "Meteorological conditions have slightly improved causing dispersion of pollutants but the air quality might deteriorate from Sunday with dense fog engulfing the Capital which may degrade the air quality," the SAFAR said.

According to the Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology, the maximum ventilation index was likely to be around 4,000 sqm/second on Saturday.

A ventilation index lower than 6,000 sqm/second with average wind speed of less than 10 kmph is unfavourable for dispersion of pollutants, it said.

JAHANGIRPURI AND
NEHRU NAGAR
RECORDED SEVERE
AIR QUALITY WHILE
26 AREAS RECORDED
VERY POOR AIR
QUALITY

The Supreme Court-appointed Environment Pollution Control Authority on Friday said they are seriously considering banning industrial, construction and demolition activities at major pollution hotspots in Delhi-NCR when air quality levels reach 'severe' category.

The Central Pollution Control Board-led task force on November 22 recommended to the EPCA that industrial, construction and demolition activities should be banned in major hotspot areas when air quality levels reach 'severe' category.

The taskforce has identified 15 pollution hotspots in Delhi. They are Anand Vihar, Bawana, CRRRI Mathura Road, DTU, Dr Karni Singh Shooting Range, Dwarka-Sector 8, Jahangirpuri, Mundka, NSIT Dwarka, Narela, Okhla Phase-2, R K Puram, Rohini, Shadipur, Wazirpur.

In NCR areas outside Delhi, six hotspots have been identified. They are — Sector-16A in Faridabad, Vikas Sadan in Gurgaon, Vasundhara in Ghaziabad, Knowledge Park-III in Greater Noida, Sector-125 in Noida and RIICO Industrial Area-III in Bhiwadi.

Man stabbed to death at Chhawla area

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

An unidentified man in his late 20s was allegedly stabbed to death by an unknown person at Chhawla area of national Capital on Saturday. Police have found multiple stab wounds on the body of the deceased.

According to a senior police official, a Police Control Room (PCR) received a call on Saturday from a passerby that a dead body was lying in the bushes of Chhawla side area. Then, a police team reached the spot and found an unknown

dead body of a man aged around 27 with stab wounds.

The body of the deceased was lying in a pool of blood on Chhawla Bijwasan road with stab injuries.

Police team is looking for CCTV cameras to identify the criminals. Forensic team has been called," said the senior police official.

"A case of murder has been registered at Chhawla police station and investigation is on. All efforts are being made to identify the deceased," the senior police official added.



DELHI POLICE
SHANTI SEWA NYAYA

SASHAKTI

OUR SELF-DEFENCE INITIATIVE



FOR YOUR
SAFETY:
WITH
CONFIDENCE



5TH SELF DEFENCE WINTER CAMP 2018-19

Participation in Self Defence Camp is Free of Cost

Venue	Self Defence Training Programme for Girls/Women (Except Sunday)	Nukkad Natak/ Street Play	Gender Sensitisation for Boys & Girls	Date & Time of Registration (Except Sunday)
Greenfield Public School, GTB Enclave, Dilshad Garden, Delhi - 110093		28.12.2018 11.15 a.m.	31.12.2018 11.30 a.m.	
DAV Public School, West Patel Nagar, Delhi - 110008	27.12.2018 To 11.01.2019	31.12.2018 11.15 a.m.	01.01.2019 11.30 a.m.	03.12.2018 To 20.12.2018
Nav Bharti Public School D-5 Deepali, Pitampura, Delhi-110034	9.00 am To 11.00 am	01.01.2019 11.15 a.m.	02.01.2019 11.30 a.m.	10.00 am To 4.00 pm
DDA Sports Complex Saket, Delhi-110017		03.01.2019 11.15 a.m.	04.01.2019 11.30 a.m.	
Sanskar Convent School, Shyam Vihar, Najafgarh, Delhi-110043		07.01.2019 11.15 a.m.	08.01.2019 11.30 a.m.	

Self Defence Camp is Free of Cost, the applicant must bring a recent photograph & a copy of any Govt. issued photo ID (preferably Aadhar Card/Election Card) at the time of registration at respective venue

For further details
Call 011-26527699
Register online at www.spuwac.com

E-mail us at :
dcp.spuwc@delhi.gov.in
Women Helpline : 1091

SPECIAL POLICE UNIT
FOR
WOMEN & CHILDREN

Capital set to
get chilly by
next week

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Mercury is expected to plummet by two to three degree Celsius. Delhites may feel chill in coming week as on Saturday, Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) forecast light rain on December 11. With this, the temperature in the night is likely to fall and chilly winters are expected to set in two - three days.

Meanwhile, on Saturday, the maximum temperature was recorded at 23 degree Celsius and 9 degree Celsius as minimum temperature with patchy clouds.

The humidity in air was oscillating between 80 per cent and 83 per cent.

According to private broadcasting agency Skymet weather, "Fresh snowfall over hills will cool down these northerly winds. Day and night temperatures of Delhi-NCR may dip from December 12, further leading to winter chill. Minimum temperature will continue to fall, although the fall will be gradual, by December 15 or 16, we can expect winters to set in fully over Delhi and adjoining areas."

According to IMD, a Western Disturbance is approaching the western range of Himalayas and will start with its effect by tomorrow. Later, these winds over the Capital would also change their direction in the next two days and relatively humid east and southeasterly winds are expected to blow over the region.

According to the Centre-run System of Air Quality and Weather Forecasting And Research (SAFAR), the overall air quality index of Delhi docked at 355 in the morning which falls under the very poor category. At Dhirpur, the AQI was 314 at in Mathura Road area it dipped to hazardous category with at 44.



Inauguration Ceremony for
Providing & Laying of sewer line
in Shiv Enclave Group of Colonies
under Mundka Constituency

On Monday, 10 December, 2018 at 4.00 PM
Venue : Tikona Park, near Goyal Hospital, Chander Vihar, Nilothi Ext. Nangloi, New Delhi

Chief Guest
Arvind Kejriwal
Chief Minister, Delhi

In the presence of

Satyendar Jain
U.D. Minister, Delhi

Dinesh Mohania
Vice-Chairman, DJB

Sukhbir Singh Dalal
MLA, Mundka Constituency

Highlights of the project:

- The work to benefit approx 1.70 lac residents of the area
- On completion of the project the sanitation conditions in the area will improve, thereby, reducing pollution in River Yamuna

दिल्ली सरकार
आप की सरकार

Urban Development Department, Government of NCT of Delhi

दिल्ली सरकार
आप की सरकार

BULANDSHAHR VIOLENCE

Full support to UP police: Gen Rawat

Involvement of Army jawan suspected



New Delhi: In the wake of reports that an Army jawan was allegedly involved in the case related to killing of a police inspector in Bulandshahr mob violence, Army chief Gen Bipin Rawat on Saturday said, full cooperation will be extended in investigation of the incident.

The violence broke out earlier this week in the Uttar Pradesh town after cow carcasses were found strewn around, claiming the lives of Inspector Subodh Kumar and 20-year-old local youth Sumit Kumar.

Nine people have been arrested in connection with the

violence.

A team of Uttar Pradesh police had left for Jammu on Friday to arrest an Army jawan allegedly involved in Kumar's killing.

"We will fully cooperate with the police (in the investigation)," he told reporters on the sidelines of an event, when asked about the possible involvement of a jawan in the killing of the officer in Bulandshahr. **PTI**

2019 polls will be about 'strong' or 'helpless' Govt: Amit Shah

New Delhi: Terming any grand alliance between various Opposition parties as a 'sham,' BJP chief Amit Shah Saturday said in the next parliamentary elections people will have to decide whether they want 'strong' or the 'helpless' Government.

Shah said the proposed grand alliance may not have any impact in various states barring Uttar Pradesh where it could pose some challenge for the party, but he is hopeful for further improving its performance and is aiming for more than 51 per cent vote in the state.

Most of the regional parties are unlikely to have any impact on the electoral outcomes outside their respective States, Shah said while asserting that politics is also about chemistry.

"Politics is not physics where two plus two becomes four, it is chemistry. The grand alliance is nothing but a sham. Perhaps only in Uttar Pradesh



the grand alliance between SP and BSP could pose some challenge for the party. The BJP had got more than 40 per cent vote share in the state and will fight for more than 51 per cent vote share in the next general elections," he said.

Describing Prime Minister Narendra Modi as strong and decisive leader, Shah said the next elections will be about either strong Government led by Modi or helpless Government of grand alliance.

"Now people have to decide in 2019, that whether they want mazboot sarkar aur mazboor

sarkar (strong Government or helpless Government)," he said.

Confident of party's better performance in Lok Sabha elections next year, Shah said BJP got more than 17 crore votes in 2014 general elections and in the last four years of its Government, it has provided benefits to more than 22 crore people through its various welfare schemes.

Replying a question on the issue of Ram temple, Shah said the party has always maintained that the grand Lord Ram temple should be built at the earliest in Ayodhya. **PTI**

Will win at least 140 seats in MP: BJP

Bhopal: The BJP will win 140 to 165 seats in Madhya Pradesh and form the Government for a fourth straight time under the leadership of Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan, the party's state vice president Sudershan Gupta said on Saturday.

Voting for the 230-member Madhya Pradesh assembly was held on November 28. Counting will take place on December 11 for the state along with four others taking part in this round of assembly elections.

"We have received feedback that the BJP will win between 140 and 165 seats and form the government under the leadership of Chouhan for the fourth straight time," Gupta told reporters here after a party meeting here.

The meeting, which reviewed the BJP's poll prospects, was attended by Chouhan and the party's top brass.

It was a prelude to Chouhan's interaction, scheduled for Sunday, with the BJP's 230 candidates, party functionaries said.

They said he would talk about counting day precautions with the candidates.

On Thursday, state Congress chief Kamal Nath had met his party's 229 candidates and told them to take extra caution during counting and to stay put at the centres until the exercise gets over.

Four exit polls predicted different scenarios.

The Republic TV-Jan Ki Baat poll gave 108-128 seats to the BJP and 95-115 to the Congress.

The India Today-Axis predicted a photo-finish with 102-120 seats for the saffron party and 104-122 for the Congress.

The Times Now-CNX exit poll predicted a majority for the BJP with 126 seats and gave 89 to the Congress.

Indian Navy ship seizes arms, ammunition off Somali coast

New Delhi: An Indian Navy ship, deployed on anti-piracy operation in the Gulf of Aden, has seized arms and ammunition off the coast of Somalia in a quick operation, officials said Saturday.

The ship INS Sunayna carried out the operation on Friday in which four high caliber AK-47 rifles and one Light Machine Gun, along with ammunition for these weapons were seized from a vessel, Navy officials said.

INS Sunayna carried out a similar operation off the coast of Somalia last month as well. The ship detected a suspicious fishing vessel, approximately 25 nautical mile off the coast of Somalia, in the vicinity of Socotra island, following which the operation was launched, they said. "The vessel was thoroughly searched and allowed to proceed, after confiscation of the arms and ammunition, to prevent their illegal use later by the crew for piracy-related activities," said a Navy official. **PTI**

Maneka orders inspection of all Odisha shelter homes

Bhubaneswar: Union Women and Child Development Minister Maneka Gandhi has ordered an inspection of all shelter homes in Odisha, a fortnight after an alleged sexual abuse of minor girls in such an accommodation in Dhenkanal district came to light.

In a letter to Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik, Gandhi said, "I strongly believe that the authorities concerned must assume moral responsibility for this incident. I have asked Secretary, Ministry of WCD to get an inquiry conducted in this.

"I have also asked (the) National Commission for Protection of Child Rights

(NCPCR) to get all the homes in Odisha inspected immediately."

An NGO-run shelter home in Beltikiri village of Dhenkanal — 106 km from Bhubaneswar — was sealed last Sunday and two people, including its managing director, had been arrested following allegations of sexual harassment.

"It is a matter of regret that the district administration has no knowledge about how it functions, despite the fact that it is only 10 km away from the district headquarters," Gandhi said, adding that the licence of the shelter home in question had expired in October.

The Minister said there were also reports of "religious

conversions" at the shelter homes run by the NGO.

Most of its shelter homes have been functioning without registration since the last two years, she pointed out.

The Minister alleged that the State Government had failed in providing security to women and children.

Earlier in the day, Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan has sought the Centre's intervention in the matter.

"I sincerely urge you to take stringent action against the perpetrators of this heinous crime in order to stop the illegal functioning of the shelter home," Pradhan wrote in a letter to Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh. **PTI**

Arunachal gets its 1st innovation hub and space edu centre

Itanagar: Arunachal Pradesh on Saturday got its first innovation hub and space education centre here, aimed at boosting the science and technology sector in the State.

Developed at an estimated cost of ₹4 crore at Indira Gandhi Park here, the planetarium and innovation hub was inaugurated on Saturday by Land Management, Environment and Forest Minister Nabam Rebia.

"In the next few years, we will have some brilliant ideas, innovations and start-ups from the state to talk about," the minister said.

The 45-seater planetarium

"The innovation hub would help the youth and children of the state to enhance their knowledge in science and technology"

has been set up by the National Council of Science Museum, Kolkata in association with the Arunachal Pradesh State Council for Science and Technology.

The innovation hub would help the youth and children of the state to enhance their knowledge in science and technology, Rebia added. **PTI**

B'desh to honour martyrs of Liberation War from Indian Armed Forces

Kolkata: Bangladesh will honour Indian Armed Forces personnel who were martyred in that country's Liberation War on December 16, the day Pakistan surrendered and the country was born, its top diplomat posted in the city said on Saturday.

Seventeen to 25 martyrs will be honoured on the day and their names are being finalised, Taufiq Hasan, Bangladesh Deputy High Commissioner here said.

A silver plaque, certificate, speech by Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and two books by Bangabandhu Mujibar Rahman will be presented to the family of each martyr," he said.

This is the second time that

the honours are being presented to the families of martyrs of Indian forces who fought in the 1971 war against Pakistan in the eastern frontier. Sheikh Hasina had done the honours in 2017 in Delhi for the first time, he said.

"All the martyrs of the Indian Armed forces in the eastern theatre in the 1971 war will be honoured gradually," Hasan said.

Major General General Staff (MGGS), HQ, Eastern Command, Major General N D Prasad said that India and Bangladesh share a special relationship and the bond is strengthened by military to military exchanges through joint exercises and other activities.

"We have been working together for the greater good of the region," he said.

He said that the Army will celebrate Vijay Diwas on December 16 with usual fervour.

"A Bangladeshi delegation of 72 members, including 30 Muktiyoddhas (freedom fighters) and six serving officers of Bangladesh Armed Forces will participate in the celebrations," Maj Gen Prasad said.

An Army helicopter show, free fall by para troopers, motorcycle display, horse and dog show will be held apart from Military Band concert during the celebrations at Royal Calcutta Turf Club ground on December 14 and 15, he said. **PTI**



Folk tribal artists perform during the curtain raiser ceremony of 'Bangla Sangeet Mela 2018' in Kolkata on Saturday

PTI

India is not a 'dharmshala' for illegal immigrants: Shah on NRC

New Delhi: BJP chief Amit Shah said on Saturday that Indians have the right to the country's resources, and it is not a 'dharmshala' where illegal immigrants can come to settle down.

Describing illegal immigration as threat to the country, Shah said National Register of Citizens (NRC) is a way to solve the basic problems of the country and should not be connected to the BJP.

"NRC should not be seen by connecting it with the BJP only. It is a way to solve the country's basic problems. How is it possible that anyone can come and settle down here? The country cannot run like this. Those who are its citizens should stay here

only and they only have the right to the resources of this country.

"This country is not a dharmshala (charitable shelter home) that anyone can come and settle down here," Shah said while speaking at the Jagran Forum organised by the Dainik Jagran media group.

Taking on opposition over the issue, the BJP chief alleged that the intruders have been used as a vote bank for 70 years and they are a threat to the country, whereas BJP believes in taking tough decisions which are in the interest of the country.

"They (intruders) should be identified. Delete their names from the electoral roll. The BJP clearly believes that they should be identified and deported.

Intruders are also threaten the security of the country," he said while replying to a question on NRC.

Assam, which faced an influx of people from Bangladesh since the early 20th century, is the only state having a National Register of Citizens (NRC), first prepared in 1951. It is being updated under the monitoring of the Supreme Court.

The complete draft of the NRC was published on July 30 and included the names of 2.9 crore people out of the total applications of 3.29 crore. Those omitted have been given an opportunity to submit documents afresh to prove their residency. **PTI**

Yogi trying to derail probe in Bulandshahr violence: Congress

New Delhi: The Congress on Saturday slammed Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath for terming the killing of a police inspector in Bulandshahr mob violence an "accident" and said it was an attempt to "derail" probe into the case.

"There has been no incident of mob lynching in Uttar Pradesh. The Bulandshahr incident was an accident and the law is taking its course. No guilty will be spared," Adityanath said Friday at an event in the national Capital.

At a press conference here, Congress spokesperson Abhishek Manu Singhvi alleged that the Uttar Pradesh govern-

ment was trying to influence the probe.

"The whole objective of this is to derail an independent, impartial investigation into the case. With a wink and a nod, a message (is) being sent — 'we want you to know that this is the direction and the momentum of the investigation' — and that is what is happening," he said.

There was no immediate reaction from the Uttar Pradesh Government.

The violence broke out earlier this week in Bulandshahr after cow carcasses were found strewn around, claiming the lives of Inspector Subodh Kumar and 20-year-old local youth Sumit Kumar. **PTI**

Narcotics seizures show deep poll...

From Page 1

According to the Commission, it has made seizures worth ₹72.29 crore unaccounted money in MP during polls. This included ₹30.93 crore in cash; 5.98 lakh litre of liquor worth ₹14.27 crore and 341 kg of drug worth ₹5.80 crore. Apart from that, 27 kg gold jewellery, 1,024 kg silver jewellery and 153 moti worth ₹10.47 crore apparently meant for luring voters has been seized during MP polls campaign this year.

During the last year, the total seized money in cash was ₹257.61 crore here. As per data, 652 actions were taken by Income Tax Department which led to surrender of ₹50 crore in the State.

In Rajasthan, the Commission made seizures of nearly ₹86.46 crore which included ₹15.04 crore in cash; 6.04 lakh litre of liquor worth ₹39.49 crore; 38,572 kg drugs/narcotics including 5 lakh tablets of anti-depressants Alprazolam and Tramadol, 668 kg ganja, 21 kg opium, 23413 kg doda posth, 200 gram brown sugar and 8 kg smack. Apart from that 18 kg gold ornaments, 700 kg silver worth ₹7 crore was also seized in Rajasthan. There is rise of 40 per cent of seizure money and valuables since 2013 polls.

Interestingly, as per data, number of total amount of money seized in Chhattisgarh is lower this year as compared to last Assembly polls in 2013. Nearly ₹14.28 crore was seized in the State including ₹5.38 crore in cash besides 1.37 lakh litre of liquor worth ₹2 crore; 22.16 kg ganja; 37 kg silver and 500 gram fold items and other items worth ₹6.64 crore. During the last Assembly polls, seizures worth ₹16.8 crore including cash, liquor and drugs was seized in Chhattisgarh.

As far as Mizoram is concerned, seizures worth ₹5.50 crore were made which include ₹43 lakh in cash; 20 kg drugs/narcotics including 998 gram heroine and 10.08 kg of methamphetamine.

Haul of ganja, gold keeps DRI engaged

From Page 1

DRI's intelligence and interception of goods violating Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) indicate that majority of these products originate from China. The counterfeit goods then make their way into the country either through containerised cargo by sea or air route or through porous and off-routes through the land borders with Nepal, Bhutan and Myanmar. Counterfeit commodities most prone to smuggling in India are cosmetics, shoes, watches, sunglasses, auto parts like spark plugs, hand bags and mobile phone accessories, the report said.

The DRI also seized 42.6 million smuggled cigarette sticks valued at ₹34.29 crore. The agency also detected 940 cases of commercial frauds involving a duty amount of ₹3,064 crore.

DRI's analysis indicates that a large part of the domestic gold market is being served by illicit smuggling of gold. Large quantities of smuggled gold reaches Kolkata from India's land border with Myanmar and Bhutan and is then transited to other metropolitan cities. In terms of the State-wise seizures in 2017-18, the maximum number of seizures was made in Northeastern States followed by Delhi, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Maharashtra.

Commercial frauds detected during the period include mis-declaration, mis-invoicing, misuse of preferential/free trade agreements and misuse of export incentive schemes by the involved entities.

Large number of cases pending against politicians matter of grave concern, says Naidu

New Delhi: Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu on Saturday expressed grave concern over a large number of criminal cases pending against politicians and said these should be fast-tracked.

At the launch of two volumes of select speeches of President Ram Nath Kovind here, Naidu also said there has been a "steady decline" in the quality of public discourse over the last few years and appealed to political parties to evolve a consensus on the code of conduct for their members.

"We must ensure that cases against politicians should be fast-tracked. It is indeed a matter of grave concern that there are nearly 4,000 cases pending against politicians. Special courts should be constituted and the process should be expedited," he said.

Corrective action is required to make our system even better than what it is today - that is essential for strengthening democracy, he added.

The Supreme Court was on Tuesday informed that there were 4,122 criminal cases pending, some for over three decades, against present and former members of Parliament and legislative assemblies.

The vice president also stressed the need to have a clean polity with an "unwavering commitment to consti-

tutional morality".

"Public representatives should have character, caliber, conduct, and capacity. It is unfortunate that the quality of public discourse has been steadily declining over the last few years. This must not be allowed to persist. We should all remember that we are all in public life... We are rivals and not enemies," he said.

"Political parties must evolve a consensus on the code of conduct for their members, both inside the legislature and outside it. Otherwise, people might soon lose faith in our political processes and institutions," he said.

Naidu also emphasised the need to have more persons in leadership positions who are mindful of not only of "constitutional morality but also of institutional dignity and individual integrity".

He said that the anti-defection law needed to be implemented in letter and spirit and with sincerity.

"If a member desires to change the party, he must do so by resigning from the membership of the House. The anti-defection law should be implemented within three months. I know that this is absolutely feasible since I could dispose of the petitions that I received within this timeframe," Naidu said. **PTI**



Arunachal Pradesh Chief Minister Pema Khandu with Meghalaya Chief Minister Conrad K Sangma attend Poi Pee Mau, the new year festival of Tai community in Namsai on Saturday

PTI

PM used surgical strike for political gains: Rahul

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

A day after former Northern Command chief Lt General (retired) DS Hooda said constant hype around the surgical strikes in Pakistan Occupied Kashmir (POK) in 2016 was unwarranted, Congress president Rahul Gandhi on Saturday attacked Prime Minister Narendra Modi over the issue and charged that the Prime Minister used the military action for "political capital".

Responding to a question during the Military Literature Festival in Chandigarh on Friday, Hooda, who was the commander when the surgical strikes were carried out, had said in hindsight, it would have been better had "we done it (surgical strikes) secretly". He had also said it was natural to have initial euphoria about the success but the constant maintenance of hype around the military operation was unwarranted.

Taking to Twitter, Rahul said: "Spoken like a true soldier General. India is so proud of you. Mr 36 has absolutely no shame in using our military as a personal asset. "He used the surgical strikes for political capital and the Rafale deal to increase Anil Ambani's real capital by 30,000 Cr. #SurgicalStrike (sic)." On the same issue,



ON THE SAME ISSUE, CONGRESS LEADER P CHIDAMBARAM SAID IT WAS HEARTENING THAT PERSONS WHO WERE IN KEY POSTS IN THE GOVERNMENT WERE 'SHEDDING THEIR FEAR AND BREAKING SILENCE' ON IMPORTANT POLICIES AND DECISIONS

Congress leader P Chidambaram said it was heartening that persons who were in key posts in the Government were "shedding their fear and breaking silence" on important policies and decisions.

In a series of tweets, Chidambaram said it was former Chief Economic Advisor (CEA) Arvind Subramanian, who first broke his silence by terming demonetisation a "massive monetary shock".

The former Finance Minister said that after Subramanian, the recently-retired Chief Election Commissioner O P Rawat said demonetisation had no impact on the use of black money in elections.

Now, it is Hooda, who has "decided the hype over the so-called 'surgical strike' and its politicisation by Government", Chidambaram said, adding, "Glad to see important persons

shedding their fear and breaking their silence".

Congress chief spokesperson Randeep Surjewala thanked Hooda for "exposing the petty politicisation by PM Modi". "No one can use the valour & sacrifice of our brave soldiers to score cheap political points Modiji is squarely guilty of compromising National Security & Strategic Interests by unwarranted chest thumping!" he wrote on Twitter.

Last month, Subramanian had raised concerns related to note ban. Six months after resigning as CEA, he described demonetisation as a "massive, draconian, monetary shock".

Two days after his retirement, Rawat had said the note ban didn't reduce the misuse of black money in elections but in fact in some states more seizures were reported compared to previous years. The government had banned old ₹1,000 and ₹500 notes on November 8, 2016.

Surgical strikes a successful tactical operation: Army's Northern Command chief

KAPURTHALA (PUNJAB): The 2016 surgical strikes were a successful tactical operation which conveyed a clear message to Pakistan to stop any misadventure along the Line of Control (LoC), Army's Northern Command Chief Lt Gen Ranbir Singh said on Saturday.

His comments came a day after Lt Gen (retd) D S Hooda, who was associated with the operation, said it was natural to have initial euphoria over the success but the constant hype around the surgical strikes was unwarranted.

In hindsight, it would have been better had we had kept it a secret, he had said on Friday at an event in Chandigarh.

On September 29, 2016, Indian Army commandos had carried out surgical strikes against terror launch pads across the LoC in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir.

