

**WORLD 6**  
NOT FAIR THAT I AM BEING  
IMPEACHED: TRUMP

**MONEY 7**  
TEA GROWERS FEEL  
PINCH OF ASSAM PROTESTS

**SPORT 8**  
INDIA FACE WINDIES  
IN 1ST ODI TODAY

CHANDIGARH, SUNDAY DECEMBER 15, 2019; PAGES 8+4 ₹3

# sunday pioneer

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**USUALSUSPECTS**  
SWAPAN DASGUPTA

## Citizenship Act is not discriminatory

For the past three years, various British friends have insisted that the pro-Brexit outcome of the referendum in 2016 was a freaky aberration and born out of voter ignorance. The professional middle class consensus, particularly in London, was that once the full implications of the decision of the United Kingdom was realised, the voters would find a way of reversing the decision. Meanwhile, it was up to the anti-Brexit majority in Westminster to stall any decision to rush through the departure. They would be helped by the Eurocrats in Brussels who would complicate the negotiations. Good Samaritans in the UK would also chip in by going to the courts and exploring ways and means to undermine the sovereignty of Parliament.

The plan certainly did work up to a point. Theresa May, by no means emotionally committed to Brexit, dragged the negotiations on and on to the point where people just gave up following the negotiations with the European Union. Parliament on its part chipped in by frustrating every attempt by May's successor Boris Johnson to meet a deadline he had set. The Supreme Court of the UK — a relatively new institution — did its best too by thwarting attempts to bypass parliamentary scrutiny. And as for the 'quality' newspapers, they were always on the side of enlightened capitalism, spreading scare stories about the grim fate that awaited Britain when the benign EU umbrella wasn't there. I knew of people who stocked up on essential supplies in anticipation of the day when Brexit would happen. Around the end of October last year — Boris Johnson's deadline for leaving the EU — I was firmly told to avoid visiting the UK since there would be absolute chaos everywhere, particularly the airports.

I woke up at the crack of dawn on Friday morning to listen to the BBC reporting on the outcome of the British general election. The exit polls at 10 pm GMT had forecast a clear majority for the Conservatives fighting on the simple but unattractive slogan "Get Brexit Done." The presenters

tried to appear normal and nonchalant but it was clear that, like other members of the professional classes, they weren't entirely happy. Part of the unhappiness stems from the crab mentality of journalists: they weren't elated that a maverick member of their own tribe had defied all expectations and ended up as a Prime Minister with an emphatic majority. More to the point they were absolutely aghast that the results were a clear re-endorsement of the referendum outcome. The Conservative. This included areas that the Labour Party had never lost since the Labour sweep of 1945. Even Tony Blair's old seat, where the Labour majority used to be weighed rather than counted, elected a Conservative MP.

The situation that Friday morning was so reminiscent of our own counting day on May 23 when Narendra Modi defied the chattering classes and stormed back to power. I recall the mood of gloom and doom among the editorial classes and their sneering disgust at the voters for having defied the metropolitan consensus. I particularly found it deeply satisfying that the international media that had shed its traditional detachment from local affairs to campaign against Modi had been shown two fingers by the electorate.

The counting day of this month's British general election coincided with the passage of the Citizenship (Amendment) Bill by both Houses of Parliament. I had sat through the debate in the Rajya Sabha where Opposition stalwarts made two claims. First, that the legislation violated the 'soul' of India, not to mention assaulting the 'idea' of India. Secondly, that regardless of who commanded the majority in Parliament, the issue would finally be settled in the Supreme Court. Since then, the media has persisted in telling us that India has become a version of Nazi Germany and that the CAB is akin to the infamous Nuremberg laws that institutionalised the exclusion of Jews from citizenship and paved the way for the gas chambers. By the morning I even received an email informing me that some American expert on genocide had even suggested that India was just a step away from the genocide of Muslims.

It is not for me to speculate on the verdict of the courts. I had heard earlier that the Ayodhya judgment by a five-judge of the Supreme Court was bad in law. The apex court heard the review petitions and threw them out. I don't know whether they will do the same with the petitions against the CAB, a legislation enacted by Parliament as opposed to the court-draft settlement in Ayodhya. At least the court hearing will also take note of the fact that the CAB does not outlaw Muslims acquiring Indian citizenship. The CAB will at best fast-track the acquisition of Indian citizenship by refugees from the two wings of erstwhile Pakistan and Afghanistan.

The real complaint by the sceptics centres on identifying the refugees by faith. They imply that the people who left the three countries for professing a particular faith should be secularised. Acknowledging that they were harassed because they professed an Indic faith (and Christianity and Zoroastrianism) is tantamount to being discriminatory and anti-secular.

This is a strange argument. One side behaves like a bigot and discriminates against people for being a Hindu or a Sikh. By acknowledging this was indeed the case, the Modi Government gets charged for being discriminatory against Muslims. It is bizarre logic.

There are certainly Muslim migrants from the two Pakistans and Afghanistan. But they didn't leave on account of professing Islam. They left for other reasons. Maybe we should spell out what these were. Then we would get the complete picture.

Actually it is not necessary to be explicit. People tend to discover the score by themselves. Be it Brexit or CAB, you can't get away by heaping scorn and telling people they are ignorant or bigoted.

## CITIZENSHIP ACT STIR

# Protesters go berserk in Bengal

Torch 5 empty trains, 15 buses; Mamata appeals for peace, says won't allow NRC in State

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■  
ULUBERIA/SANKRAIL/KOLKATA

Five empty trains, 15 buses and many other public properties including shops and Central Government facilities were torched in different parts of Bengal even as the State continued to boil and burn for the second consecutive day on Saturday over the enactment of Citizenship Amendment Act and possible invoking of National Register for Citizens.

Even as Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee made frantic appeal to people against taking law in their hands violent protesters torched empty rakes at Lalgola the last Indian Railway station a few miles from Bangladesh border. Lalgola is in Murshidabad district that accounts for about 67 per cent of minority population.

At Basudevpur, violent mob put to fire a railway signaling facility and torched a fire



Police try to protect themselves as protesters throw stones on them during an agitation against the Citizenship Act at Santragachi in Howrah district of West Bengal on Saturday

brigade engine that was rushed in to control the railway fire. By late evening the situation had literally gone out of control with no fire fighting team daring to move into the affected areas.

Similar incidents were reported from North 24 Parganas and rural Howrah, where several long-distances trains were halted, after the a portion of the Sankrail station was vandalised, police said adding about 15 public and pri-

vate buses were torched and many other vehicles were stoned by protesters on NH-6 — popularly known as Bombay Road and NH-2 — known as Delhi Road.

The agitators blocked both Kona Expressway — that connects Howrah and Kolkata to Golden Quadrilateral — and NH-34 — that connects South Bengal to North Bengal — throwing burning tyres on the roads even as a helpless police brigade looked on for want of

specific direction.

About 20 trains including some 10 express trains were stranded in several routes as protesters squatted on railway tracks at Sankrail, Mourigram and Bakranawaz stations, Railway sources said adding many more trains had been cancelled too.

Among the cancelled trains were Howrah-Digha Express, Howrah-Pune Duroto Express, Howrah-Tirupati Humsafar Express, Howrah-



Charred remains of a train coach that was set on fire on Friday by protesters during their agitation against NRC and Citizenship Act, at Beldanga Station in Murshidabad district of West Bengal on Saturday

CSMT Geetanjali Express, Howrah-Ernakulam Antodaya Express, Howrah-Digha-Howrah Kandari Express, Coromondal Express from Howrah, Howrah-Yesvantpur Duroto Exp, Howrah-Hyderabad East Coast Express, Puri-Digha Express, Puri-Santragachhi Passenger etc.

In an apparent bid to prove

a point or two about their numerical strength, the agitators mostly from a particular community not only targeted Government properties but also torched shops belonging to private citizens sources said adding about 20 shops were set on fire at Bagnan in rural Howrah.

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## Jamia students call off protest; varsity announces vacation till Jan 5



STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Hours after Jamia Millia Islamia on Saturday announced vacation till January 5 and cancelled all ongoing exams in view of the tense situation in the university due to students protest against the new citizenship law, the students called off their university lockdown.

"All exams have been postponed. The new dates to be announced in due course of time. Vacation declared from December 16 to January 5. University will reopen on January 6, 2020," a senior university official said.

The university administration said those who indulged in violence and clashed with police on Friday were "outsiders" and not students. Jamia students, teachers and alumni, said they have formed a coordination panel to hold peaceful protests against the amended Citizenship Act. They said the law is discriminatory.

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## I'm not Rahul Savarkar, won't say sorry: Rahul

Refuses to apologise for 'Rape in India' sought by BJP

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Unfazed over the BJP's attack on him for his "Rape in India" comment, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Saturday, in fact, went on to mock Sangh ideologue Veer Savarkar.

"My name is Rahul Gandhi, not Rahul Savarkar. I will never apologise for speaking truth and nor will any Congressman do so. It is Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his assistant Home Minister Amit Shah who has to apologise to the country for destroying India's economy," Rahul said while addressing the Congress' Bharat Bachao Rally here.

The Congress leader was apparently referring to the allegation against Savarkar that he tendered apology to the British for securing early release from the Cellular Jail in Andaman. Rahul's "Rape in India" comment in an election rally in

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Congress leader Rahul Gandhi addresses party workers during the party's Bharat Bachao rally at Ramliia Maidan in New Delhi on Saturday

## 'Rahul Jinnah' more appropriate name for Cong leader, says BJP

No compromise on Savarkar: Sena

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The BJP retaliated saying even if Rahul Gandhi takes 100 births he can't be Rahul Savarkar and a "more appropriate" name for the Congress leader is "Rahul Jinnah" as his "Muslim appeasement" politics

makes him a worthy legatee of the Pakistan's founder.

The Shiv Sena, the new alliance partner of the Congress in Maharashtra, also reacted sharply saying there could not be any "compromise" on the Hindutva ideologue. "Savarkar was 'Veer', patriot and had sacrificed. The language Rahul Gandhi uses for Article 370, air strike, surgical strike, CAB is Pakistan's language.

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## Woman kills self, daughter after hubby's suicide

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Hours after a 33-year-old Hman ended his life by jumping in front of a train at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium Metro Station in Delhi, his wife killed her five-year-old daughter and then committed suicide by hanging herself from a ceiling fan at their residence in Noida on Friday. Police said initial investigation suggests that the family was going through financial crisis.

The deceased have been identified as Shivranjani and her daughter Jayashritha, residents of Sector 128, Noida. Her husband Bharat J, a native of Chennai, ended his life on Friday by jumping in front of a train at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium Metro Station.



The deceased Bharat J (L) and Shivranjani (R). Also seen are relatives of Bharat (C)



Shivranjani along with her daughter had come to the hospital to identify the body," said the senior police official.

According to Noida Police, after identifying her husband in the RML Hospital she came back to her home. "Late on Friday night she first hanged her five-year-old daughter from

a ceiling fan in a room and then she went to another room and committed suicide by hanging herself from a ceiling fan," said Bhanuvesh Kumar, Station House Officer, Expressway police station in Noida.

"Shivranjani was a housewife while her daughter was studying in Nursery. In September 2019, the family had shifted at JP Pavillion, Noida Sector 128. Bharat and Shivranjani were married for last 10 years. Bharat was working with Golden Tulips as a general manager," said the SHO.

"Police have initiated an investigation to ascertain the reason behind the suicides. Bodies have been sent for autopsy. Further investigation is going on," said the SHO.



A man plays cymbals as protesters gather during an agitation against the Citizenship Act in Dibrugarh on Saturday

## CAPSULE

**MOTHER DAIRY INCREASES MILK PRICE BY UP TO ₹3/L**  
New Delhi: Mother Dairy on Saturday announced an increase in milk prices by up to ₹3 per litre in Delhi-NCR due to lower supply and rise in procurement cost.

**NCB BUSTS DRUG CARTEL, ARRESTS NINE PEOPLE**  
New Delhi: The NCB has arrested nine persons, including four foreigners, and seized 20 kgs of high-quality cocaine worth ₹100 crore belonging to an international drug cartel, raising the value of its seized contraband in recent months to ₹1,300 crore, an official said on Saturday. This is one of the biggest seizures of cocaine in the country. The drug is primarily abused by youngsters.

# 'I am similar to my character'

MUSBA HASHMI speaks with ASHNOOR KAUR, who started her career at age 5, about the new season of Patiala Babes, her favourite pastime and plans to explore digital medium

### What is your take on the latest track in Patiala Babes?

It is a different story and the track is completely different, that is why this is Season 2. As an actor, it is challenging for me because it is altogether a different journey for me. There are a lot of complicated and mixed emotions which are tough to enact. It is like something else is going on Mini's mind but she speaks something else. And to make the audience understand everything, you have to perform well. So keeping the hollowiness inside and still trying to cheer up everyone else, comes as a challenge for me. Also Mini is now an elder sister to Arya. So this is an added responsibility on Mini and me too, since I am the only child and I have no experience of how to deal with your younger sibling. But, I bond well with kids so I am enjoying the new track and the new season.

### Do you share any similarities with your character?

Yes, there are many things that I can relate to with my character. Mini and Ashnoor are 99.9 per cent same. I am chirpy, bubbly and I always try to cheer everyone else around me, just like my character. I believe in standing up against the wrong and speak with absolutely no filters on, just like Mini. (laughs)

### You started very young, how do you see your journey?

Firstly, I feel good when someone asks me this question. I feel blessed that people still remember me as a child artist. I get messages from people saying that they will keep their child's name by my character's name, it is overwhelming. This proves that in a decade's journey, I have been able to make my place in people's hearts. My journey has been a roller-coaster ride. I have played various roles and have explored different

**My journey has been a roller coaster ride. I have played various roles and have explored different genres. I have also been a part of films like Sanju and Manmarziyaan. I have evolved as an actor in this period of time**

genres. I have done a lot of ads, shortfilms and have also been a part of films like *Sanju* and *Manmarziyaan*. I have evolved as an actor in this period of time. I have polished my skills and I still keep on learning. Life never stops teaching and you should never stop learning, this is what I believe in.

### A role that came close to you.

All the roles that I have played are close to my heart, but to name one it is Mini. Because all the roles that I have played before happened just like that. I was very young back then to understand that I was actually working. But now when I have grown up and have started seeing things with a broader perspective, I understand that this character has challenged me with every episode. I have got a chance to portray different shades of the character and that's why this one is my favourite.

### Any show from the good old days that you would like to see a remake of?

I would like to see the remake of my first show — *Shobha Somnath Ki*, where I played Shobha, a warrior princess. I was just six back then.

### Apart from acting what else is keeping you busy?

I am a Class XI commerce student. So, study keeps me busy most of the times. Apart from this, I spend my time in exercising, reading books, spending time with my family and friends and also watching movies. It helps me enhance my acting skills.

### Can you share some behind the scene moments?

There are a lot of fun moments behind the scenes. But my favourite one is it was my birthday and we were shooting the last scene of the day. It was a serious one and suddenly a large piece of cake came flying on my face and everyone on the sets laughed hard. It was like a cake facial for me. The brain behind the idea was our director, Yusuf sir. We both share a father-daughter bond off-screen.

### Are there any plans of exploring the digital space?

Yes, I have been receiving offers for web series, but I am busy with *Patiala Babes* these days. When you are playing a lead in daily soaps, it becomes difficult to become a part of other project. May be after this show, I would step into the digital medium if I got some good offer, where I am getting to perform new things.



## Plan Your Sunday

### Celebrate Christmas The Irish Way

Venue: The Irish House, Nehru Place & Noida  
When: Till December 29, 2019  
Time: 12 pm to 12 am

Christmas waves a magic wand all over the world, and behold, everything turns elated and more beautiful. With Christmas bells ringing and the smell of delicacies in the air, your favorite neighborhood pub, The Irish House is all geared up to host a legendary Christmas menu filled with extravagant food and loads of booze.

Celebrate the most magical month of the year by digging into a wide range of dishes such as spinach and feta tartlets, roast tomato, garlic and cheese flatbread, wild mushrooms and goat cheese on brioche toast, char-grilled pears, onions, brussels sprouts, chorizo, chicken ham and cheese flatbread, drunken lamb burger, christmas chicken roast, spicy pork ribs; with a chocolate, cheese and cranberry tart for a sweet ending. So this December, eat, drink and make merry, literally. Don't think twice and head to the cafe for an amazing drunken Green Christmas experience!



### Ranthambore Music & Wildlife Fest

Venue: Nahargarh Palace, Ranthambore  
When: December 27 to December 29, 2019  
Ticket: ₹2,500

Spread over two nights and three days, the festival brings to its audience a spectacular banquet of music, art, food and wildlife experiences. The festival features some of India's most cutting edge music performance acts as well as an exciting mix of genres ranging from folk to rock, jazz, rap and electronic. This year will feature performances by Peter Cat Recording Co, Mane Khan, Naazy, Arko Mukhaerjee Collective, Lifafa, Rasika Shekar and others. Adding to the exhilarating musical affair, the festival will offer guests a host of experiences like wildlife safaris, live music concerts in step-well swimming pools and stone amphitheatres, block printing and pottery workshops, heritage expeditions, star gazing, and a delectable feast of local and international cuisine.



### Food For Thought Fest

Venue: GMR Square, Aerocity  
When: December 15, 2019

The 2019 edition of the Food for Thought Fest brings in the exciting components

that make this a truly unique event. There will be talks and discussions around culture and cuisine in the Thought Fest, while the Food Fest will be offering cookery workshops with master chefs of the region and an authentic flavor from the participating countries. This year the theme of the Food Court is 'A Taste of Luxury' which brings together 13 of the most well-known luxury hotels in Delhi NCR to showcase their top seven dishes in their booth, which will be served in tasting portions and priced between rupees ₹150 to ₹350 only! This is the very first time that luxury will be so affordable.



### Unwind, Innovate & Collaborate

Venue: Whiz Café, Whizdom Club, Savitri Complex, Greater Kailash II, New Delhi, 110048  
When: Till December 15, 2020  
Time: 11 am to 8pm (Closed on Tuesdays)  
Cost: ₹1,550 for two (plus taxes)

Looking for an ideal spot that inspires you, gives you an opportunity to network and serves you an epicurean menu? Look no further, we have the perfect place for you — Whiz Café.

The cafe offers a gourmet menu that delivers an impressive line-up of various cuisines and delicious dishes, along with a host of refreshing beverages curated by internationally renowned Culinary Chef Ashay Dhopatkar and acclaimed Pastry Chef Neha Lakhani.



## TELLYTALE

### SHIVIN INJURES HIMSELF



While shooting for *Beyhadh 2*, Jennifer Winget encountered the most dangerous sequence so far which almost cost her life. Shivin and Jennifer's first shoot together for the show was an outdoor shoot at a construction site. During the shoot Shivin emerged as a real life hero for Jennifer when he saved her from falling off the building. While they were shooting, Jennifer had harness on and was in the lift used by construction site workers. The lift lost control and dropped from the top floor. Jennifer's harness got stuck in the lift and she was getting dragged with it when Shivin came to her rescue and reached out to her and saved her from falling. He himself got injured and hurt his hand but did not stop shooting.

On the incident, Shivin shared: "Our first shoot together was an outdoor shoot at a construction site and I was quite excited. The sequence was one where Jennifer was supposed to be in a lift. While performing such stunt sequences, the production takes utmost care of the artists and even Jennifer had her harness and other safety gear on but unfortunately her harness got stuck and she was about to get dragged with the lift from top floor when I instantly reached out for her and grabbed her. In the course of saving her, I injured myself and my hand got hurt and she got a few bruises here and there and both of us were terrified."

Meanwhile in the show, it will be interesting for audience to see how Maya plans to meet with MJ's sons and manipulates Rishi, spies on him and his family.

### AMRAPALI IS BACK

*Tujhse Hai Raabta*, one of Zee TV's popular fiction dramas, has kept its audiences hooked with its heartwarming narrative of a unique mother-daughter



relationship that emerges between a young girl and her step-mother. Recently, viewers witnessed that the honest and upright cop Malhar (Sehban Azim) has been framed. Everyone now thinks that he is a corrupt police officer, but he is out to prove his innocence. In fact, he holds the Chief Minister at gunpoint for the truth to come out in front of the world. Another new, big twist is on the cards with the return of Kalyani's mother Madhuri Deshmukh, played by Amrapali Gupta.

For those of you who don't know, Amrapali was also seen in the initial episodes of the show, where she ends up meeting with an accident. Although, it seemed like she is dead, with her return, we are sure the viewers have a much more exciting twist to look forward to.

Commenting on her return on the show, Amrapali reveals: "*Tujhse Hai Raabta* is a fascinating story and I am really excited to be back on such a show with such a unique concept. I am glad that it is doing so great and Madhuri is coming back into Kalyani's life. We have seen how Madhuri has been a selfish person, but she loved her husband and daughter unconditionally. However, this time around my character has amnesia and she may or may not remember her daughter. I hope I am able to justify my character and I hope that the audience extends their support to me in this endeavour."

### DHARMENDRA-RISHABH'S COMMON WISH



Sony Entertainment Television's *Indian Idol* season 11 upcoming episode will be one of the most anticipated episode as the legendary Dharmendra and Asha Parek will be coming this weekend. The show has already become everyone's favorite because of the talented contestants and their extraordinary singing skills. The panel consists of the very Talented Neha Kakkar, Vishal Dadlani and Himesh Reshaimiyya.

The rockstar of *Indian Idol* Season 11 Rishabh Chaturvedi performed on the song *Pyaar Deewana Hota Hai* and *Pyaar Ke Iss Khe Mein*. Recently Rishabh expressed his liking for Bollywood superstar Alia Bhatt and was telling the same to Dharmendra ji and also mentioned he hasn't gotten the chance to meet her till now. Dharam ji said he to really likes the work of Alia Bhatt and till date he also hasn't met her.

Further in the show Asha Parek also told she is a huge fan of Dilip Kumar and

### Vijayanti Mala.

Neha Kakkar while appreciating Rishabh said: "I can see so much improvement in your singing since your audition. With every performance you are becoming better and your today's performance was really entralling."

### SHUBHARAMBH OF NEW SHOW

Colors has collaborated with Roubie Nagi Art Foundation (RNAF), for its new show *Shubharambh*, to weave the longest



ecofriendly bed linen. Giving a platform to the artisans from across the country, the initiative imparts the importance of strong partnerships and how it can help in the betterment of our society. The show chronicles the journey of Raja and Rani, who are imperfect as individuals but together they weave magic. As the show focuses on the power of *ek aur ek gyarah*, the initiative too will bring India together for a stronger tomorrow.

