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WORLD 12 TRUMP IMPEACHMENT CHARGES MUST COME SWIFTLY: DEMOCRATS

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UNCERTAINTY BOTHERED ME: RASIKA DUGAL 13 VIVACITY

Extrajudicial justice for Hyd rapists-killers

All 4 accused were taken to crime scene for reconstruction of events, shot in encounter

NAVEEN KUMAR/PNS ■ HYDERABAD

In the early hours of Friday, the nation woke up to the news that the four men accused of brutally gangraping and immolating a 26-year-old veterinarian were shot dead in an alleged exchange of fire with the police between 5.45 am and 6.15 am. The four were taken by a 10-member police team to the scene of their crime at Chatanpally, 50 km near Hyderabad, for the reconstruction of events as part of the investigation into the rape-murder.

More than eight hours after the four rape-murder accused were killed in the encounter, the police allowed the media into the area that had been cordoned off until then.

The four bodies lay close to each other, barely 5 metres apart. Areef, who, according to the police, smothered and killed the vet after she was raped, could be seen holding a gun in his right hand. In a yellow T-shirt and jeans, his body lay on the ground face-up, no wounds visible on the body, but blood underneath him suggested that he was shot in the back. Perpendicular to him was the body of Jollu Shiva, who was wearing a white shirt. It was evident from his body, face up, that he received the gunshot in the chest. A few metres away was the body of Jollu Naveen in an orange shirt.

Speaking about the alleged encounter, Cyberabad Police Commissioner VC Sajjanar said that an investigation was required to reconstruct the crime scene in the November 27 rape-murder case, hence the four accused were taken to the Chatanpally culvert where the vet's charred body was found late a day later.

"When the cops were questioning them about the location



Forensic experts collect evidence from the spot where four men accused of raping and murdering a woman veterinarian were shot dead in an encounter with the police, at Shadnagar of Rangareddy district in Hyderabad on Friday. PTI

of the missing cell phone, the four accused tried to attack the police with sticks and stones. Areef snatched a revolver from the police. The cops present at the site told the four to surrender. However, they did not heed the warnings. This resulted in crossfire. They continued to attack cops and were eventually shot dead," Sajjanar said.

The accused were shot dead barely 500 metres from the Chatanpally underpass, where they had set the veterinarian body's on fire last week.

According to sources, the accused were taken from Cheralpally jail around midnight to the scene of the offence, which is about 70 km away, as there was a threat posed to them by the public. The encounter took place in an agricultural field owned by one S Satyam.

"They were not handcuffed. They ganged up and assaulted us with the sticks

found here. Two of them snatched weapons and fired at us. A sub-inspector and a constable suffered injuries in the crossfire, the two have been admitted to hospital. One of the accused attacked S-I Venkateswarlu with a stone, he was hit on the right side of his forehead and constable Arvind

was hit on his right shoulder with a stick. He suffered soft tissue injury. Condition of both policemen is stable. Two revolvers were recovered from Areef and Chenakeshavulu," revealed Sajjanar. Doctors from Mahabubnagar hospital conducted postmortem at the spot.

Replied to a question about the criticism from NHRC and others regarding the encounter, he said, "The law has done its duty."

Preserve bodies of 4 accused till Dec 9, orders HC

Hyderabad: The Telangana High Court on Friday directed the State Government to preserve the bodies of four accused in the rape and murder of a young veterinarian till 8pm on December 9.

The High Court gave the order on a representation received in the office of the Chief Justice, requesting judicial intervention

CRIME & PUNISHMENT!

November 27: Around 9.30 pm, the 25-year old woman employed at a state-run hospital goes missing after she left for a clinic to Gachibowli around 5.50 pm from her home in Shamsabad area

November 28: At 3.10 am, vet's sister files a missing complaint, saying some people had offered help to the victim whose two-wheeler had a punctured tyre

9 am: Woman's charred body found under a culvert on NH 44.

November 29: Areef (26), Jollu Shiva (20), Jollu Naveen (20) and Chintakunta Chennakeshavulu arrested. They confess to raping, killing and immolating the victim

November 30: 3 cops suspended for delay in registering an FIR

December 1: Telangana CM orders a fast track court

December 4: Court sends the four to 7-day police custody

Dec 6: All 4 taken to the spot for crime recreation, shot in encounter



People throw flower petals on policemen guarding the area where the rape-murder accused were shot, in Shadnagar on Friday. AP

SEQUENCE OF EVENTS

- All the four accused were brought to the crime scene early in the morning for the reconstruction of the sequence of events
- As soon as the police personnel reached the crime spot, the four accused got together and attacked the cops with sticks and stones, police said, adding they then snatched the weapons of cops
- One of the accused, Mohammed Arif, was the first to open fire at the police personnel, said the Cyberabad Police Commissioner
- The cops asked the accused to surrender, the Commissioner added
- When the accused did not pay heed to warning by the cops, the police personnel retaliated in self-defence
- The encounter lasted for 45 minutes from 5.45 am to 6.30am, according to the police
- Two policemen sustained injuries in the encounter

Same cop, same ending: Surreal tale of 2 crimes against women

PTI ■ HYDERABAD

It's a tale of two encounters 11 years apart with many similarities — both in December and both featuring VC Sajjanar in a central role.

Cyberabad Commissioner Sajjanar, who was hailed by many as a hero on Friday for the encounter killing of four men accused of gangraping and murdering a Hyderabad veterinarian, was superintendent of police in 2008.



The story began in Warangal on December 10 that year. Swapnika and Pranitha, both electrical engineering students, were riding home on a two-wheeler when three youths on a bike came alongside and threw sulphuric acid on them. Swapnika, who was riding pillion, was the target and took

the full impact of the acid attack. Pranitha, who was wearing a helmet, was not so badly injured. The incident led to protests across the then unified Andhra Pradesh.

Sajjanar headed the probe. Soon, three men — S Srinivas, D Sanjay and P Harikrishna — were arrested. Three days later came the news about the three being killed in the encounter, propelling Sajjanar to the status of instant hero.

Encounter evokes euphoria, concerns

PNS ■ NEW DELHI/HYDERABAD

The encounter killing of the four men accused of gangraping and murdering a Hyderabad veterinarian on Friday set off a chorus of appreciation as well as concern and criticism among general public, politicians and human right activists.

People from different walks of life, including students, in Telangana on Friday showered praise on Cyberabad Police Commissioner VC Sajjanar with some performing "milk bath" to his portraits in Hyderabad and elsewhere.

School and college students and members of different organisations raised slogans like "Jai Police and Jai Jai Sajjanar".

"We are proud of Sajjanar Sir. He has ensured justice. We want police official like you," said a schoolgirl in Hyderabad.

The families of the Hyderabad veterinarian victim and of Nirbhaya, the 23-year-old paramedic student who died days after being brutally gangraped in Delhi in December 2012, have both come out in support of the policemen involved in the encounter.

The BJP, the Congress and the entire political class was



Women offer sweet to policemen as they commend the Hyderabad Police for its action against the four accused in the gang-rape and murder of a 25-year-old veterinarian, in Hyderabad on Friday. PTI

divided in its reaction to the encounter killing.

BSP chief Mayawati praised the Hyderabad Police saying, "The action that has been taken by the Hyderabad Police is praiseworthy. In UP, this (rape) is happening every day not just in one district but in every district."

Members of Parliament, like Jaya Bachchan, saw it as speedy justice for the rape victim, others such as Maneka Gandhi and Shashi Tharoor said extrajudicial killings are a matter of concern.

Bihar Deputy Chief Minister Sushil Kumar Modi slammed the Telangana Police while BJP's Telangana BJP

spokesperson K Krishna Sagar Rao said India is not "Banana Republic."

"However, India is not a banana republic and is bound by legal and constitutional framework. Politics over crime cannot set a right precedence. Telangana State Government and DGP should call a Press conference immediately," the BJP said.

"As a responsible national party the BJP will react only after official police statement," he said.

Senior Congress leader P Chidambaram, who is in Ranchi, said an enquiry into the matter to ascertain the facts were needed.

Fresh notification issued for auction of 20 mines

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

The State Government on Friday issued a fresh notification for auction of 20 mines, whose lease period would expire on March 31, 2020. The last date for sale of tender document is December 30.

Identifying errors in its earlier notices for auction of the 20 iron ore and manganese mines, the Government had decided to annul the previous bidding process and go for a fresh one. The Directorate of Mines had received bids from 177 companies for auction of the 20 mines.



"It was detected that apart from subsidiary companies, the holding companies had also applied for the bidding in gross violation of the Mining Tender Act," Director of Mines Dipak Mohanty said.

Taking note of this unfair

bidding, the Government felt that a fair auction process could not be ensured as the price and premium discovery couldn't be determined, he said, adding that the tender process would be completed by March 31 next year.

Money to be returned for wrong challans

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

After the complaints of the people receiving 'erroneous challans', Transport Minister Padmanabha Behera on Friday said the money would be refunded in such cases.

"Those who are violating traffic rules and escaping without paying penalties will be identified through CCTV cameras installed at various traffic junctions. Based on the CCTV camera footage, challans will be issued against the violators," Behera said.

Asked about some instances where challans have

been wrongly issued to motorists, Behera said, "It should not happen. If there is any such instance of mistakes, money will certainly be refunded to the people," the Minister said.

In some examples of wrong challans, a car owner in Cuttack received a challan for not wearing 'helmet'. In another case, another car owner of the Silver City received a challan for multiple traffic rule violations at Vani Vihar Square in Bhubaneswar in August. But he alleged that he was in Cuttack and didn't go to Bhubaneswar on that day.

CAPSULE

32 RLY OFFICERS GIVEN PREMATURE RETIREMENT

New Delhi: In a rare move, the railways has prematurely retired 32 of its officers above the age of 50 years in "public interest" on grounds of inefficiency, doubtful integrity and conduct unbecoming of a public servant as part of a periodic review, according to a statement.

WIFE, DAUGHTER-IN-LAW KILLED OVER LESBIANISM

New Delhi: A 64-year-old retired teacher was arrested on Friday for allegedly killing his wife and daughter-in-law in Rohini here suspecting them of being in illicit relationships, police said.

15.86 LAKH CANCER PATIENTS IN 2018: GOVT

New Delhi: There were 15.86 lakh cancer cases in the country in 2018, Union Health Minister Harsh Vardhan said.

ACB EXONERATES AJIT IN IRRIGATION SCAM

Nagpur: Maharashtra's Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) has given a clean chit to NCP leader Ajit Pawar in the multi-crore Vidarbha irrigation scam.

No evidence suggests Kalinga War, Says Sri Lankan writer

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

The present historical and archaeological evidences do not suggest that the Kalinga War and the related massacre had taken place in Odisha, said Sri Lankan writer Daya Dissanayake, who has authored book "Who is Ashoka?", here on Friday.

Participating in the monthly Kalinga Literary Corner, Dissanayake said many interpretations made to the historical facts by British and European scholars are self-contradictory and do not represent the whole truth.

Giving an example, he pointed out that the rock edict at the Daya River does not mention about Kalinga War. Instead, the incident has been mentioned at a rock edict far away from Odisha.

"It is possible that Ashoka had made this edict to convey



people how he had changed and, in a way, tried to propagate his 'Dhamma'," the author said.

To emphasise his point, he added, "To me, it seems odd that he had to place a rock edict where he himself engineered the massacre."

The KLF Corner, an initiative of the Kalinga Literary Festival, intends to popularise literary personalities and literature on a regular basis.

Onion stolen from vegetable shop in Salepur

Cops begin probe after complaint lodged

PNS ■ CUTTACK

Calling onions an expensive commodity would be pretty much an understatement these days. And in the State, where the onion price has touched the Rs 150-per kilo mark, the tube vegetable has apparently become more precious for thieves than other commodities.

In a glaring example, a vegetable vendor of Raisunguda market under the Salepur police station in Cuttack district on Friday lodged a complaint that onion weighing around 10 kg was stolen from his shop on Thursday night.

As per the complaint lodged with the local police,



miscreants broke open the shop of Karunakar Barik and stole the onion.

"I went back to my house after closing my shop last night. When I reached here this morning, I found the shop's door ajar. Surprisingly, only the stock of onion was missing while other vegetables were intact," said Barik.

Besides, the miscreants also looted seven other shops, including an electrical appliance repairing store, a sweets shop and a stationery outlet in the market on Thursday night. All the eight vendors have lodged complaints, acting on which the Salepur police have begun an investigation.

Prez to arrive in State today

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

President Ram Nath Kovind would arrive here on Saturday on a two-day visit to the State. Reaching in the evening, he would stay at the Raj Bhavan at night.

On Sunday morning, he would lay the foundation-stone of a Paika Memorial at Barunei near Khordha town and later attend the closing session of the platinum jubilee celebrations of the Utkal University before returning to New Delhi in evening. More than 30 platoons of police personnel would be deployed in Bhubaneswar and Khordha in view of the President's visit, said in-charge DGP Satyajit Mohanty.

Security arrangements have been done as per the provision of the Blue Book, Mohanty said after reviewing the security arrangements.

Puri rape: Another accused arrested

PNS ■ PURI

The Kumbharapada police on Friday arrested one more accused in the sensational Puri gangrape case. The arrestee Rama Chandra Pradhan is a resident of Aliaputa village in the Brahmagiri area in Puri district.

One more accused involved in the case is still at large.

This is the third arrest in the case. Earlier, dismissed police Constable and prime accused Jeetendra Sethy and one Rajesh Sethy were arrested over their alleged involvement in the offence.

A case has been registered against the accused under relevant Sections of the IPC and the POCSO Act. Investigation is underway.

Santali language makes debut in Rajya Sabha

Sarojini pleads for nat'l recognition for Raghunath Murmu

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

Santali language made its debut in Rajya Sabha on Friday when BJD member Sarojini Hembram spoke in the tribal mother tongue to raise a matter of urgent public importance during the Zero Hour.

She also demanded Bharat Ratna for Pandit Raghunath Murmu, who in 1925 created the Ol Chiki script for Santali, which is an Austroasiatic-Munda language spoken mostly by tribals in Odisha.

Hembram said Pt. Murmu is revered by tribals as a cultural icon in the State and the State Government has already recognised his contribution. Now, it is the turn of the nation to do so, she said.

Rajya Sabha Chairman M Venkaiah Naidu, who has encouraged MPs to use their local languages for raising Zero



Hour mentions while ensuring that English and Hindi translations are available to other members on headphones, said this was the first time that Santali language was used in the Upper House.

Naidu said the interpretation in Hindi was done under a new scheme by a non-regular employee engaged for the purpose. The interpreter, he said, was a PhD student.

The Rajya Sabha has regular employees who translate statements in different recognised Indian languages into Hindi and English. Outside language experts have been engaged for translation on the basis of need.

Dutee Chand turns hotel entrepreneur



PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

Once Olympic sprinter Dutee Chand has now stepped into business enterprise.

Recently, she opened two hotels named 'DT Delights' in Bhubaneswar with an objective to provide jobs to unemployed youths and establish herself as an entrepreneur.

Initially, Dutee, who has selected the twin city of

Bhubaneswar and Cuttack for her hotel projects, has a target of launch a chain of 100 hotels in next two to three years across the State.

Dutee has opened two hotels, one at Sailashree Vihar and the other near the AIIMS, Bhubaneswar, as a partnership business. An agreement has been made with OYO, an online hotel booking application, for 10 years. Her business associate is one Saroj Kumar

Mishra. "Initially, we received zero response as the rooms were not filled with guests after opening up the hotels. Later, the issue was resolved. Now, we register record bookings for the rooms."

"More than 10 youths from my locality have been engaged in my hotels. With an increase in the number of hotels in future, the recruitment per-

centage will rise accordingly," Dutee told the 'Sambad', adding that she has spent all her reward money in her business.

Besides her target for 100 hotels, she is also planning to open a five-star hotel designed for Olympians, she said.

Moreover, Dutee also wants to help the poor weavers of her native place in Jajpur district. "I am going to set up a trust that will work for the weavers," she revealed.

Welcome rally for Prez held in Khordha



PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

Students, Paikas, Dalei Dalabeheras and members belonging to various socio-cultural organisations on Friday held a pre-welcome rally here for President Ram Nath Kovind, who would visit the town on Sunday to inaugurate a Paika Memorial.

The Bharat Samarkala Mahasanga and the Odisha Beera Mahasanga organised the rally. The rally started from Gadapokhari and moved through the town. Later, a team handed over a memorandum addressed the

President to the district Collector demanding renovation of Khordha Garh and establishment of a martial arts academy, a museum, a Paika Bhawan and a ring road around the Barunei Hill.

Odisha Beera Mahasanga president Dr Prakash Srichandan, Mukunda Prasad Dalabehera, Mahammad Motahar Isuf, Akhila Bharat Samarkala Mahasanga president Dr Dillip Srichandan, general secretary Narendra Kumar Prushti, Paika Guru Dinabandhu Biswal and Smruti Sansad secretary Abani Jena led the rally.

₹9K for PF pensioners demanded



PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

INTUC national vice-president and former MP Dr Rama Chandra Khuntia on Thursday demanded pension of Rs 9,000 per month to

Provident Fund pensioners. He was addressing a gathering at Jantar Mantar in New Delhi.

He said that it is shameful that retired employees are getting a monthly pension of less than Rs 2,000 which is not

obviously enough to meet their daily needs.

Dr Khuntia demanded that the Central Government look into the matter at the soonest and provide pension of Rs 9,000.

CM distributes free laptops to 15K students

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

To encourage them for upgrading their skills, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik on Friday distributed free laptops to meritorious Plus II pass-out students under the Biju Sashaktikaran Yojana.

A total of 15,000 students who successfully cleared the annual +2 examination in different streams including Science, Arts, Commerce and vocational courses have been selected to get free laptops under the scheme for the year 2019-20.

This year, the authorities made changes in selection criteria under ST programme for the sake of transparency.

Instead of choosing top 15,000 students at the State level in different streams and cate-



gories, top students from each district in different streams have been selected by a selection committee constituted by

the Government, said an official notification. This method was adopted to give better representation of meritorious stu-

dents of all 30 districts.

Notably, 15,000 free laptops are being distributed among +2 pass-out meritorious students

since 2013. As many as 90,203 students of different streams have been covered under the scheme so far.

Sambalpur denizens congratulate Hyd cops

Ex-IAS officer dubs rights activists as CIA beneficiaries

PNS ■ SAMBALPUR

People from all walks of life here welcomed the police encounter in Hyderabad and killing four accused on Friday in the case of rape and murder of veterinary doctor Priyanka Reddy.

The only discussion in offices to tea stall was the Hyderabad encounter. Students of colleges and universities shouted slogans supporting

the police action and congratulating the cops. "This was the most befitting action against the criminals," students of the GM University said while congregating in front of the university's main gate to support the police. They also sent congratulation letters to top Hyderabad cops to boost their moral further.

Though a few human rights activists and social workers interpreted the encounter in a different way, common people did not buy their idea. A retired IAS officer, in his Facebook posting, dubbed the activists as members of CIA-funded organisations.

BJP points out 6 'failures' of State Govt

Seeks clarification from Chief Minister

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

The BJP on Friday alleged that the BJD Government has made six big failures during the first six months of its fifth term and demanded clarification to each of the failures from Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik.

"During the last six months, the number of atrocities against women has increased; massive irregularities have been committed in distribution of rural houses;

Central assistances for Fani have been bungled; Make in Odisha conclave has become a big failure; CAG report has proved the State Government's inefficiency; and the Government has decided to implement Central schemes after failing to get funds for running its own schemes," alleged BJP State vice-president Samir Mohanty at a Press meet here.

Mohanty further alleged that police have turned to be protectors of offenders involved in gangrape cases and many of eligible poor people have been deprived of getting houses under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana

(PMAY). He too alleged that people who had been affected in Cyclone Fani are still spending days in tents.

Companies which had expressed willingness at the Make in Odisha conclave in 2016 and 2018 have not yet invested in the State and the Government's claim of creating jobs has proved futile.

"The State Government has now decided to merge the KALIA yojana with the PM-KISSAN Nidhi Yojana. Before the last election, it was not intending to implement Central schemes. The State Government has taken the decision of KALIA-PM-KISSAN merge because it

failed to run the KALIA scheme with its own funds," alleged Mohanty further. After keeping Coastal Highway project in cold box for many years, the Government has now given its decision.

He too slammed the State Government for not implementing the Aayushman Yojana which provides free healthcare to poor people across the country.

"The Chief Minister should give clarification to people why his Government didn't implement Central schemes for so many months," demanded Mohanty.

'Don't rely on FB posts; instead dial 100'

Police advise women

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

In the wake of the recent gangrape and murder of a veterinary doctor in Hyderabad, a group of youths hailing from Cuttack have volunteered to offer help to girls and women feeling unsafe while travelling alone.

Through a Facebook (FB) post, the youths have shared their contact details along with their names and locations asking girls and women to contact them in case they feel unsafe while returning to their

homes alone. The message says, "Anytime you face a problem while returning to home, you can call me. I will drop you at your home safely as a brother."

But Twin City Commissioner of Police (CP) Sudhansu Sarangi has advised social media users not to rely on the FB post that has gone viral on social media.

Through a tweet, Sarangi urged that in distress situations women and girls should dial 100 for friendly and well-trained operators to attend to them. He also sought their feedbacks to improve the services.

CONTEMPORARIES

'Zero FIR' to help victim of out-of-jurisdiction crime



S JYOTIRANJANA

The gruesome and dastardly rape and murder of a woman veterinarian in Hyderabad, where her body was savagely charred by the perpetrators, has shaken the conscience of the nation. But what has even more shocking, humiliating and an addition of

insult to injury was the denial of Shamsabad police to register the First Information Report (FIR) citing it to be beyond its territorial jurisdiction.

So, apart from the public displeasure and angst about recurrence of such heinous crimes, a distinct debate has begun about the police inaction in registering FIR in such situations on the basis of such vague technicalities like, 'being beyond jurisdiction.'

A 'crime' is the genus of such offences which are punishable under criminal law, weighed as being against the society at large. So, the solemn policy of law is to forge a medium of expeditious registration of reports about such grave and cognizable offences, so that the volatility of the

events don't afford an opportunity to the perpetrators to escape from the clutches of law and the culprits are meaningfully brought to justice. In criminal jurisprudence, First Information Report (FIR) about a cognizable offence is elementary to set the machinery of criminal investigation into motion.

A Constitution Bench of the Supreme Court in Lalita Kumari Vs Government of UP has held that "registration of First Information Report is mandatory under Section 154 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, if the information discloses commission of a cognisable offence." But the question that looms large is about the due access and feasibility to lodge FIR, as it is a pan-India syndrome that police often refuse to register FIR in cases

pertaining to heinous offences relating to women. In such an event the policy of law to facilitate efficient and expeditious registration of FIR is summarily frustrated and the accused escapes the domain of law with ease.

However, this has been effectively answered and redressed within the scheme of the existing criminal law. The Justice Verma Committee Report recommended the provision of Zero FIR, after the December 2012 gang rape of a 23-year-old girl in Delhi. Normally, what is understood of registration of FIR is that, it is registered by a serial number in the police station having adequate territorial jurisdiction to investigate the alleged crime. But in a welcome departure from this practice, a Zero FIR can be registered in any police

station where the information about a cognisable offence is registered, irrespective of whether it has got territorial jurisdiction or not, but such FIR shall not be numbered and then be forwarded to the police station with jurisdiction, where it gets numbered and investigation commences.

There are Supreme Court verdicts, where this policy of law has been reiterated in public interest. Like in State of AP Vs Punati Ramulu and others, the court held that "Any lack of territorial jurisdiction should not have prevented the constable from recording information about cognisable offence and forwarding the same to the police station having jurisdiction over the area in which the crime was said to have been committed." In another progressive verdict, in

Satvinder Kaur Vs Government of NCT, Delhi, the Supreme Court held that, "even after investigation is over, if the Investigating Officer arrives at the conclusion that the cause of action for lodging FIR has not arisen within his territorial jurisdiction, then he is required to submit a report accordingly under Section 170 of the Criminal Procedure Code and to forward the case to the Magistrate is empowered to take cognizance of the offence."

After the Nirbhaya incident, the Union Ministry of Home Affairs has issued umpteen numbers of guidelines to the States for registration of Zero FIR, and having relying on these advisories issued by the MHA, a division bench of the Karnataka High Court, on September 19, 2019, has issued directions on the basis

of a PIL petition filed by advocate S Umapathi that, "Even if the alleged offence has been committed outside the territorial jurisdiction of the police station, FIR shall be still registered and the same shall be transferred to the appropriate police station. Besides, it is held that "The police officers should be clearly informed that the failure to comply with the direction of registration of FIR and receipt of information about cognisable offence may invite prosecution of the police officer under section 166-A of Indian Penal Code and it may also invite departmental action against them."

However, with due respect to the institution of police, we can't deny that there are plenty of instances where police have palpably failed in keeping its cadres to respect the judicial

innovation of Zero FIR. This is not about just law, it is the minimum thing we can afford to a citizen, whose right to life and liberty has been guaranteed by the State and which is alleged to have been infringed by out-laws. It can't be denied that, in a rule of law society like India, the least thing the State can guarantee is, easy access to vent grievance and its due registration in case of serious cognizable offences, in a way that doesn't humiliate the aggrieved person and is tempered with minimum humanity. Can we as a nation, allow our daughters, sisters, mothers to beg for a just hearing, when already their soul is numb with pain.

(The writer is a lawyer and can be reached at jsyotiranjana3@gmail.com)

Odisha politicians hail Telangana encounter deaths

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

Odisha politicians cutting across party lines hailed the action of Telangana police in killing four accused in an encounter at 3 am on Friday while investigating into the rape and murder case of the veterinarian in Hyderabad.

Congress leader Suresh Routrays congratulated the policemen for neutralising the accused criminals in the encounter.

"Those who are raping women should be killed in encounters so that it would act as a deterrent for such people. Almost every day women are being raped in Odisha. I urge Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik to use such strategy to eliminate rapists," Routray said.

Law Minister Pratap Jena said, "I don't know what the Human Rights Commission or other organisations will say



(about the Telangana encounter), but stern action should be taken against the rapists. In several countries, rapists are being shot dead or decapitated in full public view. In India too, we should have stringent punishment for such culprits. In my view, the Hyderabad police action was apt and the accused have been punished."

BJP vice-president Samir Mohanty said the Telangana

police deserve applause. They have acted within Constitutional framework.

Notably, there were celebrations across the country after it was reported that the Telangana police killed the rape and murder accused. People burnt crackers, distributed sweets and even showered flowers on policemen at the encounter site chanting 'Jai Police' and 'Hyderabad Police Zindabad'.

14 bogies of goods train catch fire

PNS ■ RAYAGADA



A major fire broke out in as many as 14 bogies of a coal-laden train at the Singapur Road station in Rayagada district on Thursday.

The train, which was en route to Titilagarh from Visakhapatnam, had left Rayagada station at 7 pm. When the train reached Singapur Road at 7.30 pm, the Station Master spotted the fire and asked the train driver D Namaste and Guard SS Behera to halt it. After the train stopped at platform no-3 of the Singapur Road station, railway staffs present there tried to douse the fire. Fire Services personnel from Rayagada and Kolanara also reached the spot soon after receiving the information. They managed to extinguish the blaze after a two-hour-long operation.

Doorstep delivery of LPG cylinders irregular in B'pur

Allegations galore

KRUSHNA CHANDRA PANDA ■ BRAHMAMPUR

The much-hyped policy directive of timely and hassle-free delivery of cooking gas right at the doorstep of the consumers by the Ministry of Petroleum has proved hollow since some distributors operate by their whims.

Arbitrary, discriminatory and irregular delivery of cooking gas by some of the local distributors has spread discontent among the consumers here in the silk city.

Senior advocate and resident of Dr Powel Street, KP Acharya expressed his anger over his gas distributor M/S Utkal Indane at Aska Road for receiving Indane Gas refills irregularly.

less and fabricated answers.

The distributor was delaying home delivery on sheer pretext of insufficient stock of refills or door closed, Acharya said, adding that his family members were available at home round the clock and hence, the question of 'door closed' was baseless. He used to book for refill cinder always online using company's IVRS system. In spite of the fact that he got acknowledgement message in support of his booking and thereafter a message pertaining to the generation of cash receipt, but when it comes to delivering the refill gas cylinder at doorstep, there was always a problem.

Another consumer who is a senior citizen of Gandhinagar who did not wish to be identified, said the delivery man was earning thousands of rupees a day illegally probably

encouraged by their distributors/gas agencies. In the silk city, the delivery men used to demand between Rs 20-30 for delivery of each refill cylinder, even though it should be done free.

He said if a consumer refused to pay as per the demand, the delivery was often delayed further deliberately causing inconvenience to the consumer. The distributors who ought to depute their staffs at the doorstep of consumers periodically for checking leakage in cylinder never did so, the senior citizen alleged.

Impregnating schoolgirl

Headmistress' husband arrested

PNS ■ JEYPORE

The Koraput district police have arrested a 60-year-old man for allegedly impregnating a Class-VIII girl student of the Unniti Upper Primary Sevashram School at Phampuni in Jeypore.

The accused was identified as Rajendra Rath, husband of the headmistress of the school. While Rath was arrested on Thursday, he was forwarded to court on Friday.

Rath had allegedly kept the 13-year-old girl at his wife's official quarters during summer vacation and established physical relation with her. She was found to be pregnant for three months a few days ago.

Police have registered a case in this connection under Sections 376(2)(n), 376(3) and 506 of IPC; Section 6 of POCSO Act and Section 3(2)(v) of SC ST POA Act.

Nuapada mentally-challenged sets example

PNS ■ NUAPADA

A mentally-challenged youth has set an example for many with his unique achievement and rigorous efforts to meet his mission of life.

Rabi Sabar (26), a resident of Maragada village under Sadar Block in Nuapada district, is a mentally-disabled person. However, the divyang has become an inspiration for others for his selfless service and noble cause for which he is surviving.

He was conferred with a State award by Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik on occasion of International Day of Persons with Disabilities for his dedicated service at a school. He received a cheque of Rs 25,000 as reward for achievement. He was in top of the list of 8 divyang nominees out of 44 candidates for the award.

However, the reward prize is not only an acknowledgement to him but also a big amount that he is saving for his

sister's marriage.

According to reports, Rabi's father Lakshman Sabar is a mentally ill person and his mother Birabai Sabar is working outside the State as a bonded labourer for livelihood. After marriage of his two sisters, the youngest sibling is taken care of by Rabi.

After diagnosed with cerebral palsy, a group of neurological disorders that appear in early childhood and permanently affect body movement, he was enrolled at Biju Patnaik Special School for Mentally Challenged (BPSSMC), Nuapada, in the year 2000 for studies. However, the mentally-challenged youth crossed all the barriers through his strong will power and secured a position for him in society.

Now, he is no more dependent on anyone for his own work. Reports said that the youth can do vocational work perfectly without taking anyone's help. He has been serving the divyang inmates as an atten-



dant at BPSSMC since 2016.

Born in a poor family, Rabi's childhood days went through hardships. His family

was devastated after spending for marriage of two sisters. His father lost his mental stability and her mother migrated to

another State for earning. Rabi is earning money for his livelihood as well his youngest sister's wedding.

120 kg ganja seized in N'rangpur



PNS ■ NABARANGPUR

Excise Department officials on Friday seized around 120 kg of ganja from a tractor in Nabarangpur district and arrested two persons in this connection.

Acting on a tipoff about the

huge cache of ganja being transported in the vehicle from Malkangiri to Kalahandi, the officials intercepted the tractor near the Indravati bridge. On searching the vehicle, 24 packets of ganja weighing around 120 kg were recovered.

The arrested persons were

identified as Kamalalochan Gulal and Khagapati Alrab. The cost of the seized ganja was estimated at Rs 6 lakh. The owner of the tractor had promised the arrested persons to pay them Rs 20,000 for carrying the contraband in the tractor, police sources said.

Gajapati schoolgirl found pregnant

PNS ■ PARALAKHEMUNDI

In yet another such incident, a Class-X girl of a tribal girls' high school at Chandiput in Gajapati district was found pregnant on Thursday.

The incidence was reported from the Chandiput Adivashi Balika Vidyapeeth and was detected during the routine monthly tests.

School Headmistress Rajlaxmi Behera immediately informed the Mohana BDO and the District Welfare Officer (DWO) about it and lodged a case at the Mohana police station, following which a probe has been ordered.

The pregnant girl was



admitted to the District Headquarters Hospital here for checkup after being handed over to the District Child Protection Committee.

R Udayagiri SDPO Ashok Kumar Mohanty said a minor boy accused of making the girl pregnant was questioned at the Mohana police station and later forwarded to the juvenile court here.

