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WOMEN MUST
SPEAK UP:
NANDITA DAS
13 VIVACITY



Maya spurns Rahul's hand in MP, Raj

Cong plays it down but BSP chief vehement in her criticism of the grand old party

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ LUCKNOW

In a snub to the Congress and a big jolt to the Opposition unity ahead of the Lok Sabha polls, Mayawati-led Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) on Wednesday announced to go it alone in the Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan Assembly polls slated for later this year.

The announcement was made on the day senior Congress leader and former Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Digvijay Singh, in an interview to a private news channel, alleged that Mayawati was reluctant to be part of an Opposition alliance as she had succumbed to the pressure of the CBI and Enforcement Directorate (ED).

"We will have no truck with the Congress in Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan Assembly polls and the party will contest all the seats in both the States," Mayawati announced in the national Capital on Wednesday.

Trying to play down the development, the Congress

hoped that the BSP chief reposing her faith in Rahul and Sonia Gandhi will provide it a window of opportunity and "creases will be ironed out" with harmony.

The Congress may be hopeful of still wooing Mayawati, but the BSP chief was vehement in her criticism of the grand old party. Mayawati claimed that BSP had the power to change the political tide of the country and the Congress was just trying to hold the party to ransom by offering a few seats in the alliance. She even went to the extent of alleging that the Congress was trying to finish the BSP.

Mayawati went on to allege that the Congress always tried to corner the BSP and other smaller parties. "They should know that the BSP is a party which came into existence from struggle to represent the sarv samaj along with Dalits, tribals and the poor. We have experienced several such bullying tactics in the past by the Congress and the BJP but have never bowed down to any pres-



sure," she said.

Congress chief spokesperson Randeep Surjewala said, "Mayawati has expressed her sentiments and we respect that. She has reposed full faith in Rahulji and Soniji and we respect that too. If there is harmony among Sonia Gandhi, who is our guide, and Rahul Gandhi, who is our leader, and Mayawati, then no fourth person can create a rift among them."

"If there are any creases left, they will be ironed out mutually among them with harmo-

- Mayawati alleged the Congress has always insulted Dalits and even Dr BR Ambedkar and Kanshi Ram were not spared by them
- Maya alleged the Congress was trying to finish the BSP
- The BSP president also did not spare the BJP saying both the Congress and the BJP were two sides of the same coin
- Digvijay Singh alleged Mayawati is reluctant to be part of an Opposition alliance as she has succumbed to the CBI, ED pressure
- Mayawati has expressed her sentiments and we respect that, said Congress chief spokesperson Randeep Surjewala

ny," he told reporters, adding once the leaders have amicably, respectable, fruitful relationship with each other, all other creases can be ironed out.

"In this yajna, those who will support the Congress will move together with us and they are welcome according to the political situation. Those who are unable to walk along are free to choose their own path. But, that does not mean, the Congress' pledge and fight against the BJP and in removing it from power has weakened. It can be a thought of a

particular person, but not us," Surjewala said.

The BSP has already forged a pre-poll alliance in Chhattisgarh with the Janata Congress (Chhattisgarh), led by former tribal Chief Minister Ajit Jogi last month.

Talking about the sacrifices made by the BSP and herself, Mayawati said that she sacrificed her Government in UP in 2003 while later a few years back she resigned from the Rajya Sabha for the cause of Dalits and sarv samaj.

"We have never compro-

CJI bars urgent listing till court sets parameters

Death, eviction still matter of immediate hearing, says Chief Justice Ranjan Gogoi

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Justice Ranjan Gogoi, who took over as the 46th Chief Justice of India on Wednesday, did some plain speaking on his first day in office, telling the lawyers that fresh parameters would be worked out for urgent mentioning of the matters for hearing.

The CJI also came out with a new roster allocating cases to various benches and decided that the Public Interest Litigation matters will be heard by him and a Bench headed by Justice Madan B Lokur, who is next in seniority to him.

Justice Gogoi was administered oath of office by President Ram Nath Kovind at the Rashtrapati Bhavan on Wednesday morning after which he attended the court and sat with Justice SK Kaul and KM Joseph in court number 1, the CJI's court.

This is for the first time Rohingya immigrants would be sent back to Myanmar from India. Snuffing out their last hope of preventing their deportation, the Supreme Court rejected urgent hearing on this matter, raised by lawyer Prashant Bhusan.

The seven Rohingya immigrants will be handed over to Myanmar authorities at Moreh border post in Manipur Thursday, a Home Ministry official said.



Justice Ranjan Gogoi takes oath as the 46th Chief Justice of India at Rashtrapati Bhavan on Wednesday
Alwin Singh | Pioneer

Cabinet hikes wheat MSP by ₹105

Decision part of Govt move to redeem pledge to raise farmers' profit by 50%

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Ahead of the upcoming Assembly polls in five States, the Union Cabinet has approved ₹105 per quintal hike in the minimum support price (MSP) of wheat to ₹1,840 per quintal for 2018-19 season, an increase of six per cent. The MSP of wheat was ₹1,735 per quintal in the 2017-18 crop year. MSP of channa (gram) is also likely to be raised from ₹4,400 to ₹4,620 per quintal, an increase of 5 per cent.

The move is aimed at giving farmers an additional income of ₹62,635 crore and help contain their simmering discontent over high input cost and low sales realisation.

The Government announces MSPs for most crops yearly to set a benchmark, although State agencies usually buy limited quantities of staples such as rice and wheat at those prices due to a lack of storage and funds. Market prices for many crops typically run well below MSPs. The support price has been

- ◆ The move is aimed at giving farmers an additional income of ₹62,635 crore
- ◆ The support price has been increased based on the recommendations of farm advisory body CACP
- ◆ Earlier, the Government had increased the MSP of 14 kharif crops
- ◆ The Government is also likely to raise the MSP of channa (gram) from ₹4,400 to ₹4,620 per quintal



increased based on the recommendations of farm advisory body Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP) and is part of the Government's announcement to provide farmers a 50 per cent profit on the cost of production.

"The decision will help farmers earn an additional income of ₹62,635 crore. The MSP for all rabi crops is high-

er than the cost of production ranging from 50-112 per cent. As per the CCEA decision, the MSP of barley has been increased by ₹30 per quintal to ₹1,440 per quintal, while the masur's MSP has been raised by ₹225 to ₹4,275 per quintal. The support price of rapeseed/mustard has been hiked by ₹200 to ₹4,200 per quintal. Safflower MSP has been increased by ₹845 per quintal to ₹4,945," Union Agriculture Minister Radha Mohan Singh said after the meeting of the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Despite patchy rainfall in some parts, the Agriculture Ministry has set a foodgrain production target of 285.2 million tonnes for 2018-19, a marginal increase from the previous year's harvest of 284.8 million tonnes.

The Modi Government has faced four mega protests by the farmers in the less than seven months this year.

India to deport 7 Rohingyas as SC rejects instant hearing

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

India will deport seven Rohingya immigrants, who have been staying in Assam illegally, to their home country Myanmar on Thursday.

This is for the first time Rohingya immigrants would be sent back to Myanmar from India. Snuffing out their last hope of preventing their deportation, the Supreme Court rejected urgent hearing on this matter, raised by lawyer Prashant Bhusan.

The seven Rohingya immigrants will be handed over to Myanmar authorities at Moreh border post in Manipur Thursday, a Home Ministry official said.

Continued on Page 4

SC asks Govt to act as virus threatens Gir pride with extinction



wiped out from the area," advocate Ritwick Dutta told the Bench, which was hearing a matter related to the re-introduction of cheetahs in India from Namibia in Africa.

The counsel said the manner in which the lions have died, there was a fear of the epidemic spreading to other animals. The Gujarat Government on Monday said some of the lions died due to a virus infection. It said it was yet to identify the type of virus that led to the deaths.

An application was filed in the top court by the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA), seeking a direction that the court's 2013 decision rendered in a wildlife case does not prevent authorities from taking steps in conformity with the law to re-introduce cheetahs from Africa to suitable sites in India.

₹ touches bottom, markets tank; RBI scurries into action

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The rupee on Wednesday plunged by 43 paise to breach the historic low of 73/\$ level as soaring crude oil prices fuelled worries over capital outflows and widening current account deficit.

The domestic currency closed at a record low of 73.34, down by 43 paise.

Rising US interest rates and bond yields have encouraged investors to pull out funds from emerging markets to pocket better returns, analysts said. Stocks also fell by more than 1.5 per cent due to the rupee falling to record low levels. The benchmark BSE Sensex plunged by 550 points or 1.51 per cent while the broader Nifty tanked 150 points or 1.38 per cent.

The RBI on Wednesday relaxed policy on borrowing from overseas to allow state-owned fuel retailers to raise up to \$10 billion external debt for working capital needs.

Related reports on P10

GAYATHRI MANI ■ NEW DELHI

Cabs and private vehicles that are entering the national Capital are flouting the Supreme Court order which in August had ordered them to paste hologram-based coloured stickers on vehicles on the basis of fuel they use — CNG, petrol and diesel — in order to control air pollution from October 2.

In a reality check by *The Pioneer*, it was found that none of the vehicles — private or commercial like cabs, tempos and other four-wheelers — that entered the national Capital had the coloured stickers pasted on their windcreens.

Most of the vehicle owners,



Prime Minister Narendra Modi being presented the UN's Champions of the Earth Award by United Nations Secretary General Antonio Guterres in Delhi on Wednesday. Modi and French President Emmanuel Macron were jointly awarded the UN's highest environmental honour for their pioneering work in championing the International Solar Alliance and promoting new areas of cooperation on environmental action
PTI

Unwitting crime of failing to crack colour code

cab drivers and other motorists were not of the SC order and even those who had information appeared confused as they were not sure how to get these coloured stickers.

As per the recent advisory issued by the Union Ministry of Road Transport and Highways, the "self-destructive type" hologram-based stickers of light blue colour should be used for petrol/CNG and orange colour for diesel vehicles. The self-destructive type is for the security purpose. The Government has introduced grey colour for all other vehicles.

"I am aware of the new policy but confused where to go to procure the stickers. The Government should advertise or announce on radio or television then only people will get to know," said a businessman who travels to Delhi from Gurugram every day.

An executive with a multinational firm, who travels from Ghaziabad to Delhi, said, "It seems the implementing authority itself is not sure. Are stickers available at petrol pump, regional transport offices? Commuters are quite confused."

When asked, Sanjeev Singla, Sub-Divisional Magistrate, Gurugram, said, "As of now, we have not got any information or notification from the State transport authority of Haryana regarding the implementation of coloured stickers."

Number of vehicles registered in Delhi — 1,07,56,768 (up to March 31, 2018)

Hologram based stickers implemented on October 3 in Delhi (only for new vehicles)

Light Blue — CNG/Petrol
Orange — Diesel
Grey — All the other vehicles



In a reality check, The Pioneer found that none of the vehicles had coloured stickers pasted on their windcreens as ordered by the Supreme Court in August. Most of the drivers/owners were not aware of the SC direction, and those who had appeared at their wits' end wondering where to get these stickers

CAPSULE

RAFALE GAME-CHANGER FOR SUBCONTINENT: IAF
New Delhi: Amid the raging row over the Rafale fighter jet, Indian Air Force chief Air Chief Marshal BS Dhanoa on Wednesday said the deal was a "good package" and the aircraft will be a "game-changer" for the subcontinent.

REFUND FEES OR FACE MUSIC: HRD MINISTRY
New Delhi: The Ministry of Human Resource Development has warned higher educational institutions of strict action if they do not return the fees of those withdrawing admissions.

SABARIMALA: KERALA NOT TO CHALLENGE SC ORDER
Thiruvananthapuram: Rejecting the Opposition demand to file a review petition in the Supreme Court against its order, allowing women of all age groups into the Sabarimala temple, the Kerala Government on Wednesday said it would implement the verdict in this pilgrim season itself.

MARCH ENDED, AGITATION TO GO ON: BKU LEADER
Ghaziabad: After ending the farmers' march to Delhi, Bharatiya Kisan Union leader Rakesh Tikait said his organisation will continue to agitate till all their demands are fulfilled.

Continued on Page 4

Continued on Page 4

Diphtheria deaths' reason unravelled

Hospital had no anti-diphtheria serum till Sept 22 this year

Not enough efforts made by sacked Medical Superintendent to purchase serum

Production at CRI stopped as labs were undergoing renovation

Children not vaccinated

SUGANDHA ■ NEW DELHI

Not a single dose of Anti-Diphtheria Serum (ADS) was available in Maharishi Valmiki Infectious Diseases (MVID) Hospital between December 2, 2017 and September 22, 2018, however, the patients died due to heart complications, said the interim report of the Fact Finding Committee set up by North Delhi Municipal Corporation (NMC). The supply from Central Research Institute (CRI), Kasauli stopped after November 2017, said the report.

North Delhi Mayor Adesh Gupta told *The Pioneer*, "We found three main points in the report. Firstly, enough efforts were not made by former Medical Superintendent (MS), SK Gupta to purchase the serum. Secondly, the production at CRI stopped as the labs were undergoing renovation as per World Health Organisation standard and thirdly, the chil-



dren were not vaccinated against diphtheria." "We have suspended the MS and new appointment has been made. More action will be taken after the final report," said Gupta.

According to the report, the CRI made around 1400 vials of serum available to the MS till November 13 last year. The consignment of 200 vials was made available to the hospital by CRI on September 23, said the report.

"SK Gupta, MS, MVID visited CRI in the month of February this year but he was appraised by the institute that the supply may be made within a year due to renovation of the lab," suggested the report.

The report further said that quotations for the procurement of serum were made to five private firms out of which three denied manufacturing the serum. One of the firms asked for advance payment while the other one requested 6-8 weeks for confirmation, the report said.

As per the report which investigated death of 21 patients till last week of September, the patients were either partially vaccinated or not vaccinated at all. "18 out of 21 patients

were not vaccinated and 3 were partially vaccinated. Most of the patients were admitted four to six days later after the onset of the illness," said the report.

The Committee's report further stated that patients died due to heart complications and airway obstruction. All the patients received ADS which they procured from the market, the report added. The report also mentioned that the diphtheria wards were poorly lit and there were no anti-arrhythmic drugs available in the wards. On inspection, it was found that the operation theatres were non operational, the staff was less and the blood bank facilities were not available, said the report.

Nevertheless, the deaths continued even after the serum was made available answering which the new MS of the hospital Dr Anil Sahni said, "The serum can be used as medicine but it cannot cure the disease. The deaths that are occurring presently are of the patients who are not vaccinated and are being brought in later stages."

Shockingly, two more deaths due to the highly infectious disease were reported at the civic hospital on Wednesday and toll reached upto 30 in the month of September and first three days of October.

Farmers end Kranti Yatra after reaching Kisan Ghat in Delhi

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Farmers ended their 'Kisan Kranti Yatra' after arriving at Kisan Ghat in the national Capital on Wednesday. The Central Government allowed them to enter Delhi in the early hours of Wednesday, ending the prolonged standoff between the police personnel and protesting farmers.

Within hours, thousands of farmers gathered at Kisan Ghat, the memorial of renowned farmer leader and former Prime Minister Chaudhary Charan Singh, which is located just adjacent to Raj Ghat between the banks of Yamuna river and Mahatma Gandhi Road, also known as main Ring Road. They offered tributes at the memorial.

"The Delhi Police had removed the barricades around 12.30 am to allow the farmers, who were stopped Tuesday at UP Gate on the Uttar Pradesh-Delhi border during the Kisan Kranti Yatra, to enter the city," said a senior police official.

The farmers entered the national Capital riding their tractors and trolleys and proceeded towards Kisan Ghat where heavy police deployment has been made, the official said. BKU leader Pawan Khatana said police had opened the barricades around 12.30 am.

"We reached the Kisan Ghat in the next couple of hours. By 5 am the farmers had started return journey to their homes in Rajasthan, Haryana, UP, Madhya Pradesh," Khatana, the BKU's Uttar

Pradesh unit spokesperson.

The farmers said they have reached an agreement with the Central Government, which, according to them, has accepted "most of the demands". They said their prime demand of increasing the price of crops has been agreed upon by the Government.

"A formal announcement in this regard will be made within six days by the government," Rakesh Tikait, national spokesperson of Bharatiya Kisan Union (BKU).

No farmers participating in the agitation are now in Delhi, however, several of them, including BKU chief Naresh Singh Tikait are staying put near the UP-Delhi border — the spot for Tuesday's clash with security men. Khatana said some of the farmers are still at UP Gate, the intersection of Madan Mohan Malviya Road in Ghaziabad with the Delhi-Meerut highway getting their tractors repaired.

Thousands of farmers on Tuesday marched towards Delhi over demands ranging from farm loan waiver to cut in fuel prices, pending sugarcane dues, allowing plying of old tractors, blocking traffic movement on arterial roads leading to the national capital.

Police picketed the border with Uttar Pradesh, imposing prohibitory orders banning assembly of five or more people and holding of any public meeting, usage of any amplifier, loudspeaker, and similar instruments.

17 girls among 23 trafficked kids rescued, accused held

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

In a joint operation by Delhi Police and National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) on Tuesday night around 23 children, including 17 girls, were rescued from national Capital's Shakur Basti area.

"We have arrested four person identified as Murari, Sarfaraj both resident of Bihar, Qutubuddin and Ibrahim residents of Jharkhand. The rescue operation took place at J block in Shakur Basti area in on Tuesday night from there seventeen girls and six boys — mostly from Bihar and Jharkhand, with some of them even from Bangladesh — were rescued," said a senior police official.

"During our initial investigation it was revealed that they were running an unregistered maid placement agency 'Sonakshi Enterprises' and were supplying maid on demand.

The accused during interrogation said that they had recently started this work," said the senior police official.

"We have registered a case under section 370, 342 and JJ act of Indian Penal Code (IPC). The accused were produced in court today and were remanded for two days police custody," said the senior police official.

According to NCPCR official, the mental evaluation of the children will be done, following which they will be presented in front of the child welfare committee and then would be sent to shelter homes.

Woman hurt in paragliding ride

PARVESH SHARMA ■ GURUGRAM



A paragliding ride proved to be a nightmare for a woman when the paramotor she was riding on met an accident during an emergency landing. She has sustained injuries on her leg. The incident took place on Monday at a resort "Best Western Country Club" located at Manesar area. It was reported only on Wednesday.

A case under relevant section of IPC has been registered by police as the Paragliding Company didn't obtain proper licence or documents from the district administration, a police official said.

The victim identified as Madhumita, is a resident of Sector-69 in Gurugram who on Monday along with Kuldeep who was piloting the paramotor met an accident in their bid to made emergency landing as some technical problem occurred while they were just 10 feet above the ground. According to police official, when Kuldeep was landing at the cricket stadium at the resort the victim's leg hit the ground and sustained injuries.

Subsequently, she was immediately rushed to a hospital in Manesar by the resort management and was discharged after having first-aid. However, the woman did not reported the matter to police. But while investigation, police came to know that the Paragliding Company didn't obtain proper licence or documents from the district admin-

istration for the paragliding activities.

"The resort management had a contract with Mumba aviation in the previous month. In which the aviation company had assured that they will complete the entire formalities with the administration. But without prior permission the aviation company had illegally started paragliding activity at the resort," said Subhash Boken, Public Relation Officer (PRO) of Gurugram police.

Meanwhile, the owner of the aviation company Punit Yadav claimed that they had a contract with the resort in the previous year. While the accused in the matter Amit Yadav said they both had started the company and they had a contract with the resort management.

"The incident was reported by the hospital authority and after a preliminary probe, a case under relevant sections of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) has been registered at Manesar police station. Further probe into the matter is underway the accused will be nabbed soon" said PRO.

Teen rapes 4-yr-old neighbour in Seelampur, accused on run

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

In a horrific incident in Northeast Delhi's Seelampur, a 4-year-old girl child was allegedly sexually assaulted by a 17-year-old tenant living in the same building as the victim, police said on Wednesday.

"The accused is a neighbour who stays in the same building. He took the child to a room and tried to assault her by touching her private parts.

The 17-year-old is currently absconding," Joint Commissioner of Police (Eastern Range) RS Yadav said. "The statement of the mother has been recorded and the victim has been provided with medical assistance. The victim is currently with her parents," he added.

This incident comes just days after a Class III girl was molested by her neighbour in Northwest Delhi's Swaroop Nagar on Monday evening.

DCW issues notice to DTC, Delhi Police over eve-teasing in buses

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Taking suo-motu cognisance on media reports regarding rampant eve-teasing and harassment on Delhi Transport Corporation buses specifically on route no 544, the Delhi Commission for women (DCW), on Wednesday issued a notice to the Delhi Transport Corporation (DTC), Delhi Government and Delhi Police. The DCW has also constituted a committee to enquire into this and has asked the Transport Commissioner and Delhi Police to submit their reply by October 10, the DCW spokesperson stated.

A series of tweets went viral on the social media where a woman alleged that her 19-year-old was molested seven times, while travelling in Delhi Transport Corporation buses, within three months of her moving to Delhi. She alleged that her cousin specifically pointed out route 544 which is targeted by molesters as it carries girls on their way to Kamala Nehru College and Gargi College.

The woman tweeted, "These are not coincidences or

one-off incidents. These are sickening individuals who travel on that bus with the sole purpose of harassing young girls trying to get an education. Harass them to the point that my little sister dashed out of the bus and into incoming traffic than bear any more of it. She lived to tell the tale, but are we waiting for a day when some little girl doesn't?"

Following the incident, the DCW has asked the Transport Commissioner, "to provide details on issues such as reasons for these lapses, steps taken by the Commissioner for deployment of Marshals in DTC buses and installation of CCTV cameras. The Commission has sought detailed timelines by which these issues shall be resolved." "Information has also been sought from Delhi Police about action taken on the incident and steps taken by police to provide the safety and security to women and girls in buses," DCW spokesperson stated.

The commission also emphasised that even after the Cabinet in June 2016 had approved installation of CCTV cameras in all buses; it has not been implemented till date.

Gujarat State Seed Corporation Limited CORRIGENDUM-2 OF TENDER NOTICE NO 1 of 2018-19

Online Tender (E-Tendering) for the following works (EPC works) are publicly invited by the Executive Engineer, (Civil), PIU, Gujarat State Seeds Corporation Limited, Gandhinagar, Beej Bhavan, Sector-10/A, Gandhinagar (Gujarat State), from the eligible contractors registered in appropriate class.

Sr. No	Description	Dates as per Corrigendum-1 of Tender Notice No-1	New Dates as per Corrigendum-2 of Tender Notice No-1
01	Last date for Downloading of tender documents and online submission (uploading) of tender documents i.e. last date for receipt of tender by GSSNL:	Dt.05/10/2018	Dt.23/10/2018
02	Physical submission of Tender fee, EMD and other documents in the separate cover during office hours by RPAD/Speed post only.	Dt.11/10/2018	Dt.30/10/2018
03	Online verification of tender fee EMD other Documents:	Dt.12/10/2018	Dt.01/11/2018
04	Online opening of P.Q. Bid (If Possible)	Dt.12/10/2018	Dt.01/11/2018
05	Online opening of price Bid (If Possible)	Dt.29/10/2018	Dt.20/11/2018

NO/INF/VPN/2018/G/1723

हजार हाट
Hunar Haat

Minority Communities'
(Muslims, Sikh, Christians, Bauddhists, Jains and Parasis)
Craftsmen, artisans and maestros of provincial delicacies are invited to submit applications to participate in

Hunar Haat
Craft Aur Cuisine Ka Sangam

-Venues of Hunar Haat-
IITF, Pragati Maidan, New Delhi (Only for handicrafts)
14 – 27 November 2018
And
Bandra Kurla Complex, Mumbai
21 – 31 December 2018

If applicants are willing to take part in the both or in the forthcoming Hunar Haat, they should write the preference of venues clearly in the application.

Application form is available on NMDFC website www.nmdfc.org.
Application may be sent on the following address :
Chief Manager (Project), NMDFC, Core-1, First floor, Scope Tower, Laxmi Nagar, Delhi – 110092

- Submission of application alone does not entitle the applicant's selection.
- The selected applicants will be intimated separately by NMDFC.

The last date for submission of duly filled in application form is 20th October, 2018.





The forthcoming Hunar Haat
Delhi - January 2019 • Goa - February 2019

Hunar Ko Hausla www.minorityaffairs.gov.in www.facebook.com/hunarhaat17/

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Time : 11:00 am to 8:00 pm

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Groundwater recharge tech to end water woes

SAPNA SINGH ■ NEW DELHI

Bracing itself to meet the rising demand for potable water during summers, the Delhi Government has started testing new technology tagged "Soil Bed Water Harvesting".

On Wednesday, the Delhi Government's Irrigation and Flood Control Departments tested this new technology near Chilla Sewage Treatment Plant, Mayur Vihar.

After treating sewerage water, this technology will percolate treated water into soil and help to increase ground water table result in no drinking water scarcity in Delhi in near future.

It is pertinent to mention here that, Delhi face water scarcity situation in every summer situation.

Moreover, Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) also mentioned in its report that ground water level is going down and many areas in south Delhi, have already been marked as dark zone in terms of ground water levels.

Presently, Delhi is getting over, 1050 cusecs of water from Haryana. According to Government database, Delhi Jal Board (DJB) supplies 900 Million Gallon of water per Day (MGD) against the demand of 1100MGD.

There are 24 lakh water connections in Delhi while 47 per cent of water is leak and theft. 200 MGD of water extracts from borewells by private players.

Delhi gets its water from Munak canal and 80 MGD water goes into Wazirabad

pond, 220 MGD in Haiderpur, 20 MGD in Bawana, 40 MGD in Nangloi and 40 MGD in Dawarka. It gets 60 per cent (540MGD) of water from Yamuna River.

Delhi is highly reliable on Haryana to meet everyday water demand in Capital. According to DJB —Haryana has to supply 450 cusecs of potable water daily to Wazirabad barrage for supply as per its 1996 order.

It may be recalled Delhi Government had petitioned Supreme Court in March of this year and accused Haryana of not honouring the 1996 apex court's directives.

DJB had mentioned that due to drop in the level of Yamuna, its water treatment plants have either stopped functioning or were operating below capacity.

Silting process will help revive Purana Qila lake, says project manager

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Day after National Green Tribunal (NGT) gave nod to the revival of the iconic Purana Qila lake, the NBCC project manager said with silting process, the lake will automatically regain its water levels and there will be no damage to the lake.

"We are working in accordance with the IIT scientific study about lake," said the site project manager. Talking to *The Pioneer*, the manager said with scientific approach, we have added some bacteria help in maintaining water clean. Rain water harvesting also attached with this lake. "We have added some bacteria helps in maintaining lake water clean," NBCC official said.

The NGT accorded approval for the revival of the lake by laying impermeable



plastic lining on its bed and has rejected the claim that the project was being undertaken in a manner which would damage the environment.

The NBCC had said drawings for development works at lake were approved by the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) and it was directed to seek expert advice from a reputed institute such as IIT for laying of the ethylene propylene diene terpolymer (EPDM) membrane in the lake and send the same to ASI.

Monitoring committee colluding with corrupt officials: Tiwari

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

SEALING DRIVE

Delhi BJP chief Manoj Tiwari on Wednesday accused the Supreme Court-appointed monitoring committee conducting a sealing drive in the city of "running a racket" in collusion with "corrupt officials", a charged rubbished by the three-member panel. Tiwari, against whom the Supreme Court has initiated contempt action for breaking the seal of a property in East Delhi, appeared in the court on Wednesday. The court posted the matter for hearing after 10 days.

"I have clearly stated in my affidavit submitted to the court that the monitoring committee is not discharging its duties judicially and adopting pick and choose (policy) to torture Delhiites," Tiwari said reporters.

He claimed neither the



Municipal Corporation concerned had issued any order for sealing the property in Gokalpur nor its owner was served any notice.

"The monitoring committee is running a racket in collusion with corrupt officials," he alleged. The Delhi BJP president also alleged that a "sealing industry" is thriving in the city and "corrupt officials" are

taking action against "the poor and weak". "I want to assure Delhi people that I stand with all the poor and weak victims (of sealing)," he said.

Monitoring committee member Bhurelal rejected Tiwari's charges and asked the BJP leader to approach the CBI if he had any evidence. "The committee is only trying to deal with the menace (violations of Master Plan) following in toto the Supreme Court order. If he has any evidence against the committee, he can approach the CBI or any other agency," Bhurelal said.

A day after Tiwari broke the seal of the property, the East Delhi Municipal Corporation replaced the seal and filed a complaint against him. A case was registered against Tiwari and the court issued a contempt notice to him based on the monitoring committee's report.

Dyal Singh College wades into fresh row over illegal building

ABHINAV SINGH ■ NEW DELHI

Another controversy cropped up at Dyal Singh College of Delhi University (DU) after a section of teachers made viral a two months old order issued by South Delhi Municipal Corporation (SDMC) to the principal of evening college asking him to demolish the newly constructed 'illegal' building.

Dyal Singh evening college is now running as a day college and the aforesaid structure was constructed as a part of infrastructure for accommodating the students of evening college.

"Ironically, the section of teachers who are opposed to the evening college acting as a day college,

alleging "lack of infrastructure" and "overburden" on morning infrastructure, are the ones who want additional infrastructure for evening to be demolished", said a teacher of Dyal Singh on anonymity.

The above mentioned block as of now has 14 rooms with capacity to accommodate around 700 students and is acting as a semi permanent structure (SPS) block. In addition to it a new academic block having 4 floors is exclusively the part of evening college infrastructure, said Pawan Sharma, Principal of Dyal Singh (Evening) College. The SPS was constructed at the place where the old canteen existed but was presently discarded and was used as dumping ground.

The demolition order by the SDMC stated that the construction is "unauthorized", "not protected" and "liable to be demolished". The order had asked for demolishing the structure within 6 days.

Associate Professor PK Parihar of Dyal Singh College said that the evening principal not only ignored the SDMC orders but also constructed additional rooms to the illegal infrastructure.

"We want that illegal constructed building should be immediately demolished. How can a college run in an illegal building?" said Parihar.

