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RINGSIDE VIEW
OF DEEP-VEER
WEDDING
13 VIVACITY

Session from Dec 11, Govt to turn up heat

Ram temple,
triple talaq
on agenda;
Assembly poll
results to set
tone in Parl

DEEPAK K UPRETI ■ NEW DELHI

The month-long Winter Session of Parliament, the last of the 16th Lok Sabha, is set to commence on December 11 with the Modi Government wanting to give a final push to the passage of the controversial triple talaq Bill pending in the Rajya Sabha and score a "winner" before taking on the Opposition which is working on an anti-BJP alliance across the country. The Cabinet Committee on Parliamentary Affairs (CCPA) on Tuesday night recommended convening of the Winter Session from December 11, 2018 to January 8, 2019.

The Ram temple issue is expected to echo in the Winter Session with the BJP and the Opposition launching attack against each other. The Opposition would go all out to accuse the ruling party of communalising the politics on the eve of Lok Sabha polls which are only months away.

BJP Rajya Sabha member Rakesh Sinha has said he may bring a private member Bill in the Upper House demanding the construction of the temple in Ayodhya. The BJP is hoping that the Bill may force the Opposition parties to take a stand on the sensitive issue. The Bill, if brought on the table, could also be put to vote.

The Winter Session will start on the day (December 11) when the counting of votes is to commence for five State



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Assemblies with the BJP seeking a repeat mandate in Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh. The results by the evening would create a political impact on the tempo of the Winter Session with the winner sure to dominate the proceedings in next one month.

Much is at stake for the BJP and the Congress and other Opposition parties in the poll outcome of Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh, Telangana and Mizoram which may set the narrative for the general elections 2019 and could provide a definite suggestion to the political prowess

of the either side.

Triple talaq, which has been made a penal offence by the Government by way of promulgating an Ordinance, would again be tested finally on the floor of the Rajya Sabha where it has been pending after being passed in the Lok Sabha where the BJP has a thumping majority.

The Government would also want the Indian Medical Council Amendment Ordinance and the Companies Amendment Ordinance to be passed as Bills in this session.

The Winter Session will be the "last roar" of the Modi Government on the floor of

Parliament with the Opposition parties likely to put a collective effort to puncture it and set their campaign agenda against the BJP.

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu, whose TDP has quit BJP-led National Democratic Alliance, has been touring various Opposition parties-led States to work out a common strategy against the Modi Government in the Lok Sabha poll. The Parliament session will test whether a "grand alliance Opposition parties" would speak in one voice on the floor of Parliament or would experience disarray on the eve of final electoral battle, next year.

Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs Vijay Goel said the session from December 11 to January 8 would have 20 working days. This would bring down curtain on the 16th long Lok Sabha where, for the first time, the BJP had a majority on its own.

"We seek support and cooperation of all parties for the smooth functioning of Parliament during the session," said Goel.

The session was delayed this year due to the Assembly elections in five States.

The onus of conducting Parliament session from the Government's side would fall on Narendra Singh Tomar and Goel following the untimely demise of Parliamentary Affairs Minister Ananth Kumar.



Guests attend the wedding of Indian Bollywood stars Deepika Padukone and Ranveer Singh at the Villa Balbianello in Lenno, Como lake, northern Italy on Wednesday. Wednesday's nuptials at Villa Balbianello, a lakeside mansion featured in Star Wars and James Bond films, came on the fifth anniversary of the release of their first movie together

No debate on Rafale price if it's not made public: SC

Court reserves
order on pleas
for SC-monitored
probe into deal

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Wednesday said there is no question of a debate on the pricing of the Rafale fighter deal in the court till it comes to the conclusion that the pricing information is to be brought in the public domain.

The court reserved its order on pleas seeking court monitored probe in procurement of 36 Rafale fighter jets. The Government refused to make public details related to the pricing of the 36 Rafale fighter jets in the Supreme Court, saying "our adversaries may get an advantage" by such a disclosure.

A Bench comprising Chief Justice Ranjan Gogoi and Justices SK Kaul and KM Joseph concluded in nearly four hours the arguments advanced by various parties which have also sought registration of FIR in connection with the alleged irregularities in the deal.

India had signed a Government to Government contract with France in 2016 worth over ₹59,000 crore to buy 36 fighter Rafale jets in the fly-away condition.

The apex court also said it is dealing with the requirements of the Indian Air Force and would like to hear from an



Deputy Chief of Air Staff Air Marshal VR Chaudhari and Air Marshal Anil Khosla leave the Supreme Court after a hearing on the Rafale Deal, in New Delhi on Wednesday

Air Force officer and "not the official of the Defence Ministry."

Deputy Chief of Air staff Air Marshal VR Chaudhari and two other officers from Indian Air Force appeared in the Supreme Court on Wednesday to assist it on the issue of the procurement. They told the court that no new aircraft has been inducted in the Air Force since 1985.

On price issue, the SC said, "The decision we need to take is whether to bring the fact on pricing in public domain or not."

The Bench, also comprising Justices SK Kaul and KM Joseph, told Attorney General KK Venugopal that there is no question of any debate on pricing without making the facts public.

The Bench clarified that any discussion on price will be considered if it thinks the issue

should enter the public domain. Venugopal defended the secrecy clause relating to the pricing of the Rafale jets, saying adversaries may get an advantage if the entire details are disclosed. Refraining to divulge details on the pricing aspect, he said he would not be able to assist the court further on the pricing issue.

"I decided not to peruse it myself as in a case of any leak, my office would be held responsible," Venugopal said. The Bench then told him there is no question of any debate on pricing without making the facts public.

He also said these matters are for experts to deal with. "We have been saying that even Parliament has not been told about the complete cost of the jets," he said. At the exchange rate of November 2016, the cost of a fighter jet was ₹670 crore, he said.

CAPSULE

AMRAPALI'S FAKE FIRMS FACE APEX COURT WRATH

New Delhi: After attaching all properties of Amrapali group, the Supreme Court on Tuesday decided to take action against its "dummy" companies which were created to siphon off homebuyers' money and directed attachment of Amrapali Hospital in Greater Noida, three residential towers in Noida and a villa in Goa.

BJP'S DAUSA MP HARISH CHANDRA JOINS CONG

New Delhi: In a setback to Rajasthan's ruling BJP ahead of next month's elections, the party's Dausa MP Harish Chandra Meena joined the Congress on Wednesday.

NIA FILES CHARGESHEET AGAINST AASIYA ANDRABI

New Delhi: The NIA on Wednesday filed a chargesheet against pro-Pakistani separatist and Dukhtar-e-Millat head Aasiya Andrabi and two of her associates for allegedly "waging war" against the country using social media and other Internet platforms, officials said.

Lankan House says no trust in Prime Min Rajapaksa

PTI ■ COLOMBO

Sri Lanka's Parliament on Wednesday passed a no-confidence motion against Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa, who was installed by President Maithripala Sirisena in a controversial move, a day after the Supreme Court overturned the presidential decree to dissolve the House and hold snap polls on January 5.

Amid raucous scenes, Parliament on Wednesday met for the first time since October 26 when President Sirisena sacked Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe and installed Rajapaksa in his place and suspended the House, plunging the island nation into an unprecedented constitutional crisis.

Speaker Karu Jayasuriya announced that a majority of the 225-member Parliament supported the no-confidence motion against Rajapaksa, the 72-year-old former strongman, who ruled the country for a decade from 2005. "According to the voice, I recognise that the Government has no majority," Jayasuriya announced in the House as Rajapaksa supporters protested.

He gave the ruling after the no-confidence motion was taken for a vote. The Speaker calculated the votes based on the voices he heard.

The passing of the no-confidence motion comes as a major blow to President Sirisena and a victory to ousted Prime Minister Wickremesinghe. The resolution was moved by Left-wing Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna party leader Anura Kumara Dissanayaka and lawmaker Vijitha Herath.

The Tamil National Alliance and smaller Muslim parties supported the no-confidence motion.

Three newly sworn Cabinet Ministers and a state Minister also crossed over to the Opposition benches in support. Rajapaksa needed the support of a minimum of 113 lawmakers in the House to prove his majority.

Rain washes off dust, but Delhi stares at pollution relapse today

SAPNA SINGH ■ NEW DELHI

A brief spell of rain on Tuesday night came to the rescue of the people residing in the national Capital as Delhi's air quality improved "remarkably" and the National Ambient Air Quality Index recorded the level of harmful pollutants as "lowest" of this season.

The contribution from stubble burning to pollution was recorded at three per cent. From severe to poor, SAFAR's trend marked air quality relatively good! However, the forecast said air quality may deteriorate from Thursday.

The major pollutant PM 10, which has remained above 410, was recorded at 280 on Wednesday, whereas PM 2.5 was significantly less on Air Quality Index (AQI) at 127.

According to the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF &CC), the overall average Air Quality Index was recorded at 312 microgram per cubic which was 642 on the very next day



of Diwali.

Citing the local climate trend, SAFAR said air quality has improved considerably due to rainfall early on Tuesday; it washed away bigger particles and created space for faster dispersion without decline in temperature.

"AQI is back to 'very poor'. A slight increase in AQI is predicted in next three days and likely to remain very poor," SAFAR said.

"This is mainly due to the fact that surface winds are still low and temperature is likely to cool down. Stubble fire is

unlikely to impact Delhi AQI as fire counts are significantly down and winds are also flowing from other direction," SAFAR explained on Met gaph.

The largest contributor to PM 2.5 pollution on Wednesday was power plants followed by diesel generators. Household pollution contributed 15.9 per cent.

Meanwhile, air quality in neighbouring States of Delhi was better.

The restriction imposed by on heavy vehicles' entry to Delhi was lifted on Wednesday.

How to make a monkey out of simians at Parliament

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

With monkey menace prevailing in the corridors of power in New Delhi, including Parliament, ahead of the Winter Session, the Lok Sabha Secretariat has come out with a circular advising people not to make direct eye contact with monkey and do not cross the path between a mother and her infant.

The Parliament House Complex along with other nearby buildings, including the North and South Blocks and the Rashtrapati Bhavan around the Central Ridge forest, face monkey menace. There is no official data on Delhi's monkey population.

The city has thousands of Rhesus Macaque monkeys that break into houses, terrorise people and steal food. The



civic bodies estimated around 30,000-40,000 monkeys in the national Capital. Many people feed monkeys on Tuesday and Saturdays — days associated with God Hanuman. This practice means that people carrying

food at other times risk being bitten. Around 90 per cent of the monkeys carry tuberculosis.

The circular suggests: "In case a monkey collides with your vehicles (especially two

The Lok Sabha Secretariat has come out with a circular advising people not to make direct eye contact with monkey and do not cross the path between a mother and her infant

wheelers), do not stop there. Do not get scared if a monkey makes a 'kho-kho' noise as normally it is a bluff, ignore the monkey and walk away. Be light footed while passing through monkey group i.e do

not run. Do not irritate or tease the monkey, leave them alone and they will leave you alone," the circular said.

It further suggests that one should not hit a monkey. Keep hitting the ground with a big stick to make monkey leave your house and garden. Officials of the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) are clueless about tackling the problem as despite several advertisements none of langur

walas came forward to catch monkeys.

A few years ago, the MCD had tried to relocate the monkeys caught from the Lutyns zone at the Aravalli hills. But the experiment failed as the simians grew in number and fanned out in search of fruits. Locals objected to the place being used for relocation as they faced animal attacks.

In July, the Delhi Assembly had formed a five-member committee to find a solution to the menace of stray dogs and monkeys in many parts of the national Capital.

Earlier, the House committee of the Rajya Sabha, responsible for allotment and maintenance of its MPs' accommodation, wanted to take a different approach to tackle the problem of monkeys and stray dogs. It had sought

public opinion and experts' views to prepare a report after "studying in detail" the issue.

The monkey menace is not entirely a new experience for the MPs. In 2004, when Mani Shankar Aiyar became a Minister, he refused to go to his allotted bungalow on Kamaraj Marg as the unused accommodation had become a night shelter for monkeys.

In 2007, Delhi's deputy Mayor SS Bajwa died of head injuries after falling from his terrace due to attack by a group of monkeys. In 2012, then Finance Minister Pranab Mukherjee once lamented that monkeys were eating his home-grown pumpkins.

In 2016, a simian entered in the reading room of the Parliament meant for MPs and journalists and roamed around for half an hour.

GUEST COLUMN

Uttarakhand whither to?



R P NAINITAL

Uttarakhand State celebrated 18 years of its existence on November 9. So much has been said in favour of the achievements of the past eighteen years from time to time, even though no less has been critically commented on the omissions and commissions of the successive governments. But the prime question making rounds among the thinking people is - this state, whither to? Ultimately, one tends to think that some new arrangement is needed now to challenge this status quo as never before. What it means for the people is to seek justice from the ruling class in order to experience the benefits for which the state was sought to be created. Clearly, the distraught and impatient people have been not only looking for that justice to take place but also wish to push the ruling elite towards accountability. They persist that culprits and

corrupt must be brought to book. Now people are rearing to stand up and speak the truth about the eighteen-year old history. It's not only about political parties and moral degradation in the Devbhoomi, its also about complete absence of ideals and ideologies.

The time seems to be approaching when masses will adopt an activist mindset to keep the rulers on their toes.

Today the general refrain seems that the unconcerned rulers should no more be allowed to ride a rough shod on the hopes, aims and aspirations of over one crore of people, most of who reside in the rugged mountainous terrains under trying circumstances. Liberation from a reconciliatory and accommodative mindset is the need of the hour. The current situation sends a clear message for the people: unite or suffer endlessly.

For nearly thirty years now here in Uttarakhand, the author has been constantly watching the successive governments both in Lucknow and Dehradun to check migration, but of no avail.

I can vividly recall how a number of big schemes for promotion of tourism, horticulture, floriculture, hydro power, bee-keeping, fishery, poultry, potable water supply, medicinal plants, tea planta-

tion, milk production, handicrafts and others were supposed to have been launched for the mountainous region of the then western Uttar Pradesh for the over all benefit of region and its people. Some more special developmental programmes had also been put in place with the massive financial assistance from the World Bank and European Economic Community (EEC). Activities under these programmes, which were launched in the early eighties and continued into late nineties, were regularly publicised by the then Uttar Pradesh government, but with precious little impact on the ground.

Even while this is so, the fact is that contractors, middlemen and businessmen involved in various projects have made the most of it without having any illusions about what is what ought to be. But there does not seem to be a big change in the format of implementation of plans and projects.

Same age-old scripts of the plans and their implementation methodology have not yielded positive results. Therefore, today out of a total number of over sixteen thousand villages in the nascent state, fewer have some people left behind to fend for themselves. Thousands have been

forced to sell their land to eke out a living both in the mountains and plain areas. The picture is really very grim.

Much water has flown through the river Ganga all these years, governments have changed, but no one is there to answer for this dismal state of affairs even after eighteen years of the existence of this state. Much due to what is called "democratic centralism" vested interests come into existence easily.

Naturally, the issues pertaining to moral decadence and financial scandals were bound to come up. Probe panels appointed by one or the other government to fix the accountability have not been able to pronounce their findings.

Scores of bureaucrats and politicians, who could have been questioned, have either retired or are no longer in the reckoning. State's political parties, which have suffered from the problems of democratic centralism, are bound to lose sight of the ground reality in toto. It is only just before the election time, that the party leaders seem to be reaching out to the people and making all kinds of promises.

(The writer is a veteran journalist and columnist based in Dehradun)

HC order paves way for recruitment of 138 Asst Profs in Govt med colleges

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

Following the High Court (HC) order the Uttarakhand Medical Services Selection Board (UKMSSB) has restarted the process of recruitment of 138 assistant Professors for the government medical colleges of the state. A bench of Justice Rajiv Sharma and Sharad Kumar Sharma vacated its earlier interim order of putting a stay on selection process and directed the government to fill up 138 posts of Assistant Professor.

The Chairman of the UKMSSB, Dr D S Rawat told The Pioneer that the board has got the order and based on it the process of recruitment of assistant Professors has been re-initiated. He said that the Board has now extended the last date for receipt of online forms for these posts by November 24. Dr Rawat exuded confidence that the board would soon conduct interviews and complete the recruitment process by December-January.

He added that the board has invited applications for 138 posts in 24 disciplines of medical education.

In Uttarakhand there are three government medical colleges, the Government Doon Medical College, Medical College Haldwani and Veer Chandra Singh Garhwali Medical College Srinagar. In absence of permanent appointments for last many

years most of the faculty members in these medical colleges are working on contract. In such a condition these medical colleges are marred by absenteeism, frequent changes and other problems associated with contractual employees. The appointment of new permanent faculty members in these colleges is expected to bring stability in teaching positions.

To fill large number of vacant positions of faculty members in the government medical colleges the UKMSSB started a drive to fill 138 posts of assistant professors in 24 disciplines in September this year.

However the open recruitment decision has not gone well with the Assistant Professors working on contract in these medical colleges. Their contention was that they were selected after a proper process in which every criterion like reservation was followed and for more than two years they had worked hard to ensure the medical colleges got the mandatory permission from the Medical Council of India (MCI).

In the GDMC alone there are about 30 such assistant Professors the services of whom would get terminated once permanent appointments are done. Some of these contractual faculty members went to the HC on which it issued a stay on the recruitment process last month. This stay however has now been vacated.

Contempt notice issued to AYUSH secretary by HC

PNS ■ NAINITAL

The High Court of Uttarakhand has issued a contempt notice to the AYUSH secretary and sought a reply from the official for not acting on the orders passed earlier by the court.

The case was taken up for hearing by the division bench of chief justice Ramesh Ranganathan and justice Alok Singh.

According to the case details, Dehradun resident Niraj Kumar Dhuliya had filed a contempt petition in the high court.

The petitioner had stated that earlier on July 4, the high court division bench had ordered that appointments of the registrar and deputy registrar should be made in the Uttarakhand Ayurvedic University within a period of 10 weeks.

However, this has not been done so far. It is pertinent to mention here that earlier the petitioner had filed a public interest litigation in the high court challenging the appointment of the registrar in the Uttarakhand Ayurvedic University stating that the appointment had been done in a wrong manner.

In the PIL, the petitioner had averred that the person appointed was not suitable for the post of university registrar.

The petitioner had stated that earlier on July 4, the high court division bench had ordered that appointments of the registrar and deputy registrar should be made in the Uttarakhand Ayurvedic University within a period of 10 weeks

Elephant kills BHEL employee, irked people approach DFO



Locals talk to DFO after a man was killed by a jumbo in Haridwar

Pioneer photo

Locals demand relocation of collared jumbo

PNS ■ HARIDWAR

A man was killed in a chance encounter with an elephant near BHEL township in Haridwar on Wednesday morning. The irked employees of BHEL approached the divisional forest officer and demanded relocation of the elephant to another forest area. Notably the elephant which took the life of this man was collared and its movement was noticed at 4 am in the BHEL area on Wednesday. During a span of about one year, this pachyderm is believed to have caused the death of two other persons.

The victim has been identified as Virendra Singh who worked as machinist in BHEL after having taken voluntary retirement from Indian Air Force. He hailed from Bijnor and around 6 am on Wednesday came across the elephant while coming out of

his house near sector one in BHEL township. Before the residents of the colony could realise, the elephant had already killed him. Then the colony residents informed the forest department after which the team reached the spot and took stock of situation.

Speaking to The Pioneer, the Haridwar DFO Akash Verma said, "As such there is no eye witness to the killing incident. Prima facie by looking at the dead body, it seems the victim was killed by the same elephant which has been collared. Around 4 am in the morning, the elephant was seen in the area and was made to move towards Chilla forest range by forest guards. There is another elephant which has been seen in the surroundings but it never reached residential area so circumstantial evidence confirm that the BHEL employee was killed by the collared jumbo."

When asked about its relocation, the DFO said, "The elephant was tranquillised and sent back to forest earlier. We have already

written to higher forest authorities that the elephant must be removed from this area. I have personally spoken to the Rajaji National Park and Tiger Reserve director to take necessary action since it has become a threat to life."

This is not the first incident of a person dying in a chance encounter with an elephant in this region. Earlier in June 2017, a 55 year old woman Savitri Devi was trampled to death by an elephant in Haridwar forest area. The body of the woman was found at compartment number two of Kharkhari beat of Haridwar range of Rajaji Tiger Reserve. The woman had gone in the park area for collecting firewood but did not return till night following which a search was launched and her body was discovered. Six months before that, an incident was reported in Shyampur range of Haridwar forest division in which 65 year old Van Gujjar, Alamudeen was killed by an elephant.

Nehru remembered on birth anniversary

HE WAS THE FOUNDER OF MODERN INDIA - CONG LEADERS

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

Glowing tributes were paid by the Congress leaders and members of the public to the first Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru on his birth anniversary on Wednesday.

The members of Akhil Bharatiya Nehru Brigade organised a programme to mark the day at historic Nehru ward situated on old Haridwar road.

At this place, Nehru was kept in prison by the British rulers. Speaking on the occasion former Minister Hira Singh Bisht exhorted the people to move forward on the path shown by Pandit Nehru. He said that Nehruji loved children very much which is the reason why this day is celebrated as Children's Day.

Doon Cambridge School celebrates Children's Day

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

Doon Cambridge School celebrated Children's Day with much fun, frolic and fanfare on Wednesday. The main attraction of the day was a fete organised by the school management.

Various stalls of food items and games were put up by enthusiastic teachers. Short speeches and songs were presented by the teachers on the occasion. The school principal HK Chhabra greeted the students on the occasion. The school's joint director Neeru Kashyap, teachers and students were present on the occasion.

Former MLA Rajkumar, Mayoral candidate Rajni Rawat, Brigadier K G Behl (rtd), President of Nehru Brigade Sant Ram Sharma and many others offered floral tributes to the first Prime Minister of the country.

The Congress party workers and leaders also organised a programme at the

party office. After garlanding the picture of Nehru, senior Congress leaders remembered his life and values he stood for.

They said that Nehru laid the foundation stone of a progressive, secular and modern India for which every Indian is indebted to him. They said that the 'Panchsheel' concept promulgated by Nehru is still relevant today as it gives a message of peace to the world.

Effusing praises on the first PM, the Congress leaders made a new experiment of socialism, democracy and planning in parliamentary democracy which infused a fresh air into democracy and helped in propagating it. Congressmen also remembered contribution of Nehru in laying a firm foundation of Industrialisation through the public sector units. They said that he presented a new model of development of India before the world and till date he is considered as 'father of mixed economy'. The congressmen on the occasion said that some forces are determined to belittle works of Nehru and are conspiring to erase his

Children's Day commemorated in Nainital

Nainital: The birth anniversary of Jawaharlal Nehru was marked by various institutions in Nainital. At Jyolikot, the teachers of Nancy College of Nursing organised a programme for the students.

A cultural programme with various events was held on the occasion.

About 450 students of the college, teaching faculty, chairperson Manju Singh, manager JP Singh and others were also present on the occasion.

Meanwhile, Rotary Club Nainital distributed sweaters and chocolates to students of the Mallital primary school. PNS

memories but their designs would not get any success.

The programme was attended by former Minister Matbar Singh Kandari, Former MLA Rajkumar, Chairman of the disciplinary committee of Congress Pramod Kumar Singh, Rajendra Shah, Mahanagar President Lal Chand Sharma and others.

'Man-eater' leopard shot dead in village near Bageshwar

PNS ■ BAGESHWAR

A shooter authorised by the forest department killed a leopard believed to have caused the death of two children in a village near Bageshwar. Earlier this month, the leopard had reportedly lifted a child from the courtyard of his home in the village.

Three days after that incident, a child had a fatal fall into a gully while running in panic to shelter after spotting the big cat.

The department had then taken necessary measures and deputed two shooters to

kill the leopard. One of the shooters reached Bageshwar and killed the big cat on Wednesday.

Attempts were made to contact the officials concerned for further details but they could not be contacted till the time of this report being filed.

UNDP team meets CM TS Rawat



Discussion held on integrated development of programmes

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

A team of United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) led by its' team leader Jacob J Simonsen had a courtesy meeting with chief minister Trivendra Singh Rawat at CM's residence here on Wednesday.

They discussed the issues of integrated development of programmes being run in the priority areas like health, drinking water and nutritious food at the state level.

Welcoming the members of the UNDP, the chief minister said that there is need for more focus in the fields of health, education, technical education and environment in the state. He also expected an effective initiative to take out the public welfare programmes to the people in a better way. He said that effective initiatives have been taken to revive two rivers-- Rispana and Kosi through intensive tree plantation drives in the state. There is another initiative to plant trees on large scale in the districts. Attention is being paid to

rain water harvesting for water storage.

Rawat further said that youth in the state are being made aware through "My Social Responsibility" programmes. "It is our endeavour that the technocrats and professionals fix their role in the development of the villages," he said. The CM further said that the importance of social works around the world has increased and there is need for developing entrepreneurship and professionalism among children. The youth have to come out of the mentality of getting jobs and work towards entrepreneurship. While speaking about various initiatives of the government, he also stressed on the need for special attention to the development and connectivity of border areas.

The members of the team informed that the UNDP- a global development programme of the United Nations works to reduce poverty, develop infrastructure and promote democratic governance. Purpose of UNDP is connecting the people with knowledge, experience and resources to help make a better life. They also spoke about the documentation of programmes related to the overall development being run by the state government.



राष्ट्रीय महिला कोष

RASHTRIYA MAHILA KOSH an Autonomous Body of the Ministry of Women and Child Development, Govt. Of India provides loans at 6% to rate of interest to Intermediary Organizations/NGOs for on lending at maximum interest rate of 10% to SHGs and individual women entrepreneurs for uplifting and enhancing the livelihood of poor women through Intermediary Organizations/NGOs.

Organizations with women as their main functionaries may visit our website www.rmknic.in for more details and download of application forms. NGOs and their representatives are also welcome to visit our office at Dr. Durgabai Deshmukh Samaj Kalyan Bhawan, B-12, 4th Floor, Qutab Institutional Area, New Delhi-110016.

davp 46103/11/0004/1819

पंजाब नैशनल बैंक Punjab National Bank BRANCH OFFICE TILAK ROAD, DEHRADUN, UTTARAKHAND

(NOTICE UNDER 13 (2) OF SARFAESI ACT 2002 READ WITH RULE 3 OF SECURITY INTEREST ENFORCEMENT RULES 2002)

I being an Authorised Officer of the Secured Creditor Bank has a reason to believe that all of you the under mentioned notices cannot be served ordinarily as attempted earlier except through this substituted service. As such, all of you the under mentioned notices are hereby informed and called upon through this public DEMAND NOTICE under section 13(2) of the SARFAESI Act with rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rule 2002 make payment of the amounts due against each of you, as mentioned below, within 60 days, the bank will proceed U/s 13 (4) of the said Act for taking possession of the secured property/ies/Assets mentioned against account and thereafter to sell the same to realize its dues with further interest till realization along with costs as contemplated under the said Act. **Needless to mentioned here that this notice is addressed to you without prejudice to any other remedy available to bank for recovery of its dues, against you.** The borrower's attention is invited to provisions of sub section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

Name of the Borrower / Mortgagor / Guarantor	Details of Security/Property	Date of Demand Notice	Due Amount
Sh. Rammath Shukla S/o Sh. Dharm Raj Shukla (Borrower/Mortgagor) Address: 83/32 Shri Ram Puram Lane No 05 Govind Garh Near K.C Public School Dehradun 248001	All the property bearing Khasra No. 1513 measuring 800 sq ft or 74.32 Sq. mtrs having total covered area 700 sq ft i.e. 65.04 sq mtrs situated at municipal no. 85/32 Shri Rampuram Colony Mauza Kanwali Road Dehradun, Uttarakhand, which includes shed bounded and butted as under: Bounded & Butted as under: North: 20 ft Wide road, Side measuring 20 ft, South: Land of Others, Side measuring 20 ft, East: Land of Sh. Ram Milan, Side measuring 40 ft, West: Land of Sh. Preetam Singh, Side measuring 40 ft	SARFAESI Notice issued u/s 13(2) on 24.10.2018 for Rs. 27,61,042.21/- + int. + other charges. The Notice was sent to you by Registered post returned undelivered.	Due Amount as on 12.10.2018 Rs. 27,61,042.21/- with further interest + other Charges w.e.f. 01.10.2018
Owner Name: Sh. Rammath Shukla S/o Sh. Dharamraj Shukla			

Date: 14.11.2018 Place: Dehradun Authorised Officer

'Will bring a Bill to address issue of special BTC teachers of U'khand'

GOOD NEWS FOR MORE THAN 17K GOVT PRIMARY TEACHERS

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

In a major relief for thousands of Special Basic Teaching Certificate (BTC) qualified teachers, the jobs of whom were in jeopardy, the Union Human Resource Development (HRD) Minister Prakash Javadekar has said that the issue of Uttarakhand teachers would be brought under the purview of the Bill which is pending in Parliament. The fate of these teachers hangs in balance as after March 2019, they would become ineligible to teach primary students.

The Union Minister assured a delegation of Prathemik Shikshak Sangh (PSS) in New Delhi on Wednesday that the issue would be solved.

The Rajya Sabha MP Anil Baluni also accompanied the teachers of the Uttarakhand. After listening the problem faced by more than 18000 government school teachers, the minister directed the National Council of Teacher Education



(NCTE) secretary Sanjay Awasthi to find a way out for these teachers.

The Minister later told the media persons that the teachers of Uttarakhand are qualified and their issue would be incorporated in the Bill which is pending in Rajya Sabha.

The President of PSS, Digvijay Singh said that the association is now hopeful that teachers whose Special BTC qualification was not recog-

nised by the fault of department would now get the relief.

The issue
There are more than 17000 serving teachers in Uttarakhand who are Special BTC (referred as Vishisht BTC teachers).

These teachers are Bachelor of Education (BED) qualified but to make them eligible to teach in the primary classes the education depart-

ment imparted them an in service training of special BTC in different District Institutes of Teachers Training (DIET) from the year 2001 to 2016. After this training these teachers were appointed in the Primary teacher cadre of state education department. To their shock these teachers realised last year that the all important recognition from the National Council of Teacher Education (NCTE) was not taken by the education

department of Uttarakhand for special BTC. After the issue came to fore the department pleaded that NCTE should grant recognition in retrospect. This request was not accepted by apex body of teacher education as according to it granting recognition in retrospect violates the Act by which it is governed.

As per the new guidelines of the union Human Resource Development (HRD) ministry,

Trivendra Singh Rawat: NIT will not be shifted from Srinagar

Rawat talks to Union HRD Minister on NIT Srinagar issue

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

Chief Minister Trivendra Singh Rawat stressed that the National Institute of Technology (NIT) will not be shifted from Srinagar. A permanent campus will be established soon at Srinagar for the institute. After the urban local body election model code of conduct ends, a proposal to facilitate this will be brought in the cabinet meeting, said the

only the Diploma in Elementary Education (DEED) qualified candidates are eligible to teach the primary students. It had made it clear that after March 2019, all primary teach-

ers who don't have a DEED degree or BTC certificate would be removed from primary teaching. The BEI qualified candidates who are teaching primary classes were given an

established, a separate route will be made to the administrative and faculty buildings at Srinagar. With this, the students will not have to go via the national highway. Rawat further said that the politics being played on the NIT Srinagar issue is unfortunate. He stressed that the institute will not be shifted under any circumstances from Srinagar.

Rawat informed that for establishing a permanent campus for NIT Srinagar, about 122 acre land near Sumadi has been identified. After the election model code of conduct ends, the government will bring a proposal in the cabinet for transferring this land in the name of NIT. He also clarified that a solution will be ensured to the hostel problem faced by students.

Till a permanent campus is established, a separate route will be made to the administrative and faculty buildings at Srinagar. With this, the students will not have to go via the national highway. Rawat further said that the politics being played on the NIT Srinagar issue is unfortunate. He stressed that the institute will not be shifted under any circumstances from Srinagar.

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THE CM HAD A TELEPHONIC CONVERSATION WITH THE UNION HRD MINISTER ON THE LAND AND OTHER ISSUES RELATED TO NIT SRINAGAR

'Govt working as per public expectations'



PNS ■ HALDWANI

The State Government is working according to the expectations of the public, said Chief Minister Trivendra Singh Rawat. He was addressing the public at Kusumkheda while campaigning for the Bharatiya Janata Party mayoral candidate for Haldwani, Jogendra Rautela. Rawat said that considering the requirements of rural areas, the state government had merged 36 villages with the municipal corporation.

This was being opposed by the opposition members who are today contesting the local body elections.

He said, "Earlier, we had decided not to impose any tax in such areas merged in municipal corporations for a period of 10 years. We have increased the budget and also made provision for separate budgetary allocation considering future needs."

The chief minister also appealed the public to elect BJP candidates to office.

Cabinet minister Yashpal

Arya said, "We have gone to the public with the development works undertaken by the government. We are receiving full support from the public."

MLA Banshidhar Bhagat expressed confidence that the BJP candidate will achieve a resounding victory considering the massive public support being received.

Mayoral candidate Jogendra Rautela said that when he assumed his first term as Haldwani mayor, the corporation had to clear Rs 34 crore dues.

After being elected to office, the BJP state government got these dues cleared. BJP State chief Ajay Bhatt and other party leaders were also present on the occasion.

The Chief Minister also appealed to the public to elect BJP candidates to office

Manoj Tiwari: Electing BJP to local bodies will boost development

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

The BJP Delhi chief and MP Manoj Tiwari said that electing the BJP candidates in the urban local bodies will further boost developmental works. Talking to media persons at the BJP state office here on Wednesday during his campaign visit, Tiwari said that local body elections are important.

