

**OPINION 8**  
BUILDING  
SYNERGIES

**WORLD 11**  
MALLYA INTENDS TO APPEAL  
AGAINST EXTRADITION VERDICT

**SPORT 16**  
MAN CITY ENTER  
LEAGUE CUP SEMIS

LUCKNOW, THURSDAY DECEMBER 20, 2018; PAGES 16 ₹3



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## Bulandshahr incident a political conspiracy: CM

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Hitting back at the Opposition for stalling the proceedings of the legislature over law and order, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath said on Wednesday that Bulandshahr incident was a "political conspiracy" hatched by those who had lost political ground.

Yogi said that the state government should be praised and thanked for whatever steps were taken in the Bulandshahr incident in which an inspector was killed by mob over cow slaughter allegations on December 3.

The entire Question Hour was washed out in both Houses amid bedlam on Wednesday. Samajwadi Party and Congress members indulged in sloganeering over various issues, including plight of farmers and deteriorating law and order in the state, leading to repeated adjournments.



Later, the Chief Minister told mediapersons: "Those who are giving unnecessary statements are doing it to conceal their failures, instead, they should applaud and thank the state government." Yogi had earlier referred to the killing of inspector as a 'durgatna' (misadventure). "It was a political conspiracy which has been exposed... peace and order will be maintained at all cost. The administration and government have repulsed the designs of conspirators sternly," Yogi said.

"This is a conspiracy by the same people who were trying to take innocent lives by manufacturing illicit liquor. This was a political conspiracy

which was plotted by cowards who cannot take a challenge head on. Feeling threatened, they are embracing each other and want to target innocent. This will not be allowed. Those wanting to create unrest by killing cows have been stopped. There will be rule of law in the state at any cost," the Chief Minister said.

Meanwhile, three persons were arrested for cow slaughter in Bulandshahr on Tuesday. Two more were earlier arrested for the mob violence but the prime accused in inspector Subodh Kumar Singh's killing is still on the lam.

On Wednesday, the inspector's widow and son sought to know why were the killers being spared.

In the aftermath of Bulandshahr violence, Yogi Adityanath has been criticised for focusing more on cow slaughter in meetings with senior officials instead of the inspector's murder.

## Supplementary budget tabled in UP Assembly amidst Oppn din

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Amid din by Opposition parties in the Assembly, the Yogi Adityanath government tabled its second supplementary budget of 2018-19 totalling over ₹8,054 crore on the second day of the four-day winter session of the state legislature on Wednesday.

On August 27, the Yogi government had tabled the first supplementary budget to the tune of ₹34,833.24 crore for the current fiscal. Earlier, in February, the government had presented the annual budget of ₹4.26 lakh crore for 2018-19. With the two supplementary grants, the budget size has now increased to ₹4.69 lakh crore.

Of the total supplementary budget of ₹8,054 crore, capital and revenue heads comprise ₹4,645 crore and ₹3,409 crore respectively.

Of the total amount, as much as ₹5,018 crore is Central assistance and grants and actual additional expenditure by

state government will be ₹3,894 crore.

In the second supplementary grants, the state government has sought ₹300 crore for green-field Jewar airport in Greater Noida and ₹200 crore for Ayodhya airport.

Apart from Civil Aviation department, the government has sought additional allocations for Energy, Agriculture, Excise, Medical, Home, Transport, Environment, Public Works, Justice and Social Welfare departments besides Kumbh Mela and Swachh Bharat Mission.

For the power sector, the government sought ₹700 crore for UDAY (Ujjwala Assurance Discom Yojna) of UP Power Corporation Limited (UPCL) against operative losses. The Centrally-sponsored UDAY scheme is for restructuring of power distribution (discom) companies.

The has government also sought ₹2,935 crore for Deen Dayal Upadhyay Gram Jyoti Yojna.

For Kumbh Mela, an additional demand under Urban Development department was raised for ₹100 crore. The government has already made provision of ₹1,500 crore in the budget for Kumbh Mela and has also provided ₹800 crore in the first supplementary.

The government also sought ₹10 crore for Atal Bihari Vajpayee Medical University to be set up in Lucknow. The government also sought ₹300 crore for roads and bridges in rural areas and rail over bridges.

Meanwhile, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath said that the government had judiciously utilised the allocated budgets so far. He claimed that the revenue base has been expanded under different heads, including Goods and Services Tax (GST), stamp and registration, transport, excise etc.

The Chief Minister said that the state had garnered an additional ₹10,000 crore GST collections, while excise collections were higher by ₹4,900

crore followed by Stamp and Registration, Mining and Transport departments at ₹1,600 crore, ₹658 crore and ₹400 crore respectively.

"So far, there were only 13 medical colleges, in the state, we are now working on setting up 15 new medical colleges, apart from a cancer institute in Varanasi," Yogi added.

Against the backdrop of crushing defeats in Hindi states of Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh, the Bharatiya Janata Party government in Uttar Pradesh is leaving no stone unturned to repeat its 2014 poll performance. In 2014, the BJP and its ally Apna Dal had won 73 of the total 80 Lok Sabha seats in the state.

With additional funds, the government will loosen its purse for projects to keep the public in good humour in the run-up to the 2019 general elections, when BJP mascot and Prime Minister Narendra Modi will seek re-election against a joint opposition.

## GSAT boosts IAF prowess

It will interlink airbases, augment drone operation by satellite control

PNS/AGENCIES ■ NEW DELHI/SRIHARIKOTA

The Indian Air Force (IAF) on Wednesday got a major boost for its communication systems with the successful launch of the GSAT-7A satellite by the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) from Sriharikota.

The satellite will greatly enhance the network-centric warfare capacity of the IAF and all its assets, including fighter jets, air-borne early warning control platforms, airbases and drones, will be linked with each other and ground stations via the satellite. It will also reduce the possibility of snooping and leakage of information that is possible while using satellites launched by foreign operators.

After a 26-hour countdown, the GSLV-F11, carrying the 2,250kg GSAT-7A, lifted off at 4.10 pm from the second launch pad at Sriharikota. Around 19 minutes after the lift-off, the GSLV-F11 injected GSAT-7A into the intended orbit. It will be placed in its final geostationary orbit using the onboard propulsion systems.

Incidentally, the Navy already has a similar satellite, the GSAT-7, which was launched in August 2013. It helps the Navy warships, submarines and maritime aircraft with inputs across the Indian

Ocean region and safe communications capacity. The two satellites, along with a third GSAT-6 — will be communications hub for the military.

According to the ISRO, the satellite would take a few days after separation from the launcher to reach its orbital slot. The advanced communication satellite would facilitate exclusive frequency flight communication for the IAF.

From the Mission Control Centre, ISRO chairman K Sivan said Wednesday's "successful and safe" launch was the third one in 35 days and came close on the heels of the "grand success" of two missions in November.

The GSLV-F11 successfully injected the "advanced" communication GSAT-7A into orbit, an elated Sivan said, describing the mission as "wonderful."

This was the heaviest satellite lifted by the GSLV with indigenous cryogenic stage, he said. It came with many firsts, including increased propellant loading and other features, the ISRO chief said.

The "cryogenic stage is burnt to depletion to get a super synchronous transfer orbit to enhance the life of the satellite," he said.

The mission life of the GSAT-7A is eight years. It will provide communication in Ku-band over the Indian region.

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Indian Space Research Organisation's (ISRO) communication Satellite GSAT-7A on board the GSLV-F11 takes off during its launch in Sriharikota on Wednesday PTI

## President rule slapped on J&K

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

After the completion of six months of Governor's rule in Jammu & Kashmir on Wednesday, the State came under President's rule from midnight, paving the way for the Centre to take all policy decisions related to the militancy-hit State.

President Ram Nath Kovind signed the proclamation for the imposition of Central rule in J&K, which plunged into a political crisis in June after the Mehbooba-led coalition Government was reduced to minority following withdrawal of support by the 25-member BJP.

The gazette notification issued on Wednesday said the President has received a report from Governor Satya Pal Malik and after considering it and other information, he was "satisfied" that President's rule in the State was needed.

"In pursuance...Of the proclamation issued...By me under Article 356 of the Constitution of India, I hereby direct that all the functions of the Government of the State of Jammu & Kashmir and all the powers vested in or exercisable by the Governor of the State shall, subject to the superintendence, direction and control of the President, (and) be exercisable by the Governor of the State," the notification said.

Since J&K has a separate Constitution, six months of Governor's rule is compulsory under Article 92 of the J&K Constitution, under which all the legislature powers are vested with the Governor.

## Delhi Metro to jump to top 3rd in world

Delhi Govt OK's 104 km six-corridor Phase IV

GAYATHRI MANI ■ NEW DELHI

The much-awaited 103.93 kilometre (km) six-corridor Delhi Metro Phase IV project was cleared by the Delhi Government on Wednesday, bringing relief to residents of outer Delhi, such as Bawana and Narela, where there is no metro connectivity. The Delhi Government will provide ₹9,707 crore for Phase-IV during next five years.

After the completion of Phase-IV, the Delhi Metro will become the third largest metro network in the world. With total length of approximately 453.58 kilometre, it will overtake New York (380.2 km), Nanjing in China (378 km), Seoul (340.4 km), Moscow (381 km), Guangzhou (China) (391.8 km), and London (402 km). Shanghai and Beijing are first and second respectively with the total length of 644 km and 599.44 km respectively. Currently Delhi Metro is the eight largest metro train network in the world.



The Phase-IV project had become a bone of contention between the AAP Government and the Bharatiya Janata Party-led Union Government as the former did not give its final nod to the project, even after its in-principle approval to the same in February 2016. Following the delay, Union Housing and Urban Affairs Minister Hardeep Singh Puri had, in October, said, "We will open a box of sweets only when a formal announcement for the metro Phase-IV project is made."

"The Metro Phase IV project was hanging fire and witnessed war of words between the Aam Aadmi Party Government and the National Democratic Alliance-led Central Government. It saw unwanted interference by the

Centre. However, the Delhi Government has sanctioned the much-awaited project which will be a boost for the Delhiites in the upcoming years," said Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia.

Of six corridors, three will be elevated, and the rest will have both elevated as well as underground stations. The elevated corridors are 21.73 km Rithala-Bawana-Narela, 28.92 km Janakpuri West-RK Puram, and 12.54 km Mukundpur-Maujpur stretches.

Indrolok to Indraprastha with a length of 12.58 km will be completely underground, Aerocity to Tuglakabad with 20.2 km (elevated 5.58 km) and 7.96 km Lajpat Nagar-Saket G Block will be elevated. A total of 79 stations will be there in the upcoming Phase IV project.

## A year on, NSD awaits Jio fate as PMO sits on eminence tag

ARCHANA JYOTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Government had rushed to bestow the "Institute of Eminence" tag on the non-existent Reliance Jio Institute. But a year on, the Delhi-based National School of Drama (NSD), country's premier theatre training institute, continues to await the tag of "Institute of National Importance" (INI) as the proposal in this regard is pending with the Prime Minister's Office (PMO).

Expressing displeasure at the delay, a Parliamentary panel headed by Rajya Sabha member Derek O'Brien has not only sought a status report on the issue but also asked the Union Culture Ministry to push for expediting the proposal.

The panel in its report, which was tabled in Parliament on December 14, noted that



despite the NSD approaching the PMO several times, detailing its contributions to the theatre, art and cinema world to justify its request to be recognised as the INI, the later remained unimpressed.

In fact, with the PMO holding up the proposal, the NSD has also deferred its ambitious plan of opening new centres across the country.

Giving in detail the sequence of correspondence exchanged between the PMO and the NSD, the report said that a draft Bill provided by the NSD was re-drafted by the Union Culture Ministry taking into account present and future requirement, declaring Delhi-

based NSD an INI and establish in future as well similar schools with an identical status.

The NSD is one of the foremost theatre training institutions in the world and the only one of its kind in India. It was set up by the Sangeet Natak Akademi as one of its constituent units in 1959. In 1975, it became an independent entity and was registered as an autonomous organisation, fully financed by the Union Culture Ministry.

The draft Cabinet note and draft Bill was prepared in consultation with Department of Legal Affairs and Legislative Department after approval from the Culture Minister and a copy of the note for Cabinet was forwarded to the Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister for comments, said the report.

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## Cold comfort for north, N-E till Feb

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

There will be no respite from the prevailing cold wave conditions in north India and North-East. The India Meteorological Department (IMD) on Wednesday predicted that the minimum temperature may go below 5 degrees Celsius in the days to come till February.

In the Kashmir Valley and Ladakh region, the minimum temperatures have dropped several notches below the freezing point. The minimum temperature was minus 2.8 in Srinagar, while it was minus 8.4 and minus 4.0 in Pahalgam and Gulmarg respectively.

In Delhi and NCR, an unnerving combo of cold wave and pollution is set to haunt the residents in the coming days. The air pollution level in the NCR has reached severe level these days.

The IMD issued a cold wave warning saying the min-



imum temperature may go down below two degrees Celsius at a few places in Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, Haryana and north Rajasthan. According to IMD, the night temperature in Delhi and NCR could further

drop to around 4 degrees in the coming days.

"The cold wave and severe cold wave conditions would continue to prevail over Punjab, Haryana and Rajasthan with increase in severity and spatial

Top coldest places in north, North-East	Temperature in Celsius
Churu (Rajasthan)	0.9
Narnaul (Haryana)	2.3
Udaipur (Rajasthan)	2.8
Faridkot (Punjab)	2.5
Gangtok (Sikkim)	Minus 1
Tawang (Arunachal Pradesh)	Minus 7
Coldest places in J&K	Temperature in Celsius
Leh	Minus 6
Pahalgam	minus 8.4
Gulmarg	Minus .04
Srinagar	Minus 2.8
Kargil	Minus 14.9

coverage. At some places, the temperature may go down below 2 degrees Celsius," the IMD said.

The combined effect of a current weather system over north India resulted in dropping night temperatures. Due to northerly and northwesterly winds, the chill could be felt in parts of the State.

Elaborating the cold wave

conditions, Dr Charan Singh, Scientist, IMD, said whenever minimum temperatures are 4-5 degrees Celsius below their normal, it is then termed as a cold wave condition. "During cold wave conditions, the minimums drop, and maximums rise. The minimums tend to drop when northerly winds blow," Singh added.

Continued on Page 7

# Question Hour in both Houses washed out in opposition din

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

The Question Hour was washed out in both Vidhan Sabha and Vidhan Parishad in the uproar created by the opposition over various issues, including law and order, on the second day of the brief winter session on Wednesday.

Samajwadi Party members waved posters and banners over issues relating to farmers and law and order as the House assembled on Wednesday. Speaker Hriday Narayan Dikshit tried to pacify the opposition members and asked them to raise the issue after Question Hour. But when the SP members continued to press for immediate discussion on the matter, the Speaker adjourned the House, first for 30 minutes and later extended it till 12:20 pm.

After the adjournment, the SP members staged a sit-in in the Well of the House.

Later, the SP members alleged that the Bharatiya Janata Party government was evasive and had hence called for a short session of the legislature.

The SP leaders said that farmers' problems and law and order situation in the state had reached the nadir and the BJP government had failed to address them.

In the Vidhan Parishad also, the Question Hour could not be taken up on Wednesday.



due to the din created by the opposition over poor law and order in the state and problems being faced by farmers.

SP MLCs protested in the Well of the House, while Congress and Bahujan Samaj Party members stood on their seats and shouted slogans like 'Kanoon vyawastha dhwaist hai, Yogi baba mast hai' and 'Sasta aaloo, mehanga balu, Baba nikla sabse chalu' etc.

As soon as the House commenced at 11 am, SP members stormed into the Well and started raising slogans. Chairman Ramesh Yadav adjourned the House for 20 minutes.

The situation did not improve when the House reassembled and it was initially adjourned till 12 noon and then again till 12:20 pm.

Leader of opposition Ahmed Hasan (SP) said that the law and order situation in the state was very bad and charged the government with not paying attention to it.

Amidst the din, leader of the House, Dinesh Sharma (BJP), presented the second supplementary budget for 2018-19.

The House was later adjourned for the day.

## Cinegoers can take eatables inside multiplexes: Govt

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

There is good news for cinegoers as Uttar Pradesh government has admitted in Vidhan Sabha that management of multiplexes or cinema theatres could not prevent a person from carrying eatables purchased from outside inside the hall. Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath informed this to the House in a written reply on Wednesday.

Replying to a question of Mukesh Chandra Verma (BJP), Yogi said that there was no law that a multiplex or cinema hall owner could prevent a person from carrying eatables purchased from outside.

As per UP Cinema Act, 1951, only eatables in sealed packets are allowed for sale inside the halls.

"If it is brought to the government's notice that owners of cinema theatres or multiplexes are preventing people from carrying eatables in sealed packets purchased from outside, then strict action will be taken against them," the Chief Minister said during Question Hour.

There were complaints galore of multiplex owners forcing people not to take eatables purchased from outside inside theatres and forcing

people to purchase eatables from their own counters at exorbitant rates.

**NO PROHIBITION:** The state government has made it clear that it would not implement prohibition in Uttar Pradesh as sale of liquor helps in earning sizeable revenue and a ban will lead to illegal sale which will be harmful for people.

Answering a question of Mohammed Fayeem Irfan (Samajwadi Party) and Aman Mani Tripathi (Independent) on Wednesday, Excise Minister Jai Prakash Singh said that there was no proposal to ban sale of IMFL, beer or country liquor in the state.

"Prohibition is a policy of the state government but Excise department is also the second highest revenue earner. The government is committed to provide quality liquor to the consumers as per the Seventh Schedule of Indian Constitution," the minister said.

Singh said that the revenue earned through Excise department was used in carrying out development work. "If the government bans liquor, it will lead to bootlegging and manufacture of spurious liquor which again will be detrimental for health," the minister said.

## BTech student gang-raped by 4 men in Agra

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

A first year BTech student was kidnapped and taken to a secluded place near Poiya Ghat in Agra and gang-raped by four men on Tuesday evening.

The incident took place even as a high-level meeting chaired by a top official was underway in Agra around the same time. The victim was headed to her coaching centre when she was stopped by two men near Bhagwan Talkies crossing and forcibly taken to the ghat where two other accused joined them. The four later took turns with her.

Later, the semi-conscious victim was noticed by a passer-by and taken to her home. Her family members later admitted her to SN Medical College hospital for treatment.

A complaint was lodged by the girl's parents on Tuesday night at New Agra police station against which a case was registered and a hunt was on to nab the accused.

Elsewhere, in what appeared to be a case of rape and murder, the semi-nude body of an 18-year-old girl was found near a field at Salarpur village in Muzaffarnagar on Wednesday morning. The girl had gone missing on Tuesday.

A case was registered and the body was sent for autopsy.

As per reports, the victim's body was found in a cane field and bore injury marks caused by sharp-edged weapon. The police are now trying to ascertain the victim's identity.

## Shah to address BJP booth presidents, says Pandey



BJP state president Mahendra Nath Pandey addressing party's UP unit office-bearers held in Lucknow on Wednesday. Pioneer

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

To galvanise its workers at the ground level, the Uttar Pradesh unit of Bharatiya Janata Party will organise region-wise booth sammelans which will be addressed by party's national president Amit Shah.

A decision in this regard was taken at a meeting of the BJP state office-bearers held in Lucknow on Wednesday.

BJP state president Mahendra Nath Pandey said that the party would organise region-wise booth presidents' sammelan.

"On December 25, the birth anniversary of former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee will be celebrated at the

booth level as Sushasan Diwas (good governance day)," Pandey said.

Senior leaders of the party, including in-charges of different morchas, regional presidents and general secretaries would participate in the programme.

The BJP state chief said that besides, sector sammelan would be held at each division from December 20 to January 19, in which BJP national officer-bearers, Union ministers and Chief Ministers will take part.

"In February, the party will identify beneficiaries of both Central and state government schemes and light 'jyoti' (lamp) at their doorsteps and on February 26, Kamal Jyoti Vikas

Yatra will be taken out," Pandey said.

Briefing about the success of recently-held padyatra on the occasion of the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, the BJP leader said that the party took out yatras in 62,695 wards and organised chaupals in 6,120 villages.

"Besides, 1.20 crore pamphlets were distributed, highlighting achievements of both UP and Central governments," he said.

When asked about the proposed alliance between Samajwadi Party and Bahujan Samaj Party, Pandey said that the BJP was ready to face any challenge as the proposed alliance was opportunistic and was set to be exposed.

## Police to release 4 held earlier in cow slaughter case

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

The Special Investigation Team (SIT) probe has further buttressed the theory that the Bulandshahr violence was indeed a well-orchestrated conspiracy as it has surfaced that those named and arrested for cow slaughter earlier were innocent.

Earlier, the local police had arrested four persons named in the FIR for cow slaughter and sent them to jail. The police are now preparing a report to get them released at the earliest.

Sources said that circle officer Raghvendra Mishra, who is a member of the SIT probing the Bulandshahr incident, found that all four accused — Sajid, Sarifuddin, Banne Khan and Asif — sent to jail were innocent.

The Special Task Force (STF) sleuths identified two persons — Sachin Kobra and Jani — and on finding their complicity in the cow slaughter with the help of CCTV footage, arrested them. Besides, the Bulandshahr police on Tuesday, claimed to have arrested three persons — Nadeem,

Rais and Kala of Syana police station area — for cow slaughter in Mahav village.

A double barrel gun, a machete and a sharp-edged weapon were also recovered from them. One of their aides, Harun of Syana locality, managed to evade arrest.

The cops said that the accused owned up their crime and disclosed that they had killed a cow in a forest cover in Syana on the night of December 1. They disclosed that Harun shot the cow and later they skinned it and distributed the meat among them before throwing the carcass in a cane field.

The miscreants revealed that they had shot three cows in the night on December 2 and 3 and had thrown the carcasses and some meat in a field. They said that they took away the hides of the slaughtered cows.

The recovery of carcasses and meat from a field in Mahav village led to people taking to the streets in protest. While controlling the situation, inspector Subodh Kumar Singh fell to the bullet of one of the protesters while another youth Sumit was also killed.

## Kin demand martyr's status for Sumit



Family members of Sumit, the youth killed in Bulandshahr violence, going to meet Chief Minister in Lucknow. Pioneer

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Family members of Sumit, who died of gunshot injury during Bulandshahr violence on December 3, met Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Wednesday and demanded that their son be given a martyr's status as given to inspector Subodh Kumar Singh, who was killed in the same

violence. Sumit's family met the Chief Minister at his 5, Kalidas Marg official residence here.

Later, sister of the killed Bajrang Dal worker Sumit said that they had demanded that Sumit be given a martyr's status as he died in a violence following recovery of cow carcasses in Mahav village of Bulandshahr on December 3.

"We have also demanded an increase in compensation of Rs 10 lakh as he died in police firing," she said.

The family of inspector Subodh Kumar Singh, who died of a bullet injury in the violence, was given a compensation of Rs 40 lakh and a housing loan procured by the cop was also taken care of by the state government.

## Cop found riding stolen motorcycle

Lucknow (PNS): In a bizarre case, a youth who lost his motorcycle in Agra, found it being driven by a police constable in the Taj city five years after its theft. The sensational fact surfaced after the police sent photo challan to the bike owner last week. As per reports, a Hero Honda Splendor Plus (UP80 BN6378), owned by Udaiveer of New Surya Lok Colony in Dayalbagh area, was stolen from Mhow road in 2013. A case was registered at Etmadlauda police station but the stolen motorcycle could not be traced.

Last week, Udaiveer received two photo challans for riding the bike without helmet, issued in Haripurwat area of Agra in September. Udaiveer started camping around Haripurwat crossing, hoping to catch the person riding his bike and he finally succeeded on Friday afternoon, when he noticed a youth riding his motorcycle and entering Haripurwat police station campus. Udaiveer followed the motorcyclist and nabbed him. The rider claimed himself to be a police constable and said he found the motorcycle abandoned in Sikandra locality of Agra. However, as other cops of Haripurwat police station came out, the constable slipped, leaving the motorcycle behind. Sources said he was posted in the local CO's office and his colleagues helped him to escape.

FORM NO. 5

DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL

600/1, University Road, Near Hanuman Setu Temple, Lucknow-226007 (Area of Jurisdiction-Part of Uttar Pradesh) SUMMONS FOR FILING REPLY & APPEARANCE BY PUBLICATION O.A. No. 798/2018 Date: 22.11.2018 (Summons to defendant(s) under Section 19(3), of the Recovery of Debts due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act, 1993 read with Rules 12 and 13 of the Debts Recovery Tribunal (Procedure Rules, 1993) Central Bank of India, U.P.S.R.T.C. Branch, Lucknow .....Applicant VERSUS

M/s Krishna Medico .....Defendants & others To, 1. M/s Krishna Medico, 555CH73, Alambagh, Lucknow, Through its proprietor Sri Dev Prakash Mishra. 2. Shri Dev Prakash Mishra S/o Late Ram Shiromani Mishra, R/o-555CH73, Ram Nagar, Alambagh, Lucknow. 3. Smt. Prem Kumari Mishra W/o Late Ram Shiromani Mishra, R/o-555CH73, Ram Nagar, Alambagh, Lucknow. In the above noted application, you are required to file reply in Paper Book form in Two sets alongwith documents and affidavits (if any), personally or through your duly authorised agent or legal practitioner in this Tribunal, after serving copy of the same on the applicant or his counsel/ duly authorised agent after publication of the summons, and thereafter to appear before the Tribunal on 23.01.2019 at 10.30 A.M. failing which the application shall be heard and decided in your absence. Registrar Debts Recovery Tribunal, Lucknow

## King George's Medical University U.P., Lucknow

Hospital Revolving Fund, KGMU

Notice No.: 002/e-tender/HRF/LP/2018 Date: 20.12.2018

E-Tender Inviting Notice

Online e-bids are invited on two e-bids systems latest by 21.01.2019 at 3:00 PM for the Non Rate Contract General Medicine, Cancer Drugs, Surgical Consumables and DPCO items from local Chemists/Firms situated within a radius of 10 km. of Trauma Center, KGMU, Lucknow at KGMU, HRF. The details of the tender can be viewed at [www.kgmup.org](http://www.kgmup.org). Tender will be available on e-portal <https://etender.up.nic.in>. Chairman K.G.M.U. HRF, K.G.M.U. Lko.

## NORTHERN RAILWAY

Corrigendum to Principal Chief Material

Manager/Northern Railway

The Auction program of this railway for the month of Dec. 2018 has been amended as under: The e-auction scheduled for 21.12.2018 at Sr. DMM/LKO is hereby cancelled.

Extra e-auction will be conducted 31.12.2018 at Sr. DMM/LKO. All other auction dates advised earlier will remain same. For further details regarding e-auction please visit Railway website 'www.ireps.gov.in.'

No. 117/S/Auction Programme/Sale/2018-19 Date : 18.12.2018 3159/18

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

## Notice Inviting e-Tender

No. SSA/Esst/Materials/SB/502/2018/5148 Date: 19.12.2018 Mission Director, Axom Sarba Siksha Abhijan Mission, Kahilipara, Guwahati-19, Assam invites tender through e-Tendering process from manufacturer of Bags for supply of School Bags for NRSTC-Fresh, Madrasa & Seasonal Hostel.

To participate in the tender process through e-procurement document, bidder should have valid Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) of class-II (minimum) and have to register in the portal <https://assamtenders.gov.in> by themselves.

The Bidder who have downloaded the tender schedules containing the tender details, terms and conditions, from the website shall submit their tender on-line on the website <https://assamtenders.gov.in>, with proof of payment of non refundable tender fee of Rs. 5000/- (Rupees five thousand) only in the form of demand draft/Bankers Cheque drawn in favour of Mission Director, Axom Sarba Siksha Abhijan Mission, Kahilipara, Guwahati-19, Assam, from any nationalized/Scheduled Bank and payable at Guwahati. The tender should be submitted on-line as per date and time of submission as per prescribed schedule. Sd/- Mission Director, SSA, Assam, Kahilipara, Guwahati-19

## कार्यालय उपनिदेशक (वि./चौ.)

राज्य कृषि उत्पादन मण्डी परिषद, उ.प्र.

नवीन गल्ला मण्डी स्थल, महैया चुंगी, गोरखपुर-273016

पत्रांक: वि/चौ-( )/2018-923 दिनांक: 19.12.2018

निविदा शुद्धि-पत्र

कार्यालय पत्रांक - वि/चौ (निविदा) / 2018-890 दिनांक 03.12.2018 द्वारा दिनांक 19.12.2018 को ई-निविदा आमंत्रित निविदा में 01 भी बिड ना प्राप्त होने के कारण पुनः दिनांक 03.01.2019 को ई-निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है, दिनांक 02.01.2019 को 01:00 बजे तक निविदा लोड कर सकते हैं तथा दिनांक 03.01.2019 को 11:30 बजे निविदा खोली जायेगी। समस्त बिड डायक्यूमेंट एवं समस्त आवश्यक प्रपत्र सहित कार्यालय में दिनांक 02.01.2019 को 01:00 बजे तक जमा कराना अनिवार्य होगा। शेष नियम एवं शर्तें पूर्ववत् रहेंगी।

उप निदेशक(वि/चौ) मण्डी परिषद, गोरखपुर



## NOTICE

I Kavita Devi spouse of Dharmendra Singh No. 3006357p rank L/NK of 26 Rajput c/o 56APO r/o Husepur, Ramjiyavan, Post - Husepur, Teh- Budhanpur, Distt.-Azamgarh (U.P.) have changed my name from Kavita Devi to Kavita Singh vide affidavit dated 24/10/2018. Now I am applying for correction concerned please note.

## नीलामी सूचना

26.12.2018, 2:00 बजे यूपीओ कोआपरेटिव युनियन लि, 14- डा 0 अम्बेडकर मार्ग, लखनऊ कार्यालय / प्रेस की निष्प्रयोज्य मशीनों/ कबाड तथा अम्बेडकर कार :- यूपीओ 32-501001-0558 नीलामी, सिक्सोरेटि रू 5,000/- नगद प्रत्येक लाट/आई.पी.सिंह & संसा।

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# SIT indicts cop Prashant for Apple executive murder

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Constable Prashant Chaudhary was found guilty in the sensational Apple executive Vivek Tiwari murder case which had invited a national outrage and had put the UP government in bad light for the poor show on the law and order front.

The Special Investigation Team (SIT) submitted its report in the court after 81-day-long probe into the case. In the report, other constable Sandeep Kumar was charged with attacking Vivek and his female friend Sana with a police baton on the fateful day on September 28 night.

DIG, Law and Order, Praveen Kumar said that the chargesheet against Prashant Chaudhary for murder (section 302 of IPC) and against Sandeep for attack (section 323 of IPC) was submitted in the court of CJM on Wednesday.

The SIT also found the then Circle Officer, Gomti Nagar, and the then SHO, Gomti Nagar, guilty on the count of laxity in their report. The report was submitted in the court by SHO, Mahanagar, Vikas Pandey.

Vivek Tiwari was shot dead in cold blood from a close range on the fateful day for not obeying the instructions of constable Prashant Chaudhary while Sandeep had hit Sana with a stick in order to force them to stop. Vivek was going to drop Sana at her house after attending a late night office party on the launch of a new product.

