

OPINION 6
A VESSEL
FOR SUCCESS

WORLD 11
MAY FIGHTS REBELLION
OVER BREXIT DEAL

VIVACITY 13
INDISPENSABLE
TREES

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Andhra, Bengal clip CBI wings

'General consent' accorded to Central agency to exercise its authority in States withdrawn

PNS ■ AMARAVATI/NEW DELHI/KOLKATA

Setting the stage for a bitter confrontation between the Centre and States, Andhra Pradesh and West Bengal Governments have withdrawn the "general consent" accorded to the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) to exercise its authority in the States.

First it was Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu whose Government declared that the CBI cannot conduct raids or investigations in his State without permission. Hours later West Bengal counterpart Mamata Banerjee followed suit.

Backing Andhra Pradesh CM, Mamata said, "What Chandrababu has done is right. The CBI receives instructions from the BJP."

"In exercise of the powers conferred by Section 6 of the Delhi Special Police Establishment Act, 1946, Government hereby withdraws the general consent accorded (in GO Ms 109) to all the members of the Delhi Special Police



Establishment to exercise the powers and jurisdiction under the said Act in the State of Andhra Pradesh," the Andhra Government notification said.

Andhra Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister (Home) N China Rajappa justified the State Government's action saying it was taken against the backdrop of certain allegations against the country's premier investigating agency.

"We have trust in the CBI but the recent allegations against its top officials have made us withdraw the general consent. Henceforth, the CBI

→ Backing Chandrababu, Mamata said, "What Chandrababu has done is right. The CBI receives instructions from the BJP."

→ We have trust in the CBI but the recent allegations against its top officials have made us withdraw the general consent. Henceforth, the CBI has to obtain the State Government's permission for investigating every case, said AP Deputy CM N China Rajappa



request," he added.

On August 3 this year, the AP Government issued the GO Ms No. 109 according to "general consent" to all members of the Delhi Special Police Establishment to exercise the powers and jurisdiction in AP against officials of the Central Government, Central Government undertakings and private persons for investigating offences under various laws, including the Prevention of Corruption Act.

Reacting to the decision taken by Andhra and Bengal, the Congress on Friday said it

is a "dangerous trend" that States Governments "no longer have faith" in the CBI.

"Unfortunately in the last four-and-a-half years, they (CBI and other agencies) have been treated like private armies of Amit Shah or Modi and that is why people doubt the ability of the CBI to act independently," Congress leader Pawan Khera alleged.

The Congress leader said the recent goings-on in the CBI are a "very serious matter" and people should not lose faith in such premier agencies.

Ever since he snapped ties with the NDA in March, Chandrababu had been accusing the Centre of misusing the CBI to target political opponents. The recent raids by Income Tax authorities on some business establishments run by those close to the ruling Telugu Desam Party in the State have left Chandrababu red-faced. Subsequently, he announced that his Government would not provide police cover to the IT officials for conducting the raids.

Continued on Page 4

No clean chit to Verma; SC seeks reply in 3 days

CVC files 'mixed' findings against benched CBI boss

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) has come out with "mixed" findings while dealing with allegation of corruption against benched CBI Director Alok Verma. Taking note of the CVC report, the Supreme Court has given Verma time till November 19 to respond to certain "very uncomplimentary findings" in the CVC report.

The SC Bench headed by Chief Justice Ranjan Gogoi said there are some "very complimentary", some "not so complimentary" and some "very uncomplimentary" findings in the "exhaustive" preliminary enquiry report. The Bench included justices SK Kaul and KM Joseph.

The SC also directed that a copy of the CVC report along with annexure be given to Verma in a sealed cover and it "will be open for" him to file his response to it "again in sealed cover" by 1 pm on November 19. The apex court has fixed November 30 as the next date for hearing in the matter.

"CVC has filed an exhaus-

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tive report. The report has been categorised in four parts and is very complimentary on some charges, not so complimentary on some charges and very uncomplimentary on some charges. CVC report says some charges are required to be investigated and they need time," the CJ said and posted the matter for hearing on Tuesday.

Earlier, Verma had approached the apex court challenging the Centre's decision to divest him of his duties and sending him on leave following his feud with his deputy Special Director Rakesh Asthana, who has levelled corruption allegations against him. Asthana was also divested of his duties and sent on leave.

The CVC's enquiry against Verma was conducted under the supervision of former apex court judge Justice AK Patnaik

and the report was filed in the court on November 12 following a directive from the top court.

During the hearing on Friday, the Bench made it clear that the confidentiality of CVC's report was necessary "keeping in mind the need to preserve and maintain the sanctity of the institution of the CBI and public confidence in the said institution".

The Bench had noted that a copy of the report and the annexure be also furnished in a sealed cover to the offices of Attorney General KK Venugopal and Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, who is representing the CVC.

The court turned down the plea of senior advocate Mukul Rohatgi, appearing for Asthana, to also give him a copy of the CVC report.

Continued on Page 4

Gaja tramples 13 to death in TN



A view of the damage caused by cyclone Gaja after it hit Velankanni in Nagapattinam district of Tamil Nadu on Friday PTI

PTI ■ NAGAPATTINAM/CHENNAI

Cyclone Gaja ripped through Nagapattinam early on Friday uprooting trees and snapping power lines leaving a trail of destruction in coastal districts besides claiming 13 lives and flooding standing crops. The cyclonic storm crossed Tamil Nadu's coast between Nagapattinam and near Vedaranyam in the wee hours of Friday, bringing in heavy rain in the coastal regions, according to a weather bulletin.

Winds gusting up to 120 kmph uprooted trees, snapped electric cables and blew off roofing-sheets. According to officials, ten men and three women died and 28 head of cattle perished in cyclone related incidents despite authorities evacuating as many as 81,948 people to 471 relief centres in Cuddalore, Nagapattinam, Ramanathapuram, Thanjavur, Pudukottai and Tiruvallur districts. The storm caused heavy damage to the 16th century Shrine Basilica at Velankanni in Nagapattinam district.

Due to gusty winds, the rood cross on top of the church broke and fell, Church authorities said. The church is

built in accordance with Gothic architecture. Authorities said the 75-feet tall stone statue of Jesus erected in front of the Morning Star Church in the town, sustained structural damage. According to church officials, the hands of the statue have suffered damage. The roof of the Museum of Offerings in the town has also been damaged.

Expressing grief over the deaths, Chief Minister K Palaniswami sanctioned a solatium of ₹10 lakh to the kin of those who died and ₹25,000 to ₹1 lakh for the injured.

The CM said he has ordered officials to immediately determine the extent of damage to crops, fishing boats, houses, and cattle. "I have ordered relief efforts on a war-footing," he said, adding Ministers are carrying out work in districts assigned to them.

The Centre has assured the Tamil Nadu Government of all assistance to deal with the situation arising out of the cyclonic storm 'Gaja'. Home Minister Rajnath Singh also directed Home Secretary Rajiv Gauba to monitor the situation in Tamil Nadu and provide all help to the State administration.

Continued on Page 4

Demonetisation biggest scam after independence, attacks Rahul Gandhi

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Terming demonetisation as the biggest scam in the history of independent India, Congress president Rahul Gandhi on Friday said that it would be proved that Prime Minister Narendra Modi had robbed the poor of their hard-earned money and given it away to a few rich.

Addressing a campaign rally for the November 28 Madhya Pradesh Assembly polls, Gandhi said Modi does not talk about being a chowkidar (watchman) of the country and of tackling corruption.

"If Modi says he is a chowkidar, people will respond that chowkidar chor hai," he said, addressing a rally at Deori in Sagar district of Madhya Pradesh. Gandhi claimed that Modi cancelled the Rafale deal of 126 fighter aircraft with Dassault Aviation and HAL at a price of Rs 526 crore per plane without informing the Indian Air Force and the then defence min-

ister Manohar Parrikar.

"The then French president Francois Hollande has said the Indian government had asked for Anil Ambani to be taken on board for the deal," the Congress chief said.

"Modi gave Rs 30,000 crore to Anil Ambani in this deal. This is the chowkidari he has done," Gandhi said. After the note ban, Modi made honest and hardworking citizens to stand in queues outside banks, Gandhi said.

"He (Modi) allowed the rich like Nirav Modi, Mehul Choksi, Vijay Mallya to flee the country with your money and made you stand in queues outside banks. Time will prove how Modi had robbed you and gave your money to few rich," he said.

"These days, Prime Minister Narendra Modi's speeches don't have any mention of (eradicating) corruption, a tall promise that he had made before coming to power," Gandhi said.



Devotees enter the Sabarimala Temple as it opens amid tight security in Sabarimala on Friday PTI

Jet Airways' takeover talks preliminary, claim Tatas

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Tata Sons on Friday confirmed its interest in acquiring the beleaguered Jet Airways but said no concrete "proposal" has been made by the group so far.

The Tatas, which already run two carriers — the full-service Vistara in a joint venture with Singapore Airlines (SIA)

and AirAsia India in a similar arrangement with Malaysian carrier Air Asia — have widely speculated to be planning to acquire Naresh Goyal-controlled airline with its Singaporean partner.

"We would like to clarify that any such discussions (to acquire Jet Airways) have been preliminary," Tata Sons said.

Detailed report on P10

PM attacks Cong, terms it as manufacturer of lies

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday called the Congress party a manufacturer of lies. The Prime Minister while addressing an election rally at Shahdol said, "These elections are not about who would win or who would not win. These elections are about welfare of people of Madhya Pradesh."

"What did the four generations of a party do for our country? However, a tea-seller, did what not in just four years?" he added.

Modi said, he was ready for a contest between the performance of four generations of the Nehru-Gandhi family and that of four years of a chaiwala, and asserted his government provided the poor people with amenities like access to banks, power and LPG which the Congress was unable to do during its 55-year rule.

He further said the

Congress, which was seeking an account of the BJP government's performance, should explain what it did for the state during its over five-decade rule.

Underlining the initiatives taken by the Madhya Pradesh Government-led by Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan in the past 15 years, the Prime Minister said that the Congress would never speak of the good work Chouhan did during his three tenures.

He said that the Congress party was in power in Madhya Pradesh for so long, but did not do anything for the development of the people. One cannot draw a comparison between the development work done by the Congress party and the Shivraj Singh Chouhan government.

Speaking on the no-confidence motion in the Lok Sabha on July 20 this year, Congress chief Rahul Gandhi

had targeted Modi and projected the RSS, BJP and its top leaders as agents of anger and hatred and thanked them for making him understand the meaning of being a Congressman, an Indian and a Hindu and enabling him to have only love for them. Gandhi had reacted a flutter when he went across to the treasury benches and embraced the Prime Minister.

Accusing the Congress of spreading lies, Modi on Friday said he was surprised as to how the country's oldest political party could get elected "for so many years". Modi said it was because the opposition was less powerful then and the media was not as vibrant as it is now.

"How can anyone trust Congress? When they were in power in MP and Chhattisgarh, they did not fulfill even what they had promised in their election manifesto," he added.

Lighten up! Govt to make Signature selfie safe

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi's Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia has directed authorities to develop "safe selfie points" and install special lighting equipment for theme-based illumination of the Signature Bridge to make it a "truly iconic tourist destination".

The decision came after chaos was reported by authorities on the site, with many seen stopping vehicles in the middle of the road for taking selfies, since it was opened to the public on November 4.

In his note to the Additional Chief Secretary (PWD), Tourism Secretary, and DTTDC's Managing Director, Sisodia said a parking facility and a children's park will also be developed near the



Signature Bridge. "The Delhi Tourism and Transportation Development

Corporation (DTTDC) and the PWD have been successful in making the bridge opera-

tional and it is necessary for both these agencies to work towards making the bridge a major tourist attraction in Delhi," Sisodia said.

"A presentation on the above facilities making the Signature Bridge a truly iconic tourist destination is made by DTTDC, PWD and the tourism department," he said. "The departments concerned may engage necessary consultants, if required, and necessary budgetary support will be provided in the RE (revised estimate Budget) 2018-19," Sisodia said.

The Signature Bridge which connects Wazirabad across the Yamuna to the inner city became a selfie spot days after its inauguration. People have been seen visiting the Signature Bridge in groups and

climbing the bridge's suspension cables to take selfies.

On November 4, Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal had inaugurated the Signature Bridge over the Yamuna, reducing the travel time between north and northeast Delhi.

He said the bridge will serve as a tourist destination with the 154-metre-high glass box giving a bird's-eye view of the city to visitors.

The eight-lane carriage-way would reduce the travel time between North and North-East Delhi by 35 minutes. The western and eastern approaches to the bridge connect the nearby areas like Timarpur, Nehru Vihar, Wazirabad, Aruna Nagar, Mukherjee Nagar on Ring Road to Bhajanpura on Mangal Pandey Marg.



Prime Minister Narendra Modi being garlanded by party activists at a public meeting during an election campaign ahead of State Assembly election in Shahdol, on Friday Pioneer photo

Miscreants snatch youth's gold pendant

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

A 17-year-old youth was robbed of his gold pendant and mobile phone near Rose Beauty Parlour under Baghsewana police station area in the evening on Thursday.

According to the police, the victim Vikas Rai was on his way to home after work and was attacked by two bike borne miscreants and snatched the gold pendant and mobile phone.

A complaint was lodged with the police by the victim. In the complaint the victim claimed that the two bike borne miscreants in the age group of 25-30 years appeared and attacked him and escaped with the gold pendant and mobile

phone. He alerted locals but failed to get help and miscreants managed to escape the spot. The victim was not able to notice the registration number of the bike.

Based on the complaint after the preliminary investigation the police have registered a case under section 392 of the IPC and have started further investigation. The victim is a resident of Surendra Palace and pursuing engineering from IES College.

Police said that the victim has claimed that the robbed gold chain was worth Rs 25000. During the further investigation police would investigate CCTV cameras installed in the nearby areas which would help in the nabbing the accused.

HABIBGANJ POLICE STATION

Criminals burgle valuables worth ₹ 1.30 L

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

House of a police officer at 1100 Quarters under Habibganj police station area was burgled on Friday and valuables worth Rs 1.30 lakh were taken away. The officer is posted at State Police Headquarters and he was at office when the incident was reported.

Police said that the victim Sanjay Chogalkar had gone to work at State Police Headquarters and in the afternoon his neighbor informed that the door was found open and lock broken. A complaint was lodged with the police and in his complaint victim stated that he had gone on work while the house was burgled. Gold and silver jewelry and Rs 5000 cash were burgled. The total loss is around Rs 1.30 lakh.

Meanwhile, miscreants tar-

POLICE SAID THAT THE VICTIM SANJAY CHOGALKAR HAD GONE TO WORK AT STATE POLICE HEADQUARTERS AND IN THE AFTERNOON HIS NEIGHBOR INFORMED THAT THE DOOR WAS FOUND OPEN AND LOCK BROKEN

geted a house in Kajlikhedha under Kolar police station area and escaped with valuables worth Rs 1 lakh on Thursday. Police said that the house of Ravin Das at Kajlikhedha was burgled and valuables worth Rs

1 lakh were taken away. According to the police, victim along with his family had gone to meet relatives and when they returned on Thursday they found that the house was burgled. The locks of the door were broken and on entering the house it was found that the house was ransacked. The family found that cash and valuables were missing.

In the initial investigation police found that apart from the cash and jewellery, other valuables of the house were not disturbed which suggests that the miscreants were aware of the valuables.

In the complaint victim has claimed that gold and silver jewelry worth around Rs 1 lakh was burgled. The police have registered a case under section 457 and 380 of the IPC and have started further investigation.



Models walk the ramp at a fashion show 'Darshana-2018' organised by Aryan's Club in Bhopal on Friday

Pioneer photo

Strict action by election officials hits hard business of bootleggers

PNS ■ GWALIOR

When the assembly elections were declared the business of the bootleggers had started booming as never before. The lethargic attitude of the police and the excise officials coupled with the fact that a section of the lower class prefers to resort to illicit liquor for emotional and related issues have been the major factors for the flourishing of this illegal business.

The excessive demand during the election season guarantees massive profits and the quick returns in bootlegging have attracted even small time crooks to this business.

However, with the stern stand taken by the Election Officer, the police and the excise department have begun arresting bootleggers and monitoring liquor stocks in shops

Quick returns in bootlegging have attracted even small time crooks to this business.

and bars.

In separate cases, the Police confiscated 18158. 8 litres of liquor valued at ₹ 72, 63, 789.00 during the last few days and arrested fifteen people. Most of this liquor was being carried in mini vans and in some cases SUVs.

In comparison only 20 % of this amount was impounded in the preceding five months.

According to the police and the Excise officials, the system of liquor supply works very shrewdly. The bootleggers hire a number of drivers and interchange the drivers from the point of origin to the point of

destination so that it is difficult to get a clue about the entire chain. In some of the confiscated vehicles, the authorities found GPS system also. Surprisingly most of the drivers who were arrested were unaware of the materials they were carrying inside the vehicle.

According to reports, the police in a series of raids in the suburban areas of the city have also destroyed large quantities of wash, a substance that is used to make illicit liquor.

In a separate case the police also arrested three arms suppliers following a tip off. The police are interrogating the illegal sellers to ascertain their local connections.

On instructions from the top brass the police and the excise personnel have intensified picketing at all the entry points to the city.

SVL organising Children's Literature Fest from today

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

A Children's Literature Festival will be organised in city. The fest will be organised by Swami Vivekananda Library and Stories and Beyond on November 17 and 18.

There will be events to be organised for the school students from four-years old to 14 years old. In this fest, three different categories have been created. Junior Readers for kids of 4 - 6 years, Middle Readers for children of 7 - 10 years, Senior readers for children of 11 - 14 years old.

Swami Vivekananda Library Manager Yatish Bhatle said that keeping in mind the growing distance from books in children, together with Swami Vivekananda Library, Stories and Beyond, is going to organize a Children's Literary Festival on November 17 and

18. In this age of gadgets, maintaining children's reading habit has become a challenge and in this library can play an important role.

This festival will be organised for two days, which will be conducted by the subject's experts. For junior readers (4 to 6 years) from 11:00 to 12 am Japanese folk tales will be presented by Amita Sarkar.

It will be followed with a workshop for arts and crafts in Japan. Information about the prevailing arts and their techniques will be given in Japan. This will be done by the famous commercial artist of Pune, Prerna. On the second day Roald Dahl's Rhymes by Yasmin Anwar will be presented. This will be followed by Poetry for the Youngsters by Rakhi Singh. This will be followed with Cenio Readers for 11 - 14 years.

UNICEF, Sandhya Samiti organises 'Meet engaging Radio partner'

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Meet engaging Radio partners was organised by UNICEF in partnership with Sandhya Samiti at Salini in Omkareshwar. Around 20 radio partners from Red FM, Radio Mirchi, Big FM, MY FM, Vanya Radio, representatives of community radio of Bhopal School of Social Work. Five adolescents from Jhabua also participated in the same.

Speaking in session of the meet, Michael Juma, Chief, UNICEF, and Madhya Pradesh said that Radio is a powerful medium of communication for empowering, informing and sensitising people particularly on advancing the rights of children. He expressed gratitude to Radio professionals who have been part of this event for commemorating World Children's Day and request you to give

Speaking in session of the meet, Michael Juma, Chief, UNICEF, and Madhya Pradesh said that Radio is a powerful medium of communication

air time on topical child rights issues inclusive of 'takeover' of your social media by children.

Anil Gulati, Communication Specialist, UNICEF, Madhya Pradesh, spoke about Convention on the rights of the child, and that rights are interdependent and indivisible. He said Radio can support in and stand for children and by children
Dr Vandana Bhatia,

Health Specialist, UNICEF, Madhya Pradesh made presentation on new born care, causes of deaths of new born, importance of breastfeeding, and infant and young child feeding practices and key messages which we as radio partners spread for child health.

Pinky, Sheela, Sanju, Bablu, and Sunil from Jhabua from Jhabua spoke the issues which they face and how they as their children group in Jhabua talking about the issues.

Radio participants drew 'child in them' and shared and also will be used on their social media handles.

Sumit Pathak of Sandhya Samiti said engaging radio professionals for this social cause will amplify go blue and will ensure it reaches every household, sensitising them will help child rights awareness penetrate more.

IGRMS organises 'Dastak Naunihalon Ki' on Children's Week

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Indira Gandhi Rashtriya Manav Sangrahalaya is celebrating Children's Week November 14 to 20, 2018. Under this programme, a special visit known as "Dastak Naunihalon Ki" being organised, where on Friday November 16, students from various schools participate along with them 350 under privileged children from

Sanskar Vidya Niketan and Museum School participated.

The students were given a guided tour and documentary based on Sangrahalaya was screened for them. This program is being coordinated and special tour are being given by Garima Anand (Museum Associate). She said "The aim of this programme is to introduce children to India's rich cultural heritage".

Teams play quarter-finals at St Joseph School

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

On the second day of U-19 Inter School Basket Ball Tournament the players gave a tough fight to each other. Here on Friday the quarter-finals were played between the teams at St Joseph's Coed School.

Coordinator Faisal Bilgrami was present during the quarter final matches and encouraged the children to perform well in the tournament and give their best. The first match was played between boys category Delhi Public School (DPS) Neelbad and Mother Teresa School. In this match DPS defeated Mother Teresa School with 40-11 points.

Next match was played between St Raphael School and Ludramata School. St Raphael defeated Ludramata with 34-15 points. The third match was played between Campion School and Orion International School in which the team of Campion School emerged as the winner and defeated Orion with 32-4 points.

The fourth quarter final was played between St Joseph's



Players in action at a match during three-day Bhopal Sahodaya complex under-19 inter-school basket ball tournament in

Coed School and Sharda Vidya Mandir in which St Joseph's Coed School emerged as a winner with 50-34 points. After the quarter finals matches, semi-finals were played.

The first semi-final match was played between St Joseph's Coed and St Raphael School. In this match, St Joseph's Coed

School won the match by 38-4 points. Next semi final was played between DPS Neelbad and Campion School. After giving a tough fight DPS Neelbad defeated Campion School by 44-33 points.

In girls category, first quarter was played between St Joseph's Convent and

Ludramata in which St Joseph's convent won with 32-0 points. Next match was played between IES and St Theresa's in which St Theresa's won with 16-1 points. The final match was played between St Joseph's Convent School and DPS in which DPS defeated St Joseph's Convent by 54-53 points.

ABHINAYAN @ MADHYA PRADESH STATE TRIBAL MUSEUM

Hindi play 'Sankraman' showcased

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

A Hindi play 'Sankraman' showcasing the complex relationship of a father and a son was staged here on Friday at Madhya Pradesh State Tribal Museum.

The play was performed under regular series of theatre performances Abhinayan organized every Friday at tribal museum. The play was directed by eminent and veteran actor Ahmad Khan. The play was brilliantly performed by the artists of Nazar Group.

The play begins with introducing a middle class family. The father is the family's head and makes decisions of the family. However, things started to change when his son grows up. Whatever decisions the father makes, the son used to disagree with him.

The relationship of the father and the son becomes really complex. It was becoming really hard for both of them to take mutual decisions and agree with each other. The relationship does not get smoothen till one day, his

Play begins with introducing a middle class family. The father is the family's head and makes decisions of the family. However, things started to change when his son grows up

father died. After the death of his father the son starts taking all the decisions of his family. After few days passes by, his family starts to believe that the son has

begun behaving like his father. The son was not ready to listen to anybody and takes his own decisions. He never agrees with the view points of other family members.

This proves that he has also become like his father. Therefore, the drama ends with this. In this play, inspiration has been given through a middle class family to keep positive thinking and be confident. During the theatrical presentation, the audience feel connected and this made the play worthwhile watching.

AT BHARAT BHAWAN

Thought provoking 'Jagte Raho' satisfies audiences thirst of meaningful cinema

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Jagte Raho a 1956 Bollywood film was screened on the third day of Ekagra film festival. The film here on Wednesday was screened at Bharat Bhawan.

Directed by Amit Maitra and Sombhu Mitra, written by Khwaja Ahmad Abbas was produced by and starring Raj Kapoor. The film centers on the trials of a poor villager (Kapoor) who comes to a city in search of a better life. However, the naive man soon becomes trapped in a web of middle-class greed and corruption. The film also features a cameo by Nargis in the final scene.

A poor peasant (Kapoor) from the village, who comes to the city in search of work, is looking for some water to quench his thirst. He enters an apartment complex, whose residents takes him for a thief and chases him. He runs from one flat to the other trying to escape his predicament.

Along the way, he witnesses many shady undertakings in the flats where he hides. Ironically, these crimes are being committed by the so-called "respectable" citizens of the city, who by day, lead a life totally in contrast to their nighttime deeds behind closed doors.

He is shocked by these events, and tries to escape by evading the search parties that are patrolling the apartment building in search of the elusive thief. He is unfortunately seen, and people chase him to the roof of the build-

DIRECTED BY AMIT MAITRA AND SOMBHU MITRA, WRITTEN BY KHWAJA AHMAD ABBAS WAS PRODUCED BY AND STARRING RAJ KAPOOR. THE FILM CENTERS ON THE TRIALS OF A POOR VILLAGER (KAPOOR) WHO COMES TO A CITY IN SEARCH OF A BETTER LIFE. HOWEVER, THE NAIVE MAN SOON BECOMES TRAPPED IN A WEB OF MIDDLE-CLASS GREED AND CORRUPTION

ing. He puts up a brave resistance, and then descends by the water pipes onto the porch of a flat.

He goes in to find a young girl (Daisy Irami). She talks to him and kindles a self belief in the peasant, who determinedly tries to face the adversity waiting outside. But when he ventures out of the flat, he is surprised to find that nobody takes notice of him.

He eventually leaves the apartment building, his thirst still unquenched. He hears a beautiful song and searching for its source arrives at the doorstep of a woman (Nargis) drawing water from a well. His thirst is finally assuaged.

