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Out on bail, 'rapists' set victim ablaze

Unnao girl waylaid on way to court, suffers 90% burns, airlifted to Delhi's Safdarjung Hospital; all 5 held

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Barely a week after the brutal gang-rape and murder of a veterinarian in Hyderabad, a rape survivor was set ablaze by five men, including two rape accused, while she was on her way to court to attend hearing in the rape case, in Unnao in the wee hours of Thursday. The two men accused of raping her last year were granted bail 10 days back.

The victim, with 90 per cent burn injuries, was rushed to Unnao District Hospital then to Civil Hospital in Lucknow, and then airdropped to Delhi's Safdarjung Hospital later on Thursday evening.

All five accused, including rape accused Shivam Trivedi and Shubham Trivedi, were arrested in raids carried out soon after the incident.

As per reports, the rape survivor had left her Hindunagar village home to go to the railway station to catch a train to Rae Bareilly to attend the hearing in the rape case against Shivam and Shubham.

In an isolated stretch, she was waylaid by her "rapists" Shivam and Shubham and three accomplices around 4.30 am. They doused her with kerosene and set her on fire.

In a chilling recap, the woman said in her statement to Subdivisional Magistrate Dayashankar Pathak that she was attacked when she reached Gaura turn near her home. She has named Shivam Trivedi,

Shubham Trivedi, Harishankar Trivedi, Ram Kishore Trivedi, Umesh Bajpai in the report.

Earlier, in January 2018, the girl had married Shivam Trivedi against her parents' wishes and owing to family pressure the couple separated. Following which, Shivam and Shubham raped her in Rae Bareilly, and the woman filed a rape case against them at Lalgaon police station in March.

Police said, "The victim was alone when she was set afire. No one from her family was with her as she left her home on Thursday morning. After being set ablaze, she ran for a kilometre before a villager rescued her and called police."

The rescuer, Ravindra Prakash, said the victim ran for about a kilometre while crying for help. "At first, I thought she was a witch as she was burning profusely, but when she said her father's name, I reacted," Ravindra said.

Ravindra then dialed 112 and the victim herself talked to the police. Soon after, a police van and an ambulance rushed to the spot.

She was first rushed to the community hospital in Unnao and then to District hospital and then to Shyama Prasad Mukherjee Hospital in Lucknow where doctors said her condition is "very serious".

"The condition of the girl who was set on fire and brought here at 10 am is very serious. She has 90 per cent burn injuries and we are tak-

ing the utmost care," said Medical Superintendent Dr Ashutosh Dubey.

In the evening, the woman was airlifted to Safdarjung Hospital in Delhi. A "green corridor" was created to move her from the hospital to Amausi airport to ensure there was no delay due to traffic in Lucknow. The Delhi Traffic Police also provided a green corridor for the vehicle that carried her from the airport to Safdarjung Hospital.

UP Police chief OP Singh said, "The police had done its work by arresting them (rapists) in March. How they were given bail was the matter of the court. In this case too, the police acted swiftly and arrested all five accused."

Meanwhile, UP Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath the authorities to approach the court for cancelling the bail of the rape accused and invoke stringent sections of the IPC against them for the gory crime. On his intervention, the victim was later air-lifted to New Delhi for treatment.

In a statement issued in Lucknow on Thursday morning, Yogi directed Divisional Commissioner of Lucknow, Mukesh Meshram and IG (Lucknow Range) SK Bhagat to visit Unnao and submit their reports on the incident.

Meanwhile, the Rajya Sabha members raised the issue and the House was adjourned twice on Thursday.



An ambulance carrying the Unnao rape survivor, who was set afire in the wee hours of Thursday, arrives at Safdarjung Hospital in Delhi after the UP Government arranged an air ambulance from Lucknow on Thursday



Forensic experts investigate at the site where a rape victim was set ablaze by five men at in a village in Unnao district on Thursday

Eyewitness recalls horror

PTI ■ UNNAO

The sight of the rape victim set afire and running for help early Thursday sent shivers down the spine of local people. Ravindra, who sitting by the roadside then, told reporters that he was so frightened that he actually went to pick up his stick.

"It was only when she came nearer that I found she was severely burnt," he said. She had been calling out for help, he added.



Ravindra said he called police and the woman herself talked on them on the phone. The police arrived soon and she was taken to the local community health centre, he said. She was later transferred to a district hospital and then to Lucknow.

CCTV, panic buttons, GPS to make Delhi buses safer

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Government will install CCTV cameras, panic buttons and GPS in the existing 5,500 DTC and cluster buses, a decision regarding which was taken by the Cabinet on Thursday.

The new buses being inducted are already equipped with safety and security func-

tions, while the existing DTC and cluster buses have been equipped with CCTV cameras, panic buttons and GPS-based Automatic Vehicle Location System.

Each bus will have three CCTV cameras, 10 panic buttons, and GPS locations and announcements will be made at bus stands for the visually impaired passengers, said

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal.

"We have been trying to complete the tendering process in this regard for quite a long time. Three tenders failed in the last three-four years. Now the tendering process has been succeeded. The Cabinet has decided to issue the work award," said Kejriwal.

Nine killed, 23 injured in road accident at Gudh highway

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

At least nine persons were killed and 23 others injured in a massive road mishap as a bus carrying passengers rammied into a stationary truck in Rewa district of Madhya Pradesh on Thursday morning.

The police confirmed the death of nine persons while 23 others have been rushed to Hospital in injured condition. Seven of these persons are said to be critical. The dead include five men, three women and a kid. The incident took place at Gudh highway.

According to a senior police officer from Rewa, a family which lives near the spot claimed that there was a huge sound and they saw a passenger bus lying damaged besides a truck which was parked on the roadside.

The eye witnesses claimed that the bus was running on a fast pace and the driver seems to have lost control.

Total 32 persons involved in the mishap reached Sanjay Gandhi Medical College Rewa in injured condition and nine of these were dead, said the police officer. Leva Aadivasi,



Mangled remains of the bus after it rammied into a stationary truck in a road accident in Rewa, on Thursday. At least nine persons were killed and several others injured in the mishap

According to a senior police officer from Rewa, a family which lives near the spot claimed that there was a huge sound and they saw a passenger bus lying damaged besides a truck which was parked on the roadside

the driver of the bus died in the accident.

Transport rules also where flouted by the bus operator as the bus had the permission to ply between Satna and Baidhan

while it was running from Jabalpur to Sidhi via Rewa.

Chief Minister Kamal Nath condoled the deaths promising all possible help to the injured.

Govt mullish, clueless about economy, alleges PC

PM has left it to his ministers to indulge in bluff and bluster, says Cong leader

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

A day after stepping out of jail, former Finance Minister P Chidambaram on Thursday alleged the Centre is "clueless" about the state of economy and Prime Minister Narendra Modi has left it to his Ministers to indulge in "bluff and bluster".

Slamming the Government's economic policy, the senior Congress leader said nothing sums up the state of the economy better than the series of numbers: 8, 7, 6.6, 5.8, 5 and 4.5, a reference to quarterly growth rates of the GDP in the last six quarters.

Chidambaram addressed a Press Conference where he alleged the Government is unable to look for the obvious clues because it is "stubborn and mullish" in defending its "catastrophic mistakes" such as demonetisation, flawed GST, tax terrorism, regulatory overkill, protectionism, and centralised control of decision-making in the Prime Minister's Office.

He began his Press conference with a reference to Kashmir. Chidambaram said his first thoughts upon his

release from jail were with the Kashmiri people who "have been denied their basic freedoms since August 4, 2019".

He refused to speak on the case pending against him and focused mostly on the economy in his Press conference. He only said the "clear and comprehensive" Supreme Court order, granting him bail in a money laundering case connected to INX Media will clear the "many layers of dust" settled on the understanding of criminal law and the manner in which criminal law has been administered by the courts. "I am happy to be back. The Government cannot suppress my voice in Parliament," he said.

"In the last 106 days, I was strong in spirit and I have become stronger because... My record as Minister and my conscience are absolutely clear. Officers who have worked with me, business persons who have interacted with me and journalists who have observed me know that very well. My family trusts in God. We have total confidence that the courts will, ultimately, render justice," Chidambaram said.

Asked if parallels can be



Congress leader and former Finance Minister P Chidambaram speaks during a Press conference at AICC HQ in New Delhi on Thursday

drawn between the Government's assurances on issues in Kashmir and the economy, Chidambaram answered in the negative, saying as far as economy is concerned "the reason is incompetence, while in Kashmir, it is the Government's arrogance". He added in a lighter vein that sleeping on a wooden board, without a pillow strengthens the neck, spine and back.

"Even after seven months into the fiscal year, the BJP Government believes the problems faced by the economy are cyclical," said Chidambaram.

Chidambaram violating bail conditions: BJP

New Delhi: The BJP on Thursday accused Congress leader P Chidambaram of violating bail conditions, as set by the Supreme Court, by claiming to have a very clear record as a Minister, and said the case against him was essentially about corruption he was allegedly involved in as the Finance Minister.

Detailed report on P5

'Does she eat Avocado?' PC takes dig at FM

New Delhi: "Does she eat avocado?" quipped former Finance Minister P Chidambaram, who arrived in Parliament on Thursday after spending 106 days in Tihar jail, when asked to comment on Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman's comment that her family didn't eat onion much.

BJP MP offers truckload of onions at ₹25/kg

New Delhi: A BJP MP on Thursday offered to provide Opposition members a truck full of onions at ₹25 a kilogram from his constituency in Uttar Pradesh, while speaking on the price rise of the bulb in the Lok Sabha.

Virendra Singh 'Mas', MP from Balia and also president of BJP Kisan porcha, said onions are produced in UP, besides Maharashtra and Gujarat, in large quantity.

MPs relinquish food subsidy at House canteen; ₹17 cr/yr saved

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Political parties have agreed to give up subsidy accorded to their MPs in Parliament canteens after accepting a suggestion from Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla.

The removal of subsidies will result in saving around ₹17 crore annually, said official sources, adding that many food items will cost almost double than the current prices once the decision comes into effect.

The price of meals is likely to at least double — a plate of biryani, which now costs ₹56, is estimated to be sold at ₹112 after the decision to lift subsidy, around 80%, on food.

Smog chokes Delhi-NCR, air turns hazardous

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The 10-day long relief from toxic air ended as smog returned on Thursday to choke Delhi-NCR with the pollution levels entering the "hazardous" zone in many parts of Delhi and its suburbs.

Also, the national Capital registered the season's lowest minimum temperature at 7.6 degrees Celsius on Thursday with the overall air quality index (AQI) touching 382 in Delhi and its adjoining areas.

Following the development, a Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB)-led task force asked all agencies in Delhi-NCR to take stringent steps to control air pollution.

The overall air quality index (AQI) in Delhi read 382 at 4 pm, while the AQI entered the severe zone in Ghaziabad (432), Greater Noida (417) and

Noida (414) on Thursday.

The levels of PM2.5 — particulate matter so small that they can enter the lungs and even the bloodstream — shot up to 245 micrograms per cubic metre, six times the safe limit of 0-60, by 8 pm. The last time such levels were reported was on November 16.

At a meeting of the task force, VK Soni, a senior scientist at the India Meteorological Department (IMD), said the region is likely to witness slow wind speed in the next five days.

He asked officials to intensify enforcement activities in hot spots and industrial areas and recommended people to minimise the use of private vehicles.

The wind direction is expected to shift from North to North-East Friday onwards which may increase pollution further, he said.



The AQI is likely drop to the lower end of severe category by Friday. Rain and thunderstorm on December 11 may bring some relief, Soni said.

During a review meeting with the implementing agencies on Tuesday, the CPCB said December and January have seen a number of days in the "very severe" category in the last three years.

"Similar situation may emerge this year as well, unless timely and adequate field-level preventive action is taken by implementing agencies," it said.

NK Gupta, Additional Director, CPCB, pointed out that a large number of incidents of construction and demolition activities and open dumping of garbage were being reported from some parts of Delhi and neighbouring towns such as Ghaziabad and Faridabad.

"Therefore, municipal cor-

porations in these areas are required to pay greater attention to such polluting activities and take all necessary measures to check air pollution on account of such activities," he said.

It was also pointed out that for want of timely reporting by implementing agencies, it has not been possible to make correct assessment of their performance.

According to a private weather forecasting agency Skymet, PM 2.5 levels are in poor category, while PM 10 still is in moderate category in some parts. Noida on the other hand is seeing PM 10 in the severe category.

It said no relief in terms of pollution is expected in the coming days as light winds will continue to blow over the region with temperatures being on the lower side.

CAPSULE

SC: 2018 SABARIMALA VERDICT NOT 'FINAL'

New Delhi: The Supreme Court said its 2018 verdict allowing entry of girls and women of all ages into the Ayyappa temple at Kerala's Sabarimala was not the "final word" as the matter was referred to a larger Bench.

I APOLOGIZE A HUNDRED TIMES: JUSTICE MISHRA

New Delhi: Supreme Court judge Justice Arun Mishra Thursday said he would "apologise a hundred times" with "folded hands" if anybody is hurt by his words, two days after he had warned a senior lawyer of contempt action.

LEADERS DOWNPLAY BABRI DEMOLITION ANNIV

Ayodhya: Both Muslim and Hindu religious leaders are talking about downplaying the anniversary of the demolition of the Babri mosque.

Drug peddler arrested near Satnami Nagar

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Piplani police has nabbed a drug peddler near Satnami Nagar and recovered cannabis weighing 1.5 kg from his possession. Police have registered a case and have started investigation.

Police said that acting on a tip-off that a man was carrying drugs, he was nabbed near Satnami Nagar and when he was frisked, 1.5 kg of cannabis was recovered from his possession.

The accused was identified as Shoaib Hasan, a resident of Satnami Nagar who failed to provide details of the drugs recovered from his possession. Police said that the details of procurement and delivery of the drugs would be known in the further investigation.

After the initial investigation, the police have registered a case under sections 8 and 20 of the NDPS Act.

During the investigation

, police have found that the accused has already been booked for over a dozen crimes by Piplani police.

The accused used to sell small packets of cannabis worth ₹50 each. The target was youths and men around Piplani area.

Meanwhile, Teelajamalpur police has nabbed a 42-year-old man who was charged with vehicle lifting and was absconding for the past three years.

According to the police, acting on a tip off, a miscreant was nabbed who was identified as Shambhu Khan of Hoshangabad.

During the investigation, it was found that the accused has been booked for several crimes in the past. His two aides — Danish and Salman — have been arrested in the past.

The accused is a notorious vehicle lifter and remained absconding for three years.

Development of Omkareshwar: Action plan approved

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Chief Minister Kamal Nath has approved the action plan worth ₹156 crore for the development of Omkareshwar. He directed that an Act should also be prepared at the earliest for the Omkareshwar Temple.

Nath was reviewing the Omkareshwar action plan at Mantralaya on Thursday. It is to be mentioned that a development action plan worth ₹300 crore has already been approved by the Chief Minister for the Mahakaleshwar Temple Complex in the past.

In the meeting, Kamal Nath said that only Madhya Pradesh has the honour to have two Jyotirlingas out of the 12 Jyotirlingas in the country. He said that our goal is to establish these sacred places as world tourism centres.

Kamal Nath directed to fix time for the completion of Omkareshwar Development Scheme. The Chief Minister further said that the date of completion of every development work should be fixed. He said that we intend to introduce this Act in the next Winter Session. The Chief Minister directed to form a

committee under the chairmanship of collector for laying the foundation stone of the scheme. This Committee will monitor the progress of the development work.

Under the Omkar Circuit Scheme, the scheme for the development of Omkareshwar has been prepared along with the Mhakaal-Maheshwar as per the instructions of the Chief Minister. The scheme has been finalised by the Minister for Public Health and Family Welfare Tulsiram Silawat. This scheme was presented before the Chief Minister in Mantralaya on Thursday.

An elaborate description of development has been prepared under the scheme. It includes works like grand construction of entrance gate of Omkareshwar, conservation of the temple, prasad counter, development and beautification around the temple, shopping complex, jhulaput and retaining wall near Vishranjan Kund, multi-storey parking, approach road, beautification of parikrama path, shed construction, land-scaping, library for books of religious-mythological saga, development of Omkar Iceland,



Chief Minister Kamal Nath chairs a meeting to review the action plan for the Omkareshwar temple development at State Mantralaya in Bhopal on Thursday. Pioneer photo

Goumukh Ghat reconstruction, bhakt niwas and bhajanshala, old palace, Vishnu Mandir, Brahma Mandir, restoration of Chandreshwar Mandir, e-cycle and e-rickshaw facility, boating, traffic movement, bus stand, tourist facilitation centre besides other developmental works.

The Minister for Adhyatm and Public Relations PC Sharma, Minister for Public Health and Family Welfare and District In-Charge Khandwa Tulsiram Silawat, Minister for Home Bala Bachchan and Minister for Farmers Welfare

and Agriculture Development Sachin Yadav attended the meeting.

Chief Secretary SR Mohanty, Additional Chief Secretary Adhyatm Manoj Shrivastava, Additional Chief Secretary Finance Anurag Jain, Principal Secretary Public Works Malay Shrivastava, Principal Secretary Culture Pankaj Raag, Principal Secretary Urban Administration Sanjay Dubey, Commissioner Indore Division Akash Tripathi and Collector Khandwa Tanvi Sundriyal were present at the meeting.

'Higher Education Excellence Award' will be given for creating healthy competition

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

'Higher Education Excellence Award' will be given to encourage colleges and officers working there in the field of higher education in the State. This scheme is being started with the aim of creating an environment of healthy competition in colleges by Higher Education.

Under the scheme, 20 teachers and 5 principals each, sports officers, librarians and NCC officers at the State-level and 5 colleges each, laboratories and libraries will be selected from the institution category for felicitation. The evaluation of officer and institution will be based on the information related to the last three academic sessions.

Applications will be invited through advertisement for the award by the Department of Higher Education. Minimum time of one month will be given to apply. All applications will be scrutinised by the committee. The committee will submit the report to the recommendation committee

Applications will be invited through advertisement for the award by the Department of Higher Education. Minimum time of one month will be given to apply

tee constituted under the chairmanship of Commissioner Higher Education. The recommendation committee will submit its report to the jury set up under the chairmanship of the Minister of Higher Education.

The name of the officer and institute selected for the award will be announced by Commissioner Higher Education. This information will also be displayed on the official website of the Higher Education Department.



MPPSC qualified assistant professors on indefinite hunger strike demanding jobs in the State Government services in Bhopal on Thursday. Pioneer photo

SOS Mission

'Under-privileged children should not be treated with bias'

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

"We aim to develop distressed or under-privileged children into good citizens and contributor to the civil society and in progress of the country", said National Director and General Secretary, SOS India, Sudharshan Suchi while speaking with 'The Pioneer' at SOS village, Bhopal, on Wednesday.

He further added that these children should not be treated with bias as society has huge rift of haves and have-nots and to make this possible, every possible effort to make them feel safe, secure and pampered

by home is made at the SOS village.

Having rich experience from the inception of Reliance Foundation to working along with Kurien, Suchi brings bagful of experience from varied field and is a believer of development of the most deprived and needy children of the society and only this has brought him to SOS village.

The mother and children relationship is the purest one and SOS is based on providing family-like support which is unique from any other shelter home for children, he added. Another important aspect

The mother and children relationship is the purest one and SOS is based on providing family-like support which is unique from any other shelter home for children, he added

is education which is utmost important and it is ensured that quality education is imparted to every child at SOS village.

The way forward is to create enabling environment for children in distress by Family Support Programme which is aimed at identifying situations

in which children are marooned and we provide support to children and family which is a holistic approach. In the past one year, 17,500 children have been reached through our Family Support Programme across the 32 SOS Children village.

2nd day of Balraj Sahani film fest

Movies about women empowerment screened

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

On the second day of Balraj Sahani film festival, movies about women empowerment were screened. Here on Thursday, two movies Seema and Anupama were screened at Ravindra Bhavan.

In the morning session, film "Seema" was screened. This film is the story of a young woman who has to face many tortures and conspiracies in her life. In such a situation, a rebellion arises within him. It is also tragic for him.

The film underscores discrimination and stereotyping in our social and family systems. Balraj Sahani has a positive role in this film. The director of the film was Amiya Chakraborty. Nutan has an important role in the film.

Next Anupama was screened. Starring Balraj Sahani and Leela Naidu in the lead characters, the movie is directed by Hrishikesh Mukherjee. The movie was released in 1960 with the running time of 141 minutes.

The story of the film revolves around a couple who try their best to save their marriage.

After Nirmal's mother passes away, Nirmal (Balraj Sahani) decides to study medicine, become a doctor, and live in a small village to help patients who are unable to travel great distances to see a medical professional. Nirmal starts his practice in Nandgaon.

He meets with Anuradha Roy (Leela Naidu), a well-known Radio Singer and stage dancer.

He treats her injured ankle, both fall in love, and gets married, against the Anuradha's wealthy dad's wish. Both relocate to Nandgaon where Anuradha gives up her singing and becomes a housewife. Later, Anuradha's former beau, Deepak, the England-turned man re-enters her life.

He witnesses that she is being neglected by her overly busy husband, asks her to return back to singing, and go and live with her dad.

At first she refuses and asks him to leave, then relents when she sees that Nirmal has indeed been neglecting her, even on their wedding anniversary. That night when Nirmal returns home, Anuradha informs him about her decision to leave him, and then what happen next formed rest of the story.

Two movies "Seema and Anupama" were screened

Madhya Pradesh State Karate Academy players win 4 gold

ACADEMY PLAYER BAJRANGI PRAJAPATI MADE A NEW NATIONAL RECORD IN 5 THOUSAND METERS WALKING DISTANCE AND COMPLETED THE RACE IN 20: 42.71 MINUTES AND SECOND AND GAVE MADHYA PRADESH A GOLD MEDAL. IN THE YEAR 2018, BAJRANGI EARNED THE GOLD MEDAL, BREAKING THE RECORD OF 20: 53.65 MINUTES AND SECOND OF UTTARAKHAND PLAYER PARAMJIT SINGH

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

In the 65th National School Competition, four girls boarding players of Madhya Pradesh State Athletics Academy won 4 gold, two day-boarding players bagged a gold, a silver and two boys won a gold, a silver medal for Madhya Pradesh. The championship is being held in Jabalpur from December 1 to 6 L.

Medal winners met the Minister of Sports and Youth Welfare Jeetu Patwari and Director of Sports SL Thousen. Both of them congratulated all the medal winners.

Boarding players Gargi Singh Parihar (-68 kg), Anvesha Singh Chauhan (-56 kg), Isha Malviya (-48 kg) and Yogita Raj Goswami (568 kg) earned one gold medal each in the competition. Similarly, day-boarding player Sanskriti Soni (-44 kg) won the gold and Anshita Rawat (-48 kg) won the silver medal. While in the competition, Academy's pay and play player Rajveer Singh (-40 kg) earned gold and Divyansh Baraiya (-35 kg) earned silver.

The said players are trained under the guidance of

Jaidev Sharma, Chief Instructor of Karate Academy. Meanwhile, Madhya Pradesh State Athletics Academy players performed brilliantly in Madhya Pradesh State Athletics Academy.

They gave an impressive performance in Sangrur, Punjab from December 4 to 8, bagging one gold, two silver and two bronze medals to Madhya Pradesh. The match was played on Thursday.

Academy player Bajrangi Prajapati made a new national record in 5 thousand meters walking distance and completed the race in 20: 42.71 minutes and second and gave Madhya Pradesh a gold medal. In the year 2018, Bajrangi earned the gold medal, breaking the record of 20: 53.65 minutes and second of Uttarakhand player Paramjit Singh.

In the long jump event of the competition, Avinash Kumar jumped 7.09 meters to win the silver medal. While in the 1500m race, Academy players Arjun Vaskale (3: 54.25m / s) and Rajat and Abhishek Thakur (3: 54.37m/s) and Bushra Khan Gauri (4: 39.59m / s) won a bronze medal.

13 artists from Kyrgyzstan present dance and music performance



Folk dance artists from Kyrgyzstan present their traditional dance on the second day of cultural event 'Deshantar' at Tribal Museum in Bhopal on Thursday. Pioneer photo

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

On the last and second day of "Deshantar" ceremony, performances from Kyrgyzstan were held. The performances were held at Madhya Pradesh Tribal Museum.

It was organised by Tribal Folk Arts and Languages Development Academy, Madhya Pradesh Culture Council in collaboration with Indian Council for Cultural Relations.

On Thursday, about 13 artists from Kyrgyzstan presented dance and music performances in the museum hall. The cast started with the 'Ongu dance' of Kyrgyzstan. This dance is the national dance of Kyrgyzstan. In this dance, the spirit of patriotism and patriotism were presented by the artists through the dance medium in the museum auditorium.

After this, the cast performed the 'Girl Secrets' dance. In this presentation, the artists presented the love between boy and girl through dance. After this, the performers performed enchanting Kathak

After this, the cast performed the 'Girl Secrets' dance. In this presentation, the artists presented the love between boy and girl through dance.

After this, the performers performed enchanting Kathak dance on the Hindi song 'Taal se Taal Mila' and enchanted the audience present in the auditorium with their dancing skills

dance on the Hindi song 'Taal se Taal Mila' and enchanted the audience present in the auditorium with their dancing skills.

The artists then performed 'Funny Girl Dance' after the Kathakana. In this presentation, the life of the little girl, her lips and her masts were presented. After Funny Girl Dance, the cast performed 'Bird Dance'. In this presentation, artists performed dance postures on musical tunes. It is actually a dance performed in the form of a movement rather than a dance form.

After the dance, the performers performed 'Thang Chal Pong Dance'. Actually Thang Chal Pong dance is a dance centered on the Morning Star. In this dance, the performers presented the scene on stage through a dance ceremony to ask for a vow from the Morning Star according to their wishes.

At the end of the presentation, the artists ceased their dance and music performance by performing 'Kyrgyz Dance' to the tune of the Komos instrument.

Two cyber crooks arrested

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Cyber crime branch, Bhopal, has nabbed two miscreants who have duped the victim of ₹2.31 lakh by obtaining their credit cards details. The two nabbed accused, identified as Amir Khan (26) of Tikamgarh and Ajit Baamne (24) of Betul, used to obtain credit cards by using documents of the victims.

Police said that the two used to work for making credit cards in the bank and with the aim to make fast money they started to obtain credit card using documents of the victims.

A complaint was lodged by Sales Manager of Standard Chartered Bank Bhopal Anup Badlani regarding fraud of ₹

2.31 lakh by obtaining credit card using documents of Kintali Rujulu of Andhra Pradesh.

Based on the complaint police started to search and tracked that the mobile number used to obtain credit card which was 9584083207 and it was used by Amir of Tikamgarh who revealed the fraud.

Amir revealed that he along with Ajit used to target customers who stay at remote places and after identification of the target they would offer the victim of providing credit card and one of such victims was Kintali of Andhra Pradesh.

The police registered a case under section 420 and 471 of the IPC and nabbed the accused.

Group exhibition 'Aakar' begins on enthusiastic note

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

It was a delightful sight for the art enthusiasts to have a look at the most fascinating works on canvas. A group exhibition 'Aakar' was being put up at Swaraj Bhavan Art Gallery, that began here from Thursday.

The exhibition was inaugurated by eminent ceramist Nirmala Sharma. The exhibition will continue till Dunday. It will also feature live demonstrations by eminent artists.

The exhibition is being put up by Aakar Group. It showcases the beautiful art works by various artists. The artists from Chandigarh have put up beautiful artworks before the Bhopalites in different mediums.

The artists have brought a lot of variations of art at the gallery. From modern art to

abstract art and from figurative to traditional paintings could be seen under one roof. The artists have displayed their best of creations at the gallery.

This exhibition is all about contemporary, abstract and modern art on canvas. The art lovers find exquisite works of artists in form of canvas paintings.

Explaining different concepts the artists have astonished the art lovers with their immensely creative work. There works displayed in oil paint, oil pastel, mixed media and water colours.

On entering the gallery the viewer would be surrounded by an artistic world full of colours and amusements.

The viewers are enthralled to have a close look at various forms of art created over canvas.

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World Bank team visits Urja Bhawan 'Farmers may double income through food processing'



STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

In the State, 2,188 MW solar power projects have been established and 4,000 MW solar power projects are being developed which is apart from 1,500 MW at Agar, Shajapur projects, said Principal Secretary of New and Renewable Energy Manu Shrivastava during the visit of

World Bank delegates at Urja Bhawan on Wednesday. The delegate of World Bank compared the progress of Madhya Pradesh in the field of solar energy with Light House which has not only provided direction to country but it also has provided a new direction to the world. World Bank team Global and Regional Director

Infrastructure Guangzhe Chen, Operation Advisor Infrastructure Jeesu Mohdaar, Lead Energy Specialist Simon Stolp, Surbhi Goyal Energy Specialist, Senior Energy Specialist Mani Khurana and Senior Energy Specialist Amit Jain visited URJA Bhawan during their Bhopal visit. Out of the 1,500 MW, 1,100 MW would be provided

With the support of World Bank Internal Power Distribution Sub Station was developed which is a component of obtaining minimum tariff

to the state while 400 MW would be sold to Indian railways.

With the support of World Bank Internal Power Distribution Sub Station was developed which is a component of obtaining minimum tariff.

Shrivastava shared success achieved in solar pump and solar rooftops through RESCO model. He also provided models shared with International Solar Alliance and proposal of development of these models. The delegate also visited solar power plant at Upper Lake. World Bank delegate appreciated the works done by the department of renewable energy in the state and assured that they provide every possible kind of support and contribution in the ongoing and proposed projects.

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Union Minister for Food Processing Industry Harsimrat Kaur Badal inaugurated Steel Silo based Avanti Mega Food Park set up on 52 acre land in Dewas district. The Minister for Sports and Youth Welfare and District In-Charge Jitu Patwari presided over the function.

The Union Minister of State for Food Processing Industry Rameshwar Teli, Member of Parliament Mahendra Solanki, Former CM Digvijay Singh, Former Minister Kailash Vijayvargiya, MLAs Gayatri Rajee Pawar, Manoj Chowdhary and Raghunath Malviya were present on the occasion.

Minister Jitu Patwari said that Dewas district has been blessed with the fabulous gift in the form of Mega Food Park. He hoped that this Food Park will become strength of farmers in case of excess production. Farmers will get good prices for their produces here. Patwari further stated that excess production compels farmers to sell their produces at low rates. Now the farmers will be able to earn more



Union Minister of Food Processing Industries, Harsimrat Kaur Badal and Minister of Higher Education Jitu Patwari inaugurate Avantee Mega Food Park in Dewas on Thursday

Pioneer photo

through value addition by storing their produces after getting facility of food processing and storage. Patwari further mentioned that the State Government is committed to provide every kind of assistance in the development works.

The Union Minister Harsimrat Kaur Badal said that the farmers will succeed in doubling their income by adding value to their produces through food processing. She further stated that this industry will not only help the farmers in increasing their

income but also prove beneficial in generating wide scale employment for local youth. Harsimrat Kaur Badal informed that 2 new food parks have been started in Khargone and Dewas of Madhya Pradesh.

EX-CM Chouhan, Gopal Bhargav to protest against short supply of fertilisers

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Former Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan and Leader of the Opposition in the State Assembly, Gopal Bhargav, have decided to intensify the agitation against short supply of fertilisers in the State.

Gopal Bhargav has announced to protest in Sagar district on the same issue on Friday.

The police have lodged several cases against farmers and the BJP police have want some farmers and BJP Naryawali MLA Pradeep Lariya allegedly for holding protest on urea short supply in Sagar district recently.

Speaking on the issue, former Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan alleged that are struggling to get even a single grain of urea in Madhya Pradesh. Chouhan the Congress government for lodging police cases against mass and BJP MLA Pradeep Lahriya in Sagar district

He announced that he would be in Sagar district for staging protest on Friday and the administration to arrest him.

State BJP Spokesman Rajneesh Agrawal said that Chouhan would be joined by former minister Gopal Bhargava in the Sagar district would hold a protest against supply of urea.