### FAHMAAN KHAN TO BE SEEN IN MDKD

Actor Fahmaan Khan who has previously been seen in a few television shows, has been roped in for Sony Entertainment Television's latest offering *Mere Dad ki Dulhan* (MDKD) to portray the character of Randeep, a carefree boy who believes in living his life to the fullest.

Randeep, the son of a businessman, who belongs to a wealthy family, has dreams and goals of his own. His father however wants him to be the next CEO of their company and lead the organisation. Niya's accidental meeting with Randeep brings out a stark difference in the way they approach life.

Fahman and Anjali Tatrari are having a gala time shooting with each other, most of which takes them away from the set.

Fahmaan Khan shares: "I'm very excited about this role because it's something I've never done before. All my characters have been serious ones in the past, but Randeep is a very lively person. Unlike Niya, he is a very impromptu, and lives-in-the-moment. He is very different from Niya and that's what makes her admire his way of life. He's a carefree guy with an entrepreneurial in nature and he assists his father in reviving small scale businesses."

Was the chance encounter between Niya and Randeep just a coincidence or will it lead them to meeting each other further?

## Eijaz Khan returns on TV

The wait is over and the suspense is all set to be revealed. Sony Entertainment Television's *Tara from Satara* will see the entry of Shatrughan Mehra who will be seen as the judge of Dancer No 1 alongside Sreelekha lyengar. The character of Shatrughan Mehra will be essayed by none other than actor Eijaz Khan, who will be seen returning to television after two whole years.

Shatrughan Mehra, has a history with Sachin Mane (Upendra Limaye), Tara's father. As a part of the judging panel, Shatrug will be seen as an acclaimed choreographer who rose to fame with his evolved style of dancing! Will Sachin cross paths with Shatrug again? Will Shatrug be a catalyst in transforming Tara's life?

Speaking on his new project, Eijaz said: "I am all set to make a comeback on TV with *Tara from Satara* and the show is very close to my heart as this character is very real. He has his past experiences and the character itself tells a story. I watched the entire run of the show in 10 days when I was offered this character and was quite impressed by the storyline. I am also glad to be a part of a show which has given birth to a complete new genre of Dramality. My character Shatrughan has a negative background but also tries to have a positive approach as he judges Dancer no. 1. He doesn't want to look completely biased. Thus, the character has different shades and I am sure audiences will love me in my new avatar on TV."

## Special gift for Reem

Zee TV's popular fiction drama — *Tujhse Hai Raabta*, has kept its audiences hooked with its heartwarming narrative of a unique mother-daughter relationship that emerges between a young girl and her step-mother.

The character of Kalyani, played by the teen heart-throb Reem Shaikh, has been getting a lot of appreciation from the viewers and the actor enjoys a whopping fan following across her social media platforms. The current track has been high on drama with Madhuri, Kalyani's biological mother, coming back on the show and Malhar being held captive by the Naxalites.

Reem, who loves to share her special moments with fans on social media, recently put up a video about her mom's cute gesture of putting up stickers of funny emojis around her mirror. While the actor seemed awed by the gesture, fans turned curious about this special gift from Reem's mom.

Feeding their curiosity, Reem said: "My mother gave me a sweet surprise by putting up quirky emojis around the mirror in my makeup room. I love using a lot of emojis, I feel they can express feelings when words fail and can make anyone smile. Whenever I am tired or a bit stressed out, my mom sends me cute emojis to cheer me up. This gift will remind me of those sweet messages from mom whenever I am back into my room on the set."

Expressing her love for her mother, Reem added: "I share a very special bond with my mother as she is more like a sister to me. I am glad to have such a loving person as a mother, who is the reason behind what I am today."

Well, not just on-screen, Reem is a lively daughter off-screen as well and we wish to see more of such cute moments between the mother-daughter duo.

## Viacom 18's new offering

## PUNJAB & SIND BANK

Where as the undersigned being the "Authorised Officer" of Punjab and Sind Bank, under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(2) read with security interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, issued a demand notice on the date mentioned against account calling upon the borrowers / guarantors to repay the amount as mentioned against account within 60 days from the date of notice / date of receipt of said notices. The borrowers / guarantors having failed to repay the amount, notice hereby given to the borrowers / guarantors and the public in general that undersigned has taken possession of the properties described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him / her under section 13(4) of said Act read with Rule 9 of the said rule on the date mentioned against each account.

The borrowers / guarantors in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the Properties and any dealing with the Properties will be subject to the charge of the Punjab and Sind Bank, for the amounts, other charges, costs, expenses and interest thereon. The borrowers attention is invited to provisions of Sub Section (8) of the Section 13 of Act, in the respect of time available to them, to redeem the secured assets.

| Name of the NPA Accounts / Branch   | Description of the Immovable Properties   | Date of the Demand Notice | Date of the Possession | Amount Outstanding   |
|---|---|---------------------------|------------------------|--|
| (1) M/s Sukhdev Singh and Sons through its Prop. S. Sukhdev Singh S/o S. Ajit Singh and Guarantor : (I) S. Virsa Singh S/o Gian Singh (ii) Mrs. Sukhwinder Kaur W/o S. Sukhdev Singh Branch : Bhaglanwala, Amritsar | Property i.e area measuring 183.33 sq. yards bearing Plot no. 51, Kharsa no. 201/26/2, Khewat Khatoni no. 572/870 vide Document no. 3936, Volume no. 3322, Book no. 1, Page no. 5959 dated 10-06-2008, situated at Wazir Rakha Kalaghanapur, New Abadi Ghanapur as per sale deed and Ashok Vihar as per valuation report, Ram Tirath Road, Amritsar. Property is bounded as per sale deed East: Road, West: Plot no. 56, North: Plot no. 52, South: Plot no. 50   | 02-09-2019                | 09-12-2019             | Rs. 10,34,639/29<br>+ interest, other charges and less recovery if any, till date affected                 |
| (2) Smt. Amandeep Kaur W/o S. Dildar Singh (ii) S. Dildar Singh S/o SD. Natha Singh and Guarantor Sh. Amit Kumar S/o Sh. Kishan Gopal Branch : Tunda Talab, Amritsar  | Property i.e One House bearing Plot Private no. 140, having measurement in Length 60 ft and Breadth 30 ft, total area measuring 200 sq. yards, Kharsa no. 961/25 min, Khata Khatouni no. 840/1544 as per Jamabandi for the year 2008-09, Hadbast no. 285, situated at Village Pandori Warraich, Abadi Shri Chand Avenue, Tehsil and Distt Amritsar, Owned by Smt. Amandeep Kaur W/o S. Dildar Singh and S. Dildar Singh S/o SD. Natha Singh and bounded by as per sale deed East : Plot no. 139, West : Plot no. 141, North : Street 20 ft wide, South : Plot no. 90. | 02-09-2019                | 10-11-2019             | Rs. 23,91,251/42<br>+ interest, other charges w.a.f. 31-08-2019 & less recovery if any, till date affected |

Date : 15-12-2019 Place : Amritsar Sd/- Authorised Officer

# Amarinder attacks Sukhbir on CAB

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

Countering Sukhbir Badal's 'atrocious' remarks on Afghan Sikhs in the context of the Citizenship Amendment Bill (CAB), Punjab Chief Minister Capt Amarinder Singh on Saturday said it seemed the SAD president was more interested in dirty politicking than in protecting the Constitutional ethos.

"Do you have no shame? You are ready to destroy the country's secular character to promote your vested political interests," said Capt Amarinder, taking on Sukhbir over his latest comments on the issue.

While people were getting killed in their fight to save India's secular character, and its Constitution, Sukhbir was busy indulging in politics over an issue of such grave concern, lashed out the Chief Minister, adding that what was at stake was the very survival of the country as a democratic and secular entity.

Responding to Sukhbir's question "if he (Amarinder) favours granting Indian citizenship to Sikhs who migrated from minorities in Afghanistan," the Chief Minister said the issue at hand was not granting or not granting citizenship to a particular community. The matter relat-

**POINTS**

- ◆ People getting killed to protect Constitution while Sukhbir playing dirty politics
- ◆ Asks Sukhbir to clarify SAD stand on Muslim exclusion from controversial Bill
- ◆ Warns of ill-consequence of dangerous moves like CAB & NRC after Kargill veteran declared foreigner in Assam

ed to the brazen attempt of the central government, of which Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) was a part, to tinker with the Indian Constitution - the very bedrock of the country's existence, he added.

"Sukhbir claims SAD has been fighting for the last 10 years for ensuring Indian citizenship to these people (Afghan Sikhs). Without getting into any argument over his claim, I want to ask him whether he has favours exclusion of Muslims from Indian citizenship," said the Chief Minister.

"Did the SAD not, in its initial reaction to CAB, declare that Muslims should also get the benefit of the amended Act?" the Chief Minister asked, demanding an explanation for the sudden U-turn of the Akalis on the issue. With these

contradictory statements, Sukhbir had once again exposed himself as an unprincipled leader with no values or morality, said Captain Amarinder, asking SAD to clarify its stand on the issue.

India's secular fabric has always been its strength and any attempt to rip it apart will be vehemently opposed by the Congress, as well as the people of the country, said Captain Amarinder. The BJP and its allies, however, seemed hell-bent on destroying this foundation with its ill-conceived actions, without thinking of the consequences, he said, citing the latest incident of a Kargill war veteran being declared a foreigner and sent to a detention camp in Assam.

"How can we question the integrity and loyalty of a soldier who has fought for the nation and risked his life to protect us," asked Captain Amarinder, warning the NDA and its allies against the dangerous consequences of such acts. The NDA and its allies like the SAD are striking at the roots of India's diversity, and hence the foundation on which it rests, said the Chief Minister, making it clear that neither he, nor his party, would allow such an assault on India's character and Constitution.

# Haryana households to have at least one tap by June 2022

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

Chandigarh: Haryana Government on Saturday decided to cover hundred per cent households in villages of the State under the ambitious "Jal Jeevan Mission" Scheme by June 30, 2022. Under this scheme, one Functional Household Tap Connection (FHTC) would be provided to every household in the villages. The scheme aims at providing one Functional Household Tap Connection (FHTC) to every household in the villages of the country by March 31, 2024. In Haryana, 70 per cent coverage would be achieved by June 30, 2020, 80 per cent by June 30, 2021 and hundred per cent by June 30, 2022 under the ambitious scheme, a government spokesperson said.

A meeting was convened by Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar with top functionaries of the State recently to take important decisions on policy and implementation of Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM). The CM has given it an epithet of "Dream Project". In the meeting, the broad strategies were discussed and timelines were defined.

The spokesperson said that as on April 1, 2018, there were 32,88,145 households in the rural areas of the State and 17,58,292 households were identified which had the facil-

ity of FHTCs whereas 15,29,853 households are yet to be given this benefit. Currently, Haryana is ranked 4th in the country in terms of coverage of households in the rural areas, with a coverage level of 53.47 per cent.

The spokesman said a detailed communication has been sent to all Deputy Commissioners in the State, underscoring the importance of this flagship programme and asked them to provide their interventions and contributions during the entire period implementation of this scheme. The DCs have also been asked to monitor the progress of JJM in the monthly meetings of District Water and Sewerage Committee and send a comprehensive progress reports to Additional Chief Secretary, Public Health Engineering Department for apprising the Chief Minister, from time to time. The DCs have also been asked to adjudge the performance of the Public Health Engineering Department Officers based on the relative progress of JJM.

The spokesman said that the Public Health Engineering Department, which had, hitherto, been the implementer and the fore-runner, would perform the transformative role of a facilitator, rendering technical advice to the Panchayats. PNS

# Act now or face environmental devastation, says NGT chief

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

National Green Tribunal (NGT) Chairperson Justice Adarsh Kumar Goel on Saturday gave a clarion call to all the stakeholders for acting together to address the environmental pollution, the need of the hour.

Addressing the first-of-its-kind regional conference organised here by the Environment Department of Punjab, the NGT Chairperson said time has come to act otherwise "we will have to face devastation". He underscored the need to maintain ecological balance to ensure healthy life.

Expressing confidence that this conference would be a model itself in the country to disseminate the message of environment preservation, the Chairperson said it is a strong beginning, which could be efficaciously replicated at the grassroots across the country for resolving the environmental issues.

He said the maximum involvement of people should be made in such pro-people and pro-nature initiatives to avert environmental imbalances.

The plenary session was participated by Punjab Chief Secretary Karan Avtar Singh



and his Haryana counterpart Keshni Anand Arora.

Assuring fulsome support and cooperation from the NGT, the Chairperson categorically said that there was no dearth of funds and people were willing to extend all possible cooperation as the clean environment was an issue of "great urgency".

Referring to waste management, Justice Goel said the authorities would have to execute command and control model in letter and spirit to ensure reforms and achieve desired goals.

Urging the Punjab and Haryana governments to remove the garbage dumps from both states and restore the land occupied under garbage piles, he said the country had

over 4,100 garbage dumps sites in 4,100 cities, which could be leveraged for business and employment opportunities.

Exhorting the industry and agrarian sectors to come forward for using the treated sewerage water, Goel said that effective management of sewerage water both solid and liquid was also much needed and the treated solid sewerage could be used as manure while the liquid for industrial and agriculture purposes.

In his address, Chairman of NGT Committee of River Sutlej Justice Jasbir Singh took note of justice of the situation and said that time has come to act or react and if not now then, as it was now an environmental emergency with no time left.

# Idea of India will endure onslaughts on its values by divisive forces: Moitra

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

Indian ethos is all about moderation not given to excesses and will certainly endure the present onslaught by communal forces, the firebrand TMC MP Mahua Moitra said, rejecting the idea of nationalism being thrust upon by centre.

During session on 'Jingoism and Hyper Nationalism - An Indian Perspective' during the second day of ongoing MLF, Moitra while accepting that opposition had been caught unawares with unleashing of hate and communal agenda by BJP called for a comprehensive counter narrative to negate the nefarious designs of these inimical forces.

Any nationalism which teaches me to treat my nation above God is not acceptable to me, she said invoking Rabindranath Tagore, adding that aggressive dependence on religion demonstrates abject failure of ruling class on all major fronts.

Taking part in the discussion, panelist and RSS ideologue Desh Ratan Nigam stated that Indian Constitution originally was not supposed to be secular and it was only with 42nd Amendment in 1976 the word secular was inserted



during emergency.

The Article on fundamental duties, said Nigam, enjoins upon all of us to protect the national culture and heritage adding that it was Indra Gandhi who introduced the idea of nationalism by incorporating Article 51 A in our Constitution.

The session was moderated by eminent Journalist Mark

Tully.

Responding to a question, Nigam though accepted that concept of Nationalism was being misused by some vested interests who were using it for their political gains. I don't subscribe to this term Nationalism, Nigam said adding that Bhartiyyata is what encompasses the all dimensions of our cultural belief where no-one is

superior and all are equal.

Attacking anyone is not in our ethos and even our no first use nuclear doctrine demonstrated this, Nigam added.

Earlier while initiating the discussion, Mark Tully said that the whole world was witnessing rising tide of nationalism which has the potential of being misused for political gains.

# Sukhbir Singh Badal re-elected SAD chief for third time

PNS ■ AMRITSAR

For the third time in a row, Sukhbir Singh Badal on Saturday was re-elected as the president of the Shiromani Akali Dal on Saturday.

The 57-year-old former Punjab deputy chief minister's name was proposed by senior party leader Tota Singh and seconded by another senior leader, Prem Singh Chandumajra while Jagmeet Singh Brar endorsed it.

Around 600 party delegates gave their approval, paving the way for Sukhbir Singh Badal to lead the party that was founded on this day in 1920. The SAD observed its 99th foundation day on Saturday.

The election for the post was held at Teja Singh Samundri Hall of the SGPSC complex here.

Party patron and former Punjab chief minister Parkash Singh Badal, who is the father of Sukhbir Singh Badal, could not attend the event due to health reasons. He had already conveyed his inability to attend the session.

After his election, Sukhbir Singh Badal, was presented a "Siropa" (robe of honour) by

**Sukhdev Singh Dhindsa was in the city attending a parallel programme organised by rebel SAD (Taksalis) to mark the foundation day**

the Sikh priests. His wife and Union minister Harsimrat Kaur Badal was also present at the event.

SAD MLA and former Punjab finance minister Parminder Singh Dhindsa, who is the son of rebel leader and Rajya Sabha member Sukhdev Singh Dhindsa, was conspicuous by his absence.

Sukhdev Singh Dhindsa was in the city attending a parallel programme organised by rebel SAD (Taksalis) to mark the foundation day. He along with Delhi Sikh Gurdwara Management Committee leaders Paramjit Singh Sarna and Manjit Singh GK were present at the function organised by splinter Akali groups, led by the SAD (Taksalis).

## MILITARY LITERATURE FESTIVAL

**DISSENT IS NOT DISLOYALTY, SAYS RAVISH KUMAR**

India as a nation belongs to all its citizens and dissent is not disloyalty to the government, said eminent journalist Ravish Kumar here on Saturday. Taking part in the panel discussion on the theme Ek Aur Satyagraha Bharat Ki Aatma Ke Liye, Ravish underlined the fact that religion was being made sole criteria to define nationality and allegiance to the country. He said media should be an impartial institution but that is not the case now a days it is not voicing concern over the stifling of the right to dissent which is the cornerstone of democracy. He also said that asking questions today has become a crime. Criticizing the Citizenship Amendment Bill (CAB), he said that religion should not be the basis for defining nationalism. MP from Sri Anandpur Sahib Manish Tewari said at the time of partition in 1947, the then Union Government opted for secularist structure to keep divisive forces at bay. But these very forces are raising their ugly head again. The discussion was moderated by Lt. Gen. (Retd) Zameeruddin Shah, Former Deputy Chief of Army Staff and former Vice-Chancellor of Aligarh Muslim University.

**GUV RELEASES BOOK "THE FLUTE AND THE SWORD"**

Punjab Governor VP Singh Badnore released the book "The Flute and The Sword" The story of Meera and Jaimal and the Rise and Fall of Meera, authored by Maj Gen Randhir Singh (Retd) and co authored by Karuna Singh which depicts the story of Meera Bai and Rao Jaimal interwoven with epic 16th century Rajputana history. The book was released during a special session. The Author Maj Gen Randhir Singh (Retd) speaking on the occasion said that he has tried to portray Meera's contribution, spirit of sacrifice and role of Meera as women more rather than saint. The book is a historical fiction featuring lots of Meera bhajans also.

**'MINDFUL SHARING OF INFO LEADS TO SAFE CYBERSPACE'**

Almost all the sectors including government and private as well are under the security threat of cyber attack and the only way to protect your data is to restrict its amount of sharing on cyberspace. The panelists during "Symbasters and Cyber Intelligence in War and Peace" echoed the sentiment here on Saturday deliberating the issue. Initiating the discussion, Moderator KC Verma, former director RAW, said that the damage done by the cyber attack would become the source of maximum damage done to any nation during the war in future. He added that among the other technologies, the cyber intelligence is also on the top of emerging technologies. Lt Gen Sanjeev Langer claimed that all the computers are under the surveillance of cyber attackers and Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE) is under the maximum threat in India which could also pose threat to the money of common citizens. Jayadeva Ranade, former additional secretary, said that the cyber intelligence has added new dimensions to espionage and communication and it also adds to vulnerability to the security of data.

# Cold conditions prevail in Haryana and Punjab

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

Cold conditions prevailed in the region a day after rains lashed most parts of Punjab and Haryana.

Chandigarh, the common capital of Punjab and Haryana, recorded a minimum of 10.3 degrees Celsius.

In Haryana, the minimum temperatures recorded in Ambala, Karnal and Bhiwani were at 10.1, 9.8 and 7.9 degrees Celsius respectively, a Met official said. Hisar recorded a low of 5 degrees Celsius, while the minimum temperature in Sirsa was 5.6 degrees Celsius.

In Punjab, the minimum temperatures in Amritsar, Ludhiana and Patiala were 9.4, 9.8 and 9.7 degrees Celsius respectively. The minimum temperature was 11.2 degrees Celsius each in Pathankot and Adampur. Halwara recorded a low of 9.7 degrees Celsius and the minimum temperature in Gurdaspur was 10.2 degrees Celsius, the Met official said. Bathinda and Faridkot, however, recorded below normal minimums at 5.9 and 7.5 degrees Celsius respectively,

**The Met official said the night temperatures are likely to fall by a few notches from Sunday. The maximum temperature in most parts of the two states, recorded in the range of 14-18 degrees Celsius, continued to remain below normal**

he said.

The Met official said the night temperatures are likely to fall by a few notches from Sunday. The maximum temperature in most parts of the two states, recorded in the range of 14-18 degrees Celsius, continued to remain below normal.

Earlier in the day, the weather was foggy at several places in the two states, including Amritsar, Ludhiana, Hisar and Bhiwani.

## MILITARY LITERATURE FESTIVAL

# Balakot message was to tell Pak there will be cost for terror attacks: Former Air Chief Marshal



PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

The message of the Balakot air strike was to tell the Pakistani establishment and terrorist organisations that there will be a cost to pay for terror attacks in India which was effectively conveyed, said

former Air Chief Marshal B S Dhanoa.

Speaking during a discussion on "Understanding The Message of Balakot" on the second day of the Military Literature Festival organised here by the Punjab government and the Chandigarh adminis-

tration, he said, "The message of Balakot, therefore, was to tell Pakistani establishments and terror organisations that there will be a cost to pay for terror attacks in India which was effectively conveyed."

However, he said, "on our side.. (there were) stupid mistakes for which remedial measures have been taken and people responsible will be punished." Dhanoa did not share any details about what the "stupid mistakes" were.

He also said, "We could not impose significant costs on PAF (Pakistan Air Force) on 27 of February (when the Pakistan Air Force retaliated a day after the Balakot strike)."

Dhanoa asserted that there was a paradigm shift in the way the Indian government responds to terrorist attacks involving mass casualties. He pointed out that there was no military response from the Indian state after the 1993 bomb blast in Mumbai and the 2008 Mumbai terror attacks.

"The first response came after terror attack at Uri in 2016 and it was retaliated by the Army with an attack on

destroying terror launch pads inside Pakistan Occupied Kashmir," said Dhanoa, who retired from service on September 30.

Pakistan got the message that the new government will respond militarily to a major terror attack on its soil, he further said. Dhanoa said that after the Pulwama attack in February in which 40 people were killed, the Pakistani establishment had feared that there would be retaliation. "There were only two questions -- when and where the retaliation

will take place," he said.

A decision was taken to strike a Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM) terrorist training camp in Pakistan's Balakot area as the terror organisation was behind the Pulwama attack.

"The government and political will was very clear to tell the Jaish-e-Mohammad and Pakistani establishment that such attacks would come at a cost and no matter where you are, be it PoK or Pakistan, we will get you and that is the message of Balakot," Dhanoa said.