While Pawan Sharma, principal of Dyal Singh evening said that he had already approached the appropriate authority for relief.

23-year-old arrested for killing teenage girlfriend

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

A 23-year-old man has been arrested for allegedly murdering his 17-year-old girlfriend in Delhi's Alipur area. Missing since Monday, the body of the victim was found from Alipur on Tuesday morning, police stated.

The accused identified as Jitender was allegedly caught after he activated his deceased girl friend's SIM card to go through her call records. Police officials traced the SIM to Burari and nabbed the accused on Wednesday.

According to police, the 17-year-old girl was missing since Monday and her parents registered a missing case at Burari police station on the same day. A body was recovered by Alipur police station on Tuesday and after police

scanned through records of all unidentified bodies and missing person complaints, the girl was identified.

During interrogation, the accused revealed that they were in a relationship. The victim reportedly wanted to break-up which led to an argument. The accused called her to Alipur to resolve their differences, however could not reach a common ground, police revealed.

In a fit of rage the accused allegedly dragged the girl to the bushes and strangled her. He even punched her face a few times so that she won't be identified, police said, adding that they are still investigating the matter.

A preliminary probe ruled out sexual assault, but senior officers said that they are awaiting the autopsy report for further details.

Taimur Nagar killing: Residents take out candle march, seek CBI probe

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Distressed over police inaction to arrest both the assailants who killed 34 year-old Rupesh Basoya in Taimur Nagar, residents of the area took out a candle march on Wednesday evening demanding to transfer the case to Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI).

"It has been more than 2 days but so far police have failed to find any clue regarding the assailants. We want the investigation to be transferred to the CBI. We also want the Bangladeshi migrants to be removed from the area as they indulge in drug peddling," said Umesh Basoya, brother of the deceased.

The candle march was supported by various Resident Welfare Associations' (RWA)



across the National Capital. In Taimoor Nagar after Rupesh was shot dead by two unidentified assailants, locals on the intervening night of Sunday-Monday staged protests and accused the police of being hand in glove with the accused.

Initially, locals burnt two motorcycles and pelted stones at the police personnel who were

trying to manage the crowd. A policeman was injured in the stone pelting.

Residents alleged that illegal immigrants from Bangladesh are residing in the nearby JJ cluster and are involved in drug trafficking. They alleged that illegal immigrants are also involved in petty crimes and are the ones involved in sale of drugs.

Exploring Excellence Through Diversification

Statement of **SHRI RAJEEV SHARMA, CMD, PFC** at 32nd ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING held in New Delhi on 11th September, 2018

175%

PAT

14%

LOAN ASSETS

23 BPS

COST OF FUNDS

2.93%

NET NPA%

7.39%

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It gives me great pleasure to welcome you all to the 32nd Annual General Meeting of your Company. It is indeed a privilege to share that your Company has completed 30 successful and glorious years of business operations.

I thank the previous CMDs and Directors for making PFC as one of the prominent lenders in the financing sector.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank Ministry of Finance and Ministry of Power, Government of India to have granted the permission to your Company to raise funds through capital gains tax bonds under section 54 EC of Income Tax Act.

Last year was an important year for the Indian Economy. Indian Economy is already roaring back to recovery as landmark reforms like Goods and Services Tax (GST), Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC) and Real Estate Regulation Act (RERA) are yielding results. International rating agency Moody's upgraded India's rating by a notch in 2017-18, for the first time in 14 years, and changed the outlook from stable to positive. During the year, India also made impressive gains in the World Bank's global rankings on "Ease of Doing Business" as it moved up 30 notches, entering the league of top 100 performers. World Bank Group's latest report, "Doing Business 2018: Reforming to Create Jobs", recognized India as one of the top 10 improvers, having implemented 8 out of the 10 Doing Business Indicators. Successful implementation of the Government of India's flagship schemes like Mudra and Housing for All by 2022 has also added to the growth in GDP. Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has projected GDP growth rate at 7.4% in 2018-19. Meanwhile, the World Bank has pegged its growth forecast for India at 7.3% in 2018-19 and at 7.5% for next two years.

Along with the Indian Economy, India's electricity sector is going through a transformational phase, with growing emphasis on meeting power requirements from clean energy sources like solar and wind in order to contain the country's carbon footprint and support global community's fight against the climate change. India became a net exporter of electricity for the first time and 7,203 million units were supplied to Nepal, Bangladesh and Myanmar in the last financial year. India's rank

and made significant headway in diversifying its borrowing portfolio by raising almost USD 1.7 billion in Foreign Currency Loans, which is 14% of borrowing in FY18. These loans included PFC's first ever Green Bond issue for USD 400 million, which was priced very competitively, FCNR(B) loans and syndicated loans. Your Company also managed to refinance its existing Foreign Currency Loans to reduce the cost of borrowing. The domestic borrowings portfolio was also diversified by raising funds through private placement of bonds and capital gain tax bonds under section 54 EC of the Income Tax Act. The domestic borrowings were at a competitive marginal cost of 7.37%, which were below the Reuters' benchmark rates. As a result of all these combined initiatives, Average Cost of Funds reduced by 23 basis points from 8.41% to 8.18%.

Your Company is a socially responsible corporate entity which is committed to improving the quality of life of the society at large by undertaking projects for Sustainable Developments, mainly focusing on fulfillment of power and energy needs of the society. Your Company has actively implemented wide range of CSR schemes in the field of solar energy, skill development, sanitation, health, environment sustainability and also contributed towards the cause of the differently abled section of the society. Out of the total CSR budget of about ₹ 150 crore for FY 2017-18, PFC has disbursed ₹ 118 crore. Your Company is already participating in Swachh Bharat Mission and contributing in the Swachh Bharat Kosh. Going forward, PFC's emphasis will also be on the social schemes of national interest.

Government of India has launched various initiatives for resolving issues confronting the sector. Ujwal DISCOM Assurance Yojana (UDAY) has led to improvement in operational and financial performance of DISCOMs with accrued savings of ₹ 20,000 crore by March 2018 on account of interest benefits due to takeover & restructuring of loans. Government aims to achieve the target to bring down the AT&C losses to the level of 15% by March 2019 from the current level of 18.75%.

Pradhan Mantri Sahaj Bijli Har Ghar Yojana (SAUBHAGYA) was launched for taking electricity

to every household in the country. Over ₹ 16,000 crore has been allocated for the scheme, which envisages providing electricity connections to 4 crore families in rural and urban areas by December 2018, with free of cost electricity connections to Below Poverty Line (BPL) families. Demand is expected to be increased to the tune of 28,000 MW post implementation of this scheme. Also, under Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Gram Jyoti Yojana, 100% village electrification of all census villages has been achieved and it has translated into higher demand for power.

Integrated Power Development Scheme (IPDS), for which PFC is the Nodal Agency, has greatly helped improve billing and collection efficiency of the power utilities and we are able to do Energy Audit and instantly know the AT&C loss level of a particular town. There is a common complaint number '1912' which is operational in almost all the utilities of the country today. Your Company has sanctioned projects of ₹ 2,637 crore during FY 2017-18 and ₹ 28,671 crore cumulatively under IPDS. Disbursements were to the tune of ₹ 2,479 crore during FY 2017-18 and ₹ 5,139 crore cumulatively to the State Utilities for projects sanctioned under IPDS. Under R-APDRP, your Company has sanctioned projects of ₹ 37,523 crore cumulatively for 1,405 towns under Part-A IT, 59 towns under Part-A (SCADA) and 1,227 towns under Part-B of R-APDRP. Disbursements were ₹ 962 crore during FY 2017-18 and ₹ 11,150 crore cumulatively to the State Utilities for projects sanctioned under R-APDRP.

To tackle the issue of stressed assets in Power Sector, Govt had launched the SHAKTI scheme to provide coal to the stressed power projects. SHAKTI covers projects which have PPAs but do not have Fuel Supply Agreements in place and also those that do not have PPAs. The objective of this scheme is to eliminate the stress in generation utilities. Also, a Pilot Scheme for mid-term PPA for stressed projects has been launched by the Ministry of Power for which PFCL, our subsidiary Company is the Nodal Agency and PFC is the aggregator to purchase power for three years from commissioned projects with no PPA. Bids for 1900 MW were received from eligible bidders at a tariff of ₹ 4.24 per unit. These initiatives will help the projects to sell power on consistent basis and resolve the stress going forward.

Other initiatives have also been taken in the sector to tackle stress like introduction of 'SAMADHAN', 'PARIWARTAN' and 'SASHAKT' schemes. Further, Govt. of India has also formed a High Level Empowered Committee to resolve Power Sector

I am extremely thankful to the shareholders, who have reposed faith in us. My sincere and heartfelt thanks go out to the Hon'ble Union Minister of State (I/c) for Power & New and Renewable Energy and officials of the Ministry of Power for their continued support and guidance. I am also truly grateful to Board of Directors, Investors and Valued Clients for their support.

I also convey my gratitude to Ministry of Finance, Reserve Bank of India, Department of Public Enterprises, Securities and Exchange Board of India, National Stock Exchange of India Limited, Bombay Stock Exchange Ltd., NITI Aayog, CEA, C&G, Statutory Auditors, Registrars, various Commercial Banks, Financial Institutions and other concerned Government Department/ Agencies at the Central and State level for their continued support. I also appreciate the continuous and unwavering support by our partners in the Print and Electronic Media.

Finally, I must thank all the employees without whose continuous and untiring efforts none of this would have been possible.

Rajeev Sharma
Rajeev Sharma
Chairman & Managing Director
Date : 11.09.2018
DIN No.: 00973413

(This does not purport to be a record of the proceedings of the Annual General Meeting held on 11 September, 2018. For full text, please visit : www.pfcindia.com)

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KULBHUSHAN JADHAV CASE

ICJ to hold public hearings in Feb 2018

The Hague: The International Court of Justice (ICJ) will hold public hearings in the Kulbhushan Jadhav case from February 18 to 21 next year at The Hague, a statement issued by the principal judicial organ of the United Nations said on Wednesday.

India has been maintaining that the trial of Jadhav by a military court in Pakistan was "far-cial". Pakistan claims that its security forces arrested Jadhav from restive Balochistan province on March 3, 2016 after he reportedly entered from Iran.

FOR STALLED AMRAPALI PROJECTS

SC allows NBCC to float tenders for selecting builder

New Delhi: The Supreme Court has allowed National Buildings Construction Corporation Ltd (NBCC) to float tenders for selecting the builder to complete the stalled projects of Amrapali Group.

The bench directed the Amrapali Group of companies and directors — Anil Kumar Sharma, Shiv Priya and Ajay Kumar to submit the maps which clearly delineate unencumbered portion of their individual as well as company properties and other details which have been asked by the DRT.

About 30 injured in violence during 12-hr shutdown in Puri

Puri/Bhubaneswar: Around 30 people, including 10 police personnel, were injured in violence during a 12-hour shutdown on Wednesday by an outfit to protest against the introduction of queue system for devotees in Jagannath Temple in Odisha's Puri district.

Experimental basis. Asserting that the stir would be further intensified, Patnaik said the manner in which the new system was introduced had hurt the sentiments of a large number of devotees.

Lion Gate) and ransacked the office of the Shree Jagannath Temple Administration (SJTA), police said. As the 'Bada Danda' virtually turned into a battleground, police lobbed teargas shells and resorted to lathi-charge to control the situation, they said.

India, US gained from each other's experience during Yudh Abhyas: US Army official

New Delhi: Army personnel of India and the United States gained from each other's experience in various fields of operation during a fortnight-long joint military exercise in Uttarakhand, a senior US Army official has said.

talion-brigade level. "The second part of the exercise that ran concurrently was a simulation driven command post exercise. That was at my level and the brigade level," said Maj. Gen. William H Graham, Deputy Commanding General I Corps and Joint Base Lewis-McChord, in an interaction with PTI.

Display polling percentage at all booths every two hours on day of election: MP CM to EC

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan along with BJP vice president Vinay Sahasrabudhe on Wednesday met the Election Commission (EC) here and urged it to display the polling percentage at all booths every two hours on the day of election in the State so that political parties can mobilise voters to boost the voting percentage if it is low.



Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan and other BJP leaders leave after meeting the Chief Election Commissioner in New Delhi on Wednesday. Ranjan Dimri / PTI

The BJP leader also made a slew of suggestions to the poll watchdog, including treating news reports based on false charges against his Government as "paid news". He demanded that action should be taken against the complainant where charges are found baseless.

display of polling percentage of both men and women voters is apparently aimed at using the organisational machinery in the State to mobilise its voters. With the Congress, spear-headed by Kamal Nath in the state, attacking his Government over a host of issues, Chouhan is seeking to turn the tables on the Opposition party as the latter has often accused BJP leaders of using money to plant propaganda items as news in the media, calling it a case of paid news.

उत्तर प्रदेश पावर ट्रांसमिशन कार्पोरेशन लिमिटेड ई-निविदा सूचना इस कार्यालय के द्वारा निम्नलिखित कार्य/सामग्री की आपूर्ति सम्पादन हेतु अनुमवी, दसक एवं जीएसटी 0 में पंजीकृत टेकेदारों से निम्नलिखित ई-निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है जिसका विस्तृत विवरण ई-टेंडर वेबसाईट www.etender.up.nic.in site पर उपलब्ध है। अल्पकालीन ई-निविदा संख्या-टी-124 / वि०प्र०म०प०का० / 2018-19 विद्युत प्रेषण खण्ड प्रथम के अन्तर्गत 132 के०वी० उपकेन्द्र पुखरायों पर पुखरायों-लालपुर लाइन की मीटरिंग से सम्बन्धित कार्य। अल्पकालीन ई-निविदा संख्या-ईटी-125 / वि०प्र०म०प०का० / 2018-19 विद्युत प्रेषण खण्ड प्रथम के अन्तर्गत 400 के०वी० पनकी-अलीगढ़ लाइन की मीटरिंग एवं अनुसंधान सम्बन्धी कार्य। ई-निविदा संख्या-टी-126 / वि०प्र०म०प०का० / 2018-19 विद्युत 400 के०वी० उपकेन्द्र पनकी पर प्लेट टाईप टरमिनल कनेक्टर की आपूर्ति। ई-निविदा संख्या-टी-127 / वि०प्र०म०प०का० / 2018-19 विद्युत 400 के०वी० उपकेन्द्र पनकी पर बोल्डेड टाईप डबल ट्रेन्शन फिटिंग एवं आयल सर्ज रिजे की आपूर्ति। अधीक्षण अभियन्ता, विद्युत प्राणण मण्डल प्रथम, पनकी, कानपुर पत्रांक: 1076 दिनांक 3.10.2018 'राष्ट्रहित में बिजली बचाय' उपभोक्ता सेवा हेतु सम्पर्क करें - www.upcl.org.

Canine Distemper Virus found in some dead lions in Gir: Govt

Gandhinagar (Guj): Canine Distemper Virus (CDV) was found in some of the 23 Asiatic lions which died in Gujarat's Gir forest since September 12, the State Government said Wednesday.

abode in Asia. State Forest and Environment Minister Ganpat Vasava told reporters that Canine Distemper Virus (CDV) was found in the samples of four of the eleven dead lions by Pune-based National Institute of Virology.

When asked if the deaths of Asiatic lions in Gir would reignite the debate of translocating the big cats to Madhya Pradesh for safety reasons, Vasava maintained that the entire issue is pending before the apex court.

Narendra Singh Tomar admitted to AIIMS

Union Minister Narendra Singh Tomar was admitted to the AIIMS after he complained of uneasiness due to a sudden increase in sugar levels, sources at the hospital said.



TRS supremo and Telangana Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao with party leaders at a public meeting in Nizamabad on Wednesday. PTI

SC asks Govt to... CJL bars...

From Page 1 During the hearing, the Bench asked the ASG about the deaths of lions in Gir sanctuary and said, "What are you doing on the issue of lions? It is very serious."

Africa to India. The Bench, however, told the counsel whether they have taken the consent of the IUCN in this regard. "You want to re-introduce cheetahs from Namibia. There is a process. IUCN is involved in the process. You are saying that you have complied with the process laid down by IUCN. Has IUCN said that you have complied with it and they have no objection?" the Bench asked.

From Page 1 The Bench headed by him will also deal with the matters relating to social justice, elections, company law, Monopoly and Restricted Trade Practices, Telecom Regulatory Authority of India, Security Exchange Board of India, Insurance and Reserve Bank of India.

PUBLIC NOTICE Be it known that my client Sh. Sudershan Kumar Khosla S/o Late Sh. P.L. Khosla, R/o 229, FF Sukhdev Vihar, New Delhi - 110025 has disowned and debarred his younger son Sandeep Khosla and his wife Avisha Khosla from all his properties (Movable and Immovable) since my client has no control over his said son who does not pay any respect and to my client and is not obedient. Anybody dealing with him shall do so at his risk and expense and my client shall not be liable there to in any manner. (B.S. Randhawa)

India...

From Page 1 The illegal immigrants have been staying at a detention centre in Silchar, Assam, since 2012, after they were detained by police. Consular access had been given to Myanmar diplomats, who confirmed the identity of the immigrants, the official said.

agencies estimate there are about 40,000 Rohingya people in the country. A Supreme court Bench, headed by Chief Justice Ranjan Gogoi, which made it clear to lawyers lead by Prashant Bhushan at the outset that it will not allow urgent mention of matters till the framing of "parameters" on such cases, said it would take a decision on urgent hearing in this issue after perusing the application.

Bench, adding that matters like execution of a death row convict, eviction cases can be heard urgently. Initially, the Bench asked Bhushan to file the plea and on being told that the application has already been filed, it said, "We will peruse the file and the decide."

Cabinet hikes wheat MSP...

From Page 1 Earlier, the Government had increased the MSP of 14 kharif crops this year. In the first four years of the Modi Government, MSPs saw only moderate increases, except in the case of pulses whose MSPs were raised substantially to boost production.

Unwitting crime of failing to crack colour code

From Page 1 However, Delhi will be the first to implement the colour coding policy. The transport Department of the city Government has successfully implemented the hologram based colour stickers on Wednesday but that too for only the newly purchased vehicles not for the older/existing ones.

some reasons, so the department has decided to divide it in stages. In the first stage newly purchased vehicles will be covered and in the next stage which in process will cover the existing vehicles," said a senior ranking official from the transport department.

transparent plate/sticker pasted on their windshield which has the details of vehicle but now the only new thing is color. Earlier it was transparent." Currently there are a total number of 1,07,56,768 vehicles, including in the Capital up to March 2018.

Rafale game changer in subcontinent: IAF chief

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

As controversy rages over the ₹59,000-crore Rafale deal, IAF Chief BS Dhanoa on Wednesday termed the induction of the fighter jets as a "game changer in the sub-continent and said along with the S-400 Triumph missile defence system, it will act as a "booster dose." Russia and India are likely to ink the nearly five billion dollar deal for five S-400 systems during President Vladimir Putin's visit to New Delhi later this week. Dhanoa also said the cost of the aircraft arrived at after negotiations was "reasonable and adequate."

Defending the Government-to-Government deal with France for 36 Rafale jets, the Air Chief also asserted that the IAF was consulted at the "appropriate level." This came in the backdrop of allegations that the IAF was not in the loop before the deal was announced during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Paris in 2015. The Air Chief also lamented delays in delivery schedules of some frontline fighter jets by the Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL).

Fielding a host of questions over the Rafale deal during the annual news conference ahead of the Air Force Day on October 8, Dhanoa said the IAF had given options to the Government to address the issue of bolstering the dwindling fighter jet squadron strength of the force.

Giving the background, the Air Chief said the earlier proposed deal



Air Chief Marshal Birender Singh Dhanoa addresses the annual Air Force Press conference in New Delhi on Wednesday. *Alwin Singh | Pioneer*

for buying 126 medium multi-role combat aircraft (MMRCA) had reached an "impasse" in negotiations due to differences between HAL and Dassault, manufacturer of Rafale, over issues like price, man hours and as to who will be responsible for 108 jets to be manufactured by HAL in India.

The IAF had three choices. They included either to wait for the ongoing negotiations and hope for the best or withdraw the Request for Proposal (RFP) or go in for emergency purchase of two squadrons, he said adding the government took the "bold step" by going with the last option. The Air Chief also said iss-

ing fresh tenders would have delayed the acquisition process of modern fighter jets by another five to seven years.

Claiming that the Rafale deal was a "good package" and the aircraft will be a "game-changer" in the subcontinent, he said adding "we got a lot of advantages in Rafale deal." The jet comes with modern sensors, latest electronic warfare systems and India specific enhancements, he said.

Refraining to put a figure to the cost of each aircraft, he said Minister of State for Defence Subhash Bhamre and Finance Minister Arun Jaitley had given the amount and "we stick to same figures." Bhamre had

mentioned in a reply in Parliament in 2016 that the price of each Rafale is ₹670 crores while Jaitley said recently the NDA deal was nine per cent cheaper than the negotiated price by the previous regime.

Besides charging the present Government with buying Rafales at a very high price than negotiated by it, Congress is also accusing the government of benefitting Anil Ambani's Reliance Defence Ltd from the Rafale deal. The BJP has dismissed all the allegations as false.

Asked about this issue, Dhanoa said he cannot "comment" on the partnership adding as per offsets clause of Defence Procurement Policy (DPP), the original equipment manufacturer (OEM) chooses his Indian partner. In this case Dassault opted for Reliance and when former French president Francois Hollande's claims came out the French aerospace conglomerate said it chose Reliance.

Justifying the decision to buy 36 jets, the IAF chief in the past too India had gone in for such a step to meet operational requirements.

On question marks about the capabilities of the HAL to build latest generation aircraft, Dhanoa said he was grateful to HAL for support to the IAF. However, he flagged concern over delay in delivery schedules of ongoing projects including six year time overrun for Jaguars, three years for SU-30, two years for Mirage-2000 and five years in case of indigenously developed Tejas light combat aircraft (LCA).

Plans to monitor infra development to counter Chinese contingencies

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The IAF is monitoring infrastructure development in China and has plans to counter contingencies, Air Chief B S Dhanoa said here on Wednesday against the backdrop of reported presence of more than 50 Chinese fighter jets in Tibet. Asserting they were not a threat, he, however, expressed concern over the depleting strength of fighter jet squadrons of the IAF.

At present, the IAF has 31 squadrons (one squadron has 18 to 20 jets) against the approved 42 squadrons to fight a two-front war with Pakistan and China simultaneously. In this backdrop, Dhanoa said "the depleting fighter jets is an issue." The induction of 83 indigenously developed and manufactured Tejas light combat aircraft (LCA), 36 Rafale besides Sukhoi-30s will arrest the drop down from the existing 31 squadrons, he said.

As regards China, the Air Chief, while addressing annual news conference ahead of the Air Force Day on October 8, said "we are watching infrastructure development in China. They have been saying airports are coming up there for improved regional connectivity and

not offensive." However, the IAF has plans in place to meet any threat, Dhanoa said.

He made this point when asked about China building airports especially in the border regions at a rapid pace thereby posing a threat to India. Fielding another question about the reported presence of more than 50 fighter jets in Tibet, Dhanoa said "it is not a threat." The Air Chief also said India is also undertaking infrastructure development hinting at better airports and advanced landing grounds (ALG) in border areas facing China besides strategic roads to maintain logistical support to the armed forces.

A few weeks back Dhanoa had said China was significantly increasing its air power including deploying fighter jets in Tibet and India must modernise its air force to match the capabilities of its "adversaries".

India was facing a unique situation of having two nuclear armed neighbours — China and Pakistan — on its borders and the intentions of the adversaries could change overnight, he said.

"China has approximately 1,700 fighter aircraft of which 800 are fourth generation jets. A large

number of these can be expected to be brought against us in the Tibet Autonomous Region in case of hostilities," he had observed while addressing a seminar.

The Air Chief also said though India was facing a grave security threat, its combat squadron has come down to 31 from sanctioned strength of 42 which is a matter of concern. Each fighter squadron has 16-18 aircraft.

"Indian armed forces are operating in a unique environment. Presently, there are very few countries which are facing security challenges as grave as ours," he said, referring to threats from Pakistan and China. "India's neighbours are not sitting idle... We have a unique situation of having two nuclear armed neighbours on our borders. No other country in the world has this kind of a situation," Dhanoa said.

China has significantly developed and upgraded infrastructure in Tibet Autonomous Region and that fighter jets and surveillance jets have been permanently stationed in airfields in the area bordering India, he said adding "We have to match the force level of our adversaries so that we can fight simultaneously on two fronts."

Cabinet OK's ₹14,441 cr for Bhopal, Indore metros

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Ahead of the coming Assembly polls in Madhya Pradesh this year, the Union Cabinet on Wednesday approved ₹14,441 crore for metro projects in Bhopal and Indore. Both the projects would be completed in four years. These two metro rail projects will impact at least three dozen Assembly seats in the State. There will be 30 stations each in both these metro lines and the per km is expected to be between ₹182 crore and ₹200 crore.

The Union Cabinet also approved redevelopment of Railway Stations by Indian Railway Stations Development Corporation Limited (IRSDC) as Nodal Agency and main Project Development Agency, through simplified procedures and for longer lease tenure of up to 99 years. This program will help provide state-of-the-art amenities for passengers, generate additional revenues and will be overall at least cost neutral to Ministry of Railways

(MoR) over a basket of stations. Furthermore, redevelopment of railway stations across the country will have a multiplier effect in the economy with increased job creation and improved economic growth.

The idea of setting up metro rails in Bhopal and Indore was conceived in 2009. This is the first metro proposal, approved after the implementation of new Metro Rail policy. Union Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad made the announcement after the Cabinet meeting and said that the project in Bhopal would be a 50-50 arrangement between the centre and the State Government.

The total length of Bhopal metro would be 27.87 kilometres while the expenditure is estimated at ₹6,941.40 crore. The length of Karond to AIIMS corridor is 14.99 km, which is mostly elevated and partly underground (at Bhopal Railway Station and Bus Station) and comprises of 16 Stations (14-elevated and 2-underground). The length of Bhadbhada to Ratnagiri Tiraha corridor is 12.88

km comprising of 14 stations all elevated. As many as 23 lakh of Bhopal agglomeration area is expected to be benefited from this project.

The metro project in Indore would run at 31.55 kilometres stretch. It would cover most of the city. The total cost of the project is estimated at ₹7,500.80 crore and would also take four years to complete. The Ring Line will be from Bengali Square — Vijay Nagar — Bhawarsala — Airport — Palasia — Bengali Square. As per plan, numbers of stations on the Ring Line are 30.

The Ring line will connect densely populated areas of the city with the new developing areas along with Railway Station, Airport and ABD under Smart City project. The financing of Indore Metro Rail Project will be partly from Central Government and State Government of Madhya Pradesh on equal equity basis and partly as loan from Asian Development Bank (ADB) and New Development Bank (NDB).

Modi bags UN's highest environmental honour

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

A clean and green environment is at the root of his Government's policies, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said here on Wednesday as he was presented the UN's Champions of the Earth Award by United Nations Secretary General Antonio Guterres.

Modi and French President Emmanuel Macron were jointly awarded the UN's highest environmental honour for their pioneering work in championing the International Solar Alliance and promoting new areas of cooperation on environmental action.

In his address, Modi said climate and calamity are linked to culture, and it will be difficult to avoid calamity as long as concerns for the climate do not become a part of culture.

From agriculture and industrial policies to building houses and construction of toilets, the need for a clean environment has been driving his government's programmes, Modi said.

India's commitment to environment has only increased, he said, adding that his Government is working to bring down "emission intensity" by 20-25 per cent in the next two years against its 2005 figure and by 30-35 per cent by 2030.

"We have also pledged to get rid of single-use plastics by 2022," he said in his speech.

Citing ancient Hindu shlokas and texts, the Prime Minister also referred to India's traditions to assert that respecting nature had always been part of Indian society.

The honour bestowed on him is a recognition of Indian tribes living in forests who respect trees more than their lives, its fishermen who capture only as much fish as they need to earn their living and farmers whose lives are intertwined with the cycle of seasons, he said.

It is also an honour for Indian women who have worshipped trees as gods. "Reuse and recycle" have always been a part of their lives, the Prime Minister said.

Govt requests Tibetan leader Karmapa to return to India

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

After having goofed up by easing out travel restrictions against the 17th Karmapa Ogyen Trinley Dorje leading to his flight to the US in April, 2017, the Centre has now asked the Tibetan spiritual leader to return to India.

Union Home Ministry officials said the Government has asked the Karmapa to return to India as his followers want him to stay in the country.

The Karmapa was staying in India on a refugee card since January 5, 2000 and has been negotiating with the Indian interlocutors for parity of status with the 14th Dalai Lama who has been granted political asylum since his arrival to India in 1959.

The Karmapa in collusion with the Central Tibetan Administration has been trying to sideline the 83-year old Dalai Lama, the tallest leader in the Tibetan Buddhism hierarchy. The Karmapa, who is an accused in a money laundering case in India, has acquired a passport of Dominican Republic, considered to be a money laundering hub. Interestingly, the travel restrictions put earlier Karmapa were relaxed despite the Union Home Ministry having an advisor for Tibetan affairs Amitabh Mathur, a former Research and Analysis Wing officer. Mathur was appointed for the job in October 2017 for a period of three-year term which ended on September 23.

Currently, the Karmapa is allowed to travel anywhere in India, except the Rumtek monastery in Sikkim but with prior permission from the Union Home Ministry.

The Cabinet Committee on Security, headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has also decided to allot a piece of land to the Karmapa in Delhi to construct his monastery. The CCS has decided to allot six acres of land to the Karmapa in Delhi, possibly in the Dwarka area, officials said.

Despite repeated assurances to the Indian officials, the Karmapa has ditched to return to India that granted him a refugee card. Karmapa is the singular Tibetan spiritual leader recognized by both the Dalai Lama and the Chinese government. He heads the Kagyu sect of the Tibetan Buddhism.