Congress has issued a let-

Speaking on the issue, former Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan alleged that are struggling to get even a single grain of urea in Madhya Pradesh. Chouhan the Congress government for lodging police cases against mass and BJP MLA Pradeep Lahriya in Sagar district

ter of Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Kamal Nath here on Thursday written to the Prime Minister Narendra Modi in November urging the centre to release 2.40 lakh metric tonnes of urea belonging to the state quota at the earliest.

He mentioned in the letter that Madhya Pradesh has received reduced amount of Urea for the month of November.

Amid the widespread urea scarcity in the state, agriculture minister Sachin Yadav an important decision on Thursday saying that 80% of the urea would be sold from cooperative societies while the urea sold in open market would be nearly 20%.

KSS miniplex launched at British Park

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

K Sera Sera (KSS) Miniplex was launched at renowned British Park in its campus on Thursday. With this, British Park became the first township in Bhopal to avail the leisure facility of a Miniplex.

After the launch, Hindi movies Panipat and Pati Patni aur Woh would be screened in the miniplex on Friday.

Clyde Monteiro, Chief Executive Officer of K Sera Sera, said that Arora of British Park shared the vision and aim of K Sera Sera which focuses on quality enveloped in economy for all cine goers.

Hence, British Park became an obvious choice for the launch of our miniplex.

K Sera Sera miniplex is a division of almost a decade old KSS Limited. The venture aims to provide pocket friendly cine



Clyde Monteiro, Chief Executive Officer of K Sera Sera, said that Arora of British Park shared the vision and aim of K Sera Sera which focuses on quality enveloped in economy for all cine goers

experience for families and groups with extra attention on amenities, food choices, quality of audio video and ambience.

K Sera Sera is set to open over 500 miniplexes across

India and has already rolled out in 120 cities.

Digital and entertainment major, KSS Limited has chalked out a huge expansion plan for its miniplex business in Tier-II and Tier-III cities

over next five years.

The company is now expanding its reach in states like Gujarat, Maharashtra, Uttarakhand, Punjab, Chhattisgarh, UP, MP, Rajasthan and Goa.

IN BRIEF

GOVT ORDERS TRANSFER OF 12 IAS OFFICERS

Bhopal: The State Government here on Thursday issued orders to transfer 12 Indian Administrative Services (IAS) officers including several district Collectors. Rewa Collector, OP Shrivastava, has been posted as Director in the Public Relations department, Mukesh Shukla to Administration Academy Bhopal and Sanjeev Singh as Director in Agriculture department. Basant Kurre has been shifted to Rewa as district Collector, while Prathiba Pal has been posted to Sheopur as Collector and Dhananjay Singh to Hoshangabad as district Collector. Harshita Singh has been posted as Tikamgarh collector and Rohit Singh to Datia as Collector.

STATE ROAD SAFETY IMPLEMENTATION COMMITTEE REVIEWED

Bhopal: Actions taken on the decisions of the State Road Safety Implementation Committee were reviewed today at the Police Training and Research Institute. In the meeting, the Nodal Officers informed about the works and efforts made in their respective work areas pertaining to the road safety. The Officer In-Charge of Nodal Agency, the Assistant Inspector General of Police Kumar Sourabh said that the compliance report should be presented by conducting the repairing works immediately after identifying the roads, culverts-bridges etc. damaged by the excessive rains. He instructed to specify action taken on the 132 black spots separately. In the meeting, the Education Department has been directed to present monthly and quarterly report after conducting road safety programmes at school level. He also asked to organise public-awareness programmes at local level. Sourabh also instructed to give details of the good works carried out for the road safety. Moreover, it was directed in the meeting to take action at local level to prevent encroachment on roads in the state.

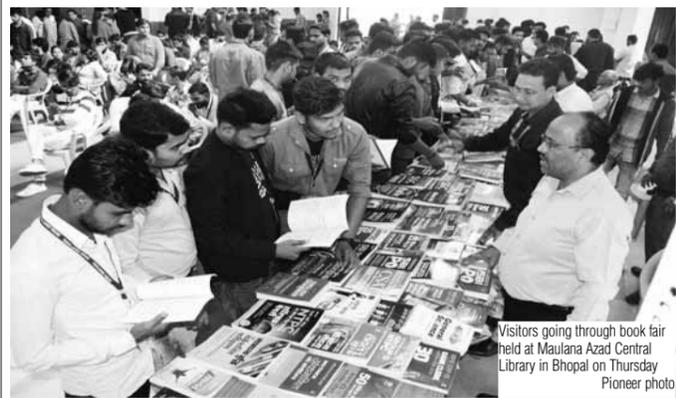
MIN HOLDS DISCUSSIONS ON ONGOING SCHEMES

Bhopal: Minister for Urban Development and Housing Jaivardhan Singh held discussions today with the Senior Municipal Engineer and Co-Task Team Leader MPUDP Poonam Ahluwalia and Water and Sanitation Specialist Water Global Practice Upneet Singh of the World Bank about the ongoing schemes in 11 cities of the State. The Commissioner Urban Administration and Development P Narhari was also present on the occasion. He directed to remove the obstacles immediately being faced in the implementation of the schemes. He further said that all the departments should establish mutual coordination to execute the schemes in the stipulated time to enable the citizens to derive benefits of the schemes.

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Phone: 0755-2588291, E-mail: sepurchasebr@gmail.com
NIT No.: CGM/BR/02/Pur/TS-51/7477 Bhopal, Date 04.12.2019

EXTENSION OF DUE DATES

The Due dates against this office e-NIT No. CGM/BR/02/Pur/6694 dtd 13.11.2019, e-tender ID 2019_MKVVVC_63224_1 (TS No.: CGM/BR/TS-51) are hereby extended as under:-
1. Last Date for submission of bids online - 09.12.2019 up to 17.00 Hrs
2. Date of Opening of Bids online - 11.12.2019 at 15.30 hrs
Other details are available on company website portal.mpcz.in & www.mptenders.gov.in
M.P. Madhyam/96064/2019 CHIEF GENERAL MANAGER (BR)



Visitors going through book fair held at Maulana Azad Central Library in Bhopal on Thursday

OFFICE OF THE POLICE TELECOMMUNICATION HEAD QUARTER, MP, BHOPAL
No. PDM Purchase/22-013/F-934-A/2019, Dtd. 02/12/2019

e-Tender Notice

e-Tenders are invited by Senior Superintendent of Police (Radio) MP Bhopal on behalf of DGP MP Bhopal for the following items:-

S.No.	Name of Item	Qty.	EMD Required for Rs.	Tender Fee
1	VRLA Bty. 12 Volt 7 AHC	274		
2	VRLA Bty. 12 Volt 17 AHC	202	Rs. 14,000.00	Rs. 2,000.00
3	VRLA Bty. 12 Volt 26 AHC	15		
4	VRLA Bty. 12 Volt 45 AHC	30		

1. Cost of tender documents (Tender Fee) is non refundable and cannot be exempted in any condition.
2. The Tender fee and EMD should be deposit online through website.
3. The Tender should be submitted online on website <https://www.mptenders.gov.in> in favour of SSP (Radio) M.P. Bhopal within scheduled date and time.
4. Tender documents also available for ready reference on the website of MP Police (www.mppolice.gov.in)
5. Schedule:-
i) Documents download/Sale Start Date : 03-12-2019 from 17.00 Hrs
ii) Bid Submission Start Date : 09-12-2019 from 12.00 Hrs
iii) Bid Submission End Date : 17-12-2019 up to 12.00 Hrs.
iv) Bid will be Opened on Date : 18-12-2019 at 12.30 Hrs.
Sr. Superintendent of Police (Radio) M.P. Bhopal

G-20008/19

Government of India
Ministry of Rural Development
National Rural Infrastructure Development Agency
5th Floor, 15 NBCC Tower, Bhikaji Cama Place, New Delhi-110066

Invites applications for appointment/engagement to the following posts/positions:

Sl. No.	Name of the Post/Position	No. of posts/positions	Pay Level/Emoluments	Particulars
1.	Director (Project/Technical)	1	14	On deputation basis initially for a period of two years.
2.	Joint Director (Project/Technical)	1	13A	On deputation basis initially for a period of two years.
3.	Chartered Accountant	1	Rs. 80,000/- Rs. 1,00,000 p.m. (consolidated)	To be engaged purely on contract basis for an initial period of 1 year as Consultant. Candidates must have experience in dealing with accounting and financial matters pertaining to multilateral agencies like World Bank/Asian Development Bank.

Applications for deputation through proper channel accompanied with (i) Cadre clearance, (ii) Vigilance Clearance Certificate, and (iii) certified copies of APARs for the last five years and those for being engaged as CA with detailed CVs must be submitted to the undersigned latest by 31 December 2019. Application for CA may be submitted in the format given on the website along with all supporting document.
For details and eligibility criteria, visit "Vacancy" icon of the website www.pmgvnlc.in
Davp/35104/11/0007/1920 Director (F&A)

Jockeying for new BJP State president set to commence

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Would BJP select its State party chief as someone capable of directly taking on Congress Chief Minister Kamal Nath?

Jockeying for new Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) State president is set to commence. Party insiders said the choice of new BJP chief would indicate the central leadership's strategy to deal with Nath Government.

At an informal level, three senior BJP leaders are in the fray-former Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan, national BJP general secretary Kailash Vijayvargiya and Raja Sabha member Prabhath Jha. Among them only the face of Kailash Vijayvargiya and Shivraj are considered as strong leader who could change the scenario in Madhya Pradesh. At least on two occasions,

attempt to dislodge the Congress regime.

There are two options with the BJP high command-sitting calm and strengthen the party organisation or going ahead and fight on the fore front.

The new face of the State president would certainly give clear message what the BJP high command wants in Madhya Pradesh.

At present, those senior BJP leaders who are in the fray are former Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan, national BJP general secretary Kailash Vijayvargiya and Raja Sabha member Prabhath Jha. Both Chouhan and Kailash Vijayvargiya are seen as those capable of taking on Nath and

Kailash Vijayvargiya has claimed that the BJP could form government in Madhya Pradesh, if the high command gives signal in this regard.

A State BJP functionary told that even before the election of State president's election, when the list of district presidents is out, the picture would be almost clear. If new faces are visible in the list, it would be clear that the party high command is looking forward for better prospects in the State, he added.

Soon after the Congress came to power in Madhya Pradesh around a year ago, the State unit of the BJP seems defunct. In the leadership of the Leader of the Opposition, no major agitation could take place to corner the Government.

बैंक ऑफ बड़ोदा Bank of Baroda
RO SARB Branch Bhopal Phone : 0755-4940707

POSSESSION NOTICE (For Immovable Properties)

Whereas, The undersigned being the Authorised Officer of the Bank of Baroda under Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under section 13 (12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a Demand Notice date mentioned below to the following borrowers/guarantors, calling upon them to repay the amount mentioned in the respective notices within 60 days from the date of receipt of said notices.

The under mentioned borrowers/guarantors having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrowers/guarantors and the public in general that undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on them under section 13(4) of the said Act read with rule 8 of the said rules on the dates mentioned below. The borrower's attention is invited to the provisions of sub-section 8 of Sec 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

The borrowers/guarantors in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the properties will be subject to the charge of Concern Branch of Bank of Baroda ROSARB (North Region) Bhopal for an amount herein below mentioned & interest thereon.

Name of Account / Borrower / Guarantor	Description of Property	Demand Notice Date	Amount outstanding as per Notice
Borrowers : Mrs. Poornima Jeet Singh W/o Mr. Jitendra Singh & Mr. Jitendra Singh S/o Mr. Ram Ashray Singh Add:-C-843, Brijdhari House, Shahpura, Bhopal (M.P.) 462001	Equitable Mortgage of Residential House EWS No. 844, Shahpura, C- Sector, Ward no. 52, Bhopal Area- 390 sq.ft. Dist. Bhopal (M.P.) Property Owner Mrs. Poornima Jeet Singh W/O Mr. Jitendra Singh Boundaries: North-H.No. EWS 841, South- Road, East - H.No. EWS 843, West- H No. EWS 845	01.06.2019 02.12.2019	as on 27.05.2019 ₹ 299774/- + interest & other charges thereon.
Borrowers : M/S Rubblast Products	Equitable Mortgage of Plot No A 122, Pailvi Nagar Colony, Village Bawadiya Kalan, Tehsil huzur Distt Bhopal standing in the name of Mrs. Seema Devi Saraf admeasuring 1210.50 sq ft Boundaries as per sale deed: East- Road, West- Plot No A 159, North- Plot No A 123, South- Plot No A 121	03.07.2019 30.11.2019	₹ 2099675/- + interest & other charges thereon.

Date : 05-12-2019, Place : Bhopal Chief Manager / Authorised Officer, Bank of Baroda



Former Australian Boomerang Throwing Champion Paul Bryden demonstrates skills of Boomerang to the students during his visit in Bhopal on Thursday. He is on Country tour to promote the Boomerang sports and plan to set an academy to keep alive the ancient game. Pioneer photo

19 boxes of IMFL seized

PNS ■ MHOW

As many as 19 boxes of Indian made Foreign Liquor (IMFL) were seized from a car on Thursday. The seized liquor was worth Rs 1,48,960 and the total quantity of liquor is around 169 liters.

On the instructions of Mhow ASP Dharamraj Meena TI Simrole Bharat Singh Thakur caught white Tata indigo car MH 02 CR 7256 carrying illegal liquor.

The driver of the car Jitendra Chouhan, age 24 years, a resident of Mansinghpur police station Udaipur district Dewas. The accused could not produce any licence of trafficking of liquor. Police has booked the accused under section 34 (2).

PUNJAB PROGRESSIVE INVESTORS' SUMMIT GOVT COMMITTED TO TRANSFORM MSMEs INTO INDUSTRIAL GIANTS

PNS ■ SAS NAGAR (MOHALI)

Moving towards transforming the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) into industrial giants in the coming years, the Punjab Government on Thursday signed the MoUs with two e-commerce portals — Amazon and Flipkart — to enable access for the MSMEs to new global markets.

Describing MSMEs as an important engine of Punjab's industrial growth, the state's Additional Chief Secretary (Industry and Invest Punjab) Vini Mahajan on Thursday cited various measures taken by the State government to strengthen the MSME sector in Punjab.

Mahajan, addressing a session on 'Building partnerships for inclusive growth: MSMEs in the Global Value Chain', referred to the ease of doing business promoted by the new industrial policy, subsidized power tariff for industry at Rs five per unit, incentives on electricity duty and GST, Online Land Ownership, Online Inspection system and easy access to finance.

To provide this ease to the MSMEs, the Government has partnered with HDFC Bank to provide loans to around 700 MSME beneficiaries, amounting to Rs 1,100 crore. Under their MoU, the Bank is offering special pricing for business loans to all industries in the state, she added.

She also listed the recent Cabinet decisions, including approval for Right to Business Act for MSMEs, amendments to the Industrial Disputes Act, Factories Act, etc, and the decision to allow Panchayats to partner the state's industrial development through creation of industrial parks on shamlat (village common) land.

The state's Industries and Commerce Minister Sunder Sham Arora also signed MoUs with key e-commerce giants Amazon and Flipkart to enable



Punjab Chief Minister Capt Amarinder Singh at the Punjab Progressive Investors Summit in Mohali on Thursday. Pioneer Photo

access to new markets for the Punjab-based MSMEs.

He said that the Government had signed the MoU with Amazon to enable B2B linkages with key international markets, including US, Canada, and key markets in Europe, while, with Flipkart, the Government had signed the MoU to facilitate access for MSMEs to new domestic markets, as well as Flipkart Samarth, to give impetus to the growth of handloom weavers and small enterprises in the State.

During the MSME session, the panelists urged the Government to develop more Research and Development Centres in the State to further improve the quality of products and keep the technologically up to date.

HERO GROUP, BCU JOIN HANDS TO SET UP INNOVATION SCHOOL AT LUDHIANA

Hero Group and the Birmingham City University has decided to join hands to establish Munjal BCU School of Innovation and Entrepreneurship (MBSI) at Ludhiana to promote innova-

tion and entrepreneurship in the state.

Hero Enterprises Limited chairman and Lala Bahadur Chand Munjal Foundation chairman Sunil Kant Munjal announced that the Hero Group and BCU are collaborating to establish the MBSI at Ludhiana and it would cater to the needs of the business industrial sector of the State.

Punjab is already witnessing a brain drain with many students seeking to immigrate to other countries in search of better opportunities. Students appear reluctant to pursue higher education in Punjab because of the perception that the quality of training and education on offer isn't quite up to the standards expected of an industrialized state. "The MBSI could emerge as a game changer with the School aiming to redesign the higher education offering in a manner that it leads to more meaningful student outcomes," he said.

'DEVELOP MOHALI AS WORLD'S FIRST STARTUP HUB'

Experts and industrialists mooted to develop Mohali as

the world's first startup valley, inviting talent and venture capital from all over the world.

The demand was raised during the 90-minute session dedicated to the Startup ecosystem wherein one of the panelists also suggested to create a Shivalik Valley for startups in Mohali on the lines of Silicon Valley in Bengaluru.

The panel members, representing stakeholders of the Startup ecosystem, included Padmaja Ruparel, Co-Founder at Indian Angel Network and Founding Partner IAN Fund, Nandu Nandkishore, Professor at Indian Business School and Former EVP and Head of Asia, Africa and Oceania at Nestlé SA, Switzerland, Akshay Sangwan, Executive Director, Sonalika Industries, Kunal Upadhyay, Co-founder and Managing Partner, Bharat Fund and Taranjeet Bhamra, Founder, AgNext Technologies.

The panelists stressed upon the need for interdisciplinary joint research among various prestigious institutes of the region, to be supported by the government, to make Punjab intellectually rich and create intellectually property.

Swedish King, Queen attend STP inauguration in Haridwar

PNS ■ HARIDWAR/RAMNAGAR

The king and queen of Sweden arrived in the State on Thursday. They visited Rishikesh and attended the inauguration of a sewerage treatment plant at Sarai in Haridwar before leaving for the Corbett national park.

King Carl XVI Gustaf and queen Silvia of Sweden, Union minister of Jal Shakti, Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, chief minister Trivendra Singh Rawat and the State's Tourism and Culture minister Satpal Maharaj were present at the inauguration of the 14 MLD capacity STP built at a cost of Rs 41.40 crore in Haridwar.

Speaking on the occasion, the Swedish king expressed his happiness at arriving in Uttarakhand. He remarked that there is considerable potential in India and its citizens.

Appreciating the efforts being undertaken to conserve the Ganga river, he expressed hope that environmental conservation efforts in India will achieve the desired results. Welcoming the king and queen of Sweden, Union minister Shekhawat said that the Ganga irrigates 32 per cent of India's geographical



area and provides means of livelihood to about 42 per cent of India's population.

Stating that Namami Gange programme was yielding good results, he stressed on the need for proper waste management for ecological balance and healthy citizens. Of the 34 STP projects started in

Uttarakhand, 23 have been completed, he added. CM Rawat, while welcoming the Swedish king and queen to Uttarakhand, spoke about Namami Gange, adding that the Union government is undertaking serious efforts to conserve aquatic fauna. He also stressed on the need stop-

ping the pollution of Ganga caused by chemicals used in farms.

Appealing for the cooperation of general public in keeping rivers clean, the CM said that by stopping the use of single user plastic all should work towards making the state and nation clean.

Traffic penalty reduced in Chandigarh

NISHU MAHAJAN ■ CHANDIGARH

Giving major relief to the city denizens, the Chandigarh Administration has decided to impose minimum penalty for various traffic offences under the Motor Vehicle Act, 2019. The Administration had earlier imposed maximum penalty under MVA 2019, which came into effect from September 1.

For instance, the penalty for overspeeding in the city, in case of two-wheeler would now be Rs 1000 for first offence, Rs 1000 in case of light motor vehicle, Rs 2000 in case of medium goods and heavy goods passenger vehicle. Under the MVA 2019, the fine for overspeeding ranges between Rs 1000 - Rs 2000 for light motor vehicle, Rs 2,000 - Rs 4,000 for medium passenger or goods vehicles and the UT Administration had earlier imposed maximum penalty of Rs 2000 and Rs 4000 respectively on the violators.

Punjab Governor and UT Administration VP Singh Badnore had on Wednesday in a high-level meeting of senior UT officers gave approval to the imposition of minimum penalty for certain offences

under MVA 2019 in the city. A notification in this regard will be issued in a day or two by the Administration.

Under Section 184, dangerous driving (only for use of handheld communication devices), the fine would be Rs 2000 for first offence and Rs 5000 for subsequent offence in the city. Under the MVA 2019, for dangerous driving, first time offenders face imprisonment of six months to one year and/or fine of between Rs 1,000 and Rs 5,000.

For disobedience of orders of authorities (Sec 179 i), the fine imposed will now be Rs 1000 as compared to maximum penalty of Rs 2000 imposed earlier here. Similarly, for passenger withholding the required information or giving false information (179 ii), the fine would be Rs 1500 as compared to maximum penalty of Rs 2000 earlier.

In case of violation related to overloading of two-wheeler here, the violators will now face a fine of Rs 1000 and disqualification of driving licence

for three months instead of maximum penalty of Rs 2000 and disqualification of driving licence for three months.

FOR INSTANCE, THE PENALTY FOR OVERSPEEDING IN THE CITY, IN CASE OF TWO-WHEELER WOULD NOW BE RS 1000 FOR FIRST OFFENCE, RS 1000 IN CASE OF LIGHT MOTOR VEHICLE, RS 2000 IN CASE OF MEDIUM GOODS AND HEAVY GOODS PASSENGER VEHICLE. UNDER THE MVA 2019, THE FINE FOR OVERSPEEDING RANGES BETWEEN RS 1000 - RS 2000 FOR LIGHT MOTOR VEHICLE, RS 2,000 - RS 4,000 FOR MEDIUM PASSENGER OR GOODS VEHICLES AND THE UT ADMINISTRATION HAD EARLIER IMPOSED MAXIMUM PENALTY OF RS 2000 AND RS 4000 RESPECTIVELY ON THE VIOLATORS

However, the traffic violations like speeding/racing, driving without insurance, driving without licence, unauthorised use of vehicles without licence, driving despite disqualification, violation related to seat belt and helmet among others would still invite huge penalty in the union territory of Chandigarh.

Driving without licence would attract penalty of Rs 5000 while for driving without seat belt, the violators will have to pay maximum penalty of Rs 1000. For driving without helmet, traffic fine

would be Rs 1000 with disqualification for three months for licence.

Notably, the MVA 2019 had caused quite a stir not only in the city but across the country due to exorbitant challan fee levied under it. Infact, several states namely West Bengal, Chhattisgarh, Punjab had put on hold the implementation of stricter fines to boost road discipline.

In Chandigarh, a delegation of Chandigarh Congress, Chandigarh based NGO-ArriveSAFE among other organizations had approached

the UT Administration urging it either not to impose the heavy challaning fee or bring it down under various offences in the city.

As per the data tabled in the Parliament recently, after the implementation of provisions of Motor Vehicle (Amendment) Act, 2019, more than 56000 challans were issued in the city. Overall collection from traffic rule violations this year till October stood at Rs 5.58 crore (Rs 5,58,25,650) in the city.

Commandant's parade held at IMA

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

The commandant's parade which marked culmination of training of 306 Indian and 71 Gentlemen Cadets (GC) from ten friendly foreign countries of autumn term, 2019 was organised at historic Chetwode Drill square of Indian Military Academy (IMA) on Thursday.

The Commandant of the IMA, Lieutenant General S K Jha was the reviewing officer of the parade.

In his address, he complimented all the Gentlemen Cadets (GC) for an immaculate turnout and excellent drill movements, which indicated a high level of motivation, pride and cohesion achieved by them during their training at IMA.

He also congratulated everyone for being on the verge of completing the training successfully.

The IMA commandant told the GCs that the Army's reputation rests firmly on their shoulders. He said that they have earned this honour



with hard work and they need to retain it by living up to the Army's core values of Character, Competence, Commitment and Compassion. "These values are reflected in the IMA's Code of Conduct and Gentlemen Cadets aspiring to high ideals and pursuing excellence, must demonstrate these at all times," he said.

The General Officer also extended the compliments to the 71 Gentlemen Cadets from the friendly foreign countries for having endured the rigorous regimen of training, exhibiting excellent transformation and now getting ready to don the ranks in their respective armies, as most refined officers.

He said the strong bond of togetherness that they have developed in IMA shall foster into a bond that will keep the diplomatic and military ties between our nations stronger and vibrant.

In the end, he encouraged the GCs to put their best foot forward for the final Passing out Parade and wished all the GCs the very best in the years ahead.

UNMUTED VIDEO CLIP

Action against two PR officials; SAD seeks action against Ministers

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

Punjab Government has charge-sheeted two officials of the State Information and Public Relations Department after their carelessness in releasing a video clip of Wednesday's Cabinet Meeting wherein some ministers were heard talking about "drugs" before beginning of the meeting.

The clip was apparently meant to be sent out "muted" capturing just the scene ahead of the meeting on December 2. But what was uploaded car-

ried the audio as well leaving the State Government red-faced after many interpreted the clip to be about drugs.

Viewers heard the term "kaali dawai", literally translated as "black medicine". However, the Cabinet Minister on Thursday maintained that the "light-hearted" discussion was not about drugs at all.

Drug menace is a major issue in the state and the Congress had promised elimination of drug trafficking and arresting the drug dealers within weeks of coming to

power during the 2017 assembly poll campaign.

The two officials from the Punjab Information and Public Relations Department, responsible for releasing the clip, have been asked to explain their conduct.

One of the ministers, who attended the Cabinet meeting, on Thursday claimed that the "light-hearted" talk was not about drugs but to suggest benefits of a medicine for some sick person.

"It was just a light-hearted talk and nothing more than that," said the Minister,

who did not wish to be named.

But Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) leader and former minister Bikram Singh Majithia slammed the State Government for hauling up the officials. "They have taken action against the two officials of the PR department, but what about those ministers who are talking about the benefits of 'kali dawai'? Why is there no action against them?" he said in Amritsar.

"It is strange that the Government has not said a word about those who are

talking about drugs in this manner, but action is being taken against those whose only mistake is to bring out what the ministers said," he said when asked to comment on the issue.

Expressing shock that Punjab Jails Minister Sukhjinder Singh Randhawa battled for a Congress gangster during a Cabinet meeting, SAD also condemned the Council of Ministers for displaying "utter insensitivity" towards the malice of drugs and the toll it was taking on Punjab as "glorifying" the

use of opium.

"It is indeed a very sad day for democracy when a Minister starts bawling for a gangster in a Cabinet meeting and tries to bully his colleagues to protect and shelter gangsters affiliated with the Congress party," said former minister Daljit Singh Cheema.

Stating that the entire civil society was in a state of shock after news of Jails Minister Sukhjinder Randhawa's conduct in the Cabinet meeting was made public, he said: "This conduct itself is a fit ground for immediate dis-

missal of the Minister and an immediate probe into the gangster-Minister nexus which is eroding the foundations of our society."

Against the backdrop of sensitivity towards the scourge of drug addiction and even glorifying the habit during a Cabinet meeting.

He said that it was incredulous that action had been initiated against two employees whose job was to record Cabinet proceedings but no action had been initiated

against the Minister who listed the benefits of opium and advocated its usage or others who joined in the conversation and even discussed from where it could be procured.

Maintaining that such behavior was shameful, Cheema asked the Chief Minister Capt Amarinder Singh to take serious note of both Sukhjinder Randhawa's obnoxious conduct at the Cabinet meeting as well as advocacy of use of opium by other ministers during the meeting by taking exemplary action in both cases.

PRAKASH JAVADEKAR ON PC'S RELEASE — Chidambaram violated bail term on first day

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Hours after Former Finance Minister and senior Congress leader P Chidambaram spoke to media and lashed out at the Government on the handling of economy and J&K, the BJP on Thursday accused him of violating bail conditions by claiming to have a very clear record as a Minister and asserted that the case against him was essentially about corruption he was allegedly involved in as the Finance Minister.

Union Minister Prakash Javadekar told reporters that the claim of Chidambaram about his case, amounted to "self-certification".

"P Chidambaram has violated the bail condition on the very first day after his release. What he said is in violation of this condition," the BJP leader said.

Addressing a press conference at the Congress headquarters, the Former Finance Minister had said earlier, "In the last 106 days, I was strong in spirit and I have become stronger because. My record as Minister and my conscience are absolutely clear."

Hitting out at the opposition leader over his attack on



Union Information and Broadcasting Minister Prakash Javadekar addresses media at Parliament during the ongoing Winter Session in New Delhi on Thursday

the Modi Government on a host of issues, Javadekar said he has got to speak to the media after so many days and that is why he was taking out his anger on every subject.

Some Congress leaders are in jail, some have just got out of jail and some are on bail, he said, adding that the opposition party has become desperate.

It is not that they were in jail for their role in "freedom movement" but due to criminal charges against them, he said.

On Chidambaram's criticism of the Government that it had denied basic freedom to people in Kashmir since Article 370 was nullified in August, the

Union Minister said all media outlets have been functioning in the Valley. "Kashmir is now on path to progress," Javadekar said. At the beginning of his press conference, Chidambaram had said his first thoughts upon his release were with the Kashmiri people who "have been denied their basic freedoms since August 4, 2019." He said it was arrogance of the Government that played out in Kashmir.

Javadekar referred to the emergency imposed by the Congress in 1975 saying the then Indira Gandhi Government had clamped down on the media while the Modi Government has shared all information related to the situation in J&K with Parliament. The Government has allowed journalists from India and abroad to travel to Kashmir where, he added, incidents of stone-pelting have come down by more than half.

On former finance minister's criticism of economic slide under the BJP dispensation, Javadekar said low inflation and high growth in economy have been the highlights of the Modi dispensation since 2014 while Congress regimes damaged country's economy.

RS adjourned twice over Unnao rape case

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Rajya Sabha was adjourned twice on Thursday over the Unnao rape victim incident with the Opposition including the Congress and Samajwadi Party (SP) trying to raise the issue and the chair denying them to do so. The first adjournment was in the pre-lunch session and the second in the afternoon.

The House saw the first adjournment soon after Chairman M Venkaiah Naidu commenced the Zero Hour soon after the day's proceedings began. He disallowed the Congress and SP to raise issues including the Unnao incident as it was not listed for the Zero Hour.

Raising point of order, Derek O'Brien (TMC) sought to know why no calling attention and short duration discussions were listed in the business during this week. He also tried to raise the Unnao incident involving a rape survivor but was not allowed by the chair. The victim is battling for life with more than 90 per cent burns after she was allegedly set ablaze by five men while on Thursday morning while she was on her way to court.

The victim, who was assaulted in December last



Rajya Sabha Chairman M Venkaiah Naidu conducts proceedings of the House during the Winter Session of Parliament in New Delhi on Thursday

year and is being treated in a Lucknow hospital, said in a statement that she was on her way from her village in Unnao district to Rae Bareilly where the trial is going on when she was attacked and set ablaze.

Leader of the Opposition in the Rajya Sabha Ghulam Nabi Azad, too, expressed concern over the issue of short duration discussion and said it had not happened last week as well and two discussions should be scheduled for next week.

Naidu said the Minister concerned said he was unwell and, hence, requested to postpone the discussion for next week and assured it would be held on Tuesday.

However, SP leader Ram Gopal Yadav tried to draw the attention of the House to the

17.74 crores patients visited Ayush health centres in 2018

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Modi Government's efforts to push Ayush through various programmes and schemes are yielding positive results. According to the data tabled in Lok Sabha recently, at least 17.74 crores patients visited the Ayush healthcare facilities last year, 17.27 crores and 15.94 crores in 2016-17 and 2015-16 respectively.

"The efforts of Central Government for promotion of Ayush through various programmes and schemes yielded in more number of people availing treatment from Ayush health care facilities. However, taking treatment from Allopathy or Ayush is the choice of the people," Union Ayush Minister Shripad Naik said in Lok Sabha on the ongoing session.

The Minister also talked about the progress of its pilot project integrating Ayush with modern medicine to tackle lifestyle related disorders such as diabetes and cancer launched in some districts in Uttar Pradesh, Gujarat, Bihar and Rajasthan.

Of ten lakhs patients screened in the last two years since implementation of the project, 93,117 patients have been enrolled for long term management through ayurveda and yoga interventions.

As Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs) like diabetes

are difficult to treat and in view of rising health cost, the Government is focussing on bringing convergence and synergy between traditional medicine, modern medicine and modern sciences for scientific validation of ayurveda concepts and development based drugs in collaboration with country's reputed research institutes like AIIMS, CSIR, DRDO and CCRAS to name a few.

For instance, two labs of CSIR - National Botanical Research Institute (NBRI) and Central Institute for Medicinal and Aromatic Plants (CIAMP) have jointly developed cost-effective anti-diabetes herbal medicine BGR-34. A formulation of herbs like Giloy, Sadabhara, methi and daruhda, the BGR-34 has been found to have effectively manage blood glucose homeostasis in Type 2 Diabetes which is becoming India's fastest growing disease. AIIMS is conducting various researches to assess impact of herbs in management of chronic diseases.

From 72 million diabetes cases recorded in 2017, the number is expected to nearly double by 2025. Similarly, by 2040, cancer cases are expected to almost double to twenty lakh compared to 11.6 lakh cases in 2016. The World Health Organisation Report for 2018 says that NCDs account for 63 per cent of deaths in India.

Pornographic issues will be studied by informal group: Naidu

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Concerned over the menace of child pornography leading to crime against children, Rajya Sabha Chairman M Venkaiah Naidu on Thursday announced that a 14-member informal group of the House will study issues related to pornographic content on internet and social media platforms.

The group, which will be coordinated by Congress leader Jairam Ramesh, will prepare its report within one month, he said before the Zero Hour. The Chairman's initiative came after the entire House expressed concern over the rampant proliferation of child pornography on the social media last week.

"After studying the matter and discussion with members, I have decided to give one month time to an informal group to look into the issue," Naidu said.

The group will comprise of 14 members from across all

parties and will be coordinated by Congress member Jairam Ramesh, he said. Other members can also share information related to this issue with the group, the chairman said.

Naidu said the group will prepare an "informal report" after discussing about the issues related to pornographic content on internet and social media platforms with civil society groups, compulsory emergency responsive teams and social media companies.

The 14-member group includes Tiruchi Siva (DMK) Jaya Bachchan (SP), Amar Patnaik (BJD), Derek O'Brien (TMC), Vandana Chavan (NCP), Roopa Ganguly (BJP), M V Rajeev Gowda (Cong), Kakkashan Parveen (JD-U),

Rajeev Chandrasekhar (BJP), Sanjay Singh (AAP), Vijila Sathyananth

(AIADMK) and Vinay Sahasrabudhe (BJP) and Ameer Yajnik (Congress).

MODERNISATION OF ARMED FORCES Def Ministry signed 180 contracts

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

In an effort to sustain the pace of modernisation of the armed forces, the Defence Ministry has signed more than 180 contracts valued at over ₹1,96,000 crore with the Indian Industry since 2014 while a few are in the pipeline to be signed in near future.

A contract for manufacture of Frigates under Project P 17A was signed in February 2015 with Mazagon Dockyards Limited (MDL), Mumbai valued at ₹45,000 crores while 02 Frigates under Project P1135.6 are slated to be manufactured by Goa Shipyard Limited (GSL) under a contract signed in Oct 2018 valued at ₹14,100 Crore.

Further, contracts for manufacture of 41 Advanced Light Helicopters for Indian Air Force (IAF) and 32 ALH for Indian Navy (IN) have been signed with Hindustan

100 units of 155x52mm cal self-propelled guns are being procured under 'Make in India' initiative of Govt from L&T



Aeronautics Limited (HAL) in March 2017 and Dec 2017 with a combined value of ₹14,100 crore. This is in addition to procurement of 14 Dornier 228 aircrafts from M/s HAL valued at ₹1100 crore through a contract signed in February 2015.

Seven Squadrons of Akash Missile System are being procured from BEL through a contract of October 2019 valued at ₹6,300 crore as also the Integrated Advanced Command and Control System (IACCS) Nodes valuing ₹7,900

crore. OFB has been tasked to supply 464 T-90S/SK tanks worth ₹19,100 crore for which indent has been placed on it by the Ministry as recently as November 2019.

Also 100 units of 155x52mm cal Self-Propelled Guns are being procured under the 'Make in India' initiative of the Government from L&T valued at ₹4,300 crore. Also Contract for Modernisation of Airfield Infrastructure (MAFI) to be executed through Indian vendors is under final stages of contracting.

Govt gives more power to Indian coast guard

Coast guard can now 'visit, board, search and seize' within the maritime zone

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Government has given powers under the Coast Guard Act to allow the force to board, search any vessel and arrest people for offences within the maritime zone of the country, Defence Secretary Ajay Kumar said on Thursday. The security agency earlier did not have the power to board any vessel passing through India's Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ).

"Empowering Indian Coast Guard and enhancing coastal

security. MoD issues notification enabling CG to 'Visit, Board, Search and Seize' suspicious vessels within India's EEZ and its continental shelf @IndianCoastGuard," Kumar tweeted.

The notification states that under the Coast Guard Act, 1978, the Central Government authorises "every member of the Coast Guard" to "visit, board, search and seize vessel, or arrest any person, or seize any artificial island or any floating or moored object or any underwater object including any maritime property involved or suspected to be used in the commission of any offence."

Before this notification, the Coast Guard used provisions of the Customs Act and the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act and other relevant acts to board and seize vessels in the EEZ.

However, it did not have the necessary legal backing and many cases would fall flat in the court, officials said.

There was also a legal loophole using which the vessel companies could sue the Coast Guard for detaining ships without any authorisation. They also said earlier, its officials would seize drugs, detain offenders and hand them over to agencies like the local police, Directorate of Revenue Intelligence and the Narcotics Control Bureau. The vessels would be handed over to the port authorities.

The official added that since 2009, the maritime security force has been seeking more powers under the Territorial Waters, Continental Shelf, Exclusive Economic Zone and Other Maritime Zones Act, 1976 so that they could board and search suspicious vessels.

CPCB asks to shut down 270 tyre pyrolysis units

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Acting on the National Green Tribunal (NGT) order, the central pollution authority has asked 270 tyre pyrolysis units in 19 States to shut down their shops, saying these have been found to be flouting environmental norms and causing high levels of pollution.

Pyrolysis is a method of recycling old tyres through a thermochemical treatment under high temperature to produce industrial oil and other matters. The states whose pollution control authorities have been issued

notices are Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Kerala, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, Punjab, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand.

While ordering the shutdown of the 270 units, the CPCB referred to a National Green Tribunal (NGT) order and said these units were causing pollution and adversely affecting the health of workers involved in the process.

"In exercise of powers vest-

ed under Environment (Protection) Act 1986, directions are hereby issued to you (state pollution control boards) to close down all such pyrolysis units in your state or UT which are not complying as on date with consent conditions and SOP (standard operating procedure) of the Ministry of Environment.

"You are also directed to carry out strict vigilance and monitoring in complying industries to ensure continued compliance of consent conditions and the SOP of the Ministry," the notice issued on Wednesday by CPCB Chairman SPS Parihar said.

SUDAN TANKER BLAST — LS members urge to bring back bodies, give adequate solatium

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Lok Sabha members from Tamil Nadu and Bihar on Thursday sought the government to ensure that the bodies of the Indians killed in the Sudan tanker blast be brought back at the earliest and their families given adequate compensation.

T R Baalu of the DMK, Rajiv Pratap Rudy of the BJP and Selvaraj M of the CPI raised the issue in the House during Zero Hour.

They said as most of the victims were sole bread earners,

the government should ensure adequate compensation to the families.

At least 18 Indians were among 23 people killed and over 130 injured in a horrific LPG tanker blast that destroyed a ceramic factory in Sudan.

Sixty-eight Indians were working in the factory.

Rudy requested foreign minister to have their bodies flown back to India and other help be provided by the Indian mission in Sudan.

In another issue, Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla said the states should come up with an

action plan to curb the rising incidents of digital banking frauds in the country after a Member of Parliament raised the issue in the House.

Raising the issue during the Zero Hour, Arvind Kumar Sharma of BJP said on one hand the nation was moving towards Digital India while on the other hand, such fraudulent activities were taking place.

"In digital banking, frauds are taking place through different apps like Paytm.... Every day frauds are taking place...And the police does not even register an FIR," he said.

CITIZENSHIP AMENDMENT BILL — 4 hrs allocated for debate in LS on Tue

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Lok Sabha will debate the controversial Citizenship Amendment Bill on Tuesday and four hours have allotted for the debate and expected to bring the bill in Rajya Sabha on Wednesday or Thursday. Congress leader Rahul Gandhi said that their party will oppose the Bill in Parliament.

Many opposition parties continued protest on the bill, which seeks to grant citizenship to non-Muslims from Pakistan, Bangladesh and Afghanistan escaping religious persecution there. BJP leaders are confident

of its passage in Rajya Sabha with the support of several non-aligned regional parties like the BJD and the TRS, which have often joined the treasury benches in the past, despite vehement opposition by the Congress and strident anti-BJP parties like the TMC, which have been claiming that citizenship can't be given on the basis of religion.

The Congress, which has termed the bill "divisive" and discriminatory, made it clear on Thursday that it will oppose the draft legislation in Parliament. Making the party's stand clear, its leader Rahul Gandhi said in



Kerala that the Congress is against "any form of discrimination against anybody in this country."

"So anybody who discriminates against anybody who is Indian, we are against them.

That is our line. We believe that India belongs to everybody—all communities, all religions, all cultures," Gandhi told reporters. In Lucknow, BSP president Mayawati described the bill as unconstitutional,

and demanded that it be sent to a parliamentary committee for review.

"The Citizenship Amendment Bill cleared by the central cabinet is both unconstitutional and divisive. Citizenship in the name of religion and discrimination in the name of religion of the citizens through it is totally against the basic structure of the humanitarian and secular Constitution of Dr Bhimrao Ambedkar," Mayawati told reporters. Opposition parties like the DMP and Trinamool Congress are also opposed to it.

Sabarimala verdict not 'final word' as matter referred to larger Bench: SC

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Thursday said its 2018 verdict allowing entry of girls and women of all ages into the Ayyappa temple at Kerala's Sabarimala was not the "final word" as the matter was referred to a larger Bench.

The apex court's observation came when senior advocate Indra Jaising, appearing for a woman devotee, Bindu Ammini, alleged violation of the 2018 verdict and said her client was attacked for her bid to enter the shrine.

A bench headed by Chief Justice of India (CJI) S A

Bobde, referring to a recent verdict of the apex court, said the 2018 judgment was not the final word as the issue was referred to a seven-judge bench for consideration.

"There is (an order) for a much larger bench to decide the matter. There is no final word as yet," the bench said.

On November 14, a five-judge Constitution bench headed by then CJI Ranjan Gogoi, in a 3:2 majority verdict, had referred the pleas seeking a review of its historic 2018 judgment to a seven-judge bench, along with other contentious issues of alleged discrimination against Muslim and Parsi

women.

In September 2018, a five-judge Constitution bench had, by a majority 4:1 verdict, allowed girls and women of all ages to visit the Ayyappa temple at Sabarimala, saying discrimination on physiological grounds was violative of the fundamental rights as enshrined in the Constitution such as the right to equality.

Jaising said her client was attacked just outside the police commissioner's office, despite the fact that the earlier judgment allowing entry of all girls and women into the temple was not stayed by the November 14 judgment.

PAPER WITH PASSION

Insider vs outsider

By distinguishing immigrants on the basis of religion, the Citizenship Bill goes against the spirit of our Constitution



From the looks of it, the resurrected Citizenship (Amendment) Bill, which died in the Rajya Sabha last session because of a lack of numbers and consensus, is a polarising tool meant for the Bengal elections and intimidating Muslims. For it completely keeps the Northeastern States, which equally share the border with Bangladesh, out of its purview, saying most of them have Inner Line Permits and special status that guard them against an influx of "outsiders" (Hindu immigrants in this case) and, therefore, need not

be anxious about a law that would apply for the rest of the country. Opposition to the Bill stems from the fact that it reinforces ethnic and communal faultlines due to its overt and covert support to selective migrants escaping persecution in the neighbourhood. While it proposes to grant Indian citizenship to fleeing Hindus, Sikhs, Buddhists, Jains, Christians and Parsis, who are residents of Pakistan, Afghanistan and Bangladesh, it excludes persecuted Muslim sects, the Shias and Ahmadiyas. In other words, non-Muslim immigrants would not face deportation and Muslims would. It also proposes to reduce the mandated 11 years of residence in India for citizenship eligibility to six years, hastening cooption. By distinguishing settlers on the basis of religion — that too pitting Muslims versus non-Muslims — the isolationist Bill goes against the fundamental right to equality under Article 14 of the Constitution. Ostensibly, the BJP wants to neutralise the Muslim infiltration in border States, encouraged by votebank politics of past years, with a Hindu influx and effect a demographic change. But this idea is preposterous, simply because there aren't enough Hindus left in these countries who would want to return to their roots. The population of Hindus in Bangladesh at the time of Partition was close to 30 per cent and is currently estimated to be less than five per cent. The Hindu population in Pakistan was 23 per cent at the time of Independence and is currently about one per cent. Afghanistan's Hindu population declined since 1992 from a quarter million to less than 220 families. As of 2017, no more than a few thousand Hindus and Sikhs were left in Afghanistan. The less said about the other minorities the better. So, illegal Muslim infiltration from Bangladesh is the only concern because of porous borders and needs to be monitored. Pakistan does push militants into Kashmir but migrants are hardly a problem in the northwestern part of the country. Clearly, the Bill has been envisioned with Bangladesh as its focus.

Also, now that Assam, Arunachal, Mizoram, Tripura, Meghalaya and Nagaland have been kept out of the Bill's purview, it is clear that the BJP's target is undoing Muslim immigration into Bengal. It has now stepped back from the Northeast simply because it is investing too much in the region in developing a new votebank and strengthening its footprint. Massive protests have already taken place in the Northeast, especially in Assam, where ethnic groups have raised concerns about the burden of "illegal migrants" being passed on to their State alone and it being contradictory to the spirit of the Assam Accord and the just-released National Register of Citizens (NRC) list. The Assamese argue that the Bill granting citizenship to Hindu refugees from across the border till the cutoff year of 2014 would swamp Ahom identity and the right of indigenous people over their land, opportunities and resources. The Conrad Sangma-led Meghalaya Democratic Alliance (MDA), where BJP is a coalition partner, had earlier sought an immediate review while the Mizos feared a massive influx by Buddhist Chakmas. The indigenous people, be it the Assamese, Khasis or the Nagas, argue that the Northeastern States are yet to recover from the influx of Hindu Bengalis from 1971 and, of course, the subsequent illegal Muslim immigrants. They equate all refugees to the drought of economic opportunities for locals and are deeply distrustful of any migration policy. So now that these States are out of the Bill, it effectively applies only to Bengal. Combined with NRC, which is intended to review the status of naturalised settlers, the Bill clearly seeks to loosen up the Muslim votebank in Bengal, which has almost a monolithic loyalty to the Trinamool Congress. The BJP might use the Hindu refugees like the Congress did the Muslim ones but both encourage alienation of locals rather than integration. What everybody seems to forget is that for all our professed secularism, we are carrying the ghosts of Partition. That explains why communalisation is an easy gamble. We cannot afford to derail the peace by stoking such sentiments.

A shipless Navy

India has an ocean when other nations just have seas but it is not doing a great job of protecting its naval interests



When Admiral Karambir Singh bemoaned the lack of funds to the Navy, he stated not just a fact of life but also hinted at just how poorly India has treated its maritime force. This is peculiar given not just India's huge coastal border and the need to protect it but also the need to project itself as a power in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR). Indian interests in the IOR and that of its geographic neighbours are being challenged by the eastern neighbour giant, China, which has been busy acquiring assets across the IOR.

China's "String of Pearls" is one that can potentially be used to strangle India economically and militarily in case of a potential future conflict with assets like Gwadar in Pakistan. Sri Lanka's Hambantota Port is the most telling example of how China is developing a form of economic imperialism and the potential of deploying that against India. India's dwindling allocation to the Navy as a percentage of all defence funds has the sea service upset, and rightly so, from 18 per cent of overall funds in 2012-13 to 13 per cent in 2019-20. While some could dismiss this as inter-service rivalry and the constant jostling inside the forces for money, a reality in all large military powers, the Indian Navy is currently moth-eaten. New projects have taken eons, best exemplified by the inordinate gestation and commissioning process for the Project 15 and 15A guided missile destroyers. By the time the Project 15B 'Vishakhapatnam-class' ships come into service in 2021-22, India's 10 modern guided missile cruisers will be outnumbered by China's 34 Type 52C, 52D and Type 55 Destroyers. Even for coastal defence, a decision to purchase modern minesweepers has continued for two decades.

The Indian Navy, however, does need to share some blame with an unhealthy obsession with aircraft carriers, a need for power projection that has cost us. Carriers are inordinately expensive, take years to produce and in the Indian context, are of little tactical or strategic value against China, although things are slightly different against Pakistan. India should concentrate on rapidly building up its submarine and smaller surface vessel fleet, which with modern weapons can punch well above their weight. India is an old maritime power and we have an ocean when other nations just have seas. We should be proud of that and protect our interests at all costs.

Graded confusion

The new evaluation system of the Delhi university, which is an amalgam of absolute and relative grading systems, is bizarre and is bound to affect academic standards



SHOBHIT MAHAJAN

Confusion (noun): The state of being bewildered or unclear in one's mind about something. This is how the dictionary defines "confusion." There certainly seems to be a lot of it currently in the hallowed corridors of the University of Delhi. No, "graded" does not refer to a gradual onset of bewilderment; it is about the complete lack of clarity in the evaluation of academic competence.

Recently, the University of Delhi notified new rules for evaluation. The university, which had hitherto been giving absolute marks to students, moved to a grading system. However, the rules governing the conversion of marks to grades, as decided by the university, are bizarre to say the least.

To get an idea of what the changes are, it is important to recapitulate how evaluation was previously done here. Examinations were evaluated and percentage marks were given in each subject. These marks were then moderated — a process, which contrary to the dictionary meaning of the word, essentially meant that the marks were scaled up in case the students did not do well.

This kind of moderation is something everyone is familiar with. Every year, in response to newspaper reports of a "difficult" paper, the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) agrees to "moderate" the results. This leads to an inordinate number of students getting extremely high marks, in some cases they score 100 per cent marks even in subjects like History.

Massive grade inflation, which results from this innocuously named process of massaging the results, has been the norm in the Delhi University, too, for a number of years now. This form of inflation, like its economic counterpart, is obviously corrosive to the academic well-being of the university.

If this assault on academic standards was not bad enough, this year onwards, the evaluation system has undergone another change, which is truly disastrous. The University Grants Commission (UGC) had asked all universities to introduce the grading system from the 2015-16 academic session. The grading scheme ranges from Outstanding (O) to Fail (F). That by itself is not a problem if the conversion of the raw scores in the examination to the grade was either absolute (as has been the norm in many Indian universities) or if the grades are given on a relative scale where the grades only indicate the student's position relative to the entire class (as was suggested by the UGC). This is the norm in most universities in the US as well as some institutes in the country. There is nothing inherently good or bad about either of these systems if they are followed consistently.

However, the University of Delhi, in its wisdom, has decided to come up with an amalgam of absolute and relative grading systems, thereby making a mess of what the grades mean. For instance, a student will get an "O" grade if his/her marks (they have



already been scaled up/moderated) are more than the lower of 90 per cent or mean+2.5 times the standard deviation.

The 90 per cent condition obviously assumes an absolute grading scheme whereby one's score is 90 per cent. The second condition is related to a relative grading scheme. This formula assumes that the marks obtained by a class comprising a reasonable number of students would follow what is called a bell-shaped or normal distribution.

In this distribution system, one can compute the average or mean marks obtained as well the standard deviation, which is a measure of the spread around the mean. Thus, a larger standard deviation means that the marks are more spread out around the mean than in a distribution with the same mean but smaller standard deviation.

One of the properties of a normal distribution is that we can say what percentage of the population (in this case the students) would be in various regions of the marks distribution. Thus, a student whose marks are mean + 2.5 times standard deviation would have higher marks than more than 99 per cent of the students.

One can already see that this curious mixture of absolute

“ THIS CHANGE IS ACTUALLY MORE PROBLEMATIC THAN SIMPLY SOME NUMBERS. A MAJORITY OF THE STUDENTS IN THE SCIENCES ULTIMATELY END UP TEACHING IN SCHOOLS. WHAT THE UNIVERSITY HAS EFFECTIVELY DONE IS TO ENSURE THAT THE STANDARD REQUIRED TO GET A DEGREE IS LOWERED. THE IMPACT THIS WOULD HAVE ON SCHOOL TEACHING CAN ONLY BE IMAGINED ”

and relative grading can lead to a strange situation. In principle, one could get an "O" grade even as he/she scores low marks. Consider a class where the mean score is 45 and standard deviation is four. Then anyone with more than 55 marks will get an "O." Looking at the student's grades, one would have no idea whether the "O" signifies absolute (90 per cent) or relative standing.

The impact of this at the lower end of the grades is even more disastrous. A student needs the lower of 30 per cent (or mean — standard deviation) to pass the course. Now, if the grading was purely relative, what this would mean is that about 16 per cent of the students would necessarily fail. However, the rule stipulates the lower of the two figures. Thus, if the mean and standard deviation is such that the number comes out to be more than 30 per cent, anyone with 30 per cent would pass. On the other hand, if that number comes out to be less than 30 per cent, then those marks are all that are needed to pass. Thus, 30 per cent is the maximum in any paper that would be required by a student to pass the exam.

Hitherto, the percentage required to pass any exam in the

university was 40 per cent. This has now been effectively brought down to a maximum of 30 per cent. One can argue that there is nothing sacrosanct about 40 per cent and it is an arbitrary number as any other. This may be strictly true but what is undeniable is that this would lead to a lowering of academic standards.

This change is actually more problematic than simply some numbers. A majority of the students in the sciences ultimately end up teaching in schools. What the university has effectively done is to ensure that the standard required to get a degree is lowered. The impact this would have on school teaching can only be imagined.

The University of Delhi was only recently deemed as an Institute of Eminence. The philosophy behind this controversial scheme is to endow some institutions to improve their positions in the global university rankings, which seem to have acquired a talisman-like aura with our education planners. Mandating a lowering of academic standards, as one is witnessing in higher education, is certainly an odd way to achieve that objective.

(The writer is professor of physics and astrophysics, University of Delhi)

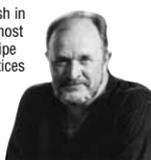
SOUNDBITE

There are 15 to 16 cases against me. When you look at a soldier, he will have lots of medals on his chest. Every single case is a medal for me.



Congress leader —Rahul Gandhi

There is a universal wish in most religions and in most parts of the world to wipe out old-fashioned practices when literacy becomes widespread.



Historian —William Dalrymple

Not standing up to a President who abuses power would set a wrong precedent, and that is not good for the future of the country.



Indian-American Congresswoman —Pramila Jayapal

I thought the Finance Minister said she does not eat onions, she is not bothered... What does she eat? Does she eat avocado? She does not eat onions.



Congress leader —P Chidambaram

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Women deserve respect

Sir — This refers to the editorial, "Crying shame" (December 2). There is a widespread protest in various parts of the country demanding public lynching, chemical castration and capital punishment for perpetrators of the brutal sexual assault and grisly murder of a young veterinarian in Hyderabad. Some of our politicians, too, have demanded the same.

At this juncture, my heart goes out to the young girl of Kathua in Jammu & Kashmir, who was abducted, raped for days and then murdered. At that time, the arrests of the accused saw some heartless and communal-minded elements opposing the crackdown. The gravest shock was the presence of people with political affiliations taking part in these protests.

For long, I have been against capital punishment for rapists. When confronted with conscience-jolting acts of depravity, it is but normal for people to act in anger and revulsion. Instead, the need is to address the patriarchal inequality inscribed in daily life against women.

More than enforcing strict laws, what is needed is a change in attitude towards women and treating them with utmost respect and empathy. This will indeed go a long way in reducing crimes.

Tharcus S Fernando
Chennai

A blueprint to revive the economy

The Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth for the second quarter of the financial year 2019-20 registered a further fall, slipping to 4.5 per cent from the first quarter rate of five per cent. The informal sector, which was neither indexed, monitored or taxed, never figured in its computation. Experts feel that the slowdown was always more pronounced in the unorganised sector, which is far more dependent on cash. As is wont, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman chose to play down the crisis in Parliament and sought to reel out extraneous details and figures. Truth be told, the Indian economy is faced with a catastrophic recession today. Core sectoral output has shrunk with associated effects on allied manufacturing activities.

Private businesses, which had been in expansion mode prior to the onset of the slowdown, have now started scaling back capacity utilisation to minimise systematic risk. And if revenue, whether from sales or investment, dips any further, many small firms will be forced to pull their shutters down. Peremptory cut in corporate tax and a stimulus package for the realty sector were reportedly meant to encourage investment and mitigate liquidity crunch. Bereft of budgetary leverage, the Government then indulged in the forcible appropriation



of the contingency fund of the RBI and is now in a hurry to forsake its ownership of profit-making PSUs. The question, however is: Will the tax cut or stimulus engineer a spurt in growth? Or will it lead to a pick-up in consumption/demand? Or is it that under the pretext of structural adjustments, the Government has gone overboard to shield the corporates from existing unpredictability? Only time will unravel the truth. For the time being, only a multi-pronged strategy can resurrect the economy.

Haridasan Rajan
Kozhikode

Overworked cops

Sir — As per data released by the Bureau of Police Research and Development (BPRD) on July 2, 4,000 police personnel protect about 300 VIPs in Telangana. The

VIPs include 17 Lok Sabha MPs, six Rajya Sabha MPs, 120 MLAs and 40 MLCs, among others.

The Chief Minister, State Ministers, a junior Union Minister, Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, Chairman of the Council, judges and

bureaucrats are all included in the VIP list.

The scenario, however, changes when it comes to protecting the common man. According to the BPRD's data, 131 cops take care of a population of one lakh in Telangana as against the national average of 193 cops per one lakh population.

Also, a single policeman mans an area of 2.5 square km, much below the national average of a 1.27 personnel per square kilometre. Telangana is also hamstrung by the lack of police personnel. In fact, it faces the highest shortfall of cops after Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and West Bengal in the country.

And the entire nation, including the media, leaders in the Opposition, activists and the public spewed venom at the police department for its poor handling of the veterinarian's case who was raped, murdered and then burnt. Did the media ever bother to highlight the poor conditions under which a cop, in any part of this country, lives, works or resides?

P Arinanth
Secunderabad

Send your feedback to:
letterstopioneer@gmail.com

FIRST COLUMN

A golden investment

Putting money in gold has its pros and cons. However, including it in the portfolio is vital to hedge against volatility and inflation



HIMA BINDU KOTA

Indians have a major love for gold and hold it in high regard as a safe investment option and a nest egg for future generations, especially women. It is estimated that a large chunk of the 700-800 tonnes of gold that India imports goes into making jewellery as women and families traditionally like to think of it as a substitute for money. Even now, gold has not lost its glitter among the host of investment options available like stocks, bonds, mutual funds and real estate, to name a few, as historically, it offers a perfect hedge and stability when the markets do not. This is because it has an inverse relationship to equity investments.

For instance, if the equity markets start performing poorly, gold would have performed well. Adding the yellow metal to an investment portfolio forms a buffer against overall volatility. Additionally, putting money in gold is worthwhile because it is an inflation-beating investment. Over a period of time, the return on gold investment is in line with the rate of inflation.

Increasing political and economic uncertainty in the country and globally is a harsh reality of the times we are living in and it affects the economic environment everywhere. Hence, gold is considered a safe haven in ambiguous circumstances. In fact, history is full of falling empires, political coups and the collapse of currencies. During such times, investors who held gold were able to successfully protect their wealth and in some cases, even use the commodity to escape from the turmoil. Consequently, whenever there is news that events might lead to global economic uncertainty, investors often buy gold as a safe haven.

Any rational investor should include the yellow metal in his portfolio to provide stability and diversify against sharp movement in equity and bond prices.

People can invest in Gold Exchange Traded Funds (ETFs). These are simple products that combine the flexibility of stocks and the simplicity of gold as an investment. ETFs trade on the cash market of the stock exchanges, like any other company stock. They can be bought and sold continuously at market prices. ETFs are excellent passive instruments that are based on gold prices and invest in bullion. Because they are backed by gold, ETFs have complete transparency. Due to their unique structure and creation mechanism, ETFs have much lower expenses as compared to physical gold holding. Gold ETFs are ideal for those who would like to invest in the yellow metal but do not want to suffer the hassles and bear the costs of storing and safeguarding it.

Gold equity funds invest in the shares of firms that are involved in gold mining. These are pure equity funds and are often international in nature since there are not many listed gold mining firms in India. Like any other stock fund, they can deliver much higher returns than pure gold. But when gold prices are low, mining companies shut mines as the cost of production is higher than realisation costs. Stocks of such mining companies were battered for many years. Investors have to deal with three risks in these funds. First, returns from these funds are dependent on gold price movement. Second, these gold funds invest in stocks, which means they carry the risk associated with shares. Third, there is also currency exchange risk. This means if the rupee appreciates, returns can get affected. Gold equity funds are best suited for sophisticated investors and are not ideal for a retail investor.

With the advent of the Sovereign Gold Bond (SGB) scheme investing in the yellow metal has become much easier and convenient now. With the Union Government's SGB scheme, an investor can earn an assured interest rate, eliminating risk and cost of storage. The SGB 2018-19 Series-I has a subscription price of ₹3,114 per gram and an individual can buy a maximum of 4 kg. SGBs provide attractive interest rates with an asset appreciation opportunity. The annual interest rate offered is 2.5 per cent and the interest is tax free. The redemption is linked to gold prices. There is 100 per cent elimination of risk and cost of storage. Also, SGBs are exempt from capital gains tax, if held till maturity. The bonds carry a tenure of eight years with an option to exit from the fifth year onwards. SGBs are the most efficient way of putting money in gold from an investment point of view if you can stay put for five years or more. Importantly, indexation benefit is available if the bond is transferred before maturity. Gold bonds score high on liquidity as they are tradable on the exchanges. Also, they can be collateral against a loan, an aspect that is missing in ETFs.

Like every investment, putting money in gold also has its pros and cons. However, including it in the portfolio is vital to hedge against volatility and inflation. Depending upon the economic, financial and political situation, the level of diversification should range anywhere between five per cent to 30 per cent.

(The writer is Assistant Professor, Amity University)

POINT COUNTERPOINT

I DON'T EAT A LOT OF ONIONS AND GARLIC, SO DON'T WORRY (ABOUT PRICE RISE AND SHORTAGE). MY FAMILY DOESN'T HAVE MUCH TO DO WITH ONIONS.

—FINANCE MINISTER
NIRMALA SITHARAMAN



THE FINANCE MINISTER SAID YESTERDAY SHE DOES NOT EAT ONIONS, SHE IS NOT BOTHERED... WHAT DOES SHE EAT? DOES SHE EAT AVOCADO?

—FORMER FINANCE MINISTER
P CHIDAMBARAM

Unshakeable courage

Twenty five years after Latur was jolted by an earthquake that left a trail of destruction, several thousand women affected by the tragedy are recognised as transformational leaders



MOJIN QAZI

Over 26 years ago, on September 30, 1993, Latur district in the Marathwada region of Maharashtra was jolted by an earthquake that left a trail of mass destruction. It ravaged hundreds of villages and uprooted multitudes of people.

Today, several thousand women among those severely affected by the tragedy are recognised as transformational leaders. How these semi-literate and impoverished women converted adversity into opportunity and finally prosperity is a saga of grit and tenacity. The glue that bonded them and provided the necessary impetus towards leading a revolution was a passionate and indefatigable social entrepreneur, Prema Gopalan. Schooled and trained in disaster management, she began reconstruction and rehabilitation work among these women and in 1998 formally launched Swayam Shikshan Prayog (SSP) (self-education for empowerment) with a larger and long-term mission of self-empowerment and self-learning.

