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BHUBANESWAR, FRIDAY NOVEMBER 30, 2018; PAGES 16 ₹3



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Won't let terror use Pak soil: Khan

Imran invites Modi for talk, says there is already clampdown on Hafiz Saeed

PTI ■ ISLAMABAD

Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan on Thursday said he is ready to hold talks with his Indian counterpart Narendra Modi while conceding that it is not in the interest of his country to allow terror activities on its territory. Khan's remarks came a day after InExternal Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj categorically ruled out the possibility of holding talks with Pakistan unless it stops cross-border terror activities.

"It is not in our interest to allow use of Pakistan's territory for terror outside," Khan, who was celebrating 100 days of his Government on Thursday, said during an interaction with a group of Indian journalists. Khan said that people in Pakistan want peace with India and he will be happy to meet Modi and talk to him on any issue.

"I am ready for talks on any issue. There can't be a military solution for Kashmir," he said, adding "nothing is impossible" when asked whether it is possible to resolve the Kashmir issue.

"The mindset of people



here has changed," the Pakistan PM said, a day after he laid the foundation stone for the Kartarpur Corridor that will connect Darbar Sahib in Pakistan's Kartarpur — the final resting place of Sikh faith's founder Guru Nanak Dev — with Dera Baba Nanak shrine in India's Gurdaspur district

and facilitate visa-free movement of Indian Sikh pilgrims to Kartarpur.

Pakistan is projecting the corridor as a goodwill gesture. "The India I know, majority must be appreciating it," Khan told the Indian journalists who had arrived in Pakistan to cover the groundbreaking

Talking sense

- People in Pakistan want peace with India. The mindset of people here has changed, says Pakistan PM Imran Khan
- Nothing is impossible, says Khan on whether it is possible to resolve Kashmir issue
- It is not in our interest to allow use of Pakistan's territory for terror outside, says Khan
- Gesture for peace can't be one-sided, says Imran Khan.
- We are willing to wait for (general) elections to get over in India for a gesture from New Delhi, says Imran
- Let us talk. I am ready for talks on any issue. There can't be a military solution for Kashmir, says Pakistan PM

ceremony of the corridor.

He, however, said the gesture for peace cannot be one-sided. "We are willing to wait for (general) elections to get over in India for a gesture from New Delhi," Khan said, referring to the Lok Sabha elections scheduled for next year.

On punishing Mumbai

attack mastermind and Jamat-ud Dawah (JuD) chief Hafiz Saeed, who is carrying a \$10 million US bounty, Khan said, "There are UN sanctions against Hafiz Saeed. There is already a clampdown on him."

The JuD was declared as a foreign terrorist organisation by the US in June 2014. The group is a front for the Lashkar-e-Tayyeba terror outfit.

Saeed is the co-founder of the Lashkar-e-Tayyeba, which was responsible for the Mumbai attacks in which 166 people were killed in November 2008. He was put under house arrest after the 26/11 attack, but was freed by a court in 2009.

On other accused in the 26/11 case, Khan said their case is sub judice.

The 26/11 attack case has entered into the 10th year but none of its seven suspects in Pakistan has been punished yet, showing that the case had never been in its priority list.

India, which is observing the 10th anniversary of one of the worst terrorist attacks in the country, has been pushing Pakistan to bring to justice the planners of the 2008 Mumbai attacks.

Revised GDP data stirs credibility fight

Jaitley mocks Cong for doubting CSO, Niti Aayog Vice-Chairman accepts Chidambaram challenge for debate

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

As a massive controversy has erupted over the release of the revised GDP data of the UPA era, Finance Minister Arun Jaitley defended the decision saying it was done by a "highly credible" organisation, the Central Statistics Office, which maintains an arm's length from the Finance Ministry. Eyebrows are being raised over the involvement of the Niti Aayog in releasing the revised GDP data and the Congress has called the revision as a "farce".

At the same time, Niti Aayog Vice-Chairman Rajiv Kumar on Thursday accepted the challenge of former Finance Minister P Chidambaram for a debate on the revised GDP data, which showed economic growth during the current NDA regime was better than that in the UPA rule. Defending the decision, Jaitley said the revised numbers, based on a new formula with 2011-12 as the base year, are globally more comparable as they take into account a far greater representation of the Indian economy and are more reflective of its real condition.

Taking on the Congress for criticising the revision, he said the Congress had welcomed the upwards revision in growth numbers of the last two years of the UPA regime by the same CSO and had gone to the extent of saying that the "the new GDP series has conclusively established that we did not mismanage the economy".

Later in a blog post, Jaitley said the revised growth data has taken away Congress' last

UNVARNISHED TRUTH!

- I don't think any service is being rendered by people who choose to discredit a highly credible organisation like the CSO, said Jaitley
- The FM said the Congress had welcomed the upwards revision in growth numbers of the last two years of the UPA regime by the same CSO
- The new numbers show India's economic growth rate averaged 6.7 per cent during the Congress-led UPA regime as compared to 7.3 per cent under the present Government. Previous numbers had put the average growth rate during the 10-year UPA rule at 7.75 per cent



surviving argument "my GDP growth was higher than yours".

A day after Chief Statistician Pravin Srivastava, in an unusual move, announced the revised data based alongside Niti Aayog Vice Chairman, Jaitley said, "I don't think any service is being rendered by people who

choose to discredit a highly credible organisation like the CSO because its data is based on facts and the revised formulations, (and it is) a continuous exercise because every time you try and improve upon the formulations to make them more representative of the real state of economy."

Govt can't alter 2-yr term for CBI chief, Verma tells SC

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

CBI Director Alok Verma, who has been divested of all duties by the Centre and sent on leave, told the Supreme Court on Thursday that he was appointed for a fixed tenure of two years and cannot be transferred.

Verma, who has a bitter feud with his deputy Special Director Rakesh Asthana, had approached the apex court seeking stay on the Centre's October 23 order contending that it was against the guidelines laid down by the top court. Both Verma and Asthana were divested of their responsibilities and sent on leave due to the unprecedented situation in the CBI.

During the hearing, the SC made it clear that it was not going into the allegations and counter allegations by the two top CBI officials.

"We are and only testing the issue as pure question of law," said a Bench headed by Chief Justice Ranjan Gogoi.

Contesting the Government's decision, Verma's counsel and senior advocate Fali S Nariman said the CBI Director was appointed on



February 1, 2017 and "the position of law is that there will be a fixed tenure of two years and this gentleman cannot be even transferred".

Making his submission before the Bench, also comprising Justices SK Kaul and KM Joseph, Nariman further asserted that there was no basis for the Central Vigilance Commission to pass an order recommending that Verma be sent on leave.

"There has to be strict interpretation of the Vineet Narain judgment. This is not the transfer and Verma has been divested of his power and duties...Otherwise there was no use of the Narain judgment and the law..."

Nariman said.

The Vineet Narain decision, delivered by the apex court in 1997, relates to the investigation of allegations of corruption against high-ranking public officials in India.

Before 1997, the tenure of the CBI directors was not fixed and they could be removed by the Government in any manner. But the apex court in the Vineet Narain judgment fixed a tenure of a minimum of two years for the CBI Director to allow the officer to work with independence. Nariman referred to the terms and conditions of appointment and removal of the CBI director and concerned provisions of the Delhi Special Police Establishment (DSPE) Act, 1946.

Attorney General KK Venugopal opposed the contention of Verma and others that the Government should have gone back to the selection panel for divesting the CBI Director of his duties and sending him on leave.

Venugopal told the court that Verma is in Delhi living in the same house and hence there is nothing to construe that he has been transferred.

ACP jumps to death from Delhi Police HQ

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

An Assistant Commissioner of Police (ACP) posted at Delhi Police Headquarters allegedly committed suicide by jumping from the 10th floor of the building situated in Central Delhi on Thursday around 10.16 am.

Prem Ballabh, 55, was posted as ACP of Crime & Traffic (C&T) as part of the

Delhi Police Establishment branch and was recently hospitalised for 28 days as he was suffering from depression.

Ballabh reported to his office on Thursday morning. He did not give any hint of unusual behaviour and worked for sometimes, said sources, adding that he reportedly he went to the 10th floor and jumped off the building.



The Delhi Police Headquarters building in New Delhi on Thursday Ranjan Dimri

'Mahabandh' paralyses life in western Odisha

- Markets, offices, educational institutions shut
- Vehicles stay off road; trains cancelled, diverted
- Total economic blockade threatened



On the first day of the 48-hour 'Mahabandh' demanding a permanent Bench of High Court in western Odisha, life was virtually paralysed in several districts of the region on Thursday.

The ordeals of the people stranded in the railway stations at Sambalpur, Sambalpur Road and Sambalpur City knew no bounds amidst scarcity of food and water.

However, different social organisations, including Swaschha, Sambala, Social Star Club, etc., came to the rescue of the passengers by providing them food, water, biscuit and milk to the children. Even the Bar Association also provided food at some places.

The lawyers had declared earlier about the 48-hour Mahabandh on November 29 and 30. It was expected that some solution will come out before it. Sambalpur Collector Samarth Verma also informed that the district administration was in continuous touch with the CM office and the Government to find out a solution. But nothing of that sort happened.

Finally, as per the earlier plans and programmes, the lawyers on Thursday began

the Mahabandh resulting in total closure of all offices and also modes of communications.

It was further seen that people cutting across party line joined the lawyers' stir to support the cause realizing the need of a High Court bench as Sambalpur is the headquarters of western Odisha.

Sambalpur MLA Dr Raseswari Panigrahi also joined the agitation in Sambalpur station to extend support of her party.

The lawyers were seen picketing in all important entry points of the city to halt movements of the heavy vehicles. The result being, hundreds of vehicle and mainly trucks were found stranded on road side facing all odds. The movement of the trains was also obstructed at all the three stations of the city following which a good number of trains were cancelled or diverted.

There was tension in the City Station for some time. Irate passengers of Puri-Indore express demanded before the station manager to facilitate movement of the train for which there was an unpleasant situation. "But police managed

to tackle to situation," informed the SP (Railway) Ajay Pratap Swain who camped at Sambalpur leaving his Rourkela headquarters.

Massive police forces were deployed in all places of the district to prevent any untoward situation.

"Except a few sporadic incidents, the bandh was almost peaceful," informed police. Situation in Jharauguda, Deogarh and Sundargarh was also almost the same with offices and educational institutions remaining closed for the whole day. But train communication was quite normal in Jharsuguda, sources said.

However, Balangir, Kalahandi and Rourkela city remained away from the bandh as they are demanding High Court Bench in their respective places instead of Sambalpur. "Today's bandh reflects the public resentment and their wholehearted support for the High Court Bench. If the Governments at the Centre and the State still keep silent, we will go for further drastic step like total economic blockade," warned Sambalpur District Bar Association president Bijitendriya Pradhan.

Govt to discuss farmers' demands on December 7

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

An inter-Ministerial committee of the State Government, which was formed to discuss about the demands of "Price, Prestige and Pension" by farmers, held its first meeting at the State Secretariat here on Thursday. Committee head Finance Minister Shashi Bhusan Behera said the next meeting of the committee would be held at the Krishi Bhawan here on December 7, where members of several farmer organisations and agricultural experts would be invited to give their suggestions.

"Suggestions will be invited from various associations of farmers and agricultural experts to resolve the issue. On the basis of the suggestions, the

'Suggestions will be invited from various associations of farmers and agricultural experts to resolve the issue'

State Government would take steps accordingly," Behera said. Notably, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik had constituted the ministerial committee on November 5 to look into the grievances of thousands of farmers, who were planning to demonstrate in the State Capital to press for their demands.

Food Supplies and Cooperation Minister Surjya Narayan Patro, Agriculture and Farmers' Empowerment Minister Pradeep Maharathy and senior officials of the line departments were also present.

Bijay, Dilip may quit BJP today

Bhubaneswar: Former Minister Bijay Mohapatra and Rourkela MLA Dilip Ray are likely to announce their decision to quit the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) on Friday.

Mohapatra told reporters here on Thursday that he and Ray would hold a final round of discussions among them on Friday and let their decision be known to the media.

He, however, did not disclose which the two senior leaders would join after leaving the BJP.

Speculations are rife that they may rejoin the Biju Janata Dal (BJD) after their long departure from

the State's ruling party. BJP State president Basant Panda said Mohapatra and Ray are quitting the saffron party "for their personal reasons".

Ray's allegation that the Centre is neglecting in implementation of the schemes for Rourkela for a second Brahmani river bridge and for upgrading of the Ispat General Hospital (IGH) into a medical college is not tenable as works for both projects have begun. PNS



CAPSULE

SIDHU ASSAILED OVER PHOTO WITH KHALISTANI
Chandigarh: The Akali Dal asked Navjot Singh Sidhu on Thursday whether "India is his priority" or not, a sharp attack after a pro-Khalistan separatist leader shared his purported photograph with the Punjab Cabinet Minister on the social media.

CBI GETS NOD FOR DELHI MIN JAIN'S PROSECUTION
New Delhi: The Centre has granted sanction to the CBI to prosecute Delhi Health Minister Satyendra Kumar Jain in a case related to possession of assets disproportionate to his known sources of income, officials said on Thursday.

BILL GIVING 16% QUOTA TO MARATHAS PASSED
Mumbai: The Maharashtra Legislature on Thursday passed a Bill proposing 16 per cent reservation in education and Government jobs for Marathas.

ISRO LAUNCHES EARTH MONITORING SATELLITE
Sriharikota: India on Thursday successfully launched its latest earth observation satellite HysIS, the data from which can be used in wide-ranging areas, including agriculture.

'Top court asks Centre for affidavit for public hearing'

PEOPLE'S OPINION TO BE SOUGHT IN ODISHA, C'GARH

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

In a positive development for Odisha, the Supreme Court on Thursday asked the Central Government to submit an affidavit clearly mentioning the terms and conditions to conduct the public hearings in the neighbouring States of Odisha and Chhattisgarh on the ongoing construction of the Polavaram multipurpose project in Andhra Pradesh.

The apex court directed the Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change to file the affidavit by Saturday. The next hearing on the matter would take place on December 3.

The court's hearing took place



after Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik wrote to Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Nov 21 requesting him to halt the construction of the Polavaram project over the Godavari river in Andhra Pradesh till the matter gets resolved in the court. Earlier, the Odisha Government also approached the Supreme Court

expressing its concern over the possible loss for the State due to the project, for which several areas and human habitations in Malkangiri district would be submerged in water.

The Chhattisgarh Government has also been opposing the Polavaram project on similar grounds.

Boy hurt in school gate crash: CS issued notice

SRIKUMAR MAHANTA ■ SONEPUR

The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has issued a show-cause notice to the State Chief Secretary regarding the critical injuries sustained by a student after a school gate collapsed on him on March 20, 2018 in Biramaharajpur block of Subarnapur district.

The NHRC has asked the reply to be submitted within four weeks.

The rights panel passed the order after hearing a petition filed by activist Dillip Kumar Das. The petitioner alleged that the seven-year-old boy sustained serious injuries due to the collapsing of the school boundary wall on him at Malidadar UP School of Biramaharajpur block under Subarnapur district.

The NHRC asked the Chief Secretary why an interim relief of ₹3 lakh should not be paid as monetary compensation to the victim Biswanath Padhan. The Commission has also sent a reminder to the State School and Mass Education Secretary for a detailed report in the matter within four weeks positively, failing which coercive Process under



Section 13 of the Protection of Human Rights Act (PHRA) would be initiated against him.

The commission also directed the district SP to send the details

of criminal case registered in the matter along with the action taken report. The petitioner also alleged that funds were allotted for construction of the gate of the school

The Commission has also sent a reminder to the State School and Mass Education Secretary for a detailed report in the matter within four weeks positively, failing which coercive Process under Section 13 of the Protection of Human Rights Act (PHRA) would be initiated against him

located in a remote area. The gate was constructed by the contractor without any concrete pillar.

Taking cognizance of the petition, the Commission had called for a report from the School and Mass Education Secretary and the district SP.

The SP in reply stated that as per an inquiry conducted by the SDPO, the accident occurred because of faulty construction of the gate.

The school Head Master has provided ₹60,000 for treatment of the student and the victim's father, who is a poor man has spend ₹2 lakh already for his treatment. The victim is coming to the school with the help of crutches. But no FIR has been registered regarding the incident, the SP said.

PRADHAN WRITES TO CM

'Ensure early JV formation for Paradip Plastic Park'

Paradip Refinery to start producing polypropylene in Feb

6 cos have applied for land; they can use polypropylene as feedstock

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

Union Petroleum and Natural Gas Minister Dharmendra Pradhan on Thursday wrote to Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik seeking his intervention for early formation of an IOCL-Idco joint venture required for establishment of the proposed Paradip Plastic Park Limited near the Indian Oil's Paradip Refinery.

"As you are aware, the Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL) has joined

hands with the Idco for development of the Paradip Plastic Park Limited. A statement of Intent of Collaboration (SIC) between the Idco and the IOCL was held on November 16, 2017 according to which a joint venture board with participation of Indian Oil and Idco has to be formed," apprised Pradhan in the letter.

He mentioned that the IOCL along with the State Government has conducted several promotional events, including road shows, at various locations like Chennai, Kolkata, Hyderabad and Bhubaneswar and a total of six investors have applied for land in the plastic park.

The ongoing polypropylene project would be on stream at Paradip Refinery by February 2019 when units at the plastic park can use polypropylene raw material as feedstock, mentioned Pradhan. He further informed that

while a NOC has already been obtained from the NITI Aayog for the JV formation, the Department of Chemical and Fertilizer has sanctioned Rs 40 crore as Grant-in-Aid for infrastructure development at the plastic park.

"I understand that the formalities for JV formation are awaiting approval from the Odisha Government. The Indian Oil will infuse Rs 32.72 crore after signing JV agreement for facilitating both infrastructure developments. Hence, it is very much important that the proposed joint venture needs to be ready as soon as possible as it would take care of requirements of investors and work on further infrastructure developments. Therefore, I request you to personally intervene in the matter and instruct the concerned authorities to complete all the formalities at the earliest," requested Pradhan.

Andolan seeks interim order for C'garh projects' closure

DECIDES TO HOLD MORE MEETINGS, SUBMIT REPORT TO STATE GOVT

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

The Mahanadi Bachao Andolan on Thursday demanded that the Mahanadi Tribunal issue an interim order to stop construction of barrages upstream Mahanadi in Chhattisgarh until the water dispute between Chhattisgarh and Odisha is resolved.

The Andolan made this demand at a meeting held here with experts, political leaders and representatives of social organisations and Mahanadi catchment areas. Members demanded the tribunal issue final order within stipulated time period and issue an interim order directing for stopping



of all ongoing and completed barrages upstream Mahanadi in Chhattisgarh.

Besides, the members wanted that focus should be given on maintaining of natural water flow in the river, cancellation of illegally-constructed projects, checking of water

pollution and protection of bio-diversity of the river. They also demanded that livelihood source dependent of the river and tourism sites along the river be protected.

Besides, they demanded that an environmental study be conducted and a report be

submitted before the tribunal.

The Andolan decided to hold such discussion meetings at Jharsuguda in western Odisha, at Angul in Central Odisha and at Paradip in coastal Odisha and a report would be prepared and presented to the State Government.

The report would help the State Government in keeping people's views before the tribunal.

Among others, former Water Resources Chief Engineer Dr BB Das, Ramesh Chandra Tripathi, Sharat Mohanty, Lalit Mohan Patnaik, Congress's Prof Kailash Acharya, CPM's Suresh Panigrahi, CPIM's Yuddhistir Mohapara, SPs Sudarshan Pradhan and Forward Bloc's Jyoti Mohapatra, Dr Seba Mohapatra, Nirad Khuntia, Bijay Pradhan, Arun Jena, Prasanna Bisoi, Ashok Jena and Amiya Pandab attended the meeting, presided over by Andolan convener Sudarshan Das.

4 students hurt in bus radiator blast in B'pur

PNS ■ BRAHMAPUR

Four students suffered minor injuries after the radiator of a school bus carrying them exploded here on Thursday.

The incident took place when the bus carrying the students of the Oxford Public School here was on its way to the school.

According to sources, the schoolchildren noticed smoke emanating from the radiator of the bus.

Soon after, the radiator exploded, leaving four students injured.

The injured students were rushed to MKCG Medical College Hospital here.

They were discharged from the hospital after preliminary treatment, said the sources.

The reason behind the explosion of the radiator was yet to be ascertained. PNS

LETTER

Extend Garib Rath to BBSR

Sir,
The train number 22884 Yaswanthapur-Puri Weekly Garib Rath serves as an excellent connectivity. As the Garib Rath Express runs on a weekly basis, it is suggested to extend this train up to Bhubaneswar. The train's extension will only yield optimum patronage with expected high passenger occupancy/demand bound to both Yaswanthapur and Bhubaneswar. The Railways administration is requested to consider the suggestion and implement it in the interest of passengers.

-K Ravi, E-237, GGP Colony, Bhubaneswar-751025, Mob: 9437616497

Trinamool Cong to contest polls in Odisha

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee has said her party, Trinamool Congress, would contest a number of Lok Sabha seats in the neighbouring States of Jharkhand, Odisha and Assam in the 2019 general elections.

Upping the ante against the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), Banerjee said at a public rally in Purulia in West Bengal on Wednesday that the saffron outfit would draw a blank in Bengal in 2019 and also lose a large number of seats in several States where they are currently ruling.

"Those who live in the Bengal-Jharkhand border districts like Purulia, West Midnapore, Jhargram and Birbhum should be prepared. We will fight in a number of Lok Sabha seats in Jharkhand."

"We will also fight in a number of seats in Odisha, with whom we share our border," Banerjee announced.

"The BJP is trying to drive away Bengalis from Assam. Assam is our neighbouring State too."

"We will fight in some Lok Sabha seats in Assam as well. We will contest from these States beside Bengal as we want our relationship with the neighbours to be good," she said.

Banerjee claimed that the BJP would lose in the current Assembly elections in Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan and would eventually be dethroned from the Centre in 2019.

"If elections are held now in Jharkhand, the BJP will not get a single seat."

"They will lose in Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Kerala; and in Bengal, they will get a big zero this time," she claimed.

Theft in Bengali actress' house: Man arrested

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

A special squad of the Odisha Police arrested a person from here in connection with a theft case following a complaint by the renowned Bengali actress Rituparna Sengupta in Kolkata.

The accused, identified as Bodhisatwa Bhattacharya, was nabbed from the Hotel Arya Palace on Wednesday night.

He was handed over to Kolkata police. He will be produced in the court by the Lake police and subsequently taken on a transit remand for interrogation.

He is accused of stealing cash of ₹1.5 lakh, a laptop and other valuables from the house of Sengupta in July since when



he was absconding. Police sources said that Bodhisatwa was demanding ₹5 lakh from the actress to return her laptop and other valuables.

2-child norm in panchayats hits grassroots democracy



LITALI DAS

The following is in response to a recent judgement of the Supreme Court on October 25, 2018, which upheld the dismissal of a former sarpanch from his post for having three children. Minasingh Majhi of Nuapada, Odisha, had got elected in February 2002 and was disqualified from his post by the

Orissa High Court after the birth of his third child in incumbency in August 2002.

Also adding intensity and earnestness to this renewed effort inviting attention of thinkers and policymakers alike is the recent resolution of the Odisha State Assembly for reserving 33% of seats in Assemblies and Parliament for women. Welcoming this affirmative step for women's enhanced leadership at higher levels; this note also seeks to share concerns relating to the extent of empowerment actually enabled of women if policy guidelines do not reflect the intentions of the government.

While the 73rd and 74th Constitutional Amendments paved the way for women and those from the Scheduled Castes and Tribes to participate in local self-governance as pan-

chayat representatives, the two-child norm clause was inserted into the Orissa Gram Panchayat Act as an election conditionality, debarring those having more than two children from contesting elections. Intended as a measure to control population growth by making role models of panchayat representatives, this unfortunately has proved to be one of the biggest obstacles to citizens' free choice and political participation in grassroots democracy.

The norm is not only coercive in nature impinging on basic human rights principles; it is also patently discriminatory as only elected Panchayati Raj representatives are penalised, and among them, only those who have more than two children after 1994. It is not only beyond presumable that

relatively lower education, poor socioeconomic status cannot influence decisions of other citizens compared to their powerful Assembly or Parliament counterparts. The norm patently seeks to disallow a sizable section of the rural youths particularly from their democratic rights through a cutoff date for having children instead of addressing socioeconomic factors and a son-preference culture responsible for the rural poor having more children.

A chief argument in favour of the norm is the need to control the growing population. However if we look at the Total Fertility Rate between 2014 and 2016, the rural and urban rates stand at 2.0 and 1.6, respectively, which are lower than the national average at 2.5 (rural) and 1.8 (urban). Moreover, even though the

rural rate is higher than the urban, this gap can be narrowed further through access to better healthcare and reproductive health support, viable and inclusive livelihood opportunities, increase in wages and improved education facilities to the rural poor.

Of particular concern to the Government should be that this norm violates several Constitutional rights of citizens apart from national and international conventions. Infringing Articles including 14, 15, 16, 21, 29, 42 and 47 of the Constitution which safeguard several aspects of life, liberty and equality of citizens, the norm also violates certain international conventions that India is a signatory to, some of them being CEDAW Article 12 (Health), Article 14 (which focuses on rural women) and

Article 16 (family, reproductive health, etc). This effectively defeats not just the objectives of the 73rd Amendment but also that of the Odisha State Policy for Girls and Women-2014 which envisions, among others, "a State where girls and women have equal opportunities in all spheres of life, enjoy health and wellbeing and participate in social, political and economic spheres taking on leadership and decision-making roles..." Moreover, even though this policy document also lists strategy and action points, among others, to "remove any discriminatory practices that prohibit or restrict women to participate effectively"...and to promote and protect participation of women in existing community level decision making institutions and systems..."

sadly no step towards rescuing this discriminatory norm has been initiated by the Government yet.

Used more as a powerful tool to settle personal and political scores, instances recur in every panchayat term of blackmail and threats to unseat women and men representatives from vulnerable sections if they do not follow dictates of vested interests.

Another widely-prevalent but little-reported factor has been the unanimous rejection of this norm in tribal areas where most people have more than two children and, hence, nobody complains against any representative on the basis of this norm. So, this essentially deflates any claim of such a clause helping make role models out of Panchayati Raj representatives!

In light of all this, therefore,

there is a need for immediate removal of the two-child norm from the Orissa Gram Panchayat Act as it does not serve the purpose that it originally was intended for. In the run-up to the 2017 panchayat elections in Odisha, the Government repealed a clause that had similarly restricted people who were speech and hearing-impaired and those cured of leprosy and tuberculosis from contesting the elections. So, why not remove the two-child norm also? Is it such a dreadful disease to have more than two children? Or is it more worthwhile to plug the systemic lacunae reinforcing the rural poor's anxieties and helplessness in maintaining a small family?

(The writer works for The Hunger Project, Bhubaneswar. Mob: #9238501948.)

Guv stresses on students' moral uplift, skill growth



FM UNIVERSITY CONVOCATION HELD

UBACHAK MOHANTY ■ BALESWAR

Chancellor of universities and Governor Prof Ganeshi Lal has stressed on moral uplift as well as skill development of the students while addressing the 9th Convocation of the Fakir Mohan University at its new campus at Nuapadhi here on Thursday.

"The need of hour is to move from ego-centric to geo-centric and shifting from personal to transpersonal, to a mindset that is more inclusive. I have great expectations from the youth of today. They have to be a 'Generation we' than 'Generation me' and are more focused on others rather than

on themselves," said he.

"Let the university be a place where ideas born from dynamic research environment thrive. May FM University raise its level using all the resources at its disposal and bring innovation in standards of teaching, workforce needs and design of curriculum," said Lal.

National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) Director Prof SC Sharma said, "Advancement is possible only if education of a practical character is liberally provided and the social evils which obstruct progress are systemically removed."

Vice-Chancellor Madhumita spoke about the university's infrastructure development.

She said ₹50 crore has been allocated by the State Government out of which ₹10 crore is sanctioned for the aca-

ademic block.

The university received ₹17.41 crore from the World Bank for a period of five years towards an institutional development plan of the university as well as its 94 affiliating colleges. It has further received ₹15 crore from the State Government for construction of a 1,000-seat convention centre.

She said the faculty recruitment could not be completed due to a ban by the Supreme Court and it is a great challenge for the university. The university is going to launch an India-Kazakh Cultural Centre.

The university conferred honorary degree of DLit and DSc on two eminent persons. Besides, several others were awarded doctoral degrees.

University Registrar Amar Singh Soren and other staffs coordinated the event.

HISTORY OF WORLD CUP HOCKEY

Kuala Lumpur 1975: India champions at last

PARESH K DAS ■ BHUBANESWAR

Having come close to clinching the title twice in 1971 and 1973, the Indian team took the field once again in the third World Cup Hockey championship held at Kuala Lumpur in Malaysia. It was a tough field with 12 teams participating. India were clubbed in Group-B alongside West Germany, England, Australia, Argentina and Ghana.



The champions of the 1973 battle at Amstelveen, the Netherlands, were grouped with Pakistan, New Zealand, Spain, Poland and hosts Malaysia.

The teams were now awarded three points for a win and one point for a draw. Unlike now, hockey matches then were played over 70 minutes with two halves of 35 minutes each.

Pakistan, a contender for the title, began on a damp note as they were held to a draw by Poland 2-2. Their match against the Netherlands also ended on even keel at 3-3. They, however, won their other three pool matches against Malaysia (2-1), New Zealand (2-0) and Spain (5-0) to finish at the top of Group-A and seal a semifinal berth. Malaysia, playing attractive hockey, also entered the last four by finishing second in the pool with 8 points securing two wins, two draws and a defeat.

Holders Netherlands, however, could not rise to the stature of defending champions in this edition of the World Cup as they lost three of their pool matches to Poland, New Zealand and Malaysia by identical 2-1 margins. Having drawn against Pakistan, they only won against Spain (3-0) and finished ninth in the competition.

India had a fine team with Leslie Fernandez and Ashok Diwan guarding the goal. Surjit Singh and Michael Kindo, who were to serve the country with distinction for several years, along with young Aslam Sher Khan formed the defence line. Both Singh and Khan were extremely good at penalty corner conversions. Years later, Kindo would represent Odisha in the national championship.

Ajitpal Singh, the captain of the side and centre half, was flanked by Varinder Singh, Mohinder Singh and Onkar

Singh. The forward line boasted of the great Dhyyan Chand's son Ashok Kumar, a dribbler par excellence, BP Govinda, Vadivelu Phillips, Shivaji Pawar, Harjinder Singh, BP Kaliah and Harcharan Singh. Phillips and Harcharan were the two flankmen while the bustling Govinda led the attack.

India opened their campaign with a hard fought 2-1 victory over England with all the goals coming in the first session. In the next game, the team was held to a 1-1 draw by Australia. India recovered to maul inexperienced Ghana 7-0 in the next match but slumped to a shock 1-2 loss against Argentina. India concluded the pool matches with a 3-1 victory over West Germany.

Both India and West Germany finished the preliminary round with three wins, a draw and a loss collecting ten

points each. But India was put at the top of the group as they had the better of the Germans in the pool game.

In the semifinals, India was to play Malaysia before a vociferous home crowd while Pakistan clashed with West Germany.

In the first semifinal, Pakistan boasting of a strong defence and razor sharp forward line, outclassed West Germany 5-1 to make a grand entry into the final of the World Cup for the second time.

Playing before a partisan crowd in the second semifinal, India fell behind as Malaysia forged ahead with a goal in the 32nd minute scored by Loke. Malaysia led 1-0 at the half time. Centre forward Shivaji Pawar equalized for India five minutes after resumption, but the hosts went ahead again when Shanmuganathan converted a penalty corner in the 42nd minute.

With five minutes remaining, defeat loomed large for India. But the forwards forced a penalty corner which Aslam Sher Khan converted with aplomb. India had drawn level. The match ended 2-2 spilling over to extra time. India went all out for the winning goal as left winger Harcharan Singh found the boards in the 79th minute. India won the tie 3-2 and entered the final for the second consecutive time.

The final was played on March 15. The country was on the edge anticipating an Indian victory though they were pitted against a talented Pakistani squad. The only way to keep track of the proceedings was to listen to the live commentary on All India Radio. Pakistan had a redoubtable team comprising stalwarts like Samiullah Khan, Saleem Sherwani, Manzoor Ul Hasan (Sr), Munwar uz Zaman, Akhtar Rasool and captain Islahuddin.

Indian hearts sank as Pakistan took an early lead with striker Mohammed Zahid finding the net in the 17th minute. The first session ended with Pakistan ahead 1-0. Surjit Singh, however, restored parity by converting a penalty corner in the 44th minute.

