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MUCH ADO
ABOUT NOTHING

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THERESA REBUFFS GROWING
CALLS FOR 2ND BREXIT VOTE

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LIVERPOOL TO PLAY
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WILDLIFE
POACHING IS
SERIOUS: YAMI
13 VIVACITY

3 Cong CMs take oath of office

Nath waives farmers' loan up to ₹2 lakh, fulfils Rahul's poll promise

PNS ■ BHOPAL/JAIPUR/RAIPUR

As three newly-elected Congress Chief Ministers took oath of office on Monday in back-to-back ceremonies, Madhya Pradesh CM Kamal Nath announced a major gift for the debt-ridden farmers of the State. Loans of up to ₹2 lakh of the farmers will be waived with Nath signing a file to the effect within two hours of taking charge. The move follows a promise by Congress president Rahul Gandhi during the poll campaign.

After Nath signed on the file pertaining to waiving off farmers' loans of up to ₹2 lakh, Principal Secretary, Farmers' Welfare and Agriculture Development Department, Rajesh Rajora issued the loan waiver order.

The order said: Madhya Pradesh Government has taken a decision to write off short-term crop loan of eligible farmers up to the limit of ₹2 lakh, as on March 31, 2018, from nationalised and cooperative banks. The promise of loan waiver is top priority for the three newly-elected Congress Government. On Sunday, ahead of his oath-taking ceremony Ashok Gehlot had said that as promised by Rahul Gandhi his Government would act on loan waiver promise with 10 days of Cabinet formation.

A host of Opposition leaders attended the three oath-taking ceremonies of Ashok Gehlot, Kamal Nath and Bhupesh Baghel as Chief Ministers of Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh respec-



1) Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Kamal Nath and party MP Jyotiraditya Scindia wave at the crowd during swearing-in-ceremony in Bhopal on Monday
2) Rajasthan CM Ashok Gehlot and his Deputy Sachin Pilot during the swearing-in ceremony at Albert Hall in Jaipur on Monday
3) Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel being administered the oath of office by Governor Anandiben Patel in Raipur on Monday

tively on Monday.

However, BSP chief Mayawati, Samajwadi Party president Akhilesh Yadav and West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee were conspicuous by their absence.

While Congress president Rahul Gandhi attended all the three events, other prominent Opposition leaders who attended the events were former Prime Ministers Manmohan Singh, HD Deve Gowda, Chief Ministers of few States including Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka, former Jammu & Kashmir Chief Minister Farooq Abdullah, former Union Ministers Sharad Yadav and Sharad Pawar amongst others.

The absence of the Mamata, Mayawati and Akhilesh is significant because all three also skipped the unveiling of late DMK patriarch Karunanidhi's statue in



Congress president Rahul Gandhi, former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, NCP chief Sharad Pawar, Loktantrik Janata Dal chief Sharad Yadav and other Opposition leaders on their way to Jaipur on Monday

Chennai on Tuesday. A section of the Opposition is unhappy over the fact that DMK chief Stalin suggested the name of Rahul Gandhi as Prime Minister at the rally in Chennai on Tuesday.

Former CMs and Uttar Pradesh rivals Akhilesh Yadav and Mayawati who too were extended the invitations for the swearing-in ceremony though both of them have supported the Congress in the Hindi

heartland States. Gehlot, Nath and Baghel's predecessors — Vasundhara Raje, Shivraj Singh Chouhan, Raman Singh — also attended the swearing-in ceremonies at Jaipur, Bhopal and Raipur,

accordingly. Besides Shivraj Singh Chouhan, former CMs of the State Kailash Joshi and Babul Gaur were also present on the stage.

Other prominent leaders who made it to celebrate the Congress' return to power in Jaipur and a few of them in Bhopal included MK Stalin, Kanimozhi (DMK), Tejashwi Yadav (RJD), Dinesh Trivedi (AITC), Hemant Soren (JMM), Jiten Ram Manjhi (HAM), Babu Lal Marandi (JVM), PK Kunhalikutti (IUML), Badrudin Ajmal (AIUDF), Raju Shetty (Swabhiman Paksha), Sanjay Singh (AAP), Jose K Mani (KCM) and NK Premchandran (RSP). Rahul shared photographs from the swearing-in ceremony and of a bus in Jaipur in which top Opposition leaders were seen sitting with him.

Continued on Page 4

Sajjan gets life term in 1984 anti-Sikh riots

HC asks Kumar, 5 other convicts to surrender before Dec 31

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

In what could be termed as a major setback to the Indian National Congress, its former Lok Sabha member and senior Delhi Pradesh Congress leader Sajjan Kumar was on Monday convicted and sentenced to life term for "remainder of his natural life" in a 1984 anti-Sikh riots case by a double Bench of the Delhi High Court which said the riots were a "crime against humanity" perpetrated by those who enjoyed "politi-

The riots were a crime against humanity perpetrated by those who enjoyed political patronage — Delhi High Court

cal patronage". Expressing anguish, the High Court said though it was "undeniable" that it took over three decades to punish the accused in the case, it was important to assure the victims that despite the challenges faced by the court, "truth will prevail and justice will be done". The case relates to killing of five Sikhs in Raj Nagar part-I area in Palam Colony in South West Delhi on November 1-2, 1984 and burning down of a Gurudwara in Raj Nagar part II.

Continued on Page 4
Also see Page 3, 5, 7



(L-R) Delhi Sikh Gurdwara Management Committee president Manjit Singh GK, Nirpreet Kaur and Jagdish Kaur, whose family members were killed during 1984 anti-Sikh riots, Akali Dal MLA Manjinder Singh Sirsa and others react after the Delhi HC convicted Congress leader Sajjan Kumar for criminal conspiracy, promoting enmity, acts against communal harmony in the riots and sentenced him to life imprisonment, in New Delhi on Monday

Fresh Bill introduced in LS to make triple talaq penal offence

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

A fresh Bill to make the practice of triple talaq among Muslims a penal offence was introduced in the Lok Sabha on Monday with the provisions that a magistrate can offer bail after hearing the wife. The Congress-led Opposition described the provision for non-bailable arrests as harsh and tough on husbands.

While the proposed law makes it a "non-bailable" offence, an accused can approach a magistrate even before trial to seek bail. In a non-bailable offence, bail cannot be granted by police at the police station itself.

A provision has been added to allow the magistrate to grant bail "after hearing the wife". Under the proposed law, giving instant triple talaq will be illegal and void and will attract a jail term of three years for the husband.

The Government had cleared some amendments,



including introduction of a provision of bail, to make it more palatable.

Introducing the Bill, Law Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad said despite the Supreme Court striking down the practice of talaq-e-biddat (instant triple talaq) as unconstitutional, men were divorcing their wives on flimsy grounds and even via WhatsApp.

Congress' Shashi Tharoor opposed the introduction of the Bill, saying divorce cannot be made a penal offence and its provisions were against basic principles of the Constitution.

Continued on Page 4

Two kids die under debris as JCB rams Noida school wall

STAFF REPORTER ■ NOIDA

Two children were killed and three others injured after a wall of a school building collapsed on them in a village on Monday around 10 am at Khazan Singh KS Public School, a private primary school in Salarpur village under Sector 49 police station limits, police said.

Taking a serious note of the incident, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has ordered an enquiry and directed officials of Gautam Buddh Nagar district to ensure proper treatment to the injured.

According to eyewitness, children were playing when a wall collapsed on them as a JCB collided with the school wall. Five school students identified as Akash, Naitik, Reshu, Bhupendra and Vivek, who were the victims, were rescued from the debris and rushed to a nearby hospital where Bhupendra (10) and Vivek (8) were declared brought dead while Akash, Naitik and Reshu are being treated.

Senior Superintendent of



Police (SSP), Gautam Buddh Nagar, Ajay Pal Sharma and District Magistrate (DM) Brajesh Narain Singh met the families of the victims and took stock of the situation, officials said.

It is understood the school was being run on a plot owned by one Amit Bhati. Police are trying to identify the people running the school. A First Information report has been lodged at sector-49 police station and probe has been launched, a police official said.

Pak releases Indian prisoner after 6 years

PTI ■ ISLAMABAD

Pakistan on Monday released Indian prisoner Hamid Nihal Ansari, who was detained by the country's intelligence agencies in 2012 and subsequently sentenced to three years' imprisonment by a military court in 2015 for possessing a fake Pakistani identity card.

Ansari, a 33-year-old Mumbai resident, was lodged in the Peshawar Central Jail after being sentenced by the military court on December 15, 2015. His three-year jail term ended on December 15, 2018 but he was not able to leave for India as his legal documents were not ready.

On Thursday, the Peshawar High Court gave the federal government a month deadline to complete his repatriation process.

"Ansari is being released upon completion of his sentence and is being repatriated to India," Pakistan Foreign Office Spokesperson Mohammad Faisal said.

He claimed that Ansari was an "Indian spy who had

illegally entered Pakistan and was involved in anti-state crimes and forging documents."

Ansari went missing after he was taken into custody by Pakistani intelligence agencies and local police in Kohat in 2012 and finally in reply to a habeas corpus petition filed by his mother, Fauzia Ansari, the high court was informed that he was in custody of the Pakistan Army and was being tried by a military court.

He entered Pakistan from Afghanistan, reportedly to meet a girl he had befriended online.

A two-judge Peshawar High Court bench, comprising Justice Roohul Amin and Justice Qalandar Ali Khan, on Thursday heard an appeal filed by Ansari through his lawyer Qazi Muhammad Anwar.

Anwar informed the bench that both the Ministry of Interior and authorities of prison, where he was lodged, were completely silent about his release and deportation to India.

Continued on Page 4

CAPSULE

6 KILLED IN MUMBAI HOSPITAL BLAZE

Mumbai: Six persons were killed and over 147 patients and visitors suffered injuries in a fire at a hospital on Monday evening. As many as 108 people, including patients, were trapped inside when the fire broke out at ESIC Kamgar Hospital at Marol in Andheri. P7

GOVT ANNOUNCES \$1.4 BN ASSISTANCE TO MALDIVES

New Delhi: With Maldives reeling under mounting Chinese debt, India on Monday announced a \$1.4 billion financial assistance to the island nation and inked four pacts with it after Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Maldivian President Ibrahim Mohamed Solih held "successful" talks with an aim to reset ties. P5

LOK SABHA PASSES TRANSGENDER BILL

New Delhi: Amid noisy protests over the Rafale deal and Cauvery issue, the Lok Sabha on Monday passed a bill seeking to empower the transgender community by providing them a separate identity. P5

DENGUE CASES RISE TO 4,704 AS YEAR NEARS END

New Delhi: Dengue cases in Delhi have mounted to 4,704 this year even with the onset of winter when conditions become unfavourable for the breeding of mosquito larvae, a municipal report said on Monday. P2

Lens on Dragon's projects export sans funds

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

Chinese investment in India is as low as US \$5 billion, but Chinese companies are executing projects of Indian entities pegged at a whopping \$63 billion. A parliamentary panel has pointed to this "projects export" by China without "bringing any actual investment" and pushed for an immediate stress on investments by Chinese companies in India. The Committee has also outlined the security implications of Chinese projects saying they should be examined with circumspection on a sectoral basis. The trade deficit between the two countries stand at nearly \$52 billion.

"While cumulative Chinese investments in India are substantially low at round \$5 bil-

lion, the value of Indian projects currently executed by Chinese companies is estimated to be as high as \$63 billion. China is engaged in project exports in India without bringing its own capital for investment. Such a trend is not healthy for the overall growth of Indian economy," said the parliamentary committee on External Affairs, headed by Congress MP Shashi Tharoor in its report. The report was tabled in the Lok Sabha on Monday.

The Committee pointed out that trade deficit with China is totally loaded against India. The factors which are responsible for this include non tariff barriers imposed by China to Indian goods and services, dumping of goods, lack of genuine investment profile



on the part of China, security imperatives are some of the concerns which India faces on the matter.

In its report, the Committee recommended that India should persuade Chinese companies to bring more investment into India rather than merely resorting to project exports. "The continuously ris-

ing trade deficit which has increased to \$52 billion in 2016-17 and is at present \$63 billion is unsustainable and requires concrete steps to be taken for redressal," it said. Foreign Secretary Vijay Gokhle, who appeared before the Committee, had submitted that there has always been a difference between the Indian figures and the Chinese customs statistics. "The Chinese calculate the data on calendar basis while India calculates on financial year basis. It is virtually impossible to reconcile the figures. As far as the Indian Government data is concerned in the three previous financial years of 2014-15, 2015-16, 2016-17, the deficit was \$48.47 billion, \$52.69 billion and \$51.09 billion. In each case, the Chinese exports were around \$60 billion and the Indian exports were in the range of nine billion to \$10 billion. According to the Chinese customs statistics, in that same period for 2014, 2015 and 2016 calendar years, the deficit was \$37 billion; \$44 billion and \$47 billion," the Foreign Secretary had submitted to the Committee.

On the issue of Chinese ease of entry to Indian markets and project exports, the Ministry of External Affairs said the value of projects currently under execution is estimated to be \$63 billion. So while the cumulative Chinese investments in India are substantially low which is about \$5 billion, the project exports are substantial and the Government's effort has essentially been to persuade the Chinese to invest into the country and not to utilise Indian capital by bringing projects into the country.

The Committee questioned as to why the Government has not been able to leverage with China the fact of a massive \$80 billion market next door as to compel it to bring some degree of equity in the bilateral trade.

CAG sends report on Rafale to MoD, seeks reply within 4 weeks

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

Just two days after Congress leaders held a Press conference saying no CAG report on pricing of Rafale jets has been shared with the Public Accounts Committee (PAC), the CAG has sent a draft report on Rafale deal to the Ministry of Defence for its comment. Highly placed sources said that the CAG has asked the Ministry of Defence to revert within four weeks on the draft report. The draft report was sent to the Ministry of Defence two weeks ago. However, the report is unlikely to be tabled in the ongoing Winter Session of the Parliament.

The controversy erupted

over the CAG report on Rafale ever since the Supreme Court mentioned about this while giving clean chit to the Government.

The senior Congress leader Mallikarjun Kharge, who is the Public Accounts Committee chairman, accused the Government of misleading the apex court. "The Government lied in the Supreme Court that the CAG report was presented in the House and in the PAC, and PAC has probed it. The Government said in the Supreme Court that it (the report) is in public domain. Where is it? Have you seen it?" Kharge, alleged.

Continued on Page 4

HC order fails to bring relief for principal



GAYATHRI MANI ■ NEW DELHI



DYAL SINGH COLLEGE ROW

Despite the High Court order, Surajit Das Gupta the self-proclaimed officiating chairman of Governing Body (GB) of Dyal Singh College Court has barred the entry of the Principal Inderjeet S Bakshi and once again locked and sealed the room without any prior notice and informing anyone.

On December 14, the High Court ordered that Bakshi can join the college till next hearing. In its order, the High Court said, "Let the needful be done within two weeks. Response thereto, if any be filed within two weeks thereafter. Till further order, the operation of the order (governing body order) issued to the Inderjeet S Bakshi shall remain stayed."

But the college staff members claimed that the Governing Body has again put a notice on the main door of the principal room and locked it again, even after the court's order.

"With reference to the order of the Delhi High Court, a copy of which has not reached the college so far, it is observed that room of I S Bakshi has been opened without any consent of the GB, Dyal Singh College which is improper.

Once receiving a copy of the order, the GB shall meet to decide upon the future course of action. Until the decision of the college is reached the room will remain locked," read the notice signed by Surajit Das Gupta.

The notice further said that the order of the GB was issued after the decision taken at the last meeting (2nd November) to restrict Bakshi's entry into the college campus to ensure unhindered and unaffected inquiry into the charges against him and it still continues.

When asked Bakshi said, "This amounts to contempt of the court and without any notice they have locked the room again. Now the GB is acting as law unto itself and their behavior is against its faculty and staffs. As soon I witnessed the notice, I wrote a letter to the Vice-Chancellor Yogesh Tyagi and have also filed a police complaint against the guards to let the people in the mid-night. The body is literally harassing senior and elder faculty of this college."

Further, some members of Academic Council (AC) have also submitted a memorandum against the chairman of governing body of Dyal Singh College.

"This act of Dasgupta is in violation of the Court order of 14th December 2018 which puts a stay on the decision of the Governing body. The Body on the 14th of September arbitrarily decided to send Bakshi on forced leave and locked his office. It has come to our notice that in the night of 15th December some of the bouncers of some security agency entered the college and put a lock and seal on Principals room which is a clear act of coercion," stated the memorandum.

It further said that the member of the governing body is claiming himself as an officiating chairman, whereas the post of Officiating Chairman does not exist as per ordinance and statute of the University.

"The chairmen of GB of other colleges too, have started acting as the college is their fiefdom. Such an act is not only going to ruin the academic atmosphere of Dyal Singh College alone but also sends a wrong signal to the entire University. This kind of action is an insult to the entire teachers of Varsity and many are suffering," said Pankaj Kumar Garg, AC member who submitted the memorandum to VC.

113 fresh dengue cases reported

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Around 113 fresh cases of dengue were reported in the national Capital last week, suggested the weekly report released by South Delhi Municipal Corporation (SDMC) on Monday.

Out of the fresh cases while 42 belonged to Delhi, 61 were found to be acquired from other states after investigation. In 10 cases, address of the patients was not revealed by the hospitals.

Although there has been a dip in the number of cases, with more fresh cases last week, the number has risen to 317 in December which is much higher than that of the previous

year, the report suggested.

According to the report, last year in December the number of cases belonging only to Delhi were 81, however, this year, the number exclusive to the national capital is at least 117.

With this, the total number of cases this year has risen to 7,082 out of which 2,774 belong to Delhi while 3,546 are infections acquired from other states. Of the total, 762 are untraced, the reported suggested.

At least four people, including two minor children, have died in the city due to the



of malaria in Delhi and four cases of chikungunya including two from other states and two untraced were also reported, the report stated.

To counter the situation, doctors in the capital have advised people to take precautions to ensure that there was no breeding of mosquito larvae around them and urged them to wear full-sleeves and use mosquito nets.

Water coolers should be dried up when not in use as dengue infection-carrying mosquitoes breed there a lot, a doctor said.

Besides this, the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) last week sprayed 16,015 new houses. The total number of houses sprayed this year is 27,73,915.

"Last week, around 964 houses were found positive for mosquito breeding out which action was taken in 717 cases and legal notices were sent to these places," said a senior MCD official.

Last week, 15 fresh prosecutions were also launched for violating the guidelines of MCD, the official added.

This year, around 186739 legal notices have been sent so far while 25971 prosecutions have been launched, the report added.

4th municipal valuation interim report uploaded

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

South Delhi Municipal Corporation (SDMC) has uploaded the fourth Municipal Valuation Committee (MVC) interim report on its website on Monday inviting objections and recommendation from general public and residents of colonies affected by the classification of land and buildings and specification of base value per unit area of vacant land and covered buildings.

The recommendations of the committee has been uploaded on www.mcdproprtytax.in and www.mcdonline.gov.in for further feedback from general public, a senior SDMC official said. The Committee was constituted to submit recommendations on re-classification of colonies and new rates of unit area value. The representations can oppose the changes in the base unit area and also oppose the factors for increase or decrease

of these values as suggested by the MVC. It has recommended many suggestions including such as classification of 1398 colonies from A to H-1 class and per square meter unit area value for the colonies. The Committee has also recommended no change in occupancy and structure factors. New category H 1 has been created with base unit area value ₹130 per square meter for new colonies, such as unauthorised colonies, slum/JJ Colonies and rural villages.

The victims were identified by the South Delhi Municipal Corporation (SDMC) as Aman Tiwari (13), Sanskriti (21) and Gagan (23) while Harshita (13) from Wazirabad area of North Delhi was the first victim of dengue this year. Apart from that, one case

Army Major on trial for killing another officer's wife

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

A Delhi court Monday put an Army Major on trial for allegedly killing another officer's wife he was obsessed with and destroying evidence in the case.

Special Judge Rakesh Syal framed the charges against Major Nikhil Handa under sections 302 (murder) and 201 (destruction of evidence) after the accused pleaded not guilty and claimed trial.

The court has fixed the matter for January 19, when it

will start recording the prosecution evidence.

In the charge sheet, the Delhi police had alleged that it was a pre-planned murder.

It had claimed that a night before the incident, the accused had watched various videos on 'Youtube' on how to kill someone, which indicates his intention to murder the woman.

The police claimed that the accused was "obsessed" with his fellow officer's wife and wanted to marry her.

Tata Power Solar bags GPEA in world class category

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Tata Power Solar bagged the Global Performance Excellence Award (GPEA) 2018 in the category 'World Class' under the aegis of Asia Pacific Quality Organisation (APQO). The company was recognised as a 'role model for future organisations to emulate.'

Ashish Khanna, Managing



Ashish Khanna, CEO & MD, Tata Power Solar receives GPEA award

Pioneer Photo

Director and CEO of Tata Power Solar said, "With an unwavering vision to increase international footprint, the award comes at an opportune time wherein our strong legacy of more than 29 years and international presence are duly recognized. It is also reassuring to our stakeholders that we deliver sustainable value and set benchmarks."

The award was given to the

company at the Jumeirah Etihad Towers Hotel, Abu Dhabi on December 11th 2018. With this, the company became one of the thirty role model organizations.

Praveer Sinha, CEO & Managing Director, Tata Power said, "We are proud to have been presented the revered Global Performance Excellence Award. This recognition reaffirms our determination to deliver world-class quality ser-

vice to our consumers. The award has emboldened our spirits to continue excelling and sustaining our leadership position in the solar industry."

The GPEA is primarily a EFQM (European Foundation for Quality Management) based model that provides a comprehensive approach to managing organizational success through embracing of validated best practices.

5 challans issued for slippage of debris on roads

New Delhi: Taking action against Public Works Department (PWD), South Delhi Municipal Corporation (SDMC) issued five challans for slippage of malba/debris on roads. A senior SDMC official said that the action was taken by the officials of "Department of Environment Maintenance Services" (DEMS)

for not complying with the direction issued by the civic body. He said that officials of the South Zone's DEMS department noticed violations at five different places on different roads and took action.

The official further said that "It is a violation of section 15 of National Green Tribunal Act." He further said that Malba/Debris of PWD, filled in number of trucks was found to be slipped over at many places under Dakshinpur area.

"In each case, ₹50000 fine has to be deposited by them within three days of issuing challan. Failing which they will have to appear in the court of Divisional Magistrate at Saket on December 20, he said. SR

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 Authorized 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. 00000328 of our Bahadurgarh Branch) Bharat Bhushan Sabarwal (Borrower) Kirti Sabherwal (Co-Borrower) Rachna Sabharwal (Guarantor)	20-07-2018 Rs. 18,76,379/-	All that part and parcel of the Property Bearing No Unit No: 406, Liberate Tower, block No: 9 Fourth Floor, Omaxe North Avenue, Village Sankholi, Sector, Bahadurgarh, Jhajjar-124507, Haryana.	17-12-2018
2.	(LC No. Y0000060 of our New Delhi Branch) Jagdishbhai Sohanlal Soni (Borrower) Renubeh Jagdishbhai Soni (Co-Borrower)	20-07-2018 Rs. 15,35,727/-	All that part and parcel of the Property Bearing No Flat No-1003,10th Floor, Tower-D Kdp Mgi Ghararudaj Raj Nagar Extra, Ghaziabad, Ghaziabad-201011, Uttar Pradesh.	17-12-2018
3.	(LC No. 00041606 of our Delhi - Safdurjung Branch) B R Sharma (Borrower) Deepa Sharma (Co-Borrower)	20-07-2018 Rs. 21,27,621/-	All that part and parcel of the Property Bearing No House No 624 Sector 55 Faridabad, Faridabad, Faridabad-121001, Haryana.	17-12-2018
4.	(LC No. 00000415 of our Raj Nagar Branch) Chetan Kumar (Borrower) Seema Rani (Co-Borrower)	19-05-2018 Rs. 9,00,446/-	All that part and parcel of the Property Bearing No Flat No.- L-323 A, First Floor, E W S Block- L, Sector-9 Vijay Nagar, Ghaziabad, Ghaziabad-201010, Uttar Pradesh.	13-12-2018
5.	(LC No. NOD37939 of our Noida-Sector 2 Branch) Dipti Sharma (Borrower)	19-05-2018 Rs. 61,54,393/-	All that part and parcel of the Property Bearing No H/FLAT NO.610A, GOLF VIEW APARTMENT, SECTOR, SULTANPURROAD, LUCKNOW, Lucknow-226025, Uttar Pradesh.	11-12-2018
6.	(LC No. 00001322 of our Ghaziabad Branch) Gourav Chawla (Borrower) Kirti Grover (Co-Borrower)	19-05-2018 Rs. 6,88,913/-	All that part and parcel of the Property Bearing No Flat - 2215, L. I. G, G.Floor, Housing Board Colony, Sector-55, Faridabad, Faridabad-121001, Haryana.	17-12-2018
7.	(LC No. 00001516 of our Agra Branch) Karun Hasija (Borrower) Ridhi Hasija (Co-Borrower)	20-07-2018 Rs. 72,33,592/-	All that part and parcel of the Property Bearing No Penta House Flat No. (1503 & 1504) Kharsa No.1 & budera & khasra no.209 (part) lakawali Singapore Tower Ganpati World, Fatehabad Road Agra, Agra-282001, Uttar Pradesh.	15-12-2018
8.	(LC No. GUR34609 of our Gurgaon - Sohna Road Branch) KUSUM SINGH (Borrower)	15-06-2018 Rs. 12,54,794/-	All that part and parcel of the Property Bearing No FLAT NO.S 2-005, FLOOR NO. GROUND FLOOR, PLOT NO. TOWER SATIN, KRISHI CITY 2, VILLAGE - BHIWADI, BHIWADI,-301019, Rajasthan.	17-12-2018
9.	(LC No. 00000915 of our Noida Branch) Lokesh Sharma (Borrower) Anita Sharma (Co-Borrower)	20-07-2018 Rs. 1,08,54,048/-	All that part and parcel of the Property Bearing No Plot No-487 Niti Khand - 2 Indirapuram, Ghaziabad, Ghaziabad-201010, Uttar Pradesh.	14-12-2018
10.	(LC No. 00000008 of our Faridabad Branch) Ravindra Umeed Nagar (Borrower) Geeta Nagar (Co-Borrower)	20-07-2018 Rs. 15,67,020/-	All that part and parcel of the Property Bearing No Flat No.-a/2/0104 Crescent Park C Ebony Greens/ Nh -24, Ghaziabad, Ghaziabad-201001, Uttar Pradesh.	15-12-2018
11.	(LC No. Y0000055 of our New Delhi Branch) Manjeet Singh (Borrower) Savita Bala (Co-Borrower) Vinod Mann (Guarantor)	19-05-2018 Rs. 10,46,449/-	All that part and parcel of the Property Bearing No Flat No-260, First Floor, Dda Lig Flat, Pocket-4, Sector- A-9 Narela, Delhi,-110040, Delhi.	15-12-2018
12.	(LC No. 00000003 of our Gurgaon - Sohna Road Branch) Mitheli Venkar (Borrower) Rakhi S Patkar (Co-Borrower)	23-04-2018 Rs. 16,51,598/-	All that part and parcel of the Property Bearing No Flat No.- R-401, 4th Floor Carnation - R, Terra Floor Terra City, Alwar By Pass, Bhiwadi, Alwar-301019, Rajasthan.	17-12-2018

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 : 18/12/2018

NOTICE
NOTICE is hereby given that certificate of 50 shares of KSB Pumps Ltd. standing in the name of Suniti Sethi under Folio No. S0007466 bearing Certificate No. 101365 and Distinctive no. 16291107-16291156 have been lost or mislaid and application has been made to the Company to issue duplicate in lieu thereof. Any person who has a claim in respect of the said shares should lodge such claim with the Company's Registrars & Transfer Agent "Link Intime India Pvt. Ltd", C 101, 247 Park, L.B.S. Marg, Vikhroli (West), Mumbai, Maharashtra-400083 within 15 days from the date of publication of this Notice, else the Company will proceed to issue Duplicate Certificates. Mela Sethi S-83, Greater Kailash-1, New Delhi-110048.

PUBLIC NOTICE
Known to General public that my client Manisha Kamda is going to purchase property in Entire First Floor without roof right property No. G-70-A, Area 50 sq.yds. Kharsa No. 87/5, Village Harsid, Block - 1, Utam Nagar, New Delhi from Meenu Sharma and Sonu and subsequently mortgage with the same with Punjab National Bank. And if any person has purchased the said property from Yogita Singh vide sale deed no. 15448, dt. 18/07/2016. And if any person has a claim in respect of the said property they should contact my client Manisha Kamda in respect of the said property within 15 days from the date of publication of this Notice of the said property. For AD REM LEGAL SOLUTION M-9899019118

PUBLIC NOTICE
Notice is hereby given that shares certificate(s) No(s) 540 Dist. No.00028824 to 00028873 Folio No.00528 for 50 Equity share Rs.10/- each No.00 in WPL Limited standing in the name(s) of Sri Kshen Jain S/o Vaid Chand Jain R/o A-92, Chittaranjan Park New Delhi-110019 has been lost and that an applicant for the issue of duplicate certificate(s) in respect thereof has been made to the company to whom any objection should be made within 15 days from the date of this announcement. The Public are cautioned against dealing in any way with these shares. Date -17/12/2018 Place -Delhi

PUBLIC NOTICE
This is for notice of the general public that a political party is proposed to be registered by the (income Akhli Bhartiya Majdoor Party) (Name of the Party). The Office of the party is located at "Village Faridpur, District, Faridabad, Haryana (give full address). This party has submitted application to the Election Commission of India, New Delhi for its registration as political party under section 29A of the Representation of people Act, 1951. Names/Address of the office-bearers of the party are as follows:-
President/Chairman: Randhir Singh S/o Durgar Singh R/o Village Faridpur, Tehsil Tigan, District Faridabad, Haryana.
General Secretary/Secretary: Yogender Singh S/o Karambir Singh R/o No. 503, Block No. 1 Village Faridpur, Tehsil Tigan, District Faridabad, Haryana.
Treasurer: Ashok Kumar S/o Deep Chand R/o Village Faridpur, Sec-79, Tehsil Tigan, District Faridabad, Haryana.
If any one has any objection to the registration of "Akhli Bhartiya Kishan Majdoor Party" (Name of the Proposed Party) they may send their objection with reasons before the of the Secretary (Political Party), Election Commission of India, Nirvachan Sadak, Ashoka Road, New Delhi-110001, within 30 days of the publication of this notice.

18-yr-old, juvenile held for killing woman

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

An 18-year-old boy identified as Kapil Malik and a juvenile were apprehended by Delhi Police Special Cell, for allegedly murdering a woman inside her residence in Dwarka. Police revealed that the two accused persons are reportedly sharp shooters of the Sandeep Mental gang and were directed by Sandeep's brother to kill the woman, to avenge Sandeep's death.

According to police, the deceased Kamlesh (45) was shot at multiple times, after two armed men barged into her house in Dwarka's Sector 23 area. "The victim's maid was present in the house, with the help of neighbors, rushed injured Kamlesh to the hospital where she succumbed to her injuries," said the Deputy Commissioner of Police (Special Cell) Pramod Singh Kushwah.

During investigation, police found that Kamlesh along with her brother had murdered her own husband in the year 2004. She remained in the jail for a period of 3 years in the said murder case. After coming out of the jail, she got into a relationship with Rajiv who is presently on an interim



bail in a double murder case of his rival gangster Sandeep alias Mental and Pawan.