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| <p>2. CHANCHAL JAIN Having address at: H NO-472-54 CHANAKYAPURI COLONY - 466001</p> | |
| <p>List of Properties Charged To KMBL Detailed Description of The Immovable Properties Mortgaged To KMBL:-</p> | |
| <p>Mortgage over following properties:</p> | |
| <p>1. Commercial Property situated ward no. 08, in front of Swami Vivekanand College Sohore, PH no. 37, Chanakyapuri Village Murla Sohore bearing Land Area of 920 Sqft.</p> | |
| <p>2. Commercial property situated at ward no. 09, in front of Swami Vivekanand College Sohore, PH no. 37, Chanakyapuri Village Murla Sohore bearing Land Area of 1480 Sqft.</p> | |
| <p>DETAILS OF THE OUTSTANDING AMOUNT FOR LOAN FACILITY: -</p> | |
| Particulars | Amount (In Rs.) |
| Principal Outstanding (inclusive of Interest and other charges) | Rs. 10,74,944.51/ |
| Total Amount (Rupees Ten Lakhs Seventy Four Thousand Nine Hundred and Forty Four and Fifty One Paise Only) | Rs. 10,74,944.51/ |
| <p>Sd/-, (Authorized Officer), Kotak Mahindra Bank Ltd.</p> | |
| <p>Date: 17-11-2018, Place : Sohore</p> | |

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Krishna Gaur faces tough fight in Govindpura



Congress candidate from Govindpura Assembly constituency Girish Sharma meets public at an election campaign (left) and BJP candidate Krishna Gaur being greeted by her supporters (right) during an election campaign ahead of State Assembly election in Bhopal on Friday



BJP candidate Krishna Gaur being greeted by her supporters during an election campaign ahead of State Assembly election in Bhopal on Friday

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

One of the most controversial seats of Bhopal State Assembly constituency, Govindpura which was bastion of the BJP has become a tough contest after the opposition of BJP nominee Krishna Gaur.

Shouldered with the responsibility of taking legacy of former CM and veteran BJP leader Babulal Gaur, Krishna Gaur was firm in maintaining that people are with BJP and development of the state government is visible, feasible and sustainable which do not require BJP to act in lunatic manner to woo voters like AAP or Congress.

She shied away from local issues but was aware as she had a successful term as city Mayor and her experience would come handy after winning the contest.

Beyond doubt people would vote for political legacy created by Babulal Gaur in the past 50 years and it is also true that Krishna Gaur has political clout but still she has to prove the mettle at state assembly level and which is why this is the testing time for her.

Congress candidate Girish Sharma backed by good work in his ward and beyond his ward would work in his favour. He said that the work in the constituency by BJP has led to number of problems which would be addressed. The work as corporator would lead his way to victory. The slogan 'Neta nahi Beta Chahiye' is attractive and extensive campaigning would make difference.

Vinita Chandani of Sonagiri said that he has worked for the ward and he had even helped residents of our locality who are not even part of his ward.

Governor gets World Book of Record Award

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Governor Anandiben Patel has been honoured with the World Book of Record Award today at Raj Bhavan for 'Padhe Bhopal' programme.

Record in India Shri Santosh Shukla said that one thousand copies of the book 'Gandhi Ji ke Satya ke Prayog' will be presented to Raj Bhavan.

The Commissioner Higher Education Shri Ajeet Kumar said that efforts will be made to organize this programme at division and village level. He

EC issues directives for media coverage

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Directives in connection to the media coverage have been issued by the Election Commission of India under the section 126 of the Representation of the People Act 1951 to be followed during the Vidhan Sabha Election scheduled to be held in 5 states including Madhya Pradesh.

Commission has imposed ban on telecast etc of any issue related to the election in the constituencies on TV and other devices before 48 hours of the end of the fixed time of the election process.

Under the provisions of the election, communal and based on caste is banned. The Press Council of India has given instructions that press should avoid publication of such news, which create conflict among the people on the basis of religion, caste, creed, sector language.

The Commission has imposed ban on telecast etc of any issue related to the election in the constituencies on TV and other devices before 48 hours of the end of the fixed time of the election process.

clarified it before that telecast or display of any subject related to election on TV etc is banned in the assembly constituencies during the 48 hours of the end of the fixed time of the election process.

According to the Press Council of India, the press should avoid publication of indecent news and statement of criticism which impact negatively on candidate's election on the basis of personality and behavior of candidate or candidacy or withdrawal of name.

Complaints as regard to panel discussions/ debate being telecasted on the TV channels and other news besides programmes based on current status during the election process are being received by the Commission in connection to the violation of the provisions of the Act.

The Commission has reiterated that TV/ Radio Channels and cable network will not telecast/relay views of the panelists/participants of the discussions including other things during the period of 48 hours, which gives a sense of feeling that the possibility of victory of any political party or contestant is being encouraged and prejudiced or the election is being influenced.

Besides, press should not accept any kind of financial or other favours to build image of any candidate/political party.

Young Theatre's impressive performance on 'Kaal Kothri'

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Hindi Play Kaal Kothri was staged at Shaheed Bhavan auditorium here on Friday showcasing the life journey of a theatre artist.

Play showcases the personal life of theatre actor and his relation to his wife, parents and friends. It also talks about many more issues especially the corruption in culture

Scripted by Swadesh Deepak, the play was directed by Sarfaraz Hassan. It was brilliantly performed by the artists of Young's Theatre, Bhopal. This story is about Rajat who is following his passion and is a great stage actor but when money becomes the sole measurement of success, the first thing which gets affected is art.

The play beautifully depicts the life of a theatre artist whose future is as dark as a 'Kaal Kothari' where even the sun rays cannot peep in.

The play showcases the personal life of theatre actor and his relation to his wife, parents and friends. It also talks about many more issues especially the corruption in culture. He has hardly any money to feed his family and faces a very tough time with his son and wife.

The play was wondrously performed by the artists leaving the audience impressed. The intelligent light design and backdrop of the play added zest in the performance. Besides, the directorial skills of Sarafaz were commendable. The fusion of opera and Persian theatre style were also used in the presentation of the play.

His retired father and unmarried sister has to work in order to support the family. Eventually, Rajat is forced to find a job but does not get succeed. How Rajat then over-



Officials of the World Book Records Committee present the certificate to Governor Anandiben Patel after the State Higher and School education department won the World Book of Records Award for largest simultaneous book reading programme 'Padhe Bhopal' at a function at Raj Bhawan in Bhopal on Friday

Governor on this occasion. Congratulating and extending best wishes to the residents of Bhopal, the Governor said that works carried out with strong will power, coordination and confidence always receive success. We can achieve success in other fields too, if we keep rendering services to the nation and society in the same spirit. She further mentioned that keeping in view this success and interest among the common people; she has decided that a committee will be formed to give suggestions to promote this programme further.

The Vice President of the World Book of Record, UK, Rajeev Sharma stated that the Padhe Bhopal programme was like a yagya. Citizens of Bhopal have carried out an exemplary work by holding this unique programme successfully. He further mentioned that Kadha Krishnan and Swami Vivekanand used to emphasize strongly on reading books.

The Vice Chancellors of the Government and Private Universities located in Bhopal, Principals of Academic Institutions, Teachers and Officers of the School and Higher Education department gave presentations at the award programme.

The importance of book reading cannot be undermined. Expressing the need for making a Pustak Garden in Bhopal, he said that books should be read by transforming it into a subject of joy and interest. The President of the World Book of

laid emphasis to develop a habit of book reading among the children to reduce their interest in watching television. The Commissioner School Education Smt. Jaishree Kiyawat mentioned that the Governor has taken a necessary step by organizing Padhe Bhopal programme as per the interest and desire of the children.



Students participate in an inter-school band competition organised by Madhya Pradesh School Education department in Bhopal on Friday

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT MADRAS
(Ordinary Original Civil Jurisdiction)
Application No:6740 of 2018
In the matter of Arbitration & Conciliation Act, 1996 and In the matter of Disputes between M/s. Cholamandalam Investment and Finance Company Ltd. and Mr. Devendra Sahu Arising under Loan Agreement No.XSHUBPL00001765630 Dated 30.08.2016.
M/s. Cholamandalam Investment and Finance Company Limited, 'Dare House', No.2, N.S.C.Bose Road, Parrys, Chennai - 600 001.
Represented by its Authorised Signatory ...Applicant
-Vs-
Mr. Devendra Sahu, S/o. Shivanarayan Sahu, H.No. 353, Satmani Nagar, Sonagiri Gali No. 13, Raisen Road, Bhopal, Piplani, Madhya Pradesh - 462021. ...Respondent
To
Mr. Devendra Sahu, S/o. Shivanarayan Sahu, H.No. 353, Satmani Nagar, Sonagiri Gali No. 13, Raisen Road, Bhopal, Piplani, Madhya Pradesh - 462021.
The above application is posted on 20.12.2018 at 10.30 A.M. before the Hon'ble Master, High Court, Madras for your appearance. Please take notice and appear on that date either in person or through your counsel falling which you will be set ex-parte and the matter will be decided in your absence.
M/s. D. PRADEEP KUMAR COUNSEL FOR APPLICANT

Government structures Steering Committee under National Water Mission

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

A State Level Steering Committee has been constituted by the State Government to prepare a State Specific Action Plan under the National Water Mission of the Ministry of Water Resources, Government of India. According to the order of the General Administration Department the Agriculture Production Commissioner has been nominated as Chairman and the Commissioner Command Area as Coordinator/Nodal Officer of the committee. Total 14 members have been nominated in the State Level Steering Committee including Additional Chief Secretary/Principal Secretary of

the Water Resources, Forest and Rural Development Department and Principal Secretaries of Agriculture, Public Health Engineering, Public Works/ Industry/ Urban Administration along with the Narmada valley Development Department. The MP Water Pollution Department has been nominated as Member Secretary, whereas Engineer in Chief of the Water Resources Department, Chief Engineer of Bodhi Water Resources Department, Chief Engineer of the Central Water Commission and the Regional Director of the Central Ground Water Council have also been nominated as members in the committee. The State Level Steering Committee will give advice to the State

KOTAK MAHINDRA BANK LTD.
Registered Office: 27 BKC, C27, G Block, Bandra Kurla Complex, Bandra (E), Mumbai-400051, Branch Office: 169-A, Vinay Bhavya Complex, 5th Floor, CST Road, Kalina, Santacruz(E), Mumbai-400098

NOTICE UNDER SARFAESI ACT
Notice is hereby given that the following borrowers and guarantors, who have availed loan facilities from KOTAK MAHINDRA BANK LTD. Having its branch office at 169-A, Vinay Bhavya Complex, 5th Floor, CST Road, Kalina, Santacruz (E) Mumbai 400 098, have failed to serve the interest of their credit facilities to KMBL and that their loan accounts have classified as Non-Performing Asset as per the guidelines issued by Reserve Bank of India. The Borrower has provided security of the immovable properties to KMBL, the details of which are described herein below. The details of the loan and the amounts outstanding and payable by the borrowers to KMBL as on dt. 27/09/2018 is mentioned below.

The Borrowers, Co Borrowers and guarantors as well as the public in general are hereby informed that the undersigned being the Authorized Officer of KMBL, the secured creditor has initiated action against the following borrowers under the Provisions of the Securitization and Re-construction of Financial Assets and enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (the SARFAESI Act). If the following borrowers fail to repay the outstanding dues indicated against their names within 60 (Sixty) days of this notice, the undersigned will exercise any one or more powers conferred on the Secured Creditor under sub-section (4) of Section 13 of the SARFAESI Act, including power to take possession of the properties and sell the same. The public in general is advised not to deal with properties described here below:-

| Name of the Borrowers, Co Borrowers & Guarantors | Address |
|--|--|
| 1. SIDHNA HARDWARE | Having address at: Hanuman Nagar Rasuliya Town City Hoshangabad - 461001 |
| 2. GOPAL PRASAD SIDHNA | Having address at: Hanuman Nagar Rasuliya Town City Hoshangabad - 461001 |
| 3. VANDANA SIDHNA | Having address at: Hanuman Nagar Rasuliya Town City Hoshangabad - 461001 |
| 4. SUNIL SIDHNA | Having address at: Ward No 25 Hanuman Nagar Rasuli Hoshangabad - 461001 |

List of Properties Charged To KMBL
Detailed Description of The Immovable Properties Mortgaged To KMBL:-
Mortgage over following properties:
Self-occupied residential having land area of 1500 sqft situated at Plot no. 31 ward no. 23, Kha.no.39/2, 56 Rasuliya Hoshangabad MP

| Particulars | Amount (In Rs.) |
|---|------------------|
| Principal Outstanding (inclusive of Interest and other charges) | Rs. 14,31,484.79 |
| Total Amount (Rupees Fourteen lakhs Thirty One Thousand Four Hundred and Eighty Four and Seventy Nine Paise Only) | Rs.14,31,484.79 |

Date: 17-11-2018. (Authorized Officer), Kotak Mahindra Bank Ltd.

FOOD CORPORATION OF INDIA, REGIONAL OFFICE
Chetak Building, M.P. Nagar, Zone-II, Bhopal-11

NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER NO. 07 / 2018-19 Date 16.11.2018

Online item rate tenders are invited on behalf of Food Corporation of India, at <http://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app> for the following work:-

| Sl. No. | Name of work & location | Estimated cost put to Tender | Earnest Money | Time of completion |
|---------|------------------------------------|------------------------------|---------------|--------------------|
| 1. | ARMO works at FSD Balaghat (Kosmi) | ₹13,29,602 | ₹26,600 | 75 Days |

The bid form and other details can be obtained from the website www.eprocure.nic.in. Last date of submission of tender documents is 26.11.2018 up to 4:00 PM.

Asstt. Genl. Manager (Civil)

Aadhar Housing Finance Ltd.

Corporate Office: 201, Raheja Point-1, Near Shamrao Vitthal Bank, Nehru Road, Vakola Santacruz (E), Mumbai-400055
Bhopal Branch : 1st Floor, Alankar Complex, Plot No. 10, M. P. Nagar, Zone -II, Bhopal - 462001 (MP)
Sehore Branch : Office No. 5, 1st Floor, Tamrakar Mall, Commercial plot no. 15, Sharda Nagar, Sehore - 466001-(MP)

APPENDIX IV POSSESSION NOTICE (for immovable property)

Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorized Officer of Aadhar Housing Finance Limited (AHFL) under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, Demand Notice(s) issued by the Authorised Officer of the company to the Borrower(s) / Guarantor(s) mentioned herein below to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice. The borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrower(s) / Guarantor(s) and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under Sub-Section (4) of the Section 13 of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the Security Interest Enforcement rules, 2002. The borrower's attention is invited to provisions of sub section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets. The borrower in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of AHFL for an amount as mentioned herein under with interest thereon.

| S. N. | Name of the Borrower(s)/Co Borrower(s) (Name of the Branch) | Description of Secured Asset (Immovable Property) | Demand Notice Date & Amount | Date of Possession |
|-------|--|--|--|--------------------|
| 1. | (App No. 00083815/Bhopal Branch) Aklsh Sen (Borrower) Sulochna Bai Sen (Co-Borrower) | All that part & parcel of property bearing, Plot No. 17, Ward No. 09, sudama Nagar, Colony, Garden Of Lakhna Kuswaha, Near Gwal Toly Govt School, Sehore, (M.P.)-465337 Boundaries: East : Plot Of Seller, West : Property Of Babulal Singh, North : Road, South : House Of Jitendra Sen | 10-05-2018 for ₹ 4,05,651/- (Rs. Four Lakh Five Thousand Six Hundred Fifty One Only) | 15.11.2018 |
| 2. | (App No. 00130723/Sehore Branch) Virendra Singh Pawar (Borrower) Komal Pawar (Co-Borrower) | All that part & parcel of property bearing, Plot No. 26, Murlil Ward No. 07, Siddhpur Vihar Colony, Village. Murlil Near Bright Carreer School , Sehore - (M.P.)-466001 Boundaries: East: Road, West: Plot No. 24, North: Plot No. 25, South : Plot No. 27 & 28 | 08-08-2018 for ₹ 4,77,869/- (Rs. Four Lakh Seventy Seven Thousand Eight Hundred Sixty Nine Only) | 15.11.2018 |

Place : Bhopal
Date : 17/11/2018

Authorised Officer
Aadhar Housing Finance Limited

Handicap voters to get 'Ghar se Ghar Tak' facility

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

As per the directives issued by the Election Commission of India, 'Ghar se Ghar Tak' (Home to Home) facility will be provided to handicapped voters to cast their votes comfortably in the Vidhan Sabha Election-2018.

Besides, on the polling day a voting assistant will also be provided to bring handicapped voters to polling centres from home and to take them back if required. The Chief Electoral Officer VL Kantha Rao has informed that 2 lakh handicapped voters have been registered on the Sugamya Portal till now.

There are approximately 3.50 lakh handicapped voters registered in the voters list in the state. The Sugamya Web Portal and Mobila App have been prepared in the state for the convenience of handicapped voters. The handicapped voters registered on the

Sugamya App can ask for necessary assistance like vehicle, polling assistant, essential material on the day of polling.

Registration on this portal will facilitate them to cast votes at polling centres without standing in queue. The handicapped persons can choose any one member of their family or any other volunteer as driver. Besides this, such volunteers who wish to help handicapped persons in casting their votes can also get themselves registered on the portal. Registration of NCC/NSS/ Nehru Youth Centre/ Red Cross and other voluntary organizations can be done by the District Election Officers themselves. Persons or organisations wishing to provide assistance will not be connected to any political party and will not be engaged in any political activity.

Such persons who want to participate in the public service

can get their vehicles and themselves registered for providing transport facility to the handicapped persons. Moreover, such persons who want to provide material to the handicapped persons with an objective to assist them can get the material registered. Facility to drop handicapped till the main gate of the polling center will be given to the handicapped voters.

The above mentioned facility will be extended to the assistant and driver of the vehicle if they have their names in the voting list of the same polling centre. One assistant can render help to one handicapped person only but more than one handicapped persons can be taken by one vehicle to the polling centres. Such handicapped persons, who do not require vehicle and assistant and want to cast their votes on their own will be given facility to obtain pass only.

Capt Amarinder to lay Verka mega dairy foundation stone today

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

To facilitate Punjab milk cooperative, Milkfe, to establish Mega Milk Processing Plants in the state, Chief Minister Capt Amarinder Singh will lay the foundation stone of a Verka Mega Dairy at Bassi Pathana at a state-level function on Saturday.

The state Cooperation Minister Sukhinder Singh Randhawa said that the foundation stone ceremony will mark the 65th Cooperative Week, underlined by the theme 'Value Addition and Brand Building through Cooperatives'. The new Verka Mega Dairy at Bassi Pathana has been planned over 25 acres, with a mega dairy for value addition of milk, to be established.



Visitors going through a philatelic exhibition on Mahatma Gandhi after its inauguration at Chief Post Master General (CPMG) office in Bhopal on Friday. The exhibition is being organised by Indian Postal department under Mahatma Gandhi's 150th birth anniversary celebrations. Pioneer photo

PM Modi to inaugurate Kundli-Manesar-Palwal expressway

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate the Kundli-Manesar-Palwal expressway, meant to divert heavy polluting vehicles from Delhi, in Haryana's Gurugram district on November 19.

The Prime Minister would also inaugurate the Ballabgarh Metro at Sultanpur village in the district and lay the foundation stone of Shri Vishwakarma Skill University on the same day, said an official spokesman of Haryana Government.

A sum of Rs 6,400 crore has been spent on the KMP expressway project and 3,846 acre of land was acquired at a cost of Rs 2,788 crore. Under this project, the KMP Expressway was to be made four-lane, but it remained incomplete. Keeping in view the significance of this project, the present State Government has got this project resumed and made it six-lane, the spokesman said.

Giving details, he said that the length of the stretch from Kundli to Manesar is 83.320 km. This stretch would have four ROB, 14 major/minor bridges, 56 underpass/agricultural vehicular underpass, seven intersections and seven toll plazas. The objective of this expressway is to provide high speed link of northern Haryana with southern districts and provide uninterrupted high-speed link for traffic, especially commercial traffic, from Haryana to neighbouring states. It would also decongest the road traffic from Delhi and thereby reduce pollution, he said.

The spokesman said that highway lighting along the 83 km stretch from Kundli to Manesar has been made for safety of the road users during night time. A world class Art and Culture Gallery has been set up to depict the project development history through 3D Holographic models.

Prime Minister would also inaugurate the Ballabgarh Metro at Sultanpur village in the district and lay the foundation stone of Shri Vishwakarma Skill University on the same day, said an official spokesman of Haryana Government

One ambulance, one crane and one police patrolling vehicle with a helpline number have been stationed in every 20km for speedy response in case of accidents or emergencies, he said.

The spokesman said that the Prime Minister would also inaugurate the Ballabgarh Metro Gurugram on November 19. Ballabgarh will become the fourth city in Haryana to get Metro connectivity after Gurugram, Faridabad and Bahadurgarh.

The 3.2 km long Escorts Mujesar - Raja Nahar Singh (Ballabgarh) section of the Kashmere Gate - Escorts Mujesar corridor also known as the Violet Line is now ready for passenger operations. After the opening of this extension, the entire Kashmere Gate - Raja Nahar Singh Metro corridor will become 46.6 kilometres long, he said.

Currently, 25.8 km of Metro lines are operational across Haryana. After the opening of this section, the total length of Metro kilometres in Haryana will become 29 kilometres. All trains running on this section are manufactured in India.

The spokesman said the Raja Nahar

Singh Station in Ballabgarh is situated adjacent to Ballabgarh Interstate Bus Terminal and Ballabgarh Railway Station. This station is five storey building having two commercial floors above track level.

This station is having parking on the other site of the national highway-2 which will be directly connected to the station via a Foot Over Bridge. The Sant Surdas (Sihi) Station is situated near National Council for Cement and Building Material Institute, he added.

About the foundation stone laying ceremony of Shri Vishwakarma Skill University on the same day, the spokesman said that the live telecast of this programme would be shown at University site in Dudhola. A sum of over Rs 1,000 crore would be spent on establishing this University.

The university campus would be developed over 82.7 acres. The tenders amounting to Rs 389.24 crore have been floated for construction of university building. The construction work would be carried out in three phases and there is a plan to complete the first phase by 2020, the spokesman added.

Haryana Govt orders major Administrative reshuffle, transfers 31 IPS officers

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

In a major reshuffle, Haryana Government on Friday issued transfer and posting orders of 31 IPS officers, with immediate effect.

Alok Kumar Roy, ADGP, Railways and Commandos, Panchkula has been posted as ADGP, SVB, Panchkula vice Ajay Singhal who has been posted ADGPCAW with additional charge of ADGP, Railways and Commandos.

Kuldeep Singh Siag, ADGP/Crime-II has been given additional charge of ADGP, SCRB relieving Shrikant Jadhav of the additional charge.

Navdeep Singh Virk, ADGP, Karnal Range, Karnal has been given additional charge of ADG, HAP, Madhuban. CS Rao, IG, HAP, Madhuban has been posted IG, SCB, Gurugram while Charu Bali, CP, Panchkula has been posted IG/HVPNL.

M Ravi Kiran, IGP Administration, PHQ, Panchkula goes as IG SVB while Sanjay Kumar, IG, Hisar Range, Hisar and Amitabh Singh Dhillon, CP, Faridabad will swap their place of postings.

Saurabh Singh, IGP, Security has been given additional charge of CP Panchkula and Hemant Kalson, DIG, SVB, Panchkula has been posted DIG CTI Home Guards.

Sabarimala opens, Trupti packed off to Pune amid protests

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

The Kochi International Airport was literally held to ransom for almost 13 hours on Friday by devotees of Lord Ayyappa who had gathered in large numbers to prevent social activist Trupti Desai, who flew down to Kerala, from entering Sabarimala Temple.

The activist who reached the airport at 4.45 am could not come out of the terminal and was confined to the lounge till 6.50 pm when she told the media that she would return to Pune by a late night flight.

The devotees sat in front of the arrival lounge and sang Ayyappa bhajans non-stop till Trupti announced her decision to return to Pune. "I'll come back soon unannounced and will surely visit Ayyappa Temple at Sabarimala. Today no one is willing to help me to proceed to Sabarimala or to check into a hotel," said Desai, who was accompanied by six of her associates.

Meanwhile, hectic activities are on to resolve the stand-off between the devotees and the Kerala Government as Travancore Devaswom Board decided to approach the Supreme Court with a stay petition. If the stay is granted, the Kerala Government may get some breathing space to implement the September 28 verdict of the SC.

The prelude to the Mandala Puja (the 41-day fes-

Devotees sat in front of the arrival lounge and sang Ayyappa bhajans non-stop till Trupti announced her decision to return to Pune. "I'll come back soon unannounced and will surely visit Ayyappa Temple at Sabarimala. Today no one is willing to help me to proceed to Sabarimala or to check into a hotel," said Desai, who was accompanied by six of her associates

tival when devotees through the shrine after observing penance) took place on Friday evening at Sabarimala Temple. The evening saw Thanthri (chief priest) Kantararu Rajeevaru and head priest (mel shanthi) AV Unnikrishnan Nampoodiri opening the sanctum in the presence of hundreds of devotees and performing the traditional Puja.

Later, the new head priest VN Vasudevan Nampoodiri assumed the charges from Unnikrishnan Nampoodiri. The new head priest was administered the sacred hymn by the Thanthri of the temple.

The temple was closed after the evening Puja and will be reopened on Saturday early morning at 3.30 by the new head priest. Vasudevan Nampoodiri began his strict and strenuous regimen for the next one year on Friday evening. He has to stay in the temple premises for the next one year and is not allowed to

go out anywhere from the shrine in the deep forests. Nampoodiri's day begins at 3 am everyday and concludes by 11 pm with the night Puja.

Devotees in large numbers have reached the foothills of Sabarimala by Friday evening. A heavy posse of policemen and women cops have been deployed in and around the shrine. The Kerala Government has taken all precautions to maintain the law and order in the shrine, which witnessed unprecedented protests by devotees as a follow-up to the September 28 Supreme Court verdict.

Meanwhile, the TDB disclosed by Friday evening that it would move a stay petition in the Supreme Court on Monday asking for time to implement the September 28 verdict of the Constitution Bench that allowed entry of women into the temple. This was announced by TDB president A Padmakumar.

N'para Dalit body holds demo, submits memo to CM

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

Members of the Odisha Dalit Adhikar Manch, Nimapara under leadership of Manch block committee president Bijay Das on Thursday held a demonstration in front of the Nimapara Tehsildar office demanding distribution of homestead and farm lands among the landless Dalit people and justice to sharecroppers.

Manch State president Manas Jena, State coordinator Prasant Mallick, State committee members Rajesh Jena and Rajeev Nayak and Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) State convener Nishikant Mahapatra joined the meeting and spoke on the problems of the Dalit landless people.