"From military point of view, these were successful tactical operations, which conveyed a very strategic message and the Indian Army was able to convey a very clear message to Pakistan that should they not stop any kind of misadventure along the LoC, they shall be given befitting reply," Singh told reporters here on the sidelines of his visit to Sainik School, his alma mater.

The then Director General of Military Operations (DGMO), who had announced the operation at a press conference, refused to comment on the politicisation of surgical strikes.

Singh said all actions carried out by the Army along the LoC were carried out in an extremely professional manner to meet the national aspirations and achieve the military objectives.

He said there are many other options to check infiltration of terrorists from across the border.

Surgical strike is only one of the options through which we stop infiltration. The armed forces have a range of options and they are being analysed at all times and the best course of action is put into effect, he said.

Responding to a question about possible attempts to revive militancy in Punjab, Singh said Pakistan was trying to extend the "arc of terrorism" beyond Kashmir and the Army was taking all measures to arrest the spread.

The armed forces in Jammu and Kashmir are fully capable of carrying out any task, he said. This, he said, is the reason that the situation in the state is completely stable.

If any untoward incident takes place, the armed forces act quickly to restore peace and stability, he added. PTI

Sushma holds talks with Iceland counterpart

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj on Saturday held wide-ranging talks with her counterpart from Iceland Gudlaugur Thor Thordarson on ways to deepen bilateral ties in areas of trade, investment and energy.

Thordarson arrived here Friday on board the inaugural flight between New Delhi and Reykjavik, the capital of Iceland.

At the meeting, Swaraj said Iceland is a world leader in geothermal energy and cooperation in this sector could benefit India's transition to greener energy mix and help it in achieving ambitious renewable energy targets, according to MEA spokesperson Raveesh Kumar.

"EAM @SushmaSwaraj and Iceland Foreign Minister @GudlaugurThor discussed enhancing cooperation in trade & investment, renewable energy, specially geothermal energy, blue economy with a focus on fisheries, tourism and culture at the delegation-level talks," he tweeted.

India's ties with Iceland have witnessed steady progress in the last few years.

Iceland was the first Nordic country to publicly extend support to India's candidature for permanent membership of the United Nations



External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj shakes hands with her Icelandic counterpart Gudlaugur Thor Thordarson ahead of a meeting in New Delhi on Saturday

Security Council. It was one of the countries co-sponsoring India's resolution at the UN to declare June 21 as the "International Day of Yoga".

Rijiju asks Indian diaspora youths to be part of country's growth

New Delhi: Union Minister Kiren Rijiju on Saturday asked the youths of Indian diaspora to be part of the country's growth story and become ambassadors to spread the message of development here.

Interacting with a group of 40 Indian-origin youths from eight countries, Rijiju said they should participate in India's growth and development story and share it with the diaspora in their respective countries.

"I urge you to give feedback to the Government through voluntarily sparing time by sharing your thoughts, experience, knowledge, and technology and to suggest what steps the government of India should take to improve the environment and help play a role in building a new India," he said.

The youths are touring India to feel a sense of connect with their motherland and get exposure to its art, heritage and culture, an official at the Home Ministry said.

The tour has been organised under the 'Know India Programmes (KIP)' which is a key initiative of the central government.

The initiative has been taken with an aim to engage and make students and young professionals of Indian diaspora in the age group of 18 to 30 feel a



The youths are from Fiji, Suriname, Guyana, Myanmar, the Netherlands, South Africa, Sri Lanka and Trinidad and Tobago

sense of connect with their motherland and to be motivated and inspired by transformation taking place in India.

The youths are from Fiji, Suriname, Guyana, Myanmar, the Netherlands, South Africa, Sri Lanka and Trinidad and Tobago.

The participants will visit places like Parliament Museum Library, President's House, Red Fort, Raj Ghat and will meet senior functionaries in the central and State Governments in order to have the first hand experience of the contemporary development in India. They will also be going to Agra. PTI

ED RAIDS VADRA'S ASSOCIATES

Congress comes out in defence of 'son-in-law'

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Congress on Saturday jumped into the defence of its leader Sonia Gandhi's son-in-law Robert Vadra whose associates were raided by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) saying that people in power, especially Prime Minister Narendra Modi, is scared "thinking that the exit polls are right" and worried about defeat in assembly elections.

A battery of top Congress leaders, including Kapil Sibal, Ahmed Patel and Abhishek Manu Singhvi, stepped out to attack the Government over the searches by the Enforcement Directorate against three persons linked to Robert Vadra on Friday.

"The people in power especially PM is thinking that the exit polls are right and are scared. People in opposition are being targeted by sending IT, ED. I want to ask Modi rather blame him why such things are happening in his rule," Sibal questioned at a press conference in the evening after Singhvi had already lashed out at the Modi Government earlier in the day claiming that the raids were a reflection of "the highest degree of panic" of the ruling dispensation, "awaiting" poll defeats in the assembly polls.

Sibal further scaled up the degree of attack saying the ED barged into the offices of Vadra associates without any warrant. "There was no FIR, ECIR against Vadra and people of ED reached his offices without any warrant. They don't say their names and when asked to wait by the people in the office to get keys to the office, they broke

into the office," Sibal said.

The senior Congress leader, who is also a top lawyer, wondered at what he called "hooliganism" by the law enforcement agencies and sought to know as to who would rein in them if they were to be backed by the Government itself.

"What kind of Government is it? If law enforcement agencies start hooliganism then who will question them? If they're supported by the PM, then who'll question it? Where is the law and order in the country," he sought to argue while defending Vadra.

Earlier, Singhvi, who also addressed a press conference here at the party headquarters, alleged that there was never such a "terror raj" in the "constitutional rule" of India.

"We fought the British Raj and the BJP would do well to know that the day of judgement will come for it," he said adding "They are afraid of the Congress and its values, so they are threatening people and using high-handed tactics against those who are relatives of our leaders or are associated with them".

"This is called character assassination by innuendos and insinuations. When they do not have facts, this is what they will do," he said.

The Congress spokesman claimed that the BJP was in a "state of panic of the highest degree", sensing rejection from the people in the just-concluded Assembly polls in five States.

"The word 'panic' would be an understatement and all these raids and searches against various people are

nothing but a ploy to divert the attention of the people from the real issues and the BJP's failures," he said.

The results of the Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Rajasthan, Telangana and Mizoram Assembly polls will be announced on December 11, on a day when the one-month-long winter session of the Parliament would also commence. The poll-results are expected to set the tone for not only the Parliament session, the last of the 16th Lok Sabha, but also that of the 2019-General Elections, only few months away. Barring Rajasthan where exit-polls have uniformly given Congress an edge over the BJP, opinions are divided on Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Telangana and Mizoram.

The ED had carried out searches against the three persons in connection with its probe into alleged "commissions received by some suspects in defence deals" and illegal assets stashed abroad, officials had said Friday.

Singhvi claimed that the searches were carried out in violation of laws, adding, "We have nothing against any particular person, but we are talking about principles.... No Enforcement Case Information Report (ECIR) of the FIR has been shared, no search warrant issued, no access to lawyers, and detained persons were also physically roughed up."

"All of this is happening because the BJP feels the certainty of the rejection by the people and is desperate to divert people's attention from the real issues," he said.

Finance Ministry revokes GST for homebuyers

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

In a major relief to flat buyers, the Ministry of Finance made it clear that Goods and Service Tax (GST) will not be levied on buyers of real estate properties for which completion certificate is issued at the time of sale.

However, Goods and Services Tax (GST) is applicable on sale of under-construction property or ready to move in flats where completion certificate is not issued at the time of sale.

The ministry also asked the builders to reduce the prices of properties by passing on the benefit of lower GST rate.

"It is brought to the notice of buyers of constructed property that there is no GST on sale of complex/ building and ready to move in flats where sale takes place after issue of completion certificate by the competent authority," the ministry said in a statement. It further said affordable

housing projects like Jawaharlar Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission, Rajiv Awas Yojana, Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana or any other housing scheme of State Governments attracts 8 per cent GST, which can be adjusted by the builders against its accumulated input tax credit (ITC).

For such (affordable housing) projects, after offsetting ITC, the builder or developer in most cases will not be required to pay GST in cash as the builder would have enough ITC in his books of account to pay the output GST," the Ministry said. It said cost of housing projects or complexes or flats, other than those in affordable segment, would not have gone up due to implementation of GST.

Presently, residential construction services, will invite GST at the rate of 12 per cent, which will apply to developers selling residential units before completion of construction to the home buyers.

Congress leader among several political activists joins BJP in J&K

Jammu: Several political activists from Kishtwar, including a Congress leader, on Saturday joined the BJP here and pledged to work for strengthening the party at gross-roots level, a party spokesperson said.

Congress leader Pardeep Singh Parihar, former trade union leader Suresh Sharma and eight NC and PDP activists, including former sarpanches Noor Hussain and Joginder Dhar, were welcomed into the party fold by senior leaders. "Today every nationalist person is joining the BJP influenced by the strong policies of Prime Minister Narendra Modi-led Central Government," said Union Minister Jitendra Singh.

WELCOMING THE NEW ENTRANTS INTO THE PARTY FOLD, JAMMU & KASHMIR BJP PRESIDENT RAVINDER RAINA SAID THE PARTY'S POLICY OF 'SABKA SAATH, SABKA VIKAS' WAS ATTRACTING PROMINENT PERSONS FROM VARIOUS POLITICAL PARTIES

He said the Centre is working on every loophole that has been "left in the system since Independence" and all efforts are being made to uplift the status of neglected and rejected sections of society.

"Under the strong leadership of Modi, India has witnessed phenomenal increase in its graph on global platform," he said.

Welcoming the new entrants into the party fold, Jammu & Kashmir BJP president Ravinder Raina said the party's policy of 'Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas' was attracting prominent persons from various political parties.

"The people from every section have a strong belief that as a worker of the BJP, they will be in better position to serve society and the nation with a clean and clear mind," he said.

Meanwhile, Raina chaired a meeting of the party leaders in connection with the upcoming Lok Sabha and assembly polls and asked the party leaders to frame constituency-wise teams to reach out to the people.

"Involve senior leaders in the teams which will work in unison with ground level workers to secure a win for the party in the upcoming elections," he said. PTI

UN Disability & Development report cites MGNREGA

ARCHANA JYOTI ■ NEW DELHI

India's Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) - the world's largest wage-based social protection programme has been cited, in a first-ever UN report on Disability and Development, as one of the growing number of good practices being implemented by the countries that can create a more inclusive society in which people with disabilities (PwDs) can live independently.

"One example of a public employment program with measures to effectively include persons with disabilities is provided by India," says the report which was launched on the International Day of Persons with Disabilities last week.

It further noted that "through this programme, which guarantees 100 days of wage employment in a financial year to every household, state governments in India have to make efforts to ensure that PwDs are provided work opportunities close to their place of residence, as well as paid wages equal to PwDs."

"This public employment programme also seeks to ensure a stigma-free environment at the



workplace, so that workers with disabilities are not looked down upon or face any form of discrimination. In 2015-16, about half of the 130,420 persons with disabilities registered under this programme engaged in work under the scheme," says the report. Countries that have started to explicitly take disability into account in their public employment services include India, Ivory Coast, Mexico, Peru, Philippines and Vietnam, said the report.

However, the report at the same time also points out that, in India as also in Cameroon, awareness of health services among PwDs is extremely low. In India, only 49 per cent have even heard of any general health services, whereas in Cameroon only 73 per cent

have, it adds.

Overall, the UN's flagship report in disability and development, paints a gloomy picture on the state of the affairs of the PwDs, noting that the sector is at a disadvantage as far as the realization of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) is considered across the countries.

The SDGs are a collection of 17 global goals set by the UN in 2015, which include ending global poverty and hunger, implementing sustainable environmental practices and more. UN Secretary-General António Guterres emphasized that the 2030 Agenda represents a commitment to reduce inequality and promote the social, economic and political inclusion of all, including those with disabilities.

"In many societies, PwDs often end up disconnected, living in isolation and facing discrimination," he said, highlighting that more than one billion people in the world live with some form of disability.

The report demonstrates how disability-based discrimination has severe effects on transport, cultural life, and access to public places and services, and thus, the report leads with a push to change urban environments to make them more accessible.

The above challenges often go unseen as a result of insufficient questions relevant to disability, and consequently, an underestimation of the number of persons living with disabilities and affected by discrimination, and other barriers.

Javier Vasquez, who helps head up the health division at Special Olympics International in his role as Vice President, echoed the issue of gaps in inclusion and representation. On average, PwDs die 16 years sooner than those living without disabilities, however: "A lot of people think people with intellectual disabilities die earlier because of their disabilities, and this is not true," he said according to reports.

CASE OF UNATTENDED EVM

EC removes returning officer of Pali

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

Taking note of a viral video purportedly showing an electronic voting machine laying unattended at the house of a BJP candidate, the Election Commission (EC) has ordered the removal of returning officer of Pali Assembly seat in Rajasthan

The EC ordered removal of Pali returning officer Mahaveer, who has been transferred, and Rakesh from Jodhpur has been asked to take the charge, the commission said. The EC said that a section officer carrying a reserve machine had gone to the BJP candidate's house following which the officer was removed and the EVM taken out of election system.

Adding to the headache of the EC a ballot unit (BBAUD 41390) was found lying on the road in Rajasthan's Kishanganj constituency, hours after voting ended for the high-stake elections in the State. The incident prompted Election Commission to suspend two poll officials on grounds of negligence .

"During transportation it was fell down on the way, was reported to Returning Officer Kishanganj. He examined the matter and found guilty the officials accompanying during transportation. Abdul Rasheed and Patwari Naval Singh were suspended with immediate effect on Friday after the unit was near a highway found in constituency's Shahabad area in Baran district", an EC order said.

It is not just in Rajasthan, but in other state like Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh which also went to the polls the conduct of some election officials have caused the opposing crying foul play. A number of incidents, mostly related to Electronic Voting Machines took place this year in five assembly polls.

Earlier, in Chhattisgarh three men with laptops were detained by police from near a strong room in Bastar under suspicious circumstances.

The men had claimed that they were employees of Reliance Jio. The company, however, refuted the claims and said that

the men were not employees of Reliance Jio, but technicians of a local vendor who had gone to the site to carry out regular maintenance work after an outage was reported with one of their mobile tower located at the Mahila Polytechnic College Jagdalpur.

In Madhya Pradesh, a set of voting machines reached the strong room in Sagar, 48 hours after voting ended. According to reports the EVMs were kept at a police station in Khurai city in the district, where state home minister Bhopendra Singh, the sitting MLA was seeking re-election. The EC in its report said that the EVMs in question were not used for voting, were kept on standby. In a similar incident, an EVM strong room in Bhopal suffered a blackout for nearly one and a half hours on Friday. It is also reported that the CCTV cameras at the strong room were switched off. Even in this case, the EC admitted that that CCTV cameras in the strong room did not work for over an hour but there was no discrepancy in EVMs found as it was reserved voting machines.

RAILWAY RECRUITMENT EXAM

STF busts paper solvers' gang with arrest of 10

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

The Special Task Force claimed to have busted a gang of paper solvers' with the arrest of 10 persons for allegedly facilitating copying in the Group D exam conducted by the Railways Recruitment Board (RRB).

The arrests, including that of gang leader Rahul Kumar, were made from Kalyanpur area of Kanpur on Friday night, the STF officials confirmed.

Giving details of the breakthrough made by the Special Task Force sleuths, IG (STF) Amitabh Yash said that they were getting information that proxy candidates were being used for the recruitment examination conducted by RRB.

The STF team worked on the inputs and learnt that the gang provided proxy candidates who solved the papers for the original candidates. It was also confirmed that the gang used to take huge sum for providing the 'solvers'.

The gang was also making huge money by leaking examination papers to candidates.

Yash said that on Friday night, the STF team conducted raids on some hideouts of the gang in Kalyanpur area of Kanpur and managed to arrest 10 members of the gang.

He said the team recovered eleven mobile phones, 21 admit cards, five blank cheques of SBI and HDFC banks and some other things from the possession of the arrested gang members.

Those arrested revealed their identities as Rahul Kumar (gang leader) hailing from Prayagraj district, Mahesh Kumar Yadav, Pravesh Yadav, Sunil Kumar, Lalit Kumar Yadav, all residents of Sopoul in Bihar, Ajay Kumar Tati, Vijay Kumar Malakar, both hailing from Nalanda district of Bihar.

Three candidates who were arrested are identified as Ajay Kumar Yadav, Ram Babu Pal, both hailing from Prayagraj, and Mukesh Kumar Singh of Gopalganj in Bihar.

Yash said that during interrogation, the gang members disclosed that Rs 5-6 lakh was charged from each candidate for taking the help of the gang. Further investigations are on.



Rescue operations underway at the accident site, where a bus rolled down into a gorge in Mandi area of Poonch on Saturday

PTI

DHFL DEWAN HOUSING FINANCE CORPORATION LIMITED				
National Office: DHFL House, 19, Sahar Road, Vile Parle (East), Off Western Express Highway, Mumbai – 400099.				
Circle Office : Plot No. A-6, Sector-2 Noida 201301				
APPENDIX IV POSSESSION NOTICE(for immovable property)				
Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorized Officer of Dewan Housing Finance Corporation Limited (DHFL) under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, Demand Notice(s) issued by the Authorised Officer of the company to the Borrower(s) / Guarantor(s) mentioned herein below to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice. The borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrower(s) / Guarantor(s) and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under Sub-Section (4) of the Section 13 of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the Security Interest Enforcement rules, 2002. The borrower's attention is invited to provisions of sub –section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets. The borrower in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of DHFL for an amount as mentioned herein under with interest thereon.				
S.N.	Name of the Borrower(s) / Guarantor (s)	Demand Notice Date and Amount	Description of secured asset (immovable property)	Date of Possession
1.	(LC No. 00001375 of our Rohini Branch) Sourabh Alagh (Borrower) Kamlesh Alagh (Co-Borrower)	20-07-2018 Rs. 22,79,895/-	All that part and parcel of the Property Bearing No Property No-wz-59 & New No. A-59,3rd Flr Khasara No 4008/2704/597, Sudershan Park Extension,New Delhi, New Delhi-110015, Delhi.	03-12-2018
2.	(LC No. 00000044 of our Bhiwadi Branch) Jay Kishan (Borrower) Kamlesh Devi (Co-Borrower)	26-02-2018 Rs. 12,48,447/-	All that part and parcel of the Property Bearing No Plot No G 141 (khasa No.342) Bhim Nagar Khudanpuri, Alwar, Alwar-301001,Rajasthan.	05-12-2018
3.	(LC No. DEL36823 of our Delhi-Safdurjung Branch) AJAY KUMAR TYAGI (Borrower) Kamlesh Devi (Co-Borrower)	20-07-2018 Rs. 73,14,496/-	All that part and parcel of the Property Bearing No H/FLAT No.310, FLOOR NO. 3RD, PLOT NO. 4, MAHAGUN MORPHEUS, SECTOR. 50, VILLAGE. NOIDA, NOIDA, Noida-201301, Uttar Pradesh.	04-12-2018
4.	(LC No. 00000005 of our Delhi Rajouri Garden Branch) Mohd Zakir (Borrower) Mohd Danish (Co-Borrower)	23-04-2018 Rs. 27,87,170/-	All that part and parcel of the Property Bearing No Flat No 306, Third Floor Block A Plot No Gh 2 Sky View Appartment Vasundhara Nagar Bhiwadi, Alwar, Alwar-301019, Rajasthan.	04-12-2018
5.	(LC No. 00041163 of our Delhi-Cp Branch) Raj Kumar Mishra (Borrower) Alka Mishra (Co-Borrower)	19-05-2018 Rs. 7,27,165/-	All that part and parcel of the Property Bearing No Dda Janta Flat No. 76, Second Floor Jai Maa Durga Apartments, Pocket-7 Nasirpur, Delhi, New Delhi-110045, Delhi.	04-12-2018
6.	(LC No. 00000311 of our Cannaught Place Branch) Chanchal Paul (Borrower) Nandini Paul (Co-Borrower)	15-12-2017 Rs. 25,09,041/-	All that part and parcel of the Property Bearing No Flat No 309, 9th Floor, Palm Apartment Cosmos Greens, Bhiwadi, Alwar Rajasthan-301019	06-12-2018
7.	(LC No. 00000973 of our Rewari Branch) Rajesh Kumar Dixit (Borrower) Seema Rajesh Dixit (Co-Borrower)	20-07-2018 Rs. 8,16,596/-	All that part and parcel of the Property Bearing No F 203 First Floor Subhashray Isroda Near Alwar By Pass Road, Bhiwadi Tijara, Alwar-301019, Rajasthan.	04-12-2018
8.	(LC No. 00042988 of our Delhi - Safdurjung Branch) Sumesh Choudhary (Borrower) Indu Choudhary (Co-Borrower)	20-07-2018 Rs. 10,46,580/-	All that part and parcel of the Property Bearing No Plot No 9/3108, Gf & ff, Kh No 466/124/19 Plot No 16, Gali No 3, Dharam Pura Gandhi Nagar Delhi, Delhi, New Delhi-110031, Delhi.	05-12-2018
9.	(LC No. 00043831 of our Delhi - Safdurjung Branch) Arjun Chaudhary (Borrower) Shabnam Chaudhary (Guarantor)	20-07-2018 Rs. 23,04,257/-	All that part and parcel of the Property Bearing No Plot No-115, Khanna Nagar, Main 100 Feet Road, khasara No.-1342/3,hardbast Vill-Ioni Ghaziabad, Loni, Ghaziabad-201001, Uttar Pradesh.	05-12-2018
10.	(LC No. 00002517 of our New Delhi Branch) Dinesh Trehan (Borrower) Pooja Trehan (Co-Borrower)	20-07-2018 Rs. 1,07,92,495/-	All that part and parcel of the Property Bearing No Plot No - 17, Block - B, Gandmansion , Rosewood Colony , set-49 & 50 Gurgaon H O Gurgaon, Gurgaon,Gurgaon-122001,Haryana.	04-12-2018
11.	(LC No. 00041798 of our Delhi - Safdurjung Branch) Gautam Banerjee (Borrower) Sharmishtha Sharma (Co-Borrower)	20-07-2018 Rs. 50,04,409/-	All that part and parcel of the Property Bearing No Flat No. A 123 12th Floor Block A Meadows Vista Phase 1, Ghaziabad, Ghaziabad-201011, Uttar Pradesh.	04-12-2018
12.	(LC No. NOD36932 of our Noida -Sector 2 Branch) KULDEEP SINGH (Borrower)	20-07-2018 Rs. 75,30,218/-	All that part and parcel of the Property Bearing No H/FLAT NO.G1-123 , FLOOR NO. TOWER-G1 , PLOT NO. KHERI KALAN , WHISPERING HEIGHTS, SECTOR. 88, FARIDABAD, Faridabad-121003,Haryana.	06-12-2018
13.	(LC No. BHI00037 of our Delhi-Safdurjung Branch) Roshan Lal (Borrower)	23-03-2018 Rs. 2,21,565/-	All that part and parcel of the Property Bearing No H/Flat No.4 G 11, Sector. R B Colony, Village. Bhiwadi, Bhiwadi, -301019, Rajasthan.	04-12-2018
14.	(LC No. 00000259 of our Rohtak Branch) Vinod Kumar Batra (Borrower) Suman Bala (Co-Borrower) Jyoti Devi (Guarantor)	20-07-2018 Rs. 27,36,544/-	All that part and parcel of the Property Bearing No Plot No 608 Second Floor Omaxe City Sector 26, Rohtak, Rohtak-124001, Haryana.	07-12-2018
If the said Borrowers shall fail to make payment to DHFL as aforesaid, DHFL shall proceed against the above secured assets under Section 13(4) of the Act and the applicable Rules, entirely at the risks of the said Borrowers as to the costs and consequences. The said Borrowers are prohibited under the Act from transferring the aforesaid assets, whether by way of sale, lease or otherwise without the prior written consent of DHFL. Any person who contravenes or abets contravention of the provisions of the said Act or Rules made there under, shall be liable for imprisonment and/or penalty as provided under the Act.				
Sd/- Nikhil Malhotra (Authorised Officer) For Dewan Housing Finance Corporation Limited				
Place: Delhi / NCR Date : 09/12/2018				

JAMMU & KASHMIR PANCHAYAT POLLS

Hindu-majority village elects Muslim Panch

PTI ■ BHADERWAH (J&K)

Setting an example of communal harmony and brotherhood, a Hindu-majority village in Bhaderwah town of Jammu and Kashmir elected unopposed the head of its only Muslim family as their Panch in the ongoing nine-phased Panchayat polls.

Chowdhary Mohammad Hussain (54), a Gujjar from a family of cattle rearers, has become the Panch of Bhelan-Kharothi village of Hanga Panchayat.

Incidentally, Hussain's is the only Muslim family in the 450-odd residents of the village. He is living with his wife, five sons and a daughter-in-law and has married off all his four daughters.

"This may seem bizarre in a polarised and communally driven society today, but we take pride in our shared brotherhood," a local resident, Duni Chand (57), told PTI.

He said Hussain was the unanimous choice of his community which wanted to set a precedent for harmonious coexistence and espouse brotherhood which is the strength of

the country.

"The narrative of polarisation and division on the name of religion has not taken away our belief that we are part of the same family.

If it has not destroyed our cohesion over the period, it won't now," Chand said.

He said the residents reposed their faith in Hussain with a twin objective to spread a message to the country from this remote region and reassure him that the people of the village are with him whatever be the situation.