INSHORT

BJP APPOINTS MUKUL AS WB POLL IN-CHARGE

New Delhi: BJP president Amit Shah on Wednesday appointed former Minister and national executive member Mukul Roy as election in-charge of West Bengal. Besides, he also appointed Union Ministers JP Nadra election prabhari of Telangana, Prakash Javadekar of Raj and Dharmendra Pradhan as Prabhari of MP.

FINAL CALL ON TRANSFER OF 2K SSB MEN TO IB SOON

New Delhi: The Government is expected to take a final call soon on the transfer of a "dying" cadre of about 2,000 personnel of the Sashtra Seema Bal (SSB) to Intelligence Bureau to bolster the latter's on-ground presence at India's eastern borders with China, Nepal and other countries. They said Union Home Secretary Rajiv Gauba will hold a meeting this week with IB Director Rajiv Jain and newly appointed SSB chief S S Deswal.

MOBILE PANIC BUTTON TRIAL SUCCESSFUL IN UP

New Delhi: Women and Child Development Minister Maneka Gandhi on Wednesday said user trial of a panic button feature on mobile handsets, to provide emergency response to women in distress, has been completed successfully in 47 districts of UP.

AFSPA EXTENDED IN 3 DISTRICTS OF ARUNACHAL

New Delhi: The Centre has extended the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act in three districts of Arunachal Pradesh and its eight police station areas bordering Assam by another six months, in view of continuing activities of banned insurgent groups of the Northeast.

REFUND FEE OR FACE ACTION: HRD MINISTRY

New Delhi: The Ministry of Human Resource Development has warned higher educational institutions of strict action if they do not return the fees of those withdrawing admissions. Institutions are bound to return fees and original documents of students in case a candidate opts to withdraw the admission, according to the norms of the University Grants Commission (UGC) and the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE).

SUSHMA, UN CHIEF DISCUSS KEY ISSUES

New Delhi: External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj on Wednesday met United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres and discussed key issues such as UN Security Council reforms and climate change. "Working in close synergy with the highest organ of multilateralism. EAM @SushmaSwaraj welcomed UNSG @antonioGuterres. Had productive discussions on issues related to climate change, UNSC reforms and other areas of mutual interest," MEA spokesperson Raveesh Kumar tweeted after Swaraj's meeting with Guterres.

AMBUJA CHAIRMAN APPOINTED AS AIMA PREZ

New Delhi: Ambuja Neotia Group chairman Harshavardhan Neotia has been elected the President of All India Management Association (AIMA) for the year 2018-19.

SC seeks reply from States, UTs on rehabilitation homes for mentally ill

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Wednesday sought reports within two weeks from State Governments and Union Territories on the status of setting up rehabilitation homes for people with mental illness.

Ten States and a UT have filed their response on the compliance of the Centre's guidelines for setting up of rehabilitation homes for persons living with mental illness (who have been cured, or who do not need further hospitalisation, or who are homeless or are not accepted by their families).

A bench of Justices U U Lalit and D Y Chandrachud which issued fresh notice said that it will go into the merits of the case after

all States and UTs have filed their responses in two weeks.

Petitioner in-person advocate Gaurav Bansal said that more than 15,000 people are forced to stay with the mentally ill patients.

He said that except for few, many States and UTs have not complied with the order of July 10, 2017, in which they were asked to implement the guidelines prepared by Centre within one year period.

The bench said it will take up the matter for hearing immediately after three weeks and asked Bansal to prepare a chart based on the replies filed by the state.

RSS on Sabarimala verdict: Devotees sentiments cannot be ignored

New Delhi: Noting that devotees' sentiments "cannot be ignored" while considering the Supreme Court verdict allowing entry of women into the Sabarimala temple, the RSS on Wednesday called upon all stakeholders to come together and address the issue availing "judicial options also".

The judgement of the Supreme Court should be honoured, the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) maintained.

"The recent judgement on Sabarimala Devasthanam has evoked reactions all over the country. While we all respect the varied temple traditions followed by devotees in Bharat, we have to also honour the hon-

ourable Supreme Court," RSS General Secretary Suresh Bhayyaji Joshi said in a statement.

On September 28, the apex court threw open the doors of Sabarimala temple in Kerala to girls and women of all age groups by lifting the ban on the entry of those between the age of 10 and 50, holding this centuries-old Hindu religious practice is illegal and unconstitutional.

"While the Supreme Court judgement should be respected, RSS calls upon all the stakeholders, including spiritual and community leaders, to come together to analyse and address the issue availing judicial options also," the RSS said.

Emphasising that it is an issue of

a local temple tradition and faith to which sentiments of millions of devotees, including women, are attached, the RSS underlined that these sentiments of the devotees cannot be ignored while considering the judgement.

"There is an obvious reaction to the same by the devotees, especially women, who are protesting against the forceful breaking of the tradition," Joshi said.

The RSS, which has wide presence in the Left-ruled Kerala and has been at loggerheads with the ruling CPI(M), termed the state government's decision to implement the apex court's order with immediate effect as unfortunate.

BHIMA-KOREGAON CASE

Maha Govt moves top court against release of Navlakha from house arrest

New Delhi: The Maharashtra Government on Wednesday moved the Supreme Court against the Delhi High Court order allowing Gautam Navlakha, one of the five activists arrested in connection with the Koregaon-Bhima case, to be freed from house arrest.

The Delhi High Court freed Navlakha from house arrest on Monday, five weeks after he and four other rights activists were arrested in connection with the Koregaon-Bhima violence in Maharashtra.

The plea challenging the order was filed in the apex court registry Wednesday morning, Nishant Katneshwar, counsel for the Maharashtra government, told PTI.

Granting relief to Navlakha, 65, the high court also quashed the trial court's transit remand order which he had challenged before the matter was taken to the Supreme Court.

The high court said Navlakha's detention had exceeded 24 hours which was "untenable".

The bench of Justices S Muralidhar and Vinod Goel, while setting aside the August 28 order of the chief metropolitan magistrate granting Navlakha transit remand, had said there was non-compliance of basic provisions of the Constitution and the CrPc which were mandatory in nature.

The bench also said the trial court order was unsustainable in law.

Stop data manipulation to show improvement in punctuality, Piyush tells Railway zones

New Delhi: Minister of Railways Piyush Goyal has warned zonal railways to stop data manipulation to show improvement in punctuality, indicating that punctuality figures provided by zones varied from passengers' feedback.

The national transporter had released figures that showed 76 per cent trains were running on time, as compared to an average 60 per cent all through.

In a letter to the zonal heads, the Railway Board last week warned against such fudging of data.

"Wrong feeding of arrival/departure of trains at terminals and interchange points continues to be adopted by zonal railways and divisions falsify records to improve punctuality.

"Feedback from general public

through social media is continuously being received on daily basis. MR (Minister of Railways) has expressed his serious displeasure and directed that the practice must stop forthwith. Please ensure strict compliance to avoid any unpleasant situation," it said.

Punctuality performance of mail/express trains during the period from September 17 to September 23 showed that the Ranchi division in the South Eastern Railway had achieved 100 per cent punctuality and 21 divisions had recorded punctuality of 90 per cent and above during the period.

This is a major improvement from the average 60 per cent punctuality being maintained just two months back.

'Coalition not in Cong' DNA: BJP's dig after Maya announced to go solo in Rajasthan, MP

New Delhi: With Mayawati announcing to go alone, the BJP on Wednesday took a dig at the Congress saying forging a coalition was not in its DNA and it only gives importance to the Gandhi family.

"With whom the Congress allies is entirely their business, but in light of concerns and pain of Mayawati, I can only say that coalition is not a part of the Congress DNA. They only give importance to the family," Union Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad told reporters.

The BSP supreme announced that her party will contest Assembly elections in Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh either on its own or in alliance with regional parties but not with the Congress.

She accused the Congress of trying to "finish" the BSP, saying the grand old party was more interested in destroying her party than dislodging the BJP.

BJP general secretary Ram Madhav also took a dig at the Opposition over its unity efforts.

"Mahagathabandhan (grand alliance) in 'progress'. First AAP and now BSP calling the bluff. Mayawati says Congress arrogant, a new revelation for her, and declares no alliance in Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan too. Chhattisgarh already dumped," he tweeted.

Mayawati has announced that the BSP will tie up with Aji Jogi's party for Chhattisgarh Assembly polls.

JD(U) holds Dalit meet to expand its support base

FAIZAN AHMAD ■ PATNA

The JD(U) has stepped up organising its caste oriented meetings and conferences ahead of general election. The party in power for about 14 years in alliance with the BJP has once again started making all out efforts to win over the support of Dalits and EBCs. In this series the party held a Dalit & Mahadalit Sammelan here on Wednesday. Earlier a meeting of Kushwaha society had also been organised.

Chief Minister Nitish Kumar addressing the well attended Sammelan declared that no power on earth could snatch the reservation benefit enshrined in the Constitution which was authored by B R Ambedkar. "There are a lot of rumour mongering that the reservation benefit would be taken off but this is only a false propaganda by vested interest who have nothing to do and only to create confusion," he said without elaborating.

The reservation policy, the CM added, was to help the marginalised sections and to bring them in mainstream and this policy could not be amended or diluted. "The country cannot prosper with the prosperity of a handful of people," he said.

Nitish said when he came to power in 2005 the budget for the scheduled cases was only ₹12.5 crore which has jumped to



JD(U) president and Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar being felicitated by party MLA Shyam Rajak during Dalit-Mahadalit Sammelan in Patna on Wednesday. PTI

₹1,224 crore in 2018-19. The 12.5 per cent out of school children, mostly dalits, have been brought to schools, several hundred new schools opened and over a lakh teachers appointed for the educational push to dalit children.

"The neglected and oppressed class will not remain so," declared Nitish and asked the society to remain united and maintain communal harmony at every cost for the larger interest of the society and the nation and development. He also claimed that the total prohibition enforced by his Government was bearing positive results in the society particularly the dalits and mahadalits where boozing was part of their culture and civilisation and the men were dying at lesser age.

"Do you know why no man with grey hairs in

Musahar community is found?" asked former MLA Arun Manjhi. And he answered, because of death in this community at earlier stage due to boozing habit.

Earlier Sammelan convenor and JD(U) national secretary Shyam Rajak highlighted the works done by Nitish for the dalit society. He said he gave a sense of honour and dignity to the class by elevating their social status. The CM, Rajak said, has made a practice to invite the senior dalit villager to hoist flag on Independence and Republic Days every year in a remote village. This was the second dalit conference, the first being at Barh a couple of days back, and the brain behind the organisation is JD(U) top leader RCP Singh who has planned to hold such conferences across the State.

BJP to replicate its Gujarat organisational model in Bengal

NAYAN DAVE ■ GANDHINAGAR

Ahead of the Lok Sabha polls, the ruling BJP has chalked out a plan to replicate 'Gujarat Model' to strengthen organisational structure of the saffron brigade in Mamata Banerjee's bastion West Bengal by sending senior Gujarat BJP leaders to train local party workers of the eastern State.

Sources in the state BJP unit said that already 20 'Vistarak' have been trained at Gujarat BJP's headquarters 'Shri Kamalam' recently.

Now senior BJP leaders handpicked by BJP president Amit Shah would camp at Kolkata and other cities to impart micro management system of campaigning during the elections.

"The training sessions for Bengal BJP leaders and workers would be part of the party's long term plan and not limited to upcoming Lok Sabha polls. BJP is making its base broad in the state and the party is also eyeing to win 2021 assembly polls there," said a senior BJP leader.

Amit Thaker, senior BJP leader and former national president of BJP Yuva Morcha, the youth wing of the saffron party has been appointed as the

coordinator in West Bengal.

Immediate past president of Gujarat BJP Yuva Morcha Pradipsinh Vaghela and another leader Prithviraj Patel have been also appointed as Assistant Coordinators, who would work along with some other Gujarat BJP leaders in Bengal under the leadership of Thaker.

The first batch of BJP workers from Bengal, who took training in Gujarat also travelled various districts of Gujarat and attended meetings of different committees and morchas.

They also studied responsibilities given to page-presidents during elections. They were given knowledge of Gujarat BJP's operations right from booth level.

They were given chance to meet top brass of BJP including state president Jitu Vaghani, secretary organisation Bhikhu Dalasania and others.

Meanwhile, Gujarat BJP workers from Saurashtra region and northern parts of the State to support their counterparts in poll bound Rajasthan. Trained party workers from central and south Gujarat would visit Madhya Pradesh where assembly polls would be held during the current year.

Owaisi-Prakash Ambedkar pact creates ripples in Maharashtra

Aurangabad rally attracts huge crowd

OMER FAROOQ ■ HYDERABAD

The keenly awaited Muslim-Dalit alliance of Hyderabad based Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen and Dalit leader Prakash Ambedkar was launched with a bang ripples of which were felt across Maharashtra. The joint massive rally of the MIM and Bharep Bahujan Vanchit Aghadi in Aurangabad on Tuesday evening was attended by an estimated half a million people from across the State.

The combine show of strength marked the coming together of the weaker sections, which were largely pushed to the margins of the State politics over the decades.

Addressing the rally MIM President and Member of Parliament from Hyderabad Asaduddin Owaisi said, "This is an alliance of all the oppressed and suppressed sections of the society". He gave a call to the supporters of both the organisations to work tirelessly to ensure that Prakash Ambedkar was sent to Parliament in the next elections. "Prakash sahab is our elder brother. He is the grand son of the architect of Indian constitution Dr Baba



Saheb Ambedkar who gave equality and fraternity," he said.

Giving entire credit of giving right to liberty, equality and fraternity to each and every citizen of the country "We will have to pay back the debt of Dr Ambedkar by sending Prakash sahab to the Parliament", he said. Owaisi vowed to work to get him elected to Parliament the same way as Muslims of Bengal had elected Dr BR Ambedkar to the constituent Assembly of India.

"Who gave us this constitution? Not the Sanghi organization (RSS), not the Nehru Gandhi family. The constitution was given to us by Dr Ambedkar", he said amid the slogans of "Jai Bheem Jai meem" signifying the Dalit-Muslim alliance.

He recalled how the Dalits were subjected to inhuman treatment and the practice of untouchability before the constitution came into effect.

"Who are the people who are suffering the worst discrimination even today. Dalits and Muslims have the same



problems and they will have to work together to solve them", he said. He said that the alliance will work to win at least five Lok Sabha seats from Maharashtra in the coming elections.

Prakash Ambedkar, who was a popular Dalit leader in Maharashtra, said that the success of the Alliance would depend on how closely and harmoniously both the Muslims and Dalits work together on the ground. "It is for you to strengthen it and make it successful", he said.

The rally was preceded by a daylong convention, which was attended by delegates from several districts of Maharashtra. The leaders of Bahujan Vanchit Aghadi from districts said that the Dalit would have to dispel the impression that any upper caste party can buy the over by offering them a little money or a liquor bottle.

The alliance and the rally mark major step forward for the MIM in Maharashtra where it had won 2 assembly seats in 2015 and has presence in several civic bodies of the State.

A BLOT ON THE FACE OF DEVELOPMENT

Husband carries dying wife on shoulders through river



Cotton farmer Ram Rathod of Umbri village in Adilabad district carries his dying wife through river in absence of motorable road. She was later declared dead on arrival at a rural health centre. Pioneer photo

Failed to save her

OMER FAROOQ ■ HYDERABAD

In a shocking incident a farmer had to carry his dying wife on his shoulder for three kms and also waded through a river to take her to a Government hospital. But all his frantic efforts went in vain and she was declared dead on reaching the rural hospital.

According to the police 30 year old Pushpa Rathod, a debt ridden tenant farmer attempted suicide by consuming pesticide after her cotton crop was destroyed by the recent rains. Her husband Ram Rathod said that they had borrowed a loan of ₹1,00,000 from bank and private moneylenders to grow the crop but his wife went into depression when the crop was destroyed by the heavy rains recently.

A resident of remote Umbri village of Adilabad district, Pushpa consumed pesticide on Tuesday to end her life.

Her desperate husband made repeated calls for an ambulance to take her to hospital but could not get any help, as there was no navigable road linking the village to outside world.

Finally the husband carried Pushpa on his shoulder and walked and also waded through a river to reach the spot where a vehicle was arranged. But by the time she was taken to Government primary health centre at Narnoor she had breathed her last.

The heartrending tragedy took place just 300 kms away from the State Capital Hyderabad, one of the fastest growing and one of the most developed city in India. This has come close on the heel of another incident in neighboring Andhra Pradesh where a tribal woman had to deliver in the open forest area while she was being taken by the local people on a makeshift palanquin.

The video of the incident made by a tribal youth had gone viral on social media.

BJP sweeps Panchayat bypolls in Tripura

Agartala: The ruling BJP on Wednesday swept the bypolls for the vacant seats in different Panchayati Raj Institutions, bagging 113 Gram Panchayat seats, officials said.

The Bharatiya Janata Party's ally Indigenous People's Front of Tripura (IPFT) secured nine seats in Gram Panchayats, Tripura State Election Commission (TSEC) officials said.

The opposition Communist Party of India-Marxist (CPI-M) and the Congress won four seats each.

The BJP also won five Panchayat Samiti seats while the CPI-M managed only two seats. The by-elections to 3,386 seats — 3,207 Gram Panchayat seats, 161 Panchayat Samiti seats and 18 Zilla Parishad seats — were scheduled for September 30, but polling was held in only 130 Gram Panchayat and seven Panchayat Samiti seats in 11 blocks as over 96 per cent of the seats were won by the BJP candidates unopposed.

These seats fell vacant following large-scale resignations of elected representatives of the Left and other parties after the BJP-led coalition came to power in Tripura in March.

Some of the three-tier Panchayat seats were lying vacant also due to the death of the elected representatives. Almost all parties, including the BJP's junior partner IPFT, had been demanding rescheduling of the September 30 Panchayat elections to ensure the participation of all parties following large-scale violence during electioneering.

The Opposition CPI-M-led Left Front, the Congress and the IPFT, a tribal-based party, had separately urged the State EC to reschedule the election process as they claimed that "massive violence prevented their nominees from filing papers."

Kerala asks fishermen not to venture into sea amid cyclone fears



THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The Kerala Government has told fishermen not to venture into the sea after October 5 following warning of a cyclone by India Meteorological Department, Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan said on Wednesday.

The Government is making arrangements to inform people in the coastal areas of the state, he said.

The IMD has sounded a red alert in Idukki, Palakkad and Thrissur districts, as very heavy rains have been predicted on October 7, while several parts of the State are likely to get heavy rains on October 5," the Chief Minister told media here.

District authorities have been asked to be ready for any

eventuality as landslides can be expected, said Vijayan.

"In view of the forecast, it's better to avoid travel at night, especially in the hilly areas. Starting Friday, travel towards Munnar should be avoided until further orders. Also, those living along the banks of lakes and rivers should not go out for fishing," said Vijayan.

TDP leader Murthy dies in US road accident

OMER FAROOQ ■ HYDERABAD

A veteran Telugu Desam Party leader, member of Andhra Pradesh legislative council and former Member of Parliament from Visakhapatnam MVVS Murthy was killed in a road accident in the United States of America on Tuesday.

According to his family members in Visakhapatnam 76 years old Murthy, who had founded the renowned deemed university "Gitam" died when the car he was travelling in collided with a truck in Alaska. Murthy, also famous as "Gitam Murthy" and Gold Spot Murthy for successfully marketing the soft drink of that brand, was in the USA to address an Alumni meet of the university he founded.

Murthy and three others died when they were on their way from Alaska to visit Anchorage wildlife sanctuary. Others who died in the accident include V Basavapunniah, V Shivaprasad, VBR Choudhary.

Telugu Association of North America president Satish Vemana said that all the four bodies were shifted to Alaska State Medical Examination Centre for postmortem.

Another person who was injured in the accident was also admitted to hospital.

The news of his death sent waves of shock in Visakhapatnam from where he was elected to Lok Sabha



Former MP and senior TDP leader Murthy

twice in 1991 and 1999. Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu expressing deep grief and distress over the death of senior party leader directed the State Government officials based in New Delhi to make necessary arrangements to bring the body of Murthy for funeral with State honors. MVVS Murthy was with the TDP since its formation by the film star turned politician NT Rama Rao.

A successful businessman Murthy turned to education when he founded Gandhi Institute of Technology and Management and worked hard to take it to new heights. The Institute was recognized by the Government of India as a deemed university.

Another addition to a long list

Murthy's death has come even before the TDP could recover from the shock the death of another senior party leader N Harikrishna in a road accident in Nalgonda district near Hyderabad recently.

The latest in the series of many such tragedies hitting the TDP men has left the party cadres wondering whether the party was hit by any curse.

The long list of party leaders who fell victim to the road accidents include former Parliamentary party leader K Yerran Naidu who was killed on November 2, 2012 in when he was returning to his hometown Srikaulam from Visakhapatnam.

His car was hit by a truck. He was one of the politiburo members of the party.

TDP general secretary and former MP Lal Jan Basha, another key leader of the party died on August 15, 2013 while going from Hyderabad to his hometown Guntur.

His vehicle overturned near Narkatpally in Nalgonda district and he died on the spot.

It was in the same district that another politiburo of the TDP N Harikrishna died on August 29 last when his vehicle over turned after hitting divider at a very high speed. He was on his way to attend a wedding. He was son of party founder NT Rama Rao and brother in law of Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu.



An artisan decorates earthen pitchers used during Gujarati folk dance 'Garba', ahead of Navratri festival in Ahmedabad on Wednesday. PTI

K'taka Govt, Infosys join hands against cybercrime

KESTUR VASUKI ■ BENGALURU

In a major initiative to combat cyber crimes, Karnataka Government has roped in Infosys foundation, the philanthropic arm of Infosys, on Tuesday and signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Karnataka Criminal Investigation Department (CID) and Data Security Council of India (DSCI) for setting up the Centre for Cybercrime Investigation Training & Research (CCITR).

As part of this MoU, the Infosys Foundation will support the establishment of the Centre that will house the CCITR through a public-private-partnership model.

The CCITR aims to train police, prosecution, judiciary and other departments in handling technology investigations and create standard operating procedures (SOPs) in cybercrime investigations. The center will also be used to perform research in digital forensics and cybercrime investigation that will improve the prosecution of cybercrime cases investigated by the Karnataka Police.

Infosys Foundation Chairperson Sudha Murthy said CCITR is a project for the present and the future, aiming to build the state-of-the-art facilities to tackle cyber and forensic crimes in Karnataka.

"Once operational, it will be a proud milestone for CID and DSCI to curb misuse and unethical use of technology to create distress and uneasiness for fellow beings," she said. "The CCITR is a project for the present and the future; aiming to build state of the art facilities to tackle cyber and forensic crimes in Karnataka. Infosys Foundation is proud to contribute to this project. Once operational, it will be a proud milestone for the CID and DSCI to curb misuse and unethical use of technology to create distress and uneasiness for fellow beings, she added."

Under the MoU, the Infosys Foundation will support the setup cost and associated facility management and operational costs, including maintenance of equipment and their fittings, the capital

Infosys Foundation Chairperson Sudha Murthy said CCITR is a project for the present and the future, aiming to build the state-of-the-art facilities to tackle cyber and forensic crimes in Karnataka.

investment for hardware, software and working capital requirements for conducting training programs, conferences and digital forensic analysis, Technological infrastructure by providing specialized tools and incurring relevant licensing costs, Upgradation of the existing cyber lab for a period of five years.

"Cyberspace has turned out to be the world's largest ungoverned space demanding all geographical boundaries. Crimes using cyberspace will be the biggest organised crime in the times to come. Law enforcement agencies need to proactively get equipped in terms of hardware, software and expertise to face this chal-

lenge", said Praveen Sood, Director General of Police, CID, Karnataka.

"DSCI continues its commitment to build the capacity of law enforcement in handling cybercrimes through our Cyber Forensics initiative. The Cybercrime investigation manuals developed by DSCI are acting as reference material for the police, prosecution and judiciary in handling cybercrimes. DSCI is pleased to partner with Infosys Foundation in scaling up the capacity building efforts and setting up the Centre for Cybercrime Investigation Training and Research at CID Headquarters which would enhance the investigation capabilities of Karnataka State Police," said Rama Vedashree, CEO, Data Security Council of India.

Deputy Chief Minister and Home minister G P Hameshwara, stressed the need for such a lab to detect crimes in an effective and quick manner. The required training for the personnel would be ensured by inviting cyber experts from other countries, he said.

Sabarimala: Kerala Govt, TDB won't challenge SC order

Thiruvananthapuram: Rejecting the Opposition demand to file a review petition in the Supreme Court against its order, allowing women of all age groups into Sabarimala, the Kerala Government Wednesday said it would implement the verdict in the coming pilgrim season itself.

A high-level meeting here of the Travancore Devaswom Board (TDB), which manages the Lord Ayyappa temple, also decided to make necessary arrangements for women pilgrims visiting the hill shrine when it opens for the annual pilgrimage season on October 16.

Opposition Congress termed the CPI(M)-led LDF Government's decision as 'unilateral' and said it was against the interest of a majority of Ayyappa devotees in and outside the State.

It alleged that TDB President A Padmakumar, who earlier pitched for filing the review, had backtracked from his stand after Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan 'chided' him. PTI

Akhilesh asks Cong to become inclusive

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Soon after the Bahujan Samaj Party dumped the Congress and announced to contest the Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan assembly polls alone, Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav gave a pep talk to the Congress, asking it to be large hearted and inclusive for carrying along all like-minded parties.

"Congress was delaying the issue of alliance for assembly polls in MP, Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh with like-minded parties. This was creating confusion among smaller parties. It is the duty of the Congress to act as an elder brother in the alliance but they seem to have other priorities," Akhilesh Yadav said in a statement issued in Lucknow on Wednesday.

The SP president said that due to the delay in the announcement of alliance, other parties were announcing their candidates.

The SP chief defended the BSP saying, "A deliberate lie is being spread that the BSP chief is under pressure from Central Government or Central investigation agencies. At the same time, I must say that the Congress too is a good political outfit."

Akhilesh Yadav has been visiting MP frequently and addressing public meetings there, and has asked the party's state leadership to select candidates for the assembly polls. Meanwhile, Akhilesh

SP sets terms for Congress tie-up

Lucknow: Following in the footsteps of Bahujan Samaj Party, Samajwadi Party has also set terms for an alliance with Congress in Uttar Pradesh for the 2019 Lok Sabha election.

The SP has conveyed to the Congress that any electoral alliance will be meaningful only if it is for three poll-bound States and Uttar Pradesh. Three States, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh will go to polls in November.

A senior SP leader said that the party cadre wanted seats from the Congress in poll-bound Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh in exchange for a pact in UP, where the SP already has an alliance with the Bahujan Samaj Party.

"After fighting against each other in these States, an

alliance only for UP will look absurd," SP general secretary Kiranmoy Nanda said.

The SP wants to spread its wings in the three Hindi-speaking States of Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh where assembly elections are due next month.

Akhilesh has toured Madhya Pradesh several times in the last couple of months, including a recent one to Shahdol district of MP. Earlier, the BSP, too, demanded a pan-India pact with the Congress as the two sides were negotiating alliance in poll-bound States.

BSP chief Mayawati eventually picked Ajit Jogi's Janata Congress over the Congress in Chhattisgarh, and announced candidates for 22 seats in Madhya Pradesh. **PNS**

Scam-hit BoM tightens its belt, announces closure of 51 branches

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

The loan scam-hit Bank of Maharashtra (BoM) has announced a closure of 51 branches across the country as part of a cost-cutting measure.

The BoM, which was in the news for the wrong reasons in June this year after its CMD Ravindra Marathe, his predecessor Sushil Muhnot and four others in connection with the ₹2,043 crore DSK group scam case, has begun to tighten its belt fiscally.

Through an advertisement published in a Marathi newspaper on Monday, the Pune-headquartered BoM stated that it had either closed or merged 51 branches across the country and by December 31, 2018, it would annul the IFSC and MICR codes of these branches.

According to informed sources in the bank, all the 51 branches are in urban centres and have been identified for the action as they were declared unviable and incurring huge losses.

While the BoM is in the process of cancelling IFSC and MICR codes of these all the Savings, Current and other bank accounts have been transferred to the branches with which these have been merged.

The BoM has, meanwhile, directed all customers to deposit their cheque-books issued from the closed branches with the old IFSC/MICR Codes by Nov. 30, and collect their payment instruments

bearing the new branch's IFSC/MICR Codes.

Simultaneously, the BoM cautioned that since the old IFSC/MICR Codes have been spiked and shall be discontinued permanently from Dec. 31 this year, henceforth customers should conduct all their banking transactions only with the new IFSC/MICR Codes.

It may be recalled that nine days after they were arrested in connection with the ₹2,043 crore DSK group scam, the BoM had on June 29 this year divested its Managing Director and CEO Ravindra P. Marathe and its Executive Director R K Gupta "of all the functional responsibilities of the bank with immediate effect".

Simultaneously the BoM entrusted A C Raut, Executive Director of the Bank with all the functional responsibilities as the Managing Director and CEO and other Executive Director of the bank.

The reshuffle in the upper echelons of the BoM had come after the Economic Offences Wing (EOW) of the Pune police had on June 20 arrested Marathe, Gupta, BoM's former Managing Director and CEO Sushil Muhnot and three others in connection with the ₹2,043 crore DSK group scam case.

The bank executives and officials have been charged with advancing huge sums of loans to the fraud-accused developer Kulkarni and his companies in alleged violation of banking norms.

RAPS-3 sets record of 766 days' continuous operation

Mumbai: The Unit 3 of Rajasthan Atomic Power Station (RAPS-3) on Wednesday set a new record of continuous operation of 766 days, by surpassing the earlier record of 765 days set by the Unit-5 of RAPS-5 in 2014.

Another NPCIL reactor — the 220 mw Unit -1 of Kaiga Generating Systems (KGS-1) — has been operating continuously for 873 days. "Our reactors reactors have demonstrated continuous operation of more than a year 28 years so far," a NPCIL spokesperson said.

"The consistent, safe and reliable of reactors for long period bears testimony to the maturity achieved in nuclear power technology," the spokesperson said.