The crisis and the consequent social mobilisation for reconstruction of houses gave people the opportunity and impetus for large, community-centered efforts and started creating models for building community resilience. SSP started out as a not-for-profit, helping bridge the gap between the community and the Government following the tremor. It worked to enable women from the community to monitor the relief effort and act as intermediaries by giving feedback to the Government on the progress of building work, selection of beneficiaries and what was needed on the ground.

Prema realised the potential of these rural women and believed they could grow into planners in local development and governance. Building on their capacities, she steered them through a broad-based development strategy of economic and social empowerment. It helped her conceptualise the broad vision for SSP.

The objective of SSP is to promote inclusive and sustainable community development among low income women in climate-threatened areas by building robust ecosystems that could enable them to access skills training, financial and digital literacy and technology and marketing platforms. They have become equipped to navigate the challenges posed by climate change, natural disasters, agriculture, health and sanitation. They also have the negotiating skills to deal with Government agencies and local self-Government bodies.

Women are at the centre of SSP's work, creating the tools, services, and networks they need to break through complex and entrenched situations of poverty and the caprices of the climate. The purpose of its partnerships — spanning entrepreneurship, health, agriculture, technology and financial services — is to create sustainable solutions that can be broadly implemented to improve the lives of women living in poor, rural communities.

Prema believes that rural women should be acknowledged for who they really are — a new generation of dynamic entrepreneurs, job-creators and economy drivers, committed to bringing a change in their communities. She has steered thousands of women in the most vulnerable communities in drought and flood-affected villages by partnering them with global and local businesses to set up sustainable last-mile social enterprises in clean energy, sanitation, basic health services, nutrition and safe agriculture. They have transitioned from self-employment to diversify their ventures, aggregate into



“ HOW THESE SEMI-LITERATE AND IMPOVERISHED WOMEN CONVERTED ADVERSITY INTO OPPORTUNITY AND FINALLY PROSPERITY, IS A SAGA OF GRIT AND TENACITY. THE GLUE THAT BONDED THEM AND PROVIDED THE NECESSARY IMPETUS TOWARDS LEADING A REVOLUTION WAS A PASSIONATE AND INDEFATIGABLE SOCIAL ENTREPRENEUR, PREMA GOPALAN ”

value chains and mentor thousands of others to get on the path of entrepreneurship. Prema is a recipient of Social Entrepreneur of the Year Award, 2018 of the Schwab Foundation and the SSP has received a large number of global and national awards including the Equator Prize, 2017 from UNDP and UNFCCC Momentum for Change Award, 2016 for Communities and Climate Change.

One of the key issues that Prema and her team are targeting is climate change and have identified six impact areas. They are linked to agriculture, water and energy resources, food security, health, climate-related natural disasters and climate-induced migration.

“Women can reverse climate change impact for the poor by leading from the front,” says Prema. Among the impoverished, women face the brunt of risks associated with climate change since they are primary managers of energy, water, food and essential services. Hence clean energy products dominate social businesses of these women. Prema's team is enabling thousands of women to succeed in remote markets by selling everything — from solar chargers for mobile phones to more efficient cooking stoves — that can lift a rural household out of extreme poverty. The businesses are leveraging the last-mile rural women's entrepreneurship network for awareness generation on clean energy technologies and access to products and services.

The SSP model comprises four ventures: A resilience fund for women-led businesses; a fraternity of 5,000 self-help groups networked through federations; a rural school of entrepreneurship and leadership for women which provides business, financial and marketing skills; and a market aggregator that provides warehousing, branding, marketing and distribution services to last-mile business

women. The consortium nurtures the value chains and entrepreneurial ecosystems that women need to succeed in remote and opaque markets.

Rural women are the human face of poverty and development. They toil on their farms but lack access to land titles and are therefore, not recognised as farmers. This, in turn, denies them access to finance to update their farm, training technology and markets. SSP's women entrepreneurs are taking their communities forward, reshaping the local economy, securing food self-sufficiency, driving local initiatives for increasing incomes, creating jobs, building access to key assets in times of crisis and creating a lasting impact. As a result, they are no longer perceived as beneficiaries; instead they have emerged as partners.

There has also been a failure of agricultural strategy over the last decade, as food crops have gradually been abandoned in favour of cash crops such as sugar cane, which is more profitable but is highly water-intensive. In such a scenario, sustainable and diversified agriculture is the only solution to stop the deepening of India's agrarian crisis, especially since the impacts of climate change are now visible. Water insecurity lies at the core of the crisis. Shifting to organic farming (which increases soil fertility) to grow drought-resistant varieties that provide additional incomes and household nutritional security while simultaneously enhancing biodiversity, is a viable option.

One of the most revolutionary contributions of SSP is in bringing about this shift to sustainable farming and protection of water and natural resources. Men are losing interest in farming but women continue to work the land. The SSP has empowered women farmers in climate-resilient agricultural practices. These women are now active decision-makers on core issues

like growing crops, conserving natural resource and increasing biodiversity. In this arid zone, these women collectives have made farming breakthroughs possible.

Through the years, SSP has created large-scale programmes aimed at development centered on women's participation and leadership. SSP has also built a support system of village-level networks of entrepreneurs known as *sakhis* (friends). An innovative intervention is in rural health care. SSP selects and trains women who are landless but have basic education, are interested in health care and community service. These *Arogya Sakhis* are community members who receive basic training and live and work in the communities they serve.

“These women conduct a series of preventive tests using mobile health devices, capture the data by using a tablet and upload the results on the cloud server developed by our technology partner,” says Prema. The data is then shared with a doctor, who analyses it and provides a report and prescriptions over the cloud. The *Sakhis* then guide the patients on the treatment and precautions to be taken. Wherever needed, they are referred to hospitals for further treatment.

The Government, too, has learnt from these initiatives and public health programmes are modelled round them. The community health workers, including the Accredited Social Health Activists (ASHA) and the Auxiliary Nurse Midwife, are indeed the foundation of our public health care system and have played a central role in its success, thereby reducing maternal and child mortality. ASHAs are central to India's strategy to improve maternal and child health and are selected by the village they serve.

(The writer is Member, NITI Aayog's National Committee on Financial Literacy and Inclusion for Women.)

Time for serious introspection

As rape-cum-murders and voyeurs watching gruesome videos of crimes on porn sites become more rampant, society needs to mull over the reasons for such moral decay and later augment its institutions to restore ethics



PURVA BHATT

It sends chills down my spine when I think of the fateful night of November 27. As usual, after a heinous rape case makes the headlines, the country wakes up from its slumber, shakes its head in sympathy and expresses outrage, shock and anger.

The nation enters into a zone of empathy and the oft-heard statements are, “It could've been my daughter, my wife or my sister; it could have been me; maybe I should avoid coming back home late at night; maybe I shouldn't send my daughter to another city to pursue her education; maybe she shouldn't drive a two-wheeler, maybe she

should learn martial arts; maybe she should just die in the womb.”

Such gender inequalities in this process find both confirmatory bias and social legitimisation, which again become a cause for concern.

We Indians are highly sensitive, emotional and emphatic people, yet we are the ones with a transient memory. We vehemently vent our angst and frustration with a few candle marches, displaying our momentary spur of rebellion and then get caught in the daily humdrum of our lives.

However, the fact remains that our society is facing moral decay! While on one hand the majority of the nation was mourning over and petrified by the unfortunate rape and cold-blooded murder on the streets of Hyderabad, on the other hand, the name of the victim was searched more than eight million times on a porn website by voyeurs and perverts.

Where most of us might again eloquently pour out our vexation, exasperation, anger, through a few social media posts, rallies and march-

es, the “illusion introspection” deflects us from pondering upon the *de facto* cause of such savagery.

It diverts us from perusing social patterns by conveniently passing on the buck and putting it all down to the State's inefficiency. The State ensures a “public prosecutor” bearing in mind the underlying assumption that the act is a breach not only of legal but also of social laws and the defendant poses a threat to society.

Then how can society behave like a passive observer that is dependent upon the State's discretion, by shifting all the responsibility to the State? The idea of what is morally “wrong” and “right” has been intricately discussed in Indian society. Our society talks about ethically right, morally right, socially right even universally right conduct and notions in much more detail than any other civilisation.

These weren't just topics of discussions by a few intellectuals but were principles understood and practised by the masses in their daily lives. The philosophy of dharma (often intentionally confused with

religion) was one such concept. Our society inculcated a sense of ethical, moral and social values through various social institutions such as family, education and even occupation.

The State should be encircled, held responsible and asked all the inconvenient questions. However, what is also important is for members of society to wake up and own up to the issue of moral decay. Politicians and the State's other institutions must be held accountable but not just when such saturation limits are crossed.

The State should have been questioned by society even when it removed moral science from school curriculum; the State should have been interrogated when it took upon itself to decide society's curriculum, pedagogy and syllabus, even when it took control of our social and religious institutions.

Decadence and depravity in any society is not just the concern of politicians, to be discussed and deliberated upon to form corrective policies. It is for the society to introspect, discuss and correct.

Sadly, society has let the State systematically encroach upon much of its authority and responsibility, consequently leading to the weakening of social norms and sanctions. When was the last time we discussed in our families social values, moral consciousness, ethical conduct, the idea of collectivism, the thought of the peace mantra *Sarve bhavantu sukhinah*?

There has been a systematic demolition of prominent institutions which in various ways maintained the moral density of society. Society, after ceding its powers to the State, started behaving like a beneficiary of its pity and benevolence. However, society cannot shed all responsibility and just pass the buck to the State.

Its members need to question their role in the decadence that has crept into society. While the nation ensures uniformity of legal norms and sanctions on all its citizens, why do the deterrents against committing crime have varying effects on different individuals? We need to ask ourselves a simple question, whether our

fathers or any other men we admire, would have ever committed such a gruesome act even if there was no fear of punishment for rape? The answer in most cases would have been a resounding “no.”

However, the perpetrators of the barbaric act still did it, with seemingly little or no fear of strict legal norms. Therefore, as a sociologist, I would argue that the power of social norms is often more persuasive than legal norms. The aforementioned argument therefore again puts the ball in the court of society which needs to carefully examine its role, its moral decay and the power that it has ceded to the State.

This does not mean that society must develop its mechanisms to ensure justice, it would be in complete binary opposition to the argument presented here. What society needs is to introspect over reasons for such moral decay and later augment its institutions to restore ethical density.

(The writer is an Assistant Professor in Humanities and Social Science and researcher, MNIT)



FOREIGN EYE



A TOXIC ALLIANCE SHUNNED BY BORIS

The US President's departure from London came as a relief to Boris Johnson as Donald Trump is a fan of Brexit and praises the Prime Minister as the man to deliver it. His presence in UK was an electoral hazard for the Conservatives as some voters admire Trump but most do not.

It is no recommendation for the Tory leader to be liked by a man notorious for dishonesty, ignorance, narcissism and chauvinism. (The Guardian editorial)

Religious leaders downplay Babri anniv, security stepped up

PTI ■ AYODHYA

Both Muslim and Hindu religious leaders are talking about downplaying the anniversary of the demolition of the Babri mosque, now that the Supreme Court has pronounced its verdict on the Ayodhya dispute.

While the police are taking no chances — an official said the security arrangement in the temple town are similar to those ahead of the SC judgment day — religious organisations have assured that the December 6 anniversary will be low key.

While right-wing Hindu organisations earlier celebrated the day when a mob pulled down the structure on the disputed site, some Muslim groups mourned it.

This time, although the AIMPLB said "a day of sorrow" would be observed, it added that "it is up to the individuals".

The Vishwa Hindu Parishad has too decided

against observing the 27th anniversary of the demolition as "Shaurya Diwas".

"Yaum-e-gham (day of sorrow) will be observed, wherever it was observed last year. And, it is up to individuals to observe it or not," senior AIMPLB office-bearer Zafaryab Jilani said.

VHP spokesman Sharad Sharma said, "There will be no public function. People may light earthen lamps in various temples. Seers are also of the view that truth has triumphed so there is no relevance of the celebrations."

On November 30, Ram Janmabhoomi Nyas chief Mahant Nritya Gopal Das too had appealed against observing "Shaurya Diwas", saying there was no relevance left for it after the apex court verdict.

Maulana Shafique Alam of Terhi Bazaar Masjid, which is in close proximity to the Ramjanmabhoomi, on Thursday said Friday prayers would be held in the mosque at

1 pm. "Around 150-200 Muslims are likely to attend it," he said.

Recalling developments on November 8, a day before the apex court gave its verdict, Shafique Alam said, "There are around 40-50 Muslim families in this area, of which 30 had sent their womenfolk to other places. Some financially well-off people too shifted ahead of the Supreme Court judgment."

"Most of them returned after November 14. There were no clashes, but people were feeling sad over the judgment. I too had gone to my native place in Bihar's Gaya and returned on November 19," he said, adding that police were very helpful. He, however, blamed "outsiders" for vitiating the atmosphere of Ayodhya, saying his Hindu neighbours were very nice.

"Even during marriage or any other celebrations in their households, they switch off the music system during

namaaz," he said.

Meanwhile, security is tight in the temple town with a senior Uttar Pradesh Police official saying the arrangements are similar to the plan they had devised for November 9, the day the apex court pronounced verdict on the Ramjanmabhoomi-Babri Masjid land dispute.

"The security plan for December 6 will be a continuation of the plan we had devised for November 9," Additional Director General of Police (Law and Order) PV Ramasastri told PTI, adding that the precautions taken by them were the same they had adopted on the judgment day.

Ayodhya SSP Ashish Tiwari said the entire district had been divided into four zones, 10 sectors and 14 sub-sectors.

"As many as 78 sand bag posts have been established with armed policemen posted there. Barriers have been put in place to control traffic. As

many as 269 police pickets have been set up in sensitive areas," Tiwari said.

The SSP added that 305 troublemakers had been identified and action was being initiated against them.

Apart from this, nine quick response teams have been deployed.

"To combat any emergency situation, five arresting parties have been formed in addition to 10 temporary jails," he said, adding that anti-sabotage teams were checking hotels, dharamshalas and other public places. He said people had been appealed to immediately inform police about any suspicious activity or people. The public had also been asked not to fall prey to any rumour mongering and maintain harmony, he said.

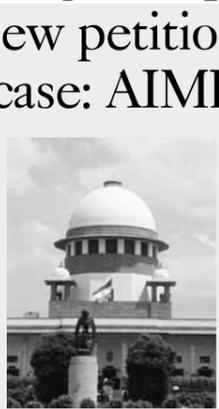
"Stress has been laid on confidence-building measures," the SSP said, adding that they had contacted saints, traders and academics in this regards.

More review petitions in Ayodhya case: AIMPLB secy

Lucknow: Six more litigants are set to file review petitions against the Supreme court verdict in the Ayodhya case, an AIMPLB office-bearer said here on Thursday.

The Jamiat Ulema-e-Hind has already filed a review petition. Maulana Syed Ashhad Rashidi, legal heir of original litigant M Siddiq, filed the plea, saying the judgment suffers from "errors apparent on record and warrants a review under Article 137 of the Constitution of India".

Commenting on the fresh pleas on Thursday, All India Muslim Personal Law Board secretary Zafaryab Jilani told PTI, "Review petitions on behalf of six litigants are being



prepared and these can be filed in next two days."

Jilani said the date for filing would be disclosed as soon as they were complete.

According to the November 9 verdict, the

Supreme Court had said the entire 2.77 acre of disputed land should be handed over to the deity Ram Lalla, who was one of the three litigants.

The five-judge Constitution bench also directed the Centre to allot a five-acre plot to the Sunni Waqf Board in Ayodhya to build a mosque.

The Sunni Central Waqf Board has, however, decided against filing a review plea. The board also said it was yet to take a call on whether to accept the plot or not.

The AIMPLB had on Sunday asserted that 99 per cent of Muslims in the country wanted a review of the Supreme Court verdict. PTI

BJP Govt has ruined economy, polity, society: Didi

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

Miffed by alleged regular attempts by State Governor Jagdeep Dhankhar at interfering in day-to-day business of the State Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Thursday slammed the Central Government for trying to run a parallel Government in Kolkata — much the way it has been doing in States like Maharashtra.

In a circuitous reference to the BJP Government, Mamata said, "they are trying to run a parallel administration in Maharashtra, West Bengal and other States. The situation is a little better in West Bengal even though, here too a parallel Government is present."

Banerjee who was speaking at the inauguration of INFO-COM, 2019 also said that the businessmen too were being targeted by the saffron government. "They are interfering in the business of industrialists. The economy is collapsing for these policies of the Centre," the Chief Minister said reminding how on account of faulty economic policies of the Centre the country had gone in the grip of a never-ending vicious circle of inflation, unemployment and economic slowdown.

Referring to the falling gross domestic product of the country Banerjee said "It is the darkest situation in the country. There is unhindered privatization. The industries are being shut down and merger of banks is taking place... and



nobody is able to speak," adding how nobody was safe in the present political environment where "whoever raises a voice against this situation comes under the scanner," of the Enforcement Directorate, Central Bureau of Investigation or other such agencies.

Situation was such that the industrialists who want to invest in India were now scared to do so considering the suffocating political climate of the country.

Banerjee said how she wanted to play a positive role for the general people, the economy and industry adding how she did not increase the railway fare as the Railway Minister.

Today "the Central government is trying to sell off the Indian Railways, BSNL, and Air India... the banks too have been merged. I am scared of the future of the insurance sector also... Unemployment will be the biggest disaster for the country," she said condemning the Government's approach towards controlling inflation.

"Look how the onion prices are shooting through the roof and nothing is being done about that," she said wondering "who is

responsible for this epidemic situation."

In a no-holds-barred attack on the Centre she said how New Delhi's arrogance was being projected through its blind persuasion of a discriminatory NRC policy which is "designed to pursue a divide-and-rule politics."

Banerjee criticism of the Centre came almost in tandem with Governor Dhankhar's condemnation of the State Government when he said that democracy had been caged in Bengal.

A furious Governor who visited the State Assembly on Thursday after informing Speaker Biman Banerjee in advance but "failed to find even a single soul in the Assembly premises," told the media that "democracy is being humiliated in Bengal," where a Governor failed to find an entry in the Assembly House.

He said how the Speaker had earlier invited his wife and him to visit the Assembly and even have lunch there but later cancelled the invitation saying he would not be available on the appointed day and time.

He said "this is sad day for the democracy of the State," wondering why the gate number 3 which was specially used for the entry of the VIPs including the Governor was kept closed. "I knew that the House was adjourned for a few days but this does not mean that the secretariat should be closed," he said adding "you cannot make the legislature

capitulate with such exercises. Democracy is being humiliated, not me. We are caging democracy. However, as the Governor of the state, I will never bow down and will work to uphold the democratic principles of the State."

Claiming that the purpose of his visit was to see the historic building, the background and to visit the library," the Governor who met with a similar treatment at the Calcutta University on Wednesday when the Vice Chancellor and the Registrar went missing when he visited the campus said.

Slamming the Chief Minister he said that she had failed to perform constitutional duties for the last few months, adding how as a Governor he had never been briefed by the Government on important issues like cyclone Bulbul.

The Raj Bhavan and the Nabanna (Secretariat) had been at loggerheads ever since Dhankhar by-passed the State administration and went to rescue Union Minister Babul Supriyo who was trapped in a students' agitation in Jadavpur University on September 19. Subsequently the Governor took a number of administrative tours on his own accord infuriating the Chief Ministers whose Cabinet colleagues openly hit out at the Governor for running a parallel administration in Bengal at the behest of Union Home Minister Amit Shah.

Shame to our country's democratic history, says Jagdeep Dhankhar

Kolkata: Jagdeep Dhankhar who had to wait outside the West Bengal Assembly on Thursday as the gate designated for the Governor was locked, said the "humiliation" meted out to the Governor's post has put the country's democratic history to "shame".

Later Dhankhar entered the Assembly premises through Gate no 4, meant for media persons and officials.

"Why is gate no 3 closed? Despite my prior intimation, the gate is closed. The Assembly being adjourned does not mean it is closed."

"The Governor's gate being locked has put our democratic history to shame. This is not an insult to me, but an insult to the people of the state and the Constitution," Dhankhar told reporters.

According to Assembly norms, gate no 3 is designated for the governor's entry and exit. Dhankhar had on Wednesday written to Assembly Speaker Biman Banerjee expressing his desire to look into its facilities and also visit the library.

"After I had informed about my visit, the special secretary of Raj Bhavan, received a message inviting me and my wife for a lunch by the speaker. I accepted it."

"But within one-and-half hours of receiving the message,

my special secretary received another message from the Assembly secretary, stating that the invite stands cancelled. He was also told that the secretary and special secretary of the Assembly will not be present during my visit," the Governor said after coming out of the Assembly. "I wonder what happened during one-and-a-half hours that every thing changed. I will write to the speaker that what happened today has belittled his chair," he said.

Hitting out at the State Government for trying to undermine democratic norms and constitutional posts, the Governor said he will not be "cowed down" by such "antics" of the ruling Trinamool Congress (TMC).

"I will continue to work towards upholding constitutional and democratic norms. The role of the governor and the Government is clearly defined in the Constitution. I can't be cowed down by such antics," he said. In an unprecedented development on Tuesday, the speaker had adjourned the House for two days, saying that the Bills, slated to be placed in the Assembly, were yet to get the Governor's approval. However, the claim was refuted by the Raj Bhavan, which in a statement termed the situation as "factually untenable". PTI

MHA ask States to send suggestions for recasting of IPC, CrPC

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has asked all State Governments to send their suggestions for a major overhaul and recasting of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) and the CrPC, officials said on Thursday.

The new structure and content of criminal laws will be citizen centric and will reflect the aspirations of a modern democracy and provide for speedy justice, especially to the weaker sections of society, an official said.

The Bureau of Police Research and Development (BPRD) may undertake review of the laws such as the IPC, CrPC, Indian Evidence Act and the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act. The BPRD will constitute a suitable working or consultative group and submit a report.

The laws should reflect the modern reality and the revised laws should be in accordance with democratic aspirations of the people and provide speedy justice to women, children and weaker sections of the people, another official said.

The new laws are required to focus on simplifying legal procedures so that ease of living is ensured for the common man.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah had recently said in Lucknow that the Centre would soon be making changes in laws related to internal security, including necessary amendments in the IPC and the CrPC.

Union Minister of State for Home Affairs G Kishan Reddy had said on Saturday in Hyderabad that the IPC and the CrPC would be amended to expedite trial in grave criminal offences such as rape and murder.

Trivandrum Press Club rocked by attacks on women journo

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ CHENNAI

Trivandrum Press Club, a trendsetter for other Press clubs in the country, is in the news, this time for wrong reasons. Thursday evening saw the city police arresting M Radhakrishnan, a journalist who is also the secretary of the Press Club from the club premises on charges of assaulting a woman journalist.

The lady had alleged that the secretary of the Press Club physically assaulted her and barged into her residence in late hours. She also charged Radhakrishnan of moral policing.

The city police have filed a case against Radhakrishnan following the complaint from



children. Radhakrishnan reportedly slapped the male companion and demanded that the duo apologise to the local residents for their "inappropriate behaviour" and swear not to meet again after office hours. The Press Club secretary had also collected some people before whom the entire incident happened. The lady told the police that Radhakrishnan had threatened her that he would spoil her family life if she does not obey his orders.

The Network of Women in Media staged a demonstration in front of the Press club on Thursday condemning the incident and demanding the arrest of Radhakrishnan. They described Radhakrishnan's behaviour as a "malicious attempt to impose a medieval and misogynist moral code on working journalists." But Radhakrishnan denied all allegations. He said his intention was only to save his colleague from the "anger of the locals" who had objected to the presence of a man and woman in the residential neighbourhood at that hour of the night.

The Kerala State Women's Commission chaired by M C Josephine, senior CPI(M) leader ordered a suo motu case against Radhakrishnan and others based on media reports about the incident. A release by the Commission said that it would also ask the City Police Commissioner to hold a thorough probe into the incident and submit his findings. Josephine said that she

would find out whether all media institutions in the State have Internal Complaints Committee to examine the woes of women journalists.

This is the second incident of its kind to rock the Trivandrum Press Club. Last week saw one of the lady students of the Press Club's Institute of Journalism complaining to the authorities that Neelan, a faculty member-cum-journalist sent obscene messages to her mobile phone. Neelan, who is the son of the national award winning actor Premji for his role in the Malayalam film Piravi, has since been removed from the list of faculties, according to Press Club office bearers. This case also is being probed by the Press Club management.

Justice Arun Mishra apologises for 'contempt threat' to senior lawyer

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Supreme Court judge Justice Arun Mishra Thursday said he would "apologise a hundred times" with "folded hands" if anybody is hurt by his words, two days after he had warned a senior lawyer of contempt action while hearing land acquisition matter.

Justice Mishra's remarks came after a battery of senior lawyers led by Kapil Sibal, Mukul Rohatgi, A M Singhi, Dushyant Dave and Supreme Court Bar Association President Rakesh Khanna requested him to be patient in

dealing with them during the course of judicial proceedings.

"If I have hurt anybody, I not only apologise but I will give 'dandavat' apology a hundred times," Justice Mishra said, adding, "If anybody has felt anything at any point of time, with folded hands, I am apologising."

He further said, "I am more associated with the bar. From me, you can take it that the bar is the mother of the bench. I respect the bar like anything. From the core of my heart, I am saying that please do not have that impression in your mind."

Schoolgirl's letter rattles DMK leadership

PNS ■ CHENNAI

The move by the Government of Tamil Nadu to introduce 300 hours long Hindi teaching programme in the State-owned International Institute of Tamil Studies for 66 students who came forward on their own to learn the language has drawn the ire of the Dravidian major, the DMK.

What has caused further embarrassment to the DMK leadership was a letter written by a school student from Sivaganga to party chief MK Stalin asking him why he was against Navodaya Vidyalayas and Hindi.

Thangam Thennarasu, DMK leader and a close confidante of Stalin has fired the

first salvo by claiming that the move to teach Hindi was a regressive move. "This is an attempt by the AIADMK Government to destroy Tamil language and culture," charged Thennarasu while speaking to reporters at Chennai.

But Ma Foi Pandiarajan, the minister for Tamil Development said the allegation by Thennarasu, himself a former minister of education, was without understanding ground realities. "Learning of the languages is optional. All students have agreed to join the course out of their own interest. The Government has allotted Rs 3 lakh each to hold Hindi and French classes in the Institute. We will have 300 hours of Hindi and another 300 hours of French classes," said

Pandiarajan. The minister also said that the courses would facilitate comparative learning of literature, besides opening the window of job opportunities in the country and abroad.

Meanwhile more and more students, civil rights activists and educationists have come out questioning the stance of the DMK towards introduction of Hindi in the State's curriculum. What stood out in the latest round of anti-Hindi tirade by the DMK is a letter written by a school student to Stalin questioning the propriety behind his opposition towards opening Navodaya Schools in the State.

Tamil Nadu is the only State in India which does not allow Navodaya Schools as

part of the two-language policy pursued by the Dravidian parties.

B Saadhanashree, a school student, said in her letter to the DMK chief "not to fool the people of Tamil Nadu by saying that learning Hindi would destroy Tamil".

She also accused the DMK chief of preventing the people of Tamil Nadu from learning Hindi to protect his own family.

Saadhanashree, belonging to a middle-class family in Sivagangai district, said that her father had to work as a driver in a school to pay her annual fee of Rs 30,000/-. In her letter which was published in "Kalvi Today", a magazine exclusive for school education and academics, she asked why the

DMK was opposing the opening up of Navodaya Schools, a concept public school launched by former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi in 1986 as part of his initiative to make quality public school education available to the socially and backward children.

"It isn't the rich families like yours that will benefit from Navodaya schools but students from poor and middle-class families in villages, like us," said Saadhanashree.

She further stated that students from Navodaya Schools in Puducherry passed the NEET medical entrance examination. "But can you say how many students from Tamil Nadu Government-run schools could pass the NEET?" asked the student.

Notice Inviting e-Tender
No.RMSA/Gunotsav/1002/2018/55 Date : 05.12.2019
Mission Director, Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhijan, Kahilipara, Guwahati-19, Assam invites tender through e-Tendering process from reputed offset printing presses having Web/Sheet Offset Machine for printing and supply of Activity Book (Remedial Teaching).
To participate in the tender process through e-procurement document, bidder should have valid Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) of class-II (minimum) and have to register in the portal <https://assamtenders.gov.in> by themselves.
The Bidder who have downloaded the tender schedules containing the tender details, terms and conditions, from the website shall submit their tender on-line on the website <https://assamtenders.gov.in>, with proof of payment of non refundable tender processing fee of Rs. 5000/- (Rupees five thousand) only in the form of demand draft/ Bankers Cheque drawn in favour of Mission Director, Axom Sarba Siksha Abhijan Mission, Kahilipara, Guwahati-19, Assam, from any nationalized Bank and payable at Guwahati. The tender should be submitted on-line as per date and time of submission as per prescribed schedule.
Sd/- Mission Director, RMSA, Assam, Kahilipara, Guwahati-19

PUBLIC NOTICE
Be it known to all that I SUJATA SEAM PRAKASH D/o Late Sh. Madan Mohan Seam and Late Smt. Puspha Seam and W/o Sh. Chandar Prakash R/o 2515, Northampton Avenue, Orlando, FL 32828 USA, presently at C/o Mr. Lavleen Luthra House No-568, Sector-15, Faridabad-121027 (Haryana) Mulaise / Aliottee of Plot No.2, Block-D, Jhilmila Taharpur Residential Scheme, Vivek Vihar, Delhi, have applied for mutation and issue certified copies of said documents of the aforesaid property in DDA. The Allotment Letter, Possession Letter, Possession Slip, D-form/Occupancy Letter and Perpetual Lease Deed and other documents issued by DDA/MCD, have been lost or misplaced and are not traceable despite of the best efforts. An FIR/NCR to this effect has been lodged in Crime Branch wide LR No-194763/2019, dated 02.12.2019. Any person (s) claiming any rights, interest, having any objection, may write /contact with above named person at the above address/phone No. 9518030225, within 15 days from the date of publication of this notice. The person claiming any right, interest, objections with respect to this property can personally inform or write to Director / Dy. Director LAB (Res.) DDA, Vikas Sector, New Delhi.

PUBLIC NOTICE
This is to bring to the notice of the general public that one ID card of Mr. Praveesh Kumar issued by ICICI Bank Ltd. Having ID card no. 22449 has been missing and found or lost on karkarke mod Delhi. Anyone, who find the said ID Card, is requested to return the said ID card to the manager Debt Services & Management Group, ICICI Bank Limited, S D Tower sec-8 Rohini. Therefore, all the customers of ICICI Bank Limited are here by notified not to make any payment to any unauthorized person holding the said ID card no. 22449. Please take further notice that anybody making payment to any person holding the said ID card shall do so at his/her own cost, risk and peril and ICICI bank shall not be bound and/or responsible for any payment. Date: 22/11/2019 FOR ICICI BANK LIMITED Place: New Delhi SD TOWER ROHINI

Public Notice
My client Padam Singh S/o Late G.R. Khaitauliya, R/o House No. 141, D-Block, RWA, Sector-105, Noida, U.P.-201304, have severed his relations from his son Parveen Kumar and his wife namely Smt. Gudia Rani and debar them from his all movable and immovable properties. My client will not be responsible for their any type of acts/activities.
Place:Delhi (PUNEET VASHIST) Advocate
Date:06.12.2019

BEFORE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL - II, DELHI-4TH FLOOR, JEEVAN TARA BUILDING, PARLIAMENT STREET, NEW DELHI- 110001.
OA No. 120/2019 Date: 19.10.19
ICICI Bank Limited .Applicant
Versus
Bhisham Chauhan .Defendants
To,
Bhisham Chauhan S/o Sh. Than Singh (Borrower) R/o House No. 255, Ward No. 10, Near Central Chopal Village- Jatoli Palwal- 121102.
Whereas the above named applicant has instituted a case for recovery of Rs. 12,16,655/- (Rupees Twelve Lakh Sixteen Thousand Six Hundred and Fifty Five Only) against you and whereas it has been shown to the satisfaction of the Tribunal that it is not possible to serve you in ordinary way. Therefore, this notice is given by advertisement directing you to make appearance before Ld. registrar on 03.01.2020 at 10:30 A.M.
Take notice that in case of your failure to appear on the above mentioned day before this Tribunal, the case will be heard and decided in your absence.
By Order of this Tribunal Section Officer DRT-II, Delhi

UNNAAO RAPE CASE

Yogi seeks report by Thursday, Priyanka attacks UP Govt

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Taking serious note of an incident in which a rape survivor was set ablaze by an accused in Unnao on Thursday morning, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath asked senior officers to visit the spot and submit a report by Thursday evening.