The two teams continued to struggle for supremacy, but ace drummer and schemer Ashok Kumar penetrated the Pakistan defence to score again for India seven minutes later. The Pakistan attackers continued their relentless raids to level the score but the Indian defence stood its ground till the final whistle.

India had won the World Cup for the first time. West Germany, in a match played before the final, out-clashed Malaysia 4-0 to finish third in the competition.

(The writer is a senior journalist based in Bhubaneswar)

Ganjam senior citizens discuss various issues

Seek ₹1K monthly pension, police ID cards, spl convention centre

PNS ■ BRAHMAMPUR

The Ganjam District Biju Patnaik Senior Citizen Forum discussed various issues concerning senior citizens and the society at its monthly meeting held under the chairmanship of its president Rash Bihari Dash here on Wednesday.

Senior member and journalist Rabi Rath highlighted about various problems and proposed solutions. General secretary Simanchal Prasad Bisoyi read out the October month's report.

Expressing unhappiness that forum has not been allotted a patch of land for meeting purposes despite repeated memorandums submitted to the district Collector and the Chief Minister, Dash urged all senior citizens to meet the Collector and place the demands again. It was decided that a representative team would meet the SP and urge him to issue police identity cards to all senior citizens.

The forum demanded that the Chief Minister announce Tirthayatra dates (under the Baristha Nagarika Tirtha Yatra Yojana) and order for distribution of Biju Swasthya Yojana health cards to provide health assistance up to Rs 3 lakh soon. The forum also reiterated its demand for increasing monthly pension from ₹300 to ₹1,000.

All forum members, whose were born in November, were greeted on the occasion. The meeting concluded with a vote of thanks proposed by vice-



president Prabhakar Sahu. Among others, Prof Jayant

All forum members, who were born in November, were greeted on the occasion

Mohapatra, Ramanatha Panda, Prasant Kumar Das, Niranjana Mohanty, Prabhat Kumar Purohit, Girish Patro, Rabi Moharana, Prasant Kumar Mohapatra, Manmathas Padhi, Dandapani Panigrahi and Ramesh Chandra Pradhan were present.

At the outset, the members mourned the death of 10 persons in the recent bus accident occurred at the Mahanadi near Cuttack and observed a two-minute silence for the departed souls.

Blast in Jharsuguda firecracker unit, 1 dead

PNS ■ JHARSUGUDA

One person was killed and several others were feared injured in an explosion in an illegal firecracker factory under the Belpahar police station in the district on Thursday.

The deceased identified as Sushant Dhurua (25), a resident of Belpahar, was working as a labourer in the cracker factory.

The intensity of the explosion was so powerful that one foot of Sushant was found lying around 200 metre away from the cracker unit, sources said.

The incident took place when the manufacturing of crackers was in progress. One of the cracker sheds was completely damaged in the explo-

The incident took place when the manufacturing of crackers was in progress. One of the cracker sheds was completely damaged in the explosion

sion.

Getting information, police, a forensic team and fire tenders rushed to the spot as several people are suspected to be trapped under the debris.

The preliminary probe suggested that the youth died while he entered into one of the cracker godowns for cleaning work. After he opened the door, suddenly the crackers exploded. As the debris has not

been cleared so far, one person is believed to have been killed in the incident, a police official said.

He said the cracker manufacturing unit was operating in the area for the past 15 years. Earlier, the unit was running inside a village. Now, it was shifted to an isolated area. The matter was being investigated to unearth more information, he added.

INBRIEF

INSURANCE EMPLOYEE KILLED IN ROAD MISHAP Jagatsinghpur: In a road mishap at Itapada on the Cuttack-Machhagaon NH-55, an insurance company employee was killed when an unknown vehicle hit him from behind on Wednesday night. The deceased was identified as Samir Nath from Erasama, who was working in SBI Life in Jagatsinghpur branch. He was returning to his village by his bike when the unknown vehicle hit him, killing him at the spot. Police have launched a drive to find out the unknown vehicle.

BIREN MITRA REMEMBERED ON BIRTH ANNIV Jagatsinghpur: Late Chief Minister Biren Mitra was remembered in his native village Raghunathpur on his 101st birth anniversary on Tuesday. A function was held being attended by many prominent persons with speakers highlighting the manifold activities of Mitra during his lifetime. Mitra was also remembered in another function held at the SVM College, Jagatsinghpur. State Planning Board Deputy Chairman Bishnu Das attended the meeting as chief guest.

Lawyers hold Tarbha bandh

Tarbha: Responding to the call of the Central Action Committee (CAC) of All Western Odisha Bar Association (AWOBA) for a 48-hour 'Maha Bandh', the Tarbha Bar Association held the protest here on Thursday.

The lawyers requested all the shopkeepers to close down for two days, which started from the morning. All school and colleges in Tarbha also remained closed following the strike. However, emergency services have been kept out of the purview of the strike.

Bar association president Subudhhi Daruan, Sananda Mahapatra, Kanhu Chanan Das, Akhya Bag, Suresh Mahala, Mahavir Naik and Sanjib Sahu led the strike. PNS



Eviction begins for 2nd Brahmani bridge

PNS ■ ROURKELA

An eviction drive began in the Rupalola slum area near Panposh here on Thursday for construction of the proposed second bridge over river Brahmani at Balughat here.

The local administration demolished illegal encroachments and houses in the slum during the drive that began at

9 am.

Official source said the Rupalola slum located on the banks of river Brahmani has been obstructing construction of the bridge.

Hence, 54 families of the Basti had been served notices to vacate their houses by November 30. The administration had also extended necessary Government assistance for them for displacement.

However, the slum dwellers were not vacating the place since then.

On Thursday, the administration resorted to the eviction drive in the presence of Panposh Sub-Collector Biswajit Mohapatra and two Magistrates.

Besides, five platoons of police force were deployed at the site to maintain law and order during the eviction.

K'jhar Manch Odia lit test on Dec16

Bhubaneswar: The Vivekananda Pathak Manch, Nuarampas, Keonjhar, will hold various competitions among the school students for the 14th consecutive year.

The campaign is to popularise Odia literature and language among school goers by inculcating reading habit in them. The tests will be conducted on December 16 from 9 am to 2 pm at Japidas Bidya Mandir, Badarampas in the categories of best instant poetry composition, satire writing, elocution, besides an interview of participants on their reading of books in Odia literature. PNS

Habitat loss: Cat varieties come under threat



NADIYA CHAND KANUNGO

There are six types of cats in Odisha out of 16 types found in India.

In the whole world, there is no country, where such great variety of cats is seen, which proves that the climate of India as well as Odisha is very favourable for such species.

All the cats of the globe are

carnivores. Profuse prey animals are available for them. But due to constant depletion of habitats and prey animals, the number of cats is reducing very fast. Similarly, our conservation policy is so poor and ineffective that there are certain varieties of cats which are either completely extinct or on verge of extinction.

The Royal Bengal Tiger (RBT) is one of them. The tiger has a wide range of habitats. The Indian race of tiger is found throughout India from the Himalayas to the Cape of Comorian.

But tiger is not found in deserts of Rajasthan. It can thrive in Himalayan snow at an altitude of 10,000 feet.

In Odisha, all types of tropical forests are favourable for the big cat. Because of sufficient prey animals, with water and wide range of resting grounds, the tigers flourish in India. However, due to destruction of forest cover throughout the

State for extraction of minerals and establishment of industries, the habitat of tiger is under threat. The situation has gone worse in Odisha.

A complete ban on tiger shooting was imposed throughout the country in 1980. However, the unrestricted poaching and hunting of tigers has not been brought under control. Nine tiger reserves cum sanctuaries were established in the country for preservation and conservation of Indian race. The Similipal Tiger Project is one of them.

The leopard is also a cat. It is two feet in length. The tail is half of the length of the total body. The body colour and marking of the leopard are as good as that of a panther, but in size it is very small. The whole body is almost yellowish above, but white below. Recently, these cats were sighted in the Ghatagaon forest of Keonjhar and Chandaka forest of Khordha.

They were kept in the Nandankanan zoological park for exhibiting to the visitors of the zoo.

In the animal world, the cats are very cunning animals with powerful jaws. The writer during his service period saw leopards in Keonjhar and Similipal forests. Such hill forests are best suited to the cat families. There is an allied species of leopard cat, known as rusty spotted cat, generally found in southern and northern India; that is in western Ghat and Himalayan regions.

There is another cat found in Odisha forests which is known as fishing cat. Its size is about 3feet.

The weight of the cat varies from 11 kg to 15 kg. The fishing cat is much larger than the leopard cat and its tail is much shorter than the tail leopard.

The total length of the tail of fishing cat is half of the total body of leopard cat. Its body is covered with short course of earth grey fur with a series of elongated spots.

The fishing cat inhabits within forest land up to an altitude of 5,000feet in the Himalayan areas. It generally prefers to live in swampy mountain lands and other such lands at the base of the hills.

This species is seen in West Bengal, Uttar Pradesh, Odisha and other parts of India. Its habitats extend up to Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and Indo-China countries. It is seen in the vicinity of Chilika lake.

It preys on all types of animals, birds and fishes. Its art of killing animal, birds and fish is applying a blow on the head of the preys through its paw like other cats. It also kills calves, sheep, dogs and sometimes the local children.

This can also kill leopards twice its size. It feeds on fishes

and mollusks. The breeding period of this cat is June, and one or two kitten are produced at a time. Very little is known about its preying fishes from water bodies and wetlands.

Besides above three types of cats, there are other two types of cats in our State. One is panther or leopard and other is jungle cat.

Natural surroundings are required for existence of these five species.

Once upon a time the lion was living in Odisha forests. Due to hunting of lions by the royal members, the stock of lions was exhausted. Now only residual stock is available in Gir forests of Gujarat. Thanks to the then Raja Saheb of Junagarh of Gujarat, such residual stock is found. The shooting of lion was once a pride for royal members of the country and also for English administrators of British rules in India.

No person other than those could shoot a lion, which was

prohibited. So the stock of lion of our country was exhausted very fast. Similarly, the position of Cheetah or hunting leopard is also similar in our State and country. This cat species has completely vanished from our land due to indiscriminate poaching and hunting for its prizeful hides. Such a beautiful animal, which is fastest among animals, is ruthlessly hunted to fulfill the human greed. This species now exists only in Africa. This has to be re-introduced in the Indian forests. It has vanished from Odisha forests long since.

Its brother is panther or leopard. The average length of animal is 7feet, but the length of the male is always greater than the female.

The average weight of the animal is about 70kg. This species is found all over the country and also in Baluchistan, Sikim and Nepal.

Panther kills and eats anything. It preys on cattle, deer,

monkey and rodents. It is very fond of hunting porcupines. It also eats birds, crabs and reptiles. It does not kill big animals like Sambar, stag and Nilgai or wild boar, but eats them if killed by tiger. Its chief enemies are tiger, wild dogs and hyenas. Sometimes it becomes a 'man eater'.

It has a special quality to shrink its body to pass on through a very narrow slit, and to hunt its prey. Recently one leopard entered into the Delhi secretariat and created havoc. This animal is hunted very much for its skin.

The jungle cat or wild cat exists in natural forests. It is quite a non-harmful animal just like domestic cat. Its protection is needed for keeping control over population of harmful rodents.

(The writer is a former forest officer and environmentalist. Email: nadiya.kanungo@gmail.com, M-9937460649)

ECO DIARY

Vedanta Hosp holds cataract surgery camp

PNS ■ LANJIGARH

In its bid to provide better health services in and around Lanjigarh, the Vedanta Hospital in association with Purnaruthan Voluntary Organisation (PVO) and Lepra Mahanadi Eye Hospital, Sonepur organised second free cataract surgery screening camp here on Thursday.

Vedanta Lanjigarh COO Rakesh Mohan and Technical director Phillip Campbell flagged off the campaign in presence of Chief Safety Officer Grant Durling, Chief Community Development Officer Harmeet Sehra, Chief Medical Officer Dr Akshaya Kumar Sahoo and Dr Saroj Kanta Mishra and Dr Debendra Narayan Sahu from



Leptra. As many as 35 patients were treated from nearby villages of Bandhapari, Batelima, Belamba, Bhataguda, Boringspadar, Chanalima, Chhatrapur, Harekrushnapur, Kutendeli, Lanjigarh, Leptaguda, Mushanal and Raghunathpur and were provided blankets. Notably, over 320 patients have already been treated in earlier phases of cataract surgery campaigns organised by the company.

RD Women's Varsity annual day on Dec 3

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

The Rama Devi Women's University stands out in the academic map of India as one of the premier educational institutes of the country. Named after Maa Rama Devi, the great Gandhian freedom fighter from Odisha, the university has always strived to follow her ideologies concerning women's education and empowerment.

This iconic figure was born on December 3, 1899 at Satyabhamapur of Cuttack district. As a fitting tribute to the illustrious daughter of the soil, the university was formed and named after her in 2015.

The university is going to celebrate its 4th Foundation Day on December 3 to commemorate the 119th birthday of Rama Devi. Governor and Chancellor of universities Prof Ganeshi Lal would be chief guest of the event, said a university release on Thursday.

Though just four years old, the university has attracted students from across the country.

PLGA WEEK High alert sounded in Maoist-hit districts

PNS ■ MALKANGIRI

In view of the annual People's Liberation Guerrilla Army (PLGA) Week to be observed from December 2 to 8, a high alert has been sounded in all Maoist-hit districts of the State.

Sources said during the week, the Maoists would conduct meetings and rally in all villages. During the week, the Red rebels usually focus on recruitment of new cadres and pay tributes to those who are killed in encounters with police and security forces.

Besides, martyr pillars in the villages will be constructed in memory of the comrades.

The Central forces like BSF and CRPF have been asked to remain on high alert and keep watch on Maoist activities in Malkangiri, Koraput, Rayagada, and Kandhamal districts.

According to sources, the combing

Besides, martyr pillars in the villages will be constructed in memory of the comrades

operations are scheduled to be intensified by the district police, Special Operation Group (SOG) and the District Voluntary Force (DVF).

In view of the week-long programme, a high alert has been issued in all districts bordering Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and Jharkhand in order to prevent any untoward incident.

The banned outfit has been observing the PLGA week in memory of slain cadres Nalla Adi Reddy, alias Syam, Murali and Naresh, who were killed in an encounter at Koyuru in Karimnagar in Andhra Pradesh in 2000.

Blood bank staff stir hits MKCG

Middlemen make hay, sell blood at hefty rate

PNS ■ BRAHMAPUR

The ongoing strike of blood bank officials in the State in last four days has severely affected the blood bank services in different hospitals across the State. The condition is severe at the MKCG Medical College Hospital where the blood bank has been nearly paralysed as the daily requirements of blood are increasing and the stocks are reducing drastically.

Relatives of some thalassaemia and sickle cell patients, who are the worst sufferers and need regular and repeated blood transfusion for their survival, alleged that some middlemen are taking the benefit of the stir and are selling a packet of blood at ₹3,000. It might be mentioned here that a total of 12 employees are there in the blood bank and six doctors have been engaged in the work.

'Jajpur Buddhist sites fit for World Heritage tag'

2-day Udayagiri Buddha Mahotsav kicks off

PNS ■ JAJPUR

Large numbers of tourists, particularly overseas tourists, will visit the famous Buddhist sites at Lalitagiri, Ratnagiri, Udayagiri, Langudi, Kaimes, Radhanagar, Brajagiri, Neulapur and other places of Jajpur district as the Government is determined to highlight these places, said Governor Ganesh Lal while addressing the Buddha Mahotsav at Udayagiri on Wednesday.

The famous Buddhist sites in Lalitagiri, Udayagiri and Ratnagiri are fit to get the status of World Heritage Sites like Sun Temple of Konark. The Government has already prepared an ambitious master



plan to develop Buddhist sites in Jajpur district as a tourist hub to attract more foreign and domestic travellers. Jajpur district has a special place on the World Buddhist spots, added Lal.

The basic objective of the Buddha Mahotsav is to create awareness about the diversity of cultural heritage and to promote tourism. The ancient Buddhist sites of Sarnath in Uttar Pradesh, where Lord Buddha preached his first sermon, Buddhist monastery in Sanchi of Madhya Pradesh,

Buddhagaya in Bihar, Buddhist caves in Ajanta and Ellora find places on Unesco's World Heritage List. The success of the Buddha Mahotsav will pave the way to declare these sites

in Odisha as World Heritage Sites, Lal said further. Addressing the gathering, Barachana MLA Amar Prasad Satapathy termed these areas as treasure houses of history that is just waiting for the arrival of large numbers of tourists. Visitors can travel through this Buddhist Circuit in a very economic package to savour its splendid beauty and great appeal of Buddhism, he said.

The Buddha Mahastava was addressed by Maheswar Bal, Suvendu Bhuyan, Arundhati Devi among others.

Hindu Mahasabha to contest in all seats

Geeta Chaini elected State head

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

The Akhil Bharat Hindu Mahasabha on Thursday said it would field candidates in all Parliamentary and Assembly constituencies in Odisha in the upcoming general elections.

The Mahasabha made this announcement at a Press conference held under the chairmanship of its working president Arun Upadhyay here. On the occasion, new office-bearers' names were announced. Geeta Chaini was appointed as State executive committee president while Abinash Patnaik and Chinmay Mahapatra named as vice-presidents,



Subash Mohanty, Sumant Swain, Sameer Patnaik, Asha Mukul Barik and Raghunath Nayak as joint secretaries and Prafulla Maharaj as State mutt and temple president. Pradip Kishore Nanda was appointed as State Legal cell VP, Menka Kinnar as State Kinnar Sangha president and Sabyasachi Mishra as State youth wing president. Chaini said the Mahasabha would play a vital role in Odisha politics by fielding candidates in all Parliamentary and Assembly constituencies in 2019.

Anganwadi workers seek Govt staff status

CONTINUE STIR FOR 4TH DAY

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

Hundreds of anganwadi workers from Puri joined the ongoing agitation of the All Orissa Anganwadi Ladies Workers' Association here on the fourth day on Thursday.

Notably, the association continued holding the agitation pressing for fulfilment of their various demands, including status of Government employees.

The Anganwadi workers alleged that the State Government is yet to respond to their demands favourably. The demands include minimum monthly salary of ₹18,000 for Workers and ₹9,000 for Helpers, minimum



monthly pension of ₹3,000, implementation of a revised insurance policy and provision of other Government benefits.

Association general secretary Sumita Mahapatra threatened that all the Anganwadi Centres would remain closed under the demands are met.

While the Government is claiming that it has been providing work to villagers and ensuring respect to women, the negligence meted out to Anganwadi Workers gives the real picture of claims.

Mahapatra alleged that the Government is not giving importance to the Anganwadi Workers, who have been working tirelessly in providing basic healthcare like contraceptive counselling and supply of nutritious foods and imparting education and doing pre-school activities in the villages.

Among others, Soudamini Das, Basant Kumar Sahu, Namita Praharaj, Bijaylaxmi Swain, Mamata Baral and Jyostnarani Sahu were present.

South Korean firms keen to invest in north India: Envoy

Chandigarh: South Korean companies have expressed willingness to invest, especially in IT companies, in states such as Punjab, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh and in UT Chandigarh, an official said Thursday. Korean companies are keen on developing information technology, internet of things, artificial intelligence, smart factories, and infrastructure projects, including smart cities, transportation, and power generation & transmission, said Shin Bong-Kil, Ambassador of South Korea in India, while visiting Infosys technology facility in the city. "Korean companies are good in developing technology and manufacturing, while Indian services and IT companies are well-known for their expertise. If both join hands and form joint companies, they can do wonders globally," according to a release quoting the Ambassador. Korea is keen to forge business ties, joint ventures, partnerships, mergers and develop other inter-trade mechanisms such as appointing dealerships and distributor channels with the industrialists from northern India, especially Chandigarh, Punjab, Himachal and Haryana, he said. He also referred to the recent visit of Korean President Moon Jae-in to the country and various steps taken by India, including the launch of 'Korea Plus', a special initiative to promote and facilitate Korean investments in India. "Steps for ease of doing business and creating an ideal investment environment coupled by success of several existing Korean companies in India, a large number of new companies are interested in investing and setting up industries in India and becoming a key partner in 'Make in India' initiative," he said.

It's my homecoming, says Aparajita



PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

Former Odisha-cadre IAS officer Aparajita Sarangi, who had joined the BJP in New Delhi on November 27, said here on Thursday that she would strive for making Odisha a truly a developed State with everyone's cooperation.

She said it is her "homecoming", Sarangi, who, accord-

ing to speculations, is likely to the BJP candidate from the Bhubaneswar Lok Sabha constituency, said that she would work in whatever capacity her party gives her.

Arriving from New Delhi by air, she visited the Lingaraj Temple accompanied by some State party leaders, including vice-president Sameer Mohanty.

CM WRITES TO JAITLEY

'Reduce GST on Kendu leaves to 5%

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik on Thursday wrote to Union Finance Minister Arun Jaitley urging him to place the State's proposal to reduce GST on Kendu leaves from 18 per cent to five per cent in the next GST Council meeting.

Kendu (Tendu) leaf is the financial lifeline of the tribal people of Odisha. They have the right to procure and sell these products. From beginning, 18 per cent GST is levied on Kendu leaf. Prior to implementation of the GST, 5 per cent VAT was being collected on Kendu (Tendu) leaf in Odisha, the Chief Minister mentioned in the letter.

Due to the hiked GST rate, thousands of quintals of Kendu leaves are still lying at different go-downs.

This has led to drop in selling price of Kendu (Tendu) leaves sold by Odisha Forest Development Corporation Ltd. through tender, which has adversely impacted the implementation of social security and welfare schemes for 8.5 lakh Kendu leaf pluckers, seasonal workers and binding workers engaged in this trade, the letter read.

"It is requested to place the proposal of reducing GST from 18 per cent to 5 per cent on Kendu leaves in the next GST Council meeting," wrote Patnaik.

'Execute biz reforms cent per cent'

CS reviews Business Reform Action Plan

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

Ensure cent per cent-ground-level implementation of the business reforms, directed Chief Secretary Aditya Prasad Padhi to concerned departments while presiding over a high-level meeting on Business Reform Action Plan for the year 2019 here on Thursday.

The departments were asked to issue strict guidelines to all the offices and agencies under their administrative control to ensure all the reform measures in their true spirit.

The Industry Department was also advised to organise sensitisation and orientation programmes for the officers working at the level of service delivery.

Departments were asked to create wide awareness among the prospective users about the online facilities and services available so that they can avail those services without running to the Government offices.

Chief Secretary Padhi directed to ensure online delivery of services regarding various clearances, permissions, no objections and licences within January 31.

The review revealed that on the whole 97.83 per cent of targeted business reforms have already been introduced in Odisha.

Hundred percent of the targeted reform has been introduced in the vital indicators like access to information, compliance to environmental procedures, labour regulations, tax procedures, single window system, etc.

Three commercial courts have already been established at Khorda, Brahmapur and Sambalpur for quick disposal of business related cases.

Chief Secretary Padhi directed to make online systems for sanction of drug licence, trade licence, construction permits and registration of shops and commercial establishments.

Konark Festival to begin on Dec 1

INT'L SAND FEST TO COINCIDE 5-DAY EVENT

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

The much-awaited Konark Festival and International Sand Art Festival would be held at Konark and the Chandrabhaga sea beach, respectively, from December 1 to 5, informed an official release on Thursday.

The country's traditional and classical dances would be presented on the auditorium each evening from 6 pm to 8:30 pm. Leading exponents and dance enthusiasts of Odissi, Bharatanatyam, Manipuri,

Kathak, Kuchipudi and Sattriya would take part.

The eighth edition of the International Sand Art Festival, with Padmashree Awardee Sudarshan Pattnaik as its brand ambassador and chief curator, will be held on the Chandrabhaga beach from 10 am to 10 pm each day.

The festival would be held on themes of sports, heritage, environment, women empowerment and cultural fairs and festivals.

To make the festivals more colourful, a wonderful crafts mela would be held near Chandrabhaga. Beautiful sculptures and souvenirs made by the expert craftsmen of the region would be displayed and sold, informed the release.

THE EIGHTH EDITION OF THE INTERNATIONAL SAND ART FESTIVAL, WITH PADMASHREE AWARDEE SUDARSHANPATNAIK AS ITS BRAND AMBASSADOR AND CHIEF CURATOR, WILL BE HELD ON THE CHANDRABHAGA BEACH FROM 10 AM TO 10 PM EACH DAY

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
Government of Odisha "e" Procurement Notice.
Bid Identification No- EEPID-01/2018-19 (On line) dated 27.11.2018

1	Nature of work	Pre-construction Survey Works for design of earth dam & canal head regulator .
2	No. of works	04 (Four) Nos.
3	Estimated Cost	Rs. 31.98 Lakhs to Rs.56.60Lakhs
4	Period of Completion	As per DTCN
5	Date & Time of availability of bid document in the portal	07.12.2018 at 10:00 A.M. to 21.12.2018 upto 05:00 P.M.
6	Last date/ time for receipt of bid in the portal .	21.12.2018 upto 05:00 P.M.
7	Date of opening of Bid	22.12.2018 at 11 AM
8	Name & Address of the Officer Inviting Bid	Executive Engineer, Padampur Investigation Division, Padampur, P.O. - Rajborasambar, Dist. - Bargarh, PIN - 768036.

Further details can be seen from the e-Procurement Portal <https://tendersodisha.gov.in>

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
Padampur Investigation Division
Padampur

32086/11/0004/1819

Body seized, one held in Sundargarh

PNS ■ SUNDARGARH

A body of a 45-year-old youth with deep cut mark on throat was recovered by the police on Thursday from a village road side under Talsara police limits.

The police registered a murder case and started an investigation and later in the evening, arrested one accused and recovered one axe from him, which was stated to be the weapon of the crime.

The deceased was identified as Sisupal Tanty, a native of Sankara Bahal village. He was a farmer.

The deceased was identified as Sisupal Tanty, a native of Sankara Bahal village

The arrested person was identified as Rekha Tanty (40). "During investigation, we came to know that deceased Sisupal had some conflict with accused Rekha Tanty over some landed property. On Thursday morning, Rekha and Sisupal had some arguments, following which Rekha had attacked him with an axe and killed him on the spot," said Sundargarh SDPO Balabhadra Deep.

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FAC TURNS DOWN TDP GOVT'S PROPOSAL

AP's green plan hits Centre roadblock

ARCHANA JYOTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Telugu Desam Party's parting ways with its NDA ally BJP seems to have cast a shadow on the Andhra Pradesh Government's projects in the State. The Central Forest Advisory Committee (FAC) has turned down the Chandra Babu Naidu dispensation's proposal to divert 3307.27 hectare forest land for setting up a string of projects — eight in total — in the new capital Amaravati.



(APCRDA) on the PPP mode. However, refusing to clear the projects, the FAC in its meeting held on November 15, 2018 said that the user agencies had not explored options to use non-forest lands for the project development. The TDP quit the NDA in March this year. Intriguingly, the Ministry

had given its in-principle approval to the proposal on September 20, 2017. The State Government had initially requested for diversion of 19256.8 hectares forest land which was revised to 13267 hectares and then to 12444.89 hectares of forest area, of which FAC considered only 2087.09

hectares as a special case, although this was non-site specific, in view of security reasons. However, following intervention of the National Green Tribunal, the State Government submitted the proposal again early this year for central approval. The FAC sought a

report from the Chennai regional office which submitted that the proposal is non-site specific.

Thereafter, refusing to give green signal, the FAC of the Union Environment Ministry said, "The State Government should make efforts to increase the total area under green cover, in line with some of the best capital regions in the country and also should make efforts in increasing the density of the existing RFs in the capital region."

Considering all "the above facts FAC decided not to recommend for 'in-principle' approval for this proposal," said the panel in its minutes of the meeting.

The panel members included, SD Vora (Member), Dr Sanjay Deshmukh (Member) DK Mohanty (Member) AK Mghanty (Inspector General of Forests (FC)) Saibal Dasgupta (Addl. Director General of Forests (FC)) and Siddhanta Das (Director General of Forests and Special Secretary of the Environment Ministry).

UGC OK's direct job for PhD holders from top foreign varsities as Asst Prof

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

In a major decision to fill the vacant posts in Central Universities and institutions, the HRD Ministry on Thursday announced to facilitate direct recruitment of academics holding doctoral degree from top 500 global Universities or institutions. At present, they need to take the National Eligibility Test along with the Indian competitors.

A HRD Ministry official said doctoral degree holders from the top 500 foreign universities are now eligible for direct recruitment as an assistant professor in Indian varsities. As per the new recruitment norms laid down by university regulator UGC, the top 500 ranking of the university shall be referred from four famous world university ranking systems — Quacquarelli Symonds, Times Higher Education rankings and the Academic Ranking of World Universities of the Shanghai Jiao Tong University. "The direct recruitment

eligibility of international PhD holders is applicable for the disciplines of Arts, Commerce, Humanities, Education, Law, Social Sciences, Languages, Library Science, Physical Education and Journalism and Mass Communication. This will help students learn from global talent in India itself, "a senior University Grants Commission (UGC) official said.

Earlier, the candidates eligible for the post were required to have minimum 55 per cent marks in the Master's degree in concerned subject from an Indian University or an equivalent degree from an accredited foreign university.

The candidate was also required to have cleared the National Eligibility Test (NET) conducted by the UGC or the CSIR, or a similar test accredited by the UGC, like SLET, SET. While PhD degree holders from Indian university with required percentage in Masters' are also eligible for direct recruitment, the minimum requirements related to Masters' programme have

been waived off for international PhD holders.

"The direct recruitment eligibility only grants candidates an exemption from the written test but their performance in the interview will be a deciding factor for their appointment," the official added.

There are about 6,000 (roughly) vacant posts of faculty members in central universities across the country while the number of such vacancies in the prestigious IITs round up to 2900. In National Institutes of Technology and Indian Institute of Engineering Science and Technology, there are 1,870 vacant positions while the figure is 258 in IIMS.

In order to meet their requirements, though at the cost of quality of education, the institutions and universities are adopting measures to address shortage which includes engaging research scholars, contract, re-employed, adjunct and visiting faculty.

Make Taj vision public once finalised, nothing secret: SC

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court told the Uttar Pradesh Government on Thursday that the vision document on protecting Taj Mahal, being prepared by School of Planning and Architecture (SPA), Delhi, should be made public once finalised as there is "nothing secret" about it.



When Bhati said it would take around 24 months to carry out the study, the bench asked, "Why 24 months?"

A bench of Justices Madan B Lokur, S Abdul Nazeer and Deepak Gupta was told by SPA that the process of preparing vision document would be completed within a "few days" and as per terms of reference they would submit it to the UP government.

"It (vision document) should be made public. It is a vision document. There is nothing secret about it. You place it on record also," the bench told the counsel representing Uttar Pradesh.

Additional Solicitor General (ASG) ANS Nadkarni, appearing for the Centre, told the bench that the first draft of the heritage plan for Taj Mahal, which is to be submitted to the UNESCO, was ready and it would be finalised within eight weeks.

He said that once the heritage plan is finalised, it will be sent to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) along with vision document.

The bench also dealt with the issue of declaring Agra as a heritage city and the Centre told the court that they had written to the UP government about it.

Advocate Aishwarya Bhati, representing Uttar Pradesh, told the bench that they have sought assistance of Ahmedabad-based Centre for Environmental Planning and Technology, which would conduct a study on this.

er declaring a portion of the area surrounding it 'heritage'. The state government had said that "in-principle" there cannot be any objection in declaring all of Agra a heritage city but that would have several ramifications.

It had said it would be difficult to declare the entire city heritage but some portion of it could be brought within its ambit, covering sites like Taj Mahal, Fatehpur Sikri and Agra Fort.

The top court had earlier asked the authorities to take a larger perspective on issues of pollution and green cover while preparing a vision document, saying there would not get a "second chance" to preserve the Taj Mahal.

While observing that the Taj Mahal would "of course be the centre piece" of the matters to be considered, the apex court had said other issues like vehicular traffic, pollution from the industries operating in the Taj Trapezium Zone (TTZ) and the water level of the Yamuna river should also be looked into while preparing the vision document.

The TTZ is an area of about 10,400 sq km spread over the districts of Agra, Firozabad, Mathura, Hathras and Etah in Uttar Pradesh and the Bharatpur district of Rajasthan. Environmentalist M C Mehta, the petitioner in the case relating to protection of Taj Mahal, had told the apex court that green cover in the area has reduced and there were encroachments inside and outside the Yamuna flood plains.