'Coastal highway to destroy environ, deepen calamities'

PNS ■ BRAHMAMPUR

Lok Shakti Abhiyan president L Prafulla Samantara on Friday severely criticised the State Government for giving approval for construction of the proposed Gopalpur-Digha Coastal Highway saying that the project would pose a threat to environment and prevention of climate change.

"If the coastal highway is constructed, saline forests will be destroyed and biodiversity, wild animals and marine life will be affected. Impact of natural calamities will be multiplied. Fishermen will lose livelihood. Any type of bridge constructed over the Chilika lake will damage its natural geography. Birds taking shelter in the lake would be severely



affected," pointed out Samantara.

Stating that the Ministry of Forests and Environment had opposed the project citing scientific reasons, Samantara said, "Now, both the BJD and the BJP Governments have together planned the project for the benefit of companies and contractors."

He noted that Bhitarkanika park and the Chilika lake should be protected for prevention of climate change. He urged upon political parties, social organisations and activists to get united to protest the proposed coastal highway for protection of marine resources and natural environment of the State.

Three rare marine fishes caught at Paradip coast

PNS ■ PARADIP

Three rare marine fishes have been caught during fishing in the Bay of Bengal off the Paradip coast.

The fishes called 'marlin' were netted by fishermen on Thursday.

The local fishermen call the species 'Panikua' fishes that normally weigh around 2.70 quintals. Reports said one of the netted fishes weighed 1.5 quintals and the two others 60 kg each.

Locals rushed to the site to see the rare fishes. Later, the fishes were exported to other



States for sale. In October, a marlin fish had been caught during fishing in deep sea off the Dhamra coast in Bhadrak. In November, a rare 'fastest' marine fish 'sailfish' was caught at Talchua village under Rajnagar block in Kendrapada district.

'CIFA ran multiple projects for women in 33 yrs'

Observes Women in Agriculture Day

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

The ICAR-Central Institute of Freshwater Aquaculture, Bhubaneswar in collaboration with Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Khordha, observed the "Women in Agriculture Day" at Khamanga Sasan, Baliaanta, on December 4.

Director, ICAR-CIFA Dr Bindu R Pillai welcomed the guests and highlighted the achievements of ICAR-CIFA. Since inception, the ICAR-CIFA has been playing a pivotal role in attracting more and more women into fish farming. During the last 33 years, the CIFA has operated several outreach projects that benefitted exclusively women, she added. In other projects too sizable proportion of women were provided access to technology, training and skill development and other support in order to encourage them to adopt scientific aquaculture practices,



she told.

Earlier, Principal Scientist, ICAR-CIFA Dr KD Mohapatra highlighted the role played by women in farming. She detailed the technologies available with CIFA that would help the women farmers earn more.

Zilla Parishad, Zone-18,

Bhagya Laxmi Mishra graced the occasion as chief guest.

Principal Scientist of ICAR-CIFA Dr Prabhati K Sahoo encouraged the women to start business venture in fish breeding, fish culture, value addition, integrated farming, pearl farming etc.

Six selected women entre-

preneurs who have taken farming as a business venture were also felicitated for their accomplishments and shared their experiences. One brochure on Farmer First Project being operated by ICAR-CIFA was also released. Around 150 women participated.

Posters urge women to join Maoist fold

Warn people against acting as police informers

PNS ■ MALKANGIRI

On the fifth day of the Maoists' PLGA Week on Friday, posters and banners urging women to join their organisation surfaced at several places in the Kalimela region of Malkangiri district.

In the posters, the Red rebels have threatened people to punish them in Kangaroo courts if they pass on any information or act as police informers.

As a precautionary measure for the PLGA, Week, the operation of Government bus services in the Leftwing extremist-infested districts like Malkangiri, Koraput, Rayagada and Kandhamal have been suspended.

The district police, Special Operations Group, BSF and CRPF are on high alert and intensified



patrolling and combing operations to prevent any violence by the ultras. Frisking of vehicles is also being carried out in the sensitive areas.

The Maoists observe PLGA Week every year to commemorate their comrades killed in the police encounters over the years.

Usually, they take out rallies and address public gatherings during the week-long event to pay tributes to their slain comrades.

'Follow Gandhi for better world'

CM opens Akshar book fair

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

Inaugurating an 'Akshar Pustak Mela' here, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik on Friday urged the young generation to read, know and under-

stand Mahatma Gandhi and work for a better world. "Gandhiji was a prolific writer and every piece of his writings carries the message of humanity and sparks life with positivity. I wish our young generation read, know and understand Gandhi and work for a better world," said the Chief Minister.

Among others, Tourism and Culture Minister Jyoti Prakash Panigrahi and noted social worker Krishna Mohanty were present. A photo exhibition on Mahatma Gandhi was held on the occasion. Krishna Mohanty gave three books on Mahatma Gandhi as gifts to the Chief Minister on the occasion.



Temp drops below 10 degree at five places

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

Normal life was disrupted in several parts of the State due to cold conditions with the temperature dipping below 10 degree Celsius in as many as five places on Thursday.

This was the first time mercury slumped below 10 degree during winter this season.

Daringibadi in Kandhamal district, known as Kashmir of Odisha, recorded the lowest temperature of 7 degree Celsius while Phulbani, the district headquarters town, shivered at 8 degree in the morning on Friday.

Three other weather stations recorded temperatures below 10 degree. Mercury

stood at 8 degree in Sonepur, 9.5 degree in Titilagarh and 8.6 degree in Angul.

The Regional Office of Indian Metrological Department (IMD) in Bhubaneswar said the temperature would continue to dip in the coming days.

"The weather is bone-chilling and bonfire is the only way out to stay warm. Driving vehicles has also become a hazard with dense fog engulfing the town till 11am," said a resident of Phulbani.



Two hacked over political rivalry in Ganjam

PNS ■ BRAHMAPUR

Unidentified miscreants hacked two persons over political rivalry in the Digapahandi area of Ganjam district on Friday.

Reports said three to four bike-borne persons attacked one Bijay Kumar Sethy at Karapada village with a sword and other sharp weapons. Later, they went to Deokhali Chhak where they hacked Krushna Sahu, a juice shop owner, with the weapons.

The victims sustained critical injuries in the attack and were hospitalised. The Nuagaon police have started investigation into the incidents while cops were deployed at Karapada village and Deokhali Chhak to avoid any further untoward incident.

Efforts were on by police to trace and apprehend the assailants, who fled the spot via the Karapada road.

IN BRIEF

ELDERLY MAN DIES IN ROAD MISHAP IN B'PUR
Brahmapur: In a tragic mishap, an elderly man died after his cycle was hit by a water tanker near Old Bus Stand here on Friday morning. The deceased was identified as Dandapani Samal. SP Pinak Mishra has directed the police to inspect documents of the tanker.

FEMALE ELEPHANT FOUND DEAD IN GANJAM

Brahmapur: A carcass of a female elephant was found in a canal near Kalingapadar under the Tarasingh Forest Range in Ganjam district on Friday. Locals spotted the carcass and informed Forest Department officials who reached the spot and started an investigation into the incident. The elephant's body bore injury marks. Though the reason behind the death of the animal was yet to be ascertained, officials suspected that the elephant died after sustaining serious injuries during a fight with a tusker.



HOME GUARD DAY CELEBRATED IN BRAHMAPUR

Brahmapur: The 57th Home Guard Foundation Day was celebrated at the Reserve Police ground here on Friday. Gracing as chief guest, DIG Satyabrata Bhoi said Home Guards and civil defense employees have served people without deficiencies. Bhoi read out messages of the Governor, Chief Minister and the DGP, Home Guards. SP Pinak Mishra said new opportunities in civil defence would open in coming months. Home Guards Bishnudev Panda, Jitendra Kumar Satpathy and Mitu Gauda were awarded for saving lives during natural disasters.



Among others, ASP Prabhat Routray, PK Mishra, Vigilance ASP Santanu Padhy, city SDPO BP Pati, rural SDPO JK Mohanty, DSP Surendra Murmu and IICs of various police stations were present.

JSPUR CONG HOLDS ORGANISATIONAL MEETING



Jagatsinghpur: The District Congress Committee (DCC) held an organisational meeting here on Wednesday. AICC secretary Rudra Raju attended the event as central observer who appealed the Congress supporters to strengthen the party in grassroots level and highlight misgovernance of the BJP-led Central Government and Naveen Patnaik-led BJD Government in Odisha. Among others, DCC president Natabar Barik, former MLA Lalatendu Mohapatra, Paradiip Congress leader Bapi Sarkhel, former Jagatsinghpur Municipality Chairman Biplab Choudhury and ZP Member Mahani Rout spoke.

DAY OF PWDS HELD AT JAGATSINGHPUR



Jagatsinghpur: The International Day of Persons with Disabilities was observed by the district administration here in collaboration with the District Legal Aid Board. Speakers appealed to general public to be kindhearted to disabled persons. Besides, they said laws are stringent to punish anybody who infringes rights and dilutes commitment meant for persons with disabilities. Among others, District Legal Aid Board Secretary Kamalakanta Rout, Social Security Officer AW Khan, Asra Disable School secretary AK Khuntia and DIPRO Kaminiranjan Patnaik spoke on the occasion. Earlier, a rally of disabled persons was flagged off by ADM Satchidananda Sahoo.

Census: 8,105 mammals sighted in B'kanika

PNS ■ KENDRAPADA

As per the mammal census-2019 report, as many as 8,105 mammals have been staying within the Bhitarkanika National Park. This year more mammals were sighted than last year. The forest personnel had sighted 7,728 mammals but this time they spotted 377 more, the DFO of Rajnagar mangrove

(wildlife) forest division said. The mammal census was carried out for three days from November 25 to 27 in five forest ranges such as Kanika Forest (wildlife) Range, Rajnagar Forest (wildlife) Range, Mahakalapada Forest (wildlife) Range, Gahirmatha Forest (Wildlife) Range and Kujanaga Forest (wildlife) Range.

Consultation on nutrition self-dependence held

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

A State-level consultation on nutritional self-dependence was organised here by the People's Cultural Centre (PECUC) in collaboration with the TDH (G) and BMZ and in cooperation with DISHA, CAUSE and Baitarani Initiative.

Around 100 people, including small farmers, scientists and academicians participated. Food Commissioner Dr Sipra Mallick, Finance Special Secretary Pradeep Kumar Biswal, and Millet Mission Director Prof Shrijit



Mishra inaugurated the event.

PECUC executive director Anuradha Mohanty, director Dr Minakhi Panda and secretary Ranjan Kumar Mohanty also spoke. "Malnutrition free childhood should be our dream," said the secretary.

Discussions were held on local ecological food and its

nutritional value, regular diet and balance diet, scope for improvement and also on public distribution system, different nutritional related schemes and Government programmes. To fight malnutrition, many recommendations were given by the participants.

Ramabrahmam joins as CUO VC



PNS ■ KORAOOT

A distinguished educationist, Prof I Ramabrahmam assumed office as the Vice-Chancellor of the Central University of Odisha (CUO) at its campus at Sunabeda on Friday. He is the third regular VC of the university.

Prof Ramabrahmam has been appointed for a term of five years from the date of his joining until he attains the age of 70 years, whichever is earlier. He took over the charges from Prof SK Palita, who acted as VC-in-charge.

Prof Ramabrahmam was earlier the senior faculty of the

Department of Political Science, School of Social Sciences, University of Hyderabad.

He paid tribute to Babasaheb Dr BR Ambedkar at the main gate of HAL, Sunabeda and Ambedkar's portrait at the CUO campus before joining.

K'handi bodies protest atrocities on JNU students

BIKASH KHEMKA ■ BHAWANIPATNA

On the 63rd Mahaparinirban Diwas of Dr BR Ambedkar, members of various organisations expressed concern over rising atrocities on JNU students and held a meeting in front of the Kalahandi district Collectorate here on Friday.

The executive members submitted a memorandum having a seven-point charter of demands to Collector Parag Harshad Gavali addressed to the President of India.

The speakers alleged while JNU students were on a peaceful rally, police lathicharged on them following Government instruction.

State coordinator of SC, ST, OBC and Religious Minorities Sangram Samiti, Kalahandi, Satyabadi Naik alleged that police attacked the students by violating Article 19 which guarantees freedom of speech and freedom to assemble peacefully without arms.

"None of the students of JNU was holding any arms; rather they were voicing concerns against the fee hike but police brutally lathicharged on them," he said.

Protesting against the police excesses, advocate Chhabilal Nial said if the Government attitude would remain the same on Bahujan Samaj, then the purpose of Article 21 A and 41 (Right to Education), Article 45 (The Right to Free and Compulsory Education) and Article 46 (The promotion of education and economic interest) would remain meaningless.

The memorandum demanded that any students' rally, public procession and grievance petition be addressed in a positive way. Besides, they



demand allotment of shop complex to the SC, ST and OBC and other sops.

Members of BSP BAMCEF, the Sambidhan Sachetan Abhijan, the AIMBSCS the DEMOCRATIC, the Dr BR Ambedkar Foundation for Socioeconomic and Cultural Development also spoke.

Rairakhole AE in Vig net

PNS ■ CUTTACK

On the allegation of acquisition of assets disproportionate to his known sources of income by Shyam Sagar Say, Assistant Engineer, Rural Works Sub-Division, Rairakhole in Sambalpur district, Vigilance sleuths conducted searches on his office room and houses at four different places and detected assets worth Rs 1,41,71,158 under his possession.

The detected assets include a double-storied building at Sundargarh of Rs 83,91,232, a plot at Sundargarh Rs 10,00,000, deposits in banks of Rs 13,95,647, deposits in insurance policies of Rs 23,85,759, gold and silver ornaments of Rs 2,92,079 and cash and household articles of Rs 5,44,970.

The inquiry was in progress, informed an official release.

Barbil Civil Society hunger strike deferred

PNS ■ CHAMPUPA

Hunger strike, which was scheduled to be staged by locals of Barbil in front of the district Collectorate at Keonjhar on December 6 in protest against the delay in construction of a bypass road in Barbil, has been postponed for six months.

Barbil Civil Society convener Ashok Thakar said there was a meeting of the society with district Collector Ashish Thakre on December 5. The Collector said the district administration is concerned about the need of a Barbil bypass in view of the traffic problem in the Joda-Barbil region, but no progress has



been made due to want of clearance for the diversion of the forestland from the Central Government as it is a time-taking process.

He assured the Civil Society that the district administration is taking steps how to get the clearance for the forestland and, meanwhile, trying to complete the ongoing road in the mining region to solve the traffic problem. He requested the society to call off the proposed strike.

Dental care camp held in city school



PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

A free dental care camp along with an awareness programme was held in the Little Step Play School premises at Nayapalli BRIT Colony here on Friday.

Noted social worker

Dr Shilpi Mohapatra, Dr Rabindra Prasad Rout, Dr Atulya Sukur, Dr Abhishek Biswal and medical assistant Jayadeb Behera attended. Foundation president Sudheer Chandra Nayhak, school Principal Bipin Bihari Padhi and all teachers were present.

Odisha Biennale in city from Dec 23

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

The MUDRA Foundation has announced that the 4th edition of the Odisha Biennale, 2019 will be organised by the Odisha Tourism here from December 23 to 31.

The event aims to build a variety of cross-cultural discourses in the fields of dance, art, music, photography, film,

design and fashion in an international context with special attention to creating a sustainable environment by amalgamating social causes with the reaches of cultural and artistic efforts. Over 70 artists, artisans and designers from India and abroad will showcase their art and performances. There also would be workshops and symposia, said a release.

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING THROUGH e-Procurement
INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB) NO.EEPHRYAGADA-12/2019-20 DT.05.12.2019

01. Name of the work : Laying of pipe line in slum and newly developed area of Gunupur and Gudari Town

02. Estimate cost : Rs.40.00 Lakhs

03. Period of completion : 3 (Three) Months

04. Class of contractor : Reputed man power agencies /service providers / experienced C / B Class Contractors to provide the service.

05. Date & Time of availability of bid document : From 11.00 AM of Dt.16.12.2019
In the portal : To 5.00 PM of 30.12.2019

06. Last date / time of receipt of bids in the portal : 5.00 PM of 30.12.2019

07. Date & Time of opening of bids : At 15.00 PM of 31.12.2019

08. Name and Address of the Officer Inviting Bid : Executive Engineer, P.H. Division, Rayagada

09. The bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only
Further details can be seen from the e-Procurement portal "https://www.tendersorissa.gov.in".

Sd/-
EXECUTIVE ENGINEER,
P.H. DIVISION, RAYAGADA

13052/11/0001/1920

Setting rape victim ablaze, Hyd encounter echo in LS

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Incidents of setting afire a rape victim in Unnao and police encounter of alleged rapists in Hyderabad echoed in Lok Sabha on Friday with Opposition and Treasury Benches trading charges of politicisation of the issue against each other.

Leader of opposition Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury who spoke during zero hour created an uproar in the house by saying that while Government was planning to construct a temple for Lord Ram, "sita ko jalaya jar rahan hai" (Sita is being burnt) and accused the Government of inaction. He was referring to the Unnao case in Uttar Pradesh, a BJP-ruled state, where a woman rape-survivor was burnt alive this week by the rape accused on the bail. The woman with 90 per cent burnt is in critical condition in a Delhi hospital.

The Unnao incident in Uttar Pradesh happened a day after a woman veterinar-

ian in Hyderabad was gang-raped, killed and her body burnt as the stranded woman was seeking help after her two-wheeler's got deflated at a secluded place. All the four alleged rapists of Veterinarian woman were sensationally killed in a controversial 'encounter' on Friday night.

Chowdhury said while there are talks to make Uttar Pradesh a Uttam Pradesh (best State), it is become "Adharm Pradesh" (broadly land of lawlessness).

Intervening, Irani said it was unfortunate that incidents of rape and killing of women are being communalised and politicised.

She said the opposition members are not referring to a similar case in Malda in West Bengal.

"Yes, setting afire a woman is condemnable, yes, the rape and killing of a woman is inhuman, but do not politicise the issue. No one has ever communalised the issue in this House," she said responding to

Chowdhury's comments on Unnao rape and killing case in UP.

At this point, Congress MPs TN Prathapan and Dean Kuriakose came to the aisle near the Well and shouted something. One of them was pulled back by some Congress and NCP members. Tamperers rose high with verbal exchanges disrupting the house proceedings. Speaker Om Birla adjourned the house until lunch break.

When house resumed proceedings, the Government sought an apology from two Lok Sabha members of the Congress for their "threatening position" towards Irani, when she was speaking on the Unnao rape issue in the House.

"This is the most condemnable behaviour. They came in threatening position... When she was speaking. She is a lady member of the house. It is most uncalled and they should apologise," Parliamentary Affairs Minister Pralhad Joshi said in the House

when it assembled after lunch break.

Meenakshi Lekhi, who was in the Chair, told Congress leader Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury to ask his party MPs to come to the House and seek an apology. The two MPs did not turn up in the house. The house was then adjourned for the day.

The Speaker is expected to take against the two Congress MPs on Monday. The BJP has given a notice to the Speaker to suspend two Congress members for their alleged unruly behaviour against Irani in the House.

Earlier speaking on the rape and Hyderabad police encounter issue during Zero Hour, Lekhi (BJP) said police had to open fire when the accused tried to escape. The MP sought to justify encounter of rape accused.

"Police ko hatiyar sajane ke liye nahin diye gaye" (Police have not been given weapons for keeping as show piece), she said.

Cong divided on encounter of 4 rapists

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Congress seemed to be a divided lot on the issue of encounter of four accused in Hyderabad on Friday. While senior party leader and a lawyer Abhishek Manu Singhvi has come out in support of the Hyderabad police action, former Home Minister P Chidambaram demanded a thorough probe. Another senior leader of the party and a Lok Sabha member Shashi Tharoor said extra-judicial killings were not acceptable.

While the leaders expressed their opinions and also took to social media party's General Secretary Priyanka Gandhi is all set to launch a protest to highlight the plight of women and farmers across the country and particularly in Uttar Pradesh of which she is in charge. Sources close of the Priyanka said she

has asked workers to ensure fullscale youth and women mobilization for a proposed 'Bharat Bachao Rally' rally on December 14 in national Capital.

The Congress General Secretary is on a two-day visit to Lucknow where she met the strategy group of the party and discussed the law and order situation in the state and how to begin mass protest at the backdrop of Unnao and Hyderabad rape cases in which the victims were burned.

The party however late in the evening officially said that only after a magisterial inquiry a stand can be taken on the encounter of all the four men accused of raping and murdering a 25-year-old Hyderabad woman veterinarian last month.

"A magisterial inquiry is taking place. I just cannot

speak on what will be the outcome of the magisterial inquiry, but we should wait... We need to hear the police version because all encounters cannot be bracketed into the same terminology," Congress MP Ameer Yajnik said at a AICC press conference.

Chidambaram said the encounter should be thoroughly inquired into to find out if it was a genuine encounter. "I am not aware of the facts and what happened in Hyderabad. As a responsible citizen, I can say it must be thoroughly inquired into, to find out if it was a genuine encounter whether they were trying to flee or was it anything else," said Chidambaram who is on bail after 106 days in Tihar Jail in a corruption case.

"Agree in principle. We need to know more, for instance if the criminals were

armed, the police may have been justified in opening fire preemptively. Until details emerge we should not rush to condemn. But extra-judicial killings are otherwise unacceptable in a society of laws," Tharoor said.

Priyanka took to social media and slammed BJP MP from Unnao, Sakshi Maharaj, for wishing MLA Kuldeep Singh Sengar, accused of rape on his birthday. "A lawmaker and BJP MP is giving best wishes to rape accused MLA. Only yesterday (Thursday) in Unnao, a rape survivor was set on fire."

When lawmakers will stand in support of rape accused, how will anybody fight with the criminals," Priyanka tweeted.

Sakshi had posted his birthday wishes for Sengar from his official Twitter handle on Thursday.

CAG pulls up ordnance factories for delaying arms supply to Army

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) has pulled up the Ordnance Factories for delays, especially for supplying weapons to the Army, and said it affected the operational preparedness of the force. The factories achieved the production targets for only 49 per cent of items, and the exports decreased by 39 per cent in 2017-18 over 2016-17.

Making these observations in its report tabled in Parliament on Friday, the CAG also expressed concern over pending production orders and said the oldest such order pertained to 2009-10. The report reviewed the performance of the Ordnance Factory Board (OFB) for the year ended March 2018.

The OFB is producing weapons for the armed forces for the last 150 years and at present has 41 factories spread all over the country with its headquarters in Kolkata. It manufactures the entire range of weaponry including tanks, rifles, ammunition besides stores like clothing.

In its report, the CAG said the OFB received a budgetary grant of ₹14,793 crores for capital and ₹804 crore for rev-



enue expenditures in 2017-18. The Ordnance factories supplied material of ₹14,251 crores to its different indentors in the same period. The Indian Army being the major consumer accounting for nearly 80 per cent of total items.

The report said the factories achieved the production target of only 49 percent of the items and a significant quantity of the Army's demand for some principal ammunition items remained outstanding as on March 31, 2018 thus adversely impacting their operational readiness.

In addition, the exports by the OFB decreased by 39 per cent in 2017-18 over 2016-17. In fact, the watchdog remarked the exports by the OFB during

2013-14 to 2017-2018 was very 'meager' compared to total items produced by the factories. The OFB exports brake parachutes, Prahari guns and Kavach launchers. These items are exported to Italy, Mauritius, Indonesia, Malaysia and Tajikistan. Underlining the need for a road map for enhancement of export activity, the CAG said value of exports decreased by 39 per cent from ₹22.69 crores in 2016-17 to ₹13.94 crores in 2017-18.

As regards pending orders, the CAG said work-in-progress constituted 32 per cent of the total inventory and noted this as area of concern. The report said the oldest pending order pertained to 2009-2010.

RAKESH K SINGH ■ NEW DELHI

The Central paramilitary forces like CRPF, BSF and ITBP are set to adopt signature fabric of the nation — khadi — for uniforms following a directive from Union Home Minister Amit Shah who has sought introduction and use of these products from the cottage sector as part of the ongoing celebration of 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi.

Besides the adoption of the khadi fabric, the paramilitary forces are also going to introduce only "swadeshi" origin items manufactured by the khadi sector in messes and canteens. Officials of various paramilitary officials have already contacted the Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) with their specifications of the fabric and the list of items as also volume of the products required for their canteens and messes.

The KVIC has provided the samples of the disruptive pattern/camouflage designs of the khadi fabric including woollens. The uniform fabric will be in the nature of Poly-khadi (70 per cent cotton enriched with 30 per cent polyester), cotton besides woolen cloth.

The KVIC has also provided a list of swadeshi items for the messes and canteens like pickles, papad, honey, soaps, deter-

Paramilitary forces set to embrace khadi



gents, shampoos, phenol, tea and mustard oil among others.

During a meeting with chiefs of the paramilitary forces recently, Shah instructed the officials to rely on khadi fabric for uniforms and items manufactured by the sector for the canteens and messes.

With a combined strength of nearly 10 lakh serving personnel in the seven paramilitary forces under the command of the Union Home Ministry, the decision is expected to revolutionize the khadi sector and will create lakhs of man-hours for the cottage sector artisans across the country.

Besides the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) which is the biggest with over three personnel in strength and Border Security Force (BSF), Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP), Central Industrial Security Force (CISF), Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB), National Security Guards (NSG) and Assam

Rifles (AR) are under the administrative control of the Home Ministry. After Shah pitched for the khadi fabric and products in the paramilitary forces, the KVIC is set to create a platform for huge number of livelihood opportunities in the Khadi and Village Industries sector which is successfully creating jobs in remote and rural areas, the Commission officials said.

Following the Home Minister's directive, several meetings were held between the KVIC and paramilitary officials. Sources said that the meetings had been going on for the last two weeks and have reached the stage of finalization, after several samples were shared by KVIC for approval by the paramilitary forces.

The Chairman of KVIC Vinai Kumar Saxena told the Pioneer, "The samples of cotton and woolen uniforms, blankets and camouflage uni-

form etc. provided by the paramilitary forces have been developed by KVIC and submitted to few forces for final approval. The sample developed for camouflage fabric was not only liked by one of the paramilitary forces but was also found quite superior from the existing material used by the forces."

Saxena further said, "This move will not only double the annual turnover of Khadi and Village Industries which is nearly ₹75,000 crores currently, but also create millions of additional man hours for the Khadi artisans who will weave millions of meters of Khadi fabric for our paramilitary forces."

The Khadi fabric is most suitable for the tropical climate conditions in the country as the handwoven fabric is "breathable" in nature and also easy to maintain besides being eco-friendly, he said.

The BSF alone would require 11 lakh metres of fabric for the uniform of nearly 2.5

lakh personnel. "As the Home Minister has also asked the forces to keep different village industries' products in all their canteens, it will certainly create faith and confidence among the artisans, as their niche products will now be showcased before the real guards of our nation," Saxena said, adding one of the designs are approved, the KVIC will fulfil the supply commitments within two months.

Khadi, which is a symbol of pride and patriotism has been achieving several accolades in the recent past under the current regime. Quite noticeably, various steps are being taken by KVIC for increasing the sales and promotion of Khadi and Village Industries products, such as sale of Khadi Gift Coupons, partnerships with e-commerce portals for the sale of Khadi products, promotion of pottery at railway stations, ban on import of agarbatti, ban on import of National Flag, new HS Code for 11 khadi products, new Khadi stores and development of centralized Government Supply modules.

KVIC has also taken a number of initiatives to check the malpractices by various bogus institutions, and penalizing the violators in order to ensure the quality of Khadi and Village Industries products sold under the brand Khadi is pure and genuine.

Min's 'bio-break' forces adjournment of RS proceedings

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

A short bio-break' by Union Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad on Friday forced a brief adjournment of proceedings in the Rajya Sabha as Opposition MPs protested the absence of any Minister in the House when it was discussing private member business.

The house is mostly deserted during this time when individual MPs bring laws that they feel Parliament should enact. In almost all cases, such Bills are turned down by the House.

According to the procedure, a Cabinet Minister is present during such a discussion. On Friday, Law and Telecom Minister Prasad was on roster

duty. Congress member BK Hariprasad pointed out there was no Cabinet Minister present in the House. This prompted Derek to stop midway, citing rules.

This was the time TMC's Derek O'Brien was to table his The Elder Persons (Care and Protection) Bill calling for a national policy to ensure the preservation of rights and provision of specialised care to senior citizens.

"I am raising the Bill but my colleagues are saying the Minister is not here... I do not want such an important Bill for elders to become infructuous," he said, demanding adjournment of the proceedings till the Minister is present in the

House. He got support from Jai Ram Ramesh of the Congress, Javed Ali Khan of the Samajwadi Party and some other members.

In an attempt to pacify the agitating members, Rajya Sabha Deputy Chairman Hariwansh Narayan Singh stated that the Minister has gone for a washroom break and would be back soon.

V Muraleedharan, the Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs, also made a statement informing about the short break taken by Prasad but this was not enough to pacify the agitating members. "The minister was here till just now. He has gone for the

washroom, he would be coming back," Muraleedharan said.

The Deputy Chairman also tried to pacify the members saying "I have been informed that he has gone for washroom for 5 minutes. He would come back." On this, Derek asked the Chair to adjourn the proceedings for 10 minutes. "You adjourn the house for the No 1 or No 2 break, whichever," he said. The house proceedings were then adjourned for 10 minutes.

No sooner had the proceedings adjourned, Prasad walked in and looked amused at the turn of the events. After the break, the House resumed functioning.

CITIZENSHIP AMENDMENT BILL 'Those who arrived before Dec 31, 2014 eligible'

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Members of Hindu, Sikh, Buddhist, Jain, Parsi and Christian communities, who come from Afghanistan, Bangladesh or Pakistan facing persecution there, will not be treated as illegal immigrants but given Indian citizenship when the proposed amendments to the six-decade-old Citizenship Act come into effect.

According to the Citizenship (Amendment) Bill, 2019, which was distributed among MPs, the new law, however, will not be applicable in the Inner Line Permit (ILP) regime areas and those tribal regions which are governed



under the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution.

The controversial Citizenship (Amendment) Bill (CAB), which generated widespread protests in the Northeastern States, is expected to be tabled in Lok Sabha on

Monday for consideration and passage. The Bill says the refugees entered before December 31, 2014 are eligible to get Indian citizenship.

The Bill also proposes to give immunity to such refugees facing legal cases after being

found as illegal migrants. The Bill also says: "Provided further that the person who makes the application for citizenship under this section shall not be deprived of his rights and privileges to which he was entitled on the date of receipt of his application on the ground of making such application".

According to the proposed legislation, the amendment will not be applicable to the tribal areas of Assam, Meghalaya, Mizoram or Tripura as included in the Sixth Schedule to the Constitution and in the areas covered under The Inner Line, notified under the Bengal Eastern Frontier Regulation, 1873.

NTCA proposal on DWS as tiger reserve fails to convince local bodies

ARCHANA JYOTI ■ NEW DELHI

The National Tiger Conservation Authority's (NTCA) proposal for declaring the Dibang Wildlife Sanctuary (DWS) in Arunachal Pradesh's Dibang district as tiger reserve has failed to cut any ice with local organisations, including the Idu Mishmi Cultural & Literary Society (IMCLS), the apex body of the community which have called for re-demarcation and review of the protected habitat.

Now, the NTCA has asked the State Government to form a panel to look into the concerns of the public and refixing of erroneous boundary pillars, if any.

According to the minutes of the consultative meeting which was attended by officials of top tiger protection body and State's forest department



with the community in October, the community organisations have made it clear to the Centre that any talk on declaration of the tiger reserve can proceed only after re-demarcation of the area. Anup Kumar Nayak, head

of the NTCA told *The Pioneer* that a panel comprised of the Dibang Valley district administration, Idu Mishmi organizations, PCCF (Wild) and officials from the forest department will be formed to look into the matter.

He said that the need for declaring the DWS as tiger reserve has been felt after the Dehradun-based Wildlife Institute of India (WII) submitted its research findings saying that 11 big cats were camera-trapped in the DWLS

and the 'Mishmi Hills' in the region. "Upgradation of the sanctuary to the tiger reserve will ensure regular fund and monitoring," said Nayak.

The locals including those representing the IMCLS have been seeking reorganization of the boundary of the DWS from current 4149 sq kms to 2500 sq kms.

The IMCLS and other community members have claimed that the notification of the sanctuary in 1998 was "done unilaterally by suppressing, misleading and misrepresenting the indigenous habitats," depriving the community of their land and their cultural and traditional values.

They also claimed that no consultations was done with the affected local population while notifying the sanctuary. "The indigenous habitants are not against the constitution

of the wildlife sanctuary but pray that the land acquired for the purpose be justified in such (a way) that the traditional values and ancestral land would not be disturbed. The tiger reserve would not be welcomed until the matter of DWLS is amicably resolved," the representation read, as per the minutes of the meeting.

