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**DOKLAM REDUX?**

**WORLD 12**

**INTERPOL PICKS S KOREA'S KIM AS PRESIDENT OVER RUSSIAN RIVAL**

**SPORT 15**

**SAINA, KASHYAP WIN IN SYED MODI TOURNEY**

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**DE NIRO SPLITS WITH WIFE GRACE 13 VIVACITY**

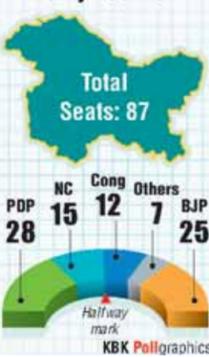


## J&K Guv scuttles Govt formation bids

Assembly dissolved soon after PDP-NC-Cong and Lone-BJP stake claim to form Govt

**KHURSHED WANI ■ SRINAGAR**

**Jammu & Kashmir Assembly Party Position**



In a controversial move, Jammu & Kashmir Governor Satya Pal Malik on Wednesday dissolved the Assembly and torpedoed the attempt by the People's Democratic Party (PDP), the National Conference (NC), and the Congress to form a coalition Government.

The order for dissolution of Assembly came hours after former Chief Minister Mehbooba Mufti, in her capacity as the president of single largest party with 29 legislators, wrote to Malik to convey that her party would stake claim for the Government formation with the support of the NC and the Congress.

In a separate letter to the Governor, Sajjad Gani Lone of People's Conference (PC) too staked claim to form a Government. Lone, whose PC has two legislators in the Assembly, claimed that he has the support of 26 BJP legislators and 18 others, referring to possible dissenters of the PDP.

"The Governor, Jammu & Kashmir, Satya Pal Malik, has passed an order in exercise of the powers conferred upon him by Clause (b) of sub-section (2) of Section 53 of the

Constitution of Jammu & Kashmir dissolving the Legislative Assembly," Governor's Principal Secretary Umang Narula said in an order.

Soon after the dissolution of the Assembly, Mehbooba said, "Oddly enough our pleas fell on deaf ears. But who would have thought that the very idea of a grand coalition would give such jitters?"

Mehbooba earlier took to her twitter handle saying, "Have been trying to send this letter to Raj Bhavan. Strangely

**FALL AT THE FINAL HURDLE**

Mehbooba Mufti wrote to the Governor to convey that her party would stake claim for the Government formation with the support of National Conference and the Congress

In a separate letter to the Governor, Sajjad Gani Lone of People's Conference too staked claim to form a Government.

Lone, whose PC has two MLAs, claimed he has the support of 26 BJP MLAs and 18 others, referring to possible dissenters of the PDP

The formation of PDP-NC-Congress "grand alliance" took the formal shape a day after senior PDP leader and Lok Sabha member Muzaffar Hussain Beigh hinted at formation of a "third front" comprising BJP, Lone's PC and PDP's rebel legislators.



the fax is not received. Tried to contact HE Governor on phone. Not available. Hope you see it @jandkgovernor."

"Sending the letter also by mail," Mehbooba tweeted.

The dissolution of the Assembly culminated the political drama that unfolded on Wednesday afternoon after news broke that the PDP would be embracing its arch-rival NC to form a coalition Government to keep the BJP at bay and safeguard the special status of the embattled State.

The surprising developments began unfolding on Wednesday morning when

Congress leader Gulam Nabi Azad confirmed in New Delhi that talks on Government formation were going on among the NC, the PDP and the Congress. Senior PDP leader and former Finance Minister Altaf Bukhari told reporters in Srinagar that around 60 legislators were supporting their move and negotiations were on to give a proper shape to the Government formation.

Bukhari said the alliance has been formed to protect the special status of Jammu & Kashmir, Article 370 and Article 35A. "We have to keep communal forces at bay. To

Keep the BJP away, we are coming together to form a Government. An alliance has been made with over 60 MLAs together of the Congress the PDP and the NC to protect our special identity. I have no details about the contours of the alliance but it is to protect the special status, 370 and 35A," he added.

Mehbooba wrote to the Governor, "Since I am presently in Srinagar, it would not be possible for me to call on you immediately and this is to keep you informed that we would be seeking your convenience shortly to stake the claim for forming a Government."

The State is under Governor's rule since June 19, a day after Mehbooba-led coalition Government was sacked following the withdrawal of support from the BJP. The Governor's rule is competing its six months on December 19, which would have necessitate implementation of President rule.

Governor Malik had already hinted that he would not allow any Government formation in the State through "backdoor dealings" and also hinted at conduct of Assembly elections. However, last week he had indicated State

Assembly, which was under suspended animation, would not be dissolved.

J&K Congress chief Ghulam Ahmed Mir said that his party would support the secular forces to form a Government. "We are ready to support secular forces. The formal meeting will take place soon regarding the formation of a Government in the State as all the three parties are reaching a consensus," Mir said.

"All secular parties have come together for the bigger interest of State and public. For saving Constitution, may it be Article 370 and 35A, we have to rise above party lines especially when eminent dangers are bigger," he said.

The formation of "grand alliance" of the PDP-NC-Congress took the formal shape a day after senior PDP leader and Lok Sabha member from north Kashmir Muzaffar Hussain Beigh hinted at formation of a "third front" comprising the BJP, Lone's PC and PDP's rebel legislators. Even as Beigh did not announce quitting the PDP, he openly criticised several decisions of the party, including the decision to boycott the municipal and panchayat polls in the State.

*Continued on Page 4*

## High-profile cases take hit in absence of CBI top bosses

**Probe in Mallya, INX media, IRCTC bribery, Agusta deal cases halted**

**RAKESH K SINGH ■ NEW DELHI**

In the absence of two top CBI Officers, agency Director Alok Verma and Special Director Rakesh Asthana, both benched by the Government last month, probes into several high-profile cases of the agency involving bribery and special crimes have virtually been halted. The registration of cases has also steeply declined in the last one month.

Besides Verma and Asthana, Additional Director AK Sharma has also been virtually made ineffective following the shake-up as he has been given the charge of inconsequential Multi-Disciplinary Monitoring Agency (MDMA) handling the Rajiv Gandhi murder case.

Following the Government's decision to bench Verma and Asthana, interim CBI Director Nageshwar Rao, a Joint Director rank official, transferred 13 officials posted in the headquarters to different places. This has also adversely affected the functioning of the agency.

The Supreme Court has barred Rao from taking any major policy decision in the pendency of Verma's petition challenging his forced leave.

Sources said the major concern is lack of clarity on who will represent the CBI in the UK court which is going to pronounce its order on liquor baron Vijay Mallya extradition case on December 10. Till now, a team has not been constituted to represent the case, officials said, adding a decision is likely to be taken only after the SC pronounced its verdict on November 29. A decision by the Interpol for issuing a Red Corner Notice against ₹14,000-crore PNB credit fraud case accused Mehul Choksi is also pending in the absence of proper representation by the CBI, sources said.

Officials said the case files move right from the investigation officers, mostly comprising DSPs and ASPs, to the SP, then to DIG, Joint Director, Additional Director, Special Director and the Director.



Other cases in which investigation will be affected include the IRCTC bribery case involving Lulu Prasad's family, Agusta Westland case and INX media case. Other high-profile cases being probed by the agency include NRHM scam of Uttar Pradesh and Saradha scam of West Bengal. However, the Muzaffarpur shelter home case and Manipur encounter cases are progressing well as they are being monitored by the apex court. Asthana was handling the IRCTC case, Agusta Westland probe and Saradha ponzi scam case.

"In the wake of benching of Verma and Asthana by the Government and SC restraining interim Director from taking any major policy decision, case files are stuck as the officials are not able to seek legal opinion from the Law Ministry or the in-house legal wing when clarity is required," an official said.

Officials said the case files move right from the investigation officers, mostly comprising DSPs and ASPs, to the SP, then to DIG, Joint Director, Additional Director, Special Director and the Director.

*Continued on Page 4*

**CAPSULE**

**WON'T ABANDON SAUDI OVER KHASHOGGI: TRUMP**

Washington: US President Donald Trump has defended his decision not to hold Saudi rulers accountable in the killing of dissident journalist Jamal Khashoggi, saying maintaining strategic ties with the kingdom and keeping the global oil prices down were in the best interests of America. The US had imposed sanctions on 17 individuals of Saudi Arabia for serious human rights abuse resulting from their roles in Khashoggi murder. **P12**

**SABARIMALA: ANOTHER MINISTER HITS KERALA**

Pamba: Hitting out at the CPI(M)-led LDF Government in Kerala on the Sabarimala issue, Union Minister Pon Radhakrishnan on Wednesday said its "masterplan" was to "harass" the devotees and not allow them to go to the temple. **P7**

**ALOK NATH BOOKED FOR VINTA NANDA'S RAPE**

Mumbai: The Mumbai Police has registered a rape case against actor Alok Nath following writer-director Vinta Nanda's complaint that he allegedly sexually assaulted her 19 years ago during the shooting of a TV show, officials said on Wednesday. **P6**

**BCCI CEO CLEARED IN SEXUAL ASSAULT CASE**

New Delhi: The sexual assault allegations against BCCI CEO Rahul Johri were rejected as "mischievous and fabricated" by a three-member probe panel on Wednesday but the Committee of Administrators was divided on him resuming office with Diana Edulji reiterating her demand for his resignation.

## 1 held for terror blast in Amritsar

**Punjab CM says Pak ISI brains behind attack**

**MONIKA MALIK ■ CHANDIGARH**

The Amritsar blast was triggered by Pakistan's ISI-backed terrorists who planted the grenade — brought from across the border — with Pakistan Ordinance Factory mark under a tree at a gathering at Adliwal's Nirankari Bhawan on Sunday. This and much more was revealed by Punjab Chief Minister Capt Amarinder Singh on Wednesday following the arrest of one of the two suspects in the blast case.

Within 72 hours of the blast that took three lives and left 20 others injured, the Punjab Police solved the case by identifying the two attackers, and arresting one of them from Loharka village in Amritsar's Raja Sansi.

The attackers have been identified as Bikramjit Singh of Dhariwal village under Raja Sansi police station, who was arrested on early Wednesday morning from near Loharka village in the area, and another as Avtar Singh of Chak Mishri Khan village in Lopoke, Ajnala in Amritsar.

Declaring that the second assailant would soon be arrested, the Chief Minister minced no words to say that the attack



Punjab CM Capt. Amarinder Singh shows a picture of Amritsar grenade blast co-accused Bikramjit Singh to the media during a Press conference in Chandigarh on Wednesday **PTI**

was masterminded by Pak-based Inter Services Intelligence (ISI) with the "sole aim to disturb Punjab's peace".

"ISI has masterminded this attack... It is using our men as tools. The grenade has POF mark, made with know-how of Austria's Arges," said Capt Amarinder.

"Bikramjit Singh, who was the biker and attacked the gatekeeper, has been arrested by the police. We are on to the second person and it is just a question of time," said Capt Amarinder adding that he has admitted the crime and disclosed that he is working for the Khalistan Liberation Force (KLF).

*Continued on Page 4*

## Kushwaha set to dump NDA for Sharad for respectable seats

**DEEPAK KUMAR JHA ■ NEW DELHI**

Led by Union Minister UPendra Kushwaha, NDA partner RLSP is all set to walk out of the Modi Government and join hands with Sharad Yadav's newly outfit Loktantrik Janta Dal (LJD) next month. The Congress is in touch with the RJD in Bihar to get Kuswaha "respectable" number of seats to change side.

Sources said leaders of both the Congress and the RJD are engaged for the seat-sharing talks even as the BJP and the JD(U) indicated they will not spare more than two seats to the RLSP.

Currently the RLSP has three Members of Parliament. For past few months, Kushwaha has been sending



signals of leaving the NDA over seat-sharing issue.

Hours after BJP chief Amit Shah and Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, in a joint statement last month, announced agreement on seat-sharing for the 2019 Lok Sabha elections, UPendra Kushwaha met RJD

BIHAR 2014	
NDA	UPA
BJP: 22	RJD: 04
LJP: 06	Cong: 02
RLSP: 03	NCP: 01
JD (U) : 02	

leader Tejashwi Yadav fuelling talks of him joining the RJD-led Mahagathbandhan in Bihar.

"In Bihar, the RJD is in the driver's seat and whichever way they drive we have to ride," quipped a top Congress leader. He added that both the Congress and Kushwaha are confident that in present circumstances RJD's Tejashwi Yadav has an upper hand in Bihar in comparison to Chief Minister Nitish Kumar.

*Continued on Page 4*

## Half of ATMs may close down by March

**Changes in regulatory landscape are making it unviable to operate ATMs, says CATMI**

**TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI**

Nearly 50 per cent of the total Automated Teller Machines (ATMs) across the country may be forced to shut down by March 2019 due to "unviability" of operations owing to "recent regulatory

guidelines for ATMs hardware and software upgrades, recent mandates on cash management standards and the Cassette Swap method of loading cash."

Handing out a warning to this effect, the Confederation of ATM Industry (CATMI) said on Wednesday that of the current 2,38,000 ATMs, around 1,13,000 ATMs, including 1,00,000 off-site and more than 15,000 white label ATMs, are expected to down shutters.

"The forced closure is on



account of unviability of operations brought about by recent regulatory guidelines for ATMs hardware and software upgrades, recent mandates on cash management standards

and the Cassette Swap method of loading cash," CATMI Director V Balasubramanian said.

According to a CATMI statement, a large number of ATMs in non-urban locations may be shut down due to unviability of operations. "If this happens, the financial inclusion programme would be severely impacted as millions of beneficiaries under the Government's Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY) scheme, who withdraw subsi-

dies in form of cash through ATMs, may find their neighbourhood ATM shut," the CATMI spokesperson said.

The CATMI has predicted the closure of ATMs may result in long queues and chaos at ATMs. "Several hundred thousand jobs ride on this industry and as per CATMI estimates, the closure of ATMs may result in considerable job losses that would be detrimental to financial services in the economy," the ATM industry body said.

*Continued on Page 4*

## Intruding American tourist killed by protected Sentinelese

**PTI ■ PORT BLAIR/NEW DELHI**

An American national was killed by members of a protected and reclusive tribe in the Andamans, possibly with arrows, when he tried to enter the North Sentinel Island, police said on Wednesday.

John Allen Chau, 27, was killed by the Sentinelese Tribes on November 17, they said.

"His body was most probably buried in the sands last week," SP (Headquarters) and PRO of Andaman and Nicobar Police Jatin Narwal told PTI.

"His death was caused by traditional weapons but we cannot specifically say whether he was killed by arrows or spears. The details will come out in course of detail investigation," he said.

When the US Embassy

here was reached for a response, its spokesperson said, "We are aware of reports concerning a US citizen in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands. The welfare and safety of US citizens abroad is one of the highest priorities of the US Department of State."

"When a US citizen is missing, we work closely with local authorities as they carry out their search efforts. Due to privacy considerations, we have no further comment," the spokesperson said in the email response.

The Sentinelese people are among the tribes that survived the tsunami of 2004 without any help from the outside world. For the 2011 Census, enumerators could locate only 15 Sentinelese people — 12 men and three women.



However, their numbers could be anything between 40 and 400, according to experts.

PC Joshi, professor of Department of Anthropology

at Delhi University, said the tribe has remained completely isolated from the outside world and despite efforts of the Anthropological Society of

**The Sentinelese people are among the tribes that survived the tsunami of 2004 without any help from the outside world. For the 2011 Census, enumerators could locate only 15 Sentinelese people — 12 men and three women**

India, which has tried to contact them indirectly by leaving bananas, coconuts for them, they have failed to make contact.

"We have tried but the tribe has not shown any interest. They are the most private of the tribes in the Andamans. They are aggressive and are known to attack outsiders with arrows and stones. I do not

know what made this American visit the island, but this tribe has stayed in isolation for so long that I do not blame them for what they saw as an intrusion and a threat," said the professor.

In 2006, two Indian fishermen, who had moored their boat near North Sentinel to sleep after poaching in the waters around the island, were killed when their boat broke loose and drifted onto the shore.

While the timeline leading to Chau's death is still not clear, the fishermen who took him near the island have told the police that he had visited the Andaman and Nicobar Islands five times earlier. He had expressed a desire to meet the Sentinelese Tribe, whose name is derived from that of

the island they inhabit, Sentinel, which is at a distance of 102 km from Port Blair.

Chau had hired a fishing dinghy from the Chidiyatapu area and reached close to the island on November 16, from where he travelled in his own canoe. He had made a failed attempt to reach the island on November 14 as well, they said.

His absence was first red flagged by the fishermen who took him near the island. They informed Chau's friend about his trip who in turn informed the US Consulate.

Two FIRs have been registered with Humfriganj police station under IPC sections 302 and 304 and seven fishermen who took the American to the island have been arrested, police said.

Joshi said it was a cause of concern that this island, where the Sentinelese have lived for hundreds of years with no outside contact, was recently opened for visitors.

"These people are not specimens for tourists to see. They are extremely vulnerable to diseases and any contact might lead to their extinction. We cannot expose them for a few dollars. We need to respect their choice," said Joshi.

In a major step earlier this year, the Government excluded this island and 28 others in the Union Territory from the Restricted Area Permit (RAP) regime till December 31, 2022.

The lifting of RAP meant that foreigners could be allowed to visit these islands without permission from the Government.

# Paedophile confesses to 9 rape-murders

PARVESH SHARMA ■ GURUGRAM

A 19-year-old maniac who had raped and murdered a three-year-old girl in Gurugram on November 11 was a repeat offender. Till now he has confessed to have raped and murdered nine minor girls in Delhi, Gurugram, Gwalior and Jhansi. Apart from these cases, he had also molested 10 minor girls. Gurugram Police has written to the police top brass of the neighbouring States to ascertain whether he was involved in more such crime.

Rajkumari, the kin of a four-year-old girl who was raped and murdered by the accused in November 2016 in Gurugram's Sector-49 alleged that the accused had molested around 10 minor girls before he targeted the victim. The accused used to sit at Shani temple near their Jhuggis in sector-49 to identify his targets.

The accused used to molest young girls who came to eat at bhandaaras or collect prasad at the temple and were unaccompanied by adults. He often lured minor girls by offering them chocolates and some money too. We confronted him and even slapped and warned him several times to mend his ways, she said.

Sunil Kumar, the accused was very silent and introvert when he was living in our locality and it is shocking that he has turned out to be such a barbaric killer, she added.

The 4-year-old girl body was found in a dump yard near Omaxe Mall in November 2016. The victim was originally from Jhansi in Uttar Pradesh but lived in a slum behind Uppal Southend in Sector-49 with her family.

"We are very happy the local police finally arrested the accused because of the brutal crime. We didn't visit Shani temple for two years from

**"We are very happy the local police finally arrested the accused because of the brutal crime. We didn't visit Shani temple for two years from where the accused lured our loved child and later raped and killed her. We will be satisfied once the accused get harsh punishment from the concerned authority"**

where the accused lured our loved child and later raped and killed her. We will be satisfied once the accused get harsh punishment from the concerned authority," Raj Kumari said.

In another incident, recalling his pain the father of the 5-year-old girl who was raped and murdered by the accused Sunil in January 2017 in posh civil lines area said "The victim and her younger sister were twins and born after 24 years

of our marriage. He took my girl from civil lines area when she was having food in a social community kitchen and later raped and killed her."

The body of the victim was recovered 20 days later from a pond in Ambekar park near Rajeev Chowk in Gurugram. The spot where the girl's body was found was ironically less than 50 metres away from state PWD minister Rao Narbir Singh's house.

The deceased was a resident of Sector 15, her father was a rickshaw puller then. Now the family is running a vegetable shop in the same area. The family had been living in Gurugram for the last 24 years.

"At that time I had urged the police team to search my girl only in civil lines area but they didn't pay to heed my request. Till now I can hear my girl screaming for help. She was everything for me earlier I was fit and fine but now I am very

weak due to the incident. We will be happy once the demon killer gets the death penalty," the bereaved father said.

Earlier, The accused was arrested on Monday afternoon for allegedly raping and murdering a three-year-old girl in Gurugram on November 11 had admitted that the child was his ninth victim and that he had committed similar crimes in Delhi, Gurugram, Gwalior and Jhansi in the past, said police.

As of now the accused had raped and murdered three minor girls in Gurugram, four in Delhi, one in Gwalior and one in Jhansi. "He was produced before a local court on Tuesday and sent to eight days of police remand. On Wednesday the probe team took him to recognise multiple crime spots. Further probe into the matter is underway," said, Subhash Boken spokesperson Gurugram police.

# 37-year-old held for sexually harassing woman in bus

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

A 37-year-old man was arrested for allegedly masturbating in front of a 26-year-old woman in a moving bus while she was on her way to Sangam Vihar on Tuesday at around 9 pm. The woman reportedly sought help from passengers who were in the bus but nobody came forward to help her. She then proceeded to take off her sandals and thrash the man, before calling the police.

The accused a 37-year-old man identified as Mukesh Ranjan Kumar is an event management employee. He allegedly masturbated in front of the survivor in a crowded bus playing between Kapasheda to Badarpur.

According to the police, the despicable incident occurred at around 9 pm on Tuesday when

the woman was traveling home from work on route no 717. It was reported that the woman was sitting in the seat reserved for women when the man came next to her and starting harassing her, he took off his pants in the moving bus and started fondling himself.

Taken back by his behavior, the woman shouted for help but no one came forward to help her despite the bus being packed to the capacity. Following which she took matters into her own hands and beat him up. She called the police when the bus reached Chattarpur and the accused was arrested, police said.

Deputy Commissioner of Police (South) Vijay Kumar stated that a Police Control Room (PCR) call was received about a quarrel at Chattarpur bus station at 9:07 pm.

"Local police rushed to the spot to inquire. The complainant gave a written complaint regarding obscene act of exhibiting private part and used criminal force by trying to catch her hold from hand with an intent to outrage her modesty, when she was travelling in route no 717. She had boarded the bus from Kapashera," said the DCP.

"The accused was caught in the bus and handed over to police. He is working in an event management company at Rangpuri and boarded the same bus from Mahipal pur. He was drunk at the time incident," DCP revealed.

A case under section 354 and 509 of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) has been registered against the accused. He has been arrested in this case and sent for medical examination.

# 28-yr-old stalker stabs woman in Rohini, arrested

STAFF REPORTER N NEW DELHI

A 38-year-old woman sustained injuries after a 28-year-old stalker stabbed her twice with a knife over an argument in Rohini area on Tuesday. The accused identified as Sandeep has been stalking the woman for the last three years was arrested on the charges of attempt to murder.

According to Rajneesh Gupta, Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP), Rohini district, a call was received on Police Control Room (PCR) around 7 PM on Tuesday regarding the incident following which a police team rushed to the spot.

"The woman identified as Pooja runs a beauty parlour in Sector-17 of Rohini area was found lying in pool of blood on the floor in her shop. She was rushed to a nearby hospital and she is still undergoing treatment," said the DCP.

"During initial investigation, it has been revealed that Sandeep came to her parlour on Tuesday evening, when everyone in the parlour had left. Sandeep knew that Pooja who alone and started heckling her. They both had a heated argument following which Sandeep stabbed her twice with knife and fled the spot.



**'Police have recovered the knife used in crime. A case under Section 307 of Indian Penal Code (IPC) has been registered at KN Katju Marg police station. The accused has been arrested from Rohini Sector 17 and further investigation is going on'**

The accused was following Pooja and had refused to leave even after she told him so," said the DCP.

"Police have recovered the knife used in crime. A case under section 307 of Indian Penal Code (IPC) has been registered at KN Katju Marg police station. The accused has been arrested from Rohini sector-17 and further investigation is going on," the DCP added.

# NMC attaches 648 bank a/cs, 670 assets for tax

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

North Delhi Municipal Corporation (NMC) has attached 648 bank accounts and 670 properties of those who failed to clear property tax due this year.

An additional Commissioner (Revenue) B M Mishra said that since April 2004 after the unit area method was implemented, it is the responsibility of the property owner to deposit property tax before due date.

He said that the move was taken after many of the owners were found failing in depositing their due.

"Property owners are suggested to deposit their due for year 2018-19 along with arrears in time to avoid any inconvenience," he said.

A senior NMC official said that tax is calculated in unit area method after multiplying base unit area value with covered area and rate of tax, including factors for occupancy, age, structure and use.

It is based on fixing a unit area value per square metre of covered space for calculation of property tax, he said.

# Suspected member of Manjeet Mahal gang shot by 2 unknown persons

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

A 40-year-old man suspected to be a member of the notorious 'Manjeet Mahal gang' was shot dead by two unknown assailants on Tuesday night in Najafgarh area of Outer Delhi.

The deceased has been identified as Roshan Lal, a resident of Dharampura in Najafgarh area. According to a senior police official, the incident occurred around 8:30 PM on Tuesday night when the deceased was consuming alcohol with his friends in their office located near healthcare centre in Najafgarh when two unidentified assailants riding a bike with helmets on, appeared on the scene and before anybody could comprehend what they were upto, they shot him multiple times and fled from the spot.

"Roshan ho had sustained two bullet injuries, was rushed to Rao Tula Ram Hospital where doctors declared him brought dead. Initial probe suggests that there were three assailants. One of them stayed with bike 50 meters away from the crime scene and two others entered the office wearing helmets and fired several shots over him. Autopsy later revealed that he was shot twice and that proved fatal," said the

**'A case has been registered on the statement given by Roshan's friends who were consuming alcohol with him when the incident took place. We are scanning CCTV cameras in the area to identify the assailants. Further investigation is going on'**

senior police official.

"A case has been registered on the statement given by Roshan's friends who were consuming alcohol with him when the incident took place. We are scanning CCTV cameras in the area to identify the assailants.

Further investigation is going on," the senior police official added.

"There are around half a dozen cases registered against Roshan Lal in several police stations across the city. Roshan Lal was suspected to be a member of Manjeet Mahal gang and had come on bail from prison few months ago. There are two cases in Dwarka district, one case in Najafgarh district and one case in Uttam Nagar registered against him that includes Indian Penal Code sections' 302, 307, 384 and others," said a senior police official.

# Exhibition on cyber security from Dec 5 to 7 at Pragati Maidan

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

First in Delhi, South Asia's security exhibition on civil protection and fire safety pertaining to cyber security and surveillance will be held at Pragati Maidan.

The exhibition will run between December 5 - 7 with major focus on security of children has to be dealt differently. The IFSEC's latest exhibition showcasing the modern equipments and tools will ensure the security cover that would not breach privacy of individual students, schools, families and other stakeholders in the process.

Addressing this issue MD UBM Yogesh Mudras, pointed out vitalities that technology has taken care with sensitivity "Children represent a significant and one of the most vulnerable subject category of end users in the extensive range of security and surveillance systems and products available in the market.

With the Delhi Cabinet recently approving the installation of CCTV cameras in government schools to ensure safety of students, child security and surveillance is a trending subject in the industry currently.

CCTV Monitoring in van-

**The exhibition will run with major focus on security of children**

tage points, Wall Cams providing bird's eye view of the school campus or residential complexes, entrance automation, hidden cameras with inbuilt alerts and GPS tracking of school buses and vehicles form a part of the surveillance as do — very significantly — tracking and monitoring children's digital footprints.

Speaking about it Sudhindra Holla of Axis said, "We understand the concerns of everyone about the privacy issue. This is to ensure and make everyone aware that every company has a set of norms to address the privacy issues. We have ensured that surveillance data remains with the authorized people. Access is a very big thing.

If wrong people will get something important they would misuse it. So we have ensured that the leaks are minimal or no leaks. So the exhibition will offer an array of tools that will allow parents, schools and public places meant for children provide them a hassle free safe environment".

## INBRIEF

**23-YR-OLD MAN COMMITS SUICIDE**  
New Delhi: A 23-year-old man allegedly committed suicide by hanging himself from a ceiling fan in Sunder Nagari area of the Capital on Wednesday. "The deceased was identified as Sagar. The incident took place at around 9 pm on Tuesday. Police Control Room (PCR) call regarding the incident was received on Wednesday morning.

**THREE HELD FOR STEALING BIKES**  
New Delhi: Delhi Police has arrested three men, including a notorious criminal, for allegedly stealing motorcycles and mobile phones from outer Delhi's Sultanpuri area on Wednesday. The accused persons were identified as 32-year-old Harjeet (the notorious criminal), Vishal alias Manoj (22), and Vishal alias Dimpy (24), residents of Mangolpuri, they said.

**THREE HELD FOR DUPING PEOPLE**  
New Delhi: Delhi Police Crime Branch has arrested three accused persons who duped people on the pretext of giving out loans with a 0% interest rate. The accused Manoj Kumar (29), Rahul Sharma (27), and Tarun Rastogi (36) allegedly called the complainant pretending to be City Bank employees and swindled him off Rs 1,44,866 in six transactions as security for a loan of ₹5 lakh.

## PUBLIC NOTICE

It is public notice that the residential Plot No.49, Block H, Sector-41, Noida, U.P. has been allotted in the name of original allottee Hari Shanker, S/o Hukumar, Rai R/o F-9, Geetanjali Enclave, New Delhi and the above said plot was sold on the basis of G.P.A. to the following person:

1. A GPA was executed on 28-04-1999 in favour of Mr. Madhusudan Prasad S/o Sh. Yashoda Nand resident of House No.H-49, Sector-41, Noida, U.P. which is registered in the office of Sub-Registrar-IV, Delhi.

2. Because an agreement to sell is not registered or no agreement to sell executed so it is informed to all concern that the said Plot No.49, Block H, Sector-41, Noida, U.P. is going to be transfer in favour of Manish Prasad S/o Mr. Madhusudan Prasad resident of H-49, Sector-41, Noida, U.P. If someone has/has any objection, kindly inform to residential (Residential Plot Div) Noida Authority with all evidence within 30 days of publication of this notice. Madhusudan Prasad

## PRESS NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER

The Executive Engineer, East Bldg Maint Civil Divn (M-221), Public Works Department, Level-2, Delhi Sachivalaya, New Delhi-2 invites on behalf of the President of India, Online Percentage Rate tender through e-Procurement from approved and eligible registered contractors of CPWD for the following:-

1. Name of Work: E.O.R to RSK.V at East Vinod Nagar Delhi Dg. 2018-19 (SH: Provision of new entrance gate, raising of front boundary wall height, improvement of old paver block and development of old rain water harvesting system and upgradation of school entrance).

NIT No. 108/EE/GBMD-M 221/PWD/2018-19  
Tender ID: 2017\_PWD\_162120\_1  
Estimated Cost: Rs. 97,59,949/-  
Earnest Money: Rs. 1,95,199 /-  
Period of Completion: 120 Days  
Last date and time of Online Submission of Tenders upto 3:00 PM on 05.12.2017 Further details can be seen at <https://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in>

DIP/Shabdarth/2270/18-19

# Pakistani infant with big heart treated at Sir Ganga Ram

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

A 14 month old infant from Pakistan suffering from 'Giant Left Atrium', a rare heart disease, underwent a surgery at a Delhi's hospital. This was the largest size of Left Atrium for the age reported in world literature, doctors said on Wednesday.

The surgeons informed that the volume of Left Atrium (LA) of the child was 87 ml while the normal volume is 12-20 ml in children. The surgery was performed at Sir Ganga Ram Hospital (SGRH)

"The left sided blood chamber of the heart (Left atrium) was hugely dilated. It was four times to the expected size. This situation is called Giant Left Atrium which was pressing on the nearby airway structures in the chest," said Dr Neeraj Aggarwal, Pediatric Cardiologist, SGRH. Also there was a large hole between the lower chambers of heart and left sided valve was leaking, he added.

The doctors at the hospital said that the case was very unusual as this was the largest size of Left atrium for the age reported in world literature.

"We operated the child in single stage, open heart surgery, where hole was closed, valve was repaired and Giant left atrium was reduced in size. According to available reports,



this was the largest size of Left atrium for the age reported in world literature," said Dr Raja Joshi, Chairman, Pediatric Cardiac Surgery, SGRH.

He also added that that as far as they remember only few cases of GLA have been reported in children below 2 years.

According to the doctors, the baby was brought to hospital with inability to feed properly, was having recurrent chest infections and every crawling movement was interrupted due to breathlessness. He was not able to grow, weigh-

ing only 6.5 kg at the time of admission.

The condition is rare but can be extremely fatal for the patient suffering from the disease. "Giant Left Atrium (GLA) is a rare entity in pediatric population but carries a significant mortality risk.

When Left Atrium increases in size, it causes complications by compressing adjacent structures such as food pipe, spine, pulmonary vessels etc," said Dr Mridul Aggarwal, Pediatric Cardiologist, SGRH. The complications can be resolved after surgery, he added.

# NMC seals 124 units in Karol Bagh area

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Days after four people charred to death after they were trapped inside a narrow cloth laundering unit in Beedanpura area of Karol Bagh on Monday, North Delhi Municipal Corporation (NMC) has sealed 124 units in Ashoka park area of Karolbagh zone.

A senior NMC official said that the action was taken on the directions of Supreme Court appointed Monitoring Committee. "Many of the shops were found selling or producing tar oil causing environmental pollution," he said. He further said that these shops/units were sealed on account of misuse of spaces and violations of provisions of Master Plan of Delhi- 2021.

The official said that 120 units sealed on Wednesday while four shops were sealed on Tuesday, he said.

Many such units are still in operation running businesses in extremely small premises, which are mostly stuffed with goods, no ventilation and not equipped with prescribed safety measures. Most of the buildings do not have a sanction plan and have illegally added a third or a fourth floor to the already existing structure. Earlier this year, the licensing team of corporation had sealed 516 factories in Shahbad Daultpur, Prahladpur and Pooth Khurd for running factories in non-conforming areas.

# New bus service between Noida and Greater Noida launched

PTI ■ NOIDA

A new bus service was launched between Noida and Greater Noida by the Noida Metro Rail Corporation (NMRC) Wednesday, officials said.

The service on the new route between Shashi Chowk near City Centre Metro Station and Ace City in Greater Noida was launched by Union minister and local MP Mahesh Sharma.

NMRC officials said the bus service would have a maximum fare of Rs 32 and will have 18 stoppages in between, including the starting station and the terminus, a distance of over 15 km.

"... More such buses can be started to other sectors which will strengthen the local transport system and encourage use of public transport," Sharma tweeted.

NMRC Executive Director P D Upadhyay said the service will be available 8 am onwards on the new route — 312+ from Shashi Chowk to Ace City and 312 from Ace City to Shashi Chowk — till 8.40 pm.

Meanwhile, the Traffic Police has expressed the need for having CCTV cameras under all 21 metro stations in order to monitor vehicular movement and keep the roads from congesting.