The top court, which has been monitoring development in the TTZ area to protect the Taj, had earlier slammed the Centre, Uttar Pradesh government and TTZ authority for their failure to restore the pristine glory of Taj Mahal.

The Union Home Ministry on Thursday relaxed the height norms in a few categories for male candidates from the Northeast applying for posts of constables and sub-inspectors in Central paramilitary forces. Union Minister of State for Home Kiren Rijiju said with this relaxation, large number of youths from the Northeast, and Gorkhas will be recruited in central paramilitary forces.

The Home Ministry said the decision has been taken to maintain uniformity in height norms of male Gorkhas and male Schedule Tribes candidates of the Northeastern region. "Ministry of Home Affairs has taken a historic decision to remove discrimination in height norms for the STs of North-East India & Gorkhas for recruitment in Central Armed Forces," Rijiju tweeted.

The new height norms will be applicable to Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), Border Security Force (BSF), Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB), Central Industrial Security Force (CISF), Indo Tibetan

Delhi Govt sitting on RRTS file, SC told

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Government is "sitting" on the Regional Rapid Transit System (RRTS) file on corridor between Delhi and Meerut that aims to decongest the national Capital, the Centre told the Supreme Court Thursday.

The apex court should give a direction to the Delhi Government on this issue, the Centre told a bench of Justices Madan B Lokur, S Abdul Nazeer and Deepak Gupta.

"The Government of India and Uttar Pradesh are committed on their shares. We are yet to get it from the Delhi government. We want a direction from this court for Delhi government as they are sitting on it," said Additional Solicitor General (ASG) ANS Nadkarni, appearing for the Centre.

Kartarpur corridor would be of no use if Pak continues to back terror, says Hardeep

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Union Minister Hardeep Singh Puri on Thursday wondered if the Kartarpur corridor would be of any use if Pakistan continued to support cross-border terrorism against India. Puri, who represented the Indian Government at the groundbreaking ceremony of the corridor, said while Kartarpur is a "corridor of hope and goodwill" it cannot be insulated from the ground reality.

The corridor links Darbar Sahib in Pakistan — the final resting place of Sikh faith's founder Guru Nanak — with Dera Baba Nanak shrine in India's Gurdaspur.

"The fact of the matter is that the ground reality is characterised by one state using terror as an instrument of policy against a neighbouring state," he said here on the sidelines of the Cement Manufacturers Association of India's annual convention here. Puri, the Union minister of



state of Housing and Urban Affairs (independent charge), also said, "Now what use of the corridor would be, if these kind of acts of terrorism or elements which are committed to creating trouble (continue)." Reiterating the government's stand on dialogue with Pakistan, he said External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj has already gone "on record that terror and talks do not make a good companion." "So you cannot have talks when the other side (Pakistan) has terror," Puri said.

Centre relaxes height norms for N-E candidates applying for Central forces

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Union Home Ministry on Thursday relaxed the height norms in a few categories for male candidates from the Northeast applying for posts of constables and sub-inspectors in Central paramilitary forces. Union Minister of State for Home Kiren Rijiju said with this relaxation, large number of youths from the Northeast, and Gorkhas will be recruited in central paramilitary forces.

Border Police (ITBP) and Assam Rifles (AR) and comes into immediate effect.

According to the revised norms, the height of male ST candidates from the Northeast for recruitment as constables should be 157 cm instead of 162.5 cm. Similarly, the height of male Gorkhas and male Schedule Tribes aspirants from the Northeast for the posts of Sub-Inspector in paramilitary forces and Assistant Sub Inspector in Central Industrial Security Force should be 157 cm instead of 165 cm (for SI) and 162.5 cm (for ASI) respectively.

AICC general secretary Avinash Pande, former chief minister Ashok Gehlot and manifesto committee chairman Harish Choudhary released the document titled 'Jan Ghoshna Patra' ahead of the December 7 election.

Pilot said the Congress reached out to people in various ways, including on social media, and received nearly two lakh suggestions for the manifesto. He said the party aims to implement the manifesto in a time-bound manner on formation of a Congress

After MP, Cong promises loan waiver in Raj

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI/JAIPUR

After the farm loan waiver emerged as the main electoral plank of the Congress in Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh, the party has promised the same in Rajasthan. From youth to farmers, the party on Thursday promised to take care of each section of the society including women in its manifesto released for the Rajasthan Assembly elections.

The party in an effort to wrest power from Vasundhara Raje has promised to waive off farm loans, give pension to farmers and exclude farming equipment from GST. Further employment opportunities for the youth and those who want to start their own business will be given loans. Youth without jobs will get a monthly allowance of ₹3,500.

Highlighting the promises made in the manifesto, Rajasthan Congress President Sachin Pilot said the government will waive farmers' loan, provide free education to girls and women and give up to ₹3,500 monthly allowance to educated unemployed youths. The ruling BJP too promised a monthly allowance of up to ₹5,000 in its manifesto released on Tuesday.

It said it would expedite work on rail connectivity in Dungarpur, Banswara and Tonk districts if it comes to power in the state. To push industrial growth, the party said, companies working in the fields of robotics, artificial intelligence, nano technology and quantum computing will be promoted.

It has promised new industry and tourism policies, promotion of local art, culture and heritage; a 24X7 women helpline, an ITI and poly-technic college for women in every district, increase in pension amount for the elderly, a journalists' protection act, an advocates' protection act and steps for security of religious places.

government in Rajasthan, which has 200 Assembly seats.

Gehlot said the party's manifesto was based on "Rahul model" as people's suggestions were taken before drafting it. He claimed the BJP Government has closed universities set up by the Congress government and promised that they will be reopened.

In the manifesto, the Congress said it would like to have agriculture equipment and tractor exempted from the Goods and Services Tax. It said recommendation to bring petrol and diesel under the GST will be made to the GST Council.

The opposition party promised to promote organic farming, give pension to elderly farmers, develop dairy industry, give push to fisheries, provide internet facility in every panchayat, link villages with eastern Rajasthan canal project.

It promised to ensure quality health services to citizens, availability of wheat to BPL families at ₹1 per kg, easy monetary loans to the youth and no fare in State-run buses for candidates travelling to appear in competitive exams.

Firing on anti-Sterlite protesters: CBI registers case of dacoity, robbery against TN police, revenue officials

Police had opened fire on protesters on the 100th day of protest

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The CBI has registered a fresh case of criminal conspiracy, robbery, dacoity and disobeying law to cause injury against police and revenue department officials of Tamil Nadu in connection with the firing on anti-Sterlite protesters on May 22 in Thoothukudi in which 13 people were killed, officials said Thursday.

This is the second case pertaining to the incident.

The case has been registered against unidentified officials of police and revenue department on the basis of a complaint from K Arjunan, District Secretary, CPI-M.

The agency has covered most of the issues raised in Arjunan's complaint in its FIR dated October 8, officials said. "Perusal of written complaint dated

May 29, 2018 discloses prima facie commission of offence...By unknown persons and public servants from police and revenue department," the FIR said.

The fresh FIR has been registered under IPC sections related to criminal conspiracy, public servants disobeying law with intent to cause injury to any person, framing incorrect document to cause injury, robbery, dacoity, criminal intimidation and acts done in furtherance of common intention.

Acting on a batch of petitions related to the police firing, the Madurai Bench of the Madras High Court had on August 14 asked the premier investigative agency to probe the incident.

The Tamil Nadu Police had opened fire on protesters on the 100th day of protests as locals allegedly turned violent demanding the closure of Sterlite copper plant, a unit of Vedanta group over purported pollution concerns killing 13 people, the police had claimed.

the victims, registration of murder case against police officers for allegedly deploying snipers, a probe by a high court judge and the CBI, were heard by a division bench of Justices C T Selvam and Basheer Ahmed.

"It can hardly be expected that any investigation either into the wrong doings of the protesters or of the police or administration would inspire confidence if entrusted to agencies of this state," the bench had said.

It had further said that the state government was liable to answer certain questions over the firing as it noted that the absence of the district collector was rather unusual in the face of definite input of anti-social elements infiltrating the 100th day protest, which prompted promulgation of ban orders under Section 144 of the CrPC in the area.

Also, the bench had noted that police firing was ordered by an official who was not a jurisdictional executive magistrate and admittedly on his assuming powers which he did not possess.

"Caesar's wife must be above suspicion and not only must justice be done it must also be seen to be done," it had added.



Justice Kurian Joseph, the third senior-most judge who was elevated to the Supreme Court on March 8, 2013, retired on Thursday. Bar leaders urged Chief Justice Ranjan Gogoi to replace Justice Kurian with a judge having a similar smile.

Tej Pratap sticks to guns on divorce

FAIZAN AHMAD ■ PATNA

Fighting aggressively with the Nitish Kumar Government, Leaders of Opposition in both the Houses of legislature Tejashwi Prasad Yadav and her mother Rabri Devi claim victory every now and then but failed on family front once again.

Lalu Prasad and Rabri's elder son Tej Pratap Yadav on Thursday reiterated his stand that he would neither withdraw divorce petition nor live with wife Aishwarya Rai. The two were wedded on May 12 last and Yadav filed divorce petition in the family court last month.

Since the filing of petition Tej disappeared and remained missing for about a month

and reportedly spent his time in Mathura. After meeting his jailed and ailing father Lalu Prasad at Rims in Ranchi, he slipped out and did not return here even as family members tried their best for a patch up and pursue him to withdraw the petition.

On Thursday, he returned only to appear in the family court where a hearing was scheduled. But Tej was not in favour of listening to anyone and said he was not going to take back his application and that he will fight his battle all alone.

Tej was married to Aishwarya, granddaughter of former Chief Minister Daroga Rai and daughter of RJD MLA and former Minister Chandrika Rai amid much



RJD leader Tej Pratap Yadav appears in a family court in Patna on Thursday PTI

fanfare only six months back but he dropped a bombshell last month by filing a divorce petition saying he was not ready to live with her and even leveled several serious allegations against her, including her pressure to give Lok Sabha ticket to her father from Chhapra seat.

All family members including parents were left shell shocked and no amount of pursuing succeeded. There were also reports that some Sadhu in Mathura were behind misguiding Tej who is a known devotee of Lord Krishna and spends good times with Sadhus. The hearing in the family

court was in camera and anybody not associated with the case was allowed entry. There was no reaction from the family members of Aishwarya, who was educated in Delhi.

Despite Tej's assertion that he was not taking back his petition there were unconfirmed reports that the Lalu-Rabri family was readying for a big party. First there had been hints that Tej had agreed to withdraw but after the hearing he remained adamant. A woman fell on his feet just outside court urging him not to divorce his wife but he refused to listen her and security personnel whisked her away. Tej has hired a lawyer from Delhi Amit Khemka to plead his case. The next hearing is fixed on January 8.

Soon Bengal will show India the way: Mamata

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA



A day after Mamata Banerjee announced Trinamool Congress' plans to contest elections from neighbouring States of Jharkhand, Odisha, Assam and Tripura as an apparent antidote to the rising 'safron menace' in Bengal, the Chief Minister on Thursday said Bengal (read TMC) was destined to show India the way in days to come.

"In days to come Bengal will show the way to the rest of the country" at a time when communal and casteist forces were trying to divide India to

gain narrow political mileage. Attacking the BJP and the Government's run by it for dividing the country communally and along caste and linguistic lines Banerjee said after creating tensions among com-

munities in Assam and Gujarat "they (the BJP) are trying to set one community against the other in Bengal too. Here they are trying to create a rift between the Bengalis and Hindi-speaking people so that they can reap political harvest."

However, the BJP would not be able to do what it had done in other States, she said. "They will never be able to divide Bengal for votes. Earlier they tried to do so but failed. This time also they are trying such dirty tricks but this time also they will fail," Banerjee said.

ing MLA Ajit Singh Mehta after the Congress gave ticket to Pilot here.

Talking to PTI while campaigning in the rural areas of Tonk, Khan said the decision to field him was based on strategy and equations and not on his religion.

"Don't weigh this as a Hindu-Muslim fight because if you look at it from that perspective, Muslims are lesser in number in comparison to Hindus. This election is not about caste and religion," said Khan, who is widely considered as one of the most powerful Ministers in the Raj Government.

Asked about being the lone Muslim candidate of the BJP and if his nomination marked a departure from the party's strategy to not field any candidates from the minority community, he said, "I don't know about elsewhere, but in Rajasthan, Yoonus Khan and (late BJP leader) Ramzan Khan have been fighting polls since the 80s."

Khan said he has been the party's lone Muslim candidate once earlier also. Asked if Tonk having a large number of Muslims was one of the reasons

Battleground Rajasthan

Amit Shah: Cong a pvt ltd company

PTI ■ JAIPUR

BJP chief Amit Shah on Thursday termed the Congress a private limited company of the Gandhi-Nehru family in which party workers are "ashamed" of chanting slogans for the country.

He targeted the opposition party at a series of public meetings in poll-bound Rajasthan, where he also talked tough on illegal migration from Bangladesh.

He said the BJP Government will try to expel illegal migrants "one by one" and asked Congress chief Rahul Gandhi to clarify whether he wanted "infiltrators" to remain in the country.

"The Congress is not a democratic party. It is a private limited firm of the Gandhi-Nehru family," he said addressing an election rally in Kotputli in Jaipur district.

The Bharatiya Janata Party president also addressed meetings in Karauli and Nadoti in Karauli district, and in Bassi near Jaipur. Shah referred to a reported incident in Bikaner where Congress workers chanting 'Bharat mata ki jai' were interrupted by 'Sonia Gandhi ki jai' slogans.

"They are ashamed of

chanting slogans for the country. It is a matter of shame for the Congress," he said.

On illegal migration, Shah said, "During the 10 years of the previous Congress Government's rule at the Centre, there was no control on infiltration."

"Vote for Vasundhara Raje in 2018 in Rajasthan and for Narendra Modi in 2019," he said in Karauli. "I assure you that the BJP government will work to throw out each and every intruder from Kanyakumari to Kashmir and Assam to Gujarat, one by one," he added.

He highlighted the surgical strike conducted by the Army in Pakistan-held territory across the Line of Control.

Shah said the BJP Governments at the Centre and in Rajasthan had implemented welfare schemes covering all sections of society.

He alleged it is in the character of the Congress to spread the poison of caste and religious-based politics while the BJP's motto is 'Sabka saath, sabka Vikas' (inclusive development).

Amit Shah said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi has worked to make the country proud across the globe.

ON CAMPAIGN TRAIL IN TONK

Will Yogi come to campaign for Khan: Pilot

PTI ■ TONK (RAJASTHAN)

Pitted against the BJP's lone Muslim candidate in the State Assembly polls, Rajasthan Congress chief Sachin Pilot has a poser for the saffron party — will Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath come to Tonk to seek votes for Yoonus Khan.

On his campaign trail covering nine panchayats and the city throughout the day on Wednesday, Pilot accused the BJP of playing politics of caste and religion.

In his campaign speeches one after another in Tonk, Pilot is pitching his electoral contest with Khan as a battle of ideologies and not of individuals. The State Congress president, who is fighting his debut Assembly election and that too from a seat outside his regular parliamentary constituency, is drawing massive crowds at meetings in urban as well as rural areas and is con- voy is forced to stop every now and then by people wishing to garland him and those raising slogans in his support.

The city is also abuzz with talk of a CM probable contesting from this town, who his supporters feel could usher in major development works in the city which lags behind in

infrastructure and facilities.

"Be it Yoonus Khan or Chenghiz Khan, it doesn't matter. Pilot will win the polls," said Jagdish from Mor Bhatiyar village where Pilot rode a bullock cart in a show of people's affection towards him.

Another supporter at the gathering, Meghraj, said Pilot's win was a foregone conclusion and he would also be the chief minister of Rajasthan. During his campaign on Wednesday, people in villages welcomed Pilot in novel ways — from making him ride a bullock cart and a rath to weighing him with fruits. Pilot happily obliged and also asked the people of Tonk at all his meetings to ensure that his victory margin is the biggest in the State.

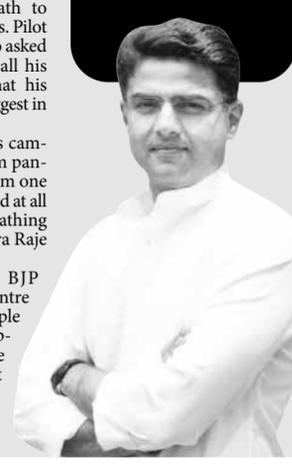
Beginning his day's campaign with Ariyali gram panchayat, Pilot moved from one panchayat to another and at all meetings launched a scathing attack on the Vasundhara Raje Government.

"There is a BJP Government at the Centre and in the State. People had hoped for development. But it makes me very sad that for the first time (in the State) farmers had to commit suicide. This is a blot on

our society," he said at Ariyali. "Are you getting urea? Prices are skyrocketing, petrol and diesel prices are also touching record heights. How much does a gas cylinder cost now? It costs Rs 1,000," he said.

At all his election meetings, Pilot flayed the Government over issues like unemployment, corruption, and farmer suicides.

“For the first time (in the State) farmers had to commit suicide. This is a blot on our society”



I am sevak, not pilot: Yoonus

PTI ■ TONK (RAJASTHAN)

I am a 'sevak', not a 'pilot' — this is how the BJP candidate Yoonus Khan is pitching himself in his electoral fight against Rajasthan Congress chief Sachin Pilot for Tonk seat in the State Assembly polls.

Khan, Transport and PWD Minister in the Vasundhara Raje Government, has been fielded by the BJP in the Muslim-dominated Tonk Assembly constituency, replacing the party's sit-

ting MLA Ajit Singh Mehta after the Congress gave ticket to Pilot here.

Talking to PTI while campaigning in the rural areas of Tonk, Khan said the decision to field him was based on strategy and equations and not on his religion.

"Don't weigh this as a Hindu-Muslim fight because if you look at it from that perspective, Muslims are lesser in number in comparison to Hindus. This election is not about caste and religion," said Khan, who is widely considered as one of the most powerful Ministers in the Raj Government.

Asked about being the lone Muslim candidate of the BJP and if his nomination marked a departure from the party's strategy to not field any candidates from the minority community, he said, "I don't know about elsewhere, but in Rajasthan, Yoonus Khan and (late BJP leader) Ramzan Khan have been fighting polls since the 80s."

Khan said he has been the party's lone Muslim candidate once earlier also. Asked if Tonk having a large number of Muslims was one of the reasons

behind his candidature, the BJP leader said the election here will be on the basis of performance and agenda. "The election will be on who can serve Tonk better. I have given my vision... As a minister I connected Sawai Madhopur road to a two-lane road. I have given a bypass.

"We will give this district special status and a customised package. We want to bring industry here and that will provide jobs to people. Our first priority is to bring industry and through it create jobs for youths in Tonk," the 54-year-old leader said.

He also vowed to solve the problem of drinking water faced by the residents of Tonk.

Pitching himself as an underdog in the high-stakes electoral battle, Khan took a swipe at his Congress rival and said, "He (Pilot) has come for the first time, I have been a minister for long... I know the workers here."

"For Sachin ji it is a new place, people are new and apart from his dream to become an MLA and chief minister, he does not have any other dream. I am a people's servant. You can make me serve in Deedwana (his earlier constituency) and you can make me work in Tonk," Khan said.



BJP national president Amit Shah addresses a public meeting in Nadoti, Rajasthan, on Thursday PTI

Gehlot accuses BJP of misleading people by 'jumlas'

PTI ■ JAIPUR

Senior Congress leader Ashok Gehlot accused the BJP on Thursday of governing and misleading people by 'jumlas' (rhetoric).

Gehlot launched the attack at the BJP at a poll rally in Rajasthan ahead of the State Assembly elections.

"The BJP Government had promised to deposit Rs 15 lakh in everyone's bank account and bring black money. This was

a 'jumla' and they are master in that. No one got the money," Gehlot said.

He accused Chief Minister Vasundhara Raje of not taking plight of people in the last five years.

He alleged that the BJP government stalled and delayed various public welfare schemes, including a petroleum refinery in Pachpadra, the Banswara-Dungarpur rail route, Jaipur metro and irrigation projects in Hadoti region.

BJP accuses Cong of copying manifesto

PTI ■ JAIPUR/JODHPUR

The BJP accused the Congress on Thursday of copying its manifesto for the Rajasthan Assembly polls scheduled to be held on December 7.

While talking to reporters here, Union Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat said most of the public welfare issues in the Congress's manifesto were already raised by the BJP.

The Congress in its election manifesto released on Thursday made promises like loan waiver to farmers, free education to girls and women, unemployment allowance of up to ₹3,500 to educated youth and pension to elderly farmers,

among others.

"The Congress has released its manifesto four days after the BJP did so. But surprisingly, no mind was applied by the Congress in drafting it, which contained most of the issues mentioned by the BJP in its manifesto," Shekhawat claimed.

He said the Congress has misled the people by producing a "tampered version" of the BJP's announcements ahead of the elections. Union minister Arjun Ram Meghwal also slammed the Congress, saying the party was deceiving the people of Rajasthan with the announcements ahead of the elections.

"The Congress has talked about waiving-off loans of

farmers. They had made a similar promise in Punjab and Karnataka before election, but did not waive-off loans worth a single penny," Meghwal said in a statement.

While referring to the Right to Health announcement made by the Congress in its election manifesto, the Union Water Resources Minister said the scheme was a replica of the BJP's Ayushman Bharat.

Briefing about electioneering in the poll-bound State, he said the BJP will run a 'Kamal Diya' campaign across the state on Friday during which the party workers will contact 51 lakh beneficiaries of various Government schemes.

POLL BRIEF

CONG WORKER FORCED TO RUB NOSE ON GROUND
Jaipur: Four men who had forced a Congress worker to rub his nose on the ground after his vehicle splashed mud on them were made to apologise after villagers intervened in the matter in Rajasthan's Dungarpur district.

EC SET TO POSTPONE RAMGARH ELECTION
New Delhi: The Election Commission is set to postpone Assembly elections in Alwar's Ramgarh seat following the death of a BSP candidate on Thursday, sources said. The sources in the poll panel cited election laws to say that if the candidate of a recognised national or state party dies before the polls, elections are postponed.

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON

(See Section 82 Cr.PC)

Whereas complaint has been made before me that **Sonu S/o Suresh R/o A-546, Mangol Puri, Delhi**, has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in case **FIR No. 532/18 u/s 195-A/506 IPC, P.S. Mangol Puri, Delhi** and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said accused Sonu cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused Sonu has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant).

Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused Sonu of **FIR No. 532/18 u/s 195-A/506 IPC, P.S. Mangol Puri, Delhi** is required to appear before this Court to answer the said complaint on or before **05.04.2019**.

By Order,
Sh. Rakesh Kumar-II, MM (North-West), Room No. 105, 1st floor, DP/1611/OD/18-(Court Matter)
 Rohini Distt. Courts, Delhi

Notice Inviting e-Tender
 No. SSA/Spl.Trng/Esst/Print/Eva. Regd/483/2018/4875 Date : 29.11.2018
 Mission Director, Axom Sarba Siksha Abhijan Mission, Kahilipara, Guwahati-19, Assam invites tender through e-Tendering process from reputed offset printing presses/ Manufacturer of Exercise Book for printing and supply of Evaluation Register - LP and UP.
 To participate in this tender process through e-procurement document, bidder should have valid Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) of class-II (minimum) and have to register in the portal <https://assamtenders.gov.in> by themselves.
 The Bidder who have downloaded the tender schedules containing the tender details, terms and conditions, from the website shall submit their tender on-line on the website <https://assamtenders.gov.in>, with proof of payment of non refundable tender fee of Rs.5000/- (Rupees five thousand) only in the form of demand draft/Bankers Cheque drawn in favour of Mission Director, Axom Sarba Siksha Abhijan Mission, Kahilipara, Guwahati-19, Assam, from any nationalized Bank and payable at Guwahati. The tender should be submitted on-line as per date and time of submission as per prescribed schedule.
 Sd/- Mission Director,
 JSA, Assam, Kahilipara, Guwahati-19
 Permission granted from SEC, Assam.

J&K panchayat polls past half-way mark

PNS ■ SRINAGAR

The elongated 9-phased panchayat polls crossed the half-way mark in Jammu & Kashmir on Thursday as 71.1 per cent voters exercised their right of franchise to elect village representatives in the fifth phase of the elections. Amid separatists' call for shutdown in poll-bound areas, a meagre 33.7 per cent was recorded in Kashmir Valley while Jammu province recorded an impressive percentage of 85.2 per cent.

According to Chief Electoral Officer, Kupwara witnessed 42.5% polling, Bandipora 34.6%, Baramulla 32.9%, Ganderbal 20.3%, Budgam 34.8%, Pulwama 0.5

%, Anantnag 10.1 %, Doda 83.3%, Ramban 85.2%, Udhampur 82%, Reasi 89.1%, Jammu 88.9%, Rajouri 82.8% and Poonch 84.5%.

The polling was held at 2512 polling stations including 769 in Kashmir division and 1743 in Jammu division.

As many as 848 polling stations had been categorized as hypersensitive including 755 in Kashmir division and 93 in Jammu division.

As many as 4763 candidates are in the fray for 309 sarpanch and 1534 Panch seats in Phase-V while 118 Sarpanchs and 1046 Panchs have been elected unopposed.

Pertinently, in Phase-I of Panchayat Polls held on 17

November 74.1% polling was recorded across J&K including 64.5% in Kashmir division and 79.4% in Jammu division. In the Phase-II of Panchayat Polls held on 20 November overall 71.1% polling was witnessed across the State with an overwhelming 80.4% polling in Jammu division and 52.2% in Kashmir division.

Similarly, in Phase-III, the State witnessed a polling percentage of 75.2% which includes 55.7% in Kashmir division and 83.0% in Jammu division. In Phase-IV, the state witnessed a polling percentage of 71.3%, including 82.4% polling was witnessed in Jammu division and 32.3% in Kashmir division.

PUBLIC NOTICE
 be it known to all that my client Sh. Alamgir Ashram S/o Sh. Naim Ashraf R/O. House No. 1186, post/Kalan Village, North West Delhi, Delhi-110086 has severed his relations with his son namely Jahangir Ashraf and his wife Naesma Khatoun and their children them all from all her movable and immovable properties/assets. If anybody deals with them will do at his/her own risk, cost and responsibility my client will not be responsible for any kind of act done by them.
 Neelam Sharma, Advocate
 D/175/2013
 Chamber No. 269, Saket Court Complex,
 New Delhi-110017

UTTARAKHAND POWER CORPORATION LIMITED
 (A Govt. of Uttarakhand Undertaking)
 Victoria Cross Vijeta Gagar Singh Urja Bhawan, Kanwali Road, Dehradun 248001
 Corporate Identity No. UA40109UP2001SGC0258672358, Tel. No.: 0135-2763672-76, Fax No. 0135-2760289, Website: www.uktenders.gov.in

E-TENDER NOTICE (SPECIFICATION NO. CCP-11/24/2018-2019)
 Uttarakhand Power Corporation Ltd., Dehradun invites e-tender for purchase of following items as detailed below:

Name of the item	Tender Quantity	Estimate cost in (₹)	Average Yearly Turn Over of Preceding Three Financial Year (i.e. 2015-16, 2016-17 & 2017-18) in (₹)	Earnest Money (in ₹)	Cost of tender document including GST in (₹)	Last Date & time of online request for tender and submission of tender in online & off line mode	Date of opening of Part-I of tender in online & off line mode
33KV, 1250A 3-Phase, Indoor Vacuum circuit breaker (SCADA Operated)		64,13,200.00	1.29 Crore	1.29 Lac	5,900.00	27.12.2018 upto 17.00 hrs.	28.12.2018 at 15.30 hrs
(i) Incomer	2 Nos.						
(ii) Bus coupler	1 Nos.						
(iii) Outgoing	4 Nos.						

For further details, please visit our website www.uktenders.gov.in
Tender No. - 621 / EE (CM) / UPCL / A-2
Dated: 28/11/2018
 Superintending Engineer
 Corporate (Contract & Procurement-II)
 SAVE ELECTRICITY IN THE INTEREST OF THE NATION Use LED Bulb to Save Electricity (Toll Free No. 1912)
 *Pay Electricity Bill Online 24x7 from www.upcl.org (For information on Electricity theft informer may respect to Toll Free No. 1800 1804185 0405 / Fax No. 0135-2760911)

TENDER NOTICE

SR. NO.	NAME OF BOARD/CORP./AUTH	NAME OF WORK NOTICE TENDER	OPENING DATE CLOSING DATE	AMOUNT / EMD (APPROX.) IN RUPEES	WEBSITE OF THE BOARD/CORP./AUTH	NODAL OFFICER/CONTACT DETAILS
1	GMDA	CONSTRUCTION OF BOOSTING STATION SECTOR-72, NEAR STP, GURUGRAM. CONSTRUCTION OF 4 NOS. UST OF SIZE 55' M X 27.50' M X 5' M WITH COMMON WALL, PUMP HOUSE, SUMP ETC.	28.11.2018 18.12.2018	1315 LACS	https://www.gmda.gov.in	Q124-2746617 sen1.kmda@gmda.gov.in
2	GMDA	PROVIDING AND PLACING OF JARSEY BARRIER (JSE MONO BLOCK TYPE) ON SECTOR DIVIDING ROAD 30/31 AND 40/41 (ASSET ID 51) FROM NH-8 TO NEETAJI SUBHASH MARG, GURUGRAM	29.11.2018 13.12.2018	79.39 LACS	https://www.gmda.gov.in	885-1038654 enrnmobl.gmda@gov.in
3	GMDA	CONSTRUCTION OF UNDERPASS, FLYOVERS(OVERPASS), FOGS AND SURFACE ROADS AROUND HUDRA CITY CENTRE METRO STATION IN GURUGRAM, HARYANA	27.11.2018 25.12.2018	43.07 CRORE	https://www.gmda.gov.in	Q124-2746610 se2.kmda@gov.in
4	DEFENBANDHU CHHOTU RAM UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY, SONEPAT	E-TENDER NOTICE	CLOSING DATE 26.12.2018	NIL	dcrsm@dcrcsrm.org	Asst Registrar, Genl Branch, DCRCST, Murthal

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION KINDLY VISIT : www.haryanaeprocurement.gov.in or www.etenders.hry.nic.in

RC NO. 73868

Maha passes Reservation Bill

Maratha quota up 68%, 18% more than SC cap of 50%

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

In a development that will fetch political dividends to the ruling BJP in forthcoming Lok Sabha and Assembly polls in the State, both the Houses of the Maharashtra Legislature on Thursday passed a Bill according to which 16 per cent reservations in education and Government jobs to the community in the State, thus paving way for enactment of a law.

Given that reservations will go up to 68 per cent in the State after the impending enactment of the new law, it remains to be seen if the new law — as the Maharashtra State (of seats for admission in educational institutions in the State and for appointments in the public services and posts under the State) for Socially and Educationally Backward Classes (SEBC) Act, 2018, will stand the scrutiny of the Supreme Court which has put a 50 per cent on reservations.

While Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis introduced the Maratha reservations bill in the State Assembly, Revenue Minister Chandrakant Patil tabled it in the State Legislative Council. Both the Houses passed the bill unanimously, without a debate on the contents of the bill, amidst chants of "Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj ki Jai".

Thanking the members in both the Houses of Maharashtra Legislature for passing the Maratha reservations bill without any discussions, chief min-



Members of Maratha community celebrate the passage of the Maratha Reservation Bill at Azad Maidan in Mumbai, on Thursday

ister Devendra Fadnavis said on the floor of the two Houses that the elected representatives had shown that they could come together to find a solution to the social issue like the Maratha reservations.

After both the Houses of the State Legislature passed the Maratha reservations bill, the Vidhan Bhavan complex reverberated to the echoes of slogans like 'Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Ki Jai', 'Jai Bhawani, Jai Shivaji' and 'Bharat Mata Ki Jai' raised by elected representatives belonging to all the political parties. Legislators of BJP and Shiv Sena, many of whom wearing saffron phetas (headgear), were seen distributing sweets. There were celebrations in front of the Maharashtra BJP headquarter, which is just a stone's throw away from the State Legislature.

Earlier, ahead of introducing the Maratha reservations bill, the chief minister tabled the Action Taken Report (ATR) on the report of the Maharashtra State Backward Classes Commission (MSBCC) which has recommended 16 per cent reservations to the Marathas in education and government jobs.

Currently Maharashtra has 52 per cent reservations in jobs and educational institutions. Of the total 52 per cent reservations, SCs and ST communities account for 13 and 7 per cent, respectively, while OBCs have 19 per cent per cent reservations. Together, Special Backward Class and Nomadic Tribes account for 13 per cent.

The Marathas, who have now been accorded 16 per cent reservations in education and government jobs, account for nearly 33 per cent of the total 11.25 crore population of Maharashtra.