According to the spokesperson, the experts in the Operation Safety Review Team (OSART) of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), following the peer review of RAPS 3 and 4 had stated: "Open Communication, enthusiasm, motivation and sense of ownership were observed at all levels during the OSART Mission. These attributes have cultivated an environment of safety culture at RAPS 3 & 4".

Currently, NPCIL has 22 nuclear reactors with a capacity of 6780 MW in operation and eight reactors with a capacity of 6,200 MW are under construction. "Work has been initiated on 12 reactors with total capacity of 9,000 MW—for which administrative approval and financial sanction have been accorded by the Government," the spokesman added. **TN RAGHUNATHA**

Nagerbazar blast: CID takes over case

PNS ■ KOLKATA

Considering the "gravity" of the Nagerbazar explosion that on Tuesday rocked a congested residential area of South Dum Dum Municipality in northern suburbs of Kolkata killing a child dead and leaving at least 10 people battling for their lives the State Home Department on Wednesday entrusted the Criminal Investigation Department to investigate into the matter.

The CID sources said a suo motu case had already been registered against unknown persons for causing death and destruction.

"We are looking into all possible angles," a CID official said refusing to dwell on who prompted the ground zero to be cleaned up even before the probe team could arrive at the spot. "We have been asked to

conduct the investigation and the Department will leave no stone unturned to unearth the reason behind the blast," the officer said remaining noncommittal about discovery of any clue.

A local 7-year-old boy died on Tuesday morning when a 4-kg socket bomb resembling a directional mine exploded severely injuring about 10 people. "It was a socket bomb explosion," officials said adding "a socket bomb is an improvised explosive device which may have exploded due to pressure."

"It is not only about the boy who died yesterday. About 5 more people are in a very very serious condition with some of them getting their abdomen blown off literally," a senior doctor said from RG Kar medical College Hospital said.

CMC Hospital fire: 400 patients evacuated

Kolkata: Fires do not seem to leave Kolkata. About 400 patients admitted in Asia's oldest Calcutta medical College and Hospital had a providential escape when the cardiology and intensive care units of the hospital caught fire on Wednesday morning.

The fire that broke out in the pharmacy nearly consumed the patients but for the instant measures taken by the staff, doctors and the patients' relatives who carried out the rescue work literally carrying ITU patients rapped in bed sheets or simply by hand.

"We could not see any fire but smoke billowed out asphyxiating the patients about 400 in number and it took great effort to bring them out in a matter of minutes," a security staff said adding the fire brigade broke open a side wall and allowed the smoke to billow out.

Apart from the firefighters and the police, West Bengal's disaster management authority officials have also reached the medical college.

There was chaos and panic after the fire broke out. Many patients had to be taken out of the building in stretchers and even bed sheets with their saline drips. A large number of patients were shifted to neighbouring medical colleges including RG Kar and NRS Medical College and Hospital.

Sources said one patient died of asphyxiation though the hospital staff would not provide the reason of the death.

This is the second fire in a fortnight the first one destroying the 150-year-old Bagri market, Asia's one of the largest wholesale facilities. A few years ago a similar fire at Kolkata's AMRI Hospital choked to death about 90 patients. **PNS**

Cong-BJP slugfest clouds J&K civic poll issues

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

As the campaign in the ongoing Municipal polls in Jammu & Kashmir is reaching its crescendo, the common issues of 'aam admi' hovering around 'bikri', 'sadak' and 'pani' have taken a back seat while slugfest between Congress and BJP and other issues of national politics have taken centre stage.

Almost all the parties in the fray barring independent can-

didates are resorting to raking up emotive issues to pin down their nearest rivals.

Instead of debating their own report card before the electorate the State BJP leadership is still relying on the charisma of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to bail them out. On the other hand the opposition parties including the Congress and Panthers party are cornering the BJP over ignoring the plight of people

belonging to Jammu region and its poor performance in the State Government.

To defeat Congress at any cost in the municipal polls the BJP has gone to the extent of telling the voters in municipal wards, "every single vote in support of the Congress party will be a vote in favour of Pakistan, and terrorist outfits like Lashkar-e-Toiba and Jaish-e-Mohammad".

Every where State BJP

Chief Ravinder Raina is addressing election meetings in support of party candidates he is raking up the issue of congress party's stand on terrorism.

Addressing series of meeting in Jammu west Ravinder Raina told voters, "when congress party leaders issue a statement cadre of Lashkar-e-Toiba, Hizbul Mujahideen, Jaish-e-Mohammad, Taliban, and Hurriyat acknowledge it with loud clapping".

In these election meetings Raina is frequently posing a direct question before the electorate "how can you support a party which is busy abusing jawans of the Indian army"?

Insiders in the party claim that the State BJP Chief has adopted this approach in the final leg of the campaigning.

"They have realised now that the Congress party candidates and party rebel candidates are throwing tough challenge to the BJP candidates on ground zero that is why they have started raising national issues of politics at the level of municipal polls to defeat them".

More than 40 rebel BJP candidates in the fray are receiving good response from the masses as they remained in direct contact unless parachuted party workers and those who chose back door entry to join the fray at the last minute.

Corned by angry voters on ground zero BJP is also raising the issue of settlement of Rohingyas and over 1 lakh Bangladeshi nationals in Jammu.

Karan Sat Sharma, BJYM leader and son of former State BJP Chief Sat Sharma in his campaign meetings exposing the role of the Congress and National conference in allowing Rohingyas to settle down in Jammu.

He told voters, "between 2008 and 2014 both National Conference and Congress facilitated illegal settlement of one lakh Bangladeshi's in Jammu.

He said if you people will repeat the same mistake these 1 lakh Bangladeshi's will multiply in to 5 lakh and in next 10 years local people from Jammu would be forced to run away from Jammu to settle at any other place. He cautioned vot-

ers to remain vigilant and not to treat these elections as routine elections. He said these illegal immigrants were allowed to encroach upon State/forest land on the outskirts of Jammu and these parties remained mum and mute spectator.

BSES BSES Rajdhani Power Limited, New Delhi

NOTICE INVITING TENDER Date: 04.10.2018

BSES Rajdhani Power Ltd., Delhi intends to invite tenders from all bidders in two envelope system for following job:-

NIT No.	Brief Item Description	Estimated Cost (₹)	Cost of EMD (₹)	Due Date & Time of Submission	Date & Time of Opening
1. CMC/BR/18-19/SV/ANI/724	RENOVATION OF OFFICE BUILDING / COMPLAIN CENTER IN SOUTH-1 CIRCLE (CIVIL & ELECTRICAL WORKS) - 13 LOCATIONS	211.34 Lacs.	2,11,634.44/-	08.10.2018 3.30 PM	08.10.2018 4.00 PM
2. CMC/BR/18-19/SV/ANI/725	RENOVATION OF OFFICE BUILDING / COMPLAIN CENTER IN SOUTH-2 CIRCLE (CIVIL & ELECTRICAL WORKS) - 15 LOCATIONS	378.33 Lacs.	3,78,333.84/-	----	----
3. CMC/BR/18-19/SV/ANI/726	RENOVATION OF OFFICE BUILDING / COMPLAIN CENTER IN SOUTH-3 CIRCLE (CIVIL & ELECTRICAL WORKS) - 14 LOCATIONS	265.28 Lacs.	2,65,285.42/-	----	----
4. CMC/BR/18-19/SV/ANI/727	RENOVATION OF OFFICE BUILDING / COMPLAIN CENTER IN SOUTH-4 CIRCLE (CIVIL & ELECTRICAL WORKS) - 14 LOCATIONS	256.03 Lacs.	2,56,036.25/-	----	----
5. CMC/BR/18-19/SV/ANI/728	RENOVATION OF OFFICE BUILDING / COMPLAIN CENTER IN WEST-1 CIRCLE (CIVIL & ELECTRICAL WORKS) - 14 LOCATIONS	219.55 Lacs.	2,19,557.47/-	----	----
6. CMC/BR/18-19/SV/ANI/729	RENOVATION OF OFFICE BUILDING / COMPLAIN CENTER IN WEST-2 CIRCLE (CIVIL & ELECTRICAL WORKS) - 11 LOCATIONS	238.77 Lacs.	2,38,778.87/-	----	----
7. CMC/BR/18-19/SV/ANI/730	RENOVATION OF OFFICE BUILDING / COMPLAIN CENTER IN WEST-3 CIRCLE (CIVIL & ELECTRICAL WORKS) - 13 LOCATIONS	218.17 Lacs.	2,18,175.24/-	----	----
8. CMC/BR/18-19/SV/ANI/731	RENOVATION OF OFFICE BUILDING / COMPLAIN CENTER IN WEST-4 CIRCLE (CIVIL & ELECTRICAL WORKS) - 13 LOCATIONS	260.25 Lacs.	2,60,253.56/-	----	----
9. CMC/BR/18-19/FK/MS/722	SUPPLY, INSTALLATION, TESTING AND COMMISSIONING OF HVAC SYSTEM AT GROUND AND THIRD FLOOR AT CSO, BSES BHAWAN NEHRU PLACE, NEW DELHI IN BRPL	90 Lacs.	1,80,000/-	18.10.2018 3.30 PM	18.10.2018 4.00 PM
10. CMC/BR/18-19/FK/MS/714	SUPPLY, INSTALLATION, TESTING AND COMMISSIONING OF EXTERNAL LED LIGHTING SYSTEM AT CSO, BSES BHAWAN NEHRU PLACE, NEW DELHI IN BRPL	40 Lacs.	80,000/-	18.10.2018 4.00 PM	18.10.2018 4.30 PM
11. CMC/BR/18-19/FK/MS/732	SUPPLY OF OFFICE CHAIRS AT CSO, BSES BHAWAN NEHRU PLACE, NEW DELHI IN BRPL	55 Lacs.	1,10,000/-	18.10.2018 4.30 PM	18.10.2018 5.00 PM

Cost of each Tender Document : ₹ 1180/-

For details in respect of Equipment/BOM/Services, Qualifying requirements, Terms & conditions, purchase/submission of tender documents etc. please visit our website www.bsesdelhi.com Head (Contracts & Materials)

Regd. Off. - BSES Rajdhani Power Limited, BSES Bhawan, Nehru Place, New Delhi-110019 | Corporate Identification No.: U40109DL2001PLC111527
Telephone No.: +91 11 3999 9444 | E-mail: brpl.eduction@relianceada.com | Website: www.bsesdelhi.com

NOTICE

A Notice of intended marriage has been received from Mr. Marshall Singh Chaudhary S/o Mr. Ashok Singh Chaudhary R/o D-138, Sector-40, Noida, Distt.-Gautam Budh Nagar and Ms. Charlotte Bignon Frerot D/o Mr. Jean-Luc Frerot R/o 17, Rue D'anjou 36000 Chateauroux, France in the office of the undersigned, any person interested therein, may file objections to on any day upto 14-10-2018 in the office of the undersigned.

Marriage Officer
Noida, Gautam Budh Nagar (U.P.)

It is for general information that I Rajesh Kumar son of Jagram, residing at WZ14B/4, village - budhela, vikas Puri new Delhi - 110018 declare that name of mine and my wife has been wrongly written as RAJESH SAINI and ANJU in my minor son MANAV SAINI aged 13 year school record. The actual name of mine and my wife are RAJESH KUMAR and ANJU BALA respectively, which may be amended accordingly

SEARCH FOR MISSING

General public is hereby informed that this person (depicted in the photo) namely: **Noor Hasan@Bona, S/o Kallu, R/o H. No. E-11475, Nand Nagri, Delhi,** has been missing/kidnapped from his house since **13.09.2018**. In this regard DD No. 11-A dated **14.09.2018** has been registered at **PS Nand Nagri, Delhi**. Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the person but no clue has come to light so far.

His physical description is as under:-
Sex: Male, **Age:** 35 years, **Height:** 5'3" ft., **Complexion:** Shallow, **Face:** Round, **Built:** Medium, **Wearing:** Saleti Colour Uniform and Black Chappal in feet.

Any person is having information or clue about this missing/kidnapped person may kindly inform to the following:-

SHO
P.S. Nand Nagri, Delhi
Ph. No.-011-22585985
Mob. No.-8750870730
DP/6587/NE/18

Website: <http://cbi.nic.in>
E-mail: cic@cbi.gov.in
Tel. No.: 011-24368638/24368641
Fax No.: 011-24368639

NAGAR NIGAM HARIDWAR

Letter No.1831/NNH/Namami Ganga/2018-19 Dated: 03.10.2018

E-TENDER NOTICE

Nagar Nigam Hariwar (NNH) invites online tenders for the work mentioned below:-

Sr. No.	Name of Work	EMD to be deposited by bidder (Rs)	Tender Document Fee in INR (inclusive 18% GST)	Bid Release time and Date	Last date for online Submission of bid	Tender Opening Date
1	Cleaning of Ghats at Hariwar under Namami Gange programme for a period of three years	30.0 Lakh	5900.00	04/10/2018 @17:00 hrs	24/10/2018 @17:00 hrs	25/10/2018 @15:00 hrs

- Tender will be opened on 25/10/2018 @15:00 Hrs
- The detail tender notice and Tender Document can be seen on website <https://uktenders.gov.in> by the Firms / Individual registered on the Portal.
- Possession of Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) and registration of the contractors on the portal i.e. <https://uktenders.gov.in> is a prerequisite for e-tendering.
- For any other queries, please contact Nagar Nigam Hariwar phone no. 91-1334-227006. For further details and e-tendering schedule, visit website <https://uktenders.gov.in>.
- As the Bids are to be submitted online and are required to be encrypted and digitally signed, the Bidders are advised to obtain Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) at the earliest. For obtaining Digital Certificate, the Bidders should follow "General Terms and Conditions for e-tendering".
- Bidder should abide by any instruction by competent authority released in the meantime.

(Dr. Lalit Narayan Mishra)
Municipal Commissioner, Nagar Nigam Hariwar

FDDI

Footwear Design & Development Institute

Ref: FDDI/HO/10(1)/HR/ADVT/2018 Date: 04.10.2018

FDDI is an Institute of National importance under the aegis of Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Government of India. FDDI invites applications from talented and experienced professionals to join FDDI at various Non-Academic Posts for its Pan India locations, on contractual basis for a period of three years.

Terms: Duration of appointment: Contractual basis for 3 years (extendable)
Last Date of application: 18th October 2018

For more details may kindly refer to www.fddiindia.com.

Footwear Design & Development Institute
(Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Government of India)
A-10/A, Sector-24, NOIDA-201301, Distt. Gautam Budh Nagar (UP)
Tel: 0120-4500120/ 4500122 E-mail: jobs@fddiindia.com

SEARCH FOR MISSING

General Public is hereby informed that a person namely **Mukesh S/o Ram Chander R/o A-4/136, Nand Nagri, Delhi** has been missing since 27.07.2018 from his house. In this regard a DD No. 12-A dated 02.09.2018 has been lodged at PS, Nand Nagri, Delhi. The description of missing person is as under:

Name : Mukesh, **Father's Name :** Ram Chander, **Age :** 40 years, **Height :** 5'6", **Face :** Round, **Complexion :** Shallow, **Built :** Normal, **Wearing :** Shirt and Pant. Mind Abnormal.

If anyone having any clue/information, kindly inform the undersigned at following phone numbers.

SHO
P.S., Nand Nagri, Delhi
Ph. : 011-22137761
8750870730

DP/6575/NE/18

HORTICULTURE DEPARTMENT
NEW DELHI MUNICIPAL COUNCIL
PALIKA KENDRA, NEW DELHI-110001

e-Procurement Tender Notice

Tender ID NO. 2018_NDMC_159460_1
Name of Work :- M/o Parks and Garden 2018-19
Sub Head :- P/F M.S. Frame structure at NDMC School Kidwai Nagar (East) & any location of NDMC area.

Estimated Cost :- Rs. 6,19,286/-
Date of release of tender through e-procurement solution 28.09.2018
Last date/time for receipt of tenders through e-procurement solution 09.10.2018 at 3:00 PM.

Further details can be seen at <https://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in>
Note: To participate in e-tender in NDMC registration with e-tendering system, Government of NCT in Delhi is mandatory.

Sd/- Dy. DIRECTOR (H-VI)

To be The Global Benchmark for a Capital City

DELHI DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

E-TENDERING PRESS NOTICE No.36/FD/Hort./SE/DDA/2018-19 (PART-I)

On line Item Rate Tenders are invited through E-tendering mode for the following works by the Dy. Director (Hort.) Division No. 1, Sheikh Sarai Ph-II, New Delhi-110017 on behalf of DDA from the approved and eligible contractors registered under Horticulture category only of DDA & CPWD and those of appropriate list of MES, BSNL and Railway. **Last date & time of submission of tender is 15.10.2018 upto 3.00 pm.**

- NIT No. 76/DD/Hort.1/DDA/2018-19, Name of work :** (M/o Completed Scheme under NA-II (SZ). M/o Aff. M.P. Green area at Kalkaji (Near PTC). Sub Head: Supply and stacking of good earth, cattle manure, Neem oil cake and plants etc. at site. **Estimated Cost :** Rs. 14,21,789/-, **Earnest Money :** Rs. 28,436/-, **Period of Completion :** 8 Months.
- NIT No. 77/DD/Hort.1/DDA/2018-19, Name of work :** (M/o Completed Scheme under NA-II (SZ). M/o Distt. Park Kalkaji Ph. I (Astha Kunj Ph. II) between P.M. Stone to Amritpuri. Sub Head : Complete maintenance of park at site. **Estimated Cost :** Rs. 10,06,056/-, **Earnest Money :** Rs. 20,121/-, **Period of Completion :** 8 Months.
- NIT No. 81/DD/Hort.1/DDA/2018-19, Name of work :** (M/o Completed Scheme under NA-II (SZ). M/o Aff. M.P. Green area at Tekhand Ph.-I near DESU sub station. Sub Head: Digging of holes, Supply and stacking of good earth, cattle manure, red bajari, Jamuna sand, plants etc. at site. **Estimated Cost :** Rs. 24,30,711/-, **Earnest Money :** Rs. 48,614/-, **Period of Completion :** 75 Days.
- NIT No. 83/DD/Hort.1/DDA/2018-19, Name of work :** (M/o Completed Scheme under NA-II (SZ). M/o Distt. Park Kalkaji Ph.-I (Aastha Kunj Ph-II) i/c Shambhu Dargah Baga area between Lotus Temple & Captain Gaur Mayal. Sub Head:- Complete maintenance of park at site. **Estimated Cost :** Rs. 17,57,590/-, **Earnest Money :** Rs. 35,152/-, **Period of Completion :** 6 Months.
- NIT No. 84/DD/Hort.1/DDA/2018-19, Name of work :** (M/o Completed Scheme under NA-II (SZ). M/o Aff. M.P. Green area Picnic Hut Tuglakabad. Sub Head:- Supply and stacking for good earth, cattle manure, Jamuna Sand, Red Bajri etc. at site. **Estimated Cost :** Rs. 14,23,368/-, **Earnest Money :** Rs. 28,467/-, **Period of Completion :** 40 Days.
- NIT No. 87/DD/Hort.1/DDA/2018-19, Name of work :** (M/o Completed Scheme under NA-II (SZ). M/o Recreational complex at Tughlakabad. Sub Head:- Complete maintenance of all garden features and cleaning/sweeping etc. at site. **Estimated Cost :** Rs. 6,79,072/-, **Earnest Money :** Rs. 13,581/-, **Period of Completion :** 6 Months.

Please also visit the website <https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app> or send mail ID: support-eproc@nic.in or dial Helpline Number 0120-4200462, 0120-4001002, 0120-4001005, 0120-6277787.

Please give your feedback on DDA Apps at [Google play](https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.dda)

Please visit DDA's Website - www.dda.gov.in or dial Toll Free No. 1800110332

India-Russia reset: S-400 sovereignty test

Time-tested, all-weather and special are evocative terms applied to India-Russia relations but going forward it's time to get real as the two nations will pursue independent strategic interests that may not converge

On the move

They may have dispersed for now but the farmers who laid siege to Delhi made their point

There are two distinct aspects of the farmers' agitation or Kisan Kranti Yatra that culminated on Tuesday at the Capital's doorstep which should not be confused. The first, is the genuine issues in India's agricultural sector which is in clear and present distress. The second is the politics of the agitation. On the first issue, anyone travelling through rural India cannot but see that there is genuine rural distress caused by the prolonged siltup in the agricultural sector despite some good policy initiatives by the current ruling dispensation over the past four years which followed up on the measures taken by successive governments at the Centre post-1991 initiation of the economic reforms process. As has been pointed out by many commentators, official figures from the last agriculture census conducted in 2015-16 showed that more than 86 per cent of farmers own less than two acres of land giving credence to the assertion that an overwhelming majority of Indian farmers are engaged in subsistence or marginal-profit agriculture. The average size of an operational holding is estimated to be just around one acre and non-agriculture employment has not kept pace to absorb the younger people coming into the market given the sub-division, with each generation, of already quite small plots of farmland which has made agriculture an unsustainable occupation for most. Now, it is argued by most political parties that the 86 per cent, as it were, need state intervention and there can really be no argument with that. But its natural corollary, that the 14 per cent of middle and large farmers, the kulaks of Marxist lore, should be brought into the personal income-tax net is a political hot potato nobody is willing to touch. Then there is the trend of providing ad hoc relief such as loan waivers which all political parties have indulged in instead of focussing on structural reform including but not limited to taxing the rural middle and upper classes, ensuring a social security safety net for the rest, setting up robust and specifically targeted price-control mechanisms to ensure input costs thanks to sky-rocketing diesel prices or the relentless rise in per unit cost of electricity do not become debilitating, encouraging land-pooling for farm sizes become viable for commercial agriculture and aligning the agricultural sector to prevailing market realities. In relation to the last mentioned, for example, it is important to note that there is a glut of sugar in the domestic market due to a dip in exports because of international factors and an enhanced yield of the sugarcane crop which has led to non-payment of thousands of crores of rupees to farmers by sugar mills. But the solution cannot be for the government to bail out using public funds the mill owners and comparatively affluent western Uttar Pradesh sugarcane farmers, neither of whom are in the 86 per cent tiny, landholding subsistence farming or petty rural business category.

It is here that the politics of the Bharatiya Kisan Union led farmers' agitation is pertinent to keep in mind. Not only were the protesting farmers drawn substantially from the western UP sugarcane belt and Haryana with a token presence from other North Indian States, they were predominantly from the Jat community, which is to say, their demands were specific to the region they represent and cannot be uniformly extrapolated to a national level. Naresh Tikait, the BKU leader, knows that no Government and certainly not the Narendra Modi regime can ignore them with elections around the corner.

50 WORD EDIT Moment of pride

Amid the fury over the "Physics was built by men" comment by an Italian scientist at the CERN particle physics laboratory in Geneva, Prof Donna Strickland's winning the Nobel Prize in Physics — the first woman in 55 years to do so in the category — has been the best riposte to misogynists. She is the third woman to receive the award in the past century. Take a bow, Prof Strickland.

Clean India

Laudable as the Swachh Bharat mission is, there's a long way to go before we inculcate behaviour change

As India inches closer towards the goal of becoming open defecation-free by 2019, which will also mark the 150th anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi's birthday, the Prime Minister's four-year-old Swachh Bharat Abhiyan is perhaps the best tribute to the torch-bearer of cleanliness and sanitation in India whose birth anniversary we marked on Gandhi Jayanti earlier this week. The Prime Minister's flagship scheme, which aims to make rural and urban India cleaner than ever before by 2019, has been applauded domestically and internationally. While the UN termed it as the "biggest movement" for public health, hygiene and sanitation in the world, UNICEF lauded the Modi Government for making the country defecation-free a high priority. The WHO, too, lauded India's efforts and said that "India has elevated the challenge of ending open-defecation to the highest level". Certainly, India has raised the benchmark for other developing countries as it is close to achieving the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals on sanitation 11 years before the deadline set. It isn't surprising that China and Pakistan too have taken a cue from us to launch similar campaigns. Swachh Bharat, it must be pointed out, takes forward the achievements of its predecessors schemes launched by the UPA Government — Nirmal Bharat Abhiyan and Total Sanitation Campaign — in its coverage which saw a 54 per cent jump in the last four years. More than 4,50,000 villages are now defecation-free. Importantly, India improved its metrics of accounting for 60 per cent of the global population defecating in open; the figure now stands at 20 per cent.

The not-so-good news is that unfortunately, for many in officialdom the sole objective of the Swachh Bharat scheme has come to rest solely on the construction of toilets. The latest NFHS-4 report made it clear that while open defecation has become less common than it was 10 years ago, it is still highly prevalent. It must be said that the Government's effort has been not just limited to the construction of toilets; it has launched advertisement and publicity campaigns at metro stations, on television, radio and online to spread the message of swachhata. The Prime Minister himself has used every opportunity and platform to literally pick up the broom and clean streets and this has led other well-known personalities from various fields to follow suit. But the problem in India is also to do with notions of 'dirty' which contemporary caste biases still underlie. For example, ritual cleanliness matters more than physical cleaning for many and anything to do with the loo, as it were, is considered 'dirty' and not a job fit for so-called upper classes. Here lies the challenge for the Swachh Mission — to change mindsets. And that will take some time.

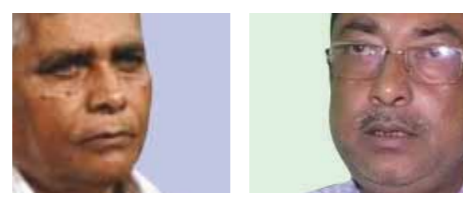


MANISH CHAND

Reset seems to be the reigning buzzword, and strategic autonomy the operative mantra in India's diplomatic lexicon. In fact, it is set to be the year of diplomatic reset for India with three of its key strategic partners and major global players, including the US, Russia and China. Amid a rapidly mutating geo-strategic environment, Prime Minister Narendra Modi held his first informal summit with Chinese President Xi Jinping in Wuhan in April, paving the way for a new phase of post-Doklam stability in India-China relations. With the US, India held its first 2+2 dialogue in September, which underlined growing strategic connect between the world's leading democracies. The reset with Russia, amid mutual misgivings sparked by third country relationships, started with Prime Minister Modi's first informal summit with Russian President Vladimir

POINT-COUNTERPOINT

The decision to ban daily Desher Katha is a politically motivated move. This is a brazen attack on Press Freedom.



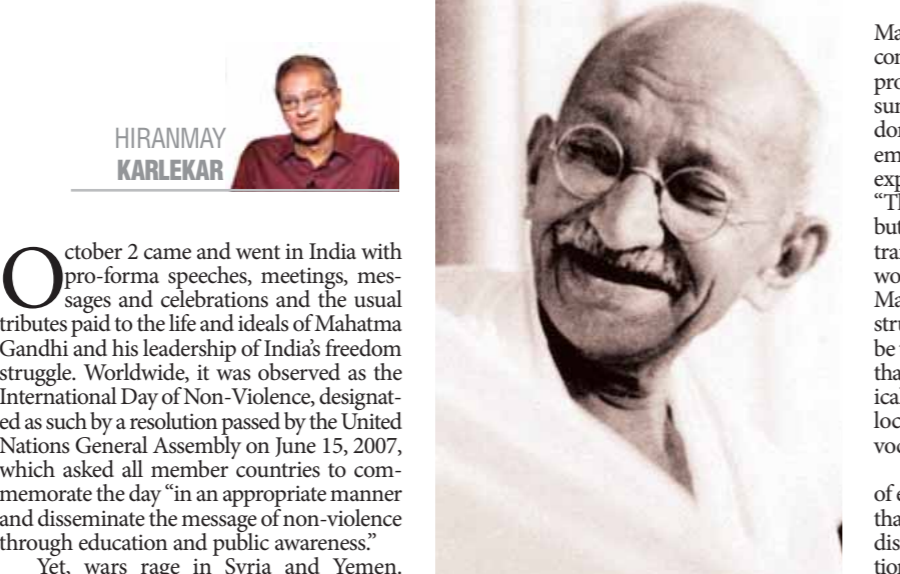
—CPI-M leader GAUTAM DAS

Desher Katha, which is the mouthpiece of CPI-M, is being run illegally. The BJP has nothing to do with this.

—BJP secretary RAJIB BHATTACHARJEE

Remembering Mahatma Gandhi

The case for arriving at some approximation of a need-based existence and the establishment of the primacy of the principles of truth and non-violence has never been stronger than today



HIRANMAY KARLEKAR

Third, the economic universe that Mahatma Gandhi visualised for India is in total conflict with the technology-driven, large-scale production based, market-oriented and consumption-inducing capitalist economy now dominating almost the whole world. His emphasis was on need-based simple living expressed through his oft-quoted statement: "The world has enough for everybody's need but not enough for everybody's greed." Against transnational production and marketing in a world increasingly becoming a global village, Mahatma Gandhi conceived an economic structure, the constituent unit of which was to be the self-sufficient and self-sustaining village that was a unit by itself in a decentralised political system. Local demand was to be met by local production with villagers taking to vocations catering to local needs. Leaving aside the question of superiority of either system, the establishment of the one that Mahatma Gandhi advocated required the dismantling of the capitalist mode of production, financing and distribution that had developed under British rule. Given the deep roots the capitalist system had struck by the time of Independence, and the powerful connections those at its helm had built up, any such attempt, if seriously made, would have thrown the economy and society into a massive turmoil, crippling both for decades. Over the years since 1991 when the economic reforms began, market capitalism has grown exponentially, and the consumer culture, spreading on the wings of advertising, has become a dominant influence on society. The goal of ever-increasing consumption and not the fulfilment of needs. But, surely, there is a need for change. Frustration from failure to meet compulsive consumption aspirations is leading to escalating criminal and social violence: the production of enormous varieties of goods and the provisions of services increasingly in demand, is depleting the earth's resources and emitting greenhouse gases whose disastrous impact in the form of global warming is increasingly manifest. The case for arriving at some approximation of a need-based existence has never been stronger. The same goes for the establishment of the primacy of the principles of truth and non-violence. The effort should be to formulate a strategy for achieving all this by October 2 next year which would be the Mahatmas 150th birth anniversary. (The writer is Consultant Editor, The Pioneer, and an author)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

RIGHT MESSAGE

Sir — This refers to the article, "Press freedom and responsibility" (October 3) by Venkaiiah Naidu. The writer has rightly pointed out that dissent is always welcome but not the advocacy of disintegration. Any attempt to stifle or contain viewpoints will stunt intellectual development. Today, on the pretext of freedom of expression, certain lobbies and intellectuals are compromising with the security of nation by supporting chaotic elements indirectly. They must express their viewpoints but

PROTECTING WILDLIFE

Sir — The National Wildlife Week is celebrated all over the country from October 2 to October 8 with an aim to preserve the fauna (animal kingdom). The Indian Government on its part organises a variety of activities with help from activists, environmen-

Shot in the arm for good samaritans

This refers to the editorial, "Progressive law" (October 2). Samaritans who help others in trouble do not bother about what will happen to them if they rush to the rescue of the injured but they do bother about what will happen to the injured if they are given medical attention on time. Many good samaritans are not keen to be recognised or appreciated. However, what is happening in India is that legal rig maroles have become stumbling blocks for good samaritans to swing into action.