"During surveillance it was found that Sonu, with his three associates had a hand in the murder. More intelligence was collected about absconding desperados including Sonu, Neeraj, Kapil Malik and a juvenile in conflict with law, who were identified to have committed the murder," Kushwah said.

"On Saturday, information was received that Kapil Malik and a juvenile in conflict with law, would come near Paschim Vihar West metro station to meet one of their associates in a trap was laid and the accused were arrested. One semi automatic pistol along with three

'The victim's maid was present in the house, with the help of neighbours, rushed injured Kamlesh to the hospital where she succumbed to her injuries'

live cartridges was recovered from Kapil and one country made pistol along with three live cartridges registered in police station Special Cell," Kushwah said.

Subsequently, during interrogation they told police that Sonu, Sandeep's brother had

directed them to kill members of rival group to settle scores with Rajiv as he had murdered his brother Sandeep on May 2nd, 2018 in Delhi.

"Following which, they hatched a plan to murder Rajiv's partner Kamlesh. It has also been revealed that Rajiv and Sandeep were partners in construction business and real estate, dealing in sale and purchase of disputed properties. Both had constructed seven-eight flats in Dwarka. Investment on these flats became bone of contention between them and Rajiv along with his associates murdered Sandeep and Pawan so that they could usurp the whole money derived from sale of flats.

"Sonu, suspected that Kamlesh had instigated Rajiv to kill his and so, in order to avenge the killing of his brother, he lured in Kapil, Neeraj and a juvenile to kill members of Rajiv's group.

Further it was found that they had tried to kill Rajiv multiple times at Dwarka court but due to heavy police presence, they didn't attempt to execute the plan. Finally, they killed Kamlesh Sehrawat in her house to teach Rajiv a lesson," Kushwah revealed.

Victims of 1984 anti-Sikh riots get justice after 34 yrs

SHEKHAR SINGH/GAYATHRI MANI ■ NEW DELHI

The judge, who sentenced Congress leader Sajjan Kumar on Monday to life imprisonment for his role in the 1984 mass killing of Sikhs in Delhi in the aftermath of the assassination of then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, burst into tears while pronouncing the verdict. He was not alone, as the counsels of the victims and the relatives and family members of the murdered Sikhs and from 'Sikh community' started crying in the courtroom.

Among those present in the court room was Jagdish Kaur (77), an eyewitness of 1984 riots, who can now barely walk, lost her husband, elder son and three cousins in the carnage that followed the assassination of former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi on October 31, 1984. Talking to *The Pioneer* Kaur said, "It took 34 years to get justice but till each and every culprit of riots is not punished my fight will continue"

"This verdict has brought



File pics of Kehar Singh, Gurbhinder Singh and Narender Pal Singh murdered in 1984 anti-Sikh Riots of Delhi



Jagdish Kaur



Ranjana Dimri | Pioneer

some relief. No one should face the kind of injustice we have faced all these years," said Kaur.

Jagdish Kaur used to stay in Tilak Nagar with her family when the riots against 'Sikh

Community' broke in national Capital but now she has shifted to Amritsar.

alive. He tried to save himself thrice but they did not spare him," she said.

Recounting her days of fight against accused she said that she was even threatened with slapping of TADA cases against her but she never gave up. "False cases were filed against me and I had spent nine years languishing in different jails but I continued my fight despite the odds stacked against me," she said.

The Delhi Sikh Gurudwara Management Committee (DSGMC) also expressed unhappiness and said their battle will continue till the Sajjan Kumar and Jagdish Tytler gets Capital punishment and their promoters and main conspirator Gandhi family is put behind bars.

Former president Manjit Singh GK and General Secretary of DSGMC said, "We welcome the verdict of the court which has come 34 years after the worst ever genocide was carried out in the streets of Delhi and other cities of the country, but the battle will continue till Sajjan Kumar and Jagdish Tytler are hanged to death."

"Kamal Nath and another leader of the Congress who is

accused in instigating mob to kill two Sikhs before Gurudwara Rakabganj Sahib will also be not spared at any cost. He said that his trial and subsequent sentence will be ensured" GK added.

DSGMC further said that the court has now realised that it is too late for delivering justice and Sikh community has been suffering all these years. "Our target is to get Gandhi family who is main conspirator in this genocide, booked and then sentenced to jail.

The Indian Congress was the ruling during the riot took place and also it is one of main reason for this incident and deaths of thousands of people. The party took used their power to hurt hundreds of Sikh people and justice should be given to the victims," said Sirsa.

"We demand that an amendment should be made in the law book and word 'genocide' should be added in it, so that the crime which Sajjan Kumar and other accused had committed should be judged accordingly," claimed Sirsa and Avtar Singh Hit, President of

Takht Patna Sahib Management Committee

"So glad there is some justice, some sense of hope that one can latch on to in this scenario of lawlessness. Even though it may be a political move, it was much awaited since 34 years. Truth and justice should rise above the anarchy," said Teena Kaur Pasricha, who made a documentary "1984- When the sun didn't rise" on riots.

As many as 2,800 Sikhs were killed in the violence, 2,100 of whom hailed from Delhi in 1984.

Delhi's Karkardooma court on April 30, 2013, convicted five persons for these killings, awarding the life sentence to former Congress MLA Mahendra Yadav and councillor Balwan Khokhar and three-year imprisonment to three others for rioting.

Then Congress MP Sajjan Kumar, who allegedly led the murderous mobs, was let off, prompting Jagdish Kaur and a second survivor, Jagsher Singh, along with the CBI to appeal the acquittal in the Delhi High Court.

Verdict blow to Cong ahead of 2019 polls

SAPNA SINGH ■ NEW DELHI

Thirty four years after the conviction of Sajjan Kumar in Sikh riots has dealt a blow to Congress party in Delhi which was preparing to make a come back in 2019 elections. The BJP was quick to grab the opportunity to describe the verdict as an outcome of its years of protest against the genocide of innocent Sikhs post the assassination of then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi. In the wake of Sajjan Kumar's conviction, Delhi BJP demanded derecognition of the Congress party for its involvement in Sikh pogrom.

Anti-sikh riots had played spoilsport in 2009 LS election also when Congress faced public outcry and was forced to cancel the candidature of Sajjan Kumar, Jagdish Tytler as Lok Sabha candidates as both were accused of fomenting riots.

Right after court's verdict, BJP office bearers recalled Nanavati Commission, constituted by then Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee.

According to the commission, riots of 1984 was an organised carnage, the report quoted, "local Congress leaders and workers had either incited or helped the mobs in attacking the Sikhs. But for the backing and help of influential and resourceful persons, killing of Sikhs so swiftly and in large numbers could not have happened."

'Local Congress leaders and workers had either incited or helped the mobs in attacking the Sikhs. But for the backing and help of influential and resourceful persons, killing of Sikhs so swiftly and in large numbers could not have happened'

Citing the commission's findings and referring court's verdict, Delhi BJP President and Member of Parliament from North — East, said that the criminals (Sajjan Kumar and others) may have political protection but nobody can escape from the judicial system. "The Congress leaders have not only committed crime against the Sikhs but also against the country, hence recognition of Congress party should be cancelled for giving protections to the criminals."

This may be noted that, the commission recommended reopening all such cases against our Delhi Member of Parliament Kumar, which was declared "untraced".

Justice Nanavati in his overall consideration for the genocide that took place on Delhi roads in the aftermath of the assassination of then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi on October 31, 1984 has written: "The systematic manner in which the Sikhs were thus killed indicate that the attacks were organised."

Recalling the genocides in Delhi streets when hundreds of Sikhs died, Sardar RP Singh, Senior BJP leader and General Secretary, said that we are shaken remembering those brutal incidents. "When Jagdish Kaur (witness) tried to fight for justice to her family members then the congress Government imprisoned her for 8 years under TADA in order to save its criminal leaders, adding, "similarly, one more eye witness Chamkor Kaur was threatened and was asked not to depose against Kumar, this was the real character of congress," said Singh.

On the appointment of Kamalnath as a Chief Minister, Madhya Pradesh, Singh said, "He had provoked a mob assembled at Rakabganj Gurudwara and appointing him as a CM, has added insult to the injury of Sikhs for which the Sikh community will not forgive him."

Attacking Gandhi family and welcoming court's verdict, Delhi Sikh Gurudwara Management Committee (DSGMC) former President and Member of Legislative Assembly (MLA) from Rajauri Garden Manjinder Singh Sirsa said the battle will continue till Sajjan Kumar and Jagdish Tytler are hanged and their promoters and main conspirators, the Gandhi family is put behind bars.

Protests break out after Nath takes oath as CM



Akali Dal MLA Manjinder Singh Sirsa, Advocate HS Phulka, former AAP MLA Jarnail Singh and others react after the Delhi High Court convicted Congress leader Sajjan Kumar in New Delhi on Monday

SHEKHAR SINGH/GAYATHRI MANI ■ NEW DELHI

Hundreds of people from the anti-Sikh riots. The protest broke out at several places in national Capital minutes after the Delhi High Court convicted accused Congress leader Sajjan Kumar, while describing the mass killings as "crime against humanity".

Members of Sikh Community including women and children with posters in their hand and chanting slogans against Congress and its leaders took out a protest march near congress headquarters demanding action against Kamal Nath.

Though the residents welcomed the High Court decision but blamed Congress party for delay in justice and still covering their Congress leaders especially Kamal Nath by appointing him as Chief Minister of

Madhya Pradesh. The protesters, including many riot victims and their family members, tried to march from Taj Mansingh hotel towards the Congress headquarters on Akbar Road but were stopped enroute by the police. The protest was also joined by Delhi BJP leaders.

"We are very unhappy with the Congress decision in making a person responsible for riots as a CM. Congress says that they support us but where is that support. They are just protecting their leaders," said Hemlata Kaur.

"Ek magrmachh fas chukka hai, Ab hum baaki magarmachho ke fasne ka intezaar kar rahe hain (One big shot has been convicted and we are waiting to see when the others like him are punished. We are hopeful that it would happen under this Government's regime only," said Ganga Kaur, whose family's 11 people, including her father, were killed in the riots while protesting at Tilak Nagar adding that it is clear with CM as Kamal Nath, Congress will stand against justice for 1984 riots and protect culprits.

with this verdict. It would have been good if the other accused also got capital punishment only. But then we wholeheartedly welcome the court's decision," said Simranpreet, a resident of Tilak Vihar widows colony built after 1984 riots.

Meanwhile, Delhi Bhartiya Janta Party (BJP) leader, Tejinder Pal Singh Bagga also sat on an indefinite hunger strike at Tilak Nagar. Protesting the Congress's move in selecting Nath for the chief minister's post, he said, "I am sitting on an indefinite hunger strike against Rahul Gandhi's decision to nominate him as CM. He (Nath) is the same person who was involved in the riots against Sikhs in Delhi."

He said his hunger strike will continue till Nath is replaced by someone else as chief minister of Madhya Pradesh. Several BJP leaders and residents of Tilak Nagar supported Bagga's protest. BJP leader and Leader of Opposition in the Delhi Assembly Vijender Gupta said the Congress has "hurt" Sikh sentiments by appointing Nath as Chief Minister.

Kejriwal hails Sajjan Kumar's conviction

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) on Monday welcomed the conviction of Congress leader Sajjan Kumar in a 1984 anti-Sikh riot case, with party convener and Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal saying nobody involved in any riot should be allowed to escape no matter how powerful they are.

The party also sought to take credit for setting up an SIT that probed the riots, and alleged BJP's "collusion" in delaying justice to the "genocide" victims.

"I welcome Delhi High Court verdict convicting Sajjan Kumar in 1984 riots case. It has been a very long and painful wait for innocent victims who were murdered by those in power. Nobody involved in any riot should be allowed to escape no matter how powerful the individual maybe," Kejriwal tweeted after the verdict.

A statement from the AAP claimed that the accused in the riots were "actively aided and abetted" by all organs of the governance.

"Nobody expected the Congress, which was then in power to do justice to riots victims and their families, all inquiry committees and commissions were shams, those who did mock inquiries were rewarded with plum posts," it alleged.



'I welcome Delhi High Court verdict convicting Sajjan Kumar in 1984 riots case. It has been a very long and painful wait for innocent victims who were murdered by those in power. Nobody involved in any riot should be allowed to escape no matter how powerful the individual maybe'

The 73-year-old Kumar was convicted and sentenced to life term for "remainder of his natural life" by the Delhi High Court in a case relating to killing of five Sikhs in Raj Nagar part-I area in Palam Colony in South West Delhi on November 1-2, 1984, and burning down of a Gurudwara in Raj Nagar part II.

The Aam Aadmi Party also alleged that the BJP which was in power between 1998 and 2004 "did nothing" towards ensuring a concrete probe in the matter.

"What further proof of collusion is required that the retired judge appointed by then Congress government to whitewash the 1984 probe was also appointed by the BJP government in Gujarat to probe the 2002 riots," said the party.

Claiming that it was Arvind Kejriwal who had first recommended setting up of an

independent special investigation team (SIT) to probe the 1984 anti-Sikh riot cases, the party alleged that the Modi government set up the panel in a "tearing hurry" after the AAP's historic win in Delhi in 2015.

The Modi Government set up the SIT a day before the Delhi Government was to be sworn-in in February 2015, it said, adding the entire action of Modi Government was suspect.

The Delhi Assembly in June 2015 had passed a resolution terming the riots as "genocide" and seeking a time-bound report from the SIT and "exemplary punishment" for the perpetrators, it said.

The AAP said the verdict came as "slim glimmer of hope" for the victims families demanding all pending cases must be decided without any further delay.

Address pollution plaint within 24 hours: CPCB to authorities

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) has sent notices to various enforcement authorities, directing them to address complaints on pollution-related activities within 24 hours of their receipt and submit weekly report on the action taken.

CPCB chairperson S P S Parihar has shot separate notices to 13 public bodies — the UP Pollution Control Board, Delhi Traffic Police, NHAI, DMRC, DPCC, NDMC, DDA, Delhi Transport Department, PWD, EDMC, Haryana SPCB, New Delhi Municipal Corporation and SDMC.

He has asked them to acknowledge the complaint and inform the complainant about the action take with a copy to the CPCB, using the



same media through which the complaint was received.

The enforcement authorities were also directed on Monday to address the complaints received through social media in minimum possible time "but not later than 24 hours of receiving the complaint".

The agencies have also been directed to submit weekly report on action taken on complaint received through social media every Monday before 2 pm.

The CPCB directed ensur-

ing immediate nomination of another officer in case of change of duty of nodal officer.

The CPCB has sought compliance to the directions within three days.

Last month, the CPCB directed public and enforcement agencies to immediately join social media platforms on which citizens can lodge their complaints on pollution directly, noting that actions of these bodies have been "inadequate". The CPCB on November 1 put up guidelines for the public to file complaints of air pollution in Delhi-NCR on its social media page, official website and through its Sameer app.

Delhi has been battling alarming levels of pollution for over two months with the air quality oscillating between 'poor' and 'severe' categories.

City's air quality to fall further

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi's air quality remained 'very poor' on Monday with the authorities predicting further rise in pollution levels due to reduced wind speed. The overall air quality index (AQI) of the national capital was 336, which falls in the 'very poor' category, according to the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) data.

An AQI between 100 to 200 comes under 'moderate' category, 201 and 300 is considered 'poor', 301 and 400 'very poor', while that between 401 and 500 is 'severe'. According to the Centre-run System of Air Quality and Weather Forecasting (SAFAR), the overall air quality of Delhi slipped into the 'very poor' category Monday and the pollution level is expected to rise further.

"The air quality will remain in the 'very poor' category only for next three days with incremental changes. Other meteorological factors are not favourable for dispersing pollution," the SAFAR said.

The overall PM2.5 level (fine particulate matter in the air with a diameter of less than 2.5 micrometer) was recorded at 169 and the PM10 level at 298, it said.

The national capital recorded its best air quality in over two months on Thursday at 'moderate' category after a spell of rain washed away pollutants. The quality of air slipped into the 'poor' category on Friday.

On Sunday, while the Nehru Nagar area saw severe pollution levels, 25 places in the national capital recorded 'very poor' category air and five places came under 'poor' category, the CPCB said.

1984 ANTI-SIKH RIOTS: CHRONOLOGY

- Oct 31, 1984: The then PM Indira Gandhi shot dead by her two Sikh bodyguards at her residence.
- Nov 1-2: Mob kills five Sikhs in Raj Nagar area of Delhi Cantonment.
- May, 2000: Girish Thakralia Nanavati Commission set up to probe riots related cases.
- Dec 2002: Sessions court acquits Congress leader Sajjan Kumar in one of the cases.
- Oct 24, 2005: CBI registers another case on recommendation of GT Nanavati Commission.
- Feb 1, 2010: Trial court issues summons against Kumar, Balwan Khokkar, Mahender Yadav, Captain Bagmal, Girdhari Lal, Krishan Khokkar, late Maha Singh and Santosh Rani, named as accused.
- May 24: Trial court frames charges of murder, dacoity, mischief to cause damage to property, promoting enmity between different communities, criminal conspiracy and other sections of the IPC against six accused.
- Apr 30, 2013: Court acquits Kumar. Balwan Khokkar, Lal, Bhagmal held guilty for offence of murder, Yadav, Krishan Khokkar convicted for offence of rioting.
- May 9: Court awards life term to Khokhar, Bhagmal and Lal, and 3-year jail term to Yadav and Kishan Khokhar.
- Jul 19: CBI files appeal in HC against acquittal of Kumar.
- Jul 22: HC issues notice to Kumar on CBI's plea.
- Oct 29, 2018: HC reserves verdict.
- Dec 17: HC convicts and sentences Kumar to remainder of his life. It also upheld life term of Khokhar, Bhagmal and Lal. Sentence of Yadav and Kishan Khokkar enhanced to 10 years in jail.

Aadhaar to be voluntary for banking, phones

Cabinet nod to amendments to Telegraph Act and PMLA after SC in Sept imposed restrictions on use of Aadhaar by pvt firms

New Delhi: The Cabinet on Monday approved amending the existing laws to provide legal backing for seeding of biometric ID Aadhaar with mobile numbers and bank accounts as an optional KYC after the Supreme Court barred mandatory use of 12-digit unique identifier by private firms, sources said.

The Cabinet headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi approved amendments to the Telegraph Act and the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) after the Supreme Court in September imposed restrictions on the use of Aadhaar by private companies.

"Private entities using Aadhaar as a KYC document will have to ensure safety and privacy of the Aadhaar data," a source said.

Sources said the two Acts will be amended to provide for voluntary sharing of the 12-digit identification number for obtaining new mobile phone connections and for the opening of bank accounts.

The changes in the relevant sections of the Telegraph Act

and PMLA will be effected through the original Aadhaar Act.

A bill in this regard could be moved in the ongoing Winter Session of Parliament and would clarify that the changes in the two Acts are being made through the principal Aadhaar law.

Under the amendments, an Aadhaar holder can opt for offline verification through QR code and will not require to share actual Aadhaar number.

The Supreme Court had struck down Section 57 of the Aadhaar Act that made seeding of the biometric ID with SIMs and bank accounts mandatory, saying it had no legal backing.

To overcome this lacuna, the Telegraph Act is being amended to provide legal backing for the issuance of mobile SIMs through Aadhaar.

Similarly, the amendment to the PMLA will give individuals option to link their bank accounts to Aadhaar in the KYC option.

Under the amendments, the government has proposed an imprisonment of up to 10 years for attempting to hack

At 460, India records highest leopard mortality rate in 2018

New Delhi: With 460 leopard deaths, India in 2018 recorded the highest mortality rate of the particular big cat species across the country in the past four years, Wildlife Protection Society of India (WPSI) said on Monday.

According to official records, a total of 431 leopards died in 2017. These included 159 incidents of poaching. Some 450 big cats died in 2016 and 127 of them were found poached. In 2015 (399) and in 2014 (331) died.

"The highest leopard mortality rate was recorded in Uttarakhand with 93 deaths. This is followed by Maharashtra (90), Rajasthan (46), MP (37), UP (27), Karnataka (24), and Himachal Pradesh (23) among others," WPSI programme coordinator Tito Joseph told IANS.

"Poaching, road accidents, and human-animal conflict are the main reasons. In 2018 only, 29 leopards were killed by villagers and eight leopards considered to be man-eaters were killed by the forest department workers," he said.

Mortality is a category when a leopard or tiger is found dead due to unknown causes, shot by forest department or police, killed by villagers, killed in road or train accident, killed in rescue operation or during treatment, infighting, accidental electrocution.



A display of Santa Claus toys for sale at a market ahead of Christmas festival in Mumbai on Monday

PTI

ISRO shortlists 14 firms for transfer of lithium ion cell technology

Chennai: Indian space agency ISRO has shortlisted 14 companies out of over 100 companies that showed interest in its lithium ion cell technology, said a senior official.

"Over 100 companies showed interest in our lithium ion cell technology. Out of them, 14 have been shortlisted. We will enter into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with them once they agree for the same," S. Somanath, Director, Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC), told IANS.

The VSSC is part of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO).

Somanath said ISRO has already transferred the technology to BHEL for production of space grade lithium ion batteries.

In June it announced its decision to transfer its own lithium ion cell technology to the Indian industry on a non-exclusive basis for use in automobiles for Rs 1 crore.

The space agency had said the initiative will accelerate the development of the indigenous electric vehicle industry.

The VSSC, located in Kerala, will transfer the lithium ion cell technology to the successful Indian industries/start-

ups on a non-exclusive basis to establish production facilities in the country that can produce cells of varying size, capacity, energy density and power density catering to the entire spectrum of power storage requirements, ISRO had said. The ISRO makes lithium ion cell batteries of various sizes.

Presently, the lithium ion battery is the most dominant battery system finding applications for a variety of societal needs, including mobile phones, laptops, cameras and many other portable consumer gadgets apart from industrial applications and aerospace.

Chhattisgarh Govt to waive short-term agri loans: CM

Raipur: Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel on Monday announced that his Government will waive short-term agricultural loans of farmers, fulfilling a promise made by the Congress ahead of the just concluded State Assembly polls.

Short-term agriculture loans to the tune of over ₹6,100 crore of over 16.65 lakh farmers drawn from cooperative banks and Chhattisgarh Gramin Banks, as on November 30, 2018, will be completely waived, he said.

Baghel was addressing a press conference after chairing the first cabinet meeting of the newly-formed Congress government in the state.

Besides, loans of farmers borrowed from commercial

banks will also be waived after proper examination, he said.

Fulfilling another pre-poll promise, the cabinet decided to hike the Minimum Support Price (MSP) of paddy to ₹2,500 per quintal, he said.

Another important decision taken in the Cabinet was that a Special Investigation Team will be formed to probe the 2013 Jhiram valley Naxal attack in Bastar district, where 29 people, including senior Congress leaders, were killed, he added.

Two newly-inducted ministers — T S Singh Deo and Tamradhwaj Sahu — were also present at the press conference.

Earlier in the day, Baghel (57) was sworn in as the chief minister of Chhattisgarh.

Madras HC bans online medicine sales

Chennai: The Madras High Court on Monday banned the sale of medicines online till the Central Government notifies the regulations.

The court set January 31, 2019 as the deadline for the central government to notify the rules.

The court passed the order on a plea by the Tamil Nadu Chemists and Druggists Association.

According to the Association, online purchases may be convenient but there exists the risk of unlicensed online outlets selling fake/expired/unapproved medicines.

Reacting to the court order Pradeep Dadha, Founder and CEO, Netmeds.com, said, "We would be filing an appeal and



taking the required recourse available under the law. The benefits of affordable and accessible medicines through our services have been appreciated by customers across the country, and as a fully licensed pharmacy, Netmeds.com is committed to adhering to all the guidelines and standards as prescribed under the Drugs and Cosmetic Act of 1940."

IAF flies first military plane with bio-jet fuel

Chandigarh: In a first, experimental test pilots and test engineer of the Indian Air Force (IAF) flew an An-32 military transport aircraft using blended bio-jet fuel.

The sortie was flown at Chandigarh on Monday morning.

The project is a combined effort of IAF, the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), the Directorate General Aeronautical Quality Assurance (DGAQA) and CSIR-Indian Institute of Petroleum.

"The IAF carried out extensive engine tests on the ground. This is now followed by flight trials using 10 per cent bio-jet blended ATF. This fuel is made from Jatropha oil sourced from

Biodiesel Development Authority (CBDA) and then processed at CSIR-IIP, Dehradun," the IAF said in a statement.

IAF intends to fly the An-32 transport aircraft using bio-jet fuel on 26 January 26, 2019 at the Republic Day flypast.



Fresh Bill introduced in LS to make triple talaq...

From Page 1

The BJP has decried the Congress for its allegedly retrograde stand similar to the one taken by the Rajiv Gandhi Government on the controversial Shah Bano case in 1986. The Rajiv Gandhi Congress Government, elected in 1984, passed the Muslim Women (Protection of Divorce Act), 1986. This law overturned the verdict in the Shah Bano case and said the maintenance period can only be made liable for the 'iddat' period.

Prasad said "improvements" have been made in the Bill and the law was essential to help Muslim women facing the problem of instant triple talaq.

The magistrate would ensure that bail is granted only after the husband agrees to grant compensation to the wife as provided in the Bill.

The quantum of compensation will be decided by the magistrate, as per the Bill.

The police would lodge an FIR only if approached by the victim (wife), her blood

relations or people who become her relatives by virtue of her marriage.

Neighbours and others cannot lodge a complaint under the proposed law.

The Bill will replace the Ordinance issued by the Government in September, this year. The Bill introduced and passed in the Lok Sabha earlier this year could not get passage in the Upper House with the Congress opposing "non-bailable arrest" provision in the Bill.

The fresh Bill will supersede an earlier Bill passed in the Lok Sabha and pending in the Rajya Sabha.

An Ordinance has a life of six months. But from the day a session begins, the Ordinance has to be replaced by a Bill which should be passed by Parliament within 42 days (six weeks), else it lapses.

The Government is at liberty to re-promulgate the Ordinance if the Bill fails to get through Parliament.

The offence of instant triple talaq will be "compoundable".

Now, a magistrate can use his powers to settle the dispute between a husband and his wife. This will happen only when the wife approaches the court.

Under a compoundable offence, both parties have the liberty of withdrawing the case.

The proposed law would only be applicable on instant triple talaq or 'talaq-e-biddat' and it would give power to the victim to approach a magistrate seeking "subsistence allowance" for herself and minor children.

A woman can also seek the custody of her minor children from the magistrate who will take a final call on the issue.

Citing details of instant triple talaq cases, the Government had last week informed the Lok Sabha that till now 430 incidents of triple talaq have come to the notice of the Government through the media. Of these, 229 were reported before the Supreme Court judgement, while another 201 came to the notice after it.

Sajjan gets life term in 1984 anti-Sikh riots

From Page 1

The High Court directed 73-year-old Kumar and other five convicts to surrender by December 31, 2018 and not to leave the city of Delhi.

Six accused, including Sajjan Kumar, who was a Member of Parliament at that time, were sent for trial in 2010 and three years later, the lower court had convicted five of the accused but acquitted the Congress leader of all the charges.

Deciding the appeals against acquittal of Sajjan Kumar, a Bench of justices Suralidhar and Vinod Goel convicted the Congress leader for offences of criminal conspiracy and abetment in commission of crimes of murder, promoting enmity between different groups on grounds of religion and doing acts prejudicial to maintenance of communal harmony and defiling and destruction of a Gurdwara.

The Bench said the accused in the case were brought to justice "primarily on account of the courage and perseverance of three eyewitnesses" — Jagdish Kaur, her cousin Jagsher Singh and

Nirpreet Kaur.

Jagdish Kaur's husband, son and three cousins — Kehar Singh, Gurpreet Singh, Raghuvender Singh, Narender Pal Singh and Kuldeep Singh — were the five killed in the case. Nirpreet Kaur had witnessed the Gurdwara being burnt down and her father being burnt alive by the raging mobs, the bench also noted.

The Bench also upheld the conviction and varying sentences awarded by the trial court to former Congress councillor Balwan Khokhar, retired naval officer Captain Bhagmal, Girdhari Lal and former MLAs Mahender Yadav and Kishan Khokhar.

The HC also convicted them for criminal conspiracy to burn down residences of Sikh families and a gurdwara in the area during the riots.

The trial court in 2013 had awarded life term to Khokhar, Bhagmal and Lal, and a three-year jail term to Yadav and Kishan Khokhar.

Following the HC verdict, life term of Khokhar, Bhagmal and Lal has been upheld and the sentence of Yadav and Kishan Khokhar has

been enhanced to a 10 years in jail.

The Bench, in its judgement, observed, "While it is undeniable that it has taken over three decades to bring the accused in this case to justice, and that our criminal justice system stands severely tested in that process, it is essential, in a democracy governed by the rule of law to be able to call out those responsible for such mass crimes.

"It is important to assure those countless victims waiting patiently that despite the challenges, truth will prevail and justice will be done."

The Bench noted that after the "horrific" mass killings witnessed during the 1947 partition, the country again saw an "enormous human tragedy" when 2,733 Sikhs were "brutally murdered" in a "communal frenzy" that was unleashed between November 1-4, 1984 following the assassination of then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi by her two Sikh bodyguards on October 31.

"Their (Sikhs) houses were destroyed. In the rest of the country too thousands of Sikhs were killed. A majority

of the perpetrators of these horrific mass crimes, enjoyed political patronage and were aided by an indifferent law enforcement agency," it said.

"The criminals escaped prosecution and punishment for over two decades," the court said and went on to reverse the acquittal of Kumar by a trial court in 2013.

In its 207-page decision, the HC said it took as many as ten committees and commissions for the investigation into the role of some of the perpetrators to be entrusted in 2005 to the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), 21 years after the occurrence.

It said only after the CBI entered the scene, that the witnesses, represented by senior advocate H S Phoolka, were able to be assured and they spoke up.

"Admirably, they stuck firm to their truth at the trial. This court is of the view that the mass killings of Sikhs in Delhi and elsewhere in November 1984 were in fact 'crimes against humanity'. They will continue to shock the collective conscience of society for a long time to come," the court said.

water connections and other utilities. So, we might split the flats into two lots in the next scheme," he said when asked if the DDA was going to launch a new scheme in 2019.

Kapoor, however, did not specify the timeline for the launch of the next housing scheme and whether the two phases would be launched the same year or not.

"We will try to have 10,000 flats in first lot and the rest of them later," he said.

The Delhi Development Authority (DDA) had in September launched its much-awaited 'Housing Scheme 2014' offering over 25,000 flats across various categories, amid a huge response from people.

It had then offered 25,034 flats in the scheme, out of which 22,627 were one-bed room apartments.

The 2014 scheme had offered flats ranging from Rs 7 lakh to Rs 1.2 crore across categories, namely, EWS, LIG, MIG, HIG, Janta flats and one-room apartments.

In the last housing scheme of the DDA, the urban authority had drawn flak over its one-bedroom flats.

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Smt. Purnima Sahdev W/o Kamal Sahdev, R/o 171-D/C Siddharth Extension ND-14 and the owner in possession of 171-D/C Siddharth Extension dated 27.10.2004 duly registered as Reg. No. 13877/Book No.1 Value No. 4413 pg 120-127 dated 27.10.2004 in the Office of Sub Registrar's Office, New Delhi that the following documents: (1. Allotment letter dated 20.10.1987, 2. 5th and final installment dated 16.12.1989, 3. Position slip issued by DDA in favour of Jayanta Sen 4. GFA dated 27.04.1992 from Jayanta Sen to Kiran Khandari, 5. Agreement to sell from Jayanta Sen to Kiran Khandari, 6. Agreement to sell dated 13.12.1994 by Mr. RS Khandari to Mr. Philip Thomas Mathews), have been lost/misplaced for which NCR dated bearing LR no. 2893332/2018 is also filed with Delhi Police.