In the SIT probe, it surfaced that

## SEQUENCE OF INCIDENT

**September 29** Prashant took aim at Vivek with his 0.9mm service revolver for not stopping and trying to flee. Police hurriedly lodged an FIR of murder against unidentified constables on the complaint of Sana. Ten-member SIT was formed under IG (Lucknow range) to probe into the case

**Sep 30** Public outrage forced Lucknow police to lodge second named FIR against Prashant and Sandeep. Damages in the SUV also raised doubt as the family members brought this to media. SIT visited the spot and started the crime scene reconstruction

**Oct 1** Post-mortem report of Vivek Tiwari leaked on social media. Politicians of various parties visit Tiwari's house

**Oct 2** Second crime scene reconstruction was carried by the SIT. A third recreation was also done two weeks late during the actual time

**Oct 4** Sana recorded her statement in the court

**Oct 5** SHO, Gomti Nagar, was removed following irresponsible behaviour. Police constables across the state lent support to accused cops, Prashant and Sandeep, by wearing black bands. Several suspended

**Oct 6** Some photos of the apple executive leaked on media and it turned out to be fake

**Oct 8** Technical inspection of SUV and the bike debunks cops collision theory.

constable Prashant Chaudhary intentionally opened fire at Vivek Tiwari and he had no threat to life as he had said in his defence during the initial investigation into the case. It was also found that Prashant would not have been hurt even if Vivek had driven away the car as he was standing at a safe distance. The SIT found that Prashant knew the bullet he had fired would kill Vivek and he did not fire with an aim to injure him, so Prashant's claim that he opened fire in self-defence also was preposterous.

The entire incident took place in 38 seconds. Vivek and Sana were sitting inside with seat belts on and the

SUV was not stranded as stated by the constables. The tangent formed by the bullet showed the constable aimed before opening firing.

The minor tyre marks of SUV on the bike showed a slight touch and not collision as claimed by the cops in their statements.

The position of the bike was changed by the constables after the incident. The SUV's damaged bumper was because of the collision impact with the pillar of the underpass. The left side of the windshield of the SUV was broken because of the bursting of the airbag. The bike's position was changed after the incident.

# Mother recounts Nirbhaya's horror

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

"It was that one moment and if someone had offered her help, she would have been alive today. People passed by her lowering the glass windows of their cars and seeing that she was lying without clothes, they chose to move on. Their insensitivity could be gauged from the fact that no one stepped out to hand her a piece of cloth to cover her." These views were expressed by Asha Devi, mother of the rape victim Nirbhaya on the occasion of Nirbhaya Chetna Week being jointly organised by Lucknow Metro Rail Corporation and Nirbhaya Jyoti Trust of Asha Devi at the Charbagh Metro station. Nirbhaya's case was one of the most brutal rapes in the country that occurred on December 16, 2012.

"I will not rest till I get justice for my daughter. My struggle will continue till the perpetrators are hanged to death and till I have the last iota of strength left in me," she said. Asha Devi admitted that she was pained to see the delay which brought her no peace. "I think the delay in the hanging of those involved in the crime occurs because there are some procedures which have to followed as there are time limits fixed for making appeals. The files get stuck and we have to again make an effort to keep them moving" she added.

She categorically pointed out that her wounds were fresh and would never heal. "This is the reason that I keep moving from place to place telling people and spreading awareness that they should edu-



Mother of Nirbhaya with Kumar Keshav at Charbagh Metro Station on Wednesday

Pioneer

cate their daughters and make them independent. We also educated Nirbhaya and had she been alive there would have been a doctor in the family," she said.

On being asked what keeps her going, she said that it was primarily the strength of her daughter. "She was keen on getting justice and despite the pain she was undergoing she would tell me to keep my strength. It is that which has kept me moving ahead," Asha Devi pointed out.

Asha Devi said that she was also running Nirbhaya Jyoti Trust wherein rape victims approached them and they provided them free legal advice. "We try and give them all possible help which they need,"

she added. LMRC MD Kumar Keshav said that they had always been a big supporter of the cause of women empowerment. "We have been observing the Nirbhaya Diwas for the past few years to sensitise the staff that they had to reach out to women in distress," he said.

Nirbhaya's parents Badrinath Singh and Asha Devi were the guests of honour. On this occasion, Nirbhaya's parents addressed newly-recruited trainees at Transport Nagar Metro depot and created awareness about the safety of women, women's rights and their empowerment in all spheres of life. An interactive train ride along with passengers was taken

from Transport Nagar Metro station to Charbagh Metro station as a part of awareness drive aimed at showcasing and providing people of Lucknow a safe mode of transportation. The event proceeded with an interaction with Nirbhaya's parents highlighting Nirbhaya Chetna Week and discussing women's issues and similar safety concerns. A 'nukkad natak' was also staged on the platform for passengers highlighting day-to-day crime against woman, particularly at home.

In the end, a total of 936 diyas were also lit up at Charbagh Metro station to highlight the total numbers of crimes against women per day across India.

# Chill to continue



People enjoying sunshine at GPO park in Lucknow on Wednesday

Pioneer

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ LUCKNOW

The winter chill became more intense on Wednesday because of the icy north-westerly winds. The city recorded a minimum temperature of 5.9 degree Celsius which was three degrees below normal and a maximum temperature of 22.3 degree Celsius which was 2 degrees below normal.

In the state, the coldest was Muzaffarnagar which recorded a minimum temperature of 2.4 degrees Celsius. Among other districts which recorded a low minimum temperature was Bareilly at 5.9 degree Celsius, Lakhimpur Kheri 6.4 degree Celsius, Agra recorded 4.5 degree Celsius, Kanpur 6.5 degree Celsius, Jhansi 6.6 degree Celsius and Meerut 6.4 degree

Celsius. Met office director JP Gupta said that the similar conditions would prevail on Thursday at the state capital. "The chill will persist because of the north-westerly winds," he added.

The local forecast for Lucknow and neighbourhood is clear sky with mist and shallow fog likely in the morning. The maximum and the minimum temperature will be around 23 degree Celsius and 6 degree Celsius respectively.

The state forecast is that the weather is most likely to be dry and shallow to moderate fog likely at isolated places over the state. Meanwhile, the Met department will be organising a state-level review meeting on agro forecast on Thursday at a city hotel.

# Two held in abduction case

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Two youths were arrested on Wednesday in connection with the abduction of a middle-aged grocery shop-owner from his shop on Gokhale Marg in Hazratganj on Tuesday evening. Those arrested were identified as Pankaj Yadav and Ajeet Verma, both of Madiaon, by a team of Hazratganj police after a long chase. Shop-owner Pankaj Jaiswal disclosed the names of the company for which the miscreants were working.

Giving details, police spokesman AK Dwivedi said the duo had been challenged for the crime. He denied reports that one more person was involved in the crime. Pankaj was abducted around 8 pm by the miscreants, who came to his shop on a scooty and later made the victim sit on their scooty before leaving the scene. The miscreants said that they thrashed Pankaj who owned Rs 9,000 to the company which supplied him flour and later had dumped him on Nishatganj bridge. The miscreants disclosed that they took the route through Dainik Jagran crossing and then to a multi-storeyed building and then to Nishatganj bridge. Police had registered a case of illegal detention and thrashing the victim. The incident had sent the Hazratganj police in a tizzy and a huge team was pressed into the job to work out the case. The cops conducted raids at half a dozen places in search of the miscreants. "The police got the lead from Pankaj who disclosed the company with which he had a business tie-up. The police contacted company officials and later found out the names of the employees who were sent to Pankaj's shop. On revelation, the police later conducted raids at the house of the miscreants and nabbed them," the sources said.

## ACCUSED

A sub-inspector accused a man of hindering the official work and attacking him inside a police outpost in Hasanganj on Wednesday afternoon. The S-I lodged a case with the police. The man is yet to be arrested. As per reports, Gomti Nagar resident Nitin Paliwal, along with his wife and son, reached the Babujan police outpost to lodge a complaint against one of his in-laws. Police outpost incharge Vinod Kumar alleged that Paliwal talked rough with him and started abusing him without any provocation. "I objected to Paliwal on his conduct and asked him to mind his language. At this, Paliwal started crying and then abused the entire staff at the police outpost. I asked him to give in writing whatever complaint he had but he did not budge. He kept talking in a rough way and misbehaving with me. I then pushed him out of the police outpost at which he started throwing stones at me and the police outpost. His act scared commuters and they assembled at the scene," the S-I alleged. The S-I added Paliwal banged his head against a wall and injured himself. "He threw tantrums accusing me of thrashing him in police custody," the S-I alleged. SHO Amber Singh said Paliwal had given a complaint against one of his relatives and was asked to get his statement recorded. "Instead of helping police, Paliwal took police call as offensive and created the scene," he said. The police spokesman said Paliwal was detained and was produced before the court.

# Truck driver killed over extramarital affair?

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

A truck driver was bludgeoned to death in Mohanlalganj early Wednesday morning allegedly over an extramarital affair. Police, however, claimed the victim was killed by his neighbour over an old enmity. The woman in question and her husband had been detained while their son is absconding.

As per reports, Raj Karan Chaurasiya of Bhawa Kheda village of the area was all alone at his house when he was attacked. His wife Shanti, along with her son Anuj, had gone to their relative's house in

Nagram. On Wednesday morning, victim's niece Anita went to Raj Karan's house for some work and found him lying in a pool of blood in the verandah. She informed her father Satish who called Shanti and also informed the police about the incident.

A look of the scene suggested that Chaurasiya was attacked mercilessly. Blood was spattered all around. His head was found ripped off and there were a number of injuries on his body seemingly inflicted by a sharp-edged weapon and iron rods. The police sent the body for autopsy and started the

investigation into the case.

The victim's wife Shanti accused her neighbour, his wife Reena (name changed) and their son to have hand in the murder. On the revelation, the police raided the house and rounded up Reena and her husband while their son was found absconding.

It surfaced that Reena had injuries on her hands and head. When she was asked to explain about the wounds, she initially told police that she fell down and suffered the injuries. At this, the cops quizzed her strictly and she disclosed that Chaurasiya caught

her by her hand around 3 pm when she went out of her house for some work. She told police that she screamed for help and later attacked Chaurasiya killing him on the spot.

Police, however, did not seem fully convinced with Reena's confession of the crime. "More than one person was involved in the murder which took place early in the morning (around 3.30 am). It seemed that Reena was trying to save her husband and her son. She would have been caught in the 'act' with the victim and probably after this Reena and her son attacked the victim killed him.

**Attention!** Taxpayers who have not filed ITR for A.Y. 2018-19

**File your ITR before 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2018**  
(with late fee of ₹5,000/-)

(Late fee will increase to ₹10,000/- for ITRs filed after 31<sup>st</sup> December 2018)

Income Tax Department  
Central Board of Direct Taxes

# Meat recovered from car likely to be of cow

## Villagers stage protest; samples sent for test

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Hundreds of villagers took to the street and lobbed stones at HCL police outpost in Gosainganj on Wednesday after a car carrying meat of prohibited cattle hit a loader and the meat was scattered on the road. The incident exposed the police failure in curbing cow slaughter and transportation of meat of prohibited cattle.

As per reports, an over speeding car hurtled into a loader at Surya Hotel in Gosainganj police station area, a few distance away from a police outpost in the locality. As the car overturned, the man on the driving seat suffered serious injuries and also was trapped inside the car. Two of his aides, who also suffered injuries, fled the scene after abandoning the car. The meat weighing some quintals was scattered on the road after the car's boot opened due to the jerk.

On seeing this, a huge number of villagers and commuters converged at the spot and they started creating ruckus while criticising the Gosainganj police for failing to prevent cow slaughter and transportation of cow meat.

Later, Amarkesh of Barabanki informed the police about the incident.

On the information, a police team reached the place and the injured man was rushed to Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital. The police team recovered meat and sent samples to the forensic lab.

As cops tried to disperse the mob, villagers went berserk and they assembled in a huge number and later threw stones at the HCL police outpost.

A heavy police force from police stations in the neighbourhood was summoned at the spot to control the situation. The Mohanlalganj CO and the district administration officials reached the scene.

To contain the public ire, a team of doctors was summoned at the spot and the samples were collected from the scene.

Giving details, police spokesman AK Dwivedi said the identity of the man could not be identified as yet.

"The injured is in a serious state and yet to regain his consciousness," he said while quoting reports of doctors of RML Hospital. He said the police registered a case under 3/5/8 of Cow Slaughter Act. "The team

# AS COPS TRIED TO DISPERSE THE MOB, VILLAGERS WENT BERSERK AND THEY ASSEMBLED IN A HUGE NUMBER AND LATER THREW STONES AT THE HCL POLICE OUTPOST

of doctors suggested that the recovered goods to be cow meat. The case was registered on this basis," he explained.

Police sources disclosed that cow slaughter was a routine affair in Gosainganj, Mohanlalganj, Nagam and other localities in rural parts of the city.

"As Gosainganj is close to Barabanki, it is suspected that the meat was being transported from Barabanki and was to be supplied to some sellers in Lucknow or Rae Bareilly," they disclosed. The police spokesman said sub-inspector Upendra Singh was assigned the task to investigate the case.

# Six-yr-old boy kidnapped

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

An unidentified woman kidnapped a six-year-old boy from Bazaarkhala on Wednesday afternoon. Police registered a case and the investigation was underway to search the missing boy.

As per reports, the boy, identified as Ayan of Bhadewan locality, went to a shop to purchase shampoo pouches around 12.50 pm on Wednesday.

After Ayan did not reach home hours after he left for the shop, his mother Farida went to the shop and inquired about Ayan.

The shop-owner told her that Ayan left the shop along with a woman who knew her.

On the revelation, Farida started weeping drawing the attention of commuters and residents.

It surfaced that the woman was not acquainted with Farida or with any members of her family. She called her family members and they started searching for the boy but to no avail. Farida later lodged a case in this connection.

The Bazaarkhala police registered a case of kidnapping.

A team had been formed. Police are also scanning the CCTV footages to get a clue of the mysterious woman who kidnapped Ayan," the police spokesman said.

# Christmas cookies, cakes, brownies flood shops

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ LUCKNOW

Cookies in the shape of Christmas trees and cakes in the shape of reindeers — the Christmas baking is showing in the bakery shops of the city with the festival of Christmas just a few days away.

Talking to *The Pioneer*, Jasjit Singh from a well-known bakery shop said that they had brownies in the shape of Christmas trees and cookies in the shape of letters 'H' and 'O'. "The brownies are cut in a triangular shape and decorated like a Christmas tree. The cookies are in the shape of 'H' and 'O' because when they are put together they form the exclamation 'Ho-Ho-Ho' which goes well with the buyers since it could be connected with the laughter of Santa Claus," he said.

Singh said that the traditional plum cakes always remained the most popular. "This time, we have made them more extravagant by having more nutty flavours in them. There are also the rum and the raisin cakes this Christmas," he said.

He further stated that they were baking a three-foot-high cake in the shape of a reindeer on a sleigh for display at the time of Christmas. "This will be displayed in the show window and then cut on Christmas and will be distributed free of cost among those who visit the shop," he said.

Balwinder Singh, a city chef, said that they were selling combos in the Christmas season. He said that in Christmas combos, people could choose between the edible Santa Claus, Christmas tree and other items. "We are also offering the plum pudding, the ginger bread man, breads, the minced pie and star-shaped tarts which are full of jam. People can choose from these or place an individual order or buy individual items," he added.



**"The brownies are cut in a triangular shape and decorated like a Christmas tree. The cookies are in the shape of 'H' and 'O' because when they are put together they form the exclamation 'Ho-Ho-Ho' which goes well with the buyers since it could be connected with the laughter of Santa Claus"**

# Christmas function organised

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ LUCKNOW

The combined Christmas programme of the Assembly of Believers Church was organised at Ravindralaya on Wednesday with the opening prayer of Rev Jagdish Das.

Bishop Shalendra Das welcomed the congregation and conducted the programme. Then a choir consisting of 50 young persons representing four different states of India, namely, Jammu and Kashmir, Kerala, Goa and Arunachal Pradesh, presented songs.

The main attraction of the programme was 'Nativity' (a traditional drama) presented by the kids and children of the church. The Christmas drama was directed by long live Victor and Neelam Anthony.

The choir was prepared under the able guidance of pastor Allen Rocky Anthony. The choir presented the song, 'Bethlehem ke gaushale mein, Badshah Yesu paida hua'. The youths of the Assembly of Believers Church presented a dance on the story of Jesus Christ's birth.

The Christmas message was given by chief guest Bishop Augustus Anthony (Bro Tony). In the end, the visit of Santa Claus brought excitement and joy amongst the congregation.

Meanwhile, the Christmas Carnival was held at St Francis' College on Wednesday. Vicar general Fr R D'Souza, along with manager Fr Donald D'Souza, inaugurated the fete. There was an assortment of games and food stalls. Students, parents and guests turned up in large numbers.

The kids' corner and request stall were a huge attraction. Everyone enjoyed themselves a lot. Principal Fr Alwyn Mora's thanked everyone for their support.

उप प्रो पावर ट्रान्समिशन कारपोरेशन लि. शुद्धि पत्र इस कार्यालय द्वारा आमंत्रित निविदा संख्या 151, 153 एवं 172/वि.पा.म./गोष्ठा/2018-19, जो क्रमशः दिनांक 22.12.2018, 18.12.2018 एवं 22.12.2018 को खोली जानी है, के सम्बन्ध में निम्न शुद्धि पत्र जारी किया जाता है। निविदा संख्या 151, 152 एवं 172/वि.पा.म./गोष्ठा/2018-19 के खुलने की तिथि विस्तारित कर दी गयी है, अब यह निविदाएं दिनांक 28.12.2018 को 14.00 बजे तक अपलोड एवं स्वीकार की जायेगी एवं दिनांक 29.12.2018 को 12.00 बजे सार्वजनिक रूप से खोली जायेगी। निविदा की अन्य नियम व शर्तें ध्यात रहेंगी। निविदा के अन्य विवरण [www.etender.up.nic](http://www.etender.up.nic) पर देखे जा सकते हैं। **अधीक्षण अभियन्ता, विद्युत परियोजना मण्डल, 220 के०बी० उपकेंद्र परिसर, जेल रोड, गोष्ठा। संख्या 2114/वि.पा.म./गोष्ठा/दिनांक-18.12.2018, राष्ट्र हित में बिजली बचाये साधारण बल के स्थान पर एल०डी०बी० बल का प्रयोग करें "**

कार्यालय अधीक्षण अभियन्ता विद्युत परियोजना मण्डल, गोष्ठा, ई-टेंडरिंग निविदा सूचना अनुमती फार्म / टेकेंडरों से निम्नलिखित कार्य हेतु सौकर्य निविदाएं दो मांगों में दिनांक 04.01.2019 को 14.00 बजे तक आमंत्रित की जाती है। (1) **अल्पकालिक ई-निविदा संख्या 173/ई टी सी (गोष्ठा)/2018-19** : विद्युत परियोजना मण्डल के अन्तर्गत 132 के०बी० उपकेंद्र तुलसीपुर पर कन्ट्रोल रूम की प्रकाश व्यवस्था सम्बन्धी कार्य। धरोहर राशि ₹ 2000.00 निविदा मांग-1 खुलने की तिथि 05.01.2019 को 12.00 बजे, निविदा प्रपत्र मूल्य ₹ 236.00 (कर सहित)। निविदा प्रपत्र शुल्क (नान रिफंडेबिल) एवं ई०एम०डी० अधिवासी अभियन्ता, विद्युत परियोजना मण्डल, गोष्ठा के बैंक खाते में (बैंक का नाम - पंजाब नेशनल बैंक, खाता सं-0181002100120697, आईएफएससी कोड - PUNB0018100) अपलोड/एल०डी०बी०/एल०डी०बी० के माध्यम से निविदा की अंतिम अपलोड तिथि से एक दिन पूर्व तक जमा की जायेगी तथा बैंक में जमा किये जाने का साक्ष्य यथा योज्य यूटोडी०आर० सं०, खाते का नाम निर्णयकर्ता बैंक अधिकारी द्वारा हस्ताक्षरित एवं निविदादाता द्वारा प्रतिहस्ताक्षरित पं इन स्तिप की स्कैन प्रतिलि, ईएमडी के लिए बैंक गारंटी की स्कैन प्रतिलि, जारीकर्ता बैंक के कन्फर्मेशन मेल की प्रतिलि भी निविदा प्रपत्रों के साथ इलेक्ट्रॉनिकी साधन व पडनीय अपलोड की जायेगी, अन्यथा कि स्थिति में निविदादाता द्वारा प्रस्तुत निविदा को स्वतः निरस्त समझा जायेगा। साथ ही निविदा के मांग-1 में तकनीकी विड (बिन कार्ड, इकमपैस रिटर्न, जी०एस०टी०सी प्रतीकरण की स्वयं प्रमाणित छायाप्रतिलि एवं तकनीकी अनुभव इत्यादि), संलग्न करना अनिवार्य है। धरोहर राशि / निविदा शुल्क जमा न होने अथवा किसी प्रकार की त्रुटि होने पर निविदा का मांग-2 जिसमें दरें दी जानी है, नहीं खोली जायेगी। मांग-2 में दरें एवं वाणिज्यिक नियम व शर्तें ही लागू रहेंगी। तथा हार्ड कॉपी कार्यालय में जमा करने की आवश्यकता नहीं होगी। किसी भी स्थिति में निविदा के Retender होने पर निविदा की निविदा शुल्क(नान रिफंडेबिल) एवं धरोहर धनराशि पुनः जमा की जानी अनिवार्य होगी, अन्यथा कि स्थिति में निविदादाता द्वारा प्रस्तुत निविदा को स्वतः निरस्त समझा जायेगा। निविदा का मांग प्रथम एवं द्वितीय : (ग्राइजिडि दरें एवं शर्तें) दिनांक 04.01.2019 को 14.00 बजे तक [www.etender.up.nic](http://www.etender.up.nic) पर अपलोड की जा सकती है। निविदा का प्रथम मांग दिनांक 05.01.2019 को 12.00 बजे एवं मांग-2 (ग्राइजिडि) निविदा शुल्क एवं धरोहर धनराशि प्राप्ति की पुष्टि होने के पश्चात सार्वजनिक रूप से खोली जायेगी। निविदा खुलने की तिथि पर अचकाशा होने की स्थिति में निविदा अगले कार्य दिवस पर निर्धारित समय पर खोली जायेगी। निविदाओं को बिना कोई कारण बताये निविदा/निविदाओं को अस्वीकार/विनाशित करने का अधिकार अग्रहस्ताक्षरकर्ता के पास सुरक्षित रहेगा। धरोहर/निविदा राशि रहित व सार्वजनिक स्थानों पर खोली जायेगी। कृपया विस्तृत जानकारी, डाउनलोड अन्य संशोधनों एवं निविदा प्रस्तुत करने के दिनांक तक विस्तार आदि के सम्बन्ध में कृपया [www.etender.up.nic](http://www.etender.up.nic) की वेबसाइट पर लॉग आन करें। **अधीक्षण अभियन्ता विद्युत परियोजना मण्डल, 220 के०बी० उपकेंद्र परिसर, जेल रोड, गोष्ठा। संख्या - 2115/वि.पा.म./गो/ई-टेंडरिंग नो - 173 / 2018-19 दिनांक - 18.12.2018, "राष्ट्र हित में बिजली बचाये"**

# Rich tributes paid to Kakori bravehearts

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ LUCKNOW

Rich tributes were paid to the bravehearts of the Kakori incident in a programme organised near Kakori railway station by the district administration. Tributes were paid to Pandit Ram Prasad Bismil, Ashfaqullah Khan, Rajendra Singh Lahiri and Roshan Singh who were hanged to death for the incident.

Speaking on the occasion, Governor Ram Naik said that for the development of the country it was important to have the contribution of youths. He said that the country would have the maximum number of youths by the end of 2025 and Uttar Pradesh being the most populous state would have them in maximum number. He said that the progress of the country was possible only with the development of UP. He said that it was the responsibility of youths to take the country forward.

He said that those who had laid down their lives for the freedom of the country were great men and added that it was also necessary to fight for freedom along with 'ahimsa'. The Governor said that the wealth of the country was being sent abroad and hence the Kakori incident took place to prevent this from happen-



ing. He added said that from 1857 to 1947 there were several youths who made a contribution in the country's struggle for freedom. He also felicitated school students on the occasion. He also told them to visit the Allahabad museum on the momentous occasion of Kumbh Mela and see the

revolver of great freedom fighter Chandra Shekhar Azad themselves. Giving a word of advice to students, he said that they were the creator of their own destinies and they should keep moving in life. Also present on the occasion was District Magistrate Kaushal Raj Sharma.

# CITYBRIEFS

## AWARENESS CAMP

CGES (Clean and Green Environmental Society) will be organising awareness camps and seminars on environmental issues. The executive committee meeting of CGES took this decision to organise seminars on the use of solar energy, climate change, gardening, afforestation and cleanliness in 2019 besides publishing a booklet containing tips on the home gardening. It was also decided to involve students from schools and colleges in these programmes. The meeting was chaired by president of the society Sumer Agarwal and was attended by PK Seth, former director, IITR, SK Barik, director, NBRI, SC Sharma, Secretary General, Rana Pratap Singh and Naveen Arora of BBAU, S Prasad of CSAUT, Kanpur, Ramji Prasad, senior scientist, Vegetable Farm, Kanpur.



## WORKSHOP

A three-day technical cooperation workshop was organised at RDSO from December 17 to December 19 in which a research team of Korean Railroad Research Institute (KRRI), headed by Dr Ji-Taek Oh, visited RDSO. In the workshop, possibility of taking up joint R&D projects in the field of railway safety, passenger comfort and mutual cooperation between Indian Railways and Korean Railways for training of Indian railway officials was also explored by the KRRI and RDSO teams. The dialogue between the two organisations will continue on a regular basis to ensure that the project gets completed within the target time.



## UPSTR CONCLAVE

Uttar Pradesh State Road Transport Corporation is holding a developers' conclave at a city hotel on Thursday. Transport commissioner P Guru Prasad said that 30 companies which were into the business of construction of bus stands would congregate in the city. He said that developers would be from states of Gujarat, Kolkata, Mohali, Mumbai and Utrakhand. "Apart from these developers, there will be senior officials from various state road authorities from six states," he said. The commissioner added that they would showcase the RFP (Request for Proposal) which they had prepared for 21 bus stations coming up in the state. "We will later float the RFP in January," he said. The meeting will be inaugurated by Transport Minister Swatantra Deo Singh and Chief Secretary Anoop Pandey. The Transport department, after the success of Alambagh bus stand, is now gearing up for more such stations in coming days.

## GLOBAL AWARENESS PROGRAMME

Prithvi Innovations, as member of IPEN (International POPs Elimination Network, in collaboration with Amity University organised an important global awareness program on health and environment. The programme was a part of international campaign by IPEN that works for toxic-free future. Anuradha Gupta, founder-cum-general secretary of Prithvi Innovations, conducted the programme by giving the overview.

## TIGRESS SHIFTED

Tigress Renu, which was brought to the Lucknow zoo on April 14 this year from the Kheri division, has now been shifted to the tiger cage. The tigress was brought in an extremely injured state because it had been beaten up by people since she had killed a man. The general public will now be able to see the tigress.



# SCHOOLSCAN

## OVERWHELMING PERFORMANCE

Tiny-tots of pre-primary and primary classes of City Montessori School, Aliganj Campus I, mesmerised their parents and grandparents with their blooming and blossoming talents. It was the occasion of 'Annual Mothers Day and Grandparents Day' of the school which concluded on Wednesday at CMS, Gomti Nagar, auditorium. The presence of a large number of grandparents of students added special attraction in the celebration sending the message that without the support of grandparents, character development of children suffered and moral values could not be instilled in them. Earlier, additional commissioner, Income Tax, Puja Raj inaugurated the function by lighting the lamp of learning. In her address, Puja Raj said that elders had a responsibility to provide moral and spiritual values and good ideas to children everywhere in home, school, and society. Praising the talents of students, she said that both parents and teachers of CMS were dedicated in their duties and it was largely because of them that CMS students were making such outstanding progress in various fields of knowledge.



Nagar campus, concluded with a grand closing ceremony on Wednesday at the CMS, Kanpur Road auditorium. Commandant, CTI, Homeguards, Sanjeev Kumar Shukla inaugurated the prize distribution-cum-closing ceremony by lighting the lamp of learning and honoured and awarded trophy, medals and certificates to winners of Eureka International amidst scintillating educational-cultural presentation. The Super Overall

Championship of Eureka International-2018 went to Spring Dale Senior School, Amritsar, whereas Sagar Public School, Madhya Pradesh, won the Overall Championship trophy in primary category; St Stephen's School, Chandigarh, won the Overall Championship trophy in junior category and Bal Bharti Public School, New Delhi, won the Overall Championship trophy in senior category.

# HC rejects bail plea of Yadav Singh's wife

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ ALLAHABAD

The Allahabad High Court on Tuesday rejected the bail application of Kusumlati, wife of former NOIDA chief engineer, Yadav Singh, who is an accused in the multi-crore NOIDA land scam.

Rejecting the bail application, a division bench comprising Justices Ramesh Sinha and Dinesh Kumar Singh-I, however, said that taking into account the order of the apex court the applicant, Kusumlati, would not be arrested till January 10, 2019. However, the court made it clear that if she fails to get relief till the said period then the trial court would be at liberty to

take coercive action against her to secure her presence if she did not surrender before the trial court after January 10, 2019. Earlier this court on November 3, 2018, had granted interim bail to Kusumlati, wife of former NOIDA chief engineer, Yadav Singh, on medical ground as she was suffering from some serious ailments. The court has directed her to cooperate with the trial pending against her in the CBI court, Ghaziabad, in a money-laundering case. The CBI has submitted a chargesheet against Yadav Singh, the then chief engineer of NOIDA Authority, Greater NOIDA Authority and Yamuna Expressway Industrial Development Authority along with several others in the multi-crore land scam of NOIDA.

# Monitor lizard facing threat to life in city

Lucknow (PNS): The monitor lizard is facing a threat to its existence in the city. Wildlife Centre, Lucknow University, coordinator Amita Kannaujia said that the main reasons for the threat were the growing constructions across the city, the killing of the hapless reptile due to the misconception that it was poisonous and, lastly, because of the illicit trade of its reproductive organ. Kannaujia said that they would be beginning an intensive awareness programme

amongst people to tell them that the monitor lizard was not poisonous at all.

Talking to *The Pioneer*, she said that she had seen the reptile being chased and killed in rural and urban areas. "People think that it is poisonous and hence attack it but the actual fact is that the creature is totally harmless and all its species in the country are non-poisonous. In those cases where death has occurred due to the bite of the monitor lizard, it is due to sec-

ondary infections in the wound," he said. She pointed out that their habitats had been destroyed with so much construction. "They normally occupy places below bridges and in crevices and holes the same way as the snakes. When they are sighted during these constructions, they are chased and killed brutally. The extensive construction which has taken place in Jankipuram Extension has seen many of these monitor lizards being killed," she added.

She said that another illegal trade which was prevailing was the sale of the monitor lizard's reproductive organ.

"The organ is termed as 'hatha-jodi' and is extracted in a brutal manner by burning the lower part of its body. It is sold in the name of the plant herb which it is not. The myth goes that keeping the 'hatha jodi' can bring in a lot of wealth to the person something which is totally nonsensical," she said.