Electing the BJP candidates to local bodies will enhance local body coordination with the BJP state government and boost development works. Just like the BJP was victorious in the Vidhan Sabha elections, it will emerge victorious in the local body elections.

Referring to the Congress, he said that the people had in the past given Harish Rawat an opportunity to serve the public but he had failed.

In Uttarakhand, the state government and party organisation are doing good work under the leadership of chief minister Trivendra Singh Rawat and party state chief Ajay Bhatt respectively, he said.



Speaking on other issues, he said that the statement made by the Dassault Aviation chief executive officer in the Rafale matter is a befitting reply to allegations being levelled by Congress national president Rahul Gandhi. He further said that on the occasion of Chhath, he stood by his statement wherein he had suggested that Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi should pray to the Ganga as that brings good sense.

Later, Tiwari addressed public gatherings to elicit support for BJP candidates including Dehradun mayoral candidate Sunil Uniyal 'Gama'.

Modi king of false promises: Rawat

'Dinesh Agarwal head and shoulders above others in fray'

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

While campaigning for the Congress for the urban local body polls slated for November 18, the AICC general secretary and former chief minister Harish Rawat launched a scathing attack on Prime Minister Narendra Modi, dubbing him a liar for making

false promises to the people of the country.

Addressing a public meeting in support of the Congress mayoral candidate, Dinesh Agarwal at Kedarapuram, the Congress veteran reminded the people of the promise made by Narendra Modi ahead of the 2014 Lok Sabha elections to transfer Rs 15 lakh into the bank account of every Indian. "At the time, many repented having fewer children as more children meant more money," he said in a sarcastic vein and added that they are now feeling cheated.

Continuing to train his gun

on the PM, the Congress leader said that in case a competition in telling lies is held, Modi would come out with flying colours. He also said that PM was running the government in an autocratic fashion.

Taking pot-shots at the Trivendra Singh Rawat government, Harish Rawat said that the much-hyped double engine is yet to start its eagerly awaited journey. "The CM here is pompously inaugurating the schemes the foundation stone of which were laid during the previous Congress regime," he said.

Heaping praise on the

Congress mayoral candidate Dinesh Agarwal, the former CM recalled the sincere initiatives he had taken to serve his constituency while he was a minister. "None in the mayoral fray here can boast of even half of the stature Agarwal enjoys," he said. Earlier while talking to the media persons, Rawat claimed that Congress candidates in all the ULBs are set to win. Quizzed over some Congress leaders switching over to BJP, he said that most of them were tainted people who cared a fig for ideology the party embodies.

भारतीय जनता पार्टी

देहरादून महानगर से

मेयर प्रत्याशी

सुनील उनियाल गामा

राज्य आंदोलनकारी को

कमल

पर मोहर लगाकर भारी मतों से विजयी बनायें।

सुनील उनियाल गामा एक परिचय

श्री सुनील उनियाल गामा एक सरल, सुशील, कर्तव्यनिष्ठ भाजपा के समर्पित कार्यकर्ता है। सुनील उनियाल गडवाल के बड़े ही साधारण परिवार से संबंध रखते हैं। उनकी शैक्षिक योगता इन्टरमीडियेट है। उनके पिता देहरादून के पंचायती मंदिर के पुजारी रहे हैं। अपने क्षेत्र में युवा अवस्था से ही सक्रिय रहे सुनील 1986 में पहली बार पार्षद का चुनाव लड़े और इसी वर्ष इन्होंने भाजपा की सदस्य ग्रहण की। भा.ज.यु.मो. में रहते हुए दो बार महानगर अध्यक्ष और दो बार महामंत्री रहे। राजनीतिक क्षेत्र के अलावा वे सामाजिक क्षेत्र में भी काफी सक्रिय रहे फल स्वरूप राज्य आंदोलन के समय भाजपा द्वारा आयोजित जेल भरो आंदोलन के दौरान 4 दिन तक जेल में रहे फलतः आपको सक्रिय राज्य आंदोलनकारी का दर्जा भी प्राप्त है। राम जन्मभूमि आंदोलन में सक्रिय भूमिका निभाई वह अनेकों बार जेल गए आप में देशभक्ति कूट-कूट कर भरी है जिस कारण जान की परवाह न करते हुए आपने कश्मीर के लाल चौक में तिरंगा फहराने का अदम्य साहस किया एवं लाल चौक पर तिरंगा फहराया आप समय-समय पर राष्ट्रीय स्वयंसेवक संघ द्वारा आयोजित विभिन्न कैंपों के सक्रियता से अपना योगदान देते आ रहे हैं। आप की संगठनात्मक एवं राजनीतिक सक्रियता को देखकर पार्टी द्वारा आपको सदस्य दूरसंचार सलाहकार समिति, डिस्ट्रिक्ट को ऑपरेटिव बैंक में संचालक, सदस्य 20 सूत्रीय कार्यक्रम मनीनीत किया गया। वर्तमान में वे भाजपा के प्रदेश सचिव हैं। जन सराकारों में उनकी महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका रही। गरीब तथा मलिन बस्तियों के लोगों के लिए वे हमेशा तत्पर रहते हैं और इतना ही नहीं व्यवहार और स्वभाव से बड़े ही शांत, हसमुख एवं मृदभाषी गामा राज्य आंदोलन के समय सक्रिय भूमिका निभाते हुए कई बार जेल गये और लाठी चार्ज में घायल हुए। मेयर पद के उम्मीदवार सुनील उनियाल गामा का देहरादून शहर को स्मार्ट सिटी के तौर पर देखना उनका सपना है। शहर में यातायात की सुचारु व्यवस्था कराना, प्रदूषण मुक्त शहर तथा सफाई व्यवस्था उनके मुख्य चुनावी मुद्दे हैं। इसके अलावा निगम में खाली पड़े कई पद भर कर युवाओं को रोजगार उपलब्ध कराना एक महत्वपूर्ण मुद्दा है।

UTTARAKHAND ELECTRICITY REGULATORY COMMISSION
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PUBLIC NOTICE

Public Hearing on the draft UERC (The Electricity Supply Code, Release of New Connections and Related Matters) Regulations, 2018

In exercise of powers conferred under Section 181 & Section 50 read with Section 43, Section 45, Section 46, Section 47, & Section 57 of The Electricity Act 2003, and The Electricity (Removal of Difficulties) Order, 2005 and all other powers enabling it is this behalf, the Commission has issued draft UERC (The Electricity Supply Code, Release of New Connections and Related Matters) Regulations, 2018. The draft Regulation has been posted at the Commission's website www.uerc.gov.in.

2. The Commission has decided to hold a public hearing in the matter on **27.11.2018 at 11.00 AM** in the Commission's office on the above mentioned address. Any person, who wishes to put his views on the subject before the Commission, is invited to appear before the Commission and make the submission in the above hearing.

3. The comments/suggestions/objections received in the Commission's office after the date of public hearing will not be considered while finalising these Regulations.

Slum students rally appeal to cast vote

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

The students of slum school, 'the Pen India' located in Sapera basti Bhaniyawala took out a rally on Wednesday and appeal people to exercise their franchise in the upcoming urban local bodies elections. Holding placards like 'Dear Uncle and Aunt Please Vote' and 'Vote to eradicate illiteracy' the students impressed the passersby's. The students also organised a programme on the occasion of Children's day in their school. Offering floral tributes to first Prime Minister Jawahar Lal Nehru on his birth anniversary, the patron of the school Prakash Keshaviah said that it is necessary that everyone should vote for development and strengthening democracy. He said that the school offers free education to



poor students. The programme was also attended by Anup Rawat, Santosh Budakoti and teachers of the slum school.

Pandey gets court relief till Nov 28

PNS ■ NAINITAL

After initial hearing on the anticipatory bail application of Pankaj Pandey, the suspended IAS officer accused in the national highway 74 scam, the court of district and sessions judge and special judge (PCA) Narendra Datt set the next date of hearing on November 28.

Till then, as per the statement submitted earlier by the state government in the high court, the accused officer cannot be arrested. It will be recalled that as the arbitrator for land compensation, Pandey is accused of facilitating more than the valid amount in compensation to farmers in the NH 74 scam.

He has already been provided with the chargesheet and is currently under suspension. Earlier, he had filed an application for anticipatory bail in the high court of Uttarakhand. However, the high court had directed him to file the application in the lower court.

2-day Ganjam youth fest concludes

PNS ■ BRAHMAMPUR

The two-day Ganjam District Youth Festival, 2018 organised by the Sports and Youth Services Department and held at the Brahmampur Stadium concluded recently.

On the first day, Brahmampur MP Siddhanta Mahapatra, Brahmampur MLA Dr Ramesh Chandra Chayu Patnaik, Ganjam Athletic Association working president Dr NC Padhy, Ganjam Collector Vijay Amruta Kulange, ZP Chairman Subash Behera and Brahmampur Development Authority (BDA) Chairman Subash Moharana attended as guests.

On the occasion, dancer Radhashyam Tarai, singer Ramesh Patro and Odissi Sangeet Parishad member Nupur were felicitated for their contributions by the guests. On the concluding day, former Union Minister Chandra Sekhar Sahu, BJD leader Bikram Panda, senior lawyer Prafulla Jagannath Padhy, former SBI officer Prafulla Patnaik, Kedar



Chaudhury, District Sports Officer Prasant Kumar Sahu, DEO Sanatan Panda and District Culture Officer Sukru Swain

attended as guests. The guests felicitated the winners of 15 different competitions like folk music, folk dance,

flute playing, Hindustani Vocal, tabla, Karnataki Vocal, harmonium, guitar, Bharatanatyam, Mrudanga, solo play and others.

Tusker electrocuted in Angul

Take action against officials: Maneka to Naveen Patnaik

Angul: A tusker was reportedly electrocuted after coming in contact with an 11-KV live electric wire near Hemamira village under the Handapa Forest Range in Angul district on Tuesday night.

The age of the dead elephant was stated to be 10 to 11 years. The pachyderm reportedly strayed into the village in search of food and came in contact with the live wire installed around a farmland for keeping boars away from crops. On being informed, Forest Department officials reached the spot and started investigation. The elephant's carcass would undergo autopsy soon, sources said.

Notably, as many as seven elephants were electrocuted after coming in contact with a live wire at Kamalanga village under the Sadar Forest Range in Dhenkanal district on October 26.

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

Union Minister of Women and Child Development and animal rights activist Maneka Gandhi has urged Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik to take urgent measures to curb elephant deaths in Odisha. "The recent electrocution of seven tuskers in Dhenkanal, which is the highest such death toll in a single incident, has caused furor throughout the nation about the reprehensible state of elephant protection in Odisha," stated Gandhi.

"It comes at the back of dismal statistics wherein 124 or a whopping 28 per cent casualties have taken place due to

JUMBO DEATHS

accidents and electrocution. It is tragic to note that a dozen magnificent pachyderms are dying every year due to mismanagement and in-coordination between Government agencies," she added.

Citing reports, she alleged that distribution companies are being given a free hand in elephant corridors without necessary oversight.

In the letter, the Union Minister also mentioned that the National Green Tribunal (NGT) has imposed a fine ₹1 crore on Cesu while a probe has been launched into the Dhenkanal incident.

Expressing her disappointment on the elephants' death, the Union Minister said that even after laying guidelines under the AK Biswal committee by the Ministry of Environment and Forests, the alarming trend of elephant deaths has continued unabated.

"I also urge you to take necessary action against the officials who failed to put the AK Biswal Committee recommendations into practice in the State," Gandhi wrote.

Terming the elephants of Odisha as 'the pride of India,' she wrote, "We owe a debt to our future generations for their welfare and safety."



Devotees offer prayer while standing in water at Tapkeshwar on the concluding day of Chhath festival in Dehradun early on Wednesday morning

Pioneer photo

Punjab to post new doctors near to their homes

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

In an apparent attempt to woo the specialist doctors, Punjab Health Department has decided to give them posting at the hospital and dispensary nearby their home.

For the same purpose, the state Health and Family Welfare Minister Brahm Mohindra asked the Director Health Services (DHS) to prepare the list of the newly-appointed doctors clearly indicating their home addresses.

"All the doctors will be posted at the hospital and dispensary nearby their home. I do not want that doctors have to meet political bigwigs and put pressure on them for transfers. That's why I have ordered the DHS to post doctors near their homes so as to ensure the efficiency and quality work," said Mohindra on the sidelines of a function to handover appointment letters to MBBS doctors.

Appointment letters to as many 306 newly-recruited MBBS doctors were handed over by the Minister in a simple but impressive function organised at the Auditorium of Punjab Health System Corporation, SAS Nagar Mohali.

Visually ecstatic Brahm Mohindra congratulated the newly-appointed doctors and said that as this new batch of 306 doctors has become the family of Punjab Health Department.

"When I joined the

Ministry on March 16, 2017, I was shocked to see that Health Department was totally in shambles. There was acute shortage of specialist doctors, Medical officers, ANMs and paramedical staff," he said.

He said that he set his priority to fill the vacant posts of doctors and paramedical staff, and today, he was satisfied to see that a large batch of medical officers was joining the Health Department.

Mohindra exhorted the doctors to be ready to serve the community with missionary zeal and to wipe off the tears and agonies of the poor and downtrodden by adopting sympathetic approach.

The Health Minister said that the doctors were earlier reluctant to join the government service as they had to perform the service at basic salary during the probation period. He said he himself was aghast at this decision of the previous government as no doctor was willing to join the government service at this paltry basic salary.

He said that he immediately brought this issue to the notice of Chief Minister and had series of meetings with the Finance Minister and got the approval to recruit doctors on full salary.

He said that now in the next phase specialist doctors would be recruited, the process for the selection is underway and hopefully these specialist doctors will soon join the Health Department.

Haryana CM directs MLAs to ensure large numbers at PM Modi's rally

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal on Wednesday directed the party MLAs and other senior leaders to ensure presence of large number of people at the proposed rally of Prime Minister Narendra Modi on November 19 in Haryana.

Advisory committee will be constituted for implementation of development works

PM Modi would inaugurate Kundli-Manesar-Palwal Expressway and Ballabgarh Metro Link and lay foundation stone of Haryana Vishwakarma Skill University, Dudhola, Palwal on November 19. On this day, the Prime Minister will also address a public meeting near Farukhnagar crossing where he would dedicate various projects to the state.

The 135 kilometer long Kundli Manesar Palwal expressway would cover five districts of Haryana namely Sonapat, Jhajjar, Gurugram, Mewat and Palwal.

Presiding over the party legislative meeting, Chief Minister Manohar Lal on Wednesday directed the MLAs to invite general public for the rally to witness the historic moment.

He emphasized to ensure presence of large number of people from the areas of Faridabad, Gurugram, Sonapat, Rohtak Lok Sabha constituencies to make the rally successful.

Manohar Lal also said that recently Haryana CSR Summit was held in Gurugram where the companies were urged to enhance their annual contribution under the Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) to ₹1000 crore.

Hry Govt to launch 34 new Antyodaya Kendras



PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

In a bid to provide the benefit of over 400 Government to Citizen (G2C) schemes and services of 35 departments online to the citizens at district, sub division and tehsil level, Haryana Government has decided to launch 34 new Antyodaya Kendra, SARAL Kendra and Antyodaya Saral Kendra on the occasion of Good Governance Day on December 25.

A decision to this effect was taken in the meeting of Antyodaya SARAL platform held under the chairmanship of Chief Minister Manohar Lal here on Wednesday. The Cabinet Ministers, chairman of Boards and Corporations and MLAs were present in the meeting.

With the launch of these centres, the total number of Antyodaya Kendra, SARAL Kendra and Antyodaya Saral Kendra would increase to 115. As many as 81 such centres are already functional in the state.

The Antyodaya Kendra at the district level provides all the schemes and Saral Kendras provides all the services. The Antyodaya Saral Kendra established at sub-division and tehsil level provides for the delivery of both schemes and services.

During the meeting, Manohar Lal said that to realise the vision of minimum government maximum governance as envisaged by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Haryana Government had started e-registration in the state on December 25, 2014.

He directed to make all necessary arrangements of infrastructure and staff in the 34 new centres well before

A decision to this effect was taken in the meeting of Antyodaya SARAL platform held under the chairmanship of Chief Minister Manohar Lal here on Wednesday. The Cabinet Ministers, chairman of Boards and Corporations and MLAs were present in the meeting

their launching. The Chief Minister said that a state level function would be organised for the launch of these Kendras whereas MLAs, chairman and members of zila parishads and panchayat samitis would remain present at the kendras in their respective areas.

He asked the MLAs and Ministers to personally visit already functional 81 centres in their respective areas to review their functioning and apprise the people about these centres so that people at the grass root level could avail the benefit of various government schemes and services online.

He said that besides the government staff and prominent citizens of the area, Garvhit volunteers should also be roped in this work to reach maximum beneficiaries.

The Chief Minister appreciated NIC Haryana and all the 35 departments for creating the Antyodaya SARAL portal in record 15 months. He has also

HISTORY BOOK ROW

SAD rejects Soni's inquiry, seeks high level independent probe

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

Outrightly rejecting the inquiry ordered by Punjab Education Minister OP Soni to fix responsibility for the mistakes in Punjab School Education Board's Class XII history books to be conducted by the education secretary, the Shiormani Akali Dal (SAD) on Wednesday dubbed it as "a major cover-up" and "farce" as accusing fingers are raised at the Minister himself.

Former minister and SAD's senior vice-president Daljeet Singh Cheema questioned Soni's rationale of ordering an enquiry while he himself is accused by none other than the chairman of the Oversight Committee appointed by Chief Minister Capt Amarinder Singh.

"Instead of holding inquiry by a secretary at the orders of the concerned Minister, the Chief Minister should have ordered inquiry which should have been held by a retired judge of the Punjab and Haryana High Court with a clear frame of reference, the role of the concerned Minister to be probed in the larger interest of justice," said Cheema.

Moreover, how could a subordinate officer, that is department's secretary under Soni, could be objective, impartial and fair in conducting inquiry while his own boss is in the dock, he added.

Cheema pointed out that chairman of the "Oversight Committee", Dr. Kirpal Singh, has revealed that he had pointed out the errors or distortions in each chapter in detail in clearly typed pages but these chapters were uploaded on PSEB website without carrying the suggested corrections under pressure from the Minister.

Punjab and Haryana procure over 215 lakh tonne paddy so far

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

Punjab and Haryana together have so far procured over 215.65 lakh tonne of paddy this kharif season, food and supplies officials said on Wednesday.

Punjab alone has procured over 150.37 lakh tonne of paddy till Tuesday evening, a Punjab government spokesman said.

Out of this 149.44 lakh tonne has been procured by government agencies while 92,854 tonne has been procured by private millers.

Payment of nearly ₹23,000 crore has already been released by the Punjab government to arhtiyas (commission agents) and farmers.

In neighbouring Haryana, over 65.28 lakh tonne of paddy has procured this Kharif season. Out of this, government agencies have procured over 57.31 lakh tonne, private millers have procured over 7.97 lakh tonne. Haryana is well known for Basmati rice production, especially in Karnal district.

'Green Revolution' state Punjab contributes nearly 50 per cent of food grains (wheat and paddy) to the national kitty.

The Punjab government has made arrangements for a bumper procurement of 200 lakh tonne of paddy this season.

In 2017-18, a total of 179.34 lakh tonne of paddy was procured. Paddy procurement started in the agrarian state on October 1, but the bulk of the stocks started coming after October 10.

The Centre sanctioned a Cash Credit Limit (CCL) amount of ₹29,695.40 crore for procurement of paddy in the kharif marketing season 2018-19. The Punjab government had demanded ₹40,300 crore.

439 arrested, 269 cases registered under NDPS Act in Sirsa

Chandigarh: As many as 439 people have been arrested and 269 cases are registered under NDPS Act in Haryana's Sirsa district under a special drive against drug peddlers during the past six and half months period. "Besides, large quantity of narcotics including 4.542 kg heroin, 16.437 kg opium, 28.730 kg ganja, over 2221 kg chura post and doda post and around 3.5 lakh restricted pills, injections and capsules were seized from the possession of arrested accused during this period," said a spokesman of Police Department.

He said that following the directions of DGP BS Sandhu, a crackdown on drug-peddlers was being conducted on daily basis in the district especially in the bordering areas with Rajasthan and Punjab.

PNS

GOVT STAFF JOINING RSS ACTIVITIES PM apprised of removing ban clause

Congress promises to implement ban in Madhya Pradesh

DEEPAK K UPRETI ■ NEW DELHI

As the political fever rises with the Assembly polls for five States underway and the Congress vowing to "implement ban" on Government employees from participating in the activities of Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS), the RSS affiliate Bhartiya Mazdoor Sangh (BMS) has written to Prime Minister Narendra Modi to remove the ban provision from the Government service rules.

The ban on Government officials taking RSS membership and joining its activities was there but some States like Gujarat, Goa, Madhya Pradesh have them in service rules. After Keshubhai Patel Government took over in Gujarat in 2000, the provision was removed from the Service rules but in Madhya Pradesh it is continuing, said RSS functionaries.

Congress manifesto for the November 28 Madhya



Pradesh polls in the State promises to ban 'Shakhas' of the RSS in Government premises and stop Government employees from attending RSS 'Shakhas'. Congress General Secretary Digvijay Singh has said that the rule existed even under the Jan Sangh and BJP Governments in the State in the past, including the regimes of V K Slecha, Kailash Joshi, Sunderlal Patwa, Uma Bharti and Babulal Guar and that the Congress was "only pledging to continue it."

RSS leaders maintain that it was already in the service rule but it was never implemented in letter and spirit. "Congress is for the first time promising to implement if it comes to power

in Madhya Pradesh", they said. They remind that even during Jawahar Lal Nehru's time, several Congress members in the party's Central Working Committee were also members of the RSS.

The BMS has sought Prime Minister Narendra Modi to have the service rule removed so as to lift the ban on the Central Government employees from working with the RSS.

The RSS outfit has appealed to the Prime Minister to intervene in the matter personally and direct the concerned Ministry to issue necessary amendments permitting the Government employees to participate in nation-building activities.

The Secretary-General of

Government Employees National Confederation, affiliated to the BMS, in a letter to the Prime Minister on October 20, pointed out that in accordance with provisions of DP & AR OM No. 15014/3(S)/80-Estt. (B), dated 28.10.1980, there is a ban on participating in the activities of RSS by the Central Government Employees.

"Through an order dated November 30, 1966, (by the Ministry of Home Affairs), the then Congress Government has imposed the ban on swamyamsevak, who work in various departments under the Union Government. Unfortunately, the order has been evoked time and again by the successive Governments", the letter said.

Pointing out that any person going against the rule invites "imprisonment for a term which may extend to seven years or fine or with both", the BMS maintained that many Government employees interested in the RSS activities hold back on account of the fear of disciplinary action and "are not able to lend their hand in a genuine cause of Nation Building."

NIA chargesheets Dukhtaran's chief Andrabi, two others

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Wednesday filed a chargesheet against banned terror group Dukhtaran-E-Millat's chief Aasiya Andrabi and her associates, Sofi Fehmeeda and Naheeda Nasreen, before a designated court here for allegedly waging war against the country.

Andrabi and her associates Sofi Fehmeeda and Naheeda Nasreen were actively running a terrorist organisation Dukhtaran-E-Millat which is proscribed under the First Schedule to the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967. DEM as a terrorist organisation is engaged in Anti-India activities and has been inciting the general populace of Kashmir for an armed rebellion against the Government of India with aid and assistance of terrorist organisations based in Pakistan, the NIA said.

"The three accused persons were using various media platforms like Twitter, Facebook, YouTube, TV Channels including those in Pakistan to spread insurrec-

tionary imputations and hateful messages and speeches against India. DEM through Aasiya Andrabi and others, openly advocates secession of Jammu & Kashmir from the Union of India and its merger with Pakistan through violent means," the NIA said in a statement.

A case was registered by the NIA on April 27 this year under various Indian Penal Code Sections relating to criminal conspiracy, waging war against the nation and under provisions of the anti-terror law Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967.

The trio was arrested by NIA on July 6 in connection with the case and is since lodged in the Tihar Jail here.

"Investigation has established that Aasiya Andrabi is heading Dukhtaran-E-Millat as its Chief and has used social media and other platforms to abet waging of war against Government of India. She is spreading seditious and insurrectionary imputations against Government of India. She is promoting ill-will and enmity between different communities in India on ground of religion. Investigation has also estab-

lished that she has close contacts with designated Global Terrorist Hafeez Mohammad Saeed who is head of Jamaat-Ud-Dawah (JuD) and Lashkar-E-Toiba (LeT), internationally designated terrorist organisations that are based in Pakistan," the NIA further said.

Andrabi has used public platforms to incite youth of Kashmir to rise in armed insurrection against the Government of India with an object of achieving cessation of Kashmir from India and its merger with Pakistan, the agency said in its chargesheet.

The agency said investigation has also established that Sofi Fehmeeda, as Personal Secretary to Chief of DEM and also Press Secretary of Dukhtaran-E-Millat, and Naheeda Nasreen as its General Secretary have been instrumental in the use of social media and other platforms for abetment of waging war against the Indian Government besides spreading seditious and insurrectionary imputations against it, and are promoting ill-will and enmity between different communities in India on grounds of religion.

Twitter removes 2 fake Election body accounts

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Twitter has suspended two fake accounts being run in the name of the Election Commission (EC). The account used the EC logo as well as the Twitter handle @ElectionComm. Another account used @DalitFederation as its handle. The two accounts have been suspended after the EC asked Twitter to take "decisive action."

The Election Commission's spokesperson confirmed that the Commission does not have its own verified Twitter handle. The fake accounts had a huge following with one of them having 4,751 followers. The EC feared that they could mislead public ahead of Assembly polls in five States and coming up Lok Sabha elections next year. "The EC does not have any presence on Twitter, though it does operate a Facebook handle," said an official of EC on the condition of anonymity.

The media division of the EC asked Twitter to take decisive action against them. Although there were no tweets from these accounts, they had a large following. The Commission has avoided opening an account on Twitter as it does not have the manpower, a dedicated team of professionals or media budget to handle requests and grievances that are likely to flood it once it registers its presence on Twitter, an official said. However, EC has authorised the State chief electoral officers to create a Twitter account of their own.

EC had earlier held talks with Twitter and other social media companies like Google and Facebook to help it track fake news and monitor poll expenditure on social media advertising and publicity. Google, Facebook and Twitter on Monday promised to do more to fight news in India, while refusing to provide any definite timeline for bringing tougher actions that could eliminate the menace of fake news from their platform.

Database of all Govt, pvt health establishments will go online soon

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Soon database of country's almost all health establishments including clinics, nursing homes, hospitals and diagnostic labs whether in private or Government sector will be available online with interactive maps.

Aiming to improve health outcomes and create health database, the Union Health Ministry has rolled out the National Health Resource

Repository (NHRR) wherein massive exercise to map all public and private healthcare establishments at the district level is being undertaken in the country. This is the first ever healthcare establishment census, using paperless technology.

A senior Health Ministry official said that a web-based and geo-mapping enabled single platform of all the health resources both Government and private is being developed.

It will comprise of the data on health infrastructure, human resource and the availability and type of medical facilities.

The importance of health mapping lies in the production of interactive and published maps that would link the geography of communities with other dimensions such as availability and accessibility of health services, or disease prevention and control services particularly in rural areas, added an official from the WHO.

Over 18L foreigners visited India this year on e-Visa

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Liberalised Visa regime implemented for the past two years witnessed sharp increase of visit of foreigners to India. As per the statistics in 2017 and 2018, more than 35 lakh foreigners visited India, including tourists, business purposes. Before launching of e-Visa and instant visa, in 2015, as per the statistics, around 4.5 lakh foreigners visited India. As many as 26 airports and five sea ports, the Bureau of Immigration (BoI)

has implemented e-Visa system.

"The Electronic Visa Facility now covers practically all the countries of the world. Foreign nationals of 166 countries can now enjoy this facility at 26 airports and 05 seaports. The foreigner does not have to interact with any Indian official till his arrival at the immigration counter. The Bureau of Immigration (BoI) generally decides within 24-48 hours whether or not to grant an e-visa to a foreigner. The popularity of e-visa is sky rocketing. The

number of foreigners who visited India on e-visa has gone up from 4.47 lakhs in 2015 to 17.00 lakhs in 2017. The figure for 2018 is 18.78 lakhs upto 30th October, 2018," said Home Ministry in a statement on Wednesday, detailing the sharp increase of visitors.

Currently e-Visa is permitted in five categories like tourist, business, medical, conference and medical attendant. "The local FRRO has been empowered now to extend duration of electronic visas beyond 60 days upto 90 days. Moreover, these e-visas can

now be availed three times in one year against twice in a year earlier. For foreigners who are already in India and who require any consular/visa services like extension of visa, conversion of visa, exit permission or any of the total 27 visa-related services, an online e-FRRO facility has now been launched throughout the country. The foreigners do not have to physically visit the offices of FRROs/FROs. They can apply as well as receive consular/visa services online after making online payment," said Home Ministry.

TRUMP CELEBRATES DIWALI AT WHITE HOUSE US, India can be a 'bulwark' for peace

Washington: President Donald Trump on Tuesday said US relationship with India can act as a "bulwark" for freedom, prosperity and peace as he celebrated Diwali in the White House along with eminent Indian-Americans.

It is the second consecutive year that President Trump has celebrated the largest festival of India and Indian Americans in the White House.

"I am thrilled to be here for the celebration of Diwali, the Hindu Festival of Lights, and I am honored to host this beautiful ceremony at the White House. Very, very special people," Trump said.

"I'm honoured to host this beautiful ceremony at the White House. Very, very special people. We're gathered today to celebrate a very special holiday observed by Buddhist, Sikhs and Jains throughout the United States and around the world," Trump said.

"This ceremony signifies the triumph of light over darkness and good over evil. It is a jubilant occasion that brings loved ones, neighbours, and



communities closer together," Trump said before lighting the ceremonial diya in the historic Roosevelt Room of the White House.

He said the shining lights remind people to "seek wisdom, to give thanks, and to always cherish and love the ones who grace our lives."

"Our nation is blessed to be home to millions of hard-working citizens of Indian and South East Asian heritage to enrich our country in countless ways. Together we are one proud American family. Do we agree with that? I think so. I think we do. Right? Better, believe it," he said.

"India is the world's largest democracy, and the relationship between our two countries can act as a bulwark for freedom, prosperity, and peace," Trump said, amidst China flexing its military muscles in the strategic Indo-Pacific region.

He said the United States has deep ties with India and he was grateful for his friendship with Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

"Modi is my friend and now her (Ivanka) friend and has great respect for India and the Indian people that I can say," said the US President as he introduced his daughter to the audience, who was present in

the room.

"Absolutely," replied Ivanka, who had visited India last year. She was the first top official of the Trump administration to travel to India to attend the Global Entrepreneurship Summit in Hyderabad in November last year.

Trump also mentioned the ongoing negotiations between the US and India on a trade deal but indicated that the talks were moving though it was tough.

"We're trying very hard to make better trade deals with India. But, they're very good traders. They're very good negotiators. You would say right. The best. So we're working. And it's moving along," he said.

Along with nearly two dozen top Indian-American officials of his administration, Trump invited the Indian Ambassador to the US, Navtej Singh Sarma, his wife Dr Avina Sarma, and his special assistant Pratik Mathur to be present during the White House Diwali celebrations. PTI

Govt launches credit scheme for cooperative startups

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

In a move to encourage cooperative start ups and business ventures in agriculture and allied sectors, the Ministry of Agriculture on Wednesday launched a new scheme that aims to provide cheaper loans to startups in the cooperative sector and those having innovative projects costing up to ₹3 crore.

The scheme is called 'Yuva Sahakar Cooperative Enterprise Support and Innovation Scheme' will be implemented by the National Cooperative Development

Corporation (NCDC). A corpus fund of ₹1,000 crore has been created to this purpose. The scheme would be liberal to cooperatives in the north eastern region, those registered and operating in aspirational districts identified by think-tank Niti Aayog as well as cooperatives which have 100 per cent women and SC/ST members. The heavily incentivised scheme has component of subsidy as well as interest subvention and cooperative registered even one year ago will be eligible.

Launching the scheme, Union Agriculture Minister

Radha Mohan Singh said that the new scheme aims to encourage newly formed cooperatives to take advantage of innovative ventures, especially by societies having new and innovative ideas. "Cooperatives operating for at least for one year and having a positive net worth are eligible to avail credit under the scheme for new and innovative project ideas", Singh said.

The project cost should not exceed ₹3 crore and there will be two years moratorium on payment of principal amount, he said, adding that the period of moratorium may vary

depending on type of project and ability to generate revenue. NCDC lending so far has been to cooperatives working in fishery, sugar, textiles, food-grains, crops, fruits, vegetables, cold storage, water conservation, dairy, poultry, handlooms, coir and sericulture so far. There are eight lakh registered societies in the country.

As an incentive, the Minister said the credit will be provided at two per cent less than the applicable interest rate on term loan for the project activities. The interest rate incentive would be applicable only for timely repayments.

ISRO successfully launches satellite GSAT-29 using its heaviest rocket

Sriharikota (AP): India on Wednesday successfully put into orbit its latest communication satellite with its heaviest rocket and the new space mission is expected to serve the communication needs of people in the remote areas of the country.

The textbook launch of the rocket GSLV-MkIII-D, which is dubbed by the ISRO as the 'Bahubali' or 'fat boy' of Indian rockets, is also seen as crucial for the space agency as it would be used for the ambitious Chandrayaan-2 (lunar mission) and the country's planned manned space mission. The 3,423 kg satellite GSAT-29 is also the heaviest Indian satellite to be put into orbit.

Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) chief K Sivan said while the rocket's



first operational mission was going to be "none other than Chandrayaan" in January 2019, "this fantastic vehicle is going to carry humans to space in three years from now."

ISRO has set a 'target' of achieving the country's ambitious manned mission to space by 2021, with the first unmanned programme of 'Gaganyaan' planned for December 2020, according to

Sivan. Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced in his Independence Day address this year that India will attempt to send an astronaut to space by 2022 on board 'Gaganyaan'.

The 27-hour-countdown for the Wednesday launch began at 2.50pm Tuesday and the rocket blasted off at 5.08 pm from the spaceport at Sriharikota over 100 km from Chennai.

The satellite carries Ka and Ku band high throughput transponders which will provide communication services to remote places in the North East and Jammu and Kashmir, besides aid the Centre's Digital India programme, Sivan said.

ISRO scientists broke into cheers as the satellite was injected into a geosynchronous orbit, 16 minutes after lift-off.

BJP releases second list of 31 candidates for Raj Assembly polls

New Delhi: The BJP on Wednesday announced its second list of 31 candidates for the Rajasthan Assembly election, dropping 15 sitting MLAs, included three Ministers.

The BJP has so far announced the names of 162 candidates in the 200-member Assembly.

Outgoing Ministers Babulal Verma, Rajkumar Rinwa and Dharm Singh Rawat were denied party ticket this election.

BJP MLA Gyandev Ahuja, who hit the national headlines at the height of the JNU controversy in 2016 for his remarks that thousands of condoms were found on the university campus daily, was also dropped. PTI

Pakistan epi-centre of global terror, says Modi

Singapore: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday told US Vice President Mike Pence that all the traces and all the leads in the global terror attacks ultimately leads to a "single source and single place of origin", in an apparent reference to Pakistan.

Modi, who held talks with Pence on a wide range of bilateral and global issues of mutual interests on the sidelines of the East Asia Summit here, also expressed concern over the participation of terrorists in the elections in Pakistan.

Briefing the reporters after the meeting, Foreign Secretary Vijay Gokhale said there was some discussion on the issue of terrorism. Pence referred to the upcoming 10th anniversary of the deadly Mumbai terror attack on November 26 and hailed cooperation between

the two sides on counter terrorism, Gokhale said.

Some 166 people were killed in the attack carried out by Pakistan-based 10 Lashkar-e-Taiba terrorists. Nine of the attackers were killed by police while lone survivor Ajmal Kasab was caught and hanged after handed down death sentence by an Indian court.

Modi thanked Pence for his words and reminded him that in one way or another all the traces and all the leads in the global terror attacks ultimately leads to a "single source and single place of origin", without naming any country or organisation.

He was apparently referring to Pakistan.

A Pakistani-origin man was among three knife-wielding militants responsible for carrying out the brutal terror attack in London that killed seven people and injured 49 in June 2017.

Prime Minister Modi also expressed concern over the Mumbai terror attack mastermind Hafiz Saeed's party contesting the July 25 elections in Pakistan.

"He (Modi) did point out that the mainstreaming of people involved in the Mumbai attacks in a political process which has taken place in the recent elections in Pakistan should be a matter of serious concern not just to the two

Modi invites Pence, says 'India-Ana'

Singapore: There was a light moment during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's meeting with US Vice President Mike Pence in Singapore on Wednesday when he riffed on the meaning of 'Indiana' — the American leader's home state.

Through his translator, Modi said that when he met Pence in the US in 2017 he told him that "Indiana" (INDIA-Ana) in Hindi, meaning "To come to India."

Modi then repeated his invitation to Pence to visit India.

Pence laughed appreciatively. "Thank you, Mr. Prime Minister," Pence said. "I expect I will 'Indiana.'" The US vice president is likely to visit India in 2019. PTI

App to register snake bites in country

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The big four snakes — Russell's Viper, Common Cobra, Common Krait and Saw Scaled Viper are responsible for more than 90 per cent snake bite deaths across India. But, surprisingly, the Government has no incident-related data that could help it frame policies and develop better snake anti-venoms to save the victims.

Taking initiative in this

direction to collate the data at the ground level, the Big4 Mapper app has been developed that would register each incident of bites by the big four snakes. The app which is a part of 'Indian Snake Bite Initiative', a joint project by Madras Crocodile Bank, Global Snakebite Initiative and Indiansnakes.org would help conservationists and herpetologists to map out the distribution of snakes and incidents of bites reported in the country.

By collating incidents at the ground level, the app aims to help researchers and policymakers get a clearer picture of the situation and can potentially save lives, said the brain behind the app, Jose Louies from the Wildlife Trust of India.

He elaborated, "The Big4 Mapper app helps conservationists and herpetologists map out the distribution of snakes and incidents of bites reported in the country. The app can

potentially save lives, once it reaches its critical mass and if received well by the government machinery."

Talking about its functioning, he said that the snake rescuers have to download the app and take a photo of the snake every time they go on a rescue trip. When rescuers take a photo of the snake in the place they found it, the app automatically logs in the GPS coordinates, time and the date.

SABARIMALA ROW

Trupti to visit temple on Friday with six women

Thiruvananthapuram: Woman activist Trupti Desai on Wednesday waded into the Sabarimala issue when she asked for complete police protection during her visit to the temple starting Friday. But temple activist Rahul Eashwar promised to fight her tooth-and-nail to prevent her entry.

Desai wrote to Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan to order police protection for her group when they visit Sabarimala on November 17 when the temple will open for the two-month long pilgrimage.

The temple town has witnessed protests by Hindu groups and temple tantri and officials ever since the Supreme Court verdict on September 28, allowed women of all ages to pray at Lord Ayyappa temple that hitherto banned girls and women aged between 10 and 50.

Desai wrote to Vijayan on Wednesday that she along with six other women would be arriving in Kerala on Friday for a visit at the temple on Saturday. She sought police protection right from the time she lands in Kerala till they leave the State, saying "we will visit the temple whatever be the resistance".

While Eashwar said he and his officials along with Lord Ayyappa's true devotees would ensure that none were able to break the tradition of the temple.



PROMISING AN EVEN BIGGER RESISTANCE, SABARIMALA TANTRI FAMILY'S RAHUL EASHWAR ALONG WITH ACTIVISTS AND DEVOTEES TOLD THE MEDIA HERE, THAT DESAI WOULD KNOW THE POWER OF THE FAITH OF AYYAPPA DEVOTEES WHEN SHE AND HER GROUP REACHES THE TEMPLE TOWN

Speaking to a Malayalam TV channel, Desai said she has written to the Chief Minister, Kerala Police chief Loknath Behra and also Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

"I have written but have not done any online booking for the darshan. The Supreme Court order is now very clear and hence we will be there and we will visit the temple whatever be the resistance," said Desai.

The temple will be open for 66 days till January 20, with a small break in between. Promising an even bigger resistance, Sabarimala Tantri family's Rahul Eashwar along with activists and devotees told the media here, that Desai would know the power of the faith of Ayyappa devotees when she and her group reaches the temple town.

Eashwar was put in jail in October during the first month's protest after the top court's ruling came into existence. "Come, what may, we will ensure that our protest will be in the true Gandhian way and none will be able to break the tradition of the temple."

"We will lie down before the women who come to break the temple's tradition." The temple will open on Friday evening for the Mandala Mahotsavam and she has asked to be escorted right from the airport to their rooms in Kottayam, where they would rest for the day.

The police must then provide protection when they head for the hilltop temple on Saturday.

Asked if an ordinance was required to deal with the situation, Sharma said the Kerala Government had to decide on the matter, adding that the Centre would intervene at the right time if required.

"The State Government has to take a call on that (ordinance) and the Central Government, if required, will definitely intervene at the right time," he told reporters here.

Asked if the contention that the entry of menstruating women would make the temple impure, Sharma said, "Well, I am a doctor, I will not make any comment because the matter is sub-judice, but we have to take a holistic call on it."

The two-month-long Mandala Makaravilakku pilgrimage season that commences on November 17 attracts millions of devotees from all over the country to Sabarimala.

On September 28, a five-judge constitution bench of the apex court, headed by then Chief Justice Dipak Misra, in a 4:1 verdict, had lifted the centuries-old ban on girls and women in the 10-50 age group from entering the shrine, saying it amounted to gender discrimination. The review petitions against the verdict were taken up "in-chamber" by a bench of Chief Justice Ranjan Gogoi and justices RF Nariman, AM Khanwilkar, DY Chandrachud and Indu Malhotra.

Holistic approach needed keeping sentiments in mind, says Union Min



PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Union Culture Minister Mahesh Sharma called for a "holistic approach" to be adopted on the Sabarimala temple issue on Wednesday so that the sentiments of the people were not hurt, observing that the Centre would intervene in the matter at the "right time" if required.

The Supreme Court on Tuesday agreed to review its verdict allowing the entry of women of all ages into the hilltop shrine in Kerala, which had sparked violent protests in the southern State, but refused to grant a stay.

Asked if an ordinance was required to deal with the situation, Sharma said the Kerala Government had to decide on the matter, adding that the Centre would intervene at the right time if required.

"The State Government has to take a call on that (ordinance) and the Central Government, if required, will definitely intervene at the right time," he told reporters here.

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Security upped after miscreants hijack passenger taxi in Jammu

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

Security was beefed up all along Jammu-Pathankot National Highway, dotted with vital Army installations, after four suspected miscreants hijacked a passenger taxi, hired from Jammu railway station, near Madhopur in Punjab, late Tuesday night.

The incident came to light in the wee hours of Wednesday after driver of the passenger Taxi, Raj Kumar, raised an alarm soon after he managed to escape after a brief scuffle with the miscreants.

The miscreants had threatened to kill him and dump his dead body in the nearby canal.

After the alarm was raised, Punjab and J&K police, alerted security check points on possible escape routes to track down the hijackers and prevent possible terror strike in the close vicinity of Pathankot

air base. Jammu Railway Station Taxi Operator's Union, Vice-President, Rajvender Singh told reporters in Jammu, "a group of four people had booked a Taxi from Jammu railway station for dropping at Pathankot late Tuesday evening".

SEARCH FOR MISSING

General Public is hereby informed that a girl **Namely: Rani, D/o Ram Chander Singh, R/o: D-4, Gali No. 13, B-Block, Dass Garden, Delhi, Age: 17 Years, Height: 5'1", Complexion: Fair, Face: Round, Wearing: Unknown colour Suit-Salwar, has been missing/kidnapped since 14.09.2018 from the area of PS Ranhola, Delhi. In this regard FIR No. 552/18 u/s 363 IPC, dated 19.09.2018, has been lodged at PS. Ranhola, Delhi. Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the missing girl but no clue has come to light so far. If anyone have any information about this missing girl please inform the undersigned.**

SHO PS, Ranhola, Delhi
E-Mail ID: cic@cbi.gov.in
Ph.: 011-28363001, 2836002 & 28363003

AGARWAL DUPLEX BOARD MILLS LIMITED

CIN: L99999DL1984PLC019052
Regd. Office: 217, Agarwal Prestige Mall, Plot No. 2 Community Center, Along Road No. 44, Pitampura, Delhi - 110034
Board: +91 11 47527700, Fax: +91 11 47527777
E-mail: agarwalduplex1984@gmail.com; Website: www.agarwalduplex.net

UNAUDITED FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR THE QUARTER & HALF YEAR ENDED 30TH SEP, 2018

(₹ in Lakhs)

Sl. No.	Particulars	(STANDALONE)				
		30-Sep-18 3 months (Unaudited)	30-Sep-18 6 months (Unaudited)	30-Sep-17 3 months (Unaudited)	30-Sep-17 6 months (Unaudited)	30-Jun-18 3 months (Unaudited)
1	Total Income from Operations	3792.95	7821	3645.25	6128.94	4028.05
2	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period (before Tax, Exceptional and/or Extraordinary Items)	18.72	49.76	38.72	70.33	31.04
3	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period before tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary Items)	18.72	49.76	38.72	70.33	31.04
4	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period after tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary Items)	19.84	34.90	25.63	47.50	15.06
5	Total Comprehensive Income for the period [Comprising Profit / (Loss) for the period (after tax) and Other Comprehensive Income (after tax)]	19.84	34.90	25.63	47.50	15.06
6	Equity Share Capital	1350.00	1350.00	1350.00	1350.00	1350.00
7	Reserves (excluding Revaluation Reserve) as shown in audited balance sheet of previous year	1,119.58	1,119.58	1,063.22	1,063.22	1,119.58
8	Earnings Per Share (of Rs. 10/- each)					
1. Basic:		0.15	0.26	0.19	0.35	0.11
2. Diluted:		0.15	0.26	0.19	0.35	0.11

Notes:

- The above is an extract of the detailed format of Quarterly & Half yearly Unaudited Financial Result filed with the Stock Exchanges under Regulation 33 of the SEBI (Listing and Other Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the Quarterly & half yearly Unaudited Financial Results are available on Stock Exchange websites (www.mseil.in).
- The above results were reviewed and recommended by the audit committee and taken on record by the Board of Director at its meeting held on 14/11/2018 and the Statutory Auditor have carried Limited Review of the same.

Agarwal Duplex Board Mills Limited
Sd/-
Neeraj Goel
Managing Director
DIN: 00017498

Place: Delhi
Date: 14/11/2018

KOVALAM INVESTMENT AND TRADING CO. LTD.

CIN No : L65910PB1981PLC023058
Regd. Office : Premises Oswal Woollen Mills Ltd., G. T. Road, Sherpur, Ludhiana-141003
Email : kovalam@owmna.com, Phone : 0161-5066605 Fax : 0161-5066602

EXTRACT OF THE STANDALONE UNAUDITED FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR THE QUARTER/ HALF YEAR ENDED 30.09.2018

(Rs. in Lacs)

S. No.	Particulars	STANDALONE			
		Quarter Ended 30.09.2018 Unaudited	Quarter Ended 30.06.2018 Unaudited	Quarter Ended 30.09.2017 Unaudited	Year Ended 31.03.2018 Audited
1.	Total Income from Operations	39.13	31.20	85.66	254.99
2.	Net Profit/(Loss) from Ordinary Activities for the Period (before Tax, Exceptional and/or Extraordinary Items)	(11.88)	21.08	62.03	212.43
3.	Net Profit/(Loss) from Ordinary Activities for the Period before Tax(after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary Items)	(11.88)	21.08	62.03	212.43
4.	Net Profit/(Loss) from Ordinary Activities for the Period after Tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary Items)	(18.50)	14.10	48.73	157.30
5.	Equity Share Capital(Face Value of Rs. 10/-)	222.39	222.39	222.39	222.39
6.	Reserves (excluding Revaluation Reserves as shown in the Balance sheet of previous year)				2389.39
7.	Earning Per Share (EPS) Face value of Rs. 10/- each. (from Continuing and discontinuing operations) Basic & Diluted	(0.83)	0.63	2.19	7.07

NOTE:
The above is an extract of the detailed format of the Quarterly Financial Results filed with the Stock Exchange under Regulation 33 of the SEBI (Listing and Disclosure requirements) Regulation 2015. The full format of the Quarterly Financial Results are available on the Stock Exchange website i.e. www.bseindia.com and Company's website : <http://www.owmna.com/kovalam/investor.php>

For Kovalam Investment and Trading Co. Ltd.
Sd/-
(PAWAN KUMAR SHARMA)
DIRECTOR (DIN : 07163131)

PLACE : LUDHIANA
DATED : 14.11.2018

MISSING/KIDNAPED

General public is hereby informed that one girl, **Namely: Gudiya, D/o: Shanti Swaroop, R/o: B-755/3, Chandan Vihar, Nihal Vihar, Delhi, has been missing/ kidnaped since 22.05.2014 from the area of P.S. Mianwali Nagar, Delhi. In this regard, a report vide FIR No. 383/14 u/s 363 IPC Dated, 27.05.2014, has been lodged at P.S. Mianwali Nagar, Delhi. Investigations has been carried out but despite best efforts, the girl could not be traced. The description of the missing/ kidnaped girl is as under:**

Name: Gudiya, D/o: Shanti Swaroop, R/o: B-755/3, Chandan Vihar, Nihal Vihar, Delhi, **Age:** 13 years, **Height:** 4' Feet, **Face:** Round, **Complexion:** Wheatish, **ID Mark:** A tattoo mark name "Gudiya" in English on left hand, **Wearing:** Light Pink Suit-Salwar and Black plastics chapple in feet.. If anyone has any information about the missing/ kidnaped girl, then please inform P.S. Mianwali Nagar, Delhi.

email: cic@cbi.gov.in
Fax: 011-24368639
Ph.: 011-24368638, 24368641

S.H.O
P.S. Mianwali Nagar, Delhi
Ph.: 011-25268394, 25280980
DP/1559/OD/17.

ATLAS JEWELLERY INDIA LIMITED

CIN: L74140DL1989PLC131289
Reg. Off. : DTJ-719, 7th Floor, DLF Tower-B, Plot No. 11, Jasola, New Delhi-110025
Email : info@atlasjewelleryindia.com, Phone: 011-41041149/ 40541077, Web: www.atlasjewelleryindia.com

EXTRACT OF STATEMENT OF STANDALONE UN-AUDITED FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR THE SECOND QUARTER AND HALF YEAR ENDED 30TH SEPTEMBER 2018

(Rs. in lacs except per share data)

S. No.	Particulars	Quarter ended	Year to date	Corresponding
		30 th September 2018 Un-Audited	30 th September 2018 Un-Audited	30 th September 2017 Un-Audited
1.	Total income from operations (net)	50.96	145.29	155.11
2.	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period (before Tax, Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	743.15	1419.22	34.69
3.	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period before tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	743.15	1419.22	8.01
4.	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period after tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	729.80	1392.10	14.55
5.	Total Comprehensive Income for the period [Comprising Profit / (Loss) for the period (after tax) and Other Comprehensive Income (after tax)]	729.80	1392.10	14.55
6.	Equity Share Capital	10065.45	10065.45	10065.45
7.	Reserves (excluding Revaluation Reserve) as shown in the Audited Balance Sheet of the previous year	-	-	-
8.	Earnings Per Share (face value of Rs. 10 each) (before and after extraordinary items) -			
1. Basic:		0.73	1.38	0.01
2. Diluted:		0.73	1.38	0.01

Notes:

- The above results were reviewed by the Audit Committee at its meeting held on November 13, 2018 and approved by the Board of Directors at its meeting held on November 14, 2018.
- The Statutory auditors of the company have carried out the limited review of the financial results for the second quarter and half year ended September 30, 2018.
- The company has only one segment of revenue.
- With regard to Auditor's observation in point no. 06 of the limited review report, the operational results are not materially affected and the affect is only on the financial position, secondly the foreign exchange gain is un-realised and not notional. With regard to overseas trade receivable, loans & advances, the company has already initiated legal action/suit and sufficient documents/copies of legal filing and other supporting have been made available to the Auditors.
- As regards to the Loans & Advances, which is also covered in point 8(b) of the said report, it is mentioned that these are old dues being carried forward from FY 2012-13 and relates to GEE El Woollens Ltd. (Erstwhile Company).
- Figures relating to the previous periods/year has been reclassified/rearranged wherever necessary, to confirm to the current period's presentation.

For ATLAS Jewellery India Ltd.
Sd/-
Nanda Kumaran Putezhath
Non-Executive Chairman
DIN: 02547619

Place : New Delhi
Date : November 14, 2018

TENDER NOTICE

SR. No.	NAME OF BOARD/CORP./ AUTH	NAME OF WORK NOTICE TENDER	OPENING DATE CLOSING DATE (TIME)	AMOUNT / EMD (APPROX.) IN RUPEES	WEBSITE OF THE BOARD CORP./ AUTH	NODAL OFFICER/CONTACT DETAILS/EMAIL
1	HVPNL	REPAIR & CIVIL MTC. WORKS IN NON-RESIDENTIAL BUILDINGS I.E. CTE OFFICE, SDOO CONST. S/DIVISION OFFICE, MTC. GANG OFFICE, CONTROL ROOM BUILDING & TS DIVISION OFFICE) AT 132 KV S/STN HVPNL, BHIWANI DURING THE YEAR-2018-19. (ON THROUGH RATE)	26.11.2018	4.72 LACS	www.hvpln.org.in Tender No NIT no-16/TS/BHW/2018-19 Dated 08.11.2018 (Tender ID:- 104648)	0172-2583789 prp@hvpln.org.in
2	HVPNL	PLUGGING THE OIL LEAKAGE ON 16/20 MVA, 132/33 KV T/F 3 INSTALLED AT 132 KV S/STN,HVPNL, BEHAL, (HARYANA)	26.11.2018	1.65 LACS	www.hvpln.org.in Tender No NIT no-14/TS/BHW/2018-19 Dated 08.11.2018 (Tender ID:- 104643)	0172-2583789 prp@hvpln.org.in
3	HVPNL	REPAIR & CIVIL MTC. WORK IN 25 NO. RESIDENTIAL QUARTERS AT 132 KV S/STN HVPNL, BHIWANI DURING THE YEAR-2018-19. (ON THROUGH RATE)	26.11.2018	5.36 LACS	www.hvpln.org.in Tender No-NIT no-15/TS/BHW/2018-19 Dated 08.11.2018 (Tender ID:- 104646)	0172-2583789 prp@hvpln.org.in
4	HVPNL	REFILLING OF FIRE FIGHTING EQUIPMENT (DCP & CO2 TYPE) AT THE S/STN, UNDER TS DIVISION, HVPNL, ROHTAK	CLOSING DATE 20.11.2018	5.33 LACS	www.hvpln.org.in Tender No-28/TS/Dwn/RK/2018-19	0172-2583789 prp@hvpln.org.in
5	HVPNL	CONSTRUCTION OF 1 NO. 100 MVA T/F PLINTH (220/33KV) IN BAY A-12, ADDL. ODSG FOUNDATIONS, ODOT, DRAIN & CC ROAD AT 220KV SUB-STATION MASUDPUR, (R-6)	CLOSING DATE 04.12.2018	71.45 LACS	www.hvpln.org.in Tender No 28/Cwd-2/Vol-13/HVPNL/2018-19 Dt 31/11/2018 (online Tender No-104934)	0172-2583789 prp@hvpln.org.in
6	HVPNL	MTC OF RESIDENTIAL BUILDINGS IN POWER HOUSE COLONY AT 132 KV S/STN., SIRSA FY-2018-19	12.11.2018 26.11.2018	3.80 LACS	https://www.hvpln.org.in Tender No.18/XEN/TS/SRS/2018-19 Dt 12.11.2018	0172-2583789 prp@hvpln.org.in
7	HVPNL	DEPOSIT WORK OF R/VNL OF CONSTRUCTION OF 132 KV CT/PT FOUNDATION FOR METERING ARRANGEMENT AT TSS SATROD	06.12.2018	2.65 LACS	www.hvpln.org.in Tender No 29/Cwd-2/Vol-3/HVPNL/2018-19 Dt 14/11/2018 (Online Tender No-105057)	0172-2583789 prp@hvpln.org.in
8	HSAM BOARD PANCHKULA	SUPPLY, INSTALLATION, TESTING & COMMISSIONING OF LED LIGHTS FOR HEAD OFFICE BUILDING, SECTOR-6 & KISAN BHAWAN, SECTOR-14 AT PANCHKULA	28.11.2018	28.93 LACS	https://haryanaeprocurement.gov.in	
9	HSAM BOARD SIRSA	WORK PROVIDING INTERLOCKING PAVER BLOCK IN VILLAGE KARAMGARH ON ROAD FROM KARAMGARH TO PANJUANA (ID 2516) + 2 OTHER WORKS	19.11.2018 03.12.2018	39.04 LACS	https://hsamb.haryanaeprocurement.gov.in	01666-240743 xensamb.sirsa7@gmail.com
10	MUNICIPAL COMMITTEE RAJOURN	SUPPLY AND LAYING OF GREEN PATCH SHALMA PRE-INSTANT COLD MIX ROAD MATERIAL AT WARD NO 01 TO 13 IN THE LIMIT OF MC RAJOURN	16.11.2018 22.11.2018	15.00 LACS		9456361167 mesurerder4575@gmail.com
11	MUNICIPAL COMMITTEE ASSANDH	PROVIDING THE MENPOWER SERVICE SUPERVISOR IN MUNICIPAL COMMITTEE ASSANDH	11/21/2018	EMD-20000	http://eprocurement.gov.in	9812139699 01749-278369 scvcm.assandh@gmail.com
12	MC HISAR	SUPPLY OF 3.00 CUM DUSTBIN IN MUNICIPAL CORPORATION HISAR	30.11.2018	NIL	https://haryanaeprocurement.gov.in Tender No 104811	xenmchisar@gmail.com
13	MUNICIPAL CORPORATION PANCHKULA	DEVELOPMENT OF REPHI MARKET IN SECTOR-19,PANCHKULA + 2 OTHER WORKS	16.11.2018 07.12.2018	469.83 LACS	https://wb.haryanaeprocurement.gov.in Tender No 105032_105033_105034	mscpanchula@gmail.com 0172-2583695_2483794
14	MUNICIPAL CORPORATION FARIDABAD	PROVISION OF RMC M-35 GRADE WITH CEMENTS CONTENT 400KG/CM3 FROM DELHI JUICE CORNER TO AGRASEN CHOWK AND AGRASEN CHOWK TO SABZI MANDI ROAD IN WARD NO.29 & 30 FARIDABAD	13.11.2018 12.12.2018	140.68 LACS	https://mfbd.haryanaeprocurement.gov.in Tender No 104957	9818643725 shyamshank.anurag@gmail.com
15	MUNICIPAL CORPORATION GURUGRAM	RE-CALL FOR CONSTRUCTION OF ROAD 80MM THICK INTERLOCKING PAVER BLOCK OF M-40 GRADE FROM SFR ROAD TO BEGAMPUR KHATOLA(QHARSA NO.85) IN VILLAGE BEGAMPUR KHATOLA,WARD NO 26. GURUGRAM + 1 OTHER WORK	26.11.2018 23.11.2018	117.59 LACS	http://msgurugram.haryanaeprocurement.gov.in Tender No EE-11819/MCG/F-6/2018/49904-104997 EE-11819/MCG/F-6/2018/49304 Dt 13.11.2018 104938	9821395203 EE3@mcg.gov.in
16	DHBVN	FOR GALVANIZATION OF VARIOUS STEEL ITEMS CONFORMING TO IS-2629 ALONGWITH TRANSPORTATION/DELIVERY OF MATERIAL FROM/TO C/STORE, BALLABGARH (NIT NO.25/COS/2018-19)	05.11.2018 27.11.2018	2.5 CRORE	www.dhbvn.org.in	9416310766 01662-223426 cosd@hbvn7@gmail.com
17	DHBVN	RATE CONTRACT FOR TRANSPORTATION OF M.S STEEL ITEMS(NIT NO.24/COS/2018-19)	02.11.2018 19.11.2018	15 LACS	www.dhbvn.org.in	9416310766 01662-223426 cosd@hbvn7@gmail.com
18	DHBVN	FIXING THE RATE CONTRACT FOR THE SUPPLY OF 400 KVA DTS (NIT NO. 613/DHMM DATED 13.11.2018 AGAINST QD-794)	14.11.2018 06.12.2018	6.08 CRORE	www.dhbvn.org.in	8059888695 senmdhbvn@gmail.com
19	HARYANA ROADWAYS ENG. CORPORATION LTD.	BUS PASSENGERS SEATS + 34 OTHER WORKS	16.11.2018 06.12.2018	744.01 LACS	https://hrcc.haryanaeprocurement.gov.in Tender No 30 to 54/2018-19/SPO/HREC	gm.hrcc27@gmail.com 9873599586
20	SSA.HISAR	SUPPLY AND INSTALLATION OF PLAY STATION FOR DEVELOPMENT OF PARK(SWING & JHULLAS) IN GOVT. PRIMARY SCHOOLS OF DISTT. HISAR-11 NOS	19.11.2018 26.11.2018	46.75 LACS	hisar.dpc.hssp@gmail.com	9996165029
21	HARYANA TOURISM CORPORATION LIMITED	EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FOR HIRING OF SERVICES OF FREELANCE DIRECT SALES FORCE FOR PROMOTION/BOOKINGS OF CONFERENCE/CONVENTION HALLS/GROUP ROOM BOOKING OF HTC	15.11.2018 26.11.2018	NIL	haryanatourism.gov.in Tender No.2018_MKT_1	haryanatourism@gmail.com 9216490446

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

RO NO. 73518

Renaming Bengal: Didi slams Centre for delay

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

A furious Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Wednesday came down heavily on the Central Government for "intentionally delaying" the process of renaming West Bengal to "Bangla" as proposed and passed by the State Assembly in September last year.

"I had personally requested the Union Government and Home Minister Rajnath Singh to hasten up the matter of renaming Bengal into Bangla after the resolution was passed in the State Assembly. But nothing has been done in this regard. The Centre is ignoring the opinion of the majority population because some people who are in a microscopic minority (State BJP leader) want them to do so. This is amounts to defying the federal nature of the Constitution," she said.

"They (the BJP Government) are changing the names of other places but they are delaying the renaming of Bengal when the people of the State want it to be done as was proved by the unanimous support this cause

received in the State Assembly," the Chief Minister said wondering "if the name of Bombay, Bangalore, Orissa and Pondicherry changed into Mumbai, Bengaluru, Odisha and Puducherry, then why West Bengal cannot be changed into Bangla."

The proposal of renaming the State had been in the air since the nineties but it was finally passed in August 2016 when West Bengal was renamed into Bengal, Bangal, Bangla in English, Hindi and Bengali. The proposal was turned down by the Centre which then asked the State to consider a new name.

It was then that the Assembly voted in favour of single name Bangla in September last year.

"They (BJP) are of the opinion that Bangladesh is also called Bangla so it is not the proper alternative for West Bengal, but these people fail to realize that there is one Punjab each in Pakistan and India without doing any harm to any sentiments," Mamata said.

Warning the present Government which was "cross-

ing its limits in many ways," Banerjee reminded "the Constitution has divided the powers of the State and the Centre and so no one should think itself superior to the other."

"Even the State Chief Ministers were called Prime Minister in the British period but after the Independence the States got Chief Ministers and the Centre got a Prime Minister considering the different roles they played," she said adding there was no reason to think that the State or the Centre were superior to each other.

Instead of upholding the values enshrined in the Constitution the Centre was disregarding India's federal structure she alleged. "It is not a few leaders in Delhi who run this country. In fact India is run by the federal States."

Reacting to Banerjee's charges Bengal BJP president Dilip Ghosh however said that "instead of renaming the State the Government should concentrate on development and restoring democracy in the State."

LoP Saikia slams Sonowal for failing to protect Assam's interest

ANUP SHARMA ■ GUWAHATI

Assam's Leader of the Opposition, Debabrata Saikia, slammed Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal-led Government in the State for failing to protect the State's interest and address the growing insecurity in the State. Saikia's statement came days after a top brass of the Assam police admitted that the resentment against the Citizenship (Amendment) Bill, 2016 has led young people in some districts to join the anti-talk faction of United Liberation Front of Assam (ULFA).

"This is nothing short of a confirmation of the Sarbananda Sonowal-led Government's failure to protect Assam's interests and its tendency to betray people," Saikia said in a statement issued on Wednesday.

Director General (Special Branch) of Assam Police and the Superintendent of Police, Tinsukia and other senior officials of the police administration have recently stated that the resentment against the Bill

across the State has been fuelling a fresh spurt in young people of the Brahmaputra Valley joining the ULFA faction led by its commander in chief Paresh Baruah.

"The ULFA's popularity had gradually waned during the decade-and-a-half when the Congress was in power in the State. But the Narendra Modi-led Central Government's decision to table the controversial Bill and the Sarbananda Sonowal-led State Government's failure to mount a strong opposition to the proposed legislation are inducing a section of young boys and girls to take up arms against the State," Saikia said.

He said that dwindling employment opportunities and stagnation of development activities like the MGNREGA are also creating frustration and resentment among many youth, who are gravitating towards the ULFA faction.

Pondy CM holds review meeting on Gaja

Nagapattinam (TN): Puducherry Chief Minister V Narayanasamy on Wednesday held a review meeting with officials of various departments at Thirunallar in Karaikal district and took stock of the preparedness as cyclone Gaja is likely to hit the coastal district on Thursday.

Agriculture Minister R Kamalakannan, Karaikal District Collector R Kesavan, Senior SP Rahul Alwal and heads of PWD, Health, Electricity, Fisheries, Fire and Rescue Services departments attended the meeting.

The Chief Minister directed the district authorities to keep stock of relief materials. Urging officials to ensure supply of protected drinking water to all areas, Narayanasamy said if needed he would camp in Karaikal to coordinate the activities. Three teams of the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) have arrived here to provide emergency assistance. Meanwhile, Nagapattinam district collector C Sureshkumar told reporters that the district administration has made all necessary arrangements to meet any eventuality. Twenty two cyclone shelters have been kept in readiness

to accommodate people, he said adding that a 24-hour control room was functioning at the Collectorate. **PTI**

CORRIGENDUM
The Survey Report No. 58/DD/HD-III/SR/2018-19 for felling of trees at "C/o 120 Nos. GPRA Type-VII Flats in Pocket-1 at DDU Marg, New Delhi Dg. 2018-19 (SH: Civil works, Internal Electrical works & Fire Fighting), has been issued vide office letter of even No. 2490/91 dated 13.11.2018 with date of bidding for auction 21.11.2018 at 3:30 PM. In this regard the date of bidding for auction may be read as 20.11.2018. Remaining will be same.