Any person with any knowledge of the same, with regards to the above mentioned documents is requested to come forward within 14 days, after the issue of which no claims shall be entertained.

Purnima Sahdev, Mob.: 9810683470

3 Cong CMs take oath of office

From Page 1

The leaders in the vehicle included Sharad Pawar, Stalin, Farooq Abdullah and Sharad Yadav.

In a tweet, the Gandhi scion thanked the people of the three States for believing in the party and vowed that the State Government will fulfil its responsibilities.

While Gehlot was sworn in as the Chief Minister of Rajasthan, Sachin Pilot took oath as a Cabinet Minister and the party announced that

Pilot will be the State's Deputy Chief Minister. Former Union Minister Kamal Nath took oath as Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister at a ceremony attended by a galaxy of leaders.

Governor Anandiben Patel administered the oath of office to 72-year-old Nath, who led the Congress to victory in the recently-concluded State Assembly polls.

Another front runner for CM face in MP Jyotiraditya Scindia, former MP Chief

Minister and senior Congress leader Digvijay Singh, Punjab Minister Navjot Singh Sidhu, Puducherry CM V Narayanswamy, senior Congress leaders Anand Sharma, Raj Babbar and Rajiv Shukla were among those who attended the ceremony at Bhopal.

Late in the evening, Baghel too was sworn in as the Chief Minister of Chhattisgarh by Governor Anandiben Patel. MLAs TS Singh Deo and Tamradhwaj

Sahu, who were front-runners for the CM's post, were also sworn in as Ministers in the presence of Rahul Gandhi and Manmohan Singh.

Others who made to Raipur after the change in time and venue due to rain were Mallikarjun Kharge, Ashok Gehlot, Sachin Pilot, Narayansamy, Jyotiraditya Scindia, Sidhu, Farooq Abdullah and Sharad Yadav. Congress won 68 seats in the 90-member House.

The BJP, which was in power in the State since 2003, bagged just 15 seats in the elections.

CAG sends report on Rafale to MoD, seeks reply within 4 weeks

From Page 1

The Congress has been making allegations of corruption in the 36 aircraft contract saying Prime Minister Narendra Modi favoured his industrialist friends by giving them offset contracts worth over Rs 30,000 crore.

According to CAG officials, once a CAG report is submitted to the President of India for approval, the Government decides on the date and time of

its tabling in Parliament. After tabling in Parliament, CAG reports are sent to the Public Accounts Committee (PAC), which is headed by an Opposition leader, for evaluation.

The CAG has been conducting an audit of the Rafale deal for the last year and has gone into its pricing, bids from competitors and comparative pricing of other fighter jets available globally.

Pak releases Indian prisoner after 6 years

From Page 1

After hearing this, Justice Khan asked the Additional Attorney General to explain how would they keep the prisoner in jail after completion of his term. An officer, representing the interior ministry, informed the court that a prisoner could be kept for one month while the legal documents were being prepared. After knowing the legal position, the court directed the ministry to make all the arrangements within a month for releasing and deportation of the prisoner.

Modi OK's \$1.4 bn aid to Maldives



Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Maldivian President Ibrahim Mohamed Solih deliver a joint Press statement at Hyderabad House in New Delhi on Monday

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday announced \$1.4 billion financial assistance to Maldives after he held extensive talks with its visiting President Ibrahim Mohamed Solih.

During the talks, the two sides vowed to deepen security cooperation in the Indian Ocean Region.

The two countries also inked four pacts, including one on visa facilitation besides agreeing on maritime cooperation. "We held successful talks in a cordial atmosphere. We vowed to strengthen ties," Modi said in his press statement, with Solih by his side.

Modi also said the security interests of the two countries were intertwined and both sides will work together to further strengthen cooperation in the Indian Ocean Region.

"We will not allow our countries to be used for activities which can be harmful to each other's interests," Modi asserted.

The Prime Minister said India is extending \$1.4 billion as budget support, currency swap and line of credit for the social and economic development of Maldives.

"We want greater trade ties with Maldives. There are increasing opportunities for

Indian companies in the island nation," he said.

On his part, Solih said the two sides agreed to strengthen maritime security cooperation in the Indian Ocean region through coordinated patrol and aerial surveillance.

Solih arrived here on Sunday on a three-day state visit, his first foreign trip after assuming the charge of the top office in the island nation a month ago.

Modi had attended Solih's swearing-in ceremony on November 17.

Earlier, External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj called on Solih and discussed issues of bilateral and regional concern. Relations between India and the Maldives plummeted after then President Abdulla Yameen imposed emergency on February 5 this year.

India had criticised his decision and asked his government to restore the credibility of the electoral and political process by releasing political prisoners. The emergency lasted for 45 days.

The two sides signed Agreements/MoUs/Joint Declaration of Intent during the visit like Agreement on the Facilitation of Visa Arrangements, Memorandum of Understanding on Cultural Cooperation and MoU for Establishing Mutual

Cooperation to Improve the Ecosystem for Agribusiness;

A Joint Declaration of Intent on Cooperation in the field of Information & Communications Technology and Electronics was also signed.

The two sides also agreed to work together to create institutional linkages and to establish a framework of cooperation in the areas of health, particularly cancer treatment, Mutual Legal Assistance on Criminal Matters, Investment promotion, Human Resource Development and Tourism.

Solih is accompanied by his wife First Lady Faiza Ahmed and a high level delegation comprising of Minister of Foreign Affairs Abdulla Shahid, Minister of Finance Ibrahim Ameer, Minister of National Planning and Infrastructure Mohamed Aslam, Minister of Transport and Civil Aviation Aishath Nahula, Minister of Economic Development Uz Fayyaz Ismail, senior government officials, and a business delegation.

In an important gesture, Solih is staying in the Rashtrapati Bhawan as a special guest of President Ram Nath Kovind. "This demonstrates the close ties between India and the Maldives, and the warmth and mutual respect between the two Governments, a release issued by Government said.

Cong, BJP wage privilege notice war over Rafale

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Congress and BJP on Monday sparred over the Rafale issue in both the Houses of the Parliament giving notices of privileges against each other in both the Houses for allegedly airing misleading statements.

The Congress gave notices of breach of privilege in both Houses of Parliament, demanding an explanation from the Government on why it provided the Supreme Court "wrong" information on the Rafale deal. The Congress gave privilege notices against the Government and law minister Ravi Shankar Prasad.

Soon the BJP also stepped up attack on Rahul Gandhi over the Rafale issue with three members of the ruling party in the Lok Sabha moving a notice of breach of privilege against the Congress president, alleging that he spoke "falsehood" and "misled the House" over the fighter aircraft deal in his speech during a debate in July.

BJP MPs Anurag Thakur, Nishikant Dubey and Sanjay Jaiswal have sought action against Congress president over his speech during the debate on the no-confidence motion against the Narendra Modi Government in Parliament's Monsoon Session.

BJP has intensified its attack on Rahul following the last week's Supreme Court verdict dismissing petitions seeking a probe into alleged irregularities in the Rafale deal. The apex court had said there is no occasion to doubt the decision-making process in the procurement of 36 fighter jets from France.

Rahul has, however, stuck to his allegations of corruption in the purchase and demanded a probe by a Joint

Parliamentary Committee (JPC). In their notice against the Congress leader, the BJP MPs quoted Rahul as saying that the UPA Government had agreed to buy the aircraft at Rs 520 crore per unit but when the BJP-led NDA Government signed the deal, it cost Rs 1,600 crores "by magic".

"The above statement is entirely untrue... We categorically assert that the price comparison given by Rahul Gandhi is a figment of imagination, incorrect and utter falsehood. It was an attempt to mislead the House," they alleged in their notice. On the part of the Congress Leader of Opposition in the Rajya Sabha Ghulam Nabi Azad sent the notice to the chairman of the Upper House, Congress' leader in the Lok Sabha Mallikarjun Kharge gave the notice in the Lower House.

"I have given a breach of privilege notice against the Government and in particular against Law Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad as it was the Law Ministry that gave the go ahead for presenting the affidavit before the Supreme Court," he said.

This is the first time that a Government has provided wrong information to the Supreme Court, he said.

"This is why our demand for a Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) becomes more relevant. We demand that a JPC be formed to probe the theft in the Rafale deal," Azad said.

"We have no faith in this Government as it is misleading the Supreme Court by giving false information and is also misleading the people of the country," he alleged.

The Congress, through its

notices, is demanding answers from the law minister on why the government provided wrong information to the Supreme Court about the CAG report on the Rafale pricing issue, he said.

Senior Congress leader Anand Sharma alleged that the Government was guilty of committing breach of privilege of both Houses of Parliament by claiming that the CAG report on Rafale aircraft pricing was presented to the Public Accounts Committee of Parliament.

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Senior Congress leader Anand Sharma alleged that the Government was guilty of committing breach of privilege of both Houses of Parliament by claiming that the CAG report on Rafale aircraft pricing was presented to the Public Accounts Committee of Parliament.

Parliament panel concerned over Chinese infra close to Doklam

New Delhi: It took 13 rounds of diplomatic discussions between India and China to resolve the face-off between their militaries in Doklam last year, according to a report by a parliamentary panel.

The report by the committee on External Affairs termed the Chinese intrusion at Doklam as a "blatant but unsuccessful attempt" to unilaterally change the status quo at the India, Bhutan, China tri-junction in Doklam, seriously affecting India's security interests.

Complimenting the Government's handling of the face-off, the committee said it remained concerned that Chinese infrastructure built "uncomfortably" close to the tri-junction has not yet been dismantled. The committee, headed by former Minister of state in External Affairs Ministry Shashi Tharoor, said Doklam was not a sovereignty issue for India as the disputed territory was Bhutanese, but nevertheless it was major security challenge for New Delhi.

"The committee will like to put on record their highest appreciation for the brave and timely action of our security forces which checked the PLA (Peoples Liberation Army) troops from continuing with their road construction activity in South Doklam," panel said in the report tabled in Parliament on Monday. **PTI**

1984 anti-Sikh riots: Jaitley, Shah take swipe at Cong

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Shortly after the sentencing of Sajjan Kumar in a 1984 anti-Sikh riots case, the Government and the BJP on Monday targeted the Congress, saying no one had any doubt on the Opposition party's role in the riots and alleged that the Congress and its ruling Gandhi family were involved in a "cover-up".

Finance Minister Arun Jaitley also took a swipe at the opposition party for choosing Kamal Nath as Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister, claiming that Sikhs consider him "culpable" in the violence against the community. And BJP president Amit Shah alleged Congress "leaders and workers went on rampage raising provocative slogans" and "murdering men in cold blood".

Jaitley dubbed Kumar, who was convicted by the Delhi High Court in a 1984 riots case and sentenced him to imprisonment for life, a "symbol" of the anti-Sikh "genocide" and said the country had never seen murders on a bigger scale than this.

The decision may be delayed but at least the process of justice has started, he said, hoping that there will be more verdicts as many cases are being heard on a

day to day basis. "It is an irony that the verdict has come on a day when a Congress chief minister, who is held culpable by the Sikh community, is taking oath," Jaitley told reporters in an apparent reference to Nath.

Shah said victims of 1984 riots had lost all hope of justice because those responsible for crime against them enjoyed political patronage of Congress leadership, Shah alleged in his tweets.

The Delhi High Court's conviction of Sajjan Kumar has once again assured the victims that criminals of 1984 will not go scot free, he asserted.

"No one ever had any doubt on Congress' role in the 1984 anti-Sikh riots. Their leaders and workers went on rampage raising provocative slogans, raping women and murdering men in cold blood. Yet no one was ever punished despite multiple commissions and several eyewitnesses," Shah said.

The BJP chief thanked Prime Minister Narendra Modi for setting up an SIT in 2015 which, he said, started re-investigation into several cases of 1984 pending for over three decades.

"I am grateful to the court, which has delivered its judgment, bringing relief to the traumatised families," he added.

Cabinet gives nod to 2 AIIMS in TN, T

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Union Cabinet on Monday approved increasing the allotment of deposit free LPG connections to poor under PM Ujjwala scheme, establishment of two new AIIMS hospitals in Madurai, Tamil Nadu, and Bibinagar in Telangana.

Cabinet also approved a new four-lane 14 kilometre road bridge across river Ganga in Patna in Bihar.

Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi approved expansion of beneficiaries list under PM Ujjwala Yojana to release deposit free LPG connections to poor families so far uncovered. This is subject to fulfilling eligibility norms and furnishing required documents, said Petroleum Minister Dharmendra Pradhan, while addressing media along with Law Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad.

Pradhan said people in seven categories are identified for this allotment of deposit free LPG cylinders to poor. "SC/STs households, beneficiaries of Pradhan Mantri AwasYojana (PMAY) (Gramin), Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAJ),

Forest dwellers, Most Backward Classes (MBC), Tea & Ex-Tea Garden Tribes, people residing in Islands / river islands, whose names did not appear in the SECC list," said the statement issued by Government.

Cabinet approved the project for construction of a 5.634-km long new four lane bridge in Patna across river Ganga, just 38 metres on upstream side of the existing MG Setu. The construction period for the project is three and a half years and likely to be completed by January 2023.

"This mega project is 14,500-km long and passes through Patna, Saran and Vaishali districts of Bihar. The project includes 5634-metre long major bridge parallel to the existing old MG Setu, 4 number of Vehicular Underpasses (VUPs), one Rail Over Bridge (ROB), 1580-metre long one viaduct, 110-metre long one flyover, 4 minor bridges, 5 numbers bus shelters and 13 road junctions," said the statement. Cabinet also sanctioned establishment of two new All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) at Madurai, Tamil Nadu at a cost of Rs 1,264 crore and Bibinagar, Telangana at a cost of Rs 1,028 crore.

SC grants protection from arrest to scribe in sting operation against BJD MLAs

New Delhi: The Supreme Court has granted protection from arrest to a news channel journalist who had allegedly conducted a sting operation on four ruling Biju Janta Dal (BJD) MLAs in Odisha. A Bench of Justices DY Chandrachud and MR Shah also sought response from the Odisha Government on the plea of journalist Ravi Sharma seeking anticipatory bail and challenging the order of High Court dated December 5.

"Having regard to the above position and having due regard to all the facts and circumstances, we direct that there shall be a stay of arrest in the meantime," the Bench said.

At the outset, advocate Rahul Shyam Bhandari, appearing for Sharma contended that the journalist was wrongly framed in the case since he had conducted the sting operation against the four MLAs of BJD.

He said there is no absolute bar for grant of anticipatory bail in the case where alleged offences are under the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe (Prevention of Atrocities) Act. Sharma was booked in the complaint case lodged by MLA Bijay Naik of Karanjia constituency under various Sections of IPC and provisions under the Act. In 2016, a regional news channel had aired a sting operation in which four BJD MLAs — Seemarani Nayak (Hindol); Susant Behera (Chhendipada); Bijay Naik (Karanjia) and Anam Naik (Bhawaniapatna) were seen demanding money from an industrialist in lieu of providing him facilities for setting up industries in the State. **PTI**

SC seeks explanation from Raj Govt on hate speech videos uploaded from Jodhpur jail

New Delhi: The Supreme Court has asked the Rajasthan Government to explain as to how some videos of hate speech were uploaded on the internet from Jodhpur jail premises by Shambhu Lal Raigar, who is accused of hacking and burning alive a Muslim labourer from West Bengal.

The top court also sought response from Raigar as to why he should not be transferred to Delhi's Tihar jail or any other jail out of Rajasthan.

"Issue notice to the newly added respondent (Raigar), returnable on January 21, 2019. In the meantime, the State of Rajasthan shall file its counter affidavit to these proceedings. The State shall, in particular, explain whether a video was uploaded from within the jail premises by the newly added respondent and, if so, how that was possible," said a Bench of Justices DY Chandrachud and MR Shah.

Senior advocate Indira Jaising, appearing for Gulbahar Biwi, wife of the victim who was allegedly killed by Raigar in on December 6 last year, said that the accused has been continuously uploading videos of hate speech on the Internet and should be transferred to Tihar jail or any other prison outside the State. **PTI**

No national award for PSUs, Central Govt Depts

ARCHANA JYOTI ■ NEW DELHI

Like last year, this time too, Public Sector Units (PSUs) and Central Government Departments have intriguingly drawn a blank in qualifying in any category for the prestigious National Award 2018, announced on International Day of Persons with Disabilities (PwD) on December 3.

The award is given every year by the Union Ministry of Social Empowerment and Justice to individuals and institutions working for the welfare of the PwDs.

A total 16 institutions and 56 individuals from the private sector and a few States were conferred with the award at an event held to mark the day.

There were three categories where nominations were sought from the PSUs and Government Departments too.

However, the fact that none of its departments and Navratnas (PSUs) could meet the criteria to clinch the best employer award under the category 'Award for the Outstanding Work in the Creation of Barrier-Free Environment for the Persons with Disabilities,' speaks volumes of the long way the Modi Government has to go to meet the aspirations of the sector such as ensuring enough jobs and inclusive environment.

The Government has launched mega India Accessibility Campaign to create universal accessibility environment for the sector.

In private sector, Karnataka-based IBM bagged the award under the category 'Award for the Outstanding Work in the Creation of Barrier-Free Environment for the

Persons with Disabilities.' From the private sector, Radhambika S on behalf of Sivavasu Electronics from Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala bagged the award under the segment 'Award for Best Employer and Placement Officer or Agency'.

In fact Madhya Pradesh stole the show with its district Singrauli, Indore and Nagda Municipal Corporations walking away with the award.

Similarly, no PSU and government department was found to be inspiring enough to be felicitated under the 'best employee or agency' category even as Employment Department of the National Association for Blind (NAB) and R Hari, GM Human Resources of the Lemon Tree Hotels Ltd bagged the award under the segment.

Tripura-based Abhoy

Misson and Mata Bhagwati Chadha Niketan, Uttar Pradesh and Montfort Centre for Education, MEGHALAYA were felicitated for providing holistic comprehensive services to the persons with disabilities in a comprehensive manner.

Award for the 'Best District in Providing Rehabilitation Service' went to Thiruvallur (Tamil Nadu) Lucknow (Uttar Pradesh) while 'Best State Channelizing Agency of National Handicapped Finance and Development Corporation' award was given to Kerala State Handicapped Persons Welfare Corporation.

On the occasion, Vice-President Venkaiah Naidu, who conferred the award, said the sector needs empathy and not sympathy and the awardees serve as the role model to others.

Govt not funding Adopt a Heritage: Min

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Government on Monday said the Government was not doling out funds to the private or public companies under the 'Adopt a Heritage: Apni Dharohar, Apni Pehchaan,' scheme launched last year.

"No fund is given by Ministry of Tourism. The project envisages involvement of private/public companies/organisations and individuals to adopt monuments, natural heritage sites and other tourist sites in the country, primarily under CSR," said Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Culture, Dr Mahesh Sharma, in reply to a question in the Lok Sabha.

He said the scheme envisages development and maintenance of tourist amenities at heritage sites and making them tourist friendly, to enhance

tourism potential and cultural importance in a planned and phased manner. A political controversy had erupted in April this year after the news broke that the Dalmia Bharat group signed an agreement with the Government to maintain Red Fort with Opposition accusing the Government of "handing over the monument to private party".

However, the Government said the project primarily focuses on providing basic amenities that include cleanliness, public

AGENCY/MONUMENT MITRAS	MONUMENT (STATE)
Dalmia Bharat Ltd.	Red Fort (Delhi), Gandikota Fort (Andhra Pradesh)
Adventure Tour Operators	Area surrounding Gangotri Temple & Trail to Gaumukh (Uttarakhand) Association of India
Mt. Stok	Kangri Trek, Ladakh
Apeejay Park Hotels	Jantar Mantar (Delhi)
Bliss Inns (V-Resorts)	Suraj Kund (Haryana)
Yatra Online	Qutub Minar (Delhi), Ajanta Caves (Maharashtra) Leh Palace, Leh and Hampi (Hazara Rama Temple) Karnataka

conveniences, safe drinking water, ease of access for tourists, signages, illumination, Wi-Fi etc. The MoU signed specifies installation of one signage at the monument indicating that monument has been adopted by respective firm/organisation, the Minister said.

He maintained that providing basic facilities/amenities (e.g. drinking water, toilet blocks, facilities for physically challenged, pathways, cultural notice boards/signage, vehicle park-

ing, cloak rooms, etc.) to tourists visiting centrally protected monuments and sites are the regular activities undertaken by the Archaeological Survey of India. Further, Archaeological Survey of India has identified 100 monuments as 'Adarsh Smarak' for upgradation of existing facilities/amenities like Wi-Fi, cafeteria, interpretation centre, brail signage, modern toilets etc. on the basis of actual requirement and feasibility on case to case basis.

VALLEY SHUTDOWN

March to XV Corps HQ foiled

KHURSHED WANI ■ SRINAGAR

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

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



Police personnel detain JKLF chairman Mohammad Yasin Malik, who was leading a protest march against the civilian killings in Pulwama in Srinagar on Monday. PTI

killled in the encounter. The locals blamed the security forces for "target killings."

Senior separatist leader Mirwaiz Umar Farooq defied police restrictions on his mansion in Nigeen area of Srinagar outskirts and led a group of his supporters to march towards the cantonment area. However, he was intercepted by a large contingent of police, mostly masked personnel, who took

him into brief custody after a bout of slogan-shouting. Before being whisked to police station, Mirwaiz was allowed to address his supporters. He blamed the state authorities for unleashing a reign of terror by killing what he called innocent civilians.

"After indiscriminate killings, civilians are branded as over ground workers and terrorists which is preposterous in

itself, but what is worse is that this propaganda is used as a means of endorsing and justifying the civilian killings by armed forces. Delhi has overplayed the terrorist, Pak proxy and instigators card and no one is buying this narrative except some people in India at whom it is aimed for electoral gains," Mirwaiz said adding the world sees for itself the ever-growing graph of atrocities and massacres of Kashmiris who are seeking peaceful resolution of the Kashmir dispute.

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

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

Cyclone Phethai kills 1 in Andhra

Amaravati: Cyclone Phethai barreled through coastal Andhra Pradesh on Monday, triggering heavy rains, uprooting trees and electric poles, and claiming one life, officials said.

Train and air services were also disrupted because of the cyclone.

East Godavari district bore the brunt of the storm as it made landfall near Katrenikona in the afternoon, forcing evacuation of 20,000 people, who have been sheltered in relief camps.

Howling winds that gusted up to 85-90 kmph uprooted electric poles and trees in Katrenikona, Tallarevu and Malkipuram in East Godavari, disrupting power supply. No casualties were, however, reported.

A man named R Durga Rao aged 28 was killed when a loosened soil hurtled down a hillock following heavy rains in Vijayawada city, according to sources in the state's Disaster Management Authority.

Krishna district Collector B Lakshmi Kantham announced an immediate relief of ₹50,000 to the deceased's family.



Trees face heavy winds as Cyclone Phethai barrels through coastal Andhra Pradesh, near Kakinada in East Godavari on Monday. PTI

Deputy Chief Minister (Home) N Chiranjeevi is camping at Bhairavapalem village in East Godavari district to oversee relief and rescue operations.

The Real-Time Governance Centre (RTGS) at the state secretariat said 'Phethai' weakened into a cyclone after making landfall. It moved towards Kakinada,

hitting the town with down-pour, before rolling towards Visakhapatnam district, officials said.

Chief Executive Officer of the RTGS Babu Ahamed said precautionary steps taken by the authorities had minimised damage to life and property.

He said trees were uprooted in some 20 places and rescue teams had cleared the

debris in 15. Spare electric poles were kept ready, he said.

The South Central Railway cancelled and rescheduled several trains, while air traffic to and from the port city of Visakhapatnam was hit by turbulent weather conditions. Some flights had to be cancelled or diverted to Hyderabad. PTI

PDP protests inside civil secretariat



MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

The corridors of power inside civil secretariat complex in Jammu on Monday reverberated with chants of 'Save Kashmir, stop killings of innocent Kashmiris' as group of PDP lawmakers, along with their supporters, allegedly violated Section 144 before storming the seat of power.

The site of these PDP leaders roaming freely inside the building and shouting slogans by standing outside the offices of advisors to the state Governor embarrassed senior security officers.

PDP lawmakers were also

heard shouting slogans against the Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Home Minister Rajnath Singh and Governor while holding placards in their hands.

A large group of PDP leaders and their supporters had earlier slipped inside the civil secretariat complex before taking out the protest march.

They were led by sitting PDP MLC Firdous Tak and former MLAs Aijaz Ahmed Mir and Yawar Mir. The PDP leaders were protesting against the killing of protesters in Pulwama district of south Kashmir during gunfight with terrorists.

The entire security grid present inside the civil secre-

retariat remained mute spectators and didn't even prevented any one from coming closer to the office premises of Advisors to the Governor on first floor of the secretariat complex.

Slogan shouting PDP protesters moved across several floors without facing any resistance from security personnel.

After taking out the protest march Firdous Tak told media persons in front of the main civil secretariat building, "I strongly believe the central Government is drawing a sadistic pleasure out of these killings in Kashmir and fulfilling the long desire of RSS and BJP. "The desire and thirst of blood of Kashmiris"

Earlier in the day, the Delhi High Court convicted

1984 ANTI-SIKH RIOTS

BJP asks Rahul Gandhi to resign, demands Kamal Nath's expulsion

KESTUR VASUKI ■ BENGALURU

In a major attack on the Congress, the BJP on Monday sought the resignation of Congress president Rahul Gandhi over the court ruling on the anti-sikh riots. BJP's spokesperson Sambit Patra in a press conference in Bengaluru demanded the resignation of Rahul Gandhi and asked him to expel Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Kamal Nath from the party. He said Kamal Nath's name has cropped up along with affidavit and evidence submitted in a report to the Nanavati Commission. Patra also demanded that Rahul Gandhi should step down as Congress president.

"Rahul Gandhi should resign as Congress' chief. Kamal Nath ji's name crops up along with affidavit and evidence in a report submitted to Nanavati Commission," he said.

"A man involved in anti-Sikh riots has been made the Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister. Rahul Gandhi must expel him from the party," Patra demanded.

Earlier in the day, the Delhi High Court convicted

Sajjan Kumar in a case related to the 1984 anti-Sikh riots and sentenced him to life imprisonment. A fine of ₹5 lakh was also imposed on him. The court had asked Kumar to surrender before December 31. The High Court reversed the trial court verdict of 2013 and sentenced Sajjan Kumar and five others in a case related to the killing of five members of a Sikh family in Delhi's Cantonment area in November 1984, following the assassination of the then prime minister Indira Gandhi.

After her assassination by her Sikh bodyguards in 1984, around 3,000 people were killed in anti-Sikh riots when mobs targeted innocent people.

Former Union Minister and senior Congress leader Kapil Sibal said in Delhi that neither Sajjan Kumar — convicted in the 1984 anti-Sikh riot case — was given a ticket by the Congress, nor he does not hold any office. Refuting allegations against the Congress party for saving the accused of Sikh massacre, Sibal said, "Sajjan Kumar wasn't given any ticket by our party and he doesn't hold any office."

Transgenders allowed to pray at Sabarimala

Thiruvananthapuram: Four transgenders, who were denied permission to visit the Sabarimala temple a day ago, on Monday got the sanction to pray at the temple, said one of them.

Speaking to the media on Monday evening, Ananya said they approached a Kerala High Court-appointed top police official here in the morning and insisted that they wanted to visit the shrine wearing sarees.

After meeting Director General of Police A. Hemachandran, Ananya told the media in the morning that they had placed their demand before the DGP, and wished to pray in the dress of their choice -- a saree.

"He (Hemachandran) has said he will check with the other two committee members and get back to us and he also asked us to meet IG of Police Manoj Abraham. Now we have got the permission to pray at the temple and we will be soon going for the darshan," said Ananya.

If required, they would also be given police protection for the darshan.

Ananya said they were so happy that their efforts had paid off and with this, trans-



genders from now on could freely go and pray at the Sabarimala temple.

On Sunday, the four-member transgender team, who came from Ernakulam, was stopped by the police at Erumely, the first base camp of the temple town.

The police first told them that if they change into men's attire, they would be allowed. However, later the police refused them the permission to visit the Lord Ayyappa shrine.

Ananya said they were subjected to ridicules, threats and asked to return by the police. From there, the team went and complained to Kottayam Superintendent of Police, A. Harishankar.

On Monday, they arrived

in the state capital to meet Hemachandran.

The Kerala High Court on November 27 had set up a three-member observer panel to oversee the Sabarimala pilgrimage season, after numerous complaints surfaced against the manner in which the police were acting in the temple town.

Besides Hemachandran, the panel also consisted of P.R. Raman and S. Sirijagan, both retired high court judges.

The temple town has witnessed protests by Hindu groups since the September 28 Supreme Court verdict that allowed women of all ages to enter the temple, including those hitherto banned girls and women aged between 10 and 50. PTI



Protesters holding brooms shout slogans as they march to State Secretariat (Nabanna) demanding a liquor-free State in Kolkata on Monday. PTI

BJP moves HC again, says padyatra 'Plan-B'

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

Even as the BJP moved the Calcutta High Court for the second time on Monday seeking reversal of the State Government order denying permission to its Rath Yatra the party leadership said it was considering an "alternative" padyatra or long march if the Rath Yatra continues to get mired by legal procedures.

"The party is considering a padyatra in absence of the Rath Yatra (as proposed earlier)," State BJP president Dilip Ghosh who on Monday led one of the protest marches denouncing the Trinamool Congress Government's "brutal murder of democracy in Bengal," said.

He said "we are keeping all

options open. The legal battle will continue in the court but a parallel struggle will resume and continue on streets to awaken and unite the people against TMC's dictatorship."

The BJP plans multiple long marches throughout the State particularly along the proposed Rath Yatra routes to be led by bigger leaders. The long marches would be interspersed by large rallies to be addressed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and party president Amit Shah, BJP sources said.

The BJP's petition filed at the Court of Justice Tapabrata Chakrabarty would be taken up for hearing on Tuesday. In the petition the party has sought permission for Rath Yatra preferably on December 22, 24 and 26, sources said.

The same Court had earlier deliberating on a petition from the saffron outfit directed the State Government to sit with the BJP leaders and discuss the possibilities of the Yatra and record the reasons of its decision. The State took an adverse decision denying the Yatra on grounds of law and order and communal tension.

It however allowed the BJP to organise mass meetings to be addressed by Modi and Shah.

Denouncing the Government's decision senior BJP leader and Union Minister Smriti Irani said "we had asked for a permission to take out a Yatra to save democracy but the State Government denied permission proving the real condition of the State's law and order situation and showing

how the democratic system works in this State."

Reposing faith in the Judiciary she said "we believe in judicial system and have supreme faith in it. But having said that our struggle will continue against the Trinamool Congress as institution of democracy has gone to dogs in this State."

Reacting sharply to the BJP's demand for a Rath Yatra permission Trinamool

Congress MP and Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee's nephew Abhishek Banerjee on Monday said "this is no Rath Yatra but an Asur Yatra (march of the demons) in a seven star bus which has all the luxurious amenities for those BJP leaders who would ride it: often coming out of it to ignite commu-

nal tension and riots before sleeping inside it to enjoy seven star luxury."

Another senior TMC leader and Minister Partho Chatterjee said "this Yatra means for nothing to the people of Bengal who will never be swayed by this communal exercise. It sounds attractive in speeches but on ground the BJP and its Yatra will have no impact in Bengal."