Yogi also ordered that the best treatment to the victim be ensured free of cost. On his intervention, the victim was later air-lifted to New Delhi for treatment.

In a statement issued in Lucknow on Thursday morning, Yogi directed Divisional Commissioner of Lucknow, Mukesh Meshram and IG (Lucknow Range) SK Bhagat to visit Unnao immediately and submit their reports on the incident.

authorities to approach the court for cancelling the bail of the rape accused and invoke stringent sections of the IPC against them for the gory crime.

The victim is fighting for her life with around 90 per cent burns while all five accused have been arrested. Meanwhile, the incident drew more criticism to the Yogi Government which has been under fire by the Opposition over deteriorating law and order.

Reacting to the gruesome incident, Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi trained her guns at Union Home Minister Amit Shah and Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath over the poor law and order situation in the State.

"Union Home Minister and UP Chief Minister blatantly lied claiming that law and order situation in the State

has improved. Seeing such incidents on a daily basis is enraging," Priyanka tweeted.

In another tweet, the Congress leader posted, "Hurt by the news of health of Unnao victim. Pray to God that the victim gains health soon."

State Congress chief Ajay Kumar Lal alleged that the Yogi Government had no moral right to continue and should resign at it could not protect the lives of women. He announced that a delegation of the party would soon visit Unnao to probe the matter.

"We will fight in Parliament and on the street for the security of women in the country," Lal said while alleging that the BJP Government in the State was not serious on women's safety.

Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav also demanded that the Yogi Government



stepped down owning moral responsibility.

In a tweet on Thursday, Akhilesh said, "The State Government should take moral responsibility and step down over the daring incident in which the rape victim was torched." The SP chief also appealed to the court to take the incident seriously and direct the Government for adequate security and treatment of the victim.

State Secretary of CPI (ML), Sudhakar Yadav said in

a statement that providing justice to rape victims was a remote possibility, but the Yogi Government even failed to protect them till justice was done.

"The latest incident of Unnao is proof of this, in which the accused named in the FIR in connection with the gangrape in March this year, tried to burn the victim, who was fighting for justice," he said.

The CPI (ML) leader said that in the BJP's rule, rapists, criminals had become emboldened enough and there had

been tremendous rise in violence against women in the State.

"The figures were testimony to this as in recent incidents in Sambhal and Unnao, attempts were made to burn the rape victims to erase evidence and witnesses," he said.

On the other hand, UP Women's Commission chairperson Vimla Batham asked the Unnao district authorities to send a detail report on the crime.

"We are very serious on the issue and would recommend to the Government to initiate stern action against the culprits," she said.

Earlier, BJP MLA from Unnao Kuldeep Singh Sengar was charged with raping a minor neighbour and later trying to eliminate her to erase evidence, has been languishing in jail along with his aides.

Pawar expresses shock

Mumbai: NCP chief Sharad Pawar on Thursday expressed shock after a rape survivor in Uttar Pradesh was set ablaze by five men, and asked the Centre to take immediate cognizance of the incident.

Pawar also alleged that the incident would not have occurred if the culprits were prosecuted "in time".

"Extremely shocked to hear that the girl who filed a rape complaint in #Unnao was set ablaze. The victim is battling for her life. If the culprits were prosecuted in time this wouldn't have happened. Home department of the central government should take immediate cognizance," Pawar tweeted.

Senior NCP leader Praful

Patel said the incident took place a few days after the brutal rape and killing of a veterinary doctor from Hyderabad, and asked if the country failed its women and society.

"It is about time the Government takes immediate measures towards women safety. To stop crime against women, the Government must punish the perpetrators immediately to send a strong message to society. #Unnao #Justice," Patel said on the micro-blogging site.

The rape survivor from Unnao in Uttar Pradesh was allegedly set ablaze early Thursday morning by five men, including one who was accused in the crime, police said. PTI

Teen gangraped by two men in UP's Sitapur

PTI ■ SITAPUR (UP)

A 15-year-old girl was allegedly gangraped by two men in Uttar Pradesh's Sitapur district, police said on Thursday.

The incident took place on the night of December 3 when two persons took the victim to the sugarcane field, raped her and later abandoned her in the field after gagging her and tying her hands and legs, they said.

She was found on Wednesday after her family members along with the villagers started a search for her.

Superintendent of Police, L R Kumar said an FIR being registered and girl was being treated in a local hospital.

The accused — Rupesh and Yogendra — have been arrested and an investigation has been initiated, the SP said.

Woman's charred body found in Bengal's Malda; rape suspected

Malda: In a rerun of the Hyderabad veterinary doctor's murder, a young woman's charred body was found in a mango orchard in West Bengal's Malda district on Thursday, raising suspicion that she was raped and killed, a senior police officer said.

The body has suffered severe burns, making it difficult to ascertain the woman's identity, Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP) Prasanta Deb Nath said.

Local farmers spotted the body in English Bazar Police Station area in the morning, following which they raised an alarm, the DCP, who visited the site along with Superintendent of Police Alok Rajoria, said.

"Prima facie it seems that the victim is in her early 20s. Her body has several injury marks. We have sent it for post-mortem to Malda medical college," he said, adding that a probe has been initiated in the case. PTI

Minor raped by her 14-year-old cousin in Himachal's Kullu

Shimla: A 10-year-old girl was allegedly raped by her 14-year-old cousin in Himachal Pradesh's Kullu district, police said on Thursday.

The incident took place on Wednesday when the girl was on her way to school, Kullu Superintendent of Police Gaurav Singh said.

The accused is a Class 10 student and a juvenile, he added. He is being produced before the Juvenile Justice Board, the SP added.

A case has been registered against the accused under section 376AB (punishment for rape on woman under 12 years of age) of the Indian Penal Code and sections 4 and 6 of the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act at a women police station on the victim's statement, he said. The victim's medical examination was conducted at the regional hospital in Kullu, he added. PTI

Bengal plans setting up call centre to help women in distress

Kolkata: In the backdrop of the Hyderabad gangrape and murder of a veterinary doctor, the West Bengal Government is mulling to set up a call centre having a toll free number to cater to the complaints of crime against women in the districts, a senior official said on Thursday.

The centre would be funded from a portion of the Nirbhaya fund that the state gets from the Union Government.

"There will be a toll-free number for the purpose. Once a call is received, the executives at the call centre will alert the concerned police station in the districts for prompt action," the official said.

Around 40% of the amount out of the Nirbhaya fund that the State gets from the centre would be earmarked for the purpose, he said. The Hyderabad horror has sent an alarm across the country and the proposed measure is a step to further strengthen security of women in Bengal. PTI

Efficiency of system should be improved to check crime against women: Ex-judge Chelameswar

Hyderabad: Former Supreme Court judge J Chelameswar has said calls for tough punishments to culprits are made whenever sensational crimes happen but making the system function more efficiently was required to check offences against women.

Lamenting that conviction rate was low, he said there should be a debate on improving the efficiency of the system involving investigation, prosecution and resolution without delay and various aspects of the issue should be taken to the notice of the government and the legislatures.

Speaking at a meeting on women's security organised by the C R Foundation here on Wednesday in the wake of the gruesome rape and murder of a woman veterinarian in Telangana, he said crimes against women were a multifaceted issue.

"Rhetoric calling for tough punishments to the culprits was seen when sensational crimes

happen, but the system should be made to function more efficiently without getting into such rhetoric, he said.

In states like Uttar Pradesh, criminal cases remained unresolved for about 30 years, he said adding a case pending for 24 years had once come before him as a judge.

Citing examples of prolonged delay in cases, including one handled by him that too over 25 years, he said the idea was not to criticise anybody. The law functioned on the belief that there would be some fear.

If this is our efficiency, I don't understand why would the person committing crimes would fear, he said.

"...If we believe that there should be a law in a civilised society and punishment should be given as per the law, then it was the responsibility of all to ensure that the law functioned properly, he said. PTI

66.59% turnout in Karnataka bypolls

Bengaluru: The crucial byelection to 15 Karnataka assembly constituencies that would have a bearing on the stability of the BS Yediyurappa-led BJP Government saw an estimated 66.49 per cent voter turnout on Thursday and was by and large peaceful.

After a slow pace in the first half of the day since polling began at 7 am with only 33 per cent till 1.30 pm, voting picked up later in the day though it was below the percentage recorded in the Assembly elections in 2018.

The four constituencies in the city clocked poor voter turn outs. Officials said an estimated 66.49 per cent of the 37.78 lakh eligible electors cast their votes in the 15 segments till 6 pm. The

figure was likely to go up as at some places people standing in queues at close were allowed to vote. According to the figures available, the highest turnout of 90.44 per cent was recorded in Hosakote while the lowest of 43.25 per cent at K R Pura here.

Cities three other constituencies too have recorded comparatively lower turnout, Mahalakshmi Layout 50.92 per cent, Shivajinagar 44.60, Yeshwanthpura 54.13 per cent. Turnout in other constituencies are: Athani- 75.23 per cent, Kagwad 76.27, Gokak 73.08, Yellapur 77.52, Hirekerur 78.63, Ranabennur 73.53, Vijayanagara 64.95, Chikkaballapura 86.40, K R Pete 80, and Hunsur- 80.71, officials said. PTI

BEFORE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL - II, DELHI. 4TH FLOOR, JEEVAN TARA BUILDING, PARLIAMENT STREET, NEW DELHI- 110001. O.A.No. 12/2019. ICI BANK LIMITED, APPLICANT VERSUS MAHIPAL SINGH & ANR, RESPONDENT. To, DEFENDANT 1. MAHIPAL SINGH S/O SH. RAJ SINGH (BORROWER) R/O HOUSE NO. 24A, 1ST FLOOR SHIV PURI EXTN. DELHI- 51. 2. PINKI D/O SH. CHOUDHARY MANGAL, SINGH (CO-BORROWER) R/O HOUSE NO. 24A, GROUND FLOOR SHIV PURI EXTN. DELHI- 51. Whereas the above named applicant has (s) has/ have instituted a case for recovery of Rs. 16,16,611/- (Rupees SIXTEEN LAKH SIXTEEN THOUSAND SIX HUNDRED AND ELEVEN ONLY) against you and whereas it has been shown to the satisfaction of the Tribunal that it is not possible to serve you in ordinary way. Therefore this notice is given by advertisement directing you to make appearance in the Tribunal on 03.01.2020 at 10:30 A.M. Take notice that in default of your appearance on the before mentioned, the case will be heard and determined in your absence. BY ORDER OF THIS TRIBUNAL SECTION OFFICER DRT-II, DELHI.

SEXUAL HARRASMENT CASE Tanushree Dutta files protest plea, seeks rejection of closure report, further probe

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

Six months after the police gave a "clean chit" to senior actor Nana Patekar in the alleged sexual harassment case filed against him by her, actress Tanushree Dutta on Thursday filed a protest petition a city court seeking rejection of a "closure report" filed by the Oshiwara police and direction for "further investigations" in the case.

Tanushree, who had earlier on July 8 moved a city court to oppose filed by the police and obtained time from a court to file a 'protest petition', Tanushree formally filed the "protest petition" before the Railway Mobile Metropolitan Court at Andheri in north Mumbai, seeking rejection of "B Summary report" (Closure report) filed by the police in the alleged sexual harassment case filed by her against Patekar in October last year.

In the protest petition filed on her behalf by senior Advocate Nitin Satpute, Tanushree urged the court to replace the police officer who had earlier filed "false" closure before the court and sought "further investigations", if deemed necessary and urged the court to monitor the investigations in line with the law laid down by the Supreme Court in the 2016 Sudhir Bhaskarrao Tambe Vs Hemant Yashwant Dhage case.

After allowing the protest petition filed by the actress, the court adjourned the case for arguments on January 16, 2020. The investigators file a B-Summary report in a court when they do not find any evidence against the accused person to file a charge-sheet against him and seek a trial.

The 'protest petition' is a petition that an aggrieved person or complainant files before a magistrate when he or she is not satisfied with the police report filed before the Court concerned. The complainant may move the petition against

the negative police report which is called the "protest petition" and the same is treated as complaint under Section 190 of Criminal Procedure Code.

Under section 190 of CrPC, the Magistrate may cognizance of the complaint, hear the complainant and inquire into his or her grievance as provided under sections 200 and 202 of Cr. P.C.

Among other things, the actress urged the court to subject all the accused, including the investigating officer, and witness nos 5 to 13 to Narco Analysis, Lie Detector and Brain Mapping Tests and initiate action against the Investigation Officer (IO) and also launch contempt proceedings concerned.

On June 12, the Oshiwara police had filed a closure report in a local court at Andheri in north-west Mumbai, stating that they had no evidence to prosecute Patekar in the alleged sexual harassment case filed against him by actress Tanushree.

Following the development, Tanushree had alleged that at the behest of Patekar, all her witnesses were silenced by intimidation and fake witness were put forth to weaken the case. "What was the rush to file a B-Summary report when all of my witnesses have not even recorded their statements yet?", Tanushree had asked.

Acting on a complaint filed by Tanushree on October 6, 2018, the Oshiwara police had registered a First Information Report (FIR) against senior Patekar and three other four days later.

On October 10 last year, the Oshiwara police had formally registered an FIR against Patekar and three others under sections 354 (Assault or insult to women with intent to outrage her modesty), 354-A (Assault or use of criminal force with intent to disrobe her) and section 509 (word, gesture or act intended to insult the

modesty of a woman) of IPC.

In her complaint lodged with the police on October 6, Tanushree had alleged that the incident took place on March 26, 2008 during the shooting of a song in the film "Horn Ok Pleasee".

Tanushree had said that the entire song was to be picturised on the actress, while Patekar had only line in the song. She said that before the shoot, she had made it clear to the producer and director that she would not enact or perform any lewd, vulgar or uncomfortable steps in the particular song.

On the 4th day of the shoot, 26th March 2008, while shooting was going on, Nana Patekar's behaviour was inappropriate towards me. He was on the set despite his work in the song being over and he was grabbing me by the arms and pushing me around on the pretext of teaching me how to dance. When he was teaching indecently and unnecessarily, then I felt very uncomfortable because of his behaviour and I felt he has outraged my modesty," Tanushree had alleged.

"He (Patekar) told the choreographer and other junior artists to back away so that he could teach me the dance steps through he was not a choreographer and he was not required during the choreography as per my previous rehearsals," the actress added.

The actress also told the police that she had lodged a complaint with the Cine and TV Artists Association, which passed the order without considering her complaint for apology.

On his part, Nana Patekar had vehemently denied Tanushree's allegations, saying that there was no question of his molesting her "as there were around 50 people on set at that time". In a statement issued through his lawyer, Patekar dismissed the actress' allegation, terming it as 'a figment of her imagination'.

Udhav to meet PM Modi for first time post Govt formation

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

In a significant political development, Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray will meet Narendra Modi for the first time after he snapped ties with the BJP and formed a Government with the NCP and Congress, when the Prime Minister arrives in Pune on Friday night for a national conference of top police officials.

Uddhav will receive the Prime Minister when he arrives in Pune at 9.50 pm on Friday for a national conference of directors general and inspectors general of police, to be held in Pune from December 6 to 8.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah is also likely to attend the three-day conference of the DGPs and IGs to be held at the Indian Institute of Science Education and Research (IISER) in Pune's Pashan area.

Though it is more of a protocol that a Chief Minister receives the Prime Minister on the latter's arrival in his state, it is of political significance, considering that Uddhav, who is the Shiv Sena president, will meet Modi for the first time since the three-decade-old saffron alliance

broke down and the Sena joined ranks with the NCP and Congress to form a Government.

The brief meeting between Modi and Uddhav at the Pune airport on Friday night will have a positive bearing on the relations between the two leaders in the coming days.

Modi was among the first to congratulate Uddhav on his being sworn in as the chief minister of Maharashtra on November 28. "Congratulations to Uddhav Thackeray Ji on taking oath as the CM of Maharashtra. I am confident he will work diligently for the bright future of Maharashtra," Modi had tweeted.

Replying to Modi, Uddhav had tweeted: "Thank you Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri @narendramodiji for your kind wishes. With you as my big brother in the Centre & with a strong cabinet in the state, I am looking forward to working persistently, to build a New Maharashtra". Meanwhile, the state government and the Centre have planned elaborate security arrangement for Modi's visit to Pune and also for the national conference of the State DGPs and IGs coming from across the country.

UNIDENTIFIED DEAD BODY



General Public is hereby informed that one person Namely: Unknown, S/o: Unknown, Address: Unknown was found unconscious at Kirari Chowk R.C. Plaja, Mubarakpur Road, Prem Nagar, Delhi on 21.11.2019 in the area of P. S. Prem Nagar, Delhi and admitted to Sanjay Gandhi Memorial Hospital, Mangolpuri, Delhi for treatment, there doctors declared him brought dead in this regard a case has been lodged vide FIR/DD No. 19-A, dated 03.12.2019 at P.S. Prem Nagar, Delhi. The description of the dead person is as under:- Age: approx 35 years, Sex: Male, Height: 5'7", ID Mark: Written OM and Surrender Singh on right hand, Complexion: Shallow, Wearing: Black colour T shirt, Grey colour shirt and Blue colour jeans and Brown sweater. If any one having any information about this dead person please inform undersigned.

SHO P.S. Prem Nagar Delhi Ph: 011-25489080 DP/3462/RD/19

GUJARAT WATER SUPPLY & SEWERAGE BOARD SECTOR-10/A, Gandhinagar. BRIEF SHORT NOTICE INVITING ON LINE TENDER FOR FIXING RATE CONTRACT FOR SUPPLY OF BLEACHING POWDER GR. II (WITH ISI MARK IS 1065-1989) FOR THE YEAR 2020. GWSSB invites online tender through e-tendering for Manufacture, Supply & Delivery of Bleaching Powder Gr. II with ISI Mark from Indian Manufacturer only interested bidder who wish to participate in above tender may view the detailed tender notice & download the Tender documents at free of cost from website. https://www.nprocure.com. The last date of submission of online tender is 23-12-2019. No/INF/WPN/2019/G/1709

Notice Inviting e-Tender. No.SSA/MDM/Register-MDMS/49/2019/10529 Date : 04.12.2019. Mission Director, Axom Sarba Siksha Abhijan Mission (Samagra Sniksha, Assam) and State Nodal Officer- MDM, Kahilipara, Guwahati-19, Assam invites tender through e-Tendering process from reputed offset printing presses for printing and supply of Food grain Register, Attendance Register, Accounts Maintenance Register and Food Testing Register. To participate in the tender process through e-procurement document, bidder should have valid Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) of class-II (minimum) and have to register in the portal https://assamtenders.gov.in by themselves. The Bidder who have downloaded the tender schedules containing the tender details, terms and conditions, from the website shall submit their tender on-line on the website https://assamtenders.gov.in, with proof of payment of non refundable tender fee of Rs. 1000/- (Rupees one thousand) only in the form of demand draft/Bankers Cheque drawn in favour of Mission Director, Axom Sarba Siksha Abhijan Mission, Kahilipara, Guwahati-19, Assam, from any nationalized Bank and payable at Guwahati. The tender should be submitted on-line as per date and time of submission as per prescribed schedule. Sd/- Mission Director SSA, Assam cum State Nodal Officer- MDM Kahilipara, Guwahati-19

PSPCL Punjab State Power Corporation Limited. (Regd. Office: PSEB Head Office, The Mall Patiala) Olo CE/MM, Room No. 215, 2nd Floor, Multi Story Building, PSPCL Head Office, The Mall, Patiala, Phone No. 0175-2213047, Mob: 96461-22954, 96461-11034, E-mail: potransformer@gmail.com. Corporate Identification Number (CIN): U40109PB2010SGC03813. Registration Number: 33813, Website: www.pspcl.in, e-tendering portal: https://pspccl.abprocure.com. Notice Inviting Tender. Tender Enquiry No. Q-358719-2019-TCE-AM. Scope / Short Description Procurement of 90 Nos. EE, -3/Str-2(New), ISI Marked, 110.433 KV, 315 KVA, Three Phase, 50 cycles outdoor type, oil immersed, naturally cooled, core or Shell type, Stack/wound core type construction aluminum wound, CRGO/Amorphous core distribution transformers complete with fittings as per PSPCL specification & conforming to IS 1190 Part-I,(2014) & 2026 (with latest amendments). Start date for down loading of specification / tender documents from PSPCL's web site https://pspccl.abprocure.com 30-11-2019. Last date for down loading of specification / tender documents from PSPCL's web site https://pspccl.abprocure.com 14-01-2020 up to 11:30 AM. Last date of bid submission 15-01-2020 up to 11:00 AM. Bid opening date 15-01-2020 at 11:30 AM. For detailed NIT & tender specification please refer to https://pspccl.abprocure.com. Note: It is informed that in case tender process is not completed due to any reason, no compendium will be published in newspaper. Details regarding compendium may be seen on official PSPCL website www.pspcl.in. Chief Purchase Officer, Central Purchase Organization, PSPCL, Patiala. C-498/19 DPR/04NOV/19/ C8058 Dt. 04-12-2019

Ficci: RBI rate cut pause disappointing

Others say demand revival key at this juncture

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Expressing disappointment at the RBI's decision to keep interest rates unchanged, industry body Ficci on Thursday said there is a need for continued action on the policy rate front to boost growth.

Meanwhile, Assocham said accommodative stance on policy is understandable as long as banks are nudged to pass on the rate cut benefits to customers.

RBI has given an adequate approach to the accommodative stance of monetary policy in the era where lot of developmental activities are on the move and thrust of the government is to create demand in the economy, PHD Chamber said.

The Reserve Bank on Thursday unexpectedly hit the pause button on cutting interest rates as it gave more importance to prevailing inflation pressure and rising food prices over a worrying slowdown in the economy.

After five consecutive rate cuts this year, the six-member Monetary Policy Committee (MPC), headed by RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das, unanimously voted to hold the key repo rate at 5.15 per cent and reverse repo rate at 4.90 per cent.

"The RBI has left the repo rate unchanged in today's announcement. This is contrary to what FICCI was expecting given the weakening growth scenario in the economy. We note with concern that the transmission of the earlier policy rate cuts has not happened adequately, and are disappointed with the decision to not cut the repo rate as there is need for continued action on the policy rate front," Ficci President Sandip Somany said in a statement.

He said a reversal in the declining economic growth trajectory is clearly the need of the hour and all steps should be taken to bring about this change.

"A cut in the policy rate was also important for boosting the

sentiment in the market and amongst investors, and FICCI was hoping for a bolder action on this front. In fact, we feel that a further cut of 75 to 100 basis points in the repo rate is required in a short period of time to strengthen growth in the economy," he added.

Assocham President B K Goenka said, "A temporary pause by the RBI to the policy interest rate reduction cycle while keeping its stance accommodative is understandable as long as it keeps nudging the banks to significantly pass the benefits of earlier rate combined repo rate cuts of 135 basis points since February this year."

While inflation control remains the mandate of the RBI, balancing the target with growth is equally important, Goenka said, adding the focus should be directed towards demand revival.

While the Government does seem to be doing the heavy lifting, revival of consumer confidence would do the trick, he said.

Realty players disappointed by RBI decision to hold rates

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Cash-starved realtors expressed disappointment over the RBI's decision on Thursday to keep the benchmark lending rate unchanged and said the apex bank should have cut repo rate by 1 percentage point to boost housing sales and economic growth.

"India Inc. was expecting a rate cut of 100 basis points instead of small tinkering such as a rate cut of 25 basis points, which would have provided a boost to the government's recent initiatives to kick-start GDP growth," NAREDCO president Niranjan Hiranandani said.

"The decision to wait and watch the outplay of previous cuts will go against the current sentiments. The markets overall are disappointed," he said, adding that real estate developers are facing liquidity crunch.

Knight Frank India CMD Shishir Bajaj said the RBI's decision to not lower interest rate has come "as a surprise and a bit of a disappointment to the industry."

"Lower interest rate would have helped push up credit demand and investment in the economy, aiding overall economic growth. It would have



provided much required reprieve to some ailing sectors like real estate and auto," he added.

Anarock chairman Anuj Puri said, "From a real estate point of view, rate cuts are obviously always welcome as they help improve overall sentiment. The expected rate cut of 25 basis points would have caused home loan values to fall below 8 per cent for first time ever."

Sanjay Dutt, MD & CEO, Tata Realty & Infrastructure Ltd, said, "This time while the focus of the RBI remains to be on reviving the economy, we are disappointed to see no change in the policy rate."

The real estate industry, in particular, has been facing some

difficult times and with inventories piling up the need to push demand and encourage purchase is now more than ever, he added.

However, Anshuman Magazine, chairman & CEO, India, South East Asia, Middle East & Africa, CBRE, said the RBI's decision to keep the repo rate unchanged was an indication towards the government's focus on the evolving inflation-growth dynamics.

JLL India CEO & country head Ramesh Nair said the central bank, by keeping the rates unchanged, had recognised that the need of the hour was to infuse confidence about the economic growth through a holistic approach.

Bankers blame rising inflation for RBI holding rates

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Bankers were surprised at the Reserve Bank hitting the pause button despite a steep fall in growth, and opined that inflation seems to have been fore-grounded by the rate-setting panel's unanimous decision.

Largest lender SBI chairman Rajnish Kumar, who also heads the industry lobby Indian Banks Association, termed the status quo policy as an "unanticipated policy surprise."

He, however, also said this is the "most appropriate" move as monetary policy works with

a lag when it comes to transmission. The steep reduction in growth estimate for the current year to 5 per cent and lower forecast for the next is indicative of a slow recovery, he added.

Stating that the rate call has come as a surprise, largest private sector lender HDFC Bank's chief economist Abheek Barua said, "clearly, the RBI has responded to hardening inflation and rising inflation expectations."

The RBI wishes to see the lagged impact of its 1.35 percentage points rate cut till October to play out before

moving on the rates further, he said, adding transmission can be faster now as banks chase the fewer people who are queuing up for loans given the economic gloom.

Kotak Mahindra Bank's Shanti Ekambaram also said the transmission process is likely to improve further, but added it is "interesting" to see the pause call was unanimous for the six-member panel.

"Inflation and fiscal deficit trajectory will probably be the guiding force for future rate decisions," she said.

Micro lender-turned-universal lender Bandhan Bank chairman CS Ghosh said though the pause was against market expectations, it has to be seen in the context of a rise in retail inflation projections by RBI.

Tata Capital's Rajiv Sabharwal is surprised at the RBI's move but added this is aligned with inflation trends.

However, his peer Umesh Revankar of Shriram Transport Finance, said the pause was expected given the high quantum of liquidity in the system and limited transmission of the earlier rate cuts.

You can't expect us to cut rates mechanically every time: Das

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Leaving Mint Road observers surprised by holding the rates on Thursday, Governor Shaktikanta Das said RBI cannot keep cutting policy rates "mechanically every time", but hinted at resuming the easing cycle after budget and analysing impact of previous 135 bps rate cuts on economy.

Significantly, even as the MPC hit the pause button unanimously, it massively slashed the growth forecast by a full 110 bps to 5 per cent, and



also warned of a steep spike in retail inflation to 4.7-5.1 per cent in the second half.

After cutting repo rate five consecutive times to the tune of 135 bps to a nine-year low between February and October, Monetary Policy Committee left the policy rates unchanged at 5.15 per cent.

Parl OK's corp tax cut; FM says software developers, miners not eligible for lower rates

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Parliament on Thursday approved the Taxation Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2019 that replaces an ordinance promulgated to cut the base corporate tax rate, with Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman stating that mining companies, software developers and book printers will not be eligible for the lower 15 per cent rate available for new manufacturing companies.

Lok Sabha had earlier this week passed the bill and the Upper House returned it on Thursday without making any changes. Replying to a debate on the legislation, Sitharaman said a negative list of activities that do not constitute manufacturing has been created and will not be eligible for the lower 15 per cent tax rate for

manufacturing firms that are set up after October 1 and that begin operations by 2023.

The negative list includes the development of computer software in any form or in any media, mining, conversion of marble blocks or similar items into slabs, bottling of gas into cylinder, the printing of books or production of a cinematograph film.

Sitharaman had on September 20 announced lowering of the base corporate tax rate to 22 per cent from 30 per cent for companies that do not seek exemptions, and reduced the rate for new manufacturing companies to 15 per cent from 25 per cent. Including surcharges and cesses (levies to raise funds for specific purposes), the effective corporate tax rate will drop by nearly 10 percentage points to 25.2 per cent for corporates in general.

RBI expects forensic audit report on PMC by month-end

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The forensic audit report on the scam-hit Punjab & Maharashtra Co-operative Bank is expected by the end of the month, Reserve Bank governor Shaktikanta Das said on Thursday.

The multi-state co-operative bank has been under the RBI restriction since September 23, after it had found financial irregularities, including huge under-reporting of loans and non-performing assets to real estate developer HDIL to the tune of ₹6,500 crore using hundreds of dummy accounts.

The central bank also sacked the board of the bank and appointed an administrator.

"There is a forensic audit which is underway. The final report of the forensic audit is expected by the end of this

month," Das told reporters at the post-policy press conference.

In September, PTI had reported that the co-operative lender's actual exposure to HDIL was over ₹6,500 crore — which is 73 per cent of its entire assets of ₹8,880 crore.

Das said PMC, with the help of professional valuers, is also assessing the realisable value of assets mortgaged by borrowers as well as the assets of the bank which have been seized by the Mumbai Police's EoW and Enforcement Directorate.

"Once we get the forensic audit and once we get the final numbers after doing a proper assessment of the realisable of the assets, a call will be taken on the further course of action," the governor said.

RBI has also put in place a co-ordination mechanism

between the PMC administrator, the EoW, ED and the RBI is also monitoring the situation on a regular basis and take steps for asset monetisation, after obtaining court permission.

Recently, the RBI had informed the Bombay High Court that PMC had used special codes to hide the hundreds of dummy loan accounts of HDIL and of the 1,800 PMC employees, only about 25 could access these loans accounts.

The regulator had said these few employees used an access code to hide and restrict the visibility of these dummy accounts of the realty developer.

Das further said the RBI has given its suggestions to government for amendments in the co-operative bank act and the government is deliberating on it.