"No doubt Hussain is capable of handling village issues, but we chose him to set an example in the society and show Hussain that he should not feel isolated," he said.

The youths of the village are also happy over the decision and are proud of being the native of Bhelan.

"I am feeling fortunate to be born in a village, where my elders have taken a bold decision given the prevailing situation. I hope the society as a whole will take a lesson from the decision of our elders and isolate the elements bent upon to disturb the mutual trust

and faith to save the country," said Harsh Singh (24), a post-graduate student, said.

The unanimous decision of the villagers has not only made Hussain emotional but upbeat to work round-the-clock for the welfare of the villagers.

"We have been living in complete harmony and they never let me feel that I am the only Muslim living in their village and by making me their Panch that too unopposed has taken their love and faith to a different level, for which I will be indebted to them for the rest of my life," Hussain said.

He said he would not only try his best to live upto their expectations but would surely go an extra mile to do whatever possible.

"This is the only way, I can repay their favour," he said.

He said road connectivity to the village would be his top most priority.

The nine-phased Panchayat polls started on November 17 and are scheduled to end on December 11.

Panchayat Hanga of Bhadarwah block went to polls in the seventh phase on December 4.

79.9% polling held in penultimate phase of elections

KHURSHED WANI ■ SRINAGAR

The penultimate phase of the elongated 9-phase panhayat polls concluded peacefully in Jammu and Kashmir on Saturday with 79.9 per cent turnout—49.6 per cent in Kashmir division and 85.1 per cent in Jammu. The ninth and last phase of Panchayat elections is scheduled on December 11 Tuesday.

The highest 56.9 % voter turnout was recorded in Baramulla district in north Kashmir whileas lowest 9.1 % poll percentage was recorded in central Kashmir's Budgam district.

According to Chief Electoral Officer for penultimate Phase-8, 1333 candidates were in fray for 483 Sarpanch Halqas and 5695 candidates for 3860 Panch wards across the State.

Pertinently, in Phase-7 held on December 4, overall poll percentage of 75.3% was witnessed across the State with

84.8% polling in Jammu division and 30.3% in Kashmir division.

In Phase-6 overall poll percentage of 76.9% was recorded including 17.3% in Kashmir division and 84.6% in Jammu division.

In Phase-5 poll percentage of 71.1% was witnessed across the State with 85.2% polling in Jammu division and 33.7% in Kashmir division. In Phase-4 JK witnessed 71.3% voting with 82.4% electors exercising their franchise in Jammu division and 32.3% in Kashmir division.

In Phase-3, the State witnessed a poll percentage of 75.2% including 55.7% in Kashmir division and 83.0% in Jammu division.

In Phase-2 overall 71.1% polling was witnessed across the State with 80.4% polling in Jammu division and 52.2% in Kashmir division and in Phase-1, 74.1% polling was recorded including 64.5% in Kashmir division and 79.4% in Jammu division.

MUMBAI DIAMANTAIRE UDANI MURDER

TV actress Devoleena detained, BJP worker Pawar held

Both are suspects in Udani's mysterious murder case

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

In twin shocking developments, the Mumbai police on Saturday detained prominent model-cum-television actress Devoleena Bhattacharjee for questioning and arrested a local BJP worker Sachin Pawar for interrogation in connection with the mysterious murder of diamondaire Rajeshwar Udani.

Three days after Udani's body was recovered by the Panvel police from a jungle in the adjoining Raigad district, the police detained both Devoleena and Pawar at the Mumbai airport on their arrival from Gawahati where they were away together.

Pawar, who was earlier the personal secretary of Maharashtra Housing Minister Prakash Mehta of the BJP, was

later placed under arrest later in the day for Udani's murder. However, the minister swiftly distanced himself from Pawar, saying that he had severed his links with the latter nine years ago.

Devoleena, who is known for her lead role as Gopi Bahu in popular Hindi television serial Saath Nibhaana Saathiya, was questioned by the police all through the day. The investigators were not ruling out the possibility of her being arrested for her alleged role in Udani's murder.

Fifty-seven-year-old Udani had gone missing from his office from November 28. His family members had lodged a complaint with the Pant Nagar police about Udani's disappearance, following which a search had been launched for the missing diamond merchant. The investigators had tracked Udani's mobile to Rabale in Navi Mumbai before the signal went off.

Subsequently, the local police recovered a highly

decomposed body from the forests surrounding Nere village near Panvel town, on December 4. On Friday, Udani's family members identified his body from the clothes and belt he had worn before he had gone missing six days earlier.

Udani's driver had earlier informed the police that his employer had asked him to drop him near the Pant Nagar market, where he got into another car that arrived there soon afterwards.

The investigations have revealed that Udani, who used to enjoy night of Mumbai, would frequent bars every evening and spent a lot of time. Said to have a glad eye for women, Udani would befriend women by the dozen. Pawar would introduce women from various walks of life, particularly glamour world to Udani.

The investigators believe that Pawar, who had known Devoleena well, had introduced the actress to Udani. They have also a reason to sus-

pect that Pawar might have involved Devoleena in the alleged murder of Udani and disposal of his forests of Raigad district.

Devoleena, who incidentally is one of the highest paid actresses in the Indian TV industry, lives with her mother and younger brother in Mumbai. After being noticed during the auditioning for dance reality show "Dance India Dance 2", Devoleena made her debut in NDTV's Imagine's Sawaare Sabke Sapne Preeto" as Bani.

Later she shot to fame when she was cast as female lead Gopi Modi in Star Plus' television serial Saath Nibhaana Saathiya after Giaa Manek, who previously played the female role, was ousted from the serial.

Devoleena had earlier made headlines in the entertainment news world after she accused actress Utkarsha Naik, who played the role of Pramila in the same show of kidnapping her dog 'Jugnu' from the sets.

Meanwhile, Maharashtra Housing Minister Prakash Mehta distanced himself from Pawar, who was his personal assistant between 2004 to 2009. "He used to work for me a personal assistant till 2009. But, after he turned rebel and contested the BMC polls as an independent, the BJP expelled him from the party. From then onwards, I ceased to have relations with Pawar. I have not met him nor had an indirect contact with him for the past nine years," Mehta said.

"Hence, it is wrong for the people to link me to Pawar. The Mumbai police are an efficient police machinery. I am confident that the investigators will deal with the accused in the Udani murder case in a stern manner," the minister added.

Incidentally, Pawar returned to the BJP in 2017 after his wife Sakshi Pawar was given party ticket to contest the BMC polls. Pawar, however, does not hold any party post at the moment.

Two terrorists killed in Kashmir

KHURSHED WANI ■ SRINAGAR

Two unidentified terrorists were killed in an encounter in Mujkund area of Srinagar outskirts on Srinagar Bandipora road on Saturday evening.

Three security personnel were also wounded in the gunfight who have been shifted to military hospital.

The gunfight broke out soon after a joint team of security forces launched a cordon-and-search-operation (CASO) in Mujkund area after inputs about the presence of terrorists.

Security sources said that

bodies of slain terrorists are yet to be retrieved. They said there was input about presence of two to three terrorists in the area.

Local reports said that a house where terrorists were hiding was damaged during the operation. A couple of other residential houses were reported to have been damaged during the counter terrorist operation.

Meanwhile, reports of intense clashes were received near the gunfight site after locals staged protests to disrupt the anti-terrorist operation. Youths resorted to stone pelting in the area.

UP seeks ₹5,500-cr investments for Bundelkhand green energy corridor

Lucknow: The Uttar Pradesh Government will seek private investments worth ₹5,500 crore for the proposed Bundelkhand green energy corridor that is expected to generate 4,000 megawatt (MW) solar power.

Uttar Pradesh's Non-conventional Energy Resources Minister Brajesh Pathak said the state would foot the bill for evacuating power from solar energy projects of 5 MW and above on to the grid in Bundelkhand and Purvanchal regions. The state will promote solar power parks, both in private and public-private partnership sector, to reduce its dependence on coal fired ther-

mal power plant and achieve its target of 10,700 MW solar energy generation by 2022.

Pathak said the State would provide 100 per cent exemption in electricity duty to the private companies for 10 years. The companies will be free to sell power to third party as well and they will get 50 per cent and 100 per cent exemption in transmission charges. On account of rising power demand due to incremental growth, coupled with the government's target to provide metered electricity to all households by next year, the state has projected total power supply to touch 22,500 megawatt by peak summer sea-

son in 2019. However, there is yawning gap between generation and projected demand.

While the Government is trying to ramp up solar power generation through on-grid and off-grid solar power plants, including rooftop solar power installations, the grid transmission capacity is also being fortified to handle higher load to prevent tripping. Meanwhile, what can be seen as a validation of UP government's optimism regarding setting a competitive upper tariff of Rs 3.10/kWh for its 550 MW solar tender, its entire tender bucket has been oversubscribed well within the benchmark set by it.

PNS

After temple lands, temple sold off in TN

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ CHENNAI

Tamil Nadu is infamous for

"vanished temple lands" across the length and breadth of the State. But the situation in the State has deteriorated to such an extent that a former police officer has approached the Madras High Court with a complaint that a famous temple itself has been sold off by its hereditary trustees. The temple is situated at Nungambakkam, a posh residential locality in Chennai city and right close to the Hindu Religious Charitable Endowment Department, the government agency in charge of temples in the State. .

The Madras High Court early this year has directed the HRCE Department to furnish

the "whereabouts" of 50,000 acres of prime temple lands which have been mysteriously disappeared from the documents and records.

The Agastheewar Temple, a 400-year-old shrine has been sold off by the temple trustees "without" the concurrence and authorisation of the HR&CE Department, alleges Jebamani Mohanraj, the petitioner.

Mohanraj, a police officer who took voluntary retirement from Government service told *The Pioneer* that though he had filed a petition in the Madras High Court in 2014, the HRCE Department was "deliberately delaying" the case by not filing its response in spite of the directive by the court.

Mohanraj said that as per

AGASTHEEWARAR TEMPLE, A 400-YEAR-OLD SHRINE HAS BEEN SOLD OFF BY THE TEMPLE TRUSTEES 'WITHOUT' THE CONCURRENCE AND AUTHORISATION OF THE HR&CE DEPARTMENT, ALLEGES JEBAMANI MOHANRAJ, THE PETITIONER

a Government order , no one could sell off temple properties. "But this rule has been violated with impunity by the Dravidian parties ruling the State since 1967. About 300 grounds of land owned by the temple has been sold off with the connivance of the HRCE staff," he charged..

"Land records available with the government state that the property belongs to the temple.

As per market value, the land is worth Rs 1800 crore," said Mohanraj, who had also served the CBI as an investigator.

Mohanraj said though he took up the matter with the HRCE Department, it ignored his petition and that was why he approached the High Court. "The HR&CE Department has been packed with atheists by the DMK as well as the AIADMK and the officials are continuing robbing temples across the State.

"The modus operandi has been planned very intelligently by the trustees and the officials. The government survey records confirm that the land is registered with the temple. But in reality, the land is now owned by private citizens," he said.

The Madras High Court has

adjourned the petition to January 11 since the HRCE officials failed to file the response in the past. "I do not think they would file the affidavit this time too," said an exasperated Mohanraj. The report about the temple being sold off comes at a time when Madras High Court is hearing a series of petitions filed by Temple Worshipers Society highlighting the disappearance of temple lands, idols and antique statues and stone pillars from temples. The Madras High Court has extended the services of A G Pon Manickavel, Inspector General of Police (Temple Idol Theft Wing) who retired from Government service on November 30 for a period of one year to complete the investigation into the missing idols cases.

300 detained as Paris braces for 'yellow vest' protests



Protesters known as the "yellow vests" try to kick a tear gas canister during a protest on the Paris' famed Champs-Elysees Avenue, France on Saturday

AFP ■ PARIS

Paris police detained nearly 300 people on Saturday ahead of fresh anti-Government "yellow vest" protests which authorities fear could turn violent for a third weekend in a row.

Clad in their luminous road safety jackets, dozens of demonstrators — who accuse President Emmanuel Macron of only looking out for the rich — gathered at dawn on the Champs-Elysees, the scene last

on people arriving at train stations and at protest hotspots such as the Champs-Elysees and Bastille monument.

A source close to the operation told *AFP* that at least 34 people were arrested for carrying masks, hammers, slingshots and rocks that could be used to attack police.

Shops, museums, the Eiffel Tower and many metro stations were closed as much of the city-centre went on effective lockdown.

Top-flight football matches and concerts were cancelled.

Last weekend's violence, which saw some 200 cars torched and the Arc de Triomphe vandalised, shook France and plunged Macron's government into its deepest crisis so far.

Interior Minister Christophe Castaner said he expected "only a few thousand people" to descend on Paris after the 8,000 protesters counted last weekend, "but among them are ultraviolent individuals".

"These past three weeks have produced a monster that its creators no longer control," Castaner said, vowing "zero tol-

erance" towards those aiming to wreak further destruction.

Prime Minister Edouard Philippe on Friday evening met a delegation of self-described "moderate" yellow vests who have urged people not to join the protests.

After the meeting a spokesman from the movement, Christophe Chalencon, said Philippe had "listened to us and promised to take our demands to the president".

"Now we await Mr Macron. I hope he will speak to the people of France as a father, with love and respect and that he will take strong decisions," he said. Philippe said some 89,000 police were being mobilised nationwide, with a dozen armoured vehicles deployed in Paris for the first time in decades.

Shops around the Champs-Elysees boulevard boarded up their windows and emptied them of merchandise on Friday, while the Louvre, Musee d'Orsay and other museums were shut.

Department stores were also staying closed due to the risk of looting on what would normally be a busy shopping

weekend in the run-up to Christmas.

Foreign governments are watching developments closely in one of the world's most visited cities.

The US embassy issued a warning to Americans in Paris to "keep a low profile and avoid crowds", while Belgium, Portugal and the Czech Republic advised citizens planning to visit Paris over the weekend to postpone their visit.

In a warning of impending violence, an MP for Macron's party, Benoit Potterie, received a bullet in the post on Friday with the words: "Next time it will be between your eyes."

Calls on social media for protesters to attack the police or march on the presidential palace have especially rattled the authorities.

Macron this week gave in to some of the protesters' demands for measures to help the poor and struggling middle classes, including scrapping a planned increase in fuel taxes and freezing electricity and gas prices in 2019.

But the "yellow vests", some of whom who have become

increasingly radicalised, are holding out for more. Many are calling on Macron to resign.

The protesters began blocking roads, fuel depots and shopping centres around France on November 17 over soaring petrol prices that have hit people in the provinces who get around by car.

Trump blames Paris accord for 'yellow vest' protests

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

US President Donald Trump on Saturday blamed the Paris climate accord for the French "yellow vest" protests, while claiming that the agitators chanted: "We want Trump!"

Last year, Trump withdrew the US from the landmark international Paris Agreement, which was also signed by India, on attempting to bring down global temperatures.

70 held in Brussels during protest

AFP ■ BRUSSELS

Around 70 people were arrested on Saturday in the Belgian capital Brussels during copycat "yellow vest" demonstrations rocking neighbouring France, police said.

The area housing European institutions including the offices of the European Commission and the European Parliament was sealed off as a precautionary measure. Police put up barricades there and both vehicles and pedestrians were denied access.

The protesters gathered in two districts of the city - Arts Lois and Porte de Namur - but there were no incidents of violence.

"There have been around 70 arrests following checks carried out as a preventive measure," Brussels police spokeswoman Ilse Van De

Keere told *AFP*.

According to Belga news agency, young protesters blocked a highway linking Brussels to the town of Rekem in Flanders, located near the French border.

They also put up a barricade near the Franco-Belgian border close to Adinkerque, Belga said.

The "yellow vest" movement in France originally started as a protest about planned fuel hikes but has morphed into a mass protest against President Emmanuel Macron's policies and top-down style of governing.

It has spilled over to some other countries, including Belgium and especially in the country's French-speaking region.

On November 30, a "yellow vest" protest by some 300 people in Brussels degenerated into violence in which two police vehicles were torched.

GLOBE TROTTER

EGYPT PROBES COUPLE FOR POSING NUDE ON PYRAMID

Cairo: Egyptian authorities were probing a Danish couple after a video and a photo surfaced showing them climbing to the summit of the Great Khufu Pyramid of Giza and posing naked, the media reported on Saturday. The three-minute video recorded at night, which has stirred outrage and controversy among Egyptians on social media, shows parts of the climb as a man and a woman scale what appears to be the Great Pyramid of Giza with the skyline of Cairo in the background, *CNN* reported.

B'DESH'S EC REJECTS ZIA'S PLEA TO CONTEST POLLS

Dhaka: Bangladesh's election commission on Saturday rejected jailed former Prime Minister Khaleda Zia's plea challenging the cancellation of her nomination, virtually ending her hopes of contesting the upcoming general election. "The commission rejected her petition by 4-1 votes... The CEC and three other commissioners were on one side while one of commissioners was in favour of her candidature," an EC spokesman said.

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform to the general public that my clients SHRI AJAY KUMAR BISWAS S/o Lt SHRI ADITYA BISWAS and his wife SMT. JYANTI BISWAS both R/o PZ-131, GALI NO. 2, MAHAVIR ENCLAVE, NEW DELHI have disowned and disinherited their son DR. AMRIT BISWAS daughter in law DEEPIKA BISWAS & grandson ADITYA BISWAS from their all movable & immovable property/assets whatsoever wherever situated and sever all their connections with them and whoever dealing with them shall be doing so at his own risk & consequences and my clients shall not be held responsible/liable for their acts and deeds.

Sd/-
VINAY KUMAR SHARMA
Advocate

सार्वजनिक सूचना

मैं सुखदेव शर्मा पुत्र स्वर्गीय श्री मनीराम शर्मा एवं बीना शर्मा w/o श्री सुखदेव शर्मा R/o E-79/125 सोनिया विहार, सक्की मण्डी, दिल्ली -110092 अपने पुत्र अनुराग शर्मा (गौतु) को उनके चाल चालन के कारण अपनी समस्त चल एवं अचल सम्पत्ति से बेदखल करता हूँ, यदि कोई व्यक्ति उनके साथ किसी प्रकार का लेन देन करता है तो उसके लिए मैं व मेरा परिवार जिम्मेवार नहीं हूँ।

मनीषा शर्मा, अधिकृत
Enroll No. D-839K5

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the following property measuring 434 sq. Meters situated at **No. 1056P Sector-40, Urban Estate, Gurgaon (HARYANA)** duly registered vide No. 1983. Book No. 1. Vol. No. 21457, pages 12/75-96/90 dated 21.05.2018 standing in the name of **Olympic Engineers Pvt. Ltd.** is mortgaged to my client **Bank of Baroda, Karol Bagh Branch, Delhi** towards Security of finance client granted by the Bank to M/s Olympic Cylinder Private limited and as such our client is secured Creditor having 1st charge on the above said property. **Following original documents** pertaining to the demised property have been reported lost by the mortgagee/owner of the property-
1. Sale Agreement dated 05.05.2010 executed by Sh. Sanjay Sachdeva in favor of Sh. Shiv Dayal Gupta & Shri Sanjay Kumar Bansal in respect of property at: Plot No. 1056 P, Measuring 434 Sq. Meters, Sector-40 Urban Estate, Gurgaon, Haryana.
2. Re-Allocation Letter dated 29.04.2011 (memo no. Z0002/EO018/ UE029/ REALL/ HUDA on request of Sh. Sanjay Sachdeva through GPA Shri Shiv Dayal Gupta & Shri Sanjay Kumar Bansal in favor of Sh. Anil Bashin in respect of property at: Plot no. 1056P, Measuring 434 Sq. Meters, Sector-40 Urban Estate, Gurgaon, Haryana.
Anybody (Person/Bank/Entity or any financial institution) have any right, title, queries, interest, share, claim or demand of any nature whatsoever in respect of the Property Subjected or any part thereof by way of sale, transfer, lease, gift, exchange, easement, possession in part performance, mortgage or otherwise howsoever by operation of law or otherwise, is hereby called upon to make the same known in writing, with notarized documentary proof, must contact the Chief Manager, Bank Of Baroda, Karol Bagh Branch, Delhi immediately.
Samadhan Legal Solutions
(Attorney for Bank of India)
A-21, Jangpura Extn., New Delhi

on Saturday of the worst rioting in Paris for decades.

"We had to come to Paris to be heard," said protester Herve Benoit, arriving with three friends from the Dordogne in western France.

He called on the government to boost people's spending power and increase taxes on the wealthiest.

By 8.40 am (0740 GMT) police had already detained 278 people.

Some 8,000 police were deployed, carrying out checks

Rouhani: US sanctions are 'economic terrorism'

AFP ■ TEHRAN

Iran's President Hassan Rouhani said US sanctions were "economic terrorism", as he sought to foster a united front from visiting regional officials on Saturday.

Washington has reimposed an oil embargo and other damaging sanctions on Iran since pulling out in May from a landmark 2015 nuclear deal between Tehran and major powers.

"America's unjust and illegal sanctions against the honourable nation of Iran have targeted our nation in a clear instance of terrorism," Rouhani said in a televised speech.

He was speaking at a conference on terrorism and regional cooperation attended by parliament speakers from Afghanistan, China, Pakistan, Russia and Turkey.

"We are facing an all-out assault which is not only threatening our independence and identity but also is bent on breaking our longstanding ties," he added.



Rouhani drew parallels with the sanctions and other pressure faced by the countries attending the conference.

"When they put pressure on China's trade, we are all harmed... By punishing Turkey, we are all punished. Any time they threaten Russia, we too consider our security to be endangered," he said.

"When they impose sanctions on Iran, they deprive all of us of the benefits of international trade, energy securi-

ty and sustainable development. And in fact, they impose sanctions on everyone.

"We are here to say that we don't intend to tolerate such insolence," Rouhani also warned Europe - which has strongly objected to the US withdrawal from the nuclear deal - that much is at stake in its efforts to bypass US sanctions and maintain trade with Iran.

"They should know that by sanctioning Iran, they would harm our ability to fight drugs and terrorism," Rouhani said, referring to Iran's efforts to combat smuggling, particularly from Afghanistan.

The European Union is working on a payment system, known as the "special purpose vehicle", to keep money flowing into Iran, but has struggled to find a host since many countries fear repercussions from the Trump administration.

The conference in Tehran was the second regional meeting on terrorism — the first was held last December in Islamabad.

US Govt seeks 'substantial' jail term for ex-Trump lawyer Cohen

New York: US prosecutors asked a New York court Friday to hand down a "substantial" prison sentence to President Donald Trump's former personal lawyer Michael Cohen, rejecting Cohen's request for leniency based on his cooperation with law enforcement officials.

"Cohen, an attorney and businessman, committed four distinct federal crimes over a period of several years. He was motivated to do so by personal greed, and repeatedly used his power and influence for deceptive ends," New York's US Attorney Robert Khuzami said in a court submission. *AFP*

Ex-FBI director Comey grilled again in US Congress

Washington: Former FBI director James Comey, sacked by President Donald Trump in 2017, testified Friday before US lawmakers for the first time in over a year, but this time out of the camera glare.

The hours-long Capitol Hill grilling comes amid turbulence at the White House, and mounting intrigue over Special Counsel Robert Mueller's investigation into Russian interference in the 2016 election and possible contacts between Trump's presidential campaign and Moscow.

Trump's angry tweet on Tillerson came after the former secretary of state, in an interview to CBS News, was critical of the president.

Trump calls former Secretary of State 'dumb as a rock'

Washington: US President Donald Trump on Friday lambasted his former secretary of state Rex Tillerson, describing him as "dumb as a rock" and "lazy as hell", after the ex-diplomat alleged the president regularly pushed him to take decisions that were "illegal". On the same day, Trump praised Secretary of State Mike Pompeo for doing a great job. "Mike Pompeo is doing a great job, I am very proud of him. His predecessor, Rex Tillerson, didn't have the mental capacity needed," Trump said in a tweet.

"He (Tillerson) was dumb as a rock and I couldn't get rid of him fast enough. He was lazy as hell. Now it is a whole new ballgame, great spirit at state!" he said.

Trump's angry tweet on Tillerson came after the former secretary of state, in an interview to CBS News, was critical of the president.

"I think he grew tired of me being the guy everyday that told him, 'You can't do that, and let's talk about what we can do,'" Tillerson said in his interview.

"He acts on his instincts, in some respects it looks like impulsiveness... But... it's not his intent to act on impulse. I think he really is trying to act on his instincts," he said.

"It's challenging for me coming from the disciplined, highly process-oriented ExxonMobil Corporation... to go to work for a man who is pretty undisciplined, doesn't like to read, doesn't read briefing reports, doesn't like to get into the details of a lot of things.

"But rather just kind of says, 'Look, this is what I believe and you can try to convince me otherwise,' but most of the time you're not going to do that," Tillerson said. *PTI*

Muslims rally to defend rights in multi-ethnic Malaysia

Kuala Lumpur: Thousands of banner-waving Muslims dressed in white rallied in the Malaysian capital on Saturday demanding protection of their rights, at a time of growing racial tensions in the multi-ethnic country.

Big crowds gathered in downtown Kuala Lumpur, chanting "God is great" and waving banners that read "Long live the Malays", an *AFP* reporter said. Large numbers of police were on the streets and major roads were closed.

Race and religion are sensitive in Malaysia, which is home to sizeable ethnic Chinese and Indian communities, and the Muslim Malay majority appears to be feeling increasingly insecure under a new government that is more representative of minorities. *AFP*

Six dead, dozens hurt in Italy nightclub stampede

AFP ■ CORINALDO

Six people, including five teenagers, died and 120 were injured in a stampede when panic broke out during a rap concert at a packed Italian nightclub early on Saturday. The suspected use of a pepper spray-like substance is thought to have sparked the chaos at the venue in the town of Corinaldo, near Ancona in central Italy, the fire service said in a statement on Twitter.