Doubts, questions, police and courts tend to prevent rescuing those whose lives are endangered. The Karnataka Good Samaritan and Medical Professional (Protection and Regulation during Emergency Situations) Bill is a result of an NGO's attempts resulting in the Supreme Court's intervention. By law, harassment of kind people will be a thing of the past if it is scrupulously adhered to. People believe in court orders but are hesitant to go to the police stations

INDIAN LOGISTICS CENTRE

ships savings on their transportation, storage and personnel costs. Indeed, there are many opportunities for small ports to function as logistics centres by making extensive use of their location and land holdings. A number of smaller ports on the west coast of North America have grown by converting land no longer used for marine cargo handling into logistics centres and foreign trade zones. The Port of Astoria, the Port of Longview and Port of Vancouver (in the United States, not in Canada) have drawn in multinationals by developing new logistics centres on land that was formerly used for commercial marine operations. As such, a substantial portion of their revenue now comes from property and facility leasing. The Port of Olympia has also developed a logistics centre and is using it to its advantage. Though decreased ports-of-call means that fewer than three dozen ships call each year, business is booming.

SHIPPERS SAVINGS

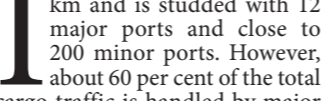
shipments and educators alike to instill knowledge among the people for wildlife preservation. This includes activities like seminars, essay competitions, public meetings and conferences. Wildlife preservation is a plan to manage wildlife along with the human progress. The Indian Government has established an Indian Board of Wildlife which promotes awareness as well as consciousness of the people towards wildlife preservation. It is very important for everyone to make sure that animals all around the world do not get extinct. The current problem

Major financial model for minor ports

Minor ports in India do not act as a growth engine unlike in developed countries. Mere development of infrastructure will not make them financially viable. Strategy must focus on creating economic epicentres around minor ports



SANJIB POHIT



—LAVANYA SAYAL

India has a coastline of 7,500 km and is studded with 12 major ports and close to 200 minor ports. However, about 60 per cent of the total cargo traffic is handled by major ports and the rest by intermediate and minor ports. The volume of cargo handled at these intermediate/minor ports are also unevenly distributed — bulk of the cargo moves through a few ports while the rest of the ports are utterly under-utilised. Of all the minor ports, only 61 handle export-import cargo and others are mainly fishing harbours. Even out of these 61, only six enjoy rail connectivity upto the port. Another eight to 10 need last-mile connectivity. Even road connectivity is a serious bottleneck. This highlights the necessity for an integrated planning for port location along with rail and road investments. However, as revenue growth from cargo movement in minor ports are minimal/modest, operating surplus from minor ports are not large enough to justify large-scale infrastructure upgradation in minor ports when public resource is scarce. This, minor ports in India do not act as an engine of growth unlike global counterparts in developed countries or in fast growing countries. In India, nearly whole of the revenue of minor ports comes from cargo movement. On the other hand, the successful business model for minor ports in developed/developing countries operates on the premises that this is only another source of revenue for minor ports. These ports have drawn lessons from the technological changes in recent years in production and transport systems as a whole and maritime transport in particular. They have reoriented the working of minor ports in development and diversified the sources of revenue to meet the challenges posed by these new innovations. Let us elaborate on the business model.

world economy, the role of organisers, as well as providers of transport services, is changing. A special position in the integral global system has been acquired by logistics, which allows management of goods and information flows from the source of raw materials to the consumers of finished products. The role of sea carriers is changing too. In addition to their conventional transport function, they are involved in organising the movement of cargo. Hand-in-hand with these changes, the role of ports is also subject to change. Apart from their conventional operations (such as loading, transhipment and discharge), ports are developing into consolidation centres in which numerous other operations (tallying, sorting, refining/improving the semi-manufactures and products) are performed. As a result of this altered role, ports are assuming the function of logistics and distribution, along with their traffic, commercial and industrial function, combining transportation by sea, road, railway, inland waterways and air, as the more recent development shows. This development brings about a change in the traditional functions of seaports that have so far performed primarily the traffic, merchant and industrial functions. In modern logistics and supply-chain management, a new function — the logistical and distributional function — has joined the traditional group of functions. Notably, the seaports are acting not only as the point of handling or reloading the goods on their transport route, but also as logistical and distributional centres that function as intermodal hubs in the supply chains, offering value-added and door-to-door service to the customers. The success of a port in this context depends to a great extent on its ability to attract global, regional and local centres for various types of activities. These value-added activities in the port sector play an important role as the source of revenue and perform a key role in ensuring lasting economic growth of a port and its hinterland. This trend is true even in the case of successful hub ports, like Rotterdam and Singapore, where they have realised that the pres-



Ganapathi Bhat Akola

For a rising power, faced with a host of security challenges in its periphery, it's not possible to keep all its partners happy all times. In situations which are fraught with competing interests, national security interests will prevail. India's decision to buy S-400 system has, therefore, become synonymous with an assertion of sovereignty and independent foreign and security policy. The S-400 and other new defence deals worth around \$8-10 billion, that are expected to be sealed during Putin's visit, will revalidate and consolidate Russia's status as the top supplier of weapons to India for the next two decades. Russia already accounts for over 60 per cent of India's high-end weaponry.

Similarly, India will find a way to skirt the US sanctions to continue importing oil after the November 4 deadline imposed by Washington for reducing imports of Iranian oil to zero. Any such dramatic reduction is simply not viable and will severely hurt India's economy and energy security. Given their strong relations with a beleaguered Tehran, Russia and India are also expected to explore a strategy to deal with the US sanctions on Iran. Be it defence purchases from the US or imports of Iranian oil, India will continue to assert its strategic autonomy and underline that it can't be dictated to by Third

Balancing act: Moving ahead with these defence deals in the face of the US pressure has been underpinned by larger strategic calculation by India's diplomatic-political leadership that no other country, including the US, can replace Russia as far as India's vital national interests are concerned. Also, India will continue to pursue a balancing act in its relations with the US and Russia as well as with other major power centres, like China and Japan, which remain hostile to each other. This balancing act is part of the larger foreign policy paradigm of multi-alignment pursued by the Modi Government, which entails forging multi-pronged relations with major global power centres without allowing these relationships to become zero-sum games. Similarly, India will find a way to skirt the US sanctions to continue importing oil after the November 4 deadline imposed by Washington for reducing imports of Iranian oil to zero. Any such dramatic reduction is simply not viable and will severely hurt India's economy and energy security. Given their strong relations with a beleaguered Tehran, Russia and India are also expected to explore a strategy to deal with the US sanctions on Iran. Be it defence purchases from the US or imports of Iranian oil, India will continue to assert its strategic autonomy and underline that it can't be dictated to by Third

countries when it comes to its vital security and economic interests. All eyes will be on defence deals, especially the S-400, but Putin's India visit will not be just about military hardware. The annual India-Russia summit will not only buttress key pillars of India-Russia strategic partnership, namely defence, nuclear energy and space, but will also seek to address the economic deficit in the India-Russia relationship as it has remained heavily security-centric. This economic focus will be crystallised in the big-ticket meeting of around 100 CEOs of India and Russia will brainstorm to forge an action plan to upscale economic partnership. New energy deals in areas of civil nuclear energy and hydrocarbons are expected to be sealed during the visit. Partnering in third countries: Given their convergent interests and expanding global footprints, India and Russia are also expected to firm up plans for advancing their cooperation in third countries. India and Russia are already partnering in setting up of a nuclear power plant in Bangladesh. Similarly, there is an enormous potential for forging India-Russia collaboration in regions ranging from Afghanistan and Central Asia to Africa. Although there is some disconnect between New Delhi and Moscow over the latter's enthusiasm about reconciliation with the

Tyranny of India's electricity demand

Hydroelectric power cannot be a long-term substitute for thermal power. There has to be a robust renewable strategy that can alleviate India's energy needs



KOTA SRIRAJ

With a population of 1.35 billion, India is finding it hard to provide basic resources for the ever-growing needs of its people. Electricity is no exception. With 32 per cent of the population residing in urban areas, there is a never-ending demand for electricity, water and housing, among other basic amenities. The fact that renewable sources of energy are nowhere near the scale that is required to substitute for conventional sources of power, makes matters worse. About 65 per cent of the electricity consumed in India is generated by thermal power plants, 22 per cent by hydroelectric power plants, three per cent by nuclear power plants and 10 per cent from other alternate sources like solar, wind and biomass. Around 53.7 per cent of India's commercial energy demand is met through the country's vast coal reserves. In this evidently weak representation made by renewable energy and mounting opposition against the polluting thermal energy, hydroelectricity is fast gaining preference. But the point being missed is that this form of electricity needs dams to be constructed, which in turn have severe ramifications for the environment. India is facing stiff opposition at home and abroad over its carbon emission levels which are expected to double by 2030 unless dependence on thermal energy is not reined in. To counter this and to cater to the rising power demand, the Government of India is aiming to construct 292 dams throughout the Indian Himalayas with the objective of doubling the current hydropower capacity and contributing six per cent to projected national energy needs by 2030. If all these projected dams are indeed constructed as proposed, in 28 of the 32 major river valleys, the Himalayas will have one of the highest average dam densities in the world, with one dam for every 32 km of river channel. One can only imagine the plight of the fragile ecology. Assuming that these dams do materialise, it may not mean a solution for energy demands alone. It will also be the source of some serious environmental problems. For instance, studies have recognised dam building as the most substantial human impact on riverine ecosystems. This rampant development of the Himalayan range for hydro-electricity is not without its detrimental and environmental costs are not the only ones. In the last few decades, hydro projects, developed at the cost of ecology and taxpayers' money, have also been exposed to the vagaries of nature, especially earthquakes and landslides. During the 2015 Nepal earthquake, the hydropower sector experienced severe losses. The country temporarily lost about 20 per cent of its hydropower capacity and more than 30 hydropower projects were damaged. The projects, which were affected by earthquake triggered landslides, were the worst hit. Two years prior to that, the June 2013 flooding in Uttarakhand damaged at least 10 big hydropower projects in operation and under construction. Another 19 small hydropower projects, which collectively generated under 25 megawatts, were destroyed. These actual events have put the viability of hydro projects in greater doubt. Given these developments, it is crucial for the Government to understand that hydroelectric power is not and cannot be a long-term substitute for thermal power. There has to be a robust renewable energy strategy that can alleviate India's energy needs. The impact of hydroelectricity projects on environment and ecology is an irreversible one. The Government must be aware that despite the availability of systematic planning frameworks, it has not conducted a countrywide review of future energy and water requirements that consider alternatives beyond hydropower: such a study might reduce the assumed need for so many dams. For instance, India loses 20 to 30 per cent of total power generated, an amount greater than all current hydropower production. Reducing these losses, mainly due to poor grid transmission and theft, could help meet the hydropower targets out to 2030. In order to provide a much-needed impetus to responsible energy generation without penalising the environment, the Government must also strengthen its environment impact assessment (EIA) processes. Conflict between federal and state decision-making, leading to a lack of institutional accountability, is a problem in all stages of EIA implementation. A first step would be to ensure that professional standards are followed for certification of private consultants who prepare EIA reports. Another improvement would be for the Government and private developers to embrace new protocols released by the International Hydropower Association. These standards could help identify problems early in the EIA process, include more stakeholder public participation and better target national and state parties to be held accountable for implementation. India must choose what will compromise its energy mix. It involves carefully scaling down the power dependency while notching up on renewable energy usage, whose capability meanwhile has to be bolstered. While the renewable energy sector gathers muscle, hydroelectricity can be a stopgap option provided the environment and local population are accounted for. The cascading ill-effects of dams on the Himalayas will be felt for generations unless adequate steps are taken to prevent them. (The writer is an environmental journalist)

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We return \$79 billion to shareholders through dividends share repurchases. Our market capitalisation increased by \$68 billion. Dividends per share nearly tripled from \$1.16 to \$3.17, and we generated total shareholder return of 162 per cent

Indra Nooyi, Former CEO, PepsiCo

BUZZ FROM CORP

I can see enormous energy in India from various States to beat plastic pollution who have made very very strong commitments (to beat plastic pollution). It is doable. There is a strong push by Prime Minister Narendra Modi to beat plastic pollution

Erik Solheim, Chief, UN Environment



₹ crashes 43 paise, hits record 73 mark

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The rupee on Wednesday plunged by 43 paise to breach the historic low of 73 level as soaring crude oil prices fuelled worries over capital outflows and widening current account deficit.

The domestic currency closed at a record low of 73.34, down by 43 paise or 0.59 per cent at the interbank foreign exchange here.

In the day trade, the rupee crashed to its all-time low of 73.42 per dollar as crude oil prices breached the \$85 per barrel mark, leading to huge outflows of cash.

Investors remained concerned over sustained foreign capital outflows and soaring crude oil prices, analysts said.

After breaching the US \$5 per barrel level, the benchmark Brent crude stayed near four-year high levels at \$84.86 per barrel.

According to the provisional exchange data, foreign investors withdrew ₹1,550 crore on a net basis from capital markets on Wednesday.

Rising US interest rates and bond yields have encouraged investors to pull out funds from emerging markets to pocket better returns, analysts said.

"The rupee has made a new record low today on the back of consistent rise in the

crude oil prices. A sharp rise in crude oil along with steep depreciation in the rupee might push inflation higher in coming months," Rushabh Maru - Research Analyst, Anand Rathi Shares and Stock Brokers.

The Reserve Bank refused to open a special window for oil marketing companies which affected market sentiments, VK Sharma, Head Private Client Group & Capital Market Strategy at HDFC Securities.

Stocks also fell by more than 1.5 per cent due to the rupee falling to record low levels. The benchmark BSE Sensex plunged by 550 points or 1.51 per cent while the broader Nifty tanked 150 points or 1.38 per cent.

The rupee opened lower at 73.26 per dollar due to high crude oil prices against the last close of 72.91 per dollar. The currency pared some losses to touch a high of 72.90 per dollar on market speculation that RBI may open special dollar window for oil companies.

However, without any clear signals from the central bank, the rupee crashed to all-time lows before settling at 73.34.

Meanwhile, the FBIL set the reference rate for the dollar at 73.02 per dollar. The reference rate for euro was fixed at 84.57 against 84.37 previously and for the British pound at 94.98 against 94.88 on October 1.

SENSEX CRASHES 550 PTS ON RUPEE WOES, RISING CRUDE CONCERNS

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The BSE benchmark Sensex plunged over 550 points on Wednesday to slip below the 36,000-mark on heavy selling in IT, auto and telecom stocks, after the rupee collapsed to a new life-time low amid surging crude oil prices.

After a weak start, The BSE 30-share barometer plummeted below the 36,000-mark to hit a low of 35,911.82, finally settling 550.51 points, or 1.51 per cent, down at 35,975.63.

The gauge had gained 299 points in the previous session Monday after the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) announced measures to shore up liquidity.

The NSE Nifty, too, stayed in the negative terrain through the session and hit a low of 10,843.75, finally ending 150.05 points, or 1.36 per cent, lower at 10,858.25.

Market cracked as rupee hit a new low due to increase in oil prices and concern over balance of payment, said Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Financial Services.

"Despite Government's plan to cut borrowing in H2FY19, yields continued to increase due to rate hike expect-

tation from RBI. Sentiment for equity has turned tepid given heightened volatility in the domestic and global financial markets," he added.

According to market analysts, the outcome of RBI monetary policy, which is scheduled Friday, will provide further direction to the markets.

The three-day RBI policy review began Wednesday, and the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) is expected to go for a 25 basis points hike. The rupee breached the 73-mark for the first time to hit an all-time low of 73.41 (intraday) against the US dollar.

Meanwhile, Brent crude oil near \$85 a barrel.

In the Sensex pack, M&M was the biggest loser, tumbling by 6.66 per cent, followed by TCS dropping 4.14 per cent.

Other laggards include Axis Bank, ICICI Bank, Maruti Suzuki, Kotak Bank, Infosys, Bharti Airtel, Hero MotoCorp, Reliance Industries, Asian Paint, PowerGrid, HUL, Wipro, Sun Pharma, SBI, NTPC, Tata Motors, ITC, Tata Steel, IndusInd Bank, HDFC Bank, Adani Ports, and L&T, falling up to 3.91 per cent.

On the other hand, Yes Bank continued its recovery for the second straight session and emerged top gainer in the Sensex kitty by surging 5.79 per cent, followed by Vedanta rising 3.09 per cent, Coal India 1.60 per cent, ONGC 1.45 per cent and Bajaj Auto 0.16 per cent.

Among sectoral indices, the BSE auto index emerged the worst performer by declining 2.90 per cent, followed by teck shedding 2.38 per cent, IT 2.23 per cent, bankex 1.54 per cent, FMCG 1.17 per cent, consumer durables 0.83 per cent, power 0.48 per cent and healthcare 0.38 per cent.

While, metal, oil and gas, PSU and capital goods indices managed to end in the positive zone, rising up to 1.74 per cent.

In the broader markets, the mid-cap index fell by 1.47 per cent, while small-cap index shed 0.40 per cent. Domestic markets were closed on Tuesday on account of Gandhi Jayanti.

Meanwhile, foreign funds sold shares worth a net of ₹1,842 crore, while domestic institutional investors bought equities worth ₹1,805 crore Monday, provisional data showed.

IL&FS group stocks continue to rally; surge up to 20%

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Shares of IL&FS group companies continued to remain in huge demand on Wednesday, surging up to 20 per cent.

The scrip of IL&FS Engineering and Construction Company zoomed 19.79 per cent, IL&FS Transportation Networks surged 19.29 per cent and IL&FS Investment Managers soared 9.91 per cent on BSE.

Shares of IL&FS group companies had surged up to 20 per cent Monday also.

In a rare move, the Government superseded the board of IL&FS on Monday against the backdrop of debt defaults by some of its group entities that triggered fears of liquidity crunch.

As per its latest balance sheet, IL&FS Group has infrastructure and financial assets exceeding ₹1,15,000 crore and is facing tremendous debt pressure and struggling to service around ₹91,000 crore in debt.

Meanwhile, the BSE 30-share barometer plummeted 550.51 points or 1.51 per cent to end at 35,975.63.

SFIO starts probe into IL&FS crisis

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The SFIO has started investigations into the affairs of crisis-hit IL&FS and its subsidiaries amid concerns over financial irregularities, according to a senior official.

In a rare move, the Government has superseded the board of IL&FS on Monday against the backdrop of debt defaults by some of its group entities that triggered fears of liquidity crunch.

The corporate affairs ministry, on whose petition the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) allowed superseding IL&FS board on Monday, has ordered the SFIO probe.

The official said the Serious Fraud Investigation Office (SFIO) has started the probe into affairs of IL&FS and its subsidiaries.

The agency has started gathering information and once the hypothesis is ready, then a decision would be taken into what all specific aspects need to be investigated, the official added.

IL&FS had 24 direct and 135 indirect subsidiaries in 2017-18. In a release issued on Monday, the ministry said the decision to supersede the board was taken after considering a report from its Regional Director, Mumbai, that "clearly brought out serious corporate-related deficiencies in the

IL&FS holding company and its subsidiaries".

"It was noted that the consolidated financial statement of IL&FS holding company and its subsidiaries, associates and joint ventures projected a picture through highly exaggerated depiction of non-current assets in the form of intangible assets amounting to over ₹20,000 crore," it had said.

According to the ministry, there have also been serious complaints on some of the companies for which an SFIO investigation has been ordered.

Among other factors, the ministry said that due to excessive leveraging, there was "deep-rooted mismatch in the debt-equity ratio".

"The high debt stress was clearly visible in the company and its main subsidiaries for the last so many years, but was camouflaged by misrepresentation of facts. Besides, the fact that the company continued to pay dividends and huge managerial pay-outs regardless of looming liquidity crisis..." the release had said.

During financial year 2017-18, IL&FS had 169 group companies. Out of them, 24 were direct subsidiaries, 135 indirect subsidiaries, 6 joint ventures and 4 companies were associate companies, the ministry's petition filed before the NCLT had said.

MobiKwik launches 'Boost' for instant loan approval and disbursal

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

MobiKwik, a digital financial services platforms on Thursday announced the launch of Boost, that offers instant loan approval and disbursal to MobiKwik users. This is the first-of-its-kind of credit disbursal product, wherein loans of upto ₹60,000 are sanctioned as well as disbursed quickly. MobiKwik has partnered with a number of NBFCs to offer this service to its users.

'Boost' offers loans without any hassles of submission of paperwork or collaterals. The loan sanction decision will be taken in 30 seconds, on the basis of an innovative risk scoring model called 'Mobiscore', developed by MobiKwik. The real time underwriting has been possible only because of artificial intelligence and data analytics capabilities used in the entire loan journey.

Users can apply for loans

ranging from ₹5,000 upto ₹60,000 through MobiKwik app. MobiKwik users who avail loans via the app will have the option to transfer their loan amount to their bank account.

The amount credited can be utilized by the app users across a range of use cases including urgent purchases, marriage expenses, travel plans, hotel bookings, medical emergency, as well as payments to offline and online merchants.

Power tariff stays at decade high of ₹18.20/unit in spot market

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Power tariff touched a fresh decade-high of ₹18.20 per unit at the spot market on Wednesday as electricity demand mainly for evening hours continues to outstrip supply amid low wind and hydro energy production.

Coal shortage at independent thermal power plants and captive power plants has also affected supplies to the grid, forcing big power consumers to make a beeline at the exchange, according to sources.

A total of 268 MU (million units) were sold for supply on Thursday, the IEX data showed. In the DAM trading session concluded Wednesday at IEX, there were buy bids for 332 MU against sell bids for 288 MU.

"Spot power price for supply on Thursday touched 10-year high of ₹18.20 per unit in spot trading on Indian Energy Exchange (IEX) on Wednesday. The average spot power price was also high at ₹7.50 per unit at IEX on Wednesday," a source said.

RBI allows oil cos to borrow long-term working capital from overseas

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Wednesday relaxed policy on borrowing from overseas to allow State-owned fuel retailers to raise up to \$10 billion external debt for working capital needs.

Till now oil marketing companies were not allowed to raise external commercial borrowing (ECB) for working capital needs on a long-term basis. They could raise a maximum of one-year overseas loan by way of buyers credit, repay it within 12 months and raise it again thereafter.

Now, the RBI has allowed them to raise ECB of minimum maturity of 3 or 5 years.

The move comes at a time when international oil prices have hit four-year high of near \$85 per barrel and the rupee plummeted to close at an all-time low of ₹73.34 to a US dollar.

Indian Oil Corp (IOC), Bharat Petroleum Corp Ltd (BPCL) and Hindustan Petroleum Corp Ltd (HPCL) will be allowed to raise overseas funds with a minimum average

maturity period of 3 or 5 years under the automatic route.

The RBI also lifted the individual borrowing limit set at \$750 million under the external commercial borrowing (ECB) framework.

With oil prices climbing to four-year high and the rupee plunging to new lows, imports have come costlier. Oil companies now need a higher working capacity to meet their monthly import requirements.

India is 81 per cent dependent on imports to meet its oil needs.

"Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies will raise \$10 billion for 3-5 year for financing their permanent working capital. RBI has also granted necessary exemptions under the ECB policy," Economic Affairs Secretary Subhash Chandra Garg said in a tweet.

Separately, the RBI said the overall ceiling for such external commercial borrowings will be \$10 billion equivalent and the said facility will come into effect from the date of the circular.

Business Corner

GENERAL MANAGER NORTHERN RAILWAY RELEASES A BOOKLET

In this age of change, to keep pace with the changing times, Indian Railways constantly innovates. Northern Railways which is the largest among all zones, lead from the front. However, many of the innovations, being undocumented neither are spread nor are adopted by others. An effort has therefore been made to document these initiatives. In this regard, Northern Railway has recently published a booklet titled "Recent Innovations". The same was released by Vishvesh Chaube, General Manager Northern Railway



NHPC DIRECTOR VISITS LOKTAK POWER STATION

Nikhil Kumar Jain, Director (Personnel), NHPC Ltd., made his maiden visit to Loktak Power Station during 29th September to 2nd October, 2018. Upon his arrival, Jain was given warm welcome by all employees of Loktak Power Station led by KT Rajah Pandian, Chief Engineer (E), Loktak Power Station. During his visit, Jain inspected all the vital components/installation of Power Station including Power House at Leimatak, Ithai Barrage at Ithai and other water conducting systems of Power Station.



The largest PSU in the fertiliser sector, National Fertilisers Limited, has been conferred with the Best Performing PSU Award for Swachchhita activities during the Swachchhita Pakhwada 2018 by the Department of Fertilisers. Bharathi Sivaswami Singh, Secretary (Fertilisers), presented the award to Manoj Mishra Chairman and Managing Director of NFL

PUBLIC NOTICE

ICICI Bank
ICICI Bank Limited

Registered Office: ICICI Bank Tower, Near Chakli Circle, Old Padra Road, Vadodara- 390007, Gujarat.
Corporate Office: ICICI Bank Towers, Bandra Kurla Complex, Bandra (E), Mumbai - 400051
Branch Office: ICICI Bank Ltd, 2nd floor, Videocon Tower, Jhandewalan Extn, New Delhi

A notice is hereby given that the following borrowers/ have defaulted in the repayment of principal and interest of the loans facility obtained by them from the Bank and the loans have been classified as Non Performing Assets (NPA). The notice dated were issued to them under Section 13 (2) of Securitisation and Re-construction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act-2002 on their last known addresses as provided to the bank by them, that in addition thereto for the purposes of information of the said borrowers enumerated below, the said borrowers are being informed by way of this public notice.

Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower/ Co-Borrower/ Guarantor/ (Loan Account Number) & Address	Property Address of Secured Asset / Asset to be Enforced	Date of Notice/Sent/ Outstanding as on Date of Notice	NPA Date
1.	Mohender Agarwal/ Gaurav Agarwal/ Sunita Agarwal/ House No. 12, Road No. 75, Punjabi Bagh West, New Delhi/ LBDEL00001646302 and LBDEL00002076743	Front Side (Facing Road), First Floor Of Property No. 12, Road No.75, West Punjabi Bagh, Delhi	01-09-2018 Rs. 12413343/- and Rs. 326377/-	30-04-2018
2.	Mohender Agarwal / Gaurav Agarwal/ Sunita Agarwal / Ashima Agarwal/ House No. 12, Road No. 75, Punjabi Bagh West, New Delhi/ LBDEL00001849142 and LBDEL00001940757	Front Side (Facing Road), First Floor Of Property No. 12, Road No.75, West Punjabi Bagh, Delhi	01-09-2018 Rs. 20917783 /- and Rs. 12556649/-	30-04-2018

The above borrower/s and/or their guarantors (where ever applicable) are advised to make the payments of outstanding within period of 60 days from the date of issuance of notice U/s. 13 (2), failing which further steps will be taken after expiry of 60 days from the date of issuance of notice U/s. 13 (2) dated mentioned above as per the provisions of Securitisation and Re-construction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002

Date : 04 Oct, 2018
Place: DELHI

Sd/-
Authorized Officer
ICICI Bank Limited

HARYANA SHAHRI VIKAS PRADHIKARAN

DETAIL NOTICE INVITING E-TENDERS
SINGLE PERCENTAGE/ ITEM RATE ONLINE TENDER

On behalf of Haryana Shahri Vikas Pradhikaran Online E-Tenders on the website: <https://etenders.hry.nic.in> are hereby invited from the eligible contractors/firms enlisted with HSPV, PWD B&R, PHED, MES, CPWD & other central / State Govt. & other Govt. Department and undertaking of central & State Govt. in appropriate class/category for the works as mentioned below:-

Name of Work	Approximate value of works (Rs.)	Bid Doc. Cost	EMD (Rs.)	Download tender document and online bid submission	Tender to be opened on	Time limit for completion of work
Job No. 32/2018 Development i.e. Construction of road, Providing and laying of W/S, Sew. & SWD in Balance Pocket in Sector -30, Gurugram. Earthwork in excavation, preparation of Sub Grade, providing & laying GSB, WMM, Prime Coat, Tack coat, DBM, BC, thermoplastic paint for lane marking, D.I. pipes for W/S, SW pipe for Sew., RCC pipe NP-3 for SWD and providing and fixing kerb and channel, sluice valve, SFRC road Gulley and all other works contingent thereto", (including 3 years mtc./ defect liability period free of cost).	79.60 Lakh	2000/-	159200/-	28-09-2018 to 09-10-2018 upto 5:00 PM (Manual submission on 11-10-2018 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM	12-10-2018	03 Months

Full details all terms & conditions for eligibility including the tender documents are available on the web site: <https://etenders.hry.nic.in> besides being available for reference at the office of the undersigned.

FOR AND ON BEHALF OF HSPV
Executive Engineer,
HSPV, Division No. VI,
Gurugram.
E-Mail:- hen6hsvppggm@gmail.com
Office:-0124-4805697

RO No. 72380 Dt. 03-10-2018

PIN code made mandatory for generating e-way bill

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Tightening the norms for issuance of e-way bill, the GST Network has made it mandatory for businesses and transporters to mention PIN codes of places of loading and unloading of consignments.