**'The ARTO (enforcement) has also supported the observation that vehicles should not be allowed to stay near metro stations for long in view of the traffic situations that may arise'**

Superintendent of Police, Traffic, Anil Kumar Jha said that once the metro stations are opened for the public there will more pressure of vehicles along the metro stations and under the roads in

those areas which could lead to traffic situations.

"The ARTO (enforcement) has also supported the observation that vehicles should not be allowed to stay near metro stations for long in view of the traffic situations that may arise," the NMRC said in a statement, adding that the agency will provide space and police will have to bear the cost for CCTV cameras and related equipment, including cable and DBRs.

The soon-to-be-opened Aqua Line would run between Sector 71 station in Noida and the Depot Station in Greater Noida, covering 29.7 km through 21 stations.

# Air quality very poor, no respite in sight

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhiites continue to breathe highly toxic air as there is no respite in sight. City's air quality on Wednesday was recorded under 'very poor category' on National Ambient Air Quality Index (NAAQI) on Wednesday and in four areas the levels recorded under 'Severe' category.

Pollution monitoring agency Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) also noted that actions of the public and enforcement bodies have been inadequate in curbing pollution.

With no clarity on undertaking of cloud seeding to induce artificial rain in the national Capital, scientists at IIT Kanpur said they had made all preparations, including procurement of aircraft from the ISRO, to conduct the same.

According to CPCB data, the overall air quality index (AQI) in the city was recorded at 373, which falls in the 'very poor' category. Anand Vihar, Nehru Nagar, Mundka and Wazirpur recorded 'severe' air quality, while 30 areas recorded 'very poor' air quality, it said.

At 392, the overall air quality of Greater Noida was the worst in the National Capital Region (NCR), just points below the 'severe' category. Gurgaon, Faridabad, Noida and Ghaziabad too recorded 'very poor' overall air quality.

On Wednesday, the PM2.5 level (particles in the air with a diameter of less than 2.5 micrometre level) was recorded at 240, while the PM10 level was recorded at 389, the CPCB data said.

According to the Centre-run System of Air Quality and Weather Forecasting (SAFAR), air quality in the national capital is expected to remain in the 'very poor' category in the next two to three days.

"At present, winds are unfavourable for dispersion



which allows pollutants to accumulate. Humidity is still high which is unfavourable," the SAFAR said in its report, adding that fire counts from stubble burning has declined and will have a marginal impact.

Meanwhile, the CPCB directed public and enforcement agencies to immediately join social media platforms on which citizens can lodge their complaints on pollution directly, noting that actions of these bodies have been "inadequate".

The directions have been made to the NDMC, SDMC, EDMC, DMRC, CPWD, DDA and the state pollution control boards of Delhi, Rajasthan, Haryana, Punjab and Uttar Pradesh, among other public bodies.

In a meeting with public agencies and state pollution control boards, CPCB Member Secretary Prashant Gargava asked the agencies to join social media platforms like Twitter and Facebook to facilitate citizens lodging complaints of air polluting activities.

"It has been observed that most of the agencies are yet to join social media platforms and take action in respect of complaints concerning them," the CPCB was quoted as saying in the minutes of the meeting that took place last week.

**'At present, winds are unfavourable for dispersion which allows pollutants to accumulate. Humidity is still high which is unfavourable'**

The CPCB said the complaints reported were forwarded to the agencies concerned for action, however "it is observed that most of the agencies are yet to join and also action taken on complaints are inadequate".

"It was reiterated that agencies must immediately create Facebook page and Twitter handle to join CPCB social media platform to address complaints," it said, adding that the action taken in response must also be posted on the same platform through which complaints are received.

Gargava directed representatives of agencies to ensure effective corrective action in all cases of air polluting activities being reported through social media and the Sameer app that has been developed by the CPCB.

# BJP leadership knew about attack on CM: Sisodia

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia Wednesday alleged that the BJP leadership had knowledge of the attack on Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal and the Opposition party wants the latter eliminated to stop him from working for the people.

On Tuesday, a man flung chilli powder at Kejriwal outside his office in the Delhi Secretariat. The Chief Minister's spectacles broke but he was not injured in the attack.

The attacker, Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia addresses the media on Wednesday identified as Anil Kumar Sharma, has been arrested. "(Union) Home Minister Rajnath Singh called Kejriwal and asked him to file a complaint in the attack on him. Is this the way an attack on a Chief Minister should be



Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia addresses the media on Wednesday

Ranjan Dimri | Pioneer

probed?" Sisodia asked at a Press conference.

Sharma's Facebook profile shows that he is a member of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), he said. The BJP had termed the incident as "drama

by Kejriwal, with its Delhi chief Manoj Tiwari demanding a high-level probe into it. "After failing to stop Kejriwal from working for the people of Delhi, now the BJP wants him eliminated. The entire series of

events indicate that top BJP leadership had knowledge of the attack on Kejriwal," Sisodia claimed. The deputy Chief Minister also lashed out at the Delhi Police, alleging it was acting on the behest of the BJP

and trying to save the culprit. Even 24 hours after the attack, Delhi's Lieutenant Governor has not reacted on it. This means that he also knew about it, Sisodia alleged.

Delhi's ruling Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) has said it will hold a protest at the BJP's national headquarters on Wednesday against the attack on Kejriwal.

Later on Tuesday, the Delhi Police registered a case against Sharma at the IP Estate police station. "A formal complaint was received by CM's office on Tuesday following which a First Information Report

(FIR) was registered in police station. The accused Sharma was produced in local court on Wednesday and he had been sent to 14 days judicial custody till December 5," said Anil Mittal, Public Relations Officer (PRO), Delhi Police.

## AAP MLAs seek removal of Delhi Police from Govt's relief plan

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

AAP legislators on Wednesday demanded that Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal remove Delhi Police from the list of beneficiaries of the Government's scheme of giving compensation of ₹1 crore to the kin of slain security personnel, alleging that the force betrayed the people of the country.

The AAP MLAs in a letter to Kejriwal also criticised the "attitude" of Delhi Police in cases of attack on him, saying it puts question mark on "impartiality" of the force.

The move comes a day after a 40-year-old man threw chilli powder at Kejriwal outside his office at the Delhi Secretariat.

"Besides you, attacks on AAP leaders and workers take place and the attitude of Delhi Police in such matters raises question over its impartiality," they said.

## AAP scripted Chilli attack to gain sympathy: Tiwari

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Day after the attack on Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal in the Secretariat, Delhi BJP alleged that the whole incident was scripted by his Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) and that it was its modus operandi before every election to gain sympathy.

Addressing a news conference here, Delhi BJP chief Manoj Tiwari listed the attacks on the AAP chief in the run-up to the 2013 Delhi Assembly election and the 2014 Lok Sabha polls.

Incidentally, on Tuesday, a man flung chilli powder at Kejriwal outside his office at the Delhi Secretariat. The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) described it as politically motivated.

"The attack on the CM was scripted by the AAP. Before the incident, the man who attacked Kejriwal was in touch with the CM's office. He gained entry into the Delhi Secretariat after the CM's office asked for it...It is the AAP's modus operandi before every election to seek people's sympathy,"



Delhi BJP president Manoj Tiwari addresses a Press conference at the party office in New Delhi on Wednesday

Ranjan Dimri | Pioneer

**'The attack on the CM was scripted by the AAP. Before the incident, the man who attacked Kejriwal was in touch with the CM's office. He gained entry into the Delhi Secretariat after the CM's office asked for it...It is the AAP's modus operandi before every election to seek people's sympathy'**

Tiwari told reporters. The BJP leader termed the incident as another "drama"

ahead of the Lok Sabha election to be held early next year.

The Delhi Police registered a case against Anil Kumar Sharma at the IP Estate police station, a senior police officer said. Earlier in the day, Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia alleged the BJP leadership had knowledge of the attack on Kejriwal and that the opposition party wants the AAP chief eliminated to stop him from working for the people.

## AAP disapproves Somnath Bharti's gesture towards woman scribe

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) disapproved of its MLA Somnath Bharti's alleged behaviour towards a woman journalist after he was booked on Wednesday on charges of hurling abuses at her.

"Somnath Bharti should not have talked the way he did on television," AAP spokesperson Saurabh Bhardwaj said. An FIR against the AAP MLA was lodged on the complaint of the woman journalist of a private TV news channel, who accused him of calling her names and asking her to "become a prostitute". Denying the allegations, Bharti, however, threatened to file a defamation case against both the news channel and its anchor.

He said he had joined the TV show over phone to discuss the attack on Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal Tuesday, but the video was being presented with manipulation. "I will file a defamation case against both the news anchor as well as the channel," Bharti told.

# BJP to accept deserters in party fold if they give undertaking

SAPNA SINGH ■ NEW DELHI

Local BJP workers who had rebelled against the party after being denied party nomination to contest municipal polls in 2017 and subsequently expelled, have shown willingness to join the party again. However, Delhi State BJP leaders have put a rider to accept them in the fold again. They have been asked to furnish an undertaking that they will not desert the party at a crucial time.

According to a senior BJP leader 84 leaders including former councilors and leaders from across the city will join the party. Majority of them contested civic polls against the BJP official candidate, however, most of them lost the polls.

Prominent names to re-join the party are Anita Chaudhary, Niki Singh, Sandhya Verma, Mahesh Atri, Indrapal Rana, Ashok Tayal, Jai Prakash Lohia, Dr. Pankaj Singh, Rajan Khanna, Charan Singh, Sudha Sharma, Ramesh Kapoor, Sunil Kakkar, Bindya Kakkar, Satbant Singh and Ram Niwas Bhadana.



Ravinder Gupta, Pradesh General Secretary

Ravinder Gupta, Pradesh General Secretary, said, "These leaders stayed away for some time from the party but in the next Lok Sabha elections in 2019, with the slogan of 'Name Again', they will work to make party stronger."

Gupta also said that no former BJP leader is allowed to re-join party in absence of a written request showing their intention to rejoin and faith in its leadership and ideology they are inducted in party.

"The reason behind taking request in writing is primarily to check their real intention to join the party or whether they are in talks with others or not.

**'These leaders stayed away for some time from the party but in the next Lok Sabha elections in 2019, with the slogan of 'Name Again', they will work to make party stronger'**

Another reason is that they should not backtrack from their decision. Party also giving them joining letters," he said.

When asked about the development, Manoj Tiwari, the President, Delhi BJP, said, "The party is expecting all of you to work in the field from today with the full potential and full skill, forgetting all the differences and take BJP ahead," Tiwari added.

## MACT awards ₹33L relief to bus mishap victim's family

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

New Delhi: A Motor Accident Claims Tribunal (MACT) here has awarded over ₹33 lakh to the family of a 32-year-old man who died after falling from a running bus whose rear gate was left open by the driver. The tribunal's Presiding Officer Pawan Kumar Jain asked National Insurance Company Limited, the insurer of the offending bus, to pay ₹33,30,631 to the wife, two sons and aged parents of victim Prem Chandra Giri.

The accident happened on November 4, 2015 and the victim was the sole bread winner of the family. According to Giri's wife, he fell off the running bus near Iron Yamuna bridge bus stand, as the rear gate of the bus was left open by the driver even after repeated requests of the conductor.

# 51-yr-old held for killing woman in Sarita Vihar

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Police on Wednesday arrested a 51-year-old man who had allegedly killed a septuagenarian woman last week in Delhi's Sarita Vihar. The accused used to work as driver with the deceased neighbour. The police have also recovered robbed gold jewellery articles from the possession of the accused.

The accused has been identified as Mehboob who is a resident of Madanpur Khadar in Delhi. According to Chinmoy Biswal, Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP), South east district, on Saturday evening the septuagenarian woman identified as Savitri Devi (73) was



Accused Mehboob in police custody after being arrested on the charges of a murdering a 73-year-old woman in Sarita Vihar area

Pioneer photo

found lying in pool of blood in her house drawing room.

"She was rushed to hospital where she was declared brought dead. The knife used in crime was recovered from the spot. A case was registered and

during investigation the CCTV cameras in the area were scanned. On the basis of investigation it was found that no new entrant or stranger was seen in the locality during the time of offence following which

rob any person who was doing morning walk but no one met him with wearing wealthy items. He hatched conspiracy and planned kill and rob money and ornaments from the house of deceased," said the DCP.

# PWD to construct flyover to ease traffic near Qutub Minar

GAYATHRI MANI ■ NEW DELHI

In order to ease the traffic flow near Qutub Minar red light, the Public Works Department (PWD) has decided to construct a flyover. Once completed, it will make life easy for the people of South Delhi who travel from Aurobindo Marg to Gurugram as the Public Works.

This particular stretch is infamous for poor road construction and heavy traffic congestion. The construction of this much awaited flyover is likely to start from January of next year.

"The plan has been approved by Satyender Jain the PWD minister and the department is working on other modalities including proving alternative roads to the motorists as this particular area has a round the

clock traffic. Further, the flyover would get ready by 2020 until it encounters any problem in coordination from other civic bodies," said a senior PWD official.

As per the Delhi Traffic Police, a heavy jam on this stretch especially at the T-Point and signal near the Qutub Minar is a daily affair.

More than 7000 vehicles pass through this route per hour in the morning peak hours and in 4000 vehicles during the evening peak hours.

"It is one of the busiest routes of the National Capital and due to improper road designs of this stretch both the commuters as well as the traffic police faces a heavy time daily.

Also, the traffic unit has not observed a single day that



vehicles cross this signal at one go after the green signal pops up," said a senior traffic police official.

As per the plan, a four lane flyover will be constructed at South Delhi's Aurobindo Marg on the Badarpur Road connecting the Qutub Minar and

ing heavy jams took place on this route.

Further, the Chattarpur Road T-point will be closed so that commuters travel from Gurugram to Chattarpur can take a u-turn from under the flyover avoiding heavy jams," added the official.

The official further added that the proposal has been passed and construction on this flyover will start soon by the beginning of 2019.

"It is a good news for the commuters especially who use this route daily but happy news will be only if the plan will bore fruit.

Travelling on this route during the peak hours is like a nightmare as one has to wait hours to reach Gurugram," said Vinay Kumar, software engineer who travels daily to Gurugram from Malviya Nagar.

We are getting many complaints from the people regard-

# DIAL wins 28th spot globally for cargo tonnage handling

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

With One Million Metric Tons cargo in a year, GMR group led Delhi International Airport Ltd (DIAL) attained 28th position globally. The cargo tonnage handled by Delhi airport is 29 per cent of India's total Air Cargo.

GMR also handled highest ever monthly air cargo tonnage of 1,00,091 MT in a single month — October 2018.

The significant growth in Civil Aviation and air connectivity over the years have also played a prominent role in facilitating cargo movements throughout the world.

IGIA connects to 75

International and 67 Domestic destinations, served by around 64 Air Carriers and 16 Freighter airlines.

Videh Kumar Jaipuria, Chief Executive Officer, DIAL, said, "Delhi Airport has been recognized as India's Air Cargo Gateway for its handling capacity, efficient processes and service standards.

DIAL thanks and extends its sincere gratitude to all the Stakeholders and Trade partners for achieving this significant milestone.

We look forward to working closely with our partners and stakeholders to sustain this growth and achieve bigger ones as we go along."

DIAL is also recognized as

the 'Authorized Economic Operator Certified Airport' by Central Board of Excise & Customs, Ministry of Finance, GoI, for making a significant impact amongst its stakeholders in promoting Delhi Airport as Cargo Hub Airport for the region and the world.

As per a report by ASSOCHAM, Air cargo contributes about 20 percent of Airlines revenue and involves a wide variety of service providers and employs nearly 70,000 persons in the country. Delhi Airport contributes 17.89 percent to the GSDP (Gross State Domestic Product), according to National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER).

**SACRILEGE CASE**

**Akshay appears before Punjab SIT**

**Denies meeting Sacha Sauda chief Ram Rahim**

**PNS ■ CHANDIGARH**

Ending speculation, Bollywood actor Akshay Kumar appeared before a special investigation team (SIT) on Wednesday and dismissed allegations that he arranged a meeting between former Punjab Deputy Chief Minister Sukhbir Singh Badal and controversial godman Gurmeet Ram Rahim Singh.

The five-member SIT formed by the Punjab Government is probing police firing at Faridkot's Behbal Kalan and Kotkapura on people protesting over the desecration of the Guru Granth Sahib. Two people had died in the police firing in 2015.

The self-styled godman's supporters were alleged to be involved in cases of desecration, after pages of the religious text were found torn and scattered. Akshay Kumar's counsel later told reporters that the actor denied having ever met the Dera Sacha Sauda chief, who is currently serving a 20-year jail term in two rape cases.

The SIT questioned the



Actor Akshay Kumar arriving at the Mohali International Airport to appear before the SIT probing the sacrilege cases in Chandigarh on Wednesday. Pioneer photo

actor as his name figured in the Justice Ranjit Singh Commission report on the sacrilege incidents, which was tabled in the Punjab Assembly in August.

It was alleged that the actor brought together Gurmeet Ram Rahim Singh and the then deputy chief minister to ensure the release in Punjab of MSG-2, a controversial movie made by the sect chief.

The actor was quizzed for about two hours at the Punjab police headquarters in sector-9 here. He told the SIT that he never met Dera Sacha Sauda chief in his entire life. So the question about any meeting does not arise, the actor's counsel Sant Pal Singh

Sidhu told reporters. He said the claim by former MLA Harbans Jalal before the Ranjit Singh Commission about the meeting are concocted.

Even the Commission report has not placed any reliance on these claims saying these are based on 'hearsay', the counsel said.

Akshay Kumar has not been asked to appear again before the SIT, Sidhu said.

The counsel said the actor told the SIT members that he respected all the religions, particularly the Sikh religion.

The counsel was not present with Akshay Kumar when he was quizzed.

Even before his SIT

appearance, the actor had denied mediating between the Shiromani Akali Dal president and the sect chief.

The former MLA wrote to the Ranjit Singh Commission on October 9, 2017, claiming that a meeting took place between Gurmeet Ram Rahim Singh and Sukhbir Singh Badal at the actor's flat in Mumbai in 2015 in connection with the release of MSG-2.

The meeting was allegedly held before the Dera chief was pardoned by the Akal Takht, the supreme temporal seat of the Sikhs, in a 2007 blasphemy case.

After arriving at Chandigarh airport, the actor headed straight to the Punjab police headquarters, reaching there about 9.30 am.

He refused to talk to the media waiting at the airport on his arrival and before his departure.

Heavy security was in place outside the Punjab police headquarters, officials said. The police had earlier asked the actor to appear before the probe team in Amritsar, but later gave him to the option to come to Chandigarh.

The SIT has already questioned former Chief Minister Parkash Singh Badal and former Deputy Chief Minister Sukhbir Singh Badal.

**'Govt making calibrated effort to weaken democracy'**

**BJP retaliates on former PM's remark**

**Indore:** Former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh on Wednesday accused the Government of making a "careful, well-thought-out calibrated effort" to weaken democracy and lamented that the credibility of institutions like Parliament and the CBI was being "systematically denigrated".

Singh levelled the allegation at a news conference in Indore ahead of the Assembly polls in Madhya Pradesh on November 28.

The BJP rejected Singh's charge while the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) did not react.

The BJP alleged that Singh's Congress-led Government in its 10-year rule had always put pressure on institutions like the CBI while the Government led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi "respects" institutions and does not interfere in their functioning.

"Nobody is harming or weakening any institution. It is our Government that is giving them independence to express their views and in economic policy. Singh should know that there are always difference of opinion and there are multiple options in research allocation," BJP spokesperson Gopal Krishna Agarwal said in New Delhi.

In a veiled reference to developments in the RBI and CBI, Singh said the Modi Government is trying to prevail over big institutions, adding this was detrimental to democracy and the law of the land.

"The country has witnessed credibility of institutions like Parliament and CBI systematically denigrated. There is a careful, well-thought-out and calibrated effort to weaken democracy," he said.

"The rule of law is under attack. History shall never forgive our present generation if the situation is not changed," he added.

Alleging that the relationship between the RBI and the Finance Ministry has hit a low, the former Union Finance Minister said there is a need for "harmony and coordination".

"The RBI Governor and Finance Minister have a delicate relationship. Both have to work together. Even though the job of running the country rests



Former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh addresses a press conference in Indore on Wednesday. PTI

with the Government, specific responsibility is given to the RBI Governor by the RBI Act. There is a need to recognise interdependence of the two entities and work in harmony," he said.

"I am happy with the efforts being made to bring reconciliation. Both need to work in harmony with each other."

Singh termed demonetisation as "organised loot and legalised plunder".

"This is a done act and can't be reverted. It is up to the people to get rid of the Government which brought them on this disastrous path," he said.

The note ban and the "flawed" Goods and Services Tax (GST) of the NDA Government have caused a "great damage" to the unorganised sector, Singh said. "The note ban failed to achieve its goal."

Singh also alleged that corruption was peaking in the Modi Government.

Asked about his 2014 comments that Modi as Prime Minister would be a disaster to the country, he said he did not

want to comment on his earlier remarks. "I used harsh words which I should not have. Now people will make the decision," he added.

Singh accused Modi of misusing the Prime Minister's post. "It does not befit the PM to abuse political opponents," he said, adding Modi was using "unparliamentary words" against the Opposition.

On the controversial Rafale deal, he said it needs a thorough investigation through a Joint Parliamentary Committee probe. "Modi is not going in for the constitution of the JPC, which gives an impression that something is amiss," he said, adding this has given rise to a "great deal of suspicion" in the minds of people.

On steps needed to improve the economy, Singh said infrastructure investment should increase and national savings rate should be encouraged.

"In our (Congress-led regime) time, the national saving rate was 35 to 36 per cent. Now it is 28 per cent," he said.

If the GDP rate needs to grow to 10 per cent, the national savings rate and infrastructure investment needs to grow, he added. PTI

**BJP runs Govt 'comparatively better' than Cong: Rajnath**

**Bhopal:** Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh on Wednesday claimed that the BJP has run the Government "comparatively better" than the Congress and blamed the Opposition party for a "credibility crisis" in politics after Independence.

Talking to reporters in poll-bound Madhya Pradesh, Singh asserted that the country was currently witnessing "achchhe din" (good days) and it was a matter of perception how people saw it.

He also defended BJP-led Government at the Centre over the Rafale jet deal row. "Indian economy is the fastest growing economy in the world due to the charismatic work of our Prime Minister (Narendra Modi). India (people) has accepted that BJP is a political party which runs the Government comparatively better than the Congress," Singh told reporters here.

"I said comparatively... No political party is perfect, neither are we, I never made such a claim. All political parties have shortcomings. But this (BJP) is a political party which works better, comparatively," he asserted. PTI

**Idea of grand coalition in J&K sent BJP jitters: Mehbooba**

**New Delhi:** The very idea of a grand coalition in Jammu & Kashmir has given the BJP jitters, former Chief Minister and PDP leader Mehbooba Mufti said on Wednesday night after the dissolution of the State Assembly by the Governor.

Former CM and National Conference leader Omar Abdullah said Governor Satyapal Malik's decision to dissolve the Assembly "cannot be a coincidence" as it came within minutes of Mehbooba Mufti staking claim to form the Government.

Mehbooba tweeted, "In my 26-year-old career as a politician, I thought I had seen it all! But like they say never say never! Nevertheless, I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to @OmarAbdullah and @Ambikasoni4 ji for helping us achieve the seemingly impossible."

In series of tweets, she said since the past five months, regardless of political affiliations, "we shared the view that the State Assembly be dissolved immediately to avert horse-trading and defections".

"Oddly enough our pleas fell on deaf ears. But who would have thought that the very idea of a grand coalition would give such jitters," she said. She also said in a lighter vein that "In today's age of technology, it is very strange that the fax machine at HE Governor's residence didn't receive our fax but swiftly issued one regarding the assembly dissolution."

Abdullah said his party had been pressing for dissolution of Assembly for the last five months.

"JKNC has been pressing for Assembly dissolution for 5 months now. It can't be a coincidence that within minutes of

Mehbooba Mufti Sabha letter staking claim the order to dissolve the Assembly suddenly appears," Abdullah tweeted minutes after the Governor's decision to dissolve the State Assembly.

Leader of Opposition in Rajya Sabha and former Chief Minister of Jammu & Kashmir Ghulam Nabi Azad said while the talks for formation of a popular Government were in its infancy, the BJP Government at the Centre was so worried that they dissolved the State Assembly.

"It is clear that BJP's policy is either we or nobody," Azad told PTI.

Former BJP leader and former Union Minister Yashwant Sinha said the dissolution of the Assembly was the latest example of the BJP to not let anyone form the Government even if that meant bypassing the Constitution. PTI

**Two tiger cubs found dead in MP**

**Mandla (MP):** Two tiger cubs were found dead in Kanha Tiger Reserve (KTR) in Madhya Pradesh on Wednesday, an official said.

The carcasses of the cubs that were just over two months old, were found by a patrolling party of the forest department in Mukki forest range, KTR's field director L. Krishnamurthy said.

"A forest patrol party got the information in the morning about the carcasses of two cubs in Mukki range, after which the team reached the spot," he said.

The cause of their death will be known only after a forensic examination is conducted, he said.

As per the 2014 census report, the Kanha reserve, located in Mandla district, housed around 100 tigers. PTI

**Cong should be disbanded as wished by Babu: Yogi**

**Rajgarh (MP):** Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Wednesday said since the Congress did not work in the interest of farmers, it should be disbanded as wished by Mahatma Gandhi.

In a veiled reference to veteran Congressman Digvijay Singh, he said a Congress leader's name had cropped up in a Naxal-related case.

"The Congress has not worked in the interest of the farmers. Therefore, it should be disbanded as wished by Mahatma Gandhi. This is your responsibility," Adityanath said, while addressing a gathering at Narsinghar in this district of poll-bound Madhya Pradesh.

"A big Congress leader's name has cropped up in a case connected to Naxals. Terrorism and Naxalism are a threat to the nation and the Congress's sympathy for them is condemnable," he added.

The Pune police had earlier said a letter seized in con-



Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath speaking at a podium. PTI

nection with the Elgar Parishad probe referred to a mobile number purportedly belonging to Singh.

Two days ago, Singh had dared Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh and Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnis to take action against him in the Elgar Parishad case.

Adityanath claimed that Naxalism started emerging in Madhya Pradesh 15 years ago. "Madhya Pradesh was then known for potholed roads, unemployment, but after the BJP came to power, it turned the State into a developed one," he said. PTI

**All households to be electrified by Dec-end: Power Minister**

**New Delhi:** Power Minister RK Singh on Wednesday exuded confidence that 100 per cent household electrification under the Saubhagya scheme would be achieved by the end of 2018 as only 50 lakh families are left to be covered.

The Union and the State Power Ministers in a meeting in July had decided to provide electricity connections to all families by December 2018 against the earlier target of March 2019.

Singh in an open article said that power consumer base was increasing at a rate of one lakh per day and estimates suggested that the number of households left were less than 50 lakh.

"At this rate, almost 50 more days required to achieve 100 per cent household electrification. If we do it faster, less days to achieve the goal," he added. PTI

**Mallya faces setback in case to save London home**

**London:** Embattled liquor tycoon Vijay Mallya on Wednesday faced a setback in his battle to save his posh London home from foreclosure by Swiss bank UBS after the UK High Court rejected many of the arguments relied on by his legal team.

The bank has sought repossession of the property at Cornwall Terrace, overlooking Regent's Park in central London, over the non-payment of a 20.4-million pounds mortgage loan.

The property was referred to in the UK High Court as a "high class home for Dr Vijay Mallya and his family members and United Breweries Group corporate guests". While a trial in the case has been set for May next year, the High Court on Wednesday ruled on the UBS' application to strike out parts of the defence and found substantially in favour of the bank. PTI

**Kushwaha set to dump NDA... J&K Guv scuttles...**

**From Page 1**  
Nitish had won the State elections as part of Mahagathbandhan in which Lulu Yadav's RJD bagged more seats than him.

Sources said Sharad Yadav who broke away with Nitish Kumar is keen to contest Lok Sabha and for that he needs a platform and hence he is likely to merge his outfit with RLS party.

Yadav enjoys the confidence of Congress as well as RJD because he quit his par-

ent party on difference of ideology on the decision of Nitish to break away with Lulu and again join hands with BJP.

The relation between Nitish Kumar and Kushwaha has reached a point of no return with both leaders making caustic comments about each other. A fortnight ago, RLS workers were beaten up by the police in Patna for protesting against Nitish Kumar for taking objectionable jibe at Kushwaha.

**From Page 1**  
Beigh is one of the founding leaders of the PDP who briefly headed the party and rose in ranks to the level of becoming Deputy Chief Minister of the State in 2006.

Observers say that after the dissolution of the Assembly, the State politics would take a dramatic turn and new permutations and combinations would emerge.

Earlier, former BJP leader and Deputy Chief Minister Kavinder Gupta stirred major row by alleging that the PDP, the NC and the Congress were coming together "on the direc-

tions from Pakistan". "They boycotted municipal/panchayat polls on the directions of Pakistan and now they are coming together to form a Government in the State on their directions too," Gupta told reporters in Jammu.

In the past these Kashmir-based parties have treated Jammu as "second grade" entity and now we will not allow them to take people of Jammu region for a ride, he added.

This decision of forming a Government, he alleged, was taken in a meeting held in Dubai.

**1 held for terror blast in...**

**From Page 1**  
The HG 84 grenade, commonly used by Pakistan against our Army in Kashmir, was used in the attack. This type of grenade is filled with small pellets and is very destructive and has effective range of 30 meter radius.

While Bikramjit is just 26-year-old, Avtar is 32, and "both were not trained. They did what they have been told to do. They were the first timers."

At the same time, Chief Minister ruled out any religious motivation behind the attack, while described Amritsar attack on Nirankari Bhawan as "purely terrorist act".

"There was no communal business in this. It was purely a terrorist act. These people were easy targets...They just wanted to disturb Punjab's peace. After seeing that previous attack on RSS leaders could not do anything in the State, they are now going in for

large scale killings," he said. Rubbishing the rumours regarding the arrest of the second accused by the evening, DGP Suresh Arora told The Pioneer that efforts are being made to apprehend him.

He said that the preliminary investigations and CCTV footage of the incident had led to the arrest of Bikramjit.

"Bikram was riding a motorbike (TVS PB-18 M-7032) at the time of his arrest. Bikram's black Bajaj Pulsar motorcycle (PB-02-BF9488), which he has used in the attack, has also been recovered," said Arora.

During interrogation, Bikramjit has disclosed that Avtar Singh called him up late on the night of November 3, and asked him to be ready for an assignment the next morning. "Around 4.30 am that day, Avtar reached Bikram's house and both set off on Bikram's Bajaj Pulsar motorcycle to retrieve the hand grenade from an Orchard located at a distance of about one km on Majitha-Hariyan link road. They retrieved the HE 84 hand grenade, which had been buried in a half feet deep pit under a Shisham tree," told Arora.

Before committing the

crime, they carried out the reece of Nirankari Satsang Bhawan on November 13 morning, when no one was present at the premises. "They especially checked out the locations of CCTV cameras enroute, the layout plan of the Bhawan and the distance from the main gate on the boundary wall of the Bhawan to the Satsang Bhawan building," said Arora.

The State police chief informed that Bikramjit has further disclosed that as decided on November 16, Bikram reached Avtar's house at Chak Mishri Khan village at about 9 am, where they removed the number plate of the motorcycle. "They started for Adliwal village at about 9.30 am and covered their faces on the way, near village Manawala. They waited in the area for the crowd to congregate at the Satsang Bhawan. Both of them were armed with pistols at that time," said Arora.

Bikram has further revealed that while Avtar successfully slinked into the Satsang Bhawan complex through the open gate, along with the sangat which had just reached there, he himself managed to subdue and take

control, at gunpoint, of the two sewadars who had been deployed at the two gate-posts of the Satsang Bhawan complex.

After hurling the grenade, both of them fled on Bikram's mobile and reached Avtar's village around 12 noon, where Avtar took back the pistol from Bikram. After changing his cloths and appearance, Bikram drove back to his village on his black Bajaj Pulsar motorcycle.

According to Bikramjit, Avtar Singh was in touch with "one Happy" in Pakistan, who had got the hand grenade dumped near the Orchard near Majitha through some of his other associate(s). Bikram has revealed that the geo-location details as well as pictures of the dump location were sent to Avtar on his mobile to facilitate the retrieval of the hand grenade.

Harmeet Singh Happy, known as PhD, had earlier come to notice for supply of a hand-grenade (Arges Type HG-84) of the same specifications to Patiala lad Shabnamdeep Singh, a self-styled chief of Khalistan Gaddar Force (KGF), who was arrested by Punjab Police (Patiala) on October 31.

**Half of ATMs may close down by...**

**From Page 1**  
"Our members, who include the ATM managed service providers (MSPs), brown-label ATM operators (BLAs) and White Label ATM Operators (WLAOs), are already reeling under the financial impact caused by huge losses during and post demonetisation as cash supply was impacted and remained inconsistent for months," Balasubramanian said.

He said the situation had further deteriorated now due to the additional compliance requirements that call for a huge cost outlay. "The service providers do not have the financial means to meet such massive costs and may be forced to shut down these ATMs, unless banks step in to bear the load of the additional cost of compliances. Revenues from providing ATMs as a service are not growing at all due to very low ATM interchange and ever-increasing costs."

The CATMI, which is a registered non-profit trade association formed by ATM industry leaders to foster the growth of the industry, estimates an additional outlay of about Rs 3,500 crore - only for complying with the new cash logistics and cassette swap method. These compliance costs may also see the 15,000-plus white label ATMs going out of business.

"The ATM industry in India has reached a tipping point, and unless ATM deployers are compensated by banks for making these investments, there is likely to be a scenario where contracts are surrendered, leading to large-scale closure of ATMs," Balasubramanian added.

**High-profile cases take hit in absence...**

**From Page 1**  
During the course of investigation, the files are also sent to a parallel rank officer of the prosecution wing headed by Director of Prosecution.

Even registration of cases has also taken a hit after the unprecedented action against Verma and Asthana. As many as 47 cases were registered during the period between September 23 and October 23, the date on which Verma and Asthana were sent on forced leave and restrained from taking any supervisory duty in the CBI. But during the period between October 24 and November 21, only 25 cases were registered, officials said, adding the paper work in many cases was completed before the extraordinary action against Verma and Asthana. The registration of cases will further decline as Rao is unlikely to take any decision with regard to registration of cases.

"It is fairly difficult to file chargesheets in the absence of legal opinion and clarity of decision making even in cases in which the probes have been completed as three top officials are missing in the CBI's hierarchy," a senior official added.

COMMUNAL APPEAL FOR VOTES

# BJP wants EC to punish Kamal Nath

## Also questions, why Nath was removed as Punjab Cong incharge?

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Fuelled by the poll season adrenaline, the BJP on Wednesday attacked Congress Madhya Pradesh chief Kamal Nath for pandering to the Muslims and charged his party with working against the victims of 1984 Sikh riots while also pointing out that Nath was removed as Punjab incharge following the anti-Sikh killings. The BJP demanded the EC to take legal action against Nath.