The former IAF chief also said that the biggest lesson one could learn from the limited period engagement was that technology matters. "What about the responsibility of people who were to get this technology and kept negotiating for nearly 10 years to get the MMRCA (Medium Multi-Role Combat Aircraft)? What would have happened in the same engagement had Wing Commander Abhinandan (Varthaman) been flying Rafale aircraft instead of MiG 21-bison?" he asked.

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After snowfall, Himachal CM issues directions for restoration of services

PNS ■ SHIMLA

In the wake of snowfall in all tourist destinations as well as upper reaches of the state, Himachal chief minister Jai Ram Thakur on Saturday directed the officials to work on the clearance of snow from all roads at the earliest.

Shimla, Manali, Dalhousie and Kufri, witnessed snowfall overnight which led to the mercury dropping to sub-zero levels on Saturday.

Between Friday 5.30 pm and Saturday 8.30 am, Dalhousie received 60 cm of snow, the highest in the state, followed by Kufri (20 cm), Shimla (13 cm) and Manali (10 cm), Shimla Meteorological Centre director Manmohan Singh said.

Lahaul-Spiti's administrative centre Keylong and Kinnaur's Kalpa each witnessed 13 cm snowfall during the period, Kothi received 30 cm of snow, Chhatraji 18 cm, Bijahi and Khadrala 14 cm, Theog 12 cm and Janjheli 10 cm. Dhauladhar hills and Bhagsunag in Kangra district also witnessed snowfall.

Minimum temperatures in Kufri, Manali, Shimla and Dalhousie were recorded at minus 3.9 degrees Celsius,

Shimla, Manali, Dalhousie and Kufri, witnessed snowfall overnight which led to the mercury dropping to sub-zero levels on Saturday

minus 1.8 degrees Celsius, minus 0.5 degrees Celsius and minus 0.4 degrees Celsius respectively.

Meanwhile, Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur presided over the meeting with the senior officers of the State Government at Vidhan Sabha Complex Dharamshala to review the situation arisen due to snow fall in the State. He directed the officers to ensure that all the essential services in the State affected due to snowfall in the State be restored immediately.

Thakur said that the Public Works Department must ensure that all the major roads closed due to snow be opened immediately so that the people does not face inconvenience. He said that adequate men and machinery must be deployed in important roads closed due to snow. He said that preference must be given to clear

those roads which lead to essential services such as hospitals so that the patients does not face any hardship.

Chief Minister also directed the officers of State Electricity Board to ensure restoration of power supply at the earliest to ensure power supply. He said that since various modes of communications depend on power, it was important that the power supply disrupted in areas which had witnessed heavy snow be restored immediately. He said that the BSNL authorities should also ensure that their services be restored at the earliest so that the people does not face any inconvenience in communication.

Thakur said that snowfall also affects water supply, thus the Irrigation and Public Health authorities must take steps to ensure uninterrupted water supply. He said that adequate stock of pipes be maintained so that the damaged water supply pipe be replaced immediately.

He said that all the Deputy Commissioners must issue advisory to the tourists and general public to avoid trekking to higher reaches and also for carefully plying their vehicles on snow covered roads.

NBRIEF

POLICE POST IN KARNAL UPGRADED

Chandigarh: Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar has given approval to upgrade the Munak Police Post of Karnal district to a Police station. An official spokesman said that the work of upgrading the police post was included in the Chief Minister's announcements. Now the villages of Gagsena, Kutana, Pawana Hasanpur, Begampur, Munak and Munak Khara, Baal Ragdan, Raipur, Balla, Gollu, Mor Majara, Padha, Kudlan, Bhabharher, Manpura and Anchla have been connected with this police station. He said that earlier these villages were connected with Gharuanda, Asandh and Nising. The Chief Minister, who also has the portfolio of Finance Department also approved the staff for this police station on which an annual expenditure of over Rs 3.39 crore will be incurred.

PHYSIOTHERAPY COURSE IN TWO SPECIALTIES

Chandigarh: Haryana Government has decided to start Master of Physiotherapy (MPT) Course in two specialties - MPT Orthopaedics with an intake of 6 seats and MPT Sports with an intake of 4 seats in College of Physiotherapy, University of Health Sciences, Rohtak. The financial implication on account of this decision would be Rs 13,20,000 per year that is Rs 11,00,000 stipend per month per student.

BAL MAHOTSAV AT GURUGRAM

Chandigarh: Haryana State Council for Child Welfare has decided to celebrate Bal Mahotsav at Gurugram from December 19 to 23 in which thousands of children will participate from all over Haryana. A spokesman of Haryana State Council for Child Welfare said that the Haryana Governor Satyadeo Narayan Arya will be the Chief Guest of the closing day of State Level Competitions held on December 23.

I'm not Rahul Savarkar, won't say sorry: Rahul

From Page 1 Jharkhand has led the BJP to seek an apology from him and also take up the issue with the Election Commission.

Accusing Prime Minister Modi of single-handedly "destroying" the country's economy, he said, "All of India's enemies wanted that its economy, which is its strength, should be destroyed." "That work (of destroying the economy) has not been done by the enemies, but by Prime Minister Narendra Modi himself. And, (he) still calls himself a patriot," he added.

"Training his guns on Modi, a charged-up Rahul Gandhi said the PM only thinks about one thing - whether he has the power. "They will do anything for the power - make the youth unemployed, destroy the economy and what not," he said.

He also alleged that people manning various institutions, including media and constitutional ones like judiciary, have forgotten their work. While approving of media's criticism of the UPA government, he said, "I respect that and you did the right thing but today you have forgotten your work."

"It is your responsibility to rise when you are suppressed and attacked as it is not an

attack on you but on the very soul of India. This country is being scared and suppressed, but no Congressmen have any kind of fear. I am telling those people in institutions not to fear from anything. The Congress party is standing with them. We will together end this atmosphere of fear in the country," he said.

The Congress leader alleged that the BJP and PM Modi have set the entire north east region on fire and states like Assam, Meghalaya, Arunachal Pradesh, Tripura are burning. "Your own country is being weakened and divided and our economy is being destroyed. The reason is that Narendra Modi sees only one thing whether the power is in his hand. He (Modi) only works for being in power. He will destroy everything to achieve power," he said.

Rahul alleged PM Modi only "wants to be seen on television all the time" and the people whom he has benefitted by giving them the money "snatched from people", are the ones funding him for marketing himself on the TV. He said it is only the PM and no other opposition leader who can be seen on television.

'Rahul Jinnah' more appropriate name for Cong leader, says BJP

From Page 1 He can't be "Veer" or be a par with Savarkar," BJP spokesperson Sambit Patra said.

Another BJP spokesperson, GVL Narasimha Rao, said a more appropriate name for Rahul would be "Rahul Jinnah" given the Congressman's "Muslim appeasement politics and mindset".

Maintaining that five generations of Nehru-Gandhi family can't measure up to Savarkar's legacy, BJP IT Cell chief Amit Malaviya took a dig at the Shiv Sena saying, "Looking forward to seeing Shiv Sena defend Rahul Gandhi for his statement implying that Veer Savarkar was a coward who apologized."

Sena leader Sanjay Raut tweeted: "Veer Savarkar is an idol of whole country and not just Maharashtra. The name Savarkar denotes pride about nation and self. Like Nehru and Gandhi, Savarkar too sacrificed his life for the country. Every such idol must be revered. There is no compromise on this."

Savarkar is revered as Hindutva icon for the BJP but is accused by its rivals of tendering apologies to the British government to secure release from jail when India was under the colonial rule.

Jamia students call off protest; varsity announces vacation till Jan 5

From Page 1 The university had turned into a virtual battlefield on Friday when students and policemen clashed with each other as students tried to march to Parliament in protest against the legislation.

Earlier in the day, Jamia Teachers' Association (JTA) had also called an emergency meeting of the Executive Committee to discuss measures ahead of their protest against the contentious legislation.

Protesters go berserk...

From Page 1 Things however improved in parts of South 24 Parganas where no new report of violence came in from Diamond Harbour.

Meanwhile, the Chief Minister making a strong statement against the "CAB-NRC menace" asked the people to maintain peace warning the "breakers of law" that the Government would be forced to take drastic action against them. A release from the Chief Minister's office also requested people not to take law in hands. "Do not take law in your hands, blockade roads, railway traffic or damage public property as this will cause inconvenience to the people. Strict action will be taken against those who are found guilty in creating disturbances."

The Chief Minister has directed the Trinamool leadership to take out processions condemning the "draconian laws" on Sunday and Monday.

"The TMC workers will take out rallies in districts on Sunday. People from all walks of life, irrespective of their caste, creed, religion and political affiliation are requested to join the march," Mamata said adding she would herself take part in a rally in Kolkata on Monday.

Two TMC rallies, one from South Kolkata and one from North Kolkata, will be organised on Monday, Mamata said adding, "I want the people remain calm at this hour of crisis. I want the people to protest in legal way. I want to assure everyone that despite the enactment of the draconian law with the help of a brute majority in Parliament the BJP will not be allowed to implement it... I assure you that this Act will not be allowed to be implemented in Bengal. There will be no NRC or CAB here as it is the State Government that implements such laws and we will not implement it."

Oil tanker set ablaze in Assam...

From Page 1 "We do not want to inconvenience but the blockade has been called to draw the attention of people from all over the country about the threat to the people of the State due to the amended Citizenship Act," AJYCP general secretary Palash Changmai said.

The AJYCP has also given call for a 36-hour 'Gana Anshan' (mass hunger strike) from 6 am on December 16 across the State, while from December 18, they will organise 'Gaan Sabhas' (village meetings) in all village of the State. The AJYCP, which also demands that Assam be granted under the Inner Line Permit (ILP) regime, has also planned 'Gana Samadai' (mass rally) on December 24.

"We have coined the slogan 'No CAA, Yes ILP' and we will continue our agitation till it is granted," Changmai said. Protests by people and students are happening across the state and it will continue everyday till 5 pm, AASU General Secretary Lurinjyoti Gogoi told an agency. The AASU has called for 'satyagraha' for three days, beginning December 16.

"We will continue with our agitation till the Act is withdrawn but we will follow the ideals of Mahatma Gandhi in our struggle which will be non-violent and disciplined," Gogoi said. A Northeast Frontier Railway spokesperson said all trains to Upper Assam districts have been terminated at Guwahati, while all long distance trains leaving

Guwahati will resume their onward journey after the blockade.

In Giridih/Baghmara in Jharkhand, addressing election rallies Union Home Minister Amit Shah hit out at the Congress, accusing it of stoking violence over the amended Citizenship Act. Shah said the passage of the Citizenship (Amendment) Bill has caused a "stomach ache" to the Opposition party. He assured the people of the Northeast that their culture, language, social identity and political rights will be not be affected by the Act.

The Railways is running special trains from Guwahati to help stranded passengers in Assam. Special passenger trains are being run in Guwahati so that people reach their destination in upper Assam. One such train was operated on Friday to Dimapur. Trains were also run on Saturday to Furkating, the main railway junction in Assam's Golaghat district, and to Dibrugarh, officials said in New Delhi. A special passenger train to Dimapur from Guwahati will also run tonight, they said. While 2000-2400 passengers ferried in last two days, around 600-800 passengers were still stranded in Guwahati. The remaining passengers will be ferried by tomorrow morning. The officials said the railways is using social media like Facebook and Twitter to inform passengers about the special trains and also to appeal to people to not vandalise station property.

Classifieds

LOST AND FOUND

It is notified for the information that my original qualifying examination Passing Certificate secondary 10th Roll No 2105614 year 2007 issued by CBSE Board has been actually lost. Kavita Faridabad.

It is notified for the information that my original passing certificate of Secondary examination (10th) of year 2008, Roll no.2153440 and Senior secondary (10+2) examination of year 2010, Roll no.2659464 issued by CBSE has been actually lost. Kapil Sharma S/O Mr. Joginder sharma, House no. 12, Fair Land Colony, Opp Saint Jugg School, Fatehgarh Churian Road, Amritsar, Punjab. Mobile : 8352011334.

I, Sandeep Kumar S/O Suresh Kumar R/O Village Sutana, Distt. Panipat declare that I have lost my original market sheet class 10th, 12th and icici bank I Card no 80183750. If anybody find it call 844390007.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Santoshi Lal Bhand S/o Dalia Ram Bhand R/O House No 570, Sector 7B, Chandigarh have changed my name to Santoshi Lal.

I, Harbhajan Singh Goraya S/O Hazara Singh R/O House No. 104, Sector-65, Phase-XI, S.A.S. Nagar, Mohali, Punjab, have changed my name to Harbhajan Singh.

I, Ajay Kumar S/O Paras Ram, House-673, Phase-11, Mohali Punjab have changed my name to Ajay Sharma.

I, Ashish S/O Baljit Singh R/O H.No 207722 Near Milton Gate Panchsili Colony Sonapat declare that change my name from Nishith Dahiya to Ashish and DOB is 26.6.2003.

I, Sairaj Son of No 14639279X, SEP/MT Patekar Sudhir Popat Resident of VPO Chorochi, Tehsil Kavaymahakal, Distt. Sangli, State Maharashtra Pin 416403 have changed my name from Sairaj to Sairaj Sudhir Patekar vide Affidavit dated 12 Dec 2019 before Panchkula, Haryana.

I, Kanta D/o Late Sh. Harbhajan Singh R/o # 75 Bhainsla Tibba, MDC Sector 4 Panchkula have changed my name to Sonia.

I, Ramakant Sharma S/O Lakshmi Narayan Sharma R/O H.No- 45 Preet Nagar Ambala City have changed my name from Ramakant to Ramakant Sharma.

I, Priya Durgaprasad Agrawal W/O Vikas Garg R/O #2134, Urban Estate, Jind have changed my name to Priya Garg.

I, Renu Bala Rawal W/o Banta Ram Rawal R/O #1221, Sector-4, Panchkula, (Haryana) have changed my name to Bala Rani

I, Amarjeet Singh Kakkur S/O Rainer Singh R/O #11A, Phase 3, Jaggi Colony, Ambala City declares that in my Passport my name is wrongly written as Amarjeet Singh but my correct name is Amarjeet Singh Kakkur. Concerned please note.

I, Priya W/o Anil Kumar Singh R/O #4982, Urban Estate, Sector-11, Jind have changed my name to Priya Singh.

I, Ex-Sub. No. JC 612386P Rank Ex-Sub. Arun Bahadur Gurung S/O Late Prem Bahadur Gurung R/O Dhangru Pehr, H.No. 171 Pathankot Tehsil/District Pathankot, Punjab declare that in my service record my son name wrongly recorded as Gourav Gurung kindly correct it as Gourav Gurung.

I, Sandeep Kaur W/o Yadwinder Singh R/O VPO Rajla, Tehsil Samana, District Patiala, State of Punjab (INDIA) declare that I have changed my name from Sandeep Kaur to Kaur Sandeep. All concerned please note.

I, Laxmi Devi W/o Ram Kumar R/O Vill. Berthala, Sub-Tehsil Babani (Kurukshetra) declare that I have changed my name from Laxmi Devi & Lachman Kaur both are the name of same person. I known with both name.

I, Suresh Singal S/o Ram Parkash Singal R/O Ho.No. 158, Sec-11, Panipat I have changed my name Suresh Kumar to Suresh Singal for all purpose.

I, No.4473149W Ex Nk Kulwant Singh S/O Mohinder Singh R/O Vill- Rasoolpur Po- Panj Grian Tehsil Bataia Distt- Gurdaspur State Punjab. That I Declare Changed My Son Name From Raspal Singh To Raspal Singh.

I, No.4468285H Ex Hav Gurnam Singh S/O Mohinder Singh R/O Vill- Rasulpur P/O Panj Gariyan Tehsil Bataia Distt- Gurdaspur State Punjab. That I Declare Changed My Son Name From Jagraj Singh To Jugraj Singh.

I, Mohinder Pal S/O Chaman Lal Mistry R/O Village Gandhian Panihar, Po-Panihar, Tehsil/Distt Gurdaspur, Pb, India. Have Changed My Name To Mohinder Pal Singh.

I, Paramjit Kaur W/O Amardeep Singh 3254 Sector 51d Chd Have Changed My Name To Tamanna.

I, Baljit Kaur W/O Rewal Singh R/O Vill- Chak Khurd, PO, Chak Kajan, Tehsil Nakodar, Distt Jalandhar, Punjab, India. I Have Changed My Name From Baljit Kaur To Sarbjot Kaur.

I, Reena Verma W/O Pawan Handa R/O H.No.189,Gali Tiwarian, I/S Lohgarh Gate, Amritsar have changed my name after marriage from Reena Verma to Reena Handa.

I, Aanchal Mehra D/o Manish Kumar W/O Sh. Raghav Mehra R/O H.No.117/111, Gali Naiyan Bhaiyan Chaurasthi Attari, Amritsar have name change after marriage Aanchal Arora to Aanchal Mehra.

I, Anubha Singh W/o Yoginder Singh Bhandari R/O 42, New Customs Colony E-Block Ranjit Avenue Amritsar have changed my name after Marriage Anubha Singh Bhandari.

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Sajjan Kumar Goyal S/O Babu Ram and my wife Saroj Goyal R/O, 655, Sector-20, Huda, Kaithal, informs that, our son Amit Kumar Goyal and his wife, Jyoti Goyal are out of my and my family's control. We disown them both from our movable-immovable property. We will not responsible for their any matter in future.

I, Joginder Singh S/o Charan Singh R/O House no.101, Ward 15, Pranchi Road, Model Town, Pehowa, Tehsil Pehowa, Distt Kurukshetra declare that my married daughter Parminder Kaur is out of my control. I disown Parminder Kaur from all my movable/immovable properties. Anybody deals with Parminder Kaur shall do their own risk in future.

I, Balwan Singh S/o Jage Ram R/O Kanwar Singh Colony, Jhajjar (Haryana) declare that my son Sachin are out of my control. So, I disown him from my all movable/immovable property. If anybody deals with his/her shall do their own risk in future.

I, Ramesh Kumar S/o Satram Dass village Uralna Kalan Teh Matlauda Distt Panipat present address 116/5 Geeta Colony Panipat declared that my son Rohan Madan and his wife Tannu is my out of control so I disowned to my all property and relationships.

I, No. 4462038Y Ex Nk Darbara Singh S/O Pala Singh R/O Vill. Kot Mana Po. Bhudri Teh-Jagraon (Ludhiana) declare that in my army record my daughter name entered Rajveer Kaur. Then I changed my daughter name from Rajveer Kaur to Amritpal Kaur accordingly to her Aadhar Card No. 3362 2963 7671. So amended her name Amritpal Kaur in my army record.

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Classified Advertisement contact : 94174-19351

सार्वजनिक सूचना सर्वसामान्य को सूचित किया जाता है कि दून नगर 58-A में अज्ञात की विधवा, जोकि कार्यालय मार्केट कमेटी के रिकॉर्ड में राकेश कुमार पुत्र राम किरण निवासी यादव अरुणचल के नाम से दर्ज है। राम कुमार की मृत्यु दिनांक 18-06-2015 को हो चुकी है। अब उनके परिवारी वारिस अर्जुनी देवी विधवा राम कुमार, ममता देवी तथा उनकी सती पुत्रिका स्व. राम कुमार ने दून नगर 58-A को अपने सगे भाई श्री राकेश कुमार व प्रवीण कुमार पुत्र राम कुमार निवासी विधवा के नाम सम्भार में दस्तावेज करने वाले प्रार्थना पत्र कमेटी कार्यालय में दिए हैं। यदि किसी व्यक्ति को दून नगर 58-A के श्री राकेश कुमार व प्रवीण कुमार पुत्र राम कुमार निवासी विधवा के नाम सम्भार तबवील करने की आवश्यकता है तो वह लिखित रूप में अपनी आपत्ति सहित सही मार्केट कमेटी कार्यालय में सूचना प्रकाशित होने के 30 दिनों के अंदर दर्ज करना चाहता है। अन्यथा उपरोक्त जानकारी के आधार पर प्रवीण कुमार पुत्र राम कुमार निवासी विधवा के नाम सम्भार तबवील कर दी जाएगी। जिसके बाद मार्केट कमेटी विधवा को कोई जिम्मेवारी नहीं होगी। राकेश कुमार, विधवा (सुकेश)

CH. K.R. MEMORIAL DEGREE COLLEGE FOR GIRLS VPO JAMAL, DISTT. SIRSA (HARYANA) Applications are invited from eligible candidate for the vacant posts in the following Subjects: Principal, Assistant Professors in English, Hindi, History, Political Science, Public Administration, Physical Education, Environmental Studies, Maths, Economics, Geography, Commerce, Computer Science, Clerks and Class-IV employee. Eligible candidate can apply within 15 days from the date of advertisement along with documents of qualification and Experience etc. through speed post. The qualifications will be as per University/University Grants Commission/ State Government norms. Women candidates will be preferred. Note: A copy of application may be sent directly to Dean of Colleges, Chaudhary Devi Lal University, Sirsa for information and necessary action. Contact No. 98967-37050, 70157-64589, 94161-59277, Email: bhagwatieducation@gmail.com

SSS COLLEGE OF EDUCATION V.P.O HAYAT NAGAR, HARDOCHHANI ROAD, GURDASPUR (Punjab) Invites applications for the post of Principal/Assistant Professors in Education on Regular Basis. Principal - One Post Assistant Professors in Education for Perspective & Pedagogy Papers ( Social Science, Science, Math, Commerce , Computer Education & Languages)- 9 Assistant Professors in Music, Fine Arts & Physical Education - One Each. Qualifications and Grade as per UGC/NCTE/Punjab Govt. /GNDU Norms. Reservation Policy will be as per Punjab Govt. Rules. Apply within 15 days under registered cover to the Chairman, S. Sukhinder Singh Memorial Education Society, V.P.O Hayat Nagar, Hardochhani Road, Gurdaspur (Punjab)-143521. Copy of Application may also be sent to Dean, C.D. G.N.D.U. within 15 days in case for the post of Principal. (M) 9317903405

DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL-III, CHANDIGARH SCO No. 33-34-35, Sector 17-A, Chandigarh PUNJAB NATIONAL BANK Versus M/s SUKHRAJ FORGING PUBLICATION NOTICE (NOTICE UNDER RULE 2 OF THE SECOND SCHEDULE OF INCOME TAX ACT, 1961 READ WITH SECTION 25 TO 28 OF THE RDBB & FI ACT, 1993.) To, 1. M/s Sukhraj Forging a sole Proprietor concern having work at Street No. 3, Singla Colony, Jaspal Bangar Rd, Ludhiana (Punjab) through, its sole Proprietor Sh. Inderjeet Singh S/o Sh. Charan Singh. In terms of the Recovery Certificate in O.A. No. 1361 of 2017 issued by the Hon'ble Presiding Officer, a sum of Rs. 22,85,000/- has become due from you. Whereas it has been shown to the satisfaction of Tribunal that it is not possible to serve you in the ordinary way, therefore this notice is given by this publication directing you to put in appearance before this Tribunal on 06.07.2020 at 11:00 A.M. Take notice that in case of default of your appearance on the specified day and time the case shall be heard and decided in your absence. Given under my hand and seal of this Tribunal on 22nd Day of November, 2019 at Chandigarh. RECOVERY OFFICER-II DRT-III, Chandigarh

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF INDIA EXTRA JUDICIAL APPLICATION SPECIAL LEAVE PETITION (CIVIL) NO. 25585 OF 2018 WITH PRAYER FOR INTERIM RELIEF BRAHAM BHUSHAN AND ANOTHER ...Petitioner(s) & Appellant(s) VERSUS HARYANA URBAN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY AND ANOTHER ...Respondent(s) To, S. SRI PRAKASH S/O LATE SH. RAM PARSHAD, H. NO. 389, SECTOR 10, DISTRICT- PANCHKULA - HARYANA. PID: 319815/2019 FOR R2] IN SLP] NO.25585/2018 (SEC N-B) WHEREAS the Petition for Special Leave to Appeal with prayer for interim relief above mentioned (copy enclosed) filed in the Registry by Mr. RAWINDER KUMAR YADAV, Advocate on behalf of the Petitioner(s) above named was listed for hearing before this Court on 05th October, 2019, when the Court was pleased to pass the following order:- "Issue notice, returnable in six weeks. In the meanwhile, status quo shall be maintained by the parties. AND WHEREAS, the matter above-mentioned was listed before the Registrar's Court on 14th November, 2019, when the following order was passed:- "Despite last opportunity having been granted, respondent No.1 has not filed counter affidavit, as such, further opportunity to file counter affidavit stands declined. Application filed for substituted service in respect of respondent No.2 is allowed. Proof of publication be filed within four weeks. List again on 24.12.2020."