Hundreds of landless Dalit villagers of Charanpada, Sagada, Badamachapur, Kalapanchana and Tulaspur under the Nimapara tehsil along with the members submitted a memorandum addressed to the Chief Minister and the Puri Collector to the Tehsildar pressing for fulfillment of their demands as soon as possible.

They also alleged that even if they have submitted their applications in the Tehsil office, no inquiry has been initiated, for which they have been deprived of caste and permanent resident certificates.

Gaja tramples 13 to death in ...

From Page 1

"Spoke to CM Shri K Palaniswami regarding the situation in the cyclone affected areas of Tamil Nadu. Assured all possible assistance from the Centre in mitigating the situation arising due to cyclone. Asked the HS to monitor the situation & provide all help to the State admin (sic)," Singh tweeted.

Besides loss of lives, 1,471 huts were partially damaged and 216 fully destroyed. A total of 4,987 trees got uprooted in these districts.

Farmers' leader PR Pandian told PTI lakhs of coconut trees, plantain and acres of paddy crop have been seriously affected due to the gusty winds. He demanded adequate compensation for the farmers. State owned Tamil Nadu Generation and Distribution Corporation's field assets, including 13,025 electricity poles, 13 local distribution transformers, and 1,000 cables were damaged in rain-related incidents.

The heavy rain in districts, including Tiruvarur and Thanjavur, and widespread rain in other parts, has come as a boon to the State which was staring at a rainfall deficit during the monsoon season which commenced on October 1.

"Now the deficit stands at 23 per cent. The rainfall ranged between the lowest of 1 cm in several towns to the highest of 17 cm in Tiruvarur district followed by 16 cm in Thanjavur," a Met official said.

According to weather office sources, 6 cm rain was reported in Nagapattinam district which bore the brunt of the storm, while Cuddalore district reported rainfall between 9 cm and 12 cm.

"The system has now become a depression and has entered land area of neighbouring Kerala through Dindigul and Theni districts," the sources said.

The CM said 216 medical camps have been organised to check spread of epidemics in storm-hit regions. As many as 7,000 electricity poles had been dispatched to vulnerable districts in advance for replacement, he said, adding steps have been taken on a war-footing to restore power supply.

Adequate precautionary measures were taken by authorities to tackle the situation, he said. Power supply has been suspended since Thursday evening in Nagapattinam district. Traffic remains disrupted in most parts of Nagapattinam and Karaikal districts.

A holiday has been

declared for educational institutions in regions, including Nagapattinam and Tiruvarur districts. Revenue Minister RB Udaya Kumar told reporters that the Government has tackled the cyclone situation successfully.

"This was a challenging task...We are confident that we have faced it safely 100 per cent," he said, adding all post-cyclone tasks like cleaning up storm affected areas has begun.

In a rare gesture, DMK president and Opposition leader MK Stalin lauded the State Disaster Management Authority for its efforts to tackle the severe cyclonic storm.

Heavy rain and strong winds lashed neighbouring Puducherry as well and Chief Minister V Narayanasamy reviewed the situation. Narayanasamy told reporters at Karaikal that the territorial Government would soon submit a detailed report to the Centre on the losses suffered due to the storm.

Puducherry District Collector Vijay Abhijit Choudhury said a 70-year-old woman in Vanrapet village in town limits sustained head injuries when the wall of a house collapsed last night under the impact of the rain.

No clean chit to Verma; SC...

From Page 1

"At this stage, we are not inclined to call upon either the Union of India or any other party to submit any response/reply to the said report of the CVC and the only response the court is permitting is that of the petitioner — Alok Kumar Verma..."

Rohatgi said Asthana has been facing a criminal case for complaining against Verma and demanded the report, saying it was Asthana who had filed a complaint against the CBI Director to the Cabinet Secretary, which was subsequently sent to the CVC.

"This is not a case of security of the nation. Why should this report be kept in a sealed cover?" Rohatgi said. To this, the Bench initially questioned Asthana's move to lodge a complaint with the Cabinet Secretary saying, "Under what authority in law you had filed a complaint to the Cabinet Secretary?"

When Rohatgi said, "That (complaint) I can file," the Bench observed, "Anybody can file a complaint."

Senior advocate Fali S Nariman, appearing for Verma, told the court that the CBI Director would file his response to CVC report as soon as possible by November 19 as "the earlier it (issue) is resolved, the better it is".

To this, the Bench told Nariman, "Once we will have your (Verma) response, we will take a decision."

The Bench told senior lawyer Dushyant Dave, appearing for NGO Common Cause which has filed a separate plea seeking a probe by a special investigation team against CBI officers, that the NGO has not filed a list of policy decisions taken by acting CBI director M Nageswara Rao.

Dave had earlier claimed that despite court's order that Rao would not take policy decisions, the acting CBI Director has taken several such decisions.

"We will presume that he (Rao) has not taken any major policy decision because you have not given us list of decisions taken by him," the Bench told Dave, adding that Rao has already filed in the court a list of decisions taken by him from October 23 till October 26.

When Dave said he would file the list of decisions taken by Rao, the court observed that "it will be open for any party to supplement the said list" and the issue would be considered on the next date of hearing.

The Bench also dealt with the application filed by Congress leader Mallikarjun Kharge and CBI DSP AK Bassi, who has been transferred to Port Blair and said that they would also be considered.

Andhra, Bengal clip CBI wings

From Page 1

Meanwhile, CBI spokesperson in Delhi, said they have not yet received any such orders and will respond legally to it.

Opposition parties in AP decried the move and asserted the State Government did not have the authority to bar the CBI. The principal opposition YSR Congress alleged the controversial decision was taken only because the Chief Minister was scared of the CBI.

"Chandrababu should explain why he is blocking the CBI from the state," YSRC Political Affairs Committee member Ambati Rambabu said. The ban order was issued at a time when the YSRC requested President Ram Nath Kovind and Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh for a "third party investigation" into the attack on Leader of Opposition Y S Jaganmohan Reddy, he said.

Former Congress MP Undavalli Arun Kumar, a trained lawyer, likened the State Government order, bar-

ring the CBI, to a "tissue paper" and said it would damage AP's image. "The State Government order is not valid. The CBI can take up probe on the directions of the court. Only in matters related to the State does the agency require the Government's permission," he said.

CPI State Secretary K Ramakrishna also questioned the State Government's authority in prohibiting the functioning of CBI.

BJP spokesperson GVL Narasimha Rao also alleged the Chandrababu Government's decision was a "clear malafide exercise of power" to ensure that its "corruption" was not exposed. It showed that the Telugu Desam Party (TDP), which was in power in the State and had formed an alliance with parties like the Congress to take on the BJP, had many skeletons in its cupboards, he alleged.

"A nervous and completely rattled Naidu is trying to save his Government," Rao told reporters in Delhi.

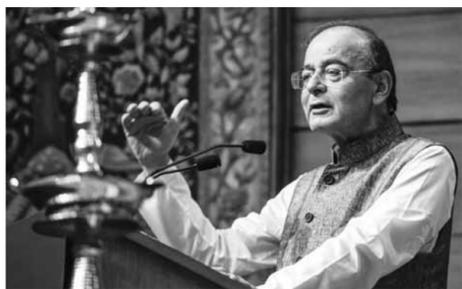
Can't censor media due to tech: Jaitley

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Union Finance Minister Arun Jaitley on Friday said that censorship on media is not possible now because of technology. He said, if the emergency was ever to be re-imposed, it would collapse for the simple reason that one of the strengths of the emergency was Press censorship and technology does not permit a press censorship today.

Addressing National Press Day event in New Delhi on Friday, Jaitley said, the greatest challenge before media is to retain its credibility. Reasserting that nobody can now complain that their free speech is in danger due to multiple forums for readers and viewers, the minister said technology has made that putting pressures on media is next to impossible due to the growth of social media.

Media's credibility will be its own maker and if misused, it can also be its own breaker, he said. At the event, Jaitley gave away the National Awards



Finance Minister Arun Jaitley addresses during the National Press Day celebrations and Conferring of National Awards for Excellence in Journalism-2018 in New Delhi on Friday

for Excellence in Journalism, presented by the Press Council of India (PCI). National Press Day which is celebrated on November 16 every year, symbolises free and responsible press in India. The Press Council of India started working as a watchdog on this day.

with the prestigious Raja Ram Mohan Roy Award for his outstanding contribution to journalism. Awards in other categories were also presented. In his address, Jaitley said every political viewpoint is able to find space in some section of the media or the other. "With multiple (media) forums now available, nobody can seriously complain my speech

is in danger. Neither the viewer or the reader, nor the one who wants to convey. You have alternatives available," he said.

He, however, cautioned that the alternatives are sometimes grossly abused, for personalised grounds, collateral purposes, political purposes, or for lobbying.

"I think the worst that can happen to free speech is that if a doubt in the mind of a reader or a viewer is created with regard to the integrity of the news or the opinion that he is seeing," the finance minister.

In his remarks, Jaitley also recalled that in the 1950s an amendment was brought in by the Jawaharlal Nehru Government restricting free speech if it adversely affected the country's relations with a foreign country.

He claimed that it was brought in because Nehru-Liaquat Ali pact became a subject matter of political debate and Dr Syama Prasad Mookerjee decided to lead a campaign against it. "We have grown out

of that 1950-1952 phase... I don't think that is capable of happening today," he said.

"If the Emergency was ever to be re-imposed, because it is fashionable to say it is another Emergency. If the Emergency was ever to be re-imposed, it would collapse for the simple reason that one of the strengths of the Emergency was press censorship. And technology does not permit press censorship.

"You suddenly get access to information through various instruments that technology has provided," Jaitley said.

The finance minister said he has not been able to understand the criticism of those "who criticise the maximum". "Well your speech can't be in danger if you are criticising seven days a week," he said.

Speaking on the occasion, Chairman Press Council of India Justice Chandramouli Kumar Prasad said, regulating media is unacceptable and Press Council work relentlessly to uphold the integrity and impartiality of the media.

Teen Murti Estate including JNMF belongs to Govt, Centre tells HC

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The court, which had on November 1 stayed the proceedings before the Directorate of Estates, said status quo be maintained till the next date of hearing

The Centre told the Delhi High Court on Friday that the land where Teen Murti Estate, which includes Jawaharlal Nehru Memorial Fund (JNMF), is situated, belonged to the Government since the establishment of the national Capital.

The Centre's response came on a petition filed by JNMF seeking to set aside the estate officer's October 15 eviction notice.

The Fund has been located at Teen Murti, once the residence of India's first prime minister Jawaharlal Nehru, since 1967. JNMF was set up in 1964.

Its offices are not part of the main building but occupy a set of barracks on its eastern side with a separate entry from Teen Murti Marg.

Justice Anu Malhotra list-

ed the matter for further hearing on December 4 after senior advocate Kapil Sibal, appearing for JNMF, said they have received the Government's response on Thursday and sought some time to file the rejoinder.

The court, which had on November 1 stayed the proceedings before the Directorate of Estates, said status quo be maintained till the next date of

hearing. Additional Solicitor General Maninder Acharya and Central Government standing counsel Monika Arora told the court that they have filed a preliminary affidavit along with necessary documents.

The JNMF has denied the claims that it was in illegal possession of the property.

The affidavit, filed by the deputy director of estates at Directorate of Estates, claimed that the JNMF has failed to produce any authority which allows/ permits it to use the demised premises.

"Without prejudice, the contention raised by the petitioner (JNMF) cannot be termed as a bonafide title dispute, as the Central Government is the sole owner of the demised premises and the Teen Murti Estate, in its entirety," it said.

Surat to be 'multi modal transport hub' soon

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

In a unique kind of project, the Surat railway station will be developed into a world-class facility 'multi modal transport hub' (MMTH). The Surat multi-modal transport hub will have a swanky railway station, a modular passenger friendly concourse, a bus terminal, wide station lobby, big ticketing hall, retail and offices space in the commercial towers, seamless boarding facilities and connecting bridges among a host of other facilities. In other words, railway station will have an airport like facilities for passengers.

According to officials, the Surat multi-modal transport hub will aim at enabling seamless transit - with simple connectivity between the railway station, bus terminal and other

transport modes in the city. As per plan, the transport hub will also be linked with the city metro rail network, Bus Rapid Transit System as well as suburban network. Interestingly, the Surat city railway station will be the third one in the country to get an international-standard revamp, the first two being Habib Ganj and Gandhi Nagar railway stations.

"A special purpose vehicle (SPV) 'Surat Integrated Transport Development Corporation (SITCO)', has been formed by the Centre (Railways), Surat Municipal Corporation and Road Transport Corporation of the state. The bid opening date has now been extended to December 7, 2018 based on the request of bidders by the Indian Railway Stations

Development Corporation (IRSDC)," officials said.

Sources in the Railways said that the project once completed, will transform the face of Surat. The total land area of the station will be 3,19,700 sqm and the built-up area 57,739 sqm with the size of the concourse at 9,825 sqm. The area under commercial development would be around 5,07,054 sqm. The station would be a multi-modal transport hub with a bus terminal having a built-up area of 40,724 sqm.

"The built up area (BUA) of the proposed commercial development has been increased from 5.06 lakh square meter to 8.40 lakh square meter. The built up area will exclude basements or any upper floors for satisfying the parking/ fire requirements as per local byelaws. The hub will

be built at a cost of around Rs 5,000 crore.

"For the first time in the history of the country the central government, state government and the urban local body are coming together to make a multi-modal transport hub by pooling their lands. It will also have five road under-bridges and a parking space for 900 vehicles. It is expected to cater to around 3,49,684 passengers every day," officials said. The commercial area at ground level increased from 3,54,864 sq.m. to 7,84,596 sq.m. considering the local demand at Surat.

While the Habib Ganj railway station work is expected to be complete by December-end this year, the Gandhi Nagar station will open in time for the Vibrant Gujarat Summit in January 2019.

Cong releases first list of 152 candidates for Rajasthan

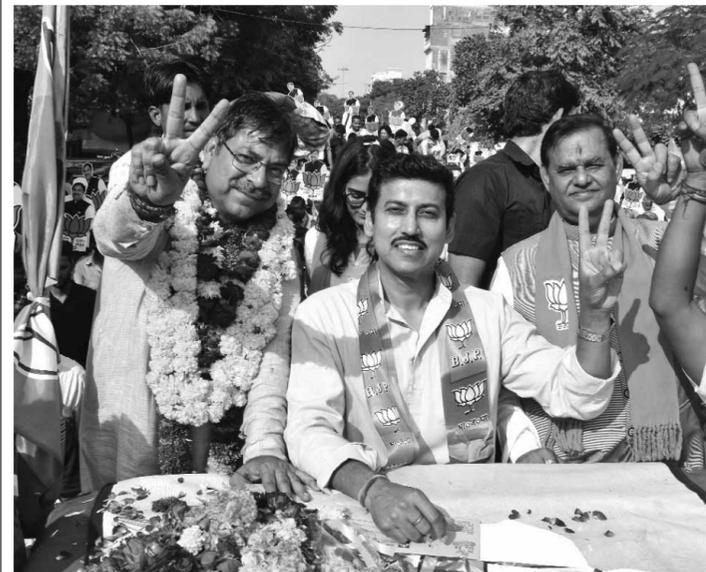
PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Four days after the BJP released its first list for Rajasthan, Congress late Thursday night gave green signal to its first list of 152 candidates for the December 7 Rajasthan Assembly elections, fielding former Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot from Sardarpura and State party president Sachin Pilot from Tonk seat. The Congress list was reportedly delayed over differences on distribution of party tickets.

AICC SECRETARY HARISH CHAUDHARY WILL CONTEST THE POLLS FROM THE BAYTOO SEAT. FORMER BJP MP HARISH MEENA, WHO HAD MOVED TO THE CONGRESS ON WEDNESDAY, HAS BEEN FIELDLED FROM DEOLI UNIARA

Former National Commission for Women chief Girija Vyas will contest from Udaipur, while senior party leader C P Joshi will be party nominee from the Nathdwara assembly seat. Leader of Opposition in the Rajasthan Assembly, Rameshwar Lal Dudi, is the Congress's candidate from the Nokha assembly seat. AICC Secretary Harish Chaudhary will contest the polls from the Baytoo seat. Former BJP MP Harish Meena, who had moved to the Congress on Wednesday, has been fielded from Deoli Uniara.

The party's central election committee General Secretary Mukul Wasnik released the list after hectic deliberations with senior state leaders and the party leadership. The notification for the polls was issued on Monday



Union Minister Rajyavardhan Singh Rathore shows a victory sign after BJP senior leader Satish Poonia files his nomination papers for Amer Assembly seat in Jaipur on Friday

Erratic rainfalls impacts Rabi crop sowing

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

Delayed withdrawal of southwest monsoon and erratic rainfalls across the country impacted the sowing of wheat and pulses crops in the ongoing season of rabi crops. According to Ministry of Agriculture's data, area sown to pulses has fallen 18 per cent to 69.95 lakh hectare so far in the ongoing rabi (winter) season over the year-ago period due to less planting in Karnataka and Maharashtra.

Sowing of wheat, the main rabi crop, is also lagging behind marginally at Rs 51.63 lakh hectare so far in the rabi season of the 2018-19 crop year compared with 54.28 lakh hectare in the year-ago period. Sowing of rabi crops begins from October and harvesting from March onwards.

In Maharashtra, farmers have planted pulses in only 5.62 lakh hectare so far this season as against 10.61 lakh hectare in the year-ago period

According to the data, farmers in Karnataka have sown pulses in only 7.35 lakh hectare so far this season as against 12.98 lakh hectare in the same period last season. Northern and south interior parts of Karnataka are reeling under severe drought. These areas received deficient rains even during the kharif (summer) season. Sowing of rabi crops begins in November and continues till February.

In Maharashtra too, farmers have planted pulses in only 5.62 lakh hectare so far this season as against 10.61 lakh hectare in the year-ago period. However in Madhya Pradesh, pulses was covered in 29.23 lakh hectare as against 30.9 lakh hectare in the said period. As many as pulses acreage remained lower at 69.95 lakh hectare so far this season as against 85.32 lakh hectare in the same period last season.

In case of wheat, farmers have sown the crop in 51.63 lakh hectare so far this season as against 54.28 lakh hectare in the same period last season. Area coverage remained lower in Punjab at 14.68 lakh hectare as against 17.58 lakh hectare, while in Haryana it stood at 5.54 lakh hectare as against 6.93 lakh hectare in the said period.

Fast entry gates of Ministries open for persons with fake degrees: Rahul

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Congress president Rahul Gandhi Friday alleged that under the Modi Government "fast entry gates" of Ministries "open for those who possess fake degrees". Rahul also attacked the RSS alleging that its "farjial (fake) strike" continues on educational institutes of the Delhi University.

Taking to Twitter, he launched a tirade against Prime Minister Narendra Modi, saying, "Shri chappan aur unke mantriyon ne chatron ko dikha hai ki BJP mai mantrimandal ka shighra dwar farji degree dikha kar khulta hai. (Mr 56' and his Ministers have shown students



that under the BJP fast entry gates of Ministries open for those who possess fake degrees." There was no immediate comment from the Prime Minister's Office or the BJP. "The RSS' has an old tradition of attacking educational institutions and helping those with fake degrees attain power. "That is why the 'farjial

strikes' of RSS continue on Delhi University," he tweeted in Hindi.

The Congress chief also tweeted a picture of Modi, Union minister Smriti Irani and ABVP's Delhi University president Anvik Baisoya, alleging "Fake degree is in BJP's DNA".

Baisoya has stepped down from his post after reports of him possessing a fake degree.

The ABVP said Thursday DUSU president Baisoya has resigned from his post after it asked him to do so, and has also been suspended from the students outfit till an inquiry into allegations that he gained admission to the Delhi University on the basis of a fake degree.

SEVERE MENTAL DISORDERS WHO issues management guidelines

ARCHANA JYOTI ■ NEW DELHI

People with severe mental disorders (SMD) of bipolar, moderate to severe depression and other psychotic disorders not only have to battle with their mental conditions but also non-communicable and communicable diseases such as diabetes and tuberculosis cutting their life expectancy by 10-20 years when compared to general population.

Coming to the rescue of this hapless and helpless sector, the World Health Organisation (WHO) has issued for the first time "Guidelines on management of physical health conditions in adults with severe mental disorders" that aims to help health workers to how to lookout and manage co-morbid physical and mental health conditions among such patients.

The majority of these early deaths are due to physical health conditions like diabetes, tuberculosis and cardiovascular diseases. "As the physical health of people with SMD is commonly overlooked, not only by themselves and people around them, but also by health systems, they suffer from crucial physical health disparities and limited access to health services. "Many lives can be saved by



World Health Organization

ensuring that people with SMD receive treatment," the WHO said in a statement here recently while releasing the guidelines recently for managing physical health conditions of such people.

The recommendations have come at a time when India is witnessing sharp increase in mental health disorders. An estimated 150 million people across India are in need of mental health care interventions, both short and long-term, according to India's latest National Mental Health Survey 2015-16. The survey, which was carried out across 12 states, found that the overall prevalence for current mental health morbidity was 10.6 per cent.

The WHO guidelines include recommendations on healthy lifestyle behaviors such as healthier diet, more physical activity and tobacco cessation, psychosocial sup-

Double whammy for people with severe mental disorders

Overall, people with SMD have 1.53 times greater risk of cardiovascular disease and 1.85 times greater risk of death due to cardiovascular disease. People with SMD, particularly those who have had multiple episodes of illness, also have higher rates of diabetes mellitus, with 1.85 times greater risk than the general population

In India, there are just 0.3 psychiatrists, 0.07 psychologists and 0.07 social workers per 100,000 people in India. The ratio of psychiatrists in developed nations is 6.6 per 100,000 and the average number of mental hospitals globally is 0.04 per 100,000 while it's only 0.004 in India

port and considering possible interactions between different medications prescribed for mental and physical health conditions.

"The majority of deaths amongst people with SMD are attributable to physical health conditions, both non-communicable and communicable," said Graham Thornicroft, Chair of the guideline development group and Professor of Community Psychiatry at King's College London, and colleagues wrote in the WHO executive summary.

"Unfortunately, such people often lack access to health services or receive poor quality care, including promotion

and prevention, screening and treatment. It is crucial to address the disparities in health care access and provision for people with such condition," they said.

In India, poor awareness about the symptoms of mental illness, stigma and the lack of mental health services available has led to treatment gap, with insufficient numbers of trained mental health care professionals. The survey by the National Institute of Mental Health and Neuro-Sciences (NIMHANS) found that, depending on the state, between 70 and 92 per cent of those in need of mental health care failed to receive any treatment.

SC to hear plea challenging validity of Article 370 in April

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Friday said that it will hear in April a plea challenging the validity of Article 370 of the Constitution giving special status to Jammu & Kashmir. The court deferred the hearing after Attorney General K K Venugopal, appearing for the Centre sought adjournment on the ground that the current situation is very sensitive.

A bench of Justices D Y Chandrachud and M R Shah said it will hear the matter in the first week of April 2019 seemed to appreciate the concern raised by the Attorney General who said, "The political situation in the state is such that the matter should not be heard at this time."

Senior advocate Rakesh Dwivedi and advocate Shoeb Alam, appearing for Jammu and Kashmir said that a letter has been circulated seeking adjournment due to the ongoing

ing nine-phase Panchayat polls in the state.

To this, the bench said that it can tag the matter along with a batch of pending petitions challenging Article 35A of the Constitution, under which special rights and privileges are granted to the "permanent residents" of the state.

The suggestion of the bench was opposed by the counsels for the state saying that the two issues are different entirely and the plea should not be tagged along with Article 35A pending petitions. The bench then posted the matter for further hearing in first week of April, 2019.

On April 3, the apex court had said that Article 370 of the Constitution is not a temporary provision. The court had said that in its earlier verdict of 2017 in the SARFESI case, it has been already held that Article 370 was "not a temporary provision".

"The issue concerned is covered by the judgement of this

court in the 2017 SARFAESI matter, where we have held that despite the headnote of Article 370, it is not a temporary provision," the court had said.

The court was hearing an appeal filed by petitioner Kumari Vijayalakshmi Jha, against the Delhi High Court's April 11, 2017 order dismissing the plea seeking a declaration that Article 370 is temporary in nature.

The petitioner had claimed before the high court that Article 370 was a temporary provision that had lapsed with the dissolution of the Constituent Assembly in 1957.

The petition had said that the continuance of the temporary provision of Article 370 even after dissolution of Constituent Assembly of J&K, and that of J&K Constitution which has never got the assent of the President of India or Parliament or the government of India, "amounts to fraud on the basic structure of our Constitution".

Ugratara temple idol, valuables looted

PTI ■ GUWAHATI

The centuries-old idol of Goddess Tara has gone missing along with other valuables from the famous Shakti shrine Ugratara Temple in Jorpukhuri area here, police said on Friday.

The idol, made of 'astadhātu' (eight metals), was found missing when the priest opened the temple door on Friday morning. Other valuables including cash from the donation box was also looted, they said.

The temple authorities informed the Latasil police station, which is located barely 200 metres away from the temple.

According to the CCTV footage of the temple, four persons were seen looting and vandalising the sanctum sanctorum of the temple and taking away the idol.

A massive search operation has been launched to nab the

ACCORDING TO THE CCTV FOOTAGE OF THE TEMPLE, FOUR PERSONS WERE SEEN LOOTING AND VANDALISING THE SANCTUM SANCTORUM OF THE TEMPLE AND TAKING AWAY THE IDOL

culprits and investigations have already begun, police said.

The Secretary of the Temple Committee, Kailash Sarmah, said that the idol was in his family for centuries and the authorities must take urgent measures to ensure that it was recovered at the earliest.

He said the idol dated back to 1044 AD and the temple is revered as one of the 51 'Shaktipeeths' in the country.

The present temple was built in 1725 AD during the rule of Ahom King Siva Singh.

Mizoram Govt allocates ₹52.75 cr for poll expenses

PTI ■ AIZAWL

The Mizoram Government has allocated 52.75 crore towards expenses of the November 28 state legislative assembly polls, finance department officials said Friday.

The officials said the finance department has released ₹32.5 crore to the state election department. Of the ₹52.75 crore election budget, ₹37.75 crore will be disbursed to eight district election offices, while ₹4 crore will go to the State election directorate.

The officials said ₹11 crore was the total estimate for expenses to be incurred on deployment of 40 companies of Central Armed Police Force (CAPF), which was regarded as on the higher side.