"The total area of Dibang Valley district is 9,149 sq kms, within which the Dibang Wildlife Sanctuary is spread across 4149 sq kms. Half of the district is under the sanctuary," said Eva Mipi of the IMCLS.

However, this is not the first time that the NTCA has sought declaration of the sanctuary as a tiger reserve. It had written to the forest department twice — in 2014 and 2016 seeking the same.

Ex-CRPF chief appointed as senior security adviser in Union Home Ministry



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Former chief of CRPF and Kashmir Governor K Vijay Kumar has been appointed as senior security adviser in the Union Home Ministry. The 1975-batch Tamil Nadu cadre

IPS officer will "advise the Ministry on security related matters of Union Territory of JK and Left Wing Extremism (LWE) affected States" the order said.

The 67-year-old Kumar emerged as super cop after elimination of notorious forest brigand Veerappan in 2004.

HYDERABAD ENCOUNTER

Public hails cops' move

Hyderabad: A large number of people in the city on Friday expressed happiness over the encounter killing of the four accused arrested in the rape and murder of a woman veterinarian near here.

A section of people reached the "encounter" site and congratulated the police and raised slogans in favour of them like "Telangana police zindabad" and "We got justice" and said this would act as a deterrent for people from committing such crimes.

Some women were seen distributing sweets to police personnel.

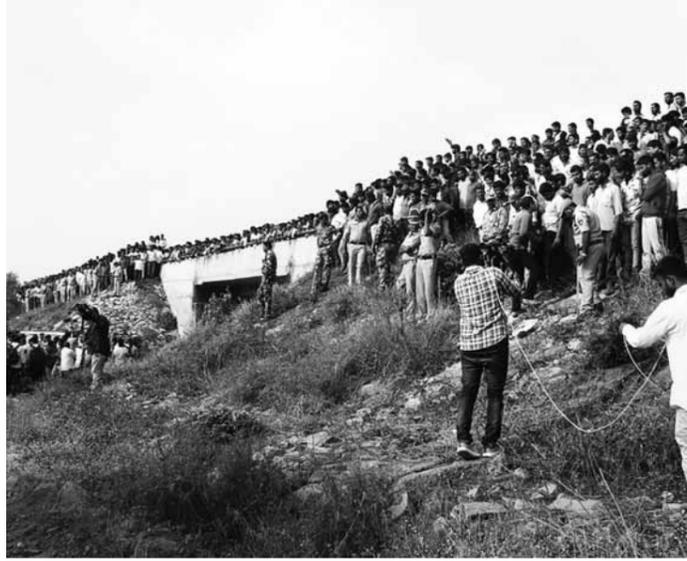
Members of the public celebrated the killing of the four accused by bursting fire crack-

ers in other parts of the city.

"It has brought peace to soul of Disha and her family has got justice. They (police) have done encounter we are really happy. It will act as a deterrent. Those want to do crime they should fear...The police have done a very good job," a Hyderabad resident said.

Earlier, public anger over the rape and murder of the woman was evident on Saturday last as a restive crowd pelted stones at a police vehicle carrying them to jail.

Protests were also held by different student groups and others at various places in the state, demanding capital punishment for the accused. PTI



People raise slogans in favour of police at the encounter site, where four accused in the rape-murder case of a 25-year-old veterinarian were killed in an exchange of fire with police, at Shadnagar of Rangareddy district in Hyderabad on Friday PTI

It's a result of public anger, says Rupani

PTI ■ AHMEDABAD

The Hyderabad encounter of four accused in a rape and murder case was an outcome of public anger against the gruesome crime, Gujarat Chief Minister Vijay Rupani said on Friday.

All four accused in the rape-and-murder case of a 25-year-old woman veterinarian near Hyderabad last month were killed in an exchange of fire with police on Friday morning, police said.

Rupani said the rape and murder of the woman had caused widespread outrage and anger.

There is a feeling that those who commit inhuman crimes should be given harsh punishment, Rupani told reporters at Songadh in Tapi district.

Today morning we received the news that the accused of the gruesome incident in Hyderabad were killed in an encounter.

"There was palpable anger among the people of the country and result of that has come out as an encounter, said Rupani when asked to react to the Telangana encounter killing.

The encounter took place when the accused were taken to the site of the offence for reconstruction of the scene of the crime as part of the investigation.

"They (accused) snatched weapons from police and fired on police and tried to escape... Police fired in retaliation in which the four accused died," a senior Telangana police official said.

Unnao victim's family backs police action

Unnao (UP): The family members of the rape victim who was set ablaze here on Friday said they are "happy" with the death of the Hyderabad rape-and-murder accused in a police encounter and sought "similar punishment" in the Uttar Pradesh case. The Unnao woman was on Thursday allegedly set on fire by five men, including two accused of raping her in December last year. "We are happy that the rapists in the Hyderabad case were killed in an encounter. We want similar punishment in this case also, otherwise such atrocities will continue," the victim's father said. Her uncle also justified the Hyderabad encounter.

"Such action will instil fear among those involved in such heinous acts. If there is not fear, this will continue," he said. PTI

Global media gives prominent coverage to police action

Washington/London: The death of all the four accused in the sensational rape and murder of a young veterinarian in Hyderabad on Friday received prominent coverage in the world media which highlighted the enormous public support while also drawing attention to concerns over the extra-judicial executions.

All four men arrested on November 29 for allegedly raping and killing the 25-year-old woman by smothering her and later burning her body were shot dead by police on Friday during a pre-dawn exchange of fire near Hyderabad, a top police official said.

The Washington Post in a detailed report said the deaths sparked praise in some quarters in a country that has grappled with a series of gruesome crimes against women and girls. But activists and lawyers said the shootings bore the hallmarks of extrajudicial killings.

Killings by police of suspected criminals are so widespread in India that they have their own terminology. Such incidents are known as "encounter" killings, and the officers involved typically state



that they acted in self-defense. But activists say that in practice, police officers enjoy broad impunity and that the killings are not followed by thorough investigations, the report said.

Terming it as one of India's "most troubling" rape cases of recent months, The New York Times noted that the chilling incident was brought to a sudden and shocking end on Friday.

"The officers are being hailed as heroes, and were showered with rose petals by residents who thronged the streets of Hyderabad to celebrate what they saw as an act of swift retribution for a horrific crime. So many people poured into the streets on Friday to celebrate that traffic was brought to a standstill," it said. The woman's charred remains were found near a highway underpass on November 27, sparking nationwide outrage and protests in several major cities including Bengaluru and New Delhi. PTI

Justice should be done only via judicial system: Raj Ministers

Jaipur: Two Rajasthan Ministers on Friday said the rape accused in Hyderabad should have been caught alive by the police and that justice should be provided only through judicial means.

While the state's Parliamentary Affairs Minister Shanti Dhariwal said that rapists should be hanged as soon as possible but only through the judicial system, Social Justice and Empowerment Minister Bhanwar Lal Meghwal said that encounters are not the solution to crimes.

"There is no doubt over the quantum of punishment to rapists. There should be speedy trial and they must be awarded death penalty by the courts. But as far as encounter is concerned, this raises doubts and many questions," Dhariwal said.

He questioned why the policemen could not catch the rape accused alive in Hyderabad and instead encountered them.

"Several questions are raised when an encounter happens. When the police force was present there, why they could not catch the rape accused alive?"

If an accused is found guilty of rape, he must definitely get death punishment but only through court," he told PTI.

Dhariwal also said that the Government should ban porn content on the internet. PTI

BSY backs police action

Bengaluru: Karnataka Chief Minister BS Yediyurappa on Friday backed the Telangana police action killing four accused in the rape and murder of a woman veterinarian near Hyderabad, saying they acted in self-defence.

"They (accused) tried to attack and escape when they were taken to spot (of crime), so the encounter was inevitable to save their (police) lives," he told reporters here. According to Cyberabad police, the four, arrested in connection with the brutal incident, were shot dead after they 'attacked' the personnel and attempted to escape when taken to the spot for crime reconstruction early Friday. PTI

Malik, Gorhe disapprove of encounter killings

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Fear would have been instilled in the people's minds had the Hyderabad woman veterinarian rape-murder case's accused been hanged in public square after following due legal process, NCP chief spokesperson Nawab Malik said on Friday.

Malik also disapproved of the killings of the four accused in an encounter in Hyderabad, saying justice cannot be delivered in an 'unjust manner'.

All four accused in the rape-and-murder case of the 25-year-old veterinarian near Hyderabad last month were killed in an exchange of

fire with police on Friday morning, police said.

"The accused were killed in an encounter. But this is not the way of giving justice. Justice cannot be delivered in an unjust way," Malik told reporters here.

"Fear would have instilled in the minds of the people had they been hanged in chowks after following law and due judicial process," he added.

The Hyderabad encounter took place around 6.30 am when the accused were taken to the site of the offence for reconstruction of the scene of the crime as part of the investigation, a senior police official said.

"They (accused) snatched weapons from police and fired on police and tried to escape... Police fired in retaliation in which the four accused died," a senior Telangana police official said.

Shiv Sena leader Neelam Gorhe said the accused should have been punished after following the due process of law.

"I see this is as a conspiracy...It was important that the accused were punished as per law," Gorhe told TV9 Marathi news channel. She also said it has been observed in many encounters in the past that police themselves ask accused to run away and then open fire at the latter.

'Happy' that someone got justice: Akhilesh Yadav

Lucknow: Hours after all four accused in the rape-and-murder of a 25-year-old woman veterinarian were killed in an encounter with police in Hyderabad on Friday, Samajwadi Party supremo Akhilesh Yadav said he was "happy" that someone got justice.

The four men, all lorry workers, aged between 20 and 24, were arrested on November 29 for raping and killing the woman by smothering her and later burning her body. They were remanded to seven days' judicial custody.

According to Hyderabad police, the

accused were shot dead around 6.30 am on Friday when they tried to escape after they were taken to the site of the offence for reconstruction of the scene of the crime.

"Those running away from law...How far could they run from justice. I am happy that someone has got justice but real happiness will come when there will be effective preventive security arrangements and social atmosphere that such heinous crimes never happen with any sister or daughter," Yadav tweeted in Hindi, without mentioning the Hyderabad encounter. PTI

Kathua rape victim's family expresses satisfaction

Jammu: The family of an eight-year-old girl, who was gang-raped and murdered in Kathua in January last year, expressed satisfaction over the encounter killings in Hyderabad, saying at least the family of the victim will not have to face "nightmare" of lengthy trial.

The biological father of the Kathua victim, Mohammad Akhtar, told PTI over phone from his residence in Samba, 30 km from here, that if these peo-

ple had indulged in the heinous crime, "I feel justice has been done with the victim and her family".

They deserved death for what they have done and their end would at least relieve the veterinarian's family of the ordeal of the courts and lurking threat of the acquittal of the accused. All four accused in the rape-and-murder of a 25-year-old woman veterinarian last month were killed by police on Friday morning. PTI

Didi to oppose Citizenship Bill tooth & nail

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

Mamata Banerjee on Friday said that she was ready to support a religion-neutral Citizenship Amendment Bill and said her party would "oppose tooth and nail the Bill in its current shape."

Attacking the Narendra Modi Government for bringing a communally oriented bill, the Bengal Chief Minister said there was no difference between the National Register for Citizens (NRC) and the Citizenship Amendment Bill both of which were the two sides of the same coin.

Speaking on the 27th anniversary of the Babri mosque demolition, Banerjee said NRC has claimed 30 lives in Bengal and she would not allow more deaths to happen in the State.

"We have seen 30 deaths in Bengal due to the NRC panic. No more deaths should follow.

The Government is trying to create a communal divide among the citizens by introducing this Bill... no citizen can be given citizenship on the basis of religion. This is unconstitutional," Banerjee said adding she was ready to support a religion-neutral bill.

In its current shape the bill scheduled to be tabled on December 9, Banerjee said, "both NRC and CAB are the two sides of the same coin and both are unconstitutional in their present form."

The amended bill seeks to grant citizenship to people without valid documents from minority communities (read only Hindus, Sikhs, Buddhists, Jains, Parsis and Christians) from Afghanistan, Bangladesh and Pakistan after six years of residence in India.

Union Home Minister has on multiple occasions gone on record saying that "no Hindu, Sikh, Buddhist, Jain and



Christian who have migrated from Afghanistan, Pakistan and Bangladesh following persecution would be deprived of citizenship in India."

The new CAB would amend the Citizenship Act of 1955. The Trinamool Congress on Friday said that it has issued a whip directing its MPs to remain present in Parliament on December 9 when it would be tabled.

The party would oppose the bill in parliament. Banerjee told the gathering in Kolkata that her party would oppose the bill at all level regardless of

the fact that BJP with its brute majority might get it passed in Parliament.

"You (BJP) have majority and may pass CAB in Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha. But we will not accept it and will oppose till the end because we do not believe in religious discrimination.

Referring to the recent Unnao incident in Uttar Pradesh where a rape victim was set on fire, Banerjee said the state's BJP government had not provided security to the victim. Slamming the BJP Government in Uttar Pradesh for allowing the "Unnao rape victim to be burnt alive" by tormentors Banerjee said "both the Hyderabad and Unnao incidents are shameful," wondering "why was there a security lapse for the Unnao girl who had earlier faced life-threatening attacks on her. My heart bleeds for the victims"

Both Unnao and Hyderabad incidents shameful: Mamata

Kolkata: West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Friday said both Hyderabad and Unnao incidents are "shameful" and demanded stringent legislation to deal with cases of rape.

Her comment comes in the backdrop of all the four accused in the rape and murder of a young veterinarian in Hyderabad being killed in an encounter on Friday during a pre-dawn exchange of fire near the Telangana capital.

The news of death of the gangrape accused was welcomed by some and sparked concern over "extra-judicial" killings among others.

"Law should always take its own course and no one can take it into their own hands," she said in a veiled reference to the incident. Banerjee, a strident critic of the BJP, referred to the ghastly incident at Unnao in Uttar Pradesh where a rape survivor

was set on fire by her tormentors and sustained 90 per cent burns, and said that the government in that State had not provided security to the victim.

"Both the Hyderabad and Unnao incidents are shameful. My heart bleeds for the victims. There should be stringent laws to deal with such crimes," the chief minister said.

"We do not tolerate any crimes against women. Everyone knew about the Unnao case, yet attempts were made to burn the victim," she said.

Banerjee said safety for women will never be compromised in West Bengal. "Police, administration and judiciary will carry out their duties. Instructing the police to file chargesheet in cases of crimes against women within 10 days, she said the State administration will take stringent steps in case of police inaction. PTI

Nitish blames porn sites for rapes, would write to the Centre seeking ban

Gopalganj (Bihar): Blaming porn sites for the rising incidence of sexual crimes against women, Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar on Friday urged the Centre to ban all such internet platforms which professed voyeuristic pleasure through video clips of rapes purportedly filmed by the perpetrators themselves.

Referring to the infamous rape and murder case of Hyderabad after which a couple of similar incidents have been reported from Buxar and Samastipur districts of Bihar, Kumar said he was planning to write a letter to the centre seeking a complete ban on such sites across the country.

"A disgusting trend has been witnessed...Incidents involving women in far-off Hyderabad, in Bihar, in UP. In all places. I have always

expressed reservations about the social media and the ill-effects of technology, while not denying its enormous benefits," Kumar who is techno-savvy and an engineer by training said here.

The chief minister was in this north Bihar district on the final day of the first phase of his "Jal-Jeevan-Hariyali Yatra" during which he proposes to cover the entire length and breadth of the state with his message for environmental conservation and combating climate change. In his nearly 45-minute-long address, Kumar referred to sexual crimes after speaking about his thrust on climate change which, he asserted, was in line with his social reform measures like prohibition and campaigns against child marriage and dowry. PTI

A day after snub, WB Guv visits Assembly gracefully

Kolkata: A day after high-voltage drama, West Bengal Governor Jagdeep Dhankhar went inside the West Bengal Legislative Assembly complex on Friday through the gate designated for him, and said he is ready to sit for talks with Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee.

Dhankhar who was on Thursday made to wait outside the Assembly as the gate designated for his entry was locked and made entrance through a gate meant for media persons and officials, on Friday went inside with his wife through the gate designated for the Governor.

He was warmly received by House Marshal, other officials and the MLAs. However, Speaker

Biman Banerjee, who was present in the house was not there to receive the Governor, as he was attending a Business Advisory (BA) committee meeting.

Undeterred by his experience the previous day, Dhankhar returned to the Assembly premises on Friday to pay floral tribute to the statue of Dr B R Ambedkar on his birth anniversary.

Dhankhar, who has been at loggerheads with the TMC government on several issues since his arrival here in July last, said he is ready to sit for talks with the chief minister.

He told reporters at the Assembly that it is not for the first time that he has spoken about it (talks with cm). PTI

Has Manmohan lost narration about anti-Siikh riots of 1984?

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ CHENNAI

The narration about the anti-Sikh riots of 1984 that happened in the national Capital immediately after the assassination of the then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi had taken a new turn on December 4, Wednesday, with former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh charging PV Narasimha Rao, the then Home Minister, responsible for the pogrom which claimed the lives of more than 3,000 Sikhs.

While addressing a meeting organised in New Delhi, Manmohan Singh said that Rao failed to summon the Army to put an end to the riots and this was the reason for the murder and mayhem of thousands of innocent Sikhs in Delhi as a retaliation for the assassination of Indira

Gandhi by two members of her security wing, both of whom belonging to the Sikh community.

"When the sad event of 1984 took place, Gujarat Ji on that same sad evening went to the then Home Minister P V Narasimha Rao, and said to him that the situation is so grave that it is necessary for the government to call the army at the earliest. If that advice would have been heeded, perhaps the massacre that took place in 1984 could have been avoided," Singh is quoted as saying.

Though Gujral lived up to November 30, 2012 (28 years, to be precise), he has not uttered anywhere about the meeting he had with Rao and his request to summon the army to prevent the anti-Sikh riots. Gujral has not mentioned anywhere about the meeting

between him and Rao as alleged by Singh.

Interestingly, in his widely read autobiography "Matter of Discretion", published in 2011, Gujral has written a lot about Narasimha Rao and his tenure as Foreign Minister in the Cabinet of Indira Gandhi. But in the chapter dealing with the assassination of Indira Gandhi, Gujral has indirectly blamed Rajiv Gandhi for the anti-Sikh riots that shook the conscience of humanity.

"To this day, I don't know for certain under what circumstances and on whose advice she had first imposed internal emergency in June 1975 and later let the Bhindranwale crisis fester, ending in the fateful Operation Bluestar! These two decisions had blotted her otherwise fair name and bright era. The mis-

fortune did not end with her death. The era of her son Rajiv Gandhi began ominously with the torrent of anti-Sikh riots, which continue to haunt the nation to this day," writes Gujral in Chapter 32 (Indira Gandhi's Assassination-page 246).

After going through the book, one gets the impression that Gujral had no love lost for Rao. He describes that Narasimha Rao's emergence as Prime Minister was pure accident.

"Nobody ever expected it. Not even he himself! In fact even before the general elections were announced, after the fall of Chandrasekhar's Government, Rao had decided to retire from public life.

His decision was motivated by the fact that his influence in the Congress Party had declined to such an extent that he was not even

considered for membership of Parliament. It was indeed callous how an extremely capable leader and a scholar to boot who had spent all his life in politics was so contemptuously discarded by the powers that be, as if he had never existed," says Gujral (Page 344-345 Chapter 49).

The question being asked is if Gujral could be so open minded about Rao and G K Mooppanar (whose Prime Ministerial dreams immediately after the 1996 elections were demolished by none other than the latter's acolyte P Chidambaram and DMK leader M Karunanidhi), why the diplomat-turned-politician should hide this incident from the general public? The answer is Manmohan Singh has lost some links somewhere in this discourse.

VIDARBHA IRRIGATION SCAM

ACB clean chit to Ajit Pawar

PTI ■ NAGPUR

Maharashtra's Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) has given a clean chit to NCP leader and former deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar in the multi-crore Vidarbha irrigation scam.

The ACB, in its affidavit submitted in the Nagpur Bench of the Bombay High Court, has ruled out Pawar's involvement in cases of alleged irregularities in approval and commissioning of irrigation projects in the State.

The affidavit was submitted on November 27, a day before the Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) Government of the Shiv Sena—NCP—Congress was sworn-in in the State on November 28.

The court had asked the ACB to clarify its stand on the role of Pawar, a former Water Resources Development Minister, in these cases.

Pawar, the NCP MLA from Baramati in Pune district, was Water Resources Development Minister during 1999-2009 when the Congress—NCP combine was in power in Maharashtra.

Pawar had also served as chairman of Vidarbha



Irrigation Development Corporation (VIDC), which had cleared irrigation projects in which irregularities were alleged.

The affidavit said there were lapses on the part of executing agencies of the tender work—that is engineers, divisional accountants and respective contractors of these projects.

"However, the VIDC chairman/Minister of Water Resources Department (WRD) cannot be made responsible for the acts of the executing agencies as there is no legal duty on his part," it stated.

The ACB is inquiring into a total of 2,654 tenders related to 45 projects of VIDC as per two PILs filed in 2012 before the Nagpur bench of the Bombay High Court.

On November 25, the anti-graft agency had said it has closed probe in nine cases of

alleged corruption in irrigation projects, but clarified none of them was linked to Pawar.

"These enquiries were closed as no criminal offence was made out after enquiry against anyone. None of these nine enquiries was in respect to Ajit Pawar, the then chairman of VIDC," the ACB had said.

About the November 27 affidavit, a senior ACB official said the court had asked the agency to submit a 'status report' on the VIDC scam before November 28.

"We have not closed inquiry into the VIDC cases. In some cases we have filed chargesheets and investigation is also going on. Similarly, investigation into FIRs related to these cases are also going on."

"We have submitted the status report on investigation going on into tenders that were issued (by VIDC)," he said.

He said the HC had asked the ACB to submit a report on the PIL filed by one Atul Jagtap concerning award of tenders for an irrigation project in Amravati. Pawar was named a respondent in this PIL.

"Concerning this we had, in our previous affidavit, written that we have referred this matter to the government for opinion. "Now, we have got opinion from the Government that Ajit Pawar was not involved in it (the scam) and this we have communicated to the court a few days back."

"Besides, Ajit Pawar was never an accused in any of our cases and investigation into Vidarbha irrigation tender cases are still on," the ACB official said.

The November 27 affidavit said, "There are two allegations against the (then) chairman of VIDC (Pawar)—(A) regarding grant of sanction to the liability of the tender cost including that of updated cost and (B) grant of mobilisation advance to the contractor despite there was no mention of the same in the tender booklet."

"Detailed enquiries/investigations have been conducted in this regard and opinion of the expert committee members appointed by the Government for advise in the course of enquiry on technical issues have been obtained. Similarly, queries were referred to Government also," it said.

'BJP's move to form Govt in Maha with Ajit Pawar's support was misadventure'



Kolkata: Bihar Deputy Chief Minister Sushil Kumar Modi said on Friday that the BJP's move to form Government in Maharashtra with the support of Sharad Pawar's nephew Ajit Pawar was a "misadventure".

He said the BJP might have had a "misplaced faith" on Ajit Pawar for getting the numbers to form Government and "so this has happened".

"It was a misadventure. Rather I will say a miscalculation," the BJP leader said at the 'India Today Conclave East' here.

In the last week of November, BJP's Devendra Fadnavis was sworn in as the Chief Minister of Maharashtra for the second time with the help of Ajit Pawar, who broke away from the NCP along with some party MLAs.

However, failing to gather the numbers for proving majority, Fadnavis had to resign, even as Ajit Pawar patched up with his uncle and went

Thackeray, Pawar discuss portfolio allocation

Mumbai: Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray and NCP chief Sharad Pawar met here on Friday evening to discuss allocation of portfolios and expansion of the week-old Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) Government in the state.

The meeting at Nehru Center was attended by Shiv Sena leaders Eknath Shinde, Sanjay Raut and Subhash Desai, and the NCP's Ajit Pawar and Jayant Patil, sources said.

Pawar stressed the need for allocation of portfolios to the ministers who were sworn in with Thackeray on November 28 at the earliest, sources said.

Portfolio allocation is likely to happen on Monday, but before that another meeting would be held with Congress leaders, they added.

The expansion of council of ministers will be done after the winter session of State legislature, sources said. PTI

J&K highway reopened after remaining closed for 15 hrs

Banihal/Jammu:



The Jammu-Srinagar national highway, the only all-weather road linking Kashmir with rest of the country, was reopened for vehicular traffic on Friday after remaining closed for 15 hours following a landslide in Ramban district, an official said.

The highway has been reopened for vehicular traffic on Friday and only stranded vehicles have been allowed to move, the official said.

The 270-km highway was blocked by the landslide at around 5 pm on Thursday, the official said, adding that over 1,000 vehicles were stranded.

Three people had a narrow escape when a truck came under the debris of a landslide and got trapped at Ramban's Mehar belt, the official said.

There is a traffic jam on the highway's Banihal section, the official added. PTI

BJP on cloud nine after exit poll predictions

KESTUR VASUKI ■ BENGALURU

The ruling Karnataka Government led by Chief Minister BS Yeddyurappa even though waiting for bypoll results is in a celebration mood.

The prediction of exit polls by some of the local channels has given a majority to the saffron party which consolidate Lingayat strongman's position in the State. S Prakash the State media coordinator said they were confident of winning more than 11 seats and expects decimation of both Congress and the JD(S) in Karnataka. He said "we are confident we will win in most of the seats but sure to win in 11 seats which gives us more than majority in the Government. All the exit polls conducted have been predicting a big win for us. This is because of our PMs good work and also the brilliance of our national president Amit Shah."

For the first time Karnataka has faced 15 bypolls at a time and crucial for both the ruling BJP and the Congress which is struggling to keep its identity in Karnataka. Yeddyurappa who has taken a challenge and accommodated all the rebels who have contested is confident of consolidating his position to answer both his detractors inside and



in Delhi. Yeddyurappa who is leading a minority Government needs seven more seats to consolidate his position in the 224 member house. Two more bypolls are pending. The rebels who were responsible for the fall of Kumaraswamy led JDs and Congress Government have all been contesting the polls.

Yeddyurappa said he was sure of winning in almost all the places. He blamed Congress and said they have failed to give a good governance along with JDs in the State. His close aides were happy on the predictions of the exit polls and feel that it would help him to consolidate his position in state politics.

The vernacular TV channels for the first time getting into the exit poll business and given full majority to BJP. The exit polls in predict that the ruling BJP will win the majority of Thursday's by-elections in 15 Assembly segments. Power TV, a Kannada news channel, has estimated a minimum of eight and a maximum of 12

Assembly seats for the BJP. For Congress, it predicted three to six wins in the by-elections and 0 to two seats for Janata Dal (Secular).

Public TV, also a Kannada news channel, predicted 8 to 10 seats for BJP, 1 to 2 seats for JD (S) and 3 to 5 for the Congress. BT, another vernacular news channel, estimated the BJP to win 9 to 11 seats, 0 to 2 seats for JD (S) and 2 to 4 seats for the Congress. Power TV, a Kannada news channel, has estimated a minimum of eight and a maximum of 12 Assembly seats for the BJP. This will come as a massive booster shot for Chief Minister Yeddyurappa.

In 4,185 polling stations, 37.77 lakh electors, including 4,711 service electors, cast their votes on Thursday, the Election Commission said. On Thursday, the by-elections were held in Athani, Kagwad, Gokak, Yellapura, Hirekerur, Ranibennur, Vijayanagara, Chickballapura, K.R. Pura, Yeshwanthpura, Mahalakshmi Layout, Shivajinagara, Hosakote, K.R. Pete and Hunsur. As many as 248 candidates, 234 males and 14 females, contested the by-elections for 15 constituencies in the state. Counting of votes will take place on December 9.

JKNPP calls for 'Jammu bandh' on December 7 against internet blockade, Samba toll plaza

Jammu: The JKNPP on Friday called for a 'Jammu bandh' on December 7 to protest the internet blockade following the abrogation of certain provisions of Article 370 and the setting up of a toll plaza at Sarore.

The Congress said it will support the 'bandh'. "We appeal to the people to participate in the peaceful bandh tomorrow (Saturday) against the authoritarian moves of the government. Over 34 organisations, including traders, transporters and students are supporting our 'bandh' call," Jammu and Kashmir National Panthers Party (JKNPP) chairman Harsh Dev said. He accused the government of "ruthlessly suppressing" the genuine aspirations of the "nationalist" people of the Jammu region.

"It is an insult to the people of Jammu who are being subjected to an internet gag and a communication blockade," he added.

Internet services in Jammu & Kashmir have been suspended since August 5, when the Centre revoked the erstwhile state's special status under Article 370 and announced the decision to bifurcate it into

two union territories. Minister of State for Home Affairs G Kishan Reddy, in response to a written question in Lok Sabha on Tuesday, said the restrictions had been imposed to check aggressive anti-India social media posts being pushed from Pakistan to instigate the youth in the valley. Referring to newly set up toll plaza at Sarore in Samba district, Dev said the city of temples was being converted into a "city of toll plazas".

The toll plaza at Sarore was inaugurated by the National Highway Authority of India on October 11, drawing a strong reaction from the people from all sections of the society and political parties.

Private buses stayed off the roads for days as transporters went on a strike and staged demonstrations at different places against the setting up of the toll plaza. A Congress spokesperson said the party will support the 'bandh' call given by the JKNPP. PTI

Internet services in Jammu & Kashmir have been suspended since August 5

NSUI calls for bandh of Gujarat colleges on recruitment exam issue

PTI ■ AHMEDABAD

The National Students' Union of India (NSUI) on Friday gave a call for a State-wide bandh of all colleges in Gujarat on December 7 over the issue of alleged irregularities in the recruitment exam held last month.

The students' wing of the Congress gave the bandh call to express solidarity with the youths demanding cancellation of recruitment exam over the allegations of irregularities.

Meanwhile, a large number of youths continued with the protest in Gandhinagar for the third consecutive day on Friday over their demand for cancellation of the exam, even as the State Government on Thursday announced formation of a four-member SIT to probe alleged irregularities, including mass-copying and paper leak.

The protesters alleged that the announcement of SIT was just an eyewash and said their protest will continue until the government scraps the exam.

Gujarat NSUI president, Mahipalsinh Gadhvi, said, "Both NSUI and Youth Congress are with the agitating candidates. We fully sup-



port their demand for cancellation of the exam."

"We have given a college-bandh call for tomorrow in the state. I appeal to all students and college authorities to refrain from academic work on Saturday and show solidarity with these youths and their demand," he added.

The agitators warned that they will not budget till the government accepts their demand. "Formation of SIT was not our demand. What is there to probe when all the evidence is available? This SIT is just an eyewash. We will not back down till the Government cancels the exam," said one of the agitators.

Hundreds of job aspirants, who had appeared for the written test conducted by the Gujarat Subordinate Service Selection Board (GSSSB) on November 17, are part of the protest, seeking cancellation of the exam held for recruiting 3,910 non-secretariat clerks and office assistants.

New Okhla Industrial Development Authority
Administrative Building, Sector-6, Noida, (U.P.)
Website : www.noidaauthorityonline.com

E-TENDER NOTICE

E-Tender are invited from firms/contractors registered with UPLC Lucknow for the following jobs against which bids can be uploaded and same shall be opened/downloaded as per schedule mentioned. The details and conditions of all tenders are available on Noida Authority's official website: www.noidaauthorityonline.com & <https://etender.up.nic.in>. Please ensure to see these websites for any changes/amendments/corrigendum etc.

Sl. No.	Job No.	Name of work	Amount in Lac
A 1	04/GM(R)/SM (WC-2)/2019-20	D/o Village (P/L C.C. in Ambedkar Vihar Sector-37), Noida.	₹ 36.51
B 2	02/GM(R)/SM (WC-3)/2019-20	M/o Road (P/L BC in Internal road of Block F-64C area Sector-40), Noida.	₹ 36.21
C 3	17/GM(R)/SM (WC-1)/2019-20	M/o Drain (Strengthening of drain from Rose Garden Sector-6 to B1 Sector-1), Noida.	₹ 43.13
D 4	29/GM(R)/SM (WC-1)/2019-20	M/o Drain (Repair of drain, P/L Interlocking tile & Refixing of Tile from Electric Sub Station to Laxmi Narayan Temple in Sector-56), Noida	₹ 39.88

Which can be uploaded by Date **16.12.2019** upto **5.00 PM**. Pre-Qualification shall be opened/downloaded on Date **17.12.2019** at **11.00 AM**.

Which can be uploaded by Date **23.12.2019** upto **5.00 PM**. Pre-Qualification shall be opened/downloaded on Date **24.12.2019** at **11.00 AM**.