Making Nath its target in the poll-bound State, where voting is due on November 28, BJP referred to a video figuring him on social media wherein he is purportedly saying that it would be a huge loss if the Congress does not get 90 per cent of Muslim votes.

A BJP delegation, led by Union Minister and senior BJP leader Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi, visited election commission and sought suitable penal action against Nath for inciting communal and religious feelings by appealing to a particular religious community. The party also drew EC's attention to the alleged violation of code



of conduct by the Congress MP Chief.

In the clip, the nine-time Lok Sabha MP from Chhindwara is reportedly urging a gathering of Muslim clerics to account for each and every Muslim vote in the State. He asks them to conduct a postmortem on why only 60 per cent Muslims turn up to polling booths. The veracity of the clip is yet to be confirmed by independent viewers.

"In the Muslim booths, what is the percentage of voting that has taken place? If 50 to 60 per cent of voting has taken place, why was it just 60 per cent? Why wasn't it 90 per cent? It is important to do a postmortem of the previous elections. If you want we will

### THE NINE-TIME LOK SABHA MEMBER FROM CHHINDWARA IS REPORTEDLY URGING A GATHERING OF MUSLIM CLERICS TO ACCOUNT FOR EACH AND EVERY MUSLIM VOTE IN THE STATE

get it done to 80 to 90 per cent. If we don't get 90 per cent vote share of the Muslim community today, then it will be a big loss for us," Nath can reportedly be heard saying.

In the clip he is seen telling the members in the gathering to 'identify' Muslim booths and target the voters there. "You know which is a Muslim booth. In that booth, what was the percentage of voting that took place? If 60 per cent voting has taken place there, there would be a reason

behind it," Nath says.

BJP spokesperson Sambit Patra hit out at Congress for practicing 'divide and rule' politics brazenly. He also went on to say that Nath's fresh comments are an extrapolation of Congress president's comment where he allegedly asserted that Congress is a party of Muslims. Patra also implied that the Congress was undermining the votes of backward class and tribals.

In another video, circulated in social media earlier, Nath was purportedly commenting on the so-called divisive politics of the BJP and asking the Muslim voters to bear with it until polling concludes.

On Wednesday, the BJP also charged the Congress with denying justice to the 1984 Sikh victims and also simultaneously targeted Nath saying he was removed as Congress incharge for the Punjab Assembly polls following protests by Sikhs.

A day after a Delhi court awarded death sentence to an accused and life imprisonment to another in a 1984 anti-Sikh riots case, senior BJP leader Ravi Shankar Prasad said the

probe carried out by a Special Investigation Team (SIT) set up by the Narendra Modi Government led to the sentencing.

"We (BJP) are very satisfied," the Union Minister told reporters about his party's stand on the verdict and added that people needed to be told that the Congress had, during the Sikh riot victims did not get justice.

The Opposition party did it to save its own people, Prasad alleged.

Targeting Nath, who has been accused by some Sikh bodies of having links to the riots, Prasad noted that the Congress had removed him as its incharge for the Punjab polls last year following protests by people. The Congress should answer as to why was Nath removed, he said.

Nath had in the past rejected the charges against him and said he had no links with the 1984 anti-Sikh riots, following the assassination of then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi by her Sikh bodyguards.

# PM mocking DeMo-hit farmers, says Rahul

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Continuing his daily attack on the Modi Government, Congress president Rahul Gandhi on Wednesday claimed that demonetisation had "destroyed" the lives of farmers and accused Prime Minister Narendra Modi of making "fun" of their plight during his poll campaigns.

Taking to Twitter, he cited a media report that claimed the agriculture ministry has admitted that demonetisation has hit the farmers hard. The Ministry, however, rejected the claims.

"Noteban has destroyed the lives of farmers. Now they do not even have enough money to buy seeds and fertilizer," Rahul tweeted in Hindi.

"But, Modi ji is making fun of our farmers' plight. Now his Agriculture Ministry has also said that farmers were badly affected due to demonetisation decision," he said on Twitter referring to Modi's campaigns in Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh.

On Saturday, the Congress chief tagged on Twitter a video of the prime minister's speech during the poll campaign in Chhattisgarh, where he alleged that people were hiding their black money under beds and in



wheat stocks in their homes before the note ban.

He had also asked if absconders like Vijay Mallya, Nirav Modi and Mehul Choksi, who have allegedly committed bank frauds, have ever sown wheat.

"Have you seen Mallya, Mehul bhai and Nirav Modi sow wheat. Modiji, don't insult the farmers. You first indulged in a scam by collecting farmers money by noteban and handed it over to your suit-boot friends. "Now you are saying that farmers' money was black money. India will not tolerate this insult of farmers," he had tweeted.

Union Finance Minister Arun Jaitley has defended demonetisation, saying it was a "highly ethical" move and not merely a political one.

Jaitley also said hard data showed an increase in tax base, greater formalisation of the economy and India retaining the fastest growing economy tag for the fifth year in a row.

## INSHORT

### FRENCH NAVY RESCUES 12 DROWNING INDIANS



New Delhi: Twelve Indians were rescued from a sinking vessel in the Persian Gulf by a French Navy ship on Tuesday, the French embassy said in a statement here. Those rescued were crew members of the Durban Queen bearing a Saint Kitts and Nevis flag. Despite some minor injuries, they are safe and in good health, it said.

### EU UNVEILS STRATEGY PAPER TO BOOST TIES

New Delhi: The European Union on Wednesday unveiled a 'strategy paper' outlining the broad contours to significantly scale up ties with India in a plethora of areas like investment, infrastructure, defence, security and counter-terrorism, and proposed a military-to-military cooperation in the Indian Ocean.

### ASIA ENVIRONMENT GOES TO WILDLIFE BUREAU

New Delhi: The Wildlife Crime Control Bureau (WCCB) has been selected among the winners of the Asia Environment Enforcement Awards for its work in combating trans-boundary environmental crime, Union Environment Minister Harsh Vardhan said on Wednesday.

## DGBR Singh reviews work on critical border roads

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Director General Border Roads (DGBR) Lt. Gen. Harpal Singh on Thursday reviewed the progress of works on operationally critical roads in the Area of Responsibility of Project Arunank in Arunachal Pradesh.

Singh also called on the Governor and Chief Minister of Arunachal Pradesh and apprised them about the status of road works in the State.

During the review on Wednesday and Thursday, the DGBR inspected Road TCC-Taksing and TCC-Bidak.

The officer also inspected the ongoing road construction work and took stock of plan of Bailey bridges on various nallahs and rivers for fair weather connectivity to Taksing and Bidak.

# HRD Ministry launches innovation cell for research

This will encourage, inspire and nurture young students, says Min

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

With an aim to promote new ideas for innovation in all higher education institutions (HEIs) across the country, HRD Ministry on Wednesday established an innovation cell at the All India Council of Technical Education (AICTE). HRD Minister Prakash Javadekar said the new cell will be a significant step in institutionalising innovation and developing a scientific temperament in the country.

"The purpose of formation of network of Institution's Innovation Councils (IICs) is to encourage, inspire and nurture young students by exposing them to new ideas and process-



HRD Minister Prakash Javadekar launching the IIC through video-conferencing on Wednesday. Pioneer photo

es resulting in innovative activities in their formative years," Javadekar said.

"More than 1,000 HEIs have already formed IICs in their campuses and enrolled for the IIC network managed by MHRD's innovation cell to promote innovation through multitudinous modes leading to an innovation promotion eco-sys-

tem in their campuses," he said.

Javadekar said varsties are the main research centers of developed countries and because of their research they are at the top in global innovation ranking. "Now Indian universities are also setting up research centers through the IIC programme and we are expecting good rank in global innovation ranking in next two to three years through this initiative," he added.

The Minister said that the educational advancement in higher education can only be achieved by encouraging best practices in innovation and advance research and Innovation Cell has undertaken many initiatives in this direction such as implementing programs like Atal Ranking of Institutions on Innovation Achievement (ARIIA), Smart India Hackathon (SIH)- 2019, etc.

# 76.35% voting in C'garh polls slightly lower than 2013 polls

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Releasing the final voting figures, the Election Commission on Wednesday said that Chhattisgarh recorded 76.35 per cent voter turnout in the two-phase polls to the 90-member State Assembly, which is slightly lower as compared to the last elections. The second phase of polling, held on Tuesday in 72 Assembly seats, recorded 76.34 per cent voter turnout, the EC said.

In the first phase, the poll percentage was 76.39. The overall voter turnout of both the phases comes out to 76.35 per cent, it said.

A total of 38 seats out of 90 recorded above 80 per cent voter turnout, which the EC said, is a record for Chhattisgarh. In the 2013 assembly polls, the voting percentage was 75.93 per cent and 77.72 per cent in the two phases respectively. The overall voter turnout was 77.40 per cent.

The voters turnout dipped by 1.05 per cent as compared



to 2013, according to data from the EC. As many as 13 cases of people boycotting polls over a variety of reasons including jobs, road construction and removal of encroachments were recorded.

The EC also said that at the 19,336 polling stations in the second phase of polls, a total of 25,640 ballot units, 19,336 control units and 19,336 paper trail machines were used.

Only 47 ballot units, 37 control units and 131 paper trail machines needed replacement during the polls. Given sufficient reserves available, these replacements were han-

The Kurud seat recorded 88.99 per cent turnout, the highest in the state. Raipur (North), the commission said, recorded the lowest turnout of 60.3 per cent.

### 11-member team to review poll preparedness in T

A 11-member team headed by Chief Election Commissioner Om Prakash Rawat will be visiting Telangana for two days beginning Thursday to review the poll preparedness. During the visit, the team would hold a meeting with Chief Secretary S K Joshi, Director General of Police Mahendar Reddy, district electoral officers, superintendents of police and others, the official said. Election Commissioners Sunil Arora and Ashok Lavasa would also be coming here as part of the team. The State is going to poll on December 7.



Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu at the NASI SCOPUS Young Scientist Awards-2018 in New Delhi on Wednesday. PIB

# Sealing: SC order on contempt proceedings against Tiwari today

New Delhi: The Supreme Court is scheduled to pronounce on Thursday its order on contempt proceedings against Delhi BJP chief and Lok Sabha MP Manoj Tiwari for allegedly breaking the seal of a premises here.

The property was sealed by the East Delhi Municipal Corporation (EDMC).

A bench headed by Justice Madan B Lokur had on October 30 reserved its order after hearing arguments in the matter during which Tiwari had accused the court-mandated monitoring committee on sealing of "terrorising" people of Delhi.

The panel, however, had

claimed that he was trying to make the court a "political battleground".

An FIR was also lodged against Tiwari by the EDMC for allegedly breaking the seal of the premises in Gokalpuri area in north-east Delhi on September 16.

The apex court had on September 19 issued contempt notice against Tiwari, a Member of Parliament (MP) from the north-east Delhi constituency, after taking note of a report filed by the monitoring committee which had alleged that the BJP leader had broken the seal of the premises.

Tiwari had claimed before

the top court that monitoring committee has exceeded its jurisdiction and conducted sealing drive in unauthorised colonies here that were protected under the law.

Senior counsel Vikas Singh, appearing for the BJP leader, had claimed before the bench that "monitoring committee want to terrorise the people of Delhi. This is only for publicity".

Countering his arguments, advocate A D N Rao, appearing for the committee, had said the panel does not need any "publicity" and its members were "only performing their jobs entrusted to them by the Supreme Court". PTI

# 400 paramilitary personnel martyred in firing from Pak in last 3 yrs: Officials



New Delhi: Nearly 400 paramilitary personnel were killed due to firing from across the Indo-Pak border, and terrorist and insurgency violence in the country in the last three years, officials said on Wednesday.

The highest number of personnel killed in action were from the Border Security Force (BSF).

The force lost 167 personnel between 2015 and 2017, and a majority of them were killed while guarding the highly sensitive border.

The Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) has lost 103 personnel in the last three years, mostly while fighting Naxals and militancy in Jammu & Kashmir, a Home Ministry official said.

While the BSF lost 62 personnel in action in 2015, 58 in 2016 and 47 in 2017, the CRPF lost nine personnel in action in 2015, 42 in 2016 and 52 in 2017.

As many as 48 personnel of the Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB) were killed in action in the last three years of whom 16 were killed in 2015, 15 in 2016 and

17 in 2017, the official said. The SSB guards the Indo-Bhutan and Indo-Nepal border. The troops of the force is also deployed in internal security duties.

A total of 40 personnel belonging to the Indo Tibetan Border Police (ITBP), which guards the Sino-Indian border, were killed in action between 2015 and 2017. Among them, 15 personnel were killed in 2015, 10 in 2016 and 15 in 2017.

Altogether 35 personnel of the Assam Rifles, which guards the Indo-Myanmar border and fights militants in the northeast, were killed in action in the last three years.

Eighteen personnel of the Assam Rifles were killed in 2015, nine in 2016 and eight in 2017.

The Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) has lost two personnel in action in the last three years — one each in 2016 and 2017. There were no casualties in 2015 from the CISF, which guards airports, nuclear installations, metro services and other sensitive locations, another official said. PTI

## Age is just a number for Barmer BJP MP

Barmer (R'than): The age of the Barmer BJP MP, who is contesting the Rajasthan Assembly election, has remained constant at 73.

As per the details mentioned by Sonaram Choudhary in the affidavits for the 2014 Lok Sabha and the upcoming Assembly election, he has mentioned his age at 73. The affidavits are available on the election department's website.

Sonaram had contested the 2008 Assembly election from Baytu seat, in which he had mentioned his age as 65. In the 2013 state election, his age, as per the affidavits, was 72. Sonaram could not be contacted for his comments as he was busy in campaigning in his Barmer Assembly constituency. PTI

# India to host 50th Union World Conference on Lung Health in 2019

New Delhi: The 50th Union World Conference on Lung Health will be held in Hyderabad next year, a global organisation working in this field announced on Wednesday.

The conference 'Ending the Emergency: Science, Leadership, Action' which will be held from October 30 to November 2 next year, the International Union Against Tuberculosis and Lung Disease said.

It will focus on what is needed to ensure commitments become action and targets are met, the organisation also called The Union said. Tuberculosis (TB), a preventable and curable disease, now kills more people than HIV/AIDS and is the world's largest infectious disease, it said.

India has the highest TB burden in the world with one in four people ill with tuberculosis globally residing in the country, Prabodh Bhambal, Deputy Executive Director at The Union, said.

The scale of the TB global health emergency was acknowledged by the United Nations (UN) and it held the inaugural High-Level Meeting on Tuberculosis in New York in September.

The meeting culminated in a political declaration signed by world leaders committed to ending tuberculosis by 2030. The Indian government has committed to eliminate TB in India by 2025.

"It's time to end the global TB emergency and that will mean holding governments accountable to the Political

Declaration they signed at the UN meeting," José Luis Castro, Executive Director at The Union, said.

"In Hyderabad we need to be seeing signs that we are seeing real leadership that is translating into both investment in diagnostic tools, new drugs and a vaccine and action on the ground," he said.

The 50th Union World Conference is expected to be attended by around 6,000 researchers, policy makers, health practitioners, political leaders, and UN and community representatives.

The latest research into prevention, cure and vaccines will be presented at the conference.

The Union has its South-East Asia Office in Delhi employing and implements the

Call to Action for a TB-Free India with support from the USAID's Challenge TB project.

The Union's Project Axysha, launched in 2010, engages all sectors to strengthen TB care and control in 128 districts across 14 states, Bhambal said.

Financed by the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria and partnering with local organisations across India, since 2015, Axysha has reached over 48 million people, identified and tested 643,000 people and placed 70,000 TB patients on treatment and prevented countless cases of infection, he said.

The conference's theme resonates with TB, but it will also raise awareness on all threats to lung health, includ-

# Congress preparing for RaGa's mega show in UP

PREETAM SRIVASTAVA ■ LUCKNOW

Confident of a good show by party candidates in the ongoing Assembly poll in five states, Congress chief Rahul Gandhi has now planned to extensively tour Uttar Pradesh by the year-end and galvanise the party cadres and leaders for the 2019 Lok Sabha polls.

Sources said Rahul would address at least one rally in all five zones, including a grand rally in Lucknow. The Congress mandarins were reportedly busy chalking out a programme for the Congress president with the focus on regional parties — the Samajwadi Party (SP) and the Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) — to not underestimate them.

“Even as we were seriously looking for a grand alliance for next Parliament elections, both Akhilesh Yadav and Mayawati were regularly targeting us or our leaders to drive home the point that the Congress had lost ground in UP,” quipped a senior Congress leader referring to some recent speeches of Akhilesh and Mayawati.

Referring to the Congress leader said both the SP and the BSP were trying to harm the Congress in the ongoing Assembly polls in Central States but the results will show that the Congress is the only party which could dislodge the

Focus will be on failure of Centre in fulfilling promises made by Narendra Modi during 2017 campaign



BJP from the country.

“Once we prove our mettle in these ongoing polls, Rahul Gandhi will start extensive tour of UP to further impress that the Congress was as strong in this large State as it was in other States and the party could be not taken lightly,” the Congress leader stressed.

The leader said besides chalking out other programmes for Rahul like roadshows, panchayats, chaupal, the party brass is planning some big rallies. The leader also revealed that while announcing rallies of Rahul Gandhi in mid-December, Congress leaders will not take names either of the SP, the BSP or other outfits

but will highlight the motive of rallies to expose Prime Minister's role in Rafale fighter jet deal, rising prices and corruption issues.

“The focus will also be on failure of the Central Government in fulfilling promises made by Narendra Modi during the campaigning for 2014 Parliament elections. Besides, the Congress rallies will aim to clearly send out the signal to the SP and the BSP that our party is the leading force to defeat the BJP in the 2019 poll. Hence, if they want to support the Congress in its 'remove BJP' mission, they should align with it to form a grand alliance,” he said.

# BJP, Congress make space for defectors in Rajasthan

PTI ■ JAIPUR

Former Union Minister Jaswant Singh's son Manvendra Singh is not the only leader to have switched loyalties in Rajasthan ahead of the December 7 Assembly polls.

Between them, the Congress and the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) have fielded 11 candidates who have changed sides.

Voices of dissent are now being heard within both parties over “sidelined” leaders crossing over to get a chance to contest. Manvendra Singh quit the BJP, citing the treatment handed out to his father who was denied a party ticket in the 2014 Lok Sabha election.

He is now contesting for the Congress against Chief Minister Vasundhara Raje from her stronghold Jhalrapatan.

The ruling BJP alone has fielded seven defectors, including six from the Congress and one from the Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP). BJP nominees Mahesh Pratap Singh from Nathdwara, Ram Kishor Saini from Bandikui, Mamta Sharma from Pipalda, Kalpa Singh from Ladpura, Rajendra Bhamu from Jhunjhunu and Ashok Sharma from Rajkhera crossed over from the Congress



to the saffron side.

Abhinesh Mehrishi defected from the BSP and will contest for the Ratangarh seat, now held by BJP minister Rajkumar Rinwa. Congress president Rahul Gandhi, who said in August he will make sure that party workers have their say and no “parachute candidate” gets nominated, also seems to have changed his mind.

His party has given tickets to at least four defectors. Rajasthan State Congress president Sachin Pilot said the decisions were taken by the party high command on a case-by-case basis.

Those who managed to get a Congress ticket just days, or even hours, after leaving the BJP include Harish Meena, Habib-ur-Rehman, Manvendra Singh and Sona Devi Bawri.

Dausa MP Harish Meena quit the BJP a day before the Congress released its first list and has been fielded by the party from Deoli-Uniara.

BJP MLA from Nagaur, Habib-ur-Rehman, also quit the BJP a day before the list was



BJP president Amit Shah greets his supporters during a roadshow, in Bikaner, on Wednesday

# BJP committed to building Ram temple in Ayodhya: Shah

PTI ■ JAIPUR

BJP president Amit Shah on Wednesday reiterated that his party was committed to building a Ram temple in Ayodhya and it would not change its stand.

He also excluded confidence of forming next government at the Centre in 2019 with a majority higher than that of the present one despite the Congress' bid to forge a grand alliance. Shah made the remarks while interacting with youths at

a function here. He targeted the Congress and asked youths and party workers to ensure BJP's victory in the State for its unhindered progress.

“The BJP is committed to building the Ram temple in Ayodhya,” Shah said, adding there was no question of diluting or changing the party's stand. The BJP president, however, said the matter was in the Supreme Court and the party wanted a ‘nyayik samadhan’ (judicial resolution) of the dispute.

Assembly Polls 2018		5 States	
Value of seizures made during the ongoing Assembly polls			
<b>Total Seizures</b>	Rajasthan	Madhya Pradesh	Telangana
(Till Nov 19)	₹ 36.84 cr	₹ 60.80 cr	₹ 89.93 cr
	Chhattisgarh	Mizoram	
	₹ 12.90 cr	₹ 4.92 cr	
<b>Chhattisgarh</b>	<b>Cash</b>	<b>Liquor</b>	<b>Narcotics</b>
	₹ 4.48 cr	₹ 1.77 cr	₹ 0.02 cr
	<b>Precious Metals</b>	<b>Other Items</b>	
	₹ 0.29 cr	₹ 6.34 cr	
<b>Rajasthan</b>	₹ 12.39 cr	₹ 4.35 cr	₹ 5.95 cr
	₹ 6.35 cr	₹ 7.79 cr	
<b>Madhya Pradesh</b>	₹ 27.28 cr	₹ 11.57 cr	₹ 5.49 cr
	₹ 8.68 cr	₹ 7.78 cr	
<b>Mizoram</b>	₹ 0.43 cr	₹ 0.77 cr	₹ 2.72 cr
	₹ 1 cr	Nil	
<b>Telangana</b>	₹ 76.73 cr	₹ 7.40 cr	₹ 0.47 cr
	₹ 4.28 cr	₹ 1.04 cr	

Source: ECI

# Bru refugees to vote in Mizoram's Mamit: Official



**Aizawl:** The Election Commission (EC) has decided to hold polling for Bru refugees in Mizoram's Mamit district, even as the leaders of the tribal community maintained that they fear for their safety in their home State.

The place of voting for 11,232 Bru voters, who are residing in neighbouring Tripura, has been a bone of contention, leading to the replace-

ment of the then chief electoral officer, SB Shashank, less than two weeks ahead of the election to the 40-member House.

Shashank had been accused of facilitating voting by Bru voters in the relief camps of Tripura.

“We have been informed by the Election Commission that the polling for the Brus must be arranged at Kanhmun village inside Mizoram territo-

ry. We have started our preparations for that,” an official in the CEO office said.

Kanhmun is an interstate border village between Mizoram and Tripura. A written order to this effect is likely to be received by Mizoram CEO Ashish Kundra in a day or two, the official said.

“In the last three years, there was no revision of electoral rolls. This time we did it.

The Bru refugees are registered in nine Assembly seats and will place different voting machines accordingly at the special booth in the village,” he said.

Kundra had on Tuesday visited Naisingpara — the largest Bru camp in Tripura — to meet the refugees and inform them about the EC's decision.

An election official, who accompanied the CEO to Tripura, said the Bru leaders claimed that the voter turnout from the community might be zero if the EC did not change its decision to hold polling in Kanhmun.

“Kundra tried explaining to them that the decision was taken by the Election Commission, but the Bru refugees said they fear for their lives in Mizoram. They also cited various reasons, including bad-road condition, to justify their demand for polling-booth arrangement in the relief camps,” he added.

The six camps of the Bru refugees are located between 2-

10 km from the interstate border between Tripura and Mizoram. The highest number of Brus has been registered in Mamit district, which has Hachhek, Dampa and Mamit seats, with 14 per cent of the total voters being refugees.

It is followed by Kolasib district, with 3.5 per cent of its total voters being Brus. The district has Tuirial, Kolasib and Serlui Assembly seats. In Lunglei district, less than one

per cent of the total voters are Bru refugees.

Earlier this month, the EC had removed Shashank as the state chief electoral officer, accepting the demands of civil society groups, NGOs, student organisations and political parties. The agitators organised dharnas in front of the CEO's office against Shashank's reported move to facilitate voting by Bru voters in the relief camps of Tripura.



National People's Party (NPP) president and Meghalaya Chief Minister Conrad K Sangma during an election rally in support of party candidates ahead of Mizoram Assembly elections, at Vairengte in Kolasib, on Wednesday

# Me Too: Alok Nath booked for rape

## Law catches up with on-screen 'sanskari babu' 19 years after he violated a lady television writer-producer

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

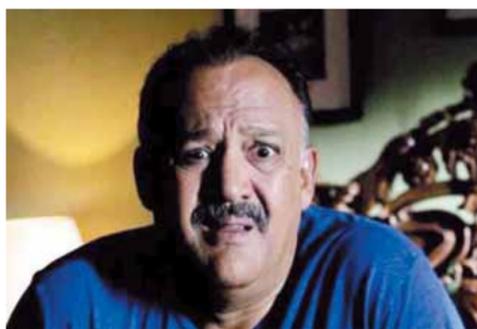
Nearly six weeks after television writer-producer Vinta Nanda went to town accusing him of sexually violating her 19 years ago, veteran actor Alok Nath — known his on-screen “Sanskari Babuji” image — was on Wednesday booked for alleged rape and unnatural sex on the basis of a complaint lodged against him by Nanda.

Acting on a formal complaint lodged by Nanda against the veteran actor on October 17, the Oshiwara police station registered an FIR against 62-year-old Alok Nath under sections 376 (rape) and 377 (unnatural sex) of Indian Penal Code (IPC).

Confirming the development, a senior police officer investigating the case said: “Alok Nath has been booked for rape under sections 376 and 377 of IPC.”

After writing a long, heart-wrenching Facebook post on October 8 alleging that Alok Nath had sexually violated her 19 years ago, Nanda had lodged a complaint with the Oshiwara police station on October 17. In her complaint, Nanda did not actually name Alok Nath but said that “the predator in question here is the actor par excellence who is known as the most #Sanskari (Cultured) person in the film and television industry.”

Nanda, who subsequently confirmed that it was Alok Nath whom she had referred to



Facebook on 8th October 2018, it felt like I had released myself from the prison of fear. Today, I am glad the FIR has been finally lodged. I trust the Mumbai Police.”

“I know that when things have finally come this far, justice will prevail. I have full faith and confidence in the country's judiciary,” Nanda added.

It may be recalled that in her lengthy Facebook post that she wrote on October 8 amid a series of allegations of sexual harassment made by prominent women as part of a “Me Too” movement unleashed in the social media, Nanda did not actually name Alok Nath but said that “the predator in question here is the actor par excellence who is known as the most #Sanskari (Cultured) person in the film and television industry.”

Nanda, who subsequently confirmed that it was Alok Nath whom she had referred to

in her post, had stated: “I have waited for this moment to come for 19 years....He was an alcoholic, shameless and obnoxious but he was also the television star of that decade, so not only was he forgiven for all his bad behaviour, many of the guys would also egg him on to be his worst”. She had also alleged that the actor even harassed the show's lead actress who was not interested in him.

Recalling the events that followed after she had left a party at Alok Nath's house at 2 am 19 years ago, Nanda wrote: “I started to walk home on the empty streets... Midway I was accosted by this man who was driving his own car and he asked me to sit in it and said he would drop me home. I trusted him and sat in his car.

“I have faint memory after that. I can remember more liquor being poured into my mouth and I remember being violated endlessly. When I

woke up the next afternoon, I was in pain. I hadn't just been raped, I was taken to my own house and had been brutalised.

“I couldn't get up for my bed. I told some of my friends but everybody advised me to forget about it and move on,” she wrote and went onto narrate some more unpleasant experiences with Alok Nath subsequently.

On his part, actor Alok Nath initially dismissed Nanda's charge against him as “absurd” as he “made her what she is”. “Kuch to log kahenge (People will say something). Neither I am denying this nor do I agree with it. It (rape) must have happened, but someone else would have done it. Well, I do not want to talk much about it. As for the matter, if it has come out, it will be stretched,” Alok Nath had told ABP News.

However, a week after Nanda wrote a Facebook post accused him of raping her under sedation, Alok Nath filed a civil suit against writer-director Vinta Nanda in a city suburban court here in connection with her rape accusations against him and demanded an apology and compensation of Re 1 as damages from him.

In another application filed separately before the Andheri Metropolitan Magistrate Alok Nath and his wife Ashu sought a direction to the suburban Amboli police station to take cognisance of the letter sent by them seeking defamation proceedings against Nanda.

# Amit Shah among main conspirators of Sohrabuddin encounter: CIO

**Mumbai:** BJP chief Amit Shah and three IPS officers were the main conspirators behind the alleged fake encounters of Sohrabuddin Shaikh and Tulsiram Prajapati, the chief investigation officer (CIO) of the case claimed in a CBI court here on Wednesday.

CIO Sandeep Tamgade, who deposed during the ongoing trial, however, conceded that his claim was not supported by any documentary evidence in the charge sheet filed by him.

“From the investigation done by us, we found the principal conspirators were Amit Shah, DG Vanzara (former

Deputy Inspector-General Gujarat Police), Rajkumar Pandian (SP, Intelligence Bureau) and MN Dinesh (IPS officer, Rajasthan Police),” Tamgade said.

All four have been discharged by the trial court in the case. Tamgade claimed he was not naming Shah and others without evidence, but admitted that the claim was not supported by any documentary evidence in the supplementary chargesheet filed in the case, he said.

Tamgade, then Superintendent of Police (CBI), had prepared a supplementary chargesheet in the

Sohrabuddin case and the main chargesheet in the Tulsiram case. Both cases are being tried together before special CBI judge SJ Sharma here.

To a question by the defence lawyer, Tamgade said he also had evidence to conclude that Sohrabuddin Shaikh and his partner Prajapati were “used” by Amit Shah, then Minister of State for Home in Gujarat, for firing at the office of an Ahmedabad-based builder.

He had interrogated Shah, marble trader from Rajasthan Vimal Patni, and Rajasthan minister Gulabchandra Kataria in the case, he said.



Muslims take out a rally on Milad-un-Nabi to commemorate the birth anniversary of Prophet Muhammad, in Ahmedabad on Wednesday

# BJP: Will continue our battle till Kumaraswamy Govt is brought down

**Bengaluru:** Declaring the beginning of its battle against the Congress-JD(S) coalition Government in Karnataka, the BJP on Wednesday said it would continue the fight till the HD Kumaraswamy-led administration is brought down and people get justice.

Attacking Kumaraswamy on farmers' issues, the state BJP chief and former Chief Minister BS Yeddyurappa claimed that the Congress too was regretting its decision to support him, just to keep BJP out of power.

“You speak about BJP that has 104 MLAs, lightly. Kumaraswamy, from December 10 Assembly session will begin in Belagavi. As a responsible opposition, it's our duty to keep before people your political drama and the developmental work you have done so far,” Yeddyurappa said.

Addressing a protest meeting here, he said the BJP would organise a “huge” agitation by gathering over one lakh farmers, at Belagavi.

“For the last five months we kept quiet, with an intention to give time to the new Chief Minister, but now after six months- people are not ready to tolerate any more. We have given you enough time,” Yeddyurappa said.

Alleging that the Kumaraswamy Government has failed on several fronts, he said “our fight has begun from today...Until we bring you down from power and send you home. Unless over 6.5 crore people of this State get justice, our fight will continue.”

# It's Centre Vs State in Sabarimala

## Union Minister insulted by Kerala Police

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

The Sabarimala Temple issue has become a Centre vs Kerala Government tussle by Wednesday as Pon Radhakrishnan, Union Minister of State for Finance, Surface Transport and Shipping disclosing at the shrine that a superintendent of police humiliated him while he was on his way to the shrine.

"I was told by the SP at Nilackel on Wednesday morning that I cannot go to Pamba by car and he asked me to go by the KSRTC bus. When I asked him politely, the SP raised his voice and shouted at me. Can this officer question the Kerala ministers like the way he shouted at me?" Pon Radhakrishnan told reporters after worshipping at the holy shrine.

The high-handed behaviour of Yatheesh Chandra, SP, was telecast live by news channels much to the embarrassment of the Kerala Police. By afternoon, the Kerala Government was in for more trouble as the High Court slammed it over the propriety of deputing officers with shady past at a holy place.

Radhakrishnan who reached Nilackel on Wednesday morning to offer prayers at the Ayyappa Temple was stopped by Yatheesha Chandra, superintendent of police from proceeding to the shrine in his personal car. "You cannot go to Pamba by car. You are allowed to travel only by the KSRTC bus, Minister," the SP told the Minister who listened to him with amusement.

When the Minister asked Chandra, why private vehicles were not allowed beyond Nilackel, 22-km away from Pamba, the latter said there were chances of landslides and



Union Minister of State for Shipping Pon Radhakrishnan at the last entry point to the Lord Ayyappa shrine on Wednesday



Policemen help devotee climb up the steps at the Lord Ayyappa shrine on Wednesday

hence no private vehicles were allowed. Undeterred by the restrictions, the Minister opted to travel by a KSRTC bus while the BJP leader AN Radhakrishnan who accompanied him said that the police officer could have showed some basic courtesy to the Union Minister.

"The SP told me that private vehicles are not allowed beyond Nilackel as part of a Master Plan the Kerala Government has prepared for Sabarimala. But it is clear that the Master Plan by the Kerala Government is to keep the devotees away from the temple," said Pon Radhakrishnan while speaking to reporters at Sannidhanam.

The Minister said he has

been a regular pilgrim to Sabarimala since the age of five and has never experienced in the past this kind of hostility by the authorities. "The intention of the authorities is to make life difficult for the devotees. The principal them of Lord Ayyappa himself is unity and integration. But the police force in Sabarimala is working to destroy and demolish these unifying factors," said the Minister who added that he was like any other devotees and does not require any privileges which other devotees are not entitled to.

The Minister also decried the slapping of Section 144 at a place of worship like Sabarimala.

"See the empty places all

over this shrine. This is the proof of public resentment over the Master Plan devised by the Kerala Government to keep Sabarimala inaccessible for devotees," said Pon Radhakrishnan.

Meanwhile, the Kerala High Court on Wednesday expressed its disgust and disapproval over the behaviour of police towards the devotees. "How come officers with criminal records have been deputed at a place like Sabarimala? The Inspector General Vijay Sachare and the SY Yatheesh Chandra have tainted career behind them. While Sachare is an accused in a custodial death case, Chandra figures in a case of assaulting women and children. Why

have you deputed such officers at Sabarimala where people require services of benevolent officers and men?" asked Justices Ramachandra Menon and Anil Kumar who continued hearing petitions filed by devotees against alleged police cruelty.