The CPI(M) on the other hand said much of the Yatra politics was a device of the two parties to provide political mileage to each other. "Both of them rely on communal politics and each one is complementary to the other. This Yatra politics is a part of it," said CPI(M) leader Tanmoy Bhattacharya.

TN fishermen get ISRO gadgets for timely alerts

Chennai: Eighty fishing boat groups were on Monday provided with 200 ISRO developed satellite enabled communication devices by the Tamil Nadu Government, that will provide them real-time alerts on cyclone and weather updates.

Chief Minister K Palaniswami distributed the gadgets to seven fishermen from Chennai, Nagapattinam and Kanyakumari engaged in deep sea fishing, marking the roll out of the devices, at the Secretariat here.

Touted as the Indian version of the American GPS (Global Positioning System), the NavIC (Navigation with Indian Constellation) enabled communication devices provide fishermen with real-time updates.



The Indian Regional Navigation Satellite System constellation of eight satellites, named "NavIC", provides position, navigation and timing services over India and its neighbourhood, according to ISRO. A senior government official, when asked about the

features of the device, said that the gadgets are basically receivers, which emit a beep signal when alerts are received.

"The devices are the size of a soap box and are Bluetooth enabled...The alerts can be accessed by downloading the NavIC App in android

phones...The alerts will appear in Tamil," he told PTI.

"These ISRO gadgets have been distributed free of cost...There are also no recurring costs...These have to be maintained properly," he said, adding that the devices would come in handy for those going for deep sea fishing.

During cyclone Ockhi last year, several fishermen went missing and the Tamil Nadu Government faced criticism that timely updates about the storm was not communicated to them to enable them return home.

The State Government had announced in the 2018-19 budget that the gadgets would be provided to fishermen engaged in deep sea fishing. PTI

Jammu ropeway trial to begin today

Jammu: The much-awaited Jammu ropeway project, aimed at boosting tourism in the State's winter Capital, will undergo trial runs from on Tuesday, officials said.

"The Jammu ropeway project is in full swing. The splicing of the main rope of Section-I (Mahamaya to Peer Kho) has been completed by an international expert. The pre-commissioning trial run of Section I will start from December 18," Managing Director (MD), J&K Cable Car Corporation, Shamim Ahmad Wani said on Monday.

Secretary, Tourism, Rigzin Samphel visited the construction site of the ropeway project at Peer Kho here Monday and reviewed the progress of the ongoing work.



He was briefed about the construction work in all the three stations and informed that landscaping work at Mahamaya and Peer Kho was underway. The MD further told him that the engineering wing has been asked to complete all pending works by December 31, officials said.

The secretary said the pro-

ject would go a long way in promoting tourism in Jammu region, giving a fillip to the local economy by creating jobs.

The 1.66-km-long cable car project has two phases, first from Bahu Fort to Mahamaya Park and second from Mahamaya to Peer Kho over the Tawi river, with a total length of 1,118 metre, Wani said.

Planned in 1995, the project was to be operated from Bahu Fort to Mubarak Mandi Complex initially. It was modified and relocated later when Mubarak Mandi and Bahu Fort were declared as protected monuments.

The Cable Car Corporation successfully conducted the trial run of the first phase of the project in April. PTI

SP, BSP dilute chance of grand alliance 2019

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

First fielding candidates against probable ally Congress in recent Assembly polls in three central States and then being conspicuous with their absence at the oath-taking ceremonies of Congress Chief Ministers in Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan, regional satraps Samajwadi Party (SP) and Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) have themselves weakened the possibility of a grand alliance for the 2019 general elections.

Interestingly, after not-so-encouraging results in the recent Assembly polls, both the SP and the BSP tried to distance from the BJP and immediately announced support to the Congress.

But by not attending the swearing-in ceremonies of two Congress Chief Ministers on Monday, the two regional parties have probably given a clear message to the grand old party to come on their terms for the grand alliance or else they would remain aloof.

While Mayawati has been silent over not attending the swearing-in ceremonies in the Hindi speaking States, Akhilesh chose to send his lone MLA in Madhya Pradesh to represent him at the function.

"Mayawati has dreams of



becoming Prime Minister in case of a hung Parliament in 2019. Hence, instead of joining us to fight with the BJP in the recent Assembly polls, she preferred to align with another party — Janata Congress in Chhattisgarh," said UP Congress Committee general secretary Siddharth Priya Srivastava.

"Akhilesh also wants Congress to come under his party's banner in the parliamentary poll akin to what we did in 2017 Assembly poll in UP, as he planned to project Mulayam Singh Yadav as the prime ministerial candidate. But now, by distancing themselves from the Congress in the Assembly polls in three States, both have a slice of reality to analyse," Srivastava pointed out.

"In fact, the results of recent elections have upset both SP and BSP more in UP than the BJP as leaders of both parties had targeted Congress freely, hoping that it would be at their mercy in Uttar Pradesh. Even at a recent meeting of opposition leaders over a grand alliance in Delhi, both Mayawati and Akhilesh chose to give it a miss. Hence their absence from the oath-taking ceremonies did not come as a surprise," the Congress leader said.

Srivastava said that state functionaries and leaders of the party had conveyed to Congress chief Rahul Gandhi that like in the recent Assembly polls in Hindi heartland, the party should distance itself from both SP and BSP, even if they went for an alliance in the parliamentary polls.

6 killed, 147 hurt as fire breaks in Mumbai Hospital

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

Six persons were killed and 147 others injured late on Monday afternoon after a major fire broke out in the State Government-run Employees State Insurance Corporation (ESIC) Kamghar Hospital at Andheri (East) in north-west Mumbai.

A majority of those injured, who have been admitted to the various hospitals in the metropolis, were patients and staffers.

Informed official sources said that the toll might go up further as some of the injured were in a critical condition.

The fire was noticed near the operation theatre of the five-storey hospital located at Marol locality of Andheri (East). Before long, the fire spread to other floors stranding more 150 people in the fire-engulfed building.

As the fire spread in the building, a few patients panicked and jumped out of the fourth floor window. They suffered fractures.

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

Leaping flames, coupled thick cloud of smoke, made the rescue operation difficult for



Firefighters conduct rescue after a major fire broke out at ESIC Kamghar Hospital in Mumbai on Monday

the fire brigade personnel. After battling with the fire for more than three and a half hours, the fire brigade extinguished the blaze at 7.35 pm.

At around 8.30 pm, the officials at the BMC's disaster control room pegged the number of deaths at six and those admitted to various hospitals at 147.

A majority of those rescued had suffered burn wounds. Of the injured, 19 were admitted to Cooper Hospital, Andheri (West), 39 to P Thakrey Trauma Hospital, Jogeshwari (East), 40 to Holi Spirit Hospital, Andheri (East), 44 to Seven Hills Hospital, Andheri

(East), three to Hiranandani Hospital, Powai and two to Sidharth Hospital, Goregaon. Initial reports said that the fire might have broken out in the hospital building with a glass façade because of an electrical short circuit. The hospital is located in the MIDC area, an industrial hub in north-west Mumbai.

Mumbai Mayor Vishwanath Mahadeshwar, who visited the mishap site along with senior civic officials, that the BMC would investigate the cause of fire and strict action would be taken against those guilty of lapses.

Meanwhile, thick clouds of

smoke emanating from the fire-hit hospital travelled quite a bit, reducing the visibility in the area and leading to peak-hour traffic jams in the areas of the neighbourhood.

The metropolis has witnessed nearly ten fire mishaps during the current year. In the first such mishap that took place on June 1, the fire broke out in the third and fourth floor of the six-storey Scindia House at Ballard Estate in downtown south Mumbai.

Twenty four hours later, another fire broke out at a leather company in Reay Road in south-central Mumbai. No injuries were reported in the

mishap. On June 9, a massive fire broke out at Patel Chambers at Fort in south Mumbai. Two firemen were injured after a part of the building collapsed due to fire.

On June 13, a major fire that broke out in the top floors of a 34-storey building "Beaumont Towers" where B-town's reigning actress Deepika Padukone lives, spread. However, two hours later, the fire fighters controlled the blaze and rescued 90-odd residents safely.

On August 5, a major fire swept through the Regional Transport Office (RTO) at Tardeo in south Mumbai here in the early hours of Sunday, gutting hundreds of documents, licences, furniture, computers, printers and other items. There were no casualties or injuries in the mishap.

On December 3 this year, a massive fire had ripped through the thick forests of Aarey colony that falls inside the Sanjay Gandhi National Park (SGNP) precincts at Goregaon (East) in north-Mumbai, gutting forest area measuring nearly 4 km.

Earlier on December 29 last year, 14 persons were killed and 55 others were injured in the massive fire that ripped Mojo's Bistro lounge, neighbouring Aabove casual dining restaurant and London Taxi Gastro pub at Trade House in the Kamala Mills compound at Lower Parel in south-central Mumbai.

400 affected by skin disease, medical team visits villages

Howrah (WB): Around 400 people of several villages of a block in Howrah district were affected by a skin disease suspected to have been caused by a fungus, officials said on Monday.

The state health department sent a medical team to four villages of Shyampur-i block during the day.

"The medical team was sent after we were informed that around 400 of people of the area were affected by some skin disease," Chief Medical Officer of Health Dr Bhabani Das said.

It appears that the infection was caused by a type of fungus, Das said and assured the affected people not to panic.

She said the report of the team would be sent to the department concerned and the next course of action would be decided after examining it. The four villages where the team visited are Malanchaberia, Kathilabar, Shibpur and Shyampur.

Health department sources said how such a large number of people have got infected is being examined. PTI



An Indian Air Force MiG-21 fighter aircraft on static display at a theme park in Dibrugarh on Monday

Guj seeks ₹1,725 cr for drought relief from Centre

Ahmedabad: In the wake of drought in parts of Gujarat, the State Government on Monday sought financial assistance of ₹1,725 crore from the Centre to carry out various relief works in the affected regions.

The demand was put forward before a central team visiting Gujarat since the last three days to assess the water scarcity situation which has arisen due to scanty rainfall this monsoon, said Additional Chief Secretary, revenue, Pankaj Kumar.

He said the nine-member central team, comprising officials from various ministries, had visited Kutch, Morbi, Banaskantha, Patan and Surendranagar districts during the three-day tour.

The team Monday held a meeting with Chief Secretary J N Singh and other key officials of the Gujarat Government at Gandhinagar

upon the completion of their assessment tour.

Kumar told reporters the State Government's estimates suggests that a total of ₹2,902 crore will be needed to carry out various relief works in the drought-affected regions.

"We have so far declared 3,367 villages of 51 taluka in the state as drought affected. The central team had visited five affected districts during the last three days and held a meeting with Chief Secretary today," Kumar told reporters in Gandhinagar after the meeting.

"Our estimates suggests that we would need ₹2,902 crore in total to carry out various relief works in affected regions. Looking at the funds available with us under SDRF (State Disaster Relief Fund) and norms governing it, we would need additional ₹1,725 crore," said Kumar. PTI

Cong should accept court verdict against Sajjan Kumar: Yogi

He said the team had given a "positive response" on the demand of central assistance of ₹1,725 crore put forward by the State Government.

"This fund will be utilised in paying input subsidies to farmers, providing drinking water to people, for opening cattle camps, providing assistance to cattle shelters and to distribute fodder in affected regions," the IAS officer said.

He said the State Government is "confident" of getting central assistance soon. Gujarat had received just 73.87 per cent of the average rainfall this monsoon.

Kutch had received just 26.51 per cent of average rainfall, while north Gujarat got 42.93 per cent, central Gujarat 66.83 per cent, Saurashtra 72.20 per cent and south Gujarat got the highest of 94.79 per cent, according to Met department figures. PTI

Guwahati: Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Monday alleged that the Congress was involved in the 1984 anti-Sikh riots and it should accept the verdict of the Delhi High Court punishing party leader Sajjan Kumar for his role in it.

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader alleged that the Congress had a history of dividing people on religious and caste lines.

"It is a known fact that the Congress was involved in 1984 riots. It should accept the (verdict of the) Constitutional institution," Adityanath said at a press conference here.

The Delhi High Court on Monday convicted the senior Congress leader for conspiracy to commit murder in the 1984 anti-Sikh riots case and sentenced him to imprisonment for life.

On the Bulandshahr violence, the Chief Minister said all those involved in the incident would be arrested and punished as per law.

"Law is equal for all. Law will take its own course. The Government acted very swiftly in the matter. All those involved will be arrested and punished," he said. There is no law and order problem in Uttar Pradesh and other BJP-ruled states in the country, Adityanath claimed.

Violence broke out in Bulandshahr town of UP on December 3 over alleged cattle slaughter, leaving a police inspector and a youth dead as a mob went on a rampage torching a police post and dashing with police, which had to open fire to control the situation. Adityanath also attacked the Congress for not accepting the Supreme Court's order on the Rafale deal. PTI

PM Modi to lay foundation stone for Thane Metro today

Housing scheme, bhumi puja also part of schedule

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

As part of a busy schedule drawn up for him during his day-long visit to Maharashtra on Tuesday, Prime Minister Narendra Modi will lay foundation stone for upcoming first-ever Metro Corridors in Thane district. He will also launch a housing scheme of 90,000 homes and also perform "bhoomi puja" for Pune Metro Rail Phase-3.

At Kalyan in the neighbouring Thane district, Modi will lay foundation stone for the Thane-Bhiwandi-Kalyan Metro and the Dahisar-Mira-Bhayander Metro corridor projects to ease the transportation problems in the two urban pockets located in the Mumbai Metropolitan Region. He will also launch a housing scheme of 90,000 homes for the poor sections of society at the same venue, constructed under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY).

Modi will later head to Pune, where he will perform ground breaking ceremony for the Pune Metro Rail Phase 3 and address a public meeting.

Earlier in the morning, the Prime Minister would speak at the Republic Summit organised by Republic TV, a private news channel.

Subsequently, Modi will he will release a book entitled 'Timeless Laxman' based on

the life and little known facets of the legendary cartoonist, the late R K Laxman, at Raj Bhavan. The book has been penned by his daughter-in-law, Usha Srinivas Laxman.

It may be recalled that Laxman — best known for his creation The Common Man for his daily cartoon strip, "You

Said it "You Said It" in The Times of India which started in 1951—passed away at a Pune hospital on January 26, 2015.

Modi, who will arrive in Mumbai at 8 am on Tuesday, will wind up his day-long visit to Maharashtra after addressing a public rally at Pune late in the evening.

AXIS BANK		POSSESSION NOTICE UNDER SARFAESI ACT 2002	
<p>The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of Axis Bank Ltd. under the Securitisation, Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under section 13 (12) read with Rule 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) rules 2002, issued demand notice upon the Borrower(s)/ Co-Borrower(s)/ Guarantor(s)/ Mortgagor(s) mentioned below, to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.</p>			
Name of Borrower/Co-borrower	Description of Property	Date of Demand Notice	Amount in Demand Notice (Rs.)
1. Mr. Anuj Setia Sole proprietor of M/S Setia Trading Company & Borrower S/O - Mr. Arvind Setia R/o-270, Opposite Gomati Park, C-Block, Sira-125055, Haryana.	Collateral security: Equitable mortgage of Commercial Property (Self occupied) measuring 152 Sq. Yards i.e 0 Kanal 5 Marla detailed as 0 Kanal 3 Marla being 3/79 share of area measuring 3 Kanal 19 Marla comprised in Khevat No. 64, 0 Kanal 2 marla being 1/91 share of 9 Kanal 2 marla comprised in Khevat No. 63, (A building constructed on the said plot) Bounded as: EAST: Property measuring 28' 6" WEST: Property of Tikoli Bhushan measuring 28' 6" NORTH: Rasta measuring 48' SOUTH: Property of Shaktistala Devi W/O Sh. Gian Chand measuring 48' situated in the revenue estate of village Shamsabad, within municipal limits of Sira also known as Dabwali road, Near Hyundai showroom, Sira- 125055 owned by Mr. Anuj Setia.	14.12.2017	Rs. 2,08,93,000/-
<p>The Borrower(s)/ Co-Borrower(s)/ Guarantor(s)/ Mortgagor(s) 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 Axis Bank Ltd.</p> <p>The Borrower(s)/ Co-Borrower(s)/ Guarantor(s)/ Mortgagor(s) attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (b) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.</p> <p>The above-mentioned Borrower(s)/ Co-Borrower(s)/ Guarantor(s)/ Mortgagor(s) are hereby given a 30 days' Notice to repay the amount, else the mortgaged properties will be sold on the expiry of 30 days from the date of publication of this Notice, as per the provisions under the Rules 8 and 9 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002.</p>			
Date: 16-12-2018, Place: Delhi		Sd/-, Authorized Officer, Axis Bank Ltd.	

Another milestone for HAL's Light Utility chopper project

Bengaluru: The Hindustan Aeronautics Limited's Light Utility Helicopter project has notched another milestone as the third prototype (PT3) made its maiden flight on December 14.

The helicopter was flown by test pilots, Wg Cdr (Retd) Anil Bhamhani and Gp Capt (Retd) M R Anand VM, the Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) said in a release

here Monday. The flight was flawless and the prototype would augment development flight testing in conjunction with other two Prototypes towards Certification, it said.

Indigenously designed and developed by the state-run aviation major Hindustan Aeronautics Limited, the Light Utility Helicopter (LUH) achieved an important mile-

stone of flying at a 6-km altitude here recently.

Based on the feedback from flight testing of PT1 and PT2, PT3 is built to the standard of deliverable configuration, the release said.

With this achievement, LUH is now close to production clearance and the unit is confident of meeting requirements of the armed forces, HAL CMD R Madhavan said.

The successful completion of the first flight of LUH's third prototype is a quantum leap and will soon replace the aging fleet of Cheetah and Chetak helicopters, according to HAL Director (Engg and R&D) Arup Chatterjee.

The LUH is a 3-ton class new generation single engine helicopter indigenously designed and developed by the Rotary Wing Research and

Design Centre (RWR&DC) of HAL, it said. The first flight of LUH PT-1 was carried on September 6, 2016 and the second Prototype flew on May

22, 2017. High altitude cold weather trials of LUH are planned in January 2019, the release added. PTI



कार्यालय नगर निगम हल्द्वानी-काठगोदाम
 पत्रांक- 1870 / 2018 तिथिदा सूचना दिनांक- 17-12-2018

सर्व साधारण को सूचित किया जाता है कि नगर निगम हल्द्वानी-काठगोदाम सीमान्तगत 15 स्थानों पर ट्रेफिक आईलेण्ड व 10 स्थानों पर पुलिस ट्रेफिक बुथ स्थापित किये जाने हेतु इच्छुक निविदादाताओं से टू विड सिस्टम के माध्यम से मोहर बन्द निविदाय आमंत्रित की जाती है। उक्त ट्रेफिक आईलेण्ड व ट्रेफिक बुथ को स्थलों सूची शर्तों / शरायतें किसी भी कार्य दिवस में दिनांक 18.12.2018 से 31.12.2018 को सांय 05.00 बजे तक निविदा फार्म शुल्क रु 5000 / +18% जी0एस0टी0 जमा कर प्राप्त किये जा सकते हैं। जिन्हें दिनांक 02.01.2019 को अपराह्न 02.00 बजे तक निविदा बॉक्स में डाला जा सकता है। उसके पश्चात प्राप्त निविदा पर विचार नहीं किया जायेगा। जिन्हें अपरिहार्य कारणों को छोड़कर उक्त तिथि 02.01.2019 को ही अपराह्न 03.00 बजे विज्ञापन नियमावली के अनुसार आवंटन समिति के समक्ष खोला जायेगा। निविदा के सम्बन्ध में जानकारी नगर निगम की वेबसाईट www.nagarnigamhaldwani.in से भी प्राप्त की जा सकती है।

नगर आयुक्त
 नगर निगम हल्द्वानी-काठगोदाम

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The Executive Engineer (E), Division-I, CCW, AIR, 8th Floor Soochna Bhawan, New Delhi invites on behalf of President of India, online item rate/ bids for following work:-

(i) NIT NO. 81/2018-19/EE(E)-I/CCW-AIR/Delhi. Name of work: - Maintenance of Cultural Center at Sirifort Auditorium, New Delhi during 2018-19 (SH : Operation of 16/35 mm Film/video Projection equipments etc.) (i) Estimated cost Rs. 828676/-, (ii) Earnest Money Rs.16574/- Period of completion: - 12 months, Last date & Time of submission of bid 3.00 P.M on 26/12/18.

(ii) NTT NO. 82/2018-19/EE(E)-I/CCW-AIR/Delhi. Name of Work: Maintenance of Sound System at Sirifort Auditorium, New Delhi. (SH : Operation of Sound System in Audi-I/H/III/IV) (i) Estimated cost of Rs.1157166/-, (ii) Earnest Money Rs.23143/- Period of completion: - 12 months, Last date & Time of submission of bid 3.00 P.M on 26/12/18.

(iii) NIT NO. 83/2018-19/EE(E)-I/CCW-AIR/ Delhi. Name of Work: R.M.O. Early Fire Alarm & Fire Fighting System at Akashwani Bhawan, New Delhi during 2018 - 2019 (SH: Round the clock operation and general maintenance of both systems), (i) Estimated cost Rs.1237812/-, (ii) Earnest Money Rs.24756/- Period of completion: -12 months, Last date & Time of submission of bid 3.00 P.M on 26/12/18.

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Not far enough

Did the recently concluded climate talks in Katowice, Poland achieve anything at all?



The world is warming up and its climate is going totally out of whack. Extreme weather phenomena such as the Kerala floods earlier this year are wreaking havoc across the world, putting people in harm's way and could even signal the end of days as many religious holy books predict. And here is the funny thing — we have known about humanity's impact on the planet for decades now, we have physically seen the disappearance of Himalayan glaciers and huge chunks of ice the size of a small Indian state break away from the Antarctic ice shelf. Yet when it comes to doing something about them, the solutions we know about appear impossible to implement. So every few years global leaders and scientists sit down at a place to thrash out the details on how to redress the crisis.

But much like a heroin addict who finds it impossible to go cold turkey when the time comes to make tough choices, there is much hand-wringing. Here is a truism, humanity is addicted to carbon and those of us who do embrace low-cost manufacturing and agree that everyone should have a level of equal access to modern conveniences?

So at Katowice, the hand-wringing continued. We know that we are in the midst of a crisis but the crisis hasn't hit as yet, or rather it has in fits and starts. Sea level rises have not displaced millions till date but can politicians increase the taxes on petrol beyond a point even if they realise the carbon implications of burning more petrol and diesel? Can any politician or bureaucrat tell people that they should be judicious when they use their air-conditioning? We tried that in India and elite liberals saw that as government 'interference.' After all the rich, whether they are nations or rich citizens, do not want to pay the price of changing their habits. They would want air-conditioning and car ownership restricted but not for themselves. So the result at Katowice, where after 13 days of talking the only conclusion was that we should try and prevent global temperatures from rising beyond 1.5C by 2030, was far from ideal. By that time it may be too late to drive more change. The global impact of a warmer world will be felt by all of us, rich and poor alike although the latter will be harder hit. It is contingent upon politicians to understand that they need to educate their people about the impact of climate change. We might feel the impact of climate change in a sputtering manner right now but by 2030 it might be too late.

Sindhu's golden moment

The World Tour Finals win has put the shuttler in the league of extraordinary sportswomen



For once, shuttler champion PV Sindhu wasn't tired of answering any questions. For she had given a thundering response to the one that had been niggling her mind after a string of six silvers in major finals this year. Why couldn't she convert her shots to a championship win? At the World Tour Finals this Sunday, Sindhu decided she had had enough of silver and boldly changed the colour of her medal, remaining unbeaten through the week and taming her contemporaries, some of whom had been her nemesis before. Predictably, she slumped in relief after beating Nozomi Okuhara 21-19, 21-17. The win takes her to world number 3 and is another milestone along the blazing path set by her predecessor Saina Nehwal in a sport that has for long been considered the preserve of the East and Southeast Asian talent. Indians were never considered too good enough to get to worldmark standards. In her initial games and wins, even Saina Nehwal had admitted that while she worked on her physical strengths and primed her core skill set, it was in the mind that she had to win first and overcome the myth that her other Asian compatriots had the greater endurance. Once she built her patience, focus and self-confidence levels to do everything right, she could get out of her own mental trap. Sindhu did that, too, at the Guangzhou championship. What stood out was that she was as taut about her game as the opponent's and was able to capitalise on the little room that Okuhara gave, though they were very slim. Sunday's game saw a new Sindhu, one who matched her natural athletic ability, height and smashes with a new-found aggression and power. She kept the opponent guessing about her moves, befuddling her with her strokes. She even displayed a rare hunger and obsession, dismissing post-match highs and emphasising that she would like to change the colour of her Olympics medal. Most importantly, she cast aside her self doubts and stuck to the plan of getting her point on merit than risk knee-jerk moves. That consistency of tempo should stop critics from looking back at her matches so far to assess where she can go now.

Due credit must be given to coach Pullela Gopichand for working on her steadfastly although every final victory that she missed compounded her performance pressure. But the mentor knew that a historic title would change that perception and kept the focus on working her latent ability to a winnable one. And Sunday's mega title put paid to a tidal wave of doubt. With this outing, Sindhu even took home her biggest single-week pay cheque totalling ₹86.30 lakh and ramped up her earnings of the year to ₹4.22 crore in 2018. And she is just 23 with a train of endorsements. Badminton may not have the reach of tennis across the globe but Sindhu sure has pitched herself close to the aura of illustrious women players and athletes of her time. A crowd favourite across age groups given her maturity and reserve, Sindhu has the demonstrative potential too, given the frequency of title clashes lined up for her. And if she can deliver as she did on Sunday, then she can surely emerge to be India's millennial sports icon.

Much ado about nothing

It is laughable that some parties have been recklessly equating Rafale with Bofors. There is no commonality between them except that both relate to defence procurement from foreign companies



A SURYA PRAKASH

The Supreme Court's recent judgement on a slew of petitions *vis-à-vis* the Rafale deal, envisaging the purchase of 36 of these aircraft from a French company, will hopefully alert the people about the reckless sloganeering that is currently on and the silly attempts being made in some quarters to equate Rafale with Bofors.

At the moment, there is nothing in common between the two, except that they both relate to defence procurement from foreign companies. There, the similarities end. In the case of Bofors, there were specific allegations that this Swedish company paid kickbacks to win the contract and the payments were fully established in respect of certain entities, including Ottavio Quattrocchi, a dear friend of UPA chairperson Sonia Gandhi and her late husband Rajiv Gandhi. In respect to Rafale, there are no such allegations of kickbacks or corruption; although the choice of the offset partner has been raised. In any case, the Supreme Court has categorically dismissed the petitions filed before it for several reasons, one of which is the vagueness of accusations.

On the other hand, just take a look at the kind of evidence of kickbacks that emerged in Bofors. Some part of these payments have been meticulously documented by the Delhi Bench of the Income Tax Appellate Tribunal (ITAT) comprising RP Tolani and RC Sharma. The tribunal tracked the money trail with clinical precision and presented its findings in its order many years ago. Unlike the humming and hawing and the vagueness of the allegations that are being hurled against the Government *vis-à-vis* the Rafale deal, there was clinching evidence of payoffs by Bofors.

The tribunal noted that Ottavio Quattrocchi, the Italian friend of Sonia Gandhi and Rajiv Gandhi, remained in India from February 28, 1965, to July 29, 1993, except for a brief interval from March 4, 1966, to June 12, 1968. He was a certified Chartered Accountant by profession, working with Snamprogetti, an Italian multinational company, but "neither Snamprogetti nor Quattrocchi had any experience of guns, gun-systems or any related defence equipment." Further, although the Rajiv Gandhi Government declared that suppliers should not have agents, it entered into a consultancy agreement with a company called AE Services Limited in the UK on November 15, 1985.

This was done at the behest of Quattrocchi. The most intriguing aspect of this contract was that Bofors agreed to pay three per cent of the total value of the contract to this company if it won the India contract by March 31, 1986 (that is within 137 days of the signing of the contract on November 15, 1985). And, lo and behold, the Rajiv Gandhi Government signed the contract on March 24, 1986 — just a week



before the deadline set by Bofors expired.

Once the contract was signed, the Indian Government released the first tranche of payments to Bofors on May 2, 1986, which was equivalent to 20 per cent of the contract.

Bofors promptly remitted \$7.343 million on September 03, 1986, to A/c No: 18051-53 of AE Services Limited at Nordfinanz Bank, Zurich, which was three per cent of the advance paid. The tribunal found that this remittance to AE Services was transferred in September 29, 1986, to Account No: 254.561.60W of Colbar Investments Limited in the Union Bank of Switzerland, Geneva. On July 25, 1988, again, these funds were moved to Account No: 488.320.60 X of a company called Wetelsen Overseas, SA, in the same bank. Thereafter, on May 21, 1990, the money was further transferred to Account No: 123983 of International Investments Development Company in Guernsey (Channel Islands). The ITAT said: "These accounts of Colbar Investments as well as Wetelsen Overseas were being controlled by Ottavio Quattrocchi and his wife Maria Quattrocchi."

But the most extraordinary development was that AE Services unilaterally announced that it would forego the rest of the commission due to it from Bofors, after the bribery scandal broke out in April 1987, and the then Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi struggled to explain the dubious payoffs by Bofors.

In the final analysis, the ITAT said 243 million Swedish

AGAINST THE UNIMPEACHABLE EVIDENCE OF KICKBACKS RECEIVED BY A CLOSE FAMILY FRIEND OF THE NEHRU-GANDHIS, WHEN INDIA BOUGHT FIELD GUNS FOR ITS ARMY, ALLEGATIONS REGARDING THE RAFALE DEAL DO NOT SEEM TO HAVE ANY LEGS TO STAND ON. THE COURT SAID AS MUCH

Kroners was pocketed by Quattrocchi and Win Chadha. But the most clinching link between Quattrocchi, who got the kickbacks, and the Nehru-Gandhis came when former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh got the UK Government to lift the freeze on Quattrocchi's bank account which had been imposed at the behest of the Atal Bihari Vajpayee Government. This enabled Quattrocchi to run away with the loot.

As against this unimpeachable evidence of kickbacks received by a close family friend of the Nehru-Gandhis, when India bought field guns for its Army, the allegations regarding the Rafale deal do not seem to have any legs to stand on. The Supreme Court has found it necessary to comment on the inadequacy of the petitions and on the excessive reliance on Press reports.

The court has said, "We find no reason for any intervention by this Court on the sensitive issue of purchase of 36 defence aircraft. Perception of individuals cannot be the basis of a fishing and roving enquiry by this Court, especially in such matters." Again, while discussing the allegations regarding choice of the offset partner, the court said, "mere Press interviews or suggestions cannot form the basis for judicial review by this Court... We do not find any substantial material on record to show that this is a case of commercial favouritism to any party by the Indian Government..."

A critical issue raised in the writ petitions related to the pricing of the aircraft. The

Chief of Air Staff was opposed to disclosure of price. Yet, the court noted that "despite this reluctance, the material has still been placed before the Court to satisfy its conscience". The court said it had "examined closely" the price details and said it would not carry out a comparison of price details "in matters like the present" and that there was need to maintain confidentiality in the matter.

Significantly, the court observed that "adequate military strength and capability to discourage and withstand external aggression and to protect the sovereignty and integrity of India, undoubtedly, is a matter of utmost concern for the nation. The empowerment of defence forces with adequate technology and material support is, therefore, a matter of vital importance". Therefore, the court felt that the parameters of judicial scrutiny in such matters of defence procurement cannot be the same as in judicial scrutiny of tenders and contracts.