Quoting of PIN codes, according to officials, will help in calculating the correct distance and determine the validity of the electronic way or e-way bill, which is used by businesses to transport goods worth over ₹50,000 both within and outside a state.

So far, businesses and transporters are required to broadly mention the distance and place of loading and unloading of consignments for generating e-way bill.

As the validity of the e-way bill depends upon the distance mentioned by the businesses, it was feared that this could lead to tax evasion by transporters making multiple trips on the basis of same e-way bill.

The validity of the e-way bill is one day if the distance to be covered is less than 100 km. For every additional 100 kms or part thereof, the validity of the bill goes up by one day.

Under the revised procedures for obtaining e-way bill, the GSTN has introduced the facility of auto population of state name based on the PIN code entered at consignor or consignee addresses, an official statement said Wednesday.

The move would further smoothen the experience of users generating e-way bill, the Goods and Services Network (GSTN) said.

More Jet Airways employees hit by salary default

PTI ■ MUMBAI

After delaying salary to its pilots and engineers along with senior management, Jet Airways has now defaulted on the payment of September salary to other categories of employees as well, an airline source said on Wednesday.

The Mumbai-based full-service airline, partially owned by UAE national carrier Etihad Airways, has been facing financial problems for quite some now.

The Naresh Goyal-controlled airline is struggling to mop up funds to meet its payment obligations, including salaries to its over 16,000-strong workforce.

A query sent to Jet Airways on the issue did not elicit a written response. On September 6, the full service airline informed senior employees that their salaries would be paid in two instalments till November.

India moves up to 28th rank in Govt e-payment adoption: Survey

PTI ■ MUMBAI

India's overall ranking on the Government's adoption of e-payments has moved up to 28th in 2018, from 36th in 2011, but it needs to do more on digital infrastructure access and socio-economic factors, a survey said on Wednesday.

The country is taking "rapid strides" in advancing government e-payments capabilities and is one of the top-performing countries in terms of citizen-to-Government (C2G), business-to-Government (B2G) and government-to-business (G2B) transactions, the survey by The Economist Intelligence Unit commissioned by payments company Visa said.

The country holds the top ranking on B2G and G2B, and comes third on C2G jointly with Argentina.

Norway leads the pack in the 73-country ranking, followed by France and Denmark.

The 73-country survey, which was last conducted in 2011, looks at availability of government electronic transaction services and the underlying environment of mechanisms that support digitisation for all transactions in a market, such as policy and infrastructure.

"(India) could further improve its standing by focusing on expanding access to digital infrastructure, investing in socio-economic development, and promoting a healthy, competitive market," the survey said.

Sensex crashes 550 pts on rupee woes, rising crude concerns

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The BSE benchmark Sensex plunged over 550 points on Wednesday to slip below the 36,000-mark on heavy selling in IT, auto and telecom stocks, after the rupee collapsed to a new life-time low amid surging crude oil prices.

After a weak start, The BSE 30-share barometer plummeted below the 36,000-mark to hit a low of 35,911.82, finally settling 550.51 points, or 1.51%, down at 35,975.63.

The gauge had gained 299 points in the previous session on Monday after the Reserve Bank of India announced measures to shore up liquidity.

The NSE Nifty, too, stayed in the negative terrain through the session and hit a low of 10,843.75, finally ending 150.05 points, or 1.36%, lower at 10,858.25.

Market cracked as rupee hit a new low due to increase in oil prices and concern over balance of payment, said Vinod Nair, head of research at Geojit Financial Services.

"Despite government's plan to cut borrowing in H2FY19, yields continued to increase due to rate hike expectation from RBI. Sentiment for equity has turned tepid given heightened volatility in the domestic and global financial

Investor wealth plunges ₹1.71 lakh cr

New Delhi (PTI): Investor wealth eroded by ₹1.71 lakh crore Wednesday in tandem with a weak broader market where the BSE benchmark Sensex plunged over 550 points.

Led by the sharp loss in the equity market, the market capitalisation of the BSE-listed companies plunged ₹1,71,287.84 crore ₹1,43,71,351.05 crore.

"Despite government's decisive move about IL&FS, the markets are under relentless pressure on the back of crude oil touching multi-year highs and the rupee making fresh all-time lows. The precarious positioning of international macros is simply not letting the pressure off the market.

"The last-man-standing industries such as large cap autos and IT have also started melting, almost leaving no place for markets to hide," said Jagannadham Thunuguntla, senior vice-president and head of research (wealth), at Centrum Broking.

markets," he added.

According to market analysts, the outcome of RBI monetary policy, which is scheduled Friday, will provide further direction to the markets.

The three-day RBI policy review began on Wednesday, and the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) is expected to go for a 25 basis points hike.

The rupee breached the 73-mark for the first time to hit an all-time low of 73.41 (intra-day) against the US dollar.

Meanwhile, Brent crude oil neared USD 85 a barrel.

In the Sensex pack, M&M was the biggest loser, tumbling by 6.66%, followed by

TCS dropping 4.14%.

Other laggards include Axis Bank, ICICI Bank, Maruti Suzuki, Kotak Bank, Infosys, Bharti Airtel, Hero MotoCorp, Reliance Industries, Asian Paint, PowerGrid, HUL, Wipro, Sun Pharma, SBI, NTPC, Tata Motors, ITC, Tata Steel, IndusInd Bank, HDFC Bank, Adani Ports, and L&T, falling up to 3.91%.

On the other hand, Yes Bank continued its recovery for the second straight session and emerged top gainer in the Sensex kitty by surging 5.79%, followed by Vedanta rising 3.09%, Coal India 1.60%, ONGC 1.45% and Bajaj Auto 0.16%.

Among sectoral indices,

the BSE auto index emerged the worst performer by declining 2.90%, followed by tech shedding 2.38%, IT 2.23%, bankex 1.54%, FMCG 1.17%, consumer durables 0.83%, power 0.48% and healthcare 0.38%.

Metal, oil and gas, PSU and capital goods indices managed to end in the positive zone, rising up to 1.74%.

In the broader markets, the mid-cap index fell by 1.47%, while small-cap index shed 0.40%.

Domestic markets were closed on Tuesday on account of Gandhi Jayanti.

Meanwhile, foreign funds sold shares worth a net of ₹1,842 crore, while domestic institutional investors bought equities worth ₹1,805 crore Monday, provisional data showed.

Mixed trend at other Asian and European markets on weak global cues also accelerated selling activity on bourses here, traders said.

Asian stocks ended mixed with Hong Kong's Hang Seng falling 0.13%, while Japan's Nikkei shedding 0.66%. Taiwan Index too fell 0.51%.

In the Eurozone, Paris CAC rose 0.44%, but Frankfurt's DAX was down 0.42% in their late deals. London's FTSE up 0.38%.

JB Chemicals buyback offer to open on Oct 10

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

JB Chemicals and Pharmaceuticals on Wednesday said its buyback offer worth up to ₹130 crore for over 33.33 lakh shares would open on October 10.

The company has offered to buy back shares at a price of ₹390 per share, JB Chemicals and Pharmaceuticals said in a filing to BSE. "The buyback offer will open on October 10, 2018 and will close on October 24," it added.

The buyback of the shares is worth up to ₹130 crore excluding costs such as fees, brokerage, securities transaction tax, goods and services tax, stamp duty etc, it said.

Shares of JB Chemicals and Pharmaceuticals today closed at ₹299.10 per scrip on BSE, up 2.41 per cent from its previous close.

PIN code made mandatory for generating e-way bill

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Quoting of PIN codes, according to officials, will help in calculating the correct distance and determine the validity of the electronic way or e-way bill, which is used

by businesses to transport goods worth over ₹50,000 both within and outside a state. So far, businesses and transporters are required to broadly mention the distance and place of loading and unloading of consignments for generating e-way bill.

As the validity of the e-way bill depends upon the distance mentioned by the business, it was feared that this could lead to tax evasion by transporters making multi-

ple trips on the basis of same e-way bill. The validity of the e-way bill is one day if the distance to be covered is less than 100 km. For every additional 100 kms or part thereof, the validity of the bill goes up by one day.

Under the revised procedures for obtaining e-way bill, the GSTN has introduced the facility of auto population of state name based on the PIN code entered at consignor or consignee addresses.

Prabhu for tapping export opportunities in South Asia

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Commerce and Industry Minister Suresh Prabhu has asked various ministries such as textiles, MSME and chemicals to explore export opportunities in South Asia with a view to promoting India's outward shipments.

The Commerce Ministry was focusing on nine sectors — gems and jewellery, leather, textile and apparel, engineering, electronics, chemicals and petrochemicals, pharma, agri and allied and marine products, an official statement said on Wednesday.

The minister held a review meeting of the Sectoral Export Promotion Strategy last week. The meeting was attended by Commerce Secretary, DG Foreign Trade, Secretaries of Textiles and Chemicals and Petrochemicals, other senior officers from Ministries and Departments of Electronics, MSME, Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Defence Production.

"He urged the ministries to work on tapping the opportunities with countries in this region, particularly in South Asia, as there is huge potential to increase India's exports," the ministry said in a statement.

The Minister also underlined the need for exploring barter arrangements with specific countries as well as collaborative exports in partnership with other countries.

Prabhu asked the line ministries to adhere to India's WTO commitments while designing their export promotion policies.

The Commerce Minister further said that industries which were relocating from China on account of rising

labour cost should be invited to invest in India.

In the meeting, Commerce Secretary Anup Wadhawan, informed the participants that comprehensive efforts were being made for promoting exports of merchandise and services to improve and stabilise the current account.

He stated that specific short and long term goals, and territory and commodity wise action points had been identified by the Commerce Department for export promotion. He also said that discussions were on to provide priority sector status to export credit to enhance the volume of credit and for enhancement of allocation for interest subvention scheme and for SEIS and MEIS.

Exports are up by 16.13 per cent to USD 136.10 billion in April-August 2018-19.

NIFTY 50

SCRIP	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	LTP	CHANGE
YESBANK	205	222.95	202.25	212.15	11.3
HINDALCO	241.7	256.25	239.3	254.45	11.55
IBULHSGFIN	900	1003.90	880.5	940	33.9
HINDPETRO	238	256.95	237.8	251.8	8.65
VEDL	232.7	246.9	232.15	240.45	7.8
IOC	151.5	159.1	151.1	158.45	4.5
BPCIL	362.9	381.8	359.35	377	8.65
ONGC	177.9	183.5	177.9	181.3	2.3
COALINDIA	273	281	268.85	276.2	3.4
BAFINANCE	2,200.00	2,329.95	2,166.05	2,222.05	13.55
JSWSTEEL	380	397.5	376.65	381.9	1.05
BAJAJ-AUTO	2,735.00	2,769.90	2,702.00	2,734.75	4.65
GAIL	380.95	385.7	379.05	381.5	0.5
CIPLA	650	663.95	650	654.6	0.45
LT	1,247.10	1,262.00	1,226.65	1,248.00	-0.1
ZEELE	440	443.75	433.05	439	-0.35
HDFCBANK	2,030.45	2,052.20	2,007.00	2,031.00	-4.45
HDFC	1,804.80	1,819.45	1,785.65	1,801.35	-5
INDUSINDBK	1,639.80	1,659.20	1,606.00	1,635.95	-6.7
ADANIEXPORTS	327.3	338	328.4	328.55	-1.8
ITC	297	300	294.65	295.25	-1.85
WIPRO	329.35	330	322.5	328	-2.15
DRREDDY	2,517.00	2,549.00	2,482.00	2,489.00	-19.6
TATASTEEL	584	594	576.2	578.4	-7
SBIN	273.35	278.7	270.6	271.5	-2.35
TATAMOTORS	230	232.8	225.8	227.3	-2.05
HCLTECH	1,099.90	1,101.70	1,073.80	1,085.35	-13.05
TECHM	764	780.8	744.4	750.2	-9.35
HINDUNILVR	1,642.00	1,642.05	1,606.65	1,619.05	-23.25
NTPC	168.8	168.85	166.1	167.05	-2.55
KOTAKBANK	1,116.90	1,138.55	1,086.10	1,105.10	-16.9
POWERGRID	190.5	192.3	188.35	189.15	-3.25
TITAN	811.5	813	791.2	796	-13.75
HEROMOTOCO	2,985.00	2,995.00	2,900.00	2,907.00	-66
SUNPHARMA	635	640.75	618.5	620.5	-14.2
ULTRACEMCO	3,955.00	3,971.55	3,813.05	3,850.00	-90.2
INFY	743.8	751.95	726.3	728.55	-18.1
ASIANPAINT	1,264.90	1,269.00	1,246.15	1,248.55	-31.25
RELIANCE	1,229.50	1,239.00	1,200.05	1,201.20	-30.3
BAJAJFINSV	5,908.00	5,949.00	5,701.00	5,714.95	-166.9
GRASIM	993	993.15	962.3	970.1	-28.6
ICICIBANK	311.1	314.5	302.45	304.5	-9.5
BHARTIARTL	326	327.3	316.35	316.35	-10.4
MARUTI	7,400.00	7,410.70	7,211.00	7,217.00	-246.95
AXISBANK	666	669.1	639.4	642	-23.6
AXISBANK	592.6	592.6	569.1	571.95	-21.5
TCS	2,250.30	2,255.00	2,155.60	2,156.65	-98.9
INFRADEL	267.6	267.6	250	250.35	-17.25
EICHERMOT	24,750.00	24,750.00	23,050.00	23,070.00	-1,679.50
M&M	845.5	845.5	787	788	-59.6

NIFTY NEXT 50

SCRIP	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	LTP	CHANGE
SBILIFE	525	554.5	521.35	554.5	33.15
SIEMENS	939	989	935.55	983	41.15
GIKRE	320	332	317	328	10.6
BHEL	71.9	76.35	70.6	73.3	2.2
NMDC	110.95	117.5	110.5	114.45	3.3
HAVELLS	595.5	623	586.55	612.55	17.4
PEL	2,271.00	2,418.75	2,226.40	2,303.00	31.2
HINDZINC	289.45	298.65	287.3	292.55	2.7
OFSS	3,990.00	4,118.00	3,971.00	4,015.00	7.65
AUROPHARMA	774	789	766.2	770	0.35
LUPIN	897	913.9	892.55	896	0.1
BEL	82.75	84.75	81.15	82.7	0
ICICIPRULI	331	337.05	328.55	330	-0.4
MRF	63,077.00	63,654.00	62,555.05	62,900.00	-125.65
NHPC	23	23.35	22.8	23	-0.05
ABB	1,430.00	1,463.95	1,402.90	1,419.60	-3.3
PETRONET	222	226	220.15	221.1	-1.05
SAIL	68.85	71.35	68	68.65	-0.35
COLPAL	1,093.15	1,105.00	1,081.00	1,087.00	-6.15
OIL	219.5	224	218.85	219.85	-1.25
ABCAPITAL	110.65	113.2	108.85	109.9	-0.85
NIACL	219.65	227.35	216.85	217.9	-1.95
ASHOKLEY	18,600.00	19,950.00	18,600.00	18,600.00	-184.9
BOSCHLT	120.8	121.4	118.6	119	-1.15
PGHM	9,612.00	9,644.50	9,401.00	9,480.00	-132.4
LICHSGFIN	414	422.95	409	411.45	-5.75
CADILAH	398	404	390.1	391.05	-5.6
BANKBARODA	102.2	107.65	101.8	102.7	-1.7
SHREECEM	16,800.00	16,974.35	16,404.20	16,505.00	-296.55
CONCOR	646	653.2	634.9	640.5	-11.75
MOTHERSUMI	251.55	264.2	240.75	244	-4.8
BRITANNIA	5,824.00	5,834.65	5,702.00	5,730.00	-113.55
MARICO	330	334.4	325.2	326	-7.25
HDFCLIFE	386.4	392	378.1	378.25	-10.1
L&TFH	130.4	132.8	127.5	127.55	-3.5
BANDHANBANK	437	498.8	422.1	440.1	-12.1
MCDOWELL-N	516.55	516.55	499	500.95	-15.6
BIOCON	680	690	655	657.95	-21.05
DABUR	440	442.5	421.6	425	-14.25
GODREJCP	802.45	802.45	760	766	-30.75
INDIGO	790	796	772	775.35	-31.3
SUNTV	649.8	662.5	622.5	627.35	-26.3
DLF	157.5	161.75	151.7	151.95	-6.5
DMAT	1,340.00	1,360.90	1,289.00	1,289.00	-59.75
ICICIGI	782.35	814.95	638.8	752.9	-35.8
PIDILITIND	1,042.10	1,044.70	990.55	993.35	-47.85
AMBUJACEM	225.5	222.2	211	212.3	-10.4
ACC	1,661.70	1,566.00	1,494.50	1,497.05	-76.55
IDEA	38	39.2	36.5	36.75	-2
SRTRANSFIN	1,140.00	1,153.45	1,058.55	1,076.00	-63.35

BSE 500

Script	Last Price	Abs Change	Change %	CGPOWER	44.8	-0.75	-1.65
Traded	2225.15	-475.05	-2.07	CHAMBLFERT	150.75	3.35	2.27
3MINDIA	173.55	-9.1	-4.98	CHEMNPETRO	290.2	9.15	3.26
8KMILES	1207	67.15	5.89	CHOLAFIN	1200.60	-37.45	-3.02
AARTIND	1420.3	1.75	0.12	CIPLA	636.65	-0.65	-0.1
ABB	5753.95	-75.75	-0.99	COALINDIA	276.55	4	1.47
ABBTINDIA	110.2	-0.8	-0.72	COCHINSHIP	396.35	7.65	1.97
ABCAPITAL	181.6	-2.5	-1.36	COFFEEIDAY	271	-1.85	-0.68
ABFRL	1502.35	-72.55	-4.61	COLPAL	1088.45	-5.65	-0.52
ACC	329.7	-0.8	-0.24	CONCOR	640.1	-8.55	-1.47
ADANIEXPORTS	26	-0.05	-0.19	CORROMANDEL	391.2	-2.8	-0.71
ADANIPOWER	154.5	-2.65	-1.69	CORPBANK	25.05	0.35	1.42
ADANITRANS	185.7	3.2	1.75	COX&KINGS	192.15	18.55	10.69
ADVENZYMES	186.4	-2.95	-1.56	CRISIL	1699.9	-10.5	-0.61
AEGLISID	1742	6.3	0.36	CROMPTON	212.05	-6.9	-3.15
AIAENG	1040.4	-29.7	-2.78	CUB	169.1	-3	-1.74
AJANTPHARM	1597.65	-36.4	-2.23	CUMMINSIND	669.1	-1.65	-0.25
AKZOINDIA	36.8	0.6	1.66	CYIENT	772.7	13.75	1.81
ALBK	2047.4	-8.9	-0.43	DABUR	426.05	-12.55	-2.86
ALKEM	99.35	-0.3	-0.3	DALMIABHA	2257.5	-43.3	-1.88
ALLCARGO	737.15	-8.8	-1.18	DALMIBANK	205.75	-2.55	-1.22
AMARAJABAT	214.55	-7.5	-3.38	DBL	636.2	-1.05	-0.16
AMBUJACEM	27.6	0	0	DCBBANK	148.45	3.1	2.13
ANDRABANK	565.9	-5.9	-1.03	DECSHRIRAM	428.65	7.55	1.79
APOLLO	1259.2	0.15	0.01	DEEPAKFERT	197.05	3.8	1.97
APOLLO	622.8	-11.9	-1.87	DEEPAKNI	278.4	-5.65	-1.99
APOLLOHOSP	1071.95	6	0.56	DELTA	215.3	2.7	1.27
APOLLTYRE	206.55	-6.5					

UN court orders US to lift some Iran sanctions

AP THE HAGUE, NETHERLANDS

The United Nations' highest court on Wednesday ordered the United States to lift sanctions on Iran that affect imports of humanitarian goods and products and services linked to civil aviation safety.

The ruling by the International Court of Justice is legally binding, but it remains to be seen if the administration of President Donald Trump will comply.

Trump moved to restore tough US sanctions in May after withdrawing from Tehran's nuclear accord with world powers. Iran challenged the sanctions in a case filed in July at the International Court of Justice (ICJ).

In a preliminary ruling, the court said that Washington must "remove, by means of its choosing, any impediments arising from" the re-imposition of sanctions to the export to Iran of medicine and medical devices, food and agricultural commodities and spare parts and equipment necessary to ensure the safety of civil aviation.

By limiting the order to sanctions covering humanitarian goods and the civil avi-

ation industry, the ruling did not go as far as Iran had requested.

The US ambassador to the Netherlands, Peter Hoekstra, pointed that out in a tweet.

"This is a meritless case over which the court has no jurisdiction," the ambassador tweeted. "Even so, it is worth noting that the Court declined today to grant the sweeping measures requested by Iran. Instead, the Court issued a narrow decision on a very limited range of sectors."

While imposing the so-called "provisional measures," the court's president, Abdulqawi Ahmed Yusuf, stressed that the case will continue and the United States could still challenge the court's jurisdiction.

Iran's Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif praised the court ruling on Twitter, calling it "another failure for sanctions-addicted" U.S. and a "victory for rule of law." He added that it is imperative for the international community "to collectively counter malign US unilateralism."

Iranian state television trumpeted the court's decision in a scrolling graphic at the bottom of TV screens. "The victory of Tehran over

Washington by the Hague Court."

No date has been set for further hearings in the case.

At hearings in August, Tehran sought the suspension of sanctions while the case challenging their legality is being heard — a process that can take years. US lawyers responded that the sanctions are a legal and justified national security measure that cannot be challenged by Tehran at the world court.

In its decision, the court said that the US sanctions "have the potential to endanger civil aviation safety" in Iran and that sanctions limiting sales of goods required for humanitarian needs such as food, medicines and medical devices "may have a serious detrimental impact on the health and lives of individuals on the territory of Iran."

The court said the Trump administration must "ensure that licences and necessary authorisations are granted" and payments not restricted if they are linked to the humanitarian and aviation goods.

The court also told both the United States and Iran to "refrain from any action which might aggravate or extend the dispute."

Saudi King wouldn't last 2 weeks without US support: Trump

Dubai: President Donald Trump said Saudi Arabia's king "might not be there for two weeks" without US military support, further increasing his pressure on one of America's closest Mideast allies over rising oil prices.

As crude oil prices reach a four-year high, Trump repeatedly has demanded OPEC and Saudi Arabia, the world's biggest oil exporter, push prices down. However, analysts are warning prices could go up to \$100 a barrel as the world's production is already stretched and Trump's sanctions on Iran's oil industry take effect in early November.

Criticising America's long-standing military relationships with allies has been a hallmark of Trump's presidential campaign and his time in office. Trump returned to that theme Tuesday night in Southaven, Mississippi, mentioning both Japan and South Korea.

Trump's comments on Saudi Arabia implied the kingdom's Al Saud monarchy, which oversees holiest sites in Islam, will collapse without American military support. "We protect Saudi Arabia — would you say they're rich?" Trump asked cheering crowd. "And I love the king, King Salman, but I said, 'King we're protecting you. You might not be there for two weeks without us. You have to pay for your military, you have to pay.'" AP

S Arabia not to be made part of CPEC: Pak

IANS ISLAMABAD

Pakistan has announced that Saudi Arabia will not be made part of the \$50 billion China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) framework and the kingdom's proposed investments would fall under a separate bilateral arrangement, days after Islamabad said Riyadh will be the third "strategic partner" of the project.

Speaking at a joint news conference with Information Minister Fawad Chaudhry, Minister for Planning and Development Khusrro Bakhtiar on Tuesday said there was no decision to bring a third country, like Saudi Arabia, under the framework of the CPEC.

The CPEC envisages linking China's Kashgar in Xinjiang to Pakistan's Gwadar port. The project — a key component of Beijing's Belt and Road programme — is opposed by India as its planned route goes through the disputed Kashmir region. Many countries including India suspect the project is China's geostrategic ploy.

Bakhtiar said there could be many offshoots of the CPEC

where third countries could be involved in a trilateral arrangement for infrastructure development, Dawn online reported. "Saudi Arabia is not to become a collateral strategic partner in the CPEC. This impression is not true," he said, adding that third country participation in the CPEC was not limited to Saudi Arabia but other countries could also become part of the business and investment ventures arising out of the project.

"The framework between China and Pakistan is bilateral and Saudi Arabia is not entering that framework as a third-party investor, rather the base of CPEC will be broadened and its pace will be expedited," he said.

Bakhtiar was responding to questions about the possibility of Saudi Arabia becoming part of the Joint Working Groups or Joint Coordination Committee on the CPEC. He expressed ignorance when asked how the cost of the Main Railway Line (ML-1) had been reduced from \$8.2 billion to \$6.2 billion as claimed by Railway Minister Shaikh Rashid Ahmed.

N Korea said to have stolen a fortune in online bank heists

Washington: North Korea's nuclear and missile tests have stopped, but its hacking operations to gather intelligence and raise funds for sanction-strapped Government in Pyongyang may be gathering steam.

US security firm FireEye raised the alarm Wednesday over a North Korean group that it says has stolen hundreds of millions of dollars by infiltrating the computer systems of banks around the world since 2014 through highly sophisticated and destructive attacks that have spanned at least 11 countries. It says the group is still operating and poses "an active global threat."

It is part of a wider pattern of malicious state-backed cyber activity that has led the Trump administration to identify North Korea — along with Russia, Iran and China — as one of the main online threats facing the United States. Last month, the Justice Department charged a North Korean hacker said to have conspired in devastating cyberattacks, including an \$81 million heist of Bangladesh's central bank and the WannaCry virus that crippled parts of Britain's National Health Service.

On Tuesday, US Department of Homeland Security warned of use of malware by Hidden Cobra, the US Government's byword for North Korea hackers, in fraudulent ATM cash withdrawals from banks in Asia and Africa. It said Hidden Cobra was behind theft of tens of millions of dollars from teller machines in the past two years, it said.

GLOBE TROTTER

EU WANTS 40% LESS CO2 EMISSIONS BY 2030 Brussels: The EU has voted to cut CO2 emissions from new cars and vans by 40 per cent by 2030 and will take this position into talks with the European Union's 28 nations.

OZ TO EXEMPT SANITARY PRODUCTS FROM GST Canberra: Australia's Treasurers agreed to exempt women's sanitary products from GST following years of campaigning by female groups.

POMPEO TO MEET KIM NEXT WEEK Washington: US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo would travel to Pyongyang next week to meet North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, his spokesperson said on Tuesday. Pompeo, on a four-nation Asian trip from October 6 to 8 would also travel to Japan, South Korea and Beijing.

TRUMP ADMIN UNLIKELY TO CHANGE PAK POLICY Washington: The US is unlikely to revoke the suspension of aid to Pakistan until it sees substantial progress against terrorists and their safe havens, the Trump administration has told Islamabad as top officials of the two countries met here to try to reset their strained ties.

SPERM-LIKE ROBOTS CAN DELIVER DRUGS IN BODY London: Scientists have created miniature robotic swimming devices, which mimic the appearance of sperm cells and could be used to deliver drugs to specific areas of the body. The devices, which measure as small as one millimetre long, consist of a magnetic head and flexible tail that allows them to 'swim' to a specific location when activated by a magnetic field.

Horror difficult to erase for Indonesians as toll tops 1,400

AP PALU

For some who survived the massive earthquake and tsunami on Indonesia's Sulawesi island last week, the memories and the horror of experiencing a disaster that has left more than 1,400 people dead are both hard to erase and understand.

Furniture maker Khairul Hassan recalled working at a shop near the beach in front of a row of warehouses when the ground came alive and shook violently. He ran to a nearby hill and watched as the ocean heaved up and hurled forward. Now he can't forget.

"I saw the waves come and sweep out everything — buildings, factories, warehouses and some people who were lost, racing from the waves, some of them women and children," he said Wednesday. "Also, warehouse workers who were trapped under goods, all swept by the sea. It's so tragic. It's so scary to remember."

Five days later, aid was slowly creeping into areas



Rescue teams continue to search through the wreckage in Palu on Wednesday

AP

where victims have become increasingly desperate after being left without food, water, fuel and medicine. In one neighborhood in the city of Palu, residents celebrated as they swarmed a truck deliver-

ing aid — clapping, cheering and high-fiving. "I'm so happy," said Heruwanto, 63, who goes by one name. He was clutching a box of instant noodles. "I really haven't eaten for three days."

The official death toll increased to 1,407 on

Wednesday, with thousands injured and more than 70,000 displaced from their homes, said national disaster agency spokesman Sutopo Purwo Nugroho. He said the number of dead would increase, but that rescue crews had reached all affected areas.

UN announces \$15 million aid

Geneva: The UN Central Emergency Response Fund has announced it will allocate \$15 million to help the victims, especially women and girls, of the devastating earthquake and tsunami that rocked Indonesia's Sulawesi island last week.

The twin disasters claimed over 1,400 lives, caused widespread damage by destroying homes, buildings and infrastructure. According to Indonesian officials, an estimated 2.4 million people were affected. The number of dead was expected to rise amid ongoing rescue operations.

UN Under Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator Mark Lowcock said funds will meet most urgent needs of women and girls because "we know from experience round world (they) are often particularly vulnerable in circumstances like this," Efe news reported.

Trump mocks Kavanaugh accuser

AP SOUTHAVEN, MISS.

President Donald Trump ignited a crowd at a campaign rally in Mississippi by mocking a woman who has claimed she was sexually assaulted by Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh decades ago.

The audience laughed as Trump ran through a list of what he described as holes in Christine Blasey Ford's testimony before the Senate Judiciary Committee.

She testified that Kavanaugh pinned her on a bed, tried to take off her clothes and covered her mouth in the early 1980s, when the two were teenagers.

Kavanaugh has denied Ford's allegations. "How did you get home? 'I don't remember,'" Trump said at the rally Tuesday in Southaven. "How did you get there? 'I don't remember.' Where is the place? 'I don't remember.' How many years ago was it? 'I don't know. I don't know. I don't know.'"