TP Senkumar, former State Police Chief, who was eased out of office by the CPM Government lambasted the police and the Kerala Government over the unfortunate developments at Sabarimala.

"There are good officers and men in the police force who are well trained in crowd management. But the personnel posted at Sabarimala are of dubious nature. This is what we get when officers who are familiar with looking after the children and grandchildren of ministers are posted as police chides," Senkumar said.

### BJP leader, 71 others granted bail

**Pathnamthitta:** A court here on Wednesday granted conditional bail to 72 people, including BJP general secretary K Surendran, who were arrested in connection with the Sabarimala temple row.

Surendran along with two others had been arrested on November 18 from Nilackel as he tried to proceed to the Lord Ayyappa Temple despite being advised by police personnel against visiting Sabarimala due to law and order issues.

The 69 others were arrested after they held a *nama japam* (chanting Lord Ayyappa mantras) inside the shrine complex late on Sunday, defying prohibitory orders. **IANS**

# Mamata to induct new Mayor for Kolkata

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

In a major development, the Trinamool Congress is known to have taken procedural initiatives to amend the civic laws in order to induct a "seasoned, senior, able and experienced" person as the new Mayor of Kolkata, sources said.

The new development comes after sitting Mayor Sovan Chatterjee was asked to quit his Mayoral chair by Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee. The Mayor — a key aide of Banerjee for past 30 years — who was also doubling up as Fire and Housing Minister suddenly resigned on Tuesday after being reprimanded by Banerjee for lack of performance.

According to inside sources, the Chief Minister is planning to induct either

Firhad Hakim or Arup Biswas two of her trusted ministerial colleagues in Chatterjee's place.

As the present law does not for an outsider — who is not a councillor — to be appointed as Mayor the State Government is likely to table a new law in State Assembly that will make provisions for non-councillor to be inducted on the post. "Much like the parliamentary law the amended law will provide for the new person to be elected within six months of one's appointment on the post," a Trinamool Congress MLA said.

Chatterjee who conceded that he had been asked to tender his resignation by the Chief Minister however did not resign on Wednesday.

"I have been asked to resign by the Chief Minister. Though I have not resigned

today I will do so at an appropriate moment," he said, adding he "still respect Didi as my mother."

Growing differences between the Mayor and the Chief Minister earlier saw him losing a key organisational post of South 24 Parganas district party president.

The Chief Minister had told him several times about paying more attention to his work and cut down on the time he was spending with a woman who was not his wife. The Mayor, who does not live in his house for close to a year now, has also filed for divorce.

According to sources the Chief Minister had been angry with the Mayor as reports of his extra-marital affairs was bringing the party to disrepute, sources said.

# Kerala's Congress MP passes away

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM/Kochi:

Senior Congress leader MI Shanavas died on early Wednesday at a private hospital in Chennai, Tamil Nadu after a prolonged illness. He was 67.

The Member of Parliament, who represented the Wayanad constituency twice — 2009, 2014, in the Lok Sabha, breathed his last around 1 am. He had undergone a liver transplant on November 2.

His mortal remains were brought to Kochi in the afternoon and kept for public homage. The funeral will be held on Thursday at Kochi.

Congress president Rahul Gandhi described Shanavas as a "much loved and respected member" of the Congress family. In a tweet, he said "With the

passing of Shri M.I. Shanavas, two term Lok Sabha MP from Wayanad, Kerala, the Congress family has lost a much loved and respected member. My thoughts & prayers are with his family & friends in this time of grief."

Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan along with senior Congress leader and former Chief Minister Oommen Chandy and Opposition Leader Ramesh Chennithala condoled the death.

Former Defence Minister, AK Antony, KPCC President, Mullappally Ramachandran, Chennithala and former KPCC president VM Sudheeran, were among the hundreds of party workers and leaders who paid homage as the body was brought to the State. **PTI**

# BJP slams demand for Parrikar's resignation, says Nehru too was ill in his last years in office

**Panaji:** The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) on Wednesday slammed the Congress for demanding Goa Chief Minister Manohar Parrikar's resignation, saying that India's first Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru too was ill in his last years in office.

"Our late Prime Minister Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, in the last three years of his tenure, was ill. He was suffering from paralysis and could not function as a Prime Minister ought to. At that time, our leaders, including Atal Bihari Vajpayee, or the Jan Sangh did not take out a morcha to his house and demand his resignation, as we saw in Goa," State BJP president Vinay Tendulkar said at a Press conference in Panaji.

The Congress on Tuesday organised a march to Parrikar's private residence, demanding that he resign as Chief Minister within 48 hours.

Parrikar is suffering from advanced pancreatic cancer, and has not been seen in public for several months now.

When Nationalist Congress Party leader Sharad Pawar was serving as Agriculture Minister in the erstwhile Congress-led United Progressive Alliance government, neither the Congress nor the BJP demanded his resignation, despite the fact that the Maharashtra politician was abroad for cancer treatment.

"Sharad Pawar was suffering from cancer and was being treated abroad, but the BJP did not make it an issue and the Congress did not drop him from the Union Cabinet either," Tendulkar said.

Parrikar is suffering from advanced pancreatic cancer and has been in and out of hospitals in Goa, Mumbai, New York and Delhi for nearly nine months. He returned from New Delhi's AIIMS on October 14 and has not moved out of his private residence for any official event since.

Maharashtrawadi Gomantak Party chief Deepak Dhavalikar also joined the opposition chorus demanding that the Chief Minister give up the chair immediately. **IANS**

# MUZAFFARPUR SEX SCANDAL

## Court remands two Brajesh Thakur aides in 5-day CBI custody

PTI ■ MUZAFFARPUR

Two close aides of Brajesh Thakur, the prime accused in the Muzaffarpur shelter home case in which the girl inmates of the home were sexually abused, were remanded in a five-day CBI custody by a court here on Wednesday.

The special court hearing cases filed under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act passed the order, declining the Central Bureau of Investigation's (CBI) request for a seven-day custody of Madhu and Ashwani Kumar — who allegedly posed as a doctor — and posted the matter to November 26 for further hearing.

Madhu, who was grilled by the police on Tuesday afternoon, was arrested on Wednesday morning and made to undergo medical tests at the Sadar hospital, before being produced before the court, along with Ashwani, who was

arrested the previous night. Madhu, who handled many businesses of Thakur, had told reporters on Tuesday that she was not hiding but did not appear before the probe agency as she was never named as an accused nor was a warrant issued against her.

She had also claimed that she knew nothing about the goings on at the Balika Grih (shelter home for girls), was "privy to no secrets" and refuted the media reports that she used to liaison with influential people to promote Thakur's NGOs, newspapers and other businesses.

Kumar, who was arrested from his in-laws place in Fatehpur village under the Kurhani police station in the district, did not have any medical background.

He learnt how to administer injections while sitting in the clinic of his father, a doctor, at Kurhani, about 30 km from Muzaffarpur town.



A girl braves strong winds as she crosses a road at the Marina Beach during inclement weather due to depression in Bay of Bengal, in Chennai, on Wednesday

# Kerala plans mass 'Constitution Literacy' drive

PTI ■ THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The State-run Kerala Literacy Mission is gearing up to organise a mass 'Constitution Literacy' drive to create basic awareness about the Indian Constitution among the general public.

The Mission is envisaged to make over 50 lakh people part of the two-month-long initiative. The basic principles of the Constitution regarding fundamental rights, secularism, faith, gender equality and freedom of individuals will be the main focus of the programme, which will be formally launched on November 26.

A 20-page handbook will be compiled with the support of experts for the unique endeavour. A State-level resource panel would be set up and expert training will be given for resource persons to take classes.

Students of various continuing education courses under the Mission would also be made part of the initiative. A top official of the Mission said constitution literacy gatherings would be organised in all wards in the State.

# Ro-Ro ferry vessel stuck mid-sea, towed to safety by tugboats

**Ahmedabad:** The Ro-Ro ferry vessel, which started transporting people and vehicles between Ghogha in Saurashtra and Dahej in south Gujarat last month, came to a standstill mid-sea due to engine trouble on Wednesday afternoon, officials said.

The vessel, which was carrying over 400 passengers and over 100 vehicles at the time of the incident, was safely towed to Ghogha port by tugboats, a Government official said.

of Cambay for around one hour before it was towed to Ghogha port by tugboats," said chairman-managing director of Indigo Seaways Pvt Ltd (ISPL), Chetan Contractor.

ISPL, a Surat-based ferry operator, and the Gujarat Maritime Board (GMB) had entered into an agreement to run the Roll On-Roll Off (Ro-Ro) ferry service on the Public Private Partnership (PPP) model. This ferry service is also called as Ro-Pax (Roll On-Roll Off Passenger), as the ship carries both vehicles as well as passengers.

According to a senior official of the GMB, the ship was carrying 461 passengers and 114 vehicles. "We have been told by the operator that the engine of the ship got overheated. Along with the company, the GMB will also carry out an inspection of the ship before giving a green signal to resume the operations," a senior GMB official said. **PTI**

"While coming to Ghogha from Dahej, the captain of the ship noticed that the engine got overheated. For the safety of the passengers, the captain had decided to stop the engine when the ship was around 3 nautical miles (5.5 km) away from Ghogha port," contractor said.

"The ship remained stationed in the sea for around one hour. Then it was towed to the Ghogha port by tugboats, which were sent from the port. Our technicians are now carrying out an inspection of the engine to find out the cause of the problem," he added.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION KINDLY VISIT : [www.haryanaeprocurement.gov.in](http://www.haryanaeprocurement.gov.in) or [www.etenders.hry.nic.in](http://www.etenders.hry.nic.in) RO NO. 73695

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	THE HISAR JIND COOPERATIVE MILK PRODUCERS UNION LTD, VITA MILK PLANT JIND-126102	ANNUAL OPERATION & MAINTENANCE OF EFFLUENT TREATMENT PLANT (CAPACITY 300M3/DAY)	23.11.2018 11.12.2018	12 LACS	<a href="http://vitaindia.haryanaeprocurement.gov.in">vitaindia.haryanaeprocurement.gov.in</a> Or <a href="mailto:vitaind@gmail.com">vitaind@gmail.com</a>	9671001011 vitaind@gmail.com
2	HARYANA RENEWABLE ENERGY DEVELOPMENT AGENCY (HAREDA)	PROVIDING MANPOWER SERVICES AT AKSHAY URJA BHAWAN, SECTOR-17, PANCHKULA AND ITS OFFICES IN THE STATE OF HARYANA	19.11.2018 10.12.2018	2 LACS	<a href="http://www.hareda.gov.in">www.hareda.gov.in</a> Tender No. 105600	9988446009 ply.hareda@gmail.com
3	UHBVN PANCHKULA	SUPPLY OF LABOUR FOR OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE OF AC PLANT, DG SET, ELECTRICAL PANEL AT VIDYUT SADAN, PLOT NO. C-16, SECTOR-6, UHBVN, PANCHKULA FOR A PERIOD OF TWO YEARS	21.11.2018 03.12.2018	8.66 LACS	<a href="http://www.uhbvn.org.in">www.uhbvn.org.in</a> Tender No.- 21/2018-19	zenciviluhbvnpanchkula@gmail.com 9356063248
4	KURUKSHETRA DEVELOPMENT BOARD, KURUKSHETRA	PROVIDING AND FIXING OF 871 NOS. NUMBERING PLATE SIZE 8"X6" STAINLESS STEEL 304 GRADE, 18 GAUGE WITH RUST COLOUR WRITING + 2 OTHER WORKS	21.11.2018	1.50 LACS	<a href="https://etenders.hry.nic.in">https://etenders.hry.nic.in</a>	01744-270187, 294505
5	HARYANA STATE AGRICULTURAL MARKETING BOARD, BHIWANI	PROVIDING CEMENT CONCRETE 1:1.1/2:3:6 THICK OVER STREET NO. K-43-K/4/ ADJOINING STREET IN MODEL VILLAGE JHOJU KALAN IN BADHRA CONSTY., DISTT, CH. DADRJI	03.12.2018 04.12.2018	3.85 LACS	<a href="https://haryanaeprocurement.gov.in">https://haryanaeprocurement.gov.in</a> Tender No-4851 Dt 20.11.2018/20/2018	9992023033 xenhbhwani2.hsamb@gmail.com
6	MUNICIPAL COMMITTEE KALANAJUR	PREPARATION OF DETAILS AND SHDRA PLAN SHOWING ENCROACHMENT ON MUNICIPAL LAND KALANAJUR, DISTRICT-ROHTAK	20.11.2018 26.11.2018	EMD-25000	<a href="https://etender.hry.nic.in">https://etender.hry.nic.in</a> Tender No. MCK/BI/2018/01	01258223180 municipalcommittee.kalanajur@gmail.com
7	MUNICIPAL COUNCIL, KAITHAL	PVC PANELING & BATHROOM REPAIR IN MUNICIPAL COUNCIL OFFICE KAITHAL	19.11.2018 28.11.2018	2.65 LACS	<a href="https://mckaithal.haryanaeprocurement.gov.in">https://mckaithal.haryanaeprocurement.gov.in</a> Tender No 105517 2018/mckofficetender	9416188848 mckaithal@gmail.com
8	MUNICIPAL CORPORATION GURUGRAM	RENOVATION OF PARK OPPOSITE HOUSE NO-985, SECTOR-10A, WARD NO-23, ZONE-I, GURUGRAM + 3 OTHER WORK	19.11.2018 05.12.2018	44.23 LACS	<a href="https://mcgurugram.haryanaeprocurement.gov.in">https://mcgurugram.haryanaeprocurement.gov.in</a> Tender No: 105585, 105587, 105588, 105689	eeh@mcg.gov.in
9	MUNICIPAL CORPORATION SONIPAT	PROVIDING & FIXING OF STREET LIGHT WITH POLE FROM MURTHAL ROAD TO DEWRI VILLAGE AND KULDEEP NURSARY DEWRI ROAD TO VIA SHAMSHAN GHAT BABA DHAM M.C. SONEPAT + 1 OTHER WORK MAINTENANCE OF NON RESIDENTIAL BUILDING AT 33 KV S/STN., GANGOLI (JIND)	CLOSING DATE 01.12.2018	477.51 LACS	<a href="https://haryanaeprocurement.gov.in">https://haryanaeprocurement.gov.in</a> Tender NO 1393, 1394	semsonenpat@gmail.com
10	DHBNV HISAR	NIT NO.87/XEN/CIVIL/HSR/2018-19 DT 15.11.2018 MAINTENANCE OF NON RESIDENTIAL BUILDING AT 33 KV S/STN., SAFIDON FOR THE YEAR 2018-19 UNDER SDO/Op CITY SAFIDON(JIND)	15.11.2018 10.12.2018	1.32 LACS	<a href="http://www.dhbnv.org.in">www.dhbnv.org.in</a>	9813022833 zencivilhisar@gmail.com
11	DHBNV HISAR	NIT NO.96/XEN/CIVIL/HSR/2018-19 DT 15.11.2018 CORRIDGEMUM IF ANY WILL BE AVAILABLE AT <a href="https://haryanaeprocurement.gov.in">HTTPS://HARYANAEPROCUREMENT.GOV.IN</a>	15.11.2018 10.12.2018	1.07 LACS	<a href="http://www.dhbnv.org.in">www.dhbnv.org.in</a>	9813022833 zencivilhisar@gmail.com
12	HOUSING BOARD HARYANA, C-15, AWAS BHAWAN PANCHKULA	WORK OF DEVELOPMENT I.E PROVIDING AND LAYING WATER SUPPLY SEWERAGE, STORM DRAINAGE AND CONSTRUCTION OF ROADS, PARKING WITH PAVEN IN GH-3, SECTOR-31 PANCHKULA.(FOR 261 TYPE-B FLATS)	24.11.2018 12.12.2018	78.21 LACS	<a href="https://haryanaeprocurement.gov.in">https://haryanaeprocurement.gov.in</a> Tender No. 5021, dt 21.11.2018	0172-2583551 xenhbpanchkula@gmail.com

## A dignified exit

Sushma Swaraj chooses to assess her political future on her own terms



**G**race under pressure. This one value sets apart veteran BJP leader Sushma Swaraj, who has bowed out of the electoral race of 2019 knowing full well that it is better to let go of things not meant to be. Her health may have given her the pretext but she has realised she would rather step back as a protégé of the old guard helmed by Vajpayee-Advani than risk being benched into a retirement home called *margdarshak mandal* by BJP 2.0. In that sense, she has shown some spark of her old fiery and determined self, going out on her own terms rather than compromising her core beliefs in a system that has its own revamped priorities, starred hierarchies and a strait-jacketed agenda. It is well-known that she was ill at ease in the Modi-Shah party with all her mentors forced into hibernation. She was among the second-rung leaders that BJP rightly has a culture of grooming but didn't have the Sangh's monolithic endorsement which it reserved for Narendra Modi. Yet she survived and re-calibrated her loyalties to her one-time peer and newly anointed leader. But it was a stifling tenure. Though she was the only woman Foreign Minister after Indira Gandhi, she was seldom allowed operating space, the bulk of foreign policy being conducted by the PMO. Still Swaraj pushed the envelope, adding a personal touch to resolving people's procedural problems and holding her own in forum discussions like ASEAN. In fact, Prime Minister Modi even acknowledged her publicly in his assessment of ministerial records. She equally made her presence felt on social media, the new tool of interface, and became a pro in social media diplomacy, helping in cases that users put up for her intervention and attention, something that led *The Washington Post* to term her the "supermom" of diplomacy. But when she transferred an official for refusing passports to an inter-faith couple, she came into direct confrontation with hardliner trolls, some of whom followed the present leadership and were seen as having their tacit endorsement. With hardly any peer support or defence, that episode highlighted the ideological gap between two generations of the BJP and how she was too different to negotiate a DNA switch. An old BJP leadership, operating in a different contextual dynamic, could afford to be more omnitheistic and share the spotlight democratically. The new leadership, coming as it does on the back of a consolidated verdict, a re-activated cadre base and a distinctly RSS-dominated agenda, will predictably go by what it succeeded with in the first place, a presidential style of operations and one that is aspirational and robust. With Swaraj's departure, the new leaders are expected to reassert this credo more volubly.

Nevertheless, Swaraj will be remembered within the party and even across party lines as a seasoned parliamentarian with many firsts to her credit. And perhaps it was her versatility and magnetic appeal that necessitated her inclusion in the Modi Cabinet, as one who needed to be neutralised rather than be allowed to be free-spirited given her facility with media projection. Besides, among a male-dominated leadership of the BJP, she broke through as the party's first female Chief Minister, Union Cabinet Minister, general secretary and even spokesperson. And that needed acknowledgment. She was perhaps one of BJP's most proactive I&B ministers, ushering in industry status for film producers and propagating community radio. A passionate and arresting orator, she has had Parliament in thrall with her speeches, particularly as the Leader of the Opposition from 2009 to 2014. She famously vowed to shave off her head if Congress supremo Sonia Gandhi was made Prime Minister and took on her creditably from the Bellary Lok Sabha seat. The Lower House will surely miss that fire and brimstone. But Swaraj is a master of reinvention and it would be foolhardy to write her off.

## Storm in a Tweecup

Should the Twitter head honcho have held up a poster that says 'Smash Brahmanical Patriarchy'? Perhaps not. But...



**T**he India visit of Jack Dorsey, chief executive and co-founder of social networking site Twitter, has been compared to the disastrous visit of Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau to our country earlier this year. That might be stretching it but there is no doubt that Dorsey, who posed holding a poster that urged us all to apropos of nothing in particular 'Smash Brahmanical Patriarchy', could have avoided controversy. But some of the hysteria that has followed is downright silly and lacks understanding of Indian social history. Hilariously, an 'editor' went as far as to call him anti-India and a retired Indian Police Service officer suggested that the tweet and picture qualified as evidence fit for a case of sedition to be filed against Dorsey. Frankly, at the risk of offending more people, let us not get so worked up about it. Should Jack Dorsey have posed with the poster? Maybe not. Is the poster offensive? While many and not only from the Brahmin community do find it offensive, and the creator of the poster herself has admitted she meant the slogan as a pejorative, the fact that India still suffers from caste-based patriarchy — along with many other causes — is difficult to deny even by those offended by the poster. Looking at the posts and anger that has followed, however, is like staring down a dark hole of ignorance. Anytime anyone advocates the application of Section 295A of the Indian Penal Code, it must be done very carefully. This newspaper has argued in the past that this section of the IPC is an anachronism that has no place in a modern society and is so vaguely defined that the authorities are liable to misuse it for imagined wrongs. This is exactly what has happened to Abhijit Iyer-Mitra in Odisha where slighted Odia pride has meant that he has spent two weeks in jail on dodgy grounds.

The irony of the situation is that it is Twitter itself that gives a voice to the easily offended, allowing them to be perpetually offended at some silly thing or another. In fact, one could argue that Twitter, in particular, and Facebook and other social networks in general, have led to the extinction of common sense. Indians should take heed from two people that Jack Dorsey met while in New Delhi, Narendra Modi and Rahul Gandhi. No matter what your politics, the vitriol that these two men catch on a daily basis on Twitter is mind-boggling; yet, they do not lash out as they have both developed a thick skin. This is not to excuse the tremendous violence, virulence and abuse that users, particularly women, face on Twitter on a daily basis which the service has been in largely ineffective in curbing. That needs to change. But screaming and shouting blue murder over a poster in a picture, even if provocative, is a waste of time and energy.

# Doklam redux?

Is China's building of a large number of 'model' villages on the Tibetan side of the Indian border preparation for another stand-off? It's time to discuss this issue with Thimphu



CLAUDE ARPI

**T**he 40th anniversary of "China's reform and opening up" is being celebrated across the country this year as the Chinese propaganda affirms: "Over the past 40 years, the country has transformed itself from a largely agricultural nation into the second largest economy in the world."

One of the most remembered events took place in 1978, when 18 farmers in Xiaogang village in Anhui Province signed a secret agreement to divide collectively-owned farmland into individual pieces and drop the collectivisation of the Great Leap Forward (GLF), which between 1958 and 1960, resulted in some 40 million casualties; in Xiaogang itself, 67 villagers out of 120 had died of starvation between 1958 and 1960.

Forty years later, the name Xiaogang is being used for a different project, which should worry India: The building of a large number of 'model' villages in Tibet, along the border with India.

On October 19, *China Tibet News* reported that since the beginning of 2018, Tsonga County, north of Arunachal Pradesh's Tawang district, has been "vigorously promoting the construction of border 'Xiaogang' villages" (the literal meaning of 'Xiaogang' is 'moderately well-off').

Tsona County alone has invested 519 million yuan (\$74 million) in the construction projects of nine border villages, benefiting 1,961 people from 617 households. More than 40 per cent of the project has been completed and an investment of 2.2 billion yuan (\$314 million) has already been spent.

In May, *China Tibet News* said that Lepo, the first village in Tibet, north of the border in Khenzimane (Tawang district) boasted a rich vegetation and clear waters: "With impressive natural scenery and unique ethnic customs, Magmang ecological civilisation village is also situated in Lepo Valley, Tsona County. ... The construction of Magmang ecological civilisation demonstration village began on March of 2014 and was completed on December." On January of 2015, the village was inaugurated and a year later, Magmang was awarded "China's beautiful leisure village" by the Ministry of Agriculture. China has 26 national key tourist attractions; the Lepo Valley, close to the Thagla ridge, which saw the first clashes between India and China in October 1962, is one of them.

The new tourist scheme, 'Slowing down the speed of tour, enjoying the sea of azaleas in Lepo Valley', prolonged the peak season, explained the Chinese authorities.

Dekyi Tsoemo, a 27-year-old villager of Magmang, told the website: "Previously,



houses in the village looked fairly run-down, and all roads leading to the village are muddy. Nowadays, the houses we live in are comfortable and big, with underfloor heating and hot water supply. This kind of house costs more than 400,000 yuan. We only pay 120,000 yuan, the rest is paid by the Government. ... we all feel grateful." Incidentally, on March 30, 1959, the Dalai Lama spent his last night in Tibet in Magmang; he was on his way to India. The next day, he crossed the border at Khenzimane. He would certainly not recognise the hamlet.

To understand the mushrooming of Xiaogang villages, one should remember the words of the Emperor Xi Jinping, who said: "Govern the nation by governing the borders, govern the borders by first stabilising Tibet. Ensure social harmony and stability in Tibet and strengthen the development of border regions."

The villages are officially linked to two themes: 'Poverty alleviation' and 'defence of the borders'. The local populations are said to be the 'Guardians of the Sacred Land and Builders of Happy Homes'.

Senior Communist leaders regularly visit the new villages; whether in the Lohit sector, north of the McMahon Line, where a memorial for the Chinese soldiers, who died in the Walong sector during the 1962 War, has been erected for 'nationalist' tourism; in Metok, near Arunachal's Upper Siang dis-

trict or in Yume, north of Takshing in Upper Subansari; all these areas have their model villages, like in Lepo.

During the last few years, Beijing has concentrated on the development of the south-eastern prefectures of Nyingchi and Lhoka, bordering Arunachal Pradesh. But now, while the work on the railway line between Lhasa and Nyingchi continues at a quick pace, the development has started shifting westwards, in areas bordering Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh and Ladakh.

Beijing wants to duplicate in Ngari what has been done in Nyingchi and Lhoka areas; first and foremost, improving infrastructure of the border and creating Xiaogang villages. Among the three new airports to be soon constructed in Tibet, Purang is located in Ngari prefecture of Western Tibet (one is near Lhunthe in Lhoka and the last one, near the Nepal border). The construction should begin in 2019 and it will be functional in 2021.

The objective of these airports is to strengthen the border's communications with surrounding areas. Let us not forget that airports and highways on the plateau legally have a dual use (civilian and military).

There is another aspect to the communist party's policy on the Indian borders: Recalcitrant Tibetans are relocated to places further away from the 'sensitive' Indian borders.

An article recently appeared in the French edition of *China Tibet Online*, titled: 'Relocation of the villagers of Lhodrak: mission over.'

It affirmed: "After a first wave of successful relocation on October 15, a second wave is now over." Lhodrak is the legendary birthplace of Marpa, the great saint who visited India several times and translated the Buddhist scriptures in the 11th century. It is located north of the Bhutanese border.

"The villagers' relocation project represents the completion of a scheme which is part of the strategy of the CPP's Central Committee for strengthening the border. It is also a good example to illustrate that the party carries the people in its heart, it provides a housing solution to families in need, and a strengthening of the masses on the borders for defence," said the article. Tibetans in traditional costumes, probably provided for the photo op, are seen on the accompanying pictures. Some of the Xiaogang villages are located north of Bhutan, near the eastern trijunction between India, China and Bhutan, an area which is disputed.

Could it be in preparation of another Doklam? There is, however, a difference with the western trijunction (Doklam). India has no military presence in the area. The time has perhaps come to discuss this issue seriously with Thimphu.

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

“THE VILLAGES ARE OFFICIALLY LINKED TO TWO THEMES: 'POVERTY ALLEVIATION' AND 'DEFENCE OF THE BORDERS'. THE LOCAL POPULATIONS ARE SAID TO BE THE 'GUARDIANS OF THE SACRED LAND AND BUILDERS OF HAPPY HOMES'”

## SOUNDBITE

They (RSS) are behaving like the Taliban and Khalistani terrorists. Why are they trying to create trouble in Sabarimala?

CPM Politburo member  
—S Ramachandran Pillai



We cannot afford to delay the reform of the body charged with the maintenance of international peace and security.

India's Permanent Representative to the UN  
—Syed Akbaruddin



I watch a lot of VFX-rich, adventure films with my sons and have always wanted to lend my voice to such mysterious characters.

Actor  
—Madhuri Dixit



Under the strategic guidance of the two leaders, China-India relations have maintained sound momentum of growth.

Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman  
—Geng Shuang



## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### End quotas

Sir — This refers to the editorial, "Quota question" (November 20). Instead of indulging in quota politics, the Government must work for the overall development of the people and the country's economy, and for the weaker sections, it must aim to provide better opportunities so that they can rise and prosper.

Reservations are but a reminder to the people that they are weak and cannot rise in life without any support. The Supreme Court, too, had made it clear that reservation is not in the public's interest. In fact, reservations lead to more chaos than delivering on the so-called benefits to the intended people. It is in the country's interest to abolish reservations of all kinds.

Mahesh Kapsi  
Via email

### National icons

Sir — This refers to the article, "Don't undermine national heroes" (November 19) and "Maker of modern India" (November 20) by Prashant

### RBI must tread cautiously

This refers to the editorial, "An armistice" (November 21). Looking at the present feud between the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and the Central Government, I am reminded of the Asian Currency crisis of 1997. While the Thai Baht broke its peg with the US dollar, signalling the Asian financial crisis, this led to a full-blown crisis in Thailand, Indonesia and eventually the much larger Korean economy. Domestic financial institutions failed and foreign exchange sources dried up. While almost all the Asian currencies went for a toss, the Indian rupee withstood the onslaught and stayed strong, thanks to the disciplined and stricter policies followed by the then RBI stalwarts, ably supported by the highly knowledgeable financial wizards who were heading the Government.

It is laudable that the present regulators of the RBI have also withstood the pressure mounted on them by the present Government to dilute regulations and support the Government in their attempt to please certain sections of the people, keeping the ensuing Lok Sabha election in mind. The RBI should not yield to relax norms to release loans to MSMEs under the so-called 'loan in 59 minutes' announcement or restructure huge NPAs to bail out defaulters whose aim is only to cheat the banks. Bankers should also come forward to deny such '59 minute loans'. Surely if loans are given in such a hurry, without following norms, it would result in a new chunk of NPAs and later, bankers will be held responsible.

Tharcus S Fernando  
Chennai

### Security lapse

Sir — This refers to the report, "Man throws chilli powder at Kejriwal, arrested" (November 21). Throwing chilli powder in Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal's eyes in a highly secured building of Delhi Secretariat is a matter of serious security lapse. Security persons,

who provide security to people who fall under Z-security cover, have a duty to take perfect care of the person.

It is unfortunate that a spokesperson of the ruling party at the Centre, without knowing about the security norms, gave an irresponsible political statement, terming the unfortunate incident as a pre-scripted drama. The Delhi Police and Union Home

Ministry must investigate the matter in a politically unbiased manner and ensure perfect security to the Delhi Chief Minister, even though he may be asked to follow certain norms set for persons under Z-security cover.

Madhu Agrawal  
Delhi

### Autonomy for CBI

Sir — It is disturbing that the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) stands accused of being used by the Centre to implicate opponents to scuttle dissenting voices. Over-politicisation of institutions is bound to deal a blow to the federal structure.

Such developments can be prevented when a policy, envisaging absolute autonomy to the CBI, is put in place. Its impartiality would be manifested only when it carries out raids also against leaders associated with the ruling party since it can't be presumed that they are all incorruptible.

Humyra Tarafdar  
Kolkata

Send your feedback to:  
letterstopioneer@gmail.com

**FIRST COLUMN**

## From poverty to prosperity

While the Government has launched various welfare programmes for the poor, there is something it can do for the middle-income population too



RAJEEV AHUJA

A poor marginal farmer, Kishan, living in a remote Indian village was barely able to subsist. He cultivated cereals and seasonal vegetables on a small piece of land that he owned, and at times worked as a wage-labourer for the so-called 'affluent' farmers in the neighbouring village. His wife would often lend a helping hand in tending the field. His two school-going daughters, too, would regularly partake in the household chorus when not studying. To an urban dweller, Kishan may appear to be living a life of content, but that wasn't the case for him and his family. For them, life had become a daily grind. The same was true of many other families in his village. A slender margin separated calmness from turbulence in their lives, for Mother Nature could easily wreck havoc in their apparently calm lives.

But life started to change for Kishan — as it did for other households of his village — after the Modi Government came to power. Not only does his village now have electricity, but almost every household has a bank account and an LPG facility for cooking. Propagation of scientific agricultural practices has helped these farmers to not only switch over to higher value crops, but also to produce marketable surplus. They are now less dependent on rain. Their crops enjoy protection from other hazards too under the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana. Encouraged by a local NGO, Kishan's wife has started a small enterprise to supplement her family income. She joined hands with a few other women folks to start their own handicraft manufacturing unit, availing loan under the Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana.

Nobody had expected their life to take such a sudden turn for the better. Talk to any villager and s/he will acknowledge that there has been a perceptible change in public services too. Quality of rations in the fair price shop improved; school teachers are more dedicated now; students enjoy playing newly-introduced sports — badminton and volley ball; a doctor now regularly sits in the nearest primary health centre. Every resident of the village now has a unique identification (Aadhaar) card needed to avail benefits under various Government programmes.

Kishan's family is hopeful that one day they will be living in a *pucca* house, as promised by the Village Pradhan under the Pradhan Mantri Gramin Awas Yojana. Also, Kishan is thrilled to have received a letter signed by none other than Prime Minister Narendra Modi himself, assuring him and his family of free hospital treatment of upto five lakh rupees every year in any Government or private hospital under the Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana. This, he finds quite reassuring.

All of this is, of course, an imaginary story that may turn into reality if India continues to witness politics of development. The Modi dispensation has introduced a number of programmes for the benefit of the poor and the vulnerable. These initiatives are making visible difference on the ground. It may be too early to find a poor household that has benefited from all schemes and programmes meant for the poor, but finding a poor household that has remained untouched by any of these may be difficult as well. Indeed, the poor should be the focus of the Government welfare programmes. But there is something that the Modi Government could do for the middle-income people, too, without assuming any additional fiscal burden. One such intervention could be to include the Above Poverty Line (APL) population in the Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana upon payment of premium. This will be a huge benefit to the informal sector workers and their families that belong to the APL category.

Currently, this section of society has two options: To pay hospital bills out of their own pocket, which can be prohibitively expensive or buy an insurance policy from one of the insurance companies. If they pay hospital bills out of their own pockets, the deadly cocktail of one's needs and emotions gets exploited by the private hospitals. And if one buys an insurance policy, it can be several times more expensive than what could be if they were to join the Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana and take advantage of the negotiated discounted prices. Kishan's expected meteoric rise from the BPL to APL category should prove to be a boon, and not bane. However, this will only be so when there is something for the APL population too.

*(The writer is a development economist, formerly with the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and the World Bank)*

IF REPORTS OF TREATMENT OF THE PILGRIMS ARE TRUE, VIJAYAN MUST REALISE THAT HE CAN'T TREAT AYYAPPA DEVOTEES LIKE INMATES OF A GULAG.

—BJP PRESIDENT AMIT SHAH

**POINT COUNTERPOINT**



BJP PRESIDENT'S TWEETS ON SABARIMALA ARE MISLEADING. ARRANGEMENTS MUST HAVE CAUSED INCONVENIENCE TO SANGH PARIVAR ELEMENTS.