SPARKLING (INDIA) FINSHARES LIMITED
CIN: L74900DL1994PLC062222
Regd. Off: 516 Kirti Shikhar Building, Plot No. 11, District Centre, Janakpuri, New Delhi-110058
Email: idsparklingindia@gmail.com; Website: www.sparklingfinshares.com; Ph. No. +91-968278451
Extract of Statement of Standalone Un-audited Financial Results for the quarter and half year ended on September 30, 2018 (Rs. In Lakhs)

Sl. No.	Particulars	Quarter ended 30/09/2018		Half Year ended 30/09/2018		Corresponding 3 months ended in the previous year 30/09/2017	
		Un-audited	Audited	Un-audited	Audited	Un-audited	Audited
1	Total Income from operations	1.64	3.04	1.59	10.21		
2	Net (Loss) for the period (Before Tax, Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	-5.90	-13.55	-4.90	-26.51		
3	Net (Loss) for the period Before Tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	-5.90	-13.55	-4.90	-27.29		
4	Net (Loss) for the period After Tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	(5.89)	(13.52)	(4.89)	(27.27)		
5	Total Comprehensive Income for the period (Comprising (Loss) for the period (after tax) and other Comprehensive Income (after tax))	(5.89)	(13.52)	(4.89)	(27.27)		
6	Equity Share Capital	400.05	400.05	400.05	400.05		
7	Reserves (excluding Revaluation Reserves) as shown in the Audited Balance Sheet as shown in the previous year	-	-	-	10.89		
8	Earnings Per Share (of Rs. 10/- each) (for continuing and discontinued operations)						
	(a) Basic and Diluted EPS (in Rs.)	0.15	0.34	0.12	0.68		
	(b) Basic and Diluted EPS (in Rs.)	0.15	0.34	0.12	0.68		

Note: The above is an extract of the detailed format of quarterly and half yearly results filed with the Stock Exchanges under Regulation 33 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the Quarterly Results are available on the Stock Exchange Website (www.cse-india.com and www.bseindia.com) and Company's website www.sparklingfinshares.com.

FOR SPARKLING (INDIA) FINSHARES LIMITED
Place: New Delhi
Date: November 14, 2018
Director: DIN: 01767996

MODI RUBBER LIMITED
CIN: L25199UP1971PLC003392, Registered Office: Modinagar - 201204 Dist. Ghaziabad (U.P.)
Corporate Office: 4-7C, DDA Shopping Centre, New Friends Colony, New Delhi 110025
Website: www.modirubberlimited.com Email: investors@modigroup.net Phone: +91-11-2684 8416

EXTRACT OF STANDALONE UN-AUDITED FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR THE QUARTER AND HALF YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2018

Sl. No.	Particulars	STANDALONE				
		QUARTER ENDED		HALF YEAR ENDED		YEAR ENDED
		Sep 30, 2018	Sep 30, 2017	Sep 30, 2018	Sep 30, 2017	March 31, 2018
1	Total Income from operations (Net)	131.16	147.14	254.63	288.98	592.59
2	Net Profit/ (Loss) for the period (before Tax and Exceptional items)	1,019.03	393.05	737.35	29.93	(181.35)
3	Net Profit/ (Loss) for the Period before Tax (after Exceptional Items)	1,019.03	2,443.35	737.35	2,080.23	1,868.95
4	Net Profit/ (Loss) for the Period after Tax (after Exceptional Items)	1,019.03	2,173.39	737.35	1,810.27	(284.08)
5	Total Comprehensive Income for the period (after Tax)	1,209.44	2,144.52	1,052.89	1,690.16	(263.41)
6	Equity Share Capital (Face value of share is Rs. 10/- each)	2,504.05	2,504.05	2,504.05	2,504.05	2,504.05
7	Reserves (excluding Revaluation Reserves as shown in the Balance Sheet of previous year)	N.A	N.A	N.A	N.A	N.A
8	Earnings per share (EPS) (of Rs. 10/- each) (Not Annualised)					
	(a) Basic and Diluted EPS (before Exceptional Items) (in Rs.)	4.07	0.49	2.94	(0.96)	(7.05)
	(b) Basic and Diluted EPS (after Exceptional Items) (in Rs.)	4.07	8.68	2.94	7.23	(1.13)

NOTE:
1. The above is an extract of the detailed format of Quarterly/ Annual Financial Results filed with the Stock Exchanges under Regulations 33 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the Quarterly / Annual Financial Results are available on the stock exchange website, www.nseindia.com, www.bseindia.com and on the Company website www.modirubberlimited.com
2. The above results have been reviewed by the Audit Committee and subsequently approved by the Board of Directors of the Company at their respective meeting held on November 14th, 2018. The Statutory Auditors of the Company have carried out a limited review of the aforesaid results.
3. Previous quarter/ half year figures have been rearranged and / or regrouped, wherever necessary, to make them comparable with those of the current quarter/ half year.

By order of the Board
Sd/-
(Alok Kumar Modi)
Managing Director

Place : New Delhi
Date : 14th November, 2018

CMI LIMITED
CIN: L74899DL1967PLC018031
Regd Office: Flat No. 501-503, 5th Floor, New Delhi House, 27 Barakhamba Road, New Delhi-110001
Ph.: 011-49570000-13 | Fax: 011-23739902 | Website: www.cmilimited.in | Email: info@cmilimited.in
Extract of Audited and Unaudited Standalone & Consolidated Results for the quarter and Half Year Ended 30.09.2018

Sl. No.	PARTICULARS	(Rs. In Lakhs)													
		Standalone					Consolidated								
		Quarter Ended	Half Year Ended	Quarter Ended	Half Year Ended	Quarter Ended	Half Year Ended	Quarter Ended	Half Year Ended	Quarter Ended	Half Year Ended				
		Sep-18	Jun-18	Sep-17	Sep-18	Sep-17	Sep-18	Jun-18	Sep-17	Sep-18	Jun-18	Sep-17	Sep-18	Jun-18	Sep-17
		Unaudited	Unaudited	Unaudited	Unaudited	Unaudited	Unaudited	Unaudited	Unaudited	Unaudited	Unaudited	Unaudited	Unaudited	Unaudited	Unaudited
1	Total Income from Operations	10701.27	10163.12	9096.09	20864.39	19678.18	15054.81	13002.24	13494.60	28057.05	28067.56				
2	Net Profit for the period (before tax, Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	866.72	1075.42	834.09	1941.14	1823.72	974.45	927.17	949.33	1901.62	1859.69				
3	Net profit for the period before tax (after Exceptional and/or extraordinary item)	863.03	1075.77	834.09	1938.8	1823.72	971.76	927.52	949.33	1229.36	1859.69				
4	Net Profit for the period after tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	565.66	692.30	539.79	1257.96	1192.91	640.15	589.21	614.36	1229.36	1217.52				
5	Total comprehensive income for the period	565.66	692.29	539.77	1257.95	1192.88	640.15	589.20	614.34	1229.35	1217.49				
6	Equity Share capital	1502.74	1502.74	1502.74	1502.74	1502.74	1502.74	1502.74	1502.74	1502.74	1502.74				
7	Earnings per share of Rs. 10/- each														
	a) Basic	3.76	4.61	3.58	8.37	7.94	4.26	3.92	4.07	8.18	8.10				
	b) Diluted	3.76	4.61	3.58	8.37	7.94	4.26	3.92	4.07	8.18	8.10				

NOTES:-
1. The above standalone and consolidated financial statements of M/s CMI Limited ("the Company") have been prepared in accordance with the Companies (Indian Accounting Standards) Rules, 2015 (Ind-AS) prescribed under section 133 of the Companies Act, 2013 and other recognized accounting practices and policies to the extent applicable.
2. The above financial results have been reviewed by the Audit Committee and approved by the Board of Directors at their meeting on November 14, 2018.
3. The above is an extract of the detailed format of quarterly financial results filed with the Stock Exchanges under Regulation 33 of SEBI (Listing and other Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the quarterly financial results are available on the stock exchange website(s), www.nseindia.com, www.bseindia.com and Company's website-www.cmilimited.in
4. Previous period figures have been regrouped / reclassified, wherever necessary.

For and on behalf of Board of Directors of
CMI Limited
Sd/-
Amit Jain
Chairman Cum Managing Director
DIN: 00041300

Place : New Delhi
Date: 14.11.2018

Corrigendum No-01
Corrigendum No-01 to E-Tender Enquiry No-13/TS/FBD/2018-19
HARYANA VIDYUT PRASARAN NIGAM LIMITED
Shakti Bhawan, Panchkula CIN: U40101HR1997SGC033683

The last date of online bid submission is extended up to 20-11-2018 at 13:00 Hrs. and same will be opened on 20-11-2018 at 15:00 Hrs.
Detailed NIT and tender document is available at website <https://haryanaeprocurement.org.in>, <https://www.hvnpn.org.in>
(Sd) Executive Engineer/ TS Division Faridabad

RO NO. 73515 Dt. 14-11-2018

UTTAR HARYANA BIJLI VITRAN NIGAM LIMITED
CORRIGENDUM - V
NIT No. 221/ P&D/Zone-I/2018-19/Bid No. B- 565 for: System strengthening of 11 kV lines with bifurcation/trifurcation of overloaded feeders, Augmentation of conductor of HT line and New DT, under Operation Circle UHBVN, Ambala, Kurukshetra, Kaithal, Karnal & Yamunanagar (i.e. Zone-I) on turnkey basis.
The due date of submission of tender cost, EMD, date of closing of e-tenders and date of opening of part-I of aforementioned tender enquiry are extended as under:

- Last date of submission of EMD : 26-11-2018 (Up to 1300 Hrs.)
- Date of closing of online e-tender for submission of Techno - Commercial Bid & Price Bid on web portal : 26-11-2018 (Up to 1300 Hrs.)
- Opening date of part -I of proposal on web portal : 26-11-2018 (at 1500 Hrs.)

Details can be obtained from websites <https://haryanaeprocurement.gov.in> and www.uhbvn.org.in.
All other terms & conditions of NIT shall remain unchanged.

Chief Engineer/ PD&C
UHBVN, Panchkula

RO NO. 73505 Dt. 14-11-2018

INDIAN RAILWAY CATERING AND TOURISM CORPORATION LTD.
(A Government of India Enterprise - Mini Ratna)
CIN-U74899DL1999G01101707
NOTICE INVITING OPEN E-TENDER
GGM/Infra invites open e-tender through single bid system for the work "Day to day Electrical maintenance of Internet Ticketing Centre, Zonal Hub, Operation of 600KVA Genset and Upkeep of the substation equipment"
Last Date of Tender submission: 26.11.2018 up to 1500 hrs.
Tender document downloading & participation can be done only on website : www.tenderwizard.com/IRCTC
Note : "Corrigendum/addendum if any will be published on website only".
IRCTC Ltd, 11th Floor, Statesman House, B-148, Barakhamba Road, New Delhi - 110 001, Fax: 011-23311259

SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED
General Public is hereby informed that one girl namely **Seema D/o Khem Chand R/o H.No. B-15, Gali No. 5, Vikas Nagar Extn., Near Amba Dairy, Ranhola, Delhi** has been missing / kidnapped since 27.09.2018 from the area of P.S. Ranhola, Delhi. In this regard a case vide FIR No. 565/18 u/s 363 IPC dated 28.09.2018 has been registered at P.S. Ranhola, Delhi.

The description of missing/kidnapped girl is as under:
Name : Seema, **Father's Name :** Khem Chand, **Age :** 17 years 3 Months, **Height :** 5', **Face :** Round, **Complexion :** Fair, **Wearing :** Green T-Shirt, Blue Jeans and Black Sandal in feet.

If anyone having any clue/information, kindly inform the undersigned.
SHO
P.S., Ranhola, Delhi
Ph.: 011-28363001
28363002, 28363003
DP/1557/OD/18

SEARCH FOR MISSING
General public is hereby informed that a girl namely **Heena D/o Puran Singh, R/o B-483, Near Vijay Model Public School, Vikas Nagar, Delhi, Age : 14 yrs. 6 months, Height : 4'6", Complexion : Shallow, Face : Round, Wearing : Pink Colour Top, Blue Colour Jeans and Blue Colour Chappal in Feet,** has been missing / kidnapped since 26.09.2018 from the area of P.S. Ranhola. In this regard a case FIR No. 562/18 dated 27.09.2018 u/s 363 IPC has been registered at P.S. Ranhola, Delhi. Sincere efforts have been made by local Police to trace out the missing / kidnapped girl but no clue has come to light so far. If anyone have any information about this missing / kidnapped girl please inform undersigned
Website: <http://cbi.nic.in>, Email: cic@cbi.gov.in, Ph.: 011-24368638, 24368641, Fax: 011-24368639

SHO
P.S. Ranhola, Delhi
DP/1497/OD/18.
Ph. No. 011-28363001, 28363002, 28363003

DELHI DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

E-TENDER PRESS NOTICE NO. 51 /FO [Hort.] N/W/2018-19 Pt-I

On line Item Rate Tenders are invited/ Re-invited through e-tendering mode for the following works by the Dy. Director (Hort.)-V, Distt. Centre-I, Sector-10, Rohini, Delhi-110085, DD(Hort.)-X C.S.C. 656 LIG (Jahangirpuri) Near GTK Depot, Delhi-110033 & Dy. Director (Hort.)-Dwk. Central Nursery Sec-5 Dwarka New Delhi-110075 on behalf of Delhi Development Authority from the approved and eligible contractors registered under Horticulture Category only of DDA & CPWD and those of appropriate list of MES, BSNL and Railway. The last date and time of submission of tender SI. No. 1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8 & 9 is 24.11.2018 upto 3.00 PM.

- NIT No.114/DD(H)-V/DDA/2018-19 Name of work :** M/o Services under N/Ac.-II, Rohini. M/o Green Belt at Sector - 15, Block-H, (Near Taxi Stand). SH: Complete M/o Tree & Shrub Plants and providing watering of plants through water tanker of Horticulture features at site for 12 months. **Estimated Cost:** 6,15,997/- **Earnest Money:** 12,320/-, **Period of completion:** 12 Months.
- NIT No.115/DD(H)-V/DDA/2018-19 Name of work :** M/o Services under N/Ac.-II, Rohini. M/o Green Belt at Sector - 15 Rohini (along with Supplementary Drain). SH: Complete M/o Tree & Shrub Plants and providing watering of plants through water tanker of Horticulture features at site for 12 months. **Estimated Cost:** 6,17,048/- **Earnest Money:** 12,341/-, **Period of completion:** 12 Months.
- NIT No.116/DD(H)-V/DDA/2018-19 Name of work :** M/o Services under N/Ac.-II, Rohini. M/o Green Belt Along with 100 meter wide road, pocket C-5, Sector-34, Rohini. SH: Complete M/o Tree & Shrub Plants and providing watering of plants through water tanker of Horticulture features at site for 12 months. **Estimated Cost:** 13,73,323/- **Earnest Money:** 27,466/-, **Period of completion:** 12 Months.
- NIT No.117/DD(H)-V/DDA/2018-19 Name of work :** M/o Services under N/Ac.-II, Rohini. M/o RSP at 30 meter wide road, Sector-27, Rohini. SH: Complete M/o Tree Plants S/S Cattle manure, Digging Holes and providing watering of plants through water tanker of Horticulture features at site for 06 months. **Estimated Cost:** 9,12,737/- **Earnest Money:** 18,255/-, **Period of completion:** 06 Months.
- NIT No.118/DD(H)-V/DDA/2018-19 Name of work :** M/o Services under N/Ac.-II, Rohini. M/o DDA Office building at Madhuban Chowk, Rohini. SH: Complete M/o Lawn, Potted earthen pots, potted cement pots, Shrub Plants Vertical Garden for 12 Months and S/O Foliage plants etc. at site. **Estimated Cost:** 7,39,457/- **Earnest Money:** 14,789/-, **Period of completion:** 12 Months.
- NIT No.119/DD(H)-V/DDA/2018-19 Name of work :** M/o Services under N/Ac.-II, Rohini. M/o Green Belt at Pocket 01 to 08 Sector-25, Rohini. SH: Complete M/o Lawn and Clearing Sweeping of Path for 12 months at site. **Estimated Cost:** 7,34,030/- **Earnest Money:** 14,681/-, **Period of completion:** 12 Months.
- NIT No.120/DD(H)-V/DDA/2018-19 Name of work :** M/o Services under N/Ac.-II, Rohini. 1. M/o NHP No.-4, Near Ryan Public School, Sector-25, Rohini. 2. M/o NHP No.-05, Near Pocket 07, at Sector-25, Rohini. SH: Complete M/o Lawn and Clearing Sweeping of Path etc. at site for 12 months. **Estimated Cost:** 8,79,337/- **Earnest Money:** 17,587/-, **Period of completion:** 12 Months.
- NIT No.18/DD(Hort.)-X/DDA/2018-19 (Re-invited) Name of work :** M/o Park Plantation trucks and other equipments in Horticulture Wing N.A-II. M/o Distt. Park Ram Sawroop Thakur Dass Wala Bagh at Shalimar Bagh. SH: Complete maintenance of Lawn, woodland and Clearing, sweeping of path etc. at site (For 12 Months). **Estimated Cost:** 22,47,266/- **Earnest Money:** 44,945/-, **Period of completion:** 12 Months.
- NIT No.136/18-19/Hort. Dwk/DDA Name of work :** M/o Various colony under Dwk. Zone N/A-II M/o 30 Mtr. Wide R.S.P. & C.V./Plantation at sector-24 Dwk (along with Dhool Siras village). SH: Digging of holes S/s of cattle manure, S/o Neem Oil cake S/o water through water tanker S/o Tree Shrub Plants Complete M/o Park for 12 months. **Estimated Cost:** 13,03,446/- **Earnest Money:** 26,069/-, **Period of completion:** 12 Months.

Please also visit the website <https://eprocure.gov.in/> eprocure.gov.in or send mail cip-nic@nic.in or dial Help Line No. 1800-233-7315. Mobile No. +91-7878007972 & +91-7878007973.

Please give your feedback on DDA Apps at [Google Play](https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.dda)
Please Visit DDA's website - www.dda.org.in or dial Toll free No. 1800-110332

Nehru's legacy

The nation has much to be grateful for, much to be critical of. But we do need a calmer discourse around past leaders



In the sense of a continuum of socio-economic forces unshackled by key figures in history, Congress MP Shashi Tharoor is not entirely wrong when he says that it was Jawaharlal Nehru's endeavour to build democratic institutions and infuse a spirit of egalitarianism in the body politic which provided an opportunity for, in Tharoor's words not ours, even a "chaiwala to become Prime Minister" exactly 50 years after the passing away of India's first Prime Minister. UPA chairperson Sonia Gandhi followed this up on the eve of Nehru's birth anniversary on November 14 by asserting

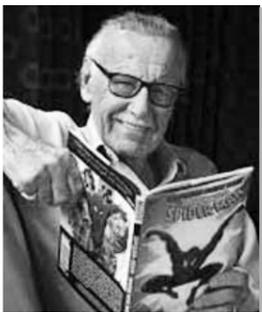
that the current ruling dispensation was out to wreck Nehru's legacy. Neither star-struck hagiographies nor mindless demonising of one of the towering political personalities and public figures of 20th century India, however, does the man justice.

So, let's undertake a quick review of the four meta issues, as it were, on which Nehru cops most criticism: His allegedly cavalier approach to national security including Kashmir, his foreign policy priorities which elided the threat posed by China, his economic policies underpinned by a socialist command-and-control philosophy and his secular politics which while taking on obscurantism within the majority community failed to address the fundamentalist warp and woof of minority politics. On national security, the flak Nehru draws is disproportionate. Yes, he should have been more hard-nosed about Jammu and Kashmir and integrationist in his approach as far as Valley Muslims were concerned, especially after Sardar Patel had managed the crucial accession so admirably, but to accuse the man who kept a multi-ethnic, multi-faith, multi-linguistic post-colonial nation-state from Balkanisation and ensured its territorial integrity was by and large kept intact through the nascent phase of the construction of a modern Indian state is to be terribly unfair. Nehru's foreign policy priorities, especially his adherence to non-alignment reinforced by the 1955 Bandung Conference, were, whether ideal or less-than-ideal in retrospect, in the national interest. Of that there can be no doubt. How he defined the national interest is, of course, up for debate but abuse has no place in that discourse. Even on China, as some recent books have brought out, the first Prime Minister was not the woolly-headed, naive socialist as he is sometimes caricatured. Though the 1962 debacle is correctly characterised as his biggest failure as PM and most of the flak he draws is well-deserved, it must be remembered that Communist China and its expansionist designs were not as apparent then as they are today and Chinese perfidy not to mention an India that did not have the economic heft and military infrastructure to stand up to its northern neighbour both played a role in the disaster.

On economic policy, which led to the infamous Hindu rate of growth for nearly five decades after Independence, Nehru does have a lot to answer for. Not for the first decade or so after 1947 when the country needed capacity-building and industrialisation and a centralised command economy was probably, all things considered, the only viable route of achieving that objective. But for ignoring the warning signals towards the latter part of his tenure as crony socialism, corruption and de-growth stared India in the face but the economy continued to be guided by doctrinaire, ideological commitments even when clearly divorced from the reality on the ground. It is, however, 'secularism' which is the most contested and contentious aspect of the Nehruvian legacy. While we need to applaud his courage in siding with reformers within the Indic dharmic tradition and pushing through progressive legislation relating to the Hindu community, his abysmal surrender to the mullahs and padres when it came to reform in Abrahamic religions is incomprehensible to genuine liberals even today. The rather weak defence that he was a creature of his times (who isn't?) leads us to the conclusion that he had swallowed whole the knowledge claims of secularised Christian i.e. Western social sciences which made no distinction between religions qua religions and the Indic civilizational tradition which had been classified as a 'religion' by the British colonial rulers and earlier invaders only to make it fathomable for themselves. If anyone could have seen past it, it was Nehru. The abiding disappointment remains that he didn't.

True Avenger

Whenever we try to be our better selves, Stan Lee's superheroes will have life; he will be missed



He was the greatest avenger of them all, standing tall against time itself, ensuring the continuity of a graphic artform, the comic, well into the post-modern world and moulding his characters in such a manner that they emerged out of their cardboard capes to become flesh and blood realities worth emulation. Marvel Comics chairman Stan Lee has captured fans across time and appeal, contributing millions to Hollywood. And much like the mankind's challenger Thanos, who can control and warp every known limit of space and time in the universe, Lee will

remain a timeless institution with his forever stones. Whether it was the angst-ridden nerd Spider Man or the genius but angry Hulk or the whimsical and rich Iron Man, he had a hero from all sections of society with their own sets of problems, baggage and frailties. Yet they remained very human and believable while summoning up their superhuman will and potential when life tested them. He coopted every race and creed. Black Panther of Wakanda is an African superhero that has given the Marvel franchise its biggest single hero commercial gain. And he did create Chakra, the invincible Indian who could elevate the potential of all seven chakras in a magic suit. No film yet on him but he did rule TV for a while. And in a world of #MeToo, Marvel women like the Black Widow set fair rules of engagement and stood up to be counted despite the men. While Stan Lee started his career with his fertile imagination using pen and ink, it soon spilled on to the page and evolved beyond anyone's imagination to become everyday inspiration.

Some of the heroes were outcasts and misfits in the real world who were vain about their pimples and slogged at work. But seared by struggle, they became the best versions of themselves and their skills, laying a roadmap of hope in an imperfect world. What Stan Lee created was to tie in childhood with adulthood and ensure innocence prevailed in our robotic lives. The creative empire he left behind is a legacy for the entire human civilisation and it will live on forever.

opinion 08

Hammer and tongs approach

For preventing a democracy from descending to anarchy, it's imperative for citizens to have respect for the rule of law and ensure there are checks on any reckless exercise of power



AJOY KUMAR

Reinhold Niebuhr, a famous American academician once said, "Man's capacity for justice makes democracy possible, but man's inclination to injustice makes democracy necessary." This is a great quote for two reasons: First, because it talks about our humanity and how it craves for justice and equality, which are the foundations of any democracy, and second, because it reminds us of our more base tendencies that can only be kept in check through a democratic system of Government. For a democracy to thrive, there are a few pillars that are at play simultaneously and constantly. These pillars include the judiciary, the executive, the legislature and the Press. Contrary to what this Government would like to assume, a modern democratic society cannot be merely whittled down to the legislature, which makes the laws of the country and are the elected to power. But it also requires the judiciary, the Press, and the bureaucracy to play their important roles. I think someone forgot to tell that to the current Government in power.

While there has been an uneasy consistency with which the Government has targeted these other pillars of democracy, the first real shot was fired by the Finance Minister, who while speaking about the Supreme Court's decision to strike down the National Judicial Appointments Commission (NJAC) said that Indian democracy cannot be a tyranny of the unelected and commented how if the elected are undermined, democracy itself would be in danger. I am afraid that Arun Jaitley has missed the point here because a democracy is not the blind and blank mandate of only the elected but instead, in order to function well, it requires a fine balance between the elected and the unelected.

In this week's column, I will examine how the current Government has tried to minimise the influence of these unelected pillars like the judiciary, the bureaucracy and the Press and demonstrated a tyrannical approach to governance.

For a democracy to prevent its descent to anarchy, it is imperative for citizens to have respect for the rule of law. The primary role of the judiciary is to interpret the law of the land and to state the law as it is. The Supreme Court, as the final interpreter of law in our country, recently ruled that no woman can be restricted from entering the Sabarimala temple in Kerala. The Supreme Court came to its decision based on the principles of equality that have been laid down in our Constitution. Since the judgement was borne out of a religiously charged issue, it is the responsibility of the party in power to ensure that the situation on the ground is not further inflamed resulting in greater violence.

Instead, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), in clear abdication of its responsibilities stoked tensions further. Comments from the BJP president reflect a clear disregard for the judiciary, which is an essential pillar of a successful democracy and only serves to undermine an important part of the State.

The BJP has been brazen in its attempts to exercise control over the bureaucracy as well. The bizarre episode with the CBI director being replaced in the wee hours of the morning and the CBI raiding its own officers, was just the latest indicator of how this Government has sought to maintain a stranglehold on instruments of the state and has lost control of these institutions. While the elected drafts the laws of the country, this Government will do well to recognise that the actual implementation of the laws of our country is through the bureaucracy.

The bureaucracy has a duty to implement the laws drafted by the legislature without any interference. However, there is clear disregard of this tenet by the Government and was further evidenced by the changes that were proposed with respect to the appointment of civil servants to their respective services.

The most recent example of an attack on the institutions and how the Government acts like a spoilt child if things are



CONTRARY TO WHAT THIS GOVERNMENT WOULD LIKE TO ASSUME, A MODERN DEMOCRATIC SOCIETY CANNOT BE MERELY WHITTLED DOWN TO THE LEGISLATURE, WHICH MAKES THE LAWS OF THE COUNTRY. IT ALSO REQUIRES THE JUDICIARY, THE PRESS, AND THE BUREAUCRACY TO PLAY THEIR IMPORTANT ROLES



not going its way, is the current stand-off between the Reserve Bank of India and the Government. The widening rift between the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and the Government concerns a demand for funds from the RBI that have been collected over decades. The Government would set a dangerous precedence by invoking Section 7 of the RBI Act that would allow the Government to dictate financial policy. This is because through the past four and a half years, this Government has shown how inept it is at handling the economy. From demonetisation to the implementation of Goods and Services Tax (GST), our country has had to suffer a great deal because of Modinomics. Also, with fuel prices higher than ever and the rupee lower than ever, questioning the financial prudence of the RBI by forcing the Central Bank into submission, is another way to substitute the expertise of the unelected with the arrogance of the elected. India must avoid such this scenario.

An independent Press is the primary medium to speak the truth to powers that maybe but this pillar has been badgered by this Government into something unrecognisable. I have written in this newspaper before, while discussing freedom of Press, that there is an environment of fear and trepidation in the entire country-

where we are unable to raise questions about the Government without attacks on our patriotism. Of these attacks, perhaps the resignation of Punya Prasad Bajpai from ABP News, a few months ago under circumstances that are frighteningly Orwellian, was perhaps the most disconcerting. These attacks coupled with the approach of this Government to shroud itself in secrecy and a Prime Minister who refuses to take unscripted and uncomfortable questions indicate that the Government does not believe that in order for a country to be stronger going forward, it must be able to question its Government.

An examination of the examples I have detailed above shows how this Government has tried to diminish checks on any reckless exercise of its power by whatever means necessary. It is obvious that the Government views any such checks as tyrannical while in reality, it is merely democracy at work that requires the unelected, too, to play an important role. The elected, however, have chosen to adopt a hammer and tongs approach to governance and ignore this basic tenet. The problem, with such an approach, is that if you have a hammer in your hand, everything looks like a nail — even good sense.

(The writer is Jharkhand PCC president, former MP and IPS officer. Views are personal)

SOUNDBITE

I enjoy being on Twitter, and I've made great friends on this medium where every day I see the creativity of people.



Prime Minister — Narendra Modi

We're trying very hard to make better trade deals with India. But, they're very good traders, you would say, right?



US President — Donald Trump

With the way content is evolving and compelling stories are coming out, there's a need for more stories of stronger women.



Actor — Yami Gautam

Those in power have contempt for Jawaharlal Nehru, we must honour him by safeguarding democracy.



Congress leader — Sonia Gandhi

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Man of wisdom

Sir — The demise of T N Srinivasan, a distinguished Indian economist marks the end of a journey. He was in some ways a multi-talented personality. Apart from Economics as his major interest, he was efficient in Mathematics as well as Humanities. Srinivasan was a strong votary of free trade and multilateralism.

He was a rather unassuming person and spent his life teaching in the United States till the very end. Srinivasan devoted his entire life in pursuit of knowledge and teaching.

Devendra Khurana
Bhopal

When philosophy rules the roost

The word 'philosophy' and 'philosophical' are often used loosely. Philosophy is about thoughts and questions and finding suitable answers. Thought sharing and exploration of innovative ideas and facing a creative touch to these, form the base of philosophy. The UNESCO is observing the "World Philosophy Day" on every third Thursday of November since 2002. It believes that a philosophical approach towards problems plaguing the world can be used for moulding a fair society. In times of one culture being pitted against the other, fair thoughts and unbiased news create an equal platform. Philosophers have stressed the need to shun past animosity and buttress the present.

Introspection of one's own knowledge cannot escape attention because according to that great philosopher Socrates, "I am the wisest man alive, for I know one thing, and that is that I know nothing."



The root cause for all conflicts is people judge soon and talk too soon before actually knowing their surroundings. A day spent well is a day indeed because dawn and dusk are imperative and unavoidable. Though philosophical works are rarely studied with proficiency by the non-professional, its principles should guide us to make this world safe.

Ganapathi Bhat
Akola

Faith vs law

Sir — The Congress and the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) in the Kerala State fighting against allowing young women to enter Sabarimala has become more aggressive in the light of the Supreme Court agreeing to hear the review pleas on January 22.

It seems that they have forgotten all about gender discrim-

ination in the Sabarimala issue and they are still working hand in glove with the traditionalists of the temple though clear-cut Supreme Court verdict in favour of young women was pronounced.

What is their stand in terms of the verdict? Their stand is a flagrant violation of the verdict of the apex court. But while expressing their stand, they

make it as complicated and complex as ever leaving the people muddle-headed.

They also make a mountain out of molehill on the issue to the advantage of their respective political parties.

People cannot see the truth as long as they are not educated by these parties.

TK Nandanani
Kochi

Democracy wins

Sir — This refers to the report "Voters defy Naxals in their bastion" (November 13). Over 70 per cent voter turnout in the first phase of Assembly polls in Chhattisgarh is a befitting snub to the Maoists by the people of Naxal heartland.

Maoists believe in violence

and claim to be fighting for the rights of the people. However, they tried to deprive the people of exercising their primary right of ballot for electing a Government.

They called for boycott of polls, reportedly threatened to chop off hands of those on who had polling ink on their fingers and set off improvised explosive devices.

Defying poll boycott call of the Maoists and ignoring the threats, people came out on the street in record numbers and thronged the polling booths. In 4,336 polling booths of 18 constituencies, across eight Naxal-hit districts, 31.80 lakh voters exercised their voting right to elect their representatives from amongst 190 contestants.

Which political party wins the election is immaterial. Democracy has already come out a winner. The Election Commission, security forces and above all, the voters, deserve accolades for the success of the democratic process.

MC Joshi
Lucknow

Send your feedback to:
letterstopioneer@gmail.com

FIRST COLUMN

Fighting under alien skies

The deeds of Indian warriors in World War I are a testimony to their spirit despite colonial discrimination



HIRANMAY KARLEKAR

World War I, dubbed "the war to end all wars", ended with an armistice signed on November 11, 1918. The main belligerents were Britain, France, Russia (until the revolution of 1917), Italy (from 1915) and the United States (after 1917) on one side and Germany, Austria-Hungary and Turkey on the other. A number of other countries like India also became a part of its orbit. No other conflict until then had involved as many countries. Nor did any till then cause such a staggering number of casualties—about 40 million including about 20 million dead (both sides included) and the rest wounded. Among the dead were 9.7 million military personnel and the rest civilians. This was the first war where technology-based military hardware was deployed on a large scale, and aircraft and tanks, the latter brought in by the United States forces, were used for the first time. The questions are: What did this massive carnage achieve? What was India's role in it?