But carabinieri police spokesman Cristian Carrozza later said they were still "trying to ascertain what had caused the youths to rush out", adding: "There are three exits and one of these was used." The victims include three girls and two boys aged between 14 and 16 and a 39-year-old woman who accompanied her daughter to the concert. Some 10 people are in a critical condition, doctors said, with at least 120 injured in total.

"Around 1,400 tickets were sold for the concert and the place could only accommodate 870 people," said Monica Garulli from the prosecutor's office in Ancona.

The exit used led to a small bridge and the car park. The force of the fleeing crowd made a railing collapse and dozens of people fell, crushing those at the bottom of the pile, according to a preliminary investigation.

Grainy mobile phone footage appeared to show part of a walkway collapsing, sending dozens of people tumbling down.

LANGLOI BRANCH - DELHI
No. 1, Najafgarh Road, Nangloi, New Delhi - 110 041
Ph: 011-25943353, FAX: 25943319 Email: br.9015@syndicatebank.co.in

E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE UNDER SARFAESI ACT, 2002
Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (hereinafter referred to as the Act).

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and to the Borrowers and Guarantors in particular that the under mentioned property mortgaged to Syndicate Bank, the possession of which had been taken by the Authorised Officer of the Bank under S. 13(4) of the Act will be sold by E-Auction as mentioned below for recovery of under mentioned dues and further interest, charges and costs etc as detailed below.

The property described below is being sold on "AS IS WHERE IS, WHATEVER THERE IS AND WITHOUT RECOURSE BASIS" under the rule no. 8 & 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules (hereinafter referred to as the rules) for the recovery of the dues detailed as under

Name and address of Borrower	M/s David Sales and Solution prop. Sh. Davinder Singh S/O Sh. Jagdish Singh SHOP NO 14, C-126, NARAINA/INDIA AREA PHASE II NEW DELHI-110028
Total amount due as on 06.12.2018	Rs. 1,10,69,897.08 with future interest from 01.12.2018 and costs till date of payment.
Description of the Immovable/ Movable properties with name of the owner/Mortgagor	Entire Ground Floor(Without roof rights) Free Hold Property of Area 900 Sq. Approx, situated at H. No- WZ-70B, PLOT NO-185, CHAND NAGAR (KHYALA), NEAR LITLIT NAGAR, NEW DELHI-110018
Details of encumbrances over the property, as known to the Bank	Not known

The details regarding E Auction are mentioned below:

Date and time of E - Auction	On 29.12.2018 between 12:00 pm and 3:00 pm
Reserve price of property	Rs.31,50 Lakhs.
E Auction Website address	https://syndicatebank.auctiontigner.net .
Earnest Money deposit(EMD)	10% of reserve Price i.e. Rs. 3.15 Lakhs
Last date for submission of bids	28.12.2018 before 4:00 P.M.
Minimum Bid Increment amount	0.20 Lakhs
Date and time of inspection of property for intending purchasers	24.12.2018 (Between 12:00 and 3:00P.M.)

Contact details & website address of service provider (Name/telephone no./ email id/address)

M/s E-procurement Technologies Ltd. (Auction Tiger),
B-704-705, Wall Street-II, Opp. Orient Club, Nr. Gujarat College, Ellis Bridge, Ahmedabad.
Toll Free No: 1800 103 5342 / Whatsapp: 9374519724
Contact Person: Mr. Kushal Kothary (9806990773),
Mr. Vishal Tiwari (9879996111).
E-mail id: delhi@auctiontiger.net, kushal@auctiontiger.net & support@auctiontiger.net
LL No. 079-68135416 / 417 / 418

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

- The EMD shall be deposited through RTGS/NEFT/Fund Transfer to the credit of A/c no. 90153020000010 Syndicate Bank Nangloi Branch IFSC Code: SYNB0009015 before submitting bids online. EMD can also be paid by way of Pay order/Demand Draft in favour of Syndicate Bank payable at New Delhi.
- The intending bidders should submit the duly filled in Bid form (format available in the above website) along with the DD/PD/quoting the UTR no. of NEFT/RTGS remittance towards EMD in a sealed cover addressed to the Authorised Officer, C/o Syndicate Bank, No-1 Najaf Garh Road, Nangloi, Delhi-110041 so as to reach the same before 22.11.2018 (last date of submission of bid). The sealed cover should be super scribed with "Bid for participating in E Auction Sale - in the A/c of M/s. David Sales and Solution".
- Bidders are advised to visit the Bank's website www.syndicatebank.in for detailed e-auction notice wherein all the terms and conditions of e-auction sale are furnished. Bidders may also visit the website of service provider or contact them as per the details given above for any clarifications/queries.
- Intending bidders shall hold a valid Digital Signature Certificate, active email address and PAN number.
- The undersigned has the absolute right and discretion to accept or reject any bid or postpone/cancel the sale or modify any terms and conditions of the sale without any prior notice and assigning any reason.
- The sale shall be subject to the terms and conditions prescribed in the Act, Rules and the conditions prescribed in the detailed terms and conditions published in the website.
- For further details contact the Authorised Officer C/o Syndicate Bank, No-1 Najaf Garh Road, Nangloi, Delhi-110041. Mob- 9968309015 Ph: 011-25943353, 25943319

Please treat this also as a notice under rule 8(6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) rules 2002 to the borrower/s and guarantor/s/mortgagor/s of the secured bid mentioned above regarding holding the said sale on the above mentioned date and time if their outstanding dues mentioned above are not paid in full.

The interested bidders are requested to visit the Bank's Website for detailed terms and conditions of the auction sale which may be read as part and parcel of this advertisement

Place: New Delhi
Date: 06.11.2018

For The Syndicate Bank,
Authorized Officer

GST ANNUAL RETURNS

Fin Ministry extends deadline till March 31

New Delhi: The Finance Ministry has extended the last date for filing annual GST return forms by three months until March 31, 2019.

The annual returns form in which businesses registered under the GST have to provide consolidated details of sales, purchases and input tax credit (ITC) benefits accrued to them during 2017-18 fiscal was notified in September. The last date for filing was set at December 31, 2018.

In a statement, the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) said, "the competent authority has decided to extend the due date for filing Form GSTR-9, GSTR-9A and GSTR-9C till March 31, 2019.

The requisite Forms shall be made available on the GST common portal shortly".

GSTR-9 is the annual return form for normal taxpayers, GSTR-9A is composition taxpayers, while GSTR-9C is a reconciliation statement

Trade and industry players have been seeking an extension of the deadline for filing the annual returns.

EY Tax Partner Abhishek Jain said industry players have



been struggling to collate the information required to be disclosed in GSTR-9 and GSTR-9C.

PwC Partner and Leader (Indirect Tax) Pratik Jain said, "Industry, as well as consultants, were struggling with December 31 deadline, given the volume of work involved including preparing a virtual P&L at a State level". **PTI**

No GST on sale of properties with completion certificate

New Delhi: The Finance Ministry on Saturday said GST will not be levied on buyers of real estate properties for which completion certificate is issued at the time of sale.

However, Goods and Services Tax (GST) is applicable on sale of under-construction property or ready to move in flats where completion certificate is not issued at the time of sale, it said.

The Ministry also asked the builders to reduce the prices of properties by passing on the benefit of lower GST rate.

"It is brought to the notice

of buyers of constructed property that there is no GST on sale of complex/ building and ready to move in flats where sale takes place after issue of completion certificate by the competent authority," the Ministry said in a statement.

It further said affordable housing projects like Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission, Rajiv Awas Yojana, Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana or any other housing scheme of State Governments attracts 8 per cent GST, which can be adjusted by the builders against its accumulated input tax credit (ITC). **PTI**

Axis Bank inducts Amitabh Chaudhry on its board

New Delhi: Axis Bank on Saturday inducted Amitabh Chaudhry as additional director on its board, three weeks ahead of his taking over as the new managing director and CEO of the private sector lender.

He will replace incumbent Shikha Sharma whose fourth term has been curtailed by the RBI by nearly two-and-half years.

In a board meeting held Saturday, Axis Bank approved the appointment of Chaudhry as additional director. The board also gave its nod for the reappointment of Samir Barua, Som Mittal and Rohit Bhagat as independent directors.

"The Board ...Has appointed Amitabh Chaudhry as an Additional Director of the Bank and to hold office as such till the conclusion of the ensuing Annual General Meeting..." Axis Bank said in a regulatory filing.

The appointment is subject to approval of the shareholders, it added.

Chaudhry, the former MD



and CEO of HDFC Standard Life Insurance Company, was in September named the MD and CEO of Axis Bank for a period of three years, with effect from January 1, 2019.

Chaudhry, 54 years, will take over from Shikha Sharma after she demits office on December 31, 2018.

He started his career in corporate banking with the Bank of America in 1987, where he worked in diverse roles.

In July 2017, the board of Axis Bank had approved the reappointment of Sharma, who was to start her fourth term as MD and CEO from June 2018. **PTI**

China's surplus with US hits new record in November

Beijing: China's trade surplus with the United States ballooned to a record \$35.6 billion in November, official data showed on Saturday, as exports across the Pacific remained strong despite a raft of US tariffs while imports shrank.

Relations between the world's top two economies continue to be tense despite a trade war truce struck between US President Donald Trump and his counterpart President Xi Jinping last week.

Trump and figures in his administration have said China would immediately start buying US goods in bulk, but Beijing has refrained from confirming those claims.

The increasingly lopsided trade in goods between the two nations threatens to further derail prospects for a trade deal during a 90-day negotiation period.

The ballooning trade deficit with China is a particularly sore point for Trump, who campaigned on turning around the situation.

China's exports to the US rose 9.8 per cent for November on-year, while imports for the month fell 25 per cent on-year,

the data from China's customs administration showed.

American farmers have been hit particularly hard by the trade tensions. Trump tweeted this week that China would begin buying products from US farmers "immediately".

Usually Chinese buyers have snapped up American soybeans in the final months of the year as the harvest hits the market and beans from competitor Brazil dry up.

But this year, Chinese buyers have passed on US soybeans which face a 25 per cent border tax upon import, part of the \$50 billion in US goods Beijing hit with higher duties this summer in retaliation for US tariffs.

China's soybean imports fell 38 per cent on-year, to 5.4 million tonnes for the month, the data showed.

The trade surplus with the US expanded to \$293.5 billion for January-November, up from \$ 251.3 billion during the same period last year.

China's overall trade — what it buys and sells with all countries, including the US — logged a \$44.7 billion surplus



demand from jewellers and retailers at the domestic spot market added to the momentum, they said.

In the national Capital, gold of 99.9 per cent and 99.5 per cent purity started the week on a positive note. Except

Tuesday and Friday, gold prices moved northwards through the week to end at ₹32,350 and ₹32,200 per 10 grams respectively, climbing ₹890 each.

Sovereign ended at ₹25,000 per piece of 8 grams, showing a rise of ₹100.

In line with the overall trend, silver ready traded in the green zone and ended at ₹38,500 per kg with an increase of ₹1,940. Weekly-based delivery gained ₹3,153 to close at ₹38,500 per kg during the week.

Silver coins also gained ₹1,000 to end at ₹74,000 for buying and ₹75,000 for selling of 100 pieces for the week.

Nabard inks \$100 mn pact with Green Climate Fund to boost solar power

New Delhi: The National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (Nabard) Saturday signed an agreement with Green Climate Fund (GCF) to infuse \$100 million into the project designed to unlock private sector initiatives for creation of rooftop solar power capacity across India.

The \$250 million project, to be executed by Tata Cleantech Capital Ltd, will receive the GCF support through Nabard, which is the National Implementing Entity (NIE) for the UNFCCC-promoted Fund that supports the

efforts of developing countries to respond to the challenge of climate change, the bank said in a statement.

The agreement with GCF was signed at an event held on the sidelines of ongoing COP24 in Katowice, Poland, it said.

Notably, India, which hosts International Solar Alliance, has an ambitious vision of creating 100 gw solar power capacity it said, adding Nabard has been financing solar power projects and installations in various other programmes as well.

'India to retain top position in remittances with \$80 bn'

Washington: India will retain its position as the world's top

recipient of remittances this year with its diaspora sending a whopping \$80 billion back home, the World Bank said in a report on Saturday.

India is followed by China (\$67 billion), Mexico and the Philippines (\$34 billion each) and Egypt (\$26 billion), according to the global lender.

With this, India has retained its top spot on remittances, according to the latest edition of the World Bank's Migration

and Development Brief.

The Bank estimates that officially-recorded remittances to developing countries will increase by 10.8 per cent to reach \$528 billion in 2018. This new record level follows a robust growth of 7.8 per cent in 2017.

Global remittances, which include flows to high-income countries, are projected to grow by 10.3 per cent to \$689 billion, it said.

Over the last three years, India has registered a signifi-



cant flow of remittances from \$62.7 billion in 2016 to \$65.3 billion 2017. In 2017, remittances constituted 2.7 per cent of India's GDP, it said.

The Bank said remittances to South Asia are projected to increase by 13.5 per cent to

\$132 billion in 2018, a stronger pace than the 5.7 per cent growth seen in 2017.

The upsurge is driven by stronger economic conditions in advanced economies, particularly the US, and the increase in oil prices having a positive impact on outflows from some GCC countries such as the UAE which reported a 13 per cent growth in outflows for the first half of 2018.

Bangladesh and Pakistan both experienced strong upticks of 17.9 per cent and 6.2

per cent in 2018, respectively, the Bank said.

For 2019, it is projected that remittances growth for the region will slow to 4.3 per cent due to a moderation of growth in advanced economies, lower migration to the GCC and the benefits from the oil price spurt dissipating.

The Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) is a regional inter-governmental political and economic bloc of Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the UAE. **PTI**

Oil PSUs to add 4,500 petrol pumps across Gujarat

Vadodara (Guj): Public sector oil companies Indian Oil, Bharat Petroleum and Hindustan Petroleum have an ambitious plan to open nearly 4,500 fuel outlets across Gujarat, an official said on Saturday.

Talking to reporters here, Indian Oil chief regional manager Sunil Vikramsingh said, "To meet the increasing requirements of customers on highways, agricultural sector products and industries, it was observed necessary to open such fuel outlets in the state."

"IOCL, BPCL and HPCL have an ambitious plan to open nearly 4,500 fuel outlets in the state," he said.

About 3 to 4 fuel outlets will be opened near the Statue of Unity, dedicated to Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel and the world's tallest statue, at Kevadiya in neighbouring Narmada district, he added.

More than three lakh visitors have already visited the site. Therefore, opening of three to four fuel outlets will help the tourists, the official said.

The OMCs (oil marketing companies) plan to expand in

tier II and III cities as well as rural areas, interior areas and remote areas as they lack presence in these geographies.

The Indian Oil will set up 128 retail outlets, with Bharat Petroleum 50 and Hindustan Petroleum 49 in Vadodara district of Gujarat.

"All these OMCs are set to expand their fuel retail network after a gap of nearly four years, which is due to eight per cent annual growth in sale of petrol and four per cent in diesel," Vikramsingh said.

The OMCs have formally announced their plans and bidding process for inviting tenders has also started, he said, adding that each fuel outlet will cost between ₹60 lakh to ₹3 crore depending on their location.

"The OMCs for the first time have come together to work on such a scale to avoid duplication and eating into each other's business," he added.

Retail outlets opened after 2014 were largely through the revival of old stations or restoration of dealerships that had been terminated because of non-performance since 2005. **PTI**

SBI gets shareholders' nod to raise ₹20,000 cr

Mumbai: Lending major State Bank of India (SBI) on Friday said it has received shareholders' approval to raise up to ₹20,000 crore.

According to the SBI, the approval for its proposal to "create, offer, issue and allot such number of equity shares of ₹1 for an amount not exceeding ₹20,000 crore ..." was given at a general meeting of shareholders held here.

The proposal is subject to the condition that the Government of India shareholding in equity share capital of the bank does not fall below 52 per cent at any point of time.

As per a BSE regulatory filing by the bank, the amount can be raised by the way of public issue or private placement, including Qualified Institutions Placement (OIP), Global Depository Receipt (GDRs), American Depository Receipt (ADRs) "and or any other mode(s) or a combination(s) thereof, as may be decided by the Board". **IANs**

NOTICE INVITING e-TENDERS
The Deputy Director, Horticulture, Horticulture Division-III, CPWD, New Delhi on behalf of the President of India invites **ONLINE PERCENTAGE RATE TENDERS** from approved & eligible **Contractors** registered in **Nursery Category** of CPWD upto 11.00 A.M on **17.12.2018** for the following works:-
1. NIT No.: **196/2018-19/DD/HD-III/DELHI/3 (2nd Call)**
Name of Work:- M/o Garden area attached to different non-residential buildings under Hort. Sub-Division No. 3/III, C.P.W.D., New Delhi Dg. 2018-19 (SH: Providing and planting of Canna dwarf and Ficus long island plants at site), Estimated Cost Rs. 7,56,050/-, Earnest Money Rs. 15,121/-, Period for completion - 15 (Fifteen) Days.
2.NIT No.: **210/2018-19/DD/HD-III/DELHI/3**
Name of Work:- M/o Garden area attached to different Residential Building under Sub-Division-3/III, C.P.W.D., New Delhi Dg. 2018-19 (SH: Providing and displaying of Dahlia potted plants), Estimated Cost Rs. 7,31,850/-, Earnest Money Rs. 14,637/-, Period for completion - 15 (Fifteen) Days.
Last date of online submission of tender 17.12.2018 upto 11:00 A.M. and date of opening is 17.12.2018 at 11:30 A.M. The tender form and other details can be obtained from the website **www.tenderwizard.com/cpwd** or **www.cpwd.gov.in**

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF A PERSON ACCUSED
See Section U/S 82 Cr. P.C.
Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused **Deepu @ Vishal, S/o Sh. Sombor, R/o 3854, Gali No. 21, Baljeet Nagar, Delhi** has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in case **FIR No. 99/18 u/s 394/397/341/506 IPC & 25 Arms Act, dated 01.04.2018, P.S. Patel Nagar, Delhi** and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said **Deepu @ Vishal** cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said **Deepu @ Vishal** has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant). Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused **Deepu @ Vishal of FIR No. 99/18 u/s 394/397/341/506 IPC & 25 Arms Act, dated 01.04.2018, P.S. Patel Nagar** are required to appear before this Court to answer the said complaint on or before **28.01.2019**.
By Order
Sh. Jitendra Singh,
AC Metropolitan Magistrate-West,
Room No. 145,
Tis Hazari Court, Delhi
DP/5895/CD/18(Court Matter)

Special inspection drive aimed at plugging tax evasion: J&K Tax Dept

Jammu: The Jammu & Kashmir Tax Department Friday night made it clear that the drive launched by it for inspecting businesses and checking e-way bills in the state is to prevent large-scale tax evasion noticed under GST and it will continue. The department also appealed to general public to insist for proper bill against any purchases made by them and be aware that while they are paying legitimate GST, the same should reach the government accounts.

"While the share of J&K GST to total GST of all the states is 1.2 per cent, the compliance level in the state is only 0.27 per cent," a spokesperson of the State Tax Department in a statement issued here.

"The departmental assessment has revealed around 30 per cent leakage in the process," he said.

The spokesman said that out of the total registered 92,000 dealers in the GSTN, till last month only 52,000 trade and businesses were filing GST returns regularly.

"With the increased enforcement activities by the department, now 72,000 trade and businesses have filed returns for the month of October 2018," he said and added that in 70 per cent of the

cases, where inspections have been carried out by the department, gross violation and tax evasion have been detected.

"Sustained efforts of the department against defaulters has resulted in a substantial increase in the monthly IGST settlement of the state.

The state received an IGST settlement of ₹225 crore on an average during the previous months. However, with the action against the defaulters, the IGST settlement for the month of October has gone up to ₹265 crore," he said.

The spokesperson further reiterated that investigation of records and checking of e-way bills would continue till such time the trade and businesses start complying the GST law, file returns in time, generate proper invoices and deposit the tax to the department timely.

He said that the Chambers of Commerce have wrongly misinterpreted toll tax as if it is levied in contradiction of GST regime. "Toll tax is levied consciously to promote industrial development in the state as a policy tool," he said.

He also said the Chamber has wrongly accused the State Tax Department of interfering in cross-LoC trade while it has not interfered in any manner till date. **PTI**

Prabhu links creativity, business opportunities to cheap beverages in Goa

Panaji: Union Minister Suresh Prabhu has sought to link the availability of cheap beverages in Goa with "creativity and business opportunities", a remark the Congress said was projection of the coastal State as a "liquor destination". Prabhu, while participating in the Global Venture Summit in Goa on Friday, said the state government had reduced taxes on some beverages that help calm the mind and lead to creativity, which can be converted into business opportunities. "Ideas are there, but to make ideas into a form that actually be converted into a business opportunity is some sort of creativity.

"And creativity comes when your mind is calm. And when it comes to Goa, mind becomes calm. And to make body calm, Goa government has reduced taxation on some of the beverages, which can make your mind soft," the commerce minister had said.

Prabhu's statement did not go down well with some of the political parties. Congress' spokesperson Siddhanath Buyao condemned the statement, saying it was wrong to link the state's culture and creativity to the availability of liquor at lower rates.

"Goa is known for its scenic beauty and warm people. Creativity is in the DNA of Goans right from the beginning. May it be in the field of science, art, culture, music and even entrepreneurship, Goans have contributed immensely to the country," Buyao said.

He said it is the same calm nature and creativity that draws Prabhu to Goa often.

"Does Prabhu come to Goa to enjoy cheap beverages and then get the creative ideas?" Buyao taunted the Minister. **PTI**

USFDA recommends regulatory action after Jubilant Life's Roorkee plant inspection

New Delhi: The US health regulator has recommended a regulatory or administrative action after the inspection of Roorkee manufacturing facility of drug firm Jubilant Life Sciences, according to a regulatory filing.

The FDA has classified the inspection of the Roorkee plant as 'Official Action Indicated', which means approvals of pending applications or supplements from this site maybe withheld, the company said in a BSE filing on Saturday.

According to the FDA, Official Action Indicated means regulatory and/or administrative actions will be recommended against a facility after an inspection.

In response to the USFDA inspection conducted at the Roorkee facility of solid dosage formulations during August 2018,

"the agency has informed to classify the inspection as OAI and that approvals of pending applications or supplements from this site maybe withheld," Jubilant Life said.

However, this will not have any impact on the existing revenues from operations from this facility, it added.

"We believe that this letter has been issued as part of USFDA initiative to respond to the company within 90 days of the inspection, regarding the status," it said.

As per the guidelines, the company can engage within 40 days to get the agency's decision downgraded from classifying as OAI, it added.

The company "is in the process of sending further update of its corrective actions and remains hopeful of a positive outcome," it said. **PTI**

Reveal ₹2,000, ₹500 notes printed in Nov 2016: CIC

Gurugram: The Central Information Commission (CIC) has directed authorities to reveal how many ₹2,000 and ₹500 notes were printed daily after demonetization till November 30, 2016, an RTI activist said on Saturday.

Gurugram-based Right To Information (RTI) activist Harinder Dhingra had sought the information regarding the number of notes printed daily from November 9, 2016 to November 30, 2016.

Dhingra applied for the information through RTI Act on February 23, 2017.

The Central Public Information Officer (CPIO) earlier refused to share the information, Dhingra told IANS. The

second appeal was filed on August 16, 2017.

Dhingra said that after a hearing on November 30, 2018, Information Commissioner Sudhir Bhargava on December 5, 2018 issued an order to provide the information.

"Number of notes printed on daily basis from November 9, 2016 to November 30, 2016 was not so sensitive as to attract the exemption provisions under section 8(1)(a) of the RTI Act, therefore CPIO has been directed to provide the information sought," the order read. Orders on banning the then existing ₹1,000 and ₹500 notes were implemented from the midnight of November 8, 2016. **PTI**

BREAK THE BUFFER TRAP

Though Tiger Reserves like Ranthambore are thriving, experts tell SANGEETA YADAV that there is a need for an inclusive conservation model for all reserves dealing with issues of faulty buffer zones, relocation and community support.

You have to be lucky to spot a tiger at a national park and at Ranthambore Tiger Reserve, there are high chances of you not leaving the forest disappointed. Watching the big cat at close quarters is an awe-inspiring experience. From its graceful walk and beautiful thick yellow coat with dark stripes, to reflecting enormous power, strength and agility as he jumps and roar, the king of the jungle and India's national animal is a delight to be with. Credit goes to safari guides who track the tiger movement from their pugmarks and trajectory.

From spotted deer, peacock, nilgai, crane to many more species of birds and animals, Ranthambore buzzes with wildlife. WWF India CEO & Secretary General Ravi Singh says that wildlife conservation has been deeply rooted in our religion, heritage and history. So much so that families used to raise deer, nilgai, crane and other wild animals in their homes.

"There is a village in Panna where the wild animals used to come regularly and take refuge. There was a crane bird raised by a family who used to fly as the child would go and come back from the school. There was a dhobi family which had two nilgais at pets. We don't see any of it now. There is no institutionalisation of protection of rare species. The main repository and protectors are the Forest Ministry, the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) and other groups. India's voice is heard at CITES (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora) where a larger framework and policies are agreed upon for endangered species. The challenge is we don't have enough people, corridors and conservation approaches," Singh tells you.