General Manager (R)
Noida

CLEAN, GREEN, SAFE & SECURE NOIDA

Gorakhpur: Hindu outfits celebrate demolition of Babri mosque; AIMIM observes black day

Gorakhpur (UP): The Bajrang Dal and the Vishwa Hindu Parishad here on Friday celebrated the 27th anniversary of the demolition of the Babri mosque as 'Shaurya Diwas' while the AIMIM observed it as a black day.

Members of the VHP and the Bajrang Dal gathered at the Kali temple in the Daudpur area of Gorakhpur, reciting the Hanuman Chalisa.

The AIMIM on the other hand demonstrated outside the office of the district magistrate, seeking punishment for those behind the razing of the dis-

puted structure. Members of the AIMIM also handed over a memorandum addressed to the president to City Magistrate Umesh Mishra in this regard.

Addressing the gathering at the Kali temple, Bajrang Dal office-bearer Durgesh Tripathi said in 1528, emperor Babar's commander Mir Baqi had demolished the Ram temple in Ayodhya and constructed a mosque as a symbol of victory.

For the construction of the temple, our ancestors fought 76 battles, he claimed.

"On December 6, 1992, a

wave from the Hindu community erased the symbol of insult and this year on November 9, the Supreme Court cleared the hindrance in the way of the construction of a Ram temple," he said.

City VHP president Vijay Khemka appealed to the Hindus to come forward and work to make the community aware and strong.

Meanwhile, AIMIM's district president Mohd Islam said the hearing of cases against the accused of the Babri mosque demolition should be fast tracked and punishment be given to them. PTI

SOUTH DELHI MUNICIPAL CORPORATION

INFORMATION & TECHNOLOGY DEPARTMENT 24th FLOOR, DR. SPM CIVIC CENTRE J.L. NEHRU MARG, NEW DELHI-110002

F-019/SDMC/2019/20/14/D- 899. Dated: 06.12.2019

Subject:- Selection of Vendor for providing internet bandwidth, AMC & Maintenance of IT infrastructure, Network Management for the three Corporations of Delhi. online bids are invited through e-tender portal of SDMC "for selection of vendor for providing internet bandwidth, AMC & Maintenance of IT infrastructure, Network Management for the three Corporations of Delhi". Request for proposal (RFP) with detailed terms and conditions can be downloaded from the website-www.tenderwizard.com/SOUTHDMCETENDER and http://www.mcdonline.gov.in/tri/sdmc_mcdportal/newtenderlist.php. Last date of submission of tender documents is 27.12.2019 at 15:00 hrs. Please note the bid submission is only through the e-tendering portal i.e <http://www.tenderwizard.com/SOUTHDMCETENDER> for the registered users. All details of Revisions, Clarifications, Corrigendum, Addendum, Time extension etc, if any, in respect of these tenders will be uploaded on SDMC website i.e http://mcdonline.gov.in/tri/sdmc_mcdportal/newtenderlist.php. (under News & Events) & e Tendering portal i.e www.tenderwizard.com/SOUTHDMCETENDER and will not be published in newspaper (s). Bidders should regularly visit the website to keep themselves regularly updated in respect of these tenders.

RO No. 123/DPI/S/2019-20 AC (IT)

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE is hereby given that UNITED SPIRITS LIMITED, a company incorporated under the provisions of the Companies Act, 1956 and having its Registered Office at UB Tower, 24, Vittal Mallya Road, Bengaluru - 560 001, is the owner of a land situated at Village Runi Chursai, Tehsil Farukhabad, District Farukhabad, Uttar Pradesh (Said Land); which was acquired by one, Bakarpur Simbholi Beverages Limited, which was subsequently amalgamated with Shaw Wallace Distilleries Limited, which later amalgamated with McDowell & Company Limited, which later changed its name to United Spirits Limited. The said United Spirits Limited has lost/misplaced (1) Original Sale Deed executed between (i) Dragal Singh son of Subedar Singh, (ii) Ram Singh son of Rajbahadur Singh, (iii) Amrita Cold Storage Private Limited and Bakarpur Simbholi Beverages Limited registered on 15.02.1992 at S.I. No. 788, Vol. No. 2274/2285, Book No. 1 at pages 128/157 to 160 in the office of Sub-Registrar, Farukhabad, (2) Original Sale Deed executed between Rakesh Singh son of Ragupat Singh and Bakarpur Simbholi Beverages Limited registered on 15.02.1992 at S.I. No. 791, Vol. No. 2274/2285, Book No. 1 at pages 128/169 to 172 in the office of Sub-Registrar, Farukhabad, and (3) original Sale Deed executed between (i) Ramilal, (ii) Hariram, (iii) Bhagwatadas all sons of Sujal and (iv) Ramsaran son of Baburam and Bakarpur Simbholi Beverages Limited registered on 15.02.1992 at S.I. No. 796, Vol. No. 2274/2285, Book No. 1 at pages 128/149 to 152 in the office of Sub-Registrar, Farukhabad, pertaining to the said Land (collectively Original Title Deeds), and in that behalf has filed a missing complaint/ FIR, before the Crime Branch, Delhi on 28.08.2018. The said United Spirits Limited has instructed us to investigate its title to the Said Land and in the above circumstances, any person having any claim, right, title or interest in or to the Said Land or any part thereof on the basis of the Original Title Deeds, is hereby required to make the same known in writing to the undersigned at the address given below within 7 days from the date of publication of this Notice failing which it shall be presumed that there are no such claims and the same, if any, shall be deemed to be waived and/or abandoned and shall not be binding on our Client. (Gaurav Jaggi, Advocate)

H.K.J. & Associates
2nd Floor, Manish Chambers, Mayur Vihar, Phase-II, Delhi - 110091
P# 011-22772866/43053619 | E-mail: partner@hkjlaw.in
Dated: 06.12.2019
Place: Delhi

UJV LIMITED
H.O. "Ujjwal" Maharani Bagh, GMS Road, Dehradun-248006, Telephone:- 0135-2763508, 2763808, Fax: 0135-2763507, CIN No. U40101UR2001SGC025866

"e" Procurement Notice
Bid Identification No.10 /E.E.(Gen.)RPS/Klg/2019-20

- Name of the Work :** Design, Engineering, Supply, Installation, Testing & Commissioning of LT Panel of latest technology at Ramganga Power Station.
- Estimated Cost :** Rs. 98,87,500.00 (Rs. Ninety Eight Lac Eighty Seven Thousand Five Hundred Only) GST extra as applicable.
- Period of Completion :** Supply within 6 week from the date of start, Work Part to be completed of the each unit (LT Panel) Within 15 days from the handing over that particular unit.
- Date & Time of start of availability of bid document in the portal :** 06.12.2019 16:00 Hrs on wards.
- Last Date & Time for receipt of bid in the portal :** 26.12.2019 up to 16:00 Hrs.
- Last Date & Time for submission of hard copy of documents :** 28.12.2019 up to 16:00 Hrs.
- Date of opening of bid on the website :** 31.12.2019 at 11:00 Hrs. onwards.
- Name & Address of the officer inviting the bid :** Executive Engineer (Gen.), Ramganga Power Station, Kalagarh, Pauri Garhwal.

9.Details of subsequent addendum/corrigendum/cancellation etc. may be obtained from the website. Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal "http://uktenders.gov.in".
चक्र सं. 699 / दिनांक: 05.12.2019 "AVOID WASTEFUL USE OF ELECTRICITY"

ENFORCEMENT DEPARTMENT
NEW DELHI MUNICIPAL COUNCIL
PRAGATI BHAWAN: JAI SINGH ROAD NEW DELHI-110001

AUCTION NOTICE

Name of Work	Earnest money (In Rupees)	Date & Time of Auction	Place of Auction
Auction of unclaimed articles/goods seized under section 226 of N.D.M.C Act, 1994, Try-cycles, Cycles, Passenger rickshaws, Cartage Rickshaws, Four wheel rickshaws, Iron Rehnies, Cold Drink Trolleys, Water Trolleys, Ice Cream Trolleys, Burger Trolleys, Steel/Iron Wooden and PVC Scrap, stoves, burners, utensils, small gas cylinders, electronic items, Readymade garments, Hoardings and Other Misc. Items etc. "as is where basis"	Rs.10,000/-	20/12/2019 (Friday) at 11.00 A.M. onwards	Enforcement Store of N.D.M.C at Laxmi Bai Nagar, Sadajung Flyover, New Delhi

Sd/-
(Santosh Kumar Sinha)
Jt. Director (Enforcement), NDMC

Let's hold our horses

When civil society celebrates vigilantism, then we are actually absolving the justice system of accountability



Mahatma Gandhi believed there is a higher court "than courts of justice and that is the court of conscience." That kind of justice flows from the moral choice we make as humans with the full knowledge that we would be responsible for the consequences, some of which will impact society beyond our timeline. Crime and its punishment have been one such choice that we have had to make through civilisations, from "an eye for an eye" medievalism to a civil justice system. The first is instantaneous, the second protracted, the first

douses our raging emotions, the second gives the satisfaction that we aren't just as bad as the killers and deviants and have done absolutely the right thing by respecting behavioural over bestial codes. Yet, civility has little place in these impassioned times. Nobody thinks that the severity of crimes and the savagery of predatory intent have not been tamed even by the ruthless execution of the death penalty. Hence there is a prevalent public sentiment for vigilantism in utter disregard of the law which governs the everyday grid of our lives. That fails, every other civilisational construct fails, humanity fails, evolution fails. So when news trickled in that the Telangana police shot dead four rapists of the 26-year-old veterinarian in an encounter during a crime scene reconstruction, the response in its favour was overwhelming as it soothed collective anger. Inarguably, the societal breaking point didn't happen without a reason. Rape surpasses murder in our country if the National Crime Records Bureau figures are to be believed, at 5 per cent and 2 per cent respectively. Considering the heinousness of the crime, the innocence of the victim, the delayed justice for perpetrators (Nirbhaya death row convicts are still encircling legal loops for seven years) and the continuing violations of women, it is not difficult to gauge the ferocity of public anger. But does that mean that our public institutions and systems should play to the gallery, fan extreme sentiments and encourage gun culture? In the end, outrage cannot justify outrageous behaviour. The police, often tainted by custodial excesses, cannot be seen as giving into frenzy and escaping its responsibility, which is restoring our faith in the justice system with persuasive efficiencies. Killing the accused without a trial definitely won't put them beyond a reasonable doubt.

Let us consider the larger implication of the clamour for death penalty as a deterrent. Even as protests were held to demand death for Hyderabad rapists, a girl was raped and burnt in Bihar, another was raped and strangled to death in Karnataka, two were raped and killed in Rajasthan and Bengal and a rape survivor in Uttar Pradesh (UP) was burnt and is fighting for each breath in hospital. So fragile is the threshold that a dancer at a wedding in UP was shot dead for not complying with certain demands. A rapist/criminal has a devious mind, understands what might get him into trouble and hence has already begun covering his tracks by not just killing but eliminating the victim's remains. The second major problem with a knee-jerk reaction is that we are absolving the police of its failure to do its job. A responsive criminal justice system creates confidence among the citizenry and slows down criminal activity. The Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC) says that a trial in rape cases should be completed in 60 days but that never happens because of the tardiness of investigations. Then there are judicial flaws that need to be plugged when it comes to rape, the primary fix being denial of bail to the accused till completion of probes. The average time of finishing trial even in fast track courts is eight months. As for the death penalty, acquittals, appeals and mercy petitions mean that only about five per cent of such verdicts are upheld by the higher courts. A traumatised rape survivor hardly has the courage to go through such travesty and gives up midway. How many of us have been tracking the Nirbhaya case over the last seven years as it has faded from public memory? Also, the law has been classist about convicting rapists who are politicians. While the shoot-at-sight approach is easy enough to use against truck cleaners, let us not forget that the rape accused like Kuldeep Sengar and Swami Chinmayanand are privileged by the politics they practise and had been roaming free before they were put in custody. Many serving MPs are in the dark zone. We need police and judicial reforms to let justice remain credible than return to the laws of the jungle. Every crime, rape included, needs a trial. Guilt should be above suspicion. Otherwise, we cannot stop every other person from picking up the gun, deciding what's best and institutionalising it simply by resorting to it frequently.

The curl of civility

The Apostrophe Society may have wound up but we still need the punctuation mark to make sense of each other



Whatsapp or Wassup or What's up? Chances are that the first two words would be understood as an endearing form of social communication than the friendly and decidedly sincere warmth of the latter. And in a world dependent on texting in 140 words, who wants the complexity of a curl with a knobhead? So long as it sounds all right. That then is the tragedy of the apostrophe in times of instant and individual grammar — the finesse of civility, of indicating possession, ownership and holding up missing words, yielding to the mass plurality of acceptance. McDonald's is not about ownership of a certain type of burger but all burgers, or McDonalds. Perhaps, this is why one of the oldest crusaders for correct punctuation, retired journalist John Richards, decided to disband the 18-year-old Apostrophe Protection Society. In a sad reflection on the communication skills of the modern world, the 96-year-old founder and chairman said that despite his best efforts he lost the battle for proper usage of the much-abused apostrophe. Attributing the reasons for his defeat to "ignorance and laziness present in modern times," Richards in a way signalled the end of conscientious living to a dumbed down anti-intellectualism. However, this abuse of the apostrophe is not new and for decades purists in the UK and the US have fumed over its misuse by stores which sell "apple's and pear's." Towns and stores around the world are quietly dropping it to make things "simpler" for the common folks. For instance Birmingham dropped it from all road signs in 2009 so that its staff wouldn't have to deal with "complaints about grammar" and British book retailer Waterstone's decided in 2012 to drop the apostrophe from its name so that it reads "Waterstones" to "suit its digital presence."

Nothing can justify playing with grammar and punctuation because they are intended to clarify meaning. The same words used in the same order mean two very different things when punctuated differently. For instance, a sign to advertise the goodies "Pies & Burgers" can be distorted to "Pie's & Burgers", thereby implying that the burger stand belongs to a man named Pie. Or "we're number one" can change to "were number one" if the apostrophe is dropped. Improper punctuation can misrepresent you, spoil that first impression and make you appear uneducated and unprofessional, especially to a prospective employer. Need a Wren & Martin anyone? If not, Richards, whose website registered a 600-fold increase in hits after his decision, will keep that alive at least. His next mission: Commas.

fact, complaints of unhygienic food being served in trains, too, are routine. The system should be such that only packaged food is served both in schools as well as trains. The Government can motivate packaged companies to provide packaged food under the Corporate Social Responsibility provision. A better option would be for the IRCTC to set up units in all districts for providing packaged food for the mid-day meal scheme as well as in trains.

Madhu Agrawal
New Delhi

Dangerous trend

Sir — The Telangana police's claim that the four suspects, accused of the gang-rape and murder of a Hyderabad veterinarian doctor, were killed in an encounter has raised troubling questions. Even as the evidence against them was still to be put through a judicial process, they were killed. This goes against the spirit of democracy.

Rashmi
Via email

Send your feedback to:
 letterstopioneer@gmail.com

Doctrine of justice

The basic structure of the Constitution that invokes separation of powers between the three organs of the State and ensures supremacy of the rule of law should guide us all the time



KK PAUL

Whenever an aggrieved person approaches the Supreme Court, he/she is well aware that this body is at the very apex of the judicial hierarchy and that no further appeal is possible before any other authority, beyond this court. As such, the common man would naturally appreciate that this is the end of his/her quest for justice. While this is true, the fact is also that by virtue of the powers vested in the top court, through provisions in Article 142 of the Constitution, it has been empowered to deliver complete justice. So, does this mean that the delivery of justice, except for as provided in Article 142, will remain incomplete or lacking in any manner? While this is obviously not the case, in order to fully appreciate the importance of Article 142 and the meaning of complete justice, we must look back at its genesis and subsequent interpretations over a period of time. For, complete justice travels far beyond the concept of giving justice to a party. Complete justice strives at imparting justice not just for one side, but for all.

While taking Article 210 from the Government of India Act, 1935, a modification was made and the draft Article 118 was finalised by the Constituent Assembly as: "The Supreme Court in the exercise of its jurisdiction may pass such decree or make such order as is necessary for doing complete justice in any cause or matter pending before it." It is this draft that was finally adopted as Article 142 in the final version. This was passed by the Constituent Assembly as it is, and without a debate on May, 27, 1949, except that during the stage of revision, the words "and until provision in that behalf is so made in such manner as the President may by order prescribe" were added to it.

It was observed by the Supreme Court itself that the power to do complete justice is entirely of a different level and quality and cannot be limited or restricted by the provisions of the statutory law. Further, powers have been conferred for due and proper administration of justice and whenever the court sees that the demand for justice warrants exercise of such powers, it will reach out to ensure that justice is done by resorting to this extraordinary provision introduced in the Constitution to meet the demands of just such a situation.

Broadly, the apex court has acted in such matters where there is some manifest illegality or where some palpable injustice has resulted and the grant of relief is beyond the parameters of the statutory law. On certain occasions, the decrees passed under this Article appear to have assumed the shape of executive directions, which are, of course, in larger public interest, from which the society has benefitted immensely. One of the most celebrated matters where such directions were issued under this Article happens to be the Taj Trapezium case. As is well known, on account of severity of environ-



mental pollution in the Agra-Mathura area, the marble of Taj Mahal, an iconic heritage monument, had begun to fade into shades of yellow. The Supreme Court, under Article 142, imposed severe restrictions in the Taj Trapezium zone and ensured stringent enforcement of its orders. This has since resulted in the Taj Mahal returning back to its old glory.

In yet another case, on account of our painfully slow and archaic criminal justice system, it was discovered that in hundreds of cases, undertrial prisoners continued to be in custody for periods more than that prescribed for maximum imprisonment on conviction. All such prisoners were given due relief by the top court.

Similarly in the Bhopal Gas tragedy case, too, the top court, acting under Article 142, while awarding a compensation of \$470 million to the victims, stated that the power under this Article must be exercised sparingly for furthering the ends of justice. But if such power was conditioned by any statutory limitations, it would defeat the very purpose for conferment of such wide powers. In a way, this could be interpreted as the Supreme Court having placed itself beyond and above the statutes. But this impression was subsequently corrected, where it was said that Article 142 could not be used to supplant the existing law but only to supplement the law. However, appli-

cations have varied from case to case as this provision offers a certain degree of elasticity.

On the other hand, there have been cases where the use of Article 142 appears to have gone into the domain of the executive. Very often, legal luminaries have cited the cancellation of coal block allotments in this context, where individual allottees were not heard but penalties were imposed. Similarly, the directions under this Article came under a lot of criticism as the apex court imposed a ban on liquor stores within 500 metres of the national highways as well as the State highways. The order led to hundreds of job losses besides loss of revenue. Ultimately, it was discovered that drunken driving resulted in only 4.2 per cent of the accident cases in 2015 as against 44.2 per cent caused due to over-speeding.

The current debate is on whether Article 142 can be treated as a source of substantive power in ensuring the observance of the due process of law. The concept of due process of law was originally negated by the Constituent Assembly in favour of a procedure established by the law in relation to Article 210. At the same time, there have been opinions on whether Article 142 confers substantive powers on the apex court or is it merely a procedural instrument? According to former Chief

Justice of India Justice PB Gajendragadkar: "It may be pertinent to point out that the wide powers, which are given to this court for doing complete justice between the parties, do not bind the court to adhere to the relevant procedures if it is satisfied that a departure from the said procedure is necessary to do complete justice between the parties." It is clear that exercising these and similar other powers would mean that Article 142 gives the liberty to the Supreme Court only in matters of procedure. He further elaborated: "An order, which this court can make in order to do complete justice between the parties, must not only be consistent with the fundamental rights guaranteed by the Constitution but it cannot even be inconsistent with the substantive provisions of the relevant statutory laws."

In the context of the recently-concluded Ayodhya matter, it has been observed that in assessing the submissions of the parties and arriving at the eventual conclusion, the needs of justice required specific attention to the peculiarities of the case. The case canvassed the rule of law, religion and law and conquest, besides a myriad of conflicting interests. These could not always be comprehended within the available statutory framework applicable to the present facts. All these make the role of the court even more sensitive as it has to craft a relief that accords

with justice, equity and good conscience.

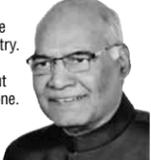
As observed in the judgment, the obliteration of the Islamic structure was an egregious violation of the rule of law. At the same time, it was mentioned that the Supreme Court cannot entertain claims that stem from the actions of the Mughal rulers against Hindu places of worship in a court of law today. But the court went on to say that in exercising the powers under Article 142 of the Constitution, it must ensure that a wrong committed must be remedied. Justice would not prevail if the court were to overlook the entitlement of the Muslims, who have been deprived of the structure of the mosque through means that should not have been employed in a secular nation committed to the rule of law. As our Constitution postulates the equality of all faiths, tolerance and mutual co-existence nourish the secular commitment of our nation and its people.

In conclusion, one can only say that in the normal course, the basic structure of the Constitution invoking separation of powers between the three organs of the State, while at the same time ensuring the supremacy of the rule of law, needs to be our guiding principle at all times, including the application of Article 142 to various situations. (The writer is a retired Delhi Police Commissioner and former Uttarakhand Governor)

SOUNDBITE

Demonic attacks on women have shaken the conscience of the country. A lot of work has been done on this subject but much remains to be done.

President
—Ram Nath Kovind



I've come out of all kinds of tags, don't want them anymore. I'm very comfortable playing all kinds of genres. If anything new comes in, if it's risky and fun, then I'd just go for it.

Actor
—Akshay Kumar



I have always expressed reservations about the social media and the ill-effects of technology, while not denying its enormous benefits.

Bihar Chief Minister
—Nitish Kumar



You cannot kill people because you want to. You cannot take law in your hands, they (accused) would have been hanged by court anyhow.

BJP leader
—Maneka Gandhi



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Signs of falling economy

Sir — This refers to the editorial, "India Inc worried" (December 4). Veterans in any field should sound warning bells on any worrisome development, be it political, social or about governance. Bajaj Group chairman Rahul Bajaj has come out against the current political dispensation on all three grounds. The Government, however, reacted to his sharp observations with unusual sobriety. Perhaps this is a result of the recent electoral setbacks for the BJP.

The saffron party has abandoned the development plank that had launched it to power in 2014 in favour of polarising the electorate along communal lines to get votes. With no concern about the economy, demonetisation seems to have been implemented with the singular intention of robbing the Opposition of its campaign funds right before the elections in Uttar Pradesh. The BJP won the State, of course, but has been misleading the economy ever since. The nation is now paying a heavy price. To cover up the miserable state of the economy, the BJP had no qualms about using diversions

Questioning the establishment

This refers to the editorial, "India Inc worried" (December 4). The entire country must have been astonished when Rahul Bajaj, the grandson of the industrialist and freedom fighter, Jammalal Bajaj, spoke out about the atmosphere of fear pervading in India at a recent awards ceremony. He stated that during the tenure of the UPA-II Government, one could openly criticise anyone in power but it is difficult to be sure whether similar criticism would be appreciated by the present dispensation at the Centre.

Bajaj's boldness should not come as a surprise. His son, Rajiv, had trashed the idea of demonetisation within a few months of its execution when the rest of the industrial world accepted it in nervous silence. Yet Bajaj should be applauded for his courage to bring up the issue in front of a number of senior ministers, including Union Home Minister Amit Shah. After all, few can claim to be living with a mind without fear and the head held high. Besides the ambience of fear, Bajaj expressed his concern about the absence of effective action against lynchings and BJP MP Pragna Singh Thakur's alleged remark in Parliament praising Nathuram Godse. Although in his response Shah tried to clear the Government of the allegations, it is a



shame that an industrialist of Bajaj's stature had to hesitate so much while making his point. It should be evident that the nation is suffering at the hands of the people who hardly understand economics, with the gross domestic product falling and unemployment on the rise. The only solace for ordinary citizens is that the influence of the rhetoric of Narendra Modi and Amit Shah on alliance partners and voters seems to be diminishing somewhat.

Bidyut Kumar Chatterjee
Faridabad

such as the implementation of the National Register of Citizens in Assam, leveraging social divides, keeping opponents besieged by Central agencies and, all the while, managing to spin an idea that all is well simply by juggling data. Worse, it continues to blame

the Opposition for each of its own failures. GDP is at a six-year low, private investment is negligible and unemployment at its peak. The BJP never had the acumen or bench strength in economics.

R Narayanan
Navi Mumbai

Maintain food standards

Sir — Yet another incident of a dead rat being found in the mid-day meal for school children in Muzaffarnagar, Uttar Pradesh, has been reported. As a matter of

FIRST COLUMN

Uphold dignity of our courts

The duty to maintain the dignity and decorum of the court depends on both lawyers and judges, no matter how trying the circumstances



MARKANDEY KATJU

A senior Supreme Court (SC) judge recently lost his temper in the apex court at a senior SC lawyer, allegedly because the latter was repeating an argument which had already been made by another lawyer in the same case, and at his retort. The judge reportedly threatened to initiate contempt of court proceedings against the lawyer and convict him. At this remark, the senior lawyer walked out of the courtroom since he could not bear the insult.

I am in America at present and I read about the incident on the internet. So I shot off an email to the senior lawyer concerned asking for his version of the appalling incident but he did not respond. However, several other lawyers of the apex court have told me many times that this particular person is very rude to lawyers in his court.

I enquired about the incident from another senior advocate of the apex court, who confirmed that it was indeed just as I had read on the internet. He also added, "The level of gratuitous rudeness in the Supreme Court has increased to a point that it has become insufferable. Hopefully the new judges will restore the balance, unless while sitting with their seniors they have assumed that rudeness is the due process of the court."

He also mentioned the previous Chief Justice of India (CJI) Ranjan Gogoi, who was known for his brusque behaviour in court (apart from his other well-known failings), telling eminent senior lawyers like Fali Nariman, Kapil Sibal, Dushyant Dave, Rajiv Dhavan and many others like them, in court, "None of you deserves to be heard."

In my opinion, judges losing their temper in court and expressing rude behaviour like shouting and screaming, using insulting language, threatening contempt proceedings against lawyers for perceived repetition and retorts and threatening to have them thrown out of court or convicted and so on, are simply not done.

In particular, those in the higher judiciary must be mindful of the dignity of the court and avoid such behaviour. No doubt judges have to control court proceedings but this must be done in a dignified manner. An ugly display of temper by a judge in court not only lowers its dignity but may even lead to injustice, for when a person loses their temper, he/she is prone to mistakes. The higher one moves up a hierarchy, the more humble and courteous one must become. Judges of the Supreme Court are at the apex of the judicial hierarchy and so must be particularly humble and polite. Every written sentence of theirs becomes the law of the land (vide Article 141 of the Indian Constitution). This tremendous power comes coupled with tremendous responsibility. This calls for calm, placid and unperturbed behaviour in court and a tranquil and serene frame of mind under all circumstances, no matter how trying. In the early years of the Supreme Court, there were judges like Justices Patanjali Shastri, BK Mukherji, Vivian Bose, Fazl Ali, and so on, who were not only very erudite but also polite and humble. I may give an illustration.

Once, a very senior and very old lawyer of the Allahabad High Court, Shyam Kishan Dar, came to Delhi in the 1950s to argue a case before the Supreme Court. He was then in his 80s and was hard of hearing. He was also known to be a bit short-tempered and unsophisticated in his language.

While arguing his case, he felt the judges were unnecessarily interrupting him and not following him, so he turned to his junior and said loudly enough for all present in court to hear, "Yeh h#*#@!##e na sunte hain na samajhte hain (These b#*#@!##s neither listen to what I am saying nor do they understand)."

Instead of initiating contempt proceedings against him, the judges coolly said to the junior counsel, "Mr Counsel, we respect Mr Dar a lot, but he seems to be upset. Have we done anything wrong? We apologise if we have."

Can we imagine this happening today? It appears that this trend has now reversed and the lack of erudition among many Indian judges is accompanied by arrogance over their high office, a short fuse and a touchy nature that is willing to take offence even over trivialities. In the context of the latest unsavoury incident in the apex court, I was glad to read that the Supreme Court Advocates on Record Association (SCORA) stood up for the aggrieved lawyer and spoke out against the judge in question. The Executive Committee of the SCORA expressed deep concern over the incident and passed a resolution saying that several members of the Bar had repeatedly been raising such grievances about the unwarranted treatment and passing of personal remarks by the judge concerned. And the resolution requested the judge to be a little more patient in dealing with lawyers. The association reminded us all that the duty to maintain the dignity and decorum of the court is cast upon both lawyers and judges. I hope the senior judges are listening.

(The writer is a former judge of the Supreme Court of India)

POINT COUNTERPOINT

A VERY HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO KULDEEP SENGAR ON THIS AUSPICIOUS DAY. MAY YOU LIVE LONG AND ALWAYS BE VICTORIOUS.
 —BJP MP FROM UNNAO
 SAKSHI MAHARAJ



WHEN RAPE ACCUSED ARE BEING WISHED ON THEIR BIRTHDAY BY THE BJP MP FROM UNNAO THEN SURELY IT WILL GIVE A BOOST TO CRIMINALS.
 —CONGRESS SPOKESPERSON
 RAJIV TYAGI

Make it Ram's Ayodhya

The day the Government plans to lay the foundation of the temple, it should also announce mega projects as this will create jobs and bring prosperity to the city



BISWAJEET BANERJEE

The residents of Ayodhya believe that Lord Ram was born in this temple town some 900,000 years ago. Their belief made people call this city Ram Nagri (Ram's town). The recent Supreme Court (SC) verdict cemented this belief, settling the nearly 132-year-old dispute, which even witnessed the demolition of Babri Mosque over 27 years ago on December 6. The SC's verdict may have opened a Pandora's Box, with the Hindu saints wanting to be involved in the proposed Ram Mandir Trust and some sections of the Muslims unhappy about it. But, no one is talking about the opportunity the apex court's order has thrown open for the Centre and Uttar Pradesh (UP) to transform Ayodhya into a religious tourism hub.

Almost a month after the verdict, the incoherent voices of the *sants* are emanating from Ayodhya about which model should be used for construction of the Ram Temple or who should head the trust, but no one is talking about how to develop Ayodhya into a tourism centre not only for Hindus but also for Buddhists because of its proximity with Kushinagar.

This part of UP, which was once the centre of Awadh culture, is basically an agricultural belt. But agricultural productivity has been steadily coming down because of repeated fragmentation of farmlands. The smaller the farm, the lesser the yield and this has adversely affected the economy of the region. This poverty-driven region has failed to make an impact because no Government ever took pains to develop Faizabad district — which has now been renamed as Ayodhya — into an industrial hub despite Tanda, a small town of this region, having made a mark in weaving sarees and clothes. With the passage of time Tanda lost its charm and Ayodhya remained neglected.

Faizabad, which is full of sugar refineries and mills for extracting oil from seeds, is a market centre for the produce of the surrounding area, including grain, oilseeds, cotton and tobacco. A hydroelectric plant is located nearby. As per the UP State Industrial Development Corporation (UPSIDC) the growth rate of industries in Faizabad district is 5.4 per cent annually. However, this is just limited to the micro and small-scale sector as the medium and large-scale sectors have a meagre annual growth rate of one per cent. These industries give direct employment to less than 10,000 people.

So, why has Faizabad-Ayodhya failed to transform into an industrial hub?

Almost all the industrial chambers say that lack of development in this area is primarily due to the poor power supply and drainage system. The other problems include non-availability of skilled manpower, lack of awareness regarding MSME schemes and technological and financial support. Some say lack of political support also hampered development of the region.

When the Ram Temple agitation gathered momentum in the late 80s, no Government dared to pump in money in different projects, mainly industrial, because of the fear that communal violence could have an impact on the economy of the region. Many parties refused to talk about Ayodhya because they felt it damaged their "secular" image.

Government records say that Faizabad has

“AYODHYA IS AS IMPORTANT FOR HINDUS AS VARANASI IS. BUT THE BASIC DIFFERENCE BETWEEN KASHI AND AYODHYA IS THAT AYODHYA LACKS THE INFRASTRUCTURE REQUIRED FOR PROMOTING RELIGIOUS TOURISM WHILE KASHI HAS A VERY GOOD INFRASTRUCTURE, INCLUDING A WORKING AIRPORT AND GOOD RAIL AND ROAD CONNECTIVITY”



a population of 167,544 with 50,000 of them in the Ayodhya temple town according to the 2011 census. The literacy rate of the region is around 86.52 per cent, which is higher than the national literacy average of 74.04 per cent. The credit for this goes to the presence of good educational institutions in the region. Thriving on the academic excellence of the students, hundreds of coaching institutions have mushroomed in the twin cities of Ayodhya-Faizabad.