Fight for survival

Unused to being hemmed in from all sides, the tiger is hitting out with aggression when prodded by human intervention



Yes, the cubs of Avni, the tigress who was hunted in Maharashtra in a state-sanctioned kill, are alive and well. They are being kept in captivity and awaiting rehabilitation in a forest area conducive to their growth. But relocating or translocating them poses an even bigger challenge following recent reports of a tiger kill from Odisha's Satkosia tiger reserve. The National Tiger Control Authority (NTCA), in an attempt to improve tiger density here, had assiduously worked on developing a prey base for years and translocated a male and female

from Kanha and Bandhavgarh respectively, the first inter-state transfer experiment. But the male has died, having fallen to poachers' traps and the female is currently being kept in captivity, fearing attacks by aggressive villagers who have already proclaimed her a man-eater. The Avni killing was just the tip of the new dynamic of the man-animal conflict, one where man is challenging prevailing conservation efforts and legitimising his claim of ownership of the forests, reducing the arc of the wild habitat and throwing it into disarray. The male fell to poachers' traps in the core area, which is anyway constricted, just about capable of sustaining no more than five tigers. Any addition and they could stray into buffer zones. Wildlifers say that Satkosia has 102 villages in both core and buffer zones with 50,000 cattle entering the park every day. They may have begun as encroachers but are now an encashable demographic of settlers. Without making them a stakeholder in conservation efforts of the tiger, keeping them invested as park patrollers and monitors, generating a subsidiary tiger economy that ensures them revenue, incentivising forest produce and enhancing the tiger gene pool that can promote "sighting tourism," the tiger will continue to be their enemy. Though tiger density has increased through sustained efforts from 1972 — and there are still viable tracts of pristine forests that can be turned into reserves by relocating animals from overpopulated stretches — fact is forests are a state subject and an inter-state agreement on shared corridors needs to be ironed out and coordinated if translocation is to succeed. Meanwhile relocation needs are mounting as are funding operations. The entire process cannot be fast-tracked but needs to be graded and spaced out to ensure tigers' acceptance of a new territory as their own household. Apart from peripheral villagers, a new tiger also has to deal with resident cats or in the total absence of its kind, reconcile to being a lone ranger and sync up with other relocated companions.

The tiger is a roamer and can cover long ranges for survival but natural transit corridors connecting forests are vanishing fast due to human encroachment and development. Unused to being hemmed in from all sides, the tiger is hiding out for survival and hitting out with desperate aggression when prodded by human intervention. This is the reason why we are hearing about tigers charging at vehicles and intruders in areas where they have never displayed such behaviour for decades. This mutative behaviour needs to be addressed immediately. And if three tiger cubs straying into rail tracks in Maharashtra were mowed down by a running train in the wee hours, it only shows how wayward they have been forced to become. Agreed that it may not be possible to realign existing roads and rail tracks that cut through forests, but care must be taken to ensure that newer transport corridors skirt the periphery of parks and reserves. Also bypasses, whether as an over or under passes can be created around existing railway tracks to let the animals pass through. World over, park managers have noted that over time, the wild animals re-programme themselves to use these passes, thus preventing accidents and adjusting their migratory routes. One must see the larger picture of evolution. The tiger sits on top of the food chain in the forest and by saving it and giving it a home, we are protecting all sub-species and curating a biosphere that even includes grasslands and rivers.

Decline and fall

The resignation of Ankiv Baisoya as Delhi University's Student Union President highlights the mess student politics in India is in



Many of India's top politicians have emerged from the ranks of student politics. Arun Jaitley and Lalu Prasad Yadav were famously involved in anti-Emergency politics in Delhi and Patna Universities respectively, for example. But as Indian politics has moved down the path of nepotism and extreme positions, only those who have a shrill voice stand out nowadays. At the same time, what is possibly worse is that student politicians are entering the fray only to further their own political careers in the 'senior' league later rather than look after the concerns and problems of students they are ostensibly elected to represent. The problem has been particularly exacerbated in Delhi University where students union leaders rarely belong to campus colleges and are in the main postgraduate students in obscure departments. More often than not, they have not obtained their under-graduate degree from Delhi University, most likely because they were not good enough to get in. Some would obviously do anything to get admission in Delhi University, to pursue politics rather than academics, naturally, and faking a degree is just the tip of the iceberg. It is unlikely that Ankiv Baisoya was the first or will be the last student to forge a marksheet but this was a huge failure both for the Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP) and Delhi University. Both should have vetted the candidate's credentials far more carefully than they did. Either that, or they were complicit in the fraud perpetuated.

Given the sheer size of Delhi University, even if one excludes the thousands of students who take correspondence courses, it might be a better idea to divide the students union into two separate entities — one for north campus colleges and for all the others under the south campus umbrella. At the same time, Delhi University as well as other universities must follow the Lyngdoh Committee recommendations to the letter albeit funding limits should be adjusted to account for contemporary times what with social media and online campaigns ruling the roost. In recent students union elections, much like in legislative elections, Whatsapp messages, Facebook and Twitter have become campaign tools but fly under the radar of university authorities. Student politics is important although much like the real thing it has become twisted and a tool for enrichment and a forum for virulence, even violence. Student leaders themselves should realise that the vast majority of the student body in most universities is disillusioned with student politics and many want to do away with the headache of student body elections altogether. This is not a good sign for democracy.

A vessel for success

Given the aim of big data is to find connections and patterns in the vast amount of information collected and then relate it to human behaviour, insights gleaned can lead to innovative ideas



SWAPNA MAJUMDAR

Knowledge is power and in this age of information technology, big data has become the real power. But how the power of big data is harnessed is crucial. Since the aim of big data is to find connections and patterns in the vast amount of information collected and then relate it to human behaviour, or understanding of complex systems, processes or institutions, insights thus gleaned can lead to innovative ideas and solutions.

One such interesting innovation has been developed in Guizhou, a mountainous province in the southwest of China. Here, big data analytics have been applied in the judiciary to create a 'smart court'. The Judicial Big Data Application Platform provides judges with case assistance, trial assistance and case analysis and has improved the efficiency of the judiciary. The "judicial intelligent robot", helps to process and analyse the history of case data of courts at all levels and establishes a large database to provide 'intelligent' assistance to the judges. At present, the Guizhou High Court is using this system to make better-informed decisions, say local officials.

But what makes this innovation really novel is its judicial big data public consultation system. Here, the litigants can fill in the details of their case and the system analyses data of similar cases and judgments to guide them even before they come to the courts about their chances of winning or losing their case. This kind of system could be extremely useful for India where about 3.3 crore cases are pending in various courts in the country. According to a Law Ministry data, of all the pending cases, 60 per cent are more than two years old, while 40 per cent are more than five years old. In the Supreme Court, more than 30 per cent of pending cases are more than five years old. This is because the judiciary faces a shortage of over 6,000 judges, including over 5,000 in the lower courts. No wonder there are 2,76,74,499 cases awaiting appeal in the district and subordinate courts. On an average, there are 19 judges per 10 lakh people. A scientific collection of data across all courts and its intelligent use can bring down pendency and deliver speedy justice. At least then, justice delayed will not be justice denied.

Big data has also been leveraged by Guizhou to achieve remarkable economic growth. Once considered industrially backward and poor because of its hilly topography, Guizhou has used big data technology to leapfrog from the fringes to register the third-fastest economic growth among China's 31 provinces in 2016. The number of big data related companies in Guizhou increased from less than 1,000 in 2013 to over 8,900 in 2017 and big data investment into Guizhou was approximately 35.28 billion yuan (\$5.5 billion) this year. Its swanky high rise buildings and high tech infrastructure are a testimony to its upward mobility. In fact, Guizhou's capital city, Guiyang was ranked as the best



performing city in 2016 by the Milken Institute, a not for profit think tank which analysed Guiyang's growth in jobs, wages, gross domestic product, and foreign direct investment.

Guizhou embarked upon its technology overdrive after the Chinese President Xi Jinping underlined big data technology as a priority in 2014. Guizhou has now the second highest data centres in China with over 70,000 servers. At the centre of this boom is the Gui'an, a newly developed 1,795 square kilometres suburb. Gui'an, which is just a hour's drive from Guiyang, houses over 200 influential national and international companies. A slew of incentives, including rent-free office space, tax benefits, state support, lower costs and its natural temperate cool weather, have encouraged Apple, Microsoft, Huawei, Hyundai Motor, Tencent, Qualcomm, Dell, IBM and Alibaba to set up data centres here.

India's presence here is in the form of a training academy as a part of a strategic partnership between NIIT and the Guizhou provincial Government to train students, professionals and government employees in big data. Further, NASSCOM has established an IT corridor to facilitate Indian software companies set up office in Guizhou. Zeta-V Technology Solutions, an Indian start-up, has been funded by Guiyang Municipal Government to develop a Sino-Indian Digital Collaborative Opportunities Plaza (SIDCOP) to connect Indian and Chinese companies.

In addition to creating employment opportunities, big data is contributing to Guizhou's economic growth by increasing

“
THE JUDICIAL BIG DATA APPLICATION PLATFORM PROVIDES JUDGES WITH CASE ANALYSIS AND TRIAL ASSISTANCE. IT HAS IMPROVED THE EFFICIENCY OF THE JUDICIARY
”

incomes and alleviation of poverty. State officials say that 6.7 million rural people have been lifted out of poverty over the past five years and the growth rate of disposable household income in the province is the highest in China. This, they say, has been possible by accumulating real time information on the poor population and using it to make targeted interventions. So by using big data, they track populations who are poor, their geographical locations, and their immediate and necessary needs to be able to provide the right support. One such way has been to create e-commerce platforms and use the data to help connect people from different provinces to sell their farm produce or handicrafts online and increase their incomes.

In Guizhou's Anshun city, the Pingba District People's Government and Guizhou E-Commerce Cloud, (the government's commerce department initiative), launched the "E-

commerce Poverty Alleviation District Managers in Action" campaign to help farmers sell their rice to bigger markets outside the district. Big data was used to analyse consumer needs, forecast sales, manage the inventory and, help improve production efficiency. However, it was not just the excellent quality of the various varieties of Pingba rice that boosted sales.

Endorsement of its quality by the local government added extra value leading to the sale of more than 150,000 kilograms online in a period of three months. It is being sold to over 100 cities located in 20 provinces and has boosted the incomes of 191 poor households. Official records state that Guizhou currently has 6,949 e-commerce service stations reaching out to 80 per cent of its towns and villages. In 2017, e-commerce platforms helped rural Guizhou secure sales of agricultural produce to the tune of 15.3 billion yuan (\$2.2 billion).

India too, has recently launched an online platform for its farmers. The National Agriculture Market (eNAM), is a single-window service that integrates agriculture markets or mandis online so that farmers and traders can view all agriculture produce market related information (buying and selling) and services. Farmers can bid for the best price across markets in 21 mandis in eight States. But poor internet connectivity and availability and a lack of understanding of digital media may throw a spanner in the works for rural farmers.

Ensuring connectivity was also a challenge for Guizhou where 92.5 per cent of its land is covered in hills. The

Government's active push to ensure infrastructure has given almost 96 per cent of its villages access to fiber-optic broadband and 4G. Over 200 e-commerce training sessions by Guizhou E-Commerce Cloud, which reached out to over 100,000 people throughout the province, raised awareness of the power of this platform.

Additionally, the Guiyang Big Data Application Demonstration Centre has been instituted to further understanding of big data usages. Also helping to show the practical use of big data is Duocaibao, a cloud based mobile application developed by Guizhou Colorful Treasure, a web portal of the Guizhou government service network. The app is based on the needs of the people as analysed by big data gathered by the network. Downloaded by 1.33 million people, this app is a handy one stop platform that integrates more than 100 Government services including real estate registrations, social security applications, seeking appointments for marriage registration, birth registration certificate, driving license applications etc. At the same time, it also allows citizens to make payments for water, gas and electricity bills.

One of its most useful features, which should be adapted in India, is for the senior citizens. They no longer need to physically present themselves to get their pension or social security. All s/he needs to do now is use the app to send his/her photograph to the relevant government department and the pension will be transferred to his/her account.

(The writer is a senior journalist)

SOUNDBITE

UN has become guardian of the *status quo* due to its inaction in the face of global challenges.



India's Permanent Representative to the UN —Syed Akbaruddin

South China Sea does not belong to any one nation. US will continue to sail and fly wherever international law allows



US Vice President —Mike Pence

Most of the time, critics are right about an artiste's work because they point out things that s/he is unaware of.



Actor —Amitabh Bachchan

We will constitute an inquiry team to look into the pervasive nature of sexual harassment in AIR stations across India.



NCW chairperson —Rekha Sharma

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

True champion

Sir —Though India's ace cueist, Pankaj Advani, in his 33years of age, won his third straight IBSF billiards crown in the 150-up format (defeated Nay Thway Oo of Myanmar), taking his overall tally of world titles to a staggering 20, the media mostly remained silent. Why not? Like country's politics, sports and games coverage also depends upon peoples pulse. As a brilliant sportsperson, Pankaj rightly said: "This win is extremely special for me. It's a perfect 20 and I'm glad that I'm still hungry for more. It's pleasing to be able to play at a quality level over the years and looking to take this tally beyond a "score." It is an inspiration to every sport enthusiast out there.

Bidyut Kumar Chatterjee
Faridabad

I-T collections up

Sir — Delhi saw an all-time 45-per cent high growth in collection of Income Tax leaving Mumbai far behind with a growth rate of just 4.6 per cent. The Income Tax Department should now concentrate on other parts of the country other than Mumbai and Delhi, where income tax collection is less than it should be. Senior officers in different Income Tax circles should be motivated through incentives and proper training so that tax collection witnesses an increased growth rate in every city.

Madhu Agrawal
Delhi

No short-term solutions to fight pollution

This refers to the editorial, "Gaping hole" (November 16). Indeed it tells us the clear picture of our attitude when we are happy to live in very poor air quality. Bringing back odd-even scheme, banning crackers, banning non-CNG vehicles in NCR are short-term solutions and will not help us in the long run. It's sad that we look at this issue as a seasonal one rather than realising that we face this all year around. The Union Government should bring States like Haryana and Uttar Pradesh on the table to discuss this critical issue.

One critical area which really needs a relook is pollution test of the vehicles. To be honest, all certificates issued by the pollution testing outlets are just formalities, as even polluting vehicles are issued certificates as a routine exercise. That practice has to end — random check and audit of these units are non-negotiable. Last but not the least, despite Metro



being the backbone of the National Capital, we still need to go a long way to opt for an eco-friendly mass public transport. Honestly, mere micro-climate management won't take us far enough. It needs to be something beyond that — a more comprehensive action plan.

Yvonne Fernando
Chennai

Save the rhino

Sir — Recently, China revoked the ban on the use of parts of Rhinoceros and tigers for medicinal purposes. Their horns are used for water purifying purpose and as an aphrodisiac in some parts. Yemen makes daggers out of Rhino horns. Rhino poaching has escalated in recent years

with few tribes hunting them down. Interestingly, many former poachers have been roped in as Rhino conservationists in Manas. With their deep insights on the methods used for poaching, they are doing a great job in Rhino conservation. There has been a lot of celebrity endorsement in the conservation of rhinoceros. Indian cricketer, Rohit Sharma, the brand ambassador

for World Wild Life Fund-India Rhino conservation, has expressed his confidence in going all the way to protect the Rhinos. It's time we give something to the Nature instead of just taking from it.

Ganapathi Bhat
Akola

Grim picture

Sir — This refers to the editorial, "Gaping hole" (November 16). Delhi has become storehouse of dreadful gases. The National Capital must improve its public transport system so that people can switch from their private vehicles to public buses.

The ultra-rich class must make economic use of their cars. The other Indian cities must start working on the pollution right from the outset. Delhi's problem can be summarised by this saying, "man now be silent otherwise nature will silence you permanently."

Gourang Narayani
Ujjain

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

FIRST COLUMN

Politics of appeasement

State institutions may believe that a policy of appeasement avoids conflict but in reality it offers nothing more than a brief respite



NADEEM PARACHA

In a recent statement, Shireen Mazari, the Minister of Human Rights, equated her Government's 'agreement' with the agitating leaders of the Tehreek-i-Labbaik Pakistan (TLP) to former British Prime Minister, Neville Chamberlain's "policy of appeasement" towards Nazi Germany. According to the *Merriam-Webster Dictionary*, the word 'appease' originated in the 14th century CE and means 'to pacify'. However, the word's political context is entirely a 20th-century construct. According to Frank McDonough's *Neville Chamberlain, Appeasement and the British Road to War*, the word 'appeasement' (in its political context) was first used by Chamberlain's critics to censure his 'peace deal' with German leader, Adolf Hitler. In his 1983 essay for the *Journal of Contemporary History*, Prof Anthony Adamthwaite wrote that the British Government's soft stance towards the increasingly belligerent Nazi regime was explained as a way to avoid another war in Europe. This was the reason given by the British regime even when news about Nazi atrocities against opponents and its expansionist ambitions began to come out of Germany. The perception that Germany had been handed a humiliating deal in 1919 Treaty of Versailles was also used by the British Government to draw support for Chamberlain's policy. Adamthwaite wrote that Chamberlain's Government imposed strict media restrictions to curb newspapers from reporting criticism against Chamberlain's policies, and even news about Nazi expansionism was largely repressed.

In 1938, on his return from Germany, Chamberlain triumphantly waved a piece of paper — "the Munich Agreement" — claiming that this agreement will herald "peace in our time." To critics, this was an act of surrender by an imperial power in front of an aggressive fascist foe. On the other end, Hitler saw the agreement as Britain's inability to halt Nazi Germany's territorial ambitions. Hitler thus hastened his plans to invade various European nations and eventually triggered the Second World War in which millions of lives were lost. Adamthwaite wrote that even though Chamberlain's critics had warned that his "policy of appeasement" would only embolden Hitler, he dismissed them as being "pro-war".

In his book, *Strategy and Diplomacy 1870-1945*, British historian, Paul Kennedy, offered a more sympathetic view of Chamberlain's policy. He wrote that there were limited choices at the time for Britain and one of them was appeasement. Britain's economy had suffered during the global economic depression of the 1930s. Despite being an imperial power, the British state and Government(s) were feeling vulnerable. Yet, when in 1940 Winston Churchill was elected Prime Minister, he immediately undid Chamberlain's policies. With some fiery rhetoric and carefully constructed alliances with the opposition Labour Party, the US and the Soviet Union, he managed to militarily hold back the Nazi war machine. Nazi Germany fell in 1945. After the war, appeasement as a policy became anathema to Western states. Its opponents suggested that whereas the idea of holding negotiations is agreeable, appeasement should be divorced from it because it immediately hands over the advantage to the other party.

This sentiment was found not only among the Western post-war leadership. For example, Pakistan's founder, M A Jinnah was conscious of not giving too much leverage to India's religious parties — even those who backed his call for a separate Muslim-majority state. To Jinnah, Islam was something dynamic, democratic and 'modern'. The founders of Pakistan had their own idea of Islam that was rooted in the scholarly works of 'Muslim Modernists'. There was no room in it to appease the idea of an Islamic state held by radical religionists. Even five years after Jinnah's demise, the state of Pakistan unblinkingly crushed the first anti-Ahmediyya movement, headed by religious groups in 1953.

The Ayub Khan regime, too, refused to exhibit any such leniency. Ayub refused to budge when religious parties protested against his Government's take-over of mosques, shrines and seminaries and the introduction of new family laws. The Islamic outfits decried these as being "un-Islamic." Ayub held his ground. The state, till then, was confident and clear about what the founders had stood for. But things in this context began to change after the 1971 East Pakistan debacle. In 1974, while facing a 1953-like situation, ZA Bhutto regime decided to agree to the demands of the agitators. Bhutto believed the state of Pakistan was not strong enough to withstand the consequences of the kind of operation undertaken in 1953. But even though his 'capitulation' in 1974 did manage to avoid what he feared, it turned out to be a short-term respite. Just three years later in 1977, his Government was being attacked by the same forces he had appeased. He tried to appease them again but fell in a reactionary military coup.

(Courtesy: Dawn)

POINT COUNTERPOINT

IT WAS DUE TO THE INSTITUTIONAL STRUCTURE CREATED BY NEHRU THAT EVEN A CHAI WALA COULD BECOME INDIA'S PRIME MINISTER.

—CONGRESS LEADER SHASHI THAROOR



I DARE THE CONGRESS TO MAKE SOMEONE FROM OUTSIDE THE FAMILY ITS CHIEF FOR ME TO BELIEVE NEHRU HAD CREATED A TRUE DEMOCRATIC SYSTEM.

—PRIME MINISTER NARENDRA MODI

MP poll: Opening for Congress

After an extensive tour of the State, the writers found that neither Narendra Modi nor Rahul Gandhi is likely to play more than a marginal role in influencing the outcome of the Madhya Pradesh election



PARAKALA PRABHAKAR

KOTA UMA DEVI

The door is ajar in Madhya Pradesh — for the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) to exit and the Congress to enter the corridors of power in Bhopal. That is the impression we gathered after travelling about 2,500 kilometres, touching interior areas of all the regions, starting clockwise, from Malwa — both north and south, Madhya Bharath-Bhopal, Chambal-Gwalior, Bundelkhand, Bagelkhand and Mahakoshal between last week of October and the first week of November.

We met farmers, farm labour, young people from both urban and rural areas, government employees, traders, female farm workers as well as home makers, professionals such as doctors and lawyers, small businessmen, advocates, and students in campuses. In the process, inescapably, we also met persons who are affiliated to major political parties. We have chosen not to meet political leaders or opinion makers. We spoke to all these segments in all the regions of the State at length.

The method was not about administering of a questionnaire to generate quantitative data and arrive at percentages of vote share and number of seats of each party. It was about gathering of qualitative data in contradistinction to quantitative data. The method adopted was to conduct a series of rather long conversations with individuals and small groups (not exceeding six members) to understand their socio-economic condition in order to grasp what issues were salient for them and how their life experiences in grappling with those issues was likely to influence their voting choices.

It was to sniff the air, so to speak, and see which way the wind was blowing. The overwhelming sense that our team gathered was that not a single person among those we met was indifferent to the upcoming election. They're fully aware of the power they wield with their participation in it. Polling in this election, therefore, is likely to be on the higher side.

Acute farm distress is evident from the conversations in the countryside. 'Bhavantar', a State Government's scheme to give price support to farmers is unlikely to yield any substantial dividends to the ruling party. Deep resentment against price rise across the State is palpable. Anger against demonetisation is likely to wound the ruling establishment in the forthcoming Assembly elections. Lack of employment opportunities has alienated the youth in both rural and urban areas.

In Malwa especially, the upper castes are decidedly opting to desert the BJP because of Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan's 2016 'mai ka lal' remark on the SC/ST reservations issue. Many rural women said they would wait for their menfolk and other family members to tell them whom to vote. Or perhaps they did not want to reveal their minds to the strangers from Hyderabad.

Significantly, Hindu-Muslim issues, Ram Mandir, the so-called Rafale and Vyapam scams did not find any resonance with the voters. Professionals did mention about the Narendra Modi Government's attempts to weaken the constitutional institutions.

Words like 'badlaav' and 'parivartan' are spo-

STATE CONGRESS IS ORGANISATIONALLY AN ENFEEBLED ENTITY AS THE PARTY HAS BEEN OUT OF OFFICE FOR THREE CONSECUTIVE TERMS. IT IS A DIVIDED HOUSE, UNABLE TO STITCH TOGETHER A NARRATIVE FOR THE STATE OR CONSTITUENCY, REGION SPECIFIC VARIANTS OF THE CAMPAIGN THEME. THE BJP IS AHEAD ON THIS SCORE



ken in high decibels across the State, more prominently in the countryside. People who claimed to have voted for the BJP last time said they wanted to shift to the Congress this time. However, Shivraj Singh Chouhan remains popular. Those who want to vote against the BJP, too, acknowledged his good work. He comes across as a much popular leader and more influential with the voter than Prime Minister Narendra Modi in Madhya Pradesh. However, the possibility of "Shivraj fatigue" neutralising the impact of his popularity and letting farm distress, price rise, unemployment and demonetisation effects to hurt the ruling party cannot be ruled out.

There is still a significant chunk of undecided voters in the State. A good number of them are likely to go along with the tide that becomes evident nearer the polling day. The majority of the BJP voters said they would vote in its favour to reward Chief Minister Chouhan's work and not because of the Prime Minister. Those who preferred the Congress were unconcerned about the Chief Ministerial face of the party. They are prepared to take anyone who the Congress decides as the Chief Minister after the elections.

Karyakartas of the saffron party, who participated in the conversations are assertive about the BJP's winning chances. The Congress workers, on the other hand, are meek and lack confidence about their party's victory. It is the common unattached public who are more emphatic about the Congress' chances of forming the Government.

Those who wanted the BJP to win, do not think that an anti-incumbency could cut so deep as to unseat the party. But they're prepared to accept that the party will return with much reduced strength in the 230-strong House, and the party's candidates will win with reduced majorities in the constituencies. Even strong BJP supporters are not prepared to think that it will be an easy ride this time for the party. Political headwinds are strongly sensed by the BJP sympathisers and its cadre.

The Congress argument, if it has one, is not yet part of the political conversation among voters. Chouhan is at an advantage on this score as his work is known and talked about. Congress president, Rahul Gandhi, as a campaigner, is yet to make an impression in the State.

State Congress is organisationally an enfeebled entity as the party has been out of office for three consecu-

tive terms. It is a divided house, unable to stitch together a narrative for the State or constituency, region specific variants of the campaign theme. The BJP is ahead on this score.

The large number of conversations we had across the State in essence revealed that the Madhya Pradesh election is not a wrestling contest between an incumbent BJP and a challenger Congress.

It is a spectacle of the two contenders with strong political headwinds in the form of anti-incumbency, farm distress, price rise, ill-effects of demonetisation, erosion of upper caste support, unemployment and consequent youth apathy, and, 'Shivraj fatigue'.

Neither Prime Minister Modi nor Congress president Rahul Gandhi are likely to play more than a marginal role in influencing the outcome of the Madhya Pradesh poll. The Congress, our conversations across the State reveal, stands to benefit from the failure of the BJP to contend with the headwinds. And the headwinds are strong at the moment in the State.

(The authors are Managing Director and Executive Director respectively of RightFOLIO, a Hyderabad based Research and Policy Consultancy)

The Great Game continues...