IN THE COURT OF DR. SAURABH MISHRA, IAS, SUB-DIVISIONAL MAGISTRATE (5)-CUM-MARRIAGE OFFICER, U. T., CHANDIGARH. Mr. Selin Garibehi S/o Sh. Ashok Kumar Garibehi, Permanent & Temporary R/o # 404/1, Sector 44-A, Chandigarh. AND Ms. Pratibha Kashyap D/o Sh. Balwant Singh Permanent & Temporary R/o # 1473-B, Sector 61, Chandigarh. have given Notice u/s 5 for Solemnization of marriage to be registered within three calendar months, under the Special Marriage Act, 1954. Whereas, the above named parties have filed a petition for the solemnization of their marriage within three calendar months in this court, notice is, therefore, issued through this publication to the general public that in case there is any objection to it, the same be filed in this court on or before 11.01.2020, failing which the marriage shall be solemnized under the Special Marriage Act, 1954 in accordance with law. Given under my hand and seal of the Court on 12-12-2019. Sub-Divisional Magistrate (5)-Cum Marriage Officer, Act 1954, UT, Chandigarh.

COURT NOTICE (U/o 6 Rule 20 CPC) IN THE COURT OF Sh. Amardeep Singh Bains Additional Civil Judge (Senior Division), Gurdaspur. CNR NO. PBGD02-002543-2019 Next Date: 23-01-2020 Sarabjit Kaur Vs. General Public Publication Issued to: General Public. In above titled case, the defendant(s)/ respondent(s) could not be served. It is ordered that the defendant(s)/ respondent(s) should appear in person or through counsel on 23-01-2020 at 10:00 a.m. For details logon to https://highcourtdg.gov.in/?trs=district\_notice&district=Gurdaspur Additional Civil Judge, (Senior Division), Gurdaspur

BANK OF BARODA KENNEDY AVENUE, AMRITSAR CORRIDGUM The Possession Notice published on dated 08-11-2019 in A/c of Mr. Harpreet Singh S/o Late Mr. Hardeep Singh and Mrs. Samrati W/o Mr. Harpreet Singh. In first Paragraph section 13(2) The Others particulars of the account will remain same as published. Date: 15-12-2019 Place: Amritsar Self Authorised Officer.

LOST & FOUND I have lost my 100 shares of Finolex Industry Limited. Folio No. C0032814 Certificate Number: 207904. Dist. From 25918311 to 25918410 If anybody found please contact Chaman Lal, Zoology Dept. Panjab University, Chandigarh Mob. 9988857165

Public notice It is informed to general public that Sh. Ajay S/o Sh. Jagdish has lost his previous release deed no. 1996 dated 04.12.2014 in favor of Sh. Vikas for property i.e. part of bearing Khawar no. 87 karnal no. 104 khara no. 1130-18 measuring 120 sq. yards situated at VPO Jhupa Khurd Tehsil Siwani Distt. Bhiwani. If any person has objection then file replies alongwith a Society Sector 49-A, Chandigarh before the undersigned After lapse of stipulated period no claim will be accepted regarding the above said property. Rajesh Jain Advocate, Hisar

IN THE HIGH COURT OF PUNJAB AND HARYANA AT CHANDIGARH C.M. NO.14079-C OF 2019 IN RSA No. 4952 of 2016 Sahab Ram and Ors. ...Petitioner(s) Versus Ramesh Kumar Chawla and Ors ...Respondent(s) To, (1) Ramesh Kumar Chawla (2) Suresnder Kumar, (3) Ashok Kumar, sons of Dev Raj son of Khushi Ram. (4) Santosh Kumari daughter of Dev Raj son of Khushi Ram and wife of Jagdish Chander. (5) Sudarshan Kumanji @ Darshan Kumanji daughter of Dev Raj son of Khushi Ram and wife of Jawahar Lal. Whereas it is proved to the satisfaction of this court that the above named respondents cannot be served in the ordinary manner, notice is hereby issued against them to appear in this court on the 29.01.2020 (Actual) personally or through some one authorized by law to act for him or an Advocate of this court to defend the above noted case failing which it will be heard and decided ex-parte. Given under my hand and the seal of this Court this 27th December, 2019. Your faithfully Supt. Gr. (Civil-II) Punjab and Haryana High Court Chandigarh

# UNFRUITFUL EXPENDITURE OF ₹7 CRORE CBI books Padma Shree awardee Leela Samson

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The CBI has booked ace Bharatnatyam dancer and former Chairperson of Sangeet Natak Akademi Leela Samson for alleged "unfruitful expenditure" of ₹7.02-crore on renovation of Koothambalam Auditorium of Kalakshetra Foundation, Chennai.



Samson, a Padma Shri awardee and also a former Chairperson of Central Board of Film Certification, has been booked in her capacity as the then Director of Kalakshetra Foundation along with four more officials of the Foundation. The other accused in the case include the then officers of the Foundation: Chief Accounts Officer (on deputation from CAG) TS Murthi, Accounts Officer S Ramachandran, Engineer Officer V Srinivasan and proprietor of architecture firms CARD and Chennai Engineers.

After registering the case on Thursday, the CBI also conducted searches on the residential premises of the accused.

In a complaint to the CBI, the Chief Vigilance Officer of the Culture Ministry has alleged that the officials of the Foundation awarded the contract for the renovation work to consultant architect CARD in violation of General Finance Rules (GFR), according to the FIR which stated the period of the alleged offence from 2006 to 2012.

After conducting an inquiry in 2016, the Culture Ministry alleged that the 84-year-old Foundation had spent Rs 62.20 lakh more than the estimated amount on the Rs 7.02-crore project.

The estimation given by the Central Public Works Department revealed that the

contracts were awarded at a higher rate and the payments made to the contractors accordingly, according to the FIR. Samson was the Director of the Foundation between May 06, 2005, and April 30, 2012. It was felt in 2006 that the auditorium built by the Foundation in 1985 needed renovation, they said.

The project aimed to upgrade the sound system of the Koothambalam auditorium, built in 1985, followed by civil engineering works, electrical works, air conditioning and architectural features, the CBI FIR said.

The 33rd Governing Body meeting held in 2009 decided to form a civil works advisory committee and P T Krishnan, Leela Samson and Madhavi Mudgal were to prepare necessary estimation based on the recommendations of the Governing Board, it said.

The civil works committee appointed CARD as consultant architect in 2010 which gave contracts for 28 renovation works to five contractors while committee also selected some contractors, it said.

The ministry alleged in the complaint that the open tender process was not followed in awarding the contracts.

The Comptroller and Auditor General audited the

expenditure of Kalakshetra and submitted the report on August 5, 2011. In the report, the CAG brought out various lapses in executing the renovation work of the auditorium. The CAG also pointed out that the renovation works were undertaken without formal sanction of the Governing Board and Financial Committee.

It also alleged that Samson failed to apprise the non-official members of the Works Committee about the GFR norms and inform the Works Committee about the CAG Inspection Report received in August 2011.

"Instead, approval of the Works Committee was obtained for two major expenditures in September and December 2011. She failed to place the CAG Inspection Report in the meeting of Finance Committee and General Body meeting held on January 23, 2012, and January 24, 2012, respectively and kept these bodies under dark," the agency has alleged.

The FIR, citing reports, alleged even if there were only limited sources of supply of sophisticated equipment for sound, stage lighting, these were not justified in the file notings for resorting to limited tender, and hence there was no justification in not resorting to open bidding.

She was allegedly responsible for the losses incurred by the Foundation on account of not opting for open tendering as also mandated by the General Body, it said.

The FIR said Kalakshetra had spent Rs 62.20 lakh more than the estimated amount. The CPWD estimates revealed the contracts were awarded at a higher rate and the payments made to the contractors accordingly.

# BHARAT BACHAO RALLY

## Time to rise to save constitution, democracy: Sonia

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Congress president Sonia Gandhi on Saturday launched a scathing attack on 'Modi-Shah Government' over several issues concerning the nation and gave a clarion call to rise to save democracy and Constitution.

Addressing the Bharat Bachao Rally in the national Capital, Sonia alleged that the BJP-ruled government's sole agenda was to make people fight to serve their politics, and vowed that her party would not retreat in its struggle against injustice.

Former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh too addressed the crowd during which he accused his successor Narendra Modi of misleading the people by making "lofty promises" which he "failed" to fulfil. Other Congress leaders P Chidambaram, Bhupinder Singh Hooda, Sachin Pilot and Chief Ministers Ashok Gehlot, Kamal Nath, Bhupesh Baghel too addressed the gathering that had come from across the country, particularly from the Congress ruled States.

Sonia also targeted the government over the economic situation and exhorted people to raise their voice to protect the country and its Constitution. "The Congress and only Congress has always fought for people's rights. And today too, the Congress party is not going to retreat. Till our last breath, we will fulfil our duty towards protecting the country, democracy and the Constitution" she said. "Andher nagri chaupat raja wala mahaul hai (confused leader, chaotic State)... kahaan hai sabka saath sabka vikas? What has happened to economy? Where are jobs?" she asked, hitting out at the government over the handling of economy.

The Congress chief said



Former PM Manmohan Singh along with Congress president Sonia Gandhi, Rahul Gandhi waves at the party workers during the party's Bharat Bachao rally at Ramliya Maidan in New Delhi on Saturday

the situation in the country is serious as she highlighted the plight of women, farmers, labourers and the youth and asked party workers to struggle hard for protecting their rights. "The greatest sin is to bear injustice. So raise your voice to the Modi-Shah government and tell them that we are ready to give any kind of sacrifice for the protection of democracy. And we are ready for any kind of struggle to protect the Constitution."

Talking about the new amended citizenship law, Sonia Gandhi said it has been on BJP's agenda for a long time now. "They are not bothered that this new CAB law will shred the soul of India, as is happening in Assam and other northeastern States. It is for India's soul that our great nation builders and Babasaheb Ambedkar struggled hard, but I can say with confidence that our country's basic foundation does not allow such discriminatory actions. I assure you that the Congress will stand by all those against whom injustice is done," she said.

The Congress has been

opposing Citizenship Amendment Act, alleging that it discriminates on the basis of religion. Training her guns on Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah, the Congress chief said, "Modi, Shah are not bothered about the Parliament nor do they care for Constitutional institutions. Modi and Shah have a single aim - they have a single narrow agenda. They only bother about politics. Their narrow agenda is Logon ko ladao, aur asli muddon ko chhupao' (Make people fight and hide the real issues)."

She said they "violate" the Constitution everyday and then also celebrate Constitution Day. Asking people to rise against the injustice, she said, "There comes a time in the life of any person or society or country when you have to decide which side you're on, today is one such day. The time has come to struggle hard to save the country. It's time to rise to save democracy and Constitution." She said unprecedented job losses are being witnessed and the youths face darkness.

On his part Manmohan

Singh said Modi had promised to take the country's economy to \$5 trillion by 2024, double farmers' income and provide two crore new jobs every year for youths. "Six years ago, Narendra Modi showed lofty promises to people. Now it has been proved that all these promises were false and he has failed in fulfilling all the promises made and the people of the country were misled," he said.

In his brief address, Manmohan Singh urged the

people to strengthen the Congress party and the hands of Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi in order "to take the country forward in the right direction". He also urged Congress workers present at the rally in large numbers to take the message of Congress chief Sonia Gandhi to every nook and corner of the country. "It is your responsibility. The enthusiasm in you will surely help give a new direction to the country," he noted.

# Govt to conduct Economic Census

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Seventh Economic Census was launched in the national Capital on Friday. The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) has tied up with Common Service Centre (CSC), an SPV under Ministry of Electronics and IT, to carry out the 7th National Economic Census.



"For the first time the entire Census is being conducted on a digital platform by the use of an application which will ensure high accuracy and data security. Delhi is the 26th State where the survey has been launched, while the process is already on in 20 States and 5 UTs. In Delhi the entire process will take around three months where enumerators will survey around 45 lakh establishments and households," said A.K. Sadhu, DG (Social Statistics), Central Statistics Office (CSO). The process of Economic Census was first held in 1978. This is the Seventh Census which will provide disaggregated information on various operational and structural

aspects of all establishments in the country. The census will provide valuable insights into geographical spread/clusters of economic activities, ownership pattern; persons engaged etc. of the establishments engaged in economic activity.

In the 7th Census, an IT based digital platform is being used for data capture, validation, report generation and dissemination will be used. The fieldwork for the Census started in June 2019. A comprehensive training strategy has been evolved to impart training to enumerators and supervisors engaged in the Census. CSC CEO Dr Dinesh Tyagi was also present on the occasion.

# Kovind hosted university heads' conference

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

India has set itself for sustainable development as it strives to eliminate poverty and become a middle-income country, President Ram Nath Kovind said on Saturday as he hosted a conference of 46 heads of Central Universities and institutes of higher learning in the fields of agriculture, pharmaceuticals, aviation, footwear-design, fashion, petroleum and energy, maritime studies, planning and architecture and information technology.

"India has set itself for sustainable development as it strives to eliminate poverty and become a middle-income country. Each of these institutes will be instrumental to the realisation of our socio-economic goals. The central agricultural universities can support our national goal of promoting sustainable agriculture, productivity and supporting our farmers with useful research," Kovind said in Rashtrapati Bhavan.

"The same is true of all other institutes linked to different areas be it pharmaceutical, aviation, oceanography, petroleum and energy, IT,



President Ram Nath Kovind in group photograph with heads of Central Universities/Institutes of Higher Learning during their conference in New Delhi on Saturday

Design, Architecture and others. Each of them is doing well but we need to raise the bar further.

As our economy grows we need to acquire the scale and efficiency that is greater and better than the best in the world," he added.

The president said while developing their specialisations, these institutes should collaborate and learn from each other. "This is possible

for institutes in the same field. It is also possible across categories. For example, advances in information technology can aid architects and town planners to design smart cities that minimise use of energy. All of them should set up systems that can scout for and support cross-category collaborations which might hold creative promises to solve many of our problems," Kovind said.

Issues such as promotion of research, promotion of innovation and entrepreneurship among students, building industry-academia linkages, filling up of vacancies, including faculty from foreign universities, creating alumni funding and enhancing alumni activities and completion of major infrastructure projects in a time bound manner, were discussed during the conference.

# Government eases FASTag execution

## Up to 25% of FASTag lanes to be temporarily converted to hybrid lanes at NH toll plazas

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

To avert inconvenience to citizens, the Centre on Saturday announced to convert up to 25 per cent of FASTag lanes at national highway toll plazas to hybrid lanes for a month. The hybrid lane will accept FASTag and other modes of payment.

The Government earlier had announced rollout of mandatory FASTag under electronic toll collection from December 1, which was later extended to December 15, 2019. "Considering the request of NHAI and further the citizens are not put to inconvenience... It is decided that depending on the traffic

pile up at high traffic volume fee plazas, not more than 25 per cent FASTag lane of fee plaza' may be temporarily converted to hybrid lanes," the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways said.

This is to be considered on a case to case basis, it added. "A daily evolution of such cases be made to take necessary corrective action," it said.

It should be ensured that the least possible number of the declared FASTag lanes are converted into hybrid lanes and at least 75 per cent lanes of every fee plaza should remain operational as FASTag lanes, it added.

The ministry clarified that



it is a temporary measure to be adopted for 30 days only to facilitate smooth flow of traffic so that no inconvenience is caused to the citizens. The

Government had earlier extended the date to December 15 for making FASTag mandatory for toll payments on national high-

ways. The National Electronic Toll Collection (NETC) programme, the flagship initiative of the ministry, has been

# Priyanka takes jibe at 'Modi hai toh mumkin hai'



Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra speaks during the party's Bharat Bachao rally at Ramliya Maidan in New Delhi on Saturday

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra on Saturday said those who don't fight the prevailing situation today will go down in history as cowards. "If you love India, please raise your voice. If we remain silent today, our revolutionary Constitution will be destroyed. The division of the country will start and we will all be as responsible for this division as any corrupt leader of the BJP and the RSS," she asserted while addressing the party's Bharat Bachao Rally.

While Priyanka urged everyone to gather the courage to fight the current situation, she also took a jibe at BJP slogans praising Prime Minister Narendra Modi. "At every bus stop, in every newspaper, on every TV channel, one can see that 'Modi hai toh mumkin hai' (Everything possible with Modi at the helm). Asliyat ye hai ki BJP hai to ₹100 kilo ki pyaaz mumkin hai, BJP hai to 45 saal mein sabse zyada berozgari mumkin hai, BJP hai to 4 crore naukriyan nashit

hona mumkin hai, BJP hai to 15,000 kisan ki amahatya mumkin hai... (The fact is under the BJP, it is possible that onion sells ₹100 a kilo, it's possible that unemployment is highest in 45 years, it is possible to destroy 4 crore jobs. If the BJP is there, it is possible that 15,000 farmers commit suicide...)," said the Congress general secretary.

A combative Priyanka raised the recent alleged torching of a rape victim in Unnao who subsequently succumbed to her injuries at a Delhi hospital and remembered her father Rajiv Gandhi and his sacrifices.

"When I saw the father of the Unnao rape victim burying his face in his palms and crying, I remembered my own father whose body I saw as a 19-year-old. My father's blood is in this soil just as the blood of the Unnao victim is nurturing this earth. This country is ours and it is our moral duty to save it," she said flanked by her mother and party president Sonia Gandhi and former Congress chief Rahul Gandhi seated at the stage.

**राजस्थान राज्य पथ परिवहन निगम, मुख्यालय**  
परिवहन मार्ग, चौर, हाउस, जयपुर।

**संशोधन-पत्र**

निगम की वाहनों का कवरेज लगभग 2200 बसों का वृत्तीय पथ एवं वाहनों का जोखिम बीमा करवाए जाने के लिए एडर आई.डी. 2019.RSRTC.169963.1 एवं यू.पी.एन.नं. RITC1920510800331 के द्वारा अपलोड की गई थी। उक्त बोली आवेदन की दिनांक को 09.12.2019 से बढ़ाकर दिनांक 16.12.2019 समय 15:00 बजे तथा बोली खोलने की दिनांक को भी बदलकर 10.12.2019 से बढ़ाकर दिनांक 17.12.2019 समय 15:00 बजे किया जाता है। शेष समस्त शर्तें यथावत रहेंगी।

राज. संवा.द/सी/4135/2019-2020 वि. सं. 130/2019-20 **वित्तीय सलाहकार**

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**NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF FASHION TECHNOLOGY**  
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Detailed information such as E-tender forms, pre-bid meeting, submission of tender, opening of Technical Bids & Financial Bids etc will be available in NIFT Jodhpur website [www.nift.ac.in/jodhpur](http://www.nift.ac.in/jodhpur) & <https://nifttenders.eproc.in> The date of issue /receipt of E-tenders etc. will be valid as per the tender uploaded on website. In future any information regarding corrigendum/addendum, extension of time etc. of above tenders would be uploaded in above mentioned website only. **Purchase Officer**

# Not fair that I am being impeached: Trump

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

US President Donald Trump on Friday said it was unfair that he was being impeached as he had done no wrong and the country under him was doing quite good.

"It's not fair that I'm being impeached when I've done absolutely nothing wrong!" Trump said in a tweet on Friday night as a key Congressional committee, earlier in the day, approved the two articles of impeachment against him.

The impeachment against Trump now moves to the House of Representatives, where the opposition Democratic Party enjoys a majority. Once passed by the House, the trial for impeachment would be carried out in the 100-member US Senate, where Trump's Republican party has a majority.

"The Radical Left, Do Nothing Democrats have become the Party of Hate. They are so bad for our Country!" Trump said in his tweet.

Earlier in the day, he described the impeachment as a hoax and politically motivated.

"The impeachment is a hoax. It is a sham. It started a long time ago, probably before I came down the escalator with the future First Lady. It started a long time ago," Trump told reporters earlier in the day at the White House.

"It is a witch hunt. It is a sham. It is a hoax. Nothing was



done wrong. Zero was done wrong. I think it is a horrible thing to be using the tool of impeachment, which is supposed to be used in an emergency. And it would seem many, many, many years apart," he asserted.

"To be using this for a perfect phone call, where the president of that country said there was no pressure whatsoever — did not even know what we were talking about. It was perfect; the relationship is perfect. I have done much more for them than Obama did for them. It is a scam. It is something that should not be allowed. And it is a very bad thing for our country," Trump said.

The Democrats, he said were trivialising impeachment.

"I tell you what, someday there will be a Democrat president and there will be a Republican House, and I suspect they are going to remember it. Because when you use impeachment for absolutely nothing, other than to try and get political gain," Trump said. He asserted that his poll numbers had gone through the roof.