Once the Maharashtra State SEBC Act comes into force, then the total reservations in the State will go up to 68 per cent — next only to Tamil Nadu that has 69 per cent.

By seeking to enact a law granting 16 per cent reservations to Marathas and in the process exceeding the 50 per cent cap on reservations imposed by the Supreme Court, Maharashtra has taken the Tamil Nadu route of attempting to circumvent the apex court's cap on reservations.

Though Devendra Fadnavis dispensation has not clarified as to how it face the scrutiny of the new law in the Supreme Court, it looks like the Maharashtra government will take the route taken by the Tamil Nadu government under late chief minister Jayalalitha, which achieved its objective of increasing reservations to 69 per cent by passing the Tamil Nadu Act of 1994 and adding the 1994 Act to the Ninth Schedule of the Constitution.

Article 31B of the Constitution stipulates that the legislations in the Ninth Schedule cannot be challenged in courts. However, in 2007, the Supreme Court in IR Coelho v. State of Tamil Nadu ruled that even those laws which are placed in the Ninth Schedule are subject to judicial review if the laws violate the basic structure of the Constitution. Interestingly, a petition challenging the Tamil Nadu Reservation policy is expected to come up for hearing before the Supreme Court in the near future.

ISRO launches earth monitoring satellite

PTI ■ SRIHARIKOTA

India on Thursday successfully launched its latest earth observation satellite HysIS, the data from which can be used in wide-ranging areas including agriculture, from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre here onboard ISRO's trusted workhorse Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV).

The rocket, PSLV-C43, successfully injected state of the art HysIS and 30 other co-passenger satellites from eight countries into their designated orbits. The rocket lifted off majestically into cloudy skies in a burst of orange flames at 9.57 am from the first launch pad at this spaceport at the end of the 28-hour countdown.

The Hyper Spectral Imaging Satellite (HysIS) was placed in its orbit 17 minutes and 27 seconds after lift-off while the 30 co-passenger satellites were dropped into the designated orbit one by one after an hour. HysIS, the latest earth observation satellite developed by ISRO, has several uses.

The satellite's data will be useful in many fields including agriculture, forestry, soil survey, geology, coastal zone studies, inland water studies, environmental monitoring and pollution detection from industries.

ISRO chief K Sivan and the space agency's scientists broke into cheers as the earth observation satellite was injected into sun-synchronous polar orbit. Thursday's launch is significant as scientists restarted the fourth stage engine twice to place the 30 co-passenger satellites into their orbit.

According to an official, the fourth stage engine was cut off after the earth observation satellite separated at an altitude of 636.3 kilometers exactly 17.27 minutes after the rocket lifted off.

After the earth observation satellite was placed in its orbit, the scientists undertook an operation to restart the fourth stage engine twice. They reduced the altitude from 636 kilometers to around 504 kilometres to place the 30 satellites in the sun-synchronous polar orbit one by one.

The mission was one of the longest for ISRO.

A similar campaign was undertaken when scientists injected eight different satellites, including the country's weather satellite SCATSAT-1 and five from other nations in two different orbits on September 25, 2016.

The primary mission of the HysIS, whose mission life is five years, is to study the earth's surface in visible, near infrared and shortwave infrared regions of the electromagnetic spectrum. It is the primary satellite of the PSLV-C43 mission, which is on its 45th flight.

The mass of the spacecraft is about 380 kilograms, ISRO said. The co-passenger satellites have been contracted for launch through ISRO's commercial arm Antrix Corporation Limited. PSLV-C43 is the 'Core Alone' version of PSLV. It is the lightest version of the launch vehicle.

Sivan congratulated the team on the successful launch and said Indian scientists have shown their excellent work yet again, just 15 days after the spectacular dual mission of GSVL MkIII D2 and GSAT29.

"Today our PSLV has injected hyperspectral imaging satellite and subsequently after two manoeuvres, once again PSLV has injected 30 customer satellites into their designated home," he said.

Speaking about the high-tech hyperspectral satellite, Sivan said it came with state-of-the-art technology.

"The heart of the system required for the HysIS satellite is basically an optical imaging detector chip," he said. The chip was indigenously designed and developed by the space application centre of ISRO and fabricated indigenously at the semiconductor lab in Chandigarh, he added.

"I am sure that team ISRO can be proud that they are really giving excellent space assets to India. Let me thank the entire team ISRO for this wonderful satellite (launch)," Sivan said.

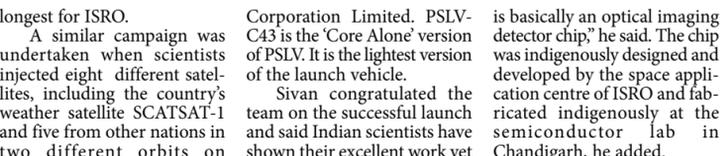
He said the international customers will be very happy to see their "babies" delivered home "safely and precisely," one by one. The space body chief said the success was a result of team ISRO's hard work along with excellent mechanisms and the quality system in place.

ISRO Launches India's First Hyperspectral Imaging Satellite

The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) successfully launched 31 satellites onboard the Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV) in its 45th flight on Nov 29, 2018

Launch vehicle: PSLV-C43	Primary satellite: Hyperspectral Imaging Satellite (HysIS)
Lift-off mass: 320 tonnes	HysIS is an earth observation satellite developed by ISRO. The primary goal of HysIS is to study the earth's surface in the visible near infrared and shortwave infrared regions of the electromagnetic spectrum
Height: 44 metres	Weight: ~380kg
Diameter: 2.8 metres	Size: 2.158 m x 1.386 m x 1.121 m
Stages: Four (solid and liquid propulsion alternatively)	Power: 730 W, 64 Ah Li-Ion battery
1st PSLV flight: Sept 20, 1993	Payload: Hyperspectral Imager in VNIR and SWIR bands

International Co-passenger Satellites		Mission Objective
The co-passengers of HysIS include 1 Micro and 29 Nano satellites from 8 different countries.		
Centauri (Australia)	Remote Internet of Things Communication services	
Kepler (Canada)	Internet of Things	
FACSAT (Colombia)	Earth Observation	
Reaktor Hello World (Finland)	Earth Observation	
InnoSAT-2 (Malaysia)	Earth Observation	
HIBER-1 (Netherlands)	Internet of Things	
3Cat-1 (Spain)	Scientific / Experimental	
Flock 3R -16 Nos. (USA)	Earth Observation	
HSAT-1 (USA)	Remote Internet of Things Communication services	
Global-1 (USA)	Earth Observation	
LEMURs -4 Nos. (USA)	Vessel Automatic Identification System	
CICERO-8 (USA)	Earth Observation	



Launched from Satish Dhawan Space Centre at Sriharikota on Nov 28, 2018

LF impressive show at farmers' long march

PNS ■ SINGUR/KOLKATA

The Trinamool Congress and the BJP had been indulging in "competitive communalism" to make up for their political and ideological bankruptcy, the Left Front leadership on Thursday said after staging an impressive return from a long political hibernation during which they shed their vast ground to a rising BJP and failed even to find candidates for this year's panchayat elections.

"Both the BJP and the Trinamool Congress are cheating the people of the State by indulging in competitive communalism and sending the real issues concerning the people on the backburner," CPI(M) State secretary and politburo member Surya Kanto Mishra told a massive rally in Kolkata at the end of a two-day long march organized by the All-India Kisan Sabha.

In an apparent bid to recover its lost ground in Bengal, once a hardcore Red



grave," the Left leadership resorted to a long march comprising several thousand farmers that traversed over two days a good 50 km in support for a host of demands.

Singur was the original site for Tata Motors' Nano small car factory that was planned in 2006 when the CPI (M)-led Government was in power in the State.

But after massive protests led by TMC (that eventually catapulted Banerjee to power), the company shifted the plant to Sanand in Gujarat in 2008. Subsequently the Supreme Court decided in favour of restoration of the land to its original state. The demands included: setting up either an industry in the erstwhile Nano lands at Singur or helping the farmers to make the abandoned fully cultivable, correct procurement price for agricultural produce, pension for farmers who had crossed the age of 60 etc and steady industrialisation of Bengal etc.

Police said no collateral damage took place during the encounter.

The slain terrorists have been identified as Adnan Ahmad Lone, alias, Uqab and Adil Bilal Bhat alias Umair Al Hizbiboth local residents.

"Both the terrorists were wanted by the law for their complicity in a series of terror crimes, including attack on security establishments, and civilian atrocities.

Meanwhile, clashes erupted between youth and security forces in Sopore area of north Kashmir's Baramulla district when the funeral prayers of a militant Mehrajuddin were being held.

Mehraj was killed in the gunfight at Chattergam area of Budgam district along with top Lashkar-e-Tayyeba (LeT) commander, Naveed Jatt on Wednesday.

Two HM terrorists killed in Kashmir

KHURSHED WANI ■ SRINAGAR

A day after security forces shot dead a top-ranking Lashkar-e-Tayyeba (LeT) terrorist Naveed Jatt and his associate in central Kashmir, two Hizbul Mujahideen terrorists were killed in an encounter in Sharshali village of Khrew pocket in south Kashmir's Pulwama district, officials said.

Police said based on a specific tip off, a cordon and search operation was jointly launched by police and security forces at predawn hours.

"As the searches were going on, the search party was fired upon by the terrorists. The fire was retaliated leading to a gunfight. In the ensuing encounter, two terrorists were killed and the bodies were retrieved from the site of encounter," police said.

Police said no collateral damage took place during the encounter.

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PMLA court rejects Mallya's plea to stay 'fugitive' proceedings against him

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

In a second setback to Vijay Mallya within a week, a Special Court here on Thursday rejected his plea seeking a stay on the Enforcement Directorate (ED)'s request to declare him a 'fugitive' under the Fugitive Economic Offenders Act, officials said.

A week after the Bombay High Court (on November 22) dismissed a similar appeal filed by Mallya, the Special Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) Court dismissed Mallya's application to stay the proceedings on ED's plea to declare Mallya as a 'fugitive economic offender'.

In his plea filed before the Special PMLA court on June 22, the ED had urged the court to declare Mallya as 'fugitive economic offender' and allow it to confiscate all his properties, estimated at more ₹12,000-crore, making it the first such case of its kind under the new Fugitive Economic Offenders Act (FEOA) against him.

The PMLA court had summoned Mallya to appear before it on August 27. However, Mallya failed to appear before the court. Even in the past, he has failed to honour the court summons and also other notices, summons and arrest warrants issued by the ED for questioning the loan default and money laundering scams.



It may be recalled on June 14 last year, the ED had against Mallya in the ₹900-crore IDBI Bank-Kingfisher Airline loan default and money laundering case in a special court here on Wednesday.

Among other things, a 57-page charges-sheet filed by ED before the special court provided details about the manner in which the loan was approved and how subsequently Mallya's now-defunct airline allegedly diverted laundered the money sanctioned to it, violating the provisions of under the PMLA.

In a separate case relating to the default in the re-payment of loan to the IDBI Bank, the CBI had on January 24 last year filed a 1,000 page charge-sheet against Vijay Mallya and 10 others in the ₹900 crore Industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI) loan repayment default case in a special court here and arrested nine officials, including ex-IDBI Bank chairman Yogesh Agarwal.

BJP coins new 'gotra' for Rahul, calls it 'gotra Itlus'

Gorakhpur: The BJP on Thursday coined a new 'gotra' for Congress president Rahul Gandhi, mocking his Italian lineage through his mother and party leader Sonia Gandhi.

Uttar Pradesh BJP chief Mahendra Nath Pandey called it "gotra Itlus". This is the latest remark in the row over Gandhi's gotra. A priest at Pushkar lake in Rajasthan recently said Gandhi gave out his gotra during a ritual as "Dattatreya", who are Kashmiri Brahmins.

Some BJP leaders challenged the "claim", reminding that Gandhi's paternal grandfather was a Parsi, not a Hindu with a 'gotra'. PTI

SEARCH FOR MISSING LADY

General public is here by informed that the lady **Namely: Sahabo Devi, W/o: Lt. Sh. Raj Singh, R/o: Ho.No. 689, Narela Road, Near HDFC Bank ATM, Alipur, Delhi, Age: 55 years, Height: 5'2", Complexion: Fair, Face: Round, Wearing: Orange suit & Salwar, Cream Color Chappal, has been missing/kidnapped since 10.09.2018 from the area of PS Alipur, Delhi.**

In this regard a DD No. 27-A, dated 11.09.2018 has been registered at PS. Alipur, Delhi. Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out information about this lady but no clue has come to light so far. Any person having any information or clue about this lady kindly inform to the following.

E-Mail: cic@cbi.gov.in SHO
Website: <http://cbi.nic.in> PS. Alipur, Delhi
Fax: 011-24368639 Ph. 011-27202265, 8750870325
Ph: 011-24368638, 24368641 DP/2221/RD/18

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

General public is hereby informed that an unidentified dead body of a male **namely Unknown, S/o: Unknown, R/o: Unknown, was found dead on 24.11.18 at Footpath of Animal Hospital near Pul Mithai, Tis Hazari, Delhi.** In this regard DD No.07-A, dated 24.11.18 has been lodged at Police Station, Subzi Mandi, Delhi.

Identification of unidentified dead body of male is as under:
Name: Unknown, Age: 40 Years, Height: 5'2", Complexion: Wheatish, Wearing: Brown Colour Jersey, Yellow T-Shirt and Black Lower

If anyone have any information or clue about this male deceased may kindly be inform undersigned. SHO
Police Station, Subzi Mandi, Delhi
Ph.: 011-23823161, 8750870126
DP/9405/N/18

GURU GOBIND SINGH INDRAPRASTHA UNIVERSITY

(Established by the Govt. of NCT of Delhi)
Sector-16 C, Dwarka, New Delhi - 110 078
Website: www.ipu.ac.in

E-TENDER (NIT)

Registrar, Guru Gobind Singh Indraprastha University invites e-tender from reputed and eligible contractors/firms in two bid system (Technical & Financial) for the **Supply and Installation of Lab Equipment on buy back basis for USBAS, at Sector 16C, Dwarka, New Delhi-110078.** Tender document can also be downloaded from Delhi Govt. e-procurement website i.e. www.govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in. The details of Tender document can also be viewed from University Website <http://ipu.ac.in>.

Name of work: Supply and Installation of Lab Equipment on buy back basis for USBAS at Guru Gobind Singh Indraprastha University, Sector 16 C, Dwarka, New Delhi - 110078

The EMD alongwith covering letter: must be submitted as per the last date, time and venue for submission (No other documents need to be submitted in hard copy).
The last date and time of uploading technical and financial bid on e-procurement website: 10.12.2018 Upto 01.00 p.m. in the office of Dy. Registrar (Purchase), Ground Floor, Library Block, GGSIPU, Sector 16 C, Dwarka, New Delhi - 110078

EMD: Item wise EMD mentioned in the Annexure-G of the tender document in favour of Registrar, GGSIP University payable at Delhi in form of FDR only with validity of 135 days.
Date and time for opening of: 10.12.2018 at 02.30 p.m.
Technical bid
Cost of Works: Rs.60 Lacs (approximately)

The bids shall be submitted in two stages viz. (i) Technical bid (ii) Financial bid. Detailed specification of the item(s) to be supplied is placed at Section-III Annexure-G. The Technical & Financial bid should be uploaded on e-procurement website i.e. www.govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in (No documents need to be submitted in hard copy other than EMD).
Financial bid shall be opened after evaluation of technical bid and the date & time will be notified, thereafter on e-tender website www.govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in
REGISTRAR

UJVN LIMITED

(An Uttarakhand Govt. Enterprise)
H.O.: "UJJWAL", Maharani Bagh, GMS Road, Dehradun-248006
Telephones: 0135-2763808, & Fax- 0135- 2763508
CIN No. U40101UR2001SGC025866, www.uttarakhandjalvidyut.com

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

For and on behalf of UJVN Ltd., Executive Engineer (Civil), Pashulok Barrage Rishikesh, invites sealed & separate tenders from interested contractors for following works:
1. **Tender Notice Reference:**
NIT No. : 20/2018-19/EE(C)/Pashulok Barrage : Operation and Maintenance of UJVN Officer Transit Camp and office of General Manager (SHIP) at Maneri-Bhali-II Colony, Rishikesh.
NIT No. : 21/2018-19/EE(C)/Pashulok Barrage : Construction of Water Tank at Type-III Residences in Chilla.
NIT No. : 22/2018-19/EE(C)/Pashulok Barrage : Construction of Water Tank at Type-IV Residences in Chilla.

2. **Estimated Value of Tender -** Rs. 7,23,355.71, Rs. 9,31,789.13 & Rs. 5,46,317.46 respectively.
3. **Tender Cost :** Rs. 590.00, Rs. 590.00 & Rs. 590.00 respectively (including GST).
4. **Earnest Money :** Rs. 18,500.00, Rs. 23,500.00 & Rs. 14,000.00 respectively.
5. **Period of Completion :** 12 Months, 04 Months & 04 Months respectively.
6. **Last Date of Downloading of Tender:** 19.12.2018 upto 11:00 hrs. (IST)
7. **Last Date of Submission of Tender:** 19.12.2018 upto 13:00 hrs. (IST)
8. **Date of Opening Tender:** 21.12.2018 at 11:00 hrs. (IST)
For eligibility criteria and full and further details kindly visit our web site. The tenders can be downloaded from our web site i.e. www.uttarakhandjalvidyut.com and tender cost shall be paid at the time of submission of the tender.
प.सं. 699 दिनांक 28.11.2018 "Avoid wasteful use of Electricity"

CENTRAL PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

NOTICE INVITING e-TENDERS
The Executive Engineer (Elect), Parliament House Electrical Works Division, CPWD, Parliament House Complex, New Delhi invites on behalf of President of India online item rate bids for the following work:-

NIT No - 73/EE(E)/PHEWD/2018-2019, Name of Work - AM&O (2018-19) Audio Visual and Presentation System in Parliament House, New Delhi. (SH: Supply headphone for Lok Sabha Chamber) Estimated Cost- Rs. 3,43,200/- Earnest Money - Rs. 6,864/- Period of Completion- 07 days. Last time & date of submission of bid - 06.12.2018 upto 03.00 PM
The bids forms and other details can be obtained from the website www.tenderwizard.com/CPWD or www.eprocure.gov.in.

Notice Inviting e-Tender

No. SSA/MDM/MDM Calendar 2019/25/2019/4878 Date : 29.11.2018
Mission Director, Axom Sarba Siksha Abhijan Mission (Samagra Siksha Abhiyan) and State Nodal Officer- MDM, Kahilipara, Guwahati-19, Assam invites tender through e-Tendering process from reputed offset printing presses having colour offset printing machine for printing and supply of MDM- Calendar-2019.
To participate in the tender process through e-procurement document, bidder should have valid Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) of class- II (minimum) and have to register in the portal <https://assamtenders.gov.in> by themselves.

The Bidder who have downloaded the tender schedules containing the tender details, terms and conditions, from the website shall submit their tender on-line on the website <https://assamtenders.gov.in>, with proof of payment of non refundable tender fee of Rs. 1000/- (Rupees one thousand) only in the form of demand draft/Bankers Cheque drawn in favour of Mission Director, Axom Sarba Siksha Abhijan Mission, Kahilipara, Guwahati-19, Assam, from any nationalized Bank and payable at Guwahati. The tender should be submitted on-line as per date and time of submission as per prescribed schedule.

Permission granted from SEC, Assam. Sd/-Mission Director SSA, Assam cum State Nodal Officer- MDM

Too clever by half

Kartarpur and Kashmir don't mix; India is right in calling out Puraana Pakistan under Imran Khan

Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan famously said on coming to power that he would take two steps to one by India in an effort to bring peace between the two south Asian neighbours and work to normalising their troubled relationship. However, much like the title of VI Lenin's polemic to fellow European revolutionary Rosa Luxemburg in the early years of the 20th century, Pakistan has ended up taking one step forward and taking the bilateral relationship two steps back by its disingenuity. Of course, the opening and promised development of the Kartarpur Corridor, which will make it easy for the devout to make the pilgrimage to one of Sikhism's most holy sites at Kartarpur Sahib in Pakistan, is a welcome and a positive gesture. Pakistan and its Prime Minister must be commended for acceding to this decades-old demand from the Sikh community on both sides of the border. That said, it should be clear to all that what went down at the ground-breaking ceremony in Kartarpur on Thursday was unedifying in the extreme. Not only did Imran Khan use the occasion to rise the 'Kashmir dispute' terming it the 'hurdle to peace (with India)', but in doing so he also signalled to the hardline domestic constituency in Pakistan, which includes the Pakistan Army and Intelligence services, that he was very much in tune with the strategy of the deep state in that country. Additionally, the presence of pro-Khalistan extremists at the function, most notably the rabid Gopal Singh Chawla, who was seen mixing freely with Pakistan Army Chief General Qamar Javed Bajwa and has previously been photographed hobnobbing with the Islamist terror mastermind Hafiz Saeed, ensured the optics of the event, despite the nice things, as it were, said by ministers and officials from either side, would be unpalatable for India. Most worrying of all, however, is that the ostensible Kartarpur outreach by Pakistan comes in the wake of a determined, meticulously planned and well-funded effort by Islamabad to revive Sikh militancy around the Khalistan demand in Indian Punjab that included a terrorist attack earlier this month. These are not portents of a Naya Pakistan as promised by Imran Khan but are emblematic of the business-as-usual approach of the Puraana Pakistan. The Indian response to the disingenuity on display articulated by Foreign Minister Sushma Swaraj was a masterclass in a sober, circumspect separation of issues and the iteration of New Delhi's red lines — the Kartarpur Corridor initiative was appreciated, the Kashmir reference was a 'deeply regrettable' effort to politicise a pious event and it was reiterated that there will be no bilateral dialogue till cross-border terrorism ceases and that there was no question of Indian participation in the proposed SAARC meeting in Pakistan.

But could we have avoided this situation coming to pass in the first place? On balance, perhaps not. Mainly, because the nature, motivations and strategic aims of the Pakistani State have remained more or less constant over the decades and the few attempts made by earlier civilian, democratically elected governments to reshape the India discourse in that country have been snuffed out pretty ruthlessly. Given the sub-continent's shared geography, there are places of pilgrimage important to all communities on either side of the border and a humanitarian approach towards allowing access to them by both sides as a standalone policy would be ideal. Not only would that help lessen the suspicions on either side among citizens but also give a fillip to religious tourism. Realistically, however, that would be too much to expect from a Pakistan that is being too clever by half. India has to therefore deal with what is as opposed to what could be.

Data dilemma

Numbers speak the cold, hard truth. Unless, of course, you give them a nice and long political massage

During China's massive growth years in the first decade of this millennium, statisticians and economists often expressed doubts about the figures released by the Chinese Government. Of course, there was first incredulous doubt about the high numbers but later on that doubt progressed to wondering if the numbers were high enough! Under Xi Jinping, though, China's statistics have been seen as fairly reliable. Unfortunately in India, our numbers for economic growth and employment have been fairly confusing if not totally unreliable. One reason for that has been the inability of formal statistical models to account for the informal economy in India. But of late the problem has been a political one.

Politicians have always tried to massage statistics and growth figures to suit their narratives. That is par for the course. In most countries, the statisticians, though, have retained their integrity and released numbers that are on the whole pretty reliable. It appears, however, that the latest statistical exercise which has resulted in the numbers released for economic growth in India as part of the 'new series' of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) have become all about politics. The NITI Aayog Vice-Chairman Rajiv Kumar and former Finance Minister P Chidambaram are engaged in a war of words on social media site Twitter about the new numbers which showed that growth during the UPA 1 and UPA 2 administrations was not as high as previously claimed. Indian growth numbers have become inherently political and this is going to create a problem for foreign and domestic investors alike because numbers contrived by politicians will always make them look good, or at least better than their opponents, but do nothing to bolster confidence.

The fact is that in most democracies national statistics organisations are apolitical and the methodology used to calculate growth arrived after a consensus. In India, clearly the current regime is struggling to show growth in the aftermath of demonetisation and a flawed Goods and Services Tax implementation. The fact that the new series used to extrapolate GDP numbers of past years is inherently political is difficult to deny no matter how many blogs are written. Things have come to such a pass that the former Chief Economic Adviser Arvind Subramanian has launched a vitriolic attack on demonetisation although he defended it stoutly when he held the position under the same regime. The politicisation of the Indian economy is now more or less complete.



President — Ram Nath Kovind

Opinion

Of jobs and employment

A great deal of discussion in the country is about growth and development but little attention is paid to the specifics of employment



PRAFULL GORADIA

Jobs, jobs and more jobs is the topic of the talk circuit with hardly anyone passing up the opportunity to hold forth, whether in television discussions or in print. Missing in this cacophony of 'jobs, jobs and more jobs...' is the issue of income generation and, therefore, occupations that can generate real income. This, the writer believes, is a likely hangover of the middle class perception of what constitutes a good job: Still a white-collar employee going to office from 9 am to 5 pm with a salary, an annual increment and privileged leave, with one's place of work preferably located not too far from where one's family resides. Governments, municipalities and panchayats still offer such jobs when their appointment register happens to be open. But even for these state bodies, this traditional concept of employment is outdated, if not altogether on its way out.

An increasing portion of the present business activity is intellect-inspired as distinct from enterprise and finance-based endeavours. The primary machine to aid the intellect in today's time is the computer. This is not to discount the role of the machine in the manufacturing sector but the truth, though unpopular, is that modern manufacturing units are more employers of machines and less provider of jobs to men and women. One also cannot ignore the factor of depreciation, allowance of which every year makes machinery cheaper whereas employees need to be given increments year after year. Further, with advances in technology, the worker's requirement is reducing. There is also an increasing apprehension of the robot. Such alternatives may eventually replace the human worker. When during elections, politicians promise jobs, it is doubtful whether they go into the details of such factors. Their audience and, especially, job seekers, think of such electoral promises as accommodation in the premises of offices and factories. Obviously, disappointment awaits many of them from the day after the promise. Neither politicians nor the people think in terms of employment as a whole, whether as shopkeepers, taxi drivers, or even vendors who move from place to place to sell. In the world context, 50 per cent of work would soon be self-employment.

Traditional agriculture, once the mainstay of our country's economy and the provider of employment to the largest portion of its population, is no longer able to satisfy an increasing number of people's need for livelihood. Employment is, therefore, the gravest and most urgent challenge to today's Governments. The term 'demographic dividend' sounds like music to the ear but will actually be so only if economists are able to find new ways and means of absorbing the new entrants. Thus, a



great deal of discussion in the country is over growth and development. Little attention is given to the specifics of employment. One possible reason for this oversight is residual effects of the inspiration India's policy-makers drew from the Soviet era. Gosplan emphasises on the building of heavy industry in the former Soviet Union. India's plans of the Nehruvian era were direct lift-offs from the Soviet example. However, the Soviet Union was a country with vast land spaces, enormous untapped resources and limited population. Employment per se was not a Soviet problem. We in India overlooked this, although it should have been our greatest priority.

What the imitation of the Soviet model did bring about in India was the creation of a huge bureaucracy to administer plans and other *sarkari* programmes, ostensibly with noble intentions. It did provide jobs to a comparatively large number of people. But in today's times, the Government or bureaucratic sector has grown to be too large and ripe for reduction. The private sector grew remarkably after the 1991 economic reforms but employment in this sector demands qualifications, which not every aspirant has. Moreover, in many areas of the country, commerce and industry are yet to become a habit with local populations.

It is time India stops depending too much on Western economics. We must instead innovate Indonomics.

Our horse before the cart would be development in order to provide fruitful employment to many people and not the other way round. It should be remembered that this is a globalised world. Almost every manufacturer has to face competition on a world scale. Why not, therefore, also consider promoting institutions that do not have to compete so much, yet at the same time serve the needs of the country?

Nobel Laureate Amartya Sen placed health and education as one great key to development. Instead of the traditional approach of pursuing prosperity for the economy and resultant enhancement of its citizens' health and education. Now adopt employment as our first objective, which in turn would lead to development, even if slowly.

Take, for instance, tourism. It engages large numbers without the constant tension of automation and job reduction. These numbers do not all require advanced education or high qualifications. Moreover, tourism does not require high investments. One can concentrate on the country's ready assets like the Ajanta and Ellora caves, magnificent forts like Chittorgarh, the Himalayas and much else.

The next area to tackle should be agriculture where many farms have turned marginal and even unviable. The one immediate answer is upgrading of the type of crop to a higher value from the current cereals and millets. Farming can potentially pro-

vide for an unlimited number of cultivators, but agro-industry cannot solve the problem of rural employment. Sadly, this remains a neglected area in India, one that has also been the cause of much socio-economic distress.

Health and education, which are urgent necessities for the people of the country, are also ready avenues of employment. An area of beneficial investment would be building new and expanding existing hospitals which are in any case desperately needed in most towns and districts. The outlay is not great and the employment potential is considerable. Hospitals are quite worker-intensive and several thousand of them are needed immediately.

PricewaterhouseCoopers in a professional survey had recommended that by 2034 India would require 36 lakh beds. Today, not even a fraction of that number exist. Each hospital would need several hundred non-medical personnel and all the hospitals when ready would absorb millions indirectly and help to generate jobs without number. The medical and para-medical staff would be extra. At present, there are only 0.65 doctors, 1.3 nurses and 1.3 hospital beds per 1,000 people in the country. The desired requirement by 2034 for every 1,000 people is 2.5 doctors, five nurses and 3.5 beds. The initial investment in this sector, particularly in semi-rural areas, would be in the range of ₹10-15 crore for a 100-bed hospital.

Education, the key to fur-

thering India's rise as a knowledge economy superpower, offers vast possibilities for employment as well. Thousand upon thousand schools would have to be created; their capacity to provide employment should be enormous. India needs two lakh more schools and 1,500 universities and colleges. A whopping 220 million children are enrolled in schools but 140 million continue to be left out.

What is, therefore, necessary is to inculcate the idea of an economic citizen, a self-engineered way of earning a living. Be it as a doctor, lawyer, para-medico, shopkeeper or even a *pheriwal* or peddler, no one should be dependent on anyone for survival. The Government's responsibility is to create and sustain the economic environment for the willing self-reliant citizens to have ready opportunities. The Government's function is to govern and not provide jobs. The size of the bureaucracy need not exceed the demands of administering the country. The price of a heavy or a top-heavy Government would be either high taxes or printing currency leading to inflation. France should serve as an example not to be emulated. Something like 40 per cent of the jobs in that country are provided by its Government directly or otherwise.

In today's milieu and the times to come, no country can survive long as a prosperous modern state with such a skewed model.

(The writer is a well-known columnist and an author)

SOUNDBITE

India has remained committed to peace. Armed forces, exemplified by the air warriors who stand before us, reflect the resolve to defend our nation.



President — Ram Nath Kovind

Short and simple answer to the whole Rafale deal controversy is, just look at the facts and not at the tweets. There is no scandal associated.



French Ambassador — Alexandre Ziegler

Be resilient and strong. That's what you do when cancer shows up. You show it the way out. Let's choose to be the heroes of our own life.



Actor — Tahira Kashyap

The Centre and State Governments need to come together for providing better healthcare to the people and proper utilisation of resources.



Union Finance Minister — Arun Jaitley

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Combat terrorism

Sir — It is to be hoped that the Kartarpur corridor will help bridge differences between India and Pakistan. However, the irony is that plotters of the 26/11 attacks are still roaming freely. It is also a fact that even as India is taking steps to improve bilateral ties with Pakistan, the latter continues to aid and abet cross-border terrorism, as was evident from the recent terror attack in Punjab. Terror and talks cannot go together, is what External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj rightly pointed out at the Saarc summit.

MJ Alhann
 Mumbai

Consumer rights

Sir — Indigo's move to levy a fee on web check-ins is an anti-consumer step. In fact, the system of charging extra for preferred seats should be abolished altogether in the economy class. However, provisions can be made for those travelling in business class or premium economy class.

SC Agrawal
 Delhi

At the root of India's racism

This refers to the editorial, "Listen without prejudice" (November 26). Our fascination with the fair skin and racial attacks on Africans are not new. It has to do with our preoccupation with white Aryan ancestry, which is also embedded in casteism. This is why people from the North-East, in spite of having a fair complexion and good command on English language, face comments like *chinky* in most parts of our country. Whereas a German even with his/her poor knowledge of English draws our admiration, it is his/her features like sharp nose, white complexion, *et al* that are held in high regard. This is one of the major causes of hatred and atrocities.