—KERALA CHIEF MINISTER PINARAYI VIJAYAN

# How to kill a dream

The gunning down of Avni is symptomatic of a crisis of governance and brings to the fore one of the most pressing problems of the human-animal conflict which demands professional solutions



VK BAHUGUNA

Social activism is a sign of a vibrant, responsive and progressive society. Indian social activism has assumed gigantic proportions, but often, emotive activism, devoid of objectivity, derails the smooth functioning of institutions of governance and creates confusion. The latest in a series of such instances is the shooting of a man-eating Tigress in Maharashtra's Yavatmal district. For the past few weeks, animal rights activists and organisations have been castigating the Maharashtra Government for the killing of Tigress Avni in Pandharkawada forests of Maharashtra's Yavatmal district. They have charged the forest department for her cold-blooded killing, so much so that Union Minister Maneka Gandhi dubbed her killing as a straight case of crime and raised the hackle by demanding the sacking of Maharashtra Forest Minister Sudhir Mungantiwar.

The State Government on November 10 set up an inquiry committee to prove the death of the tigress. Let us examine the facts from the point of view of rule of law as also from the point of view of overall animal welfare, moral and professional ethos.

Tigress Avni was eliminated on the night of November 2, 2018, with help from a sharp shooter, Asgar Ali. During the last two years, the tigress killed 13 people. Due to public pressure, the Chief Wildlife Warden seemed to have ordered that the big cat be either captured or killed as she was found to be dangerous for human life. Even the Mumbai High Court, after initial refusal, allowed the shooting. The Supreme Court, however, refrained from interfering.

Strictly speaking, the forest department was within the legal boundaries to neutralise the man-eating tigress. Chapter III of the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972, deals with the subject of Hunting of Wild Animals and provisions of Chapter IV under Section 11(a) empower the Chief Wildlife Warden to order elimination of such animals.

Going by the rule book, foresters were within their right to have taken the decision to eliminate the man-eating tigress. However, going by the post-mortem and other reports, several questions arise that need to be answered. Further, the issue is not just about the killing of the tigress but involves larger issues of systemic malfunctioning of our social fibre and governance under which we are surely and certainly destroying the living space of the wildlife by fragmenting their corridors and encroaching on their habitats.

When results of our irrational behaviours are visible, like the killing of 13 people by Avni, and subsequently her elimination, the hue and cry being raised on her death is only emotionally targeting the forest department. There's no discussion about the real causes that led to the situation, which is bound to rise in the near future.

Tiger conservation in India is an internationally acclaimed success story. Since tigers are a prolific breeder, conservation efforts are not going to be derailed by the unfortunate killing of Avni. However, the way this issue was han-

“AVNI'S KILLING HAS THROWN A TIMELY CHALLENGE FOR FORESTERS, STATE GOVERNMENTS AND THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT TO SERIOUSLY TREAT THE DISEASE OF SHRINKING HABITAT AND FRAGMENTATION OF FOREST LANDS INSTEAD OF TREATING THE SYMPTOMS



dled and the manner in which she was killed does not absolve the foresters and other officials from criticism. They did handle the case in an unprofessional manner. The moot question here is: Why did the State Government, the district administration and the forest department not take proactive action when the first human killing was reported? The order of the Chief Wildlife Warden, too, needs to be examined. It needs to be ascertained whether the order was to tranquilise or to kill the tigress. If the order was to tranquilise, then why did the forest department lack the basic capacity to fire the dart gun? Why were they not able to train one of their staff? If it was a professional decision to kill her, due to management compulsions, were all protocols in the rule book followed?

According to the shooter, Ali, "We have been roaming in the forests for many days and after two forest guards identified the animal as T1, a forester fired the dart. But in a fraction of a second, she charged towards us with a roar. If I had not opened fire, she would have killed two to three people". But the post mortem report, as reported in the media, said that the tigress was shot when she was facing away from the shooter and the dart found lodges in its left thigh and did not show any impact of being fired from a tranquilising gun. If this statement in the post mortem report is true (subject to verification), it contradicts the self-defence theory of the shooter and is a matter of suppression of facts. The

Chief Wildlife Warden has to come clean on criticism.

It was a long pending correct decision to remove the tigress from this forest area. Only an efficient forest manager will be able to suggest if the elimination could have been well-planned and if the tigress could have been captured and sent to a zoo.

If it was a right decision to kill her, the Chief Wildlife Warden should make it clear as to what happened on the night of November 2 and what were the orders of the State Government. Honest professionals must face the public and clear the smoke.

The meat of the story, however, is: Tiger population in India has been steadily rising. In 2006, there were 1,411 tigers in the country, which increased to 2,226 in 2014. The 2018 census data is not yet out. Forest area in Yavatmal district is 19.9 per cent (2,606 sq km) of the geographic area (13,582 sq km), as per the Forest Survey of India's 'State of Forest Report 2017'. Though tigers are increasing, there has been a decrease of six sq km forest areas in Yavatmal district, compared to the assessment in 2015.

The State Government had been diverting forest lands in Yavatmal for the setting up of a cement factory and other projects without assessing its impact on wildlife. Though the tiger population is going up at an average of 30 per cent and conservation measures are bearing fruits, the forest area and the wildlife habitat are shrinking

with the net result that young tigers are seeking territories in new fragmented forests, honeycombed by villages with little prey base. Tigress Avni and its two cubs were a victim of circumstances. There was shortage of food and no secure territory.

The killing of Avni has thrown a timely challenge for the foresters, State Governments and the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change to seriously treat the disease of shrinking habitat and fragmentation of forest lands instead of treating the symptoms. They must pull up their socks and find professional solutions for such situations, especially on how to consolidate forest catchments for food and water security, fragmentation of forestlands in tiger and elephant corridors *et al*.

At the same time, foresters must upgrade their infrastructure and professional capability to meet such challenges, and show their spine in the same way the unsung foresters had shown. For their grit, determination and professional capability had led to tigers, other wild life and forest biodiversity to survive in India in difficult situations. In the end, we must remember that notwithstanding perceived lapses on the part of authorities, which will be clear after a fair inquiry, the intention of governance was correct as we must also feel for 13 poor Indians who lost their lives. Now, the forest department must rehabilitate Avni's two cubs.

*(The writer is a Retired Civil Servant)*

# Fighting pollution, the Beijing way

There's a lot India can learn from the Chinese capital which has registered tremendous improvement in its air quality. First, we need a political will to fight the bad-air days



KOTA SRIRAJ

In the first week of November 2018, this writer paid a visit to Beijing and came back quite impressed as to how China was managing its air pollution woes. During the peak hours, when the air was anything but healthy, citizens used masks to protect themselves. In contrast, in India, we are yet to understand the threat that air pollution poses to our health. This is evident by the limited use of protective gear, such as face masks, particularly among our children and the elderly. An interesting aspect about pollution management in Beijing was that though the ambient air quality approached unhealthy levels during the day, it did not stay there for long. There was both a natural and man-

made reason for this. The natural reason pertained to the geographical position of the city which afforded it a constant minimum wind speed. This aided in blowing away noxious gases. The man-made reason was that Beijing's city administration was acutely aware about the worsening air quality and, thus, ensured that a plethora of measures is taken to clamp down pollution-causing conditions.

For instance, unlike in India, the municipal authorities keep spraying water on busy roads throughout the day at regular intervals. This does not allow the dust to rise. On the other hand, dust vacuum trucks keep tidying up the roadways across the city on a regular basis. The result is a spic and span city infrastructure that does not contribute to pollution.

One amazing aspect of Beijing that would strike everyone is that in spite of the population density, the city bears an unhurried and paced look about it. The main reason for this is the efficacy of the public transport, especially the Beijing subway or

the metro. China's underground transport system has evolved tremendously and is now the mainstay of mass transit. The efficacy of the metro could be gauged by the fact that during rush hours, the frequency of the metro improved to four-minute interval between each arrival.

Add to this, the surface transport. The buses running on electric pantographs complement the metro in a pollution-free manner. In order to make vehicular pollution even less, transport authorities in Beijing have limited the number of private cars on the roads by auctioning registration numbers. This has ensured that not everybody and anybody has been able to add to the vehicular sprawl and pollution.

Comparatively, not long ago, Delhi and Beijing were neck-to-neck in handling pollution but this is now a thing of the past. Beijing today stands way ahead — not as much in clean air as it is in its awareness and efforts to clean up its air. Thanks to the 'air purity first' attitude, ambient air quality in Beijing has started to

improve steadily; whereas pollution levels in Delhi are rising.

In 2017, the yearly average concentration of PM 2.5, that is the particulate matter with a size of 2.5 microns or less, in Beijing was less than half as that of Delhi. In addition to this, Delhi is also surging ahead of Beijing in yet another unflattering area. The number of "very unhealthy" days, or the period when the pollution levels are very high, is also exceeding four times that of Beijing.

Beijing has now embarked on a fight against pollution and is setting an example for other nations to follow. This, the city has been able to do because of a firm resolve and its air pollution policy. For instance, when the great smog hit central, northern and eastern China in January 2013, it prompted the Chinese Government to launch a comprehensive action plan to tackle air pollution. It was based on a regional approach that identified key polluted regions, such as Beijing-Tianjin-Hebei for a time-bound action plan. It set specific pollution reduction targets and defined

'10 measures' to guide the development of regional action plans. Based on these 10 measures, China's Ministry of Environmental Protection issued implementation rules for Beijing-Tianjin-Hebei region and surrounding areas. Accordingly, Beijing's Government formulated action plans that included setting specific targets, such as restricting the total number of vehicles in the city to six million by the end of 2017, reducing coal consumption by 80 per cent till 2020 and meeting annual average PM 2.5 concentration of micrograms per cubic meter (µg/m<sup>3</sup>) by 2017.

Beijing is implementing these measures quite seriously. For instance, in 2017, the quota for new vehicles was fixed at 150,000 cars, with 60,000 allotted only to fuel-efficient cars. In 2018, this quota was reduced to 100,000, annually. Similarly, in 2017, coal consumption was reduced to 11 million tonnes as Beijing closed all its big coal-fired power stations. Besides, Beijing has also enforced stringent norms to con-

trol industrial pollution. In 2016, its environmental watchdog imposed fines totaling \$21.8 million. It has also undertaken a massive greening programme. During the past five years, about 4,022 hectares of urban green spaces have been created.

To effectively reduce Beijing's air pollution, surrounding provinces, such as Tianjin, Hebei, Shandong, Shanxi and Inner Mongolia coordinated and implemented a joint action plan. A combination of Beijing's own action plan and those of its surrounding regions has paid off. In 2017, Beijing recorded 226 blue-sky days having good air quality, compared to just 176 in 2013. In the Beijing-Tianjin-Hebei region, PM 2.5 levels decreased by about 30 per cent between 2013 and 2017. This has helped Beijing meet the PM 2.5 target it had set for itself in 2013.

The ongoing bad air days in Delhi are a reminder that we need to learn our lessons from the fight Beijing is giving to air pollution.

*(The writer is an environmental journalist)*



**FIND AN ELIGIBLE REPLACEMENT**

Trump must expeditiously identify a new nominee for attorney-general who can be questioned by the Senate early in the new year about his/her integrity. That nominee also should be required, as a condition of confirmation, to promise not to allow political considerations to influence the administration of justice. *(Los Angeles Times editorial)*

# Sensex drops 275 pts, Nifty slips below 10,600

**PTI ■ MUMBAI**

The BSE benchmark Sensex extended losses for the second session on Wednesday by declining over 250 points on heavy selling in IT, tech, metal and auto stocks amid weak global cues.

Besides, fresh foreign fund outflows further hurt trading sentiments.

However, crude oil's fall to one-year low in the global market on excess supply concerns, capped the fall in the indices.

The 30-share, after rising briefly to 35,494.25 at the outset, quickly slipped into the negative terrain in line with a weak trend at other Asian markets and touched a low of 35,112.49.

However, it pared early losses on emergence of buying after a higher opening of European shares. The index closed 274.71 points, or 0.77 per cent, down at 35,199.80. The gauge had lost 300.37 points Tuesday.

Also, the broader NSE Nifty, after shuttling between 10,562.35 and 10,671.30 points, finally settled 56.15 points, or 0.53 per cent down at 10,600.05.

Sentiments took a hit after broader Asian markets weakened, following a renewed sell-off on Wall Street Tuesday as energy shares dropped after crude oil prices plunged to a 13-month low amid weak earn-

ings and US-China trade disputes, fuelling worries about economic growth, brokers said.

"Wednesday's action accentuates the recent divergence we have witnessed between India and advanced economies. While the Nasdaq Composite is down 7.2 per cent in the past month and the S&P 500 is down 4.6 per cent, the Nifty50 is up 2.8 per cent in the same time," said Sunil Sharma, Chief Investment Officer, Sanctum Wealth Management.

During the day, midcaps rallied strongly while the Nifty ended lower. Separately, the action in PSU banks and financials also suggests that market fears around liquidity and credit rollovers are abating, he added.

Persistent fall in technology stocks globally, and rupee appreciating against the dollar in the past few days, are the key factors fuelling the negative sentiment in IT stocks, brokers said.

Stocks of software services exporter such as TCS, Infosys, Wipro and Tech Mahindra were the worst hit on the bourses with shares falling up to 3.55 per cent.

Other laggards were PowerGrid, RIL, Bajaj Auto, Tata Steel, M&M, Hero MotoCorp, Vedanta, NTPC, IndusInd Bank, L&T, ONGC, HDFC Ltd, ITC Ltd, ICICI Bank, HUL, Bharti Airtel and Coal India, falling up to 2.77 per cent.

Among the gainers, shares

of private lender Yes Bank was the top performer, climbing 2.83 per cent after it reassured that the recent resignations bear no impact on the CEO selection process and that efforts are underway for mutual resolution with co-promoter Madhu Kapur and family.

Axis Bank, Adani Ports, SBI, Asian Paints, Maruti Suzuki, Sun Pharma, Tata Motors, HDFC Bank and Kotak Bank also ended higher with gains up to 2.20 per cent.

Shares of aviation and oil marketing companies surged due to sharp drop of nearly 7 per cent in global crude oil prices. Spicejet, Jet Airways and InterGlobe rose up to 5.63 per cent.

Shares of state-run oil marketing companies such as IOC, HPCL and BPCL, gained up to 1.76 per cent.

Brent crude, the oil prices international benchmark, fell 6.92 per cent to \$62.17 a barrel on Tuesday on excess supply concerns.

Sector-wise, the BSE IT index emerged biggest loser by plunging 2.92 per cent, followed by teck 2.47 per cent, power 1.04 per cent, metal 0.78 per cent, capital goods 0.58 per cent and FMCG 0.26 per cent, oil&gas 0.12 per cent and auto 0.08 per cent.

In contrast, realty, health-care, consumer durables, bankex, PSU and infrastructure ended higher, rising up to 1.53 per cent.

# WhatsApp appoints Abhijit Bose as India Head

**PTI ■ NEW DELHI**

Popular messaging app WhatsApp on Wednesday named Abhijit Bose as its India Head, meeting one of the key demands made by the Indian Government.

Bose, who will join the messaging platform early next year, will build WhatsApp's first full country team outside of California and will be based in Gurugram, WhatsApp said in a statement.

Bose and his team will focus on helping businesses, both large and small, connect with their customers, it added.

"WhatsApp is deeply committed to India and we are excited to keep building products that help people connect and support India's fast-growing digital economy," Matt Idema, Chief Operating Officer of WhatsApp, said.

As a successful entrepreneur himself, Bose knows what it takes to build meaningful partnerships that can serve businesses across India, he added.

He joins WhatsApp from Ezetap where he has served as co-founder and CEO. Founded in 2011, Ezetap is an electronic payments company backed by top-tier Venture Capitalists.



The appointment comes at a time when the Facebook-owned company has been under tremendous pressure to put in place a mechanism to curb fake messages on its platform, that incited mob fury.

The Government has been pressing WhatsApp to develop tools to combat fake or false messages, and also identify message originators.

Apart from the traceability request, the government had asked WhatsApp to set up a local corporate presence and appoint a grievance officer to address complaints. WhatsApp has recently appointed a grievance officer for India.

Following multiple incidents of mob-lynching across the country, the government had slapped WhatsApp with two notices, with the second one warning that it will treat the messaging platform as an abettor of rumour propagation and legal consequences will follow if adequate checks are not put in place.

# Birla flags concerns on liquidity, high spectrum payment to Govt

**PTI ■ NEW DELHI**

Kumar Mangalam Birla, Chairman of Vodafone Idea Ltd, has flagged concerns about severe liquidity crunch in the telecom sector and high spectrum payments at a recent meeting with Telecom Minister Manoj Sinha, an official said.

Telecom sector has been battered by falling tariffs, eroding profitability, and mounting debt, in the face of stiff competition triggered by disruptive offerings of Reliance Jio, owned by richest Indian Mukesh Ambani.

Birla, who heads Vodafone Idea — the country's largest mobile operator, raised the issues during a meeting with Sinha, which was also attended by Telecom Secretary Aruna Sundararajan.

A senior telecom Ministry official who did not wish to be named said that the meeting took place recently where Birla talked about the severe liquidity crunch in the market, and underscored the need for relief.

The talks were informal and the Department of Telecom will take a view on the issue once a formal representation is made, the official told PTI.

Vodafone Idea Ltd declined to comment on an e-mail query sent to the company on the issue.

The Vodafone Idea Chief said to have expressed concern over ₹30,000 crore that is locked up on account of GST payment under 'reverse charge mechanism'.



Under the GST 'reverse charge mechanism' provision, registered dealers are required to make tax payments in case he procures goods from unregistered businesses.

The provision was applicable from July 1, 2017 till October 12, 2017. With companies facing trouble in implementing the provision, the GST Council has decided to keep RCM in abeyance till September 30, 2019.

Amongst other concerns highlighted by Birla was the high upfront payment for radiowaves, the official said adding he has sought that period of payment for spectrum purchases be increased to 18 years from the current 16 years, and favoured a moratorium.

High levies in the telecom sector and the recent hike in import duty also figured in the talks, said the official but did not elaborate.

A bruising tariff war sparked by the entry of Reliance Jio into the telecom sector with free voice calls and SMS, bundled with cheap data has led to pressure on margins of incumbents which have scrambled to match competition.

Earlier this month, at its maiden earnings announcement as a joint entity, Vodafone Idea Ltd reported a consolidated loss of ₹4,973 crore for the September quarter and announced a fund infusion of ₹25,000 crore to help it take on brutal competition.

Bharti Airtel too has reported a drop in consolidated net profit for the 10th straight quarter as losses on mainstay India business widened due to pricing pressure from aggressive competition. Overall, its consolidated net profit of ₹118.8 crore in July-September represented a drop of about 65 per cent from Rs 343 crore in the year ago period.

Airtel's loss from India operations (before exceptional items) mounted to ₹1646.4 crore in the second quarter of the current fiscal compared to about ₹940 crore in the preceding three-month period.

In fact, Moody's Investors Service recently placed Bharti Airtel's rating on review for downgrade, following low levels of profitability and expectation of weak cash flow.

# Aviation, oil marketing cos rise on lower global crude oil prices

**PTI ■ NEW DELHI**

Shares of aviation and oil marketing companies surged up to 6 per cent Wednesday due to sharp drop in global crude oil prices.

The scrip of SpiceJet soared 5.63 per cent, Jet Airways 2.74 per cent and InterGlobe Aviation 1.41 per cent on the BSE.

Among OMCs, shares of IOC rose by 1.76 per cent, HPCL 1.17 per cent and BPCL 1.08 per cent.

Crude oil fell to one-year low in the global market.

# Indian shrimp exports to see mixed results this year: Report

**PTI ■ MUMBAI**

Indian shrimp exports are likely to have mixed results this year as demand declines in the European Union and exports to the US continue to grow, according to a report.

"Looking at the future, the story of Indian shrimp exports show mixed signs. On one hand, increased competition and decreased EU demand seem to be depressing sales. On the other, analysts expect Indian shrimp exports to the US to grow by 15-20 per cent this year," according to a report by US-based fintech company Drip Capital.

Since many exporters are not currently hedged against currency fluctuation, rupee depreciation has allowed exporters to keep losses to a minimum, it added.

"Depreciation of the Indian rupee against the dollar will likely support Indian exporters against those from other markets. As per industry analysts and trade sources, this could boost shrimp exports to the US this year. However, the entry of competing export countries in the global shrimp trade is also a factor to take into account.

# Renault keeps Ghosn as CEO despite arrest in Japan

**AP ■ TOKYO**

France's Renault says it has decided to keep its CEO Carlos Ghosn on despite his arrest in Japan on allegations that he misused assets of partner Nissan Motor Co. And misreported his income.

Renault's board of directors announced late Tuesday that the No. 2 at the company, Chief Operating Officer Thierry Bollore, would temporarily fill in for Ghosn.

"Mr. Ghosn, temporarily incapacitated, remains chairman and chief executive officer," a statement from Renault's board said.

But while Ghosn deals with his legal issues in Japan, Bollore will have the same authority to run the company as the CEO, it added.

Renault's board said its decision was made with an eye toward keeping the company on a steady course "to preserve the interests of the group and the continuity of its operations."

Ghosn runs Renault, Nissan and the Renault-Nissan-Mitsubishi alliance that he helped turn into the world's biggest car-seller last year, and both France and Japan want to keep it intact.

Renault's move to appoint a temporary leader was in line with a demand by the French government, which owns a 15 per cent stake in the automaker.

Finance Minister Bruno Le Maire had said earlier Tuesday that Ghosn was not in position to lead the Renault Group while fighting the accusations in Japan.

The French automaker said after an emergency meeting of its board of directors in Paris that it would further consolidate its alliance with Nissan.

The two automakers have a partnership, also, with smaller automaker Mitsubishi Motor Corp.

# Iran denounces latest US sanctions as 'fruitless'

**AFF ■ TEHRAN**

Iran's foreign ministry denounced the latest US Treasury sanctions as "fruitless and senseless" in a statement issued on Wednesday.

"These fruitless, senseless and ineffective sanctions... Will undoubtedly never achieve the desired outcome of their designers and enforcers," it said.

"Sooner or later they will become aware of the futility of their schemes"

Washington slapped fresh sanctions on Tehran Tuesday, accusing it of creating a complex web of Russian cut-out companies and Syrian intermediaries to ship oil to Damascus, which in turn bankrolled Hezbollah and Hamas.

The US Treasury said in a statement that Tehran, "working with Russian companies, provides millions of barrels of oil to the Syrian Government" of President Bashar al-Assad.

"The Assad regime, in turn, facilitates the movement of hundreds of millions of US dollars to the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps - Qods Force for onward transfer to Hamas and Hezbollah," it said, referring to Iran's main foreign military operations unit.

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**DEMAND NOTICE**

Under Section 13(2) of the Securitisation And Reconstruction of Financial Assets And Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with Rule 3 (1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002. The undersigned is the Authorised Officer of Dewan Housing Finance Corporation Ltd.(DHFL) under Securitisation And Reconstruction Of Financial Assets And Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (the said Act). In exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(12) of the said Act read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, the Authorised Officer has issued Demand Notices under section 13(2) of the said Act, calling upon the following Borrower(s) (the "said Borrower(s)"), to repay the amounts mentioned in the respective Demand Notice(s) issued to them that are also given below. In connection with above, Notice is hereby given, once again, to the said Borrower(s) to pay to DHFL, within 60 days from the publication of this Notice, the amounts indicated herein below, together with further interest as detailed in the said Demand Notice(s), from the date(s) mentioned below till the date of payment and/or realization, payable under the loan agreement read with other documents/writings, if any, executed by the said Borrower(s). As security for due repayment of the loan, the following assets have been mortgaged to DHFL by the said Borrower(s) respectively.

Name of the Borrower(s)/ Guarantor(s)	Demand Notice Date and Amount With NPA date	Description of secured asset (immovable property)
(LC No. 00007365 of Maysuru Branch) Harish S (Borrower) Shinappa Nayaka B (Co Borrower 1)	24/10/2018/ ₹ 815522/- (Eight lakh Fifteen Thousand Five Hundred Twenty Two) NPA (01-09-2018)	Site No.5 1st Block Bychanahalli Village Kushalnagar, Somwarpet, Kodagu- 571235
(LC No. 00003645 of Lucknow Branch) Shailesh Shukla (Borrower) Vimla Shukla (Co Borrower 1)	24/10/2018/ ₹ 1045458/- (Ten lakh Forty Five Thousand Four Hundred Fifty Eight) NPA (01-09-2018)	Plot Of Land Gata No 526, Village-Sarvanpur, Pargana Tehsil & District, Amethi, Sultanpur- 227405
(LC No. 00001109 of Delhi Branch) Vikas Prashar (Borrower) Raj Bal Sharma (Co Borrower 1) Poonam Prasher (Co Borrower 2)	24/10/2018/ ₹ 5238467/- (Fifty Two lakh Thirty Eight Thousand Four Hundred Sixty Seven) NPA (01-09-2018)	Flat No- 5061, 6th Floor, Tower- 5, Parker Residency, G T Road Kundli, Sonapat, Haryana, Sonipat- 131101
(LC No. 00002940 of Varanasi Branch) Shailesh Shukla (Borrower) Vimla Shukla (Co Borrower 1)	24/10/2018/ ₹ 745449/- (Seven lakh Forty Five Thousand Four Hundred Forty Nine) NPA (01-09-2018)	Gata No 527, Gram Sarvanpur, Pergana & Tehsil Amethi, Near S D M Awash, Amethi, Sultanpur- 227405
(LC No. 00001854 of Karnal Branch) Manju Bala (Borrower) Gautam Panjwa (Co Borrower 1)	24/10/2018/ ₹ 3815034/- (Thirty Eight lakh Fifteen Thousand Thirty Four) NPA (01-06-2018)	Property No. 168 Block-B, Pocket- 6 Sector- 11 Rohini, Delhi, New Delhi- 110085
(LC No. 00002743 of Karnal Branch) Rahul R (Borrower) Anju A (Co Borrower 1)	24/10/2018/ ₹ 763251/- (Seven lakh Sixty Three Thousand Two Hundred Fifty One) NPA (01-05-2018)	Killa No. 126/5/1, 126/4, 119/24/1/2 Rakba Panchi Gujran, Ganaur Sonapat, Sonapat - 131101
(LC No. 00005076 of Karnal Branch) Ashok Gupta (Borrower) Pushpa Devi (Co Borrower 1)	24/10/2018/ ₹ 3207092/- (Thirty Two lakh Seven Thousand Ninety Two) NPA (01-07-2018)	Flat No.- 602, Tower No. V-3, Tdi Kingsbury Towers, Tdi City, Kundli Near Vill. Nangal Kalan, Sonapat, Sonipat- 131001
(LC No. NOD36031 of Delhi Branch) Tanvi Infosolution Pvt Ltd (Borrower)	24/10/2018/ ₹ 3737810/- (Thirty Seven lakh Thirty Seven Thousand Eight Hundred Ten) NPA (01-08-2018)	H/ Flat No. K02/1508, Paras Seasons, Sector. 16B, Noida- 201301
(LC No. 00000540 of Delhi Branch) Namita Sharma (Borrower) Shravan Devi (Co Borrower 1)	24/10/2018/ ₹ 2084724/- (Twenty lakh Eighty Four Thousand Seven Hundred Twenty Four) NPA (01-09-2018)	Property No. C-103, 3rd Floor, Back Portion, With Roof Right, Block- C Khasra No. 102/22, Vishwas, Park, Uttam Nagar, Delhi, New Delhi- 110059
(LC No. 00001660 of Haridwar Branch) Sumit Negi (Borrower) Mamta (Co Borrower 1)	24/10/2018/ ₹ 1647186/- (Sixteen lakh Forty Seven Thousand One Hundred Eighty Six) NPA (01-09-2018)	Plot No.-100 & 101 Khasra No.- 2022, Krishna Nagar Colony Salempur Mehdood-2, Jawalapur, Haridwar, Haridwar- 249407
(LC No. 00001935 of Haridwar Branch) Madhu Patnayak (Borrower) Soumendra Patnayak (Co Borrower 1)	24/10/2018/ ₹ 956528/- (Nine lakh Fifty Six Thousand Five Hundred Twenty Eight) NPA (01-07-2018)	Plot No.- 37 & 38, Khasra No- 2181, Hari Nagar, Gram- Salempur Mehdood-2, Pargana- Roorkee, Haridwar, Haridwar- 249402

If the said Borrowers shall fail to make payment to DHFL as aforesaid, DHFL shall proceed against the above secured assets under Section 13(4) of the Act and the applicable Rules, entirely at the risks of the said Borrowers as to the costs and consequences. The said Borrowers are prohibited under the Act from transferring the aforesaid assets, whether by way of sale, lease or otherwise without the prior written consent of DHFL. Any person who contravenes or abets contravention of the provisions of the said Act or Rules made there under, shall be liable for imprisonment and/or penalty as provided under the Act.

Sd/-  
(Authorised Officer)  
Dewan Housing Finance Corporation Limited

Date: 21-Nov-2018  
Place: DELHI

# Maruti launches second-generation Ertiga

**MD says policies need to be studied around fuels**

**PNS ■ NEW DELHI**

The country's largest carmaker Maruti Suzuki has launched the second generation of their people carrier the Ertiga. The new Ertiga is based on Suzuki's new 'Heartec' platform that also underpins the Baleno and new Swift and according to company officials meet all safety and regulatory norms in India. The Ertiga also features the new K15 petrol engine that was introduced alongside the new Ciaz a few months ago.

The people carrier segment has seen a lot of activity with the new Mahindra Marazzo also recently being launched. The new Ertiga is larger in all respects to the outgoing model and like the Ciaz features Suzuki's new 'Smart Hybrid' system with a new battery pack that gives the vehicle better economy. Prices range from ₹7.44 lakh to ₹9.5 lakhs for the petrol manual. The Diesel version that features the tried and tested DDiS engine ranges from ₹8.84 to ₹10.9 lakh with the petrol automatic that has a four-speed torque converter transmission costs between ₹9.18 to ₹9.95 lakh.

Kenichi Ayukawa, Maruti-Suzuki India Limited Managing Director told The Pioneer at the sidelines of the launch that the news that the Environment Pollution Control Authority (EPCA) was exploring the possibility of banning diesel vehicles from operating on severe pollution days needed more thought.

"The automotive industry is not running away from the problem but the fact is that people need to travel, they need transport", he said and added that he hoped the authorities realised the benefits of hybrid vehicles in the short-term and promoted their use. "We are also committed to electrification with battery-electric vehicles and have begun full tests of such vehicles but everyone needs to understand that building the infrastructure will take time and hybrids have many benefits that can realised immediately."

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**CORRIGENDUM TO E-TENDER NOTICE**

Following e-tenders invited by this office are hereby extended due to unavoidable reasons as under:-

Sl. No.	Tender Specification No.	Name of Item	Last Date & time of online request for Tender and submission of tender in online & off line mode	Date of opening of Prt-I of tender in online & off line mode
1	CCP-II/ 18/2018-19	63KVA, 11/0.433KV, Al. wound, Distribution Transformer	29.11.2018 upto 17.00 hrs.	30.11.2018 at 15.30 hrs.
2	CCP-II/ 22/2018-19	Engagement of consultant for Audit of receivables for Sale of Power	29.11.2018 upto 17.00 hrs.	30.11.2018 at 15.45 hrs.

For further details, please visit our website [www.ukptenders.gov.in](http://www.ukptenders.gov.in)

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Corporate (Contract & Procurement-II)  
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**PUBLIC NOTICE**

This is for Notice of the general public that a political party is proposed to be registered by the name of "Bhartiya Vikash Dal United" (Name of the party). The office of the party is located at From- Bhartiya Vikash Dal United, Bhartiya Vikash Dal Main Office- House No. SM.011-0425, Vill- Chhota Bariyarpur, Ward No. 38, Post- Motihari Court, P.S.- Chhatauni, Distric- East Champaran, Bihar- 845401

This party has submitted application to the Election Commission of India New Delhi for its registration as political Party under section 29A of the Representation of people Act, 1951- Names/address of the office- bearers of the Party are as follows:

President/Chairman: Subodh Kumar Thakur, Vill- Chhota Bariyarpur, Ward No. 38, Post- Motihari Court, P.S.- Chhatauni, Distric- East Champaran, Bihar- 845401. General Secretary/Secretary:- Neelam Kumari Husband Name- Subodh Kumar Thakur Vill- Chhota Bariyarpur, Ward No. 38, Post- Motihari Court, P.S.- Chhatauni, Distric- East Champaran, Bihar. Treasurer: Subodh Kumar Thakur Vill- Chhota Bariyarpur, Ward No. 38, House No. SM-011- 0425, Post- Motihari Court, P.S.- Chhatauni, Distric- East Champaran, Bihar. If any one has any objection to the registration of "Bhartiya Vikash Dal United" (Name of the proposed party) they may send their objection with reasons there of to the secretary (Political Party) Election Commission of India, Nirvanchan Sadan, Ashoka Road, New Delhi- 110001, within 30 days of the publication of this Notice.

# Bhadohi gets carpet export excellence tag

**PTI ■ NEW DELHI**  
Known for its hand-woven carpets around the world, Bhadohi received a major boost as the government has extended the 'export excellence' tag to it.  
Under the 'Towns of Export Excellence' tag, carpet makers of the city will get financial assistance from the Central government to procure modern machines, improve export infrastructure, and organise fairs and exhibitions in different parts of the world to attract global buyers.  
The status was granted by the Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT), under the commerce ministry, an official said. Bhadohi, small township situated on the banks the river Ganges, will be the 37th town to get this status.  
"This was a long pending demand of car-

pet manufacturers of Bhadohi. It will give a real boost to the sector, where lakhs of small artisans are engaged in this work. The tag would help put the carpet city on the world map," Federation of Indian Export Organisations President Ganesh Kumar Gupta said.  
He said that the move should help small artisans and weavers, and the incentives should not be limited to big players of the sector.  
The domestic industry, which is facing tough competition from countries including China, would avail incentives under this tag to promote its growth and exports, he added.  
The other cities which got this status include Tirupur, Ludhiana, Kanour, Karur, Dewas, Indore, Bhilwara, Surat, Kanpur, Ambur, Jaipur and Srinagar.  
The local industry players of Bhadohi

hailed the government's decision, saying that the move would help to further improve the quality of the product and explore new markets.  
"Currently, the share of India's hand-woven carpets in the world is 30 per cent and we want to increase it to 50 per cent by 2022. Such initiatives by the government will help us in achieving our target," Bholanath Baranwal, carpet exporter from Bhadohi, said.  
Baranwal, who is also President of Eastern UP Exporters Association and All India Carpet Trade Fair Committee, said that the decision is "moral booster" for the industry.  
He also sought attention of the government in improving infrastructure at ports and roads to reduce transactions cost of exporters.