CONG CHIEF'S IMPROMPTU PRESS BRIEFING

# Rahul takes tuition to dream: Irani

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The BJP on Wednesday attacked Congress president Rahul Gandhi for lacking originality and living off borrowed ideas on loan waivers with Union Minister Smriti Irani wondering if he was taking tuitions for even dreaming. Niti Aayog Vice Chairman Rajiv Kumar also took a dig saying Rahul's statement is like "maano na maano, main hi champion".



rupees. Soon after his party's poll victories in Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh, Congress president moved fast to take credit for any potential farm loan waiver the Modi-Government might announce ahead of the 2019 Lok Sabha elections.

The BJP Government in Assam on Tuesday announced the approval of ₹600 crore farm loan waivers, which it said will benefit around eight lakh farmers of the State. The same day, the party's Government in Gujarat announced a complete waiver of ₹625 crore in unpaid electricity bills, under its one-time settlement scheme for over six lakh people living in rural parts of the State.

"What can I say? It's like 'maano na maano main hi champion'. Govt works after looking at everything. I don't think any other Govt has ever worked for farmers as much as the present Govt is doing", claimed Niti Aayog Vice-Chairman in a tweet while reacting to Rahul's pronouncements on loan waivers.

for Centre's assistance..." Latching on to the video, Irani tweeted, "Rahul Gandhi takes tuition to dream and the current video shows that he doesn't trust his own words but he relies on others who teach him what to speak. It is a warning for the people of this country to know that he is not eligible for any electoral post."

At the same press conference, Rahul had also made the catchy comment "sone nahin dunga" against Prime Minister Narendra Modi. He said the Opposition "would not allow Prime Minister Narendra Modi to sleep" until farm

loans are waived. The loan waivers are seen as populist political measures to woo voters rather than provide a long-term solution to the agrarian crisis faced by the farmers in the country. It is estimated that around three lakh farmers have committed suicide from 1995 to 2015 and around 17 crore debt-ridden farmers have turned labourers as agriculture ceased to be remunerative over a period.

As one State Government after another announces populist loan waivers, it is not known who would foot the bill for the thousands of crore of

## PM still asleep, we will wake him up too: Congress chief

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Seeking continuously to take smileage in the run-up to the 2019 Lok Sabha election, Congress president Rahul Gandhi on Wednesday said his party had managed to wake up the Chief Ministers of Assam and Gujarat to grant farm loan waivers and will rouse a "sleeping" Prime Minister Narendra Modi too. His comment came a day after he said he would not let Modi sleep till a loan waiver is given to all farmers.

"The Congress party has managed to wake the CMs of Assam & Gujarat from their deep slumber. PM is still asleep. We will wake him up too," Rahul said on Twitter. The Congress president has moved quickly to take credit for any potential farm loan waiver the Government may plan ahead of the 2019 Lok Sabha elections. There are reports the

Modi-led BJP dispensation is mulling major relief for farmers but the contours of such relief are not yet known. The Gandhi has been championing the cause of farm loan waivers though he recently said in a press conference that they were not permanent solutions to the farming crisis and technological advances in agriculture in consultation with farmers were needed.

All Congress Governments have been promising farm loan waivers within 10 days of coming to power. Punjab offered one followed by Karnataka which is yet to ensure the real benefits of waivers reach farmers. Now, the Chhattisgarh and the MP Govts have also declared waivers. "We said our Governments will waive loans in 10 days. In MP and Chhattisgarh, it has taken less than six hours," Rahul Gandhi said on Tuesday.

## Surrogacy Bill 2016 passed in Lok Sabha amid disruptions

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Lok Sabha on Wednesday passed the Surrogacy (Regulation) Bill, 2016 that ensures effective regulation of surrogacy, and allows only altruistic surrogacy by infertile Indian couples, legally married for at least five years. Surrogacy is an arrangement where a couple commissions a woman (called a surrogate) to carry their child.

The Lok Sabha saw repeated adjournments, but managed to pass the bill with voice vote amid disruptions. Welcoming the passage of the Bill, JP Nadda, Union Health Minister tweeted, "This (Surrogacy Regulation Bill 2016) protects dignity of women, economic exploitation and also protects the interest of the surrogate children who are abandoned. The Bill has been a demand from all sections of society."

Only childless couples, legally married for at least five years, are allowed to commission surrogacy, from a woman who is a "close relative" of the

couple. Singles or those in a homosexual relationship cannot apply for surrogacy. The child, thus born, will be deemed to be the legal offspring of the intended couple.

The surrogate mother and the intending couple will need eligibility certificates from the appropriate authority. The surrogate mother must be a 'close relative' of the intending couple, as per the bill.

Once enacted by Parliament, the National Surrogacy Board will be constituted at the central level, while the states and Union Territories will constitute the State Surrogacy Boards and State Appropriate Authorities within three months of the notification by the Central Government.

As the bill restricts surrogacy by only a "close relative" couples who do not have a large "close" family — or members in it who might be willing to be surrogates for them — cannot have a baby through surrogacy. The only available option for them will then be adoption.

## ED questions PC in INX media bribe case

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate on Wednesday interrogated former Finance Minister P Chidambaram in the INX Media bribe case. Chidambaram was confronted with documents and statements of other accused and INX Media owners Peter and Indrani Mukherjee who allegedly paid ₹5 crore to son Karti for the illegal post dated approval of FIPB clearance. ED have already attached ₹55-crore worth properties of Karti and his firm Advantage Strategic Consulting in Delhi, Ooty, London and Spain.

Questions were posed to Chidambaram on why he entertained post clearance, when the INX Media was caught by Income Tax in 2007 for illegally bringing ₹300 crore as FDI,

while it was allowed to receive only ₹5 crore. It was learned that Chidambaram put all blame on officers in FIPB and claimed that he only signed the files put forward to him. Chidambaram also claimed that he was not aware of Son's business activities and relation with Indrani, though he admitted that he admitted that Indrani and Peter met him in office when files were pending with him.

INX Media case was unearthed during the joint raid of ED and Income Tax in connection with Aircel-Maxis probe at Karti's offices and home in December 2015. In 2006, INX Media got only approval for five crore as foreign direct investment. But Income Tax in 2007 found that illegally they routed ₹306 crore as FDI through Mauritius.

## Ansari released by Pak meets Sushma

New Delhi: Hamid Nihal Ansari, the software engineer who has returned home after spending six years in a Pakistani jail, on Friday had an emotional interaction with External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj as tears rolled down his cheeks while narrating his ordeal.

"Please forgive me... Thank you so much," Ansari, accompanied by his mother and a number of family members, told Swaraj as she embraced and patted him.

On her part, Swaraj, who was personally monitoring Ansari's case, hailed his courage and said destiny had taken him to that country and that he should not feel sorry.

"You have lots of courage... You should not say sorry," Swaraj told a teary-eyed Ansari, who returned to India on Tuesday.

Ansari was arrested in Pakistan in 2012 for illegally entering Pakistan from Afghanistan, reportedly to meet a girl he had befriended online. Authorities in Pakistan had slapped charges of espionage against him.

Ansari's mother Fauzia too thanked Swaraj and her Ministry for all the assistance to the family in its legal battle in Pakistan.

"Mera Bharat Mahan. Meri madam (Swaraj) Mahan (My India is great. My madam is great)," an emotional Fauzia told

Swaraj while hugging her. Officials said 33-year-old Ansari became emotional while explaining the difficult phase he had to endure in Pakistan.

Ansari and the family thanked Swaraj and the Ministry of External Affairs for persisting with the case and taking it up with Islamabad.

The Mumbai resident, who returned to India after crossing the Wagah-Attari border, was imprisoned in the Peshawar Central Jail after being sentenced by a military court on December 15, 2015. According to official sources, India issued 96 notes verbales to Pakistan seeking consular access to Ansari. The decision to release him was on

account of relentless pressure from New Delhi, they said.

Shortly before his arrival on Tuesday, Ansari's mother Fauzia Ansari told reporters that the prayers of the family and of all those who wished for his safe return had been answered.

His father, Nihal Ansari, said, "It is a new dawn for us." Ansari's jail term ended on December 15 but he was not able to leave for India as his legal documents were not ready.

On Thursday, the Peshawar High Court gave the Pakistan Government a month's deadline to complete his repatriation process. **PTI**

## Din in Parliament for sixth consecutive day

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Both the houses of Parliament on Thursday saw disruption for the sixth consecutive day on Wednesday with the Congress raising a din over the Rafale fighter jet deal demanding a joint Parliament Committee (JPC) probe. The TDP, the AIADMK and DMK continued to raise the issue of the dam over special status for Andhra Pradesh and Cauvery dam issue respectively.

While the Rajya Sabha was adjourned for the day shortly after it met due to pandemonium, the Lok Sabha saw repeated adjournments, but managed to pass the Surrogacy (Regulation) Bill amid the ruckus. Efforts to pass the Consumer Protection Bill failed as Speaker Sumitra Mahajan said there was too much din and the bill will be taken up on Thursday.

The Upper House witnessed uproar soon after papers were laid with the AIADMK and some members from Andhra Pradesh trooping into the well showing placards. In the din, Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs Vijay Goel demanded that senior Congress leader Anand Sharma should withdraw remarks made by him against the minister in the House on Tuesday.

Goel said Sharma had wrongly quoted him to say that he had demanded an apology from Rahul Gandhi on the Rafale issue. Chairman M Venkaiah Naidu said he would look into the records. Goel also said the Congress wanted to disturb the proceedings even though the government was ready for a debate on the Rafale matter.

As the Congress members waved placards demanding a JPC probe into the Rafale deal,

the BJP MPs countered with placards seeking apology from Rahul Gandhi following the Supreme Court clean chit to the Rafale deal. As sloganeering from both sides continued, Naidu said, "It is very clear that none of you want the House to run. I do not want this (ruckus) to be seen by the people," while adjourning proceedings for the day.

The Lok Sabha was adjourned on three occasions amid uproar after the government rejected the opposition demand for a JPC probe into the Rafale deal. As the House re-convened for the second time in the noon, members from the Congress, AIADMK and TDP trooped into the Well, holding placards and shouting slogans.

While AIADMK members protested the construction of a dam across the Cauvery river, those from the Congress demanded a JPC probe into the Rafale deal. The TDP sought to raise issues related to Andhra Pradesh.

Leader of the Congress in the Lok Sabha Mallikarjun Kharge said there were "serious apprehensions" in the minds of the people over the Rafale deal and this needs to be probed by the JPC. Responding to this, Parliamentary Affairs Minister Narendra Singh Tomar said the government is ready for a discussion on this issue, but rejected the demand for a JPC. Home Minister Rajnath Singh said the government was ready to discuss any issue demanded by the opposition, including the Rafale deal.

When the House met against at 2.00 PM, the surrogacy bill was taken up for consideration. Some members participated in the discussion before the bill was passed amid the din.

# Shah: There's nothing like mahaghatbandhan

Says BJP doesn't face any threat from combined Opp in LS polls

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

Disapproving the effort to link his party's recent electoral debacle in Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh with its prospects in the forthcoming Lok Sabha polls, BJP president Amit Shah on Wednesday ridiculed the speculation about the "threat" faced by his party from the combined Opposition in the 2019 polls, saying that there was nothing like a "Mahaghatbandhan" in the national level.

"It's true that the results for BJP weren't good (in the three north Indian states). But to link this to 2019 wouldn't be completely right. If we accept this theory, then before 2004 we had won Assembly polls in the same states, yet we lost the 2004 Lok Sabha elections. In 2013, we had won in these states and we won in the 2014 Lok Sabha polls as well. We will fight on the basis of the changes that have taken place in the country since 2014," Shah said.

"In MP, there was a 7-seat gap between us and only 3500 votes cumulatively differentiated us and Congress. In UP and MP, the political issues on the ground needn't be the same. It's not possible to undermine PM Modi's work in these states. We will win the Hindi

Heartland in 2019," Shah said.

In an interview with Republic TV's Editor-in-chief Arnab Goswami at the party's Summit here, Shah also debunked the "threat" posed by "Mahaghatbandhan", saying: "Contrary to the manner in which Mahaghatbandhan is being presented in the country today, its reality is different. In the nation-wide scenario, there's no Mahaghatbandhan. If Deve Gowda comes to Maharashtra, how much difference will it make? The same is the case with Mamata Banerjee in Gujarat or Chandrababu Naidu elsewhere?"

These Mahaghatbandhans are in states, they have no impact on the national platform. They

aren't in a position to help each other. You must remember that we beat them all in 2014."

Refusing steadfastly to attach any importance to the party's defeat in the 2018 Lok Sabha by-polls in Uttar Pradesh, the BJP president said: "The UP by-polls weren't a barometer to determine Prime Minister's performance or popularity. I know Uttar Pradesh well. We lost the by-polls where we had very little least chance of winning. The U.P government has done very well. And we will be even stronger there than we were."

Responding to questions relating to the 2019 polls, Shah reiterated that the BJP would fight the 2019 Lok Sabha polls under the leadership of Prime Minister

Narendra Modi. "We are going to fight the elections on the strength of Narendra Modi. This government isn't fighting to remain in power. It's a contest to change the country. All previous governments have landed in some form of trouble or the other."

"This government hasn't fallen into any such distress -- in all the fields like agriculture and industry, bureaucracy and leadership, cities and villages, reforms and raising of standard of living -- all of it has happened. The government takes decisions based on whether it'll benefit people, not for vote banks," Shah said.

Queried if the BJP would cobble a "Super NDA" for the 2019 polls, the BJP president said: "We have 31 parties.

We can still have talks with others and we will form alliances, but until it's done, I shouldn't speak. But look at North-East. We've come together with a number of small parties. In the South and in UP, we can have alliances. We will go as NDA into 2019, with pre-poll alliances. But the nucleus of the NDA is the BJP and PM Modi."

Replying to a question on the BJP's seat projections for the 2019 polls, Shah said: "On seats, I can only make projections after we firm up alliances. But I can say that with the existing seats, the NDA and BJP, under the leadership of Narendra Modi, will make an even bigger gain and come back to power with full majority."

## MEA is getting Jinnah House transferred in its name: Swaraj

PTI ■ MUMBAI

External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj has said that her Ministry is in the process of getting Jinnah House, the sea-facing Mumbai bungalow of Pakistan founder Mohammad Ali Jinnah, transferred in its name.

In a letter to city BJP legislator Mangal Prabhat Lodha, Swaraj also said that her Ministry will refurbish the

bungalow on the lines of Hyderabad House in Delhi.

Lodha had written to Swaraj on October 5 requesting that Jinnah House should be made a cultural centre.

"Prime Minister's Office (PMO) has instructed us to renovate and refurbish Jinnah House to develop it on the pattern of facilities available in Hyderabad House in Delhi. Accordingly, approval of the PMO was sought for transfer of

the property from ICCR (Indian Council for Cultural Relations) to our Ministry. PMO has now accorded necessary approvals," Swaraj said in her letter to Lodha.

The letter, dated December 5, further said, "We are in the process of transferring the ownership in our name."

Lodha told PTI Wednesday that with this development, "the controversy (about the bungalow's ownership and how

it should be utilised) will get over now as it is going to be developed on the patterns of Hyderabad House."

The bungalow on Malabar Hill was designed by architect Claude Batley in European style and Jinnah lived there in the late 1930s. Pakistan had demanded in recent years that the property should be handed over to it for housing its Mumbai consulate.

Interestingly, Lodha had once demanded that the structure be demolished, as it was a "symbol of partition".

Jinnah's daughter Dina Wadia had in August 2007 approached the Bombay High Court claiming that being the sole legal heir of Jinnah, she should get the possession of the house. After her death, her son and Wadia Group chairman Nusli Neville Wadia is carrying on the litigation.

## IN SHORT

### TDP ISSUES ZERO HOUR NOTICE OVER EVMS

New Delhi: Telugu Desam Party (TDP) has given a Zero Hour Notice over EVMS failure in Lok Sabha on Thursday. The notice has been given by TDP MPs Murali Mohan, Ravindra Babu and Muttamsetti Srinivasa Rao.

### BUDDING ENTREPRENEURS, INDUSTRIALISTS INTERACT

New Delhi: Hundreds of budding entrepreneurs interacted with industry leaders during the International Conference on Entrepreneurship, Innovation and Leadership organised on Amity University campus in association with the MSME Ministry on Wednesday. Union Minister Mahesh Sharma inaugurated the conference.

### SKIN SAFAR RATH TO BE FLAGGED OFF TODAY

New Delhi: As a part of community outreach programme "Swachh Twacha Swastha Bharati", Indian Association of Dermatologists Venerologists and Leprologists (IADVL) will flag off on Thursday "Skin Safar Rath" campaign, covering 11,000 Km in 60 days in 15 States to raise awareness about skin health, said Dr. Ramesh Bhatt.

## NITI pitches for Agri Tribunal to boost farmers' income

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Niti Aayog on Wednesday pitched for setting up an agricultural tribunal and auctioning of farm produce in mandis by fixing minimum reserve price to boost farmers income.

In its 'Strategy for New India@75' document released by Finance Minister Arun Jaitley, the Aayog suggested many reform measures to increase the farm sector growth and double farmers' income by 2022.

"The government should

consider replacing the Commission on Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP) by an agriculture tribunal in line with the provisions of Article 323B of the Constitution," it said.

The CACP is a government's advisory body that suggests the minimum support price (MSP) for 22 kharif and rabi crops. The government generally agrees to the suggestion made by the CACP.

The Niti Aayog should set up a group to examine "replacing the minimum support price (MSP) by a minimum reserve

price (MRP), which could be the starting point for auctions at mandis", the document said.

The group should also examine if MSP can be fixed based on the three different criteria -- surplus produce, products in deficit in domestic market but available globally and products that are in deficit both domestically and globally, the report added.

The Aayog further suggested examining options for including private traders operating in markets to complement the minimum support price (MSP) regime through a

system of incentives and commission payments.

Stating that raising MSP or prices can only be a partial solution to the problem of assuring remunerative returns to farmers, it said,

"A long-term solution lies in the creation of a competitive, stable and unified national market to enable better price discovery, and a long-term trade regime favourable to exports."

The Niti Aayog also emphasised the need to encourage futures trade and removal of entry barriers to

increase market depth should be considered. It also advocated contract farming.

On farm exports, the think tank suggested the government should come up with a coherent and stable agricultural export policy, ideally with a five to ten-year time horizon and a built-in provision for a mid-term review.

The strategy document also talked about modernising agriculture sector through improving irrigation facilities, marketing reforms, post-harvesting management and better crop insurance products.

# LJP demands 7 MP seats in Bihar

**Wants at least 6 LS seats, one in RS**

PTI ■ PATNA

Lok Janshakti Party (LJP), a key constituent of the ruling NDA, Wednesday pressed for finalisation of the coalition's seat-sharing arrangement in Bihar by month-end while making it clear it will not agree for anything less than six Lok Sabha seats and one in Rajya Sabha.

The assertion was made by LJP's state president Pashupati Kumar Paras, younger brother of the party chief and union minister Ram Vilas Paswan, a day after the party's parliamentary board chairman Chirag Paswan expressed dissatisfaction over no headway being made on the seat-sharing issue despite several meetings with the BJP leaders.

Paras said the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) has "undoubtedly" weakened in Bihar with exit of partners like Jitan Ram Manjhi and Upendra Kushwaha.

Speaking to reporters here, Paras said Kushwaha parted ways after he ran out of patience, as BJP chief Amit Shah and JD(U) chief Nitish Kumar made an announcement that their parties would contest an equal number of seats without taking into account that there were other constituents.

Ideally, all NDA partners should have sat together and arrived at a seat-sharing formula through consensus, he said, while asking what would be left for other allies following a decision by the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and Janata Dal (United) deciding to fight on an equal number of seats in the 2019 Lok Sabha elections. "Lack of clarity on the issue led to the RLSP's exit. A final decision on sharing of seats among the remaining allies must be arrived at by December 31," said Paras, who is also a member of the Nitish Kumar cabinet in the state.

He said Chirag Paswan's tweets reflected the party's sentiments and the seat-sharing formula must be timely and respectable.

Pointing out that the party had contested seven seats in the

2014 Lok Sabha polls, the state LJP chief said there was no reason why it would settle for less than that for the 2019 elections, or for six Lok Sabha seats and one in Rajya Sabha.

There has been speculation that the LJP chief and union minister Ram Vilas Paswan may not fight the Lok Sabha polls next year owing to bad health and leave his Hajipur (reserved) constituency for some family member and himself opt for the Upper House.

In a series of tweets, Chirag Paswan had on Tuesday cautioned the BJP against damage to the NDA in the event of the BJP's failure to arrive at a seat-sharing formula that was respectable for other allies.

His tweets have triggered speculations that the party, which was part of the Congress-led UPA for a decade before switching over to the BJP-led coalition during the 2014 polls, was bracing for changing sides yet again.

Reacting to the developments, RLSP's Upendra Kushwaha said the LJP should follow his example and leave the NDA. He alleged the BJP and Nitish Kumar in their

arrogance were hell bent upon destroying the smaller parties.

State BJP spokesman Nikhil Anand, however, sought to downplay the latest outbursts from the LJP leaders saying the NDA remains intact and any delay in announcing a seat-sharing formula could be due to the top leaders of his party having been busy in assembly polls for five states.

He said things will be settled amicably and in time.

JD(U) spokesman Rajiv Ranjan Prasad said the tuning between all three constituents of the NDA in Bihar is perfect and there is no need for getting alarmed over the tweets. He asserted that all three parties - JD(U), BJP and LSP -- will fight together and the NDA will win all 40 Lok Sabha seats in the state.

Senior Congress leader Prem Chandra Mishra, however, said the recent defeat of the BJP in its strongholds of Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and Rajasthan has put a question mark on the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his allies have become uncertain about their own prospects.

# HC to deliver judgment on BJP Rath Yatra today

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

The much awaited verdict on BJP's petition seeking permission for Rath Yatra in Bengal was likely to be delivered on Thursday, Calcutta High Court lawyers said. The BJP had gone to the Court against Trinamool Congress Government's denial of permission for the Yatra on grounds of communal tension.

In a prolonged argument on Wednesday the State Government submitted before the Court of Justice Tapabrata Chakrabarty that in denying the permission the Government had relied on intelligence reports apprehending communal disharmony and the leaflets with communal undertone distributed by the saffron party along the proposed routes of the Yatra.

This even as the BJP counsels hinged their contention on the party's claim of a "purely political programme" under the banner of Save Democracy Yatra in support of which the

**The BJP had announced three Yatras each from Coochbehar in North Bengal, Birbhum and Kalkdwip near Ganga Sagar Islands. All the Yatras were to be inaugurated by party chief Amit Shah and would be addressed at intervals by PM Narendra Modi**

saffron leadership has been staging civil disobedience movement throughout the State.

The Court however asked the Government as to what prevented the administration to curtail the number of rallies and re-chart the route of the Yatra saying in a democracy whether it was possible to stall a rally merely on the grounds of apprehension or intelligence

reports and whether the State Government would have taken a similar step had such a programme been taken up by some other outfit.

The Court was likely to deliver its judgment on Thursday when both the BJP and the Government's counsels will be allowed to further place their arguments for 15 minutes each. Sources on both sides said that petition of appeal had already been prepared and the side that lost the case would immediately proceed on appeal.

The BJP had announced three Yatras each from Coochbehar in North Bengal, Birbhum and Kalkdwip near Ganga Sagar Islands. All the Yatras were to be inaugurated by party chief Amit Shah and would be addressed at intervals by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The Prime Minister was likely to speak at the end of the three Yatras that would converge at the historic Brigade Parade Ground in Kolkata on January 23.

# Bengal Cong wants Rahul to send none to TMC rally

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

In a sudden development Bengal Pradesh Congress president Somen Mitra on Wednesday flew off to Delhi after he was summoned by party president Rahul Gandhi for crucial talks.

Gandhi was likely to hold talks with Mitra and Bengal Congress observer Gaurav Gogoi on Thursday noon, sources said adding the State leadership was expected to place three points before the national party president.

**WBPCCHIEF IN DELHI, TO BAT FOR ALLIANCE WITH LEFT FRONT**

Firstly he will be requested by the State president not to send any senior Congress representative in the Trinamool Congress' January 19 rally of anti-BJP parties called by Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee in Kolkata as this would further dampen the spirits of the party workers who had been fighting the Trinamool misrule on streets, PCC sources said adding a decision to the contrary could erase the Congress finally from the grassroots level.

Secondly the State leadership would request Gandhi to finalise about the alliance mechanisms if the party really wanted to go ahead with any kind of adjustments with the Left Front. "In 2016 we could have defeated the Trinamool had the alliance been struck a few months before. Even as last-moment alliance saw us getting defeat in vital 70 seats be a margin of 150 to 4,000 votes. Had we got those seats we could have formed the Government," a PCC leader said adding the leadership would be requested to take a decision allowing the workers to begin work in advance.

# PDP's two senior leaders desert Mehbooba for NC

KHURSHED WANI ■ SRINAGAR

Former Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Dr Farooq Abdullah on Wednesday urged for early elections in the embattled state to end the prolonged central rule imposed in the state six months ago. He said the elected government would be able to deliver governance in a better way.

Abdullah was speaking to reporters after welcoming two former senior leaders of rival People's Democratic Party (PDP)—Basharat Bukhari and Peer Muhammad Hussain—into his party National Conference (NC). The two leaders who have been elected to assembly in the past have

been ministers at different occasions and once considered part of the innermost circle of late Mufti Sayeed and his daughter Mehbooba Mufti. Their jumping ship is considered as a major jolt to the former ruling party that has seen a series of resignations from influential leaders since November 19 when Governor Satya Pal Malik dissolved the state assembly.

Bukhari, quit announcer's job with Radio Kashmir in 2003 to join the PDP and was subsequently nominated to legislative council in the same year. He successfully contested two assembly elections in 2008 and 2014 from Sangrama constituency of Baramulla and became a minister in 2015 in

Mufti Sayeed cabinet. Bukhari is elder brother of journalist Shujaat Bukhari who was killed by suspected militants outside his office in Srinagar in June this year along-with his two bodyguards.

Hussain was a retired government officer who joined PDP in 2002 to successfully contest 2002 assembly election and became a junior minister in Mufti Sayeed led PDP-Congress regime. Last year he quit the post of Vice Chairman of Muslim Waqf Board, a political appointment, after developing differences with Mehbooba Mufti.

Abdullah welcomed the duo saying their inclusion "will help salvage people from the current tumultuous times."



"We have to show steadfastness and maintain unity among us. We have to give a befitting reply to those forces which are inimical to the special status of the state," he said. Abdullah demanded announcement of elections in the state to pave way for the

establishment of elected government. "The Governor's rule is an autocratic rule. There is no substitute to a popularly elected government," he said adding that his party has been impressing on the incumbent administration to hold elections as soon as possible.

Farooq said that the regional coalitions can give a tough competition to the BJP during the upcoming Lok Sabha elections.

People's Conference Chairman Sajad Lone, who had staked claim for the formation of government on November 19 took a jibe on the change of loyalty of two former ministers and their welcome in the rival party. "The two dynasts' made fun of me on twitter. Made a lovely skeleton of me. Now that one is poaching the other. Wonder—amongst the dynasts' who is sketching whose skeleton," Lone tweeted shortly after the two leaders announced their decision to join the NC.

The NC and PDP had

formed a day-long coalition along-with the Congress and staked claim for the formation of government last month. Mehbooba Mufti in her letter to Governor had claimed support of 56 legislators to form the government. However, Governor Malik instead of inviting her or Sajad Lone to form the government, controversially dissolved the assembly.

The dissolution of assembly triggered permutations and combinations in the political parties, especially in the PDP, which has lost public sympathy due to its alliance with the BJP.

Two former Minister Imran Ansari and Hasseb Drabu and legislators Abbas Wani and Yasir Reshi have already quit the party.

**IMPORTANT NOTICE RESTORATION OF TRAIN**

It is notified for the Rail Passengers that train no. 54307/54308 Moradabad-Delhi-Moradabad Passenger, which was announced to remain cancelled during foggy weather has been restored to run from 20.12.2018.

Note: For any kind of Information passengers are requested to contact Railway Enquiry No. 139 or visit Indian Railways website [www.enquiry.indianrail.gov.in](http://www.enquiry.indianrail.gov.in).

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

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# Lord Muruga temple ticking time bomb

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ CHENNAI

Arumigu Dandayudhapani Swamy Temple at Palani, known globally as the Lord Muruga Temple, atop the Palani Hills in Tamil Nadu's Dindigul district, is a ticking time bomb because of serious shortcomings in safety and security measures followed by the temple authorities. Vinod C Menon, founder member of the National Disaster Management Authority expressed his shock over the safety and security scenario at Palani.

Any disaster in this shrine could lead to thousands of pilgrims losing their lives, said people residing in Palani. Safety guidelines have been given a blatant violation by the authorities of the Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowment (HR&CE) Department, a branch of the Government that administers the temple which has a history dating back

to 3,000 BC.

The Temple shot into fame because of the material with which the idol of Lord Muruga has been built. "The idol of the deity in Palani Temple has been built of a rare combination of nine minerals (navabhasanam in Tamil), a compound made by Bhoga, an ascetic believed to have lived in the period 3,000 BC. This idol has many medicinal properties. The proportion of the materials with which it has been built is purely based on science," said Parappanagadi Unnikrishna Panicker, thantric and vedic scholar who through an Ashtamangala Prasna, prevented the Tamil Nadu Government from its move to replace the ancient idol with a statue made of 200 kg gold.

Thousands of devotees make it to Palani on a daily basis from all over India and abroad. Even the vehicles and houses of DMK leaders, sworn

atheists, spot the picture of Lord Muruga. There are thousands of Murugans, Saravanas, Subramanians, Dandayudhanis in the DMK as well as the Dravida Kazhagam.

The decision of the Tamil Nadu Government to set up a kitchen inside the temple for preparing food for distribution under the Annadana scheme has sent shockwaves across Palani as well as among the devotees. "It is against all conventions and traditions. No one can set up kitchens inside the temple premises. Only the offerings to the deity could be made inside the temple in a separate area," said Panicker.

T R Ramesh, president, Temple Worshipers Society, said the Agama Sashtra has clearly stated that community kitchens should never be built inside the temple. "Imagine what would happen in the eventuality of a fire

accident. There are hundreds of LPG cylinders being used in the kitchen," said Ramesh.

The kitchen is functioning close to the devotees standing in queue for getting a darshan, pointed out Anirudh Garga, a practicing lawyer. "In the eventuality of a fire, all the devotees waiting in the queue will get charred to death as there are no emergency exits," said a worried Garga.

A free-for-all system prevails inside the temple. Last Saturday saw a devotee from Pudukcherry making it to the shrine with a letter of recommendation from Chief Minister V Narayanasamy asking the temple authorities to facilitate the bearer of the letter to get a darshan of the Lord. The main priests would distribute the holy ash only if they are given cash and that too in front of the sanctum sanctorum.

# BSF officer shoots self in Poonch, dies

PTI ■ JAMMU

A 49-year-old Assistant Sub-Inspector (ASI) of the Border Security Force (BSF) allegedly committed suicide Wednesday by shooting himself with his service rifle in Jammu and Kashmir's Poonch district, officials said.