For tiger conservation, Ranthambore is considered one of the best models of India. With a thriving population of over 65 tigers, the reserve has become a breeding habitat for other neighbouring forests as well and powers the success story for many other national parks.

"Every protected forest has to have a neighbouring population with a good number of breeding tigresses as it prevents them from inbreeding and increases the viability of the population. By relocating the tigers to other forests for breeding, they pass on their special genes to the next generation which prevents a genetic drift. It is important to have a sustainable population. We lost our Sariska tigers because there was no connectivity with other neighbouring population but now the population has been revived," renowned conservation biologist Dr Raghu Chundawat, says during his talk at International Tiger Week held recently in Ranthambore.

The relocation of the tigers happens in a very well-planned manner. Sometimes it turns out to be a success and sometimes, a failure. "When we relocate the breeding tigers, we look at maintaining the ecology of the habitat of the source and the place they are relocated to and how it affects the population. There are many factors that go into consideration. It is difficult for the tigers to adjust to a new place. In a recent case, two tigers were being translocated inter-state for the first time in India from Sarika Tiger Reserve, Madhya Pradesh, to Satkosia Tiger Reserve, Odisha. Unfortunately, one of them — Mahavir died of poaching as speculated and the other one Sundari still not settle down yet," Ritika Maheshwari, veterinarian, Wildlife Protection Society of India, explains.

As the number of tigers increases, it raises the challenge for occupancy in the forest. One of the threats to the tiger is range restriction within the given protected habitat. "Range restriction is the first sign of an



Tiger passes by at the Ranthambore Tiger Reserve

extinction of any species due to poaching, harsh climate, development activities, transferring of tigers to other regions, and many others. As per the report, tigers are only limited to seven per cent of the original range of habitat. The solution of this is to bring seven per cent to 20 per cent presence. The challenge is we can't do it within the protected area. Thus, we have to go outside the protected area. In India, the big problem is we have only one exclusive conservation model which is Protected Area Network (PAN)," Chundawat explains.

The size of the protected areas is very crucial and there is a lot of scale mismatch as the area required to have a viable population and the area that is provided is not enough. "Ranthambore is a success story right not but it is not a viable model. We have to deal with scale mismatch which can be dealt with the number of breeding females required to sustain the viability of the population. To avoid the scale mismatch, we need 14-15 breeding females which can be divided into three to four core places. This will help to sustain a population of 170 plus individuals. But do not have that much of territories to protect," Chundawat points out.

Because of this, the tigers go out of their territory and are spotted in the towns and villages. This leads to tigers preying on cattle and sometimes humans as well. The con-

FROM 2015 TO 2017, 415 TIGERS HAVE DIED DUE TO POACHING & OVER 117 LEOPARDS & 32 TIGERS WERE FOUND DEAD THIS YEAR. BESIDES POACHING AS THE BIGGEST THREAT TO TIGERS, MANY OTHER REASONS LIKE CONFLICT WITH THE HUMANS, RESCUE OPERATIONS AND WRONG TREATMENT ARE ALSO INCREASING THEIR MORTALITY RATE

lict between the tigers and humans have always been a topic of debate on who is at the priority — the tiger or people, when in co-existence. But experts opine that removal of the tiger from the unprotected area is not a solution. The challenge lies in support from the community.

"Our conservation model is such that it goes outside the protected area and is entirely dependent on volunteering participation of the local communities. More than a volunteer activity, we need to make it an incentive activity for the villagers and community people to value tigers and not kill them. They should be compensated for their cattle loss due to tiger prey and for crop damage as well. When the villagers see that the tigers are bringing them money, they will not kill the animal, instead become more tolerant. By working with the community and minimise the killings will help the tigers survive in the landscape. We have to look at conflict as a journey to make much more comfortable for the tiger and villagers to survive and co-exist," Chundawat explains.

To have this good practice going, the tigers have to be present. And taking away the tigers from the region will make the people from the community anti-tiger and non-sensitive. "If you disconnect the tigers

from the environment, it can do more harm as people will become more violent in killing them. If you want to work with the conflict, you need to have tiger in the region. We need to find a solution from the old traditions and look for contemporary ways to for the peaceful co-existence," he adds.

At the same time, the safety of villagers need to be the topmost priority which can be made viable with the help of technology. "We must have radars installed to keep a track of the whereabouts of the tigers and create an alarm in the region to make the villagers alert. That is how we can turn around the situation," he says.

When the conflict happens, a team of biologist, veterinarian, scientists and many others come to rescue the tigers from the conflicted zone. "In one of our ongoing tiger conservation projects in Sundarbans, which has a lot of tigers in islands, the fishery community ended up being attacked by the tigers. The most difficult thing to do during conflict is crowd control. At times, local representative help to resolve the situation locally and police help in controlling crowds. We look for long-term support from the community and make people interested in conservation. We need of the hour is to make the community people realise the

importance of protecting tigers from getting killed and organisation to focus on people and what they want and not just the tigers," Maheshwari says.

Where some feel that it is best to give euthanasia once a tiger becomes a man-eater, some believe that they are best kept in captivity. But Wildlife warden of Ranthambore Balendu Singh says that the best solution to this is to create a large enclosure to keep the man-eater tiger instead of killing them or keeping them in captivity.

"About three years ago in Ranthambore, with a heavy heart, we had to send one of our tigers Ustad into captivity in Udaipur because he had killed four people. He was one of the more visible tigers on the main road and we were blamed for not looking after the tiger and why are we encroaching in his territory. There are many people who believe that tiger should not be assisted when they live in the wild but we don't have the luxury of not assisting our animals in living lovely and we don't have enough of them left. And if they do become a problem, rather than put them in captivity it is better to end their life. There are some instances where we had no choice. You have to end their life. One can create a large enclosure of one or two hectares per animal, and let them live there and even feed them," Balendu says.

Another major issue is of Buffer zone which Chundawat believes is a flawed concept. According to Wildlife Protection Act 1972, that was amended in 2006, it made it mandatory to create an attractive buffer (unprotected forest area with human intervention) around core (protected area) of the tiger reserve. Scientifically, by doing this, it created, what we scientifically call, an ecological trap (inherent dangers) for the tigers which led to increase in mortality rate.

"I am completely against buffer when it comes to tiger conservation. It is a disaster and doesn't solve any problem. By creating this, we have developed a small core which is the protected area with a high survival rate of tigers, and huge buffer outside it which is absolutely non-protected and it is just expanding and encroaching inside the core. This is leading to a high mortality rate of tigers, the risk of getting disease and rise in conflict with the humans and poaching cases," Chundawat says.

He opines that the reason for a high mortality rate of the tigress in Panna National Park has been poaching. "Over the past nine years, we have lost seven tigresses in Panna which is a serious problem. The solution lies in creating hard boundaries and if the animals come out in high mortality zone, they spend less time and move back to the protected zone," he tells you.

From 2015 to 2017, 415 tigers have died due to poaching and over 117 leopard and 32 tigers were found dead this year. "Poaching being the biggest threat to the tigers which is operated in a well organised way, there are other factors that contribute to high mortality like seizure, natural deaths, injuries, habitat fragmentation, deforestation, electrocution and others. Due to conflict with the humans, tigers were shot by the forest department and villagers or died during rescue operations and treatment," Maheshwari says.

Every wildlife conservation areas have different attributes and having Protected Area Network model might not be enough to conserve the wildlife animals. "Through PAN, we created an environment which had no signs of threats and we relocated the tigers to other forests and achieve success. Some protected areas have done well and some protected areas have not done well. The need of the hour is to have several inclusive conservation models which include community people and can also generate goodwill to all," Chundawat tells you.

■ Tell us about the history of Ranthambore?

The National Park is not just a Tiger Reserve but also holds a significant place in our history. The Ranthambore Fort days back to the 9th century and is attributed to the Chauhans and then Akbar. The Trinetra Ganesha Temple inside the fort dates even further; it finds a mention in Valmiki's Ramayan which was translated in the 4th century. The deity is that of a three-eyed Ganesha with his wives — Ridhi and Siddhi and his children Shubh and Labh. This temple also has a Post Office and in Hindu marriage, people from all over India send their first wedding invitation to Trinetra Ganesha Temple and the priest dutifully reads it out. Five years back, the fort was declared as UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Moreover, Ranthambore is the best example of dry scrub forest which makes it best for photography. Around 80 per cent of tiger photographs and clippings worldwide have been taken here. Because of its dry nature of the forest, the visibility is very good and the natural light is fantastic. ■ How did the forest change for over the years?

Back then the park, covering 392 sq km was protected by the maharajas and villagers who have been residing in the forest for centuries. The park was established as the Sawai Madhopur Game Sanctuary in 1955 by the Government and declared a Project Tiger reserve in 1973. Since 1950 till now, 70 per cent of our landmass covering forest has shrunk to just under 20 per cent. It has been an uphill task for us to keep these forests connected so that the gene pool of the tigers does not get stagnant. This is our biggest challenge.



Trinetra Ganesha Temple at Ranthambore Fort

■ Has the tiger population increased?

In 2004-2005, the population of breeding tigers had come down to almost 11. But today we have recorded over 64 breeding adults, excluding the cubs and sub-adults. This is the largest ever counted the population of Ranthambore. Even when the maharajas had this forest, we never had

more than 40 breeding tigers.

■ What led to this success?

Ranthambore's deputy conservator of forests (DCF) YK Sahu, along with his team worked closely with the non-government organisations. As a wildlife warden, I assisted the Forest Department in what they do and be a bridge between the



Balendu Singh, Wildlife warden of Ranthambore, addressing the gathering at International Tiger Week

Government and the NGOs. The public-private partnership is the way to go forward. It is going to take a while and through educating people, who are equal stakeholders in this, about what you are paid to do and spreading awareness amongst villagers on co-existing with the wildlife will get us there.

■ Do we have enough funds?

Forest is managed and maintained by each State. Any area which is declared a National Park is then funded by the Centre, through the implementation of the policies remains with the States. Six years back, Ranthambore National Park declared itself self-funded. The entry fee collected from the tourists, which earlier used to go to the exchequers, now stays with the park. Last year, the collection of Ranthambore was ₹28 crores.

It used to take us three to four months to compensate the villagers whose cattle were killed by the tigers. But now with the gate money staying here, their compensation time has come down to two weeks. ■ What about the implementation of the policies?

We have been good at capturing the poachers. In the old system, you waited for the poacher to make a kill and then went and caught him. The animal is already gone. The success is in preventing him from poaching and this is where Ranthambore has been good. In the last three years, we have been successful in capturing more than 30 people involved in poaching. It is not just tigers, but Sambar, Nil Gai, Spotted Deer as well.

Since 2005, we have had a couple of unnatural deaths attributed to revenge

killing or animal conflict. We have been successful the way the Forest Department of Rajasthan has worked.

■ Is there corruption?

Trade and wildlife are second only to the drug trade and human trafficking. It is a global trade which involves enormous amounts of money. The lure of money will always be there. Corruption is rampant in our country in almost every section of the society. Unfortunately, it is deeply rooted in our DNA but it is up to us how you limit it. It is wrong to say that everybody is corrupt. We have some people who stand out on their honesty. We have the best laws for wildlife conservation but the implementation of it is a big issue. In some cases, wildlife poaching and violation of rules have been done by influential people or are found to be a relative of politician or bureaucrats.

■ How is technology helping?

We are using modern day technology like remote sensing cameras, drones and camera trap. Every villager has GPS enabled smartphones through which they capture pug marks, kills and send it to the forest department. So we know where the animal is moving and can monitor and protect it. ■ Why there is zero rate of conviction in wildlife poaching cases?

The culprits are getting captured but go scot-free because the case that is presented to the court has not been prepared well at the lowers level. It is important to educate the people to present the case which is non-refutable. If the case is good, a poacher will go to jail for a long time.

‘Public-private partnership is way forward’

Wildlife warden of Ranthambore BALENDU SINGH talks to SANGEETA YADAV about how the rich legacy of Nature and wildlife in the area has evolved and why it is considered to be a successful model

INDIA IN DRIVER'S SEAT

Visitors build on first innings advantage, extend lead to 166 runs after sweeping Aussies for 235 in rain-hit first session

MOST RUNS FOR INDIA IN AUSTRALIA					
Batsman	M	Runs	AVG	HS	100/50
Sachin Tendulkar	20	1809	53.20	241*	6/7
VVS Laxman	15	1236	44.14	178	4/4
Rahul Dravid	15	1143	43.96	233	1/6
Virat Kohli	9	1029	57.16	169	5/2
Virender Sehwag	10	948	47.40	195	2/4

Faisal Features

PTI ■ ADELAIDE

The sun took a break but India shone to stay ahead of Australia in the opening Test after sporadic rain intrusions, K L Rahul's enterprise and Cheteshwar Pujara's obduracy culminated in a 166-run lead here on Saturday.

Virat Kohli was dismissed late in the final session as India reached 151 for three at stumps on day three at the Adelaide Oval.

The Indian skipper lunged forward to defend off Nathan Lyon (1-48) but was caught at short leg for an uncharacteristic knock of 34 (104 balls). At close of play, Cheteshwar Pujara was unbeaten on 40 runs, while Ajinkya Rahane was batting on 1 not out. India led by 166 runs.

Post tea, Kohli and Pujara took their third-wicket partnership to 71 runs, albeit it was low on strike-rate, coming off 197 balls.

Pujara survived early in the last session, courtesy DRS again, as the ball seemed to miss the stumps on account of bounce in the 40th over by Lyon.

At the other end, Kohli became the fourth Indian batsman after Sachin Tendulkar, VVS Laxman and Rahul Dravid to score 1000-plus runs in Test cricket against Australia.

The hosts though cut off most of his scoring opportunities, and Kohli was happy to play for time as he didn't dominate the bowling for once. Their third-wicket partnership crossed 50 off 149 balls.

India's lead swelled past 150 shortly thereafter, and just when it appeared to be smooth sailing for the visitors, Lyon struck to remove Kohli before stumps and put the match in balance again.

Earlier, K L Rahul scored a quick-fire 44 off 67 balls as India reached 86 for two at tea. Rain had further caused delays post lunch and another 23 minutes were lost before play could finally get underway, with 61 overs remaining for the day.

As opposed to the first innings, Rahul and Murali Vijay (18) were more careful and negotiated the Australian pace battery without much discomfort. They left well and looked to cut out any high-risk shots as India were placed at 19 for no loss in 10 overs.

Vijay was the first to go, out driving again, and caught at second slip off Mitchell Starc (1-18). It fizzled out the Indian momentum, even as Rahul continued playing his shots.

Pujara survived a scare in the 24th over, using DRS to overturn a caught-behind decision off Lyon. But two balls later, Australia's desperation for a wicket paid off as Rahul edged behind off Josh Hazlewood (1-25).



KL Rahul plays a shot during his innings against Australia during third day of 1st Test; (below) Australian players celebrate after Nathan Lyon dismissed Indian skipper Virat Kohli

ICC/AP



Kohli walked out to boos from the Australian fans but made sure there was no further loss until tea as India's lead crossed 100.

Earlier, rain hampered play on day three as India took a 15-run lead in the first innings after Australia were bowled out for 235 in reply to the visitors' 250.

Inclement weather first delayed play by 45 minutes in the morning session, and then there were two more delays in the first session before lunch was taken.

During the first 20 minutes of play, starting from overnight 191 for seven, Australia crossed 200 in the 91st over but India managed to sneak in a breakthrough before rain came again.

Mitchell Starc (15) was caught behind off Jasprit Bumrah (3-47) as covers came on.

Play was held up for 55 minutes thereafter, and the number of overs for the day were reduced to 79. On resumption, the remaining one-hour session was cut short again after 40 minutes but this time India made good use of the overs.

Both Bumrah and Ishant Sharma (2-47) were guilty of bowling shorter to the tail-enders, and it didn't change this morning either. Nathan Lyon (24 not out) made good use of this, hitting two fours and a six, as he put on 31 runs for the ninth wicket with Travis Head (72).

Head's immaculate knock came to an end when he edged Mohammed Shami (2-58) behind, and the very next ball, the pacer finished things off with Josh Hazlewood out caught similarly for a first-ball duck.

Wicket-keeper Rishabh Pant finished with six catches, while Head faced 167 deliveries in all, inclusive of six fours.

Australia were then happier of the two sides having added 44 runs in just 10.4 overs of play. In their bid to get the lower order out quickly, India were guilty of leaking easy runs.

On day one, Pujara's 16th Test century saved India the blushes. The Indian bowling attack then worked hard to restrict the Australian batsmen with Head the only one to cross the 50-mark.

VIRAT BOOED

Virat Kohli was booed by a small section of the Adelaide Oval crowd when he stepped out to bat in the second innings against Australia, an act that has been criticised by rival batsman Travis Head and former skipper Ricky Ponting.

Travis Head wasn't impressed by the behaviour of the crowd.

"He's a pretty good player and probably doesn't deserve to be booed but that's how it is. It's probably not needed but that's the crowd," he said.

ASHWIN WILL PLAY CRUCIAL ROLE: BUMRAH



PTI ■ ADELAIDE

Nathan Lyon has been using the rough patches effectively during the ongoing Indian second innings which is an indicator that Ravichandran Ashwin will have a bigger role to play during Australian second innings, reckons pacer Jasprit Bumrah.

"Ashwin will obviously play a more crucial role because with the rough, we saw Nathan Lyon using the rough to his advantage. He is an experienced bowler and knows what he has to do. So he will probably work on it and he will play a crucial role for sure," Bumrah said at the end of the second day's play.

India dismissed Australia for 235 in their first innings and it was a collective effort from the bowlers, who shared the spoils.

"We were trying to figure out the lengths that are useful over here. In South Africa and England, there was a lot of lateral movement. Here the wickets are slightly flatter because you get bounce, but you have to be consistent."

"That's the thing we have read over the years. We were trying to focus on that, that if we don't give runs, we are creating pressure from both ends and then we could get wickets," said Bumrah.

Bumrah is confident that India will take a substantial lead on day four.

"I think it is slightly in our favour because the late wicket (Kohli) was a good thing for them. But we have a good lead. First session on Sunday will be a very important. If we capitalize on that, that will leave us in a very good place in this match," the pacer said.

Pant equals Dhoni's record of most catches



PTI ■ ADELAIDE

Young Rishabh Pant on Saturday took six catches during Australia's first innings to equal predecessor Mahendra Singh Dhoni's record of most catches by an Indian wicketkeeper in a Test innings.

The 21-year-old Pant had a hand in dismissing Usman Khawaja, Peter

Handscomb and Tim Paine on the second day before pouncing on it to edges off Mitchell Starc, Travis Head and Josh Hazlewood's willow on Saturday.

He equalled the record after taking Hazlewood's catch off Mohammed Shami's ball in the first innings here.

In 2009, Dhoni had achieved his record feat

during the Wellington Test against New Zealand. Pant, who is playing his sixth Test, was selected in the Indian team following the injury of Wriddhiman Saha and retirement of Dhoni in 2014.

He has so far scored 346 runs with an average of 43.25 with the highest score of 114 against England.

SINGLES

SL APPOINT RIXON AS FIELDING COACH

COLOMBO: Struggling Sri Lanka on Saturday announced the appointment of former Australian cricketer Steve Rixon as their fielding coach, in a bid to boost preparations for the world cup next year. The 64-year-old will begin his new assignment later this month and join the team in New Zealand where, starting December 15, Sri Lanka are scheduled to play two Tests, three one-day internationals and one Twenty20. They will later play two Tests in Australia from January 24. "We are happy to welcome Steve into the team," Sri Lanka Cricket CEO Ashley de Silva said. "I am sure he will be able to help the team moving forward, with his expertise in the area of fielding which is a vital component of the game." De Silva said Rixon will work with the national team until the end of the 2019 World Cup.

MANAV ENTERS JR WORLDS Q/F

NEW DELHI: India's Manav Thakkar beat Feng Yi-Hsin of Chinese Taipei 11-7, 8-11, 11-4, 9-11, 14-12, 11-1 to enter the Junior Boys Singles quarterfinals in the 2018 World Junior Championships at Bendigo, Australia, on Saturday. However, Manush Shah and Jeet Chandra exited after losing their main draw matches in the first round itself. Jeet lost to Roumanian Cristian Pietla 8-11, 5-11, 8-11, 8-11 while Manush went down to Singapore's Pang Yew En Koen in a hard-fought round of 32 match 11-6, 9-11, 11-4, 5-11, 4-11, 7-11. Manav now takes on China's Xiang Peng in the quarterfinals. Earlier, the sixth seed pair of Manav Thakkar and Manush Shah did well to survive against Argentina's Martin Bentancor and Santiago Lorenzo to enter the quarterfinals, winning the contest 12-14, 11-8, 11-6, 11-13, 11-7. They will take on Tapie's Feng Yi-Hsin and Li Hsin-Yang in the quarterfinals.

RAJASTHAN THRASH ASSAM

JAIPUR: Rajasthan pacer Aniket Choudhary grabbed his second five-wicket haul as the hosts recorded an emphatic innings and 43-run win against Assam in their Elite Group C match. 28-year-old left-arm pacer Choudhary, who had picked up a five-wicket haul in the first innings, shone in the second innings too to return with exceptional figures of 5-40 as Rajasthan bundled out Assam for 174. Choudhary ended the match with excellent figures of 10-78 (5-38 and 5-40). This is Rajasthan's fourth win of the season. Assam, who began the penultimate day at 109 for 3, slumped to 174 all out in their second essay.

KERALA FACE UPHILL TASK AGAINST TN

CHENNAI: Kerala was 27 for 1 in 11 overs at stumps on the third day, chasing 369 for a win against Tamil Nadu in the Elite Group 'B' match. K B Arun Karthick (on 12) and Sijomon Joseph (1) were at the crease at close of play. Tamil Nadu declared their second innings at 252 for 7, riding on half-centuries from captain Baba Indrajith (92) and M Kaushik Gandhi (59) to set the visitors a daunting target. The home team bowlers came to the fore to dismiss Kerala for 152 in the first innings in response to TN's 268 early this morning.

Agencies

Gambhir's ton help Delhi take 1st innings lead

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Gautam Gambhir scored the 43rd and final first-class century of his career as Delhi ensured at least three points by virtue of first innings lead against Andhra on the third day of a group B encounter.

At stumps, Delhi ended the day at 409 for 7 in reply to Andhra's 380 but every other details was of little consequence because of one man playing his last game.

The entire focus was on Gambhir, who is set to hang his boots on Sunday, made it memorable for the 500-odd spectators, who were present at the Feroz Shah Kotla to cheer every run that he scored.

A streaky boundary through the slips took him to 98 and then he square drove pacer Bandaru Ayappa to scamper home for a double to complete one of his more emotionally exhausting hundreds.

While the 100-odd youngsters sporting "Miss you Gauti" T-shirts were overwhelmed with emotion, the former India

opener was muted in his celebrations as he didn't even bother to open his helmet.

He added 113 runs for the second wicket with skipper Dhruv Shorey (98) before India A keeper Kona Bharat finally held onto an edge with off-spinner Shoaib Mohammed Khan being the bowler.

It wasn't a smooth innings but no one cared for the details like 10 boundaries and 185 balls as he got a generous applause.

The Delhi players gave him a 'Guard of Honour', the spectators gave a standing ovation and the entire Andhra team came up to congratulate him.

He strode back to pavilion in a matter of fact manner as the interest in the day's proceedings suddenly waned.

However, it was Shorey, Delhi's most consistent batsmen over past two seasons, who played with a lot of confidence, wearing the Andhra attack on a low and slow track.

He batted patiently playing 259 balls,



hitting six fours, adding 86 with Vaibhav Rawal (33) after century stand with Gambhir.

After Rawal was dismissed, Dhruv was

stuck and left-arm spinner Manish Golamaru trapped him with a short mid-off fielder. Sai Krishna stationed at the particular position took a smart low catch.

U MUMBA BEAT BENGAL WARRIORS 31-20

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Riding on a solid all-round team performance, U Mumba beat Bengal Warriors 31-20 in the Inter Zone Challenge Week of Vivo Pro Kabaddi Season 6 in Vizag on Saturday.

The defensive trio of Fazel Atrachali, Surender Singh and Dharmaraj Cherlathan picked up 11 tackle points and tormented Bengal Warriors raiders throughout the match.

Siddharth Desai was the top scoring raider for U Mumba as he scored 7 points. Maninder Singh had a quiet match for Bengal Warriors but still ended up being their top scorer with 5 raid points.

Both teams' defence began brightly as they picked up tackle points to get going. Bengal Warriors held the early advantage as they led 5-2 after five minutes. U Mumba fought back in the next couple of minutes as Rohit Baliyan picked up a few raid points. It was all square at 5-5 after 10 minutes of action.

U Mumba shifted a couple of gears as they scored five points in three minutes to lead 10-7. Siddharth Desai sprang into action as the first half was about to end and picked up three points in two raids to give U Mumba 15-9 lead.

The second half began with U Mumba inflicting an all out to extend their lead to 18-



10 in the 21st minute. Bengal Warriors' star raider Maninder Singh picked up his second point of the match in the 23rd minute as they trailed 12-21. Surender Singh was a rock at the back for U Mumba as he tackled Bengal raiders throughout the match. With less than 10 minutes to go U Mumba led 24-13 and were on course to a comfortable victory.

Bengal Warriors' raiders couldn't get their footing throughout the match and with Maninder Singh struggling to get points their fate was sealed early in the second half only.

In the last five minutes of the match, U Mumba showed excellent game management skills and didn't give many points to Bengal Warriors.