In Bhadohi, over 2,000 exporters and 5,000 small manufacturers are engaged in the sector. At the national level, the sector employs about 25 lakh people.  
According to the policy, selected towns, producing goods worth Rs 750 crore or more gets this tag based on potential for growth in exports. The threshold limit for towns producing items in handloom, handicraft, agriculture and fisheries sector, is only ₹150 crore.  
The incentives given to these towns include financial assistance under the Market Access Initiative Scheme; common service providers in these areas are entitled for Export Promotion Capital Goods (EPCG) Scheme; and financial support to develop export infrastructure.  
Carpet export in October grew by 34 per cent in October to USD 138 million.

# J&K approves 282 languishing projects

**PTI ■ JAMMU**  
Languishing for years for want of financial support, the Jammu and Kashmir government has approved 282 projects, involving investment of ₹548 crore, officials said on Wednesday.  
These projects were approved at the fourth meeting of the high-powered committee (HPC) constituted for approval of languishing projects for funding through Jammu and Kashmir Infrastructure Development Financial Corporation (JKIDFC).  
Principal Secretary Finance Navin Choudhary said HPC in meeting Tuesday cleared 282 languishing projects, involving an investment of ₹548 crore.  
In its fourth meetings held so far in the past, HPC has cleared 1,296 such projects in various key sectors, involving a cumulative investment of ₹2,720.87 crore through JKIDFC.  
The HPC held detailed deliberations on each project vis-a-vis their present status, financial involvement and time-line for completion, the officials said.  
The projects cleared in HPC meeting included 24 of Housing & Urban Development Department costing ₹7.77 crore, 27 projects of Health & Medical Education (₹47.29 crore), 142 of PHE Department (₹280.61



crore), 64 projects of PWD (₹118.50 crore), 19 of School Education (₹3.62 crore), 3 projects of Tourism Department (₹14.14 crore), 1 project of Transport Department (₹4.62 crore) and 2 projects of Power Development Department (₹1.37 crore).  
Speaking at the meeting Chairman-cum-Managing Director of JKIDFC, said the approved projects would be funded for the time-bound completion through Jammu and Kashmir Infrastructure Development Finance Corporation.  
He called upon the executing agencies to ensure photograph of each project before the start of work and after completion, and upload the same on the official websites for the information of all stakeholders.  
Choudhary also called upon the engineers to ensure quality of works strictly as per the approved specifications of the projects.

# ₹29,088-cr indirect tax evasion detected

**PTI ■ NEW DELHI**  
The investigation arm of the Finance Ministry has detected tax evasion worth ₹29,088 crore in 1,835 cases during April-October period of the current financial year, a senior official said on Wednesday.  
Of this, the Directorate General of GST Intelligence (DGGI), which is enforcement agency for checking indirect tax evasion, has detected evasion of goods and services tax (GST) worth ₹4,562 crore in 571 cases.  
However, the bulk of the evasion was detected in case of service tax. The total number of cases where service tax was evaded

stood at 1,145 involving ₹22,973 crore.  
In case of central excise duty, the DGGI detected 119 cases where tax evaded was worth ₹1,553 crore. "DGGI officers have detected total indirect tax evasion of Rs 29,088 crore during April-October," the official told PTI.  
He further said that the total amount of detection was likely to be more as the data does not include detection by field offices of the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC).  
On recovery of evaded taxes, the official said that a total amount of ₹5,427 crore was realised during the seven-month period till

October.  
These, he added, includes recovery from previous cases and those detected during the current financial year.  
Of the total recovery, ₹3,124 crore was from GST evaders, followed by ₹2,174 crore in case of service tax, and ₹128 crore from those who had evaded central excise.  
The larger chunk of recovery during April-October in GST, the official said, can be attributed to the decision of the CBIC to tighten on evaders.  
With a view to focus on checking evasion, the apex indirect tax body had in September set up the

Office of Commissioner GST (Investigation), headed by Neeraj Prasad.  
Last month, the Finance Ministry had extended the informal reward scheme of central excise and service tax to GST. The scheme was modified to include officers of other government agencies like police, BSF, CISF and coast guard. As per the reward scheme, informers and government servants were eligible for reward up to 20 per cent of the net sale-proceeds of the contraband goods seized and/or amount of duty/ service tax evaded plus amount of penalty levied and recovered. With respect to cases of

detection of drawback frauds or abuse of duty exemption schemes under various Export Promotion Schemes, the informers are eligible for reward up to 20 per cent of recovery of drawback claimed fraudulently and/or recovery of duties evaded. GST, which subsumed 17 local taxes like excise and service tax, was rolled out on July 1, 2017.  
In the run up to launch of the new indirect tax regime GST, the ministry had renamed the Directorate General of Central Excise Intelligence (DGCEI), mandated to check service tax and central excise duty evasion, as DGGGI.

## NIFTY 50

SCRIP	OPEN	High	LOW	LTP CHANGE
NIFTY 50	10670.95	10671.30	10652.35	10600.05 -56.15
DRREDDY	2608.00	2655.00	2577.15	2600.45 -57.30
GRASIM	845.00	888.25	841.00	867.00 -29.05
YESBANK	196.10	200.80	194.60	198.40 -6.30
BAJAJFINSV	5690.00	5872.60	5690.00	5680.00 -179.45
UPL	760.00	784.50	760.00	781.00 -21.80
BAJFINANCE	2389.00	2435.00	2361.70	2432.00 -51.90
AXISBANK	610.90	628.65	610.20	625.75 -13.10
ADANIPORTS	355.25	362.85	352.55	362.00 -6.75
IOC	145.40	148.50	141.10	141.40 -2.35
ULTRACEMCO	3980.70	4054.00	3937.05	4038.05 -61.60
TITAN	917.50	929.90	909.55	929.00 -15.55
ASIANPAINT	1329.00	1342.50	1313.75	1325.50 -18.65
SUNPHARMA	525.50	536.30	525.50	532.90 -7.45
MARUTI	7340.00	7466.00	7331.50	7419.00 -85.05
HINDPETRO	255.75	261.80	245.05	246.00 -2.75
SBIN	283.45	289.55	283.05	286.50 -3.05
SPCL	337.00	342.85	325.30	325.90 -3.00
HINDALCO	220.60	225.15	217.20	223.50 -1.55
BHARTIARTL	331.00	339.45	330.15	333.40 -1.45
KOTAKBANK	1169.95	1185.00	1169.85	1174.60 -4.65
HDFCBANK	2012.75	2023.95	2004.00	2019.45 -7.00
CIPLA	522.80	528.05	521.30	522.30 -1.50
GAIL	343.00	347.25	340.20	345.00 -0.95
TATAMOTORS	184.40	186.75	183.75	184.05 -0.30
HINDUNILVR	1690.05	1706.00	1678.70	1692.90 -1.10
HDFC	1877.10	1891.25	1864.00	1872.15 -4.65
IBULHSGFIN	725.00	725.00	694.00	704.60 -2.00
ICICIBANK	356.35	360.30	353.05	356.80 -1.10
COALINDIA	261.50	263.20	260.25	260.40 -1.05
ITC	284.50	284.80	280.00	282.65 -1.20
JSWSTEEL	327.00	329.40	322.60	326.55 -1.70
INDUSINDBK	1558.50	1568.95	1538.40	1549.05 -8.80
LI	1410.00	1413.75	1392.25	1403.25 -9.85
INFRAEEL	259.05	260.55	256.45	258.35 -1.95
ONGC	155.00	155.50	151.30	151.80 -1.30
NTPC	149.15	149.85	147.15	147.25 -1.90
EICHERMOT	24744.00	25300.00	23960.10	24267.50 -328.30
VEDL	204.00	204.40	201.00	201.95 -3.30
M&M	787.80	787.80	764.70	769.40 -13.20
ZEEL	450.80	450.80	436.60	440.00 -8.10
WIPRO	320.00	320.00	313.25	315.00 -6.30
HEROMOTOCO	2952.60	2961.50	2892.20	2900.25 -59.85
TATASTEEL	562.00	562.00	550.00	551.40 -11.90
RELIANCE	1137.50	1145.50	1107.05	1113.25 -24.15
BAJAJ-AUTO	2673.00	2673.00	2591.10	2602.90 -63.60
HCLTECH	1003.05	1014.00	979.55	984.35 -24.60
TECHM	709.70	709.80	684.25	691.70 -18.00
POWERGRID	187.50	187.85	181.30	182.00 -6.40
INFY	640.00	640.05	612.10	619.50 -21.90
TCS	1871.00	1871.05	1798.55	1813.00 -65.25

## NIFTY NEXT 50

SCRIP	OPEN	High	LOW	LTP CHANGE
NIFTY NEXT 50	22726.80	22741.75	22474.45	22735.10 -21.95
IDEA	42.35	45.55	42.25	44.45 -2.10
DLF	174.00	183.50	173.55	182.30 -7.40
L&T	131.10	137.00	131.10	136.10 -4.50
AUROPHARMA	779.85	807.40	779.05	803.00 -24.10
ASHOKLEY	107.60	110.90	107.20	110.60 -2.95
BIOCON	610.00	613.25	610.00	629.30 -16.80
PIDILITIND	1128.55	1159.90	1128.55	1155.30 -27.20
MRFL	66251.00	67580.00	66110.00	67500.00 -1535.55
LCHSGFIN	458.20	472.60	458.20	469.00 -10.55
ABCAPITAL	112.90	115.80	112.50	115.15 -2.35
BANKBARODA	111.10	113.45	110.50	112.40 -2.20
ACC	1475.00	150.10	1463.20	1499.00 -29.05
BRITANNIA	5910.00	602.50	5910.00	5980.00 -109.30
SUNTV	608.00	627.00	608.00	620.00 -10.95
INDIGO	1070.00	1079.00	1042.30	1048.00 -14.85
BANDHANBNK	463.80	473.00	460.00	468.50 -6.35
DABUR	394.15	403.45	394.15	399.40 -5.30
BEL	93.45	95.15	92.30	94.10 -1.20
AMBUJACEM	216.00	218.20	214.05	217.25 -2.25
HINDZINC	264.95	267.35	263.10	266.30 -2.75
HDFCLIFE	387.00	393.80	382.25	390.35 -3.30
MCDOWELL-N	626.50	645.45	624.80	633.00 -4.70
SHREECEM	15930.00	16092.95	15625.90	16020.05 -114.95
CADILAH	355.30	360.30	352.45	357.55 -2.55
BOSCHLTD	18650.00	18993.45	18472.30	18727.00 -131.70
DMART	1415.00	1428.95	1405.00	1421.00 -8.50
NIACL	204.90	206.60	202.15	203.90 -1.10
MARICO	353.00	354.00	350.10	352.95 -1.85
LUPIN	852.50	857.55	845.50	851.05 -2.45
NHPC	26.00	26.20	25.70	26.05 -0.05
ICICIPRULI	324.70	324.70	318.95	321.55 -0.55
GODREJCP	708.00	711.60	697.20	707.50 -0.50
COPAL	1158.95	1167.65	1153.20	1158.35 -0.40
OIL	203.50	205.35	201.75	202.85 -0.05
REL	1347.50	1348.80	1323.05	1340.00 -2.70
OFSS	3453.80	3460.00	3433.00	3433.00 -7.40
CONCOR	684.95	685.85	670.25	674.85 -1.55
PETRONET	216.00	216.00	213.60	214.30 -0.90
SKRANSFIN	1185.00	1209.00	1164.50	1187.00 -5.60
SAIL	62.50	62.50	61.30	62.00 -0.40
HAVELLS	678.00	682.50	665.75	672.00 -5.70
PEL	2286.00	2317.90	2222.25	2265.00 -21.55
BHEL	67.80	67.80	65.90	66.70 -0.70
MOTHERSUMI	153.00	153.00	150.30	151.00 -1.75
SHILPE	566.05	570.25	558.10	559.00 -6.35
GICRE	307.05	307.10	302.00	302.85 -3.90
NMDC	99.00	99.25	97.20	98.05 -1.30
PGHIL	9422.25	9524.90	9322.00	9322.00 -161.90
ICICI	839.60	839.60	812.30	812.30 -16.20
SIEMENS	937.00	937.00	910.55	913.70 -21.55

## BSE 500

Script	Last Price	Abs Change	% Change
COROMANDEL	408.85	8.50	2.12
CORPBANK	28.15	0.65	2.36
CRISIL	1477.65	-25.45	-1.69
CROMPTON	202.50	-2.25	-1.10
CUB	167.95	0.90	0.54
CUMMINSIND	788.40	4.00	0.51
CYIENT	620.10	-17.85	-2.80
DABUR	399.00	4.55	1.15
DALMIABHA	288.00	126.95	5.63
DBCORP	131.50	3.55	1.99
DBL	483.00	3.70	0.77
DCBBANK	158.75	2.25	1.44
DCMSHRIRAM	369.95	-16.65	-4.31
DEEPAKFER	164.30	-2.55	-1.53
DEEPAKNI	263.25	1.45	0.55
DELTAACORP	248.25	7.55	3.14
DENABANK	16.55	0.00	0.00
DHANUKA	445.60	3.90	0.88
DHFL	234.90	9.85	4.38
DHSHTV	38.70	0.85	2.25
DIVISLAB	1539.05	6.80	0.44
DLF	182.35	7.50	4.29
DMART	1419.05	5.70	0.40
DRREDDY	2594.75	144.50	5.90
ECLERX	1078.65	-21.05	-1.91
EDELWEISS	170.45	-1.00	-0.58
EICHERMOT	24280.00	-317.60	-1.29
EIDPARRY	225.05	-0.65	-1.16
EIHOTEL	167.50	-0.25	-0.39
ELGIEMITD	231.80	-0.30	-0.13
EMAMILTD	444.00	-0.30	-0.07
ENDURANCE	1112.00	6.60	0.60
ENGINEERSIN	118.65	1.70	1.45
ENIL	633.00	-15.95	-2.46
EQUITAS	108.00	-0.50	-0.46
ERIS	608.05	-4.60	-0.75
ESCORTS	662.60	2.90	0.44
ESSELPRO	86.85	0.25	0.29
EVEREADY	206.85	-1.15	-0.55
EXIDEIND	250.50	11.80	4.94
FCONSUMER	49.50	-0.15	-0.30
FEDERALBNK	83.10	3.40	4.27
FINCABLES	471.40	0.05	0.01
FINOXLEIND	526.70	6.60	1.27
FLFL	380.90	-2.55	-0.67
FORBESCO	2471.75	224.70	10.00
FORCEMOT	1725.15	-39.65	-2.25
FORTIS	146.25	-1.05	-0.71
FRETAIL	523.45	3.90	0.75
FSL	51.50	-1.45	-2.74
GAIL	344.75	0.40	0.12
GDL	158.55	2.70	1.73
GEPL	833.10	-14.45	-1.70
GESHIP	283.00	-4.50	-1.57
GET&RD	235.60	12.20	5.46
GHCL	215.25	0.45	0.21
GICHSGFIN	126.50	-3.85	-1.60
GICRE	302.20	-4.40	-1.44
GILLETTE	6480.00	-19.55	-0.30
GLAXO	1355.00	-1.10	-0.08
GLENMARK	641.20	5.25	0.83
GMDCLTD	91.00	4.35	5.02
GMNRINFR	16.35	0.10	0.62
GNFC	336.10	-7.75	-2.25
GODREJPHLP	852.80	1.00	0.01
GODREJAGRO	507.00	-2.20	-0.43
GODREJCP	708.10	-2.00	-0.28
GODREJPROP	526.60	0.85	0.16
GODREJIND	663.80	25.40	3.98
GPPL	96.15	0.00	0.00

**CALIFORNIA FIRE DEATH TOLL RISES TO 81**  
 Los Angeles: The death toll from the devastating wildfire in northern California rose to 81 on Tuesday with the discovery of two more sets of remains, officials said. The number of people listed as unaccounted for in the deadliest and most destructive fire in state history jumped up by nearly 200 to 870.

**3 CHILDREN KILLED IN BLAST IN PAKISTAN**  
 Peshawar: Three children were killed when an old mortar shell they were playing with exploded in Pakistan's restive northwest tribal region on Wednesday, police said. The incident occurred in Matta Tehsil of Swat valley — once the stronghold of Pakistani Taliban terrorists. The children were playing with the mortar shell in a field, unaware of it being a bomb, when it went off injuring five of them, police said.

**FUEL TAX HIKES: 2ND DEATH IN FRENCH PROTESTS**  
 Paris: A second person has died in France amid nationwide protests against fuel tax hikes that saw hundreds injured and key roads paralysed by demonstrations.

**EU AGAIN REJECTS ITALY BUDGET**  
 Brussels: The European Commission on Wednesday rejected Italy's draft budgetary plan for 2019 again, paving the way for disciplinary procedures against the eurozone's third-largest economy.

# Interpol picks S Korea's Kim as president over Russian rival

AFP ■ DUBAI

Interpol announced on Wednesday that Kim Jong-yeon of South Korea had been chosen as its new president, beating a Russian official whose candidacy had unnerved Western nations.

The US-backed Kim, acting president of the global police body, was picked at a meeting of delegates from member nations in Dubai to replace Meng Hongwei, who went missing in his native China in September.

Beijing later said Meng resigned after being charged with accepting bribes.

There had been growing calls within Western nations for Interpol to reject Russian candidate Alexander Prokopchuk — a Russian interior ministry official and current Interpol Vice-President — over fears Moscow could abuse the role to target political opponents.

On Tuesday, US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo threw his weight behind Kim, who will serve out Meng's term until 2020.

"We encourage all nations and organisations that are part of Interpol and that respect the rule of law to choose a leader with integrity. We believe Mr Kim will be just that," Pompeo told reporters.

Critics have raised con-



Kim Jong-yeon

cerns over Russia's previous applications for Interpol "Red Notices", or international arrest warrants, to target those who have fallen foul of the Kremlin.

Interpol's president chairs its General Assembly while day-to-day operations are handled by the organisation's Secretary general Juergen Stock.

In an open letter this week, a bipartisan group of US senators said choosing Prokopchuk would be like "putting a fox in charge of a henhouse".

"Russia routinely abuses Interpol for the purpose of settling scores and harassing political opponents, dissidents and journalists," they wrote.

Harriett Baldwin, a minister of state at the British foreign office, told parliament on Tuesday that London would support Kim's bid.

Anti-Kremlin figures had

also raised concerns, including Alexei Navalny, the Russian opposition leader who has been repeatedly jailed by authorities.

"Our team has suffered from abuse of Interpol for political persecution by Russia," Navalny wrote on Twitter.

"I don't think that a president from Russia will help to reduce such violations."

US National Security Council spokesman Garrett Marquis echoed the endorsement for Kim.

"As recent events show, the Russian government abuses INTERPOL's processes to harass its political opponents," he said on Twitter.

The controversy also comes amid security concerns over accusations of Russian agents attempting to poison an ex-spy in Britain and trying to hack the network of the global chemical weapons watchdog.

Ukraine, deeply at odds with Moscow over its annexation of Crimea and support for separatists, threatened to pull out of Interpol if Prokopchuk prevailed.

Lithuania also said it would consider withdrawing from the network.

Russian presidential spokesman Dmitry Peskov dismissed the US senators' letter as a "vivid example" of an attempt to interfere in the vote.

# Won't 'abandon' Saudi over Khashoggi killing: Trump

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

US President Donald Trump has defended his decision not to hold Saudi rulers accountable in the killing of dissident journalist Jamal Khashoggi, saying maintaining strategic ties with the kingdom and keeping the global oil prices down were in the best interests of America.

The death of Khashoggi, a longtime insider turned critic of the crown prince, Mohammed bin Salman, and a resident of the US, has spurred a wave of international anger against Saudi Arabia and its rulers.

The US last week imposed sanctions on 17 individuals of Saudi Arabia for serious human rights abuse resulting from their roles in the killing of Khashoggi at the kingdom's Consulate in Istanbul on October 2.

"Because it's America first to me," Trump told reporters, adding that despite Khashoggi's murder, the US will remain a "steadfast partner" of Saudi Arabia to ensure its interests as well as those of Israel and all other partners in the region.

"It is our paramount goal to fully eliminate the threat of terrorism throughout the world!" he said in a statement that immediately drew sharp criticism from his political



opponents.

"I'm shocked that President Trump said there will be no punishment for Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman for the killing of Jamal Khashoggi," Democratic Senator Dianne Feinstein said as she and several other lawmakers announced their plan to bring in legislations to block arms sales to Saudi Arabia.

Responding to questions from reporters at the White House before leaving for Florida to spend his Thanksgiving holidays, Trump said his decision was all about America first.

"We're not going to give up hundreds of billions of dollars in orders and let Russia, China and everybody else have them. It's all about — for me — very

simple, it's America first," he said.

"Saudi Arabia, if we broke with them, I think your oil prices would go through the roof. I've kept them down. They've helped me keep them down. Right now, we have low oil prices, or relatively I'd like to see it go down even lower.

"But I think that it's a very simple equation for me. I'm about making America great again and I'm about America first," Trump argued.

He denied the allegations that this was at the expense of human rights.

"No, I'm not saying that at all. If you look at Iran... And you look at what they're doing, they are a terrorist nation right now. Although, I must tell you, they're a lot better right now than they were when I took office. When I took office, they were heading in a very, very bad direction.

"At some point, things very positive, frankly, could happen with Iran, but we also need a counterbalance. And Israel needs help also. If we abandon Saudi Arabia, it would be a terrible mistake," Trump warned.

The President refuted The Washington Post's allegations that by taking such a decision, he was putting his personal and commercial interests ahead of national interests.

## RUSSIA PROBE

### Trump's lawyers submit written answers to Mueller

Washington: Lawyers for US President Donald Trump on Tuesday said they have submitted his written response to questions posed by Special Counsel Robert Mueller, who is investigating allegations of Russian interference in the 2016 presidential election and the Trump campaign's collusion with them.

"The President today answered written questions submitted by the Special Counsel's Office. The questions presented dealt with issues regarding Russia-related topics of the inquiry. The president responded in writing," Jay Sekulow, the President's counsel, said in a statement. Trump's personal lawyer Rudy Giuliani also issued a statement.

"It has been our position from the outset that much of what has been asked raised serious constitutional issues and was beyond the scope of a legitimate inquiry. This remains our position today," he said in his statement.

"The President has nonetheless provided unprecedented cooperation. The Special Counsel has been provided with more than 30 witnesses, 1.4 million pages of material, and now the president's written responses to questions. It is time to bring this inquiry to a conclusion," Giuliani said.

# 'China wants to make a deal very badly'

Washington: China "very badly" wants to have a trade deal with the US, President Donald Trump has said ahead of a meeting with his Chinese counterpart Xi Jinping in Argentina on the sidelines of the G-20 Summit.

China and the US are currently locked in an ongoing trade war as each country has introduced tariffs on goods traded between each other.

Trump has promised to fix China's "longtime abuse of the broken international system and unfair practices". Over the past six months, Trump has

imposed additional trade tariffs on import of Chinese products worth \$ 250 billion. He said another tariff of equal amount is in the pipeline.

Trump and Xi are scheduled to meet on the sidelines of the G-20 summit in Argentina on November 30 and December 1. President Trump said that the US was doing very well with China.

"We're doing very well with China. China wants to make a deal very badly. They might not say that to you, but they want to make it very badly," Trump told reporters.

# UAE court sentences British student to life for spying

AFP ■ DUBAI

A United Arab Emirates court sentenced British student Matthew Hedges to life in jail on Wednesday after convicting him of spying, a family spokesperson said.

"We can confirm that he was sentenced to life in prison," the spokesperson told AFP.

"The hearing lasted less than five minutes, and his lawyer was not present."

British Foreign Secretary Jeremy Hunt said he was "deeply shocked and disap-



pointed" by the decision of the UAE court.

"Today's verdict is not what we expect from a friend and trusted partner of the United Kingdom and runs contrary to earlier assurances," he said. Hedges, a 31-year-old PhD

student, was researching the UAE's foreign and internal security policies after the Arab Spring revolutions of 2011 when he was detained at Dubai airport on May 5.

He was granted temporary release on October 29 but constantly monitored until Wednesday's court hearing, only his third since his arrest.

His wife Daniela Tejada, who had campaigned vigorously for his release, had said last month she could not allow herself to get too excited by his bail until he was fully free.

# Committed to protect democracy despite personal abuse: Lankan Speaker

PTI ■ COLOMBO

Sri Lanka's Parliament Speaker Karu Jayasuriya said on Wednesday that he was committed to protect democracy despite personal abuse and slander thrown at him by the government led by disputed Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa.

In a statement, Jayasuriya said the baseless allegations are levelled against him "through regular press conferences by political parties that failed to show their majority in parliament in the proper manner and through political protests organised with the participation of their party members can be observed."

Jayasuriya also filed a complaint with the Criminal Investigations Department (CID) over a fake letter circulating on social media claiming it was sent by him to the Chief Justice, the Colombo Gazette reported. The letter quoted Jayasuriya as requesting the opinion of the Chief Justice on if President Maithripala Sirisena was in a situation where he could not exercise, perform and discharge the powers, duties and functions of his office, the paper said.

Jayasuriya said he had never sent such a letter and has requested the CID to investigate the fake letter.

Sri Lanka is witnessing a political crisis since President Sirisena abruptly sacked Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe and installed ex-strongman Rajapaksa in his place on October 26.

# British, EU leaders to meet as Brexit deadline looms

AP ■ LONDON

British Prime Minister Theresa May told skeptical lawmakers on Wednesday that rejecting her divorce deal with the European Union would mean uncertainty and division, before a meeting with European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker to help finalize the Brexit agreement.

The U.K. and the European Union agreed last week on a 585-page document sealing the terms of Britain's departure, but are still working to nail down agreement on future relations before EU leaders meet in Brussels on Sunday to rubber-stamp the package.

But May is under intense pressure from pro-Brexit and pro-EU British lawmakers, with large numbers on both sides of the debate opposing the divorce deal. Brexiters think it will leave the U.K. tied too closely to EU rules, while pro-Europeans say it will erect new barriers between Britain and the bloc, its neighbor and biggest trading partner.

May fended off a barrage of criticism from both opposition and government legislators Wednesday during her weekly Commons question-and-answer session dominated by Brexit.

One lawmaker, Andrew Rosindell, urged her to ditch the plan and remove "the tentacles of the EU over our cherished island nation."



May replied that "we want to ensure we continue to have a close trading relationship with the European union" after Brexit.

She said the alternative to the agreement was either "more uncertainty, more division or it could risk no Brexit at all."

As May flew to meet Juncker, some aspects of the future relationship agreement remained unresolved. Spain has said it will vote against if Gibraltar's future isn't considered a bilateral issue between Madrid and London.

Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez said Tuesday that his government "cannot accept that what will happen to Gibraltar in the future depends on negotiations between the U.K. and the EU."

But May reassured British lawmakers that "we will not exclude Gibraltar from our negotiations on the future relationship." German Chancellor Angela Merkel said on Wednesday that she hoped Spanish reservations could be overcome before Sunday's summit. But, she added, "I can't say how we will solve this issue."

## DEWAN HOUSING FINANCE CORPORATION LIMITED

**National Office:** DHFL House, 4th Floor, 19, Sahar Road, Off Western Express Highway, Vile Parle (East), Mumbai-400099  
**Branch Office:** DHFL, Dreams Mall, first floor, L.B.S Marg, Bhandup (West), Mumbai - 400078

**DEMAND NOTICE**

Under Section 13(2) of the Securitisation And Reconstruction of Financial Assets And Enforcement Of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with Rule 3 (1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002. The undersigned is the Authorised Officer of Dewan Housing Finance Corporation Ltd.(DHFL) under Securitisation And Reconstruction of Financial Assets And Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (the said Act). In exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) of the said Act read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, the Authorised Officer has issued Demand Notices under section 13(2) of the said Act, calling upon the following Borrower(s) (the "said Borrower(s)"), to repay the amounts mentioned in the respective Demand Notice(s) issued to them that are also given below. In connection with above, Notice is hereby given, once again, to the said Borrower(s) to pay to DHFL, within 60 days from the publication of this Notice, the amounts indicated herein below, together with further interest as detailed in the said Demand Notice(s), from the date(s) mentioned below till the date of payment and/or realization, payable under the loan agreement read with other documents/writings, if any, executed by the said Borrower(s). As security for due repayment of the loan, the following assets have been mortgaged to DHFL by the said Borrower(s) respectively.

Name of the Borrower(s)/ Guarantor(s)	Demand Notice Date and Amount With NPA date	Description of secured asset (immovable property)
(LC No. 00002920 of New Delhi Branch) Yogamber S Gosain (Borrower) Poonam Gosain (Co Borrower 1)	30/10/2018/ ₹ 3102093/- (Thirty One lakh Two Thousand Ninety Three) NPA (01-01-2017)	Flat No-J-1101, 11th Floor, Block-J Grand Savana(KDP Group Project) Nh-58, Noor Nagar, Ghaziabad, Ghaziabad-201001
(LC No. 00003120 of New Delhi Branch) Mahesh Arya (Borrower) Achal Arya (Co Borrower 1)	30/10/2018/ ₹ 3052428/- (Thirty lakh Fifty Two Thousand Four Hundred Twenty Eight) NPA (01-04-2017)	Flat No. M-1214, 12th Floor M Block, Piyush Heights Sector 89 , Faridabad, Faridabad-121001
(LC No. 00003177 of New Delhi Branch) Sandeep Kumar (Borrower) Sujata Sankhwar (Co Borrower 1)	30/10/2018/ ₹ 1373838/- (Thirteen lakh Seventy Three Thousand Eight Hundred Thirty Eight) NPA (01-07-2014)	Kh. No-217/1, Flat No. S-204 Iind Floor Village Kandoli, Pargana Pachwadoon, Dehradun-248001
(LC No. 00003228 of New Delhi Branch) Upender Kumar (Borrower) Rakhi Vats (Co Borrower 1)	30/10/2018/ ₹ 3697776/- (Thirty Six lakh Ninety Seven Thousand Seven Hundred Seventy Six) NPA (01-12-2014)	Flat No. 104 , First Floor Tower No. - 5 / Surya Tower Vip Road Zirakpur, Zirakpur, Punjab- 140603
(LC No. 00003232 of New Delhi Branch) Mibin Babichan (Borrower) Cbin Babichan (Co Borrower 1)	30/10/2018/ ₹ 2541273/- (Twenty Five lakh Forty One Thousand Two Hundred Seventy Three) NPA (01-04-2018)	Unit D-903, 9th Floor, Tower/ Block D La Galaxia, Plot No. H R A -11 Greater Noida, Greater Noida,-201308
(LC No. 00003249 of New Delhi Branch) Rajiv Das Gupta (Borrower) Dipali Das Gupta (Co Borrower 1)	30/10/2018/ ₹ 3009963/- (Thirty lakh Nine Thousand Nine Hundred Sixty Three) NPA (01-12-2017)	Unit No. 802, 8th Floor, Tower/ Block A La Galaxia, Plot No. H R A -11 Greater Noida, Greater Noida -201308
(LC No. 00003255 of New Delhi Branch) Shivandhan Gupta (Borrower) Swati Gupta (Co Borrower 1)	30/10/2018/ ₹ 2749668/- (Twenty Seven lakh Forty Nine Thousand Six Hundred Sixty Eight) NPA (01-02-2015)	Flat No.304, 3rd Floor Tower B-7 Surya Tower, Vip Road, Zirakpur, Chandigarh-160003
(LC No. 00003286 of New Delhi Branch) Mamta Kapoor (Borrower) Shakuntala Kapoor (Co Borrower 1)	30/10/2018/ ₹ 2759448/- (Twenty Seven lakh Fifty Nine Thousand Four Hundred Forty Eight) NPA (01-10-2017)	Flat No:- 523, Second Floor Shivjot Enclave, Kharar, Kharar, Rupnagar- 140301
(LC No. 00000101 of Ghaziabad Branch) Sumit Ghosh (Borrower) Subrata Ghosh (Co Borrower 1)	30/10/2018/ ₹ 5023490/- (Fifty lakh Twenty Three Thousand Four Hundred Ninety) NPA (01-08-2012)	Flat No. 601, 6th Floor, Block - A7 Samiah Garden City, Nh-24 Hapur Hapur, Ghaziabad, Ghaziabad-245101
(LC No. 00000904 of Ghaziabad Branch) Pardeep Kumar (Borrower) Meenu Hans (Co Borrower 1)	30/10/2018/ ₹ 2954951/- (Twenty Nine lakh Fifty Four Thousand Nine Hundred Fifty One) NPA (01-06-2017)	Unit No. 1401, 14th Floor, Block-C Plot No. - Gh-005 A, Antriksh Golf View Sector-78, Noida, Noida, Gautambudh Nagar- 201301
(LC No. 00000933 of Ghaziabad Branch) Poonam Shokeen (Borrower) Sunil K Malik (Co Borrower 1)	30/10/2018/ ₹ 2644727/- (Twenty Six lakh Forty Four Thousand Seven Hundred Twenty Seven) NPA (01-05-2017)	Flat No. A-2 / C-12, Type C, Block A-2 12th Floor, Shubhkamna Advert Techomes Plot No. G H 05/ B, Sector 137, Noida, Gautambudh Nagar-201301
(LC No. 00000118 of New Delhi-West Branch) Tanzimraza Qureshi (Borrower) Nighat Khan (Co Borrower 1)	30/10/2018/ ₹ 1258750/- (Twelve lakh Fifty Eight Thousand Seven Hundred Fifty) NPA (01-12-2012)	Flat No. A8- 303, 3rd Floor, Type-A Block-A8, Samiah Garden City, N H-24 Bulandshahar Road, Hapur, Ghaziabad- 245101
(LC No. 00000637 of New Delhi-west Branch) Shishir Jaiswal (Borrower) Akansha Jaiswal (Co Borrower 1)	30/10/2018/ ₹ 1077257/- (Ten lakh Seventy Seven Thousand Two Hundred Fifty Seven) NPA (01-09-2014)	Kh. No-217/1, Flat No.S- 306 3rd Floor Village Kandoli Pargana Pachwadoon, Dehradun- 248001
(LC No. 00000553 of Gurgaon Branch) Vtronix Infocom Private Limited (Borrower) Virender Singh (Co Borrower 1) Charanpreet Kaur Kalsi (Co Borrower 2)	30/10/2018/ ₹ 10149162/- (One Crore One lakh Forty Nine Thousand One Hundred Sixty Two) NPA (01-10-2015)	Plot No 1 A Block A1 Naraina Industrial Area Phase 2, New Delhi - 110028

If the said Borrowers shall fail to make payment to DHFL as aforesaid, DHFL shall proceed against the above secured assets under Section 13(4) of the Act and the applicable Rules, entirely at the risks of the said Borrowers as to the costs and consequences. The said Borrowers are prohibited under the Act from transferring the aforesaid assets, whether by way of sale, lease or otherwise without the prior written consent of DHFL. Any person who contravenes or abets contravention of the provisions of the said Act or Rules made there under, shall be liable for imprisonment and/or penalty as provided under the Act.