The officer of the border guarding force, Satpal Jaswal, was found in a pool of blood after his colleagues pursued the sound of a gunshot at his post in forward area in Mendhar Bekt of the district Wednesday morning, they said.

Jaswal was admitted to hospital where doctors declared him brought dead, the officials said, adding that a case was registered in this connection.

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, CONSTRUCTION DIVISION-2, PWD RAEBARELI

**E-Tender Notice**

No. 2034/2Lakha/ 2018 Dated : 15.12.2018

The E.E., C.D.-2, U.P.P.W.D., Raebareli on behalf of Governor of Uttar Pradesh invites the percentage rate bids online from the eligible and approved Contractors registered with UP P.W.D. class 'A, B, C, D'. The Bidder may submit bids for any or all of the works. Bidders are advised to note the minimum qualification criteria specified in Clause 4 of the Instructions to Bidders to qualify for the award of the contract.

Sl. No.	DISTRICT	Name of Work	Estimated cost (Rs. in Lakhs)	Bid Security (Rs. in Lakhs)	Tender Cost	Address of Executive Engineer of the Executing work	Time of Completion	Address of Superintending Engineer	Address of Chief Engineer
<b>F/Y 2018-19 : New Construction.</b>									
1	Raebareli	C/O Rasulpur Gaharvani Link Road	25.00	2.50	860.00	CD-2, PWD Raebareli	03 Month	Lucknow Circle P.W.D. Lucknow.	Chief Engineer Central Zone P.W.D. Lucknow.
2	Raebareli	C/O Jamuvava Link Road	9.90	0.99	860.00	CD-2, PWD Raebareli	03 Month	Lucknow Circle P.W.D. Lucknow.	Chief Engineer Central Zone P.W.D. Lucknow.
<b>F/Y 2018-19 : Renewal with Special Repair.</b>									
1	Raebareli	Drapalganj to Unnao Bander Link Road.	3.70	0.37	860.00	CD-2, PWD Raebareli	01 Month	Lucknow Circle P.W.D. Lucknow.	Chief Engineer Central Zone P.W.D. Lucknow.
2	Raebareli	Khargapur Link Road.	8.00	0.80	860.00	CD-2, PWD Raebareli	01 Month	Lucknow Circle P.W.D. Lucknow.	Chief Engineer Central Zone P.W.D. Lucknow.

► The Rate adopted in the BOQ all other taxes but excluding GST Taxes. Bids can be downloaded online from date 05.01.2019 at 9:00 AM to 14.01.2019 at 12:00 Noon and bid can be submitted online on or before 14.01.2019 at 12:00 Noon. The technical bids will be opened online on date 15.01.2019 at 12:30 PM. According to the provisions of Government Order no. 1/2018/3070/78-2-2018/42 IT/2017 (22) Date 03-01-2018 after opening of the technical and financial bids, the bidder has to submit original documents personally in department/ office. In the event of non submission of original documents by the bidder, the appropriate action will be taken in accordance with the provisions of G.O. All terms & conditions can be seen on website <http://etender.up.nic.in>

(C.P. Gupta) Executive Engineer Construction Division-2 PWD, Raebareli For on behalf of Governor of UP

UP 135405 Date 18.12.2018 गिज़ान वेबसाइट: [www.upgov.nic.in](http://www.upgov.nic.in) पर उपलब्ध है।

# Manipur scribe held under NSA to remain in jail for one year: Govt

PTI ■ IMPHAL

An Imphal-based journalist, who was detained last month under the stringent National Security Act (NSA), will remain in custody for 12 months, according to a Manipur government order which said his activities were "prejudicial to the security of the state and maintenance of public order."

The District Magistrate of Imphal West had ordered detention of Kishorechand Wankhem, a 39-year-old journalist who works for a local TV channel, on November 27 allegedly after he uploaded videos criticising the BJP-led governments in Manipur and the Centre for observing Rani Jhansi's birth anniversary.

The videos which he had uploaded on November 19 in both English and Meitei were not related to his official work, officials had said.

According to a state home department statement issued on December 14, the Advisory Board of the National Security Act (NSA), in its sitting held on December 11, had

examined the allegations levelled against the journalist, Kishorechand Wankhem. On December 13, the board recommended that there were "sufficient grounds" to detain Wankhem under the provisions of the NSA, the statement said, without elaborating on the allegations against him.

Manipur Governor Najma Heptulla has approved the advisory board's recommendation on detention of the journalist under the NSA, according to the statement.

"The Governor of Manipur after considering the proximate past activities of the detenu and potential danger of his activities which are prejudicial to the security of the State and maintenance of public order and there is apprehension of his continuing to act in similar prejudicial activities, the moment he is released from detention, ... The said person should be detained for the maximum period of 12 months as provided under Section 13 of the said Act," the statement said.

In consonance with the opinion of the Board and exercise of power

under Section 12 (1), the Governor has, therefore, ordered that his detention will be for a period of 12 months, it said.

According to the provision, in any case where the Advisory Board has reported that there is, in its opinion, sufficient cause for the detention of a person, the government may confirm the detention order and continue the detention of the person concerned for such period as it thinks fit. Under section 13 of the Act, the maximum period of detention under the NSA is 12 months.

In the video clips posted by him, Wankhem had purportedly said he was saddened and shocked to learn that the present government in Manipur was observing the birth anniversary of Rani of Jhansi, according to media reports.

He reportedly said Rani of Jhansi's deeds had nothing to do with Manipur and the state was observing her birth anniversary because the Centre had asked it to. In this context, he allegedly called Chief Minister Biren Singh a "puppet of the Centre" and a "puppet of Hindutva".

# All male Bollywood panel at meeting with Modi draws flak

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The meeting of a delegation of the Hindi film industry with Prime Minister Narendra Modi came under fire on Wednesday for its exclusion of female representation with some activists and filmmakers pointing out that it was 2018 and asking, "Where are the women?"

On Tuesday, an 18-member panel, including Karan Johar, Ajay Devgn, Siddharth Roy Kapur, Akshay Kumar, Ritesh Sidhwani and CBFC chief Praseon Joshi, met the prime minister to discuss how to take the entertainment industry to the next stage. No woman was part of the "panel" representing an industry where women play a pivotal role not just as actors but also as directors, producers and writers, a female producer said.

It was a year when skewed gender politics in the workplace, including in the entertainment industry, became a topic of heated debate with India being hit by its own #MeToo tsunami that swept away some big names, she said asking not to be

named. "Where are the women of the industry?" tweeted #MeToo India's Twitter handle.

Director Leena Yadav, whose latest film "Rajma Chawal" has just released on Netflix, said it is sad that female voices are being ignored, especially when the ticket window has been tremendously responsive to women directors.

"They are ignoring what is happening at the box office vis-a-vis women directors and their films and ignoring them is sad and it is not only sad but being very unaware in today's world and regressive in today's world. So that is really sad," Yadav told.

But the filmmaker, who has earlier made "Shabd" and "Parched", said she refuses to feel sorry for herself or sidelined. "I can feel offended by it but it doesn't affect me to that level as it does not wipe out my existence. I feel sorry for them rather than for myself," she said.

Alankrita Shrivastava of "Lipstick Under My Burkha", which was well received by critics and audiences, also spoke out.

# Coimbatore: NIA raids over alleged plot to kill Hindu outfit leaders

New Delhi : The National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Wednesday conducted searches at seven places in Tamil Nadu connection with the ISIS Coimbatore

module case and recovered large number of electronic devices, unaccounted cash and radical Islamic literature. The searches were conducted by NIA at

the residences (three places in Chennai, three in Coimbatore and one in Trivandrum) of seven arrested accused persons.

## Tiwari, BJP workers detained for protesting against RaGa

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Leaders and workers of the Bharatiya Janta Party's (BJP) Delhi unit, along with its president Manoj Tiwari, were detained near the Congress headquarters on Wednesday while they were protesting against Rahul Gandhi, who they said was spreading "lies" on the Rafale deal.

The protesters had assembled at the Vignay Bhawan here and raised slogans against the Congress and its president, who has been instrumental in mounting a scathing attack on the Modi government over an alleged 'scam' in the deal for the French fighter jets.

"We are here to expose the lies of Congress and its president Rahul Gandhi who is spreading lies on the Rafale



Delhi BJP president Manoj Tiwari protests along with BJP workers near Congress headquarters. **Ranjan Dimri | Pioneer**

deal on a regular basis," Tiwari said at the protest. The protesters then tried to move closer to the Congress headquarters at Akbar Road but were stopped at a police

barricade. They were later detained and taken to the Parliament Street police station.

The district presidents of the Delhi BJP had on Tuesday submitted a memorandum, addressed to the President of India, to respective district magistrates in the city.

"Even after the dismissal of petitions challenging the Rafale deal by the Supreme Court, Congress president Rahul Gandhi continues his propaganda, not only insulting the prime minister but also demoralising the defence forces of the country," the Delhi BJP chief said.

Notwithstanding the Supreme Court's verdict on the deal, Congress president Rahul Gandhi had on Friday maintained that there was massive corruption in the contract.

## Union Health Ministry bans appetite stimulant drugs

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

After dillydallying for last two years, the Union Health Ministry has finally banned the distribution and sale of anti-histamine drug Buclizine as an appetite stimulant "in public interest" under the Drugs and Cosmetics Act. The drug will, however, be allowed to be marketed for "symptomatic treatment of various allergic conditions (rhinitis, conjunctivitis and urticaria) and for prevention and treatment of motion sickness." The Ministry has issued a notification in this regard. The ban follows recommendations from the Drugs Technical

Advisory Board (DTAB) two years ago which called "prohibiting the manufacture, sale and distribution of Buclizine for the indication as appetite stimulant in public interest and continuing the marketing for the indications 'symptomatic treatment of various allergic conditions (rhinitis, conjunctivitis and urticaria) and for prevention and treatment of motion sickness'. As per the notification, the Central government regulates the manufacture, sale or distribution of Buclizine and its formulations for use in human beings, subject to conditions that the manufacturer 'shall label the container of Buclizine and its formulation and also mention in

conspicuous manner on the package insert and promotional literature of Buclizine and its formulation with the words 'Not to be used as appetite stimulant'".

It was brought to the notice of the Government that the use of the drug Buclizine as appetite stimulant for human use was not rational, the notification stated. In fact, a Parliamentary Standing Committee in its report had raised concerns that various drugs, including the Buclizine as appetite stimulant were approved without ensuring safety and efficacy and any clinical trial. The drug is developed by Belgium-based UCB Pharma and sold as Longifene by Mankind Pharma in India.

## On private complaint, executive magistrate cannot direct cops to lodge FIR: SC

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court has held that under the scheme of the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPc), an executive magistrate cannot direct the police to register an FIR on the basis of a private complaint lodged before him. The top court, however, said that if a complaint is lodged before an executive magistrate on an issue over which he has a jurisdiction, then he can himself lodge an FIR in the matter after conducting an administrative inquiry.

A bench of Justices RF Nariman and Navin Sinha set aside the order of Lucknow bench of Allahabad High Court by which it had refused to quash an FIR lodged against a private college on the direction of a Sub-Divisional Magistrate (SDM).

On January 31, 2018, SDM,

Unnao in Uttar Pradesh had directed the police to lodge an FIR against a college run by Naman Pratap Singh after a student made a private complaint to the officer alleging that she had been duped into taking admission in an unrecognised institution.

The bench after perusing various provisions of CrPc said, "It is therefore apparent that in the scheme of the Code, an Executive Magistrate has no role to play in directing the police to register an FIR on basis of a private complaint lodged before him".

The court said that after reading the FIR, it reveals that the police has registered the FIR on directions of the SDM which was clearly impermissible in the law as he (SDM) does not exercise powers under Section 156(3) of the CrPc.

The court, however, said, "If

a complaint is lodged before the executive magistrate regarding an issue over which he has administrative jurisdiction, and the magistrate proceeds to hold an administrative inquiry, it may be possible for him to lodge an FIR himself in the matter".

The top court said that in the instant case, the very institution of the FIR is contrary to the law and without jurisdiction and hence is liable to be quashed.

It said that section 154 of the CrPc provides for registration of a FIR at the instance of an informant, reduced into writing and signed by the person giving it while Section 154(3) stipulates that in the event of a refusal on part of police officer to record such information, it may be sent in writing and by post to the Superintendent of Police, who will direct investigation into the same.

The bench said that even section 190 of the CrPc provides for taking of cognizance by a Magistrate either on a complaint or upon a police report. "Similarly, Section 156(3) provides that any Magistrate empowered under Section 190 may order such an investigation, and which also includes the

power to direct the lodgement of an FIR. The Code in Section 200 of CrPc provides for lodging of a complaint before the Magistrate, who after examination of the complainant and witnesses, if any, can take cognizance," the bench said.

It said that nothing prevented the student from lodging an FIR before the police or if the circumstances so warranted, then she could have approached the superintendent of police under section 154(3) of CrPc.

"Alternately, the respondent (student) could have moved the Magistrate concerned under Section 156(3) of the Code in the event of the refusal of the police to act. Remedy was also available to the respondent by filing a complaint under Section 200 of the Code before the jurisdictional Magistrate," the bench said.

The court while refusing to go into the merit of the case said that any complaint made by the student under the established provision will therefore have to be considered by the appropriate authority or forum in accordance with law.

Naman Pratap Singh has moved the apex court challenging the order of Lucknow

bench of Allahabad High Court by which it had refused to quash the FIR.

He had contended that no objection certificate has been obtained from the Chartrapati Sahuji Maharaj University, Kanpur for establishment of the three-year law course and affiliation was also granted by the varsity.

He said that they have also deposited a sum of Rs 3.5 lakh with the Bar Council of India and were awaiting permission from it for starting the law course.

Singh argued that the question of any fraudulent misrepresentation by the appellants, persuading students to take admission in an unauthorised institution simply does not arise.

"Several students have taken admission in full awareness of the existent facts with no grievances and have sworn affidavits to that effect," he had said.

The student, who had lodged a complaint against the college contended that by misrepresentation and cheating she had been persuaded to take admission in an unrecognised institution. "There are several students who are aggrieved," she had claimed.

## Cold comfort for north, N-E till Feb

From Page 1

Singh said that during cold wave, the normal wind speed is recorded between 5 to 10 km per hour in winter season.

Cold wave conditions are invariably related with clear weather. On the other hand, cold day conditions are related with clouding. It is termed as a cold day when the day temperature falls, and night temperature rises. The IMD also issued warning that the ground frost conditions are likely to prevail over Punjab, Haryana and Rajasthan in the coming days. Kargil was the coldest town at minus 14.9 while Leh recorded minus 6 degrees Celsius. In Haryana, Narnaul was the coldest place recording a low of 2.3 degrees Celsius. In Punjab Faridkot also reeled under intense chill recording a low of 2.5 degrees Celsius, while severe cold prevailed in Bathinda at 3 degrees Celsius. In Delhi, the minimum temperature was recorded at 5.2 degrees Celsius, three notches below normal making it the coldest December day since 2015.

## A year on, NSD awaits Jio fate as PMO sits on eminence tag

From Page 1

However, the PMO in its letter dated May 16, 2016 had returned the Cabinet note observing that the conferring of INI by way of Central Act is nothing but creation of a University by a Central legislation. The same purpose can also be served if the Institution gets a status of a 'deemed University', said the PMO.

It also argued that autonomy for the Institution may be more for the 'Deemed University' than the Institution created by way of special Act which comes with certain conditionalities.

The PMO also advised the NSD to engage with Human Resource Development Commission (HRD)/University Grants Commission (UGC) and reclaim its status as a 'Deemed to be University'. The Cabinet Secretary after discussing the same on July 29, 2016 apparently dismissed the request, commenting that the NSD did not even need such a tag as it was itself a highly reputed organisation.

However, refusing to give in, the indomitable NSD Society in its meeting dated November 28, 2016 unanimously resolved to make persistent efforts to clinch the prestigious status considering NSD's valuable contribution in the field of theatre and training. "A delegation led by Prof Waman Kendre, Director, NSD also met Private Secretary

(PS) to Prime Minister and apprised the position to him. A Cabinet Note for declaring the NSD as an INI was again forwarded to PMO via a note on May 3, 2017. But PMO sent it back on May 29, 2017 seeking more justification to the need of a new law. Reply to the same was conveyed to PMO on September 22, 2017, the report said. "After that," noted the parliamentary panel, "no further communication in the matter received from PMO so far. The committee is unable to comprehend the delay in granting the status of INI to NSD".

Curiously, while giving the go-ahead to the Reliance Jio institute as 'Institute of Eminence', a move which had sparked controversy, a selection committee's report had said that "Jio Institute's proposal was well thought out, well presented, and taking an impressive multi-decade view of institution-building leveraging that promoter group's known competencies in infrastructure building and the timely creation of new ventures".

The NSD website says that training in the school is highly intensive and is based on a thorough, comprehensive, carefully planned syllabus which covers every aspect of theatre and in which theory is related to practice. As a part of their training, students are required to produce plays which are then performed before the public, as per the website.

## GSAT boosts IAF...

From Page 1

The advanced communication satellite also came with new technology regarding the antenna to improve the performance, Sivan said. Its solar panels have been deployed and orbit raising manoeuvres will be done from Thursday morning from Bengaluru, he said.

Wednesday's mission also gave the scientists some anxiety "as the weather was not very conducive some one week back", Sivan noted. However, the meteorological team here gave correct predictions, he said and congratulated the ISRO team members behind

the successful launch, the last of this calendar year.

"This is the last mission of this year. We are going to initiate the new year with a grand mission soon," he said.

The GSLV-F11 is the ISRO's fourth generation launch vehicle with three stages. Four liquid strap-ons and a solid rocket motor at the core form the first stage of the launch vehicle, while the second stage is equipped with a high-thrust engine using liquid fuel, ISRO said.

The Cryogenic Upper Stage forms the third and final stage of the vehicle.

The seventh launch of 2018 from Sriharikota marks the 69th mission of GSLV-F11 for ISRO. On November 14, ISRO's GSLV-MkIII-D, which is dubbed by the ISRO as the 'Bahubali' or 'fat boy' of Indian rockets, injected into orbit a 3,423 kg communication satellite GSAT-29, the country's heaviest to be put into orbit. India's earth observation satellite HysIS and 30 other co-passenger satellites from eight countries were launched onboard ISRO's trusted workhorse Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle on November 29.

**STATE BANK OF INDIA**  
 1<sup>st</sup> Floor, Local Head office, RACPC, Moti Mahal Marg, Lucknow-226001

**POSSESSION NOTICE for Movable & Immovable property under Sub Rule (1)]**  
 Whereas, The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of the State Bank of India, RACPC, Lucknow Branch under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (Act No. 54 of 2002) and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with rule 8 & 9 & 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a 13(2). The Bank issued demand notice on the date mentioned against account and stated herein after calling upon them to repay the amount, within 60 days from the date of receipt of said notice. The borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower/Guarantor and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the Property/Vehicle described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 9 & 3 of the said Rule on the date mentioned against the account. The borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of State Bank of India, RACPC, Lucknow Branch for the amounts and interest thereon. **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. Details of properties where possession had been taken is as follows:**

S. No.	Name & Address of the Borrower/Branch/A/C No.	Description of The movable / immovable Property mortgaged	Amount O/s (as per u/s 13(2))	Date of Demand Notice / Possession
1	Borrower: Smt. Sidhant Kumari W/o Shri Vijay Kumar, H.No. 2/49, Vikas Khand, Gomti Nagar, Lucknow Branch: Chowk, Lucknow A/C No.: 32572621702 (CL-47)	Vehicle Regn. No. UP 32 - EL 7116 Assesst/Vehicle Make MARUTI RITZ VDI	₹ 2,44,239.00 as on 06.05.2015 + interest & other expenses	06.05.2015 17.12.2018
2	Borrower: Smt. Rajwati W/o Shri Roop Lal, H.No. 22 RA Line, Tophkhana Bazar, Dilkhusha Cantt, Lucknow-226002 Branch: SGPGL, Lucknow A/C No.: 36161873805 (CL-268)	Vehicle Regn. No. UP 32 - HP 6341 Assesst/Vehicle Make HYUNDAI EON Era	₹ 3,07,884.00 as on 28.07.2017 + interest & other expenses	28.07.2017 19.12.2018
3	Borrower: Shri Om Prakash, H.No. E-6/573, Amarपाली Yojna, Avasthika, Hardoi Road, Dubagga, Lucknow-226017 Branch: Lucknow A/C No.: 34385232259, 37579319242	All that part and parcel of the property consisting of House constructed on Plot No. E-6/573, Amarपाली Yojna, Avasthika, Hardoi Road, Dubagga, Lucknow, within the registration sub-district Lucknow & District Lucknow, Area : 162.00 Sq. Mtrs., Owned by: Shri Om Prakash Boundaries : East: E-6/574, West: E-6/572, North: E-6/524, South: 24 Mrs. Road	₹ 20,91,741.00 as on 15.10.2018 + interest & other expenses	15.10.2018 17.12.2018

Date : 20.12.2018, Place : Lucknow Authorized Officer, State Bank of India

**कार्यालय : अधिशासी अभियन्ता, जोन-3 जलकल विभाग, नगर निगम, लखनऊ**

पत्रांक-1690/EE-3/GL7/1819 अल्पकालीन निविदा सूचना दिनांक-18.12.18

जोन-3 के अन्तर्गत कार्य हेतु जलकल विभाग जोन-3 द्वारा अति अल्पकालीन निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है। निविदा प्रपत्र दिनांक 27.12.2018 अपराह्न 2:00 बजे तक शुल्क जमा करके केश काउन्टर से प्राप्त किया जा सकता है तथा दिनांक 28.12.2018 को अपराह्न 3:00 बजे तक निविदा डाली जा सकती है, तथा प्राप्त निविदायें उसी दिवस को अपराह्न 4.00 बजे निविदादाताओं अथवा उनके प्रतिनिधि के सम्म खोली जायेंगी। निविदा विवरण निम्नानुसार है :-

क्रम सं.	कार्य का विवरण	निविदा शुल्क	जमानत धनराशि	अनुमानित लागत (लाख में)
1	Laying & jointing of 110 mm dia PVC Pipe Line at Sandeep Jaiswal to Noori Fabricator Faizullagan-II, Lucknow	Rs.200/-+ GST 12%	Rs. 2500.00	Rs. 1,53,086.00

जमानत राशि अधिशासी अभियन्ता जलकल विभाग, जोन-3 के नाम बन्धक होगा, जमा करना अनिवार्य है। सभी निविदादाताओं का रजिस्ट्रेशन, जी.एस.टी.सी. चो का छायाप्रति निविदा के साथ संलग्न करना अनिवार्य होगा। बिना जमानत धनराशि के व निर्धारित लिखित समय के उपरान्त किसी भी निविदा पर विचार नहीं किया जायेगा। किसी एक व समस्त निविदा को बिना कारण बताये निरस्त करने का अधिकार महाप्रबन्धक जलकल विभाग नगर निगम को सुरक्षित होगा। अन्य शर्तें निविदा प्रपत्र में उल्लेखित हैं।

**अधिशासी अभियन्ता जोन-3 जलकल विभाग, नगर निगम**

**NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY, ALLAHABAD**

Tender Notice No.: S/HK/RPF-ZTC-SFG/ALD/2018 Dated: 17.12.2018

**Tender Notice**

Principal RPF/Zonal Training Center, Subedarganj, North Central Railway / Allahabad, for and on behalf of the President of India, invites TENDER on prescribed form for the following work up to 14.30 hrs. on 07.01.2019.

The details of the Tender are as under:

Tender No.	Name of Work	Approx Cost of work (₹)	Earnest Money (₹)	Cost of Tender Form (₹)	Completion Period
01/2019	Housekeeping and sweeping, mopping, maintenance of ground and cleaning work at RPF, Zonal Training Center, Subedarganj, Allahabad for 01 (one) year.	₹ 23,56,043.98	₹ 47, 121/-	₹ 3000/-	12 Months (365 Days)

**Date of Opening of Tender:** 07.01.2019 after 15.00 hrs. **Note:** 1. The prescribed Tender Forms (Non Transferable) are obtainable from 23.12.2018 to 06.01.2019 10.00 to 16.00 hrs) and on 07.01.2019 at 12.00 hrs, on any working days from the office of the Principal RPF / Zonal Training Center, Subedarganj, North Central Railway / Allahabad on remittance of the cost of tender forms (Non Refundable) indicated column: 6, either by cross DD Drawn in favour Of "Sr. DFM, North Central Railway, Allahabad" on any Nationalized Bank payable at Allahabad or in the form of Money Receipt issued by Chief Cashier, North Central Railway, Allahabad in support of deposition of requisite money with tender document. If tender documents required by post, an amount of Rs. 500/- extra has to be paid. 2. The tenders shall be submitted in seal cover, super scribing the tender notice No. Description of work and due date of opening on the cover without fail. 3. The sealed tenders shall be deposited in the tender box placed in the office of the Principal RPF / Zonal Training Center, Subedarganj, North Central Railway / Allahabad by 14.30 hrs on tender Closing Date. The same will be opened Principal RPF / Zonal Training Center, Subedarganj, North Central Railway / Allahabad at 15.30 hrs. On same date. 4. Earnest money shall be deposited in the form of Demand Draft, Pay order, Bankers Cheque issued by Nationalized Bank in favor of Sr. DFM/NCR/Allahabad. Bank guarantee bonds will not be accepted towards EMD. 5. Tenders shall also be accepted by post however Railway shall not be responsible for any delay. 6. If the date of opening of tenders happens to be a Bandh or Holidays, the tender will be opened next working day at the same time. 7. Tender documents shall be made available on website [www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in](http://www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in) the same may be downloaded and used as tender document for submitted the offer however the cost as stipulated from tender document will have to be submitted along with tender while submitting the offer in the shape of crossed demand draft or bankers cheque (non refundable) payable at Allahabad in favour of "Sr DFM, NCR, Allahabad". Tenderer (s) using the tender documents downloaded from the website should watch the website for corrigendum / addendum to the NIT / Tender documents, if any, as there will be separate communication for the same. Tender submitted by the contractor without stipulated cost of the tender, shall be summarily rejected. 8. Railway administration will not be responsible for any delay / difficulties / inaccessibility of the downloading facility from the internet for any reason whatsoever. In case of any discrepancy between the tender documents downloaded from the internet and the approved master copy available in the office, the later shall prevail and will be binding on the Tenderer(s). No claim on this account will be entertained and conditional offer will not be accepted. 1277/18 (A)

North central railways [www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in](http://www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in) railwaynorthcentral@CPNCR

**INDIAN COUNCIL OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH KRISHI BHAWAN, DR RAJENDRA PRASAD ROAD, NEW DELHI ANNOUNCES ICAR AWARDS 2018**

The applications/nominations are invited from Scientists/Farmers/Journalists/Institutes/Organizations for ICAR Awards 2018 under various categories:

Sardar Patel Outstanding ICAR Institution Award 2018  
 Choudhary Devi Lal Outstanding All India Coordinated Research Project Award 2018  
 Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyay Krishi Vigyan Protsahan Puraskar (National/Zonal) 2018  
 Atal Bihari Vajpayee ICAR Challenge Award 2018  
 Rafi Ahmed Kidwai Award for Outstanding Research in Agricultural Sciences 2018  
 J Nehru Award for Outstanding Doct. Thesis Res. In Agril. & Allied Sciences 2018  
 Panjabrao Deshmukh Outstanding Woman Agricultural Scientist Award 2018  
 V Naik Award for Outstanding Res. & Application in Dryland Farming System 2018  
 Bharat Ratna Dr. C. Subramaniam Award for Outstanding Teachers 2018  
 Lal Bahadur Shastri Outstanding Young Scientist Awards 2018  
 Swami Sahajanand Saraswati Outstanding Extension Scientist Award  
 NASI-ICAR Award for Innovation and Research on Farm Implements 2018  
 Fakhruddin al Ahmad Award for Outstanding Res. in Tribal Farming System 2018  
 Dr. Rajendra Prasad Puraskar for Technical books in Hindi in Agriculture and Allied Sciences 2018  
 Hari Om Ashram Trust Award for Biennium 2016-17  
 Nanaji Deshmukh ICAR Award for Outstanding Interdisciplinary Team Research in Agril. & Allied Sciences 2018  
 Ch. Charan Singh Award for excellence in Journalism in Agricultural Res. and Development 2018  
 Jagjivan Ram Abhinav Kisan Puruskar 2018  
 N.G. Ranga Farmer Award for Diversified Agriculture 2018  
 Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyay Krishi Puruskar 2018 (National & Zonal)  
 Haldhar Organic Farmer Award 2018  
 Cash Award Scheme 2017

The prescribed eligibility criteria, the guidelines and the pro-forma for applying for these awards may be downloaded from the ICAR website ([www.icar.org.in](http://www.icar.org.in)). The applicants are required to submit their application in PDF format (in concise form-maximum 20 pages along with citation in brief highlighting the achievements) on our dedicated ICAR Award e-mail: [icarawards@icar.gov.in](mailto:icarawards@icar.gov.in). In addition, three hard copies of the application form may also be submitted. In case of farmer applicants, they may submit three copies of applications duly forwarded and recommended by the appropriate forwarding/nominating authority. The application(s) with complete documents sent through email, duly forwarded and recommended by the appropriate authority should be sent to Dr. Shiv Prasad Kimothi, Assistant Director General (Coordination), ICAR, Room No. 204A, Krishi Bhawan, Dr. Rajendra Prasad Road, New Delhi-110001 so as to reach him on or before 31.12.2018. The last date for receiving the hard copy of applications duly forwarded and recommended by the appropriate authority for applicants in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Lakshadweep, States/Union Territory in the North Eastern Region, Ladakh Division of J&K State and Sikkim is 15.01.2019

Davp 01302/11/0020/1819

## Kamal Nath's faux pas

Be it divisive politics or a soft Hindutva, Congress must realise that it has to be radically different in its script for 2019



One would have expected a seasoned politician like Kamal Nath to tick the right boxes, especially after a hard-fought battle to become the Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh, than sound like the voice box of Raj Thackeray. Nath may have been eager to please his voters by announcing a swift loan waiver and incentivising new businesses that hired 70 per cent locals as some of the means of job creation and kickstarting the local economy but did he frankly need to link the joblessness of the youth of his state to migrants coming from Uttar Pradesh and Bihar? By the way, this floating worker population is the reason why we are considered a cheap and competitive labour market. Mostly unorganised and often consigned to the lowest rung of the value chain, migrant labourers are unofficially estimated to contribute to at least nine per cent of the GDP and empower the economies of the states they choose to work in. Most importantly, they take up outlier jobs which locals also abhor. Yet they always end up getting vilified rather than appreciated for their multifarious skill sets. So the divisive economics played by the Congress has clearly backfired on its carefully crafted comeback story. Be it divisive politics or a soft Hindutva, the Congress must realise that it cannot go far with a me-too formula and has to be radically different in its script for 2019.