Though Arihant has happened at the right time, future projections of defence acquisitions and indigenous production need to be scaled up. Our maritime strength is meagre as compared to the Chinese fleet



KK PAUL

Even after over a century and a half, Rudyard Kipling's Great Game continues to be played, only the turf and the players have changed. The target, that is access to and consolidation in Indian Ocean remains the same, of course with different nuances.

In this context, our Prime Minister Narendra Modi's forthcoming visit to Maldives to participate in the inauguration of the new presidency is most welcome and a step in the right direction. But coming after over three years of the earlier cancelled visit of 2015, a lot of ground will now have to be covered and without any further time to lose. After all, today, the Indian Ocean is no longer India's ocean.

It is worth recalling that after becoming the number one trading partner of Africa, in its policy statement, China in 2015 had emphasised that it would seize the strategic initiative to effectively secure its overseas interests. Following this, we have seen heavy investments being made by China in our neighbourhood for the development of the Maritime Silk Route along with CPEC.

Simultaneously, development of the ports by China at Djibouti, Gwadar and Hambantota virtually completes a secure triangle around the Arabian Sea and a strategic positioning on the access routes to Red Sea and the Persian Gulf. Also, plans of the Chinese to develop Ihavandhoo as a deep sea port on an atoll in the Northern Maldives have since come to light. This location would virtually stand guard on the seven degree channel, the main navigational route from China and South East Asia for Europe and Gulf and carrying about \$18 trillion in the terms of annual trade.



On top of this, very recently an agreement has been signed with Myanmar for construction of a multi-billion dollar port at Kyaukpyu, in the Rakhine state not far from Bangladesh. This Kyaukpyu special economic zone will be ultimately linked by

rail/road to Kunming and provide access to the Bay of Bengal on the same pattern as Gwadar does to the Arabian Sea.

However, the Chinese plan of developing Sonadia into a port was cancelled by Bangladesh in 2017. But now they are showing

their keenness on Payra port. This port in Bangladesh along with Kyaukpyu in Myanmar would be important locations on the proposed Maritime Silk Route. In the given scenario, the great game as of now, seems to be going the Chinese way, as they can claim legitimate access to the Bay of Bengal as also to the Arabian Sea on either of our flanks. All these developments have serious implications for diplomacy in the neighbourhood as well as our navy.

Though Arihant has happened at the right time, future projections of defence acquisitions and indigenous production need to be scaled up. Our maritime strength is meagre as compared to the Chinese fleet. It is a historical fact borne out of the World War II and our own 1971 (INS Khukri was sunk by submarine PNS Hangool) that far more damage to enemy shipping is caused by submarines than any other vessel.

As such a fresh look in our priorities and strategy would be in order. For instance, Japan has estab-

lished a maritime cordon against submarines and deploys almost 200, P-3 Orion and S-2 aircraft patrols for detection of submarines.

Satellite technology is being used these days to track enemy shipping and even the deeply submerged nuclear submarines. It is often said that there is now hardly any place left to hide the naval assets particularly the carriers.

In the given circumstances, it is high time that considering our expertise in space missions, we develop our own satellite based naval surveillance systems and are able to detect the threats well in advance for putting effective counter measures in place.

In the long run, it has to be left to our diplomats and the political executive supported by armed forces to create a strong and favourable geopolitical environment in our neighbourhood and the Indian Ocean region.

(The writer is a retired Delhi Police Commissioner and former Uttarakhand Governor)



NEW TREND IN REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT

It's not a bad thing if the South Pacific becomes a place where China, Australia and the US seek ways to reduce their strategic doubts about one another. Most importantly, China reaches out to the South Pacific with kindness in pursuit of common interests.

(Global Times editorial)

Mamata blames BJP for destroying institutions

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

Continuing her tirade against the BJP-led NDA Government for "taking India towards a political chaos," Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Friday said the saffron Government had ensured that the key institutions of the country were destroyed.

In an apparent bid to catch the bull by its horn the Chief Minister also announced counter-Yatras in the wake of BJP's much publicised Rath Yatras beginning next month. The TMC Yatras will follow the route of the BJP Yatras, she said.

The Narendra Modi Government was tearing down the major institutions like Reserve Bank of India and Central Bureau of Investigation Banerjee said promising to do everything to protect these organizations.

"They (Modi Government) are destroying all the key institutions of the country," Banerjee who had earlier been critical of changing the Planning Commission into Niti Ayog said adding how the Centre was "trying to change the way the RBI and the CBI function."

The ruling outfit (read BJP) that was making "building statues' poll agenda will itself become a statue after the coming Lok Sabha elections," Banerjee told a party meeting in Kolkata.

Dropping hints that the Trinamool Congress was planning to take central stage in Delhi post 2019 general elections, Banerjee said the way the BJP was trying to divide the



country and implementing regimes like the National Register for Citizens would force her party to "play a bigger role in the coming days."

"We will not tolerate division in the society and persecution of innocent people in the name of NRC," Banerjee said giving a call for "BJP Hatao Desh Bachao (save India by driving away the BJP)".

The Chief Minister who had called a mega rally in January to be held at the historic Brigade Parade Ground in Kolkata where she had invited all the anti-BJP parties said "all parties barring a few have confirmed their desire to attend the rally," adding the same will act as the final nail in the BJP's coffin.

Attacking the saffron outfit for reintroducing the age-old tactic of Rath Yatras to polarize the Hindu vote, Banerjee said, "the BJP is organizing the Rath Yatra to divide the people but we will organize similar Yatras which will be called 'Ekta Yatra (Unity Rally)'" on the same route that their Yatra follows."

The Trinamool Congress' Yatra "is aimed at uniting and not dividing the communi-

ties," Banerjee said. Incidentally the CPI(M) which was locked in a battle with the BJP for the second place in the State has also announced rallies following the same path that the BJP's Yatra is like to take.

The BJP is scheduled to take out three Yatras in December. While the first Yatra will start from Ganga Sagar (the southernmost tip of Bengal), the second one will commence from Tarapeeth in Birbhum district. The third Yatra will start from the northern most district o the State Coochbehar bordering Assam. The BJP's chariots will converge at the Brigade Parade Ground in Kolkata on January 23 the birth day of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose, the party sources said.

Enroute the Yatras will cover several thousand kilometers, during which 60 mass meetings will be held.

Top BJP leaders including party president Amit Shah, Assam Chief Minister Sarwananda Sonowal and his UP counterpart Yogi Adityanath will address the BJP rallies sources said.

"The Yatras will be taken out against Trinamool Congress' reign of terror, its appeasement policy and its aiding the continuing infiltration through Bangladesh border," BJP State Rahul Sinha said.

However TMC MP and Chief Minister's nephew said the Rath Yatra would in fact be a "luxury tour of the State in air-conditioned vehicles by the BJP leaders."

Ex-Guj CM Vaghela to work against BJP in Lok Sabha polls



PNS ■ GANDHINAGAR

Demanding to hold the upcoming Lok Sabha polls using ballot papers instead of Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs), former Gujarat Chief Minister Shantiben Vaghela said that he would try his best to ensure BJP's defeat in the 2019 general elections.

"There is need to use ballot papers till the doubts on EVMs in the minds of voters would vanish. A mechanism has to be developed to spread awareness on EVMs and VVPT among the voters across the country," said Vaghela in an interaction with media persons.

On Friday the former Union Minister popularly known as 'Bapu' in political and social circles had organised media get together lunch at his palatial residence on the outskirts of Gandhinagar to mark beginning of Vikram Samvat 2075 (Gujarati New Year).

Vaghela had resigned from Congress in 2017 ahead of assembly polls along with his MLA son Mahendra, relative Balwantsinh Rajput and other

11 MLAs belonging to his camp. In the subsequent development, his son and Rajput joined BJP. However, Mahendra resigned from the saffron brigade in October this year.

Coming down heavily on Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the strong Kshatriya leader said that Modi failed to keep promises he had given to people ahead of 2014 Lok Sabha polls. He went on to say that Indian voters have decided to defeat NDA.

"I have started efforts to unit anti-BJP political outfits. For the purpose I am visiting across the nation and already visited nine states. My aim would be to create a national level political front to counter BJP," said the veteran politician claiming that even if anti-BJP political party would fight with each other at local level, they would get around 300 seats and form UPA type government at the centre. He gave examples of West Bengal where Mamata Banerjee's political outfit would fight against communist party at local level but BJP wouldn't get anything there.

Shirdi temple head booked for molestation

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

The Shirdi police have booked Rajendra Jagtap, head of the Saibaba Temple run by Shirdi Saibaba Sansthan Trust (SSST) for allegedly molesting a woman devotee from Rahata taluka in Maharashtra's Ahmednagar.

Acting on a complaint by a victim woman, the Shirdi police registered an offence against Jagtap under sections 354 (molestation), 323 (Voluntarily causing hurt), 504 (intentional insult with intent to provoke breach of the peace) and 506 (Punishment for criminal intimidation).

Following the victim woman's complaint, Jagtap has absconded from the pilgrim town of Shirdi. "We are looking for Jagtap. He has been missing since yesterday. We hope to find him soon," Investigation Officer attached to the Shirdi town police station B F Maghade said.

The victim woman, who incidentally is a taluka Congress office bearer, said in her complaint that she along with her women friends had gone to Saibaba temple for darshan on Thursday night.

"At that time, Saibaba palanquin procession was on. At around 8.30 pm, the temple official (Jagtap) came close to me and my other friends. He touched and my friends misbehaved with us and threw me out of the temple premises. He threatened me not to be seen on the temple premises once again in future," the complainant said.

The victim woman, in her complaint, also claimed that this was not the first time that Jagtap was misbehaving with women inside the temple.

Raja Bhaiya announces to form political party, strikes strident anti-Dalit stance

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Striking a strident anti-Dalit stance, six-time independent MLA Raghuraj Pratap Singh alias Raja Bhaiya on Friday said he would float a new party opposed to reservation in promotions and the "draconian" provisions of the SC, ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act.

The former minister, who represents Kunda assembly constituency, said the new party would have 'Jansatta' (people's power) as its prefix. He said the Election Commission had been approached for the registration of the new party as 'Jansatta Party', 'Jansatta Loktantrik Party' or 'Jansatta Dal'.

Addressing a press conference here on Friday, Raja Bhaiya said he was also opposed to immediate arrest in case of registration of FIR under the SC, ST Act.

No investigation is required under the SC, ST Act before an arrest is made, he said, adding that this should change and the arrest should be made only after investigation.

The MLA from Kunda said there should be no discrimination on basis of caste in the distribution of compensation and ex gratia to the rape victims. He said rape was a heinous crime and the victim, irrespective of caste and creed, should be compensated by the government.

"Reservation in promotion for Dalits is inappropriate. Promotions should be based only on merit and seniority as

people join state government services after passing tough competition," Raja Bhaiya said, adding that the wards of IAS and IPS officers should be barred from reservation as even the poor people were denied the Antyodaya ration cards meant for those below poverty line as they moved upwards in the economic ladder.

Justifying the formation of a new political party, the independent MLA said there were already many political outfits and many more would come up in future but his party would focus on specific issues concerning the lives of the masses. "People are enthused over my floating a new party," he added.

Asked whether his party would forge alliance with other parties, Raja Bhaiya said, "This question should be posed to other political parties, whether they want to ally with us on the issues we are focusing on."

He said the main agenda of his new party would be to raise the issues related to disparity in the reservation system vis-à-vis non-Dalits and issues concerning the youths.

Refusing to say anything when asked whether his party would contest the Lok Sabha polls in 2019 or he would go for an alliance in the elections, the Independent MLA clarified that the decision on contesting the election would be taken after the ECI recognised his party.

The MLA from Kunda, who completes his silver jubilee in politics on November 25, has already announced to hold a big rally in Lucknow on November 30.

UP Govt committed to economic uplift: CM

PNS ■ KANPUR

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, while addressing the concluding session of UP-Dexpo 2018 on CSA ground on Friday, said the State Government was committed to the economic uplift of UP and thus to bring in economic development and investment the present Government had girded up its loins to not only improve the law and order but set up a conducive and safe environment so that investors could invest in the State.

He said Prime Minister Narendra Modi was also eager to ensure the economic development of UP and thus the state had been chosen for the Defence Corridor. He added that the work in that direction had already taken off and the



bhoomi puja would be performed in January 2019. He said every effort would be made to solve and settle issues linked to the prestigious project.

He pointed out with the Defence Corridor in the pipeline the entire world was looking to UP which was about to metamorphose into a developed and progressive state. He said top business houses were eager to invest in the state. He assured investors of security and safety and added the gov-

ernment was committed to providing a conducive environment to entrepreneurs and safeguard their financial interests. He said Single Window System had been introduced to facilitate the quick establishment of the Defence Corridor. He declared that the corridor would bring in financial progress and there would be great employment opportunities.

He said the UP government had organised a UP Summit in February 2018 in which Rs 468,000 crore was ratified. He said Dexpo-2018 would greatly benefit Kanpur-Bundelkhand region and thus the segment was on the threshold of economic progress once the Defence Corridor became functional. He said this mega event had emerged to be one of

the most remarkable events to channelise efforts being made for making UP Defence Corridor a ground reality.

Later, Yogi also made a surprise visit to Galla Mandi where he personally interacted with the farmers and assured them that they would not get less than what the support price had been fixed by the UP government. He warned the entry of middleman and directed officials and farmers to ensure they eliminated the role of middlemen so that the benefits could be availed by them. He warned officials of strict action in case there was any victimisation of farmers. UP Industrial Development Minister Satish Mahana, Satya Dev Pachauri and all MPs and MLAs were present along with office-bearers of the party.



A photographer clicks a photo of dried Chinar leaves at a garden in Srinagar on Friday

PTI

Yogi to lead BJP bike rally in Varanasi

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Senior leaders of Bharatiya Janata Party, including Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath and party State president Mahendra Nath Pandey, will hit the road on Saturday by taking part in the Kamal Sandesh Bike Rally to make people aware of the achievements of the Central and the UP Governments.

The bike rally, being organised in the run-up to the 2019 Lok Sabha polls, will be taken out in all the 80 Lok Sabha constituencies in the state with Yogi leading the campaign in Varanasi, the parliamentary constituency of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Deputy Chief Minister Keshav Prasad Maurya will join the bike rally at Prayagraj (Allahabad) and Deputy Chief Minister Dinesh Sharma in Lucknow.

BJP state president Mahendra Nath Pandey will lead the rally in his parliamentary constituency Chandauli and BJP general secretary (organisation) Sunil Bansal in Kannauj, the bastion of Samajwadi Party.

BJP state general secretary and MLA Pankaj Singh, who is son of Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh, will lead the bike rally in Gorakhpur, the native place of Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath.

The party leadership has directed the cadre and leaders to get at least five motorcyclists from each polling booth. All the party leaders, including parliamentarians, legislators and office-bearers, have been directed to ensure full participation in the rally, which will be a show of strength. There are about 1,60,000 polling booths in the 80 parliamentary and 403 assembly constituencies in 75 districts.

The BJP leaders will highlight the flagship schemes like crop loan waiver, Ujjwala, Saubhagya, Swachh Bharat Mission and others among the people.

Elaborate security arrangements in J&K ahead of Panchayat polls

KHURSHED WANI ■ SRINAGAR

The authorities in Jammu & Kashmir have put in elaborate security and logistic arrangements to conduct the maiden phase of the elongated panchayat polls on Saturday. As many as 47 Panchayat blocks covering 21 blocks in Jammu province, 16 in Kashmir valley and 10 blocks in Ladakh region are going to polls in the first phase.

According to the Chief Electoral Officer, 427 candidates are in the fray for 536 Sarpanch Halqas and 5951 candidates for 4048 Panch Wards in the State for which voting and counting is scheduled to be held tomorrow.

The polling will take place between 8 in the morning till 2 O' clock.

The Panchayat polls on non party basis will be held in nine phases in 316 Blocks in 4483 Panchayat Halqas comprising of over 35 Thousand Panch Constituencies.

The polls have been scheduled on November 17, 20, 24, 27, 29 and December 01, 04, 08 and 11.

Adequate security arrangements in villages and poll board areas have been put in place to ensure smooth and peaceful panchayat polls in the State.

papers will decide the fate of over 4400 Sarpanches and over 35 thousand Panches.

The Model Code of Conduct (MCC) imposed on September 16 continues to remain in force.

The total number of electors in the State is over 58 Lakh 54 Thousand who are eligible to cast their votes in Panchayat Elections.

Over 29 Lakh 91 Thousand voters are registered in Kashmir Division whileas 28 Lakh 63 Voters are registered in Jammu Division if the State.

Election Commission has devised a scheme to enable migrant Kashmiri Pandits to vote through Postal Ballot in Panchayat Elections.

The Commission announced poll schedules despite the decision of two main political parties National Conference and People's Democratic Party to stay away from Municipal and Panchayat polls.

National Conference was the first mainstream political party that announced boycott of Municipal and Panchayat elections slated this year.

The Party sought clarification from the Central Government about the protection of Article 35 A in and outside the Courts. CPIM and other mainstream political parties also decided to stay away from the polls.

However, Congress, BJP and other parties participated in Municipal elections.

Upset Mungantiwar unwilling to hold alliance talks with Uddhav

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Senior BJP leader Sudhir Mungantiwar has said he is upset at Shiv Sena chief Uddhav Thackeray's criticism of him on tigress Avni's killing, and therefore is not willing to participate in alliance talks with the latter.

Mungantiwar, the state's Forest minister, has been at the centre of attacks from politicians like Thackeray and Union minister Maneka Gandhi as well as animal rights groups for the killing of tigress Avni, allegedly a man-eater, on November 2 in Yavatmal.

Speaking to select media-persons recently, Mungantiwar claimed when he called up Thackeray to convey his disappointment over the latter's remarks, the Sena chief told him that Union minister Maneka Gandhi had asked him to do so.

"I told Uddhav ji I was deeply hurt by his remarks over the Avni episode. I did not expect this from him, especially when I considered him a good friend. During the course of the conversation, he told me Maneka ji had called him and asked him to oppose the killing of the tigress," Mungantiwar, who also holds charge of the state Finance portfolio, said.

Mungantiwar further said he was in favour of an alliance with the Sena at a time when nobody else in the party was willing to do so, as they (party

colleagues) were irked with the Sena's constant criticism of the BJP and the state government.

"Despite this, he indulged in cheap criticism of the episode. I am no more willing to hold alliance talks with him now," Mungantiwar, who has been instrumental in trying to get the Sena on board for the forthcoming elections, said.

Speaking about the anguish the Avni episode had caused him, Mungantiwar said, "I am not active on social media platforms. However, when my daughter showed me the messages posted on Twitter and Facebook, I was deeply upset. People used abusive language against me. I felt upset when I saw my family in distress reading such messages."

When approached for a response, Maneka Gandhi, Union Minister for Women and Child Development, refused to comment.

Thackeray has been vocal in his criticism of the killing of Avni and had termed the state's government's decision to set up a committee to probe the killing as a "farce".

Thackeray had also said if Chief Minister Devendra Fadnis backed Mungantiwar saying he could not be held responsible for the killing, why did Prime Minister Narendra Modi take credit for the surgical strike, when the PM had not himself conducted it.

Ex-MLA manhandles tehsildar, misbehaves with police officer

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Former MLA from Nanpara in Bahraich, Dileep Verma, whose wife Madhuri Verma is now an MLA from the same constituency on Bharatiya Janata Party ticket, created a ruckus in the district on Friday.

Verma first reportedly manhandled a tehsildar and misbehaved with a deputy superintendent of police-rank officer and then sat on dharna, demanding action against the officers.

The tehsil staff also staged a massive protest, demanding arrest of the former MLA.

Reports said that Dileep Verma reached the tehsil on Friday morning and went to sub-divisional magistrate Siddharth Yadav's chamber. On learning that the SDM was on leave, Verma entered the room of tehsildar Madhusudan Arya. After some argument with the tehsildar, Verma reportedly manhandled him, snatched the gun of the security guard and left the place, hurling abuses at the officer.

Verma later reached Kotwali police station where he misbehaved with circle officer of Nanpara, Vijay Prakash, and also sat on dharna, demanding action against the government officials. He alleged that it was the tehsildar who assaulted and threatened him with dire consequences.

In the meantime, the tehsil staff, after learning about the incident, came on road and staged a demonstration, demanding registration of a

THE TEHSIL STAFF ALSO STAGED A MASSIVE PROTEST, DEMANDING ARREST OF THE FORMER MLA

case against Verma and his arrest for manhandling two government officers.

Reports said that senior officers reached the spot on learning about the incident and were making efforts to pacify both the sides and make them reach an agreement.

Both the sides were staging protests at the time of filing the report.

Meanwhile, in a separate incident reported from Mau, leaders of Pragatisheel Samajwadi Party (Lohia) created a ruckus and reportedly torched a police outpost when the cops refused to release a motorcycle.

Reports said that sub-inspector Rajan Maurya, post-

ed at Dubari police outpost under Madhuban police station, learnt that some youths were gambling in the area. He rushed to the spot and nabbed the youths and also seized a two-wheeler. The youths were later released but the cops refused to release the motorcycle.

Subsequently, some senior local leaders belonging to Pragatisheel Samajwadi Party (Lohia), including a close lieutenant of Samajwadi Party patriarch Mulayam Singh Yadav, called the police officers and requested them to release the motorcycle. When the cops refused to oblige them, PSPL leaders gheraoed the police station and misbehaved with the sub-inspector. They later attacked the cops and torched the police outpost and escaped. Interestingly, the local officers first tried to hush up the matter but when the sub-inspector raised the issue through media, a case was registered against the accused and efforts were on to nab them.

| DELHI JAL BOARD: GOVT. OF NCT OF DELHI OFFICE OF THE EX. ENGINEER (SOUTH) III A BLOCK GREATER KAILASH I NEW DELHI-48 | | | | |
|--|---|-------------------------------|---|--|
| N.I.T. No. 38/S-III/(2018-2019) | | | | |
| S. No. | Name of work | Estimated cost/ Earnest Money | Date of release of tender in e-procurement solution | Last date/time of receipt of tender through e-procurement solution |
| 1 | Replacement of old damaged, rusted 80mm dia G.I/100mm dia C.I./150mm dia M.S. water line in M-Block and M-Block Market G.K-II by 100mm dia and 150mm dia D.I. water lines for removal of contamination under South-III (AC-50). | 3153865/- 63100/- | 2018_DJB_161899_4 14.11.2018 | 29.11.2018 Upto 3.00 PM |

Further details in this regard can be seen at <https://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in>

ISSUED BY P.R.O. (WATER)
Adv. No. J.S.V. 515/2018-19

Sd/-
(RAM KISHORE)
EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (SOUTH) III

Tatas say no offer to Jet Airways yet

Talks only preliminary; stock rallies over 40% in last 5 days

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Tata Sons on Friday said it has not made any concrete proposal for taking over the struggling carrier Jet Airways, and that it has held only "preliminary" discussions on the matter.

The Tatas, which already run two carriers—the full-service Vistara in a joint venture with Singapore Airlines and

AirAsia India in a similar arrangement with Air Asia of Malaysia, have widely speculated to be planning a complete takeover of the Naresh Goyal-run airline with its international partner Singapore Airlines.

"We would like to clarify that any such discussions to take over Jet Airways) have been preliminary and no proposal has been made," a statement from the diversified conglomerate said after a board meeting here.

The speculation has sent the Jet counter soaring over 40 percent in the past five trading sessions alone.

The speculation has sent the Jet stock soaring. The counter closed over 8 percent

at ₹346.85 on the BSE, whose index jumped 0.56 percent to 35,457.16. The Jet stock opened with an over 14 percent gap in the morning expecting a positive outcome from the Tata Sons board meeting.

The rumour of the rescue deal by the Tatas, reportedly being brokered by the government, sent Jet shares zooming 26.41 percent Thursday.

Jet Airways' deputy chief executive and chief financial officer Amit Agarwal earlier this week had admitted that

the company was in talks with "multiple interested parties" for fund infusion as well as selling six of its Boeing 777 planes along with a stake in its loyalty programme Jet Privilege.

Chairman and promoter Naresh Goyal along with his family owns 51 percent stake in the airline, while Gulf carrier Etihad Airways owns 24 percent in the cash-strapped airline, which earlier this week reported ₹1,261 crore in loss for the September quarter against a profit of ₹71 crore y-o-y, making it the third straight quarters of heavy losses. This had the airline also putting as many as six of its Boeing 777s on sale to part-fund liquidity.

Media reports suggest that the parent company of Vistara, Tata-Singapore Airlines, is looking at an all-stock merger of Jet as part of the Tata group's plans to board Goyal's full-service carrier.

New RBI window may not increase credit to NBFCs: Report

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The partial credit enhancement (PCE) facility by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) for non-bank lenders is unlikely to have the desired impact of increasing credit flow to the troubled sector, a report said on Friday.

On November 2, RBI had allowed banks to provide PCE for debt raised by non-deposit-taking systematically important non-banking financial companies (NBFCs) and housing finance companies (HFCs).

"The issuance volumes for NBFCs/HFCs under the PCE framework are likely to remain muted,"

domestic rating agency Icria said in the note.

Credit enhancement is a tool typically aimed at

improving credit worthiness of a borrower, in this case the NBFCs. The RBI move came amid a strong pitch for many, including its central board members, to increase the credit supply to the troubled sector.

NBFCs and HFCs are facing a crisis of confidence following the default by IL&FS since late-August, which led to its takeover by the Government last month. This in turn led to a liquidity crunch for the sector, which has a credit demand of around ₹1 trillion to redeem their debt obligations in November.

It can be noted that even in immediate reactions, analysts were doubtful about the impact which can be created through the new regulations.

Icria drew parallels between the corporate sector and the NBFCs and voiced its fears of the non-bank lenders also not issuing any PCE-backed debt instruments like the corporate sector, which has not been able to raise any debt despite the same facility being around for three years.

Trai seeks public view to make paper telephone bill optional

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India has sought public views on making paper bills for post-paid telecom services optional and setting electronic bills as a default option.

Environmental concerns relating to cutting of trees for papers used in printing of bills and changing mobile usage scenario in the context of massive surge in data usage on smartphones were put forth to bolster their demand as the main rationale to this demand, the regulator clarified in its consultation paper.

Trai said that it has received representations from telecom service providers requesting a review of the provision of the Telecom Tariff order which mandates provision of hard copy of the bill or the printed copy of the bill to post-paid subscribers and removal of the mandate of providing hard copy of the bill with Mobile Bill (M-Bill) or E-Bill as the default option.