Those who are making reckless and unsubstantiated allegations about the Rafale deal need to absorb these lessons. This writer has elaborated on the Quattrocchi money trail just to emphasise the kind of investigation that is needed to make an allegation stick. Therefore, the attempt by some political parties to claim that the Rafale deal is Prime Minister Narendra Modi's 'Bofors moment' is laughable. Sloganeering is no substitute for evidence.

(The writer is Chairman, Prasar Bharati)

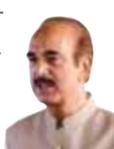
SOUNDBITE

People who used to call Rahul Gandhi a *pappu* should know that he has become a *pappa* (dad) now. He should marry soon to become a *pappa*.



Union Minister — Ramdas Athawale

It's praiseworthy when our armed forces eliminate militants but it pains when innocent civilians are killed. The Pulwama killing is unacceptable.



Congress leader — Ghulam Nabi Azad

As an artiste, I am incomplete. I always think how I can bring in something new, in whatever capacity I can within cinema.



Actor — Shah Rukh Khan

India welcomes the resolution of the political situation in Sri Lanka. It's a reflection of maturity demonstrated by all political forces.



MEA spokesperson — Raveesh Kumar

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

End freebie culture

Sir — If the elections are fought and won on the promise of loan-waivers, free electricity or water, subsidies or money in the form of enhanced pension, unemployment allowance without statutory restrictions by the ever vigilant and hyperactive Supreme Court or the Election Commission of India, we are heading for anarchy and empty coffers with no funds for infrastructure, health or education.

While suicide, by the farmers or the distressed, remains a crime constitutionally, the self-appointed leaders of civil society and the secular-liberal spokespersons in the media cry foul over the suicides and shed crocodile tears on such cowardly acts. If India has to progress morally, economically and physically, it would be prudent for the Election Commission and also the apex court to ban all such electoral promises in letter and spirit which make people dependent on freebies and destroy work culture. The top court should also summon the leaders of the national political parties asking

An end to Constitutional crisis in Sri Lanka

This refers to the editorial, "Back on course" (December 17). As Sri Lankan President, Maithripala Sirisena's every action from the day he tried to replace the democratically-elected Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe with the autocratic Mahinda Rajapaksa went wrong because it was illegal. His very way of functioning was unconstitutional. Rajapaksa had no moral authority to occupy the Prime Minister's chair. The sore point in this whole drama was the point-blank refusal by Rajapaksa to vacate the chair as President Sirisena did nothing to uphold democracy by reinstating Wickremesinghe who enjoyed the confidence of the House.

At last, the month-long political crisis came to an end after a full Bench of the Supreme Court concurred with the order given by the lower courts. This has left Sirisena with no other option but to restore the democratically-elected Government headed by



Wickremesinghe. It is high time that Sirisena stops swimming against the tide and follows the highest traditions of democracy by allowing the present Government to complete its term in the larger interest of the island nation.

KR Srinivasan
Secundrabad

for a time barred withdrawal of the reservation policy which was originally envisaged for a limited period of 10 years.

Jai Prakash Gupta
Ambala

Stand united

Sir — This refers to the editorial, "Generational conflict"

(December 15). Victories in three Assembly States of Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and Rajasthan have come as a huge morale booster for the Congress. And if the party wants to further corner the BJP in the 2019 general election, the experience of the old guard will be much needed.

There is no denying the fact that both leaders, Jyotiraditya

Madhavrao Scindia and Sachin Pilot, played a pivotal role for the Congress' win in Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan respectively, but the duo must be patient so that they can be further groomed under the hands of the senior leadership. More unteamed the show they put up, the better it will be for them.

Bal Govind
Noida

Unnecessary ruckus

Sir — This refers to the editorial, "The Rafale soars" (December 15). The Supreme Court's dismissal of all petitions that sought a court-monitored SIT probe in the Rafale deal has come as a major blow to Congress president Rahul Gandhi who had been unnecessarily raking up the issue.

The apex court said that there is nothing to doubt the process of decision-making in the award of contract for the purchase of 36 Rafale jets and that there is no material to show commercial favouritism.

After the top court's clean chit to the Modi Government, it was expected of Rahul Gandhi to stop his tirade against the Government and show magnanimity by ending matters here. Regrettably, he decided to continue with playing politics and has again made demands for a Joint Parliamentary Committee probe.

MC Joshi
Lucknow

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

FIRST COLUMN

Resurrect Indian economy

In the run-up to the 2019 poll, the country needs not farm loan-waivers but pro-farmer policies



SHIVAJI SARKAR

The Indian economy will be in a cyclical phase of loan-waivers now that the Congress has come back to power in three crucial States. It is the banks, who hold people's deposits, and not the Governments that are an easy prey. But nobody seems to be concerned about alleviating farmers' distress logically. Then there arises a problem of perception too. The present RBI Governor, Shaktikanta Das, said that besides being a stakeholder, the Government runs the economy and manages the financial institutions. Das is correct to the extent that the Government manages the institutions. This is the task bestowed upon the Government by the people but it has to be as per people's wishes and not as the Government decides. People are rarely even consulted.

The economy is run and managed usually by entrepreneurs and financial institutions. The Government is an institution that was formed by the people to take care of issues of daily management. Its role was that of a custodian and not the owner. Governments that adhered to it, possibly the Atal Bihari Vajpayee did and to some extent the United Front too, made the people happy. So, whichever party forms the Government, it has to adhere to the basics and should not gloat over the euphoria of numbers. People expect that as custodians of their money and managers of institutions, the Government must protect their wealth. Since 2014, seven States have unveiled loan-waivers, totalling to nearly ₹182,802 crore. Agriculture economist Ashok Gulati reckoned that in the run-up to the general election, farm loan-waivers may touch ₹4 lakh crore as other States are expected to join the fray. Let the nation also not feel that sudden changes in the RBI will make the stock market buoyant. The same happened in March 1992 which later opened a can of worms — the Harshad Mehta stock scam. The present move may come as a boost but the stock market is not really an indicator of the economy. It is definitely not at present. The buoyancy is often the result of behind-the-scenes operations.

Despite occasional gains, the value of the rupee remains volatile. This needs to be taken with a pinch of salt as it results in an unstable economy, uncertain job markets, makes the investors wary and the stock movement unreal. For much of this year, the Urjit Patel-led RBI was seen resisting pressure as well as entreaties from the Government, industry and financial firms to ease lending and capital norms for stressed public sector banks (PSBs), particularly those under the prompt corrective action framework, to open a special liquidity window for non-banking financial companies with a precarious asset-liability position and to push the flow of credit to small enterprises. Das has not spoken on any of these specific issues that caused a strain in the relationship between the Government and the RBI. Poll manifestoes of the five States, too, were silent on these issues. Of course, voters do not understand intricate issues. So, populism marked the electoral campaigns in the states. Union Finance Minister Arun Jaitley was right in saying that populism does not help in the long-run. Political parties practise it to get the numbers to form a Government. Ignoring numbers of the finances causes the real problem. The industry, the biggest defaulter in loan repayment, is also known to have withdrawn the largest cash along with many other players before the elections. Why? Everyone knows the answer.

So except for a cosmetic treatment, not much can be realised and PSBs, who hold people's deposits, are in severe crisis due to NPAs. It is true that this Government did not proffer the bounties. Their predecessors did. But once again, people have the problem of a cyclical nature of politics. So, if this Government is finding it difficult, would the next Government not do it? Or would they again play with people's money to which no Government has the right to lay their hands on? The sufferings of the people, forget about mitigation, is mounting. The RBI was supposed to raise interest rates to help the poor depositors, senior citizens, women and the deprived Jan Dhan account holders. The rate rise is required not just to help the depositors but to protect the nation's wealth. People's money is not for the big corporates. The farmer and MSMEs also have a claim to it.

Loan waivers create an unwanted culture. As elections approached, farmers, who could repay loans, didn't. The industry willfully ignored its duty. Meanwhile, the Government is recapitalising banks with the taxpayers' money. This is a vortex and the only solution is to raise farmer incomes with a proper farm policy in place. People need succour and protection. The year 2019 will belong to those who can ensure relief and safety of banks. Yes, the Government has been given the task to direct the economy but it can't run it. It has to fulfill its tasks without hurting the people, their deposits or threatening to play with their wealth in the banks. India needs pro-people, pro-farmer policies for livelihood creation.

(The writer is a senior journalist)

THE GOVERNMENT MISLED THE SUPREME COURT TO GET A MANIPULATED JUDGEMENT. WE DEMAND THAT THE COURT IMMEDIATELY RECALLS ITS JUDGEMENT.

—SENIOR CONGRESS LEADER ANAND SHARMA



IT IS FOR THE SUPREME COURT TO DECIDE OR TO SAY THAT YOU MISLED US OR YOUR ERROR WAS MALAFIDE IN THE RAFALE AFFIDAVIT.

—BJP LEADER SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY

POINTCOUNTERPOINT

No salvation in shooting the reformist

Post the BJP's electoral debacle in five crucial States, there will be more movements among mainstream parties. Prime Minister Modi has to script a powerful narrative



BINDU DALMIA

If only the Supreme Court's dismissal of the petition seeking a court-monitored probe into the Rafale deal had come before the State elections, it can be conjectured that the results might well have been different for the BJP, considering how minimal the 'swing' in Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan was. For months, Congress chief Rahul Gandhi worked hard on building his campaign on a web of unsubstantiated allegations. This, to make corruption the central electoral issue and to spite Prime Minister Modi for doing so in 2014. Sadly, voters' choice in the Hindi heartland reflected that five years were long enough a time to grant absolution to the Congress as collective amnesia set in. The voters' fury that was felt on 2G and a series of scams of the UPA-II receded. The Lutyns' clique of fixers, bureaucrats, bankers, cronies and media tried hard to undermine Modi's inclusive agenda. But in hindsight, the systemic rot is too deeply entrenched in the body polity of the nation to weed it out in a single tenure.

Because, in contrast to previous regimes, the Modi Government delivered more to the bottom 70 per cent of the population through Direct Benefit Transfer and Ease of Living parameters. So, if the Prime Minister is not able to solve all of the nation's problems in five years, should we vote for those who created those very problems over 70 years? Salvation does not lie in a change of regime; nor does the solution lie in a disparate Opposition uniting to 'shoot the reformer' for attempting to weed out a parallel economy, through a collective revival of the old establishment brigade of dynastic satraps, like the scam-tainted Yadavs, the DMK clan or the disproportionate assets-accused, like BSP supremo Mayawati.

To deal with the deluge of disenchantment, it's time for Modi to invent a buoyant yet realistic narrative to address concerns of all sections of society that are seen moving away from the BJP's fold — from farmers to first time voters to the middle classes and the traders. Modi must persist with an achievable sequel to the promise of *vikas*, while admitting to some regime lapses and spell out a roadmap with stated timelines. However, in the long-term, India needs to make the much-required shift towards a non-agrarian economy to match with other developing economies that are only 10 per cent reliant on agricultural income. That transition has not happened yet. What the voter now seeks with immediacy is redressal of economic woes instead of catchy sloganeering.

These may not be the best of times to make prophecies about 2019 or to admonish a ruling regime that is already in corrective mode. For that,



Prime Minister Modi already has a battalion of Twitter economists who offer instant expertise on how to course-correct by the minute. We are aware that issues on the socio-economic and political front are riddled with much deeper complexities. Embedded within these contradictions are tectonic shifts in the offing that can alter India's political architecture. While Modi remains the front-runner candidate for 2019, despite the loss of three saffron bastions, popularity ratings between him and his closest rival are steadily narrowing, establishing the Congress as a natural fulcrum for any anti-Modi grand alliance.

So, one can only expect more attrition and exodus in mainstream parties while alliance partners of the BJP can be expected to make more upstartish demands. Also, expectations are high about a huge shift and shuffle in the BJP's voter base that was at its optimal saturation point in 2014. This is the time to woo back the core voter base through speedy redressal of livelihood issues. While local anti-incumbency in the three heartland States is not necessarily reflective of a trend reversal at the national level, there are some inferences to draw from the just-concluded State elections. The lifeline the BJP needs to infuse is some instant economic deliverables, even if it means that fiscal deficit figures exceed the target in an election year. The Government must go for enhanced spending over the next two months; announce income-support schemes along with farm loan-waivers in the interim in a bid for competitive populism; announce subsidies on fuel; cut interest rates and provide tax relief to the citizens, especially the middle class.

Because, should it be Modi 2.0, he will have all of five years to rectify fiscal profligacy. The Centre needs to boost capital spending. Even if it is at a deficit of 4.5 per cent of the GDP, it's fine when

the objective is to push the growth rate. Spending on roads, affordable housing, construction, irrigation, rural electrification, broadband, farm produce godowns and cold storages and mass rapid transit systems will help boost labour-intensive sectors that create employment. This will help yield social and political dividends. So, the Centre should hope that a pliant RBI Governor agrees to transfer excess reserves to the Government — this is much-needed to spend on growth and to fund MSMEs in order to ease sectoral distress.

With the industry's reluctance to spend on capex, who else will spend if not the Government? So, if the Government of India's investments augment growth, that translates into higher revenues, deficits would take care of themselves. Because despite achieving optimal targets in affordable housing, rural electrification and Modicare schemes, investing in public and household assets alone has not helped the ruling party's electoral cause. This assumption is validated through recent losses in the heartland States which came from the rural voters, who account for about 74 per cent of the electorate. Farm distress is an obstinate problem that has persisted since decades with no magic wand.

As time is running out, in order to win back support among India's 263 million farmers, even if as much as four trillion rupees (\$56.5 billion) in loans are written off in a bid at competitive populism, it is not unusual in an election year to resort to such quick-fixes. This was the eventuality resorted to even by the previous Congress-led UPA, which waived loans worth nearly 720 billion rupees in 2008 that helped it return to power in 2009. While the BJP-led NDA succeeded in keeping food inflation low, this came at the cost of compromising on farmers' remuneration. However, income-support schemes, enhancing non-agricultural employment, gener-

ating gainful urbanisation and funding more employment-intensive projects should be long-term solutions.

If the BJP-led NDA was beset with legacy issues of policy paralysis, reckless lending and mounting NPAs, the successive regime, which could well be another Modi-led Government, would also inherit the negative legacies of the present regime. The worst of them is that institutional heads did not adhere to the *dharma* of bureaucratic discipline by resolving conflicts within closed doors but took an adversarial stance with the Government. This sent out signals of erosion of the central authority like the open revolt in the Supreme Court, the CBI and the RBI as also the embarrassment of successive economists resigning "for personal reasons." The other inherent problem for the next regime, though not a 'legacy' one, will also be that despite retaining the lead in being the fastest growing economy at 7.3 per cent, India will need to accelerate growth to nine per cent in future for any elected Government to fulfill its commitment in jobs for all, which will remain the biggest challenge.

However, the current dilemma is that if a large section of the BJP's core voter base remains anti-incumbent, where will incremental votes come from? Aside from redressal of farmers issues, 100 million millennials who will be first-time voters are unenthused as compared to first-time voters of 2014 because of under-employment. And despite Modi's best intent, *triple talaq* is unlikely to make Muslim women politically beholden to the BJP, even as the minorities will continue to stay with secular parties. It is because the perception of intolerance has become synonymous with the regime. Despite major strides taken by this Government in financial inclusion, the success of many social initiatives has not got prominence. False narratives have obscured achievements.

The other vital question is to what extent will the BJP infuse nationalist

issues and concerns of migrant infiltration, as dictated by its ideological parent, the RSS, or attempt a revival of religious issues of the 1990s? A recent survey showed that reviving the *mandir mudda* holds only 11 per cent traction as issues of livelihood have gained primacy. Supportive evidence of this is the fact that the BJP fared badly in areas where Yogi Adityanath campaigned. He hijacked the development narrative with a parochial one, which showed a disconnect and apathy to livelihood issues. The party, in its re-strategising bid, is unlikely to switch track completely to issues of faith, as man cannot live by prayer alone. Only economic deliverables will convert to votes.

The BJP will enter the *kurukshetra* of 2019 with five *brahmantras* in hand: Its mascot Modi; powerful messaging being planned to undo misinformation spread by Opposition; some anticipated quick-wins with a pre-poll spending spree on welfare and putting more money into the hands of rural voters and urban middle class; splurging on campaign spend with its huge financial war-chest; and the combined manpower resources of six crore *karyakartas* of the BJP-RSS combine, so as to fire on all fronts.

Let's not forget that the Modi-Shah duo lost the crucial States of Bihar and Delhi three years ago only to resurrect by course-correcting fast enough to expand the BJP's national footprint into 19 States before the recent loss of three States. Sadly, Governments in power only heed the voice of their voter when on edge. The prospects currently may not be one of 'India shining', reminiscent of the negative associations with 2004, but it will surely be an 'India dimming', should a politically and ideologically incoherent 'coalition of rivals' come to power in 2019, which would be more disastrous. So think twice why it must be Modi once more.

(The writer is an author and columnist)

A policy on MSP will be fiscally suicidal

In all probability, the Government must not tread the path of giving legal backing to MSP. Already, it is struggling to find resources for food subsidy under NFSA. An alternative path is to find platforms where farmers can sell their produce



UTTAM GUPTA

On November 30, 2018, tens of thousands of farmers congregated in the national capital to protest against their financial distress arising out of non-remunerative price for their agricultural output and ever-increasing farm debt burden. They wanted a special session of Parliament to discuss their problems and demanded the passage of two laws (i) to guarantee Minimum Support Price (MSP) for all crops based on the recommendations of the National Commission on Agriculture under MS Swaminathan (2006) and (ii) 'one-time' farm loan-waiver. Truly speaking, the enactment of both these laws can be fiscally catastrophic. To understand the implications, let us

look at how MSP is fixed and its connect with subsidy.

To incentivise food production and to make it available at affordable price to the target beneficiaries (mostly poor), the Government had already directed State agencies, such as the Food Corporation of India (FCI), to procure produce from the farmers at MSP and arrange its supply through the public distribution system (PDS), at a price much lower than the actual cost of procurement. The differential amount was then to be reimbursed to the agencies, as subsidy.

Under the National Food Security Act (NFSA), beneficiaries are allowed to get five kg of cereals per person, per month. Besides, 81 crore people are provided wheat at the rate of two rupee per kilogram, rice at the rate of three rupee per kilogram and coarse cereals at the rate of one rupee per kilogram. With low sale price covering barely one-tenth of the cost and the NFSA requiring this network to supply an estimated 60 million tonnes of sub-

sidised grains per year, it entailed a food subsidy of ₹140,000 crore (2017-18). In addition, ₹35,000 crore was to be spent on price support for pulses and oilseeds.

With the inclusion of over a dozen crops under the MSP and using the methodology recommended by Dr Swaminathan — viz 50 per cent profit over cost of production (paid out expenses or A2 plus family labour) for its determination, which has already been implemented by the Government — during the current year, expenditure on food subsidy is already expected to cross ₹200,000 crore.

But farmers want C-2 cost (in addition to A2+FL, this includes imputed cost of owned capital and owned land) to be used for calculation of 50 per cent profit. This is illogical. They have already been provided for return on owned land and capital under C-2. To give profit over and above this would be fortuitous.

Yet, if the Government recalculates on this basis, it will lead to even sharper increase in MSP and

correspondingly, in food subsidy. On top of this, if the MSP, too, gets the legal backing, implications will be mindboggling.

Apart from covering farmers, who sell their produce to State agencies (for meeting requirements of the PDS), those selling their output in the marketplace will be entitled to claim reimbursement for the shortfall in realisation (*mandi price*) *vis-à-vis* the MSP. Even subsistence/marginal farmers, who produce food for self-consumption and, hence, have nothing to offer for sale, will qualify for reimbursement. In short, almost the entire food production of 285 million tonnes (target for 2018-19) will come under legally-protected MSP.

These reimbursements on food sold/consumed outside NFSA/PDS, or over 200 million tonnes, will impose an additional burden of at least ₹100,000 crore (assuming shortfall of a bare five rupee per kg in market price *vis-à-vis* MSP). This will be over and above ₹200,000 crore currently being spent for distributing 60 million tonnes under

the NFSA, plus the price support for pulses and oilseeds.

Going by the magnitude of loan-waiver promises being made to the farmers in the States that have gone to polls in recent times, the second legislation for a one-time waiver to farmers' debt will cost the exchequer more than ₹200,000 crore. Already, the Centre is struggling to find resources for food subsidy under the NFSA with dues pending to the tune of ₹200,000 crore to FCI. One shudders to think of a scenario whereby it will be required to cough up an additional amount of at least ₹300,000 crore next year, contingent upon passage of the two laws.

This will completely destabilise the budget and play havoc with the Government's fiscal consolidation drive. Its ability to fund development works, including investment in irrigation, rural roads, markets *et al*, will be seriously undermined. This will also affect the farmers' ability to increase production and sell, leading to a further drop in income. It will be a case of giving from one hand

and taking from the other.

A legally-backed MSP will be suicidal. The Government should avoid treading this path. The genesis of low price realisation by farmers lies in them being forced to sell the produce at notified agriculture produce market committees. These are cartelised and mostly controlled by powerful traders who have connections with politicians and bureaucrats. They pay less to farmers and rake in *moolah* by selling their produce to consumers at a high price.

Instead of using the taxpayers' money to compensate farmers (that will only help traders continue with their loot), the problem has to be tackled at source. Focus should be to dismantle these cartels and invest heavily in establishing alternative platforms to enable them sell their produce. Removal of restrictions on exports and unencumbered foreign direct investment in retail are other potent policy incentives that will help them realise better price. Will Modi crack the whip?

(The writer is a freelance journalist)



FOREIGN EYE



HOPE AMID CLIMATE TALKS

The UK's bid to host the 2020 UN climate change summit should focus minds, not least on the contradictions of an energy policy that combines phasing out coal with the promotion of fracking. While the UN framework is essential, it cannot do the heavy lifting of cutting emissions, which will be done by nation states or not at all.

(The Guardian editorial)

Sensex logs 5th straight gains, zooms 307 points

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Equity benchmark Sensex continued its winning streak for a fifth straight session on Monday, surging over 307 points with gains mainly in auto, metal and financial stocks as investors maintained their bullish stance in view of strengthening rupee, narrowing trade deficit and sustained foreign fund inflows.

Besides, market participants took cues from stronger Asian markets.

The 30-share BSE Sensex closed at 36,270, showing a rise of 0.85 per cent or 307 points. In the intra-day trade, the gauge hit a high of 36,312.

The Sensex had climbed 1,003.21 points in the previous four sessions.

Similarly, the broader NSE Nifty ended at 10,888, a gain of 0.77 per cent or 83 points, after shuttling between 10,900.35 and 10,844.85.

On a net basis, foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) bought shares worth Rs 861.94 crore Friday, while DIIs sold equities to the tune of Rs 303.52 crore, provisional data showed.

The Indian rupee was trading 37 paise higher at 71.53 against the US dollar, tracking positive domestic macro-economic data.

India's trade deficit stood at USD 16.67 billion for November 2018 as against USD 17.13 billion in the previous month.

Analysts attributed the

market performance to stabilisation of crude and rupee and also highlighted improved domestic macro's importance in providing a positive momentum to the market.

Among Sensex constituents, Tata Motors emerged as the best performer by surging 4.10 per cent, followed by PowerGrid at 3.77 per cent.

Vedanta Ltd shares climbed as much as 2.21 per cent after the NGT set aside the Tamil Nadu government order for closure of the company's copper plant at Tuticorin, saying it was "non sustainable" and "unjustified".

Other index gainers include HDFC (2.89 per cent), Wipro (2.01 per cent), Tata Steel (1.88 per cent), Coal India (1.88 per cent), HDFC Bank (1.75 per cent), IndusInd Bank (1.71 per cent), RIL (1.70 per cent), ICICI Bank (1.68 per cent), NTPC (1.67 per cent), ITC Ltd (1.61 per cent), ONGC (0.95 per cent), Maruti Suzuki (0.71 per cent) and Bajaj Auto (0.55 per cent).

Adani Ports, Yes Bank, M&M, TCS and Sun Pharma too were in fine shape and rose up to 0.50 per cent.

Bucking the overall trend, Kotak Bank, Infosys, Bharti



Less than 60% engineers, management grads get campus placements

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The average of students getting campus placements from management, technical and engineering institutions is less than 60 per cent, Parliament was informed on Monday.



The information was shared by Union Minister of State for HRD Satya Pal Singh in response to a written question in Lok Sabha.

"As per the placement data of students available with All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE), average campus placement of the graduates from management, technical and engineering institutions has not reached up to 60 per cent," Singh said.

"To encourage 100 per cent placements to the graduates, AICTE has launched outcome-based model curriculum for UG and PG level courses in engineering and management programmes to make it industry oriented. Institutions have now been made responsible for arranging internships of their students so as to enhance their employability," he added.

Govt may skip large farm loan waiver ahead of 2019 polls: Report

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Despite the electoral reverses in key states faced by the ruling BJP, the Union Government is unlikely to announce any large farm loan waiver or fiscal sops ahead of general elections, Credit Suisse said on Monday.



The agricultural distress is impacting 200 million workers and can cause political churn and policy experimentation, leading to uncertainties in times of the ongoing economic slowdown, the foreign brokerage said in a report.

There has been speculation over steps the Government takes for the agri sector in wake of BJP losing assembly elections in Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and Rajasthan, with some reports suggesting a farm loan waiver would be around the corner before the general elections next year.

"We do not expect any new large farm-loan waivers or other fiscal sops in the run up to elections," the report said.

The report comes days after a group of economists including former RBI governor Raghuram Rajan, pitched for doing away with farm loan waivers.

The agri distress-induced uncertainties come at a time of economic slowdown and there will be cuts to GDP growth

estimates for FY20, which currently stand at 7.5-7.8 per cent, it said.

On the upcoming elections, it said in the last two decades, there have not been visible impact on market direction because of such exercises.

The brokerage said it prefers the industrial sector to perform better than consumption, which has been a mainstay for the last few years.

With the expectation of industrials doing better, it said corporate banks will also have a better showing. It said industrials have underperformed the benchmarks by 48 per cent in the last decade, while the recent years have witnessed the sector stocks lagging despite earning recoveries.

The consumption stocks are "over-priced," it said, adding that it is underweight on the sector.

On the global developments, it said they matter less for the domestic markets as the foreign portfolio investors account only for a third of the trading volumes and have not been net buyers for the last three years now.

Business Corner

NTPC HOLDS 29TH CORPORATE COMMUNICATION MEET

Two day 29th Corporate Communication Meet of NTPC was held in Vindhyachal — the largest Power station of NTPC on December 14-15, 2018. The inaugural of the program was addressed by AN Verma, ED (HR), AK Tewary, ED



Vindhyachal and BUHs of Singrauli and Rihand Debashis Sen and AK Mukherjee. Gurdeep Singh, CMD, NTPC; S Roy, Director (HR) and AK Gupta, Director (Commercial) also addressed the Meet through video conferencing, which was a source of great encouragement for Corporate Communication professionals from NTPC projects across the country.

INDIA SIGNS HAJ 2019 AGREEMENT WITH SAUDI ARABIA

Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi, Minister for Minority Affairs, Government of India and Haj & Umrah Minister of Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, His Excellency Mohammad Saleh bin Taher Benteen signed bilateral annual Haj 2019 agreement between India and Saudi Arabia at Jeddah on Monday.

CRPF ORGANISES PASSING OUT PARADE

M Venkaiah Naidu, Vice President of India on Monday at the Passing out Parade of the 50th Batch of the Directly Appointed Gazetted Officers (DAGOs) of CRPF in the premises of the CRPF Academy, Gurugram. Naidu said CRPF personnel have always won the faith and confidence of the people wherever they have been deployed.



M Ravi Kanth, CMD released HUDCO calendar and diary of 2019 in the presence of all employees in a 'Good Governance Meet', with the hope and wishes for a better balance sheet and Navratna status in the ensuing year, wherein HUDCO enters its Golden Jubilee Year.

EV EXPO 2018 to begin from Dec 21

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

India's biggest eco-friendly Electric Vehicle Technology Expo '8th EVEXPO 2018' is set to begin from December 21 at hall No. 7, Pragati Maidan, New Delhi. The 3 day event shall showcase the latest and technologically advanced, pollution free 2, 3 & 4 wheeled e-vehicles, parts and accessories, charging solutions and technology from more than 150 national and international companies.

The Expo shall be inaugu-

rated by Nitin Gadkari, Minister, Road Transport & Highways, Shipping and Water Resources at 10:30 am on 21st December at Hall No. 7, Pragati Maidan.

Spread over an area of 1,10,000 Sq ft, EV EXPO 2018 brings to the Electric Vehicle industry the opportunity to launch and showcase, see and understand the latest in electric vehicles, components, battery technology, accessories and Services for convenient and environment friendly transportation of passengers and goods.

PM Modi inaugurates new airport complex in Prayagraj

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

A new airport complex at Bamrauli Airport in Prayagraj district of Uttar Pradesh was inaugurated on Monday by Prime Minister of India, Narendra Modi. The inauguration took place in the august presence of Ram Naik, Governor of Uttar Pradesh; Yogi Adityanath, Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh, Suresh Prabh, Union Minister of Commerce and Industry and Civil Aviation; Keshav Prasad Maurya, Deputy Chief Minister, Uttar Pradesh, Sidharth Nath Singh, Minister of Medical & Health, Government of Uttar Pradesh, Nand Gopal Gupta "Nandi", Minister of Civil Aviation, Government of Uttar Pradesh, Dr. Mahendra Nath Pandey, Member of Parliament (Lok Sabha), Shyama Charan Gupta, Member of Parliament (Lok Sabha), Nagendra Pratap Singh Patel, Member of Parliament (Lok Sabha). In his address, PM applauded the efforts made by Airports Authority of India to



complete the project of New Airport Complex in record 11 months and congratulated Shri. Suresh Prabh Minister of Civil Aviation and team of AAI.

Airports Authority of India, under the supervision of the Ministry of Civil Aviation is committed to provide air connectivity and develop and upgrade airport infrastructure across the country. Due to the proactive measures being undertaken by the government, India's already one of the fastest growing civil aviation markets in the world.

The New Airport Complex of Bamrauli Airport has been developed by the Airports

Authority of India, at a cost of ₹164 Crores. Bamrauli Airport belongs to the Indian Air Force and AAI maintains a Civil Enclave there. The previous Civil Enclave had an area of 0.8 acres with constrained operations through a small Terminal Building. There was no scope for expansion of the terminal building at the present location. Hence, a New Airport Complex with modern terminal building has been constructed. Government of Uttar Pradesh has acquired and handed over 50 acres of land to the Airports Authority of India for development of the New Airport Complex.

Jet Airways declines over 3% on reports of Kardassis' exit

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Shares of Jet Airways fell over 3 per cent after the company's former CEO Nikos Kardassis, who made a comeback to the carrier in an advisory role, has once again parted ways with it.

On the BSE, the scrip shed 3.79 per cent to settle at ₹250.10. Intra-day, it lost 4.90 per cent to ₹247.20, its lowest during the day.

On the NSE, the stocks declined 3.44 per cent to close at ₹250.95. During the trading session, it had touched a high of ₹253.90 and a low of ₹247.10. On the equity volume front, a combined of over 1.1 crore units were traded on the stock exchanges during the day.

The Greek-American aviation veteran in his third comeback to Naresh Goyal-controlled Jet Airways in May was roped in to revive the fortunes of the full-service carrier following its dismal financial performance since January this year.