It did not "end all wars." The League of Nations, emerging in 1919 from the Paris Peace Conference, which led to the Treaty of Versailles officially ending it, doubtless sought to promote disarmament, prevent wars through collective security, settle disputes between countries through negotiation and diplomacy, and global welfare. Unfortunately, it never quite took off. Its credibility and effectiveness were both undermined by the United States' decision to stay away and this despite the fact that its president, Woodrow Wilson, played an important role in setting it up and was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for his efforts to secure peace. The League of Nations' fundamental weakness, however, was that it was slow to act, and sometimes did not act at all. This was because a decision required a unanimous resolution passed by the council members, initially numbering nine and subsequently 15. Besides conflicting interests, the unwillingness of many members to have their actions externally-determined, accounted for this. As a result, wars, between and within nations, followed. Notable in the first category were the Italian invasion of Ethiopia in 1936 and Japanese invasion of China in 1937. Wars within included the one between communists and the Kuomintang forces in China in the 1930s and the Spanish Civil War from 1936 to 1939.

The League's biggest failure was its inability to prevent World War II, which involved most countries of the world and left about 55 million civilians and 21 to 25 million—including five million prisoners of war—military personnel dead. World War II witnessed, for the first time, the use of nuclear bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki in Japan. The conflagration, which saw the emergence of the Soviet Union as a super power, had momentous consequences. If the confrontation between the blocks led by the US and the Soviet Union respectively, led to the Cold War which split the world, a third shooting World War was prevented by deterrence provided by the accumulation of missile-mounted nuclear weapons, capable of wiping out the entire world, on both sides. Post World-War II wars like those occurring in Korea, Vietnam, Afghanistan and between India and Pakistan, India and China, Israel and Arab countries remained regional. As to the second question mentioned at the beginning, India was under British Rule during World War I, which Indian troops fought as a part of British imperial forces. The country made a signal contribution. A total of over 14 lakh men were recruited for the war, of whom over 13 lakh were sent for service in the Middle East and Europe. One of them was Kaji Nazrul Islam, the fiery Bengali revolutionary poet, who served in Mesopotamia.

Indian troops fought with tremendous gallantry in lands they had never known and under climatic conditions to which they were strangers. As many as 74,187 were killed and 70,000 wounded. Twelve Indians received the Victoria Cross, the highest and most prestigious medal awarded by the British Army to officers and men who had performed "some signal act of valour or devotion to duty" in "the presence of the enemy." The recipients were Mir Dard, Fazal Din, Khudadad Khan, Sahamad Khan, Lala, Darwan Singh, Gabbar Singh Negi, Karanbahadur Rana, Badli Singh, Chhattan Singh, Gobind Singh and Kulbir Thapa. Indians also fought in the air. Four of them joined the Royal Flying Corps, which later became the Royal Air Force. Lieutenants all, they were Indra Lal Roy, Hardit Singh Malik, S.C. Welingkar and ESC Sen. Roy and Welingkar were killed, the former in aerial combat, and the latter in a German hospital after crashing during a dogfight and taken prisoner. Roy was only 19 years old when he died on July 22, 1919, after having performed the incredible feat of shooting down 10 German planes in 14 days. He was posthumously awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross given for "exceptional gallantry during active operations against the enemy in the air." Britain, however, has never adequately acknowledged India's contribution, which did not receive much attention until some years ago. Bias against Indians has been alleged. While Malik claimed six victories against the Germans, he was credited with only two. But then discrimination is integral to colonial rule.

(The writer is Consultant Editor, The Pioneer, and an author)

POINT COUNTERPOINT

IN THE AFFIDAVIT, MODI ADMITTED TO CHANGES IN THE CONTRACT WITHOUT ASKING THE AIR FORCE AND PUT ₹30,000 CRORE IN AMBANI'S POCKET.

—CONGRESS PRESIDENT RAHUL GANDHI



REALISING THAT THE MODI GOVERNMENT BOUGHT THE RAFALE AT A CHEAPER PRICE, THEY'RE NOW RESORTING TO PETTY HAIR-SPLITTING.

—UNION FINANCE MINISTER ARUN JAITLEY

A bid to disturb the peace

Given ISI's determination to revive insurgency in Punjab, anti-national elements must be dealt with stringently and those who raise pro-Khalistan slogans should be put behind bars



JK VERMA

On November 3, Army Chief, General Bipin Rawat, while delivering a lecture at a seminar organised by the Centre for Land and Warfare Studies (CLAWS), emphatically mentioned that although at present Punjab is peaceful, but because of foreign linkages, attempts are being made "to revive insurgency in the state." He also stated that "we have to be very careful" and we should take early action, before it is too late. He emphasised that internal security is India's leading problem but it cannot be resolved easily because of foreign assistance to insurgent groups. He also mentioned that foreign powers are trying to revitalise insurgency in Assam. He rightly asserted that only military cannot curb insurgency and all Government agencies, civil administration and police should work in cohesion to restore peace.

The Union Government has also informed Punjab Government that the Inter Services Intelligence (ISI) is trying hard to reanimate insurgency in Punjab through Sikhs settled abroad, especially in Canada, Europe, the United States, and Australia. On August 12, 2018, Sikhs For Justice (SFJ), a pro-Khalistan organisation, promoted the 'London Declaration on Referendum 2020 for Sikhs'. The so-called referendum, which was organised with the financial and logistical support of the ISI, demanded an independent Khalistan.

Gurpatwant Singh Pannun, a resident of the United States is an important functionary of the SFJ. The organisers collected details, including passport copies, college documents, photographs, mobile numbers, email and WhatsApp addresses of Sikhs from Punjab in the name of sponsoring them, to attend the referendum. In this way they have collected details of large number of young Sikhs who were interested in attending the pro-Khalistan referendum. These details can be misused by the ISI as well as by pro-Khalistan elements in future. As the ISI is ready to finance the referendums, the SFJ declared that it will organise referendums in other countries as well.

The SFJ is planning to finance the visit of 10,000 Sikh pilgrims to Pakistan to celebrate 550th birth anniversary of Guru Nanak. The ISI would utilise the visit to distribute anti-India and pro-Khalistan literature and might try to instigate Khalistan sentiments to a large number of Sikhs visiting Pakistan. The Gurdwaras controlled by pro-Khalistan elements in Canada, the US and the UK have prohibited the entry of Indian diplomats, Indian Members of Parliament, et al. The Indian Government urged the Governments of these countries to lift the ban but they refused to help.

Security forces also unearthed a depraved plan of the ISI under which young persons of Pakistani origin and citizens of Western countries were cultivated and trained in Punjabi and Sikh traditions. Later on, they were sent to Punjab and marry Sikh girls and convert them into pro-Khalistan entities. Hence, the ISI is using not only young women to honey-trap but also using young men to allure Sikh women. However, the ulterior motive lies the revival of



AT PRESENT, THE KHALISTAN MOVEMENT IS DORMANT IN INDIA BUT IT IS NOT DEAD AND IT CAN REVIVE WITH FOREIGN ASSISTANCE. A VAST MAJORITY OF SIKHS ARE AWARE ABOUT THE FUTILITY OF THE KHALISTAN MOVEMENT BUT A FEW DISENCHANTED MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY MAY BE TEMPTED TO PLAY WITH FIRE FOR THEIR SELFISH INTERESTS



insurgency in Punjab.

The interrogation reports of Sikh terrorists, including Jagtar Singh Chief of Khalistan Tiger Force, clearly indicate that the ISI is fomenting trouble in Punjab and spread concocted reports in Pakistani media. These reports are picked up by international media, which are sympathetic to the intelligence agency.

As the ISI was funding lavishly, pro-Khalistan elements have created several terrorist outfits namely Khalistan Commando Force (KCF), Bhindranwala Tigers Force of Khalistan (BTFFK), Khalistan Liberation Force (KLF), Babbar Khalsa International (BKI), International Sikh Youth Federation (ISYF), Khalistan Zindabad Force (KZLF), Khalistan Liberation Army, All India Sikh Students Federation (AISSF), Khalistan Armed Force aka Dashmesh Regiment, Shaheed Khalsa Force, Khalistan Guerilla Force, Khalistan Security Force, et al.

However, these forces lack mass support and, hence, sometimes they put few pro-Khalistan posters or carry out terrorist activities. In 2015, three Sikh terrorists killed a superintendent of police, three home guards and three civilians in Dina Nagar police station (Gurdaspur), and Shiv Sena and Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) leaders were also assassinated. Analysts claim that these incidents happen when the ISI refuses to release funds unless their agents carry out some terrorist activities.

The ISI has given shelter to a few Sikh leaders, including KCF chief Paramjit Singh Panjwar, BKI chief

Wadhwa Singh Babbar, ISYF chief Ranjit Singh Neeta in Pakistan. These leaders propagate Khalistani ideologies to the Sikhs residing abroad. The ISI also uses them to spread anti-India and pro-Khalistan views to Indian Sikh jathas (group of pilgrims) whenever they visit Pakistan.

At present due to close family relationship between Sikhs and Hindus, Sikhs understand that Khalistan is not practicable. However, the ISI persistently sends its agents to Punjab in order to instigate Sikhs.

The ISI has also smuggled drugs in Punjab and at present youth have become drug-addicts. The ISI uses them as support agents to spread hatred towards Hindus. As there is no ideological basis for Khalistan, the ISI circulates news about perceived atrocities and statements of anti-establishment political leaders who denounce Indian system with ulterior motives.

Analysts also claim that the economy of Pakistan is ruined and it is on verge of loan default. Prime Minister Imran Khan returned empty handed from China. The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has put stringent conditions to grant loan and, hence, the Pakistan Government is raising the Khalistan issue to sidetrack the attention of poor and illiterate masses.

India must safeguard its interests. The analysts claim that not only ISI but several intelligence agencies support various terrorist outfits. Hence, Indian security forces must analyse the reason why European countries, Canada and the US never help Indian

security agencies against Khalistani elements.

Pro-Khalistan Sikhs should be blacklisted and they should not be allowed to enter India. At present, the Khalistan movement is dormant in India but it is not dead and it can revive with foreign assistance. A vast majority of Sikhs are aware of the futility of the movement but a few disenchanted members of the community may be tempted to play with fire for their selfish interests.

Sikhs settled abroad may also render ideological and financial assistance to the perceived discrimination and atrocities. Hence, Central as well as State Government should try to sort out simmering issues, including punishment to the executioners of 1984 anti-Sikh riots, Sutlej-Yamuna Link Canal issue, among others. The separatists' allegation that Hindus want to submerge Sikh religion must be countered.

In view of the above, Indian policy planners must be careful and chalk out a comprehensive plan under which the genuine problems of Punjab will be redressed. On the other hand, anti-national elements must be dealt with stringently and those who raise pro-Khalistan slogans should be put behind bars. The Government and the nationalist elements should also formulate a plan to counter the misinformation campaign launched by Khalistan supporters in India as well as abroad.

(The writer is a member of United Services Institute of India and Institute for Defence Studies and Analysis. Views expressed are personal)

Dry riverbeds of tomorrow

Only zero tolerance policies pertaining to pollution and climate change can retrieve our rivers from doom. But do the authorities have the will to see this through? Only time will tell



KOTA SRIRAJ

There is certainly something seriously going wrong with our fresh water bodies, not only in India but also across the world. Is it global warming, or climate change, or failing rains? Or a combination of all these? The scientific and the environmental experts are getting hard pressed to find the exact reason and hopefully the solution for the same. In the meanwhile, the once flourishing rivers in parts of the world are rapidly turning into dry river beds comprising of nothing but sand and quickly falling prey to land sharks and real estate mafia.

In India, the 1990s saw a flurry of hydel projects being approved and built of various capacities; these projects successfully dammed the rivers emanating from the Himalayas at var-

ious points, leading to electricity generation no doubt, but eventually causing the rivers downstream to quickly dry up and adversely affected millions of people and agriculture, which was dependent on the natural flow of the river.

Is this an India-specific phenomenon? Apparently not. It would be of interest to note that of all places, Europe is, as we speak, flummoxed by drying up of their rivers. Water levels in Western Europe and Germany's most important river, the Rhine, is at record low levels currently. More shockingly the water levels in this river is fast approaching zero at several spots. This occurrence is due to a recent drought, which is being blamed on climate change. Needless to say that the development has affected freight supplies, as the river is one of the most important transport routes in the region.

German media reports quoted Germany's Federal Waterways and Shipping Administration as saying that about half of Germany's river ferries had stopped running, and river cruise ships were having to transport their

passengers by bus for parts of their journey. The reports also noted that thousands of fish in the Swiss section of the river had died because of the heat and low oxygen levels. The most important effect of this has been on supplies of freight. Roughly 80 per cent of the 223 million tonnes of cargo is transported by ship in Germany each year travels the Rhine, which links the country's industrial heartland to Belgium, the Netherlands and the North Sea.

As a consequence of the river drying up, petrol stations in the region that rely on tankers to deliver fuel from refineries in the Netherlands have run out of supplies. A number of inland ports are now idle, and millions of tonnes of goods are being transported by rail or road. Media reports have speculated that drying of the Rhine could be due to climate change. The river's flow relies not just on annual rainfall, but also on long-term water reserves in the Alps. Melting snow and glaciers, as well as Lake Constance, the source of the Rhine, feed the upper parts of the river. These

reserves are substantially lower today due to climate change. And in more bad news, other major rivers on the continent, such as the Danube and the Elbe are also drying up in parts.

Similar to the Rhine, the Ganges is an important river of India and is exceedingly suffering the same fate. The Ganges serves as the source of drinking water for almost 500 million people. It flows all the way from 3,000m above sea level in the Himalayan Mountains to the Bay of Bengal, and is one of the most revered and sacred water bodies. Despite this, it is also under increasing threat from climate change, industrial pollution and unhygienic rituals and waste disposal engendered by its legend. In fact, it was ranked as the fifth most polluted river worldwide.

The Ganges already sustains nearly half a billion people and according to the International Water Resource Management Institute (IWRMI), the demand for fresh drinking water will only increase. It projects the demand will rise roughly by one-third in the coming 15 years, meaning that the

Indians will rely on the river more than ever. However, a recent study surveying 925 rivers worldwide found that climate change posed a serious threat to many of the world's running water sources. Due to its geographical location, the Ganges was found to be particularly at risk, along with Africa's Niger River and the Chinese Yellow River.

Climate change is poised to affect the Ganges in another, more direct way. Water pollution in Asia has long been a subject of concern, and the Ganges is one of the harder hit bodies of water from the effects of the industrial boom in the continent. A report from the World Bank estimates that around 20 per cent of the contaminants in the river come from industrial emissions, and roughly one billion gallons of untreated sewage enters its waterways on a daily basis. Clearly, the situation is a concerning one. Add to this, the deeply religious significance of the river does little to help cleanup efforts. The Observer Research Foundation (ORF), a non-profit NGO from New Delhi, conducted a survey of 500 people and

interviewed 150 more to find out how attitudes to the river affected its cleanliness.

A large number of respondents to the survey felt that the religious value of the Ganga was non-negotiable. The respondents to the survey even suggested that the scale of traditional rituals such as corpse immersions in the Ganga were so low that they did not really upset the ecological balance or biodiversity of the river and that immersion of dead bodies in the river had in no way been found to hinder water management initiatives in the Ganga. The mythological idea of the Ganga is sadly more valued than the river itself.

If this trajectory of destruction continues, our pious and sacred rivers will be staring at becoming dry riverbeds of tomorrow. Only zero tolerance policies pertaining to pollution and climate change can retrieve our rivers from doom. But do the authorities have the will to see this through? Only time will tell.

(The writer is an environmental journalist)



FOREIGNEYE



CAST AWAY SELFISH AMBITIONS

The Sri Lankan crisis is clearly a power struggle with extremely selfish motivation of politicians which does not involve the interests of the people at all, despite the groups on either side of the current political divide screaming at the top of their voices that they are fighting for democracy. (The Daily Mirror editorial)

PM Modi calls for early conclusion of RCEP

We need to make similar efforts to make progress in services negotiations, says PM



PTI ■ SINGAPORE

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday called for an early conclusion of the multi-nation Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) agreement that should be modern, comprehensive, balanced and mutually beneficial to the people of all countries.

He also called on fellow RCEP leaders to give mandate to trade ministers and negotiators to take the economic grouping forward, said Sudhanshu Pandey, additional secretary, the commerce ministry, during a media briefing here.

The RCEP, involving 10 ASEAN members (Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, Singapore, Thailand, the Philippines, Laos and

Vietnam) as well as China, Japan, Australia, India, New Zealand and South Korea, would cover about half the world's population and a third of its GDP.

The RCEP has concluded seven chapters of the total 16. Prime Minister Modi noted that significant progress has been made in market access of negotiation for goods and called on similar efforts on services sectors.

"We need to make similar efforts to make progress in services negotiations as they constitute more than 50 per cent of the GDP of most of the RCEP countries. In future, services are going to be playing a very important role," he said at the RCEP meeting.

He also stressed that any such multi-lateral agreement which has diverse circumstances and developmental requirements should be modern, comprehensive, balanced

and mutually beneficial only then people of all countries will be benefited by such an agreement.

Responding to questions, Pandey said the Prime Minister has very clearly exhibited his support to the RCEP agreement and urged all leaders to give required mandate for "early conclusion" which means India is strongly committed to the RCEP.

Since the developmental circumstances of each country is different, therefore he urged that any multilateral agreement finalised should be modern, comprehensive, balanced and mutually beneficial.

At the summit, the leaders of the 16 negotiating countries reviewed the progress that has been made in the negotiations of the RCEP.

The negotiations among the countries in the bloc have been ongoing since 2012.

RBI, Govt trying to reach common ground on key issues

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Government and Reserve Bank seem to be veering around to reach an agreeable solution particularly with respect of relaxation of the Prompt Corrective Action (PCA) framework and easing of lending norms for the MSME sector ahead of the RBI board meeting on November 19, sources said.

If not in this board meeting, sources said, the issue of relaxation of PCA framework which the finance ministry has been pitching for would be reached in the next few weeks.

As a result of relaxation, some banks may come out of the PCA framework by the end of the current fiscal.

Of the 21 State-owned banks, 11 are under the PCA framework. These are Allahabad Bank, United Bank of India, Corporation Bank, IDBI Bank, UCO Bank, Bank of India, Central Bank of India, Indian Overseas Bank, Oriental Bank of Commerce, Dena Bank and Bank of Maharashtra.

The PCA framework kicks in when banks breach any of the three key regulatory trigger points namely capital to risk weighted assets ratio, Net non-performing assets (NPA) and return on assets (RoA).

The RBI is also likely to agree to easing of lending norms for the MSME sector including strict rating criteria to improve credit flow to this sector, sources said.

Besides, the central bank is expected to consider special dispensation for micro, small and medium enterprises (MSME) sector and non-bank-

ing financial companies (NBFCs) which have been facing liquidity issues.

The Government feels that the MSME sector which employs about 12 crore people plays a critical role in the economy, and the sector hit by demonetisation and implementation of Goods and Services Tax (GST) needs support.

However, the central bank has been averse to Government demand for special dispensations for MSME and NBFC sectors as it considers them vulnerable.

Last week, Finance Minister Arun Jaitley said there is a need to minimise NPAs in order to maintain the strength of the banking system and enable it to help the economy grow.

It is only a strong banking system that will be able to improve credit in those sectors which really need credit, the Finance Minister had said, adding, "The MSME sector needs credit, several other players in the market need credit. NBFCs today need credit because a large part of lending is done by them."

There are reports of growing tensions between the RBI and the government, with the Finance Ministry initiating discussion under the never-used-before Section 7 of the RBI Act which empowers the government to issue directions to the RBI Governor.

RBI Deputy Governor Viral Acharya had in a speech last month talked about the independence of the central bank, arguing that any compromise could be "potentially catastrophic" for the economy.

Banks' bad loans under farm loans rise to ₹9K cr

PTI ■ CHANDIGARH

With farmers "stopping" repayment of crop loans because of debt waiver of up to ₹2 lakh, non-performing assets under agriculture loans have risen to nearly ₹9,000 crore in Punjab, bankers said.

"Due to debt waiver for small and marginal farmers up to ₹2 lakh, farmers in the state of Punjab have stopped making repayment of their crop loans and the recovery scenario is being adversely affected," according to the State Level Bankers Committee report which was released on Wednesday.

Notably, under the scheme relief, up to ₹2 lakh would be provided to marginal and small farmers who have crop loans from cooperative institutions, public sector banks and other commercial banks as on March 31, 2017.

A bank official said several farmers were reluctant in repaying their crop loans and it has become one of the reasons in the rise in NPA level under farm sector.

As per SLBC report, the NPA under agriculture sector was to the tune of ₹8,952 crore as on September 30, 2018 as against ₹633 crore in corresponding period of last year.

The NPA amount of ₹8,952 crore was 11.20 per cent of outstanding agriculture advances as against 7.19 per cent in corresponding period of last year.

The NPA level as percentage of total advances also rose from 2.60 per cent in September 2017 to 3.47 per cent in 2018. The total outstanding agriculture advances in Punjab were to the tune of ₹79,963 crore as on September 30, 2018, as against ₹88,122 crore in corresponding period of last year.

Arunachal signs MoU with investors for projects worth ₹1,200 Cr

To create over 8000 gainful employment opportunities in the State

PTI ■ ITANAGAR

The Arunachal Pradesh government Wednesday signed MoUs with 17 private investors for projects worth ₹1,200 crore during the fifth edition of North East Connectivity Scheme at Tawang, an official release said.

The MoUs with private investors across sectors like tourism and hospitality, oil and gas, retail, power, equipment manufacturing and sports has potential to create over 8000 gainful employment opportunities in the state, it said.

The Polo Towers Group, a pioneering hospitality group has identified 11 investible projects in Arunachal worth ₹419 crore and will generate 1850 employment opportunities.

Jungle Travels India Pvt Ltd exchanged MoU to invest in 20 rooms Jungle Lodge in or near Pakke Tiger Reserve and Wildlife Sanctuary in East Kameng district with investment of ₹10 crore.

Headkicks exchanged MoU intending to organize football themed festivals with investment of ₹0.25 crore.

Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd exchanged MoU intending to deploy HAL-Dornier-228 Commuter Aircraft and ALH Dhruv helicopter for inter and intra state air connectivity in Arunachal, the release added.

ment of ₹10 crore and generate employment for 60 people.

Sterlite Power signed MoU to invest in detailed study of power system for Arunachal and take up upgrade and update project on annuity basis, it said.

They are also interested in supply and installation of OPWG network on entire transmission system.

The project shall garner investment of ₹325 crore.

Alinz Portable Petrol Pump Pvt Ltd exchanged MoU to setup portable petrol pumps in Arunachal and in Northeast, which will be executed in PPP with an investment of ₹500 crore providing employment to 5000 people, the release said.

Archt Electricals Pvt Ltd intends to setup a unit of manufacturing and repairing of electrical items like oil cool and air coil transformers of various type with investment of Rs 10 crore and employing about 100 people.

Mobisoft Technology exchanged MoU intending to setup IT hub with investment of ₹10 crore.

Headkicks exchanged MoU intending to organize football themed festivals with investment of ₹0.25 crore.

Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd exchanged MoU intending to deploy HAL-Dornier-228 Commuter Aircraft and ALH Dhruv helicopter for inter and intra state air connectivity in Arunachal, the release added.

SEASONS TEXTILES LIMITED					
CIN - L18101DL1986PLC024058					
Regd. Office: 26, Feroze Gandhi Road, Lower Ground Floor, Lajpat Nagar -III, New Delhi - 110024					
Email : cs.stl@seasonsworld.com, Website : www.seasonsworld.com					
Phone No. 0120-4690000 FAX : 0120-4351485					
EXTRACTS OF UNAUDITED STANDALONE FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR THE QUARTER AND HALF YEAR ENDED ON 30TH SEPTEMBER, 2018					
(Rs. In Lacs)					
PARTICULARS	Quarter ended	Half year ended	Quarter ended	Year Ended	
	30.09.2018	30.09.2018	30.09.2017	30.09.2018	31.03.2018
1 Total income from operations (Net)	603.38	1338.24	993.72	3774.29	
2 Net Profit / (Loss) for the period (before tax and exceptional items)	2.74	17.43	14.16	37.46	
3 Net Profit / (Loss) for the period (before tax and after exceptional items)	2.74	17.43	14.16	37.46	
4 Net Profit / (Loss) for the period (after tax and after exceptional items)	4.84	24.50	16.96	57.76	
5 Total comprehensive Income for the period after comprising Profit / (Loss) for the period (After tax) and other comprehensive Income (after Tax)	4.84	24.50	16.96	57.76	
6 Equity Share Capital	749.03	749.03	749.03	749.03	
7 Reserves (excluding Revaluation Reserve as shown in the Balance Sheet of previous year)				1560.97	
8 Earnings Per Share (Face Value of Rs. 10/- each) (for continuing and discontinued operations)					
Basic:	0.07	0.33	0.23	0.77	
Diluted:	0.07	0.33	0.23	0.77	

Note: The above results have been prepared in accordance with Indian Accounting Standards (IND AS). The above results have been reviewed by Audit Committee and approved by the Board of Directors of the Company at their respective meeting held on 14.11.2018 and have been subjected to limited review by the statutory auditor of the Company. The IND AS compliant corresponding figures for the quarter ended on 30th September 2018 have been subjected to limited review. However, the Company's management has exercised necessary due diligence to ensure that such financial results provide a true and fair view of its affairs.

For and on behalf of the Board of Directors
Sd/-
(Inderjeet Singh Wadhwa)
Chairman & Managing Director

Place: New Delhi
Date: 14.11.2018

RAMPUR FERTILIZERS LIMITED							
Registered Office: Judges Barelly Road, Rampur 244 901 (U.P.)							
CIN: L15136UP1988PLC010084							
Email id: info@rampurfert.com, Web: www.rampurfert.com							
Tel. No.: 0595-2352028, Fax No.: 0595-2352030							
EXTRACT OF UNAUDITED FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR THE QUARTER / HALF YEAR ENDED ON 30 SEPT., 2018.							
(Rs. in Lacs)							
S. No.	Particulars	Standalone Results					
		Quarter Ended		Six Month Ended		Year Ended	
		Unaudited	Unaudited	Unaudited	Unaudited	Audited	Audited
	30.09.2018	30.06.2018	30.09.2017	30.09.2018	30.09.2017	31.03.2018	
1	Total income from Operations	801.26	537.25	483.99	1438.51	875.75	1979.93
2	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period (before tax, exceptional items)	230.93	154.81	75.2	385.64	113.81	135.37
3	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period before tax (after exceptional items)	230.93	154.81	75.2	385.64	113.81	135.37
4	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period after tax	230.93	154.81	75.2	385.64	113.81	120.71
5	Paid up Equity Share Capital	494.82	494.82	494.82	494.82	494.82	494.82
6	Earnings/(loss) per share (of Rs. 10/- each) (not annualised, in Rs.) for continuing and discontinued operations						
(a)	Basic	4.67	3.13	1.52	7.79	2.30	2.44
(b)	Diluted	4.67	3.13	1.52	7.79	2.30	2.44

Note: The above is an extract of the financial results for the quarter / half year ended on 30th Sept. 2018 filed with the stock exchanges under regulation 33 of SEBI (LODR) Regulation, 2015. The full Financial results for the quarter ended 30th Sept. 2018 are available on www.mseil.in, www.cse-india.com and www.rampurfert.com.

By order of the Board
Sd/-
Anshuman Khaitan
(Managing Director)

Place: New Delhi
Date: 13.11.2018

ANSAL PHALAK INFRASTRUCTURE PRIVATE LIMITED					
CIN : U70100DL2010PTC208167					
115, Ansal Bhawan, 16 Kasturba Gandhi Marg, New Delhi Delhi - 110001					
FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR THE YEAR/HALF YEAR ENDED ON THE 30TH SEPTEMBER, 2018					
[Regulation 52(B), read with Regulation 52(4), of the SEBI (LODR) Regulations, 2015]					
(Rs. In Lacs)					
S. No.	PARTICULARS	Standalone		Consolidated	
		Half year ended (30/09/2018) (Un Audited)	Half year ended (30/09/2017) (Un Audited)	Half year ended (30/09/2018) (Un Audited)	Half year ended (30/09/2017) (Un Audited)
1	Total Income from Operations	2,893.27	341.83	2,893.27	341.83
2	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period (before Tax, Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items#)	451.52	17.12	451.46	16.88
3	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period before tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items#)	451.52	17.12	451.46	16.88
4	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period after tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items#)	456.02	19.87	455.96	19.63
5	Total Comprehensive Income for the period [Comprising Profit / (Loss) for the period (after tax) and Other Comprehensive Income (after tax)]	456.02	19.87	455.96	19.63
6	Paid up Equity Share Capital	1.45	1.45	1.45	1.45
7	Reserves (excluding Revaluation Reserve)	11,609.14	11,582.84	11,610.59	11,583.82
8	Net worth	11,610.59	11,584.29	11,612.04	11,585.27
9	Paid up Debt Capital / Outstanding Debt	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
10	Outstanding Redeemable Preference Shares	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
11	Debt Equity Ratio	3.29	3.20	3.29	3.20
12	Earnings Per Share (of Rs. 10/- each) (for continuing and discontinued operations) -				
1. Basic:		3,141.91	136.87	3,141.50	135.23
2. Diluted:		308.26	13.43	308.22	13.27
13	Capital Redemption Reserve	Nil	Nil	-	-
14	Debt Redemption Reserve	1,502.45	1,502.45	1,502.45	1,502.45
15	Debt Service Coverage Ratio	10.98	0.82	10.95	0.81
16	Interest Service Coverage Ratio	11.22	1.42	11.15	1.41

Note: (a) The above audited financial results were reviewed by the Audit Committee, and approved by the Board of Directors at their respective meetings held on Tuesday, the 13TH November, 2018.
(b) The above is an extract of the detailed format of half yearly financial results filed with the Stock Exchanges under Regulation 52 of the SEBI (Listing and Other Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015 and in terms of SEBI Circular (CIR/IMD/DF/1/69/2016) dated August 10, 2016. The full financial results are available on the websites of the Bombay Stock Exchange at www.bseindia.com and also on Company's website at http://www.ansalapi.com/group-websites.php
(c) For the items referred in sub-clauses (a), (b), (d) and (e) of the Regulation 52 (4) of the SEBI (Listing and Other Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015, the pertinent disclosures have been made to the Stock Exchange, BSE Limited and can be accessed on the URL http://www.ansalapi.com/group-websites.php (e) The Above results of the Company have been Audited by the Statutory Auditors and they have issued an unqualified audit opinion on the same.

For and on behalf of the Board of Directors
For Ansal Phalak Infrastructure Private Limited
Sd/-
Rajender Kumar Gautam
Director

Place: New Delhi
Date: 13/11/2018
DIN:08074793

WESTERN RAILWAY E-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE No.S/44/2018 Date 12/11/2018					
S.N.	Tender No.	Description of Material	Quantity	EMD (₹)	
1011	04-18-2007	Air Drying, Finishing Scamic Olive Green Paint	10500 Ltr.	21100	
1012	07-18-1006	Pin Complete 23.93/23.88 MM	1124 Nos.	800	
1013	11-18-5085	Syringe Pump	9 Nos.	6100	
1014	15-18-0610	Non Asbestos Based 'K' type High Fractional Composite Brake Block	176272 Nos.	500000	
1015	15-18-1012	Safety Strap for Axle Box Guide Arrangement	11477 Nos.	24800	
1016	22-17-5121	Set of Axle Boxes Complete Without Roller Bearing (CRU-150)	2 Sets	16200	
1017	22-18-0603	Pressure Switch SWC	259 Nos.	27500	
1018	30-18-1627	Various Child Parts of Water Cooled Air Compressor	1552 Nos.	73100	
1019	30-18-3113	Various Child Parts of Water Cooled Air Compressor	477 Nos.	64100	
1020	07-18-1203	Cable Signalling Unscreened Size 6 Core x 1.5 Sq.mm	1133.22 KM	1000000	
1021	09-18-1086	Pressure Reducing Valve	10 Nos.	2400	
1022	15-17-1795	Push Cook	15350 Nos.	18700	
1023	15-18-1011	Compensating Ring	3275 Nos.	7800	
1024	15-18-1709	Outer Door Assembly	250 Nos.	49900	
1025	15-18-1710	Outer Door Assembly	225 Nos.	41100	
1026	22-17-5146	Set of Pivot Housing for Three Phase Locos	22 Set	197700	
1027	15-18-0683	Brake Gear Bush for ICF Coaches	252148 Nos.	143800	
1028	15-18-0685	Brake Gear Bush for ICF Coaches	368000 Nos.	128700	
1029	15-18-1360	Brake Gear Bush for ICF Coaches	93441 Nos.	116600	
1030	30-18-3126	Various Child Parts of Water Cooled Air Compressor	328 Nos.	69000	
1031	30-18-3173	Element Filter Fibre Glass ECC	865 Nos.	37000	
1032	04-18-3324	Flexible Poly Vinyl Chloride (PVC) Flooring Sheet	77 Nos.	17500	
1033	04-18-5164	DL Sheet 3 mm (Blue)	2000 Nos.	49000	
1034	09-18-3345	Set of Dry Type Capacitor	10 Set	620	
1035	15-18-0506	Collar for Direct Mounted Roller Bearing Arrangement	5105 Nos.	40300	
1036	15-18-1007	Protective Tube Complete Assembly	8828 Nos.	58400	
1037	15-18-1081	Guide Bush for Axle Box Guide Arrangement	87574 Nos.	173300	
1038	22-18-1676	BCH Make Oil Tight	95 Nos.	855	
1039	30-18-2175	Pad Bonded Contact	411 Nos.	47800	
1040	03-18-5002	Wood Based Resin Impregnated Compressed Laminates Type	2125 Sq.mm	43100	
1041	15-18-0679	Spare Part Kit set for Distributor Valve	950 Set	52300	

Tender Opening Date for above tenders are, Sr.No.1011 to 1019:- 03.12.2018, Sr.No.1020 to 1021:- 04.12.2018, Sr.No.1022 to 1026:- 05.12.2018, Sr.No.1027 to 1031:- 06.12.2018, Sr.No.1032 to 1039:- 10.12.2018, Sr.No. 1040 to 1041:- 12.12.2018. Regarding detailed notice containing cost of tender document (non-refundable) for manual tenders, EMD, Purchase restrictions and detailed tender conditions, please visit website www.ireps.gov.in and www.wr.indianrailways.gov.in. Manual offers will not be considered.