## US Supreme Court to hear Trump tax return case next year

Washington: The US Supreme Court agreed Friday to hear cases next year over the release of Donald Trump's tax returns and financial records, setting the stage for a ruling during the presidential election campaign.

Trump has been seeking to block access to his tax returns and other financial records in lawsuits involving New York prosecutors and the US House of Representatives.

Lower courts have ruled that Trump must turn over the records but lawyers for the president appealed to the nation's highest court, arguing that as president, he has blanket immunity.

The Supreme Court — where conservative judges are in the majority — said it will hear arguments during the March session with a ruling to be issued before the session ends on June 30.

Trump, a New York real estate tycoon, is the first American president since Richard Nixon not to make his tax returns public, claiming they are under audit by the Internal Revenue Service (IRS). **AFP**

# Boris Johnson goes north to celebrate election win

London: British Prime Minister Boris Johnson visited northern England on Saturday to thank voters and newly elected Conservative Party lawmakers in the working class heartland that turned its back on the opposition Labour Party in this week's election and helped give him an 80-seat majority.

Speaking in Sedgefield — the constituency once held by Labour former prime minister Tony Blair — Johnson acknowledged the seismic shift that helped sweep him to victory in Thursday's election.

"I know that people may have been breaking the voting habits of generations to vote for us," he told supporters.

"And I want the people of the northeast to know that we in the Conservative Party and I will repay your trust."

In a victory speech outside 10 Downing Street on Friday, Johnson called for an end to the acrimony that has festered throughout the country since the divisive 2016 Brexit referendum, and urged Britain to "let the healing begin."

Johnson's campaign mantra to "get Brexit done" and widespread unease with the leadership style and socialist policies of opposition leader Jeremy Corbyn combined to give the ruling Conservatives 365 seats in the House of Commons, its best performance since party icon Margaret Thatcher's last victory in 1987. Labour slumped to 203 seats, its worst showing since 1935.

While Johnson was on a victory lap Saturday, Corbyn — who has pledged to stand down next year — was under fire from within his own party, where there was little sign of healing starting any time soon.



Former lawmaker Helen Goodman, one of many Labour legislators to lose their seat in northern England, told BBC radio that "the biggest factor was obviously the unpopularity of Jeremy Corbyn as the leader."

Another former Labour lawmaker criticized the election campaign more broadly as muddled.

Anna Turley told the BBC that the party put forward an overwhelming number of policies and voters "just didn't believe we were the party that could deliver on any of it."

Armed with his hefty new majority, Johnson is set to start the process next week of pushing Brexit legislation through Parliament to ensure Britain leaves the EU by the January 31 deadline.

Once he's passed that hurdle — breaking three years of parliamentary deadlock — he has to seal a trade deal with the bloc by the end of 2020.

"We've just been going over the timetable we can definitely get it in before Christmas, and we're out on January 31," Johnson said.

While Johnson's large majority means he has relatively clear air ahead on Brexit, he faces turbulence over renewed calls for a referendum on Scottish independence following the strong election showing of the Scottish National Party. **AP**

## 'Brexit election' raises hopes, fears in Northern Ireland

Belfast: Prime Minister Boris Johnson's crushing election victory gives Britain a chance to move past years of gridlock over Brexit — especially in Northern Ireland, where social and political divides run deep.

"We're leaving limbo," said Orlaith McKeever, preparing food for the lunchtime rush at St. George's Market in Belfast, a redbrick rabbits' warren of stalls and kiosks.

Brexit-voting music trader Lawrence John, 69, also reflected relief that the stalled process of extricating Britain from the European Union after nearly five decades was finally moving ahead.

"Like many, many people I'm sick of all this Brexit stuff. Three-and-a-half years ago there was a referendum to decide whether we were going to leave," he told AFP.

"We're just finally getting news that it can actually happen after all this time," he said after Johnson's Conservatives won their biggest majority since the heyday of Margaret Thatcher in the 1980s.

Thursday's snap general became a re-run of the 2016 EU membership referendum in which Johnson championed the Brexit cause.

The Prime Minister ran this campaign on the promise to "get Brexit done" — a simple but effective message with profound implications for Britain's most politically volatile region.

Northern Ireland voted by 56 percent to remain in the European Union in 2016.

Since then, it has become central to a Brexit deal with Brussels.

Unease spread about the prospect of a no-deal Brexit and the re-emergence of a hard border with EU neighbour Ireland to the south.

Border checks are associated with three decades of sectarian violence over British rule of Northern Ireland that left some 3,500 people dead.

The potential removal of an open border — a plank of the 1998 agreement that ended "The Troubles" — has been seen as an unwelcome return to the past.

It also reopened the issue of Northern Ireland's place in the United Kingdom with England, Scotland and Wales, and the potential of a united Ireland.

For the first time, the election returned more Irish republican than British unionist lawmakers to the UK House of Commons. The largest republican party Sinn Fein even took the seat of North Belfast from unionist hands for the first time since it was drawn up in 1885. Sinn Fein leader Mary Lou McDonald called it a "historic moment."

"The discussion around constitutional change is now underway," she told Irish broadcaster RTE Friday.

"It's safe to say that Irish unity will be firmly on the agenda in a way that it has never been before," Queen's University Belfast politics lecturer Jamie Pow told AFP. **AFP**

## Palpable sense of fear over Johnson win, says British Muslim group

PTI ■ LONDON

A prominent British Muslim representative organisation has issued a statement expressing a "palpable sense of fear" within the Muslim community in the UK following Prime Minister Boris Johnson's massive victory in the country's General Election this week.

Muslim Council of Britain (MCB), which has been calling for a full-fledged inquiry into anti-Muslim conduct within the Johnson-led Conservative Party, used one of the key slogans from the election campaign to express fears that the strong majority in the House of Commons could mean that, like Brexit, Islamophobia is also "oven-ready" for the new government.

"Mr Johnson commands a majority, but there is a palpable sense of fear amongst Muslim communities around the country," said MCB Secretary General Harun Khan in a statement released on Friday.

He said: "We entered the election campaign period with long standing concerns about bigotry in our politics and our governing party. Now we worry that Islamophobia is 'oven-ready' for Government."

"Mr Johnson has been entrusted with huge power, and we pray it is exercised responsibly for all Britons."

# Pak Court adjourns hearing in terror financing case against Saeed

Lahore: After his indictment, the trial against Mumbai attack mastermind Hafiz Saeed in the terror financing case failed to be held for the third consecutive day on Saturday due to a country-wide strike by the lawyers.

Saeed, who has been indicted along with three close aides in terror financing case, could not be produced before the Anti-Terrorism Court (ATC) here on Saturday because of the lawyers' strike. The lawyers are protesting for the last three days against the arrest of their colleagues in a case of hooliganism at a hospital in Lahore.

The ATC Lahore adjourned the hearing of the terror financing case against Saeed and others till December 16.

"Except the arrested lawyers, no other suspect or witness in any other case was presented before the ATC due to the lawyers strike during the last three days," a court official told PTI on Saturday.

He said the prosecution which was to present witnesses against Saeed and others also could not bring them to the court.

The ATC court on Wednesday indicted Jamaat-ud-Dawah (JuD) chief and his aides Hafiz Abdul Salam bin Muhammad, Muhammad Ashraf and Zafar Iqbal in the terror financing case and directed the prosecution to produce witnesses.

The ATC on Wednesday framed the terror financing charges on the four suspects in their presence. Deputy



Prosecutor General Punjab Abdur Rauf had told the court that founder of terror group Lashkar-e-Taiba and others were involved in terror financing case and the Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) of Punjab police had 'solid evidence' in this regard.

The CTD had registered 23 FIRs against Saeed and his accomplices on the charges of "terror financing" in different cities of Punjab province and

arrested Saeed on July 17. He is detained at the Kot Lakhpat jail in Lahore.

The cases have been registered in Lahore, Gujranwala and Multan for collection of funds for terrorism financing through assets/properties made and held in the names of Trusts/Non Profit Organisations (NPO) including Al-Anfaal Trust, Dawatul Irshad Trust, Muaz Bin Jabal Trust.

According to the CTD, investigation launched into financing matters of proscribed organisations - Jammatt-ud-Dawah (JuD) and Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) - in connection with implementation of UN sanctions against these designated entities and persons as directed by NSC (National Security Committee) in its

Meeting of January 1, 2019 chaired by Prime Minister Imran Khan for implementing the National Action Plan.

"These suspects made assets from funds of terrorism financing. They held and used these assets to raise more funds for further terrorism financing. Hence, they committed multiple offences of terrorism financing and money laundering under Anti Terrorism Act 1997. They will be prosecuted in ATCs (Anti Terrorism Courts) for commission of these offences," the CTD said.

The US Department of the Treasury has designated Saeed as a Specially Designated Global Terrorist, and the US, since 2012, has offered a USD 10 million reward for information that brings Saeed to justice. **PTI**

# Ex-Sudan strongman al-Bashir gets 2 years jail for corruption

Khartoum (Sudan): A court in Sudan convicted former President Omar al-Bashir of money laundering and corruption on Saturday, sentencing him to two years in a minimum security lockup.

That's the first verdict in a series of legal proceedings against al-Bashir, who is also wanted by the International Criminal Court on charges of war crimes and genocide linked to the Darfur conflict in the 2000s.

The verdict comes a year after Sudanese protesters erupted in revolt against al-Bashir's authoritarian rule. During his three decades in power, Sudan landed on the US list for sponsoring terrorism, and the country's economy was battered by years of mismanagement and



American sanctions.

Al-Bashir has been in custody since April, when Sudan's military ousted him after months of nationwide protests. The uprising eventually forced the military into a power-sharing agreement with civilians.

Sudan's military has said it would not extradite him to the

ICC. The country's military-civilian transitional government has not indicated whether they will hand him over to the Hague.

The Sudanese Professionals' Association, which was the backbone of the protest movement, welcomed Saturday's verdict as a "moral and political conviction" against the former president and his regime.

Under Sudanese law, al-Bashir, 75, will be sent to a state-run lockup for elderly people who are convicted of crimes not punishable with death. But he will remain in jail amid an ongoing trial on separate charges regarding the killing of protesters in the months prior to his ouster. **PTI**

# Pompeo warns Iran of 'decisive response' if harm in Iraq

Washington: Secretary of State Mike Pompeo on Friday warned Iran of a "decisive" response if US interests are harmed in Iraq, after a series of rocket attacks on bases.

"We must... Use this opportunity to remind Iran's leaders that any attacks by them, or their proxies of any identity, that harm Americans, our allies or our interests will be answered with a decisive US response," Pompeo said in a statement.

"Iran must respect the sovereignty of its neighbours and immediately cease its provision of lethal aid and support to third parties in Iraq and throughout the region," he said.

The United States has expressed mounting concern about the flurry of attacks on Iraqi bases used by US troops, several of which it has blamed on Iranian-backed Shiite paramilitary groups.

Two rocket attacks this week targeted a compound near Baghdad International Airport, which houses US troops, with an incident Monday wounding Iraqi troops.

"We hope and pray these brave Iraqis will quickly and fully recover from their injuries," Pompeo said.

Pompeo, who has repeatedly warned Tehran, pinned the blame for the latest attacks squarely on "Iran's proxies." Iran has gained overwhelming influence in Iraq, its neighbour with which it shares a Shiite



majority, since the 2003 US invasion brought down Saddam Hussein.

President Donald Trump's administration, which is close to Iran's adversaries Saudi Arabia and Israel, has been trying to counter Tehran's influence around the region, including through sanctions aimed at blocking all its oil exports.

The United States last week imposed sanctions on three leaders of the Shiite paramilitary force Hashed al-Shaabi, accusing them of taking part in the deadly crackdown on nationwide protests.

Iraqi prime minister Adel Abdel Mahdi, a close ally of Iran who also enjoyed cordial relations with the United States, resigned after the two months of demonstrations in which around 460 people have died. **AFP**

# Thunberg calls for 'fight for tomorrow' at Italy protest

Turin (Italy): Swedish climate change activist Greta Thunberg on Friday asked young people to fight for their future in the next decade, as she joined a demonstration in the northern Italian city of Turin.

"Adults are behaving as if there's no tomorrow," Thunberg told young protesters at a Fridays for Future demonstration, the global movement inspired by her activism. "But there's a tomorrow. We have to fight for that tomorrow as if our lives depend on that, because they do."

Thunberg traveled to Turin in an electric car after attending the COP25 climate conference in Madrid, where she had given a speech accusing world governments of "creative PR" over their climate change stances.

The 16-year-old, who this week became the youngest person to be named Time magazine's Person of the Year, warned that the decade that is about to start will be the one that "will define our future," and will have a key impact over the rest of our lives.

"For sure her tenacity, her determination, is an example to everybody that reminds us that we need to fight every day for this climate crisis," said Laura Vallaro, a climate activist who joined Turin's demonstration. **AP**

# UN climate talks in limbo as rifts among countries remain

Madrid: Countries remained deadlocked Saturday in talks over combating climate change as UN talks dragged on beyond the official deadline with no end in sight.

Chile's environment minister, Carolina Schmidt, who is chairing the two-week talks in Madrid, urged officials from almost 200 countries to recognize the "overall balance" of the latest draft agreements hammered out overnight.

"We must show the outside world that we deliver," she said.

Environmental activists staged protests inside and around the venue during the talks, as they have around the world in the past year, to demand leaders take bolder action against global warming. Many nations and observers said the latest draft agreements risked backtracking on existing commitments made in the 2015 Paris climate accord and didn't reflect the urgent warnings from scientists that greenhouse gas emissions need to fall sharply, and soon.

"If this text is accepted, the low ambition coalition will have won the day," said David Waskow of the World Resources Institute, a Washington-based environmental think tank. Among the issues at stake are aid for poor countries suffering the impacts of climate change and efforts to agree rules for international markets to trade carbon emissions vouchers. **AP**

# Bomb explosion in south Nepal home kills 3

PTI ■ KATHMANDU

Three people, including a police officer, have been killed in a bomb explosion at a house in southern Nepal's Dhanusha district.

The bomb was planted at one Rajesh Shah's house in Kshireswarnath Municipality by unknown persons, police said.

Rajesh (42) and his son Ananta Shah (17) died on the spot, while Police Inspector Amir Dahal, in charge of Sakhuwa Mahendranagar-based Area Office, was seriously injured in the explosion. Dahal died undergoing treatment.

Rajesh's father Bikhari Shah (73), his daughter Nikki Shah (21), son Prakash Shah (14) and another police officer Rujan Mahatto were also injured in the incident and were hospitalised.

Upon seeing the bomb at his home's gate, Rajesh Shah alerted the police late on Friday night.

Police personnel were checking the improvised explosive device when it exploded, officials said.

Police have arrested two elderly women in connection with the explosion. The duo are members of outlawed group Nepal Communist Party Biplav. Police have initiated further investigation. **AP**

# Untiring protesters come up against immovable elite in Algeria

AFP ■ PARIS

Algeria's unpopular presidential election was meant to reset the country's politics after months of crisis, but it exposed a rigid system determined to perpetuate itself, analysts say.

"You get the impression of two parallel Algerias: a ruling class which congratulates itself on organising elections and a populace that holds protests," said Maghreb expert and historian Karima Dirèche.

The North African country plunged into crisis in February when veteran president Abdelaziz Bouteflika announced he would seek a fifth term, sparking mass demonstrations.

Bouteflika quit under popular pressure in April, but the Hirak protest movement has kept up the pressure with weekly mass rallies to demand sweeping reforms.

Thursday's presidential vote was bitterly opposed by Hirak, which saw it as an establishment ploy to cling to power.

Anti-election rallies rocked major cities and in the Berber-dominated region of Kabylie, protesters ransacked polling stations and clashed with police. Fewer than four out of ten Algerian voters cast their ballots on Thursday, according to election officials.

Dirèche suspects the real figure may be less than half that. Officials "stuff the ballot boxes, they fix the numbers.

They don't even make the effort" to hide their manipulations, she said.

On Friday, vast crowds descended onto the streets of Algiers to reject newly elected president Abdelmadjid Tebboune, a longtime government insider and former premier under Bouteflika.

But the opposition to the poll "matters little to a regime committed to a sham election intended to prolong its tenure," said Anthony Skinner, regional director at risk analysis firm Verisk Maplecroft.

Algeria's elite, dominated by army chief Ahmed Gaid Salah, sees the turnout as "enough to bestow what it sees as legitimacy on the next president," he said.

"Gaid Salah will probably still treat the election as a success." Yet with the protest movement showing no sign of abating, that calculus may be wrong, said Jean-Pierre Filiu, a professor at Sciences Po university in Paris.

"Gaid Salah failed in his bid to stifle popular protest through imposing this election," said Filiu.

The protesters on the other hand "succeeded in making participation the only real issue in this poll, rather than the identity of the future president," he said.

"By sticking to a non-violent approach... The Hirak is continuing to erode military decision-makers' stranglehold on the country. There will be no going back" to the status quo. **AP**

# Insider attack kills 9 Afghan militia, say officials

Kabul: At least one member of an Afghan militia opened fire on his fellow militiamen early Saturday, killing nine, in what the country's interior ministry called an insider attack.

The Taliban however claimed the attack was actually a coordinated insurgent assault on the checkpoint where the shooting took place, killing over two dozen militiamen, according to Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid.

There was no immediate explanation for the discrepancy, but the Taliban often exaggerate their claims.

Details were sketchy and investigators were still looking into the attack in central Ghazni province's Karabagh district, said Interior Ministry spokesman Fawad Aman. The number of attackers was also not immediately clear.

Afghan militias operate in remote regions and are under the command of the country's National Security Forces, which suffers near daily Taliban attacks. The Taliban now control or hold sway over half the country.

Insider attacks have been steady throughout the 18-year conflict, with US and NATO troops most often targeted. But when Afghan security forces are targeted, the casualty rate is often much higher.

In July, two US service members were killed by an Afghan soldier. **AP**

# Tea growers feel pinch of Assam protests

## Farmers fear less production, sales

PTI ■ KOLKATA

Tea growers in Assam have started feeling the pinch of the ongoing protests with partial disruption in production at many gardens and sale of the crop at the Guwahati auction centre being hampered, industry insiders said on Saturday. Transportation of the produce has also been affected due to the ongoing stir, they said. "Though winter months are not the peak season, plucking and manufacturing operations in many gardens across the state have been affected amid widespread protest," North Eastern Tea Association adviser Bidyananda Barkakoty told PTI. Compared to last few years, the weather condition was favourable during this December and the growers were able to produce relatively better quality tea but operations at several estates have been adversely affected by the protests, he added. "During Tuesday's shutdown, gardens were mostly closed. Plucking activities took place on Friday but not in a

**Violent protests broke out in the Assam earlier this week with agitators engaging in pitched battles with the police, forcing the administration to impose curfew in several places. Planters also said the Tea Board has extended the plucking time till December 19 on account of shortage and non-availability of workers**

full-fledged scale as many workers could not come due to lack of transport," All Assam Small Tea Growers Association general secretary Karuna Mahanta told PTI. The legislation has put the state on hold as people fear that it may exacerbate the problem of illegal immigration. Violent protests broke out in the State earlier this week with agitators engaging in pitched battles with the police, forcing the administration to impose curfew in several places. Planters also said the Tea Board has extended the plucking time till December 19 on account of shortage and non-availability of workers. The board had earlier asked them to shut plucking and manufacturing operations by mid-December to prevent production of inferior quality tea, according to growers.

Suspension of internet services has also affected their business. "Due to the internet suspension and violent protests, several tea growers are apprehending that they may face difficulties to pay wages to workers as banking services might be affected. Usually, payments to labourers are made either on Friday or Saturday," Barkakoty said. Sales of tea at the Guwahati auction centre have also been disrupted. "Every week, around 40-45 lakh kgs of tea is sold. But, only 15 lakh kg has been sold so far this week," Guwahati Tea Auction Buyers' Association Secretary Dinesh Bihani said. Barkakoty said planters are also apprehending that if the ongoing protests continue for a prolonged period, the pruning activities and other agri-



cultural processes which usually happen during the winters might get disrupted. "Several agricultural processes, including pruning,

are done during the winters to ensure quality of tea for the upcoming season. These are time-bound activities. If the protests continue longer and

such cold-weather agricultural activities are affected, the industry will face severe impact next season," he added.

## BUSINESS CORNER

### WORKSHOP ON FUNCTIONAL MATERIALS HELD AT SRM



M Kamruddin addresses the gathering at the inauguration of 'Advanced Functional Materials and Devices (AFMD-2019)' at SRM Institute of Science and Technology, Kattankulathur. Pioneer photo

**New Delhi:** International workshop on Advanced Functional Materials held at SRM Nanotechnology Research Center (NRC) and Department of Physics and Nanotechnology jointly organized a two-day international workshop on 'Advanced Functional Materials and Devices (AFMD-2019)' at SRM Institute of Science and Technology, Kattankulathur. The focus of the workshop is on energy sectors, fuel cell, hydrogen storage and so on. Dr. M. Kamruddin, Associate Director, Accelerator & Nanoscience Group MSG, IGCCAR, Kalpakkam was the chief guest for the second edition of the event. Prof K Ramasamy, Director (Research), SRMIST presided over. Prof R Murugan, Pondicherry University was the guest of honour. In his presidential address, Prof K Ramasamy said, "We have had three Nobel physicist from India such things should motivate students to take up more research. To facilitate this we should reorganize our approach towards education. Students need to be interactive and subjects should be multi-disciplinary. Students should also realize your deficiency and work towards it. Such workshops will give you a hands on training on the latest technology and expertise that is available. They should also focus on creating new product." Dr. M. Kamruddin in his speech said, "New technology and new devices are need to innovate often to meet new demand. The trend is to make small products that are more efficient. I am happy that SRMIST is encouraging research and the facilities here are world class." Guest of honour, Prof R Murugan said, "Almost all the breakthrough in nanotechnology is related to India. Battery storage devices is the next technology that we are heading to."

## PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON

(SEE SECTION 82 Cr.P.C.)  
Whereas complaint has been made before me that **Ishwar Singh S/o Sh. Nurbeen Singh R/o Village - Umreti, PS. Barla, Distt. Barwani, MP** has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in case FIR No. 290/19 U/s 380/411/34 IPC P.S. Kirti Nagar, Delhi and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said accused **Ishwar Singh** can not be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused **Ishwar Singh** has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant). Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused person **Ishwar Singh** of FIR No. 290/19 U/s 380/411/34 IPC P.S. Kirti Nagar, Delhi is required to appear before this court to answer the said complaint on or before dated 18.01.2020.  
By Order  
Sh. Jagminder Singh  
Chief Metropolitan Magistrate, West Distt.  
Room No. 146, First Floor Tis Hazari Court, Delhi

## Jewellery segment sees silver lining

IAN S ■ JAIPUR

The gems and jewellery segment sees a silver lining after a long slump as the number of queries has increased since last month, said former chairman of Gem and Jewellery Exports Council and Jaipur Jewellery Show secretary Rajiv Jain. Jain was speaking at a press conference called to announce the dates of 16th edition of Jaipur Jewellery Show (JJS), which is the largest business to consumer show and second largest business to business show in India, attracting around 40,000 visitors including buyers from India and abroad. This year, JJS is putting up its best foot forward with 800 booths for exhibitors. Out of 800 booths, 188 shall display gemstones, 535 will showcase jewellery, 62 will display allied machinery, costume jewellery and artefacts. Many new exhibitors too are showing interest in the 'December Show,' said JJS chairman Vimal Chand Surana. Jain further said that the present Hong Kong crisis can benefit India if India amends the present SEZ rules. "Recently Union commerce secretary Anup Wadhawan and representatives of industry had an interaction where Wadhawan was

informed that many players from China and Hong Kong are looking to shift their manufacturing base to India. In fact, many Jaipur players have also been receiving calls with queries," said Jain. "Many of us in the Sitapura gem and jewellery special economic zone received queries from Chinese manufacturers who want to relocate their manufacturing facilities to Jaipur. However, the present SEZ laws prohibit any kind of renting or selling out facilities. If this law is amended, it can benefit state government as well as stakeholders," he further said. Jain said that Wadhawan promised to look into the issue during the meeting, adding that the Chinese entrepreneurs have their running facilities and they want to shift in shortest time to ensure their operations don't suffer. Apart from this, there will also be a stall of 'Museum of Gem and Jewellery Federation' in Jaipur. This time JJS will be attended by 100 new participants. JJS is also called the 'December show', where products are not only limited to Jaipur but feature merchandise from exhibitors worldwide. The Department of Tourism, government of Rajasthan, has listed the event on their annual calendar for the tourists and visitors.

## US-China trade deal gets tepid reception

AFP ■ WASHINGTON

US officials announced a truce in the trade war with China with much fanfare, but economists and trade experts call it largely a victory for Beijing. After a dispute that raged for close to two years, with several fumbled efforts at a resolution, the US agreed to cancel planned tariffs and roll back others immediately, without a similar commitment from China to lift tariffs it imposed on the US. "Pardon me if I don't pop champagne, but aside from a cessation of continued escalation, there is not much worth cheering," leading China expert Scott Kennedy said in an analysis of the agreement. "The costs have been substantial and far reaching, the benefits narrow and ephemeral." The US Trade Representative office said they expect to sign the phase one agreement in the first week of January, and issued a fact sheet highlighting key points, including enforcement provisions and improved protection for American technology. In addition, it includes a Chinese commitment to buy \$200 billion more in US goods and services over two years, USTR said. That would be a significant

increase: China imported just shy of \$190 billion in goods and services in 2017, so if the target is met it would cut the US trade deficit with China by a third. President Donald Trump has long railed against the trade imbalance, citing it as proof China is using distorting policies to gain an unfair advantage. Trump tweeted that Beijing "agreed to many structural changes and massive purchases of Agricultural Product, Energy, and Manufactured Goods, plus much more." Alliance for American Manufacturing President Scott Paul said agreeing to remove tariffs amounted to "giving away much of our leverage, while kicking the can down the road on the most meaningful trade issues with China." And trade economist Mary Lovely said the deal could only be viewed as a "partial win" which "didn't move the needle very much." "We were kind of on a brink, and we saw the negotiators reach a deal that pulled us back, and I think that is important," she said of the news Trump canceled the 15 percent tariffs on electronics that were due to hit Sunday. But the gains in the deal do not compensate for the damage to US farmers and businesses, she told reporters.

## B'desh withdraws import restrictions on 9 items through 2 Tripura land ports

PTI ■ AGARTALA

The Bangladesh government has withdrawn its restrictions on importing nine items from India through two land ports in Tripura, in a boost to traders of the region, officials said on Saturday. Bangladesh had exported various items amounting to Rs 522.42 crore in 2018-19 while imports of goods through seven land ports in Tripura to the neighbouring country were around Rs 14.66 crore, they said. "The trade imbalance is due to restrictions imposed by Dhaka on various items. Bangladesh has withdrawn its restrictions on importing nine items through Akhaura land port and Srimantapur land custom station," state industries and commerce department's additional director Swapna Debnath said. The nine items on which the restriction was removed from December 1 included cashew nut, paper, sugar, generator, broken glass, chocolate, baby wipes, confectionary and bitumen, she said.

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
This is to inform general public that Mr. Sonu is the owner of the Second Floor, (as per technical FHS) "said floor" built on Property Bearing No. 45, area measuring 55 sq. yds., out of Rect No. 36, Killa No. 10, 60/2-3, Situated at Akshay of Gali No. 6, Sarojini Park, Shastrri Nagar, Village - Khureg Khaz, Shandara, Delhi. Mr. Sonu has misplaced the Original General Power of Attorney dated 11.12.2009, along with AT&S & Will, Original Registered General Power of Attorney dated 02.06.2005, along with AT&S & Will and Original Sale Deed dated 01.05.2007. Any one who find the above said documents shall handover the same to the Manager of Hero Housing Finance Limited having its office at Manan Estate, New Delhi. Sonu Kumar has awarded loan on this property from Hero Housing Finance limited by mortgaging the said property. We have been made to understand that no other person has any interest, right or title in the above said property. Vide this notice we wish to inform that in case anyone has any objection regarding mortgage of the said property, the same may be raised within 15 days of this publication to Mr. Muneesh Dhanwan/ Mr. Sudhir Jain (Advocates), Law Offices, Unit No. 405, 4th Floor GD-ITL, Northern Tower, (A-00), Mayap Subhash Place, Delhi-110094 or contact at 9068701729/81228636 (M).

**Office of the Executive Engineer (Distribution)**  
Jammu Power Distribution Corporation Limited District Kathua  
Email: xeenrekathua123@gmail.com  
**Extension Notice-01**  
In view of limited response, the last date for submission of e-bids of following e-NIT is hereby extended as per below mentioned details:  
S.No.1 e-NIT No. :- e-NIT No. KE/D/23 of 2019-20 dated 03.12.2019  
Name of work :- Creation of 250KVA Substation along with 11KV Line of Gov Degree College at Bani falling under the jurisdiction of Electric Division, Kathua (JPDC) on turnkey basis  
Last date for submission of e-Bids (Extended) :- 21.12.2019 01.00 P.M.  
Opening of Technical and commercial bids :- 23.12.2019 01.00 P.M.  
Sd/- Executive Engineer (Distribution)  
No. DP/14-07419 JPDC, Electric Division Kathua  
Date: 14-12-2019

## SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED

General Public is hereby informed that one person **Namely: Jeevan Jangra, S/o: Late Kundan Lal Jangra R/o: H. No. WZ 48, Shadipur Village, near Badi Chopal, New Delhi** has been missing/kidnapped since 01.12.2019 at 3:00 pm from the area of P.S. Ranjit Nagar, Delhi. In this regard a case vide **DD No. 26A dated 02.12.2019** has been registered at P.S. Ranjit Nagar, Delhi. The description of the missing person are as under: **Age:** 67 years, **Height:** 5' 9", **Face:** Round, **Complexion:** Wheatish, **Built:** Normal, **ID Mark:** Mentally Disturbed/ A cut mark on right eye brow, **Wearing:** Red colour checkdar shirt, gray colour pant and black colour sleeper in feet. Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the person but no clue has come to light so far. Any person having any information or clue about this person kindly inform to the following.  
Website: <http://cbi.nic.in>  
E-mail Id - [cic@cbi.gov.in](mailto:cic@cbi.gov.in) SHO  
Ph. No. 011-24368638, 24368641 P.S. Ranjit Nagar, Delhi  
Fax No. 011-24368639  
DP/6787/CD/19 Tel.No. 011-25704008, 8750870436

## SEARCH FOR MISSING

General Public is hereby informed that a lady **Namely Nazrana W/o Pappu R/o H.No. 134, Opposite Tiranga Market, Bulla Colony, Village-Kanjhawala, Delhi, Age-26 years, Height-5'3", Face-Round, Complexion-Sallow, Wearing-Pink Colour T-Shirt, Violet Lower, Black Burka & White Colour Sandal in her feet** has been missing since 11.11.2019 from the area of P.S. Kanjhawala, Delhi. In this regard a **DD No.24 Dated 13.11.2019** has been lodged of P.S. Kanjhawala, Delhi.  
Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the lady but no clue has come to light so far. If any one having any information about this lady please inform undersigned.  
E-mail : [cic@cbi.gov.in](mailto:cic@cbi.gov.in) SHO  
Ph. : 011-24368638, 24368641  
Fax : 011-24368639 P.S. Kanjhawala, Delhi  
Ph. : 011-25951486  
DP/3488/RD/19 25952485/7065036125

## Pak, WB sign agreement for financing Khyber Pass Economic Corridor project

PTI ■ ISLAMABAD

Pakistan and the World Bank has signed a project agreement worth \$406.6 million for financing the Khyber Pass Economic Corridor (KPEC) project with an aim to promote economic development. The signing ceremony was held on Friday at the Economic Affairs Division, Islamabad, The Express Tribune reported. The project is aimed at constructing a 48km four-lane,

dual carriageway, high-speed and access-controlled motorway from Peshawar to Torkham border point with Afghanistan in a bid to promote economic development and ensure uplift of the areas adjoining the expressway and falling in Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa. The project envisages public-private partnership and private financing for developing clusters of economic activity, economic zones and expressways.

## Up to 25% of FASTag lanes to be temporarily converted to hybrid lanes at NH toll plazas

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

To avert inconvenience to citizens, the Government on Saturday announced to convert up to 25 per cent of FASTag lanes at national highway toll plazas to hybrid lanes for a month. The hybrid lane will accept FASTag and other modes of payment. The government earlier had announced rollout of mandatory FASTag under electronic toll collection from December 1, which was later extended to December 15, 2019.

## Adani Transmission gets Lol for project in Maha

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The project 'Kharghar Vikhroli Transmission Pvt Ltd' comprises approximately 34 km of 400 kV and 220 kV transmission lines along with 400kV GIS (Gas Insulated Switchgear) Substation at Vikhroli in Mumbai. According to the statement, this will be the first ever 400 kV substation facility in Mumbai. The project is critical to Mumbai as the existing capacity of transmission corridor is not sufficient to carry further power into the city. It would enable additional power to be brought into the city, thus helping in meeting the future demand of Mumbai. "ATL has received the Lol from MSETCL to build, own, operate and maintain a transmission project in Maharashtra for a period of 35 years," a company statement said.

At present, India's total installed power generation capacity is around 365 GW. "I am happy to share that as per CCPI report, released during COP 2019 at Madrid, India is ranked among the top 10 countries in CCPI, which was released after analysing four parameters, that is green house gases emission, renewable energy, climate change and energy use," Singh said while addressing the 29th National Energy Conservation Awards ceremony. The minister said 355 industrial units and other establishments have partici-

## PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF A PERSON ACCUSED

(See Section 82 Cr. P.C.)  
Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused person **Nandlal Kumar Mirdha S/o Mahadev Mirdha R/o Village: Kura, P.O. Baratand, PS: Chitra, Distt: Deoghar, Jharkhand**, has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in case FIR No. 278/15 Dt.: 01.06.15 u/s 420 IPC, PS Naraina, Delhi and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said accused **Nandlal Kumar Mirdha** could not be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused **Nandlal Kumar Mirdha** has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant). Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused person, **Nandlal Kumar Mirdha** of FIR No. 278/15 Dt.: 01.06.15 u/s 420 IPC, PS Naraina Delhi, is required to appear before this court to answer the said complaint on or before 01.02.2020.  
By order  
Sh. Manoj Kumar,  
Metropolitan Magistrate,  
Room No. 28,  
Patiala House Courts, New Delhi

## SEARCH FOR MISSING

General public is here by informed that this person (depicted in the photo) **Namely: Gourav Duva S/o Vishambhar Duva R/o G-6/282, Ground Floor, Sector-16, Rohini, Delhi** has been missing/kidnapped from the area of PS KNK Marg, since 06.11.2019. In this regard **DD No. 17-A dated 07.11.2019** has been registered at **PS. KNK Marg, Delhi**. Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the person but no clue has come to light so far.  
His physical description is as under:-  
**Sex:** Male, **Age:** 34 years, **Height:** 5'6" ft., **Complexion:** Fair, **Face:** Round, **Wearing:** Black Shirt, and Black Pant.  
Any person is having information or clue about this missing/kidnapped person may kindly inform to the following:-  
Website: <http://cbi.nic.in> SHO  
E-mail: [cic@cbi.gov.in](mailto:cic@cbi.gov.in) Ph. No.: 011-270061294, 27061295 P.S. KNK Marg, Delhi  
Tel. No.: 011-24368638/24368641 Mob. No.: 8750870327  
Fax No.: 011-24368639 DP/3503/RD/19

## India among top 10 nations on climate change performance index: Power Min

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

India is among the top 10 nations as per the Climate Change Performance Index (CCPI) which is based parameters like renewable power and energy use efficiency, Power Minister RK Singh said on Saturday. This assumes significance in view of India's resolve to reach 175 GW of clean energy capacity by 2022. The country has already achieved around 84 GW of clean energy capacity, including 32 GW of solar and 37 GW of wind energy.

At present, India's total installed power generation capacity is around 365 GW. "I am happy to share that as per CCPI report, released during COP 2019 at Madrid, India is ranked among the top 10 countries in CCPI, which was released after analysing four parameters, that is green house gases emission, renewable energy, climate change and energy use," Singh said while addressing the 29th National Energy Conservation Awards ceremony. The minister said 355 industrial units and other establishments have partici-

pated in the awards and have collectively achieved savings of Rs 5,283 crore by saving 105.66 billion units of electricity. This year, energy conservation was celebrated through week-long activities culminating in the National Energy Conservation Day on Saturday. Singh highlighted the importance of energy conservation in the country's sustainable development approach. He emphasised the need for taking measures in order to reduce carbon dioxide emissions so as to minimise the adverse impact of climate.

**WESTERN RAILWAY**  
DESIGN, SUPPLY, INSTALLATION, PROGRAMMING, TESTING & COMMISSIONING OF NEW ELECTRONIC INTERLOCKING SYSTEMS  
Dy. Chief Signal & Telecom Engineer/Const./Field/W.Rly, 8th floor, Station Building, Churchgate, Mumbai-20 invites offer through e-tender portal [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in) through Two packet system for the following tender. Tender Notice No. Dy.CSTE/CBCT/334 (Two packet system). Name of work with its location: Design, Supply, Installation, Programming, Testing & Commissioning of New Electronic Interlocking (EI) systems, Alteration in existing Route relay interlocking/ Panel Interlocking/Auto huts at various sub-urban stations including modification in Train Management System (TMS)/Interfacing of EI with TMS in connection with provision of 6th line work in BCT-BVI section of Mumbai division, Western Railway. Approx. NIT cost of the work: ₹50,05,07,769.71. EMD: ₹26,52,500/-, e-Bid Submission closing on: 16.01.2020 at 15:00 hrs. e-Bid opening date: 16.01.2020 at 15:30 hrs. Instructions to the Tenderers: 1. Only e-tendering online through [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in) will be considered. Please note that printed offer will not be entertained. 2. The date of tender, terms & conditions and scope of work are uploaded and are available in electronic format on our website [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in)  
Like us on: [facebook.com/WesternRly](https://www.facebook.com/WesternRly)

# India start favourites against WI

PTI ■ CHENNAI

India will have their tails up when they play West Indies in the first One-day International of the three-match rubber in MA Chidambaram Stadium today, seeking a 10th straight bilateral ODI series win against the side from the Caribbean.

The home team will miss the services of seamer Bhuvneshwar Kumar, ruled out after his sportsman hernia symptoms resurfaced, and Shikhar Dhawan, who is yet to recover from knee injury.

Mumbai's Shardul Thakur, who represents Chennai Super Kings in the IPL, has been called up as the replacement for the injured Bhuvneshwar.

Virat Kohli's men have the momentum after winning the T20 series with a splendid batting performance in Mumbai where Rohit Sharma and K L Rahul, who is expected to continue as the opener in the absence of Dhawan, and the captain himself displayed terrific form.

It remains to be seen if the team decides to hand Mayank Agarwal a debut after he was drafted in as replacement for Dhawan.

Shreyas Iyer has done well in the opportunities he has received and is likely to be slotted at No 4.

The focus will be on wicket-keeper-batsman Rishabh Pant, who has been under fire for his unimpressive performances with the bat and the big gloves. The first ODI could be another chance for him to justify the faith shown by Kohli and the team management.

It will be interesting to see if the spin duo of Yuzvendra Chahal and Kuldeep Yadav reunite after last playing together in the World Cup, as the Chepauk surface is expected to aid the slow bowlers.

The experienced Mohammed Shami and Deepak Chahar will most probably form the pace attack and would face a stern test against the aggressive West Indies batting line-up.

The visitors will be hoping that big-hitting opener Evin Lewis, who suffered an injury while fielding in the Mumbai T20, will be able to play a part in the ODI leg of the tour. Team officials said he was being assessed ahead of the series opener.

The Windies batsmen have had a lot of success in the T20s thanks to their ultra-aggressive approach but ODIs will be a different ball game and as assistant coach Roddy Estwick stated the batters need to focus on rotating the strike, which



Rohit Sharma, center, chats with Indian teammate Shreyas Iyer, left, as batting coach Vikram Rathour watches the proceedings



West Indies' Brandon King, left, and Sheldon Cottrell attend a training session

they did well in the series against Afghanistan recently.

The onus will be on the batsmen to not only go on attack mode first up but also keep wickets in hand to accelerate in the back-end.

Shimron Hetmyer and Nicholas Pooran have showed their abilities in the shortest format and need to display the same in the 50-overs game too if the West Indies hopes to give India a run in this series.

All-rounder Roston Chase is likely to figure in the XI and could provide some stability to the line-up boasting of several power-hitters.

| INDIA-WINDIES IN ODIS |     |    |     |   |     |
|-----------------------|-----|----|-----|---|-----|
| Venue                 | P   | WI | Ind | T | N/R |
| In India              | 55  | 27 | 27  | 1 | -   |
| Total                 | 130 | 62 | 62  | 2 | 4   |
| Day matches           | 97  | 53 | 40  | - | 4   |
| Last 5 matches        | 4   | -  | 4   | - | 1   |

| HIGHEST INNINGS TOTALS |                                |            |
|------------------------|--------------------------------|------------|
| India                  | 418-5 in 50 overs (Indore)     | 08-12-2011 |
| Windies                | 333-8 in 45 overs (Jamshedpur) | 07-12-1983 |

| LOWEST INNINGS TOTALS |                                |            |
|-----------------------|--------------------------------|------------|
| India                 | 100 in 28.3 overs (Ahmedabad)  | 16-11-1993 |
| Windies               | 104 in 31.5 overs (Trivendrum) | 01-11-2018 |

| HIGHEST INDIVIDUAL SCORES |                     |            |
|---------------------------|---------------------|------------|
| India                     | 219 Virender Sehwag | 08-12-2011 |
| Windies                   | 152* Desmond Haynes | 21-03-1989 |

| BEST BOWLING PERFORMANCES |                                 |            |
|---------------------------|---------------------------------|------------|
| India                     | 6-12 Anil Kumble (Kolkata)      | 27-11-1993 |
| Windies                   | 6-19 Patrick Patterson (Nagpur) | 08-12-1987 |

Skipper Kieron Pollard, who has a rather modest record in the ODIs, will have to lead by example and provide the thrust in the slog overs. Sheldon Cottrell will lead the Caribbean bowling attack and will need to strike early if the team hopes to restrict a formidable Indian batting unit with Rohit, Kohli and Rahul in ominous form. The other pacers including former captain Jason Holder will have to step up as would the spinners. Leggie Hayden Walsh Jr bowled

well in the T20s and has a big task at hand to contain Kohli & Co, known to be adept at tackling spinners.

An intriguing battle is on hand with the Indian team favourite to add the ODI series to the T20 win but the unpredictable West Indies can spring a surprise or two.

## SQUADS

**India:** Virat Kohli (captain), Rohit Sharma (vice-captain), Mayank Agarwal, KL Rahul, Shreyas Iyer, Manish Pandey, Rishabh Pant (WK), Shivam Dube, Kedar Jadhav, Ravindra Jadeja, Yuzvendra Chahal, Kuldeep Yadav, Deepak Chahar, Mohammed Shami, Shardul Thakur.

**West Indies:** Kieron Pollard (captain), Sunil Ambris, Shai Hope, Khary Pierre, Roston Chase, Alzarri Joseph, Kieron Pollard (Captain), Sheldon Cottrell, Brandon King, Nicholas Pooran, Shimron Hetmyer, Evin Lewis, Romario Shepherd, Jason Holder, Keemo Paul, Hayden Walsh Jr.

## Mayank knows how to switch between formats

PTI ■ CHENNAI

His place in India's Test squad cemented, opener Mayank Agarwal says it is easy to switch formats if the game-plan is clear.

Agarwal has been picked in the team for the ODI series as a replacement for the injured Shikhar Dhawan.

"The more I play like this, the better it is for me as a cricketer because I rather play cricket than not play cricket. When it comes to mindset (switching formats), the basics remain the same. It's easy to switch formats if your game-plan is clear and your understanding of the game is clear," Agarwal said on *Chahal TV*.

Since making his Test debut last December in Australia, Agarwal has made rapid strides, ending the 2019 season as one of the top-run-getters in the format. Irrespective of whether he is playing Test or limited overs cricket, Agarwal is always focussed on the task.

"Regardless of wherever I play, I always think about how I can become an asset to my team and how I can contribute to the team. Even if I don't score runs with the bat, I think about contributing on the field, bringing in more energy on the field," he said.

Agarwal has two double tons and a century under his belt for India in Test cricket.

"I want to win each and every match, each and every tournament. When you come in with that attitude, your mindset will be good. There's no guarantee that you'll get the results 100 percent but you will be giving yourselves a good chance to perform," he said.



WI captain Kieron Pollard, right, & Nicholas Pooran interact in the nets during a training session

## We are on mission to do better in ODIs: Pollard

PTI ■ CHENNAI

West Indies captain Kieron Pollard on Saturday said his team is "on a mission" to do better in the one-dayers but insisted that favourable results may not come immediately.

"We are on a mission and have a clear plan of how to approach 50-over cricket. There is a process and it is something we are actually going through. The results might not show straightaway. We had a good series against Afghanistan. Now, we are coming up against a better side in India," Pollard said.