BEFORE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL - II, DELHI
4th Floor Jeevan Tara Building Parliament Street, New Delhi - 110001.
OA NO 1140/18
DATE: 29.11.2019
AXIS BANK LTD.
...APPLICANT
VERSUS
VANLALLIAN VALTE & ANR.
...RESPONDENT
TO, DEFENDANT
1. Vanlilian Valte S/o 1/266 Type 1 R.K. Puram New Delhi - 22 Also at: Indian Air Force Dasi Air Halls West Block VI Wing IV R.K. Puram New Delhi - 66 Also at: College Veng Ne Lamka Churachandpur Manipur - 795128
2. Haukho Ching Valte W/o Mr. Vanlilian Valte 296 Street - 1 Type 1 R.K. Puram New Delhi - 22 Also at: College Veng New Lamka Churachandpur Manipur - 795128
Whereas the above named applicant(s) has / have instituted a case for recovery of Rs. 11,39,413/- (Rupees Eleven Lakh Thirty Nine Thousand Four Hundred and Thirteen Only) against you and where as it has been shown to the satisfaction of the Tribunal that it is not possible to serve you in the ordinary way therefore, this notice is given by advertisement directing you to make appearance in the Tribunal on 13.02.2020 At 10.30 A.M.
Take notice that in default of your appearance on the day before the mentioned, the case will be heard and determined in your absence.
By Order of the Tribunal
Section Officer, DRT-II, Delhi

Notice inviting e-tender
No. RMSA/CW/Furniture/1141/2019/21 Dated 05-12-2019
Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan, Assam invites e-tender through e-procurement system under two bid system for supply & installation of school furniture at respective school locations in the state of Assam from reputed and registered manufacturer of furniture. The detail bid document along with terms & condition and timeline can be read/downloaded from the portal <http://assamtenders.gov.in>. The last date of submission of bid is 1400 hours on 06-01-2020.
Sd/- Mission Director
Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan, Assam
Kahilipara, Guwahati-19

SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED
General Public is hereby informed that one Lady namely **Rajni (with her son Aman, age-05) W/o Dilip R/o H.No. 476, Apni Colony, Alipur Garhi, Delhi, Age- 26 Height-5'2". Built: Normal, Face: Long, Complexion-Fair, Wearing: Blue Colour Suit & Salwar** has been missing/Kidnapped since 11.09.2019 from the area of PS. Alipur. In this regard a **DD No. 11-A, dated 14.10.2019** has been Lodged at **PS. Alipur, Delhi**
Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the lady with her son but no clue has come to light so far. If any one having any information about this lady with her son please inform undersigned.
E-mail: cic@cbi.gov.in SHO
Ph: 011-24368638, 24368641 PS. Alipur, Delhi
Fax: 011-24368639 Ph: 011-27202290, 27202265
DP/730/ON/19 7065036325

RBI proposes new prepaid card for transactions up to ₹10,000
PTI ■ MUMBAI
The Reserve Bank on Thursday proposed to introduce a prepaid payment instrument (PPI) that could be used only for transactions of goods and services worth up to ₹10,000. PPIs have been playing an important role in promoting digital payments and bringing in the new PPI will further facilitate its usage, as per an RBI statement issued post announcement of the monetary review on Thursday. "To further facilitate its (PPI) usage, it is proposed to introduce a new type of PPI which can be used only for purchase of goods and services up to a limit of ₹10,000," the statement said. The central bank said the loading and reloading of such PPIs can be done only from a bank account and used for making bill payments and merchant payments. Such PPIs can be issued on the basis of essential minimum details sourced from the customer. The RBI said it will give instructions in this regard by December 31, 2019.

₹ rebounds 24 paise as RBI maintains accommodative stance
PTI ■ MUMBAI
The Indian rupee rose sharply in the last hour of trade to settle 24 paise higher at 71.29 to the US dollar on Thursday after the RBI promised to continue with accommodative stance in its monetary policy. The central bank, however, decided to keep key interest rate unchanged in its fifth bi-monthly monetary policy for this ongoing fiscal, a move that widely surprised investors who were expecting at least 25 basis points cut in policy rate. The Indian unit traded on a flat note for a better part of the session but briefly fell post RBI monetary policy announcement. It recovered swiftly mainly in the last hour of trade to close at 71.29, up 24 paise over its previous close. The rupee's rise was also supported by weaker dollar against key global currencies. The dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, was down 0.16 per cent at 97.49.

America urges countries to ensure only 'trusted vendors' participate in future 5G networks
PTI ■ WASHINGTON
The US has urged all countries to ensure that only "trusted vendors" participate in any part of their future 5G networks as the Trump administration stepped up its pressure against Chinese telecom giants, citing a potential security threat and possible misuse of data. Asserting that 5G networks will form the backbone of future economies and critical infrastructure, State Department Spokesperson Morgan Ortogus said the stakes are too high to allow these vital networks to be provided and serviced by vendors open to manipulation by authoritarian regimes. "Chinese telecommunications firms such as Huawei and ZTE must comply with the directives of the government of the People's Republic of China, without any meaningful checks and balances that would prevent misuse of data," Ortogus said. Allowing these vendors anywhere in a country's 5G networks would present criti-

cal risks to the privacy, human rights and security of its citizens, she said. "The United States urges all countries, including our partners and allies, to adopt national security policies that would prevent untrusted vendors from accessing any part of their future 5G networks," Ortogus said. 5G is the next generation cellular technology with download speeds stated to be 10 to 100 times faster than the current 4G LTE networks. The 5G networking standard is seen as critical because it can support the next generation of mobile devices in addition to new applications like driverless cars. Ortogus said the US welcomed the European Union Council identifying the serious risks posed to 5G telecommunications networks if they are built using untrusted vendors. "We welcome this acknowledgment and urge our European partners and allies to ensure only trusted vendors participate in any part of their future 5G networks," Ortogus said.

BUSINESS CORNER

COAST GUARDS RESCUE 264 DISTRESSED FISHERMEN

New Delhi: On 30 Nov 19, Coast Guard Region (West), Operation Centre located at Mumbai while monitoring the weather at sea issued a rough weather warning at sea off central/south eastern Arabian sea to all stake holders and initiated actions as per its Standard Operating Procedure which include issuance of advisories to concerned Coastal States and other stake holders. Consequent to the issuance of advisory Kerala State Government enforced two days' ban on fishing (02 and 03 Dec) and Lakshadweep Administration issued prohibition order restricting fishing boats to venture out to sea and also suspended inter-island High Speed Craft services while Coast Guard ships/aircraft and Remote Operating Centres continued transmitting Safety Messages for Mariners at sea. On 03 Dec 19, Maritime Rescue Coordination Centre, Mumbai received a message from Tamil Nadu Fisheries authority Kolachel intimating about distress of 50 stranded Fishing Boats at distance of 250 Nautical Miles West of Goa. Immediately, Coast Guard Maritime Rescue Centre activated the International Safety Net. A total of seven Merchant Vessels transiting through the area responded and were requested to provide assistance to the distressed fishing boats in vicinity till arrival of ICG ships in area. As a result, Indian Merchant Vessel Navdhenu Purma rescued 86 fishermen from 07 IFBs and a Japanese flag vessel MV Towada rescued around 34 fishermen from the distressed fishing boats. Soon on request from Indian Coast Guard, Maritime Rescue Coordination Centre, five more merchant vessels joined the rescue operation and till the time of preparing this report 264 fishermen had been rescued. The survivors are being provided with food and first aid, all of them are reported to be healthy.



HRD MIN & MoS SPORTS INAUGURATE CRICKET STADIUM

New Delhi: Union HRD Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' and Union Minister of State for Youth Affairs & Sports Kiren Rijiju on Wednesday inaugurated the newly constructed Cricket Stadium at KV No. 1, Delhi Cantt and launched the Fit India School Rating System. Member of Parliament Ms. Meenakshi Lekhi also graced the occasion along with other dignitaries.



ISF GIVEN LEAD TALK AS A SPEAKER

New Delhi: National Awardees by Government of India Apoorv Om told as Speaker from the platform of Wellness Conclave & Expo in India International Science Festival (ISF) 2019, Kolkata organised by Ministry of Science & Technology and Earth Sciences and Health & Family Welfare, Govt of India on 6th November 2019 that the people of the world are thankful to Prime Minister Narendra Modi for the gift of Health to them with Yoga. He further explain wellness as it mean the person must be well in all respects about function of body including kramendriyan and gyanendriyan and yoga the yogic science with ayurveda for wellness is the best in comparison to others reason no side effects likely to be cure negligible chances to repeat of the same disease as well as have energy every day with an habits of doing yoga daily may cause to no disease.



SAIL RECORDS OVER 36% JUMP IN NOV

New Delhi: Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) has recorded more than 36% jump in sales during the month of November 2019 on year on year basis. The Company's sales during November 2019 stood at 1.409 Million Tonnes. The sales figure for November is also one of the industry's best, reflecting the Company's renewed thrust on marketing strategy to seize the market opportunity.



DELHI TRANSCO DEVELOPS DISASTER RESILIENT INFRA

New Delhi: Delhi Transco Limited has developed disaster resilient infrastructure and has retrofitted existing infrastructure for resilience during the last few years and we are moving towards smart grids" said Padmini Singla — GMD of Delhi Transco Limited. She was speaking today in a global symposium organised by Special Centre for Disaster Research, Jawaharlal Nehru University. Recalling the incidents of 2014 when Delhi and its adjoining areas were badly hit by high storm due to which eight towers of 220 kv were toppled down and the power supply in some part of the city was affected for one or two days. To deal with such situations Delhi Transco Limited has procured Emergency Restoration System (ERS). ERS is a temporary tower which is erected pending permanent repair of the damaged tower.



NDMC CHAIRMAN INAUGURATES SCHOOL SCIENCE FAIR

New Delhi: NDMC make all efforts to develop an eco-system for creating an environment to encourage the creativity with intelligence of students in the field of science as well as humanities subjects in its schools. NDMC schools have 10 Atal Tinkering Labs at present and it will be provided in all NDMC schools as a dedicated space for innovative ideas transforming into the creativity by students." This was remarked by New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC) Chairman, Shri Dharmendra while speaking after inaugurating the 4-Days NDMC and Navyug Schools Science Fair on the theme of "Science and Technology for Sustainable Development" at Atal Adarsh Vidyalay (Pratthmik), Lodhi Road in New Delhi today.



Centre OK's allocation of 5 coal blocks

New Delhi: The Centre on Thursday approved allocation of five coal blocks, including two to Birla Corporation and one to Vedanta, and said the mines will generate a revenue of ₹17,136 crore for the Government. For the first time, the successful bidders shall have the flexibility to sell 25 per cent of the coal produce in open market. "The ministry of coal, after a long gap of four years, has approved the allocation of five coal mines," the Coal Ministry said in a statement. PTI

Pakistan borrowed \$10.40 billion during Imran's innings: Report
PTI ■ ISLAMABAD
The cash-strapped Pakistan Thursday approved allocation of Prime Minister Imran Khan borrowed \$10.40 billion as loans from friendly countries like China and the UAE to stabilise the foreign exchange reserves and repayment of old loans, a media report said on Thursday. Pakistan has been facing a serious economic crisis with short supplies of foreign currency reserves and stagnating growth. Since assuming power in last August, Prime Minister Khan has been appealing to close allies.

US First Lady wades into impeachment fight to defend son

AFP ■ WASHINGTON

US First Lady Melania Trump has publicly rebuked a scholar who used her 13-year-old son's name to make a point during an impeachment hearing against the president.

Constitutional law professor Pamela Karlan invoked Barron Trump, the son of Donald and Melania Trump, to demonstrate how the Constitution imposes distinctions between a monarch's power and that of a president.

"The constitution says there can be no titles of nobility," Karlan told lawmakers during the House Judiciary Committee's first hearing on impeachment, which featured four constitutional scholars.

"So while the president can name his son 'Barron,' he can't make him a baron."

The pun led to chuckles in the congressional hearing

room, but Melania Trump made clear it was no laughing matter.

"A minor child deserves privacy and should be kept out of politics," the first lady tweeted shortly afterwards.

"Pamela Karlan, you should be ashamed of your very angry and obviously biased public pandering, and using a child to do it," Trump retweeted his wife's message to his 67 million followers.

As the row snowballed, Karlan quickly tried to stem the damage by expressing her regret.

"I want to apologize for what I said earlier about the president's son," she told the panel. "It was wrong of me to do that."

For years, members of both political parties have agreed that the minor children of US politicians, particularly presidents, are off limits.



House Judiciary Committee ranking member Rep. Doug Collins, R-Ga., speaks beside Chairman Rep. Jerrold Nadler, D-N.Y., left, during a hearing before the House Judiciary Committee on the constitutional grounds for the impeachment of President Donald Trump, on Capitol Hill in Washington on Wednesday

Pelosi OK's drafting of impeachment articles against Trump

AP ■ WASHINGTON

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi on Thursday announced the House is drafting articles of impeachment against President Donald Trump.

Earlier in the day, Pelosi said she would deliver an unusual public statement on the status of the House impeachment inquiry into President Donald Trump.

On Wednesday, Pelosi met behind closed doors with her Democratic caucus, asking, "Are you ready?" The answer was a resounding yes, according to those in the room.

Democrats are charging toward a Christmas Eve vote on removing the 45th president, a situation Pelosi hoped to avoid but which now seems inevitable. She is to make a public statement on impeachment at 9 a.m.

Stanford Prof slammed for mentioning Donald's son during impeachment hearing

Washington: The impeachment hearing against US President Donald Trump took an ugly turn when a professor of law from the prestigious Stanford University took the name of his minor son Barron during her testimony before a Congressional panel, drawing an angry reaction from First Lady Melania. Pamela S. Karlan made the remarks while explaining the president's rights under the Constitution during the impeachment proceedings by House Judiciary Committee on Wednesday.

It all started in response to a question from Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee from Democratic Party. "Contrary to what President Trump has said, Article 2 does not give him the power to do anything he wants, and I'll just give you one example that shows you the difference between him and a king, which is the Constitution says there can be no titles of nobility, so while the president can name his son Barron, he can't make him a baron," Karlan said.

GLOBE TROTTER

VERDICT IN MUSHARRAF TREASON CASE ON DEC 17

Islamabad: A special court on Thursday said that it would announce the verdict in the high treason case against former Pakistan President Gen Pervez Musharraf on December 17 after hearing the arguments of the Government's new prosecution team.

KHALEDA'S LAWYER HELD OVER ADULTERY

Dhaka: Jailed former Bangladesh Prime Minister Khaleda Zia's lawyer Kaiser Kamal has been arrested over an alleged extramarital affair with the wife of a junior advocate at his law firm, media said on Thursday.

KHALEDA'S BAIL HEARING IN GRAFT CASE DEFERRED

Dhaka: The Bangladesh Supreme Court on Thursday deferred former Prime Minister Khaleda Zia's bail hearing in a corruption case after authorities sought more time to submit a report on her health.

FRANCE BRACES FOR BIGGEST NATIONAL STRIKE

Paris: France is bracing for severe disruption as millions of workers were scheduled to go on strike, deemed the country's biggest in years, on Thursday in protest at being forced to retire later or face reduced pensions.

PAK INFLATION SURGES TO NINE-YEAR HIGH

Islamabad: Inflation in Pakistan rose to 12.7 per cent year-on-year, the highest level in nine years mainly driven by an increase in prices of food items, it was reported.

3 dead after Pearl Harbor sailor shoots civilians, himself

AP ■ HONOLULU

A sailor shot three civilians, killing two of them, before taking his own life at Pearl Harbor just days before thousands were scheduled to gather at the storied military base to mark the 78th anniversary of the Japanese bombing that launched the US into World War II.

Rear Adm. Robert Chadwick, the commander of Navy Region Hawaii, said the service would evaluate whether security would need to be upgraded ahead of the annual ceremony. About a dozen survivors of the 1941 bombing were expected to attend, along with dignitaries and service members.

Chadwick said he didn't know the motive behind Wednesday's shooting at the



Security stands guard outside the main gate at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, in Hawaii on Wednesday

naval shipyard within the base. The third victim was hospitalized. It wasn't known if the sailor and the three male civilians had any type of relationship, or what the motive was for the shooting, Chadwick said. "We have no indication yet whether they were targeted or if it was a random shooting," Chadwick said.

Dangerous chemicals found in Hong Kong park; probe begins

Hong Kong: Dozens of bottles containing dangerous chemicals, including highly corrosive acids, were discovered on Thursday at a park here, prompting Hong Kong police to investigate if the substances had been stored there by anti-government protesters.

Emergency personnel were called in when the bottles, which contained chemicals such as sulphuric and nitric acid, were found at the Shing Mun Country Park, reports the South China Morning Post newspaper.

"Initial investigation showed about 50 bottles were seized... and some of the bottles contained sulphuric acid," a police source said.

The source said the case was being investigated by the crime unit from the police headquarters, a department that has been handling protest-related crimes during the social unrest that has roiled the city since June.

Personnel from the police tactical unit were also deployed to scout the area and firefighters were on standby at the site.

On Wednesday night, the police seized about 10,000 petrol bombs from Chinese University, Polytechnic University (PolyU), and other colleges and their surroundings, along with a large number of chemicals, offensive weapons and raw materials for explosives.

After a 13-day siege of PolyU occupied by more than 1,000 protesters, police on November 29 seized 4,296 petrol bombs, 671 bottles of chemicals and 622 pieces of weapons.

North Korea threatens to resume calling Trump 'dotard'

Seoul: North Korea threatened Thursday to resume insults of US President Donald Trump and consider him a "dotard" if he keeps using words that provoke the North.

Choe Son Hui, the first vice foreign minister, issued the warning days after Trump spoke of a possible military option toward the North and revived his "rocket man" nickname for North Korean leader Kim Jong Un.

The development comes as prospects dim for a resumption of nuclear diplomacy between the two countries.

Deadly car bombing hits Turkey convoy in north Syria

A deadly car bomb targeted a Turkish convoy in an area of northern Syria controlled by Turkey-backed fighters, a Britain-based war monitor said.

The blast hit a convoy of Turkish troops headed towards a military base west of the town of Jarabulus in the northern province of Aleppo, the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said on Wednesday.

The monitoring group did not give a precise death toll, and there was no immediate claim of responsibility for the bombing.

Ankara-led forces on October 9 launched a cross-border incursion against Kurdish fighters several hundreds of kilometres to the east of Jarabulus, taking control of a 120-kilometre (70-mile) long strip of land along Turkey's southern frontier.

Johnson plans for victory with Brexit Party boost

London: One week before Britain's election, Prime Minister Boris Johnson was confident enough to publish a plan on Thursday for his first 100 days in office, boosted by an endorsement from Brexit Party MEPs.

Jeremy Corbyn's main opposition Labour party is struggling to close the gap in opinion polls with Johnson's governing Conservatives, which remains at around 10 points.

Meanwhile, the electoral

threat posed by Nigel Farage's Brexit Party receded further with the decision of four of its European Parliament MPs to endorse the prime minister.

Johnson has promised to get Britain out of the European Union on January 31, after years of turmoil sparked by the 2016 referendum vote for Brexit.

But he says this would only be possible if he wins a majority of MPs in the December 12 election, allowing him to get his EU divorce deal through parliament.

"If there is a Conservative majority next week, we will get Brexit done by the end of January. 2020 will then be the year we finally put behind us the arguments and uncertainty over

NASA's 'Sun kissing' Parker spacecraft unlocks solar mystery

Washington: NASA's Parker Solar Probe — which has flown closer to the Sun than any spacecraft ever — has beamed back the first observations from its close encounters with the Sun, revealing a "spectacular trove" of data about the solar wind and space weather, the US space agency said.

The data from the probe, published in the journal Nature, offers clues to long-standing mysteries, including why the Sun's atmosphere, known as the corona, is hundreds of times hotter than its surface, as well as the precise origins of the solar wind. PTT

Asia has at least ten ancestral lineages: Study

Singapore: Asia has at least 10 different ancestral groups whereas northern Europe has only one lineage, according to a global genetic comparison that included 598 genomes from India.

The study analysed the genomes of 1,739 people, and represents the widest coverage of genetic diversity in Asia to date, the researchers said.

Covering 64 different countries, the study, published in the journal Nature, will guide scientists in studying diseases unique to Asians, they said. PTT

Notice

Notice of the Third General Meeting for conducting elections of Board of Directors of M/s. NIKUNJ MULTI STATE CO-OPERATIVE GROUP HOUSING SOCIETY LIMITED

The election for Board of Directors of the Society is to be held in the Third General Meeting at C-364 (Basement), Vikaspuri, New Delhi-110018 on 20.12.2019 at 11:00 AM. Any bona fide member of the Society, who does not suffer disqualification under clause 37 of the Bye Laws of the society, can contest the election for the total 11 (Eleven) vacancies. List of members eligible to vote can be obtained from the registered office of the society, at H-31, FIRST FLOOR, GREEN PARK EXTN., NEW DELHI - 110016 on application with payment of Rs. 10/- . Nominations for elections are invited in Form III and application for appointment of election agent in Form IV of the Schedule of the MSCS Rules 2002 alongwith supporting documents. Nomination forms can be presented in person between 10 AM to 1 PM and if sent by post it must be received before 1 PM on 18.12.2019 at its registered office. Scrutiny of Nominations will undergo between 10 AM to 1 PM and the same can be withdrawn till 4PM on 19.12.2019. Election agents will be appointed at 10:30 AM, pooling will be conducted from 12:30 PM to 3:30 PM and election results will be declared by 5:30 PM on 20.12.2019. Notice, Agenda, Voters' List and other details are available on notice board at registered office.

Ms. Shukti O Pandit, Returning Officer

NORTHERN RAILWAY

Tender Notice No. 21-10(Cycle/scooter/stand)/MB-1st-2019-C Dt. 05.12.2019

Sr. Divisional Commercial Manager, Northern Railway, Moradabad for & on behalf of the President of India, e-auction through www.reps.gov.in for the following work: SN. 1. Name of Work & Place: Quotation for Cycle Scooter Motor-Cycle Stand 1st at Moradabad Railway Station (A-Category) Area (In sq. meter): 948.72 Sq.m. Reserve Price for three months (Exclusive GST): Rs. 2,56,785.50 Earnest Money (Exclusive GST): Rs. 5,200/- to be paid through online payment gateway. Completion period: 03 Months Address of website from which tender documents can be downloaded: www.reps.gov.in (E-tendering mode) Last Date & time of submission: upto 14.00 hrs. on 17.12.2019 and will be open on the same day. 3896/19

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

NORTHERN RAILWAY

TENDER NOTICE (Through e-tendering)

Name of work with its Location	Roll out of PMS Phase-II under the work of Computerization of Parcel Management System over major stations of DLI Division.
App. Cost of the work (₹)	₹ 26,57,151.84 only.
Tender Document Fee (₹)	₹ 3,540 only.
Earnest Money Deposit (₹)	₹ 53,200 only.
Address of the office	Senior Divisional Signal & Telecom Engineer-I, Northern Railway, 3rd Floor, Annex-1, DRM office, New Delhi-110055.
Date & Time for upload the tender/closing of tender	Tender uploading / closing date & time 01.01.2020 upto 15:00 hrs.
Website particular & notice board location where complete details of the tender can be seen etc.	See the Northern Railway website www.reps.gov.in & Notice board at S&T branch, 3rd Floor, DRM office, State Entry Road, New Delhi-110055.

No.: 558-Sig-16-Tele-OT-912 Date: 05.12.2019 3892/2019

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

NORTH EASTERN RAILWAY

Open Tender Notice No.: N/539/02/OT/19-20/36

"Open Tenders" through Online (E-Tendering) are invited by Divisional Railway Manager (Signal & Telecom)/Varanasi/N.E. Railway for and on behalf of the President of India for the following works: SN 1. Tender Notice No. and Description of work: N/539/02/OT/19-20/36: Name of work: Provision of true colour outdoor 10/12 line Train information cum Video display at MLV station of BSB Division. Approx. Value: Rs. 7143482.71. Earnest Money: Rs. 142900.00. Cost of Tender Form: Rs. 5000.00. Completion period: 180 days. Tender Closing date & time: 06.01.2020 upto 15:00 Hrs. 1. Tender Notice will be submitted upto 15:00 hrs on 06.01.2020. 2. For full details and submission of bid kindly visit the Official website of Indian railways i.e. www.reps.gov.in

Div. Ry. Manager (S&T), Varanasi

CPRO/Sig-#0

Do Not smoke Bid/Cigarette in train

BEFORE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL-II, DELHI

4th Floor Jeevan Tara Building Parliament Street, New Delhi - 110001.

OA No 964/19 DATE: 23.11.2019

AXIS BANK LTD. -APPLICANT

VERSUS

BRAJESH VARSHNEY & ORS. -RESPONDENT

TO,

DEFENDANT

1. Brajesh Varshney, A-903, Block-A KDP Grand Savana Raj Nagar Extn. Ghaziabad UP-201001. Also At: Onesers Events Solutions Pvt. Ltd. R-80, 1st Floor Raj Kunj Raj Nagar Ghaziabad UP-201001.

2. Manvika Varshney W/o Sh. Brajesh Varshney A-903, Block-A KDP Grand Savana Raj Nagar Extn. Ghaziabad UP-201001. Also At: Onesers Events Solutions Pvt. Ltd. R-80, 1st Floor Raj Kunj Raj Nagar Ghaziabad UP-201001

Whereas the above named applicant(s) has / have instituted a case for recovery of Rs. 44,89,882/- (RUPEES Forty Four Lakh Eighty Nine Thousand Eight Hundred and Sixty Two Only) against you and where as it has been shown to the satisfaction of the Tribunal that it is not possible to serve you in the ordinary way therefore, this notice is given by advertisement directing you to make appearance in the Tribunal on 06.02.2020 at 10.30 A.M.

Take notice that in default of your appearance on the day before the mentioned, the case will be heard and determined in your absence.

By Order of the Tribunal

Section Officer, DRT-II, Delhi

EASTERN COALFIELDS LIMITED

(A Subsidiary of Coal India Limited)

E-TENDER NOTICE FOR ON LINE BIDDING

Name of Area : MATERIALS MANAGEMENT Dept./ECL Hqs. Tender No. and date : ECL/Hq/Par/Open/19/1066/2019-20/Standard Coal Tub/069 Date : 03-12-2019. Name of work : Supply of Standard Size Coal Tub to different areas of ECL. Estimated tender value : Rs. 7,49,52,032.96. Document download start date : 12-12-2019, from 11.00 hrs. IST. Document download end date : 02-01-2020, 11.00 hrs. IST. Tender Opening date & time : 03-01-2020, 11.00 hrs. IST. Details of tenders can be seen in https://coalindiatenders.nic.in or www.easterncoal.nic.in or http://procure.gov.in

Please visit us our website "www.easterncoal.nic.in"

NORTHERN RAILWAY

TENDER NOTICE (Through E-Tendering)

Name of work its location	Comprehensive AMC of Networking of data loggers with Northern Railway Headquarters in DRM Office New Delhi & Baroda House for three years.
Approx. Cost of the work	₹ 8,35,499.88 only
Tender Document Fee	₹ 2,360.00 only
Earnest Money Deposit	₹ 16,700.00 only
Address of the Office	Senior Divisional Signal & Telecom Engineer-I, Northern Railway, 3rd Floor, Annex-1, DRM Office, New Delhi-110055
Date & Time for upload the tender/closing of tender	Tender uploading/closing date & time 01.01.2020 upto 15:00 hrs.
Website particular & notice board location where complete details of the tender can be seen etc.	See the Northern Railway website www.reps.gov.in & Notice board at S&T branch, 3rd Floor, DRM office, State Entry road, New Delhi-110055

Tender No. 558-Sig-16-Tele-AMC-564 Dated : 05.12.2019 3891/19

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

NORTHERN RAILWAY

TENDER NOTICE

The Dy. Chief Engineer/TMC/Line, S.E. Road, New Delhi, for and on behalf of the President of India invites e-tender under Single Packet System for the under noted work:-

- Name of work and location: Hiring of Truck of minimum 09 capacity for loading of Railway material such as track machine spares, T&P, Oil and other Engg. Material of any length & breadth etc. for maintenance of Track Machines in jurisdiction of Dy.CE/TMC/Line, S.E. Road, New Delhi for a period of 02 years.
- Completion period of the work: 02 Years
- Approx. Cost of work: Rs. 33.63Lakhs
- Cost of Tender Document: Rs. 3000/-
- Earnest Money amount (to be deposited Online): Rs. 67300/-
- Date & Time for submission of E-tender and opening of tender: Tenders may be uploaded upto 15:00 hrs on 02.01.2020 on REPS website i.e. www.reps.gov.in The bidders can participate in the e-tender, the tender will be opened soon after 15:00 hrs on 02.01.2020.
- Detailed Tender Notice & Tender Document: The detailed e-tender notice and Tender document is available on Railway website i.e. www.reps.gov.in Above tenders document will be available for submission of offer on REPS website i.e. www.reps.gov.in from 19.12.2019 to 02.01.2020. The bidders who desire to participate against e-tenders, are advised to electronically register themselves on the above website for which, they would require to, obtain class II digital certificate (if already not obtained) issued by CCA under IT Act-2000. All other terms and conditions in respect of above tenders are given in tender document.

Tender Notice No. 1-WD/CETMCL-TRK-14-19-21 Dated: 05.12.2019 3893/2019

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

BEFORE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL-II, DELHI 4TH FLOOR, JEEVAN TARA BUILDING, PARLIAMENT STREET, NEW DELHI-110001.

OA No. 119/2019 Date: 19.10.19 ICICI Bank Limited -Applicant

VERSUS

Mahesh Pratap Singh -Defendants

To, Mahesh Pratap Singh S/o Sh. Uday Raj Singh (Borrower) R/o 6/2/20 Ward No.19, Gali No.7, Om Nagar Gurgaon-122001.

Whereas the above named applicant has instituted a case for recovery of Rs. 10,68,682/- (Rupees Ten Lakh Eight Six Thousand Six Hundred and Eight Two Only) against you and whereas it has been shown to the satisfaction of the Tribunal that it is not possible to serve you in ordinary way. Therefore, this notice is Given by advertisement directing you to make appearance before LD. registrar on 03.01.2020 at 10:30 A.M. Take notice that in case of your failure to appear on the above mentioned day before this Tribunal, the case will be heard and decided in your absence.

By Order of this Tribunal

Section Officer DRT-II, Delhi

SYMBOLIC POSSESSION NOTICE

ICICI Bank Branch Office: ICICI Bank 2nd Floor, Videocon Tower, Jhandewalan Ext, New Delhi-110055

Whereas The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of ICICI Bank Limited under the Securitisation, Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under Section 13 (12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) rules 2002, issued demand notices upon the borrowers mentioned below, to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

As the borrower failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said rules on the below-mentioned dates. The borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of ICICI Bank Limited.

Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower/ Loan Account Number	Description of Property/ Date of Symbolic Possession	Date of Demand Notice/ Amount in Demand Notice (Rs.)	Name of Branch
1.	M/s Hana Motor Plaza Pvt Ltd/ Ritu Bhatia/ Girish Bhatia/ 010251006745	Flat No-705, 7th Floor, Block- C1, Mayfair Tower, Charmwood Village Complex, Suraj Kund Road Faridabad, Haryana/ November 03, 2019	August 27, 2019 Rs. 2,41,39,324/-	Faridabad

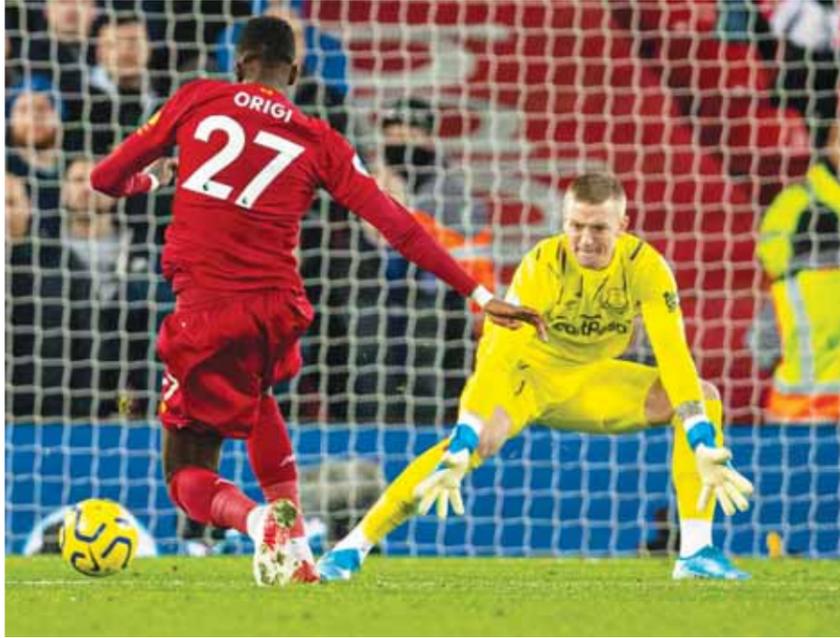
The above-mentioned borrowers(s)/ guarantors(s) are hereby given a 30 day notice to repay the amount, else the mortgaged properties will be sold on the expiry of 30 days from the date of publication of this Notice, as per the provisions under the Rules 8 and 9 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002.

Date : 06-12-2019 Place: Faridabad

Authorized Officer ICICI Bank Limited

3 point machines

Origi comes again to rob Toffees at Anfield in 5-2 win as Klopp completes century of PL triumphs



Divock Origi scores Liverpool third goal as Everton goalkeeper Jordan Pickford watches him during Premier League game at Anfield PL/Twitter

AFP ■ ANFIELD (LIVERPOOL)

Liverpool surged eight points clear at the top of the Premier League as Divock Origi was the scourge of Everton once more in a thrilling 5-2 Merseyside derby win for the European champions at Anfield.