Date: 22-Nov-2018  
 Place: DELHI  
 Sd/- (Authorised Officer)  
 Dewan Housing Finance Corporation Limited

## Indebted Maldives sending envoy to China

Male: The Maldives Foreign Minister will visit Beijing before the end of 2018, officials said on Wednesday, likely seeking to renegotiate the archipelago's Chinese debt.

China has loaned billions of dollars to countries around the Indian Ocean and beyond

for infrastructure development, stoking fears of a debt trap.

The new Maldives government of President Ibrahim Mohamed Solih has called for a review of Chinese-bankrolled projects initiated under predecessor Abdulla Yameen.

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
 To be known to all that I, Subhash Mittal S/o Late Shri S.C. Mittal, owner of Flat No. 105, Laxmi Apts, Bhayya Laxmi CHS, Sector-9, Rohini, Delhi-110065, Original Allottee, has applied for freehold of the aforesaid flat in DDA. The Original Documents (Share Certificate/Possession SLIP/Letter for Handing over) of the said flat property have been lost. An FIR to this effect has been lodged vide FIR No.106 dt 10/11/2018 with Tuglak Road Police Station, New Delhi. Any Person claiming any right/interest/ having any objection or found in possession of original documents may please contact with the above named person at above address/ Phone No 011-41685300, or The Dy Director (GH) Vikas Sadan, New Delhi within 7 days from the date of publication of the notice.

**NOTICE**  
 Notice is hereby given that the following 100 share certificates of DFM Foods Ltd. have been lost as per details given below:  
 Sl. No.: 1, Folio No.: 9501, Name of Share Holder : Neelam Batra, Certificate No.: Nil, No. of Shares: 100.  
 If any person have any claim or interest in the above said share certificates can contact at (09811639019) or address: B-541, Second Floor, Sector 15, Rohini, Delhi-85 mentioned herein under within 10 working days, after the lapse of which no claims, rights or interests shall be entertained.

**EASTERN COALFIELDS LIMITED**  
 (A Subsidiary of Coal India Limited)

REF No. : ECL/HQ/GM (Civil)/33/e-Tender/1165 Date : 20.11.2018

**CORRIGENDUM FOR CANCELLATION**

Due to Technical reasons the following tenders are hereby cancelled : e-Tender Notice No. : ECL/HQ/GM(C)/e-Tender/18-19/144 Date : 10.11.2018. Name of Work : Construction of RCC Boundary wall (Length 1165 Mtr) at Bansra Railway Siding under Kunustoria Area ECL. Updated Estimated Cost : ₹ 1,45,74,630.06

Sd/-  
 General Manager (Civil)/HOD  
 VISIT US AT www.easterncoal.nic.in

**APPEAL FOR IDENTITY OF UNIDENTIFIED LADY**

General public is hereby informed that one lady **Namely** : Poonam, **Parentage** : Unknown, **R/o** : Unknown, was found at D-24, Jai Vihar, Ph-III, Baprola, Delhi on 17.10.2018 from the area of **P.S. Ranhola, Delhi. In this regard, a DD No. 34-A, dated 17.10.2018 has been registered at P.S. Ranhola, Delhi.** The description of the unidentified lady is as under.

**Age:** 25 Years, **Complexion:** Shallow, **Height:** 5' 5", **Face:** Long, **Wearing:** Green Sari-Blue & White Colour Blouse and Hawaii Chappal in feet. Sincere efforts have been made by the local police to trace out the address and family of unidentified lady but no clue has come to light so far. If anyone has any information about the unidentified lady then please inform P.S. Ranhola, Delhi at following Tel No./e-mail: c/c@cbl.gov.in and Website: http://cbl.nic.in

**Ph: 011-24368638, 24368641**  
**Fax No. 011-24368639**  
**DP/1564/OD/18**

Sd/- S.H.O.  
**P.S. Ranhola, Delhi**  
**Ph. 011-2836001, 2836002 & 28363003**

# Aid group: 85,000 children may have died of hunger in Yemen

AP ■ CAIRO

A leading international aid group said on Wednesday that an estimated 85,000 Yemeni children under the age of 5 may have died of hunger and disease since the outbreak of the country's civil war in 2015.

Save the Children based its figures on mortality rates for untreated cases of severe acute malnutrition, or SAM, in young children. The United Nations says more than 1.3 million children have suffered from SAM since a Saudi-led coalition went to war with Yemen's Houthi rebels in March 2015.

The aid group said its "conservative estimate" was that 84,701 children may have died, based on historical studies that find that 20 to 30 percent of untreated cases lead to death. Save the Children says it calculated the figure based on the number of cases reported in areas where aid groups were



unable to intervene.

"For every child killed by bombs and bullets, dozens are starving to death and it's entirely preventable," said Tamer Kirolos, Save the Children's Yemen director. "Children who die in this way suffer immensely as their vital organ functions slow down and eventually stop."

The war has given rise to the world's worst humanitarian crisis. Three-quarters of Yemen's people require life-saving assistance and more than 8 million are at risk of starvation. Tens of thousands of people are believed to have been killed in

the fighting.

The Associated Press has reported from areas of Yemen that are on the brink of famine.

Save the Children blamed the widespread starvation on a Saudi-led blockade that was tightened a year ago after the Iran-aligned rebels fired a ballistic missile at the Saudi capital, Riyadh.

The charity also cited recent fighting in and around the port city of Hodeida, a lifeline through which Yemen imports some 70 percent of its food and humanitarian aid.

It said commercial imports through the rebel-held port have fallen by more than 55,000 metric tons a month — enough to meet the needs of 4.4 million people. Save the Children said it had been forced to bring supplies for the northern Yemen through the southern port of Aden, slowing aid deliveries.

The overwhelming poverty in Yemen, the Arab world's most impoverished nation, has compounded the situation.

**Trend**  
*Slazer*

**'We've to have gumption as actors'**

Actress **KAREENA KAPOOR KHAN** said that actors or actresses have to have gumption to do whatever they feel like. She said, "We hear about actresses being turned down for speaking up because we are in the film industry and a lot of reporting is done here. I am sure it's everywhere but today we have lot of opportunities and path-breaking actors, be it Radhika Apte and the girl in *Sacred Games* Kubra. We have girls who are fighting back and doing brilliant roles. We have to have gumption as actors that this is what we are going to do be it on any medium. An actor's colour, shape or size doesn't matter."



**'It (Fraud Saiyyan) is a very interesting film, which is based on a true story. Comedy and humour are not forced deliberately in it. It seamlessly flows on screen. The character that I play in the film is one of those which every actor would want to play.'**



**—Arshad Warsi**

Actor **RAJKUMMAR RAO** has completed shooting of Mikhil Musale's *Made in China*. Announcing the schedule wrap, Rajkumar took to Twitter and wrote: "Schedule wrap for *Made in China*. What a fun shoot, can't wait to share it with you guys on the big screen." He also shared an image with his team. The film is



hilarious take on a struggling Gujarati businessman and the bizarre journey he undertakes to become a successful entrepreneur. It also stars Mouni Roy.

**De Niro splits from wife Grace**

Actor **ROBERT DE NIRO** has split from his wife **GRACE HIGHTOWER** after more than 20 years of marriage. "Some times things don't work out the way you hope or want them to," said a source. The actor married Hightower in 1997 after dating for a decade. They share two children together, 20-year-old son Elliott and six-year-old daughter Helen Grace.

This isn't the first time the two have separated. De Niro filed for divorce in 1999 and engaged in a custody dispute over their son. The two eventually smoothed things over and the divorce was never finalised. In November 2004, the two renewed their vows in front of an A-list crowd such as Martin Scorsese, Meryl Streep, Ben Stiller, Tom Brokaw and others.



With a new doll in the shape of **TAIMUR ALI KHAN**, the celebrity branding of children seems to have gone to the next level, says **TEAM VIVA**

**HONEY, THEY BLEW UP THE KID**

The celebrity-obsessed times that we live in ensure that by extension, the children of people in the spotlight, too, are in the constant glare of the media and more importantly nurtured and grown into a legacy of continuing brand value. Particularly in India, where children are treated second to only god in domestic hierarchy, a *dulara* commands everybody's attention. Nowhere is this more apparent than in the recent manifestation of a doll in the likeness of a cuteness overload called Taimur Ali Khan. When producer Ashwini Yardi tweeted a photo and said that this was being sold in Kerala, it practically broke the internet. Coming after the 100 plus fan clubs dedicated to the two-year-old on social media, this was certainly the next level in obsession.

However, his father Saif Ali Khan seemed pretty amused as he said, "Maybe I should trademark his name... The least they could do is send me one! I am glad people are benefiting from him. I only ask God for his safety and happiness in return." Kareena on the other hand, did let the emotions of a mother peek out when she said, "Taimur can't run away from his popularity and neither can his parents. When I saw the doll, I wondered what was I supposed to say. But Saif pointed out that it is because people love him so much and such things are a blessing



for him. There is so much genuine warmth for our son that it's bad to stop people from clicking his pictures or making his dolls. But they should understand that he is a two-year-old child and needs a normal life. Both Saif and I are struggling to give him that and will continue to do so without telling the media to back off, no matter how annoying it gets after a point. It's tough on him as it's on Saif and me."

Unwavering focus on a child born to celebrity parents is not something unheard of in the West. Within a week of being born, Princess Charlotte, the second child of Prince William and the Duchess of Cambridge Kate Middleton, was splashed on the cover of newspapers and magazines. In another month, a commemorative doll version of the little princess, priced at \$100 and made by at least three different companies, appeared in the market. Some collectors had special "reborn" versions of baby Charlotte made, paying thousands of dollars where every vein and hair was perfectly in place.

But this was certainly not the first. The first commemorative doll was probably the Venus of Willendorf and other Venus figures discovered in Europe that are between 25,000 and 40,000 years old. In the 16th century, Margaret Lennox commissioned a painted portrait of her toddler granddaughter, Arabella Stuart,



**WITHIN A WEEK OF BEING BORN, PRINCESS CHARLOTTE WAS SPLASHED ON THE COVER OF NEWSPAPERS AND MAGAZINES. A DOLL VERSION OF THE CHILD, PRICED AT \$100, APPEARED IN THE MARKET**

who many considered the rightful heir to Queen Elizabeth I. Incidentally, in the painting, the child holds tight to a small doll, which with its red hair and pale skin looks suspiciously like the Virgin Queen. But it was during the Victorian era that the production of commemorative dolls exploded. In the Western world, the birth of the middle class meant that disposable income was on the rise and dolls were no longer just for the wealthy to perpetuate their physical entity. Owning your own version of a real life idol connected you with the personality at an intimate level and could even be granted the value of a souvenir that could turn into a heirloom meant to be auctioned later.

Says Ashish Chakravarty, chief creative officer, Contract Advertising, "This doll can be seen as a gradual progression from the obsession with Rajesh Khanna's shirts, Govinda's baggies or Amir's cap. But the obsession with a kid is a first for sure in India. But then we aspire to get a part of the star dust and that is what can be seen here. Once there were the Madonna dolls. Even those of Michael Jackson. But the latter became such a superbrand and a leader of a pop cult that people followed the goings-on of his children, who became minor celebrities even without having done anything. Saifeena is a brand. The mother is the reigning queen of Bollywood and the

father is both nawaab and new-age and currently has the entire internet fandom at his feet courtesy *Sacred Games*. Taimur is a physical manifestation of Saifeena. So it had to happen. Besides, the kid is real cute and draws an *aww* from everybody."

Remember the kid in the Murphy ad? Or the babies in the Johnson ads? Taimur takes us back to this old world of innocence that we desperately want to hold on to. The Murphy baby featured everywhere. Except Taimur, according to Neeraj Bassi, chief strategy officer and managing partner, Publicis India, comes with the halo of a pedigree. "For Taimur, the curiosity spirals because the paparazzi has limited access unlike his Western counterparts, who even have their social media profiles in place by the time they are born," he says.

Besides, the birth of celebrity children is part of another event in the star's brand persona. "Earlier, the celebrities themselves were protective of their children. Raj Kapoor's children did not interact with the public till the time they appeared in films. The late Sridevi, too, was really protective about her girls. But times have changed and now the extended life of a celebrity, umbra and penumbra taken together, are as much saleable. There's no aura about secrecy. Look at the way that everybody in Bollywood posts intricate details of the growing up years of their children and their naming ceremonies. Business today is dependent on social media hits and recalls. A doll company, therefore, sensed a business opportunity here. Taimur was the top choice because he is the most popular. I won't be surprised if the trend catches on and a clothes company markets a line of what Taimur wears," says Chakravarty.

However, there is a dark social turn to events that everybody overlooks. The Taimur doll imposes the idea of misplaced regality and aspiration among other regular children playing with the doll. Imagine Taimur arrayed between superhero dolls that kids love to play with. It is as if the childhood ideals themselves are part of a huge franchise.

Not only that, there's myth-making around him that can spin out of control vis-a-vis his real personality as he grows into adulthood. As Bassi says, "What we are doing to that kid's life is unfair as is setting unattainable benchmarks for regular kids. Taimur can't have a normal life as every action of his is being watched. His life is a performance art. In such a scenario, the star child gets fixated with that attention and develops personality problems in the long run. Heaven help him if he falls short of the towering expectations of him as an adult." Perhaps that's the reason why Saif himself is wary of Taimur becoming an actor. For if he fails to retain the same level of stardom, it is a crashing fall for anybody to take. If only we knew where to draw the line.



**Urban twist to black comedy**

As director **NAYANA SAGAR** adapts Joseph Kesselring's *Arsenic and Old Lace*, she tells **CHAHAK MITTAL** how every script needs vigorous editing to bring each character to life and keep the audience glued to the seat

When *Arsenic and Old Lace* premiered at Broadway in 1941, there were little gasps of breath and whoops of suppressed laughter around. Nobody could imagine getting away with black humour, a few maniacs and some murders on the stage in such a way, but it did turn out to be very very funny. It became Joseph Kesselring's legacy that is still re-incarnated and has been adapted by numerous directors.

Director Nayana Sagar brings in another adaptation of it with her own elements of eccentricities in the "absurdly gruesome yet gloriously funny comedy" play. "This is not the first time I have chosen dark comedy as the genre. The previous play that I directed was *August Osage County*. But this one is much lighter than that," she says.

However, why did she only choose Kesselring's play? "That's because it excited me and made me want to direct a new project. It is always about finding a subject which has crazy content in it. This time I wanted something lighter and more colourful than *August Osage County*. May be it was something like rejuvenation of the soul moving away from darkness to some light," says Nayana.

She finds that as per today's audience, it is also a kind of relaxation to their minds that when they come to watch a play, they don't leave with heavy hearts and a story that is so intense. This one has a lot of farce, slapstick, easy and laughable jokes, on which "may be in real life, you won't laugh out that loud. But here, you would because you are not in those circumstances. Someone else is."

No one would laugh if s/he finds herself/himself in a house full of dead bodies, but the "farical quotient" in the play would make them laugh at such nuances.

While the play has been adapted by many directors and theatre geeks, Nayana applauds the adaptation by Ranjit Kapoor, *Ek Jaam Auntyyon Ke Naam or Auntyyon Ka Taykhana*, which was "beautifully adapted." The play, staged in the early 1940s, showcased an American English set-up. Ranjit's adaptation translated the verses to a complete Hindi one but in an Anglo-Indian setup. However, Nayana explains how she has tried to bring the Anglo-

Indian dialect in the play to "bring characters to life."

In Nayana's adaptation, set in the late 1980s sub-urban Bombay, the play revolves around two ladies of the D'Silva family of Vasai, who are habitual of killing old and lonely men who arrive at their doorstep looking for rental accommodation by tipping a pinch of arsenic in their red wine.

"Most of the stories that you hear, whether Italian, American, French, Dutch, Hindi or any other language, the stories are always the same. The emotions are universal. In Ranjit's adaptation, I didn't like the language, which was vintage and a proper Hindi in an Anglo-Indian setup from near sub-urban Bombay. I thought that Hindi is



not something they speak properly in their common language. They always speak Hindi in fragments. Hence, I have been very sincere to the lingo of how they talk. Because only then the character becomes more believable. Just like the dialect in films like *Julie and Amar Akbar Anthony*," she says. The dialect should go like, "Hum toh yehi karega, Apun toh usko jaake bolega, Humne tumhara kitna wait kiya na baba." With such "into-the-skin" dialogues, the characters appear real. Hence, "I edit a lot," says Nayana.

She believes that the current audience doesn't have the "fursat" or the time to be glued to the stage. "They set their schedules considering that a play won't be more than an hour or 90 minutes. Hence, I feel that to transform a written play into a stage performance, a lot of improvement in the script and editing is needed. It should be made interesting but there shouldn't be any

dilution of the existing plot. We don't have much scope to play but we can edit it to make it crisp, which I usually do too."

One of her directions were Yasmina Reza's *God of Carnage*, which was also made into a film, *Carnage*, by Roman Polanski starring Kate Winslet and Jodie Foster. Kate had revealed that Polanski gave the cast only a weekend to prepare for the scenes and all the dialogues to be enacted. This, Nayana feels, is one of the examples of immortality of theatre. She says, "We feel that theatre has not been patronised much. But that is a misconception because there is still a sizeable chunk of audience which finds theatre appealing."

She gives her own example saying that her visit to London is never complete without a visit to West End. "How can I miss going to West End and watching a play when in London? In every city, there are such theatre geeks who want to see live performances. Hence, the madness around theatre is never going to get diminished. It has been there for years and will stay for much more decades to come," says she.

The play stars actress Sohaaila Kapur, who is known for films like *Daas Dev* and *Land of the Gods*, as one of the four protagonists. Playing the role of an old maniac woman who murders people for social service was something that she had "never imagined about." She says, "It was a challenge to embody the role of someone who kills people and doesn't even regret doing that. The play can simultaneously make people laugh, wonder and also surprise, which is the beauty of this repertoire."

If we ask Nayana's inspiration behind her directions, for her, there would be no particular playwrights or directors that she follows. What appeals to her is "rather stories and something that can make someone glued to the seat for 90 minutes."

The play will surely be a "mesmerising experience" for the audience as she calls it. This comes from someone who has directed several plays by always adding her own new elements, just like she portrayed a Punjabi family of Delhi in her adaptation of *God of Carnage*, which was originally set up in a French backdrop.

(The play will be staged at 7pm at the Sri Ram Centre for Performing Arts today.)

**'An artiste is always a struggler'**

While singer **RICHA SHARMA** belongs to the old music school, she does not shy away from using technology to gather an audience, says **C MITTAL**

Singer Richa Sharma, who recently replaced compatriot Sona Mohapatra, as a judge on Zee TV's *Sa Re Ga Ma Pa*, believes that contestants remain strugglers in the industry despite the early exposure. "I have been a struggler and still remain one. So does the young talent here. You've got to be patient, therefore. As a young performer in Delhi, everyone waited for me to sing. In Mumbai, the scenario changed as I waited for everyone to hear me sing. It was an ocean of talent. Hence, an artist is always a struggler," she tells us.

And that's the one crucial lesson she is imparting to contestants on the show as she values the student-mentor bonding. "No matter who they are or where they come from, they become like our own kids in a few days as we become emotionally attached to them. They become our responsibility as well," says Richa, who finds herself transiting a flux in the music industry where stars rise and fall in days, depending on the fan following for peppy numbers, millions of YouTube hits, overnight born virtual sensations, self-made artists, remixes and remakes. She belongs to the old world which was once dominated by the father-son duo of SD/RD Burman and Kishore Kumar. "Arijit Singh's songs are the only ones which throw us back to the glorious era of love songs," she says. Similarly, she recalls that the Neeraj Shridhar-led band



*Bombay Vikings*, which was prominent in the mid-1990s, was the perfect example of how remixes and remakes should be composed and created. She says, "The way they recreated *Woh Chali and Kya Surat Hai*, brought a new spice to those old songs. They felt completely new yet so nostalgic. Now that's how remakes should be made."

However, the singer also applauds technology and social media in helping out young singers and aspirants, who have emerged on their own strength. She herself uses technology as a tool for gathering audience. "If I want to sing today, I don't need a composer or a lyricist to write a song for me. I can just open a social media app in my phone, go live and sing for the audience who wants to hear me. Who will wait for a new song when there is such instant gratification?" she asks.



Deputy Chief Minister, Govt of NCT Delhi, Manish Sisodia, released a book *Veda-Tattvanusheelana* written by Dr Asha Goswami, a Krishna scholar and prolific creative writer, at his residence. The author, who has been associated with a large number of publications, said the book in ten chapters highlights the importance of the Vedas and the Vedic Mantras for present-day life. It provides very informative knowledge to the present-day generation about their past heritage, and the basic truths associated with their favourite gods or goddesses such as Mother Durga, Rudra, Shiva and Vishnu.

# INDULGE IN A TRIBAL EXTRAVAGANZA

Encapsulating the tribal ethos of India—Aadi Mahotsav, being held from November 16-30 in the capital—is the perfect platform for artisans and cultural performers from the marginalised communities to showcase their craft. The Managing Director of the Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India (TRIFED), **PRAVIR KRISHNA**, in an interview with **ANKITA SAXENA** reveals the organisation's plan to further their revenue potential

**TRIFED**, an organisation of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs, hosts the 'Aadi Mahotsav' to provide an opportunity to the families of the tribal communities to display their products to a wider audience and increase their incomes. **PRAVIR KRISHNA** talks about the overwhelming response to this fair and how it is helping the tribes of India live a better life through this initiative. Excerpts from the interview:

**Q How has the response been to Aadi Mahotsav?**  
The fair has become bigger in scale from last year and is much brighter and better. This year, there are around 1,000 tribal artisans from 27 states of India who are showcasing their skills, cuisine, culture, music and dances. It is the perfect way to showcase the tribal ethos and has already attracted around 80,000 people till now. There are over 250 stalls and the participants have already done business worth over ₹1 crore. We plan to organise around 200 such festivals all over the country in the coming time.

**Q What is the objective of this fair?**  
The aim of Aadi Mahotsava is very simple—it is to provide the tribals with market access. These communities have some of the finest craftsmen and artisans but they are weak in marketing their products. They usually get stuck in the vicious net of the middlemen who buy these products at a very low cost from them and sell it in bigger markets at higher prices, thus robbing the tribals of the fair price for their products. We have tried to bring the producers closer to the big markets through this exhibition. To encourage them, we sponsor each participant by paying for their travel, lodging and even transportation of their goods. This is an important exhibition as the organisers do not seek to make any profit out of it, rather the earnings out of the sales here, all belong to the producers.

**Q How else does TRIFED market**



**the tribal products?**

We create opportunities for marketing of tribal products through establishing a network of TRIFED Indian retail outlets. We are on an expansion drive and have recorded a phenomenal leap from 29 retail store to 105 outlets. Our expansion has grown by 200 per cent and our procurement has grown by 375 per cent. We believe that the tribal community now needs to

take the second step towards value addition to their raw materials in order to increase their incomes. We are also engaging with the e-commerce platforms and have tied up with players like Amazon, Snapdeal, Flipart and the government agency, GeM, to take the tribal products on the digital platform.

**Q How are you working to add**

**value to the tribal products?**

We want to turn the tribal commerce on its head and this can be done by adding value to the raw materials the tribal communities procure from the forest. They are dependent on products like handlooms, artifacts made from metal, wood, bamboo and textiles, which we are promoting through retail outlets. The minor forest produce is however equally valuable and can be used to increase the incomes. For example, mahua when sold in the market, fetches a lower price than a squash made out of it, which adds around 100 per cent value to the raw product. Similarly, tamarind can be turned into a chutney or sauce to increase its worth five times and thus benefiting the community more. We want the tribal community to get at least 70-80 per cent of the total value chain instead of the current 20-30 per cent because of the middlemen. We are also in talks with the Ministry of Food Processing Industries to set up pilot projects in Maharashtra and Chhattisgarh for the same.

**Q What is the TRIFED Van Dhan Brigade?**

We feel that the opportunity of livelihood for the tribes is not to be provided to them by any gratis or support from the government. It is in fact, their right to trade as given by the Forests Rights Act and we are the vehicles to further this. The government is playing its role by identifying the tribes, training them to fine-tune their craft according to market needs, procuring the products and then distributing them. The TRIFED Van Dhan Brigade is our initiative to help the tribal communities achieve better lives. We have asked ISRO to help with satellite images to map the tribal areas. Also, in order to make this initiative successful, we have to decentralise the mechanism and use the district magistrate machinery to deliver the benefits to the right people in the remotest areas.

CORPORATE BRIEFS



Dr U D Choubey, Director General, SCOPE speaking during launching of 'Decent Work Country Programme' organised by ILO

**BV TECH EXPO POSTPONED TO MARCH 2019**

The second BV Tech Expo India and the second E-Vehicle Show India, which was to be organised by the M7 Creation from November 22-24, at the NSIC Exhibition Complex in Okhla, New Delhi, has been postponed to March 2019. The organiser of the expo, Anupreet Singh Jaggi, informed that due to unavailability of ample space for the exhibitors, they have decided to extend the expo to March 22-24, 2019.

**NO VISA FEE TO VISIT THAILAND FOR INDIANS**

The Thai government recently approved the exemption of the visa-on-arrival fee for citizens of 20 countries. From November 15, 2018, to January 13, 2019, citizens of India, Andorra, Bulgaria, Bhutan, China including Taiwan, Cyprus, Ethiopia, Fiji, Kazakhstan, Latvia, Lithuania, Maldives, Malta, Mauritius, Papua New Guinea, Romania, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Ukraine and Uzbekistan will be exempted from the 2,000 Baht visa-on-arrival fee for the purpose of touring in Thailand not more than 15 days.

**PM TO LAUNCH CITY GAS DISTRIBUTION BIDDING AT DEOGHAR, SHEIKHPURA AND JAMUI**

The Deoghar, Sheikhpura and Jamui districts will be included within the 50 Geographical Areas under the 10th bidding round of City Gas Distribution to be launched by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi. GAIL (India) Limited's Jagadishpur-Haldia-Bokaro-Dhamra pipeline project, also popular as 'Pradhan Mantri Urja Ganga', shall serve as the feeder source for natural gas supply to the proposed city gas project in addition to maintaining supplies to various fertiliser and industrial units enroute.



Khadi once again won the accolades from the Vice President of India M Venkaiah Naidu, when he visited the exclusive stall of Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) at the Ambedkar International Center, before chairing the commemorative event of the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, organised by FICCI-Aditya Birla CSR Centre for Excellence.



Under the guidance of Dr Laique Hussain, the National School of Drama, recently organised the 14th edition of the nine-day biannual theatre festival for children—Jasnebachpan. The opening ceremony of the carnival saw the presence of the secretary of the Ministry of Culture, Arun Goel, and the eminent theatre personality-director, Rudraprasad Sengupta.



The Technological Institute of Textile and Sciences (TIT&S), Bhiwani, Haryana, is celebrating its platinum jubilee on November 24. In a pre-event, the director of TIT&S, Prof G K Tyagi, informed that the member secretary of the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE), Prof Alok Mittal, will grace the occasion as the chief guest while the vice chancellor of the Maharshi Dayanand University, Rohtak, Prof B K Punia, will be the guest of honour at the milestone event.



The CRPF pavilion at the IITF 2018 at Pragati Maidan provides a glimpse into the duties, achievements, gallantry acts, training, weapons used by the CRPF and various theaters that CRPF works in. The pavilion theme is —'Sarvatra Vidyaman, Satat Gatiman' which means 'present everywhere, perpetually moving'. The pavilion depicts historical moments and the journey of CRPF through time from the day of its raising.

## India, Indonesia bond over shared platter

A one-of-a-kind initiative, that focuses on the common heritage and history of the South Asian region, and the unique influences that make up a part of it—the 'Food for Thought Fest'—has set a benchmark as a forum for conversations, cuisines and the exchange of ideas and philosophies. Organised by the South Asian Association for Gastronomy (SAAG), the fourth edition of this extravaganza recently concluded at the Embassy of the Republic of Indonesia and saw participation from countries like India, Indonesia, Afghanistan and Bangladesh. The Ambassador for the Republic of Indonesia to India, His Excellency Sidharto R Suryodipuro, said "We are really happy to host the Food for Thought Fest at the Embassy.



This fest is a good way to promote both Indonesian culture and tourism. Inviting countries from Asia here at the fest is the best way to bring in more harmony via food." At this year's edition, the

'Thought Fest' saw discussions between experts around culture, health and cuisine, and the 'Food Fest' offered cookery workshops with celebrity chefs from the participating countries and Indian television celebrities

like Puja Talwar, Advaita Kala and Imam Siddique. Food stalls by some of the most superlative restaurants from the South Asia region like the Soda Bottle Opernerwala, Atara Catering, Chaat Chowk

and Orza sprawled the landscape. Other attractions included a 'Bazaar Section' and a 'Fun Fest' which saw performances by music bands like the Delhi Indie Project and the Rocknama. The founder and director of SAAG and Food for Thought Fest, Maneesh Baheti, said, "We are very honoured to be given the opportunity of kick-starting the 70 year celebrations of India-Indonesia friendship with this fest. The confidence bestowed on us by the Indonesian Ministry of Tourism, the attendance of a 16 member troupe for cultural performances and the Masterchef from West Sumatra, gives us tremendous encouragement.

## Culinary indulgence at its best



Food has the capability to bring together people and cultures from across the globe and what better way to experience a variety of delicacies than from the very best. If you happen to be in Thailand, visitors have a paradise of culinary experiences, waiting to be explored. Complimenting this love for cuisine, the Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT), in collaboration with Michelin, has unveiled the second Michelin Guide in Thailand edition that continues to celebrate the kingdom's dynamic culinary evolution. The new Michelin Guide Bangkok, Phuket and Phang Nga 2019, is an expanded edition, featuring not only the capital, but also the surrounding cities. The guide offers

culinary information in Bangkok, Phuket, Phang Nga as well as Bangkok's surrounding provinces—Nonthaburi, Pathum Thani, Nakhon Pathom, Samut Sakhon, and Samut Prakan. In this edition, 217 dining and 67 lodging establishments are featured, with a total of four two-star restaurants, of which one is a new addition, and 23 one-star establishments, of which 10 are new additions. The governor of TAT, Yuthasak Supasorn, said "Bangkok and its surrounding provinces are long-known as a melting pot of Thai culinary culture, but Phuket and Phang Nga are offering as plenty as fantastic gastronomic experiences. Thailand is indeed a world-class dining destination, and

TAT is very pleased that Michelin has recognised this and has been helping to enhance the awareness among travellers from around the world." In the 2019 edition, all of the two-star restaurants from the previous selection—Gaggan, Le Normandie, and Mezzaluna—retain their awards. The only addition, moving from one star to two, is Sühring, which offers unique and contemporary European dishes with the modern German cooking. Of the 23 one-star establishments in this edition, Le Du and Gaa are the only two restaurants that progress from the 'Plate'—a designation given to restaurants for a good meal with fresh ingredients and capable prepara-

ration—to earn one star, while eight are new entries. Among these new entries, five are located in Central Bangkok—Canvas, Methavilai Sorndaeng, R-Haan, Saawan and the Sorn. The other two one-star restaurants are located within Bangkok's vicinity—the Ruean Panya (in Samut Sakhon province) and the Suan Thip (in Nonthaburi province). There is one restaurant in Phuket, awarded one star—PRU, a sophisticated restaurant, tucked inside a luxury resort, offering delicate and neatly presented dishes created using many ingredients sourced from its own 96-hectare organic farm. In addition, three restaurants previously with one star, namely Elements, Nahm, and Saneh Jaan, have retained their awards, despite having new chefs at the helm. The food lovers who wish to explore the cuisine of these destination can procure the complete selection of the Michelin Guide Bangkok, Phuket and Phang Nga 2019 from the Michelin website. It is available in a bilingual digital edition (Thai and English) and a print version can be bought at leading bookstores for 650 Baht.

**GUIDE TO STRENGTHEN CONCRETE STRUCTURES IN INDIA**

The department of civil engineering, SRM University, Delhi-NCR, Sonapat, Haryana, organised a guest lecture on 'Deterioration



Mechanism and Durability of Reinforced Concrete' on November 20, inviting the former special director general of CPWD, Er Ashok Kumar Sharma. Given his 42 years of CPWD and EIL experience, Sharma informed the students about the bad practices followed in the country which cause early deterioration of concrete structures and explained the steps one should take to ensure long life of these structures.



**HUNAR HAAT AT IITF RECORDS OVERWHELMING RESPONSE**

The ongoing India International Trade Fair, 2018, is attracting a large crowd at Pragati Maidan to the Khadi Pavilion and 'Saras', an eco-friendly khadi, rural crafts and industry items. Apart from the rural handicrafts in the state pavilions, as many as 94 master artisans mainly belonging to minorities from 22 states have been making a mark with a treasure trove of their artifacts created with their traditional skills at the 'Hunar Haat'. Organised by the Ministry of Minority Affairs, Government of India, the display profile 'Hunar Haat' features the legacy of Indian culture displays, beauty, dignity, form and style to enliven the home as well as the office space.

**Amitava Mukherjee is NMDC's new Director (Finance)**

Amitava Mukherjee has assumed the charge as Director (Finance) of NMDC Limited, a Schedule 'A' Government of India Enterprise, Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL) as Accounts Officer from 1994-1997. During his service period in the Indian Railways, Mukherjee received the National Award for outstanding services during the year 2006. He was also nominated by the Railway Board to various task groups for centralised applications of finance and accounts department of the Indian Railways for monitoring progress and to suggest improvements and enhancements to such applications and for Development of Traffic Accounts Management System. He has attended various international training programmes conducted by the European School of Business at London and Paris; ICLIF at Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia and INSEAD at Singapore.



# MARY, LOVLINA TARGET FINAL SPOT

## Five-time champion eyes getting closer to record sixth Gold; Borgohain looks to enter maiden final

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Already assured of a record seventh medal at the Women's World Boxing Championships, celebrated MC Mary Kom would look to go one step closer towards her sixth Gold when she takes the ring in the 48kg semifinals here Thursday.

Out of the four Indian semifinalists, five-time champion Mary Kom (48kg) and Lovlina Borgohain (69kg) will take the ring on Thursday while Sonia Chahal (57kg) and Simranjit Kaur (64kg) will have their semifinal bouts on Friday.

The four Indians cannot get a better chance to emerge champions on home conditions, but a lot will depend on the celebrated Mary Kom, who have already become the most successful woman boxer in history of the championships by assuring herself of a seventh medal.