Everybody understands that Chief Ministers have to prioritise local dynamics and Nath could have elucidated that need without dovetailing it with the tricky migrant issue. This was quickly pointed out by BJP's state leader Narendra Singh Tomar, who said Nath's remarks were highly misleading as industries in Madhya Pradesh have always given primacy to locals in jobs. Many other states, the BJP's included, have some sort of an agreement of reserving a certain percentage of jobs for locals with industries. Karnataka recently approved a policy where every new public sector or private industrial unit would have to employ 70 per cent Kannadigas and 100 per cent locals at the Group D level, which includes, among others, security and housekeeping personnel, if it had to qualify for manufacturing shops. The Maharashtra government has about an 80 per cent quota for locals. Gujarat Chief Minister Vijay Rupani has said that manufacturing as well as service sector entrepreneurs wanting to start their operation in the state must recruit 80 per cent locals. His government has even proposed a law that will make it compulsory for industrialists to recruit 25 per cent of the required manpower from the area where they set up a new unit. Himachal has local work quotas as has Telangana. Now the Sikkimese want job protection for themselves too. Although, protectionist measures can only lead to insular federalism and in principle are a violation of fundamental rights — a Tamil labourer at a Volvo plant in Karnataka wondered if we were making countries out of states within India — fact is local aspirations have to be assuaged without riling up sensitivities.

The Congress, at this point of time, needs to be more politically expedient as it looks to be a catalyst for a grand anti-BJP front. What Nath has done by drawing in migrant labourers from Uttar Pradesh and Bihar into the conversation is upset Samajwadi Party president Akhilesh Yadav, who was a Congress ally in the Uttar Pradesh Assembly polls, and the RJD. In no mood to allocate seats to the Congress and delicately sorting out seat-sharing with the BSP, Yadav reminded that leaders issuing statements targeting people from his state should remember that Uttar Pradesh was the bellwether for the Lok Sabha polls. The Congress needs to score points, not burden itself with self-goals.

## Putin's war on rap

Political strongmen try and control popular culture simply because they see it as a threat



Vladimir Putin is an archetypal political strongman who has always bent Russia to his will and wants the world to give in to it as well. Russian interference in the democratic process in the United States has plagued Donald Trump throughout his presidency and Russia has been alleged to have interfered in other elections such as the one in the United Kingdom that decided on Brexit as well as others. Russia's military intervention in Syria has propped up the Bashar-al-Assad regime and cost countless lives and while the Western world shuns Saudi crown prince Mohammad bin-Salman, Putin considers

him a friend. But strongmen have a soft underbelly of popular culture in their own nations that allows disparate voices. Singers, artists and even movie stars speak out using their celebrity status when others are cowed down, and in Russia those singers apparently challenging Putin are rappers. Like the artist Husky, who has been singing about the trouble that the man on the street faces, the high cost of living, rampant crime and political cronyism. So unsurprisingly, President Putin wants rap music to be 'state guided' that is, rappers can only perform at state-sanctioned events and avoid topics that might rile up the masses against their political overlords. This is a surprising turn of events even for Putin, who had invited a rap artist to perform at his inauguration. But while he projects strength abroad, he is worried about the influence of rappers among young Russians. Russia's economy has been suffering thanks to decades-long Western sanctions that have slowed foreign investment into the country and the resultant inflations as well as persistent allegations of crony capitalism have done little to change perceptions despite his overwhelming win in the elections. But then again, Russian democracy is nowhere close to meeting the standards of the Western or even the Indian variety. That Putin allowed one of his daughters, Katerina Tikhonova, to appear on national television, almost certainly with his explicit approval, have some Kremlin observers suspecting that he is grooming her as his potential political heir. Was that the final trigger for the stronger rap lyrics amounting to protest and might explain the current crackdown? Possibly.

Of course, cracking down on popular culture of any sort is a reaction of almost every strongman. This has been a precedent since time immemorial. There was a similar crackdown in India during the Emergency imposed by Indira Gandhi. Before that, British colonialists cracked down on literature, pamphlets and plays. Writers and actors endured incarceration just as much as political leaders; they were just as important to the freedom struggle as politicians. By trying to bend rap music to his will, Putin might just drive it underground and while that might stifle Russian rap in the short-term, it will come back to bite him or his successor in the long-term.

# Building synergies

The re-opening of new pilgrimage routes can strengthen people-to-people contacts between India and China. The present scope of the Kailash-Manasarovar Yatra must be extended



CLAUDE ARPI

The first meeting of the newly constituted India-China High Level Mechanism on Cultural and People-to-People Exchanges will be held on December 21 in New Delhi. It will be co-chaired by External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj and Wang Yi, State Councillor and Chinese Foreign Minister. The decision to establish this new mechanism arose during the post-Doklam encounter between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and President Xi Jinping in Wuhan this April.

Both sides are now keen to build a greater synergy through people-to-people ties in order to enhance "exchanges in areas such as tourism, art, films, media, culture, sports and academic and youth exchanges." This sounds good; though in the past, India has been put to sleep by promises of 'greater synergy'. New Delhi should certainly not forget the fact that China relentlessly enhances its presence on the Indian frontiers, particularly north of Arunachal Pradesh and near Ladakh.

A report tabled in the Lok Sabha by the Parliamentary Committee on External Affairs regulated to the dichotomy: "It comes as a matter of concern to the committee that even when India is overtly cautious about China's sensitivities while dealing with Taiwan and Tibet, China does not exhibit the same deference while dealing with India's sovereignty concerns."

For the committee, given China's muscular approach, it is difficult "to be content with India continuing with its conventionally deferential foreign policy towards China." But the mandarins of South Block are absolutely unable to see this. It has been one of the greatest tragedies of modern India. There are, however, ways for India and China to build the trust long-cherished by Indian leaders.

Since the end of the 1950s, the Tibet issue has been an impediment to better relations between the two countries. Why is it so? There are many reasons but the most obvious one is simply because before the occupation of Tibet by the People's Liberation Army in 1950/51, India had a special bond with that region which had different facets: One religious (the Buddha dharma is born in India); one cultural (the Himalayan belt in India shares many values and affinities with the northern neighbours); another is economic (for centuries India and Tibet traded across the passes).

Pilgrimage played an important role in this special relationship. New pilgrimage routes can strengthen people-to-people contacts and become a true Confidence Building Measure (CBM) between China and India. For this, the present scope of the Kailash-Manasarovar Yatra (KMY) needs to be extended. The 1954 Panchsheel Agreement lapsed in April 1962 and six months later, India and China fought a bitter war over Tibet, the main subject of the agreement. The objective of the accord was to regulate trade and pilgrimage from India to Tibet and vice-versa.



The agreement specified a few points of entry into Tibet: "Traders and pilgrims of both countries may travel by the following passes and routes: Shipkila pass, Mana pass, Niti pass, Kungri Bingri pass, Darma pass and Lipulekh pass." Apart from the first one located in Himachal Pradesh, the other passes lie in today's Uttarakhand.

It is only in the early 1980s that Beijing officially agreed to reopen the KMY. Since then, the yatra is being organised every year by the Ministry of External Affairs. Yatris have to walk via Pitoragarh district before crossing into Tibet at Lipulekh pass. In 2014, a second extremely long route was opened via Nathu-la pass in Sikkim. As a CBM, other traditional yatras could be reopened — one of them is the Tsari pilgrimage.

In the Tibetan psyche, Tsari has always been synonymous with a 'sacred place'. With the Mt Kailash and the Amye Machen in eastern Tibet, the pilgrimage around the Dakpa Shelri, the 'Pure Crystal Mountain', has for centuries been one of the holiest of the Roof of the World. The 'Pure Crystal Mountain' lies at 5,735 metres above the sea, north of today's Upper Subansiri district of Arunachal Pradesh.

BEFORE THE OCCUPATION OF TIBET BY THE PLA IN 1950/51, INDIA HAD A SPECIAL BOND WITH THAT REGION WHICH HAD DIFFERENT FACETS: ONE RELIGIOUS (THE BUDDHA DHARMA IS BORN IN INDIA); ONE CULTURAL (THE HIMALAYAN BELT IN INDIA SHARES MANY VALUES AND AFFINITIES WITH THE NORTHERN NEIGHBOURS); AND LAST IS ECONOMIC (FOR CENTURIES INDIA AND TIBET TRADED ACROSS THE PASSES)

The yatra has the particularity to cross over from Tibet to Arunachal Pradesh and return to Tibet. Toni Huber, one of the foremost scholars on the subject, wrote: "The large-scale, 12-yearly circumambulation of Tibetan Buddhist pilgrims around the mountain known as the Rongkor Chenmo had the character of a state ritual for the Ganden Phodrang [Tibetan Government] ... Pilgrims in this huge procession crossed the McMahon Line below the frontier village of Migyitun in Tsari district."

After crossing the Tibet-India border, the pilgrimage proceeded southwards along the Tsari Chu (river) and then turned westwards to follow the Subansiri, to finally cross back into Tibet to reach the first frontier village in Chame county. The southern leg of the Rongkor procession used to pass through the tribal Tsari/Subansiri areas. Despite the fact that it crossed into India, New Delhi always facilitated the Tsari pilgrimage on the Indian side of the border till 1956. Today, with no solution in sight to solve the border dispute between China and India, the re-opening of the Rongkor pilgrimage could be a significant CBM between India, China and the Tibetan Buddhist population from both sides of the border.

Regarding the logistics, it should be much easier since India has been working on infrastructure in the area, while China

has already undertaken development on its side, particularly in Yumed region. Another area of possible contact is between Ladakh and western Tibet. For centuries, the trade and pilgrimage route for the Kailash-Manasarovar region followed the course of the Indus, passed Demchok, the last Ladakhi village, and then crossed the border to reach the first Tibetan settlement, Tashigang, some 15 miles inside Tibet.

A way forward could be to re-open this route for the KMY pilgrims in a first step; the next one should be to re-open the border for trade. Remember the skirmishes at the end of the 1960s in Sikkim! When the Nathu-La pass was officially re-opened to trade in July 2006, it had the effect of 'fixing' the border, drastically reducing tensions in the area. Considering the 'Nathu-La' effect, re-opening the Demchok route could be an efficient CBM between India and China. There would be an additional benefit — it would stop smuggling between China and Ladakh, which poses serious security risks of infiltration for India. We could add to the list the re-opening of the KMY via Mana in Uttarakhand — it would probably be the easiest route. If China is interested in creating a good feeling among the Indian population, it should agree to this small gesture.

(The writer is an expert on India-China relations and an author)

## SOUNDBITE

One of the richest men in the country has spent ₹700 crore in his daughter's marriage but donated nothing for charity. They are devoid of any sensitivity.



J&K Governor —Satya Pal Malik

I admit that as a tech giant, Facebook needs to do more. To listen, look deeper and take action to respect fundamental rights.



Facebook COO —Sheryl Sandberg

Digital platforms are actually producing stories and putting up shows for what they are, so the audience gets a chance to see new ideas.



Actor —Ratna Pathak Shah

The Pakistan Army is trying to revive militancy in Punjab. The Pakistan Government has been a puppet regime, working at the behest of the Army.



Punjab Chief Minister —Amrinder Singh

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Build momentum

Sir — This refers to the article, "Congress has to tread carefully" (December 10) by Kalyani Shankar. Implicit in the writer's observation is a suggestion that despite success coming to the Congress, the war for its chief Rahul Gandhi is far from over. The ensuing parliamentary elections next year pose the most formidable challenge to the party. The Assembly results of Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh may have emboldened Gandhi and his party. Even political analysts, who had hitherto written him off, acknowledged his political sagacity and managerial strategy.

The writer is spot-on to say that Gandhi tapped into the sagging public image of the ruling BJP that suffered a massive blow following demonetisation and the erroneous implementation of the GST. Both measures proved detrimental to the small, medium and micro enterprises. Nevertheless, any complacency on the part of the Congress may cost it all the labour it has exerted until now.

Azhar A Khan  
Kanpur

### Converge to tackle climate change

This refers to the editorial, "Not far enough" (December 18). It is heartening that the just-concluded UN climate conference held in Poland's Katowice has resolved to implement the Paris Agreement through a 'rule book'. The summit ought to have accentuated and laid greater emphasis on 'differentiated responsibility' to ensure 'climate justice'. We cannot be cynical or complacent when the stability of the biosphere is threatened by climate change. Few have now questioned the fact that the earth's climate has been altered by carbon emissions spewed into the atmosphere. It is a proven fact that global warming goes beyond 'natural variation'.

Studies show that global warming resulting from human activity is around 10 times greater than that from changes in the sun's activity. It is neither fantasy nor scare-mongering to caution that climate change will affect societies and economies across the world. Its consequences can even prove to be catastrophic. Climatologists fear that if such drastic change is not combated timely, it could be



a recipe for disaster. The case for reducing carbon emissions substantially is now overwhelming. We should realise the full gravity of the threat and act to mitigate it before it becomes too late to do anything about it. All countries must show willingness to meet their commitments to achieve the goal of limiting temperature rise to below 1.5 degree Celsius and prevent a huge disaster.

G David Milton  
Maruthancode

### Momentary happiness

Sir — Post the BJP's loss in three Hindi heartland States, regional parties have gained strength to forge an alliance with the Congress to fight against the BJP in the 2019 general election. It is an undisputed fact that regional parties are bound to face a leadership

crisis even if their combined strength leads them to victory in the general election.

The problem is insurmountable: These parties are ideologically disparate, disoriented and even incompatible. Regional feeling and parochial tendency distinctly inspires and encourages them for the development of their own States. National devel-

opment only remains secondary. The opportunistic alliance desired by regional parties is only a momentary jubilation for power.

Nimai Charan Swain  
Bhubaneswar

### A good start

Sir — In his first act after taking

charge as the Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh, Kamal Nath signed off a massive farm loan waiver that was promised by the Congress during its poll campaign. Nath did in two hours what he had promised to do in 10 days of assuming power.

"Loans to the tune of ₹2 lakh for the farmers for the current year have been waived off," said Nath, adding that "I have taken oath to office several times in the past but this issue was never ever raised." By this move some 33 lakh farmers owing ₹70,000 crore in unpaid dues will be benefitted.

Just a day before in Rae Bareilly, Prime Minister Narendra Modi criticised the Congress' election promises as false. Surely, Nath's signature is not only a slap in the face of Modi and his Government but will come as a huge help to the farmers. The time is ripe for other Chief Ministers, too, to sign loan waivers for farmers. This is how the agriculture sector can become more vibrant.

Mohd Umar  
Madhya Pradesh

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



**FIRST COLUMN**

## Killing more than just the pests

Pesticides, which were once considered a boon for farmers, are now seen as a threat as they continue to take a toll on both land and lives



KOTA SRIRAJ

Pesticides have always attracted a lot of controversies and they are getting worse as increasingly powerful, lethal and toxic variants have crept into the human food chain. This is wreaking havoc. The situation is grim because one can no longer say where and which pesticide will strike and how many human lives will be lost. Rampant and indiscriminate use of these chemicals to safeguard crops and ostensibly increase the yield has led to countless instances of lives being lost. The environment, too, has been a silent sufferer — the sad part is that the Government has been a mute spectator with no concrete plan to salvage humanity and ecology from the grip of such pesticides.

Monocrotophos is a highly toxic pesticide that is now proving to be a harbinger of death for many. This lethal chemical has recently been blamed for the death of several devotees in a temple in Karnataka. On December 17, at least 14 people died and 107 were hospitalised after consuming *prasad* reportedly contaminated by the pesticide at the Kichugutti Maramma temple in Chamarajanagar district near Mysore, Karnataka. Monocrotophos had claimed lives in India earlier, too, as farmers, who sprayed it on crops for a better yield in the Yavatmal region of Maharashtra in 2017, had overlooked that traces remained in the plant. In 2013, some 23 children died in a village in Bihar's Saran district after consuming a mid-day meal tainted with traces of Monocrotophos. The school teacher had brought vegetable oil for cooking from a grocery shop owned by her husband. The oil was kept in a container that earlier contained Monocrotophos. This contaminated the oil, causing the deaths and awakening us to its damaging potency.

After the incident, the Bihar Government had taken preventive measures to avoid a re-occurrence. One such corrective measure now being followed involves the storage of raw grain samples at a sterilised godown from where items for the mid-day meal scheme are supplied. A toll-free number for all complaints related to the scheme will also be circulated soon. However, the latest incident in a Karnataka temple shows that in India our precautions are at best sporadic and ineffective. How else can we explain the fact that while Bihar learnt its lesson, Karnataka had to suffer first in order to learn the lesson? The casual attitude of the authorities ensured that a country-wide alert on the usage of Monocrotophos was not issued.

Monocrotophos is an insecticide of the organophosphate family, commonly used to control pests, but of late has become a poison for humans as well. Given this situation, it is time for India to figure out a way to phase out Monocrotophos and other Class I pesticides, which are known for acute toxicity. One of the biggest controls is to ban the re-use of pesticide containers as storage for any commodity. This also means that there needs to be safety protocols in place for the disposal of containers. The problem of unsafe disposal of plastic containers carrying hazardous substances is being totally ignored by the concerned authorities. This is evident from the fact that any common person can visit any scrap dealer across India and purchase an old 50-litre can that was used earlier to store toxic chemicals. With this type of unrestricted availability, one can only understand the risk one is running while using a contaminated can. In order to prevent this from occurring, the Government must organise awareness camps at small towns and villages where this type of re-use and its associated risks are highlighted to the local populace.

The authorities must also issue a list of dos and don'ts for the farmers while using toxic pesticides. This will go a long way in ensuring that the risk of accidentally ingesting the poison is totally avoided. The rampant use of pesticides such as these is also taking a toll on the top soil, eventually reducing its natural resilience as a result of which the land is becoming exceedingly dependent on artificial supports and chemicals. These conditions are dangerous if they are allowed to continue and must be curtailed immediately. Agriculture is the mainstay of our economy and supports a huge farming population. Pesticides, which were once considered a boon for the farmers, are now a threat as they continue to take a toll on the land and lives. How can this be tolerated and allowed to go on is beyond the logic of any common man. The bigger question is what benefit is the Government getting by allowing such pesticides a free run in the market even if it means that they are killing more than just pests?

(The writer is an environmental journalist)

**POINTCOUNTERPOINT**

PEOPLE FROM STATES LIKE BIHAR AND UTTAR PRADESH COME TO MADHYA PRADESH AND LOCAL HERE PEOPLE DON'T GET JOBS.  
 —MADHYA PRADESH CHIEF MINISTER  
**KAMAL NATH**



KAMAL NATH



KAMAL NATH HAS TRIED TO DIVIDE THE COUNTRY ON THE BASIS OF REGION. HE SHOULD BE SUMMONED TO PARLIAMENT AND ASKED TO APOLOGISE.  
 —BJP LEADER  
**SANJAY JAISWAL**

# The big churn in Dhaka

As parliamentary polls in Bangladesh draw closer, let's take a look at the dynamics of terrorism and study the response of the state, right-wing lobbies, Jamaat and other pro-Pakistan leaders



AVEEK SEN PRATEEK JOSHI

Deferred by a week, following the hanging of top Jamaat leaders for their involvement in war crimes in 1971, the Bangladesh parliamentary election, now scheduled to be held on December 30 instead of December 23, will be a turning point in the nation's political history. Since early this year, security forces have been on guard to manage the tidal violence in the country, even as the Jamaat-e-Islami continues to be outrightly hostile to Awami League cadres. So, if the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) wins the general election and comes to power, the Jamaat-e-Islami, its subterranean ally, will again get a free hand and extract a gory revenge from the Awami League. The BNP had requested that the elections be delayed by a month but permission to that effect was not granted and the Election Commission delayed it by just a week.

The inner dynamics of the elections were captured by a senior Bangladeshi watcher who noted: "People are eagerly waiting to cast their votes in the next election. Anti-incumbency and corruption are the major factors that are likely to go against the (ruling Awami League) Government. Instead of focussing on issues that affect the public, the Opposition's agenda is limited to releasing its jailed BNP chairperson and have a caretaker Government. It is not clear whether the BNP will participate if its demands are not met. The Government is likely to benefit from Opposition disunity and lack of vision."

The BNP's demand for a caretaker Government, however, is in itself impossible as the nation's Constitution has no provision for the same anymore. While the Sheikh Hasina Government has banned the Jamaat-e-Islami from contesting the elections, its members have circumvented the clause by propping up the Opposition ranks, which includes the BNP platform with which they have had a coalition Government in the past. After the 2001 parliamentary poll, the BNP-Jamaat combination unleashed widespread violence, especially against the Hindu minority in Bangladesh which mostly supports the secular Awami League.

Even as the Jamaat uses every opportunity to target the Hindus, especially by levelling false blasphemy charges, a certain section of the Hindu feudal class supports the BNP-Jamaat combine as well. Some notable examples among them are BNP Standing Committee member, Gayeshwar Roy, and the party's senior foreign spokespersons in London — all of whom belong to the Hindu community. Some of the party's foreign associates, including a hardliner like William Nicholas Gomes, changed their faith to Christianity so that they could spread the Jamaat's propaganda more easily in British networks. Gomes now writes for a few major international media outlets.

It is worth noting that the Jamaat even now has a hold over the BNP cadre. Interestingly, one can spot more flags of the Bangladesh Islami Chhatra Shibir (Jamaat's student wing) at BNP rallies than those of the BNP.

The BNP was formed on September 1, 1978, by President Ziaur Rahman after Sheikh Mujibur Rahman's assassination on August 15, 1975. Successive military Governments of Khaleda

“ IF THE BNP COMES BACK TO POWER BY RIGGING ELECTIONS THROUGH VIOLENCE, IT WOULD TAKE INDIA BACK TO THE 1980S IN BANGLADESH'S CALCULUS. THERE'S NO POWER CENTRE THAT WILL BE PRO-INDIA. THE ONLY BRIGHT SIDE IS THAT THERE ARE SECTIONS IN THE SENIOR MILITARY BRASS THAT ARE WELL DISPOSED TOWARDS US ”



Zia, Hussain Muhammad Ershad and later the BNP-Jamaat, too, actively sponsored militancy in India's North-East in cahoots with Pakistan and China. Ershad, who is the chairman of the Jatiya Party, has now softened his anti-India stance considerably. Even when in power, as the head of the military Government, Ershad was not virulently anti-India.

Commenting on the elections, Barrister Mohibul Hasan Chowdhury Nowfel, Organising Secretary, Bangladesh Awami League, said: "For years, Kamal Hossain used to complain about the BNP-Jamaat combine operating terror outfits out of Hawa Bhavan, the base of Tarique Rahman. Hossain was against Hawa Bhawan politics and took a critical stance against it. However, after a while, he went quiet suddenly. Now, Hossain is simply trying to take advantage of the leadership vacuum in BNP. But by doing that, he has started giving legitimacy to the criminal activities of BNP."

Meanwhile, Bangladesh has always witnessed foreign interference by Pakistan in its political process. This has intensified after the trials of senior Jamaat-e-Islami leaders who were involved in committing atrocities through death squads (*razakars*), allied with the Pakistan Army during the 1971 war.

Stating that Pakistan's diaspora and intelligence community are actively assisting the BNP's convicted leadership in London, Barrister Mohibul

Hasan Chowdhury said, "These people, especially Tarique, are convicted and absconding from justice. Pakistan used to provide them with financial assistance earlier. Now, it has expanded aid in the form of huge diplomatic assistance. However, except for certain elements in Pakistan's intelligence agency, the Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI), even within Pakistan the BNP-Jamaat does not enjoy support from the civil society or the politicians. They are more or less shunned by civil society and politicians in Pakistan. Now, it is just an alliance of evil."

It is worth mentioning that the Pakistan military and ISI generals routinely settle in the West post-retirement, to live off the often-illegally made gains during their tenure in Pakistan. Earnings are channelised either through drug trade commissions or activities that Pakistan's military establishment remains engaged in, or the various military businesses it runs, marginalising the general population.

There are multiple credible books and papers on Pakistan's use of its *biraderi* networks in the UK to lobby and even influence local politics. One such seminal paper is that of Delwar Hussain titled, 'Globalisation, God and Galloway: The Islamisation of Bangladesh Communities in London.' In his report, Hussain discusses how Pakistan's diaspora successfully got third generation Bangladeshis in its fold after the Western attitude towards Muslims changed post 9/11, which is remarkable because their parents had

classically been anti-Pakistan due to the memory of the 1971 war. The paper also touches upon the opportunistic politics of Galloway and his defence of convicted war criminals of 1971.

As regards India, if the BNP comes back to power by rigging elections through violence, it would take India back to the 1980s in Bangladesh's calculus. There will be no power centre that's pro-India. The only bright side is that there are sections in the senior military brass that are well disposed towards us. Like in the past, support to militants in India's North-East and Islamist terror outfits like Harkat-ul-Jihad al-Islami (HUJI) and Jamaat-ul-Mujahideen Bangladesh, that work in concert with the Lashkar-e-Tayyeba, would be revived with active support and direction from Pakistan's ISI. Drug trade and counterfeit notes have for long dominated India's border belt which are Jamaat strongholds and are again run with active support from the ISI.

Even though the BNP claims that it won't work against India, can it be trusted? For they made similar claims in 2001, too, and as soon as it returned to power, its State Minister for Home Affairs Lutfozzaman Babar was involved in the Chittagong arms haul destined for militants in India's North-East.

(Aavek Sen is an independent journalist working on cyber security and the geopolitics of India's neighbourhood, focussing on Pakistan, Afghanistan, Iran and Bangladesh. Prateek Joshi is a Research Associate at VIF)

# Lessons from the neighbourhood

A brief visit to Sri Lanka made it clear that even a war-torn history cannot stop a country from an impossible course correction if there is national will. Crime control, discipline and cleanliness have added sheen to the island nation



BISWAJEET BANERJEE

If you want to feel the pulse of a city, walk through its streets. This is exactly what I did in Colombo, the city I visited recently as a delegate of the Indian Federation of Working Journalists (IFWJ). I went there as part of an exchange programme through an invite by the Sri Lanka Press Association (SLPA). As I was walking through the streets, I heard the sound of a bell ringing. From my home experience, I thought it was an alarm. But why an alarm in peace times? As I tried to guess every possible reason, I realised that I was standing near a level crossing and the gong was sounded to warn the commuters about an incoming train. I was expecting a mad rush

among motorists to cross the railway tracks before the arrival of the train but what I saw surprised me — everyone on the road there had stopped where they were on hearing the bell. In India, we are used to seeing people jostling to get past the level crossing even when the gates are closed. And here in Colombo, no one, not even a cyclist, made an attempt to cross the rail line despite having ample opportunity to do so. They patiently allowed the train to pass and moved only when the green signal came up.

Such discipline surprised me because when I landed at the Bandaranaike International Airport in Colombo, I never felt I was in a foreign country. I felt as if I was in Chennai because people looked the same. India even made its presence on the streets of Colombo felt in the form of automobiles, Bajaj tuk tuk, autos, Ashok Leyland buses, Tata trucks and not to mention the ubiquitous Indian Oil Company (IOC) petrol pumps. What's the difference then? It is



to do with the discipline Sri Lankans showed on the streets — two-wheeler riders were seen wearing helmets, even those on pillion. In India, wearing a helmet is mandatory but nobody follows it and crackdowns are few and far between. Suddenly I realised that there was no honking even during peak hours. Why? Because Lankans have patience and are ready to wait for

their turn. The interaction with people exposed me to the fact that the law enforcement agency carries out its task diligently without fear of coercion or manipulation in civic issues. A tuk tuk driver said that drink-and-drive is a big no-no on the roads. "The police will fine 5,000 (Sri Lankan) rupees and take away my driving licence," he explained when

offered a free drink. In India, crime is big news with almost all newspapers featuring it prominently. In fact, vernacular newspapers devote a full page to crime. In Sri Lanka, I struggled to find crime reports in newspapers. The only report I read during my almost week-long stay in different parts of Sri Lanka was how police arrested a man, wanted in a banana theft case, from a rally of a political party. It was a hilarious news and reflected the law and order consciousness of the country. An Indian journalist Gitika Talukdar, who is married to a Sri Lankan, put it succinctly. "In my in-laws' house in Colombo, they have big window panes all around the house. I told my husband if we use so much of glass in Guwahati (the place she belongs to) they would have to retrofit them with iron grills unless we wanted the thieves to decamp with valuables." The Lankans' love for cleanliness is reflected in the way they keep the cities clean by not spitting on the

roads or relieving themselves in the open. While travelling to Matala, (home to the famous Buddhist rock temple where monks wrote down teachings of Lord Buddha in *tripitakas*), one of the delegates threw an empty water bottle in the aisle of the bus. But the conductor picked it up immediately and threw it in a waste basket kept at the front, sending a message loud and clear that a *swachhata abhiyaan* does not always need Government push but is really about national will. It should come from the inside. This probably is the reason why Sri Lanka is fast becoming a wanted international tourist destination. Can anyone forget that just a decade ago, this was a war-torn country that everybody wanted to keep away from? But now the country has taken a stride towards bettering its markers and is leaving a positive impact. With crime control, discipline and cleanliness, it is attempting to be a model state. (The writer is Executive Director (News) with Lucknow edition of The Pioneer).



## UK NEEDS A NEW WASTE STRATEGY

Producers and retailers should have been handed responsibility for waste much sooner, and incentivised by Government to change their ways, instead of allowed to pass the buck to other countries. The UK recycling industry, and manufacturers of renewable alternatives to single-use bags, batteries and other items, should have been nurtured. Waste management presents opportunities and costs. (The Guardian editorial)

# Market rises for 7th session amid easing crude prices, firm rupee

**PTI ■ MUMBAI**

Continuing its rising streak for the seventh session, market benchmark BSE Sensex rose over 100 points on Wednesday, driven by gains in index majors like Asian Paints, Axis Bank and SBI amid strengthening rupee and falling global crude prices. Besides, the Reserve Bank's decision on Tuesday to increase liquidity infusion by ₹10,000 crore to ₹50,000 crore in December buoyed sentiment. The central bank had earlier announced to infuse liquidity amounting to ₹40,000 crore through the purchase of government securities under open market operations (OMOs) during December. In global markets, Asian stocks traded mixed as investors awaited Federal Reserve policy decision later in the day. The 30-share index started off on a strong footing at 36,441.46 and hit the session's high of 36,554.99 before settling 137.25 points, or 0.38 per cent, higher at 36,484.33. The barometer had rallied over 1,387 points in the previous six sessions. The NSE Nifty too ended 58.60 points, or 0.54 per cent, higher at 10,967.30 after shut-

**'Markets are expecting a low interest rate environment and pro-growth policies by the new RBI governor to reduce credit squeeze and spur growth'**  
**—Essel Mutual Fund CIO Viral Berawala**

ting between 10,985.15 and 10,928 during the session.

According to analysts, market momentum remained positive on sharp fall in bond yield and continued infusion of liquidity by RBI via open market operation.

On global front, market is expecting dovish hike by the US Fed which is likely to calm investors' nerves in the emerging markets like India, they added.

Markets are expecting a low interest rate environment and pro-growth policies by the new RBI governor to reduce credit squeeze and spur growth, said Viral Berawala, CIO of Essel Mutual Fund.

Domestic trading sentiment also remained bullish backed by persistent fall in crude oil prices, which dropped to over 15-month low, strengthening rupee against the dollar and fresh capital inflows by foreign funds, brokers said.

After breaching the 70 mark against the US dollar by hitting a high of 69.87 in early trade, the rupee slipped to 70.40 against the dollar in late afternoon session at the inter-bank forex market.