For Principal Chief Materials Manager
About items needing new vendors, detailed information is available on portal, "E-exhibition for Vendor Development" on the home page of Western Railway website.

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IHCL records PAT growth of ₹53 crore in Q2 of FY19

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Indian Hotels Company Limited (IHCL) announced its Quarter 2, FY 18-19 results recording a PAT growth of ₹53 crore with 82% operating EBITDA growth and 14% sales growth for the Quarter.

The company has witnessed a good growth momentum. The company has also added an addition of 15 new hotels, an inventory of 1825 rooms and a 90 percent growth in pipeline over the last one year.

Spicejet Q2 net loss at ₹389.37 cr due to high fuel cost, falling Rupee

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Low-cost carrier Spicejet Ltd on Wednesday reported a standalone net loss of ₹389.37 crore in the second quarter ended September 30, impacted by high fuel costs and rupee depreciation.

The company posted a net profit of ₹105.27 crore in the same quarter last fiscal, Spicejet said in a regulatory filing. Net income from operations during the quarter under review stood at ₹1,848.28 crore. It was at ₹1,794.57 crore in the corresponding period of the previous fiscal.

HINDUSTAN EVEREST TOOLS LTD.				
Regd. & H.O. Dohli Chambers, 46, Nehru Place, New Delhi 110 019				
CIN : L74899DL1962PLC003634, Ph:91-11-46692600, Fax : 011-41606788				
E-mail: ho@everesttools.com, Web-site: http://www.everesttools.com				
EXTRACT OF UNAUDITED STANDALONE FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR THE QUARTER AND SIX MONTHS ENDED 30TH SEPTEMBER, 2018				
(Rs. in Lakhs)				
Particulars	3 months ended	Corresponding 3 months ended	Year to date figures for current period ended	
	30.09.2018 (Unaudited)	30.09.2017 (Unaudited)	30.09.2018 (Unaudited)	30.09.2018 (Unaudited)
Total income from discontinued operations (Net)	52.38	1690.73	86.58	
Net Profit / (Loss) from discontinued operations for the period (before Tax, Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items#)	(65.66)	1717.94	(133.59)	
Net Profit / (Loss) from discontinued operations for the period before tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items#)	(65.66)	1717.94	(133.59)	
Net Profit / (Loss) from discontinued operations for the period after tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items#)	(65.66)	1717.94	(133.59)	
Total Comprehensive Income from discontinued operations for the period [Comprising Profit / (Loss) for the period (after tax) and Other Comprehensive Income (after tax)]	(65.66)	1717.94	(133.59)	
Equity Share Capital	160.72	160.72	160.72	
Reserves (excluding Revaluation Reserves as shown in the Audited Balance Sheet of Previous year)	-	-	-	
Earnings Per Share (before extraordinary items)(of Rs. 10/- each)				
(a) Basic	(4.09)	106.89	(8.31)	
(b) Diluted	(4.09)	106.89	(8.31)	
Earnings Per Share (after extraordinary items) (of Rs. 10/- each)				
(a) Basic	(4.09)	106.89	(8.31)	
(b) Diluted	(4.09)	106.89	(8.31)	

Notes: 1. The Company has closed production in its sole manufacturing facility during the financial year ended 31-March

WPI inflation hits 4-mth high

RBI may maintain status quo in next policy review

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Inflation based on wholesale prices spiked to a four-month high of 5.28 per cent in October mainly due to rise in fuel prices, but the RBI is likely to maintain status quo in its next monetary policy review as crude prices and currency are stabilising.

The Wholesale Price Index-based inflation stood at 5.13 per cent in September and 3.68 per cent in October last year. Food articles witnessed softening of prices with deflation at 0.21 per cent in October, against 0.21 per cent in September, government data released on Wednesday showed. Vegetables too became cheaper with deflation at 18.65 per cent in October, compared to 3.83 per cent in the previous month.

Inflation in 'fuel and power' basket in October spiked to 18.44 per cent, from 16.65 per cent in September. Individually, in petrol and diesel it was 19.85 per cent and 23.91 per cent, respectively, and for liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) it was 31.39 per cent during October.

The WPI inflation is in contrast to the retail or consumer price index-based inflation data released earlier this week. The October CPI inflation had cooled to a year-low of 3.31 per cent.

'While the uptick in both the core-CPI and core-WPI inflation in October 2018 warrants some caution, the recent pullback in the rupee and crude oil prices has softened the risks to the inflation trajectory'

ICRA principal economist Aditi Nayar said the uptick in the WPI inflation in October reflected the impact of the pass through of higher commodity prices and the rupee depreciation. The disinflation in food prices had a much smaller impact on wholesale inflation than the CPI, given the difference in weights for food items in the two indices.

"Despite the change in the monetary policy stance to calibrated tightening and the uptick in the core-CPI and core-WPI inflation in October 2018, the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) appears likely to maintain a status quo on the repo rate in the December 2018 policy review, following the decline in the October 2018 headline CPI inflation, the deep correction in crude oil prices, and the pullback in the INR," Nayar said.

The RBI is scheduled to come out with its fifth bi-monthly policy review statement on December 5.

She said that the easing in the crude oil prices and the recent strengthening of the rupee, would keep WPI inflation range bound between 4.5-5 per cent in October-March period.

Nayar said the core WPI inflation hardened to a three-month high of 5.1 per cent in October, reflecting the impact of the rupee depreciation on the landed price of imports.

"While the uptick in both the core-CPI and core-WPI inflation in October 2018 warrants some caution, the recent pullback in the rupee and crude oil prices has softened the risks to the inflation trajectory," she added.

The Indian rupee had touched the record closing low of 74.39 in October, and ended the month with total losses of 104 paise or 1.43 per cent due to a strengthening dollar, firming oil prices and trade worries. Since then the currency has recovered and is now trading around 72.2 to a dollar.

Brent crude, the international benchmark, was trading around USD 76.25 per barrel in October. The Brent crude futures is now trading at USD 65 to a barrel. To cushion the impact of global fuel price rise, the government had, with effect from October 5, cut excise duty on petrol and diesel by ₹1.50 per litre and had asked state-owned oil firms to subsidise the fuel by another ₹1 a litre.

The 5.28 per cent inflation is the highest in four months, and a higher inflation than this level was last seen in June at 5.68 per cent.

Among food articles, potato prices continued to rule high with 93.65 per cent WPI inflation in October. While onion witnessed deflation of 31.69 per cent, the same for pulses stood at 13.92 per cent.

The Reserve Bank of India mainly takes into account retail inflation data while formulating monetary policy. In its fourth monetary policy review for the fiscal, released last month, the RBI maintained status quo on the benchmark interest rate but warned that volatile and rising oil prices, and tightening of global financial conditions posed substantial risks to the growth and inflation.

For October-March, the RBI pegged CPI-based retail inflation to be between 3.9-4.5 per cent.

Govt launches credit scheme for co-op startups

New Delhi: Agriculture Minister Radha Mohan Singh on Wednesday announced the launch of a scheme that aims to provide cheaper loans to startups in the co-operative sector and those having innovative projects costing up to ₹3 crore.

The 'Co-operative Enterprise Support and Innovation Scheme' will be implemented by the National Co-operative Development Corporation and will be linked to its Co-operative Startup and Innovation Fund that has an annual corpus of ₹100 crore. "The new scheme aims to encourage newly formed co-operatives to take advantage of innovative ventures, especially by societies having new and innovative ideas," Singh said after inaugurating the 65th All India Co-operative Week organised by the National Co-operative Union of India here.

Co-operatives operating for at least for one year and having a positive net worth are eligible to avail credit under the scheme for new and innovative project ideas, he said. The project cost should not exceed ₹3 crore and there would be two years moratorium on payment of principal amount, he said, adding that the period of moratorium may vary depending on type of project and ability to generate revenue. The credit will be provided at 2 per cent less than the applicable interest rate on term loan for the project activities.

Market ends flat after choppy session; pharma, IT stocks crack

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Benchmark equity indices gave up early gains to end marginally lower at 35,141.99 after a highly volatile session on Wednesday as losses in pharma and information technology shares offset gains in energy, banking and metal stocks, amid weak global cues.

The BSE Sensex swung nearly 365 points both sides on heavy buying and selling during the session. The 30-share index, after a gap-up opening at 35,330.14 points, hit a high of 35,351.88 points at the outset on the back of sliding global crude oil prices and recovery in rupee.

However, a weak trend in most other Asian markets and a lower opening of European markets, triggered selling on the domestic bourses, dragging the Sensex into negative terrain to hit a low of 34,986.86. The index finally settled 2.50 points, or 0.01% down at 35,141.99. It had rallied 332 points on Tuesday.

Similarly, the broader NSE Nifty, after shutting between 10,651.60 and 10,532.70 points on alternate bouts of buying and selling, closed 6.20 points, or 0.06%, down at 10,576.30.

According to analyst, market was volatile despite fall in oil prices and appreciation in rupee as concerns about domestic liquidity and weak global cues overrode the sentiment. "Oil

prices fell to \$65/barrel and will ease concerns on current account deficit. IT and pharma indices witnessed selling pressure due to stronger rupee while stock-specific buying on the basis of quarterly results and decline in oil prices supported out-performance of midcaps," they added.

The rupee strengthened 50 paise to 72.17 against the US dollar (intra-session) in late afternoon trade. It scaled a high of 71.99 at the outset.

Sun Pharma emerged worst performer in the Sensex kitty, plunging 7.36%, after the company on Tuesday reported a consolidated net loss of ₹218.82 crore for the July-September quarter on account of a ₹1,214-crore provision for the settlement of the Modafinil antitrust case in the US.

Stocks of software exporters such as TCS, Infosys and Wipro lost up to 2.85% due to stronger rupee which rose 50 paise to 72.17 against the US dollar in late afternoon trade. It scaled a high of 71.99 at the outset.

Shares of Tata Motors fell 1.67% after Moody's Investors Service on Wednesday changed 'Tata Motors' rating outlook to negative from stable, citing expectations of weak operating performance of the company's British arm Jaguar Land Rover (JLR). Other laggards were Kotak Bank, M&M, Yes Bank, Axis

Bank, Adani Ports, Vedanta, Hero MotoCorp, I&T, RIL and ITC, falling up to 3.04%.

Among gainers, Maruti Suzuki, ONGC, Asian Paint, SBI, IndusInd Bank, HUL, ICICI Bank, HDFC Bank, Bharti Airtel, PowerGrid, HDFC, Bajaj Auto and NTPC, rose up to 2.85%.

Shares of oil marketing companies and aviation operators rose on falling crude oil prices. State-run HPCL, BPCL and IOC gained up to 4.75%. In the aviation sector, shares of Interglobe Aviation and Jet Airways gained up to 7.67%.

Sectorally, the BSE IT index emerged as the top loser by falling 2.24%, followed by teck index that shed 1.86%, healthcare 1.65%, metal 1.52%, metal 0.81%, auto 0.66% and capital goods 0.46%.

On the other hand, oil and gas index was the best performer surging 1.18%. PSU index gained 1.07%, FMCG 0.94%, bankex 0.52%, power 0.39% and infrastructure 0.39%.

Investors turned cautious on news that inflation based on wholesale prices hit a four-month high of 5.28 per cent in October, mainly due to spike in petrol and diesel prices, too influenced investor sentiment here, brokers said. The broader markets depicted a mixed trend with mid-cap index rising 0.09%, while small-cap index fell 0.15%.

NIFTY 50

SCRIP	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	LTP	CHANGE
HINDPETRO	242	261.65	241.25	242.2	9.9
BPCL	313	329.4	312.85	314.05	10.9
UPL	738.2	761.8	736.5	759	22.45
MARUTI	7,180.10	7,409.00	7,180.10	7,350.20	199.75
IOC	146	155.5	144.2	145.2	3.8
ONGC	157.7	163.9	157.25	160.6	4.1
ASIANPAINT	1,312.00	1,337.95	1,302.00	1,318.00	33.1
ULTRACEMCO	3,838.00	3,978.30	3,830.35	3,910.00	80.9
HINDUNILVR	1,672.00	1,739.50	1,668.05	1,706.00	34.1
SBIN	280.4	287.7	278	283.05	5
INDUSINDBK	1,498.00	1,529.00	1,492.50	1,512.00	26.45
HDFCBANK	1,938.55	1,960.00	1,936.60	1,959.90	32.15
ICICIBANK	365	369.9	361.3	366.3	5.4
BHARTIARTL	300	311.8	298	301.15	3.6
HDFC	1,836.00	1,850.00	1,820.25	1,838.00	13.3
POWERGRID	184.3	187	184.1	185.35	1.3
DRREDDY	2,449.90	2,470.00	2,406.80	2,455.00	16.95
BAJAJ-AUTO	2,675.00	2,714.90	2,652.00	2,680.00	14.5
GRASIM	881	891.7	868	881	4.75
NTPC	157	160.6	156.4	157.5	0.7
INFRAEEL	260	261.5	256.85	259.1	0.7
BAJFINANCE	2,299.00	2,315.00	2,265.00	2,287.00	2
ZEE	440	470	420.7	438.15	0.05
RELIANCE	1,105.05	1,112.65	1,085.50	1,099.00	-0.45
BAJAJFINSV	5,606.00	5,648.00	5,560.00	5,569.10	-2.6
COALINDIA	267	267	263.75	265.3	-0.25
EICHERMOT	23,300.00	24,184.00	23,056.00	23,198.65	-43.2
ITC	278.1	278.4	274.65	276.15	-0.7
ADANIPT	335.3	337	329.5	332.4	-1.7
ADANIPOR	1,394.00	1,398.00	1,379.00	1,384.00	-7.1
WIPRO	325	326.1	318.65	324.15	-2
IBULHSGFN	851	854.9	835.05	836.6	-5.35
TITAN	897.05	897.5	883	891.5	-6
TATASTEEL	605	610.6	584.3	584.5	-4.7
VEDL	206.5	207.9	203.55	203.8	-1.8
HEROMOTOCO	2,898.90	2,927.40	2,823.00	2,851.85	-27.85
AXISBANK	622.25	623.3	608.8	610.6	-7.7
HINDALCO	232.75	233.4	228.3	228.6	-2.95
CIPLA	530.6	532.6	517	520.9	-7.2
YESBANK	226.9	229	221	222.05	-3.4
TATAMOTORS	180.5	183	176.25	176.75	-2.75
INFY	665.7	665.7	640.5	652.4	-13.3
M&M	793.1	797.4	765.5	772.15	-17.9
JSWSTEEL	351	353.75	337.25	338.25	-9.95
TCS	1,925.00	1,929.90	1,870.00	1,880.00	-54.85
HCLTECH	1,031.00	1,031.40	983	997	-36.2
KOTAKBANK	1,170.10	1,175.00	1,122.40	1,125.00	-40.9
GAIL	366.2	367.3	349.55	352.5	-12.85
TECHM	725	727.9	692.1	702	-26.05

NIFTY NEXT 50

SCRIP	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	LTP	CHANGE
NIFTY 50	10,634.90	10,651.60	10,532.70	10,576.30	-6.2
HINDPETRO	242	261.65	241.25	242.2	9.9
BPCL	313	329.4	312.85	314.05	10.9
UPL	738.2	761.8	736.5	759	22.45
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ONGC	157.7	163.9	157.25	160.6	4.1
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ULTRACEMCO	3,838.00	3,978.30	3,830.35	3,910.00	80.9
HINDUNILVR	1,672.00	1,739.50	1,668.05	1,706.00	34.1
SBIN	280.4	287.7	278	283.05	5
INDUSINDBK	1,498.00	1,529.00	1,492.50	1,512.00	26.45
HDFCBANK	1,938.55	1,960.00	1,936.60	1,959.90	32.15
ICICIBANK	365	369.9	361.3	366.3	5.4
BHARTIARTL	300	311.8	298	301.15	3.6
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CIPLA	530.6	532.6	517	520.9	-7.2
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INFY	665.7	665.7	640.5	652.4	-13.3
M&M	793.1	797.4	765.5	772.15	-17.9
JSWSTEEL	351	353.75	337.25	338.25	-9.95
TCS	1,925.00	1,929.90	1,870.00	1,880.00	-54.85
HCLTECH	1,031.00	1,031.40	983	997	-36.2
KOTAKBANK	1,170.10	1,175.00	1,122.40	1,125.00	-40.9
GAIL	366.2	367.3	349.55	352.5	-12.85
TECHM	725	727.9	692.1	702	-26.05
SUNPHARMA	557.2	558.8	516	520.8	-40.95

BSE 500

Script	Last	Abs	Change	CONCOR	666.15	-4.4	-0.66	GRANULES	103.5	-1.5	-1.43	ITDC	309.9	5.05	1.66	MINDAIND	358	6.75	1.92	SHRIRAMCIT	1551.65	-28.2	-1.78
3MINDIA	20799	298.3	1.46	COROMANDEL	423	4.75	1.14	GRAPHITE	999.3	-10.15	-1.01	ITDCEM	115.2	0.85	0.74	MINDTREE	847.4	2.9	0.34	SIEMENS	887	-28.65	-3.13
8KMLIS	106.5	5.05	4.98	CORPBANK	27.75	0.35	1.28	GRASIM	875	-2.3	-0.26	ITI	91.55	1.1	1.22	MMTC	30.6	-0.8	-2.55	SIS	815	-5	-0.61
AARTIND	1416.4	40.95	2.98	CRISIL	1502.5	-4.6	-0.31	GREAVESCOT	122	-0.2	-0.16	J&K BANK	39.65	-1.1	-2.7	MOIL	174.25	-2.1	-1.19	SVN	28	0	0
ABB	1287	-7.2	-0.56	CROMPTON	205.85	-0.2	-0.1	GREENPLY	140.25	0.9	0.65	JAGRAN	113.45	2.3	2.07	MONSANTO	2530	-49.95	-1.94	SKFINDIA	1858.05	13.05	0.71
ABBOTINDIA	7605	93.65	1.25	CUB	163.7	-1.65	-1	GRINDWELL	485.05	-4.95	-1.01	JAICORPLTD	115.85	-1.7	-1.45	MOTHERSUMI	153.6	-12.6	-7.58	SOBHA	448.35	-6.05	-1.33
ABCAPITAL	107.15	3.6	3.48	CUMMINSIND	790.9	6.95	0.89	GRUH	301.55	1.3	0.43	JAMNAAUTO	73.2	-1.1	-1.48	MOTILALOSFI	660	16.55	2.57	SOLARINDS	1025	16.35	

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 CIN: L65921DL1989PLC035261

EXTRACT FROM STANDALONE UN-AUDITED FINANCIAL RESULT FOR THE QUARTER ENDED 30TH SEPTEMBER, 2018 (Rs. in Lacs)

PARTICULARS	Quarter ended	Year ended	Quarter ended
	30.09.2018 (Unaudited)	31.03.2018 (Audited)	30.09.2017 (Unaudited)
Total income from operations (net)	8.68	32.49	8.22
Net Profit/(Loss) for the period (before tax, Exceptional and/or Extraordinary Items)	3.22	2.68	0.05
Net Profit/(Loss) for the period before tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary Items)	3.22	2.68	0.05
Net Profit/(Loss) for the period after tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary Items)	3.12	2.12	0.13
Total Comprehensive Income for the period [Comprising Profit/(Loss) for the period (after tax) and other comprehensive income (after tax)]	3.12	2.12	0.13
Equity Share Capital	287.67	287.67	287.67
Reserves (excluding revaluation reserve as shown in the balance sheet of previous year)	-	65.85	-
Earnings per share (of Rs. 10/- each) (for continuing and discontinued operations)			
- Basic :	0.11	0.07	0.00
- Diluted :	0.11	0.07	0.00

NOTES:
 1. The above financial results have been reviewed and recommended by the audit committee and approved by the Board of Directors at its meeting held on 14.11.2018
 2. The Company has not received any complaint from investors during the quarter ended on 30.09.2018
 3. As the source of income comes from single segment of finance and investment, hence the segment reporting as under AS-17 is not applicable.
 4. This Statement is as per Regulation 33 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulation, 2015.
 5. Figures of previous period are re-grouped/re-classified/re-arranged, where ever necessary to corresponded with current period.
 6. Being the first year of applicability of INDAS the comparative period figures have been disclosed considering the exemptions provided in the Circular No. CIR/CFD/CMD/15/2015 dated November 30, 2015 of Securities and Exchange Board of India.

Sd/-
 Vinod Gupta
 (Whole Time Director)
 DIN: 00381782

Place : Delhi
 Date : 14.11.2018

NEERAJ PAPER MARKETING LIMITED
 CIN: L74899DL1995PLC066194
 Regd. Office: 218-222, Agarwal Prestige Mall, PLOT NO. 2, Community Center, Along Road No. 44, Pitampura, Delhi - 110034
 Board: +91 11 47527700, Fax: +91 11 47527777, E-mail: vaishali@neerajpaper.com ; Website: www.neerajpaper.com

UNAUDITED FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR THE QUARTER & HALF YEAR ENDED 30TH SEP, 2018 (Rs. in Lakhs)

Sl. No.	Particulars	(STANDALONE)				
		30-Sep-18	30-Sep-18	30-Sep-17	30-Sep-17	30-Jun-18
		3 months (Unaudited)	6 months (Unaudited)	3 months (Unaudited)	6 months (Unaudited)	3 Month (Unaudited)
1	Total Income from Operations	5308.31	13427.27	6202.24	16007.74	8118.96
2	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period (before Tax, Exceptional and/or Extraordinary Items)	27.23	63.48	54.99	88.44	36.25
3	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period before tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary Items)	27.23	63.48	54.99	88.44	36.25
4	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period after tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary Items)	15.25	41.02	39.47	62.44	25.77
5	Total Comprehensive Income for the period [Comprising Profit / (Loss) for the period (after tax) and Other Comprehensive Income (after tax)]	15.25	41.02	39.47	62.44	25.77
6	Equity Share Capital	1100.00	1100.00	1100.00	1100.00	1100.00
7	Reserves (excluding Revaluation Reserve) as shown in audited balance sheet of previous year	1311.62	1311.62	1529.58	1529.58	1311.62
8	Earnings Per Share (of Rs. 10/- each)					
1. Basic:		0.14	0.37	0.36	0.57	0.23
2. Diluted:		0.14	0.37	0.36	0.57	0.23

NOTE:
 1. The above is an extract of the detailed format of Quarterly & Half Yearly Unaudited Financial Result filed with the Stock Exchanges under Regulation 33 of the SEBI (Listing and Other Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the Quarterly & half yearly Unaudited Financial Results are available on Stock Exchange websites (www.bseindia.com).
 2. The above results were reviewed and recommended by the audit committee and taken on record by the Board of Director at its meeting held on 14.11.2018 and the Statutory Auditor has carried Limited Review of the same.

Sd/-
 DEEPAK GOEL
 (WHOLE TIME DIRECTOR)
 DIN: 00200527

Place : Delhi
 Date : 14/11/2018

ANS INDUSTRIES LTD.
 (CIN-L15130HR1994PLC032362)
 Regd Office : 136 KM, Vill & P.O.-Shamgarh, District-Karnal, Haryana-132116
 Website : www.ansfoods.com, E-mail id - ansagro.limited@gmail.com

EXTRACT OF STANDALONE UNAUDITED FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR 2ND QUARTER & HALF YEAR ENDED 30TH SEPTEMBER, 2018 (Rs. in Lakhs)

Sl. No.	Particulars	Quarter Ended	Half Year Ended	Quarter Ended
		30.09.2018 (Unaudited)	30.09.2018 (Unaudited)	30.09.2017 (Unaudited)
I	Total Income from operations	7.00	13.97	123.2
II	Net Profit/(Loss) for the period (before tax and exceptional items)	-29.40	-45.77	14.46
III	Net Profit/(Loss) for the period before tax (after exceptional items)	-29.40	-45.77	14.46
IV	Net Profit/(Loss) for the period after tax & exceptional items	-29.40	-45.77	14.46
V	Total Comprehensive Income for the period (comprising profit/(loss) for the period after tax & other comprehensive income)	-29.40	-45.77	14.46
VI	Paid-up equity share capital (Face Value Rs. 10 per share)	925.56	925.56	925.56
VII	Other Equity/Reserves excluding reserves as shown in Audited Balance Sheet of the previous year	925.56	925.56	925.56
VIII	Earnings per equity share of Rs.10 /each (not annualised)			
(a) Basic				
(b) Diluted				

NOTES:
 1. The above result is an extract of detailed format of 2nd quarter and half year ended 30th September, 2018 filed with Stock Exchange (BSE) as per exchange (BSE) as per Reg 33 of SEBI (LODR) Regulations, 2015 and full format is available on the website of the company and BSE Company www.ansfoods.com and BSE www.bseindia.com.
 2. The above results for 2nd quarter & half year ended 30th September, 2018 were reviewed by the Audit Committee and approved Board of Directors at their meeting held on 13/11/2018.
 3. Figures for the previous year / period have been re-arranged wherever necessary.

Standalone Statement of Assets & Liabilities as at 30th September, 2018 (Rs. in Lakhs)

Sl. No.	Particulars	As at 30.09.2018	As at 31.03.2018
		(Unaudited)	(Audited)
1	ASSETS		
1	Non-current assets		
(a)	Property, plant and equipments	893.11	830.61
(b)	Capital work-in-progress	0.00	0.00
(c)	Investment Property		
(d)	Financial Assets		
i	Investment	1.25	1.25
ii	Trade receivables		
iii	Loans		
iv	Others	157.66	157.66
(e)	Deferred tax assets	27.89	27.89
(f)	Other Intangible assets		
(g)	Other non-current assets	44.60	44.60
	Total Non-current Assets	1,124.51	1,062.01
2	Current Assets		
(a)	Inventories	255.00	388.17
(b)	Financial Assets		
i	Investment		
ii	Trade receivables	162.15	135.02
iii	Cash and cash equivalents	186.51	243.51
iv	Loans	592.07	573.07
v	Other		
(c)	Current Tax Assets (Net)		
(d)	Other Current Assets	47.32	51.18
	Total current assets	1,243.05	1,390.95
	TOTAL ASSETS	2,367.56	2,452.96
II	EQUITY AND LIABILITIES		
1	Equity Shareholders Fund		
(a)	Equity Share Capital	925.56	925.56
(b)	Other Equity	370.97	416.74
	Total Equity Shareholders Fund		
2	Liabilities		
(a)	Non-Current Liabilities		
(i)	Financial Liabilities		
(ii)	Borrowings	24.78	20.59
(iii)	Other Financial Liabilities	1.80	1.80
(b)	Provisions		
(c)	Deferred tax liabilities (net)		
(d)	Other Non-current liabilities	5.99	5.99
	Total Non-current liabilities	1,329.10	1,370.68
3	Current Liabilities		
(a)	Financial Liabilities		
(i)	Borrowing	792.40	882.40
(ii)	Other Financial Liabilities	57.02	37.02
(b)	Provisions	36.19	32.13
(c)	Other current liabilities	152.85	130.73
	Total current liabilities	1,038.46	1,082.28
	TOTAL EQUITY AND LIABILITIES	2,367.56	2,452.96

For ANS industries Limited Sd/-
 (Mehinder Sharma)
 Managing Director
 DIN-00036252
 Date : 13.11.2018
 Place : New Delhi
 E-156, GK-1, New Delhi-110048

B'desh ready for Rohingya repatriation

Dhaka: Bangladesh on Wednesday was preparing to go ahead with the planned repatriation of hundreds of thousands of Rohingya refugees who last year fled a violent military crackdown in Myanmar, despite concerns over their safety.

The plans to send Rohingya refugees back to Myanmar gathered momentum, with reports of Bangladesh armed forces gathering in the Cox's Bazar camps and allegations that the authorities for refusing to cooperate, according to a report in the Guardian.

The first phase of the Rohingya's return to Myanmar will begin on Thursday, according to an agreement signed between the two countries on November 23, 2017.

"We have seen their concerns, but so far the decision has not been changed," Refugee Relief and Repatriation Commissioner Abul Kalam told *Efe* news.

The two governments agreed to repatriate 2,251 of some 723,000 Rohingya refugees living in camps in Cox's Bazaar of Bangladesh.

The Army, police and paramilitary troops moved into several of the camps in Bangladesh, where over 7,00,000 Rohingya have been living after fleeing a campaign of violence, described as genocide by a UN fact-finding mission.

According to the *Guardian*, there have been reports of Bangladesh camp officials assaulting Rohingya refugees who refused to cooperate, in a sign that the repatriations may not be voluntary, despite multiple assurances by Bangladesh that it would not force any Rohingya to go back.

Meanwhile, UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Michelle Bachelet on Tuesday urged Bangladesh to halt the plan, warning that the repatriation would violate international law and put the lives of the refugees at serious risk.

Rohingya leaders echoed those concerns, saying it was too soon to start the repatriation.

"This repatriation is not going to be sustainable," Abdur Rahim, a leader of Arakan Rohingya Society for Peace and Human Rights, said. **IANS**

Pence says Myanmar's handling of Rohingya 'without excuse'

Singapore: Myanmar's leader Aung San Suu Kyi has rebuffed criticism over her government's treatment of its ethnic Rohingya Muslims.

US Vice-President Mike Pence told Suu Kyi on Wednesday that the violence, which led more than 7,00,000 of the country's Rohingya minority to flee for Bangladesh since August 2017, was "without excuse."

Pence also said Myanmar's arrests and convictions of two

Reuters journalists was "deeply troubling" to millions of Americans.

Pence and Suu Kyi met on the sidelines of the annual summit of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations in Singapore. Pence said the meeting was at Suu Kyi's request.

Suu Kyi said only Myanmar was in a position to explain what happened and how it saw things, just as Americans could best understand what is happening there. **AP**

UK significantly closer to delivering Brexit, says May

London: The UK is "significantly closer" to delivering on the result of the Brexit vote, Theresa May has told MPs.

The PM was speaking before a crunch cabinet meeting where she is seeking her senior ministers' backing for the UK and EU's draft agreement. She told the Commons it would give the UK control of borders, laws and money - and also protect business and jobs. But Jeremy Corbyn said the UK would be stuck in an "indefinite half-way house without any real say" over the rules.

Speaking at PM's Questions, the Labour leader said May was putting a "false choice" before Parliament between her "botched deal and no deal". **Agencies**

Israeli Def Minister resigns, accuses PM of surrendering before Hamas

Jerusalem: Israeli Defence Minister Avigdor Lieberman resigned on Wednesday and called for early elections, accusing Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu of "capitulating to terror" and surrendering before the Islamist group Hamas over a Gaza ceasefire agreement.

Over 460 rockets and mortar shells were fired at southern Israel in 25 hours on Monday and Tuesday, according to the Israeli army. The Iron Dome missile defence system intercepted over 100 of them. Most of the rest landed in open fields, but dozens landed inside Israeli cities and towns, killing one person, injuring dozens more, and causing significant property damage.

In response, the Israeli military targeted approximately 160 sites in the Gaza Strip connected to Hamas and Palestinian Islamic Jihad terror groups, including four facilities that the army designated as "key strategic assets". As news of a ceasefire between the Israeli government and Hamas - which controls the Gaza Strip - broke, Lieberman's office put out a statement saying any claim that he had backed ending Israel's offensive was "fake news". **PTI**

WORLD 12

PREGNANT WOMEN KILLED IN UK ATTACK
London: A pregnant Indian-origin woman in the UK was killed after an arrow pierced through her abdomen in a crossbow attack by her former partner, but her baby survived following an emergency Caesarean section.

BEIJING HIT BY WORST POLLUTION THIS YEAR
Beijing: Beijing and several cities in northern China on Wednesday were blanketed by the worst smog so far this year with pollution readings shooting up well above hazardous levels. Readings by the US Embassy's air quality monitor in Beijing showed PM 2.5, the fine particulate matter that causes smog, hit 376 micrograms per cubic meter which meant 'hazardous' levels of air pollution with potential to cause 'serious health' problems to everyone.

PEOPLE RAISE OVER \$1 BN ON FACEBOOK
San Francisco: Facebook on Wednesday said its charitable giving tools have helped people raise over \$1 billion in a span of three years. So far, over 20 million people have either donated to or started a fundraiser on Facebook.

'GHOST' GALAXY HIDING NEXT TO MILKY WAY
London: A massive but extremely faint galaxy has been discovered hiding near the Milky Way by scientists trawling through data from the European Space Agency's Gaia satellite. Despite its size, the galaxy has very few stars, challenging conventional theories of galaxy formation, said researchers from Imperial College London in the UK.

NEW SYSTEM MAY HELP REDUCE FLIGHT DELAYS
New York: Taking the delay costs of both airlines and passengers into account can result in fewer delays and save airlines money, according to a study.