Imitating Ford, he added, "But I had one beer — that's the only thing I remember." It marked the sharpest criticism by Trump of Ford since she came forward publicly with the allegation last month.

Trio win Nobel Chemistry Prize for research harnessing evolution

Stockholm: US scientists Frances Arnold and George Smith and British researcher Gregory Winter won the Nobel Chemistry Prize on Wednesday for applying the principles of evolution to develop enzymes used to make everything from biofuels to medicine.

Arnold, just the fifth woman to clinch chemistry's most prestigious honour, won one half of the nine million Swedish kronor (about \$1.01 million or 870,000 euros) award, while Smith and Winter shared the other half. "The 2018 Nobel Laureates in Chemistry have taken control of evolution and used it for purposes that bring the greatest benefit to humankind," the Swedish Royal Academy of Sciences said. The trio used the same principles of evolution — genetic change and selection — to develop proteins used in a range of fields.

"They have applied the principles of Darwin in test tubes. They have used the molecular understanding we have

of the evolutionary process and recreated the process in their labs," the head of the Academy's Nobel Chemistry committee, Claes Gustafsson, told reporters.

"They have been able to make evolution many 1000s of times faster and redirect it to create new proteins," Arnold, 62, who has survived breast cancer and is a single mother to three sons, is a professor of chemical engineering at the California Institute of Technology. Her method of rewriting DNA to mimic evolution has helped solve problems such as replacing toxic chemicals like fossil fuels.

Meanwhile, Smith, of the University of Missouri, and Winter, a 67-year-old genetic engineer at the MRC Laboratory of Molecular Biology at Cambridge, developed an "elegant method" known as phage display, where a bacteriophage — a virus that infects bacteria — can be used to evolve new proteins, the jury said.

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(2) 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.

Najib's wife arrested on corruption charges

Kuala Lumpur: Wife of former Malaysian Prime Minister Najib Razak was arrested on Wednesday on money-laundering charges related to corruption scandal. Rosmah Mansor was arrested by Malaysia's Anti-Corruption Commission and will face several money laundering charges, Efe news reported citing a statement. This was Rosmah's third appearance in front of commission after she was interrogated on June 5 and September 26.

NOTICE INVITING e-TENDERS

The Deputy Director (Hort.), Horticulture Division No. III, CPWD, New Delhi on behalf of the President of India invites online items rate tenders in two bid (Eligibility & Financial) system (CPWD-8) from the contractors / firms who fulfil the following eligibility criteria. The bidder should have satisfactorily completed the works as mentioned below during the last seven years ending previous day of the last date of submission of tenders. For this purpose 'cost of work' shall mean gross value of the completed work including the cost of materials supplied by the Government / Client, but excluding those supplied free of cost. This should be certified by an officer not below the rank of Dy. Director (Hort.)/Executive Engineer / Project Manager or equivalent. Three similar works, each of value not less than Rs. 3,13,456/-, or Two similar works each of value not less than Rs. 4,70,184/- or one similar work of value not less than Rs. 6,26,912/- for the following works:-

Form No.: 5 DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL, LUCKNOW (Jurisdiction : Part of U.P. and Uttaranchal) 600/1 University Road, Near Hanuman Setu Mandir, Lucknow 226007 Summons for filing Reply & Appearance by Publication OA No. 214/2018 (Summons to Defendant under section 19(4), of the Recovery of Debt due to the Bank and Financial Institution Act, 1993 read with Rules 12 and 13 of the Recovery Tribunal (Procedure Rules, 1993) VERSUS ...Applicant M/s Prakash Trading Company & Others ...Defendants 1. M/s Prakash Trading Company through its proprietor Shri Ankur Gupta resident of 218, Pacca Bagh, Hapur-245101, Uttar Pradesh. 2. Shri Ankur Gupta son of Ram Prakash Gupta resident of 218, Pacca Bagh, Hapur- 245101, Uttar Pradesh. 3. Mrs Dipika Gupta wife of Ankur Gupta resident of 218, Pacca Bagh, Hapur- 245101, Uttar Pradesh. ...Defendants In the above noted application, you are required to file reply in Paper Book form in Two sets along with documents and affidavits (if any), personally or through your duly authorized agent or legal practitioner in this Tribunal, after serving copy of the same on the applicant or his counsel/ duly authorized agent after publication of the summons, and thereafter to appear before the Tribunal on 29-11-2018 at 10.30 A.M. failing which the application shall be heard and decided in your absence. Registrar Debt Recovery Tribunal, Lucknow

Mass grave with skeletal remains of over 150 people found in S Lanka

Colombo: A mass grave with skeletal remains of around 151 people have been found in Sri Lanka's former war zone where the government forces and Tamil Tiger rebels were engaged in a 30-year civil war, officials said on Wednesday.

At least 14 of the skeletal remains found in the north-eastern district of Mannar were of children. The digging work at the old cooperative store site in Mannar was conducted for the 79th day Tuesday to establish if it was a mass burial site. In March, the construction workers had found remains when the ground was dug to build a new construction. Excavations were on since March. The remains have been kept in a special room of the Mannar magistrate court and will be sent for carbon testing.

Amid international complaints of large numbers of missing in Sri Lanka's conflicts since the 1980, the office of missing persons was set up this year. Various probes set up from time to time since the 1990s have found that nearly 25,000 people are missing as a result of the armed conflicts.

Mannar was occupied by the LTTE during Sri Lanka's civil war between 1983 and 2009.

HOLIDAY RENTALS DRIVING LOCALS OUT

Online home rental companies in Europe are forcing inhabitants out of their neighbourhoods. Paris has finally revolted



didn't start with Airbnb. But Airbnb is an accelerator of gentrification," he said. "The risk is that Paris becomes a city no longer lived in by inhabitants but solely by tourists or foreign investors."

In 2017, citizens of Venice and Barcelona had organised anti-tourism marches. In 2016 alone, Spain, where the protests had begun, had seen 75.6 million tourists, including 17.8 million from the UK. This had been the culmination of years long price rise in properties because of companies like Airbnb but the World Tourism Organisation (UNWTO) had defended the tourism sector and called on authorities to make sure that the growth was sustainable.

In India, the frenzy has not reached to such heights and the company sees future growth in home-sharing than temporary rentals. Currently, they are present in 100 cities in the country with over 35,000 properties. They have tie-ups with the Maharashtra Tourism Development Corporation and the North East Tourism Development Council and want to create 50,000 hospitality entrepreneurs, including 15,000 women, by 2020. (With agency inputs)

In 2012, Airbnb had 4,000 Paris-area listings. That surged to more than 40,000 by 2015, when Airbnb CEO Brian Chesky was welcomed at City Hall. Three years on, Airbnb counts 65,000 listings inside Paris alone. But relations with City Hall have soured.

Paris Deputy Mayor Ian Brossat, in charge of housing, says the capital has lost 20,000 homes in five years, "homes that were lived in by Parisians but are now populated by tourists. They are no longer homes, they are clandestine hotels."

"Airbnb has veered away from its original model," he says. "We've gone from a sharing economy to a type of predatory economy, with professionals that bought homes, sometimes buildings, in bulk to transform them into cash machines. So our role is to restore some order."

To regulate the growth of Airbnb and similar platforms, Paris has since December required proprietors who list online to register. Parisians are only allowed to rent out the property they actually live in to tourists, and for a total of no more than 120 days a year. Any

other Paris residence they may have can't be rented to tourists at all.

But even with inspection teams going door-to-door and fines for the most egregious violators, the rules remain scantily enforced. Brossat is now lobbying for a blanket ban on tourist rentals in central Paris, arguing that home owners in the first, second, third, and fourth arrondissements — "those most impacted by the Airbnb phenomenon," he says — should still be allowed to rent out spare rooms but not their entire property.

Airbnb France, in a statement, called Brossat's proposal "out of touch with pub-

lic opinion, divorced from legal reality." It said renting out properties on Airbnb helps Parisians "boost their income and afford rising living costs in their communities, where housing capacity has failed to meet demand for decades."

More pressure on Airbnb and similar sites is coming with a new housing law about to get parliament's final blessing. It opens the door for large fines to be levied against sites that host properties not in conformity with French regulations.

Brossat expects the law to mark a turning point. "The gentrification of Paris

The first paying guests to the ground-floor studio flat newly posted on Airbnb were innocuous enough: A family, come to experience the joys of Paris, like many millions of others.

Franck Briand, who lives in the apartment directly above, now looks back on that moment as the start of what he calls his Airbnb "nightmare." The ensuing four years, he says, have been an incessant carousel of late-night parties, drunken revelers and the rattle of newly arrived groups, sometimes 15 at a time, dragging wheeled suitcases across the cobbled courtyard.

"I want to leave," Briand says. "But I said to myself that it shouldn't be the weakest, those under threat, who give in."

Paris, long one of the world's top destinations, is still grateful for the billions of euros that tourists pump into the French capital's economy and the 300,000 jobs they sustain. But Parisians and City Hall officials also are expressing deep qualms about having so many visitors directly in their midst, no longer largely corralled in hotels but instead living, albeit temporarily, cheek-by-jowl with locals in properties rented online.

The backlash in Paris against intrusive, on-your-doorstep tourism hasn't yet reached the proportions of other heavily visited cities. Venice and Barcelona, among other destinations, have seen repeated protests. But concerns voiced in top European destinations are often the same: That mass tourism and its online platforms are hollowing cities out, driving away locals with higher prices, higher rents and sheer inconvenience.

Jacques Boutault, mayor of Paris' central second arrondissement, is among those sounding the alarm. The rectangular district he oversees, boxed in by some of the city's must-visit sites, including the Pompidou art museum, has experienced a precipitous population decline as Airbnb has taken Paris by storm, with more listings than any other city worldwide.

"The population is changing completely, from those who have been here for years to one that is just passing through," says Boutault, the district mayor since 2001. The second arrondissement has lost 3,000 inhabitants in the past four years, more than 10 per cent of its total and many of them families, he says. The district's schools have shut three classes as a result.

"I don't want to be the mayor of a museum, that's to say pretty walls where people spend a bit of time and then leave," Boutault says. "It's important that town centres remain authentic and alive. In fact, that's what tourists come for."

Trend Slazer

Rasika to do show on authors

Actress **RASIKA DUGAL** aims to do a series on the forgotten authors of India and says it is important that their thoughts and stories be kept alive with the youth of the country.

"While preparing and promoting *Manto*, I realised that there are so many people who are eager to share what they have read and what resonated with them about the film and others who have been inspired to read it after getting to know about the film. There is a wealth of literature from *Manto* and so many of his contemporaries — Ismat Chughtai, Krishan Chandar, Rajinder Singh Bedi and many more. I think it is important that their thoughts and stories be kept alive with the youth," said Rasika.



'The more women speak up, the more it will give confidence to the abused and will also serve as a deterrent to those who have felt they can get away with it. For me, #TimesUp is a better movement as it doesn't solely put the onus on the victims' — Nandita Das



Bollywood actor **SHAKTI KAPOOR** laughed off the Tanushree Dutta harassment incident recently during a press conference saying that he was a child ten years ago when it took place. "I don't know anything about this case. This was 10 years back, I was a kid back then," he said. Many actors in the industry have spoken for and against the allegations Dutta has levelled against Nana Patekar.



'Racism needs to be addressed'

Supermodel-actress **CARA DELEVINGNE** feels issues like immigration, classism and racism need to be addressed, and says that is the reason behind doing the TV series *Carnival Row*, directed by Jon Amiel. It is described as a fantasy-noir set in a neo-Victorian city with mythical creatures fleeing their war-torn homeland gathering in the city. "The part I play has so much fire... Other characters and the story relate to what is happening in the world right now," Cara said.



One home everywhere

Designer **NITIN KOHLI** tells **CHAHAK MITTAL** how interiors have become universal globally due to changing lifestyles

With a radical tapestry of modern hues and classic shades, an interplay colours and fabrics, Nitin Kohli Home presents a right mix of interior designs and house decor for the festive collection through its display of home furniture made with vinyl and oak wood.

The collection titled *Avant Garde* presents a wide range of shades that are timeless in their existence. An effervescent style lends the furniture pieces a refreshing and futuristic vibe.

As one enters the Nitin Kohli Home at the Ambavatta Road, near Qutab Minar, one comes across furnitures and objects seen in our daily routines that we hardly pay attention to. He follows themes for all kinds of spaces in the home — dining hall, living room, bedroom and even the conference room — and reveals the colours that lead the trend these days.

As we walk with him to have a look at the furniture display, he tells us that the drawing room section follows a specific colour pattern. From chartreuse, emerald, sage, basil and fern to seaweed, the section has all shades of green. Nitin says, "It follows a very colourful approach. We have chosen all sorts of greens and blues." As Nitin points out towards corners and rooms that are more for formal purposes, he states that "in the formal section the colour trend that we are introducing are rose, pinks and creams, which are a part of the softer colour palette." He adds, "It works this way. For formal, we go for the softer colour palettes and for the informal ones, a bit colourful and strong palettes are preferred. In the conference room, we keep it really simple through the creams and the whites. Today even the conference rooms come with a kind of dining setup, which is generally not seen."

He explains that it is because it needs to be very simple as well as exquisite "because once we are sitting with the clients there and discussing certain things and colours, it helps us to actually see those colours in neutrality. Hence, a place for informal meetings should be filled with more vibrant colours and formal spaces should be simple."

"People are really looking for vibrant, beautiful and yet simple designs. They do not want anything that is filling and restraining to the eye. It should be elegant to look at. So with this



new collection, we have also moved towards a modern take on classic designs," he said. The bedroom is littered with fabric panels, paintings and photographs of places and scenic landscapes clicked by Kohli, who calls himself "a passionate photographer." While some are in-house, other artworks and paintings canvas are done by renowned artist Sunayana Molhotra who is currently also displaying her works in Europe. As technology and comfortable decors change the living habits, Nitin, who is a veteran now, explains how the change has come about and how shrinking homes have given more space for the designers to innovate themselves. He says, "Things have really evolved over the years. Today, we display not just furniture, curtains or interior designs, but we also present how our way of living has changed. For instance, the children's room, which

used to be so simple once, with a single-bed and a study table, is no longer in vogue. Today, even children work and study on laptops and ipads, they don't want a huge tables or shelves for their books. In fact electronics have shrunk. You have a phone in your hand so a TV in every room isn't important. The TV has become so small, it's in your hands. A sleeker and trendier kind of furniture is what people are shifting towards." For designers, it's a boon since they don't have to design keeping bulky electronics in mind.

While eating on the floor has been known as the true Indian aesthetic and culture we have shifted towards the dining table, incorporating Western table manners. Nitin refers to one such example of blending Western cultures and Indian home aesthetics, which is no longer a challenge anymore since everything is now "universal." He says, "Even eating patterns are the same universally. People want to eat on the bed all over the world. They would prefer their beds more than tables while eating at home. Of course, it's a different set up when guests come over, but in daily routines, it's their bed."

With luxe materials and upholstery, and carefully-handcrafted furniture, the furniture at NKH is taking inspiration from the real world and local and global cultures to furnish an urban home.

All you need is love



Director **YASHRAJ JADHAV** talks about how a group of Hindi-speaking singers set up a Spanish zarzuela in less than a month. By **TEAM VIVA**

You can cut all the flowers but you cannot keep spring from coming; "I love you without knowing how, or when, or from where. I love you simply, without problems or pride." Do these lines from Pablo Neruda not make you feel that love shall never perish? That it's unconditional and eternal just like the spring that might be forgotten for some time, but would never draw its last breath.

The Republic of Love, a zarzuela, directed by Yashraj Jadhav and Santanu Bose, is a production of the Neemrana Music Foundation in collaboration with the Embassy of Spain in India and Instituto Cervantes. They are bringing a saga of love to India, an operetta sung in Spanish with scenes in English.

While his other plays have been based on different themes and subjects, a Spanish zarzuela was a first for Jadhav. It is a Spanish lyric-dramatic genre that alternates between spoken and sung scenes, the latter incorporating operatic and popular song, as well as dance.

This zarzuela production is a 1909 musical comedy by Vicente Lleo, set in the Indian sub-continent, in the land of Amalandia. It talks about a rare species of trees that bloomed once in a century and to let it happen the trees shed flowers with a subtle dust that exerted a mood of falling in love on the creatures that inhaled it. As the tree blossoms, everybody falls in love and there is excitement and nervousness in the air. In a garrison ruled by a disciplinarian, many will fall in love including the stickler for rules himself.

"Santanu and I have only done the drama part and casting the actors. How they enter and exit, with what emotions and expressions they speak. Music is in Spanish and is done by a different team. It wasn't as difficult as it seemed because once you get to know your teammates, about the play and its writer, you tend to get familiar with it. I have an inclination towards knowing about different cultures, so it was easy for me to understand the subject of the story.

We gelled and learnt more about it together," he said. What made this production more interesting to put together was that it wasn't enacted by a troupe of actors, but by singers, who have not acted before. This, for Jadhav, who has been in the industry for more than 25 years, was the most "surprising" aspect.

"These are singers-turned-actors and most of them do not know Spanish. In fact some of them might not even know how to speak English fluently, since we are all Hindi-speaking people." He added, "It's difficult to balance the two because for opera-singing, you need to have a large vocal apparatus and work on a lot of high notes. You need to have the energy and timing to walk, dance, move, speak and sing, all together, and on top of it, you have to sing in Spanish, a language you are not even familiar with. It's like a combination of all kind



of arts." Despite the challenges they put up the production just over a month. Jasmin Morotell, the voice coach, and Nadya Balyan, the choir conductor, who has been working in India for the past 12 years, believe that "it wasn't that difficult to train the singers who were not familiar with the Spanish language. It was rather one beautiful journey of spending time with some really fantastic and talented troupe of singers."

Among the performing singers were Shambhavi Mishra, Jahnnobi Roy, Akash Gadamsetty, Nishant Rana, Rajeev Sahore, Gabriel Harrison, Navneet Kaur, Pratikesh Bansal, Vaibhavi Singh, Shivam Sharma, Subhankar Sharma, Oliva Kullu, and Rueben Mathew.

MAY THE BEST SKILLED WIN

The Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship is strengthening its representation for the 45th WorldSkills Competition at Kazan, Russia in 2019 with a preview—IndiaSkills 2018. This will see over 400 participants from 27 states compete in around 60 categories

The IndiaSkills National Competition 2018, the biggest skill competition of the country, kicked off in New Delhi on Tuesday. The five-day event which is being hosted from October 2 to 6 is being organised by the National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) under the aegis of the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE). The competition has brought together over 70 corporates and academic institutes, along with 22 state governments to realise the vision of establishing India as the skill capital of the world. The event will witness over 400 participants from across 27 states and union territories showcasing their talent and competing in 45 skills, 10 traditional skills and four demo skills.

The competition was inaugurated by Dharmendra Pradhan, the Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas and the Minister for Skill Development and Entrepreneurship. The minister said, "I welcome all those who have made their mark at the regional levels and have reached the national stage.

It is the Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision to make India the skill capital of the world and the IndiaSkills Competition is another initiative towards realising this. The participation of divyans (Abilympians) is also a wonderful addition to this event. The perception of skill is changing, making it more aspirational. The landscape of skills is undergoing transformation and we are seeing the addition of more, new-age skills. Innovation and technology are going to play a major role in



shaping the future of jobs and Skill India has taken several initiatives to train our youth in the emerging areas."

The event will for the first time, see Abilympics—the 'Olympics of Abilities' for persons with disabilities (PwDs). As many as 60 participants will com-

pete across 10 skill competitions in the Abilympics and the winners will be felicitated at the closing ceremony on October 6. These winners will then undergo the best-in-class industry training for the WorldSkills International Competition in Kazan, Russia in August 2019.

Commenting on the importance of such a completion, Dr K P Krishnan, the Secretary, MSDE, said, "We have improved our performance at WorldSkills over the years and are at the 19th position today. The IndiaSkills 2018 promotes the aspirational value of acquiring skills. The government has been offering assistance to states and we have organised over 150 workshops to improve participation in these competitions. The difference can be seen in the number of entries that has doubled this year. A platform like IndiaSkills inculcates a strong sense of pride in the youth and goes a long way in taking us closer to the vision of a new India." With one Silver, one Bronze and nine Medallions of



Excellence won by the country, India ranked 19th among 56 countries at the WorldSkills 2017 in Abu Dhabi. More than 1,300 competitors competed in 51 skills at this event.

In order to select the best talent to represent at IndiaSkills 2018, the MSDE and NSDC have competed at more than 500 district and state level and over 40 regional competitions in 46 skills including 3D game art, aircraft maintenance, autobody repair, bakery,

beauty therapy and bricklaying to name a few.

Apart from the skill competition, the event is also hosting several engaging initiatives such as career counseling, a skill exhibition and try-a-skill event among others for the youth. Several other events such as the State Minister's Conference, a Skill Conclave, and an Industry Round Table will also be organised on the sidelines of the IndiaSkills Competition.



SHAREHOLDERS APPLAUD NFL'S MILESTONES

The largest Public Sector Undertaking (PSU) in the fertiliser sector—National Fertilisers Limited (NFL) recently hosted its 44th Annual General Meeting at New Delhi. The AGM was chaired by NFL's chairman and managing director, Manoj Mishra, which saw various shareholders of the company in attendance.

The chairman informed that during the financial year 2017-18, NFL delivered superlative performance. The company registered a record total income from operations (standalone) of ₹9025 crore with a profit before tax (PBT) of ₹334.83 crore, which is also the best ever in the last 15 years. The company also earned a net profit (profit after tax) of ₹212.77 crore for this financial year. NFL has recorded the highest ever Urea production of 38.10 lakh MT and a record fertiliser sale of 43.09 lakh MT which comprises the sale of 39.16 lakh MT of Urea and 3.93 lakh MT of other fertilisers.



While highlighting the achievements of the company, Mishra said, "NFL has gradually transformed from a single product to a multi-product organisation in the last few years by way of adding DAP, MoP, SSP and complex fertilisers, bentonite sulphur, seeds, new strains of bio-fertilisers and agro chemicals in its product line."

The shareholders applauded the overall performance of NFL and the milestones achieved by NFL under the leadership of Mishra.

On the occasion of completion of 150 years of Mahatma Gandhi's birth anniversary, a Multimedia Exhibition was organised in New Delhi which used new technologies to bring to life the various aspects of the father of the nation to every citizen of the country. Organised by the Bureau of Outreach Communication, the exhibition was inaugurated by the Union Minister of State for Information and Broadcasting and Sports and Youth Affairs, Col Rajyavardhan Rathore (Retd) in the august presence of the Secretary of Information and Broadcasting, Amit Khare, the Director General of Bureau of Outreach Communication, Satyendra Prakash and the Director General of Publications Division, Dr Sadhana Rout among other senior officials of the ministry.

Addressing the audience, Col Rathore said,

Mahatma's life through the eyes of technology



"New technologies used in this exhibition have brought the life of Mahatma Gandhi much closer to the people. This multimedia exhibition is more interactive and engaging." He expressed that this multimedia exhibition should be conducted in various cities across the country to take the idea to a much larger audience. "The life of Gandhi is an example for all. He is a global citizen and the pride of every citizen. He dedicated his life for swachhata seva. The Prime Minister Narendra Modi has taken this as a challenge and now change is visible through Jan Andolan," added Rathore.

The exhibition showcased many engaging

features like a quiz on the life of the Mahatma, interactive timeline depicting his life, a photo booth with various backgrounds to choose from, a 3D video wall and so on. On this occasion, Col Rathore released 11 books by various authors on the life of Mahatma Gandhi which have been brought out by the Publications Division. He also released three short films on Mahatma Gandhi, produced by the Bureau of Outreach Communications, Doordarshan and the Films Division respectively. A magazine titled—"Jan Connect" with the theme of development of farmer's livelihood was also released during the event.

IN-FLIGHT 'CHAT MODE' KEEPS YOU GROUNDED

The latest product feature introduced by EMT aims to break the monotony of the journeys by air where the passengers are requested to keep their phone on flight mode. With the Airplane Chat, passengers can now chat with their co-passengers using the Android app via Bluetooth. Commenting on the same the company's co-founder, Nishant Pitti, said, "Long-haul flights happened to be really boring for us and even in-flight entertainment could not help in killing time during the journeys. So, I always used to think that there should be something that not just keeps us engaged but can also help in networking with like-minded people. This idea clicked into our mind when I along with my brothers Rikant and Prashant were discussing the same thing and finally agreed to develop a tool that may help the travellers in spending their travel time comfortably."

EaseMyTrip (EMT) has introduced an exclusive feature—Airplane Chat on its Android mobile app which allows co-passengers to talk among themselves in offline mode during the course of the flight



ness.

During 2017-18, EMT achieved a turnover of ₹2,400 crore. Pitti informs that the company has seen a consistent growth since its inception in 2008 without raising any funds from investors. A market leader in flight bookings for all major domestic and international destinations, EMT represents almost 5-6 per cent of the domestic market share and around 12 per cent of the total online market. "Of the total business, almost 85 per cent comes from the online market where customers book directly with us on the website or the app whereas 10-

15 per cent comes from travel agents. The B2B segment is a very strong pillar for the company. We have an extended arm of over 42,000 travel agents who book tickets on our online platform. We have identified some high footfall areas like *paan* shops, cyber cafes and small retail shops and offered them our branding to sell travel products, thus extending the reach of the company," added Pitti.

Though the company started as a predominantly flights provider, it now has an array of diversified offerings which include hotels, bus tickets, holiday packages and railways. "We have integrated the IRCTC platform into our online portal and now offer rail ticket bookings as well. The travel agents are provided with a login-id and an EMT wallet which they can integrate with other wallets," said Pitti.

The growth plan of EMT looks robust and very promising. The company plans to focus on its corporate businesses for the upcoming years and is also planning to reach out to a huge segment of SMEs across Tier-II and Tier-III cities. "We also have plans to open EMT Holiday Hubs in all major cities to increase revenues from non-air products," he said.

CORPORATE BRIEFS



On the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, the office of Development Commissioner (Handicrafts) under the Ministry of Textiles, organised a street play in Dilli Haat to raise awareness among the people and instill a feeling of service to the nation through 'Swachhata hi Sewa' mission.



The Vice President of India, M Venkaiah Naidu conferred the 'Vayoshreshtha Samman-2018' on the eminent senior citizens and institutions in recognition of their services towards the cause of the elderly persons on 'International Day of Older Persons'.

ITPO TO ORGANISE ISE FROM OCT 5-7

The 21st edition of the India International Security Expo (ISE) will be inaugurated by the Minister of State for Home Affairs, Hansraj Gangaram Ahir on October 5, at Pragati Maidan in New Delhi. The event will be held from October 5 to 7 and is being organised by India Trade Promotion Organisation (ITPO) with the support of the Ministry of Home Affairs. The co-organisers are CISF and BPR&D. This is the only security expo in South Asia region which enjoys the support of all state police forces, NDMA, CRPF, BSF, ITBP, SSB, Delhi Police, SPG and DFS, ONGC, Delhi Metro, NDMC, NSIC, SAIL, NBCC, Shapoorji Pallonji, L&T and Amity University, Noida.



PATNA'S GIRL CRACKS SSB IN FIRST ATTEMPT

Ojaswita Shree from Patna has been shortlisted in the group of top 12 girls pan-India in the Combined Defense Services Exam conducted by the UPSC. She cracked the SSB interview in her first attempt. Expressing her gratitude towards the valuable guidance provided to her by Army Officer Surendra Singh, she said, "It helped me immensely in cracking SSB and eventually making it to the top ranks."

CORPORATE BRIEFS

NIOS LAUNCHES A SIGN LANGUAGE CHANNEL

The National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS) has launched its Swayam Prabha Channel 30-Gyan Amrit, for those learners who are either deaf or can listen partially. The channel was inaugurated by Prakash Javadekar, the Minister for HRD in the presence of the Chairman of NIOS, C B Sharma. For classes 10th and 12th there will be a video in sign language in each subject. A new course to revive vedic education in Sanskrit medium under Bharatiya Gyan Parampara has also been launched. All lessons on this course will also be available on this channel.



LEMON TREE HOTEL, AURANGABAD WINS NATIONAL TOURISM AWARD

The Lemon Tree Hotel, Aurangabad, has won the National Tourism Award 2016-17 for the best hotel in the three-star category. The president of Lemon Tree Hotels Limited (LTHL), Vikramjit Singh, said, "We have focused our efforts on redefining the mid-scale hotel segment and on offering our consumers great, consistent quality at a very reasonable price."

MARY KOM IS TRIBES INDIA'S BRAND AMBASSADOR

The Tribes India and TRIFED, under the Ministry of Tribal Affairs, launched the 'Punch Tantra' Diwali collection and announced Mary Kom as the Brand Ambassador of Tribes India. The Union Minister for Tribal Affairs, Jual Oram, said, "The probable potential of TRIFED is more than many other PSUs and if utilised properly, it may become a game changer in the Indian economy."



ATAL TINKERING LAB OPENS AT NAVYUG SCHOOL, DELHI

The Union Minister for Human Resources Department (Higher Education), Dr Satyapal Singh, inaugurated the Atal Tinkering Lab at the Navyug School at Sarojini Nagar along with the NDMC School Management System. Sanitary Napkin Vending Machines in 29 secondary and senior secondary schools of the NDMC were also commissioned.



NORTHERN RAILWAYS' VOLUNTARY ORGAN DONATION CAMPAIGN

In collaboration with the Organ Retrieval Banking Organisation (ORBO), AIIMS, Delhi, the general manager of the Northern Railways, Vishwesh Chauria, has initiated a voluntary organ donation awareness and registration camp at New Delhi to sensitise the employees to voluntarily donate organs.

Mauritius targets 1.2 lakh Indians by 2020

With a wide-range of tourism products on offer for the Indian travellers, the Mauritius Tourism Promotion Authority (MTPA), is undertaking aggressive marketing activities to attract more Indians to the island country. In line with the same, the tourism board conducted a four-city roadshow in New Delhi, Ahmedabad, Chennai and Mumbai recently. The objective of the event was to acquaint the Indian travel partners with the destinations and meet the hoteliers, destination

management companies and activity companies.