When Aryans came to India, they overpowered an advanced civilisation with the help of iron and horse which were at that time unknown to this land. But it was difficult for them to enslave people of such a civilisation that had produced great engineers, doc-



tors and farmers. In order to assimilate the defeated sons and daughters of this soil, Aryans came out with a narrative that the non-Aryans were inferior to them. They were deemed unfit in society. This regressive narrative has embedded in us hatred towards non-Aryan features.

Sujit De
 Kolkata

Fitting tribute

Sir — It is good news that Indian cinema has planned to launch work on a film based on the life of comedian-hero of yesteryear — Chandrababu. He was a real superstar par excellence endowed with all fine arts rightly mixed in him. Chandrababu was a versatile

actor, singer, dancer and even a creative story writer who dominated the Tamil cinema till his last breath. That he was paid equally if not more than senior artists like Sivaji Ganesan and MGR testifies to his acting skills. There are many films, like *Sahothari*, *Sabash Meena*, *Kavalai Illatha Manithan*, *et al* that became box office hits. The biopic in making will be a

fitting tribute to him.

Yvonne Fernando
 Chennai

Remain vigilant

Sir — Although the Kartarpur corridor proposal is a welcome development, India needs to tread with caution given the bitter lessons it has learnt in the

past from Pakistan. It is unfortunate that even as steps are being taken to improve bilateral ties, Pakistan continues with its dubious agenda of using terror as a state policy. India must tread cautiously while dealing with a neighbour that has refused to mend ways.

B Suresh Kumar
 Palakkad

Fight fake news

Sir — This refers to the editorial, "Authenticity paradox" (November 28) by Ajoy Kumar. Fake news has been selling like hot cakes and has also become a cult this political season. The populace is lost in the labyrinth of this political slugfest as 'Digital army of each political party is engaged in trolling and speeding fake news about other parties. Many are also engaged in opprobrium and their principles are at the lowest ebb. A crack down on fake news is essential.

Gourang Naryani
 Ujjain

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

FIRST COLUMN

Making of a New India

Structural reforms undertaken by the Modi regime have led the nation to the road of economic progress and the building of a welfare state



NAVNEET ANAND

On November 27, the Rashtrapati Bhawan Cultural Centre in New Delhi was abuzz with policy-makers and intelligentsia. The occasion was launch of the book, *Making of New India: Transformation Under Modi Government*, by Union Finance Minister Arun Jaitley and the handing over of the first copy to President Ram Nath Kovind. As a contributing author to this edited book, I was also present and it was a worthwhile experience.

The book containing 56 chapters was edited by Chairman of Economic Advisory Council to Prime Minister, Bibek Debroy, Dr Anirban Ganguly and Kishore Desai. Contributions were also made from many illustrious commentators and policy-makers, including Swapan Ganguly, Hardeep Singh Puri, Meenakshi Lekhi, Anil Sahasrabudhe and Bindeshwar Pathak, among others. During the launch, Debroy outlined the context of the book and said that there has been a relentless attack on the Prime Minister for the "lack of reforms" and this collection by some of the finest commentators is a fine rebut to such criticisms.

On the other hand, Jaitley outlined as to how the present Government has initiated a series of socio-economic reforms that remain focused on good governance and ensure empowerment of the poor and marginalised. Referring to the many programmes, including Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana and Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana, he said that India today sits pretty with benefits reaching to those who deserve it; unlike in the past when mindless subsidies went mostly to the undeserving.

President Kovind highlighted that this book "endeavours to elaborate on how the Government has set out to realise the vision of a New India." Kovind also stressed as to how contemporary governance has played a vital role in giving shape and form to this all-inclusive idea of 'New India'. "Inclusiveness" is more than just a slogan, he added further saying that "the Government has taken this philosophy to the centre of its policy-making. Numerous measures have been undertaken to ensure that socio-economic groups, communities and regions, which had so far been left behind in India's growth story, are mainstreamed in a holistic manner. This Government has launched certain foundational programmes and made a determined attempt to decisively defeat poverty and lift the lives of millions who have hitherto not got the facilities and services they deserved."

Giving an account of the framework of governance, the President highlighted: "The services delivered include pension and insurance schemes, electricity and cooking gas, healthcare and toilets, housing and bank accounts. At the same time, it has been seen as important to not only protect the less-privileged but also to enable and empower them. Innovative interventions such as the Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana and the outreach to micro, medium and small enterprises are examples of programmes that have enabled millions of individuals. They have enabled job seekers to become job creators."

He referred to the bold measures taken by the Government against chronic challenges such as corruption and complex Government procedures. "The path has been opened for transparent, rules-based governance, cutting regulatory flab; removing unnecessary laws; and making the business environment simpler, easier and cost effective. Taken together, these efforts are helping to create an efficient and accountable governance ecosystem in the country — a trigger for fast development," said the President.

From an economic perspective, India has emerged among the fastest growing major economies with sound macro-economic indicators. There has been a major push to infrastructure with roads, railways, airports and ports being constructed or upgraded at quick pace. Common citizens now can have access to medical insurance for their families, most of whom have access to mobile phones and banking services. While India's relationship with the developed economic and strategic partners is strong, Foreign Direct Investment, too, have seen a rise.

The President summed up the relevance of this book saying, "With so many parts moving dynamically, it is often difficult to put all these pieces together. And to comprehend the bigger picture, it is here that the value of a book, such as the one released today, becomes clear. By weaving together an assessment of various policies and programmes, it provides its readers a multidimensional view of the national development journey. I am sure that the analysis and papers presented in the book would be helpful reference for both citizens and the Government. Citizens can benefit from the perspectives in various chapters to arrive at an informed opinion. The Government and its arms can benefit as this book provides them independent, well-researched views on things that are going right — and things that may need further attention."

(The writer is a strategic communications professional)

BAJRANG BALI HAMARI BHARATIYA PARAMPARA MEIN EK AISE LOKDEVTA HAIN JO SWAYAM VANVAASI HAI, GIRVASI HAIN, DALIT HAIN, VANCHIT HAI.

—UTTAR PRADESH CHIEF MINISTER YOGI ADITYANATH

POINT COUNTERPOINT



GOD IS ABOVE CASTE. THERE ARE GODS OF ALL CASTES... RELATING THEM WITH A PARTICULAR CASTE IS NOT APPROPRIATE.

—UTTAR PRADESH BJP MLA SURENDRA SINGH

Disempowering the soldier

By curtailing the effectiveness of the Armed Forces Tribunals, the Government is destroying the military justice system which is a disservice to serving and retired personnel



DEEPAK SINHA

With election fever having gripped major parts of the country, television coverage of Prime Minister Narendra Modi hitting the poll trail is common, as also his constant reference to the so-called "surgical strikes" in his speeches. It is obvious that through his words of sympathy and support for the sacrifice and efforts of the military, he is intent on furthering his reputation as a firm and pro-active leader. But despite semantics and bombast, his Government continues with unabated ferocity in its agenda to disempower and dismember the military. Among a host of other issues, take the case of the Armed Forces Tribunals (AFT), another important institution that has been in the line of fire by this Government over the past year.

It was just about a decade ago when the Parliament, in its wisdom, transformed the military justice system by enacting the Armed Forces Tribunal Act, 2007, in order to address the serious lacunae in the existing system where justice was dispensed within the military. As per its website, it provided for the "adjudication or trial of disputes and complaints with respect to commission, appointments, enrolments and conditions of service in respect of persons subject to the Army Act, 1950, The Navy Act, 1957 and the Air Force Act, 1950."

More importantly, it also provided for "appeals arising out of orders, findings or sentences of courts — martial held under the said Acts and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto." In addition, it also adjudicates cases pertaining to military veterans and their heirs in issues relating to service matters. The AFT also has a distinct advantage since appeals against its findings can be made directly to the Supreme Court, thereby speeding up the judicial process for the affected individuals and the Government.

The critical role played by the AFT can best be understood in context of the fact that the Armed Forces being hierarchical organisations steeped in tradition, demand unquestionable loyalty and implicit obedience to orders from its rank and file. In this paternalistic and excessively conservative environment if, for any reason, an individual finds himself on the wrong side of the track, be it with regard to personnel or disciplinary issues, his superior officer becomes the prosecutor, jury and judge — all rolled in one.

While this provides for a quick dispensation of justice, undoubtedly extremely important in certain circumstances, it may not necessarily be unbiased or provide for an impartial or just resolution of the issue. The establishment of the AFT, thus, provided for an extremely important element in the military justice system. It gave all ranks an opportunity to approach an independent authority if they felt that they had not received justice at the hands of their superior officers for whatever reason.

Besides the principal Bench in New Delhi, the AFT has regional benches in 10 other cities across the country. While Delhi, Lucknow and Chandigarh have three Benches each, all other centres have a Bench each, a total of 17

“THE CRITICAL ROLE PLAYED BY THE ARMED FORCES TRIBUNALS CAN BE BEST UNDERSTOOD IN THE CONTEXT OF THE FACT THAT THE ARMED FORCES BEING HIERARCHICAL ORGANISATIONS STEEPED IN TRADITION DEMAND UNQUESTIONABLE LOYALTY AND IMPLICIT OBEDIENCE TO ORDERS FROM THE RANK AND FILE”



Benches. Each Bench comprises of a judicial member and an administrative member. The judicial members are retired High Court judges and administrative members are retired members of the Armed Forces who have held the rank of Major General/ equivalent or above for a period of three years or more.

It demands no great intelligence to conclude that the judicial member is appointed based on his experience and knowledge of law and functioning of the criminal justice system. The administrative member is selected based on his long and distinguished service in the military and knowledge in associated matters.

However, over the past year while members have retired at regular intervals on completion of the laid down tenures, new appointments have not been forthcoming with a result that presently, of the authorised 35 members for 17 Benches, there are a total of only seven judicial members and eight administrative members presently nominated to the AFT. This implies that the Armed Forces Tribunals is presently functioning at less than 40 per cent of its strength.

Another five members, including three administrative members, will retire by May 2019, which would make the Armed Forces Tribunals virtually non-functional, if new members are not appointed. For all intents and purposes, circumstances leading to the prevailing state of affairs cannot be attributed to the lack of suitably-qual-

ified judges or service officers. But it clearly points towards a deliberate attempt by the appointing authority and the Ministry of Defence to nullify their effectiveness at the cost of servicemen and veterans alike.

It is a matter of public record that there have been numerous occasions on which the various Benches of the AFT have ruled against the stand of the Ministry, thereby causing much embarrassment and humiliation to the Ministry. As per reports in the media as on date, the Ministry of Defence has a total of over 7,000 appeals against judgements of the AFT pending in the Supreme Court.

Obviously, the Defence Secretary finds himself in an unenviable position and can hardly be happy with this state of affairs, especially given the fact that he is a member of the selection committee that appoints members to the Armed Forces Tribunals. This attempt to curtail the effectiveness of the AFT could, therefore, well be because of this, which makes it a clear case of conflict of interest. Incidentally, a petition is under consideration of the Punjab and Haryana High Court since 2012 on this very issue and the need to place the AFT under the Ministry of Law instead.

However, a more disturbing reason could be that the Government's attempt to introduce new rules through the Finance Bill 2017 were stalled when it was stayed by the Supreme Court in its judgment of February 9, 2018, in the matter of

Kudrat Sandhu versus the Union of India.

As per the new rules, the appointment of administrative members was to be no longer restricted to the military, but was also open to others with at least 20 years of public service in such fields as economics and finance. Clearly, expecting non-military members to be conversant with military traditions and customs, procedures and conditions of service was not only impracticable, to say the least, but also made no sense. Obviously, this was nothing but a brazen and unashamed attempt to add to the sinecures available for retiring bureaucrats, which given their bent of mind, would result in the Ministry of Defence getting things their way from their own erstwhile colleagues.

Whether the Armed Forces Tribunals has been brought to its knees by the deliberate actions of unconscionable bureaucrats or utter lack of empathy of politicians is of little concern. The truth is, by curtailing the effectiveness of the Armed Forces Tribunals, the Government is destroying the military justice system which is a disservice to serving and retired personnel. Moreover, it is denying them justice that is their due, given that they have no other legal recourse available.

(The writer is a military veteran, a Consultant with the Observer Research Foundation and Visiting Senior Fellow with The Peninsula Foundation, Chennai)

Overcoming barriers to digital transformation

As industries become more digitally-defined, IT demands exceed capabilities of aging organisations to the extent that they cannot meet requirements of consumers. It is here that a dynamic IT infrastructure becomes a *sine qua non* to accelerate business innovation



MANISH GUPTA

Disruption is the name of the new game in the business world which has been affecting industries — from retail to finance to manufacturing. With the rise of the digital economy, a direct link has been established between the effective use of data and positive business outcomes. Nimble and fast-moving companies as well as large organisations have indulged themselves in innovation by changing their business models. This has impacted many companies with traditional enterprise data centres and slow-changing business models.

Hence, in today's digital economy, faster IT equates to a competitive advantage. Digitally-defined companies have a huge IT advantage and are capitalising on it with faster, more agile IT

service delivery. Younger and more modernised companies prioritise outcomes focused on growth and innovation. They can adapt their environment to make good use of new technologies.

However, if companies do not finalise their IT strategy/investments well in advance, it leads to roadblocks, like creating complexity in the data centre, increased costs, *et al.* This leading to inefficient operations and low business innovation. Also, this is ideally important for businesses because of emergent and transformational workloads, which enable the opportunity to extract more value from data, thereby, creating the new requirements for IT. To grow and create new offerings, organisations need flexible IT systems that support greater business agility.

Therefore, in order to attain business stability, achieving IT stability is paramount. In other words, IT priorities must align more closely with business priorities. Modernised IT will provide stability and reliability for a wide range of workloads (both traditional and emerging). It will also ensure appli-

cation, data security and help them avoid costly downtime.

Data centres based on the principle of IT flexibility will allow businesses to adapt to the changing business conditions and derive better innovative results. This will also help them to quickly match hardware resources with business needs. The above mentioned approach will give their systems the ability to scale up as demands increase, enabling the business to become more agile.

Thus, the catalyst to drive business innovation is building a unified and manageable IT infrastructure. This dynamic infrastructure will allow the organisations to:

i) **Break down silos to speed up the pace of change:** IT silos found in many data centres must be replaced by a more flexible infrastructure that has the capacity to supply, compute and store resources as needed. Combining compute and storage resources within a single system chassis brings valuable IT resources closer to the applications one needs to run a business. This approach provides a unified infrastruc-

ture inclusive of compute, storage and networking.

ii) **Pool resources to fulfil business demands:** Customers use dozens of software tools to monitor and manage data centre operations. They should be able to view all systems under management through a single pane of glass, and to leverage automation to control systems resources. This automation and built-in management allows administrators to manage compute, store and network.

Customers expect that they should be able to use their new systems for many years. That's why systems that scale to meet business demands must support a useful lifetime of many years of updates for processors and on-board storage

resources. This multi-generational approach to system life cycles helps organisations to protect and extend their infrastructure investments.

Ultimately, modular compute is a powerful and incredibly beneficial technology that plays a critical role in both IT transformation and in enabling success of modernised IT organisations. It delivers benefits in speed, agility, simplification, reliability, and cost not only at a high rate, but the average impact of each benefit is also substantial.

As industries become more digitally-defined, IT demands quickly exceed the capabilities of aging organisations, often to the extent that they cannot meet requirements of their consumers. Worse, they do not even know whether they are meeting them at all. Building a modernised IT organisation is not only beneficial, but has become a necessity. And the rewards for agile and speedy delivery of IT are substantial. Businesses with modernised IT are more innovative, capture more market opportunities, achieve higher revenue, improve cus-

tomers satisfaction and are simply more competitive.

For aging IT organisations, transformation is a must. There are multiple steps to the IT transformation journey: The adoption of emerging and transformational workloads, increase of automation and the use of modern technologies. From the compute side, modular server technology has an answer: It allows organisations to deliver substantial benefits to speed, agility, cost and reliability.

Modularity offers the benefits modernised IT organisations require, thus enabling both the IT firm and the larger business to succeed. In an era where business competitiveness is defined by digital capabilities, the IT organisation becomes a differentiator. Giving your IT organisation the best tools to succeed, such as modular servers, may be the difference between thriving in this digital economy and just being a part of the status quo.

(The writer is Senior Director & General Manager — Infrastructure Solutions Group, Dell EMC India)



FOREIGNEYE



RENDEZVOUS ON MARS

A random sampling of comments from the public suggests not everyone is convinced that digging on Mars is money well spent. But the basic answer is that whether it's practical or not, humans will continue to explore the heavens so long as the moon, Mars and the myriad celestial bodies beyond fire our imagination and curiosity.

(New York Times Editorial)

FM defends revised GDP numbers

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Finance Minister Arun Jaitley on Thursday defended the revision in India's GDP growth rate during the previous UPA era, saying it was done by a "highly credible" organisation, the Central Statistics Office, which maintains an arm's length distance from the finance ministry.

He said the revised numbers, based on a new formula with 2011-12 as the base year, are globally more comparable as they take into account a far greater representation of the Indian economy and are more reflective of its real state.

Taking on opposition Congress for criticising the revision, he said the Congress had welcomed the upwards revision in growth numbers of the last two years of the UPA regime by the same CSO and had gone to the extent of saying that the "new GDP series has conclusively established that we did not mismanage the economy".

Later in a blog post, Jaitley said the revised economic growth data has taken away Congress party's last surviving argument "my GDP growth was higher than yours".

A day after Chief Statistician Pravin Srivastava, in an unusual move, announced the revised numbers based on back series data alongside Niti Aayog Vice Chairman Rajiv Kumar, Jaitley said, "I don't think any service is being rendered by people who choose to discredit a highly credible organisation like the CSO

because its data is based on facts and the revised formulations, (and it is) a continuous exercise because every time you try and improve upon the formulations to make them more representative of the real state of economy".

The new numbers show India's economic growth rate averaged 6.7 per cent during the Congress-led UPA regime as compared to 7.3 per cent under the present government. Previous numbers had put the average growth rate during the 10-year UPA rule at 7.75 per cent.

The finance minister said what was welcomed by the UPA in 2015 is now being criticised because the GDP growth has been revised downwards.

"The CSO is a highly credible organisation, it maintains an arm's length distance from the finance ministry," he said. "In fact, we also come to know of the data only when it is released. All former individuals and eminent people who headed the CSO are of the same opinion that this data is far more inclusive and far more reflective of the situation of Indian economy and therefore has far greater credibility."

"Niti Aayog's revised GDP numbers are a joke. They are a bad joke," he had tweeted. "Actually they are worse than a bad joke. The numbers are the result of a hatchet job."

Responding to the criticism, Jaitley in a blog titled "When the Data Speak" said CSO has global credibility and no one in India has ever imputed motives to it.

Niti Aayog Vice-Chairman accepts Chidambaram's 'challenge' on revised data

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Niti Aayog Vice-Chairman Rajiv Kumar on Thursday accepted the challenge of former finance minister P Chidambaram for a debate on the revised GDP data which showed economic growth during the current NDA regime was better than that in the UPA rule.

"Hon. @PChidambaram_IN ji, challenge accepted. Let's discuss & dissect back series data. I gave 3 hrs of detailed interview yesterday & it is somewhat disingenuous of you to say that I asked the media to not ask questions. Do give more coherent reasons for ur difficulty with new data," Kumar said in a tweet.

He was responding to Chidambaram who sought had a debate with Kumar over the new set of data.

"I wonder if Niti Aayog Vice Chairman Rajiv Kumar will agree to a debate the data than telling journalists that their questions are 'undeserving of an answer'," Chidambaram had tweeted.

Through more tweets, Kumar also stressed that Niti Aayog uses data extensively for making logical policy recommendations and the data is always based on assessment and quality check by eminent statisticians.

"Therefore, it was logical for @NITIAYOG to provide the platform for its release. Pronab Sen would know that MOSPI & Yojana Bhavan worked closely together," he said.

Chidambaram had termed the revision of GDP data as a "hatchet job" by Niti Aayog and said it was time to windup the "utterly worthless body".

"Former Chief Statistician Pronab Sen is absolutely correct. Niti Aayog has nothing to do with tabulation of data," the former finance minister added.

Kumar, later, told PTI that at one point of time the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MOSPI) was a department of the erstwhile Planning Commission.

He said Niti Aayog had provided platform to experts and statisticians to examine the GDP back-series) data.

"GDP back-series data is a technical thing, it has a huge macroeconomic impact, so we have done it in a more macroeconomic manner," the vice-chairman said and added he was deeply pained at people who politicised it for no reason at all.

On comments made by the former finance minister, Kumar said: "Chidambaram has done great disservice to officers of CSO. CSO officials have done amazingly technically detailed exercise".

UAE downplays fuel shortage concern, says strongly stand with India

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The UAE on Wednesday downplayed India's concerns about rising fuel prices and possible oil shortage after the six-month US relief to stop import of Iranian oil by New Delhi ends, saying the emirate and Saudi Arabia have stood very strongly with India to cover the deficit in the past.

Amid protest against a proposed refinery in Maharashtra involving India, the UAE and Saudi Arabia, the Gulf nation's envoy to India Ahmed Albanna said the state government will allocate land in coming weeks.

In a media briefing this week, Foreign Secretary Vijay Gokhale said Prime Minister Narendra Modi will raise the issue of volatility in global oil prices at the G20 Summit in Argentina.

Responding to a question on whether there will be a demand-supply mismatch, especially after the six-month relief given by the US to cut down oil imports from Iran ends, the envoy said fuel prices are determined by demand by different markets globally.

India is one of the seven countries that have been given a waiver by the US to keep buying Iranian oil. "Even if that had not taken place, if you go back to history, in previous times, the UAE and Saudi Arabia have always stood very

strongly and supplied and covered any shortage of oil or fuel concerns of India. So, I don't think there is any major concern on that," he said.

Saudi Arabia and the UAE are among the major oil suppliers to India.

Earlier this month, India was given a six-month relief by the US to bring Iranian oil imports to zero under the Countering America's Adversaries Through Sanctions Act (CAATSA), aimed at hitting the Russian, Iranian and North Korean entities hard.

In June this year, the world's biggest oil producers, Saudi Arabian oil company Saudi Aramco, Abu Dhabi National Oil Co (Adnoc), the state-run oil firm of the UAE, and India came together to jointly develop the refinery and petrochemicals complexes coming up at Ratnagiri in Maharashtra.

Fearing that the land in the area would lose fertility and threat to Alphonso mangoes, locals are opposing the project. The Shiv Sena, a BJP ally at the Centre and in the state, too has opposed it.

"The state of Maharashtra is in a stage of allocating land. The land will be allocated in coming two weeks or months," the UAE envoy said.

He pitched for reviewing the air service agreement between India and the UAE.

Business Corner

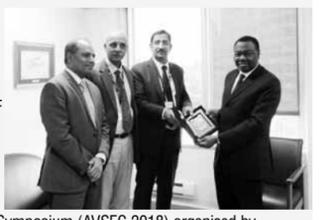
RENOVATED ESI HOSPITAL INAUGURATED

GT Devegowda, Minister for Higher Education, Govt. Of Karnataka & District in-charge Minister and Venkataramanna, Minister for Labour, Govt. of Karnataka inaugurated the Renovated ESI Hospital, Mysore (Karnataka) in the august presence of Prathap Simha, Member of Parliament, Member of Parliament and LR Shivaram Gowda, Member of Parliament, L Nagendra, MLA presided over the function.



CISF DELEGATION VISITS ICAO

As a follow up to International Aviation Security Seminar- 2018, organised by CISF, a delegation of CISF led by Rajesh Ranjan, DG, CISF along-with MA Ganapathy, Additional Director General, Airport Sector and Ajay Kumar, AIG (APS) attended Global Aviation Security Symposium (AVSEC 2018) organised by International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) Headquarters, Montreal (Canada) from 27th to 28th November, 2018. The theme of symposium was — AVSEC Information sharing — "The Need to know".



ALKA MITTAL TAKES CHARGE AS DIRECTOR (HR), ONGC

Alka Mittal has joined as Director (HR) of Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited today. A post graduate in Economics, MBA (HRM) and Doctorate in Commerce and Business Studies, she joined ONGC as a Graduate Trainee in 1985 and brings with her an extremely rich experience spanning over three decades. She is on the Board of ONGC Mangalore Petrochemicals Limited (OMPL) as ONGC nominee Director since August 2015.



VELLORE IIT TO HOST WOMEN BADMINTON TOURNAMENT

Vellore Institute of Technology will host the annual South Zone inter-university badminton tournament for women and also the All India inter-zone badminton tournament for women. Women students from over 82 universities from all over South India, including Andhra Pradesh, Telengana, Kerala, Karnataka, Puducherry and Tamil Nadu will be taking part in the inter-university competitions that will commence on December 4.

SR NARASIMHAN NEW DIRECTOR OF POSOCO

SR Narasimhan joined the Board of Power System Operation Corporation Limited (POSOCO) as Director (System Operation) on Thursday. Prior to this assignment, he was Executive Director, National Load Despatch Centre (NLDC) responsible for reliable and economic operation of the All India electricity grid which is also connected to the neighbouring countries of Bhutan, Nepal and Bangladesh.



Domestic carriers may need ₹350 bn capital in 3-4 yrs: Report

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Mumbai: Domestic carriers, which are grappling with high jet fuel cost and falling rupee coupled with cut-throat competition, are estimated to require a massive capital infusion of around ₹350 billion over the next 3-4 years, rating agency Ica said Thursday.

These funds would help bring down the high debt-levels in the airline industry, Ica said in a note.

Significantly, all the three listed airlines, Jet Airways, InterGlobe Aviation-run IndiGo and SpiceJet, are currently in red.

Bajaj Auto unveils Pulsar 150 Neon

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Bajaj Auto on Thursday introduced the all new Pulsar 150 Neon collection. The all new Pulsar 150 Neon 2019 collection comes with a young and peppy styling along with the sporty appeal and is for customers looking at a bike with size and performance above the 100/110 cc offerings. The new Pulsar 150 Neon is made available at an exciting introductory price of ₹64,998/- ex showroom Delhi and is available across all Bajaj Auto dealerships in India.

The new Pulsar 150 Neon offers an all new color and graphic scheme with irresistible Neon Red, Neon Yellow (with Matt Black Paint) and Neon Silver color accents that makes it young and peppy. The Pulsar 150 Neon dons color coordinated headlamp eyebrows, Pulsar logo, side-panel mesh and alloy grab rail.



A 3D logo on the rear cowl and the colored alloy wheel decal complete giving it a premium sports-bike appearance.

Commenting on the launch, Eric Vas, President (Motorcycles), Bajaj Auto Ltd said, "Pulsar has been the first sports bike in India for the past 17 years. The Pulsar 150 Neon, with its fresh new looks, outstanding road presence and proven performance is set to be the first choice for any customer willing to move beyond a 100/110 cc bike. At a price of ₹64,998/- ex-showroom Delhi, upgrading to the power of a 150cc bike has never been easier."

Infosys bags deal from Citizens Energy Group

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

India's second largest IT firm Infosys said Thursday it has bagged a deal from Citizens Energy Group to enhance the latter's customer service experience.

As part of this engagement, Citizens will transform its customer service by leveraging 'Infosys Preconfigured Accelerator for Customer Experience (PACE)', Infosys said in a statement.

No financial details of the engagement were disclosed.

This implementation will modernise Citizens' customer services, self-service and meter data management processes, the statement said. Infosys will deliver this transformation through its Innovation Hub in Indianapolis.

Citizens Energy Group provides utility services to about 8 lakh people in the Indianapolis area.

3rd edition of TiE Global Summit commences in New Delhi

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

TiE Global and TiE Delhi-NCR on Thursday commenced the 3rd edition of TiE Global Summit in New Delhi. The event is scheduled to held for two days, 29th and 30th November, 2018, and is themed as "Entrepreneurship: Driving Employment, Driving Growth". The Day 1 was attended by industry leaders, investors, entrepreneurs and

Government officials, who came together to shed light on the theme and shared their insights and experiences to the attendees.

"Once upon a time, there was a perception in India that only those with a lot of capital or connections could start a business. Today, however, this paradigm has changed completely," Union Commerce Minister, Suresh Prabhu said addressing the summit.

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION



General public is hereby informed that an unidentified dead body of male **Age** : Approx 35 years **Height** : 157 Cms., **Complexion** : Wheatish, **Identification** : His left eye is damaged **Wearing** : Black shirt- Black Paint was found in the Safal Dairy Jhuggi, T-110, Mangol Puri Industrial area Phase-1, Delhi on 17.11.2018. In this regard a FIR/DD No. 30-A dated 17.11.2018 has been lodged at P.S. Mangolpuri, Delhi.

Any person having any information or clue about this found dead body may kindly inform to the following:-

SHO :
P.S. Mangolpuri, Delhi
Outer Dist., Delhi
Ph. 011-27921168, 27922186

Appeal for Identification



General Public is hereby informed that a male dead body **Name**: Unknown, **S/o** Unknown, **R/o**: Unknown, **Age**: 40 years, **Height**: 5'6", **Complexion**: Shallow, **Gender** : Male, **Wearing**: White Sandu Baniyan and Brown Underwear & Bare Footed was found dead on footpath Near Hari Haranand Public School, Yamuna Bazar Kashmere Gate, Delhi on 03.11.2018. In this regard, **DD No. 20-A dated 03.11.2018** has been lodged at PS. Kashmere Gate, Delhi. Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out information about this male but no clue has come to light so far.

Any, person having any information or clue about this male may kindly inform to the following.

SHO
P.S., Kashmere Gate, Delhi
Ph. : 011-23967889, 8750870123

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON

(SECTION 82 Cr.Pc.)

Whereas complaint has been made before me that the accused **Robin**, S/o Rambir, R/o E-4/65, Sultan Puri, Delhi has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in case **FIR No. 270/18 U/s 379/34 IPC, PS Mianwali Nagar, Delhi**, and it has been returned to warrant of arrest there upon issued that the said accused person **Robin**, cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused **Robin**, has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of said warrant).

Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused **Robin**, Under the **FIR No. 270/18 U/s 379/34 IPC, PS Mianwali Nagar, Delhi**, is required to appear before the court on or before **02.01.2019**.

By Order,
Sh. Vishal Pahuja,
MM (West-04),
Room No. 271, 2nd floor,
Tis Hazari Courts, Delhi

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF A PERSON ACCUSED

(See Section U/S 82 Cr. PC.)

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused **Sanju Kumar** S/o Yogesh Kumar R/o D-266, Phase-I, Sector-3, Dwarka, Delhi has Committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in case **FIR No. 712/15 u/s 12/9/59 Gambling Act** has been registered at **P.S. Aman Vihar** Delhi and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said accused **Sanju Kumar** cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused **Sanju Kumar** has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant).

Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused **Sanju Kumar** of **FIR No. 712/15 u/s 12/9/59 Gambling Act** has been registered at **P.S. Aman Vihar** Delhi is required to appear this Court to answer the said complaint on or before **17.01.2019**

By order
Sh. Anurag Thakur
MM (North West) - 02
Room No. 113, 1st Floor
Rohini Court, Delhi

SEARCH FOR MISSING



General Public is hereby informed that a girl namely **Sruti D/o Sh. Hemant Kumar**, R/o H. No. 10900 Jhandewalan Road Motia Khan Delhi has been missing/kidnapped since 19.11.2018 at about 02:30 PM, from Nehru Bazar, Pahar Ganj Delhi. In this regard a **FIR No. 343/18 U/S 363 IPC dated 20.11.2018** has been registered at PS, Paharganj, Delhi

The description of missing girl is as under:

Name : Sruti, **Father's Name** : Sh. Hemant Kumar, **Age** : 16 years, **Height** : 5'3", **Face** : Round, **Complexion** : Fair, **Built** : Normal **Wearing** : Red Top and Blue Jeans.

If anyone having any clue/information, kindly inform the undersigned.

SHO
P.S., Pahar Ganj, Delhi
Ph : 011-23520787, 23524746
8750870427

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON

(SECTION 82 Cr.Pc.)

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused person **Jaspreet Singh @ Binni**, S/o: Mahinder Singh, R/o: Jhuggi No.B-21, Near Govt School, Rani Garden, Geeta Colony, Delhi has committed (or suspected to have committed) the offence in case **FIR No.90/16, u/s 323/341/506 IPC has been registered at PS Geeta Colony, Delhi** and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said **Jaspreet Singh @ Binni** cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said **Jaspreet Singh @ Binni** has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant).

Proclamation is hereby made that the said **Jaspreet Singh @ Binni** accused of **FIR No.90/16, u/s 323/341/506 IPC has been registered at PS Geeta Colony, Delhi** is required to appear before this Court or to me to answer the said complaint on or before **28.01.2019**.

By Order
Smt. Mahima Rai
Metropolitan Magistrate-02
Ph. 011-23967889, 8750870123

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON

(SECTION 82 Cr.Pc.)