The flourishing coaching institutes have proved to be good business for those who run them or those who teach in these institutions as faculty members. But they are largely "outsiders" from bigger cities, depriving the local talent of jobs. The city has two universities, the Rammanohar Lohia Avadh University and the Acharya Narendra Deva University of Agriculture and Technology.

In this scenario, religion is the only force that can drive the economy of this region. Residents claim that the link between Lord Ram and Ayodhya is so strong that of the 6,000 Hindu shrines and temples in the city, more than 4,000 are dedicated to him. Besides, every second month Ayodhya hosts religious festivals stretching from *Magh to Kartik Purnima*. These fairs are organised on the banks of the Saryu River and provide a good source of income for people and small traders.

Official records suggest that over 30 lakh pilgrims visit Ayodhya annually — this figure excludes the people from surrounding areas who gather at the fairs. People from across the country — particularly from Gujarat, Maharashtra, Bengal and South India — visit Ayodhya to pay obeisance to Lord Ram. This is a huge number and can help in reviving the economy of the region.

The question often raised is why not develop Ayodhya on the lines of Varanasi and Allahabad? Ayodhya is as important for Hindus as Varanasi is. The difference is that Kashi or Varanasi symbolises *moksha* (salvation) while Ayodhya symbolises *karma*, which asks people to fulfil their *putra dharma* (filial duty) and *karma dharma*. But, the basic difference between Kashi and Ayodhya is that Ayodhya lacks the infrastructure required for promoting religious tourism while Kashi has a very good infrastructure, including a working airport and good rail and road connectivity.

Apart from this, Ayodhya does not have proper hotels despite having a major foothold of pilgrims. The only stay-ins are *dharmsshalas* (shelters) which are of poor quality and lack basic facilities. The only good hotels are found in Faizabad and they are few in number and very expensive.

The only thing that will help Ayodhya turn into a Kashi is good hotels, preferably on the bank of Saryu River, with rooms facing the Ram Temple. Besides, the city needs good roads, permanent electric supply and greater rail and road connectivity. A working airport with flights from cities like Delhi, Kolkata and Mumbai would add to its popularity. Fortunately, the Yogi Adityanath Government has launched many projects in Ayodhya and the Chief Minister has been advocating construction of a Ram Temple. He even proposed the construction of the tallest statue of Lord Ram on the banks of Saryu River and gave the festival of Diwali a new meaning. He is on record saying that his Government would ensure that Ayodhya regains the glory it had achieved during the *Treta Yug* (second age of mankind). UP made a Guinness World Record

by lighting over 500,000 earthen lamps on Deepotasava on the banks of the Saryu River in October. Helicopters showered flower petals and models from Delhi dressed as Ram, Sita and Lakshman descended in a chopper.

The Union Government has come up with an ambitious project that will be executed by the UP Government. Ramkatha Park will be part of a new ₹133 crore "Ramayan circuit" that will include a market and a Korean temple on the Saryu riverfront. The project will depict events described in the *Ramayana*. An imposing Ram court will be constructed at the site where Adityanath held a Diwali puja. The court will include a gallery depicting the story of Ram and a state-of-the-art digital museum.

The beginning seems to have been made. But much more is required to be done. The ancient should amalgamate with modernity. Ayodhya should retain its pristine beauty but also have something to attract the young generation. The Government should come out with a blueprint and involve the citizens in this work. Good roads and electricity will make work easy for the planners. Good incentives to hoteliers may prompt them to invest here. Even the involvement of the Korean Government can add a new dimension.

Time is running out. The day the Government plans to lay the foundation of the Ram Temple, it should also announce mega projects for the city. Only good planning can transform the region into a tourist hub, which in turn will create jobs for the youth and usher in prosperity. Only then will it truly be Ram's Ayodhya. In the end, that route will have to find its way through economics.

(The writer is Executive Director, News, The Pioneer, Lucknow)

Enforce green laws strictly

We currently have many fines for various environmental offences but none of them are stiff enough, nor are they enforced stringently. This whole exercise is futile



KOTA SRIRAJ

India has no dearth of environmental problems and they seem to be mounting by the minute. Thankfully, there is no paucity of environmental protection laws and regulations in the country and the political will to enforce them. Ambitious Union Governments roll out environmental protection measures with impressive alacrity and the Centre's efforts are complemented by institutions like the National Green Tribunal (NGT). The tribunal does a yeoman's service to safeguard the environment by passing judgments and laws that seek to neutralise real time threats. However, in spite of all this, the country does not seem to emerge from the perpetual environ-

mental crises it finds itself in: Be it air pollution, water pollution, soil contamination or ground water contamination, we have it all.

So what ails our environmental scenario? Given that we make all the right moves on paper, one can only conclude that our nation is high on legislation and very low on compliance. Be it the ban on plastics, crop residue burning, waste segregation, adherence to the vehicle rationing odd-even scheme, littering, Indians seem to have a major problem listening to the Government or complying with the laws pertaining to environmental protection. This inherent disregard for rules seems to be ingrained in us to the extent that we are not even alarmed by the fact that this is worsening each day and will affect not just us but our children and the generations after them. No wonder India has the dubious distinction of being ranked as one of the most polluted countries in the world. According to a latest study by AirVisual and Greenpeace, seven of the 10 worst-polluted cities globally, are in India.



Why is there such a major disconnect between environmental laws and the people's intent to observe and comply with them? Why do we feel such an inexplicable satisfaction upon breaking a law as opposed to having a great feeling on adhering to it and doing our bit to save the environment?

For instance, not long ago the Delhi Government had launched the waste segregation initiative and a good amount of public money was

intervened to prevent the waste segregation initiative from failing and has set a one-year deadline for the civic bodies to fall in line and comply with the waste segregation guidelines. This has spurred the civic authorities into taking action and ensuring that segregation is done. This launch and re-launch of initiatives have ensured one thing and that is the people's interest has been lost for good. Now nobody is interested, as everyone is of the opinion that every new initiative by the Government is just a passing fad, not realising that it was the lack of compliance by citizens that had caused the failure of the initiatives in the first place.

So what is the solution? The answer lies in a penalty-backed compliance system, similar to the recently-tweaked Motor Vehicles Act. Before the current amendments to the Act, the fines for violations were marginal. For example, driving without a licence used to attract a fine of ₹500. But under the new rules, the same offence now attracts a penalty of ₹5,000 and this has caught the attention of the Indian motorist like

never before. The result is that traffic violations have fallen sharply. Delhi alone witnessed a massive 79 per cent fall in traffic violations. Is this a cue for the Government? Is this how the common man will listen and fall in line and observe rules? It may actually work as financial penalties may act as the most effective deterrents and ensure much-needed compliance. The concept of penalty-backed compliance is not new in environmental conservation. We currently have many fines for various environmental offences but none of them are stiff enough nor are they enforced stringently. This makes the whole exercise futile. This can be made to change on the lines of the new Motor Vehicle Act when non-compliance of environmental laws by citizens or businesses will attract steep and instant penalties. This may seem harsh but it is necessary to ensure a course correction in the larger interests of the environment and more importantly for our precious future generations.

(The writer is an environmental journalist)



FOREIGN EYE



INFORMATION DISORDER

The world is suffering from severe information disorder syndrome. Freedom of information on the net has allowed fake news to target vulnerable groups through computational amplification filter bubbles and echo chambers. Last year, French President Macron proposed a trust for cyberspace security that was supported by 75 countries. Unfortunately, key players like the US, China, India, and Russia are not on board. (South China Morning Post)

China to exempt 'some' US soybean, pork from tariffs

AFP ■ BEIJING

China will waive tariffs on "some" imports of US soybean and pork, it said on Friday, in the latest sign of easing trade tensions between Beijing and Washington as they try to finalise a partial trade pact.

The world's two biggest economies have exchanged blows for more than a year, with levies now imposed on hundreds of billions of dollars in two-way trade.

The olive branch comes as the two sides edge towards a mini agreement. Washington says it includes a Chinese promise to increase the purchase of US farm products.

It is also just before a fresh round of US sanctions are due to kick in on December 15, which observers fear could jolt the negotiations.

"The Customs Tariff Commission of the State Council is carrying out the exclusion of some soybeans, pork and other commodities based on applications from enterprises," the finance ministry said in a statement.

Chinese companies have already "independently imported certain quantities of goods from the United States", the statement said, without offering details.

The duty on soybeans has gone up from three to 33 percent, after two rounds of tariffs -- 25 percent in July, 2018 and another five per cent in September.



China is the world's biggest consumer of soybean and has been shopping elsewhere, such as Brazil, to boost supplies.

Beijing has increased tariffs on US pork three times since the trade war started, raising the total duty from 12 to 72 percent between April 2018 and September this year.

Exempting tariffs on pork could also help ease a surge in prices of China's staple meat, which has more than doubled over a year, with an outbreak of African swine fever last August leading to the culling of nearly a third of the country's pig herd.

The country has tapped its strategic reserve of the meat but that has not stopped costs spiralling.

Hopes had risen last month that Beijing and Washington were close to reaching a mini deal.

But comments from US President Donald Trump and recent US legislation backing Hong Kong pro-democracy protests and China's Uighur minority appeared to throw the talks off track.

On Tuesday, Trump appeared to dash hopes for a deal this year by suggesting he would be happy waiting until after the 2020 presidential election before signing off on it.

China echoed those comments Wednesday by saying they "will not set any time limit" on signing an agreement.

But China's commerce ministry spokesman Gao Feng said at a news briefing Thursday that the two sides were "maintaining close communication." He added, however, that "if the two sides are to reach a phase one deal, tariffs should be reduced accordingly."

Trump has insisted that China should buy \$40-\$50 million-worth of US agriculture products as part of the deal, which critics say is difficult to achieve.

China's imports of US farm goods fell in 2017 to \$19.5 billion, before dropping sharply last year to just over \$9 billion after Beijing imposed burdensome taxes on US imports in retaliation for similar measures by Washington.

JAYPEE INFRA CASE Lenders face ₹3,700 cr hit Homebuyers to miss delay penalty in takeover offers

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Lenders to Jaypee Infratech will have to take a haircut of over ₹3,700 crore while 20,000 homebuyers will not get paid any penalty for delay in construction of their homes in the takeover proposals brought by Mumbai-based Suraksha Realty and state-owned NBCC for the debt-laden firm.

As against the admitted claims of secured financial creditors of ₹9,783 crore, Suraksha and NBCC are offering repayment of only 62 per cent of their outstanding dues despite the liquidation value of the company being around ₹13,000 crore, sources privy to the development said.

The two suitors on December 3 submitted revised offers for the takeover of the debt-laden firm that just a few years back built the country's first expressway wide enough to allow fighter jets to land in emergency situations.

While bringing in very little cash, the two firms have offered land out of the land bank of Jaypee Infratech to settle some of the dues of the lenders.

Sources said neither is offering any penalty to homebuyers whose houses have been delayed.

Homebuyers have received delay penalty of ₹325 crore during the insolvency but the two bidders, called resolution applicants under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, are not offering any, they said, adding that possession of over 7,500 flats

has also been given in the last two years. Jaypee Infratech's revenue stood at over ₹1,000 crore in the first half of this fiscal with positive EBITDA of ₹43 crore, sources said. The net worth of the company stood at around ₹3,500 crore.

NBCC is offering to infuse ₹120 crore as equity in Jaypee Infratech and Suraksha only ₹25 crore, while the two bidders are estimated to gain by over ₹10,000 crore from underlying assets of the company including land bank, additional FSI, hospitals and expressway, sources said.

On December 3, NBCC and Suraksha Realty offered more land parcels to lenders in their final bids to acquire bankrupt realtor Jaypee Infratech through the insolvency process.

This is the third round of bidding process for resolution of Jaypee Infratech, which is a subsidiary of crisis-hit Jaiprakash Associates Ltd (JAL).

Sources have earlier said NBCC in its final bid has offered 1,526 acres of land under the land-debt swap deal. It has proposed to complete the pending flats in three-and-a-half years but is not offering any penalty to homebuyers for delays in completion of apartments.

For lenders, the public sector firm has also proposed to increase concession agreement by 10 years on Yamuna Expressway, which it has proposed to transfer to bankers.

However, NBCC has proposed to take ₹2,500 crore debt against

toll income of the expressway, which connects Noida and Agra, for completion of pending flats.

On the other hand, Suraksha Realty is offering 2,220 acres of land under the land-debt swap deal. It has increased upfront cash payment to lenders to ₹175 crore from ₹25 crore earlier.

For homebuyers, Suraksha Realty has set aside land worth ₹250 crore for delay penalty but is not infusing any fresh fund for this purpose.

Suraksha will retain Yamuna Expressway with itself, but has proposed a line of credit worth ₹2,000 crore for completion of pending housing projects. Jaypee Infratech went into insolvency process in August 2017 after the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) admitted an application by an IDBI Bank-led consortium.

Anuj Jain was appointed as the interim resolution professional (IRP) to conduct the insolvency process and also manage the affairs of the company.

In the first round of insolvency proceedings conducted last year, ₹7,350-crore bid of Lakshdeep, part of Suraksha Group, was rejected by lenders. The Committee of Creditors (CoC) rejected the bids of Suraksha Realty and NBCC in the second round held in May-June this year.

The matter reached the National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT) and then the Supreme Court.

BUSINESS CORNER

QUARTERLY VENDORS MEET HELD BY CLW

Chittaranjan: Quarterly Vendors Meet was organised by Chittaranjan Locomotive Works (CLW) in Administrative office meeting room at Chittaranjan on 5th Dec 2019.



The objective of this quarterly vendors meet was discussions on supplies of mechanical items to be made during December 2019 to March 2020 for steady production of locomotives. Nitin Dhimole, PCMM presided over the Quarterly Vendors Meet and TA Khan CMM Mechanical, Shri Ganesh, CEE/P&I, AK Singh, CEE D&D, Shri Ravindra Verma, SMM — 3PH were present. 38 approved vendors and regular suppliers attended this meet. The Vendors were requested to make a steady and committed supply of items required for the manufacturing of electric locomotive in CLW so that CLW can make record numbers of Electric locomotives in this FY 2019-20.

NF RAILWAY OBSERVES 64TH 'MAHAPARINIRVAN DIVAS'

Maligaon: The officers and staff of NF Railway, Construction Organisation today observed 63rd 'Mahaparinirvan Divas' of Bharat Ratna Dr. Ambedkar in the HQ premises at Maligaon.



"Mahaparinirvan Divas" of Bharat Ratna Dr. Ambedkar in the HQ premises at Maligaon. NK Prasad, General Manager, NF Railway, Construction paid homage by lighting a lamp and also by floral tribute on the occasion of 64th "Mahaparinirvan Divas" of the great leader and architect of Indian Constitution, Bharat Ratna Dr. B R Ambedkar.

Maruti Suzuki recalls 63,493 units of Ciaz, Ertiga, XL6

FIANS ■ NEW DELHI

Maruti Suzuki on Friday announced to recall 63,493 units of petrol smart hybrid variants of Ciaz, Ertiga and XL6 models due to a likely issue with their motor generator units (MGU).

In a regulatory filing, the company said: "A possible defect may have occurred in the MGU during manufacturing by an overseas global part supplier."

The company said that starting Friday, owners of the vehicles under this recall campaign would be contacted by Maruti Suzuki dealers for inspection and replacement of the faulty part.

"Maruti Suzuki has decided to proactively recall the vehicles for inspection and those found 'OK' will be released immediately. Vehicles requiring replacement of faulty part will be retained for part replacement free of cost.



Keeping in view customer convenience, Maruti Suzuki dealers may make alternate mobility arrangements in such cases, if required," the filing said.

Recall campaigns are undertaken globally to rectify faults that may be potential safety defects. At 2.47 p.m. on Friday, shares of the company on the BSE was trading at ₹6,898.55, lower by ₹107.05 or 1.53 per cent from its previous close.

Earlier in the week, the company announced to increase the prices of its vehicles from January 2020, which it attributed to the rise in the input costs.

Auto component industry turnover dips 10% in Apr-Sep; 1L temp workers lose jobs

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The auto component industry's turnover witnessed worst ever decline in the first half of the current fiscal leading to a job loss of around 1 lakh temporary workers till July this year, industry body ACMA said on Friday.

The turnover of the industry dropped to Rs 1.79 lakh crore in the April-September period, down 10.1 per cent from Rs 1.99 lakh crore in the year-ago period, Automotive Component Manufacturers Association (ACMA) said.

The industry body said the slowdown has also resulted in an investment loss of up to USD 2 billion dollars during the period.

Exports, however, registered a marginal growth of 2.7 per cent to Rs 51,397 crore (USD 7.5 billion) during the period, while aftermarket segment grew by 4 per cent to Rs 35,096 crore (USD 5.1 billion).

Import of components declined by 6.7 per cent to Rs 57,574 crore (USD 8.4 billion),

ACMA said. "The automotive industry is facing a prolonged slowdown. The vehicles sales in all segments have continued to plummet for the last one year," ACMA President Deepak Jain told reporters here.

Considering that auto components industry grows on the back of vehicle industry, a current 15-20 per cent cut in vehicle production has adversely impacted the component segment, he added.

The last time when the auto components industry witnessed a decline in turnover was in 2013-14 when it dipped by 2 per cent, ACMA said. On job losses, Jain said retrenchment has taken place from October last year till July 2019.

"Primarily, it is the temporary employees who have lost jobs during the period," Jain said, adding it was due to component makers adjusting production to demand.

He said a 10 per cent growth would have added USD 6 billion of revenue, for which the corre-

sponding investment could have been around USD 2 billion.

"Therefore, the investment loss due to the slowdown would be around USD 1.5-2 billion," he added.

Currently, he said the components industry's capacity utilisation has come down to 50 per cent from around 80 per cent when the growth was at the peak. ACMA said subdued vehicle demand, recent investments made for transition to BS-VI from BS-IV, liquidity crunch, lack of clarity on policy for electrification of vehicles, among others had an adverse impact on expansion plans for the components sector.

Jain said on BS-VI transition alone, the auto industry as a whole has invested around Rs 80,000-90,000 crore, out of which the components sector has put in Rs 30,000-35,000 crore.

Seeking government intervention for a sustainable long-term growth of the auto component industry, he said one of the key demands of the sector has been for a uniform GST rate of 18 per cent on all parts.

Oil companies' shares fall on OPEC output cut buzz

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Shares of oil and gas companies fell on Friday amid reports that OPEC and other major producers are looking to finalise a deal to cut production.

Oil and Natural Gas Corporation's shares fell 1.71 per cent to ₹126.60 per unit on the BSE and 1.86 per cent to ₹126.50 on the NSE.

Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd (HPCL) saw its stock decline by 1.09 per cent to ₹263.05 a unit on the BSE and 0.71 per cent on the NSE to ₹264.

Shares of Indian Oil Corporation Ltd (IOCL) were down by 1.39 per cent to ₹124.25 apiece on the BSE and 1.23 per cent on the NSE to ₹124.40.

Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd (BPCL) scrip slipped 0.65 per cent to ₹488.30 on the BSE and 0.59 per cent on the NSE to ₹488.95.

RBI to retain dovish bias going forward: Report

PTI ■ SINGAPORE

The Reserve Bank of India is expected to retain a dovish bias going forward and its emphasis may switch towards ensuring that the aggressive rate cuts this year (cumulative 135bps) gets transmitted to commercial lending rates, says a report.

After five consecutive cuts in interest rates 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.

"We think that the RBI will retain a dovish bias, but the emphasis may now switch towards ensuring that the aggressive rate cuts this year (cumulative 135bps) gets transmitted to commercial lending rates," Singapore's DBS banking Group said in a research note.

The RBI reiterated that it would maintain an accommodative stance as long as necessary to revive economic growth but cut its GDP growth forecast to 5 per cent for the 2019-20 fiscal from the earlier estimate of 6.1 per cent.

OPEC has another go at oil deal after night of 'brain squeezing'

AFP ■ VIENNA

Ministers from the powerful OPEC group of oil producers got together again on Friday, a day after failing in a marathon meeting to agree on a fresh output reduction deal they hope would stem prices which have been under pressure from abundant reserves and weak global economic growth.

Friday's so-called OPEC+ meeting included Russia, the world's second-largest oil producer and not a member of the cartel. Saudi Oil Minister Prince Abdulaziz Ben Salman, who is attending his first meeting in the post, admitted that Thursday's six-hour meeting had seen delegations "labouring... Until 11 o'clock in the evening, squashing their heads, squeezing their brains" in search of an agreement.

However, ministers seemed hopeful about the prospects of an eventual deal on an overall out-

put level and each member's share.

Arriving at Friday's meeting, the chairman of Libya's National Oil Corporation Mustafa Sanallah said of the negotiations that there was "no problem at all, just discussions".

OPEC countries have been mulling an additional cut that would go beyond their agreement to reduce output by 1.2 million barrels per day from October 2018 levels.

That deal was originally fixed in December last year, was extended at OPEC's last meeting in July, and is due to expire in March 2020.

On Thursday, Russian Energy Minister Alexander Novak said a preliminary gathering of ministers had recommended an additional cut of 500,000 barrels per day be considered for the first quarter of 2020.

Novak added that level could be re-examined during an

Set up panel to scrutinise FDIs which can affect national security: Private member's Bill

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Nominated Rajya Sabha member Narendra Jadhav on Friday moved a private member's bill that seeks to set up a committee to scrutinise foreign investments in financial services, critical infrastructure and technology sectors having bearing on national security.

Moving the Foreign Investment in Financial Services, Critical Infrastructure and Technology Affecting National Security (Regulation) Bill, he said, "This bill seeks to protect national security while promoting foreign investment."

"This is sought to be done by reforming the process by which foreign investments are examined in the light of national security considerations," he added.

The bill seeks to establish a committee on foreign investment headed by the economic affairs secretary to effectively guard against the risk to national security posed by certain types of foreign investment in financial services, critical infrastructure and technology sectors.

PTI

SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED FEMALE

General Public is hereby informed that one lady (depicted in the photo) namely Faruti Kumari W/o Rahul Kumar R/o Rajbir ka Makan, H.No. 351, Pkt B-4, Gali No-9, Punjabi Colony, Narela, Delhi Aged-19 Years has been reported missing/ kidnapped since 05.11.2019 from the area of P.S. Narela Industrial Area, Delhi vide DD No.26-A Dated 06.11.2019 lodged at Police Station Narela Industrial Area, Delhi. Her physical description is as under:-



Faruti Kumari

Complexion: Fair, Height: 5', Face: Round, Build: Medium, Clothing: Red Colour Suit & Salwar and White & Black Sandal in feet.

Any person having any information/Clue about this missing/ kidnapped lady, may inform SHO, Narela Industrial Area, Delhi at E-mail : cic@cbi.gov.in or website : <http://cbi.nic.in>

Tele No. : 011-24368638 or 24368641 Sd/-
FAX No. : 011-24368639 SHO, Narela Industrial Area, Delhi
DP/828/ON/19 Tel.: 011-27787592, 27787593

SEARCH FOR MISSING



General public is hereby informed that a female namedly Bharti, W/o: Sh. Harish Kumar, R/o: H. No. 126, Gali No. 02, Main Road, Nehru Nagar, Anand Parbat, Delhi has been missing since 26.11.2019 at 06.30 am from the area of P.S. Anand Parbat, Delhi. In this regard DD No. 52A, dated 26.11.2019 has been lodged at P.S. Anand Parbat, Delhi. The description of missing female is as under:

Name: Bharti, Age: 31 Years, Height: 5'5", Face: Long, Complexion: Wheatish, Build: Medium, Wearing: Blue colour suit, orange pajami and black colour chappal in feet.

If anyone have any information about this missing female please inform to the following:-

Web: <http://cbi.nic.in>, Email: cic@cbi.gov.in
Ph.: 011-24368638/24368641, Fax: 011-24368639 SHO
Police Station, Anand Parbat, Delhi
DP/6774/CD/19 Ph: 011-28762468, 28764807, 8750870435

FORM A PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT (Under Regulation 6 of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (Insolvency Resolution Process for Corporate Persons) Regulations, 2016) For the attention of the creditors of Greenworld International Private Limited	
RELEVANT PARTICULARS	
1. Name of corporate debtor	Greenworld International Private Limited
2. Date of incorporation of corporate debtor	17.10.2012
3. Authority under which corporate debtor is incorporated / registered	ROC-Delhi
4. Corporate Identity No. / Limited Liability Identification No. of corporate debtor	U37100DL2012PTC243731
5. Address of the registered office and principal office (if any) of corporate debtor	Registered Office: B-92, WMS Kirti Nagar, West Delhi-110015 Principal Office: Plot No.60-61, Gangpati Dham, Industrial Area, Sankhvi, Bahadurgarh, Haryana-124507
6. Insolvency commencement date in respect of corporate debtor	22.11.2019 (Uploaded on NCLT website on 05.12.2019)
7. Estimated date of closure of insolvency resolution process	20.05.2020
8. Name and registration number of the insolvency professional acting as interim resolution professional	CA IP SUNIL KUMAR GUPTA IBBI/PA-001/IP-P00205/17-18/10394
9. Address and e-mail of the interim resolution professional, as registered with the Board	B-10, Magnum House-1, Karampara Commercial Complex, New Delhi-110015 Email: caskg82@gmail.com, 955399077
10. Address and e-mail to be used for correspondence with the interim resolution professional	B-10, Magnum House-1, Karampara Commercial Complex, New Delhi-110015 Email: green.cirp@gmail.com
11. Last date for submission of claims	19.12.2019
12. Classes of creditors, if any, under clause (b) of sub-section (6A) of section 21, ascertained by the interim resolution professional	NA
13. Names of insolvency Professionals identified to act as Authorised Representative of creditors in a class (Three names for each class)	NA
14. (a) Relevant Forms and (b) Details of authorized representatives are available at:	(a) Weblink: https://www.ibbi.gov.in/home/downloads/www.ibbi.gov.in (b) Physical Address: NA

Notice is hereby given that the National Company Law Tribunal has ordered the commencement of a corporate insolvency resolution process of the Greenworld International Private Limited on 22.11.2019 (Uploaded on NCLT website on 05.12.2019).
The creditors of Greenworld International Private Limited are hereby called upon to submit their claims with proof on or before 19.12.2019 to the Interim Resolution Professional at the address mentioned against entry No. 10.
The financial creditors shall submit their claims with proof by electronic means only. All other creditors may submit the claims with proof in person, by post or by electronic means.
A financial creditor belonging to a class, as listed against the entry No. 12, shall indicate its choice of authorised representative from among the three insolvency professionals listed against entry No. 13 to act as authorised representative of the class in Form CA.
Submission of false or misleading proofs of claim shall attract penalties.
Date: 06.12.2019 Name and Signature of Interim Resolution Professional: CA IP SUNIL KUMAR GUPTA
Place: DELHI

UNIDENTIFIED DEAD BODY

General public is hereby informed that a female person was found dead in the jurisdiction of PS Mukherjee Nagar, Delhi on dated 25.11.2019 Time: 14:52:51. In this regard a DD No. 25-A on Dated 25.11.2019 has been lodged at PS Mukherjee Nagar, Delhi



The description of the dead person is given as under Name: Khushbu, W/o Naushad, R/o Gali No 03, Bhangel, Noida, U.P. Age: 21 years, Face: Long, Height: 5', Complexion: Sallow, Build: Thin, Wearing: Red Suit and Salwar

Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the dead female but no clue has come to light so far. If any one having any information about this dead female please inform undersigned.

SHO
PS Mukherjee Nagar, Delhi
DP/9565/NW/19 Ph.:011-27654675, 8750870234

US wants to ensure India's data localisation plan doesn't stymie growth in transactions: Mnuchin

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

The US wants India to ensure that its data localisation plan does not "stymie growth" and American financial transaction companies are treated "fairly", Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin has said.

Mnuchin also insisted that America has no problem if countries want to have local data for regulatory purposes as long as they do not eliminate it outside the country. Data localisation is the prac-

tice of physically storing data on servers located within a country's territory. The RBI had, in April last year, asked payment firms to ensure their data were stored exclusively on local servers, setting a tight six-month deadline for compliance.

US firms like Google, Mastercard, Visa and Amazon have lobbied against data localisation rules around the world including India, stressing that it would make their operations more complicated and costly.

Markets deepen slide on macro gloom; Yes Bank crashes 10%

AGENCIES ■ MUMBAI

Indian equity indices buckled under selling pressure for the second straight day on Friday as slowing growth and lack of buying triggers took a toll on investor sentiment. Market mood was risk-averse a day after the RBI disappointed on the rate cut front and also projected slower growth for this fiscal, traders said. Additionally, concerns over the fiscal deficit and a weakening rupee weighed on bourses, they added.

After opening on a positive note, the 30-share BSE Sensex witnessed a continuous slide and went on to hit an intra-day low of 40,337.53. The index finally settled at 40,445.15, down 334.44 points or 0.82 per cent. Likewise, the 50-share Nifty shed 96.90 points or 0.81 per cent to settle at 11,921.50. On a weekly basis, the Sensex dropped 348.66 points or 0.85 per cent while the Nifty lost 134.55 points or 1.11 per cent.

Yes Bank was the biggest laggard in the Sensex pack on Friday, diving 9.82 per cent after Moody's Investors Service downgraded the private sector lender's ratings. Other top losers were SBI,

IndusInd Bank, Tata Motors, Mahindra and Mahindra and HDFC, tumbling up to 4.89 per cent.

On the other hand, Kotak Bank, Tata Steel, RIL, Asian Paints, TCS, Infosys and HDFC Bank closed with gains.

Of the 30 Sensex stocks, 23 closed in the red and seven finished with gains.

"Clouds over economic growth outlook and premium valuation influenced investors to stay away from rate-sensitive stocks. While rising 10-year yield due to spike in inflation and potential slip in fiscal path may result in near term consolidation in the market," said Vinod Nair, head of research at Geojit Financial Services.

Sectorally, BSE auto index suffered the most by losing over 1.80 per cent, followed by finance, utilities, realty and bankex.

Telecom index was the sole gainer on the chart.

Vodafone Idea shares crashed about 9 per cent on Friday, spooked by company's chairman Kumar Mangalam Birla statement that the telco "will have to shut shop" in the absence of government relief.

Shares of oil and gas companies fell amid reports that OPEC and other major producers will announce fresh output cuts.

ONGC fell 1.39 per cent, HPCL 0.47 per cent, IOCL 0.23 per cent and BPL 0.20 per cent. Shares of Petronet LNG saw a dip of 0.17 per cent to ₹271.65.

According to reports, OPEC and Russia along with other producers agreed to one of the biggest output cuts to prevent oversupply in the market.

Crude benchmark Brent Futures rose 0.30 per cent to trade at USD 63.58 per barrel.

The Indian rupee appreciated 9 paise to close at 71.20 against the US dollar on Friday. At the interbank foreign exchange market, the local unit opened at 71.13 and shuttled between a high of 71.19 and a low of 71.43. It finally finished at 71.20, lower by 9 paise. The domestic unit had settled at 71.29 against the US dollar on Thursday.

In contrast to the Indian market, optimism over the China-US trade talks kept Asian markets buoyant on Friday, with investors betting the two will eventually sign a partial deal, though they remain nervous as next week's deadline for fresh tariffs draws closer.

Sentiment across trading floors has ebbed and flowed through the week as observers try to gauge the state of play in the long-running negotiations,

with both sides making positive, then negative comments on the outlook.

The latest soundings allowed investors to return to the buying that has helped propel global markets for weeks, sending Wall Street to multiple records.

Hong Kong climbed more than one per cent, Shanghai and Sydney added 0.4 per cent, while Tokyo, Singapore, Wellington, Manila, Bangkok and Jakarta each gained 0.2 per cent.

Seoul jumped more than one per cent and Taipei edged up 0.1 per cent but Mumbai slipped 0.4 per cent.

In early trade, London and Frankfurt each rose 0.3 per cent, while Paris gained 0.2 per cent.

"It's been rather a strange week for global equity markets," said Michael Hewson at CMC Markets UK.

"Moving from an expectation that we could well see some movement on trade between the US and China in the next couple of weeks, to the prospect that any solution may well not happen until after the next presidential election. As a result of these mixed signals investors appear to be taking a more cautious view as to what may happen next," he added.

Sebi not to take action on complaints without supporting documents, identity disclosure

New Delhi (PTI): Markets regulator Sebi on Friday said it will entertain only those complaints, where an investor discloses his identity and provides supporting documents to substantiate an allegation.

The Securities and Exchange Board of India in a statement said, it will not take any action on complaints, where it is not able to reach back to the complainants. The statement comes in the backdrop of an individual Charul Singh making several complaints against a market infrastructure institution where-in he made grave allegations over certain issues and demanded investigation by Sebi into each allegation. Sebi said the complainant made these allegations without any supporting documentary evidence and without disclosing his/her real identity. The name turned out to be fake, the address and phone number non-existent and there was no response from the e-mail ID.