All but one of the goals came before half-time as Origi and Xherdan Shaqiri, who replaced the rested Roberto Firmino and Mohamed Salah, put Liverpool 2-0 up inside 17 minutes.

Michael Keane pulled a goal back for Everton before Origi got his second and Sadio Mane finished off a blistering counter-attack to make it 4-1.

The scoring did not stop there as Richarlison cut the deficit once more, but Georginio Wijnaldum hammered the final nail in the Everton coffin a minute from time as an eighth defeat in 11 league games sees the Toffees slip into the bottom three.

"All the goals were incredible," said a delighted Jurgen Klopp, who made five changes in total. "Wonderful goals, sensational passes, super pieces of football. I loved it a lot."

Klopp insisted this fixture remained the "standout" one in Liverpool's sea-

son despite the massive points difference between the sides at either end of the table.

However, the German's actions spoke louder than words as he could afford the luxury of leaving out Firmino and Salah at the beginning of a hectic month for the Reds in three competitions.

"We needed fresh legs and I had to show my respect to the boys in the squad," added Klopp. "They proved it. It is much more fun making changes, all of the boys are ready to deliver performances like this."

Origi scored the 96th-minute winner when the sides met last season at Anfield and proved his worth within six minutes this time with a calm finish to round Jordan Pickford and slot into an empty net after a sensational pass from Mane cut Everton open.

Shaqiri was making his first start of the season, but also showed no signs of rustiness in front of goal by finishing off another Mane assist on his trusty left foot.

"My biggest dream is to win the title with this club and give it to the fans," said the Swiss midfielder.

"We have to focus on the pitch, stay

grounded and work hard every day. If we win, it will be amazing, but we still have a long way to go."

'NOT NORMAL' MISTAKES

At the other end, Liverpool were without the suspended Alisson in goal and looked poor at the back all night as their long wait for a clean sheet at Anfield this season continued.

Keane took advantage of a slip from Dejan Lovren to lift a delightful finish over Adrian to briefly breathe new life into Everton.

That was extinguished on the half-hour mark as Lovren made amends with a brilliant ball over the top which Origi cushioned into his path before lobbing Pickford.

Liverpool then struck again from an Everton corner as Trent Alexander-Arnold led the charge from one end of the field to the other before squaring for Mane to curl into the bottom corner.

Under-fire Everton manager Marco Silva had made a substitution just 35 minutes in to try and turn the tide with Bernard replacing Djibril Sidibe and the Brazilian made an impact as from his cross the ball came off Richarlison's shoulder to leave Adrian helpless.

NUMBER GAME

14 Everton's 14-point tally this season in the Premier League is their joint-third worst in the competition after 15 matches and their worst since 2003-04, when they narrowly avoided relegation by one position and six points

100 Liverpool's victory over Everton was Jürgen Klopp's 100th Premier League win in his 159th match in charge in the competition; among all managers, only José Mourinho (142 matches) enjoyed 100 wins in fewer games in the competition's history

5 Everton have conceded five goals against Liverpool in a match for the first time since November 1982, when they lost 5-0 under Howard Kendall against a Reds side managed by Bob Paisley

1999 Everton find themselves in the relegation zone after playing at least 15 Premier League matches for the first time since April 10th 1999 (after 32 games)

32 Liverpool are now unbeaten in 32 Premier League matches since a 1-2 defeat to Man City back in January (W27 D5) — the Reds' longest ever run without defeat in English top-flight history

6 All six shots on target in the first half of Liverpool's game with Everton were scored

18 Since the start of last season, Trent Alexander-Arnold has provided more Premier League assists than any other player (18), with 15 of those coming in 2019

2 This is only the second time in 1,053 Premier League games that Everton have conceded four first half goals (also v Arsenal in Feb 2018)

5 Divock Origi has scored five Premier League goals against Everton; only Robbie Fowler (6) and Steven Gerrard (9) have scored more PL goals for Liverpool in the Merseyside derby

5 Divock Origi has now scored in all four matches against Everton for Liverpool at Anfield (five goals)

18 Liverpool are unbeaten in their last 18 Premier League games against Everton (W8 D10). It's their longest ever unbeaten run against a specific opponent in the competition.

But Silva must now wait to see if he is offered another stay of execution by the Everton board ahead of Chelsea's visit to Goodison tomorrow.

"I am not the right person to answer about the situation, this question is for different people," said Silva over growing calls for him to be fired.

"The type of mistakes we are making is because the players are playing under big pressure because of the position in the table. They are making some mistakes that are not normal for the level we are."

Back to square one

Mourinho suffers first setback as Spurs manager in 1-2 away defeat against Man Utd; Foxes win seven in a row



Mason Mount celebrates with Tammy Abraham after scoring Chelsea's second goal against Aston Villa Tammy/Twitter

AFP ■ MANCHESTER

Jose Mourinho endured an unhappy return to Manchester United as Marcus Rashford struck twice in a 2-1 defeat for Tottenham while second-placed Leicester equalled their top-flight league record of seven consecutive wins with a 2-0 victory against bottom side Watford. Also Chelsea bounced back from two consecutive league defeats to beat Aston Villa 2-1.

Mourinho's first loss since taking charge of Spurs eases the pressure on Ole Gunnar Solskjaer as United moved above Tottenham, up to sixth in the table.

Rashford smashed United into an early lead with the help of some poor goalkeeping by Paulo Gazzaniga, the England international's powerful shot creeping in at the near post and he had chances to extend the lead.

Yet for all United's dominance in the first 45 minutes, one moment of brilliance from Dele Alli pulled Mourinho's men level before the break.

Alli plucked the ball out of the air and skipped beyond two United defenders with one touch before slotting home his fourth goal in as many games since Mourinho took charge.

United were handed the chance to retake the lead when Rashford went down under Moussa Sissoko's challenge in the penalty area early in the second half and he put his recent spot-kick woes behind him to send Gazzaniga the wrong way.

"The three points are massive for us," said Solskjaer.

"We've had too many draws this season and given too many points away from winning positions. It's a great lesson the last two games (Sheffield United and Aston Villa) and we came back in a great manner."

Mourinho, sacked by United last December, described his reception at Old Trafford as "nice and polite".

"It's a step back against a team

NUMBER GAME

35 Tottenham Hotspur have lost more Premier League matches against Manchester United than against any other team (35 defeats)

3 Dele Alli has scored in three consecutive appearances in all competitions for the first time since March 2017 (four in a row)

8 Marcus Rashford has scored in six of his 10 appearances at Old Trafford this season, netting eight goals

7 Leicester City have now equalled their top-flight league record for consecutive wins (seven games), with the only previous occasion coming between December 1962 and March 1963

14 Only Jamie Vardy (17) has been directly involved in more Premier League goals this season than Tammy Abraham (11 goals, 3 assists)

11 Tammy Abraham has scored 11 goals in 14 Premier League apps this season - the only Chelsea players to score more in their first 14 apps in a PL season are Diego Costa (12 in 2014-15) and Nicolas Anelka (12 in 2008-09)

22 As well as scoring in back-to-back games for the first time since August, Teemu Pukki has netted his 22nd league goal of 2019; only Jarrod Bowen (24) and Jamie Vardy (26) have scored more such goals within England's top four tiers this year

that is playing with the same objective as us, trying to get up the table and reach the top six," he said. "We need to keep going. We made mistakes but it's not good to be crying about them now."

VARDY CONTINUES SCORING RUN

Leicester moved back above City as Liverpool's closest challengers. Brendan Rodgers' side were awarded a penalty after the break when Jonny Evans went down clutching his face inside the area and Jamie Vardy made no mistake, scoring for the seventh straight game.

James Maddison sealed the points deep into stoppage time.

Chelsea forward Tammy Abraham, who was prolific during a loan spell at Aston Villa last season, proved the difference against Villa, heading in Reece James' cross to open the scoring. Tregozet bundled home to bring the visitors level before the break, but Abraham then turned provider by chesting down for Mason Mount to brilliant volley high past Tom Heaton.

Wolves, in fifth place, remain unbeaten in the league since September and goals from Leander Dendoncker and Patrick Cutrone either side of half-time gave them a 2-0 win against a disappointing West Ham at Molineux.

Southampton moved out of the bottom three with a 2-1 win against fellow strugglers Norwich.



Coach Igor Stimac sits in dugout during India's World Cup qualifier game IFT/Twitter

Scoring goals is big problem: Stimac

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Indian football team head coach Igor Stimac feels scoring goals has been a "big problem" and his side will have to fix it quickly for the country to start winning matches.

After an encouraging start to their 2022 World Cup qualifying campaign, India fizzled out later, drawing with the likes of Bangladesh and Afghanistan to be out of reckoning for a third round berth.

The Indian team has been competitive in all five games thus far, and picked up an unlikely draw away to Asian champions Qatar, but a lack of cutting edge has proved costly.

"Scoring goals is our big problem right now. We are playing some good football, and the effort is there, but we don't have that final touch in and around the box. We need to find solutions to that," Stimac told FIFA.

"We are working on it, through set-pieces and other methods. We have also been changing the team's style of play, with fewer long balls, and I'm seeing real progress there — the stats show our ball retention is already much better."

With just three points from five matches and at fourth spot in their group, India's World Cup qualifying chances are over.

The 52-year-old Stimac said he is loving every second as India coach since his appointment six months back.

"I've loved every second so far. It is a privilege to lead the national team of such a vast and great country. The passion is there."

"It's always been said that India is a sleeping giant when it comes to football, and that's true — because the potential is there. Together, we have to start waking that giant and make sure that we're competitive at the next Asian Cup and going on to the World Cup qualifiers in 2026," said the former Croatia manager.

The former Croatian international defender was in charge of Qatar Stars League side Al Shahania for a brief stint in the 2016-17 season, and he predicted that the 2022 football showpiece will be the "most fascinating" one.

"It will be a pity (for India) to miss out on Qatar in 2022 because I think it will be the most fascinating World Cup ever. I coached in Qatar for a while and I've been back to visit since stopping work there. It's an incredible country and the people there will make the World Cup a huge success. I know there have been doubts but, honestly, it's going to be amazing."

AFP ■ PARIS

Neymar and Kylian Mbappe both scored as Paris Saint-Germain restored their five-point cushion at the top of Ligue 1 with a 2-0 win over Nantes.

Mbappe's smart finish shortly after half-time and Neymar's late penalty saw the hosts ease to victory at the Parc des Princes.

PSG, whose scheduled game against Monaco last weekend was postponed due to bad weather, also have a game in hand on second-placed Marseille as they bid for a seventh French league title in eight seasons.

Thomas Tuchel started Neymar and Mbappe together for the first time this season, although the German coach left Edinson Cavani and Mauro Icardi on the bench.

"It says a lot if in December our two key players (Mbappe and Neymar), who we want to



Kylian Mbappe celebrates after scoring Paris Saint-Germain's first goal PSG/Twitter

make the difference, are starting for the first time together," said Tuchel.

"Imagine if (Lionel) Messi and (Luis) Suarez played together for the first time in December (for Barcelona)... They lacked rhythm, I'm not expecting too much from both of them."

"I'm happy they scored, but there is a lot of potential (for them to improve)."

Mbappe fired the first opening over the crossbar, before Nantes' Ludovic Blas was denied by Keylor Navas in the PSG goal.

Neymar appeared to have put the hosts in front with a fan-

tastic left-footed strike after Nantes could only half clear a corner, but following a lengthy delay, the goal was ruled out by VAR for an apparent high foot from Julian Draxler.

The world's most expensive player almost gave PSG a half-time lead anyway, but saw his low shot tipped away by visiting goalkeeper Alban Lafont.

The league leaders did forge ahead in the 52nd minute as Mbappe met Angel Di Maria's low cross with a backheel flick into the corner after fine work by Neymar.

The Brazilian eventually got his goal with five minutes remaining, scoring his penalty at the second time of asking after substitute Icardi encroached in the area.

Earlier on Wednesday, Gelson Martins came off the bench to fire Monaco to a 2-1 win over Toulouse as the principality side made it six victories in nine league outings.

Hazard to miss Clasico

AFP ■ MADRID

Eden Hazard is set to miss the Clasico against Barcelona as further tests revealed a fracture in his right ankle, Real Madrid confirmed on Thursday. Hazard was forced off during the draw with PSG in the Champions League last week and despite Zinedine Zidane saying after the match he had suffered a "bad twist", Madrid announced the Belgian had been diagnosed with "bruising".

But further tests have shown a fracture, with Hazard now expected to be out for around four to six weeks. It would mean he will sit out the Clasico at Camp Nou on December 18.

"After tests performed on our player Eden Hazard by the Medical Services during the process of improving the bruising in his right leg, he has been diagnosed with an incomplete external fracture in that area," a club statement.

Marcelo is also likely to miss the game against Barcelona after the capital city club confirmed the defender has suffered an injury in his left calf.

But Hazard's absence is the bigger blow to Zidane's side, who sit second in La Liga, behind Barca only on goal difference.

Satwik-Chirag, Pramod nominated for BWF awards

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Indian men's doubles pair of Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty has been nominated for the Most Improved Player of the Year award by the Badminton World Federation (BWF) after a stellar season during which the duo picked up some memorable wins.

The young combination had a breakthrough season, claiming its maiden Super 500 title at Thailand Open before reaching the finals of French Open Super 750 event this year.

The prestigious awards recognise the achievements of the elite badminton players and pairs in six categories, including two in Para badminton.

India's para badminton player Pramod Bhagat, who has bagged 11 Gold, three Silver and four Bronze medals this year, was nominated in the Male Para Badminton Player of the Year award.

Corriere dello Sport slammed for 'Black Friday' headline



ROME: Italian football clubs on Thursday slammed a renowned sports daily's front page as "unacceptable" and "terrible" after it used "Black Friday" in a headline in reference to Romelu Lukaku and Roma defender Chris Smalling.

Smalling and Lukaku, former Manchester United teammates, face off at the San Siro today as Inter Milan look to maintain top spot in Serie A beating Roma, prompting the Rome-based Corriere dello Sport to publish the controversial headline.

The article praised the two players for taking "strong positions against racism and are the symbols of the two clubs", but Roma tweeted "not a single soul" would think the headline a good idea.

The club's chief strategy officer Paul Rogers said the choice of headline was "terrible" although the article itself was "positive".

"The intention of the news-

paper article was actually positive but this headline has totally overshadowed the anti-racist message contained within the story," Rogers said.

"Unfortunately, as we've seen on social media, more people will see that ill-judged headline on the front page than read the actual article and it creates new issues at a time when we are all trying to tackle the issue of racism in Italian football."

The Corriere dello Sport was unrepentant despite the backlash, saying the headline was "only the praise of difference, the pride of difference, the magnificent wealth of difference."

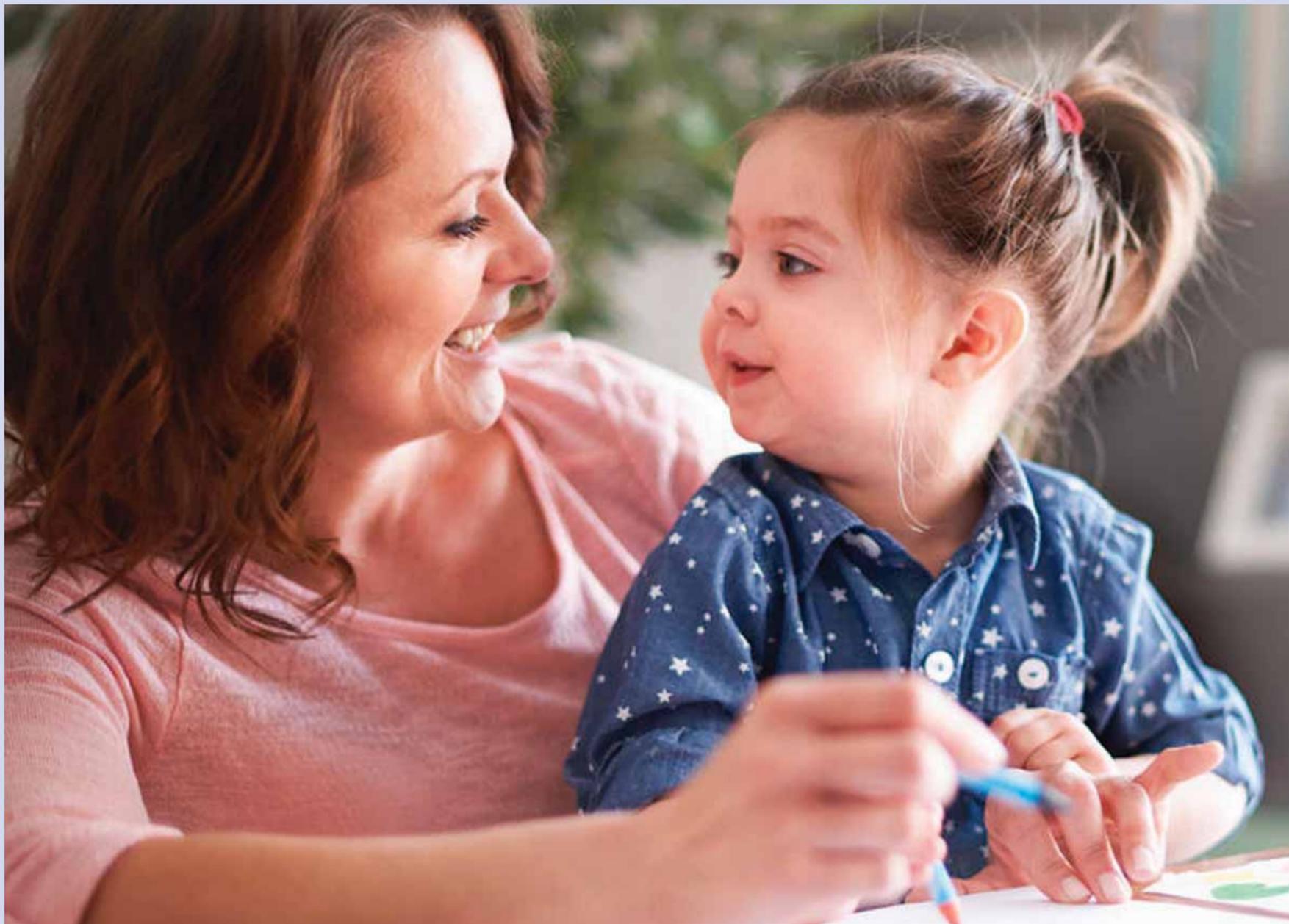
"White, black, yellow. Denying difference is the typical macroscopic stumbling block of anti-racism racism," it said in an editorial.

"An innocent headline... Is transformed into poison by those who have poison inside." Anti-racism body Fare said the daily's front page "the media fuels racism every day." - AFP



Communication is an art

Positive non-verbal communication can improve your relationship with your child and boost emotional connections in your family. Most children love being hugged and kissed, for example. This warm and caring body language sends the non-verbal message that you want to be close to your child, writes TEAM VIVA



The capacity to communicate is the ability and desire to connect with others by exchanging ideas and feelings — both verbally and non-verbally. Most children learn to communicate to get a need met or to establish and maintain interaction with a loved adult.

Babies communicate from birth, through sounds (crying, cooing, squealing), facial expressions (eye contact, smiling, grimacing) and gestures/body movements (moving legs in excitement or distress, and later, gestures like pointing.) Babies continue to develop communication skills when adults respond to their efforts to “tell” others about what they need or want.

Positive non-verbal communication can improve your relationship with your child and boost emotional connections in your family. Most children love being hugged and kissed, for example. This warm and caring body language sends the non-verbal message that you want to be close to your child.

Negative non-verbal communication — for example, a grumpy tone of voice or a frown—when you’re doing something fun together might send the message that you don’t really want to be there. Children can feel rejected or let down if this happens consistently.

This means non-verbal communication is important for strengthening your verbal messages to your child. It can be as simple as stopping and giving your child your full attention when you

ask how his day at school has been. This sends him the message that you’re really interested and you care.

When your non-verbal communication sends a different message from your words, your child is more likely to believe the non-verbal communication. So if you ask your child how her day has been without stopping to hear her answer, she’s likely to think that you’re not really interested.

Your non-verbal communication is also important for teaching your child how to relate to and get along with other people, which is an important skill for life. For example, if you use warm and caring body language towards your child, it teaches your child how to express love. If you stop what you’re doing to listen to your child talk about his day, it shows him how to give people his full attention too.

A newborn nuzzles at her mother’s breast. Her mother says, “Oh, you must be hungry. Here you go.” This baby is learning that her loved ones will respond to her signals and communications.

A 9-month-old starts messing with the food on his high chair, as if wiping it clean with his hands. His father notices, saying: “Hey buddy, looks like you’re telling me you are all done. How about I take you out of there and we can head to the park.” This baby is learning that he is an effective communicator.

A 28-month-old is at the park. She is pointing urgently at something and saying to her grandfather, “Der!! Der!!



Der!!” He says, “I’m sorry, sweetie, I don’t understand. Could you say it again?” She continues to point, and repeats herself a number of times. Finally, her grandfather says, “Oh, the squirrel. Yes, I see him up there in the tree!” This toddler is learning that her loved ones will “hang in there” and work hard to understand her attempts to communicate.

A 3-year-old chats with his mother

Use a pleasant tone of voice and a relaxed body posture and facial expression when you talk with your child. This helps your child see you as open and ready to listen

on the way home from pre-school. He tells her he liked the songs and snack, but didn’t like how the sand felt on his hands. His mother listens, and asks him questions. This toddler is learning that what he has to say is important to the people who love him, and that he is a good communicator.

Touch your child’s arm to let your child know you’re interested and you care about what she’s saying or doing. Turn to face your child and use lots of eye contact. This says, “I’m giving you my full attention” and “You’re important to me.” Bend down to your child’s level. This shows you want to be close and helps your child feel more secure. It also helps with eye contact, especially for younger children.

“Mirror” your child. This means using the same facial expression or tone of voice as your child. It can show him that you’re trying to understand his feelings. For example, if your child smiles at you, smile back. If he’s sad, nod your head and look a bit sad yourself.

Use a pleasant tone of voice and a relaxed body posture and facial expression when you talk with your child. This helps your child see you as open and ready to listen. And it also makes it easy for your child to tell the difference when you’re not happy with her behaviour. Give your child lots of cuddles.

Your child learns about non-verbal communication by watching you and your nonverbal communication. You can also help your child with nonverbal

communication in other ways.

For example, your child might be standing very close to a friend and the friend might look uncomfortable, or start stepping back. You could gently remind your child to give her friend some space for example, “Carly, let’s give Jacob a bit more room by taking a step back. Well done, Jacob’s got more space now.” If you notice your child doing what you’ve asked at another time, you can praise her. For example, “Carly, I like the way you gave Emile some space to open his presents at the party.”

It can be hard to match your non-verbal communication and your words when your child does or says something that’s funny but also unacceptable for example, if a young child says ‘Mummy’s a poo-head’ or an older child repeats something rude an adult has said.

It’s tempting to laugh, but that sends a mixed message. Your child will be more likely to understand that this behaviour isn’t acceptable if your words and your non-verbal signals match up. So try keeping a straight face and using a firm tone to say something like ‘In our family we speak to each other politely.’

Your child is watching you very carefully. If you talk to others with kindness and respect, she will likely follow your lead and take on your manner and tone as she becomes more verbal. And, when you expect this kind of respectful communication from others, you are modeling how she should expect to be treated by others as well.

Trend Blazer

'Manali a great experience'

Veteran **AMITABH BACHCHAN**, who has been shooting in Himachal Pradesh for his forthcoming film *Brahmastra*, calls it the "most rewarding experience."

Big B took to his blog and posted, "The affection and love of the ever hospitable people of Himachal Pradesh has been quite overwhelming. Thank you HP and Manali for all the care. It has been a most rewarding experience," he said.

He shared a few stills from the film's shoot in his blog. He can be seen wearing a jacket, a pair of goggles and a traditional Himachali cap and has his hands folded in a *namaste*.



'There shouldn't be censorship on OTT platforms. It is really an outdated concept and practice. We live in a vibrant democracy, so to have censorship is a negative thing. I feel instead of censorship, there should be a modern system of rating where people give you a guideline regarding a certain show which contains abusive language or things like that.'

—Vivek Oberoi

Actor **HRITHIK ROSHAN** has been named the Sexiest Asian Man in the world for 2019, and also of the last decade.

He topped UK-based Eastern Eye newspaper's 16th edition of the world-famous list published annually.

Tiger Shroff, who entered the top 10 for the first time, was fourth. Pop superstar Zayn Malik was fifth and TV star Harshad Chopda sixth.

The list is prepared on the basis of votes cast by fans across the world, buzz generated on social media sites, media attention, massive global interest etc.



Craig rocks the James Bond role

The official trailer of the forthcoming James Bond adventure *No Time To Die* was launched recently. And **DANIEL CRAIG's** look will give the fans a vintage action feast in his final outing as agent 007.

The two-minute, thirty-six-second trailer, released on the film's social media outlets has it all.

There's Craig striking a dapper intense form as Bond, zipping around in a high-concept Aston Martin devised especially for him by Q (Ben Wishaw). Naomie Harris returns as Money Penny and Ralph Fiennes as M.

There is a brief glimpse of Christoph Waltz as Ernst Stavro Blofeld, too, who was captured at the end of the last Bond film, *Spectre*.



THE QUEEN OF PURPOSE

Actor **RANI MUKERJI** tells **CHAHAK MITTAL** that even though women might have grown stronger and independent than they were before, criminal minds haven't changed a bit. And that is exactly what *Mardaani 2* is about

'WHY AREN'T WE TRAINING OUR CHILDREN OR MAKING SELF-DEFENCE A COMPULSORY SUBJECT IN SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES?'



able to implement certain laws which will send shivers down the spine of a person who is even thinking of committing a crime," she says.

This time her anger has doubled after the rape of a vet in Hyderabad. She says, "I wonder what are the parents of the girl, who lost her life, going through currently? How are they going to feel better? How are they going to get a closure to what has happened to their child? They will never be able to take this out of their system. It has scarred their lives. Will they ever be able to get the justice for what happened? Nothing could dull their pain. And these kinds of incidences are going to continue if women don't take charge of their own lives. We cannot be doing candle marches everytime a woman is raped and killed and then eventually move on with our lives after some time. But how can we make sure women are safe? Let's make them stronger, shouldn't we?"

Such were the questions she raised before prepping for her role. How can girls be prepared for any eventuality? What are we carrying in our bags? What are we doing to learn self-defence techniques? She recalls, "When I did *Mardaani*, I met the Krav Maga martial art experts from Israel who teach the art to women in their country. So nobody can dare touch an Israeli woman because

she is empowered enough to protect herself. So why aren't we training our children now? Why aren't we making self-defence a compulsory subject in schools and colleges? I was not a mother during *Mardaani*. Today, I am the mother of a daughter and would love if her school makes something like this mandatory."

The film and her character are evidence of how cinema is giving more power to women. However, this sensibility is yet to percolate to mass entertainers. There are still certain dialogues or lyrics of a song that objectify women and demean them in multiple ways. And these are later used as comments to evade. Rani looks at it in two different ways and explains, "*Mardaani 2* is a thriller, where through an interesting and intense story, we bring out a strong message. We, as filmmakers, have chosen that path. But we should also never forget that ours is an entertaining medium, which has to explore different formats. And at the end of the day, a film always mirrors the society. At the same time, we need to be cautious that as creative people, we have been given the freedom of expression. Having said that, we may make an error of judgement. Adult humour is one thing, vulgarity quite the other. And this is where the censor board comes in."

Here, she demands a responsible attitude from the viewers' end too to follow the censor rating and not make their children watch content that might not be suitable for them. "Don't you think that as adults, they are capable of understanding what knowledge they should take back and what they shouldn't?" she questions and highlights that some films are also meant only for entertainment, which might not have a social message. She adds, "What if I do a role

where I explore a negative trait tomorrow? It doesn't mean I am trying to inspire my fans to be in that negative zone. I am just doing it because I feel connected to that role. We also need to look at each actor for the reason for which they have chosen to do a particular film. And not generalise it."

Rani's films like *Mehendi*, *Black*, *No One Killed Jessica*, *Hichki* and *Mardaani* series are some examples of how she has always been upfront about certain issues and stereotypes about women in society. "Being a woman, I understand when somebody says she had never been taught or told to be strong. I understand where she is coming from. And then I also understand when a woman says that *aisa kuch bhi hua toh I am going to just slap that guy and kick him. Ek maaru pakad ke*," she says, animatedly. She thinks it is high time that we make women believe that they are as strong and powerful as men.

Now that she is in a settled space, is Rani going only for content-driven films? Not really. "I choose my films very spontaneously. *Mardaani* happened after the Nirbhaya case. *Hichki* happened at a time when I just delivered my child. My baby was about a year old and I was really emotional and vulnerable. I wanted to do a film on a subject that made me want to leave my home and go to work because it was difficult to leave my child behind. Hadn't *Hichki* happened, I don't think I could have returned on screen. I looked at the teacher-student relationship, which I feel strongly about. Because I feel that no child should be pushed to isolation. We cannot tell a child to be good at all subjects and expect him to excel in that. Every child has his strength and weakness."

Nobody can imagine Rani's Tina, Kajol's Anjali and SRK's Rahul in *Kuch Kuch Hota Hai* (1998) being portrayed by any other actor. Because the three were so beautifully and powerfully etched in the narrative. Today, even though films have a stronger narrative and a sense of realism, the characters seem to be losing their individuality. Rani disagrees. "I think it depends on the filmmakers the most. We have to view/review the film in isolation for this because there are times when you like an actor so much that you cannot imagine anybody else in that particular role. That is also the kind of love you have for a particular actor. And in some cases, probably the actor is not that good in his or her portrayal of the character so one may feel that s/he could be replaced," she says, picking up her coffee mug. For her, it's still about solid fundamentals and all in a day's work.

Photo: Pankaj Kumar

The ABC of reviewing cars

More than the objective understanding of an automobile, its subjectivity needs to be looked at thoroughly when one reviews a vehicle. And it can only be done once you experience the drive



People often tell me that I have a cushy job of 'reviewing cars' and undoubtedly, it would be wrong if I deny that it is a terribly difficult one. Having said that, changing cars and early wake-up calls every few days are not as amazing as many suspect them to be. But a job is a job, and evaluating a car to be good or bad is not simply getting the stats together and blabbering them out with a string of adjectives attached. There is an objective part to a review, of that there is no doubt. Engine size, output, 0-100 times, car dimensions, interior fittings and what not. However, all of that is in the brochure as well but the art of the review is in the subjective things. The stuff that they do not tell you in the brochure, and things which you can only get to know once you drive the car.

Keep in mind, my perception of a vehicle can be very different to that of my friends in the automotive writing trade. The way we review cars is also quite different depending on where we drive them. The 'first drive', usually a short one on a (very straight) highway, does not reveal much, other than giving an idea of acceleration and the interiors of the car, alongside seating position, luggage space and some other ponderables. This is a mere reason why I love spending a week or two with a car, sometimes even longer. Doing so can give you a strange appreciation of a vehicle. For close to two months, I drove the Diesel AMT version of the Grand i10 Nios and while the gearbox was far from being smart, indeed slow would be a better adjective, I grew to appreciate the size of the car, its superb handling and overall appropriateness for urban conditions. If you have a long

urban commute, one where you cover over 50 kilometres in a day; this is the best you could possibly buy. Yes, it can be more peppy but who am I to argue with 21 kilometres per litre.

It brings us to the other point, how I (and most other serious auto reviewers) look at aspects like ride and handling, and even acceleration for that matter. For example, acceleration is not something you do with a 0-100 speed run because other than a few expressways in India, it's illegal. How many times in real life, after you have turned 25, do you drop the clutch drive like a maniac off the red light, especially with expensive petrol? So you look at how quickly and effectively you head off from a traffic light or toll gate, changing gears at the right engine speeds. Then you observe how the gears respond, keep an eye on the engine speed and notice when and where you need to change. The fact is that most cars sold in India are driven in the city and have to be the urban warriors.