Asian Paints was the top gainer in the Sensex pack, surging 3.39 per cent, followed by Axis Bank up 3.18 per cent. Other gainers included SBI 2.68 per cent, Maruti Suzuki 2.04 per cent, Bharti Airtel 1.84 per cent, ITC 1.76 per cent, Wipro 1.49 per cent, NTPC 1.49 per cent, HDFC 1.28 per cent, M&M 1.26 per cent, PowGrid 1.20 per cent, ICICI Bank 1.17 per cent, Bajaj Auto 1.02 per cent, Adani Ports 0.66 per cent, L&T 0.44 per cent, Yes Bank 0.39 per cent, ONGC 0.37 per cent and RIL 0.06 per cent.

On the other hand, Sun Pharma, IndusInd Bank, Infosys, TCS, Vedanta, Kotak bank, HDFC Bank, Tata Motors and Coal India were under pressure, losing up to 2.10 per cent.

Shares of aviation compa-

nies rose after crude prices hit over 15-month low. InterGlobe Aviation, SpiceJet and Jet Airways rallied up to 4.33 per cent. Stocks of oil marketing companies like BPCL, HPCL and IOC, too gained up to 2.53 per cent.

Sector-wise, the BSE realty index gained the most by rising 3.11 per cent, followed by infrastructure index up 1.81 per cent. PSU, power, oil & gas, auto, banking, capital goods, metal, healthcare, consumer durables indices too ended higher by up to 1.51 per cent.

However, information technology and tech index ended lower by up to 1.08 per cent.

The broader markets also displayed a firm trend, with the BSE mid-cap index rising 1.50 per cent and small-cap index gaining 1.09 per cent.

Most Asian markets ended lower, while European shares were up in early deals. Japan's Nikkei fell 0.60 per cent, Shanghai Composite Index shed 1.05 per cent, while Hong Kong's Hang Seng rose 0.20 per cent.

In the euro zone, Paris CAC 40 rose 0.40 per cent, Frankfurt's DAX gained 0.19 per cent and London's FTSE up to 0.37 per cent.

# Glenmark forays into branded dermatology segment in US

**PTI ■ NEW DELHI**

Glenmark Pharmaceuticals on Wednesday announced its foray into the branded dermatology segment in the United States.

The branded portfolio for the US market will be developed and commercialised by Glenmark Therapeutics Inc USA, Glenmark Pharmaceuticals said in a regulatory filing.

"This represents an important step in the company's long-term strategy to build a robust branded business in the US, alongside the company's existing and successful generics business," the company added.

Glenmark is already present in generic dermatology market in the US. Glenmark Therapeutics recently acquired the rights to seven branded dermatology products from Exelitis USA, Inc. The cumulative sales of the seven acquired brands were USD 9 million.

"All the acquired products are currently approved and marketed in the US, giving Glenmark Therapeutics an immediate entry into the topical branded products segment. In addition, Glenmark Therapeutics intends to launch other branded dermatology products over the next 12 months," Glenmark said.

# Maruti cuts sales growth forecast for current fiscal

**PTI ■ NEW DELHI**

The country's largest car-maker Maruti Suzuki India (MSI) on Wednesday cut its sales forecast for the ongoing fiscal to 8 per cent from an earlier projection of double digit growth.

The company cited low demand in the second half of the year due to high interest rates, increased insurance cost and fuel prices for its downward revision, besides its lack of new model launch in the volume segment.

Interacting with reporters here, MSI Chairman RC Bhargava also said in preparation for transition to BS-VI emission norms, MSI would stop production of majority of its BS-IV models by December 2019.

"In the last five months after the first quarter, sales have been flat for Maruti while the industry saw negative growth. The question therefore is what happens next," he said.

Bhargava said the company was also offering attractive packages to customers to push retail sales in December to reduce dealer inventory, which coupled with a new model launch planned in January-March 2019, would help MSI reverse the trend of declining sales.

"In the wholesales, we expect sales to go up by 5 per cent in January-March quarter," Bhargava said.

In the first half of the fiscal, the company had posted sales growth of 10.5 per cent, whereas it was flat in the third quarter. "So, we are looking at a growth of around 8 per cent for the ongoing fiscal," he said.

Earlier this year, the company had said it was looking at a double digit sales growth in the current fiscal.

MSI senior executive director (sales and marketing) RS Kalsi said external factors such as higher interest rates, fuel prices and increase in insurance cost at the time of vehicle purchase had affected consumer sentiment, thereby impacting demand.

"Internally, we also had to cut down production of the old version of our best selling MPV Ertiga ahead of the launch of a new version," Kalsi added.

Giving a historical perspective of passenger vehicle sales in a pre-election year, Bhargava said, "We have done an analysis of the past numbers and the conclusion is that in the last two pre-election years sales always fell."

He further said, "In the election years, sales always go up substantially. So next year we have to see."

Bhargava said MSI's sales growth had also been partly affected this year due to the absence of a new model launch in volume segment.

"In the January-March period of next year we will have a new model which will again push volumes for us," he said adding the newly launched Ertiga would also contribute substantially as it has been received well in the market.

According to Kalsi, Ertiga has received bookings of 23,000 and currently has a waiting period of eight weeks.

Commenting on the company's plans for transition to BS-VI, Bhargava said, "Our plan is for all new models to be introduced in the next financial year to be BS-VI. Production of majority of the existing BS-IV models will come to a stop by December 2019."

By and large, BS-IV vehicles will be produced only on demand from customers from December 2019, or in case the company feels that it can manage the time of distribution and registration of such vehicles ahead of the deadline, he added.

The Supreme Court had ordered that sales of all BS-IV vehicles will stop from March 31, 2020 and from April 1, 2020 only BS-VI vehicles would be sold across the country in the wake of increased pollution issues.

**NIFTY 50**

SCRIP	OPEN	High	LOW	LTP	CHANGE
NIFTY 50	10930.55	10985.15	10928.00	10967.30	58.60
BHILSHGFN	785.00	843.00	784.50	837.30	60.95
BAJAJFINSV	6190.00	6425.00	6188.10	6397.95	245.60
AXISBANK	624.25	651.65	619.15	640.00	20.30
ASIANPAINT	1370.00	1406.80	1370.00	1400.40	44.30
INFRACEL	255.00	267.10	254.55	262.40	7.80
BAFINANCE	2550.80	2629.10	2550.15	2592.00	59.80
SBIN	294.70	302.00	294.70	299.50	6.75
ULTRACEMCO	4010.00	4173.75	4005.10	4095.00	86.85
BPCL	358.40	363.00	355.10	360.50	7.25
M&M	775.00	787.00	767.10	785.90	14.95
HINDPETRO	235.75	238.80	233.40	235.60	4.25
MARUTI	7781.00	7949.75	7781.00	7915.10	142.75
ITC	279.00	284.00	278.50	283.50	5.00
WIPRO	335.05	342.25	331.40	340.20	5.15
BHARTIARTL	319.50	324.00	318.05	322.55	4.75
UP	746.90	760.00	745.00	754.35	10.70
HDFC	1954.00	1985.50	1948.55	1979.80	27.80
POWERGRID	195.05	199.10	195.05	199.00	2.65
JSWSTEEL	308.00	312.35	304.00	309.50	4.00
ICICIBANK	363.00	369.25	361.00	366.85	4.65
NTPC	148.35	150.40	147.20	149.55	1.85
GAIL	356.00	359.00	352.80	358.45	3.95
HINDALCO	225.55	228.20	225.00	227.60	2.35
BAJAJ-AUTO	2853.90	2882.00	2845.05	2866.60	25.70
IOC	147.00	147.75	145.55	146.00	1.25
ZEL	461.00	472.80	447.00	466.50	3.80
ONGC	147.50	148.80	147.30	148.60	1.00
TECHM	709.00	714.05	691.90	713.85	4.85
ADANIPTS	373.90	377.35	372.00	375.10	2.20
L1	1431.00	1438.00	1426.40	1436.00	7.50
CFL	524.00	528.60	522.55	524.45	1.55
HINDUNILVR	1849.95	1888.00	1842.00	1845.00	36.20
EICHERMOT	23865.65	24200.00	23808.05	23902.05	42.40
HEROMOTOCO	3305.00	3330.10	3280.00	3302.20	4.15
YESBANK	180.50	183.15	178.60	179.15	0.15
TATASTEEL	527.00	532.45	524.60	527.00	0.00
RELIANCE	1141.50	1147.30	1133.20	1134.85	-1.55
GRASIM	859.00	876.00	851.15	852.15	-2.15
COALINDIA	252.70	253.30	250.00	251.05	-0.85
TITAN	913.00	941.55	927.50	928.20	-4.80
HDFCBANK	233.10	235.90	231.55	232.00	-1.25
TATAMOTORS	176.50	176.50	172.90	173.10	-1.25
TCS	1984.80	1994.80	1960.05	1970.80	-17.05
VEDL	209.80	209.95	205.65	206.75	-1.80
DREDDY	2645.00	2651.00	2584.65	2613.00	-26.30
KOTAKBANK	1238.80	1245.70	1222.10	1234.10	-13.00
INDUSINDBK	1641.00	1652.70	1609.40	1614.85	-24.70
INFY	671.55	675.15	661.10	664.60	-12.00
SUNPHARMA	433.45	434.40	422.80	423.10	-10.35
HCLTECH	980.00	983.60	954.00	958.00	-27.20

**BSE 500**

SCRIP	OPEN	High	LOW	LTP	CHANGE
Script	Open	High	Low	LTP	Change
RCOM	14.50	14.95	13.77	14.26	1096.75
JPASSOCIAT	7.30	7.39	7.04	7.30	1127.70
BHILSHGFN	788.95	842.80	785.25	839.35	1094.60
SPICEJET	82.70	86.30	82.60	84.40	1115.00
YESBANK	180.95	183.20	178.80	179.60	36.65
BYTC	294.50	301.95	294.05	300.40	37.85
SBIN	215.85	230.00	215.85	227.10	37.85
DHFL	623.00	649.85	619.75	639.45	37.85
AXISBANK	5.35	5.50	5.35	5.47	36.65
SUZLON	93.00	95.00	91.45	94.85	36.65
FEDERALBNK	673.00	673.00	661.75	665.25	36.65
INFY	86.20	87.75	83.45	85.15	36.65
PCJEWELLER	249.50	253.35	243.70	245.80	36.65
JETAIRWAYS	364.65	369.25	361.05	366.60	36.65
ICICIBANK	107.00	119.05	107.00	115.80	36.65
JAICORPLTD	461.40	472.20	447.25	465.15	36.65
ZEELE	434.35	434.80	422.75	424.00	36.65
SUNPHARMA	120.85	120.85	115.10	116.20	36.65
MODYEING	7771.00	7929.00	7717.00	7916.15	36.65
MARUTI	2550.00	2630.00	2546.00	2599.10	36.65
BAJFINANCE	147.60	156.00	147.60	155.60	36.65
L&T	84.85	91.65	84.85	90.65	36.65
IRREALEST	1428.50	1438.80	1426.80	1434.65	36.65
BRELA	1138.65	1146.55	1131.40	1137.10	36.65
RELIANCE	92.10	98.45	91.75	97.35	36.65
BANKINDIA	54.00	59.35	53.55	58.65	36.65
NBCC	302.10	307.80	298.60	300.50	36.65
STRTECH	42.35	43.45	41.00	42.85	36.65
ADFCANBK	1370.00	1404.90	1369.90	1400.40	36.65
ASIANPAINT	220.00	224.00	217.30	219.35	36.65
RELCAPITAL	74.60	77.15	74.60	76.90	36.65
PNB	178.75	193.00	178.75	191.25	36.65
DLF	176.00	176.00	172.50	173.65	36.65
TATAMOTORS	581.00	600.00	564.00	590.80	36.65
CAPP	1230.90	1244.75	1223.50	1228.05	36.65
KOTAKBANK	147.00	147.75	145.80	146.05	36.65
INDIACEM	180.50	183.15	178.60	179.15	0.15
IOC	297.90	301.95	291.55	298.80	36.65
BANKINDIA	113.50	117.00	113.05	115.40	36.65
RELIANCE	1689.00	1696.15	1630.65	1647.85	36.65
DMART	394.00	417.00	390.00	414.30	36.65
AVANTI	602.05	602.05	554.20	562.95	36.65
SHANKARA	166.00	170.05	164.30	167.70	36.65
JINDALSTEL	280.00	283.95	278.75	282.90	36.65
ITC	526.00	526.00	525.00	526.80	36.65
TATASTEEL	209.50	209.50	205.85	206.90	36.65
VEDL	105.45	108.50	105.00	107.45	36.65
ASHOKLEY	96.80	98.80	95.85	96.65	36.65
PCF	142.05	151.85	138.00	139.00	36.65
JKIL	2185.00	2310.30	2185.00	2276.20	36.65
PEL	256.95	271.05	255.30	268.40	36.65
TORNTPOWER	84.50	87.25	84.40	86.70	36.65
BEL	483.00	509.80	483.00	503.40	36.65
BANDHANBNK	1985.00	1985.00	1960.00	1967.20	36.65
HINDPETRO	192.00	206.00	192.30	200.75	36.65
MUTHOOTFIN	84.50	89.55	83.80	88.40	36.65
TCS	2139.00	2158.15	2114.40	2122.65	36.65
EDWELISS	971.05	1043.80	971.05	1018.65	36.65
NCC	1205.95	1284.75	1205.95	1273.60	36.65
HDFCBANK	3101.50	3146.45	3101.50	3140.65	36.65
SIEMENS	1510.30	1572.95	1510.00	1547.85	36.65
SRTRANSFIN	259.45	262.00	253.30	254.85	36.65
JUBLFOOD	1846.05	1858.05	1841.80	1844.00	36.65
ACC	306.55	312.20	304.50	311.25	36.65
DELTA-CORP	1333.10	1359.00	1284.00	1333.05	36.65
HINDUNILVR	49.40	49.70	47.50	48.00	36.65
JSWSTEEL	711.00	714.00	692.10	708.25	36.65
ABB	220.00	230.25	220.00	227.20	36.65
INFIBEAM	983.00	983.00	955.00	958.15	36.65
TECHM	933.05	941.20	925.00	928.90	36.65
AMBUJACEM</					

# US court to hear lawsuit against H-4 visa

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

A top US court has given the go ahead for hearing a lawsuit challenging the work authorisation to H-4 visa holders after the Trump administration delayed a formal notification over the issue that can impact spouses of H-1B visa holders, mostly Indians. The Barack Obama administration in 2015 allowed H-4 visa-holders - mainly spouses of the H-1B visa-holders - to be gainfully employed in the US.



The group 'Save Jobs USA' took the matter to the appeals court after a district court upheld the Obama administration's decision. The H-1B visa is a non-immigrant visa that allows US companies to employ foreign workers in speciality occupations. H-4 visas are issued to the spouses of H-1B visa holders, a significantly large number of whom are high-skilled professionals from India.

The US Court of Appeals, District of Columbia, in its order on December 17 ordered that the motion to schedule briefing and oral argument be granted and this case challenging work authorisation of H-4 visa holders "be removed from abeyance". At least three times, the Trump administration told the court that it has decided to revoke the Obama-era decision and a formal notification would be issued soon. While the notification on the matter is yet to be issued, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) in its annual agenda has said that it is determined to revoke work authorisation to certain categories of H-4 visa holders. It had said that the notification would be issued this month.

In September, Save Jobs USA which had filed the lawsuit urged the court to remove the abeyance and move forward with the case. The case is before a three-member bench, which includes Indian-American Sree Srinivasan.

In its submission, Save Jobs USA argued that even though the case has been delayed, no proposed rule has been submitted to the Office of Management of Budget. "Justice delayed is justice denied," Save Jobs USA said and rued that the longer the case remains in abeyance, the longer American workers will "suffer injury from the presence of foreign competitors in their job market". As per the latest court order, the case is no longer held in abeyance and the

ward with the case. The case is before a three-member bench, which includes Indian-American Sree Srinivasan. In its submission, Save Jobs USA argued that even though the case has been delayed, no proposed rule has been submitted to the Office of Management of Budget. "Justice delayed is justice denied," Save Jobs USA said and rued that the longer the case remains in abeyance, the longer American workers will "suffer injury from the presence of foreign competitors in their job market". As per the latest court order, the case is no longer held in abeyance and the

briefs must be submitted by Save Jobs USA by January 16, 2019. The Trump administration has time till February 22, 2019 to file its response. In a related development, the court also granted permission to 'Immigration Voice' to intervene in the case. Immigration Voice is a nonprofit organisation working to alleviate problems faced by legal high-skilled foreign workers in the United States.

"This is a major development because the Court of Appeals does not typically allow a party to intervene at the appellate level and it is significant that the court granted our motion to intervene," Immigration Voice said Tuesday.

"That indicates the court has some concern (and with good reasons) that our interests will not be adequately represented by the DHS/Government," it said.

"Since the court has also granted our motion to intervene, we get to file a brief in opposition to the new brief that Save Jobs USA will file under the soon to be issued briefing schedule," it argued. Given that the DHS has already declared

its intent to get rid of H-4-EAD programme, the court's acceptance of its motion to intervene gives them a fighting chance to make a representation on behalf of its members for whom H-4-EAD is so important, Immigration Voice said.

Spouses of H-1B visa holders are not allowed to work with just an H-4 visa. There is, however, an option to obtain an Employment Authorization Document (EAD) which allows them to work with an H-4 visa.

"For that outcome, the intervention in the lawsuit is the only thing that is keeping H-4-EAD programme alive and it stands between 50,000+ families from losing their right to provide for their families," Immigration Voice said.

According to an official, the US Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) continues to review all employment-based visa programmes, including H-4 EADS. "No decision about the Obama administration regulation granting work authorisation to certain H-4 spouses is final until the rule-making process is completed," the official told

# Mallya intends to appeal against extradition verdict

PTI ■ LONDON

Vijay Mallya intends to file an application to appeal against a British court's verdict in favour of his extradition to India, the embattled liquor baron's legal team confirmed on Wednesday. The 63-year-old businessman told reporters soon after the ruling by Westminster Magistrates' Court Chief Magistrate Emma Arbuthnot last week that he would consider the verdict in detail and decide his next course of action.



bail on an extradition warrant executed by Scotland Yard in April last year after the Indian authorities brought fraud and money laundering charges amounting to Rs 9,000 crores against the former Kingfisher Airlines boss.

While Mallya's legal team had argued in the UK court that the default on the loans sought by the now-defunct airline were the result of business failure, the CPS had claimed fraudulent intentions by the businessman in seeking and then dispersing those loans.

Judge Arbuthnot, in her ruling delivered on December 10 at the end of a year-long trial, concluded there is a case to answer in the Indian courts over substantial "misrepresentations" by the "flashy billionaire" of his financial dealings.

The judgment had also dismissed the defence team's attempt to challenge the case on human rights grounds by claiming that Barrack 12 of Arthur Road jail in Mumbai, where the businessman is to be detained following his extradition, did not meet the requirements.

conclusions as he has to consider only some very narrow bars to extradition which are unlikely to apply in this case, including the possible imposition of a death penalty in a particular case.

"Whatever that decision (by the Home Secretary), the losing side has up to 14 days within which to approach the High Court and seek leave to appeal. Any appeal - if granted - will be heard at the Administrative Court [High Court]," noted a statement by the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS), which represents the Indian government in the extradition case. Meanwhile, Mallya remains on

# Hundred days to Brexit: EU acts to cushion no-deal shock

AFP ■ BRUSSELS

With British politics gridlocked and just 100 days until Brexit, the European Union on Wednesday triggered contingency plans designed to cushion some of the shock of a "no-deal" UK exit from the bloc. The EU measures, announced a day after Britain ramped up its own no-deal planning, are intended to alleviate "major disruption" to people and businesses in sectors including financial services, customs, air transport and climate policy. European Commission Vice President Valdis Dombrovskis told reporters that the plan was "an exercise in limiting damage." He said the aim was "to turn an abrupt exit into a more soft landing."

Britain is due to leave the EU on March 29, but it remains unclear whether lawmakers will approve the divorce agreement Prime Minister Theresa May's government has negotiated with the bloc. Leaving without a deal risks plunging the British economy into recession and touching off chaos at the borders.

The 14 EU actions include temporary one- to two-year measures to allow U.K.-EU financial services to continue and a 12-month provision to keep planes flying between Britain and the bloc.

But Dombrovskis stressed that the measures "cannot replicate the benefits of the withdrawal agreement, and certainly it cannot replicate the benefits of EU membership." On Tuesday, the British government stepped up U.K. no-deal preparations, putting 3,500 soldiers on standby and warning thousands of businesses

# EU probes hack of 'thousands' of sensitive diplomatic cables

Brussels, (AFP): The EU announced an urgent investigation on Wednesday after hackers with possible links to China accessed thousands of sensitive diplomatic cables. In the latest embarrassing data breach to hit a major international organisation, the New York Times reported that hackers using similar techniques to the Chinese military gained entry to EU communications.

The cables from European Union diplomatic missions around the world reveal anxiety about how to handle US President Donald Trump as well as concerns about the behaviour of China, Russia and

Iran. The leak, discovered by cybersecurity firm Area 1, recalls the publication by Wikileaks of a vast haul of US State Department cables in 2010, though in the EU case the trove is much smaller and consists of less secret communications, the NYT reported. EU officials said they have begun a probe into the leak, which comes with Europe on high alert for malign online activity in the run-up to key parliamentary elections in May next year.

"The Council Secretariat is aware of allegations regarding a potential leak of sensitive information and is actively investigating the issue," the EU

Council, which represents member states, said. "The Council Secretariat does not comment on allegations nor on matters relating to operational security. The Council Secretariat takes the security of its facilities, including its IT systems, extremely seriously," European Commission Vice President Valdis Dombrovskis said the bloc took any report of hacking its systems "extremely seriously" but refused to comment on the detail of the leak. "What is clear is that no institution or country is immune to these kinds of hacks - all communications systems have vulnerabilities," he told reporters.

and millions of households to get ready for disruption. The government said the plans - which include chartering boats and stockpiling medicines - are a sensible precaution.

But opposition politicians accuse the government of trying to scare lawmakers into supporting May's Brexit deal. Opposition Labour Party leader Jeremy Corbyn on Wednesday accused May of "a cynical attempt to drive her deeply damaging deal through this House." "No-deal would be a disaster for our country and no responsible government would ever allow it," Corbyn said.

Many businesses agree. Britain's five leading business groups said in a rare joint statement that businesses "have

been watching in horror" as political infighting made the prospect of a disorderly Brexit more likely.

Organizations including the British Chambers of Commerce and the Confederation of British Industry urged lawmakers to "return to their constituencies over Christmas and talk to their local business communities." "We hope that they will listen and remember that when they return to Parliament, the future course of our economy will be in their hands," the groups said.

In a bid to regain some of its vanished political momentum, the British government was publishing long-awaited plans Wednesday for a post-Brexit immigration system that

will end free movement of EU citizens to the UK. Home Secretary Sajid Javid said the proposals - Britain's biggest immigration changes in more than 40 years - would create a "skills-based immigration system built around the talent and expertise people can bring, rather than where they come from." At present, all EU nationals can live and work in Britain under the bloc's free movement rules, but that will end after the U.K. leaves in March. The government is proposing no limit on the number of well-paid, skilled immigrants who can settle in Britain, but curbs on "low-skilled" workers. The rules will not apply to more than 3 million EU citizens currently living in Britain.

# Donald Trump signals retreat on wall funding, but shutdown threat remains

AFP ■ WASHINGTON

President Donald Trump backed off his demand for USD 5 billion in border wall funding but his subsequent offer was rejected by congressional Democrats, leaving the opposing sides struggling to avert a partial US government shutdown.

Trump had stood firm for days, declaring he needed the funds to build the controversial wall, defiantly proclaiming last week that he would be "proud" to stop some government operations cold after a midnight Friday deadline if he did not get his wish. He appeared to ease that stance early Tuesday when the White House said it did not want a shutdown and was looking for "other ways" to obtain funding, including getting Congress to reprogram USD 1 billion in unspent funds so Trump could use them on his immigration policies.

"The president asked every one of his cabinet secretaries to look for funding that can be used to protect our borders," White House spokeswoman Sarah Sanders said. Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi - set to become speaker of the House when Democrats take control of the chamber January 3 - and top Senate Democrat Chuck Schumer shot down the proposal, saying the USD 1.6 billion in border security funding in proposed legislation is sufficient.

"Leader Schumer and I have said that we cannot accept the offer they made of a billion-dollar slush fund for the president to implement his very wrong immigration policies," Pelosi told reporters. "So that won't happen." The



Sen. Dick Durbin, D-III, the assistant Democratic leader, is surrounded by reporters asking about the possibility of a partial government shutdown, at the Capitol in Washington on Tuesday. AP

deadlock leaves thousands of federal workers in limbo, wondering whether they will be sent home without pay one week before Christmas.

Trump said it was still "too early to say" whether a deal could be struck in time. "We'll see what happens," he said at the White House. "We need border security." If Republican and Democratic lawmakers fail to reach agreement on a spending package by midnight Friday, parts of the government will slide into a shutdown, paralysing some federal operations.

The exact impact is difficult to foretell. About 75 per cent of the government is already funded through September 2019. But a quarter

of government operations still require spending agreements and could face disruptions, including the departments of justice and homeland security.

Republicans presently control Congress, including 51 seats in the 100-member Senate. But a deal in the upper chamber can only advance with 60 votes, meaning Democratic support is vital.

Pelosi said the path forward remained unclear, and that a stopgap "continuing resolution," or CR, might be required.

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell insisted he remained confident there would be no work stoppage. "I think a government shutdown

is not a good option," McConnell said, adding he was in discussions with the White House on ways forward. But he acknowledged that a brief CR might be the likeliest move. "If we end up going with a relatively short-term CR, we will end up, in effect, punting this year's business into next year," McConnell said. Meanwhile, Sanders expressed optimism that the White House could find legal ways to obtain extra funding.

"There are certainly a number of different funding sources that we've identified that we can use... that would help us get to that USD 5 billion that the president needs in order to protect our border," she said on Fox News.

# Exercise as effective as drugs to treat high BP, says study

PTI ■ LONDON

Exercise may be as effective as taking prescribed drugs to tackle high blood pressure, a study claims. However, the researchers from the London School of Economics and Political Science in the UK caution patients against giving up their blood pressure lowering drugs in favour of an exercise regimen yet. The study, published in the British Journal of Sports Medicine, suggests that patients should boost their physical activity levels, alongside their medication.



Exercise can lower systolic blood pressure - the amount of pressure in the arteries when the heart is beating and expressed as the top number in any blood pressure reading. However, how exercise compares with blood pressure lowering drugs, is not clear. To get round this, the researchers pooled the data from 194 clinical trials looking at the impact of drugs on lowering systolic blood pressure and 197 trials looking at the impact of structured exercise, and involving a total of 39,742 people. Structured exercise was categorised as: endurance, to

include walking, jogging, running, cycling and swimming, and high intensity interval training; dynamic resistance, to include strength training - for example, with dumbbells or kettle bells; isometric resistance, such as the static push-up (plank); and a combination of endurance and resistance.

Three sets of analyses were done: all types of exercise compared with all classes of blood pressure lowering drugs; different types of exercise compared with different types of drug; and different intensities of exercise compared with different drug doses. Finally, these analyses were repeated, but in

a group of exercise trials that included only participants with high blood pressure, as most of these trials were of young healthy participants with normal blood pressure. The results showed that blood pressure was lower in people treated with drugs than in those following structured exercise programmes. However, when the analyses were restricted to those with high blood pressure, exercise seemed to be just as effective as most drugs. The effectiveness of exercise increased the higher the threshold used to define high blood pressure - that is, anything above 140 mm Hg.

# Pak's govt agrees to take fresh steps to avoid being blacklisted by FATF

Islamabad (PTI): Pakistan's government has agreed to take fresh steps to address the money laundering and terrorism financing issues, in an effort to avoid being blacklisted by Financial Action Task Force (FATF) ahead its crucial meeting next month, officials said. Currently placed on the Paris-based FATF's 'grey list', Pakistan has been scrambling in recent months to avoid being added to a list of countries deemed non-compliant with anti-money laundering and terrorist financing regulations by the FATF, a measure that officials here fear could further hurt its economy. Finance Minister Asad Umar on Tuesday chaired a high-level meeting of the National Executive Committee (NEC) on anti-money laundering, where a report titled 'Terrorism Financing Risk Assessment' was presented.

(FIA). The meeting approved the findings of report that foreign funding, drug trafficking, kidnapping for ransom, extortion, robbery and bank heists were the primary sources of terror-funding in Pakistan. Highlighting that the terror financing have roots outside Pakistan's borders, the report said the hostile agencies were fuelling terrorism in Pakistan by providing funding to sub-national terrorist groups.

Officials said that the report was prepared as part of implementation on 27-point action plan that the FATF handed over to Pakistan as a prerequisite to exit the grey list. Out of these 27 actions agreed with the FATF, Pakistan is required to deliver on 10 points by January 2019. Officials said that most of the task set out by the FATF have been met and others will be fulfilled before the deadline.

They said the areas highlighted in the report would be addressed through legal and administrative actions in order meet the commitments made with the FATF.

# GLOBE TROTTING

## Kendall Jenner is the highest paid model of 2018

Los Angeles: For the second year in a row, Kendall Jenner has been named the highest paid model in the world by Forbes. Jenner brought in \$22.5 million in 12 months before June 2018, besting the likes of Karlie Kloss, Gisele Bündchen, and her own besties, Bella and Gigi Hadid. Kendall's first place income comes from lucrative partnerships with brands like Adidas, Estée Lauder, and Calvin Klein. Jenner is far and away the leader - Kloss clocks in at second place with \$13 million and has contracts with Swarovski, Away luggage, and Adidas. Bündchen, who held the top spot in 2016, came in at fifth place tied with Cara Delevingne at \$10 million. Meanwhile, supermodel sisters Gigi and Bella Hadid ranked seventh and eighth respectively. Though Kendall is the highest paid model, she isn't the highest paid Kardashian/Jenner. Her sister Kylie Jenner runs away with that title, bringing in an esti



## I could have even played Bumblebee's spare tyre: John Cena

Hong Kong: Bumblebee, a bright yellow petite Volkswagen Beetle would have been another sight to behold had John Cena been cast as the affable auto's "spare tyre", a role the professional wrestler-actor says he would have accepted in a heartbeat. But director Travis Knight had something bigger planned for the actor. Cena plays Lieutenant Jack Burns, a hardened military officer who has a grudge against the Transformers. The film is fronted by Hailee Steinfeld, who plays Charlie Wilson, a headstrong vulnerable teenager who befriends Bumblebee. The actor said the script of the film, penned by Christina Hodson, was like an unputdownable book and he was eager to feature in the film.



## Judgment in corruption cases against Sharif on Dec 24

PTI ■ ISLAMABAD

An anti-corruption court in Pakistan on Wednesday said it will deliver judgment on December 24 in two remaining corruption cases against ousted prime minister Nawaz Sharif. Judge Muhammad Arshad Malik of Islamabad-based accountability court reserved judgment after completion of hearing in the Flagship Investment and Al-Azizia cases against 68-year-old Sharif.

The verdict will be announced on December 24, which is the revised deadline set by the Supreme Court to wrap up the remaining two corruption cases against the three-time former prime minister.