"Is there a need to change the extant default option, i.e., provision of paper bill without any charge to postpaid subscribers of wire line and mobile services?" and "should e-bill now be made the default option?" Trai has asked in its consultation paper.

"Authority has recently received twenty four similar representations from Hon'ble MPs/MLAs/MLCs, some prominent citizens and telecom service providers, who have argued that doing away with mandatory provision of hard copy of bill, would be in tune with 'Digital India Mission', apart from addressing a serious environmental concern," Trai said.

The regulator said that consumers form the most important segment of stakeholders on this issue and therefore Trai has decided to hold a public consultation to have views of all the stakeholders, in the matter so that a holistic approach could be adopted to address this important issue affecting Telecom consumer's rights.

Sensex, Nifty end higher for 2nd session on strong fund inflow, firm rupee

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The BSE Sensex on Friday continued its rising streak for the second day to end near a four-week high of 35,436.33, fuelled by gains in Reliance Industries, Bharti Airtel and other bluechips amid continued foreign fund inflows and strengthening rupee.

A higher opening in European shares too influenced sentiments here. Both benchmark indices — Sensex and Nifty — recorded their third straight weekly gains by rising 298.61 points and 97 points, respectively.

The Sensex opened higher and advanced further to scale the day's high of 35,545.85, but settled at 35,457.16 points, a gain of 196.62 points, or 0.56 per cent, due to profit-taking activity.

This is the highest closing since October 17, when it had closed at 34,779.58. The gauge had risen 119 points in Thursday's trade.

The 50-share NSE Nifty settled 65.50 points, or 0.62 per cent higher, at 10,682.20 after shuttling between 10,695.15 and 10,631.15.

Bharti Airtel led the gains on Sensex, rallying 9.81 per cent, followed by Reliance Industries (RIL) that rose 2.79 per cent.

RIL piped Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) in becoming the most-valued company in terms of market capitalisation. The IT company ended the session 0.90 per cent higher at ₹1,882.25.

On BSE, RIL's market capitalisation was ₹7,14,668.54 crore, while TCS slipped to the second spot with a valuation of ₹7,06,292.61 crore.

Other big movers included Hero MotoCorp rising 1.81 per cent, HDFC Bank 1.28 per cent, Asian Paints 1.12 per cent, Sun Pharma 0.90 per cent, Bajaj Auto 0.89 per cent, ITC 0.66 per cent and Kotak Bank 0.42 per cent.

Shares of Jet Airways surged for a second straight day, climbing 8.07 per cent on Thursday, shares of Jet Airways had rallied up to 26 per cent on bourses.

Among laggards, Yes Bank extended its slide, declining 7.14 per cent to a two-week low after former SBI chairman O P Bhatt resigned Thursday from the panel set up by private-sector lender to find a successor to its MD and CEO Rana Kapoor.

Tata Steel, ONGC, Maruti Suzuki, ONGC, Axis Bank, IndusInd Bank, Infosys, ICICI Bank, HUL, Vedanta, Tata Motors and L&T too retreated up to 2.47 per cent.

Ministry of Minority Affairs inaugurates 'HunarHaat' at India International Trade Fair

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Union Minister for Minority Affairs Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi on Friday formally inaugurated "HunarHaat", which has become a "Credible Brand" for empowerment of artisans and craftsmen, at PragatiMaidan in New Delhi.

This "HunarHaat" is being organised from 14th November to 27th November, 2018 at IITF, PragatiMaidan.

Naqvi said here that "HunarHaat" has proved to be "Empowerment & Employment Exchange" for master artisans and craftsmen.

"HunarHaat" at PragatiMaidan, is a part of series of "HunarHaat", being organised in various parts of the country under a mission to provide market and employment opportunities to master artisans and craftsmen.

Naqvi said that master artisans, including a large number of women artisans, from across the country are participating in this "HunarHaat". The artisans have brought with them very exquisite pieces of Handicraft & Handloom work products like Ajarakh, Bagh print, Bandhej,



Barmer Ajarakh & Applique, Bidriware, Cane and Bamboo, Carpet, Chanderi, Chaniya Choli, Chikankari, Copper Bell Product, Copperware, Ceramic Products, Dry Flowers, GotaPati, Handloom & Home Furnishings from every corner of the country. Products such as Jute Craft, Lac stone studded Bangles, Lacquerware, Linen Products, Metalware, Mudwork, Mulberry Silk, Paithani Silk, Phulkari, Punjabi Jutti, Zari Bags, etc are also available. For the first time, products from Chhattisgarh and Namda & Chinnon Silk of Jammu & Kashmir are also available in this "HunarHaat" at PragatiMaidan. Naqvi said that the employment oriented programmes of the Modi Government like "HunarHaat" has significantly encouraged and promoted the rich traditional heritage of master artisans which had been marginalised for a long time.

PUBLIC NOTICE FOR LOSS OF SHARE CERTIFICATES
Notice is hereby given that the following share certificates of ATLAS JEWELLERY INDIA LTD. with Registered office at DTJ-719 7th floor, DLF TOWER 'B' PLOT NO. 11, JASOLA N.DELHI-110025. I have been reported lost and have applied for duplicate shares of the company.

| S.N | Folio No. | Name of the holder | Certificate nos | Distinctive Nos. | No. of shares |
|-----|-----------|--------------------|-----------------|------------------|------------------|
| 1. | S001441 | SURJEET CHOPRA | 0006734 | 000983301-400 | 100 |
| 2. | 00014049 | | 001714801-900 | 100 | 100 |
| 3. | 00014092 | | 001719101-200 | 100 | 100 |
| 4. | 00014093 | | 001719201-300 | 100 | 100 |
| | | | | | Total 400 Shares |

Any person (s) who has / have any claim in respect of the said certificate (s) should lodge such claim (s) with the share department of the Company at its Regd. Office as per address given below within 15 days of the publication of this NOTICE. After which no claim will be entertained and the company will proceed to issue the duplicate share certificate.

NAME OF THE SHARE HOLDER: SURJEET CHOPRA
DATE: 17-11-2018

UJVN Limited
H.O.: "UJJWAL", Maharani Bagh, GMS Road, Dehradun-248006
Telephone: 0135-273308, Fax No.: 0135-276508
CIN No. U40101UR2001SGC025866, Website: www.uttarakhandajvnyudvt.com

Time Extension Notice
The last date for submission and opening of tender specification no. 21/EE(M)/2018-19 (Fabrication and supply of gun metal bushes and S.S. sleeve) and 22/EE(M)/2018-19 (Supply of runner cone) invited by Executive Engineer (Maintenance), Tiloth Power House, Uttarkashi is hereby extended as under:-
Last Date for downloading of tender document - 26/11/2018
Last date for submitting the tender documents - 27/11/2018 upto 16:00 Hrs.

Due date for opening of tender Documents - (i) 01/12/2018 at 12:00 Hrs. (Tender No. 21/EE(M)/2018-19) (ii) 01/12/2018 at 16:00 Hrs. (Tender No. 22/EE(M)/2018-19)
All other terms & conditions will remain unchanged.

680/UJVNL/Adv./Dated 16-11-2018 Executive Engineer (Maint.)
"Avoid wasteful use of Electricity"

Corrigendum No-01
Corrigendum No-01 to E-Tender Enquiry No-12/TS/FBD/2018-19

HARYANA VIDYUT PRASARAN NIGAM LIMITED
Shakti Bhawan, Panchkula CIN: U40101HR1997SGC033683

The last date of online bid submission is extended up to 22-11-2018 at 13:00 Hrs. and same will be opened on 22-11-2018 at 15:00 Hrs. Detailed NIT and tender document is available at website <https://haryanaeprocurement.org.in>, <https://www.hvnpn.org.in> (Sd) Executive Engineer/ TS Division Faridabad

—sd—
Xen/ TS Division, HVPNL, Faridabad
RO NO. 73581 Dt. 16-11-2018

SEARCH FOR MISSING

General public is hereby informed that one male namely **Prem Pal, S/o Sh. Harvu Lal, R/o: WZ-8, Naraina Village, New Delhi, Age: Approx 51 years, Height: 5'5", Complexion: Shallow, Face: Oval, Built: Normal, wearing Red & Grey colour Shirt and Black colour Pant, has been missing from his house since 26.10.2018 at about 09.00 AM. In this regard a DD No. 23A, dated 27.10.2018 has been lodged at P.S. Naraina, Delhi.** Sincere efforts have been made by the local police to trace out the male but no clue has come to light so far. If any one having any information about him please inform undersigned.
Website : <http://cbi.nic.in>
E-mail : cic@cbi.gov.in
Ph. No. : 011-24368638, 24368641
P.S. Naraina, Delhi
DP/7972/WD/18 Ph.: 011-25891181, 25892010

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

General Public is hereby informed that an unidentified dead body of **Male Age: about 42 years, Height: 5'7", Complexion: Shallow, Built: Thin, Face: Long, Wearing: White & red coloured check shirt and grey coloured lower, was found dead at J.P.C. Hospital in the area of P.S. New Usmanpur, Delhi.** The dead body has been preserved in GTB Hospital mortuary for identification. In this regard a DD No. 2A dated 14.11.2018 has been lodged at P.S. New Usmanpur, Delhi. If any one having any clue about the deceased male may kindly inform the undersigned and contact on following numbers.
SHO P.S. New Usmanpur, Delhi
Ph. No.: 011-22172410, 22175468
Mob.: 8750870726
DP/6709/NE/18

SEARCH FOR MISSING

General public is hereby informed that a person (depicted in the photo) namely **Deva S/o Bali Ram R/o 3/62B Moti Nagar, Delhi Age - 45 years has been reported missing since 26.10.2018 Form his house at About 10:00 AM vide DD No. 18A dated 27.10.2018 registered at Police Station-Moti Nagar, Delhi.** His physical description is as under:-
Complexion: Sallow, Face: Oval, Physique/Built: Thin, Height: 5'5", Clothing: White Colour Shirt and Grey Colour Pant and Hawai Chappal in his feet.
Any person is having any information/clue about this missing person may inform SHO, Moti Nagar, Delhi at E-mail : cic@cbi.gov.in or website : <http://cbi.nic.in>
Ph.: 011-24368638, 24368641 SHO P.S. Moti Nagar, Delhi
Fax : 011-24368639 Ph.: 011-25101150, 25938880
DP/7968/WD/18 8750871184

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

General public is hereby informed that an unidentified body of a male namely **Unknown, S/o: Unknown, R/o: Unknown, was found dead on 30.10.2018 at Footpath in front of MTNL Exchange Office, Kachcha Bagh, Chandni Chowk, Delhi.** In this regard DD No.44-A, dated 30.10.2018 has been lodged at Police Station, Kotwali, Delhi. Identification of unidentified dead body of male is as under:
Name: Unknown, Age: 30 Years, Height: 5'6", Complexion: Wheatish, Wearing: Yellow Colour T-Shirt and Blue Jeans.
If anyone have any information or clue about this male deceased may kindly be inform undersigned.
SHO Police Station, Kotwali, Delhi
Ph.: 011-23977100, 8750870121
DP/9351/N/18

'Hardik's absence will hurt India'

Veteran Aussie great Mike Hussey feels Pandya's game was best suited for Australian conditions

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Mike Hussey, who has a fair idea about the current crop of India players, feels that all-rounder Hardik Pandya's absence will "hurt" the visitors in the upcoming Test series against Australia starting from December 6 in Adelaide.

Pandya is undergoing rehabilitation after suffering a lower-back injury during the Asia Cup in Dubai last September.

"I think Hardik is a wonderful talent and I am sure his game style would have been suited to the Australian conditions. Add to that, the balance he offers the team with his all-round abilities, yes I think his absence will hurt India," Hussey said.

India have a good chance of doing well against a depleted Australia but 'Mr Cricket' is confident that the home team's seasoned bowling attack will test some of the younger batsmen in the visiting team.

India are being dubbed as favourites in many quarters primarily due to the absence of Smith and Warner.

But India could face a different challenge with the likes of Prithvi Shaw, Rishabh Pant and Hanuma Vihari set to face Mitchell Starc, Josh Hazlewood, Pat Cummins and Nathan Lyon for the first time.

"I do think India have a good chance as they have an excellent team with some very good fast bowlers. However, I think Australia's bowling attack is world class and will challenge the Indian team, particularly the younger players in Australian conditions. Australia always play well at home and hence will be very hard to beat."

Virat Kohli remains the biggest threat to Australia having scored four hundreds during the 2014-15 series and Hussey reckoned that the home team bowlers need to be patient against the Indian skipper.

"The Australians will prepare well against Kohli, but it comes down to execution. In my view the Aussies need to



Hardik Pandya returns to pavilion after clinching his maiden 5-wicket haul against England AP/File Photo

| HARDIK PANDYA STATISTICS | | | | | | | |
|--------------------------|----|------|------|-------|---------|--------|-------|
| BATTING CAREER SUMMARY | | | | | | | |
| | M | Runs | HS | Avg | SR | 100/50 | 4/6 |
| Test | 11 | 532 | 108 | 31.29 | 73.89 | 1/4 | 68/12 |
| ODI | 42 | 670 | 83 | 29.13 | 114.53 | 0/4 | 42/31 |
| T20I | 35 | 271 | 33 | 16.94 | 153.11 | 0/0 | 15/17 |
| BOWLING CAREER SUMMARY | | | | | | | |
| | M | Wkts | BBi | BBM | Average | Econ | 5W |
| Test | 11 | 17 | 5/28 | 6/50 | 31.06 | 3.38 | 1 |
| ODI | 42 | 40 | 3/31 | 3/31 | 40.95 | 5.56 | 0 |
| T20I | 35 | 33 | 4/38 | 4/38 | 23.97 | 8.0 | 0 |

be incredibly patient and disciplined for long periods of time against a world class player like Kohli," said the 43-year-old, who has played 79 Tests and 185 ODIs for

Australia. India's 1-4 series defeat against England will have no bearing on the Australia series as the scoreline is not an

TEAM INDIA DEPARTS FOR AUSTRALIA

MUMBAI: Eyeing a maiden Test series win Down Under, the Indian cricket team left for Australia on Friday for a gruelling tour, which will see them play four matches in whites, three ODIs and as many T20 Internationals.

Various members of the team took to Twitter to share their feelings ahead of their departure with chinaman Kuldeep Yadav terming it an "exciting challenge". "Exciting challenges ahead. Off to Australia with the boys #TeamIndia," tweeted Kuldeep, who posted a picture with his teammates comprising young wicketkeeper and batsman Rishabh Pant, Rohit Sharma and others.

Pacer Jasprit Bumrah tweeted his picture and wrote, "Off we go! #Australia #Travelbound". "Taking off to head down under," wrote Krunal Pandya on the micro blogging site as he posted snaps with team mates. At the pre-departure press conference on Thursday, Kohli emphasised on the need for the batsman to step up. Experts and former players are seeing this tour as India's best bet to defeat Australia in Tests as the hosts will be without Steve Smith and David Warner. PTI



TOUR SCHEDULE

| Date | Match | Venue |
|-----------|----------|-------------------------|
| Nov 21 | 1st T20I | The Gabba, Brisbane |
| Nov 23 | 2nd T20I | MCG, Melbourne |
| Nov 25 | 3rd T20I | SCG, Sydney |
| Dec 06-10 | 1st Test | Adelaide Oval, Adelaide |
| Dec 14-18 | 2nd Test | Perth Stadium, Perth |
| Dec 26-30 | 3rd Test | MCG, Melbourne |
| Jan 03-07 | 4th Test | SCG Sydney |
| Jan 12 | 1st ODI | SCG, Sydney |
| Jan 15 | 2nd ODI | Adelaide Oval, Adelaide |
| Jan 18 | 3rd ODI | MCG, Melbourne |

accurate representation of how well India competed, said the former left-hander.

"It's a completely new series in completely different conditions. I think India played some brilliant cricket in England but unfortunately, the results didn't go their way," opined Hussey.

Unlike some of the experts who are still not convinced about Tim Paine's leadership skills, the current Test captain has Hussey's vote of approval.

"I wouldn't underestimate Tim Paine, he is an excellent competitor and will be

up for the fight against India. Yes, he has the mental strength to lead this Australian side," he asserted.

The Indian bowling attack has been top notch in all away series but Hussey wants the Australian batsmen to look at the upcoming series as an opportunity to cement their place in the side.

"The batting will be tested against an excellent Indian attack but there are some great opportunities for Australian batters to cement a place in the team with some big runs. So motivation will be high."

Shaw shines while Vijay, Rahane fail against NZ A

PTI ■ MOUNT MAUNGANUI

Senior pros Murali Vijay and Ajinkya Rahane were dismissed cheaply but young guns Prithvi Shaw and Hanuma Vihari warmed up nicely for the Australia Test series with half-centuries for India A against New Zealand in the first unofficial 'Test'.

At stumps on the opening day, India A scored 340 for five with Australia bound opener Shaw (62, 88 balls), middle-order batsman Hanuma Vihari (86, 150 balls) and comeback man Parthiv Patel (79 batting, 111 balls) utilised the opportunity to the fullest.

However opener Vijay (28, 64 balls) and Test vice-captain Rahane (12, 19 balls) found their defences breached by Blair Tuckner and Doug Bracewell respectively.

In-form Vihari, who made his Test debut against England with a half-century, was dismissed in the last ball of the day.

Vihari hit eight boundaries during his stay in the middle, while Patel has so far found the fence 10 times.

Also scoring a half-century was Mayank Agarwal (65), who came in at No 3.

After the visitors opted to bat first, India A were given a fine start by Shaw and his senior partner Vijay.

The Mumbaier then added exactly 50 runs for the second wicket with Agarwal, before he was dismissed by slow-left-arm spinner Theo van Woerkom.

Vihari joined Agarwal in the middle and added 73 runs for the third wicket till the Karnataka player was bowled by medium pacer Blair Tuckner.

Shaw struck six boundaries and a six in his 88-ball stay, while Agarwal hit 10 fours and two sixes.

Skipper Rahane did not last long but the duo of Vihari and Patel put together a stand of 138 runs for the sixth wicket to consolidate India A's position at the Bay Oval.

Tickner was the most successful bowler for the hosts, finishing the day with 2/48 in 15 overs.



SINGLES

SHUBHANKAR CARDS 67 TO REMAIN TIED 20TH

DUBAI: A limping Shubhankar Sharma shrugged off a heel injury to card an impressive five-under 67 to remain tied 20th at the end of the second day in the DP World Tour Championships (telecast live on DSport) here on Friday. Sharma, who rose to as high as tied-fifth at one stage, dropped a double bogey on Par-5 14th, but recovered with birdies on 15th and 18th as he was seven shots behind England's Matt Wallace (65). Meanwhile, Wallace, with whom Shubhankar Sharma, played in the lead group of the Hero Indian Open, which the Englishman won, was in the pole position at 11-under after a sizzling seven-under.

GUKESH, SAVITHA WIN GOLD IN CADETS

NEW DELHI: International Master Gukesh D and Savitha Shri B won Gold medals in U-12 Open and girls category respectively at the World Cadets Chess Championship in Spain. The Championship, which ended at Galicia on Thursday, was held for the age groups U-8, U-10 and U-12, girls and Open. Gukesh with 10 wins and a loss comfortably won the title by a huge margin of 1.5 points. Savitha of Tamil Nadu effortlessly won the Gold in U-12 girls category with 8 wins and 2 draws. Apart from this, India stood second with two Gold medals for best performance, while China with two Golds and a Bronze and USA with a Gold, a Silver and two Bronze medals took the 1st and 3rd place respectively.

CHENNAI CITY FC BEAT AIZAWL 2-1

AIZAWL: Chennai City FC rode on twin strikes from Sandro Rodriguez to pip Aizawl FC 2-1 thereby maintaining their pole position in the I-League football tournament on Friday. Liberian striker Ansumanah Kromah's 72nd minute goal for the hosts was not good enough to prevent a second consecutive loss. The southerners now have 13 points from five games, seven points clear of second placed East Bengal and third placed Churchill Brothers. Aizawl, who won the I-League two seasons back, find themselves at the bottom of the table with three losses and two draws from their five games so far.

BAYERN YOUTH CUP TO BEGIN FROM NOV 24

NEW DELHI: The sixth edition of the FC Bayern Youth Cup, an under-16 seven-a-side inter-school football tournament, is set to kickstart from November 24 across six cities in India. The FC Bayern Youth Cup — a joint initiative by adidas and German giants FC Bayern — will see participation of over 2,000 kids from schools across India. The city legs of the tournament spanning over a period of 14 weeks, will be played in New Delhi, Mumbai, Bangalore, Kolkata, Chennai and Srinagar. The final will take place in February next year in Delhi. The winning team will represent 'Team India' in the FC Bayern Youth Cup World Finals and get to train under the professionals in Munich in May next year.

ARMAAN SLAMS 300 IN C K NAYUDU TROPHY

MUMBAI: Young batsman Armaan Jaffer on Friday slammed an unbeaten triple hundred for Mumbai in their U-23 Col C K Nayudu Trophy match against Saurashtra here. 20-year-old Armaan, who has played three first-class matches, slammed unbeaten 300 off 367-balls, striking 26 boundaries and 10 sixes. Courtesy Armaan's knock, Mumbai declared their first innings at a mammoth 610/5 after bundling out Saurashtra for 175 in their first innings. In the second outing Saurashtra are 157/4 at stumps on the penultimate day of the four-day match. Saurashtra trail by 278 runs. The knock came at the right-time for Armaan as he had recently made a comeback after suffering from a knee injury which had kept him out for an year. Armaan's uncle Wasim Jaffer is a former India player. Armaan was part of India's Under-19 team at the 2016 World Cup. He was also a part of Kings XI Punjab squad. Agencias

Already in semis, India face Aussies in World T20

PTI ■ PROVIDENCE

India vs Australia
Live from 8:30pm IST
STAR SPORTS 1

India will face their biggest challenge so far in the ICC Women's World T20 when they lock horns with a gifted Australian team in an inconsequential game here on Saturday.

Considered title contenders, both India and Australia stormed into the semifinals of the showpiece with a game to spare.

Assured of a place in the last-four stage, the result of Saturday's match may not be of much significance, but India are aware that beating a superior side will help them take the confidence into the knockouts.

The two fancied teams wasted no time in switching into top gear in the Caribbean, having convincingly won all their three matches so far, and another victory in the next round robin game would certainly be a huge morale booster.

While India skipper Harmanpreet Kaur provided the best possible start to the tournament with her blazing century against New Zealand, the seasoned Mithali Raj showed there is no substitute for experience with two fine half-centuries, the knocks coming in times when the team needed them the most.

While Harmanpreet's scintillating innings, which contained as many as eight sixes, will be remembered for years, Mithali got into the act in the much-awaited match against arch-rivals Pakistan and calmly saw the team through.

A downpour in the morning made the conditions difficult for batting against Ireland, but opener Mithali battled her way to her 17th T20I half-century helping her side put up a challenging total,



Australian batswoman attempts to play a shot against India BCCI Women/File Picture

anchoring the innings till the 19th over.

The spinners then rattled the Irish batswomen and ensured an easy win for India.

India cruised into the semi-

finals with a 52-run defeat of Ireland at the Providence Stadium. The result meant that Group B's top-two spots were decided, with Australia being the other semifinalist. It also meant New Zealand and Pakistan

| HEAD TO HEAD | | | | |
|--------------------------|-------|---------|------|-----|
| Matches | Ind | Aus | Tied | N/R |
| 14 | 3 | 11 | 0 | 0 |
| MOST T20I RUNS FOR INDIA | | | | |
| Player | Runs | Average | | |
| Mithali Raj | 2,232 | 37.20 | | |
| Harmanpreet Kaur | 1,820 | 29.35 | | |
| Smriti Mandhana | 896 | 20.83 | | |
| Poonam Raut | 719 | 27.65 | | |
| Veda Krishnamurthy | 657 | 19.32 | | |

moment is opening batter and wicketkeeper Alyssa Healy.

Her form with the bat recently has been very impressive and she has scored more runs than any of her teammates. Since the beginning of October, Alyssa has scored six half centuries in eight innings.

SQUADS

India: Harmanpreet Kaur (captain), Smriti Mandhana, Mithali Raj, Jemimah Rodrigues, Veda Krishnamurthy, Deepti Sharma, Taniya Bhatia, Poonam Yadav, Radha Yadav, Anuja Patil, Ekta Bisht, Dayalan Hemalatha, Mansi Joshi, Pooja Vastrakar, Arundhati Reddy

Australia: Meg Lanning (captain), Rachael Haynes, Nicole Bolton, Ashleigh Gardner, Alyssa Healy, Delissa Kimmince, Sophie Molineux, Beth Mooney, Ellyse Perry, Megan Schutt, Elyse Villani, Tayla Vlaeminck, Georgia Wareham, Nicola Carey.

Root's ton puts Eng on top

AFF ■ KANDY

Captain Joe Root smashed 124 and newcomer Ben Foakes again hit valuable tail end runs to put England in command of the second Test against Sri Lanka on Friday.

England reached 324 for nine — a second innings lead of 278 — when bad light stopped play for the day at Kandy.

Foakes was batting on 51 alongside James Anderson on four.

Spinner Akila Dananjaya, whose action is under investigation by the International Cricket Council, claimed six wickets on the turning pitch.

He trapped Root lbw and then bowled Sam Curran for nought with his next ball. Adil Rashid thwarted the hat-trick but soon fell to Dananjaya's guile for two.

It was his third five wicket haul in just his fifth Test for Dananjaya, who must rush off to Australia after the game for an ICC examination of his bowling.

He, however, could not stop Root and Foakes swinging the game.

Root reached his 15th Test ton soon after tea, making the sweep and reverse sweep valuable weapons, as he hit 10 fours and two sixes in his 146-ball knock.

Root said he enjoyed making the runs despite the pressure. "That's what it should be. You shouldn't feel pressure like the pressure is too much for you, you should enjoy the occasion and make the most of the opportunity in front of you," he said after the day's play.

Root made an 82-run seventh wicket stand with Foakes, who reached his fifty with a six off Dilruwan Perera. The hit turned out to be the last ball of the day with dark clouds gathering and thunder heard in the distance.

As he did in his sparkling century



Joe Root celebrates after completing his ton AP

on his Test debut in the opening game of the series, Foakes mixed caution and aggression to push up the England score.

Earlier, left-hander Rory Burns registered his maiden Test half-century in just his second match. He was trapped lbw off Malinda Pushpakumara for 59.