The former chief executive officer parted ways with the airline after Goyal initiated discussions with his investment partner Etihad Airways for further stake sale to garner funds, said another source.



Manhar Valji Bhai Zala, the chairman of NCSK, along with Members of the Commission ie Dilip K Halhiabed, Manu Diler, Jagdish Hiremanand Gangaram Ghosre visited the Minister and presented him English and Hindi versions of the Annual Report-2017-18. The Secretary, NCSK was also present

Nissan fails to agree Ghosn replacement as tensions with Renault grow

AFP ■ TOKYO

The board of automaker Nissan failed on Monday to agree a replacement for former chairman Carlos Ghosn after his arrest for financial misconduct, as tensions grow in the firm's alliance with Renault.

The Japanese company removed Ghosn from his post last month after he was detained on allegations of under-reporting his salary. But it failed Monday to

name a replacement, with CEO Hiroto Saikawa saying a committee advising the board on the decision needed more time. "It was decided that the committee wishes to continue discussions, we accepted that," he told a press conference after the board met in Yokohama.

Media reports ahead of the meeting suggested the board was unlikely to reach a decision soon, in part because of open discord with French automaker Renault.

CENTRAL PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT
PRESS NOTICE FOR e-TENDERS

The Executive Engineer (E), SJHED, CPWD, New Delhi-110029 (Tel. No. 01126198771) invites on behalf of President of India online percentage rate tender for following works:

From Eligible firm registered in Composite category in appropriate class of CPWD

NIT No. 221/EE (E)/SJHED/2018-19 Name of Work: MOEI & Fans, Compound light, RMO Pump sets at SJH Staff quarters, Raj Nagar, New Delhi. SH: Operation of pumps at pump house at Raj Nagar. Estimated Cost: Rs. 2791908/- Earnest Money: Rs. 55838/- Period of Completion: 36 Months. Last time & date of submission of bid: 15:00PM on -31-12-2018-

NIT No. 223/EE (E)/SJHED/2018-19 Name of Work: MOEI & Fans i/c compound light in NR Bldg. at S.J. Hospital, New Delhi. SH: Providing services of computer data entry operator. Estimated Cost: Rs. 1796832/- Earnest Money: Rs. 35937/- Period of Completion: 36 Months, Last time & date of submission of bid: 15:00PM on -31-12-2018-

In two bid system i.e. PQ Application & Financial (Both)

NIT No. 222/EE(E)/SJHED/2018-19 Name of Work: MOEI & fans i/c compound light in NR Bldg. at S.J. Hospital, New Delhi. SH: Repairing of digital display board of ATSN make installed at Gynecology block. Estimated Cost: Rs. 1124969/- Earnest Money: 22499/- Period of Completion: 1 Month, Last time & date of submission of bid: 15:00PM on -31-12-2018

Tender forms and other details can be obtained from the website www.tenderwizard.com/cpwd or www.eprocure.gov.in

FESTIVAL SPECIAL TRAIN-2018

In order to clear extra rush of passengers Railways have decided to run the following Festival Special Train as per schedule given below:-

09005/09006	Mumbai Central-New Delhi-Mumbai Central (Bi-Weekly) "Super Fast AC" Special Train	08 Trips
Train No. 09005	Train No. 09006	
Arr.	Dep.	STATIONS
-	16:00	Mumbai Central
07:55	-	New Delhi
-	14:50	-

Days of Run: 09005 Ex Mumbai Central on Friday & Sunday from 21.12.2018 to 30.12.2018 and 09006 Ex New Delhi on Saturday & Monday from 22.12.2018 to 31.12.2018.

Stoppages: Vadodara and Kota Stations.

Accommodation: First AC, 2 Tier AC & 3 Tier AC.

Always Buy Train Tickets from Railway Counters/ Authorised Railway Travel Agents only

Note : For any kind of information passengers are requested to contact Railway Enquiry No. 139 or visit website www.enquiry.indianrail.gov.in

Security Helpline No. 182 and Passenger Complaint Helpline No. 138

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Serving Customers with a Smile

Vibrant Gujarat Global Trade Show 2019 from Jan 18 to 22

PNS ■ GANDHINAGAR

In what has become the highlight of the Vibrant Gujarat Global Summits held biennially, the Government of Gujarat is organising the Vibrant Gujarat Global Trade Show 2019 (VGGTS 2019), from 18-22 January 2019, at the Exhibition Ground, near Mahatma Mandir, Gandhinagar. With an area of nearly 2,00,000sq. mt, VGGTS 2019 will have the largest exhibition area housing 18 domes, showcasing nearly 25 sectors, over 2000 stalls and as many companies. The Vibrant Gujarat Global Summit was conceptualized in 2003 by Prime Minister of India and the then Chief Minister of Gujarat, Narendra Modi, to reinforce the position of Gujarat as a preferred investment destination within India.

From a modest exhibition area of 3000 sq.

mtr comprising 36 stalls in Vibrant Gujarat 2003 to an area of more than 1,25,000 sq. meters comprising over 1000 stalls in Vibrant Gujarat 2017, the Trade Show over the years has become a significant platform for companies to exhibit their products, services and showcase their success stories to delegates from across the globe.

Nearly 1.5 million visitors and approximately 3000 International Delegates from over 100 countries are expected at the Exhibition. A replica of Statue of Unity, Bullet Train simulator, Farm-to-Fabric Pavilion and Fashion Show with a focus on 'Make in India' and Khadi are some of the attractions at the Trade Show. The Fashion Show in association with Gujarat Chambers of Commerce & Industry (GCCCI) will be held at the Sabarmati Riverfront on the evening of 19th January.

CORRIGENDUM NO. 1

Sr. No.	Name of Department	Name of work with NIT No.	Opening date & closing date	Amount (Approx)	Website of Department	Nodal Officer / Contract Detail e-mail
1	DHBVN	Maintenance of non residential building at 33 KV S/31m Salidon for the year 2018-19 under SDO/Op City Salidon (Lund) NIT No. 98/XENC/11/ HSR/ 2018-19 dated 15.11.2018	15-11-2018 at 15:00 Hours & 20-12-2018 at 13:00 Hours	Rs. 1079927/-	www.dhbvn.org.in	Sh. Mohinder Pal Kurnar XENCivil_Hisar M.No. 9813022833 xencivilhisar@gmail.com

For further information kindly visit www.haryanaeprocurement.gov.in or www.etenders.hry.nic.in

RO NO. 74194 Dt. 17-12-2018

Sd/-
Executive Engineer,
C/W DHBVN, Hisar

ONGC, OIL spend ₹13,000 cr on 115 discoveries Govt took away from them: Pradhan

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

State-owned Oil and Natural Gas Corp (ONGC) and Oil India Ltd (OIL) spent over ₹13,000 crore on 115 oil and gas discoveries which were taken away from them by the Government for auctioning to private companies, Oil Minister Dharmendra Pradhan said on Monday.

The present BJP-led NDA government took away so-called idle small and marginal discoveries of ONGC and OIL and auctioned them to private firms under Discovered Small Field (DSF) bid rounds.

Under DSF bid round-1, 67 discoveries, mostly of ONGC, were auctioned, while in the second round, bids for which are due next month, another 48 finds are being auctioned, he said in a written reply to a question in the Lok Sabha.

"As informed by ONGC, an amount of ₹12,826 crore has been spent by ONGC on the discoveries/fields identified in the first and second round of Discovered Small Field Policy. An amount of ₹224.27 crore has been spent by OIL in this

regard," he said.

ONGC and OIL are not compensated for the amount they had spent on discoveries of these oil and gas reserves. Unlike State-owned firms, the private players are allowed pricing and marketing freedom to make these discoveries viable. ONGC and OIL have stated that they could not produce from the discoveries as they are uneconomically at current cap prices.

"With a view to increasing domestic production of oil and gas, the Government in May 2016 launched Discovered Small Field Bid Round-I under which 67 discoveries of ONGC and OIL, which had not been put into production, were offered for auction through international competitive bidding," Pradhan said. "The policy has now been extended to its second round to include 48 un-monetised discoveries of ONGC and OIL under DSF Bid Round-II."

Under DSF-I, 47 companies participated in the bidding process, he said. ONGC and OIL were also allowed to participate in the auction to get back their own discoveries.

NHAI projects may fall short by 33-37% of FY19 target: Report

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Despite the pace of highways projects undertaken by state-run National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) picking up in the last three years, it is likely to remain short by 33-37 per cent of its FY19 target of completing 6,000 km, says Ica.

With a strong unexecuted pipeline and concerted efforts on right of way, the NHAI is on a strong footing and is set to witness sustained growth in execution in FY2019, the highest ever over the last one decade (FY2010- FY2019), the agency said in a statement issued on Monday.

As on March 31, 2018, NHAI has around 15,000 km of portion, which included projects awarded over the last five years, under completion. However, pending appointed date (AD) for the hybrid annuity model (HAM) projects should not be seen as a concern when financial closure has already been achieved, the report said.



WorkplaceBlues

According to a study, workplace uncivilities can not only affect an employee's sleep but also their partner's. When a person experiences rude, discourteous, impolite colleagues at the workplace, they tend to ruminate more about work at home. They also face trouble falling asleep or may wake up in the middle of the night

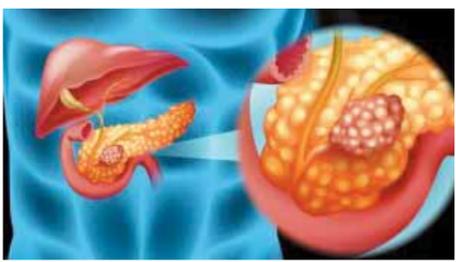


DOCYARD

DR VINEET TALWAR

Co- Director, medical oncology

RAJIV GANDHI CANCER INSTITUTE & RESEARCH CENTRE, DELHI



Cure with a healthy lifestyle

More than 1,300 patients die every day in India due to cancer. More than 70 per cent of these cancers are diagnosed in the population of age groups between 30 to 70 years. Two new cancer cases are detected every two minutes at some part of India. Pancreatic cancer is a disease of elderly, usual age of diagnosis of majority of cases is around 60 years. The incidence of pancreatic cancer in India is 0.5 to 2.4 per 1 lakh men and 0.2-1.8 per 1 lakh women. Lots of research is going on and revolutionary drugs were discovered every day across the globe. But slight change was seen in survival rates of pancreatic cancer over time since 1970.

DIAGNOSIS

Majority of pancreatic cancer cases are diagnosed in very advanced stage because patients don't tend to show any symptom specific to disease until much later, by the time of which the disease has already spread to other organs in the body.

There aren't any noticeable signs or symptoms in the early stages of pancreatic cancer. Patients usually seek medical attention in advanced stage with some nonspecific symptoms like jaundice, light-coloured stools, dark urine, pain in the upper or middle abdomen and back, weight loss for no known reason, loss of appetite and feeling very tired. The diagnosis of pancreatic cancer requires CT scan, MRI, tumour markers, endoscopy and biopsy which are done at physician's discretion after detailed clinical examination.

Pancreatic cancer often causes weight loss and weakness from poor nutrition. These symptoms might be caused by treatment or by the cancer itself. Diet plan with nutritional supplements, as prescribed by doctor, is a must

TREATMENT

If the cancer is at an early stage, which is confined within the pancreas and has not spread to the lymph nodes or other areas of the body, then surgery is the treatment of choice. Chemotherapy is a treatment of cancer by using anti-cancer medicines which kill cancer cells or stop them from multiplying. When chemotherapy is used in addition to surgery, it is known as adjuvant chemotherapy. This aims to kill any cancer cells which may have spread away from the primary tumour. However, in advanced stage, surgery will not be possible

and chemotherapy with the intent of symptom relief and maintaining quality of life is the only option.

SYMPTOMS

Pancreatic cancer often causes weight loss and weakness from poor nutrition. These symptoms might be caused by treatment or by the cancer itself. So meticulous diet plan with nutritional supplements, as prescribed by doctor, is a must. Exercising, stopping smoking might lower the risk of the cancer growing or coming back, but not proven. Support from friends and family, religious groups, support groups, professional counsellors may be required at some part of the treatment and follow up to cope up with the stress of the patient.

There has been an increase in awareness and better medical facilities, but still there is a wide gap between survival rates for cancer patients between India and most countries. One plausible reason is that cancer in India is diagnosed in later stages resulting in the treatment being complex and the probability of beating cancer at the root level also goes down. This could be due to lack of awareness, sufficient information and socio-economic factors. Genetic constitution of an individual can't be altered. What can be altered, improved upon is health education. A healthy lifestyle includes active physical activity, keeping body weight in control. Eating more of natural foods, not indulging in smoking, alcohol and drugs are some modifiable risk factors.

WARMFOODS

HAZELNUTS: Hazelnuts make a tasty snack and are a great addition to many dishes. When a person includes them in a balanced, calorie-controlled diet, the nuts also provide several health benefits.

Eating plenty of dietary fiber encourages regular bowel movements and helps prevent constipation. Hazelnuts are rich in antioxidants, which are compounds that protect against the oxidation of cells. They reduce the extent of cell damage from free radicals. Hazelnuts contain the antioxidant Vitamin E. Some research suggests that vitamin E may help shield the body from types of cell damage linked to cancer. Hazelnuts may help to promote a healthy heart. Eating hazelnuts may help to ease inflammation. Because of high levels of vitamin E, manganese, thiamine, folate, and fatty acids, a diet supplemented with hazelnuts can help keep your brain sharp and working at its best, making hazelnuts excellent brain foods. Unless a person has an allergy, there are few risks to adding hazelnuts to the diet. They are versatile and make an easy snack.



JOINING THE DOTS

Winter is tough on Arthritis but a combination of medication and physical therapy helps to alleviate pain and stiffness. PIONEER HEALTH reports

ARTHRITIS

Arthritis, osteoarthritis & joint pains are a result of inflammation. This results in wear and tear of the cartilage leading to more pain. The number of knee replacements that took place in the country in 2017 stood at around 1.5 lakh, up from about 80,000 in 2007. If the

number of hip, back and shoulder joint operations is added to this figure, the total number of joint surgeries would be staggering. The number of elderly, who live with joint pain, for whatever reason, is several times of the number of people who opt for surgery, to say the least.

— Dr Prabhu Mishra, co-founder & CEO, StemGenn Therapeutics

SYMPTOMS

Some general symptoms of Arthritis include pain, tenderness and stiffness around joints, reduced movement and function, inflammation, redness, and weakness in the muscles. While there are over 100 different types of arthritis, each with various causes and treatment methods, osteoarthritis and rheumatoid arthritis are the most common.

— Dr M Udaya Kumar Maiya, medical director, Portea Medical

CAUSES

The firm but flexible connective tissue called cartilage in the joints protects the latter by absorbing the pressure and shock created during any movement. Arthritis is caused when there is a reduction in the normal amount of this cartilage tissue.

The causes of this condition can range from age-related wear and tear to chronic

infection, severe injury or lack of nutrients. While arthritis most commonly develops in adults over the age of 65, it can also occur in children, teens, and younger adults.

Studies indicate that women are more prone to developing this than men because they have a high erythrocyte sedimentation rate (52.07 per cent) and Rheumatoid Factor (13.08 per cent).

— Dr Maiya

CARE TIPS

The best way forward is to combine medication and physical therapy. Some tips to alleviate pain & stiffness, and manage symptoms are as follows:

- Applying heating pads and ice packs can provide some temporary relief from the pain.
- Some people are also advised to use mobility assistance devices such as canes or walkers, which can help in taking pressure off the sore joints.
- Try simple physical activity such as brisk walking, aerobics, cycling, and swimming.
- Opt for methods that require you to avoid taking painkillers. For those with acute arthritis, cold or hot fomentation can help.
- Aim at losing excess weight



as this will take away the pressure from the joints. A healthy weight will also reduce some of the existing symptoms.

■ Consume a diet rich in antioxidants, such as fresh fruits, vegetables, and herbs, to reduce inflammation. Avoid fried and processed items, dairy products, and high intake of meat as far as possible.

— Dr Maiya

TYPES OF ARTHRITIS

OSTEO-ARTHRITIS

Also called degenerative joint disease or degenerative arthritis, osteoarthritis (OA) can affect any joint, but most often the ones in the knees, hips, lower back and neck, small joints of the fingers and the bases of the thumb and big toe. In this condition, there is a breakdown of cartilage which leads to pain, swelling and problems in moving the joint.

In the absence of timely treatment, the condition can become worse, causing bone or cartilage to chip off and float around in the joint. OA is more common in people older than 65.

However, some other risk factors include excess weight, an injury, overuse

of the joint, weak muscles, and family history of the condition.

RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS

Rheumatoid arthritis (RA) is an autoimmune disease in which the body's immune system attacks the joints creating inflammation that causes the tissue lining the inside of these joints to thicken. Over time, this leads to swelling and pain in and around the joints.

If not detected in a timely manner, the condition can cause damage to the cartilage and the bones leading to joint deformity. RA mostly affects joints of the hands, feet, wrists, elbows, knees, and ankles. It is also called a systemic disease because it affects the cardiovascular or respiratory systems as well.

— Dr Maiya

STEM CELL THERAPY VS SURGERY

Surgery is a procedure whereby the damaged bone and cartilage is cut and an artificial joint is inserted made of metal alloys, plastic and polymers, new-age tested therapies like platelet-rich plasma (PRP). Stem-cells are using patient's stem cells to repair, stimulate regenerative properties and reduce inflammation of damaged tissue in case of injury, disease or any other health-related conditions.

Instead of replacement, patients can opt for regeneration which uses the healthy cells of the body to heal injuries and cure backache, Arthritis and hip pain. When the body has a limited reserve, it tends to lose its ability to regenerate healthy cells limit recovery.

Under stem cell therapy, a few cells from the body are taken and then cultivated to be later re-injected into the body in a higher volume to replenish and boost body's reserve. By helping the body to repair and regenerate cells and reduce



inflammation, the ability to recover from various inflammatory conditions goes up considerably.

This also takes care of the problems associated with surgery. Some are prone to vein thrombosis or blood clots after surgery. But stem cell therapy uses patient's resources and no new object or material is inserted, the chances of reaction are done away with.

For people who have knee Arthritis, the most invasive treatment is total knee replacement. Doctors are also testing other injectable therapies, including PRP, hyaluronic acid and steroids.

There is a long recuperation period in case of joint surgery which is also

associated with unbearable pain. There is a complete rehabilitation process. In stem cell therapy, there is no such requirement and the diet is fairly simple.

Consumers who decide to try stem cell treatments for achy knees should research their doctor and the specifics on the stem cell treatment. It's crucial to ask the clinic where the stem cells come from and if they will retrieve them from your own bone marrow or fat tissue, or if they will come from donors. Donor cells and tissues to be tested for communicable diseases. There is no consensus on which source is best, but most doctors use stem cells from fat or PRP.

DadiKaKehna

We all want pearly white teeth for that picture perfect smile. ROSHANI DEVI shares simple and easy to follow home remedies that will not only keep them strong but also disease-free



All of us want to get rid of yellow teeth for that perfect smile. One can go to a dentist but that can prove to be costly. When we were children, my mother would ask us to use a few home ingredients that were readily available.

Most homes have baking soda and yes, it can be used for almost anything — from cleaning toilets to getting rid of that stain in your favourite dress or shirt to even whitening the teeth.

Take two-four teaspoons of baking soda and add lemon juice to make a paste. Depending on the amount of baking soda, the added liquid will differ. Apply

a liberal amount onto the toothbrush and brush teeth for two minutes. Repeat the process a few times a week or until the desired results are achieved.

Believe it or not rinsing the mouth with coconut oil for whitening is ageold. Prior to brushing your teeth, use a spoon to scoop an appropriate amount of coconut oil up. Take one-and-a-half tablespoon of coconut oil and put it into your mouth. Like the mouthwash, swish the liquid around for 10-15 minutes. Spit out the oil and then brush teeth. Repeat as necessary.



TIPTOP

Indraprastha Apollo Hospitals hosted the three-day conference on 20th annual meeting of the Asia-Pacific Association of Pediatric Urologists (APAPU) which is being held in India for the first time. The conference, organised by Apollo Institute of Pediatric Science saw participation of more than 320 delegates from 20 countries. The event had deliberations and presentations on new developments in the field of pediatric urology, where the delegates presented case studies and medical papers to discuss new treatments. Over 100 cases with their long term follow-up were also examined by the specialists in a separate session.

Dr Sujit Chowdhary, Consultant Pediatric Urologist, Director- Pediatric Sciences, Indraprastha Apollo Hospitals and Organising Chairman, APAPU said: "It is heartening to see such an enthusiastic participation from medical professionals from all across the globe.



Dr Prathap Reddy and Dr Sujit Chowdhary inaugurates the 20th Annual Meeting of APAPU

We have made all the efforts to benefit new entrants as well as practicing Pediatric Urologists, Pediatric Surgeons, Urologists and Pediatricians. During the course of the conference intense educational exercises have been offered, covering both the practical and theoretical aspects of pediatric urology. Once again, we have come forward to play a pioneering role in promoting the latest techniques in paediatric treatment."

SLIMLINE

Maulana Azad Institute of Dental Sciences, Delhi, recently organised Dental Health Utsav — 'Delhi Smiles 2018' in its campus, with an aim to create a much-needed awareness for dental healthcare. The Utsav deliberates on various issues related to oral health. The five-day long Utsav comprised free dental checkup, dental health awareness through novel exhibits and lectures. The theme of this year's event is 'Healthy Mouth, Healthy Body' mainly displayed with innovative exhibits and demonstrations is open for public display. The event was inaugurated by speaker, Delhi Vidhan Sabha Ram Niwas Goel and Health Minister of GNCT of Delhi, Satyendar Jain, secretary, Department of Health and Family Welfare, GNCT of Delhi, Sanjeev Khirwar and other eminent personalities.



BREATHE EASY

VINAY PATHAK shares tips on how to pick the right anti-pollution mask to beat the winter smog



Every year, as the winter approach, Northern India grapples with alarming dip in the air quality. Primary sources of pollutants include exhaust emission from Delhi NCRs millions of motor vehicles, crop burning in neighbouring regions and local construction dust. These particles or particulate matter, is what turns clean air into smog.

Particles in the air can reduce visibility and contribute to acid rain, which can damage vegetation. The particles can also discolor buildings, but the primary concern with particulate matter is what it can do to the human body. With air quality taking a serious dip and the increase in PM2.5 particles in the ambient air, it is important to understand the effectiveness of the masks you are wearing when it comes to filtering out particles as tiny as 1/4th of a hair strand.

There are several ways to help reduce exposure to air pollution, and it is essential to follow the advice of your local health authority or a national health agency. In general, the best way to protect yourself from air pollution is to try to avoid exposure, such as by staying indoors in clean air during periods of poor outdoor air quality. However, for officegoers, staying indoors is not an option and the daily commute to work is when the exposure to particulate matter is the highest.

Consumers have a variety of anti-pollution respirators in the market today and some of them maybe worse than helpful if people are falsely reassured and spend more time outside using a mask which doesn't work.

One basic precaution is to use respiratory protection to help reduce exposure to the particulate matter in air pollution, although no respirator eliminates exposure completely. To help reduce exposure to airborne particulate matter, it is very important to select an approved respirator and to follow the fitting instructions and user instructions carefully. Some of the factors that you need to check before you select your respirator are:

- Opt for a National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) approved N95 or EN approved Filtering Facepiece (FFP) 3 respirators for 95 per cent and above filtration of PM 2.5 particulate matter.
- A respirator marked FFP1 and FFP2 have a filtering efficiency of 80 per cent and 94 per cent respectively and can be used when the air quality is not severe or very poor.
- Loose-fitting masks (like gauze or surgical or comfort masks) are not considered respirators and do not provide much benefit in reducing exposure to airborne particles, because of the gaps that are present due to the loose fit
- Look out for the TC number on your respirator to find a genuine N95 respirator. Every authentic N95 (NIOSH approved) respirator will have a TC number which, when entered on the NIOSH website, will show you the certificate issued for that product.
- This respirator may be stored and re-used provided it is still in good working condition. If this respirator becomes damaged, soiled, or breathing becomes difficult, replace the respirator.
- If you wear spectacles, opt for a respirator with a valve and which is designed to prevent fogging.

Taking the right precautions during hours of exposure is the first step towards protecting yourself from the pollutants. Ensure that when you are choosing the respirator for yourself, you check for the genuine certificates and markings and the respirator that you use should fit snugly on the face without leaving any gaps.

The writer is an expert at 3M India



STUDYCENTRE

Statistics indicate that India can avert about 71% of an estimated 6 lakh neonatal deaths each year if all mothers deliver at a healthcare facility, have access to caesarean section services, safe blood and if special care for sick newborns are available. Neonatal deaths take place within the first 28 days of life and account for 62% of all under-5 deaths in India.

An estimated 5 million women still deliver at home each year without any skilled birth attendance, with half the births taking place in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar alone. Globally, 2.9 million lives of mothers and children can be saved by 2030 by providing pre-conception care during pregnancy, labour and delivery, care of the healthy newborn and help for sick newborns. The following points are a must to remember after childbirth.

- Wash hands with soap or use a hand sanitizer before touching the baby.
- Be careful to support the baby's head and neck.
- Breastfeed within an hour of birth.
- Ensure that the baby is exclusively breastfed for the first 6 months.
- Child should be fed on demand or at least 8 times in 24 hours.
- Avoid feeding honey, water or things other than breast milk.
- Give the baby a sponge bath until the umbilical cord falls off and the navel heals completely (1-4 weeks).

— Courtesy Heart Care Foundation of India

Theresa rebuffs growing calls for 2nd Brexit vote

AFP ■ LONDON

Prime Minister Theresa May will on Monday warn MPs against supporting a second Brexit referendum, as calls mount for a public vote to break the political impasse over the deal she has struck with the EU.

"Let us not break faith with the British people by trying to stage another referendum," she will tell parliament, according to extracts from her speech released by Downing Street.

"Another vote... Would do irreparable damage to the integrity of our politics," May will say, adding that a second vote "would likely leave us no further forward".

Britain voted to leave the European Union in a shock referendum in 2016 and is set to leave on March 29 next year, although the prime minister is struggling to persuade parliament to accept a divorce agreement she struck last month.

May has said she is engaged in talks with the EU to seek "assurances" about the Brexit deal, but European Commission spokesman Margaritis Schinas on Monday said "no further meetings with the United Kingdom are foreseen".

The draft deal was agreed only after tortuous talks in Brussels that began in March last year and EU leaders have ruled out any renegotiation, while the British economy has been languishing due to uncertainty over Brexit.

May last week survived a confidence vote initiated by members of her own Conservative Party because of her Brexit strategy, but she is badly weakened after a third of her parliamentary party voted to be rid of her.

In the face of calls for a second referendum to resolve the impasse, she has argued that this would betray the 2016 result and undermine public confidence in politics.

The issue provoked an extraordinary public clash on Sunday between May and former prime minister Tony Blair, a leading supporter of continued EU membership and holding another poll.

May accused Blair of insulting voters and trying to undermine her government by meeting officials in Brussels. Blair, who was premier between 1997 and 2007, in turn accused the Conservative leader of being "irresponsible".

But campaigners for a referendum said May's comments on Monday showed that the idea was being taken seriously. "A new public vote would be different from the referendum in 2016 because we now know more about what Brexit means," said Margaret Beckett, an MP from the main opposition Labour Party and "People's Vote" supporter.

"Any effort to force Brexit over the line without checking that it has the continued consent of the British people will only reinforce divisions," she said.

May has delayed a crucial vote by MPs on the draft Brexit deal until next month, leaving the political scene in limbo. There, its politicians and its people have forgotten what they've reached together," Rutte said.

"Now they are caught up in chaos," he said. Rutte was the first stop on British Prime Minister Theresa May's unsuccessful tour to seek assurances for a Brexit deal from EU leaders last week.

The Dutch premier was one of several leaders defending her afterwards at a summit in Brussels -- or at least in comments he made in English. In Dutch, however he warned at the summit against any move to take the Netherlands out of the EU, saying "If anyone in the Netherlands thinks Next is a good idea, look at England and see the enormous damage it does."

The Netherlands has been anxiously watching developments in Britain, a key trading partner and one-time ally on many European matters, as it prepares to leave the EU on March 29, 2019.



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Rutte himself originally invited May's predecessor David Cameron to Amsterdam give the fateful speech leading to the 2016 referendum that led to Brexit, although it ended up being postponed and shifted to London. Observers say Monday's advert is the start of Rutte's campaign for his Liberal VVD party in the run-up to European parliament and Dutch provincial elections next year.

Known for his upbeat character and his man-of-the-people habit of riding his bicycle to work, Rutte "wants to beat his opponents with positivity and optimism," the NOS public broadcaster said.

Rutte also warned about those creating division in the Netherlands -- compared them to "screaming football dads on sidelines". He referred to recent demonstrations for and against Black Pete, or "Zwarte Piet", a blackface Christmas-time character accused of being a racist stereotype.

"People were so busy shouting for and against Zwarte Piet that they forgot about the children," for whom Rutte said the early December festival is organised.

Dutch PM warns against copying Brexit 'chaos'

AFP ■ THE HAGUE

Dutch Prime Minister Mark Rutte warned the Netherlands on Monday against emulating the "chaos" and division of Britain's decision to leave the European Union.

"I compare the Netherlands to a fragile vase, held by its 17 million citizens," Rutte said in a full-page advert, printed in the popular daily tabloid Algemeen Dagblad.

In order to preserve this 'vase,' compromises often have to be made in which difficult problems are solved in a sensible way, he said.

But Rutte, who has been Dutch premier since 2010 and currently leads a shaky coalition government, said there are examples in society "where the vase has been dropped."

"Look at Great Britain. There, its politicians and its people have forgotten what they've reached together," Rutte said.

"Now they are caught up in chaos," he said. Rutte was the first stop on British Prime Minister Theresa May's unsuccessful tour to seek assurances for a Brexit deal from EU leaders last week.

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Lankan PM to register new pact to contest future polls

Colombo ■ SRI LANKAN PRIME MINISTER RANIL WICKREMESINGHE, who was recently reinstated as the premier by President Maithripala Sirisena, said Monday he would register a new political alliance 'National Democratic Front' (NDF) to contest future elections.

Addressing his first rally of United National Party (UNP) supporters after his re-appointment, Wickremesinghe said that Parliament can vote with two-thirds to hold elections.

"We are currently working on forming the National Democratic Front (NDF) to face the next election," he said.

"We are ready to hold elections constitutionally," Wickremesinghe said. Wickremesinghe said abolishing the executive Presidency and bringing about a political solution will be part of the agenda of his new Govt. PTI

Pushing the Government to the brink of a partial shutdown, the White House is insisting that Congress provide \$5 billion to build a wall along the U.S.-Mexico border despite lawmaker resistance from both parties. Without a resolution, parts of the federal government will shut down at midnight Friday, President Donald Trump kept up the pressure on Democrats Monday, tweeting: "Time for us to save billions of dollars a year and have, at the same time, far greater safety and control!"

On Sunday, White House senior adviser Stephen Miller said: "We're going to do whatever is necessary to build the border wall to stop this ongoing crisis of illegal immigration." Asked if that meant having a government shutdown, he said: "If it comes to it, absolutely."

Trump said last week he would be "proud" to have a shutdown to get Congress to approve a \$5 billion down payment to fulfill his campaign promise to build a border wall. But the president doesn't have the votes from the Republican-controlled Congress to support funding for the wall at that level.