"It's a matter of what we need to do going forward. There are things internally which we are working on. Success will not come overnight. Winning is always good. Sometimes, you play well but the result would not go your way. The Afghanistan series was good and we want to continue in that track. That's the ultimate goal," he added.

Asked how his team plans to go about handling the middle overs in ODIs, he said it has been discussed and the players were aware of their roles and responsibilities.

"We have discussed how we want to go about playing middle overs, be it batting and bowling and how we want to play this format. Obviously, we can't reveal what our plans are going to be. The guys are aware of their roles and responsibilities, now it's about executing them," the captain said.

He said the inclusion of Roston Chase in the ODI side brought a good balance to the team.

"He (Roston) brings a good balance to our team. He is a great asset, he is someone who bats in the middle order in Tests and has centuries too. He can bowl as well. With him in the side, it gives us an opportunity to field another specialist player."

"He has been very valuable for us. He is sort of a left-field selection, but I think that has worked for us. He will play a key part going forward," the skipper added.



Tim Paine, left, is bowled by Tim Southee, right, on Day 3

## Australia's lead balloons to 417

AFP ■ PERTH

Australia was in a commanding position despite a late batting collapse on the third day of the first Test against New Zealand at Perth Stadium on Saturday. Having led by 250 runs on the first innings, the home side were 167 for six at stumps, with Matthew Head on eight and Pat Cummins on one — an overall lead of 417.

Cruising at 131 for one when Marnus Labuschagne (50) and Joe Burns (53) were at the crease, the Australians lost five for 29 under lights later in the day against some spirited bowling from the Kiwis, with Tim Southee claiming 4-63.

Labuschagne, dropped on four by Colin de Grandhomme from the bowling of Neil Wagner (2-40), missed the chance to join elite company when he pulled a short ball straight to Mitchell Santner at mid-wicket from the same bowler.

Without a Test century only a month ago, he was on

track to become just the second Australian batsman, and fifth overall, to score four Test centuries in succession. The only Australian to do so previously was Jack Fingleton in 1936.

Smith's relatively lean summer continued when he holed out to a short ball from Wagner for 16, the first time in his entire 71-Test career he has gone three matches without a half-century.

After the home side made 416 the Kiwis were dismissed for only 166 in their first innings as Australian paceman Mitchell Starc terrorised their batsmen in continued sweltering conditions.

Australia didn't enforce the follow-on given the extreme heat and the absence of front line pacer Josh Hazlewood due to injury.

Starc claimed 5-52 and troubled the New Zealanders with his pace and bounce. Only Ross Taylor offered meaningful resistance with 80, but he was caught at slip by Smith off the bowling of Nathan Lyon.

## 'Once Pant gets runs, he'll be massive player'

CHENNAI

Batting coach Vikram Rathour on Saturday said Rishabh Pant will be a "massive player" for the Indian team once he starts getting runs, backing the under-fire wicket-keeper to the hilt.

Asked why the Delhi keeper-batsman kept getting chances despite low scores, Rathour attributed it to his "immense ability".

"The reason why we keep discussing him is that he has got an immense ability. Everybody believes he can be an X factor. All of us believe he is a good player who can come good. He is working hard on his game and fitness."

"... Because he has done well in the past in this format. Once he starts getting runs, he can be a massive player for the Indian team, he can be a match-winner," Rathour told reporters on

the eve of the first ODI. When asked if it was time to give him a break, Rathour said it has not come yet.

"I don't think the time has arrived yet. Again he is working on certain things. He is looking good in the nets. He has been decent in the T20s."

"He was asked to do a certain job in the last T20 which he did. That's what the team looks for." About KL Rahul who did well in the recent T20s and if any changes had been made in his technique, Rathour said there was no doubt he would do well.

"He went through a lean patch which every cricketer goes through. A couple of technical changes and change in mindset and the result shows. "He has always been a good player. There was absolutely no doubt he will do well," the batting coach added.

## Dhoni will play World T20: Bravo

PTI ■ CHENNAI

West Indies all-rounder Dwayne Bravo believes that his Chennai Super Kings team mate and captain MS Dhoni will be at the World T20 that will be held in Australia next year.

"Dhoni has never retired. So I think he will be there at the World T20. MS has never let things outside cricket influence him and he has taught us the same and told us to never panic and trust our abilities," Bravo was quoted as saying by *Times of India*.

Bravo recently reversed his international retirement and made himself available for T20s. The 36-year-old former ODI captain said that he still has a lot to offer and it was the change of leadership both on and off the field that convinced him to make the comeback.

"I feel good physically and I still have a lot to offer. I had retired because of off-field politics. But there is a change of leadership both on and off the field. So I felt that it is a good time to come back."



DJ Bravo & MS Dhoni in file photo

## Guwahati T20I: BCCI, Assam CA to 'monitor' situation

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The BCCI and Assam Cricket Association (ACA) will be "closely monitoring" the security situation in Guwahati in the wake of protests against the Citizenship (Amendment) Bill, keeping in mind the January 5 T20I between India and Sri Lanka.

Sri Lanka are coming to India for a short three-match T20I series, which starts at the Barsapara Stadium in Guwahati, but the prevailing security situation has cast a shadow of doubt.

"Right now, we cannot comment on whether the T20I in Guwahati will happen or not. All the authorities (state Police, Home Ministry) will be monitoring the situation. We have to wait for some time. There is still three weeks to go so we have to be hopeful," Assam CA vice-president Parikshit Dutta said.

Both BCCI and ACA need to be extra cautious as it involves the security of an international team.

Due to the protests in Guwahati, the fourth day's play in the Ranji Trophy match between Assam and Services was cancelled, and the players remained in their hotels.

The BCCI officials are, however, hopeful of normalcy prevailing in Guwahati within the next three weeks.

"At this point, it will be premature to comment that the India versus Sri Lanka game will be affected. Yes, we are all monitoring the security situation and close to the date, we will take a call. For the time being, BCCI will 'wait and watch'," a senior BCCI functionary said.

Asked if the BCCI will be ready with an alternate venue if Guwahati is unable to host the match, the official said: "Right now, we haven't zeroed in on any alternate venues but we always keep back-up options ready in case of unforeseen circumstances. For now, let's hope that normalcy returns and we can have the match as per schedule."

# Rahul 'serious keeping option' for T20 WC

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Only Mahendra Singh Dhoni knows whether his body will be able to cope up with rigours of international cricket after a break, KL Rahul could be a "serious keeping option" for next year's T20 World Cup and Rishabh Pant needs to "calm down", feels India head coach Ravi Shastri.

With Pant not doing well and mystery surrounding Dhoni's international future, Shastri didn't rule out the possibility of Rahul doing multi-tasking during the marquee tournament *Down Under*. "It's sensible (the break by Dhoni). I like the time (around IPL) when he will be starting to play again. I don't think he is too keen on the one-day stuff. He is finished with Test cricket. T20 is an option. It's a format that is tailor-made for him. But will his body be able to cope with the demands, only he will answer," Shastri told *India Today* during its programme *Inspiration*.

"The rest would have done him a

world of good, mentally. That mental fatigue would have gone away by now. If he decides to play, which he will because he will play the IPL, then he will start training with a very fresh mind. Then you have got to see form," said Shastri, who has already said that no one should "fool around" if the legend decided to play the T20 World Cup.

However, he also believes that Rahul could emerge as an option as he keeps in the IPL as well as for Karnataka in domestic white-ball tournaments.

"It is an absolute option. You got to see where your strength is. Tomorrow, there could be a couple of guys in the middle-order who are firing with unbelievable innings in the IPL. And then if you have a guy who can multi-task, who could be used at the top, because there's some firepower at the back who are doing extremely well, then why not," when asked if Rahul could be an option.

Asked what he expects from Rishabh Pant, Shastri said, "a bit of calm". "You have got to cash in. Your work



KL Rahul arrives for training session

## Have lot of respect for Sourav: Shastri

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

"To hell with those who don't understand" was Ravi Shastri's inimitable response to the sceptics, who have constantly made conjectures about his alleged frosty relationship with BCCI president Sourav Ganguly.

A week back, it was Ganguly who had cleared the air on his part making it clear that rumours of bad blood between him and the head coach of the Indian cricket team are merely "speculations". "As far as the Sourav-Shastri 'game' goes, that is a brilliant *chaat* and *bhelpuri* for the media with all *mirch* and *masala*," Shastri said.

Shastri's relationship became a topic of discussion after the Cricket Advisory Committee (CAC) comprising Ganguly, Sachin Tendulkar and VVS Laxman preferred Anil Kumble over him in 2016, with both having a public fallout.

"What he (Ganguly) has done as a cricketer, I have got utmost respect. He took over Indian cricket at the most troubled times, post the match-fixing era when the Indian cricket was in shambles. You needed the faith of the people to comeback and I respect that. And if people don't respect that, to hell with them," Shastri, known for his plain speak, said.

The Ganguly-Shastri relationship became a topic of discussion after the Cricket Advisory Committee (CAC) comprising Ganguly, Sachin Tendulkar and VVS Laxman preferred Anil Kumble over him in 2016, with both having a public fallout.

ball 1. No, it won't happen like that. This game teaches you. There's a method to madness as well. So, he has to learn that method."

I think that people should absolutely be allowed to do whatever they want with their bodies and to live the life they want to lead  
— Elisabeth Moss



FROM THE INSIDE

**The unending Baloch saga**

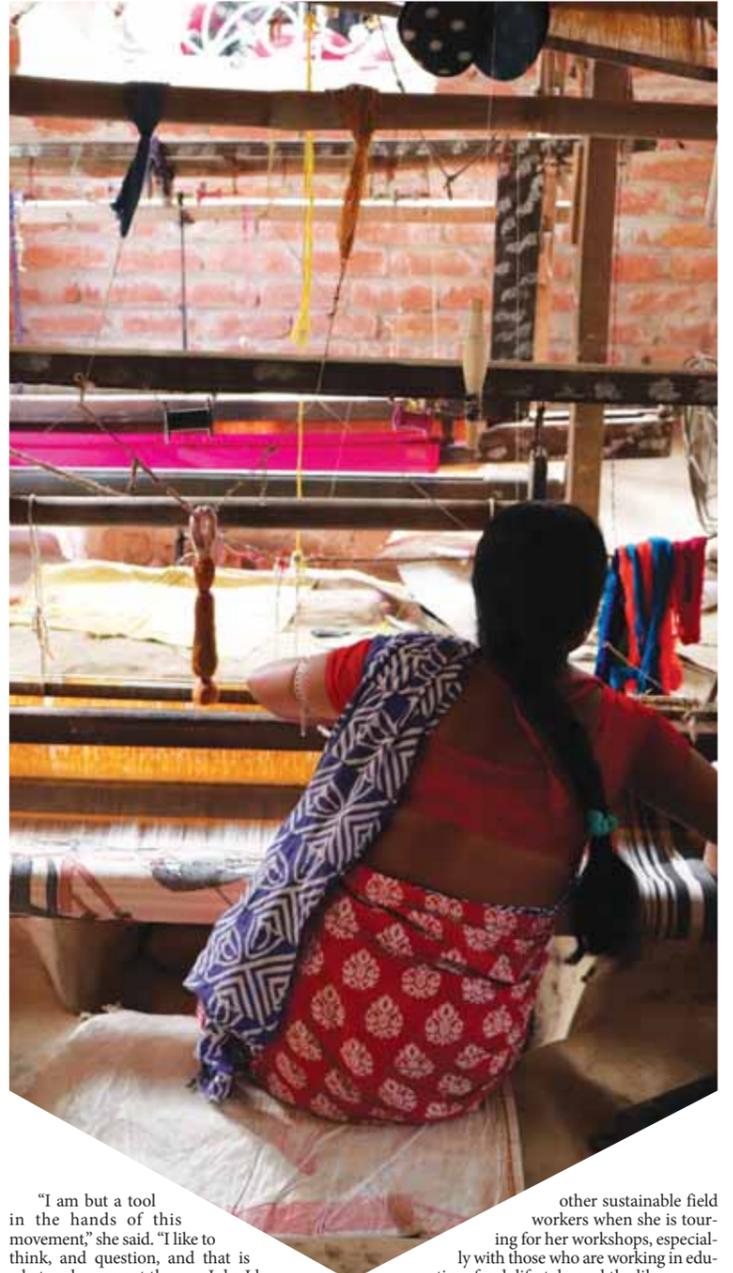
A book that traces the roots of the deep-seated Baloch alienation to the forced accession of Kalat to Pakistan in 1948



**Correct your weaknesses**

Identify, acknowledge, and address your own fault lines, and things will change sooner than later

Our textiles are our communiqué. These bear imprints of diverse cultures and their traditions. There is deep history and heritage attached to what we wear and re-create over and over again, writes SAYALI GOYAL as she shares her impressions from



## TEXTILE JOURNEY THROUGH BENGAL

When talking about Bengal, one must start the narrative from a weaving cluster village as the textile heritage of the region boasts of some of the finest weaving traditions of the country. Upon reaching Bengal, about four hours north of Kolkata, lies Shantipur, a village of Jamdani weavers, who migrated from Bangladesh during partition. Traditionally, these weavers made *dhotis*, a drape worn by Bengali men, now reduced to occasional wear. Which is why they mostly weave saris for the local women.

A master weaver, who hosted us at his workshop, shared with us how weaving involves the critical labour of his family members — his wife and his brother's family weave for nearly six to eight hours a day. Sometimes it takes up to a week to make one sari which they sell for ₹1500. An average of ₹10,000 is what a weaver makes per month, which is slightly above the minimum wage. The information is enough to make you sit up and wonder: what is the fair price for a traditional craft? Where does the difference lie between a skilled labourer and an artisan? Our host explained that they visit the *melas* organised by the ministry that provide a platform to sell directly to customers; at other times, boutiques from the city commission their pieces. He shared that for him, this is the best job as he can stay close to his artisanal tradition and family. Working in the city, he said, that would require him to live alone.

It was pleasing to see the community spirit in the weavers and that women held an equal position in the trade. There are 50,000 weavers in Shantipur who mostly work on handlooms, but the market demand has been in the hold of power looms as well. He talked about the use of natural dye only on request or when the weavers are specifically provided with naturally dyed yarns by the boutique. Chemical dyes are cheaper to produce, thus making it a competitive product. The community has now formed a weavers' society to bring more structure to the craft village where they try to solve issues of daily business. They hope for bigger, more concrete support from larger organisations in buying more looms and raw materials like threads. For the weavers, the biggest challenge is the money circulation, as they are only paid at the end of the month; most of their cash is invested in raw materials by that time. A common complaint is that the larger buyers work on consignments and refuse to pay for raw materials in advance, which for them is a big risk.

My rendezvous with the weavers in Shantipur and interactions with the master craftsmen left with me questions but also ideas. My visit to Mahamaya, a third generation Kantha artist and a National Award winner proved insightful. Some of her masterpieces include scenes from the

Ramayana with Kantha stitch work. "Illustrations make for a *naksha* on Kantha which is the stitched layered fabric", explained Mahamaya. Kantha stitch is typically a long running stitch; however, there is innovation today and Herringbone, Satin, and Button stitches are also used. Browsing through her pile, I came across one that her grandmother had made, a 70 year old piece with natural colours.

Kantha is a way of storytelling through geometric patterns, figurative narratives, and floral illustrations. Mahamaya talks about her process and shares that she like to draw first on the fabric and then go by her instinct to fill colours into the piece of work. "Some of these works take years to make. Sometime I do the border and then another artisan fills the space inside. Reds and black were traditionally used but now there are more options in colours. I look for inspiration in other forms of art as well as in books and museums. During my mother's time, they used to pull out threads from old saris to embroider but now I use anchor thread. I also collaborate with other artisans like Kashmiri, who I have worked with for sixteen years. She is in the craft for tradition and it is a skill that gets her money as well".

Mahamaya has trained artists and taught them to preserve the art. Speaking of innovation, Mahamaya likes to experiment with the base fabric like cottons and tussars. There is a lot of scope where the artist could bring themselves in the work with experimentation within the technique. Some of her new projects include graphic inspiration and also a mix of techniques like applique. A new series is being developed under her, which is inspired from the panels of *Kamasutra*. Mahamaya shares that most of the works are commissioned art pieces such as the ones recently sold to Reliance Foundation at the Swadeshi Bazaar, but a lot of orders in the form of wearable art such as *dupattas* or bed linen keep the workshop running.

The textile documentation trip to Kolkata would be incomplete without a meeting with Namrata, Founder of Biome Conscious Textiles. Her story of entrepreneurship came together as she was looking out of the window of life for inspiration to make her financially independent while also staying true to her values. She was at that time questioning consumerism. So, there she was, with no prior experience in business other than having some entrepreneurial DNA by virtue of belonging to the Rajasthani Marwari community. Then, she encountered someone who was invested in herbal dyeing process for almost a decade. Naturally, it was the opportunity she was waiting for, to work in a social impact space through the world of clothing and fashion that she understood very well ever since her childhood. She finally found a product in her hands that was in harmony with nature and did not promote consumerism.



### Au Naturelle

Indigo process that Biome follows and shares at workshops:

Take 2 parts of refined lime powder and mix some warm water and stir for almost 10 minutes. Now add 1 part of indigo sweetened powder and mix slowly and cover, removing all oxygen supply and light exposure for 3-4 hours. Open and check if the top is metallic purple and bottom is green. If yes, your indigo is active, alive and ready to go. Dilute if needed and put your fabric inside. Let it soak the dye, and as you bring it out, it magically comes out green turning blue on exposure to sun's light and oxygen. In time, it's bright blue. Wash it after it's dry with a mild soap and rinse in vinegar water and dry again. Ready to wear!

"I am but a tool in the hands of this movement," she said. "I like to think, and question, and that is what makes me act the way I do. I love clothes but not the indulgence".

Namrata believes that clothes are a symbol of need, comfort, artistic expression, dignity, celebration, attraction, and more but they must not become the reason for environmental degradation and human exploitation. Her organisation represents the idea of a communiqué — of a clean present and a cleaner future that is invested in the welfare of everyone involved in the process.

Working with bio-degradable products is what keeps her going ahead in her journey. Endorsing, embracing and collaborating with other like-minded people are her sources of joy. Biome makes natural-dyed fabrics and customised garments. It identifies with the movement of integrating with nature. As part of that process, Biome also sells natural dyes and Namrata travels with natural dyeing workshops throughout the country.

She believes that work should not be for one person's fancy but instead should be collaborative and transcend differences. "In the end, work should unite, not divide". Revolution starts with an individual but it must expand to the community as we are parts of one big whole. Nature is the intelligent system that has prevailed ever since life started, we can only grow and survive in harmony with it.

Namrata realised that we as humans need to engage our senses to relate to our physical presence in life. And only listening or reading are incomplete ways of sharing, understanding and experience the beauty of natural dyes. Through workshops, Biome facilitates spaces and guidance to dye your own fabrics, engage with the look, smell and feel of the dyes, and know how real and alive it is. Just like us.

Biome is interested to adopt 'grow local, buy and sell local and decentralise'. Hence, they have been exploring work with the strong weaving heritage of Bengal and introduce natural dyeing to the weavers. Also, instead of thinking of 'export', the focus is on spreading awareness amongst Indians, who form a significant hub of consumers and can afford the best fabrics. Biome also concentrates on natural fibres, sustainable man-made fibres, and hand woven fabrics along with naturally dyed threads and fabrics. Natural dye is the boundary that does not limit, but instead creates a balance between environment and our need for colours.

Namrata makes it a point to collaborate with

other sustainable field workers when she is touring for her workshops, especially with those who are working in education, food, lifestyle, and the like.

A piece of textile is a symbol of creation. So Amuch has been created, imagined with warp and weft and has been an expression of art and design. Our textiles are our communiqué, our language various cultures marked it with their sense of aesthetics and there is deep history and heritage with what we wear and re-create over and over again. Design has been evolved in textiles in rhythmic dance with our lifestyle, socio-economic conditions, geography of a place and now it marks globalisation. Another important driver has been 'fashion' and it has both pros and cons as anything in excess can result in.

Biome has always loved and learnt from collaboration and sharing. That's been the constant motivation and satisfaction. "This one time, we happened to meet this bright, young student from Srishti School of Design and we came in touch with her work on flora and fauna, and a very imaginative expression of human mating a flower and the resultant evolution of life. When we interacted with her more, we discovered that she loves trees, can communicate with them and sketching plants alive is her passion. We took a look at her sketches and decided to convert them on our clothes through batik and herbal dyes. Thus started this experimental project of batik and painting with herbal paste. On board was the batik artist, Sushanto and Ghana, an artist from Chennai who was with us for that period. We released a collection and it was like a dream come true", Namrata reminisces.

Paramita Kar Choudhury is a batik and block printing artist who also dabbles in shibori and clamp techniques. She started her journey with synthetic dyes but soon found the calling for natural dyes. She took her training from an experienced practitioner from Shantiniketan. Then she opened her unit and heart to embrace Biome as a collaborating partner to use our herbal dyes and process orders together in batik, block printing, and dyeing.

As I traversed through the landscape of Bengal, it was heartening to see skilled craftsmen dedicating their time to keep the age-old traditions alive. So many ideas bubbled inside my mind after all the interesting conversations, but for the moment I treated myself to a naturally dyed blue and white Jamdani.

The writer is the founder and cultural curator at [www.cocooandjasmine.com](http://www.cocooandjasmine.com)



ARNOLD BENNETT, THE AUTHOR OF *THE OLD WIVES' TALE* AND *CLAYHANGER*, HAS AN OMELETTE NAMED AFTER HIM. THE OMELETTE WAS INVENTED AT LONDON'S SAVOY HOTEL WHERE BENNETT OFTEN STAYED

With his keen understanding of the region, the author traces the roots of the deep-seated Baloch alienation to the forced accession of the princely state of Kalat to Pakistan in 1948, writes KUMAR CHELLAPPAN

# The unending struggle of the Baloch

The statement by General Rawat, Chief of Staff of the Indian Army, that Pakistan Occupied Kashmir (POK) is controlled by terrorists and Gilgit-Baltistan and POK have been under illegal occupation of Pakistan is to be noted seriously. A perusal of history shows that many such provinces in the North West region as well as North East region of the country were part of India and the country was forced to surrender the rights over them as part of a ploy by the British rulers.

One such independent country that existed during the colonial rule of the British and enjoyed the status of a sovereign nation was Balochistan. Ironically, nothing much has been written or taught in India about Balochistan, its glorious past and communal amity (which is in stark contrast to that of Pakistan). One of the TV news channels in Kerala had telecast a programme about Hinglaj Mata Temple in Balochistan which is being preserved with utmost care by the tribal community. Every year, the Mandir draws thousands of Indian devotees to this country and the pilgrims are treated with respect by the tribal communities. In modern times, the term Balochistan was heard in the Indian narrative for the first time in 2009 when the then Prime Minister Manmohan Singh assured his Pakistani counterpart Yusuf Raza Gilani that India was doing nothing in Balochistan. "Indeed nor should it be doing anything there," the economist-turned-politician is reported to have said in the joint statement with Gilani issued on the sidelines of the Non-Aligned Movement meeting held in Egypt.