WI seek to end series drought

AFF ■ DHAKA

The West Indies are looking to end their four-year wait for a one-day international series win when they take on hosts Bangladesh starting on Sunday.

Stand-in skipper Rovman Powell said winning the three-match series in Bangladesh would give his side the perfect boost ahead of the World Cup next year, for which they had to qualify after failing to secure one of the eight automatic berths.

"We haven't won an ODI series in a long time," Powell told reporters on Saturday ahead of the first game in Dhaka.

"The guys are upbeat and raring to go. No better opportunity to change it in Bangladesh."

"It will be good to get the series win under our belt" before the World Cup, Powell added.

The Caribbean side last won an ODI series in 2014 when they beat Bangladesh 3-0 at home.

They have since lost 11 series and drew against minnows Afghanistan last year. The streak includes a 2-1 loss to Bangladesh in July at home



West Indies batsman Morlan Samuels (right) during training session

Windies/File Picture

and a 3-1 loss to India in October. Powell, who will be leading the side in the absence of the injured Jason Holder, said the Test defeats to Bangladesh are in the past.

"We are focused on white-ball cricket. (The) guys are motivated and upbeat and hopefully we can get best possible result," he said.

"Both teams have good spinners, fast bowlers and batters. It will be a very competitive series."

Bangladesh have been boosted by the return of batsman Tamim Iqbal and all-rounder Shakib Al Hasan, who both missed the ODI series against Zimbabwe in October because of injury.

Shakib played in the Tests against the West Indies and was named man-of-the-series, while Tamim showcased his abilities with a blistering 107 off 73 balls in Thursday's 51-run warm-up match win over the visitors.

"Obviously having Shakib, Tamim in the team is a big advantage for us," said Bangladesh captain Mashrafe Mortaza.

"In the practice game, Tamim played brilliantly which is a great relief for Tamim as well as for us," added Mashrafe, who is set to become the first Bangladeshi to play 200 ODIs on Sunday.

The second and third matches of the series will be played on December 11 and 14 in Dhaka and Sylhet.

The West Indies will wrap up the Bangladesh tour with three Twenty20 internationals.



FIVE STAR INDIA ENTER LAST-8

Lalit's brace, strike from Chinglensana, Amit and Harmanpreet help India beat Canada 5-1 to secure direct entry in q/f

PTI ■ BHUBANESWAR

An impressive India thrashed Canada 5-1 to top Pool C and seal a direct berth in the quarterfinals of the men's hockey World Cup in front of a capacity crowd at the Kalinga Stadium here on Saturday.

India scored four goals in the fourth quarter through Chinglensana Singh (46th minute), Lalit Upadhyay (47th, 57th) and Amit Rohidas (51st) after Harmanpreet Singh gave home team the lead in the 12th minute.

Canada's lone goal came from the sticks of Floris van Son in the 39th minute.

By virtue of this win, India finished on top of Pool C with seven points ahead of world No 3 Belgium on account of better goal difference.

Belgium, too on seven points, finished second ahead of third placed Canada after thrashing South Africa 5-1 in the other Pool C game earlier in the day. South Africa crashed out of the tournament.

While India qualified directly for the quarterfinals by being the toppers, Belgium and Canada will play in the cross-overs for a place in the last-eight round.

Canada too overcame South Africa by virtue of a better goal difference. Both the teams finished their pool engagements with one point apiece.

India will play their quarterfinal match on December 13.

Earlier in the day, Olympic Silver medalist Belgium outclassed South Africa 5-1 in their last pool game.

Alexander Hendrickx (14th, 22nd min-



utes) scored a brace while Simon Gougnard (18th), Loick Luypaert (30th) and Cedric Charlier (48th) were the other goal-scorer for Belgium.

South Africa, on the other hand, had stunned the world No 3 side just 36 seconds from the start through Nicholas Spooner's field strike.

The match between India and Canada was touted to be a battle between attack and defence and it panned out exactly the same as the hosts attacked in numbers from the onset to create quite a few scoring chances.

India's first scoring chance came in the



Amit Rohidas(C) celebrates with teammates after scoring goal against Canada in the last pool C match. India secure direct entry in last eight of the tourney

ninth minute when skipper Manpreet Singh's cross from the left flank was met by Dilpreet Singh in the near post but the Canadian goalkeeper Antoni Kindler positioned himself at the right spot to thwart the danger.

In the next minute, India got their first penalty corner but Canada defended stoutly.

Mandeep Singh was then denied by a good reflex save by the Canada keeper.

The Canadian defence finally surrendered in front of India's relentless attack when Harmanpreet converted the home

team's second penalty corner in the 12th minute.

The Indians had another penalty corner in the next minute but Amit messed up the chance.

The hosts couldn't live up to the tempo with which they played in the first quarter, which meant scoring chances subsided as Canada tried to make a comeback.

Canada goalkeeper Kindler came to his side's rescue twice in the second quarter to keep the scoreline under check.

First Kindler saved Sumit's reverse shot from top of the box in the 22nd minute

and then kept away Akashdeep Singh's attempt after he was set up by Simranjeet Singh's burst from 25 yards.

The script, however, changed a little bit after the change of ends with Canada slowly clawing back into the match with some impressive counter-attacks.

Canada are considered as a solid defensive unit and they played like one. Whenever India attacked, a sea of red assembled inside their circle to keep the hosts at bay.

Canada drew parity against the run of play in the 39th minute through a counter-attack. Gordon Johnston found James

Wallace just outside the circle, who dribbled past two Indian defenders to set it up for Floris van Son who didn't make any mistake to complete a fine goal.

Stunned by the equaliser, India went all out and, in the process, scored two quick goals to take a 3-1 lead.

First Chinglensana scored from a rebound and then in the very next minute Lalit slotted the ball in after snatching it just outside the box from Sukhi Panesar.

Four minutes later, Amit converted India's fourth penalty corner before Lalit scored his second goal of the day, tapping in Sumit's pass.

'WORLD CUP STARTS NOW'

Chief India coach Harendra Singh said for him the pool matches were a four-nation event and the real game begins now after direct entry into the quarterfinal.

"Those who have visited my room know I have already written who we will play in the quarterfinals and who in the semifinals. For me a four-nation tournament has finished and the World Cup starts now," Harendra said.

"From quarterfinals you can smell a medal. The actual tournament starts with the next game."

Harendra said India were guilty of running too much with the ball in search of goals in the opening two quarters.

"We are missing in the final pass, we were running for goals. We have to wait for our moment, can't rush towards the ball. I think the first half, we did too much running," he said.

"We were too much in a hurry. We were lacking in the final execution. I think we have to throw out the childish instinct."

He, however, rued the fact that India failed to keep a clean slate.

"We were running for the ball. I want the players to tackle irrespective of their position. We failed to keep a clean-sheet and I feel bad about it," Harendra said.



Mario Mandzukic scores via header against Inter Milan during Italian derby match in Turin

Mandzukic scores as Juve beat Inter

AFP ■ TURIN

Mario Mandzukic scored the only goal as Juventus killed off Inter Milan's challenge to move 8 points clear in Serie A on Friday.

Luciano Spalletti's third-placed Inter fall 14 points adrift of the leaders with the Derby d'Italia defeat a grave blow to their hopes of challenging for a first title since 2010.

Unbeaten Juventus have 43 points from 15 games — 8 points ahead of second-placed Napoli who beat Frosinone 4-0 on Saturday — with their only points dropped coming in a home draw against Genoa.

World Cup runner-up Mandzukic's diving header after 66 minutes off a cross from former Inter player Joao Cancelo was enough to decide the outcome at the Allianz Stadium.

"Mandzukic is one of those players who even on an off day can bring his physicality to the game and that can make the difference," said Juventus coach Massimiliano Allegri.

"We knew the championship wouldn't end today, but we still absolutely had to avoid defeat.

"I asked the lads to be efficient and effective. We were only half that in the first period, but then we started to hold the ball with greater patience, were more organised and solid.

"After that, the quality of the players inevitably emerges."

The seven-time reigning champions proved yet again they were a class above their rivals even with Portuguese star Cristiano Ronaldo not as omnipresent as he has been in previous games, failing to add to his ten



league goals.

Inter captain Mauro Icardi also failed to muster a single shot on goal, but the visitors did have chances in the first half with Roberto Gagliardini rattling the post just before the half-hour mark.

"We played well enough but we weren't consistent, there were situations where we didn't interpret or read them properly while Juventus did not do anything wrong," said Spalletti.

Argentine Paulo Dybala threatened early for Juventus, nodding over a Ronaldo cross with Inter goalkeeper Samir Handanovic tipping over in the first ten minutes.

Icardi and Matteo Politano set up Gagliardini but his shot bounced off the post just before the half-hour mark.

Mandzukic got his head to Rodrigo Bentancur's cross although failed to control the finish with Marcelo Brozovic deflecting wide and Handanovic getting his hand to a searing Giorgio Chiellini header before the break.

Inter winger Politano missed a chance to break the deadlock just after the break as Leonardo Bonucci produced a vital block.

A Ronaldo strike from distance flew narrowly over the crossbar just before the hour mark, before Mandzukic's stooping header gave him his seventh goal this season.

Inter desperately tried to salvage a point but were closed down by a Juventus defence well-organised by veteran Chiellini, with Lautaro Martinez volleying wide in a last desperate attempt for the visitors.

On Saturday, Napoli secured comfortable 4-0 victory over promoted Frosinone.

Arkadiusz Milik scored twice, Faouzi Ghoulam provided two assists in his first match in more than a year, and Piotr Zielinski and Adam Ounas also found the net.

Salah's hat-trick sends Liverpool on top

AFP ■ BOURNEMOUTH

Liverpool delivered a clear sign they intend to push Manchester City all the way in the Premier League with an emphatic 4-0 victory at Bournemouth on Saturday that was capped by a hat-trick from Mohamed Salah.

This victory, the Reds' fifth consecutive league win, secured with the additional help of a Steve Cook own-goal, extended Jurgen Klopp's side's unbeaten start to the league season.

It also moved them one point ahead of City at the top of the table, hours before Pep Guardiola's side take on Chelsea at Stamford Bridge.

Salah's contribution was central to Liverpool's success — the Egyptian has struggled to match his outstanding levels of last season but with 10 league goals to his name, he is now hitting his stride.

He may have benefited from a close offside decision for the 25th-minute opener that gave Liverpool a half-time lead, but the finishes for his two second-half goals were out-



Mohamed Salah dribbles past Bournemouth goalkeeper Asmir Begovic; (right) Juan Mata celebrates with Marcus Rashford after scoring against Fulham FC



Liverpool/Man Utd

standing.

Overall, Liverpool manager Klopp could be satisfied with the manner in which his side eased their way to victory ahead of the mid-week Champions League meeting with Napoli.

Bournemouth's hopes of halting Liverpool's progress suffered a

blow when Callum Wilson, the England international who has scored eight league goals this season, was ruled out with a hamstring injury.

The home side certainly felt Wilson's absence during the periods of the game when they pushed Liverpool onto the back foot.

But defensive errors, combined with a dubious offside decision for the opening goal, meant they had little chance to impose themselves on a Liverpool side that never had to find top gear to secure three points.

The opening period suggested Klopp's side would again have to work hard for victory. Salah and Roberto Firmino took time to make an impact, with the Egyptian spurning the first real chance of the game when he sliced wide from close range.

And had David Brooks shown more composure when he was sent clear on Liverpool's goal in the 24th minute, the early momentum would have been in favour of the home side.

As it was, Liverpool responded immediately, taking control with some help from assistant referee.

Salah and Firmino combined well 25 metres out, before the Brazilian fired in a shot at keeper Asmir Begovic. The Bosnia international should have done better than parry the ball into the middle of the penalty area, allowing Salah

to react first and fire high into the net from close range.

Eddie Howe's players pointed out that Salah had been in an off-side position but their complaints were dismissed, although TV replays suggested they had a case.

From that point in the game, Liverpool tightened their grip, particularly after the restart.

It helped the Reds' cause that Salah was gifted the chance to add a second three minutes after the restart when Steve Cook lost the ball near the halfway line. Firmino released the Egyptian, who ran 40 metres before placing the ball beyond Begovic.

A bad afternoon for Cook got worse when he diverted the ball past Begovic and into his own goal as he attempted to cut out a left-wing cross from Andy Robertson.

And Salah produced the best goal of the game to wrap up the victory in the 77th minute after collecting Adam Lallana's through ball. The forward outpaced Cook and rounded Begovic twice to complete his treble.

Atletico maul Alaves 3-0

AP ■ MADRID

Atletico Madrid joined Barcelona at the top of the Spanish league with a 3-0 win over Alaves on Saturday.

Nikola Kalinic, Antoine Griezmann and Rodrigo each scored a goal each to leave Atletico even with Barcelona ahead of its game at Espanyol later Saturday, when Sevilla, one point off the lead, visits Valencia.

Atletico was coming off two consecutive draws in the league. Alaves stayed fourth with the loss, its third in its last five league matches.

Kalinic opened the scoring from close range after a right-side cross by Santiago Arias in the 25th minute at Wanda Metropolitano Stadium. Griezmann added to the lead on a counterattack in the 82nd and Rodrigo sealed the victory in the 87th.

Atletico defender Lucas Hernandez had to be substituted in the 36th minute with a right knee injury. He was replaced by Jose Maria Gimenez, who returned after missing five matches because of injury.

Leganes and Getafe drew 1-1 in a derby between southern Madrid clubs on Friday.

Uruguayan defender Leandro Cabrera headed Getafe in front in the 39th minute and Cameroonian right back Allan Nyom equalized for the home side from inside the area in the 64th. Leganes had midfielder Ruben Perez sent off three minutes into injury time.

The result extended Leganes' unbeaten streak to seven matches in all competitions.



Sancho grabs winner in Revierderby

AGENCIES ■ MUNICH

Jadon Sancho became Borussia Dortmund's youngest ever goalscorer in the Revierderby as Lucien Favre's men claimed local bragging rights and a fifth consecutive Bundesliga victory by beating Schalke 2-1 in Gelsenkirchen.

Thomas Delaney gave Dortmund the lead after just seven minutes, scoring the derby's fastest goal in 19 years, but Schalke hit back when Marco Reus conceded a second-half penalty that Daniel Caligiuri converted.

Sancho settled the match with just over 15 minutes left on the clock and the result leaves Schalke sliding towards the relegation zone after an erratic run of form in which they have lost two and drawn one of their last four league matches, despite also picking up a 5-2 win over Nurnberg.

Elsewhere, Robert Lewandowski's first-half double set Bayern Munich on their way to a comfortable 3-0 win over Bundesliga strugglers Nurnberg.

Having vowed to reduce his level of squad rotation prior to Saturday's encounter at Allianz Arena, under-pressure Bayern coach Niko



Borussia Dortmund players celebrate after Thomas Delaney scores opener



Kovac named an unchanged team and his faith was repaid by a dominant display.

Lewandowski's ninth-minute header opened the floodgates, with the 30-year-old doubling his tally after Franck Ribery and Leon Goretzka had hit the woodwork.

Ribery's first goal of the season added further gloss before the hour, but Bayern - now up to second in the table - remain nine points behind leaders Borussia Dortmund, who beat Schalke.

Nurnberg's resolve was short-lived — Lewandowski capitalising on hesitant goal-



keeping from Fabian Bredlow to head in from Joshua Kimmich's inswinging corner.

Bredlow palmed Ribery's effort onto the frame of the goal before Lewandowski sliced over from close-range, but the forward did not miss in the 27th minute, tapping home after Goretzka's wicked long-range effort had been magnificently tipped on to the crossbar by Nurnberg's goalkeeper.

Bredlow came to Nurnberg's rescue after the restart, which was slightly delayed due to sections of Bayern's support launching toilet roll onto the pitch, getting down to tip Kimmich's

strike wide after Lewandowski had turned provider with a deft flick.

Yet Bredlow was to blame for Bayern's third when he conceded possession from a goal kick. Although he kept out Serge Gnabry's initial effort, Ribery hammered in the rebound.

Kimmich almost rounded off a superb individual display in style late on, but his dipping strike clipped the crossbar as Bayern cruised to a routine win.



Talktime
SHIBANI KASHYAP
The singer who sung for films like Jack and Dil, speaks with Shalini Saxena about how doing live shows helps her reach out to her fans and why so many artists are taking advantage of the indie space

■ **What is keeping you busy these days?**

Lots of live shows. I am also judging a show in Dubai, it is called The One. We have already started shooting for the show. We are looking for the most sensational singer from UAE. The only criterion is that the person has to be a resident of UAE. A song from the film *Jack And Dil* released a couple of weeks back. I sang *Bezuban Dil Ki*. I also represented India in the New York India Day Parade. I performed at Madison Avenue. I released a couple of indie songs as well. ■ **How did your musical journey begin?** It began when I was still in school. I did a jingle for FM when it launched its services. That's how I started my career —

with jingles and singing for ad commercials. Then my first album was out when I was in college — *Ho Gayi Hai Mohabat*. I went to Mumbai for the auditions and I got selected. That song and the album became a hit and here I am. ■ **You are an English graduate end up learning classical music?** Just because you are a singer doesn't mean that you have to be illiterate! Education is a totally different dimension. I am an Indian. My Hindi, Urdu and Punjabi are fantastic. Your talent gets accentuated if you can converse well too. Talent and education should go hand in hand. ■ **How does live shows help you?** It helps me to reach out to my fans and better my craft. It is very good practise and helps you to keep a pulse of what the audience wants. I have been performing for over 15 years, so I hope I have mastered the art of performing live. But there is still so much to learn. Connecting with the audience helps me as an artist. ■ **Are you still part of the band that**

CONTENT IS IMPORTANT. IF YOU STUDY THE CAREER OF SINGERS LIKE KAILASH KHER, HONEY SINGH AND BADSHAH, THEY HAVE HAD BIG HITS IN INDIE SPACE. THEY PROVE THAT GOOD CONTENT NEVER FAILS

you formed in Delhi?

Not anymore. It was a great way to earn some pocket during my college days. It was great fun and a learning experience.

■ **What is the best part of being in Mumbai and the worst thing about Delhi?**

The best part of Mumbai is that it is safe for women. It has great amenities. You get whatever you want in the middle of the night like medicines or even food. The work-energy here is great; people are so motivated. This helps you keep up your energy. It is such a cosmopolitan city and you meet people from all walks of life and learn different things.

The worst thing about Delhi is the pollution in the city during winters, it is a killer. Then there is the rise in crime. Third, is the increase in the number of cars and the traffic jams as a result of it.

■ **Why are so many artists doing indie music today?**

When I started my career, indie music space was rocking and flour-

ishing in the 90s. It was a great time for singers like me. At that time I never thought of Bollywood. Also, the voices in the film songs were high pitched and too long — almost six to seven minutes long. Somehow I didn't see myself fit into that scenario. But then Bollywood music evolved in 2000s. I did a few songs which were a hit and I became a part of the industry which I still can't fathom how it works — how to give your next hit. Today, indie space has so more to offer and many more platforms. The only problem is people still want to know what your Bollywood hit is. ■ **Does this mean that a Bollywood hit is important for you?**

No, not really. Content is important. If you study the career of singers like Kailash Kher, Honey Singh and Badshah, they have had big hits in indie space. They prove that good content never fails. Bollywood will call you when your indie songs do well. One should not run after fame. People from Bollywood call me today because they want to have my style of singing in their films.

WORSHIP DANCE OF YORE

BHANANANDA BARBAYAN, an internationally renowned exponent of Sattriya culture, speaks with SHALINI SAKSENA how he is taking a 600-year-old dance from Assam beyond the boundaries by performing the world over

We are all familiar with Bharatnatyam from Tamil Nadu, Kathak from Uttar Pradesh, Kuchipudi from Andhra Pradesh and Odissi from Odisha. But how many of us are aware of yet another dance form that is 600-year-olds and not just surviving but thriving and making waves in India and internationally as well? Welcome to the world of Sattriya dance (pronounced Hottriya) from Assam and Dr Bhabananda Barbayan an internationally renowned exponent of this dance who has performed in France, Switzerland, Germany, Portugal and Bangladesh. Not only this, but he has also directed the music for eminent French filmmaker Emanuel Petit's documentary titled Dans Les Drumes De Majuli, where he appeared in a number of sequences. He is a regular visiting faculty in Paris - VIII University, Kings College London besides being a Cultural Associate with Jawaharlal University Brown University, US and Drexel University, US.

He has been honoured with several awards — La Maison de Ananda Award 2012-13, Ustad Bismillah Khan Yuva Puraskar of Sangeet Natak Academy 2012 and Fellow of Neuron-Somatic Integration Programme.

He was just four when he started learning the art form from Uttar Kamalabari Satra under the guidance of gurus Paramananda Barbayan and Tuniram Barbayan (nritya), Cheniram Barbayan (khol bayan), Kamal Bargayan (gayan), and Baluram Bargayan and Gupiram Bargayan (oja). He was just 17 when he became the youngest Barbayan (one of the 12 cultural heads) of the Sattra.

He tells you that the dance was introduced in the 15th century by Sankar Dev, a Vaishnavite saint, scholar, playwright, a social and religious reformer from Assam.

"The drama written by him are known as ankia naat and sattriya dance, at that time, was a part of it. The idea was to use dance as a medium of instructions that were mixed entertainment with devotion," Bhabananda says.

The reason why this dance form, (now recognised as a classical art form by the Sangeet Natak Akademi in 2000), spread was because the State has over 900 satras — Vaishnavite monasteries — an initia-

tive by the Ahom Kings in the 17th Century to promote neo-Vaishnavism in the region. As it was a place only for the monks the dance was only performed by the men.

"This dance form is dedicated to Lord Krishna. The dance can be classified into two styles — Paurashik Bhangi (tandava or masculine style) and Stri Bhangi (lasya or feminine style). It is an art form that is part of a prayer during ceremonies by the monks. It is performed thrice a day — morning, afternoon and evening. But as time passed, this dance is taught as an art form. When we perform on stage, the dance is designed into different parts like Guru vandana, Ram vandana, Geet abhinaya, Varnan, Shlokas (which doesn't involve any dance) and the last is Melana, an elaborate dance form in its purest form," Bhabananda explains and tell you that the influence of Lord Kirhsna spread due to Sankar Dev who traveled the whole of India.

"It was his influence that spread in the

THE GOOD PART IS THAT THIS DANCE FORM HAS MANY TAKERS. TO BEGIN WITH, NOT MANY WERE INTERESTED IN LEARNING THIS DANCE OUTSIDE OF THE SATRA. BUT NOW IT HAS BECOME POPULAR

region. He was a staunch propagator of Lord Krishna and didn't consider him as an incarnation of Lord Vishnu but that he is the supreme Lord," Bhabananda tells you.

The dance itself has elements of masculinity due to strong Lord Krishna influence and the fact that it was solely performed by men; this included men dressing up as women to perform.

"There is a reason why this dance form is a so male-oriented. The satras consider Lord Krishna as the man. It was much later, in 1960s, that women were taught this dance form. Of course, they can't perform inside the satras. They can only perform on stage as an art form," Bhabananda says.

He tells you that the satras allowed woman participation in this dance form because they enjoy a lot of importance in the society.

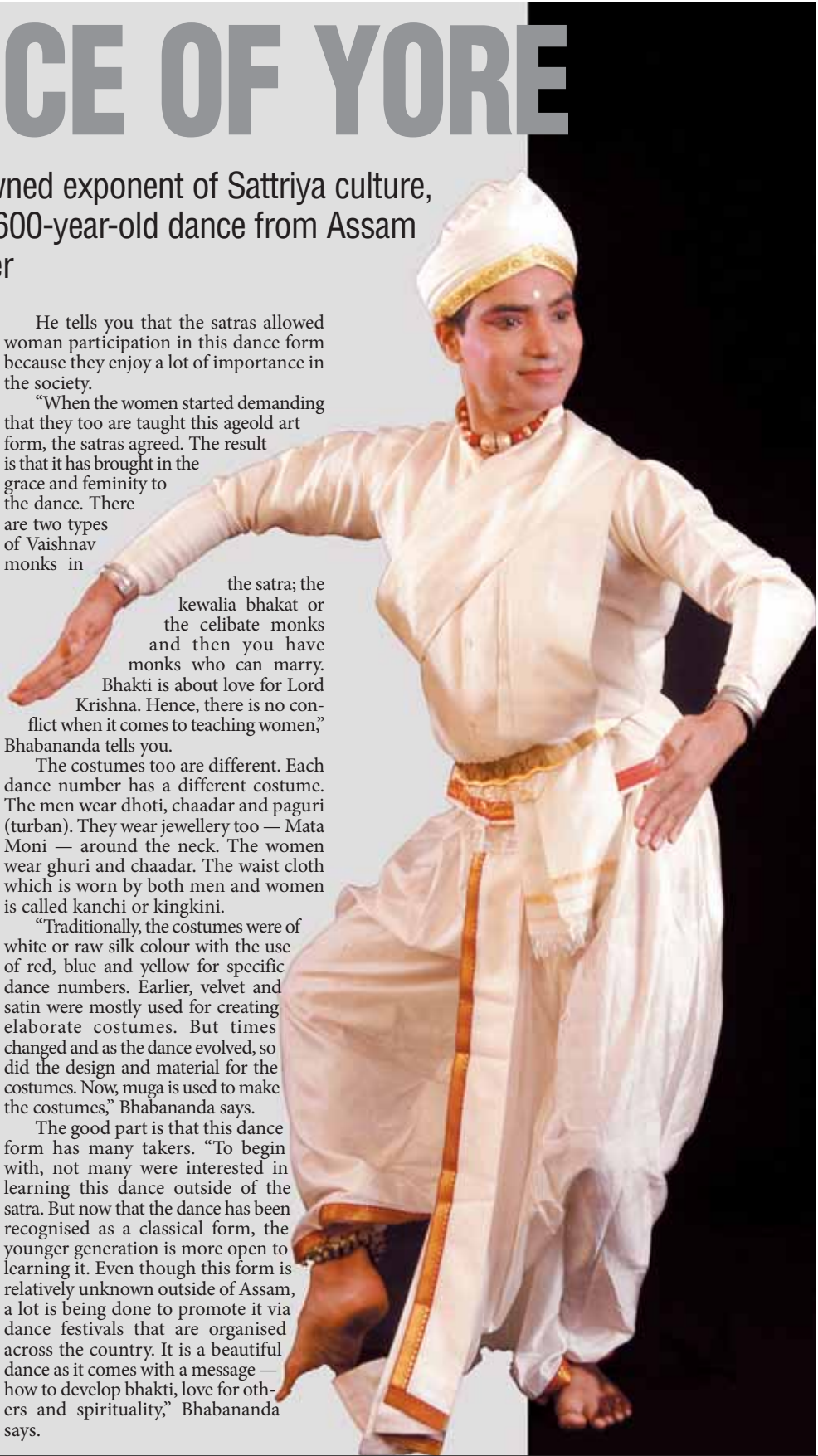
"When the women started demanding that they too are taught this ageold art form, the satras agreed. The result is that it has brought in the grace and femininity to the dance. There are two types of Vaishnav monks in

the satra; the kewalia bhakat or the celibate monks and then you have monks who can marry. Bhakti is about love for Lord Krishna. Hence, there is no conflict when it comes to teaching women," Bhabananda tells you.