Then there are ride and handling, again imponderables for many 'car reviewers' and something that no brochure can tell you. Therefore, I have often seen comments and sentences from

proper reviews appearing on certain motoring sites, sometimes entire paragraphs. This is something you can feel yourself being shoved into the side bolsters or even off the seats when you take a sharp turn. At times, you get surprised at how well and true a car handles after you turn the steering, and while most front-wheel drive cars tend to understeer a bit, that is that the wheels do not turn as much as you want to, you learn to compensate for that. I did not expect the Renault Triber I am currently driving to take the sweeping right-hander at the end of the Barapullah flyover as steady as it did. It is no Lamborghini or even a BMW 3-series for that matter but sometimes cheap and cheerful cars today can surprise you too with just how nicely the steering is weighted, how the car turns and how much (or little) body roll there is. One of my major issues with the MG Hector is the lack of precision in the steering and the grotesque amounts (for a modern vehicle) of body roll.

Then there are other things that we consider, stuff like the utilisation of space, something that despite the Maruti S-Presso's less than stellar looks, it does extremely well as does the Renault Triber. And while car companies talk

about how much space or lack thereof, their boots might have, you actually need to see how high or low the loading lip is. Consider ergonomics, where the switches are, how solid or not the steering adjustability. There is one of my personal bugbears, the quality of plastics, because while you can always change your seat covers, you cannot change the look and feel of the plastics. If the plastics feel like shit, too 'plasticky' (yes, I see the irony there) they can ruin a perfectly good vehicle which has brilliant mechanics. Nowadays, I find myself giving a lot of attention to the layout of steering wheel controls, let alone everything else.

Yes, it is a fun job and I thank my lucky stars for doing it for almost two decades. I get to travel a lot, drive on amazing roads and get to experience some amazing scenery. But do not think that I, or folks such as the other jury members of the Indian Car Of The Year (ICOTY), have an easy job because it is not just about liking cars, driving and travelling. At the end of the day, this is a serious business and anybody who says that it isn't, does not know what it takes.

Deepika writes for NY Times

Actor **Deepika Padukone** has never failed to leave a mark. Be it making a fashion statement or trying to inspire people. She has yet again made a bold move by talking about her story of fighting with depression across a border. In an interview with the *New York Times*, a reputed American daily, Deepika spoke about mental stress and the loneliness one can feel even when there are a lot of things happening around them.

She throws light on about how according to WHO, 300 million people across the world are facing the same challenge silently and are totally unaware of the fact what is happening to them. She says, "Only a person close to you like your mother will notice such things."

When she faced a similar situation a few years back in her life, she was a frontier to address the issue and came up with the foundation called 'The Live Laugh Foundation'. In India, where mental health is treated as a taboo, Deepika wants to remove the stigma around the illness and urge people to break the silence about their stories and seek help if required to come out of this situation. Her foundation aims at spreading awareness via various mediums. It is so inspiring to see her address this issue at an international level like this.





Black industrial lights along the grey panels at the entrance of Danbro's gave a hint of what was to come. Monochromatic paintings, rustic brown chairs, grey marble tables and old mosaic tiles teleported us to a casual roadside cafe in Europe where any and everybody gather over a drink at any time of the day, unwinding themselves and easing off over conversations. Keeping the human connect alive over endless cups of coffee and savouries.

We were at the new Italian boulangerie and patisserie in Kailash Colony. The menu comes in a newspaper format called *DanbroTimes*, a throwback to the coffee club culture of yore. But not being familiar, we decided to go for the chef's special. We were first served Soup Of The Day, which is different for each day. You would think you know enough about mushroom soup but this one had a delicate texture with black pepper blending perfectly with fresh mushrooms and the butter. In one word, wholesome. Served with grilled Ciabatta, which complemented its flavours, we got off to a good start.

Next up was Croquettes Potato. Stuffed with cheddar cheese and jalapenos, it was creamy yet crispy. The soft core was so centered that it balanced the heat of the spices. An unusual addition was the *Chimi Churi* sauce made of fresh herbs, a speciality of chef Brajesh Ghansiyal. Said he, "This sauce is in demand mostly because of its simple yet strong flavours. There are no

THAT WARM FEELING

Danbro's is the ideal winter joint with some luscious bites, steaming coffee and yummy croissants. **By SAKSHI SHARMA**

additives except the herbs." We actually ditched the other dips and this combination makes for some lazy bites over a weekend with friends.

Chef Anjali Mohan, who is keen to redefine the way people look at vegetarian food is determined to make it your chosen indulgence, said, "When you say vegetarian, people either experiment with *paneer* or mushroom. So we usually get bored with *paneer* and most of us do not like mushrooms. That is why I made it a point to include more vegetables and potato in the menu." She then made sure that we try her wild berry smoothie and cold coffee. While the former had blueberry, yogurt with chia seeds and fresh strawberries which overpowered all other flavours, the latter was a decent must-try.

Then it was the turn of Char Grilled Vegetarian Lasagna topped with wheat pasta sheets and cheese sauce bursting with flavours. Packed with olives, zucchini and capsicum, its layers were soft and crunchy at the same time. It seemed like a never-ending dish but the delicacy of exploring each layer of richness and distinct smoked flavours kept us going. Wheat pasta can actually lend a richer texture than the



usual flour one. Besides, it all depends on the Bechamel sauce and here the chefs got it right, coating each layer perfectly and fluffing up the full potential of the vegetables, nudging out flavours that are drowned in usual cooking methods. As full as we were, we didn't want to miss the dessert,

especially at a place which is known for it. In line were Passion fruit cheese cake, Strawberry cheese cake, Coconut truffle, which was basically Belgium white chocolate with coconut covering, Coffee truffle and Butter croissant. We couldn't resist but try a bite of all. The layers of cream cheese, fresh passion fruit and yogurt made for a sinful indulgence like no other. Do try the butter croissant, not drippy but just enough to give bounce to the yeast dough. Certainly, the best wrap-up for the evening.

Other than this, Danbro's offers popular hits like Hot lava cake with Polo mint ice cream, chocolate mousse cannelloni with caramelised banana and Baileys cream and Choco loco, vanilla-coated Bourbon biscuits with chocolates. They were complex but the flavours were so rounded that they leave a mark on your tastebuds, especially when they come from a bakery that has its origins in Milan.

Whether you want to grab a coffee, have a big breakfast, simply cosy up on a winter afternoon or want a quick high-tea with colleagues, this is the place for you.

Now, wines from Washington

They have a higher percentage of 90-rated wines than other top wine-producing regions in the world, say experts



When Craig and Vicki Leuthold opened the Maryhill Winery in 2001, there were about 100 wineries in the state of Washington. That number has since exploded to more than 1,000 wineries this year and the remarkable growth is likely to continue.

Maryhill Winery, just South of the remote town of Goldendale, is part of that growth. It has recently opened tasting rooms in Spokane and Vancouver, Washington, and is in the process of opening a tasting room in the Seattle suburb of Woodinville. "Our timing was great," said Craig Leuthold, whose winery produces 60 varieties. "Washington wine has really increased in popularity."

Washington has become a force in the wine industry. The state has the nation's second-highest number of wineries, after California. But California, which has around 3,700 wineries, remains much bigger than anyone else in the United States, selling more than \$40 billion worth of wine in this country. Within the US, wines from California are the top sellers, followed by wines from Australia and Italy. Washington ranks fourth in the sources of wine sold in the U.S., said Steve Warner, president of Washington State Wine, the industry's trade group.

More Washington wine is sold in the United States than French wine," he said.

The state's wine industry generates about \$2.4 billion a year in revenues and contributes more than \$7 billion a year to the state's economy, Warner said.

Washington's wines are consistently top-ranked, he said. "Washington has a higher percentage of 90-rated wines than other top wine-producing regions in the world," Warner said, referring to the 100-point scale for rating wines. "We are competing against wine regions with 28 generations of winemakers, who were doing it before America was a country."

Most of the industry's success stems from the state's climate and soils, Warner said.

Wine grapes like long sunny days and cool nights, which the vineyards in the central and eastern part of the state enjoy.

The area also gets little rainfall compared with other grape-growing regions, which is a plus, he said. Washington still has plenty of available land at reasonable prices in wine country, said Thomas Henick-Kling, director of the enology and viticulture program at Washington State University in Pullman.

The acreage dedicated to grapes for wine is rapidly expanding. Twenty years ago, there were 24,000 acres (9,713 hectares) of grapes. Today there are 59,000 acres (23,877 hectares) of vineyards. Washington also has skilled farmers and winemakers, graduates of winemaking programs at numerous local colleges, Henick-Kling said.

There were about 20 wineries in 1981. That grew to 100 wineries by 2001, just over 500 by 2012 and just over 1,000 now, Warner said. Growth has been averaging more than 70 new wineries per year for the past seven years. Washington's growth is no surprise, as the number of wineries and wine consumption continue to grow in the US. "The growth in wineries around the country is very exciting as wine sales continue to grow, particularly at the premium end," said Gladys Horiuchi of the Wine Institute, which represents California wineries.

Wine shipments to the United States from all foreign and domestic sources grew one per cent in 2018. The Wine Institute said people are drinking more premium wine, which starts at \$8 per bottle.

The 1,000th active license was issued to Jens Hansen, owner of Uva Furem winery in Maple Valley. Hansen retired from the Air Force, moved to the Seattle area and decided to become a winemaker. "I feel

like the Washington wine community is a lot like the Air Force in that everyone looks out for each other," Hansen said.

About 70 grape varieties are grown in Washington, with the most popular reds being cabernet sauvignon and merlot. Chardonnay and white Riesling are the most common whites.

Most of Washington's wineries are fairly small. The owners "are passionate about wine and work full-time and crush grapes on weekends," Warner said.

There are a smaller number of midsize wineries that enjoy national distribution, plus a handful of industry giants like Chateau Ste. Michelle, he said.

More investors from outside the state are joining the industry, Warner said. It also helps that Washington has long had a lot of wealthy people who work for companies like Boeing, Microsoft and Amazon and have money to invest in the industry, he said.

Many of the State's best wineries are clustered around the old town of Walla Walla, which used to be known primarily for sweet onions and as home of the state penitentiary. Now it is home to world-class winemakers. Warner expected the strong growth rate to continue.

"The line is not flattening," he said. "I wouldn't be surprised if we get to 2,000." One factor that could limit growth is climate change, but Washington also seems fortunate there. The mighty Columbia River, which irrigates much of wine country, is predicted to be a stable water supply for many years to come, Henick-Smith said. Heat spikes in the summer might damage grapes, he said. But farmers are moving vineyards to higher elevations looking for cooler ripening weather.

"Here in Washington we're pretty stable," Henick-Smith said.

—AP

gorgeous

Youmee celebrates Remen festival with delicious soup of hand-crafted noodles, savoury broths and perfectly melded toppings. For vegetarians, there is a delicious ramen meal bowl with tofu, broccoli, pok choy, mushroom, lettuce in miso broth. Veggie Delight is a blend of mushroom, pok choy, Chinese cabbage, bean sprouts in garlic sesame flavoured broth. Non-vegetarians can enjoy teriyaki chicken ramen and many other options. **Date:** Till December 8 **Price:** ₹1,300 for two (plus taxes) **Time:** 11 am to 11:30 pm **Venue:** Youmee, Greater Kailash 2.

Novotel presents Coorg food festival, offering an extensive dinner buffet by chef Anjali Ganapathy. You can relish the traditional essence of *Bella Kaapi, Pandi Curry, Akki Otti, Kambla Curry* and *Byrambuttu* and a lot more during the festival. **Date:** December 7 to 14 **Price:** ₹2,150 (plus taxes) **Time:** 7 pm onwards **Venue:** Food Exchange, Novotel, Aerocity.

Holiday inn celebrates Goa on a platter. Its menu features Lamb vindaloo, Chicken xacuti, Goan fish curry, Chicken caftreal and many more. Almost every dish is flavoured with coconuts, blended with freshly ground spices. For the sweet-toothed, there is Bibingka, a type of rice cake. **Price:** ₹1,900 (plus taxes) **Time:** 7 pm to 11 pm **Date:** December 6 to 8 **Venue:** Cafe on 3, Holiday Inn, Mayur Vihar.

Chef Akanksha Dean introduces Dish of the Month with a Falafel Pocket and three Mediterranean dips with her twist to the menu at Imperfecto Shor Cafe. The dish is loaded with impeccable Middle Eastern flavours and will certainly give you an unforgettable experience. **Date:** Till December 25 **Venue:** Imperfecto Shor Cafe, Hotel Pride Plaza, Aerocity.

Searock Cookhouse offers a variety of heart-warming dishes — *Kori gassi*, Malabar chicken curry and *Ulli theyyal dace* that will make you feel warm this season. **Date:** Till December 31 **Time:** 12 pm to 12 am **Venue:** Searock Cookhouse, Connaught Place.

Farzi cafe presents delightful dishes like Classic Mac n Cheese with chilli cheese toast, Chinjabi chilli chicken with bell pepper trio, *Keema goli anardana*, Traditional butter chicken, Chicken and basil penne arrabiata and more. **Date:** Till December 31 **Price:** ₹2,200 (for two) **Venue:** Farzi cafe, DLF Cyber City.

PARMESAN PANNA COTTA WITH CHERRY TOMATO CONFIT FRIED BASIL



WHAT YOU NEED

- Garlic clove: 1
- Thin cream: 250 ml
- Thickened cream: 150 ml
- Thyme: 3 sprigs
- Grated parmesan reggiano and extra shaved cheese: 100 gm
- Gelatin leaves: 3
- Vine-ripened cherry tomatoes: 4 sprigs



● Olive oil

● Balsamic vinegar: 2 tbsp

● Baby basil leaves and grilled bread

METHOD

- Oil four half cup Dariele moulds. Place garlic in a saucepan with creams and thyme sprigs over a medium heat.
- Bring it below boiling point and then stir in cheese. Set it aside for 30 minutes to infuse.

- Soak gelatin leaves in cold water for five minutes to soften. Re-heat cream until its below boiling point. Squeeze gelatin to remove excess water, then add leaves to cream and stir to dissolve. Strain into a jug and then pour into moulds. Chill for at least four hours to set, preferably overnight.
- Pre-heat oven to 190 degree celsius for about 30 minutes before serving.

- Place tomatoes on a tray and then season and drizzle with oil. Roast for five minutes or until it starts to wilt. Drizzle with half the balsamic.
- Run a knife around panna cotta moulds and then turn out onto plates. Drizzle with remaining balsamic and serve with tomatoes, shaved parmesan, basil and bread.

Courtesy: Executive Chef, Neelabh Sahay at Novotel Kolkata Hotel and Residences.

RECIPES



GANDANE KA SAAG

WHAT YOU NEED

- Sarson saag (chopped): 500 gm
- Spinach: 600 gm
- Methi (chopped): 100 gm
- Onion: 200 gm
- Cumin: 20 gm
- Coriander powder: 20 gm
- Turmeric powder: 30 gm
- Chilli: 40 gm
- Ghee: 3 tbsp
- Kashmiri chilli: 10 gm
- Butter: 100 gm
- Kasaori methi: 20 gm
- Cream: 100 ml
- Garlic: 50 gm
- Ginger: 10 gm
- Oil: 20 ml
- Salt to taste

METHOD

- Deep fry corn chips. Then sprinkle salt and crushed pepper corn.
- Arrange nachos on a plate, spread half of bean chilli on top to cover them.
- Spread 45 gm of cheddar and mozzarella cheese on top. Spread jalapenos.
- Repeat the steps.
- Place the loaded nachos in the oven. Cook until the cheese melts and is bubbly.
- Remove the cooked nachos from the oven. Slide the nachos on a clean and warm plate.
- Sprinkle salsa and chopped cilantro on top.
- Using a spoon, place a dollop of sour cream on the top of the nachos. Serve immediately.

Courtesy: Chef Shadab Ahmed at Jyran — Tandoor Dining & Lounge.

India continue T20 auditions

Captain Kohli makes white ball return as Rahul, Pant, Samson look to make most of Windies series and book World Cup ticket



Kieron Pollard attends training session AP

PTI ■ HYDERABAD

The likes of KL Rahul and Rishabh Pant will be aiming to cement their places in the squad as India continue auditions for next year's T20 World Cup when they take on the West Indies in a three-match T20 series, starting here today.

India will continue their preparations for the T20 World Cup in Australia and many players, whose places are not yet secure, will try to impress the team management and selectors with their performances against the West Indies.

One such name is Rahul. In the absence of injured opener Shikhar Dhawan, the series will provide the stylish right-handed batsman, who holds a good record in T20s, a very good opportunity to secure his place as Rohit Sharma's partner up the order.

In 31 T20s, Rahul has amassed 974 runs at an average of 42.74 with 110 not out being his highest score. He is also a prolific scorer in the IPL.

Besides Rahul, another individual who would like to answer his critics with solid performances is Pant.

Seen as MS Dhoni's successor, Rishabh has endured a slump in form post ICC World Cup and was heavily criticised for throwing his wicket away on multiple occasions.

Even his glove-work came under heavy scrutiny and the left-hander was dropped in the longest format of the game and Wriddhiman Saha regained his place in the playing XI.

With the selectors bringing in talented Sanju Samson in the squad and talks of Dhoni coming out of his sabbatical soon, it's high time for Pant to either perform or lose his place in the squad.

The series is also huge for Samson. Although he was named in the T20 squad against Bangladesh, the Kerala 'keeper-batsman didn't get a



India's captain Virat Kohli gestures during a training session ahead of their first T20 against Windies AP

single opportunity in the series and was only picked for this rubber after Dhawan sustained a knee injury.

It is certain that Pant will be the first choice wicketkeeper but in case he fails again, it remains to be seen whether the team management gives Samson an opportunity, which he certainly deserves.

On the bowling front, there are several notable comebacks with the likes of Kuldeep Yadav, Mohammed Shami, and Bhuvneshwar Kumar returning to the side's T20 setup.

The duo of Kuldeep and Chahal, also known as *Kulcha*, will reunite after a long time. Kuldeep last featured in the shortest format in February 2019 against New Zealand.

The find of the Bangladesh series, Deepak Chahar, is also expected to play a big role alongside Shami and Bhuvneshwar in the past attack.

West Indies, on the other hand,

would be looking for revenge after being dismantled by India 3-0 in their own backyard in August.

Having been entrusted with the captaincy responsibility, Kieron Pollard will look to lead from the front.

With Nicholas Pooran ruled out of the first T20 because of a four-match ban for ball-tampering, the onus would be on Evin Lewis and Lendl Simmons, Shimron Hetmyer to guide West Indies batting line-up.

Keeping in mind the T20 World Cup, the West Indies are also trying out various combinations and have drafted in quite a few new faces in the team.

The visitors have opted for young Brandon King, Khary Pierre, Sherfane Rutherford, Keesrick Williams and Hayden Walsh Jr over experienced players like Carlos Brathwaite, Andre Russell and Dwayne Bravo.

PERFORMANCE IN T20IS						
Type (rankings)	P	W	L	T	N/R	Success%
India (5)	123	76	43	1	3	63.41
West Indies (10)	116	50	59	3	4	46.12
India v West Indies	14	8	5	—	1	60.71

HIGHEST TOTALS		
India	245-6 in 20 overs at Lauderhill	27-08-2016
West Indies	244-4 in 20 overs at Lauderhill	27-08-2016

LOWEST TOTALS		
India	153-7 in 20 overs at Lord's	12-06-2009
West Indies	95-9 in 20 overs at Lauderhill	03-08-2019

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West Indies	95-9 in 20 overs at Lauderhill	03-08-2019

TOP INDIVIDUAL SCORES		
India	111* Rohit Sharma at Lucknow	06-11-2018
West Indies	125* Evin Lewis at Kingston	09-07-2017

BEST BOWLING		
India	3-4 Deepak Chahar at Providence	06-08-2019
West Indies	4-16 Darren Sammy at Port of Spain	04-06-2011

We all need to support Pant: Kohli

PTI ■ HYDERABAD

India captain Virat Kohli on Thursday threw his weight behind the under-fire Rishabh Pant, asserting that he wouldn't let the young wicketkeeper-batsman feel isolated as he battles a slump in form.

The skipper fully backed the 22-year-old, saying it is the team's collective responsibility to support Pant in the trying times.

"We certainly believe in Rishabh's ability. As you say, it's (also) the player's responsibility to do well, work hard and I agree but I think it's a collective responsibility of everyone around us as well to give that player some space to do that," he said.

"If he misses a chance or something, people can't shout. It's not respectful because no player would like that to happen," he added.

Kohli said he expects the crowd in India to get behind the youngster, who was booed in the last series against Bangladesh.

TEAMS: India: Virat Kohli (c), Rohit Sharma, KL Rahul, Shikhar Dhawan, Rishabh Pant, Manish Pandey, Shreyas Iyer, Shivam Dube, Ravindra Jadeja, Washington Sundar, Yuzvendra Chahal, Kuldeep Yadav, Deepak Chahar, Bhuvneshwar, Shami.

Windies: Kieron Pollard (c), Fabian Allen, Brandon King, Denesh Ramdin, Sheldon Cottrell, Evin Lewis, Sherfane Rutherford, Hetmyer, Khary Pierre, Lendl Simmons, Jason Holder, Hayden Walsh Jr, Keemo Paul, Kesrick Williams.



Pant arrives for training ahead of 1st T20 AP

"You are playing in your own country and you should get support rather than always thinking what mistake is this guy going to make. No one wants to be in that position," he said.

"He can't be isolated to such an extent that he gets nervous on the field. If you want him to do well and win matches for India all of us collectively should make him feel like he belongs and we are here to do things for him rather than against him," Kohli added.

'Only one spot to be filled in pace attack'

PTI ■ HYDERABAD

India captain Virat Kohli on Thursday said there is only one spot left to be filled in the team's pace attack for next year's T20 World Cup in Australia, indicating that Jasprit Bumrah, Bhuvneshwar Kumar and Mohammed Shami are almost certain to make the cut.

"The fight obviously is for one spot and I think more or less three guys have made a place for themselves. It's going to be a healthy competition and it will be interesting to see how it pans out," Kohli said.

Referring to India's problem of plenty in pace bowling, Kohli said, as a captain, he couldn't have been happier.

"It's not that big an issue for us. I think Bhuvni (Bhuvneshwar) and (Jasprit) Bumrah are experienced bowlers. They have been very consistent in T20 cricket. Deepak (Chahar) has come in and has bowled really well," he told reporters.

"(Mohammed) Shami is coming back and he is bowling really well. If he gets into a rhythm and specifically works on what's required in T20 cricket then he will be very, very useful in places like Australia, especially with his ability to pick wickets with the new ball.

He has enough pace to execute yorkers," he added.

"Also couple of more guys are under the scanner for sealing that spot along with three seamers. It's a good position to be in because everyone is bowling really well," the India captain said.

Kohli was also honest enough to admit India's problems in T20 cricket.

"I don't think we have been very good while batting first in T20 cricket and defending low totals as well. So those are two things we really need to focus on," he said.

The duo of Kuldeep Yadav and Yuzvendra Chahal, will also reunite after a long time. Besides Washington Sundar and Ravindra Jadeja are also in the squad.

And Kohli hinted that all the four could earn a ticket to Australia.

"Having two wrist spinners is big advantage when you are playing in Australia in big fields. There might be some games where both might play together. But in T20 cricket, it's all about balance and predominantly we see one guy playing with Jadeja and Washy (Sundar) because it gives us all kinds of variety in the bowling attack.

"You need to have six bowling options in T20 cricket. That's the basic rule. You can't go with five expecting everyone to bowl four good overs. I think that is the balance we need to create," he said.

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WI need to protect young talents: Pollard

PTI ■ HYDERABAD

West Indies T20 captain Kieron Pollard on Thursday said young cricketers in his country need to be protected from "vultures of the game" when they are initiated into international cricket.

West Indies have opted for some young players in their 15-member team for the limited overs series and Pollard said they need to be given enough opportunity to showcase their talent.

"They (Brandon King and Keesrick Williams) have been pretty good. It's good that we have young guys coming in from the Caribbean Premier League (CPL). They are excited to represent West Indies. But the problem is, we as individuals



Alzarri Joseph & Brandon King during Windies training session AP

try to judge people too quickly," Pollard said during pre-match conference.

"We need to have patience. At the end of the day we need results but sometimes you have to be honest with yourself. We look forward to these talents showing the world what they can do. Sometime you need to have umbrella over them and protect them from the vultures out there to pull them down,"

he added.

Youngsters like Brandon King, Khary Pierre, Sherfane Rutherford, Keesrick Williams and Hayden Walsh Jr were preferred for the India tour to experienced players like Carlos Brathwaite, Andre Russell and Dwayne Bravo.

"They (young players) need experience and we need to back these guys and see how far they can go because we have seen their talent, their attitude. It's just a matter of trying to teach them and ease them into the world of international cricket which we know is a very tough place."

Talking about the upcoming series, Pollard said his team will look to use the experience of playing in India to challenge the hosts.

"We play a lot of cricket in India. It's just a matter of using our experience and hopefully that experience can be a good step for us."

Pollard said his side need to improve their collective game as a team to give India a tough fight in the series.

"We are coming up against India, a formidable team No1 side going around and I think that's good for us, getting an opportunity to come across them. We look at it as a challenge and have to deal with what is presented in front of us," he said.

"We are looking to do the basics right, use our opportunities every time we step on the cricket field. We are not focussing on too many individuals. We collectively as a team is looking to improve our cricket," said the visiting captain.

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Third umpire will call front foot no balls

PTI ■ DUBAI

Front foot no balls in the upcoming T20 and One-Day International series between India and the West Indies will be decided by the third umpire and not the on-field officials, the International Cricket Council (ICC) announced on Thursday.

The series, comprising three T20Is and an equal number of ODIs, starts today in Hyderabad and technology to call front foot no balls will be put to trial in it.

"Throughout the trial, the Third Umpire will be responsible for monitoring every ball bowled and identifying whether there has been any front foot infringement," the ICC said in a statement.

"If there has been an infringement on the front foot, the Third Umpire will communicate this to the On-Field Umpire who will subsequently call a no ball. As a result, the On-Field Umpire will not call a front foot no ball without the advice of the Third Umpire," it added.

The ICC said the benefit of doubt in close calls will lie with the bowler.

"...And if a late no ball call is communicated, then the On-Field Umpire will rescind a dismissal (if applicable) and call no ball. The On-Field Umpire will remain responsible for other in-game decisions in the usual way," the ICC said.

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KXIP felt I haven't delivered: Ashwin

IAN S ■ NEW DELHI

He might not be in the scheme of things when it comes to white-ball cricket, but off-spinner R Ashwin hasn't given up hope of playing for India in the World T20 in Australia.

"I enjoy playing day in, day out. But I felt somewhere in my career, because of the white ball snub and injuries, I had lost the joy of playing the game, which was very very dangerous for me. I could not watch the game on TV," R Ashwin told *Mumbai Mirror*.

"That was something I did not enjoy. Thankfully I have gotten over it. I took the help of people and I have gotten over it. World Twenty20 is a realistic goal for everybody. Who does not want to represent India at the competition. Yuvraj Singh came back for World T20 in 2014 and then in 2017 Champions Trophy. I am

only 33."

Ashwin also said that his IPL move to Delhi Capitals wasn't really something that he asked for.

"My stint at Kings XI was fantastic to say the least. The experience enriched me in every possible way. I was given the role of captaincy, that was new boundaries I explored. Within my purview, I thought I did a fair job, if not a very good job, but these decisions were not mine entirely," Ashwin said.

"There are other factors, the owners did feel I haven't delivered which is true because I could not take the team through to the playoffs in both the seasons. You can give excuses why we could not do that, but I am someone who takes it under my chin and admits that 'yes I couldn't deliver. The trade was more initiated rather than my doing,' he said.



India complete century of medals

Athletes win whopping 50 medals on Thursday to breach 100 marks and consolidate top spot

AGENCIES ■ KATHMANDU

Led by strong performances by Lwushu players and swimmers, India breached the 100-medal mark by winning a whopping 50 medals on the fourth day of competitions to consolidate its top position in the South Asian Games here on Thursday.

India secured its best medal haul on a single day so far in the Games to lead the medal tally with 58 Gold, 41 Silver and 19 Bronze for a total of 118 medals to leave hosts Nepal far behind in the second spot.

India added 26 Gold, 18 Silver and 6 Bronze on Thursday. The bulk of India's medals came from swimming, wushu, weightlifting and athletics. India's Gold rush was triggered by wushu with as many as seven yellow medals coming from it.

Suraj Singh fetched the first wushu Gold of the day in men's gushu all-round event before Y Sanathoi Devi (women's sansou 52kg), Punam (women's 75kg),

All-Indian final in badminton singles

NEW DELHI: Indian shuttlers Ashmita Chaliha and Gayatri Gopichand registered convincing victories in their respective semi-finals on Thursday to set up an all-Indian summit clash in the women's singles category in Pokhara.

While, top-seed Ashmita thrashed her Sri Lankan opponent Achini Ratnasiri 21-5, 21-7, Gayatri also had an easy task against Dilmi Dias of Sri Lanka during a 21-17, 21-14 win. Men singles semi-finals also saw India's dominance as Aryaman Tondon and Siril Verma set up final against each other after winning their semi-final matches.

Deepika (women's 70kg), Sushila (women's 65kg), Roshibina Devi (women's 60kg) and Sunil Singh (men's 52kg) also clinched top spots in their respective events.

Swimming accounted for the most medals for India on Thursday with 11, of which four were Gold, six Silver and one Bronze.

es. Top-seeded Siril beat Sri Lanka's Dinuka Kraunaratne 21-9, 21-12 in straight sets. However, Aryaman had to fight hard during his 21-18, 14-21, 21-18 win against second seed Nepal's Ratnajith Tamang.

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Taekwondo players' impressive show also continued as they gave India six medals — 3 Gold, 2 Silver and 1 Bronze.



Aryaman Tondon in action during SAG

Track and field athletes had a relatively quieter day after leading from the front in the past two days as they pocketed six medals, including one Gold, on Thursday.

Triple jumper Karthik Unnikrishnan was the lone Gold winner in athletics as he cleared a distance of 16.47m while compatriot Mohammed Salahuddin jumped 16.16m to win the Silver.

SINGLES

CELTIC STRIKE LATE AS RANGERS SLIP

GLASGOW: Scott Brown's dramatic injury-time strike gave Celtic a 2-1 win over Hamilton to move the Hoops two points clear at the top of the Scottish Premiership as Rangers let a two-goal lead slip to draw 2-2 at Aberdeen. Celtic looked on course for a routine evening when Ryan Christie pounced to score from close range in the 13th minute to put the home side in front. But the Accies stayed in the game and seemed to have secured an unlikely point when Marios Ogmopoe bundled in a leveller in the 90th minute. Celtic, though, snatched winner when captain Brown burst into the box to fire two minutes into injury time.

BARCELONA RAISE FATI'S RELEASE CLAUSE

BARCELONA: Barcelona have raised teenage star Ansu Fati's release clause from 100 million to 170 million euros (\$188.3 million). The 17-year-old's release clause will also be bumped up to 400 million euros — almost double the world-record 222 million euros PSG paid Barcelona for Neymar — when he signs a professional contract with the first team. "FC Barcelona and the player Ansu Fati have agreed on an improved contract until June 30, 2022, with two years optional, and on his release clause, which moves from 100 to 170 million euros," Barca said in a statement.

KHEDIRA OUT FOR THREE MONTHS

TURIN: Juventus midfielder Sami Khedira has been ruled out for three months after undergoing knee surgery, the Italian champions announced. The 2014 World Cup winner had surgery in his native Germany. "The operation was perfectly successful and the player will be able to start rehabilitation immediately," Juventus said in a statement. "The expected recovery time is around three months." The 32-year-old has played a key role this season where he featured in 13 of the 14 league games.

BOPANNA AIMS TO PLAY QATAR OPEN

MUMBAI: Forced out of India's recent Davis Cup tie due to a shoulder injury, doubles specialist Rohan Bopanna said his recovery is on the right track and he plans to compete at the Qatar Open in January. "It (the shoulder) is getting better and I just started training, maybe 2-3 days ago. So, I have