Arvind Bundhun the director of MTPA, said, "Mauritius is a heaven of peace besides a rich melting pot and a glamorous destination. We excel in different niche; golf, spas, hotels, gastronomy and above all, a sense of hospitality. This year, about 89,000 Indian tourists are expected to visit Mauritius."

Vivek Anand, the Country Manager—India, MTPA, said, "We have seen a 11 per cent year-on-year growth in the Indian tourist arrivals over the last four years, taking the number to 86,000 in 2017. We are targeting 1,20,000 tourists by



2020. We expect a healthy growth in the MICE and weddings segment and will be promoting Mauritius as a destination 'beyond-the-beach'. Many producers have also shown interest to shoot Bollywood movies in Mauritius."

He further informed that the island country offers amazing activities for adventure lovers like sky diving, zip-lining,

quad biking sea-karting, submarine rides, helicopter tours, and some once-in-a-lifetime experiences among others.

Sanjay Sondhi, the CEO of Om Tourism, which represents Mauritius in India, identified that rum and tea tasting tours are gaining popularity among tourists. Those who are inclined towards sports can enjoy a game of golf at one of the many championship level courses in the country. Indians, while in Mauritius, can partake long drives, shopping, night life, delicious cuisine or simply rejuvenate themselves at the world-class spas. "Mauritius is a perfect destination for meetings, incentives, conferences and exhibitions (MICE). Besides its natural splendor, the island has all the key facilities required for organising successful events," said Sondhi.

JUVE WIN; CHAMPIONS FALL

Italian giant beat Young Boys 3-0 to maintain unbeaten run; CSKA Moscow shock Real; Utd, Bayern play draw

AFP ■ PARIS

Paulo Dybala scored a hat-trick as Juventus shrugged off Cristiano Ronaldo's absence with a 3-0 Champions League win over Young Boys on Tuesday to go top of Group H ahead of Manchester United who were held goalless at home by Valencia.

The suspended Ronaldo watched from the stands after his red card during the Italian side's 2-0 win over Valencia in the first round of games.

But Dybala, who has been overshadowed since the arrival of Ronaldo from Real Madrid, ran riot in his first European appearance this season, volleying in the opener following a Leonardo Bonucci long ball after five minutes.

He doubled his account on 33 minutes when he picked up a rebound from a Blaise Matuidi shot, with Juan Cuadrado setting up the Argentine for his third on 69 minutes.

The Swiss champions played the final quarter of an hour a man down after Guinean centre-back Mohamed Ali Camara was sent off for a second yellow card provoked by Dybala.

"I wanted to have a game like this," said 24-year-old Dybala.

"Obviously, a player always wants to play. Last season I had the opposite, as I started with a lot of goals and then lost my way a little."

"Being left out made me work harder and get back into shape, so I am taking full advantage of that now."

Juventus confirmed their 100 percent record after nine games this season — seven league games and two in the Champions League.

It was Young Boys' second defeat from two group games after they lost their opener 3-0 at home to Manchester United.

VALENCIA HOLD UNITED

At Old Trafford, the pressure continued to build on Mourinho as United produced another insipid attacking display in their goalless stalemate with Valencia.

They are now four games without a win, and Mourinho's decision to recall Alexis Sanchez — after dropping the



Robert Lewandowski, center right, Dani De Wit, center left and Daley Blind, center rear, jump to head the ball AP

Chilean for the weekend defeat at West Ham United — failed to pay off.

"Our attacking players aren't in their best moments of confidence and individual level," moaned Mourinho.

"We thought with three or four chances we would score and win the game."

CITY FIGHTBACK

Guardiola saw Manchester City come from behind to beat Hoffenheim in Germany in Group F.

David Silva scored three minutes from time to get the Premier League champions back on track after they started their campaign with a 2-1 home defeat against Lyon.

Ishak Belfodil had put Hoffenheim ahead after just 44 seconds, but Sergio Aguerro equalised in the eighth minute before Silva's late winner.

"This competition isn't always a red carpet. Manchester City is a fantastic club, but we don't have a history of having to fight and we fought for absolutely everything here," said Guardiola.

"This is one of the happiest days I have had at this club as it will help us going forward."

City next face Shakhtar Donetsk, who squandered a two-goal lead to draw 2-2 with Lyon in France, in a game played behind closed doors.

Brazilian forward Junior Moraes scored twice for Shakhtar, but Lyon fought back to draw with goals from Moussa Dembele and Leo Dubois.

It was a good result for Lyon, whose fans were missing as a punishment for trouble at a game against CSKA last season, and they now top the group.

BAYERN SHARE POINTS

Meanwhile, Bayern could not hang on to the early lead given to them against Ajax when Mats Hummels headed in Arjen Robben's cross. Young full-back Noussair Mazraoui equalised to give the Dutch side a 1-1 draw.

Those sides are level atop Group E ahead of Benfica, who won 3-2 in a thriller at AEK Athens with Alfa Semedo scoring the deciding goal.

Czech champions Viktoria Plzen, who were crushed 5-0 by Roma.

Edin Dzeko scored a hat-trick for the Italian side, with Cengiz Under and Justin Kluivert also netting.



Marouane Fellaini, right, runs for ball with Cristiano Piccini during the Champions League group H match AP

MADRID SLIP TO SHOCK DEFEAT

AFP ■ MOSCOW

Toni Kroos' mistake proved costly as Real Madrid's goalscoring problems continued on Tuesday with a surprise 1-0 defeat to CSKA Moscow in the Champions League.

Gareth Bale and Sergio Ramos were among a number of key players missing at the Luzhniki Stadium but it was Kroos' dreadful backpass that allowed Nikola Vlasic, on loan from Premier League Everton, to put CSKA ahead after just 68 seconds.

Madrid searched for an equaliser but, despite hitting the woodwork three times, was resisted by a determined CSKA defence. The reigning European champions have now failed to score in three consecutive matches.

CSKA's veteran goalkeeper Igor Akinfeev was sent off deep into added time after picking up two yellow cards for dissent but nothing could spoil the hosts' victory which lifted them above Madrid in Group G.

Julen Lopetegui's side lacked spark, thrust and cutting edge in attack. They missed Bale, Isco and, perhaps even, the lethal touch of Cristiano Ronaldo.

"Goals come when you keep creating chances and believe you will be more accurate," Lopetegui said.

"That is all we can do. I am sure we will soon be scoring again and winning again."

Some of the changes were enforced,



CSKA players celebrate after beating Real Madrid

with Isco and Marcelo out injured, but Bale and Ramos were left at home to rest and Luka Modric started on the bench.

Madrid were three down by half-time against Sevilla last week and this time they were behind within two minutes.

It was self-inflicted as Kroos tried to half-volley a bouncing ball back to Navas but Vlasic read it and intercepted. Raphael Varane was slow to react and the weaving forward finished into the corner.

CSKA coach Viktor Goncharenko said biggest concern was that his players would slump after the high of a remarkable victory.

"We played aggressively, boldly, we defended really well. Of course an early goal helped us a lot," he said.

"Now we will all enjoy the evening. I'm afraid my players' emotions will come down after this win. Hopefully because they are young they will survive it without any serious damage."

SINGLES

INDIA CLINCH SERIES AGAINST ENGLAND

NEW DELHI: India beat England by 55 runs in the second T20 game here Wednesday to take an unassailable 2-0 lead in the bilateral cricket series for blind. England captain Ed Hossel won the toss and put the hosts in. The captain led from the front, picking up a wicket with the first ball of the match. The English bowlers bowled tight lines as they picked four Indian wickets in the first eight overs. Skipper Ajay Reddy along with Pankaj Bhuje steadied the ship with a 100-run partnership, helping their team post an imposing total of 217 for five. Chasing a huge target, the English batsmen were never in the hunt as the Indian bowlers chipped in with regular wickets.

RED BULL SHUTTLE UP KICK STARTS IN OCT 2018

NEW DELHI: The inaugural edition of the first ever-exclusive women's doubles tournament in the country, Red Bull Shuttle Up kick starts in October (5th most viewed) or participation (2nd most played), the tournament aims to further boost and improve participation and popularity amongst aspiring women players. Red Bull Shuttle Up Qualifiers will be held across 5 cities - Delhi, Bangalore, Guwahati, Hyderabad and Mumbai. The winning pair gets an exciting opportunity to play against the best badminton doubles player in the country Ashwini Ponnappa and her partner. The Delhi edition will take place on 5th October at Flow Sports Life, Gurgaon-Sector-48, which will be followed by subsequent ones in Bengaluru (7th), Guwahati (13th), Hyderabad (14th) and Mumbai (20th).

INDIAN MEN LOSE TO ARMENIA; WOMEN HELD BY ITALY

BATUMI: India men's team's medal chances took a hit as Grandmaster Krishnan Sasikiran lost a crucial match which resulted in Indian men's team shock defeat at the hands of eighth seeded Armenia in the ninth round of the 43rd Chess Olympiad here. Sasikiran was key to India's success till this round but he ran out of steam on a day when two main players - Viswanathan Anand and P Harikrishna signed peace early. B Adhiban, in the absence of Vidit Gujrathi, played out a draw on board three to reduce the deficit margin to 1.5-2.5. It turned out to be a bad day from Indian perspective overall as the women team played out a draw with lower-ranked Italian women. Tania Sachdev, who had started with five victories in her first five games, crashed to her second defeat in a row and the victory by D Harika on second board could only prove to be the leveler once Koneru Humpy and Padmini Rout were held to draws by lower rated opponents.

CA BOSS SUTHERLAND REPLACED BY ROBERTS

SYDNEY: Cricket Australia (CA) on Wednesday named insider Kevin Roberts — who spearheaded an ill-fated attempt to slash players' pay last year — to lead the troubled organisation in the wake of the ball-tampering scandal. Roberts was appointed chief executive officer and on October 25 will formally replace James Sutherland, who announced in June he was stepping down after 17 years at the helm. Roberts takes over with CA still under fire over the cheating scandal and divisions between players and administrators still raw from the pay dispute. "The game and Cricket Australia have faced some difficult times recently, but we will bounce back," the 46-year-old said.

SHUBHANKAR TO LEAD INDIA IN TAIWAN

LINKOU: Young golfer Shubhankar Sharma will lead a large Indian contingent of 14 players at the Yeangder Tournament Players Championship (TPC) which gets underway at the Linkou International Golf and Country Club on Thursday. The Indian contingent has both youth and experience ranging from veteran two-time Asian Tour No 1 Jeev Milkha Singh, whose T-18 last week was his best finish in nearly two years to Viraj Madappa, the latest Asian Tour winner from India, who grabbed the Take Solutions Masters title in August. However, the defending champion Ajeetesh Sandhu has skipped the event in favour of Dunhill Links Championships, where he got a spot, and the incoming Gaganjeet Bhullar has clearly opted for rest ahead of three big weeks at CIMB Classic, CJ Cup and WGC-HSBC. Agencies

Pune hold Dynamos in ISL

PTI ■ KOLKATA

Miguel Angel Portugal's Pune City managed to earn a hard-fought 1-1 draw at the death against home side Delhi Dynamos in their Hero Indian Super League opener here on Wednesday.

Delhi seemed set for all three points after a wonderful long-range strike from Rana Gharami (44th minute) but for second-half substitute Diego Carlos who equalised with two minutes left on the clock.

Rana Gharami became the first Indian footballer to score a goal in the ISL 2018-19 season.

Coach Josep Gombau had Delhi Dynamos line up in a 4-2-3-1 formation with Andrija Kaluderovic leading the lines. Former Pune City midfielder Marcos Tebar started in midfield with Bikramjit Singh while Nandhakumar and Lallianzuala Chhangte provided the width.

Pune City, playing a 4-3-3 formation, started brightly, with Ashique Kuruniyan finding a lot of space down the left flank. An early cross from the youngster almost found Emiliano Alfaro inside the box.

Just after quarter of an hour, Delhi started to assert themselves and fashioned several key chances. With a minute to go for



Dynamos player battles for ball against opponent ISL

the half-time whistle, Delhi Dynamos got a deserved lead through an outrageous strike from Rana Gharami. The defender got on the ball from about 40 yards out and hit a thunderous strike that flew into the top corner, much to everyone's wonder.

The second half got off to a slow start as both teams failed to create chances of note. Emiliano Alfaro cut a lone figure up front for Pune City while Delhi Dynamos pressed well but could not trouble the Stallions' defence.

The Dynamos continued to exploit the wings and should have doubled their lead

in the 67th minute. Nandhakumar went on a brilliant run down the right wings and squared the ball for Kaluderovic who met it with a weak left-foot that saw the effort trickle well wide.

Portugal threw on Diego Carlos as he searched for an equaliser while Gombau sent on Romeo Fernandes for Nandhakumar. It was the latter who would fashion a chance as he galloped down the right wing and almost found Kaluderovic inside the box, but for an alert Mills.

With Pune turning desperate for a goal, Delhi had two good chances to score a second. First, Ganni Zuiverloon failed to direct a volley at the backpost from Das' freekick on target. Then a smart inter-play between Kaluderovic and Chhangte set the latter through on goal but he shot straight at Vishal Kaith.

With two minutes left in the tie, Pune City equalised after brilliant link-up play between Alfaro and Carlos. The Brazilian played in Alfaro inside the box. The Uruguayan passed it back on to Carlos' path who shifted on to his left and sent an arrowing finish to the far corner.

Though Delhi pressed hard to regain their lead, Portugal's men held on to clinch a point from a tightly-contested clash.

JAYARAM, SOURABH WIN IN TAIPEI OPEN

PTI ■ TAIPEI CITY

Indian shuttler Ajay Jayaram staved off a spirited challenge from Japan's Hashiru Shimono before Sourabh Verma also won to enter the second round of the Chinese Taipei BWF World Tour Super 300 tournament here on Wednesday.

Jayaram, who had reached the finals at Vietnam Open and White Nights, defeated Hashiru 18-21, 21-17, 21-9 within an hour to set up a second-round clash with Denmark's Kim Bruun next.

Verma beat local player Chia Hao Lee 18-21, 21-16, 21-13 in a 52-minute match. He lost the first game and then bounced back in style to clinch the issue.

However, young Sri Krishna Priya Kudaravalli couldn't cross the opening hurdle, despite giving her everything as she went down 21-23, 20-22 to Lin Ying Chun of Chinese Taipei. Among others, Abhishek



Ajay Jayaram plays a shot during match PTI

Yeligar and Mugdha Agrey too flopped in the opening round matches as they went down without a fight.

While Abhishek was shown the door by fifth seed Jan O Jorgensen of Denmark 5-21, 6-21 in men's singles, seventh seed Sonia Cheah of Malaysia ended Mugdha's campaign with a 21-11, 21-4 win.

India's Tarun Kona and his Malaysian partner Lim Khim Wah also suffered the same fate, losing 13-21, 10-21 to fourth seeded Ong Yew Sin and Teo Ee Yi of Malaysia.

'Hungry' Hamilton seeks Japan boost

AFP ■ TOKYO

Lewis Hamilton will be looking to restore normal service at the Japanese Grand Prix after being gifted a controversial victory by Mercedes in Russia last weekend.

But the runaway Formula One championship leader appears to have complicated that task by refusing to rule out leaving Mercedes when his current contract expires in 2020.

Hamilton was allowed to claim a 70th career win when Valtteri Bottas was ordered to move over in Sochi — with the world champion describing it as "the strangest day" of his career.

The Briton, who has opened a 50-point advantage over Ferrari's Sebastian Vettel with five races left this season, will want to prove he can win in his own right at Suzuka this week as he chases a fifth title.

Hamilton's eighth win of the season and third in a row left the Silver Arrows red-faced and sparked fresh debate over team orders with many Formula One fans taking to social media to vent their anger. Despite the criticism, Mercedes team



Lewis Hamilton hugs Valtteri Bottas after Russian GP

boss Toto Wolff insisted he had no regrets about issuing the instruction to let Hamilton pass.

"I'd rather be the baddie today than the idiot at the end of the year," he said. "Rationally it was the right call."

Wolff expects Hamilton, who won in Japan for the fourth time last year, to continue his dominance this weekend.

"Lewis is hungry, focused and determined to succeed," he said.

"It has been great to see the power he has brought to this ship and how he's taken it to the next level."

Potro seals ATP Finals spot

AFP ■ BEIJING

Favourite Juan Martin del Potro avoided the fate of third seed Grigor Dimitrov to surge into the quarter-finals of the China Open and seal his spot at the ATP Finals on Wednesday.

The towering Argentine top seed, enjoying one of the best seasons of his injury-blighted career, dismissed Russia's stubborn Karen Khachanov 6-4, 7-6 (7/4).

Victory means that Del Potro has qualified for the season-ending ATP Finals for the first time since 2013, joining Rafael Nadal, Roger Federer and Novak Djokovic in London in November.

It underlines the 30-year-old's return to the men's elite after years of wrist problems that threatened to destroy his career.

The world number four faces Filip Krajinovic of Serbia in the last eight on Beijing's outside hard courts.

Bulgaria's Dimitrov was on the end of a major shock in the Chinese capital, totting up nine double faults in a three-set defeat to Serbian qualifier Dusan Lajovic.

Lajovic meets Britain's fifth seed



del Potro hits a return shot between his legs while competing against Karen Khachanov AP

Kyle Edmund in the quarter-finals.

In the women's draw, number two seed Caroline Wozniacki rounded off a polished display with an ace in a 7-5, 6-3 victory over Petra Martic of Croatia.

The Dane faces Estonia's Anett Kontaveit in the last 16.

Seventh seed Karolina Pliskova of the Czech Republic set up a meeting against China's top player Wang Qiang.

KYRGIOS ADVANCE IN TOKYO

TOKYO: Former champion Nick Kyrgios flickered into life for just long enough to dispatch wildcard Yoshihito Nishioka 7-5, 7-6 (7/3) in the first round of the Japan Open on Wednesday.

He faces eighth seed Richard Gasquet for a place in the quarter-finals.

Meanwhile, Wimbledon finalist Kevin Anderson survived a scare against Kyrgios's fellow Australian Matthew Ebden, winning in three sets to avoid the same fate as top seed Marin Cilic who flopped at the first hurdle in Tokyo a day earlier.

Second seed Anderson came through a tough opener 4-6, 7-6 (7/1), 6-2 as the South African goes in search of a fifth career title.

The world number nine, runner-up to Novak Djokovic at Wimbledon this year, struggled against Ebden until recovering his mojo in the second-set tiebreak, surrendering just one point.

An early break in the decider broke the Australian's resistance and Anderson closed out the match with a thumping serve down the centre line. He plays American Frances Tiafoe in the last 16.

Earlier, Australia's Alex De Minaur beat France's former world number six Gilles Simon 6-7 (1/7), 7-6 (7/5), 6-2.

INDIA SEEK COURSE CORRECTION AT HOME

PTI ■ RAJKOT

After two consecutive away series defeats, Men in Blue look to return back into winning ways against inexperienced West Indies

Scarred by yet another overseas debacle, India will once again seek home comfort when they take on an inexperienced West Indies in a two-Test series starting here on Thursday, aiming to get their combinations in order before the gruelling assignment in Australia.

India have endured series losses in South Africa and England over the last nine months but have still managed to remain the number one side in the longest format.

A comprehensive beating of the West Indies at this stage can only serve as a morale-booster to the Virat Kohli-led side which faces another stern test with the Australia tour beginning late November.

There is not much to gain for India against the eighth-ranked West Indies who, on their part, will be trying their best to make an impression in one of the toughest places to tour and against a side which they have not beaten since 2002.

The Indian team was criticised for making too many changes in England and as it panned out, openers Murali Vijay and Shikhar Dhawan lost their place in the side.

Even Karun Nair, who warmed the bench in England, was ignored for the West Indies, triggering an intense selection debate.

What is certain is that a brand new opening combination will be tried in the next couple of games with K L Rahul opening with exciting uncapped talent Prithvi Shaw.

But even if the move works, it will not be a decisive indicator of the partnership working in Australia given the drastic difference in batting conditions.

However, the series does provide a good opportunity to Shaw and another uncapped player Mayank Agarwal, who had been knocking on the door for quite some time.

On the bowling front, India are expected to play three spinners -- R Ashwin, Ravindra Jadeja and Kuldeep Yadav - and Umesh Yadav will pair up with Mohammad Shami, who will be leading the pace attack in the absence of the rested duo of Jasprit Bumrah and Bhuvneshwar Kumar, and an injured Ishant Sharma.

Jadeja will be expected to perform with both bat and ball in the absence of an injured Hardik Pandya. After a successful ODI comeback with the Asia Cup, Jadeja will be raring to go on his home ground.

Another man who would be itching to take the field will be Rishabh Pant, who expectedly retained his place after a memorable 114 at The Oval in his debut series.

It is not a full strength Indian team but still capable of dominating an inexperienced West Indies. There is abundance of talent in the Caribbean outfit too but it lacks the expe-



Indian cricket team practice ahead of their first match in the India-West Indies Test series in Rajkot

PTI

India vs West Indies
Live from 9:30am IST
STAR SPORTS 1

INDIA-WEST INDIES IN TESTS

	Played	Ind	WI	Draw
In India	45	11	14	20
In West Indies	49	7	16	26
Total	94	18	30	46
Last five Tests	5	3	-	2

Faisal Features

The others who have played on the Indian soil are Devendra Bishoo, Kraigg Brathwaite, Kieran Powell and Shannon Gabriel.

In fact, the West Indies will be playing a Test in India for the first time since November 2013 when they had become part of Sachin Tendulkar's farewell series.

Under coach Stuart Law, the team has produced some stellar performances including the shock win over England at Leeds last year after Shai Hope smashed 147 and 118 not out to set up an improbable victory.

The West Indies come to India after drawing with Sri Lanka 1-1 and beating Bangladesh 2-0 at home.

Law, who is nearing the end of his stint with the West Indies, has high hopes from his wards. The squad prepared in the Dubai before playing a warm-up in Vadodra.

"We have talked a lot but it is time now to stop talking. It is time the boys show what they have got on the field. They are a great bunch of guys who always give their 100 per cent," Law had said. "Touring India has always been tough for teams but we have to show the world that we can play the game and grab hold of those opportunities."

SQUADS

India Final 12: Virat Kohli, KL Rahul, Prithvi Shaw, Cheteshwar Pujara, Ajinkya Rahane, Rishabh Pant, R Ashwin, Ravindra Jadeja, Kuldeep Yadav, Mohammed Shami, Umesh Yadav, Shardul Thakur.

West Indies: Jason Holder, Sunil Ambris, Devendra Bishoo, Kraigg Brathwaite, Roston Chase, Shane Dowrich, Shannon Gabriel, Shimron Hetmyer, Shai Hope, Sherman Lewis, Keemo Paul, Kieran Powell, Jomel Warrican.



rience required to be competitive in India.

Only five players in the 15-man squad have played a Test in India and to make matters worse, one among them - lead pacer Kumar Roach - will be missing the series-opener due to the death of his grandmother back in Barbados.

'We can push top teams like India'

PTI ■ RAJKOT

The current West Indies squad may not have much experience of playing in India but its captain Jason Holder feels it can compete against the world number one side like it has done against other top teams such as England.

After a memorable win against England at Leeds last year, the West Indies have had a decent 2018 as they drew with Sri Lanka at home before beating the visiting Bangladesh side.

The unit is not short on talent but it has little idea of playing in India with only five members of the 15-man squad having featured in a Test in the country.

Skipper Holder, who himself has not played a Test in India, remains confident.

"It is a great challenge and everyone is up for it. We have pushed top teams in the last few years. This group has shown what they can do. We are just focus on playing good cricket and would not like to be drawn in personal battles," said Holder ahead of the first Test beginning here Thursday.

The team is clear with its game plans having spent a week in Dubai before playing a two-day warm-up in Baroda.

"Patience plays a massive role in India. We need to stick to games plans and not get into one on one battles. We have discussed how we are going to score runs against their quality attack. One thing I spoke about was patience, capitalising on every opportunity to score. Not be reckless at the same time but have a clear game plan to score," said 26-year-old, who has played 34 Tests.

Pace is West Indies' strength though they have been hit by the absence of Kumar Roach in the series opener with the lead fast bowler rushing back home following the death of his grandmother. The pitch here has bit of grass covering and Holder is not complaining.

"It (pitch) was covered when I came today but there seems to be a bit of grass. The practice facilities are brilliant. But like I said cricket is played on the day. It is about executing your plans."



West Indies skipper Jason Holder

Kohli promises enough space to youngsters

PTI ■ RAJKOT

India captain Virat Kohli on Wednesday said top-order batting is the only aspect left to be sorted in the 'Test team and "enough space" would be given to youngsters such as Prithvi Shaw to showcase their talent confidently.

Kohli said experimentation can only be done in the top-order and has high hopes from the 18-year-old Shaw, who will make his Test debut on Thursday in the opening game.

"We have a change at the top of the order. We will give these guys enough space and enough chances to feel comfortable at that position. We want them to be confident of what they are doing," Kohli said in the pre-match press conference.

"The lower-order is all about contribution, there is no change needed there. Rishabh (Pant) is new but Ashwin and Jadeja have performed in so many games at home they just need to replicate it abroad.

"Apart from the top-order getting cemented, I don't think with these two Test there is a lot we are looking at. Rest of the things are quite settled," he added.

After series losses in South Africa and England, the Indian team management



Virat Kohli infects the pitch during a practice session

SELECTION PROCESS ISN'T MY JOB: VIRAT

PTI ■ RAJKOT

India captain Virat Kohli on Wednesday asserted that it is not his space to comment on the controversial omission of Karun Nair from the Test squad and contrary to the growing belief, all decisions are not being made from "one place".

Nair's exclusion from the two-Test squad for the home series against the West Indies triggered a controversy as he was dropped despite warming the bench through the five-Test series against England.

Hanuma Vihari, who was not originally picked in the England-bound squad, pipped Nair to make his debut in the fifth and final Test at The Oval.

"Selectors have already spoken

about it and it is not my place to say. There are selectors doing their job. You can conveniently merge everything and make it a circle where everyone is doing their job and not focusing on what people are saying on the outside," Kohli said on the eve of the series-opener against the West Indies.

"If a person has spoken about it already, it should not be brought in here again. The chief selector has already spoken to the player of what I know. I don't think I need to comment on that. "Selection is not my job. As a team we are doing what we are supposed to. Everyone should be aware of their respective jobs."

The skipper asserted that no joint decisions are taken and all stakeholders are aware of their respective jobs.

was slammed for making too many changes in the playing eleven but Kohli justified the decisions made.

"...You need your best eleven on the park. In the past, most of the changes have been made in the bowling combination

and people have conveniently taken otherwise. The bowlers that have sat out have never felt they have been hard done by," said Kohli.

"The motive has always been to pick the best eleven and we have hardly tinkered

with the batting order barring a couple of guys who have not been in form. We have utilised the conditions to the maximum wherever we have gone," he said referring to the bowlers' good work in South Africa and England.

Kohli said the final XI is always picked based on the conditions that the team is facing.

"We have been able to pick up 20 wickets because of the fact we played people who are suited for the conditions. Batting has not been up to the mark and that is why we have not done well in England."

"No one wants to do something different every game. It is all about what is in front of you and accordingly you pick your best eleven," said the skipper.

Kohli said the lower-order must perform better ahead of the Australia tour next month.

"See in home conditions, we are not bothered by it because we have done really well as far as lower-order contributions are concerned. But definitely we would like to take the West Indies series as a benchmark we want to set."

"With a couple of new guys coming at the top, they have an opportunity to showcase their skill sets and show why selectors have backed them," he said.

Vizag to host 2nd ODI

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Visakhapatnam will host the second one-day international between India and the West Indies, the BCCI said on Wednesday, after a dispute over distribution of complimentary passes moved the October 24 game out of Indore.

The Holkar Stadium at Indore, which was scheduled to host the match, lost out due to a dispute between the Indian board and the Madhya Pradesh Cricket Association over the distribution of complimentary passes.

"The second India and Windies will now be held at Visakhapatnam's Dr YS Rajasekhara Reddy ACA-VDCA Cricket Stadium," the BCCI said in a press release.

total capacity of the stadium must be put on public sale, which effectively leaves 10 per cent of complimentary tickets left with state units.

In this case, the Holkar stadium has capacity to accommodate 27,000 fans and MPCCA was left with 2700 complimentary tickets.

The BCCI also demands its share of free passes for its sponsors and thus the bone of contention.

The clamour for free passes during international games has always been an issue with BCCI affiliated units.

The match will now be held at the picturesque ACA-VDCA (Andhra Cricket Association/Visakhapatnam District Cricket Association) ground, set on the outskirts of the port city amidst scenic hills.

The West Indies and India will play five one-day internationals in the series.

Haryana, TN register win in Vijay Hazare

PTI ■ CHENNAI

Haryana defeated Gujarat by 44 runs in the Vijay Hazare Trophy Elite Group 'C' league here on Wednesday while Tamil Nadu registered a crushing eight-wicket win over Tripura.

In the Haryana-Gujarat match, the former made 247 for 7 in 50 overs with Himanshu Yadav (3 for 35) was the most successful of the bowlers while leggie Yuzvendra Chahal, who is aiming to break into the national Test squad, took 1 for 34 in his 10-over spell.

In the Tamil Nadu-Tripura match, the former elected to bat



Tamil Nadu batsman N Jagadeesan (R) in action during Vijay Hazare match

after winning the toss, but frittered away the opportunity by being bowled out for 196 in 46.4 overs despite Smit Patel's enterprising knock of 60.

In response, N Jagadeesan and Abhinav Mukund provided Tamil Nadu a flying start and added 135 runs in 122 balls for the first wicket.

Mukund was in superb touch as he got runs in style, cracking 13 boundaries apart from six sixers to power the team home.

However, India Test discard Murali Vijay failed to impress as he was castled by left-arm spinner Harmeet Singh for just three runs.

In the other match, Jammu & Kashmir put it across Team Rajasthan by three wickets, reaching the revised target of 179 in the 36th and final over after a rain interruption during the lunch interval.