The costumes too are different. Each dance number has a different costume. The men wear dhoti, chaadar and paguri (turban). They wear jewellery too — Mata Moni — around the neck. The women wear ghuri and chaadar. The waist cloth which is worn by both men and women is called kanchi or kingkini.

"Traditionally, the costumes were of white or raw silk colour with the use of red, blue and yellow for specific dance numbers. Earlier, velvet and satin were mostly used for creating elaborate costumes. But times changed and as the dance evolved, so did the design and material for the costumes. Now, muga is used to make the costumes," Bhabananda says.

The good part is that this dance form has many takers. "To begin with, not many were interested in learning this dance outside of the satra. But now that the dance has been recognised as a classical form, the younger generation is more open to learning it. Even though this form is relatively unknown outside of Assam, a lot is being done to promote it via dance festivals that are organised across the country. It is a beautiful dance as it comes with a message — how to develop bhakti, love for others and spirituality," Bhabananda says.



Bringing the splendour alive

SHALINI SAKSENA tells you how & why Madhya Pradesh Tourism ads have been winning awards at international platforms

Many of us have seen the Madhya Pradesh Tourism ads. Not just the latest — with the staccato pictures of tourists in must-see places in the State but the earlier one as well — with bobble-heads and kids' toys and the not to forget ad back in 2010 that revived the art shadowgraphy. The idea behind the ads, according to the officials at the tourism department, is not to attract tourists by showing them picture perfect, spectacular images which the eyes will never see in real, but to show tourist destinations that look exactly how it would look in reality and "to create the world's most honest tourism film."

Talking about the latest ad, Azazul Haque, Chief Creative Officer, Ogilvy, South, tells you that in the earlier ads, they had never shown the destinations in their real form ever in any of our previous ads. "We have

either shown shadows or silhouettes through colours, faces and or toys. But then the client wanted to showcase what the places really looked like. An idea was born — to shoot real people at these locations and put them all together. A tall order and the execution was tough as well. The team shot 40,000 pictures in one month. Selecting and stitching together the final 500-600 pictures took close to three months and creating that catchy audio which matched beautifully with the frames took another month," Haque says.

Every frame in the film gives the viewer an experience of a tourist visiting these destinations. "Be it the architectural marvels of Gwalior and Mandu, the picturesque beauty of Pachmarhi and Orchha, the sight of the majestic tiger in the National Parks, the breathtaking views of the Dhuadhar falls or the bustling, delectable tastes and sights of the Sarafa



Bazar in Indore; this film is an honest expression of what one will truly experience in the State," Haque tells you.

This campaign bagged a Silver Lion for its editing and a Bronze Lion for its additive music at Cannes International Festival of Creativity this year in the highly competitive Film Craft category. Not only, this before the Cannes 2018, but the tourism's toy film has also been internationally awarded a Graphite Pencil at D&AD Awards 2018 in Shoreditch, England.

Deepika Roy Choudhury, Deputy Director (Publicity, Creatives & Digital) tells you that tourism is overwhelmed by the response that audio-visual advertisement (TVC) has generated. "I congratulate the State tourism officials associated with the ad for their wonderful effort and the overall help in producing such a marvel," Choudhury says.



‘Films are crisp, TV is stretched’

NANDISH SINGH, who shot to fame as Veer Singh Bundela in Uttaran, is all set to make his Bollywood debut with Super 30 opposite Hrithik Roshan. SANGEETA YADAV chats him up

■ **What is your role in Super 30?**

It is a real life story of the founders of Super 30 coaching institute which has been helping underprivileged students prepare for IIT JEE. I play Pranav Kumar, Anand Kumar's (Hrithik Roshan) elder brother who has played an integral role in taking care of the management of the institute — from the selection of the students to handling its functioning. He is the backbone of Super 30. This is what has been shown in the film as well.

■ **What took you so long to make your Bollywood debut?**

Just the right project made me wait for a little longer. There were times when I did get a couple of roles but it was not something I would want to do as my debut film. The films that I wanted to do didn't work out due to something or the other. But now with *Super 30*, the wait has been worth it.

■ **What was the biggest challenge for you?**

My biggest fear was whether I will be able to pull off the Bihari character. I have never imagined myself playing a person who is not so good looking, speaks Bihari and has a certain body language. I expressed my concern to the creative directors. But I was told that if Hrithik Roshan can pull it off, why can't I? That motivated me to overcome my fear. If it was somebody else in place of Hrithik, who didn't have to transform to come closer to Anand Kumar, then it could have been a bigger challenge for me.

■ **How did you get into the skin of the character?**

We did workshops where I learnt body language and dialects. I had to lose a lot of weight too. What really helped me was, before shifting to Mumbai, I spent 16-17 years of my life in a small town of Dhaulpur near Agra. I know the nuances of how people from UP and Bihar think, their body language and personality. They are a little loud when it comes to talking and expressing themselves; they are not so sophisticated as well. They would hold the hand of their friends while walking. All these minute details helped me to pull of this character well.

The makers strictly forbade me to take reference from other roles. Whenever I needed help, I would call up Pranav (the real person) and ask him how he would react. That helped a lot.

■ **How was it to share screen space with Hrithik Roshan?**

Working with him was a great learning experience. As soon as he walks in to the set and till the time he leaves, he lives the character. He was speaking to everyone in Bihari. Whether it is a co-actor, junior artist or assistant directors, he is a friend to everybody. There was no tantrum throwing or airs about him because he is a star.

■ **Was it difficult for you to make a switch from TV to films?**

Initially, it was. A very common feedback that I have got during in my auditions for films was that that I was acting in TV style. I had to put a lot of effort in unlearning and relearning to be able to reinvent myself. Even for stage actors, there was a misconception that they are always loud but they had to be loud to be able to heard by the audience sitting in the last row. Similarly, there are certain things about TV that you have to do which I had to unlearn to be able to fit in films. That unlearning process was more tedious than the learning which took time.

■ **What difference did you find in acting for films?**

Acting is the same everywhere, you have to feel the emotion and emot it.

But the treatment is different. Everything is a little stretched in TV because you have to create content on daily basis and it is impossible to shoot 12 to 18 scenes in a day for half an hour episode. There are deadlines to meet. You have to deliver on the spot. In films, you get ample of time to think and work on the character.

■ **What are you working on next?**

I have started shooting for second film in Lucknow which is tentatively titled *Family of Thakurgunj*.



Of law and economics

Kaushik Basu has an entertaining variation on Nash's Game Theory to argue that laws must make sense for the enforcers as well as the people



Not 'the other Obama'

With an army of fans and one of the biggest book tours in history, Michelle is not 'the other Obama' anymore; she is the Obama people want to see



Learning to love

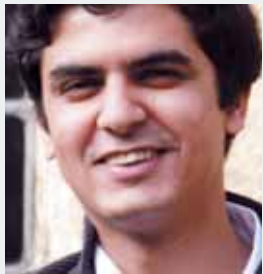
Love can only originate in a heart that is pure and connected with one's soul. We must first learn to care about all beings on Earth

I want to be good at my craft. I don't care about fame. As long as people know what I am as an actress, I'm set for my career right now
— Chloe Moretz



TO LAHORE, WITH LOVE

I had heard several tales about the love and respect that Lahoris had for Indians, but it was only when I found myself in their presence — perhaps the only Indian to have got the visa after 2015 — did I realise the truth of that claim



SIDDHARTH PANDEY

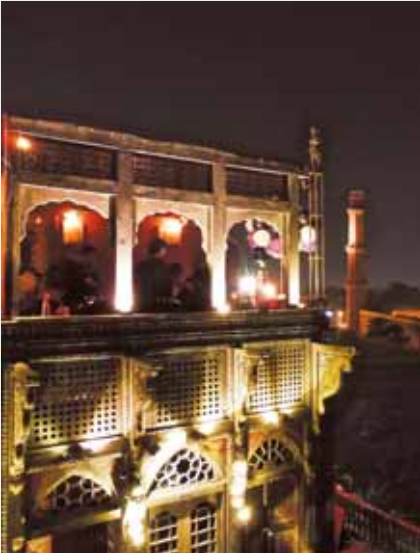
very newspaper way back in April. At the time of my selection, I found myself in a frenzy of writing, since my PhD on British fantasy fiction was just a few months away from the October deadline. Nonetheless, the opportunity from the city of Lahore came with a sense of excitement and wonder, paving way for a dramatic turn of events that would keep me on my toes and eventually usher in a new sense of vitality and being. For as the old Punjabi saying goes: *"Jinhan Lahore nahi waikhaya o jammia hi nahi"* ("One who hasn't seen Lahore has not been born yet").

The notion and process of acquiring a visa for Pakistan as an Indian citizen has developed an incredulous appeal about itself in popular consciousness. More than one person believed that, "Indians were not allowed to travel to Pakistan", a near de-facto utterance that popped up when I told them that I 'might' soon be travelling to our neighbouring country. Other more knowledgeable folks averred: "How would I get the visa"? 'Visa' was mostly what I heard when I mentioned 'Pakistan' to any South Asian around me. Of course, the reason for such reactions was well-known, given the history of relations between the two countries. But it was still somewhat off-putting to experience the negativity inherent in that questioning, even though, on the other hand, I knew equally well that this querying was principally an expression of concern and genuine interest. Just a month before receiving my own invitation in July, media across the world was splashed with reports on India banning several Pakistani origin academics from attending a seminar in the country. I, therefore, had reasons enough to think the same way as my interrogators ("how would I get the visa"), but

I still hoped that it all might just work out. There were five other Indians as well whose names appeared in the preliminary conference list, but unlike me, they would all be travelling from India to Lahore. Since I would be flying from and returning to the UK, some sympathetic souls imagined that I could be especially lucky. And so, luck did dawn, albeit with some additional drama.

On the day I received the visa from one of the private outlets of the Pakistani High Commission in London, I discovered that my passport booklet had got loosened from the spine of the cover, possibly in response to some unsophisticated handling during its checks and scans. At the moment of receiving the document, however, I was too elated by the fact that I had finally, really 'won' a visa after so much paperwork and coordination, which seemed nothing short of a challenging victory, given the countless tales that surrounded its procurement and the mounting pressure of the PhD. The receptionists at the collection centre for their part didn't consider the physical deformation of my passport a big an issue either, when I made them aware of its condition. It was only later that I confirmed from relevant authorities that the passport had indeed been damaged. Annoyance and irritation entered me while another part of myself tried to keep the wildness of my imagination at bay as to 'why' and 'how' had the visa booklet got loosened. After all, I had a doctoral dissertation to submit within a month's time, and that required its own mental energy. Applying for a new 'tatkaal' passport further took its time and expenses, but despite the persistent advice of well-wishers to altogether drop the idea of going, I couldn't quite settle with their proposition, for this still seemed too precious an opportunity to lose. The greatest assurance and decisive factor, however, came from my conference organisers themselves, who not only apologised for all the unnecessary and unforeseen trouble I had to undergo, but also promised to refund me for the new passport in addition to paying for the entirety of the conference travel and accommodation. It is easy to let annoyance and irritation transform into anger, and to let that anger mutate into paranoia (to be honest, such metamorphosis is often subconscious). But here I was, having the choice to forgive the drama of damage and control, and accept the incredible generosity of my hosts, that sowed the seeds of reorienting my perspective. And in retrospect, I am only too glad that better sense prevailed and warmth won over worry.

I like to believe that the beginnings of my musical sensibilities as an amateur pianist lie in Pakistan. More than 25 years ago, my father had bought me a small toy keyboard from his first and only trip to Lahore, that I taught myself to play over the years following the age of five. That was a small 'Casio' model, and



THERE WERE COUNTLESS MOMENTS WHEN I COULDN'T QUITE PINPOINT WHETHER I WAS IN PAKISTAN OR INDIA — IT WAS ALL SO LIKE HOME. MY VISIT DOES FEEL LIKE A REBIRTH OF SORTS. IT'S TRUE: JINHAN LAHORE NAHI WAIKHAYA O JAMMIA HI NAHI (ONE WHO HASN'T SEEN LAHORE HAS NOT BEEN BORN YET)

like so many people around me, 'Casio' always (and only) denoted a keyboard and nothing else, although it essentially referred to a full-fledged electronics company. Years later, the association of my neighbouring country with a refined sense of music would only intensify, and there is hardly a day now when I don't listen to one or two numbers from the extraordinary productions of *Coke Studio Pakistan* (as I write this piece, the transcendental compositions of Ustad Farid Ayaz and Ustad Abu Muhammad play in the background for the umpteenth time, whom I first got to know through *Coke Studio*).

In the early days of television, my parents would enthusiastically record musical shows aired from Pakistan via PTV, and I still remember the countless times they viewed those programmes in the grainy, pixelated format that was then the order of the day. But if those shows, along with *Coke Studio* productions, demonstrated a palpably sophisticated and liberating sensibility of music entrenched in Pakistan's cultural ethos, then Shoaib Mansoor's exquisitely crafted 2007 Pakistani drama film, *Khuda Ke Liye* (*In the Name of God*), also showed another facet of the country, where some circles were extremely conservative about the place of music and musical joy in society. It was this duality of dispositions that eventually greeted me as I landed in Lahore within the wee hours of the beginning of November.

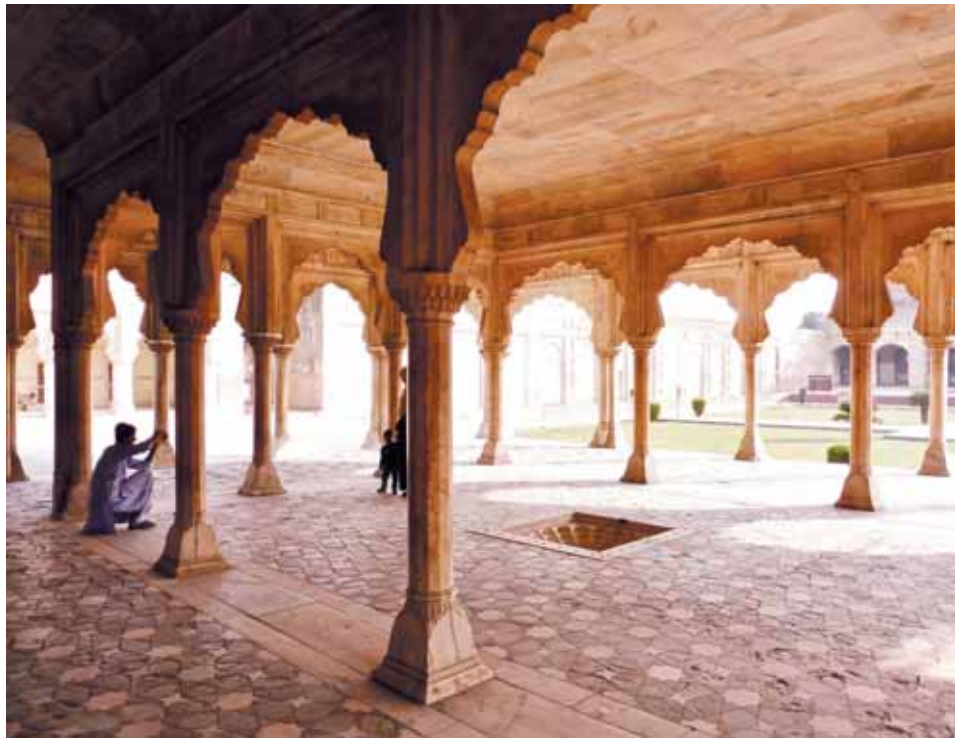
An hour before taking off from Heathrow in London, I learned from the conference organisers about the historic judgment on the Asia Bibi blasphemy case, that had thrown the country in turmoil and forced the cancellation of the conference inauguration on the first day, since the venue lay in a "high risk area". Meanwhile, my accommodation had also been changed, and mobile networks had been completely shut down for two days. I could sense that the drama that had begun with my passport had no plans of abating, and so I entered the country to find it in a storm of anger and violence. Islamist hardliners raged across different parts of Lahore, protesting against the acquittal of the Christian woman over a nine-year-old alleged profanity, and with this, I received a slice of fundamentalism that typically characterises much popular opinion about Pakistan the world over. But after the cancellation of the inauguration, the conference nonetheless began on the second day, and along with it evolved a completely different image of the nation and its citizens, one that was rooted in congeniality, kindness, and a hospitality that simply has no parallel.

As extremists took over the streets outside, not very far from our venue, a motley group of speakers predominantly from Pakistan and handful from other countries (Austria, Australia, Indonesia, and India) discussed a

wide array of ideas and practices under the selected theme of 'art, democracy, and tolerance', in what has to be the most intimate of all conferences I have ever attended. It took some time to adjust to the fact that the event was being held in the beautiful drawing room of my hosts, Professor Pervaiz Vandal and his wife Professor Sajida Haider Vandal, for I was used to the rather impersonal settings that typically define academic assemblages. Not so here. The papers ranged from topics concentrating on the beginnings of liberal and secular thought in both the West and East, to commentaries on Sufi saints, Mughal emperors' secular practices, contemporary conservation strategies in architecture and heritage management, and creative methods of engaging common audiences in developing artistic and democratic consciousness in a variety of contexts. Throughout the event, I couldn't help but think of the irony springing from the imbalance between what we were all collectively engaged in versus what was happening outside. After every two presentations, a sprawling layout of food and beverages greeted us in the leafy backyard of the Vandal home, where I was greeted with a warmth that is hard to define. I learned that I was the only Indian to have got the visa after 2015, even though THAAP (the organisation) had been selecting numerous Indians every year. It was then that I truly realised how lucky I was to be present there. But this sense of good fortune increased many times over once I mingled with the sundry Pakistanis present at the event (which was open to the public), from students to lecturers and other professionals. Before leaving for the conference, I had heard several tales almost bordering on the legendary about the love and respect that Lahoris had for Indians, but it was only when I found myself in their presence did I realise the truth of that claim.

As Pervaiz sa'ab introduced me to the gathering as the sole Indian present (who had managed to get a 'visa', for the word 'visa' was still circulating), a number of people from all ages stood up to welcome me individually, shaking hands and hugging me like a long lost friend now returning home. I heard several other visa-related stories too from this side of the border, even as the Pakistanis expressed heartfelt concern and genuine sympathy for what had transpired with regard to my passport. During lunches and teas, some students conveyed their desire to share food from the same plate as mine as a mark of respect and love, while another, after my presentation, became visibly emotional and offered his watch as a gift of brotherhood in addition to apologising for not having anything "proper" to give me.

A N E X P L O R E R ' S P A R A D I S E



In his 1667 epic poem, *Paradise Lost*, writer John Milton had referred to Lahore as one of the few cities that the archangel Michael showed to Adam before his expulsion from Paradise as a great example of God's future creations: "To show him all Earth's kingdoms and their glory... city of old or modern fame... to Agra and Lahore of great Mogul". While these lines are from a Christian epic, the name of Lahore itself is supposed to have derived from its old name Lava, after the son of Lord Ram, who, according to myth, founded the city. In my week-long travels across this bustling, enchanting place, I took pleasure in observing and capturing this polyphonic identity of the city. From the sprawling stateliness of the Badshahi Masjid to the magical interiors of the Lahore Fort, endlessly detailed with Sikh, Islamic, and Hindu motifs, and from the energy of the Anaarkali Bazaar to the solemnity of Emperor Jahangir's tomb, Lahore had it all



PICS: SIDDHARTH PANDEY

FROM PAGE 1

To Lahore, with love

Then, owing to the theme of my paper, yet another group of students happily approached me to 'guide' them on a film assignment, and I had a rather joyful time holding an impromptu session there and then. While making such connections, every second person intoned his or her sadness regarding the political enmity between the two nations, a visceral emotion that also seemed to erupt as a desire to prove that their country had another side to it that had nothing to do with the largely negative, 'terrorist' image that still floated so freely. At such moments, I was reminded of many similar testimonies from Pakistani youth whose writings I was privileged to examine as a final panel jury member of the Queen's Commonwealth Essay Writing Competition in 2016 and 2017, the world's largest literary contest for school children (incidentally, this year's senior winner from a total of 12,000 young people across 53 countries hails from Lahore). With this enormous profound culture of warmth and bonhomie that never ceased to move me, all my apprehensions regarding my own paper also got dispelled, for I was to argue against the interpretations that rendered Bhansali's *Padmaavat* and the director himself as Islamophobic and misogynist — a position I had already chalked out in a concise form in this newspaper.

This is not to say that there weren't people who disagreed with my analysis, but rather to point out that the setting I found myself in was as liberal and conducive to my ideas as any other. Even though I had read articles earlier this year on how a number of Pakistanis were deeply offended by the filmmaker's portrayals of Islamic culture, my own experiences at the conference proved otherwise, for with its diversity of people, the event demonstrated that there simply was no 'one' Pakistani identity that informed an opinion, and that fresh analytical standpoints always held the power to initiate newer ways of thinking (notwithstanding the disagreements) if provided a safe and peaceful environment (like the conference itself).

I had been drawn to Bhansali's cinema for a long time before *Padmaavat*, not because of its grandiosity but because of its eclecticism that I could trace in every film of his oeuvre. My favourite was and still remains the box-office flop *Saawariya*, and I continue to get enchanted by its marvellous juxtaposition of multi-faith imagery, with Buddhist statues sitting comfortably in the presence of Islamic calligraphy and Christian architecture. It was

precisely this microcosm of inter-religious aesthetic that I experienced when I visited Cooco's Den, one of the most famous restaurants of Lahore that is located in the city's famous Food Street, which I randomly chanced upon with a newly made conference friend Adnan, who was extremely excited to show me around the city and introduce me to other Lahoris. Reaching the restaurant's terrace left me speechless for a while as I soaked in the grandness of the 17th Century Badshahi Mosque sitting majestically at a distance, while the architecture and décor of the eatery itself paid homage to Buddhism, Christianity, and Hinduism. As we walked through the Food Street, the connections with *Saawariya* became even more apparent as I learned that the area historically served as Lahore's red light district where erstwhile princes and aristocrats would come to learn *tehzeeb* (mannerisms) from courtesans, a point well illustrated in several early Hindi films and then memorialised by Bhansali's venture. Returning to the hotel, I was further thrilled to read the news that the director might be eyeing the Heera Mandi area for his next film, for that was the other name of the place I had visited only a

I EXPERIENCED A MICROCOSM OF INTER-RELIGIOUS AESTHETIC WHEN I VISITED COOCO'S DEN, A FAMOUS RESTAURANT IN LAHORE, WHOSE ARCHITECTURE AND DÉCOR PAY HOMAGE TO BUDDHISM, CHRISTIANITY, AND HINDUISM

few hours earlier. In retrospect, it feels nothing short of magical that I had come to Pakistan to deliver a paper on *Padmaavat* and would leave it having taken a slice of the well illustrated in several early Hindi films and then memorialised by Bhansali's venture. It was in the setting of Cooco's Den that I had a long conversation with Adnan and another friend of his on religious identity. This other friend was a Hindu, who had recently shifted to Lahore from Sindh, and it was

instructive to learn the disturbing stories of discrimination he had been facing in the new city. He told me about the times that he had to hide behind his religion-neutral surname to avert discrimination on the basis of his first, Hindu-sounding name. But after speaking poignantly about his plight, it was equally moving to hear him narrate a number of other stories as well which shed light on some extraordinary moments when his close Muslim friends and teachers had come to his defence in order to combat bigotry from other Muslims. One such friend was sitting in our midst itself (Adnan), patiently and sympathetically listening to his friend's experiences, and his demeanour was a living testimony to the idea of tolerance that we had been debating in the conference. In this short, one-week visit then, I had got the rare opportunity to interact with the minority communities of Pakistan as well, which included the conference driver who was ferrying me back and forth from the event, who had similarly expressed fear as a Christian, particularly in light of the recent judgment's aftermath. But like the Hindu man's bonding with Adnan, this driver too shared a wonderfully convivial relationship with other members

of THAAP, all mostly Muslim, and that friendship again gave me hope and happiness.