If found guilty, Sharif can be sentenced up to 14 years in jail. The accountability court had indicted Sharif for holding assets beyond his known sources of income in August 2017. The judge rejected application by Sharif's lawyer Khawaja Harris to provide one week time to submit more documents but allowed him to provide any document by



Friday.

The judge also observed that the court was bound to follow December 24 final deadline set by the Supreme Court.

Three cases - Avenfield properties case, Flagship Investment case and Al-Azizia steel mills case - were launched by the National Accountability Bureau on September 8, 2017 following a judgment by the apex court that disqualified Sharif.

The apex court initially set

six month deadline to conclude the cases but it was subsequently increase around eight times on the request of the accountability court.

Sharif was disqualified by the Supreme Court in the Panama Papers case in July, 2017.

In July, 2018 Sharif, his daughter Maryam and his son-in-law retired captain Mohammad Safdar were sentenced to 11 years, eight years and one year respectively in prison in the Avenfield prop-

erties case related to their purchase of four luxury flats in London through corrupt practices. However, the three were bailed out by the Islamabad High Court in September.

His two sons - Hassan and Hussain - were also co-accused in all three cases but they were declared absconders for failing to appear before the court even for a single time.

The court decided to hear their cases separately once they returned back.

The three-time former prime minister and his family have denied any wrongdoing.

Sharif, who religiously followed the proceeding by appearing before the court for at least 78 times, told the media after the court reserved the judgment that he not committed any corruption.

"Not a penny of corruption has been proven against me... I am very happy that I have done my duty, and I think that since I have stepped in politics I have never indulged in corruption nor have misused my power," he said.

## 2 opposition leaders in Sri Lanka's Parliament, says Tamil leader

PTI ■ COLOMBO

Sri Lankan Parliament Speaker Karu Jayasuriya's move to recognise Mahinda Rajapaksa as the Leader of the Opposition has sparked a new controversy as the main Tamil party leader R Sampanthan said on Wednesday that there are now two people holding the same position.

Speaker Jayasuriya Tuesday announced 73-year-old Rajapaksa's appointment as Sri Lanka's main opposition leader in Parliament, days after he resigned as prime minister after clinging on to power for nearly two months. Sampanthan, who held the position from 2015, said the Speaker made the announcement without removing him from the position.

"Consequently, it would be seen as two people holding the post of the Leader of the Opposition," said Sampanthan, the leader of the Tamil National Alliance - the main Tamil party. "This has further complicated the issue," he said, referring to the recent political crisis.

Sampanthan argued that Rajapaksa had ceased to be a member of parliament since he



Sri Lanka's disputed prime minister Mahinda Rajapaksa greets religious leaders as he arrives to sign his resignation paper in Colombo, Sri Lanka on Saturday. AP

defected from the party through which he had been elected to parliament in 2015. "Your decision has been taken in haste, your decision is in violation of our Constitution," Sampanthan told the speaker.

Speaker Jayasuriya said he would announce his decision on appointing a select committee to probe the issue on

Friday. The Tamil National Alliance has 16 lawmakers in the House and the party is the second largest group in parliament.

President Maithripala Sirisena's decision on October 26 to sack prime minister Wickremesinghe and install Rajapaksa in his place triggered

a constitutional crisis. Later, Sirisena also dissolved the 225-member Parliament and called for a snap election on January 5.

However, Wickremesinghe was re-appointed as prime minister by Sirisena following a supreme court order, ending the 51-day political standoff in the country.

## Amid Chinese inroads, Pompeo meets Nepal foreign minister

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo held a rare meeting with Nepal's Foreign Minister Pradeep Gyawali as part of the Trump administration's effort to thwart increasing Chinese influence in the Himalayan nation. Pompeo described his meeting on Tuesday with Gyawali as historic and said this demonstrates America's commitment to its strong partnership with Nepal.

He emphasised the great potential for further development of the US-Nepal ties, State Department deputy spokesperson Robert Palladino said.

During the meeting, Pompeo highlighted the enduring strength of the US-Nepal partnership and the close people-to-people ties that form the foundation of the relationship.

"The two leaders discussed Nepal's USD 500 million Millennium Challenge Corporation compact, Nepal's central role in a free, open, and prosperous Indo-Pacific, and global issues, including North Korea," Palladino said.



The meeting came amidst China's foray into the landlocked Himalayan nation where Beijing has been investing heavily for the last few years to enhance connectivity and infrastructure.

The US is concerned about Chinese investments in the Indo-Pacific and stepped up its efforts to expand its engagements with the countries in the region, including India and Nepal.

It fears that Chinese investments and activities are undermining sovereignty and economic stability in the region

and will also be a threat to America's vision of a free and open Indo-Pacific.

American officials believe that said China's Belt and Road Initiative for infrastructure development and investments in countries in Europe, Asia and Africa lacked transparency and was aimed at fulfilling China's own security and strategic interests rather than promoting economic development.

They also warn that Chinese credit could lead to debt trap and undermine sovereignty.

## Pope says Xmas not about consumerism

AFP ■ VATICAN CITY

Pope Francis said Wednesday that Christmas cannot just be about swapping presents and indulging in a massive consumer binge, urging the faithful to remember its original purpose to mark Christ's birth. "The advertising machine tells us we have to exchange more and more new presents to give us a surprise. But is that the sort of celebration that God wants?" Francis asked a regular open audience in the Vatican.

"No, Christmas is about listening to the silent voice of God," he said. "Please, I ask you, let us not turn Christmas into a fashionable event! 'It is not Christmas if we seek out the bright lights, if we load up on presents but then don't help even one poor person,'" said the Pope who is well known for his criticism of social inequality and injustices.

Pope accepts resignation of LA bishop accused of misconduct. Pope Francis has accepted the resignation of Los Angeles auxiliary bishop Monsignor Alexander Salazar, following allegations of misconduct with a minor in the 1990s. The Vatican announced the resignation in a statement



Pope Francis caresses a child as he meets with faithful on the occasion of the weekly general audience, at the Vatican, Wednesday. AP

Wednesday. It was the latest in a string of cases of alleged misconduct against bishops to come to light this year, following the scandal of ex-Cardinal Theodore McCarrick. The current archbishop of Los Angeles, Most Rev. Jose Gomez, said the archdiocese was made aware of the claim in 2005, which law enforcement had declined to prosecute, but that the archdiocese forwarded the complaint to the Vatican office

that handles sex abuse cases. Gomez said that office, the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, imposed precautionary measures against Salazar and a further investigation found the allegation credible.

Since being appointed in September, Khalilzad has met with all sides to try to restart peace talks aimed at ending America's longest war.

## Taliban say talks focus on US withdrawal from Afghanistan

AP ■ ISLAMABAD

The Taliban say their latest talks with the US envoy focused on the withdrawal of NATO troops from Afghanistan, the release of prisoners and halting attacks on civilians by pro-government forces.

US peace envoy Zalmay Khalilzad met with the Taliban this week in the United Arab Emirates, with Saudi, Pakistani and Emirati officials also participating. The Afghan government sent a delegation to the UAE but it did not take part in the talks.

Khalilzad tweeted Wednesday that the talks were "productive," without mentioning the Taliban by name.

The Taliban control nearly half of Afghanistan, and are more powerful than at any time since the 2001 US-led invasion.

## Consumer groups allege Google misleads kids in FTC complaint

AP ■ SAN FRANCISCO

Nearly two dozen consumer, privacy and public health groups are urging US regulators to investigate whether children are being endangered by deceptive apps in Google's app store for smartphones running on its Android software.

The 102-page complaint filed Wednesday with the Federal Trade Commission alleges Google's Play store is harming kids by allowing apps that break privacy laws, contain adult content or include manipulative advertising in a section of its Play store designed for children.

The call for FTC action is being led by two groups, the Campaign for a Commercial-Free Childhood and the Center for Digital Democracy, that have previously attacked Google's approach to kids. In April, they asked the FTC to

crack down on Google's YouTube video site for alleged violations of children's online privacy. Twenty other groups, including Consumer Action, Public Citizen and the U.S. Public Interest Research Group, joined in the latest complaint.

Google issued a statement emphasizing its commitment to protecting children while they are online — one of the reasons the company says it prohibits targeted advertising at children under 13. "We take these issues very seriously and continue to work hard to remove any content that is inappropriately aimed at children from our platform," Google said.

More than 2 billion devices worldwide are powered by Google software, with a significant number of those being used by minors. The

complaint focuses on alleged misconduct under U.S. laws and regulations. The attempt to pressure the FTC to open an investigation comes amid an intensifying backlash against Google, Facebook and other companies that make most of their money by using their free services to track people's interests and whereabouts and then mining that information to sell ads targeted at them.

The angst has raised the specter of Congress drawing up tougher regulations to curb the tech industry's power and restrict its ability to compile digital dossiers about the people who have become increasingly dependent on its services. Rep. David Cicilline, a Democrat from Rhode Island who has been critical of Google, issued a statement supporting the groups seeking an FTC investigation as did

Sen. Tom Udall, a Democrat from New Mexico.

"It is past time for the Federal Trade Commission to crack down to protect children's privacy," Udall said in a statement. Although the FTC doesn't typically comment on whether it will investigate issues raised in complaints, it has punished both Google and Apple for what it deemed to be child exploitation in the past. In 2014, it reached a settlement requiring Google to refund \$19 million for allowing apps distributed through its store to charge children for purchases made without parents' consent.

That came after a similar agreement required Apple to refund \$32.5 million for in-app purchases made on iPhones, iPads and other devices without parents' permission.

## Facebook gave tech giants access to users' private messages

PTI ■ NEW YORK

Social media giant Facebook has been sharing its users' personal data, including private messages and contact information for users' friends, with some of the world's largest technology companies like Microsoft, Amazon, far beyond what it has publicly admitted, according to leaked internal documents.

Facebook gave Netflix and Spotify the ability to read users' private messages. They allowed Microsoft's search engine Bing to see the names of Facebook users' friends without permission, and they let Amazon find users' names and contact information through their friends on the platform, The New York Times reported on Tuesday.

Embroided in a massive data breach following the Cambridge Analytica scandal, Facebook has been reeling from a series of privacy scan-



dals. In March, it was revealed that a British political consulting firm, Cambridge Analytica, improperly used personal data of up to 87 million Facebook users.

Facebook gave access to user data to more than 150 companies - most of them tech businesses, including online retailers and entertainment sites, but also automakers and media organisations.

In 2011 in an agreement with the Federal Trade Commission (FTC), Facebook

stated that the company cannot share user data "without explicit permission."

"This is just giving third parties permission to harvest data without you being informed of it or giving consent to it," David Vladeck, who ran the FTC's consumer protection bureau, was quoted as saying by the report.

The 270-pages internal documents, as well as interviews with about 50 former employees of Facebook and its corporate partners, reveal that

Facebook allowed certain companies access to data despite the protections, the report said.

Their applications sought the data of hundreds of millions of people a month, the records show. The deals, the oldest of which date to 2010, were all active in 2017. Some were still in effect this year, the report said.

The documents showed that "while Facebook users can control what data they share with most of the thousands of apps on Facebook's platform, some companies had access to users' data even if they had disabled all sharing."

Mark Zuckerberg, who co-founded Facebook in 2004, assured US lawmakers in April that people "have complete control" over everything they share on Facebook. He acknowledged that it had breached users' trust and insisted that it had instituted stricter privacy protections long ago.

## Storm in a teacup in Britain over eco-friendly bags

London: Britons are up in arms over new environmentally-friendly teabags that leave a bitter taste in the mouth as they split open, spilling their contents into teacups across the land. Yorkshire Tea, the country's second biggest brand after PG Tips, launched the new biodegradable teabags in June and has now been forced to respond to a barrage of complaints.



"Has anyone else noticed that Yorkshire Tea bags are quite burst-able at the

moment," one disgruntled user, BBC radio 3 presenter Elizabeth Alker, said on Twitter. BT Sport football commentator Darren Fletcher wrote that the Yorkshire Tea bags were "shambolic." "Things may never be the same again!" he said. The new bags, which no longer rely on plastic to stay sealed, are splitting when dunked in hot water.

## Thai man faces legal woes after Miss Universe dress comments

Bangkok (AFP): A Thai YouTube personality is facing defamation charges after making comments about dresses worn by Thailand's Miss Universe candidate, one of which was designed by a daughter of the country's king.

The monarchy is considered sacred in Thai society and few dare to criticise the institution for fear of running afoul of strict royal insult laws, which are supposed to only cover the king, queen, heir-apparent and regent. But criticism of other

members of the royal family is still considered off-limits for members of the Thai public.

The fashion fracas started on Monday after Wanchaleom Jamneanphol, a YouTube personality who goes by the nickname "Mixy Bigmouth," made unflattering Facebook

comments about a blue dress worn by the Thai Miss Universe contestant and designed by Princess Sirivannavari Nariratana. Jamneanphol's comments went viral and Kijjanut Chaiyosurana, an aspiring politician contesting next year's national election, told AFP on Wednesday he filed defamation

charges against her. "I think internet idols are like an actor or actress with many followers... so if they commit wrongdoing online it should not end up with just apologies," Kijjanut said Wednesday.

Under local law, any Thai citizen is permitted to file defamation charges on behalf of another person, and convictions can carry prison sentences of up to two years. A Thai police spokesman confirmed that the woman was under investi-

gation but she has yet to be formally charged.

Wanchaleom - who did not immediately respond to a request for comment - removed her original viral post and apologised for her comments on Monday night. "To Princess Sirivannavari Nariratana, I had no intention to insult the monarchy," she wrote. "I feel remorse and regret for this incident." She also promised to exercise "wisdom and prudence" for future social media postings.

# Packed with a punch

The National Institute of Food Technology Entrepreneurship and Management (NIFTEM) is roping in entrepreneurs, industry stakeholders and farmers for capacity building in the food processing industry. The institute's Vice Chancellor, DR CHINDI VASUDEVPAPPA, talks to ANKITA SAXENA on ways to grow the ready-to-eat and processed food industry

## What are the latest developments at NIFTEM?

NIFTEM is progressively growing and has been on a consistent development pathway. I can confidently say that we are very well-established in terms of our instructional facilities, the laboratories and even the incubation facility, which is new and has come up during the last one year. We have already conducted the trial run and are now planning to bring in the budding entrepreneurs to work at these facilities on a semi-commercial basis to produce products and variants suitable for the Indian market and cuisine. We are on the final stages of the tender process and will soon finalise the same by the end of this month. The preliminary evaluation of the food testing laboratory has been completed and we are now awaiting the final evaluation for recognition by NABL and will then make the lab functional. We have already met the mandatory requirements to utilise these facilities to bring in more people into the food processing arena.



## How is NIFTEM working in the field of ready-to-eat product category?

The ready-to-eat, ready-to-cook products and many other freeze-dried products are being worked upon which can be taken anywhere and cooked. We are also working on enhancing their shelf life. So basically, in freeze drying, we remove the moisture content and maintain the quality of the product. For example, mushrooms and some important fruits can be freeze-dried, packed and be stored at cooler temperatures, to be used at any time. Some products like tomato puree, tomato juice, ketchup and sauces can be processed thermally, and then packed in tins, bottles or sachets, branded, and sold to the public. Even the fruits can be processed into juices, pulp, concentrates. All these activities are going to come up in a big way at the Incubation Centre in a month's time and we will start the production. The entrepreneurs at the incubation facility may brand the products in their own name but each of these products will have an indication that they have been manufactured at the NIFTEM Incubation Facility.

## What has been the key focus of the food testing lab?

In today's quality conscious world, we have to give details regarding not only the composition of the product but also the pesticide, anti-biotic and heavy metal residues from the health point of view. Thus, we need to conduct a thorough evaluation at various levels. The microbes are the major enemies which spoil food so we need to conduct a proper evaluation of the various pathogenic micro-organisms which, if at all are present, need to be discarded. The testing has to be done at physical, chemical, biological as well as on a sensory level, all of which are present here. The reason we want to make this process a little commercial is because, many food products and raw materials, which are exported, need a similar certification. So, if can provide the certification, we will be able to generate some revenue and maintain the lab simultaneously.

## There is talk of a specialised facility for cold-chain development. What are your views on this?

We are planning to establish a

Cold-Chain Development School which is also a lab, to understand how the linkages and activities related to food processing can be managed in India. The fresh produce from the farms needs to be transported in a cooler environment to the locations where it can be processed or value added. The grading and primary processing is also value addition but for this, the quality of the original produce has to be maintained. We have collaborated with Danfos in this regard, to set up a lab here. So, the different cut sections required for training is being looked at and I believe it is going to be a very important facility for the entire country.

## How effective has the Village Adoption programme been for the students and the community?

We have already sent 17-18 batches of students for this outreach programme to villages in Haryana, Punjab and Uttar Pradesh. We are also changing its format. Earlier, the students would visit the villages in every semester for a shorter duration, but once the new format is made functional, the students will visit the villages for one semester for 36 days. Under this programme,

the students work with the local farmers, demonstrate the technological advancements to boost production, and also educate them on importance of cleanliness. We have linked the students to the Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVKs) of the Indian Council of Agriculture Research (ICAR). Our main objective is capacity building for entrepreneurship and skill development. We have asked the farmers to send a list of those who may want to further train in various aspects of food processing and these will be linked to the pilot projects as well. It is a symbiotic system; while villagers gain scientific and technical knowledge through students, who promote future possibilities of food processing among them, the students obtain first-hand experience of the Indian rural scenario and understand traditional processing technologies adopted by the villagers. They are able to then also facilitate the process of integrating the underprivileged sections of our population with the main stream.

## What role can NIFTEM play to assist exports of processed food?

Basmati rice, which is export-

ed by India to the world alone brings in substantial foreign exchange annually. There is a demand for processed meat products from the Gulf countries, fish and shrimps from the American and European countries. Gradually, traditional food products, which have a regional taste can be popularised in the international market. There is a lot of demand for Indian curries and spices in the global marketplace and this can be leveraged. However, since we process only 10 per cent of our produce, we export a very small percentage of these products. The whole purpose of NIFTEM is to increase our capacity manpower and the awareness about quality and demand for processed food and also produce the same. I think, at least 30 per cent of the food produced should be processed. We can then easily standardise them and scale up exports.

# NMDC RECEIVES FOUR PRSI AWARDS

The National Mineral Development Corporation (NMDC), India's largest iron ore producer, bagged four prestigious awards at the 40th All India Public Relations Conference, organised by the Public Relations Society of India (PSRI) at Dehradun recently. NMDC bagged the awards in Corporate Sustainability Report, CSR Project of Women Empowerment, Best PSU Organisation and Corporate Film categories. The awards were received by P Jaya Prakash, the DGM (Corporate Communication) on behalf of NMDC from the Chief Minister of Uttarakhand, Trivendra Singh Rawat, who graced the award ceremony as the chief guest.



# VIT to add 3 new courses

Keeping in view of the advancement in the digital era, the Vellore Institute of Technology—Andhra Pradesh, University has announced to launch new courses to ensure successful employment of its students with relevant skills. The VIT chancellor, Dr G Viswanathan said, "The way we conduct exams traditionally, only assesses students based on their ability to reproduce knowledge. We aim to reform the way we assess our students. We are aiming to match the assessment system with the outcome-based framework which our education and industry has adopted based on performance indicators." The VIT-AP has ranked at the 13th position, consecutively for the last three years in the NIRF Ranking by the Ministry of Human Resource Development. VIT's innovations in the field of education and research have set a benchmark for higher education in India.

The vice president of the university, Sankar Viswanathan announced that digital skills would be provided to the students through new courses like the BTech in Artificial Intelligence, BBA in Business Analytics, Animation and Media

from the upcoming academic year. The university has collaborated with Toonz to offer the courses on animation, visual effects and gaming.

The university vice chancellor, Dr D Subhakar, explained that the three courses to be introduced are Animation and Film Making-Advanced (AFMA), Visual Effects-Advanced (VFEXA) and the 3D Finishing Programme (3D-FP).

The VIT-AP School of Business will introduce a BBA in Business Analytics and the VSB is exploring an international credit transfer program with the WP Carey School of Business, Arizona State University (ASU), USA for a 2+2 program. Under this programme, the students can study two years in India and two years in USA and get their Undergraduate degree from ASU. Twelve universities from USA, UK, Australia and Spain will offer international transfer programs.

The registrar of the university, Dr CLV Sivakumar, further informed that to ensure practical training to the BTech students, the university is offering engineering clinics and 6-month and 9-month internship program even from the completion of their first year.



## CORPORATE BRIEFS

### MANOJ KUMAR VARMA APPOINTED DIRECTOR (POWER), BHEL

On his appointment as the director on the Board of the Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL), Manoj Kumar Varma has assumed the charge as Director (Power). Prior to this, he was heading the company's Power Sector-Southern Region (PSSR), Chennai, as the executive director. Varma is a mechanical engineering graduate from SGSITS, Indore and an MBA in marketing from Bhopal University. He has 35 years of holistic and hands-on experience in the field of energy, industrial systems and infrastructure industries, covering major value chain functions.



### ICSI SIGNATURE AWARDS TO REWARD TOP RANKERS

The Institute of Company Secretaries of India (ICSI) has introduced the 'ICSI Signature Award Scheme', which will award the top rank holders in the BCom examinations of universities and the toppers of the PGDM course of IIMs/ IITs with a Gold Medal and a Certificate. Besides, the top three rank holders will also be eligible for a full waiver of registration fee for Executive Programme stage of the CS course. A memorandum of understanding (MoU) regarding the same was signed between the ICSI and the Savitribai Phule Pune University, Pune.

### CISF 'SANRAKSHIKA' ESTABLISHES NIGHT SHELTER CAMP AT RML HOSPITAL

A 50-bedded night shelter camp (Rein-Basera) under the aegis of 'Sanrakshika' CISF Wives Welfare Association, has been established at the Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital (RML Hospital), in New Delhi. The camp facility which was recently inaugurated by the president of Sanrakshika, Ranjeeta Ranjan, is meant for the needy attendants accompanying the patients admitted in the hospital who cannot afford the private accommodation in the vicinity of the hospital. The administration of the RML Hospital has also extended required co-operation for establishing the night shelter.



### KVS-NVS TEACHERS TOP DRAW AT SANGEET KALA SANGAM

The music and art teachers of the Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan and the Navodaya Vidyalaya Samiti presented a cultural evening at the closing ceremony of the three-day KVS-NVS Sangeet Kala Sangam at the Dr Ambedkar International Centre in New Delhi recently. The event was graced by the Secretary (SE&L) of the MHRD, Rina Ray, as the chief guest.

### LKA TO HOLD NATIONAL ART FESTIVAL IN TRIPURA

The Lalit Kala Akademi (LKA), in collaboration with the Directorate of Information and Cultural Affairs, Government of Tripura, is organising a week-long art festival in Agartala. A total of 51 artists from across India are participating of which 30 belong to the north eastern states. These artists are being assisted by 51 art students from the College of Art, Agartala. The LKA chairman Uttam Pacharne, said "To commemorate the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi this year, the LKA has organised a number of camps and workshops for artists and exhibitions for the public and have extending this tradition to the North East."



# FASHIONNQUILL LETS IN FRESH TALENT



Packed with all things trendy, from fashionable apparel, funky jewellery, footwear and accessories, the second edition of 'Fashionnquill' dazzled the capital in a new avatar. This year this exhibition-cum-sale was hosted at The Lalit Hotel, New Delhi and was presented in the format of a trunk show, titled—Fashionnquill: The Winter Trunk Show.

As many as 30 new and talented designers were seen showcasing their collections. The event proved to be a perfect fusion of Indian and western wear, target-

ed at the millennial and the working women.

Mithi Kalra, one of the directors of N&M Evenire Private Limited, also the organiser of the event said, "We have always aimed to bring in a platform for the new comers in the industry to showcase their talent. We are trying to establish a niche for this type of an exhibition. The designers here are either a month old in the industry or have been around for 20 years in the industry. Their designs are fresh and not something that you can find in the mar-

ket. The reason we hosted this exhibition at The Lalit Hotel was to target the crème de la crème of the fashion industry, who can afford the styles and also become brand ambassadors for the designers."

The other directors, Mohit and Nishant Kumar Tomar, promised that though this edition of the show was more focused on women wear, the next edition would showcase more designer wear for men. Tomar also informed that in March 2019, the company is planning to organise

a large scale carnival which will be an open festival of fashion in Delhi. He added, "It is exciting and inspiring to see the quantum of talent and entrepreneurial spirit that proliferates in our country and gratifying to have an opportunity to be part of a process that will shape the fashionscape of the future."

Trend Blazer

'Directing is like a worker's life'

Actress **KANGANA RANAUT**, who took over the reigns as director of her forthcoming film *Manikarnika* — *The Queen of Jhansi*, says directing a film is like leading a worker's life, but she had fun while she was at it. Asked whether she wants to pursue directing in the future as well, she said, "I was telling my sister yesterday, no actor wants to be sweaty where 80 people are asking you like 100 questions. I am so comfortable in this job that there is nothing more that I love than directing, even though I don't get to wear make-up and I don't get any special treatment."



'Kareena Kapoor is an inspiration for the working girls.'

She has proved that one can have a successful career along with enjoying their personal life. The way she has managed both her professional and personal life is simply amazing.

—Swara Bhasker

Actor **VIKRANT MASSEY** has bagged a pivotal role in Meghna Gulzar's forthcoming film in which actress **DEEPIKA PADUKONE** will play the role of acid attack survivor Laxmi Agarwal.



"We will start the film in the third week of March 2019. Vikrant is somebody who I wanted to work with since *Raazi*. "And after I saw him in *A Death In The Gunj*... you know there are some actors that you just want to work with and I'm just glad I got the opportunity to have a suitable character for him in this film, which is Deepika's partner," Meghna said. "I think I can speak for both Deepika and me that we're really excited that he's playing this part," she added.

'I'm proud of the character Beckett'

Actress **STANA KATIC**, who played detective Kate Beckett for eight seasons in the comedy-crime series *Castle*, says she is proud of that character.



"Kate Beckett is a character that I am proud of. I personally don't feel any pressure to break away from the image of Kate Beckett. I think back to that character very fondly," Katic said. She is now busy working on the second season of *Absentia* in which she plays Emily Byrne. Asked how many seasons she would like *Absentia* to have, Katic said, "I don't have a specific number. I think as long as we tell a good story and finish it off strong... I feel like you have to know when to end...at a stage where the audience still wants more."

Producer-director **ANAND L RAI'S** latest venture *Zero* is a reflection of the transformation that is underway in the Hindi film industry, says **SAIMI SATTAR**

WINDS OF CHANGE

A little arrogant but still loveable, which is a brilliant combination. Self-confident, sure, a little quirky, edgy, sharp but has a heart in the right place. If I list all these qualities, it is very difficult for me to say whether I have described Meerut, where *Zero* is set, or the character of Bauua, who is the protagonist," says director-producer Anand L Rai, who is the narrator of a resurgent India that is rising from the raw earth, dusting itself casually and claiming the mike to announce its right to co-exist. This isn't the first time that his protagonist personifies the cities that aren't shy of disembodying their angularities and spilling out their guts. "In *Raanjhanaa*, Kundan was Benaras, in *Tanu Weds Manu*, Manu was Delhi," he adds.

With mofussil towns lending the canvas on which a film's story is painted, Rai has been adding layers of complexity with each film that shows us a cross-flow of identities that a changing India has become. "My stories are where the real country lives. When I was making *Tanu Weds Manu*, nobody expected that a girl from a small town could be so bold. But now it is acceptable that a Kanpur girl, who studied in Delhi, would have evolved and developed her own set of ideologies. In *Raanjhanaa*, Kundan, Dhanush's character from Benaras, was organic in his completeness and could take on the world. Abhay's character, who studied at Jawaharlal Nehru University, had his own sensibilities and confidence. They represent the country equally well and it is important that we don't homogenise youth," he tells us as he lounges in his suite at a hotel in Gurugram, which overlooks the road that's leading to or coming from, depending on your perspective, Delhi.

Rai wanted the cast of *Zero* to travel to Meerut to get a feel of the city but they couldn't. However, he did spend a lot of time there before he started shooting. Along with the shift towards smaller towns is the readiness to explore stories where the protagonists are less than picture-perfect in appearance — something that had been a no-go zone earlier. Rai says, "Film makers are more confident about having real conversations and are more in sync with the audience which enables us to present the stories that we do today. It is our way of taking something from our society and giving back to it. It is about normalising what we consider taboos. This is our chance to say that the so-called physically or vertically challenged person is as good as we are for we all have some flaws. Flaws are beautiful — filmmakers are understanding that and making the



Photo: Pankaj Kumar

'ZERO IS COMPLEX AND LAYERED. THERE'S A LOVE STORY (SHAHRUKH-ANUSHKA) AND THEN THERE IS A BOND (SHAHRUKH-KATRINA). IT'S NOT A TRIANGLE. THERE'S A MODERN PERSPECTIVE RATHER THAN THE USUAL MAN-WOMAN LOVE STORY'

society comprehend that too. One can't calculate happiness. Perhaps a girl on a wheelchair can be happier than me. It is all about enjoying and celebrating the incompleteness."

Another manner in which the story-telling has progressed is the way it looks at different kinds of relationships beyond the paradigms of conventional ones. "Zero is complex and layered. If you want me to describe it, then there is a love story (Shahrukh-Anushka) and then there is a bond (Shahrukh-Katrina). It is not a triangle. There is a modern perspective rather than the usual man-woman love story. Somewhere it is also breaking the rule of strata where a top actress and a dwarf can have a conversation and chemistry," he says.

Rai believes that as storytellers, filmmakers have to give the audience a little extension of themselves every time they get down on the floor. "We were limiting our-

selves by working on formula. You can't play safe any more. If you do, there is more likelihood of you failing. Go a mile and the audience will walk with you," he says.

Though any industry assessment would attribute the swing towards unconventional content to a change in audience taste, Rai believes there is greater empathy. "More than the audience acceptability, what is working is that we as makers are understanding the audience way better. Earlier, we felt a hero with an erectile dysfunction or a geriatric pregnancy would not be acceptable to the viewer but that was because we were judging for them. The minute we broke down our barriers and thought that we have to tell a good story, things changed. It is a gradual process and during the journey there were films like *Tanu Weds Manu*, *Shubh Mangal Saavdhan*, *Vicky Donor* and *Badhai Ho*. For the first time, there is no talking down from our rarefied spaces but a give-and-take. There is an unsaid conversation that has put both the director and audience at ease with each other. A decade ago, a *Badhai Ho* would have been rejected by the studio but today it is ideal."

While many feel that it is the digital medium which is powering the change in content, Rai agrees only partially. "It is a very healthy competition. The digital medium is like a delineation tool, because it helps us understand what is cinematic and what is not. What the digital platform has done is give us more clarity and bifurcation," he says. However, he is yet to foray into the new platform. "It's a different structure and form and needs a different kind of story-telling. I need to understand that before I start," he adds.

A consistent theme that runs through his films are strong women characters, who are no wall flowers or pushovers and whom Rai insists are drawn from the world around him. "Women today are strong; they are holding up families, while making us proud. They aren't as dependent as they were earlier. So Datto from *Jhajar* in Haryana can take care of her family and be an able athlete in the same breath and not feel apologetic about loving a man who comes from a different cultural context. Why, she even unsettles the worldly wise Tanu," says Rai as he chooses each word carefully.