The complainant, purported to be whistle blower, shared his unsubstantiated allegations with various media houses, it added. As per Whistle Blower Protection Act, a whistleblower shall make a complaint, indicating his/her identity accompanied by supporting documents.

Voda Idea to shut if no relief provided by govt: Birla

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Vodafone Idea Ltd, India's third largest mobile service provider, will shut down if the government does not provide relief on the liability it faces in past statutory dues following a Supreme Court order, its billionaire chairman Kumar Mangalam Birla said on Friday.

"If we are not getting anything then I think it is end of story for Vodafone Idea," Birla said at an event when asked about the future of Vodafone Idea in absence of a government relief on payment of ₹53,038 crore dues.

Birla's Idea Cellular and British telecom giant Vodafone plc's India unit had merged last year to compete with the onslaught of free voice calling and dirt cheap data unleashed by richest Indian Mukesh Ambani's Reliance Jio.

In the process, it accumulated ₹1.17 lakh crore debt and had just weeks back posted corporate India's biggest loss after it provisioned for the liability arising from the government's position on what base should statutory liabilities be calculated.

"It does not make sense to put good money after bad. That would be end of story for

us. We will shut shop," he said in a response when asked if Vodafone Idea will put in more money.

Market leader Bharti Airtel, Vodafone Idea and other telecom players have to pay as much as ₹1.47 lakh crore in payment of telecom licence fee and spectrum usage charge together with interest and penalty for past 14 years.

Both Airtel and Vodafone Idea have petitioned the government for relief in waiver of interest and penalty, which will have the dues, and also filed a review petition in the Supreme Court.

Birla was however hopeful of a relief from the government not just for the telecom sector but the industry as a whole to pull out the economy from a six-year low GDP growth of 4.5 per cent.

"They (the government) have realised the fact that this (telecom) is a very critical sector. The whole digital India programme rests on this. This is a strategic sector," he said.

The government, he said, has publicly stated that it wants three players from the private sector and one player from the public sector.

"I think that we can expect much more stimulus from the government because

it is required for the sector to survive. If we weren't getting anything then I think it is end of story for Vodafone Idea," he said.

The government had late last month deferred by two years the payment due from telecom companies for spectrum they bought in past auctions. This relief totalled ₹44,000 crore for the industry but companies are expected to pay this due together with interest after the two year moratorium.

Asked about the specific relief sought, Birla said, "The big elephant in the room is AGR. Which is actually I think something which lies in the court of judiciary. I believe government can have a dialogue. This was a suit filed by the government against telecom service providers."

AGR refers to adjusted gross revenues, a percentage of which the telecom companies pay as statutory dues. The Supreme Court had upheld the government position that non-telecom revenues have to be included in the adjusted gross revenue for calculating dues.

"Since the government has won, it gives them headroom to talk to judiciary and try to find some of solution. I don't know which form or shape it takes," he added.

SCRIP	OPEN	High	LOW	LTP	CHANGE
NIFTY 50	12047.35	12057.05	11888.85	11921.50	-96.90
INFRAEEL	247.60	262.00	247.55	259.00	12.90
KOTAKBANK	1650.00	1680.00	1643.30	1676.25	26.95
IBULHSGFIN	252.90	256.70	250.10	253.20	18.85
SBIN	338.50	348.00	319.80	323.10	-25.30
RBLBANK	366.00	369.75	334.50	338.80	-27.20
RELIANCE	1558.00	1568.20	1541.40	1554.95	28.10
POWERGRID	187.75	188.20	185.80	186.60	0.85
JINDALSTEEL	139.65	145.75	135.10	139.10	-0.55
ZEELE	299.00	302.00	283.60	287.75	-11.25
TCS	2130.00	2130.00	2100.00	2122.95	-7.05
ULTRACEMCO	4180.00	4196.20	4124.20	4161.20	-0.20
HDFCBANK	1248.95	1260.00	1238.20	1245.40	-0.25
INFY	715.95	720.00	709.60	714.50	-0.35
HCLTECH	563.90	567.05	558.65	560.00	-0.90
VEDL	143.30	144.35	140.60	142.00	-0.50
BRITANNIA	3090.05	3098.20	3059.70	3071.20	-11.70
GRASIM	775.00	779.65	764.10	766.10	-3.20
HINDUNILVR	2044.00	2049.00	2022.00	2020.80	-9.65
HINDALCO	199.00	200.70	195.65	197.50	-1.05
ICICIBANK	530.05	533.50	521.65	525.25	-2.85
POWERGRID	187.45	188.15	185.85	186.25	-1.90
BPCL	491.00	496.50	483.50	488.95	-2.05
BAIFINANCE	4010.00	4027.80	3927.40	3958.95	-31.90
WIPRO	243.70	244.50	240.35	241.50	-2.20
TECHM	763.20	771.35	755.55	758.00	-6.90
BHARTIARTL	451.90	452.40	442.85	445.40	-4.40
UPL	570.90	570.90	558.15	560.30	-5.55
NESTLEIND	14301.00	14324.35	14149.00	14150.00	-139.65
BAJAJ-AUTO	3243.10	3258.00	3193.10	3210.00	-33.10
ADANIports	370.65	371.30	363.40	364.30	-3.80
IT	1308.85	1309.00	1283.10	1287.85	-14.35
TIITAN	1189.80	1189.80	1168.90	1170.55	-13.70
BAJAJFINSV	9012.00	9035.50	8824.25	8860.00	-105.50
NTPC	114.70	114.70	112.20	112.70	-1.40
IOC	125.90	126.90	123.85	124.40	-1.55
CPIA	463.00	467.00	454.00	455.10	-6.10
HEROMOTOCO	2411.00	2416.60	2351.00	2363.00	-33.60
AXISBANK	732.80	735.25	715.00	718.00	-11.25
ITC	247.00	247.15	242.50	243.00	-0.95
MARUTI	7012.85	7050.00	6864.10	6886.75	-126.10
ONGC	129.50	129.50	126.30	126.50	-2.40
SUNPHARMA	440.30	444.20	427.00	428.40	-8.30
EICHERMOT	21500.00	21634.65	20665.00	20920.05	-997.00
COALINDIA	196.40	197.00	190.90	191.45	-4.95
M&M	527.80	527.90	508.10	510.00	-14.75
HDFC	2326.50	2335.00	2246.45	2262.00	-65.55
TATAMOTORS	167.00	168.00	160.05	161.05	-5.05
GAIL	121.30	121.70	118.85	117.15	-4.05
INDUSINDBK	1517.00	1518.65	1456.00	1458.70	-51.05
ZEELE	298.00	302.40	283.40	286.20	-13.85
SBIN	336.70	337.65	318.00	318.00	-18.00
YESBANK	60.10	60.75	55.15	55.60	-6.50

SCRIP	OPEN	High	LOW	LTP	CHANGE
NIFTY NEXT 50	28221.20	28249.95	27741.55	27854.05	-291.50
COPAL	1453.00	1494.00	1453.00	1479.90	-29.10
BERGEPAIN	498.00	515.65	495.00	500.70	7.00
BIOCEN	285.05	293.35	286.05	289.20	2.60
PGHH	23.90	24.10	23.80	24.05	0.20
NHPC	11474.80	11525.00	11402.00	11445.00	94.75
PIDILITIND	1312.90	1338.00	1308.15	1318.90	7.95
MOTHERSUMI	131.55	134.00	131.30	132.45	0.75
INDIGO	1325.00	1335.00	1305.55	1325.55	4.30
NMDC	530.00	530.00	508.85	510.30	0.30
HDFCLIFE	577.75	579.20	571.25	576.55	0.65
ASHOKLEY	76.90	77.20	75.65	76.50	0.05
SIEMENS	1483.70	1489.65	1456.40	1476.95	-1.10
AMBUJACEM	202.15	203.00	199.35	200.85	-0.35
SILFIE	971.00	974.00	945.20	963.00	-6.20
SURECLM	1574.00	1578.80	1532.25	1560.00	-3.40
HINDZINC	2000.00	2057.80	2029.85	2029.00	-102.55
DABUR	211.50	213.95	210.00	210.60	-1.25
DABUR	468.75	471.85	460.90	463.25	-2.85
HDFCAMC	3225.00	3264.90	3172.20	3180.00	-11.20
HINDPETRO	325.00	269.00	262.00	264.00	-1.90
ADANI PHARMA	449.15	454.95	423.25	445.50	-3.60
CADILAH	258.00	260.95	255.00	255.30	-2.35
ACC	1496.00	1501.50	1462.55	1479.00	-14.00
ICICIPRULI	484.00	500.25	489.20	490.00	-4.00
GODREJCP	672.00	684.40	663.30	665.00	-6.80
BAJAJHINDG	3457.80	3457.80	3400.10	3414.00	-34.85
OFSS	2945.45	2974.75	2915.00	2920.00	-31.05
PAGEIND	2091.00	2091.00	2164.65	2170.00	-254.00
CONCOR	567.60	576.00	555.60	560.85	-7.15
DIVISLAB	1802.00	1824.00	1772.00	1780.15	-23.35
UBL	1232.15	1237.90	1211.45	1214.00	-16.35
DLF	221.90	222.50	216.00	217.95	-3.15
MCDOWELL-N	603.30	605.95	586.45	591.20	-9.25
HAVELLS	670.95	670.95	632.35	660.00	-10.40
DMAT	1826.00	1834.80	1795.00	1796.30	-28.45
PETRONET	21.50	23.70	26.80	26.80	-4.40
MARICO	345.80	349.75	338.85	341.30	-6.70
LATHI	116.50	116.40	111.75	113.10	-2.45
NICL	147.50	148.50	140.50	141.05	-6.05
GLAC	258.45	260.40	247.80	249.95	-6.10
BANDHANBANK	580.25	581.25	551.40	563.50	-13.90
LUPIN	783.00	786.00	759.00	759.00	-20.65
STRANSFIN	1108.20	1108.80	1069.00	1071.20	-37.60
PNB	62.55	62.70	59.90	60.15	-2.15
BOSCHLTD	15615.00	15725.00	15097.25	15110.00	-548.30
PEL	1721.90	1724.45	1627.75	1645.25	-33.30
IBULHSGFIN	287.90	295.20	270.15	273.50	-11.60
PFCE	114.80	115.70	109.25	109.25	-6.65
IDEA	7.10	7.35	6.65	6.90	-0.40
BANKBARODA	103.30	103.65	96.20	96.55	-5.70

BSE 500

Script	Open	High	Low	LTP	SPARC	156.05	161.30	151.00	153.70
YESBANK	61.00	61.00	55.20	56.00	MUTHOOTFIN	695.50	703.00	690.55	692.05
IBULHSGFIN	287.25	295.20	270.25	272.40					

TRUMP impeachment

Charges must come swiftly: Democrats

AP ■ WASHINGTON

House Democrats moved aggressively to draw up formal articles of impeachment against President Donald Trump on Thursday, with Speaker Nancy Pelosi saying he "leaves us no choice" but to act swiftly because he's likely to corrupt the system again unless removed before next year's election.

A strictly partisan effort at this point, derided immediately by Trump and other leading Republicans as a sham and a hoax, it is a politically risky undertaking, Democrats say it is their duty, in the aftermath of the Ukraine probe, while Republicans say it will drive Pelosi's majority from office.

Congress must act, Pelosi said. "The democracy is what is at stake."

"The President's actions have seriously violated the Constitution," she said in a somber address at the Capitol. "He is trying to corrupt, once



The President's actions have seriously violated the Constitution...He is trying to corrupt, once again, the election for his own benefit

NANCY PELOSI

again, the election for his own benefit. The President has engaged in abuse of power, undermining our national security and jeopardising the integrity of our elections."

Trump has insisted he did nothing wrong. He tweeted that the Democrats "have gone crazy."

At the core of the impeachment probe is a July phone call

with the president of Ukraine, in which Trump pressed the leader to investigate Democrats, including political rival Joe Biden. At the same time the White House was withholding military aid from Ukraine, an ally bordering an aggressive Russia.

Drafting articles of impeachment is a milestone moment, only the fourth time in US his-

tory Congress has tried to remove a president, and it intensifies the rigid and polarising partisanship of the Trump era that is consuming Washington and dividing the nation.

The speaker delivered her historic announcement in solemn tones at the Capitol, drawing on the Constitution and the Founding Fathers in forcefully claiming Congress' oversight of the president in the nation's system of checks and balances. Democrats are already beginning to prepare the formal charges, pushing toward House votes, possibly before Christmas.

"Sadly, but with confidence and humility, with allegiance to our founders and a heart full of love for America, today I am asking our chairmen to proceed with articles of impeachment," Pelosi said.

Seemingly eager to fight, Trump tweeted that if Democrats "are going to impeach me, do it now, fast."

Though he has fought the House investigation, trying to bar current and former officials from testifying, he said he now wants to move on to a "fair trial" in the Senate.

Approval of articles of impeachment is considered likely in the Democratic-majority House. Conviction in a following trial in the Republican-dominated Senate seems very unlikely. Once reluctant to pursue impeachment, warning it was too divisive for the country and needed to be bipartisan, Pelosi is now leading Congress into politically uncertain terrain for all sides just ahead of the election year.

Republican are standing lockstep with Trump, unsuayed by arguments that his actions amount to wrongdoing, let alone impeachable offenses. That is leaving Democrats to go it alone in a campaign to consider removing the 45th president from office.

ARTICLES OF IMPEACHMENT: Explaining what's next in the House

AP ■ WASHINGTON

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi said on Thursday that Democrats will draft articles of impeachment against President Donald Trump, a crucial step toward a vote of the full House.

The articles are likely to mostly encompass Democrats' findings on Trump's dealings with Ukraine. Democrats are still writing them, but the articles could charge Trump with abuse of office, bribery and obstruction.

Lawmakers and staff are expected to finish drafting the articles in the coming days, a process that is being led by Pelosi and the House Judiciary Committee.

That panel could approve the articles as early as next week, setting up a vote of the

full House in the days before Christmas.

Articles of impeachment are charges against the president. If the House approves them, they are then sent to the Senate for a trial and eventual vote. There can be as few as many articles as the House decides. In a Senate trial, senators are jurors and select House members act as prosecutors, or impeachment managers. The chief justice of the Supreme Court presides. If the Senate approves an article of impeachment with a two-thirds vote of "guilty," the president is convicted and removed from office. If all the articles are rejected, the President is acquitted.

While the process has the trappings of a criminal trial, the decision is purely political.

Deadly explosion in Slovakia; building at risk of collapse

Bratislava (Slovakia): A gas explosion in an apartment building in eastern Slovakia killed at least five people Friday. Firefighters said other people are trapped on the roof as the building burns and is in danger

of collapse. The explosion took place in the 12-story building in the city of Presov shortly after noon. Firefighters said the explosion was between the 9th and 12 floors, and several people fled to the roof. AP

China places new restrictions on American diplomats

Beijing: China said on Friday it will now require US Diplomats to give five days' notice before holding meetings with Chinese officials and academics in retaliation for a similar restriction by Washington.

Chinese Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Hua Chunying said at a daily briefing that the rule was a direct response to Washington's move in October to require all Chinese diplomats to preregister for meetings with officials down to the

municipal level as well as visits to educational and research institutions.

Hua said the US should "correct its mistakes, revoke the relevant decision, and provide support and convenience for Chinese diplomatic and consular staff in the US to perform their duty." The tit-for-tat restrictions come amid a trade war between the world's two largest economies and US allegations Huawei poses a security threat to Western democracies. AP

UK PM faces flak for ducking TV grilling

London: Boris Johnson came under fire on Friday for failing to face one of Britain's top political interviewers as he prepared for a final head-to-head debate with the main opposition leader before next week's election.

Four other major party leaders have subjected themselves to an uncomfortable grilling from the BBC's Andrew Neil but the prime minister has so far declined to do so.

The spat comes before the second and final televised showdown between Conservative party leader

Johnson and Jeremy Corbyn, of the main opposition Labour party, at 8:30 pm (2030 GMT). Neil, a former editor of the Sunday Times, said he wanted to put questions of trust to Johnson.

After quizzing Brexit Party leader Nigel Farage on Thursday night, Neil told viewers the series of 30-minute leaders' interviews was done "on your behalf to scrutinise and hold to account those who would govern us. That is democracy." "We've always proceeded in good faith that the leaders

would participate. And in every election they have. All of them. Until this one."

Corbyn meanwhile claimed in a speech in north London on Friday that he had uncovered confidential documents proving Johnson was "deliberately misleading the people" about his Brexit deal.

He said the government papers suggested there would be customs declarations and security checks between mainland Britain and Northern Ireland, contrary to what he had claimed. AFP

NORTHERN RAILWAY (MORADABAD DIVISION) Tender Notice (Parking)

Sr. Divisional Commercial Manager, Northern Railway, Moradabad for & on behalf of the President of India, e-tender for the following work:-

S No	Name of Work & Place	Area (in sq-meter)	Reserve Price for 01 year (Excluding GST)	Earnest Money (2% of reserve price of 3 years)	Completion period	Cost of Tender Form (With 18% GST)	Address of website from which tender documents can be downloaded	Last Date & time of submission
1.	Contract for Cycle Scooter Motor-cycle Stand list at Shahja -hanpur Railway Station (A-Category)	388 Sq-m	Rs. 4,60,800/-	Rs. 27,700/- to be paid through online payment gateway	03 Years	Rs. 2,360/- to be paid through online payment gateway	www.ireps.gov.in (E-tendering mode)	Upto 14.00 hrs. on 30.12.19 and will be open on the same day
2.	Contract for Cycle, Scooter, Motor-Cycle Stand list Entry at Shahja -hanpur Railway Station (A-Category)	328 Sq-m	Rs. 3,92,832/-	Rs. 23,600/- to be paid through online payment gateway	03 Years	Rs. 2,360/- to be paid through online payment gateway	www.ireps.gov.in (E-tendering mode)	Upto 14.00 hrs. on 30.12.19 and will be open on the same day

Note: The pre bid conference regarding to the tenders will be held at 20.12.2019 09:00 AM at Commercial Branch, Moradabad at 11.00 am. 1. Single packet system shall be adopted in this tender. 2. In case of any difficulty helpdesk and learning centre available on the website IREPS may be approached. 3. Tenderer(s) are advised to read tender document carefully before participating in the tender. Tender Notice No. 21-10/Parking/MB/2019/C-24/DL-05.12.2019 3917/19

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NORTHERN RAILWAY NOTICE INVITING TENDER

30-ELECT-26-T-R1-19-20-E3

Electrical work in connection with replacement of depleted wiring at ROP depot & DSL shed TKD.

Approx. Cost of the work	₹60.39 Lakh
Address of the office	Sr. Divl. Elect. Engineer/General, New Delhi
Earnest Money	₹1,60,800.00
Date & time of submission of tender	02.01.2020, 15:00 hrs.
Opening of tender	02.01.2020, 15:00 hrs.
Website & notice board	www.ireps.gov.in & Sr. Divl. Elect. Engineer/General, New Delhi

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE 3899/19

NORTHERN RAILWAY OPEN-E-TENDER NOTICE

The Sr. Divisional Engineer-III, Northern Railway, Delhi Division invites E-Tender for the following work.

1. Name of work	Installation of open gym equipments and swings for children & installation of LED lights with poles under MPLAD funds of Park near Kabir Mandir Prem Nagar Delhi
2. Approx cost of work	Rs. 18,86,232.71 (Rupees Eighteen Lakh Eighty Six Thousand and Two Hundred Thirty Two and Paise Seventy One only)
3. Earnest Money to be deposited	Rs. 37,700/- (Rupees Thirty Seven Thousand Seven Hundred Only)
4. Cost of tender document	Rs. 3000/-
5. Date & Time of submission of tender bid and opening of tender	31.12.2019 @ 15:00 Hrs.
6. Website particulars where complete details of tender documents can be seen	www.ireps.gov.in

The tenderer/s must be registered on the Indian Railway E-Procurement system (IREPS) site i.e. www.ireps.gov.in for participating in the e-tender system. For all terms and conditions please refer tender document. No manual offers are acceptable. Cost of tender document and Earnest money will be acceptable through net banking or payment gateway only. No. 128-W/280e Tender Notice/NIT/43/2019-20/W-3 Dated: 05.12.2019 3903/2019

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

NORTHERN RAILWAY E-Tender Notice

Sr. DEE-TRS-GZB acting for and on behalf of President of India invites E-Tender against Tender No. 230-TRS-GZB-2019-20-11. The details are as under:

1. Name of the work	Supply and Fitting of Tool Box 250 Nos. having dimension 18"x08"x07" of 1.5 mm MS sheet as per IS:2062 with lock operated by BL key and power coating with gray color for Loco Pilot in 3 phase locomotives.
2. Approx. cost of work	Rs. 3,54,000/-
3. Earnest Money to be deposited	Rs. 7,100/-
4. Cost of Tender Document	Rs. 1,180/-
5. Last Date & Time of Submission of tender bid of tender	06.01.2020 (15.00 hrs.)
6. Date and Time of opening of tender Document	06.01.2020 (15.30 hrs.)
7. Website particulars where complete details of tender documents can be seen	www.ireps.gov.in

Note: (i) The tenderer/s must be registered on the Indian Railway E-Procurement System (IREPS) site i.e. www.ireps.gov.in for participating in e-tender system. (ii) For all terms and conditions please refer tender document. (iii) No manual offers are acceptable. (iv) Cost of Tender document and Earnest money will be acceptable through net banking or payment gateway only. No. 230-TRS-GZB-2019-20-11 Dated: 04.12.2019 3904/2019

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Mob besieges Pak daily's office again for terming London Bridge attacker 'man of Pak origin'

Islamabad: For the second time in a week, nearly 100 protesters on Friday besieged the office of a Pakistani newspaper, chanting slogans against the organisation and setting copies of its editions on fire, for publishing a news report in which the London Bridge attacker was identified as a "man of Pakistani origin".

The Dawn newspaper in its headline had identified Usman Khan, a convicted Islamist terrorist from Pakistan-occupied Kashmir who stabbed two people to death in a terror attack on London Bridge on November 29, as "UK national of Pakistani origin, unlike many other local dailies which said he was born and brought up in Britain and had no link with Pakistan."

Nearly 100 people arrived in vans and gathered outside the newspaper's office and besieged Dawn's Islamabad bureau — the second time this week — and chanted slogans against the media group and set copies of the newspaper on fire, the paper reported. Police arrived at the scene but the protesters dispersed on their own after about 40 minutes, it said. PTI

Abandoned baby giraffe befriended by dog in Africa dies



Hunter, a young Belgian Malinois, keeps an eye on Jazz, a nine-day-old giraffe

AP ■ JOHANNESBURG

A South African animal orphanage says a baby giraffe that was befriended by a dog after it was abandoned in the wild has died.

The Rhino Orphanage in a Facebook post on Friday said Jazz the giraffe col-

lapsed after hemorrhaging in the brain. The orphanage said the giraffe had been unstable on its feet in recent days.

"Our team is heartbroken," the orphanage said. It added that resident watchdog Hunter was by the giraffe's side when it died. The dog then sat in front of the

empty room for a while.

The giraffe arrived at the orphanage a few weeks ago, just days after birth.

A farmer found him in the wild, weak and dehydrated, and called the centre for help. Caretaker Janie Van Heerden said the two animals had bonded immediately.

4 dead, including shooter, in gunfire at Florida naval base

PENSACOLA: A shooter opened fire in a classroom building at the Naval Air Station in Pensacola on Friday morning in an attack that left four people dead, including the assailant, and multiple people wounded. The shooting — the second at a U.S. Navy base this week — prompted a massive law enforcement response and a lockdown at the base.

Escambia County Sheriff David Morgan said four people had been killed and that the two sheriff's deputies who were the first to respond, including one who killed the shooter, were wounded but expected to recover.

Eight people were taken to Baptist Health Care in Pensacola, and one of them died, Morgan said.

NAS Pensacola employs more than 16,000 military and 7,400 civilian personnel, according to its website. One of the Navy's most historic and storied bases, it sprawls along the waterfront southwest of downtown Pensacola and dominates the economy of the surrounding area. AP

GLOBE TROTTER

BLACK HAWK HELICOPTER CRASHES, THREE KILLED

St. Cloud, Minn.: All three Minnesota National Guard soldiers were killed when the Black Hawk helicopter they were in crashed on Thursday, Governor Tim Walz said. The identities of the soldiers were not released, pending notification of family. The crash was being investigated and preliminary information on the crash was not released.

PANEL: PAK HINDU STUDENT COMMITTED SUICIDE

Lahore: A Pakistani Hindu dental college student, who was found dead under mysterious circumstances in her hostel room, committed suicide as she was under "severe stress", a judicial commission concluded on Friday, contradicting her final autopsy report which said she was murdered.

IRAN WERE 'SHOOTING TO KILL' PROTESTERS: UN

Geneva: Iranian security forces were "shooting to kill" in their deadly crackdown against protesters in recent weeks, according to credible video footage, the UN Human rights chief said on Friday. The unrest left at least 208 people dead nationwide, the office of High Commissioner for Human Rights Michelle Bachelet said, echoing a count also tallied by Amnesty International. Iran disputes death toll figures released by foreign organisations but has so far refused to any countrywide casualty or arrest figures.

DISNEY WORKER CHARGED WITH RAPING 13-YR-OLD

Orlando: A Florida man who works for a Disney cruise line has been accused of repeatedly raping a 13-year-old girl at his home. Orange County deputies arrested 53-year-old Keith Seitz on November 25, the Orlando Sentinel reported on Thursday. The girl told her mother Seitz raped her multiple times between 2016 and 2019, beginning when she was 10 years old, according to testimony in an arrest affidavit.

UBER RECEIVED 6K SEXUAL ASSAULT CASES IN 2017-18

San Francisco: Nearly 6,000 instances of sexual assault, including more than 450 cases of rape, were reported to Uber in the US in 2017 and 2018, the ride-sharing company said in a report on safety released on Thursday.

GRAFT CASE: KYRGYZSTAN SENTENCES FORMER PM

Bishkek: Two former Prime Ministers in Central Asian Kyrgyzstan were sentenced to long jail terms on corruption charges in a trial that roiled the national elite and fuelled suspicion toward China. The pair were among eight defendants on trial over a nearly USD 400 million China-financed deal for modernising a power plant.

PRESS E-TENDER NOTICE

The Executive Engineer, Civil Division No. VII, Irrigation & Flood Control Deptt., Govt. of NCT of Delhi, Sector-15, Rohini, Delhi invites online Item rate E-tenders on behalf of the President of India from approved and eligible contractors of I&F Deptt. The contractors who are registered with other Departments but granted provisional permission by the Chief Engineer (I&F) are also eligible for participation of e-tendering for the following works:-

Sr. No. 1, NIT No. EE/CD-VII/NIT/2019-20/93, Name of Work: Demolition and Reconstruction of Jataw Chopal at village Santhi in Alpur Block, Head of Account: SC/ST Basties, Estimate Cost (In Rs.): 83,20,717/-, Earnest Money (In Rs.): 1,66,414/-, Time Allowed: 12 Months, Tender ID No.: 2019_JFC_184867_1, Last date & time for submission of Price Bid: 19.12.2019 upto 15.00 Hrs.

- The enlistment of the contractors should be valid on the last date of opening of tenders. In case, the last date of opening of tender is extended, the enlistment of contractor should be valid on the original date of opening of tenders.
- Earnest money in physical form and self attested copy of Registration of enlistment & other documents (eg. ES1 & EPF registration, copy of PAN card, Copy of VAT documents) should be submitted in the Office of Executive Engineer, Civil Division-VII, I&F Deptt., Govt. of NCT of Delhi, Sector-15, Rohini, Delhi-110085 upto 3.00 PM on the last date of submission of technical bids for obtaining the deposition slip for uploading.
- The details of above mentioned work(s) can be seen and downloaded from the website <http://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in>
- The agencies who do not fulfill eligibility criteria/ do not submit required documents upto the stipulated time, their tenders shall be rejected submitted at technical bid stage.
- Tenders submitted through e-procurement portal shall only be considered and no manual tender shall be accepted.
- Intending tenders participating in tendering process in EE CD-VII, I&F shall furnish ES1 & EPF registration along with other required documents and the same shall be uploaded while bidding. Moreover the ES1 & EPF registration documents of all contractors shall be kept on records and ES1 & EPF registration documents of lowest tenderer to whom the work awarded shall form the part of the agreement. (I&F department order No 141748 dated 29.01.2016).

Sd/- EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (CD-VII) Irr. & Flood Control Deptt. Govt of NCT of Delhi

DIP/Shabdhar/1094/19-20

ICICI Bank Branch Office: ICICI Bank Ltd., Videocon Tower, Jhandewalan, New Delhi- 110055

PUBLIC NOTICE - TENDER CUM AUCTION FOR SALE OF SECURED ASSET

[See proviso to rule 8(6)]

Notice for sale of immovable assets

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described immovable properties mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the physical possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of ICICI Bank Ltd., will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" as per the brief particulars given hereunder;

Sr. No.	Name of Borrower(s) / Co-Borrowers / Guarantors / Loan Account No.	Details of the Secured asset(s) with known encumbrances, if any	Amount Outstanding	Reserve Price Earnest Money Deposit	Date and Time of Property Inspection	Date & Time of Auction
(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)	(F)	(G)
1.	Esha Laxman (Borrower), Divay Mehta (Co-Borrower)-LBDEL00002432219	Flat No. 307 3rd Floor Tower-10 Sunworld Arista GH- 1C, Sector- 168, Noida Express way UP, Noida- 201301, Area 615 Sq. Ft	Rs. 46,00,920/- as on December 02, 2019	Rs. 33,83,000/- (Thirty Three lakhs Eighty Three Thousand Only)	December 19, 2019 From 12 Noon to 02 P.M.	December 31, 2019 From 1:00 P.M. Onwards
2.	Archana Gupta (Borrower), Sharad Gupta (Co-Borrower)-LBFDB00002378934	Flat No. 2501, 25th Floor Tower 10, Sunworld Arista, Plot No.- GH 01/C, Sector- 168, Noida, UP- 201301, Area 615 Sq. Ft	Rs. 37,63,212/- as on December 02, 2019	Rs. 31,30,000/- (Thirty OneLakh Thirty Thousand Only)	December 19, 2019 from 12 Noon to 02 P.M.	December 31, 2019 from 1:30 P.M. Onwards

The online auction will be conducted on website (URL Link- <https://eauctions.samil.in>) of our auction agency Shirram Automall India Ltd. The Mortgagee's noticee are given a last chance to pay the total dues with further interest till December 30, 2019 before 5:00 PM else these secured assets will be sold as per schedule.

The Prospective Bidder(s) must submit their offer along with the earnest money deposit (refer column E) in a sealed envelope that mentions "Offer for purchase of property" to ICICI Bank Limited, 2nd Floor Videocon Tower, Block E-1, Jhandewalan Extension, Rani Jhansi Road, Delhi-110055 or to our marketing agent Shirram Automall India Ltd at 2nd Floor, Best Sky Tower, Netaji Subhash Place, Pitampura, New Delhi-110034, on or before December 30, 2019 before 5:00PM The marketing agency has also been engaged as auctioneer for proper conduct of auction. Earnest Money Deposit DD/PO should be from a Nationalised/Scheduled Bank in favour of "ICICI Bank Limited" payable at Delhi.

For any further clarifications with regards to inspection, terms and conditions of the auction or submission of tenders, kindly contact ICICI Bank Limited on 9599281817. Tenders which are acknowledged by the Bank/e-auction vendor official and registered before the cut-off time with complete details shall only be considered for auction.

The Authorised Officer reserves the right to reject any or all the bids without furnishing any further reasons.

For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please visit www.icicibank.com/n4p4s

Date: 07.12.2019 Place: Noida

Sd/- Authorised Officer ICICI Bank Limited

Expression of Interest

INVITATION FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FROM INDIVIDUALS, NGOS, TRUSTS, CHARITABLE INSTITUTIONS, CORPORATES FOR DEVELOPMENT AND BEAUTIFICATION OF CHARNI ROAD & GRANT ROAD RAILWAY STATIONS ON WESTERN RAILWAY

Western Railway is proposing to develop Charni Road and Grant Road Railway stations with beautification including restoration of the heritage look. The plan and the work scope to be decided as per Railway's approval and work to be executed as per Railway's plan and specification.

Railway may allow putting up a plaque or a board acknowledging contribution of the sponsor by way of logo, company's name etc at appropriate place decided by Railways.

To promote participation of individuals, NGOs, Trusts, Charitable Institutions, Corporates, etc. Expression of Interest for development of Charni Road and Grant Road Railway stations is invited with following details.