Peshawar SP found dead in Afghanistan 18 days after abduction: Authorities

Peshawar/Islamabad: A top police officer of Pakistan's Peshawar city has been found dead in Afghanistan, 18 days after he was abducted to the war-torn country by unidentified militants, authorities said on Wednesday.

Superintendent of Police (Peshawar) Tahir Khan Dawar left his residence in Islamabad for an evening walk on October 27 but did not return home. His mobile phone's last

location was traced somewhere in Jhelum city of Punjab province.

After being contacted, he said that he was fine and there was no threat to his life. The Islamabad police had constituted various teams to trace him. Peshawar city police in a statement said that the officer had been on a short leave to Islamabad to meet his family. His abductors released a picture of him along with a let-

ter of the Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan's Khorasani group claiming responsibility for the kidnapping and the killing. Information Minister of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Shaukat Yusufzai said that Dawar was ruthlessly killed by the abductors in Afghanistan. He was in captivity for 18 days.

The Afghan Foreign Ministry has confirmed the recovery of a body with the service card of Dawar. **PTI**

PRASAR BHARATI
INDIA'S PUBLIC SERVICE BROADCASTER
CIVIL CONSTRUCTION WING : ALL INDIA RADIO

PRESS NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER

The Executive Engineer (Civil), Civil Construction Wing, All India Radio, PB (BCI), MHP Division, 11th floor, Sochna Bhawan, CGO Complex, New Delhi-03, invites on behalf of President of India online item rate e-tenders from approved and eligible contractors of CPWD and those of appropriate list of BSNL, MES, Railways, Department of Post and PWD (B&R) of NCT Delhi, upto 15.00 hrs on 22.11.2018 for the following work:

- NIT No:- 29/EE(C)/MHPD/2018-19, Name of work :- A/R & M/O to Doordarshan Bhawan, Tower 'B' Mandi House, New Delhi. (SH: Engagement of persons for day to day maintenance work). Estimated cost:- Rs. 10,15,752/-, Earnest Money:- Rs. 20,315/-, Period of completion:- 04 (Four) Months.**

i. Last date and time for uploading of documents and on-line submission of tender: upto 15.00 hrs. 22.11.2018.

ii. Date and time for opening of online tender: 22.11.2018 at 15:30 hrs.

The tender forms and other details can be downloaded from website, www.tenderwizard.com/AIR. This press tender notice can also be seen on the website www.allindiaradio.gov.in.

Sd/-
 davp 22446/11/0022/1819
 Executive Engineer (C)

SEASONS FURNISHINGS LIMITED
 CIN - L36101DL1990PLC39238
 Registered Office: D-5, Defence Colony, New Delhi - 110024
 Email : cs@seasonsfurnishings.com, Website : www.seasonsfurnishings.com
 Phone No. 0120-4898000

EXTRACTS OF UNAUDITED STANDALONE FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR THE QUARTER AND HALF YEAR ENDED ON 30TH SEPTEMBER, 2018 (Rs. in Lacs)

PARTICULARS	Quarter ended	Half year ended	Quarter ended	Year Ended
	30.09.2018	30.09.2018	30.09.2017	31.03.2018
1 Total income from operations (Net)	147.13	292.59	127.01	607.09
2 Net Profit/ (Loss) for the period (before tax and exceptional items)	0.34	(14.14)	(26.64)	(126.60)
3 Net Profit/ (Loss) for the period (before tax and after exceptional items)	0.34	(14.14)	(26.64)	(126.60)
4 Net Profit/ (Loss) for the period (after tax and after exceptional items)	0.29	(14.18)	(26.32)	(127.11)
5 Total comprehensive Income for the period after comprising Profit/ (Loss) for the period (After tax) and other comprehensive Income (after Tax)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
6 Equity Share Capital	739.39	739.39	739.39	739.39
7 Reserves (excluding Revaluation Reserve as shown in the Balance Sheet of previous year)				
8 Earnings Per Share (Face Value of Rs. 10/- each) (for continuing and discontinued operations)				
Basic:	0.00	(0.02)	(0.04)	(0.17)
Diluted:	0.00	(0.02)	(0.04)	(0.17)

NOTE: The above results have been prepared in accordance with Indian Accounting Standards (IND AS). The above results have been reviewed by Audit Committee and approved by the Board of Directors of the Company at their respective meeting held on 13.11.2018 and have been subjected to limited review by the statutory auditor of the Company. The IND AS compliant corresponding figures for the quarter ended on 30th September 2018 have been subjected to limited review. However, the Company's management has exercised necessary due diligence to ensure that such financial results provide a true and fair view of its affairs.

For and on behalf of the Board of Directors Sd/-
 (Mandeep Singh Wadhwa)
 Chairman & Managing Director
 Place : New Delhi
 Date : 13.11.2018

NOTICE INVITING e-TENDERS

The Deputy Director (Hort.) Horticulture Division No. 1, CPWD, South Avenue, New Delhi (Ph: 23018234), e-mail ID hort.dhdd1@yahoo.in on behalf of the President of India, hereby invites online tenders from eligible contractors registered under CPWD (Nursery Category) for works at S. No. 1 to 7 & eligible contractors registered under CPWD (Horticulture Category) for work at S. No. 8.

NIT No. 106/DD/HD-1/2018-19, Name of Work:- M/o Different Horticulture Works at 3, 5, 7, 9 & 11 Lok Kalyan Marg (P.M. House) and 6 M.A. Road (V.P. House) under Sub-Divn. 1/HD-1, CPWD, New Delhi dg. 2018-19. (SH: Providing and displaying of winter seasonal bulbous flowering plants at site). Estimated Cost: 18,51,250/- Earnest money: 37,025/-, Period of completion: 02 Month, Last date of submission of bid 26.11.2018 upto 11:00 AM, Date of opening of bid 26.11.2018 at 11:30 AM.

NIT No. 107/DD/HD-1/2018-19, Name of Work:- M/o Different Horticulture Works under Sub-Divn. 1/HD-1, CPWD, New Delhi dg. 2018-19. (SH: Providing and planting of different plants at VVIP locations at site). Estimated Cost: 12,72,750/- Earnest money : 25,455/-, Period of completion : 02 Months, Last date of submission of bid 26.11.2018 upto 11:00 AM, Date of opening of bid 26.11.2018 at 11:30 AM.

NIT No. 108/DD/HD-1/2018-19, Name of Work:- M/o G. A. attached to different Defence Blocks under Sub-Divn. 2/HD-1, CPWD, New Delhi dg. 2018-19. (SH: Providing and displaying special winter seasonal flowering plants in different offices / departments / locations). Estimated Cost: 20,91,150/- Earnest money: 41,823/-, Period of completion: 05 Months, Last date of submission of bid 26.11.2018 upto 11:00 AM, Date of opening of bid 26.11.2018 at 11:30 AM.

NIT No. 109/DD/HD-1/2018-19, Name of Work:- M/o G. A. attached to GOB's & MPC Bungalows under Sub-Divn. 2/HD-1, CPWD, New Delhi dg. 2018-19. (SH: Providing and displaying of different types of winter seasonal hybrid dwarf & special variety flowering plants (Poinsettia, Anthirrhinum, Calceolaria), Estimated Cost: 23,53,725/- Earnest money : 47,075/-, Period of completion: 03 Months, Last date of submission of bid 26.11.2018 upto 11:00 AM, Date of opening of bid 26.11.2018 at 11:30 AM.

NIT No. 110/DD/HD-1/2018-19, Name of Work:- M/o Different Ministries at North & South Block Section under Sub-Divn. 2/HD-1, CPWD, New Delhi, dg. 2018-19. (SH: Providing and display of dwarf & colourful leaves winter seasonal flowering plants at different VVIP locations). Estimated Cost: 20,20,625/- Earnest money: 40,413/-, Period of completion: 04 Months, Last date of submission of bid 26.11.2018 upto 11:00 AM, Date of opening of bid 26.11.2018 at 11:30 AM.

NIT No. 111/DD/HD-1/2018-19, Name of Work:- M/o G. A. attached to HOR's Bungalows under Sub-Divn. 3/HD-1, CPWD, New Delhi, dg. 2018-19. (SH: Providing and displaying of winter seasonal plants (Allysum white, Anemone hybrid etc.). Estimated Cost: 18,92,850/- Earnest money: 37,857/-, Period of completion: 04 Months, Last date of submission of bid 26

Trend
Blazer

Ileana denies
quitting Tollywood

Actress ILEANA D'CRUZ, who has made a comeback to the Telugu industry after six years with Sreenu Vatta's *Amar Akbar Anthony*, said that she never quit her career in the south to build one in Bollywood. "People have always had misconceptions about my career. After I signed *Barfi*, I was shocked to read reports that I have quit Telugu cinema for Bollywood. These were baseless allegations and it's time to put them to rest. Why will I give up an industry which has given me an identity," Ileana asked. "It's just that I was getting really good work in Bollywood that I didn't have time for Telugu films," she added. Ileana said that she wants to do films that will be remembered for a long time.



'With the way content is evolving and compelling stories are coming out, there's a great need for stories of and about stronger women. We have incredible women heroes from the Army and Navy who have done incredible acts in their careers.'

—Yami Gautam



Filmmaker ANAND KUMAR, known for directing films like *Delhi Heights* (2007) and *Zila Ghaziabad* (2013), has conceptualised a film around India's ex-captain and football sensation *Bhaichung Bhutia*. He is currently in the process of finalising a director and lead actor for the film. The film's idea hit Anand during this year's football World Cup that was held in Russia. "I'm honoured that people feel my journey is worth capturing to be shown on the big screen. I want my biopic to be close to reality. I am certain that Anand will do justice to my story," said Bhutia.



Singer PHARRELL WILLIAMS has been bombarded with furious messages on social media after performing at a benefit gig for Israeli Defence Forces (IDF) personnel earlier this month. At the event, Williams performed his number *Happy* giving a speech calling for an end to fighting. However, his presence has angered activists who object to the IDF's actions in the long-running Israel-Palestine conflict. "Dear Pharrell, you contributed in raising \$60 million to a nasty army that has killed hundreds of thousands of my people," a Palestinian campaigner wrote on Twitter. Many accused him of hypocrisy as he had tried to ban US President Trump from playing *Happy* at rallies.



Deep Veer official

Heavy security shrouds actors' intimate Italian wedding at Lake Como. By TEAM VIVA

After months of speculation, a royal tenor and well-guarded info corridors and spaces, Bollywood actors Ranveer Singh and Deepika Padukone made vows to each other at a dream-like wedding in Italy's Lake Como with a traditional Konkani ceremony. This will be followed by a Sindhi ceremony on November 15.

The wedding took place at the Villa Del Belbianello with only intimate friends and family around. Both Ranveer and Deepika chose Sabyasachi white and gold *Kanjevaram* creations, she a sari, he possibly a *kurta* or *sherwani*. Both will go for colour at the Sindhi rituals, Deepika in bright red and gold to be precise.

Shrouded in privacy, it was a storytellers' day of how the couple were truly magical. As per insider reports, the couple have done away with the idea of gifts and trousseaus, asking their guests to donate it to Deepika's NGO, the Live, Love, Laugh Foundation. Ranveer Singh reportedly went down on his knees to ask for Deepika's hand on the day of *mehendi*, during which they wore colour-coordinated clothes. He also made an emotional speech professing his love for Deepika which made her all teary-eyed. Ranveer then hugged Deepika and the couple exchanged rings soon after. The ring ceremony was attended by 40 guests, and this was followed by a sit-down dinner. There was also Bollywood music to which the guests grooved to at the party which followed. Ranveer apparently performed to his song *Tu Ne Maari Entry*... from the film *Gunday*. Guests surprised them with a mash-up of instrumentals of songs from the duo's films. Ranveer even reportedly strung up their private pictures as a video story.

The *mandap* was done up in white while the massive villa was



Deepika Padukone and Ranveer Singh at Lake Como's Villa Del Belbianello

AS PER REPORTS, THE COUPLE HAVE DONE AWAY WITH THE IDEA OF GIFTS AND TROUSSEAUS, ASKING THEIR GUESTS TO DONATE IT TO DEEPIKA'S NGO



A file photo

THE MANDAP WAS DONE UP IN WHITE WHILE THE MASSIVE VILLA WAS DECORATED BY MORE THAN 10 FLORISTS FROM ANOTHER SECTION OF ITALY

decorated by more than 10 florists from another section of Italy. The wedding ceremony ended on Wednesday afternoon and was followed by a lunch that would include Indian cuisine. The couple spared no expense and had reportedly flown in Swiss chefs for their wedding cake and desserts.

The villa was wrapped up in tight security to stop paparazzi and the guests were also told about a no-picture policy. So there were no drones, the local boatmen were all paid to not ply other tourists and river patrol was in full swing, the waterway being the preferred mode of transport. Guests were also given identity bands. Invites had QR codes which had to be scanned to enter.

Right after the news of their wedding was announced, their Wikipedia bios were updated to show spouse names.

According to reports, the *sangeet* and *mehendi* rituals, which took place before the engagement, were held on CastaDiva Resort and Villa d'Este, which are close to the wedding venue. The *mehendi* ceremony was followed by a dinner with the family.

At the *sangeet* ceremony, it was reported that Ranveer entered to his *Gunday* song, *Tune Maari Entry*. Singers Harshdeep Kaur and Shubha Mudgal performed at the *mehendi* event. The A-list couple will have two receptions, one in Bengaluru on November 21 and another in Mumbai on November 28. Bollywood congratulated the couple with Nimrat Kaur tweeting, "Huge congratulations @deepikapadukone and @RanveerOfficial !! Here's to the blissful ever after of every step you walk together..." while Karan Johar tweeted "Such a stunning gorgeous and beautiful couple!!! Nazar utar lo! @deepikapadukone and @RanveerOfficial !! Badhai ho !!! Love you both!!! Here's to a lifetime of love and joy!!"

Sex education not on agenda

Only one-third of parents with older kids (15-17 years) claimed to be talking to them about it. By TEAM VIVA

Children's Day may well be celebrated every year on November 14 to commemorate Prime Minister Jawahar Lal Nehru's birth anniversary and increase awareness of rights, care and education of children. But a survey this year shows that we may have well fallen short when it comes to parenting and schooling them about a subject that is sensitive and the knowledge of which would prepare them to face a world of predatory exploitation, that of sex.

A study was conducted across various demographics to understand digital media and its behavioural impact on children recorded some interesting insights. It was found that six out of 10 parents do not talk about sex education with their children. A mere one-third of parents with older kids (15-17 years) claimed to be talking to their kids about sex education, according to a research by a market research and analysis company, Velocity MR. Only one-third of the kids' parents say are exposed to sex education at school.

Seven in every 10 kids across age groups play online games with friends around the world and nine in 10 parents of kids in the age group 6-10 years unanimously agree that the pop-ups expose their child/children to unwanted content. Approximately, one in every two children spends two-three hours daily on the internet. Six in every 10 parents agree that online games have a negative impact on their child's behaviour.

But there are more number of parents who believe that the internet helps in education of the child. As many as nine in every 10 parents believe that. "With the growing presence and usage of digital media, our younger generation has been adopting digital media exponentially. Even though social media may not be a safe place for kids, there is peer pressure for children to have an online identity," said Jasal Shah, managing director of the company. "It's shocking to see that most parents do not talk about sex education with their children. In India, according to our data, 53 per cent of children between the ages of five and 12 have been subjected to some form of sexual abuse. There are numerous misconceptions surrounding sex education in India," he added.

Gone are the days when children loved to indulge in outdoor activities. The influence of technology in the field of gaming continues to grow at a rapid pace. As computer and video games



Mobile phones have become the primary interface to access the internet for children of the current generation and with that comes access to unwanted content that cannot be always monitored

have increased exponentially in popularity over time, they have also caused drastic behavioural changes among the current generation of children. A recent online game called Blue Whale which was causing suicide among children is an example of the adverse effects of online gaming. All these shows that parents must play an active role in monitoring their children online activity.

With access to the internet through multiple points, children are learning to use the internet at a younger age. Close to 55 per cent parents say, their kids started using the internet between six and 10 years of age and three in every

five kids having access to an internet-based TV. But not all parents see the access to be detrimental. Eight of 10 parents of children aged six to 10 years are positive about TV viewing.

Mobile phones have become the primary interface to access the internet and with that comes access to unwanted content that can not be always monitored. Even though three fourth of the parents say that they have never caught their kids watching unwanted content, two third of them use measures to restrict their internet access.

Parents of young kids (six-10 years) tend to monitor their usage of the internet the most; followed by 11-14 years (nine in every 10) and 15-17 year (eight in every 10).

Access to social media has also become prolific with more than eight in every 10 kids having access and using it for maximum of about 3 hours daily. Eight in every 10 parents discuss the usage and dangers of social media with their kids and nine in every 10 of the parents with minor kids with access to social media monitor their social media usage.

The research was conducted on a sample size of 2,268 covering prominent Indian metros including Mumbai, Delhi, Bangalore, Kolkata, Hyderabad, Chennai, Ahmedabad, and Pune.

As Russian illusionist ALEXANDER MAGU performs in India, he tells CHAHAK MITTAL how it's all about playing with the mind and pushing its limits



Inside track to tricks

Be it swallowing a 40-centimetre sword through peristalsis, taking rabbits out of a hat, spreading cards on the table and hypnotising the audience to pick the one that the mastermind had already chosen or probably cutting a man into two pieces in a rectangular box and joining him back to perfect shape... In a magician's world miracles are nothing but illusions.

Illusionist Alexander Magu makes a pit stop in India for the second time to stun audience and share stories of what drove him in the first place to play with the human mind. He narrates his story of how as a 17-year-old boy growing up in St Petersburg, he went crazy over a trick his friend once performed and decided to never return from this winding path of wizardry.

"It isn't a profession very highly preferred or chosen. It's all about ideas, imagination and a story-telling capacity to hold the audience," he told us. The initial years were a struggle for Magu whose parents were reluctant about his career choice. Had it not been for magic, he would "have been working in the Russian Railways."

So is it only about playing pranks that could amuse people? "No," he says. "It takes a lot of training and practice to gain expertise in an act. And it is not magic, it is just a play of psychology and mind-counselling techniques."

Today, Magu loves his job that not only lets him explore the world but also "lets me explore the human mind and its numerous possibilities. The beauty of the human mind is that no matter how fearless it might condition itself to be, it is as fearful, unbelievable yet believable. It's amazing how certain things can amaze the mind." He hugely derives inspiration from the masterminds Derren Brown, David Blaine and "of course, David Copperfield."

For Magu, the art is self-taught and as much about being a seeker. He believes that he is a self-made artist. He says, "I learnt from the internet, books, looking at the

other famous illusionists, TV and films. I am all by myself. I have never taken any specific education for this art. With time, I have developed my own techniques."

Magu even does subtle social messaging. While performing in one of his acts previously, he played with a cigarette and a white scarf, making it disappear and reappear at unexpected places like nostrils and wrist. In the end, the cigarette was magically lit and on his lips. The message was to make cigarettes disappear from people's lives forever. However, this moral shift took a sentimental turn when he said that real magic was all about love, friendship and family.

There was a time when magicians offered the audience a sneak peek into their orchestrated and choreographed acts just to keep the spectacle element alive. This was the reason why shows like *Criss Angel Mindfreak*, *Master of Illusions*, *Doug Hennings' The Magic Show*, *Breaking the Magician's Code: Magic's Biggest Secrets Finally Revealed* became major TV hits. Magu, however, believes that the popularity of magic shows and pranks has still not lessened and "neither it will. It is a very special kind of act that has a lot of future. You can reinvent and push the limit to infinity."

His tricks include mind-reading, telekinesis, levitation and gravitational illusions. While all these are merely "illusions" and not "magic," he explains how an illusionist is different from a magician. "An illusionist might leave your eyes wide open and make your jaw drop but a magician can make miracles happen. That's magic," says he. From goosebumps, mind-reading, comic magic to a complete theatrical experience, Magu's show will play "scary pranks" and "play with your memory," making the impossible seem possible.

(The show will be performed from November 15 to 25, 7 pm to 9 pm, at Upstage, Roseate House, Aerocity.)



OUR FIRST STAR

India has got its first woman Michelin starred chef from Bangkok. Mumbai-born Garima Arora, who opened GAA, is an alum of Le Cordon Bleu and has

worked in Gordon Ramsay and Gaggan Anand's kitchens. Anand also maintained his Michelin star in Michelin's guide to Bangkok, Phuket and Phang-nga for 2019.

INDIA, AUSTRALIA RIDE HIGH ON EDUCATION

Under the leadership of **RAVNEET PAWHA**, the Deputy Vice President (Global) and the CEO-South Asia, Deakin University, Australia, became the first international university to establish operations in India in 1994. The continued contribution of Ms Pawha towards establishing the university as a premier choice among Indian students was recently recognised at the India Australia Business Community Award (IABCA) where she was honoured with the 'Business Leader of the Year 2018' award. In an interview with **ANKITA SAXENA**, Ms Pawha shares the University's journey in India and its commitment to strengthen the India-Australia ties in the domain of education. Edited excerpts from the interview:

◆ **What does the IABCA award mean to you and the university at large?**

This award celebrates the Australia-India relationship and the contribution made by people towards strengthening the bond between the two countries. For me, this award is important because it celebrates Deakin's 25 years in India, which has been amazing from both personal and professional perspective. It is also important to celebrate the people behind the success. Be it the team at the India office or the leadership of the university, it is the passion in people that has dictated our fruitful journey.

◆ **What made Deakin University choose India for its first international office?**

The second Prime Minister of Australia, Alfred Deakin, on whom the university is named, had a vision that the Australia-India relationship is going to be very important for the two countries. Concurring with the same, Deakin, being a young and innovative university decided to embark on the journey and establish its presence in India not just to look at student recruitment but to also work with India, in India, for India. The whole idea was to engage, contribute and to exchange excellence in knowledge between the two countries.

◆ **With you at the helm of the operations, how has the 25-year long journey been so far?**

To think of the journey so far, we have to first think of India 25 years ago. The globalisation of the Indian economy and the education sector in particular was a big change. Deakin University was the first of its kind to set up an office abroad and I remember, at that time there was no understanding of the how and why. Thus, we

had to first create that understating in the market and then look at partnerships with the Indian universities. This whole process has been very interesting. We hardly understood globalisation ourselves; leave alone know its implementation in terms of curriculum, degree, decisions on infrastructure requirements and more importantly the impact on the student community. However, we have come a long way, where today, Deakin's South Asia office and its activities are often showcased as a 'case study' of successful model of engagement. We are indeed proud to be featured as a successful case study in the 'India Economic Strategy to 2035' by the Australian government. A document that charts out Australia's vision for economic partnerships in India for next 20 years.

◆ **Please elaborate on some of the partnerships in India**

Over the past two decades, Deakin has established strong strategic partnerships with premier institutions in India, both with industry and academia. The university provides strategic inputs in teaching and learning programs besides offering various options for studies through semester abroad programs, research, internships, mobility and in-country capacity building programs. We have partnered with institutions in India such as All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), IIT Madras, National Skills Development Council (NSDC), CII, ISB, Centurion University, CEPT University, NID, VIT University, IITs, IISc, Symbiosis International University, University of Mumbai, Hyderabad University and Amity University. Our strategic collaborations to engage in areas of health science, biotechnology and sports include those with The Energy and Resources



BUILDING PARTNERSHIPS AND ENGAGING WITH THE GOVERNMENT, INDUSTRY AND ACADEMIA IN INDIA, HAS PUT DEAKIN UNIVERSITY, AUSTRALIA, IN THE SPOTLIGHT AS A PLATFORM FOR KNOWLEDGE BUILDING AND EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION

Institute (TERI), Indian Premier League team—Rajasthan Royals, Max Healthcare, NIMHANS and Madras Diabetes Research Foundation (MDRF). We also run various Student Mobility Programs in

collaboration with some of these partners under which, each year, about 200 Deakin students travel to engage in several activities.

◆ **What are some of Deakin's initiatives to encourage research in India and Australia?**

We work closely with premier academic institutions, government bodies, key industry bodies to engage in cutting-edge research in community based topics in the areas of science, material, manufacturing, management, social sciences and CSR. The Deakin India Research Initiative (DIRI) is at the helm of our commitment to build a robust knowledge cohort. Currently, DIRI involves over 80 projects over 20 organisations across India. The establishment of research centres of excellence like the TERI Deakin Nanobiotechnology Centre, the TOBY Playpad Laboratory and the Centre of Excellence in Advanced Materials with IIT Madras, have been some of the key milestones.

◆ **Does the university offer scholarships to Indian students to study at Deakin? Are there any specific student engagement activities?**

In a first of its kind initiative, Deakin has established a scholarship program—'Changing Lives', with NDTV, which offers 100 per cent scholarship on tuition fee. For research programs, the Indian government offers 'Endeavour Scholarships' where the government would spend on students to spend time at Deakin. For the undergraduate and postgraduate students, Deakin offers meritorious scholarships ranging from 10-25 per cent and four 100 per cent scholarships for the best in various fields. We heavily subsidise the education for Indian and South Asian students to encourage them to experience world-class facilities at Deakin University.

Dance with the deer in Manipur

An annual affair, the Manipur Sangai Festival is back this year from November 21 to 30. The Manipur Tourism Corporation is aggressively promoting the festival in various parts of the country to increase awareness about the significance of this grand extravaganza and eventually drive tourist traffic to the state



An unexplored tourism paradise—Manipur, has a lot to offer to every tourist to the state. This year, the state is back with its grandest festival—Manipur Sangai Festival—to celebrate the rich culture, heritage and culture of this pristine land.

An annual affair, the Manipur Sangai Festival is celebrated from November 21 to 30. The festival takes its name from the state's unique, shy and gentle brow-antlered, Sangai deer or the dancing deer. The Sangai deer is found only in Manipur's floating Keibul Lamjao National Park at the Loktak Lake. The festival has great profundity in showcasing its rich art and cultural heritage and celebrating the various ethnic diversities in Manipur.

The chairman of the Tourism Corporation of Manipur Limited, Dr Sapam Ranjan, informed that the festival will be inaugurated at Imphal on November 21. Two other districts of the state—Bishnupur and Senapati, will also play host to the festival and have a line-up of events ranging from half-marathons, water sports and trekking along with other adventure activities. He was speaking at the curtain-raiser of the festival which was recently organised at the Select CityWalk mall at Saket in New Delhi.



The member of parliament and Padma Bhushan awardee Mary Kom, the former boxing world champion and Arjuna awardee Sarita Laishram, along with the former Indian football team captain P Kenedy Singh, marked their presence at the event to promote the festival in the capital. Officials from Manipur Tourism along with its

stakeholders shared updates on the preparations for the largest tourism festival of the state. "Taking the festival as an opportunity, we are here to connect with our potential stakeholders in the capital city of the country. We wish to invite them to come to our state and enjoy our cultural extravaganza. Manipur holds great many surprises for every visitor. The profound natural beauty of the state and the unique attractions that we have, like the floating national park of Keibul Lamjao and Sangai are found nowhere else in the world," said Ranjan. A variety of dance forms of over 34 recognised tribes of Manipur will be the special attraction of this mega tourism event. The main venue of the festival at Hapta Kangjebung, Imphal, entertains visitors with its mesmerising performances of renowned artists from all over the world every evening. The famous Rasse Leela dance of Manipur is a must watch amongst the variety of performances by folk dance artists. "Manipur receives the maximum number of visitors during this time of the year when

we celebrate our biggest tourism festival. The curtain raiser for this festival is organised in Delhi to create awareness amongst potential visitors about the state's offerings as a tourist destination. Manipur is largely unexplored and offers huge opportunities for adventure, culture and rural tourism aficionados," said the tourism director of the state government W Ibohah Singh. The director further added, "Our state presents huge opportunities for adventure tourism and we are exploring opportunities to associate with domestic and international adventure tourism associations. It is the right time for us to inform travellers in the region that our side is ready to welcome them to the Manipur Sangai Festival. The state is considered one of the safest state for women travellers. It has a women's only market where many business-women run their small vegetable stalls till late at night." Started in 2010, the festival has grown by leaps and bounds over the years and has become a platform to boost tourist inflow. The domestic tourist inflow during 2010-11 was recorded at 116,652 which increased to 1,64,483 in 2017-18. Similarly, there has been a manifold increase in foreign tourist figures to the state from 431 in 2010-11 to 3,787 in 2017-18.

CORPORATE BRIEFS

AAI PARTICIPATES IN INDIA-MYANMAR BUSINESS FORUM

The Airports Authority of India (AAI), recently participated in the 'India Myanmar Business Forum' organised by the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) in association with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (UMFCCI) with a focus on bilateral trade and investments in the Rakhine state of Myanmar at the India Habitat Centre in Delhi. AAI officials from business development team headed by the JGM, S D Tiwari along with the AGM, Amit Kumar, attended the event.



NLCIL DECLARES FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR Q2

The NLCIL declared its financial results for the quarter and half year, ended on September 30 where the total revenue of the company stood at ₹3,722.18 Cr as against ₹4,459.09 Cr in the corresponding period of the previous year. For this period, the profit was recorded at ₹647.35 Cr as compared to ₹642.97 Cr earlier, registering a marginal growth. The lignite production stood at 99.41 LT as compared to 101.26 LT previously, and the lignite sale was 15.82 LT as against 6.26 LT in the corresponding period of the previous year. The power sale in this quarter was 8,116.98 MU as against 8,617.76 MU in the corresponding period last year.

MMTC'S FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE IMPROVES

The Metals and Minerals Trading Corporation of India (MMTC), declared its financial results for the half year ended on September 30. The company has achieved revenue from operations of ₹12,511 crore as against ₹9,969 crore during the corresponding period last year, registering a growth of 26 per cent over the same period last year on YOY basis. The MMTC has posted a net profit of ₹41.62 crore during the period as compared to ₹29.76 crore during the same period last year, registering an increase of 40 per cent.

IITF BEGINS IN DELHI

The 38th edition of the India International Trade Fair was inaugurated by the Union Minister of State for Culture and Environment, Forests and Climate Change, Dr Mahesh Sharma, at Pragati Maidan in New Delhi in the presence of the Minister of State for Commerce and Industry, C R Chaudhary, the chairman of Khadi Gramodyog Board, Government of Jharkhand, Sanjay Seth, the Charge d'affaires, Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, HE Mohammad Khairullah Azad, Economic Counsellor, Charge d'affaires, Embassy of Nepal, Tirath Rakesh Poudel, the chairman-cum-managing director of ITPO, L C Goyal and the executive director of ITPO, Deepak Kumar.



Lt Gen D Anbu, VCOAS, pays homage to Lance Naik Antony Sebastian KM, who fell to the enemy action during the ceasefire violation along the Line of Control in Poonch on November 12. The mortal remains of the fallen soldier being brought for wreath laying in Palam Technical Area, New Delhi.



MYOXY TO COMBAT HEAVY AIR POLLUTION

With pollution levels in Delhi at an all time high, MyOxy by Gupta Oxygen Private Limited, is an endeavour to help people in the city realise the benefits of fresh oxygen. It is the first and only OXYGEN I.P. in portable cans in India approved by FDA and manufactured under a valid drug license, strictly adhering to the Indian pharmacopoeia standards and measuring 5.9 liters at 1200 kilopascal. MyOxy is a seamless, aluminum, disposable can with inbuilt mask, allowing up to 100-150 inhalations per can and will be available at leading pharmacies including the Apollo pharmacy, medical stores across Delhi/NCR and online pharmacies such as NetMeds. Suitable for all age groups, MyOxy is fit for use by children, expecting and lactating mothers and elderly people. It is available at a competitive price of ₹399 per can.



NSIC PROMOTES ENTREPRENEURSHIP

The NSIC-Technical Services Centre (Howrah) has commenced a six weeks residential Entrepreneurship Development Training Program (EDTP) for 29 trainees from Bangladesh. The programme intends to drive the participants towards entrepreneurship, give an opportunity to acquire skills on basic technical trades and gain exposure in all areas of business operations such as business skill development, identification of appropriate technology, hands on experience on working projects like soya milk extraction, bakery, sock knitting, fashion designing and so on.



KATHAKAR FROM NOV 16-18

The 8th edition of India's only oral storytelling festival, involving raconteurs from all over the world—Kathakar—is going to be hosted from November 16-18, at the Indira Gandhi Centre for the Arts (IGNCA) in New Delhi. The three-day event, organised by IGNCIA in collaboration with Nivesh, will witness immersive storytelling sessions focusing on India's rare art forms as well as native tales from Africa, the UK, Greece, Poland, Russia and Iran. This year, the festival will be inaugurated by Sadhguru, the founder of the Isha Foundation along with the Minister of State for Home Affairs, Kiren Rijiju.



MOU TO EXPAND STRATEGIC ENERGY PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN INDIA AND UAE

The Indian Strategic Petroleum Reserves Limited (ISPR) has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) in Abu Dhabi with the Abu Dhabi National Oil Company (ADNOC) to explore the possibility of storing ADNOC crude oil at ISPR's underground oil storage facility at Padur in Karnataka. Under the MoU, ADNOC is expected to store crude in compartments at Padur. The MoU was signed by the director of marketing for sales and trading at ADNOC, Abdulla Salem Al Dhaheri, and the CEO and MD of ISPR, HPS Ahuja, on the sidelines of the Abu Dhabi International Petroleum Exhibition and Conference (ADIPEC).



PALLADIUM HOTEL' 1ST HOTEL IN COSTA DEL SOL

Spain's famous 'sun coast' and a world-renowned tourist destination of Costa del Sol, is set to welcome a gorgeous new beachfront property—the Palladium Hotel Costa del Sol by the Spanish leading chain—Palladium Hotel Group. Slated to open doors in July 2019, the hotel is the group's first outpost in Spain's Costa del Sol region. The four-star establishment with 330 bright and spacious rooms, will offer spectacular views of the Mediterranean, adopting a contemporary and stylish look and feel. The new hotel will be a mere 20 minutes away from the Malaga airport.