Whereas complaint has been made before me that **Deepak** s/o Jagbir r/o Village Mirzapur Dhikoli, PO-Noorpur, Bijnore, UP has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in case **FIR No. 265/18 u/s 420/120B/34 IPC at Police Station – Janak Puri, Delhi**, it has been returned to a Warrant of Arrest issued there upon has been returned (unexecuted) stating that the said accused **Deepak** could not be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused **Deepak** has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the warrant).

Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused **Deepak** is required to appear before this court to answer the said complaint on or before **3rd Day of January 2019**.

By Order,
Sh. Santosh Kumar Singh,
Metropolitan Magistrate, Room No.9,
Ground Floor, Dwarka District Court,
Sector 10, Dwarka, Delhi

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF A PERSON ACCUSED

(See Section 82 Cr. PC)

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused person namely **Puspender@Krishna Pal S/o Chander Pal** R/o H.No. C-2761, Gali No. 17, Harsh Vihar, Delhi has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in a **FIR No. 194/18 dated 27.04.2018 u/s 363 IPC, PS Harsh Vihar, Delhi** and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said accused **Puspender @ Krishna Pal** could not be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused **Puspender@Krishna Pal** has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant). Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused person **Puspender@Krishna Pal** of **FIR No. 194/18 dated 27.04.2018 u/s 363 IPC, PS Harsh Vihar, Delhi** is required to appear in the court to answer the said complaint on **17.01.2019**.

By order
Sh. Prayank Nayak
Metropolitan Magistrate - 2
Room No. 38, Shahdara
Karkardooma Courts, Delhi

Sensex up 453 pts in straight session

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The BSE Sensex rose for the fourth straight session Thursday, rallying over 450 points on short-covering as the November derivatives series ended amid a robust rally in the rupee.

Positive global cues after dovish comments from US Fed Chairman Jerome Powell also boosted investor sentiment, traders said.

The 30-share Sensex settled 453.46 points, or 1.27 per cent, higher at 36,170.41, while the broader NSE Nifty jumped 129.85 points, or 1.21 per cent, to finish at 10,858.70.

The rupee jumped 74 paise to breach the 70 per dollar

mark and touched 69.88 -- a three-month high -- in intra-day trade amid sustained selling of the greenback by exporters and easing crude oil prices.

"With a significantly lower Brent and a stronger rupee, the equity market traded with absolute buoyancy, covering the broader markets as well," said Joseph Thomas, Head Research, Emkay Wealth Management.

According to him, one key factor which has breathed new life into the markets is the statement from the Fed Chairman that US interest rates remain just below neutral.

"This was seen as a signal that the Fed is probably close

to the end of the tightening cycle. Notably, this statement was in sharp contrast to the earlier statement around the last FOMC meeting that there was still a 'long way for the Fed to tread before the right levels are attained,' he added.

Any ease in global trade tension after G20 meet this weekend will further boost global sentiment, analysts said.

Top gainers of the session included Bajaj Auto, Kotak Bank, M&M, Vedanta, IndusInd Bank, Asian Paints, HDFC Bank, Reliance Industries, HUL, HDFC, ITC, Tata Steel and Tata Motors, rallying up to 5 per cent.

However, ONCG, PowerGrid, NTPC, Infosys,

Yes Bank and Sun Pharma fell up to 1.33 per cent.

On a net basis, foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) bought shares worth ₹961.26 crore Wednesday, while domestic institutional investors (DIIs) sold shares to the tune of ₹330.29 crore, provisional data with stock exchanges showed.

Elsewhere in Asia, Korea's Kospi rose 0.28 per cent, Japan's Nikkei gained 0.39 per cent, while Hong Kong's Hang Seng fell 0.87 per cent and Shanghai Composite Index slipped 1.32 per cent.

In Europe, Frankfurt's DAX was up 0.60 per cent and Paris' CAC 40 0.80 per cent. London's FTSE gained 0.58 per cent.

Niti's role raises eyebrows

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

With eyebrows being raised over the involvement of the Niti Aayog in releasing revised GDP data for the UPA era, some in the government feel the controversy could have been totally avoided by keeping the think tank out of the announcement.

The Niti Aayog had on Wednesday hosted a news conference by its vice-chairman Rajiv Kumar and Chief Statistician Pravin Srivastava to announce the so-called back-series data. The new numbers show India's economic growth rate averaged 6.7 per cent during the Congress-led UPA regime as compared to 7.3 per cent under the present government. Previous numbers had put the average growth rate during the 10-year UPA rule at 7.75 per cent.

While the government has maintained that the Central Statistical Office — the agency responsible for the number crunching — is an independent agency, a joint press conference by Kumar and Srivastava raised eyebrows, including by former finance minister P Chidambaram.

A top source in the government said the controversy could have been avoided by keeping out the Niti Aayog from the announcement press conference. He believed that the Niti Aayog had no role in calculating the GDP numbers, which was the job of CSO. The announcement too should have been left to the CSO alone. Chidambaram called the revision a "hatchet job" by the Niti Aayog, while former chief statistician Pronab Sen questioned the involvement of the Aayog. Finance Minister Arun Jaitley on his part defended the revision saying the CSO was a "highly credible organisation". To those criticising the numbers, he said: "I don't think any service is being rendered by people who choose to discredit a highly credible organisation like the CSO because its data is based on facts and the revised formulations which is a continuous exercise because every time you try and improve upon the formulations to make them more representative of the real state of economy".

BUSINESS CORNER

BAJAJ DRIVES IN NEW PULSAR 150 NEON AT ₹64,998

New Delhi: Bajaj Auto on Thursday launched an upgraded version of its 150 cc bike Pulsar 150 Neon priced at ₹64,998 (ex-showroom Delhi). The all new Pulsar 150 Neon 2019 collection comes with a sporty appeal and is for customers looking at a bike with size and performance above the 100-110 cc offerings. "The Pulsar 150 Neon, with its fresh new looks, outstanding road presence and proven performance is set to be the first choice for any customer willing to move beyond a 100/110 cc bike," Bajaj Auto President (Motorcycles) Eric Vas said in a statement. The bike comes with 14PS of power.

BALENO CROSSES 5 LAKH CUMULATIVE SALES MILESTONE

New Delhi: India's largest carmaker Maruti Suzuki Thursday said its premium hatchback Baleno has crossed cumulative sales milestone of 5 lakh within 38 months of its launch. The model, which was launched in October 2015, posted a 20.4 per cent growth in sales in the April-October period this fiscal, the company said. "Our engineers have ensured that Baleno offers superior ride and handling, class leading performance and safety...Baleno has been among the top selling cars in India since 2016," Maruti Suzuki India Senior Executive Director, Marketing and Sales, RS Kalsi said. The model, exclusively manufactured in India, is the first car from MSI's stable to be exported from India to Japan. Besides domestic market, the model has been receiving overwhelming response in global markets such as Australia, Europe, Latin America and East Asia, the company said.

SEBI CAUTIONS PUBLIC AGAINST UNREGISTERED ADVISORS

New Delhi: Cautioning investors against exorbitant or assured returns, Sebi Thursday asked public to deal with only registered investment advisers and pay advisory fees through banking channels only. The move comes in the wake of several instances wherein investors got lured by false trading tips. The regulator has asked investors to ensure that the investment adviser has a valid registration certificate, Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) said while issuing do's and don'ts list for public while dealing with investment adviser. Also, it asked people to assess the risk-return profile of the investment as well as the liquidity and safety aspects before making investments. "Pay only advisory fees to your investment adviser. Make payments of advisory fees through banking channels only and maintain duly signed receipts mentioning the details of your payments," the regulator noted. Besides, it has asked investors not to fall for the promise of exorbitant or assured returns by the investment advisers and "do not let greed overcome rational investment decisions and do not get carried away by luring advertisements or market rumours." Also, it asked public to avoid doing transactions only on the basis of phone calls or messages from any investment adviser or its representatives. The regulator has asked not to deal with unregistered entities and do not fall for stock tips offered under the pretext of investment advice.

India needs more reforms to grow: Niti V-C

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

More reforms, low interest rates and greater availability of funds are needed to push India's economy to higher growth trajectory of over 8 per cent, Niti Aayog Vice-Chairman Rajiv Kumar said on Thursday.

India grew by 7.1 per cent in 2016-17 and 6.7 per cent in 2017-18.

"Breaching the 8 per cent growth ceiling is not easy, we have to try much harder and undertake the reforms at the level where it matters," he said at an event organised by Pahl

India Foundation. Kumar said that the two major constraints being faced by the investors are less availability of finance and high interest rates.

He observed that while the inflation is hovering around 4 per cent, the marginal credit rate of banks is over 7 per cent. "The cost of capital can not be equal to rate of returns, it (rate of returns) must be higher than cost of capital in the long run. So, this is where I think we need to have a very good look. "...Otherwise, I am afraid despite the promise,

growth rates may not be sustained," Kumar noted.

He also expressed displeasure at politicisation of release of back-series GDP data Wednesday at a joint press conference addressed by him and Chief Statistician Pravin Srivastava. Kumar said that the former Finance Minister P Chidambaram has done great disservice to officers of CSO by criticising back-series GDP data released by the Central Statistics Office (CSO).

"I am deeply pained at people who politicised it for no reason at all," he said.

The vice-chairman also pointed out that the government needs to invest more in the country's statistical system. "The allocations to our statistical systems must increase many folds," he stressed.

Noting that invest climate and capacity utilisations are improving, Kumar said: "Domestic investments are going to drive the Indian economy." He also stressed on need of improving competitiveness of India's production units by the government and industry working together.

NIFTY 50

SCRIP	OPEN	High	LOW	LTP	CHANGE
NIFTY 50	10808.70	10883.05	10782.35	10858.70	129.85
BAFINANCE	2455.00	2517.60	2416.85	2515.00	102.45
KOTAKBANK	1165.50	1219.90	1157.00	1209.00	48.75
BAJAJ-AUTO	2639.00	2737.00	2602.05	2712.10	108.20
HINDALCO	2186.00	226.85	218.60	224.85	8.80
M&M	756.00	780.30	752.00	775.60	27.20
INDUSINDBK	1629.00	1670.95	1619.00	1667.00	53.65
BAJAJFINSV	5850.00	6050.00	5843.00	6006.00	187.55
JSWSTEEL	312.65	319.50	308.70	318.60	9.75
DREDDY	2584.00	2666.70	2575.10	2653.45	81.15
BPCL	327.35	332.00	325.20	329.45	9.30
VEDL	196.50	201.90	196.25	198.50	5.55
BHARTIARTL	312.00	322.00	312.00	322.00	7.90
HINDUNILVR	1745.90	1780.00	1737.50	1774.45	42.25
ITC	283.65	289.30	283.45	288.35	6.15
HDFCBANK	2101.00	2137.40	2094.00	2132.25	43.00
ASIANPAINT	1336.00	1355.00	1330.70	1351.15	26.90
CIPLA	518.00	526.40	516.00	525.50	10.20
HDFC	1940.00	1965.00	1935.00	1964.50	36.50
TATAMOTORS	175.95	179.35	173.45	177.75	3.30
INFRATEL	260.85	266.50	254.25	264.50	4.85
HINDPETRO	244.00	246.50	239.15	243.00	4.10
GRASIM	843.00	857.00	837.40	855.00	14.20
EICHERMOT	2330.00	2396.05	2392.05	2350.00	388.65
UPL	775.00	789.40	762.05	784.50	12.65
TATASTEEL	532.00	538.85	529.15	532.00	8.05
WIPRO	314.00	316.65	309.60	314.90	4.60
ZEE	480.40	496.30	480.05	484.00	6.55
RELIANCE	1161.00	1179.90	1160.00	1167.80	15.15
IHUGLHSFN	700.00	708.00	690.20	701.30	8.95
LT	1413.65	1435.50	1407.50	1421.00	17.60
SBIN	289.30	289.65	284.25	288.00	3.45
HEROMOTOCO	3025.95	3042.80	2996.65	3032.85	33.70
ADANIPORTS	366.50	371.35	363.20	369.10	3.70
ICICIBANK	363.00	366.40	360.20	362.20	3.20
IOC	136.50	136.50	132.10	135.20	1.15
TITAN	929.05	933.90	913.00	929.00	6.05
ULTRACEMCO	4039.90	4058.10	4012.00	4025.00	21.10
GAIL	340.45	344.20	337.05	340.30	1.25
AXISBANK	632.00	636.20	621.50	629.50	1.55
INFY	671.00	674.90	658.80	665.00	-1.40
SUNPHARMA	489.00	491.45	478.70	484.50	-1.50
MARUTI	7613.00	7642.00	7531.00	7546.80	-27.40
COALINDIA	250.00	250.60	241.00	246.50	-1.35
YESBANK	157.05	167.00	154.75	161.05	-1.05
TCS	1997.00	1997.00	1942.55	1970.00	-13.90
NTPC	143.85	145.75	140.85	142.10	-1.35
TECHM	706.00	706.00	685.25	688.80	-8.70
ONGC	143.90	143.90	137.65	141.00	-1.80
POWERGRID	184.95	188.50	179.30	180.20	-4.10
HCLTECH	1043.30	1045.35	1008.50	1017.00	-26.10

NIFTY NEXT 50

SCRIP	OPEN	High	LOW	LTP	CHANGE
NIFTY NEXT 50	27316.55	27421.15	27241.40	27390.55	201.60
BANDHANBNK	469.95	489.20	466.00	488.00	21.45
CADILAH	345.00	360.30	341.65	357.15	13.35
SRTRANSFIN	1135.00	1185.90	1135.00	1177.00	43.80
HAVELLS	670.00	693.05	670.00	692.50	23.90
L&T	141.50	145.00	141.50	143.85	4.85
SHREECEM	15985.00	16664.90	15985.00	16480.00	481.05
BHEL	67.20	68.80	65.70	68.70	1.70
ASHOKLEY	109.15	111.05	108.55	111.00	2.65
ACC	148.90	147.10	143.15	146.25	31.30
PEL	212.00	218.55	210.00	214.60	45.60
DLF	177.80	181.00	174.15	179.65	3.70
PIDILITIND	116.10	119.40	112.80	115.20	20.70
BRITANNIA	3016.00	3045.00	2985.00	3030.00	49.10
OIL	198.70	204.65	196.00	201.00	3.10
LICHSGFIN	469.95	476.30	463.80	472.00	6.70
ICICI	804.50	810.00	794.55	806.00	10.95
INDIGO	1049.00	1061.30	1036.00	1050.25	13.35
SIEMENS	909.35	930.00	900.10	920.00	10.65
SUNTV	612.10	619.75	605.00	617.65	7.00
AMBUJACEM	217.60	220.00	214.90	217.00	2.45
CONCOR	667.85	679.80	661.00	671.65	6.65
BIOCON	598.00	610.55	590.65	603.10	5.40
HINDZINC	262.00	265.00	261.15	263.40	2.35
NHPC	25.65	26.30	25.60	26.20	0.20
ABCAPITAL	104.30	105.30	103.20	105.00	0.75
BOSCHLTD	292.55	293.00	289.05	291.50	2.05
GICHLTD	18749.00	18999.00	18887.20	18800.00	112.80
GODREJCP	74.90	75.50	72.75	72.85	3.25
NMDC	94.00	95.50	92.85	94.35	0.40
BANKBARODA	106.00	106.85	103.45	105.10	0.35
ALROPHARMA	789.80	805.90	788.35	791.75	1.75
SHREEL	572.50	574.50	565.00	570.00	1.05
MIDCOWEEL-N	638.50	642.45	629.30	636.30	1.10
IDEA	38.20	38.40	36.55	37.85	0.05
MARICO	362.00	363.95	358.55	359.40	-0.10
DABUR	416.75	421.05	411.40	414.30	-0.50
COLPAL	1228.05	1244.45	1214.50	1225.15	-2.80
LUPIN	867.00	894.00	861.30	864.30	-2.30
HDFCLIFE	395.10	396.65	392.00	395.60	-1.15
PGHH	928.65	928.20	925.00	926.25	-27.10
DMRT	145.40	145.70	143.95	145.70	-6.70
MRF	6902.00	6913.00	6801.10	6879.00	-413.25
NIACL	199.95	200.55	197.00	197.00	-1.40
SAIL	56.00	56.55	54.45	55.00	-0.40
PETRONET	212.00	215.95	212.00	213.65	-2.20
ICICIPRULI	323.90	325.95	315.10	318.20	-3.35
ABB	1407.50	1417.55	1375.00	1371.00	-22.00
OFSS	3467.00	3480.00	3371.00	3414.00	-61.65
MOTHERSUMI	161.80	161.80	154.30	154.85	-4.40
BEL	89.00	89.20	83.50	84.10	-4.60

BSE 500

Script Traded	Last Price	Change	Change %
CORPBANK	27.05	-0.15	-0.55
CRISIL	1492.55	-7.40	-0.49
CROMPTON	215.10	4.20	1.99
CUB	177.00	-0.40	-0.23
GULFJAL	637.30	2.00	0.31
GULFOIL	757.00	-6.55	-0.86
GULFOILLUB	792.65	-4.60	-0.58
HAL	613.90	-4.05	-0.66
HATSUN	689.10	20.45	3.06
HAVELLS	117.50	-0.46	-0.37
HCC	1015.30	-28.45	-2.77
HCLTECH	1955.55	29.25	1.52
HDFC	2130.00	45.35	2.18
HDFCBANK	392.40	-2.05	-0.52
HDFCLIFE	20.20	-0.25	-1.22
HDIL	4177.05	4.30	0.10
HEG	147.90	1.05	0.72
HEIDELBERG	513.05	-1.80	-0.35
HERITGOOD	3021.25	29.00	0.97
HEROMOTOCO	3142.55	3.30	1.06
HEXAWARE	18.40	-0.45	-2.39
HFCL	214.20	-2.25	-1.04
HIMATSEIDE	24.25	8.00	3.70
HINDALCO	463.35	-5.70	-1.23
HINDCOPPER	47.85	-0.50	-1.03
HINDPETRO	242.95	4.70	1.97
HINDUNILVR	1765.35	34.55	2.00
JKLAKSHMI	134.65	-0.25	-0.19
JKTYRE	98.90	0.50	0.51
JMFINANCIL	86.40	2.40	2.86
JPASSOCIAT	6.63	0.07	1.07
JSL	38.30	0.15	0.39
JSLHISAR	90.35	-1.50	-1.63
JSWENERGY	68.05	0.45	0.67
JSWSTEEL	317.25	9.15	2.97
JUBLANT	739.70	45.10	6.49
JUBLFOOD	1226.10	-16.85	-1.36
JUSTDIAL	497.10	4.20	0.85
JYOTHYLAB	187.65	2.60	1.41
KAJARIACER	441.30	-15.05	-3.30
KALPAPOWR	351.05	-4.70	-1.32
KANSAINER	463.35	5.20	1.13
KEC	284.25	4.60	1.64
KEI	359.40	2.50	0.70
KIOCL	150.60	-0.65	-0.43
KNRCON	190.70	-1.45	-0.75
KOTAKBANK	1210.15	49.25	4.24
KPT	207.55		

Ukraine Prez asks NATO to send ships to Sea of Azov

AFP ■ BERLIN

Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko asked NATO members, including Germany, on Thursday to send naval vessels to the Sea of Azov to back his country in the stand-off with Russia.



aggressive policy of Russia. First it was Crimea, then eastern Ukraine, now he wants the Sea of Azov.

"Germany is one of our closest allies, and we hope that states within NATO are now ready to relocate naval ships to the Sea of Azov in order to assist Ukraine and provide security," he told Germany's Bild daily.

President Vladimir Putin insisted Wednesday that Russian forces were right to seize three Ukrainian ships last weekend.

But Poroshenko charged that Putin "wants nothing less than to occupy the sea. The only language he understands is the unity of the Western world."

"Germany, too, has to ask itself: What will Putin do next if we do not stop him?" he added on the day Ukraine's Prime Minister Volodymyr Groysman was to visit Berlin.

Russia fired on and then seized three Ukrainian ships on Sunday, accusing them of illegally entering its waters in the Sea of Azov, in a dramatic spike in tensions that raises fears of a wider escalation.

Kiev accused Russia, which annexed Crimea from Ukraine in 2014, of launching "a new phase of aggression".

NATO chief Jens Stoltenberg on Monday demanded Russia free the Ukrainian ships and sailors, warning Moscow that "its actions have consequences".

Poroshenko also told the German newspaper that German Chancellor (Angela) Merkel is a great friend of Ukraine.

"In 2015, she already saved our country through her negotiations in Minsk, and we hope she will once again support us so strongly, together with our other allies."

"Putin wants to bring back the old Russian Empire. Crimea, Donbas, he wants the whole country," he added.

"As a Russian emperor, as he sees himself, his empire cannot function without Ukraine, he sees us as a colony."

Turkey could play 'mediator role' in Russia-Ukraine crisis, says Erdogan

AFP ■ ISTANBUL

President Recep Tayyip Erdogan on Thursday said Turkey could play a mediation role to ease tensions between Russia and Ukraine after the seizure of three Ukrainian ships by Moscow sparked a major new crisis.

Ankara's often brittle relations with Moscow have flourished since mid-2016 in a rapprochement that has sometimes troubled the West. Turkey is working closely with Russia on the Syria conflict and is also purchasing sophisticated Russian air defence systems.

But Erdogan has always sought to emphasise the importance of Turkey's traditionally strong relations with Ukraine, even as Kiev and Moscow remain at loggerheads.

"Here we could take on a mediator role and we have discussed this with both sides," Erdogan told reporters at



Istanbul airport before heading to the G20 summit in Argentina.

His comments came after intense telephone diplomacy on Wednesday which saw Erdogan hold talks with Russian President Vladimir Putin and Ukrainian counterpart Petro Poroshenko.

Erdogan also talked to US President Donald Trump.

"Both Mr Putin and Mr Poroshenko in our talks made requests. We will convey the (Ukrainian) demands to Mr Putin in our meeting in Argentina," added Erdogan, saying the issue would also be discussed in his talks with Trump in Buenos Aires.

Merkel warns 'no military solution' to Ukraine conflict

AFP ■ BERLIN

German Chancellor Angela Merkel said on Thursday there is "no military solution" to the Ukraine conflict after President Petro Poroshenko asked for NATO naval support in his country's standoff with Russia.

Blaming Russia for the tensions, Merkel said: "We ask the Ukrainian side too to be sensible because we know that we can only solve things through being reasonable and through dialogue because there is no military solution to these disputes."

Russia fired on and then seized three Ukrainian ships on Sunday, accusing them of illegally entering its waters in the Sea of Azov and detaining their crew, in a dramatic spike in tensions that raises fears of a wider escalation.

Kiev accused Russia, which annexed the Crimea peninsula from Ukraine in 2014, of



launching "a new phase of aggression".

Poroshenko asked Germany and other NATO countries in comments to Bild newspaper on Thursday to "relocate naval ships to the Sea of Azov in order to assist Ukraine and provide security".

Ukraine is not a NATO member but has established close ties with the US-led military alliance, especially since the 2014 Crimea annexation. Merkel, speaking at a

German-Ukrainian business forum, said she would discuss the conflict with Russian President Vladimir Putin at a G20 summit in Argentina this weekend.

She said a bridge from the Russian mainland to Crimea that Putin opened in May had already restricted shipping access to the Sea of Azov and therefore to the Ukrainian port of Mariupol.

"The full blame for this goes to the Russian president," she said.

"Now what I want is that the facts of what happened are put on the table, that the (crew) are released, and that no confessions are coerced like we have seen on television."

"I would also support keeping things calm, but we must also ensure that a city like Mariupol that relies on access to the sea ... is not simply cut off so that large parts of Ukraine can no longer be easily reached."

Putin, Trump will meet at G20 summit: Kremlin

Moscow: A meeting between US President Donald Trump and Russia's Vladimir Putin will take place at this week's G20 summit as planned, the Kremlin said Thursday, despite US threats to cancel over Moscow's tensions with Ukraine.

"Washington has confirmed the meeting," Kremlin

spokesman Dmitry Peskov told journalists.

Peskov said the meeting in Argentina would start around noon on Saturday with "brief talks between the leaders" followed by broader Russia-US talks that could last around an hour.

Peskov stressed the need for open communication

between the leaders, even if they are unlikely to agree on all the issues.

"We need to think about how to start talking about the topics of bilateral relations, the topics of strategic security and disarmament and regional conflicts," Peskov said.

"We don't have to agree on all the issues and indeed that

may be impossible but we need to talk. That's in the interests not only of our two countries, it's in the interests of the whole world."

Trump said this week that as a result of Russia's armed seizure of three Ukrainian ships, he was considering pulling out of the one-on-one talks with Putin.

EU offers 'unprecedented' partnership with Britain

AFP ■ BRUSSELS

If Britain sticks to the Brexit deal it negotiated, the European Union is ready to offer it an "unprecedented partnership", the bloc's chief negotiator Michel Barnier said on Thursday. Prime Minister Theresa May met EU leaders in Brussels to agree terms on Britain's March 29 departure from the Union, but is now struggling to sell it to her own Parliament.

Some in London still hope to negotiate better trading arrangements, similar to or improvements on the accords between Brussels and Canada, Switzerland or Norway.

But Barnier, echoing lan-

guage already deployed by EU Commission president Jean-Claude Juncker and May herself at Sunday's summit, said: "The deal on the table is the only one, the best possible."

Instead of renegotiating the exit agreement, he said, Britain and the Union should now focus on building an ambitious future relationship which would be closer and better than a mere free trade pact.

Addressing to the European Parliament, Barnier said the future relationship would encompass "goods, services, the digital economy, movement of citizens, transport, public contracts, energy, security and, obviously, for the stability of our continent, foreign policy."

German Police raid Deutsche Bank in 'Panama Papers' probe

Frankfurt: German prosecutors raided several Deutsche Bank offices in the Frankfurt area on Thursday over suspicions of money laundering based on revelations from the 2016 "Panama Papers" data leak.

Prosecutors said they were investigating allegations that Germany's biggest lender helped clients set up offshore companies in tax havens to "transfer money from criminal activities" to Deutsche Bank accounts.

The latest raid was a new blow to the financial institution that has been hammered by a string of scandals linked to its pre-2008 crisis attempts to compete with Wall Street

investment banking giants. Some 170 police officers and investigators from the Frankfurt prosecutor's office were searching six of the bank's premises in and around the city, the prosecutors said in a statement.

Deutsche Bank said it was "fully cooperating" with the authorities on the case which it said was "related to the Panama Papers". The Panama Papers scandal that erupted in 2016 with a massive data leak from Panamaian legal firm Mossack Fonseca exposed large-scale tax evasion, laying bare how the world's wealthy and powerful stashed their assets in offshore businesses.

AXIS BANK Regional Retail Assets Center: AXIS Bank Ltd, SCO 367-368, 3rd Floor, Sector 34A, Chandigarh - 160022. Corporate Office: 3rd Floor, Block-B, Bombay Dyeing Mills Compound, Pandurang Budhakar Marg, Worli, Mumbai-400025. Registered Office: Tughlakpur, 3rd Floor, opposite Samartha Temple, Law Garden, Ellisbridge, Gujarat, Ahmedabad-380006.

DEMAND NOTICE U/S 13(2) OF SECURITIZATION AND RECONSTRUCTION OF FINANCIAL ASSETS AND ENFORCEMENT OF SECURITY INTEREST ACT, 2002

Whereas the borrowers/co-borrowers/guarantors/mortgagors have availed the financial assistance from Axis Bank Ltd. We state that despite having availed the financial assistance, the borrowers/guarantors/mortgagors have committed various defaults in repayment of interest and principal amounts as per due dates. The account has been classified as Non-Performing Asset on the respective dates mentioned hereunder in accordance with the directives/guidelines issued by Reserve Bank of India, consequent to the Authorized Officer of Axis Bank Ltd. under Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(2) read with Rule 3 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued Demand Notices on respective dates mentioned herein below under Section 13(2) of SARFAESI Act, 2002, calling upon the following borrowers/guarantors/mortgagors to repay the amount mentioned in the notices together with further interest at the contractual rate on the amount mentioned in the notices and incidental expenses, cost, charges etc. until the date of payment within 60 days from the date of receipt of notices.

The notices issued to them on their last known addresses have returned un-served and as such they are hereby informed by way of public notice about the same.

Name of Borrower/Co-Borrower/Guarantor/Director/Mortgagor/Proprietor/S And Address	Property Address of Secured Assets	1. Date of Demand Notice	2. Outstanding Amount	3. Sanction Amount/Loan Amount
1) Sh. Surendra Kumar S/O Jagdish Chand-(Borrower/Mortgagor)	All Piece & Parcels Of Residential Flat No.129, Super Area 430 Sq. Feet, Comprised In Khevat No. 94/94, Bearing Kharsa Nos.118, 123, 130, 131, Kita 4, Total Land Measuring 16 Bigha 13 Biswas, As Per Jamabandi Year 2012-2013, Situated At Village Sensiwala, Locality Known As First Floor, Tower Block -B, Spangla Lovihar, Tehsil Kasauli, District Solan, Himachal Pradesh. Boundaries: EAST NA, WEST, NA, NORTH: NA, SOUTH: NA	1. 05 th Nov, 2018	Rs. 656040/-	(Rs. Six Lakhs Fifty Six Thousand Forty Only)
2) Mr. Isha Verma W/O Sh. Surendra Kumar-(Co-Borrower/Mortgagor), All At Qtr No. 172, Type II, Spg Complex, Dwaraka, Sector-8, New Delhi, 110077, Also At: Director Special Protection Group Cabinet secretariat, Dwaraka, New Delhi - 110077, Also At: Flat No. 140-B, Tower-B, Spangla Lok Vihar, Village Sansiwala, Near Bandiwala Bus Stand, Tehsil Kasauli, District Solan, Himachal Pradesh - 173203	All Piece & Parcels Of Residential Flat No.130, Super Area 430 Sq. Feet, Comprised In Khevat No. 94/94, Bearing Kharsa Nos.118, 123, 130, 131, Kita 4, Total Land Measuring 16 Bigha 13 Biswas, As Per Jamabandi Year 2012-2013, Situated At Village Sensiwala, Locality Known As First Floor, Tower Block -B, Spangla Lovihar, Tehsil Kasauli, District Solan, Himachal Pradesh. Boundaries: EAST NA, WEST, NA, NORTH: NA, SOUTH: NA	1. 05 th Nov, 2018	Rs. 656040/-	(Rs. Six Lakhs Fifty Six Thousand Forty Only)
3) Mr. Isha Verma W/O Sh. Surendra Kumar-(Co-Borrower/Mortgagor), All At Qtr No. 172, Type II, Spg Complex, Dwaraka, Sector-8, New Delhi, 110077, Also At: Director Special Protection Group Cabinet Secretariat, Dwaraka, New Delhi - 110077, Also At: Flat No. 140-B, Tower-B, Spangla Lok Vihar, Village Sansiwala, Near Bandiwala Bus Stand, Tehsil Kasauli, District Solan, Himachal Pradesh - 173203	All Piece & Parcels Of Residential Flat No.130, Super Area 430 Sq. Feet, Comprised In Khevat No. 94/94, Bearing Kharsa Nos.118, 123, 130, 131, Kita 4, Total Land Measuring 16 Bigha 13 Biswas, As Per Jamabandi Year 2012-2013, Situated At Village Sensiwala, Locality Known As First Floor, Tower Block -B, Spangla Lovihar, Tehsil Kasauli, District Solan, Himachal Pradesh. Boundaries: EAST NA, WEST, NA, NORTH: NA, SOUTH: NA	1. 05 th Nov, 2018	Rs. 656040/-	(Rs. Six Lakhs Fifty Six Thousand Forty Only)

In the circumstances as aforesaid, the notice is hereby given to the above borrowers, co-borrowers and/or their guarantors (where ever applicable) to pay the outstanding dues as mentioned above along with future interest and applicable charges within 60 days from the date of the publication of this notice failing which further steps will be taken after the expiry of 60 days of the date of this notice against the secured assets including taking possession of the secured assets of the borrowers and the mortgagors under Section 13(4) of Securitization and Re-construction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and the applicable rules thereunder.

Please note that under Section 13(13) of the said Act, no Borrower shall, transfer by way of sale, lease or otherwise any of his secured assets referred to in the notice, without prior written consent of the secured creditor.

Date: 30-11-2018, Sd/-, Authorized Officer, Place: New Delhi/Himachal Pradesh/Punjab/Chandigarh/Haryana Axis Bank Ltd.