Perera wasted little time in sending nightwatchman Jack Leach back to the pavilion for one in the second over of the day.

Burns then put together 73 runs for the second wicket with Keaton Jennings, who made 26, to steady the innings and help England overcome their 46-run deficit.

Pak reign supreme on 12-wicket day

AFF ■ ABU DHABI

Leg-spinner Yasir Shah led a double-barrelled attack of spin and pace to leave Pakistan sitting comfortably on the opening day of the first Test against New Zealand on Friday.

Yasir led the varied attack with 3/54 as New Zealand, who won the toss and batted on a grass-less Sheikh Zayed Stadium pitch, were bowled out for a below-par 153 in 66.3 overs at the stroke of tea.

The day saw 12 wickets fall as Pakistan closed at 59/2, having lost both their openers Imam-ul-Haq (six) and Mohammad Hafeez (20) before Haris Sohail (22 not out) and Azhar Ali (10 not out) stopped the rot.

Pakistan need 94 more to take a lead and enforce a 1-0 lead in the three-match series. Imam was first to go as he edged Colin de Grandhomme's delivery to the slip while Hafeez miscued a pull straight to short



Yasir Shah celebrates after dismissing Kiwi batsman in first innings AFP

mid-wicket — both caught by Kane Williamson.

New Zealand skipper Williamson, declared fit after missing last Sunday's third one-day international due to a groin injury, top-scored with 63 before falling softly to medium pacer Hasan Ali, who finished with 2-38.

Williamson's 112-ball knock had five boundaries and he added 72 for the fourth wicket with Henry Nicholls who made 28 with four boundaries.

In the same over Hasan trapped De Grandhomme for a first-ball duck before Sohail dismissed Ish Sodhi (four) and

Pakistan vs New Zealand
Live from 11:30am IST
SONY SIX NETWORK

BJ Watling (four) — both were trapped leg-before.

Mohammad Abbas, who has figures of 2-13, had removed Nicholls, caught behind by Sarfraz soon after lunch.

Pakistan dominated the first session as New Zealand were 81-3 at lunch, with leg-spinner Yasir Shah taking the first of his two wickets in his opening overs.

Yasir had derailed New Zealand's progress in the first session with the wickets of opener Tom Latham (13) and Ross Taylor (two) in his first spell.

New Zealand handed Test debut to 30-year-old left-arm spinner Ajaz Patel, leaving out experienced pacer Tim Southee. The second Test is in Dubai (November 24-28) and third in Abu Dhabi (Dec 3-7).

Du Plessis to retire after T20 World Cup

AFF ■ BRISBANE

South African captain Faf du Plessis said on Friday the Twenty20 World Cup in Australia in two years' time will be his last.

The 34-year-old, who has led his country in two World T20 campaigns, in 2014 and 2016, is keen to play a third but will then step aside.

"The T20 World Cup in

| T20 STATISTICS | | | | | | |
|----------------|------|-----|-------|--------|--------|--------|
| M | Runs | HS | Avg | SR | 100/50 | 4/6 |
| 41 | 1237 | 119 | 35.34 | 134.02 | 1/7 | 114/40 |

2020 is something I'm really looking forward to. I think right now that will probably be the last tournament for me," he said in Brisbane ahead of a one-off T20 against Australia on Saturday.

Du Plessis, who is skipper

across all three formats, made his T20 debut in 2012 and has played 41 times, scoring 1,237 runs at an average of 35.34.

The 2020 World Cup takes place between October 18 and November 15 across eight Australian cities.

vivacity

STREE HAS A SOCIAL MESSAGE: RAO - P 14



Indispensable Trees

Trees are so important for our environment and health that they need our unconditional care and protection, says Team Viva

Trees are of invaluable importance to our environment and to human well-being. They give us clean water to drink, air to breathe, shade and food to humans, animals and plants. They provide habitats for numerous species of fauna and flora, firewood for cooking and heat, materials for buildings and places of spiritual, cultural and recreational importance. Trees are so important for the global environment and the health of the species that live there that they need our unconditional care and protection.

Since the beginning, trees have furnished us with two of life's essentials-- food and oxygen. As we evolved, they provided additional necessities such as shelter, medicine, and tools. Today, their value continues to increase and more benefits of trees are being discovered as their role expands to satisfy the needs created by our modern lifestyles.

Trees are an important part of every community. Our streets, parks, playgrounds and backyards are lined with trees that create a peaceful, aesthetically pleasing environment. Trees increase our quality of life by bringing natural elements and wildlife habitats into urban settings. We gather under the cool shade they provide during outdoor activities with family and friends. Many neighborhoods are also the home of very old trees that serve as historic landmarks and a great source of town pride.

Using trees in cities to deflect the sunlight reduces the heat island effect caused by pavement and commercial buildings.

Trees contribute to their environment by providing oxygen, improving air quality, climate amelioration, conserving water, preserving soil, and supporting wildlife. During the process of photosynthesis, trees take in carbon dioxide and produce the oxygen we breathe. Trees, shrubs and turf also filter air by removing dust and absorbing other pollutants like carbon monoxide, sulfur dioxide and nitrogen dioxide. After trees intercept unhealthy particles, rain washes them to the ground.

Trees control climate by moderating the effects of the sun, rain and wind. Leaves absorb and filter the sun's radiant energy, keeping things cool in summer. Trees also preserve warmth by providing a screen from harsh wind. In addition to influencing wind speed and direction, they shield us from the downfall of rain, sleet and hail. Trees also lower the air temperature and reduce the heat intensity of the greenhouse effect by maintaining low levels of carbon dioxide.

Both above and below ground, trees are essential to the eco-systems in which they reside. Far reaching roots hold soil in place and fight erosion. Trees absorb and store rainwater which reduce

runoff and sediment deposit after storms. This helps the ground water supply recharge, prevents the transport of chemicals into streams and prevents flooding. Fallen leaves make excellent compost that enriches soil.

Many animals, including elephants, koalas and giraffes eat leaves for nourishment. Flowers are eaten by monkeys, and nectar is a favorite of birds, bats and many insects. Animals also eat much of the same fruit that we enjoy. This process helps disperse seeds over great distances. Of course, hundreds of living creatures call trees their home. Leaf-covered branches keep many animals, such as birds and squirrels, out of the reach of predators.

The main reason we like trees is because they are both beautiful and majestic. No two are alike. Different species display a seemingly endless variety of shapes, forms, textures and vibrant colors. Even individual trees vary their appearance throughout the course of the year as the seasons change. The strength, long lifespan and regal stature of trees give them a monument-like quality. Most of us react to the presence of trees with a pleasant, relaxed, comfortable feeling. In fact, many people plant trees as living memorials of life-changing events.

Trees help record the history of your family as they grow and develop alongside you and your kids. We often make an emotional connection with trees we plant or become personally attached to the ones that we see every day. These strong bonds are evidenced by the hundreds of groups and organisations across the country that go to great lengths to protect and save particularly large or historic trees from the dangers of modern development. How many of your childhood memories include the trees in your backyard or old neighborhood? The sentimental value of a special tree is simply immeasurable.

Trees have supported and sustained life throughout our existence. They have a wide variety of practical and commercial uses. Wood was the very first fuel, and is still used for cooking and heating by about half of the world's population. Trees provide timber for building construction, furniture manufacture, tools, sporting equipment, and thousands of household items. Wood pulp is used to make paper.

Shade resulting in cooling is what a tree is best



Shade resulting in cooling is what a tree is best known for. Shade from trees reduces the need for air conditioning in summer. In winter, trees break the force of winter winds, lowering heating costs. Studies have shown that parts of cities without cooling shade from trees can become "heat islands" with temperatures as much as 12 degrees higher than surrounding areas

known for. Shade from trees reduces the need for air conditioning in summer. In winter, trees break the force of winter winds, lowering heating costs. Studies have shown that parts of cities without cooling shade from trees can become "heat islands" with temperatures as much as 12 degrees higher than surrounding areas.

During windy and cold seasons, trees located on the windward side act as windbreaks. A windbreak can lower home heating bills up to 30 percent and have a significant effect on reducing snow drifts. A reduction in wind can also reduce the drying effect on soil and vegetation behind the windbreak and help keep precious topsoil in place.

Erosion control has always started with tree and grass planting projects. Tree roots bind the soil and their leaves break the force of wind and rain on soil. Trees fight soil erosion, conserve rainwater, and reduce water runoff and sediment deposit after storms.

Trees are our family member and they play a great role in the protection from pollution. More trees mean less pollution from the increased levels of carbon dioxide, CFCs, and other pollutants in the earth. We can live longer because trees remove pollution and deliver fresh air to the lungs. Trees are playing great role in medical and medicines. The tree is the basis of healthy life.

Kids and students become more intelligent learning under trees or on the trees. Trees give fruits for hungry kids when they are coming home especially in villages. Plucking hanging fruit on the trees is very funny for kids.



AMITABH BACHCHAN

Every time my father wrote a poem, we were the first he would introduce it to. He'd ask us to read it in the same graph and tone with which he had written and I felt that it was extremely important and has affected my work as a professional actor. Writers are the most important ingredient in filmmaking.



RAJKUMMAR RAO

Stree is a very unique movie and is backed with a strong social message. The film garnered immense love as it delivers shocks and laughs equally. Horror-comic genre is not very common in Indian cinema and it feels amazing to be a part. During the film shoot, I learned sewing, stitching and a new accent. The experience was enthralling.



VARUN SHARMA

Due to harsh winter in Chandigarh, it is very difficult for us to survive; forget about animals. The temperature falls to around eight degrees which makes pets really uncomfortable. So, I thought to do something for them and got some sweaters. I hope it helps them survive winters.



NICK KNOWLES

If I date somebody, I'm not going to take them to London. I'm not going to go to one of the 25 places where there are photographers outside. I can quite happily go Lewes in Sussex or Wrexham, or anywhere where there aren't paps going around. It will be very private.

KATHERINE WATERSTON

The most important and disturbing issue that the film *Fantastic Beasts: The Crimes of Grindelwald* explores is the dangers of charismatic, manipulative leadership that aims to divide people. I figured that this particular period of the film ties very neatly with the events of those years in Europe leading to World War II.



SHORT CIRCUITS

SUBCULTURE 30 MINUTES



MEALS ON WHEELS

As the mercury dips, the capital is warming up to food festivals and Horn OK Please has some Indo-western fusions like *Chinese choley* and *Idli Italiano chaat* on its platter. By AVUSHI SHARMA

The word festival brings cheer and when you add food to it, you get the undivided attention of all gourmets. And a food truck festival in the capital is trying to do just that.

Skewers of meat and paneer being barbecued on hot coals while customers line up with a chill beer or mocktail is a normal scene at this three-day annual market. The Jawahar Lal Nehru stadium has been transformed into small kiosks that smell of food and baked goods.

We started our food journey at Horn Ok Please with sushis and dimsums, which tried to stay authentic to its Japanese origins, while an Italian food truck served pastas and pizzas nearby and given Delhi's love for food from this Mediterranean country, a long line of waiting people was certainly not a surprise.

The culture of food trucks is a norm in the US where young professionals step out of their offices to grab a bite for lunch and is catching up in India and has added colour and variety to the Indian food scene.

A food truck, Wheelys, offered coffee on wheels with a twist where one got a chance to brew their own coffee. You could choose a flavour and add your favourite topping like crushed oreo, vanilla scoop, or whipped cream. Owner Abhay Singh Luthra said that they have over seven crore combination of coffee and toppings on offer.

"In my experience, when it comes to food festivals, the audience usually tries to explore disparate cuisine and delicacies and that is why I think keeping your menu completely Indian does not work because it is easily available everywhere. It's very difficult to judge the demands of the public which is why we keep trying out new things," said Pulek Agrawal, who runs Flip, which specialises in a variety of cuisine. "I pre-

fer using the ingredients, spices and even breads that are made inhouse," he said.

The concept of bringing food from different parts of the country under one roof is not something unheard of. But the dishes laid out by vendors from more than 150 eateries across the city can't go unnoticed. And the festival scored not just

'THE AUDIENCE USUALLY TRIES TO EXPLORE DISPARATE CUISINE AND DELICACIES AND THAT IS WHY A COMPLETELY INDIAN MENU DOES NOT WORK BECAUSE IT IS EASILY AVAILABLE EVERYWHERE'

on account of its rich traditional and contemporary flavours, but also due to the pricing where some of them were priced as low as ₹40 per plate.



And then there were those who were there for a cause. The Keshav Suri Foundation which aims to work towards the upliftment of the marginalised LGBTQ+ community, had painted their food truck in the rainbow colours. This caught the attention of the visitors and was a huge hit. "This time we have Mexican dishes like, *Crunchy fried avocado taco*, *Mexican sliders*, *Mexican chicken rice with brownie*. I think food festivals are a good way of promoting and marketing your new ventures. We have also set up a pop up of Kitty Su, our nightclub, in addition to the food truck this time," said Prerna Thakur, assistant manager, marketing and communication of The Lalit

group. This also a great trial space for fusion food. The brave can venture into uncharted territory like *Chinese choley* or a fusion like *Idli Italiano chaat* that caught our eye but we shied away from this unexpected combination. However, you can try these at your own peril. A drawback of festivals is that it offers only the tried and tested brands. A food blogger Anamika Karmakar said, "If I'm attending a food fest, my focus is on trying and exploring things that are new and not available in the market. Why would I be heading for something which I can get easily in the market. Obviously, I would be looking for dis-

parate delicacies which I haven't tasted before. Like I would be really interested to try something which is from Kolkata or from some other state, which I cannot get in Delhi. I think these food festivals need to change their concept in terms of getting cuisines across the globe and if not from across the globe then atleast from various states of all the countries."

Apart from the cons, the festival is a really great way to enjoy a warm Sunday afternoon and an even better way to spend your Saturday evening grabbing few beers and plenty of scrumptious grub while hanging out with friends.

Photo: Pankaj Kumar

STUDIO CHAT 20 MINUTES

Behind the lens

Actors SHWETA TRIPATHI and ALI FAZAL get candid about their roles in *Mirzapur* which shows the story of India's youth. By CHAHAK MITTAL

Sailing on a giant cruise ship with arms open in the air, the breeze passing through the hair, running around in an open field or just dreaming about a prince on a white horse... all these have been a part of the fantastical world that the Hindi film industry has given to many young women.

Actor Shweta Tripathi, who has become one of the prominent names in the industry, had also dreamt of running around in an open field wearing a yellow suit while its *dupatta* flew in the air. She said, "I didn't know about anything like Indie cinema, parallel cinema, or even the content of the films. I just knew that I wanted to be an actress and be on the stage, or in front of the camera."

The actress, who made her acting debut with TV show, *Kya Mast Hai Life*, shared that she has come a long way since her role of Zenia Khan, a geek but full-of-life and ever-excited college student, to today's Golu Gupta in *Mirzapur*.

"It was a very hyper active kind of a role where I would crib about food or other petty little things. If I look at that, I would say that I have come a really long way," she says.

It was all because of working under various directors that she understood the subtlety of roles and acting. "I realised that there was a lot more to acting and cinema than just being romantic or happy or running around with excitement. I explored the other side of being an actress."

Films like *Masaan*, *Haraamkhor*, *Trishna* star Shweta in some unconventional roles compared to the ideal of of some-one glamorous, who is supposed to support an actor's heroic image. Her roles rather take centrestage with a fierce approach. How?

She says that it works both ways. "It's not like you choose scripts rather sometimes they choose you. I had also auditioned for *Fukrey* once, but didn't quite like the role. Not like I didn't want to do any commercial films but somehow all the scripts that I was getting, I didn't want to do those."

And then, "*Haraamkhor*, *Masaan*, and *Mirzapur* really excited me. And that's how I chose them." If the scripts "excite" her, she would definitely take it up.

Actor Ali Fazal's story is also quite similar. He talks about his role, Guddu Pandit, the kid who has grown up watching his lower middle class family and aspired to be like them. "The family has always wanted their kid to be a 'hero'. Even his aspirations' length is as short as transitioning from having a bicycle to having a Luna (scooty)," he says. If there is a problem with the cycle and he finds a jeep nearby, he would be excited to see that and only think of having it and "looking like a hero" when his hair would flow in the open jeep.

"*Hum banayenge Mirzapur ko Amerika* (We'll transform Mirzapur into America)," says Guddu Pandit aka Ali Fazal of *Mirzapur*. That is how Ali's role adds various shades of red to the show's palette, where even though it is the 21st century "his aspirations are full of innocence and non-materialistic."

Shweta finds his role "endearing" as even though "he appears to be the Hulk or Thor, he is very simple in his own world." She says, "If you look at *Fukrey's* chocolate boy



For Tripathi, learning and understanding the subtleties of acting happened on the job when she worked with different directors

and 3 *Idiot's* sweet Joy to today's Guddu Pandit, it is a treat."

Among the huge star cast of the show is Pankaj Tripathi, Sheeba Chaddha, Rasika Dugal, Vikrant Massey, Divyendu Sharma, and Shriya Pilgaonkar. Ali was the last one to enter the stage. And, this last minute entry has a unique run-and-return story that Ali tells us.

"I had put my feet in the West, and then I was back here when I got *Mirzapur*. I was stuck when I read the script. But that wasn't the part offered to me and I made an excuse to escape from it. But after a few days, the role of Guddu Pandit came to me and I immediately agreed," laughs Ali.

He believes that the heart does stick to something and there are certain roles that "don't leave you" until you make them happen.

While the actor had also prepared for a role in his forthcoming, *Milan Talkies*, he says, "I did eat a lot. It took a lot of patience as I had to shed around 10 kg weight for the role."

While Shweta's role of Golu, a young nerd, is a very tender and mild one. Ali describes it as "A Tom Hanks film — slow yet beautiful." They both agree that there is a Golu in every girl as "she is the one living in this world of misogyny just like we have been since ages, but there's more to her today, much more fierce and ahead of time," says Ali.

Her apparent masturbation scene in the show has become the talk of the town and she feels that it is not anything that is "unusual" or even "bold," rather something that is real and "was hidden for a long time. Now through such scenes, the quietness around it will seem unusual. It should be normal. It's not just a scene, rather a reality. Men do it, women do it as well."

Photo: Pankaj Kumar

EVENT 10 MINUTES

In pursuit of knowledge

Six different books aimed at giving one a deeper insight into disparate subjects were released recently

From Gandhi's friendship to critical theories on postcolonial Indian literature, the night was a rewarding one for readers and academicians.

The Indian Institute of Advanced Study, Rashtrapati Nivas, Shimla, organised, The Fifth Rabindranath Tagore Memorial Lecture, which was delivered by Padma Shri professor Ramesh Chandra Shah, a noted poet, novelist and critic on the rehabilitation of sacred.

Six books were launched during the lecture. In *Gandhi's Ark* authored by Shashi Joshi, the focus was on Gandhi's relationship with his Christian friends with whom he discussed religion and spirituality. The central theme of the book reveals his affinity to Catholic Christianity and openness to all the religious ideas, beliefs and practices while another

book, *Postcolonial Indian Literature Toward a Critical Framework* by Satish C. Aikant takes a comprehensive view of Indian literatures from a postcolonial perspective.

Mahesh Champaklal's *Bhasa's Ramayan Plays From Page to Stage*, meanwhile involved the analysis of the epic ascribed to Bhasa namely, *Abhisheka Natakam* and *Pratima Natakam* both in terms of language in theatre. It tries to establish the inter-relation between both, the dramatic text composed by the playwright and the performance text designed by the director for the production of the play. How the dramatic text is transformed into the performance text forms the subject of the book thus establishing the relation between text and performance.

Dancing in the Sky of



Consciousness authored by Aleksandra Wentla is an interdisciplinary attempt to look at various dimensions of aesthetics of power in medieval Cidambaram temple and beyond. It weaves its discourse around the figure of dancing Siva, to whom the temple was dedicated. Incidentally, the god is one of the most powerful icons in the history of world religions. The book tries to combine the fields of philosophy, history, aesthetics, performing arts, architecture, ritual and textual studies.

The last two books included *Urban Spaces in Modern India* edited by Partho Dutta and Narayani Gupta and *Modernity and Changing*

Social Fabric of Punjab and Haryana which is edited by Yogesh Snehi and Lallan S Baghel.

In his lecture, professor Shah spoke about, "The Indian tradition of Advaita Vedanta emphasises on *Jivannukti*, the idea that *moksha* (freedom, liberation) is achievable in this life in contrast to Indian philosophies that emphasises on *moksha* after death."

Ven. Geshe Dorji Damdul who's a Buddhist scholar, was the moderator of the lecture and he summed it up when he said, "We have to admit that modern science has changed the world but to get the inner freedom and peace of mind

we have to maintain a fine balance between modern science and philosophy. This balance helps us in setting our minds free from the materialistic world. The philosophy of west and India tried to seek and explore the ultimate reality and same was also searched through the rule and principals of Physics. Knowing the complete truth is very important, for instance, one could have tremendous craving for cheese cake, but when you'll see cheese from a microscope and you'll see the bacteria in the cake your craving for the cake will go away. This is the result knowing the ultimate truth."

ENCOUNTER 60 MINUTES

As Boundless as India

GAURAV BHATIA, managing director Sotheby, walks SAIMI SATTAR through the organisation's inaugural auction of some artworks including a Tyeb Mehta and Amrita Shergill that are up for public viewing for the first time

The translucent paper still covers the huge 149.5 x 105 cm piece which rests against the wall as it is yet to be hung up. People hover around as "the pièce de résistance" as Gaurav Bhatia, managing director, India, Sotheby's describes Tyeb Mehta's *Durga Mahisasura Mardini* (1993), is to be unveiled. He emphasises, "You are officially the first Indian journalist to see this."

He then embarks on the story behind the painting. "A Muslim, the cosmopolitan ethos of Bombay (now Mumbai), where he settled down, really appealed to the artist who was born in Kapadwanj, a small town in Gujarat. But his faith was rudely shaken when during the 1992-93 post Babri Masjid demolition riots, he received threats on account of his religion. He left for Santiniketan to escape this madness. In the heat of the moment, when all this political upheaval was happening, he was asked to make a painting and he created a strong political statement with this," says Gaurav gesturing towards the painting. It reveals a blue backdrop and there are just three more colours — saffron, white and green — and when the idea hits you in all its force, it makes for a goosebumps moment. "It is interesting to note that Tyeb, a Muslim, painted a Hindu Goddess for the first time and that too in colours of the Indian flag to reiterate what the country was about," emphasises Gaurav. The work is painted with an economy of lines and is deeply symbolic as Goddess Durga represents enlightenment and hope over darkness and ignorance.

"It is a positive painting where a large part is painted blue like the Ashoka chakra but the colour also stands for hope and renewal. It is definitely more relevant today," says Gaurav, who has his roots in Lucknow and takes pride in the Ganga Jamuni *tehzeeb* with its intermingling of cultures, religion, food and language.

He goes on to recount how he chanced upon this piece that has not been displayed by any gallery in India till date. "I had gone to my father's friend's place for a drink along with my wife in December 2016. He has an impressive art collection, most of which is displayed on the ground floor of his house. As we took the stairs for the first floor, I saw this painting on a wall. When I was leaving, he told me that if I ever wanted anything, all I had to do was ask. My prompt reply was, 'The Tyeb Mehta'. It's another story that my wife chided me later for saying so. But within two days he called up and agreed to sell it. It was timely as we had just started putting Boundless:India, Sotheby's inaugural auction in the country," he says. The painting is a part of the display at the Bikaner House and will feature in the auction which will take place at the Taj Mahal Hotel in Mumbai on November 29. He says, "The artworks



are a visual commentary on South Asia that narrate the story of the richness and sophistication of art and design from the Indian Subcontinent. The 50 artworks including paintings, sculpture, photography and design are made in and inspired by the Indian subcontinent. Interestingly, except for two, none of the works have ever been displayed to the public."

Gaurav says that there is a reason Sotheby, a brand which was established in 1742, decided to set up office in India two years back. "We have the first records in 1930s of an Indian transacting with Sotheby's when the Maharaja of Darbhanga bought Marie Antoinette's jewels in London. So Indians have been doing business with Sotheby's for almost a hundred years. What further prompted the move was in the last five years we recorded that South Asians, which is largely Indians, had done transactions worth over \$250 million across all categories including Impressionist art, Western art, jewellery watches and cars with us," he says.

He also points out that while the artworks that Indians gravitated towards were mostly from the home

country a few clients have even started buying Monets and Picassos. "Maybe not in terms of volume but in value, these are big. The numbers picking these works are small due to a mix of prohibitive pricing as well as taste," he adds.

But coming back to the auction, he says, "The ethos of the sale is India's boundless treasures. We curated this over two years so we literally had the cream of the crop. We selected 50 works which are super clean and each piece represents a visual vocabulary as well as the sophistication and elegance of India." So, there are works by artist based in the country and even those outside it. He flips through the catalogue and points to an image *Blue City, Jodhpur* by Steve McCurry which was clicked in 2010. The intensity of the colour reminds one of his other iconic work *Afghan Girl* which featured Sharbat Gula. The other one called *Taj Mahal and Train, Agra, 1983* too is up at the auction. The list of famous international artists don't end there. There is also Henri Cartier Bresson's stunning black and white image, *Srinagar, Kashmir 1948*. But perhaps it is the Brazilian Sebastiao Salgado's

Churchgate Station, Western Railroad Line, Bombay, India 1955 which best showcases an outsider's view of India with its crowd, din and flurry of movement.

Gaurav recounts interesting tales behind some of the art. An early work of Amrita Shergill *Girl in Blue* where she painted her cousin Babeet Kaur in 1934 is mounted on one wall. "Amrita's mother said it wasn't good. Babeet's mother too didn't like it as she thought her daughter had been painted a bit too dark. Amrita kept it away and displayed the painting at her first show at Falletti's Hotel in Lahore. It was bought by Charles Fabri, a historian with whom Shergill is rumored to have had an affair and was in his family for the last 80 years. This work is important because just after this she painted her very famous, *Three Girls*. Stylistically the movement and fluidity in both the works is same," he says.

But interestingly, the story does not end there. When Sotheby's acquired the painting six months ago, it was published in an English newspaper. What happened after that is what history is made of. "Sotheby's got a call from a lady saying that the

girl in the painting was her mother-in-law who was 94 years old and lived in Delhi," says Gaurav. Needless to say Babeet Kaur attended the preview at Bikaner House yesterday.