An attempt has been made to unravel the hitherto untold and unpublished details about Balochistan. "*Pakistan: The Balochistan Conundrum*" authored by Tilak Devasher, a former senior official of the Cabinet Secretariat. Devasher is an authority on Pakistani politics which could be understood from his first book "*Pakistan At The Helm*", published by HarperCollins. His lucid style and articulation are the reasons why readers prefer his works. Devasher tells the required facts in a straightforward manner. His intentions are clear because he wants people to get enlightened and educated. The style is as elegant as Devasher himself.

The author takes the readers straight to Balochistan and gives us



some important facts which would kindle passion in the mind to know more about the subject. The population of Pakistan is 21 crore while that of Balochistan is 1.23 crore. Balochistan constitutes 44 per cent of Pakistan's landmass. This is just one of the reasons behind Pakistan's avarice for this once sovereign country. Balochistan is a treasure house of minerals and energy resources. "Had there been no Balochistan, there would not have been any Pakistan," felt the British rulers who had manipulated the geo-politics of the region before they lowered the Union Jack and gave way to the national flags.

The British colonialists wanted to manipulate and influence the sub-continent by remote controlling from London. They had a fear that the ever increasing influence of the then Soviet Union was detrimental to their political, commercial and other strategic

interests. Hence they felt the need to have a region, a long strip from the Gilgit to Balochistan administered directly by the Britain. This was what suggested by a British army officer R C Money in charge of strategic planning in India during the period. "However by 1947, the British felt that instead of locating a base in a weak Balochistan, such a base could be established in Pakistan that was more than willing to accommodate the British. Hence it was in British interests to ensure that Balochistan was kept within Pakistan and did not become an independent entity," writes Devasher (Page 85).

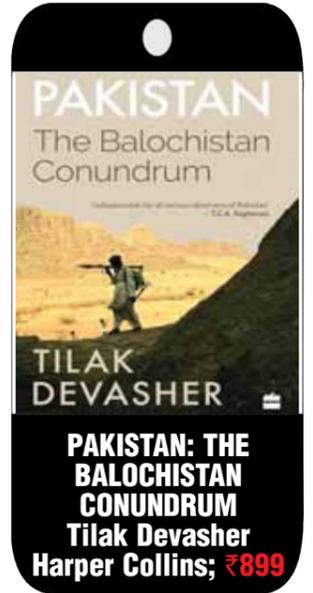
As per various treaties entered into by the then rulers of the princely State of Balochistan (the Khans of Kalat) with the British government, the former had been assured by the colonial masters that Balochistan would remain a

sovereign country with no obligation of any kind either to India or Pakistan. What Devasher has done is to bring to light the palace coup staged in Kalat with the political script authored in the corridors of power in Lahore, New Delhi and London. It shocks us and further embarrasses as because it was another *faux pas* committed by Jawaharlal Nehru which resulted in Mohammed Ali Jinnah annexing Balochistan to Pakistan.

This backstabbing came within weeks of Jinnah issuing a statement declaring that "the Government of Pakistan recognises Kalat as an independent sovereign State, in treaty relations with British government with a status different from that of Indian States." Needless to tell, Jinnah's statement was issued immediately after a well publicised meeting the former had with the Khan of Kalat and his aides.

Jinnah was a visionary as well as an Islamic fundamentalist. As on date, '36 per cent of Pakistan's total current natural gas production, as also reserves of coal, gold, copper, silver, platinum, aluminium and uranium are in Balochistan. Reko Diq, Saindak, Sui and Chamalang produce a wealth of resources like copper, gold, natural gas, coal and other minerals. Reko Diq is a copper and gold mine in Chagai district with an estimated mineral resource of at least 54 billion pounds of copper and 41 million ounces of gold,' writes Devasher. All these details establish the fact that Pakistan without Balochistan is a big zero. Jinnah and the subsequent rulers of Pakistan have made use of all games in the trick to keep the people of Balochistan in perpetual poverty, illiteracy and ignorance. This is what the Grand Old Party did in India too.

Devasher has revealed the details of



how the then Prime Minister Nehru rejected and refused the offer from the Khan of Kalat to merge with India. What the author has stated in pages 81 and 82 is sufficient to expose the then Prime Minister's inefficiency, failure to read the writing on the wall and his larger than life image hyped up by the media.

This book is a must read for all those who are interested in the history of the sub-continent, prior to and after the exit of the British rulers lest we are cheated by manipulated and distorted history. Balochistan is waiting for India. India's safety and security could be ensured only through the liberation of Balochistan and Tilak Devasher is an author who has to be taken seriously by our policy makers and those who want to excel in the game of diplomacy.

While reading the book, what crossed the mind was the football teams from Balochistan, namely Makran United and Makran Sports Club which used to figure in the Sait Nagjee Football Tournament which was held at Kozhikode in Kerala. They were favourites of Malabar's football lovers. Balochistan is loved by people who know about the country.

## NEW ARRIVALS

**KHANTASTIC: THE UNTOLD STORY OF BOLLYWOOD'S TRIO**  
Sanjukta Nandy Rupa, ₹295



Did Shah Rukh Khan reject *Dilwale Dulhania Le Jayenge*? Did Amir Khan audition for *Qayamat Se Qayamat Tak*? Was Salman Khan's voice dubbed by another in *Maine Pyar Kiya*? Did Salman's and Amir's film rejections give Shah Rukh Bollywood on a platter? KHANTASTIC answers all these questions. Destiny binds together this charismatic trio. Three different, yet magnetic personalities—they form the three points of the invisible Bandra Triangle in Mumbai.

**NAKED**  
Papa CJ Westland, ₹499

Papa CJ is able to turn the ordinary into the extraordinary. And then destroy it. Only to rise again like a phoenix.

As Papa CJ lays bare his life, from the streets of Calcutta to the University of Oxford and stages across the world, you will bask in nostalgia, laugh your guts out, feel your heart ache, and find a new lens with which to look at your own life. A lens that allows you, like Papa CJ, to always see the positive. And of course, the funny.

**PAPER MOON**  
Rehana Munir HarperCollins India, ₹299



When her estranged father passes away, Fiza, fresh out of college, discovers that he has left her a tidy sum in the hope that she will open a bookshop... Overnight, Fiza's placid life is thrown into a whirl of decor decisions and book-buying sprees, unconventional staff and colourful patrons, small pleasures and little heartbreaks, as the store - Paper Moon - begins to take shape in a charming, old Bandra mansion...

# Hope lives behind the veil

*Resilience* is an important book on Muslim women in contemporary India. It brings out stories untold. There are so many layers to examine, writes JAYSHREE M SUNDAR



couldn't write her name in the entrance register. Today she a Sewa Dal worker and political party. The stories of Syeda, Asma, Ishrat, Shahjahan, Najma and Ayesha also show the transformation that the Seher Centre brought about.

The writer recreates the tiny room where classes were held. We learn about the rivalry between the girls, their favourite teachers and how their thoughts are gradually changed, till from burqa-clad silent citizens they become agents of change in their own right. We also learn about the various forces at play in the *basti*, those that opposed girls education. There are the elders

of the *basti* who disapprove of girls going to school. There are the Pirzadas who want Shabnam to teach their kids exclusively because they do not want their children to share space with lowly 'Ghosis'. There are opposing forces in the *basti* and old mores are at loggerheads with new thinking. The Shah Bano case is at the centre of this dichotomy. The author dwells upon the case at some length.

The writer has included conversations with eminent, educated Muslim women - Syeda Hameed, Warisha Farasat, Zarina Bhatti, Seema Mustafa, Noor Zaheer - who talk about the state of Muslim women in the country. These conversations

are a good counterpoint to the conversations with the Seher girls. The Markaz versus the Dargah is another contradiction of the *basti*. The Markaz propagates pristine orthodox Islam which is strident and austere. The author does not deride one practice at the cost of the other. Their parallel existence may occasionally clash but seldom becomes a major flare-up. The reader is gently led through this labyrinth of contradictions and incongruities which are both literary and figurative. A hidden world is revealed in easy flowing prose. What gives the book its unique flavour is the anecdotes and tales about the Nizamuddin Basti, the *dargah*, the *Auliya*, the



graveyards, monuments, etc. The book is full of interesting details that lend colour to the stories of the girls. It was not just the old and new that were clashing in the *basti*. There was Shabnam Hashmi herself, a communist-atheist, ultra-liberal rebel of sorts. She never wore a burqa and sported short hair and spectacles. Just the way she looked, raised the red flag for many in the *basti*. Subjects like sex, reproductive rights, gender parity, taboo for Basti dwellers, were freely discussed in the Seher Centre. Shabnam's total lack of fear against a menacing, threatening phalanx of Basti old men, guardians and gatekeepers of the

'izzat' of their women and girls, was cause for alarm. Girls, who were not allowed to uncover their heads in their own homes or sit on a chair in front of their elders, began to learn alphabet of rights. The Seher teachers who included Shabnam's mother and sister, were berated because of the fear that they would make the girls 'azad' and 'la mazhab'. Underlying this popular slogan verbiage was the larger fear that *Basti* women may begin to think and assert their rights.

This book brings out the unique world of the Nizamuddin Basti. One which you may not find on a map. Where, in the by lanes of crowded homes with limited means women broke out of the shackles of stereotypical roles and fearlessly fought their way to an education. Where women helped women. The book has interesting anecdotes about the ghosts that haunt human beings there and the sounds of urdu, the music from the *dargah*, and the fragrance of *kebabs* which create the unique atmosphere of this area.

*Resilience* is an important book on Muslim women in contemporary India. There are so many layers to examine. And, Seher comes out as a unique experiment, which not only transformed all those women who studied there but their future generations.

The writer is a senior advertising professional and a visiting professor at B-schools

# What do Iraqi protesters strive for?

Iraq has once again descended into an abyss. Since the downfall of Saddam Hussein in 2003, the country has not witnessed peace for almost two decades now. Modern Iraq was established in 1932 from the amalgamation of three provinces of Baghdad, Basra and Mosul that formed Mesopotamia. This new country was primarily centred around tribes purely external to the main city centres. Thus from the very beginning, Mesopotamia was vulnerable to both security and unity.

The Ottomans overestimated their ability to control Iraq and did not emphasise on domestic development and the existing tribal structures. Like many other ancient empires, the Ottomans were forging ahead with the concept of "the strong do what they want, they have the power to do" and thus committed remarkable errors in their handling of the West Asian sojourn. What historians say is that the Ottomans failed to understand the existing cultural, ideological and ethnic divisions existing in the Mesopotamian region. From 1299 to 1921, the mighty Ottomans ruled this region and lost it during the First World War. And henceforth, the British and the French established the political boundaries of Iraq, bordering the Persian Gulf between Iran and Kuwait.

In 1920, the UK was awarded a League of Nations mandate over Iraq. This heralded a western style governance structure in Iraq. In 2014, Tim Marshall described the geographical division of this region in his book, *Prisoners of Geography* this way: "When the Ottoman Empire began to collapse, the British and the French had a different idea. In 1916, British diplomat Colonel Sir Mark Sykes took a grease pencil and drew a crude line across a map of West Asia. It ran from Haifa on the Mediterranean, what is



now Israel, to Kirkuk now in Iraq in the northeast. It became the basis of his secret agreement with his French counterpart Francois Georges Picot to divide the region into two spheres of influence. North of the line was to be under French control, south of it under British hegemony."

This grease pencil drawn boundary lacked the acknowledgement of all the existing demographic arrangement of the region, which later came to be known as the historic Sykes-Picot Agreement. This arbitrary demarcation of boundaries of states in West Asia brought complete anarchy to the entire region. Clearly, all the states that were created by the Sykes-Picot were not based on the logic of socio-economically driven conditions but purely out of the ruins of the empires. Thus the competing aspirations of different communities and ethnic groups could not be fused into a melt-

ing pot and, hence, schism has been remained as a potent anomaly in Iraq and the rest of West Asia.

The current crisis in Iraq has emerged due to entrenched corruption in public offices and the rising gap between the elites and the ordinary citizens. The demonstrations which started since October 1 have already taken more than 400 lives of ordinary Iraqi citizens. Probably the international community is too used to hear Iraqis being killed in huge numbers, whether it was under the horrific Saddam regime, the US-occupied Iraq or under their own leadership in the post-Baathist era. Today the young protesters highlight the way the Adel Abdul Mahdi Government made appointments to Government services on ethnic lines or sectarian quotas which is popularly known as "Muhassasa" in Iraq.

The aggrieved citizens air their anguish that this spoils

system is sharpening the divides among the Shias, Sunnis, the Kurds and the rest of the ethnic minorities across Iraq and bringing no benefit to the ordinary folks. But definitely a small section of the party sympathisers, supporters and cronies extract rich benefits from the Government.

Since the departure of the US forces, the youth of the country has been utterly frustrated with the façade of reforms and with the political class who promised but failed to deliver the basics and introduce much-needed reforms in public offices.

However, what is worrying the global community is that this saga of mass demonstrations is purely leaderless. The protesters are not backed by any organisational structures and ideological narratives. Only common chord among them is a strong sentiment of anti-Government agenda. Therefore, the guardians of

end of Iraq".

We need to enquire into the recent political history of Iraq to find out the malaise that is killing the country today. It all started with the deposition of the Saddam rule and the American invasion of Iraq. Besides, subsequent political upheavals accompanied by regime changes in the West Asia and fast-changing global political scenario had a strong impact on the future course of action in Iraq. Saddam was no more a nincompoop, as the western leaders thought, as he was able to maintain a stable political rule for more than two decades. Of course his authoritarian streak spearheaded the systematic persecution of the minorities and fast marginalisation of the majority Shias.

In addition to Sunni-Shia divide, the third major political player in Iraq is the Kurds, mainly concentrated in the north and north-eastern provinces of Erbil, Sulaymaniyah, Dahuk and their surrounding areas. The Kurdish people inhabit a swath of land through northern Iraq, Syria, Iran and Turkey. They are primarily a people without their own homeland, a major victim of the Sykes-Picot deal.

The way the global liberal order is crumbling under the leadership of Donald Trump, the world could hardly look for any respite from the volatile political atmosphere raging in West Asia. With the withdrawal of American forces from Iraq in 2011, gradually the country has fallen into a complete anarchy. And this has happened because Washington wanted to dislodge the erstwhile political regime, secret forces and security forces of the Saddam era.

The coming of a Shia regime, after the fall of Saddam, has completely changed the power structure of almost three decades of Sunni political establishment, its entitlements and its beneficiaries. Thus many of the elite guards, offi-

cers and former army commanders have quietly joined the Islamic State, an affiliate of the al-Qaeda.

The US Army in Iraq knew very well that these officers joined various insurgent groups and offered tactical support to the al-Qaeda.

What could be seen from the ruins of Saddam empire is a pure chaos. And in this anomie has brought more differences and violence back to the Iraqi society. Much beyond these, Iraq has become a playground for many big powers, such as Iran and the US.

Iran's influence in Iraq is of great importance. But in the last few months, this Iranian led Shia coalition has been largely fractious as the Government forces killed Shias who were demanding better social services, mainly basic needs. It is coming out in public space that Iran is seriously trying to repress the civil rebellion in Iraq. Its elite Quds Force, the foreign arm of the Revolutionary Guard in Iran, view these protests as masterminded by foreign hands. The outcome of the counterproductive attempts by the Iranian backed forces to repress the protesters may trigger a new Arab Spring to the entire West Asia in the days to come.

The impending departure of Mahdi is symbolic victory of the protesters. But unfortunately too many people were killed and it could be regarded as a mass uprising of the Shia community against their own leadership. Mahdi has proved himself to be an ineffectual leader.

It seems the ruling elite of Iraq are simply interested in sticking to power at any cost. Therefore, it is truly doubtful whether the demands of the protesters for sweeping changes in the Iraqi political system could be agreed upon by the opportunist leadership.

(The writer is an expert on international affairs)

What is worrying the global community is that the saga of mass demonstrations in Iraq is leaderless. The protesters are not backed by any organisational structures and ideological narratives. The only common chord among them is a strong sentiment of anti-Government agenda



MARKHAN SAIKIA

## PERSPECTIVE

# Iraq protests: A terrible political-economic predicament

Post-Saddam Iraq has graduated from the demands and desires of the generations which felt satisfied with whatever the Government gave them. The younger generation knows that the exchequer is earning enough revenue from oil but the Government is unwilling to spend the same for their welfare. Till the Government delivers on its promises, there is no end to protests in Iraq



YASIR ALI MIRZA

The world witnessed a spate of violent protests in Iraq, Lebanon, Hong Kong and Chile in the last few months. However, the Iraqi protests stand out in terms of intensity of violence: over 300 young protesters have been killed and thousands others injured in the crackdown by the Government security forces. After the fall of dictator Saddam Hussein in 2003, it has been the largest popular demonstration across Iraq, mainly in Shia south.

Protesters have blamed the successive Governments for large-scale unemployment, rampant corruption, and poor civic services, despite the exchequer getting easy revenue from the lucrative oil businesses. However, the authorities claim that Iraq does not get reasonable chunk of its share from the complex and unfair system of international oil markets to revive its fractured economy. Majority of the people lack access to adequate healthcare, schooling, water or power supplies as the promises made by successive Governments have remained unfulfilled. According to a World Bank report, nearly three-fifths of its 40 million people live on less than \$6 a day. The Iraqi protesters, primarily comprising the economic poor class, are venting their anger against some filthy rich political leaders and businessmen who are pillaging the country's wealth, pushing the commoners into further poverty.

The trigger for the latest round of protests was the news of demotion of Lieutenant General Abdul Wahhab al-Saadi, the Commander of the Iraqi Counter Terrorism Force (ICTF). He gained wide popularity during the anti-ISIS military campaign and became a national hero. Protests in Baghdad jog the memory of



Anti-Government protesters gather in Tahrir Square, Baghdad on November 29. Celebrations erupted following the announcement of resignation by Iraqi Prime Minister Adel Abdul-Mahdi

Arab Spring in 2011, where the protesters had swarmed the streets in the Arab world. The year-long Prime Minister, Adel Abdul Mahdi, has witnessed the most tumultuous phase of his tenure as protesters are demanding his immediate removal from office and fresh elections.

### Sistani calls for reform

The initial response of the Baghdad authorities, using unnecessary lethal force, was shockingly unscrupulous that made matters worse. Iraq's most revered Shia cleric Grand Ayatollah Sayyid Ali Hussaini al-Sistani, who holds unprece-

ded moral authority among the Shia believers, had called upon the ruling clique to initiate major political reforms. He issued the statement through his representative in a Friday prayer gathering. He urged, "The marjaiyya (Shia religious authority) has made clear its position calling for reform in the last Friday sermon. It stressed that the demonstrations must be peaceful and free from violence and vandalism. It also underlined the sanctity of Iraqi blood, and the need for political forces to respond to the rightful demands of protesters." While influential Shia leader Sayyid Moqtada al-Sadr too called for reforms and

urged protesters to continue to press for their demands.

### Show of solidarity

One of the significant features of the anti-governmental protests in Iraq is that it has an element of cross-sectarian or ethnic identity i.e. Iraqi nationalism. Unlike previous protests, symbols of Shia piety have not taken a central place in the demonstrations which signifies the gravity of the demands which entirely stick to its legitimate socio-economic demands. It reflects the growing disenchantment of Iraqi people towards the religious parties who have been ruling

for 16 years. It is an alarming curve for the ruling elites and they need to pay heed to the people's voice. It also signifies a new turn of events in country's beleaguered history which only experienced repression by ruthless dictators and started craving for the idea of social justice and citizenship. However, despite having a broad nature of the protests largely participated by young and poor social class from Shia background, the Sunni and Kurdish areas haven't extended solidarity with the protesters. Sunni and Kurdish leaderships are suspicious of any break in the status quo will

dismantle their positions in the power structure what they are enjoying in the unofficial mohassasa system (confessional system) introduced by the Americans after 2003.

### External factors

There is no denying the fact that after the US occupation, the CPA-led administration had created such mayhem in the country. The menace of terrorism and sectarianism gained enormous foothold among multi-confessional society. There is an ample evidence of external intervention by regional actors in fomenting political unrest in Iraq. The attacks on Iranian consulates and embassy substantiate this argument. Since 2003, arch rival Iran has turned Iraq's staunchest ally.

Iran's ties with Shia political groups which have been at the helm of power irked the regional actors led by Saudi Arabia, and they perceived it as the revival of Shia politics in West Asian and North African (WANA) region. Iran's role in repulsing the rise of Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) further brought these two neighbours closer. Most of the Iran-backed factions like Asaib Ahl al-Haq, Saraya al-Salam, Badr Corps, Harkat Hezbollah al-Nojaba constitute the backbone of Hashd al-Shabi (Popular Mobilisation Forces, PMF), an umbrella group of militias which came into existence after the ISIS' blitzkrieg attacks, further alarmed the US, Israel and other regional powers. Displaying extraordinary courage in countering the ISIS tide, PMF achieved pre-eminence in the society. By virtue of its popularity, the political bloc of PMF, called al-Itilaf al-Fatah (Conquest Alliance) led by Hadi Amiri, secured a sizeable chunk of

seats in the parliamentary elections last year. However, al-Hashd has kept restraint despite anti-social elements camouflaging into the crowd to sabotage the peaceful protests. However it had vowed to crush any coup attempt with malicious intent.

### Tuk tuk, a vehicle of change: Indian connection

There is a little Indian connection with the ongoing protests in Iraq i.e. Tuk-Tuk. The three-wheeled Tuk-Tuk, a word referred in common parlance to autorickshaw has its origin in India. It was being manufactured by a prominent automobile company Bajaj Auto and exported to Iraq. It functions as frontline ambulances, ferry protesters and supplies necessary stuff. The most interesting part is that some activists started a tabloid named after it in order to circumvent information blackout by authorities. Iraq's once marginalised Tuk-Tuk drivers took a centre stage in Iraq and the vehicle become a symbol of resistance called 'Markabat al-Thawra' (vehicle of revolution).

Despite the resignation of the Prime Minister, people are still angry and protests will go on until new political and economic reforms are introduced. But what comes after these demonstrations will not be the same as before. Iraq is going through a phenomenal phase. The new opposition that is emerging can play an important role to lead status quo towards change. The authorities should initiate a process for structural changes and must pay heed to their legitimate demands.

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