FEDERER FINDS FORM; NOVAK WINS

Six-time champion Roger upsets Thiem to keep hopes alive; Djokovic eyes semis after dismissing Zverev

AFP ■ LONDON

Roger Federer staved off elimination from the ATP Finals as the six-time champion eased to a 6-2, 6-3 win over Dominic Thiem on Tuesday.

After losing his opening match at London's O2 Arena against Kei Nishikori, Federer would have crashed out if he had been beaten by Thiem.

Only once before has Federer failed to qualify from his group for the knockout rounds in his 15 previous appearances at the prestigious season-ending event.

That lone flop came 10 years ago when the Finals were held in Shanghai and Federer is still in with a chance of avoiding that ignominious fate thanks to his comfortable 66-minute dismissal of Thiem.

Bidding for a record seventh ATP Finals crown and a first in the tournament since 2011 — which would be the 100th singles title of his glittering career — world number three Federer must beat South Africa's Kevin Anderson in his last group match to make the semi-finals.

"It feels good. I am very happy that I showed a reaction after the last match," Federer said.

"Against Kei, instead of seeing things positively, I thought negatively. It was disappointing but it happens.



Roger Federer returns a shot against Dominic Thiem; (right) Novak Djokovic in action against Alexander Zverev AP/ATP



Federer vs Anderson
Live from 1:30am IST
SONY ESPN & ESPN HD

Millman. The 37-year-old's defeat in his

"Today I was more positive and happy on the court. I love playing in London and I had to remind myself what a privilege it is. I hope I showed it."

Since winning his 20th Grand Slam title at the Australian Open in January, Federer

has been stuck in a prolonged slump by his sky-high standards.

A quarter-final exit at Wimbledon, blowing a two-set lead against Anderson, was followed by a stunning US Open last 16 defeat to Australian journeyman John

opening Finals match against Nishikori on Sunday marked the first time Federer had lost in straight sets in 46 group stage matches.

He responded to that setback by cancelling his practice session on Monday, sparking fears he was seriously hampered

by a hand injury that has troubled him since the grass-court season in June and July.

Having cut a grumpy figure during his error-strewn loss to Nishikori, Federer's spirits were lifted by this solid show, aided by Thiem's 34 unforced errors.

After missing a break point in the opening game, Federer started to find his rhythm and he landed the first break for a 2-1 lead when the world number eight sent a forehand long.

Another break followed in the seventh game as Thiem netted a tame volley as Federer won the first set with ease.

While it wasn't vintage Federer, he was doing enough to take advantage of Thiem's sloppy display as the French Open finalist double-faulted to gift a break in the opening game of the second set.

That was all the encouragement Federer needed as he cruised to the finish line.

ZVEREV IN DILEMMA

Novak Djokovic moved closer to a place in the semi-finals of the ATP Finals as the world number one dispatched Alexander Zverev 6-4, 6-1 on Wednesday.

Djokovic is chasing a sixth ATP Finals title and his first in the prestigious season-

ending event at London's O2 Arena since 2015.

In his 11th appearance at the Finals, the Serb will be guaranteed to reach the last four for the eighth time if John Isner beats Marin Cilic or if Cilic defeats Isner in three sets later on Wednesday.

Djokovic, who beat Isner in his opening group-stage match, has enjoyed a remarkable renaissance in the second half of 2018 and lifting the trophy on the banks of the River Thames would be the perfect way to finish his year.

Djokovic faces Cilic in his last group match on Friday, while Zverev, who defeated Cilic to kick off his Finals campaign, takes on Isner.

The 31-year-old was assailed by claims he had lost his hunger for success and was past his best after injury and personal issues threatened to derail his career in 2017.

But Djokovic has banished his demons in spectacular style, winning the Wimbledon and US Open titles, returning to world number one and becoming the first player to win all nine Masters 1,000 tournaments.

"I found it more difficult than in the first match against John Isner. I played well mid-way through the second set and started to swing through the ball," said Djokovic, who has suffered only two defeats in the Finals since 2012.

Gopi pleased with performance in this tough year



Kidambi Srikanth in action BWF

MIXED DAY FOR SHUTTLERS

PTI ■ KOWLOON

Olympic Silver medalist P V Sindhu and Sameer Verma notched up contrasting wins on Wednesday to progress to the second round of the

Hong Kong Open World Tour Super 500 tournament,

where Sindhu, seeded third, continued her consistent run as she recovered from a mid-game

slump to surpass Thailand's Nitchaon Jindapol 21-15 13-21 21-17 in the opening round which lasted a little over an hour.

It was Sindhu's fourth win over the Thai player. Sindhu, who won three major Silver medals this season — Commonwealth Games, World Championship and Asian Games — will take on Korea's Sung Ji Hyun next.

In the men's singles, Sameer, who clinched the Swiss Open and Hyderabad Open this year, saw off another Thai Suppanyu Avihingsanon 21-17 21-14 to set up a clash with China's Olympic champion Chen Long.

However, former Singapore Open champion B Sai Praneeth was stunned by Khosit Phetpradab of Thailand in a 62-minute opener.

Praneeth had a 3-0 record against Khosit ahead of the match but it didn't matter as he went down fighting 21-16, 11-21, 15-21 to bow out of the tournament.

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Chief national badminton coach Pullela Gopichand termed the year gone by as a "tough" one, but expressed satisfaction that the target to do well in major events was achieved.

"Overall it's been a tough year for us. We hardly had any time for preparation. Overall we had the Commonwealth Games, the Asian Games and World Championships — the big events," Gopichand told reporters on Wednesday.

"And whatever time we had was not enough to really work end-to-end on the mistake. But having said that we still have (Kidambi) Srikanth ranked high, (P V) Sindhu ranked high.

"We have had medals at the major events, whether it's the Asian Games, CWG or World Championships. So I am happy with the performances (of the shuttlers) and looking forward to the coming year," the chief national coach explained.

Srikanth is currently



Saina Nehwal and PV Sindhu pose with CWG medals along with P Gopichand PTI

ranked ninth among men in the world, while Rio Olympics Silver medalist Sindhu is ranked second among the women.

"In this year, we had the major events — Commonwealth Games, Asian Games and World Championships — and we have been successful (in those) and that was our target for this year. And I'm happy that at the end of the year they (players) are able to maintain their rankings," added

Gopichand.

Another top shuttler Saina Nehwal won the CWG Gold in April defeating compatriot Sindhu in the final.

The Indian team also clinched the Gold medal in the team championship at CWG held in Gold Coast, Australia.

Gopichand also stressed that extra effort was needed to be done in all the areas.

"Every area needs work. If you look at the way Srikanth

has played, he has lost to a couple of them (players) quite frequently, whether it is (Kento) Momoto (Japan) or Chou Tien Chen (Chinese Taipei). There have been a few losses there which have been consistent, but if you have to win the big ones, you have to beat them and you have to prepare for them, he said.

"And unfortunately we had back-to-back (tournaments), we had a week after the Asian Games, came back after two tournaments. We had another week now, so this is not enough time for the preparation and I would like to see a little longer stint," the former All England champion said.

Asked whether it was important for top shuttlers to pick and choose events, Gopichand replied, "This year was a tough one, with the Commonwealth and Asian Games. It was tough to pick. And also players in the top 15 have to play a mandatory number of event. So that makes it even more tough. It's easier said than done."

SINGLES

DILSHAN JOINS RAJAPAKSA'S PARTY

COLOMBO: Former Sri Lankan cricketer Tillakaratne Dilshan on Wednesday joined the party of Mahinda Rajapaksa, on a day when the premier's controversial government lost a no-confidence motion in Parliament. Dilshan, 42, became a member of Rajapaksa's newly-formed Sri Lanka People's Party (SLPP). The former Sri Lankan captain has obtained the SLPP membership, party secretary Sagara Kariyawasam announced. Dilshan is to run for a seat in Parliament from the southwestern Kalutara district, SLPP sources said. Rajapaksa was named by President Maithripala Sirisena as prime minister in October following the shock sacking of Ranil Wickremesinghe as premier. After weeks of political turmoil in which Wickremesinghe refused to quit, Rajapaksa lost the trust vote earlier on Wednesday.

RANIERI TO RESCUE FULHAM

LONDON: Fulham appointed Italian veteran Claudio Ranieri as manager on Wednesday after sacking Slavisa Jokanovic in a bid to beat the drop from England's Premier League. Jokanovic led Fulham back into England's top flight in May 2018 but the 50-year-old Serbian has struggled to adapt to life in the Premier League. After 12 games, Fulham sit bottom of the pile with just five points and one win from 12 games. Jokanovic becomes the first managerial casualty of the season in the Premier League. Ranieri, who famously led Leicester to a fairytale Premier League title in 2016, was a free agent after being sacked by French Ligue 1 club Nantes one game before the end of last season. He will take charge of his first game in 10 days' time when Fulham welcome fellow strugglers Southampton to Craven Cottage.

ATHLETE COMMITS SUICIDE AT JLN

NEW DELHI: Palinder Chaudhary, an 18-year-old athlete who represented India at international level, committed suicide by hanging himself from a ceiling fan at the capital's Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium, prompting the Sports Authority of India to order a "departmental inquiry". Hailing from Aligarh in Uttar Pradesh, the athlete was brain dead by the time he was rushed to the Safdarjung Hospital, and could not be revived. "We have ordered a departmental inquiry as the incident happened in our premises. The inquiry will be headed by Secretary SAI Swarn Singh Chabra and it should be completed within a week," SAI Director General Neelam Kapur said. A senior police officer said no suicide note has been recovered and they are probing the reason for such an extreme step.

CROATIA POSE MAJOR TEST FOR SPAIN

MADRID: The Spanish national team faces an important UEFA Nations League tie away in Croatia on Thursday as they look to assure that they finish on top of their qualifying group. Things looked to be progressing well for Spain coach Luis Enrique after wins in his first three games, but a shock 2-3 defeat to England in their last Nations League match has left them with work to do in Croatia. The Spanish need a win to assure they finish top of the group and the Croatians are likely to prove tougher opposition than the team they beat 6-0 in September. Agencies

Mary eyes sixth Gold as World C'ship begins today

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Celebrated boxer M C Mary Kom will aim for a historic sixth Gold at the AIBA Women's World Championships, the build up of which has been marred by a row over lone Kosovan boxer's participation and poor quality air in the national capital.

The 10th edition of the championships, set to be the biggest ever with more than 300 participants from 72 countries, is being held in the backdrop of boxing's uncertain Olympic future in the aftermath of controversial Uzbek businessman Gafur Rakhimov's election as President.

Commensurate with its status as global power in women's boxing with the third most number of medals in the history of the event, India is hosting the championships for the second time after 2006 when

Mary at World Amateur Boxing C'ships		
Gold	2002 Antalya	45kg
Gold	2005 Podolsk	46kg
Gold	2006 New Delh	46kg
Gold	2008 Ningbo City	46kg
Gold	2010 Bridgetown	48kg
Silver	2001 Scranton	48kg

the country topped the table with eight medals (4 Gold, 1 Silver, 3 Bronze).

The 10-member Indian team, which is a mix of seasoned and young boxers, is unlikely to repeat the 2006 feat but is expecting at least three medals, including a Gold.

The 35-year-old Mary Kom, who is India's biggest hope, is tied with Katie Taylor on five Gold medals and one more will make her the most successful woman boxer in history since the Irish pugilist has turned a Pro.

The 'Magnificent Mary', who will fight in the 48 kg, will also look to win her second Gold in front of the home crowd.

She has enjoyed a stellar year so far, claiming Gold medals at the Commonwealth Games, the inaugural India Open and the International Tournament in Poland.

However, the 2012 Olympics Bronze medalist is aware that the road to Gold will not be easy.

"There are boxers who are still playing in my category since 2001. I know them very well. The new boxers are tougher and smarter, they are faster. I will use my experience. The past boxers are more or less the same, I know them,"



Mary Kom trains ahead of AIBA World C'Ship PTI

MARY, SARITA GET 1ST ROUND BYES

NEW DELHI: Kosovo boxer Donjeta Sadiku's chances of competing at the AIBA Women's World Boxing Championship are virtually over since her name does not figure in the draw, released on Wednesday. Sadiku, who has not got a visa to travel to the national capital since India does not recognise Kosovo, was to compete in the 60kg category.

Seasoned MC Mary Kom and L Sarita Devi were among seven Indian boxers, who got first round byes even as none of the home boxers will be in action on the opening day of the event, beginning Thursday. Apart from Mary Kom (48kg) and Sarita Devi (60kg), getting the first round byes were Pinky Rani (51kg), Sonia (57kg) and Lovelina Borgohain (69kg), Sweete Boora (75kg) and Seema Poonia (+81kg).

Manisha (54kg) and Kachari Bhagyabati (81kg) will compete with Dina Zholaman and Irina Noclietta on November 16 and 18 respectively.

Seema will clash with China's Xiaoli Yang, who also got a bye in the opening round in the +81kg.

Mary Kom, who is bidding for a historic sixth World title, will be seen in action on Sunday. She awaits winner of first round bout between American Jazzelle Bobadilla and Algerian Kassenayeva. PTI

Mary Kom said.

Another veteran who will be seeking her second Gold at the championships will be Mary Kom's Manipur state mate L Sarita Devi who will feature in 60kg. She has five Asian titles besides winning Gold in 2006 here.

The other eight in the team are Pinky Jangra (51 Kg), Manisha Maun (54 Kg), Sonia (57 Kg), Simranjit Kaur (64 Kg), Lovlina Borgohain (69 Kg), Saweety Boora (75 Kg), Bhagyabati Kachari (81 Kg) and Seema Poonia (+81 Kg).

The 10-day championships, which run till November 24, will feature a host of Olympic and World Championship medalists.

India eye semifinals spot in Women's World T20



PTI ■ GUYANA

Eyeing a semi-finals berth, overwhelming favourites India will have to guard against complacency when they play Ireland in their third Group B match of the ICC Women's World T20 here on Thursday.

India are on a roll having convincingly won their first two matches, including against arch-rivals Pakistan two days ago. Skipper Harmanpreet Kaur declared open the tournament with her blazing hundred against New Zealand at the Providence, the same venue where India will face Ireland.

Ireland, on the other hand, have lost to both Australia and Pakistan.

India will enter the game against the Irish as overwhelming favourites but Kaur is aware that her team cannot afford to take things for granted in this mega-event.

Ireland cricket is known for its fighting abilities and taking them lightly will not be the way to go for India, with qualification to the last-four knocking on their doors.

Having eased past Pakistan a couple of days after the big win against the New Zealanders, India will nevertheless fancy their chances at the Providence.

If Kaur was the star of the opening win, the team's most experienced campaigner, Mithali Raj, showed the way in the seven-wicket win over Pakistan.

While Jemimah Rodrigues started her T20 career with a fine half-century, the likes of Smriti Mandhana and Veda Krishnamurthy will look to score some runs against Ireland.

In bowling, off-break bowler Dyalan Hemalatha and leg-spinner Poonam Yadav

shone with 10 wickets among them so far, and the seamers will look to get going in the coming games.

SQUADS

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

Ireland: Laura Delany (capt), Kim Garth, Cecelia Joyce, Isobel Joyce, Shauna Kavanagh, Amy Kenealy, Gaby Lewis, Lara Maritz, Ciara Metcalfe, Lucy O'Reilly, Celeste Raack, Eimear Richardson, Clare Shillington, Rebecca Stokell, Mary Waldron.



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'AUSTRALIA WILL BE BIGGER CHALLENGE FOR INDIAN PACERS'

Nehra feels tough conditions in Thunder Down Under will create obstacles for visitors



PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Indian pace attack has been a revelation this year during overseas tours but tougher conditions in Australia will make it a very challenging series for the fast bowlers, reckons former speedster Ashish Nehra.

Nehra, who was a part of the Indian squad that drew 1-1 during the 2003-04 series in Australia, felt the current attack "has the ability" to succeed but conditions will be different than what they got in England and South Africa.

"Australian team is going through a massive restructuring and this is India's best chance without doubt. We have the bowling attack to beat them. But we need to be mindful that conditions will be much tougher Down Under where the wickets will be flat and weather would be on warmer side," the 39-year-old Nehra said.

"In Australia, you will get extra bounce but there will only be lateral movement till the kookaburra seam doesn't flatten. It won't be like England where the ball swings all day. Once you get adjusted to the bounce, batsmen can hit you all day," said Nehra, who has played 17 Tests and 120 ODIs apart from 27 Twenty20 Internationals.

According to Nehra, it will be Jasprit Bumrah, Ishant Sharma and one between Mohammed Shami and Umesh Yadav, who will be starting in Adelaide.

"I don't see Bhuvni starting in the first Test at least. He can struggle a bit with the old kookaburra as it will neither swing or seam unlike Dukes or SG Test," Nehra opined.

Nehra said that Umesh Yadav's supreme fitness and good skill sets should make him an asset in the Australian conditions.

"I still believe that Umesh is not a finished product after eight years but someone who has incredible skill sets. He is a strong lad and the fittest among all Indian pacers. A testimony to that is his performances in Indian conditions when he can reverse the 65-70 overs old ball at a good speed. You need both skill and strength for that. He should feature sometime," Nehra said.

It will be Bumrah's first Test tour of Australia and Nehra is confident that Australians will find it difficult to play him.

"Jasprit Bumrah is much more skilful red-ball bowler than what he is perceived to be.



Umesh Yadav celebrates after dismissing opposition batsman PTI/File Picture

'Aus without Smith, Warner is like India not having Kohli, Rohit'

KOLKATA: Former India captain Sourav Ganguly on Wednesday said that Indian team under Virat Kohli has the "best chance to beat Australia" in absence of their premier players Steve Smith and David Warner.

Cricketer Australia's board has resolved to respond to the call to lift the bans on Steve Smith, David Warner and Cameron Bancroft by next week, but all indications are they are not ready to bring the trio back to international cricket early.

"This is like the Indian team not having Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli. It's a huge factor," Ganguly said.

"It's a great moment for Indian cricket. This is their best opportunity to beat Australia," the former India captain added. Having suffered defeats in their earlier overseas Test series in South Africa and England, the Virat Kohli and Co will salvage pride winning in Australia.

India will play four Test matches against Australia with the first five-day contest commencing in Adelaide on December 6.

The Indian pace attack had impressed in England in their 1-4 series loss and Ganguly said: "I have seen in England that they (bowlers) have taken 20 wickets in almost every Test."

Ganguly however warned the Indian team stay cautious. "But you also have to keep in mind that Australia in Australia are a different kettle of fish. Many feel that they are a weak outfit but I don't think so," Ganguly added. PTI

SHAMI LIKELY TO PLAY FOR BENGAL IN RANJI

KOLKATA: India frontline pacer Mohammed Shami is likely to play Bengal's next Ranji Trophy home match against Kerala here from November 20-23.

A member of Australia-bound Test squad, Shami will leave for the tour Down Under after playing the Ranji Trophy third round match at the Eden Gardens.

"Shami has expressed his interest to play. If he plays, it's good for the Bengal side," CAB president Sourav Ganguly said.

Bengal opened their Ranji Trophy campaign with first innings lead in Himachal and currently facing Madhya Pradesh at home.

"We had written a letter before the first match as well to play him but he had few fitness issues for which he had to undergo rehabilitation. If he plays, it's great," Ganguly added. PTI

His yorkers will come in very handy with old kookaburra. Any batsman, who has not played Bumrah before can find it difficult to counter the awkward angle that his delivery creates.

"And in England, I found out that he can now get the ball to straighten consistently after pitching. So Bumrah is not a one-dimensional bowler," he concluded.

RANJI TROPHY

SHOREY'S TON BOOST DELHI'S HOPE

New Delhi: Dhruv Shorey's fourth first-class century put Delhi firmly in sight of an outright victory against Himachal Pradesh in an opening round group B encounter. Shorey scored his fourth first-class hundred — 106 not out off 177 balls as Delhi declared their second innings at 281 for 4, leaving HP with a stiff target of 376. Earlier, Delhi dismissed HP for 223 in their first innings taking a first innings lead of 94 runs and also ensuring at least three points. At stumps on the third day, Himachal were 44 for 1 with their best bet Prashant Chopra being dismissed by Ishant Sharma (1/14 in 5 overs). With 332 needed on the final day, it will be more about how Himachal survive against left-arm spin duo of Vikas Mishra and Varun Sood on a fourth day track with considerable wear and tear. In the morning, after quickly disposing off the remaining two HP batsmen for an addition of seven runs, Delhi got off to a brisk start courtesy Gautam Gambhir (49, 52 balls) and Hiten Dalal (25, 32 balls), who added 64 in only 10.5 overs. Once Dalal and Gambhir were gone, Shorey and skipper Nitish Rana (32) added 62 for the third wicket. Shorey then added 50 with Himmat Singh (26), who hit three sixes and 67 for the unbroken fifth wicket stand with wicketkeeper Anuj Rawat (21 no) as Delhi finished with an overall lead of 375.

MUKUND'S TON LEADS TN REPLY

Tirunelveli: Test discard Abhinav Mukund led Tamil Nadu's riposte to Hyderabad's massive first innings total of 565 for 8 declared with a superb ton (101 batting) as the host reached 163 for 2 at stumps on day three of the Elite Group 'B' match. Hyderabad skipper P Akshath Reddy could add only two runs to his overnight score of 248 and the team declared at 565 after C V Milind (33 not out) and Mehdi Hasan (14 not out) put on 27 runs for the ninth wicket. Left-handed opener Mukund looked in fine form, striking the ball all round the wicket. He and fellow opener M Kaushik Gandhi (21 off 117 balls, 1X4) put on 80 runs to set the platform for Tamil Nadu. Mukund, who has so far hit 15 fours, and captain B Indrajith (24 batting) added 69 runs and saw the team through to close of play without any further slip-ups.

J&K TRAIL GOA BY 222 RUNS

Porvorum: Jammu and Kashmir have a mountain to climb as they trail Goa by 222 runs at stumps on day 3 of their Elite Group C game. Asked to bat first, Goa rode on a century by opener Snehal Kauthankar (130) to post a mammoth 468/9 (declared) in their first innings. Kauthankar, batting at his overnight score of 106, added another 24 runs to his tally and remained unbeaten. He faced his knock with 24 boundaries. Jammu and Kashmir had an uphill task to gain a first-innings lead, but they slumped to 246/7 at stumps on the penultimate day of the four-day game. For J&K, their opener Subham Khajuria (53) struck a half-century, but three other top-order batsmen, Ahmad Omar Bandy (25), Ian Chauhan (37) and Paras Sharma (22), failed to convert their starts into big scores. But all-rounder and skipper Irfan Pathan, who came in at number 7, remained unbeaten on 42 and will look to hold the fort on the last day.

RAILWAYS LEAD SAURASHTRA BY 130 RUNS

Rajkot: Riding on an unbeaten fifty by young Harsh Tyagi, Railways lead Saurashtra by 130 runs at stumps on the penultimate day of the four-day game against hosts Saurashtra. For Railways, Tyagi was impressive in the second outing with his unbeaten innings of 73 in 182-balls. While all others batters failed, 18-year-old Tyagi kept the score-board ticking. His knock ensured that Railways managed to get past the 250-run-mark and ended the third day on 278/8. After opting to bat, Railways were bowled out for 200 in their first outing. Saurashtra then took a crucial 148-run first-innings lead with Ravindra Jadeja remaining unbeaten on 178 as they posted 348 on the board.

MP REACH 254/5 COURTESY OJHA VS BENGAL

Kolkata: Skipper Naman Ojha cracked a patient half-century with Madhya Pradesh making a strong reply against Bengal in their Elite Group B fixture. Ojha held their innings together with his 151-ball 74 before getting out to part-time leg-spinner Anustup Majumdar, who took two wickets in two overs (2/20) to raise hopes of another three points. At close on the penultimate day, MP were 254/5, trailing Bengal by 256 runs. Yash Dubey (20*) and Ankit Sharma (9*) were at the crease. Earlier Bengal pacer Ashok Dinda (2/42) dismissed both the MP openers, Aryaman Birla (12) and Ankit Dane (38), as MP were 65/2 inside the first hour's play. But Ojha stayed on, stitching two fifty-plus partnerships with Rajat Patidar (49) and Shubham Sharma (45) in the first and second sessions respectively.

SIKKIM, UK SECURE SUCCESSIVE WINS

Dehradun: Deepak Dhapola returned with a match haul of 13 wickets as Uttarakhand secured their second straight victory in the Plate Group beating Manipur by eight wickets. In Dimapur, Sikkim also registered their second win in their debut season beating hosts Nagaland by nine wickets. Sikkim have 13 points along with Uttarakhand but the former occupy the pole position in the Plate Group on the basis of better net run-rate. Dhapola, who ripped apart Manipur in the first innings with a 7/50, returned with 5/46 as he along with Sunny Rana, who bagged an identical 5/46. Manipur were eventually bowled out for 185 in the second essay, setting Uttarakhand a target of 95. Uttarakhand lost opener Karanveer Kaushal (18), No 3 Vaibhav Bhatt (27) but Vineet Saxena remaining unbeaten on 32 to steer them home in 17.5 overs to help them bag six points. In Dimapur, Sikkim were set a paltry target 79 as skipper Nilesh Lamichaney remained unbeaten on 33 alongside Ashish Thapa (27 no) to win in 25.4 overs. PTI

KOLKATA DUMP STARC VIA TEXT MESSAGE

PTI ■ SYDNEY

A text message is all what Australian pacer Mitchell Starc received from the IPL side Kolkata Knight Riders on his removal from the squad for the 2019 edition.

One of the costliest buys in the 2018 auction, Starc was forced to miss the entire season due to stress fracture in his right leg.

"I got a text message two days ago from the owners of Kolkata, saying I've been released from my contract. At the moment I'll be home in April," Starc told reporters.

The exact reason for Starc's release is not yet known but it is being believed that it could be because of the uncertainty around his availability for the 2019 season.

Starc, grabbed by KKR for 1.8 million Australian dollars, was replaced by England pacer Tom Curran.

"I obviously didn't go last year with my tibia injury and it was a great opportunity to freshen the body up, let everything heal by itself. I guess barring a little niggle in my hammy I've felt pretty good with my body and my strength and the rest of it. That little period of time has really paid off for the body," the 28-year-old said.

IPL auction for the 2019 season is likely to be held on December 16 in Jaipur but it seems the left-arm pacer may not make himself available.

CSK release Wood, Kshitiz, Kanishk

CHENNAI: Reigning IPL champions Chennai Super Kings (CSK) on Wednesday announced it has retained 22 players for the 2019 season, releasing only three members from the title-winning squad.

CSK, which returned to the IPL fold after serving a two-year suspension, won the 2018 tournament, beating Sunrisers Hyderabad in the final.

England fast bowler Mark Wood and uncapped Indian players Kanishk Seth and Kshitiz Sharma have been released.

Franchisees were required to inform the IPL Governing Council by November 15 about their retentions and release of players for the 2019 player auction to be held next month.

England bowler David Willey, who was picked as a replacement for the injured Kedar Jadhav has been retained along with the all-rounder.

Wood featured only in one match while Sharma and Seth didn't feature in any game. The team didn't seek a replacement for Kiwi all-rounder Mitchell Santner, who was injured and he would come back into the squad, according to CSK sources. PTI

Curran and Buttler save Eng against spin

AFP ■ KANDY

Sri Lanka's spinners claimed some big-name England wickets on the first day of the second Test on Wednesday before Jos Buttler and Sam Curran rescued the innings.

Buttler's 63 and a crucial 64 from Curran at the end lifted England to 285 all out after they had been struggling on 89-4 on the turning Pallekelle stadium pitch. Curran, fast becoming an England hero, said reaching near 300 was a "massive" achievement.

England spinner Jack Leach then strengthened England's position, dismissing opener Kaushal Silva in the 12 overs Sri Lanka faced as the home side reached 26 for one at the close.

A day that saw Ben Stokes, batting at the key number three position, become the latest to fail also reinforced Buttler and Curran's standing lower down the order.

England were in trouble against spinners Dilruwan Perera who took four wickets, Malinda Pushpakumara (three) and Akila Dananjaya (two) when Buttler came in to counter-attack with five boundaries and a cru-



Sam Curran plays a shot during his 64 run innings against Sri Lanka in first day of 2nd Test AP

cial 45-run stand with Adil Rashid who made 31.

Buttler's 63 off 67 deliveries ensured Sri Lanka did not convert a good position into a dominant one, as he swept and reverse swept furiously and effectively. He was eventually out top-edging a reverse sweep off left-arm spinner Pushpakumara, playing his first Test for more than a year.

Curran was even more impor-

tant, taking 50 balls to reach double figures before he tore into the Sri Lankan bowling. He hit six sixes and a four off the spinners and his last wicket partnership of 60 with Jimmy Anderson was the best of the innings.

"It was crucial. You saw in the evening how much it spun. Getting close to 300 was massive for us," said Curran.

"Me and Jimmy had quite a bit of fun out there. He was probably the

one telling me to calm down and trust him."

Stokes, who batted at number five in his team's opening win last week, was boosted by the order in the latest bid to find a solid number three. Off-spinner Perera successfully reviewed an lbw decision against Stokes after the on-field umpire had turned down an appeal. He was out for 19.

England captain Joe Root, who scored 35 and three in the first Test, was bowled by Pushpakumara in the 18th over for 14 and opener Rory Burns (43) soon followed as England lost regular wickets on the dry, crumbling surface.

There were several near misses during the 12 overs Sri Lanka faced, with Karunaratne edging a ball just low and wide of slip off the bowling of Ali when he was on 12.

Leach then made the breakthrough at the other end, getting a ball to break sharply off the surface and beat Kaushal Silva's forward defence, to rattle off stump — the batsman dismissed for 6.

Nightwatchman Pushpakumara then survived the 15 balls he faced before stumps.

B'desh reduce Zim to 76-2

AP ■ DHAKA

Bangladesh reduced Zimbabwe to 76-2 Wednesday on the fourth day of the second Test.

Zimbabwe still needs 367 runs or to survive a full day to win its first test series victory since 2011 after the hosts set an improbable target of 443 runs.

Bangladesh skipper Mahmudullah was instrumental in leaving Zimbabwe a record chase, hitting his second century as the hosts declared the second innings on 224-6.

Mahmudullah, who completed his century in the last ball before the tea session, was not out on 101 and shared two important partnerships to take the side on the verge of winning the test and drawing the series.

Despite a lead of 218 runs, dismissing Zimbabwe for 304 in its first innings on Day 3, Bangladesh decided not to enforce the follow-on. But Zimbabwe fast bowlers Kyle Jarvis (2-27) and Donald Tiripano (2-31) rocked the top order to leave the hosts at 25-4.

With Zimbabwe raising the hopes to hit back, Mithun and Mahmudullah resisted further damage to keep the side on course for a sizeable lead.

The duo combined for a 118-run partnership for the fifth wicket to restore its dominance.



Off-spinner Sikandar Raza removed Mithun for 67, his maiden fifty in his maiden test following zero in the first innings.

Left-arm spinner Sean Williams dismissed Ariful Haque (4) cheaply but Mahmudullah and Hasan (27 not out) shared 73 off 70 balls in an unbroken seventh wicket partnership to set an improbable target for the visitors.

Zimbabwe's highest successful chase in the fourth innings is 162 against Pakistan in Peshawar in 1998.

"The first hour will be very key," Zimbabwe coach Lalchand Rajput said. "If Brendan (Taylor) and Sean

Williams can bat through, then the pressure will be on the fielding side.

The tourists made a decent start with skipper Hamilton Masakadza and Brian Chari sharing 68 runs.

Hasan (1-16) gave Bangladesh the first breakthrough after Masakadza spooned a catch at short-leg for 25.

Two overs later, left-arm spinner Tajul Islam (1-34) dismissed Brian Chari (43), who tried to paddle sweep against a turning delivery. Chari reviewed in vain.

Brendan Taylor (4) and Sean Williams (2) were batting before the fourth day's game came to an end.

'Chhetri's absence against Jordan clash is a big blow'

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The "irreplaceable" Sunil Chhetri's absence from the friendly against Jordan is a huge blow, Indian football coach Stephen Constantine said on Wednesday, staring at a bleak future upfront with his talismanic striker starting to grey.

The 34-year-old Chhetri has been ruled out of the November 17 friendly owing to an ankle injury. Constantine expressed concerns at the dearth of promising strikers and the void the country's all-time leading scorer's absence can cause.

"Sunil missing for the clash against Jordan is a big blow for us. He is a great player and has been fantastic for us in the last four years. He is one of those players that is irreplaceable but somebody has to take his place for the match against Jordan. Sunil is no spring chicken," Constantine said.

"However it is a great opportunity for young players to step up and although you cannot find a player of his calibre and class, we need to see if the young player step up and take this opportunity."

The match is in preparation for the Asian Cup, scheduled to be held in the UAE early in January-February 2019.

"We need to find somebody who will be there when we don't have Sunil Chhetri so that there is no void left in the team,"



Constantine said.

"I am trying to cover all the bases and I don't want my best players to remain injured and one of them right now is Sunil," he added.

The match at Amman is another opportunity for the coach to experiment tactics and gain valuable experience going into the mega competition next year.

"We want to do well in our preparation for the AFC Asian Cup and the clash against Jordan will aid us in that as Jordan are a good side and they have a number of good players in their ranks," Constantine said.