- Name of the individuals, NGOs, Trusts, Charitable Institutions, Corporates, etc.
- Profile of the Individuals, NGOs, Trusts, Charitable Institutions, Corporates, etc.
- Contact person and Phone No. & Mail Id.
- Amount of fund for this purpose.

Additional information if any required for these stations can be obtained from the contact persons, Senior Divisional Engineer (Co-ordination) / Mumbai Central / W. R. (M.No. 09004499200).

Interested party desiring to visit the site can contact the above nominated person.

For clarification and discussion on this issue a conference has been organized on 17/12/2019 at 11.30 hours at Engineering Conference Room at Western Railway Headquarter GLO Opposite Churchgate Station Mumbai.

The Expression of Interest shall be submitted in hardcopy to this office. They can also mail their proposals to cpdsdwr@gmail.com All proposals must be submitted by 16/12/2019.

Participation in conference and submission of details in response to above EOJ is not a guarantee to award of any contract.

Railway reserves the right to accept or reject any or all the expression of interest without assigning any reasons thereto.

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SHORT CIRCUITS



AYUSHMANN KHURRANA
Our imperfections make us real and everyone connects to people and stories that are absolutely real because they can easily relate to them and are believable. People should be able to see the problems, joys, pain, victories, ambitions, imperfections and say yes we are like this.



RASIKA DUGAL
Since I have been in the industry for a decade, I have now got used to the things which I didn't like earlier. For instance, I found the uncertainty of the business very hard to deal with in the initial days of my career. You think you are shooting tomorrow then you plan accordingly. And then suddenly makers change the schedules.



SAHIL SALATHIA
I hope that the next generation watches films like *Panipat*. They will learn and be proud of our country. It is important to know about the third battle of Panipat, Maratha bravery and our great warriors. Though the battle was a part of our textbooks but I don't know how many people know about it at length.



AMAAL MALLIK
U2 happens to be one of the world's most celebrated bands of all time. They have influenced my own music and playlists growing up. In fact, when I was in college, I won a singing competition with a U2 song. When I was presented with the opportunity to reimagine 'Beautiful day', I knew I would need to go above and beyond.

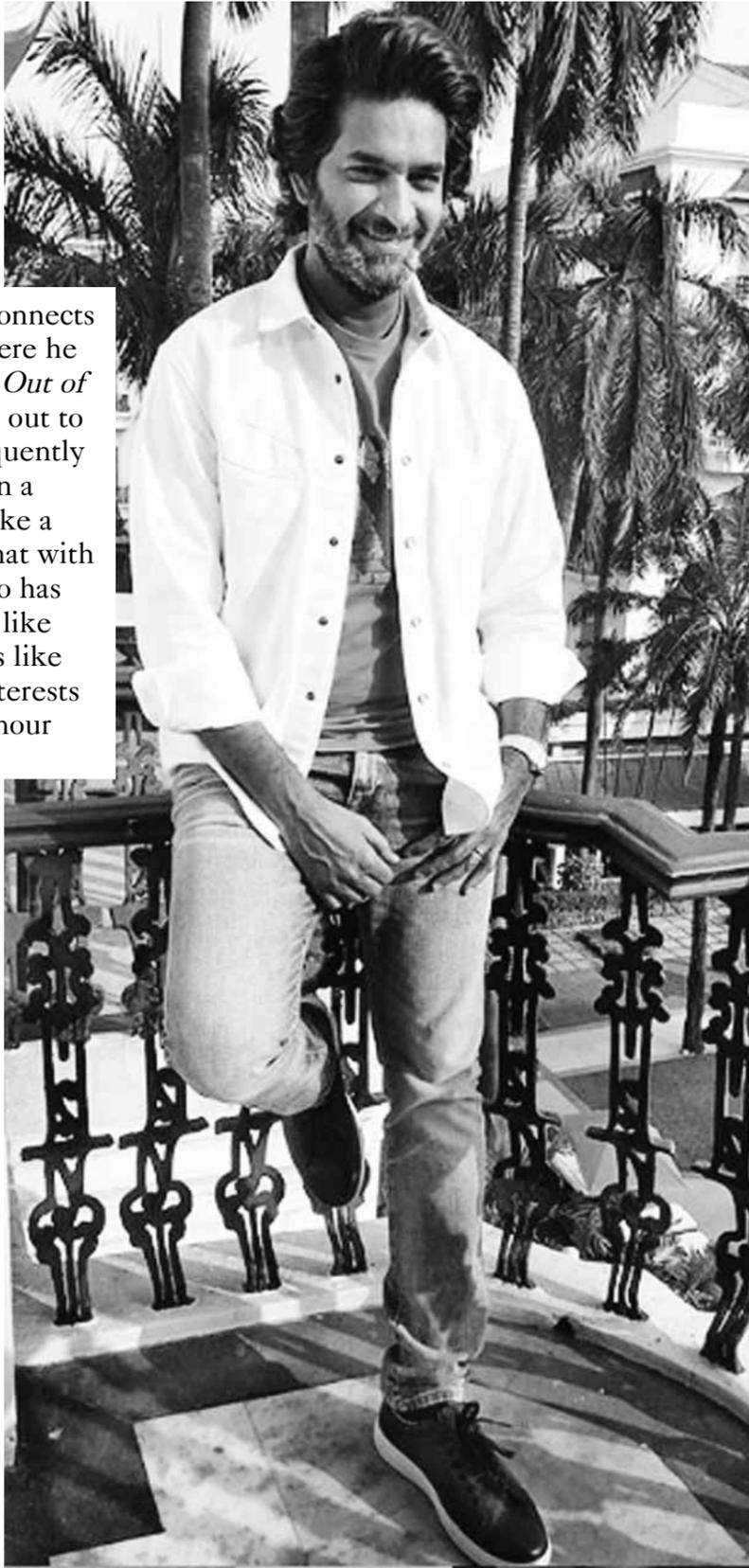


KARTIK AARYAN
Acting and sex are like bread and butter. You can't quit either. Acting and sex or love goes hand in hand for me. I don't like talking about my personal life but I don't like hiding it also. I won't stop going for a dinner at a restaurant with someone just because there will be paparazzi there.

ENCOUNTER 45 MINUTES

The reluctant actor

Actor and former VJ PURAB KOHLI connects over a WhatsApp call from London, where he is based, to talk about his latest outing, *Out of Love*. Rather than an interview, it turns out to be more like a discussion where he frequently digresses from the topic and takes off on a different tangent before deciding to make a course correction. The free-wheeling chat with SAIMI SATTAR reveals that the actor, who has been a part of some pathbreaking films like *My Brother Nikhil*, *Rock On* and shows like *Hip Hip Hurray* and *Typewriter*, has interests which extend beyond the glitz and glamour of the industry



What made you take on the show?

The first thing that you look at is the writing. In this case, I had the reference of the original *Doctor Foster*. It is an interesting part and I haven't done anything similar before.

Adultery has been dealt with in films, TV shows and web series. Was there a reason you felt the treatment was unique?

I think it was because of the stance that the protagonist takes and the way she deals with it. And treating it like a thriller is quite a unique way of dealing with the subject, which hasn't been done before. You can say in *Khoon Bhari Maang*, the treatment was similar. But if you see the show, it has been dealt with very differently.

You play a 40 something father in the show and you are roughly the same age. Why does the idea of eternal youth not enamour you unlike most celebrities?

(Guffaws) I don't think that it is celebrities alone. It affects everyone now. I find it largely annoying that everyone around me wants to stay young and youthful. There is a great joy in accepting who you are and how you are and it is nice to have the same energy and buzz which you had at a younger age. Only that it is a different kind of a buzz. It is energy with maturity. If you are holding on to what you were at 18 or 19, it is a recipe for stagnation. If we are looking at evolution, then you have to look at maturity. That is how I look at it rather than as getting old.

What is the character like?

(Laughs) Having just spoken of maturity, this character is quite immature. He is someone who is trying to hold on to that age and trying to feel young. He wants to experience the first flush of love. He is involved with a younger woman. Even in the interactions with his son, he is more like a buddy than a father. Akarsh has that thing about wanting to be 18 or 19 again and have that youthfulness without taking up the responsibility that comes with age. He tries hard to be a good father and a husband. He has a loving relationship with his wife where they have a great physical and romantic chemistry but he feels that he has too much of love to offer. And he has it for more than one person so he wants to disburse it.

A co-star is someone who can inspire a better performance. What does Rasika (Dugal) add to your character?

If there is one reason that one should see the show, it is Rasika. She is fantastic! She is a powerful actor and this is a perfect role for one and she has done justice to it. She is an

absolute joy to work with. When you are two actors on a set, it is a dance of sorts. You throw something at each other, react to it and take it forward. When you have a great co-star, then you really enjoy giving back and doing things in tandem.

Coming back to your question, I think nobody could have made for a better Dr Meera Kapoor and it is a big responsibility to play the title part. I look at her as the protagonist and Akarsh, my character, as the conflict of the show. Both are important and would fall flat without each other. On the set, we were starting from a level that was quite high and then we tried to see how much higher we could take it.

Web series means uncensored content so often people try to use that to grab eyeballs by using titillation and unprecedented violence. Does it call for some amount of self-censorship on the part of the makers?

I think that it is essential for the audience to choose the makers of the show wisely. I don't agree that censorship should exist in any form. What should exist is viewer's discernment to choose what to watch. If I want to watch crass, then I will. There are creative people in the business and then there are people who claim to be creative and want to make money. It can also be their idea of creativity. Censorship implies treating the audience like children. *Ye to bachcha hai, usey samajh nahin aayega. Humein isey yeh nahin dikhana chahiye violent ho jayega* (A child should not be exposed to such content). An audience that has been treated like that becomes like that. You have to nurture and push creative thought. People who do that will have a following of people who want to watch such shows. Moreover, you as a journalist will talk about the shows that you enjoyed watching or found crass as you are the medium through which creativity ultimately reaches the reader and the consumer. Censorship should lie with people who make informed choices.

Moreover, a filmmaker might use sex in context and not just for titillation. Or maybe even to titillate because it is a creative process as he wants the viewer to be sexually aroused. For me, anything that is creative where a good writer and director are trying to take the audience on an emotional journey, which has many layers, should not be censored by an external agency. Even when the emotions are negative like anger, arousal or hate, these media help release them. If someone is feeling aggressive, they see that emotion on screen which can help them release that emotion. If I feel like shedding a tear and watching a great show or performance that takes me through an emotional journey which I connect with, I feel "Wow, that has

helped me." Monitoring and trying to control is wrong. The scary bit is that often you realise that people are getting the entertainment they want to see. Creative people have to accept that.

Content in the past two years has seen a drastic improvement. Is star power not enough to make any film a hit?

All through eternity, star power has not carried a film through. What it does is get the numbers. That is what star power is used for cleverly. I heard a story recently. I don't know if it is true or not. Studios are looking at Instagram followers and casting people. It doesn't matter if they are actors or not.

Having said that, many stars are great actors and that is why they are successful. For me, a star is a face that makes it easier for marketing. I am bringing its reference to your industry also. When you have a known person, it is easier for the PR to bring in the journalists as the readers want to see them on the cover. Carrying a project forward needs content and a lot of intelligent stars in our country move with the trends. If something is working, they position

themselves in those films.

You have been a VJ and have done films, TV and web series. How have the different media contributed to the journey?

I enjoy watching films more than anything else because in films, there is some sort of closure. In series, because they are trying to engage you for longer, it seems never-ending. I am not complaining on the career front (laughs) but I am talking in terms of a viewer.

But yes, I do get absorbed in a series. For instance, *Doctor Foster*, on which this is based, is a series I watched in one night. It was so good. On the internet, the content is pushing the bar in terms of creativity because there is a lot of money involved. Two, people are trying to make content that is great. Three, they are trying to capture an audience that had not had representation for a long time so they are trying to discover who this audience is and what they want. This is the audience that had stopped going to theatres because they were so disappointed with the kind of films that were being made. Suddenly, there is a platform where they can be entertained

director) had displayed more than the love relationship. Today, you have a country which has legalised homosexual relationships. The film set the ball rolling. (Pauses) I've gone on chatting so much that I've lost my train of thought. (Guffaws).

I will come back to the original question that what is the difference between the three. As an actor, whether you are acting in films, web or TV, you are acting as someone else. I think about the medium that I am performing for to decide the level of performance or how I want to play things out. When you are hosting a show, you are really being yourself and not anyone else. You are really functioning from being Purab Kohli. That is the straightforward answer to your question. (Laughs)

You have anchored shows on Channel V, which at the time was a purely music channel. What would you say about the way such channels have changed their formats?

I am not from the business end of the channels so maybe I am the wrong person to comment. But yes, I know how it works. I remember having a chat with my boss who said that Channel V never made money but was seen adding value to a bouquet of channels and was sold as a youthful, trend-setting, fashionable music channel, which made the entire package look great. But when that shifted and they wanted to make money out of the channels, they became mini-GECS (General Entertainment Channels). These were no longer trendsetting channels. Also, with the birth of internet, Instagram moved cool people to the web, you find many of them there and you don't find people like us on television. Also, a larger audience has become 'cool'. Satellite TV came to India in 1993-94 and in 1999, we joined Channel V as the first bunch of Indian VJs as earlier, there were only foreigners. We were the door openers to that 'cool' space. Let us not call it cool as it means different things to different people. We can rather call it the unexplored space. That gateway is now wide-open and there are a lot of gate-keepers who are all on Instagram.

How did Hip Hip Hurray happen?

It was very random. I come from a film family. Actors, directors and technicians have always been around me while I was growing up. But I never wanted to be an actor. I wanted to be a pilot. This was in 1995-96 when Jet Airways had just started and was the first non-government airlines that was flying one flight a week. It was ridiculous. And then Vayudoot had shut down. It was a very fragile time in the airline business which seems to have carried on forever (laughs). It is very sad to see the collapse of Jet Airways because when I started travelling and flying around, it was an airline that people were proud about as it was something that was really Indian with international standards.

But then, this is besides the point as this is not what the interview is about. I was training to become a pilot. I realised it was going to be very hard to get a job after the very expensive course. I was very conscious at a young age about taking too much money from home. I wanted to go out and do my own thing. It was at this time that my aunt, who is very close to my family, said that "a friend who is a budding director is looking for new faces and you are a decent looking guy. Why don't you go and just meet her?" So I decided to do just that. Nupur Asthana, the director, called me to the UTV office for audition. I thought I would just go and chat with them. During the audition, there were two people including Nilanjana Sharma, who later played Mona. We did some improvisations and jigs, I don't even know what we were doing. But we were certainly having fun. After 10 days, I was called for a second round to Nupur's house. I took along two friends and told them that I will quickly go in and say that I don't want to do it as I am not interested. When I reached, the entire cast was there. I was probably the last one to arrive. I walked in and realised that I couldn't say this in front of everyone. So my friends were out there waiting for me for a good 45 minutes to an hour. These were pre-mobile phone days and I couldn't call them to tell them that

I was stuck. During that time, I started chatting with some of them. One or two of them were with me in school or college and I realised they are not a bad bunch of people. I don't mind hanging out with them. It will be like a weekend shooting and I could still go to college from Monday to Friday. Moreover, it would mean extra money. I was getting ₹800 from my father and this would give me ₹5,000, which sounded really good. The shoot was a party and I never looked at it as work. There was this energy which can never be recreated. We were 12 innocent kids, who were having a great time and that is what translated on screen as well. When we moved out into the world, we were bitten by the television bug and got famous. The energy started changing. Nupur realised it and decided to end the show.

Most people who come from a film family usually have a huge launch. You didn't want to take that route?

Like I said, I never wanted to be an actor. In fact, when I did *Hip Hip Hurray*, my lovely grand uncle, who was very close to my family, called me and asked me to meet him.

Yes, Dev sa'ab was known to launch newcomers...

No, this was not Dev sa'ab. It was his brother Goldie Uncle, Vijay Anand, who was very close to my family. I remember him calling me and telling me, "Tu bohut acha lagta hai screen pe (You look very good on screen). You are quite a good actor but you need to loosen up a bit. Why don't you come and work with me?" But I did not want to be an actor. I was so caught up having fun that I told him, "Uncle, I don't really want to act. I am doing that because I am having fun and making some money. All my friends have gone to America to study. And I want to do the same." And with that, my opportunity to work with one of the greatest directors went down the drain. I had some great interactions with him as grand uncle. But not the opportunity to actually sit down and work with them. Now I have the maturity to look at it. That is why I don't want to be stuck at 18! (Guffaws) It all connects.

When did you finally decide that you wanted to be an actor?

After *My Brother Nikhil*. I remember watching it at a screening that Onir had done for a very suppressed community, that of HIV+ people, in the theatre. And they were so moved by the film that it broke my heart. I said to myself, "What a powerful medium!" That is the moment I started growing up. Today, when we speak about them, I don't know how many of them are alive. And to see their representation in the film and a story being told about them, I really felt the power of cinema. Even now as I am telling you this story, it is giving me goosebumps. I was lucky to have that experience. That is when I sat back and said that "this is what I can do because this is the impact that it can have on people. And if I have been given the skill by this universe, I need to exercise it as much as I can."

I live in London and work in India so everything becomes very calculated as every project means leaving my family behind for long periods. There is so much happening now that it is easy to get stuck in the wave of doing a lot of work and I have never done that. I tend to sit back and watch what is happening. *Out of Love* is a great show which is quite impactful in its storytelling. It is a good representation of the female story. I hope they all don't go out and start doing what she does. (Guffaws) And none the less, it is quite empowering.

What do you do when you are not working?

There is a little tech business that I am involved in. I give some time there. I am also a father of two children and I try to spend as much time with them as possible because once I am at a shoot, it extends for long hours. Even if they are at the location, I get very little time with them. There is also some writing that I do. These three things take my time besides reading 150 scripts a day. (Laughs)

(The show is streaming on Hotstar.)

TELLY TALKIES 45 MINUTES

UPSIDE DOWN

Actors VARUN BADOLA and SHWETA TIWARI say that their latest TV series *Mere Dad ki Dulhan* lets go of the age-old formulaic narratives and welcomes an unconventional storyline. By AYUSHI SHARMA

Recently, a girl's post on Twitter went viral as she was trying to find a groom for her mother. She posted a picture of herself with her and captioned it, "Looking for a handsome 50-year-old man for my mother! Vegetarian, Non-Drinker, Well Established. #Groomhunting." It's not often that we see children looking for life partners for their parents since it is always the other way round. However, Sony Entertainment Television's latest offering *Mere Dad ki Dulhan*, which stars actors Varun Badola and Shweta Tiwari together for the very first time, builds on the idea of a daughter looking for a bride for her father.

Shweta believes that as a parent, if you choose your partner, it's tough to make your children understand the reason for the choice. "If you have accepted that person, it doesn't mean that they will do so too. If the children like someone, they expect their parents to accept that person. So why can't it be the same in case of us (parents)? Shouldn't it be the other way round too?" she asks.

The show also portrays how a father-daughter duo navigates through life and the dynamics of their relationship which focusses on their dependence on each other. Not many shows have touched upon the fact that even single parents need and long for companionship after a certain stage. This important message is the essence of the entire show.

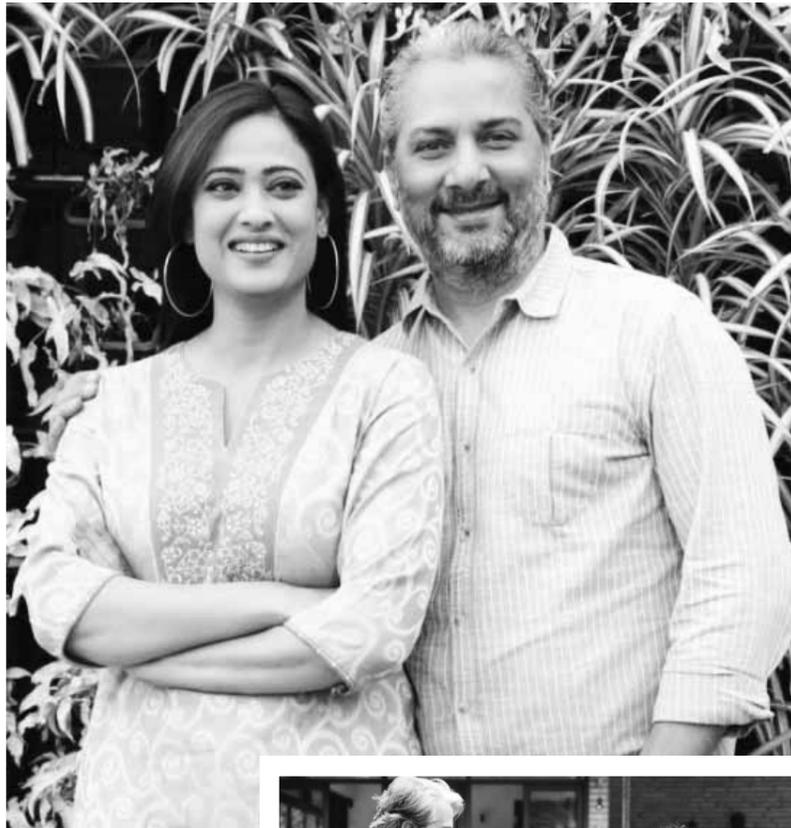
So does the concept of the show fit into the real life scenario? Are children open to finding and welcoming a step parent? Varun feels that probably children from the metro towns are addressing this

issue a lot faster but that is happening because of the exposure they get. "It will still take time to reach the B and C towns. There are certain things you just enjoy because of the presentation in the story. And here, a lot of girls are able to relate to the show because they see their own father in my character. I feel that there should be some kind of connect, irrespective of what that is. It is not necessary that every daughter should go out and look for a partner for her father. People could relate to it in any manner that they want to. Why should we discard the fact that a good story will always remain a good story?" says he.

Varun was fascinated with the show because of its interesting and unique characterisation. He says, "More than that I feel proud to be part of this transition phase that Indian television is in. It is great to see how we are slowly letting go of the age-old formulaic narratives and finally welcoming fresh and unconventional storylines which are relatable to the new generation."

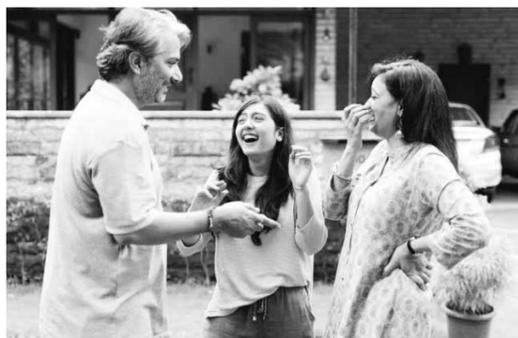
His character, Amber Sharma, is a stubborn straight-forward person, who doesn't believe in change and lives his life in a set pattern. He prefers being anti-social. "This character allows me to step out of my comfort zone, which is essential for every actor and performer. The show addresses an issue which still remains a taboo in society. Sooner or later, we will have to confront it. Viewers will definitely get a new flavour with this show," Varun adds.

The mere reason why Shweta agreed to do the show was because of its title. She says, "Nowadays, who gives such title? It is so self-explana-



tory that it gives a complete insight into the concept of the show." She plays the character of Guneet Sikka, a 40-year-old single woman, who lives with her mother. She has tried searching love online but failed. Despite being shamed several times by her mother for being single, she is happy to have a roof over her head and food to eat.

The *Kasautii Zindagi Kay* (2001) actor has had a tough life and she never denies the fact. So how has it influenced her perception of the world and the world's perception of her? Well, she is one of those who doesn't like to make perceptions for anyone and she expects the same from people. "If they want to get inspired or hate me, it's completely upto them.



Nothing really bothers me. I did some kissing scenes and I was told that I am not a good wife. People can keep such mindsets with themselves. I have a question for those people who said

how can her marriage go wrong a second time. Why can't things go wrong? At least, I have the courage to face them and come out in the open. This is what matters the most," says she.

Controversies are part of the industry: Vidyut

Actor Vidyut Jammwal has reacted on the storm over his recently-released film *Commando 3*, by saying that controversies are part and parcel of the film industry. Vidyut added saying that makers of the film did not intend to hurt peoples sentiment with the particular scene that has raised objections from certain sectors.

Commando 3 landed in a controversy over a scene involving wrestlers, who are shown harassing schoolgirls. So far, many netizens have criticised the film terming the sequence as derogatory towards wrestlers. Well-known Indian wrestler Sushil Kumar has also objected to the particular scene, where a group of wrestlers are shown to try and molest a girl because she wears skirt to school. Previously, wrestlers Bajrang Punia and Yogeshwar Dutt had also objected about the scene.

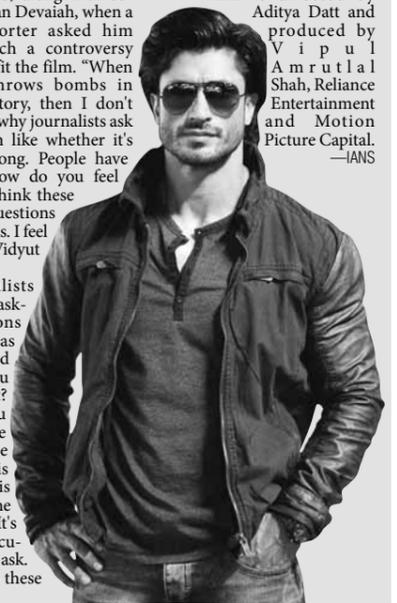
Vidyut was interacting with the media after the success of *Commando 3*, along with co-actor Gulshan Devaiah, when a female reporter asked him whether such a controversy would benefit the film. "When Pakistan throws bombs in Indian territory, then I don't understand why journalists ask the question like whether it's right or wrong. People have died and how do you feel about it? I think these kinds of questions are ridiculous. I feel really bad," Vidyut retorted.

"Journalists should stop asking questions like rape has happened and how do you feel about it? Now you (reporter) are asking me whether this controversy is benefiting the film or not, it's such a ridiculous thing to ask. We don't do these

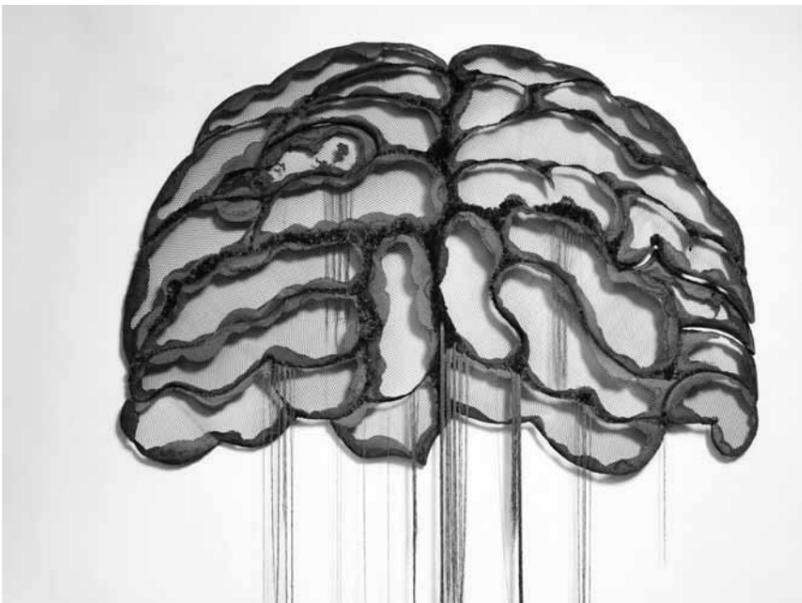
things for our benefit. I feel controversies are part and parcel of this industry, so I do not agree with your (reporter) question," he said.

Vidyut added, "I am associated with an Indian martial art named Kalaripayattu and I can say with pride that I am connected with this country as much as anyone else. My father, grandfather, paternal and maternal uncle have served in the Indian Army. My maternal uncle died in the 1971 war, so to ask me such a question is not a correct thing. I respect every single athlete of India be it wrestlers, body-builders, boxers or others. I would like to tell them that if knowingly or unknowingly, we have hurt your sentiments, then I would like to apologise for that, and from now I will ensure we don't hurt anyone's sentiments."

Commando 3 has collected ₹27.19 crore at the box-office within six days of release. The film is directed by Aditya Datt and produced by Vipul Amrutlal Shah, Reliance Entertainment and Motion Picture Capital. —IANS



WALKTHROUGH 30 MINUTES



Threads, knitting and net are intertwined for the exhibition *Speaking Threads*. Through it, Pranati Panda explores landscapes and human organs in sculpture, prints and paintings which she fondly refers to as 'time pieces'.

Pranati wanted to have a confluence of two energies. So she used both, what she perceives as 'feminine' materials such as thread and fabric alongside 'masculine' materials such as net and jaali. Said she, "I grew up watching my mother knit so I was very clear that I wanted to use it. I particularly used nets in my brain work because in our country women still need freedom and jaali symbolises a cage that they are trapped in. Though we suppress our feelings and emotions and don't talk freely about them but we want to be free from all the atrocities."

As a mother and a woman, I have gone through many experiences in my life. And this is what I wanted to reflect in my paintings," said artist Pranati Panda. Why did you choose thread as the core element for your work? Said Pranati, "They connect one idea to another, or maybe one idea to many and vice versa. They can hold the masculine and feminine energy together. And the best part is that they are seamless, there is no narration of time. Ideally that is what life is. There couldn't have been a better material than this to describe my journey."

Much of Pranati's oeuvre continues to be driven by self-analysis, her experiences and philosophies. Often when an exhibition revolves around one person's experiences, it doesn't necessarily inter-

INTERTWINED TALES

Artist PRANATI PANDA's exhibition *Speaking Threads* explores landscapes and human organs in sculpture, prints and paintings. By SAKSHI SHARMA

est everyone. But she feels that though each one of us lead our lives differently, we are very connected. Every human goes through similar emotions in different phases of life. Even the objects, nature and the outer world is connected to each other as human reactions have a direct impact on the outside world. So she believes that people will be able to connect closely with her work.

Known as the father of neuroscience, Dr Santiago Raman has been her source of inspiration as his work and journey fascinated her. Apart from him, the everyday ordinariness that she witness-

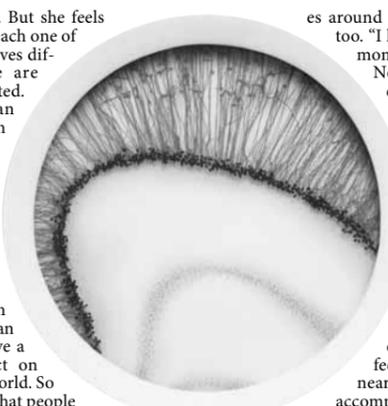
es around her inspires her too. "I learn from every moment and person. Not only that, I even learn from my dog because he loves me without any expectations. I learn from my maids too. When I talk to them I feel that they have similar desires in life. The only difference is that they feel it is hard or nearly impossible to accomplish them," said she.

She was keen to showcase the brain sculptures as the organ is the powerhouse of thoughts. So it governs our ideation process, everyday activities and relationships. Most of her work has rampant use of

red, which represents blood and life force. When questioned about the overpowering colour, she shared an incident about the loss of her first child while giving birth. And the artist somehow still lives with that particular moment. She said, "Not only this, I connect to this colour because of other reasons too. I belong to Odisha, where we believe that when you wear anything red, you find your soulmate. And my mother always used to put a big red bindi, sindoor and wear red bangles. So while growing up, I have seen it all around. Even today I wear something or the other which is red. Maybe a bindi or a bangle. For me this colour is my life energy." She added that she lost her mother at a very young age. And when she closes her eyes, the first thing that grabs her attention is the colour. For her, it symbolises her mother's presence or maybe her bindi.

This absence played a huge role in her works as three to four of them were titled, *Essence of absence* which reminds her of her child and her mother's presence.

Other than this, some paintings even seemed inspired by nature. The



artist expressed her love for nature since childhood as she had spent most of her early life in village. Said she, "My childhood was very colourful. I have seen both village and city life. So I have always been very close to nature and animals. Even today I love spending time with plants and talking to them as they have similar emotions." But she feels that the hassles

of so-called modern life have taken those small joys away. Now the intensity between humans and nature is less.

Pointing towards a painting with layers of white thread she said, "They depict my hidden emotions, some pleasant, some unpleasant."

(The exhibition is on till January 15, 2020 at Vadehra Art Gallery.)



Manchester derby
Live from 11:00pm IST
STAR SPORTS SELECT 1

Derby day in Manchester

Manchester giants seek local delight as Liverpool threaten to burst beyond reach

AFP ■ MANCHESTER

Both sides of the Manchester divide will be hoping some derby delight can add impetus to disappointing seasons when City host United today, while Liverpool travel to Bournemouth aiming to surge further clear at the top of the Premier League.

Manchester United got a badly needed win for manager Ole Gunnar Solskjaer on Wednesday, inflicting a first defeat as Tottenham manager Jose Mourinho as the Portuguese returned to Old Trafford.