In the days that followed, it was this practice of friendship that continuously got intensified with all the people I met. After the conference, I shifted to another beautiful location where I was being hosted by my wonderful friends, Sahar and Fazal Khan, whom I had first met in Cambridge three years ago. Like the people at the conference, Sahar and Fazal's hospitality too moved me to tears as they left no stone unturned to make my stay a most comfortable one. It was with them that I 'formally' celebrated my PhD submission dinner, which they grandly organised at the Lahore Gymkhana, as well as the Diwali meal. When Fazal drove me across the lanes of Lahore in his car, just like Adnan had driven me on his bike, there were countless moments when I couldn't quite pinpoint whether I was in Pakistan or India: It was all so like home. Connections continued to mushroom as my walk outside the Lahore Museum brought back the introductory pages from Rudyard Kipling's *Kim* that I had first read in Class V, and the gorgeous murals and stonework at the Lahore Fort and Jahangir's Tomb evoked the fine craftsmanship of the Mughals and Sikhs in India. I was also fortunate to meet Ryan, a young British whom I had known only cursorily in Cambridge, who had decided to devote two years of his

life teaching in a local school here, for he had fallen in love with Lahore when he first visited it. Like him, I too had assimilated myself in the people around me, and by the middle of my week-long stay, I was comfortable doing a gesture that oddly combined *Namaste* with *As-Salaam-Alaikum* ('Peace be unto you'). As I got ready for my farewell in the early hours of November 8, Sahar and Fazal prepared a delicious Diwali dinner, and I happily WhatsApped a photograph of the Badshahi Masjid to my friends and family in the manner of a festival card.

After my father had returned from Lahore a quarter of a century ago, he often used to say: "*Unhone humein palkein par hi biitha kar nahi rakha, unhone palkein jhap-kaai tak nahi*", something which I find difficult to translate, but which loosely means that "not only did the Lahoris treat us with exquisite care, their treatment also never wavered for a bit". Years later, I can safely say that the saying holds incredibly true, and that my visit does feel like a rebirth of sorts (*Jinhan Lahore nahi waikhaya o jammia hi nahi*). I am privileged to have travelled to the 'Land of the Pure', and in the hope of peace and friendship, here's to Lahore, with love. The writer submitted his PhD in English and Materiality Studies at Cambridge before setting off for Lahore, and will join the Ludwig Maximilian University of Munich, Germany, as a Research Scholar in Global History during the summer of 2019

LAW AND ECONOMICS MUST MEET

Kaushik Basu puts out an entertaining variation on Nash's Game Theory to argue that laws must make sense for the enforcers as well as the people and must be in agreement with the economic context, writes GAUTAM MUKHERJEE

Kaushik Basu currently teaches Economics and International Studies at Cornell University in the US. He has had an illustrious career, with distinguished stints as chief economist and senior vice president at the World Bank, and later, in this neck of the woods, Basu was chief economic adviser to the Government of India during UPA rule. Basu mostly leans Left in his economic ideas, and is a former student, amongst several others, of Nobel Laureate and "Welfare" economist Amartya Sen — who is also from India and a fellow Bengali too.

This latest, extensively researched book, that quotes many thinkers to illustrate his points, has Kaushik Basu exploring the co-relationship between laws and economics. It tries, to an extent to speak to the ordinary reader, but is, in fact, quite an academic tome. Still, some of its basic premises are readily graspable. Why are some laws both obeyed and enforced, he asks, while others stay quite ineffective on the statute books? In India, he points out, there are, in fact, many laws that are rarely used or enforced. Basu writes, that in order for a law to be properly implemented and used, it must intersect at a "focal point" with society and its economic ideas.

In other words it must make sense both to the enforcers of the law and the people it is intended for. Otherwise, both are likely to collude in its subversion or leaving it on the shelf.

"The most important ingredients of a republic, including its power and might, reside in nothing more than the beliefs and expectations of ordinary people going about their daily lives and quotidian chores. It is in this sense that we are all citizens of



the republic of beliefs," writes Kaushik Basu. He goes on to write: "The focal point is a somewhat mysterious concept that emerged from modern game theory". This concept of intersecting beliefs however, is the main point of this book, and Basu's suggestions towards a more effective socio-legal environment essential for orderly progress, are predicated upon it.

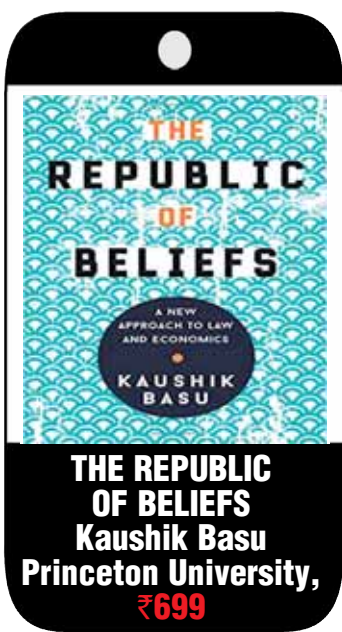
Basu believes one of the purposes of law, which is an instrument of the State as a collective, is

to influence and alter the collective behavior of its people towards preset objectives. In this, he goes beyond the more usual objective of an "orderly society" so that economics can do its stuff in peace. He actually wants to influence the populace via the laws adopted. He writes, "The focal point approach relies on the expressive function or suggestive power of the law and not on any human irrationality. It is purely a device that uses suggestion to facilitate coordination". Basu clarifies

further: "What the focal approach to law and economics does is to take on the full economy game, including the police and the judge, and then tries to explain how and why the law works". In other words, you need all the ingredients to be in some form of tacit agreement on the premises assumed by both the given law, and the economic context it operates in, for it to be widely adopted and used.

But, quite often, "It is not evident what constitutes a focal point

for different groups of people". In a highly diversified country like India this becomes doubly relevant and even more difficult to arrive at. Traditional laws, he says, were less inclusive in their approach, and usually were made up based on the consensus of a few, and then, sometimes imposed, when they were vigorously enforced, upon the many. He states that is why they often did not work, even though his outright demoting of the traditional approach without very



much ado, is less than convincing.

However, for a left-leaning thinker, inclusiveness must appear far more attractive as a basis to build upon, rather than a top-down approach to economic order and law-giving. Even if the latter method goes back to the Hammurabi Code and Moses' Ten Commandments.

Basu is an admirer of the ancient Greek City States, and the way they went about their business. He wants to see the principles enunciated then, spread across a 21st century global canvas to the extent possible. But this tends to be an impossible seduction, as the many self-contradictory effects in Democracy show. The idea is pleasant, but it is not easy to remain democratic in a so-called Democracy!

Focal points can be arrived at via custom, and tradition, writes Basu, as in the "tenacious" Indian caste system. They can also be arrived at by discrimination. That

is, by giving advantages to a specific group over another or several others. But predictably, Basu is not for allowing free play to it with its overtones of apartheid.

He writes: "The popular view is that if you leave it all to the market, with no Government regulations and intervention, discrimination will go away, is not valid. Discrimination arises from a free market. If you want to stop discrimination, you may, in fact, need regulation and conscious affirmative action".

Kaushik Basu is certainly not for rank Capitalism. He writes: "Once we move beyond payoff-focused critiques to generalised ones, many challenges open up. Human beings are guided not just by their own payoffs but also by habit, fairness, altruism, empathy, envy and many other emotional and psychological proclivities... Conservative economists, who condone selfishness by believing Adam Smith's concept of the invisible hand will invariably lead such a society to optimal results, end up creating failed societies".

Is Basu right? That depends on your own politics and economics. But he certainly puts out an entertaining variation on Nash's Game Theory to support his plumping for the old economic concept of the Focal Point.

Is such a thing rather theoretical when it comes to Law and Economics? My view is that it certainly is. And also it is not the job of Law so much as Justice to set Society on the right track. Economics marches to its own drummer. Recent progressive Supreme Court judgements on Homosexuality, Triple Talaq, and women between the ages of 12 and 50 being allowed to go to a revered temple that kept them out for millennia, are all cases in point.

NEW ARRIVALS

FORTUNE'S SOLDIER
Alex Rutherford
Hachette, ₹599



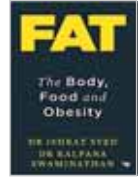
It is 1744, and Nicholas Ballantyne, a young Scotsman dreaming of a life as laird of his ancestral estate finds himself quite on the Winchester, a ship bound for Hindustan, seeking to begin a new life as a 'writer' on the rolls of the British East India Company. On board, he meets the spirited and mercurial Robert Clive, determined — at whatever cost — to make a fortune in a land of opportunity. Over the years that follow, their friendship sees many twists and turns.



THE LONG MARCH
Namita Waikar
Speaking Tiger, ₹223

In Mumbai, 26-year-old Mallika Joshi works with an NGO. While on assignment in Vidarbha, she meets farming families neglected by the Government and suffering under the weight of increasing debts. Moved by the hardships they've faced, and inspired by Vikram's efforts, she becomes an integral part of the movement. Together they embark on a mission to draw attention to the plight of farmers and other underprivileged sections of society, and finally mobilise millions of people to march into the major cities of India.

FAT: THE BODY, FOOD AND OBESITY
Dr Ishrat Syed
and Dr Kalpana Swaminathan
Speaking Tiger, ₹269



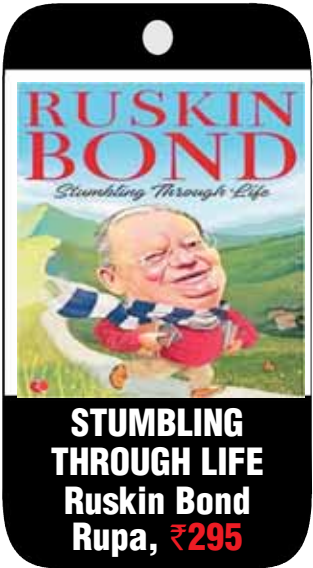
Doctors Ishrat Syed and Kalpana Swaminathan meld the newest research with their own clinical experience to answer these questions and uncover the links between food and our bodies. We discover the magical relationship between the brain and the fat cell; how it enhances our enjoyment of a delicious meal, how it tricks us into choosing the right foods in the right amounts, and how this perfect balance can go haywire. We learn of the ways in which the stresses of our modern lifestyles — especially in urban India — are pushing us into becoming overweight.

In this short book about the small and big decisions he has made in life, Ruskin Bond offers another juicy slice of his anecdotes and observations to the readers, writes UMANG AGGARWAL

Bond-ing over secrets

Ruskin Bond is one of those children's author that most adults still can't resist reading. And if one looks at the author's journey, this reader tendency makes perfect sense. When Bond had first started writing professionally, he had not planned it for children. It was his publishers who thought that Bond's consciously simple style of writing will make his books perfect for the young readers. It reflects rather well on the author, then, that decades down the line, children obviously adore him, and even the grown-ups can't get enough of his short stories and novellas. The reason is probably that even though he consciously keeps his sentences short and his ideas graspable, one still has a lot to cherish and ponder over when reading Bond.

Most of the author's stories are written in first person, whether he is sharing a slice from his own life or taking on the persona of an imagined character. In *Stumbling Through Life*, one of his latest books, he takes the readers through various stages of his own life while sharing humorous, sometimes tragic, and sometimes even spooky incidents with them. The events don't necessarily follow chronology, but they certainly give the readers a better sense about Ruskin Bond, the person. There are parts that make one chuckle and parts that



make one laugh out loud, too. By the end of the book, one feels all the more enamoured with the author.

Bond expresses his opinion on a wide range of topics through this book. Selfies, privacy in the modern society, the hill culture, the changing size of books, and the hangover of colonialism are some of them. The book is divided into small chapters, each of them dedicated to one such topic.

The reader finds that the author has a strong sense of attachment to certain 'old fashioned' ways as makes an apology for them. He argues that even though modern day publishing has moved miles ahead, he just can't seem to say goodbye to the writing process that



involves good old handwritten manuscripts. "The power of the pen" seems to become all the more real when one puts pen to paper and creates a draft, he says. Chapters dedicated to such personal opinions are intertwined with intriguing tales about celebrated authors that Bond himself grew up reading. For instance, the readers get a peep into a unique writing experiment

conducted by Mark Twain where he would write a letter to a person and see if the message reaches them even if he doesn't post it. Luckily for Twain, it did!

Making lighthearted observations about the activities of people around him in his trademark style, the author says that the selfie culture is hardly the devil it is being made out to be as long as the

human being clicking it has his/her head on the shoulders. He also comments on the culture of getting other authors to write an introduction for one's book as it has often put him in a spot. His commentary on Landour Bazaar, the importance of postmen in his life, the difficult search for solitude even on the hills, and the childish ways even 70-year-old people tend to adopt just in

order to save a childhood memory — the book is filled with priceless narratives.

Even though its such a short book, Bond has managed to fill selected sections with elements of the gothic. In a chapter titled "The Trouble with Jinns," he dabbles in the genre as he writes about a schoolmate who had the powers of a jinn. He concludes that one is better off appreciating and utilising his/her powers as a regular human being. Hill legends about old lady ghosts are also given a curious twist in the compilation.

The best one out of these is probably the part where Bond is visited by the spirit of Rudyard Kipling, an author he himself admires. The spirit of Kipling then talks about the white man's burden — how he was young and could not help himself while calling imperialism glorious.

Bond takes the readers though a period of dilemma in his personal life when he felt like more of an Indian even when in England, and finally decided to return to the home he felt a stronger sense of belonging with. The author's views on why he celebrates Holi, and how he feels towards his Indian friends and neighbours, how he 'found' a family to call his own, and how every day with them in Landour, which is not far away from his granny's old house in Mussoorie, adds up to just the idyllic journey he had always hoped to "stumble" through, fill the reader with the kind of happiness and peace one experiences while looking at happy, childhood pictures.

"And I enjoy writing. It's not a burdensome task. I may not have anything of earth-shattering significance to convey to the world, but in conveying my sentiments to you, dear reader, and in telling you something about my relationship with people and the natural world, I hope to bring a little pleasure and sunshine into your life," the author writes towards the end of the book. And that's exactly what he does. Needless to say, he does it exceedingly well as always.

Disjunction between human rights and IPR

Many of us have completely overlooked how human rights of the indigenous people, the needy and the poor are violated by giant MNCs in the guise of protecting their prized Intellectual Property Rights



MAKHAN SAINIA

On December 10, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) of the UN is completing its 70th anniversary. At this juncture, our planet has seen numerous instances of horrendous violation of the basic human rights of the millions. While looking at these tragedies, many of us have completely overlooked how human rights of the indigenous people, the needy and the poor are violated by giant multinational corporations (MNCs) in the guise of protecting their prized Intellectual Property Rights (IPRs).

It has happened mainly in the field of traditional knowledge, health, food and Geographical Indications (GI) in several parts of the developing world. This does not bear the fact that human rights and the IPRs are two antagonistic poles by nature. However, ironically, the two of them have been put in parallel lines by many to serve their vested interests.

The interface between human rights and IPRs draw the attention of the governments, policy makers, civil society organisations (CSOs), and a number of individual activists.

The irony is that these actors advance human rights arguments as counterweights to the massive extension and the enforcement of the global IPR regime from the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) through the WTO-TRIPS (Trade Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights) to the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) of our time in the fields of health, education, freedom of expression, privacy and the rights of indigenous people. Simultaneously, innovators and owners of IP are offering human rights justification for seeking legal protection of their exclusive rights.

But then it is possible to envision the connection between human rights and IPRs as kind of massive expansion of the horizons of both domestic and international legal instruments over the years. In fact, the growth of global institutions and awareness about them has supported the coming of human rights and IPRs to a point of conversion.

Needless to say, initially, the whole journey of IPRs started with discrete bilateral agreements between nations of Europe and



A journalist reads the WIPO's 2018 World Intellectual Property Indicators report during a press conference at the European headquarters of the United Nations in Geneva on December 3

AP

mostly restricted to the developed countries. The harbinger of its modern form came along with two trendsetting multilateral treaties which took place by the end of the 19th century: The Paris Convention of Industrial Property (1883) and the Berne Convention of Literary and Artistic Works (1886).

This has literally laid the foundation stone of the international IPR regime much before the onset of the two World Wars which largely affected the conception of the global human rights framework. Only after 65 years of the starting of the Paris Convention, the first UN sponsored human rights declaration saw its beginning. Thus the inception of an international human

rights perspective is of recent origin than IPRs, though concern and struggle for basic rights is as old as human civilisation.

From these humble beginnings, both human rights and IPRs terrain evolved much faster than one could imagine in their geographic scope, substantive reach and in prescriptive detail. Thus, issues multiplied, with the advancement of the information revolution and population, accompanied by an array of actors mostly heralded by globalisation and technology. It is realised that the form and pattern of the juridical boundary, as well as a mature interface between human rights and the IPRs are yet to crystallise.

Now let us see how human

rights and IPRs go together and where they come in conflict. Notwithstanding their long period of separation or non-interaction, there are ample juridical evidences that they converge both on conceptual and practical grounds. And, it is precisely mentioned in the International Bill of Rights. The Article 27 of the UDHR provides: A) Everyone has the right freely to participate in the cultural life of the community, to enjoy the arts and to share in scientific advancement and its benefits.

B) Everyone has the right to the protection of the moral and material interests resulting from any scientific, literary or artistic production of which he is the author.

Besides, Article 25.1 of the UDHR states, "Everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate to the health of himself and his family, including clothing, housing and medical care and necessary social services." While offering clear legal backing to these provisions of the UDHR, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR) of 1966 in its Article 12.1 says State parties to the Covenant recognises the "right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health".

Today, overall impression is that the global IP regime directly supervised by the WTO and post-TRIPS WIPO truly caters to the

demands of the rights holders than serving common man on the road.

Far beyond this, much controversial TPP (minus America) is increasingly becoming a grave threat to human rights protection in several fields. Even way back in 2016, an independent UN expert on human rights, Dr Alfred de Zayas, warned that the TPP is a serious threat to human rights and no country should sign it. Further he commented that the Investor State Dispute Settlement (ISDS), a unique built-in mechanism in the TPP, arbitrations are fundamentally imbalanced and unjust, adding that the historic agreement conflicted with guarantees of human rights and State sovereignty in the UN Charter.

He said, "The last 25 years have delivered numerous examples of abuse of rights by investors and unconscionable arbitral awards that have not only led to violations of human rights, but have engendered a 'regulatory chill' or even a 'regulatory freeze'." In a nutshell, what has come around and making headlines in popular perception today is that business treaties, particularly mega deals like the TRIPS or the TPP, pose harm to basic freedoms and rights such as access to water, food, medicine, education and very seriously to a clean environment. Above all, these trade treats make poverty even worse on this planet.

It is widely argued that the WIPO, the nodal and specialised agency of the UN, needs to walk an extra mile for turning the existing global IPR regime into a more human rights friendly one. Equally the WTO-TRIPS framework is to see that the developing and the least developed nations should not lose their valued resources in the hands of the MNCs of the developed world in the name of research, development and creation of more employment opportunities for locals.

The WIPO and the WTO policy-making and implementation are to ensure that the needy and poor are away from the clutches of the giant corporations while expanding and promoting the new IPR network. Some researchers have already had their opinions that there has been a serious lack of emphasis of basic or human rights in the works and all treaties of the

WIPO. It is believed that a human rights perspective of the WIPO would provide greater accessibility and participation of society. It is interesting to note that there is nothing in the WIPO mandate that prevents the organisation from stressing human rights to a greater extent, the integration of human rights into existing IPR policies and programmes into the future development of the WIPO Development Agenda. This would finally be advancement in building up a human rights framework for the WIPO.

With the Doha Declaration of 2001, the lingering doubts over the jurisprudential grounding or the interface between human rights and the IPRs should have been over. Because this declaration tried to moderate the TRIPS Agreement to be responsive to the development imperative that it alleged to have sidelined or rather ignored. But then since 2001, the emergence of numerous post-TRIPS bilateral and multilateral treaties has further raised the concern of violation of human rights.

At this point, when the entire world is fast moving towards an era of "intellectual capitalism", such an advanced system of social relations is defined not more by social divisions of labour but by social divisions of knowledge.

These divisions are widely reflected in continuous creation of knowledge pools, clusters and networks both at global and local levels which have become irresistible today. What holds the key of this marauding expansionist regime is the centrality of the intangible form of property than the age-old tangible properties such as land and industrial assets. Simply put, it is a phenomenal change and a paradigm shift. At this hour, a sustained guarantee of the protection of our basic human rights while promoting and exploiting the IPRs is to be ensured by the international watchdogs such as the WIPO, the WTO and through an overall supervision of the UN by sticking to the cardinal principles of the UDHR with the assistance of an array of civil rights groups and activists.

(The writer is an expert on International affairs)

PERSPECTIVE

No reason to resume talks with Pak



SATISH KUMAR

There are many reasons to refuse the resumption of dialogue with Pakistan. India has been reiterating talks and terror cannot coexist. This policy has been conceived with clarity based on realism and subsequently pursued with consistency.

Since 2015, India has seen an upsurge in cross-border firing, ceasefire violations along the Line of Control and international border in Jammu & Kashmir. There are clear signs that the Pakistan Army and the ISI are doing everything to destabilise Kashmir.

But in a friendly gesture towards India, the Imran Khan Government in Pakistan opened Kartarpur Sahib Corridor. However, it is not enough to resume the stalled bilateral talks. Former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee had first advocated for the corridor when he took the bus trip to Lahore in 1999. Prime Minister Narendra Modi approved the corridor. Pakistan's decision to agree to the Kartarpur Corridor was driven by a desire to emerge out of its current state of isolation and to cash in on the opportunity to radicalise the pilgrims from India. And therefore, a leader of the dead

Khalistan movement was seen with Imran Khan during the inauguration.

After coming to power, Imran said, "My Government is not to be blamed for the existence of terror structures in Pakistan." This looks a blatant lie. His ministers share the public chair with the masterminds of the terror groups. Earlier, he wrote a letter to his counterpart in India, saying, "Pakistan and India have understandably challenging relationships. We, however, owe it to our people, especially the future generation to peacefully resolve all outstanding issues, including the Jammu & Kashmir dispute, to bridge differences and achieve a mutually beneficial outcome."

Pakistan is not seen to be acting against the perpetrators of terror. It has yet not said goodbye to terror as foreign policy. 26/11 Mumbai terror masterminds Hafiz Saeed and Lakhvi roam free in Pakistan and publicly spew venom against India.

It is an open secret that Pakistan is run by its military. Policies are structured by the Army. And most likely, Imran was supported to become Prime Minister so as to act as a rubber stamp of the Army.



Border Security Force personnel carry the mortal remains of Prosenjit Biswas during a wreath-laying ceremony in Jammu on December 7. Biswas was killed and one other soldier was injured in sniper fire from across the Line of Control in the Sunderbani sector of Jammu & Kashmir

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Therefore, if Imran is harping on the resumption of bilateral dialogue, in fact it is the Pakistan Army's proxy move.

A key objective for Pakistan in reaching out to India is to unlock trade barriers, which would give Pakistan more access to regional mar-

kets. India sees Imran's outreach as the desire of the Pakistan Army and believes he will present General Bajwa's demands.

The Pakistan Army has realised country's battered economy as a security threat that may aggravate insurgency

situation in the country. The Bajwa Doctrine has linked Pakistani economy to the regional security. In desperation, the Pakistan Army chief approached Indian Army Chief Bipin Rawat, but the overtures proved futile. Perhaps, General Bajwa forgot that India has a

deep-rooted democratic set-up. Pakistan outreach is also due to the Chinese pressure. Those who know Chinese policy understand it better that Beijing's interests in Pakistan are of paramount interest. For Beijing, China-Pakistan Economic Corridor is the

lynchpin for all ties with Pakistan. Beijing has prodded Pakistan to stabilise its border with India, hoping for greater stability as it pursues its regional economic ambitions.

Harsh American cut-off in military aid and economic bailout from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) are the unstated objectives guiding Pakistan's eagerness for peace.

But why should India take the bait? Pakistan continues to hurt India. Recently Pakistan released 20 special stamps in solidarity with Kashmiri terrorism, which glorify Burhan Wani, the Hizbul Mujahideen terrorist killed by security forces in 2016.

The true face of Imran has been exposed in his first few months in office, said External Affairs Ministry Spokesperson Raveesh Kumar, adding that talks under the circumstances were meaningless. Hizbul Mujahideen terrorists are pressing local policemen of J&K to resign, failing which they are brutally killed. All these are happening at behest of Pakistan.

Dialogue between India and Pakistan has been suspended since 2015 over a series of attacks, especially the terror attack on Army camp in Uri

that left 19 soldiers dead.

The Pakistan Army has emerged as the self-designated custodian of Pakistan's destiny, unity and ideology. It has sustained its grip on power and influence because of the widespread perceptions and propaganda that India is an existential threat.

In 2015 when Modi flew to Lahore and embraced then Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, there was a sense that relations will improve. But India was disappointed. The good gestures were rewarded with the Uri attack and intensified insurgencies. The current game plan of Pakistan is two-fold. First, Army doctrine is to open the peace gate through civilian Government and it will run its own game of infiltrations. Second, if talks fail, India will be blamed. Unless the Pakistan Army abandons the use of terror as its security doctrine, resumption of dialogue is not possible. India is now a decisive power, and diktats of external powers do not work any longer.

(The author teaches Political Science and IR at MMH College Ghaziabad. Earlier, he was Head of the Department of Political Science, Central University of Haryana)