Both major political parties in Congress have suggested that Trump would likely need to make the next move to resolve the impasse. The House is taking an extended weekend break, returning Wednesday night. The Senate returns Monday after a three-day absence. The Democratic congressional leaders, Sen. Chuck Schumer and Rep. Nancy Pelosi, have proposed no more than \$1.6 billion, as outlined in a bipartisan Senate bill.

Thomas, who has not spoken to the new member of the British royal family since she got married to Prince Harry in a grand ceremony at Windsor Castle in May this year, said he had been texting his daughter every day and writing letters to her but she has been 'ghosting' him -- a term used when someone ends all communication with another person.

"I'm not sure why it's happening. I have been trying to reach out for several weeks, every day I try to text her, but haven't received anything back," the 74-year-old retired Hollywood lighting director told ITV's "Good Morning Britain" in an interview from his home in San Diego in the US.

"I love you very much, you're my daughter and I would really like to hear from you. Whatever differences we have, we should be able to work them out," he said, making a direct plea.

Thomas dismissed accusations that the 37-year-old former actress was "rude" in reference to media reports of a feud between her and sister-in-law Kate Middleton, but admitted that she could be a controlling person.

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White House closer to partial shutdown with wall demand

AP ■ WASHINGTON

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Meghan Markle's father pleads with her to stop 'ghosting' him

PTI ■ LONDON

Duchess of Sussex Meghan Markle's estranged father Thomas on Monday pleaded with his daughter to stop "ghosting" him and get in touch with him over Christmas.

Thomas, who has not spoken to the new member of the British royal family since she got married to Prince Harry in a grand ceremony at Windsor Castle in May this year, said he had been texting his daughter every day and writing letters to her but she has been 'ghosting' him -- a term used when someone ends all communication with another person.

"I'm not sure why it's happening. I have been trying to reach out for several weeks, every day I try to text her, but haven't received anything back," the 74-year-old retired Hollywood lighting director told ITV's "Good Morning Britain" in an interview from his home in San Diego in the US.

"I love you very much, you're my daughter and I would really like to hear from you. Whatever differences we have, we should be able to work them out," he said, making a direct plea.

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US conducts 6 airstrikes against Somalia extremists, 62 dead

AP ■ JOHANNESBURG

The US military says it has carried out six airstrikes in the Gandarsho area of Somalia which killed a total of 62 al-Shabab extremists.

In a statement issued Monday, the US military's Africa Command said it carried out four strikes on December 15 in which 34 people were killed and two more on December 16 which killed 28.

All the air attacks were in the Gandarsho coastal area south of the capital, Mogadishu, it said.

No civilians were injured or killed in the attacks, it said.

All six strikes were carried out in close coordination with Somalia's government, it said.

The airstrikes were "conducted to prevent al-Shabab from using remote areas as a safe haven to plot, direct, inspire, and recruit for future attacks," it said.

Al-Shabab uses parts of southern and central Somalia to plot and direct extremist attacks, steal humanitarian aid, extort the local populace to fund its operations, and shelter radicals, said the statement.

With these attacks, the U.S. Military has carried out at least 46 airstrikes so far this year against al-Shabab, which is allied to al-Qaida and Africa's most active Islamic extremist group. Al Shabab controls parts of rural southern and central Somalia and continues to stage deadly attacks in Mogadishu and other cities.

The Urban Management Bureau of Langfang in north China's Hebei province issued a notice on Sunday that bans Christmas trees on streets, the Chinese state media reported.

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Chinese city bans Christmas sales

IAN ■ BEIJING

A city in northern China has banned Christmas sales and decorations to keep the city clean for an upcoming award function.

The authorities in Langfang, however, clarified the move is not targeted at Christmas.

An officially atheist country, China dissuades its people from celebrating Christmas, calling it a Western religious culture which has a wrong influence on its youth.

Christianity is one of the five recognised religions in China.

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Fraud claims as Kremlin candidate wins vote re-run

AFP ■ MOSCOW

Kremlin -- took 61.88 per cent of the vote, final results showed. His closest rival, Andrei Andreichenko of the nationalist LDPR party, took 25 per cent.

It was the first time in modern Russia an election was re-run after protests over vote-rigging allegations.

A popular opposition candidate, the Communist Party's Andrei Ishchenko, who had accused a ruling party representative endorsed by Putin of "stealing" his victory in the initial election, was not allowed to stand on Sunday.

Authorities said he did not receive the required number of signatures from local lawmakers.

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Leaked video shows Pak Min vowing to 'protect' Hafiz Saeed and his party

PTI ■ LAHORE

Exposing Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan's seriousness on combating terrorism, his junior interior minister has vowed to "protect" Mumbai attack mastermind Hafiz Saeed and his party in a leaked video.

The leaked video showed Minister of State for Interior Shehryar Afridi talking to the Milli Muslim League (MML) leaders and when his attention was drawn towards non-registration of Saeed's party by the Election Commission (ECP) as

a political party due to the US pressure and the ECP's plan to declare it a terrorist organisation, the minister said: "We will not let this happen."

"As long as we (the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf) are in the government all those including Hafiz Saeed who are raising voice for Pakistan and righteousness, we are with them," Afridi said, adding "this is our belief."

"I request you to come to the National Assembly and see whether we are supporting those who on the right path or not," he told them.

Latest US audit turned especially hostile, with nations blasting a raft of tariffs and other measures implemented by President Donald Trump's administration.

Speaking first after a US presentation, Chinese Ambassador Zhang Xiangchen said the US was not honouring its obligations as the world's largest economy.

Major economic powers took aim at the United States on Monday at a World Trade Organisation forum, where Washington was accused of abandoning its leadership role for the sake of self-interest.

Every WTO member faces a trade policy review, but the

Police to charge Strasbourg gunman's 'accomplice'

Paris: French anti-terrorist officials said on Monday they would shortly file charges against a man arrested in connection with the mass shooting in Strasbourg last week. AFP

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT DELHI NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER

The Executive Engineer, PWD, West Road-1, R.R.Lines, Ring Road, Near Metro Pillar No. 63, New Delhi-110010 invites, on behalf of President of India, Online Percentage/Item Rate tender on two bid system for following works:
NIT No. 63/EE/PWD WR-1/2018-19 Tender ID No. 2018_PWD_63566_1, Name of Work : A/R & M/O Various Roads under PWD Sub Division WR-14, Division WR-1, New Delhi dg. 2018-19. (SH:- Providing and fixing M.S. fencing in front of G.S.S.S. Baprola.) Estimated Cost: Rs 20,90,171/- Earnest Money: Rs. 41,803/- Time of Completion: 02 (Two) Months. The last date to fill/upload the tender through e-tendering is 24.12.2018 upto 03.00 P.M.

NIT No. 64/EE/PWD WR-1/2018-19 Tender ID No. 2018_PWD_163569_1, Name of Work : A/R & M/O Various Roads under Sub Division WR-13, Division WR-1, New Delhi dg. 2018-19. (SH:- Repair and maintenance of foot over Bridge Janakpuri.) Estimated Cost : Rs. 17,79,480/- Earnest Money : Rs. 35,590/- Time of Completion : 02 (Two) Months. The last date to fill/upload the tender through e-tendering is 24.12.2018 upto 03.00 P.M.

NIT No. 65/EE/PWD WR-1/2018

Trend Slazer

'Winning awards motivates me'

Actress **RADHIKA MADAN**, who has bagged the Most Promising Newcomer award, says she feels motivated to work harder to entertain people through her work. Radhika won the trophy at Star Screen Awards for her debut act in Vishal Bhardwaj's *Pataakha*.

"I didn't expect it. It just happened. It motivates me to work even harder to entertain more and more people, and give my 200 per cent. I gave my heart and soul to *Pataakha*, Radhika said. "It didn't do commercially well, but to be acknowledged for that... it speaks a lot," added the actress.



'The fact that the American musician Beyonce performed at Isha (Ambani's) pre-wedding celebration, Yeh koi choti baat nahin hai (It's not a minor thing). I don't think anyone but Mukesh and Nita Ambani could manage this. For me, they are like a part of my family. I don't look at them as a separate family.'



—Lata Mangeshkar

Actress **YAMI GAUTAM** has been named the goodwill leader of Super Sniffers campaign initiated by TRAFFIC India along with World Wildlife Fund India (WWF). As part of the campaign, a band of specially-trained dogs, who with their handlers and the forest department, will combat wildlife crime by helping collect concrete evidence against wildlife poachers and smugglers.

"Wildlife poaching is a serious issue. A more organised way and tactics are needed. That's exactly what Super Sniffers programme does by training these amazing dogs who are trained to expose such activities with training that's given to them," Yami said.



Before opening the final chapter, *Game of Thrones* makers will be treating fans with a reunion episode. But actor **JASON MOMOA** says he won't be a part of the special episode. HBO channel confirmed the news of the special episode, but it won't air on the network. It will only be available as part of the complete series home video box set, which will package all eight seasons together.

No GOT reunion for Jason Momoa

Asked if he will make an appearance in the reunion episode, Momoa said, "I don't think so." The final season will arrive in April next year.

At the moment, Momoa is riding high on success of his superhero film *Aquaman*.



BE NICE TO YOUR DOG

From day-boarding to grooming salons, behavioural consultancy clinics to shifting towards more organic products, Indians are treating their pets just like their kids and creating an all-inclusive space for them, says TEAM VIVA

Play and day-boarding schools, creches and cognitive therapies are not just for kids anymore. Your pet has every right to evolve as such, considering that they have an equal claim on your companionship. If Petfed, the largest pet festival in India, was anything to go by, then pet care and management in our city has become a discipline in itself with allied developments in grooming, fashion, diet and personalty development.

Festival organiser Akshay Gupta decided to host the festival with the objective of getting all pet owners together and address shared concerns on a common platform. "Except for community parks, there is hardly a space where dogs and their owners are allowed any activity. There is an event for everything including art, music, food and theatre but there's nothing for pets who people our homes in quite a number," said Akshay.

He listed some of the elements which were a new addition to this edition. For instance, there was a para-military sports section, where professional dog trainers imparted skill techniques to both the canines and their proud owners with slides and obstacle courses. "Dog's got talent" had the furry friends surprise visitors with their unique abilities. According to a US organisation committed to saving pets, 2019 will be the year of plugged-in pets, alternative pet therapies and pets who eat more like their owners.

COGNITIVE THERAPIES

One of the stall owners from Pawwsome Wellness, that aims to work on cognitive therapies for dogs, anger and aggression issues, biting and misbehaving, depression and anxiety, said that his trainers work on behavioural problems in dogs through mind games and activities. "Just like humans need attention when they are dealing with some personal issues, dogs do too, perhaps more than us. They need as much attention and love as a kindergarten kid. We have worked out play routines whereby the dog gets



rewarded with his favourite food on completing the feat assigned to him," said Nandita Sikka, ceo of the company. Though there has been talk of dog depression, how does one identify aberrant behaviour? Said she, "Earlier, there were very less conversations around the issue. But today, people do notice the changing tendencies in their pets and find ways to improve them by either spending more time with them or taking some medical care."

It is very important to spot age-related cognitive decline that affects your dog's behaviour. For example, your dog might take longer to learn new things, or his short-term memory might suffer. Experts suggest to look out for symptoms like a change in personality, such as becoming grouchy or aggressive or perhaps an increased need for attention. Also look for forgetful behaviour and rule-breaking habits. Some ways to engage their minds would be to start a new training programme, rotate his toys, provide puzzles for him to play with or play games such as hide-and-seek.

A study of the US market showed that of respondents who use health-related

'TODAY, OWNERS SHARE THE SAME KIND OF FOOD WITH THEIR FURRY FRIENDS, OF COURSE, WITH MANDATORY TWEAKS TO SUIT THEIR BIO-RHYTHMS. PACKAGED FOOD IS OUT, HOME-COOKED IS IN'

pet tech, nutrition apps (47 per cent), veterinary telemedicine (46 per cent) and fitness trackers (31 per cent) top the list of tools they use to improve, maintain and keep track of their pets' health. Forty per cent are interested in getting pet-monitoring cameras.

YOUR PET NEEDS SPACE TOO

Topdog, a luxury resort for dogs, is into creating spaces for dogs in the manner that you do up your child's room. "We have luxury rooms, activities cen-



tre and entertainment arena. We also provide veterinarian clinics, behaviour consultancy and medical help for dogs. People bring their pets when they are on vacations just like a child's boot camp. Some of them bring their pets for day care while they at their respective workplaces. There are also a third kind of people who bring their pets for training and skill upgradation," said Vikram Sharma, co-founder of the company.

BRING A STRAY HOME

Adoption of stray dogs is redefining the contours of the pet market. Akshay highlighted how the trend was picking up in Mumbai specifically. "Mumbaikars now understand that no matter what the breed, every dog is as good if you train it and keep it well. I have encouraged interaction between stray dogs and prospective owners at this festival, just let them be and bounce off their vibes. They find out that they are as affectionate, less-maintenance, adapt to the given climate and culture easily," he added.

ORGANIC FOOD

Organic and healthy diets are in.

"Owners share the same kind of food with their companions, of course, with mandatory tweaks to suit their bio-rhythms. Packaged food is out, home-cooked is in. And should you be pressed for time, there are vans specialising in home feed for dogs."

THE LOOK BOOK

While pet salons have been around for some time, their clothes and accessories have gotten an upgrade. Luxury pet wear by Tannvi showcased glossy and glamorous hand-stitched clothes and hand-made beauty accessories. "Rarely do owners want to leave their pets at home alone. If they are taking them out so often, they also feel the need to make them look good and stylish," said Akshay.

Other alternative pet therapies popular with pet owners include aromatherapy, reflexology and naturopathy. More than a quarter of pets have been treated with mobility-related therapies such as massage, physical therapy, even acupuncture. And though the festival was a two-day affair, it has opened up the need for us to be more humane to the animals around us.

Photo: Pankaj Kumar

When justice calls

Merriam-Webster has chosen 2018's word of the year, driven by the churning news cycle over months

Racial justice. Obstruction of justice. Social justice. The Justice Department. Merriam-Webster has chosen "justice" as its 2018 word of the year, driven by the churning news cycle over months and months.

The word follows "toxic," picked by Oxford Dictionaries, and "misinformation," plucked by Dictionary.com.

Peter Sokolowski, Merriam-Webster's editor at large, said that "justice" consistently bubbled into the top 20 or 30 lookups on the company's website, spiking at times due to specific events but also skirting close to the surface for much of the year.

While it's one of those common words people likely know how to spell and use correctly in a sentence, Sokolowski pointed to other reasons that drive search traffic. Among them is an attempt to focus a train of thought around a philosophical problem, or to seek aspirational motivation. Such well-known words are often among the most looked up every year, including those that are slightly abstract, including "love," he said.

The designation for "justice" came soon after President Trump's one-time fixer, Michael Cohen, was sentenced to three years in prison for crimes that included arranging the payment of hush money to conceal his boss' alleged sexual affairs. He told a judge he agreed time and again to cover up Trump's "dirty deeds" out of "blind loyalty."

It also came ahead of a Senate vote on the "First Step Act," a criminal justice reform bill with broad bipartisan support. Earlier in the year, Kim Kardashian West not once but twice paid a White House visit on Trump to discuss prison and sentencing reform. Sentencing for drug crimes, treatment for opioid addiction, a loosening of cannabis laws, a Tesla probe, the Mueller investigation into the Trump campaign: Justice will remain top of mind into the new year.

"These are stories that connect to the culture and to society across races, across classes," Sokolowski said. "We get this word that filters in."

That includes Twitter in a big way.



One of the reasons that drives search traffic for the word is that it attempts to focus on thoughts around a philosophical problem or seek aspirational motivation

Often, when Trump tweets about the Department of Justice, he uses simply "Justice." On August 1, when he tweeted his wish for then-Attorney General Jeff Sessions to stop the Mueller investigation, searches spiked significantly. Trump referred to "obstruction of justice," a separate entry on the Merriam-Webster site, prompting a lookup increase of 900 per cent over the same date the year before.

Searches for "justice" throughout the year, when compared to 2017, were up 74 per cent on the site that has more than 100 million page views a month and nearly half a million entries, Sokolowski said. To be word of the year worthy, an entry has to show both a high volume of traffic and a significant year-over-year increase in lookups — as opposed to, say, a word that merely buzzed or felt lofty, he said.

The word "justice" comes from Latin, unlike a lot of the more emotional words that rose in Old English. Old English did have "law," "fair" and "right," but never "justice," in reference to a system of laws. "It's not a coincidence that it comes from the 12th century, which immediately follows the Norman conquest. When the Normans invaded England they brought their language, Old French, which was basically the then-modern version of Latin. They brought their system of government and laws and imposed them on the people they conquered, and that's why all of the legal language in English today is Latin, just like the word justice," Sokolowski explained. "It took the imposition of a system of laws to bring us the word justice."

One rule breaker: "witness," a word with a purely Old English start.

Other words that experienced lookup spikes this year: "maverick" (Sen. John McCain died); "respect" (Auretha Franklin died); "excelsior" (Stan Lee's signature battle cry. He died); "pissant" (A radio host described Tom Brady's daughter that way); "pansexual" (Janelle Monae described herself that way); "laurel" (Remember laurel vs. yanny?); "feckless" (What Samantha Bee called Ivanka Trump, combined with a pejorative that begins with "c?"); "epiphany" (The title of a BTS K-pop song that dropped this year); "lodestar" (used in reference to McCain in the anonymous New York Times op-ed identified as coming from inside the Trump administration); and "nationalism" (At an Oct. 22 rally in Texas, Trump declared himself a nationalist).

—AP

'Technology is upgrading humans to gods'

Historian and writer YUVAL NOAH HARARI talks about how due to current developments nations need to work harmoniously on the challenges that they face. By TEAM VIVA

It's a digital world. As we look around technology today, it's fair to say that the pace of innovation is quite impressive. With the advent of autonomous driving, drones, connected homes, facial recognitions and virtual and augmented reality, today's youth cannot even imagine a time without social media or such gadgets.

However, there are some impending challenges that are surfacing in the light of environmental and technological developments today, or so does historian Yuval Noah Harari highlight as he spoke at the 12th edition of the Penguin Annual Lecture that concluded on Sunday.

The author of the book, *Sapiens: A Brief History of Humankind*, talked about the new challenges of the 21st century.

He stressed on the importance of globalism over nationalism that countries need to work together on to solve national-level problems as "they do not occur in isolation." He said that in the wake of current technological developments, humans are growing next to becoming gods.

Talking about the technological advancements, he said, "What technology is doing or will be doing in the twenty-first century is upgrading humans into gods. This is the big story of our era and I mean this in the most literal sense possible. We are now being transformed into gods in the sense that AI and bio-technology will soon give us abilities which ancient mythologies ascribed to the gods, especially the ability to create life."

He also pointed out that how in future we will need to learn about designing and manufacturing life be it of plants, animals or humans. "The main products of the 21st century economy will not be textiles, vehicles or weapons but bodies, brains and minds. If this happens, it will be the greatest revolutions since the beginning of life," he said.

He also spoke about the possibility of an escalation in war and violence with the advent of new kinds of war like a cyber war. However, warning that wars are not a thing of past, he also pointed out that even though over the past few years, violence and wars have declined drastically and statistically, deaths by suicides are higher than



deaths by violence, crime, wars and terrorism.

He called human stupidity as the most powerful forces in history. "It takes a lot of wise people to make peace, but it is sometimes enough to have just one fool in order to start a war," he said.

He talked about the industrial revolution of the 19th century that had resulted in the creation of a massive new class — the urban working class, the proletariat. He predicted that with the new Artificial Intelligence revolutions in the 21st century, there will be yet another class emerging — the unworking class or the "Useless class." The class will be useless from the economic and political purview.

He went on to talk about climate changes that can endanger the survival of humankind and our ecosystem. He emphasised that people should take on more responsibility and urged humans to not play 'Gods of the Planet Earth.' He urged the audience to choose wisely and to stay relevant by reinventing themselves continuously.

He said that while an AI revolution is yet to take place, climate change has already become of the major challenges to take over. "We need two extremely difficult things — global cooperation and eco-friendly technology. We need to understand that no nation can stop climate change by itself."

He added, "The truth is that the only way to stop climate change is to stop economic growth, something that no country or almost no government will agree upon."

The lecture has previously seen Bollywood actors Priyanka Chopra and Amitabh Bachchan as their speakers.



1947 Oscar sells for nearly \$500,000



One Academy Award trophy sold for nearly \$500,000 and the second for well over \$200,000 in a rare auction of Oscars that ended Friday in Los Angeles. A best-picture Oscar for *Gentleman's Agreement*, the 1947 film starring Gregory Peck that took on anti-Semitism, sold for \$492,000. A best picture statuette for 1935's *Mutiny on the Bounty* fetched \$240,000.

Both were outpaced by an archive of papers on the origin and development of *The Wizard of Oz* that brought in \$1.2 million. Auction house Profiles in History announced the results after four days of bidding on Hollywood memorabilia that brought in more than \$8 million in total. Other items sold include a TIE fighter helmet from the original *Star Wars* that went for \$240,000, a Phaser pistol from the original *Star Trek* TV series that fetched \$192,000, a hover board Marty McFly rode in *Back to the Future II* that sold for \$102,000, and a golden ticket from *Willy Wonka & the Chocolate Factory* that brought in \$48,000.

The *Mutiny on the Bounty* Oscar price came close to auction-house projections, but the *Gentleman's Agreement* statuette brought in more than twice what was expected, for reasons that are not clear. The buyers of both Oscars and *The Wizard of Oz* document chose to remain anonymous.

Auctions of Oscar statuettes are very uncommon because winners from 1951 onward have had to agree that they or their heirs must offer it back to the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences for \$1 before selling it elsewhere. The academy has said it firmly believes Oscars should be won, not bought. Neither of the Oscars sold this week approached the record of \$1.5 million paid by Michael Jackson to acquire David O. Selznick's *Gone With the Wind* Oscar in 1999. —AP

THE CITY QUARTET

Oscillating between line and colour, drawing and painting, artists at Palette Art Gallery present contemporary practices and fresh sensibilities. APURBA NANDI, JOYDEEP ACHARJEE, SOMU DESAI and ANIL THAMBAI share ideas with UMA NAIR

They use colour, line, shape and form to depict a reality that is beyond human dimension and perception. Four artists have come together at the Palette Gallery to create a world of their own, seated in the human sub-conscious. When memory and nostalgia seep into such a sensibility, then automatically there is an alternative universe of beauty and calm, poetry and romanticism which remains mindful of the potent forces of irony and structured realities.

Their visual narrative takes note of detail and proportions, is careful about scale and has a photo-realistic precision in the creation of individual shapes, or an impressionist idiom.

ARCHITECTURAL URBANISATION

Says Joydeep Acharjee of his works, "As a painter, these architectural structures that I create signify different aspects of unplanned and heartless urbanisation. On the other hand, they are patterns of a design that I create to make a successful visual statement. I have observed the growth of the city very closely. On one hand, it's a concrete jungle and on the other, there's a landscape made of huge iconic structures. This imposes a sense of grandeur which is really a paradox and I have tried to cap-

ture that in my paintings."

The chronology of urbanisation and the rapid encroachment of architectural structures on pristine agricultural land are other strong undercurrents in his paintings.

FLOATING WORLDS

For the Japanese, the idea of "Ukiyo-e" or the "floating world" has been the subject for many artists to explore the transient nature of life and everything within it. Somu's works are an insight into this duality of life. He believes in the contradiction in the demands of time, relationships and also from oneself. Somu believes that we build an insincere "tatamae" around us and in the process, intentionally and unintentionally "brand" our "lives", feelings, emotions and everything associated with it.

The thought gets translated into not just his forms, which are converted from three-dimensional to two-dimensional "cutouts" but also in his expertise of handling the material. Having closely experienced industrialisation, his material prowess deliberates on the metallic textures as a departure into his thought of rust and decay of the inner self and soul. The more ornate and decorative textures on the cutouts of the subject emphasise superficial-



ity. We also see complex trajectories of personal historical situations and the brilliance of the silhouette.

IMPRESSIONIST LANDSCAPES

Apurba's landscapes draw us into their maw. The artist was intrigued by the landscape when she was in Mumbai, waiting for the city to absorb her. So her waiting becomes an act of "looking" at the city. At times, plainly looking at unknown people is cathartic. She kept looking at people till they got reduced into a pattern of heads, hands, eyes and

of sound. "Placing one figure after the other, the work morphs into a formation of people," says Apurba. "For me these formations become an enquiry into the order of society and at the same time it enquires our own sense of existing in the social fabric," she adds.

ARCHITECTURAL ANIMATION

Anil's intricate and meticulous works are basically an investigation into the idea of what constitutes the idea of architecture in history. "For me architecture is more about the process of how something is built and not just the end result. It's in understanding the process of building something that I realised the importance of human labour," he adds.

But he also sees the absence of labour in what he sees. So he tries to retrieve this collective labour which is erased within the meanings attributed/appropriated after. "For me any architecture is a monument memorialising the forgotten labour which defines our inhabitations. However, though hidden it's in the process of retrieval of those that I rebuild an entirely new architecture recognising, realising and marking materially the labour involved in its making. These structures are as real as they are imaginary," concludes the artist.

Charpai gets a spot at Serendipity fest

Curator AYUSH KASLIWAL says that the "truly Indian" bed is perhaps one of the most functional pieces of furniture ever created



Of all pieces of furniture unique to India, perhaps the charpai is the most evocative of individual memories. Compact, portable and extremely eco-friendly, this Indian bed is explored at the Serendipity Arts Festival in Goa through a historical-cultural project.

The curator of the Charpai project, Ayush Kasliwal, who takes visitors on a journey of exploring a cultural artefact "truly Indian," calls the charpai a work of "sheer genius."

"The fact that it is light on environment, is done simply, is highly customised and relatable, holds a certain meaning in the society — as part of dowry, for instance. That meaning is what I'm pointing at," Kasliwal, who has expertise in furniture design, said.

It, he wrote in his curatorial note, is perhaps one of the most functional pieces of furniture ever created — "portable, economical, sustainable, compact, multi functional with utility, used not just personally but also in communities."

Part of the main exhibition, a showcase familiarises viewers with academic and historical inquiries, including medieval scholar-explorer Ibn Batuta's. "The beds in India are very light. One consists of four conical legs on which four staves are laid and in between they plait a sort of ribbon of silk or cotton. When you lie on it you need nothing else to render the bed sufficiently elastic," the Moroccan traveller is quoted as having said.

Nonetheless, the charpai, although intricately linked to the Indian way of living (especially in the relatively dry regions of the country's middle belt), does remain fairly quotidian. Though speaking of an "everyday, mundane object" — something that this edition of Serendipity festival seems to be widely bringing forth — Kasliwal's curation of the show holds interest as visitors are transported to a typical charpai shop resembling a storeroom of any Indian home, replete with stacked rolls of

weaving material, jute ropes, dismantled wooden legs, and other objects that seem hard to come by in the contemporary lifestyle.

The curation then leads one to examples of fully-woven charpais that remain evocative of different memories for each visitor. What's also interesting to note is that despite the project having exhibited a number of them, each with different weaving techniques and material, the core design of the charpai transcends regions, time and the myriad "hands" that create it.

"It cannot be attributed to a certain time or region, but is everywhere. There are customisations but as an object it is pretty generic. It's not about the greatness of bygone times, but relates to what our past relates to our present," Kasliwal said. Contemporary adaptations of the charpais, in the form of a stainless steel one, and a rosewood and cane one, find space in the exhibition, reminding us of the classic frame of the object which has retained its essence across time and space but has still percolated into the urban consciousness.

Another special section of the charpai project can be seen at the Children's Park here, where a massive installation of varied charpai weaves has been put up. As children go up and down the various levels of charpai "floors," we cannot help thinking of how elastic the "Indian bed" is. —IANS

There is something oddly stimulating in placing a finger on one's pulse. It is the wait, perhaps, the short lapse of time before the next blood wave hits again. Or the rhythm, the eerie regularity of throbbing arteries set on the catch and release movement of the faraway cardiac valves. Artists from Bangladesh have immersed in the same kind of a stirring quest. They keep the pulse of events in check, chronicling their realities. Seemingly unconnected, their fragments pencil something wider when considered together — a state of affairs which pulsates under our fingers.

Issues of social justice, war, women rights and colonialism find expression in the exhibition titled *A Finger on the Pulse*. The show is organised around fragments of eight artists from Bangladesh whose age span covers three generations. There is no shared form or theme which unites them in a linear presentation. Yet a story, fragile and trembling as it might be, emerges from the juxtaposition. Loosely assembled, multifaceted, it has no clear beginning and no definitive end. It stitches facts, emotions and anecdotes that, taken together, might well sketch Bangladesh's "now."

Anisuzzaman Sohel's *Intimate Fear* series is about a world turned upside down, as of our consciousness. He says, "We try to hang on to what little sense there is left but it cuts into our skin like razor wire. Anxiety has clipped our wings short. We have been grounded by fear. Heavy sandbags of social, political and individual uncertainties have weighed down those willing to fly. Our skulls threaten to split open with new concerns, modern pressures, and unfamiliar accidents. The pressure is on from all side, and we can't help but feel squeezed in."

Beneath the surface

Eight Bangladeshi artists question the relevance of present-day chronicles through their art works. By AYUSHI SHARMA



War of Images by Mizanur Rahman Sakib



Watercolor on paper by Anisuzzaman Sohel

Promotesh Das Pulak's work titled *Amity* is about friendship, peace, good relations and goodwill. "I have selected the word 'amity' to



Equilibrium project by Marzia Farhana

present my emotion in this project. By showing this word I want to remove barriers between nations," he tells us.

Marzia Farhana's *Equilibrium Project* is influenced by Bangladeshi master artist SM Sultan's quote, "The kid that draws his village, beautiful flower, animal, foliage and trees; he can't commit any crime, can't hurt anybody. Our trend of art should be changed, otherwise how can it be said that the cultivation of art forms

and shapes human character?" Says the artist, "His statement in a documentary film titled *Lal Mia*, influenced me to do a collaborative project with school kids and help them regain the empathy lost in this violent world. This project also enables the accessibility into the creative practices to all, especially to people who are living areas of social, cultural and financial deprivation. Another part of this work is to focus on the educational aspect of art and its importance in our society which is always overlooked in our conventional education system."

Mizanur Rahman Sakib's *War of Images* is a multi-media installation with collages, video referring our existence within a different time span of past, present and future and the unusual quality of this present time where everyone intends to be created and projected by the perfect images. He says, "This progressive world has produced many ideal images of heroes. That 'idea of a hero' has been practised in our hegemonic society and has built the ideological frameworks of our dreams, truths and promises. The brutality of war and the actual truth are buried underneath those 'ideal' images. These overwhelming and misguided perfect images have been fabricated in our everyday life and thus our gaze gets corrupted and alienated."

(The show is on display till January 11 at Akar Prakar Gallery.)

Three Aces presents a group art exhibition

of paintings and sculptures titled, *Inner Vision*, which was conceptualised by Kishore Labar with a thought of bringing love and happiness to our mundane lives. It is an initiative to bring art into the life of all, bringing the artists and art lovers together to a fair and unbiased platform, to help bring the much-needed escape to another world. **WHEN:** December 20 to 24 **TIME:** 11am to 8 pm **WHERE:** Visual Arts Gallery, India Habitat Centre.



WATCH OUT

India International Centre presents *The Journey*, an exhibition of abstract paintings by Indo-Argentine artist Thomas Francis. The paintings are inspired by general and daily human aspirations like marriage, family, home, friendship, and dreams. **WHEN:** December 19 to 28 **TIME:** 11 am to 7 pm **WHERE:** Art Gallery, Kamaladevi Complex, Gate no 1, IIC.