While being true to his storyline, Rai has been undaunted by the star system, having worked with a string of actors, young and old. This is the first time that he has worked with SRK and has nothing but praise for King Khan. "He really works hard on the detailing of any character. He is well-read and does his homework even though people might believe, that given his star status he doesn't. Apart from that, he is fun to work with and the most obedient actor. In fact, one has to be very careful about asking him what one wants because he won't stop till he delivers his 100 per cent," he says. He was quite comfortable working with the trio of topline, SRK, Anushka and Katrina. "Very easy to work with, professional, loveable and intelligent. At no point did they make me feel that I was working with big stars. We were aiming at the same target of telling a story as best as we could. Life was beautiful and there were no egos or tantrums."

The filmmaker ensures that the audience, too, believes that life is beautiful. "I want to give them their money's worth for the 2.5 hours that they spend in the theatre. There should be something that they take away but it should be layered with entertainment in a manner that it is not in your face," he says. And though he is now a producer himself, he maintains his balance between his dual roles. "I am a director by choice and a producer by chance. The producer in me gives everything to the director, which the latter in me wants from the former. As a director, I want a certain kind of space, responsibility and work. I understand the economics of filmmaking very well and this enabled me to create a platform, the Colour Yellow Productions, which I can claim is 'ek director ka production house'. I don't direct films every year. I do it once every two or two-and-a-half years. This platform is for like-minded people who can direct films that I can't like a *Tumbadd* or *Newton*." Clearly, he has attained a balance of sorts.

Terms of engagement

Mobile phone companies and the auto sector occupied the top 10 slots through their innovative campaigns on social media



With mobiles being the primary source of accessing social media apps, it is not surprising then that it is the brands which power these means of communication, are making waves on Twitter.

Everything from breaking news and entertainment to sports, politics are discussed on social media. This year, some Indian brands on Twitter raised the bar for consumer engagement through innovative and inspirational campaigns. From driving brand awareness to product launches, Indian brands have adopted an always-on approach to cultivate a deep, meaningful relationship with their customers.

While brands across industries make efforts to engage their audience on the platform, Twitter shed the spotlight on the top 10 brands based on engagement that shone throughout the year and rose above the rest.



secured the eighth position, with the #ShareforOnePlus6 campaign. The rest of the list was closed by Tata Sky with its #Wishbox initiative and Mercedes-Benz India's innovative gamification challenge.

TOP 10 MOST ENGAGING BRANDS

Claiming five spots in the list of top 10 Most Engaging Brands in India, it was the mobile phone majors that lead the way. Honor India's Diwali campaign #YeDiwaliHonorWali tweet promoting the #Honor9N and #HonorPlay garnered close to 20K retweets to lead the way.

Samsung Mobile India took the second place, with its emotive video tweet announcing the partnership with Asha Ek Hope foundation gaining the most retweets.

OnePlus India stood a close third thanks to its innovative promotions of the OnePlus 5 and 6 variants. It was followed by Xiaomi India and Motorola India respectively.

The monopoly of the mobile phones at the top was broken by the State Bank of India which claimed the sixth spot. It used the social medium in an exemplary manner to make announcements that impacted audiences, whereas Wipro occupied the seventh place with updates regarding organisational growth and #WOOLmagazine. Amazon India

respectively. Motorola India claimed the sixth spot. The organisation shared a video highlighting the dual rear-camera setup and unique modes and effects of the Moto G6 camera.

Up next was the video tweet by Flipkart in collaboration with Mahesh Babu, (Telugu actor) which promoted the big billion days sale which generated a considerable amount of buzz. LG India claimed the second last spot by involving their target audience through a conversational video advertisement asking the app users to select the best feature of the LG Smart TV.

The Vistara Airlines captured the attention of Twitterati with its 2018 brand film featuring Deepika Padukone as she shared her flying experience with it. The HeroMotoCorp built a great engagement by giving the app users real time access to the launch event of Xtreme 200R.

TOP 5 MOST ENGAGING AUTO BRANDS

One of the most prominent industries to actively engage with audiences on social media is the auto sector. With Auto Expo kicking the year off, brands amped up their efforts to drive conversations with Indian consumers in 2018. Topping the chart, Mercedes-Benz India indulged fans on the social app through innovative ways, like challenging them to test their speed quotient with Twitter gamification to win exciting prizes.

With people logging in to connect with companies for a variety of reasons, brands are now looking at unique and relevant ways of reaching out to their audiences on the platform. Notably, Mahindra and Maruti Suzuki adopted a multi-prong handle strategy, as a way to cater to different customer needs and succeeded in ramping up their engagement levels. While the aggregate of brand-related handles propelled Mahindra to the second spot, Maruti Suzuki Nexa established itself at the third position.

Hyundai India and Tata Motors rounded up the list at the fourth and fifth spots respectively.

TOP 5 MOST ENGAGING BFSI BRANDS

People expect direct customer service from brands through the app today, and those who are able to exceed customer expectations, are featured in Top 5 most engaging BFSI brands list.

State Bank of India emerged top of the list, followed closely by Yes Bank and Paytm. Bajaj Allianz Life and HDFC Ltd. took the fourth and fifth positions respectively. Leveraging the live, conversational and public nature of twitter, BFSI brands are utilising the platform to keep their audiences abreast of the latest developments in the industry as well as their individual organisations.



The missing half

The film industry's women brigade took up cudgels to highlight the apparent gender imbalance at a meeting of its representatives with the Prime Minister

It was a room full of men. In a year when inclusivity and gender equality have been buzzwords, an all-male delegation representing the Indian film industry meeting Prime Minister Narendra Modi to discuss issues plaguing the business — that too twice — has drawn considerable flak from women filmmakers and netizens.

"Would be great to have female representation in these delegations. It is 2018," said Alankrita Shrivastava, the director of the film *Lipstick Under My Burkha*, unleashing a stream of messages pointing at the apparent gender imbalance in the meeting.

The delegation, including the likes of Karan Johar, Akshay Kumar, Bhushan Kumar, Siddharth Roy Kapur and Prashoon Joshi, met Modi. They pitched for lower and uniform rates of GST for the entertainment industry in India, apart from calling for the development of Mumbai as the global entertainment capital, through various initiatives and proactive approaches.

But a big question it raised was — "Where are all the women?" — in what seemed like a reminder of a similar 'Modi and film fraternity delegation' meet held. Shrivastava said, "I believe women are equal stakeholders in the film industry and overall in the Indian economy. Policies that concern the film industry should be discussed and shaped by collectives that have equal representation of women. We cannot just assume that only men somehow know everything and will decide everything." She said that this held true for all industries and all kinds of panels and delegations. "The time is up on having all male groups leading the way. If we truly want a more equal world, we have to make proactive efforts towards creating it. And that will make us a genuinely progressive country," added she.

Popular film producer Guneet Monga, whose co-production *Period, End of Sentence*, a short documentary, has advanced in the Oscar race, appreciated the government's interest in hearing out issues of the Indian film industry. "It is great that the government and producers from film industry are meeting and I hope it helps the industry. It would have been wonderful for woman producers to be part of such initiatives too," Monga said.

Acclaimed actress Tannishtha Chatterjee, who is turning director, said it would have been great to have a "more inclusive representation with women and film fraternity" from all other regions. "Indian cinema is not only about Hindi films, considering the fact that this year's Oscar entry from India was not a Hindi film and directed by a woman," Tannishtha said while pointing out at the lack of representation from the regional film industries at Modi's meeting as well.

Twitter remained abuzz with independent writers and columnists calling out the meeting for being "half-baked maledominated." Akshay wrote on social media, "Heartfelt thank you to the honourable Prime Minister Narendra Modi for taking out time to hear us at length, discuss issues pertaining to our industry and assuring positive consideration of suggestions."

Karan, head honcho of Dharma Productions, wrote, "It was enlightening to hear the honourable Prime Minister Narendra Modi shared his views on our industry's soft power status and the strength of our cinema... He gave our media and entertainment representatives a patient and solid hearing."

T-Series head Bhushan Kumar said, "It was my honour to be a part of an industry discussion with honourable Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The film industry's contribution to the entertainment sector will see exponential growth in coming years and will put India on the global map."

On his part, Modi wrote on social media that the meeting involved "an extensive and fruitful" interaction. "The delegation spoke about the strides being made by the film and entertainment industry, and gave valuable inputs relating to GST for their sector. Happy to see the passion among members of the film and entertainment industry towards the development of India. They talked at length about ways to further Mumbai's development, particularly with regard to making it a global hub for entertainment."

Actress Gul Panag voiced what many others felt, "Hope the delegation includes some women next time."

Not to forget, at the 49th International Film Festival of India this year, the Indian Panorama feature film jury comprised 12 people, but not a single woman. And the government-organised film jamboree also kept #MeToo discussions at bay.

—IANS

# Langer loves India's aggression

Australian coach admits to admiring visitor's aggression in Perth Test calling verbal banter between skippers as humorous and interesting

PTI ■ PERTH

Australian coach Justin Langer says he quite liked India's aggressive yet not-crossing-the-line approach in the second Test and insisted that the heated exchanges between Virat Kohli and Tim Paine were humorous and not abusive.

India skipper Kohli and his Australian counterpart Paine clashed on the field a few times and exchanged a lot of words, with physical contact almost becoming a reality at one point.

However, Langer said that he enjoyed the confrontation.

"I thought it was brilliant. As the two captains and they're trying to stamp their authority on the game and I don't think at any point there was any abuse or any real aggression to it," Langer told Fox Cricket.

"In fact there was a bit of humour and there's been a lot of talk about banter. There's got to be some in a Test match. It's a great part of the game, and there was actually a bit of humour, a bit of Aussie humour as well.

"That's what we pride ourselves on — we've got a bad reputation in a lot of ways, but when there's a bit of humour in it I thought it was a good exchange," he said.

Langer said he was happy that his team could stand its ground against an aggressive India during the Test.

"...It was quite emotional at the end of day three to be honest because I felt India had been really aggressive. I love it and that's what Test cricket is really about. But we just needed to keep standing our ground with our skill, and hopefully we did that in this Test match," he said.

Asked about that particular moment when Kohli and Paine were almost in each other's physical space, Langer said it was all part of the theatrics.

"I think the days of Dennis Lillee and Javed Miandad are gone. I think Andrew Symonds did it to a spectator one day, it was one of the best shirt-fronts you've ever seen in your life, but I can't ever imagine that in the environment we're now in with so many cameras," he said.

"It'd be absolutely silly for that to happen. That's not cricket. They (Paine and Kohli) got close, but in a lot of ways it's not a contact sport. We get that, but it was all part of that theatre of Test cricket and I didn't see anything malicious in that."

India lost the second Test by 146 runs as Australia pulled level 1-1 in the series.

Langer said that the win — Australia's first since the ball tampering scandal — was more relief than joyous.

"When we got Rishabh Pant out, that was the first time in about 16 hours that I relaxed. I just had this sneaking suspicion



**THERE WAS A BIT OF HUMOUR AND THERE'S BEEN A LOT OF TALK ABOUT BANTER. THERE'S GOT TO BE SOME IN A TEST MATCH. IT'S A GREAT PART OF THE GAME, AND THERE WAS ACTUALLY A BIT OF HUMOUR, A BIT OF AUSSIE HUMOUR AS WELL**

he's a very dangerous player, when he got out I thought 'ok now we can maybe enjoy it,' Langer said.

"I remember my first Test hundred, if you go to my house there's the bat I had, and it's just a relief after all that time. It's

probably eight years, and that was the emotion. In a lot of ways that's the emotion now, relief to get the result."

"A lot of them (Australian cricketers) have been bashed for nine months. Now they can sit back and enjoy it."

India made the mistake of not going with a full-time spinner and it proved costly in the end, with Nathan Lyon picking man-of-the-match award for his eight wickets.

Langer paid tribute to the off-spinner.

"When Mohammed Shami was bowling his aggressive spell (in the second innings on day four), I was nervous to watch and was thinking 'maybe we should declare now because we didn't want anything to happen to Nathan Lyon (or any of our bowlers),' he said.

"Kohli's the best player in the world. Those two wickets (for Lyon on day four), what he allows us to do by bowling so well is give our fast bowlers a bit more of a spell. And he can bowl so well, not just holding up an end but he's taking wickets for us," said Langer.

## Kohli was silly and disrespectful: Johnson

PTI ■ PERTH

Former Australian pacer Mitchell Johnson slammed India captain Virat Kohli, describing his behaviour as "disrespectful" and "silly" during the second Test.

Kohli and Australia captain Tim Paine were involved in a series of heated exchanges, which at one point prompted umpire Chris Gaffaney to step in to dissolve the tension.

However, once the second Test ended with Australia beating India by 146 runs, both the captains played down the issue, saying no line was crossed.

But Johnson was extremely critical of Kohli's behaviour during the Test.

"At the end of the match, you should be able to look each other in the eyes, shake hands and say 'great contest,'" he wrote in a column for Fox Sports.

"Virat Kohli could not do that with Tim Paine, shaking the Australian captain's hand but barely making eye contact with him. To me, that is disrespectful.

"Kohli gets away with more than most cricketers simply because he is Virat Kohli and he gets placed on a pedestal but this Test left the Indian captain looking silly," he wrote.

BCCI on Tuesday came out in support of Kohli, rubbing media reports in Australia which claimed that Kohli had bragged about being the best batsman in the world while ridiculing Paine as a "stand-in captain".

Johnson said that Kohli didn't his keep words after making pre-series claims that he won't initiate any confrontations.

"Kohli has contradicted the things he said at the start of the series. He said he was a changed person - that he was com-



ing in with a different attitude to last time and wasn't going to initiate anything. What we saw this Test says otherwise," he wrote. "From my experiences with him and what I am seeing as an observer now, not much has changed. It was disappointing and that is not the only area where he let himself down." Kohli scored a sparkling 123 in the first innings before being dismissed in a

controversial fashion following a contentious catch at slip by Peter Handscomb. Johnson was offended with Kohli for not acknowledging the standing ovation at Perth stadium after his dismissal.

"To me the catch was given out so you accept it and move on and as a player who has scored a hundred you acknowledge the standing ovation," he said.

## 'Virat doesn't need to tone down his aggression'

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Virat Kohli should remain the way he is, said former teammates Zaheer Khan and Praveen Kumar on Wednesday, staunchly defending the combative India captain, who has copped criticism from Australian legends for his on-field behaviour.

Allan Border, Mike Hussey, Mitchell Johnson and even India's Sanjay Manjrekar has expressed their displeasure over Kohli's on-field antics in the ongoing series Down Under.

"I would say (Virat) stick to what you know best. Stick to what has got you so much of success. You can't move away from your success formula. It doesn't matter what others are saying (about Kohli). Series in Australia have always been (intense) like this," former pace spearhead Zaheer said.

Ex-India pacer Praveen Kumar could not agree more with Zaheer.

"Kohli played with aggression at the U-16, U-19 and Ranji Trophy level. What is the issue if he is showing the same aggression while playing for India? I have played a lot of cricket with him and I can safely say that he can't play his best cricket without aggression," said Kumar, a fine swing bowler in his heydays, during the launch of Ferit Cricket Bash.

Both Zaheer and Praveen also raved about the performance of India's pace attack which has helped the team take 40 wickets in the opening two Tests.

"They have been spot on with the execution of their plans. Bumrah has been providing that X factor, Shami has been in great form, Ishant has used his experience very well, someone like Bhuvneshwar is waiting for his turn and Umesh has got heaps of potential.

"Even though Umesh has had a tough game in Perth, he has the ability to take two three quick wickets like Bumrah and Shami."

Zaheer called the current attack as India's best ever.

"I think as a unit, yes (they are the best ever) when you look at the four five fast bowlers on tour. In a long long time, you can see the potential of each and every fast bowler including the bench strength," he said.

One of India's finest seamers, Zaheer said the visitors remain favourites to win the series despite being outplayed in the second Test.

"The fact that you won the first Test, it was never going to be easy after that. Australian team was actually on the backfoot after Adelaide but now the series is levelled.

"But before India departed for Australia, they were billed as favourites. They still are," added Zaheer.



## RAIN, EPIC STAND SAVE SRI LANKA

AFP ■ WELLINGTON

Sri Lanka battled to a rain-affected draw in the first Test against New Zealand on Wednesday after the Black Caps were unable to break an epic stand by Kusal Mendis and Angelo Mathews.

The tourists were 287 for three in their second innings — still nine runs away from an innings defeat — when the umpires called time with only 13 overs bowled on the final day.

Mendis was unbeaten on 141 and Mathews 120 not out at stumps after a 274-run stand that, along with the weather, allowed Sri Lanka to salvage a draw.

New Zealand will view the draw as a missed opportunity after they took control of the Test with a mammoth 578 in the first innings, anchored by Tom Latham's unbeaten 264.

Latham's epic effort overhauled former England captain Alastair Cook's 244 as the highest score by an opener carrying their bat in Test history.

The emphatic performance should have given the New Zealand bowlers two full days to attack a Sri Lanka line-up that showed little fight in the first innings, but Mathews and Mendis responded with a masterclass of their own.

The pair came together late on day three with Sri Lanka reeling at 13 for three in their



second dig, and batted through the whole of day four, fending off a barrage of bouncers from the New Zealanders in a stubborn rearguard action that, along with the weather, allowed Sri Lanka to salvage a draw.

It was the only time in New Zealand that a full day's play has been completed without a Test wicket falling.

The partnership was also a Sri Lankan record against the Black Caps. The draw snaps a four-Test losing streak against the Black Caps on New Zealand soil. The second and final Test begins on December 26 in Christchurch, where the tourists have never won in three attempts.

## SHAKIB FINED FOR SHOUTING AT UMPIRE

AFP ■ DHAKA

Bangladesh captain Shakib Al Hasan was fined 15 per cent of his match fee for shouting at the umpire during Monday's opening Twenty20 international against West Indies, the International Cricket Council said.

Shakib was also handed one demerit point, his second such penalty since the introduction of the system in September 2016, for the offence during hosts' eight-wicket defeat.

Shakib now has two demerit points, having been handed one for an offence during a Twenty20 against Sri Lanka in March this year.

Shakib showed dissent while batting after the umpire did not call a wide in the 14th over of the Bangladesh innings.

"He first shouted at the umpire and then got involved in a prolonged discussion," said an ICC statement issued late Tuesday.

"After the end of the match, Shakib admitted the offence and accepted the sanction," it said, adding no formal hearing was required.

Shakib scored 61 off 43 balls in the game in Sylhet but could not prevent a humiliating loss for his side. West Indies bowled out Bangladesh for 129 and knocked off the target with 55 balls in hand to take 1-0 lead in the three-match series.

Shai Hope starred for the visitors as he bagged his first T20 international fifty in just 16 balls.

The second and third matches will be held in Dhaka on Thursday and Saturday.

Bangladesh swept West Indies 2-0 in the preceding Test series before winning the three-match one-day international series 2-1.

## Kirsten, Gibbs, Powar to appear for interview today

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The next step in the hunt for India's new women's cricket coach will be taken here on Thursday when short-listed candidates, including Gary Kirsten, Herschelle Gibbs and incumbent Ramesh Powar, appear for interviews before the BCCI selection panel.

The other shortlisted candidates out of the 28 applicants who will be interviewed are W V Raman, Venkatesh Prasad, Manoj Prabhakar, Trent Johnston, Mark Coles, Dimitri Mascarenhas and Brad Hogg.

The high-profile short-list which will be interviewed by an ad-hoc panel comprising ex-India players Kapil Dev, Anshuman Gaekwad and Shantha Rangaswamy.

It is learnt that most of the foreigners will give their presentation via Skype while locals like Powar will appear in person.

"The ad-hoc panel comprises former players of high repute. I have no doubt that the commit-



Ramesh Powar discuss team tactics with Indian cricketers before game

ICC

tee will pick the best one," a BCCI official said.

The Supreme Court-appointed Committee of Administrators (COA), comprising chairman Vinod Rai and former India captain Diana Edulji, have been divided over the coach selection process.

While Edulji wanted Powar to continue at least till the New Zealand tour starting next month, Rai instructed the BCCI top brass

to invite fresh applications.

Powar's controversial interim tenure ended on November 30 after a bitter fallout with ODI captain and senior player Mithali Raj over selection issues.

The board is now going ahead with the interview process.

Powar decided to apply after T20 captain Harmanpreet Kaur and her deputy Smriti Mandhana came out in strong support of the former India spinner.

## SINGLES

### NEW KIT FOR INDIAN FOOTBALL

**NEW DELHI:** The Indian football team will be donning new kits in the new year, starting with their campaign in the AFC Asian Cup. The continental showpiece will be held in the UAE from January 5 to February 1. The launch of the national team's new kit took place in the Capital on Wednesday with seven players - Sunil Chhetri, Gurpreet Singh Sandhu, Sandesh Jhingjan, Jeje Lalpekhlua, Rowlin Borges, Shubhasish Bose and Pritam Kotal walking the ramp. The kit sponsors, SixSix have signed a five-year deal with Football Sports Development Limited (FSDL), the commercial partners of All India Football Federation (AIFF), and will be involved with national teams across all age groups and genders, as per the agreement.

### KISAN CRICKET LEAGUE LAUNCHED

**NEW DELHI:** The first edition of Kisan Cricket League - Lal Bahadur Shastri Memorial Cup of Hope will start from 20th February 2019 and end on 20th March 2019, a day before the festival of colors - Holi. The event introduces a fresh short format cricket tournament and is first of its kind where ones only qualifications are 'Are you a Villager between 17-24 years & are you an aspiring Cricket Player! It is a brand-new gift of opportunities for 'sons of the soil', youngsters from Rural India. Atul Pandey, the organizer of the event calls it a tribute to one of India's favorite son, the iconic representation of poise and humility - Late Prime Minister Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri. He adds that Kisan Cricket will have 8 teams - Mighty Himalyans, Frontier Gabroos, Awadhi Brothers, Eastern Eagles, Western Thyrians, Oruvan Thalavias, Sahyadri Rangers and a special team for tribal youngsters, The Birsas Boys. The matches will be organized in 8 Non-Metro Cities across India and will be telecast live on one of the principal sports broadcasters in Indian footprint.

### BOPANNA-DIVIJ GIVEN TOP BILLING

**PUNE:** Asian Games Gold medalist pair of Divij Sharan and Rohan Bopanna was Wednesday named as the top seed in the men's doubles event of the Tata Open Maharashtra, starting here December 31. Sharan, who briefly became India's number one doubles pair, and veteran Bopanna recently joined forces, keeping in mind the 2020 Tokyo Olympics. Tata Open will be their first tournament together. Radu Albot and Malek Jaziri will be the second seed while Phillip Oswald and Tim Puetz are seeded third. The team of Marcelo Arevalo and Jamie Carretani is seeded fourth. Veteran star Leander Paes will team up with Mexico's Miguel Angel Reyes-Varela with whom he won the Santo Domingo Challenger title and ended runner-up at Brest, Monterrey and Chicago in the 2018 season.

### DHAWAL BOOST FOR MUMBAI

**MUMBAI:** Former champions Mumbai, languishing way down in the points table, got a boost with the return to the squad of senior pacer Dhawal Kulkarni for their Ranji Trophy Elite Group A game against Saurashtra. Kulkarni, who was out of action following an injury, has been named in the squad of the 41-time champions for their game against Saurashtra beginning here on Saturday. The squad, announced by the Mumbai Cricket Association on its website on Wednesday, would be led by in-form batsman Siddhesh Lad. Mumbai need to defeat Saurashtra and get full points to stay in the hunt for a berth in the quarter-finals. They are in the 13th spot in the combined Group A and B points table with 8 points in their kitty.

### PIRATES PLAY THRILLING TIE

**PANCHKULA:** Patna Pirates scored three points in less than 20 seconds to pull off a 40-40 tie against Bengaluru Bulls in a thrilling Pro Kabaddi League match here on Wednesday. Vikas Jaglan was the hero for Patna as he got one tackle and two raid points to save the Pirates from a certain defeat. Pardeep Narwal was the top scorer for Patna Pirates with 17 points. For Bengaluru Bulls, Rohit Kumar scored 16 points while Mahender got a high five in defence. Patna Pirates are still in contention of a place in the playoffs while Bengaluru Bulls have already qualified.

### ANUP KUMAR ANNOUNCES RETIREMENT

**PANCHKULA:** Anup Kumar, one of the most impactful kabaddi players the country has seen, on Wednesday announced his retirement with immediate effect, drawing curtains to an illustrious 15-year career. A veteran in the sport, Arjuna awardee Anup began his international career in 2006 at the South Asian Games in Sri Lanka. He led India to Gold medal at the Asian Games and was also part of the team which repeated the feat in the 2014 edition. The 35-year-old had also led India to memorable Kabaddi World Cup title triumph in 2016. In season 2 of the Pro Kabaddi League, Anup captained U Mumba and led the team to victory.

Agencies

## Manchester City survive shoot-out, enter EFL semis



AFP ■ LEICESTER

Manchester City survived a penalty shoot-out to reach the League Cup semi-finals as young keeper Arijanit Muric starred in the dramatic finale to the holders' win over Leicester on Tuesday.

Pep Guardiola's side took the lead when Kevin De Bruyne marked his return from injury with a fine finish in the first half at the King Power Stadium.

Marc Albrighton cancelled out De Bruyne's first goal since April with a late equaliser to set up the 3-1 shoot-out win.

Muric, making his second City appearance in place of the rested Ederson, stole the spotlight as the 20-year-old Kosovo international made two penalty saves to clinch his team's last four berths.

Just hours after Guardiola's old rival Jose Mourinho was sacked by Manchester United after their worst start for 28 years, City could afford to make eight changes and still went through as they chase the third trophy of the Guardiola era.

"A tough game, it is always difficult at Leicester. We played with a guy (Eric Garcia) who is 17 years old and some injured players, but it was a good game," Guardiola said.

De Bruyne added: "I feel stiff but I am happy to contribute. To be out for so long and to play 70

minutes is a good sign for me. "We want to win titles so there's two games more and we can battle for another trophy."

Guardiola's men had beaten Leicester on penalties at the same stage of the League Cup last season.

Leicester had more recent spot-kick success after beating Wolves and Southampton on penalties in the previous two rounds, but it was City who prevailed again. Leicester's Christian Fuchs and City's Raheem Sterling both shot over.

Muric seized the moment with saves to deny James Maddison and Caglar Soyuncu before Zinchenko drilled in the winner. Third tier Burton are into the semi-final for the first time in their history after a shock 1-0 win at Championship promotion chasers Middlesbrough.

Sixth in the second tier, Middlesbrough made a host of changes and were punished by their lowly opponents.

Burton, 15th in League One, is the first team from the third tier or lower to reach the semi-finals since Sheffield United in 2014-15. Jake Hesketh put Nigel Clough's side into the lead in the 48th minute, the on-loan Southampton midfielder firing home from the edge of the area. Clough won the League Cup twice as a player with Nottingham Forest in 1989 and 1990.

# Ole Gunnar steps into Mourinho's big boots



Manchester United appoint former great to take charge until end of the season

AFP ■ LONDON

Ole Gunnar Solskjaer was on Wednesday named as Manchester United's caretaker manager until the end of the season following the sacking of Jose Mourinho.

The former United striker will take charge of the first team with immediate effect and will remain in place while the club looks for a new full-time manager.



Mourinho was axed on Tuesday after just two-and-a-half years in charge at Old Trafford, with the 20-times English champions languishing in sixth place in the Premier League, 19 points behind leaders Liverpool.

Solskjaer, 45, will be joined by Mike Phelan as first-team coach, working alongside Michael Carrick and Kieran McKenna.

"Manchester United is in my heart and it's brilliant to be coming back in this role," said the Norwegian. "I'm really looking forward to working with the very talented squad we have, the staff and everyone at the club."

Executive vice chairman Ed Woodward said: "Ole is a club legend with huge experience, both on the pitch and in coaching roles."

"His history at Manchester United means he lives and breathes the culture here and everyone at the club is delighted to have him and Mike Phelan back. We are confident they will unite the players and the fans as we head into the second half of the season."

United appeared to accidentally announce the appointment on their website on Tuesday, with a video posted on the club's official website celebrating Solskjaer.

A video of him scoring the winner for United in their 1999 Champions League final triumph against Bayern Munich was accompanied with the headline "The most famous night of Ole's career".

Norwegian Prime Minister Erna Solberg also appeared to confirm Solskjaer's appointment on Twitter.

On Wednesday she tweeted: "FINALLY CONFIRMED! Great day for Norwegian football. Good luck keeping control of the Red Devils, @olegs26\_ole."



CAREER STATISTICS

Club	Time Period	Matches	Goals
Molde	1995-1996	50	40
Man Utd	1996-2007	366	126
Total	1995-2007	416	166

On Wednesday she tweeted: "FINALLY CONFIRMED! Great day for Norwegian football. Good luck keeping control of the Red Devils, @olegs26\_ole."

Solskjaer joined United as a player from Molde in 1996 and was part of Alex Ferguson's team that won the treble of the Champions League, Premier League and FA Cup in 1998/99.

He scored 126 goals in 366 appearances for United between 1996 and 2007 and in 2008 he became the club's reserve-team manager, before taking the

managerial role at Molde in Norway.

Manchester United will be in charge of Saturday's trip to former club Cardiff.

Solskjaer managed the Bluebirds between January 2014 and September 2014, failing to stop them being relegated from the Premier League, returning to Molde in 2015.

Speaking moments before Solskjaer's appointment was made official, former United first-team coach Rene Meulensteen warned it would be a huge job for the Norwegian.

"It would be a good choice in terms of the fact that they want to bring back some of the spirit that was at United in the time of Sir Alex Ferguson, and Ole Gunnar Solskjaer was a big part of that," he told Sky Sports News.

"In that respect I can understand they were looking for a candidate who can live up to those expectations."

"If they do decide for Ole and Ole decides to accept then again it is a big ask for everybody. But I think in the short term it would be a good choice to make."

Molde have confirmed that Solskjaer will return to the club in May, with chief executive officer Oystein Neerland saying they are happy to "lend" their coach to United.

Tottenham manager Mauricio Pochettino and former Real Madrid boss Zinedine Zidane are among the bookmakers' favourites to take the United job on a full-time basis at the end of the season.

Tottenham manager Mauricio Pochettino is privately open to the possibility of moving to Old Trafford.

But reports following Mourinho's exit suggested Pochettino is privately open to the possibility of moving to Old Trafford.

"What is going to happen in the summer? What is going to happen tomorrow? No one knows. The most important is to enjoy the journey. I'm so happy here," he told reporters on Tuesday.

"What is going to happen is not in our hands, I mean the decision in another club, we don't know."

"That is not my business and then I will not waste time or energy because my focus and energy is in Tottenham." AFP

managerial role at Molde in Norway.

### CARDIFF CHALLENGE

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## Pochettino won't rule out Man U move

MANCHESTER: Tottenham manager Mauricio Pochettino has refused to rule out replacing Jose Mourinho at Manchester United.

The Argentine signed a new five-year contract with Tottenham in May and has spoken at length about wanting to stay with the club as they prepare to move into their new stadium.

But reports following Mourinho's exit suggested Pochettino is privately open to the possibility of moving to Old Trafford.

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