DELHI URBAN SHELTER IMPROVEMENT BOARD
Govt. of NCT of Delhi
Office of the Executive Engineer C-7
Rana Partap Bagh, Delhi-110007

NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER
Executive Engineer, C-7, DUSIB, Rana Partap Bagh, Delhi - 110007 invites on behalf of Delhi Urban Shelter Improvement Board, percentage rate bid (On Line) on two bid system for the following works.

NIT No. 120/EEC-7/2018-19
Name of work:- Structural Improvement & Rehabilitation of Katra Dwellers. Sub Head:- Structural Improvement of Katra No. 3784/III, Kucha Mohhtar Khan, Mori Gate

Estimated Cost : Rs. 49,26,658.00, Earnest Money : Rs. 98,600.00, Tender Cost: Rs. 500.00, Period of completion : 180 days, Last Time & Date of submission of bid: 10.12.2018 upto 15:00 Hours., Date of opening: 10.12.2018 after 15:30 Hours.

The bid forms and other details can be obtained from the website: <https://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in>

EXECUTIVE ENGINEER C-7, DUSIB

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST
No. 14/18/2018/I&PA
Government of India
Ministry of New and Renewable Energy

Block No. 14, CGO Complex, Lodi Road, New Delhi - 110003.

The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, Government of India, New Delhi invites Expression of Interest (EoI) for selection of an Individual/Professional for editing, proofreading, co-ordination with officers of the Ministry and designer/printer, etc. in connection with preparation of Annual Report of the Ministry for the year 2018-19. Interested Individual/Professional having experience in handling such type of works may apply on or before 21/12/2018 by 14.30 hrs. The EoI is to be submitted in two separate sealed envelopes i.e. (i) Technical-EoI containing the qualification, experience, etc. and (ii) Financial-EoI containing expected remuneration.

2. In case the tender is to be deposited by hand, it should reach to the Under Secretary (I&PA), Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, Room No. 1002, Pandit Deendayal Antyodaya Bhawan (previously known as Paryavaran Bhawan), C.G.O. Complex, Lodi Road, New Delhi 110003 and in case of delivery by post, it should be addressed to the Under Secretary(I&PA), Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, Block No. 14, CGO Complex, Lodi Road, New Delhi - 110003 and should reach there before the above mentioned date and time.

3. The terms & conditions and scope of work for the said job are available on the Ministry's website <http://mnre.gov.in>.

(N.B. Raju)
Director

davp/28101/11/0016/1819

Lankan Speaker meets President Sirisena in a bid to end impasse

Colombo: Sri Lanka's Speaker Karu Jayasuriya on Thursday met President Maithripala Sirisena and apprised him about the negative impact of ongoing policy crisis on the country's currency, foreign investments and arrival of tourists.

Jayasuriya's meeting with the President is being seen as attempt to end the impasse that the island nation is facing since the sacking of Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe by Sirisena and appointment of strongman Mahinda Rajapaksha as the country's premier over a month ago.

Senators send rebuke to Saudis, Trump over Khashoggi killing

AP ■ WASHINGTON

Defying President Donald Trump, senators sent a strong signal that they want to punish Saudi Arabia for its role in the killing of journalist Jamal Khashoggi. By a bipartisan 63-37 vote, the Senate opted to move forward with legislation calling for an end to U.S. involvement in the Saudi-led war in Yemen.

The vote on Wednesday was a rebuke not only to Saudi Arabia but also to Trump's administration, which has made clear it does not want to torpedo the long-standing U.S. Relationship with Riyadh over

the killing. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo and Secretary of Defense Jim Mattis both came to Capitol Hill to urgently lobby against the resolution, which would call for an end to U.S. Military assistance for the conflict that human rights advocates say is wreaking havoc on Yemen and subjecting civilians to indiscriminate bombing.

The vote showed a significant number of Republicans were willing to break with Trump to express their deep dissatisfaction with Saudi Arabia and with the US response to Khashoggi's brutal killing in Turkey last month.

GLOBE TROTTER

CAR BOMB ATTACK TOLL IN KABUL RISES TO 15
Kabul: The death toll soared to 15 in the car bomb attack in Kabul that targeted London-based Security contractor company G4S.

MICHAEL PLEADS GUILTY TO LYING TO CONGRESS
New York: Michael Cohen, President Donald Trump's former lawyer, made a surprise appearance before a federal judge in New York on Thursday to plead guilty to lying to Congress about work he did on an aborted project to build a Trump Tower in Russia. Cohen admitted making false statements in 2017 to the US Senate Select Committee on Intelligence about the project.

PUBLIC NOTICE

ICICI Bank
ICICI Bank Limited

Registered Office: ICICI Bank Tower, Near Chakli Circle, Old Padra Road, Vadodara- 390007, Gujarat.
Corporate Office: ICICI Bank Towers, Bandra Kurla Complex, Bandra (E), Mumbai - 400051
Branch Office: ICICI Bank Ltd. 4/10, Mythen Tower, Bommanhalli Hour Main Road Bangalore- 560068

A notice is hereby given that the following borrower/s have defaulted in the repayment of principal and interest of the loans facility obtained by them from the Bank and the loans have been classified as Non Performing Assets (NPA). The notice dated were issued to them under Section 13 (2) of Securitisation and Re-construction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act-2002 on their last known addresses as provided to the bank by them, that in addition thereto for the purposes of information of the said borrowers enumerated below, the said borrowers are being informed by way of this public notice.

Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower/ Co-Borrower/ Guarantor/ (Loan Account Number) & Address	Property Address of Secured Asset / Asset to be Enforced	Date of Notice Sent/ Outstanding as on Date of Notice	NPA Date
1.	Atul Tiwari/ Roli Tiwari- Flat No D 212 Shivalaya Co Operative Group Housing Society, Gh14 Sector 56 Gurgaon - 122015/ LBBNG00002140062/ LBBNG00002140063	Entire Property in which the Building is constructed) All that piece and parcel of residentially converted land comprised of Survey Nos. 30 (7 acres 24.5 guntas, 31 (6 acres 25.5 guntas), 32 (9 acres 02 guntas), 33 (9 acres 37.25 guntas), 34 (6 acres 0.5 guntas) and 161 (2 acres) of Kadatanamale Village, Hesaragatta Hobli, bangalore North Taluk, Bangalore in all measuring 41 acres 9.75 guntas (i.e., 17,96,576.51 Square Feet) which includes the land relinquished to an extent of 10 acres 28.68 guntas (i.e. 466843.94 square feet) in favour of Member Secretary, BIAAPA, in compliance with the requirements of Sanction plan and an area of 24,193.40 square feet reserved for locating Electrical Sub- Station or Yard) SCHEDULE - 'B' (Property conveyed under this Deed) An undivided 0.0239% (Zero Point Zero Two Three Nine Percent) share (equivalent to 312.47 Square Feet) in the land measuring 1006611.05 square feet being the land apportioned to the Residential Development forming part of Schedule 'A' Property, SCHEDULE - 'C' (Description of the Apartment) A Three Bedroom Apartment bearing No.307 on the Third Floor in Block/Wing "G1" of the residential apartment complex known as "PROVIDENT WELWORTH CITY" constructed on the Schedule 'A' Property, having a Super Built-up Area of 1075 Square Feet (which is inclusive of the floors, ceiling and walls between the apartments and proportionate share in all common areas and clubhouse area) together with an exclusive with an exclusive right to use one stilt reserved car parking space. The building is RCC framed structure with vitrified flooring, metal windows and wooden doors connected with electricity and water supply.	29.09.2018 Rs. 2851303.00/-	31.05.2018

The above borrower/s and/or their guarantors (where ever applicable) are advised to make the payments of outstanding within period of 60 days from the date of issuance of notice U/s. 13 (2), failing which further steps will be taken after expiry of 60 days from the date of issuance of notice U/s. 13 (2) dated mentioned above as per the provisions of Securitisation and Re-construction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002

Date: 30 Nov, 2018
Place: GURGAON

Sd/-
Authorized Officer
ICICI Bank Limited

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

It is publically informed that, one male dead body namely Unknown, S/o Unknown, R/o Unknown, Age 40-45 years, Height 5'8", Complexion Wheatish, Face Oval, Build Normal, Wearing blue colour Sweater, matiala colour Shirt and black colour Pant, was found unconscious condition at Opposite Park Hospital, Near E-Black, Kuda Khatta, J.J. Colony, Khyala, Delhi on dated 24.11.2018. He was admitted in GGS Hospital vide MLC No. 60241/18 and referred to DDU Hospital. During treatment doctor declared him dead. In this regard a D.D. No. 11-A, Dated 25.11.2018 has been lodged at P.S. Khyala, Delhi.

Sincere efforts have been made by local police to identify the dead body but no clue has come to light so far. If any one having any information about this male dead body please inform undersigned.

SHO
P.S. Khyala, Delhi
Ph.: 011-28335696

DP/8010/WD/18

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF A PERSON ACCUSED

See Section U/S 82 Cr. P.C.

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused Sita, W/o Mukesh, R/o D-163, JJ Colony, Inder Puri, Delhi has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in case FIR No. 27/14 u/s 325 IPC, P.S. Aman Vihar, Delhi and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said Sita cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said Sita has absconded (or is concealing herself to avoid the service of the said warrant).

Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused Sita of FIR No. 27/14 u/s 325 IPC, P.S. Aman Vihar, Delhi is required to appear before this Court to answer the said complaint on or before 06.02.2019.

By Order
Sh. Anurag Thakur,
Metropolitan Magistrate, North West-2,
Room No. 113, 1st Floor,
Rohini Courts, Delhi

DP/1608/OD/18(Court Matter)

Public Notice: Loss of POA

ICICI Bank
ICICI Bank Limited

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

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

1. That I was issued a Power of Attorney on December 29, 2012 and that the said Power of Attorney authorised me to represent ICICI Bank Ltd.

2. That I had brought the above mentioned Power of Attorney to ICICI Bank, NBCC Place, New Delhi on November 15, 2018 for the purpose of relinquishing and returning the same to the concerned authority at ICICI Bank Ltd.

3. That I misplaced the Power of Attorney in the outdoor parking at NBCC Place on November 15, 2018.

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

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

Sd-
For ICICI Bank Ltd.,

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON (SEE SECTION 82 Cr.P.C.)

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused Sarita, W/o Late Sh. Surender, R/o Plot No. 618, Kharsa No. 615, Kirari Suleman Nagar, Delhi has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in case F.I.R. No. 470/13 punishable u/s 33 Delhi Excise Act, P.S. Aman Vihar, Delhi and it has been returned to a Warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said accused Sarita can not be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused Sarita has absconded (or is concealing herself to avoid the service of the said warrant).

Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused person Sarita of F.I.R. No. 470/13 punishable u/s 33 Delhi Excise Act, P.S. Aman Vihar, Delhi is required to appear before this court to answer the said complaint on or before dated 17.01.2019.

By Order,
Sh. Anurag Thakur
Metropolitan Magistrate (North-West)-02
Room No. 113, 1st Floor, Rohini Courts, Delhi

DP/1605/OD/18

Trend Blazer

'There's sacrifice in everything you do'

Actor **ABHISHEK BACHCHAN** has made a name with his more than a decade-long journey in Bollywood. The actor says stardom does come with a price tag and there is sacrifice in everything that one does. When asked if he is happy with his filmography, he said, "No. I don't think any actor is. The tragedy of a filmography is that these are the things that have happened in the past. You need to look forward towards new horizons, you need to continue to strive and better yourself. So, I don't think any actor is satisfied. The day an actor is satisfied is kind of a death of creativity within you." He was last seen in *Manmarziyaan*.

'For me this show (The Trip 2) symbolises the fact that women can come together, work in harmony and create moments of magic. I was hoping that the show would do well, but every episode has trended on YouTube and the viewership is increasing hour by hour, I couldn't have asked for more.'

—**Amyra Dastur**

Comedian-actor-producer **KAPIL SHARMA**, who will marry his girlfriend **Ginni Chattrath** on December 12, has opened up about attending weddings during his college days just to eat good food. He made an appearance on the show *Indian Idol 10* where he spoke about his college days when he gate-crashed weddings with his friends in Delhi.

Kapil said: "During our college days, my friends and I used to go to weddings to eat good food. Once we got caught red-handed by an uncle. My friend made up a story saying that the food in our college mess got over and that we didn't have anything to eat."

Hugh to revive one-man show

Actor **HUGH JACKMAN** is reportedly reviving his one-man stage show and is planning a multi-city tour. Jackman will perform two songs on the plaza at 30 Rockefeller Center as part of the *Today* show concert series.

A set list hasn't been determined for the touring stage show, but the Tony Award-winner will likely perform songs from musicals he has been associated with such as *Les Miserables*, *The Boy from Oz* and *Oklahoma*. He will also add two or three numbers from *The Greatest Showman*. Most of the performances will be at international venues.

The #MeToo movement, which started in the West, travelled to the Hindi film industry and had widespread ramifications on the Indian media, has finally made its presence felt in the ordinary workplace. Positively though, if a recent survey is to be believed then 80 per cent of males have become overly cautious in their interactions with women colleagues in the wake of the #MeToo movement. Perhaps out of respect and fear but at least they know that they cannot tweak the rules of social engagement. The same percentage of respondents feel that it was the fear of losing career, family reputation, social stigma and scepticism which could be one of the reasons for #MeToo victims not reporting the cases earlier. But harassment, it seems is not restricted to the workplace as 71 per cent of the respondents say that #MeToo is prevalent at homes as well. However, majority of these vic-

Men cautious with women

The #MeToo movement has had an impact on the ordinary Indian workplace

tims don't talk or report these incidents. The support of NGOs was suggested by 58 per cent of females to help the #MeToo victims at homes. The way to go about making women break their silence about the abuse was to make them independent, say seven in every 10 respondent.

In India, #MeToo has spread virally as a hashtag on social media reflecting the prevalence of sexual assault and harassment directed towards women. In recent times there has been a flurry of cases being reported cutting across varied walks of life, varied age groups and multiple industry segments. So Velocity MR, a market research and analysis company, conducted a pan-India



study to understand the concerns and viewpoints of urban Indians. The study featured a sample size of 2,569 covering prominent Indian metros including Mumbai, Delhi, Bengaluru, Kolkata, Hyderabad, and Chennai.

However, what was clear was that 50 per cent of the respondents feel that working or not, all women are equally vulnerable to the abuse but four in 10 respondents said that working women are prime victims of #MeToo. Moreover, six in 10 believe that mental/emotional pressure from seniors is a major reason for the harassment. What was interesting was the fact that many of the respondents felt that it was not just women who were victims of harassment. However there were doubts about the veracity of the allegations as well as 83 per cent of the respondents believe that there are cases of false allegations in the wake of

#MeToo. In spite of that four out of five respondents were hopeful that this would bring about a good change. Close to 50 per cent respondents disapprove the move of the victims in reporting the abuse later but two in five males support the victims and say that they are right in reporting the abuse even when it is done much after its occurrence. Moreover, seven in 10 respondents agree with the statement that even after reporting the cases, victims are still facing threats. Although the majority of cases coming up in #MeToo are from media, Bollywood, other industries are not considered safe by close to 77 per cent of the respondents. What was also a revelation was that seven in every 10 feel abusers are not only the powerful men as the act and attitude cuts across the socio-economic strata. Majority of respondents believe the time has come for us to stand together in support of the victims to make sure that every single victim can break the silence and speak up.

'DANCE IS A BRIDGE LANGUAGE'

As Natya Ballet Dance Festival begins, RADHIKA HOON talks about how it combines the art form with theatre and films. By CHAHAK MITTAL

Can art connect its practitioner to the global world? When you ask Radhika Hoon, founder of the Natya Ballet Dance Festival, she would agree. She believes that art has the power to leave us speechless, touch us to the core, impacting our very conscience, be it through a song, dance performance, a painting or a novel, a play, a poem or a film. "It does encourage you to move ahead in the field," says Radhika.

As the festival's second edition commences today, Radhika explains how the festival was first conceptualised. She says, "It emerged out of a random discussion when we were talking about a cultural exchange programme and a fest that caters to a mass audience showcasing a variety of dances and acts. The fest digs up dying dance forms and tries to highlight their lost importance."

Well, how does Natya and Ballet go together? Radhika answers that *Natya*, as Kalidasa defined is a blend of dance, music and theatre, "which has just got defined within contours over time." When the Natya Ballet Centre was founded in 1960 by Kamala Lal, the dancer used to practice ballets of two and a half-hour performances. Her acts retold tales of several epics and playwrights making it a place for all kinds of art, "which is how the festival's concept came into existence."

The fest will present a cultural dialogue between legendary dancers and traditional speakers, inspiring the audience to follow the language of art as much as they can to not let it die. She tells us that the festival aims to explore 'dance in film' and 'dance in theatre', combining the two elements together.

There will be masterclasses by USA choreographer Ananya Chatterjea, which will be an intensive session of contemporary dance technique, *Yorcha*, bringing together movement principles from Odishi, vinyasa yoga, and Mayurbhanj Chhau. A tete-a-tete between Kathak exponent Pandit Birju Maharaj and musicologist Manjari Sinha will be followed by a session of 'Meet the Legends,' where the audience will be in conversation with dancer Mallika Sarabhai, social activist Dr Arshiya Sethi, and Bharatnatyam dancer Leela Samson.

The festival, through its various dance and theatrical collaborations, presents two different versions and retelling of the epic *Mahabharata* as well *Ramayana*.

Kat-Katha puppetry trust's *Mahabharata* will be a retelling, this time not just through the perspective of Lord Krishna, Karna, Arjuna, but in way that "forces each one of them to question and revisit their decisions in the great battle." She adds, "It will explore the inner dilemma of the fifteen prominent characters of the epic tale, through a stream of conscious narrative of their past and present motives." It employs the Japanese technique of Bunraku, masks and shadow theatre with elements of Chhau and Kalaripayattu.

Similarly, *Ramayana* presented as *Aham Sita*, will narrate tales from the holy epic through the eyes of the five women — Sita, Urmila, Mandodri, Surpnakha and Ahalya. This edition's one of the new highlights, as Radhika tells us, is that it keeps women in the forefront, emphasising on the female power in dance and theatre. With a blend of dance and music and theatre, retelling of the two epics challenges the conventional storytelling at the festival. "It indeed enhances the storytelling



KAT-KATHA PUPPETRY TRUST'S RETELLING OF MAHABHARATA WILL EXPLORE THE INNER DILEMMA OF ITS FIFTEEN PROMINENT CHARACTERS, QUESTIONING THEIR DECISIONS THROUGH JAPANESE TECHNIQUES OF BUNRAKU, SHADOW THEATRE AND KALARIPAYATTU

forms and inspires people to explore various art forms and develop them as their forte."

Radhika believes that dance is not just an art form, rather "an expression, an emotion and a language. There will be a number of films shown that will showcase dance in films and how the art form has evolved over the years focussing its prominence in films throughout." This will be followed by sessions with award-winning filmmakers like Saba Dewan, Justin McCarthy, Sharada Ramanathan and Vikran Jyengar.

There will be panel discussions between Jyotsna Shourie and Gowri Ramnarayan, moderated by writer and storyteller Saumya Baijral. The most attractive elements, as Radhika mentions, will be the two international performances: *The Dutch Double Bill* — We are waiting at the border and *Ayush*. While the former is a confrontational and intimate public space performance by the Dutch dance company Vloeistof, the latter is an amalgamation of Western dramaturgy and Kathak choreography by the Korzo Theatre from The Hague in Netherlands. (The festival begins today and will go on till December 2 at the SNA premises.)



Bigger, better but bolder?

The second-generation Ertiga is here, and it ticks all the boxes for a new generation model. But should you buy one?

Last week I drove the second-generation of the Maruti-Suzuki Ertiga and posted a picture on Facebook and a friend of mine called it ugly. The interesting fact to note is that this person actually owns the first-generation Ertiga and is quite happy with it. I retorted that the Ertiga is a van, well, it is a 'people carrier' if you wish to avoid the 'v' word. And 'people carriers' by their very definition cannot be 'sexy' cars, no matter how you slice it or dice it, because at the end of the day, these vehicles are all about functionality.

So yes, the new Ertiga ticks all the functionality boxes. The second-generation Ertiga is longer, wider and taller than the outgoing generation. Of course, these dimensions have not ballooned but grown slightly like all new car models tend to nowadays although the wheelbase remains the same. The car is, however, 13 centimeters longer, and while you may not think of that as a lot, it does make a significant difference to both the luggage carrying capacity and the third-row space. And these are main criteria under which you should judge the Ertiga.

To be fair, there really is not a direct competitor to the Ertiga; there are no other petrol-powered small people-carriers and no other manufacturer has a factory-fitted CNG option. Which is why the second-generation Ertiga will, as its predecessor did, dominate the fleet market. Unlike the Dzire, Maruti will not keep on churning out the previous-generation model for the fleet market, and if nothing else, the Ertiga will almost certainly be a sale success on the basis of this section of the market alone.

But the Ertiga remains very popular with large Indian families, because no matter what your thoughts about being in the third row, Maruti-Suzuki have ensured that getting in and out of that row is relatively easy. Also, the floor of the luggage area has two removable panels allowing you a bit of additional depth to store more luggage. This is one of those really useful small features. With the panels back on and the third row (and maybe even second row) down, the Ertiga can be converted rather quickly into a very spacious goods carrier, large enough to carry a cabinet when you are shifting house for example.

The interiors are, like in the earlier generation, nice and light and with a large glass area, even in the third row. In fact, unlike the earlier generation, this new Ertiga has a more flowing shape for the third row window, which gives the car a 'floating roof' look from outside

and a nice amount of glass inside. Unfortunately, the weather being quite nippy, I did not get a chance to really try out the air-conditioner and cooling in the second and third rows but I do not believe that they will be too bad.

Up front, the dashboard on the top-end variants gets a wood finish which is quite common across the Maruti range nowadays, but the overall quality of plastics and fittings feels plush and like other new Maruti-Suzuki cars, there is a visible improvement in both the aesthetic and physical quality of the interiors, particularly the plastics. Incidentally, I'm not a huge fan of wood finishes or the swathes of chrome on the outside, but that is a personal opinion and I know that many of you readers who buy cars with wood and chrome exteriors love them.

So how is the Ertiga to drive? Well, I drove the Petrol Automatic and the Petrol manual. They feature the same new 105 horsepower 1.5 litre K15 that is there on the new Ciaz and like the sedan, both the diesel and automatic feature a new electrical system with a small lithium-ion battery that allows the car to function like a mild hybrid, that is it gives some assist to pick-up when you are accelerating, what is called 'torque assist' and provides enough electrical power to keep the creature comforts such as the infotainment system and air-conditioner going at a traffic light, and like on the sedan, these will have a positive impact on the fuel economy of the car. As for handling, you don't do those so much in a people carrier, but body roll is minimal which should make journeys in the mountains less scary for those who get sick. The only issue I had overall with the Ertiga is the rather ancient four-speed automatic that Maruti-Suzuki has equipped it with although I understand Maruti is looking at a new automatic transmission for their bigger vehicles sometime next year, maybe around the time the S-Cross also gets the K15 petrol engine as some are speculating.

In conclusion, the Ertiga is not a car for me, but if you have children and go on a holiday or have to ferry them and their friends around often and you want a nice compact people carrier with decent fuel economy and do not need to worry about a diesel vehicle ban, well the Ertiga ticks all the boxes and between ₹7.44 - ₹9.5 lakhs for the petrol manual, ₹9.18 - ₹9.95 for the automatic and between ₹8.84 - 10.9 lakhs for the diesel, it is very good value to boot.



A WHIFF OF WINTER

Cinnamon, nutmeg, ginger and some booze, these are ingredients not for a cocktail but a plum cake integral to welcoming Christmas cheer. By TEAM VIVA



It's that time of the year when the holiday cheer shoos away the dull winter and catches all of us in its yarn. And, in a country like ours where every festival is celebrated with fervour — religious and otherwise — Christmas is a staple that everyone looks forward to for the bakes and confectionaries associated with it.

When you smell the warm aromas of cinnamon, ginger and nutmeg, and see the lusciously soaked blackcurrants, sultanas, figs and prunes, the immediate thought is of Christmas. Also for the bakers, the cake mixing ceremony signifies the start of the busiest period of the entire year.

The cake puts the fun in fundamental Christmas traditions but making it is no easy feat. Preparations begin a month in advance since this is no home-baked cake, muffin or pastry.

The ceremony dates back to 17th century Europe and marks the arrival of the harvest season. During this time, lot of fruits and nuts are harvested and used in the making of the traditional plum cake, which is saved till the next harvest with the hope that it would bring yet another fruitful year.

To mark the birth of Jesus Christ, swanky hotels organise cake mixing ceremonies to spread the warmth of the festive season. With every hotel and restaurant changing with the times, Jaypee Vasant Continental (JVC) and The Imperial also organised their annual Christmas cake-mixing ceremony.



'CAKE MIXING CEREMONY IS A RITUAL RELIGIOUSLY FOLLOWED THE WORLD OVER AND IT IS SAID TO BE A HARBINGER OF GOOD TIDINGS AND HAPPINESS'

The fine mix of dry fruits like sultanas, cherries, cashew nuts, raisins, black currants, figs, candied orange peel, cranberry, and apricots were mixed with wine and liquor so that the ingredients can develop an aroma and taste.

This ceremony is poles apart from baking a cake, which happens much after the mix is prepared. The ingredients are allowed to marinate in the juices and beverages for 40 days before starting with the baking, much like the process of making pickles where ingredients are mixed with spices for weeks and months before considering it ready for consumption. Sugar, liquor and fruit juices help preserve the cake and make for a good energy bite.

"Cake mixing ceremony is a ritual religiously followed the world over and it is said to be a harbinger of good tidings and happiness. The ceremony marks the advent of the festive season and through this we look forward to spreading the warmth of this season of merry making. This year, we are blessed to have kids from a NGO with us to give them the experience of special family traditions across the world. The traditional Christmas cake is an integral part of the celebrations. Preparations are on full swing cross all hotels for a grand celebration this year with exclusive menus and unique decor being curated specially for Christmas," said Dilawar Singh Nindra, GM of JVC.

The event is as much a congregation of joy as a showcase of how the traditional plum cake it made, said executive chef, Avinash Jha. "It was really fun having the kids this time with us. They were very enthusiastic about taking part in the mixing ceremony as they were the ones who put the ingredients together," said Jha.

At The Imperial, New Delhi, executive chef Prem Kumar Pogakula and pastry chef Vivek Chauhan tossed up varieties of candied fruits, peels, assorted nuts, juices and soaked them in all-important spirits like cognac, rum and Grand Marnier. These were then blended for an exotic dough to mature beautifully in time for Christmas and to be churned out as plum cakes, puddings and Stollen.

Chef Prem said, "The mix of exotic ingredients gets soaked in liquor for at least a month. The more the ingredients are marinated in a vat of spirits, the better the taste. It is prepared in a distinct way with mounds and mounds of brown dates, black raisins, red cherries, cashew nuts, topped with powdered cloves, cardamom, ginger peel, lemon peel, orange peel, dry figs, walnuts, apricots, prunes, dry black currants, pistachios, almonds, pepper and other exotic spices. All are mixed with 50 litres of liquor and fatten up with infusion. Then our chefs will combine flour with mixture for the dough to be baked to perfection for 1.5 tonne of cakes which are richer, yummiest and divine in taste."



Master of spice

Chef SWEETY SINGH, who carries his own secret spice basket with him, served up a delectable spread of Punjabi food. By AYUSHI SHARMA

While the temperature heads south the desire to devour remains constant and food from Punjab is perfect for this. With its rich ingredients like butter, ghee, missi and sarson the cuisine keeps you warm from inside and leaves an afterglow of satisfaction. So, be a half desi and a full Punjabi because the season demands it.

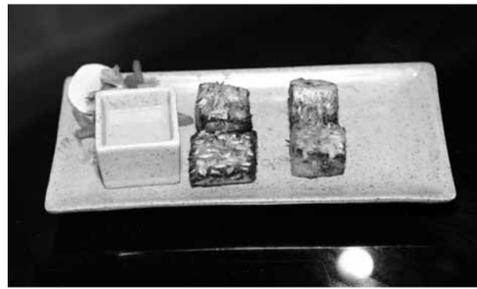
With lots of wakhra love a Punjabi food festival at K3 JW Marriott was there to give people a chance of experiencing the taste of Amritsar.

The 11-day celebration was a glimpse of traditional and authentic preparations by the master of spice, chef Sweety Singh, also known as Harjinder Singh, who specialises in preparing authentic Punjabi cuisine using his own combination of spices, which he carries with himself wherever he goes.

Singh presented culinary secrets from the heartlands of Punjab and said that he draws his inspiration from the traditional eateries.

"I am glad that I have teamed-up with the hotel for the festival. It's fun to curate a memorable menu of mouth-watering Punjabi delicacies. The taste profile of Punjabi food does not lie in dollops of butter, red colouring and cashew flavouring, it is more about how well you saute and let the main ingredient cook in the secret spice," he said.

Chef Sweety insisted that we eat in true Punjabi style



and ditch the fork for hands and he kept on pushing dishes after dishes on our plate. One was the Pindi choley, made in simple tomato free masala, with butter naan, that was more crisp for comfort.

The festival gave the food connoisseur a wide variety of Punjabi dishes to choose from — both vegetarian and non-vegetarian. Taking inspiration from his father, the chef has created a scrumptious menu which also included specially-crafted delicious dishes from the live counters like Bhatti ka kukkad, a classic Punjabi temptation where chicken chunks are marinated

Each and every dish served was made with home-made masalas and in a traditional style to keep the authentic taste intact. The chefs at K3 along with chef Sweety dished out mouth-watering delicacies for both lunch and dinner during the sumptuous festival. To bring the meal to an apt end, you could treat your sweet tooth with Jalebi with laccha rabri because what's a festival meal without some sigh-inducing desserts.

The magic of Amritsari Swad was all about the culture and the love with which the dishes were served.

RECIPES

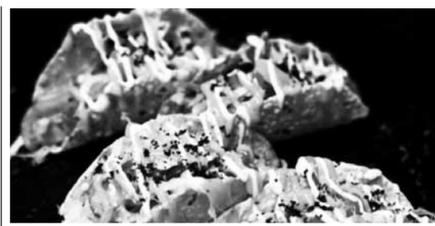
GIANT PANINI
WHAT YOU NEED
● 1 bread loaf (panini)
● Herb butter: 50gm
● Zucchini: 100gm
● Bell peppers: 200gm
● Green capsicum: 100gm
● Baby corn: 50gm
● Salad leaf: 50gm
● Mushroom
● Amul creme and Mayonnaise: 105ml
● Cheddar cheese: 100gm
● Chopped garlic: 1
● Olive oil: 2-3 teaspoons
● Piri-piri powder/seasoning



METHOD
● Take a panini loaf and cut it from the side stopping just short of the long

end. Now, apply the melted herb butter inside the loaf.
● Slice the vegetables - zucchini (green and yellow), Bell peppers (red and yellow), capsicum, button mushrooms and salad leaves.
● Fill up the bread loaf with all these vegetables and top it with sauces of your choice, mayonnaise, amul cream and Natural cheddar cheese.
● For the extra flavour, sprinkle some salt, piri piri powder black pepper and bake it.

Courtesy: Chef Anand Prakash Sharma at Dum Maro Dum.



VEGAN PAPAD TACOS
WHAT YOU NEED

● Crushed walnuts: 2/3
● Button mushrooms, sliced: 8 ounces
● Cauliflower florets, chopped: 4 cups
● Iceberg chopped
● Virgin olive oil: 1 tablespoons
● Garlic clove, minced: 1
● Minced jalapeno: 2 teaspoons (about half of one)

● Chili powder: 1 teaspoon
● Ground cumin: 1 teaspoon
● Dried oregano: 1/4 teaspoon
● Fine sea salt: 1 teaspoon
● Fresh ground black pepper.
● Fresh cilantro leaves, for garnish
● Small jicama: 1 (peeled and sliced into 1/8-inch thick rounds)
● Lime: 3 (quartered)
● Papad: (roasted and mould into taco)

METHOD

● In a food processor, pulse the walnuts until ground but not powdered, about seven pulses. Transfer to a large bowl. Place the mushrooms in the food processor and pulse until finely chopped, about 15 pulses. Add them to the bowl with the walnuts. Place the cauliflower in the food processor and pulse until crumbled, about 10 pulses; do not overpulse. Add to the bowl with the walnuts, and mushrooms.
● Heat the olive oil in a large, wide skillet over medium-high heat. When the oil is shimmering, add the garlic and jalapeno and cook until fragrant, about 30 seconds. Add the cauliflower mixture, chili powder, cumin, and oregano. Season with salt and pepper. Cook, stirring occasionally, until the mixture is no longer crunchy, about five minutes. Stir in the beans and cook for two minutes, until heated through. Taste and adjust the seasonings as needed.
● Transfer the meat mixture to a serving bowl and top with the cilantro and iceberg. Serve alongside the papad shells, lime wedges, and optional toppings of your choosing for tableside assembly.