There is also Francis Newton Souza's *Untitled (St Paul's Cathedral)* 1961, a piece in blue, white and black that makes use of his slashing technique to perfection. "When you look at the painting, it is beautiful but a closer look reveals a lot of violence. The artist grew up in Goa with strict Catholic parents and he almost started rebelling against the church as they put too much emphasis on religion," explains Gaurav.

Moving from the master, in the contemporary oeuvre, Gaurav gestures at a work by Arpita Singh who is considered one of the most important female artists of India. "This extraordinary work, *Men Sitting, Men Standing* is a political statement on the political chair revolving only among them," he says.

One cannot miss out on another contemporary artist Bharti Kher and Priti Paul's *Belladonna*, an installation which features a dressing table with lipsticks, shoes and a sari — all made in steel. "This too is a political statement about the perception of themselves in the society. Is it just make up, hair, shoes and sari or her outward appearance that make for a woman's identity or is there more to her?" explains Gaurav.

The exhibition also has a lot of sculptures as this was an important art form even before the written word existed in India. "A terracotta head done by G Ravinder Reddy is important because he usually makes these in metallic gold. It is the first time that he worked in this medium."

Another striking sculpture is Prodhos Das Gupta's *Egg Bird (1975)*. "It's sophisticated and refined where the bird is protecting her egg and nurturing it like a mother," says Gaurav who earlier worked with LVMH Moët Hennessy Louis Vuitton.

But what really caught the attention was an interesting series of 20 photographs by Nandini Valli Muthiah which show Vishnu on earth for a day. So he can be seen riding a Cadillac to a wedding, visiting a house where he is treated as a god, going to a bar and finally reaching his hotel room where he can be seen disillusioned with what is going on on earth.

There are works by other artists like Bhupen Kakkor's water colours, Gulam Rasool Santosh's take on tantra, Krishna Reddy's print called *Whirlpool*, the Aligarh artist Zareena Hashmi's works which question the idea of home and displacement, A Bala's glamorous thumb print as well as a series of photographs by Madan Mahatta. The immersive walk certainly encompasses what can be called some of the best representation of art that looks at India.

The show is on till 1 pm on November 17.

GALLERIA 10 MINUTES



A new life

SANJAY KANDASAMY had a liver transplant when he was 18-months-old. Today, he is a healthy medical student who also aims to donate organs one day

Now 21, Sanjay Kandasamy was just 18 months old when his father had to donate a part of his liver to him in November 1998.

In doing so, Sanjay and his doctors created history in the annals of Indian medicine as the country's first successful liver transplant surgery, Indraprastha Apollo hospitals said in statement.

Not only has Sanjay done exceedingly well, without having any other complications since the transplant, he is now training to be a doctor himself. Since it has been more than 20 years that the transplant took place, he explained how the difficulty level of such surgeries has changed.

He said, "At that time, my father donated his organ otherwise it wouldn't have been that easy." Being a medical student himself, he added, "Today, the situation has changed due to a better availability of resources, technology, doctors and even donors, which have risen in numbers. The information has spread much easily today."

On the 20th anniversary of the operation that changed the face of medical sciences in India, the hospital showcased the evolution that liver transplants have gone through over the last two decades.

Dr. Preetha Reddy, vice chairperson of the Apollo Hospitals Group, said liver disease is a major cause for concern in the country with as many as two lakh people dying from it every year. While around 1,800 liver transplants are done annually, as many as 20,000 people need a liver transplant at any given point.

"The fact is around 10 lakh people are diagnosed with liver disease every year, making it the 10th most-common cause of death in India as per the WHO. While India has come a long way since the first operation, there is still a huge

gap to be filled," Dr Reddy said. Ace Indian cricketer, Gautam Gambhir, a long-time proponent of organ donation was also present on the occasion.

"Every three minutes a person gets added to the list who need a transplant. Today, over two lakh Indians are on the list while less than 10 per cent get a transplant. We have to work as a nation to increase our organ donation rate. I have pledged my organs in 2011 and encourage the youth to raise awareness on organ donation and become donors themselves. This needs to become a national movement," he said.

Apollo Hospitals' Group medical director and senior pediatric gastroenterologist, Dr Anupam Sibal, said that over the last 20 years the Apollo Institutes of Transplant has performed more than 3,200 liver transplants in patients from over 50 countries of which 302 have been children.

"While there is still lack in infrastructure for life-saving organ donations and transplants, the numbers in the country are showing some improvement in the country. Out of 301 hospitals equipped to handle the process, 250 have registered with National Organ and Tissue Transplant Organisation (NOTTO), showing that in order to conduct an organ transplant, there exists one fully equipped hospital for around 43 lakh people," Dr Sibal said.

Sanjay, who is currently pursuing his medical studies at the Sri Lakshmi Narayan Institute of Medical Sciences, Pondicherry, has been on immuno suppressant medication for 15 to 16 years. He aspires to be a blood donor himself. However, his suppressants medication wouldn't allow him to donate. "I want to be a donor, but unfortunately I can't donate," said Sanjay. (With inputs from agency)

TALKING POINT 10 MINUTES

The dwindling numbers

Wildlife filmmaker JONATHAN KEELING tells ASMITA SARKAR about his adventures and the impact of documentaries

In the tussle between man and the wild, animals have drawn the short straw. With land encroachments in every part of the world, wildlife population is estimated to decline by two-third till 2020. We have already lost 60 per cent of the wildlife, according to a report.

People are aware of climate change, of plastics' harmful effects but not enough about wildlife loss, according to Jonathan Keeling, consulting executive producer of BBC's *Planet Earth II*. His work has taken him to each of the seven continents and his next, *Seven Worlds* will show the challenges that wildlife is facing. Most of his shows are on view on Sony BBC Earth in India.

The show is partially shot in Mumbai, which is a city of 20 million people and also has the densest population of leopards anywhere in the world. "It is a unique situation. No jungle, no other place but Mumbai has the most concentrated number of leopards," he said.

To shoot the sequence, they used cameras that didn't need

lights at night. Technology has advanced enough that miniature cameras, that can be mounted on animals, drones and buggies are used. The storytelling technique has also changed so that it's emotional and dramatic, with a protagonist and an antagonist, which is what is pulling younger crowds, he believes.

"Last year, when *Blue Planet II* released, it had the highest viewing numbers in the UK and soon banning plastics was on the agenda for the parliament and companies. People on the streets were talking about how plastic was damaging the marine life," he said, adding that the younger generation is now interested in watching documentaries as much as sports events or pop reality shows, which he also enjoys watching.

During his travels, he's closely observed how human encroachment is affecting animals and their behaviour. So, while conservation has become a hot topic in this space so is showing new species and old with their behaviour.

"How a monkey would behave with you depends on if it's being fed," jokes Jonathan. "Some run and hide, some are more relaxed with people. If you



go to a temple, there are monkeys but they have seen humans for hundreds of years and their behaviour is calm. There are places where animals encountered people but are much more shy. In Papua New Guinea, my team looked for a new species in a volcanic crater in a jun-

gle, which hasn't been explored in 60,000 years. Local people haven't gone there since it is a sacred place. I picked a Tree Kangaroo off a branch and held it and it was just relaxed. We picked up a Cuscus, looked at it and put it back. It wasn't bothered. We also found the world's biggest rodent, the Bosavi rat, which was the highlight for me. And, it was super relaxed. It is a complex relationship," he said.

As more urban centres come up and humans move into animal landscape and dominate that with buildings and roads, it's hugely transformed which is true for large parts of Europe and Asia. In such situations, wildlife corridors are important which make space for animals is important. "Forty years ago we made the first global wildlife documentary called *Life on Earth*. Since that time we lost somewhere close to 2/3 of the population of big animals. We are the first generation that has been able to observe the impact through satellites and also on the ground. Previous generations weren't aware but now we are. It's time to do something," he said.

They have also been able to reach a Chinese audience now which translates to around 250 million people and the global scope, age group and sheer numbers have a really big impact.

While politicians debate globally if climate change is real or not and it's impacts — the North and South Pole are melting. And Jonathan wonders if the penguin population can adapt quickly enough for it to survive through this man made crisis.

THE CELLAR 15 MINUTES

CHILLED NOT STIRRED

ELENA BORTOLETTO of Donnafugata talks about new markets in Asia. By A SARKAR

One of the primary cultures that Indian students and young professionals who live abroad bring back with them is their love of fine wine. While everyone loves food made by their mother, quality wines and spirits they have had are sought out on their return to India as well. And in the third largest liquor market of the world, where every year almost 20 million people enter legal drinking age, it is the young that a Sicilian wine brand is vying for.

"It is my dream that we serve Sicilian wine with Indian food. It is a misconception that Italian wine can only be paired with food from the region," says Elena Bortoletto, export manager, Donnafugata.

It doesn't hurt that the 1983 origin company comes with an interesting history that involves runaway queens. The name Donnafugata translates to fugitive woman or the woman who fled. The town has a castle with the same name. And one of the legends say that it refers to Queen Blanche of Navarre, widow of King Martin I of Aragon. The labels on the bottles are a work of art by the famed Stefano Vitale, who had designed the cover for Paolo Coelho's *The Alchemist*.

It seems just like the drink, families that run wineries also get finer with each generation. The fifth-generation run family business has fresh and fruit wines that are accessible but premium and make for easy drinking. The bottles, which come with instructions, tell



clearly that the white wine goes better with fruits and cheese while the red is meant for meat. The Anthilia made with peach and pear scents, is crisp and soft on the palate and is better served with fish or vegetables while the Sedara has a balance of red fruits and spicy flavours.

To ensure the wine quality, they harvest grapes by handpicking them for their Chardonnay, for which the fruits ripen the earliest. At their vineyard in the town of Ragusa they are harvested by night, when the temperatures are as low as 18-20 degree Celsius instead of the peak of 45 degree Celsius in the day. No chemical fertiliser or pesticides go into the grapes. Their focus has been on sustainability as well since harvesting at night saves electricity needed to cool down the fruit if it is picked during the day.

Bortoletto adds that the market in Asia is opening to wine while it was earlier dominated by spirits.

China has wine bars in Shanghai and Beijing and with the opening of Wine & Spirit Education Trust, awareness has been percolating into the urban people. She also added that tourism to Italy has been the key to a growth in their market.

While an entry level wine is priced around ₹700-1500, the Donnafugata is priced more than ₹3300, which is definitely not an accessible mark for the upward moving Indian. It has already made inroads into key metros in the country and has been placed at well-known places like the Indian Accent. But they agree that to reach a new market of amateur wine drinkers, dinners and workshops that lets one experience the wine and how it should be had is the key.

However, they are in no hurry to see results since the normal turnaround time to see profits is five years. During that time, they hope to triple their sales.

Federer cruises past Anderson

Second seed Roger thrashes Anderson in last group match to seal last four clash against Alex Zverev; Djokovic will face Anderson in other semifinal today



extra pressure. "As long as I think Novak is in the draw anyhow, he's playing so good again, it's never going to be easy."

The first set was a topsy-turvy affair, with both players quickly into their groove on serve before a succession of breaks.

- Service breaks - Federer, buoyed by his customary vocal support, broke to lead 4-3, only to lose his momentum immediately as Anderson levelled.

The Swiss broke the South African in the next game, sealing the break with a crisp backhand volley at the net but was immediately in trouble at 0-40 on his own serve before winning five successive points to take the set.

The second set went with serve until the seventh game, when Federer produced an immaculate sliced backhand that landed on the line to earn a break.

R Federer vs A Zverev
Live from 7:30pm IST
SONY TEN NETWORK



Now playing with freedom, the 37-year-old broke again to seal the victory and guarantee that he tops the group. Alexander Zverev set up a last-four clash against Roger Federer in the ATP Finals after seeing off John Isner 7-6 (7/5), 6-3 on Friday while Novak Djokovic will take on Kevin Anderson.

Zverev played American giant John Isner at London's O2 Arena knowing a win by any scoreline would take him through to the semi-finals of the season-ending tournament.

The turning point in the round-robin match came at the end of the 12th game, when the 21-year-old German saved a set point on his own serve with an ace, going on to force a tie-break.

The players swapped mini breaks but the giant Isner then filtered again on his own serve to hand the set to Zverev -- meaning he no longer had any chance to qualify for the last four.

In the second set a single break of serve in the eighth game proved decisive as Zverev served out the match. "I am unbelievably happy to be through to the semi-finals," he told Sky Sports.

"John is such a tough opponent. The last two matches for him against (Marin) Cilic and me could have gone either way. The first set was unbelievably tight. I am just happy to be through. I will prepare myself the best for tomorrow."



Kidambi Srikanth prepares to return a shot against his opponent BWF/ File Picture

Srikanth, Sameer lose in quarterfinals

PTI ■ KOWLOON

LAKSHYA ENTERS Q/F OF WORLD JR C'SHIP

Indian challenge ended at the Hong Kong Open World Tour Super 500 tournament after Kidambi Srikanth and Sameer Verma lost their respective men's singles quarterfinal matches here on Friday.

Fourth seed Srikanth suffered a 17-21 13-21 loss to eighth seed Kenta Nishimoto for his first loss to the Japanese in four meetings. The Indian had beaten Nishimoto thrice before this match.

Later, world no 18 Sameer also failed to tame local hope Lee Cheuk Yiu, who came through the qualifiers to seal his maiden semi-final spot with a 21-15 19-21 21-11 win in a match that lasted an hour and 13 minutes here.

Srikanth couldn't threaten Nishimoto, who led 12-7 at one stage in the opening game. The Indian did claw back and even had a slender 14-13 lead but the Japanese soon left him behind with four straight points before pocketing the opening game.

The Indian looked clueless in the second game as he struggled right from the start even as Nishimoto surged to 6-2 and then reeled off seven straight points to grab a massive 13-3 advantage, a deficit which the Indian couldn't erase to bow out of the contest.

Later in the day, Sameer, who had reached the finals of the Hong Kong Open in 2016, couldn't find a way to outwit an athletic Lee Cheuk Yiu, who was rewarded for his control and precision.

Sameer had beaten Lee at the New Zealand Open earlier this year but that didn't matter as Lee opened up a 4-0 lead in the opening game and consolidated it to 12-3 at one stage.

Sameer managed to claw back to 15-16 but the Hong Kong player reeled off the required five points to take the opening game. The Indian lagged again in the second game, before he managed to erase a 5-8 deficit and take a 14-11 lead.

In the third game, the duo split the initial 10 points before Lee eked out a five-point advantage, reaching 11-6 at the break. After changing the sides, Sameer couldn't break the run of points, going wide and long. The local qualifier looked more aggressive and seized the opportunities to continue his domination.

Lee eventually sealed his place in the semifinals when Sameer's return hit the net.

MARKHAM: Young Indian shuttler Lakshya Sen progressed to the quarterfinals of the BWF World Junior Championships after defeating Chinese Taipei's Chen Shiao Cheng in a men's singles event here. The 17-year-old from Almora, who had clinched the Asian Junior Championships title in July this year, saw off ninth seed Chen 15-21 21-17 21-14 in a match that lasted a little under an hour on Thursday.

Fourth seeded Lakshya will take on Malaysia's Aidil Sholeh ALI Sadikin next for a place in the semi-final, which will assure him of a medal in the tournament. Lakshya, who received a bye in the opening round, beat Mexico's Armando Gaitan and Italian Giovanni Toti in the earlier rounds in straight games.

Men's doubles pair of Vishnu Vardhan Goud Panjala and Srikrishna Sai Kumar Podile also entered the quarters with a 21-11 21-17 win over Indonesian combination of Dwiki Rafian Restu and Bernadus Bagas Kusuma Wardana. The Indian duo will face 10th seeded Korean pair of Tae Yang Shin and Chan Wang next.

Other Indians in fray, Priyanshu Rajawat, Alap Mishra and Kiran George lost in the third round of men's singles, while Malvika Bansod and Gayatri Gopichand were ousted in the opening and second rounds of the women's singles competition respectively.

Eighth seed Purva Barve, who received a bye in the first round, lost in the third round. PTI

Myneni to meet Prajnes in Bengaluru final

BENGALURU: Saketh Myneni will square off with compatriot Prajnes Gunneswaran in an all-India summit clash at the Bengaluru Open ATP Challenger tournament on Saturday.

In Friday's first semi-final, Myneni beat Kazakhstan's Aleksandr Nedovyesov 4-6, 6-4, 6-4 in a thrilling three-setter to make it to the title round of \$ 150,000 event. In the second semi-final, Gunneswaran breezed past Canadian Brayden Schnur 6-4, 6-1.

World no 213 Myneni made an easy third set difficult after racing to a 5-0 lead in the decider. He committed far too many



unforced errors, helping Aleksandr win four games on the trot before closing the match in the 10th game.

Having lost the first set, Myneni was down 1-3 in the second set but held his serve and broke Aleksandr in sixth game to make it 3-3.

In the ninth game, Myneni brought out a couple of first winners on his serves, racing past his rival 5-4.

Serving at 0-15, Aleksandr was stunned by a forehand winner by Myneni, who broke his opponent to win the set and restored parity before winning the decider. PTI

to the semi-finals for the 15th time in 16 attempts at the season-ending finale and means he will likely avoid a meeting in the last four against in-form Novak Djokovic.

"I'm happy that this is another week like this," said Federer. "Didn't look like it maybe 72 hours

ago. But I was able to come back and play good tennis."

"Personally I'm still not thinking of the number 100. I won't let that get in my head, make me go crazy because it should be something I'm excited about and not something I should feel

AFP ■ LONDON

Roger Federer gained sweet revenge over Kevin Anderson at the ATP Finals on Thursday but is putting thoughts of his 100th title to the back of his mind after both players reached the last four.

The Swiss broke the giant South African's serve four times in a comprehensive 6-4, 6-3 victory at London's O2 Arena even though Anderson had not faced a single break point in his two earlier round-robin victories.

Second seed Federer suffered a painful loss at the hands of Anderson in the Wimbledon quarter-finals this year after leading by two sets, his only defeat against him in five meetings before Thursday's clash.

The six-time champion started the week with an uncharacteristically ragged display in a straight-sets defeat by Kei Nishikori but has beaten Dominic Thiem and Anderson in straight sets and is looking more like his old self as the tournament progresses.

The victory over fourth-seed Anderson in the Lleyton Hewitt Group takes Federer through

SARITA, MANISHA GIVE INDIA FLYING START

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Veteran L Sarita Devi and rookie Manisha Mouna gave India a flying start in the women's World Boxing Championships with dominating victories in their respective bouts here on Friday.

While Manisha punched above her weight to outclass veteran American Christina Cruz in an unanimous verdict in 554kg, 2006 edition Gold medalist Sarita (60kg) had to work harder to emerge 4-0 winner on points against Diana Sandra Brugger of Switzerland in their opening bouts at the K D Jadhav Stadium here.

Both Sarita and Manisha advanced to the quarterfinals where they will face Kellie Herrington of Ireland and Dina Zholaman of Kazakhstan respectively on Sunday.

Harrington had won a Silver in 64kg in the 2016 World Championships but she has gone one weight category down in this tournament.



Rookie boxer Manisha Moun (blue) wins against the Christina Cruz in Women's 54kg last-16 PTI

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She beat Troy Garton of New Zealand on Friday. Zholaman is the defending world champion but Manisha has beaten her in the Silesian Women's Boxing championship in Poland earlier this year.

The 20-year-old Manisha from Haryana, who was making her debut in the World Championships, was in complete control during the first round bout against the American who is almost twice her age.

The 36-year-old Cruz from New York was the last edition's Bronze medalist besides winning the same colour of medal in 2012 also.

Manisha, who had won a Gold in the India Open and a Silver in the Poland event this year, was the clear

winner as she dominated all the three rounds. The five judges gave her a unanimous decision (29-28, 30-27, 30-26, 30-26, 29-28).

The 36-year-old Sarita faced a tough fight from her experienced Swiss opponent, who also has been in the international circuit for more than a decade, before winning 4-0 (28-28, 29-28, 30-27, 29-28, 29-28).

The Manipuri boxer, who has been competing in the World Championships since the first edition in 2001, was clearly the better boxer as all the five judges gave points in her favour.

In other bouts of the day, 2016 World Championship and Rio Olympics medalist Mira Potkonen of Finland beat Commonwealth Games Gold winner Anja Stridsman of Australia in 60kg.

Another Rio Bronze winner in 60kg, Anastasia Beliakovova moved to the pre-quarters with a unanimous verdict win over Elisa Williams.

CHHETRI-LESS INDIA FACE JORDAN

PTI ■ AMMAN

India, despite missing their talismanic striker Sunil Chhetri, will fancy their chances when they take on hosts Jordan in an international football friendly here on Saturday.

The match at the Jordan capital is in preparation for the AFC Asian Cup, scheduled to be held in January-February next year.

India are ranked 97th while Jordan are placed 112th in the FIFA rankings.

Even though they will be without Chhetri, the country's all-time leading scorer, Stephen Constantine's men will take confidence from their goalless stalemate in their previous friendly against higher-ranked China, managed by World Cup-winning coach Marcello Lippi.

Chhetri's absence has been dubbed a "big blow" by coach Constantine, under whom India enjoyed a dream 14-match unbeaten run till it was broken by Kyrgyzstan in Bishkek.

With only about two months to go for the Asian Cup, the upcoming friendly provides Constantine the last opportunities to analyse his squad and ready his backup plans.

Goalkeeper Gurpreet Singh Sandhu will lead the backline which will have Pritam Kotal, Sandesh Jhingam, Narayan Das and

probably Subhasish Bose. India's defence impressed against Lippi's China but Constantine will be banking on his midfield and attack to have an influence in the match against a Jordan side whose form has been patchy.

Jordan, who are ranked 15 spots below India in the rankings, last won a match in May when they defeated Cyprus 3-0. In their last four games, they have had two draws and two defeats, capping with a 1-2 loss to Croatia in October.

For India, mid-fielder Jackichand Singh and left back Nishu Kumar were on Thursday included in the 22-member squad for the away international FIFA fixture. The likes of Udanta Singh, Pronay Halder, Halicharan Narzary and Anirudh Thapa are likely to control possession in the midfield against a Jordan side that will look to hit on the counter in the absence of a few attacking players.

In the absence of Chhetri, experienced men like Jeje Lalpekhlua and Balwant Singh will need to take up the mantle up front. While the former has struggled in front of goal, the latter's form is encouraging. Ahead of the match Constantine said, "We want to do well in the AFC Asian Cup and the clash against Jordan will aid us. Jordan are a good side and they have a number of good players in their ranks."



Indian players jog during training session ahead of AFC tune up clash against Jordan Indian Football Team

England beat USA on Rooney farewell

AFP ■ LONDON

Wayne Rooney believes the future is bright for England as a youthful Three Lions eased past the United States 3-0 at Wembley on his international swansong.

Jesse Lingard, Trent Alexander-Arnold and debutant Callum Wilson grabbed the goals in a dominant England display despite Gareth Southgate fielding a very inexperienced side on Thursday.

Should England avenge their heart-breaking World Cup semi-final defeat by Croatia on Sunday at Wembley, Southgate's men can build on the progress made by surpassing expectations in Russia this summer by qualifying for the semi-finals of the inaugural Nations League.

"It's my opinion that England are in very safe hands from what I've seen this week," said Rooney. "The way they are being coached is



Wayne Rooney battles for ball during his farewell match against United States AP

brilliant, it's a great group of young players who have a bright future.

"They will go close to being the next team to bring a trophy back for England."

The decision to honour Rooney with a first cap for two years divided opinion.

However, the biggest cheer of the night was reserved for the introduction of England's greatest ever goalscorer just before the hour mark on his 120th international appearance.

"It will live with me for a long time," added Rooney.

"It is something which created debate because it was the first time something like this happened, but it is the right thing to do for the players if you achieve and leave your mark on the England team."

England's former captain was also honoured before kick-off with a guard of honour and the presentation of a plaque bearing a golden Three Lions badge by current skipper Harry Kane.

"I asked Harry Kane to present me with the award because I believe he will beat my goalscoring record and I look forward to presenting him with the trophy,"

added Rooney.

Kane didn't get the chance to add to his 19 international goals as Southgate prioritised keeping most of his key players fresh for Croatia's visit on Sunday.

England quickly put the game to bed with two goals in as many minutes midway through the first half as firstly Lingard received Dele Alli's pass before curling high into the far corner.

Sancho has quickly made a name for himself at Borussia Dortmund and the 18-year-old built on his fine Bundesliga form by teeing up Alexander-Arnold to drill his first international goal into the far corner.

Wilson did get his goal to cap a dream debut for the Bournemouth striker, who has battled through the lower leagues and two cruciate ligament injuries in both knees to make it to the international stage.

Wilson got ahead of his marker to turn Fabian Delph's cross in at the near post 13 minutes from time.

Jedvaj's brace keeps Croats alive

AFP ■ ZAGREB

Spain passed up the chance to seal progress to the Nations League finals as they were beaten 3-2 by Croatia, undone by a 93rd-minute winner from Tin Jedvaj.

Jedvaj's late strike leaves Group 4 wide open ahead of its final fixture between England and Croatia on Sunday. The victors will qualify, while Spain can still go through if the match at Wembley finishes in a draw.

Croatia were deserving winners in Zagreb, where Jedvaj scored twice — his first international goals — to snatch a memorable victory at the end of a pulsating contest. Andrej Kramaric had put Croatia ahead but twice Spain



Ivan Rakitic battles for ball AP

came back, as Dani Ceballos' equaliser and Sergio Ramos' penalty looked to have earned them a point, before Jedvaj prodded in deep into injury-time on Thursday. Croatia will now head to

New-look Germany ease past Russia

LEIPZIG: A youthful Germany team easily beat Russia 3-0 as Joachim Loew began a rebuilding process following the summer's World Cup debacle with a simple friendly win.

Manchester City winger Leroy Sane and Bayern Munich pair Niklas Sule and Serge Gnabry claimed the first-half goals in Leipzig for head coach Loew's new-look Germany side on Thursday.

This was Germany's biggest victory and most convincing performance of 2018, a year which saw a record six defeats.

After so many lacklustre performances from the Germans in the last 12 months, Loew's spritely side came through thanks to some high-tempo football.



However the victory is no more than a confidence booster for Monday's crunch Nations League match at home to the Netherlands when Loew will recall his senior players.

The Germans, bottom of Group One in League A, are currently two points behind the Dutch, who play leaders France in Rotterdam on Friday. AFP