The Red Devils were again reliant on Marcus Rashford goals as the England forward struck twice to take his tally to 12 in 13 games for club and country.

There has been precious little for United fans to enjoy this season, but just a fifth Premier League victory in 15 games was enough to lift them up to sixth.

That is still 11 points adrift of third-placed City, despite their own struggles at times.

Pep Guardiola's men looked more like their old selves in thrashing Burnley 4-1 on Tuesday with Gabriel Jesus stepping up in the absence of the injured Sergio Aguero to score twice.

City have lost just one of six league meetings with United since Guardiola took charge three years ago and cannot afford to slip up if they are to maintain any aspirations of catching Liverpool in the title race.

The English champions could kick-off at the Etihad 14 points behind the leaders, should Jurgen Klopp's men continue their scintillating form at Bournemouth earlier at Vitality.

STRENGTH IN DEPTH

Klopp could even afford the luxury of leaving Roberto Firmino and Mohamed Salah on the bench for a 5-2 thrashing of Everton in the Merseyside derby in midweek.

Both are expected to return for the visit to the south coast, but Klopp may rest some of his stars who did start against Everton ahead of a huge week for the European champions.

Liverpool travel to Salzburg in the Champions League on Tuesday needing to avoid defeat if their defence of the title is not to embarrassingly end in the group stages.

Divock Origi scored twice against Everton and Xherdan Shaqiri struck on his first start of the season to prove Klopp does have the strength in depth to successfully shuffle his pack.

CHRISTMAS NO 1 SPOT

Jurgen Klopp says he does not care about being top at Christmas as he prepares his team for a hectic few weeks.

A win on the south coast would mean Liverpool cannot be caught before December 25.

Only three times in the past 11 years has the top-placed team at Christmas failed to go on to win the title — and on every occasion it was Liverpool, including last year.

Klopp, targeting Liverpool's first English top-flight title for 30 years, said he was not interested in such numbers.

"There are a lot of people who celebrate already, a lot of people who worry still and a lot of people who hope that we will still fail so that it," he said at his pre-match conference.

"I don't listen to (any) of them, to be honest. So I'm completely fine. We want to try and win at

NUMBER GAME

1 Thursday was Brighton's first ever Premier League away win against 'big six' opposition (D1 L15), and the first time the Seagulls have scored more than once in such a game

9 Arsenal are winless in nine games in all competitions, their longest such streak since a run of 10 in March 1977

4 There have been four Premier League victories by sides with less than 30% possession this season, with Newcastle responsible for two of those (26.6% tonight and 19.8% vs Spurs in August)

2 Newcastle have scored with both of their shots on target in this game, with Shelvey's 70th minute goal their first attempt of any kind since Saint-Maximin opened the scoring in the 15th minute

1 Marco Silva is the first ever Everton manager to leave the club having faced Merseyside rivals Liverpool in his final game in charge, with Wednesday's 5-2 defeat being the 234th Merseyside Derby in all competitions

1.28 Marco Silva's points-per-game average of 1.28 is the lowest of any Everton manager in the Premier League since Walter Smith between July 1998 to March 2002 (1.15).

Bournemouth. "What that means for Christmas, I never thought about. So it's not really interesting. We know that we are in a really, really difficult situation with the games coming up.

Toffees part ways with Silva

AFP ■ LIVERPOOL

Everton sacked manager Marco Silva after 18 months in charge at Goodison Park on Thursday after a 5-2 thrashing by Liverpool saw the club fall into the relegation zone.

"Everton Football Club can confirm that manager Marco Silva has left the Club," Everton said in a statement.

"Duncan Ferguson has taken temporary charge of the first team and will manage the side for the game against Chelsea on Saturday."

David Moyes has been linked with a return to Goodison as Silva's successor as a stop-gap until the end of the season.

Silva becomes the fourth Premier League manager to be sacked in little over two weeks after Tottenham, Arsenal and Watford also fired Mauricio Pochettino, Unai Emery and Quique Sanchez Flores respectively.

The former Hull and Watford boss becomes the fourth managerial casualty since Farhad Moshiri took charge of Everton in 2016 after Roberto Martinez, Ronald Koeman and Sam Allardyce.

Bright on spot

Arsenal no show ends in defeat at Emirates



Brighton's Adam Webster, 2nd right, celebrates after scoring his sides first goal AP

AFP ■ LONDON

Caretaker manager Freddie Ljungberg said Arsenal "did not show up" for the first 45 minutes as the Gunners' winless streak reached nine games in a 2-1 home defeat to Brighton on Thursday.

Neal Maupay headed in a deserved winner for the Seagulls 10 minutes from time after Alexandre Lacazette had cancelled out Adam Webster's opener for Brighton.

Defeat leaves Arsenal in 10th place and 10 points adrift of fourth-placed Chelsea in the hunt for Champions League qualification next season.

On this evidence there is little chance of Ljungberg landing the job on a permanent basis as another sparse crowd at the Emirates greeted the final whistle with a chorus of boos.

"You cannot give away a whole half against any team in the Premier League," said Ljungberg. "We did not show up in the first half, we very passive, we didn't move. We had chat at half-time, made a tactical change and all of a sudden we looked like the team we wanted to for 20 minutes."

Brighton made the most of

Gunners poor run to win on the road in the Premier League for the first time since the opening weekend of the season.

Victory for Brighton takes them to within a point of Arsenal and four clear of the relegation zone.

"We had lots of quality and courage," said Brighton boss Graham Potter, whose side enjoyed more possession and more shots on goal than the hosts.

"The main stat is the scoreline. At the end it's nice for the players and supporters that you get a reward for the way we are trying to play."

Elsewhere, Newcastle taught Sheffield United a lesson in taking their chances as the Magpies won 2-0 at Bramall Lane despite enjoying just 27 per cent possession.

Allan Saint-Maximin headed the visitors in front with his first goal for the club and Jonjo Shelvey secured the three points when he played on as the Blades defence stopped at the sight of the offside flag going up against Andy Carroll.

A VAR review showed Carroll was outside as he flicked the ball into Shelvey's path.

Chelsea free to sign players

LONDON: Chelsea manager Frank Lampard admitted the club will be on the lookout for new faces in the January window after a FIFA-imposed transfer ban was reduced on appeal by the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) on Friday.

The ban, imposed following violations in the recruitment of minors, was reduced from two transfer windows to one, which Chelsea already served in the summer.

A fine was also reduced from 600,000 Swiss francs (\$607,000; £462,000) to half that amount by the Lausanne-based court.

Lampard insisted he had not yet had any conversations with Chelsea's board about transfer plans, but will start them now in earnest.

"It's a positive outcome for us. It allows us the potential to look

at the market going forward," Lampard said at a press conference ahead of today's trip to Everton.

"So I'm pleased from a footballing level. It was never my business to get involved in the reasons why or the legal side of it.

"So from my point of view, for the club moving forward, it's obviously a good thing."

A CAS statement explaining their decision said that Chelsea were guilty of violating rules related to the international transfer and registration of minors, "but for a significantly smaller number of players", concluding that they were only guilty of one third of the violations found by FIFA.

In addition, the breaches of other transfer rules "were found to be less serious than those attributed to Chelsea FC by FIFA."

Defeat 'out of question' for Bayern at Gladbach



Robert Lewandowski attends training AP

AFP ■ BERLIN

Manuel Neuer says a second consecutive defeat is unthinkable for Bayern Munich today at Bundesliga leaders Borussia Moenchengladbach, who quietly harbour aspirations of a first German title since 1977.

Bayern have lifted the trophy each of the past seven seasons but their Bundesliga reign is under threat as they sit fourth — with a third of the season played.

Interim Bayern coach Hansi Flick, who replaced the sacked Niko Kovac last month, suffered his first defeat in five games a week ago with a shock 2-1 loss at home to Bayer Leverkusen.

Neuer has called for a response by Bayern at Borussia Park.

"We simply must not lose, that's out of the question — we're going there to win," the Germany goalkeeper told *Kicker* magazine.

Under new head coach Marco Rose, Gladbach are this season's surprise package and have spent the last two months in first place.

A win over Bayern would go some way to firming up Gladbach's status as genuine title contenders, especially with second-placed RB Leipzig, who host mid-table Hoffenheim today, just a point behind.

"We always want to compete with the best — and Bayern are the best," said Embolo.

"But it's not just us who want to stand up to them. Leipzig, Schalke and Leverkusen want that too."

"It's going to be a top game. Bayern are a world-class team and we need to hope for a good day."

Another defeat would pile the pressure on Bayern and Flick. Ex-Germany coach and Gladbach legend Berti Vogts said his former side "will be hard to knock off top spot" if they beat the Bavarians this weekend.

Germany defender Matthias Ginter is expected to be fit again after injury to face Bayern, who are near full strength.

Shame to see Mane on 4th in Ballon d'Or: Messi

MADRID: Barcelona star striker Lionel Messi feels it was very unfortunate for Liverpool forward Sadio Mane to finish fourth in the Ballon d'Or vote.

Earlier this week, Messi won the Ballon d'Or award for the world's best player for a record sixth time. Mane finished fourth behind Messi, Virgil van Dijk and Cristiano Ronaldo in the Ballon d'Or vote.

"It's a shame to see Mane finish in fourth place," Messi was quoted as saying by *goal.com*.

The 32-year-old further admitted that he had voted for the Senegalese in The Best poll.

"But I think there have been a lot of great players this year. That's why it was difficult to choose a particular player. But I chose Sadio Mane (for *The Best* award) because he's a player that I like," said Messi. "Mane achieved a great year that was exceptional for the entire Liverpool team. That's why I chose him. I repeat, there were a lot of very great players this year, so the choice was difficult," he added.

PTI ■ KATHMANDU/POKHARA

Shuttlers led India's yet another stupendous show as the country widened the gap at the top by clinching 41 medals, including 19 Gold, on Day 5 of the 13th South Asian Games here on Friday.

India grabbed another 18 Silver and 4 Bronze to take the total tally to 165 medals (81 Gold, 59 Silver, 25 Bronze) and leave second-placed Nepal (41 Gold, 27 Silver, 48 Bronze), who won 116 medals in aggregate, behind.

Sri Lanka are third with a total of 134 medals (23 Gold, 42 Silver, 69 Bronze).

The shuttlers won the maximum Gold medals — four — for India on Friday. They com-

pletely dominated the discipline by winning four Golds and two Silver in the day. Former world junior championships Silver medallist Siril Verma lived up to his top seeding as he rallied from a game down to out-wit compatriot Aryaman Tandon 17-21, 23-21, 21-13 in an all-Indian men's singles final. In the women's singles final, Ashmita Chaliha overcame a late surge from fellow Indian Gayatri Gopichand to finish off with a 21-18, 25-23. In doubles, there was double delight for Dhruv who



Real Madrid's Gareth Bale leaves the field AP

Bale joins list of Real absentees

AFP ■ MADRID

Zinedine Zidane confirmed on Friday that Gareth Bale has not trained ahead of Real Madrid's match against Espanyol as injury threatens to rule him out of this month's Clasico.

Bale is struggling with a minor problem in his thigh although the club remain optimistic he will recover in time for the crunch game against Barcelona at Camp Nou on December 18.

"He did it in the match against Alaves," said Zidane at a press conference before today's La Liga match.

"We've had a few days off but he has felt some discomfort. He hasn't trained with us either

Real Madrid vs Espanyol
Live from 5:30pm IST
FACEBOOK

today or this week."

Bale has only recently shaken off a calf injury that kept him out for just over a month between October and November, and his latest setback adds to a worrying list of fitness concerns for Zidane.

Eden Hazard could be sidelined for more than a month after suffering a fracture in his ankle while

Marcelo might also miss the game against Barcelona, after he sustained a calf strain in training. Lucas Vazquez (toe), James Rodriguez (knee) and Marco

Asensio (cruciate ligament) are also out.

"Injuries are a nightmare. Eden isn't happy but it is what it is," said Zidane. "We hope his injury is a little less serious than expected."

"I don't know what we are going to do, I hope he will be back soon, Marcelo and Gareth the same. It is a major blow but we can't do anything about it."

"There are other players and that is what we have to focus on. We have to maintain our momentum in the game tomorrow."

Rodrygo and Isco could fill in up front either side of Karim Benzema while Ferland Mendy is likely to replace Marcelo at left-back.

Siril, Ashmita lead India to 6 Badminton Gold



Indian badminton players pose with Tricolour and their medals during SAF

emerged victorious in both men's and mixed doubles. He paired up with Krishna Prasad Garaga to win the men's doubles title 21-19, 19-21, 21-18 against Sri Lanka's Sachin Dias and Buwaneka. In mixed doubles, top seeds Dhruv and Meghana Jakkampudi eased past second seeds Sachin Dias and Thilini Pramodika Hendehewe of Sri Lanka 21-16, 21-14 in the final.

Track and field athletes, who were leading the Indian charge in the past few days, fetched the maximum 12 medals but just two of them were Gold. The two Gold were won in men's and women's shot put events.

The country's fencers also made their presence felt in the South Asian Games by clinching three Gold and as many Silver.

In table tennis also, the Indians won the Gold and Silver in both the men's and women's singles.

India weightlifters also continued their impressive run in the regional multi-sporting event by claiming three Gold

and a Silver.

Achinta Sheuli opened the Gold account as he finished on top of podium in men's 73kg with a total lift of 300kg.

Rakhi Halder added another Gold in women's 64kg with a total effort of 200 kg while Manpreet Kaur won the third in women's 71kg category with a total lift of 192kg.

Indian cyclists also opened their Gold medal account on Friday.

Elangbam Chaoba Devi finished on the top of podium in women's elite race while John Naveen Thomas and Arvind Panwar bagged a Gold and Silver respectively in the men's elite event.

SINGLES

WOZNIACKI TO RETIRE AFTER AUS OPEN

PARIS: Former world number one Caroline Wozniacki announced on Friday that she will retire from tennis after next month's Australian Open. The 29-year-old Dane won her only Grand Slam singles title in Melbourne last year in her third major final. "I've accomplished everything I could ever dream of on the court," she said in an *Instagram* post. She spent 71 weeks at the top of the WTA rankings after first becoming the world's best player in October 2010 and won 30 WTA titles, including the 2017 Tour Finals in Singapore.

BOULT, GRANDHOMME TO TRAVEL AUS

WELLINGTON: New Zealand have received a major boost ahead of the three-Test series against Australia as Trent Boult and Colin de Grandhomme have made remarkable progress in recoveries from their injuries and have been cleared to travel with the squad. Boult (side strain) and de Grandhomme (abdominal tear) had missed the second Test against England. However, on Friday New Zealand Cricket confirmed that both of them would travel to Perth with the squad today having come through a training session in Mount Maunganui on Friday. But there still remains a question mark whether both of them would be able to participate in the day-night Test at Perth Stadium which starts December 12.

MAXWELL CLOSER TO CRICKET RETURN

MELBOURNE: Australia's Glenn Maxwell seems to be moving closer to a comeback from his mental health break after the all-rounder was seen training with his state side Victoria. Maxwell, who stepped away from cricket to deal with his unspecified problems during T20 series against Sri Lanka, returned to club cricket recently. He has played three Victorian Premier Cricket matches with club side Fitzroy Doncaster since and has taken part in some aspects of Victoria's Shield program. On Thursday, the 31-year-old, who bowls off-spin, participated in Victoria's training session at the Melbourne Cricket Ground (MCG).

RODGERS SIGNS NEW FOXES DEAL

LEICESTER: Brendan Rodgers has committed his long-term future to Leicester City, ending speculation linking him with the vacant Arsenal manager's job. The Northern Irishman has taken Leicester to second in the Premier League behind Liverpool, with 11 wins from 15 matches this season and his success at the King Power Stadium saw him linked heavily with the Arsenal manager's job after the sacking last week of Unai Emery.

GERMANY CONFIRM FRIENDLY MATCHES

MUNICH: Germany will play friendlies against fellow European powerhouses Spain and Italy next March in the build-up to Euro 2020, the German Football Association (DFB) has confirmed. Joachim Loew's side face Spain in Madrid on March 26 and Italy on March 31 in Nuremberg before the European Championship finals, which start on June 12. "With Spain and Italy, we will face two exceptional teams in the run-up to the tournament, which will be highly valuable," said Germany team director Oliver Bierhoff.

MOROE SUSPENDED OVER MISCONDUCT

JOHANNESBURG: Cricket South Africa (CSA) announced on Friday that chief executive Thabang Moroe had been suspended on allegations of misconduct as the body faces a mounting crisis. Shortly before it was announced that Moroe had been suspended, the South African Cricketers' Association (SACA) called for the resignation of Moroe and the entire CSA board, while a major sponsor announced it would not renew its agreement, linking their withdrawal directly to events which have engulfed the governing body. It also followed a call by the Gauteng Lions, one of Cricket South Africa's major provincial affiliates, for the resignation of Moroe and the board.

Caribbean carnival hits Hyderabad

Windies justify World T20 champions tag and smashed 15 sixes as India's poor field day help visitors post 207-5 in 1st T20

PTI ■ HYDERABAD

Shimron Hetmyer struck a quick half-century as West Indies produced a fine batting display to post a challenging 207 for 5 against India in the first T20 International of the three-match series here on Friday.

An aggressive Hetmyer made 56 off 41 balls which was studded with two boundaries and four hits over the fence to hold West Indies from one end after being sent into bat.

He first added 37 runs with Brandon King (31 off 23 balls) and then shared 71 runs with skipper Kieron Pollard (37 off 19 balls) to lay the base for the West Indies total.

The Indians, however, were far from impressive on the field as Washington Sundar and Rohit Sharma dropped a few catches.

Off-spinner Washington Sundar (1/34) leaked runs in the first over before Deepak Chahar (1/56) gave India the breakthrough in the next over, taking the wicket of Lendl Simmons, caught by Rohit Sharma in the first slip.

Evin Lewis (40 off 17) and young King then added 51 runs for the second wicket, during which they played some fearless shots, to take West Indies forward.

Lewis, in particular, was the more aggressive of the two as he dispatched to the stands any bad delivery that came his way. He pulled Chahar for two sixes in the fourth over to make his intentions clear.

Lewis continued the onslaught and struck comeback man Bhuvneshwar Kumar for a six and a four in consecutive balls. He then smoked off-spinner Sundar over the cover boundary but perished in the next ball, LBW in search of one shot too many.

Young King and Hetmyer then added 37 runs for the third wicket before the former was stumped by Rishabh Pant off Ravindra Jadeja's (1/30) bowling.

Hetmyer, on the other hand, went about his business in a quiet fashion, hitting the bad deliveries out of the park to register his fifth half-century in T20 cricket in 35 balls.

But a double breakthrough by leg-spinner Yuzvendra Chahal (2/36) in the 18th over put a check on West Indies' scoring rate.

Hetmyer was the first to depart in the first delivery of the 18th over when he gave a simple catch to Rohit at deep backward square and then a ball later, Pollard was cleaned up by Chahal.



Shimron Hetmyer celebrates with Windies skipper Kieron Pollard after the duo completed fifty run partnership during 1st T20I against India



Ravindra Jadeja celebrates with Virat Kohli after taking of Brendon King during 1st T20 in Hyderabad

Jason Holder (24 not out off 9 balls) and Dinesh Ramdin (11 not out off 7) remained unbeaten as West Indies scored 63 runs off the last five overs.

Laxman inaugurates Azharuddin stand

PTI ■ HYDERABAD

Batting legend VVS Laxman on Friday inaugurated the newly-refurbished North Stand of the Rajiv Gandhi International Stadium in honour of former India captain and newly-elected Hyderabad Cricket Association (HCA) president Mohammad Azharuddin.

While Laxman cut the thread to mark the opening of the stand, former India off-spinner Noel David, Venkatpathy Raju and fast bowler Mohammed Siraj were also present on the occasion.

Talking about the moment, Azhar said he was honoured.

"I am extremely honoured to be bestowed upon such an honour. I have always played the game to the true spirit and will be striving to develop the game in Hyderabad," Azhar said.

Asked about the efforts required to arrange the first T20I here at such a short notice, Azhar said: "The day Mumbai showed their reluctance to host the first T20, I then and there said to my colleagues, we will host it no matter what."

"I then contacted BCCI president Sourav Ganguly and the Mumbai Cricket Association officials and after a few parleys managed to convince that Hyderabad is ready to host the match."

Azhar said during his tenure his prerogative would be to take Hyderabad cricket forward.

"I am here to serve the game which gave me what I am today. I involved with administration to take Hyderabad cricket forward and we are ready to host many more international matches in the future when the BCCI asks us come what may," he said.

Hyderabad was earlier supposed to host the third T20I on December 11 but the BCCI was forced to shift the first game of the series from Mumbai after Mumbai police refused to provide security for the match.

Jimmy concerned about Pandya, Bumrah's injuries

FIANS ■ NEW DELHI

Former India all-rounder Mohinder Amarnath has expressed concern over the injuries that all-rounder Hardik Pandya and ace fast bowler Jasprit Bumrah are suffering from. The 1983 World Cup hero said that back injuries are always difficult to come back from for any bowler.

Amarnath said in his column for *Times of India* that while the Indian team looks like a settled side with formidable talent across department, he hopes Pandya and Bumrah heal well.

"The only concern I have is for the injured duo, Jasprit Bumrah and Hardik Pandya. A back injury is always hard to come back from for a bowler," he said.

"It is either caused by a faulty action or trying for extra pace. I hope I am wrong, but a stressed back can make the

return to top pace a long, arduous one. Both these lads are very, very important for the team, and I hope they heal well."

He also said that with the team so stable across departments, no player should be allowed to choose matches and dictate terms. "Nobody should be in a position to dictate terms regarding his selection without playing adequate domestic cricket. There is no player who should be able to tell the team that he wants to choose his matches," he said.

"It would be an unhealthy trend to start, particularly when there are hundreds of cricketers across India who are toiling in domestic cricket. This would send a wrong message about merit and hard work to them. Wriddhiman Saha, Rishabh Pant and Sanju Samson are all very competent and the thrust should be to look forward."



Aus eyes multiple D/N Test; bit too much, says Ganguly

PTI ■ MELBOURNE/KOLKATA

Cricket Australia (CA) is set to request the BCCI to agree for more than one Day/Night Test during India's 2021 tour Down Under but Indian Board chief Sourav Ganguly on Friday said such a proposal would be a "bit too much".

A CA delegation, led by its Chairman Earl Eddings, is expected to meet BCCI top brass during the three-match ODI series in India starting January 14 next year.

"As you build that trust and build that relationship you have that chat," Eddings told *ESPNCricinfo*.

"Pleasingly they've played their first day-night Test and won easily. Now they've got through that it might give them the right build-up to it over here. I've got no doubt they'll consider playing one and maybe even more day-night Test matches. But that's down the track to when we catch up with them in January," he added.

However, Ganguly didn't seem keen on the idea.

"I have not heard anything officially from Cricket Australia. Two out of four will be a bit too much...It can't replace traditional Test matches. But we can have one Pink Test every series," Ganguly said during the *India Today Conclave (East)* in Kolkata.

CA Chief Executive Kevin Roberts, while talking to *ABC Radio* recently, also spoke about having more than one Day/Night Tests during what is meant to be a four-match Test series.

"...In my heart I'd say four from four, in my head we'd love to play one of the four as a day-night Test," he said.

Eddings said CA also wants the BCCI to consider adding one more Test to the traditional four-match series that the two countries play. "Ideally we want to be playing five Tests against India, hopefully in the future we can do that as well," he said.

Aus Test defeat hurt Pak pride: Azhar

PTI ■ KARACHI

Skipper Azhar Ali on Friday said the Test series loss in Australia is unacceptable and it has hurt the pride of Pakistan cricket.

Pakistan had a forgettable tour of Australia as they lost the T20 series 0-2 before suffering embarrassing innings defeats in the two Tests, which were part of World Test Championship.

"It is very disappointing how we lost the two Tests. The defeats in Australia have hurt our cricket pride and it is hard to accept," Azhar told reporters in Lahore after returning from Australia.

"We had gone there with all the right preparations and with a positive mindset. So the two innings defeat is not acceptable and I will offer no excuses for this."

Azhar insisted his team had prepared well for the series but it failed to properly execute



Pakistan's Musa Khan, left, talks to Azhar Ali during 2nd Test against Australia

the plans. "We didn't get wickets with the new ball, we didn't forge big partnerships, we didn't build on good starts and our plans against David Warner also didn't work as he countered them well," he said.

"We had picked a young pace attack for the Tests and we

batted first in the first Test and I think that showed our intent that we wanted to play positive cricket.

"The truth is we were doing catch up game in both Tests and once you get behind in Australia it is very difficult to catch up in Tests," Azhar added.

The Pakistan skipper said he had confidence that the team will go forward positively.

"We need to trust each other. I am not scared about being sacked as captain. I can't control that I can only control our performances. We need to end the fear factor in our team. That is the key," he said.

About the upcoming Test series against Sri Lanka at home, Azhar said it won't be easy as most of the players, including himself, would be playing a Test in Pakistan for the first time.

"When we played in UAE we had a plan as to how to get results there but here we will have to first look at the pitches and then see what plans to make to get results in Pakistan."

"We have to come up with a new game plan. We want a track that suits us. We need to start afresh on how to win tests in Pakistan."

Manpreet on line for Player of Year award

LAUSANNE: Indian men's hockey captain Manpreet Singh was on Friday nominated for the Player of the Year award by the International Hockey Federation (FIH) after he led the country to a Tokyo Olympics berth.

Two other Indian players, Vivek Prasad and Lalremisiami, were also nominated for the men's and women's FIH Rising Star of the Year Award respectively.

The 27-year-old Manpreet, a veteran of 242 international caps, is the mid-field pivot of the Indian team. Under his captaincy, India beat Russia 11-3 on aggregate in Bhubaneswar last month to qualify for the Tokyo Olympics.

The 19-year-old Prasad, a midfielder, led the Indian team in the Youth Olympics

last year where the country won a Silver medal. He was also named the best young player at the FIH Series Finals this year.

Lalremisiami, a forward, was a part of the Asian Games Silver-winning women's squad. She is also 19 years of age.

Australians Eddie Ockenden and Aran Zalewski, Argentina's Lucas Vila and Belgians Arthur Van Doren and Victor Wegnez were the other five nominees for the prestigious FIH Player of the Year award.

Ockenden, a 32-year-old veteran of 340 matches, and Zalewski led the Australian team in their country's multi-player captaincy policy and they were part of the FIH Pro League 2019 Gold winning team. Zalewski was named the best player of the tournament.

Vila was a part of the Argentina team that won the Gold in 2016 Rio Olympics and 2019 Pan American Games.

The Belgian duo of Van Doren and Wegnez played major roles in their country's 2018 World Cup title win and 2019 FIH Pro League runners-up finish.

National associations, players, fans and journalists across the world can vote for the award.

The voting is open until 17 January 2020. The winners of all 2019 FIH Hockey Stars Awards, which also include the FIH Coach of the Year, will be announced in February 2020.

However awards for the FIH Coach of the Year will not be voted but will be picked by an FIH panel.

Strained relation with coach Shastri? All speculations, says Ganguly

PTI ■ KOLKATA

BCCI President Sourav Ganguly on Friday brushed aside, as pure speculation, allegations that he would be vindictive towards chief coach Ravi Shastri, saying that performance alone will be the parameter of judging individuals during his tenure.

Shastri and Ganguly had a public fallout in 2016 when the former reapplied for coach's job and the latter was a part of the Cricket Advisory Committee (CAC), which selected Anil Kumble for the position.

In 2017, Shastri got back the job after Kumble resigned following his much-publicised difference of opinion with skipper Virat Kohli. During *India Today Conclave (East)* on Friday, Ganguly was asked about conjecture that he has an axe to grind with Shastri because of past differences.

"That's why these are called speculations. I don't have an answer to these questions," said Ganguly, dismissing the supposition.

For Ganguly, it all boils down to performance on the field.

"You perform and you continue, you don't, someone else takes over. That was also the case when I played," he asserted.

"There will be talks, leaks, rumours but concentration should be on what happens on 22 yards," he said.

He then cited examples of Virat Kohli, who has 70 international hundreds and Sachin Tendulkar (100 tons) to make his point.

"Life is about performance and nothing



Virat Kohli chats with Ravi Shastri during nets

can substitute that," he said.

As he stated during his first press interaction after taking over, Ganguly reiterated that, "Kohli remains the most important man in Indian cricket as he leads the team on the field."

"Virat is a fantastic role model as to how he conducts himself on and off the field. He (Kohli) will get all the support required to succeed. Virat, Ravi everyone will get everything required. But at the end of the day, we

will demand performance," he said.

After the 2011 World Cup triumph, the Indian team faltered at the semifinal and final hurdle of most ICC tournaments save the 2013 Champions Trophy.

"It's not an ability issue but mind issue. They need to cross the mental barrier in big games," he said.

Talking about the 2020 World T20, the former skipper has one piece of advice for his men out there.

"T20 is about playing fearless cricket with freedom. Don't walk out there in the middle, playing for your place in the team," he said.

Ganguly has made a smooth transition from a player to an administrator. He also battled conflict of interest charge for his multiple commitments. Ganguly said the clause is coming in the way of getting former cricketers on board for administrative roles.

"I am unable to get ex-cricketers on board because of Conflict of Interest. (We need to deal with) Conflict of Interest with a lot of common sense. Someone like Sachin had to leave."

"It's got to be practical. Conflict of interest should apply only to administrators and cricketers should be left out of it," he said.

Home Minister Amit Shah's son Jay Shah is the secretary and the BCCI president wants his colleague to be "judged independently."

"Jay Shah has won an election. He should be judged independently. He is adjustable. His father is a politician but we should judge

Pant needs to figure own way of dealing pressure

KOLKATA: Young wicketkeeper-batsman Rishabh Pant should get used to hearing chants of "Dhoni, Dhoni" and figure his own mechanism to deal with the extreme pressure that comes with being an India cricketer, feels BCCI President Sourav Ganguly.

The 22-year-old Pant has been under intense scrutiny for his underwhelming performances in white-ball cricket but has got the firm backing of both skipper Virat Kohli and his deputy Rohit Sharma.

Kohli on Thursday said Pant can't be isolated to such an extent that he starts feeling nervous on the field and found it "disrespectful" that fans chanted Mahendra Singh Dhoni's name when the youngster made mistakes during a recent home series.

"It's good for him (Pant). He should get

used to it. Let him hear it and let him find a way to succeed. He will be under pressure and let him go through it and figure out on his own," Ganguly said.

Ganguly also refused to divulge the BCCI's plans with regards to Dhoni's much-speculated future.

He said it will take 15 years of consistency for Rishabh Pant to be the next Dhoni.

"Everyday, you don't get MS Dhoni. It will take Pant 15 years to achieve what MS has achieved," he said.

"The BCCI can't be thankful enough to MS for what he has done for Indian cricket. We will leave it at that. We are speaking to Virat, the selectors, that's what it is. We will address (Dhoni future) as and when it comes," he said.

PTI

him personally," Ganguly said.

Ganguly made it clear that there has been no political interference in the BCCI matters but conceded that "influential people will be involved in the running of the game".

"Late Arun Jaitley ji was obsessed with the game but never held a post in BCCI. But he is held in high esteem in Delhi cricket," he recollected.

Talking about Delhi cricket and the innumerable allegations of corruption, including in the selection of the current Ranji squad,

Ganguly sought to steer clear by saying that it was the state association's internal matter at this point.

"Despite all that we hear, the current Indian team has Virat Kohli, Shikhar Dhawan, Ishant Sharma, Rishabh Pant. I don't know what happens but they keep producing world class players."

"The state associations are independent and have their own elected body. Running an association is not easy. Very strong personality is needed," he said.



Kieron Pollard trains during Windies nets session

WI should leave India as better team: Lara

PTI ■ MUMBAI

West Indies batting icon Brian Lara on Friday said the Kieron Pollard-led side should target becoming an improved outfit by the end of its limited-overs series against India here even if it fails to win much in the rubber.

"...He (Pollard) will have to build a team...Playing against India in India is always a tough proposition and he must leave here not necessarily winning but he must leave here a better team after this tournament," Lara said at an event.

Lara backed Pollard's appointment as the team's skipper for the limited-overs format.

"Over a period of time, his representation for West Indies may not be a lot but he has played all around the World in different leagues. He has gained a lot of respect from the opposition. I didn't see it as a bad decision (to appoint him as a captain)," Lara told reporters.

"He (Pollard) has easily gained the respect of his team-mates and he can move forward. There is a (T20) World Cup in under 12 months and you are looking for the right person, someone who can keep the ground running. He has that experience to do so. It is a good decision, but it is still going to be an uphill battle," explained the 50-year-old.