Courtesy: Chef Rajat Panwar at Brew Buddy.

PINK SENORITA
WHAT YOU NEED
● Tequila: 60 ml
● Guava juice: 120 ml
● Simple syrup
● Splash of cranberry juice
● Fresh mint

METHOD

● Fill shaker with ice cubes.
● Add tequila, guava juice and simple syrup.
● Shake and strain into chilled rocks glasses filled with ice cubes.
● Pour cranberry juice over each glass.
● Garnish with fresh mint.

Courtesy: Toxicologist Nitin Gupta at Darzi Kitchen & Bar.



YERA SUKHA
WHAT YOU NEED

● Stone flower: 5 gm
● Star anise: 5 gm
● Dry red chilli: 5 gm
● Onion: 45 gm
● Tomato: 45 gm
● Curry leaves: 10 gm
● Ginger and garlic paste: 5 gm
● Turmeric powder: 5 gm
● Red chilli powder: 3 gm
● Coriander powder: 3 gm
● Garam Masala Powder: 3 gm
● Salt: 4-5 gm
● Oil: 15ml
● Jumbo prawn: 4
● Capsicum (Red & Yellow): 30 gm

METHOD

● Marinate the prawn with salt and turmeric.
● Fry the marinated prawn in hot oil, keep it aside.
● Cut the capsicum red and yellow into dices.
● Pour oil into the pan. Add stone flower, Star anise, dry red chilli.
● Then add chopped onion, curry leaves, ginger and garlic paste. Stir till golden brown
● Add turmeric powder, coriander powder, red chilli powder, garam masala powder, chopped tomato and salt, stir till tomato is well done.



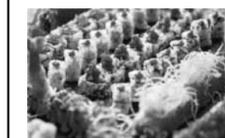
● Add the fried prawn into the mixture. Also, the cut capsicum.
● Arrange on the serving plate, garnish with fried curry leaves and sliced dry red chilli.

Courtesy: Chef Veena Arora at The Spice Route, The Imperial.

gorgeous



Radisson, Noida takes us over Kashmir to Kabul through its piquant treats. Savour authentic food like Kashmiri rista to Kabuli Uzbeki pulav, Gushtaba, Chopaan kabab, Chicken kanti kabab, Nadru yakhani, Kebab-e-morgh, Monji haakh, Afghani naan, Phirni, Shufta and much more. **Date:** Till December 2 **Time:** 7 pm to 11:45 pm **Venue:** TGKF, Radisson, Sector 55, Noida.



Winter weekends just got more delicious with Townhall's specially crafted Sunday brunch, which is sure to indulge your guilty pleasures. Enjoy their signature Sushi rolls, Dimsums, Salads and a choice from their mains alongside quirky warming cocktails. On offer are distinctive dishes like Morning Glory Donbury, Chicken Kra Pow, Red Velvet and Fruit Tarts to satisfy your sweet tooth. **Time:** 12 pm to 4 pm **Price:** ₹2,490+ per person (with alcohol) **Venue:** Townhall, Gurgaon

The Great Kabab Factory at Radisson brings to you delectable flavors from the valley of Kashmir and Kabul under one roof. Savor foods like Kashmiri Rista to Kabuli Uzbeki Pulav, Gushtaba, Chopaan Kabab, Chicken Kanti Kabab, Nadru Yakhani, Kebab e Morgh, Monji Haakh, Afghani Naan, Phirni, Shufta and much more. **Date:** Till December 2 **Time:** 7 pm to 11.45 pm **Venue:** TGKF - Radisson Noida, Sector 55.



Keeping the trend of innovations alive, Q'ba brings to you its signature special menu called 'World on the plate.' On the offerings are food dishes like Lebanese Rolls, Corn cheese chilly fritters, Crispy Corn Kernel, Mustard Marinated Fish, Butter fried Prawn topped, Lotus stem salt and pepper, Thai basil chicken, etc. **Date:** Till December **Time:** 12 noon to 11.45 pm **Price:** Meal for two - ₹475 onwards **Venue:** Q'ba, E 42 and 43, inner circle, Connaught Place.

STICKATHON



Argentina, NZ dig deep for win

PTI ■ BHUBANESWAR

Agustin Mazzilli and Gonzalo Peillat scored a brace each but Olympic champions Argentina were made to dig deep to eke out a 4-3 win over Spain, while New Zealand scrapped past France 2-1 in their opening matches of hockey World Cup here on Thursday.

In the day's second Pool A match, New Zealand scored two field goals through Kane Russell (16th) and Stephen Jenness (56th) to get the better of France.

France's lone goal came a minute away from the final hooter through a penalty corner conversion by Victor Charlet (59th).

Six places may separate the two teams in world rankings but world number eight Spain gave Argentina, ranked second, a run for their money in the high-scoring match that produced end-to-end hockey.

The Los Leones had to dish out every trick from their arsenal to get the better of a fighting Spanish side, which matched their rivals in every department throughout. Spain stunned the Argentines as early as in the third minute through young Enrique Gonzalez's fine field strike past Argentina goalkeeper Juan Vivaldi from a move which he only initiated.

But a minute later, Mazzilli drew level for Argentina, deflecting in a cross from the right wing past Spain's goalkeeper Quico Cortes.

Spain restored their lead in the 14th minute through a penalty corner conversion by Josep Romeu.

It was end-to-end battle as Mazzilli (15th minute) again came to Argentina's rescue, equalising 45 seconds from the first quarter after receiving a pass from Lucas Villa on the left side.

Just seconds away from the first break of the match, Argentina scored again when dragflick specialist Peillat (15th) converted a penalty corner with precision to hand his side the lead for the first time in the game.

Both the teams played with same intensity and pace in the second quarter but failed to find the net.

Five minutes after the change of ends, Spain equalised through Vicenc Ruiz's (35th) field strike.

The match went on similar lines in the fourth and final quarter with both Argentina and Spain pressing hard for more goals to secure full three points.

But it was the Argentines who succeeded in their effort when Peillat was again bang on target from another penalty corner in the 49th minute.



Argentina players (blue and white) Gonzalo Peillat in action during a match against Spain; (left) New Zealand (black) player Kane Russell celebrates with teammates after scoring a goal

The trailing side did a good work in the third quarter to build pressure on New Zealand but the black caps also did fairly well in soaking that pressure. In the 38th minute of the match, France got their first penalty corner of the game but their skipper Victor Charlet could not be accurate with his drag flick. The third quarter ended without a goal being scored.

France entered the fourth quarter hoping to turn the game around. They were going well too as they earned two back to back penalty corners in the 54th minute of the match. French defender Victor Charlet flicked the ball towards the left bottom corner but the opposition goalkeeper spoiled the party by making an easy save.

Now it was time for New Zealand to make an attack. Unlike their opponents, New Zealand's Stephen Jenness made no mistake and unleashed a powerful backhand at the far post to give his side 2-0 lead in the match.

In the penultimate minute of the match, French skipper managed to score the sole goal for his side off a penalty corner. After full time, the scoreline read 2-1 in New Zealand's favour.

Thereafter, Spain dished out all the tricks, including withdrawing their goalkeeper for an extra player four minutes from the final hooter, but failed to breach the Argentina defence.

FRANCE FIGHT HARD

The match started on a steady note with both teams moving around with the ball. The first attack of the match was made by New Zealand's Stephen Jenness who tried to hit a reverse shot from the close range but French goalkeeper

Arthur Thieffry blocked the attempt.

Playing contrary to what their ranking on the world list indicates, France did a good job in the first quarter to restrict New Zealand. They, however, could not hold them longer. In the 17th minute of the match, New Zealand defender Kane Russell scored the first goal for his team.

France made continuous attempts to score an equalizer but the lack of accuracy and pace did not let that happen. At the half-time, New Zealand were leading the match 1-0.

I was surprised by sudden ouster as India coach: Oltmans

PTI ■ BHUBANESWAR

India is a closed chapter now for Roelant Oltmans but the legendary Dutch coach said more than hurt he was surprised by the way he was unceremoniously shown the door by Hockey India, especially after investing his time in the country for nearly five years.

Oltmans came to India as High Performance Director in 2013 and played an instrumental role in reviving Indian hockey before taking up the position of men's team's chief coach.

Oltmans' association with Indian hockey for nearly five years came to an end in September last year after he was sacked by the national federation for lack of results.

"I was not hurt (about the sudden sacking). That is part of our coaching job but I must admit I was surprised," the 64-year-old master tactician said.

"There are certain moments people take decisions and you need to accept the decisions the way they are," said Oltmans, who is now the head coach of Malaysian team participating in the World Cup.

During his time as a High Performance Director in India, Oltmans strengthened the grassroot level besides working with all the national teams, be it junior or senior, men or women.

He also worked with the domestic coaches, including current India chief coach Harendra Singh, and played a key role in restructuring the game in the country.

Some former players have even said that Indian hockey is currently reaping rewards for Oltmans' labour.

"I worked here (in India) for 5 years with a lot of pleasure. I enjoyed my stay here. India has a rich hockey history and I am satisfied that I could contribute something to Indian hockey's rebirth,"



Former Indian and current Malaysian coach Roelant Oltmans

After the India sojourn, Oltmans was with Pakistan team on a two-year contract but resigned barely four months into the job.

After the Asian Games, Oltmans took over as Malaysia coach for a two-year tenure with an aim to help the side qualify for 2020 Tokyo Olympics.

Malaysia missed a golden chance to seal their Olympic berth after losing to Japan in the final at the Asian Games earlier this year but the Dutchman said that episode, which he was not part of, is history now.

"Of course, it was a big disappointment but that is history now. We can't change history but we can change the future and that is what we will try here. The boys have talked about what went wrong there, but many things were right or else we won't be there in the final of the Asian Games," he said.

Malaysia are placed in what can be termed as pool of death at the ongoing World Cup alongside three former champion sides — Pakistan, Germany and Netherlands — in Pool D.

"We have set very simple targets. First is to survive in this pool of death. That's the challenge and we take it as a challenge. How we survive, it doesn't matter. Then, we will reset our goals for the next phase," Oltmans said.

He also feels that his knowledge about India and familiar weather conditions will help Malaysia in the World Cup.

"All the 16 teams are well prepared. Of course, it helps us that we are coming from Asia. We did not have to travel too much. We are used to weather conditions in this time of the year. But these are minor advantages because every team has prepared themselves to make sure they are the best and this is what World Cup is about," Oltmans signed off.

Aus start campaign against Ireland

PTI ■ BHUBANESWAR

Seeking a hat-trick of titles, defending Champions Australia begin their campaign against minnows Ireland in the hockey World Cup here on Friday.

The world number one Kookaburras would start as overwhelming favourites against 10th ranked Ireland in the Pool B match.

Australia have won the World Cup thrice — 1986, 2010 and 2014 — and they have been a dominant side in world hockey for quite a few years now, though the few Olympic medals did not reflect it.

The world champions have just passed through a transition phase with some senior players like Jamie Dwyer and Mark Knowles hanging up their boots. But come Friday, Australia would be looking to beat Ireland by a big margin to boost their confidence ahead of the remaining two pool matches.

The Kookaburras have 10 new players in their squad and co-captain of the side Aran Zaleski said they were taking the opportunity as a "challenge".

"This is completely a different group. We have now got 10 guys making their debut at World Cup. For us as a team this



Australian players discuss team strategies after end of second quarter in pre World Cup practice game

is our first real chance of winning a World Cup as a group. We are not taking it as pressure but as a challenge," he said.

Head coach Colin Batch said Ireland might be ranked way below his side but it would be a mistake on their part to underestimate their opponents.

"They (Ireland) are a threat. Any team can cause an upset here. Ireland is one of those teams we have not played since early this year. So we are not underestimating them," Batch said.

"We need to take care of our own per-

formance. They will be very competitive and difficult opponent for us."

Ireland, on the other hand, has nothing to lose and will come out without any pressure in search of an unlikely upset win. Ireland does not boast of a rich hockey history as Australia. Prior to the current edition, Ireland qualified for the World Cup only twice — finishing at the 12th place on both occasions in 1978 and 1990.

In other Pool B match on Friday, England will play China.

All eyes on Vinesh and Sakshi at Wrestling Nationals

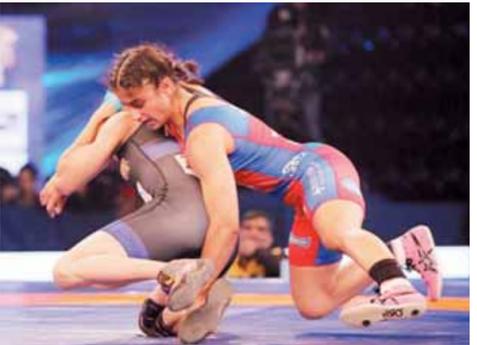
PTI ■ GONDA (UP)

The spotlight trained on them, Vinesh Phogat gets an opportunity to test her fitness while a struggling Sakshi Malik will look to re-invent herself in the absence of the male stars at the Tata Motors Wrestling Nationals, beginning from Friday.

Vinesh was forced to skip the World Championship in Budapest due to a last-minute elbow injury. She was in imperious form following the historic Gold-winning effort at the Jakarta-Palembang Asian Games.

Vinesh is one of the most formidable athletes and if she is fit, it is highly unlikely she could be troubled by any of her compatriots. She will compete in the 57kg instead of the 50kg category in which she won three Gold medals this season.

"For Nationals I won't reduce weight. The competition here won't be very strong and I have several important tourna-



ments coming up in the next few months, so I have to be consistent in maintaining (weight) for those events," Vinesh said when asked about the change in her weight category.

The 24-year-old said it is important to compete at Nationals because she lost a lot of time after the Asian Games due to the injury.

"Now I have a chance to

restart with the Nationals. I won't say it is warm-up for me but it is good if I get into some competitions before bigger tournaments ahead. It helps on getting that mindset," she said.

She remains favourite for the Gold but Vinesh says she can't name any strong opponent. "I know lot of wrestlers from the senior camp but there will be lot of juniors competing

for the first time. I don't know many of them, so I have to see how it goes," she said, adding that her hunger for success only got stronger after injuries halted her progress.

In complete contrast, Sakshi's career graph has taken a nosedive after her historic Bronze medal at the Rio Olympic Games. She could win only a Bronze at the Gold Coast CWG in a not-so-strong field while returning empty-handed from the Asian Games before suffering a humiliating exit from the World Championship.

The 62kg will be a battle between Sakshi and the celebrated Geeta Phogat, who has lost a bit of her sting of late.

Ritu Malik, who had lost the Bronze play-off at Budapest, will compete in the 65kg while Navjot Kaur will compete in 68kg.

Like Sakshi, two time Olympic medalist Sushil Kumar is also struggling and has decided to skip the event along with Bajrang Punia, who is injured.

Inner Mongolian represents China in WC

PTI ■ BHUBANESWAR

Unusual as it may sound but China, for all its sporting culture, provinces and gargantuan size, had to pick all its 18 hockey World Cup-bound players from one province, the name of which sounds similar to that of its neighbouring country.

Very few people know that the country's entire 18-member men's hockey team belongs to just one province — Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region. China is made up of 34 provinces.

China's men's hockey team is making its debut at the World Cup here and its best result in the sport till date is a Silver medal finish at the 2006 Doha Asian Games.

What has caught the attention is that all the 18 players rep-



Chinese players pose for photograph after reaching Bhubaneswar for hockey WC

All the 18 players representing China in the World Cup hail from the Inner Mongolia province

representing China in the ongoing World Cup hail from the Inner Mongolia province.

Hockey is not that popular in China. It is mostly common among the Daur people, who

country South Korea to a Silver medal in the 2000 Sydney Olympics and mentored China to beat India and Pakistan before claiming the Doha Asiad Silver, has got a wealth of experience as a coach.

China will make its World Cup debut against England in a Pool B match on Friday and the coach said his players have the capability to cause an upset or two in the tournament if they turn out on the turf without any fear. "They have the fitness. They have the mental strength. The only problem with our players is that they have very less experience of playing against strong teams. That's the only weakness," Kim said.

"If they (Chinese players) are worried and doubtful on the pitch, they can't do anything. If they are confident, they can do something," he added.

Kim, who guided his own

have been playing a traditional sport called 'Beikou', a game similar to field hockey, for about 1,000 years.

The modern game started in China in the mid 1970s.

"Yes, all players from the team are from Inner Mongolia. They all are from just one club and one province," China's South Korean coach Sang Ryl Kim said.

Kim, who guided his own

B'desh eye rare Test series win

AFP ■ DHAKA

Bangladesh will be looking for a rare Test series win when they take on West Indies in the second and final Test at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Dhaka on Friday.

The home side lead the two-match series 1-0 thanks to their 64-run win the first Test in Chittagong when their spinners accounted for all 20 West Indies wickets.

A win in Dhaka will give Bangladesh only their fourth Test series win in history and first since 2014 when they triumphed over Zimbabwe 3-0 at home.

Bangladesh came close to winning series twice in the past two years, respectively against Australia and Sri Lanka but on both occasions they stumbled at the final hurdle. Skipper Shakib Al Hasan said his



team has the ability to overcome the odds.

"We have a challenge and we believe we can overcome this," Shakib said at the pre-match press conference on Thursday.

"Naturally, West Indies will also go into the match more excited. They will give their best to win. We have to perform better than them, more than what we did in

Chittagong," he said.

"It will be very special for us if we can win the series 2-0... Whatever it requires we are preparing to do that," he said.

"If it is not possible to win, our target will be taking series 1-0, because the ultimate target is winning the series." Shakib promised positive cricket.

"But we don't want to win series by playing defensive cricket. We will go into the match with a positive frame of mind," he said.

Bangladesh's chances, however, got a blow when wicketkeeper-batsman Mushfiqur Rahim hurt his finger during a training session on Wednesday.

West Indies will also play three one-day internationals and three Twenty20 internationals against Bangladesh during their month-long tour.

NEYMAR LEAVES REDS ON THE ROPES

Liverpool need to beat Napoli at Anfield to survive after Klopp's men lose 1-2 against PSG

AFP ■ PARIS

Paris Saint-Germain took a big step towards qualifying for the Champions League knockout stages after Neymar helped sink Liverpool in a blistering 2-1 win at the Parc des Princes.

The Brazilian struck in the 37th minute after Juan Bernat's early opener to put qualification for the last 16 in the French champions' hands and leave Jurgen Klopp's team needing to beat Napoli 1-0 or by two clear goals in two weeks' time to guarantee a place in the knockout stage.

Thomas Tuchel's PSG have massive European ambitions but have flattered to deceive on the continent since being taken over by Qatari investors, and after defeats at Anfield and draws with Group C leaders Napoli, Wednesday's win gives them a great chance of qualifying from an extremely tight group.

They are in second place but still need a win at Red Star Belgrade — who they beat 6-1 in Paris in October — to ensure a knockout berth as they go into the final round of fixtures just two points ahead of Liverpool.

"It was our last chance to show that we are capable of competing with a team like Liverpool, a team with an incredible mentality," said PSG coach

Thomas Tuchel.

"Everyone was ready to suffer for each other. That was necessary against Liverpool and it was a big step forward for us."

Defeat left a bad taste in Klopp's mouth, with the German coach frustrated by refereeing that he claimed made his side look like "butchers" while only booking Marco Verratti for a high first-half tackle on Joe Gomez.

"For me it's a red card," he said. "I look like a bad loser, but I don't care. I had a very good view of it and for sure it was not the same colour as the 500 other yellow cards."

Napoli meanwhile is just a point ahead of PSG but three ahead of Liverpool after breezing past Red Star Belgrade 3-1 thanks to Marek Hamsik's first goal of the season and a Dries Mertens double.

Carlo Ancelotti's side know that having beaten the Premier League outfit 1-0 in October a goal at Anfield next month would make their task much easier.

If they score the Reds would need to do so three times without reply to qualify ahead of the Italians with a superior head-to-head record.

A draw would also see them go through.

SPURS BACK FROM DEAD

Harry Kane said Tottenham Hotspur will go "all guns blazing" at Barcelona in two weeks time after Christian Eriksen brought his side back from the dead with the late winner in a pulsating clash with Inter Milan at Wembley.

Mauricio Pochettino's side go level on

seven points with Inter but move above them into second in Group B thanks to their head-to-head away goals and now need to match Inter's result in the final week to qualify.

They will travel to the Camp Nou on December 11 to take on Barcelona, who showed no signs of slowing down in a 2-1 win at PSV Eindhoven which guaranteed top spot.

"We played out from the back, through the lines, and we could have got a couple in the first half. The clean sheet was massive and thankfully we got the goal," said Kane to BT Sport.

"We will go all guns blazing now. It will be tough, but it is all to play for."

Atletico Madrid cruised into the next round with a simple 2-0 win over a Monaco team packed with youngsters and short on experience.

Koke set the ball rolling against Thierry Henry's rock-bottom Monaco after just 90 seconds, before Antoine Griezmann ended the match as a contest after just 24 minutes.

Porto and Schalke qualified before their Group D match kicked off thanks to Galatasaray falling 2-0 at Lokomotiv Moscow.

Goals from Eder Militao and Jesus Corona put the Portuguese champions two up early in the second half before Nabil Bentaleb's 89th-minute penalty have the German's hope of a late point.

However Moussa Marega slotted home the third to seal first place for Sergio Conceicao's team.

Borussia Dortmund also qualified following their goalless draw with Club Brugge.



Goals	Player	Clubs
31	Neymar	(Barcelona, PSG)
30	Kaká	(Real Madrid, AC Milan)
27	Rivaldo	(Barcelona, AC Milan, Olympiacos, AEK Athens)
25	Giovane Elber	(Bayern München, Lyon)
25	Jardel	(Porto, Galatasaray)



Thomas Tuchel's PSG have massive European ambitions but have flattered to deceive on the continent and after defeats at Anfield and draws with Group C leaders Napoli, Wednesday's win gives them a great chance of qualifying from an extremely tight group

INDIAN BATSMEN RATTLE CA XI

PTI ■ SYDNEY

In-form skipper Virat Kohli (64) and teenage prodigy Prithvi Shaw (66) were among the five Indian batsmen who struck fifties before the visitors were bowled out for 358 on the second day of the rain-hit practice game against Cricket Australia XI.

In response, Cricket Australia XI finished the day at 24-0 in four overs. For India, Cheteshwar Pujara (54), Ajinkya Rahane (56), and Hanuma Vihari (53) were the others to post half-centuries.

Rain finally relented and the match got underway earlier in the morning with play extended to 98 overs for each of the remaining three days.

Cricket Australia XI won the toss and invited India to bat.

The visitors left out Bhuvneshwar Kumar, Jasprit Bumrah, Parthiv Patel and Kuldeep Yadav from the 14-man team selected for this practice game that doesn't have first-class status.

On account of high moisture in the ground, there was a lack of pace and bounce in the morning but 19-year-old Shaw set a hectic pace as he hit 11 fours during his 69-

ball stay at the crease. In deep contrast was his opening partner KL Rahul (3), struggling for timing once again, and was out caught at mid-off playing a loose drive off Jackson Coleman (1-45).

Shaw and Pujara then added 80 runs for the second wicket. While the young opener took on the bowling, the latter was his usual sedate self.

Shaw reached his half-century off 52 balls, inclusive of eight fours, but then was bowled trying to sweep Daniel Fallins (1-48).

India went to lunch at 169-2 with Pujara also completing his half-century off 89 balls, and Kohli looking solid as ever on 41 not out.

Overall, the skipper scored 64 off 87 balls, including seven fours and a six, and looked at ease. He reached his half-century off 78 balls.

The duo fell after lunch, with Pujara bowled off an inswinger from Luke Robins (1-59), while 19-year-old Aaron Hardie took the prized scalp of Kohli, accepting a return catch off a drive.

Rahane and Vihari came together

thereafter, putting on 81 runs for the fifth wicket.

Vihari looked very comfortable and scored at a quick pace. Rahane, at the other end, took his time and settled down.

Vihari reached his half-century off 75 balls and was out leg-before to D'Arcy Short (1-42) after tea. Rahane continued to prod on and scored a half-century off 115 balls, and then retired for 56 thereafter.

Rohit Sharma too looked in good nick, scoring 40 off 55 balls, including five fours and a six. But India's lower-order folded without much effort, including Sharma who was caught behind after the new ball was taken.

R Ashwin (0) was caught behind down the leg side, while Mohammed Shami was also caught behind for a three-ball duck.

Hardie finished with 4-50 with last man Umesh Yadav run out. Rishabh Pant was unbeaten on 9 not out. Pant had a good hit in the nets during the first session.

Ravindra Jadeja, Ishant Sharma and Murali Vijay did not get a bat, perhaps in waiting for the second innings.

Also, the Australian pace trio of Mitchell Starc, Pat Cummins and Josh Hazlewood were spotted in the SCG nets on Thursday.



Virat Kohli runs between wickets while batting during their tour match AP

'Rahul is finding new ways to get out'

PTI ■ SYDNEY

KL Rahul is a strong contender for the opening slots for India's first Test against Australia next week but his knack of "finding new ways to get himself out" has not gone down well with assistant coach Sanjay Bangar.

Rahul was the only prominent batsman to miss out on a significant score in India's 358 all out on day two of the four-day tour game. He was out for three runs while playing a loose drive on the up and was caught at mid off within the first hour of play.

Bangar said Rahul is no longer an inexperienced player and he ought to shoulder more responsibility.

"He (Rahul) has been looking in good shape, including today. It is just that he is finding new ways to get out. Even today, the ball was quite afar when he played it away from his body and lost his wicket. But what we are reading he is playing the ball well and he is one hit away (from form)," Bangar said after the day's play.

"We know his ability and if he converts that

to performances then it is important for the team. He is not a young player anymore and he is on his second tour here. He has played 30 Tests and he has a responsibility. We expect him to play with that responsibility and play his role for the team," the coach said.

Bangar made it clear that the opening combination as well as the number six slot for the first Test in Adelaide beginning December 6 are still up for grabs.

He said the second innings will help decide about the composition of the batting line-up, with Rahul, Murali Vijay, Rohit Sharma and Hanuma Vihari in focus for the opening and number six spots.

"I would say there are still some spots to be taken. We will keep a close eye on how the second innings goes and it gives some other batsmen a hit especially Murali Vijay and middle order batsmen, and see how they go.

"There are certain spots to be taken still. We are looking at the opening slot as well as the number six slot. Those are the positions we are still looking at, we have not decided yet," he added.



KL Rahul celebrates after scoring 100 at The Oval against England AP

RANJI TROPHY

Mumbai eye 1st innings lead against Gujarat

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Mumbai bowlers led by left-arm medium pacer Royston Dias raised the team's chances of taking the crucial first-innings lead as they reduced Gujarat to 232/8 on the second day of their Elite Group A match. At stumps, Gujarat still trail by 65 runs and

all their hopes are pinned on wicket-keeper Dhruv Raval (60*), who showed resistance despite being devoid of partners at the other end.

Mumbai, courtesy all-rounder Shivam Dubey's hundred, had posted 297 in their first essay.

Dias (3-52) was the most successful bowler and was ably supported by skipper Dhawal

Kulkarni (2-50) and Shivam Dubey (2-45), who had a good time with the ball too.

At Mysuru, Karnataka managed to take the crucial first innings lead against Maharashtra. They reduced the visitors to 48/3 in the second essay as Maharashtra are still 25 runs adrift.



Manprit Juneja plays shot PTI

Rajasthan reduce UP to 146/7

PTI ■ KANPUR

Rajasthan pacers rose to the occasion and put up a spirited performance as they reduced Uttar Pradesh to 146/7 on the second day of their Elite Group C game.

In search of their fourth win on the trot, Aniket Choudhary (4-34) and Tanvir Mashrat Ul-Haq (3-39) wreaked havoc on the Uttar Pradesh batsmen as wickets kept tumbling at regular intervals.

Experienced campaigner Suresh Raina (33) and Rinku Singh then tried to steady the ship as they helped their side pass the 100-run mark.

At stumps, Upendra Yadav (21 not out) and Shivam Mavi (9 not out) held fort as the hosts still trailed Rajasthan by 165 runs.

Earlier, Rajasthan rode on Robin Bist's valiant 96 and equally effective 93 by opener Amitkumar Gautam to post a competitive 311/9 in their first innings.

Meanwhile, Assam are in sight of an outright win after they bundled out



Arup Das (c) is greeted by his teammates after taking five wickets against Haryana on the 2nd day at ACA Cricket Stadium, Barsapara in Guwahati PTI

Haryana for a paltry 97 in the first innings and reduced them to 78/7 on follow-on in the second essay after putting a respectable 310 in their first innings.

For Assam, right-arm medium Arup Das has picked up nine wickets in the match so far.

At Porvorim, Jharkhand trailed Goa by 217 runs, while at Palam in New Delhi, Jammu and Kashmir skipper Parvez Rasool claimed 8 wickets as Services were bundled out for 252 in their first

innings. Rasool was unbeaten on 53 in J&K's second innings, but his side still trailed by 42 runs.

Meanwhile, at Rajkot, Saurashtra skipper Jaydev Shah led from the front with his 165 as the hosts piled up 521 on the board in their first-innings.

In reply, Baroda were 10/0 and have a mountain to climb. At Raipur, Faiz Fazal struck a half century as Vidarbha ended the day on 119/3 as they trail hosts Chhattisgarh by 113 runs.

Punjab inch towards big win over Delhi

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi suffered another batting collapse to brighten Punjab's prospects of recording an outright victory in their Group B match. At stumps on the second day, Delhi were 106 for six in reply to Punjab's first innings score of 282. The hosts trailed by 69 runs as they were bowled out for a paltry 107 in their first innings.

The opening pair of Gautam Gambhir and Hiten Dalal provided Delhi with a solid start, adding 72 runs.

Earlier, Punjab captain Mandeep Singh picked up from where he had left on Wednesday, scoring 90 runs with the help of eight boundaries.

Punjab had taken a lead of 176 runs by the time they were bowled out for 282. Simarjeet Singh and Vikas Mishra starred with the ball for Delhi, picking up four wickets each.

At Chennai, Tamil Nadu gained the upperhand, securing a 74-run first innings lead against Bengal on the second day of their Elite Group 'B' match.

After ending their first innings at 263 all out, built on Baba Aparajith's superb knock of 103, Tamil Nadu struck back with medium pacer M Mohammed (4 for 39) and spinner Rahil Shah (5 for 46) ripping through the visitor's batting line up to bowl it out for 189 in 65.5 overs.

At close, the hosts were 12 for 1 at stumps, an overall lead of 86 runs.



Darkest day of my life: Mithali on Powar's charges on attitude

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

It's the darkest day of my life," said senior Indian woman cricketer Mithali Raj, responding to coach Ramesh Powar's allegations that she threatened retirement over a batting position, threw tantrums and created chaos in the side during the World T20.

The war of words, which started with Mithali alleging that Powar was out to destroy her, intensified on Wednesday when the coach, in his tour report, questioned her conduct during the tournament in the West Indies.

India were knocked out following a semifinal loss to England, a match from which Mithali was controversially dropped despite being fit.

Mithali reacted to Powar's report by posting a brief statement on her official Twitter page on Thursday.

"I'm deeply saddened & hurt by the aspersions cast on me. My commitment to the game & 20yrs of playing for my country," she wrote.

"The hard work, sweat, in vain. Today, my patriotism doubted, my skill set questioned & all the mud slinging-it's the darkest day of my life. May god give

strength," she added. The acrimony between the senior player and the coach has shaken Indian women's cricket, which gained significant traction after the team finished runners-up in the ODI World Cup last year.

It started with Mithali accusing Powar and Committee of Administrators' member Diana Edulji of bias. She claimed that while Diana used her position against her, Powar humiliated her with his indifference in the West Indies.

Powar, after declining comment initially, submitted a 10-page tour report to the BCCI in which he detailed his version of the events that led to the breakdown.

In the nearly five-page assessment of Mithali, Powar stated that the senior player threatened to leave the tournament midway at being dropped from the opening slot despite being duly consulted before the move.

He also accused her of chasing personal milestones while ignoring the team's cause.

"I was saddened by her attitude and it gave me an impression that Mithali Raj comes first and then India. She threw a lot of tantrums and created a lot of chaos," Powar stated in his report.

"I hope Mithali stops blackmailing, pressurising coaches and putting her interest first than the team," he said while summarising the 35-year-old batter's performance on the tour.

The 40-year-old Powar's interim tenure comes to an end on Friday.