Grey Areas is a solo show of artworks by award-winning artist Sitaram Swain. The artworks are predominantly created from cement, an industrial material that narrates the story of a concrete forest of urban human civilisation. **WHEN:** Till January 5 **TIME:** 7 pm onwards **WHERE:** Art District XIII, Lado Sarai.



Saffronart collaborates with London's Grosvenor Gallery and Sunaparanta, Goa Centre for the Arts for an exhibition of 150 artworks by modernist F N Souza. The exhibition showcases some of Souza's earliest works from his student days in Goa and Mumbai and documents his journey from the 1940s. **WHEN:** December 19 to January 18 **TIME:** 11 am to 7 pm, Monday to Saturday **WHERE:** Saffronart, The Oberoi.

Messi hat-trick restores Barca's lead

AFP ■ MADRID

Lionel Messi continued his sublime form by netting his 31st La Liga hat-trick as Barcelona thrashed Levante 5-0 to regain their three-point lead at the top of the table.

The 31-year-old Argentinian arrived in Valencia having scored two free-kicks in last weekend's derby thumping of Espanyol. He took his goals tally for the season to 20 after a virtuoso display, while also teeing up Luis Suarez's 35th-minute opener and Gerard Pique's late fifth.

Barca were under pressure after Atletico Madrid and second-placed Sevilla had both moved level on points with the Catalan giants.

But after resting his key stars for their final Champions League group-stage match against Tottenham in midweek, coach Ernesto Valverde saw his refreshed side cruise to a third straight league win without conceding a goal.

"At the beginning it was difficult, they squeezed us and had a chance that hit the woodwork," said Valverde on Sunday.

Levante started the game brightly and visiting goalkeeper Marc-Andre ter Stegen was forced into an early save by Ghanaian Emmanuel Boateng.

But Barca did not take long to start moving through the gears, with Messi curling wide from long range before testing Oier Olazabal in the Levante goal with a free-kick.

Just seconds after Boateng hammered a left-footed strike against the crossbar, the reigning Spanish champions broke the deadlock as Messi jinked through a mesmerised home defence and picked out Suarez who volleyed home.

But Levante, who had ended Barcelona's dreams of going through last season's La Liga campaign unbeaten with a remarkable 5-4 victory in the penultimate game, came close to a quick response as Jose Luis Morales fired over.



The match was all but ended as a contest when Messi bore down on goal two minutes before half-time and drilled low into the net.

"I'm happy to have won here, because last year we came and they put five goals past us having gone the whole season unbeaten, so we knew about the danger of Levante and it was a match we had marked out," added Valverde.

He wasted little time after the restart to add his second in the 47th minute, sweeping home Jordi Alba's clever cutback, before completing his treble

with a simple tap-in from Arturo Vidal's square pass on the hour mark. Messi has scored five goals in two league games since finishing only fifth in the voting for the Ballon d'Or earlier this month.

A bad evening for Levante worsened with 14 minutes to play, as left-back Erick Cabaco was sent off for a reckless lunge on Ousmane Dembele. Centre-back Pique added further gloss to the scoreline in the 88th minute, rampaging forward to collect Messi's pass, before keeping his cool and rolling the ball home.

Liverpool draw Bayern as Utd face PSG in CL last 16

AFP ■ NYON

Liverpool will take on fellow five-time winners Bayern Munich in the last 16 of the Champions League, while Jose Mourinho's struggling Manchester United face French giants Paris Saint-Germain.

Holders Real Madrid were paired with Ajax in Monday's draw in Nyon as the Spaniards attempt to lift the trophy for the fifth time in six seasons, while Lionel Messi and Barcelona will play Lyon.

Both Liverpool and Bayern have a rich tradition in the competition, each winning it five times and Liverpool were beaten finalists last season.

Liverpool are the current form side of the two and sit top of the Premier League while Bayern, under new coach Niko Kovac, have been far short of their own high standards in the Bundesliga this season.

"That's the team of the hour, the league leaders in England, they are playing really good football, very physical, really stepping it up. We are looking forward to it," Bayern sporting director Hasan Salihamidzic said of the tie with Liverpool.

"A tough cookie, but that's something to look forward to as a player."

RONALDO AWAITS

Pep Guardiola's Manchester City take on German side Schalke 04 while Atletico Madrid, beaten finalists in 2014 and 2016, come up against Cristiano Ronaldo and Italian heavyweights Juventus.

"A very difficult match, with few goals," Juve vice-president Pavel Nedved predicted.

"No doubt Cristiano is the man of the Champions League, he has always shown that, with goals and victories. Our team is very strong and we can be calm and confident."

Bundesliga leaders Borussia Dortmund will meet Tottenham Hotspur for the second season in a row, having faced each other in last year's group stage, while Roma meet two-time former champions Porto.

"We've already met them (Tottenham) twice. A strong opponent,



Manchester United's David De Gea, centre, follows the ball during the English Premier League match between Liverpool and Manchester United at Anfield AP



Holders Real Madrid were paired with Ajax in Monday's draw in Nyon as the Spaniards attempt to lift the trophy for the fifth time in six seasons



UCL R16 FIXTURES

12 February & 6 March

Manchester United (ENG) v Paris Saint-Germain (FRA)

Roma (ITA) v Porto (POR)

13 February & 5 March

Tottenham Hotspur (ENG) v Borussia Dortmund (GER)

Ajax (NED) v Real Madrid (ESP)

19 February & 13 March

Lyon (FRA) v Barcelona (ESP)

Liverpool (ENG) v Bayern München (GER)

20 February & 12 March

Schalke (GER) v Manchester City (ENG)

Atletico Madrid (ESP) v Juventus (ITA)

(All kick-offs 1:30 am IST)

the chances are at 50-50. The team has top players. We are also strong, it will be interesting," Dortmund CEO Hans-Joachim Watzke told Sky.

Meanwhile, United go into a first ever meeting with PSG trailing Premier League leaders Liverpool by 19 points following Sunday's 3-1 defeat at Anfield, and face a formidable task against a side featuring Neymar and Kylian Mbappe — the world's two most expensive players.

Lyon coach Bruno Genesio says his team can draw on their group stage displays against City — a 2-1 win and 2-2 draw — ahead of their clash with five-time European champions Barca.

"We'll need to pull off two big performances, in the first leg and in the return, but we can do it. We did it against City," said Genesio.

"It's tough. They are a team that Lyon has already played against but never beaten. Barca are more experienced and stronger but over two matches anything is possible," Gerard Houllier, who holds an advisory role at the French club, told RMC Sport.

Teams that finished in second place in the group stage will host the first legs on February 12/13 and 19/20 with the return matches scheduled for March 5/6 and 12/13.

SINGLES

APOORVA SETS NATIONAL RECORD

NEW DELHI: Ultra runner Apoorva Chaudhary created a national record by completing 176.8 km in the women's 24-hour event at the NEB 24 Hour Stadium Run held here under the aegis of Athletics Federation of India. Apoorva, the 28-year old runner from Bijoor in Uttar Pradesh, broke the previous national record of 175.4 km registered in the name of Meenal Kotak. Competing in just her third ultra-marathon race, Apoorva also became only the fourth Indian woman to run more than 100 miles (160 km) in 24 hours after Meenal, Hema Saini (172.3 km) and Aparna Choudhary (169.2 km).

PRO TENNIS LEAGUE LAUNCHED

NEW DELHI: Indian Davis Cupper Saketh Myneni and Arjun Kadhe will feature in the newly launched Pro Tennis League, which will also see participation of a few former players such as Vishal Uppal and Ashutosh Singh. As it's an off-season for all professional players, Myneni and Kadhe will also earn some money by playing for their respective teams — Stag Babolat Yodhas and Raisoni Achievers — respectively. Vishnu Vardhan, Vijay Sundar Prashanth, current national champion Siddharth Vishwakarma, Sidharth Rawat, Jeevan Nedunchezhiyan and Sriram Balaji are other professional players to be seen in action. The eight-team league, starting on Tuesday, will conclude on Saturday.

MILIK SCORES IN NAPOLI'S WIN

MILAN: Arkadiusz Milik scored a stoppage-time goal to snatch a 1-0 win for Napoli at Cagliari on Sunday and prevent his team's Serie A title hopes from diminishing even further. Milik had seen a late effort saved on Tuesday as Napoli was eliminated from the Champions League at Liverpool but he curled in a free kick in Sardinia to prevent the week from going from bad to worse for his club. "I'm happy for Milik because he's a hard-working lad, a reference point for the group," Napoli coach Carlo Ancelotti said. "He's someone who always works with great focus and knows how to manage everything both in hard times and in better ones."

SEVILLA TO PLAY LAZIO IN EUROPA

NYON: Five-time champion Sevilla has been drawn to face Lazio in the last 32 of the Europa League. Sevilla, which has won all five of its titles since 2006, is in second place in Spain and Lazio is fifth in Serie A. Arsenal landed another long trip and will play BATE Borisov in the first leg in Belarus after group games in Azerbaijan and Ukraine. Napoli and Inter Milan will only have to cross the Italian border into neighboring countries for games against Zurich and Rapid Vienna, respectively. Chelsea, the 2013 champion, is at Malmo and Celtic will host Valencia in the first leg.

FERRARI TO MARK EXHIBITION

MARANELLO: Formula One legend Michael Schumacher will be honoured by Ferrari with a special exhibition to mark his 50th birthday on January 3, the Italian team confirmed on Monday. Schumacher — a seven-time Formula One world champion — suffered severe head injuries in a skiing accident five years ago and has not been seen in public since. The 'Michael 50' exhibition in the Ferrari Museum in Maranello will be run in association with the Keep Fighting Foundation launched two years ago by the Schumacher family. Agencies



Latham strokes epic 264 as SL face defeat

AFP ■ WELLINGTON

New Zealand opener Tom Latham played Sri Lanka's bowlers with an unbeaten 264 on Monday before the tourists' top order failed again, leaving them on the verge of a heavy first Test defeat in Wellington.

Latham walked off to a standing ovation at the Basin Reserve after carrying his bat and helping New Zealand to 578, a commanding first-innings lead of 296.

Seamers Tim Southee and Trent Boult then combined to remove Sri Lanka's top order, reducing them to 20 for three at stumps on day three.

Boult dismissed Danushka Gunathilaka on three, while Southee snared Dimuth Karunaratne for 10 and Dhananjaya de Silva for a duck, taking his tally for the match to eight.

The pair, along with short-ball specialist Neil Wagner, will be relishing the prospect of having two full days to attack Sri Lanka's misfiring batting line-up.

But the day belonged to Latham, who added steadily to his overnight total of 121, offering no chances to the frustrated Sri Lankans.

It was the sixth best Test score by a New Zealander and the highest this year by a batsman from any nation.

HIGHEST SCORES BY NZ PLYER IN TESTS

Score	Batsman	Opponent	Venue	Season
302	Brendon McCullum	India	Wellington	2013-14
299	Martin Crowe	Sri Lanka	Wellington	1990-91
290	Ross Taylor	Australia	Perth	2015-16
274*	Stephen Fleming	Sri Lanka	Colombo	2002-03
267*	Brayn Young	Sri Lanka	Dunedin	1996-97
264*	Tom Latham	Sri Lanka	Wellington	2018-19

His innings, which lasted more than 11 hours, also continued a horror run at the Basin Reserve for Sri Lanka, where they have now conceded double centuries to four New Zealanders.

'ENJOY THE MOMENT'

Latham said he always believed he was capable of producing such a performance but it was pleasing to achieve it on the international stage.

"These innings don't come around too often, so you have to enjoy the moment when they do," he said.

New Zealand skipper Kane Williamson helped the Black Caps reach their imposing total with a sparkling 91, while Ross Taylor and

Henry Nicholls both reached 50. Lahiru Kumara was the pick of a Sri Lanka attack that struggled on a flat wicket, taking four for 127.

Taylor was dismissed for 50 in the first over of the day after failing to add to his overnight score, thanks to a sharp catch from Dimuth Karunaratne.

Henry Nicholls also went for 50 after lunch trying to take on spinner Dilruwan Perera.

BJ Watling followed without scoring when he tucked his bat awkwardly under his arm as he ducked a Kumara bouncer and the ball clipped it on the way through.

Colin de Grandhomme scored three sixes during an aggressive innings but fell on 49 attempting to bludgeon a fourth.

Will Yuvraj find a buyer at auction?

PTI ■ JAIPUR

Once a sought-after property, Yuvraj Singh faces the risk of going unsold at the 2019 IPL auction here on Tuesday with the franchisees factoring in the availability of foreign players in a World Cup year.

Yuvraj, who fetched a record ₹16 crore deal in his prime, was bought by Kings XI Punjab for his base price of ₹2 crore at the auction held before the last edition. While Chris Gayle repaid the faith KXIP posed in him with a fruitful season, Yuvraj could not set the house on fire, managing just 65 runs in eight games. No wonder the team decided to release him.

The 37-year-old, who last played for India in June 2017, has put himself in the ₹1 crore base price bracket this time alongside other capped Indians — Wriddhiman Saha, Mohammed Shami and Axar Patel.

In fact, no Indian figures in the highest base price of ₹2 crore among a pool of 346 cricketers set to go under the hammer.

The nine players in the ₹2 crore bracket are Brendon McCullum,



Chris Woakes, Lasith Malinga, Shaun Marsh, Sam Curran, Colin Ingram, Corey Anderson, Angelo Mathews and D'Arcy Short.

Teams are also likely to chase experienced overseas players such as Dale Steyn, Morne Morkel, Jonny Bairstow and Alex Hales, who have put themselves in the ₹1.5 crore category.

Indian all-rounder Jaydev Unadkat, who was bought for ₹11.5 crore by Rajasthan Royals, will also feature in the same bracket.

A total of 70 players can be bought at the auction with 20 slots available for the foreign players.

India Test regulars like Cheteswar Pujara and Ishant Sharma have also thrown their hat into the ring with base prices of ₹50 and ₹75 lakh respectively.

Alongside the big names, a host of uncapped Indian players will be up for grabs with some of them expected to turn millionaires overnight.

Keeping the hectic schedule in mind leading up to the World Cup in England from May 30 to July 14,

Australian stars like Aaron Finch and Glenn Maxwell have opted out of the auction. Though dates and venue are not yet announced, the IPL is expected to run from the last week of March to mid-May.

Since the World Cup will begin two weeks after the IPL, it has raised questions on the availability of the Australian players who will be named in the squad for the showpiece. The same goes for England players who will be required to report to the World Cup preparatory camp in the middle of the IPL.

The teams will go into the auction well aware of the players' availability. With ₹36.20 crore, KXIP will have maximum money to spend, followed by Delhi Capitals (₹25.50 crore), Rajasthan Royals (₹20.95 crore), Royal Challengers Bangalore (₹18.15 crore), Kolkata Knight Riders (₹15.20 crore), Mumbai Indians (₹11.15 crore), Sunrisers Hyderabad (₹9.70 crore) and Chennai Super Kings (₹8.40 crore).

Cottrell, Hope guide WI to thumping win

AFP ■ SYLHET

Left-arm pacer Sheldon Cottrell delivered a career best 4-28 before Shai Hope struck a half-century as West Indies crushed Bangladesh by eight wickets in their Twenty20 series opener on Monday.

West Indies raced to 130-2 in just 10.5 overs after Cottrell and his fellow pacers bowled out Bangladesh for 129 runs in Sylhet.

Bangladesh skipper Shakib Al Hasan scored 61 off 43 balls for the home side but could not stave off a thumping defeat.

Hope accelerated the West Indies' run chase with 55 off 23 balls that included six sixes and three fours. Victory never looked in doubt as he struck spinner Mehidy Hasan for three sixes and a four in just the second over of the innings, yielding 23 runs.

Spinner Mahmudullah Riyad dismissed Hope after medium pacer Mohammad Saifuddin broke a 51-run opening stand with Evin Lewis, who fell for 18.

But Nicholas Pooran and Keemo Paul ensured West Indies cued to their target, with quickfire innings of 23 and 28 respectively.

Cottrell and fellow pacer Oshane Thomas earlier choked Bangladesh, who opted to bat first, at the start of their innings.

Openers Tamim Iqbal and Liton Das, as well as Soumya Sarkar, all fell for single-figure scores to short-pitch deliveries.

In-form Mushfiqur Rahim was run out for five, leaving Bangladesh on 48-4 before six overs of batting power play had elapsed.

Shakib put on two small partnerships of 25 and 30 respectively with Mahmudullah Riyad and Ariful Haque to lift the side briefly.

Paul wrapped up Bangladesh's innings with 2-23. The West Indies are hoping a series win will end their Bangladesh tour on a positive note after losing their Test and one-day international series 2-0 and 2-1 respectively.

"Very good win but it's only one game," skipper Carlos Brathwaite said.

"We have started with a win before and then gone on to lose the series in recent times. So, it's important to be respectful of the opposition."

Bangladesh and West Indies play the remaining two T20 internationals of the series in Dhaka this week.

FASTEST FIFTY IN T20 INTERNATIONALS

BALLS	PLAYER	MATCH	VENUE	DATE
12	Yuvraj Singh	India vs England	Durban	19/09/2007
14	Colin Munro	New Zealand vs Sri Lanka	Auckland	10/01/2016
16	Shai Hope	Bangladesh vs Windies	Sylhet	17/12/2018

Lyon, Hazlewood leave India in agony



Australian players congratulate Nathan Lyon, centre, after he dismissed Indian skipper Virat Kohli on the fourth day of second Test at Optus Stadium in Perth AP



Virat Kohli reacts after getting caught at slip by Usman Khawaja off Nathan Lyon during the fourth day ICC

PTI ■ PERTH

Australia were on course for a series-levelling win in the second Test after another below-par batting performance from India undid the good work done by their bowlers on day four on Monday.

Chasing 287 on a testing surface, India were 112 for five at stumps with skipper Virat Kohli's (17) dismissal in the 20th over of the second innings dealing a massive blow to the away team's hopes.

The last specialist pair of Hanuma Vihari (24) and Rishabh Pant (9) were in the middle when stumps were drawn and they will have to bat well in the first session on day five for India to have any chance of scoring the remaining 175 runs.

The ordinary batting effort came after a sensational performance from pacer Mohammed Shami, who took a career best six for 56 in Australia's second innings to bring India back into the contest.

Shami removed the set Usman Khawaja (72) and Tim Paine (37) to trigger a batting collapse that saw Australia being all out for 243 after the duo batted out the entire morning session.

At tea, India were reeling at 15 for two

INDIA'S SUCCESSFUL RUN-CHASE IN AWAY TEST				
Score	Overs	Opponent	Venue	Season
406-4	147	West Indies	Port of Spain	1975-76
264-3	78.4	Sri Lanka	Kandy	2001
258-5	68.3	Sri Lanka	Colombo	2010
233-6	72.4	Australia	Adelaide	2003-04
200-5	74.4	New Zealand	Dunedin	1967-68

INDIA'S HIGHEST FOURTH INNINGS SCORES IN 2018				
Score	Overs	Opponent	Venue	Target
345	94.3	England	The Oval	464
184	69.4	England	Southampton	245
162	54.2	England	Birmingham	194
151	50.2	South Africa	Centurion	287
135	42.4	South Africa	Cape Town	208

** India lost all five Tests

Faisel Features

bowled going for a drive as India were reduced to 55-4.

Ajinkya Rahane (30) came out playing his shots and took on the bowling with two fours as well as a six. He put on 43 runs for the fifth wicket with Vihari as India started thinking of at least taking the fight into day five.

But it was not to be, as Rahane hit a drive straight to point off Josh Hazlewood (2-24) and India plunged to 98-5.

Earlier before tea, KL Rahul (0) played another indecisive stroke and was bowled off Starc on the fourth ball of the second innings. The bigger moment came when Hazlewood had Cheteshwar Pujara (4) caught behind off a faint edge in the fourth over to leave India leaning on Kohli once again.

This was after a fiery spell from Shami brought India back into the game. Post lunch, Australia collapsed in a heap as they lost five wickets for 15 runs in the space of eight overs.

Shami was the wrecker-in-chief, taking 4-26 after lunch, as his express pace combined with short stuff bamboozled the Australian lower order.

Skipper Paine was the first go, unable to negotiate sharp bounce and gloving to Kohli at second slip.

Fit-to-bat Aaron Finch (25) came out to bat next, but lasted only one ball, clipping

Kohli, Paine resume verbal duel

PTI ■ PERTH

Warring captains Virat Kohli and Tim Paine on Monday resumed their verbal duel, forcing on-field umpire Chris Gaffaney to warn both the players on the fourth morning of the second Test between India and Australia.

During the 71st over bowled by Jasprit Bumrah, the respective captains were seen exchanging words after Kohli decided to field close to the non-striker and Gaffaney had to step in.

"You're the one that lost it yesterday. Why are you trying to be cool today?" Paine told Kohli.

"That's enough, that's enough," Gaffaney interrupted.

"Come on, play the game. You guys are the captains. Tim, you're the captain."

Paine replied: "We're just having a conversation. There's no swearing ... Keep your cool Virat."

Kohli said something which couldn't be picked up by the microphones.

A couple of balls later, the warring duo almost came close to chest bumping when the India skipper walked in front of Paine while he was completing a run.

Kohli later appeared to plead his case to square-leg umpire Kumar Dharmasena as Paine and Usman Khawaja continued to extend Australia's second-innings lead.

"I reckon it's a sign Kohli is starting to lose it," former Test bowler Damien Fleming said on SEN radio.

India commentator Sanjay Manjrekar wasn't too pleased with Kohli's behaviour but former Australian skippers Ricky Ponting and Michael Clarke said they had no issue with the verbal exchange between the two captains and that no line has been crossed so far.

Tensions had flared-up towards the end of day three with Kohli and Paine exchanging verbal volleys as the game headed for a nail-biting finish.

down leg side and caught behind. Shami was on a hat trick for the second consecutive Test, but missed out.

An over later though, using the second new ball, he got rid of Khawaja with another sharp rising delivery to pick his fourth five-wicket haul in Test cricket.

Eight balls later Jasprit Bumrah (3-39) got rid of Pat Cummins (1), bowled off a delivery keeping too low.

Lyon (5) hit out and took Australia past 200, but Shami knocked him over in similar fashion to the rest as he picked his best figures in Test cricket.

The last wicket pairing of Mitchell Starc (14) and Josh Hazlewood (17 not out) frustrated the Indian team though, and added 36 golden runs for the 10th wicket, taking the lead past 280. In the morning session, Australia reached 190-4 at lunch.

Shaw ruled out of Test series

PTI ■ PERTH

Injured Prithvi Shaw was on Monday ruled out of the entire Test series against Australia with the BCCI replacing the young opener with Mayank Agarwal.

Shaw had suffered a left ankle injury while attempting a catch in a practice game against Cricket Australia XI.

The 19-year-old from Mumbai had scored 66 in that game in Sydney.

"The All-India Senior Selection Committee has named Mayank Agarwal as his replacement," said a BCCI release.

With KL Rahul failing terribly in two Tests, the team management may hand Test debut to 27-year-old Agrawal, who plays for Karnataka.

Rahul scored 2 and 44 in Adelaide but managed 2 and 0 in Perth, where India are staring at a

defeat on the final day. Agarwal who has played 46 first class games, scored 25 and 53 for his Ranji side against Gujarat in his last match.

The selectors have also added all-rounder Hardik Pandya to India's squad for the third and fourth Test to be played in Melbourne and Sydney respectively.

The third Test is scheduled to begin in Melbourne from December 26.

INDIA'S SQUAD

Virat Kohli (captain), M Vijay, KL Rahul, Cheteshwar Pujara, Ajinkya Rahane (vice-captain), Hanuma Vihari, Rohit Sharma, Rishabh Pant (wicket-keeper), Parthiv Patel, R Ashwin, Ravindra Jadeja, Kuldeep Yadav, Mohammed Shami, Ishant Sharma, Umesh Yadav, Jasprit Bumrah, Bhuvneshwar Kumar, Hardik Pandya and Mayank Agarwal.



Mayank Agarwal in action during India A game ICC

'There should have been a spinner'

PTI ■ PERTH

Pacer Mohammed Shami on Monday said India missed a trick in not playing a full-time spinner on a pitch where Australia tweaker Nathan Lyon has already bagged seven wickets.

"The team management makes these decisions. We can't do anything about it. We had one spinner who didn't bowl badly. (But) If you ask me, I feel there should have been a spinner, but these things depend on your management," said Shami.

"After such a long time we have an Indian pace attack where all the bowlers are fast and are bowling good lines and lengths. Four years ago we weren't even this experienced. You must have seen the difference in our accuracy from four years ago."

India lead the four-match series 1-0 after their 31-run win in the opening Test at Adelaide.



Mohd Shami holds up the ball after claiming 5 wickets in Australia's second innings AP

"It helps a lot to have a good bowler at the other end, who has the same mentality as you and is keeping things tight."

"This keeps the pressure up, and sometimes you don't even realise when the game turns your way. The bowler at the other end is sometimes just as important," he added, heaping praise on the fast-bowling unit.

Talking about his career-best spell, the pacer said, "I always try to bowl a good line and length. Rest is up to your luck, how many wickets you get or not. Your approach has to be good. If you are playing Test cricket, you have to focus on your line and length. You will get the wickets automatically."

"Sometimes when you have a long partnership, you have to wait, especially on a wicket like this where we were beating them again and again. It wasn't as if we were bowling bad balls, but even on bowling good lengths we were not getting wickets. As soon as we got a wicket the momentum changed and we used it."



Mumbai's Shivam Dube plays a shot against Baroda PTI

MUMBAI, PUNJAB GRAB 3 POINTS

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Former champions Mumbai claimed three points against Baroda after their four-day Elite Group A game ended in a tame draw at the Wankhede Stadium on Monday.

The only interest left when play commenced was whether Baroda, who conceded a 29-run lead on Sunday, could skittle out the hosts and 41-time champions cheaply in the second innings and give themselves enough time to force an outright victory.

But that was not to be as Mumbai, who resumed at 20 for two, lost the wicket of captain Siddhesh Lad very early before the remaining batsmen ensured that Baroda did not come back into the game.

Although the other first innings centurion other than Lad, Shreyas Iyer (30), too, departed before lunch, the lower middle order held fort and took Mumbai to 307 for seven, an overall lead of 336, before declaring the innings closed.

Play was then called off with Baroda

not commencing their second innings. In the Mumbai second essay, Shubham Ranjane (64 in 105 balls) Ek Nath Kerkar (56 not out in 115 balls) and Shivam Dube, who struck a brisk 76 in 60 balls studded with 7 sixes and three fours, got the major portion of the runs.

Baroda got one point from the drawn encounter.

Meanwhile, at Nashik, Saurashtra defeated hosts Maharashtra by 5 wickets.

For Saurashtra, slow-left arm orthodox bowlers Dharmendrasinh Jadeja grabbed seven wickets in the second innings as he wreaked havoc on the Maharashtra batsmen.

While chasing, Saurashtra lost half their side, but eventually romped home.

At the Karnal Singh stadium in New Delhi, Vidarbha hammered Railways by 118 runs with Aditya Sarvate taking six wickets to bowl out Railways for 124 in their second essay.

While Karnataka took three points as their game ended in a tame draw against Gujarat on the basis of the first innings

lead at Surat.

PUNJAB-TN MATCH ENDS DRAW

MOHALI: Punjab gained three points as Tamil Nadu held firm for a draw on the final day of the Elite Group 'B' match.

Faced with a massive deficit of 264 runs, the visitors saw skipper Baba Indrajith (93), Dinesh Karthik (74) and Vijay Shankar (51 not out) get among the runs to defy the Punjab bowlers and finish the day at 383 for 6.

The result meant Tamil Nadu, now on 12 points, is almost out of contention for a berth in the knockout phase.

Punjab also has the same number of points, but has played one game less.

Five teams from Group 'A' and 'B' put together will advance to the quarterfinals, based on the number of points accrued.

On a track that was easier to bat as the game wore on, the Tamil Nadu batsmen made sure the home side did not get the opening they were seeking in the quest for a win and also six points.

In other Group 'B' matches, Himachal

Pradesh outclassed Andhra Pradesh by an innings and three runs in Atmar to gain seven points while the Bengal-Hyderabad encounter ended in a draw.

TRIPURA TROUNCE GOA

AGARTALA: Tripura hammered Goa by 10 wickets in their Elite Group C game.

Tripura were in command from the first day and it took them less than an over to chase the 8-run target on the final day and add seven points to their kitty.

Following on Goa batsmen, barring Suyash Prabhudessai (65), faltered against Harmeet Singh (3-46) and M B Mura Singh (3-55).

Goa began from their overnight score of 113/3 but Prabhudessai ran out of partners and could not take the side to challenging total.

The target was easily overhauled by Tripura.

Meanwhile, at the Palam ground in the national capital, Services grabbed 7 points as they overcame Assam by 10 wickets.

For Services, pacer Diwesh Pathania (5-56) picked his second five-wicket haul of the match and ended the game with a 10-wick-

'Verbal duel was in good spirits'



PTI ■ PERTH

The onfield verbal duel between rival captains Virat Kohli and Tim Paine has been one of the talking points of the second Test but Australia pacer Josh Hazlewood Monday played it down, saying it was done in good spirits.

"I think it was all good fun, it's quite competitive out there as you know and there's going to be words from time to time but it was all in good spirits," Hazlewood said.

"I don't think we read too much into it, we go about our work as we see fit and the Indians can do what they like. We control what we control and our behaviour is what we control. We'll worry about that and let everything else take care of itself."

It worked out well for Australia in the end as Kohli was dismissed for 17 in the second innings as India crashed to 55-4 in their chase. But, Hazlewood said Australia was not targeting a single batsman.

"No definitely not. I probably see (Cheteshwar) Pujara as the big wicket as far as when I'm bowling, the glue that holds them together I think. He's batted the most balls this series and scored nearly the most runs."

"I see Pujara as a big wicket and Ajinkya Rahane as well. So the Nos 3, 4, 5 as the key wickets and we see it a bit unstable in the other parts of the order. Certainly not all the focus is on Virat Kohli," he said.

Australia were on course for a series-levelling win after reducing India to 112-5 at stumps on day four, but Hazlewood said there were still some work to do for them for another home victory.

"I didn't go to the UAE, so it feels a bit of a long time between wins, but there's still a lot of work to do tomorrow. Anytime I'm playing in Australia we feel pretty confident, especially the bowlers feel very confident in getting 20 wickets and a result," he said.

"Last year, we got there four times out of five, so we are feeling pretty confident. It's just putting that into practice more often than not this summer," he added.

et haul.

Chasing 72 for an outright win, Services openers Nakul Verma (39 not out) and Navneet Singh (31 not out) took the side home with ease in 18.1 overs.

And at Lucknow, Jharkhand took three points after their match against Uttar Pradesh ended in a draw.

NAGALAND SALVAGE DRAW

JORHAT: Pacer Ishwar Chaudhary grabbed a six-wicket haul as Sikkim thrashed Mizoram by 105 runs in their Plate Group fixture.

In Dehradun, Nagaland's Arbar Kazi produced a strong rearguard fightback with 157 not out in an unbroken 137-run seventh wicket partnership with Nitesh Lohchab (44 not out) to salvage a draw against group leaders Uttarakhand.

This was Uttarakhand's first draw after five successive wins as they had to settle for three points on basis of their first innings lead.

Needing two wickets to seal the win on the final day, Sikkim bundled out Mizoram for 236 in 74.5 overs to seal their third win with two sessions to spare.