Undoubtedly, all eyes will be on the 35-year-old mother of three when she enters the ring at the KD Jhadav Hall for her semifinal bout against Kim Hyang Mi of North Korea.

The 'Magnificent Mary' had beaten Kim in their last meeting at the summit clash of the Asian Championships last year and the Manipuri veteran sounded confident of a win again.

"I am confident. I also know when to drop guard and when to attack. I have worked with the coaches and have a plan in place to counter



(L-R) Lovlina Borgohain, Mary Kom, Simranjit Kaur and Sonia Chahal pose for photos during a training session on the eve of their semi-final bout in the AIBA Women's World Boxing Championships; (right) Mary Kom during a training session on the eve of her semi-final bout

her," said Mary Kom, after a strenuous practice session on Wednesday.

Mary Kom, who is chasing her sixth Gold, will draw her strength from the vast reservoir of nearly two decades of boxing while the North Korean's USP is her aggression and quick movement which was witnessed on Tuesday when she pummeled her South Korean opponent Chorong Bak.

Equally important will be Lovlina Borgohain's performance as the country would be looking at young pugilist to beat her Chinese Taipei opponent Chen Nien-Chin and

**Women's Boxing WC**  
**Live from 1:00pm IST**  
**STAR SPORTS SELECT 1**

progress to the final round.

The welter-weight category (69kg) boxer had done extremely well throughout the championships and was particularly good against Australia's Kaye Frances Scott, a Commonwealth Games Bronze medal winner, in the quarterfinals.

The Assamese boxer will also get a chance to avenge her only loss to the Chinese Taipei opponent.

Borgohain feels she has matured as a boxer and can think on her feet now.

"I was inexperienced last time



**MARY HAD BEATEN KIM IN THEIR LAST MEETING AT THE SUMMIT CLASH OF THE ASIAN CHAMPIONSHIPS LAST YEAR AND THE MANIPURI VETERAN SOUNDED CONFIDENT OF A WIN AGAIN**

when I took on her. But I now know how to tackle her. I did watch some of the video clips to know her style of boxing," said 21-year-old.

Two other Indians in fray, Sonia (57kg) and Simranjit Kaur (64kg) will turn out in their semifinals on Friday, and both were prepared for their respective bouts.

"I have beaten my North Korean opponent (Jo Son Hwa) once before.

But both of us know each other's style. I am confident of winning because I have worked with the coaches on my strategies," said Sonia.

Simranjeet added: "I have worked hard and am prepared well for my bout." In Thursday's semifinals, bouts in five weight categories — 48kg, 54kg, 60kg, 69kg and 81kg — will take place while the remaining five are slated for Friday.

# Dipa eyes Olympic berth with good show at WC

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Indian gymnast Dipa Karmakar would be aiming to put behind the injury-marred disaster that was the Asian Games when she aims for a positive start to her Olympic qualification bid with the World Cup of artistic gymnastics in Cottbus, Germany from Thursday.

The four-day showpiece is part of an eight-event qualifying system under which the gymnasts will make the cut based on the aggregate of their top three scores.

The four-member Indian team, which also comprises B Aruna Reddy, Ashish Kumar and Rakesh Patra, will look to make it count with good performances.

Dipa, who finished fourth at the Rio Olympics, will be India's best bet in the tournament after clinching the Gold at the Artistic Gymnastics World Challenge Cup at Mersin, Turkey in July this year.

The 25-year-old from Tripura endured a poor comeback from injury in the Jakarta Asian Games where she had to pull out midway after her knee problem flared up again.

Aruna, on the other hand, won a Bronze medal in one of the earlier world cups this year in the women's vault event in Melbourne and she too will fancy her chances.

Among the men, Ashish has been India's brightest with a Bronze in floor exercise at the 2010 Asian Games in Guangzhou, China.

He also won a Bronze and Silver medal at the 2010 Commonwealth Games in floor exercise and vault respectively.

Rakesh also had some decent performances this year, a fourth-place finish in the ring apparatus finals at the Commonwealth Games being the highlight. He also narrowly missed a medal at the Melbourne World Cup in February, finishing fourth.

The run-up to the event, however, has been chaotic with the showdown between the Sports Authority of India (SAI) and the de-recognised Gymnastics Federation of India (GFI) affecting the athletes. The bitter war between the two bodies led to the Indian gymnasts missing the world Championship in Doha last month.

In fact, ahead of the Cottbus event, the Sports Authority of India refused to bear the cost of Yogeshwar Singh and Pranati Das, while clearing the other four gymnasts to participate in the tournament.

This prompted Pranati and Yogeshwar to express their grievances to SAI in a letter early this month.



Dipa Karmakar performs during Asian Games PTI/File Photo

## SINGLES

**MOUDGIL SWEEPS AIR RIFLE EVENTS**

**THIRUVANANTHAPURAM:** Anjum Moudgil of Punjab completed an unprecedented golden sweep at 62nd National Shooting Championship by winning five events here. She won the Women's 50m Rifle Prone individual and team Gold on Wednesday, her fourth and fifth of the competition. The star rifle shooter had earlier won Gold in the 10m Air Rifle and 50m Rifle 3 Positions. The other star of the day was Haryana's Shirin Godara, who won five Gold medals including the Junior Women's 50m Rifle Prone individual.

**ARJUN PICKS FIFER IN COOCH BEHAR GAME**

**NEW DELHI:** Arjun Tendulkar, son of batting maestro Sachin Tendulkar, shone bright with the ball, picking up a five-wicket haul against Delhi in an U-19 Cooch Behar Trophy match here on Wednesday. Representing Mumbai, the junior Tendulkar returned with figures of 5/98 as Delhi U-19 slumped to 394 for 9 in their first essay at the Feroz Shah Kotla Stadium at stumps on day three. Asked to bat, Mumbai had scored 453 in their first innings with opener Divyaansh (211) scoring a double century. Delhi still trail Mumbai by 59 runs. Arjun's scalps included rival skipper Ayush Badoni, Vaibhav Kandpal, wicket-keeper Gulzar Singh Sandhu, Hirithk Shokeen and Prashant Kumar Bhati. Arjun, a promising left-arm pacer, is a regular member of the Mumbai U-19 team.

**PRAJNESH, SASI ENTER PUNE QUARTERS**

**PUNE:** Prajnesh Gunneswaran demolished his opponent with ease while young Sasi Kumar Mukund yet again impressed with his perseverance as the two Indians moved to the quarterfinals with contrasting victories at the KPIT-MSLTA Challenger. In the second round contest between the two left-handers, Prajnesh overwhelmed Germany's Lucas Gerch 6-1, 6-3 in just 53 minutes at the Centre Court. Wild card entrant Mukund did extremely well against sixth seed Briton Jay Clarke before the Briton opted out of contest in the third set due to a back problem. Mukund was leading 5-7, 6-4, 4-1 at that time. Mukund has a tough task at hand as he is up against top seed Radu Albot, who outplayed Maverick Banes 6-3, 6-1.

**MANPREET JOINS LIST OF ADIDAS ATHLETES**

**NEW DELHI:** To add to the already strong portfolio of athletes, Adidas on Wednesday announced their association with Manpreet Singh Pawar, Indian field Hockey player and the current captain of India men's National field Hockey team. Manpreet joins an elite list of athletes that includes Hima Das, Swapna Burman, Rohit Sharma, Kuldeep Yadav, Rishabh Pant, Dipika Pallikal, Zeel Desai, Nikhat Zareen, Siddhanth Banthia, and Manjot Kalra to name a few. On announcement of his relationship with adidas, Manpreet said, "Association with adidas is an opportunity that every sports person looks forward to and I am really excited to have been given this chance of joining their family. It carves the strengths of a sports person by offering the world class products and I am looking forward to great years of association with the brand."

**TOP RANK SIGNS VIJENDER SINGH**

**NEW DELHI:** Vijender Singh, a three-time Indian Olympian, 2008 Olympic Bronze medalist, and current unbeaten super middleweight contender has signed a multi-year agreement with Top Rank. Singh (10-0, 7 KOs), who has fought all but one of his professional bouts in India and England, will make his debut under the Top Rank banner in early 2019. "Top Rank is very excited to enter into a contract with Vijender," Bob Arum said. "We intend to make him a big star in the United States and look forward to him participating in major events in India, where he is already a major superstar." "I am really excited to be on board with Bob Arum and Top Rank," Vijender Singh said. "I have always wanted to work with someone who is the best in the business, and I know Top Rank has been the driving force behind boxing's biggest superstars, including Oscar De La Hoya, Floyd Mayweather, and Miguel Cotto. Agencies

# Saina, Kashyap start with win

PTI ■ LUCKNOW

Defending champions Pranaav Jerry Chopra and N Sikki Reddy crashed out in the mixed doubles opening round but Saina Nehwal and Parupalli Kashyap notched up easy wins to make a positive start at the Syed Modi World Tour Super 300 here on Wednesday.

Top seeds Pranaav and Sikki lost 14-21, 11-21 to China's Ren Xiangyu and Zhou Chaomin in just 31 minutes.

Second seeded Saina, who had won the Lucknow tournament thrice in the past, thrashed Mauritius' Kate Foo Kune 21-10, 21-10 in the women's singles, while former Commonwealth Games champion Kashyap disposed of Thailand's Tanongsak Saensomboonsuk 21-14, 21-12 in a one-sided men's singles match.

London Olympics Bronze medallist Saina will face compatriot Amolika Singh Sisodiya next, while Kashyap will meet Indonesia's Firman Abdul Kholik.

Former Singapore Open champion B Sai Praneeth also crossed the men's singles opening hurdle, beating Russia's Sergey Sirant 21-12, 21-10. He will square off against Shesar Hiren Rhustavito of Indonesia.

Subhankar Dey, who had claimed his maiden title at SaarLorLux Open, beat Sweden's Felix Burestedt 21-15, 21-13 to set up a clash with Lu Guangzu of China.



Saina Nehwal in action against Kate Foo Kune during Syed Modi Championship, Parupalli Kashyap in action against Tanongsak Saensomboonsuk during opening match

Former national champion Rituparna Das, seeded eighth, saw off Russia's Natalia Perminova 21-19, 18-21, 21-10 and will face compatriot Shruti Mundada in the women's singles.

Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Ashwini Ponnappa, seeded sixth, also notched up a 21-10, 21-10 win over compatriots Krishna Prasad Garaga and Rutaparna Panda in the mixed doubles opening round.

Among others, Prashi Joshi, Saili Rane, Riya Mookerjee, Pardeshi Shreyanshi, Reshma Karthik and Sai Uttejitha Rao Chukka also made it to the women's singles second round.

# Politano's winner lifts Italy past USA

AFF ■ GENK

Late substitute Matteo Politano scored an injury-time winner to lift a new-look Italy to a 1-0 win over the United States in an international friendly in Genk on Tuesday.

Roberto Mancini's side had looked set for another goalless draw after crashing out of the Nations League with a 0-0 stalemate against Portugal in Milan on Saturday.

But Politano came on three minutes from time and slotted home in the 94th minute.

It got Italy belatedly off the mark in a match they had dominated but which demonstrated Mancini's side's difficulty converting opportunities into goals.

"We had so many chances, the important thing is that it was a good performance," said Mancini.

"It was the first time we were playing together, so we couldn't think of playing like the first half for 90 minutes. We got a little stretched as we pushed harder to find the breakthrough. I would have



been very disappointed for it to end 0-0, especially for the players and for the Italians who came to see us." Mancini wanted to test new players as Italy head towards Euro 2020 qualifying after failing to make the World Cup finals in Russia.

Sassuolo midfielder Stefano Sensi, Hoffenheim's Vincenzo Grifo and Juventus forward Moise Kean all made their Italy debuts.

minutes for Domenico Berardi.

"Sensi did really well, so did Kean and Grifo. Acerbi and De Sciglio impressed me too," said Mancini.

"The Euro qualifiers are coming up next year, so we've had a few too many draws and defeats lately, here's hoping we get all victories."

Federico Chiesa and Leonardo Bonucci missed early chances as Italy dominated the first half and let the United States have few opportunities.

Ethan Horvath got his fingers to a curling Berardi shot from the edge of the box, and then got down low to keep out a Marco Verratti free-kick.

Walker Zimmerman had a rare chance for the United States on 65 minutes from a free-kick, but home goalkeeper Salvatore Sirigu saved his header.

With the clock ticking down, Mancini brought on Politano for Kevin Lasagna and he found a way through by finishing off an excellent move after Roberto Gagliardini and Verratti combined in the area.

# Neymar injured as Brazil beat Cameroon

AFF ■ MILTON KEYNES

Neymar could be an injury doubt for Paris Saint-Germain's Champions League clash with Liverpool next week after limping off during Brazil's 1-0 friendly win over Cameroon on Tuesday.

The forward suffered an apparent groin problem and was replaced in the eighth minute, to boos from the crowd in the central English town of Milton Keynes.

Everton's Richarlison, Neymar's replacement, headed in on the stroke of half-time for his third Brazil goal on his sixth appearance to secure victory for the Selecao.

A mixture of cheers and jeers welcomed Neymar, his World Cup theatrics in Russia providing ammunition for his detractors.

And there was little sympathy when the star attraction went off after making little impact. Richarlison appeared dangerous from the moment he was introduced and Roberto



Firmino went close three times.

The Liverpool striker almost turned in Willian's cross but Andre Onana made a fine instinctive save. Firmino next sent a free header wide from Richarlison's cross and was then denied by the goalkeeper from point-blank range.

Richarlison scored from the resulting corner, powerfully heading in Willian's set-piece. Cameroon might have levelled after 52 minutes, but Stephane Bahoken could not get a touch on Karl Toko Ekambi's cross.

# Penalty corners remain our strength, says Peillat

PTI ■ BHUBANESWAR

The Olympic Champions' tag wouldn't matter and Argentina will have to produce their best at the upcoming men's hockey World Cup, believes dragflick sensation Gonzalo Peillat, who said converting penalty corners will remain the team's strength.

"I don't think being World No 2 or the Olympic Champions would matter here in this tournament as every other team would have come with the intention to win. We have to focus on every game and play our best hockey," Peillat said after arriving on Wednesday.

"Everybody knows penalty corners will be our strong point and it's important to give our 100 per cent in all aspects," he added.

World No 2 Argentina on Wednesday arrived for the World Cup beginning on November 28.

"It will be a great tournament, playing in Bhubaneswar again in front of a crazy crowd, the entire team is looking forward to it and are very excited to be back," said Peillat, who was part of the Argentina team that won the



Argentina players pose for photograph after they arrived for 2018 Men's Hockey WCup

**Argentina have been grouped in Pool A along side Spain, New Zealand and France. They will begin their campaign against Spain on November 29**

Silver medal at the men's Hockey World League Final last year.

Argentina have been grouped in Pool A along side Spain, New Zealand and France. They will begin their campaign against Spain on November 29 at the newly-renovated Kalinga Stadium here.

The Olympic Champions have a new chief coach in German

Mariano Orozco, who replaced Carlos Retegui in early 2018 and is a former defender for Argentina having played the Olympic Games in 2000 and 2004.

"I think experience in the team is very good. We have played quite a few tournaments in the lead up to the World Cup under a new coach German Mariano Orozco and we have been performing well under him," said a confident Peillat.

Argentina in the previous World Cup in 2014 at The Hague, Netherlands had finished third behind winners Australia and runners-up the Netherlands and went on to win the Olympic Gold in Rio.



# France see off Uruguay

**PARIS:** A shoulder injury to Kylian Mbappe overshadowed France's 1-0 friendly win over Uruguay at the Stade de France on Tuesday as Didier Deschamps' world champions ended the year on a high note.

Mbappe had to be replaced in the first half after a nasty fall, continuing a miserable night for his Paris Saint-Germain coach Thomas Tuchel. PSG face Liverpool in a crucial Champions League clash at the Parc des Princes on November 28.

When asked if he could give "reassuring news" about Mbappe in his press conference, France coach Deschamps said: "Not necessarily reassuring, but not worrying either."

"He had some shoulder pain after his fall and he has to have tests Wednesday morning, but there is no serious concern." After the disappointment of seeing the Netherlands pip them to a place at the Nations League finals with a late Virgil van Dijk goal in Germany on Monday, Olivier Giroud's 52nd-minute penalty gave France victory in a repeat of the two teams' WC quarter-final meeting.

"It was important to finish on a positive note, even in the last defeat (by the Netherlands) saw us miss out on the (Nations League) semi-finals," Deschamps told M6. AFP

# India fall short by hit

## Australia hold nerve in rain-hit game to beat India by 4 runs in first T20

PTI ■ BRISBANE

A sloppy India failed to get an ideal start to the Australia tour, losing the rain-hit opening T20 International by four runs at the Gabba on Wednesday.

India first faltered in the field, letting Australia score 158 for four after rain shortened the contest to 17 overs a side. Glenn Maxwell was the star batsman for Australia, hammering 46 runs off 24 balls.

The 45 minute rain stoppage meant India were set a revised target of 174 runs in 17 overs.

Opener Shikhar Dhawan smashed a sublime 76 off 42 balls in the run chase before Dinesh Karthik came up with a pulsating 30 off 13 balls towards the end but India still finished agonisingly short on 169 for seven.

It was a morale boosting win for Australia, who have endured a dismal run of late in limited overs cricket.

Dhawan got India off to a quick start, putting on 35 off 25 balls for the opening stand with Rohit Sharma (7).

The latter was caught at long on off Jason Behrendorff (1-43) in a bid to accelerate his strike-rate. In keeping with the strategy used during the T20I series in England, KL Rahul (13) came out to bat at number three.

Dhawan and Rahul put on 46 runs for the second wicket, but it was mostly down to the left-hander's belligerence. He hit ten fours and two sixes overall, and reached his ninth T20I half-century off only 28 balls.

Rahul though was patchy at best and struggled for timing. He was stumped off Adam Zampa (2-22) in the ninth over, with the leg spinner also accounting for skipper Virat Kohli (4) who never really got going coming down at number four.



Glenn Maxwell plays a shot during his quick fire 46 run innings against India in first T20 at Brisbane. PTI

Zampa should have had a third wicket but he dropped a return chance from Dhawan (on 65). The batsman enjoyed another life at 74, when substitute Nathan Coulter-Nile put him

Rishabh Pant (20 off 15 balls) and Karthik with a mountain to climb.

They nearly achieved the impossible, putting on 51 off a mere 24 balls, toying around with the Australian bowling. But what is becoming increasingly frustrating with Pant, he played yet another loose and unnecessary stroke, throwing his wicket away.

It left Karthik to finish off things, but he found the going tough without enough support from the other end. With 13 needed off 6 balls, Krunal Pandya (2) and Karthik holed out off consecutive deliveries off Marcus Stoinis (2-27).

This was after Maxwell hit four sixes in a whirlwind knock before rain came, after Chris Lynn scored 37 runs off 20 balls to help Australia recover from a slow start.

India had won the toss and opted to bowl on a surprisingly green wicket. Kuldeep Yadav was picked ahead of Yuzvendra Chahal as expected, while the hosts also included a spinner in Adam Zampa and left out medium pacer Coulter-Nile.

Bhuvneshwar Kumar (0-15) and Jasprit Bumrah (1-21) got India off to a good start but Aaron Finch (27) pulled things back a bit. Khaleel Ahmed (1-42) got the initial breakthrough as D'Arcy Short (7) was caught at long on. The left-arm pacer proved expensive thereafter.

Kuldeep took a sensational catch

running back to dismiss Short, and from there onwards, he had a marked influence on the game.

Later he also picked up 2-24 in his four-over spell. He dismissed Finch and then sent back Lynn as well, thus reducing Australia to 75-3 in the 11th over.

Apart from Yadav's stunning effort, India were rather poor in the field. Skipper Kohli had dropped Finch in the fourth over, a straight chance spilled at cover, and then miss fielded later on as well.

Ahmed too dropped Stoinis (33 not out off 19 balls) late in the Australian innings, while Maxwell should have been run-out.

Finch took advantage of the reprieve and put on 40 runs off 26 balls with Lynn for the second wicket.

But it was Maxwell who stole the show with his belligerent hitting as Australia crossed 150 in the 16th over. He put on 78 runs off 37 balls with Stoinis as Indian bowlers proved expensive even before the death overs began.

Krunal Pandya had a forgettable day with both bat and ball. He went for 0-55 in his four overs before rain intervened, sucking out momentum from the Australian innings and leaving them only five deliveries on resumption of play.

Bumrah bowled cleverly, conceding only five runs after the disruption, while Australia still finished with a challenging total on the board.

**Shikhar Dhawan smashed a sublime 76 off 42 balls while Dinesh Karthik came up with a pulsating 30 off 13 balls towards the end but India still finished agonisingly short on 169 for seven**

## 'Pant's dismissal was turning point'

PTI ■ BRISBANE

Young Rishabh Pant's dismissal in the penultimate over "changed things", according to India skipper Virat Kohli after Australia won an exciting first T20 International by four runs on Wednesday.

Australia made 158/4 in 17 overs but India were given a target of 174 in the same number of overs owing to the Duckworth-Lewis method in the rain-hit game.

India looked on course with Pant and Dinesh Karthik adding 51 runs in 3.5 overs before the burly keeper-batsman was dismissed trying to play a cheeky shot off Andrew Tye.

"It was a close game, exciting one for the crowd to watch and for the players as well, was a see-saw battle. We started well with the bat, fumbled in the middle overs, in the end we thought we'll win with Pant and Karthik but it changed again with Pant's dismissal," Kohli said at the post-match presentation.

Kohli lauded opener Shikhar Dhawan's power-packed 76 off 42 balls after a prolonged lean patch that started in England and continued till the second last match of the home series against West Indies.

"He's (Dhawan) a very strong player at the top of the order. He hasn't got a T20 hundred yet, but the way he plays it really benefits the team. That's how it goes in the game. What we can do is learn from them and get



Rishabh Pant plays a shot during his innings against Australia in first T20. PTI

back better," the skipper said.

Kohli feels closely-placed remaining two games on November 23 and 25 could be a good thing for the team as it won't be fretting over the loss for a long time.

"On the day, if we can have three-four guys to stand up for the team, that's what we want. Don't have much time to think of things, which can be a good thing as well as a bad thing."

Australian T20 captain Aaron

Finch said: "Thought the boys played really well, especially in the middle overs with the bat."

On a lighter note, Finch admitted that he never understands the equations of Duckworth-Lewis method.

Man of the match Adam Zampa was delighted at having picked up the prized wicket of Virat Kohli.

"Really good feeling. Virat being the player he is, just thought he was a big wicket at the time. Getting him out, I was really excited."

## MISSED CHANCES IN FIELD COST US: DHAWAN

PTI ■ BRISBANE

Opener Shikhar Dhawan on Wednesday said poor fielding cost India the game after the visitors lost by four runs via D/L method at the Gabba.

Dhawan smashed a sublime 76 off 42 balls in the run chase before Dinesh Karthik came up with a pulsating 30 off 13 balls towards the end.

"It was a good game of cricket. It was a very close match and both the teams played really well. We got a lot of confidence from this game and will take it forward to the next game."

"Of course missed chances in the field had their own impacts. The dropped catch and missed run out opportunity but that is part and parcel of the game and we took it in our stride. We conceded a few extra runs (in the middle overs) but otherwise we played well," said Dhawan after the loss.

Indians were poor in the field on Wednesday. Skipper Virat Kohli and Khaleel Ahmed dropped catches while couple of run out opportunities was even wasted.

Chasing the stiff target, Dhawan held the Indian innings together but got out at a crucial juncture. Adam Zampa (2/22) had earlier left the middle-order struggling, dismissing both KL Rahul and Kohli.

"I knew we had to score some big runs in those overs and I was looking for that when I got out. He (Zampa) was influential in this game and his statistics were very good. We needed momentum and he took wickets that moment. From there the game got a bit more



Kuldeep Yadav celebrates after dismissing Chris Lynn. ICC

away from us when Rahul and Kohli were dismissed. He bowled well and with a lot of control," said Dhawan.

"It was a game where we had to target all the bowlers. We didn't have much time (in the match). We tried to target him (Zampa) but he got us out. Next game, we will have better plans against him and implement them in the middle," he added.

Rishabh Pant and Karthik put on a rollicking stand of 51 runs from 24 balls thereafter and almost dragged India to victory.

But the final turning point in the see-saw battle came when Pant was holed out off Andrew Tye.

Dhawan praised Pant, who was playing at this big ground for the first time.

"Playing at such big grounds is about thinking and experience. Rishabh is a youngster and batted here for the first time. So, for him it was vital experience and he came here first time, and played such a knock," he said.

## BAILEY BATS FOR WADE'S INCLUSION

PTI ■ BRISBANE

Former Australia captain George Bailey feels in-form Matthew Wade must be in the mix when Australia select their playing XI for the opening Test of the four-match series against India beginning at Adelaide on December 6.

The 30-year-old Wade, who played his last Test against Bangladesh at Chittagong last September, has scored 412 runs at an average of 82.4 to lie at the third place in the list of Sheffield Shield run-scorers.

Wade had kept wickets for Tasmania in Shield games against Western Australia and Queensland but since then has played as a batsman.

The wicket-keeper batsman has hit five fifties with his top-score being a 137 in Tasmania's loss to Victoria that earned him a man-of-the-match honour.

Given his run of form, Bailey believes he should be in the mix when selection chairman Trevor Hohns zeros in on Australia's team for the four-Test series opener that starts on December 6.

"I can't speak highly enough of the way he's going about his cricket, Bailey was quoted as saying in the 'Sydney Morning Herald'.

"If you're looking at those numbers he'd very much have to be in the mix for a Test. He's a good fielder, just pick your six best batters, simple."



"He's in complete control of his game."

Bailey also pointed out how Wade has scored some valuable runs with the tailenders and adapted to a different kind of pitches across the country.

"That's been the most pleasing thing this year. I don't think we've given him great situations on a number of occasions," Bailey said.

"His ability to go through the gears, to start his innings, accelerate when he needs to."

Meanwhile former great Shane Warne feels Australia has a lot of great cricketers and it is time to replace under-fire batting coach Graeme Hick with one of them.

He was critical of Hick, under whom, Australia have lost their last 18 matches out of the past 24 matches in all formats.

## Anderson to miss third Test against Sri Lanka

AFP ■ COLOMBO

England fast bowler James Anderson on Wednesday said that he has been left out of the final Test against Sri Lanka to give match practice to fellow pacer Stuart Broad.

"Yes I'm not playing this game, Broady's going," Anderson said ahead of the dead-rubber final Test of the three-match series when the visitors will be gunning for a 3-0 white-wash.

"The thinking is that with the series sewn up it's an opportunity to rotate."

"Going to the West Indies as well (in January) and with a view to that I think the feeling is they want Broady to get some Test cricket under his belt," said Anderson, 36.

"So it's going to be a week off. It's been a frustrating trip for me really because you want to contribute to the wins. But I feel like I've tried my best but it's not really been a series for the seamers," he added.

Anderson has taken just one wicket over two Tests that have seen the spinners dominate.

England sewed up the series — a first away series win since beating South Africa in 2015-16 — on Sunday in Kandy, in a closer contest than their first Test trouncing of the hosts in Galle.

The final Test begins in Colombo on Friday.



## NZ expect tough contest in 2nd Test

AFP ■ DUBAI

Two days after one of the most sensational wins in Test cricket, New Zealand are preparing in Dubai for the second Test against Pakistan with coach Gary Stead expecting an even tougher contest.

New Zealand pulled off an extraordinary four-run win in Abu Dhabi on Monday as they defended a modest target of 176. Debutant left-arm spinner Ajaz Patel took 5-59 as Pakistan's last seven wickets fell for just 41 runs.

The win was Stead's first as head coach since he replaced Mike Hesson in August and he believes it will change Pakistan's mindset ahead of the second Test which starts on Saturday.

"Pakistan are a good team, hard to beat over here," said Stead. "That's what makes this really, really pleasing. But they'll be better for it, and if they were taking us lightly, they won't be now."

"I expect them to be better and I expect us to be better as well."

New Zealand have not beaten Pakistan in an away series since 1969 and Stead thinks they need further improvement in order to change that.

"I don't think we've won too many Tests when we've scored 153 in the first innings," said Stead of New Zealand's first innings total.

"It was always going to be that we need to keep fighting and fighting, and



New Zealand players celebrates after defeating Pakistan by 4 runs in first Test. Blackcaps

my message to the boys was that if you can lose wickets in clumps, then why can't we do that back to them through sustained pressure," said Stead.

Fast bowler Neil Wagner, who became the eighth New Zealand bowler to complete 150 Test wickets in Abu Dhabi, praised the team's spirit.

"It was an amazing fightback," said Wagner. "We knew we'd be in with a chance if we kept fighting. That last hour (on day four) was quite freakish."

Wagner broke the dangerous stand of 82 between Azhar Ali (65)

and Asad Shafiq (45) and then claimed Yasir Shah's wicket to play his role.

"We know that even if we are a little bit behind we can keep fighting, we know what we can achieve. It was bloody tough, hard work, a big fight and it will just get harder. (Pakistan) will come back hard."

"Hopefully we can do something similar and pretty special."

The second Test starts in Dubai from Saturday while the third and final, again in Abu Dhabi from December 3.

## RANJI TROPHY

**DELHI FACE CHALLENGE AFTER HYD POST 460**

Hyderabad: Ravi Teja struck his maiden first-class hundred, helping Hyderabad post a daunting 460 against Delhi on day two of the Group B match. Hyderabad, resuming the day at 232 for three, continued to frustrate Delhi who are here without their key bowlers including Navdeep Saini and Ishant Sharma. Opener Tanmay Agarwal could only add eight runs to his overnight 112 before being bowled by Delhi pacer Kulwant Khejroliya. Teja then took the innings forward with an unbeaten 115 off 206 and got help from Chama Milind, who was run out for 58. Pacers Khejroliya and Gaurav Kumar took three wickets each for Delhi and did not concede too many runs. Hyderabad were all out for 460 in 170.3 overs. In response, Delhi were 21 for no loss in seven overs at stumps, facing a stiff challenge of taking the first innings lead. Sarthak Ranjan and Hiten Dalal were batting on six and 14 respectively.

## KERALA ON TOP AGAINST BENGAL

Kolkata: Opener Jalaj Saxena hit a second successive century of the season to put Kerala in the driver's seat against Bengal in their Elite Group B match. Starting at overnight 14 with the team's Delhi at 35 for one, Saxena stood tall in a glittering 143 from 190 balls (21x4s, 2x6s) as Kerala surpassed Bengal's first innings score of 147 in the opening session before notching up a sizeable 291 in 83 overs. In their second essay, Bengal lost opener Koushik Ghosh (1) cheaply to be five for one in 2.2 overs — still needing 139 runs to avoid a first innings defeat with two complete day's play remaining. Saxena not only held the Kerala innings together en route to his 14th first class century, but counter-attacked Mohammed Shami with both his sixes coming against the Australia-bound India pacer. BCCI had cleared Shami to play the match subject to him bowling not more than 15-17 overs in an innings. But the star pacer ended up bowling 26 overs returning with 3/100 that aptly summed up Bengal's misery after they opted for a green top in their effort to register the season's first win.

## KARNATAKA, MUMBAI IN CLOSE FIGHT

Belagavi: Arch-rivals Karnataka and Mumbai were in a close fight for the first innings honours in their Group A game. Mumbai did well to restrict the hosts to 400 all out, built mainly around rookie Krishnamurthy Siddharth's anchoring 161 after Karnataka resumed at their overnight 263 for 4. Shivam Dubey ended up with a highly credible seven-wicket haul for 63 runs. In reply, Mumbai made 99 for 2 by stumps on day two, still 301 runs in arrears, with Jay Bista cracking an unbeaten 69. In Nagpur, veteran Wasim Jaffer (153), skipper Faiz Fazal (151) and wicket-keeper batsman Akshay Wadkar (102 not out) steered reigning champions Vidarbha to a massive 529 for 6 declared against Baroda who replied with 41 for no loss. In Raipur, Chhattisgarh managed to restrict Railways to 132 for 4 after putting on 300 in their first innings.

## TN REACHES 122 FOR 3 AGAINST ANDHRA

Ongole: Tamil Nadu made 122 for 3 in 50 overs at stumps on the second day after bowling out Andhra for 216 in the first innings of the Elite Group 'B' match. Resuming at 198 for 8, Andhra's innings ended for the addition of 18 runs. Tamil Nadu was provided a solid start by the experienced Abhinav Mukund and M Kaushik Gandhi as the duo added 70 runs for the first wicket. Mukund stroked some fluent boundaries, before being the first man to go for 31. Kaushik Gandhi (38, 7x4) went 10 runs later while skipper Baba Indrajith fell for a 28-ball 7. Baba Aparajith (27 batting, 80 balls, 4x4) and N Jagadeesan (8 batting) ensured that the visiting team didn't suffer any further losses before bad light brought an early halt to the day's proceedings.

## RAJASTHAN FIGHT BACK AGAINST JHARKHAND

Ranchi: Rajasthan conceded the first innings lead to Jharkhand but remained in the hunt for victory in their Elite Group C game. Rajasthan, who were bundled out for a paltry 100 in the first essay, performed better in the second to make 127 for 4 at stumps on day 2, after skittling out Jharkhand for 152. Robin Bist made 45 after the other top-three Rajasthan batsmen failed. Earlier, Jharkhand resumed the second day at 92 for 5 and overhauled Rajasthan's score with Ishan Jaggi making a fighting 79 in 131 balls with 10 fours. At Guwahati, Odisha were on top with Assam tottering at 60 for 4 in their second outing and still trailing by 59 runs. At Rohtak, Haryana held the upper hand when they managed to bundle out Goa for 177 after putting on 276 in their first innings. At Srinagar, Jammu and Kashmir held the advantage after putting up 442 on the board in the first innings against Tripura, who trailed by 307 runs.

## MEGHALAYA, UTTARAKHAND IN COMMAND

Shillong: Meghalaya put up a spirited bowling show to tighten their grip over Nagaland in their Plate group match. Resuming on 338/5, Meghalaya managed to add just 51 runs this morning as Nagaland left-arm pacer Pawan Suyal returned with 5/96. In reply, Meghalaya trio of Gurinder Singh (4/37), Aditya Singhania (3/12) and Lakhyan Singh (3/23) shot out Nagaland for a paltry 106 runs in 46.3 overs before enforcing follow-on. At close, Nagaland were 31 for no loss in their second innings, trailing Meghalaya by 252 runs. Playing at their adopted home venue in Bhubaneswar, Sikkim found themselves on the backfoot to be on 49/3 in reply to Uttarakhand's huge 582/9 declared. It was a tale of two youngsters as Saurabh Rawat (220) and Vaibhav Bhatt (152 not out) smashed their career-best scores to put Uttarakhand in command in the top of the table clash. PTI